

A GENERALIZATION OF A CONTRACTION PRINCIPLE IN PROBABILISTIC METRIC SPACES. PART II

DOREL MIHEȚ

Received 7 June 2004 and in revised form 3 December 2004

A fixed point theorem concerning probabilistic contractions satisfying an implicit relation, which generalizes a well-known result of Hadžić, is proved.

1. Preliminaries

In this section we recall some useful facts from the probabilistic metric spaces theory. For more details concerning this problematic we refer the reader to the books [1, 3, 9].

1.1. t -norms. A *triangular norm* (shortly *t -norm*) is a binary operation $T : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1] := I$ which is commutative, associative, monotone in each place, and has 1 as the unit element.

Basic examples are $T_L : I \times I \rightarrow I$, $T_L(a, b) = \text{Max}(a + b - 1, 0)$ (*Łukasiewicz t -norm*), $T_P(a, b) = ab$, and $T_M(a, b) = \text{Min}\{a, b\}$. We also mention the following families of t -norms:

- (i) *Sugeno-Weber family* $(T_\lambda^{SW})_{\lambda \in (-1, \infty)}$, defined by $T_\lambda^{SW} = \max(0, (x + y - 1 + \lambda xy) / (1 + \lambda))$,
- (ii) *Domby family* $(T_\lambda^D)_{\lambda \in (0, \infty)}$, defined by $T_\lambda^D = (1 + (((1 - x)/x)^\lambda + ((1 - y)/y)^\lambda)^{1/\lambda})^{-1}$,
- (iii) *Aczel-Alsina family* $(T_\lambda^{AA})_{\lambda \in (0, \infty)}$, defined by $T_\lambda^{AA} = e^{-(|\log x|^\lambda + |\log y|^\lambda)^{1/\lambda}}$.

Definition 1.1 [2, 3]. It is said that the t -norm T is of *Hadžić-type* (*H-type* for short) and $T \in \mathcal{H}$ if the family $\{T^n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of its iterates defined, for each x in $[0, 1]$, by

$$T^0(x) = 1, \quad T^{n+1}(x) = T(T^n(x), x), \quad \forall n \geq 0, \quad (1.1)$$

is equicontinuous at $x = 1$, that is,

$$\forall \varepsilon \in (0, 1) \exists \delta \in (0, 1) \text{ such that } x > 1 - \delta \implies T^n(x) > 1 - \varepsilon, \quad \forall n \geq 1. \quad (1.2)$$

There is a nice characterization of continuous t -norms T of the class \mathcal{H} [8].

(i) If there exists a strictly increasing sequence $(b_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in $[0, 1]$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 1$ and $T(b_n, b_n) = b_n \ \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, then T is of Hadžić-type.

(ii) If T is continuous and $T \in \mathcal{H}$, then there exists a sequence $(b_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ as in (i).

The t -norm T_M is an trivial example of a t -norm of H -type, but there are t -norms T of Hadžić-type with $T \neq T_M$ (see, e.g., [3]).

Definition 1.2 [3]. If T is a t -norm and $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in [0, 1]^n$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$), then $T_{i=1}^n x_i$ is defined recurrently by 1, if $n = 0$ and $T_{i=1}^n x_i = T(T_{i=1}^{n-1} x_i, x_n)$ for all $n \geq 1$. If $(x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a sequence of numbers from $[0, 1]$, then $T_{i=1}^\infty x_i$ is defined as $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=1}^n x_i$ (this limit always exists) and $T_{i=n}^\infty x_i$ as $T_{i=1}^\infty x_{n+i}$. In fixed point theory in probabilistic metric spaces there are of particular interest the t -norms T and sequences $(x_n) \subset [0, 1]$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 1$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=1}^\infty x_{n+i} = 1$. Some examples of t -norms with the above property are given in the following proposition.

PROPOSITION 1.3 [3]. (i) For $T \geq T_L$ the following implication holds:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=1}^\infty x_{n+i} = 1 \iff \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - x_n) < \infty. \quad (1.3)$$

(ii) (1.3) also holds for $T = T_\lambda^{SW}$.

