

## COUPLED FIXED POINT THEOREMS FOR SINGLE-VALUED MAPPINGS IN COMPLETE $b$ -METRIC SPACES

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**Abstract.** In this note, certain common fixed point results for single-valued mappings in complete  $b$ -metric spaces are obtained. Some illustrative examples are also given which demonstrate the validity of the hypotheses of our results. In process, a host of previously known results in the context of complete  $b$ -metric spaces are generalized and improved.

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

In 1922, Banach proved contraction principle [2] which provides a technique for solving existence problems in many branches of mathematical sciences. Further Banach contraction principle was generalized and improved by many authors in different ways. The concept of  $b$ -metric space was introduced and

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studied by Bakhtin [1] and Czerwik [5] as a generalization of metric spaces. Since then, several papers have dealt with fixed point theory for single-valued and multi-valued operators in  $b$ -metric spaces ([7],[8],[9]). In this paper, we give some fixed point results in such spaces. Our fixed point theorems, in the case of  $b$ -metric spaces generalize and improve some well-known results in the literature. Moreover, some examples are provided to illustrate the usability of the obtained results.

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $X$  be a non empty set and  $s \geq 1$  a given real number. A function  $d : X \times X \rightarrow C$  is called a  $b$ -metric space on  $x$  if  $d$  satisfies the following conditions:

- (BM1)  $0 \leq d(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in X$  and  $d(x, y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = y$ ;
- (BM2)  $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ ;
- (BM3)  $d(x, y) \leq s[d(x, z) + d(z, y)]$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$ .

Then  $d$  is called a  $b$ -metric on  $X$ , and  $(X, d)$  is called  $b$ -metric space. It is obvious that a  $b$ -metric space with base  $s = 1$  is a metric space.

The notions of a Cauchy sequence and a convergent sequence in  $b$ -metric spaces are defined by Boriceanu [4].

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $\{x_n\}$  be a sequence in a  $b$ -metric space  $(X, d)$ .

- (i) A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is called convergent if and only if there is  $x \in X$  such that  $d(x_n, x) \rightarrow 0$ , when  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ .
- (ii)  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence if and only if

$$d(x_n, x_m) \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{when } n, m \rightarrow +\infty.$$

In general, a  $b$ -metric space is said to be complete if and only if each Cauchy sequence in this space is convergent. From the properties of a  $b$ -metric space, we recall that if the limit of a convergent sequence exists, then it is unique. Also, each convergent sequence is a Cauchy sequence. But note that a  $b$ -metric, in the general case, is not continuous (see Roshan et al. [7]). The continuity of a mapping with respect to a  $b$ -metric is defined as follows.

**Definition 1.3.** Let  $(X, d)$  and  $(X', d')$  be two  $b$ -metric spaces with constant  $s$  and  $s'$ , respectively. A mapping  $T : X \rightarrow X'$  is called continuous if for each sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$ , which converges to  $x \in X$  with respect to  $d$ , then  $Tx_n$  converges to  $Tx$  with respect to  $d'$ .

If  $(X, \lesssim)$  is a partially ordered set and  $T : X \rightarrow X$  such that for  $x, y \in X$ ,  $x \lesssim y$  implies  $Tx \lesssim Ty$  then a mapping  $T$  is said to be non-decreasing. Similarly, mapping  $T : X \times X \rightarrow X$  is said to be non-decreasing, if for

$(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $x_1 \lesssim x_2, y_1 \lesssim y_2$  implies  $T(x_1, y_1) \lesssim T(x_2, y_2)$ . Here we state some useful definitions.

**Definition 1.4.** ([3], [6]) An element  $(x, y) \in X \times X$  is called:

(C1) A coupled fixed point of mappings  $T : X \times X \rightarrow X$  if

$$x \leq T(x, y), y \leq T(y, x).$$

(C2) A coupled coincidence point of mappings  $T : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $f : X \rightarrow X$  if  $f(x) = T(x, y)$  and  $f(y) = T(y, x)$  and in this case  $(f_x, f_y)$  is called coupled point of coincidence.

(C3) A coupled common fixed point of mapping  $T : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $f : X \rightarrow X$  if  $x = f(x) = T(x, y)$  and  $y = f(y) = T(y, x)$ .

