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AN EXISTENCE THEOREM FOR THE HYPERBOLIC  
EQUATION  $z_{xy} = f(x,y,z)$  IN BANACH SPACES

We are interested in the existence of solutions of the Darboux problem for the hyperbolic equation  $z_{xy} = f(x,y,z)$  ( $x,y \geq 0$ ) when  $f$  with values in a Banach space satisfies some regularity condition expressed in terms of Kuratowski's measure of noncompactness  $\alpha$ . Our result will be proved via the fixed point theorem of Sadovskii given in [5] as Theorem 3.4.3.

Let  $J = (0, \infty)$ . Throughout this paper  $Q = J \times J$  and  $E$  will denote a Banach space with norm  $\|\cdot\|$ . The measure of noncompactness  $\alpha(A)$  of nonempty bounded subset  $A$  of  $E$  is defined as the infimum of all  $\epsilon > 0$  such that there exists a finite covering of  $A$  by sets of diameter  $\leq \epsilon$ .

Denote by  $C(Q, E)$  the set of all continuous functions from  $Q$  to  $E$ . The set  $C(Q, E)$  will be considered as a vector space endowed with the topology of almost uniform convergence. For  $V \subset C(Q, E)$  we denote by  $V(x, y)$  the set of all  $z(x, y)$  with  $z \in V$ . Further, we will use standard notation. The closure of a set  $A$  and its closed convex hull will be denoted, respectively, by  $\bar{A}$  and  $\overline{\text{co}} A$ . For the properties of  $\alpha$  we refer to [2].

The Lemma below is an adaptation of the corresponding result of Ambrosetti ([1], Lemma 2.2). It is special result of Heinz lemma (see [3]).

**Lemma.** If  $P$  is a compact subset of  $Q$  and  $V$  is a bounded equicontinuous subset of the usual Banach space of continuous  $E$ -valued functions on  $P$ , then

$$\alpha(\cup\{V(x,y): (x,y) \in P\}) = \sup\{\alpha(V(x,y)): (x,y) \in P\}.$$

Denote by  $S_\infty$  the set of all nonnegative real sequences. For  $\xi = (\xi_n)$ ,  $\eta = (\eta_n) \in S_\infty$  we write  $\xi < \eta$  if  $\xi_n \leq \eta_n$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $\xi \neq \eta$ . Let  $\mathfrak{X}$  be a closed convex subset of  $C(Q, E)$  and  $\Phi$  be a function which assigns to each nonempty subset  $Z$  of  $\mathfrak{X}$  a sequence  $\Phi(Z) \in S_\infty$  such that

- (1)  $\Phi(\{z\} \cup Z) = \Phi(Z)$  for  $z \in \mathfrak{X}$ ,
- (2)  $\Phi(\bar{c}\bar{o} Z) = \Phi(Z)$ ,
- (3) if  $\Phi(Z) = \theta$  (the zero sequence) then  $\bar{Z}$  is compact.

Here we use the Sadovskii fixed point theorem in the following form (cf. [4]):

If  $F: \mathfrak{X} \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}$  is a continuous mapping satisfying  $\Phi(F[Z]) < \Phi(Z)$  for arbitrary nonempty subset  $Z$  of  $\mathfrak{X}$  with  $\Phi(Z) > \theta$ , then  $F$  has a fixed point in  $\mathfrak{X}$ .

Let  $f$  be an  $E$ -valued function defined on  $Q \times E$ . By (+) we shall denote the problem of finding a continuous solution of

$$\begin{cases} z_{xy} = f(x, y, z) \\ z(x, 0) = 0, \quad z(0, y) = 0 \end{cases}$$

for  $x \geq 0$ ,  $y \geq 0$ .

**Theorem.** Let  $G: J \times J \times J \rightarrow J$  be a continuous function nondecreasing in the last variable, and let  $L: J \times J \times J \rightarrow J$  be a function such that for each  $u \in J$  the mapping  $(x, y) \mapsto L(x, y, u)$  is continuous and  $L(x, y, 0) \equiv 0$  on  $Q$ . If

- 1°  $f$  is continuous,
- 2°  $\|f(x, y, u)\| \leq G(x, y, \|u\|)$  for  $(x, y) \in Q$  and  $u \in E$ ,
- 3°  $\alpha(f[P \times W]) \leq \sup\{\alpha(L(x, y, \alpha(W))): (x, y) \in P\}$  for any compact subset  $P$  of  $Q$  and each nonempty bounded subset  $W$  of  $E$ ,
- 4° the scalar integral inequality

$$g(x, y) \geq \int_0^x \int_0^y G(u, v, g(u, v)) du dv$$

has a locally bounded solution  $g_0$  existing on  $Q$ , and

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} L(u, v, r) du dv < r \quad \text{for all } r > 0,$$

then there exists a solution  $z$  of (+) such that  $\|z(x, y)\| \leq g_0(x, y)$  for  $(x, y) \in Q$ .

