

# EXTENSIONS OF ENDOMORPHISMS FROM THE HIGHER CENTRES

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**Introduction.** If  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow C \rightarrow B \rightarrow 0$  is an exact sequence of abelian groups, if  $f$  is a 2-cocycle for this extension, if  $\alpha \in \text{End } A$ , and if  $\beta \in \text{End } B$ , then a necessary and sufficient condition that  $\alpha$  extend to an endomorphism  $\gamma$  of  $C$  which induces  $\beta$  is that (M)  $\alpha f$  and  $f\beta$  be cohomologous; see Montgomery (2). We shall extend this result to the case where  $1 \rightarrow A \rightarrow G \rightarrow B \rightarrow 1$  is an exact sequence of groups and  $A$  is abelian. For  $\alpha$  to extend to a  $\gamma$  which induces  $\beta$  and extends an endomorphism on the centralizer of  $A$  in  $G$ , it is (Theorem 2) necessary and sufficient (i) that, for each  $b \in B$ ,  $b$  and  $\beta b$  be carried onto the same element of  $G$  modulo the centralizer of  $A$  in  $G$ ; (ii) that  $\alpha$  commute with the automorphisms of  $A$  induced by  $B$  via the extension; and (iii) that condition (M) hold. If  $\alpha$  is an endomorphism on  $Z_n G$ , the  $n$ th member of the ascending central series of  $G$ , if each  $Z_i G$ ,  $0 \leq i < n$ , is  $\alpha$ -admissible, if  $\beta$  is an endomorphism on  $G/Z_n G$ , and if  $\alpha$  can be extended to a  $\gamma \in \text{End } G$  which induces  $\beta$ , then we shall show (Theorem 3) that the respective cohomology classes of the extensions

$$1 \rightarrow Z_1(G/Z_i G) \rightarrow G/Z_i G \rightarrow G/Z_{i+1} G \rightarrow 1 \quad (0 \leq i < n)$$

lie in the kernels of suitable endomorphisms of the 2-cohomology groups  $\mathfrak{S}^{(2)}(G/Z_{i+1} G, Z_{i+1} G/Z_i G)$ , the endomorphisms generated in each case from  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Conversely, if essentially the cohomology classes lie in such kernels, then (Theorem 4) it is possible to modify  $\alpha$  slightly so that the modification will extend to an endomorphism  $\gamma$  on  $G$  which induces  $\beta$ .

The principal device is that of an extended centrally compatible family of endomorphisms for  $\alpha \in \text{End } Z_n G$ , the family of endomorphisms induced on the various  $Z_i(G/Z_j G)$ ,  $0 \leq i + j \leq n$ , by  $\alpha$ . Theorem 1 provides us with such a family whenever all the  $Z_i G$ ,  $0 \leq i < n$ , are  $\alpha$ -admissible.

If  $A$  and  $B$  are groups or rings where  $B$  contains  $A$ , then  $C(A, B)$  is to be the centralizer of  $A$  in  $B$ , a normal subgroup of  $B$  whenever  $A$  is a normal subgroup of  $B$ . If  $B$  is a group which operates on the abelian group  $A$  via some  $\theta \in \text{Hom}(B, \text{Aut } A)$ , we sometimes write  $\mathfrak{S}^{(2)}(B, A; \theta)$  for  $\mathfrak{S}^{(2)}(B, A)$  in order to emphasize the map  $\theta$ . For a function  $\phi$  from  $X$  to  $Y$ ,  $\phi|U$  means  $\phi$  with its domain cut down to the subset  $U$  of  $X$ . The symbol  $\delta$  denotes the usual coboundary operator. The symbol  $\iota$  is reserved for the identity map of any set

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under consideration. If  $g$  is an element of the group  $G$ , then  $\langle g \rangle$  is to be the inner automorphism on  $G$  given by  $\langle g \rangle x = gxg^{-1}$  for each  $x \in G$ . If  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are functions from a group  $G$  to a group  $H$ ,  $\gamma_1 + \gamma_2$  is to be that function  $\gamma$  from  $G$  to  $H$  which is given by  $\gamma(g) = \gamma_1(g)\gamma_2(g)$  for each  $g \in G$ . Note that the order of summation is important. The function  $-\gamma$  has its values given by  $(-\gamma)(x) = (\gamma(x))^{-1}$ . All maps are written to the left: if a product of maps  $\prod_{j=1}^n \beta_j$  is given, it is to be understood that the first map to be applied is  $\beta_n$  and the last is  $\beta_1$ . Frequently, an inverse  $\phi^{-1}$  will appear in a product of homomorphisms even though  $\phi$  is not single valued. In each instance it will be found that  $\ker \phi$  is such that the ambiguities disappear. In general,  $\phi^{-1}(x)$  means the complete inverse image of  $x$  under  $\phi$ .

