ON A LOCAL DEGREE FOR A CLASS OF MULTI-VALUED VECTOR FIELDS IN INFINITE DIMENSIONAL BANACH SPACES

N. M. BENKAFADAR AND B. D. GEL’MAN

Abstract. This paper is devoted to the development of a local degree for multi-valued vector fields of the form \( f - F \). Here, \( f \) is a single-valued, proper, nonlinear, Fredholm, \( C^1 \)-mapping of index zero and \( F \) is a multi-valued upper semicontinuous, admissible, compact mapping with compact images. The mappings \( f \) and \( F \) are acting from a subset of a Banach space \( E \) into another Banach space \( E_1 \). This local degree is used to investigate the existence of solutions of a certain class of operator inclusions.

0. Introduction

An important part of the theory of multi-valued mappings is devoted to inclusions of the type \( f(x) \in F(x) \), where \( f \) is a single-valued mapping and \( F \) is a multi-valued mapping. Such inclusion types can be found in different branches of mathematics, e.g., optimal control problems, mathematical economics, game theory.

For the solution of such problems we often employ topological invariant methods. In particular, we use the theory of topological degree, the rotation of a vector field, etc.

In this paper we study the following case: \( f \) is a nonlinear Fredholm mapping and \( F \) is an admissible, compact, multi-valued mapping. For this purpose we introduce the concept of the local topological degree for mappings of the form \( f - F \). We thus generalize the results given by the authors in [2].

For the construction of the local degree we study the degree of an admissible \( * \)-pair \( (p; q) \). This degree is defined for mappings which are acting

1991 Mathematics Subject Classification. 47H04, 47H11, 47H15.

Key words and phrases. Local degree, nonlinear Fredholm mapping, multi-valued mapping, operator inclusion, homology group.

The second author acknowledges support by the Russian Fund of Fundamental Research #96-01-00360.

Received: June 17, 1996.
from a finite-dimensional manifold to a finite-dimensional vector space. This process generalizes the construction of the coincidence index which has been introduced by Kucharski [13].

A topological degree for mappings \( f - F \) in the case when \( F \) is a compact multi-valued mappings with convex images has been constructed in the article of Borisovich [3]. When the multi-valued mapping \( F \) is condensing relatively to the mapping \( f \), a topological degree has been constructed in the papers [4] and [5].

The local degree constructed in this paper is employed to investigate the existence of solutions of a class of operator inclusions.

1. A degree for admissible \( \ast \)-pairs in the finite-dimensional case

Let \((X, A)\) and \((Y, B)\) be two pairs of Hausdorff topological spaces, and let \( p : (Y, B) \to (X, A) \) be a continuous single-valued mapping.

**Definition 1.1.** The mapping \( p \) is called a “Vietoris” mapping if

1. \( p \) is proper and surjective;
2. \( p^{-1}(x) \) is acyclic for every \( x \in X \).

The mapping \( p \) induces the homomorphisms \( p_\ast \) of the Čech homology groups with compact support and coefficients in \( Q \). For more information about the Čech homology groups, the reader is referred to [17].

**Theorem 1.2.** [11] If \( p : (Y, B) \to (X, A) \) is a Vietoris mapping, then the homomorphism \( p_\ast : H(Y, B) \to H(X, A) \) is an isomorphism.

**Definition 1.3.** A pair of mappings \((p; q)\) which satisfies:

1. \( p : (Y, B) \to (X, A) \) is a Vietoris mapping,
2. \( q : (Y, B) \to (Z, C) \) is a continuous mapping

is called \( \ast \)-pair.

Let \( M^n \) be a \( n \)-dimensional manifold, \( R^n \) a \( n \)-dimensional topological vector space and \( X \) a topological space. Let \( p \) and \( q \) be two single-valued mappings of the form:

\[
\begin{align*}
M^n & \leftarrow p \ X \rightarrow q \ R^n.
\end{align*}
\]

The pair \((p; q)\) is called an “admissible \( \ast \)-pair” if the subset \( K = p \circ q^{-1}(\theta) \) of \( M^n \) is compact.

We shall give a construction of a local degree for this class of pairs of single-valued mappings.

Consider an admissible \( \ast \)-pair \((p; q)\). Then we have

\[
(M^n; M^n \setminus K) \xrightarrow{p} (X; X \setminus q^{-1}(\theta)) \xrightarrow{q} (R^n; R^n \setminus \theta),
\]

and we can thus deduce the following diagram:

\[
H_n(M^n; M^n \setminus K) \xrightarrow{p_\ast} H_n(X; X \setminus q^{-1}(\theta)) \xrightarrow{q_\ast} H_n(R^n; R^n \setminus \theta).
\]

Using Theorem 1.2, we confirm that \( p_\ast \) is an isomorphism and we can thus define the homomorphism

\[
(p; q)_\ast = q_\ast \circ p_\ast^{-1} : H_n(M^n; M^n \setminus K) \to H_n(R^n; R^n \setminus \theta).
\]
Suppose now that $M^n$ is oriented with a fixed orientation $O \in \Gamma(M^n; Q)$. Let $O_K$ be the fundamental class of the compact set $K$ and let $O_\theta$ be the fundamental class of the zero $\theta \in R^n$. The homomorphism $(p; q)_*$ transforms $O_K$ into $O_\theta$ multiplied by an integer $\gamma_\theta(p; q)$. Thus,

$$(p; q)_*(O_K) = q_* \circ p_*^{-1}(O_K) = \gamma_\theta(p; q) \cdot (O_\theta).$$

**Definition 1.4.** The integer $\gamma_\theta(p; q)$, defined above, is called the “local degree” of the admissible $*$-pair $(p; q)$.

