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Research Article

A Generalized Meir-Keeler-Type Contraction on Partial Metric Spaces

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We introduce a generalization of the Meir-Keeler-type contractions, referred to as generalized Meir-Keeler-type contractions, over partial metric spaces. Moreover, we show that every orbitally continuous generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction has a fixed point on a 0-complete partial metric space.

1. Introduction

In 1992, Matthews introduced the notion of a partial metric space which is a generalization of usual metric space [1]. The main motivation behind the idea of a partial metric space is to transfer mathematical techniques into computer science. This is mostly apparent in the research areas of computer domains and semantics, which have many applications (see, e.g., [2–10]). Following this initial work, Matthews generalized the Banach contraction principle in the context of complete partial metric spaces. He proved that a self-mapping T on a complete partial metric space (X,p) has a unique fixed point if there exists $0 \le k < 1$ such that $p(Tx,Ty) \le kp(x,y)$ for all $x,y \in X$. After Matthews' innovative approach, many authors conducted further studies on partial metric spaces and their topological properties (see, e.g., [2–4, 6, 11–41]).

A partial metric is a function $p: X \times X \to [0, \infty)$ satisfying the following conditions:

- (P1) p(x, y) = p(y, x),
- (P2) if p(x, x) = p(x, y) = p(y, y), then x = y,
- (P3) $p(x, x) \le p(x, y)$,
- $(P4) p(x,z) + p(y,y) \le p(x,y) + p(y,z),$

for all $x, y, z \in X$. Then (X, p) is called a partial metric space.

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Example 1.1 (see [42]). Let (X,d) and (X,p) be a metric space and partial metric space, respectively. Mappings $\rho_i: X \times X \to \mathbb{R}^+$ $(i \in \{1,2,3\})$ defined by

$$\rho_{1}(x,y) = d(x,y) + p(x,y),
\rho_{2}(x,y) = d(x,y) + \max\{\omega(x), \omega(y)\},
\rho_{3}(x,y) = d(x,y) + a$$
(1.1)

induce partial metrics on X, where $\omega: X \to \mathbb{R}^+$ is an arbitrary function and $a \ge 0$.

Each partial metric p on X generates a T_0 topology τ_p on X with the family of open p-balls $\{B_p(x,\varepsilon): x \in X, \varepsilon > 0\}$ as a base, where $B_p(x,\varepsilon) = \{y \in X: p(x,y) < p(x,x) + \varepsilon\}$ for all $x \in X$. Similarly, a closed p-ball is defined as $B_p[x,\varepsilon] = \{y \in X: p(x,y) \leq p(x,x) + \varepsilon\}$.

In [1, page 187], Matthews gave the characterization of convergence in partial metric space as follows: a sequence $\{x_n\}$ in a partial metric space (X,p) converges to $x \in X$ with respect to τ_p if and only if $\lim_{n\to\infty} p(x,x_n) = p(x,x)$.

Now we recall some basic concepts and useful facts on completeness of partial metric spaces. A sequence $\{x_n\}$ in a partial metric space (X,p) is called Cauchy whenever $\lim_{n,m\to\infty} p(x_n,x_m)$ exists (and is finite) [1, Definition 5.2].

A partial metric space (X,p) is said to be complete if every Cauchy sequence $\{x_n\}$ in X converges, with respect to τ_p , to a point $x \in X$ such that $\lim_{n,m_{-\infty}} p(x_n,x_m) = p(x,x)$ [1, Definition 5.3].

In [35], Romaguera introduced the concepts 0-Cauchy sequence in a partial metric space and 0-complete partial metric space as follows.

Definition 1.2. A sequence $\{x_n\}$ in a partial metric space (X,p) is called 0-Cauchy if $\lim_{n,m\to\infty} p(x_n,x_m)=0$. A partial metric space (X,p) is said to be 0-complete if every 0-Cauchy sequence in X converges, with respect to τ_p , to a point $x\in X$ such that p(x,x)=0. In this case, p is said to be a 0-complete partial metric on X.

Notice that each 0-Cauchy sequence is also a Cauchy sequence in a partial metric space. In particular, each complete partial metric is a 0-complete partial metric on X. But the converse is not true. The following example shows that there exists a 0-complete partial metric which is not complete.

Example 1.3 (see [35, 39]). Let $(\mathbb{Q} \cap [0, \infty), p)$ be the partial metric space, where \mathbb{Q} and p(x, y) represent the set of rational numbers and the partial metric max $\{x, y\}$, respectively.

A self-mapping F on a partial metric space (X,p) is continuous at $x \in X$ if and only if for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $F(B_p(x,\delta)) \subseteq B_p(Fx,\varepsilon)$ (see, e.g., [15]).

