

# On the Jordan structure of ternary rings of operators

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**Abstract.** We establish the following Gelfand-Naimark representation theorem: Every ternary ring of operators is isometrically isomorphic to a weak\*-dense sub-ternary ring of operators of an  $\ell_\infty$ -direct sum  $\bigoplus_\alpha \mathcal{L}(H_\alpha, K_\alpha)$  where  $H_\alpha$  and  $K_\alpha$  are complex Hilbert spaces.

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By a *ternary ring of operators (TRO)* we mean a norm-closed subspace in some  $\mathcal{L}(H, K)$  ( $=\{\text{bounded linear operators } H \rightarrow K\}$  with complex Hilbert spaces  $H, K$ ) which is closed under the *ternary product*  $[xyz] := xy^*z$ . TRO's were introduced by Hestenes [9, 1962] who proved that, in the finite dimensional setting, TRO's can be faithfully represented as direct sums of spaces  $M_{m,n}(\mathbb{C})$  of  $m \times n$  complex matrices. In infinite dimensions, Zettle [13, 1983] gave a characterization of TRO's among ternary Banach algebras, whence one could discover that Hilbert C\*-modules are the same as TRO's. Henceforth many deep results have appeared studying TRO's and their applications, see [3, 2001], [11, 2002] and [6, 1999], among others showing that every TRO is isometrically isomorphic to a corner  $pA(1-p)$  of a C\*-algebra and that the ternary product is uniquely determined by the metric structure in a TRO. As a consequence, since the bidual of a C\*-algebra is a W\*-algebra, a TRO can be represented as a weak\*-dense\*-dense subTRO in  $\bigoplus_{i \in I} p_i A_i (1-p_i)$ , where  $(A_i)_{i \in I}$  is the family of M-summands of  $A^{**}$ . The aim of this note is to show that this description can be refined somewhat to an infinite dimensional version of Hestenes' theorem. Namely we have the following

**1.1. Theorem.** *Every TRO is isometrically isomorphic to a weak\*-dense subTRO of the natural TRO of a direct sum  $\bigoplus_{i \in I} \mathcal{L}(H_i, K_i)$ . In particular, up to isometric isomorphisms, TRO's with predual are  $\ell_\infty$ -direct sums of  $\mathcal{L}(H, K)$ -spaces and a reflexive TRO is a finite  $\ell_\infty$ -direct sum of copies of  $\mathcal{L}(H, K)$  spaces with  $\dim K < \infty$ .*

Our proofs rely upon the Jordan theory of Banach spaces with symmetric unit ball the so called *JB\*-triples*. According to a result of Harris [7, 1973], TRO's when equipped with the Jordan triple product  $(*) \{xyz\} := (xy^*z + zy^*x)/2$  are JC\*-triples and hence their unit ball is necessarily symmetric. Since the bidual of a C\*-algebra is isometrically isomorphic to a weak\*-closed subalgebra in some  $\mathcal{L}(\widehat{H})$ , the bidual of a TRO is a TRO again. Therefore, by Friedmann-Russo's Gelfand-Naimark type theorem for JB\*-triples [4, 1985], it follows that any TRO  $E$  is isometrically isomorphic to a weak\*-dense subTRO

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in the ( $\ell^\infty$ -direct) sum  $\bigoplus_{j \in J} F_j$  of the minimal weak\*-closed M-summands the so called *Cartan factors* of the bidual  $E^{**}$ , furthermore each Cartan factor  $F_j$  is a subTRO of  $E^{**}$ . From the theorem and its Jordan theoretical proof we obtain also the following characterization of TROs among JB\*-triples.

