On Some Geometric Transformation of t-norms*

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Abstract

Given a triangular norm T, its t-reverse T^* , introduced by C. Kimberling ($Publ.\ Math.\ Debrecen\ 20,\ 21\text{-}39,\ 1973$) under the name invert, is studied. The question under which conditions we have $T^{**}=T$ is completely solved. The t-reverses of ordinal sums of t-norms are investigated and a complete description of continuous, self-reverse t-norms is given, leading to a new characterization of the continuous t-norms T such that the function G(x,y)=x+y-T(x,y) is a t-conorm, a problem originally studied by M.J. Frank ($Aequationes\ Math.\ 19,\ 194\text{-}226,\ 1979$). Finally, some open problems are formulated.

1 Introduction

Triangular norms (t-norms) and the corresponding t-conorms play a fundamental role in several branches of mathematics, e.g., in probabilistic metric spaces [6], in the theory of generalized measures and games [1] and in fuzzy logic [5]. In [3], the t-reverse T^* of a t-norm T was introduced (under the name invert). We somewhat extend and complete the study of t-reverses done there.

A triangular norm (t-norm for short) is a function $T:[0,1]^2 \to [0,1]$ which is commutative, associative, non-decreasing in both components, and satisfies the boundary condition T(x,1)=x for each $x\in[0,1]$. Given a t-norm T, its dual t-conorm S_T is defined by

$$S_T(x,y) = 1 - T(1-x,1-y).$$

The most important t-norms, together with their dual t-conorms are

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$$\begin{split} T_{\mathbf{M}}(x,y) &= \min(x,y), & S_{\mathbf{M}}(x,y) &= \max(x,y); \\ T_{\mathbf{P}}(x,y) &= xy, & S_{\mathbf{P}}(x,y) &= x+y-xy; \\ T_{\mathbf{L}}(x,y) &= \max(0,x+y-1), & S_{\mathbf{L}}(x,y) &= \min(1,x+y); \\ T_{\mathbf{W}}(x,y) &= \begin{cases} \min(x,y) & \text{if } \max(x,y) &= 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise}, \end{cases} & S_{\mathbf{W}}(x,y) &= \begin{cases} \max(x,y) & \text{if } \min(x,y) &= 0, \\ 1 & \text{otherwise}. \end{cases} \end{split}$$

It is obvious that these t-norms satisfy the inequality $T_{\mathbf{W}} \leq T_{\mathbf{L}} \leq T_{\mathbf{P}} \leq T_{\mathbf{M}}$. Moreover, for each t-norm T we have $T_{\mathbf{W}} \leq T \leq T_{\mathbf{M}}$. A continuous t-norm is called Archimedean if for each $x \in]0,1[$ we have T(x,x) < x

An interesting family of t-norms $\{T_s^{\mathbf{F}}\}_{s\in[0,+\infty]}$ was studied in [2]:

$$T_{s}^{\mathbf{F}}(x,y) = \begin{cases} T_{\mathbf{M}}(x,y) & \text{if } s = 0, \\ T_{\mathbf{P}}(x,y) & \text{if } s = 1, \\ T_{\mathbf{L}}(x,y) & \text{if } s = \infty, \\ \log_{s} \left[1 + \frac{(s^{x} - 1)(s^{y} - 1)}{s - 1} \right] & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

These t-norms will be referred to as the Frank t-norms, the family of the dual Frank t-conorms will be denoted $\{S_s^{\mathbf{F}}\}_{s\in[0,+\infty]}$. The family $\{T_s^{\mathbf{F}}\}_{s\in[0,+\infty]}$ of Frank t-norms is decreasing (see [1] and [4]) and continuous in the sense that we have

$$(s_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}\uparrow t\Rightarrow (T_{s_n}^{\mathbf{F}})_{n\in\mathbb{N}}\downarrow T_t^{\mathbf{F}}.$$

2 Definition of the *t*-reverse

Let T be a t-norm. Then the function $T^*: [0,1]^2 \to [0,1]$ defined by

$$T^*(x,y) = \max(0, x+y-1+T(1-x, 1-y)) \tag{1}$$

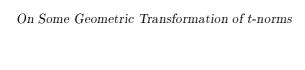
is called the t-reverse of T. This definition goes back to [3] where the name invert was used for T^* .

