

# Slices in the Unit Ball of the Symmetric Tensor Product of a Banach Space

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We prove that every infinite-dimensional  $C^*$ -algebra  $X$  satisfies that every slice of the unit ball of  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\pi} X$  ( $N$ -fold projective symmetric tensor product of  $X$ ) has diameter two. We deduce that every infinite-dimensional Banach space  $X$  whose dual is an  $L_1$ -space satisfies the same result. As a consequence, if  $X$  is either a  $C^*$ -algebra or either a predual of an  $L_1$ -space, then the space of all  $N$ -homogeneous polynomials on  $X$ ,  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$ , is extremely rough, whenever  $X$  is infinite-dimensional. If  $Y$  is a predual of a von Neumann algebra, then  $Y$  is infinite-dimensional if, and only if, every  $w^*$ -slice of the unit ball of  $\mathcal{P}_I^N(Y)$  (the space of integral  $N$ -homogeneous polynomials on  $Y$ ) has diameter two. As a consequence, under the previous assumptions, the  $N$ -fold symmetric injective tensor product of  $Y$  is extremely rough. Indeed, this isometric condition characterizes infinite-dimensional spaces in the class of preduals of von Neumann algebras.

*Keywords:* Banach spaces, slice, homogeneous polynomial, integral polynomial, symmetric projective tensor product, symmetric injective tensor product,  $C^*$ -algebra

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## 1. Introduction

Since many of the classical Banach spaces do not satisfy the Radon-Nikodým property, the characterization of such property in terms of slices gives us that some bounded, closed and convex set in such a Banach space do not have arbitrarily small slices. Schachermayer, Sersouri and Werner [31] introduced a modulus of non-dentability. For a (non empty) bounded, closed and convex subset  $C$  of a Banach space, its modulus of non-dentability, denoted by  $\delta_1(C)$ , is given by  $\delta_1(C) := \inf\{\text{diam } S : S \text{ is a slice of } C\}$ . A well-known characterization states that a Banach space  $X$  sat-

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ifies the Radon-Nikodým property if, and only if, every closed, convex and bounded subset  $C$  of  $X$  satisfies that  $\delta_1(C) = 0$ . Schachermayer, Sersouri and Werner proved that for every Banach space  $X$  not satisfying the Radon-Nikodým property and for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a subset  $C$  of  $X$  with  $\text{diam } C = 1$  and  $\delta_1(C) > 1 - \varepsilon$ .

For some classical Banach spaces  $X$  (without the Radon-Nikodým property), it holds that the modulus of non-dentability of the unit ball is two. The above phenomena happens in the following cases:

- $X$  is an infinite-dimensional uniform algebra [25].
- $X$  is a space satisfying the Daugavet property [32].
- $C(K, X)$ , where  $K$  is an infinite Hausdorff and compact topological space and  $X$  is any nontrivial Banach space [7, 26].
- $L_1(\mu, X)$ , when  $\mu$  is an atomless measure and  $X$  is a nontrivial Banach space [7].
- $X$  is any infinite-dimensional  $C^*$ -algebra [9, 8].
- Some  $L$ -embedded and  $M$ -embedded Banach spaces under some additional assumptions [24].
- $\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\pi} C(K)$ , the  $N$ -fold symmetric projective tensor product of  $C(K)$ , in the case that  $K$  is an infinite compact and Hausdorff topological space) [1].
- $\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\pi} L_1(\mu)$ , the  $N$ -fold symmetric projective tensor product of  $L_1(\mu)$ , if  $\mu$  is a  $\sigma$ -finite and atomless measure [1].
- The interpolation spaces  $L_1(\mathbb{R}^+) + L_\infty(\mathbb{R}^+)$  (endowed with two natural norms) and  $L_1(\mathbb{R}^+) \cap L_\infty(\mathbb{R}^+)$  (endowed with the maximum norm) [2].

In this paper we obtain new results along the same line for the  $N$ -fold symmetric projective and injective tensor product of certain Banach spaces with a good algebraic structure. Let us point out that there are just a few results on isometric properties of the symmetric tensor product of Banach spaces (see [29], [10], [4], [19] and [1]). Let us also notice that for a finite-dimensional normed space, the modulus of non-dentability of the unit ball is zero.

Now we will list the results that we obtained in this paper. In the first section we give a quantitative version of Smulyan test of Fréchet differentiability for  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$ , by recalling the modulus of roughness of an element of a Banach space. As a consequence, we give a criteria in terms of  $X$  for a polynomial  $P \in \mathcal{P}^N(X)$  to have a certain modulus of roughness. In Section 3 we will apply this criteria to deduce that for  $X = \mathcal{C}(K)$  ( $K$  infinite) the modulus of roughness of every polynomial is 2 and so,  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  has no points of Fréchet differentiability. Indeed, the same result is true for every infinite predual of an  $L_1$ -space. Let us recall that Boyd and Ryan proved that the space  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  is never smooth, for every Banach space  $X$  with dimension greater or equal to 2 and  $N \geq 2$  [10, Proposition 17] (see also [29, Corollary 7]).

By localizing the result for  $\mathcal{C}(K)$ , we will prove in Section 4 that for a  $JB^*$ -triple  $X$ , if  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  is not extremely rough, then  $X$  is isomorphic (as a Banach space) to a Hilbert space (Theorem 4.2). As a consequence, for every infinite dimensional  $C^*$ -algebra  $X$ , the modulus of roughness of every  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial on  $X$  is 2. That is, every slice of the unit ball of  $\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\pi} X$  have diameter two.

The last section of the paper contains results of the same kind for the dual of the symmetric injective tensor product of a Banach space  $X$ ,  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$ . It follows from known results that for every normalized element  $x$  in  $X$ , if the norm of  $X$  is Fréchet differentiable at  $x$ , then the symmetric injective tensor norm of  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  is Fréchet differentiable at  $x \otimes \dots \otimes x$  (see [10, Theorem 11] and [13, Corollary I.1.5]). Hence, for every space  $X$  isomorphic to a Hilbert space, the unit sphere of  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  has points of Fréchet differentiability of the norm.

