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**Abstract monotone mappings and applications to  
functional differential equations**

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**Equazioni funzionali.** — *Abstract monotone mappings and applications to functional differential equations.* Nota di MIHAI TURINICI, presentata (\*) dal Socio G. SANSONE.

RIASSUNTO. — In questa Nota si dimostra un teorema di punto fisso per una classe di applicazioni monotone in senso astratto.

1. Throughout this Note, for every nonempty set  $X$ ,  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  denotes the class of all nonempty  $Y \subset X$ . Let  $X$  be a nonempty set and let  $\leq \subset X^2 = X \times X$  be an ordering on  $X$ . For every  $x \in X$ ,  $Y \subset X$ , put  $Y(x, \leq) = \{y \in Y; x \leq y\}$ . Denote by  $\geq$  the associated dual ordering (i.e.,  $x \geq y$  iff  $y \leq x$ ) [2, p. 3], and let  $\supseteq$  (resp.  $\supseteq$ ) denote the set-ordering defined on  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  by:  $Y \supseteq Z$  (resp.  $Y \supseteq Z$ ) iff  $Y \supset Z$  and, for every  $y \in Y$  there is a  $z \in Z$  with  $y \leq z$  (resp.  $y \geq z$ ).

Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space and let  $\leq$  be an ordering on  $X$ .  $\leq$  is said to be a closed ordering iff  $X(x, \leq)$  is closed, for every  $x \in X$ .  $(X, \tau)$  is said to be  $\supseteq$  (resp.  $\supseteq$ )—compact iff, for every  $\supseteq$  (resp.  $\supseteq$ )—directed family  $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathcal{P}(X)$  of closed sets,  $\bigcap \mathcal{U} \neq \emptyset$ . Clearly, if  $(X, \tau)$  is compact in the ordinary sense [5, ch. 5], it is also  $\supseteq$  (resp.  $\supseteq$ )—compact, but the converse is not in general true (take  $X = \mathbb{R}_-$  (resp.  $\mathbb{R}_+$ ) with the usual topology and the usual (resp. dual) ordering).

2. Let  $X$  be a nonempty set,  $\leq$  an ordering on  $X$  and  $T: X \rightarrow X$  a monotone mapping (i.e.,  $x \leq y \Rightarrow Tx \leq Ty$ ) from  $X$  into itself. An useful result concerning the fixed points of  $T$  (a result that may be considered as a partial refinement of [1, Theorem 3]) may be stated as follows.

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $X, \leq, T$  and  $x \in X$  satisfy*

(2.1) *every chain  $C \subset T(X)$  has a supremum (infimum)*

(2.2)  *$x \leq Tx$  (resp.  $x \geq Tx$ ).*

*Then, there exists a  $v \in X$  (resp. a  $u \in X$ ) such that (a)  $v = Tv$  (resp.  $u = Tu$ ), (b)  $x \leq Tx$  (resp.  $x \geq Tx$ )  $\Rightarrow x \leq v$  (resp.  $x \geq u$ ).*

*Proof.* Suppose  $x \leq Tx$  (the proof for the dual ordering  $\geq$  is similar) and put  $Y = \{x \in X; x \leq Tx\}$ . From Hausdorff maximal principle [5, p. 33] there exists a maximal chain  $L \subset Y$ ; with  $x \in L$ ; as  $T$  is monotone,  $T(L) \subset T(Y) \subset T(X)$  is also a chain in  $T(X)$  and so, from (2.1), there exists

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$v = \sup T(L)$ . Since  $x \leq Tx \in T(L)$ , we get  $x \leq v$ , which gives (again by the monotonicity of  $T$ )  $Tx \leq Tv, \forall x \in L$ , and therefore (from the definition of the supremum)  $v \leq Tv$ , i.e.,  $v \in Y$ . Now, since  $x \leq v, \forall x \in L$ , we infer (from the maximality of  $L$ )  $v \in L$ . As  $v = \sup T(L)$  and  $Tv \in T(L)$ , we get  $Tv \leq v$  and thus (combining with the preceding relation)  $v = Tv$ , completing the proof. Q.E.D.

*Remark 2.1.* A sufficient condition for (2.1) is

(2.3) every chain  $C \subset X$  has a supremum (infimum).

**COROLLARY 2.1.** *Suppose that, in the above theorem, conditions (2.1) and (2.2) are replaced respectively, by*

(2.1)' every chain  $C \subset T(X)$  has in the same time a supremum and an infimum

(2.2)' either  $x \leq Tx$  or  $x \geq Tx$ ,

*Then, there exist  $v, u \in X$  such that (a)  $v = Tv, u = Tu$ , (b)  $x \leq Tx$  (resp.  $x \geq Tx$ )  $\Rightarrow x \leq v$  (resp.  $x \geq u$ ), (c)  $x = Tx \Rightarrow u \leq x \leq v$ .*

*Remark 2.2.* Under the conditions of the above corollary, it is justified to call  $v$  (resp.  $u$ ) a maximal (resp. minimal) solution of the equation  $x = Tx$ .

