

## FIXED POINT THEOREMS OF DISCONTINUOUS INCREASING OPERATORS AND APPLICATIONS TO NONLINEAR INTEGRO-DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we obtain some new existence theorems of the maximal and minimal fixed points for discontinuous increasing operators in  $C[I, E]$ , where  $E$  is a Banach space. As applications, we consider the maximal and minimal solutions of nonlinear integro-differential equations with discontinuous terms in Banach spaces.

### §1. Introduction and preliminaries

For the sake of clarity, we first give some notations and concepts. Let  $E$  be a real Banach space with norm  $\|\cdot\|$ ,  $I = [a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}^1$  with  $a < b$ , and  $C[I, E]$  denote the set of all continuous functions defined on  $I$  with values in  $E$ . Clearly  $C[I, E]$  is a Banach space with the norm  $\|x\|_C = \max_{t \in I} \|x(t)\|$ . For any  $p \geq 1$ , set

$$L_p[I, E] = \left\{ x(t) : I \rightarrow E \left| \begin{array}{l} x(t) \text{ is strongly measurable and} \\ \int_I \|x(t)\|^p dt < \infty \end{array} \right. \right\},$$

then  $L_p[I, E]$  is a Banach space with the norm  $\|x\|_p = (\int_I \|x(t)\|^p dt)^{1/p}$ . Let a nonempty convex closed set  $P$  be a cone in  $E$ . The cone  $P$  defines an ordering in  $E$  given by  $x \leq y$  iff  $y - x \in P$ . The orderings in  $C[I, E]$  and  $L_p[I, E]$  are induced by the cone  $P$  as follows, respectively, for  $u, v \in C[I, E]$ ,  $u \leq v$  iff  $u(t) \leq v(t)$  for any  $t \in I$ ; for  $u, v \in L_p[I, E]$ ,  $u \leq v$  iff  $u(t) \leq v(t)$  for almost all  $t \in I$ . Obviously,  $C[I, E]$  is an ordered additive group which is additive by the common addition and the ordering induced by the cone of  $P$  of  $E$ , i.e.,  $u_1, u_2, v_1, v_2 \in C[I, E]$  and  $u_1 \leq v_1$ ,  $u_2 \leq v_2$  imply  $u_1 + u_2 \leq v_1 + v_2$ . For details on strongly measure functions and cone theory, see [9] and [4] respectively.

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It is common knowledge that fixed point theorems on increasing operators are used widely in nonlinear equations and other fields in mathematics (see [1]–[7]). But in most well-known documents, it is assumed generally that increasing operators possess stronger continuity and compactness (see [1]–[6]). In this paper, different from the increasing operators mapping ordering intervals of  $E$  into  $E$ ,  $A$  is an increasing operator from an ordering interval  $D$  of  $C[I, E]$  into  $C[I, E]$ , and may be expressed as the form  $\sum_{i=1}^m K_i F_i$ . We do not assume any continuity on  $A$ . It is only required that  $(F_i D)(t)$  (almost all  $t \in I$ ) and  $(K_i D_i)(t)$  ( $t \in I$ ) possess very weak compactness, where  $(F_i D)(t)$  and  $(K_i D_i)(t)$  can be found in §2,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . In addition, if we use the results in [1]–[7] to study integral equations and differential equations in Banach spaces, we have to verify the compactness or weak compactness in such spaces as  $C[I, E]$  or  $L_p[I, E]$ . But it is very difficult to examine the compactness type conditions in  $C[I, E]$  or  $L_p[I, E]$ . So there is some difficulty in applying the results in [1]–[7] to nonlinear equations in Banach spaces. By using the conclusions of this paper, we may avoid the difficulty and only need to verify the compactness in  $E$  rather than  $C[I, E]$  or  $L_p[I, E]$ , whereas the compactness in  $E$  is satisfied naturally in many cases (see §3).

As applications, we show the existence of the maximal and minimal solutions of nonlinear integro-differential equations with discontinuous terms in Banach spaces.

## §2. Fixed point theorems of increasing operators

Let  $u_0, v_0 \in C[I, E]$ ,  $u_0 \leq v_0$ ,  $D = [u_0, v_0] = \{u \in C[I, E] \mid u_0 \leq u \leq v_0\}$ . For any  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ ,  $1 \leq p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m < +\infty$ , let  $F_i : D \rightarrow L_{p_i}[I, E]$  be an increasing operator,  $D_i = \{w \in L_{p_i}[I, E] \mid F_i u_0 \leq w \leq F_i v_0\}$ , and  $K_i : D_i \rightarrow C[I, E]$  an increasing operator. Define operator  $A$  by  $A = \sum_{i=1}^m K_i F_i$ , thus  $A$  is also an increasing operator from  $D$  into  $C[I, E]$ .

In the following, for  $t \in I$ , set

$$\begin{aligned} (F_i D)(t) &= \{u(t) \in E \mid u \in F_i(D)\}, \\ (K_i D_i)(t) &= \{u(t) \in E \mid u \in K_i(D_i)\}, \end{aligned}$$

obviously,

$$(F_i D)(t), (K_i D_i)(t) \subset E,$$

here  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .

