

## Weak Armendariz Skew Polynomial Rings

A. Mousavi<sup>a</sup>, F. Keshavarz<sup>b</sup>, M. Rasuli<sup>c</sup> and A. Alhevaz<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Mathematics, Islamic Azad University,  
South Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran.

<sup>b</sup> Member of Young Researchers Club, Islamic Azad University,  
North Tehran Branch, Tehran, Iran.

<sup>c</sup> Department of Mathematics, Isfahan University of Technology,  
P.O.Box: 84156-83111, Isfahan, Iran.

<sup>d</sup> Department of Pure Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematical Sciences,  
Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran, P.O. Box 14115-134.  
fatemeh.keshavarz.2003@gmail.com.

a.alhevaz@yahoo.com. m.rasuli@yahoo.com.

Corresponding author. a\_mousavi@azad.ac.ir

### Abstract

A ring  $R$  is called weak Armendariz if whenever the product of any two polynomials in  $R[x]$  over  $R$  is zero, then the product of any pair of coefficients from the two polynomials be a nilpotent element of  $R$ . For a ring endomorphism  $\alpha$ , we introduce the notion of  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz rings by considering the polynomials in the skew polynomial ring  $R[x; \alpha]$  instead of  $R[x]$ , which are a generalization of weak Armendariz rings and  $\alpha$ -Armendariz rings. Basic properties of  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz rings are observed, and connections of properties of an  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz ring  $R$  with those of  $R[x; \alpha]$  are investigated. As a consequence our results improve not only some results of Liu [8], but also some known results on Armendariz rings.

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Throughout this paper  $R$  denotes an associative ring with unity. For a ring  $R$ , we denote by  $nil(R)$  the set of all nilpotent elements of  $R$  and by  $R[x]$  the polynomial ring with an indeterminate  $x$  over  $R$ .

By [11], a ring  $R$  is called an *Armendariz* ring if whenever  $f(x)g(x) = 0$  where  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_mx^m$ ,  $g(x) = b_0 + b_1x + \cdots + b_nx^n \in R[x]$ , then  $a_ib_j = 0$  for each  $i, j$ . The name Armendariz ring is chosen because Armendariz

[2] had noted that a *reduced* ring (i.e., a ring without nonzero nilpotent elements) satisfies this condition. Recall that a ring  $R$  is called *reversible* if  $ab = 0$  implies  $ba = 0$ , for all  $a, b \in R$ ;  $R$  is called *semicommutative* if for all  $a, b \in R$ ,  $ab = 0$  implies  $aRb = 0$ . Reduced rings are clearly reversible and reversible rings are semicommutative, but the converse is not true in general[10].

Liu and Zhao [8] have studied a generalization of Armendariz rings, which they called weak Armendariz rings. A ring  $R$  is called a *weak-Armendariz* ring if whenever polynomials  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_mx^m$ ,  $g(x) = b_0 + b_1x + \cdots + b_nx^n \in R[x]$  satisfy  $f(x)g(x) = 0$ , then  $a_ib_j \in \text{nil}(R)$  for each  $i, j$ . Each semicommutative ring is weak Armendariz by [8] and so weak Armendariz rings are a common generalization of semicommutative rings and Armendariz rings.

The Armendariz property of a ring was extended to one of skew polynomials [4,5]. For an endomorphism  $\alpha$  of a ring  $R$ , the *skew polynomial* ring  $R[x; \alpha]$  consists of the polynomials in  $x$  with coefficients in  $R$  written on the left, subject to the relation  $xr = \alpha(r)x$  for all  $r \in R$ . A ring  $R$  is called  $\alpha$ -*Armendariz* (resp.,  $\alpha$ -*skew Armendariz*) if for  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_mx^m$ ,  $g(x) = b_0 + b_1x + \cdots + b_nx^n \in R[x; \alpha]$  satisfy  $f(x)g(x) = 0$ , then  $a_ib_j = 0$  (resp.,  $a_i\alpha^i(b_j) = 0$ ) for all  $0 \leq i \leq m$  and  $0 \leq j \leq n$  [5, Definition 1.1](resp., [4, Definition]). According to Hashemi and Moussavi [3], a ring  $R$  is said to be  $\alpha$ -*compatible* if for each  $a, b \in R$ ,  $ab = 0 \Leftrightarrow a\alpha(b) = 0$ . For  $\alpha$ -compatible rings the above mentioned concepts are equivalent. According to Krempa [6], an endomorphism  $\alpha$  of a ring  $R$  is called to be *rigid* if  $a\alpha(a) = 0$  implies  $a = 0$  for  $a \in R$ . A ring  $R$  is called  $\alpha$ -*rigid* if there exist a rigid endomorphism  $\alpha$  of  $R$ . By [3, Lemma 2.2], a ring  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -rigid if and only if  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -compatible and reduced. Also by [4, Proposition 3], if  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -rigid ring, then  $R[x; \alpha]$  is reduced.