In some particular cases we will denote this degree by $\gamma_\theta[(p; q), M^n]$.

We now consider some properties of this degree.

Let $(p; q)$ be an admissible $*$-pair and $K_1$ a compact subset of $M^n$ such that

$$K = p \circ q^{-1}(\theta) \subset K_1.$$ 

We consider the mappings

$$(M^n; M^n \setminus K_1) \xleftarrow{\tilde{p}} (X; X \setminus p^{-1}(K_1)) \xrightarrow{\tilde{q}} (R^n; R^n \setminus \theta),$$

where $\tilde{p}$ and $\tilde{q}$ are the restrictions of $p$ and $q$, respectively.

**Proposition 1.5.** The homomorphism $(\tilde{p}; \tilde{q})_*$ transforms the fundamental class $O_{K_1}$ into the fundamental class $O_\theta$ multiplied by $\gamma_\theta(p; q)$.

The proof of this fact is a consequence of the commutativity of the corresponding diagram.

**Definition 1.6 (Homotopy).** Two admissible $*$-pairs $(p_0; q_0)$ and $(p_1; q_1)$ such that

$$M^n \xleftarrow{p_i} X_i \xrightarrow{q_i} R^n, \quad i = 0, 1,$$

are called “homotopic” if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. there exists an admissible $*$-pair $(p; q)$ such that

$$M^n \times [0, 1] \xleftarrow{p} X \xrightarrow{q} R^n;$$

2. there exist two continuous mappings such that

$$h_i : X_i \longrightarrow X; \quad i = 0, 1,$$

and the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
M^n & \xrightarrow{p_i} & X_i \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow h_i \\
M^n \times [0, 1] & \xleftarrow{p} & X \xrightarrow{q} R^n,
\end{array}$$

where $\chi_i(x) = (x, i), i = 0, 1$. 

Proposition 1.7 (Homotopy Invariance). Let \((p_\alpha; q_\alpha)\), \(\alpha = 0, 1\), be two admissible \(*\)-pairs which are homotopic. Let \((p; q)\) be the homotopy connecting them such that
\[
M_\alpha \times [0, 1] \xrightarrow{p} X \xrightarrow{q} R^n.
\]
If \(K = \bigcup_{\lambda \in [0, 1]} K_\lambda\) is compact and \(K_\lambda = p_\lambda \circ q_\lambda^{-1}(\theta)\), where \(p_\lambda\) and \(q_\lambda\) are the restrictions of \(p\) and \(q\) on the set \(p^{-1}(M^n \times \lambda)\) respectively, then \(\gamma_\theta(p_0; q_0) = \gamma_\theta(p_1; q_1)\).

The proof of this proposition is an analogue of the same theorem in [13].

Proposition 1.8 (Product). Let \((p_1; q_1)\) and \((p_2; q_2)\) be two admissible \(*\)-pairs of the forms
\[
M_1^n \xleftarrow{p_1} X_1 \xrightarrow{q_1} R^n \quad \text{and} \quad M_2^n \xleftarrow{p_2} X_2 \xrightarrow{q_2} R^m,
\]
respectively. If
\[
M_1^n \times M_2^n \xleftarrow{p_1 \times p_2} X_1 \times X_2 \xrightarrow{q_1 \times q_2} R^n \times R^m,
\]
then \((p_1 \times p_2; q_1 \times q_2)\) is also an admissible \(*\)-pair and
\[
\gamma_\theta(p_1 \times p_2; q_1 \times q_2) = \gamma_\theta(p_1; q_1) \cdot \gamma_\theta(p_2; q_2).
\]

The proof of this proposition is a consequence of the formula of Kunetta and the corresponding commutative diagram.

Let \(M^n\) be an oriented manifold of class \(C^1\), \(L^{n-1}\) an oriented submanifold \(M^n\) of class \(C^1\) and \((p; q)\) an admissible \(*\)-pair with
\[
M^n \xleftarrow{p} X \xrightarrow{q} R^n,
\]
where \(K = p \circ q^{-1}(\theta) \subset L^{n-1}\) and \(q(p^{-1}(L^{n-1})) \subset R^{n-1} \subset R^n\).

Consider \((\tilde{p}; \tilde{q})\), the restriction of \((p; q)\) on \(L^{n-1}\), i.e.,
\[
L^{n-1} \xleftarrow{\tilde{p}} \tilde{X} = p^{-1}(L^{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\tilde{q}} R^{n-1},
\]
where \(\tilde{p}\) and \(\tilde{q}\) are the restrictions of \(p\) and \(q\) respectively.

Proposition 1.9 (Restriction). The \(*\)-pair \((\tilde{p}; \tilde{q})\) is an admissible \(*\)-pair. So, with the correct choice of the orientation, \(\gamma_\theta(p; q) = \gamma_\theta(\tilde{p}; \tilde{q})\).

For this purpose we shall prove the following.

