

## DERIVATIONS ON SUBRINGS OF MATRIX RINGS

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ABSTRACT. For a lower niltriangular matrix ring  $A = NT_n(K)$  ( $n \geq 3$ ), we show that every derivation of  $A$  is a sum of certain diagonal, trivial extension and strongly nilpotent derivation. Moreover, a strongly nilpotent derivation is a sum of an inner derivation and an *uaz*-derivation.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $NT_n(K)$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) be the ring of all (lower niltriangular)  $n \times n$  matrices over an associative ring with identity  $K$  which are all zeros on and above the main diagonal.

It is well-known (see [4], p.100) that if  $F$  is a field, then any  $F$ -derivation of  $M_n(F)$  is inner. Moreover, Amitsur [1] showed that any derivation of  $M_n(K)$  is a sum of an inner derivation and a trivial extension and Nowicki [8] characterized derivations of special subrings of  $M_n(K)$ .

Dubish and Perlis [3] classified automorphisms on  $NT_n(F)$  over a field  $F$ . Every automorphism on  $NT_n(F)$  is equal to a product of certain diagonal automorphism, inner automorphism and nil automorphism. Moreover, Levchuk ([6], [7]) characterized automorphisms of  $NT_n(K)$  and Kuzucuoglu and Levchuk [5] characterized automorphisms on  $R_n(K, J) = NT_n(K) + M_n(J)$ .

In this paper, we will characterize derivations of  $NT_n(K)$ . In section 2, we characterize ideals and characteristic ideals of  $NT_n(K)$ . In section 3, we show that for a derivation  $\delta$  on  $NT_n(K)$ ,  $\delta = i_d + \bar{\sigma} + s_t$  where  $i_d$  is a diagonal inner,  $\bar{\sigma}$  is a trivial extension of  $K$  and  $s_t$  is a strongly nilpotent derivation. In section 4, we have that for a strongly

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Received November 21, 2005.

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: 16S32, 16D25.

Key words and phrases: derivations, diagonal derivations, strongly nilpotent derivations, inner derivations.

nilpotent derivation  $s_t$ ,  $s_t = s_i + s_{uaz}$  where  $s_i$  is an inner derivation and  $s_{uaz}$  is an  $uaz$ -derivation. Moreover, we characterize the difference between  $uaz$ -derivations and  $az$ -derivations.

For a ring  $R$ , not necessarily contains 1, a derivation  $\delta$  is an additive map on  $R$  which satisfies

$$\delta(ab) = \delta(a)b + a\delta(b) \quad (a, b \in R).$$

We say that  $\delta$  is an inner derivation if there exist  $r \in R$  such that  $\delta(x) = rx - xr$  for all  $x \in R$ .

For the convenience we have the followings :

- (1)  $NT_n(K) \equiv A_n \equiv A$ .
- (2)  $e_{ij}$  : matrix units of  $M_n(K)$ .
- (3)  $A^k$  :  $k$ -th product of  $A$ .
- (4) Any derivation  $\sigma$  of  $K$  can be extended to  $A$  by putting

$$\bar{\sigma}\left(\sum_{i>j} r_{ij}e_{ij}\right) = \sum_{i>j} \sigma(r_{ij})e_{ij} \quad (r_{ij} \in K).$$

It is easy to show that  $\bar{\sigma}$  is also a derivation of  $A$ . We call  $\bar{\sigma}$  a trivial extension of  $\sigma$ .

(5) Let  $B_n$  be the set of all matrices in  $M_n(K)$  with zeros above the diagonal. Then each diagonal matrix  $d = \sum d_i e_{ii} (d_i \in K)$  determines a derivation  $i_d(x) = [d, x]$  of  $B_n$  and the derivation  $i_d$  induces on  $A$ . We call  $i_d$  a diagonal derivation.

(6) Since we can regard  $A$  as a  $K$ -module, we define a  $K$ -derivation on  $A$  by  $\delta(rx) = r\delta(x) (r \in K, x \in A)$ .

(7) For all  $x \in A$ , we denote  $\{x\}_{ij} = \pi_{ij}(x)$ .

