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## ON NONLINEAR INTEGRAL EQUATIONS IN SOME FUNCTION SPACES

**Abstract.** There are established some conditions for existence of solutions of a nonlinear integral equation  $Tf = f + g$ , where  $T$  is a convolution-type integral operator.

### 1. Preliminaries

Let  $(\Omega, \Sigma, \mu)$  be a  $\sigma$ -finite, complete measure space and let  $L^0(\Omega)$  denote the space of all  $\Sigma$ -measurable, finite  $\mu$ -a.e., real valued functions  $f$  on  $\Omega$ , with equality  $\mu$ -a.e. Let  $+$  :  $\Omega \times \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$  be a commutative operation on  $\Omega$  such that  $L^0(\Omega)$  is invariant with respect to  $+$ , i.e.  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$  implies  $f(\cdot + s) \in L^0(\Omega)$  for all  $s \in \Omega$ .

Let  $K : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a *Carathéodory function*, i.e.  $K(t, u)$  is  $\Sigma$ -measurable with respect to  $t \in \Omega$  for every  $u \in \mathbb{R}$  and is continuous with respect to  $u$  for every  $t \in \Omega$ . If, moreover,  $K(t, 0) = 0$  for all  $t \in \Omega$ , we call  $K$  a *Carathéodory kernel function*.

We are going to investigate the existence of solution of the nonlinear integral equations of type

$$(1) \quad \int_{\Omega} K(t, f(t + s))d\mu(t) = f(s) + g(s),$$

where  $g \in L^0(\Omega)$  is given, generated by the *convolution-type (nonlinear) integral operator*  $T$  defined by

$$(2) \quad (Tf)(s) = \int_{\Omega} K(t, f(t + s))d\mu(t), \quad s \in \Omega.$$

We shall look for solutions  $f$  of this equation belonging to some subspaces  $L_{\rho}^0(\Omega)$  of  $L^0(\Omega)$ , being  $L_{\rho}^0(\Omega)$  a modular function space. By  $\text{Dom}T$  we shall

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denote the *domain of the operator*  $T$ , i.e. the set of all  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$  such that (2) exists for  $\mu$ -a.e.  $s \in \Omega$  and it is a  $\Sigma$ -measurable function of  $s \in \Omega$ .

If  $K$  is a Carathéodory function, it is easily seen that for  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$  we have  $K(\cdot, f(\cdot + s)) \in L^0(\Omega)$  for all  $s \in \Omega$ . In order to be able to apply the Fubini-Tonelli theorem, we should know that  $K(t, f(t + s))$  is a measurable function on  $\Omega \times \Omega$ . Let  $\Sigma_0$  be the smallest  $\sigma$ -algebra of subsets of  $\Omega \times \Omega$  containing the sets of type  $A \times B$  for  $A, B \in \Sigma$ , and let  $\Sigma_\pi$  be any  $\sigma$ -algebra of subsets of  $\Omega \times \Omega$  such that  $\Sigma_0 \subset \Sigma_\pi$ . We denote by  $\mu_0$  the product measure on  $\Sigma_0$ , i.e.  $\mu_0(A \times B) = \mu(A)\mu(B)$  for  $A, B \in \Sigma$ , and we denote by  $\mu_\pi$  any extension of the measure  $\mu_0$  from  $\Sigma_0$  to  $\Sigma_\pi$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{K}_\pi$  the class of all Carathéodory functions  $K : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that the function  $\widetilde{K} : \Omega \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $\widetilde{K}(s, t) = K(t, f(t + s))$  is  $\Sigma_\pi$ -measurable for every  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$ . Functions  $K \in \mathcal{K}_\pi$  will be called  $\Sigma_\pi$ -regular Carathéodory functions.

