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# Fixed point results for cyclic $(\psi, \phi, A, B)$ -contraction in partial metric spaces

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## Abstract

Very recently, Agarwal *et al.* (*Fixed Point Theory Appl.* 2012:40, 2012) initiated the study of fixed point theorems for mappings satisfying cyclical generalized contractive conditions in complete partial metric spaces. In the present paper, we study some fixed point theorems for a mapping satisfying a cyclical generalized contractive condition based on a pair of altering distance functions in complete partial metric spaces. Also, we introduce an example and an application to support the usability of our paper.

**MSC:** Primary 54H25; secondary 47H10

**Keywords:** partial metric spaces; fixed point; altering distance function; cyclic map

## 1 Introduction

The existence and uniqueness of fixed and common fixed point theorems of operators has been a subject of great interest since Banach [1] proved the Banach contraction principle in 1922. Many authors generalized the Banach contraction principle in various spaces such as quasi-metric spaces, generalized metric spaces, cone metric spaces and fuzzy metric spaces. Matthews [2] introduced the notion of partial metric spaces in such a way that each object does not necessarily have to have a zero distance from itself and proved a modified version of the Banach contraction principle. Afterwards, many authors proved many existing fixed point theorems in partial metric spaces (see [3–21] for examples).

We recall below the definition of partial metric space and some of its properties.

**Definition 1** [2] A partial metric on a nonempty set  $X$  is a function  $p : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  such that for all  $x, y, z \in X$ :

$$(p_1) \quad x = y \iff p(x, x) = p(x, y) = p(y, y),$$

$$(p_2) \quad p(x, x) \leq p(x, y),$$

$$(p_3) \quad p(x, y) = p(y, x),$$

$$(p_4) \quad p(x, y) \leq p(x, z) + p(z, y) - p(z, z).$$

A partial metric space is a pair  $(X, p)$  such that  $X$  is a nonempty set and  $p$  is a partial metric on  $X$ . It is clear that, if  $p(x, y) = 0$ , then from  $(p_1)$  and  $(p_2)$ ,  $x = y$ . But if  $x = y$ ,  $p(x, y)$  may not be 0. The function  $p(x, y) = \max\{x, y\}$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^+$  defines a partial metric on  $\mathbb{R}^+$ .

Each partial metric  $p$  on  $X$  generates a  $T_0$  topology  $\tau_p$  on  $X$  which has as a base the family of open  $p$ -balls  $\{B_p(x, \varepsilon) : x \in X, \varepsilon > 0\}$ , where  $B_p(x, \varepsilon) = \{y \in X : p(x, y) < p(x, x) + \varepsilon\}$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

If  $p$  is a partial metric on  $X$ , then the function  $d_p : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  given by

$$d_p(x, y) = 2p(x, y) - p(x, x) - p(y, y)$$

is a metric on  $X$ .

**Definition 2** Let  $(X, p)$  be a partial metric space. Then

- (1) A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in a partial metric space  $(X, p)$  converges to a point  $x \in X$  if and only if  $p(x, x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p(x, x_n)$ .
- (2) A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in a partial metric space  $(X, p)$  is called a Cauchy sequence iff  $\lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} p(x_n, x_m)$  exists (and is finite).
- (3) A partial metric space  $(X, p)$  is said to be complete if every Cauchy sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  converges, with respect to  $\tau_p$ , to a point  $x \in X$  such that  $p(x, x) = \lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} p(x_n, x_m)$ .
- (4) A subset  $A$  of a partial metric space  $(X, p)$  is closed if whenever  $\{x_n\}$  is a sequence in  $A$  such that  $\{x_n\}$  converges to some  $x \in X$ , then  $x \in A$ .

**Remark 1** The limit in a partial metric space is not unique.

**Lemma 1** ([2, 17]) Let  $(X, p)$  be a partial metric space.

- (a)  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $(X, p)$  if and only if it is a Cauchy sequence in the metric space  $(X, d_p)$ .
- (b) A partial metric space  $(X, p)$  is complete if and only if the metric space  $(X, d_p)$  is complete. Furthermore,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d_p(x_n, x) = 0$  if and only if

$$p(x, x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p(x_n, x) = \lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} p(x_n, x_m).$$

Now, we define the cyclic map.

