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Vector integral equations with discontinuous right-hand side

FILIPPO CAMMAROTO*, PAOLO CUBIOTTI

Abstract. We deal with the integral equation $u(t) = f(\int_I g(t, z) u(z) dz)$, with $t \in I = [0, 1]$, $f : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ and $g : I \times I \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$. We prove an existence theorem for solutions $u \in L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$ where the function f is not assumed to be continuous, extending a result previously obtained for the case $n = 1$.

Keywords: vector integral equations, bounded solutions, discontinuity

Classification: 47H15

1. Introduction

Let $I := [0, 1]$. Consider the integral equation

$$(1) \quad u(t) = f\left(\int_I g(t, z) u(z) dz\right) \text{ for a.a. } t \in I,$$

where $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and $g : I \times I \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ are given functions. Recently, in the paper [4], the authors proved an existence theorem for solutions of (1) in the space $L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R})$, where, unlike other recent results in the field (see [3], [5], [6], [7], to which we also refer for motivations for studying equation (1)), the continuity of f was not assumed. More precisely, f was assumed to be a.e. equal in a suitable interval $[0, \sigma]$ to a function $f_0 : [0, \sigma] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ such that the set $\{x \in [0, \sigma] : f_0 \text{ is discontinuous at } x\}$ has null 1-dimensional Lebesgue measure. Consequently, a function f satisfying the assumptions of [4] can be discontinuous at each point of its domain.

In this note we are interested in the study of equation (1) in the more general case where $f : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$. We prove an existence result for solutions $u \in L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$ which, in the explicit case, extends the main result of [4]. In particular, the above assumption on f is extended by assuming that there exist a function $\bar{f} : \prod_{i=1}^n [0, \sigma_i] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ (with suitable positive σ_i) and subsets E_1, \dots, E_n of $\prod_{i=1}^n [0, \sigma_i]$ such that the projection of each E_i over the i -th axis has null 1-dimensional Lebesgue measure and

$$\left\{x \in \prod_{i=1}^n [0, \sigma_i] : \bar{f} \text{ is discontinuous at } x\right\} \cup \left\{x \in \prod_{i=1}^n [0, \sigma_i] : \bar{f}(x) \neq f(x)\right\} \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i.$$

* Born on August 4, 1968. This clarification is needed because of a complete coincidence of names within the same Department.

We also prove by a counterexample that the set $\bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i$ cannot be replaced by an arbitrary set $E \subseteq \prod_{i=1}^n [0, \sigma_i]$ with null n -dimensional Lebesgue measure.

2. Preliminaries

Let $n \in \mathbf{N}$. We shall denote by m_n the n -dimensional Lebesgue measure in the space \mathbf{R}^n . If $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$, then x_i shall denote the i -th component of x . Moreover, we shall denote by $p_i : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ the projection over the i -th axis, namely we put $p_i(x) = x_i$.

If $x, y \in \mathbf{R}^n$, we say that $x < y$ (resp., $x \leq y$) if and only if one has $x_i < y_i$ (resp., $x_i \leq y_i$) for each $i = 1, \dots, n$. If $x, y \in \mathbf{R}^n$, with $x \leq y$, we put

$$[x, y] := \prod_{i=1}^n [x_i, y_i],$$

$$]x, y[:= \prod_{i=1}^n]x_i, y_i[\quad (\text{if } x < y).$$

We shall denote by 0_n the origin of the space \mathbf{R}^n , which, in turn, will be considered with its Euclidean norm $\|\cdot\|_n$.

If $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$, $\varepsilon > 0$, $A \subseteq \mathbf{R}^n$, $A \neq \emptyset$, we put

$$B(x, \varepsilon) := \{y \in \mathbf{R}^n : \|x - y\|_n < \varepsilon\},$$

$$d(x, A) := \inf_{v \in A} \|x - v\|_n.$$

Moreover, we shall denote by $\overline{\text{co}} A$ the closed convex hull of A .