**Definition 1.5.** An element  $(x, y) \in X \times X \rightarrow X$  is called:

(CC1) a common coupled coincidence point of the mapping  $T : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $f, g : X \rightarrow X$  if  $T(x, y) = fx = gx$  and  $T(y, x) = fy = gy$ ;

(CC2) a common coupled fixed point of mappings  $T : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $f, g : X \rightarrow X$  if  $T(x, y) = fx = gx = x$  and  $T(y, x) = fy = gy = y$ .

Our technique of proof is simpler and essentially different from the ones used in the numerous papers devoted to coupled fixed point as we have used more natural mappings(non-decreasing) than that of in other papers.

Concept of weakly related mappings on ordered spaces as follows.

**Definition 1.6.** Let  $(X, \lesssim)$  be a partially ordered space,  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $g : X \rightarrow X$ . Then the pair  $F, g$  is said to be weakly related if  $F(x, y) \lesssim gF(x, y)$  and  $gx \lesssim F(gx, gy)$  also  $F(y, x) \lesssim gF(y, x)$  and  $gy \lesssim F(gy, gx)$  for all  $(x, y) \in X \times X$ .

Now we prove the common coupled fixed point existence theorem for the weakly related mappings.

We first prove the following lemma.

**Lemma 1.7.** Let  $(X, d)$  be a  $b$ -metric space and  $\phi : X \rightarrow R$ . Define the relation,  $\lesssim$  on  $X$  as follows:  $x \lesssim y \Leftrightarrow d(x, y) \leq s[\phi(y) - \phi(x)], s \geq 1$  then  $\lesssim$  is partial order on  $X$ , called the partial order induced by  $\phi$ .

*Proof.* For all  $x \in X, d(x, x) = 0 = s[\phi(x) - \phi(x)]$  then  $x \lesssim x$  that is  $\lesssim$  is reflexive. Now for  $x, y \in X$  satisfy  $x \lesssim y$  and  $y \lesssim x$  then,

$$d(x, y) \leq s[\phi(y) - \phi(x)]$$

and

$$d(y, x) \leq s[\phi(x) - \phi(y)]$$

this shows that  $d(x, y) = 0$  i.e.,  $x = y$ . Thus  $\lesssim$  is antisymmetric. Again for  $x, y, z \in X$  satisfy  $x \lesssim y$  and  $y \lesssim z$ , then

$$d(x, y) \leq s[\phi(y) - \phi(x)]$$

and

$$d(y, z) \leq s[\phi(z) - \phi(y)]$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(x, z) &\leq d(x, y) + d(y, z) \\ &\leq s[\phi(y) - \phi(x)] + s[\phi(z) - \phi(y)] \\ &= s[\phi(z) - \phi(x)], \end{aligned}$$

then  $x \lesssim z$ . Thus  $\lesssim$  is transitive and so the relation  $\lesssim$  is a partial order on  $X$ .  $\square$

**Example 1.8.** Let  $X = [0, 1]$  and  $d(x, y) = \frac{2}{3}(x - y)^2$  then  $(X, d)$  is a  $b$ -metric space on  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $s = 2$ . Let  $\phi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\phi(x) = 4x$ . Therefore,  $X$  is a partially ordered space.

## 2. MAIN RESULTS

Now we prove our main theorems.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $(X, d)$  is a complete  $b$ -metric space,  $\phi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a bounded from above function and  $\lesssim$  the partial order induced by  $\phi$ . Let  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  be a non decreasing continuous mapping on  $X$  such that there exist two elements  $x_0, y_0 \in X$  with  $x_0 \lesssim F(x_0, y_0)$  and  $y_0 \lesssim F(y_0, x_0)$ . Then  $F$  has coupled fixed point in  $X$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x_0, y_0 \in X$  such that  $x_0 \lesssim F(x_0, y_0)$  and  $y_0 \lesssim F(y_0, x_0)$ . We construct sequences  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  in  $X$  as follows

$$x_{n+1} = F(x_n, y_n) \quad \text{and} \quad y_{n+1} = F(y_n, x_n) \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0. \quad (2.1)$$

We shall show that

$$x_n \lesssim x_{n+1} \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0, \quad (2.2)$$

$$y_n \lesssim y_{n+1} \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0. \quad (2.3)$$

We shall use the mathematical induction.

