

Fixed points of Ćirić-Matkowski-type contractions in ν -generalized metric spaces

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Abstract. In this paper, fixed point theorems for Ćirić-Matkowski-type contractions in ν -generalized metric spaces are presented. Then, by replacing the distance function $d(x, y)$ with function of the form $m(x, y) = d(x, y) + \gamma(d(x, Tx) + d(y, Ty))$, where $\gamma > 0$, results analogue to those due to P. D. Proinov [Fixed point theorems in metric spaces, *Nonlinear Anal.* 64 (2006) 546–557] are obtained. An example is provided to demonstrate a possible usage of these results.

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1. Introduction and Preliminaries

Fixed point theory in metric spaces have many applications. It is natural that there have been several attempts to extend it to a more general setting. One of these generalizations was introduced by Branciari in 2000, where the triangle inequality was replaced by a so-called *polygonal inequality*. He introduced the concept of ν -generalized metric spaces as follows (see also [2, 5, 8, 9, 15, 16]).

Definiton 1.1 (Branciari [3]). Let X be a nonvoid set and $d: X \times X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a mapping. Let $\nu \in \mathbb{N}$. Then (X, d) is called a ν -generalized metric space if the following hold:

1. $d(x, y) = 0$ if and only if $x = y$, for every $x, y \in X$;
2. $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$, for every $x, y \in X$;
3. $d(x, y) \leq d(x, u_1) + d(u_1, u_2) + \dots + d(u_\nu, y)$, for every set $\{x, u_1, \dots, u_\nu, y\}$ of $\nu + 2$ elements of X that are all different.

Obviously, (X, d) is a metric space if and only if it is a 1-generalized metric space. In [15], it was shown that not every generalized metric space has a compatible topology.

Definiton 1.2 ([2]). Let (X, d) be a ν -generalized metric space. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$. A sequence $\{x_n\}$ in X is said to be k -Cauchy if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup\{d(x_n, x_{n+1+mk}) : m \in \mathbb{Z}^+\} = 0. \quad (1.1)$$

The sequence $\{x_n\}$ is said to be *Cauchy* if it is 1-Cauchy.

The concept of Cauchy sequences in ν -generalized metric spaces was studied in [2, 16]; see also [3].

Proposition 1.3 ([2, 16]). *Let (X, d) be a ν -generalized metric space and let $\{x_n\}$ be a sequence in X such that x_n ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) are all different. Suppose that $\{x_n\}$ is ν -Cauchy. If ν is odd, or if ν is even and $d(x_n, x_{n+2}) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, then $\{x_n\}$ is Cauchy.*

According to [3], a sequence $\{x_n\}$ in a ν -generalized metric space (X, d) is said to *converge* to x if $d(x, x_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. It was shown in [13] and [14] (see, e.g., [14, Example 1.1]) that, among other things, a sequence in a 2-generalized metric space may converge to more than one point and that a convergent sequence may not be a Cauchy sequence.

According to [2, 16], a sequence $\{x_n\}$ is said to *converge to x in the strong sense* if $\{x_n\}$ is Cauchy and $\{x_n\}$ converges to x . The mentioned [14, Example 1.1] shows that there exist convergent sequences in 2-generalized metric spaces that do not converge in the strong sense.

The space X is said to be *complete* if every Cauchy sequence in X converges. In [2], the completeness of ν -generalized metric spaces is discussed.

Proposition 1.4 ([16]). *Let $\{x_n\}$ and $\{y_n\}$ be sequences in a ν -generalized metric space (X, d) that converge to x and y in the strong sense, respectively. Then*

$$d(x, y) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, y_n).$$

Branciari, in [3], proved a generalization of the Banach contraction principle. His proof was not fully correct because a ν -generalized metric space does not necessarily have the compatible topology, see [6, 13, 14, 15, 17]. A proof of the Banach contraction principle, as well as proofs of Kannan's [7] and Ćirić's [4] fixed point theorems, in ν -generalized metric spaces, can be found in [16].

Theorem 1.5 ([16]). *Let (X, d) be a complete ν -generalized metric space, and let T be a self-map of X . For every $x, y \in X$, let*

$$m(x, y) = \max\{d(x, y), d(x, Tx), d(y, Ty), d(x, Ty), d(y, Tx)\}. \quad (1.2)$$

Assume there exists $r \in [0, 1)$ such that $d(Tx, Ty) \leq rm(x, y)$, for all $x, y \in X$. Then T has a unique fixed point z and, moreover, for any $x \in X$, the Picard iterates $T^n x$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) converge to z in the strong sense.

