

## Some Common Fixed Point Theorems for Mappings in Metric and Menger Spaces\*

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**Abstract.** We prove generalizations of results of C. S. Wong, T.-H. Chang and Do Hong Tan with applications to Menger probabilistic metric spaces and random operator equations.

### 1. Introduction and Preliminaries

Let  $f_1, f_2$  be two self-mappings of a complete metric space  $(X, d)$ . We denote

$$m_1(f_1x, f_2y) = \max\left\{d(x, y), \frac{d(x, f_1x) + d(y, f_2y)}{2}, \frac{d(x, f_2y) + d(y, f_1x)}{2}\right\},$$

$$m_2(f_1x, f_2y) = \max\left\{d(x, y), d(x, f_1x), d(y, f_2y), \frac{d(x, f_2y) + d(y, f_1x)}{2}\right\}.$$

In what follows by  $m(f_1x, f_2y)$  we mean either of them. We shall be concerned with the following condition: For each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\varepsilon \leq m(f_1x, f_2y) < \varepsilon + \delta \text{ for } x \neq y \text{ implies } d(f_1x, f_2y) < \varepsilon. \quad (1.1)$$

Note that the condition of type (1.1) not necessary for distinct  $x, y$  was considered in [3] which generalized the concept of  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$ -contractive mappings [4]. Under this weaker condition (1.1) we shall prove some common fixed point theorems for the pair  $f_1, f_2$ . Along these lines the next theorem generalizing the

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result of [10] is that if  $f_1, f_2$  satisfy the so-called  $g$ -generalized contractive condition

$$d(f_1x, f_2y) \leq g(m(f_1x, f_2y)) \quad \forall x \neq y \in X, \tag{1.2}$$

where  $g$  is a self-function of  $\mathbb{R}^+$  satisfying the following property:

(G)  $g$  is upper-semicontinuous,  $g(0) = 0$  and  $g(t) < t \quad \forall t > 0$ ,

then one of  $f_1, f_2$  has a fixed point. Moreover, if both  $f_1, f_2$  have fixed points, then  $f_1, f_2$  have a unique common fixed point in  $X$ , which is also a unique fixed point for each  $f_1, f_2$ . There are simple examples (cf. [9]) showing that the conclusion of the theorems above is the best possible.

Before proceeding to the case of probabilistic (random) metric spaces, let us mention some definitions [5–7]. Let  $\Delta_0$  denote the set of all distribution functions  $F$  with  $F(0) = 0$  ( $F$  is non-decreasing, left-continuous and  $\sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} F(t) = 1$ ). A probabilistic metric space (a  $PM$ -space) is an ordered pair  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  consisting of a non-empty set  $X$  and a symmetric mapping  $\mathcal{F} : X \times X \rightarrow \Delta_0$  ( $\mathcal{F}(x, y)$  is denoted by  $F_{x,y}$  for  $x, y \in X$ ) which satisfies the following conditions:

- (1)  $F_{x,y}(t) = 1$  for all  $t > 0$  if and only if  $x = y$ .
- (2) If  $F_{x,z}(t) = 1$  and  $F_{z,y}(s) = 1$ , then  $F_{x,y}(t + s) = 1$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$  and  $t, s > 0$ .

A Menger space is a triplet  $(X, \mathcal{F}, T)$ , where  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  is a  $PM$ -space,  $T$  is a triangular norm ( $t$ -norm), and the Menger triangular inequality