## 2. Ideals of $A$

The ideals of  $NT_n(F)$  are characterized in Dubisch and Perlis [3], which are referred to "staircase open polygon". Also, the ideals of  $A$  can be regarded similarly. But we characterize ideals of  $A$  another way. For any subset  $H$  of  $A$ , trivially  $\sum \pi_{ij}(H)e_{ij} \supseteq H$ . If  $H = \sum \pi_{ij}(H)e_{ij}$ , we call  $H$  a direct subset of  $A$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.1.** *Let  $H$  be a subset of  $A$ . If  $H$  is an ideal of  $A$ , then the followings hold;*

- (1)  $\pi_{ij}(H)$  is a subgroup of  $K$ .

(2) For all  $s > i$ ,  $\pi_{sj}(H) \supseteq K\pi_{ij}(H)$ .

(3) For all  $t < j$ ,  $\pi_{it}(H) \supseteq \pi_{ij}(H)K$ .

Conversely, if  $H$  is a direct subset of  $A$  and satisfies above (1), (2) and (3), then  $H$  is an ideal of  $A$ .

*Proof.* The proof of the first statement is obvious.

Conversely, by (2)

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{ij}(NT_n(K)H) &= \sum_{\lambda=1}^n \pi_{i\lambda}(NT_n(K))\pi_{\lambda j}(H) \\ &= \sum_{\lambda=j+1}^{i-1} \pi_{i\lambda}(NT_n(K))\pi_{\lambda j}(H) \\ &= \sum_{\lambda=j+1}^{i-1} K\pi_{\lambda j}(H) = K\pi_{i-1,j}(H) \subseteq \pi_{ij}(H). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by  $\sum \pi_{ij}(H)e_{ij} = H$ ,  $NT_n(K)H \subseteq H$ , that is,  $AH \subseteq H$ .

Similarly, by (3) and  $\sum \pi_{ij}(H)e_{ij} = H$ ,  $HA \subseteq H$ . Therefore,  $H$  is an ideal of  $A$ . □

Next example shows that an ideal of  $A$  is not necessarily direct and for noetherian ring  $K$ ,  $A$  is not noetherian in general.

EXAMPLE 2.2. For the rational number field  $\mathbf{Q}$  and the ring of integers  $\mathbf{Z}$ , let  $K = M_2(\mathbf{Q})$  and  $A = NT_3(K)$ . Denote  $f_{ij}(i, j = 1, 2)$  by matrix units of  $M_2(\mathbf{Q})$ . Set

$$H_k = \left\{ \left( \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{n}{2^k} f_{21} & 0 & 0 \\ T & \frac{n}{2^k} f_{21} & 0 \end{array} \right) \mid n \in \mathbf{Z} \right\}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

where  $T = \mathbf{Q}f_{11} + \mathbf{Q}f_{21} + \mathbf{Q}f_{22}$ . Then we have the following properties;

(1)  $H_k$  are ideals but not direct.

(2)  $T$  is not an ideal of  $K$ .

(3) For a trivial extension  $\delta$  of an inner derivation of  $K$ ,  $H_k$  is not invariant in general.

(4)  $K$  is noetherian. But since  $H_1 \subsetneq H_2 \subsetneq H_3 \subsetneq \dots$ ,  $A$  is not noetherian.

DEFINITION 2.3. Let  $C$  be a subring of a ring  $R$ .  $C$  is called characteristic if every derivation  $\delta$  on  $R$  induces a derivation on  $C$ .

Obviously for  $k(1 < k < n)$ , the  $k$ -th powers  $A^k$  are characteristic ideals of  $A$ .

For  $x \in A$ , it is important to find characteristic ideals of  $A$  which contain  $\delta(x)$ . We introduce certain characteristic ideals of  $A$  which contains matrix unit  $e_{ij}(i > j)$ .

Let  $C_l$  be the totality of matrices in  $A$  whose columns beyond the  $l$ -th are zero. Then  $C_l$  is an ideal of  $A$ . Likewise, an ideal is given by the set  $R_k$  of all matrices in  $A$  whose first  $k - 1$  rows are zero.

