



# Common fixed point theorems for three self maps of a complete S-metric space

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## Abstract

In this present paper we prove a common fixed point theorem for three self maps of a S-metric space which satisfy certain conditions.

## Keywords

S-metric space, Compatible mappings, Fixed point, Associated sequence of a point relative to three self maps, contractive modulus.

## AMS Subject Classification

54H25, 47H10.

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## 1. Introduction

In an attempt to generalize metric space Gähler [2,3] introduced the notion of 2-metric spaces while B.C.Dhage [1] initiated the notion of  $D$ - metric spaces. Subsequently several researchers have proved that most of their claims are not valid. As probable modification to  $D$ - metric spaces, very recently Shaban Sedghi, Nabi Shobe and Haiyun Zhou [4] introduced  $D^*$ - metric spaces. In 2006 Zead Mustafa and Brailey Sims [7] have initiated  $G$ - metric spaces, while Shaban Sedghi, Nabi Shobe and Abdelkrm Aliouche [5] considered S-metric spaces in 2012. Of these three generalizations, the S-metric space seen evinced interest in many researchers.

The purpose of this paper is to prove a common fixed point theorem for three self maps of a S-metric space. Also as a consequence, we prove a common fixed point theorem for three self maps of a complete S-metric space. Further we show that a common fixed point theorem for three self maps of a metric space proved by S.L.Singh and S.P.Singh ([6] pp 1584-1586) follows as a particular case of our theorem.

Now we recall some basic definitions and lemmas required

in the sequel in section 2 and establish main results in section 3.

## 2. Preliminaries

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $X$  be a non empty set. By S-metric we mean a function  $S : X^3 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  which satisfies the following conditions for each  $x, y, z, w \in X$

- (a)  $S(x, y, z) \geq 0$
- (b)  $S(x, x, y) = 0$  if and only if  $x = y = z$ .
- (c)  $S(x, y, z) \leq S(x, x, w) + S(y, y, w) + S(z, z, w)$

In this case  $(X, S)$  is called a S-metric space

**Example 2.2.** Let  $X = \mathbb{R}$  and  $S : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be defined by  $S(x, y, z) = |y + z - 2x| + |y - z|$  for  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $(X, S)$  is a S-metric space.

**Example 2.3.** Let  $(X, d)$  be a metric space. Define  $S_d : X^3 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  by  $S_d(x, y, z) = d(x, y) + d(y, z) + d(z, x)$  then  $S_d$  is a S-metric on  $X$  and we call this as the S-metric induced by  $d$ .

**Remark 2.4.** It is shown ([5], Lemma 2.5) in a S-metric space that

$S(x, x, y) = S(y, y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ . Also we need the following notions given in [6].

**Definition 2.5.** Let  $(X, S)$  be an S-metric space. Let  $x \in X$  and  $r > 0$ , then the open ball with centre at  $x$  and radius  $r$  is given by  $B(x, r) = \{y \in X : S(y, y, x) < r\}$

**Remark 2.6.** Let  $(X, S)$  be an S-metric space and  $A \subset X$ .

(1) It has been proved in [5] that  $B(x, r)$  is an open set in  $X$  and that the topology generated by the open balls as a basis is a topology called the topology induced by the S-metric on  $X$ .

(2) If for every  $x \in A$ , there exists a  $r > 0$  such that  $B_s(x, r) \subset A$ , then the subset  $A$  is called an open subset of  $X$ .

(3) A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  said to converge to  $x$  if  $S(x_n, x_n, x) \rightarrow 0$ ; that is for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists an  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $n \geq n_0$ , we have  $S(x_n, x_n, x) < \varepsilon$  and we write this by  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$  in this case.

(4) A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  is called a Cauchy sequence if to each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $S(x_n, x_m, x) < \varepsilon$  for each  $n, m \geq n_0$ .

(5) In [5] it has been proved that if  $\{x_n\}$  is a sequence in S-metric space  $(X, S)$  that converges to  $x$  is unique and that  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence.

(6) An S-metric space  $(X, S)$  is said to be complete if every Cauchy sequence in it converges.