If $p \in [1, +\infty]$, we shall denote by $L^p(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$ the space of all (equivalence classes of) measurable functions $u : I \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ such that

$$\int_I \|u(t)\|_n^p dt < +\infty \quad \text{if } p < +\infty,$$

$$\text{ess sup}_{t \in I} \|u(t)\|_n < +\infty \quad \text{if } p = +\infty,$$

with the usual norm

$$\|u\|_{L^p(I, \mathbf{R}^n)} := \left(\int_I \|u(t)\|_n^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \quad \text{if } p < +\infty,$$

$$\|u\|_{L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R}^n)} := \text{ess sup}_{t \in I} \|u(t)\|_n \quad \text{if } p = +\infty.$$

We shall denote by $\mathcal{B}(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$ the set of all $u \in L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$ for which there exists some function $v : I \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ such that $u(t) = v(t)$ a.e. in I and also

$$m_1(\{t \in I : v \text{ is discontinuous at } t\}) = 0.$$

Moreover, we shall put $L^p(I) := L^p(I, \mathbf{R})$. As usual, we denote by $C^0(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$ the space of all continuous functions $v : I \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$.

For the definitions and basic facts about multifunctions, we refer to [2], [11]. Finally, we put $I_0 :=]0, 1[$.

3. The result

The following is our result.

Theorem 1. Let $\alpha, \beta, \sigma \in \mathbf{R}^n$, with $0_n < \alpha < \beta$ and $0_n < \sigma$. Let $f : [0_n, \sigma] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ and $g : I \times I \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ be given functions. Assume that:

(i) for each $i = 1, \dots, n$, one has

$$\alpha_i < \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in [0_n, \sigma]} f_i(x) \leq \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in [0_n, \sigma]} f_i(x) < \beta_i;$$

(ii) there exist sets $E_1, \dots, E_n \subseteq [0_n, \sigma]$, with $m_1(p_i(E_i)) = 0$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$, and a function $\bar{f} : [0_n, \sigma] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ such that for each $x \in [0_n, \sigma] \setminus (\bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i)$ one has $\bar{f}(x) = f(x)$ and \bar{f} is continuous at x ;

(iii) for each $t \in I$, the function $g(t, \cdot)$ is measurable.

Moreover, assume that there exist $\phi_0 \in L^j(I)$, with $j > 1$ and

$$0 < \|\phi_0\|_{L^1(I)} \leq \min_{1 \leq i \leq n} \frac{\sigma_i}{\beta_i},$$

and $\phi_1 \in L^1(I)$ such that:

(iv) for a.a. $z \in I$, the function $g(\cdot, z)$ is continuous in I , differentiable in I_0 and

$$g(t, z) \leq \phi_0(z), \quad 0 < \frac{\partial g}{\partial t}(t, z) \leq \phi_1(z) \quad \text{for all } t \in I_0.$$

Then there exists $u \in \mathcal{B}(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$ such that

$$(2) \quad u(t) = f\left(\int_I g(t, z) u(z) dz\right) \quad \text{for a.a. } t \in I.$$

Before proving Theorem 1, we need the following preliminary result.

Lemma 1. Let $\sigma, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbf{R}^n$, with $0_n < \sigma$ and $\delta < \gamma$, and let $f : [0_n, \sigma] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ be such that for each $i = 1, \dots, n$ one has

$$\delta_i < \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in [0_n, \sigma]} f_i(x) \leq \operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x \in [0_n, \sigma]} f_i(x) < \gamma_i.$$

Assume that there exists a function $\bar{f} : [0_n, \sigma] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ and a set $E \subseteq [0_n, \sigma]$, with $m_n(E) = 0$, such that

$$(3) \quad \bar{f}(x) = f(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in [0_n, \sigma] \setminus E$$

and

$$(4) \quad \{x \in [0_n, \sigma] : \bar{f} \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E.$$

Then there exists $\hat{f} : [0_n, \sigma] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ such that

