

## COUPLED FIXED POINT THEOREMS IN $S_b$ -METRIC SPACES

Shaban Sedghi<sup>1</sup> and Abdolsattar Gholidahneh<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, Qaemshahr Branch  
Islamic Azad University, Qaemshahr, Iran  
e-mail: sedghi\_gh@yahoo.com, sedghi\_gh@qaemiau.ac.ir

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics, Qaemshahr Branch  
Islamic Azad University, Qaemshahr, Iran  
e-mail: Gholidahneh.s@gmail.com

**Abstract.** Bhaskar and Lakshmikantham [1], Lakshmikantham and Ćirić [3] introduced the concept of a coupled coincidence point of a mapping  $F$  from  $X \times X$  into  $X$  and a mapping  $g$  from  $X$  into  $X$ . In this paper, we introduce  $S_b$ -metric spaces and give some of their properties. Also we prove a coupled coincidence fixed point theorem in  $S_b$ -metric spaces. Using a similar method as in [2] coupled fixed point theorems in  $G_b$ -metric spaces is obtained in  $S_b$ -metric spaces. One example is presented to verify the effectiveness and applicability of our main result.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Banach contraction principle is the most celebrated fixed point theorem and has been generalized in various directions. Fixed point problems for contractive mappings in metric spaces with a partially order have been studied by many authors. Bhaskar and Lakshmikantham [1], Lakshmikantham and Ćirić [3] introduced the concept of a coupled coincidence point and studied the problems of a uniqueness of a coupled fixed point in partially ordered metric spaces. They applied their theorems to problems of the existence of solution for periodic boundary value problem. Lakshmikantham [1], Lakshmikantham

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<sup>0</sup>Corresponding author: Shaban Sedghi.

and Ćirić [3] established some coincidence and common coupled fixed point theorems under nonlinear contractions in partially ordered metric spaces.

In this paper, we prove a coupled coincidence fixed point theorem in  $S_b$ -metric spaces.

First we recall some notions, lemmas and examples which will be useful later.

**Definition 1.1.** ([6]) Let  $X$  be a nonempty set. A  $S$ -metric on  $X$  is a function  $S : X^3 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  that satisfies the following conditions for all  $x, y, z, a \in X$ ,

(S1)  $0 < S(x, y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$  with  $x \neq y \neq z$ ,

(S2)  $S(x, y, z) = 0$  if  $x = y = z$ ,

(S3)  $S(x, y, z) \leq S(x, x, a) + S(y, y, a) + S(z, z, a)$  for all  $x, y, z, a \in X$ .

The pair  $(X, S)$  is called an  $S$ -metric space.

**Example 1.1.** ([6]) Let  $X = \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $d$  be an ordinary metric on  $X$ . Put  $S(x, y, z) = d(x, y) + d(x, z) + d(y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , that is,  $S$  is the perimeter of the triangle given  $x, y, z$ . Then  $S$  is an  $S$ -metric on  $X$ .

**Lemma 1.1.** ([5]) *In an  $S$ -metric space, we have  $S(x, x, y) = S(y, y, x)$ .*

**Definition 1.2.** ([7]) Let  $(X, S)$  be an  $S$ -metric space and  $A \subseteq X$ .

- (1) If for every  $x \in X$  there exists  $r > 0$  such that  $B_s(x, r) \subseteq A$ , then the subset  $A$  is called open subset of  $X$ .
- (2) Subset  $A$  of  $X$  is said to be  $S$ -bounded if there exists  $r > 0$  such that  $S(x, x, y) < r$  for all  $x, y \in A$ .
- (3) A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  convergents to  $x$  if and only if  $S(x_n, x_n, x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . That is for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for each  $n \geq n_0$ ,  $S(x_n, x_n, x) < \varepsilon$  and we denote by  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$ .
- (4) Sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  is called a Cauchy sequence if for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for each  $n, m \geq n_0$ ,  $S(x_n, x_n, x_m) < \varepsilon$ .
- (5) The  $S$ -metric space  $(X, S)$  is said to be complete if every Cauchy sequence is convergent.
- (6) Let  $\tau$  be the of all  $A \subseteq X$  which  $x \in A$  if and only if there exists  $r > 0$  such that  $B_s(x, r) \subseteq A$ . Then  $\tau$  is a topology on  $X$ .

