



## Nonlinear Lie type centralizers and derivations by local actions on triangular algebras

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**Abstract.** Let  $\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B})$  be a triangular algebra and  $\mathcal{M}$  be a faithful  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -bimodule satisfying  $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$  and  $\pi_{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B})$ . Suppose that a nonlinear map  $\delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  satisfies

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = p_n(\delta(U_1), U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$$

and

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = p_n(U_1, \delta(U_2), U_3, \dots, U_n)$$

for all  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $U_1 U_2 U_3 = 0$ . Then  $\delta(U) = ZU + \tau(U)$  for some  $Z \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  and  $\tau : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  is a map vanishing on each  $(n-1)$ -th commutator  $p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$  with  $U_1 U_2 U_3 = 0$ . Besides, we characterize nonlinear Lie type derivations by local actions on triangular algebras under certain conditions. Suppose that a nonlinear map  $\delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  satisfies

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_n(U_1, \dots, U_{i-1}, \delta(U_i), U_{i+1}, \dots, U_n)$$

for all  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $U_1 U_2 U_3 = 0$ . Then  $\delta(U) = d(U) + \tau(U)$  for all  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , where  $d : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is an additive derivation and  $\tau : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  is a map vanishing on each  $(n-1)$ -th commutator  $p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$  with  $U_1 U_2 U_3 = 0$ .

### 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a commutative ring with unity and  $\mathcal{A}$  be an algebra over  $\mathcal{R}$  with the center  $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$ . An  $\mathcal{R}$ -linear mapping  $L : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is said to be a derivation if  $L(XY) = L(X)Y + XL(Y)$  for all  $X, Y \in \mathcal{A}$ . An  $\mathcal{R}$ -linear mapping is said to be a Lie derivation if  $L([X, Y]) = [L(X), Y] + [X, L(Y)]$  and a Lie triple derivation if  $L([[X, Y], Z]) = [[L(X), Y], Z] + [[X, L(Y)], Z] + [[X, Y], L(Z)]$  for all  $X, Y, Z \in \mathcal{A}$ , where  $[X, Y] = XY - YX$  is the usual Lie product. One can easily check that each derivation is a Lie derivation and each Lie derivation is

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a Lie triple derivation. However, the converse is not true in general (see [17]). Therefore, authors further developed them in a more general way. Let us define the following sequence of left-normed commutators:

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_1(X_1) &= X_1, \\
 p_2(X_1, X_2) &= [p_1(X_1, X_2)] = [X_1, X_2], \\
 p_3(X_1, X_2, X_3) &= [p_2(X_1, X_2), X_3] = [[X_1, X_2], X_3], \\
 &\dots \\
 p_n(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) &= [p_{n-1}(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{n-1}), X_n]
 \end{aligned}$$

for all  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \in \mathcal{A}$ . The polynomial  $p_n(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  is said to be a commutator of length  $n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ). Then Lie  $n$ -derivations were introduced by Abdullaev [1]. A Lie  $n$ -derivation is an  $\mathcal{R}$ -linear mapping  $L : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  satisfying

$$L(p_n(X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n)) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_n(X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, L(X_i), X_{i+1}, \dots, X_n). \tag{1}$$

Recently, there have been many results on Lie  $n$ -derivations. We refer to [4, 6, 8, 11, 15, 16, 18] and the references therein.

Recall that an  $\mathcal{R}$ -linear map  $L : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is said to be a left (right) centralizer if  $L(XY) = L(X)Y$  ( $L(XY) = XL(Y)$ ) for all  $X, Y \in \mathcal{A}$  and a centralizer if it is a both left and right centralizer. An  $\mathcal{R}$ -linear map  $L : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is said to be a Lie centralizer of  $\mathcal{A}$  if  $L([X, Y]) = [L(X), Y]$  for all  $X, Y \in \mathcal{A}$ . It is easy to verify that  $L$  is a Lie centralizer if and only if  $L([X, Y]) = [X, L(Y)]$ . More generally,  $L$  is called a Lie triple centralizer of  $\mathcal{A}$  if  $L([[X, Y], Z]) = [[L(X), Y], Z]$  for all  $X, Y, Z \in \mathcal{A}$ . It is easy to verify that  $L$  is a Lie triple centralizer if and only if  $L([[X, Y], Z]) = [[X, L(Y)], Z]$ . One can easily check that each centralizer is a Lie centralizer and each Lie centralizer is a Lie triple centralizer. However, the converse is not true in general. These years, many authors have paid much attention to centralizer, Lie centralizer and Lie triple centralizer. As Lie  $n$ -derivations, authors further developed the definition of Lie  $n$ -centralizers. A Lie  $n$ -centralizer is an  $\mathcal{R}$ -linear map  $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  satisfying

$$L(p_n(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)) = p_n(L(X_1), X_2, \dots, X_n) \tag{2}$$

for all  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \in \mathcal{A}$ . Similar to Lie centralizers and Lie triple centralizers, one can also easily check that  $L$  is a Lie  $n$ -centralizer if and only if  $L(p_n(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)) = p_n(X_1, L(X_2), \dots, X_n)$ . Recently, some authors have paid attentions to Lie  $n$ -centralizers. We refer to [4, 14, 19] and the references therein.

Recently, there have been a number of authors studying conditions under which derivations and centralizers of rings or operator algebras can be completely determined by the action on some elements concerning products. Assume that  $L : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is a  $\mathcal{R}$ -linear (nonlinear) map and  $F : \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \times \dots \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is a map. If  $\mathcal{Q}$  is a proper subset of  $\mathcal{A}$  and Eq. (1.1) holds for any  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  with  $F(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \in \mathcal{Q}$ , then  $L$  is called a linear (nonlinear) Lie  $n$ -derivation by local action of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Similarly, if  $\mathcal{Q}$  is a proper subset of  $\mathcal{A}$  and Eq. (1.2) holds for any  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  with  $F(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \in \mathcal{Q}$ , then  $L$  is called a linear (nonlinear) Lie  $n$ -centralizer by local action of  $\mathcal{A}$ . These years, some authors are paying attentions to Lie  $n$ -derivations and centralizers by local actions on several operator algebras. We refer to [2, 3, 5, 13] and the references therein.

Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a triangular algebra over a commutative ring  $\mathcal{R}$ . In the note, under some mild assumptions on  $\mathcal{U}$ , we study nonlinear Lie  $n$ -centralizers and Lie  $n$ -derivations by local actions on  $\mathcal{U}$ . It is proved that nonlinear Lie  $n$ -centralizers and Lie  $n$ -derivations by local actions are both almost additive. Moreover, we characterize the structures of them, respectively.

## 2. Preliminaries

Triangular algebras were first introduced in [9]. Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a commutative ring with identity. Suppose that  $\mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  are unital algebras over  $\mathcal{R}$ , with unit  $I_{\mathcal{A}}$  and  $I_{\mathcal{B}}$ , respectively; and  $\mathcal{M}$  is a unital  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -bimodule. In this note, assume that  $\mathcal{M}$  is faithful as a left  $\mathcal{A}$ -module and also as a right  $\mathcal{B}$ -module. Under the usual matrix operations,

$$\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & m \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix} : a \in \mathcal{A}, m \in \mathcal{M}, b \in \mathcal{B} \right\}$$

is called a triangular algebra. The main examples of triangular algebras are nest algebras and (block) upper triangular matrix algebras. For more details, see [7, 12] and so on.

Let  $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  be the center of  $\mathcal{U}$ . It follows from [10, Proposition 3] that

$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix} : am = mb \text{ for all } m \in \mathcal{M} \right\}.$$

Let  $\pi_{\mathcal{A}} : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  and  $\pi_{\mathcal{B}} : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$  be two maps defined by

$$\pi_{\mathcal{A}} : \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}, \pi_{\mathcal{B}} : \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}.$$

Moreover,  $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) \subseteq \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$  and  $\pi_{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) \subseteq \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B})$ . And there exists a unique algebra isomorphism  $\eta$  from  $\pi_{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}))$  to  $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}))$  such that  $\eta(b)m = mb$  for all  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  (see [10]).

Consider a triangular algebra  $\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B})$ . Let  $I$  be the identity of  $\mathcal{U}$ . Set

$$P_1 = \begin{pmatrix} I_{\mathcal{A}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, P_2 = I - P_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{\mathcal{B}} \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $\mathcal{U}_{ij} = P_i \mathcal{U} P_j$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2$ . It is clear that  $\mathcal{U}$  can be represented as

$$\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{U}_{11} \oplus \mathcal{U}_{12} \oplus \mathcal{U}_{22}.$$

Finally, we end this section with a proposition, which plays an important role in the proof of the main results.

**Proposition 2.1.** [20] *Let  $U_{ii} \in \mathcal{U}_{ii}, i = 1, 2$ . If  $U_{11}V_{12} = V_{12}U_{22}$  for any  $V_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ , then  $U_{11} + U_{22} \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ .*

## 3. Lie type centralizers by local action

### 3.1. Almost additivity

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B})$  be a triangular algebra and  $\mathcal{M}$  be a faithful  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -bimodule. Suppose that a nonlinear map  $\delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  satisfies*

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = p_n(\delta(U_1), U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$$

and

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = p_n(U_1, \delta(U_2), U_3, \dots, U_n)$$

for all  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $U_1 U_2 U_3 = 0$ . Then

$$\delta(U_1 + U_2) - \delta(U_1) - \delta(U_2) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

In the following, Theorem 3.1 will be proved by checking several lemmas.

**Lemma 3.2.**  $\delta(0) = 0$ .

*Proof.* Take  $U_1 = U_2 = U_3 = \dots = U_n = 0$ . One can easily check that  $\delta(0) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.3.** Let  $U_{11} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$  and  $U_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Then

$$\delta(U_{11} + U_{12}) - \delta(U_{11}) - \delta(U_{12}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$$

and

$$\delta(U_{12} + U_{22}) - \delta(U_{12}) - \delta(U_{22}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$$

*Proof.* For any  $U_{11} \in \mathcal{U}_{11}$  and  $U_{12}, V_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ , denote  $U = \delta(U_{11} + U_{12}) - \delta(U_{11}) - \delta(U_{12})$ . Since  $V_{12}(U_{11} + U_{12})P_1 = V_{12}U_{11}P_1 = V_{12}U_{12}P_1 = 0$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{11}V_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(V_{12}, U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(V_{12}, \delta(U_{11} + U_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{11}V_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(V_{12}, U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(V_{12}, U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(V_{12}, \delta(U_{11}) + \delta(U_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the two equations above, we have

$$p_n(V_{12}, U, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UP_1V_{12} = V_{12}P_2UP_2$  for all  $V_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Then it follows from Proposition 2.1 that

$$P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

Moreover, since  $P_2(U_{11} + U_{12})P_1 = P_2U_{11}P_1 = P_2U_{12}P_1 = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(P_2, U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(P_2, \delta(U_{11} + U_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(P_2, U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(P_2, U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(P_2, \delta(U_{11}) + \delta(U_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the equations above, we have

$$p_n(P_2, U, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UP_2 = 0$ . Therefore, we have

$$U = P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

In the similar manner, we can also show that

$$\delta(U_{12} + U_{22}) - \delta(U_{12}) - \delta(U_{22}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

$\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** For all  $U_{12}, V_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ , we have

$$\delta(U_{12} + V_{12}) = \delta(U_{12}) + \delta(V_{12}).$$

*Proof.* Since  $(-U_{12} - P_1)(P_2 + V_{12})P_1 = 0$ , it follows from Lemmas 3.2 and 3.3 that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{12} + V_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(-U_{12} - P_1, P_2 + V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= \delta(p_n(\delta(-U_{12}) + \delta(-P_1), P_2 + V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= \delta(p_n(-U_{12}, P_2, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(-P_1, P_2, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &\quad + \delta(p_n(-U_{12}, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(-P_1, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= \delta(U_{12}) + \delta(V_{12}). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Lemma 3.5.** Let  $U_{ii}, V_{ii} \in \mathcal{U}_{ii}$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Then  $\delta(U_{ii} + V_{ii}) - \delta(U_{ii}) - \delta(V_{ii}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ .

*Proof.* Here we only give the proof of  $i = 1$ . The proof of the case  $i = 2$  is similar. Denote  $U = \delta(U_{11} + V_{11}) - \delta(U_{11}) - \delta(V_{11})$ . Since  $W_{12}U_{11}P_1 = W_{12}V_{11}P_1 = W_{12}(U_{11} + V_{11})P_1 = 0$ , it follows from Lemma 3.4 that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta((U_{11} + V_{11})W_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(W_{12}, U_{11} + V_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(W_{12}, \delta(U_{11} + V_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta((U_{11} + V_{11})W_{12}) &= \delta(U_{11}W_{12} + V_{11}W_{12}) \\ &= \delta(U_{11}W_{12}) + \delta(V_{11}W_{12}) \\ &= \delta(p_n(W_{12}, U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(W_{12}, V_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(W_{12}, \delta(U_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) + p_n(W_{12}, \delta(V_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= p_n(W_{12}, \delta(U_{11}) + \delta(V_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the two equations above, we have

$$p_n(W_{12}, U, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UW_{12} = W_{12}UP_2$  for all  $W_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Therefore, we can obtain from Proposition 2.1 that

$$P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

Since  $(U_{11} + V_{11})P_2P_2 = U_{11}P_2P_2 = V_{11}P_2P_2 = 0$ , it follows from Lemma 3.2 that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \delta(p_n(U_{11} + V_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_{11} + V_{11}), P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \delta(p_n(V_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1)) + \delta(p_n(U_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_{11}) + \delta(V_{11}), P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the equations above, we have

$$p_n(U, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UP_2 = 0$ . Therefore,

$$U = P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

□

**Lemma 3.6.** For any  $U_{ij} \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}$  with  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2$ , we have

$$\delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}\right) - \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

*Proof.* Denote  $U = \delta(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}) - \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij})$ . Since  $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}V_{12}P_1 = 0$ , it follows from Lemma 3.4 that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(V_{12}U_{22} - U_{11}V_{12}) &= \delta(p_n\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2\right)) \\ &= p_n\left(\delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}\right), V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2\right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(V_{12}U_{22} - U_{11}V_{12}) &= \delta(V_{12}U_{22}) + \delta(-U_{11}V_{12}) \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(p_n(U_{ij}, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij}), V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2\right). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the equations above, we have

$$p_n(U, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UP_1V_{12} = V_{12}P_2UP_2$  for all  $V_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Then it follows from Proposition 2.1 that

$$P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

Since  $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}(-P_1)P_2 = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \delta((-1)^{n+1}U_{12}) &= \delta(p_n\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1\right)) \\ &= p_n\left(\delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}\right), -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1\right). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, it follows from Lemma 3.4 that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta((-1)^{n+1}U_{12}) &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(p_n(U_{ij}, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1)) \\ &= p_n\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij}), -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1\right). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the two equations above, we have

$$P_n(U, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UP_2 = 0$ . Therefore,

$$U = P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

□

Now we give the proof of Theorem 3.1.

*Proof.* Let  $U = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}$  and  $V = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} V_{ij}$ . Then we have from Lemmas 3.4-3.6 that there exist  $Z_1, Z_2, Z_3, Z_4, Z_5 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U + V) &= \delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij} + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} V_{ij}\right) \\ &= \delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} (U_{ij} + V_{ij})\right) \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij} + V_{ij}) + Z_1 \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij}) + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(V_{ij}) + Z_1 + Z_2 + Z_3 \\ &= \delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}\right) + \delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} V_{ij}\right) + Z_1 + Z_2 + Z_3 - Z_4 - Z_5 \\ &= \delta(U) + \delta(V) + Z_1 + Z_2 + Z_3 - Z_4 - Z_5, \end{aligned}$$

which means that  $\delta(U + V) - \delta(U) - \delta(V) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ .  $\square$

### 3.2. Structure

**Theorem 3.7.** Let  $\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B})$  be a triangular algebra and  $\mathcal{M}$  be a faithful  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -bimodule satisfying  $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$  and  $\pi_{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B})$ . Suppose that a nonlinear map  $\delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  satisfies

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = p_n(\delta(U_1), U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$$

and

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = p_n(U_1, \delta(U_2), U_3, \dots, U_n)$$

for all  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $U_1 U_2 U_3 = 0$ . Then  $\delta(U) = ZU + \tau(U)$  for some  $Z \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  and  $\tau : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  is a map vanishing on each  $(n - 1)$ -th commutator  $p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$  with  $U_1 U_2 U_3 = 0$ .

To complete the proof of Theorem 3.8, we need to prove several lemmas.

**Lemma 3.8.**  $\delta(\mathcal{U}_{12}) \subseteq \mathcal{U}_{12}$ .

*Proof.* Since  $U_{12} P_1 P_1 = 0$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(U_{12}, P_1, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_{12}), P_1, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= P_1 \delta(U_{12}) P_2, \end{aligned}$$

which means that  $\delta(\mathcal{U}_{12}) \subseteq \mathcal{U}_{12}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.9.** There exist  $f_i : \mathcal{U}_{ii} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  such that

$$\delta(U_{ii}) - f_i(U_{ii}) \in \mathcal{U}_{ii}$$

for  $i = 1, 2$ .

*Proof.* Here we only give the proof for  $i = 1$ . Since  $U_{11}P_2P_2 = 0$ , It follows from Lemma 3.2 that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \delta(p_n(U_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_2, \dots, p_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_{11}), P_2, P_2, P_2, \dots, p_2) \\ &= P_1\delta(U_{11})P_2. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,  $\delta(U_{11}) = P_1\delta(U_{11})P_1 + P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2$ .

Since  $U_{11}U_{22}U_{12} = 0$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \delta(p_n(U_{11}, U_{22}, U_{12}, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_{11}), U_{22}, U_{12}, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= [[\delta(U_{11}), U_{22}], U_{12}] \\ &= [[P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2, U_{22}], U_{12}] \\ &= -U_{12}[P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2, U_{22}]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $U_{12}[P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2, U_{22}] = 0$  for all  $U_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Since  $\mathcal{U}_{12}$  is left faithful  $\mathcal{U}_{22}$  module, it follows that  $[P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2, U_{22}] = 0$  for all  $U_{22} \in \mathcal{U}_{22}$ . Thus  $P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}_{22})$ . Employing the condition  $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$ , we can write

$$\delta(U_{11}) = P_1\delta(U_{11})P_1 - \eta^{-1}(P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2) + \eta^{-1}(P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2) + P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2.$$

Thus, we can define a map  $f_1 : \mathcal{U}_{11} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  as

$$f_1(U_{11}) = \eta^{-1}(P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2) + P_2\delta(U_{11})P_2.$$