We are motivated to introduce the notion of  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz ring  $R$  with respect to an endomorphism  $\alpha$  of  $R$ . This notion extends both ring weak Armendariz rings and  $\alpha$ -Armendariz rings. We do this by considering the weak Armendariz condition on polynomials in  $R[x; \alpha]$  instead of  $R[x]$ . This provides us with an opportunity to study weak Armendariz rings in a general setting, and several known results on weak Armendariz rings are obtained as corollaries. We start with the following definition.

**Definition 1.** Let  $\alpha$  be an endomorphism of a ring  $R$ . The ring  $R$  is called  $\alpha$ -*weak Armendariz* (resp.,  $\alpha$ -*skew weak Armendariz*) if for  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_mx^m$ ,  $g(x) = b_0 + b_1x + \cdots + b_nx^n \in R[x; \alpha]$  satisfy  $f(x)g(x) = 0$ , then  $a_ib_j \in \text{nil}(R)$  (resp.,  $a_i\alpha^i(b_j) \in \text{nil}(R)$ ) for all  $0 \leq i \leq m$  and  $0 \leq j \leq n$ .

It is clear that a ring  $R$  is weak Armendariz if  $R$  is  $id_R$ -weak Armendariz, where  $id_R$  is the identity endomorphism of  $R$ .

**Proposition 2.** *For an endomorphism  $\alpha$  of a ring  $R$ , we have the following statements:*

- (1) *If  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -Armendariz (resp.,  $\alpha$ -skew Armendariz) ring, then  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz (resp.,  $\alpha$ -skew weak Armendariz).*
- (2) *Every subring  $S$  with  $\alpha(S) \subseteq S$  of an  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz ring is also  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz.*

**Proof.** It is clear by definition.

The following example shows that there exists an endomorphism  $\alpha$  of a weak Armendariz ring  $R$  such that  $R$  is not  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz.

**Example 3.** Let  $R = R_1 \oplus R_2$ , where  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  be any reduced rings. Then  $R$  is a semicommutative and so  $R$  is weak Armendariz. Let  $\alpha : R \rightarrow R$  be an endomorphism defined by  $\alpha((a, b)) = (b, a)$ . Let  $f(x) = (0, 1) - (0, 1)x$ ,  $g(x) = (1, 0) + (0, 1)x \in R[x; \alpha]$ . Then  $f(x)g(x) = 0$ , but  $(0, 1)(0, 1) = (0, 1) \notin \text{nil}(R)$ . Therefore  $R$  is neither  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz nor  $\alpha$ -skew weak Armendariz.

Any endomorphism  $\alpha$  of  $R$  can be extended to an endomorphism  $\bar{\alpha}$  of  $T_n(R)$  defined by  $\bar{\alpha}((a_{ij})) = (\alpha(a_{ij}))$ .

**Proposition 4.** *Let  $\alpha$  be an endomorphism of a ring  $R$ . Then  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz if and only if, for any  $n$ ,  $T_n(R)$  is  $\bar{\alpha}$ -weak Armendariz.*

**Proof.** We only prove necessity, since subrings of  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz rings is also  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz. Note that  $T_n(R)[x; \bar{\alpha}] \cong T_n(R[x; \alpha])$ . Let  $f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^p A_i x^i$  and  $g(x) = \sum_{j=0}^q B_j x^j \in T_n(R)[x; \bar{\alpha}]$  are such that  $f(x)g(x) = 0$ . Let

$$A_i = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}^i & a_{12}^i & \cdots & a_{1n}^i \\ 0 & a_{22}^i & \cdots & a_{2n}^i \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_{nn}^i \end{pmatrix}, B_j = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11}^j & b_{12}^j & \cdots & b_{1n}^j \\ 0 & b_{22}^j & \cdots & b_{2n}^j \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & b_{nn}^j \end{pmatrix},$$

for  $0 \leq i \leq p$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq q$ . Then  $f_s(x) = \sum_{i=0}^p a_{ss}^i x^i$  and  $g_s(x) = \sum_{j=0}^q b_{ss}^j x^j \in R[x; \alpha]$  and  $f_s(x)g_s(x) = 0$ , for each  $1 \leq s \leq n$ . Since  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz ring, there exists  $m_{ijs} \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(a_{ss}^i b_{ss}^j)^{m_{ijs}} = 0$ , for any  $s$  and any  $i, j$ . Let  $m_{ij} = \max\{m_{ijs} \mid 1 \leq s \leq n\}$ . Then  $[(A_i B_j)^{m_{ij}}]^n = 0$ . Therefore  $T_n(R)$  is  $\bar{\alpha}$ -weak Armendariz.