**Lemma 1.2.** ([7]) *Let  $(X, S)$  be an  $S$ -metric space. If there exist sequence  $\{x_n\}, \{y_n\}$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n = y$ , then*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(x_n, x_n, y_n) = S(x, x, y).$$

**Lemma 1.3.** ([2]) *Let  $(X, S)$  be an  $S$ -metric space. Then*

$$S(x, x, z) \leq 2S(x, x, y) + S(y, y, z)$$

and

$$S(x, x, z) \leq 2S(x, x, y) + S(z, z, y)$$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ .

Following we give our definitions and examples of  $S_b$ -metric spaces.

**Definition 1.3.** Let  $X$  be a nonempty set and  $b \geq 1$  be a given real number. Suppose that a mapping  $S : X^3 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfies:

( $S_b1$ )  $0 < S(x, y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$  with  $x \neq y \neq z$ ,

( $S_b2$ )  $S(x, y, z) = 0$  if  $x = y = z$ ,

( $S_b3$ )  $S(x, y, z) \leq b(S(x, x, a) + S(y, y, a) + S(z, z, a))$  for all  $x, y, z, a \in X$ .

Then  $S$  is called a  $S_b$ -metric and the pair  $(X, S)$  is called a  $S_b$ -metric space.

It should be noted that, the class of  $S_b$ -metric spaces is effectively larger than that of  $S$ -metric spaces. Indeed each  $S$ -metric space is a  $S_b$ -metric space with  $b = 1$ .

Following example shows that a  $S_b$ -metric on  $X$  need not be a  $S$ -metric on  $X$ .

**Example 1.2.** Let  $(X, S)$  be a  $S$ -metric space and  $S_*(x, y, z) = S(x, y, z)^p$ , where  $p > 1$  is a real number. Note that  $S_*$  is a  $S_b$ -metric with  $b = 2^{2(p-1)}$ . Obviously,  $S_*$  satisfies condition ( $S_b1$ ), ( $S_b2$ ) of Definition 1.3, so it suffice to show ( $S_b3$ ) holds. If  $1 < p < \infty$ , then the convexity of the function  $f(x) = x^p$ , ( $x > 0$ ) implies that  $(a + b)^p \leq 2^{p-1}(a^p + b^p)$ . Thus, for each  $x, y, z, a \in X$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S_*(x, y, z) &= S(x, y, z)^p \\ &\leq ([S(x, x, a) + S(y, y, a)] + S(z, z, a))^p \\ &\leq 2^{p-1}([S(x, x, a) + S(y, y, a)]^p + S(z, z, a)^p) \\ &\leq 2^{p-1}(2^{p-1}(S(x, x, a)^p + S(y, y, a)^p) + S(z, z, a)^p) \\ &\leq 2^{2(p-1)}(S(x, x, a)^p + S(y, y, a)^p) + 2^{p-1}S(z, z, a)^p \\ &\leq 2^{2(p-1)}(S(x, x, a)^p + S(y, y, a)^p + S(z, z, a)^p) \\ &\leq 2^{2(p-1)}(S_*(x, x, a) + S_*(y, y, a) + S_*(z, z, a)) \end{aligned}$$

so,  $S_*$  is a  $S_b$ -metric with  $b = 2^{2(p-1)}$ .

Also in the above example,  $(X, S_*)$  is not necessarily a  $S$ -metric space. For example, let  $X = \mathbb{R}$ ,  $S_*(x, y, z) = (|y + z - 2x| + |y - z|)^2$  is a  $S_b$ -metric on  $\mathbb{R}$ , with  $p = 2$ ,  $b = 2^{2(2-1)} = 4$ , for all  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$ . But it is not a  $S$ -metric on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

