Research Article

Best Proximity Point Results in Complex Valued Metric Spaces

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We introduce the concept of proximity points for nonself-mappings between two subsets of a complex valued metric space which is a recently introduced extension of metric spaces obtained by allowing the metric function to assume values from the field of complex numbers. We apply this concept to obtain the minimum distance between two subsets of the complex valued metric spaces. We treat the problem as that of finding the global optimal solution of a fixed point equation although the exact solution does not in general exist. We also define and use the concept of P-property in such spaces. Our results are illustrated with examples.

1. Introduction and Preliminaries

In this paper we prove certain proximity point results to obtain the minimum distance between two subsets of a complex valued metric space. Essentially it is a global optimization problem which we treat here as the problem of finding the global optimal solution of a fixed point iteration. It is a part of the more general category of problems of finding minimum distances between two objects. In geometry it has led to the concept of geodesics, a curve along which the optimal distance between two given points of the space is realized [1]. Examples abound in physical theories, especially in the general theory of relativity, where finding the physically possible shortest path is sometimes the main task [2].

In proximity point problems our objects are sets. Here our aim is to find the distance between two sets A and B with the help of a function f defined from A to B. Precisely we want to find a solution to the problem of minimizing the distance between x and fx where x is varied over the set A. Equivalently we want to find the optimal solution of the equation x = fx although the exact solution does not in general exist as in the case where A and B are disjoint. It is at this point the best approximation theorems and the best proximity point theorems have their roles to play. The best approximation theorems provide the best approximate solutions which need not be globally optimal. For instance, let us consider the following Ky Fan’s best approximation theorem.

**Theorem 1** (see [3]). Let A be a nonempty compact convex subset of a normed linear space X and let T : A → X be a continuous function. Then there exists x ∈ A such that ||x − Tx|| = d(Tx, A) = inf{||Tx − a|| : a ∈ A}.

The element x in the above theorem need not give the optimum value of ||x − Tx||.

Proximity point result was first proved by [4]. After that several results on proximity have followed. Particularly, in the general setting of metric spaces there are a good number of results, and [5–14] are instances of these results. As we have already stated in this paper we introduce the concept of proximity points in complex valued metric spaces.

First we describe the complex valued metric spaces.

It is a generalization of metric space introduced by Azam et al. [15] where the metric function assumes values from the field of complex numbers. Following this work several works on complex valued metric spaces, especially on fixed point and related topics, have been done, some of which are noted in [16–18]. It opens the scope of incorporating concepts from complex analysis in the domain of metric spaces. In fact, there are large efforts for generalizing metric spaces by changing the form and interpretation of the metric function.
Gähler [19] introduced 2-metric spaces where a real number is assigned to any three points of the space. Probabilistic metric spaces were introduced by Schweizer and Sklar [20, 21] in which any pair of points is assigned to a suitable distribution function making possible a probabilistic sense of distance. Fuzzy metric spaces were introduced in more than one way by various means of fuzzification as, for example, in [22] by assigning any pair of points to a suitable fuzzy set and spelling out the triangular inequality by using a t-norm. Another example is in the work of Kaleva and Seikkala [23] where any pair of points is assigned to a fuzzy number. G-metric space [24] is another generalization in which every pair of points is assigned to a suitable metric spaces which were require here.

We can also replace the limit in Lemma 8 by the equivalent limiting condition $|d(\bar{x}, \bar{y})| \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$.

Another example is in the work of Kaleva and Seikkala [23] which is bounded below has the least upper bound (lub) or supremum. Equivalently, any subset $A \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ which is bounded below has the least upper bound (lub) or supremum.

Definition 4 (see [15]). Let $X$ be a nonempty set. Suppose that the mapping $d : X \times X \to \mathcal{C}$ satisfies

(i) $0 \leq d(x, y)$, for all $x, y \in X$, $d(x, y) = 0$ if and only if $x = y$;

(ii) $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$, for all $x, y \in X$;

(iii) $d(x, y) \leq d(x, z) + d(z, y)$, for all $x, y, z \in X$.