3. Let  $(X, \tau)$  be a topological space,  $\leq$  an ordering on  $X$  and  $T$  a monotone mapping from  $X$  into itself. The main result of this Note (a result that may be considered as a "topological" version of Theorem 2.1) is the following.

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $(X, \tau), \leq, T$  and  $x \in X$  satisfy*

(3.1) both  $\leq$  and  $\geq$  are closed orderings

(3.2)  $\overline{T(X)}$  (the closure of  $T(X)$ ) is both  $\sup \leq$  and  $\sup \geq$ -compact

(3.3) either  $x \leq Tx$  or  $x \geq Tx$ .

*Then, there exist  $v, u \in X$  such that (a)  $v = Tv, u = Tu$ , (b)  $x \leq Tx$  (resp.  $x \geq Tx$ )  $\Rightarrow x \leq v$  (resp.  $x \geq u$ ), (c)  $x = Tx \Rightarrow u \leq x \leq v$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $C \subset T(X)$  be an arbitrary chain in  $T(X)$ . Firstly, we prove that for every  $z \in \overline{C}, x \in C$ ,  $z$  and  $x$  are comparable. Indeed, suppose  $z$  and  $x$  are not comparable. From (3.1) there exists a neighborhood  $U \in \mathcal{V}(z)$  such that, for every  $u \in U$ ,  $u$  and  $x$  are not comparable. Let  $V \in \mathcal{V}(z)$  be arbitrary (without loss of generality we may suppose  $V \subset U$ ). As our assumption implies  $z \in \overline{C} \setminus C$ , there exists a  $y \in C$  such that  $y \in V \subset U$ , i.e.,  $y$  and  $x$  are not comparable, a contradiction, proving our assertion. In this case, the family  $\{\overline{C}(x, \leq); x \in C\} \subset \mathcal{P}(\overline{T(X)})$  is a  $\sup \leq$ -directed family of closed sets and so, from (3.2),  $\bigcap \{\overline{C}(x, \leq); x \in C\} = M$  is nonempty and closed. Furthermore,

for every  $w \in M$ ,  $C \subset X(w, \geq)$ , and this gives  $\bar{C} \subset \overline{X(w, \geq)} = X(w, \geq)$ . From this fact,  $M$  will consist of a single element, i.e.,  $M = \{z\}$ , for some  $z \in X$ . Firstly, from the above remark,  $x \leq z$ ,  $\forall x \in C$ . Now, let  $u \in X$  be such that  $x \leq u$ ,  $\forall x \in C$ . This means that  $C \subset X(u, \geq)$  and thus  $z \in \bar{C} \subset \overline{X(u, \geq)} = X(u, \geq)$ , i.e.,  $z \leq u$ , showing that  $z = \sup C$ . An analogous reasoning may be done for the dual ordering  $\geq$ , and so, (2.1)' holds. On the other hand, (3.3) coincides with (2.2)'. Therefore, corollary 2.1 applies, and this completes the proof. Q.E.D.

Let  $A$  be a nonempty set and let  $\leq$  be an ordering on  $A$ . A family  $\{T_a; a \in A\}$  of mappings from  $X$  into itself is said to be a monotone family iff, for every  $a, b \in A$ ,  $a \leq b$ , and  $x \in X$ , we have  $T_a x \leq T_b x$ .

Now, suppose  $\{T_a; a \in A\}$  is a monotone family of monotone mappings from  $X$  into itself, having a unique maximal and minimal fixed point.

**COROLLARY 3.1.** *Suppose that, for every  $a \in A$ , conditions of Theorem 3.1 are satisfied, with  $T$  replaced by  $T_a$ . Furthermore, for every  $a \in A$ , let  $S(a)$  (resp.  $s(a)$ ) denote the maximal (resp. minimal) solution of the equation  $x = T_a x$ . Then, necessarily, the mappings  $S: A \rightarrow X$  and  $s: A \rightarrow X$  are monotone.*

4. Let  $n \geq 1$  be a positive integer and let  $(\mathbb{R}^n, \|\cdot\|)$  be the euclidean  $n$ -dimensional space endowed with a norm  $\|\cdot\|$ . Furthermore let  $\{I, J\}$  be a partition of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . Define an ordering  $\leq$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  by

$$i) \quad (x_1, \dots, x_n) \leq (y_1, \dots, y_n) \text{ iff } x_i \leq y_i, \quad \forall i \in I, x_j \geq y_j, \quad \forall j \in J$$

where, in the right hand,  $\leq$  denotes the usual ordering on  $\mathbb{R}$ , and  $\geq$  its dual. Clearly,  $\leq$  is a closed ordering on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