To see this, let  $x = 3$ ,  $y = 5$ ,  $z = 7$ ,  $a = \frac{7}{2}$ . Hence, we get

$$\begin{aligned} S_*(3, 5, 7) &= (|5 + 7 - 6| + |5 - 7|)^2 = 8^2 = 64, \\ S_*\left(3, 3, \frac{7}{2}\right) &= \left(\left|3 + \frac{7}{2} - 6\right| + \left|3 - \frac{7}{2}\right|\right)^2 = 1^2 = 1, \\ S_*\left(5, 5, \frac{7}{2}\right) &= \left(\left|5 + \frac{7}{2} - 10\right| + \left|5 - \frac{7}{2}\right|\right)^2 = 3^2 = 9, \\ S_*\left(7, 7, \frac{7}{2}\right) &= \left(\left|7 + \frac{7}{2} - 14\right| + \left|7 - \frac{7}{2}\right|\right)^2 = 7^2 = 49. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} S_*(3, 5, 7) &= 64 \\ &\not\leq 59 = S_*\left(3, 3, \frac{7}{2}\right) + S_*\left(5, 5, \frac{7}{2}\right) + S_*\left(7, 7, \frac{7}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Now we present some definitions and propositions in  $S_b$ -metric space.

**Definition 1.4.** Let  $(X, S)$  be a  $S_b$ -metric space. Then, for  $x \in X$ ,  $r > 0$  we defined the open ball  $B_S(x, r)$  and closed ball  $B_S[x, r]$  with center  $x$  and radius  $r$  as follows respectively:

$$\begin{aligned} B_S(x, r) &= \{y \in X : S(y, y, x) < r\}, \\ B_S[x, r] &= \{y \in X : S(y, y, x) \leq r\}. \end{aligned}$$

**Example 1.3.** Let  $X = \mathbb{R}$ . Denote  $S(x, y, z) = (|y + z - 2x| + |y - z|)^2$  is a  $S_b$ -metric on  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $b = 2^{2(2-1)} = 4$ , for all  $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} B_S(1, 2) &= \{y \in \mathbb{R} : S(y, y, 1) < 2\} \\ &= \left\{y \in \mathbb{R} : |y - 1| < \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right\} \\ &= \left\{y \in \mathbb{R} : 1 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} < y < 1 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right\} \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, 1 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 1.4.** In an  $S_b$ -metric space, we have

$$S(x, x, y) \leq bS(y, y, x)$$

and

$$S(y, y, x) \leq bS(x, x, y).$$

*Proof.* By third condition of  $S_b$ -metric, we have

$$\begin{aligned} S(x, x, y) &\leq b(2S(x, x, x) + S(y, y, x)) \\ &= bS(y, y, x) \end{aligned}$$

and similarly

$$\begin{aligned} S(y, y, x) &\leq b(2S(y, y, y) + S(x, x, y)) \\ &= bS(x, x, y). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Lemma 1.5.** *Let  $(X, S)$  be an  $S_b$ -metric space. Then*

$$S(x, x, z) \leq 2bS(x, x, y) + bS(z, z, y)$$

and

$$S(x, x, z) \leq 2bS(x, x, y) + b^2S(y, y, z).$$

*Proof.* By third condition of  $S_b$ -metric, we have

$$\begin{aligned} S(x, x, z) &\leq b(S(x, x, y) + S(x, x, y) + S(z, z, y)) \\ &= 2bS(x, x, y) + bS(z, z, y) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S(x, x, z) &\leq b(S(x, x, y) + S(x, x, y) + S(z, z, y)) \\ &\leq b(2S(x, x, y) + bS(y, y, z)) \\ &= 2bS(x, x, y) + b^2S(y, y, z). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Definition 1.5.** Let  $(X, S)$  be a  $S_b$ -metric space. A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  is said to be:

- (1)  $S_b$ -Cauchy sequence if, for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $S(x_n, x_n, x_m) < \varepsilon$  for each  $m, n \geq n_0$ .
- (2)  $S_b$ -convergent to a point  $x \in X$  if, for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a positive integer  $n_0$  such that  $S(x_n, x_n, x) < \varepsilon$  or  $S(x, x, x_n) < \varepsilon$  for all  $n \geq n_0$  and we denote by  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$ .

**Definition 1.6.** A  $S_b$ -metric space  $(X, S)$  is called complete if every  $S_b$ -Cauchy sequence is  $S_b$ -convergent in  $X$ .

**Definition 1.7.** ([3]) Let  $X$  be a nonempty set. Then we say that the mappings  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $g : X \rightarrow X$  are commutative if  $gF(x, y) = F(gx, gy)$ .