PROPOSITION 2.4 [3].  $C_l$  is the left annihilator of  $A^l$  and  $R_k$  is the right annihilator of  $A^k$ .

THEOREM 2.5.  $C_l$  and  $R_k$  are characteristic ideals. Moreover, for each derivation  $\delta$  on  $A$  and each matrix unit  $e_{kl} \in A$ ,  $\delta(e_{kl}) \in C_l \cap R_k$ .

*Proof.* For arbitrary derivation  $\delta$  of  $A$ , let  $c \in C_l$  and  $x \in A^l$ . Then by Proposition 2.4

$$0 = \delta(cx) = \delta(c)x + c\delta(x).$$

Since  $A^l$  is a characteristic ideal  $\delta(x) \in A^l$  and  $c\delta(x) = 0$ . So,  $\delta(c)x = 0$ . This means  $\delta(c)A^l = 0$ . Thus  $\delta(c) \in C_l$ . Therefore  $C_l$  is a characteristic ideal.

Similarly,  $R_k$  is a characteristic ideal.

Moreover,  $e_{kl} \in C_l \cap R_k$ . So  $\delta(e_{kl}) \in C_l \cap R_k$ . □

From the Theorem 2.5,  $\delta(e_{kl}) \in C_l \cap R_k$ . So we have the following;

$$(*) \quad \delta(e_{k,k-1}) = \sum_{i \geq k} \sum_{j \leq k-1} \beta_{ij}^{(k)} e_{ij}, \quad \beta_{ij}^{(k)} \in K.$$

Now we characterize the characteristic ideals of  $A$

THEOREM 2.6. Let  $H$  be a characteristic ideal of  $A$ . Then the followings hold;

- (1)  $\pi_{ij}(H)$  is an ideal of  $K$ .
- (2)  $H$  is direct.
- (3)  $\pi_{ij}(H)$  is a characteristic ideal of  $K$ .

*Proof.* (1) For  $r \in K$ , let  $i_d$  be a diagonal derivation induced by  $d = re_{ii}$ , that is,  $i_d(x) = dx - xd$  for all  $x \in A$ . Then

$$r\pi_{ij}(H) = \pi_{ij}(rH) = \pi_{ij}([d, H]) = \pi_{ij}(i_d(H)) \subseteq \pi_{ij}(H).$$

So,  $\pi_{ij}(H)$  is a left ideal of  $K$ .

To show that  $\pi_{ij}(H)$  is a right ideal, take  $d = -re_{jj}$ . Then

$$\pi_{ij}(H)r = \pi_{ij}(Hr) = \pi_{ij}([d, H]) = \pi_{ij}(i_d(H)) \subseteq \pi_{ij}(H).$$

So,  $\pi_{ij}(H)$  is a right ideal of  $K$ . Therefore,  $\pi_{ij}(H)$  is an ideal of  $K$ .

(2) Since  $H$  is a characteristic ideal,

$$[-e_{jj}, [e_{ii}, H]] = \pi_{ij}(H)e_{ij} \subseteq H.$$

So,  $\sum \pi_{ij}(H)e_{ij} \subseteq H$ , that is,  $\sum \pi_{ij}(H)e_{ij} = H$ .

(3) Let  $\sigma$  be a derivation of  $K$ . Then trivial extension  $\bar{\sigma}$  of  $\sigma$  is a derivation of  $A$ . So,  $\bar{\sigma}(H) \subseteq H$ . Thus,  $\sigma(\pi_{ij}(H)) \subseteq \pi_{ij}(H)$ . Therefore,  $\pi_{ij}(H)$  is a characteristic ideal.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 2.7.** *Let  $H$  be a characteristic ideal of  $A$ . If  $\pi_{ij}(H) = K$  or  $0$ , then  $H$  is generated by  $C_{l_1} \cap R_{k_1}, C_{l_2} \cap R_{k_2}, \dots, C_{l_t} \cap R_{k_t}$ .*

### 3. Characterizations of derivations

Since  $A$  is a free  $K$ -module with basis  $\{e_{ij}\}(i > j)$ , derivations of  $A$  highly depends on the image of  $e_{ij}$ . Every  $K$ -module derivation of  $A$  is determined by the image of  $e_{ij}$ , but in general every derivation of  $A$  is not determined by the image of  $e_{ij}$ . However, we get a useful lemma which says that for any derivation  $\delta$  of  $\{\delta(e_{ij})\}_{ij} = 0$ , the coordinate function of  $\delta$  is also a derivation of  $K$ .