(iii) If $T \in \mathcal{H}$, then for every sequence $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in I such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 1$, one has $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=1}^\infty x_{n+i} = 1$.

(iv) If $T \in \{T_\lambda^D, T_\lambda^{AA}\}$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=1}^\infty x_{n+i} = 1 \Leftrightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - x_n)^\lambda < \infty$.

Note [4, Remark 13] that if T is a t -norm for which there exists a sequence $(x_n) \subset [0, 1]$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 1$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=1}^\infty x_{n+i} = 1$, then $\sup_{t < 1} T(t, t) = 1$.

1.2. Menger spaces and generalized Menger spaces. Probabilistic contractions of Sehgal type. Let Δ_+ be the class of *distance distribution functions* [9], that is, the class of all functions $F : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with the properties

- (a) $F(0) = 0$;
- (b) F is nondecreasing;
- (c) F is left continuous on $(0, \infty)$.

D_+ is the subset of Δ_+ containing the functions F which also satisfy the condition $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F(x) = 1$.

A special element of D_+ is the function ε_0 , defined by

$$\varepsilon_0(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } t = 0, \\ 1, & \text{if } t > 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.4)$$

A sequence (F_n) in Δ_+ is said to be *weakly convergent* to $F \in \Delta_+$ (shortly $F_n \xrightarrow{w} F$) if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_n(x) = F(x)$ for every continuity point x of F .

If X is a nonempty set, a mapping $F : X \times X \rightarrow \Delta_+$ is called a *probabilistic distance* on X and $F(x, y)$ is denoted by F_{xy} .

The triple (X, F, T) , where X is a nonempty set, F is a probabilistic distance on X , and T is a t -norm, is called a *generalized Menger space* (or a *Menger space in the sense of*

Schweizer and Sklar) if the following conditions hold:

$$F_{xy} = \varepsilon_0 \iff x = y, \quad (1.5)$$

$$F_{xy} = F_{yx}, \quad \forall x, y \in X, \quad (1.6)$$

$$F_{xy}(t+s) \geq T(F_{xz}(t), F_{zy}(s)), \quad \forall x, y, z \in X, \forall t, s > 0. \quad (1.7)$$

A *Menger space* is a generalized Menger space with the property $\text{Range}(F) \subset D_+$.

If (X, F, T) is a generalized Menger space with $\sup_{t < 1} T(t, t) = 1$, then the family

$$\{U_{\varepsilon, \lambda}\}_{\varepsilon > 0, \lambda \in (0, 1)}, \quad U_{\varepsilon, \lambda} = \{(x, y) \in X \times X : F_{xy}(\varepsilon) > 1 - \lambda\} \quad (1.8)$$

is a base for a metrizable uniformity on X , named the *F-uniformity* and denoted by \mathcal{U}_F .

\mathcal{U}_F naturally determines a topology on X , called the *F-topology*:

$$O \in \mathcal{T}_F \iff \forall x \in O \exists \varepsilon > 0, \exists \lambda \in (0, 1) \text{ such that } U_{\varepsilon, \lambda}(x) \subset O. \quad (1.9)$$

\mathcal{U}_F is also generated by the family $\{V_\delta\}_{\delta > 0}$ where $V_\delta := U_{\delta, \delta}$. In what follows the topological notions refer to the *F-topology*. Thus, a sequence $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is *F-convergent* to $x \in X$ if for all $\varepsilon > 0, \lambda \in (0, 1)$ there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $F_{xx_n}(\varepsilon) > 1 - \lambda$ for all $n \geq k$.

Definition 1.4. A sequence $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in X is called *F-Cauchy* if for each $\varepsilon > 0, \lambda \in (0, 1)$ there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $F_{x_r x_s}(\varepsilon) > 1 - \lambda$ for all $s \geq r \geq k$.

Probabilistic contractions were first defined and studied by V. M. Sehgal in his doctoral dissertation at Wayne State University.