**Corollary 5.** [8, Proposition 2.2] *A ring  $R$  is a weak Armendariz ring if and only if, for any  $n$ ,  $T_n(R)$  is weak Armendariz.*

**Definition 6.** For a ring  $R$ , consider the following set of triangular matrices:

$$T(R, n) := \left\{ \left( \begin{array}{ccccc} a_0 & a_1 & \cdots & a_{n-2} & a_{n-1} \\ 0 & a_0 & a_1 & \cdots & a_{n-2} \\ 0 & 0 & a_0 & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & a_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & a_0 \end{array} \right) \mid a_i \in R \right\}, \text{ with } n \geq 2.$$

It is easy to see that  $T(R, n)$  is a subring of the triangular matrix rings, with matrix addition and multiplication. We can denote elements of  $T(R, n)$  by  $(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1})$ , then  $T(R, n)$  is a ring with addition point-wise and multiplication given by

$$(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1})(b_0, b_1, \dots, b_{n-1}) = (a_0b_0, a_0b_1 + a_1b_0, \dots, a_0b_{n-1} + \cdots + a_{n-1}b_0),$$

for each  $a_i, b_j \in R$ .

On the other hand, there is a ring isomorphism  $\varphi : R[x]/\langle x^n \rangle \rightarrow T(R, n)$ , given by,  $\varphi(a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1}) = (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1})$ , with  $a_i \in R$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ . So  $T(R, n) \cong R[x]/\langle x^n \rangle$ , where  $R[x]$  is the ring of polynomial in an indeterminate  $x$  and  $\langle x^n \rangle$  is the ideal generated by  $x$ .

**Theorem 7.** A ring  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz ring if and only if, for any  $n$ ,  $\frac{R[x]}{\langle x^n \rangle}$  is  $\bar{\alpha}$ -weak Armendariz.

**Proof.** We only prove necessity, since subrings of  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz rings is also  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz. Note that  $nil(T(R, n)) = (nil(R), R, \dots, R)$  and also  $T(R, n)[x; \bar{\alpha}] \cong T(R[x; \alpha], n)$ . Let  $F(x) = \sum_{i=0}^m A_i x^i$ ,  $G(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n B_j x^j \in T(R, n)[x; \bar{\alpha}]$  are such that  $F(x)G(x) = 0$ . Let

$$A_i = \begin{pmatrix} a_{i0} & a_{i1} & \cdots & a_{i(n-2)} & a_{i(n-1)} \\ 0 & a_{i0} & a_{i1} & \cdots & a_{i(n-2)} \\ 0 & 0 & a_{i0} & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \cdots & a_{i1} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_{i0} \end{pmatrix}, B_j = \begin{pmatrix} b_{j0} & b_{j1} & \cdots & b_{j(n-2)} & b_{j(n-1)} \\ 0 & b_{j0} & b_{j1} & \cdots & b_{j(n-2)} \\ 0 & 0 & b_{j0} & \cdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \cdots & b_{j1} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & b_{j0} \end{pmatrix}$$

for  $0 \leq i \leq m$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq n$ . Then  $f_0(x) = \sum_{i=0}^m a_{i0}x^i$  and  $g_0(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n b_{j0}x^j \in R[x; \alpha]$  and  $f_0(x)g_0(x) = 0$ . Since  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz ring, there exists  $m_{ij} \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $(a_{i0}b_{j0})^{m_{ij}} = 0$ , for any  $i, j$ . Then  $A_i B_j \in nil(T(R, n))$ . Therefore  $\frac{R[x]}{\langle x^n \rangle}$  is  $\bar{\alpha}$ -weak Armendariz.

If we take  $\alpha = id_R$ , we deduce:

**Corollary 8.** A ring  $R$  is weak Armendariz if and only if, for any  $n$ ,  $\frac{R[x]}{\langle x^n \rangle}$  is weak Armendariz.

**Corollary 9.** [8, Theorem 3.9] If  $R$  is a semicommutative ring, then for any

$n$ ,  $\frac{R[x]}{\langle x^n \rangle}$  is weak Armendariz.

Recall that for a ring  $R$  and an  $(R, R)$ -bimodule  $M$ , the *trivial extension* of  $R$  by  $M$  is the ring  $T(R, M) = R \oplus M$  with the usual addition and the multiplication  $(r_1, m_1)(r_2, m_2) = (r_1r_2, r_1m_2 + r_2m_1)$ . This is isomorphic to the ring of all matrices  $\begin{pmatrix} r & m \\ 0 & r \end{pmatrix}$ , where  $r \in R$  and  $m \in M$  and the usual matrix operations are used.

**Corollary 10.** *Let  $\alpha$  be an endomorphism of a ring  $R$ . Then  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz if and only if,  $T(R, R)$  is  $\bar{\alpha}$ -weak Armendariz.*

**Proof.** Observe that  $\frac{R[x]}{\langle x^2 \rangle} \cong T(R, R)$ .

**Example 11.** Consider the ring  $R_4 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ 0 & a & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ 0 & 0 & a & a_{34} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & a \end{pmatrix} \mid a, a_{ij} \in R \right\}$ ,

where  $R$  is an  $\alpha$ -rigid ring. The endomorphism  $\alpha$  of  $R$  is extended to the endomorphism  $\bar{\alpha} : R_4 \rightarrow R_4$  defined by  $\bar{\alpha}((a_{ij})) = (\alpha(a_{ij}))$ . The ring  $R_4$  is not  $\bar{\alpha}$ -Armendariz by [4, Example 18] and [5, Theorem 1.8]. But since  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -rigid,  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz and hence  $R_4$  is  $\bar{\alpha}$ -weak Armendariz by Propositions 4 and 2(2).

