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CONSTANT AND VARIABLE DROP THEOREMS ON METRIZABLE
LOCALLY CONVEX SPACES

Mihai TURINICI

Abstract: A maximality principle on quasi-ordered quasi-metrizable uniform spaces appearing as a common extension of both "uniform" Brøndsted's and "abstract" Brézis-Browder's ones is used to obtain a number of constant as well as variable drop theorems on metrizable locally convex spaces.

Key words: Quasi-ordered quasi-metrizable uniform space, maximal element, closed mapping, constant drop, support theorem, variable drop, mapping theorem.

Classification: Primary 54E35, 54C10, 46A05, 52A07

Secondary 54C08, 54H25, 47H17

Let X be a finite or infinite dimensional Banach space. For any y in X and $r > 0$, let $S(y,r)$ denote the closed sphere with center y and radius r . Given $x,y \in X$ and $r > 0$ (respectively, given $x \in X$ and $0 \leq q < 1$) let $K(x;y,r)$ ($V(x,q)$) indicate the subset of all combinations $\lambda x + (1-\lambda)z$, $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$, $z \in S(y,r) \cap S(0,q\|x\|)$ and call them the constant (variable) drop generated by x , y and r (x and q). The following results established by Daneš [12] (cf. also Brøndsted [5]) and, respectively, by Turinici [28] must be mentioned as a start point of our developments.

Theorem 1. Let Y be a closed subset of X and let $y \in Y$,

$r > 0$ be such that Y is disjoint from $S(y, r)$. Then, to every $x \in Y$ there corresponds a $z \in \text{bd}(Y) \cap K(x; y, r)$ (here, bd indicates the boundary) with the property $K(z; y, r) = \{z\}$.

Theorem 2. Let X_1 be a closed subset of X and suppose $q \in [0, 1)$ is such that, for any $x \neq 0$ in X_1 the subset $X_1 \cap V(x, q)$ contains more than one point. Then, we necessarily have $0 \in X_1$.

As already pointed out by Brézis and Browder [4] (see also Ursescu [29]), the first result - appearing as a non-convex extension of the famous Bishop-Phelps' support theorem [3] - represents a very appropriate instrument of the normal solvability theory as developed by Pohozhayev [23], Browder [8], as well as by Zabreiko and Krasnoselskii [31]. On the other hand, as indicated in the above quoted author's paper, the second result may be viewed as an abstract variant of a very interesting mapping theorem established by Altman [1] and having some useful applications to nonlinear programming [2]. Taking into account these facts, a metrizable locally convex generalization of these contributions may therefore be of interest. It is precisely our main aim to state and prove such a couple of extended variants of the above results, the basic tool of our investigations being a maximality principle on quasi-ordered quasi-metrizable uniform spaces appearing as a common extension of both "uniform" Brøndsted's and "abstract" Brézis-Browder's ones. As applications, a metrizable locally convex version of the above quoted Bishop-Phelps' support theorem and, respectively, Altman's mapping theorems will be given.

Let X be a nonempty set and let $D = (d_i; i \in \mathbb{N})$ be a denumerable family of quasi-metrics on X . It is well known that,

by the construction

$$d = \sum_{i \in N} (1/2^i) d_i / (1 + d_i)$$

the structure (X, d) appears as a quasi-metric space (respectively, a metric space in case D is a sufficient family ($d_i(x, y) = 0$, all $i \in N$ imply $x = y$)); for this reason, (X, D) will be generally termed a quasi-metrizable (respectively, metrizable) uniform space. We shall say the sequence $(x_n; n \in N)$ is a D -Cauchy one provided that it is d_i -Cauchy for any $i \in N$, and D -convergent to x when $d_i(x_n, x) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ for all $i \in N$ (in which case we write $x_n \xrightarrow{D} x$). Also, \leq being a quasi-ordering (that is, a reflexive and transitive relation) on X , let us say the sequence $(x_n; n \in N)$ is monotone if $x_i \leq x_j$ whenever $i \leq j$, and bounded from above provided that $x_n \leq y$, all $n \in N$, for some y in X called in this context an upper bound of the considered sequence. Finally, the element z of X will be said to be D -maximal when $z \leq y$ implies $d_i(z, y) = 0$, all $i \in N$.