Lemma 1.10. Let \(M^n\) be an oriented manifold of class \(C^1\), and \(L^{n-1}\) an oriented \(C^1\)-submanifold in \(M^n\). Then for every compact \(K \subset L^{n-1} \subset M^n\) there exists an open neighborhood \(W \subset M^n\) such that \(W\) is homeomorphic to the direct product \(V \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)\) and the homeomorphism between \(V\) and \(V \times \{0\}\) is the identity mapping, where \(V = W \cap L^{n-1}\).

Proof. This is a consequence of the fact that there exists a neighborhood \(U\) of the null selector of the normal bundle on \(L^{n-1}\) and a homeomorphism \(h\) of \(U\) in some neighborhood of \(L^{n-1}\) in \(M^n\) such that \(h(x, 0) = x\) for every \(x \in L^{n-1}\) (see [14]). Because every line bundle on an oriented manifold is a product bundle [12], we can easily deduce the lemma.
Proof of Proposition 1.9. Let $W$ be a neighborhood of the compact set $K = p \circ q^{-1}(\theta)$ which satisfies the conditions of Lemma 1.10. The inclusion mapping $(W; W\backslash K) \xrightarrow{\sim} (M^n; M^n\backslash K)$ induces an isomorphism of homology groups. Then $O_K(M^n)$ (the fundamental class in $M^n$ near $K$) is the image of $O_K(W)$ (the fundamental class in $W$ near $K$) with a suitable choice of orientation.

So, using the excision property, we have $\gamma_\theta [(p; q); M^n] = \gamma_\theta [(p; q); W]$ and $\gamma_\theta [(\tilde{p}; \tilde{q}); L^{n-1}] = \gamma_\theta [(\tilde{p}; \tilde{q}); V]$. Because there exists a homeomorphism $h : W \rightarrow V \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ we can consider the orientation $O(V \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon))$ in $V \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ which is induced by the homeomorphism $h$.

Consider the admissible $*$-pair $(p_1; q_1)$:

$$V \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \xrightarrow{p_1 = h^{-1}} p X_1 = p^{-1}(W) \xrightarrow{q_1 = q|_{X_1}} R^n.$$  

Then $\gamma_\theta [(p; q); W] = \gamma_\theta (p_1; q_1)$. Choose an orientation in $R^{n-1}$ and $R^1$ such that the product of the orientations coincides with the orientation in $R^n$. Let us consider the restriction of the orientation of $R^1$ on $(-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$ and define an orientation on $V$ such that the product of these orientations coincides with the orientation on $O(V \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon))$.

Let us calculate $\gamma_\theta (p_1; q_1)$. Consider the following admissible $*$-pairs:

$$V \times \{0\} \approx V \xleftarrow{\tilde{p}} \tilde{X} \xrightarrow{\tilde{q}} R^{n-1}$$

and

$$V \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \xleftarrow{\tilde{p} \times id} \tilde{X} \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \xrightarrow{\tilde{q} \times id} R^{n-1} \times R^1 = R^n.$$  

From the product property we have $\gamma_\theta (\tilde{p} \times id; \tilde{q} \times id) = \gamma_\theta (\tilde{p}; \tilde{q}) \cdot \gamma_\theta (id, id)$. But, with our choice of the orientation, we have $\gamma_\theta (id, id) = 1$. Then we deduce $\gamma_\theta (\tilde{p} \times id; \tilde{q} \times id) = \gamma_\theta (\tilde{p}; \tilde{q})$.

Consider the following diagram:

$$(V \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon); V \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \backslash K \times 0) \xrightarrow{p_1} (X_1; X_1 \backslash p_1(K \times 0)) \xrightarrow{q_1} (R^n; R^n \backslash \theta)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\tilde{p} \times id & f & \tilde{q} \times id \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
(\tilde{X} \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon); \tilde{X} \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \backslash \tilde{p}^{-1}(K) \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)),
\end{array}$$

where $f(y, t) = y$ for every $(y, t) \in \tilde{X} \times (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon)$.

So we obtain a commutative diagram with the group’s homologies induced by the above diagram. This is a consequence of the fact that $\tilde{p} \times id$ is homotopic to $p_1 \circ f$ and $\tilde{q} \times id$ is homotopic to $q_1 \circ f$. 


Using the commutativity of the corresponding diagram we obtain:

\[ \gamma_\theta(p,q) = \gamma_\theta(p_1,q_1) = \gamma_\theta(p \times id; q \times id) = \gamma_\theta(p; q). \]

**Proposition 1.11.** Let \( (p,q) \) be an admissible \(*\)-pair. If \( \gamma_\theta(p,q) \neq 0 \), then there exist an element \( x_0 \in M^n \) such that \( \theta \in q \circ p^{-1}(x_0) \).

This is a consequence of the construction of the local degree.

**Proposition 1.12.** Let \( (p,q) \) be an admissible \(*\)-pair, \( M^n \xleftarrow{p} X \xrightarrow{q} R^n \), and suppose that there exists a connected neighborhood \( W \) of \( \theta \) in \( R^n \) such that \( q^{-1}(y) \) is compact. Then \( \gamma_\theta(p,q) = \gamma_y(p,q) \) for every \( y \in W \).

For the proof see [10].

We finish this section with the following proposition.