In this section we provide a class of Banach spaces for which the converse holds true (Corollary 5.2). As a consequence, if  $X$  is a Banach space whose dual is an infinite-dimensional von Neumann algebra, and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , the space  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  is extremely rough. That is, every  $w^*$ -slice of the space of the integral  $N$ -homogeneous polynomials on  $X$ , endowed with the usual norm has diameter two. Indeed, this isometric condition characterizes the infinite-dimensional spaces belonging to this class.

We notice that for Banach spaces such that every slice of the unit ball has diameter two, there are not weak-norm points of continuity (of the identity mapping) on the unit ball.

## 2. Notation and general results

Throughout the paper,  $X$  will be a Banach space over the scalar field  $\mathbb{K}$  ( $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ ) and  $X^*$  will be its topological dual. We will denote by  $S_X$  and  $B_X$  the unit sphere and the closed unit ball of  $X$ , respectively.

For a Banach space  $X$  and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , we will consider the *symmetric projective  $N$ -tensor product*  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\pi} X := X \widehat{\otimes}_{\pi,s} \dots \widehat{\otimes}_{\pi,s} X$ . This space is the completion of the linear space generated by  $\{x \otimes \dots \otimes x : x \in X\}$  under the norm given by

$$\|z\| = \inf \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m |\lambda_i| : z = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i x_i \otimes \dots \otimes x_i, m \in \mathbb{N}, \lambda_i \in \mathbb{K}, x_i \in S_X, \forall 1 \leq i \leq m \right\}.$$

Its topological dual can be identified with the space of all  $N$ -homogeneous (and bounded) polynomials on  $X$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$ . Every polynomial  $P \in \mathcal{P}^N(X)$  acts as a linear functional  $\hat{P}$  on the  $N$ -fold symmetric tensor product and the identification is given by  $P(x) = \hat{P}(x \otimes \dots \otimes x)$  for every element  $x \in X$ .

The dual norm of the symmetric projective tensor product on  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  is the usual *polynomial norm*, given by

$$\|P\| = \sup\{|P(x)| : x \in X, \|x\| \leq 1\} \quad (P \in \mathcal{P}^N(X)).$$

For a Banach space  $X$ , given an element  $u \in S_X$ , we recall that the *modulus of roughness* at  $u$  is given by

$$\eta(X, u) := \inf_{\delta > 0} \left\{ \sup \left\{ \frac{\|u + h\| + \|u - h\| - 2}{\|h\|} : h \in X, \|h\| \leq \delta \right\} \right\}.$$

Let us notice that  $0 \leq \eta(X, u) \leq 2$ . The norm of  $X$  is Fréchet differentiable at  $u$  if, and only if,  $\eta(X, u) = 0$  (see [13, Lemma I.1.3]). We say that  $X$  is *extremely rough* whenever  $\eta(X, u) = 2$  for every  $u \in S_X$  ([13, Section I.1]).

Also, for an element  $x^* \in X^*$ , a slice of a (nonempty) bounded subset  $A \subset X$  is given by

$$S(A, x^*, \alpha) := \{x \in A : \operatorname{Re} x^*(x) > \sup_{a \in A} \operatorname{Re} x^*(a) - \alpha\},$$

where  $0 < \alpha < \sup \operatorname{Re} x^*(A)$ . If  $X = Y^*$  for some Banach space  $Y$ ,  $A \subset Y^*$  and  $y \in Y$ , then we will say that the slice

$$S(A, y, \alpha) := \{z^* \in A : \operatorname{Re} z^*(y) > \sup_{y^* \in A} \operatorname{Re} y^*(y) - \alpha\},$$

is a  $w^*$ -slice of  $A$ .

The next result is a local quantitative version of the result due to Smulyan stating that the norm of the dual space is Fréchet differentiable at a point  $x^*$  if, and only if,  $x^*$  strongly exposes the unit ball of  $X$ . We recall that an element  $x^* \in S_{X^*}$  strongly exposes  $B_X$  if any sequence  $(x_n)$  in  $B_X$  satisfying  $(x^*(x_n)) \rightarrow 1$  converges in the norm topology.

**Lemma 2.1** ([13, Proposition I.1.11]). *Let  $x \in S_X$  and  $x^* \in S_{X^*}$ , then it is satisfied*

$$\eta(X^*, x^*) = \inf\{\operatorname{diam} S(B_X, x^*, \alpha) : 0 < \alpha < 1\},$$

and

$$\eta(X, x) = \inf\{\operatorname{diam} S(B_{X^*}, x, \alpha) : 0 < \alpha < 1\}.$$

We will check that the modulus of roughness can be computed by using slices of a set whose convex hull is dense in the unit ball.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Assume that  $B_X = \overline{\operatorname{co}(A)}$ , for some set  $A \subset X$  and let  $x^* \in S_{X^*}$ . Then*

$$\inf_{\alpha > 0} \operatorname{diam} S(B_X, x^*, \alpha) = \inf_{\alpha > 0} \operatorname{diam} S(A, x^*, \alpha).$$

**Proof.** We can clearly assume that  $X$  is a real Banach space. Of course, it holds

$$\operatorname{diam} S(B_X, x^*, \alpha) \geq \operatorname{diam} S(A, x^*, \alpha)$$

and so it is satisfied

$$\inf_{\alpha > 0} \operatorname{diam} S(B_X, x^*, \alpha) \geq \inf_{\alpha > 0} \operatorname{diam} S(A, x^*, \alpha).$$

