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# Common Fixed Point Theorems in a Complete 2-metric Space

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## Abstract

In the present paper, we establish a common fixed point theorem for four self-mappings of a complete 2-metric space using the weak commutativity condition and  $A$ -contraction type condition and then extend the theorem for a class of mappings.

**Key words:** fixed point, common fixed point, 2-metric space, completeness

**2000 Mathematics Subject Classification:** 47H10, 54H25

## 1 Introduction

In 1981, D. Delbosco [4] gave an unified approach for different contractive mappings to prove the fixed point theorem by considering the set  $\mathcal{F}$  of all continuous functions  $g: [0, +\infty)^3 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying the following conditions:

(g-1):  $g(1, 1, 1) = h < 1$

(g-2): if  $u, v \in [0, \infty)$  are such that  $u \leq g(v, v, u)$  or,  $u \leq g(v, u, v)$  or,  $u \leq g(u, v, v)$ ; then  $u \leq hv$ .

Recently Akram et al. [1] have modified the above concept slightly and introduced a general class of contractions called  $A$ -contraction which is a proper superclass of Kannan's contraction [8], Bianchini's contraction [2] and Reich's contraction [11].

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## 1.1 $A$ -contraction

Let a nonempty set  $A$  consisting of all functions  $\alpha: R_+^3 \rightarrow R_+$  satisfying

- (i)  $\alpha$  is continuous on the set  $R_+^3$  of all triplets of nonnegative reals (with respect to the Euclidean metric on  $R^3$ ).
- (ii)  $a \leq kb$  for some  $k \in [0, 1)$  whenever  $a \leq \alpha(a, b, b)$  or  $a \leq \alpha(b, a, b)$  or  $a \leq \alpha(b, b, a)$ , for all  $a, b$ .

**Definition 1.1** A self map  $T$  on a metric space  $X$  is said to be  $A$ -contraction if it satisfies the condition:

$$d(Tx, Ty) \leq \alpha(d(x, y), d(x, Tx), d(y, Ty)) \quad (1.1)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and some  $\alpha \in A$ .

Here we prove a common fixed point theorem for two pairs of weakly commuting mappings using the idea of  $A$ -contraction and then extend the theorem for a family of self-mappings in a 2-metric space. Before proving our main theorem we need to state some preliminary ideas and definitions of weakly commuting mappings in a 2-metric space.

## 2 Preliminaries

In sixties, S. Gähler ([6]–[7]) introduced the concept of 2-metric space. Since then a number of mathematicians have been investigating the different aspects of fixed point theory in the setting of 2-metric space.

### 2.1 2-metric space

Let  $X$  be a non empty set. A real valued nonnegative function  $d$  on  $X \times X \times X$  is said to be a 2-metric on  $X$  if

- (I) given distinct elements  $x, y$  of  $X$ , there exists an element  $z$  of  $X$  such that  $d(x, y, z) \neq 0$
- (II)  $d(x, y, z) = 0$  when at least two of  $x, y, z$  are equal,
- (III)  $d(x, y, z) = d(x, z, y) = d(y, z, x)$  for all  $x, y, z$  in  $X$ , and
- (IV)  $d(x, y, z) \leq d(x, y, w) + d(x, w, z) + d(w, y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z, w$  in  $X$ .

When  $d$  is a 2-metric on  $X$ , then the ordered pair  $(X, d)$  is called a 2-metric space.

A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  is said to be a Cauchy sequence if for each  $u \in X$ ,  $\lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, x_m, u) = 0$ .

A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  is convergent to an element  $x \in X$  if for each  $u \in X$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, x, u) = 0$ .

A complete 2-metric space is one in which every Cauchy sequence in  $X$  converges to an element of  $X$ .

In 1984, M. D. Khan [9] in his doctoral thesis, defined weakly commuting mappings in a 2-metric space as follows.

**Definition 2.1** Let  $S$  and  $T$  be two mappings from a 2-metric space  $(X, d)$  into itself. Then a pair of mappings  $(S, T)$  is said to be weakly commuting on  $x$ , if  $d(STx, TSx, u) \leq d(Tx, Sx, u)$  for all  $u \in X$ .

