# **Close-To-Regularity of Bounded Tri-Linear Maps**

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**Abstract** Let  $f: X \times Y \times Z \longrightarrow W$  be a bounded tri-linear map on normed spaces. We say that *f* is close-to-regular when  $f^{t****s} = f^{s****t}$  and we say that *f* is Aron-Berner regular when all natural extensions are equal. In this manuscript, we give a simple criterion for the close-to-regularity of tri-linear maps.

**Keywords** Arens regularity *·* Aron-Berner regular *·* Close-to-regular

**Mathematics Subject Classification (2010)** 46H25 *·* 46H20 *·* 17C65

## **1 Introduction**

Richard Arens showed in [1] that a bounded bilinear map  $m: X \times Y \longrightarrow Z$ on normed spaces, has two natural different extensions *m∗∗∗* , *mr∗∗∗<sup>r</sup>* from *X∗∗ × Y ∗∗* into *Z ∗∗*. When these extensions are equal, *m* is said to be Arens regular. For a discussion of Arens regularity for Banach algebras and bounded bilinear maps, see  $[2]$ ,  $[7]$ ,  $[9]$ ,  $[11]$  and  $[12]$ . For example, every  $C^*$ -algebra is Arens regular, see [6].

Let *X, Y, Z* and *W* be normed spaces and  $f: X \times Y \times Z \longrightarrow W$  be a bounded tri-linear mapping. The natural extensions of  $f$  are as following:

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- 1.  $f^*: W^* \times X \times Y \longrightarrow Z^*$ , given by  $\langle f^*(w^*,x,y),z\rangle = \langle w^*, f(x,y,z)\rangle$  where  $x \in X, y \in Y, z \in Z, w^* \in W^*$ .
- 2.  $f^{**} = (f^*)^* : Z^{**} \times W^* \times X \longrightarrow Y^*$ , given by  $\langle f^{**}(z^{**}, w^*, x), y \rangle =$  $\langle z^{**}, f^*(w^*, x, y) \text{ where } x \in X, y \in Y, z^{**} \in Z^{**}, w^* \in W^*.$
- 3.  $f^{***} = (f^{**})^* : Y^{**} \times Z^{**} \times W^* \longrightarrow X^*$ , given by  $\langle f^{***}(y^{**}, z^{**}, w^*), x \rangle =$  $\langle y^{**}, f^{**}(z^{**}, w^*, x) \rangle$  where  $x \in X, y^{**} \in Y^{**}, z^{**} \in Z^{**}, w^* \in W^*.$
- 4.  $f^{****} = (f^{***})^* : X^{**} \times Y^{**} \times Z^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}$ , given by  $\langle f^{****}(x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}), \rangle$  $w^*$  =  $\langle x^{**}, f^{***}(y^{**}, z^{**}, w^*)\rangle$  where  $x^{**} \in X^{**}, y^{**} \in Y^{**}, z^{**} \in Z^{**}, w^* \in Z^{**}$ *W∗* .

The bounded tri-linear map *f ∗∗∗∗* is the extension of *f* such that the maps

$$
x^{**} \longrightarrow f^{***}(x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}) : X^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**},
$$
  
\n
$$
y^{**} \longrightarrow f^{***}(x, y^{**}, z^{**}) : Y^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**},
$$
  
\n
$$
z^{**} \longrightarrow f^{***}(x, y, z^{**}) : Z^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**},
$$

are weak<sup>\*</sup>–weak<sup>\*</sup> continuous for each  $x \in X, y \in Y, x^{**} \in X^{**}, y^{**} \in Y^{**}$  and *z ∗∗ ∈ Z ∗∗*. Now let

$$
f^i: Y \times X \times Z \longrightarrow W : f^i(y, x, z) = f(x, y, z),
$$
  
\n
$$
f^j: X \times Z \times Y \longrightarrow W : f^j(x, z, y) = f(x, y, z),
$$
  
\n
$$
f^r: Z \times Y \times X \longrightarrow W : f^r(z, y, x) = f(x, y, z),
$$
  
\n
$$
f^t: Z \times X \times Y \longrightarrow W : f^t(z, x, y) = f(x, y, z),
$$
  
\n
$$
f^s: Y \times Z \times X \longrightarrow W : f^s(y, z, x) = f(x, y, z),
$$

be the flip maps of *f*. The flip maps of *f* are bounded tri-linear maps. It is easily seen that  $f^{i***i}, f^{j***j}, f^{r***r}, f^{t***s}$  and  $f^{s***t}$  are natural extensions of *f* such that bounded linear operators