**1.2. Corollary.** *A JB\*-triple  $E$  is the triple associated to a TRO if and only if in the canonical decomposition of the bidual  $E^{**} = E_{\text{at}} \oplus E_n$ , the atomic ideal  $E_{\text{at}}$  consists only of Cartan factors of type 1. A TRO admits no Jordan\*-representation (JB\*-homomorphism) with weak\*-dense range into a Cartan factor that is not of type 1.*

**1.3. Remark.** From a holomorphic view point, JC\*-triples (norm-closed subspaces of some  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  closed under the Jordan-triple product  $\{xyz\} := xy^*z/2 + zy^*x/2$ ) are known as (isometric) copies of Banach spaces with symmetric unit balls which admit only vanishing Jordan representations in exceptional Cartan factors. It would be tempting to conjecture that TRO's are copies of those Banach spaces with symmetric unit ball whose Jordan representations in Cartan factors not isomorphic to some  $\mathcal{L}(H, K)$  vanish. However this is not the case. Namely the assumption of the weak\*-density of the range in Corollary 1.2 is indispensable: *There is an isometric JB\*-homomorphism of the TRO  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  of complex  $n$ -square matrices into the space  $S_{2n}(\mathbb{C})$  of symmetric  $2n$ -square matrices.*

## 2. Proofs

Before stating the proofs we recall some basic facts and notions involved. We know that given a surjective linear isometry  $T: F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  between two TRO's, necessarily  $T[xyz] = [(Tx)(Ty)(Tz)]$ , ( $x, y, z \in F_1$ ). Furthermore if  $F_i \subset \mathcal{L}(H_i, K_i)$ , ( $i \in I$ ), are TRO's then their  $\ell_\infty$ -sum  $\bigoplus_{i \in I} F_i$  is a TRO in the space  $\mathcal{L}(\bigoplus_{i \in I}^2 H_i, \bigoplus_{i \in I}^2 K_i)$  with the  $\ell_2$ -sums  $\bigoplus_{i \in I}^2 H_i$  and  $\bigoplus_{i \in I}^2 K_i$ , and the natural pointwise operation  $[(x_i)(y_i)(z_i)] := (x_i y_i z_i)$ .

For later use, recall that JB\*-triples can be equipped with a unique three variable operation  $(x, y, z) \mapsto \{xyz\}$  which is symmetric linear in  $x, z$  and conjugate-linear in  $y$  satisfying among other axioms (for a complete list see [4]) the Jordan identity

$$\{ab\{xyz\}\} = \{\{abx\}yz\} - \{x\{bay\}\} + \{xy\{abz\}\}$$

and the C\*-axiom  $\|\{xxx\}\| = \|x\|^3$ .

An element  $e$  in a JB\*-triple is called a *tripotent* if  $0 \neq e = \{eee\}$  in which case it has norm 1 and we write  $\text{Tri}(E)$  for their family. Tripotents with respect to the Jordan triple product in a TRO are partial isometries. A tripotent  $e$  is said to be *minimal in  $E$*  if  $\{eEe\} = \mathbb{C}e$  and we write  $\text{Min}(E)$  for the set of them. Recall that given  $e, f \in \text{Tri}(E)$  we say that  $e$  *governs*  $f$  (written  $e \dashv f$ ) if  $e \in E_1(f) := \{x \in E: \{eex\} = x\}$  and  $f \in E_{1/2}(e) := \{x \in E: \{eex\} = x/2\}$ . We say that  $e, f$  are *collinear* (written  $e \top f$ ) if  $e \in E_{1/2}(f)$  and  $f \in E_{1/2}(e)$ .

In order to establish our main result we need some technical lemmas on JB\*-triples.

**2.1. Lemma.** Let  $F$  be a TRO in  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  and suppose  $e, f \in \text{Tri}(F)$  are such that  $\{eef\} = f/2$ . Then the elements  $x := ee^*f$  and  $y := fe^*e$  are orthogonal tripotents in  $F$  that satisfy  $f = x + y$ .

