



Non Linear Contraction Mapping and its Application in Dynamic Programming

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Abstract: We introduce the definition of $(\alpha - \beta)$ -tripled fixed point in the space of the bounded functions on a set S and we present a result about the existence and uniqueness of such points. Moreover, as an application of our result, we study the problem of existence and uniqueness of solutions for a class of systems of functional equations arising in dynamic programming.

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1. Introduction and Preliminaries

In the two last decades, the theory of fixed points has appeared as a crucial technique in the study of nonlinear functional analysis. In particular, the techniques and tools in fixed point theory have application in many branches of applied mathematics and also in many research fields such as physics, chemistry, biology, economics, computer sciences, and many branches of engineering. The most significant result in fixed point theory, known as the Banach Contraction Mapping Principle (BCMP) is given by Banach in [1]. BCMP states that every contraction (self-mapping) $T : X \rightarrow X$ on a complete metric space (X, d) has a unique fixed point, that is, $Tx = x$. Due to its wide application potential, this celebrated principle has been generalized in many ways over the years. Generalizations of the above principle have been a heavily investigated branch of research. Particularly, one of these generalizations uses the so-called comparison functions. These functions are defined as functions $\varphi : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ which are increasing and satisfy $\varphi^n(t) = 0$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$ for $t > 0$ where denotes the n -iteration of φ . Examples of such functions are $\varphi(t) = \lambda(t)$ with $\lambda \in (0, 1)$, $\varphi(t) = \arctan t$, $\varphi(t) = \ln(1 + t)$ and $\varphi(t) = \frac{t}{1+t}$ among others. The above-mentioned generalization of the Banach contraction mapping principle is the following result and it appears in [5, 6].

Theorem 1.1. *Let (X, d) be a complete metric space and let $T : X \rightarrow X$ be a mapping satisfying $d(Tx, Ty) \leq \phi(d(x, y))$, for any $x, y \in X$, where ϕ is a comparison function. Then T has a unique fixed point.*

In this paper, we consider a nonempty set S and by $B(S)$ we denote the set of all bounded real functions defined on S . According to the ordinary addition of functions and scalar multiplication and endowing with the norm $\|u\| = \sup_{x \in S} |u(x)|$, $B(S)$,

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is a Banach space. Notice that the distance in $B(S)$ is defined as

$$d(u, v) = \sup_{x \in S} \{|u(x) - v(x)|\}, \quad \forall x, y \in B(S).$$

The aim of this paper is to present a result about the existence and uniqueness of an $(\alpha - \beta)$ -triple fixed point (see Section 2) in $B(S)$ and, as an application of this result, we will study the problem of existence and uniqueness of solutions of the following system of functional equations arising in dynamic programming:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(T(x, y)), v(T(x, y)), w(T(x, y)))\} \\ v(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(\alpha(T(x, y))), v(\alpha(T(x, y))), w(\alpha(T(x, y))))\} \\ w(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(\beta(T(x, y))), v(\beta(T(x, y))), w(\beta(T(x, y))))\} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

under certain assumptions. For further information about the functional equations appearing in dynamic programming, we refer the reader to [7–10].

2. Generalized $(\alpha - \beta)$ -Triple Fixed Point Theorem in $B(S)$

Our starting point in this section is the definition of $(\alpha - \beta)$ -triple fixed point in $B(S)$. For this purpose, suppose that S is a nonempty set and $\alpha : S \rightarrow S$ a mapping.

Definition 2.1. An element $(u, v) \in B(S) \times B(S)$ is called an $(\alpha - \beta)$ -triple fixed point of a mapping $G : B(S) \times B(S) \rightarrow B(S)$ if

$$\begin{aligned} G(u, v, w) &= u, \\ G(u \circ \alpha, v \circ \alpha, w \circ \alpha) &= v, \\ G(u \circ \beta, v \circ \beta, w \circ \beta) &= w \end{aligned}$$

The following theorem is the main result of the paper and it gives us a sufficient condition for the existence and uniqueness of an $(\alpha - \beta)$ -triple fixed point.

Theorem 2.2. Suppose that $\alpha, \beta : S \rightarrow S$ and $G : B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S) \rightarrow B(S)$ are two mappings. If G satisfies

$$d(G(x, y, z), G(u, v, w)) \leq \phi(\max\{d(x, u), d(y, v), d(z, w)\}) \quad (2)$$

for any $x, y, z, u, v, w \in B(S)$, where ϕ is a comparison function, then G has a unique $(\alpha - \beta)$ -triple fixed point.

