

# On an Open Problem in Complex Valued Rectangular b-Metric Spaces with an Application

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the paper is to solve problem 1. Moreover, we prove fixed point theorems for contraction mappings in complete rectangular b-metrics and give examples as a satisfying the theorems in such spaces and give examples as a satisfying the theorems in rectangular b-metric spaces. Finally, we apply our result to examine the existence and uniqueness of solution for a system of Fredholm integral equation.

**Keywords:** Fixed point; Contraction mapping; Rectangular b-metric spaces; Integral equation; Fredholm type

## 1. Introduction

In 2015, George et al. [1] established the concept of rectangular b-metric space as a generalization of metric space (MS) [2], rectangular metric space (RMS) [3] and b-metric space (bMS) [4].

In the same year, Ege [6] established the complex valued rectangular b-metric space (CRbMS) as a generalization of a complex valued metric space (CMS) [5] and

rectangular b-metric space (RbMS) [1] and proved an analogue of Banach contraction principle. Author also proved a different contraction principle with a new condition and a fixed point theorem in this space. Finally, author gave an application of Banach contraction principle to linear equations.

The complex metric space was initiated by Azam et al. [5]. Let  $\mathbb{C}$  be the set of complex numbers and  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

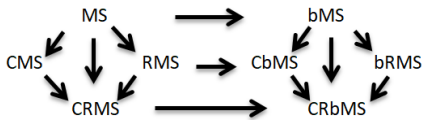
Define a partial order  $\lesssim$  on  $\mathbb{C}$  as follows:  $z_1 \lesssim z_2$  if and only if  $Re(z_1) \leq Re(z_2)$  and  $Im(z_1) \leq Im(z_2)$ . It follows that  $z_1 \lesssim z_2$  if one of the following conditions is satisfied:  $(C_1)Re(z_1) = Re(z_2), Im(z_1) = Im(z_2)$ ;  $(C_2)Re(z_1) = Re(z_2), Im(z_1) < Im(z_2)$ ;  $(C_3)Re(z_1) < Re(z_2), Im(z_1) = Im(z_2)$ ;  $(C_4)Re(z_1) < Re(z_2), Im(z_1) < Im(z_2)$ .

Particularly, we write  $z_1 \lesssim z_2$  if  $z_1 \neq z_2$  and one of  $(C_2), (C_3)$  and  $(C_4)$  is satisfied and we write  $z_1 < z_2$  if only  $(C_4)$  is satisfied. The following statements hold:

- (1) If  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $a \leq b$ , then  $az \lesssim bz$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .
- (2) If  $0 \lesssim z_1 \lesssim z_2$ , then  $|z_1| < |z_2|$ .
- (3) If  $z_1 \lesssim z_2$  and  $z_2 < z_3$ , then  $z_1 < z_3$ .

**Definition 1.1** ([6]). Let  $X$  be a nonempty set and the mapping  $d : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  satisfies:

- (i)  $0 \lesssim d(x, y)$  for all  $x = y$ ;
- (ii)  $d(x, y) = 0$  if and only if  $x = y$ ;
- (iii)  $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ ;
- (iv) there exists a real number  $s \geq 1$  such that  $d(x, y) \lesssim s[d(x, u) + d(u, v) + d(v, y)]$  for all  $x, y \in X$ , and all distinct points  $u, v \in X \setminus \{x, y\}$ . Then  $d$  is called a complex valued rectangular b-metric on  $X$  and  $(X, d)$  is called a *complex valued rectangular b-metric space (in short CRbMS)* with coefficient .



Note that every complex valued space is a complex valued rectangular b-metric space with coefficient  $s = 1$ .

**Example 1.2** ([6]). Let  $X = A \cup B$ , where  $A = \{\frac{1}{n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  and  $B = \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $d : X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be defined as follows:  $d(x, y) =$

$d(y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in X$  and

$$d(x, y) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x = y; \\ 2t, & \text{if } x, y \in A; \\ \frac{t}{2n}, & \text{if } x \in A \text{ and } y \notin \{2, 3\}, \\ t, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $t > 0$  is a constant. Then  $(X, d)$  is a complex valued rectangular b-metric space with coefficient  $s = 2$ , but  $(X, d)$  is not a complex valued rectangular metric space.