**Proof.** By assumption  $f = 2\{eef\} = ee^*f + fe^*e = x + y$ . Hence  $x = ee^*f = ee^*ee^*f + ee^*fe^*e = x + xe^*e$ , that is  $xe^*e = ee^*y = ee^*fe^*e = 0$ . It follows  $xy^* = ee^*fe^*ef^* = 0$ ,  $yx^* = (xy^*)^* = 0$ . Similarly  $x^*y = f^*ee^*fe^*e = 0$ ,  $y^*x = (x^*y)^* = 0$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} x + y = f &= ff^*f = (x + y)(x + y)^*(x + y) = \\ &= xx^*x + yy^*y, \\ ee^*(x + y) &= ee^*xx^*x + e \end{aligned}$$

since  $x = ee^*x$  and  $ee^*y = 0$ . This means that  $x = xx^*x$  and  $y = yy^*y$ , thus  $x, y \in \text{Tri}(F)$ . On the other hand  $2\{xxy\} = x(x^*y) + (yx^*)x = x0 + 0x = 0$ , that is  $x \perp y$ .  $\square$

**2.2. Lemma.** Let  $F$  be a TRO in  $\mathcal{L}(H)$ , and suppose  $0 \neq e, f \in \text{Min}(F)$  with  $e \top f$ . Then for the projections  $p := ee^*$ ,  $q := ff^*$ ,  $P := e^*e$ ,  $Q := f^*f$  we have either  $p = q$  and  $PQ = QP = 0$  or  $P = Q$  and  $pq = qp = 0$ .

**Proof.** By Lemma 2.1 and since atoms are indecomposable into sums of non-zero orthogonal tripotents, the tripotents

$$x := ee^*f \quad y := fe^*e \quad X := ff^*e \quad Y := ef^*f$$

satisfy the alternatives

$$\begin{array}{ll} 1) \ x = f, \ y = 0, \ X = e, \ Y = 0, & 2) \ x = f, \ y = 0, \ X = 0, \ Y = e, \\ 3) \ x = 0, \ y = f, \ X = e, \ Y = 0, & 4) \ x = 0, \ y = f, \ X = 0, \ Y = e. \end{array}$$

The alternative 2) implies  $ee^*f = f$ ,  $fe^*e = 0$ ,  $ff^*e = 0$ ,  $ef^*f = e$  and  $ff^* = f^*(ee^*f)^* = ff^*ee^* = (ff^*e)e^* = 0e^* = 0$  that is  $f = 0$ , contradicting the assumption  $0 \neq f$ .

3) implies  $ee^*f = 0$ ,  $fe^*e = f$ ,  $ff^*e = e$ ,  $ef^*f = 0$  and  $ee^* = (ff^*e)e^* = e(ee^*f)^* = e0^* = 0$  that is  $e = 0$ , contradicting the assumption  $0 \neq e$ .

1) means  $ee^*f = f$ ,  $fe^*e = 0$ ,  $ff^*e = e$ ,  $ef^*f = 0$ . Hence  $q = ff^* = (ee^*f)f^* = (ee^*)(ff^*) = pq$  and also  $q = ff^* = f(ee^*f)^* = (ff^*)(ee^*) = qp$ . Therefore  $p = ee^* = (ff^*e)e^* = (ff^*)(ee^*) = (ee^*)(ff^*) = ff^* = q$ . On the other hand  $PQ = (e^*e)(f^*f) = e^*(ef^*f) = e^*0 = 0$ ,  $QP = (f^*f)(e^*e) = f^*(fe^*e) = f^*0 = 0$ .

4) means  $ee^*f = 0$ ,  $fe^*e = f$ ,  $ff^*e = 0$ ,  $ef^*f = e$ . Hence  $P = e^*e = e^*(ef^*f) = (ee^*)(f^*f) = PQ$  and also  $P = e^*e = (ef^*f)^*e = (f^*f)(e^*e) = QP$ . Therefore  $Q = f^*f = (fe^*e)^*f = e^*ef^*f = PQ = P$ . On the other hand  $qp = (ff^*)(ee^*) = (ff^*e)e^* = 0e^* = 0$  and  $pq = (ee^*)(ff^*) = (ee^*f)f^* = 0f^* = 0$ .  $\square$

**2.3. Corollary.** If  $F$  is a TRO in  $\mathcal{L}(H)$  and  $0 \neq e_1, \dots, e_N \in \text{Min}(F)$  with  $e_j \top e_k$  ( $k \neq j$ ) then either  $p_1 = \dots = p_N$  and  $p'_k p'_j = 0$  ( $k \neq j$ ) or  $p'_1 = \dots = p'_N$  and  $p_k p_j = 0$  ( $k \neq j$ ) for the projections  $p_k := e_k e_k^*$ ,  $p'_k := e_k^* e_k$  ( $k = 1, \dots, N$ ).