Definition 1.5 [10]. Let S be a nonempty set and let F be a probabilistic distance on S . A mapping $f : S \rightarrow S$ is called a *probabilistic contraction* (or *B-contraction*) if there exists $k \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$F_{f(p)f(q)}(kt) \geq F_{pq}(t), \quad \forall p, q \in S, \forall t > 0. \quad (1.10)$$

In [10] it is showed that any contraction map on a complete Menger space in which the triangle inequality is formulated under the strongest triangular norm T_M has a unique fixed point. In [11] Sherwood showed that one can construct a complete Menger space under T_L and a fixed-point-free contraction map on that space. Hadžić [2] introduced the class \mathcal{H} which have the property that Sehgal's result can be extended to any continuous triangular norm in that class. Completing the result of Hadžić, Radu solved the problem of the existence of fixed points for probabilistic contractions in complete Menger spaces (S, F, T) with T continuous. Namely, the following theorem holds.

THEOREM 1.6 [7]. *Every B-contraction in a complete Menger space (S, F, T) with T continuous has a (unique) fixed point if and only if T is of Hadžić-type.*

However, under some additional growth conditions on the probabilistic metric F one may replace the t -norm of H -type in the above theorem, as in Tardiff's paper [13]. Corollary 2.6 in our paper gives another result in this respect.

2. Main results

The main result of this paper is Theorem 2.4 concerning contractive mappings satisfying an implicit relation similar to that in [6, 12]. This theorem generalizes the mentioned result of Hadžić (see Corollary 2.7). Note that we work in generalized Menger spaces.

We begin with an auxiliary result, which is formulated as follows.

LEMMA 2.1. *Let (X, F, T) be a generalized Menger space and let $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence in X such that, for some $k \in (0, 1)$,*

$$F_{x_n x_{n+1}}(kt) \geq F_{x_{n-1} x_n}(t), \quad \forall n \geq 1, \forall t > 0. \quad (2.1)$$

If there exists $\gamma > 1$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0 x_1}(\gamma^i) = 1, \quad (2.2)$$

then $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an F -Cauchy sequence.

Proof. First note [4] that if the condition $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0 x_1}(\gamma^i) = 1$ holds for some $\gamma = \gamma_0 > 1$, then it is satisfied for all $\gamma > 1$. Indeed, if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0 x_1}(\gamma_0^i) = 1$ and $\gamma \geq \gamma_0$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0 x_1}(\gamma^i) \geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0 x_1}(\gamma_0^i) = 1$ and therefore $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0 x_1}(\gamma^i) = 1$, while if $\gamma < \gamma_0$, then $\gamma^s > \gamma_0$, for some $s \in \mathbb{N}$, and now $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n+s}^{\infty} F_{x_0 x_1}(\gamma^i) \geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0 x_1}(\gamma_0^i) = 1$.

We will prove that

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists n_0 = n_0(\varepsilon) : F_{x_n x_{n+m}}(\varepsilon) > 1 - \varepsilon, \quad \forall n \geq n_0, \forall m \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (2.3)$$

Let $\mu \in (k, 1)$ and let $\delta = k/\mu$. From the above remark it follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0 x_1} \left(\frac{1}{\mu^i} \right) = 1. \quad (2.4)$$

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be given and $y_i := F_{x_0 x_1}(1/\mu^i)$. From $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=1}^{\infty} y_{n+i} = 1$ it follows that there exists $n_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $T_{i=1}^m y_{n+i-1} > 1 - \varepsilon$, for all $n \geq n_1$, for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

Since the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \delta^n$ is convergent, there exists $n_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\sum_{n=n_2}^{\infty} \delta^n < \varepsilon$.