$$
\begin{aligned}\nx^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{i***+i}(x^{**},y,z^{**}) : X^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
y^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{i***+i}(x^{**},y^{**},z^{**}) : Y^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
z^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{i***+i}(x,y,z^{**}) : Z^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
x^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{j***+j}(x^{**},y,z^{**}) : X^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
y^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{j***+j}(x,y^{**},z) : Y^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
z^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{r***+r}(x,y,z) : X^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
x^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{r***+r}(x^{**},y,z) : X^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
y^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{r***+r}(x^{**},y^{**},z) : Y^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
z^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{t***+r}(x^{**},y^{**},z^{**}) : Z^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
x^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{t***+s}(x,y^{**},z) : X^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
y^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{t***+s}(x,y^{**},z) : Y^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
z^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{t***+s}(x^{**},y^{**},z^{**}) : Z^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
y^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{s***+t}(x^{**},y,z) : X^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
y^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{s***+t}(x^{**},y,z^{**}) : Y^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
z^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{s***+t}(x^{**},y,z^{**}) : Z^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**}, \\
z^{**} &\longrightarrow f^{s***+t}(x^{**},y,z^{**}) : Z^{**} \longrightarrow W^{**},\n\end{aligned}
$$

are weak<sup>\*</sup> $\nu$ weak<sup>\*</sup> continuous for each  $x \in X, y \in Y, z \in Z, x^{**} \in X^{**}, y^{**} \in \mathbb{R}$ *Y*<sup>\*\*</sup> and  $z^{**} ∈ Z^{**}$ . For natural extensions of *f* we have

1. 
$$
f^{i***+} (x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}) = w^* - \lim_{\beta} w^* - \lim_{\alpha} w^* - \lim_{\gamma} f(x_{\alpha}, y_{\beta}, z_{\gamma}),
$$
  
\n2.  $f^{j***+} (x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}) = w^* - \lim_{\alpha} w^* - \lim_{\gamma} w^* - \lim_{\beta} f(x_{\alpha}, y_{\beta}, z_{\gamma}),$   
\n3.  $f^{r***+} (x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}) = w^* - \lim_{\gamma} w^* - \lim_{\beta} w^* - \lim_{\alpha} f(x_{\alpha}, y_{\beta}, z_{\gamma}),$   
\n4.  $f^{***+} (x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}) = w^* - \lim_{\alpha} w^* - \lim_{\beta} w^* - \lim_{\alpha} f(x_{\alpha}, y_{\beta}, z_{\gamma}),$   
\n5.  $f^{t***+} (x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}) = w^* - \lim_{\gamma} w^* - \lim_{\beta} w^* - \lim_{\beta} f(x_{\alpha}, y_{\beta}, z_{\gamma}),$   
\n6.  $f^{s***+} (x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}) = w^* - \lim_{\beta} w^* - \lim_{\gamma} w^* - \lim_{\alpha} f(x_{\alpha}, y_{\beta}, z_{\gamma}),$ 

where  $\{x_{\alpha}\}, \{y_{\beta}\}\$  and  $\{z_{\gamma}\}\$  are nets in X, Y and Z which converge to  $x^{**} \in$ *X*<sup>\*\*</sup>,  $y^{**} \in Y^{**}$  and  $z^{**} \in Z^{**}$  in the  $w^*$ −topologies, respectively. More information about these maps can be found in [10] and [13].

**Definition 1** A bounded tri-linear map *f* is said to be close-to-regular if  $f^{t****s} = f^{s****t}$ . It is obvious that *f* is close-to-regular if and only if  $f^{s*****s}$ *f <sup>t</sup>∗∗∗∗∗∗<sup>j</sup>* on *Y ∗∗ × Z ∗∗ × W∗∗∗ .*

**Definition 2** A bounded tri-linear map *f* is said to be Aron-Berner regular when all natural extensions are equal, that is,  $f^{i****} = f^{j****} = f^{r****} =$  $f^{****} = f^{t****s} = f^{s****t}$  holds. For example see [10], see also [3], [4] and [5]. If *f* is Aron-Berner regular, then trivially *f* is close-to-regular.

Throughout the article, we usually identify a normed space with its canonical image in its second dual.

### **2 Close-to-regular maps**

We commence with the following theorem for close-to-regular maps.