For the reversed inequality, let us notice that for every  $0 < \varepsilon < \frac{1}{2}$  and each  $x \in S(B_X, x^*, \varepsilon^2)$ , since the closed convex hull of  $A$  is dense in the unit ball, we know that there is a convex combination  $\sum_{i=1}^n t_i a_i$  of elements  $\{a_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  in  $A$  satisfying

$$\left\| x - \sum_{i=1}^n t_i a_i \right\| < \varepsilon^2,$$

and so

$$1 - \varepsilon^2 \leq x^*(x) \leq \varepsilon^2 + x^* \left( \sum_{i=1}^n t_i a_i \right)$$

Let denote by  $P := \{i : x^*(a_i) \leq 1 - \varepsilon\}$ . Hence we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \varepsilon^2 &\leq \varepsilon^2 + \sum_{i \in P} t_i (1 - \varepsilon) + \sum_{i \notin P} t_i \\ &\leq 1 + \varepsilon^2 - \varepsilon \sum_{i \in P} t_i. \end{aligned}$$

From the last inequality we obtain that

$$\sum_{i \in P} t_i \leq 2\varepsilon.$$

We deduce that

$$\left\| x - \sum_{i \notin P} t_i a_i \right\| \leq \left\| x - \sum_{i=1}^n t_i a_i \right\| + \left\| \sum_{i \in P} t_i a_i \right\| \leq \varepsilon^2 + 2\varepsilon \leq 3\varepsilon.$$

Since  $\sum_{i \notin P} t_i \geq 1 - 2\varepsilon > 0$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{\sum_{i \notin P} t_i} \left\| x - \sum_{i \notin P} t_i a_i \right\| \leq \frac{3\varepsilon}{1 - 2\varepsilon}.$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| x - \frac{1}{\sum_{i \notin P} t_i} \sum_{i \notin P} t_i a_i \right\| &\leq \left\| x - \frac{1}{\sum_{i \notin P} t_i} x \right\| + \frac{1}{\sum_{i \notin P} t_i} \left\| x - \sum_{i \notin P} t_i a_i \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{2\varepsilon}{1 - 2\varepsilon} + \frac{3\varepsilon}{1 - 2\varepsilon} \\ &= \frac{5\varepsilon}{1 - 2\varepsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

We showed that, given  $x \in S(B_X, x^*, \varepsilon^2)$ , there is an element  $y \in \text{co}(S(A, x^*, \varepsilon))$  with  $\|y - x\| \leq \frac{5\varepsilon}{1 - 2\varepsilon}$ .

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \text{diam } S(A, x^*, \varepsilon) &= \text{diam } \text{co}(S(A, x^*, \varepsilon)) \\ &\geq \text{diam } S(B_X, x^*, \varepsilon^2) - \frac{10\varepsilon}{1 - 2\varepsilon} \\ &\geq \inf_{\alpha > 0} \text{diam } S(B_X, x^*, \alpha) - \frac{10\varepsilon}{1 - 2\varepsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the function  $\varepsilon \mapsto \text{diam } S(A, x^*, \varepsilon)$  is increasing, by taking limit when  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we deduce the inequality

$$\inf_{\alpha > 0} \text{diam } S(A, x^*, \alpha) \geq \inf_{\alpha > 0} \text{diam } S(B_X, x^*, \alpha).$$

□

By the definition of the norm on the symmetric projective  $N$ -tensor product of a Banach space  $X$ , the subset  $A$  given by

$$A = \{tx \otimes \dots \otimes x : t \in \{+1, -1\}, x \in S_X\},$$

satisfies that its closed convex hull is dense in the unit ball of  $\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\pi} X$ . By using Lemma 2.1 and Proposition 2.2, we obtain the following quantitative version of [17, Theorem 2.4].

**Proposition 2.3.** *For  $P \in \mathcal{P}^N(X)$  satisfying  $\|P\| = 1$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , the following conditions are equivalent:*

- i)  $\eta(\mathcal{P}^N(X), P) < \varepsilon$*
- ii) For every sequences  $\{x_n\}, \{y_n\}$  in the unit ball of  $X$  with  $\lim_n \{P(x_n)\} = s\|P\|$ ,  $\lim_n \{P(y_n)\} = t\|P\|$ , where  $s, t \in \{+1, -1\}$ , we get that*

$$\limsup \{|sQ(x_n) - tQ(y_n)|\} < \varepsilon$$

*uniformly for  $Q$  in the unit ball of  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$ .*

Let us observe that

$$\sup\{|sQ(x) - tQ(y)| : Q \in \mathcal{P}^N(X), \|Q\| = 1\} = \|s(x \otimes \dots \otimes x) - t(y \otimes \dots \otimes y)\|,$$

and so the second condition says that the diameter of the slices determined by the functional associated to  $P$  on  $\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\pi} X$  is less than  $\varepsilon$ .

In case that we can apply the previous result for every positive number, taking into account that  $\eta(X, x) = 0$  iff  $x$  is a point of Fréchet differentiability of the norm, we obtain the result proved by Ferrera (see [17, Theorem 2.4 and Proposition 2.3] and [10, Theorem 14]).

**Corollary 2.4.** *For  $P \in \mathcal{P}^N(X)$ , it is satisfied that  $P$  is a point of Fréchet differentiability of the norm iff  $P$  determines slices of arbitrarily small diameter iff*

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \{x_n\}, \{y_n\} \subset S_X : \lim \{P(x_n)\} = s\|P\|, \lim \{P(y_n)\} = t\|P\|, \text{ where } s, t \in \{+1, -1\} \\ \Rightarrow \lim \{|sQ(x_n) - tQ(y_n)|\} = 0 \text{ uniformly on } Q \in B_{\mathcal{P}^N(X)}. \end{aligned}$$

In the following result we obtain the largest possible modulus of roughness under certain assumptions that are satisfied by some classical spaces, as we will see later.

