

NEW EXISTENCE OF EQUILIBRIA VIA CONNECTEDNESS

SUNG MO IM and DONG IL RIM

Department of Mathematics
Chungbuk National University
Cheongju 361-763, KOREA

and

WON KYU KIM

Department of Mathematics Education
Chungbuk National University
Cheongju 361-763, KOREA

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ABSTRACT. The purpose of this paper is to prove a new topological fixed point theorem by using the connectedness property, and next existence of equilibria in generalized games are established as applications.

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES: Connectedness, closed multimap, upper semicontinuous, fixed point, equilibrium.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In many problems of nonlinear functional analysis and applied mathematics, the fixed point technique is a very useful tool for proving the existence of solutions. And we have known many interesting fixed point theorems and their applications, e.g. see Browder [1], Fan [2], Mehta and Tarafdar [3], Tan and Yuan [4].

The classical fixed point theorem, due to Fan and Browder [1,2], is as follows.

Let X be a non-empty compact convex subset of a Hausdorff topological vector space E and let $T : X \rightarrow 2^X$ be a multimap such that for each $x \in X$, $T(x)$ is non-empty convex and for each $y \in X$, $T^{-1}(y)$ is open in X . Then there exists $\bar{x} \in X$ such that $\bar{x} \in T(\bar{x})$.

In the above, the convexity assumption is very essential and the main proving tool is the continuous selection technique. Still there have been many equivalent formulations of the above theorem, and also many generalizations and applications have been established, e.g. see [3,4,5].

In this paper, we shall give a new existence theorem by using the topological property of convex sets. We first prove a new fixed point theorem by using the connectedness, and next prove a basic existence theorem. Finally equilibrium existence theorems are established as applications.

2. PRELIMINARIES

We first recall the following notations and definitions. Let A be a non-empty set. We shall denote by 2^A the family of all subsets of A . Let X, Y be non-empty topological spaces and $T : X \rightarrow 2^Y$ be a multimap. The multimap T is said to be *open* or have *open graph* if the graph of T ($\text{Gr } T = \{(x, T(x)) \in X \times Y | x \in X\}$) is open in $X \times Y$, and T is said to be *closed* or have *closed graph* if the graph of T is closed in $X \times Y$. We may call $T(x)$ the *upper section* of T , and $T^{-1}(y) (= \{x \in X | y \in T(x)\})$ the *lower section* of T . It is easy to check that if T has open graph, then the upper and lower sections of T are open; however the converse is not true in general.

A multimap $T : X \rightarrow 2^Y$ is said to be *closed at* x if for each net $(x_\alpha) \rightarrow x$, $y_\alpha \in T(x_\alpha)$ and $(y_\alpha) \rightarrow y$, then $y \in T(x)$. A multimap T is *closed* if it is closed at every point of X . It is clear that if T is closed at x and each $T(x_\alpha)$ is non-empty, then $T(x)$ is also non-empty. Note that if T is single-valued, then the closedness is equivalent to continuity as a function. Let $S, T : X \rightarrow 2^Y$ be multimaps; then S is called a *closed selection* of T if for each $x \in X$, $S(x) \subset T(x)$ and S is a closed multimap. Let X, Y be non-empty topological spaces and $T : X \rightarrow 2^Y$ be a correspondence. A correspondence $T : X \rightarrow 2^Y$ is said to be *upper semicontinuous* if for each $x \in X$ and each open set V in Y with $T(x) \subset V$, then there exists an open neighborhood U of x in X such that $T(y) \subset V$ for each $y \in U$.

For a given multimap $T : X \rightarrow 2^Y$, $x \in X$ is called a *maximal element* for T if $T(x) = \emptyset$. Indeed, in real applications, the maximal element may be interpreted as the set of those objects in X that are the "best" or "largest" choices.