$$F_{x,y}(t + s) \geq T(F_{x,z}(t), F_{z,y}(s))$$

holds for all  $x, y, z \in X$  and  $t, s > 0$ . Recall that a  $t$ -norm  $T$  is a commutative, associative, and non-decreasing mapping  $T : [0, 1] \times [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  such that  $T(0, 0) = 0, T(a, 1) = a$ . A  $t$ -norm  $T_1$  is stronger than a  $t$ -norm  $T_2$  (written as  $T_1 \geq T_2$ ) if  $T_1(a, b) \geq T_2(a, b), \forall a, b \in [0, 1]$ . If, in addition, there is at least one pair  $(a, b)$  with strict inequality, then we say  $T_1$  strictly stronger than  $T_2$ . There are two important  $t$ -norms:  $T(a, b) := \min\{a, b\}$  and  $T_m(a, b) := \max\{a + b - 1, 0\}$  which will be used frequently in the sequel. The case  $(X, \mathcal{F}, \min)$  was studied extensively (see, e.g. [1, 3] and the cited references therein). In this case, for each  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ , one can define a pseudo-metric  $d_\lambda$  by putting  $d_\lambda(x, y) = \sup\{t : F_{x,y}(t) \leq 1 - \lambda\}$ . In fact according to [7, 8] one can deal with the following three equivalent objects:

- (1)  $(X, \mathcal{F}, \min)$  is a Menger space.
- (2)  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  is pseudo-metrically generated by the family  $\mathcal{D} := \{d_\lambda\}$  endowed with a natural measure – the Lebesgue measure  $\mu$  for  $\Omega := (0, 1)$  where  $\mathcal{D}$  is linearly ordered by the relation  $d_{\lambda_1} \leq d_{\lambda_2}$  if and only if  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2$ .
- (3)  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  is isometric to an  $E$ -space consisting of functions from  $(\Omega, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  into the metric space  $(M, \delta)$  such that, for each  $\lambda \in \Omega : d_\lambda(x, y) = \delta(x(\lambda), y(\lambda))$ , where  $M$  is the set of equivalence classes of the explicitly pseudo-metrizable space  $X \times \Omega$ .

Our next aim is to extend the method here to the class of Menger spaces with  $t$ -norm  $T \geq T_m$ , and since by [7] every  $E$ -space is a Menger space w.r.t.  $t$ -norm  $T_m$ , we can apply the results of this type to the theory of random operator equations.

## 2. Common Fixed Point Theorems

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space, and  $f_1, f_2$  two mappings of  $X$  into itself. Assume that condition (1.1) holds with  $m = m_1$ . Then at least one of  $f_1, f_2$  has a fixed point. If both  $f_1, f_2$  have fixed points, then they have a unique common fixed point which is also a unique fixed point for each of them. In particular, it is so if the implication of type (1.1) holds for all  $x, y$  in  $X$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x_0 \in X$  be arbitrary, and we construct the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  as follows:  $x_{2n+1} := f_1 x_{2n}, x_{2n+2} := f_2 x_{2n+1}$ . One may assume that  $x_n \neq x_{n+1}, \forall n$ , otherwise some of them is a fixed point of  $f_1$  or  $f_2$ . Putting  $d_n := d(x_n, x_{n+1})$ , as in the proof of Theorem 1 in [3], one sees that  $\{d_n\}$  converges to 0 (at this step the condition (1.1) is sufficient for that purpose).

Following the methods of Meir-Keeler and Wong, we now prove that  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence contrariwise. Assume that there exists an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, \exists n > m > k$  such that  $d(x_n, x_m) \geq 2\varepsilon$ . From (1.1) we choose  $\delta > 0$  for this  $\varepsilon$ , and put  $\alpha = \min \{\varepsilon, \delta\}$ . The argument similar to that of [3] shows that one can consider sufficiently large  $k$  so that  $d_i < \alpha/4, \forall i \geq k$ , and for each such  $k, \exists p(k) > q(k) > k$  such that

$$\varepsilon + \frac{\alpha}{4} \leq a_k < \varepsilon + \frac{\alpha}{2}, \tag{2.1}$$

where  $a_k := d(x_{p(k)}, x_{q(k)})$  and

$$d(x_i, x_{q(k)}) \leq d(x_{i+1}, x_{q(k)}) + d_i, \quad d(x_{i+1}, x_{q(k)}) \leq d(x_i, x_{q(k)}) + d_i, \tag{2.2}$$

