

## Research Article

# Stability of a Bi-Additive Functional Equation in Banach Modules Over a $C^*$ -Algebra

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We solve the bi-additive functional equation  $f(x + y, z - w) + f(x - y, z + w) = 2f(x, z) - 2f(y, w)$  and prove that every biadditive Borel function is bilinear. And we investigate the stability of a biadditive functional equation in Banach modules over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra.

## 1. Introduction

In 1940, Ulam proposed the stability problem (see [1]).

Let  $G_1$  be a group, and let  $G_2$  be a metric group with the metric  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ . Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , does there exist a  $\delta > 0$  such that if a mapping  $h : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  satisfies the inequality  $d(h(xy), h(x)h(y)) < \delta$  for all  $x, y \in G_1$  then there is a homomorphism  $H : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  with  $d(h(x), H(x)) < \varepsilon$  for all  $x \in G_1$ ?

In 1941, this problem was solved by Hyers [2] in the case of Banach space. Thereafter, many authors investigated solutions or stability of various functional equations (see [3–21]).

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be real or complex vector spaces. In 1989, Aczél and Dhombres [22] proved that a mapping  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the quadratic functional equation

$$g(x + y) + g(x - y) = 2g(x) + 2g(y) \quad (1.1)$$

if and only if there exists a symmetric bi-additive mapping  $S : X \times X \rightarrow Y$  such that  $g(x) = S(x, x)$ , where

$$S(x, y) := \frac{1}{4} [g(x + y) - g(x - y)] \quad (1.2)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . For a mapping  $f : X \times X \rightarrow Y$ , consider the bi-additive functional equation:

$$f(x + y, z - w) + f(x - y, z + w) = 2f(x, z) - 2f(y, w). \quad (1.3)$$

For a mapping  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying (1.1), the Aczél's bi-additive mapping  $S : X \times X \rightarrow Y$  given by (1.2) is a solution of (1.3).

In this paper, we find out the general solution of the bi-additive functional equation (1.3) and investigate the linearity of bi-additive Borel functions. And we investigate the stability of (1.3) in Banach modules over a unital  $C^*$ -algebra.

## 2. Solution of the bi-additive Functional Equation (1.3)

The general solution of the bi-additive functional equation (1.3) is as follows.

**Theorem 2.1.** *A mapping  $f : X \times X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies (1.3) if and only if the mapping  $f$  is bi-additive.*

*Proof.* Assume that the mapping  $f$  satisfies (1.3). Letting  $x = y = z = w = 0$  in (1.3), we gain  $f(0, 0) = 0$ . Putting  $w = z$  in (1.3), we get

$$f(x + y, 0) + f(x - y, 2z) = 2f(x, z) - 2f(y, z) \quad (2.1)$$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ . Setting  $y = x$  in (2.1), we have

$$f(x, 0) = -f(0, z) \quad (2.2)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . Taking  $z = 0$  (resp.,  $x = 0$ ) in the above equation, we obtain

$$f(x, 0) = 0 \text{ (resp., } f(0, z) = 0) \quad (2.3)$$

for all  $x \in X$  (resp., for all  $z \in X$ ). Letting  $x = w = 0$  in (1.3) and using (2.3), we gain

$$f(-y, z) = -f(y, z) \quad (2.4)$$

for all  $y, z \in X$ . Putting  $y = 0$  in (2.1) and using (2.3), we get

$$f(x, 2z) = 2f(x, z) \quad (2.5)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . Replacing  $y$  by  $-y$  in (2.1) and using (2.3), (2.4), and (2.5) and the above equation, we see that  $f(x + y, z) = f(x, z) + f(y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$ .

On the other hand, letting  $y = x$  in (1.3) and using (2.3), we gain

$$f(2x, z - w) = 2f(x, z) - 2f(x, w) \quad (2.6)$$

for all  $x, z, w \in X$ . Putting  $y = z = 0$  in (1.3) and using (2.3), we get

$$f(x, -w) = -f(x, w) \quad (2.7)$$

for all  $x, w \in X$ . Setting  $w = 0$  in (2.6) and using (2.3), we have

$$f(2x, z) = 2f(x, z) \quad (2.8)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . Replacing  $w$  by  $-w$  in (2.6) and using (2.7) and (2.8), we obtain that  $f(x, z + w) = f(x, z) + f(x, w)$  for all  $x, z, w \in X$ .