Finally we recall the following definitions of equilibrium theory in mathematical economics. Let I be a finite or an infinite set of agents. For each $i \in I$, let X_i be a non-empty set of actions. A *generalized game* $\Gamma = (X_i, A_i, P_i)_{i \in I}$ is defined as a family of ordered triples (X_i, A_i, P_i) where X_i is a non-empty topological space (a choice set), $A_i : \prod_{j \in I} X_j \rightarrow 2^{X_i}$ is a constraint correspondence (multimap) and $P_i : \prod_{j \in I} X_j \rightarrow 2^{X_i}$ is a preference correspondence. An *equilibrium* for Γ is a point $\hat{x} \in X = \prod_{i \in I} X_i$, such that for each $i \in I$, $\hat{x}_i \in A_i(\hat{x})$ and $A_i(\hat{x}) \cap P_i(\hat{x}) = \emptyset$. In particular, when $I = \{1, \dots, n\}$, we may call Γ an *N-person game*.

3. A NEW FIXED POINT THEOREM

We begin with the following:

THEOREM 1. Let X be a non-empty connected subset of a Hausdorff topological space E and $S, T : X \rightarrow 2^E$ be multimaps such that

- (1) S is a closed selection of T , i.e. S is a closed multimap and $S(x) \subset T(x)$ for each $x \in X$,
- (2) for some $y_0 \in E$, $S^{-1}(y_0)$ is non-empty open in X .

Then we have

$$\{y_0\} \subset \bigcap_{x \in X} T(x).$$

In particular, if $y_0 \in X$, then y_0 is a fixed point for T , i.e. $y_0 \in T(y_0)$.

PROOF. Since S is closed, the lower section $S^{-1}(y_0)$ is closed. In fact, for every net $(x_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \Gamma} \subset S^{-1}(y_0)$ with $(x_\alpha) \rightarrow x$, we have $y_0 \in S(x_\alpha)$ for each $\alpha \in \Gamma$ and $(x_\alpha) \rightarrow x$, so by the closedness of S at x , $y_0 \in S(x)$. Hence $S(x) \neq \emptyset$ and $x \in S^{-1}(y_0)$, so that $S^{-1}(y_0)$ is closed. By assumption (2), $S^{-1}(y_0)$ is both open and closed in X , and hence by the connectedness of X , $S^{-1}(y_0) = X$. Therefore we have $y_0 \in S(x) \subset T(x)$ for each $x \in X$, so that $\{y_0\} \subset \bigcap_{x \in X} T(x)$. In particular, if $y_0 \in X$, then we have $y_0 \in T(y_0)$. This completes the proof.

We can reformulate Theorem 1 to the following existence of maximal element:

COROLLARY. Let X be a non-empty connected subset of a Hausdorff topological space E and $T : X \rightarrow 2^X$ be closed at every x where $T(x) \neq \emptyset$, such that

- (1) $T^{-1}(y_0)$ is non-empty open in X for some $y_0 \in X$,
- (2) $y_0 \notin T(y_0)$.

Then T has a maximal element $\bar{x} \in X$, i.e. $T(\bar{x}) = \emptyset$.

PROOF. Suppose $T(x) \neq \emptyset$ for each $x \in X$. Then by Theorem 1, $y_0 \in T(x)$ for each $x \in X$, and this contradicts assumption (2). Therefore T has a maximal element.

As we remarked before, maximal element theorem is a very essential tool for proving existence theorems in mathematical economics, e.g. see [3,4,5].

In Theorem 1, if we assume the strong open lower section condition on T , we can obtain the following:

THEOREM 2. Let X be a non-empty connected subset of a Hausdorff topological space E and $T : X \rightarrow 2^E$ be a closed multimap such that

- (1) for some $x_0 \in X$, $T(x_0)$ is non-empty,
- (2) for each $y \in E$, $T^{-1}(y)$ is open (maybe empty) in X .

Then there exists a non-empty subset $K \subset E$ such that $T(x) = K$ for each $x \in X$, i.e. T is a constant multimap.