**Proof.** By Lemma 2.2 we have the alternatives: 1)  $p_1 = p_2$  and  $p'_1 p'_2 = 0$  or 2)  $p'_1 = p'_2$  and  $p_1 p_2 = 0$ .

1) Suppose  $p_j \neq p_1$ . Then  $p'_j = p'_1$ ,  $p_1 p_j = p_j p_1 = 0$  and also (since  $p_j \neq p_2 = p_1$ )  $p'_j = p'_2$ ,  $p_2 p_j = p_j p_2 = 0$ . In particular  $p'_j = p'_1 = p'_2$ . By our assumption 1),  $p'_1 p'_2 = 0$ . But then  $p'_1 = p'_2 = p'_1 p'_2 = 0$  that is  $e_1^* e_1 = p'_1 = 0$  and  $e_1 = 0$  which is impossible.

2) Similarly we can exclude  $p'_j \neq p'_1$  in this case.  $\square$

**2.4. Lemma.** *Let  $F$  be a TRO in  $\mathcal{L}(H)$ , and suppose  $0 \neq e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4 \in \text{Min}(F)$ . Then the situation  $e_3 \perp e_4$ ,  $e_k \top e_\ell$  ( $k < \ell$ ,  $(k, \ell) \neq (3, 4)$ ) is impossible.*

**Proof.** Let  $p_k := e_k e_k^*$ ,  $p'_k := e_k^* e_k$  ( $k = 1, \dots, 4$ ). We have the alternatives 1)  $p_1 = p_2$  and  $p'_1 p'_2 = p'_2 p'_1 = 0$  or 2)  $p'_1 = p'_2$  and  $p_1 p_2 = p_2 p_1 = 0$ .

Suppose 1). Since  $e_1 \top e_2 \top e_3 \top e_1$ , by the corollary also  $p_1 = p_3$ . Since  $e_1 \top e_2 \top e_4 \top e_1$ , also  $p_1 = p_4$ . Thus 1) implies  $p_1 = p_4$ . However, the relationship  $e_1 \perp e_4$  means (as it is well-known) that  $0 = p_1 p_4 = p_4 p_1$  and  $0 = p'_1 p'_4 = p'_4 p'_1$ . Therefore 1) is impossible. The case 2) can be treated analogously.  $\square$

Finally we need some elementary results on Hilbert  $C^*$ -modules of bounded linear operators. If  $(H_{j \in J})$  is an indexed family of Hilbert spaces, then  $H = \bigoplus_{j \in J}^2 H_j$  denotes the direct hilbertian sum of the given spaces  $H_j$ . Of course  $H$  is a Hilbert space and each  $H_j$  is a closed subspace of  $H$ .