LEMMA 1. *Let  $E$  be a Banach space,  $P$  a cone in  $E$ ,  $x_n, y_n \in E$ , and  $x_n \leq y_n$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ). Then  $x_n \xrightarrow{w} x^*$  and  $y_n \xrightarrow{w} y^*$  imply  $x^* \leq y^*$ , where the notation  $\xrightarrow{w}$  means that a sequence converges weakly to some element.*

*Proof.* It is easy to follow from the assumptions that  $y_n - x_n \in P$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ),  $y_n - x_n \xrightarrow{w} y^* - x^*$ . Since the convex closed set  $P$  is weakly closed,  $y^* - x^* \in P$ , i.e.,  $x^* \leq y^*$ . Thus Lemma 1 holds.  $\square$

THEOREM 1. *Let increasing operators  $F_i : D \rightarrow L_{p_i}[I, E]$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , which is the same sense in the following), increasing operators  $K_i : D_i \rightarrow C[I, E]$  and  $A = \sum_{i=1}^m K_i F_i$ . Assume*

(i) *for almost all  $t \in I$ , any complete ordered subset of  $(F_i D)(t)$  is relatively weakly compact in  $E$ ; for any  $t \in I$ , any complete ordered subset of  $(K_i D_i)(t)$  is also relatively weakly compact in  $E$ ;*

(ii)  *$F_i(D)$  are bounded sets in  $L_{p_i}[I, E]$ ;*

(iii)  *$u_0 \leq Au_0, Av_0 \leq v_0$ ;*

*Then  $A$  has at least one fixed point in  $D$ .*

*Proof.* It follows from the monotonicity of  $A$  and condition (iii) that  $A : D \rightarrow D$ . Set  $R = \{u \in A(D) \mid u \leq Au\}$ . By  $Au_0 \in R, R \neq \emptyset$ . Taking any complete ordered set  $N$  in  $R$ , we set  $M = A(N), M(t) = \{u(t) \in E \mid u \in M\}$ . Clearly  $M$  is also a complete ordered set in  $R$  due to the definition of  $R$  and the monotonicity of  $A$ , so is  $M(t)$  in  $E_i$  for any  $t \in I$ . The following proof will be divided into cases: (a) there exists a  $t^* \in I$  such that any element of  $M(t^*)$  is not an upper bound of  $M(t^*)$ , and (b) for any  $t \in I$ , there exists an  $x \in M(t)$  such that  $x$  is an upper bound of  $M(t)$ .

In case of (a): Obviously  $M(t^*) = (AN)(t^*) = \sum_{i=1}^m (K_i F_i(N))(t^*)$ . Since  $N \subset R \subset D$ , and  $N$  is a complete ordered set of  $R$ ,  $(K_i F_i(N))(t^*)$  are complete ordered sets of  $(K_i D_i)(t^*)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ). Now we show that  $M(t^*)$  is relatively weakly compact in  $E$ . For any  $\{z_n\} \subset M(t^*)$ , it follows from  $M(t^*) = \sum_{i=1}^m (K_i F_i(N))(t^*)$  that there exists a subsequence  $\{w_n\} \subset N$  such that  $z_n = \sum_{i=1}^m (K_i F_i w_n)(t^*)$ . Let  $y_{i,n} = (K_i F_i w_n)(t^*)$ , clearly  $y_{i,n} \subset (K_i F_i(N))(t^*) \subset (K_i D_i)(t^*)$  and  $z_n = \sum_{i=1}^m y_{i,n}$ , thus  $\{y_{i,n}\}$  is complete ordered subset in  $(K_i D_i)(t^*)$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ). By condition (i),  $\{y_{1,n}\}$  has a weakly convergent subsequence  $\{y_{1,n}^{(1)}\} \subset \{y_{1,n}\}$ . Evidently  $\{y_{i,n}^{(1)}\} \subset \{y_{i,n}\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ). Then we can choose a weakly convergent subsequence  $\{y_{2,n}^{(2)}\}$  in  $\{y_{2,n}^{(1)}\}$ , and we have  $\{y_{i,n}^{(2)}\} \subset \{y_{i,n}^{(1)}\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ). Using the same arguments and going on with the process, we can obtain a

weakly convergent subsequence  $\{y_{m,n}^{(m)}\}$  in  $\{y_{m,n}^{(m-1)}\}$ , and  $\{y_{i,n}^{(m)}\} \subset \{y_{i,n}^{(m-1)}\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ). By above discussions we know that

$$\{y_{i,n}^{(m)}\} \subset \{y_{i,n}^{(m-1)}\} \subset \dots \subset \{y_{i,n}^{(1)}\} \subset \{y_{i,n}\}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

and  $\{y_{i,n}^{(m)}\}$  is a weakly convergent sequence of  $\{y_{i,n}\}$ . Obviously we may get  $z_n^{(m)} = \sum_{i=1}^m y_{i,n}^{(m)}$  corresponding to  $z_n = \sum_{i=1}^m y_{i,n}$ , hence  $\{z_n^{(m)}\}$  is also a weakly convergent subsequence of  $\{z_n\}$ . Observing that  $\{z_n\} \subset M(t^*)$  is arbitrary, we know that  $M(t^*)$  is relatively weakly compact.

