# Grothendieck's inequalities for real and complex JBW\*-triples

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#### Abstract

We prove that, if  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3})$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , if  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $\mathcal{W}$  are complex JBW\*-triples (with preduals  $\mathcal{V}_*$  and  $\mathcal{W}_*$ , respectively), and if U is a separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form on  $\mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{W}$ , then there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{V}_*$  and  $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in \mathcal{W}_*$  satisfying

$$|U(x,y)| \le M \|U\| \left( \|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \|y\|_{\psi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|y\|_{\psi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{W}$ . Here, for a norm-one functional  $\varphi$  on a complex JB\*-triple  $\mathcal{V}$ ,  $\|.\|_{\varphi}$  stands for the prehilertian seminorm on  $\mathcal{V}$  associated to  $\varphi$  in [BF1]. We arrive in this "Grothendieck's inequality" through results of C-H. Chu, B. Iochum, and G. Loupias [CIL], and a corrected version of the "Little Grothendieck's inequality" for complex JB\*-triples due to T. Barton and Y. Friedman [BF1]. We also obtain extensions of these results to the setting of real JB\*-triples.

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## Introduction

In this paper we pay tribute to the important works of T. Barton and Y. Friedman [BF1] and C-H. Chu, B. Iochum, and G. Loupias [CIL] on the

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generalization of "Grothendieck's inequalities" to complex JB\*-triples. Of course, the Barton-Friedman-Chu-Iochum-Loupias techniques are strongly related to those of A. Grothendieck [Gro], G. Pisier (see [P1], [P2], and [P3]), and U. Haagerup [H], leading to the classical "Grothendieck's inequalities" for C\*-algebras. One of the most important facts contained in the Barton-Friedman paper is the construction of "natural" prehilbertian seminorms  $\|.\|_{\varphi}$ , associated to norm-one continuous linear functionals  $\varphi$  on complex JB\*-triples, in order to play, in Grothendieck's inequalities, the same role as that of the prehilbertian seminorms derived from states in the case of C\*algebras. This is very relevant because JB\*-triples need not have a natural order structure.

A part of Section 1 of the present paper is devoted to review the main results in [BF1], and the gaps in their proofs (some of which are also subsumed in [CIL]). We note that those gaps consist in assuming that separately weak\*-continuous bilinear forms on dual Banach spaces, as well as weak\*continuous linear operators between dual Banach spaces, attain their norms. Section 1 also contains quick partial solutions of the gaps just mentioned. These solutions are obtained by applying theorems of J. Lindenstrauss [L] and V. Zizler [Z] on the abundance of weak\*-continuous linear operators attaining their norms (see Theorems 1.4 and 1.6, respectively).

We begin Section 2 by proving a deeper correct version of the Barton-Friedman "Little Grothendieck's Theorem" for complex JB\*-triples [BF1, Theorem 1.3] (see Theorem 2.1). Roughly speaking, our result assures that the assertion in [BF1, Theorem 1.3] is true whenever we replace the prehilbertian seminorm  $\|.\|_{\phi}$  arising in that assertion with  $\|.\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2} := \sqrt{\|.\|_{\varphi_1}^2 + \|.\|_{\varphi_2}^2}$ , where  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$  are suitable norm-one continuous linear functionals. It is worth mentioning that in fact our Theorem 2.1 deals with complex JBW\*-triples and weak\*-continuous operators, and that, in such a case, the functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$  above can be chosen weak\*-continuous. Among the consequences of Theorem 2.1 we emphasize appropriate "Little Grothendieck's inequalities" for JBW-algebras and von Neumann algebras (see Corollary 2.5 and Remark 2.7, respectively). Corollary 2.5 allows us to adapt an argument in [P] in order to extend Theorem 2.1 to the real setting (Theorem 2.9).

Section 3 contains the main results of the paper, namely the "Big Grothendieck's inequalities" for complex and real JBW\*-triples (Theorems 3.1 and 3.4, respectively). Indeed, given  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3})$  (respectively,  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3})$   $(1 + 3\sqrt{2})^2$ ),  $\varepsilon > 0$ , V, W complex (respectively, real) JBW\*- triples, and a separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form U on  $V \times W$ , there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in V_*$  and  $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in W_*$  satisfying

$$|U(x,y)| \le M \|U\| \left( \|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \|y\|_{\psi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|y\|_{\psi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in V \times W$ .

The concluding section of the paper (Section 4) deals with some applications of the results previously obtained. We give a complete solution to a gap in the proof of the results of [R1] on the strong<sup>\*</sup> topology of complex JBW<sup>\*</sup>-triples, and extend those results to the real setting. We also extend to the real setting the fact proved in [R2] that the strong<sup>\*</sup> topology of a complex JBW<sup>\*</sup>-triple  $\mathcal{W}$  and the Mackey topology  $m(\mathcal{W}, \mathcal{W}_*)$  coincide on bounded subsets of  $\mathcal{W}$ . From this last result we derive a Jarchow-type characterization of weakly compact operators from (real or complex) JB<sup>\*</sup>-triples to arbitrary Banach spaces.

## 1 Discussing previous results

We recall that a complex JB\*-triple is a complex Banach space  $\mathcal{E}$  with a continuous triple product  $\{.,.,.\}$  :  $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{E} \to \mathcal{E}$  which is bilinear and symmetric in the outer variables and conjugate linear in the middle variable, and satisfies:

- 1. (Jordan Identity)  $L(a,b)\{x,y,z\} = \{L(a,b)x,y,z\} \{x, L(b,a)y,z\} + \{x,y,L(a,b)z\}$  for all a,b,c,x,y,z in  $\mathcal{E}$ , where  $L(a,b)x := \{a,b,x\}$ ;
- 2. The map L(a, a) from  $\mathcal{E}$  to  $\mathcal{E}$  is an hermitian operator with nonnegative spectrum for all a in  $\mathcal{E}$ ;
- 3.  $||\{a, a, a\}|| = ||a||^3$  for all *a* in  $\mathcal{E}$ .

Complex JB\*-triples have been introduced by W. Kaup in order to provide an algebraic setting for the study of bounded symmetric domains in complex Banach spaces (see [K1], [K2] and [U]).

If  $\mathcal{E}$  is a complex JB\*-triple and  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  is a tripotent  $(\{e, e, e\} = e)$  it is well known that there exists a decomposition of  $\mathcal{E}$  into the eigenspaces of L(e, e), the Peirce decomposition,

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}_0(e) \oplus \mathcal{E}_1(e) \oplus \mathcal{E}_2(e),$$

where  $\mathcal{E}_k := \{x \in \mathcal{E} : L(e, e)x = \frac{k}{2}x\}$ . The natural projection  $P_k(e) : \mathcal{E} \to \mathcal{E}_k(e)$  is called the Peirce k-projection. A tripotent  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  is called complete if  $\mathcal{E}_0(e) = 0$ . By [KU, Proposition 3.5] we know that the complete tripotents in  $\mathcal{E}$  are exactly the extreme points of its closed unit ball.

By a complex JBW\*-triple we mean a complex JB\*-triple which is a dual Banach space. We recall that the triple product of every complex JBW\*triple is separately weak\*-continuous [BT], and that the bidual  $\mathcal{E}^{**}$  of a complex JB\*-triple  $\mathcal{E}$  is a JBW\*-triple whose triple product extends the one of  $\mathcal{E}$  [Di].

Given a complex JBW\*-triple  $\mathcal{W}$  and a norm-one element  $\varphi$  in the predual  $\mathcal{W}_*$  of  $\mathcal{W}$ , we can construct a prehilbert seminorn  $\|.\|_{\varphi}$  as follows (see [BF1, Proposition 1.2]). By the Hahn-Banach theorem there exists  $z \in \mathcal{W}$  such that  $\varphi(z) = \|z\| = 1$ . Then  $(x, y) \mapsto \varphi\{x, y, z\}$  becomes a positive sesquilinear form on  $\mathcal{W}$  which does not depend on the point of support z for  $\varphi$ . The prehilbert seminorm  $\|.\|_{\varphi}$  is then defined by  $\|x\|_{\varphi}^2 := \varphi\{x, x, z\}$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{W}$ . If  $\mathcal{E}$  is a complex JB\*-triple and  $\varphi$  is a norm-one element in  $\mathcal{E}^*$ , then  $\|.\|_{\varphi}$  acts on  $\mathcal{E}^{**}$ , hence in particular it acts on  $\mathcal{E}$ .