Then $d$ is called a complex valued metric on $X$ and $(X, d)$ is called a complex valued metric space.

Definition 5. Let $(X, d)$ be a complex valued metric space and $\{x_n\}$ a sequence in $X$ and $x \in X$.

(i) If for every $c \in \mathcal{C}$ with $0 < c$ there is $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, for all $n > n_0$, $d(x_n, x) < c$, then $\{x_n\}$ is said to be convergent, $\{x_n\}$ converges to $x$, and $x$ is the limit point of $\{x_n\}$. We denote this by $\lim_{n \to \infty} x_n = x$ or $x_n \to x$ as $n \to \infty$.

(ii) If for every $c \in \mathcal{C}$ with $0 < c$ there is $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, for all $n, m > n_0$, $d(x_n, x_m) < c$, then $\{x_n\}$ is said to be a Cauchy sequence.

(iii) If every Cauchy sequence in $X$ is convergent, then $(X, d)$ is a complete complex valued metric space.

Definition 6. Let $(X, d)$ be a complex valued metric space and $A \subseteq X$. The set $A$ is said to be bounded if there exists $r \in \mathcal{P} = \{u + iv : u, v \geq 0\}$ such that $d(x, y) \leq r$, for all $x, y \in A$.

Clearly, for any bounded subset $A \subseteq X$, the set $\{d(x, y) : x, y \in A\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ is both bounded below and above and hence $\sup \{d(x, y) : x, y \in A\}$ and $\inf \{d(x, y) : x, y \in A\}$ exist.

Lemma 7 (see [15]). Let $(X, d)$ be a complex valued metric space and $\{x_n\}$ a sequence in $X$. Then $\{x_n\}$ converges to $x$ if and only if $d(x_n, x) \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$.

Note 1. We can also replace the limit in Lemma 7 by the equivalent limiting condition $d(x_n, x) \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$.

Lemma 8. Let $(X, d)$ be a complex valued metric space and $\{x_n\}$ a sequence in $X$. Then $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence if and only if $d(x_n, x_m) \to 0$ as $n, m \to \infty$.

Note 2. We can also replace the limit in Lemma 8 by the equivalent limiting condition $d(x_n, x_m) \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$. 

Clearly, $z^* = x^* + iy^*$ is the least upper bound (lub) of $A$ or sup $A$.

Similarly, if $A \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ is bounded below, then $z^{**} = x^{**} + iy^{**}$ is the greatest lower bound (glb) of $A$ or inf $A$, where $x^{**} = \inf S = \{x : z = x + iy \in A\}$ and $y^{**} = \inf T = \{y : z = x + iy \in A\}$.

Any subset $A \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ which is bounded above has the least upper bound (lub) or supremum. Equivalently, any subset $A \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ which is bounded below has the greatest lower bound (glb) or infimum.
Let $(X, d)$ be a complex valued metric space, $T : X \to X$ and $x \in X$. Then the function $T$ is continuous at $x$ if for any sequence $\{ x_n \}$ in $X$,
\[ x_n \to x \implies Tx_n \to Tx. \] (3)

**Definition 9.** Let $(X, d)$ be a complex valued metric space, $T : X \to X$ and $x \in X$. The function $T$ is continuous at $x$ if for any sequence $\{ x_n \}$ in $X$, $x_n \to x$ implies $x_n \to x$.

**Definition 10.** Let $(X, d)$ be a complex valued metric space. A set $A \subseteq X$ is called closed if for any sequence $\{ x_n \}$ in $A$, $x_n \to x$ implies $x \in A$.

Next we define the proximity point and some related concepts in complex valued metric space.