Let  $\overline{M(t^*)}^w$  denote the closure of  $M(t^*)$  in  $E$  in the sense of weak topology. Then  $\overline{M(t^*)}^w$  is a compact set of  $M(t^*) \subset E$  in the sense of weak topology. For  $x \in M(t^*)$ , set  $B(x) = \{y \in \overline{M(t^*)}^w \mid x \leq y\}$ . It is easy to know from Lemma 1 that  $\{y \in E \mid x \leq y\}$  is weak closed in  $E$ , thus  $B(x) = \overline{M(t^*)}^w \cap \{y \in E \mid x \leq y\}$  is also weak closed in  $E$ . Taking any finite members  $\{B(x_i) \mid x_i \in M(t^*), i = 1, 2, \dots, k\}$ , we set  $\bar{x} = \max\{x_i \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, k\}$ . Since  $M(t^*)$  is a complete ordered set,  $\bar{x}$  makes sense,  $\bar{x} \in M(t^*)$  and  $x_i \leq \bar{x}$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ ). Thus  $\bar{x} \in \bigcap_{i=1}^k B(x_i)$ , that is,  $\bigcap_{i=1}^k B(x_i) \neq \emptyset$ . Since  $\overline{M(t^*)}^w$  is a compact set in the sense of weak topology, it follows from the finite intersection property of compact set (see [10, Chapter 5]) that  $\bigcap_{x \in M(t^*)} B(x) \neq \emptyset$ . Taking  $x^* \in \bigcap_{x \in M(t^*)} B(x)$ , we know from the definition of  $B(x)$  and  $B(x) \subset \overline{M(t^*)}^w$  that  $x^* \in \overline{M(t^*)}^w$  and

$$(2.1) \quad x \leq x^*, \quad \forall x \in M(t^*).$$

Since any element of  $M(t^*)$  is not an upper bound of  $M(t^*)$ ,

$$(2.2) \quad x \neq x^*, \quad \forall x \in M(t^*).$$

By  $x^* \in \overline{M(t^*)}^w$  and on account of the famous Eberlein-Shmulyan theorem, there exists a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  of  $M(t^*)$  such that

$$(2.3) \quad x_n \xrightarrow{w} x^*.$$

It is clear to see from (2.1), (2.2) and (2.3) that for any  $x_{n_1} \in \{x_n\}$ , there exists  $x_{n_2} \in \{x_n\}$  such that  $x_{n_1} \leq x_{n_2}$  and  $x_{n_1} \neq x_{n_2}$ . Similarly, we can choose a subsequence  $\{x_{n_i}\} \subset \{x_n\}$  such that

$$x_{n_1} \leq x_{n_2} \leq \dots \leq x_{n_i} \leq \dots, \quad x_{n_1} \neq x_{n_2} \neq \dots \neq x_{n_i} \neq \dots.$$

Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $\{x_n\}$  satisfies

$$(2.4) \quad x_1 \leq x_2 \leq \cdots \leq x_n \leq \cdots, \quad x_1 \neq x_2 \neq \cdots \neq x_n \neq \cdots.$$

Otherwise, we may replace  $\{x_n\}$  with  $\{x_{n_i}\}$ . By (2.1) and (2.2),

$$(2.5) \quad x_n \leq x^*, \quad x_n \neq x^*, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Take  $u_n \in M$  such that  $u_n(t^*) = x_n$ . Obviously  $\{u_n\}$  is a complete ordered set of  $C[I, E]$ , which, together with (2.4), implies

$$(2.6) \quad u_1 \leq u_2 \leq \cdots \leq u_n \leq \cdots.$$

Letting  $v_{i,n} = F_i u_n$  for any  $n$ , we know from the monotonicity of  $F_i$  that

$$(2.7) \quad v_{i,1} \leq v_{i,2} \leq \cdots \leq v_{i,n} \leq \cdots, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Thus for almost all  $t \in I$ , we have

$$(2.8) \quad v_{i,1}(t) \leq v_{i,2}(t) \leq \cdots \leq v_{i,n}(t) \leq \cdots.$$

By condition (i), there exist  $I_0 \subset I$  and  $\text{mes}(I \setminus I_0) = 0$  such that for any  $t \in I_0$ ,  $\{v_{n,i}(t)\}$  is relatively weakly compact and (2.8) holds. Thus there exists a subsequence  $\{v_{i,nk}(t)\}$  of  $\{v_{i,n}(t)\}$  and  $v_{i,t} \in \overline{\{v_{i,n}(t)\}}^w$  such that

$$(2.9) \quad v_{i,nk}(t) \xrightarrow{w} v_{i,t}, \quad t \in I_0.$$

For any  $n_{k_0}$ , by (2.8) we know that  $v_{i,n_{k_0}}(t) \leq v_{i,nk}(t)$  when  $k_0 \leq k$ . By Lemma 1 and (2.9),  $v_{i,n_{k_0}}(t) \leq v_{i,t}$ . Hence we get