In [BF1, Theorem 1.4], J. T. Barton and Y. Friedman claim that for every pair of complex JB\*-triples  $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}$ , and every bounded bilinear form Von  $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$ , there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^*$  and  $\psi \in \mathcal{F}^*$  such that the inequality

$$|V(x,y)| \le (3+2\sqrt{3}) \|V\| \|x\|_{\varphi} \|y\|_{\psi}$$
(1.1)

holds for every  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$ . This result is called "Grothendieck's inequality for JB\*-triples". However, the beginning of the Barton-Friedman proof assumes that the two following assertions are true.

- 1. For  $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}$  and V as above, there exists a separately weak\*-continuous extension of V to  $\mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$ .
- 2. Again for  $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}$  and V as above, every separately weak\*-continuous extension of V to  $\mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$  attains its norm (at a couple of complete tripotents).

We have been able to verify Assertion 1, but only by applying the fact, later proved by C-H. Chu, B. Iochum and G. Loupias [CIL, Lemma 5], that every bounded linear operator from a complex JB\*-triple to the dual of another complex JB\*-triple factors through a complex Hilbert space. Actually, this fact is also claimed in the Barton-Friedman paper (see [BF1, Corollary 3.2]), but their proof relies on their alleged [BF1, Theorem 1.4].

**Lemma 1.1** Let  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  be complex  $JB^*$ -triples. Then every bounded bilinear form V on  $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$  has a separately weak\*-continuous extension to  $\mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$ .

*Proof.* Let V be a bounded bilinear form on  $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$ . Let F denote the unique bounded linear operator from  $\mathcal{E}$  to  $\mathcal{F}^*$  which satisfies

$$V(x, y) = \langle F(x), y \rangle$$

for every  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$ . By [CIL, Lemma 5], F factors through a Hilbert space, and hence is weakly compact. By [HP, Lemma 2.13.1], we have  $F^{**}(\mathcal{E}^{**}) \subset \mathcal{F}^*$ . Then the bilinear form  $\widetilde{V}$  on  $\mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$  given by

$$V(\alpha,\beta) = \langle F^{**}(\alpha),\beta \rangle$$

extends V and is weak\*-continuous in the second variable. But  $\widetilde{V}$  is also weak\*-continuous in the first variable because, for  $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$ , the equality

$$\langle F^{**}(\alpha), \beta \rangle = \langle \alpha, F^{*}(\beta) \rangle$$

holds.  $\Box$ 

Unfortunately, as the next example shows, Assertion 2 above is not true.

**Example 1.2** Take  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  equal to the complex  $\ell_2$  space, and consider the bounded bilinear form on  $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$  defined by  $V(x, y) := (S(x)|\sigma(y))$  where S is the bounded linear operator on  $\ell_2$  whose associated matrix is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \frac{2}{3} & \dots & 0 & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \frac{n}{n+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{pmatrix},$$

and  $\sigma$  is the conjugation on  $\ell_2$  fixing the elements of the canonical basis. Then V does not attain its norm.

It is worth mentioning that, although the bilinear form V above does not attain its norm, it satisfies inequality 1.1 for every  $x, y \in \ell_2$  and every normone elements  $\varphi, \psi \in \ell_2^*$ . Therefore it does not become a counterexample to the Barton-Friedman claim. In fact we do not know if Theorem 1.4 of [BF1] is true.

Now that we know that Assertion 2 is not true, we prove that it is "almost" true.

**Lemma 1.3** Let  $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}$  be complex  $JB^*$ -triples. Then the set of bounded bilinear forms on  $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$  whose separately weak\*-continuous extensions to  $\mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$ attain their norms is norm-dense in the space  $\mathcal{L}(^2(\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}))$  of all bounded bilinear forms on  $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$ .

*Proof.* Let V be in  $\mathcal{L}(^2(\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}))$ . Denote by  $\widetilde{V}$  the (unique) separately weak\*-continuous extension of V to  $\mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$ . By the proof of Lemma 1.1, we can assure the existence of a bounded linear operator  $F_V : \mathcal{E} \to \mathcal{F}^*$  satisfying  $F_V^{**}(\mathcal{E}^{**}) \subset \mathcal{F}^*$  and

$$\widetilde{V}(\alpha,\beta) = \langle F_V^{**}(\alpha),\beta \rangle$$

for every  $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$ . It follows that  $\widetilde{V}$  attains its norm whenever  $F_V^{**}$  does. Since the mapping  $V \mapsto F_V$ , from  $\mathcal{L}(^2(\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}))$  into the Banach space of all bounded linear operators from  $\mathcal{E}$  to  $\mathcal{F}^*$ , is a surjective isometry, the result follows from [L, Theorem 1].  $\Box$ 

An alternative proof of the above Lemma can be given taking as a key tool [A, Theorem 1].

Now note that, if X and Y are dual Banach spaces, and if U is a separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form on  $X \times Y$  which attains its norm, then U actually attains its norm at a couple of extreme points of the closed unit balls of X and Y (hence at a couple of complete tripotents in the case that X and Y are complex JB\*-triples). Since the Barton-Friedman proof of their claim actually shows that the inequality (1.1) holds (for suitable norm-one functionals  $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^*$  and  $\psi \in \mathcal{F}^*$ ) whenever the separately weak\*-continuous extension of V given by Lemma 1.1 attains its norm at a couple of complete tripotents, the next theorem follows from Lemma 1.3.

**Theorem 1.4** Let  $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}$  be complex  $JB^*$ -triples. Then the set of all bounded bilinear forms V on  $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$  such that there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi \in \mathcal{E}^*$ and  $\psi \in \mathcal{F}^*$  satisfying

 $|V(x,y)| \le (3+2\sqrt{3}) ||V|| ||x||_{\varphi} ||y||_{\psi}$ 

for every  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$ , is norm dense in  $\mathcal{L}(^2(\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}))$ .

Another alleged proof of the Barton-Friedman claim [BF1, Theorem 1.4] (with constant  $3+2\sqrt{3}$  replaced with  $4(1+2\sqrt{3})$ ) appears in the Chu-Iochum-Loupias paper already quoted (see [CIL, Theorem 6]). Such a proof relies on the Barton-Friedman version of the so called "Little Grothendieck's Theorem" for complex JB\*-triples [BF1, Theorem 1.3]. However, the Barton-Friedman argument for this "Little Grothendieck's Theorem" also has a gap (see [P]).

Several authors (the second author of the present paper among others) subsumed the gap in the proof of Theorem 1.3 of [BF1] just commented, and formulated daring claims like the following (see [R1, Proposition 1] and the proof of Lemma 4 of [CM]). For every complex JBW\*-triple  $\mathcal{W}$ , every complex Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , and every weak\*-continuous linear operator T:  $\mathcal{W} \to \mathcal{H}$ , there exists a norm-one functional  $\varphi \in \mathcal{W}_*$  such that the inequality

$$||T(x)|| \le \sqrt{2} ||T|| ||x||_{\varphi} \tag{1.2}$$

holds for all  $x \in \mathcal{W}$ . As in the case of the Barton-Friedman big Grothendieck's inequality, we do not know if the above claim is true. In any case, the next lemma is implicitly shown in the proof of Theorem 1.3 of [BF1].

**Lemma 1.5** Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be a complex  $JBW^*$ -triple,  $\mathcal{H}$  a complex Hilbert space, and T a weak\*-continuous linear operator from  $\mathcal{W}$  to  $\mathcal{H}$  which attains its norm. Then T satisfies inequality (1.2) for a suitable norm-one functional  $\varphi \in \mathcal{W}_*$ .

We note that, for  $\mathcal{W}$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  as in the above lemma, weak\*-continuous linear operators from  $\mathcal{W}$  to  $\mathcal{H}$  need not attain their norms (see the introduction of [P]). Now, from Lemma 1.5 and [Z] we obtain the following result.

**Theorem 1.6** Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be a complex  $JBW^*$ -triple and  $\mathcal{H}$  a complex Hilbert space. Then the set of weak\*-continuous linear operators T from  $\mathcal{W}$  to  $\mathcal{H}$  such that there exists a norm-one functional  $\varphi \in \mathcal{W}_*$  satisfying

$$||T(x)|| \le \sqrt{2} ||T|| ||x||_{\varphi}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{W}$ , is norm dense in the space of all weak\*-continuous linear operators from  $\mathcal{W}$  to  $\mathcal{H}$ .

## 2 Little Grothendieck's Theorem for JBW\*triples

In this section we prove appropriate versions of "Little Grothendieck's inequality" for real and complex JBW\*-triples. We begin by considering the complex case, where the key tools are the Barton-Friedman result collected in Lemma 1.5, and a fine principle on approximation of operators by operators attaining their norms, due to R. A. Poliquin and V. E. Zizler [PZ].

**Theorem 2.1** Let  $K > \sqrt{2}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then, for every complex  $JBW^*$ triple  $\mathcal{W}$ , every complex Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , and every weak\*-continuous linear operator  $T : \mathcal{W} \to \mathcal{H}$ , there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{W}_*$  such that the inequality

$$||T(x)|| \le K ||T|| (||x||_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 ||x||_{\varphi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

holds for all  $x \in \mathcal{W}$ .