Let $n_0 = \max\{n_1, n_2\}$. Then, for all $n \geq n_0$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} F_{x_n x_{n+m}}(\varepsilon) &\geq F_{x_n x_{n+m}} \left(\sum_{i=n}^{n+m-1} \delta^i \right) \\ &\geq T_{i=0}^{m-1} F_{x_{n+i} x_{n+i+1}}(\delta^{n+i}) \geq T_{i=0}^{m-1} y_{n+i} > 1 - \varepsilon, \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

where the last “ \geq ” inequality follows from $F_{x_s x_{s+1}}(\delta^s) = F_{x_s x_{s+1}}(k/\mu)^s \geq F_{x_0 x_1}(1/\mu^s)$ for all $s \geq 1$, which immediately can be proved by induction. \square

In the following we deal with the class Φ of all continuous functions $\varphi : [0, 1]^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with the property:

$$\varphi(u, v, v, u) \geq 0 \implies u \geq v. \quad (2.6)$$

Next we give some examples of functions in Φ .

Example 2.2. If $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$ and $a + b + c + d = 0$, then $\varphi(t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4) := at_1 + bt_2 + ct_3 + dt_4 \in \Phi$ if and only if $a + d > 0$.

Indeed, $a + d \leq 0 \Rightarrow b + c \geq 0$. Choosing $u = 0, v = 1$ we have $u < v$ and $\varphi(u, v, v, u) = (a + d)u + (b + c)v = b + c \geq 0$.

Conversely, if $a + d > 0$ and $\varphi(u, v, v, u) \geq 0$, then $(a + d)u \geq -(b + c)v$, that is $(a + d)u \geq (a + d)v$, which implies that $u \geq v$.

Thus, the functions φ_1, φ_2 ,

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_1(t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4) &= t_1 - t_2, \\ \varphi_2(t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4) &= t_1 - t_3,\end{aligned}\tag{2.7}$$

are in Φ .

Also, the function φ defined by $\varphi(t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4) = t_1^2 - t_2 t_3$ and, more generally, $\varphi(t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4) = t_1^2 - (at_2^2 + bt_3^2) - t_2 t_3$ with $a + b = 0$ are in Φ .

In the proof of Theorem 2.4 we need the following lemma, which is the analog of uniform continuity of a metric (note that $([0, 1], T)$ is rather a semigroup than a group).

LEMMA 2.3. *Let (S, F, T) be a generalized Menger space with T continuous in $(a, 1)$ for all $a \in (0, 1)$, that is,*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = a, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 1 \implies \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T(a_n, b_n) = a.\tag{2.8}$$

If $p, q \in S$ and (p_n) is a sequence in S such that $p_n \rightarrow p$, then $F_{p_n q} \xrightarrow{w} F_{pq}$.

Proof. Let $p, q \in S$, $p_n \rightarrow p$ and t be a continuity point of F_{pq} . By (1.7) it follows that for all $0 < \varepsilon < t$,

$$\begin{aligned}F_{p_n q}(t) &\geq T(F_{p_n p}(\varepsilon), F_{pq}(t - \varepsilon)), \\ F_{pq}(t + \varepsilon) &\geq T(F_{p_n p}(\varepsilon), F_{p_n q}(t)).\end{aligned}\tag{2.9}$$

Therefore, $\lim_n \inf F_{p_n q}(t) \geq F_{pq}(t - \varepsilon)$ and $F_{pq}(t + \varepsilon) \geq \lim_n \sup F_{p_n q}(t)$. Letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ we obtain $\lim_n \sup F_{p_n q}(t) \leq F_{pq}(t) \leq \lim_n \inf F_{p_n q}(t)$, and thus $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{p_n q}(t) = F_{pq}(t)$. \square

THEOREM 2.4. *Let (X, F, T) be an F -complete generalized Menger space under a t -norm T which is continuous in $(a, 1)$ for all $a \in (0, 1)$, $k \in (0, 1)$, and $\varphi \in \Phi$. If $f : X \rightarrow X$ is a mapping such that*

$$(\varphi_f) : \varphi(F_{f(x)f(y)}(kt), F_{xy}(t), F_{xf(x)}(t), F_{yf(y)}(kt)) \geq 0, \quad \forall x, y \in X, \forall t > 0\tag{2.10}$$

and there exist $x_0 \in X$ and $\gamma > 1$ for which $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^\infty F_{x_0 f(x_0)}(\gamma^i) = 1$, then f has a fixed point.