$$(2.10) \quad v_{i,n}(t) \leq v_{i,t}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad t \in I_0$$

since  $n_{k_0}$  is arbitrary. In view of standard arguments (such as the proof of Theorem 6.1 in [3]), by (2.8) and (2.9) we can prove

$$(2.11) \quad v_{i,n}(t) \xrightarrow{w} v_{i,t}, \quad t \in I_0.$$

Define  $v_i^* : I \rightarrow E$  as follows: when  $t \in I_0$ ,  $v_i^*(t) = v_{i,t}$ ; when  $t \in I \setminus I_0$ ,  $v_i^*(t) = 0$ . Then (2.10) and (2.11) imply that

$$(2.12) \quad v_{i,n}(t) \leq v_i^*(t), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad v_{i,n}(t) \xrightarrow{w} v_i^*(t), \quad \forall t \in I_0.$$

Since  $v_{i,n}$  is strongly measurable because of  $v_{i,n} = F_i u_n \in L_{p_i}[I, E]$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ), by (2.12) and according to Pettis theorem and its proof (see Chapter V of [9])  $v_i^*(t)$  is also strongly measurable. In view of the second formula of (2.12) and the weakly lower semi-continuity of norm, we have

$$\|v_i^*(t)\| \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v_{i,n}(t)\|, \quad \forall t \in I_0.$$

By Fatou Lemma, we get

$$\int_I \|v_i^*(t)\|^{p_i} dt \leq \int_I \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|v_{i,n}(t)\|^{p_i} dt \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_I \|v_{i,n}(t)\|^{p_i} dt,$$

which, by  $v_{i,n} = F_i u_n \in F_i(D) \subset L_{p_i}[I, E]$  and condition (ii), implies  $v_i^* \in L_{p_i}[I, E]$ . By (2.12) and according to the weak closeness of the cone  $P$ ,  $v_i^* \in D_i = \{w \in L_{p_i}[I, E] \mid F_i u_0 \leq w \leq F_i v_0\}$ . Let  $u^* = \sum_{i=1}^m K_i v_i^*$ . Clearly  $K_i v_i^* \in C[I, E]$ , i.e.,  $u^* \in C[I, E]$ . Now we prove

$$(2.13) \quad u_n \leq u^*, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots;$$

$$(2.14) \quad u^* \leq Au^*.$$

For any  $n_0$ , by (2.7)  $v_{i,n_0} \leq v_{i,n}$  when  $n_0 \leq n$ . Hence

$$(2.15) \quad F_i u_{n_0} = v_{i,n_0} \leq v_{i,n} \leq v_i^*$$

due to the first formula of (2.12). Since  $u_{n_0} \leq Au_{n_0}$  because of  $u_{n_0} \in M \subset R$ , it follows from (2.15) and the monotonicity of  $K_i$ , that

$$u_{n_0} \leq Au_{n_0} = \sum_{i=1}^m K_i F_i u_{n_0} \leq \sum_{i=1}^m K_i v_{i,n} \leq \sum_{i=1}^m K_i v_i^* = u^*,$$

thus (2.13) holds. By (2.13),  $v_{i,n} = F_i u_n \leq F_i u^*$ , that is,  $v_{i,n}(t) \leq (F_i u^*)(t)$  for almost all  $t \in I$ . Letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and observing the second formula of (2.12), by Lemma 1 we know  $v_i^*(t) \leq (F_i u^*)(t)$  for almost all  $t \in I$ , i.e.,  $v_i^* \leq F_i u^*$ . So, by the definition of  $u^*$ ,  $u^* = \sum_{i=1}^m K_i v_i^* \leq \sum_{i=1}^m K_i F_i u^* = Au^*$ , i.e., (2.14) holds.

For any  $u \in M$ , if  $u_n \leq u$  holds for any  $n$ , we have  $x_n = u_n(t^*) \leq u(t^*)$ . Observing (2.3) and using Lemma 1, we get  $x^* \leq u(t^*)$ , which contradicts (2.1) and (2.2). The contradiction and (2.13) mean that for  $\forall u \in M$ , there exists some  $n_0$  such that

$$(2.16) \quad u \leq u_{n_0} \leq u^*.$$

By (2.14),  $Au^* \leq A(Au^*)$ , thus  $Au^* \in R$ . (2.14) and (2.16) imply

$$(2.17) \quad u \leq u^* \leq Au^*, \quad \forall u \in M.$$

For any  $v \in N$ , it is clear that  $v \leq Av$  and  $Av \in M$  because of  $N \subset R$  and  $M = A(N)$ . Thus, by (2.17) we get  $v \leq Av \leq Au^*$  ( $\forall v \in N$ ). Therefore  $Au^*$  is an upper bound of  $N$  in  $R$ , that is,  $N$  has an upper bound in  $R$ .