*Proof.* Without loss of generality we can suppose ||T|| = 1. Take  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\delta \leq \varepsilon^2$  and  $\sqrt{2((1+\delta)^2 + \delta)} \leq K$ . By [PZ, Corollary 2] there is a rank one weak\*-continuous linear operator  $T_1 : \mathcal{W} \to \mathcal{H}$  such that  $||T_1|| \leq \delta$  and  $T - T_1$  attains its norm. Since  $T_1$  is of rank one and weak\*-continuous, it also attains its norm. By Lemma 1.5, there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{W}_*$  such that

$$||T_1(x)|| \le \sqrt{2} ||T_1|| ||x||_{\varphi_1},$$
$$|(T - T_1)(x)|| \le \sqrt{2} ||T - T_1|| ||x||_{\varphi_2}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{W}$ . Therefore for  $x \in \mathcal{W}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|T(x)\| &\leq \|(T-T_1)(x)\| + \|T_1(x)\| \\ &\leq \sqrt{2} \|T-T_1\| \|x\|_{\varphi_2} + \sqrt{2} \|T_1\| \|x\|_{\varphi_1} \\ &\leq \sqrt{2} (1+\delta) \|x\|_{\varphi_2} + \sqrt{2\delta} \sqrt{\delta} \|x\|_{\varphi_1} \\ &\leq \sqrt{2((1+\delta)^2+\delta)} (\|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2 + \delta \|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq K (\|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Given a complex JBW\*-triple  $\mathcal{W}$  and norm-one elements  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{W}_*$ we denote by  $\|.\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}$  the prehilbert seminorm on  $\mathcal{W}$  given by  $\|x\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}^2 :=$  $\|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2 + \|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2$ . The next result follows straightforwardly from Theorem 2.1.

**Corollary 2.2** Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be a complex JBW\*-triple and T a weak\*-continuous linear operator from  $\mathcal{W}$  to a complex Hilbert space. Then there exist normone functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{W}_*$  such that, for every  $x \in \mathcal{W}$ , we have

$$||T(x)|| \le 2||T|| ||x||_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}$$

We recall that a JB\*-algebra is a complete normed Jordan complex algebra (say  $\mathcal{A}$ ) endowed with a conjugate-linear algebra involution \* satisfying  $||U_x(x^*)|| = ||x||^3$  for every  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . Here, for every Jordan algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ , and every  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $U_x$  denotes the operator on  $\mathcal{A}$  defined by  $U_x(y) := 2x \circ (x \circ y) - x^2 \circ y$ , for all  $y \in \mathcal{A}$ . We note that every JB\*-algebra can be regarded as a complex JB\*-triple under the triple product given by

$$\{x, y, z\} := (x \circ y^*) \circ z + (z \circ y^*) \circ x - (x \circ z) \circ y^*$$

(see [BKU] and [Y]). By a JBW\*-algebra we mean a JB\*-algebra which is a dual Banach space. Every JBW\*-algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  has a unit **1** [Y], so that the binary product of  $\mathcal{A}$  can be rediscovered from the triple product by means of the equality  $x \circ y = \{x, \mathbf{1}, y\}$ .

**Theorem 2.3** Let M > 2. Then, for every  $JBW^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ , every complex Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , and every weak\*-continuous linear operator  $T : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{H}$ , there exists a norm-one positive functional  $\xi \in \mathcal{A}_*$  such that the inequality

$$||T(x)|| \le M ||T|| (\xi(x \circ x^*))^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

holds for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ .

*Proof.* Taking  $K := \sqrt{M}$  and  $\varepsilon := \sqrt{\frac{M-2}{2}}$  in Theorem 2.1, we find normone functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{A}_*$  such that

$$||T(x)|| \le K ||T|| (||x||_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 ||x||_{\varphi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . Let i = 1, 2. We choose  $e_i \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $\varphi_i(e_i) = ||e_i|| = 1$ , and denote by  $\xi_i$  the mapping  $x \mapsto \varphi_i(x \circ e_i)$  from  $\mathcal{A}$  to  $\mathbb{C}$ . Clearly  $\xi_i$  is a norm-one weak<sup>\*</sup>-continuous linear functional on  $\mathcal{A}$ . Moreover, from the identity

$$\{x, x, e_i\} + \{x^*, x^*, e_i\} = 2e_i \circ (x \circ x^*)$$

we obtain that  $\xi_i$  is positive and that the equality  $||x||_{\varphi_i}^2 + ||x^*||_{\varphi_i}^2 = 2\xi_i(x \circ x^*)$ holds. Therefore we have  $||x||_{\varphi_i}^2 \leq 2\xi_i(x \circ x^*)$  and hence

$$||T(x)|| \le \sqrt{2}K ||T|| \left(\xi_2(x \circ x^*) + \varepsilon^2 \xi_1(x \circ x^*)\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Finally, putting  $\xi := \frac{1}{1+\varepsilon^2} (\xi_2 + \varepsilon^2 \xi_1)$ ,  $\xi$  becomes a norm-one positive functional in  $\mathcal{A}_*$  and for  $x \in \mathcal{A}$  we have

$$||T(x)|| \le \sqrt{2 (1+\varepsilon^2)} K ||T|| (\xi(x \circ x^*))^{\frac{1}{2}} = M ||T|| (\xi(x \circ x^*))^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

We recall that the bidual of every JB\*-algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  is a JBW\*-algebra containing  $\mathcal{A}$  as a JB\*-subalgebra.

**Corollary 2.4** Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a  $JB^*$ -algebra and T a bounded linear operator from  $\mathcal{A}$  to a complex Hilbert space. Then there exists a norm-one positive functional  $\xi \in \mathcal{A}^*$  satisfying

$$||T(x)|| \le 2||T|| \left(\xi(x \circ x^*)\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ .

*Proof.* By Theorem 2.3, for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there is a norm-one positive functional  $\xi_n \in \mathcal{A}^*$  satisfying

$$||T(x)|| \le (2 + \frac{1}{n})||T|| \left(\xi_n(x \circ x^*)\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . Take in  $\mathcal{A}^*$  a weak<sup>\*</sup> cluster point  $\eta$  of the sequence  $\xi_n$ . Then  $\eta$  is a positive functional with  $\|\eta\| \leq 1$ , and the inequality

$$||T(x)|| \le 2||T|| (\eta(x \circ x^*))^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

holds for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . If  $\eta = 0$ , then T = 0 and nothing has to be proved. Otherwise take  $\xi := \frac{1}{\|\eta\|} \eta$ .  $\Box$ 

For background about JB- and JBW-algebras the reader is referred to [HS]. We recall that JB-algebras (respectively, JBW-algebras) are nothing but the self-adjoint parts of JB\*-algebras (respectively, JBW\*-algebras) [W] (respectively, [E]).

**Corollary 2.5** Let  $K > 2\sqrt{2}$ . Then, for every JBW-algebra A, every real Hilbert space H, and every weak\*-continuous linear operator  $T : A \to H$ , there exists a norm-one positive functional  $\xi \in A_*$  such that

$$||T(x)|| \le K ||T|| (\xi(x^2))^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $x \in A$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\widehat{A}$  denote the JBW\*-algebra whose self-adjoint part is equal to A, and  $\widehat{H}$  be the Hilbert space complexification of H. Consider the complexlinear operator  $\widehat{T} : \widehat{A} \to \widehat{H}$ , which extends T. Clearly we have  $\|\widehat{T}\| \leq \sqrt{2} \|T\|$ . By Theorem 2.3 there exists a norm-one positive functional  $\xi \in \widehat{A}_*$  such that

$$||T(x)|| = ||\widehat{T}(x)|| \le \frac{K}{\sqrt{2}} ||\widehat{T}|| (\xi(x^2))^{\frac{1}{2}} \le K ||T|| (\xi(x^2))^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $x \in A$ . Since  $\xi$  is positive,  $\xi|_A$  is in fact a norm-one positive functional in  $A_*$ .  $\Box$ 

The next result follows from the above corollary in the same way that Corollary 2.4 was derived from Theorem 2.3.

#### Corollary 2.6 [P, Theorem 3.2]

Let A be a JB-algebra, H a real Hilbert space, and  $T: A \to H$  a bounded linear operator. Then there is a norm-one positive linear functional  $\varphi \in A^*$ such that

$$||T(x)|| \le 2\sqrt{2}||T|| (\varphi(x^2))^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $x \in A$ .

