

Research Article

New Results for Set-Valued Mappings on Ordered Metric Spaces

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Received 6 February 2020; Accepted 22 August 2020; Published 24 September 2020

Academic Editor: Lars E. Persson

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We establish some new fixed point results for order-closed multivalued mappings in complete metric spaces endowed with a partial order.

1. Introduction

In 1976, an order relation was defined in metric spaces [1]. Later, many researchers proved various fixed point results in this setting (see [2–11]), while the authors in [4, 5, 9] considered coupled questions for so-called monotone conditions. Zhang [12] proved some (coupled) fixed point theorems for multivalued mappings with monotone conditions in metric spaces with a partial order. Since then, Agarwal and Khamsi [13] extended Caristi's fixed point to vector-valued metric spaces. Also, Chung [14] considered nonlinear contraction mappings. Nadler [15] defined multivalued contractions, and Assad and Kirk [16] proved fixed point theorems for set-valued mappings (see also the related works [17–22]).

In this paper, we present some fixed point results in ordered metric spaces for order-closed multivalued operators. First, we need some facts.

Lemma 1. [23] Let (\mathcal{E}, d) be a metric space and $\phi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty)$ be a functional. Consider $\gamma : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ a nondecreasing, continuous, and subadditive function so that $\gamma^{-1}(\{0\}) = \{0\}$. Take the relation " \preceq " on \mathcal{E} given as

$$u \preceq v \text{ iff } \gamma(d(u, v)) \leq \phi(u) - \phi(v), \text{ for all } u, v \in \mathcal{E}. \quad (1)$$

Then, " \preceq " is a partial order relation on \mathcal{E} . Apparently, $u \preceq v$ then $\phi(u) \geq \phi(v)$.

Here, we state some definitions. Let \mathcal{E} be a topological space. Denote by $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ the family of nonempty subsets of \mathcal{E} . Let \preceq be a partial order on \mathcal{E} .

Definition 2. [24] Given two nonempty subsets U and V of \mathcal{E} .

- (r1) If for each $a \in U$, there is $b \in V$ so that $a \preceq b$, then $U \prec_1 V$
 - (r2) If for each $b \in V$, there is $a \in U$ so that $a \preceq b$, then $U \prec_2 V$
 - (r3) If $U \prec_1 V$ and $U \prec_2 V$, then $U \prec V$.
- (2)

Note that \prec_1 and \prec_2 are different relations between U and V (see Remark 114 of [24]). Also, \prec_1 , \prec_2 , and \prec are not partial orders on $\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ (see Remark 2 of [24]).

Definition 3. If $\{u_n\} \subset \mathcal{E}$ satisfies $u_1 \preceq u_2 \preceq \dots \preceq u_n \preceq \dots$ or $u_1 \succeq u_2 \succeq \dots \succeq u_n \succeq \dots$, then $\{u_n\}$ is called a monotone sequence.

Definition 4. A multivalued operator $G : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ is said to be order-closed if, for monotone sequences $\{u_n\}$ and $\{v_n\} \subset \mathcal{E}$, we have $u_n \rightarrow u_0$, $v_n \rightarrow v_0$, and $v_n \in Gu_n$ imply $v_0 \in Gu_0$.

Definition 5. A function $g : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty)$ is said to be order upper (lower) semicontinuous, if, for a monotone sequence $\{u_n\} \subset \mathcal{E}$ with $u_0 \in \mathcal{E}$, we have

$$u_n \longrightarrow u_0 \Rightarrow \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(u_n) \leq g(u_0), \left(g(u_0) \leq \underline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(u_n) \right). \quad (3)$$

Note that an upper (lower) semicontinuous function is an order upper (lower) semicontinuous. But the converse is not true (see Remark 3 of [24]).

2. Main Results

Let (\mathcal{E}, d) be a metric space. For $\phi : \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$, define the partial order “ \preceq ” on \mathcal{E} induced by ϕ and γ in Lemma 1.