In case of (b): Take  $\{t_n\} \subset I$  such that  $\{t_n\}$  is dense in  $I$ . In this case, there must exist an  $x_1 \in M(t_1)$  such that  $x_1$  is an upper bound of  $M(t_1)$ . Then we can select  $u_1 \in M$  such that  $u_1(t_1) = x_1$ . If  $u_1(t_2)$  is an upper bound of  $M(t_2)$ , let  $u_2 = u_1$ ; if  $u_1(t_2)$  is not an upper bound of  $M(t_2)$ , select  $u_2 \in M$  such that  $u_2(t_2)$  is an upper bound of  $M(t_2)$ . Since  $M$  is a complete ordered set, it is obvious that  $u_1 \leq u_2$  and  $u_2(t_1) = u_1(t_1)$ . Using the same arguments, we can select a sequence  $\{u_n\}$  such that

$$u_1 \leq u_2 \leq \dots \leq u_n \leq \dots,$$

$u_n(t_n)$  is an upper bound of  $M(t_n)$  and  $u_n(t_i) = u_i(t_i)$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$ ). Let  $v_{i,n} = F_i u_n$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ). Evidently (2.7) holds and there exists  $v_i^* \in L_{p_i}[I, E]$  such that (2.12) holds. Let  $u^* = \sum_{i=1}^m K_i v_i^*$ . Then (2.13) and (2.14) hold. In the following, we shall show  $u \leq u^*$  for any  $u \in M$ . If otherwise, there exists some  $u \in M$  such that  $u \not\leq u^*$ , i.e., there exists  $\bar{t} \in I$  such that  $u(\bar{t}) \not\leq u^*(\bar{t})$ . Since  $u, u^* \in C[I, E]$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that when  $t \in I$  and  $|t - \bar{t}| < \delta$ ,  $u(t) \not\leq u^*(t)$  holds. Selecting  $t_{n_0} \in \{t_n\}$  such that  $|t_{n_0} - \bar{t}| < \delta$ , we can get  $u(t_{n_0}) \not\leq u^*(t_{n_0})$ . By (2.13),  $u_{n_0} \leq u^*$ , that is,  $u_{n_0}(t_{n_0}) \leq u^*(t_{n_0})$ . Hence  $u(t_{n_0}) \not\leq u_{n_0}(t_{n_0})$ , which contradicts that  $u_{n_0}(t_{n_0})$  is an upper bound of  $M(t_{n_0})$ . The contradiction means that for any  $u \in M$ ,  $u \leq u^*$ . Using the same arguments as in the final proof of (a), we know that  $N$  has an upper bound in  $R$ .

By the above discussions, we know that  $N$  has one upper bound in  $R$  under various conditions. It follows from Zorn's lemma that  $R$  has a maximal element. It is clear that any maximal element of  $R$  is a fixed point of  $A$ . The proof is completed.  $\square$

**THEOREM 2.** *If the conditions in Theorem 1 are satisfied, then  $A$  has the minimal fixed point and the maximal fixed point in  $D$ .*

*Proof.* Set  $\text{Fix } A = \{u \in D \mid u = Au\}$ . By Theorem 1,  $\text{Fix } A \neq \emptyset$ . Set

$$S = \{u \in A(D) \mid u \leq Au \text{ and } u \leq \bar{u}, \forall \bar{u} \in \text{Fix } A\}.$$

Obviously  $S \neq \emptyset$  due to  $Au_0 \in S$ . Take any complete ordered set  $N$  in  $R$  and let  $M = A(N)$ . It is clear that  $M \subset S$ . In the same way as in the proof of Theorem 1, we need to consider two cases separately. In the first case, by the same method of proving Theorem 1 we may find  $\{u_n\}$ ,  $\{v_{i,n}\}$ ,  $v_i^*$  and  $u^*$ . Thus (2.6), (2.7), (2.8), (2.12), (2.13), (2.14) and (2.16) still hold. For any  $\bar{u} \in \text{Fix}A$ , it follows from  $u_n \in M \subset S$  that  $u_n \leq \bar{u}$ . Letting  $\bar{v}_i = F_i\bar{u}$  and observing  $v_{i,n} = F_i u_n$ , we know that  $v_{i,n} \leq \bar{v}_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ), thus  $v_{i,n}(t) \leq \bar{v}_i(t)$  for almost all  $t \in I$ . By (2.12) and in view of Lemma 1,  $v_i^*(t) \leq \bar{v}_i(t)$  for almost all  $t \in I$ , i.e.,  $v_i^* \leq \bar{v}_i$ . Since  $\bar{u}$  is a fixed point of  $A = \sum_{i=1}^m K_i F_i$ ,

$$u^* = \sum_{i=1}^m K_i v_i^* \leq \sum_{i=1}^m K_i \bar{v}_i = \sum_{i=1}^m K_i F_i \bar{u} = A\bar{u} = \bar{u},$$

thus  $Au^* \leq A\bar{u} = \bar{u}$ . By (2.14) and (2.16), we get

$$(2.18) \quad Au^* \leq A(Au^*), \quad u \leq u^* \leq Au^*, \quad \forall u \in M.$$