**Definition 3** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty subsets of a metric space  $(X, d)$  and  $T : A \cup B \rightarrow A \cup B$ . Then  $T$  is called a cyclic map if  $T(A) \subseteq B$  and  $T(B) \subseteq A$ .

In 2003, Kirk *et al.* [22] gave the following fixed point theorem for a cyclic map.

**Theorem 1** [22] Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a complete metric space  $(X, d)$ . Suppose that  $T : A \cup B \rightarrow A \cup B$  is a cyclic map such that

$$d(Tx, Ty) \leq kd(x, y) \quad \forall x \in A, \forall y \in B.$$

If  $k \in [0, 1)$ , then  $T$  has a unique fixed point in  $A \cap B$ .

Karapinar and Erhan [23] introduced the following types of cyclic contractions:

**Definition 4** [23] Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a metric space  $(X, d)$ . A cyclic map  $T : A \cup B \rightarrow A \cup B$  is said to be a Kannan type cyclic contraction if there exists  $k \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$  such that

$$d(Tx, Ty) \leq k(d(Tx, x) + d(Ty, y)) \quad \forall x \in A, \forall y \in B.$$

**Definition 5** [23] Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a metric space  $(X, d)$ . A cyclic map  $T : A \cup B \rightarrow A \cup B$  is said to be a Reich type cyclic contraction if there exists  $k \in (0, \frac{1}{3})$  such that

$$d(Tx, Ty) \leq k(d(x, y) + d(Tx, x) + d(Ty, y)) \quad \forall x \in A, \forall y \in B.$$

**Definition 6** [23] Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a metric space  $(X, d)$ . A cyclic map  $T : A \cup B \rightarrow A \cup B$  is said to be a Ćirić type cyclic contraction if there exists  $k \in (0, \frac{1}{3})$  such that

$$d(Tx, Ty) \leq k \max\{d(x, y), d(Tx, x), d(Ty, y)\} \quad \forall x \in A, \forall y \in B.$$

Moreover, Karapınar and Erhan [23] obtained the following results:

**Theorem 2** [23] *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a complete metric space  $(X, d)$ , and let  $T : A \cup B \rightarrow A \cup B$  be a Kannan type cyclic contraction. Then  $T$  has a unique fixed point in  $A \cap B$ .*

**Theorem 3** [23] *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a complete metric space  $(X, d)$ , and let  $T : A \cup B \rightarrow A \cup B$  be a Reich type cyclic contraction. Then  $T$  has a unique fixed point in  $A \cap B$ .*

**Theorem 4** [23] *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a complete metric space  $(X, d)$ , and let  $T : A \cup B \rightarrow A \cup B$  be a Ćirić type cyclic contraction. Then  $T$  has a unique fixed point in  $A \cap B$ .*

For more results on cyclic contraction mappings, see [24, 25].

Very recently, Agarwal *et al.* [26] initiated the study of fixed point theorems for mappings satisfying cyclical generalized contractive conditions in complete partial metric spaces.

Khan *et al.* [27] introduced the notion of altering distance function as follows.

**Definition 7** (Altering distance function [27]) The function  $\phi : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  is called an altering distance function if the following properties are satisfied:

- (1)  $\phi$  is continuous and nondecreasing.
- (2)  $\phi(t) = 0$  if and only if  $t = 0$ .

For some work on altering distance function, we refer the reader to [28–33].

The purpose of this paper is to study some fixed point theorems for a mapping satisfying a cyclical generalized contractive condition based on a pair of altering distance functions in partial metric spaces.

## 2 Main result

We start with the following definition.

**Definition 8** Let  $(X, p)$  be a partial metric space and  $A, B$  be nonempty closed subsets of  $X$ . A mapping  $T : X \rightarrow X$  is called a cyclic  $(\psi, \phi, A, B)$ -contraction if

- (1)  $\psi$  and  $\phi$  are altering distance functions;
- (2)  $A \cup B$  has a cyclic representation w.r.t.  $T$ ; that is,  $T(A) \subseteq B$  and  $T(B) \subseteq A$ ; and
- (3)

$$\psi(p(Tx, Ty)) \leq \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x, y), p(x, Tx), p(y, Ty), \frac{1}{2}(p(x, Ty) + p(Tx, y))\right\}\right) - \phi(\max\{p(x, y), p(y, Ty)\}) \tag{2.1}$$

for all  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ .

From now on, by  $\psi$  and  $\phi$  we mean altering distance functions unless otherwise stated.

In the rest of this paper,  $\mathbf{N}$  stands for the set of nonnegative integer numbers.

**Theorem 5** Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a complete partial metric space  $(X, p)$ . If  $T : X \rightarrow X$  is a cyclic  $(\psi, \phi, A, B)$ -contraction, then  $T$  has a unique fixed point  $u \in A \cap B$ .

*Proof* Let  $x_0 \in A$ . Since  $TA \subseteq B$ , we choose  $x_1 \in B$  such that  $Tx_0 = x_1$ . Also, since  $TB \subseteq A$ , we choose  $x_2 \in A$  such that  $Tx_1 = x_2$ . Continuing this process, we can construct sequences  $\{x_n\}$  in  $X$  such that  $x_{2n} \in A$ ,  $x_{2n+1} \in B$ ,  $x_{2n+1} = Tx_{2n}$  and  $x_{2n+2} = Tx_{2n+1}$ . If  $x_{2n_0+1} = x_{2n_0+2}$  for some  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ , then  $x_{2n_0+1} = Tx_{2n_0+1}$ . Thus,  $x_{2n_0+1}$  is a fixed point of  $T$  in  $A \cap B$ . Thus, we may assume that  $x_{2n+1} \neq x_{2n+2}$  for all  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ .

Given  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ . If  $n$  is even, then  $n = 2t$  for some  $t \in \mathbf{N}$ . By (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\psi(p(x_{n+1}, x_{n+2})) \\ &= \psi(p(x_{2t+1}, x_{2t+2})) \\ &= \psi(p(Tx_{2t}, Tx_{2t+1})) \\ &\leq \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(Tx_{2t}, x_{2t}), p(Tx_{2t+1}, x_{2t+1}), \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \frac{1}{2}(p(x_{2t}, Tx_{2t+1}) + p(Tx_{2t}, x_{2t+1}))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(Tx_{2t+1}, x_{2t+1})\}) \\ &= \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}), \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \frac{1}{2}(p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+2}) + p(x_{2t+1}, x_{2t+1}))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})\}). \end{aligned}$$

By (p<sub>4</sub>), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\psi(p(x_{n+1}, x_{n+2})) \\ &= \psi(p(x_{2t+1}, x_{2t+2})) \\ &\leq \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}), \frac{1}{2}(p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}) + p(x_{2t+1}, x_{2t+2}))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})\}) \\ &\leq \psi(\max\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})\}) - \phi(\max\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})\}) \\ &\leq \psi(\max\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})\}). \end{aligned}$$

If

$$\max\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})\} = p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}),$$

then

$$\psi(p(x_{2t+1}, x_{2t+2})) \leq \psi(p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})) - \phi(p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})).$$

Therefore,  $\phi(p(x_{2t+1}, x_{2t+2})) = 0$ , and hence  $p(x_{2t+1}, x_{2t+2}) = 0$ . By (p<sub>1</sub>) and (p<sub>2</sub>), we have  $x_{2t+1} = x_{2t+2}$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore,

$$\max\{p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})\} = p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}).$$

Hence,

$$p(x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}) = p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}) \leq p(x_{2t}, x_{2t+1}) = p(x_n, x_{n+1}) \tag{2.2}$$

and

$$\psi(p(x_{n+1}, x_{n+2})) \leq \psi(p(x_n, x_{n+1})) - \phi(p(x_n, x_{n+1})). \tag{2.3}$$