Note that a commuting pair  $(S, T)$  on a 2-metric space  $(X, d)$  is weakly commuting, but the converse is not true (see [10]). On the otherhand Cho–Khan–Singh [3] have proved some common fixed point theorems for weakly commuting self-mappings in a 2-metric space. Here we shall prove some common fixed point theorems in 2-metric space in a more generalised conditions.

### 3 Main results

**Theorem 3.1** Let  $I, J, S$  and  $T$  be four self mappings of a complete 2-metric space  $(X, d)$  satisfying

$$I(X) \subset T(X) \quad \text{and} \quad J(X) \subset S(X). \quad (3.1)$$

For  $\alpha \in A$  and for all  $x, y, u \in X$

$$d(Ix, Jy, u) \leq \alpha(d(Sx, Ty, u), d(Sx, Ix, u), d(Ty, Jy, u)). \quad (3.2)$$

If one of  $I, J, S$  and  $T$  is continuous and if  $I$  and  $J$  weakly commute with  $S$  and  $T$  respectively, then  $I, J, S$  and  $T$  have a unique common fixed point  $z$  in  $X$ .

**Proof** Let  $x_0$  be an arbitrary element of  $X$ . We define  $Ix_{2n+1} = y_{2n+2}$ ,  $Tx_{2n} = y_{2n}$  and  $Jx_{2n} = y_{2n+1}$ ,  $Sx_{2n+1} = y_{2n+1}$ ;  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . Taking  $x = x_{2n+1}$  and  $y = x_{2n}$  in (3.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(Ix_{2n+1}, Jx_{2n}, u) &\leq \\ &\leq \alpha(d(Sx_{2n+1}, Tx_{2n}, u), d(Sx_{2n+1}, Ix_{2n+1}, u), d(Tx_{2n}, Jx_{2n}, u)) \end{aligned}$$

or,

$$d(y_{2n+2}, y_{2n+1}, u) \leq \alpha(d(y_{2n+1}, y_{2n}, u), d(y_{2n+1}, y_{2n+2}, u), d(y_{2n}, y_{2n+1}, u)).$$

So by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(y_{2n+1}, y_{2n+2}, u) \leq k \cdot d(y_{2n}, y_{2n+1}, u) \quad \text{where } k \in [0, 1) \quad (3.3)$$

Similarly by putting  $x = x_{2n-1}$  and  $y = x_{2n}$  in (3.2) we get

$$\begin{aligned} d(Ix_{2n-1}, Jx_{2n}, u) &\leq \\ &\leq \alpha(d(Sx_{2n-1}, Tx_{2n}, u), d(Sx_{2n-1}, Ix_{2n-1}, u), d(Tx_{2n}, Jx_{2n}, u)) \end{aligned}$$

or,

$$d(y_{2n}, y_{2n+1}, u) \leq \alpha(d(y_{2n-1}, y_{2n}, u), d(y_{2n-1}, y_{2n}, u), d(y_{2n}, y_{2n+1}, u)).$$

So by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(y_{2n}, y_{2n+1}, u) \leq k \cdot d(y_{2n-1}, y_{2n}, u) \quad \text{where } k \in [0, 1) \quad (3.4)$$

So by (3.3) and (3.4) we get

$$d(y_{2n+1}, y_{2n+2}, u) \leq k \cdot d(y_{2n}, y_{2n+1}, u) \leq k^2 \cdot d(y_{2n-1}, y_{2n}, u).$$

Proceeding in this way

$$d(y_{2n+1}, y_{2n+2}, u) \leq k^{2n+1} \cdot d(y_0, y_1, u)$$

and

$$d(y_{2n}, y_{2n+1}, u) \leq k^{2n} \cdot d(y_0, y_1, u).$$

So in general

$$d(y_n, y_{n+1}, u) \leq k^n \cdot d(y_0, y_1, u). \quad (3.5)$$

Then using property (IV) of 2-metric space we get

$$\begin{aligned} d(y_n, y_{n+2}, u) &\leq d(y_n, y_{n+2}, y_{n+1}) + d(y_n, y_{n+1}, u) + d(y_{n+1}, y_{n+2}, u) \\ &\leq d(y_n, y_{n+2}, y_{n+1}) + \sum_{r=0}^1 d(y_{n+r}, y_{n+r+1}, u). \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

Here we consider two possible cases to show that  $d(y_n, y_{n+2}, y_{n+1}) = 0$ .