- (i) $\hat{f}([0_n, \sigma]) \subseteq [\delta, \gamma]$;
- (ii) $\hat{f}(x) = f(x)$ for all $x \in [0_n, \sigma] \setminus E$; and
- (iii) $\{x \in [0_n, \sigma] : \hat{f} \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E.$

PROOF: For each $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, put

$$A_i := \{x \in [0_n, \sigma] : \bar{f}_i(x) \leq \delta_i\}, \quad B_i := \{x \in [0_n, \sigma] : \bar{f}_i(x) \geq \gamma_i\}.$$

Let

$$T := \bigcup_{i=1}^n (A_i \cup B_i).$$

If $T = \emptyset$, our claim follows by taking $\hat{f} = \bar{f}$. Assume $T \neq \emptyset$. We claim that $T \subseteq E$. Arguing by contradiction, assume that there exists $x^* \in T \setminus E$, and let $i^* \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ be such that $x^* \in A_{i^*} \cup B_{i^*}$. Assume $x^* \in A_{i^*}$ (if $x^* \in B_{i^*}$, the argument is analogous). Therefore, one has

$$(5) \quad \bar{f}_{i^*}(x^*) \leq \delta_{i^*} < \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in [0_n, \sigma]} f_{i^*}(x).$$

By (4), the function \bar{f} is continuous at x^* . Therefore, taking into account (5), there exists $\mu \in \mathbf{R}^n$, with $0_n < \mu$, such that

$$\bar{f}_{i^*}(u) < \operatorname{ess\,inf}_{x \in [0_n, \sigma]} f_{i^*}(x) \quad \text{for all } u \in U := [0_n, \sigma] \cap [x^* - \mu, x^* + \mu],$$

which contradicts (3) since $m_n(U) > 0$. Such a contradiction implies $T \subseteq E$, as claimed. Now, let $\hat{f} : [0_n, \sigma] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ be defined by

$$(6) \quad \hat{f}(x) = \begin{cases} \delta & \text{if } x \in T \\ \bar{f}(x) & \text{if } x \in [0_n, \sigma] \setminus T. \end{cases}$$

By the definition of T we immediately get $\hat{f}([0_n, \sigma]) \subseteq [\delta, \gamma]$. To prove conclusions (ii) and (iii), let $\bar{x} \in [0_n, \sigma] \setminus E$ be fixed. Since $T \subseteq E$, we have $\bar{x} \in [0_n, \sigma] \setminus T$, hence by (3) and (6) we get $\hat{f}(\bar{x}) = \bar{f}(\bar{x}) = f(\bar{x})$. Now we prove that \hat{f} is continuous at \bar{x} . Since $\bar{x} \notin T$, we have

$$\delta_i < \bar{f}_i(\bar{x}) < \gamma_i \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Since by (4) the function \bar{f} is continuous at \bar{x} , there exists a neighborhood V of \bar{x} in $[0_n, \sigma]$ such that

$$\delta_i < \bar{f}_i(x) < \gamma_i \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, n \text{ and all } x \in V.$$

Therefore, $V \cap T = \emptyset$ and thus $\hat{f}(x) = \bar{f}(x)$ for all $x \in V$. Consequently, the continuity of \bar{f} at \bar{x} implies the continuity of \hat{f} at \bar{x} . The proof is complete. \square

PROOF OF THEOREM 1: We can assume $j < +\infty$. Put $E := \bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i$. By (ii) we get $m_n(E) = 0$. By Lemma 1, there exists a function $\hat{f} : [0_n, \sigma] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ such that

$$(7) \quad \alpha_i \leq \hat{f}_i(x) \leq \beta_i \quad \text{for all } x \in [0_n, \sigma], \text{ and all } i = 1, \dots, n,$$

$$(8) \quad \hat{f}(x) = f(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in [0_n, \sigma] \setminus E,$$

and

$$(9) \quad \{x \in [0_n, \sigma] : \hat{f} \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E.$$