**Definition 1.8.** ([3]) An element  $(x, y) \in X \times X$  is called a coupled coincidence point of the mappings  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $g : X \rightarrow X$  if  $F(x, y) = gx$  and  $F(y, x) = gy$ .

**Definition 1.9.** Let  $(X, S)$  and  $(X', S')$  be  $S_b$ -metric spaces and let  $f : (X, S) \rightarrow (X', S')$  be a function. Then  $f$  is said to be continuous at a point  $a \in X$  if and only if for every sequence  $x_n$  in  $X$ ,  $S(x_n, x_n, a) \rightarrow 0$  implies  $S'(f(x_n), f(x_n), f(a)) \rightarrow 0$ . A function  $f$  is continuous at  $X$  if and only if it is continuous at all  $a \in X$ .

**Definition 1.10.** ([1]) An element  $(x, y) \in X \times X$  is called a coupled fixed point of a mapping  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  if  $F(x, y) = x$  and  $F(y, x) = y$ .

## 2. COMMON FIXED POINT RESULTS

Let  $\Phi$  denote the class of all functions  $\phi : R^+ \rightarrow R^+$  such that  $\phi$  is increasing, continuous,  $\phi(t) < \frac{t}{2}$  for all  $t > 0$  and  $\phi(0) = 0$ . It is easy to see that for every  $\phi \in \Phi$ , we can choose  $0 < k < \frac{1}{2}$  such that  $\phi(t) \leq kt$ . For example  $\phi(t) = kt$  for  $k \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ .

We start our work by proving the following two crucial lemmas.

**Lemma 2.1.** Let  $(X, S)$  be a  $S_b$ -metric space with  $b \geq 1$  and suppose that  $\{x_n\}$  is a  $S_b$ -convergent to  $x$ , then we have

$$\frac{1}{b^2}S(x, x, y) \leq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(x_n, x_n, y) \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(x_n, x_n, y) \leq b^2S(x, x, y).$$

In particular, if  $x = y$ , then we have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(x_n, x_n, y) = 0$ .

*Proof.* Using the condition  $(S_b3)$  of Definition 1.3 in  $(X, S)$ , it is easy to see that

$$S(x_n, x_n, y) \leq 2bS(x_n, x_n, x) + b^2S(x, x, y)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{b^2}S(x, x, y) \leq 2S(x_n, x_n, x) + S(x_n, x_n, y).$$

Taking the upper limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in the first inequality and the lower limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in the second inequality we obtain the desired result.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $(X, S)$  be a  $S_b$ -metric space. Let  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $g : X \rightarrow X$  be two functions such that

$$S(F(x, y), F(u, v), F(z, w)) \leq \phi(S(gx, gu, gz) + S(gy, gv, gw)) \quad (2.1)$$

for some  $\phi \in \Phi$  and for all  $x, y, z, w, u, v \in X$ . Assume that  $(x, y)$  is a coupled coincidence point of the mappings  $F$  and  $g$ . Then

$$F(x, y) = gx = gy = F(y, x).$$

*Proof.* Since  $(x, y)$  is a coupled coincidence point of the mappings  $F$  and  $g$ , we have  $gx = F(x, y)$  and  $gy = F(y, x)$ . Assume  $gx \neq gy$ . Then by (2.1), we get

$$\begin{aligned} S(gx, gx, gy) &= S(F(x, y), F(x, y), F(y, x)) \\ &\leq \phi(S(gx, gx, gy) + S(gy, gy, gx)). \end{aligned}$$

Also by (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} S(gy, gy, gx) &= S(F(y, x), F(y, x), F(x, y)) \\ &\leq \phi(S(gy, gy, gx) + S(gx, gx, gy)). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$S(gx, gx, gy) + S(gy, gy, gx) \leq 2\phi(S(gx, gx, gy) + S(gy, gy, gx)).$$