**Definition 2.7.** Let  $(X, S)$  be an S-metric space, If there exists sequences  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = y$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(x_n, x_n, y_n) = S(x, x, y)$ , then we say that  $S(x, y, z)$  is continuous in  $x$  and  $y$ .

It is well known now that the commutativity of maps is generalized as follows

**Definition 2.8.** If  $g$  and  $f$  are self maps of a S-metric space  $(X, S)$  such that for every sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  with  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} gx_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} fx_n = t$  for some  $t \in X$  we have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(gfx_n, gfx_n, ffx_n) = 0$  then  $g$  and  $f$  are said to be compatible

Trivially commuting self maps of a S-metric space are compatible but not conversely. For example

**Example 2.9.** Let  $X = [0, 1]$  and  $S(x, y, z) = |x - y| + |y - z| + |z - x|$  for  $x, y, z \in X$ . Defining  $f : X \rightarrow X, g : X \rightarrow X$  by  $gx = \frac{x^2}{2}$  and  $fx = \frac{x^2}{3}$  for  $x \in X$  then it is easy to see that  $g, f$  are compatible but not commutative.

**Lemma 2.10.** Let  $(X, d)$  be any metric space and  $S_d$  be the S-metric induced by  $d$ . For any sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $(X, S_d)$ , is a Cauchy sequence if and only if  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $(X, d)$ .

*Proof.* First observe that  $d(x, y) \leq S_d(x, x, y) \leq 2d(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ . Now the lemma follows immediately in view of the above inequality  $\square$

**Corollary 2.11.** Let  $(X, d)$  be any metric space and  $S_d$  be the S-metric on  $X$ . Then  $(X, S_d)$  is a complete if and only if  $(X, d)$  is complete

*Proof.* Follows from Lemma 2.10  $\square$

**Definition 2.12.** If  $f, g$  and  $h$  be self maps of a non empty set  $X$  such that  $f(X) \cup g(X) \subseteq h(X)$ , then for any  $x_0 \in X$ , there is a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  such that  $fx_{2n} = hx_{2n+1}, gx_{2n+1} = hx_{2n+2}$  for  $n \geq 0$  then  $\{x_n\}$  is called an associated sequence of  $x_0$  relative to three self maps  $f, g$  and  $h$ .

The existence of an associated sequence of  $x_0$  relative to  $f, g$  and  $h$  is ensured.

In fact, if  $x_0 \in X$  then  $fx_0 \in f(X)$  and  $f(X) \subseteq h(X)$  imply that there is a  $x_1 \in X$  such that  $fx_0 = hx_1$ . Now  $gx_1 \in g(X)$  and  $g(X) \subseteq h(X)$  imply that there is a  $x_2 \in X$  with  $gx_1 = hx_2$ . Again  $fx_2 \in f(X)$  and  $f(X) \subseteq h(X)$  then we get  $x_3 \in X$  with  $fx_2 = hx_3$  and  $gx_3 \in g(X), g(X) \subseteq h(X)$  gives  $gx_3 = hx_4$  for some  $x_4 \in X$ . Repeating this process, alternatively using the fact  $f(X) \subseteq h(X)$  and  $g(X) \subseteq h(X)$  we can find a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  with  $fx_{2n} = hx_{2n+1}$  and  $gx_{2n+1} = hx_{2n+2}$  for  $n \geq 0$ .

It may be noted that for a given point  $x_0 \in X$  there may be more than one sequence  $\{x_n\}$  with the above condition. For example

**Example 2.13.** Suppose  $X = \mathbb{R}$  with  $S(x, y, z) = |x - y| + |y - z| + |z - x|$  for  $x, y, z \in X$ . Define self maps  $f : X \rightarrow X, g : X \rightarrow X$  and  $h : X \rightarrow X$  by  $fx = gx = \frac{x^2}{3}$  and  $h(x) = x^2$ . Then as explained above we get a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  with  $fx_{2n} = hx_{2n+1}$  and  $gx_{2n+1} = hx_{2n+2}$  for  $n \geq 0$  where each  $x_n$  has two choices viz  $\frac{x_0}{(\sqrt{3})^n}$  or  $\frac{-x_0}{(\sqrt{3})^n}$  for  $n \geq 0$ . Hence to each  $x_0 \in X$ , there are infinitely many associated sequences  $\{x_n\}$ .