The above discussions show that  $Au^* \in S$ . For any  $v \in N$ , by  $M = A(N)$ , we know  $Av \in M$ . Observing  $v \leq Av$  due to  $N \subset S$ , by (2.18) we have

$$v \leq Av \leq Au^*, \quad \forall v \in N,$$

which implies that  $N$  has an upper bound in  $S$ . In the second case, we can use similar arguments to show that  $N$  has an upper bound in  $S$ . Hence it follows from Zorn's lemma that  $S$  has a maximal element  $w \in S$ . Clearly

$$(2.19) \quad w \leq Aw, \quad w \leq \bar{u}, \quad \forall \bar{u} \in \text{Fix}A,$$

which means  $Aw \leq A(Aw)$  and  $Aw \leq A\bar{u} = \bar{u}$  ( $\forall \bar{u} \in \text{Fix}A$ ). So  $Aw \in S$ . Since  $w$  is a maximal element of  $S$ , by (2.19) we get  $w = Aw$ . Observing (2.19) again, we know that  $w$  is a minimal fixed point of  $A$  in  $D$ . Similarly,  $A$  has a maximal fixed point in  $D$ . The proof is completed.  $\square$

*Remark 1.* It is clear to see from the proof of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 that if  $I$  is a measurable closed subset of non-zero measure in  $R^n$ , the two theorems still hold.

*Remark 2.* Comparing with some results in [1]–[7], we easily see that Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 are their generalizations and improvements.



**§3. Applications**

We first list for convenience the following assumptions:

(H<sub>1</sub>)  $E$  is sequentially weakly complete,  $P$  a normal cone in  $E$ .

(H<sub>2</sub>)  $f_i(t, x) : J \times E \rightarrow E$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ,  $J = [0, 1]$ , we do not suppose that  $f_i(t, x)$  are continuous), and the Nemytskii operators

$$(3.1) \quad f_1 u = f_1(t, u(t)), \quad F_i u = f_i(t, u(t)), \quad i = 2, 3$$

map continuous functions into strongly measurable functions.

(H<sub>3</sub>) There exists  $M > 0$  such that for  $x, y \in E$ ,  $y \leq x$ ,

$$f_1(t, x) - f_1(t, y) \geq -M(x - y),$$

and  $f_i(t, x)$  ( $i = 2, 3$ ) are increasing on  $x$  for  $t \in J$ .

Consider the nonlinear integro-differential equation

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{cases} u'(t) = f_1(t, u(t)) + \int_0^t k_1(t, s) f_2(s, u(s)) ds \\ \quad \quad \quad + \int_J k_2(t, s) f_3(s, u(s)) ds, \\ u(0) = x_0, \end{cases}$$

where  $t \in J$ ,  $k_1(t, s) : \{(t, s) \in J \times J \mid s \leq t\} \rightarrow R^1$  and  $k_2(t, s) : J \times J \rightarrow R^1$  are nonnegative and continuous. By the direct proof, it is easy to follow that the initial value problem (3.2) is equivalent to the equation

$$(3.3) \quad u(t) = e^{-Mt} x_0 + \int_0^t e^{-M(t-s)} \left[ (f_1(s, u(s)) + M u(s)) + \int_0^s k_1(s, \tau) f_2(\tau, u(\tau)) d\tau + \int_J k_2(s, \tau) f_3(\tau, u(\tau)) d\tau \right] ds,$$

if  $f_1(t, x)$  is continuous, where  $M$  is a constant given by (H<sub>3</sub>) (also see Theorem 1.5.1 in [1]). Hence, when  $f_1(t, x)$  is not continuous, we define the solutions of integral equation (3.3) as the solutions of the equation (3.2).

**THEOREM 3.** *Suppose that the assumptions (H<sub>1</sub>)–(H<sub>3</sub>) are fulfilled and there exist  $u_0, v_0 \in C^1[J, E] = \{u \in C[J, E] \mid u(t) \text{ is differentiable}\}$ ,  $u_0 \leq v_0$ ,  $1 \leq p_1, p_2, p_3 < \infty$ , such that*

$$(3.4) \quad f_1 u_0, f_1 v_0 \in L_{p_1}[J, E], \quad F_i u_0, F_i v_0 \in L_{p_i}[J, E], \quad i = 2, 3,$$

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{cases} u'_0(t) \leq f_1(t, u_0(t)) + \int_0^t k_1(t, s) f_2(s, u_0(s)) ds \\ \quad + \int_J k_2(t, s) f_3(s, u_0(s)) ds, \\ u_0(0) \leq x_0, \end{cases}$$

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{cases} v'_0(t) \geq f_1(t, v_0(t)) + \int_0^t k_1(t, s) f_2(s, v_0(s)) ds \\ \quad + \int_J k_2(t, s) f_3(s, v_0(s)) ds, \\ v_0(0) \geq x_0. \end{cases}$$

Then Eq. (3.2) has the maximal solution and minimal solution in  $D = [u_0, v_0] = \{u \in C[J, E] \mid u_0 \leq u \leq v_0\}$ .