### Proof of Theorem 1.1

Let  $(E, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, A)$  be a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module. Let us equip it with the ternary product  $(x, y, z) := x \cdot \langle y, z \rangle$ , ( $x, y, z \in E$ ). We know that, without loss of generality, we may regard  $E^{**}$  as a weak\* closed TRO in a space  $\mathcal{L}(\widehat{H})$  with some Hilbert space  $\widehat{H}$ , moreover  $E$  is a weak\* dense sub-TRO of  $E^{**}$  for the natural ternary product  $(x, y, z) := xy^*z$ , ( $x, y, z \in \mathcal{L}(\widehat{H})$ ). From a Jordan viewpoint,  $E^{**}$  is an  $\ell^\infty$ -direct sum of the form  $E^{**} = E_{\text{at}} \oplus E_n$  where  $E_{\text{at}} = \bigoplus_{j \in J} F_j$  and  $\{F_j : j \in J\}$  is the family of all minimal atomic ideals  $M$ -ideals of  $E^{**}$  with respect to the Jordan triple product  $\{xyz\} := \frac{1}{2}(xy^*z + zy^*x)$ , ( $x, y, z \in \mathcal{L}(\widehat{H})$ ). Since the projection onto the atomic ideal  $P_{\text{at}} : E^{**} \rightarrow \bigoplus_{j \in J} F_j$  is an isometric  $JB^*$ -homomorphism which is a bijection on  $E$ , it suffices to see that each factor  $F_j$  is a Cartan factor of type 1. Concerning Cartan factors, by the familiar classification, each  $F_j$  is isometrically isomorphic to some of the following classical  $JB^*$ -triples:

$\mathcal{L}(H_j, K_j)$  [type 1],

$\mathcal{L}_\pm(H_j) := \{x \in \mathcal{L}(H_j) : x = \pm \bar{x}^*\}$  [types 2,3] with a conjugation  $x \mapsto \bar{x}$ ,

$\text{Spin}(H_j) := [H_j \text{ with } \{xyz\} := \langle x, y \rangle z + \langle z, y \rangle x - \langle x, \bar{z} \rangle \bar{y}]$  [type 4],

$\text{Mat}(1, 2, \mathbf{O})$  [type 5, of 16 dimensions], here  $\mathbf{O}$  means the Cayley algebra of octonions.

$\mathcal{H}_3(\mathbf{O})$  [type 6, of 27 dimensions], the algebra of  $3 \times 3$  hermitian matrices with entries in the octonions  $\mathbf{O}$  equipped with the standard conjugation.

Our key observation is that, in all cases if  $F_j$  is not isomorphic to some  $\mathcal{L}(H_j, K_j)$  then the standard covering atomic grid of  $F_j$  (see 12) contains a couple of atoms  $e_1, e_2$  with  $e_1 \top e_2$  or it contains a family  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4\}$  of atoms with  $e_3 \perp e_4$ ,  $e_k \top e_\ell$  ( $k < \ell$ ,  $(k, \ell) \neq (3, 4)$ ). By the previous lemmas it immediately follows that this is impossible.

Thus we have the isometric embedding  $E \hookrightarrow E_{\text{at}} \hookrightarrow \bigoplus_{j \in J} F_j$  where  $F_j = \mathcal{L}(H_j, K_j)$  for all  $j \in J$ . Endow the  $\ell_\infty$ -sum  $E_{\text{at}} = \bigoplus_{j \in J} \mathcal{L}(H_j, K_j)$  with a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module structure over the  $C^*$ -algebra  $\text{ID}$  of all operators  $d: H \rightarrow H$  that are diagonal with respect to the

direct sum decomposition  $H := \bigoplus_{j \in J}^2 H_j$ . We recall that  $d$  is uniquely determined by the family  $d|_{H_j}$  of its restrictions to the summands  $H_j$ , and that

$$\|d\| = \sup_{j \in J} \|d|_{H_j}\| < \infty.$$

Conversely, to every family  $(d_j) \in \bigoplus_{j \in J} \mathcal{L}(H_j, K_j)$  with  $\sup_{j \in J} \|d_j\| < \infty$  there is a unique diagonal operator  $d \in \mathcal{L}(H, K)$  such that  $d|_{H_j} = d_j$ , ( $j \in J$ ), namely  $d$  is the operator

$$d((h_j)) := ((d_j(h_j))), \quad (h_j) \in \bigoplus_{j \in J}^2 H_j.$$

Clearly  $((d_j(h_j))) \in \bigoplus_{j \in J}^2 K_j$  and

$$\sum \|d_j(h_j)\|^2 \leq \sum \|d_j\|^2 \|h_j\|^2 \leq (\sup_{j \in J} \|d_j\|)^2 \sum \|h_j\|^2 = \|d\|^2 \|(h_j)\|^2$$

and it is elementary to show that actually we have equality above. We define the module action  $E_{\text{at}} \times \mathbb{D} \rightarrow E_{\text{at}}$  and the inner product  $E_{\text{at}} \times E_{\text{at}} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  by means of the formulas

$$(g_j) \cdot (d_j) := (g_j d_j), \quad \langle (f_j), (g_j) \rangle := (f_j^* g_j), \quad \|(f_j)\| := \sup_{j \in J} \|f_j\|.$$