In what follows,  $X$  (resp.  $A$ ) denotes the set of all continuous  $x: \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  (resp.  $a: \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ ). For every  $x \in X$ , define  $\|x\| \in A$  by

$$ii) \quad \|x\|(t) = \|x(t)\|, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+$$

and  $|x| \in A$  by

$$iii) \quad |x|(t) = \sup \{\|x(s)\|; s \in [0, t]\}, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+.$$

It is well known that  $X$  is a locally convex space, with the topology defined by the directed family of seminorms  $\mathcal{S} = \{\|\cdot\|(t); t \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$ . Denote also by  $\leq$  the ordering on  $X$  induced by the ordering  $\leq$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , in the usual way, i.e.,

$$iv) \quad x \leq y \text{ iff } x(t) \leq y(t), \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+.$$

Clearly,  $\leq$  is a closed ordering on  $X$  and so is  $\geq$  its dual.

Let  $t \mapsto \hat{t} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}_+)$  be a given mapping. Denote for simplicity  $\hat{\mathbb{R}}_+ = \{\hat{t}; t \in \mathbb{R}_+\}$ . Let  $x^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $k: X \times \hat{\mathbb{R}}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then, we may consider

(formally) the functional differential equation

$$(4.1) \quad x'(t) = k(x, \hat{t}), \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+; \quad x(0) = x^0$$

and the associated functional integral inequalities

$$(4.2) \quad x(t) \leq x^0 + \int_0^t k(x, \hat{s}) ds, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+$$

$$(4.3) \quad x(t) \geq x^0 + \int_0^t k(x, \hat{s}) ds, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+.$$

The main result concerning (4.1)-(4.3) may be stated as follows.

**THEOREM 4.1.** *Suppose there exist  $g \in A$ ,  $K: A \times \hat{\mathbb{R}}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ , and  $x \in X$  such that (denoting  $X_1 = \{x \in X; \|x\| \leq g\}$  and  $A_1 = \{a \in A; a \leq g\}$ )*

$$(4.4) \quad \forall x \in X_1 \text{ the map } t \mapsto k(x, \hat{t}) \text{ is continuous}$$

$$(4.5) \quad \forall a \in A_1 \text{ the map } t \mapsto K(a, \hat{t}) \text{ is continuous}$$

$$(4.6) \quad k \text{ is monotone } (x, y \in X_1, x \leq y \Rightarrow k(x, \hat{\cdot}) \leq k(y, \hat{\cdot}))$$

$$(4.7) \quad K \text{ is monotone } (a, b \in A_1, a \leq b \Rightarrow K(a, \hat{\cdot}) \leq K(b, \hat{\cdot}))$$

$$(4.8) \quad \|k(x, \hat{\cdot})\| \leq K(\|x\|, \hat{\cdot}), \quad \forall x \in X_1$$

$$(4.9) \quad \|x^0\| + \int_0^t K(g, \hat{s}) ds \leq g(t), \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+$$

$$(4.10) \quad x \in X_1 \text{ and satisfies at least one of the associated functional integral inequalities (4.2), (4.3).}$$

- Then, there exist  $v, u \in X_1$ , such that (a)  $v$  and  $u$  are solutions of (4.1), (b) if  $x \in X_1$  is a solution of (4.2) (resp. (4.3)) then  $x \leq v$  (resp.  $x \geq u$ ), (c) if  $x \in X_1$  is a solution of (4.1), then  $u \leq x \leq v$ .

*Proof.* Let  $T: X_1 \rightarrow X$  be defined, for every  $x \in X_1$ , by

$$(4.11) \quad Tx(t) = x^0 + \int_0^t k(x, \hat{s}) ds, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}_+.$$

From (4.8)+(4.9),  $T(X_1) \subset X_1$ , i.e.,  $\|Tx\| \leq g, \forall x \in X_1$ . On the other hand, from (4.7)+(4.8),  $\|(Tx)'\| = \|k(x, \hat{\cdot})\| \leq K(\|x\|, \hat{\cdot}) \leq K(g, \hat{\cdot}), \forall x \in X_1$ . So from the well known Arzelà-Ascoli theorem [4], [5, p. 234],  $T(X_1)$  is relatively compact. Finally, (4.6) says that  $T$  is monotone. Thus, Theorem 3.1 is entirely applicable, and this completes the proof. Q.E.D.

*Remark 4.1.* As in § 2, it is justified to call  $v$  (resp.  $u$ ) a maximal (resp. minimal) solution of (4.1).

*Remark 4.2.* In the above theorem, the mapping  $T$  defined by (4.11) is not in general continuous. Therefore, Banach's fixed point theorem, as well as Schauder-Tychonoff's fixed point theorem (see, e.g., [4]) are not in general applicable.

*Remark 4.3.* An useful application of these methods might be done in the context of projective functional (differential) equations, [3], [6], in which the class of (abstract) monotone mappings plays an essential role.

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