Obviously,

$$\delta(U_{11}) - f_1(U_{11}) \in \mathcal{U}_{11}.$$

Similarly, we can show that

$$\delta(U_{22}) = P_1\delta(U_{22})P_1 + \eta(P_1\delta(U_{22})P_1) + P_2\delta(U_{22})P_2 - \eta(P_1\delta(U_{22})P_1).$$

Then we can define a map  $f_2 : \mathcal{U}_{22} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  as

$$f_2(U_{22}) = P_1\delta(U_{22})P_1 + \eta(P_1\delta(U_{22})P_1).$$

Obviously,

$$\delta(U_{22}) - f_2(U_{22}) \in \mathcal{U}_{22}.$$

□

**Remark 3.10.** Inspired by Lemmas 3.8 and 3.9, we define a new map  $\Delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  as

$$\Delta(U) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij}) - f_1(U_{11}) - f_2(U_{22})$$

for any  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ . Then we can immediately obtain the following result:

**Lemma 3.11.** For any  $U_{ij} \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}$  with  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2$ , the following statements hold:

- (1)  $\Delta(U_{ij}) \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}$ ;
- (2)  $\Delta(U_{12}) = \delta(U_{12})$  and  $\Delta$  is additive on  $\mathcal{U}_{12}$ .
- (3)  $\Delta(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \Delta(U_{ij})$ ;

**Lemma 3.12.**  $\Delta$  is additive.

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.11, it is sufficient to show that  $\Delta$  is additive on  $\mathcal{U}_i, i = 1, 2$ . In fact, for any  $U_{11}, V_{11} \in \mathcal{U}_{11}$ , in view of Theorem 3.1 and Lemma 3.11, we have

$$\Delta(U_{11} + V_{11}) - \Delta(U_{11}) - \Delta(V_{11}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}) \cap \mathcal{U}_{11}.$$

Assume that

$$Z = W_{11} = \Delta(U_{11} + V_{11}) - \Delta(U_{11}) - \Delta(V_{11})$$

for some  $Z \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  and  $W_{11} \in \mathcal{U}_{11}$ . Thus  $P_2Z = 0$  and then by the definition of  $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ , it follows that  $Z = 0$ , which means that  $\Delta$  is additive on  $\mathcal{U}_{11}$ . Similarly, we can also show that  $\Delta$  is additive on  $\mathcal{U}_{22}$ . The proof is completed.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.13.** (1)  $\Delta(U_{11}U_{12}) = \Delta(U_{11})U_{12} = U_{11}\Delta(U_{12});$

(2)  $\Delta(U_{12}U_{22}) = \Delta(U_{12})U_{22} = U_{12}\Delta(U_{22}).$

*Proof.* Here we only give the proof of (1). The proof of (2) is similar. Since  $U_{12}U_{11}P_1 = 0$ , we have from Lemma 3.11 that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(U_{11}U_{12}) &= \delta(U_{11}U_{12}) \\ &= \delta(p_n(U_{12}, U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_{12}), U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= p_n(\Delta(U_{12}), U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= U_{11}\Delta(U_{12}). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(U_{11}U_{12}) &= \delta(U_{11}U_{12}) \\ &= \delta(p_n(U_{12}, U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(U_{12}, \delta(U_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= p_n(U_{12}, \Delta(U_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= \Delta(U_{11})U_{12}. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Lemma 3.14.** Let  $U_{ii}, V_{ii} \in \mathcal{U}_{ii}$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Then

$$\Delta(U_{ii}V_{ii}) = \Delta(U_{ii})V_{ii} = U_{ii}\Delta(V_{ii}).$$

*Proof.* Let  $W_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . In view of Lemma 3.13, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(U_{11}V_{11}W_{12}) &= \Delta(U_{11}V_{11})W_{12}; \\ \Delta(U_{11}V_{11}W_{12}) &= \Delta(U_{11})V_{11}W_{12}; \\ \Delta(U_{11}V_{11}W_{12}) &= U_{11}\Delta(V_{11}W_{12}) = U_{11}\Delta(V_{11})W_{12}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\Delta(U_{11}V_{11})W_{12} = \Delta(U_{11})V_{11}W_{12} = U_{11}\Delta(V_{11})W_{12}$  for all  $W_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Since  $\mathcal{U}_{12}$  is right faithful  $\mathcal{U}_{11}$  module, it follows that

$$\Delta(U_{11}V_{11}) = \Delta(U_{11})V_{11} = U_{11}\Delta(V_{11}).$$

Similarly, we can also show that

$$\Delta(U_{22}V_{22}) = \Delta(U_{22})V_{22} = U_{22}\Delta(V_{22}).$$

$\square$

Finally, we give the proof of Theorem 3.7.

*Proof.* Using Lemmas 3.12-3.14, one can easily show that  $\Delta(UV) = U\Delta(V) = \Delta(U)V$  for all  $U, V \in \mathcal{U}$ . Set  $Z = \Delta(1)$ . Then, for any  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , we can see that

$$\Delta(U) = \Delta(1U) = \Delta(1)U = ZU$$

and

$$\Delta(U) = \Delta(U1) = U\Delta(1) = UZ.$$

Hence  $Z \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ . Up to now, by Remark 3.10, we can define a map  $\tau : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  as

$$\tau(U) = \delta(U) - \Delta(U)$$

for any  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ . Now, to prove Theorem 3.7, it is sufficient to show that  $\tau$  vanishes on each  $(n - 1)$ -th commutator  $p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$  with  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$ . Indeed, suppose that  $p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$  satisfies  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \tau(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) \\ &= \delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) - \Delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_1), U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n) - p_n(\Delta(U_1), U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n) \\ &= p_n(\Delta(U_1), U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n) - p_n(\Delta(U_1), U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.15.** Let  $\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B})$  be a triangular algebra and  $\mathcal{M}$  be a faithful  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -bimodule satisfying  $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$  and  $\pi_{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B})$ . Suppose that  $\delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is a nonlinear Lie  $n$ -centralizer. Then  $\delta(U) = ZU + \tau(U)$  for some  $Z \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  and  $\tau : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  is a map vanishing on each  $(n - 1)$ -th commutator.

#### 4. Lie type derivations by local action

##### 4.1. Almost additivity

**Theorem 4.1.** Let  $\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B})$  be a triangular algebra and  $\mathcal{M}$  be a faithful  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -bimodule. Suppose that a nonlinear map  $\delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  satisfies

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_n(U_1, \dots, U_{i-1}, \delta(U_i), U_{i+1}, \dots, U_n)$$

for all  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$ . Then

$$\delta(U_1 + U_2) - \delta(U_1) - \delta(U_2) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

In the following, Theorem 4.1 will be proved by checking several lemmas.