Using the dual t-conorm S_T of T, this definition can be rewritten as

$$T^*(x,y) = \max(0, x + y - S_T(x,y)). \tag{2}$$

The construction of T^* can be conceived geometrically as follows (it is visualized in Figure 1):

- (i) The graph of T is rotated 180^o around the vertical symmetry axis of the unit cube
- (ii) The plane z = x + y 1 is added to the rotated graph (this implies that the boundary conditions $T^*(x, 1) = x$ and $T^*(x, 0) = 0$ are satisfied).
- (iii) Any negative values are replaced by zero.



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Figure 1: Visualization of the reversion: a t-norm (top left), rotating it around the vertical symmetry axis (top right), adding the plane x+y-1 (bottom left), cutting off negative values (bottom right).

It is clear that T^* satisfies the symmetry and boundary conditions required for t-norms. The monotonicity and associativity, however, may not hold for T^* :

Example 2.1. (i) $T_{\mathbf{W}}^* = T_{\mathbf{L}}$.

- (ii) $T_{\mathbf{L}}^* = T_{\mathbf{L}}$.
- (iii) If T is the t-norm given by

$$T(x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{xy}{x+y-xy}, & \text{if } (x,y) \neq (0,0) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

then T^* is not associative, since, e.g., $T^*(T^*(0.2, 0.9), 0.9) \approx 0.1952$ and $T^*(0.2, T^*(0.9, 0.9)) \approx 0.1948$.

(iv) Let T be the ordinal sum $\{\langle 0, 0.5, T_{\mathbf{W}} \rangle, \langle 0.5, 1, T_{\mathbf{L}} \rangle\}$ (for the general definition of ordinal sums see Section 4). Then T^* is not non-decreasing, since, e.g., $T^*(0.4, 0.6) = 0.4 > 0.2 = T^*(0.6, 0.6)$.

Examples 2.1 (iii) and (iv) both show that the t-reverse T^* of a t-norm T not necessarily is a t-norm. We shall say that a t-norm T is t-reversible if its t-reverse T^* is also a t-norm, and we shall denote the family of all t-reversible t-norms by \mathcal{R} .

3 General properties

In [3] it was conjectured that a t-norm T is t-reversible only if T equals one of the basis t-norms $T_{\mathbf{M}}$, $T_{\mathbf{P}}$, $T_{\mathbf{L}}$, $T_{\mathbf{W}}$ or a specific ordinal sum (for the general definition of ordinal sums see again Section 4) thereof. However, this conjecture turns out to be incorrect, as a consequence of the following result.

Theorem 3.1. For all t-norms T with $T \leq T_L$ we have $T^* = T_L$.

Proof. If $x+y \leq 1$ then $x+y = S_{\mathbf{L}}(x,y) \leq S_T(x,y)$, where S_T is the dual t-conorm of T, in which case we have $x+y-S_T(x,y) \leq 0$ and, therefore, $T^*(x,y)=0$. If x+y>1 then $1=S_{\mathbf{L}}(x,y) \leq S_T(x,y)$, implying $S_T(x,y)=1$ and, consequently, $T^*(x,y)=x+y-1$.

Theorem 13 in [3] claims that for a t-norm T we always have $T^{**} = T$. This is not true since T may not be t-reversible, in which case $T^{**} = (T^*)^*$ is not properly defined. Even if T is t-reversible, this claim is wrong: from Example 2.1 (i) and (ii) we have $T^*_{\mathbf{W}} = T_{\mathbf{L}}$ and $T^*_{\mathbf{L}} = T_{\mathbf{L}}$, showing that $T^{**}_{\mathbf{W}} \neq T_{\mathbf{W}}$. However, we get the following result:

Theorem 3.2. Let T be a t-reversible t-norm. Then $T^{**} = T$ if and only if $T \geq T_L$.