**1. Preliminaries.** (a) Let  $A$  be an abelian group, let  $B$  be a group, and let  $\theta$  be any member of  $\text{Hom}(B, \text{Aut } A)$ . Observe that  $C(\text{Im } \theta, \text{End } A)$  is a subring of  $\text{End } A$ . Let  $\text{End}_\theta B$  be the set of all  $\beta \in \text{End } B$  for which  $\theta\beta = \theta$ , a set which is closed under multiplication. If  $\alpha \in C(\text{Im } \theta, \text{End } A)$  and if  $\beta \in \text{End}_\theta B$ , then, each in a standard way **(1)**,  $\alpha$  induces  $\alpha^*$  and  $\beta$  induces  $\beta^\#$ , both in  $\mathfrak{S}^{(2)}(B, A; \theta)$ . The map  $( )^*$  is a ring homomorphism while  $( )^\#$  preserves multiplication.

(b) Let  $1 \rightarrow A \rightarrow G \xrightarrow{\Phi} B \rightarrow 1$  be any extension of  $A$  by  $B$ . Then there exist homomorphisms  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  such that the following diagram is commutative with exact rows and columns:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & 1 & & 1 & & \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
 1 & \rightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & 1 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 1 & \rightarrow & C(A, G) & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\lambda} & G/C(A, G) \rightarrow 1 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \Phi & & \downarrow \iota \\
 1 & \rightarrow & C(A, G)/A & \rightarrow & B & \xrightarrow{\mu} & G/C(A, G) \rightarrow 1 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 & & 1 & & 1 & & 1
 \end{array}$$

Let  $\text{End}_\mu B$  be the set of all  $\beta \in \text{End } B$  for which  $\mu\beta = \mu$ , a set which is closed under multiplication.

(c) For a group  $G$ , let  $Z_0 G = 1$ , and let  $Z_i G$  be the  $i$ th member of the ascending central series of  $G$ , where  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Let  $J^0 G = G$ , let  $J^1 G = JG$ , the inner automorphism group on  $G$ , and let  $J^{i+1} G = J(J^i G)$  for  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . Let  $\phi_j$  be the homomorphism which makes the sequence

$$(A_j) \quad 1 \rightarrow Z_1 J^{j-1} G \rightarrow J^{j-1} G \xrightarrow{\phi_j} J^j G \rightarrow 1$$

exact,  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . If we let  $\phi_{i,j} = \phi_j|_{Z_{i+1} J^{j-1}G}$ , then

$$(A_{i,j}) \quad 1 \rightarrow Z_1 J^{j-1}G \rightarrow Z_{i+1} J^{j-1}G \xrightarrow{\phi_{i,j}} Z_i J^jG \rightarrow 1$$

is exact.

For a positive integer  $n$  and for  $\alpha \in \text{End}(Z_n G)$ , we say that  $\alpha$  is *centrally compatible on  $Z_n G$*  if  $\text{Im}(\alpha|_{Z_m G}) \leq Z_m G$  for each positive integer  $m \leq n$ . Given a centrally compatible  $\alpha$ , write  $\alpha_{n,0} = \alpha, \alpha_{m,0} = \alpha|_{Z_m G} (1 \leq m \leq n)$  and  $\alpha_{0,0} = 0$ , the trivial (and sole) endomorphism on 1. The finite set  $\{\alpha_{m,0}\}_{m=0}^n$  is called *the centrally compatible family for (centrally compatible)  $\alpha$  on  $Z_n G$* . Each  $\beta = \alpha_{m,0}$  of such a family is centrally compatible on  $Z_m G$ , and if  $k$  is an integer for which  $0 \leq k \leq m$ , then  $\beta_{k,0} = \alpha_{k,0}$ . Later, we shall need the fact that the map

$$\sigma_i = \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} \phi_{i-j}$$