**Definition 2.14.** A mapping  $\phi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is said to be a contractive modulus if  $\phi(0) = 0$  and  $\phi(t) < t$  for  $t > 0$

**Example 2.15.** The mapping  $\phi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  defined by  $\phi(t) = ct$  where  $0 \leq c < 1$  is a contractive modulus.

### 3. Main Results

**Theorem 3.1.** Suppose  $f, g$  and  $h$  be three self maps of S-metric space  $(X, S)$  satisfying the conditions

- (i)  $f(X) \cup g(X) \subseteq h(X)$
- (ii)  $S(fx, fx, gy) \leq \phi\left(\lambda(x, y)\right)$  for all  $x, y \in X$  where  $\phi$  is an upper semi continuous contractive modulus and  $\lambda(x, y) = \max\{S(hx, hx, hy), S(fx, fx, hx), S(gy, gy, hx), \frac{1}{2}[S(fx, fx, hy) + S(gy, gy, hx)]\}$
- (iii) Either  $(f, h)$  or  $(g, h)$  is compatible pair and
- (iv)  $h$  is continuous  
Further if
- (v) There is a point  $x_0 \in X$  and an associated sequence  $\{x_n\}$  of  $x_0$  relative to the three self maps such that the sequence  $fx_0, gx_1, fx_2, gx_3, \dots, fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}, \dots$  converge to some point  $z \in X$ .

Then  $z$  is the unique common fixed point for  $f, g$  and  $h$ .



Before proving the main theorem, we establish a lemma which is noteworthy.

**Lemma 3.2.** Suppose  $f, g$  and  $h$  be three self maps of S-metric space  $(X, S)$  satisfying the conditions (i),(ii),(iv) and (v) of the Theorem 3.1. Then for the associated sequence  $\{x_n\}$  of  $x_0$  relative to  $f, g$  and  $h$  we have

- (a)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(hx_{2n}, x_{2n+1}) = S(z, z, hz)$  if  $(f, h)$  is compatible
- (b)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(x_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}) = S(z, z, hz)$  if  $(g, h)$  is compatible

*Proof.* Since by (v), each of the sequence  $fx_{2n}$  and  $gx_{2n+1}$  converges to  $z \in X$  and since  $fx_{2n} = hx_{2n+1}$  and  $gx_{2n+1} = h_{2n+2}$  for  $n \geq 0$ , we have

$$fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+2} \rightarrow z \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad (3.1)$$

Now since  $h$  is continuous, we have

$$hfx_{2n} \rightarrow hz, \quad h^2x_{2n} \rightarrow hz \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad (3.2)$$

(a) If the pair  $(f, h)$  is compatible, we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(hfx_{2n}, hfx_{2n}, fhx_{2n}) = 0 \quad (3.3)$$

since  $fx_{2n}, hx_{2n} \rightarrow z$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  by 3.1

Now, in view of 3.2 and 3.3, we get

$$fhx_{2n} \rightarrow hz \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad (3.4)$$

Also from (ii) we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\lambda(hx_{2n}, x_{2n+1}) \\ &= \max\{S(h^2x_{2n}, h^2x_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}), S(fhx_{2n}, fhx_{2n}, h^2x_{2n}), \\ &\quad S(gx_{2n+1}, gx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+1}), \\ &\quad \frac{1}{2}[S(fhx_{2n}, fhx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}) + S(gx_{2n+1}, gx_{2n+1}, h^2x_{2n})]\} \end{aligned}$$

So that, in view of Remark 2.4, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(hx_{2n}, x_{2n+1}) \\ &= \max\{S(hz, hz, z), S(hz, hz, hz), S(z, z, z), \\ &\quad \frac{1}{2}[S(hz, hz, z) + S(z, z, hz)]\} \\ &= S(z, z, hz) \end{aligned}$$

Proving part (a) of the lemma

(b) If the pair  $(g, h)$  is compatible, we have by 3.1

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(hgx_{2n+1}, hgx_{2n+1}, ghx_{2n}) = 0 \quad (3.5)$$

Also since  $h$  is continuous, we have again by 3.1, that

$$h^2x_{2n+1} \rightarrow hz \text{ and } hgx_{2n+1} \rightarrow hz \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad (3.6)$$