Let $A$ and $B$ be two nonempty bounded subsets of a complex valued metric space $(X, d)$. Then $\{ d(x, y) : x \in A, y \in B \} \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ is always bounded below by $z_0 = 0 + i0$ and hence $\inf \{ d(x, y) : x \in A, y \in B \}$ exists. Here we define
\[ \text{dist} (A, B) = \inf \{ d(x, y) : x \in A, y \in B \}, \]
\[ A_0 = \{ x \in A : d(x, y) = \text{dist}(A, B) \text{ for some } y \in B \}, \]
\[ B_0 = \{ y \in B : d(x, y) = \text{dist}(A, B) \text{ for some } x \in A \}. \] (4)

From the above definition, it is clear that for every $x \in A_0$ there exists $y \in B_0$ such that $d(x, y) = \text{dist}(A, B)$ and conversely, for every $y \in B_0$ there exists $x \in A_0$ such that $d(x, y) = \text{dist}(A, B)$.

**Definition 11.** Let $A$ and $B$ be two nonempty bounded subsets of a complex valued metric space $(X, d)$ and $T : A \to B$ a non-self-mapping. A point $x \in A$ is called a best proximity point of $T$ if $d(x, Tx) = \text{dist}(A, B)$.

The definition of $P$-property and weak $P$-property was introduced in [13] and [14], respectively.

Now we define them in complex valued metric space.

**Definition 12.** Let $A$ and $B$ be two nonempty subsets of a metric space $(X, d)$ with $A_0 \neq \emptyset$. Then the pair $(A, B)$ is said to have the $P$-property if, for any $x_1, x_2 \in A_0$ and $y_1, y_2 \in B_0$,
\[ d(x_1, y_1) = \text{dist}(A, B) \]
\[ d(x_2, y_2) = \text{dist}(A, B) \]
\[ \implies d(x_1, x_2) = d(y_1, y_2). \] (5)

**Definition 13.** Let $(A, B)$ be a pair of nonempty subsets of a complex valued metric space $(X, d)$ with $A_0 \neq \emptyset$. Then the pair $(A, B)$ is said to have the weak $P$-property if and only if
\[ d(x_1, y_1) = \text{dist}(A, B) \]
\[ d(x_2, y_2) = \text{dist}(A, B) \]
\[ \implies d(x_1, x_2) \leq d(y_1, y_2). \] (6)

where $x_1, x_2 \in A_0$ and $y_1, y_2 \in B_0$.

**Example 4.** Let us consider the complex valued metric space $(X, d)$ where $X = \mathbb{C}$ and let $d : X \times X \to \mathbb{C}$ be given as
\[ d(z_1, z_2) = |x_1 - x_2| + i|y_1 - y_2|, \]
where $z_1 = x_1 + iy_1$, $z_2 = x_2 + iy_2$.

Let $A$ and $B$ be two subsets of $X$ given by
\[ A = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \Re(z) = -1, 0 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1 \} \]
\[ B = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \Re(z) = -2^n, 0 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1 \}, \]
where $n$ is a fixed positive integer.

Notice that
\[ \text{dist}(A, B) = 2^n - 1, \quad A_0 = A, \quad B_0 = B. \] (9)

It can be verified that for $x_1, x_2 \in A_0$ and $y_1, y_2 \in B_0$
\[ d(x_1, y_1) = \text{dist}(A, B) \]
\[ d(x_2, y_2) = \text{dist}(A, B) \]
\[ \implies d(x_1, x_2) \leq d(y_1, y_2); \] (10)

that is, the pair $(A, B)$ satisfies the weak $P$-property.

Particularly, let $x_1 = -1, x_2 = 1 \in A_0$ and $y_1 = -2^n, y_2 = 2^n \in B_0$. Then,
\[ d(x_1, y_1) = \text{dist}(A, B) \]
\[ d(x_2, y_2) = \text{dist}(A, B) \]
\[ \# d(y_1, y_2) = 2^{n+1}. \] (11)

So, the pair $(A, B)$ does not satisfy the $P$-property.