(multiplication proceeding from the left to right with increasing  $j$ ) for each positive integer  $i$  makes

$$(A'_i) \quad 1 \rightarrow Z_i G \rightarrow G \xrightarrow{\sigma_i} J^i G \rightarrow 1$$

exact.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $\alpha$  be a centrally compatible endomorphism on  $Z_n G$  where  $n$  is a positive integer. For each pair of non-negative integers  $i$  and  $j$  with  $0 \leq i + j \leq n$  there exists an endomorphism  $\alpha_{i,j}$  centrally compatible on  $Z_i J^j G$  such that*

- (i)  $\alpha_{n,0} = \alpha$ ;
- (ii)  $\alpha_{i,j}|_{Z_m J^j G} = \alpha_{m,j}$  whenever  $0 \leq m \leq i$ ; and
- (iii) *the following diagrams are commutative with exact rows:*

$$(B_{i,j}) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_1 J^{j-1}G & \longrightarrow & Z_{i+1} J^{j-1}G & \xrightarrow{\phi_{i,j}} & Z_i J^jG \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \alpha_{1,j-1} & & \downarrow \alpha_{i+1,j-1} & & \downarrow \alpha_{i,j} \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_1 J^{j-1}G & \longrightarrow & Z_{i+1} J^{j-1}G & \xrightarrow{\phi_{i,j}} & Z_i J^jG \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

for each pair of integers  $i$  and  $j$  satisfying  $1 \leq i + j \leq n, 0 \leq i$ , and  $1 \leq j$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\{\alpha_{m,0}\}_{m=0}^n$  be the centrally compatible family for  $\alpha$ . Let  $\alpha_{0,1}$  be the trivial (and only) endomorphism of  $Z_0 JG = 1$ . For each integer  $m$  such that  $1 \leq m < n$ , let  $\alpha_{m,1} = \phi_{m,1} \alpha_{m+1,0} \phi_{m,1}^{-1}$ . Even though  $\phi_{m,1}^{-1}$  need not be single valued, the fact that  $Z_1 G = \ker \phi_{m,1}$  makes the definition of  $\alpha_{m,1} \in \text{End } Z_m JG$  unambiguous. One readily checks that (ii) holds in that  $\alpha_{m,1}|_{Z_k JG} = \alpha_{k,1}$  for each integer  $k$  such that  $0 \leq k \leq m < n$ . Further, the diagram  $(B_{m,1})$  is commutative with exact rows for each integer  $m$  with  $1 \leq m < n$ . Now suppose, inductively, that (1) there exist

$$\alpha_{n-l,l} \in \text{End } Z_{n-l} J^l G$$

for each integer  $l$  such that  $1 \leq l \leq j < n$ ; (2) there exist  $\alpha_{m,l} \in \text{End } Z_m J^l G$  for each integer  $m$  such that  $0 \leq m \leq n - 1$ , where  $\alpha_{m,l} = \alpha_{n-l,l} | Z_m J^l G$ ; and (3)  $(B_{m,l})$  is commutative with exact rows for all such  $m$  and  $l$ ; or (4)  $j \geq n$ . Then, if (4) holds for  $j$ , it holds for  $j + 1$ . If  $j < n$ , let

$$\alpha_{n-j-1,j+1} = \phi_{n-j-1,j+1} \alpha_{n-j,j} \phi_{n-j-1,j+1}^{-1},$$

unambiguously defined as a member of  $\text{End } Z_{n-j-1} J^{j+1} G$ , since  $Z_1 J^j G = \ker \phi_{n-j-1,j+1}$ , and since the induction assumption gives  $\alpha_{n-j,j} | Z_1 J^j G = \alpha_{1,j}$ . By construction and by the induction assumption,  $(B_{n-j-1,j+1})$  is commutative with exact rows. If  $m$  is an integer for which  $0 \leq m \leq n - j - 1$ , let

$$\alpha_{m,j+1} = \phi_{m,j+1} \alpha_{m+1,j} \phi_{m,j+1}^{-1},$$

unambiguously defined as a member of  $\text{End } Z_m J^{j+1} G$ , since  $Z_1 J^j G = \ker \phi_{m,j+1}$ , and since  $\alpha_{m+1,j} | Z_1 J^j G = \alpha_{1,j}$  by the induction assumption. By construction and by the induction assumption,  $(B_{m,j+1})$  is commutative with exact rows. Finally, upon further appeal to the induction assumption, we have that, for each integer  $m$  such that  $0 \leq m \leq n - j - 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{n-j-1,j+1} | Z_m J^{j+1} G &= \phi_{n-j-1,j+1} \alpha_{n-j,j} \phi_{n-j-1,j+1}^{-1} | Z_m J^{j+1} G \\ &= \phi_{m,j+1} \alpha_{m+1,j} \phi_{m,j+1}^{-1} = \alpha_{m,j+1}, \end{aligned}$$

and the proof is complete.