Now, in view of 3.5 and 3.6, we get

$$ghx_{2n+1} \rightarrow hz \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad (3.7)$$

Now, from (ii) we have

$$\lambda(x_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}) = \max\{S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, h^2x_{2n+1}), \quad (3.8)$$

$$S(fx_{2n}, fx_{2n}, hx_{2n}), S(ghx_{2n+1}, ghx_{2n+1}, \quad (3.9)$$

$$h^2x_{2n+1}), \frac{1}{2}[S(fx_{2n}, fx_{2n}, h^2x_{2n+1}) + \quad (3.10)$$

$$S(ghx_{2n+1}, ghx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n})]\} \quad (3.11)$$

Now, letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in 3.8 and using the continuity of  $S(x, y, z)$  in  $x$  and  $y$ , 3.1, 3.6, 3.7 we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(x_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}) \\ &= \max\{S(z, z, hz), S(z, z, z), S(hz, hz, hz), \\ &\quad \frac{1}{2}[S(z, z, hz) + S(hz, hz, z)]\} \\ &= S(z, z, hz) \end{aligned}$$

Proving part (b) of the lemma □

### Proof of the Theorem 3.1

In this section we first prove the existence of a common fixed point in one of the two cases of the condition (iii) and the other case follows similarly with appropriate changes. Here we prove in case the pair  $(f, h)$  is compatible. Now from (ii), we have

$$S(fhx_{2n}, fhx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}) \leq \phi\left(\lambda(hx_{2n}, x_{2n+1})\right) \quad (3.12)$$

in which on letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and using Lemma 3.2 and the continuity of  $S(x, y, z)$  in  $x$  and  $y$  we get

$$S(hz, hz, z) \leq \phi\left(S(hz, hz, z)\right) \quad (3.13)$$

And this leads to a contradiction if  $hz \neq z$ . Therefore  $hz = z$ . Again from the condition (ii), we have

$$S(fz, fz, gx_{2n+1}) \leq \phi\left(\lambda(z, x_{2n+1})\right) \quad (3.14)$$

But

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(z, x_{2n+1}) &= \max\{S(hz, hz, hx_{2n+1}) \\ &\quad S(fz, fz, hz), S(gx_{2n+1}, gx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+1}), \\ &\quad \frac{1}{2}[S(fz, fz, hx_{2n+1}) + S(gx_{2n+1}, gx_{2n+1}, hz)]\} \end{aligned}$$

In which on letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we find

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(z, x_{2n+1}) &= \max\{S(hz, hz, z), S(fz, fz, z), \\ &\quad S(z, z, z), \frac{1}{2}[S(fz, fz, z) + S(z, z, z)]\} \\ &= \max\{0, S(fz, fz, z), 0, \frac{1}{2}[S(fz, fz, z) + 0]\} \\ &= S(fz, fz, z) \end{aligned}$$



Now, letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in 3.14, we get by the upper semicontinuity of  $\phi$ , that

$$S(fz, fz, z) \leq \phi \left( S(fz, fz, z) \right) \quad (3.15)$$

which leads to a contradiction if  $fz \neq z$ . Therefore  $fz = z$ . Now, again from the condition (ii), we have

$$S(fx_{2n}, fx_{2n}, gz) \leq \phi \left( \lambda(x_{2n}, z) \right) \quad (3.16)$$

But

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(x_{2n}, z) = \max \{ & S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hz), \\ & S(fx_{2n}, fx_{2n}, hx_{2n}), S(gz, gz, hz), \\ & \frac{1}{2} [S(fx_{2n}, fx_{2n}, hz) + S(gz, gz, hx_{2n})] \} \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(x_{2n}, z) &= \max \{ S(z, z, hz), S(z, z, hz), S(gz, gz, z), \\ & \frac{1}{2} [S(z, z, z) + S(gz, gz, z)] \} \\ &= S(gz, gz, z) = S(z, z, gz) \end{aligned}$$

Now, letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in 3.16, we get by the upper semicontinuity of  $\phi$ , that

$$S(z, z, gz) \leq \phi \left( S(z, z, gz) \right) \quad (3.17)$$

and this leads to a contradiction if  $gz \neq z$ . Therefore  $gz = z$ .