The converse is trivial.  $\square$

The bi-additive functional equation (1.3) is related to the quadratic functional equation (1.1).

If  $f : X \times X \rightarrow Y$  is a mapping satisfying (1.3) and  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  is the mapping given by  $g(x) := f(x, x)$  for all  $x \in X$ , then one can easily obtain that  $g$  satisfies (1.1).

Let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  be a mapping satisfying (1.1). If  $f : X \times X \rightarrow Y$  is the mapping given by  $f(x, y) := (a/4)[g(x + y) - g(x - y)]$  for all  $x, y \in X$ , then one can easily prove that  $f$  satisfies (1.3). Furthermore,  $g(x) = f(x, x)$  holds for all  $x \in X$  if  $a = 1$ .

The following is a result on bi-additive Borel functions.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a bi-additive Borel function; then it is bilinear, that is, it satisfies  $\varphi(s, t) = st\varphi(1, 1)$  for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*Proof.* Since the function  $\varphi$  is bi-additive, we gain

$$\varphi(pu, qv) = pq\varphi(u, v) \quad (2.9)$$

for all  $p, q \in \mathbb{Q}$  and all  $u, v \in \mathbb{R}$ . Letting  $p = v = 1$  in equality (2.9), we get

$$\varphi(u, q) = q\varphi(u, 1) \quad (2.10)$$

for all  $q \in \mathbb{Q}$  and all  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ . Putting  $u = v = 1$  in equality (2.9) again, we have

$$\varphi(p, q) = pq\varphi(1, 1) \quad (2.11)$$

for all  $p, q \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Note that the function  $v \rightarrow \varphi(u, v)$  is measurable for each fixed  $u \in \mathbb{R}$  (see [23, Proposition 2.34]). Since the function  $v \rightarrow \varphi(u, v)$  is additive for each fixed  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ , by [24], it is continuous for each fixed  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ . By the same reasoning, the function  $u \rightarrow \varphi(u, v)$  is also continuous for each fixed  $v \in \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$  be fixed. Since  $\varphi$  is measurable, by [25, Theorem 7.14.26], for every  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  there is a closed set  $F_m \subset [s, s + 1]$  such that  $\mu([s, s + 1] \setminus F_m) < 1/m$  and  $\varphi|_{F_m \times \mathbb{R}}$  is continuous. Since  $\mu(F_m) \rightarrow 1$ , one can choose  $u_m \in F_m$  satisfying  $u_m \rightarrow s$ .

Take a sequence  $\{q_n\}$  in  $\mathbb{Q}$  converging to  $t$ . For each fixed  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , take a sequence  $\{p_n\}$  in  $\mathbb{Q}$  converging to  $u_m$ . By equalities (2.10) and (2.11), we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(u_m, t) &= \psi\left(u_m, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q_n\right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \psi(u_m, q_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} q_n \psi(u_m, 1) = t \psi(u_m, 1) \\ &= t \psi\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_n, 1\right) = t \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \psi(p_n, 1) = t \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_n \psi(1, 1) = t u_m \psi(1, 1)\end{aligned}\quad (2.12)$$

for all  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . Hence we obtain that

$$\psi(s, t) = \psi\left(\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} u_m, t\right) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \psi(u_m, t) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} t u_m \psi(1, 1) = s t \psi(1, 1), \quad (2.13)$$

as desired.  $\square$

### 3. Stability of the bi-additive Functional Equation (1.3)

From now on, let  $X$  be a normed space,  $Y$  a complete normed space, and  $r \neq 2$  a nonnegative real number. In this section, we investigate the stability of the bi-additive functional equation (1.3).