Now, we review definition in complex valued rectangular b-metric spaces as follows:

**Definition 1.3** ([6]). Let  $(X, d)$  be a complex valued rectangular b-metric space,  $\{x_n\}$  be a sequence in  $X$  and  $x \in X$ . Then

(i) The sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is said to be *complex valued convergent* in  $(X, d)$  and converges to  $x$ , if for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $d(x_n, x) < \epsilon$  for all  $n > n_0$  and this fact is represented by  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$  or  $x_n \rightarrow x$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

(ii) The sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is said to be *complex valued Cauchy sequence* in  $X$  if for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $d(x_n, x_{n+p}) < \epsilon$  for all  $n > n_0, p > 0$  or equivalently, if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, x_{n+p}) = 0$  for all  $p > 0$ .

(iii)  $X$  is said to be a *complete complex valued rectangular b-metric space* if every Cauchy sequence in  $X$  converges to some  $x \in X$ .

**Lemma 1.4** ([6]). Let  $(X, d)$  be a complex valued rectangular b-metric space and let  $\{x_n\}$  be a sequence in  $X$ . Then  $\{x_n\}$  converges to  $x$  if and only if  $|d(x_n, x)| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Lemma 1.5** ([6]). Let  $(X, d)$  be a complex valued rectangular b-metric space and let  $\{x_n\}$  be a sequence in  $X$ . Then

$\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence if and only if  $|d(x_n, x_{n+m})| \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

The main result in paper [6] is the following theorem (The Banach contraction principle theorem in complex valued rectangular b-metric spaces).

**Theorem 1.6.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a complex valued complete rectangular b-metric space with coefficient  $s > 1$  and  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be a mapping satisfying:*

$$d(Tx, Ty) \lesssim \alpha d(x, y) \quad (1.1)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ , where  $\alpha \in [0, \frac{1}{s})$ . Then  $T$  has a unique fixed point.

In 2017, Mitrović [7], improved  $[0, \frac{1}{s})$  to  $[0, 1)$  for the Banach contraction principle theorem of George et al.[1] in rectangular b-metric spaces.

The above results naturally bring us to the following open problem.

**Open Problem 1.** In Theorem 1.6, we can extend the range of  $\alpha$  to the case  $\alpha \in [\frac{1}{s}, 1)$ ?

The purpose of this paper is to give some affirmative answers to the questions raised. We prove fixed point theorems for contraction mappings in complete rectangular b-metrics and give examples extend the theorems in such spaces. Finally, we apply our result to examine the existence and uniqueness of solution for a system of Fredholm integral equation.

## 2. Main Results

In this section, we prove a fixed point theorem for contraction mappings in complete rectangular b-metric space and give an example that satisfies main theorem in such spaces.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $(X, d)$  be a complex valued complete rectangular b-metric space.*

Suppose that  $T : X \rightarrow X$  is a mapping satisfying: There exists constant  $\alpha$  with  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  such that

$$d(Tx, Ty) \lesssim \alpha d(x, y) \quad (2.1)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then  $T$  has a unique fixed point. Moreover, the Picard iteration  $\{x_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  defined by  $x_{n+1} = Tx_n$ , converges to fixed point for any  $x_0 \in X$ , where  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ . Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha^n = 0$ , there exists a natural number  $k_0$  such that

$$0 < \alpha^k s < 1, \quad (2.2)$$

for all  $k > k_0$ . Let  $x_0$  be an arbitrary in  $X$  such that  $Tx_0 = x_1 \in X$ . Define a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  by  $x_n = Tx_{n-1} \in X$ , where  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . So, suppose that  $x_n \neq x_{n+1}$  for all  $n \geq 0$ . Then  $x_n \neq x_{n+k}$  for all  $n \geq 0, k \geq 1$ . Namely, if  $x_n = x_{n+k}$  for some  $n \geq 0$  and  $k \geq 1$  we have that  $Tx_n = Tx_{n+k}$  and  $x_{n+1} = x_{n+k+1}$ . By (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(x_{n+q}, x_{m+q}) &= d(Tx_{n+q-1}, Tx_{m+q-1}) \\ &\lesssim \alpha d(x_{n+q-1}, x_{m+q-1}) \\ &= \alpha d(Tx_{n+q-2}, Tx_{m+q-2}) \\ &\lesssim \alpha^2 d(x_{n+q-2}, x_{m+q-2}) \\ &\vdots \\ &\lesssim \alpha^q d(x_n, x_m), \quad n, m, q \in \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

