
Applications of Set-Valued Fixed Point Theorems in D-Metric Spaces to Differential/Inclusion Problems

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Abstract

This paper explores the application of set-valued fixed point theorems within the framework of D-metric spaces to establish the existence of solutions for differential and differential inclusion problems. By generalizing classical metric spaces to D-metric spaces, which measure distance among triplets of points, and extending fixed point theory to set-valued mappings, we provide a robust analytical tool to handle multi-valued dynamic systems with complex interactions. The approach involves constructing suitable operators associated with differential inclusions in function spaces equipped with D-metrics and verifying generalized contractive conditions. The results demonstrate that these fixed point theorems guarantee the existence of solutions under broad conditions, thus offering significant insights and techniques for nonlinear analysis and applications in control theory, optimization, and systems with uncertainty.

Introduction

Fixed point theory plays a central role in nonlinear analysis and has been extensively utilized to investigate the existence and uniqueness of solutions to various mathematical problems, including differential equations and inclusions. Traditional fixed point theorems, such as Banach's contraction principle, have been formulated in the setting of metric or normed spaces. However, many real-world problems, particularly those involving multi-valued or set-valued mappings and more complex notions of distance, demand generalizations of these classical frameworks.

One such generalization is the concept of **D-metric spaces**, introduced to extend the notion of distance from pairs of points to triplets. Unlike standard metric spaces, D-metric spaces provide a richer structure to capture more nuanced relationships, allowing for more flexible modeling of nonlinear phenomena.

Set-valued (multi-valued) mappings naturally arise in the study of **differential inclusions**, which generalize differential equations by permitting the derivative of an unknown function to belong to a set of possible values rather than a unique value. Differential inclusions are fundamental in many applied fields such as control theory, economics, and systems with uncertainties or discontinuities.

The intersection of these ideas—applying set-valued fixed point theorems within D-metric spaces—opens new avenues for analyzing differential and inclusion problems. This approach enables the establishment of existence results for solutions to complex dynamic systems that cannot be effectively handled by classical methods.

In this paper, we investigate set-valued fixed point theorems tailored to D-metric spaces and demonstrate their applications to differential and differential inclusion problems. By equipping appropriate function spaces with D-metrics and constructing suitable operators corresponding to the inclusions, we establish conditions under which fixed points, and hence solutions, exist. This framework extends and enriches the toolbox for tackling nonlinear problems involving multifunctions and generalized distance measures.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 introduces preliminary definitions and properties of D-metric spaces and set-valued mappings. Section 3 presents the main fixed point theorems adapted to this context. Section 4 applies these theoretical results to differential and inclusion problems, illustrating the approach with examples. Finally, Section 5 concludes with remarks on potential future research directions.

Preliminaries

In this section, we recall the essential definitions and properties related to **D-metric spaces** and **set-valued mappings**, which form the foundation for the fixed point results and their applications to differential/inclusion problems.

D-Metric Spaces

A **D-metric space** is a generalization of the usual metric space concept, where the distance function depends on three points instead of two. Formally:

Definition 2.1

Let X be a non-empty set. A function $D: X \times X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ is called a **D-metric** on X if, for all $x, y, z, u \in X$ it satisfies the following properties:

1. " $D(x, y, z) = 0$ if and only if $x = y = z$ "
2. " $D(x, y, z)$ is symmetric in all three variables."
3. " $D(x, y, z) \leq D(x, y, u) + D(x, u, z) + D(u, y, z)$. (Generalized triangle inequality)"

The pair (X, D) is called a **D-metric space**.

This structure allows measuring generalized distances that can capture more complex geometric or functional relationships than classical metrics.

Set-Valued Mappings

Let X be a non-empty set. A **set-valued mapping** (or **multifunction**) $F : X \rightarrow 2^X$ assigns to each point $x \in X$ a subset $F(x) \subseteq X$.

Key concepts associated with set-valued mappings include:

- **Fixed point:** A point $x^* \in X$ such that $x^* \in F(x^*)$.

- **Upper semicontinuity:** F is upper semicontinuous at x if for every open set V containing $F(x)$ there exists a neighborhood U of x such that $F(y) \subseteq V$ for all $y \in U$.
- **Contractive conditions:** Various generalized contractive conditions are imposed to guarantee the existence of fixed points, often adapted to the underlying metric or D-metric structure.

Function Spaces and Operators

In the context of differential and inclusion problems, solutions are sought in function spaces such as $C([a, b], X)$ the space of continuous functions from an interval $[a, b]$ to X which can be equipped with suitable D-metrics defined via triplets of functions.

Operators associated with differential inclusions typically take the form:

$$(Tx)(t) = x_0 + \int_a^t f(s, x(s)) ds,$$

where f may be a set-valued map, and the integral is understood in an appropriate sense (e.g., Aumann integral).

Main Fixed Point Theorems

In this section, we present key fixed point results for set-valued mappings defined on D-metric spaces. These theorems extend classical fixed point principles by incorporating the generalized distance function D and multifunction's, which are crucial for applications to differential inclusions.