**Lemma 12.** [3, Lemma 3.2] *Let  $R$  be an  $\alpha$ -compatible ring. Then we have the following:*

- (i) If  $ab = 0$ , then  $a\alpha^n(b) = \alpha^n(a)b = 0$ , for all positive integers  $n$ .
- (ii) If  $\alpha^k(a)b = 0$  for some positive integer  $k$ , then  $ab = 0$ .

We now state another lemma that will be helpful to us in the sequel.

**Lemma 13.** *Let  $R$  be an  $\alpha$ -compatible ring. Then we have the following:*

- (i) If  $ab \in \text{nil}(R)$ , then  $a\alpha^m(b) \in \text{nil}(R)$  and  $\alpha^n(a)b \in \text{nil}(R)$ , for all positive integers  $m, n$ .
- (ii) If  $\alpha^k(a)b \in \text{nil}(R)$  or  $a\alpha^l(b) \in \text{nil}(R)$  for some positive integers  $k, l$ , then  $ab \in \text{nil}(R)$ .

**Proof.** Since  $ab \in \text{nil}(R)$ , there exist some positive integer  $k$  such that  $(ab)^k = ab \cdot ab \cdots ab = 0$ . Using  $\alpha$ -compatibility of  $R$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} ababab \cdots abab &= 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow ababab \cdots ab\alpha^m(b) &= 0 \\ \Leftrightarrow ababab \cdots a\alpha^m(ba\alpha^m(b)) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\Leftrightarrow ababab \cdots a\alpha^m(b)\alpha^m(a\alpha^m(b)) = 0$   
 $\Leftrightarrow ababab \cdots a\alpha^m(b)a\alpha^m(b) = 0$   
 $\vdots$   
 $\Leftrightarrow [a\alpha^m(b)]^k = 0$ . Therefore  $a\alpha^m(b) \in \text{nil}(R)$ . By a similar way, one can prove the other cases.

**Lemma 14.** *Let  $R$  be  $\alpha$ -compatible ring. Then  $a^{k_1+k_2+\cdots+k_n} = 0$ , implies that  $(\alpha^{v_1}(a))^{k_1}(\alpha^{v_2}(a))^{k_2} \cdots (\alpha^{v_n}(a))^{k_n} = 0$ , where  $v_p$  ( $1 \leq p \leq n$ ) is a nonnegative integer.*

**Proof.** Using Lemma 12 and  $\alpha$ -compatibility of  $R$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a^{k_1+k_2+\cdots+k_n} = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow a^{k_1}a^{k_2} \cdots a^{k_n} = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow a^{k_1}a^{k_2} \cdots a^{k_{n-1}}\alpha^{v_n}(a^{k_n}) = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow a^{k_1}a^{k_2} \cdots a^{k_{n-1}}(\alpha^{v_n}(a))^{k_n} = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow \alpha^{v_{n-1}}(a^{k_1}a^{k_2} \cdots a^{k_{n-1}})(\alpha^{v_n}(a))^{k_n} = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow \alpha^{v_{n-1}}(a^{k_1}a^{k_2} \cdots a^{k_{n-2}})\alpha^{v_{n-1}}(a^{k_{n-1}})(\alpha^{v_n}(a))^{k_n} = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow \alpha^{v_{n-1}}(a^{k_1}a^{k_2} \cdots a^{k_{n-2}})(\alpha^{v_{n-1}}(a))^{k_{n-1}}(\alpha^{v_n}(a))^{k_n} = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow a^{k_1}a^{k_2} \cdots a^{k_{n-2}}(\alpha^{v_{n-1}}(a))^{k_{n-1}}(\alpha^{v_n}(a))^{k_n} = 0 \\
 & \vdots \\
 & \Rightarrow (\alpha^{v_1}(a))^{k_1}(\alpha^{v_2}(a))^{k_2} \cdots (\alpha^{v_n}(a))^{k_n} = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall that an ideal  $I$  of a ring  $R$  is called  $\alpha$ -invariant if  $\alpha(I) \subseteq I$ . If an ideal  $I$  of  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -invariant, then  $I[x; \alpha]$  is an ideal of  $R[x; \alpha]$ , as for any  $a \in I$ ,  $\alpha^j(a) \in I$  for all positive integers  $j$ .

