



A fixed point approach to stability of functional equations

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ABSTRACT

We prove a simple fixed point theorem for some (not necessarily linear) operators and derive from it several quite general results on the stability of a very wide class of functional equations in single variable.

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Interest in the investigation of the problem of the stability of functional equations (now named the Hyers–Ulam stability) has been stimulated by a question of Ulam (cf. [1,2]) and several papers that appeared afterwards and had been motivated by it (see, e.g., [3,4,1,5]). However the first known result of this kind is due to Pólya and Szegő [6]. For more details and further references concerning that subject, we refer to [7–15].

A fixed point approach has already been applied in the investigation of Hyers–Ulam stability, e.g., in [16–20]. In this note we present a modification of it that seems to be more natural for the field of functional equations. Thus we obtain in particular several significant supplements and/or generalizations of already known results proved in [7,21–30] and concerning stability of functional equations in single variable. For more information on such functional equations we refer to [31,32].

Denote by \mathbb{N}_+ and \mathbb{R}_+ the sets of nonnegative integers and nonnegative real numbers, respectively. For our subsequent results, we take the following four hypotheses.

(H1) X is a nonempty set and (Y, d) is a complete metric space.

(H2) $f_1, \dots, f_k : X \rightarrow X$ and $L_1, \dots, L_k : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ are given maps.

(H3) $\mathcal{T} : Y^X \rightarrow Y^X$ is an operator satisfying the inequality

$$d((\mathcal{T}\xi)(x), (\mathcal{T}\mu)(x)) \leq \sum_{i=1}^k L_i(x) d(\xi(f_i(x)), \mu(f_i(x))), \quad \xi, \mu \in Y^X, x \in X. \quad (1)$$

(H4) Λ is a linear operator defined by

$$(\Lambda\delta)(x) := \sum_{i=1}^k L_i(x) \delta(f_i(x)) \quad (2)$$

for $\delta : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ and $x \in X$. Obviously, Λ is monotone with respect to the pointwise ordering in \mathbb{R}_+^X (provided that L_i is nonnegative).

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