The present paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we study Cauchy sequences in ν -generalized metric spaces. We present a necessary and sufficient condition for a sequence to be Cauchy. Next, in Section 3, we give new

fixed point theorems in ν -generalized metric spaces. These results are extensions to ν -generalized metric spaces of the theorems by Meir and Keeler [11], Ćirić [4], Matkowski [10, Theorem 1.5.1], and Proinov [12]. It is shown by an example that these results are more powerful than some of the results from the paper [16].

Throughout the paper, the set of integers is denoted by \mathbb{Z} , the set of nonnegative integers is denoted by \mathbb{Z}^+ , and the set of positive integers is denoted by \mathbb{N} .

2. Results on Cauchy Sequences

The following is the main result of the section.

Lemma 2.1. *Let $\{x_n\}$ be a sequence in a ν -generalized metric space (X, d) such that x_n ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) are all different. Suppose that, for every $\epsilon > 0$ and for any two subsequences $\{x_{p_i}\}$ and $\{x_{q_i}\}$, if $\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} d(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}) \leq \epsilon$, then, for some N ,*

$$d(x_{p_i+1}, x_{q_i+1}) \leq \epsilon \quad (i \geq N).$$

If, moreover, $d(x_n, x_{n+1}) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, then the sequence $\{x_n\}$ is ν -Cauchy.

Proof. Suppose $\{x_n\}$ is not ν -Cauchy. Then (1.1) fails to hold for $k = \nu$. Hence, there is $\epsilon > 0$ such that

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, \exists n \geq k, \sup\{d(x_n, x_{n+1+m\nu}) : m \in \mathbb{Z}^+\} > \epsilon. \quad (2.1)$$

Since $d(x_n, x_{n+1}) \rightarrow 0$, there exist positive integers $k_1 < k_2 < \dots$ such that

$$d(x_n, x_{n+1}) < \epsilon/i \quad (n \geq k_i).$$

For each k_i , by (2.1), there exist $n_i \geq k_i + 1$ and $m_i \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that

$$d(x_{n_i}, x_{n_i+1+m_i\nu}) > \epsilon.$$

Since $d(x_{n_i}, x_{n_i+1}) < \epsilon$, we have $m_i \geq 1$. We let m_i be the smallest number with this property so that $d(x_{n_i}, x_{n_i+1+m_i\nu-\nu}) \leq \epsilon$. Now, let $p_i = n_i - 1$ and $q_i = n_i + m_i\nu$. Then $q_i > p_i \geq k_i$, and

$$d(x_{p_i+1}, x_{q_i+1}) > \epsilon, \quad d(x_{p_i+1}, x_{q_i+1-\nu}) \leq \epsilon.$$

Using property (3) in Definition 1.1, since all x_n ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) are different, for every $i \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}) &\leq d(x_{p_i}, x_{p_i+1}) + d(x_{p_i+1}, x_{q_i+1-\nu}) \\ &\quad + d(x_{q_i+1-\nu}, x_{q_i+2-\nu}) + \dots + d(x_{q_i-1}, x_{q_i}). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $d(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}) \leq \nu\epsilon/i + \epsilon$, and thus $\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} d(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}) \leq \epsilon$. This is a contradiction, since $d(x_{p_i+1}, x_{q_i+1}) > \epsilon$, for all i . \square

Theorem 2.2. *Suppose that $\{x_n\}$ satisfies all the conditions in Lemma 2.1, and, moreover, $d(x_n, x_{n+2}) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Then $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence.*

Proof. By Lemma 2.1, the sequence $\{x_n\}$ is ν -Cauchy. Since $d(x_n, x_{n+2}) \rightarrow 0$, by Proposition 1.3, the sequence $\{x_n\}$ is Cauchy. \square

Theorem 2.3. *Let $\{x_n\}$ be a sequence in a ν -generalized metric space (X, d) such that x_n ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) are all different and $d(x_n, x_{n+1}) + d(x_n, x_{n+2}) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Assume that $m(x, y)$ is a nonnegative function on $X \times X$ such that, for any two subsequences $\{x_{p_i}\}$ and $\{x_{q_i}\}$,*

$$\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} m(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}) \leq \limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} d(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}). \quad (2.2)$$