Since  $\phi(t) < \frac{t}{2}$ , we get

$$S(gx, gx, gy) + S(gy, gy, gx) < S(gx, gx, gy) + S(gy, gy, gx),$$

which is a contradiction. So  $gx = gy$ , and hence

$$F(x, y) = gx = gy = F(y, x).$$

□

The following is the main result of this section.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $(X, S)$  be a complete  $S_b$ -metric space. Let  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $g : X \rightarrow X$  be two functions such that*

$$S(F(x, y), F(u, v), F(z, w)) \leq \frac{1}{b^3} \phi(S(gx, gu, gz) + S(gy, gv, gw)) \quad (2.2)$$

for all  $x, y, z, w, u, v \in X$ . Assume that  $F$  and  $g$  satisfy the following conditions:

- (1)  $F(X \times X) \subseteq g(X)$ ,
- (2)  $g(X)$  is complete, and
- (3)  $g$  is continuous and commutes with  $F$ .

If  $\phi \in \Phi$ , then there is a unique  $x$  in  $X$  such that  $gx = F(x, x) = x$ .

*Proof.* Let  $x_0, y_0 \in X$ . Since  $F(X \times X) \subseteq g(X)$ , we can choose  $x_1, y_1 \in X$  such that  $gx_1 = F(x_0, y_0)$  and  $gy_1 = F(y_0, x_0)$ . Again since  $F(X \times X) \subseteq g(X)$ , we can choose  $x_2, y_2 \in X$  such that  $gx_2 = F(x_1, y_1)$  and  $gy_2 = F(y_1, x_1)$ . Continuing this process, we can construct two sequences  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_n)$  in  $X$

such that  $gx_{n+1} = F(x_n, y_n)$  and  $gy_{n+1} = F(y_n, x_n)$ . For  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\mathbf{0}\}$ , by (2.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & S(gx_{n-1}, gx_{n-1}, gx_n) \\ &= S(F(x_{n-2}, y_{n-2}), F(x_{n-2}, y_{n-2}), F(x_{n-1}, y_{n-1})) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{b^3} \phi(S(gx_{n-2}, gx_{n-2}, gx_{n-1}) + S(gy_{n-2}, gy_{n-2}, gy_{n-1})). \end{aligned}$$

Similarly by (2.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & S(gy_{n-1}, gy_{n-1}, gy_n) \\ &= S(F(y_{n-2}, x_{n-2}), F(y_{n-2}, x_{n-2}), F(y_{n-1}, x_{n-1})) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{b^3} \phi(S(gy_{n-2}, gy_{n-2}, gy_{n-1}) + S(gx_{n-2}, gx_{n-2}, gx_{n-1})). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= S(gx_{n-1}, gx_{n-1}, gx_n) + S(gy_{n-1}, gy_{n-1}, gy_n) \\ &\leq \frac{2}{b^3} \phi(S(gx_{n-2}, gx_{n-2}, gx_{n-1}) + S(gy_{n-2}, gy_{n-2}, gy_{n-1})) \\ &= \frac{2}{b^3} \phi(a_{n-1}) \end{aligned}$$

holds for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Thus, we get  $0 < k < \frac{1}{2}$  such that

$$a_n \leq \frac{2}{b^3} \phi(a_{n-1}) \leq \frac{2k}{b^3} a_{n-1} \leq \frac{2k}{b} a_{n-1} = q a_{n-1},$$

for  $q = \frac{2k}{b}$ . Hence we have

$$a_n \leq \frac{2k}{b} a_{n-1} \leq \cdots \leq \left(\frac{2k}{b}\right)^n a_0.$$

Let  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $m > n$ . By Axioms  $(S_b3)$  of Definition 1.3 of  $S_b$ -metric spaces, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & S(gx_{n-1}, gx_{n-1}, gx_m) + S(gy_{n-1}, gy_{n-1}, gy_m) \\ &\leq b(2S(gx_{n-1}, gx_{n-1}, gx_n) + S(gx_m, gx_m, gx_n)) \\ &\quad + b(2S(gy_{n-1}, gy_{n-1}, gy_n) + S(gy_m, gy_m, gy_n)) \\ &= 2b(S(gx_{n-1}, gx_{n-1}, gx_n) + S(gy_{n-1}, gy_{n-1}, gy_n)) \\ &\quad + b(S(gx_m, gx_m, gx_n) + S(gy_m, gy_m, gy_n)) \\ &\leq \cdots \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq 2(ba_n + b^2a_{n+1} + b^3a_{n+2} + \cdots + b^{m-n}a_{m-1} + b^{m-n}a_m) \\
&\leq 2(bq^n a_0 + b^2q^{n+1}a_0 + \cdots + b^{m-n}q^{m-1}a_0 + b^{m-n}q^m a_0) \\
&\leq 2(bq^n a_0(1 + bq + b^2q^2 + \cdots)) \\
&\leq \frac{2bq^n a_0}{1 - bq} \rightarrow 0,
\end{aligned}$$