**Proposition 1.13.** Let \( (p,q) \) be an admissible \(*\)-pair such that

\[ M^n \xleftarrow{p} X \xrightarrow{q} R^n \]

and let \( U \) be an open subset of \( M^n \) which contains the set \( K = p \circ q^{-1}(\theta) \). Then

\[ \gamma_\theta[(p,q); M^n] = \gamma_\theta[(p,q); U]. \]

It is easy to see that in the case \( p = id : M^n \to M^n \) the local degree \( \gamma_\theta(p,q) \) coincides with the degree of Dold [10].

**2. Degree for a multi-valued vector field in a finite-dimensional manifold**

Let \( M^n \) be an oriented manifold with a fixed orientation \( O \in \Gamma(M^n;Q) \), and let \( R^n \) be a \( n \)-dimensional topological vector space.

Let \( \Phi \) be an upper semicontinuous multi-valued mapping with nonempty compact images such that \( \Phi : M^n \to K(R^n) \), where \( K(R^n) \) is the set of all nonempty compact subsets of \( R^n \). The properties of multi-valued mappings can be found in [8], [1].

**Definition 2.1.** The multi-valued mapping \( \Phi \) is called an “admissible multi-valued vector field” if there exists an admissible \(*\)-pair \( (p,q) \) such that

1. \( M^n \xleftarrow{p} X \xrightarrow{q} R^n \);
2. \( q \circ p^{-1}(x) \subset \Phi(x) \) for every \( x \in M^n \);
3. The set \( K = \{ x \in M^n \mid \theta \in \Phi(x) \} \) of \( M^n \) is compact.

In this case the pair of single-valued mappings \( (p,q) \) is called a “selected pair” of \( \Phi \) and we use the notation \((p,q) \subset \Phi\).

**Definition 2.2.** Let \( \Phi : M^n \to K(R^n) \) be an admissible multi-valued vector field. Then the set of integers

\[ \text{Deg}_\theta(\Phi, M^n) = \{ \gamma_\theta(p,q) \mid (p,q) \subset \Phi \} \]

is called the “degree” of \( \Phi \).

Let us now give some properties of this degree.
Proposition 2.3. If $\Phi$ is an admissible multi-valued vector field with acyclic images then $\text{Deg}_\theta(\Phi, M^n)$ is a singleton.

The proof of this proposition can be deduced from the theorem of Vietoris and the commutativity of the corresponding diagram.

Proposition 2.4. If $\text{Deg}_\theta(\Phi, M^n) \neq \{0\}$, then there exists an element $x_0 \in M^n$ such that $\theta \in \Phi(x_0)$.

The proof of this proposition is a direct consequence of the definition of $\text{Deg}_\theta(\Phi, M^n)$.

Proposition 2.5. Let $\Psi: M^n \times [0, 1] \rightarrow K(R^n)$ be an admissible upper semicontinuous multi-valued mapping such that
$$\nabla = \{ x \in M^n \mid \theta \in \Psi(x, t); t \in [0, 1]\}$$
is a compact subset of $M^n$. Then $\Phi_0 = \Psi(\cdot, 0)$ and $\Phi_1 = \Psi(\cdot, 1)$ are admissible multi-valued vector fields and
$$\text{Deg}_\theta(\Phi_0, M^n) \cap \text{Deg}_\theta(\Phi_1, M^n) \neq \emptyset.$$This is a direct consequence of the property of homotopy invariance 1.7.

Proposition 2.6. Let $M^n$ be an oriented manifold of class $C^1$ and $L^{n-1}$ an oriented submanifold in $M^n$. Let $\Phi: M^n \rightarrow K(R^n)$ be an admissible multi-valued vector field such that
1. $K = \{ x \in M^n \mid \theta \in \Phi(x) \} \subset L^{n-1}$;
2. $\Phi = \Phi_{|L^{n-1}}: L^{n-1} \rightarrow K(R^{n-1})$.
Then $\text{Deg}_\theta(\Phi, M^n) \subset \text{Deg}_\theta(\widetilde{\Phi}, L^{n-1})$.

This proposition is a consequence of the property 1.9.

3. A DEGREE FOR A MULTI-VALUED VECTOR FIELD PERTURBED BY A FREDHOLM MAPPING

Let $E$ and $E_1$ be two Banach spaces, and let $U$ be an open bounded domain in $E$. Let $f: \overline{U} \rightarrow E_1$ be a single-valued, proper, continuous mapping such that the restriction $f|_U$ is a nonlinear Fredholm mapping with index zero of class $C^1$. We note that $f \in \Phi_0 C^1$. The definition and properties of nonlinear Fredholm mappings can be found in [9].

Let $F: \overline{U} \rightarrow K(E_1)$ be an upper semicontinuous compact multi-valued mapping.

Definition 3.1. The mapping $F$ defined above is called an “admissible” multi-valued mapping if there exist a topological space $X$ and two continuous single-valued mappings $X \xrightarrow{p} \overline{U}$ and $X \xrightarrow{q} E_1$ which satisfy the following conditions:
1. $p$ surjective;
2. $q \circ p^{-1}(x) \subset F(x)$ for every $x \in \overline{U}$;
3. $p^{-1}(x)$ is acyclic for every $x \in \overline{U}$. 
We shall consider the following multi-valued mapping:

$$\Phi = f - F : \bar{U} \rightarrow K(E_1).$$

The multi-valued mapping $\Phi$ is called a “multi-valued vector field generated” by $F$. We suppose that $f(x) \notin F(x)$ for every $x \in \partial U$.