**Remark 2.7** 1.— Since every C\*-algebra becomes a JB\*-algebra under the Jordan product  $x \circ y := \frac{1}{2}(xy + yx)$ , it follows from Theorem 2.3 that, given M > 2, a von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ , and a weak\*-continuous linear operator T from  $\mathcal{A}$  to a complex Hilbert space, there exists a norm-one positive functional  $\varphi \in \mathcal{A}_*$  satisfying

$$||T(x)|| \le M ||T|| \left(\varphi(\frac{1}{2}(xx^* + x^*x))\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $x \in A$ . A lightly better result can be derived from [H, Proposition 2.3].

2.— As is asserted in [CIL], Corollary 2.4 can be proved by translating verbatim Pisier's arguments for the case of  $C^*$ -álgebras [P2, Theorem 9.4]. We note that actually Corollary 2.4 contains Pisier's result. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that our proof of Corollary 2.4 avoids any use of ultraproducts techniques.

Following [IKR], we define real JB\*-triples as norm-closed real subtriples of complex JB\*-triples. In [IKR] it is shown that every real JB\*-triple Ecan be regarded as a real form of a complex JB\*-triple. Indeed, given a real JB\*-triple E there exists a unique complex JB\*-triple structure on the complexification  $\hat{E} = E \oplus i E$ , and a unique conjugation (i.e., conjugatelinear isometry of period 2)  $\tau$  on  $\hat{E}$  such that  $E = \hat{E}^{\tau} := \{x \in \hat{E} : \tau(x) = x\}$ . The class of real JB\*-triples includes all JB-algebras [HS], all real C\*-algebras [G], and all J\*B-algebras [Al].

By a real JBW\*-triple we mean a real JB\*-triple whose underlying Banach space is a dual Banach space. As in the complex case, the triple product of every real JBW\*-triple is separately weak\*-continuous [MP], and the bidual  $\mathcal{E}^{**}$  of a real JB\*-triple  $\mathcal{E}$  is a real JBW\*-triple whose triple product extends the one of  $\mathcal{E}$  [IKR]. Noticing that every real JBW\*-triple is a real form of a complex JBW\*-triple [IKR], it follows easily that, if W is a real JBW\*triple and if  $\varphi$  is a norm-one element in  $W_*$ , then, for  $z \in W$  such that  $\varphi(z) = ||z|| = 1$ , the mapping  $x \mapsto (\varphi \{x, x, z\})^{\frac{1}{2}}$  is a prehilbert seminorm on W (not depending on z). Such a seminorm will be denoted by  $||.||_{\varphi}$ .

Now we proceed to deal with "Little Grothendieck's inequality" for real JBW\*-triples. We begin by showing the appropriate version of Lemma 1.5 for real JBW\*-triples. Such a version is obtained by adapting the proof of a recent result of the first author for real JB\*-triples (see [P]) to the setting of real JBW\*-triples.

**Lemma 2.8** Let  $M > 1 + 3\sqrt{2}$ . Then, for every real JBW\*-triple W, every real Hilbert space H, and every weak\*-continuous linear operator  $T: W \to H$ which attains its norm, there exists a norm one functional  $\varphi \in W_*$  such that

$$||T(x)|| \le M ||T|| ||x||_{\varphi}$$

for all  $x \in W$ .

*Proof.* We follow with minors changes the line of proof of [P, Theorem 4.3]. Without loss of generality we can suppose ||T|| = 1. Write

$$K = \left[2\sqrt{2}\left(\frac{M^2}{1+3\sqrt{2}} - (1+\sqrt{2})\right)\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} > 2\sqrt{2}$$

and  $\rho = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{1+\sqrt{2}}$ . By [IKR, Lemma 3.3], there exists a complete tripotent  $e \in W$  with 1 = ||T(e)||. Then denoting by  $\xi$  the linear functional on W given by  $\xi(x) := (T(x)|T(e))$  for every  $x \in W$ ,  $\xi$  belongs to  $W_*$  and satisfies  $||\xi|| = \xi(e) = 1$ . Moreover, when in the proof of [P, Theorem 4.3] Corollary 2.5 replaces [P, Theorem 3.2], we obtain the existence of a normone functional  $\psi \in W_*$  with  $\psi(e) = 1$  such that

$$||T(x)|| \le K ||x||_{\psi} + (1 + \sqrt{2}) ||x||_{\xi}$$

for all  $x \in W$ . Setting  $\varphi := \frac{1}{1+\rho}(\xi + \rho \psi)$ ,  $\varphi$  is a norm-one functional in  $W_*$  with  $\varphi(e) = 1$ , and we have

$$||T(x)|| \le \sqrt{(1+\sqrt{2})^2 + \frac{K^2}{\rho}} \sqrt{||x||_{\xi}^2 + \rho} ||x||_{\psi}^2$$
$$= \left( [(1+\sqrt{2})^2 + \frac{K^2}{\rho}](1+\rho) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} ||x||_{\varphi} = M ||x||_{\varphi}$$

for all  $x \in W$ .  $\Box$ 

When in the proof of Theorem 2.1 Lemma 2.8 replaces Lemma 1.5, we arrive in the following result.

**Theorem 2.9** Let  $K > 1+3\sqrt{2}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then, for every real JBW\*-triple W, every real Hilbert space H, and every weak\*-continuous linear operator  $T: W \to H$ , there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in W_*$  such that the inequality

$$||T(x)|| \le K ||T|| (||x||_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 ||x||_{\varphi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

holds for all  $x \in W$ .

For norm-one elements  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$  in the predual of a given real JBW\*-triple W, we define the prehilbert seminorm  $\|.\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}$  on W verbatim as in the complex case.

**Corollary 2.10** Let W be a real JBW\*-triple and T a weak\*-continuous linear operator from W to a real Hilbert space. Then there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in W_*$  such that, for every  $x \in W$ , we have

$$||T(x)|| \le 6||T|| ||x||_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}.$$

## 3 Grothendieck's Theorem for JBW\*-triples

In this section we prove "Grothendieck's inequality" for separately weak\*continuous bilinear forms defined on the cartesian product of two JBW\*triples.

**Theorem 3.1** Let  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3})$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . For every couple  $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{W})$  of complex JBW\*-triples and every separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form V on  $\mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{W}$ , there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{V}_*$ , and  $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in \mathcal{W}_*$  satisfying

$$|V(x,y)| \le M \|V\| \left( \|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \|y\|_{\psi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|y\|_{\psi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{W}$ .

*Proof.* We begin by noticing that a bilinear form U on  $\mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{W}$  is separately weak\*-continuous if and only if there exists a weak\*-to-weak-continuous linear operator  $F_U: \mathcal{V} \to \mathcal{W}_*$  such that the equality

$$U(x,y) = \langle F_U(x), y \rangle$$

holds for every  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{W}$ .

Put  $T := F_V : \mathcal{V} \to \mathcal{W}_*$  in the sense of the above paragraph. By [CIL, Lemma 5] there exist a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and bounded linear operators S : $\mathcal{V} \to \mathcal{H}, R : \mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{W}_*$  satisfying T = R S and  $||R|| ||S|| \leq 2(1 + 2\sqrt{3}) ||T||$ . Notice that in fact we can enjoy such a factorization in such a way that R is injective. Indeed, take  $\mathcal{H}'$  equals to the orthogonal complement of Ker(R)in  $\mathcal{H}, R' := R|_{\mathcal{H}'}$  and  $S' := \pi_{\mathcal{H}'} S$ , where  $\pi_{\mathcal{H}'}$  is the orthogonal projection from  $\mathcal{H}$  onto  $\mathcal{H}'$ , to have T = R' S' with R' injective and  $||R'|| ||S'|| \leq 2(1 + 2\sqrt{3}) ||T||$ .

Next we show that S is weak\*-continuous. By [DS, Corollary V.5.5] it is enough to prove that S is weak\*-continuous on bounded subsets of  $\mathcal{V}$ . Let  $x_{\lambda}$  be a bounded net in  $\mathcal{V}$  weak\*-convergent to zero. Take a weak cluster point h of  $S(x_{\lambda})$  in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then R(h) is a weak cluster point of  $T(x_{\lambda}) = R S(x_{\lambda})$  in  $\mathcal{W}_*$ . Moreover, since T is weak\*-to-weak-continuous, we have  $T(x_{\lambda}) \to 0$  weakly. It follows R(h) = 0 and hence h = 0 by the injectivity of R. Now, zero is the unique weak cluster point in  $\mathcal{H}$  of the bounded net  $S(x_{\lambda})$ , and therefore we have  $S(x_{\lambda}) \to 0$  weakly.