Proof. By definition we have

$$T^{**}(x,y) = \max[0, x + y - S_{T^*}(x,y)],$$

where S_{T^*} is the dual of the t-norm T^* , for which we get

$$S_{T^*}(x,y) = 1 - T^*(1-x,1-y)$$

$$= 1 - \max[0,1-x+1-y-S_T(1-x,1-y)]$$

$$= 1 - \max[0,T(x,y)+1-x-y]$$

$$= \min[1,x+y-T(x,y)].$$

This implies

$$\begin{array}{rcl} T^{**}(x,y) & = & \max[0,x+y-\min(1,x+y-T(x,y))] \\ & = & \max[0,\max(x+y-1,T(x,y))] \\ & = & \max(T_{\mathbf{L}}(x,y),T(x,y)). \end{array}$$

Now it is clear that $T^{**} = T$ if and only if $T \geq T_{\mathbf{L}}$.

Corollary 3.3. Suppose that both T and T^* are t-reversible t-norms. Then we have $T^{***} = T^*$.

Proof. This is obvious since we always here

$$T^*(x,y) = \max(0, x+y-S_T(x,y)) > \max(0, x+y-1) = T_L(x,y).$$

Theorem 3.4. Let T be a continuous Archimedean, t-reversible t-norm. Then T^* is a continuous Archimedean t-norm.

Proof. Continuity follows from the definition. That T^* is Archimedean is a consequence of the fact that for all $x \in]0,1[$

$$T^*(x, x) = \max(0, x + x - S_T(x, x)) < x,$$

since the dual t-conorm S_T of T satisfies $S_T(x,x) > x$ for all $x \in]0,1[$.

4 t-reverses of ordinals sums

An important way to construct new t-norms from given ones is that of an ordinal sum: let $\{]\alpha_k, \beta_k[\}_{k \in K}$ be a non-empty countable family of pairwise disjoint open subintervals of [0,1] and let $\{T_k\}_{k \in K}$ be a family of corresponding t-norms. Then the ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_k \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ is the function $T: [0,1]^2 \to [0,1]$ defined by

$$T(x,y) = \begin{cases} \alpha_k + (\beta_k - \alpha_k) \cdot T_k \left(\frac{x - \alpha_k}{\beta_k - \alpha_k}, \frac{y - \alpha_k}{\beta_k - \alpha_k} \right) & \text{if } x, y \in [\alpha_k, \beta_k], \\ \min(x,y) & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

which is always a t-norm. In order to keep the notation short, we also consider here the trivial ordinal sum $T = \{\langle 0, 1, T_1 \rangle\}$, i.e., where $K = \{1\}$ is a one point set and $\alpha_1 = 0$ and $\beta_1 = 1$, in which case we have $T = T_1$.

Ordinal sums of t-conorms are defined in the same way as ordinal sums of t-norms, only replacing min by max. Observe, however, that the dual t-conorm of an ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_k \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ of t-norms is the ordinal sum $\{\langle 1 - \beta_k, 1 - \alpha_k, S_{T_k} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ of t-conorms which, in general, is different from the ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, S_{T_k} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$.

Each continuous t-norm can be written as an ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_k \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ such that all T_k are continuous Archimedean t-norms.

Denote by \mathcal{F} the family of t-norms T such that the function $G:[0,1]^2\to [0,1]$ given by

$$G(x,y) = x + y - T(x,y) \tag{3}$$

is associative, i.e., a t-conorm.

Each element of \mathcal{F} can be written as an ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_k \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ such that all T_k are Frank t-norms (see [2]). For more details about ordinal sums, see, e.g., [6].