The following maximality principle will play a central role in the sequel.

Theorem 3. Let the quasi-ordered quasi-metrizable uniform space (X, D, \leq) be such that

(i) any monotone sequence in X is both D -Cauchy and bounded from above.

Then, to every x in X there corresponds a D -maximal element z in X with $x \leq z$.

Proof. Of course, without any restriction we may suppose D is an increasing family ($d_i \leq d_j$ whenever $i \leq j$). We claim the following property holds at every x in X

(1) for any $i \in N$ and $\epsilon > 0$ there exists $y = y(i, \epsilon) \geq x$ such that $d_1(y, z) < \epsilon$, all $z \geq y$.

Indeed, assume by contradiction (1) were not valid. Then, there must be a couple $i \in N$, $\epsilon > 0$ such that, for any $y \geq x$, a $z \geq y$ may be found with $d_1(y, z) \geq \epsilon$. It immediately follows a monotone sequence $(y_n; n \in N)$ in X may be chosen with $d_1(y_n, y_{n+1}) \geq \epsilon$, all $n \in N$, contradicting the first part of (i) and proving our claim. In such a case, given x in X , it is not hard to construct a monotone sequence $(x_n; n \in N)$ in X with $x \leq x_n$, all $n \in N$, and

(2) $n \in N, y \geq x_n$ imply $d_n(x_n, y) < 1/2^n$.

By the second part of (i), $x_n \leq z$, all $n \in N$ (so, by (2), $x_n \xrightarrow{D} z$) for some z in X . Clearly, $x \leq z$; moreover, again by (2), $z \leq y$ implies $x_n \xrightarrow{D} y$ that is, $d_1(z, y) = 0$, all $i \in N$, and the proof is complete. Q.E.D.

A partial indication about the power of this maximality principle follows from the considerations below. Let (X, \leq) be a quasi-ordered set, (X, e, \leq) a quasi-ordered metric space and $(\varphi_i; i \in N)$ a denumerable family of mappings from X into Y . As a first application of Theorem 3, the following "combined" maximality principle may be formulated.

Theorem 4. Suppose that, for any $i \in N$

(ii) φ_i is increasing

(iii) every monotone sequence in $\varphi_i(X)$ is e -Cauchy

Then, the following conclusions are - respectively - valid.

A). Under the assumption: there is a uniformity \mathcal{U} on X with

(iv) any monotone \mathcal{U} -Cauchy sequence $(x_n; n \in \mathbb{N})$ in X converges to some x in X with $x_n \leq x$, all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

(v) for every U in \mathcal{U} there exists $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $x \leq y$ and $e(\varphi_i(x), \varphi_i(y)) < \varepsilon$ imply $(x, y) \in U$
 given any x in X there exists z in X with $x \leq z$ and, in addition, $z \leq y$ implies $(z, y) \in U$, all U in \mathcal{U} .

B). Under the supplementary hypothesis

(vi) any monotone sequence in X has an upper bound to every x in X there corresponds an element z in X with $x \leq z$ and, in addition, $z \leq y$ implies $\varphi_i(z) = \varphi_i(y)$, all $i \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. Let us define a family of quasi-metrics $D = (d_i; i \in \mathbb{N})$ on X by

$$d_i(x, y) = e(\varphi_i(x), \varphi_i(y)), \text{ all } x, y \in X, i \in \mathbb{N}$$

and let $(x_n; n \in \mathbb{N})$ be a monotone sequence in X . By (ii) + (iii), the first part of (i) will be established. It remains only to prove (iv) + (v) lead us to the second part of (i) (because, by (vi), this assertion is trivial). To this end, let U in \mathcal{U} be arbitrary fixed and let $i \in \mathbb{N}$, $\varepsilon > 0$ be introduced by (v). From the above conclusion about our sequence, there exists $n = n(i, \varepsilon) \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $d_i(x_p, x_q) < \varepsilon$, all $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \leq p \leq q$ so (again invoking (v)) $(x_p, x_q) \in U$, all $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$, $n \leq p \leq q$, proving $(x_n; n \in \mathbb{N})$ is a monotone \mathcal{U} -Cauchy sequence and completing, by (iv), our argument. Consequently, in either case Theorem 3 applies. Q.E.D.