Proof. Let $x_0 \in X$ be such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^\infty F_{x_0 f(x_0)}(\gamma^i) = 1$ and, for all $n \geq 1$, $x_n = f(x_{n-1})$. Note that (φ_f) implies that

$$F_{f(x)f^2(x)}(kt) \geq F_{xf(x)}(t), \quad \forall x \in X, \forall t > 0.\tag{2.11}$$

On taking in this relation $x = x_n$ we obtain

$$\varphi(F_{x_{n+1}x_{n+2}}(kt), F_{x_nx_{n+1}}(t), F_{x_nx_{n+1}}(t), F_{x_{n+1}x_{n+2}}(kt)) \geq 0, \quad \forall n \in N, \forall t > 0. \quad (2.12)$$

It follows that $F_{x_{n+1}x_{n+2}}(kt) \geq F_{x_nx_{n+1}}(t)$, for all $n \in N$, for all $t > 0$ and therefore, by Lemma 2.1, (x_n) is a Cauchy sequence.

By the F -completeness of X it follows that there exists $u \in X$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{ux_n}(t) = 1$, for all $t > 0$.

Notice that from $F_{x_{n+1}x_{n+2}}(kt) \geq F_{x_nx_{n+1}}(t)$, for all $n \in N$, for all $t > 0$ it follows that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{x_nx_{n+1}}(t) = 1$, for all $t > 0$, for $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0f(x_0)}(\gamma^i) = 1$ implies that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{x_0f(x_0)}(\gamma^n) = 1$ (therefore $F_{x_0f(x_0)} \in D_+$) and $F_{x_nx_{n+1}}(t) \geq F_{x_0x_1}(t/k^n)$, for all $n \in N$, for all $t > 0$.

Next, on taking $x = x_n$, $y = u$ in (φ_f) one obtains

$$\varphi(F_{x_{n+1}f(u)}(kt), F_{x_nu}(t), F_{x_nx_{n+1}}(t), F_{uf(u)}(kt)) \geq 0, \quad \forall n \in N, \forall t > 0. \quad (2.13)$$

If kt is a continuity point of $F_{uf(u)}$, then, on taking $n \rightarrow \infty$ in the above inequality and using Lemma 2.3, we get

$$\varphi(F_{uf(u)}(kt), 1, 1, F_{uf(u)}(kt)) \geq 0. \quad (2.14)$$

Thus $F_{uf(u)}(kt) = 1$. Since $F_{uf(u)}$ is increasing, the set of its discontinuity points is at most countable. Hence $F_{uf(u)}(kt) = 1$ for all $t > 0$, from which (using (1.5)) we obtain $u = f(u)$. This completes the proof. \square

COROLLARY 2.5 [5, Theorem 2.1]. *Let (X, F, T) be an F -complete generalized Menger space under a continuous t -norm $T \in \mathcal{H}$, $k \in (0, 1)$, and $\varphi \in \Phi$. If $f : X \rightarrow X$ is a mapping such that*

$$\varphi(F_{f(x)f(y)}(kt), F_{xy}(t), F_{xf(x)}(t), F_{yf(y)}(kt)) \geq 0, \quad \forall x, y \in X, \forall t > 0 \quad (2.15)$$

and there exists $x_0 \in X$ for which $F_{x_0f(x_0)} \in D_+$, then f has a fixed point.

Proof. Choose a $\mu > 1$. Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu^n = \infty$ and $F_{x_0x_1} \in D_+$, it follows that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{x_0f(x_0)}(\mu^n) = 1$. Therefore, by Proposition 1.3(iii),

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_{i=n}^{\infty} F_{x_0f(x_0)}(\mu^i) = 1. \quad (2.16)$$

Now apply Theorem 2.4. \square

COROLLARY 2.6. *Let (X, F, T_L) be an F -complete generalized Menger space and $\varphi \in \Phi$. If $f : X \rightarrow X$ is a mapping such that*

$$\varphi(F_{f(x)f(y)}(kt), F_{xy}(t), F_{xf(x)}(t), F_{yf(y)}(kt)) \geq 0, \quad \forall x, y \in X, \forall t > 0, \quad (2.17)$$

and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - F_{x_0f(x_0)}(\gamma^n)) < \infty$ for some $x_0 \in X$ and $\gamma > 1$, then f has a fixed point.