**LEMMA 3.1.** *Suppose  $\delta$  is a derivation of  $A$  and  $\{\delta(e_{ij})\}_{ij} = 0$  for all  $i > j$ . Define the coordinate function  $\delta_{ij} : K \rightarrow K$  such that  $\delta_{ij}(r) = \{\delta(re_{ij})\}_{ij}(r \in K)$ . Then  $\delta_{ij} = \delta_{21}$  and  $\delta_{ij}$  is a derivation of  $K$ .*

*Proof.* For  $r \in K$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{31}(r) &= \{\delta(re_{31})\}_{31} = \{\delta(re_{32}e_{21})\}_{31} \\ &= \{\delta(re_{32})e_{21} + re_{32}\delta(e_{21})\}_{31} \\ &= \{\delta(re_{32})e_{21}\}_{31} \\ &= \{\delta_{32}(r)e_{31}\}_{31} = \delta_{32}(r). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_{31}(r) &= \{\delta(re_{31})\}_{31} = \{\delta(re_{32}e_{21})\}_{31} = \{\delta(e_{32}re_{21})\}_{31} \\ &= \{\delta(e_{32})re_{21} + e_{32}\delta(re_{21})\}_{31} = \{\delta_{21}(r)e_{31}\}_{31} \\ &= \delta_{21}(r).\end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\delta_{32} = \delta_{21}$ . Similarly, we can show that for  $4 \leq k \leq n$ ,  $\delta_{k,k-1} = \delta_{21}$ .

If  $i - j \geq 2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_{ij}(r) &= \{\delta(re_{ij})\}_{ij} = \{\delta(re_{i,i-1} \cdots e_{j+1,j})\}_{ij} \\ &= \{\delta_{i,i-1}(r)e_{ij}\}_{ij} = \delta_{i,i-1}(r).\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for all  $i > j$ ,  $\delta_{ij} = \delta_{21}(i > j)$ .

Now we will show that  $\delta_{31}$  is a derivation of  $K$ . For arbitrary  $r, r' \in K$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_{31}(rr') &= \{\delta(rr'e_{31})\}_{31} = \{\delta(re_{32}r'e_{21})\}_{31} \\ &= \{\delta(re_{32})r'e_{21} + re_{32}\delta(r'e_{21})\}_{31} \\ &= \{\delta(re_{32})\}_{32}r' + r\{\delta(r'e_{21})\}_{21} \\ &= \delta_{32}(r)r' + r\delta_{21}(r') = \delta_{31}(r)r' + r\delta_{31}(r).\end{aligned}$$

So,  $\delta_{31}$  is a derivation of  $K$ . This means  $\delta_{ij}$  is a derivation of  $K$ .  $\square$

**COROLLARY 3.2.** Suppose that  $\delta, \delta'$  are derivations of  $A$  satisfying  $\{\delta(e_{ij})\}_{ij} = \{\delta'(e_{ij})\}_{ij}$  for all  $i > j$ . Then  $\delta_{ij} - \delta'_{ij} = \delta_{21} - \delta'_{21}$  and  $\delta_{ij} - \delta'_{ij}$  is a derivation of  $K$ .

**COROLLARY 3.3.** Let  $\delta_{ij} : K \rightarrow K (i > j)$  be derivations. Define  $\delta : A \rightarrow A$  by  $\delta(\sum_{i>j} r_{ij}e_{ij}) = \sum_{i>j} \delta_{ij}(r_{ij})e_{ij}$ . If  $\delta$  is a derivation of  $A$ , then for all  $i > j$ ,  $\delta_{ij} = \delta_{21}$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\delta(e_{ij}) = 0$ ,  $\{\delta(e_{ij})\}_{ij} = 0$ . And for all  $r \in K$ ,  $\delta_{ij}(r) = \{\delta(re_{ij})\}_{ij}$ . So, by Lemma 3.1,  $\delta_{ij} = \delta_{21}$ .  $\square$

**LEMMA 3.4.** If  $\delta$  is a diagonal derivation of  $A$ . Then

(1)  $\delta(e_{k,k-1}) = \alpha_k e_{k,k-1}$ , where  $\alpha_k \in K$  and  $2 \leq k \leq n$ .