Now that we know that the operator S is weak\*-continuous, we apply Theorem 2.1 with  $K = \sqrt{\frac{M}{2(1+2\sqrt{3})}} > \sqrt{2}$  to find norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{V}_*$ , and  $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in \mathcal{W}_*$  satisfying

$$||S(x)|| \le K ||S|| (||x||_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 ||x||_{\varphi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ and} ||R^*(y)|| \le K ||R^*|| (||y||_{\psi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 ||y||_{\psi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{V}$  and  $y \in \mathcal{W}$ . Therefore

$$|V(x,y)| = | \langle T(x), y \rangle | = | \langle S(x), R^*(y) \rangle |$$

$$\leq \frac{M}{2(1+2\sqrt{2})} \|R\| \|S\| (\|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} (\|y\|_{\psi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|y\|_{\psi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\leq M \|V\| (\|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} (\|y\|_{\psi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|y\|_{\psi_1}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

$$\|V\| (x,y) \in \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{W} \square$$

for all  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{W}$ .  $\Box$ 

In the same way that Theorem 2.3 was derived from Theorem 2.1, we can obtain from Theorem 3.1 that, given M > 8  $(1 + 2\sqrt{3})$ , JBW\*-algebras  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}$ , and a separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form V on  $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}$ , there exist norm-one positive functionals  $\varphi \in \mathcal{A}_*$  and  $\psi \in \mathcal{B}_*$  satisfying

$$|V(x,y)| \le M ||V|| \; (\varphi(x \circ x^*))^{\frac{1}{2}} \; (\psi(y \circ y^*))^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}$ . As a relevant particular case we obtain the following result.

**Corollary 3.2** Let  $M > 8(1 + 2\sqrt{3})$ . For every couple  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$  of von Neumann algebras and every separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form V on  $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}$ , there exist norm-one positive functionals  $\varphi \in \mathcal{A}_*$  and  $\psi \in \mathcal{B}_*$  satisfying

$$|V(x,y)| \le M ||V|| \ (\varphi(\frac{1}{2}(xx^* + x^*x)))^{\frac{1}{2}} \ (\psi(\frac{1}{2}(yy^* + y^*y)))^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}$ .

A refined version of the above corollary can be found in [H, Proposition 2.3].

Now we proceed to deal with Grothendieck's Theorem for real JBW\*triples. The following lemma generalizes [CIL, Lemma 5] to the real case.

**Lemma 3.3** Let E and F be real  $JB^*$ -triples and  $T : E \to F^*$  a bounded linear operator. Then T has a factorization T = R S through a real Hilbert space with  $||R|| ||S|| \le 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3}) ||T||$ 

#### Proof.

Let us consider the JB\*-complexifications  $\widehat{E}$  and  $\widehat{F}$  of E and F, respectively, and denote by  $\widehat{T} : \widehat{E} \to \widehat{F}^*$  the complex linear extension of T, so that we easily check that  $\|\widehat{T}\| \leq 2\|T\|$ . As we have mentioned before,  $\widehat{T}$  has a factorization  $\widehat{T} = \widehat{R}\widehat{S}$  through a complex Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , with  $\|\widehat{R}\| \|\widehat{S}\| \leq 2(1+2\sqrt{3}) \|\widehat{T}\|$ .

Since  $\overline{\widehat{T}}$  is the complex linear extension of T, the inclusion  $\widehat{T}(E) \subseteq F^*$ holds. Put  $H := \overline{\widehat{S}(E)}$ , the closure of  $\widehat{S}(E)$  in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then H is a real Hilbert space and we have  $\widehat{R}(H) \subseteq \overline{\widehat{R}(\widehat{S}(E))} = \overline{\widehat{T}(E)} \subseteq F^*$ .

Finally we define the bounded linear operators  $S := \widehat{S}|_{E} : E \to H$  and  $R := \widehat{R}|_{H} : H \to F^{*}$ . It is easy to see that T = R S and

$$||R|| ||S|| \le ||\widehat{R}|| ||\widehat{S}|| \le 2(1+2\sqrt{3}) ||\widehat{T}|| \le 4(1+2\sqrt{3}) ||T||.$$

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When in the proof of Theorem 3.1 Lemma 3.3 and Theorem 2.9 replace [CIL, Lemma 5] and Theorem 2.1, respectively, we obtain the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.4** Let  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3}) (1 + 3\sqrt{2})^2$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . For every couple (V, W) of real JBW\*-triples and every separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form U on  $V \times W$ , there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in V_*$ , and  $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in W_*$  satisfying

$$|U(x,y)| \le M \|U\| \left( \|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \|y\|_{\psi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|y\|_{\psi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in V \times W$ .

Thanks to Lemma 3.3, Lemma 1.1 remains true when real JB\*-triples replace complex ones. Then Theorems 3.4 and 3.1 give rise to the real and complex cases, respectively, of the result which follows.

**Corollary 3.5** Let  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3}) (1 + 3\sqrt{2})^2$  (respectively,  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3}))$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then for every couple (E, F) of real (respectively, complex) JB\*-triples and every bounded bilinear form U on  $E \times F$  there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in E^*$  and  $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in F^*$  satisfying

$$|U(x,y)| \le M \|U\| \left( \|x\|_{\varphi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|x\|_{\varphi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \|y\|_{\psi_2}^2 + \varepsilon^2 \|y\|_{\psi_1}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in E \times F$ .

**Remark 3.6** In the complex case of the above corollary, the interval of variation of the constant M can be enlarged by arguing as follows. Let  $M > 3 + 2\sqrt{3}$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  be complex  $JB^*$ -triples, and U a norm-one bounded bilinear form on  $\mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$ . Consider the separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form  $\widetilde{U}$  on  $\mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$  which extends U, and take a weak\*-to-weak continuous linear operator  $T : E^{**} \to F^*$  satisfying

$$\widetilde{U}(\alpha,\beta) = \langle T(\alpha),\beta \rangle$$

for all  $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$ . Choose  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\delta \leq \varepsilon^2$  and  $(3 + 2\sqrt{3})(1 + \delta) \leq M$ . By [PZ, Corollary 2] there is a rank one weak\*-to-weak continuous linear operator  $T_1 : \mathcal{E}^{**} \to \mathcal{F}^*$  such that  $||T_1|| \leq \delta$  and  $T_2 := T - T_1$  attains its norm. Since  $T_1$  is of rank one and weak\*-continuous, it also attains its norm. For i = 1, 2, consider the separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form  $\widetilde{U}_i$  on  $\mathcal{E}^{**} \times \mathcal{F}^{**}$  defined by

$$\widetilde{U}_i(\alpha,\beta) = \langle T_i(\alpha),\beta \rangle,$$

and put  $U_i = \widetilde{U}_i|_{\mathcal{E}\times\mathcal{F}}$ , so that  $U_i$  is a bounded bilinear form on  $\mathcal{E}\times\mathcal{F}$  whose separately weak\*-continuous extension to  $\mathcal{E}^{**}\times\mathcal{F}^{**}$  attains its norm. By the proof of [BF1, Theorem 1.4], there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{E}^*$ and  $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in \mathcal{F}^*$  such that

$$|U_i(x,y)| \le (3+2\sqrt{3}) ||U_i|| ||x||_{\varphi_i} ||y||_{\psi_i},$$

for all  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{F}$  and i = 1, 2.

Therefore

$$|U(x,y)| \leq |U_{2}(x,y)| + |U_{1}(x,y)|$$

$$\leq (3+2\sqrt{3})(||U_{2}|| ||x||_{\varphi_{2}}||y||_{\psi_{2}} + ||U_{1}|| ||x||_{\varphi_{1}}||y||_{\psi_{1}})$$

$$\leq (3+2\sqrt{3})((1+\delta) ||x||_{\varphi_{2}}||y||_{\psi_{2}} + \delta ||x||_{\varphi_{1}}||y||_{\psi_{1}})$$

$$\leq (3+2\sqrt{3})(1+\delta) (||x||_{\varphi_{2}}||y||_{\psi_{2}} + \delta ||x||_{\varphi_{1}}||y||_{\psi_{1}})$$

$$\leq (3+2\sqrt{3})(1+\delta) \sqrt{||x||_{\varphi_{2}}^{2}} + \delta ||x||_{\varphi_{1}}^{2} \sqrt{||y||_{\psi_{2}}^{2}} + \delta ||y||_{\psi_{1}}^{2}$$

$$\leq M (||x||_{\varphi_{2}}^{2} + \varepsilon^{2} ||x||_{\varphi_{1}}^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}} (||y||_{\psi_{2}}^{2} + \varepsilon^{2} ||y||_{\psi_{1}}^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\leq M (||x||_{\varphi_{2}}^{2} + \varepsilon^{2} ||x||_{\varphi_{1}}^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}} (||y||_{\psi_{2}}^{2} + \varepsilon^{2} ||y||_{\psi_{1}}^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in E \times F$ .