If  $n$  is odd, then  $n = 2t + 1$  for some  $t \in \mathbb{N}$ . By (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\psi(p(x_{n+1}, x_{n+2})) \\ &= \psi(p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+3})) \\ &= \psi(p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2})) \\ &= \psi(p(Tx_{2t+2}, Tx_{2t+1})) \\ &\leq \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}), p(Tx_{2t+2}, x_{2t+2}), p(Tx_{2t+1}, x_{2t+1}), \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \frac{1}{2}(p(x_{2t+2}, Tx_{2t+1}) + p(Tx_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}), p(Tx_{2t+1}, x_{2t+1})\}) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \psi \left( \max \left\{ p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}), \frac{1}{2} (p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+2}) + p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+1})) \right\} \right) - \phi \left( \max \{ p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}) \} \right).$$

By (p<sub>4</sub>), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \psi(p(x_{n+1}, x_{n+2})) \\ &= \psi(p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2})) \\ &\leq \psi \left( \max \left\{ p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}), \frac{1}{2} (p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}) + p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})) \right\} \right) \\ &\quad - \phi \left( \max \{ p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}), p(Tx_{2t+1}, x_{2t+1}) \} \right) \\ &\leq \psi \left( \max \{ p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}) \} \right) - \phi \left( \max \{ p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}), p(Tx_{2t+1}, x_{2t+1}) \} \right) \\ &\leq \psi \left( \max \{ p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}) \} \right). \end{aligned}$$

If

$$\max \{ p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}) \} = p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}),$$

then

$$\phi(p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2})) \leq \psi(p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2})) - \phi(p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})).$$

Therefore,  $\phi(p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1})) = 0$ , and hence  $p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}) = 0$ . By (p<sub>1</sub>) and (p<sub>2</sub>), we have  $x_{2t+2} = x_{2t+1}$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore,

$$\max \{ p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}), p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}) \} = p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}).$$

Hence,

$$p(x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}) = p(x_{2t+3}, x_{2t+2}) \leq p(x_{2t+2}, x_{2t+1}) = p(x_{n+1}, x_n), \tag{2.4}$$

$$\psi(p(x_{n+2}, x_{n+1})) \leq \psi(p(x_n, x_{n+1})) - \phi(p(x_n, x_{n+1})). \tag{2.5}$$

From (2.2) and (2.4), we have  $\{p(x_{n+1}, x_n) : n \in \mathbf{N}\}$  is a nonincreasing sequence and hence there exists  $r \geq 0$  such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} p(x_n, x_{n+1}) = r.$$

Also, from (2.3) and (2.5), we have

$$\psi(p(x_{n+2}, x_{n+1})) \leq \psi(p(x_n, x_{n+1})) - \phi(p(x_n, x_{n+1})) \quad \forall n \in \mathbf{N}. \tag{2.6}$$

Letting  $n \rightarrow +\infty$  in (2.6) and using the fact that  $\psi$  and  $\phi$  are continuous, we get that

$$\psi(r) \leq \psi(r) - \phi(r).$$

Therefore,  $\phi(r) = 0$  and hence  $r = 0$ . Thus

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} p(x_n, x_{n+1}) = 0. \tag{2.7}$$

By (p<sub>2</sub>), we get that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} p(x_n, x_n) = 0. \tag{2.8}$$

Since  $d_p(x, y) \leq 2p(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ , we get that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} d_p(x_n, x_{n+1}) = 0. \tag{2.9}$$

Next, we show that  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in the metric space  $(A \cup B, d_p)$ . It is sufficient to show that  $\{x_{2n}\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $(A \cup B, d_p)$ . Suppose the contrary; that is,  $\{x_{2n}\}$  is not a Cauchy sequence in  $(A \cup B, d_p)$ . Then there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  for which we can find two subsequences  $\{x_{2m(i)}\}$  and  $\{x_{2n(i)}\}$  of  $\{x_{2n}\}$  such that  $n(i)$  is the smallest index for which

$$n(i) > m(i) > i, \quad d_p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)}) \geq \epsilon. \tag{2.10}$$

This means that

$$d_p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)-2}) < \epsilon. \tag{2.11}$$

From (2.10), (2.11) and the triangular inequality, we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon &\leq d_p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)}) \\ &\leq d_p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)-2}) + d_p(x_{2n(i)-2}, x_{2n(i)-1}) \\ &\quad + d_p(x_{2n(i)-1}, x_{2n(i)}) \\ &< \epsilon + d_p(x_{2n(i)-2}, x_{2n(i)-1}) + d_p(x_{2n(i)-1}, x_{2n(i)}). \end{aligned}$$