**Proposition 2.5.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space and  $P \in S_{\mathcal{P}^N(X)}$  with  $1 = \sup_{x \in B_X} \operatorname{Re} P(x)$ . Assume that for every  $\alpha > 0$  and for every functional  $x^* \in S_{X^*}$  such that*

$$S := (\{x \in B_X : \operatorname{Re} P(x) > 1 - \alpha\} \cap S(B_X, x^*, \alpha)) \neq \emptyset,$$

*then  $\operatorname{diam} S = 2$ . It holds  $\eta(\mathcal{P}^N(X), P) = 2$ .*

**Proof.** For every  $n$ , we denote by

$$S_n(P) := \left\{ x \in B_X : \operatorname{Re} P(x) > 1 - \frac{1}{n} \right\}.$$

If  $u_n \in S_X \cap S_n(P)$  and  $u_n^*$  is a norm one functional satisfying  $u_n^*(u_n) = 1$ , then it is clear that  $u_n \in S_n(P) \cap S(B_X, u_n^*, \frac{1}{n})$ . Because of the assumption, we know that the previous subset has diameter two. Hence, we can find sequences  $\{x_n\}, \{y_n\}$  in  $S_X$  and  $\{v_n^*\}$  in  $S_{X^*}$  satisfying

- i)  $\lim\{\|x_n - y_n\|\} = 2$ .
- ii)  $\lim\{\operatorname{Re} P(x_n)\} = 1 = \lim\{\operatorname{Re} P(y_n)\}$ .
- iii)  $\lim\{u_n^*(x_n)\} = 1 = \lim\{u_n^*(y_n)\}$ .
- iv)  $\lim\{v_n^*(x_n)\} = 1 = -\lim\{v_n^*(y_n)\}$ .

If  $N$  is odd and  $n$  is a natural number, we consider the  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial given by

$$Q_n = (v_n^*)^N,$$

which is clearly an  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial on  $X$ . Because of condition iv) it is satisfied  $\lim\{\|Q_n\|\} = 1$  and also

$$\lim\left\{\frac{Q_n}{\|Q_n\|}(x_n) - \frac{Q_n}{\|Q_n\|}(y_n)\right\} = 2.$$

If  $N$  is even, we consider the polynomial  $Q_n = (v_n^*)^{N-1}u_n^*$ . By iii) and iv),  $\lim\{\|Q_n\|\} = 1$  and we also obtain that

$$\lim\left\{\frac{Q_n}{\|Q_n\|}(x_n) - \frac{Q_n}{\|Q_n\|}(y_n)\right\} = 2.$$

In view of Proposition 2.3, we obtain that  $\eta(\mathcal{P}^N(X), P) = 2$ . □

### 3. Results for $\mathcal{C}(K)$

Finite-dimensional spaces have the Radon-Nikodým property. Hence the unit ball of a finite-dimensional space has slices of arbitrarily small diameter. In this section we will show that the symmetric projective tensor product of an isometric predual of an  $L_1$ -space is far from satisfying the above condition in the infinite-dimensional case. In order to prove such result we will show first a stronger property for  $\mathcal{C}(K)$ . To this purpose we will use the following technical result that follows from the Urysohn Lemma.

**Lemma 3.1** ([1, Lemma 2.1]). *Let  $K$  be a compact and Hausdorff infinite topological space. Then there are two sequences of non-empty open sets  $\{V_n\}$  and  $\{U_n\}$  satisfying that*

$$\overline{V_n} \subset U_n, \quad U_n \cap U_m = \emptyset \quad (n \neq m),$$

*and two sequences of functions  $\{g_n\}$  and  $\{h_n\}$  in  $\mathcal{C}(K)$  satisfying that*

$$\{g_n\} \xrightarrow{w} 0, \quad \{h_n\} \xrightarrow{w} 0,$$

*and also*

$$0 \leq g_n, h_n \leq 1, \quad \operatorname{supp} h_n \subset V_n, \quad \|h_n\|_\infty = 1, \quad \operatorname{supp} g_n \subset U_n, \quad g_n(V_n) = \{1\}.$$

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $K$  be an infinite compact Hausdorff topological space and  $X := \mathcal{C}(K)$  (either real or complex valued) functions. Given an  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial  $P$  on  $X$  with  $\|P\| = 1$ ,  $\alpha > 0$  and  $x^* \in S_{X^*}$  such that*

$$S := (\{x \in B_X : \operatorname{Re} P(x) > 1 - \alpha\} \cap S(B_X, x^*, \alpha)) \neq \emptyset,$$

*we have that  $\operatorname{diam} S = 2$ .*

**Proof.** By assumption, since  $P$  is  $N$ -homogeneous, then there is an element  $f$  in  $S \cap S_X$ . By Lemma 3.1, there are sequences of functions  $\{g_n\}$  and  $\{h_n\}$  in  $\mathcal{C}(K)$  satisfying that

$$\{g_n\} \xrightarrow{w} 0, \quad \{h_n\} \xrightarrow{w} 0$$

and sequences of pairwise disjoint open sets,  $\{V_n\}$  and  $\{U_n\}$ , satisfying

$$0 \leq g_n, h_n \leq 1, \quad \operatorname{supp} h_n \subset V_n, \quad \|h_n\|_\infty = 1, \quad \operatorname{supp} g_n \subset U_n, \quad g_n(V_n) = \{1\}. \quad (1)$$

Since  $\{g_n\}$  and  $\{h_n\}$  converges weakly to zero, then the sequences

$$\{u_n\} = \{f(1 - g_n) + h_n\}, \quad \{v_n\} = \{f(1 - g_n) - h_n\}$$

converges weakly to  $f$ . Also, both sequences are in the unit ball of the space. We check this assertion. If  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t \in K$ , by using conditions (1), then depending on the fact that  $t \in V_n$  or  $t \notin V_n$ , one of the two following cases holds

$$|(f(1 - g_n) \pm h_n)(t)| = |h_n(t)|, \quad |(f(1 - g_n) \pm h_n)(t)| = |f(1 - g_n)(t)|,$$

and so, both sequences  $\{u_n\}$  and  $\{v_n\}$  are in the unit ball of  $\mathcal{C}(K)$ . Finally, by using that the space  $\mathcal{C}(K)$  has the Dunford-Pettis property and, by [28, Theorem 2.1], it has the polynomial Dunford-Pettis property, that is, polynomials on  $\mathcal{C}(K)$  preserve weak convergence of sequences, we obtain that

$$\{P(u_n)\} \rightarrow P(f), \quad \{P(v_n)\} \rightarrow P(f).$$

Hence, for  $n$  large enough, then  $u_n, v_n$  satisfy that

$$u_n, v_n \in \{x \in B_X : \operatorname{Re} P(x) > 1 - \alpha\} \cap S(B_X, x^*, \alpha)$$