It is quite natural to consider characterizations of continuity of mappings in partial metric spaces. For example, Samet et al. [43] proved the following.

Lemma 1.4. Let (X, p) be a partial metric space. $F: X \to X$ is continuous if given a sequence $\{x_n\} \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x \in X$ such that $p(x, x) = \lim_{n \to +\infty} p(x, x_n)$; then, $p(Fx, Fx) = \lim_{n \to +\infty} p(Fx, Fx_n)$.

Very recently, Samet et al. [43] also observed the relationship between the continuity of a mapping in a partial metric space and in a metric space.

Lemma 1.5. Consider $X = [0, \infty)$ endowed with the partial metric $p : X \times X \to [0, \infty)$ defined by $p(x,y) = \max\{x,y\}$ for all $x,y \ge 0$. Let $F : X \to X$ be a nondecreasing function. If F is continuous with respect to the standard metric d(x,y) = |x-y| for all $x,y \ge 0$, then F is continuous with respect to the partial metric p.

In 1971, Ćirić [44] introduced orbitally continuous maps on metric spaces as follows.

Definition 1.6. Let (X,d) be a metric space. A mapping T on X is orbitally continuous if $\lim_{i\to\infty} T^{n_i}x = u$ implies $\lim_{i\to\infty} T\,T^{n_i}x = Tu$ for each $x\in X$.

Recently, Karapınar and Erhan [28] renovated the definition above in the context of partial metric spaces in the following way.

Definition 1.7. Let (X,p) be a partial metric space, and let $T:X\to X$ be a self-map. One says that T is orbitally continuous whenever $\lim_{i\to\infty} p(T^{n_i}x,z)=p(z,z)$ implies that $\lim_{i\to\infty} p(TT^{n_i}x,Tz)=p(Tz,Tz)$ for each $x\in X$.

It is clear that continuous mappings are orbitally continuous.

We would like to point out the close relationship between metrics and partial metrics. In fact, if p is a partial metric on X, then the function $d_p: X \times X \to [0, \infty)$ given by

$$d_p(x,y) = 2p(x,y) - p(x,x) - p(y,y)$$
(1.2)

is a metric on *X*. Moreover,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} d_p(x, x_n) = 0 \Longleftrightarrow \lim_{n \to \infty} p(x, x_n) = \lim_{n, m \to \infty} p(x_n, x_m) = p(x, x). \tag{1.3}$$

Lemma 1.8 (see, e.g., [1, 15]). Let (X, p) be a partial metric space.

- (a) A sequence $\{x_n\}$ is Cauchy if and only if $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in the metric space (X, d_p) ;
 - (b) (X, p) is complete if and only if the metric space (X, d_p) is complete.

In 1969, Meir and Keeler [45] published their celebrated paper in which an interesting and general contraction condition for self-maps in metric spaces was considered.

Definition 1.9. Let (X, d) be a metric space, and let T be a self-map on X. Then T is called a Meir-Keeler-type contraction whenever for each $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$d(x,y) < \varepsilon + \delta \Longrightarrow d(Tx,Ty) < \varepsilon.$$
 (1.4)

Many authors have discussed several variations, generalizations, and modifications of that condition both in metric spaces and other related structures (see, e.g., [46-49]). Following this trend, we introduce a generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction on partial metric spaces. In this paper, we show an orbitally continuous self-mapping T on a 0-complete partial metric spaces satisfying that generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction has a unique fixed point.

2. Main Results

We start this section by recalling the following two lemmas ([13]), which will be frequently used in the proofs of the main results.

Lemma 2.1. Let (X,p) be a partial metric space. Then

- (a) *if* p(x, y) = 0, then x = y,
- (b) if $x \neq y$, then p(x, y) > 0,
- (c) if $x_n \to z$ with p(z, z) = 0, then $\lim_{n \to \infty} p(x_n, y) = p(z, y)$ for all $y \in X$.

We introduce the definition of a generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction.

Definition 2.2. Let (X, p) be a partial metric space and T a self-map on X. Then T is called a generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction whenever for each $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\varepsilon \le M(x, y) < \varepsilon + \delta \Longrightarrow p(Tx, Ty) < \varepsilon,$$
 (2.1)

where $M(x, y) = \max\{p(x, y), p(Tx, x), p(Ty, y), (1/2)[p(Tx, y) + p(x, Ty)]\}.$

Remark 2.3. Note that if *T* is a generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction, we have

$$p(Tx, Ty) \le M(x, y) \quad \forall x, y \in X. \tag{2.2}$$

If M(x, y) = 0, it follows from (2.2) that p(Tx, Ty) = 0. On the other hand, if M(x, y) > 0, we get the strict inequality p(Tx, Ty) < M(x, y) by (2.1).