On letting  $i \rightarrow +\infty$  in the above inequalities and using (2.9), we have

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} d_p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)}) = \epsilon. \tag{2.12}$$

Again, from (2.10) and the triangular inequality, we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon &\leq d_p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)}) \\ &\leq d_p(x_{2n(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}) + d_p(x_{2n(i)-1}, x_{2m(i)}) \\ &\leq d_p(x_{2n(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}) + d_p(x_{2n(i)-1}, x_{2m(i)+1}) + d_p(x_{2m(i)+1}, x_{2m(i)}) \\ &\leq d_p(x_{2n(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}) + d_p(x_{2n(i)-1}, x_{2m(i)}) + 2d_p(x_{2m(i)+1}, x_{2m(i)}) \\ &\leq 2d_p(x_{2n(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}) + d_p(x_{2n(i)}, x_{2m(i)}) + 2d_p(x_{2m(i)+1}, x_{2m(i)}). \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $i \rightarrow +\infty$  in the above inequalities and using (2.9) and (2.12), we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} d_p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)}) &= \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} d_p(x_{2m(i)+1}, x_{2n(i)-1}) \\ &= \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} d_p(x_{2m(i)+1}, x_{2n(i)}) \\ &= \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} d_p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}) \\ &= \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$d_p(x, y) = 2p(x, y) - p(x, x) - p(y, y)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)}) &= \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} p(x_{2m(i)+1}, x_{2n(i)-1}) \\ &= \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} p(x_{2m(i)+1}, x_{2n(i)}) \\ &= \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}) \\ &= \frac{\epsilon}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

By (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(p(x_{2m(i)+1}, x_{2n(i)})) &= \psi(p(Tx_{2m(i)}, Tx_{2n(i)-1})) \\ &\leq \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}), p(x_{2m(i)}, Tx_{2m(i)}), p(x_{2n(i)-1}, Tx_{2n(i)-1}), \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \frac{1}{2}(p(x_{2m(i)}, Tx_{2n(i)-1}) + p(x_{2n(i)-1}, Tx_{2m(i)}))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}), p(x_{2n(i)-1}, Tx_{2n(i)-1})\}) \\ &= \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}), p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2m(i)+1}), p(x_{2n(i)-1}, x_{2n(i)}), \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \frac{1}{2}(p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)}) + p(x_{2n(i)-1}, x_{2m(i)+1}))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x_{2m(i)}, x_{2n(i)-1}), p(x_{2n(i)-1}, x_{2n(i)})\}). \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $i \rightarrow +\infty$  and using the continuity of  $\phi$  and  $\psi$ , we get that

$$\psi\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}\right) \leq \psi\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}\right) - \phi\left(\frac{\epsilon}{2}\right).$$

Therefore, we get that  $\phi(\frac{\epsilon}{2}) = 0$ . Hence,  $\epsilon = 0$  is a contradiction. Thus  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $(A \cup B, d_p)$ . Since  $(X, p)$  is complete and  $A \cup B$  is a closed subspace of  $(X, p)$ , then we have  $(A \cup B, p)$  is complete. From Lemma 1, the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  converges in the metric space  $(A \cup B, d_p)$ , say  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d_p(x_n, u) = 0$ . Again from Lemma 1, we have

$$p(u, u) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p(x_n, u) = \lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} p(x_n, x_m). \tag{2.13}$$



Moreover, since  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in the metric space  $(A \cup B, d_p)$ , we have

$$\lim_{n,m \rightarrow \infty} d_p(x_n, x_m) = 0. \tag{2.14}$$

From the definition of  $d_p$  we have

$$d_p(x_n, x_m) = 2p(x_n, x_m) - p(x_n, x_n) - p(x_m, x_m).$$

Letting  $n, m \rightarrow +\infty$  in the above equality and using (2.8) and (2.14), we get

$$\lim_{n,m \rightarrow \infty} p(x_n, x_m) = 0.$$

Thus by (2.13), we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} p(x_n, u) = p(u, u) = 0. \tag{2.15}$$