**EXAMPLE 1.** Let  $\mu$  be a  $\sigma$ -finite and complete measure on the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\Sigma$  of all Lebesgue measurable subsets of  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$  and let  $\mu^2$  be the product measure on the  $\sigma$ -algebra  $\Sigma^2$  of all Lebesgue measurable subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Let  $+$  be a commutative operation on  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $L^0(\mathbb{R})$  are invariant. We shall write  $\sigma(s, t) = s + t$ , and we suppose that  $\sigma$  is  $(\Sigma^2, \Sigma)$ -measurable, i.e. if  $A \in \Sigma$  then  $\sigma^{-1}(A) \in \Sigma^2$ . Moreover, we suppose that  $\mu^2$  is  $\sigma$ -absolutely continuous ( $\sigma$ -a.c.) with respect to  $\mu$ , i.e. if  $A \in \Sigma$  and  $\mu(A) = 0$ , then  $\mu^2(\sigma^{-1}(A)) = 0$  ([13], [11], [3]). Under these assumptions, every Carathéodory function  $K : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $\Sigma^2$ -regular, i.e. the function  $\widetilde{K}(s, t) = K(t, f(t + s))$  is  $\Sigma^2$ -measurable for every  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$  (see [3]).

**REMARK 1.** It is obvious that if  $K$  is a  $\Sigma_\pi$ -regular Carathéodory function, then its absolute value  $|K|$  defined by  $|K|(t, u) = |K(t, u)|$  is also a  $\Sigma_\pi$ -regular Carathéodory function. Thus, the integral

$$\int_{\Omega \times \Omega} |K(t, f(t + s))| d\mu_\pi(s, t),$$

exists for every  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$ . By the Fubini-Tonelli theorem, the integral

$$\int_{\Omega} |K(t, f(t + s))| d\mu(t),$$

exists for a.e.  $s \in \Omega$  and is a  $\Sigma$ -measurable function of the variable  $s \in \Omega$ .

## 2. Notations and definitions

We are going now to define the modular function spaces  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  which will play the role of field of solutions of the integral equation. For the sake of convenience, we recall some notions concerning such spaces (see [12]).

A functional  $\rho : L^0(\Omega) \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}_0^+} = [0, +\infty]$  is called a *modular* on  $L^0(\Omega)$  if it satisfies the following conditions:

- 1)  $\rho(0) = 0$ ,
- 2)  $\rho(-f) = \rho(f)$ ,
- 3)  $\rho(\alpha f + \beta g) \leq \rho(f) + \rho(g)$  for  $f, g \in L^0(\Omega)$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha + \beta = 1$ .

If moreover  $\rho$  satisfies the condition

- 3')  $\rho(\alpha f + \beta g) \leq \alpha \rho(f) + \beta \rho(g)$  for  $f, g \in L^0(\Omega)$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha + \beta = 1$ ,

then  $\rho$  is called a *convex modular* on  $L^0(\Omega)$ . The linear space  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  of functions  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$  such that  $\rho(\lambda f) \rightarrow 0$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow 0^+$  is called the *modular space generated by  $\rho$* . In case of a convex modular  $\rho$ , the map  $\|\cdot\|_\rho : L_\rho^0(\Omega) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+ = [0, +\infty[$  defined by

$$(3) \quad \|f\|_\rho = \inf\{u > 0 : \rho(f/u) \leq 1\}$$

is a norm on  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$ . Consequently  $\|f_n - f\|_\rho \rightarrow 0$  ( $f_n, f \in L_\rho^0(\Omega)$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) is equivalent to the condition  $\rho(\lambda(f_n - f)) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for every  $\lambda > 0$ . Besides the norm convergence, there is defined in  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  the modular convergence ( $\rho$ -convergence) by the condition  $\rho(\lambda(f_n - f)) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for some  $\lambda > 0$ ; these kinds of convergence are not equivalent, in general.

We will say that  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  is *measure bounded* (see [14]), if  $\|f\|_\rho \rightarrow 0$  implies  $f_n \rightarrow 0$  in measure on  $\Omega$ . It is obvious that every norm-closed subset of a measure bounded modular space  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  is also measure bounded.