We call the set  $\{\alpha_{i,j}\}$ ,  $0 \leq i + j \leq n$ , for non-negative integers  $i$  and  $j$ , the extended centrally compatible family for  $\alpha$  on  $Z_n G$ .

**2. The basic extension theorem.**

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $A$  be an abelian group,  $B$  be a group,  $\theta \in \text{Hom}(B, \text{Aut } A)$ , and let*

$$1 \rightarrow A \rightarrow G \xrightarrow{\Phi} B \rightarrow 1$$

be any extension of  $B$  by  $A$  which belongs to some  $t \in \mathfrak{S}^{(2)}(B, A; \theta)$ . Suppose that  $\alpha \in \text{End } A$  and that  $\beta \in \text{End } B$ . Then there exists  $\gamma \in \text{End } G$  such that  $\text{Im}(\gamma | C(A, G)) \leq C(A, G)$ , and that both

$$(D) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & B \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \alpha & & \downarrow \gamma & & \downarrow \beta \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & A & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\Phi} & B \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

and

$$(D') \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & C(A, G) & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\lambda} & G/C(A, G) \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \gamma | C(A, G) & & \downarrow \gamma & & \downarrow \iota \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & C(A, G) & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\lambda} & G/C(A, G) \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

are commutative diagrams with exact rows, if and only if

- (i)  $\beta \in \text{End}_\mu B$ ,
- (ii)  $\alpha \in C(\text{Im } \theta, \text{End } A)$ , and
- (iii)  $t \in \ker(\alpha^* - \beta^\#)$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $C(A; G)$  is  $\gamma$ -admissible and that both  $(D)$  and  $(D')$  are commutative with exact rows. From the commutativity of  $(C)$ ,  $\lambda = \mu\Phi$  whence  $\mu\beta = (\mu\Phi)\Phi^{-1}\beta = \lambda\Phi^{-1}\beta$ . But, from the commutativity of  $(D)$ ,  $\beta = \Phi\gamma\Phi^{-1}$ ; and from the commutativity of  $(D')$ ,  $\lambda\gamma = \lambda$  so that

$$\lambda\Phi^{-1}\beta = (\lambda\gamma)\Phi^{-1} = \lambda\Phi^{-1} = (\mu\Phi)\Phi^{-1},$$

and  $\mu\beta = \mu$ , or, equivalently,  $\beta \in \text{End}_\mu B$ , establishing (i). Since  $\lambda = \mu\Phi$ , and since  $\mu = \mu\beta$ ,

$$\lambda\Phi^{-1} = \mu = \mu\beta = \mu\Phi\Phi^{-1}\beta = \lambda\Phi^{-1}\beta$$

so that  $\theta\beta = \theta$ , and  $\beta \in \text{End}_\theta B$ .

Since  $\Phi\gamma\Phi^{-1} = \beta$ , since  $\gamma|_A = \alpha$ , and since  $\theta\beta = \theta$ ,

$$\alpha(\theta(b)) = \gamma(\theta(b)) = (\theta\beta(b))\alpha = \theta(b)\alpha$$

for each  $b \in B$ , and (ii) holds. Because of (i) and (ii),  $\alpha^*$  and  $\beta^\#$  are defined.

Choose  $g_b \in \Phi^{-1}b$  for each  $b \in B$ ; and, for all  $x, y \in B$ , let  $t(x, y) = g_x g_y g_{xy}^{-1}$ . Here,  $t$  is a 2-cocycle which represents  $t$ . Since  $\beta = \Phi\gamma\Phi^{-1}$ ,  $(\gamma g_b)(g_{\beta b})^{-1} = h_b \in A$  for every  $b \in B$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha t(x, y)h_{xy} g_{\beta(xy)} &= \gamma(t(x, y)g_{xy}) = \gamma(g_x g_y) = h_x g_{\beta x} h_y g_{\beta y} \\ &= h_x \theta(\beta x)(h_y)g_{\beta x} g_{\beta y} = h_x(\theta x)(h_y)t(\beta x, \beta y)g_{\beta(xy)} \end{aligned}$$

so that  $\alpha t$  differs from  $t\beta$  by  $\delta h$ , yielding (iii).