Since  $p(x_{2n}, u) \rightarrow 0 = p(u, u)$ ,  $\{x_{2n}\}$  is a sequence in  $A$ , and  $A$  is closed in  $(X, p)$ , we have  $u \in A$ . Similarly, we have  $u \in B$ , that is  $u \in A \cap B$ . Again, from the definition of  $p$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} p(x_n, Tu) &\leq p(x_n, u) + p(u, Tu) - p(u, u) \\ &\leq p(x_n, u) + p(u, x_n) + p(x_n, Tu) - p(x_n, x_n) - p(u, u). \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $n \rightarrow +\infty$  in the above inequalities and using (2.9) and (2.15), we get that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} p(x_n, Tu) = p(u, Tu).$$

Now, we claim that  $Tu = u$ .

Since  $x_{2n} \in A$  and  $u \in B$ , by (2.1) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(p(x_{2n+1}, Tu)) &= \psi(p(Tx_{2n}, Tu)) \\ &\leq \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x_{2n}, u), p(Tx_{2n}, x_{2n}), p(Tu, u), \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \frac{1}{2}(p(x_{2n}, Tu) + p(u, Tx_{2n}))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x_{2n}, u), p(Tu, u)\}) \\ &= \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x_{2n}, u), p(x_{2n}, x_{2n+1}), p(Tu, u), \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \frac{1}{2}(p(x_{2n}, Tu) + p(u, x_{2n+1}))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x_{2n}, u), p(u, Tu)\}). \end{aligned}$$

Letting  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ , we get that

$$\psi(p(u, Tu)) \leq \psi(p(u, Tu)) - \phi(p(u, Tu)).$$

Therefore,  $\phi(p(u, Tu)) = 0$ . Since  $\phi$  is an altering distance function,  $p(u, Tu) = 0$ , that is,  $u = Tu$ .

Therefore,  $u$  is a fixed point of  $T$ . To prove the uniqueness of the fixed point, we let  $v$  be any other fixed point of  $T$  in  $A \cap B$ . It is an easy matter to prove that  $p(v, v) = 0$ . Now, we prove that  $u = v$ . Since  $u \in A \cap B \subseteq A$  and  $v \in A \cap B \subseteq B$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(p(u, v)) &= \psi(p(Tu, Tv)) \\ &\leq \psi(\max\{p(u, v), p(u, u), p(v, v)\}) - \phi(\max\{p(u, v), p(v, v)\}) \\ &= \psi(p(u, v)) - \phi(p(u, v)). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\phi(p(u, v)) = 0$  and hence  $p(u, v) = 0$ . Therefore,  $u = v$ . □

Taking  $\psi = I_{[0, +\infty)}$  (the identity function) in Theorem 5, we have the following result.

**Corollary 1** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a complete partial metric space  $(X, p)$ . Let  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be a mapping such that  $A \cup B$  has a cyclic representation w.r.t.  $T$ . Suppose there exists an altering distance function  $\phi$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} p(Tx, Ty) &\leq \max\left\{p(x, y), p(x, Tx), p(y, Ty), \frac{1}{2}(p(x, Ty) + p(Tx, y))\right\} \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x, y), p(y, Ty)\}) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ . Then  $T$  has a unique fixed point  $u \in A \cap B$ .

**Corollary 2** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a complete partial metric space  $(X, p)$ . Let  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be a mapping such that  $A \cup B$  has a cyclic representation w.r.t.  $T$ . Suppose there exists an altering distance function  $\phi$  such that*

$$p(Tx, Ty) \leq \max\{p(x, y), p(x, Tx), p(y, Ty)\} - \phi(\max\{p(x, y), p(x, Tx), p(y, Ty)\})$$

for all  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ . Then  $T$  has a unique fixed point  $u \in A \cap B$ .

Now, we introduce an example to support the usability of our results.