Consider the set $K \subset U$ defined by

$$K = \{ x \in U \mid \theta \in (f - F)(x) \}.$$ 

We shall build and study a degree for this class of multi-valued vector fields. We start with the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let $S$ be a closed subset in $\bar{U}$ such that $S \cap K = \emptyset$. Then there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that, $\| f(x) - y \| > \varepsilon_0$ for every $x \in S$ and $y \in F(x)$.

This is a consequence of the fact that $f$ is proper and $F$ compact.

Suppose now, that $K \cap \partial U = \emptyset$. Then by lemma 3.2 there exists $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that $f(x) \notin U_{\varepsilon_0}(F(x))$ for every $x \in \partial U$. Let $D = F(\bar{U})$ be a compact subset of $E_1$, choose in $D$ a finite $\mathcal{F}$ net with vertices $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_k$, and consider the projector of Schauder $p : D \rightarrow \overline{\text{co}}\{y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_k\}$ such that $\| y - p(y) \| < \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2}$ for every $y \in D$. Let $E_p = L(y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_k)$ be the linear vector space hull of the $\mathcal{F}$ net in $D$.

We can consider now the multi-valued mapping $F_p = p \cdot F : \bar{U} \rightarrow K(E_p)$. In this case we have $F_p(x) \subset U_{\varepsilon_0} F(x)$, so $\theta \in f(x) - F(x)$ for all $x \in \partial U$. Moreover, $K_p \cap \partial U = \emptyset$ where $K_p = \{ x \in U \mid \theta \in (f - F_p)(x) \}$.

Using the theorem of Sapronov [16] concerning the decomposition of space we see that there exists a direct decomposition of $E_1 = \tilde{Y}_p \oplus Y_p$ (where $\tilde{Y}_p$ is a finite dimensional subspace) and a neighborhood $U(K_p)$ of $K_p$ such that $\pi \circ f : U(K_p) \rightarrow Y_p$ is a submersion in the elements of $K_p$. The mapping $\pi$ is the natural projector which activates in parallel to $\tilde{Y}_p$.

Let us consider also the finite dimensional subspace $R_p = E_p + \tilde{Y}_p$, the natural projector which activates in parallel to $R_p$ on the complementary subspace $R_p$ of the space $E_1$. Then $\pi_p \circ f : U(K_p) \rightarrow R_p$ is also a submersion. Let be $M^n = f^{-1}(\tilde{R}_p) \cap U(K_p)$. This is an $n$-dimensional oriented manifold of class $C^1$ and $n = \dim \tilde{R}_p$, which is a consequence of the fact that $f \in \Phi_0 C^1$ and

$$M^n = (\pi_p \circ f)^{-1}(\theta) = f^{-1}(\tilde{R}_p) \cap U(K_p).$$

Similarly, we can build an oriented manifold $M^n$ of class $C^1$ and a finite-dimensional approximation $\Phi_p = f - F_p$ of the multi-valued vector field $\Phi$ such that $\Phi_p : M^n \rightarrow K(R_p)$ and $K_p \subset M^n$.

**Lemma 3.3.** The multi-valued mapping $\Phi_p$ is an admissible multi-valued vector field.

The proof is a natural consequence of the construction of $\Phi_p$. 
Definition 3.4. The set of integers

\[ \text{Deg}_\theta(f - F, \overline{U}) = \{ | \gamma_\theta ([l, \varphi]), M^n] | : \varphi = f \circ l - p \circ q, (l, q) \subset F \}, \]

is called the “local degree” of the multi-valued field \( \Phi = f - F \). Here, \( Z_p = l^{-1}(M^n) \) and \( \widetilde{t} = l \mid_{Z_p} \).

We should note that, in the case when \( F \) is a multi-valued mapping with acyclic images, \( \text{Deg}_\theta(f - F, \overline{U}) \) is a singleton:

\[ \text{Deg}_\theta(f - F, \overline{U}) = \{ | \gamma_\theta(\widetilde{t}, f \circ \widetilde{t} - p \circ \widetilde{t}) | \}, \]

where \( \widetilde{t} \) is the projector of the graph \( \Gamma_{M^n}(F) \) on \( M^n \), \( \widetilde{r} \) is the projector of \( \Gamma_{M^n}(F) \) on \( E_1 \) and \( p \) is the projector of Schauder. We shall prove that the local degree \( \text{Deg}_\theta(f - F, \overline{U}) \) of Definition 3.4 is well-defined.

Lemma 3.5. The local degree \( \text{Deg}_\theta(f - F, \overline{U}) \) is independent of the choice of the subspace \( \widetilde{Y}_p \).

Proof. Let \( \widetilde{Y}_{p_1} \) and \( \widetilde{Y}_{p_2} \) be two finite-dimensional subspaces in \( E_1 \) with \( E_1 = \widetilde{Y}_{p_1} \oplus Y_{p_1}, \ i = 1, 2 \), and let \( \pi_i \circ f : U(K_p) \to Y_{p_i} \) be the submersions. Suppose first that \( \widetilde{Y}_{p_1} \subset \widetilde{Y}_{p_2} \) and consider the sequence of subsets connecting them:

\[ \widetilde{Y}_{p_1} = \widetilde{Y}_0 \subset \widetilde{Y}_1 \subset \ldots \subset \widetilde{Y}_s = \widetilde{Y}_{p_2}, \]