Now, we are ready to state and prove our main results.

Proposition 2.4. Let (X,p) be a partial metric space and $T:X\to X$ a generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction. Then, $\lim_{n\to\infty} p(T^{n+1}x,T^nx)=0$ for all $x\in X$.

Proof. Take $x \in X$, and set $x_0 = x$. Define $x_{n+1} = Tx_n = T^{n+1}x_0$ for all $n \ge 0$. If $p(x_{n_0+1}, x_{n_0}) = 0$ for some $n_0 \ge 0$, then $Tx_{n_0} = x_{n_0+1} = x_{n_0}$ by Lemma 2.1. Then, $p(x_{k+1}, x_k) = 0$ for all $k \ge n_0$. In this case, the proposition follows. In the rest of the proof, we assume that $p(x_{n+1}, x_n) \ne 0$ for every $n \ge 0$. As a consequence, we have $M(x_{n+1}, x_n) > 0$ for every $n \ge 0$. By Remark 2.3,

$$p(x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}) = p(Tx_{n+1}, Tx_n) \le M(x_{n+1}, x_n)$$

$$= \max \left\{ p(x_{n+1}, x_n), p(Tx_{n+1}, x_{n+1}), p(Tx_n, x_n), \frac{1}{2} \left[p(Tx_{n+1}, x_n) + p(x_{n+1}, Tx_n) \right] \right\}$$

$$\le \max \left\{ p(x_{n+1}, x_n), p(x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}) \right\}.$$
(2.3)

Since $M(x_{n+1}, x_n)$ is strictly positive for each n, we find that

$$p(x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}) < M(x_{n+1}, x_n) \le \max\{p(x_{n+1}, x_n), p(x_{n+2}, x_{n+1})\}$$
(2.4)

by the use of Remark 2.3 again. Notice that the case where

$$\max\{p(x_{n+1},x_n),\ p(x_{n+2},x_{n+1})\} = p(x_{n+2},x_{n+1}) \tag{2.5}$$

is not possible. Hence we derive that

$$p(x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}) < M(x_{n+1}, x_n) \le p(x_{n+1}, x_n)$$
(2.6)

for every n. Thus, $\{p(x_{n+1},x_n)\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ is a decreasing sequence which is bounded below by 0. Hence, it converges to some $\varepsilon \in [0,\infty)$, that is,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} p(x_{n+1}, x_n) = \varepsilon. \tag{2.7}$$

In particular, we have

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} M(x_{n+1}, x_n) = \varepsilon. \tag{2.8}$$

Notice that $\varepsilon = \inf\{p(x_n, x_{n+1}) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$

We claim that $\varepsilon=0$. Suppose, to the contrary, that $\varepsilon>0$. Regarding (2.8) together with the assumption that T is generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction, for this ε , there exists $\delta>0$ and a natural number m such that

$$\varepsilon \le M(x_{m+1}, x_m) < \varepsilon + \delta$$
 implies that $p(Tx_{m+1}, Tx_m) = p(x_{m+2}, x_{m+1}) < \varepsilon$. (2.9)

This is a contradiction since $\varepsilon = \inf\{p(x_n, x_{n+1}) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}.$

Theorem 2.5. Let (X,p) be a 0-complete partial metric space, and let $T:X\to X$ be an orbitally continuous generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction. Then, T has a unique fixed point, say $z\in X$. Moreover, $\lim_{n\to\infty} p(T^nx,z)=p(z,z)$ for all $x\in X$ and p(z,z)=0.

Proof. Take $x \in X$, and set $x_0 = x$. Define $x_{n+1} = Tx_n = T^{n+1}x_0$ for all $n \ge 0$. We claim that $\lim_{m,n\to\infty} p(x_n,x_m) = 0$. If this is not the case, then there exist a $\varepsilon > 0$ and a subsequence $\{x_{n(i)}\}$ of $\{x_n\}$ such that

$$p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i+1)}) > 2\varepsilon. \tag{2.10}$$