**Theorem 1** *For a bounded tri-linear map*  $f : X \times Y \times Z \longrightarrow W$  *the following statements are equivalent:*

*1. f is close-to-regular.* 2.  $f^{s***t*}(Y^{**}, W^*, Z) \subseteq X^*$  and  $f^{s*****}(X^{**}, W^*, Y^{**}) \subseteq Z^*$ . *3.*  $f^{t*****}(W^*, Z^{**}, X^{**}) \subseteq Y^*$ .

*Proof* Suppos  $\{x_{\alpha}\}, \{y_{\beta}\}\$  and  $\{z_{\gamma}\}\$ are nets in *X,Y* and *Z* which converge to  $x^{**} \in X^{**}, y^{**} \in Y^{**}$  and  $z^{**} \in Z^{**}$  in the  $w^*$ *-*topologies, respectively.

(1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2), if *f* is close-to-regular, then  $f^{t****s} = f^{s****t}$ . For every  $x^{**} \in$ *X*<sup>\*\*</sup>, *y*<sup>\*\*</sup> ∈ *Y*<sup>\*\*</sup>, *z* ∈ *Z* and  $w^*$  ∈ *W*<sup>\*</sup> we have

$$
\langle f^{s***t*}(y^{**}, w^*, z), x^{**}\rangle = \langle y^{**}, f^{s***}(z, x^{**}, w^*)\rangle
$$
  
=  $\langle f^{s***t}(x^{**}, y^{**}, z), w^*\rangle = \langle f^{t***+s}(x^{**}, y^{**}, z), w^*\rangle$   
=  $\langle f^{t****}(z, x^{**}, y^{**}), w^*\rangle = \langle f^{t**}(y^{**}, w^*, z), x^{**}\rangle.$ 

Therefore  $f^{s***t*}(y^{**}, w^*, z) = f^{t**}(y^{**}, w^*, z) \in X^*$ , follows that

$$
f^{s***t*}(Y^{**}, W^*, Z) \subseteq X^*.
$$

In the other hand,

$$
\langle f^{s*******}(x^{**},w^*,y^{**}),z^{**}\rangle = \langle w^*, f^{s****}(y^{**},z^{**},x^{**})\rangle = \langle w^*, f^{s****t}(x^{**},y^{**},z^{**})\rangle = \langle w^*, f^{t****s}(x^{**},y^{**},z^{**})\rangle = \langle w^*, f^{t****}(z^{**},x^{**},y^{**})\rangle = \langle z^{**}, f^{t****}(x^{**},y^{**},w^{*})\rangle.
$$

Since the  $f^{t***}(x^{**},y^{**},w^*) \in z^*$ , thus  $f^{s*****}(X^{**},W^*,Y^{**}) \subseteq Z^*$ , as claimed.

 $(2) \Rightarrow (3)$ , if  $(2)$  holds then

$$
\langle f^{t*****}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**}), y^{**} \rangle = \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\alpha} \lim_{\beta} \langle f(x_{\alpha}, y_{\beta}, z_{\gamma}), w^* \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\alpha} \langle w^*, f^s(y_{\beta}, z_{\gamma}, x_{\alpha}) \rangle = \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\alpha} \langle f^{s****}(z_{\gamma}, x_{\alpha}, w^*), y_{\beta} \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\alpha} \langle y^{**}, f^{s****}(w^*, z_{\gamma}, x_{\alpha}) \rangle = \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\alpha} \langle f^{s*****}(y^{**}, w^*, z_{\gamma}), x_{\alpha} \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \lim_{\gamma} \langle f^{s*****}(y^{**}, w^*, z_{\gamma}), x^{**} \rangle = \lim_{\gamma} \langle y^{**}, f^{s****}(w^*, z_{\gamma}, x^{**}) \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \lim_{\gamma} \langle y^{**}, f^{s***}(z_{\gamma}, x^{**}, w^*) \rangle = \lim_{\gamma} \langle f^{s******}(x^{**}, w^*, y^{**}), z_{\gamma} \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \langle f^{s*****}(x^{**}, w^*, y^{**}), z^{**} \rangle = \langle f^{s****}(z^{**}, x^{**}, w^*), y^{**} \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \langle f^{s****}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**}), y^{**} \rangle.
$$