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $f : X \times X \rightarrow Y$  be a mapping such that*

$$\begin{aligned}\|f(x+y, z-w) + f(x-y, z+w) - 2f(x, z) + 2f(y, w)\| \\ \leq \begin{cases} 4\varepsilon, & (r = 0), \\ \varepsilon(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r + \|z\|^r + \|w\|^r), & (0 < r \neq 2) \end{cases}\end{aligned}\quad (3.1)$$

*for all  $x, y, z, w \in X$ . Then there exists a unique bi-additive mapping  $F : X \times X \rightarrow Y$  satisfying (1.3) such that*

$$\|f(x, y) - F(x, y)\| \leq \begin{cases} 2\varepsilon + \|f(0, 0)\|, & (r = 0), \\ \frac{3\varepsilon}{4-2^r}(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r), & (0 < r < 2), \\ \frac{3\varepsilon}{2^r-4}(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r), & (r > 2) \end{cases}\quad (3.2)$$

*for all  $x, y \in X$ . The mapping  $F$  is given by*

$$F(x, y) := \begin{cases} \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j x, 2^j y), & (0 \leq r < 2), \\ \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} 4^j f\left(\frac{x}{2^j}, \frac{y}{2^j}\right), & (r > 2) \end{cases}\quad (3.3)$$

*for all  $x, y \in X$ .*

*Proof.* Consider the case  $r \in (0, 2)$ . Letting  $y = x$  and  $w = -z$  in (3.1), we gain

$$\|f(2x, 2z) + f(0, 0) - 2f(x, z) + 2f(x, -z)\| \leq 2\varepsilon(\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \quad (3.4)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . Putting  $x = z = 0$  in (3.4), we get  $f(0, 0) = 0$ . Putting  $x = z = 0$  in (3.1), we get

$$\|f(y, -w) + f(-y, w) + 2f(y, w)\| \leq \varepsilon(\|y\|^r + \|w\|^r) \quad (3.5)$$

for all  $y, w \in X$ . Replacing  $y$  by  $x$  and  $w$  by  $z$  in the above inequality, we have

$$\|f(x, -z) + f(-x, z) + 2f(x, z)\| \leq \varepsilon(\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \quad (3.6)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . Setting  $y = -x$  and  $w = z$  in (3.1), we obtain

$$\|f(2x, 2z) - 2f(x, z) + 2f(-x, z)\| \leq 2\varepsilon(\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \quad (3.7)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . By (3.4) and (3.6), we gain

$$\|f(2x, 2z) - 4f(x, z) + f(x, -z) - f(-x, z)\| \leq 3\varepsilon(\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \quad (3.8)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . By (3.4) and (3.7), we get

$$\|f(x, -z) - f(-x, z)\| \leq 2\varepsilon(\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \quad (3.9)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . By (3.4), (3.6), and (3.7), we have

$$\|f(2x, 2z) - 4f(x, z)\| \leq 3\varepsilon(\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \quad (3.10)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . Replacing  $x$  by  $2^j x$  and  $z$  by  $2^j z$  and dividing  $4^{j+1}$ , we obtain that

$$\left\| \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j x, 2^j z) - \frac{1}{4^{j+1}} f(2^{j+1} x, 2^{j+1} z) \right\| \leq \frac{3\varepsilon \cdot 2^{rj}}{4^{j+1}} (\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \quad (3.11)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$  and all  $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . For given integers  $l, m$  ( $0 \leq l < m$ ), we obtain that

$$\left\| \frac{1}{4^l} f(2^l x, 2^l z) - \frac{1}{4^m} f(2^m x, 2^m z) \right\| \leq \sum_{j=l}^{m-1} \frac{3\varepsilon \cdot 2^{rj}}{4^{j+1}} (\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \quad (3.12)$$

for all  $x, z \in X$ . By (3.12), the sequence  $\{(1/4^j)f(2^jx, 2^jy)\}$  is a Cauchy sequence for all  $x, y \in X$ . Since  $Y$  is complete, the sequence  $\{(1/4^j)f(2^jx, 2^jy)\}$  converges for all  $x, y \in X$ . Define  $F : X \times X \rightarrow Y$  by  $F(x, y) := \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} (1/4^j)f(2^jx, 2^jy)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ . By (3.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j(x+y), 2^j(z-w)) + \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j(x-y), 2^j(z+w)) - \frac{2}{4^j} f(2^jx, 2^jz) + \frac{2}{4^j} f(2^jy, 2^jw) \right\| \\ & \leq \varepsilon \frac{2^{rj}}{4^j} (\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r + \|z\|^r + \|w\|^r) \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