**Lemma 4.2.**  $\delta(0) = 0$ .

*Proof.* Take  $U_1 = U_2 = U_3 = \dots = U_n = 0$ . One can easily check that  $\delta(0) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.3.** Let  $U_{ij} \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2$ . Then

$$\delta(U_{11} + U_{12}) - \delta(U_{11}) - \delta(U_{12}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$$

and

$$\delta(U_{12} + U_{22}) - \delta(U_{12}) - \delta(U_{22}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

*Proof.* For any  $U_{11} \in \mathcal{U}_{11}$  and  $U_{12}, V_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ , denote  $U = \delta(U_{11} + U_{12}) - \delta(U_{11}) - \delta(U_{12})$ . Since  $V_{12}(U_{11} + U_{12})P_1 = V_{12}U_{11}P_1 = V_{12}U_{12}P_1 = 0$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{11}V_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(V_{12}, U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(V_{12}), U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(V_{12}, \delta(U_{11} + U_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(V_{12}, U_{11} + U_{12}, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(V_{12}, U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{11}V_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(V_{12}, U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(V_{12}, U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(V_{12}), U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(V_{12}, \delta(U_{11}) + \delta(U_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(V_{12}, U_{11} + U_{12}, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(V_{12}, U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the two equations above, we have

$$p_n(V_{12}, U, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UP_1V_{12} = V_{12}P_2UP_2$  for all  $V_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Then it follows from Proposition 2.1 that

$$P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

Moreover, since  $P_2(U_{11} + U_{12})P_1 = P_2U_{11}P_1 = P_2U_{12}P_1 = 0$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(P_2, U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(P_2), U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(P_2, \delta(U_{11} + U_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(P_2, U_{11} + U_{12}, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(P_2, U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(P_2, U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(P_2, U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(P_2), U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(P_2, \delta(U_{11}) + \delta(U_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(P_2, U_{11} + U_{12}, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(P_2, U_{11} + U_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2) \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the equations above, we have

$$p_n(P_2, U, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UP_2 = 0$ . Therefore, we finally get

$$U = P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

In the similar manner, we can also show that

$$\delta(U_{12} + U_{22}) - \delta(U_{12}) - \delta(U_{22}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

□

**Lemma 4.4.** For all  $U_{12}, V_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ , we have

$$\delta(U_{12} + V_{12}) = \delta(U_{12}) + \delta(V_{12}).$$

*Proof.* Since  $(-U_{12} - P_1)(P_2 + V_{12})P_1 = 0$ , it follows from Lemmas 4.2 and 4.3 that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{12} + V_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(-U_{12} - P_1, P_2 + V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(-U_{12}) + \delta(-P_1), P_2 + V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(-U_{12} - P_1, \delta(P_2) + \delta(V_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(-U_{12} - P_1, P_2 + V_{12}, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(-U_{12} - P_1, P_2 + V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2) \\ &= \delta(p_n(-U_{12}, P_2, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(-P_1, P_2, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &\quad + \delta(p_n(-U_{12}, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(-P_1, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= \delta(U_{12}) + \delta(V_{12}). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Lemma 4.5.** Let  $U_{ii}, V_{ii} \in \mathcal{U}_{ii}$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Then  $\delta(U_{ii} + V_{ii}) - \delta(U_{ii}) - \delta(V_{ii}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ .

*Proof.* Here we only give the proof for  $i = 1$ . The proof for  $i = 2$  is similar. Denote  $U = \delta(U_{11} + V_{11}) - \delta(U_{11}) - \delta(V_{11})$ . Since  $W_{12}U_{11}P_1 = W_{12}V_{11}P_1 = W_{12}(U_{11} + V_{11})P_1 = 0$ , it follows from Lemma 4.4 that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta((U_{11} + V_{11})W_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(W_{12}, U_{11} + V_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(W_{12}), U_{11} + V_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(W_{12}, \delta(U_{11} + V_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(W_{12}, U_{11} + V_{11}, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(W_{12}, U_{11} + V_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta((U_{11} + V_{11})W_{12}) &= \delta(U_{11}W_{12} + V_{11}W_{12}) \\ &= \delta(U_{11}W_{12}) + \delta(V_{11}W_{12}) \\ &= \delta(p_n(W_{12}, U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) + \delta(p_n(W_{12}, V_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(W_{12}), U_{11} + V_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(W_{12}, \delta(U_{11}) + \delta(V_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(W_{12}, U_{11} + V_{11}, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(W_{12}, U_{11} + V_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the two equations above, we have

$$p_n(W_{12}, U, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1 U W_{12} = W_{12} U P_2$  for all  $W_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Therefore, we can obtain from Proposition 2.1 that

$$P_1 U P_1 + P_2 U P_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

Since  $(U_{11} + V_{11})P_2P_2 = U_{11}P_2P_2 = V_{11}P_2P_2 = 0$ , it follows from Lemma 4.2 that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \delta(p_n(U_{11} + V_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_{11} + V_{11}), P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) \\ &\quad + p_n(U_{11} + V_{11}, \delta(P_2), P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) \\ &\quad + p_n(U_{11} + V_{11}, P_2, \delta(P_2), P_1, \dots, P_1) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(U_{11} + V_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, \delta(P_1), \dots, P_1) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \delta(p_n(V_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1)) + \delta(p_n(V_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_{11}) + \delta(V_{11}), P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) \\ &\quad + p_n(U_{11} + V_{11}, \delta(P_2), P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) \\ &\quad + p_n(U_{11} + V_{11}, P_2, \delta(P_2), P_1, \dots, P_1) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(U_{11} + V_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, \delta(P_1), \dots, P_1). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the equations above, we have

$$p_n(U, P_2, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1 U P_2 = 0$ . Therefore,

$$U = P_1 U P_1 + P_2 U P_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

□

**Lemma 4.6.** For all  $U_{ij} \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}$  with  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2$ , we have

$$\delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}\right) - \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