*Proof.* For any  $u \in C[J, E]$ , by (3.3) we can define the mapping

$$(3.7) \quad Au = e^{-Mt}x_0 + \int_0^t e^{-M(t-s)} \left[ (f_1(s, u(s)) + Mu(s)) + \int_0^s k_1(s, \tau) f_2(\tau, u(\tau)) d\tau + \int_J k_2(s, \tau) f_3(\tau, u(\tau)) d\tau \right] ds.$$

$$(3.8) \quad K_1 h_1 = e^{-Mt}x_0 + \int_0^t e^{-M(t-s)} h_1(s) ds, \quad \forall h_1 \in L_{p_1}[J, E],$$

$$(3.9) \quad K_2 h_2 = \int_0^t ds \int_0^s e^{-M(t-s)} k_1(s, \tau) h_2(\tau) d\tau, \quad \forall h_2 \in L_{p_2}[J, E],$$

$$(3.10) \quad K_3 h_3 = \int_0^t ds \int_J e^{-M(t-s)} k_2(s, \tau) h_3(\tau) d\tau, \quad \forall h_3 \in L_{p_3}[J, E].$$

By the nonnegativity of  $k_1(t, s)$  and  $k_2(t, s)$ , it is easy to show that  $K_i$  are increasing from  $L_{p_i}[J, E]$  into  $C[J, E]$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ). Set

$$(3.11) \quad F_1 u = f_1 u + Mu, \quad u \in C[J, E].$$

By  $(H_2)$ ,  $F_1$  maps elements of  $C[J, E]$  into strongly measurable functions. For any  $u \in [u_0, v_0]$ , by  $(H_3)$  we get  $F_1 u_0 \leq F_1 u \leq F_1 v_0$ . Hence for almost all  $t \in J$ ,  $0 \leq (F_1 u)(t) - (F_1 u_0)(t) \leq (F_1 v_0)(t) - (F_1 u_0)(t)$ . On account of the normality of  $P$ , there exists a constant  $L > 0$  such that

$$\|(F_1 u)(t) - (F_1 u_0)(t)\| \leq L \|(F_1 v_0)(t) - (F_1 u_0)(t)\|,$$

which, by (3.4), (3.11), implies  $F_1u \in L_{p_1}[J, E]$ . So  $F_1$  is an increasing operator from  $[u_0, v_0]$  into  $L_{p_1}[J, E]$ . Similarly, by (3.1), (3.4) and  $(H_2)$ , we can prove that  $F_i : [u_0, v_0] \rightarrow L_{p_i}[J, E]$  ( $i = 2, 3$ ) are increasing. So by (3.1), (3.11) and (3.7)–(3.10), we can get

$$(3.12) \quad A = \sum_{i=1}^3 K_i F_i.$$

In view of the above discussions, we may have that  $A$  is an increasing operator from  $C[J, E]$  into  $C[J, E]$ .

Let  $D_1 = \{w \in L_{p_1}[J, E] \mid F_1u_0 \leq w \leq F_1v_0\}$ , it is clear to see from the monotonicity of  $F_1$  that

$$(3.13) \quad F_1(D) \subset D_1,$$

and  $F_1u_0 \leq w \leq F_1v_0$  for any  $w \in D_1$ . By using the normality of  $P$ , we can get

$$(3.14) \quad \|w(t)\| \leq \|(F_1u_0)(t)\| + L\|(F_1v_0)(t) - (F_1u_0)(t)\|$$

for almost all  $t \in J$ , here  $L$  is a normal constant. For  $t \in J$ , set  $D_1(t) = \{w(t) \mid w \in D_1\}$ . By (3.4), (3.11) and (3.14), there exist  $J_0 \subset J$  and  $\text{mes } J_0 = \text{mes } J$  such that for  $t \in J_0$ ,  $D_1(t)$  is a bounded set in  $E$ . Now we show that any complete ordered set of  $D_1(t)$  ( $t \in J_0$ ) is relatively weakly compact. Let  $N \subset D_1(t)$  ( $t \in J_0$ ) be a complete ordered set and  $\{x_n\}$  a sequence in  $N$ . We consider two cases:

(a) There exists an infinite set  $\{x^{(k)}\} \subset \{x_n\}$  such that

$$x^{(1)} = \inf\{x_n\}, \quad x^{(k)} = \inf\{\{x_n\} \setminus \{x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \dots, x^{(k-1)}\}\}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

Thus

$$(3.15) \quad (F_1u_0)(t) \leq x^{(1)} \leq x^{(2)} \leq \dots \leq x^{(k)} \leq \dots \leq (F_1v_0)(t), \quad t \in J_0.$$

Since the cone  $P$  is normal,  $P$  is reproduced by Proposition 19.4 in [2], that is, for any  $\phi \in E^*$ , there exist  $\phi_i \in P^*$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) such that  $\phi = \phi_1 - \phi_2$ . By (3.15), we have

$$\phi_i((F_1u_0)(t)) \leq \phi_i(x^{(1)}) \leq \phi_i(x^{(2)}) \leq \dots \leq \phi_i(x^{(k)}) \leq \dots \leq \phi_i((F_1v_0)(t)),$$

$$i = 1, 2, \quad t \in J_0,$$

which, together with the boundedness of  $\{x^{(k)}\} \subset D_1(t)$  ( $t \in J_0$ ), shows that  $\{\phi_i(x^{(k)})\}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are Cauchy sequence in  $R^1$ . Hence  $\{x^{(k)}\}$  is weakly Cauchy sequence in  $E$  since  $\phi \in E^*$  is arbitrary. Since  $E$  is sequentially weakly complete,  $\{x^{(k)}\}$  converges weakly to some element in  $E$ .