We do not know if the value  $\varepsilon = 0$  is allowed in Theorems 3.1 and 3.4. In any case, as the next result shows, the value  $\varepsilon = 0$  is allowed for a "big quantity" of separately weak\*-continuous bilinear forms.

**Theorem 3.7** Let  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3}) (1 + 3\sqrt{2})^2$  (respectively,  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3}))$  and V, W be real (respectively, complex) JBW\*-triples. Then the set of all separately weak\*-continuous bilinear forms U on  $V \times W$  such that there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi \in V_*$  and  $\psi \in W_*$  satisfying

$$|U(x,y)| \le M ||U|| ||x||_{\varphi} ||y||_{\psi}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in V \times W$ , is norm dense in the set of all separately weak\*continuous bilinear forms on  $V \times W$ .

*Proof.* Let U a non zero separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form on  $V \times W$ . By the proof of Theorem 3.4 (respectively, Theorem 3.1) there exists a real (respectively, complex) Hilbert space H such that for all  $(x, y) \in V \times W$  we have

$$U(x, y) := \langle F(x), G(y) \rangle,$$

where  $F: V \to H$  and  $G: W \to H^*$  are weak\*-continuous linear operators satisfying  $||F|| ||G|| \leq L ||U||$  with  $L = 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3})$  (respectively,  $L = 2(1 + 2\sqrt{3}))$ .

By [Z], there are sequences  $\{F_n : V \to H\}$  and  $\{G_n : W \to H^*\}$  of weak\*continuous linear operators, converging in norm to F and G, respectively, and such that  $F_n$  and  $G_n$  attain their norms for every n. Then, putting

$$U_n(x,y) := \langle F_n(x), G_n(y) \rangle \quad ((n,x,y) \in \mathbb{N} \times V \times W),$$

 $\{U_n\}$  becomes a sequence of separately weak\*-continuous bilinear forms on  $V \times W$ , converging in norm to U. Take  $\sqrt{\frac{M}{L}} > K > 1 + 3\sqrt{2}$  (respectively,  $\sqrt{\frac{M}{L}} > K > \sqrt{2}$ ). Applying Lemma 2.8 (respectively, Lemma 1.5), for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we find norm-one functionals  $\varphi_n \in V_*$  and  $\psi_n \in W_*$  satisfying

$$||F_n(x)|| \le K ||F_n|| ||x||_{\varphi_n}$$
 and  
 $||G_n(y)|| \le K ||G_n|| ||y||_{\psi_n}$ 

for all  $(x, y) \in V \times W$ . Set

$$\delta = \frac{\frac{M}{K^2} - L}{1 + L} \frac{\|U\|}{2} > 0,$$

and take  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  such that the inequalities

$$||F_n|| ||G_n|| - ||F|| ||G|| | < \delta,$$
  
|  $||U_n|| - ||U|| | < \delta$ , and  
 $||U_n|| \ge \frac{||U||}{2}$ 

hold for every  $n \geq m$ .

Now for  $n \ge m$  and  $(x, y) \in V \times W$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} |U_n(x,y)| &\leq K^2 ||F_n|| ||G_n|| ||x||_{\varphi_n} ||y||_{\psi_n} \\ &\leq K^2 (||F|| ||G|| + \delta) ||x||_{\varphi_n} ||y||_{\psi_n} \\ &\leq K^2 (L ||U|| + \delta) ||x||_{\varphi_n} ||y||_{\psi_n} \\ &\leq K^2 (L ||U_n|| + \delta (1 + L)) ||x||_{\varphi_n} ||y||_{\psi_n} \\ &= K^2 (L ||U_n|| + (\frac{M}{K^2} - L)\frac{||U||}{2}) ||x||_{\varphi_n} ||y||_{\psi_n} \\ &\leq M ||U_n|| ||x||_{\varphi_n} ||y||_{\psi_n}. \end{aligned}$$

As we noticed before Corollary 3.5, Lemma 1.1 remains true in the real setting. Then, given real or complex  $JB^*$ -triples E, F, the mapping sending each element  $U \in \mathcal{L}({}^{2}(E \times F))$  to its unique separately weak\*-continuous bilinear extension  $\widetilde{U}$  to  $E^{**} \times F^{**}$  is an isometry from  $\mathcal{L}(^2(E \times F))$  onto the Banach space of all separately weak\*-continuous bilinear forms on  $E^{**} \times F^{**}$ . Therefore we obtain the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.8** Let  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3}) (1 + 3\sqrt{2})^2$  (respectively,  $M > 4(1 + 2\sqrt{3}))$  and E, F be real (respectively, complex) JB\*-triples. Then the set of all bounded bilinear forms U on  $E \times F$  such that there exist norm-one functionals  $\varphi \in E^*$  and  $\psi \in F^*$  satisfying

$$|U(x,y)| \le M ||U|| ||x||_{\varphi} ||y||_{\psi}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in E \times F$ , is norm dense in  $\mathcal{L}(^2(E \times F))$ .

We note that Theorem 1.4 is finer than the complex case of the above corollary. However, since Theorem 1.4 depends on the proof of [BF1, Theorem 1.4], it is much more difficult.

**Remark 3.9** We do not know if the value  $\varepsilon = 0$  is allowed in Theorems 2.1 and 2.9 (respectively, in Theorems 3.1 and 3.4) for some value of the constant K (respectively, M). Concerning this question, it is worth mentioning that the following three assertions are equivalent:

1. There is a universal constant G such that, for every real (respectively, complex) JBW\*-triple W and every couple  $(\varphi_1, \varphi_2)$  of norm-one functionals in  $W_* \times W_*$ , we can find a norm-one functional  $\varphi \in W_*$  satisfying

$$||x||_{\varphi_i} \le G ||x||_{\varphi}$$

for every  $x \in W$  and i = 1, 2.

2. There is a universal constant  $\widehat{G}$  such that for every couple of real (respectively, complex) JBW\*-triples (V, W) and every separately weak\*continuous bilinear form U on  $V \times W$ , there are norm-one functionals  $\varphi \in V_*$ , and  $\psi \in W_*$  satisfying

$$|U(x,y)| \le G ||U|| ||x||_{\varphi} ||y||_{\psi}$$

for all  $(x, y) \in V \times W$ .

3. There is a universal constant  $\widetilde{G}$  such that for every real (respectively, complex) JBW\*-triple W and every weak\*-continuous linear operator T from W to a real (respectively, complex) Hilbert space, there exists a norm-one functional  $\varphi \in W_*$  satisfying

$$||T(x)|| \le \widetilde{G} ||T|| ||x||_{\varphi}$$

for all  $x \in W$ .

The implication  $1 \Rightarrow 2$  follows from Theorems 3.1 and 3.4.

Assume that Assertion 2 above is true. Let W be a real (respectively, complex) JBW\*-triple, H a real (respectively, complex) Hilbert space, and  $T: W \to H$  a weak\*-continuous linear operator. Consider the separately weak\*-continuous bilinear form U on  $W \times H$  given by U(x, y) := (T(x)|y) (respectively,  $U(x, y) := (T(x)|\sigma(y))$ , where  $\sigma$  is a conjugation on H). Regarding H as a JBW\*-triple under the triple product  $\{x, y, z\} := \frac{1}{2}((x|y)z + (z|y)x)$ , and applying the assumption, we find norm-one functionals  $\varphi \in W_*$  and  $\psi \in H_*$  satisfying

$$|U(x,y)| \le \widehat{G} ||U|| ||x||_{\varphi} ||y||_{\psi}$$
$$\le \widehat{G} ||T|| ||x||_{\varphi} ||y||$$

for all  $(x, y) \in W \times H$ . Taking y = T(x) (respectively,  $y = \sigma(T(x))$ ) we obtain

$$||T(x)|| \le \widehat{G}||T|| ||x||_{\varphi}$$

for all  $x \in W$ . In this way Assertion 3 holds.

Finally let us assume that Assertion 3 is true. Let W be a real (respectively, complex) JBW\*-triple and  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2$  norm-one functionals in  $W_*$ . Since  $\|.\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}$  comes from a suitable separately weak\*-continuous positive sesquilinear form < ., . > on W by means of the equality  $\|x\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}^2 = < x, x >$ , it follows from the proof of [R1, Corollary] that there exists a weak\*-continuous linear operator T from W to a real (respectively, complex) Hilbert space satisfying  $\|x\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2} = \|T(x)\|$  for all  $x \in W$  (which implies  $\|T\| \le \sqrt{2}$ ). Now applying the assumption we find a norm one functional  $\varphi \in W_*$  such that

$$||x||_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2} = ||T(x)|| \le \tilde{G} ||T|| ||x||_{\varphi} \le \sqrt{2}\tilde{G} ||x||_{\varphi}$$

for all  $x \in W$ . As a consequence, for i = 1, 2 we have

$$\|x\|_{\varphi_i} \le \sqrt{2}\tilde{G}\|x\|_{\varphi}$$

for all  $x \in W$ .