Conversely, suppose that  $t \in \ker(\alpha^* - \beta^\#)$  where (i) and (ii) hold for  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$ . Choose a normalized transversal  $\{g_b\}$  and form the representing, normalized, 2-cocycle  $t$ . Then  $\alpha t - t\beta = \delta h$  where  $h$  is a normalized 1-cochain on  $B$  with values  $h_b \in A$ . Each member of  $G$  has a unique representation in the form  $ag_b$  where  $a \in A$ . Define  $\gamma \in G^G$  via  $\gamma(ag_b) = \alpha(a)h_b g_{\beta b}$ . By its definition,  $\gamma$  makes  $(D)$  commutative. As in the proof above,  $\beta \in \text{End}_\theta B$ . An easy consequence is that

$$g_b^{-1}g_{\beta b} \in \ker \lambda = C(A, G).$$

From this one shows that  $\text{Im}(\gamma|_{C(A, G)}) \leq C(A, G)$ , so that  $(D')$  is commutative. A routine check, employing (a)  $\theta\beta = \theta$ , (b)  $\alpha t - t\beta = \delta h$ , and (c) the values of  $t\beta$  can be written in terms of the transversal elements, shows that  $\gamma \in \text{End } G$ .

**COROLLARY.** (a) *If  $1 \rightarrow A \rightarrow G \xrightarrow{\Phi} B \rightarrow 1$  is an extension of  $A$  by  $B$  where  $A \leq Z_1 G$ , if  $\alpha \in \text{End } A$ , and if  $\beta \in \text{End } B$ , then a necessary and sufficient condition that there exist  $\gamma \in \text{End } G$  making  $(D)$  commutative is that the coho-*

mology class  $t$  of the extension lie in  $\ker(\alpha^* - \beta^\#)$ . (b) Let  $\alpha$  be an endomorphism of  $Z_1 G$ . A necessary and sufficient condition that  $\alpha$  possess an extension  $\gamma$  which is a central endomorphism of  $G$  ( $\text{Im } \gamma \leq Z_1 G$ ) is that  $t_0$ , the cohomology class of the extension

$$1 \rightarrow Z_1 G \rightarrow G \xrightarrow{\phi_1} JG \rightarrow 1,$$

be in  $\ker \alpha^*$ . The set of all such  $\alpha$  is a left ideal in  $\text{End } Z_1 G$ . (c) Let  $\alpha$  be an endomorphism of  $Z_1 G$ . A necessary and sufficient condition that  $\alpha$  possess an extension which is a normal endomorphism of  $G$  (induces  $\iota$  on  $JG$ ) is that  $\alpha^*(t_0) = t_0$ . (d) If  $\beta \in \text{End } JG$ , then there exists an extension of the identity automorphism on  $Z_1 G$  to a  $\gamma \in \text{End } G$  which induces  $\beta \in \text{End } JG$  if and only if  $\beta^\#(t_0) = t_0$ . (e) If  $\beta \in \text{End } JG$ , then there exists an extension of the trivial endomorphism of  $Z_1 G$  to a  $\gamma \in \text{End } G$  which induces  $\beta \in \text{End } JG$  if and only if  $t_0 \in \ker \beta^\#$ .

**3. Endomorphisms on the higher centres.**

**THEOREM 3.** Let  $n$  be a positive integer; let  $\alpha \in \text{End } Z_n G$  be centrally compatible with extended family  $\{\alpha_{i,j}\}$ . For each integer  $i$  such that  $0 \leq i < n$ , let

$$t_i \in \mathfrak{S}^{(2)}(J^{i+1}G, Z_1 J^i G)$$

be the cohomology class of the extension

$$(A_{i+1}) \quad 1 \rightarrow Z_1 J^i G \rightarrow J^i G \xrightarrow{\phi_{i+1}} J^{i+1} G \rightarrow 1;$$