Let (X, D) be a quasi-metrizable uniform space. A function $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ will be said to be D -lsc (usc) provided that, for any sequence $(x_n; n \in \mathbb{N})$ in X and any couple $x \in X$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$, relations $x_n \xrightarrow{D} x$ and $\varphi(x_n) \leq t (\geq t)$, all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, imply $\varphi(x) \leq t (\geq t)$.

Also, (X', D') being another quasi-metrizable uniform space, we shall say the mapping $T: X \rightarrow X'$ is closed when $x_n \xrightarrow{D} x$ and $Tx_n \xrightarrow{D'} x'$ imply $Tx = x'$. Suppose in what follows (X, D) and (X', D') are complete quasi-metrizable uniform spaces and $T: X \rightarrow X'$ is a closed mapping from X into X' . Let us introduce a new denumerable family of quasi-metrics $E = (e_i; i \in N)$ on X by the convention

$$e_i(x, y) = \max(d_i(x, y), d'_i(Tx, Ty)), \quad x, y \in X, \quad i \in N$$

In this case, as a second application of Theorem 3, the following "operator" maximality principle may be formulated

Theorem 5. Let the denumerable families $(\varphi_i; i \in N)$ and $(\psi_i; i \in N)$ of functions from X into R be such that

(vii) φ_i and ψ_i are E -lsc and bounded from below, for all $i \in N$.

Then, to every x in X there corresponds an element z in X such that (a) $d_i(x, z) \leq \varphi_i(x) - \varphi_i(z)$, $d'_i(Tx, Tz) \leq \psi_i(x) - \psi_i(z)$, $i \in N$, (b) for any y in X with $d_i(z, y) \leq \varphi_i(z) - \varphi_i(y)$, $d'_i(Tz, Ty) \leq \psi_i(z) - \psi_i(y)$, $i \in N$, we necessarily have $d_i(z, y) = 0$, $d'_i(Tz, Ty) = 0$, all $i \in N$.

Proof. Let us define a quasi-ordering \leq on X by

$x \leq y$ if and only if $d_i(x, y) \leq \varphi_i(x) - \varphi_i(y)$, and $d'_i(Tx, Ty) \leq \psi_i(x) - \psi_i(y)$, all $i \in N$

and let $(x_n; n \in N)$ be a monotone sequence in X , that is

$d_i(x_n, x_m) \leq \varphi_i(x_n) - \varphi_i(x_m)$, $d'_i(Tx_n, Tx_m) \leq \psi_i(x_n) - \psi_i(x_m)$, all $n, m \in N$, $n \leq m$, all $i \in N$.

Firstly, as $(\varphi_i(x_n); n \in N)$ and $(\psi_i(x_n); n \in N)$ are decreasing sequences (hence, by the second part of (vii), Cauchy sequences) in R for all $i \in N$, it immediately follows that $(x_n; n \in N)$

and $(Tx_n; n \in \mathbb{N})$ are D (D')-Cauchy sequences in X (X') or, in other words, that $(x_n; n \in \mathbb{N})$ is an E -Cauchy sequence in X . Secondly, by completeness hypotheses, $x_n \xrightarrow{D} x$ and $Tx_n \xrightarrow{D'} x'$ for some $x \in X$, $x' \in X'$ and this gives (by closedness hypothesis) $Tx = x'$ that is, $x_n \xrightarrow{E} x$ in which case, from the preceding relation we get (by a limit process combined with the first part of (vii))

$$d_1(x_n, x) \leq \varphi_1(x_n) - \varphi_1(x), \quad d_1'(Tx_n, Tx) \leq \psi_1(x_n) - \psi_1(x),$$

all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $i \in \mathbb{N}$

proving $x_n \leq x$, all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Consequently, Theorem 3 again applies (with D replaced by E) and the proof is finished. Q.E.D.