for each  $i \in \{q(k), \dots, p(k)\}$ . Hence,

$$d(x_{p(k)-1}, x_{q(k)}) < \varepsilon + \frac{\alpha}{4}. \tag{2.3}$$

Since in view of (2.3) and the triangle inequality

$$\varepsilon + \frac{\alpha}{4} \leq a_k \leq d_{p(k)-1} + d(x_{p(k)-1}, x_{q(k)}) < d_{p(k)-1} + \varepsilon + \frac{\alpha}{4},$$

one sees that  $\{a_k\}$  converges to  $\varepsilon + \alpha/4$  from the right. Let

$$I_1 := \{k: p(k) \text{ even}, q(k) \text{ odd}\},$$

$$I_2 := \{k: p(k) \text{ odd}, q(k) \text{ odd}\},$$

$$I_3 := \{k: p(k) \text{ odd}, q(k) \text{ even}\},$$

$$I_4 := \{k: p(k) \text{ even}, q(k) \text{ even}\}.$$

Then at least one of  $I_i, i = 1, \dots, 4$  is infinite. If  $I_1$  is infinite, since

$$\varepsilon + \frac{\alpha}{4} \leq a_k \leq d_{p(k)-1} + d(x_{p(k)-1}, x_{q(k)-1}) + d_{q(k)-1},$$

so  $\{d(x_{p(k)-1}, x_{q(k)-1})\}$  converges to  $\varepsilon + \alpha/4$ . Hence, there is at least a  $k \in I_1$  such that  $x_{p(k)-1} \neq x_{q(k)-1}$ . For this  $k$ , we get  $m_1(f_1 x_{q(k)-1}, f_2 x_{p(k)-1}) < \varepsilon + \delta$ . Then in view of (1.1) one obtains  $d(x_{q(k)}, x_{p(k)}) < \varepsilon$ , a contradiction to (2.1). Now, suppose that  $I_2$  is infinite. Since

$$\varepsilon + \frac{\alpha}{4} \leq a_k \leq d_{p(k)-2} + d_{p(k)-1} + d(x_{p(k)-2}, x_{q(k)-1}) + d_{q(k)-1},$$

so  $\{d(x_{p(k)-2}, x_{q(k)-1})\}$  converges to  $\varepsilon + \alpha/4$ . Hence, there is at least a  $k \in I_2$  such that  $x_{p(k)-2} \neq x_{q(k)-1}$ . For this  $k$  we get  $m_1(f_1 x_{q(k)-1}, f_2 x_{p(k)-2}) < \varepsilon + \delta$ . Then in view of (1.1) one obtains  $d(x_{q(k)}, x_{p(k)-1}) < \varepsilon$ . On the other hand, by (2.2) and (2.1):  $d(x_{q(k)}, x_{p(k)-1}) \geq d(x_{q(k)}, x_{p(k)}) - d_{p(k)-1} \geq \varepsilon + \frac{\alpha}{4} - \frac{\alpha}{4} = \varepsilon$ , a contradiction. Similarly for the other two cases except the roles of  $f_1, f_2$  interchange. Thus, the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is convergent, say to a limit  $x \in X$ . Since  $d_n > 0, \forall n$ , one of  $I := \{n : x \neq x_{2n+1}\}, J := \{n : x \neq x_{2n}\}$  is infinite. If  $I$  is infinite, then assume  $\varepsilon := d(x, f_1 x) > 0$ . For the value  $\varepsilon/2$ , we choose  $\delta$  such that (1.1) holds. We have  $d(x, f_1 x) \leq d(x, x_{2n+2}) + d(f_2 x_{2n+1}, f_1 x)$  and

$$m_1(f_1 x, f_2 x_{2n+1}) = \max \left\{ d(x, x_{2n+1}), \frac{1}{2}(d(x, f_1 x) + d(x_{2n+1}, x_{2n+2})), \frac{1}{2}(d(x, x_{2n+2}) + d(x_{2n+1}, f_1 x)) \right\}.$$