Hence  $z = fz = gz = hz$

Showing that  $z$  is a common fixed point of  $f, g$  and  $h$ .

We now prove the uniqueness of the common fixed point. If possible let  $z'$  be another common fixed point of  $f, g$  and  $h$ .

Then from condition (ii), we have

$$S(z, z, z') = S(fz, fz, gz') \leq \phi \left( \lambda(z, z') \right) \quad (3.18)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda(z, z') &= \max \{ S(hz, hz, hz'), S(fz, fz, hz), S(gz', gz', hz'), \\ & \frac{1}{2} [S(fz, fz, hz') + S(gz', gz', hz)] \} \\ &= \max \{ S(z, z, z'), 0, 0, \frac{1}{2} [S(z, z, z') + S(z', z', z)] \} \\ &= S(z, z, z') \end{aligned}$$

Therefore 3.18 gives

$$S(z, z, z') \leq \phi \left( S(z, z, z') \right) \quad (3.19)$$

which leads to a contradiction if  $z \neq z'$ . Hence  $z$  is the unique common fixed point of  $f, g$  and  $h$ .

Hence the Theorem 3.1 is completely proved.

**Theorem 3.3.** Suppose  $(X, S)$  is a S-metric space satisfying the conditions (i) to (iv) of Theorem 3.1. Further if (v)'  $(X, S)$  is complete

Then  $f, g$  and  $h$  have a unique common fixed point  $z \in X$ .

Before proving the main theorem, we establish an essential lemma.

**Lemma 3.4.** Suppose  $(X, S)$  is a S-metric space  $(X, S)$  and  $f, g$  and  $h$  be three self maps of  $X$  such that

$$(i) f(X) \cup g(X) \subseteq h(X)$$

$$(ii) S(fx, fx, gy) \leq c \left( \lambda(x, y) \right) \text{ for all } x, y \in X \text{ where}$$

$$0 \leq c < \frac{1}{2} \text{ and}$$

$$\lambda(x, y) = \max \{ 2S(hx, hx, hy), S(fx, fy, hx), S(gy, gy, hx), \frac{1}{2} [S(fx, fx, hy) + S(gy, gy, hx)] \} \text{ and}$$

$$(iii) (X, S) \text{ is complete}$$

Then for any  $x_0 \in X$  and for any of its associated sequence  $\{x_n\}$  relative to the three self maps, the sequence  $fx_0, gx_1, fx_2, gx_3, \dots, fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}, \dots$  converge to some point  $z \in X$ .

*Proof.* Suppose  $f, g$  and  $h$  be self maps of a S-metric space  $(X, S)$  for which condition (i) and (ii) hold.

Let  $x_0 \in X$  and  $\{x_n\}$  be an associated sequence of  $x_0$  relative to the three self maps. Then since  $fx_{2n} = hx_{2n+1}$  and  $gx_{2n+1} = hx_{2n+2}$  for  $n \geq 0$ .

Note that  $\lambda(x_{2n}, x_{2n+1}) = \max \{ 2S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}),$

$S(fx_{2n}, fx_{2n}, hx_{2n}), S(gx_{2n+1}, gx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+1}),$

$$\frac{1}{2} [S(fx_{2n}, fx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}) + S(gx_{2n+1}, gx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n})] \}$$

$$= \max \{ 2S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}), S(hx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n}),$$

$$S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+1}), \frac{1}{2} [S(hx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+1}) +$$

$$S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n})] \}$$

$$= \max \{ 2S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}), S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+1}),$$

$$\frac{1}{2} S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n}) \}$$

and since

$$\frac{1}{2} S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n})$$

$$\leq S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+1}) + \frac{1}{2} S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1})$$

and  $\alpha + \beta \leq 2 \max(\alpha, \beta)$  for any  $\alpha \geq 0, \beta \geq 0$ ,

we get

$$\frac{1}{2} S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n})$$

$$\leq 2 \max \{ S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+1}), \frac{1}{2} S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}) \}$$

$$= \max \{ 2S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+1}), S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}) \}$$