## EXAMPLES 2.

- (a) A norm  $\rho = \|\cdot\|$  in a normed linear space  $X \subset L^0(\Omega)$  is always a convex modular and  $\|\cdot\| = \|\cdot\|_\rho$ ,  $L_\rho^0(\Omega) = X$ ; in this case, norm convergence and modular convergence are equivalent.
- (b) Let  $\Phi$  be the family of all functions  $\varphi : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}_0^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  such that  $\varphi(t, u)$  is a  $\Sigma$ -measurable function of  $t$  for every  $u \geq 0$  and is a nondecreasing, continuous function of  $u$  for every  $t \in \Omega$ , such that  $\varphi(t, 0) = 0$ ,  $\varphi(t, u) > 0$  for  $u > 0$  and  $\varphi(t, u) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $u \rightarrow +\infty$  for all  $t \in \Omega$ . Then  $\rho$  defined by the formula

$$(4) \quad \rho(f) = \int_{\Omega} \varphi(t, |f(t)|) d\mu(t)$$

for  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$  is a modular on  $L^0(\Omega)$ . If  $\varphi(t, u)$  is a convex function of  $u \geq 0$  for all  $t \in \Omega$ , then  $\rho$  is a convex modular on  $L^0(\Omega)$  and in this case the family of such functions  $\varphi$  will be denoted by  $\Phi_c$ . The modular space  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  is called a *generalized Orlicz space* or *Musielak-Orlicz space* and is denoted by  $L^\varphi(\Omega)$ .

It is easily seen that if the function  $\varphi$  satisfies the further condition: for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $A \in \Sigma$  with  $\mu(A) < +\infty$ , we have

$$\delta_A(\varepsilon) := \text{ess inf}_{t \in A} \varphi(t, \varepsilon) > 0,$$

then the Musielak-Orlicz space  $L^\varphi$  is measure bounded.

If  $\varphi$  depends only on the second variable  $u$ , then (4) becomes of the form

$$\rho(f) = \int_{\Omega} \varphi(|f(t)|) d\mu(t),$$

and  $L^\varphi(\Omega)$  is called an *Orlicz space*; the family of such functions will be denoted by  $\Phi^0$  and by  $\Phi_c^0$  the convex ones.

It is clear that every Orlicz space is measure bounded.

### 3. An embedding result

Let  $L : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  be a  $\Sigma$ -measurable function such that  $L \neq 0$  and  $L \in L^1(\Omega)$ . Let  $\psi : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}_0^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  be such that  $\psi(t, u)$  is a  $\Sigma$ -measurable function of  $t \in \Omega$  for all  $u \geq 0$ , and a continuous, concave and nondecreasing function of  $u \geq 0$  for every  $t \in \Omega$ , such that  $\psi(t, 0) = 0$ ,  $\psi(t, u) > 0$  for  $u > 0$ ,  $\psi(t, u) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $u \rightarrow \infty$  for all  $t \in \Omega$ . The family of all functions  $\psi$  satisfying the above assumptions will be denoted by  $\Psi$ . For a given function  $\psi \in \Psi$ , a  $\Sigma_\pi$ -regular Carathéodory kernel function  $K$  will be called  $(L, \psi)_0$ -Lipschitz if  $|K(t, u)| \leq L(t)\psi(t, |u|)$  for all  $t \in \Omega$  and  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ .

We shall still need the following assumption on the modular  $\rho$  on  $L^0(\Omega)$ . We say that  $\rho$  is *subbounded* with respect to the operation  $+$  on  $\Omega$ , if there are a constant  $C \geq 1$  and a nonnegative function  $h \in L^\infty(\Omega)$  such that for every  $f \in L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  and  $s \in \Omega$ , there holds the inequality

$$\rho(f(\cdot + s)) \leq \rho(Cf) + h(s).$$

If the above inequality holds with  $h = 0$ , we call  $\rho$  *strongly subbounded* with respect to the operation  $+$  on  $\Omega$ .