for all  $x, y, z, w \in X$  and all  $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ . Letting  $j \rightarrow \infty$  in the above inequality, we see that  $F$  satisfies (1.3). Setting  $l = 0$  and taking  $m \rightarrow \infty$  in (3.12), one can obtain inequality (3.2). If  $G : X \times X \rightarrow Y$  is another mapping satisfying (1.3) and (3.2), by Theorem 2.1, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \|F(x, y) - G(x, y)\| &= \frac{1}{4^n} \|F(2^n x, 2^n y) - G(2^n x, 2^n y)\| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{4^n} \|F(2^n x, 2^n y) - f(2^n x, 2^n y)\| + \frac{1}{4^n} \|f(2^n x, 2^n y) - G(2^n x, 2^n y)\| \\ &\leq \frac{6\varepsilon \cdot 2^{n(r-2)}}{4 - 2^r} (\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Hence the mapping  $F$  is the unique bi-additive mapping satisfying (1.3), as desired.

The proof of the case  $r \in \{0\} \cup (2, \infty)$  is similar to that of the case  $r \in (0, 2)$ .  $\square$

From now on, let  $A$  be a unital  $C^*$ -algebra with a norm  $|\cdot|$ , and let  ${}_A\mathcal{M}$  and  ${}_A\mathcal{N}$  be left Banach  $A$ -modules with norms  $\|\cdot\|$  and  $\|\cdot\|$ , respectively. Put  $A_1 := \{a \in A \mid |a| = 1\}$ .

A bi-additive mapping  $F : {}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M} \rightarrow {}_A\mathcal{N}$  satisfying (1.3) is called  $A$ -quadratic if  $F(ax, ay) = a^2 F(x, y)$  for all  $a \in A$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $f : {}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M} \rightarrow {}_A\mathcal{N}$  be a mapping such that*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| f(ax + ay, az - aw) + f(ax - ay, az + aw) - 2a^2 f(x, z) + 2a^2 f(y, w) \right\| \\ & \leq \begin{cases} 4\varepsilon, & (r = 0), \\ \varepsilon(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r + \|z\|^r + \|w\|^r), & (0 < r \neq 2) \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

for all  $a \in A_1$  and all  $x, y, z, w \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . If  $f(tx, ty)$  is continuous in  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  for each fixed  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ , then there exists a unique bi-additive  $A$ -quadratic mapping  $F : {}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M} \rightarrow {}_A\mathcal{N}$  satisfying (1.3) and inequality (3.2).

*Proof.* Consider the case  $r \in (0, 2)$ . By Lemma 3.1, it follows from the inequality of the statement for  $a = 1$  that there exists a unique bi-additive mapping  $F : {}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M} \rightarrow {}_A\mathcal{N}$  satisfying (1.3) and inequality (3.2). Let  $x_0, y_0 \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$  be fixed. And let  $L : {}_A\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be any

real continuous linear functional, that is,  $L$  is an arbitrary real functional element of the dual space of  ${}_A\mathcal{N}$  restricted to the scalar field  $\mathbb{R}$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , consider the functions  $\varphi_n : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $\varphi_n(t) := (1/4^n)L[f(2^n tx_0, 2^n ty_0)]$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . By the assumption that  $f(tx, ty)$  is continuous in  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  for each fixed  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ , the function  $\varphi_n$  is continuous for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Note that  $\varphi_n(t) = (1/4^n)L[f(2^n tx_0, 2^n ty_0)] = L[(1/4^n)f(2^n tx_0, 2^n ty_0)]$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . By the proof of Lemma 3.1, the sequence  $\varphi_n(t)$  is a Cauchy sequence for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Define a function  $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $\varphi(t) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_n(t)$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Note that  $\varphi(t) = L[F(tx_0, ty_0)]$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $F$  is bi-additive, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(s+t) + \varphi(s-t) &= L(F[(s+t)x_0, (s+t)y_0]) + L(F[(s-t)x_0, (s-t)y_0]) \\ &= L(F[(s+t)x_0, (s+t)y_0] + F[(s-t)x_0, (s-t)y_0]) \\ &= L(F(sx_0 + tx_0, sy_0 + ty_0) + F(sx_0 - tx_0, sy_0 - ty_0)) \\ &= L[2F(sx_0, sy_0) + 2F(tx_0, ty_0)] \\ &= 2L[F(sx_0, sy_0)] + 2L[F(tx_0, ty_0)] = 2\varphi(s) + 2\varphi(t) \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $\varphi$  is the pointwise limit of continuous functions, it is a Borel function. Thus the function  $\varphi$  as a measurable quadratic function is continuous (see [26]) so has the form  $\varphi(t) = t^2\varphi(1)$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Hence we have