Let $\psi : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ be defined by

$$(10) \quad \psi(x) = \begin{cases} \hat{f}(x) & \text{if } x \in [0_n, \sigma] \\ \beta & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Of course, one has

$$(11) \quad \psi(\mathbf{R}^n) \subseteq [\alpha, \beta].$$

Now we want to apply Theorem 1 of [13] by taking $T = I$, $X = Y = \mathbf{R}^n$, $p = s = +\infty$, $q = j'$ (the conjugate exponent of j), $V = L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$, $\Psi(u) = u$, $r = \|\beta\|_n$, $\varphi(\lambda) \equiv +\infty$,

$$\Phi(u)(t) = \int_I g(t, z) u(z) dz,$$

and $F : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow 2\mathbf{R}^n$ as the multifunction defined by

$$F(x) = \bigcap_{\varepsilon > 0} \bigcap_{m_n(N)=0} \overline{\text{co}} \psi(B(x, \varepsilon) \setminus N).$$

To this aim, observe what follows.

(a) $\Phi(L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R}^n)) \subseteq C^0(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$. This follows easily from our assumptions and Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem.

(b) If $\{v^k\}$ is a sequence in $L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$ and $v \in L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$, with $\{v^k\}$ weakly convergent to v in $L^{j'}(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$, then the sequence $\{\Phi(v^k)\}$ converges to $\Phi(v)$ strongly in $L^1(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$. This follows by Theorem 2 at p.359 of [10], observing that g is measurable in $I \times I$ by the classical Scorza Dragoni's theorem (see [14] or also [9]).

(c) The multifunction F has closed graph and nonempty convex values (see Proposition 1 at p.102 of [1]). Moreover, by (11) we have

$$(12) \quad F(x) \subseteq [\alpha, \beta] \text{ for all } x \in \mathbf{R}^n.$$

Consequently, one has

$$\sup_{x \in \mathbf{R}^n} d(0_n, F(x)) \leq \|\beta\|_n.$$

Therefore, all the assumptions of Theorem 1 of [13] are satisfied. Thus, there exist a function $\hat{u} \in L^\infty(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$ and a set $K \subseteq I$, with $m_1(K) = 0$, such that

$$(13) \quad \hat{u}(t) \in F(\Phi(\hat{u})(t)) \text{ for all } t \in I \setminus K.$$

By (12), this implies

$$(14) \quad \hat{u}(t) \in [\alpha, \beta] \text{ for all } t \in I \setminus K.$$

Therefore, for each $i = 1, \dots, n$ and each $t \in I$ one gets

$$0 \leq [\Phi(\hat{u})(t)]_i = \int_I g(t, z) \hat{u}_i(z) dz \leq \beta_i \|\phi_0\|_{L^1(I)} \leq \beta_i \frac{\sigma_i}{\beta_i} = \sigma_i,$$

hence $\Phi(\hat{u})(I) \subseteq [0_n, \sigma]$. For each fixed $i = 1, \dots, n$, let $h_i : I \rightarrow [0, \sigma_i]$ be defined by

$$h_i(t) := [\Phi(\hat{u})(t)]_i.$$

Taking into account (14) and assumption (iv), it is easily seen that the function h_i is strictly increasing. Moreover, by assumptions (iii), (iv) and Lemma 2.2 at p. 226 of [12], we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} h_i(t) = \int_I \frac{\partial g}{\partial t}(t, z) \hat{u}_i(z) dz > 0 \text{ for all } t \in I_0.$$

By Theorem 2 of [15] (taking into account (a)), each function h_i^{-1} is absolutely continuous. For each $i = 1, \dots, n$, put

$$S_i := h_i^{-1} [(p_i(E_i) \cup \{0, \sigma_i\}) \cap h_i(I)].$$

By assumption (ii) and Theorem 18.25 of [8], we get $m_1(S_i) = 0$. Now, let

$$S := \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n S_i \right) \cup K.$$