Let  $n = 0$ , since  $x_0 \lesssim F(x_0, y_0)$  and  $y_0 \lesssim F(y_0, x_0)$  and as  $x_1 = F(x_0, y_0)$  and  $y_1 = F(y_0, x_0)$  we have  $x_0 \lesssim x_1$  and  $y_0 \lesssim y_1$ . Thus (2.2) and (2.3) hold

for  $n = 0$ . Suppose now that (2.2) and (2.3) hold for some fixed  $n \geq 0$ . Then since  $x_n \lesssim x_{n+1}$  and  $y_n \lesssim y_{n+1}$  and since  $F$  is non decreasing, we have

$$\begin{aligned} x_{n+2} &= F(x_{n+1}, y_{n+1}) \lesssim F(x_n, y_n) = x_{n+1}, \\ y_{n+2} &= F(y_{n+1}, x_{n+1}) \lesssim F(y_n, x_n) = y_{n+1}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Thus by mathematical induction we conclude that (2.2) and (2.3) hold for all  $n \geq 0$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} x_0 &\lesssim x_1 \lesssim x_2 \lesssim x_3 \lesssim \cdots \lesssim x_n \lesssim x_{n+1} \lesssim \cdots, \\ y_0 &\lesssim y_1 \lesssim y_2 \lesssim y_3 \lesssim \cdots \lesssim y_n \lesssim y_{n+1} \lesssim \cdots. \end{aligned}$$

That is the sequences  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  are non decreasing in  $X$ . By the definition of  $\lesssim$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(x_0) &\lesssim \phi(x_1) \lesssim \phi(x_2) \lesssim \phi(x_3) \lesssim \cdots, \\ \phi(y_0) &\lesssim \phi(y_1) \lesssim \phi(y_2) \lesssim \phi(y_3) \lesssim \cdots. \end{aligned}$$

In other words, the sequences  $\{\phi(x_n)\}$  and  $\{\phi(y_n)\}$  are non-decreasing sequences in the set of real numbers. Since  $\phi$  is bounded from above,  $\{\phi(x_n)\}$  and  $\{\phi(y_n)\}$  are convergent and hence  $b$ -Cauchy. So, for all  $\epsilon \geq 0$ , there exists  $n_0 \in N$  such that for all  $m > n > n_0$ . We have  $|\phi(x_m) - \phi(x_n)| = \phi(x_m) - \phi(x_n) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{s}$  and  $|\phi(y_m) - \phi(y_n)| = \phi(y_m) - \phi(y_n) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{s}$ . Since  $x_n \lesssim x_m$ , it follows that

$$d(x_n, x_m) \leq s[\phi(x_m) - \phi(x_n)] < \epsilon$$

and since  $y_n \lesssim y_m$ , it follows that

$$d(y_n, y_m) \leq s[\phi(y_m) - \phi(y_n)] < \epsilon.$$

This shows that the sequences  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  are  $b$ -Cauchy in  $X$  and since  $X$  is complete, there exist points  $x, y \in X$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = y$ . Consequently, taking the limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in (2.1) and using the continuity of  $F$ , we get

$$x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}) = F(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n-1}, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{n-1}) = F(x, y)$$

and

$$y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(y_{n-1}, x_{n-1}) = F(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{n-1}, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n-1}) = F(y, x).$$

Thus we proved that  $x = F(x, y)$  and  $y = F(y, x)$ . Hence  $(x, y)$  is a coupled fixed point of  $F$ .  $\square$

**Example 2.2.** Let  $X = [0, 1]$ ,  $d(x, y) = \frac{2}{3}(x - y)^2$ , then  $(X, d)$  is a complete  $b$ -metric space for  $s = 2$ . We define  $\phi : X \rightarrow R$  by  $\phi(x) = -2x$  and define the

relation  $\lesssim$  on  $X$  as  $x \lesssim y$  iff  $d(x, y) \leq s[\phi(y) - \phi(x)]$ . Then  $\lesssim$  is partial order induced by  $\phi$ . Also let  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  as follows:

$$F(x, y) = \frac{x(1+y)}{2},$$

which is obviously a non-decreasing function on  $X$ . If we let  $x_0 = 0$  and  $y_0 = 1$ , then  $F(x_0, y_0) = \frac{x_0(1+y_0)}{2} = 0$  and  $F(y_0, x_0) = \frac{y_0(1+x_0)}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$ . So we see that  $x_0 \lesssim F(x_0, y_0)$  and  $y_0 \lesssim F(y_0, x_0)$ . Hence all conditions of Theorem 2.1 are satisfied. Thus  $(0, 0)$  is a coupled fixed point of  $F$ .