**Example 1** Let  $X = [0, 1]$ . Define the partial metric  $p$  on  $X$  by

$$p(x, y) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x = y; \\ \max\{x, y\}, & \text{if } x \neq y. \end{cases}$$

Also, define the mapping  $T : X \rightarrow X$  by  $T(x) = \frac{x^2}{1+x}$  and the functions  $\psi, \phi : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  by  $\psi(t) = 2t$  and  $\phi(t) = \frac{t}{1+2t}$ . Take  $A = [0, \frac{1}{2}]$  and  $B = [0, 1]$ . Then

- (1)  $(X, p)$  is a complete partial metric space.
- (2)  $A \cup B$  has a cyclic representation w.r.t.  $T$ .
- (3) For all  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(p(Tx, Ty)) &\leq \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x, y), p(x, Tx), p(y, Ty), \frac{1}{2}(p(x, Ty) + p(Tx, y))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x, y), p(y, Ty)\}). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof* Note that  $TA = [0, \frac{1}{6}] \subseteq B$  and  $TB = [0, \frac{1}{2}] \subseteq A$ . Thus  $A \cup B$  has a cyclic representation of  $T$ . To prove (3), given  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ , without loss of generality, we may assume that  $x \leq y$ . So,

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(p(Tx, Ty)) &= \psi\left(p\left(\frac{x^2}{1+x}, \frac{y^2}{1+y}\right)\right) = \psi\left(\frac{y^2}{1+y}\right) = \frac{2y^2}{1+y}, \\ \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x, y), p(x, Tx), p(y, Ty), \frac{1}{2}(p(x, Ty) + p(Tx, y))\right\}\right) \\ &= \psi\left(\max\left\{y, p\left(x, \frac{x^2}{1+x}\right), p\left(y, \frac{y^2}{1+y}\right), \frac{1}{2}\left(p\left(x, \frac{y^2}{1+y}\right) + p\left(\frac{x^2}{1+x}, y\right)\right)\right\}\right) \\ &\leq \psi(y) = 2y, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\phi(\max\{p(x, y), p(y, Ty)\}) = \phi\left(\max\left\{y, p\left(y, \frac{y^2}{1+y}\right)\right\}\right) = \phi(y) = \frac{y}{1+2y}.$$

Since

$$\frac{2y^2}{1+y} \leq 2y - \frac{y}{1+2y},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(p(Tx, Ty)) &\leq \psi\left(\max\left\{p(x, y), p(x, Tx), p(y, Ty), \frac{1}{2}(p(x, Ty) + p(Tx, y))\right\}\right) \\ &\quad - \phi(\max\{p(x, y), p(y, Ty)\}). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Note that Example 1 satisfies all the hypotheses of Theorem 5.

### 3 Application

Denote by  $\Lambda$  the set of functions  $\mu : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  satisfying the following hypotheses:

- (h1)  $\mu$  is a Lebesgue-integrable mapping on each compact of  $[0, +\infty)$ .
- (h2) For every  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have

$$\int_0^\epsilon \mu(t) dt > 0.$$

**Theorem 6** *Let  $A$  and  $B$  be nonempty closed subsets of a complete partial metric space  $(X, p)$ . Let  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be a mapping such that  $A \cup B$  has a cyclic representation w.r.t.  $T$ . Suppose that for  $x \in A$  and  $y \in B$ , we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{p(Tx, Ty)} \mu_1(t) dt &\leq \int_0^{\max\{p(x, y), p(x, Tx), p(y, Ty), \frac{1}{2}(p(x, Ty) + p(Tx, y))\}} \mu_1(t) dt \\ &\quad - \int_0^{\max\{p(x, y), p(y, Ty)\}} \mu_2(t) dt, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mu_1, \mu_2 \in \Lambda$ . Then  $T$  has a unique fixed point  $u \in A \cap B$ .

*Proof* Follows from Theorem 5 by defining  $\psi, \phi : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  via  $\psi(t) = \int_0^t \mu_1(s) ds$  and  $\phi(t) = \int_0^t \mu_2(s) ds$  and noting that  $\psi, \phi$  are altering distance functions.  $\square$

**Remark 2** Theorem 2.1 of [23] is a special case of Corollary 2.

**Remark 3** Theorem 2.3 of [23] is a special case of Corollary 2.

**Remark 4** Theorem 2.4 of [23] is a special case of Corollary 2.

**Remark 5** Theorem 1.1 of [22] is a special case of Corollary 2.

#### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### Authors' contributions

All authors read and approved the manuscript.

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