(2)  $\delta(e_{kl}) = \alpha_{kl} e_{kl}$ , where  $\alpha_{kl} = \alpha_k + \alpha_{k-1} + \cdots + \alpha_{l+1}$ .

Conversely, if  $\delta$  is a derivation of  $A$  satisfying (1) and (2), then  $(\delta - i_d)(e_{kl}) = 0$ , where  $i_d$  is a diagonal derivation induced by  $d = \alpha_2 e_{22} + \cdots + (\alpha_2 + \cdots + \alpha_n) e_{nn}$ .

*Proof.* The proof of the first statement is obvious. Conversely, for all  $k > l$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} i_d(e_{kl}) &= de_{kl} - e_{kl}d \\ &= (\alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_k)e_{kl} - (\alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_l)e_{kl} \\ &= (\alpha_k + \dots + \alpha_{l+1})e_{kl}. \end{aligned}$$

So,  $(\delta - i_d)(e_{kl}) = 0$ . □

LEMMA 3.5. *Let  $\delta$  be a derivation on  $A$ . Then there exists a diagonal derivation  $i_d$  such that  $\{(\delta - i_d)(e_{ij})\}_{ij} = 0$ .*

*Proof.* The quantities  $\delta(e_{k,k-1}), \dots, \delta(e_{l+1,l})$  can be denoted as equations (\*) in section 2 with corner coefficients  $\beta_{k,k-1}^{(k)} \equiv \alpha_k, \dots, \beta_{l+1,l}^{(l+1)} \equiv \alpha_{l+1}$ . By multiplying the equations, we find that

$$\delta(e_{kl}) = \sum_{i \geq k} \sum_{j \leq l} \beta_{ij}^{(kl)} e_{ij} \quad (\beta_{ij}^{(kl)} \in K)$$

with corner coefficients  $\beta_{kl}^{(kl)} \equiv \alpha_{kl} = \alpha_k + \alpha_{k-1} + \dots + \alpha_{l+1}$ .

The quantities  $\alpha_l, \alpha_{kl}$  thus fulfill the conditions (1) and (2) of Lemma 3.4. So, the correspondence  $e_{kl} \mapsto \alpha_{kl}e_{kl}$  generates a diagonal derivation  $i_d$  such that  $\{\delta(e_{ij})\}_{ij} = \{i_d(e_{ij})\}_{ij}$ , that is,  $\{(\delta - i_d)(e_{ij})\}_{ij} = 0$ . □

DEFINITION 3.6. Let  $s_t$  be a derivation on  $A$ .  $s_t$  is called a strongly nilpotent derivation if for all  $x \in A^k, s_t(x) \in A^{k+1}$ .

Obviously every strongly nilpotent derivation of  $A$  is nilpotent and every inner derivation of  $A$  is strongly nilpotent.

PROPOSITION 3.7. *Suppose that  $\delta$  is a derivation on  $A$  such that  $\{\delta(e_{ij})\}_{ij} = 0$  for all  $i > j$ . Then there exists a trivial extension  $\bar{\sigma}$  of  $A$  such that  $\delta - \bar{\sigma}$  is strongly nilpotent.*

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.1, it is obvious. □

THEOREM 3.8. *Let  $\delta$  be a derivation of  $A$ . Then  $\delta = i_d + \bar{\sigma} + s_t$  where  $i_d$  is a diagonal inner,  $\bar{\sigma}$  is a trivial extension of  $K$  and  $s_t$  is a strongly nilpotent derivation.*

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.5, there exists a diagonal derivation  $i_d$  such that  $\{(\delta - i_d)(e_{ij})\}_{ij} = 0$ . And by Proposition 3.7, there exists a trivial extension  $\bar{\sigma}$  of  $A$  such that  $(\delta - i_d) - \bar{\sigma}$  is strongly nilpotent. □

#### 4. *uaz*-derivations of $A$

Matrix units  $e_{21}, e_{31}, \dots, e_{n1}$  are left annihilators of  $A$  and matrix units  $e_{n1}, e_{n2}, \dots, e_{n,n-1}$  are right annihilators of  $A$ . There exist derivations that the images of these matrix units are zero. These derivations are important role to characterize strongly nilpotent derivations.