$$L[F(tx_0, ty_0)] = \varphi(t) = t^2\varphi(1) = t^2L[F(x_0, y_0)] = L[t^2F(x_0, y_0)] \quad (3.17)$$

for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $L$  is any continuous linear functional, the bi-additive mapping  $F : {}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M} \rightarrow {}_A\mathcal{N}$  satisfies  $F(tx_0, ty_0) = t^2F(x_0, y_0)$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore we obtain

$$F(tx, ty) = t^2F(x, y) \quad (3.18)$$

for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Let  $j$  be an arbitrary positive integer. Replacing  $x$  and  $z$  by  $2^j x$  and  $2^j z$ , respectively, and letting  $y = w = 0$  in inequality (3.15), we gain

$$\left\| f(2^j ax, 2^j az) - a^2 f(2^j x, 2^j z) + a^2 f(0, 0) \right\| \leq 2^{rj-1} \varepsilon (\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \quad (3.19)$$

for all  $a \in A_1$  and all  $x, z \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Note that there is a constant  $K > 0$  such that the condition

$$\|av\| \leq K|a|\|v\| \quad (3.20)$$

for each  $a \in A$  and each  $v \in {}_A\mathcal{N}$  (see [27, Definition 12]). For all  $a \in A_1$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ , we get

$$\frac{1}{4^j} \left\| f(2^j ax, 2^j ay) - a^2 f(2^j x, 2^j y) \right\| \leq 2^{(r-2)j-1} \varepsilon (\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r) + \frac{K|a|^2}{4^j} \|f(0, 0)\| \rightarrow 0 \quad (3.21)$$

as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . Hence we have

$$F(ax, ay) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j ax, 2^j ay) = a^2 \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j x, 2^j y) = a^2 F(x, y) \quad (3.22)$$

for all  $a \in A_1$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Since  $F(ax, ay) = a^2 F(x, y)$  for each  $a \in A_1$ , by (3.18), we obtain

$$F(ax, ay) = F\left(|a| \frac{a}{|a|} x, |a| \frac{a}{|a|} y\right) = |a|^2 F\left(\frac{a}{|a|} x, \frac{a}{|a|} y\right) = a^2 F(x, y) \quad (3.23)$$

for all nonzero  $a \in A$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . By (3.18), we get  $F(0x, 0y) = 0^2 F(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Therefore the bi-additive mapping  $F$  is the unique  $A$ -quadratic mapping satisfying the inequality (3.2).

The proof of the case  $r \in \{0\} \cup (2, \infty)$  is similar to that of the case  $r \in (0, 2)$ .  $\square$

We obtain the Hyers-Ulam stability of (1.3) as a corollary of Theorem 3.2.

**Corollary 3.3.** *Let  $E$  be a complex normed space and  $f : E \times E \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  a function such that*

$$\left\| f(\lambda x + \lambda y, \lambda z - \lambda w) + f(\lambda x - \lambda y, \lambda z + \lambda w) - 2\lambda^2 f(x, z) + 2\lambda^2 f(y, w) \right\| \leq \varepsilon \quad (3.24)$$

for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{T} := \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : |\lambda| = 1\}$  and all  $x, y, z, w \in E$ . If  $f(tx, ty)$  is continuous in  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  for each fixed  $x, y \in E$ , then there exists a unique bi-additive  $\mathbb{C}$ -quadratic mapping  $F : E \times E \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  satisfying (1.3) such that  $\|f(x, y) - F(x, y)\| \leq \varepsilon/2 + \|f(0, 0)\|$  for all  $x, y \in E$ .