Since  $f^{s***t}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**}) \in Y^*$ , thus (3) holds.  $(3)$   $\Rightarrow$   $(1)$ , let  $f^{t*****}(W^*, Z^{**}, X^{**}) \subseteq Y^*$ . Then for every  $w^* \in W^*$  we

have,

$$
\langle f^{s****t}(x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}), w^* \rangle = \lim_{\beta} \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\alpha} \langle f(x_{\alpha}, y_{\beta}, z_{\gamma}), w^* \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \lim_{\beta} \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\alpha} \langle w^*, f^t(z_{\gamma}, x_{\alpha}, y_{\beta}) = \lim_{\beta} \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\alpha} \langle f^{t*}(w^*, z_{\gamma}, x_{\alpha}), y_{\beta} \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \lim_{\beta} \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\alpha} \langle f^{t**}(y_{\beta}, w^*, z_{\gamma}), x_{\alpha} \rangle = \lim_{\beta} \lim_{\gamma} \langle x^{**}, f^{t**}(y_{\beta}, w^*, z_{\gamma}) \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \lim_{\beta} \lim_{\gamma} \langle f^{t***}(x^{**}, y_{\beta}, w^*), z_{\gamma} \rangle = \lim_{\beta} \langle z^{**}, f^{t***}(x^{**}, y_{\beta}, w^*) \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \lim_{\beta} \langle f^{t****}(z^{**}, x^{**}, y_{\beta}), w^* \rangle = \lim_{\beta} \langle f^{t****}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**}), y_{\beta} \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \langle f^{t****}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**}), y^{**} \rangle = \langle f^{t****s}(x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}), w^* \rangle.
$$

It follows that *f* is close-to-regular and this completes the proof.

As an immediate consequence of Theorem 1, we deduce the next result.

**Corollary 1** *Let*  $f : X \times Y \times Z \longrightarrow W$  *be a bounded tri-linear mapping.* 

- *1. If Y is reflexive, then f is close-to-regular.*
- *2. If X and Z are reflexive, then f is close-to-regular.*

*Example 1* Let *G* be a compact group. Then  $L^p(G)$  for  $p > 1$  is a reflexive Banach algebra. So the bounded tri-linear mapping

$$
f: L^p(G) \times L^p(G) \times L^p(G) \longrightarrow L^p(G)
$$

defined by  $f(k, g, h) = k * g * h$  is close-to-regular, where  $(k * g)(x) = \int_G k(y)g(y^{-1}x)dy$ for every  $k, g$  and  $h \in L^p(G)$ , see [8].

**Theorem 2** *Let*  $f : X \times Y \times Z \longrightarrow W$  *be a bounded tri-linear map. Then,* 

- 1.  $f^r$  is close-to-regular if and only if  $f^{i****i} = f^{j****j}$ .
- 2.  $f^i$  is close-to-regular if and only if  $f^{j****j} = f^{r****r}$ .
- *3.*  $f^j$  is close-to-regular if and only if  $f^{i****i} = f^{r****r}$ .
- 4.  $f^t$  is close-to-regular if and only if  $f^{s****t} = f^{****}$ .
- 5.  $f^s$  is close-to-regular if and only if  $f^{t****s} = f^{****}$ .

*Proof* We prove only (1), the other parts have the same argument. Let  $x^{**}$  ∈  $X^{**}, y^{**} \in Y^{**}, z^{**} \in Z^{**}$  and  $w^* \in W^*$  and let  $\{x_{\alpha}\}, \{y_{\beta}\}\$  and  $\{z_{\gamma}\}\$  be nets in *X*, *Y* and *Z* which converge to  $x^{**}$ ,  $y^{**}$  and  $z^{**}$  in the  $w^*$ -topologies, respectively. Then we have

$$
\langle f^{i***+i}(x^{**},y^{**},z^{**}),w^*\rangle = \lim_{\beta} \lim_{\alpha} \lim_{\gamma} \langle f(x_{\alpha},y_{\beta},z_{\gamma}),w^*\rangle
$$
  

$$
= \lim_{\beta} \lim_{\alpha} \langle f^{(0)}(z_{\gamma},y_{\beta},x_{\alpha}),w^*\rangle
$$
  

$$
= \langle f^{rs***+t}(z^{**},y^{**},x^{**}),w^*\rangle.
$$

Therefore  $f^{i****} = f^{rs****t}$ . In the other hand

$$
\langle f^{j***+j}(x^{**},y^{**},z^{**}),w^*\rangle = \lim_{\alpha} \lim_{\gamma} \lim_{\beta} \langle f(x_{\alpha},y_{\beta},z_{\gamma}),w^*\rangle
$$
  

$$
= \lim_{\alpha} \lim_{\beta} \langle f^{r}(z_{\gamma},y_{\beta},x_{\alpha}),w^*\rangle
$$
  

$$
= \langle f^{rt***+s}(z^{**},y^{**},x^{**}),w^*\rangle.
$$

Thus  $f^{j***j} = f^{rt****s}$  and this completes the proof.