**Case I.**  $n = \text{even} = 2m$  (say)

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} d(y_n, y_{n+2}, y_{n+1}) &= d(y_{2m}, y_{2m+2}, y_{2m+1}) \\ &= d(y_{2m+2}, y_{2m+1}, y_{2m}) \\ &= d(Ix_{2m+1}, Jx_{2m}, y_{2m}) \\ &\leq \alpha(d(Sx_{2m+1}, Tx_{2m}, y_{2m}), d(Sx_{2m+1}, Ix_{2m+1}, y_{2m}), \\ &\quad d(Tx_{2m}, Jx_{2m}, y_{2m})) \\ &= \alpha(d(y_{2m+1}, y_{2m}, y_{2m}), d(y_{2m+1}, y_{2m+2}, y_{2m}), \\ &\quad d(y_{2m}, y_{2m+1}, y_{2m})) \\ &= \alpha(0, d(y_{2m+1}, y_{2m+2}, y_{2m}), 0). \end{aligned}$$

So by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(y_n, y_{n+2}, y_{n+1}) = d(y_{2m}, y_{2m+2}, y_{2m+1}) \leq k \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \text{where } k \in [0, 1)$$

which implies  $d(y_n, y_{n+2}, y_{n+1}) = 0$ .

**Case II.**  $n = \text{odd} = 2m + 1$  (say)

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(y_n, y_{n+2}, y_{n+1}) &= d(y_{2m+1}, y_{2m+3}, y_{2m+2}) \\
 &= d(y_{2m+3}, y_{2m+2}, y_{2m+1}) \\
 &= d(Jx_{2m+2}, Ix_{2m+1}, y_{2m+1}) \\
 &\leq \alpha(d(Sx_{2m+1}, Tx_{2m+2}, y_{2m+1}), \\
 &\quad d(Sx_{2m+1}, Ix_{2m+1}, y_{2m+1}), d(Tx_{2m+2}, Jx_{2m+2}, y_{2m+1})) \\
 &= \alpha(d(y_{2m+1}, y_{2m+2}, y_{2m+1}), d(y_{2m+1}, y_{2m+2}, y_{2m+1}), \\
 &\quad d(y_{2m+2}, y_{2m+3}, y_{2m+1})) \\
 &= \alpha(0, 0, d(y_{2m+2}, y_{2m+3}, y_{2m+1})).
 \end{aligned}$$

Then by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(y_n, y_{n+2}, y_{n+1}) = d(y_{2m+1}, y_{2m+3}, y_{2m+2}) \leq k \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \text{where } k \in [0, 1)$$

So in either cases  $d(y_n, y_{n+2}, y_{n+1}) = 0$ . Therefore from (3.6) we have

$$d(y_n, y_{n+2}, u) \leq \sum_{r=0}^1 d(y_{n+r}, y_{n+r+1}, u).$$

Proceeding in the same fashion we have for any  $p > 0$ ,

$$d(y_n, y_{n+p}, u) \leq \sum_{r=0}^{p-1} d(y_{n+r}, y_{n+r+1}, u).$$

Then by (3.5) we get

$$d(y_n, y_{n+p}, u) \leq \frac{k^n}{1-k} d(y_0, y_1, u) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty, p > 0 \text{ and } k \in [0, 1).$$

Hence  $\{y_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence. Then by completeness of  $X$ ,  $\{y_n\}$  converges to a point  $z \in X$  i.e.  $y_n \rightarrow z \in X$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Since  $\{y_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence and taking limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we get  $Ix_{2n} = Tx_{2n+1} \rightarrow z$ ,  $Jx_{2n-1} = Sx_{2n} \rightarrow z$  and also  $Jx_{2n+1} \rightarrow z$ .