Put  $A_{in} := \{a \in A \mid a \text{ is invertible in } A\}$ ,  $A_{sa} := \{a \in A \mid a^* = a\}$ ,  $A^+ := \{a \in A_{sa} \mid Sp(a) \subset [0, \infty)\}$ , and  $A_1^+ := A_1 \cap A^+$ .

A unital  $C^*$ -algebra  $A$  is said to have *real rank 0* (see [28]) if the invertible self-adjoint elements are dense in  $A_{sa}$ .

For any element  $a \in A$ ,  $a = a_1 + ia_2$ , where  $a_1 := (a + a^*)/2$  and  $a_2 := (a - a^*)/2i$  are self-adjoint elements, furthermore,  $a = a_1^+ - a_1^- + ia_2^+ - ia_2^-$ , where  $a_1^+, a_1^-, a_2^+$ , and  $a_2^-$  are positive elements (see [27, Lemma 38.8]).

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $A$  be of real rank 0, and let  $f : {}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M} \rightarrow {}_A\mathcal{N}$  be a mapping such that*

$$\begin{aligned} & \|f(ax + ay, bz - bw) + f(ax - ay, bz + bw) - 2abf(x, z) + 2abf(y, w)\| \\ & \leq \begin{cases} 4\varepsilon, & (r = 0), \\ \varepsilon(\|x\|^r + \|y\|^r + \|z\|^r + \|w\|^r), & (0 < r \neq 2) \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (3.25)$$

for all  $a, b \in (A_1^+ \cap A_{in}) \cup \{i\}$  and all  $x, y, z, w \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . For each fixed  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ , let the sequence  $\{(1/4^j)f(2^j ax, 2^j by)\}$  converge uniformly on  $A_1 \times A_1$ . If  $f(ax, by)$  is continuous in  $(a, b) \in (A_1 \cup \mathbb{R})^2$  for each fixed  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ , then there exists a unique bi-additive  $A$ -quadratic mapping  $F : {}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M} \rightarrow {}_A\mathcal{N}$  satisfying (1.3) and inequality (3.2) such that  $F(ax, by) = abF(x, y)$  for all  $a, b \in A_1^+ \cup \{i\}$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ .

*Proof.* Consider the case  $r \in (0, 2)$ . By Lemma 3.1, there exists a unique bi-additive mapping  $F : {}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M} \rightarrow {}_A\mathcal{N}$  satisfying (1.3) and inequality (3.2) on  ${}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Let  $x_0, y_0 \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$  be fixed. And let  $L$  be an arbitrary real functional element of the dual space of  ${}_A\mathcal{N}$  restricted to the scalar field  $\mathbb{R}$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , consider the functions  $\varphi_n : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $\varphi_n(s, t) := (1/4^n)L[f(2^n s x_0, 2^n t y_0)]$  for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . By the assumption that  $f(ax, by)$  is continuous in  $(a, b) \in (A_1 \cup \mathbb{R})^2$  for each fixed  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ , the function  $\varphi_n$  is continuous for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Note that  $\varphi_n(s, t) = (1/4^n)L[f(2^n s x_0, 2^n t y_0)] = L[(1/4^n)f(2^n s x_0, 2^n t y_0)]$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . By the proof of Lemma 3.1, the sequence  $\varphi_n(s, t)$  is a Cauchy sequence for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Define a function  $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $\varphi(s, t) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_n(s, t)$  for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Note that  $\varphi(s, t) = L[F(s x_0, t y_0)]$  for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since the mapping  $F$  is bi-additive, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \varphi(s_1 + s_2, t_1 - t_2) + \varphi(s_1 - s_2, t_1 + t_2) \\
&= L(F[(s_1 + s_2)x_0, (t_1 - t_2)y_0]) + L(F[(s_1 - s_2)x_0, (t_1 + t_2)y_0]) \\
&= L(F[(s_1 + s_2)x_0, (t_1 - t_2)y_0] + F[(s_1 - s_2)x_0, (t_1 + t_2)y_0]) \\
&= L[F(s_1 x_0 + s_2 x_0, t_1 y_0 - t_2 y_0) + F(s_1 x_0 - s_2 x_0, t_1 y_0 + t_2 y_0)] \\
&= L[2F(s_1 x_0, t_1 y_0) - 2F(s_2 x_0, t_2 y_0)] = 2L[F(s_1 x_0, t_1 y_0)] - 2L[F(s_2 x_0, t_2 y_0)] \\
&= 2\varphi(s_1, t_1) - 2\varphi(s_2, t_2)
\end{aligned} \tag{3.26}$$