PROOF. Suppose the assertion were false. Then we can find $x_1 \in X$ and $y_0 \in E$ such that either $y_0 \in T(x_0) \setminus T(x_1)$ or $y_0 \in T(x_1) \setminus T(x_0)$. Suppose the case that $y_0 \in T(x_0) \setminus T(x_1)$. Since T is closed, as in the proof of Theorem 1, the lower section $T^{-1}(y_0)$ is closed. By assumption (2), $T^{-1}(y_0)$ is also open. Since $x_0 \in T^{-1}(y_0)$, by the connectedness of X , $T^{-1}(y_0) = X$. Therefore we have $y_0 \in T(x)$ for each $x \in X$, which is a contradiction. In the case of $y_0 \in T(x_1) \setminus T(x_0)$, we can also show that $T^{-1}(y_0)$ is both open and closed, so that this induces the same contradiction. Therefore T must be constant, i.e. there exists a non-empty subset $K \subset E$ such that $T(x) = K$ for each $x \in X$. This completes the proof.

The above theorem can be useful in the following examples:

EXAMPLES. (i) Let $X := (0, 1]$ and $S, T : X \rightarrow 2^X$ be defined as follows:

$$T(x) = \begin{cases} (\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{2}, 1], & \text{if } 0 < x \leq \frac{1}{2}, \\ [\frac{3}{4}x + \frac{3}{4}, 1], & \text{if } \frac{1}{2} < x \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

$$S(x) := [\frac{1}{4}x + \frac{3}{4}, 1], \quad \text{for each } x \in X.$$

Then it is easy to see that S is clearly a closed selection of T and S satisfies the whole assumptions of Theorem 1. Therefore T has a fixed point. Note that since $S^{-1}(y)$ is not necessarily open, we cannot apply Theorem 2 directly to S .

(ii) Let $X := \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : y = \sin \frac{1}{x}, x > 0\} \cup \{(0, 0)\}$ be the topological sine curve in \mathbb{R}^2 and a multimap $T : X \rightarrow 2^X$ be defined as follows:

$$T(x, y) = \begin{cases} X, & \text{if } (x, y) = (0, 0), \\ \{(0, 0)\}, & \text{if } (x, y) \neq (0, 0). \end{cases}$$

Then T is clearly closed at every point in the connected set X and also $T^{-1}(0, 0) = X$ is open. Therefore, by Theorem 1, we can find a fixed point for T . And it should be noted that the domain of T and some $T(x)$ are not convex, so that many known fixed point theorems (e.g. [1,2,3,5,6]) cannot be suitable for T .

4. EXISTENCE OF EQUILIBRIA

As an application, we first give an existence theorem of equilibrium for 1-person game:

THEOREM 3. Let $\Gamma = (X, A, P)$ be a 1-person game such that

- (1) X is a non-empty connected subset of a Hausdorff topological space,
- (2) the correspondence $A : X \rightarrow 2^X$ is closed such that $A(x)$ is connected for some $x \in X$,
- (3) the correspondence $P : X \rightarrow 2^X$ is closed at every x where $A(x) \cap P(x) \neq \emptyset$,
- (4) for each $y \in X$, $A^{-1}(y)$ is open (maybe empty) in X ,
- (5) for some $y_0 \in X$, $A^{-1}(y_0) \cap P^{-1}(y_0)$ is non-empty open in X ,
- (6) $y_0 \notin P(y_0)$.

Then Γ has an equilibrium choice $\hat{x} \in X$, i.e

$$\hat{x} \in A(\hat{x}) \quad \text{and} \quad A(\hat{x}) \cap P(\hat{x}) = \emptyset.$$

PROOF. By assumptions (5), $A^{-1}(y_0)$ is non-empty and so $A(x_0)$ is non-empty for some $x_0 \in A^{-1}(y_0)$. By assumptions (2) and (4), using Theorem 2, there exists a non-empty subset $K \subset X$

such that $A(x) = K$ for each $x \in X$. Then by assumption (2) again, K is connected and the set $\{x \in X : x \in A(x)\}$ is exactly equal to K . We now consider a multimap $A \cap P : K \rightarrow 2^K$ defined by

$$(A \cap P)(x) := A(x) \cap P(x) \quad \text{for each } x \in K.$$

In fact, $(A \cap P)(x) = P(x) \cap K$ for each $x \in K$. Then by assumptions (2) and (3), $A \cap P$ is closed at every x where $A(x) \cap P(x) \neq \emptyset$. Therefore the whole assumptions of the Corollary are satisfied, so that there exists some $\hat{x} \in K$ such that $A(\hat{x}) \cap P(\hat{x}) = \emptyset$. Therefore \hat{x} is the desired equilibrium choice for Γ .