The following theorem is obtained by an easy change of the proof of Theorem 1 in [13].

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $\rho$  be a convex modular on  $L^0(\Omega)$ , subbounded with respect to the operation  $+$  on  $\Omega$ . Let  $K$  be a  $\Sigma_\pi$ -regular,  $(L, \psi)_0$ -Lipschitz Carathéodory function with  $L : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ ,  $0 \neq L \in L^1(\Omega)$ . Finally, let*

$$\int_{\Omega} L(t)\psi(t, 1)|f(t)| d\mu(t) < +\infty$$

*for every  $f \in L_\rho^0(\Omega)$ . Then there holds*

$$L_\rho^0(\Omega) \subset \text{Dom}T.$$

**EXAMPLE 3.** Let  $\varphi \in \Phi_c^0$  be an  $N$ -function, i.e.  $\lim_{u \rightarrow 0^+} u^{-1}\varphi(u) = 0$  and  $\lim_{u \rightarrow \infty} u^{-1}\varphi(u) = +\infty$ . Then the function  $\varphi^* : \mathbb{R}_0^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  defined by  $\varphi^*(u) = \sup_{v>0} [uv - \varphi(v)]$  for  $u \geq 0$ , called *conjugate to  $\varphi$*  in the sense

of Young (see [12]), also belongs to  $\Phi_c^0$  and it is an  $N$ -function. The modulars

$$\rho(f) = \int_{\Omega} \varphi(|f(t)|) d\mu(t) \text{ and } \rho^*(f) = \int_{\Omega} \varphi^*(|f(t)|) d\mu(t)$$

define two Orlicz spaces  $L^\varphi(\Omega) = L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  and  $L^{\varphi^*}(\Omega) = L_{\rho^*}^0(\Omega)$ . It is obvious that when  $\Omega$  is a locally compact group with respect to the operation  $+$ ,  $\rho, \rho^*$  are always subbounded with respect to  $+$ , since they are invariant with respect  $+$ .

Now, let  $K$  be a  $\Sigma_\pi$ -regular,  $(L, \psi)_0$ -Lipschitz Carathéodory kernel function with  $L : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  such that  $0 \neq L \in L^1(\Omega)$  and  $\psi \in \Psi$ . Moreover, let  $L(\cdot)\psi(\cdot, 1) \in L^{\varphi^*}(\Omega)$ . It is easily deduced from Theorem 1 that then there holds  $L_\rho^0(\Omega) \subset \text{Dom}T$ .

#### 4. Main results

In [13] and [11] there was obtained a theorem on existence and uniqueness of a solution  $f \in L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  of the integral equation (1), applying Banach fixed point principle.

Here, we are going to prove an existence theorem for solutions of (1) in  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$ , applying Schauder fixed point principle. This principle states in case of a Banach space  $X$  with norm  $\|\cdot\|$  that if  $T$  maps a nonempty, compact, convex subset  $C_0$  of  $X$  into itself continuously, then there exists a point  $x_0 \in C_0$  such that  $Tx_0 = x_0$  (see e.g. [5]).

The following proposition is an immediate consequence of the Schauder fixed point principle:

**PROPOSITION 1.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space with norm  $\|\cdot\|$  and let  $C_0$  be a nonempty, closed, convex subset of  $X$ . Let  $T : C_0 \rightarrow C_0$  be a continuous map of  $C_0$  into itself such that the image  $TC_0$  of  $C_0$  is conditionally compact in  $X$ . Then there exists a point  $x_0 \in C_0$  such that  $Tx_0 = x_0$ .*