since  $bq = 2k < 1$ . Thus  $(gx_n)$  and  $(gy_n)$  are  $S_b$ -Cauchy in  $g(X)$ . Since  $g(X)$  is complete, we get  $(gx_n)$  and  $(gy_n)$  are  $S_b$ -convergent to some  $x \in X$  and  $y \in X$  respectively. Since  $g$  is continuous, we have  $(ggx_n)$  is  $S_b$ -convergent to  $gx$  and  $(ggy_n)$  is  $S_b$ -convergent to  $gy$ . Also, since  $g$  and  $F$  are commute, we have

$$ggx_{n+1} = g(F(x_n, y_n)) = F(gx_n, gy_n)$$

and

$$ggy_{n+1} = g(F(y_n, x_n)) = F(gy_n, gx_n).$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
S(ggx_{n+1}, ggy_{n+1}, F(x, y)) &= S(F(gx_n, gy_n), F(gx_n, gy_n), F(x, y)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{b^3} \phi(S(ggx_n, ggy_n, gx) + S(ggy_n, ggx_n, gy)).
\end{aligned}$$

Taking  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty}$ , and using the Lemma 2.1, we get that

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{b^2} S(gx, gx, F(x, y)) &\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(F(gx_n, gy_n), F(gx_n, gy_n), F(x, y)) \\
&\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b^3} \phi(S(ggx_n, ggy_n, gx) + S(ggy_n, ggx_n, gy)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{b^3} \phi(b^2(S(gx, gx, gx) + S(gy, gy, gy))) = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence  $gx = F(x, y)$ . Similarly, we may show that  $gy = F(y, x)$ . By Lemma 2.2,  $(x, y)$  is coupled fixed point of the mappings  $F$  and  $g$ . So

$$gx = F(x, y) = F(y, x) = gy.$$

Thus, using the Lemma 2.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{b^2} S(x, x, gx) &\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(gx_{n+1}, gx_{n+1}, gx) \\
&= \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} S(F(x_n, y_n), F(x_n, y_n), F(x, y)) \\
&\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b^3} \phi(S(gx_n, gx_n, gx) + S(gy_n, gy_n, gy)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{b^3} \phi(b^2(S(x, x, gx) + S(y, y, gy))).
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, we get

$$S(x, x, gx) \leq \frac{1}{b} \phi(b(S(x, x, gx) + S(y, y, gy))).$$

Similarly, we may show that

$$S(y, y, gy) \leq \frac{1}{b} \phi(b(S(y, y, gy) + S(x, x, gx))).$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} S(x, x, gx) + S(y, y, gy) &\leq \frac{2}{b} \phi(b(S(x, x, gx) + S(y, y, gy))) \\ &\leq 2kS(x, x, gx) + S(y, y, gy). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $2k < 1$ , the last inequality happened only if  $S(x, x, gx) = 0$  and  $S(y, y, gy) = 0$ . Hence  $x = gx$  and  $y = gy$ . Thus we get

$$gx = F(x, x) = x.$$

To prove the uniqueness, let  $z \in X$  with  $z \neq x$  such that

$$z = gz = F(z, z).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} S(x, x, z) &= S(F(x, x), F(x, x), F(z, z)) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{b^3} \phi(2S(gx, gx, gz)) \\ &< \frac{1}{b^3} 2kS(x, x, z) \leq 2kS(x, x, z). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $2k < 1$ , we get  $S(x, x, z) < S(x, x, z)$ , which is a contradiction. Thus  $F$  and  $g$  have a unique common fixed point.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.1.** *Let  $(X, S)$  be a  $S_b$ -metric space. Let  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  and  $g : X \rightarrow X$  be two functions such that*

$$S(F(x, y), F(x, y), F(u, v)) \leq \frac{k}{b^3} (S(gx, gx, gu) + S(gy, g, gv)) \quad (2.3)$$

for all  $x, y, u, v \in X$ . Assume  $F$  and  $g$  satisfy the following conditions:

- (1)  $F(X \times X) \subseteq g(X)$ ,
- (2)  $g(X)$  is complete, and
- (3)  $g$  is continuous and commutes with  $F$ .