Theorem 6. *Let $(\mathcal{E}, d, \preceq)$ be a complete ordered metric space and $\phi : \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow (-\infty, +\infty)$ be a bounded below function. Suppose that $G : \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ is order-closed with respect to “ \preceq ” so that*

$$(H) \text{ for any } u \in \mathcal{E}, \text{ there is } v \in Gu \text{ so that } u \preceq v \quad (4)$$

Then, there is a monotone sequence $\{u_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \subset \mathcal{E}$, so that $u_{n+1} \in Gu_n$ for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, and $\{u_n\}$ converges to u^ , which is a fixed point of G . If in addition, ϕ is order lower semicontinuous on \mathcal{E} , then $u_n \preceq u^*$ for each n .*

Proof. By the condition (H), take $u_0 \in \mathcal{E}$. From (H), there is $u_1 \in Gu_0$ so that $u_0 \preceq u_1$. Again, from (H), there is $u_2 \in Gu_1$ with $u_1 \preceq u_2$. Continuing this procedure, we have an increasing sequence $\{u_n\}$ so that $u_{n+1} \in Gu_n$. Therefore,

$$\phi(u_{n-1}) \geq \phi(u_n) \text{ for all } n. \quad (5)$$

That is, the real sequence $\{\phi(u_n)\}$ is decreasing, so it is a convergent sequence because ϕ is bounded from below on \mathcal{E} .

Using Remark 3 of [25] and Remark 2 of [26], we find that

$$\lim_{\ell \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\gamma(\ell)}{\ell} = \sup \left\{ \frac{\gamma(\ell)}{\ell} : \ell > 0 \right\}, \quad (6)$$

provided that γ is subadditive. Thus,

$$\liminf_{\ell \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\gamma(\ell)}{\ell} > 0. \quad (7)$$

By (7), there are $\delta > 0$ and $c > 0$ so that

$$\gamma(\ell) \geq c\ell, \text{ for all } \ell \in [0, \delta]. \quad (8)$$

Since γ is nondecreasing, we have $\gamma(\ell) \geq \gamma(\delta)$ for each $\ell \in [\delta, +\infty)$.

Let $0 < \varepsilon < \gamma(\delta)$. Then

$$\gamma(\ell) > \varepsilon, \text{ for each } \ell \in [\delta, +\infty), \quad (9)$$

i.e.,

$$\text{if } \gamma(\ell) \leq \varepsilon, \text{ then } \ell \in [0, \delta]. \quad (10)$$

Therefore, we have

$$\{\ell \geq 0 : \gamma(\ell) \leq \varepsilon\} \subset [0, \delta], \quad (11)$$

which together with (8) implies that

$$\gamma(\ell) \geq c\ell, \text{ for all } \ell \in \{\ell \geq 0 : \gamma(\ell) \leq \varepsilon\}. \quad (12)$$

Note that $\{\phi(u_n)\}$ is convergent; then, there is n_0 so that for all $m \geq n \geq n_0$,

$$\gamma(d(u_n, u_m)) \leq \phi(u_n) - \phi(u_m) < \varepsilon. \quad (13)$$

Moreover, by (12), we get

$$cd(u_n, u_m) \leq \gamma(d(u_n, u_m)) \leq \phi(u_n) - \phi(u_m), \text{ for all } m \geq n \geq n_0. \quad (14)$$

The convergence of $\{\phi(u_n)\}$ implies that $\{u_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence. By the completeness of \mathcal{E} , there is $u^* \in \mathcal{E}$ so that $u_n \longrightarrow u^*$ as $n \longrightarrow \infty$. Since G is order-closed, $\{u_n\}$ is monotone and $u_{n+1} \in Gu_n$. Consequently,

$$u^* \in Gu^*, \quad (15)$$

i.e., u^* is a fixed point of G .