Another proof: Since the  $f^{rt} = f^j = f^{sr}$  and  $f^{rs} = f^i = f^{tr}$ , thus  $f^r$  is close-to-regular if and only if

$$
f^{rt****s}=f^{rs****t}\Leftrightarrow f^{rt****sr}=f^{rs****tr}\Leftrightarrow f^{j****j}=f^{i****i}.
$$

As immediate consequences of Theorem 2, we have the next corollaries.

**Corollary 2** If *f* is Aron-Berner regular, then  $f^i$ ,  $f^j$ ,  $f^r$ ,  $f^t$  and  $f^s$  are close*to-regular.*

**Corollary 3** *If f <sup>s</sup> and f <sup>t</sup> are close-to-regular, then f is close-to-regular.*

**Theorem 3** *Let*  $f: X \times Y \times Z \longrightarrow W$  *and*  $g: X \times S \times Z \longrightarrow W$  *be bounded tri-linear mappings and let*  $h: Y \longrightarrow S$  *be a bounded linear mapping such that*  $f(x, y, z) = g(x, h(y), z)$ *, for every*  $x \in X, y \in Y$  *and*  $z \in Z$ *. If h is weakly compact, then f is close-to-regular.*

*Proof* Suppos  $\{x_{\alpha}\}, \{y_{\beta}\}$  and  $\{z_{\gamma}\}\$ are nets in *X,Y* and *Z* which converge to  $x^{**} \in X^{**}, y^{**} \in Y^{**}$  and  $z^{**} \in Z^{**}$  in the  $w^*$ -topologies, respectively. Then a direct verification reveals that

$$
f^{t****s}(x^{**},y^{**},z^{**}) = g^{t****s}(x^{**},h^{**}(y^{**}),z^{**}).
$$

Then for each  $y^{**} \in Y^{**}$  we have

$$
\langle f^{t*****}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**}), y^{**} \rangle = \langle w^*, f^{t*****}(z^{**}, x^{**}, y^{**}) \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \langle w^*, f^{t*****}(x^{**}, y^{**}, z^{**}) \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \langle w^*, g^{t*****}(x^{**}, h^{**}(y^{**}), z^{**}) \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \langle w^*, g^{t*****}(z^{**}, x^{**}, h^{**}(y^{**})) \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \langle g^{t****}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**}), h^{**}(y^{**}) \rangle
$$
  
\n
$$
= \langle h^{***}(g^{t*****}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**})), y^{**} \rangle.
$$

Therefore  $f^{t*****}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**}) = h^{***}(g^{t*****}(w^*, z^{**}, x^{**}))$ . The weak compactness of *h* implies that of *h*<sup>\*</sup>, from which we have  $h^{***}(S^{***}) \subseteq Y^*$ . In particular,

$$
h^{***}(g^{t*****}(W^*,Z^{**},X^{**})) \subseteq Y^*,
$$

thus we deduce  $f^{t****}(W^*, Z^{**}, X^{**}) \subseteq Y^*$ . It follows that *f* is close-toregular and this completes the proof.

If *Y* or *S* is reflexive, then every bounded linear mapping  $h: Y \longrightarrow S$  is weakly compact. Thus we give the next result.

**Corollary 4** *Let*  $f: X \times Y \times Z \longrightarrow W$  *and*  $g: X \times S \times Z \longrightarrow W$  *be bounded tri-linear mappings and let*  $h: Y \longrightarrow S$  *be a bounded linear mapping such that*  $f(x, y, z) = g(x, h(y), z)$ *, for every*  $x \in X, y \in Y$  *and*  $z \in Z$ *. If S is reflexive, then f is close-to-regular.*

**Theorem 4** *Let*  $f: X \times Y \times Z \longrightarrow W$  *be bounded tri-linear mapping. If*  $f^{****t***} = f^{t***s***}$  and  $f^{****s**} = f^{s***t***}$ . Then f is close-to-regular

*Proof* Using the equality  $f^{******} = f^{*******}$ , a standard argument applies to show that  $f^{****} = f^{s****t}$ . In the other hand, the equality  $f^{******} = f^{t******}$ impleas that  $f^{***} = f^{t****s}$ . Therefore  $f^{s****t} = f^{t****s}$ , as claimed.

Note that for theorem 4 the converse is not true.

# **3 Conclusion**

In this manuscript, the authors investigated Aron-Berner regularity and closeto-regularity of bounded tri-linear maps. In Section 2 some necessary and sufficient conditions on tri-linear maps which guarantee their close-to- regularity are provided.

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