Concerning the first of these applications, it must be noted that, in case $Y = \mathbb{R}$, $e =$ the usual distance in \mathbb{R} and \leq the usual dual ordering on \mathbb{R} , Theorem 4(B) - reducible to a previous author's result [26] - appears as a sequential version of Brézis-Browder's ordering principle [4], while Theorem 4(A) as a sequential extension of a similar Brøndsted's maximality principle [5]. At the same time, the second of these applications - refining Theorem 2 of the above quoted author's paper - may be viewed as a "denumerable" variant of a related Downing-Kirk's result [13] (see also Turinici [27]) as well as (under the assumption T is the identity mapping) of a variational type Ekeland's result [14, 15, 16] or, equivalently, - after Brøndsted's pattern [6] - of the fixed point Caristi-Kirk's theorem [10, 19] (see in this direction Kasahara [18], Browder [9], Wong [30], Pasicki [22], Siegel [24], Turinici [25], Brøndsted [7] for a number of interesting new viewpoints concerning this problem) so that, our initial maximality principle extends all these contributions.

In what follows, a precise statement of the results announced in the introductory part of the note will be performed. Let X be a metrizable locally convex space whose topology is generated by the denumerable sufficient family of seminorms $D = (|\cdot|_1; i \in \mathbb{N})$. For any y in X and any $r = (r_1; i \in \mathbb{N})$ in $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ with $r_1 \geq 0, i \in \mathbb{N}$, let $B(y, r)$ denote the subset of all z in X with $|y-z|_1 \leq r_1, i \in \mathbb{N}$; also, given any x in X , let $K(x; y, r)$ indicate the subset of all combinations $\lambda x + (1-\lambda)z, 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1, z \in B(y, r)$, and call it the (constant) drop generated by x, y and r . Clearly, $B(y, r)$ is a closed convex subset of X and so is $K(x; y, r)$; indeed, let $(u_n = \lambda_n x + (1-\lambda_n)v_n; n \in \mathbb{N})$ - for some $(\lambda_n; n \in \mathbb{N})$ in $[0, 1]$ and $(v_n; n \in \mathbb{N})$ in $B(y, r)$ - be such that $u_n \xrightarrow{D} u$ for some u in X then (observing that, without loss of generality one may suppose $\lambda_n \neq 1, n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\lambda_n \rightarrow \lambda \neq 1$) $v_n = (u_n - \lambda_n x)/(1-\lambda_n) \xrightarrow{D} (u - \lambda x)/(1-\lambda) \in B(y, r)$ proving our assertion. Suppose further (X, D) is a complete metrizable locally convex space. Then, as an interesting application of our initial maximality principle, the following (constant) drop theorem can be derived.

Theorem 6. Let the closed subset Y of X , the element y in X and the vector $r = (r_1; i \in \mathbb{N})$ in $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ with $r_1 > 0, i \in \mathbb{N}$, be such that Y is disjoint from $B(y, r)$. Then, to any x in Y and any $s = (s_1; i \in \mathbb{N})$ in $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ with $0 \leq s_1 < r_1, i \in \mathbb{N}$, there corresponds a $z = z(x, s)$ in $\text{bd}(Y) \cap K(x; y, s)$ with $Y \cap K(z; y, s) = \{z\}$.

Proof. Let \preceq denote the ordering on Y defined by $u \preceq v$ if and only if $v \in K(u; y, s)$ (the fact that \preceq is actually an ordering is an immediate consequence of our conventions). Given x in Y arbitrary fixed, let us put $\beta_1 = |x-y|_1, i \in \mathbb{N}$; also, denote by α_1 the $|\cdot|_1$ -dis-

tance between y and Y (clearly, $\alpha_i \geq r_i$), for all $i \in N$. Now, let u, v in Y be such that $x \leq u \leq v$. As $u, v \in K(x; y, s)$, it clearly follows $|u-y|_i, |v-y|_i \leq \beta_i + s_i$, all $i \in N$. On the other hand, as $u \leq v$ means $v = \lambda u + (1-\lambda)w$ for some $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$, $w \in B(y, s)$, one has

$$|v-y|_i \leq \lambda |u-y|_i + (1-\lambda) |w-y|_i \leq \lambda |u-y|_i + (1-\lambda) s_i, i \in N$$

and this immediately gives (by the above relations)

$$(1-\lambda)(\alpha_i - s_i) \leq (1-\lambda)(|u-y|_i - s_i) \leq |u-y|_i - |v-y|_i, i \in N$$

Finally, again from the relation between u and v

$$|u-v|_i \leq (1-\lambda) |u-w|_i \leq (1-\lambda)(\beta_i + 2s_i), i \in N$$

so, combining with the preceding one

$$|u-v|_i \leq ((\beta_i + 2s_i) / (\alpha_i - s_i)) (|u-y|_i - |v-y|_i), i \in N$$

proving condition (i) of Theorem 3 will be satisfied (with X replaced by Y) and completing the argument. Q.E.D.