We shall apply Proposition 1 in case when  $X = L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  or  $X = E_\rho^0(\Omega)$ , where  $\rho$  is a convex modular in  $L^0(\Omega)$  and  $E_\rho^0(\Omega)$  is the set of finite elements of  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$ , i.e. the set of functions  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$  such that  $\rho(\lambda f) < +\infty$  for all  $\lambda > 0$ . We have  $E_\rho^0(\Omega) \subset L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  and we provide both spaces with the norm  $\|\cdot\|_\rho$ , defined by (3). It is well-known that  $E_\rho^0(\Omega)$  is a norm-closed subspace of  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  and so if the space  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  is complete and measure bounded with respect to the norm  $\|\cdot\|_\rho$ , then  $E_\rho^0(\Omega)$  is also complete and measure bounded with respect to  $\|\cdot\|_\rho$ . In the sequel we shall need still some further assumptions on a modular  $\rho$  on  $L^0(\Omega)$ . We call  $\rho$  to be *monotone* if from  $f, g \in L^0(\Omega)$ ,  $|f| \leq |g|$  follows  $\rho(f) \leq \rho(g)$ . Let us remark that in case when  $\rho$  is a norm in  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$ , and  $\rho$  is monotone, the normed vector space  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$

is called a *preideal space* (see e.g. [14]). A monotone modular  $\rho$  satisfies the equality  $\rho(|f|) = \rho(f)$  for every  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$ . We say that  $\rho$  is *J-convex*, if for every  $p : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  such that  $p \in L^1(\Omega)$  and  $\|p\|_1 = 1$  and for every measurable  $F : \Omega \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$  there holds the inequality

$$\rho\left(\int_{\Omega} p(t)F(\cdot, t)d\mu(t)\right) \leq \int_{\Omega} p(t)\rho(F(\cdot, t))d\mu(t),$$

both sides of this inequality being meaningful. (For connections between J-convexity and convexity of a modular see e.g. [4]). Finally, we say that the pair  $\{\rho, \psi\}$  with  $\psi \in \Psi$  is *c-properly directed*, if there exists a number  $c > 0$  such that for every  $\lambda > 0$  there exists a number  $C_{\lambda} > 0$  such that  $\lambda^{-1}C_{\lambda} \geq c$  and for each  $f \in L^0(\Omega)$ ,  $f \geq 0$ , there holds the inequality

$$\rho[C_{\lambda}\psi(t, |f(\cdot)|)] \leq \rho(\lambda f)$$

for all  $t \in \Omega$  up to a fixed set  $\Omega_0 \in \Sigma$  of measure zero. If  $\psi(t, u) = u$ , for every  $t \in \Omega$ , and  $u \geq 0$ , then  $\{\rho, \psi\}$  is a c-properly directed pair with  $c = 1$  and  $C_{\lambda} = \lambda$ . There holds the following embedding theorem:

**THEOREM 2.** *Let the modular  $\rho$  on  $L^0(\Omega)$  be convex, finite, monotone, J-convex and strongly subbounded with a constant  $C \geq 1$  with respect to the operation  $+$ . Let  $K$  be a  $\Sigma_{\pi}$ -regular,  $(L, \psi)_0$ -Lipschitz Carathéodory kernel function,  $L : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_0^+$ , with  $0 \neq L \in L^1(\Omega)$ ,  $\psi \in \Psi$ ,  $L(\cdot)\psi(\cdot, 1) \in L^1(\Omega)$  and  $\int_{\Omega} L(t)\psi(t, 1)|f(t)|d\mu(t) < +\infty$  for every  $f \in L_{\rho}^0(\Omega)$ . Moreover, let  $\{\rho, \psi\}$  be a c-properly directed pair. Denote by  $X$  any of the two spaces  $L_{\rho}^0(\Omega)$ ,  $E_{\rho}^0(\Omega)$  and put  $B_{\rho}(X) = \{f \in X : \|f\|_{\rho} \leq 1\}$ . Let  $Tf(s) = \int_{\Omega} K(t, f(t+s))d\mu(t)$  and  $T_1f = Tf - g$ , where  $g \in X$  is such that  $\|g\|_1 \leq \theta < 1$ . Finally let us suppose that  $\|L\|_1 \leq cC^{-1}(1 - \theta)$ . Then  $T_1$  maps  $B_{\rho}(X)$  into itself.*