So  $m_1(f_1 x, f_2 x_{2n+1}) < \varepsilon/2 + \delta$  for  $n$  sufficiently large. Hence, by (1.1), one gets  $d(x, f_1 x) < \varepsilon$ , a contradiction. Thus,  $x = f_1 x$ . Similarly, for the case when  $J$  is infinite,  $x = f_2 x$ . ■

One can have an easy application of the above result to Menger spaces with  $T = \min$ . Recall that the  $(\varepsilon, \lambda)$ -topology in a Menger space  $(X, \mathcal{F}, T)$  can be defined by the family  $\{U_x(\varepsilon, \lambda); x \in X, \varepsilon > 0, \lambda \in (0, 1)\}$  of  $(\varepsilon, \lambda)$ -neighborhoods, where

$$U_x(\varepsilon, \lambda) := \{y \in X; F_{x,y}(\varepsilon) > 1 - \lambda\}.$$

If  $\sup_{a \in (0,1)} T(a, a) = 1$ , then  $(X, \mathcal{F}, T)$  is a Hausdorff topological space in the  $(\varepsilon, \lambda)$ -topology. It is easy to see that  $d_\lambda(x, y) = \inf \{\varepsilon > 0 : y \in U_x(\varepsilon, \lambda)\}$  in the case  $T = \min$ . The family  $\{d_\lambda\}$  generates the same topology in  $(X, \mathcal{F}, \min)$ . In particular, it satisfies the following property:  $d_\lambda(x, y) = 0, \forall \lambda \in (0, 1)$  if and only if  $x = y$ . As an immediate consequence of Theorem 2.1 of this paper and Theorem 3 of [3], one obtains

**Corollary 2.2.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{F}, \min)$  be a complete Menger space, and  $f_1, f_2$  two mappings of  $X$  into itself. Assume, for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that, for all  $x \neq y$  in  $X$*

$$F_{f_1 x, f_2 y}(\varepsilon) \geq \min \left\{ F_{x,y}(\varepsilon + \delta), \max(F_{x, f_1 x}(\varepsilon + \delta), F_{y, f_2 y}(\varepsilon + \delta)), \max(F_{x, f_2 y}(\varepsilon + \delta), F_{y, f_1 x}(\varepsilon + \delta)) \right\}. \quad (2.4)$$

Then at least one of  $f_1, f_2$  has a fixed point. If both  $f_1, f_2$  have fixed points, then they have a unique common fixed point which is also a unique fixed point for each of them. In particular, it is so if (2.4) holds for all  $x, y$  in  $X$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space, and  $f_1, f_2$  two mappings of  $X$  into itself such that one of them is continuous. Assume that condition (1.1) holds with  $m = m_2$ . Then at least one of  $f_1, f_2$  has a fixed point. If both  $f_1, f_2$  have fixed points, then they have a unique common fixed point which is also a unique fixed point for each of them. In particular, it is so if the implication of type (1.1) holds for all  $x, y$  in  $X$ .

*Proof.* As in the proof of Theorem 2.1 the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is convergent to a limit  $x \in X$ . If  $f_1$  is continuous, then  $x = f_1x$ .

*Remark 1.* The example  $X = \{x_n = 2^{-n}, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, x_\infty = 0\}$  and  $f_1 = f_2, f_1(x_n) := x_{n+1}, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, f_1(x_\infty) = x_0$  in [3] shows that the continuity assumption in Theorem 2.3 above is essential. Since in Theorem 2.1 the continuity is not assumed, one easily checks that  $f_1, f_2$  do not satisfy (1.1) with  $m = m_1$ , and hence have no fixed points.