(b) There exists no  $x \in \{x_n\}$  such that  $x = \inf\{x_n\}$ , or there exists a finite set  $\{\bar{x}^{(k)}\} \subset \{x_n\}$  such that

$$\bar{x}^{(1)} = \inf\{x_n\}, \quad \bar{x}^{(k)} = \inf\{\{x_n\} \setminus \{\bar{x}^{(1)}, \bar{x}^{(2)}, \dots, \bar{x}^{(k-1)}\}\}, \quad k = 2, 3, \dots, k_0,$$

and  $x \neq \inf M_1$  for any  $x \in M_1$ , here  $M_1 = \{x_n\} \setminus \{\bar{x}^{(1)}, \bar{x}^{(2)}, \dots, \bar{x}^{(k_0)}\}$ . So we can obtain an infinite set  $\{x^{(k)}\} \subset M_1$  such that

$$(3.16) \quad (F_1 u_0)(t) \leq \dots \leq x^{(k)} \leq \dots \leq x^{(2)} \leq x^{(1)} \leq (F_1 v_0)(t), \quad t \in J_0.$$

Using the same method as in the proof of (a), we know that  $\{x^{(k)}\}$  given by (3.16) converges weakly to some element in  $E$ .

By above discussions, any sequence  $\{x_n\}$  of the complete ordered set  $N \subset D_1(t)$  ( $t \in J_0$ ) has a convergent subsequence of  $\{x_n\}$ , that is, any complete ordered set of  $D_1(t)$  ( $t \in J_0$ ) is relatively weakly compact. Observing (3.13) and the boundedness of  $D_1(t)$  ( $t \in J_0$ ), we know that for almost all  $t \in J$ , any complete ordered set  $(F_1 D)(t) = \{w(t) \mid w \in F_1(D)\} \subset D_1(t)$  is relatively weakly compact, and  $F_1(D)$  is a bounded set in  $L_{p_1}[J, E]$ . Using the similar arguments, we can show that for almost all  $t \in J$ , any complete ordered set of  $(F_i D)(t) = \{w(t) \mid w \in F_i(D)\}$  ( $i = 2, 3$ ) is relatively weakly compact in  $E$  and  $F_i(D)$  are bounded sets in  $L_{p_i}[J, E]$  ( $i = 2, 3$ ); for any  $t \in J$ , any complete ordered set of  $(K_i D_i)(t) = \{u(t) \mid u \in K_i(D_i)\}$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) is also relatively weakly compact in  $E$ . Thus condition (i) and (ii) in Theorem 1 are satisfied.

We now show that condition (iii) in Theorem 1 is fulfilled. By (3.7) and (3.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (A u_0)(t) - u_0(t) &= \sum_{i=1}^3 K_i F_i u_0(t) - u_0(t) \\ &= e^{-Mt} x_0 + \int_0^t e^{-M(t-s)} \left[ (f_1(s, u_0(s)) + M u_0(s)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_0^s k_1(s, \tau) f_2(\tau, u_0(\tau)) d\tau + \int_J k_2(s, \tau) f_3(\tau, u_0(\tau)) d\tau \right] ds - u_0(t) \\ &\geq e^{-Mt} x_0 + e^{-Mt} \int_0^t e^{Ms} [u_0'(s) + M u_0(s)] ds - u_0(t) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= e^{-Mt}x_0 + e^{-Mt}(e^{Mt}u_0(t) - u_0(0)) - u_0(t) \\
&= e^{-Mt}(x_0 - u_0(0)) \geq \theta,
\end{aligned}$$

which means  $u_0 \leq Au_0$ . Similarly we can prove that  $Av_0 \leq v_0$ .

Since all conditions in Theorem 1 are satisfied, by Theorem 1 and Theorem 2,  $A$  has the maximal fixed point and the minimal fixed point in  $D$ . Noting that fixed points of  $A$  are equivalent to solutions of Eq. (3.3), and Eq. (3.3) is equivalent to Eq. (3.2), the conclusions of Theorem 3 hold. The proof is completed.  $\square$

*Remark 3.* In Theorem 1 and Theorem 2, the increasing operator  $A$  is divided into  $\sum_{i=1}^m K_i F_i$  such that  $(F_i D)(t)$  (almost all  $t \in I$ ) and  $(K_i D_i)(t)$  ( $t \in I$ ) need only weak compact conditions in  $E$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ). It is clear to see from Theorem 3 that these conditions are examined easily. Moreover, some concrete problems possess the form  $\sum_{i=1}^m K_i F_i$  originally. Hence this is very convenient in applications.

*Remark 4.* In order to study nonlinear equations in Banach spaces, the compactness type conditions and the dissipative type conditions are widely used (see [1]–[5]). But we do not use any condition of the aspects in Theorem 3 of this paper.

*Remark 5.* Since many widely used spaces such as Hilbert spaces, reflexive spaces and  $L_1$  spaces are all sequentially weakly complete, Theorem 3 still holds in these spaces.

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