and let  $\beta$  be in  $\text{End } J^n G$ . Suppose that there exist  $\gamma \in \text{End } G$  such that

$$(E_n) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_n G & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\sigma_n} & J^n G \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \alpha & & \downarrow \gamma & & \downarrow \beta \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_n G & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\sigma_n} & J^n G \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

is commutative. Let  $\gamma^{(n)} = \beta$ , and let  $\gamma^{(i)} = \sigma_i \gamma \sigma_i^{-1} \in \text{End } J^i G$  be the map on  $J^i G$  which is induced by  $\gamma$  via  $(A'_i)$ ,  $1 \leq i < n$ . Then  $t_i \in \ker(\alpha_{1,i}^* - \gamma^{(i+1)\#})$ ,  $0 \leq i < n$ .

*Proof.* Recall that  $\sigma_1 = \phi_1$  and that  $\sigma_{j+1} = \phi_{j+1} \sigma_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ . By the definition of  $\gamma^{(i)}$ ,  $\gamma^{(i)} \sigma_i = \sigma_i \gamma$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Hence, for  $1 \leq i < n$ ,

$$\phi_{i+1} \gamma^{(i)} \sigma_i = \phi_{i+1} \sigma_i \gamma = \sigma_{i+1} \gamma = \gamma^{(i+1)} \sigma_{i+1} = \gamma^{(i+1)} \phi_{i+1} \sigma_i.$$

But  $\sigma_i$  is an epimorphism with image  $J^i G$ , so that  $\phi_{i+1} \gamma^{(i)} = \gamma^{(i+1)} \phi_{i+1}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$ . That is, the right rectangle of

$$(F_i) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_1 J^i G & \longrightarrow & J^i G & \xrightarrow{\phi_{i+1}} & J^{i+1} G \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \alpha_{1,i} & & \downarrow \gamma^{(i)} & & \downarrow \gamma^{(i+1)} \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_1 J^i G & \longrightarrow & J^i G & \xrightarrow{\phi_{i+1}} & J^{i+1} G \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

is commutative for integers  $i$  such that  $1 \leq i < n$ . It is likewise commutative for  $i = 0$  if we take  $\gamma^{(0)} = \gamma$  and recall the definitions of  $\gamma^{(1)}$ ,  $\phi_1$ , and  $\sigma_1$ .

Since  $\alpha$  is centrally compatible and since  $(E_n)$  is commutative,  $\gamma|Z_1 G = \alpha|Z_1 G = \alpha_{1,0}$ , making the left rectangle of  $(F_0)$  commutative. Suppose that  $1 \leq t < n$ . Then

$$\gamma^{(1)}\phi_{t,1} = \gamma^{(1)}\phi_1|Z_{t+1} G = \phi_1 \gamma|Z_{t+1} G = \phi_1 \alpha_{t+1,0} = \alpha_{t,1} \phi_{t,1},$$

since  $(B_{t,1})$  is commutative. The fact that  $\text{Im } \phi_{t,1} = Z_t JG$  leads to

$$\gamma^{(1)}|Z_t JG = \alpha_{t,1}, 1 \leq t < n.$$

Let  $(S_k)$  be the statement that if  $i$  is an integer such that  $0 \leq i < k$ , then (I)  $i > n$ , or (II)  $\gamma^{(i)}|Z_t J^i G = \alpha_{t,i}$  whenever  $1 \leq t \leq n - i$ . From the commutativity of  $(E_n)$ ,  $(S_1)$  holds. If  $k = 2$ , then  $\gamma^{(1)}|Z_t JG = \alpha_{t,1}$ ,  $1 \leq t < n$ , leads to  $(S_2)$ . Now suppose, inductively, that  $k \geq 2$  and that  $(S_j)$  holds for each integer  $j$  such that  $1 \leq j \leq k$ . Then, if  $k \leq n$ , we have for  $0 < t \leq n - k$  that

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^{(k)}\phi_{t,k} \phi_{t+1,k-1} &= \gamma^{(k)}\phi_k \phi_{t+1,k-1} = \phi_k \gamma^{(k-1)}\phi_{t+1,k-1} \\ &= \phi_k \gamma^{(k-1)}\phi_{k-1}|Z_{t+2} J^{k-2} G = \phi_k \phi_{k-1} \gamma^{(k-2)}|Z_{t+2} J^{k-2} G \\ &= \phi_k \phi_{k-1} \alpha_{t+2,k-2} \end{aligned}$$