**2.1. Common coupled fixed point for weakly related single-valued mappings in complete  $b$ -metric spaces.** Concept of weakly related mappings on ordered spaces is as follows:

**Definition 2.3.** Let  $(X, \lesssim)$  be a partially ordered space,  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $g : X \rightarrow X$ . Then the pair  $\{F, g\}$  is said to be weakly related if  $F(x, y) \lesssim gF(x, y)$  and  $gx \lesssim F(gx, gy)$  also  $F(y, x) \lesssim gF(y, x)$  and  $gy \lesssim F(gy, gx)$  for all  $x, y \in X \times X$ .

Now we prove the common coupled fixed point existence theorem for the weakly related mappings.

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $(X, d)$  is a complete  $b$ -metric space,  $\phi : X \rightarrow R$  be a bounded from above function and  $\lesssim$  the partial order induced by  $\phi$ . Let  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $G : X \rightarrow X$  are two continuous mappings such that the pair  $\{F, G\}$  is weakly related on  $X$ . If there exist two elements  $x_0, y_0 \in X$  with  $x_0 \lesssim F(x_0, y_0)$  and  $y_0 \lesssim F(y_0, x_0)$  then  $F$  and  $G$  have a common coupled fixed point in  $X$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x_0, y_0 \in X$  such that  $x_0 \lesssim F(x_0, y_0)$  and  $y_0 \lesssim F(y_0, x_0)$ . We construct sequences  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  in  $X$  as follows

$$x_{2n+1} = F(x_{2n}, y_{2n}) \quad \text{and} \quad x_{2n+2} = Gx_{2n+1} \quad (2.5)$$

and

$$y_{2n+1} = F(y_{2n}, x_{2n}) \quad \text{and} \quad y_{2n+2} = Gy_{2n+1} \quad (2.6)$$

for all  $n \geq 0$ . We shall show that

$$x_n \lesssim x_{n+1}, \quad y_n \lesssim y_{n+1} \quad \text{for all} \quad n \geq 0.$$

Since  $x_0 \lesssim F(x_0, y_0)$ , using (2.5) we have  $x_0 \lesssim x_1$ . Again since the pair  $\{F, G\}$  is weakly related, we have  $F(x_0, y_0) \lesssim GF(x_0, y_0)$  i.e.,  $x_1 \lesssim Gx_1$  and using (2.6) we get  $x_1 \lesssim x_2$ . Also, since  $Gx_1 \lesssim F(Gx_1, Gy_1)$ , using (2.5) we have  $x_2 \lesssim x_3$ . Similarly using weakly related property for  $\{F, G\}$  and repeated use of (2.3) gives

$$x_0 \lesssim x_1 \lesssim x_2 \lesssim x_3 \lesssim \cdots \lesssim x_n \lesssim x_{n+1} \lesssim \cdots .$$

Also, since  $y_0 \preceq F(y_0, x_0)$ , using (2.5) we have  $y_0 \preceq y_1$ . Again since the pair  $\{F, G\}$  is weakly related, we have  $F(y_0, x_0) \preceq GF(y_0, x_0)$  *i.e.*,  $y_1 \preceq Gy_1$  and using (2.5) we get  $y_1 \preceq y_2$ . Also, since  $Gy_1 \preceq F(Gy_1, Gx_1)$ , using (2.5) we have  $y_2 \preceq y_3$ . Similarly using the weakly related property for  $\{F, G\}$  and repeated use of (2.5) gives

$$y_0 \preceq y_1 \preceq y_2 \preceq y_3 \preceq \cdots \preceq y_n \preceq y_{n+1} \preceq \cdots .$$

That is the sequences  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  non decreasing in  $X$ . By the definition of  $\preceq$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(x_0) \preceq \phi(x_1) \preceq \phi(x_2) \preceq \phi(x_3) \preceq \cdots , \\ \phi(y_0) \preceq \phi(y_1) \preceq \phi(y_2) \preceq \phi(y_3) \preceq \cdots . \end{aligned}$$