If ϕ is order lower semicontinuous on \mathcal{E} , by definition of “ \preceq ” then we have for each m

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(d(u_m, u^*)) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \gamma(d(u_m, u_n)) \leq \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\phi(u_m) - \phi(u_n)) \\ &= \phi(u_m) - \underline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(u_n) \leq \phi(u_m) - \phi(u^*). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

It yields that $u_m \preceq u^*$. The proof is completed.

The proof of the following theorem carries over in the same manner as for Theorem 6.

Theorem 7. *Let $(\mathcal{E}, d, \preceq)$ be a complete ordered metric space and $\phi : \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow (-\infty, +\infty)$ be a bounded below function. Suppose that $G : \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ is order-closed with respect to “ \preceq .” Assume that*

$$(H) \text{ for each } u \in \mathcal{E}, \text{ there is } v \in Gu \text{ so that } v \preceq u \quad (17)$$

Then, there is a monotone sequence $\{u_n\}_{n=0}^\infty \subset \mathcal{E}$, $u_{n+1} \in Gu_n$, $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, such that $\{u_n\}$ converges to u^ , which is a fixed point of G . If, in addition, ϕ is order upper semicontinuous on \mathcal{E} , then $u^* \preceq u_n$ for all n .*

Theorem 8. *Let $(\mathcal{E}, d, \preceq)$ be a complete ordered metric space and $\phi : \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow (-\infty, +\infty)$ be a bounded below function. Suppose that $G : \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ is order-closed with respect to “ \preceq .” Assume that*

$$(i) \text{ for each } u, v \in \mathcal{E} \text{ with } u \preceq v \Rightarrow Gu \prec_1 Gv$$

(ii) there exists $u_0 \in \mathcal{E}$ such that, $\{u_0\} \prec_1 Gu_0$.

Then, G has a fixed point u^* , and there is a sequence $\{u_n\}$ with $u_{n-1} \preceq u_n \in Gu_{n-1}$ for $n \geq 1$, such that $u_n \rightarrow u^*$. Moreover, if ϕ is order lower semicontinuous, then $u_n \preceq u^*$ for all n .

Proof. Since $Gu \neq \emptyset$, by (ii), we can choose $u_1 \in Gu_0$ so that $x_0 \preceq u_1$. This implies that $Gu_0 \prec_1 Gu_1$, by definition of \prec_1 , there is $u_2 \preceq Gu_1$ so that $u_1 \preceq u_2$. Continuing this procedure, we can find an increasing sequence $\{u_n\}$ such that $u_n \in Gu_{n-1}$. The rest of the proof is similar as in Theorem 6.

The following supports Theorem 8.

Example 9. Let $\mathcal{E} = [0, 1]$ and $d(\xi, \sigma) = |\xi - \sigma|$, for $\xi, \sigma \in \mathcal{E}$. The metric space (\mathcal{E}, d) is complete. Consider the multivalued mapping $G : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ given as

$$G(\xi) = \begin{cases} \left[\frac{\xi}{5}, \frac{\xi}{4} \right] & \text{for } \xi \in \mathcal{E} \cap \mathbb{Q} \\ \left[\frac{\xi}{5=3}, \frac{\xi}{2} \right] & \text{for } \xi \in \mathcal{E} \setminus \mathbb{Q}, \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

where \mathbb{Q} is the set of rational numbers. Let $\gamma(s) = s$ ($s \geq 0$) and $\phi(\xi) = |\xi|$ ($\xi \in \mathcal{E}$). Note that ϕ is bounded from below. Take the order \preceq induced by ϕ , that is, given as follows:

$$\xi \preceq \sigma \Leftrightarrow \gamma(d(\xi, \sigma)) \leq \phi(\xi) - \phi(\sigma). \quad (19)$$

Mention that G verifies the following assertions:

- (a) for each $u, v \in \mathcal{E}$ with $u \preceq v$, we have $Gu \prec_1 Gv$
- (b) $0 \prec_1 G0$
- (c) G is order-closed on \mathcal{E} .