**Corollary 2.4.** Let  $(X, \mathcal{F}, \min)$  be a complete Menger space, and  $f_1, f_2$  two mappings of  $X$  into itself with  $f_1$  or  $f_2$  continuous. Assume, for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\delta > 0$  such that, for all  $x \neq y$  in  $X$ ,

$$F_{f_1x, f_2y}(\varepsilon) \geq \min \left\{ F_{x, y}(\varepsilon + \delta), F_{x, f_1x}(\varepsilon + \delta), F_{y, f_2y}(\varepsilon + \delta), \max \left( F_{x, f_2y}(\varepsilon + \delta), F_{y, f_1x}(\varepsilon + \delta) \right) \right\}. \quad (2.5)$$

Then at least one of  $f_1, f_2$  has a fixed point. If both  $f_1, f_2$  have fixed points, then they have a unique common fixed point which is also a unique fixed point for each of them. In particular, it is so if (2.5) holds for all  $x, y$  in  $X$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** Let  $(X, d)$  be a complete metric space, and  $f_1, f_2$  two mappings of  $X$ . Assume that condition (1.2) holds. Then at least one of  $f_1, f_2$  has a fixed point. If both  $f_1, f_2$  have fixed points, then they have a unique common fixed point which is also a unique fixed point for each of them. In particular, it is so if condition (1.2) holds for all  $x, y$  in  $X$ .

*Proof.* Obviously one can assume  $m = m_2$ . As was remarked in [3] condition (1.2) implies condition (1.1). So one constructs the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  as before which is convergent to a limit  $x \in X$ .

Since  $d_n > 0, \forall n$ , one of  $I := \{n : x \neq x_{2n+1}\}, J := \{n : x \neq x_{2n}\}$  is infinite. If  $I$  is infinite, then assume  $t_0 := d(x, f_1x) > 0$ . We have  $d(x, f_1x) \leq d(x, x_{2n+2}) + d(f_2x_{2n+1}, f_1x)$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(f_1x, f_2x_{2n+1}) &\leq g(m(f_1x, f_2x_{2n+1})) \\
 &= g\left(\max\left\{d(x, x_{2n+1}), d(x, f_1x), d(x_{2n+1}, x_{2n+2}), \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. \frac{1}{2}(d(x, x_{2n+2}) + d(x_{2n+1}, f_1x))\right\}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

So by the upper semicontinuity of  $g$  and  $g(t_0) < t_0$ , one can choose  $\varepsilon = t_0 - g(t_0) - \varepsilon_0 > 0$  such that, for this  $\varepsilon$ :  $g(m(f_1x, f_2x_{2n+1})) < g(t_0) + \varepsilon = t_0 - \varepsilon_0$  for  $n$  sufficiently large. Hence, we get

$$t_0 = d(x, f_1x) < \varepsilon_0 + t_0 - \varepsilon_0 = t_0,$$

a contradiction. Thus,  $x = f_1x$ . Similarly, for the case when  $J$  is infinite,  $x = f_2x$ .

*Remark 2.* The example with  $X = \{1, 2\}$  and  $f_1, f_2$  two different mappings onto [9] shows that the conclusion of the theorems above is the best possible.

**Corollary 2.6.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{F}, \min)$  be a complete Menger space,  $f_1, f_2$  two mappings of  $X$  into itself. Assume that there exists a function  $g : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  satisfying condition (G) such that, for all  $x \neq y$  in  $X$  and  $t > 0$ ,*

$$F_{f_1x, f_2y}(g(t)) \geq \min\{F_{x,y}(t), F_{x, f_1x}(t), F_{y, f_2y}(t), \max(F_{x, f_2y}(t), F_{y, f_1x}(t))\}. \tag{2.6}$$

*Then at least one of  $f_1, f_2$  has a fixed point. If both  $f_1, f_2$  have fixed points, then they have a unique common fixed point which is also a unique fixed point for each of them. In particular, it is so if (2.6) holds for all  $x, y$  in  $X$ .*