In other words, the sequences  $\{\phi(x_n)\}$  and  $\{\phi(y_n)\}$  are non-decreasing sequences in the set of real numbers. Since  $\phi$  is bounded from above,  $\{\phi(x_n)\}$  and  $\{\phi(y_n)\}$  are  $b$ -convergent and hence are  $b$ -Cauchy. So, for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $n_0 \in N$  such that for all  $m > n > n_0$ , we have

$$|\phi(x_m) - \phi(x_n)| = \{\phi(x_m)\} - \{\phi(x_n)\} < \frac{\epsilon}{s}$$

and

$$|\phi(y_m) - \phi(y_n)| = \phi(y_m) - \phi(y_n) < \frac{\epsilon}{s}.$$

Since  $x_n \preceq x_m$ , it follows that  $d(x_n, x_m) \leq s[\phi(x_m) - \phi(x_n)] < \epsilon$ . Since  $y_n \preceq y_m$ , it follows that

$$d(y_n, y_m) \leq s[\phi(y_m) - \phi(y_n)] < \epsilon.$$

This shows that the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  are  $b$ -Cauchy in  $X$  and since  $X$  is  $b$ -complete, there exist points  $x, y \in X$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = y$ . Since the sequences  $\{x_{2n}\}, \{x_{2n+1}\}$  and  $\{x_{2n+2}\}$  are sub sequences of  $\{x_n\}$ , therefore  $x_{2n} \rightarrow x$ ,  $x_{2n+1} \rightarrow x$  and  $x_{2n+2} \rightarrow x$ . Also the sequence  $\{y_{2n}\}, \{y_{2n+1}\}$  and  $\{y_{2n+2}\}$  are sub sequences of  $\{y_n\}$ , therefore  $y_{2n} \rightarrow y$ ,  $y_{2n+1} \rightarrow y$  and  $y_{2n+2} \rightarrow y$ .

Consequently, taking the limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in (2.5) and using the continuity of  $F$  and  $G$ , we get

$$x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{2n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(x_{2n}, y_{2n}) = F(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{2n}, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{2n}) = F(x, y)$$

and

$$x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{2n+2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Gx_{2n+1} = G \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{2n+1} = Gx.$$

Similarly, taking the limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in (2.6) and using the continuity of  $F$  and  $G$ , we get

$$y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{2n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(y_{2n}, x_{2n}) = F(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{2n}, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{2n}) = F(y, x)$$

and

$$y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{2n+2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Gy_{2n+1} = G(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{2n+1}) = Gy.$$

Thus we proved that  $Gx = x = F(x, y)$  and  $Gy = y = F(y, x)$ . Hence  $(x, y)$  is a common coupled fixed point of  $F$  and  $G$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $(X, d)$  is a complete  $b$ -metric space,  $\phi : X \rightarrow R$  be a bounded from above function and  $\lesssim$  the partial order induced by  $\phi$ . Let  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $G, H : X \rightarrow X$  are three continuous mappings such that the pair  $\{F, G\}$  and  $\{F, H\}$  are weakly related on  $X$ . Then  $F, G$  and  $H$  have a common coupled fixed point in  $X$ .*

*Proof.* We construct sequences  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  in  $X$  as follows

$$x_{3n} = Gx_{3n-1}, x_{3n-1} = F(x_{3n-2}, y_{3n-2}) \quad \text{and} \quad x_{3n-2} = Hx_{3n-3} \quad (2.7)$$

and

$$y_{3n} = (Gy_{3n-1}, y_{3n-1}) = F(y_{3n-2}, x_{3n-2}) \quad \text{and} \quad y_{3n-2} = Hy_{3n-3} \quad (2.8)$$

for all  $n \geq 0$ . We shall show that

$$x_n \lesssim x_{n+1}, \quad y_n \lesssim y_{n+1} \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0.$$

We have  $x_1 = Hx_0$ . Since the pair  $\{F, H\}$  is weakly related, we have  $Hx_0 \lesssim F(Hx_0, Hy_0)$  i.e.,  $x_1 \lesssim F(x_1, y_1)$  and using (2.7), we get  $x_1 \lesssim x_2$ . Again since the pair  $\{F, G\}$  is weakly related, we have  $F(x_1, y_1) \lesssim GF(x_1, y_1)$ . Using (2.7), we get  $x_2 \lesssim x_3$ . Similarly using the weakly related property for  $\{F, G\}$  and  $\{F, H\}$  repeated use of (2.7) gives

$$x_1 \lesssim x_2 \lesssim x_3 \lesssim \cdots \lesssim x_n \lesssim x_{n+1} \lesssim \cdots .$$

Also, we have  $y_1 = Hy_0$ . Since the pair  $\{F, H\}$  is weakly related, we have  $Hy_0 \lesssim F(Hy_0, Hx_0)$  i.e.,  $y_1 \lesssim F(y_1, x_1)$ . Using (2.8), we get  $y_1 \lesssim y_2$ . Again since the pair  $\{F, G\}$  is weakly related, we have  $F(y_1, x_1) \lesssim GF(y_1, x_1)$  i.e.,  $y_2 \lesssim Gy_2$  and using (2.8) we get  $y_2 \lesssim y_3$ .