*Proof.* Denote  $U = \delta(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}) - \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij})$ . Since  $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij} V_{12} P_1 = 0$ , it follows from Lemma 4.4 that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(V_{12} U_{22} - U_{11} V_{12}) &= \delta(p_n\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2\right)) \\ &= p_n\left(\delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}\right), V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2\right) \\ &\quad + p_n\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, \delta(V_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2\right) \\ &\quad + p_n\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, V_{12}, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2\right) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2\right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(V_{12}U_{22} - U_{11}V_{12}) &= \delta(V_{12}U_{22}) + \delta(-U_{11}V_{12}) \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(p_n(U_{ij}, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij}, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \right) \\ &\quad + p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, \delta(V_{12}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2 \right) \\ &\quad + p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, V_{12}, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2 \right) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the equations above, we have

$$p_n(U, V_{12}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UP_1V_{12} = V_{12}P_2UP_2$  for all  $V_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Then it follows from Proposition 2.1 that

$$P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

Since  $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 3} U_{ij}(-P_1)P_2 = 0$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta((-1)^{n+1}U_{12}) &= \delta(p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1 \right)) \\ &= p_n \left( \delta \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1 \right) \right) \\ &\quad + p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, \delta(-P_1), P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1 \right) \\ &\quad + p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, -P_1, \delta(P_2), P_1, \dots, P_1 \right) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, \delta(P_1), \dots, P_1 \right). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta((-1)^{n+1}U_{12}) &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(p_n(U_{ij}, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1)) \\ &= p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij}, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) \right) \\ &\quad + p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, \delta(-P_1), P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1 \right) \\ &\quad + p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, -P_1, \delta(P_2), P_1, \dots, P_1 \right) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n \left( \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, \delta(P_1), \dots, P_1 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the two equations above, we have

$$P_n(U, -P_1, P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1) = 0,$$

which implies that  $P_1UP_2 = 0$ . Therefore,

$$U = P_1UP_1 + P_2UP_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

□

Now we give the proof of Theorem 4.1.

*Proof.* Let  $U = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}$  and  $V = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} V_{ij}$ . Then we have from Lemmas 4.4-4.6 that there exist  $Z_1, Z_2, Z_3, Z_4, Z_5 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U + V) &= \delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij} + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} V_{ij}\right) \\ &= \delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} (U_{ij} + V_{ij})\right) \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij} + V_{ij}) + Z_1 \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(U_{ij}) + \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \delta(V_{ij}) + Z_1 + Z_2 + Z_3 \\ &= \delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}\right) + \delta\left(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} V_{ij}\right) + Z_1 + Z_2 + Z_3 - Z_4 - Z_5 \\ &= \delta(U) + \delta(V) + Z_1 + Z_2 + Z_3 - Z_4 - Z_5, \end{aligned}$$

which means that  $\delta(U + V) - \delta(U) - \delta(V) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ . □

#### 4.2. Structure

**Theorem 4.7.** Let  $\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B})$  be a triangular algebra and  $\mathcal{M}$  be a faithful  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -bimodule satisfying the conditions:

$$(\star) \pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A}), \pi_{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B});$$

$$(\star) \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A}) = \{A \mid [[A, X], Y] = 0, \forall X, Y \in \mathcal{A}\}, \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B}) = \{B \mid [[B, X], Y] = 0, \forall X, Y \in \mathcal{B}\}.$$

Suppose that a nonlinear map  $\delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  satisfies

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_n(U_1, \dots, U_{i-1}, \delta(U_i), U_{i+1}, \dots, U_n)$$

for all  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$  and  $n \geq 4$ . Then  $\delta(U) = d(U) + \tau(U)$  for all  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , where  $d : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is an additive derivation and  $\tau : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  is a map vanishing on each  $(n - 1)$ -th commutator  $p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$  with  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$ .

To complete the proof of Theorem 4.7, we need to prove several lemmas.

**Lemma 4.8.**  $P_1\delta(P_i)P_1 + P_2\delta(P_i)P_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}), i = 1, 2.$

*Proof.* Since  $U_{12}P_1P_1 = 0$ , it follows from Lemmas 4.2 and 4.4 that

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^{n+1}\delta(U_{12}) &= \delta((-1)^{n+1}U_{12}) \\ &= \delta(p_n(U_{12}, P_1, P_1, P_1, \dots, P_1)) \\ &= P_n(\delta(U_{12}), P_1, P_1, P_1, \dots, P_1) + \sum_{k=2}^n p_n(U_{12}, P_1, \dots, \delta(P_k), \dots, P_1) \\ &= (-1)^{n+1}P_1\delta(U_{12})P_2 + (-1)^{n+1}P_1\delta(P_1)U_{12} - (-1)^{n+1}U_{12}\delta(P_1)P_2. \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying by  $P_1$  on the left side and  $P_2$  on the right side, we obtain that

$$P_1\delta(P_1)P_1U_{12} = U_{12}P_2\delta(P_1)P_2.$$

By Proposition 2.1, we have  $P_1\delta(P_1)P_1 + P_2\delta(P_1)P_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ .

On the other hand, Since  $U_{12}P_1P_1 = 0$ , it follows from  $P_1\delta(P_1)P_1U_{12} = U_{12}P_2\delta(P_1)P_2$  that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U_{12}) &= \delta(p_n(U_{12}, P_1, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\delta(U_{12}), P_1, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) + p_n(U_{12}, \delta(P_1), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &\quad + p_n(U_{12}, P_1, \delta(P_1), P_2, \dots, P_2) + \sum_{k=4}^n p_n(U_{12}, P_1, P_1, P_2, \dots, \delta(P_2), \dots, P_2) \\ &= P_1\delta(U_{12})P_2 + U_{12}\delta(P_2)P_2 - \delta(P_2)U_{12}. \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying by  $P_1$  on the left side and  $P_2$  on the right side, we obtain that

$$P_1\delta(P_2)P_1U_{12} = U_{12}P_2\delta(P_2)P_2.$$

By Proposition 2.1, we have  $P_1\delta(P_2)P_1 + P_2\delta(P_2)P_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ .  $\square$

**Remark 4.9.** Inspired by Lemma 4.8, we can define a map  $\phi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  by  $\phi(U) = \delta(U) - [U, P_1\delta(P_1)P_2]$ . One can easily check that  $\phi(P_1) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  and  $\phi$  satisfies that

$$\phi(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_n(U_1, \dots, U_{i-1}, \phi(U_i), U_{i+1}, \dots, U_n)$$

for all  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$ . Therefore,  $\phi$  satisfies all the properties that  $\delta$  satisfies.