with \( \dim \widetilde{Y}_j - \dim \widetilde{Y}_{j-1} = 1 \). Consider \( R_j = E_p + \widetilde{Y}_j \) and \( T_j = f^{-1}(R_j) \cap U(K_p) \). Evidently \( T_{j-1} \) is a submanifold of class \( C^1 \) oriented in \( T_j \), and \( K_p \subset T_0 = M^{p_1} \). Let \( (l, q) \subset F \) be a selected \(*\)-pair of \( F : \overline{U} \to M \to E_1 \). Consider the sequence of \(*\)-pairs \((l_j; \varphi_j) :\)

\[ T_j \xrightarrow{l_j} M_j \xrightarrow{\varphi_j} R_j, \quad j = 0, 1, \ldots, s, \]

where \( M_j = l^{-1}(T_j) \) and \( l_j, \varphi_j \) are respectively the restriction of \( l \) and \( \varphi = f \circ l - p \circ q \) on \( M_j \). In this case \((l_j, \varphi_j) \subset \Phi_j \), where \( \Phi_j \) is the restriction of \( f - p \circ F \) on \( M_j \). Now, using the property of the restriction we have

\[ | \gamma_\theta ([l_0, \varphi_0), T_0] | = | \gamma_\theta ([l_1, \varphi_1), T_1] | = \ldots = | \gamma_\theta ([l_s, \varphi_s), T_s] |. \]

In the case when \( \widetilde{Y}_{p_1} \not\subset \widetilde{Y}_{p_2} \), we can consider \( \widetilde{Y}_{p_1} + \widetilde{Y}_{p_2} = \widetilde{Y}_p \). This space satisfies the condition of the theorem of Sapronov [16], and \( \widetilde{Y}_{p_1} \supset \widetilde{Y}_p, \widetilde{Y}_{p_2} \subset \widetilde{Y}_p \), so we can use the above part of this proof.

Lemma 3.6. The local degree \( \text{Deg}_\theta(f - F, \overline{U}) \) is independent of the choice of the projector of Schauder.

Proof. Let \( E_{p_1} \) and \( E_{p_2} \) be two finite-dimensional subspaces. Consider \( p_1 : D \to E_{p_1} \) and \( p_2 : D \to E_{p_2} \)-the Schauder projectors with \( \| x - p_i(x) \| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \) for every \( x \in D \).

We can define two multi-valued mappings \( F_{p_1} = p_1 \circ F \) and \( F_{p_2} = p_2 \circ F \).
Let \( E_{p_0} = E_{p_1} + E_{p_2} \). Then \( F_{p_1} : \tilde{U} \to E_{p_0} \) and \( F_{p_2} : \tilde{U} \to E_{p_0} \). Let \( \tilde{Y}_p \) be a finite-dimensional subspace such that \( E_1 = \tilde{Y}_p \oplus Y_p \) and 
\[
\pi \circ f : U(K_{p_1} \cup K_{p_2}) \to Y_p
\]
the associated submersion. Then we can consider \( R_{p_1} = E_{p_1} + \tilde{Y}_p, \) \( R_{p_2} = E_{p_2} + \tilde{Y}_p \) and \( R_{p_0} = E_{p_0} + \tilde{Y}_p \). Obviously, \( R_{p_1} \) and \( R_{p_2} \) are contained in \( R_{p_0} \).

The spaces \( M^{n_i} = f^{-1}(R_{p_i}) \cap U(K_1 \cup K_2), \ i = 0, 1, 2, \) are manifolds such that \( M^{n_1} \) and \( M^{n_2} \) are two oriented submanifolds of \( M^{n_0} \).

Let \( \Phi_{p_1} = f - p_1 \circ F \) and \( \Phi_{p_2} = f - p_2 \circ F \) be admissible multi-valued vector fields on the manifold \( M^{n_0} \). Let \((l, q) \subset F\) be an admissible \(*\)-pair:
\[
\tilde{U} \leftarrow Z \xrightarrow{q} E_1.
\]

Let \( Z_0 = l^{-1}(M^{n_0}) \). Then we can consider the \(*\)-pairs \((l; \varphi_1), (l; \varphi_2)\) such that: \( \varphi_i = f - l - p_i \circ q, \ i = 1, 2, \) defined by
\[
(M^{n_0}, M^{n_0 \setminus (K_{p_1} \cup K_{p_2}))} \xleftarrow{i} (Z_0, Z_0 \setminus l^{-1}(K_{p_1} \cup K_{p_2})) \xrightarrow{j} (R_{p_0}, R_{p_0} \setminus \theta)
\]
for \( i = 1, 2, \). Since
\[
\|x - \lambda p_1(x) - (1 - \lambda)p_2(x)\| < \frac{\varepsilon_0}{2}, \quad x \in D, \ \lambda \in [0, 1],
\]
we see that the mappings
\[
\varphi_1, \varphi_2 : (Z_0, Z_0 \setminus l^{-1}(K_{p_1} \cup K_{p_2})) \to (R_{p_0}, R_{p_0} \setminus \theta)
\]
are homotopic. So, \( \gamma_\theta [(l, \varphi_1), M^{n_0}] = \gamma_\theta [(l, \varphi_2), M^{n_0}] \).