In the above, when $A(x) = X$ for each $x \in X$, we can obtain the previous Corollary as an application. And, by modifying the method in [4,5], we can generalize Theorem 3 to N-person game or generalized games with infinitely many agents.

We shall need the following result which can be found in Aubin and Cellina [7]:

LEMMA. Let X and Y be regular topological spaces and $T : X \rightarrow 2^Y$ be an upper semicontinuous multimap such that for each $x \in X$, $T(x)$ is non-empty closed. Then T is a closed multimap.

Finally, using different assumptions from Theorem 3, we can obtain the following existence of equilibrium for N-person game:

THEOREM 4. Let $\Gamma = (X_i, A_i, P_i)_{i \in I}$ be a generalized game where $I = \{1, \dots, n\}$ is a finite set of agents such that for each $i \in I$,

- (1) X_i is a non-empty connected subset of a normal topological space,
- (2) the correspondence $A_i : X = \prod_{j \in I} X_j \rightarrow 2^{X_i}$ is upper semicontinuous such that for each $x \in X$, $A_i(x)$ is a non-empty closed subset of X_i ,
- (3) the correspondence $P_i : X \rightarrow 2^{X_i}$ is upper semicontinuous such that for each $x \in X$, $P_i(x)$ is a closed subset of X_i ,
- (4) there exists some $y_i \in X_i$ such that $A_i^{-1}(y_i)$ and $(A \cap P)_i^{-1}(y_i)$ are non-empty open in X ,
- (5) the set $W_i := \{x \in X : (A_i \cap P_i)(x) \neq \emptyset\}$ is (possibly empty) closed,
- (6) for each $x \in W_i$, $x_i \notin P_i(x)$.

Then Γ has an equilibrium choice $\hat{y} \in X$, i.e. for each $i \in I$, $\hat{y}_i \in A_i(\hat{y})$ and $A_i(\hat{y}) \cap P_i(\hat{y}) = \emptyset$

PROOF. Since each X_i is connected, $X = \prod_{i \in I} X_i$ is also connected. And note that the correspondence $A := \prod_{i \in I} A_i : X \rightarrow 2^X$, defined by $A(x) = \prod_{i \in I} A_i(x)$ for each $x \in X$, is upper semicontinuous and each $A(x)$ is closed. Therefore, by the Lemma, A is a closed multimap.

If $W_i = \emptyset$ for all $i \in I$, then by applying Theorem 1 to the correspondence $A : X \rightarrow 2^X$, there exists a point $\hat{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in X$ such that $\hat{y} \in A(\hat{y})$, i.e. for each $i \in I$, $y_i \in A_i(\hat{y})$ and $A_i(\hat{y}) \cap P_i(\hat{y}) = \emptyset$. Therefore, we are done.

Suppose that I_0 is a maximal non-empty subset of I such that $W_i \neq \emptyset$ for all $i \in I_0$. Note that by assumptions (2) and (3), we can obtain the fact that the correspondence $A_i \cap P_i$ is also upper semicontinuous on W_i for every $i \in I_0$.

For each $i \in I_0$, we now define a correspondence $\phi_i : X \rightarrow 2^{X_i}$ by

$$\phi_i(x) = \begin{cases} A_i(x), & \text{if } x \notin W_i, \\ (A_i \cap P_i)(x), & \text{if } x \in W_i. \end{cases}$$

Then for each $x \in X$, $\phi_i(x)$ is a non-empty closed subset of X_i . To show ϕ_i is upper semicontinuous, we must show that the set $U := \{x \in X : \phi_i(x) \subset V\}$ is open in X for every open subset V of X_i . Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} U &= \{x \in W_i : \phi_i(x) \subset V\} \cup \{x \in X \setminus W_i : \phi_i(x) \subset V\} \\ &= \{x \in W_i : (A_i \cap P_i)(x) \subset V\} \cup \{x \in X \setminus W_i : A_i(x) \subset V\} \\ &= \{x \in X : (A_i \cap P_i)(x) \subset V\} \cup \{x \in X \setminus W_i : A_i(x) \subset V\}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $X \setminus W_i$ is open and $A_i \cap P_i$ is upper semicontinuous, U is open and hence ϕ_i is upper semicontinuous. Therefore, by the Lemma, ϕ_i is a closed multimap.