Next suppose that  $S$  is continuous. Then  $\{SIx_{2n}\}$  converges to  $Sz$ . Then by property (IV) of 2-metric space, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(ISx_{2n}, Sz, u) &\leq d(ISx_{2n}, Sz, SIx_{2n}) + d(ISx_{2n}, SIx_{2n}, u) + d(SIx_{2n}, Sz, u) \\
 &\leq d(ISx_{2n}, Sz, SIx_{2n}) + d(Sx_{2n}, Ix_{2n}, u) + d(SIx_{2n}, Sz, u),
 \end{aligned}$$

since  $I$  and  $S$  weakly commute.

Letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , it follows that  $\{ISx_{2n}\}$  converges to  $Sz$ . Again by using (3.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &d(ISx_{2n}, Jx_{2n+1}, u) \leq \\
 &\leq \alpha(d(S^2x_{2n}, Tx_{2n+1}, u), d(S^2x_{2n}, ISx_{2n}, u), d(Tx_{2n+1}, Jx_{2n+1}, u)).
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\alpha$  is continuous, taking limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  we get

$$d(Sz, z, u) \leq \alpha(d(Sz, z, u), d(Sz, Sz, u), d(z, z, u))$$

implies

$$d(Sz, z, u) \leq \alpha(d(Sz, z, u), 0, 0).$$

So by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(Sz, z, u) \leq k \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \text{which gives } Sz = z. \quad (3.7)$$

Again using the inequality (3.2) we have

$$d(Iz, Jx_{2n+1}, u) \leq \alpha(d(Sz, Tx_{2n+1}, u), d(Sz, Iz, u), d(Tx_{2n+1}, Jx_{2n+1}, u)).$$

Passing limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  we get

$$d(Iz, z, u) \leq \alpha(d(Sz, z, u), d(z, Iz, u), d(z, z, u))$$

implies

$$d(Iz, z, u) \leq \alpha(0, d(z, Iz, u), 0).$$

Then by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(Iz, z, u) \leq k \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \text{which gives } Iz = z. \quad (3.8)$$

Since  $I(X) \subset T(X)$ , there exists a point  $z' \in X$  such that  $Tz' = z = Iz$ , so by (3.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(z, Jz', u) &= d(Iz, Jz', u) \\ &\leq \alpha(d(Sz, Tz', u), d(Sz, Iz, u), d(Tz', Jz', u)) \\ &= \alpha(d(z, z, u), d(z, z, u), d(z, Jz', u)) \\ &= \alpha(0, 0, d(z, Jz', u)). \end{aligned}$$

So by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(z, Jz', u) \leq k \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \text{which implies } Jz' = z.$$

As  $J$  and  $T$  weakly commute

$$d(JTz', TJz', u) \leq d(Tz', Jz', u) = 0$$

which gives  $JTz' = TJz'$  implies

$$Jz = JTz' = TJz' = Tz. \quad (3.9)$$

Thus from (3.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(z, Tz, u) &= d(Iz, Jz, u) \\ &\leq \alpha(d(Sz, Tz, u), d(Sz, Iz, u), d(Tz, Jz, u)) \\ &= \alpha(d(z, Tz, u), 0, 0). \end{aligned}$$

So by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(z, Tz, u) \leq k \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \text{which implies } Tz = z. \quad (3.10)$$

So by (3.7),(3.8),(3.9) and (3.10) we conclude that  $z$  is a common fixed point of  $I, J, S$  and  $T$ .

For uniqueness, Let  $w$  be another common fixed point in  $X$  such that

$$Iz = Jz = Sz = Tz = z \quad \text{and} \quad Iw = Jw = Sw = Tw = w.$$

Then by (3.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(w, z, u) &= d(Iw, Jz, u) \\ &\leq \alpha(d(Sw, Tz, u), d(Sw, Iw, u), d(Tz, Jz, u)) \\ &= \alpha(d(w, z, u), d(w, w, u), d(z, z, u)) \\ &= \alpha(d(w, z, u), 0, 0). \end{aligned}$$

So by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(w, z, u) \leq k \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \text{which implies } w = z.$$

So uniqueness of  $z$  is proved.