**Proof.** First, let us remark that by Theorem 1,  $X \subset L_{\rho}^0(\Omega) \subset \text{Dom}T$ . Applying the monotonicity of  $\rho$ , the  $(L, \psi)_0$ -Lipschitz condition and *J*-convexity of  $\rho$  we obtain for arbitrary  $\alpha > 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\alpha Tf) &\leq \rho\left(\alpha \int_{\Omega} |K(t, f(t+\cdot))|d\mu(t)\right) \\ &\leq \rho\left(\int_{\Omega} p(t)\alpha\|L\|_1\psi(t, |f(t+\cdot)|)d\mu(t)\right) \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} p(t)\rho[\alpha\|L\|_1\psi(t, |f(t+\cdot)|)]d\mu(t). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\lambda > 0$  be fixed. Since the pair  $\{\rho, \psi\}$  is c-properly directed, taking  $\alpha > 0$  so small that  $\alpha\|L\|_1 \leq C_{\lambda}$  we obtain

$$\rho[\alpha\|L\|_1\psi(t, |f(t+\cdot)|)] \leq \rho(\lambda|f(t+\cdot)|).$$

Hence, by the strong subboundedness of  $\rho$  with a constant  $C \geq 1$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(\alpha Tf) &\leq \int_{\Omega} p(t)\rho(\lambda|f(t + \cdot)|)d\mu(t) \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} p(t)\rho(\lambda Cf)d\mu(t) = \rho(\lambda Cf).\end{aligned}$$

Taking  $\alpha = C_{\lambda}/\|L\|_1$ , we thus obtain

$$\rho\left(\frac{C_{\lambda}}{\|L\|_1}Tf\right) \leq \rho(\lambda Cf)$$

for  $\lambda > 0$ . But  $\lambda^{-1}C_{\lambda} \geq c$  for  $\lambda > 0$ , so from the last inequality we obtain

$$\rho\left(\frac{c}{\|L\|_1}\lambda Tf\right) \leq \rho(\lambda Cf)$$

for  $\lambda > 0$ . If we put  $\lambda = 1/u$ , we get

$$\rho\left(\frac{cTf}{u\|L\|_1}\right) \leq \rho(u^{-1}Cf)$$

for  $u > 0$ . Hence we obtain the inequality

$$(5) \quad \|Tf\|_{\rho} \leq \frac{C}{c}\|L\|_1\|f\|_{\rho}.$$

Since  $\|L\|_1 \leq cC^{-1}(1 - \theta)$ , we get

$$\|Tf\|_{\rho} \leq (1 - \theta)\|f\|_{\rho},$$

if  $f \in X$ . Now, supposing  $f \in B_{\rho}$ , we have  $\|f\|_{\rho} \leq 1$  and so

$$\|T_1f\|_{\rho} \leq (1 - \theta) + \theta = 1.$$

This shows that  $T_1 : B_{\rho} \rightarrow B_{\rho}$ .

It is easily seen that from Proposition 1 and Theorem 2 there follows the following

**THEOREM 3.** *Let all assumptions of Theorem 2 be satisfied, and let the space  $L_{\rho}^0(\Omega)$  be complete with respect to the norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\rho}$  and measure bounded. Let  $X = L_{\rho}^0(\Omega)$  or  $X = E_{\rho}^0(\Omega)$ . Finally, let us suppose that the image  $TB_{\rho}(X)$  of the unit ball  $B_{\rho}(X)$  in  $X$  by means of the operator defined by (2) is conditionally compact in  $X$  and  $T$  is continuous in  $B_{\rho}(X)$ . Then the integral equation (1) has a solution  $f \in B_{\rho}(X)$ .*

Here we formulate some sufficient conditions which guarantees the continuity of the operator  $T : B_{\rho}(X) \rightarrow B_{\rho}(X)$  with conditionally compact range.