In [3] the class of all t-norms satisfying the condition

$$x \le u \text{ and } y \le v \Rightarrow u + v - T(u, v) \ge x + y - T(x, y)$$
 (4)

was denoted by \mathcal{M} (in the language of [3], these t-norms are said to be of moderate growth). In [3, Theorem 12] it is shown that, given $T \in \mathcal{M}$, then T^* is necessarily non-decreasing in each component, so only the associativity of the t-reverse can be a problem. Finally, Theorem 16 in [3] proves that if $T \in \mathcal{M}$ is an ordinal sum of t-reversible t-norms, i.e., $T = \{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_k \rangle\}_{k \in K}$, with T_k reversible, then T itself is t-reversible, and T^* equals the ordinal sum $\{\langle 1 - \beta_k, 1 - \alpha_k, T_k^* \rangle\}_{k \in K}$.

An interesting question is now the relation between the three families \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{M} , and \mathcal{F} , i.e., of the families of t-norms which are t-reversible, of moderate growth, and which are solutions of the problem of Frank [2], respectively. Here are some simple observations concerning this problem.

Example 4.1. (i) The monotonicity of t-conorms implies that all elements of \mathcal{F} belong to \mathcal{M} , i.e., \mathcal{F} is a subfamily of \mathcal{M} .

- (ii) Conversely, an element of \mathcal{M} need not be an element of \mathcal{F} : the t-norm T mentioned in Example 2.1 (iii) is an example for this, showing that \mathcal{F} is a proper subfamily of \mathcal{M} .
- (iii) Not each t-reversible t-norm belongs to \mathcal{M} : $T_{\mathbf{W}}$ is an example for this. Hence, \mathcal{R} is not a subfamily of \mathcal{M} .

The exact relationship relation between the three families \mathcal{R} , \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{F} is given as follows.

Theorem 4.2. A t-norm T is both t-reversible and an element of \mathcal{M} if and only if T is an element of \mathcal{F} (this means that we have $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{R} \cap \mathcal{M}$).

Proof. Assume first that $T = \{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ is an element of \mathcal{F} and, consequently, of \mathcal{M} . Let S_T be the dual t-conorm of T, i.e., S_T is the ordinal sum $\{\langle 1 - \beta_k, 1 - \alpha_k, S_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$. Then from [2] we know that the expression

$$x + y - S_T(x, y)$$

is always nonnegative and defines a t-norm. Taking into account

$$T^*(x,y) = \max(0, x + y - S_T(x,y))$$

= $x + y - S_T(x,y),$

it is clear that T is t-reversible.

If, conversely, $T \in \mathcal{R} \cap \mathcal{M}$, observe first that (4) implies the inequality

$$1 = 1 + 1 - T(1, 1) > 1 - x + 1 - y - T(1 - x, 1 - y),$$

from which we get

$$0 \le x + y - 1 + T(1 - x, 1 - y) = x + y - S_T(x, y).$$

Now, using $T \in \mathcal{R}$ and (2), we get

$$T^*(x,y) = x + y - S_T(x,y)$$

or, equivalently,

$$S_T(x, y) = x + y - T^*(x, y),$$

which, as a consequence of the results in [2], means that S_T can be written as an ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, S_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$, implying that we have $T = \{\langle 1 - \beta_k, 1 - \alpha_k, T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$, i.e., $T \in \mathcal{F}$.

Remark 4.3. (i) Note that from the proof of Theorem 4.2 we can conclude that for $T \in \mathcal{F}$ we have

$$T^*(x,y) = 1 - S(1 - x, 1 - y),$$

where S is the t-conorm defined by S(x, y) = x + y - T(x, y).