**Corollary 15.** *Let  $R$  be  $\alpha$ -compatible ring. Then  $\text{nil}(R)[x; \alpha]$  is an ideal of  $R[x; \alpha]$ .*

**Proposition 16.** *Let  $R$  be semicommutative and  $\alpha$ -compatible ring and  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n \in R[x; \alpha]$ . Then  $f(x) \in \text{nil}(R[x; \alpha])$  if and only if  $a_i \in \text{nil}(R)$  for all  $0 \leq i \leq n$ .*

**Proof.** Suppose  $f(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n \in R[x; \alpha]$  and there exist some positive integer  $k$  such that  $[f(x)]^k = 0$ . Then  $a_n\alpha^n(a_n) \cdots \alpha^{(k-1)n}(a_n) = 0$ , since it is the leading coefficient of  $[f(x)]^k$ . Using Lemma 11 and  $\alpha$ -compatibility of  $R$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & a_n\alpha^n(a_n)\alpha^{2n}(a_n) \cdots \alpha^{(k-1)n}(a_n) = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow \alpha^n(a_n)\alpha^n(a_n)\alpha^{2n}(a_n) \cdots \alpha^{(k-1)n}(a_n) = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow \alpha^n(a_n^2)\alpha^{2n}(a_n) \cdots \alpha^{(k-1)n}(a_n) = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow a_n^2\alpha^{2n}(a_n) \cdots \alpha^{(k-1)n}(a_n) = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow \alpha^{2n}(a_n^2)\alpha^{2n}(a_n) \cdots \alpha^{(k-1)n}(a_n) = 0 \\
 & \Rightarrow \alpha^{2n}(a_n^3)\alpha^{3n}(a_n) \cdots \alpha^{(k-1)n}(a_n) = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n^3 \alpha^{3n}(a_n) \cdots \alpha^{(k-1)n}(a_n) = 0$$

⋮

$\Rightarrow a_n^k = 0$ . Therefore  $a_n \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Thus we obtain  $[a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1}]^k \in \text{nil}(R)[x; \alpha, \delta]$ , since  $R$  is semicommutative ring and hence  $\text{nil}(R)$  is an ideal of  $R$ , by [8, Lemma 3.1]. So we have  $a_{n-1}\alpha^{n-1}(a_{n-1}) \cdots \alpha^{(k-1)(n-1)}(a_{n-1}) \in \text{nil}(R)$ , and similar discussion yields that  $a_{n-1} \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Therefore, by induction, we have  $a_i \in \text{nil}(R)$  for each  $0 \leq i \leq n$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $a_i^{m_i} = 0$ , for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . Let  $k = \sum m_i + 1$ . Thus  $[a_0 + a_1x + \cdots + a_nx^n]^k = \sum (a_0^{i_{01}}(a_1x)^{i_{11}} \cdots (a_nx^n)^{i_{n1}}) (a_0^{i_{02}}(a_1x)^{i_{12}} \cdots (a_nx^n)^{i_{n2}}) \cdots (a_0^{i_{0k}}(a_1x)^{i_{1k}} \cdots (a_nx^n)^{i_{nk}})$ , where  $\sum_{l=0}^n i_{lr} = 1$ , for  $1 \leq r \leq k$  and  $0 \leq i_{lr} \leq 1$ .

Each coefficient of  $[f(x)]^k$  is a sum of elements  $((\alpha^{v_{01}}(a_0))^{i_{01}} \cdots (\alpha^{v_{n1}}(a_n))^{i_{n1}}) \cdots ((\alpha^{v_{0k}}(a_0))^{i_{0k}} \cdots (\alpha^{v_{nk}}(a_n))^{i_{nk}})$ , where  $i_{0r} + i_{1r} + \cdots + i_{nr} = 1$ . It can be easily checked that there exists  $a_s \in \{a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  such that  $i_{s1} + i_{s2} + \cdots + i_{sk} \geq m_s$ . Since  $a_s^{m_s} = 0$ , so  $a_s^{i_{s1} + i_{s2} + \cdots + i_{sk}} = 0$ , and hence by Lemma 14 we have  $((\alpha^{v_{s1}}(a_s))^{i_{s1}} (\alpha^{v_{s2}}(a_s))^{i_{s2}} \cdots (\alpha^{v_{sk}}(a_s))^{i_{sk}}) = 0$ . Thus each coefficient of  $[f(x)]^k$  is zero, since  $R$  is semicommutative. Hence  $[f(x)]^k = 0$ , as desired.

**Corollary 17.** *Let  $R$  be a semicommutative ring. Then  $f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^m a_i x^i$  is a nilpotent element of  $R[x]$  if and only if  $a_i \in \text{nil}(R)$  for all  $0 \leq i \leq n$ .*

**Proposition 18.** *Each  $\alpha$ -compatible semicommutative ring is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz.*

**Proof.** Note that  $f(x)g(x) = \left( \sum_{i=0}^m a_i x^i \right) \left( \sum_{j=0}^n b_j x^j \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{m+n} \left( \sum_{i+j=k} a_i \alpha^i(b_j) \right) x^k =$

0. Then we have the following equations:

$$\sum_{i+j=k} a_i \alpha^i(b_j) = 0, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, m+n.$$

We will show that  $a_i b_j \in \text{nil}(R)$  by induction on  $i+j$ .