The following condition then implies that the sequence $\{x_n\}$ is Cauchy: for every $\epsilon > 0$ and for any two subsequences $\{x_{p_i}\}$ and $\{x_{q_i}\}$, if $\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} m(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}) \leq \epsilon$, then, for some N ,

$$d(x_{p_{i+1}}, x_{q_{i+1}}) \leq \epsilon \quad (i \geq N). \quad (2.3)$$

Proof. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and let $\{x_{p_i}\}$ and $\{x_{q_i}\}$ be two subsequences with $\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} d(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}) \leq \epsilon$. By (2.2), we get $\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} m(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}) \leq \epsilon$. Therefore, (2.3) holds. All conditions in Lemma 2.1 are fulfilled and so the sequence is ν -Cauchy. Since $d(x_n, x_{n+1}) + d(x_n, x_{n+2}) \rightarrow 0$, by Proposition 1.3, we see that $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence. \square

3. Fixed Point Theorems of Ćirić-Matkowski Type

Let (X, d) be a ν -generalized metric space. A mapping $T: X \rightarrow X$ is said to be a *Ćirić-Matkowski contraction* if $d(Tx, Ty) < d(x, y)$, for every $x, y \in X$ with $x \neq y$, and, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that, for all $x, y \in X$,

$$d(x, y) < \delta + \epsilon \implies d(Tx, Ty) \leq \epsilon. \quad (3.1)$$

The following lemma was proved in the context of metric spaces as [1, Lemma 3.1]. Its proof does not use the triangular inequality, so it holds true also in ν -generalized metric spaces.

Lemma 3.1. *Let (X, d) be a ν -generalized metric space. For a sequence $\{x_n\}$ in X and a nonnegative function $m(x, y)$ on $X \times X$, the following are equivalent:*

1. *for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exist $\delta > 0$ and $N \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that, for all $p, q \geq N$,*

$$m(x_p, x_q) < \epsilon + \delta \implies d(x_{p+1}, x_{q+1}) \leq \epsilon. \quad (3.2)$$

2. *for every $\epsilon > 0$ and for any two subsequences $\{x_{p_i}\}$ and $\{x_{q_i}\}$, if $\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} m(x_{p_i}, x_{q_i}) \leq \epsilon$ then, for some N , $d(x_{p_{i+1}}, x_{q_{i+1}}) \leq \epsilon$ ($i \geq N$).*

We will need the following lemma in the sequel.

Lemma 3.2. *Let (X, d) be a ν -generalized metric space and let $T: X \rightarrow X$ be a mapping. Suppose $d(T^n x, T^{n+1} x) \rightarrow 0$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, for some $x \in X$. Then, for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$, either the Picard iterates $T^n x$ ($n \geq k$) are all different or they are all the same.*

Proof. Suppose $T^{k+m}x = T^kx$, for some $k, m \in \mathbb{N}$, and let m be the smallest positive integer with this property. If $m = 1$, that is $T^{k+1}x = T^kx$, then $T^n x = T^k x$, for $n \geq k$, and there is nothing to prove. If $m \geq 2$, then every two elements in the set $\{T^k x, T^{k+1} x, \dots, T^{k+m-1} x\}$ are different. Now, for $n > k$, write $n - k = mj + i$ with $j \geq 0$ and $0 \leq i \leq m - 1$. Then

$$d(T^n x, T^{n+1} x) = d(T^{k+mj+i} x, T^{k+mj+i+1} x) = d(T^{k+i} x, T^{k+i+1} x).$$

The above inequality contradicts the fact that $d(T^n x, T^{n+1} x) \rightarrow 0$. \square

Now, suppose that T is a Ćirić-Matkowski contraction on X , take a point $x \in X$, and set $x_n = T^n x$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$). Then, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exist $\delta > 0$ such that $d(x_p, x_q) < \epsilon + \delta$ implies $d(x_{p+1}, x_{q+1}) \leq \epsilon$.

Theorem 3.3. *Let (X, d) be a ν -generalized metric space, let T be a self-map of X and let $m(x, y)$ be a nonnegative function on $X \times X$. Suppose that, for some point $x \in X$, the following conditions hold:*

1. for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exist $\delta > 0$ and $N \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ such that, for all $p, q \geq N$,

$$m(T^p x, T^q x) < \delta + \epsilon \implies d(T^{p+1} x, T^{q+1} x) \leq \epsilon, \quad (3.3)$$
2. condition (2.2) holds for any two subsequences $\{T^{p_i} x\}$ and $\{T^{q_i} x\}$ of $\{T^n x\}$,
3. $d(T^n x, T^{n+1} x) + d(T^n x, T^{n+2} x) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Then $\{T^n x\}$ is a Cauchy sequence.