### 3. Applications to Menger Spaces with $T \geq T_m$

Let  $(X, \mathcal{F}, T)$  be a Menger space. It is well known that if  $t$ -norm  $T$  satisfies  $\sup_{a \in (0,1)} T(a, a) = 1$ , then in the  $(\varepsilon, \lambda)$ -topology,  $X$  is a metrizable topological space. In the case  $T \geq T_m$ , there is a metric with nice properties, namely

$$\beta(x, y) := \inf\{u : F_{x,y}(u^+) > 1 - u\}.$$

Indeed, by the definition of  $\beta$ , the only property of metrics one has to verify is the triangle inequality. We shall prove it on the contrary: Assume there are  $x, y, z$  in  $X$  such that  $\beta(x, y) > \beta(x, z) + \beta(z, y)$ . Choose  $0 < \varepsilon := \beta(x, y) - \beta(x, z) - \beta(z, y)$  so that

$$\beta(x, y) > t_1 + t_2, \tag{3.1}$$

where  $t_1 := \beta(x, z) + \varepsilon/3$ ,  $t_2 := \beta(z, y) + \varepsilon/3$ . In view of the definition of  $\beta$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_{x,y}(\beta(x, y)) &\leq 1 - \beta(x, y), \\
 F_{x,z}(t_1) &> 1 - t_1, \quad F_{z,y}(t_2) > 1 - t_2.
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by using properties of  $t$ -norms (taking into account  $T \geq T_m$ ) and distribution functions, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \beta(x, y) &\geq F_{x,y}(\beta(x, y)) \geq F_{x,y}(t_1 + t_2) \\ &\geq T(F_{x,z}(t_1), F_{z,y}(t_2)) \\ &\geq T(1 - t_1, 1 - t_2) \\ &\geq T_m(1 - t_1, 1 - t_2) \\ &= (1 - t_1) + (1 - t_2) - 1 = 1 - t_1 - t_2, \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction to (3.1).

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{F}, T)$  be a complete Menger space with  $T \geq T_m$ , and  $f_1, f_2$  two mappings of  $X$  into itself. Assume that there exists a function  $g : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  satisfying condition (G) such that, for all  $x \neq y$  in  $X$  and  $t > 0$ ,*

$$1 - F_{f_1x, f_2y}(g(t)) \leq g\left(1 - \min\left\{F_{x,y}(t), F_{x, f_1x}(t), F_{y, f_2y}(t), [F_{x, f_2y}(t) + F_{y, f_1x}(t)]/2\right\}\right). \quad (3.2)$$

Then at least one of  $f_1, f_2$  has a fixed point. If both  $f_1, f_2$  have fixed points, then they have a unique common fixed point which is also a unique fixed point for each of them. In particular, it is so if (3.2) holds for all  $x, y$  in  $X$ .

*Proof.* By Proposition 1 of [1], there exists a continuous and strictly increasing (hence invertible) self-function  $f$  of  $\mathbb{R}^+$  such that  $g(t) \leq f(t) < t, \forall t > 0$ . We now show that condition (1.2) of Theorem 2.5 holds w.r.t. the metric  $\beta$ . Assume the contrary that there exist  $x \neq y$  in  $X$  such that

$$\beta(f_1x, f_2y) > f(m(f_1x, f_2y)),$$

i.e.,

$$t := f^{-1}(\beta(f_1x, f_2y)) > m(f_1x, f_2y).$$

So in view of the properties of the metric  $\beta$  and by using the monotony of  $f$  and distribution functions, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - F_{f_1x, f_2y}(g(t)) &\geq 1 - F_{f_1x, f_2y}(f(t)) \geq \beta(f_1x, f_2y) > f(m(f_1x, f_2y)) \\ &\geq f(\max\{1 - F_{x,y}(\beta(x, y)^+), 1 - F_{x, f_1x}(\beta(x, f_1x)^+), 1 - F_{y, f_2y}(\beta(y, f_2y)^+), \\ &\quad 1 - [F_{x, f_2y}(\beta(x, f_2y)^+) + F_{y, f_1x}(\beta(y, f_1x)^+)]/2\}) \\ &\geq f(\max\{1 - F_{x,y}(t), 1 - F_{x, f_1x}(t), 1 - F_{y, f_2y}(t), 1 - [F_{x, f_2y}(t) + F_{y, f_1x}(t)]/2\}) \\ &= f(1 - \min\{F_{x,y}(t), F_{x, f_1x}(t), F_{y, f_2y}(t), [F_{x, f_2y}(t) + F_{y, f_1x}(t)]/2\}) \\ &\geq g(1 - \min\{F_{x,y}(t), F_{x, f_1x}(t), F_{y, f_2y}(t), [F_{x, f_2y}(t) + F_{y, f_1x}(t)]/2\}), \end{aligned}$$

a contradiction to (3.2).