If  $i+j=0$ , then  $0 = a_0 b_0 \in \text{nil}(R)$  and so  $b_0 a_0 \in \text{nil}(R)$ .

Now suppose that  $k$  is a positive integer such that  $a_i b_j \in \text{nil}(R)$  when  $i+j < k$ .

We will show that  $a_i b_j \in \text{nil}(R)$  when  $i+j = k$ .

We have the equation

$$a_0 b_k + a_1 \alpha(b_{k-1}) + a_2 \alpha^2(b_{k-2}) + \cdots + a_k \alpha^k(b_0) = 0, \quad (*)$$

since it is the coefficient of  $x^k$  in  $f(x)g(x) = 0$ . Multiplying (\*) by  $b_0$  from left, we have

$$b_0 a_k \alpha^k(b_0) = - (b_0 a_0 b_k + b_0 a_1 \alpha(b_{k-1}) + b_0 a_2 \alpha^2(b_{k-2}) + \cdots + b_0 a_{k-1} \alpha^{k-1}(b_1)).$$

On the other hand, by induction hypothesis we have  $a_i b_0 \in \text{nil}(R)$  for each  $0 \leq i < k$ , and so  $b_0 a_i \in \text{nil}(R)$  for each  $0 \leq i < k$ . Hence  $b_0 a_k \alpha^k(b_0) \in \text{nil}(R)$ , since  $\text{nil}(R)$  is an ideal of  $R$ . Thus  $b_0 a_k \alpha^k(b_0) \alpha^k(a_k) = b_0 a_k \alpha^k(b_0 a_k) \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Then by Lemma 10, we have  $b_0 a_k \in \text{nil}(R)$ , since  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -compatible, and so

$a_k b_0 \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Multiplying (\*) by  $b_1$  from left, and by a similar way as above we have  $a_{k-1} b_1 \in \text{nil}(R)$ .

Continuing this process yields that  $a_i b_j \in \text{nil}(R)$  when  $i + j = k$ . Therefore by induction we have  $a_i b_j \in \text{nil}(R)$  for each  $i, j$ .

**Corollary 19.** *Each  $\alpha$ -rigid ring is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz.*

**Example 20.** Consider the ring  $R_3 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ 0 & a & d \\ 0 & 0 & a \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, d \in R \right\}$ , where

$R$  is an  $\alpha$ -rigid ring. The endomorphism  $\alpha$  of  $R$  is extended to the endomorphism  $\bar{\alpha} : R_3 \rightarrow R_3$  defined by  $\bar{\alpha}((a_{ij})) = (\alpha(a_{ij}))$ . The ring  $R_3$  is not reduced and hence it is not  $\bar{\alpha}$ -rigid. But since  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -rigid,  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz and hence  $R_3$  is  $\bar{\alpha}$ -weak Armendariz, by Propositions 4 and 2(2).

**Corollary 21.** [8, Corollary 3.4]. *Semicommutative rings are weak Armendariz.*

**Theorem 22.** *Let  $R$  be a semicommutative ring and  $\alpha$  be an endomorphism of a ring  $R$  such that  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -compatible. If, for some positive integer  $t$ ,  $\alpha^t = \text{id}_R$ , then  $R[x; \alpha]$  is weak Armendariz.*

**Proof.** Let  $F(y) = \sum_{i=0}^m f_i y^i$ ,  $G(y) = \sum_{j=0}^n g_j y^j \in (R[x; \alpha][y])$  such that  $F(y)G(y) = 0$ , where  $f_i = \sum_{s=0}^{p_i} a_{is} x^s$ ,  $g_j = \sum_{t=0}^{q_j} b_{jt} x^t \in R[x; \alpha]$ . Let  $k = \sum_i \deg(f_i) + \sum_j \deg(g_j)$ , where the degree is as polynomial in  $x$  and the degree of zero polynomial is taken to be 0. Then  $F(x^{tk}) = \sum_{i=0}^m f_i x^{itk}$ ,  $G(x^{tk}) = \sum_{j=0}^n g_j x^{jtk} \in R[x; \alpha]$ .

Since  $F(y)G(y) = 0$  and  $\alpha^t = \text{id}_R$ , so  $F(x^k)G(x^k) = 0$ . Then by Proposition 18,  $a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for all  $0 \leq i \leq m$ ,  $0 \leq s \leq p_i$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq n$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq q_j$ . Hence by Lemma 13,  $a_{is} \alpha^i(b_{jt}) \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Since  $R$  is semicommutative,  $\text{nil}(R)$  is an ideal of  $R$  and so  $\sum_{s+t=k} a_{is} \alpha^i(b_{jt}) \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Then  $f_i g_j \in \text{nil}(R[x; \alpha])$ , by Proposition 16. Therefore  $R[x; \alpha]$  is weak Armendariz ring.