It follows that

$$\lambda(x_{2n}, x_{2n+1}) \leq \max \{ 2S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}),$$

$$2S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+1}) \}$$

Now by (ii) and ?? we have

$$S(hx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+2})$$

$$= S(fx_{2n}, fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1})$$

$$\leq c \lambda(x_{2n}, x_{2n+1})$$

$$\leq 2c \max \{ S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}),$$

$$S(hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+2}, hx_{2n+1}) \}$$



therefore, in view of Remark 2.4 and the fact  $0 < 2c < 1$ , we get

$$S(hx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+1}, hx_{2n+2}) \leq 2cS(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}) \quad (3.20)$$

Similarly we can prove that

$$S(hx_{2n}, hx_{2n}, hx_{2n+1}) \leq 2cS(hx_{2n-1}, hx_{2n-1}, hx_{2n}) \quad (3.21)$$

From 3.20 and 3.21 we have for any  $m \geq 1$  that

$$S(hx_m, hx_m, hx_{m+1}) \leq 2cS(hx_{m-1}, hx_{m-1}, hx_m) \quad (3.22)$$

which on repeated application yields

$$\begin{aligned} S(hx_m, hx_m, hx_{m+1}) &\leq 2cS(hx_{m-1}, hx_{m-1}, hx_m) \\ &\leq 4c^2S(hx_{m-2}, hx_{m-2}, hx_{m-1}) \\ &\dots \\ &\dots \\ &\leq (2c)^m S(hx_1, hx_1, hx_0) \end{aligned}$$

which imply that the sequence  $\{hx_n\}$  and hence  $fx_0, gx_1, fx_2, gx_3, \dots, fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}, \dots$  is a Cauchy sequence in the complete metric space  $(X, S)$  and therefore converges to a point say  $z \in X$ , proving the lemma.  $\square$

**Remark 3.5.** The converse of the above lemma is not true. That is, suppose  $f, g$  and  $h$  are self maps of a S-metric space  $(X, S)$  satisfying conditions (i) and (ii) of Lemma 3.4. Even if for each  $x_0 \in X$  and for each associated sequence  $\{x_n\}$  of  $x_0$  relative to  $f, g$  and  $h$ .

The sequence  $fx_0, gx_1, fx_2, gx_3, \dots, fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}, \dots$  converges in  $X$

Then  $(X, S)$  need not be complete as shown in the following example.

**Example 3.6.** Let  $X = [0, 1)$  and  $d(x, y) = |x - y|$  for  $x, y \in X$ . Then we know that  $(X, d)$  is a metric space, which is not complete. Now if  $S_d(x, y, z) = d(x, y) + d(y, z) + d(z, x)$  for  $x, y, z \in X$ . Then  $(X, S_d)$  is a S-metric space and it is not complete by Corollary 2.11

Now define self maps  $f, g$  and  $h$  of  $X$  by

$$f(x) = g(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3} & \text{if } x = 0 \\ \frac{11}{20} & \text{if } x \in (0, 1) \end{cases}$$

and  $h(x) = \frac{3x+1}{4}$  if  $x \in [0, 1)$

Then  $f(X) = g(X) = \{\frac{1}{3}, \frac{11}{20}\}$  and  $h(X) = [\frac{1}{4}, 1)$ , so that  $f(X) \cup g(X) \subseteq h(X)$

Also suppose  $x, y \in X$ . We now prove

$$S_d(fx, fx, gy) \leq c \cdot \lambda(x, y) \text{ for some } c \quad (3.23)$$

**case (i):**  $x = y = 0$  then

$$\begin{aligned} S_d(fx, fx, gy) &= 0, S_d(hx, hx, hy) = 0, S_d(fx, fx, hx) = \frac{1}{6}, \\ S_d(gy, gy, hy) &= \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{2}[S_d(fx, fx, hy) + S_d(gy, gy, hx)] = \frac{1}{6} \end{aligned}$$

so that  $\lambda(x, y) = \max\{0, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{6}\} = \frac{1}{6}$

Therefore 3.23 holds with  $c$  satisfying  $0 \leq c < \frac{1}{2}$ .