Proof. Using Lemma 3.1, condition (3.3) implies that, for every $\epsilon > 0$ and for any two subsequences $\{T^{p_i} x\}$ and $\{T^{q_i} x\}$ of $\{T^n x\}$, if $\limsup_{i \rightarrow \infty} m(T^{p_i} x, T^{q_i} x) \leq \epsilon$ then, for some N , $d(T^{p_i+1} x, T^{q_i+1} x) \leq \epsilon$ ($i \geq N$). By Lemma 3.2, the Picard iterates $T^n x$ are eventually all the same, in which case $\{T^n x\}$ is obviously a Cauchy sequence, or they are all different. In the latter case, Theorem 2.3 shows that the sequence $\{T^n x\}$ is Cauchy. \square

Now we give a new proof of the result that appeared as [15, Theorem 13].

Theorem 3.4. *Let (X, d) be a complete ν -generalized metric space and let T be a Ćirić-Matkowski contraction on X . Then T has a unique fixed point z , and, moreover, for any $x \in X$, the sequence $\{T^n x\}$ converges to z in the strong sense.*

Proof. First, we show that T has at most one fixed point. Suppose $Tz = z$ and $y \neq z$. Then $d(Ty, Tz) = d(Ty, z) < d(y, z)$. Hence $Ty \neq y$.

Given $x \in X$, we consider the following two cases.

1. There exist $k, m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $T^{k+m}x = T^kx$.
2. $T^n x$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) are all different.

In the case (a), where $T^{k+m}x = T^kx$, for some $k, m \in \mathbb{N}$, we let m be the smallest positive integer with this property. If $m = 1$, that is $T^{k+1}x = T^kx$,

then $T^n x = T^k x$, for $n \geq k$, and there is nothing to prove. If $m \geq 2$, then every two successive elements in the following sequence are different:

$$T^k x, T^{k+1} x, \dots, T^{k+m-1} x, T^{k+m} x, T^{k+m+1} x, \dots$$

Recall that $x \neq y$ implies $d(Tx, Ty) < d(x, y)$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} d(T^k x, T^{k+1} x) &= d(T^{k+m} x, T^{k+m+1} x) < d(T^{k+m-1} x, T^{k+m} x) \\ &< \dots < d(T^{k+1} x, T^{k+2} x) < d(T^k x, T^{k+1} x). \end{aligned}$$

This is absurd.

In the case (b), we let $x_n = T^n x$, and show that $d(x_n, x_{n+i}) \rightarrow 0$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, for $i = 1, 2$. Since x_n ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) are all different, we have $d(x_{n+1}, x_{n+i+1}) < d(x_n, x_{n+i})$, for every n , that is, the sequence $\epsilon_n = d(x_n, x_{n+i})$ is decreasing and thus $\epsilon_n \downarrow \epsilon$ for some $\epsilon \geq 0$. If $\epsilon > 0$, there is $\delta > 0$ such that $\epsilon_n = d(T^n x, T^{n+1} x) \leq \epsilon + \delta$ implies that $\epsilon_{n+1} = d(T^{n+1} x, T^{n+2} x) \leq \epsilon$. This is a contradiction since we have $\epsilon < \epsilon_n$, for all n . Hence, $d(x_n, x_{n+i}) \rightarrow 0$, as $n \rightarrow \infty$ ($i = 1, 2$). Now, by Theorem 3.3, the sequence $\{T^n x\}$ is Cauchy. Since X is complete, $\{T^n x\}$ converges to some $z \in X$. By Proposition 1.4, we have

$$d(z, Tz) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(T^n x, Tz) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(T^{n-1} x, z) = 0.$$

Hence $Tz = z$, i.e., z is a fixed point of T . \square

Similarly as in metric spaces, we will use the following terminology.

Definiton 3.5. A self-mapping T of a ν -generalized metric space (X, d) is said to be *sequentially continuous* if $\{Tx_n\}$ converges to Tx whenever $\{x_n\}$ converges to x . The mapping T is called *asymptotically regular* if

$$d(T^n x, T^{n+1} x) + d(T^n x, T^{n+2} x) \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad (x \in X).$$

We are now in a position to state and prove a version of Proinov's theorem, [12, Theorem 4.2], for ν -generalized metric spaces.