(by the induction assumption since  $0 \leq k - 2 < n$ )

$$= \phi_{t,k} \phi_{t+1,k-1} \alpha_{t+2,k-2} = \alpha_{t,k} \phi_{t,k} \phi_{t+1,k-1}$$

(since  $(B_{t+1,k-1})$  and  $(B_{t,k})$  are commutative diagrams for the values of  $t$  and  $k$  allowed). Moreover,  $\phi_{t,k} \phi_{t+1,k-1}$  is onto  $Z_t J^k G$ , and we now have  $\gamma^{(k)}|Z_t J^k G = \alpha_{t,k}$  for  $0 < t \leq n - k$  and  $2 \leq k \leq n$ . If  $k > n$ , then the induction assumption says that  $(S_n)$  holds, from which  $(S_{k+1})$  holds. In either case, the induction is complete. In particular,  $\gamma^{(i)}|Z_1 G = \alpha_{1,i}$  for each integer  $i$  such that  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and the left rectangle of  $(F_i)$  is commutative,  $0 \leq i < n$ . By Theorem 2, Corollary (a),  $t_i \in \ker(\alpha_{1,i}^* - \gamma^{(i+1)\#})$ ,  $0 \leq i < n$ , completing the proof.

Suppose that  $\alpha^{(1)}$  and  $\alpha^{(2)}$  are both centrally compatible endomorphisms on  $Z_n G$ . We say that  $\alpha^{(1)}$  and  $\alpha^{(2)}$  are *equivalent centrally compatible endomorphisms on  $Z_n G$*  ( $\alpha^{(1)} \sim \alpha^{(2)}$ ) if

$$\text{Im}(\alpha^{(1)}_{i,0} - \alpha^{(2)}_{i,0}) \leq Z_{i-1} G$$

for each integer  $i$  such that  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . That is,

$$\alpha^{(1)}_{i,0}(x)[\alpha^{(2)}_{i,0}(x)]^{-1} \in Z_{i-1} G$$

whenever  $x \in Z_i G$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . If  $\alpha^{(1)} \sim \alpha^{(2)}$ , then  $\alpha^{(1)}_{1,0} = \alpha^{(2)}_{1,0}$ . The relation  $\sim$  is an equivalence, and all the automorphisms of  $G$  are equivalent. For  $g \in G$  and for  $\alpha$  centrally compatible on  $Z_n G$ ,

$$\alpha(\langle g \rangle|Z_n G) \sim \alpha \sim (\langle g \rangle|Z_n G)\alpha,$$

all centrally compatible endomorphisms on  $Z_n G$ .

Let  $\rho$  be any decreasing crossed endomorphism on  $Z_n G$  related to a centrally compatible  $\alpha \in \text{End } Z_n G$ . That is, if  $x \in Z_i G$ ,  $0 < i \leq n$ , then  $\rho(x) \in Z_{i-1} G$ ;  $\rho(1_G) = 1_G$ ; and if  $x_1, x_2 \in Z_n G$ , then

$$\rho(x_1 x_2) = ((\alpha(x_2)^{-1})\rho(x_1))\rho(x_2).$$

We have  $\alpha + \rho \sim \alpha$  where, for every  $x \in Z_n G$ ,  $(\alpha + \rho)(x) = \alpha(x)\rho(x)$ ; and if  $\alpha' \sim \alpha$ , then there exists some decreasing crossed endomorphism  $\rho$  on  $Z_n G$  related to  $\alpha$  such that  $\alpha' = \alpha + \rho$ .

**THEOREM 4.** *Let  $n, \alpha, \beta$ , and  $t_0$  be as in the hypothesis of Theorem 3. Suppose that, for each integer  $i$  obeying  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , one can find  $\Gamma^{(i)} \in \text{End } J^i G$  with the properties*

- (i)  $\Gamma^{(n)} = \beta$ ,
- (ii)  $t_0 \in \ker(\alpha_{1,0}^* - \Gamma^{(1)\#})$ , and
- (iii) the diagrams

$$(K_i) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_1 J^{i-1} G & \longrightarrow & J^{i-1} G & \xrightarrow{\phi_i} & J^i G \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \alpha_{1,i-1} & & \downarrow \Gamma^{(i-1)} & & \downarrow \Gamma^{(i)} \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_1 J^{i-1} G & \longrightarrow & J^{i-1} G & \xrightarrow{\phi_i} & J^i G \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

$2 \leq i \leq n$ , are commutative with exact rows. Then there exist  $\gamma \in \text{End } G$  and a decreasing crossed endomorphism  $\rho$  on  $Z_n G$  related to  $\alpha$  such that the diagram

$$(E'_n) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_n G & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\sigma_n} & J^n G \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \alpha + \rho & & \downarrow \gamma & & \downarrow \beta \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_n G & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\sigma_n} & J^n G \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

is commutative.