Hence, G has a fixed point on \mathcal{E} , which is $u^* = 0$.

Theorem 10. Let $(\mathcal{E}, d, \preceq)$ be a complete ordered metric space and $\phi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty)$ be a bounded below function. Suppose $G : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ is order-closed with respect to " \preceq ." If the following conditions hold:

- (i) for each $u, v \in \mathcal{E}$ with $u \preceq v \Rightarrow Gu \prec_2 Gv$
- (ii) there exists $u_0 \in \mathcal{E}$ such that, $Gu_0 \prec_2 \{u_0\}$

then G has a fixed point u^* . Also, there is a sequence $\{u_n\}$ with $u_{n-1} \succeq u_n \in Gu_{n-1}$ for any $n \geq 1$ such that $u_n \rightarrow u^*$. Moreover, if ϕ is order upper semicontinuous, then $u_n \succeq u^*$ for all n .

The following example illustrates Theorem 10.

Example 11. Let $\mathcal{E} = [0, 1]$, $d(\xi, \sigma) = |\xi - \sigma|$, $\phi(\xi) = -\xi$ for $\xi, \sigma \in \mathcal{E}$ and $\gamma(t) = t$ for each $t \geq 0$. Here, \mathcal{E} is a complete metric space, and ϕ is a bounded below function. Consider the order \preceq induced by ϕ :

$$\xi \preceq \sigma \Leftrightarrow d(\xi, \sigma) \leq \phi(\xi) - \phi(\sigma). \quad (20)$$

Clearly, this partial order is the usual order on \mathcal{E} . Define $G : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ by $G\xi = [(\xi/3), (\xi/2)]$. It is obvious that G satisfies the following:

- (a) for each $u, v \in \mathcal{E}$ with $u \preceq v \Rightarrow Gu \prec_2 Gv$
- (b) $G1 \prec_2 \{1\}$
- (c) G is order-closed on \mathcal{E} .

Hence, G has a fixed point on \mathcal{E} , which is $u^* = 0$.

Now, a multivalued version of Theorem 2 of [27] may be obtained. Here, the considered multivalued mapping is not necessarily continuous.

Theorem 12. Let $(\mathcal{E}, d, \preceq)$ be a complete ordered metric space and $\phi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty)$ be a continuous function bounded below. Let $G : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ be a multivalued mapping. Suppose that

- (H1) for any $u \in \mathcal{E}$ there is $v \in Gu$ so that $u \preceq v$
- (H2) $G(u)$ is compact for each $u \in \mathcal{E}$.

Then, G has a fixed point.

Proof. Set

$$M := \{u \in \mathcal{E} \mid \exists v \in Gu : v \succeq u\}. \quad (22)$$

We claim that M has a maximum element. For a directed set I , let $\{u_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a totally ordered subset in M . For $i, j \in I$ with $i \leq j$, the fact that $u_i \preceq u_j$ yields $\phi(u_i) \geq \phi(u_j)$. Due to the fact that ϕ is bounded below, $\{\phi(u_i)\}$ is a convergent set in \mathbb{R} . Consider

$$\gamma(d(u_i, u_j)) \leq \phi(u_i) - \phi(u_j). \quad (23)$$

As in proof of Theorem 6, $\{u_i\}$ is Cauchy in \mathcal{E} , which is complete, so $\{u_i\}$ converges to u in \mathcal{E} . For $j \in I$,

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(d(u_j, u)) &= \lim_i \gamma(d(u_j, u_i)) \leq \lim_i (\phi(u_j) - \phi(u_i)) \\ &= \phi(u_j) - \phi(u). \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Hence, $u_j \preceq u$ for each $j \in I$. By (H1), for each $v_j \in Gu_j$, there is $w_j \in Gu$ so that $v_j \preceq w_j$. By the compactness of Gu , there is a convergence subset $\{v_j'\}$ of $\{v_j\}$. Assume that $\{v_j'\}$ converges to $v \in Gu$. Take I' such that $i' \leq j'$ implies $v_j \preceq w_j \preceq w_j'$. One writes