Similarly, we get for any  $n, r \in \mathbb{N}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} d(x_n, x_{n+r}) &= d(Tx_{n-1}, Tx_{n+r-1}) \\ &\lesssim \alpha d(x_{n-1}, x_{n+r-1}) \\ &\lesssim \alpha^2 d(x_{n-2}, x_{n+r-2}) \\ &\vdots \\ &\lesssim \alpha^n d(x_0, x_r). \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Since  $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ , we get  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, x_{n+1}) = 0$ . We next prove

that  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence by letting  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$  with  $m, n > k_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(x_n, x_m) &\lesssim s[d(x_n, x_{n+k_0}) \\
 &\quad + d(x_{n+k_0}, x_{m+k_0}) + d(x_{m+k_0}, x_m)] \\
 &\lesssim s[\alpha^n d(x_0, x_{k_0}) \\
 &\quad + \alpha^{k_0} d(x_n, x_m) + \alpha^m d(x_{k_0}, x_0)].
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.5}$$

It follows that

$$|d(x_n, x_m)| \leq \frac{s\alpha^n + s\alpha^m}{1 - \alpha^{k_0}} |d(x_0, x_{k_0})|.
 \tag{2.6}$$

Thus  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $X$ . By completeness of a complete rectangular b-metric space  $(X, d)$ , there exists  $p \in X$  such that  $x_n \rightarrow p$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Next, we will show that  $p$  is a fixed point of  $T$ . Let  $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(p, Tp) &\leq s[d(p, x_n) + d(x_n, x_{n+1}) \\
 &\quad + d(x_{n+1}, Tp)] \\
 &\leq s[d(p, x_n) + d(x_n, x_{n+1}) \\
 &\quad + d(Tx_n, Tp)] \\
 &\leq s[d(p, x_n) + d(x_n, x_{n+1}) \\
 &\quad + \alpha d(x_n, p)].
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.7}$$

Taking limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in (2.7), we get  $p = Tp$ . Thus  $p$  is a fixed point of  $T$ . To prove uniqueness, suppose that there exists  $p^* \in X$  such that  $p^* = Tp^*$ . We consider

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(p, p^*) &= d(Tp, Tp^*) \\
 &\leq \alpha d(p, p^*),
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.8}$$

which implies

$$|d(p, p^*)| \leq \alpha |d(p, p^*)|,
 \tag{2.9}$$

and then  $p = p^*$ . So, the Picard iteration  $\{x_n\}_{n=0}$  defined by  $x_{n+1} = Tx_n$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  converges to  $p$  for any  $x_0 \in X$ .  $\square$

We give examples in order to validate the proved result.

**Example 2.2.** Let  $X = \mathbb{R}$  with  $d(x, y) = |x - y|^2 + i|x - y|^2$ . Let  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be given by

$$Tx = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2}{3} & \text{if } x, y \in [-1, 1]; \\ \frac{3x}{4}, & \text{if } x, y \in X \setminus [-1, 1]. \end{cases}$$

Then  $(X, d)$  is a complete CRbMS with coefficient  $s = 2$ . Let  $x, y \in X$ . Now, we consider, for any  $x, y \in X \setminus [-1, 1]$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(Tx, Ty) &= |Tx - Ty|^2 + i|Tx - Ty|^2 \\
 &= \frac{9}{16} (|x - y|^2 + i|x - y|^2) \\
 &\leq \alpha d(x, y),
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.10}$$

where  $\alpha = \frac{9}{16}$  and  $\alpha \in [\frac{1}{s}, 1)$ . If  $x, y \in [-1, 1]$ ,  $|x| \neq 1$  and  $|y| \neq 1$  then