Now let us note that

$$\|u_n - v_n\|_\infty = \|2h_n\|_\infty = 2,$$

and so  $\operatorname{diam} S = 2$ . □

In view of Proposition 2.5, we deduce that  $\eta(\mathcal{P}^N(\mathcal{C}(K)), P) = 2$  for every  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial  $P$  on  $\mathcal{C}(K)$ , whenever  $K$  is infinite ([1, Corollary 2.3]).

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $X$  be an infinite-dimensional  $L_1$  predual. Given an  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial  $P$  on  $X$  satisfying  $\|P\| = 1$ , if we assume that  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $x^* \in X^*$  and*

$$S := (\{x \in B_X : \operatorname{Re} P(x) > 1 - \alpha\} \cap S(B_X, x^*, \alpha)) \neq \emptyset,$$

*then  $\operatorname{diam} S = 2$ .*



**Proof.** We can clearly assume that  $X$  is a real Banach space. Since  $S$  is non-empty and  $P$  an  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial, we can choose  $x \in S \cap S_X$ . By [3], every homogeneous polynomial  $P$  on  $X$  can be extended to a polynomial on its bidual. We denote by  $\tilde{P}$  this canonical extension that also satisfies  $\|\tilde{P}\| = 1$ . We consider the set  $S^{**}$  given by

$$S^{**} := \{x^{**} \in B_{X^{**}} : \tilde{P}(x^{**}) > 1 - \alpha\} \cap S(B_{X^{**}}, x^*, \alpha).$$

Since  $x \in S$ , then  $x \in S^{**}$  and so  $S^{**}$  is non empty. Under the assumptions,  $X^{**}$  is isometrically isomorphic to  $\mathcal{C}(K)$  for suitable infinite compact topological space  $K$ . By using Proposition 3.2, given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exist  $x^{**}, y^{**} \in S^{**}$  such that  $\|x^{**} - y^{**}\| > 2 - \varepsilon$ . By [12, Theorem 2], there are nets  $\{x_\alpha\}$  and  $\{y_\alpha\}$  in  $B_X$  satisfying that

$$\{Q(x_\alpha)\} \rightarrow \tilde{Q}(x^{**}), \quad \{Q(y_\alpha)\} \rightarrow \tilde{Q}(y^{**}), \tag{2}$$

for every  $k$ -homogeneous polynomial  $Q$  on  $X$  with  $k \leq N$ . In view of the  $w^*$ -lower semicontinuity of the norm of  $X^{**}$  we have

$$\liminf \|x_\alpha - y_\alpha\| \geq \|x^{**} - y^{**}\|.$$

By condition (2), for  $\alpha$  large enough,  $x_\alpha, y_\alpha$  belongs to  $S^{**}$  and hence in  $S$ . We conclude that

$$\text{diam } S \geq \liminf \|x_\alpha - y_\alpha\| > 2 - \varepsilon,$$

for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  and so  $\text{diam } S = 2$ . □

In view of Proposition 2.5 we deduce the following:

**Corollary 3.4.** *Let  $X$  be an infinite-dimensional  $L_1$  predual and  $P$  be an  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial on  $X$ . Then  $\eta(\mathcal{P}^N(X), P) = 2$ .*

Given a locally compact Hausdorff topological space  $\Omega$ , we denote by  $\mathcal{C}_0(\Omega)$  the Banach space of all scalar (either real or complex) valued continuous functions on  $\Omega$  vanishing at infinity.

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $\Omega$  be an infinite locally compact Hausdorff topological space and  $P$  be any  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial on  $\mathcal{C}_0(\Omega)$ . Then  $\eta(\mathcal{P}^N(\mathcal{C}_0(\Omega)), P) = 2$ .*

#### 4. Results for JB\*-triples

We recall that a *JB\*-triple* [23, 21] is a complex Banach space  $J$  with a continuous triple product  $\{ \} : J \times J \times J \rightarrow J$  which is linear and symmetric in the outer variables, and conjugate-linear in the middle variable, and satisfies:

1. For all  $x$  in  $J$ , the mapping  $y \rightarrow \{xyx\}$  from  $J$  to  $J$  is a hermitian operator on  $J$  and has nonnegative spectrum.
2. The main identity

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

holds for all  $a, b, x, y, z$  in  $J$ .

3.  $\|\{xxx\}\| = \|x\|^3$  for every  $x$  in  $J$ .

$JB^*$ -triples are of capital importance in the study of bounded symmetric domains in complex Banach spaces. Indeed, open balls in  $JB^*$ -triples are bounded symmetric domains, and every symmetric domain in a complex Banach space is biholomorphically equivalent to the open unit ball of a suitable  $JB^*$ -triple (see [22]).

Several classical spaces are  $JB^*$ -triples. For instance, every  $C^*$ -algebra and the space of operators between two complex Hilbert spaces are  $JB^*$ -triples, endowed with their usual norm and the triple product given by

$$\{xyz\} := \frac{1}{2}(xy^*z + zy^*x).$$

As a consequence, a complex Hilbert space (usual norm) belongs to this class. There are more  $JB^*$ -triples isomorphic to Hilbert spaces, the so-called spin factors. These are constructed from an arbitrary complex Hilbert space  $(H, (\cdot|\cdot))$  of dimension  $\geq 3$ , by taking a conjugate-linear involutive isometry  $\sigma$  on  $H$ , and then by defining the triple product and the norm by the formulas

$$\{xyz\} := (x|y)z + (z|y)x - (x|\sigma(z))\sigma(y) \quad (x, y, z \in H)$$

and

$$\|x\|^2 := (x|x) + \sqrt{(x|x)^2 - |(x|\sigma(x))|^2} \quad (x \in H).$$

A *subtriple* of a  $JB^*$ -triple  $J$  is a vector subspace of  $J$  invariant under the triple product. An element  $x \in J$  is called *algebraic* if the subtriple of  $J$  generated by  $x$  is finite-dimensional. In the case that every element in  $J$  is algebraic, then the triple  $J$  is called algebraic.