Proof. Consider the Cartesian product $B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S)$ endowed with the distance defined by

$$\bar{d}((x, y, z), (u, v, w)) = \max\{d(x, u), d(y, v), d(z, w)\} \quad (3)$$

It is easily seen that $(B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S), \bar{d})$ is a complete metric space. Now, we consider the mapping $\bar{G} : B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S) \rightarrow B(S)$ defined by

$$\bar{G}(x, y, z) = (G(x, y, z), G(x \circ \alpha, y \circ \alpha, z \circ \alpha), G(x \circ \beta, y \circ \beta, z \circ \beta)) = G_{(x, y, z)} \quad (4)$$

Notice that if $x \in B(S)$ then $x \circ \alpha \in B(S)$ and $x \circ \beta \in B(S)$. Next, we check that \bar{G} satisfies assumptions of Theorem 1.1. In fact, according to (2), we have that for any $x, y, z, u, v, w \in B(S)$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{d}(\bar{G}(x, y, z), \bar{G}(u, v, w)) &= \bar{d}(G_{(x,y,z)}, G_{(u,v,w)}) \quad (\text{from (4)}) \\ &= \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} d((G(x, y, z), G(u, v, w)), \\ d(G(x \circ \alpha, y \circ \alpha, z \circ \alpha), G(u \circ \alpha, v \circ \alpha, w \circ \alpha)) \\ d(G(x \circ \beta, y \circ \beta, z \circ \beta), G(u \circ \beta, v \circ \beta, w \circ \beta)) \end{array} \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \phi(\max\{d(x, u), d(y, v), d(z, w)\}), \\ \phi(\max\{d(x \circ \alpha, u \circ \alpha), d(y \circ \alpha, v \circ \alpha), d(z \circ \alpha, w \circ \alpha)\}), \\ \phi(\max\{d(x \circ \beta, u \circ \beta), d(y \circ \beta, v \circ \beta), d(z \circ \beta, w \circ \beta)\}) \end{array} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Now, taking into account the definition of the distance on $B(S)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(x \circ \alpha, u \circ \alpha) &= \sup_{s \in S} \{|(x \circ \alpha)(s) - (u \circ \alpha)(s)|\} \\ &= \sup_{s \in S} \{|x(\alpha(s)) - u(\alpha(s))|\} \\ &\leq \sup_{s \in S} \{|x(s) - u(s)|\} = d(x, u) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

and, by a similar argument, we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(y \circ \alpha, v \circ \alpha) &\leq d(y, v) \quad \text{and} \\ d(z \circ \alpha, w \circ \alpha) &\leq d(z, w) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, from ((5) and (6), we get

$$\bar{d}(\bar{G}(x, y, z), \bar{G}(u, v, w)) \leq \phi(\max\{d(x, u), d(y, v), d(z, w)\}) = \phi(\bar{d}((x, y, z), (u, v, w))).$$

Therefore, Theorem 1.1 gives us the existence of a unique $(x_0, y_0, z_0) \in B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S)$ such that $\bar{G}(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ or equivalently $G(x_0, y_0, z_0) = x_0$, $G(x_0 \circ \alpha, y_0 \circ \alpha, z_0 \circ \alpha) = y_0$ and $G(x_0 \circ \beta, y_0 \circ \beta, z_0 \circ \beta) = z_0$. This completes the proof. \square

3. Application to Dynamic Programming

The following types of systems of functional equations

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(T(x, y)), v(T(x, y)), w(T(x, y)))\} \\ v(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(\alpha(T(x, y))), v(\alpha(T(x, y))), w(\alpha(T(x, y))))\} \\ w(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(\beta(T(x, y))), v(\beta(T(x, y))), w(\beta(T(x, y))))\} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

appear in the study of dynamic programming (see [11]), where $x \in S$ and S is a state space, D is a decision space, $T : S \times D \rightarrow S$, $g : S \times D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $F : S \times D \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\alpha, \beta : S \rightarrow S$ are given mappings. The following theorem gives us a sufficient condition for the existence and uniqueness of solutions to problem (7).

Theorem 3.1. *Suppose the following assumptions:*

(i). $g : S \times D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $F(-, -0, 0, 0) : S \times D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are bounded functions,

(ii). there exists a comparison function φ such that for any $x \in S, y \in D, t, s, r, t_1, s_1, r_1 \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$|F(x, y, t, s, r) - F(x, y, t_1, s_1, r_1)| \leq \varphi(\max\{|t - t_1|, |s - s_1|, |r - r_1|\})$$

Then, problem (7) has a unique solution $(u_0, v_0, r_0) \in B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S)$.

As a previous result for the proof of Theorem 3.1, we need the next lemma.