**case (ii):**  $x = 0$  and  $y \neq 0$ . Then

$$S_d(fx, fx, gy) = \frac{13}{30}, S_d(hx, hx, hy) = 3y, S_d(fx, fx, hx) = \frac{1}{6}, S_d(gy, gy, hy) = \frac{|15y-6|}{10}$$

$$\text{and } \frac{1}{2}[S_d(fx, fx, hy) + S_d(gy, gy, hx)] = \frac{3|y-1|}{4} + \frac{3}{10}$$

and since  $\frac{13}{30} \leq c \max\{3y, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{|15y-6|}{10}, \frac{3|y-1|}{4} + \frac{3}{10}\}$  holds for  $\frac{13}{90} \leq c < \frac{1}{2}$  is true in this case.

In the other cases of (iii)  $x \neq 0, y = 0$  and (iv)  $x \neq 0, y \neq 0$  also 3.23 holds.

Thus conditions (i) and (ii) of Lemma 3.4 hold for all these self maps  $f, g$  and  $h$ .

Now, to prove that if  $\{x_n\}$  is an associated sequence of any  $x_0 \in X$ , then the sequence  $fx_0, gx_1, fx_2, gx_3, \dots, fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}, \dots$  converges. We consider the cases if  $x_0 = 0$  and  $x_0 \neq 0$  separately.

Let  $x_0 = 0$  so that  $fx_0 = \frac{1}{3}$  and  $x_1 \in X$  with  $fx_0 = hx_1$  is given by  $x_1 = \frac{1}{9}$ . Now  $x_2 \in X$  with  $gx_1 = hx_2$  is  $x_2 = \frac{2}{5}$ . Now  $x_3 \in X$  with  $fx_2 = hx_3$  is  $x_3 = \frac{2}{5}$ . Again  $x_4 \in X$  such that  $gx_3 = hx_4$  is  $x_4 = \frac{2}{5}$ .

Thus the sequence  $fx_0, gx_1, fx_2, gx_3, \dots, fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}, \dots$  is given by  $\frac{1}{3}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \dots$  in case  $x_0 = 0$ . Proceeding in this manner if  $x_0 \neq 0$ , we get the sequence

$$fx_0, gx_1, fx_2, gx_3, \dots, fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}, \dots \text{ as } \frac{11}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \frac{11}{20}, \dots$$

In any case the sequence  $fx_0, gx_1, fx_2, gx_3, \dots, fx_{2n}, gx_{2n+1}, \dots$  converges to a point  $\frac{11}{20} \in X$ .

However  $X$  is not a complete metric space.

**Proof of Theorem 3.3**

In view of Lemma 3.4, the condition (v)' of Theorem 3.1 holds in view of (v)', hence the theorem follows from Theorem 3.1

**Corollary 3.7.** ([6] pp1584-1586) Let  $f, g$  and  $h$  be self maps of a metric space  $(X, d)$  such that

- (i)  $f(X) \cup g(X) \subseteq h(X)$
- (ii)  $d(fx, gy) \leq c\lambda_0(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in X$  where  $\lambda_0(x, y) = \max\{d(hx, hy), d(fx, hx), d(gy, hx), \frac{1}{2}[d(fx, hy) + d(gy, hx)]\}$  and  $0 \leq c < 1$
- (iii)  $h$  is continuous and
- (iv)  $fh = hf$  and  $gh = hg$   
Further if
- (v)  $X$  is complete.

Then  $f, g$  and  $h$  have a unique common fixed point  $x \in X$ .

*Proof.* Given that  $(X, d)$  is a metric space satisfying condition (i) to (v) of the corollary. If  $S_d(x, y, z) = d(x, y) + d(y, z) + d(z, x)$  then  $(X, S_d)$  is a S-metric space.

Also (ii) can be written as  $S_d(fx, fy, fy) \leq c\lambda(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in X$  where



$$\lambda(x, y) = \max\{S_d(hx, hy, hy), s_d(fx, fx, hx), S_d(gy, gy, gy), \frac{1}{2}[S_d(fx, fx, hy) + S_d(gy, gy, hx)]\}$$

which is same as the condition (ii) of Theorem 3.3. Also since  $(X, d)$  is complete, we have  $(X, S)$  is complete, by Theorem.

Now,  $f, g$  and  $h$  are self maps on  $(X, S)$  satisfying conditions of Theorem 3.3 and hence the Corollary follows.  $\square$

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