Again let Y be a closed subset of X , with a nonempty boundary $bd(Y)$. We shall say $x \in bd(Y)$ is an essential point of Y provided that, given any neighborhood V of x there exists y in V and $r = (r_i; i \in N)$ in R^N with $r_i > 0$, $i \in N$, such that $V \supset B(y, r)$ and $Y \cap B(y, r) = \emptyset$; the subset of all such points will be termed the essential boundary of Y and denoted by $Bd(Y)$. Also, $z \in bd(Y)$ will be called a support point of Y when the element y in X and the vector $r = (r_i; i \in N)$ in R^N with $r_i > 0$, $i \in N$, may be found with $Y \cap B(y, r) = \emptyset$ and $Y \cap K(z; y, r) = \{z\}$; the subset of all points having such a property will be denoted by $Sp(Y)$. Now, as a direct consequence of the above result, the following "sequential" support theorem can be stated and proved.

Theorem 7. Let Y be a closed subset of X having a non-

empty essential boundary (hence, a nonempty boundary). Then, the subset of all support points is nonempty too, and dense in the essential boundary.

Proof. Let x be an arbitrary point of $Bd(Y)$ and let V be a neighborhood of x (of course, without any loss one may suppose V is closed and convex). By the definition of the essential boundary, there exists y in X and $r = (r_i; i \in N)$ in R^N with $r_i > 0$, $i \in N$, such that $V \supset B(y, r)$ and $Y \cap B(y, r) = \emptyset$. By the above theorem, given $s = (s_i; i \in N)$ in R^N with $0 < s_i < r_i$, $i \in N$, a $z = z(x, s)$ in $bd(Y) \cap K(x; y, s)$ may be found with $Y \cap K(z; y, s) = \{z\}$. Clearly, $z \in Sp(Y)$; moreover, $V \supset B(y, r)$ implies $z \in V$ and this ends our argument. Q.E.D.

Regarding the elements involved into the above statements, some remarks are in order. Firstly, it is clear that, in case D reduces to a single element (that is, in case (X, D) becomes a Banach space) these results coincide with Theorem 1 and, respectively, the Bishop-Phelps' support theorem quoted in the introductory part of the note. Secondly, as remarked by Holmes [17, ch. III, § 20] it is possible to construct closed subsets Y of X having no support points (hence no essential points) and this shows that, generally, the conclusion of Theorem 7 has a "relative" character (modulo the assumption $Bd(Y)$ is not empty in case $bd(Y)$ is such) in contrast to the "effective" character of the normed case (where $Bd(Y)$ coincides with $bd(Y)$). Finally, it should be noted our statements may be put, without major changes into a "pure" metrizable uniform framework, by the use of a well-known Kuratowski's embedding procedure [21, ch. II, § 15]; a detailed version of such a development will be gi-

ven elsewhere.

Suppose in what follows Y is a complete metrizable locally convex space under the denumerable and sufficient family of seminorms $D' = (|\cdot|_i; i \in \mathbb{N})$. Given any x in Y , let $|x|$ denote the vector $(|x|_i; i \in \mathbb{N})$; also, letting $q = (q_i; i \in \mathbb{N})$ in $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ with $0 \leq q_i < 1, i \in \mathbb{N}$, let us put $V(x, q) = K(x; 0, q|x|)$ and call it the variable drop generated by x and q . Now, as a useful application of the operator maximality principle we expressed before, the following variable drop theorem can be derived.

Theorem 8. Let Y_1 be a closed subset of Y having the property: there exists $q = (q_i; i \in \mathbb{N})$ in $\mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ with $0 \leq q_i < 1, i \in \mathbb{N}$, such that, for any y in Y_1 distinct from o , the intersection $Y_1 \cap V(y, q)$ contains more than one point. Then, we necessarily have $o \in Y_1$ (o is an element of Y_1).