**Lemma 4.10.**  $\phi(P_2) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ .

*Proof.* Since  $P_2P_1P_1 = 0$  and  $\phi(P_1) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \phi(p_n(P_2, P_1, \dots, P_1)) \\ &= p_n(\phi(P_2), P_1, \dots, P_1) \\ &= (-1)^{n+1}P_1\phi(P_2)P_2, \end{aligned}$$

which means that  $P_1\phi(P_2)P_2 = 0$ . Then we have from Remark 4.9 that  $\phi(P_2) = \delta(P_2) + P_1\delta(P_2)P_2$ . Thus  $P_1\phi(P_2)P_1 = P_1\delta(P_2)P_1$  and  $P_2\phi(P_2)P_2 = P_2\delta(P_2)P_2$ . Hence,

$$\phi(P_2) = P_1\phi(P_2)P_1 + P_2\phi(P_2)P_2 = P_1\delta(P_2)P_1 + P_2\delta(P_2)P_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

$\square$

**Lemma 4.11.**  $\phi(\mathcal{U}_{12}) \subseteq \mathcal{U}_{12}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $U_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Since  $\phi(P_1), \phi(P_2) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  and  $U_{12}P_1P_1 = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(U_{12}) &= \phi(p_n(U_{12}, P_1, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\phi(U_{12}), P_1, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= P_1\phi(U_{12})P_2. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Lemma 4.12.** *There exist  $f_i : \mathcal{U}_{ii} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  such that*

$$\phi(U_{ii}) - f_i(U_{ii}) \in \mathcal{U}_{ii}$$

for  $i = 1, 2$ .

*Proof.* Here we only give the proof for  $i = 1$ . Let  $U_{11} \in \mathcal{U}_{11}$ . Since  $U_{11}P_2P_2 = 0$  and  $\phi(P_2) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ , It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \phi(p_n(U_{11}, P_2, P_2, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\phi(U_{11}), P_2, P_2, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= P_1\phi(U_{11})P_2. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,  $\phi(U_{11}) = P_1\phi(U_{11})P_1 + P_2\phi(U_{11})P_2$ . Similarly, we can also show that  $\phi(U_{22}) = P_1\phi(U_{22})P_1 + P_2\phi(U_{22})P_2$ .

Since  $U_{11}U_{22}U_{12} = 0$  and  $\phi(P_2) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \phi(p_n(U_{11}, U_{22}, U_{12}, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\phi(U_{11}), U_{22}, U_{12}, P_2, \dots, P_2) + p_n(U_{11}, \phi(U_{22}, U_{12}, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= [[\phi(U_{11}), U_{22}], U_{12}] + [[U_{11}, \phi(U_{22})], U_{12}] \\ &= [[\phi(U_{11}), U_{22}] + [U_{11}, \phi(U_{22})], U_{12}]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have from Proposition 2.1 that

$$[\phi(U_{11}), U_{22}] + [U_{11}, \phi(U_{22})] = Z \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}).$$

Hence,  $[P_2\phi(U_{11})P_2, U_{22}] \in ZP_2$  and  $[U_{11}, P_1\phi(U_{22})P_1] \in ZP_1$ . Employing the conditions

$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A}) = \{A \mid [[A, X], Y] = 0, \forall X, Y \in \mathcal{A}\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B}) = \{B \mid [[B, X], Y] = 0, \forall X, Y \in \mathcal{B}\},$$

we can conclude that  $P_2\phi(U_{11})P_2 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}_{22})$  and  $P_1\phi(U_{22})P_1 \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}_{11})$ . Employing the condition  $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A})$ , we can write

$$\phi(U_{11}) = P_1\phi(U_{11})P_1 - \eta^{-1}(P_2\phi(U_{11})P_2) + \eta^{-1}(P_2\phi(U_{11})P_2) + P_2\phi(U_{11})P_2.$$

Thus, we can define a map  $f_1 : \mathcal{U}_{11} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  as

$$f_1(U_{11}) = \eta^{-1}(P_2\phi(U_{11})P_2) + P_2\phi(U_{11})P_2.$$

Obviously,

$$\phi(U_{11}) - f_1(U_{11}) \in \mathcal{U}_{11}.$$

Similarly, we can show that

$$\phi(U_{22}) = P_1\phi(U_{22})P_1 + \eta(P_1\phi(U_{22})P_1) + P_2\phi(U_{22})P_2 - \eta(P_1\phi(U_{22})P_1).$$

Then we can define a map  $f_2 : \mathcal{U}_{22} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  as

$$f_2(U_{22}) = P_1\phi(U_{22})P_1 + \eta(P_1\phi(U_{22})P_1).$$

Obviously,

$$\phi(U_{22}) - f_2(U_{22}) \in \mathcal{U}_{22}.$$

□

**Remark 4.13.** Inspired by Lemmas 4.11 and 4.12, we define a new map  $\Delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  as

$$\Delta(U) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \phi(U_{ij}) - f_1(U_{11}) - f_2(U_{22})$$

for any  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ . Then we can immediately obtain the following result:

**Lemma 4.14.** For any  $U_{ij} \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}$  with  $1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2$ , the following statements hold:

- (1)  $\Delta(U_{ij}) \in \mathcal{U}_{ij}$ ;
- (2)  $\Delta$  is additive on  $\mathcal{U}_{12}$  and  $\Delta(U_{12}) = \phi(U_{12})$ ;
- (3)  $\Delta(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} U_{ij}) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq 2} \Delta(U_{ij})$ ;

**Lemma 4.15.**  $\Delta$  is additive.

*Proof.* By Lemma 4.14, it is sufficient to show that  $\Delta$  is additive on  $\mathcal{U}_{ii}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . In fact, for any  $U_{11}, V_{11} \in \mathcal{U}_{11}$ , in view of Theorem 4.1, Remark 4.9 and Lemma 4.14, we have

$$\Delta(U_{11} + V_{11}) - \Delta(U_{11}) - \Delta(V_{11}) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U}) \cap \mathcal{U}_{11}.$$