The same result holds if any one of  $I, J$  and  $T$  is continuous.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2** *Let  $S, T, I$  and  $J$  be four self mappings of a complete 2-metric space  $(X, d)$  satisfying*

$$I(X) \subset T(X) \quad \text{and} \quad J(X) \subset S(X) \quad (3.11)$$

$$d(Ix, Jy, u) \leq c \cdot \max \{d(Sx, Ty, u), d(Sx, Ix, u), d(Ty, Jy, u)\} \quad (3.12)$$

for all  $x, y, u$  in  $X$ , where  $0 \leq c < 1$ .

*If one of  $S, T, I$  and  $J$  is continuous and if  $I$  and  $J$  weakly commute with  $S$  and  $T$  respectively, then  $I, J, S$  and  $T$  have a unique common fixed point  $z$  in  $X$ .*

This result is a 2-metric analogue of the theorem of B. Fisher [5].

For any  $f: (X, d) \rightarrow (X, d)$  we denote  $F_f = \{x \in X: x = f(x)\}$ .

**Lemma 3.3** *Let  $I, J, S$  and  $T$  be four self mappings of a complete 2-metric space  $(X, d)$ . If the inequality (3.2) holds for  $\alpha \in A$  and for all  $x, y, u \in X$ . Then  $(F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_I = (F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_J$ .*

**Proof** Let  $x \in (F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_I$ . Then by(3.2)

$$\begin{aligned} d(x, Jx, u) &= d(Ix, Jx, u) \\ &\leq \alpha(d(Sx, Tx, u), d(Sx, Ix, u), d(Tx, Jx, u)) \\ &= \alpha(0, 0, d(x, Jx, u)). \end{aligned}$$



So by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(x, Jx, u) \leq k \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \text{implies } x = Jx.$$

Thus

$$(F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_I \subset (F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_J.$$

Similarly we have

$$(F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_J \subset (F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_I$$

and so  $(F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_I = (F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_J$  □

**Theorem 3.4** *Let  $S, T$  and  $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be mappings from a complete 2-metric space  $(X, d)$  into itself satisfying*

$$I_1(X) \subset T(X) \text{ and } I_2(X) \subset S(X). \quad (3.13)$$

For  $\alpha \in A$  and for all  $x, y, u \in X$ ,

$$d(I_n x, I_{n+1} y, u) \leq \alpha(d(Sx, Ty, u), d(Sx, I_n x, u), d(Ty, I_{n+1} y, u)) \quad (3.14)$$

holds for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If one of  $S, T, I_1$  and  $I_2$  is continuous and if  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  weakly commute with  $S$  and  $T$  respectively, then  $S, T$  and  $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  have a unique common fixed point  $z$  in  $X$ .

**Proof** By Theorem 3.1,  $S, T, I_1$  and  $I_2$  have a unique common fixed point  $z$  in  $X$ . Now  $z$  is a unique common fixed point of  $S, T, I_1$  and also by Lemma 3.3,  $(F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_{I_1} = (F_S \cap F_T) \cap F_{I_2}$ ,  $z$  is a common fixed point of  $S, T, I_2$ . Also  $z$  is unique common fixed point of  $S, T, I_2$ . If not, let  $w$  be another common fixed point of  $S, T, I_2$ . Then by (3.14)

$$\begin{aligned} d(z, w, u) &= d(I_1 z, I_2 w, u) \\ &\leq \alpha(d(Sz, Tw, u), d(Sz, I_1 z, u), d(Tw, I_2 w, u)) \\ &= \alpha(d(z, w, u), d(z, z, u), d(w, w, u)) \\ &= \alpha(d(z, w, u), 0, 0). \end{aligned}$$

So by axiom (ii) of function  $\alpha$ ,

$$d(z, w, u) \leq k \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \text{implies } z = w.$$

In the similar manner we can show that  $z$  is a unique common fixed point of  $S, T$  and  $I_3$ . Continuing in this way, we arrive at desired result. □

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