Next we shall show that $\phi_i^{-1}(y_i)$ is an open subset of X . In fact, by assumptions (4) and (5), we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_i^{-1}(y_i) &= \{x \in X : y_i \in \phi_i(x)\} \\ &= \{x \in W_i : y_i \in \phi_i(x)\} \cup \{x \in X \setminus W_i : y_i \in \phi_i(x)\} \\ &= [W_i \cap (A_i \cap P_i)^{-1}(y_i)] \cup [(X \setminus W_i) \cap A_i^{-1}(y_i)] \\ &= A_i^{-1}(y_i) \cap [P_i^{-1}(y_i) \cap ((X \setminus W_i) \cap A_i^{-1}(y_i))] \\ &= [A_i^{-1}(y_i) \cap P_i^{-1}(y_i)] \cup [(X \setminus W_i) \cap A_i^{-1}(y_i)] \end{aligned}$$

is non-empty open in X .

Finally, we define $\Psi : X \rightarrow 2^X$, by

$$\Psi(x) := \prod_{i \in I} \psi_i(x) \quad \text{for each } x \in X,$$

where

$$\psi_i(x) = \begin{cases} \phi_i(x), & \text{if } i \in I_0, \\ A_i(x), & \text{if } i \notin I_0. \end{cases}$$

Then each $\Psi(x)$ is a non-empty closed subset of X and Ψ is upper semicontinuous; so that by the Lemma again, Ψ is a closed multimap. If we let $\hat{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in X$, then $\Psi^{-1}(\hat{y})$ is a non-empty open subset of X . Therefore, by applying Theorem 1 to Ψ , we have that $\hat{y} \in \Psi(\hat{y})$, i.e. for each $i \in I$, $y_i \in \psi_i(\hat{y})$. For each $i \in I_0$, $y_i \in \psi_i(\hat{y}) = \phi_i(\hat{y})$. If $\hat{y} \in W_i$, then

$$y_i \in \psi_i(\hat{y}) = (A_i \cap P_i)(\hat{y}) \subset P_i(\hat{y}),$$

which is a contradiction. Therefore, for each $i \in I_0$, $\hat{y} \notin W_i$, i.e. $y_i \in \psi_i(\hat{y}) = A_i(\hat{y})$ and $(A_i \cap P_i)(\hat{y}) = \emptyset$. Next, in case $i \notin I_0$, then $W_i = \emptyset$ and $\psi_i = A_i$. Therefore, $\hat{y}_i \in \psi_i(\hat{y}) = A_i(\hat{y})$ and $P_i(\hat{y}) \cap A_i(\hat{y}) = \emptyset$. This completes the proof.

REMARKS. (i) In assumption (5), W_i must be a proper subset of X . In fact, if $W_i = X$, then by applying Theorem 1 to the correspondence $\prod_{i \in I} (A_i \cap P_i)$, we can get a fixed point $\hat{x} \in \prod_{i \in I} (A_i \cap P_i)(\hat{x}) \subset \prod_{i \in I} P_i(\hat{x})$, which contradicts assumption (6).

(ii) Theorem 4 is quite different from the previous many equilibrium existence theorems (e.g. [3,4,5]). In fact, in Theorem 4, we do not need the compact and convex assumption of the choice set X_i , but we only need the connectedness assumption. Also we do not need the convexity assumptions on the values $A_i(x)$ and $P_i(x)$ and strong open lower section assumptions; but we need the weaker open lower section property at some special point.

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