Proof. Let u, v in Y_1 be such that $v \in V(u, q)$; then, $v = \lambda u + (1-\lambda)w$ for some $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1, w \in B(o, q|u|)$ so that

$$|v|_i \leq \lambda |u|_i + (1-\lambda)q_i |u|_i, i \in \mathbb{N}$$

or, equivalently,

$$(1-\lambda)(1-q_i)|u|_i \leq |u|_i - |v|_i, i \in \mathbb{N}$$

At the same time, again from the relation between u and v

$$|u-v|_i \leq (1-\lambda)(1+q_i)|u|_i, i \in \mathbb{N}$$

so, combining with the preceding one

$$|u-v|_i \leq ((1+q_i)/(1-q_i))(|u|_i - |v|_i), i \in \mathbb{N}$$

proving all conditions of Theorem 5 hold (with $X = Y_1, D = D'$ and $T =$ the identity mapping). Consequently, given x in Y_1 , there exists z in Y_1 satisfying conclusions (a) + (b) of that result and this necessarily implies $z = o$ because, otherwise, the hypothesis we accepted about the nonzero elements of Y_1

would contradict the conclusion (b). Q.E.D.

As an immediate consequence of this result, we have

Theorem 9. Let X be an abstract set and T a mapping from X into Y with $T(X)$ closed in Y . Suppose there exists a vector $q = (q_i; i \in N)$ in R^N with $0 \leq q_i < 1$, $i \in N$, such that, for any x in X with $Tx \neq 0$, a $\bar{x} \in X$ may be found with $Tx \neq T\bar{x} \in V(Tx, q)$. Then, $Tz = 0$ for some z in X .

A simple inspection of this result shows the essential property of the mapping T we used here is the closedness of its range $T(X)$. It would be interesting to know whether this condition may not be replaced by the closedness of its graph $G_T = ((x, Tx); x \in X)$ in case we suppose X is endowed with a quasi-metrizable uniform structure $D = (d_i; i \in N)$. In this direction, as a completion of the preceding statement, we have

Theorem 10. Let the complete quasi-metrizable uniform space (X, D) and the closed mapping $T: X \rightarrow Y$ be such that a $q = (q_i; i \in N)$ in R^N with $0 \leq q_i < 1$, $i \in N$ and a $r = (r_i; i \in N)$ in R^N with $r_i \geq 0$, $i \in N$ may be found with the property: for any x in X with $Tx \neq 0$ there exists \bar{x} in X with $Tx \neq T\bar{x} \in V(Tx, q)$ and $d_i(x, \bar{x}) \leq r_i |Tx - T\bar{x}|_i$, $i \in N$. Then, the equation $Tx = 0$ has at least a solution in X .

Proof. By the above developments it follows that, x and \bar{x} given as before

$$d_i(x, \bar{x}) \leq (r_i(1+q_i)/(1-q_i))(|Tx|_i - |T\bar{x}|_i), \quad i \in N$$

$$|Tx - T\bar{x}|_i \leq ((1+q_i)/(1-q_i))(|Tx|_i - |T\bar{x}|_i), \quad i \in N$$

As Theorem 5 again applies, it follows that, given x in X a corresponding z in X may be found with the properties (a) +

→ (b) of that result. Suppose $Tz \neq 0$ then, by the hypotheses we adopted, there exists \bar{z} in X with $Tz \neq T\bar{z} \in V(Tz, q)$ and $d_1(z, \bar{z}) \leq r_1 |Tz - T\bar{z}|_1$, $i \in \mathbb{N}$ so that, by the above relations, (b) will be contradicted. Therefore, necessarily, $Tz = 0$ and the result follows. Q.E.D.

From a technical viewpoint, it is now evident that, in case (Y, D') reduces to a Banach space, Theorems 8 and 9 reduce to Theorem 2 and, respectively, Altman's mapping theorem [1] (see also Kirk and Caristi [20]); moreover, in case (X, D) reduces to a complete metric space, Theorem 10 may be identified with another Altman's mapping theorem (see the above reference as well as Downing and Kirk [13]). On the other hand, as pointed out by these authors, their contributions extend a similar Browder's one [8] so, the same conclusion may be formulated about our statements. Finally, it must be noted that, by the same procedure as that used here, one may state and prove a "denumerable" variant of some recent contributions in this direction due to Cramer and Ray [11] (see also Altman [2]); a development of these arguments will be done in a forthcoming paper.

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