## 4 Some Applications

We define the strong\*-topology  $S^*(W, W_*)$  of a given real or complex JBW\*triple W as the topology on W generated by the family of seminorms  $\{\|.\|_{\varphi}:$   $\varphi \in W_*$ ,  $\|\varphi\| = 1$ }. In the complex case, the above notion has been introduced by T. J. Barton and Y. Friedman in [BF2]. When a JBW\*-algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ is regarded as a complex JBW\*-triple,  $S^*(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}_*)$  coincides with the so-called "algebra-strong\* topology" of  $\mathcal{A}$ , namely the topology on  $\mathcal{A}$  generated by the family of seminorms of the form  $x \mapsto \sqrt{\xi(x \circ x^*)}$  when  $\xi$  is any positive functional in  $\mathcal{A}_*$  [R1, Proposition 3]. As a consequence, when a von Neumann algebra  $\mathcal{M}$  is regarded as a complex JBW\*-triple,  $S^*(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{M}_*)$  coincides with the familiar strong\*-topology of  $\mathcal{M}$  (compare [S, Definition 1.8.7]).

We note that, if  $\mathcal{W}$  is a complex JBW\*-triple, then, denoting by  $\mathcal{W}_{\mathbb{R}}$  the realification of  $\mathcal{W}$  (i.e., the real JBW\*-triple obtained from  $\mathcal{W}$  by restriction of scalar to  $\mathbb{R}$ ), we have  $S^*(\mathcal{W}, \mathcal{W}_*) = S^*(\mathcal{W}_{\mathbb{R}}, (\mathcal{W}_{\mathbb{R}})_*)$ . Indeed, the mapping  $\varphi \mapsto \Re e \ \varphi$  identifies  $\mathcal{W}_*$  with  $(\mathcal{W}_{\mathbb{R}})_*$ , and, when  $\varphi$  has norm one, the equality  $||x||_{\varphi} = ||x||_{\Re e \ \varphi}$  holds for every  $x \in \mathcal{W}$ .

**Proposition 4.1** Let W be a real (respectively, complex)  $JBW^*$ -triple. The following topologies coincide in W:

- 1. The strong \*-topology of W.
- 2. The topology on W generated by the family of seminorms of the form  $x \mapsto \sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle}$ , where  $\langle ., . \rangle$  is any separately weak\*-continuous positive sesquilinear form on W.
- 3. The topology on W generated by the family of seminorms  $x \mapsto ||T(x)||$ , when T runs over all weak\*-continuous linear operators from W to arbitrary real (respectively, complex) Hilbert spaces.

Proof. Let us denote by  $\tau_1, \tau_2$ , and  $\tau_3$  the topologies arising in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The inequality  $\tau_1 \geq \tau_3$  follows from Corollary 2.10 (respectively, Corollary 2.2). Since the proof of [R1, Corollary 1] shows that for every separately weak\*-continuous positive sesquilinear form  $\langle ., . \rangle$ on W there exists a weak\*-continuous linear operator T from W to a real (respectively, complex) Hilbert space satisfying  $\sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle} = ||T(x)||$  for all  $x \in W$ , we have  $\tau_3 \geq \tau_2$ . Finally, since for every norm-one functional  $\varphi \in W_*$ there is a separately weak\*-continuous positive sesquilinear form  $\langle ., . \rangle$ satisfying  $||x||_{\varphi} = \sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle}$  for all  $x \in W$ , the inequality  $\tau_2 \geq \tau_1$  follows.  $\Box$ 

For every Banach space X,  $B_X$  will stand for the closed unit ball of X. For every dual Banach space X (with a fixed predual denoted by  $X_*$ ), we denote by  $m(X, X_*)$  the Mackey topology on X relative to its duality with  $X_*$ .

**Corollary 4.2** Let W be a real or complex  $JBW^*$ -triple. Then the strong\*topology of W is compatible with the duality  $(W, W_*)$ .

*Proof.* We apply the characterization of  $S^*(W, W_*)$  given by paragraph 3 in Proposition 4.1. Clearly  $S^*(W, W_*)$  is stronger than the weak\*-topology  $\sigma(W, W_*)$  of W. On the other hand, if T is a weak\*-continuous linear operator from W to a Hilbert space H, and if we put  $T = S^*$  for a suitable bounded linear operator  $S : H_* \to W_*$ , then  $S(B_{H_*})$  is an absolutely convex and weakly compact subset of  $W_*$  and we have  $||T(x)|| = \sup | \langle x, S(B_{H_*}) \rangle |$ . This shows that  $S^*(W, W_*)$  is weaker than  $m(W, W_*)$ .  $\Box$ 

The complex case of the above corollary is due to T. J. Barton and Y. Friedman [BF2]. The complex case of Proposition 4.1 is claimed in [R1, Corollary 2] (see also [R2, Proposition D.17]), but the proof relies on [R1, Proposition 1], which subsumes a gap from [BF1] (see the comments before Lemma 1.5). Now that we have saved [R1, Corollary 2], all subsequent results in [R1] concerning the strong\*-topology of complex JBW\*-triples are valid. Moreover, keeping in mind Proposition 4.1 and Corollary 4.2, some of those results remain true for real JBW\*-triples with verbatim proof. For instance, the following assertions hold:

- 1. Linear mappings between real JBW\*-triples are strong\*-continuous if and only if they are weak\*-continuous (compare [R1, Corollary 3]).
- 2. If W is a real JBW\*-triple, and if V is a weak\*-closed subtriple, then the inequality  $S^*(W, W_*)|_V \leq S^*(V, V_*)$  holds, and in fact  $S^*(W, W_*)|_V$  and  $S^*(V, V_*)$  coincide on bounded subsets of V (compare [R1, Proposition 2]).

It follows from the first part of Assertion 2 above and a new application of Proposition 4.1 that, if W is a real JBW\*-triple, and if V is a weak\*complemented subtriple of W, then we have  $S^*(W, W_*)|_V = S^*(V, V_*)$ . Since every real JBW\*-triple V is weak\*-complemented in the realification of a complex JBW\*-triple W (see V as a real form of its JB\*-complexification), and  $S^*(W, W_*) = S^*(W_{\mathbb{R}}, (W_{\mathbb{R}})_*)$ , the results [R1, Theorem] and [R2, Theorem D.21] for complex JBW\*-triples can be transferred to the real setting, providing the following result. **Theorem 4.3** Let W be a real JBW\*-triple. Then the triple product of W is jointly  $S^*(W, W_*)$ -continuous on bounded subsets of W, and the topologies  $m(W, W_*)$  and  $S^*(W, W_*)$  coincide on bounded subsets of W.

Our concluding goal in this paper is to establish, in the setting of real JB<sup>\*</sup>triples, a result on weakly compact operators originally due to H. Jarchow [J] in the context of C<sup>\*</sup>-algebras, and later extended to complex JB<sup>\*</sup>-triples by C-H. Chu and B. Iochum [CI]. This could be made by transferring the complex results to the real setting by a complexification method. However, we prefer to do it in a more intrinsic way, by deriving the result from the second assertion in Theorem 4.3 according to some ideas outlined in [R2, pp. 142-143].

**Proposition 4.4** Let X be a dual Banach space (with a fixed predual  $X_*$ ). Then the Mackey topology  $m(X, X_*)$  coincides with the topology on X generated by the family of semi-norms  $x \mapsto ||T(x)||$ , where T is any weak\*continuous linear operator from X to a reflexive Banach space.

*Proof.* Let us denote by  $\tau$  the second topology arising in the statement. As in the proof of Corollary 4.2, if T is a weak\*-continuous linear operator from X to a reflexive Banach space, then there exists an absolutely convex and weakly compact subset D of  $X_*$  such that the equality

$$||T(x)|| = \sup |\langle x, D \rangle|$$

holds for every  $x \in X$ . This shows that  $\tau \leq m(X, X_*)$ .