Proof. Denote by  $\mathfrak{X}$  the set of all  $z \in C(Q, E)$  with  $\|z(x, y)\| \leq g_0(x, y)$  on  $Q$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \|z(x_1, y_1) - z(x_2, y_2)\| &\leq \left| \int_0^{x_2} \int_{y_1}^{y_2} G(u, v, g_0(u, v)) du dv \right| + \\ &+ \left| \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \int_0^{y_1} G(u, v, g_0(u, v), g_0(u, v)) du dv \right| \quad \text{for } (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in Q. \end{aligned}$$

The set  $\mathfrak{X}$  is a closed convex and almost equicontinuous subset of  $C(Q, E)$ . We define a continuous mapping  $F$  of  $\mathfrak{X}$  into itself as follows

$$(Fz)(x, y) = \int_0^x \int_0^y f(u, v, z(u, v)) du dv \quad \text{for } z \in \mathfrak{X}.$$

Let  $n$  be a positive integer and  $P_n = [0, n] \times [0, n]$ . Let  $Z$  be a nonempty subset of  $\mathfrak{X}$  and  $W = \bigcup \{z(x, y) : (x, y) \in P_n\}$ . Fix  $(x, y)$  in  $P_n$ . For any given  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $u', u'' \in [0, x]$ ,  $v', v'' \in [0, y]$  with  $|u' - u''| < \delta$  and  $|v' - v''| < \delta$  imply  $|L(u', v', \alpha(W)) - L(u'', v'', \alpha(W))| < \epsilon$ . We divide the intervals  $[0, x]$ ,  $[0, y]$  into  $m$  parts  $x_0 = 0 < x_1 < \dots < x_m = x$ ,  $y_0 = 0 < y_1 < \dots < y_m = y$  in such a way that  $|x_i - x_{i-1}| < \delta$ ,  $|y_i - y_{i-1}| < \delta$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ .

Put  $P_{ij} = [x_{i-1}, x_i] \times [y_{j-1}, y_j]$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , and let  $(\delta_j, \tau_j)$  be a point in  $P_{ij}$  such that

$$L(x, y, \alpha(W)) \leq L(\delta_j, \tau_j, \alpha(W)) \quad \text{for } (x, y) \in P_{ij}.$$

Now, by the integral mean value theorem, our condition  $\beta^0$  and Lemma, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha(F[Z](x,y)) &\leq \alpha\left(\sum_{i,j=1}^m \text{mes}(P_{ij}) \overline{\text{co}}(f[P_{ij} \times W])\right) \leq \\
 &\leq \sum_{i,j=1}^m \text{mes}(P_{ij}) L(\delta_i, \tau_j, \alpha(W)) \leq \sum_{i,j=1}^m \iint_{P_{ij}} L(u, v, \alpha(W)) du dv + \\
 &+ \sum_{i,j=1}^m \iint_{P_{ij}} |L(u, v, \alpha(W)) - L(\delta_i, \tau_j, \alpha(W))| du dv \leq \\
 &< \iint_0^x \iint_0^y L(u, v, \alpha(W)) du dv + \varepsilon xy = \\
 &= \varepsilon xy + \iint_0^x \iint_0^y L(u, v, \sup\{\alpha(Z(x,y)): (x,y) \in P_n\}) du dv.
 \end{aligned}$$

As  $\varepsilon > 0$  is arbitrary, this implies

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4) \quad \sup\{\alpha(F[Z](x,y)): (x,y) \in P_n\} &\leq \\
 &\leq \sup_{(x,y) \in Q} \iint_0^x \iint_0^y L(u, v, \sup\{\alpha(Z(x,y)): (x,y) \in P_n\}) du dv.
 \end{aligned}$$

Define

$$\Phi(Z) = \left( \sup_{(x,y) \in P_1} \alpha(Z(x,y)), \sup_{(x,y) \in P_2} \alpha(Z(x,y)), \dots \right)$$

for any nonempty subset  $Z$  of  $\mathfrak{X}$ . Evidently  $\Phi(Z) \in S_\infty$ . By the corresponding properties of  $\alpha$ , the function  $\Phi$  satisfies conditions (1)-(3) listed above. From our assumption on  $L$  and inequality (4) it follows that  $\Phi(F[Z]) < \Phi(Z)$  whenever  $\Phi(Z) > 0$ . Thus all assumptions of Sadovskii's fixed point theorem being satisfied,  $F$  has a fixed point in  $\mathfrak{X}$  and the proof is complete.

Remark. In particular, the function  $L(u,v,r) = L(u,v) \cdot \varphi(r)$ , where

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} L(u,v) dudv < 1 \quad \text{and} \quad 0 < \varphi(r) < r \quad \text{for} \quad r > 0$$

satisfies conditions from the theorem.

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