Assume that

$$Z = W_{11} = \Delta(U_{11} + V_{11}) - \Delta(U_{11}) - \Delta(V_{11})$$

for some  $Z \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  and  $W_{11} \in \mathcal{U}_{11}$ . Thus  $P_2 Z = 0$  and then by the definition of  $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ , we have  $Z = 0$ , which means that  $\Delta$  is additive on  $\mathcal{U}_{11}$ . Similarly, we can also show that  $\Delta$  is additive on  $\mathcal{U}_{22}$ . The proof is completed.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.16.** (1)  $\Delta(U_{11}U_{12}) = \Delta(U_{11})U_{12} + U_{11}\Delta(U_{12})$ ;

(2)  $\Delta(U_{12}U_{22}) = \Delta(U_{12})U_{22} + U_{12}\Delta(U_{22})$ ;

*Proof.* Here we only give the proof of (1). The proof of (2) is similar. Since  $U_{12}U_{11}P_1 = 0$  and  $\phi(P_1), \phi(P_2) \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$ , it follows from Remark 4.9 and Lemma 4.14 that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(U_{11}U_{12}) &= \phi(U_{11}U_{12}) \\ &= \phi(p_n(U_{12}, U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2)) \\ &= p_n(\phi(U_{12}), U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) + p_n(U_{12}, \phi(U_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= p_n(\Delta(U_{12}), U_{11}, P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) + p_n(U_{12}, \Delta(U_{11}), P_1, P_2, \dots, P_2) \\ &= U_{11}\Delta(U_{12}) + \Delta(U_{11})U_{12}. \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Lemma 4.17.** Let  $U_{ii}, V_{ii} \in \mathcal{U}_{ii}$  for  $i = 1, 2$ . Then

$$\Delta(U_{ii}V_{ii}) = \Delta(U_{ii})V_{ii} + U_{ii}\Delta(V_{ii}).$$

*Proof.* Let  $W_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . In view of Lemma 4.16, on the one hand, we have

$$\Delta(U_{11}V_{11}W_{12}) = \Delta(U_{11}V_{11})W_{12} + U_{11}V_{11}\Delta(W_{12}).$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(U_{11}V_{11}W_{12}) &= \Delta(U_{11})V_{11}W_{12} + U_{11}\Delta(V_{11}W_{12}) \\ &= \Delta(U_{11})V_{11}W_{12} + U_{11}V_{11}\Delta(W_{12}) + U_{11}\Delta(V_{11})W_{12}. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the two equations above, we have

$$\Delta(U_{11}V_{11})W_{12} = \Delta(U_{11})V_{11}W_{12} + U_{11}\Delta(V_{11})W_{12}.$$

Then

$$(\Delta(U_{11}V_{11}) - \Delta(U_{11})V_{11} - U_{11}\Delta(V_{11}))W_{12} = 0$$

for all  $W_{12} \in \mathcal{U}_{12}$ . Since  $\mathcal{U}_{12}$  is right faithful  $\mathcal{U}_{11}$  module, it follows that

$$\Delta(U_{11}V_{11}) = \Delta(U_{11})V_{11} + U_{11}\Delta(V_{11}).$$

Similarly, we can also show that

$$\Delta(U_{22}V_{22}) = \Delta(U_{22})V_{22} + U_{22}\Delta(V_{22}).$$

□

Finally, we give the proof of Theorem 4.7.

*Proof.* Using Lemmas 4.15-4.17, one can easily show that  $\Delta(UV) = U\Delta(V) + \Delta(U)V$  for all  $U, V \in \mathcal{U}$ . That is,  $\Delta$  is an additive derivation of  $\mathcal{U}$ . Besides, by Theorem 4.1 and Remark 4.9, we can define a map  $\tau : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  by  $\tau(U) = \phi(U) - \Delta(U)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(U) &= \phi(U) + [U, P_1\delta(P_1)P_2] \\ &= \Delta(U) + [U, P_1\delta(P_1)P_2] + \tau(U). \end{aligned}$$

Denote  $d(U) = \Delta(U) + [U, P_1\delta(P_1)P_2]$ . Then  $d : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is an additive derivation of  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\delta(U) = d(U) + \tau(U)$ . Now, to prove Theorem 4.7, it is sufficient to show that  $\tau$  vanishes on each  $(n-1)$ -th commutator  $p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$  with  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$ . Indeed, suppose that  $p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$  satisfies  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} &\tau(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) \\ &= \delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) - d(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, \delta(U_k), \dots, U_n) - \sum_{k=1}^n p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, d(U_k), \dots, U_n) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, \delta(U_k), \dots, U_n) - \sum_{k=1}^n p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, \delta(U_k), \dots, U_n) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed. □

Combining Theorem 4.7 with Theorem 2.2 in [20], we can obtain the following result.

**Corollary 4.18.** *Let  $\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B})$  be a triangular algebra and  $\mathcal{M}$  be a faithful  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -bimodule satisfying the conditions:*

- (★)  $\pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A}), \pi_{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B});$
- (★)  $\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A}) = \{A \mid [[A, X], Y] = 0, \forall X, Y \in \mathcal{A}\}, \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B}) = \{B \mid [[B, X], Y] = 0, \forall X, Y \in \mathcal{B}\}.$

Suppose that a nonlinear map  $\delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  satisfies

$$\delta(p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_n(U_1, \dots, U_{i-1}, \delta(U_i), U_{i+1}, \dots, U_n)$$

for all  $U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$  and  $n \geq 3$ . Then  $\delta(U) = d(U) + \tau(U)$  for all  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , where  $d : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is an additive derivation and  $\tau : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  is a map vanishing on each  $(n-1)$ -th commutator  $p_n(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_n)$  with  $U_1U_2U_3 = 0$ .

Finally, we have the result as follows.

**Corollary 4.19.** *Let  $\mathcal{U} = \text{Tri}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{B})$  be a triangular algebra and  $\mathcal{M}$  be a faithful  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ -bimodule satisfying the conditions:*

$$(\star) \pi_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A}), \pi_{\mathcal{B}}(\mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})) = \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B});$$

$$(\star) \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{A}) = \{A \mid [[A, X], Y] = 0, \forall X, Y \in \mathcal{A}\}, \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{B}) = \{B \mid [[B, X], Y] = 0, \forall X, Y \in \mathcal{B}\}.$$

*Suppose that  $\delta : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is a Lie  $n$ -derivations and  $n \geq 3$ . Then  $\delta(U) = d(U) + \tau(U)$  for all  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ , where  $d : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$  is an additive derivation and  $\tau : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\mathcal{U})$  is a map vanishing on each  $(n - 1)$ -th commutator.*

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### Declarations

Conflict of interest: On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

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