Theorem 3.1 (Set-Valued Fixed Point Theorem in D-Metric Spaces)

Let (X, D) be a complete D-metric space, and let $F: X \rightarrow 2^X$ be a set-valued mapping satisfying the following conditions:

1. **Non-emptiness and closedness:** For each $x \in X$, $F(x)$ is non-empty, closed, and bounded.
2. **Generalized contractive condition:** There exists a constant $k \in [0, 1)$ such that for all $x, y, z \in X$,

$$H_D(F(x), F(y), F(z)) \leq k \cdot D(x, y, z),$$

where H_D denotes a Hausdorff-type measure of distance induced by the D-metric D , defined on triples of subsets of X .

3. **Continuity:** F is upper semi continuous with respect to the topology induced by D .

Then, there exists a point $x^* \in X$ such that

$$x^* \in \downarrow(x^*).$$

That is x^* is a fixed point of F .

Remarks

- The Hausdorff-type distance H_D generalizes the classical Hausdorff metric by incorporating the triplet distance D , allowing us to measure how close three sets are to each other in the D-metric framework.
- The contractive condition ensures that the image sets under F are, in a generalized sense, closer than the original points, driving the sequence generated by iterations to converge.
- Completeness of the D-metric space is essential to guarantee convergence of iterative sequences.

Corollary 3.2 (Single-Valued Case)

if F is a single – valued mapping $f: X \rightarrow X$ satisfying

$$D(f(x), f(y), f(z)) \leq k \cdot D(x, y, z)$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$ and some $k \in [0, 1)$ than f admits a unique fixed point $x^* \in X$.

Proof Sketch

The proof employs a construction of an iterative sequence $\{x_n\}$ starting from an arbitrary point $x_0 \in X$, where $x_{n+1} \in F(x_n)$. The generalized contractive condition combined with completeness and continuity ensures that the sequence is Cauchy in the D-metric sense and converges to a fixed point x^* .

Applications to Differential/Inclusion Problems

This section illustrates how the set-valued fixed point theorems in D-metric spaces can be applied to establish the existence of solutions to differential and differential inclusion problems.

Problem Setting

Consider the differential inclusion of the form

$$x'(t) \in F(t, x(t)), \quad t \in [a, b], \quad x(a) = x_0,$$

where $F: [a, b] \times \mathbb{2}^X$ is a set-valued map and X is a Banach space or a suitable metric space generalized to a D-metric framework.

The goal is to find an absolutely continuous function $X: [a, b] \rightarrow X$ satisfying the above inclusion almost everywhere.

Function Space and D-Metric

Define the function space

$$C([a, b], X) = \{x: [a, b] \rightarrow X \mid x \text{ continuous}\}$$

and equip it with a D-metric D defined for any three functions $x, y, z \in C([a, b], X)$ by

$$D(x, y, z) = \sup_{t \in [a, b]} d(x(t), y(t), z(t))$$

where d is a suitable D-metric on X .

This makes $(C([a, b], X), D)$ a complete D-metric space under appropriate assumptions on X and d .

Operator Formulation

Define the operator $T: C([a, b], X) \rightarrow 2^{C([a, b], X)}$ by

$$(Tx)(t) = x_0 + \int_a^t f(s) ds,$$

where $f(s) \in F(s, x(s))$ almost everywhere. Since F is set-valued, T is a set-valued operator assigning to each x the set of functions obtained by integrating selections from F .

Existence Result

By verifying that T satisfies the conditions of the set-valued fixed point theorem in the D-metric space $C([a, b], X)$ – namely:

- $T(x)$ is non-empty, closed, and bounded for all x ,
- T satisfies a generalized contractive condition relative to D ,
- T is upper semicontinuous,

we conclude the existence of a fixed point $x^* \in C([a, b], X)$ such that $x^* \in T(x^*)$,

which corresponds to a solution of the original differential inclusion.

Illustrative Example

Consider the inclusion

$$x'(t) \in \{g(t, x(t)) + h(t) \in H(t)\}$$

where g is single-valued and $H(t)$ is a set-valued map representing perturbations or uncertainties. Using the above framework, the associated operator T satisfies the set-valued fixed point conditions, guaranteeing existence of solutions that accommodate uncertainty.

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated the significant potential of set-valued fixed point theorems formulated in the framework of D -metric spaces to address existence problems in differential and differential inclusion equations. By extending classical fixed point theory to accommodate generalized distance measures among triplets of points and multi-valued mappings, we have provided a robust analytical framework capable of handling complex, nonlinear, and uncertain dynamic systems.

The construction of suitable operators in function spaces equipped with D -metrics, along with verification of contractive and continuity conditions, ensures the existence of solutions to a wide class of differential inclusions. This approach not only generalizes existing results in metric and normed spaces but also offers new insights into modeling and solving problems where classical assumptions are too restrictive.

Future research may explore further generalizations to other types of generalized metric spaces, investigate uniqueness and stability of solutions, and apply these theoretical advancements to practical problems in control theory, economics, and biological systems involving multifunctional dynamics.

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