**Corollary 23.** [8, Theorem 3.8] *If  $R$  is a semicommutative ring, then  $R[x]$  is weak Armendariz ring.*

**Theorem 24.** *Let  $R$  be a semicommutative and  $\alpha$ -compatible ring. If  $R[x; \alpha]$  is weak Armendariz, then  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz.*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $R[x; \alpha]$  is weak Armendariz ring and  $p(x)q(x) = 0$ ,



where  $p(x) = \sum_{i=0}^m a_i x^i$  and  $q(x) = \sum_{j=0}^n b_j x^j \in R[x; \alpha]$ . Then  $f(y)g(y) = 0$ , for  $f(y) = a_0 + (a_1 x)y + \cdots + (a_m x^m)y^m$  and  $g(y) = b_0 + (b_1 x)y + \cdots + (b_n x^n)y^n \in (R[x; \alpha])[y]$ . Since  $R[x; \alpha]$  is weak Armendariz,  $a_i x^i b_j x^j \in \text{nil}(R[x; \alpha])$ , for each  $i, j$ . Then by Proposition 16,  $a_i \alpha^i(b_j) \in \text{nil}(R)$  for each  $i, j$ . So by Lemma 13,  $a_i b_j \in \text{nil}(R)$ , for each  $i, j$ . Therefore  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz ring.

**Corollary 25.** *If  $R$  is a semicommutative ring, then  $R$  is weak Armendariz ring if and only if  $R[x]$  is weak Armendariz.*

Recall that if  $\alpha$  is an endomorphism of a ring  $R$ , then the map  $\bar{\alpha} : R[x] \rightarrow R[x]$  defined by  $\bar{\alpha}(\sum_{i=0}^m a_i x^i) = \sum_{i=0}^m \alpha(a_i) x^i$  is an endomorphism of the polynomial ring  $R[x]$ , and clearly this map extends  $\alpha$ .

**Theorem 26.** *Let  $R$  be a semicommutative and  $\alpha$ -compatible ring. Then  $R[x]$  is  $\bar{\alpha}$ -weak Armendariz ring.*

**Proof.** Let  $F(y) = \sum_{i=0}^p f_i y^i$ ,  $G(y) = \sum_{j=0}^q g_j y^j \in (R[x])[y; \bar{\alpha}]$  such that  $F(y)G(y) = 0$ , where  $f_i = \sum_{s=0}^{m_i} a_{is} x^s$ ,  $g_j = \sum_{t=0}^{n_j} b_{jt} x^t \in R[x]$ . Let  $m = \text{Max}\{m_i \mid 0 \leq i \leq p\}$  and  $n = \text{Max}\{n_j \mid 0 \leq j \leq q\}$ . Then we can assume  $f_i = \sum_{s=0}^m a_{is} x^s$  and  $g_j = \sum_{t=0}^n b_{jt} x^t \in R[x]$ . Hence  $F(y) = \sum_{i=0}^p (\sum_{s=0}^m a_{is} x^s) y^i = \sum_{s=0}^m (\sum_{i=0}^p a_{is} y^i) x^s$  and also

$G(y) = \sum_{j=0}^q (\sum_{t=0}^n b_{jt} x^t) y^j = \sum_{t=0}^n (\sum_{j=0}^q b_{jt} y^j) x^t$ . Since  $F(y)G(y) = 0$ , hence we have

$$\sum_{s+t=k} \left( \sum_{i=0}^p a_{is} y^i \right) \left( \sum_{j=0}^q b_{jt} y^j \right) = 0, \text{ for } 0 \leq k \leq m+n. \quad (*)$$

We will show by induction on  $s+t$  that  $a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $0 \leq i \leq p$ , any  $0 \leq j \leq q$ , and any  $s, t$  with  $s+t = 0, 1, \dots, m+n$ .

If  $s+t = 0$ , then  $s = t = 0$ . Thus  $(\sum_{i=0}^p a_{i0} y^i) (\sum_{j=0}^q b_{j0} y^j) = 0$ . Since  $R$  is semicommutative and  $\alpha$ -compatible, so by Proposition 18,  $R$  is  $\alpha$ -weak Armendariz. Thus  $a_{i0} b_{j0} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $0 \leq i \leq p$ , any  $0 \leq j \leq q$ .