Let D be an absolutely convex and weakly compact subset of  $X_*$ . Consider the Banach space  $\ell_1(D)$  and the bounded linear operator

$$F: \ell_1(D) \to X_*$$

given by

$$F(\{\lambda_{\varphi}\}_{\varphi\in D}) := \sum_{\varphi\in D} \lambda_{\varphi}\varphi.$$

Then we have  $F(B_{\ell_1(D)}) = D$ , and hence F is weakly compact. By [DFJP] there exists a reflexive Banach space Y together with bounded linear operators  $S : \ell_1(D) \to Y$ ,  $R : Y \to X_*$  such that F = R S. Then, for  $x \in X$ , we have

$$\sup |\langle x, D \rangle| = \sup |\langle x, F(B_{\ell_1(D)}) \rangle|$$

$$= \sup | \langle x, R(S(B_{\ell_1(D)})) \rangle | \leq ||S|| \sup | \langle x, R(B_Y) \rangle$$
  
=  $||S|| ||R^*(x)||.$ 

Since D is an arbitrary absolutely convex and weakly compact subset of  $X_*$ , and  $R^*$  is a weak\*-continuous linear operator from X to the reflexive Banach space  $Y^*$ , the inequality  $m(X, X_*) \leq \tau$  follows.  $\Box$ 

Let X be a dual Banach space (with a fixed predual  $X_*$ ). In agreement with Proposition 4.1, we define the strong\*-topology of X, denoted by  $S^*(X, X_*)$ , as the topology on X generated by the family of semi-norms  $x \mapsto ||T(x)||$ , where T is any weak\*-continuous linear operator from X to a Hilbert space.

**Proposition 4.5** Let X be a dual Banach space (with a fixed predual  $X_*$ ). Then the following assertions are equivalent:

- The topologies m(X, X<sub>\*</sub>) and S<sup>\*</sup>(X, X<sub>\*</sub>) coincide on bounded subsets of X.
- 2. For every weak\*-continuous linear operator F from X to a reflexive Banach space, there exists a weak\*-continuous linear operator G from X to a Hilbert space satisfying  $||F(x)|| \le ||G(x)|| + ||x||$  for all  $x \in X$ .
- 3. For every weak\*-continuous linear operator F from X to a reflexive Banach space, there exist a weak\*-continuous linear operator G from X to a Hilbert space and a mapping  $N : (0, \infty) \to (0, \infty)$  satisfying

$$||F(x)|| \le N(\varepsilon) ||G(x)|| + \varepsilon ||x||$$

for all  $x \in X$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

*Proof.*  $1 \Rightarrow 2$ .— Let F be a weak\*-continuous linear operator from X to a reflexive Banach space. Then, by Proposition 4.4

$$\mathcal{O} := \{ y \in B_X : ||F(y)|| \le 1 \}$$

is a  $m(X, X_*)|_{B_X}$ -neighborhood of zero in  $B_X$ . By assumption, there exist Hilbert spaces  $H_1, \ldots, H_n$  and weak\*-continuous linear operators  $G_i : X \to H_i$   $(i : 1, \ldots, n)$  such that

$$\mathcal{O} \supseteq \cap_{i=1}^{n} \{ y \in B_X : \|G_i(y)\| \le 1 \}.$$

Now set  $H := (\bigoplus_{i=1}^{n} H_i)_{\ell_2}$ , and consider the weak\*-continuous linear operator  $G : X \to H$  defined by  $G(x) := (G_1(x), \ldots, G_n(x))$ . Notice that

$$\{y \in B_X : ||G(y)|| \le 1\} \subseteq \cap_{i=1}^n \{y \in B_X : ||G_i(y)|| \le 1\} \subseteq \mathcal{O}.$$

Finally, if  $x \in X \setminus \{0\}$ , then  $\frac{1}{\|x\| + \|G(x)\|} x$  lies in  $\{y \in B_X : \|G(y)\| \le 1\} \subseteq \mathcal{O}$ , and hence  $\|F(\frac{1}{\|x\| + \|G(x)\|} x)\| \le 1$ .

 $2 \Rightarrow 3.-$  Let F be a weak\*-continuous linear operator from X to a reflexive Banach space. By assumption, for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists a Hilbert space  $H_n$  and a weak\*-continuous linear operator  $G_n$  from X to  $H_n$  such that  $||nF(x)|| \leq ||G_n(x)|| + ||x||$  for all  $x \in X$ . Now set  $H := (\bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{N}} H_n)_{\ell_2}$ , and consider the bounded linear operator  $G : X \to H$  defined by  $G(x) := \{\frac{1}{n||G_n||} G_n(x)\}$  and the mapping  $N : \varepsilon \to ||G_{n(\varepsilon)}||$  (where  $n(\varepsilon)$  denotes the smallest natural number satisfying  $n > \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$ ). Then G is weak\*-continuous. Indeed, given  $y = \{h_n\} \in H$ , we can take for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$   $\alpha_n$  in  $X_*$  satisfying  $(G_n(x)|h_n) = \langle x, \alpha_n \rangle$  for every  $x \in X$ , so that we have

$$\sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \left\|\frac{\alpha_n}{n\|G_n\|}\right\| \le \sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \frac{\|h_n\|}{n} \le \sqrt{\sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \|h_n\|^2} \sqrt{\sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \frac{1}{n^2}} < \infty,$$

and hence  $\alpha := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{\alpha_n}{n ||G_n||}$  is an element of  $X_*$  satisfying  $(G(x)|h) = \langle x, \alpha \rangle$  for all  $x \in X$ . Moreover, for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $x \in X$  we have

$$\|F(x)\| \le \frac{1}{n(\varepsilon)} \|G_{n(\varepsilon)}(x)\| + \frac{1}{n(\varepsilon)} \|x\|$$
$$\le \|G_{n(\varepsilon)}\| \|G(x)\| + \frac{1}{n(\varepsilon)} \|x\| \le N(\varepsilon) \|G(x)\| + \varepsilon \|x\|.$$

 $3 \Rightarrow 1.-$  Let  $x_{\lambda}$  be a net in  $B_X$  converging to zero in the topology  $S^*(X, X_*)$ . Let F be a weak\*-continuous linear operator from X to a reflexive Banach space, and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . By assumption, there exist a weak\*-continuous linear operator G from X to a Hilbert space and a mapping  $N : (0, \infty) \to (0, \infty)$  satisfying

$$||F(x)|| \le N(\frac{\varepsilon}{2}) ||G(x)|| + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} ||x||$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Take  $\lambda_0$  such that  $||G(x_\lambda)|| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2 N(\frac{\varepsilon}{2})}$  whenever  $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ . Then we have  $||F(x_\lambda)|| \leq \varepsilon$  for all  $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ . By Proposition 4.4,  $x_\lambda m(X, X_*)$ converges to zero.  $\Box$  We can now state the following characterization of weakly compact operators on JB\*-triples.

**Theorem 4.6** Let E be a real (respectively, complex)  $JB^*$ -triple, X a real (respectively, complex) Banach space, and  $T : E \to X$  a bounded linear operator. The following assertions are equivalent:

- 1. T is weakly compact.
- 2. There exist a bounded linear operator G from E to a real (respectively, complex) Hilbert space and a function  $N : (0, +\infty) \to (0, +\infty)$  such that

$$||T(x)|| \le N(\varepsilon)||G(x)|| + \varepsilon ||x||$$

for all  $x \in E$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

3. There exist norm one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in E^*$  and a function  $N : (0, +\infty) \to (0, +\infty)$  such that

$$||T(x)|| \le N(\varepsilon) ||x||_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2} + \varepsilon ||x||$$

for all  $x \in E$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

Proof. The implication  $2 \Rightarrow 3$  follows from Corollary 2.10 (respectively, Corollary 2.2). The implication  $3 \Rightarrow 2$  holds because, for norm-one functionals  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in E^*$ ,  $\|.\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}$  is a prehilbert seminorm on E, and hence there exists a bounded linear operator G from E to a Hilbert space satisfying  $\|G(x)\| = \|x\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}$  for all  $x \in E$ . On the other hand, the implication  $2 \Rightarrow 1$ is known to be true, even if E is an arbitrary Banach space (see for instance [J, Theorem 20.7.3]). To conclude the proof, let us show that 1 implies 2. Assume that Assertion 1 holds. Then, by [DFJP], there exist a reflexive Banach space Y and bounded linear operators  $F : E \to Y$  and  $S : Y \to X$ such that T = S F and  $\|S\| \leq 1$ . By Theorem 4.3 and Proposition 4.5, there exist a weak\*-continuous linear operator  $\widetilde{G}$  from  $E^{**}$  to a Hilbert space and a mapping  $N : (0, \infty) \to (0, \infty)$  satisfying

$$||F^{**}(\alpha)|| \le N(\varepsilon) ||\tilde{G}(\alpha)|| + \varepsilon ||\alpha||$$

for all  $\alpha \in E^{**}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . By putting  $G := \widetilde{G}|_E$ , the inequality in Assertion 2 follows.  $\Box$ 

The complex case of the above theorem is established in [CI, Theorem 11], with  $\|.\|_{\varphi_1,\varphi_2}$  in Assertion 3 replaced with  $\|.\|_{\varphi}$  for a single norm-one functional  $\varphi \in E^*$ . As we have noticed in similar occasions, we do not know if such a replacement is correct.

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