Similarly using the weakly related property for  $\{F, G\}$  and  $\{F, H\}$  and repeated use of (2.7) and (2.8) gives

$$y_1 \lesssim y_2 \lesssim y_3 \lesssim \cdots \lesssim y_n \lesssim y_{n+1} \lesssim \cdots .$$

That is the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  are non decreasing in  $X$ . By the definition of  $\lesssim$ , we have

$$\phi(x_0) \lesssim \phi(x_1) \lesssim \phi(x_2) \lesssim \phi(x_3) \lesssim \cdots$$

and

$$\phi(y_0) \lesssim \phi(y_1) \lesssim \phi(y_2) \lesssim \phi(y_3) \lesssim \cdots .$$

In other words, the sequence  $\{\phi(x_n)\}$  and  $\{\phi(y_n)\}$  are non decreasing sequences in the set of real numbers. Since  $\phi$  is bounded from above,  $\{\phi(x_n)\}$



and  $\{\phi(y_n)\}$  are  $b$ -convergent and hence are  $b$ -Cauchy. So, for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $n_0 \in N$  such that for all  $m > n > n_0$ . We have  $|\phi(x_m) - \phi(x_n)| = \phi(x_m) - \phi(x_n) < \frac{\epsilon}{s}$  and  $|\phi(y_m) - \phi(y_n)| = \phi(y_m) - \phi(y_n) < \frac{\epsilon}{s}$ . Since  $x_n \lesssim x_m$ , it follows that

$$d(x_n, x_m) \leq s[\phi(x_m) - \phi(x_n)] < \epsilon$$

and since  $y_n \lesssim y_m$ , it follows that

$$d(y_n, y_m) \leq s[\phi(y_m) - \phi(y_n)] < \epsilon.$$

This shows that the sequences  $\{x_n\}$  and  $\{y_n\}$  are  $b$ -Cauchy in  $X$  and since  $X$  is  $b$ -complete, there exist points  $x, y \in X$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = y$ . Since the sequences  $\{x_{3n}\}, \{x_{3n-1}\}$  and  $\{x_{3n-2}\}$  are subsequences of  $\{x_n\}$ , therefore  $x_{3n} \rightarrow x$ ,  $x_{3n-1} \rightarrow x$  and  $x_{3n-2} \rightarrow x$ . Also the sequences  $\{y_{3n}\}, \{y_{3n-1}\}$  and  $\{y_{3n-2}\}$  are subsequences of  $\{y_n\}$ , therefore  $y_{3n} \rightarrow y$ ,  $y_{3n-1} \rightarrow y$  and  $y_{3n-2} \rightarrow y$ .

Consequently, taking the limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in (2.7) and using the continuity of  $F, G$  and  $H$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{3n-1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(x_{3n-2}, y_{3n-2}) \\ &= F(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{3n-2}, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{3n-2}) = F(x, y), \\ x &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{3n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Gx_{3n-1} = G(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{3n-1}) = Gx \end{aligned}$$

and also

$$x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{3n-2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Hx_{3n-3} = H(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{3n-3}) = Hx.$$

Similarly, taking the limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in (2.8) and using the continuity of  $F$  and  $G$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{3n-1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(y_{3n-2}, x_{3n-2}) = F(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{3n-2}, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{3n-2}) = F(y, x), \\ y &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{3n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Gy_{3n-1} = G(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{3n-1}) = Gy \end{aligned}$$

and also

$$y = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{3n-2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Hy_{3n-3} = H(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_{3n-3}) = Hy.$$

Thus we proved that  $Hx = Gx = x = F(x, y)$  and  $Hy = Gy = y = F(y, x)$ . Hence  $(x, y)$  is a common coupled fixed point of  $H, G$  and  $F$ .  $\square$

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