**DEFINITION 4.1.** A strongly nilpotent derivation  $\delta$  of  $A$  is called a *uaz*-derivation if  $\delta(u) = 0$  for every matrix unit  $u$  which is an absolute left or right divisor of zero.

**THEOREM 4.2.** *Let  $\delta$  be a strongly nilpotent derivation of  $A$ . Then  $\delta$  is a *uaz*-derivation of  $A$  if and only if  $\delta(e_{k,k-1}) = \gamma_k e_{n1}$  ( $k = 2, \dots, n$ ) where  $\gamma_2 = \gamma_n = 0$  and the remaining  $\gamma_k$  are arbitrary scalars.*

*Proof.* ( $\Leftarrow$ ) By the hypothesis,  $\delta(e_{21}) = \delta(e_{n,n-1}) = 0$ . Since  $\delta$  is a derivation of  $A$ , we can get

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(e_{k,k-2}) &= \delta(e_{k,k-1}e_{k-1,k-2}) \\ &= \delta(e_{k,k-1})e_{k-1,k-2} + e_{k,k-1}\delta(e_{k-1,k-2}) \\ &= \gamma_k e_{n1}e_{k-1,k-2} + e_{k,k-1}\gamma_{k-1}e_{n1} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

So,  $\delta(e_{kj}) = 0$  for  $j < k - 1$ . Thus,  $\delta$  is a *uaz*-derivation.

( $\Rightarrow$ ) i) If  $k = 2$  or  $n$ , then  $\gamma_2 = \gamma_n = 0$  by hypothesis.

ii) Assume  $2 < k < n$ .

Since  $\delta$  is a strongly nilpotent derivation, let  $\delta(e_{k,k-1}) = t_k$  with  $t_k \in A^2$  and  $t_k \in C_{k-1} \cap R_k$  by the Theorem 2.5.

Now  $0 = \delta(e_{k1}) = \delta(e_{k,k-1}e_{k-1,1}) = \delta(e_{k,k-1})e_{k-1,1} = t_k e_{k-1,1}$ . So,  $(k-1)$ -th column of the matrix  $t_k = 0$ .

For  $1 < j < k - 1$ ,  $0 = \delta(e_{k,k-1}e_{j1}) = \delta(e_{k,k-1})e_{j1} = t_k e_{j1}$ . So, the  $j$ -th column of  $t_k = 0$  for all  $1 < j < k - 1$ .

Thus, the  $j$ -th column of  $t_k = 0$  for all  $1 < j \leq k - 1$ .

On the other hand,  $0 = \delta(e_{nk}e_{k,k-1}) = e_{nk}\delta(e_{k,k-1}) = e_{nk}t_k$ . So, the  $k$ -th row of  $t_k = 0$ . Also, for  $n > j > k$ ,  $0 = \delta(e_{nj}e_{k,k-1}) = e_{nj}\delta(e_{k,k-1}) = e_{nj}t_k$ . So,  $j$ -th row of  $t_k = 0$ , for all  $k < j < n$ .

Thus,  $j$ -th row of  $t_k = 0$ , for all  $k \geq j < n$ .

Therefore,  $t_k = \gamma_k e_{n1}$ . □

**THEOREM 4.3.** *Let  $s_t$  be a strongly nilpotent derivation of  $A$ . Then  $s_t = s_i + s_{uaz}$  where  $s_i$  is an inner derivation and  $s_{uaz}$  is a *uaz*-derivation.*



*Proof.* It is enough to show that for a strongly nilpotent derivation  $s_t$  there exist an inner derivation  $s_i$  such that  $s_t - s_i$  is a  $uaz$ -derivation.