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $(X, \mathcal{F}, T)$  be a complete Menger space with  $T \geq T_m$ , and  $f_1, f_2, h_1, h_2$  four mappings of  $X$  into itself such that*

- (a)  $f_1(X) \subset h_2(X)$ ,  $f_2(X) \subset h_1(X)$ ,  
 (b)  $f_1, h_1$  are probabilistic compatible, and so are  $f_2, h_2$ ,  
 (c) one of the mappings is continuous,  
 (d) there exists a function  $g : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  satisfying condition (G) such that for all  $x, y$  in  $X$  and  $t > 0$ ,

$$1 - F_{f_1x, f_2y}(g(t)) \leq g(1 - \min\{F_{h_1x, h_2y}(t), F_{h_1x, f_1x}(t), F_{h_2y, f_2y}(t), [F_{h_1x, f_2y}(t) + F_{h_2y, f_1x}(t)]/2\}). \quad (3.3)$$

Then four mappings have a unique common fixed point.

Recall that two self-mappings  $f, h$  of a PM-space  $(X, \mathcal{F})$  are said to be probabilistic compatible if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{fhx_n, hf x_n}(t) = 1$  whenever  $\{x_n\}$  is a sequence in  $X$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{fx_n, hx_n}(t) = 1$  for all  $t > 0$ . In particular,  $fhx = hfx$  if  $fx = hx$  (by taking  $x_n = x$ ,  $\forall n$ ).

*Proof of the Corollary.* Let

$$m_h(f_1x, f_2y) = \max \left\{ d(h_1x, h_2y), d(h_1x, f_1x), d(h_2y, f_2y), \frac{d(h_1x, f_2y) + d(h_2y, f_1x)}{2} \right\}.$$

In view of Theorem 2 of [3], one has to verify the metric condition for the case of four mappings:

$$\beta(f_1x, f_2y) \leq f(m_h(f_1x, f_2y))$$

for all  $x, y$  in  $X$ . Since (3.3) is a version of (3.2) with  $h_1, h_2$  involved, the proof is similar to that of Theorem 3.1 and can be omitted.

*Remark 3.* Recently, Cho, Ha and Chang ([2, Theorem 3.2] have proved the same conclusion of Corollary 3.2, but under stronger conditions and by a different method.

We now apply the results above in showing the existence of a unique solution of a system of random operator equations. Let us first mention some definitions. Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a complete probability measure space and let  $(X, d)$  be a metric space. By  $\mathcal{B}$  we mean  $\sigma$ -algebra of Borel subsets of  $X$ , so that  $(X, \mathcal{B})$  is a measurable space. A mapping  $x : \Omega \rightarrow X$  is called an  $X$ -valued random variable (or generalized random variable), if  $x^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{A}$  for all  $B \in \mathcal{B}$ . A mapping  $A : \Omega \times X \rightarrow X$  is said to be a random operator if, for any  $x \in X$ ,  $A(\cdot, x)$  is a random variable. A random operator  $A$  is continuous if, for each  $\omega \in \Omega$ ,  $A(\omega, \cdot)$  is continuous in the topology induced by the metric  $d$ . The ordered pair  $(E, \mathcal{F})$  is an  $E$ -space over  $(X, d)$  if the elements of  $E$  are equivalence classes of measurable functions from  $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  into  $X$  such that, for every  $x, y \in E$  and  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , the set  $\{\omega \in \Omega : d(x(\omega), y(\omega)) < t\}$  belongs to  $\mathcal{A}$ , and  $\mathcal{F}$  is given via  $F_{x,y}(t) := \mu\{\omega \in \Omega : d(x(\omega), y(\omega)) < t\}$ . By [7] it is known that  $(E, \mathcal{F}, T_m)$  is a