(ii) Let T be an ordinal sum of Frank t-norms, i.e., $T = \{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$. Using the fact that for each pair $(T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}}, S_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}})$ we have

$$T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}}(x,y) + S_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}}(x,y) = x + y$$

(see again [2]), we see that T^* equals the ordinal sum $\{\langle 1-\beta_k, 1-\alpha_k, T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$, the dual t-conorm S_{T^*} of which is just given by $S_{T^*}(x,y) = x + y - T(x,y)$. (iii) This means that all Frank t-norms are self-reverse, i.e., we have $(T_s^{\mathbf{F}})^* = T_s^{\mathbf{F}}$

for all $s \in [0, +\infty]$ (for a more detailed discussion see Section 5).

Example 2.1 (iv) and Theorem 3.1 show that ordinal sums of t-reversible t-norms, in general, need not be t-reversible (this fact is visualized in Figure 2). The following proves that a t-reversible ordinal sum can have at most one summand which is smaller than $T_{\rm L}$.

Figure 2: Ordinal sum $\{\langle 0.3, 0.9, T \rangle\}$ with $T(x,y) = 1 - \min[1 - (\sqrt{1-x} + \sqrt{1-y})^2]$, i.e., $T < T_{\mathbf{L}}$ (top left) whose *t*-reverse (top right) is not monotone and, therefore, not a *t*-norm. The *t*-reverse (bottom right) of the ordinal sum $\{\langle 0.4, 1, T \rangle\}$ (bottom left), however, is a *t*-norm, namely, the ordinal sum $\{\langle 0, 0.6, T_{\mathbf{L}} \rangle\}$.

Theorem 4.4. Let T be the ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_k \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ such that T is treversible and $T_{k_0} < T_{\mathbf{L}}$ for some $k_0 \in K$. Then we have $\beta_{k_0} = 1$ (as a consequence, there is at most one summand T_k with $T_k < T_{\mathbf{L}}$).

Proof. Let $(x,y) \in]0,1[^2$ be a point such that $T_{k_0}(x,y) < T_{\mathbf{L}}(x,y)$, i.e.,

$$x + y - 1 - T_{k_0}(x, y) > 0. (5)$$

Assume that $\beta_{k_0} < 1$ is true. Then, on the one hand, we have

$$T^*(1 - \beta_{k_0}, 1 - \beta_{k_0}) = 1 - \beta_{k_0}. \tag{6}$$

On the other hand, observe that

$$1 - \alpha_{k_0} + (\alpha_{k_0} - \beta_{k_0}) \cdot x > 1 - \beta_{k_0}, \tag{7}$$

$$1 - \alpha_{k_0} + (\alpha_{k_0} - \beta_{k_0}) \cdot y > 1 - \beta_{k_0}, \tag{8}$$

implying that

$$\begin{split} T^*(1 - \alpha_{k_0} + (\alpha_{k_0} - \beta_{k_0}) \cdot x, 1 - \alpha_{k_0} + (\alpha_{k_0} - \beta_{k_0}) \cdot y) \\ &= & \max(0, 1 - \alpha_{k_0} + (\alpha_{k_0} - \beta_{k_0}) \cdot x + 1 - \alpha_{k_0} + (\alpha_{k_0} - \beta_{k_0}) \cdot y - 1 \\ & \quad + \alpha_{k_0}(\alpha_{k_0} - \beta_{k_0}) \cdot T_{k_0}(x, y)) \\ &= & \max(0, 1 - \alpha_{k_0} + (\beta_{k_0} - \alpha_{k_0}) \cdot (T_{k_0}(x, y) - x - y)) \\ &= & \max(0, 1 - \beta_{k_0} - (\beta_{k_0} - \alpha_{k_0}) \cdot (x + y - 1 - T_{k_0}(x, y))) \\ &< & 1 - \beta_{k_0}, \end{split}$$

where the inequality follows from (5). This, together with (6), (7) and (8), violates the monotonicity of the t-norm T^* , and therefore $\beta_{k_0} < 1$ cannot be true.