For the proof see Proposition 1.3.

COROLLARY 2.7. Let (X, F, T) be an F -complete generalized Menger space under $T \in \{T_\lambda^D, T_\lambda^{AA}\}$, $k \in (0, 1)$, and $\varphi \in \Phi$. If $f : X \rightarrow X$ is a mapping such that

$$\varphi(F_{f(x)f(y)}(kt), F_{xy}(t), F_{xf(x)}(t), F_{yf(y)}(kt)) \geq 0, \quad \forall x, y \in X, \forall t > 0 \quad (2.18)$$

and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - F_{x_0 f(x_0)}(\gamma^n))^\lambda < \infty$ for some $x_0 \in X$ and $\gamma > 1$, then f has a fixed point.

COROLLARY 2.8. Let (X, F, T) be an F -complete generalized Menger space under a continuous t -norm $T \in \mathcal{H}$ and $k \in (0, 1)$. If $f : X \rightarrow X$ is a mapping satisfying one of the following conditions:

$$F_{f(x)f(y)}(kt) \geq F_{xy}(t), \quad \forall x, y \in X, \forall t > 0, \quad (2.19)$$

$$F_{f(x)f(y)}^2(kt) \geq F_{xy}(t)F_{xf(x)}(t), \quad \forall x, y \in X, \forall t > 0, \quad (2.20)$$

$$F_{f(x)f(y)}(kt) \geq 2F_{xy}(t) - F_{xf(x)}(t), \quad \forall x, y \in X, \forall t > 0 \quad (2.21)$$

and there exists $x_0 \in X$ for which $F_{x_0 f(x_0)} \in D_+$, then f has a fixed point.

As a final result for this section, we consider an example to see the generality of Theorem 2.4.

Example 2.9. Let X be a set containing at least two elements and the mapping F from $X \times X$ to Δ_+ , defined by

$$F_{xy}(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } t \leq 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}, & \text{if } t > 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{for } x, y \in X, x \neq y, \quad F_{xx} = \varepsilon_0, \quad \forall x \in X. \quad (2.22)$$

It is easy to show (see [14]) that (X, F, T_M) is a complete Menger space.

We are going to prove that the mapping $f : X \rightarrow X$, $f(x) = x$ satisfies the contractivity condition (2.21) from the above corollary with $b = 2$, $c = -1$, however it is not a B -contraction (here we took advantage of working in Δ_+ rather than in D_+).

First, we show that

$$F_{xy}(kt) + 1 \geq 2F_{xy}(t), \quad \forall x, y \in X, \forall t > 0. \quad (2.23)$$

Indeed, the above inequality holds with equality if $x = y$, while if $x \neq y$ then the right-hand member is at most 1.

Next, for every $t \in (1, 1/k]$, $F_{xy}(kt) = 0$, while $F_{xy}(t) = 1/2$, which means that f is not a Sehgal contraction.

References

- [1] G. Constantin and I. Istrătescu, *Elements of Probabilistic Analysis with Applications*, Mathematics and Its Applications (East European Series), vol. 36, Editura Academiei, Bucharest; Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 1989.
- [2] O. Hadžić, *A generalization of the contraction principle in probabilistic metric spaces*, Univ. u Novom Sadu Zb. Rad. Prirod.-Mat. Fak. **10** (1980), 13–21 (1981).
- [3] O. Hadžić and E. Pap, *Fixed Point Theory in Probabilistic Metric Spaces*, Mathematics and Its Applications, vol. 536, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 2001.