Lemma 3.2. *Suppose that $H, G : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are two bounded functions. Then*

$$|\sup_{y \in S} H(y) - \sup_{y \in S} G(y)| \leq \sup_{y \in S} |H(y) - G(y)|. \quad (8)$$

Proof. Obviously, this result is true when $\sup_{y \in S} |H(y)| = \sup_{y \in S} |G(y)|$. If we suppose that $\sup_{y \in S} |H(y)| > \sup_{y \in S} |G(y)|$ (same argument works if we suppose that $\sup_{y \in S} |H(y)| < \sup_{y \in S} |G(y)|$) then for any $y_0 \in S$

$$H(y_0) - \sup_{y \in S} |G(y)| \leq H(y_0) - G(y_0) \leq |(y_0) - G(y_0)| \quad (9)$$

and, consequently,

$$\sup_{y \in S} \{H(y) - \sup_{y \in S} |G(y)|\} \leq \sup_{y \in S} \{|H(y) - G(y)|\} \quad (10)$$

Since $\sup_{y \in S} \{H(y) - a\} = \sup_{y \in S} \{H(y)\} - a$ for any $a \in \mathbb{R}$ it follows

$$\sup_{y \in S} \{H(y)\} - \sup_{y \in S} \{G(y)\} \leq \sup_{y \in S} \{|H(y) - G(y)|\} \quad (11)$$

and this proves our claim. \square

Proof. To proof of Theorem 3.1. Consider the operator G defined on $B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S)$ as

$$G(u, v, w)(x) = \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(T(x, y)), v(T(x, y)), w(T(x, y)))\} \quad (12)$$

for $(u, v, w) \in B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S)$ and $x \in S$. By assumptions (i) and (ii), we have

$$\begin{aligned} |G(u, v, w)(x)| &\leq \sup_{y \in D} |g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(T(x, y)), v(T(x, y)), w(T(x, y)))| \\ &\leq \sup_{y \in D} |g(x, y)| + \sup_{y \in D} |F(x, y, u(T(x, y)), v(T(x, y)), w(T(x, y)))| \\ &\leq \sup_{y \in D} |g(x, y)| + \sup_{y \in D} |F(x, y, u(T(x, y)), v(T(x, y)), w(T(x, y))) - F(x, y, 0, 0, 0) + F(x, y, 0, 0, 0)| \\ &\leq \sup_{y \in D} |g(x, y)| + \sup_{y \in D} \{\varphi(\max\{|u(T(x, y))|, |v(T(x, y))|, |w(T(x, y))|\}) + |F(x, y, 0, 0, 0)|\} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

According to assumption (i) and, since $(u, v, w) \in B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S)$, we obtain that $G(u, v, w) \in B(S)$. Therefore, $G : B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S) \rightarrow B(S)$. Now, we check that G satisfies condition (2) of Theorem 2.2. In fact, for any $u, v, w, u_1, v_1, w_1 \in B(S)$, we have

$$d(G(u, v, w), G(u_1, v_1, w_1)) = \sup_{x \in S} |G(u, v, w)(x) - G(u_1, v_1, w_1)(x)|. \quad (14)$$

Then, from assumption (ii) and Lemma 3.2 and using the fact that φ is an increasing function, for any $x \in S$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
|G(u, v, w) - G(u_1, v_1, w_1)| &= \left| \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(T(x, y)), v(T(x, y)), w(T(x, y)))\} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u_1(T(x, y)), v_1(T(x, y)), w_1(T(x, y)))\} \right| \\
&= \left| \sup_{y \in D} \{F(x, y, u(T(x, y)), v(T(x, y)), w(T(x, y))) - F(x, y, u_1(T(x, y)), v_1(T(x, y)), w_1(T(x, y)))\} \right| \\
&\leq \varphi(\max\{|u(T(x, y)) - u_1(T(x, y))|, |v(T(x, y)) - v_1(T(x, y))|, |w(T(x, y)) - w_1(T(x, y))|\}) \\
&\leq \varphi(\max\{\|u - u_1\|, \|v - v_1\|, \|w - w_1\|\}) \\
&\leq \varphi(\max\{d(u, u_1), d(v, v_1), d(w, w_1)\}). \tag{15}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, condition (2) of Theorem 2.2 is satisfied and, consequently, G has a unique $(\alpha - \beta)$ -triple fixed point $(u_0, v_0, w_0) \in B(S) \times B(S) \times B(S)$. This means that $G(u_0, v_0, w_0) = u_0$, $G(u_0 \circ \alpha, v_0 \circ \alpha, w_0 \circ \alpha) = v_0$ and $G(u_0 \circ \beta, v_0 \circ \beta, w_0 \circ \beta) = w_0$ or, equivalently, for $x \in S$,

$$\begin{aligned}
u_0(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u_0(T(x, y)), v_0(T(x, y)), w_0(T(x, y)))\} \\
v_0(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u_0(\alpha(T(x, y))), v_0(\alpha(T(x, y))), w_0(\alpha(T(x, y))))\} \\
w_0(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u_0(\beta(T(x, y))), v_0(\beta(T(x, y))), w_0(\beta(T(x, y))))\} \tag{16}
\end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. \square