Conversely, it is not difficult to see that the each ordinal sum of some special form is t-reversible allowing us to formulate the following result:

Corollary 4.5. Let the t-norm T be the ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_k \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ of Frank t-norms up to possibly one summand, say T_{k_0} , with $T_{k_0} < T_{\mathbf{L}}$ and $\beta_{k_0} = 1$. Then T is t-reversible and its t-reverse T^* equals the t-reverse of \tilde{T} , where \tilde{T} is the ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, \tilde{T}_k \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ with $\tilde{T}_k = T_k$ for all $k \neq k_0$ and $\tilde{T}_{k_0} = T_{\mathbf{L}}$.

5 Self-reverse *t*-norms

We are now interested in studying t-norms which are self-reverse, i.e., satisfy the equality $T^* = T$. From Remark 4.3(iii) we know that all Frank t-norms $T_s^{\mathbf{F}}$, $s \in [0, +\infty]$ have this property. We are now able to characterize all continuous self-reverse t-norms.

Theorem 5.1. Let T be a continuous t-norm. Then $T^* = T$ if and only if T is an ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ of Frank t-norms such that for each $k \in K$ with $T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \neq T_{\mathbf{M}}$ there is a $j \in K$ with $s_j = s_k$, $\alpha_j = 1 - \beta_k$ and $\beta_j = 1 - \alpha_k$.

Proof. Assuming $T^* = T$ then we have $T^{**} = T$ and, by Theorem 3.2, $T \geq T_L$. Then for the dual t-conorm S_T of T we obtain

$$S_T(x,y) \leq S_{\mathbf{L}}(x,y) \leq x+y,$$

implying

$$x + y - S_T(x, y) \ge 0$$

and, taking into account $T^* = T$,

$$T(x,y) = x + y - S_T(x,y).$$

Because of [2], this means that T must be an ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ of Frank t-norms. From Remark 4.3(ii) we know that T has to be symmetric in the sense that for each $k \in K$ with $T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \neq T_{\mathbf{M}}$ ($T_{\mathbf{M}}$ acts like a neutral element when constructing ordinal sums and does not influence this symmetry) there exists a $j \in K$ such that $s_j = s_k$, $\alpha_j = 1 - \beta_k$ and $\beta_j = 1 - \alpha_k$.

Recall that in the trivial case $K = \{1\}$, $\alpha_1 = 0$ and $\beta_1 = 1$, i.e., if T itself is a Frank t-norm, the symmetry condition is always satisfied. In the light of this theorem we can give the following variation of the results of [2]:

Corollary 5.2. For a continuous t-norm T the function $G:[0,1]^2 \to [0,1]$ given by G(x,y)=x+y-T(x,y) is a t-conorm if and only if T is an ordinal sum $\{\langle \alpha_k, \beta_k, T_{s_k}^{\mathbf{F}} \rangle\}_{k \in K}$ of Frank t-norms, in which case the t-conorm G is dual to the t-reverse T^* , i.e.,

$$G(x,y) = 1 - T^*(1-x, 1-y).$$

6 Concluding remarks

Some questions concerning t-reverses of t-norms remain still open. The most important open problem is the complete characterization of all t-reversible t-norms. Other related questions can be formulated as follows:

Question 1. Is a continuous t-norm T t-reversible if and only if T is an ordinal sum whose summands are Frank t-norms up to possibly one summand in the upper right corner of the unit square which is weaker than $T_{\mathbf{L}}$?

Question 2. If T is a t-reversible t-norm, is T^* necessarily t-reversible?

Question 3*. If T is a t-reversible t-norm, is T^* necessarily continous?

Question 4. If T is a t-reversible t-norm, is T^* necessarily an ordinal sum of Frank t-norms?

We conjecture that there is an affirmative answer to each of these questions. However, we have not proven this claim so far (nor do we have counterexamples). Obviously, if there is a positive answer to Question 4, this would imply positive answers to both Questions 2 and 3.

* Note added in proof: An affirmative answer to Question 3 was given in M. Šabo, On the continuity of t-reverse of t-norms, Tatra Mountains Math. Publ. 6 (1995), 173-178.

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