- [4] ———, *New classes of probabilistic contractions and applications to random operators*, Fixed Point Theory and Applications (Chinju/Masan, 2001), vol. 4, Nova Science Publishers, New York, 2003, pp. 97–119.
- [5] D. Mihet, *A generalization of a contraction principle in probabilistic metric spaces*, The 9th International Conference on Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, Cluj-Napoca, 2004.
- [6] V. Popa, *Fixed points for non-surjective expansion mappings satisfying an implicit relation*, Bul. Ştiinţ. Univ. Baia Mare Ser. B Fasc. Mat.-Inform. **18** (2002), no. 1, 105–108.
- [7] V. Radu, *Some fixed point theorems in probabilistic metric spaces*, Stability Problems for Stochastic Models (Varna, 1985), Lecture Notes in Math., vol. 1233, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1987, pp. 125–133.
- [8] ———, *Lectures on Probabilistic Analysis*, Surveys, Lecture Notes and Monographs. Series on Probability, Statistics and Applied Mathematics, vol. 2, Universitatea din Timişoara, Timişoara, 1994.
- [9] B. Schweizer and A. Sklar, *Probabilistic Metric Spaces*, North-Holland Series in Probability and Applied Mathematics, North-Holland Publishing, New York, 1983.
- [10] V. M. Sehgal and A. T. Bharucha-Reid, *Fixed points of contraction mappings on probabilistic metric spaces*, Math. Systems Theory **6** (1972), 97–102.
- [11] H. Sherwood, *Complete probabilistic metric spaces*, Z. Wahrscheinlichkeitstheorie und Verw. Gebiete **20** (1971/72), 117–128.
- [12] B. Singh and S. Jain, *A quantitative generalization of Banach contractions*, in preparation.
- [13] R. M. Tardiff, *Contraction maps on probabilistic metric spaces*, J. Math. Anal. Appl. **165** (1992), no. 2, 517–523.
- [14] E. Thorp, *Best possible triangle inequalities for statistical metric spaces*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **11** (1960), 734–740.

Dorel Mihet: Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, West University of Timisoara, Bd. V. Parvan 4, 300223 Timisoara, Romania
E-mail address: mihet@math.uvt.ro

Special Issue on Modeling Experimental Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaotic Scenarios

Call for Papers

Thinking about nonlinearity in engineering areas, up to the 70s, was focused on intentionally built nonlinear parts in order to improve the operational characteristics of a device or system. Keying, saturation, hysteretic phenomena, and dead zones were added to existing devices increasing their behavior diversity and precision. In this context, an intrinsic nonlinearity was treated just as a linear approximation, around equilibrium points.

Inspired on the rediscovering of the richness of nonlinear and chaotic phenomena, engineers started using analytical tools from “Qualitative Theory of Differential Equations,” allowing more precise analysis and synthesis, in order to produce new vital products and services. Bifurcation theory, dynamical systems and chaos started to be part of the mandatory set of tools for design engineers.

This proposed special edition of the *Mathematical Problems in Engineering* aims to provide a picture of the importance of the bifurcation theory, relating it with nonlinear and chaotic dynamics for natural and engineered systems. Ideas of how this dynamics can be captured through precisely tailored real and numerical experiments and understanding by the combination of specific tools that associate dynamical system theory and geometric tools in a very clever, sophisticated, and at the same time simple and unique analytical environment are the subject of this issue, allowing new methods to design high-precision devices and equipment.

Authors should follow the Mathematical Problems in Engineering manuscript format described at <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/mpe/>. Prospective authors should submit an electronic copy of their complete manuscript through the journal Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/> according to the following timetable:

Manuscript Due	December 1, 2008
First Round of Reviews	March 1, 2009
Publication Date	June 1, 2009

Guest Editors

José Roberto Castilho Piqueira, Telecommunication and Control Engineering Department, Polytechnic School, The University of São Paulo, 05508-970 São Paulo, Brazil; piqueira@lac.usp.br

Elbert E. Neher Macau, Laboratório Associado de Matemática Aplicada e Computação (LAC), Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (INPE), São José dos Campos, 12227-010 São Paulo, Brazil ; elbert@lac.inpe.br

Celso Grebogi, Center for Applied Dynamics Research, King's College, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB24 3UE, UK; grebogi@abdn.ac.uk