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(Tx, Ty) &= |Tx - Ty|^2 + i|Tx - Ty|^2 \\
 &= (|x^2 - y^2|^2 + i|x^2 - y^2|^2) \\
 &= \frac{|x + y|^2}{9} (|x - y|^2 + i|x - y|^2) \\
 &\lesssim \frac{|x + y|^2}{|x + y|^2 + 5} (|x - y|^2 + i|x - y|^2) \\
 &= \alpha d(x, y),
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.11}$$

where  $\alpha = \frac{|x+y|^2}{|x+y|^2+5}$  and  $\alpha \in [\frac{1}{s}, 1)$ , which implies that  $T$  has a unique fixed point  $0 \in X$ .

### 3. Application

In this section, we endeavor to apply Theorem 2.1 to prove the existence and uniqueness of solution of the following integral equation of Fredholm type:

$$x(t) = \int_a^b G(t, s, x(s)) ds + h(t)
 \tag{3.1}$$

for  $t, s \in [a, b]$  where  $G, h \in C([a, b], \mathbb{R})$  (say  $X = C([a, b], \mathbb{R})$ ) Define  $d : X \times X \rightarrow$

$\mathbb{C}$  by  $d(x, y) = \sup_{t \in [a, b]} |x(t) - y(t)|^2 + i \sup_{t \in [a, b]} |x(t) - y(t)|^2$  for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then,  $(X, d)$  is a complete extended rectangular b-metric space, see example 2.2. Now, we are equipped to state and prove our result as follows:

**Theorem 3.1.** For all  $x, y \in X := C([a, b], \mathbb{R})$ ,

$$G(t, s, x(t), G(t, s, x(y))) \leq \frac{1}{2(b-a)} \tag{3.2}$$

for all  $t, s \in [a, b]$ . Then the integral equation (3.1) has a unique solution.

*Proof.* Define  $T : X \rightarrow X$  by  $Tx(t) = G(t, s, x(s))ds + h(t)$  for all  $t, s \in [a, b]$ . It is clear that,  $x$  is a fixed point of the operator  $T$  if and only if it is a solution of the integral equation. For all  $x, y \in X$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} & |fx(t) - fy(t)|^2 \\ & \leq \int_a^b |G(t, s, x(s)) - G(t, s, y(s))| ds \\ & \leq \int_a^b \frac{1}{2(b-a)} |x(s) - y(s)| ds \\ & \leq \frac{1}{4(b-a)^2} \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \left( \int_a^b ds \right)^2, \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

then  $d(fx(t) - fy(t)) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  with  $\frac{1}{2(b-a)} \in [0, 1]$ . Hence, the operator  $T$  has a unique fixed point, that is, the Fredholm integral Equation (3.1) has a unique solution  $\square$

#### 4. Conclusion

The purpose of this paper is to give some affirmative answers to the questions raised. We proved fixed point theorems for contraction mappings in complete rectangular b-metrics and gave examples that satisfy the theorems in such spaces. Finally, we apply our result to examine the existence and

uniqueness of solution for a system of Fredholm integral equation:

Let  $(X, d)$  be a complex valued complete rectangular b-metric space. Suppose that  $T : X \rightarrow X$  is a mapping satisfying: There exists constants  $\alpha$  with  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  such that

$$d(Tx, Ty) \leq \alpha d(x, y) \tag{4.1}$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then  $T$  has a unique fixed point and the Picard iteration  $\{x_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  defined by  $x_{n+1} = Tx_n$ , converges to fixed point for any  $x_0 \in X$ , where  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ .

$$x(t) = \int_a^b G(t, s, x(s)) ds + h(t) \tag{4.2}$$

for  $t, s \in [a, b]$  where,  $G, h \in C([a, b], \mathbb{R})$  (say  $X = C([a, b], \mathbb{R})$ ) For all  $x, y \in X := C([a, b], \mathbb{R})$ ,

$$G(t, s, x(t), G(t, s, x(y))) \leq \frac{1}{2(b-a)} \tag{4.3}$$

for all  $t, s \in [a, b]$ . Then the integral equation 3.1 has a unique solution.

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