We must prove now that
\[
| \gamma_\theta [(l, \varphi_1), M^{n_0}] | = | \gamma_\theta [(l, \varphi_1), M^{n_1}] |
\]
and
\[
| \gamma_\theta [(l, \varphi_2), M^{n_0}] | = | \gamma_\theta [(l, \varphi_2), M^{n_2}] | .
\]

Let us consider the sequence of subspaces connecting the subspaces \( R_{p_1} \) and \( R_{p_0} \):
\[
R_{p_1} = L_0 \subset L_1 \subset \ldots \subset L_s = R_{p_0},
\]
with \( \dim L_j - \dim L_{j-1} = 1, \ j = 1, 2, \ldots , s. \)

So we have the sequence of oriented submanifolds of class \( C^1 \):
\[
T_0 \subset T_1 \subset \ldots \subset T_{s-1} \subset T_s,
\]
where \( T_j = f^{-1}(L_j) \cap U(K_1 \cup K_2); \ T_0 = M^{n_1}, \ T_s = M^{n_0} \).

Let \( Z_j = l^{-1}(T_j), \ j = 1, 2, \ldots , s. \) Then we have the admissible \(*\)-pairs \((l_j, \psi_j), \ j = 1, 2, \ldots , s. \) defined by:
\[
T_j \xleftarrow{l_j} Z_j \xrightarrow{\psi_j} L_j,
\]
where \( l_j \) is the restriction of \( l \) on \( Z_j \) and \( \psi_j \) the restriction of \( \varphi_1 \) on \( L_j \).

On the other hand \( l_j \circ \psi_j^{-1}(\theta) = l_j \circ \psi_j^{-1}(\theta) = K_{p_1} \) for every \( i, j. \) Then using the proposition of the restriction we obtain
\[
| \gamma_\theta (l_0, \psi_0) | = | \gamma_\theta (l_1, \psi_1) | = \cdots | \gamma_\theta (l_s, \psi_s) | .
\]
The absolute value is necessary from the orientations in $T_j$ which can be incompatible. ■

We shall now give some properties of this degree.

**Proposition 3.7.** If $\text{Deg}_\theta (f - F, \tilde{U}) \neq \{0\}$, then there exists $x_0 \in U$ such that $\theta \in f(x_0) - F(x_0)$.

**Proof.** Suppose that $\theta \notin f(x) - F(x)$ for every $x \in \tilde{U}$. Then using Lemma 3.2 we see that exists $\varepsilon_\theta > 0$ with $\|x - y\| \geq \varepsilon_\theta$ if $x \in \overline{U}$ and $y \in F(x)$.

If $p$ is the projector of Schauder such that $\|x - p(x)\| < \frac{\varepsilon_\theta}{2}$ for $x \in D$, then $\Phi_p = f - p \circ F$ has no particular point. Thus, for every admissible $*$-pair $(l, q) \subset F$ we have $\gamma_p(l, f \circ l - p \circ q) = 0$. So, $\text{Deg}_\theta (f - F, \tilde{U}) = \{0\}$. ■

Let $\varepsilon_\theta = \min_{x \in \partial \overline{U}} \|f(x) - z\|$. From the fact that $f$ is proper and $F$ is compact we can affirm that $\varepsilon_\theta > 0$.

**Proposition 3.8.** For every $y$ with $\|y\| < \frac{\varepsilon_\theta}{2}$ we have

$$\text{Deg}_\theta (f - F, \tilde{U}) = \text{Deg}_y (f - F, \tilde{U}).$$

**Proof.** Let $p$ be the projector of Schauder associated with $\frac{\varepsilon_\theta}{2}$. We can suppose that the subspace $E_p$ contains the point $y$. Let $(l, q) \subset F$. Then $\varphi = f \circ l - p \circ q : Z \to E_1$. From the definition of the local degree we have the $*$-pair

$$M^n \leftarrow Z_p \xrightarrow{\varphi} \tilde{R}_p = E_p + \tilde{y}_p.$$

From the fact that the mapping $f$ is proper we can deduce that $l \circ (\tilde{\varphi})^{-1}(y)$ is compact. So $\gamma_p(l, \tilde{\varphi}) = \gamma_y(l, \tilde{\varphi})$. This fact is a consequence of Proposition 1.12. So, $\text{Deg}_\theta (f - F, \tilde{U}) = \text{Deg}_y (f - F, \tilde{U})$. ■

**Definition 3.9.** Let $\Phi(t, x) = f(x) - F(t, x) : \overline{U} \times [0, 1] \to K(E_1)$. We say that $\Phi$ is a “homotopy” if the following two conditions hold.

1. $F$ is a compact, upper semicontinuous and admissible multi-valued mapping;
2. $\theta \notin \Phi(t, x)$ for every $t \in [0, 1]$ and $x \in \partial U$.

**Proposition 3.10.** Let $\Phi$ be a homotopy. Then

$$\text{Deg}_\theta (\Phi(0, \cdot), \tilde{U}) \cap \text{Deg}_\theta (\Phi(1, \cdot), \tilde{U}) \neq \emptyset.$$

**Proof.** Let $D = \{y \in E_1 \mid \exists (t, x) \in [0, 1] \times \overline{U}; y \in F(t, x)\}$ and let $\varepsilon_\theta > 0$ be such that $\|x - y\| \geq \varepsilon_\theta$ for $y \in F(t, x)$, $(t, x) \in [0, 1] \times \partial U$. Let $p : D \to E_1$ be the projector of Schauder such that $\|x - p(x)\| < \frac{\varepsilon_\theta}{2}$ for $x \in D$.