If  $k \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ , then there is a unique  $x$  in  $X$  such that  $gx = F(x, x) = x$ .

*Proof.* Follows from Theorem 2.1, by taking  $z = u, v = w$  and  $\phi(t) = kt$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.** *Let  $(X, S)$  be a complete  $S_b$ -metric space. Let  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  be a mapping such that*

$$S(F(x, y), F(x, y), F(u, v)) \leq \frac{k}{b^3}(S(x, x, u) + S(y, y, v))$$

for all  $x, y, u, v \in X$ . If  $k \in [0, \frac{1}{2})$ , then there is a unique  $x$  in  $X$  such that  $F(x, x) = x$ .

Now, we introduce some examples of our theorem.

**Example 2.1.** Let  $X = [0, 1]$ . Define  $S : X^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  by

$$S(x, y, z) = (|y + z - 2x| + |y - z|)^2$$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ . Then  $(X, S)$  is a complete  $S_b$ -metric space with  $b = 4$ , according to Example 1.1. Define a map  $F : X \times X \rightarrow X$  by  $F(x, y) = \frac{x}{128} + \frac{y}{256}$  for  $x, y \in X$ . Also, define  $g : X \rightarrow X$  by  $g(x) = \frac{x}{4}$  for  $x \in X$  and  $\phi(t) = \frac{t}{4}$  for  $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} & S(F(x, y), F(u, v), F(z, w)) \\ &= (|F(u, v) + F(z, w) - 2F(x, y)| + |F(u, v) - F(z, w)|)^2 \\ &= \left( \left| \frac{u}{128} + \frac{v}{256} + \frac{z}{128} + \frac{w}{256} - \frac{2x}{128} - \frac{2y}{256} \right| + \left| \frac{u}{128} + \frac{v}{256} - \frac{z}{128} - \frac{w}{256} \right| \right)^2 \\ &\leq \left( \frac{1}{128} |u + z - 2x| + \frac{1}{256} |v + w - 2y| + \frac{1}{128} |u - z| + \frac{1}{256} |v - w| \right)^2 \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{128} (|u + z - 2x| + |u - z|) + \frac{1}{256} (|v + w - 2y| + |v - w|) \right)^2 \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{32} \left( \left| \frac{u}{4} + \frac{z}{4} - \frac{2x}{4} \right| + \left| \frac{u}{4} - \frac{z}{4} \right| \right) + \frac{1}{64} \left( \left| \frac{v}{4} + \frac{w}{4} - \frac{2y}{4} \right| + \left| \frac{v}{4} - \frac{w}{4} \right| \right) \right)^2 \\ &\leq \frac{2}{32^2} \left( \left| \frac{u}{4} + \frac{z}{4} - \frac{2x}{4} \right| + \left| \frac{u}{4} - \frac{z}{4} \right| \right)^2 + \frac{2}{64^2} \left( \left| \frac{v}{4} + \frac{w}{4} - \frac{2y}{4} \right| + \left| \frac{v}{4} - \frac{w}{4} \right| \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{2}{32^2} S(gx, gu, gz) + \frac{2}{64^2} S(gy, gv, gw) \\ &\leq \frac{2}{32^2} (S(gx, gu, gz) + S(gy, gv, gw)) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{64} \frac{S(gx, gu, gz) + S(gy, gv, gw)}{4} \\ &= \frac{1}{4^3} \phi(S(gx, gu, gz) + S(gy, gv, gw)) \end{aligned}$$

holds for all  $x, y, u, v, z, w \in X$ . It is easy to see that  $F$  and  $g$  satisfy all the hypothesis of Theorem 2.1. Thus  $F$  and  $g$  have a unique common fixed point. Here  $F(0, 0) = g(0) = 0$ .

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