For the same $\varepsilon > 0$ above, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $\varepsilon \leq M(x,y) < \varepsilon + \delta$ which implies that $p(Tx,Ty) < \varepsilon$. Set $r = \min\{\varepsilon,\delta\}$ and $d_n = p(x_n,x_{n+1})$ for all $n \geq 1$. By Proposition 2.4, one can choose a natural number n_0 such that

$$d_n = p(x_n, x_{n+1}) < \frac{r}{4} \tag{2.11}$$

for all $n \ge n_0$. Let $n(i) > n_0$. We have $n(i) \le n(i+1) - 1$. If $p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i+1)-1}) \le \varepsilon + (r/2)$, then by using (P4) we derive

$$p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i+1)}) \leq p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i+1)-1}) + p(x_{n(i+1)-1}, x_{n(i+1)}) - p(x_{n(i+1)-1}, x_{n(i+1)-1})$$

$$\leq p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i+1)-1}) + p(x_{n(i+1)-1}, x_{n(i+1)})$$

$$< \varepsilon + \frac{r}{2} + d_{n(i+1)-1} < \varepsilon + \frac{3r}{4} < 2\varepsilon,$$
(2.12)

which contradicts with assumption (2.10). Therefore, there are values of k such that $n(i) \le k \le n(i+1)$ and $p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) > \varepsilon + (r/2)$. Now if $p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i)+1}) \ge \varepsilon + (r/2)$, then

$$d_{n(i)} = p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i)+1}) \ge \varepsilon + \frac{r}{2} > r + \frac{r}{2} > \frac{r}{4}.$$
(2.13)

This is a contradiction because of (2.11). Hence, there are values of k with $n(i) \le k \le n(i+1)$ such that $p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) < \varepsilon + (r/2)$. Choose the smallest integer k with $k \ge n(i)$ such that $p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) \ge \varepsilon + (r/2)$. Thus, we find $p(x_{n(i)}, x_{k-1}) < \varepsilon + (r/2)$. So we see that

$$p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) \le p(x_{n(i)}, x_{k-1}) + p(x_{k-1}, x_k) - p(x_{k-1}, x_{k-1})$$

$$\le p(x_{n(i)}, x_{k-1}) + p(x_{k-1}, x_k) < \varepsilon + \frac{r}{2} + \frac{r}{4} = \varepsilon + \frac{3r}{4}.$$
(2.14)

Now, we can choose a natural number k satisfying $n(i) \le k \le n(i+1)$ such that

$$\varepsilon + \frac{r}{2} \le p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) < \varepsilon + \frac{3r}{4}. \tag{2.15}$$

Therefore, we obtain the inequalities

$$p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) < \varepsilon + \frac{3r}{4} < \varepsilon + r,$$
 (2.16)

$$p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i)+1}) = d_{n(i)} < \frac{r}{4} < \varepsilon + r,$$

$$p(x_k, x_{k+1}) = d_k < \frac{r}{4} < \varepsilon + r.$$
(2.17)

Thus, we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[p(x_{n(i)}, x_{k+1}) + p(x_{n(i)+1}, x_k) \right]
\leq \frac{1}{2} \left[p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) + p(x_k, x_{k+1}) - p(x_k, x_k) + p(x_{n(i)+1}, x_{n(i)}) + p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) - p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i)}) \right]
\leq \frac{1}{2} \left[p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) + p(x_k, x_{k+1}) + p(x_{n(i)+1}, x_{n(i)}) + p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) \right]
= p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) + \frac{1}{2} \left[d_k + d_{n(i)} \right] < \varepsilon + \frac{3r}{4} + \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{r}{4} + \frac{r}{4} \right] = \varepsilon + r.$$
(2.18)

Now, inequalities (2.16)–(2.18) imply that $M(x_{n(i)}, x_k) < \varepsilon + r \le \varepsilon + \delta$. Hence, the fact that T is a generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction yields $p(x_{n(i)+1}, x_{k+1}) < \varepsilon$. By using (P4), we obtain

$$p(T^{n(i)}x_{0}, T^{k}x_{0}) \leq p(T^{n(i)}x_{0}, T^{n(i)+1}x_{0}) + p(T^{n(i)+1}x_{0}, T^{k}x_{0})$$

$$-p(T^{n(i)+1}x_{0}, T^{n(i)+1}x_{0})$$

$$\leq p(T^{n(i)}x_{0}, T^{n(i)+1}x_{0}) + p(T^{n(i)+1}x_{0}, T^{k}x_{0})$$

$$\leq p(T^{n(i)}x_{0}, T^{n(i)+1}x_{0}) + p(T^{n(i)+1}x_{0}, T^{k+1}x_{0})$$

$$+ p(T^{k+1}x_{0}, T^{k}x_{0}).$$
(2.19)

We combine the inequality above with (2.15) and (2.17) to conclude

$$p(x_{n(i)+1}, x_{k+1}) \ge p(x_{n(i)}, x_k) - p(x_{n(i)}, x_{n(i)+1}) - p(x_k, x_{k+1})$$

$$> \varepsilon + \frac{r}{2} - \frac{r}{4} - \frac{r}{4} = \varepsilon,$$
(2.20)

which is a contradiction. Therefore, our claim is proved. So $\{x_n\} = \{T^n x_0\}$ is a 0-Cauchy sequence. Since (X, p) is 0-complete, then by Definition 1.2, the sequence $\{x_n\}$ converges with respect to τ_p to some $z \in X$ such that p(z, z) = 0. Thus

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} p(T^n x_0, z) = p(z, z) = 0.$$
 (2.21)

Now, we will show that z is a fixed point of T.