By (\*) and the hypothesis, we can set

$$s_t(e_{k1}) = \sum_{p>k} \alpha_{pk} e_{p1} \quad (k = 2, \dots, n - 1).$$

The scalars  $\alpha_{pk}$  are thus defined for  $n \geq p > k > 1$  and  $s_t(e_{k1}) = (\sum_{p>q>1} \alpha_{pq} e_{pq})e_{k1} = [a, e_{k1}]$ , where  $a = \sum_{p>q>1} \alpha_{pq} e_{pq}$ .

So, the inner derivation  $s_a(x) = [a, x]$  has the property  $s_1 \equiv s_t - s_a$  maps  $e_{k1}$  to zero.

Since  $s_1$  is strongly nilpotent,  $s_1(e_{nk}) = \sum_{q<k} \beta_{kq} e_{nq}$ . And since for all  $p(1 < p < k)$ ,  $e_{nk}e_{p1} = 0$ . So, we have  $0 = s_1(e_{nk}e_{p1}) = s_1(e_{nk})e_{p1} + e_{nk}s_1(e_{p1}) = s_1(e_{nk})e_{p1} = (\sum_{q<k} \beta_{kq} e_{nq})e_{p1} = \beta_{kp}e_{n1}$ .

It follows that the coefficients  $\beta_{kp}$  are zero except possibly for  $\beta_{k1}(k = 2, \dots, n - 1)$ . So,  $s_1(e_{nk}) = \beta_{k1}e_{n1} = e_{nk}(\sum_{j=2}^{n-1} \beta_{j1}e_{j1})$ .

Let  $-b = \sum_{j=2}^{n-1} \beta_{j1}e_{j1}$ . Then the inner derivation  $s_b(x) = [b, x]$  has the property  $(s_1 - s_b)e_{nl} = 0(l = 1, \dots, n - 1)$  and  $(s_1 - s_b)e_{k1} = -s_b(e_{k1}) = 0(k = 2, \dots, n)$ .

Therefore,  $s_1 - s_b = s_t - (s_a + s_b)$  is a  $uaz$ -derivation and  $s_a + s_b$  is an inner derivation. □

**COROLLARY 4.4.** *Let  $\delta$  be a derivation of  $A$ . Then  $\delta = i_d + \bar{\sigma} + s_i + s_{uaz}$  where  $i_d$  is a diagonal inner,  $\bar{\sigma}$  is a trivial extension of  $K$ ,  $s_i$  is an inner derivation and  $s_{uaz}$  is a  $uaz$ -derivation.*

The left(right) annihilators of  $A$  are the quantities  $e_{21}, e_{31}, \dots, e_{n1}$  ( $e_{n1}, e_{n2}, \dots, e_{n,n-1}$ ) and their linear combinations.

**DEFINITION 4.5.** A strongly nilpotent derivation  $\delta$  of  $A$  is called an  $az$ -derivation (annihilator zero derivation) if  $\delta(a) = 0$  for every absolute left or right divisor of zero  $a$ .

It is obvious that an  $az$ -derivation is a  $uaz$ -derivation. Moreover, for a  $K$ -derivation, an  $az$ -derivation is equal to a  $uaz$ -derivation.

In general, every derivation cannot be expressed as a sum of diagonal, trivial extension, inner and  $az$ -derivations. The derivation given in the next example is a  $uaz$ -derivation, but not an  $az$ -derivation.

**EXAMPLE 4.6.** Let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \mathbf{Z}[X] & 0 & 0 \\ \mathbf{Z}[X] & \mathbf{Z}[X] & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\mathbf{Z}[X]$  is a polynomial ring over an integer  $\mathbf{Z}$ .

Define  $\delta : A \longrightarrow A$  by

$$\delta\left(\sum f_{ij}e_{ij}\right)(i > j) = \frac{d}{dx}f_{21}e_{31}.$$

Then  $\delta$  is strongly nilpotent and inner part of  $\delta$  is 0, that is,  $\delta$  is a *uaz*-derivation. But  $\delta \neq az$ -derivation.

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