Theorem 3.6. *Let (X, d) be a complete ν -generalized metric space, and T be a sequentially continuous and asymptotically regular self-map of X . For $\gamma > 0$, define m on $X \times X$ by $m(x, y) = d(x, y) + \gamma(d(x, Tx) + d(y, Ty))$. Suppose that*

$$d(Tx, Ty) < m(x, y), \text{ for every } x, y \in X, \text{ with } x \neq y, \quad (3.4)$$

and that, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exist $\delta > 0$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}_0$ such that, for all $x, y \in X$,

$$m(T^N x, T^N y) < \delta + \epsilon \implies d(T^{N+1} x, T^{N+1} y) \leq \epsilon. \quad (3.5)$$

Then T has a unique fixed point z , and, for any $x \in X$, the Picard iterates $T^n x$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) converge to z in the strong sense.

Proof. First, let us prove that T has at most one fixed point. If $Ty = y$ and $Tz = z$, then $m(y, z) = d(y, z) = d(Ty, Tz)$. Hence $y = z$ (otherwise, we should have $d(Ty, Tz) < d(y, z)$ which is not the case).

Now, choose $x \in X$ and set $x_n = T^n x$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$). Since T is assumed to be asymptotically regular, we have $d(x_n, x_{n+1}) \rightarrow 0$ and $d(x_n, x_{n+2}) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Hence, (2.2) holds for any two subsequences $\{x_{p_i}\}$ and $\{x_{q_i}\}$. By Theorem 2.3, the sequence $\{T^n x\}$ is Cauchy and, since X is complete, it converges to some point $z \in X$. Since T is sequentially continuous, we have $Tx_n \rightarrow Tz$. Since both $\{x_n\}$ and $\{Tx_n\}$ converge in the strong sense, by Proposition 1.4, we get

$$d(z, Tz) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, Tx_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, x_{n+1}) = 0.$$

Therefore, $Tz = z$ and z is the unique fixed point of T . \square

Example 3.7. Let $X = \{a, b, c, \delta, e\}$ and $d : X \times X \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ be defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} d(x, x) &= 0 \text{ for } x \in X; \\ d(x, y) &= d(y, x) \text{ for } x, y \in X; \\ d(a, b) &= 3, \\ d(a, c) &= d(b, c) = 1, \\ d(a, \delta) &= d(b, \delta) = d(c, \delta) = 2, \\ d(a, e) &= d(c, e) = 1, \quad d(b, e) = d(\delta, e) = 2. \end{aligned}$$

Then it is easy to check that (X, d) is a 2-generalized metric space which is not a metric space since

$$d(a, b) = 3 > 2 = d(a, c) + d(c, b).$$

Consider $T : X \rightarrow X$ given by

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & \delta & e \\ c & c & c & a & b \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then the mapping T is obviously sequentially continuous. Since, for each $x \in X$, $T^n x = c$ for n sufficiently large, it is clear that T is asymptotically regular and that condition (3.5) is fulfilled. Take $\gamma = 1$. In order to check the condition (3.4), it is nontrivial just to consider the following cases:

1. $x \in \{a, b, c\}$, $y \in \{\delta, e\}$. Then

$$d(Tx, Ty) = 1 < 3 \leq m(x, y).$$

2. $\{x, y\} = \{\delta, e\}$, $x \neq y$. Then

$$d(Tx, Ty) = 3 < 6 = m(x, y).$$

Hence, all the conditions of Theorem 3.6 are fulfilled and T has a unique fixed point (which is $z = c$).

Note that for $x = \delta$, $y = e$ it is

$$d(Tx, Ty) = 3 > 2 = m(x, y).$$

Hence, the conditions of Theorem 1.5 do not hold and the conclusion cannot be reached using this result.

4. Conclusion

ν -generalized metric spaces were introduced by Branciari in [3] and some fixed point results were obtained. After that, several researchers proved various fixed point results in these spaces (in particular, improving some deductions from [3]), but mostly for the case $\nu = 2$. Some results for arbitrary ν were obtained in the papers [2, 15, 16]. We have extended some of these results in the present paper, in particular proving an analog of Proinov's fixed point result from [12] in the framework of ν -generalized metric spaces. It has been shown by an example that this result is more powerful than some of the results from the paper [16].

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