**Remark 15.** Let $(A, B)$ be a pair of nonempty subsets of a complex valued metric space $(X, d)$ with $A_0 \neq \emptyset$. If the pair $(A, B)$ satisfies the $P$-property then it also satisfies the weak $P$-property. But the converse is not true.

2. **Main Results**

**Theorem 16.** Let $(A, B)$ be a pair of nonempty closed and bounded subsets of a complete complex valued metric space $(X, d)$ such that $A_0$ is nonempty and the pair $(A, B)$ satisfies the weak $P$-property. Let $T : A \to B$ be a mapping with $T(A_0) \subseteq B_0$. If there exists a real number $k$ with $0 < k < 1$ such that, for all $x, y \in A$, $d(Tx, Ty) \leq k \text{dist}(x, y)$, (12)

where
\[ M(x, y) = (|d(x, Ty) - \text{dist}(A, B)| \]
\[ \cdot |d(x, Tx) - \text{dist}(A, B)| \]
\[ \cdot |d(y, Ty) - \text{dist}(A, B)| \] (13)

\[ \times (1 + d(x, y))^{-1} + d(x, y), \]

then $T$ has a unique best proximity point in $A$. 
Proof. Let \( x_0 \in A_0 \). Since \( Tx_0 \in T(A_0) \subseteq B_0 \), there exists \( x_1 \in A_0 \) such that \( d(x_1, Tx_0) = \text{dist}(A, B) \). Again, since \( Tx_1 \in T(A_0) \subseteq B_0 \), there exists \( x_2 \in A_0 \) such that \( d(x_2, Tx_1) = \text{dist}(A, B) \). Continuing the process, we construct a sequence \( \{x_n\} \) in \( A_0 \) such that

\[
d(x_{n+1}, Tx_n) = \text{dist}(A, B), \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.
\]

Since the pair \((A, B)\) satisfies the weak \(P\)-property, we conclude that

\[
d(x_n, x_{n+1}) \leq d(Tx_{n-1}, Tx_n) \leq k \text{M}(x_{n-1}, x_n),
\]

where

\[
M(x_{n-1}, x_n) = \left( \{ d(x_n, Tx_{n-1}) - \text{dist}(A, B) \} \cdot \{ d(x_{n-1}, Tx_{n-1}) - \text{dist}(A, B) \} \cdot \{ d(x_{n+1}, Tx_n) - \text{dist}(A, B) \} \cdot \{ d(x_n, Tx_n) - \text{dist}(A, B) \} \right) \cdot (1 + d(x_{n-1}, x_n))^{-1} + d(x_{n-1}, x_n)
\]

(16)

which implies that \( \{x_n\} \) is a Cauchy sequence. From the completeness of \( X \), there exists \( z \in X \) such that

\[
x_n \longrightarrow z \quad \text{as} \quad n \longrightarrow \infty.
\]

(22)

Since \( A \) is closed and \( \{x_n\} \) is a sequence in \( A \) converging to \( z \), we have \( z \in A \).

By the continuity of \( T \), we have

\[
Tx_n \longrightarrow Tz \quad \text{as} \quad n \longrightarrow \infty.
\]

(23)

Then,

\[
d(x_{n+1}, Tx_n) \longrightarrow d(z, Tz) \quad \text{as} \quad n \longrightarrow \infty.
\]

(24)

But according to (14), the sequence \( \{d(x_{n+1}, Tx_n)\} \) is a constant sequence with the constant value \( \text{dist}(A, B) \). Therefore, \( d(z, Tz) = \text{dist}(A, B) \); that is, \( z \in A \) is a best proximity point of \( T \).

Finally, we will prove that such a point is unique.