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(d(v_j, v)) &= \lim_{j'} \gamma(d(v_j, w_j')) \\ &\leq \lim_{j'} (\phi(v_j) - \phi(w_j')) = \phi(v_j) - \phi(v). \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

So $v_j \preceq v$ for all j . Also,

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(d(u, v)) &= \lim_j \gamma(d(v_j, v)) \leq \lim_j (\phi(v_j) - \phi(v)) \\ &= \phi(u) - \phi(v). \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

So $u \preceq v$ and $u \in M$. Thus, $\{u_j\}$ has an upper bound in M .

By Zorn's Lemma, there is a maximum element $u^* \in M$. also, there is $v^* \in Gu^*$ so that $u^* \preceq v^*$. Using (H1), there is $z^* \in Gv^*$ so that $v^* \preceq z^*$. Hence, $v^* \in M$. The element u^* is maximum in M , so $v^* = u^*$ and $u^* \in Gu^*$. That is, u^* is a fixed point of G .

Theorem 13. *Let $(\mathcal{E}, d, \preceq)$ be a complete ordered metric space and $\phi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty)$ be a continuous function bounded below. Let $G : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{E})$ be a multivalued mapping. Assume that*

$$(H1) \text{ For any } u \in \mathcal{E}, \text{ there is } v \in Gu \text{ so that } v \preceq u \quad (27)$$

$$(H2) \text{ } G(u) \text{ is compact for any } u \in \mathcal{E}.$$

Then, G has a fixed point.

Remark 14. If G is a continuous single-valued mapping in Theorem 6 (resp., Theorem 7), we can replace the condition (H) by

$$(H') : \text{ for each } u \in \mathcal{E}, u \preceq Gu \text{ (resp., } Gu \preceq u), \quad (28)$$

and we can obtain the same result.

Remark 15. If in Theorem 8 (resp., Theorem 10), G is assumed to be a continuous single-valued mapping, then we get the same result when replacing the conditions (i) and (ii) by

$$(i) \text{ } G \text{ is monotone increasing (resp., decreasing), that is, for } u \preceq v, \text{ we have } Gu \preceq Gv \text{ (resp., } Gv \preceq Gu)$$

$$(ii) \text{ there exists } u_0 \text{ with } u_0 \preceq Gu_0 \text{ (resp., } Gu_0 \preceq u_0).$$

If in addition ϕ is order upper (resp., lower) semicontinuous on \mathcal{E} , then u^* is the smallest (resp., largest) fixed point of G in $K = \{u \in \mathcal{E} \mid ssu_0 \preceq u\}$ (resp., $K = \{u \in \mathcal{E} \mid u \preceq u_0\}$).

Proof. Let z be a fixed point of G in K , i.e., $z = Gz$. Since $u_0 \preceq z$, we get $Gu_0 \preceq Gz$. Hence, $u_1 = Gu_0 \preceq Gz = z$, i.e., $u_1 \preceq z$. Suppose $u_n \preceq z$, then $Gu_n \preceq Gz$, i.e., $u_{n+1} = Gu_n \preceq Gz = z$. By a mathematical induction, we have $u_n \preceq z$ for all n , then

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(d(u^*, z)) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(u_n, z) \leq \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\phi(u_n) - \phi(z)) \\ &= \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(u_n) - \phi(z) \leq \phi(u^*) - \phi(z). \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

That is, $u^* \preceq z$.

Note that if we omit the continuity of G and add above condition on ϕ , the results remain true.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests regarding the publication of this paper.

Authors' Contributions

All authors contributed equally and significantly in writing this article. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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