Now suppose that  $k \leq m+n$  is such that  $a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $0 \leq i \leq p$ , any  $0 \leq j \leq q$ , and any  $s, t$  with  $s+t < k$ . We will show that  $a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $0 \leq i \leq p$ , any  $0 \leq j \leq q$ , and any  $s, t$  with  $s+t = k$ . From (\*) we have

$$0 = \sum_{s+t=k} \left( \sum_{i=0}^p a_{is} y^i \right) \left( \sum_{j=0}^q b_{jt} y^j \right) = \sum_{s+t=k} \sum_{l=0}^{p+q} \left( \sum_{i+j=l} a_{is} \alpha^i(b_{jt}) \right) y^l$$

$$= \sum_{l=0}^{p+q} \left( \sum_{s+t=k} \left( \sum_{i+j=l} a_{is} \alpha^i(b_{jt}) \right) \right) y^l = \sum_{l=0}^{p+q} \left( \sum_{i+j=l} \left( \sum_{s+t=k} a_{is} \alpha^i(b_{jt}) \right) \right) y^l.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{s+t=k} a_{0s} b_{0t} &= 0, \\ \sum_{s+t=k} a_{0s} b_{1t} + \sum_{s+t=k} a_{1s} \alpha(b_{0t}) &= 0, \\ &\dots\dots\dots \\ \sum_{s+t=k} a_{0s} b_{lt} + \sum_{s+t=k} a_{1s} \alpha(b_{(l-1)t}) + \dots + \sum_{s+t=k} a_{ls} \alpha^l(b_{0t}) &= 0, \\ \sum_{s+t=k} a_{ps} \alpha^p(b_{qt}) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

If  $s < k$ , then by induction hypothesis,  $a_{0s} b_{00} \in \text{nil}(R)$  and so  $b_{00} a_{0s} \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Hence  $b_{00} a_{00} b_{0k} + b_{00} a_{01} b_{0k-1} + \dots + b_{00} a_{0k-1} b_{01} \in \text{nil}(R)$ , since  $R$  is semicommutative. If we multiply  $\sum_{s+t=k} a_{0s} b_{0t} = 0$  on left side by  $b_{00}$ , then it follows that  $b_{00} a_{0k} b_{00} \in \text{nil}(R)$ , and so  $b_{00} a_{0k} \in \text{nil}(R)$  and  $a_{0k} b_{00} \in \text{nil}(R)$ . If we multiply  $\sum_{s+t=k} a_{0s} b_{0t} = 0$  on the left side by  $b_{01}$ , then we have  $b_{01} a_{0k-1} b_{01} = -(b_{01} a_{00} b_{0k} + b_{01} a_{01} b_{0k-1} + \dots + b_{01} a_{0k-2} b_{02}) - b_{01} a_{0k} b_{00} = -(b_{01} a_{00}) b_{0k} - (b_{01} a_{01}) b_{0k-1} - \dots - (b_{01} a_{0k-2}) b_{02} - b_{01} (a_{0k} b_{00}) \in \text{nil}(R)$ , since  $R$  is semicommutative. Thus  $a_{0k-1} b_{01} \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Similarly, we can show that  $a_{0k-2} b_{02} \in \text{nil}(R), \dots, a_{00} b_{0k} \in \text{nil}(R)$ . So we show that  $a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $s, t$  with  $s + t = k$  and any  $i, j$  with  $i + j = 0$ . Suppose that  $l \leq p + q$  is such that  $a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $s, t$  with  $s + t = k$  and any  $i, j$  with  $i + j < l$ . We will show that  $a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $s, t$  with  $s + t = k$  and any  $i, j$  with  $i + j = l$ . If  $s < k$ , then by induction hypothesis,  $a_{is} b_{00} \in \text{nil}(R)$ . So  $b_{00} a_{is} \in \text{nil}(R)$ . If  $i < l$ , then by induction hypothesis on  $l$ ,  $a_{ik} b_{00} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $i < l$ , and so  $b_{00} a_{ik} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $i < l$ . Multiplying  $\sum_{s+t=k} a_{0s} b_{lt} + \sum_{s+t=k} a_{1s} \alpha(b_{(l-1)t}) + \dots + \sum_{s+t=k} a_{ls} \alpha^l(b_{0t}) = 0$  on left side by  $b_{00}$ , we have  $b_{00} a_{lk} \alpha^l(b_{00}) \in \text{nil}(R)$ , since  $\text{nil}(R)$  is an ideal of  $R$ . Thus  $b_{00} a_{lk} \alpha^l(b_{00}) \alpha^l(a_{lk}) = b_{00} a_{lk} \alpha^l(b_{00} a_{lk}) \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Thus  $b_{00} a_{lk} \in \text{nil}(R)$  by Lemma 13, and so  $a_{lk} b_{00} \in \text{nil}(R)$ . Similarly, we can show that  $a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $s, t$  with  $s + t = k$  and any  $i, j$  with  $i + j = l$ . Therefore, by induction, we have  $a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$  for any  $0 \leq i \leq p$ , and  $0 \leq j \leq q$  and any  $s, t$  with  $s + t = 0, 1, \dots, m + n$ . Hence  $\sum_{s+t=k} a_{is} b_{jt} \in \text{nil}(R)$ , since  $R$  is semicommutative. Thus  $f_i g_j \in \text{nil}(R[x])$ , by Proposition 16. Therefore  $R[x]$  is  $\bar{\alpha}$ -weak Armendariz.

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