From now on we will work with a locally compact and  $\sigma$ -compact abelian group  $(\Omega, +)$ , endowed with its Haar measure  $\mu$ . In order to do it we need to introduce some notions concerning the operator taken into consideration.

First of all let us remark that if  $\rho$  is a norm in  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  and is monotone, then  $L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  is a preideal space (see [14]). We may write

$$(Tf)(s) = \int\limits_{\Omega} K(t, f(t+s))d\mu(t) = \int\limits_{\Omega} K(t-s, f(t))d\mu(t), s \in \Omega,$$

and we will put

$$(\tilde{T}f)(s) = \int\limits_{\Omega} |K(t-s, f(t))|d\mu(t), s \in \Omega.$$

Moreover it is easy to see that  $\tilde{T} : B_\rho(X) \rightarrow B_\rho(X)$ .

Now for a sequence of measurable sets  $E_n \subset \Omega$ , with  $E_1 \supseteq E_2, \dots$ ,  $\text{mes}(\cap E_n) = 0$ , we will write briefly  $E_n \downarrow \emptyset$ , while  $E_n \uparrow E$  means that  $E_n \subseteq E$  and  $E \setminus E_n \downarrow \emptyset$ . Moreover we will denote by  $P_{E_n}$  the projection operator on  $E_n$ , i.e.  $P_{E_n}(g)(t, s) = \chi_{E_n}(s)g(t, s)$ , for any measurable function  $g$  defined on  $\Omega \times \Omega$ . If the function  $g$  depends on  $s$  only, then simply  $P_{E_n}(g)(s) = \chi_{E_n}(s)g(s)$ .

Now, we say that the operator  $T : B_\rho(X) \rightarrow B_\rho(X)$  is *uniformly regular* (see [14]) if there holds the following conditions:

(a) for any sequence  $E_n \subseteq \Omega$ ,  $E_n \downarrow \emptyset$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_{f \in B_\rho(\Omega)} \left\| \int\limits_{E_n} |K(t-\cdot, f(t))|d\mu(t) \right\|_\rho = 0$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_{f \in B_\rho(\Omega), \|f\|_\infty \leq 1} \|P_{E_n} \tilde{T}f\|_\rho = 0;$$

(b) there exists sets  $\Omega_k \uparrow \Omega$  such that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  and for any sequence  $Q_n \downarrow \emptyset$  with  $Q_n \subseteq \Omega_k \times \Omega_k$  (for some fixed  $k$ ), there holds:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sup_{f \in B_\rho(\Omega), \|f\|_\infty \leq 1} \text{mes}\{s \in \Omega : \int\limits_{\Omega} |P_{Q_n} K(t-s, f(t))|dt \geq \varepsilon\} = 0.$$

Then, from [14] we may formulate the following theorem:

**THEOREM 4.** *Let  $X$  be measure bounded and let the operator  $T : B_\rho(X) \rightarrow B_\rho(X)$  be uniformly regular. Then  $T$  is continuous with conditionally compact range.*

**REMARKS.**

1. In [9] there is a description of complete continuity of integral operators of Urysohn type in  $L^p$ -spaces. In particular, corresponding results can be obtained for convolution integral operators.
2. For Musielak-Orlicz spaces, there are known some necessary and sufficient conditions in order that a set  $\mathcal{A} \subset X$  be conditionally compact in  $X$ , where  $X = L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  or  $X = E_\rho^0(\Omega)$ , (see e.g. [8], [7], [12]).

3. In case of a general modular  $\rho$  on  $L^0(\Omega)$  there are not known any necessary and sufficient conditions in order that a set  $\mathcal{A} \subset X$  be conditionally compact in  $X$ , where  $X = L_\rho^0(\Omega)$  or  $X = E_\rho^0(\Omega)$ .

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