The following result shows that two properties of very different nature, one algebraic and one isometric, are related.

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $X$  be a complex  $JB^*$ -triple and assume that  $X$  is not algebraic. If for some normalized  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial  $P$  on  $X$ ,  $\alpha > 0$  and  $x^* \in S_{X^*}$  the set*

$$S := (\{x \in B_X : \operatorname{Re} P(x) > 1 - \alpha\} \cap S(B_X, x^*, \alpha))$$

*is non-empty, then  $\operatorname{diam} S = 2$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $S$  has non-empty norm interior in  $X$  and we are assuming that  $X$  is not algebraic,  $S$  contains an element  $x$  that is not algebraic [9, Lemma 2.3]. Denote by  $J_x$  the closed subtriple of  $X$  generated by  $x$ . It is known that there is a unique locally compact subset  $S_x$  of  $]0, \infty[$  and a surjective triple isomorphism  $\phi_x : J_x \rightarrow C_0^{\mathbb{C}}(S_x)$  such that  $S_x \cup \{0\}$  is compact and  $\phi_x(x)$  is the inclusion mapping  $S_x \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  (see [18], [21, 4.8] and [22, 1.15]).

Since surjective triple isomorphisms between  $JB^*$ -triples are isometries (see again [22]), we can identify  $J_x$  and  $C_0^{\mathbb{C}}(S_x)$  as Banach spaces. By using that  $x \in S$ , it is clear that there exists  $\beta > 0$  which the following property

$$\{y \in B_{J_x} : \operatorname{Re} P(y) > \|P|_{J_x}\| - \beta\} \cap S(B_{J_x}, x^*|_{J_x}, \beta) \subseteq S.$$

On the other hand, since  $x$  is not an algebraic element,  $J_x$  is infinite dimensional and by Proposition 3.3, we have

$$\text{diam}(\{y \in B_{J_x} : \text{Re } P(y) > \|P|_{J_x}\| - \beta\} \cap S(B_{J_x}, x^*, \beta)) = 2.$$

We conclude that  $\text{diam } S = 2$ . □

Assume that  $X$  is a Banach space with the Radon-Nikodým property. Then for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a functional  $x^* \in S_{X^*}$  such that some slice  $S(B_X, x^*, \alpha)$  does have diameter less than  $\varepsilon$ . If  $N$  is odd, then  $P := (x^*)^N$  is an  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial on  $X$  such that the diameter of  $\{x \in B_X : \text{Re } P(x) > 1 - \alpha\}$  is less than  $\varepsilon$ . Hence, by using polarization formula we deduce that

$$\text{diam } S\left(B_{\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\pi} X}, P, \frac{\varepsilon}{2\alpha}\right) \leq \left(1 + \frac{N^{N+1}}{N!}\right) \varepsilon$$

and so  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  is not extremely rough. As we mentioned before, there are  $JB^*$ -triples with the Radon-Nikodým property (indeed isomorphic to Hilbert spaces as Banach spaces) and so  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  is not extremely rough in these cases. We will show that this is the only exception in this class.

**Theorem 4.2.** *Let  $X$  be a complex  $JB^*$ -triple and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . The following assertions are equivalent:*

- i)  $X$  is isomorphic (as a Banach space) to a Hilbert space.*
- ii) The norm of  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  has some points of Fréchet differentiability.*
- iii)  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  is not extremely rough.*
- iv) There exists a slice of the unit ball of  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\pi} X$  with diameter less than 2.*

**Proof.** *i)  $\Rightarrow$  ii)* A Hilbert space has the Radon-Nikodým property. Hence, by the result of J. Ferrera [17, Theorems 2.4 and 2.6], the points of Fréchet differentiability of the norm in  $S_{\mathcal{P}^N(X)}$  is dense.

*ii)  $\Rightarrow$  iii)* Trivial (for any Banach space).

*iii)  $\Rightarrow$  iv)* It suffices to use Lemma 2.1.

*iv)  $\Rightarrow$  i)* By the assumption and Lemma 2.1, there is a normalized  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial  $P$  on  $X$  with  $\eta(\mathcal{P}^N(X), P) < 2$ . Then by Proposition 2.5, there is  $\alpha, x^* \in S_{X^*}$  with

$$0 < \text{diam}(\{x \in B_X : \text{Re } P(x) > \|P\| - \alpha\} \cap S(B_X, x^*, \alpha)) < 2.$$

By applying the previous result and [9, Lemma 2.3], then  $X$  is algebraic. Now, since  $S_x$  is finite for every  $x$  in  $X$ , the result follows easily from the proof of [11, Proposition 4.5]. □

Since  $C^*$ -algebras are finite-dimensional spaces whenever they are reflexive [30, Proposition 2], and  $C^*$ -algebras are always  $JB^*$ -triples, we deduce:

**Corollary 4.3.** *Let  $X$  be a  $C^*$ -algebra and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . The following assertions are equivalent:*

- i)  $X$  is finite-dimensional.*
- ii) The norm of  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  is Fréchet differentiable at some point.*
- iii) There exists a slice of the unit ball of  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\pi} X$  with diameter less than 2.*

By applying the same argument in the proof of Proposition 3.3, we deduce:

**Corollary 4.4.** *Let  $X$  be a infinite-dimensional complex Banach space such that  $X^{**}$  is a  $C^*$ -algebra and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  is extremely rough.*

The analogous result of Corollary 4.3 for preduals of  $C^*$ -algebras cannot be expected. Indeed there are infinite-dimensional spaces  $X$  with the Radon-Nikodým property whose dual are  $C^*$ -algebras (for instance  $\ell_1$ ). For these spaces  $\mathcal{P}^N(X)$  does have points of Fréchet differentiability in view of [17, Theorems 2.4 and 2.6].