Menger space. Moreover, if  $(X, d)$  is a complete metric space, then  $(E, \mathcal{F}, T_m)$  is complete. A random variable  $x(\omega) \in E$  is said to be a random fixed point of the random operator  $A(\omega, \cdot)$  if  $x(\omega) = A(\omega, x(\omega))$ ,  $\forall \omega \in \Omega$ . If  $A$  is continuous, then  $A(\omega, x(\omega)) \in E$ , whenever  $x(\omega) \in E$ . Now, we assume  $(X, |\cdot|)$  is a Banach space:  $d(x, y) := |x - y|$ . Consider the following system of random operator equations

$$\begin{cases} x(\omega) = A_1(\omega, x(\omega)) + \alpha_1(\omega) \\ y(\omega) = A_2(\omega, y(\omega)) + \alpha_2(\omega) \\ u(\omega) = B_1(\omega, u(\omega)) + \beta_1(\omega) \\ v(\omega) = B_2(\omega, v(\omega)) + \beta_2(\omega), \end{cases} \quad (3.4)$$

where  $\alpha_i, \beta_i \in E$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . We define  $f_i, h_i : E \rightarrow E$  by putting  $(f_i x)(\omega) := A_i(\omega, x(\omega)) + \alpha_i(\omega)$ ,  $(h_i x)(\omega) := B_i(\omega, x(\omega)) + \beta_i(\omega)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$ ,  $(X, |\cdot|)$ ,  $(E, \mathcal{F}, T_m)$ ,  $A_i, B_i, \alpha_i, \beta_i, f_i, h_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  be as above. Assume

- (a)  $f_1(E) \subset h_2(E)$ ,  $f_2(E) \subset h_1(E)$ ,
- (b)  $f_1, h_1$  are probabilistic compatible, and so are  $f_2, h_2$ ,
- (c) one of  $f_1, f_2, h_1, h_2$  is continuous,
- (d) there exists a function  $g : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  satisfying the condition (G) such that, for all  $x, y$  in  $E$  and  $t > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mu\{\omega \in \Omega : |(f_1 x)(\omega) - (f_2 y)(\omega)| \geq g(t)\} \\ & \leq g(\max\{\mu\{\omega \in \Omega : |(h_1 x)(\omega) - (h_2 y)(\omega)| \geq t\}, \\ & \quad \mu\{\omega \in \Omega : |(h_1 x)(\omega) - (f_1 x)(\omega)| \geq t\}, \\ & \quad \mu\{\omega \in \Omega : |(h_2 y)(\omega) - (f_2 y)(\omega)| \geq t\}, \\ & \quad \frac{1}{2}[\mu\{\omega \in \Omega : |(h_1 x)(\omega) - (f_2 y)(\omega)| \geq t\} \\ & \quad + \mu\{\omega \in \Omega : |(h_2 y)(\omega) - (f_1 x)(\omega)| \geq t\}]\}). \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

Then there exists a unique solution of the system (3.4).

*Proof.* This follows from Corollary 3.2, since (3.5) is equivalent to (3.3).

*Remark 4.* As noted after Corollary 3.2, the same conclusion of Theorem 3.5 (but under stronger conditions) was obtained in Theorem 4.1 of [2], as an immediate consequence of Theorem 3.2 of [2].

**Corollary 3.4.** In the notation above, if  $h_1(\omega, x) = h_2(\omega, x) \equiv x$ , and (3.5) holds for all  $x \neq y$  in  $E$ , then at least one of the first two equations of (3.4) has a solution. If both of them have solutions, then they have a unique common solution which is also a unique solution for each of them.

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