In this way, the map  $\phi: E_{\text{at}} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(H, K)$  that takes every family  $(d_j) \in \bigoplus_{j \in J} \mathcal{L}(H_j, K_j)$  to the diagonal operator  $\phi((d_j)): (h_j) \mapsto (d_j h_j) \in K$ ,  $(h_j) \in H$ , is an isometric module map, thus inducing an isometric module representation  $E \subset E_{\text{at}} \subset \mathcal{L}(H, K)$  as stated.

The statements concerning TROs with predual are immediate.  $\square$

For the sake of completeness, we describe the mentioned systems  $\{e_1, e_2\}$  respectively  $\{e_1, \dots, e_4\}$  of atoms for the types 2-6.

To this aim, let  $H$  be a Hilbert space, let  $x \mapsto \bar{x}$  be a conjugation on  $H$ , let  $\{h_m : m \in M\}$  be a complete orthonormal system in  $H$  such that  $h_m = \overline{h_m}$ , ( $m \in M$ ), and let  $e \otimes f$  denote the operator  $x \mapsto \langle x, e \rangle f$  on  $H$ .

Case type 2. With  $e_1 := h_1 \otimes h_1$ ,  $e_2 := h_1 \otimes h_2 + h_2 \otimes h_1$  we have  $e_1, e_2 \in \text{Min}(\mathcal{L}_+^-(H))$  and  $e_1 \vdash e_2$ .

Case type 3,  $\dim E > 3$ . With  $e_1 := h_1 \otimes h_2 - h_2 \otimes h_1$ ,  $e_2 := h_2 \otimes h_3 - h_3 \otimes h_2$ ,  $e_3 := h_1 \otimes h_3 - h_3 \otimes h_1$ ,  $e_4 := h_2 \otimes h_4 - h_4 \otimes h_2$  we have  $e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4 \in \text{Min}(\mathcal{L}(H))$  and  $e_3 \perp e_4$ ,  $e_k \top e_\ell$  ( $k < \ell$ ,  $(k, \ell) \neq (3, 4)$ ).

Case type 4,  $\dim E > 3$ . With  $e_k := 2^{-1/2}(h_k + ih_4)$ , ( $k = 1, 2, 3$ ) and  $e_4 := 2^{-1/2}(h_3 - ih_3)$  we have  $e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4 \in \text{Min}(\text{Spin}(H))$  and  $e_3 \perp e_4$ ,  $e_k \top e_\ell$ , ( $k < \ell$ ,  $(k, \ell) \neq (3, 4)$ ).

In the cases of types 5-6 the standard grid of the unit matrices contains 8 atoms spanning a spin factor (type 4) of 8 dimensions. So as in the previous case, again there are atoms  $e_1, \dots, e_4$  with  $e_3 \perp e_4$ ,  $e_k \top e_\ell$  ( $k < \ell$ ,  $(k, \ell) \neq (3, 4)$ ).  $\square$