## 5. Big slices in the unit ball of spaces of integral polynomials

An  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial  $P$  is said to be *integral* [16] if there is a regular Borel measure  $\mu$  on  $(B_{X^*}, \sigma(X^*, X))$  such that

$$P(x) = \int_{B_{X^*}} (x^*(x))^N d\mu(x^*), \quad \forall x \in X. \quad (3)$$

We will denote by  $\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)$  the space of all  $N$ -homogeneous integral polynomials on  $X$ . Let us recall that *the integral norm* of an integral polynomial  $P$ ,  $\|P\|_I$ , is the infimum of  $\|\mu\|$  taken over all regular Borel measures satisfying (3). With the integral norm  $\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)$  becomes a Banach space. It is satisfied that  $\|P\| \leq \|P\|_I$  for every integral polynomial  $P$  and so  $\mathcal{P}_I^N(X) \subseteq \mathcal{P}^N(X)$ . If  $x^* \in X^*$ , it is immediate that  $(x^*)^N$  is an integral  $N$ -homogeneous polynomial (represented by the measure  $\delta_{x^*}$ ) and  $\|(x^*)^N\|_I = \|(x^*)^N\|$ .

Given an element  $\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i x_i \otimes x_i \otimes \dots \otimes x_i$  in  $\otimes_{N,s} X$ , the *symmetric injective tensor norm* is given by

$$\sup_{x^* \in B_{X^*}} \left| \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i (x^*(x_i))^N \right|.$$

This norm in the symmetric tensor product of  $X$  is inherited from  $\mathcal{P}^N(X^*)$ . The completion of  $\otimes_{N,s} X$  with respect to the above norm will be denoted by  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$ . Its dual is isometrically isomorphic to  $(\mathcal{P}_I^N(X), \|\cdot\|_I)$  ([14]).

A complex  $JBW^*$ -triple is a complex  $JB^*$ -triple having a (complete) predual. We note that the predual of a  $JBW^*$ -triple is unique [6]. The bidual  $X^{**}$  of every  $JB^*$ -triple  $X$  is a  $JBW^*$ -triple under suitable triple product which extends the one of  $X$  [15].

It is known that for every reflexive space  $X$ ,  $S_X$  contains points of Fréchet-differentiability of the norm [5]. We will exhibit a class of spaces for which this phenomenon can happen only for reflexive spaces (on the injective symmetric tensor product).

**Theorem 5.1.** *Let  $X$  be the predual of a non reflexive  $JBW^*$ -triple and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  is extremely rough.*

**Proof.** By Lemma 2.1,  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  is extremely rough if the diameter of  $S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha)$  is two for every  $z \in S_{\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X}$  and every  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .

Let us fix an element  $z$  in  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  and  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . Since  $\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)$  is a dual Banach space it follows from the Krein-Milman Theorem that  $S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha)$  contains an extreme point of  $B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}$ . In view of [10, Proposition 1], there exists  $y^* \in S_{X^*}$  such that  $(y^*)^N \in S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha)$ . Since  $S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha)$  has nonempty norm interior in  $B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}$ , the above slice contains a ball and so, there exist  $\rho > 0$  such that for every  $x^*$  in  $S_{X^*}$  with  $\|x^* - y^*\| \leq \rho$  we have that  $(x^*)^N \in S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha)$ . Since we are assuming that  $X^*$  is a non reflexive  $JB^*$ -triple, then  $X^*$  is not algebraic (see [8, Theorems 2.3 and 3.8]).

It follows from [9, Lemma 2.3], that there exists a non algebraic element  $x^*$  in  $S_{X^*} \cap (y^* + \rho B_{X^*})$ . Hence we can assume without lost of generality that  $y^*$  is not algebraic and  $(y^*)^N \in S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha)$ . Denote by  $J_{y^*}$  the  $w^*$ -closed subtriple of  $X^*$  generated by  $y^*$ . It is known that there is a compact Hausdorff topological space  $K$  such that  $J_{y^*}$  is linearly isometric to  $C^{\mathbb{C}}(K)$  (see [20]). Since  $y^*$  is not algebraic, so  $J_{y^*}$  is infinite dimensional.

By Lemma 3.1, there are sequences of continuous functions  $\{g_n\}$  and  $\{h_n\}$  on  $K$  satisfying that

$$\{g_n\} \xrightarrow{w} 0, \quad \{h_n\} \xrightarrow{w} 0$$

and sequences of disjoint open sets,  $\{V_n\}$  and  $\{U_n\}$ , satisfying

$$0 \leq g_n, h_n \leq 1, \quad \text{supp } h_n \subset V_n, \quad \|h_n\|_{\infty} = 1, \quad \text{supp } g_n \subset U_n, \quad g_n(V_n) = \{1\}. \quad (4)$$

In view of (4) then for every  $f \in B_{C^{\mathbb{C}}(K)}$ ,  $f(1 - g_n) \pm h_n \in B_{C^{\mathbb{C}}(K)}$  and the sequences  $\{f(1 - g_n) \pm h_n\}$  converges weakly to  $f$ .