Since *T* is orbitally continuous and $\lim_{n\to\infty} p(T^nx_0, z) = p(z, z)$, we get that

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} p(TT^n x_0, Tz) = p(Tz, Tz). \tag{2.22}$$

On the other hand, from Lemma 2.1, we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} p(TT^n x_0, Tz) = \lim_{n \to \infty} p(x_{n+1}, Tz) = p(z, Tz)$$
(2.23)

which follows from the fact that $\{x_{n+1}\}$ converges to z in (X, p) with p(z, z) = 0, where $x_{n+1} = TT^nx_0 = T^{n+1}x_0$. Combining this with (2.22), we get that p(z, Tz) = p(Tz, Tz).

We aim to show that p(z,Tz) = 0. Assume that p(z,Tz) > 0. Then, we obtain $M(z,z) \ge p(z,Tz) > 0$. By (2.2), we have

$$p(Tz,Tz) < M(z,z) = \max\{p(z,z) = 0, p(z,Tz)\} = p(z,Tz) = p(Tz,Tz), \tag{2.24}$$

a contradiction. This implies Tz = z by Lemma 2.1.

Finally, we show that T has a unique fixed point. If there exists $w \in X$ such that Tw = w and $p(z,w) \neq 0$, then we get $M(z,w) \geq p(z,w) > 0$. Since T is a generalized Meir-Keeler-type contraction, we derive

$$0 < p(z,w) = p(Tz,Tw) < M(z,w)$$

$$= \max \left\{ p(z,w), p(Tz,z), p(Tw,w), \frac{1}{2} [p(Tz,w) + p(z,Tw)] \right\}$$

$$= \max \left\{ p(z,w), p(w,w) \right\} = p(w,z),$$
(2.25)

which is a contradiction. Thus, we find that p(z, w) = 0. So by Lemma 2.1 we conclude that z = w. In particular, T has a unique fixed point.

We state two examples to illustrate our results.

Example 2.6. Let (X,p) be the set $[0,\infty)$ equipped with the partial metric $p(x,y) = \max\{x,y\}$. Clearly, (X,p) is a 0-complete partial metric space. Consider $T:X\to X$ defined by Tx=x/3(1+x). Given $\varepsilon>0$, we will show that there exists $\delta=\delta(\varepsilon)\geq 0$ such that (2.1) holds for all $x,y\in X$. Without loss of generality, take $x\leq y$. Then, it is easy to show that

$$p(Tx,Ty) = \frac{y}{3(1+y)}$$

$$M(x,y) = \max\left\{p(x,y), p(Tx,x), p(Ty,y), \frac{1}{2}[p(Tx,y) + p(x,Ty)]\right\} = y.$$
(2.26)

Thus, taking $\delta(\varepsilon) = 2\varepsilon$, we get that (2.1) holds. Also, by Lemma 1.5, the mapping T is continuous, and hence it is orbitally continuous. All hypotheses of Theorem 2.5 are satisfied and z = 0 is the unique fixed point of T.

Example 2.7. Let (X,p) be the interval [0,2] equipped with the partial metric $p(x,y) = \max\{x,y\}$. Consider $T: X \to X$ defined by

$$Tx = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{2} & \text{if } 0 \le x < 1, \\ \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } 1 \le x \le 2. \end{cases}$$
 (2.27)

Take $x \le y$. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, we have the two following cases.

Case 1 ($0 \le x \le y < 1$). We have

$$p(Tx, Ty) = \frac{y}{2}, \qquad M(x, y) = y.$$
 (2.28)

Case 2 ($(0 \le x < 1 \text{ and } 1 \le y < 2)$ or $(1 \le x \le y \le 2)$). We have

$$p(Tx, Ty) = \frac{1}{2}, \qquad M(x, y) = y.$$
 (2.29)

In each case, it suffices to take $\delta = \varepsilon$ in order that (2.1) holds. Again, by Lemma 1.5, the mapping T is continuous, and hence it is orbitally continuous. All hypotheses of Theorem 2.5 are satisfied and z = 0 is the unique fixed point of T.

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