**2.5. Lemma.** *If  $G$  is a Cartan factor then the atomic part of  $G^{**}$  is a copy of  $G$ .*

**Proof.** We have  $G^{**} = G_n^{**} \oplus \bigoplus_{j \in J} G_j$  where  $G_n^{**}$  is a non-atomic JBW\*-triple and each  $G_j$  is a Cartan factor. Also there is an isometric JB\*-homomorphism  $U : G \rightarrow G^{**}$  onto some weak\*-closed JB\*-subtriple of  $G^{**}$ . Let  $\pi_j$  denote the canonical projection  $G^{**} \rightarrow G_j$  and consider the representation  $U_j := \pi_j U$  of  $G$ . The kernel  $K_j$  of  $U_j$  is a weak\*-closed ideal in  $G$ . Since  $G$  is a factor, we have either  $K_j = \{0\}$  or  $K_j = G$ . Since  $UG$  is weak\*-dense in  $G^{**}$ , necessarily  $U_j G \neq \{0\}$  and this excludes the possibility of  $K_j = G$ . Thus  $K_j = \{0\}$ , that is, the JB\*-homomorphism  $U_j$  is injective. By a theorem of Horn-Dang-Neher on normal representations 10, injective JB\*-homomorphisms are isometries. Thus  $U_j G$  is a copy of  $G$  lying weak\*-dense in the Cartan factor  $G_j$ . This is possible only if  $U_j G = G_j$  and  $U : G \leftrightarrow G_j$  is a JB\*-isomorphism. By writing  $\pi$  for the canonical projection  $G^{**} \rightarrow \bigoplus_{j \in J} G_j$ , it follows that  $\pi U$  is not weak\*-dense in  $\bigoplus_{j \in J} G_j$  unless the index set  $J$  is a singleton.  $\square$

### Proof of Corollary 1.2.

Let  $E$  be a TRO,  $G$  a Cartan factor and consider a JB\*-homomorphism  $T : E \rightarrow G$ . It is well-known that the bidual operator  $T^{**} : E^{**} \rightarrow G^{**}$  is also a JB\*-homomorphism. We have  $E^{**} = E_n^{**} \oplus \bigoplus_{i \in I} E_i$  where each term  $E_i$  is a Cartan factor and  $E_n^{**}$  is a non-atomic JBW\*-triple. By the previous lemma, we may assume that  $G^{**} = G_{\text{at}}^{**} \oplus G$  and, with the canonical projection  $\pi : G^{**} \rightarrow G$ , the operator  $\pi T^{**}$  is a JB\*-homomorphism  $E^{**} \rightarrow G$  which maps  $E$  onto a weak\*-closed subtriple of  $G$ . Since  $\pi T^{**}$  is weak\*-continuous, it follows that  $\pi T^{**} E^{**} = G$ . The kernel  $K$  of the operator  $\pi T^{**}$  is a weak\*-weak\*-closed ideal of  $E^{**}$ . It is well known [1, 1985] that  $E^{**} = K \oplus K^\perp$  where  $K^\perp := \{x \in E^{**} : \{efx\} = 0, e, f \in K\}$  is a weak\*-closed ideal in  $E^{**}$ . Moreover,  $\pi T^{**}$  is an isometry on  $K^\perp$  because injective JB\*-homomorphisms are isometric 10. Since  $G = \pi T^{**} E = \pi T^{**} K^\perp$ , the weak\*-closed ideal  $K^\perp$  must be a copy of the Cartan factor  $G$ . Hence  $K^\perp$  is a minimal weak\*-closed ideal in  $E^{**}$  and so  $G \simeq K^\perp = E_i$  for some  $i \in I$ . By the theorem, each factor  $E_i$  is of type 1, hence so must be  $G$ .  $\square$

### Proof for Remark 1.3.

Let  $e^{k\ell}$  denote the  $n \times n$ -matrix with 1 at the position  $(k, \ell)$  and with 0 at other entries and let  $s^{k\ell}$  be the symmetric  $(2n) \times (2n)$ -matrix with 1 at the positions  $(2k - 1, 2\ell)$  and  $(2\ell, 2k - 1)$  and 0 elsewhere. It is straightforward to verify that the linear extension  $T$  of the map  $[e^{k\ell} \mapsto s^{k\ell} : 1 \leq k, \ell \leq n]$  satisfies the identity  $T(xy^*z + zy^*x) = (Tx)(Ty)^*(Tz) + (Tz)(Ty)^*(Tx)$  (by checking it for  $n := 3$  and the unit matrices without loss of generality).

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