In order to illustrate our results, we present the following example. Consider the following system of functional equations, where $x \in [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned}
u(x) &= \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ e^{-(x+|y|)} + \arctan \left(\frac{1}{3} (x + |y| + |u(|\sin(x+y)|)| + |v(|\sin(x+y)|)| + |w(|\sin(x+y)|)|) \right) \right\} \\
v(x) &= \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ e^{-(x+|y|)} + \arctan \left(\frac{1}{3} \left(x + |y| + \left| u \left(\frac{1}{1+|\sin(x+y)|} \right) \right| + \left| v \left(\frac{1}{1+|\sin(x+y)|} \right) \right| + \left| w \left(\frac{1}{1+|\sin(x+y)|} \right) \right| \right) \right\} \\
w(x) &= \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ e^{-(x+|y|)} + \arctan \left(\frac{1}{3} \left(x + |y| + \left| u \left(\frac{|\sin(x+y)|}{1+|\sin(x+y)|} \right) \right| + \left| v \left(\frac{|\sin(x+y)|}{1+|\sin(x+y)|} \right) \right| + \left| w \left(\frac{|\sin(x+y)|}{1+|\sin(x+y)|} \right) \right| \right) \right\} \tag{17}
\end{aligned}$$

This system appears in dynamic programming, where the state space is $S = [0, 1]$ and the decision space is $D = \mathbb{R}$. Notice that the system (17) is a particular case of (7), where $S = [0, 1]$, $D = \mathbb{R}$, $g : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined as $g(x, y) = e^{-(x+|y|)}$, $\alpha, \beta : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is given by $\alpha(t) = \frac{1}{1+t}$ and $\beta(t) = \frac{t}{1+t}$, $T : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is $T(x, y) = |\sin(x+y)|$, and $F : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$F(x, y, t, s, r) = \arctan \left(\frac{1}{3} (x + |y| + |t| + |s| + |r|) \right). \tag{18}$$

Notice that $|g(x, y)| \leq 1$ and $|F(x, y, 0, 0, 0)| = \arctan(\frac{1}{3}(x + |y|)) \leq \frac{\pi}{3}$. Therefore, assumption (i) of Theorem 3.1 is satisfied.

On the other hand, for $x \in [0, 1]$ and $y, t, s, r, t_1, s_1, r_1 \in \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
|F(x, y, t, s, r) - F(x, y, t_1, s_1, r_1)| &= \left| \arctan \left(\frac{1}{3} (x + |y| + |t| + |s| + |r|) \right) - \arctan \left(\frac{1}{3} (x + |y| + |t_1| + |s_1| + |r_1|) \right) \right| \\
&\leq \arctan \left(\frac{1}{3} (|t| + |s| + |r| + |t_1| + |s_1| + |r_1|) \right) \\
&\leq \arctan \left(\frac{1}{3} (\|t\| + \|s\| + \|r\| + \|t_1\| + \|s_1\| + \|r_1\|) \right) \\
&\leq \arctan \left(\frac{1}{3} (|t - t_1| + |s - s_1| + |r - r_1|) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \arctan\left(\frac{1}{3}(3\max\{|t-t_1|, |s-s_1|, |r-r_1|\})\right) \\ &\leq \arctan(\max\{|t-t_1|, |s-s_1|, |r-r_1|\}) \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

where we have used the nondecreasing character of the function $\varphi(t) = \arctan(t)$ and the fact that $|\arctan t - \arctan s| \leq \arctan(|t - s|)$, for any $t, s \in \mathbb{R}^+$. It is easily seen that $\varphi(t) = \arctan(t)$, for $t \geq 0$, is a comparison function and, therefore, assumption (ii) of Theorem 3.1 is satisfied. By Theorem 3.1, the system (17) has a unique solution $(u_0, v_0, w_0) \in B([0, 1]) \times B([0, 1]) \times B([0, 1])$.

4. Conclusion

In this paper we prove an $(\alpha - \beta)$ -triple fixed point in $B(S)$ and give an application of this result in problem of existence and uniqueness of solutions of the following system of functional equations arising in dynamic programming:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(T(x, y)), v(T(x, y)), w(T(x, y)))\} \\ v(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(\alpha(T(x, y))), v(\alpha(T(x, y))), w(\alpha(T(x, y))))\} \\ w(x) &= \sup_{y \in D} \{g(x, y) + F(x, y, u(\beta(T(x, y))), v(\beta(T(x, y))), w(\beta(T(x, y))))\} \end{aligned}$$

under certain assumptions.

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