for all  $s_1, s_2, t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $\varphi$  is the pointwise limit of continuous functions, it is a Borel function. By Theorem 2.2, we gain  $\varphi(s, t) = st\varphi(1, 1)$  for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Hence we get

$$L[F(s x_0, t y_0)] = \varphi(s, t) = st\varphi(1, 1) = stL[F(x_0, y_0)] = L[stF(x_0, y_0)] \tag{3.27}$$

for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $L$  is any continuous linear functional, the bi-additive mapping  $F : {}_A\mathcal{M} \times {}_A\mathcal{M} \rightarrow {}_A\mathcal{N}$  satisfies  $F(s x_0, t y_0) = stF(x_0, y_0)$  for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore we obtain

$$F(sx, ty) = stF(x, y) \tag{3.28}$$

for all  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Let  $j$  be an arbitrary positive integer. Replacing  $x$  and  $z$  by  $2^j x$  and  $2^j z$ , respectively, and letting  $y = w = 0$  in inequality (3.25), we get

$$\left\| f(2^j a x, 2^j b z) - a b f(2^j x, 2^j z) + a b f(0, 0) \right\| \leq 2^{rj-1} \varepsilon (\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) \tag{3.29}$$

for all  $a, b \in (A_1^+ \cap A_{in}) \cup \{i\}$  and all  $x, z \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . By inequality (3.20) and the above inequality, for all  $a, b \in (A_1^+ \cap A_{in}) \cup \{i\}$  and all  $x, z \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{4^j} \left\| f(2^j a x, 2^j b z) - a b f(2^j x, 2^j z) \right\| \\
& \leq 2^{(r-2)j-1} \varepsilon (\|x\|^r + \|z\|^r) + \frac{K|a||b|}{4^j} \|f(0, 0)\| \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } j \longrightarrow \infty.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.30}$$

Hence we obtain that

$$F(ax, by) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j ax, 2^j by) = ab \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j x, 2^j y) = abF(x, y) \quad (3.31)$$

for all  $a, b \in (A_1^+ \cap A_{in}) \cup \{i\}$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Let  $c, d \in A_1^+ \setminus A_{in}$ . Since  $A_{in} \cap A_{sa}$  is dense in  $A_{sa}$ , there exists two sequences  $\{c_j\}$  and  $\{d_j\}$  in  $A_{in} \cap A_{sa}$  such that  $c_j \rightarrow c$  and  $d_j \rightarrow d$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . Put  $p_j := (1/|c_j|)c_j$  and  $q_j := (1/|d_j|)d_j$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $p_j \rightarrow c$  and  $q_j \rightarrow d$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . Set  $a_j := \sqrt{p_j^* p_j}$  and  $b_j := \sqrt{q_j^* q_j}$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then  $a_j \rightarrow c$  and  $b_j \rightarrow d$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$  and  $a_j, b_j \in A_1^+ \cap A_{in}$ . Since  $\{(1/4^j)f(2^j ax, 2^j by)\}$  is uniformly converges on  $A_1 \times A_1$  for each  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$  and  $f(ax, by)$  is continuous in  $a, b \in A_1$  for each  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ , we see that  $F(ax, by)$  is also continuous in  $a, b \in A_1$  for each  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . In fact, we gain