Of course, $m_1(S) = 0$. Let $t^* \in I \setminus S$ be fixed. Since $t^* \notin K$, by (13) we have

$$(15) \quad \hat{u}(t^*) \in F(\Phi(\hat{u})(t^*)).$$

Moreover, one has

$$(16) \quad \Phi(\hat{u})(t^*) \in]0_n, \sigma[\setminus E.$$

To see this, observe that for each $i = 1, \dots, n$, since $t^* \notin S_i$, we have $h_i(t^*) \notin p_i(E_i) \cup \{0, \sigma_i\}$. In particular, the last fact implies that $\Phi(\hat{u})(t^*) \notin E_i$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$. Therefore, (16) follows. Now, observe that by (10) we have $\hat{f} = \psi$ in $]0_n, \sigma[$. Since by (9) and (16) the function \hat{f} is continuous at the point $\Phi(\hat{u})(t^*)$, it follows that ψ is continuous at the same point $\Phi(\hat{u})(t^*)$. Hence, by Proposition 1 at p. 102 of [1], and taking into account (8), we get

$$F(\Phi(\hat{u})(t^*)) = \{\psi(\Phi(\hat{u})(t^*))\} = \{\hat{f}(\Phi(\hat{u})(t^*))\} = \{f(\Phi(\hat{u})(t^*))\},$$

hence by (15) we have

$$\hat{u}(t^*) = f(\Phi(\hat{u})(t^*)).$$

As t^* was any point in $I \setminus S$, the function \hat{u} satisfies equation (2). Moreover, if $v : I \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ is defined by $v(t) = \hat{f}(\Phi(\hat{u})(t))$, it follows easily from above that $v(t) = \hat{u}(t)$ for all $t \in I \setminus S$, and also

$$\{t \in I : v \text{ is discontinuous at } t\} \subseteq S.$$

Hence we have $\hat{u} \in \mathcal{B}(I, \mathbf{R}^n)$, as claimed. This completes the proof. □

The next example shows that Theorem 1 is no longer true if in assumption (ii) the sets E_1, \dots, E_n are replaced by an arbitrary set $E \subseteq [0_n, \sigma]$ with $m_n(E) = 0$.

Example. Let $n = 2$, $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = 3$, $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 = 4$, $g(t, z) = t$, $\phi_0(t) \equiv 1$, $\phi_1(t) \equiv 1$, and

$$(17) \quad f(u, v) = \begin{cases} (1, 1) & \text{if } u \neq v \\ (2, 1) & \text{if } u = v. \end{cases}$$

It is immediate to check that all the assumptions of Theorem 1 are satisfied, with the exception of assumption (ii). Moreover, f is almost everywhere equal to the constant $(1, 1)$ in $[0_2, \sigma]$ (or also, observe that $m_2(\{(u, v) \in \mathbf{R}^2 : f \text{ is discontinuous at } (u, v)\}) = 0$). Now, assume that there exists a solution $u \in L^1(I, \mathbf{R}^2)$ to the equation (2). By (17) we have

$$u_1(t) \in \{1, 2\} \quad \text{and} \quad u_2(t) = 1 \quad \text{for a.a. } t \in I,$$

and thus

$$(18) \quad u(t) = f(t \|u_1\|_{L^1(I)}, t) \quad \text{for a.a. } t \in I.$$

If we suppose $\|u_1\|_{L^1(I)} = 1$, by (17) and (18) we get $u_1(t) = 2$ for a.a. $t \in I$, a contradiction. If, on the contrary, we suppose $\|u_1\|_{L^1(I)} > 1$, by (17) and (18) we get $u_1(t) = 1$ for a.a. $t \in I$, another contradiction. Consequently, there is no solution $u \in L^1(I, \mathbf{R}^2)$ to problem (2).

Remark. The example at p. 245 of [4] shows that Theorem 1 is no longer true if in assumption (iv) we assume $0 \leq \frac{\partial g}{\partial t}(t, z) \leq \phi_1(z)$.

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