Suppose that \( z^* \in A \) is another best proximity point of \( T \); that is, \( d(z^*, Tz^*) = \text{dist}(A, B) \). Now, \( d(z, Tz) = \text{dist}(A, B) \) and \( d(z^*, Tz^*) = \text{dist}(A, B) \) imply that \( z, z^* \in A_0 \) and \( Tz, Tz^* \in B_0 \). Since the pair \((A, B)\) satisfies the weak \(P\)-property, we necessarily have

\[
d(z, z^*) \leq d(Tz, Tz^*)
\]

(25)

Now,

\[
d(z, z^*) \leq d(Tz, Tz^*) \leq k \text{M}(z, z^*),
\]

(26)

which is a contradiction unless \( d(z, z^*) = 0 \); that is, \( z = z^* \). Hence the best proximity point of \( T \) is unique. \( \square \)

**Corollary 17.** Let \((X, d)\) be a complete complex valued metric space. Let \( T : X \rightarrow X \) be a mapping such that, for all \( x, y \in X \),

\[
d(Tx, Ty) \leq k \text{M}(x, y),
\]

(29)

where

\[
\text{M}(x, y) = \frac{d(y, Tx) \cdot d(x, Ty) \cdot d(x, Tx) \cdot d(y, Ty)}{1 + d(x, y)} + d(x, y), \quad 0 < k < 1.
\]

Then \( T \) has a unique fixed point in \( X \).
Corollary 18. Let \((X, d)\) be a complete complex valued metric space. Let \(T : X \to X\) be a mapping such that, for all \(x, y \in X\),
\[
d(Tx, Ty) \leq kd(x, y), \quad \text{where } 0 < k < 1.
\] (31)
Then \(T\) has a unique fixed point in \(X\).

Example 19. Consider \(X = \mathbb{C}\). Let \(d : X \times X \to \mathbb{C}\) be given as
\[
d(z_1, z_2) = |x_1 - x_2| + i|y_1 - y_2|,
\] (32)
where \(z_1 = x_1 + iy_1, \ z_2 = x_2 + iy_2\).

Then \((X, d)\) is a complex valued metric space with the required properties of Theorem 16.

Let
\[
A = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Re(z) = 0, 0 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1\},
\] (33)
\[
B = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Re(z) = 1, 0 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1\}.
\] (34)

Then \((A, B)\) is a pair of nonempty closed and bounded subsets of \(X\) such that
\[
\text{dist}(A, B) = 1, \quad A_0 = A, \quad B_0 = B.
\] (35)

It is verified that the pair \((A, B)\) satisfies the weak \(P\)-property (precisely, \(P\)-property).

Let \(T : A \to B\) be defined as follows:
\[
Tz = 1 + i\frac{y}{2}, \quad \text{for } z = x + iy \in A.
\] (36)

Then \(T\) satisfies the properties mentioned in Theorem 16.

It can be verified that inequality (12) is satisfied. Hence the conditions of Theorem 16 are satisfied and it is seen that 1 is the unique best proximity point of \(T\).

Example 20. We take the complex valued metric space \((X, d)\) considered in Example 19. Let
\[
A = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Re(z) = -1, 0 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1\}
\cup \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Re(z) = 1, 0 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1\},
\] (37)
\[
B = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Re(z) = -2, 0 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1\}
\cup \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \Re(z) = 2, 0 \leq \Im(z) \leq 1\}.
\]

Then \((A, B)\) is a pair of nonempty closed and bounded subsets of \(X\) such that
\[
\text{dist}(A, B) = 1, \quad A_0 = A, \quad B_0 = B.
\] (38)

It is verified that the pair \((A, B)\) satisfies the weak \(P\)-property.

Let \(T : A \to B\) be defined as follows:
\[
Tz = 2|x| + i\frac{1}{2}y, \quad \text{for } z = x + iy \in A.
\] (39)

Then \(T\) satisfies the properties mentioned in Theorem 16.

It can be verified that inequality (12) is satisfied. Hence the conditions of Theorem 16 are satisfied and it is seen that 1 is the unique best proximity point of \(T\).

Note 3. As explained in Example 14, the pair \((A, B)\) in the above example satisfies the weak \(P\)-property but does not satisfy the \(P\)-property.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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