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{(a,b) \rightarrow (c,d)} F(ax, by) &= \lim_{(a,b) \rightarrow (c,d)} \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j ax, 2^j by) \\ &= \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{(a,b) \rightarrow (c,d)} \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j ax, 2^j by) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4^j} f(2^j cx, 2^j dy) = F(cx, dy) \end{aligned} \quad (3.32)$$

for all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Thus we get

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} F(a_j x, b_j y) = F\left(\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} a_j x, \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} b_j y\right) = F(cx, dy) \quad (3.33)$$

for all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . By equality (3.31), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|F(a_j x, b_j y) - cdF(x, y)\| &= \|a_j b_j F(x, y) - cdF(x, y)\| \\ &\rightarrow \|cdF(x, y) - cdF(x, y)\| = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3.34)$$

as  $j \rightarrow \infty$  for all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . By equality (3.33) and the above convergence, we see that

$$\|F(cx, dy) - cdF(x, y)\| \leq \|F(cx, dy) - F(a_j x, b_j y)\| + \|F(a_j x, b_j y) - cdF(x, y)\| \rightarrow 0 \quad (3.35)$$

as  $j \rightarrow \infty$  for all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . By equality (3.31) and the above convergence, we obtain

$$F(ax, by) = abF(x, y) \quad (3.36)$$

for all  $a, b \in A_1^+ \cup \{i\}$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Since the mapping  $F$  is bi-additive, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(ax, ay) &= F(a_1^+x - a_1^-x + ia_2^+x - ia_2^-x, a_1^+y - a_1^-y + ia_2^+y - ia_2^-y) \\
 &= F(a_1^+x, a_1^+y) - F(a_1^+x, a_1^-y) + F(a_1^+x, ia_2^+y) - F(a_1^+x, ia_2^-y) \\
 &\quad - F(a_1^-x, a_1^+y) + F(a_1^-x, a_1^-y) - F(a_1^-x, ia_2^+y) + F(a_1^-x, ia_2^-y) \\
 &\quad + F(ia_2^+x, a_1^+y) - F(ia_2^+x, a_1^-y) + F(ia_2^+x, ia_2^+y) - F(ia_2^+x, ia_2^-y) \\
 &\quad - F(ia_2^-x, a_1^+y) + F(ia_2^-x, a_1^-y) - F(ia_2^-x, ia_2^+y) + F(ia_2^-x, ia_2^-y)
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.37}$$

for all  $a \in A$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . By (3.28) and equality (3.36), we have

$$F(px, qy) = F\left(|p|\frac{p}{|p|}x, |q|\frac{q}{|q|}y\right) = |p||q|F\left(\frac{p}{|p|}x, \frac{q}{|q|}y\right) = pqF(x, y) \tag{3.38}$$

for all  $p, q \in \{a_1^+, a_1^-, a_2^+, a_2^-\}$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ . Note that  $a_1^+a_1^- = a_1^-a_1^+ = a_2^+a_2^- = a_2^-a_2^+ = 0$ . Hence we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(ax, ay) &= (a_2^+)^2F(x, y) + ia_1^+a_2^+F(x, y) - ia_1^+a_2^-F(x, y) + (a_1^-)^2F(x, y) \\
 &\quad - ia_1^-a_2^+F(x, y) + ia_1^-a_2^-F(x, y) + ia_2^+a_1^+F(x, y) - ia_2^+a_1^-F(x, y) \\
 &\quad - (a_2^+)^2F(x, y) - ia_2^-a_1^+F(x, y) + ia_2^-a_1^-F(x, y) - (a_2^-)^2F(x, y) \\
 &= \left[(a_1^+)^2 + ia_1^+a_2^+ - ia_1^+a_2^- + (a_1^-)^2 - ia_1^-a_2^+ + ia_1^-a_2^- \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + ia_2^+a_1^+ - ia_2^+a_1^- - (a_2^+)^2 - ia_2^-a_1^+ + ia_2^-a_1^- - (a_2^-)^2\right]F(x, y) \\
 &= (a_1^+ - a_1^- + ia_2^+ - ia_2^-)^2F(x, y) = a^2F(x, y)
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.39}$$

for all  $a \in A$  and all  $x, y \in {}_A\mathcal{M}$ .

The proof of the case  $r \in \{0\} \cup (2, \infty)$  is similar to that of the case  $r \in (0, 2)$ .  $\square$

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