*Proof.* From (ii) and from Theorem 2, Corollary (a), there exists  $\Gamma^{(0)} = \gamma \in \text{End } G$  such that  $(K_1)$  is commutative. From the commutativity of the left rectangle in  $(K_1)$ ,

$$\gamma_1 = \gamma|Z_1 G = \alpha_{1,0}.$$

Suppose, inductively, that, for a positive integer  $j$ , we have (I)  $j > n$ , or (II)  $\gamma_j = \gamma|Z_j G$  is a centrally compatible endomorphism on  $Z_j G$  for which  $\gamma_j \sim \alpha_{j,0}$ . If  $j + 1 \leq n$ , consider the diagram with exact rows

$$(E_j) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_j G & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\sigma_j} & J^j G \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \gamma_j & & \downarrow \gamma & & \downarrow \Gamma^{(j)} \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_j G & \longrightarrow & G & \xrightarrow{\sigma_j} & J^j G \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$



the commutativity of the left rectangle of which is immediate from the induction hypothesis. Since the diagrams  $(K_i)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , are commutative with exact rows, the right rectangle of  $(E_j)$  is commutative.

Consider the diagram with exact rows

$$(L_j) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_j G & \longrightarrow & Z_{j+1} G & \xrightarrow{\phi^{(j)}} & Z_1 J^j G \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \gamma_j & & \downarrow \gamma_{j+1} & & \downarrow \alpha_{1,j} \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_j G & \longrightarrow & Z_{j+1} G & \xrightarrow{\phi^{(j)}} & Z_1 J^j G \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

where

$$\phi^{(j)} = \sigma_j | Z_{j+1} G = \prod_{k=1}^j \phi_{k, j-k+1},$$

multiplication proceeding with increasing  $k$  from left to right. The commutativity of  $(E_j)$  implies that  $\Gamma^{(j)} \sigma_j = \sigma_j \gamma$ . Now  $\Gamma^{(j)} \sigma_j | Z_{j+1} G = \Gamma^{(j)} \phi^{(j)}$ . From the commutativity of the left rectangle of  $(K_{j+1})$ ,  $\Gamma^{(j)} \phi^{(j)} = \alpha_{1,j} \phi^{(j)}$  so that  $\text{Im}(\sigma_j \gamma | Z_{j+1} G) \leq Z_1 J^j G$ . From the fact that  $\sigma_j^{-1}(Z_1 J^j G) = Z_{j+1} G$ , one obtains  $\text{Im}(\gamma | Z_{j+1}) \leq Z_{j+1} G$ , so that  $\gamma_{j+1} \in \text{End } Z_{j+1}$ , and  $(L_j)$  is commutative.

From the commutativity of the diagrams  $(B_{k, j-k+1})$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq j$ , the commutativity of the diagram

$$(L'_j) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_i G & \longrightarrow & Z_{j+1} G & \xrightarrow{\phi^{(j)}} & Z_1 J^j G \longrightarrow 1 \\ & & \downarrow \alpha_{j,0} & & \downarrow \alpha_{j+1,0} & & \downarrow \alpha_{1,j} \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & Z_i G & \longrightarrow & Z_{j+1} G & \xrightarrow{\phi^{(j)}} & Z_1 J^j G \longrightarrow 1 \end{array}$$

follows. From the commutativity of the right rectangles of both  $(L_j)$  and  $(L'_j)$ ,

$$\phi^{(j)} \alpha_{j+1,0} = \alpha_{1,j} \phi^{(j)} = \phi^{(j)} \gamma_{j+1},$$

so that  $\text{Im}(\alpha_{j+1,0} - \gamma_{j+1}) \leq \ker \phi^{(j)} = Z_j G$ , completing the proof.

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