Let  $T : C^{\mathbb{C}}(K) \longrightarrow J_{y^*}$  be a linear isometry from  $C^{\mathbb{C}}(K)$  onto  $J_{y^*}$ . Then the sequences

$$\{u_n^*\} = \{T(T^{-1}(y^*)(1 - g_n) + h_n)\}, \quad \{v_n^*\} = \{T(T^{-1}(y^*)(1 - g_n) - h_n)\}$$

are in the unit ball of  $J_{y^*} \subset X^*$  and converges weakly to  $y^*$ . Therefore,  $\{u_n^*\}$  and  $\{v_n^*\}$  also converges weakly to  $y^*$  in  $X^*$ . As a consequence,  $\{(u_n^*)^N\}$  and  $\{(v_n^*)^N\}$  converge to  $(y^*)^N$  in the weak- $*$  topology of  $\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)$ . Since  $(y^*)^N \in S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha)$  and  $S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha)$  is a weak- $*$  open set in  $B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}$ , then for  $n$  large enough, we have that  $(u_n^*)^N$  and  $(v_n^*)^N$  belong to  $S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha)$ .

From now on, let us fix  $n$  large enough such that the previous conditions hold. By using (4)  $\|u_n^* - v_n^*\| = 2\|T(h_n)\| = 2\|h_n\|_{\infty} = 2$ . Then there is a sequence  $\{x_m\}$  in  $S_X$  such that  $\{u_n^*(x_m)\}_m \rightarrow 1$  and  $\{v_n^*(x_m)\}_m \rightarrow -1$ . For each  $m$ , the element  $x_m \otimes \dots \otimes x_m$  belongs to  $B_{\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X}$  and we have:

1. If  $N$  is odd, then  $\|(u_n^*)^N - (v_n^*)^N\|_I \geq |(u_n^*(x_m))^N - (v_n^*(x_m))^N|$ , for every  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and so, by taking  $m \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\|(u_n^*)^N - (v_n^*)^N\|_I \geq 2$ .
2. For the argument in case that  $N$  is even we will use the following remark. Given  $w := x_1 \otimes \dots \otimes x_N$  in  $\widehat{\bigotimes}_N X$ , we recall that the element  $w_s := \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\sigma \in \Pi_N} x_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes x_{\sigma(N)}$  belongs to  $\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  ( $\Pi_N$  is the set of all permutations on  $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ ). It is immediate that  $w_s \in B_{\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X}$  if the elements  $x_i \in B_X$  for every  $1 \leq i \leq N$ .

We know that  $y^* \in S_{X^*}$ , so for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let  $y \in S_X$  be such that  $y^*(y) = \operatorname{Re} y^*(y) > 1 - \varepsilon$ . Since  $\{u_n^*\}$  and  $\{v_n^*\}$  converges weakly to  $y^*$ , then for  $n$  large enough it holds

$$\operatorname{Re} u_n^*(y) > 1 - \varepsilon, \quad \operatorname{Re} v_n^*(y) > 1 - \varepsilon.$$

By using the fact that  $N$  is even and the above remark we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \|(u_n^*)^N - (v_n^*)^N\|_I &\geq |((u_n^*)^N - (v_n^*)^N)(x_m \otimes \dots \otimes x_m \otimes y)_s| \\ &\geq |(u_n^*(x_m))^{N-1} u_n^*(y) - (v_n^*(x_m))^{N-1} v_n^*(y)| \end{aligned}$$

for every  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . By taking limit ( $m \rightarrow \infty$ ) we deduce that

$$\|(u_n^*)^N - (v_n^*)^N\|_I \geq |u_n^*(y) + v_n^*(y)| \geq \operatorname{Re} u_n^*(y) + \operatorname{Re} v_n^*(y) > 2 - \varepsilon.$$

In any case, by the choice of  $n$ , we have  $\operatorname{diam} S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha) \geq 2$  and so  $\operatorname{diam} S(B_{\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)}, z, \alpha) = 2$ , as we wanted to show.  $\square$

From the previous theorem and some known results, we will establish the following characterization:

**Corollary 5.2.** *Let  $X$  be the predual of a  $JBW^*$ -triple and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- i)  $X$  is isomorphic (as a Banach space) to a Hilbert space.*
- ii) The norm of  $\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  is Fréchet differentiable at some element.*
- iii) There exists a  $w^*$ -slice of the unit ball of  $\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)$  with diameter less than 2.*
- iv)  $\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  is not extremely rough*

**Proof.** *i)  $\Rightarrow$  ii)* Since  $X$  is a reflexive space, then the unit sphere of  $X$  contains at least one point  $x$  of Fréchet differentiability. Hence  $x$  determines slices of  $B_{X^*}$  with diameter arbitrarily small in view of Lemma 2.1. By [10, Proposition 1] and the argument used in Proposition 2.2, then  $x \otimes \dots \otimes x$  determines  $w^*$ -slices of the unit ball of its dual  $\mathcal{P}_I^N(X)$  with diameter arbitrarily small. Then the norm of  $\widehat{\bigotimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  is Fréchet differentiable at some point by using again Lemma 2.1.

*ii)  $\Rightarrow$  iii) and iii)  $\Rightarrow$  iv)* are clear in view of Lemma 2.1.

*iv)  $\Rightarrow$  i)* By Theorem 5.1,  $X$  is reflexive. Then  $X^*$  is a reflexive  $JB^*$ -triple and by [9, Proposition 2.4],  $X$  is isomorphic (as a Banach space) to a Hilbert space.  $\square$

By using again that  $C^*$ -algebras are finite-dimensional spaces whenever they are reflexive [30, Proposition 2], and  $C^*$ -algebras are always  $JB^*$ -triples, we deduce the main result of this section.

**Corollary 5.3.** *Let  $X$  be the predual of a von Neumann algebra and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

1.  $X$  is finite-dimensional.
2. The norm of  $\widehat{\otimes}_{N,s,\varepsilon} X$  is Fréchet differentiable at some element.
3. There exists a  $w^*$ -slice of the unit ball of  $\mathcal{P}_1^N(X)$  with diameter less than 2.

The analogous result of Theorem 5.1 is not true in the class of  $JB^*$ -triples. For instance, if we take  $X = c_0$  and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $\widehat{\otimes}_{2,s,\varepsilon} X$  is an Asplund space by [27, Theorem 1.9].

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