As in the definition of the local degree, consider the finite-dimensional space $\tilde{R}_p \supset p(D)$ and $M^n = f^{-1}(\tilde{R}_p) \cap U(K_p)$, where $K_p = \{x \in U \mid \theta \in f(x) - p \circ F(t, x), t \in [0, 1]\}$. We can define on $M^n$ the homotopy $\Phi_p(t, x) = f(x) - p \circ F(t, x)$. Now the proof is a consequence of the proposition of homotopy invariance. ■
The nonlinear Fredholm mappings \( f \) are also admissible multi-valued vector fields. For this class we can define a local degree \( \text{Deg}_0(f, \bar{U}) \). On the other hand, a degree, \( \gamma_0(f, \bar{U}) \), for nonlinear Fredholm mappings has been defined in [6]. We can prove that

\[
\text{Deg}_0(f, \bar{U}) = \left\{ \gamma_0(f, \bar{U}) \right\}.
\]

As in the case of the usual degree, the local degree \( \text{Deg}_0(\Phi, \bar{U}) \) can be used to solve the existence problem for the inclusion \( \theta \in \Phi(x) \). For example let us give the following proposition. Let \( U \) be an open bounded subset of \( E \), \( f : \bar{U} \rightarrow E_1 \), \( F : \bar{U} \rightarrow K(E_1) \).

**Proposition 3.11.** Let \( f \in \Phi_0 C^1 \) be proper, let \( F \) be a compact upper semi-continuous admissible multi-valued mapping. Suppose that

1. \( \| f(x) \| \geq \| y \| \) for every \( y \in F(x) \), \( x \in \partial U \);
2. \( \| f(x) \| \neq 0 \) for every \( x \in \partial U \);
3. \( \text{Deg}_0(f, \bar{U}) \neq 0 \).

Then there exists an element \( x_0 \in U \) such that \( \theta \in f(x_0) - F(x_0) \).

**Proof.** In the case when \( \theta \in f(x) - F(x) \) for some \( x \in \partial U \) the proposition is proved. Suppose that \( \theta \notin f(x) - F(x) \) for every \( x \in \partial U \). Then we can consider the homotopy \( \Phi(\lambda, x) = f(x) - \lambda F(x) \). It is easy to see that \( \theta \notin \Phi(\lambda, x) \) on \( \lambda, x \in [0, 1] \times \partial U \). From 3.10, \( \text{Deg}_0(\Phi(0, \cdot), \bar{U}) \cap \text{Deg}_0(\Phi(1, \cdot), \bar{U}) \neq \emptyset \). Since \( \Phi(0, \cdot) = f(\cdot) \) and \( \text{Deg}_0(f, \bar{U}) \neq 0 \), we can deduce that \( \text{Deg}_0(f - F, \bar{U}) \neq \{0\} \). Then there exists an element \( x_0 \in U \) such that \( \theta \in f(x_0) - F(x_0) \). \( \blacksquare \)

4. **Some applications of the local degree**

In this section we shall consider the existence solutions of a class of operator inclusions. For this purpose we consider the following hypotheses.

Let \( W \) be a bounded open subset of \( R^n \) and let \( f : [0, h] \times \bar{W} \rightarrow R^n \) and \( g : [0, h] \times R^n \rightarrow R^n \) be two single-valued continuous mappings. Let \( F : [0, h] \times \bar{W} \rightarrow K_V(R^n) \) be a multi-valued upper semicataouy conditions:

1. For every \( x \in E \) the multi-valued mapping \( F(\cdot, x) : [0, h] \rightarrow K_V(R^n) \) is measurable.
2. For almost all \( t \in [0, h] \) the multi-valued \( F(t, \cdot) : \bar{W} \rightarrow K_V(R^n) \) is upper semicontinous.
3. There exist two summable single-valued mappings \( \alpha, \beta : [0, h] \rightarrow R \) such that

\[
\| F(t, x) \| = \sup_{y \in F(t, x)} \| y \| \leq \alpha(t) + \beta(t) \| x \|.
\]

Let us consider the following system:

\[
y'(t) \in F(t, x(t)),
\]

\[
y(0) = 0,
\]

\[
f(t, x(t)) = \varepsilon g(t, y(t)),
\]

\[ (1) \]
The solution of the system (1) on the interval \([0, h]\) is defined by a pair of continuous single mappings \((x(\cdot), y(\cdot))\), where \(x, y : [0, h] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n\) are such that

1. \(y(\cdot)\) is an absolutely continuous mapping, \(y'(t) \in F(t, x(t))\) for almost all \(t \in [0, h]\) and \(y(0) = 0\);
2. \(f(t, x(t)) = \varepsilon g(t, y(t))\) for every \(t \in [0, h]\).

We shall study the existence of the solution of the system (1).

It is simple to see that the problem (1), with the right choice of mappings \(f\) and \(g\), is a generalization of the Cauchy problem and a large class of boundary value problems for the differential inclusions.

Let \(U = \left\{ u \in C_{[0, h]} \mid u(t) \in W, \text{ for every } t \in [0, h] \right\}\). This set is a bounded open subset of \(C_{[0, h]}\). We can define the nonlinear operator \(f : \bar{U} \rightarrow C_{[0, h]}\) which is called the operator of superposition. This operator is defined by \(f(u)(t) = f(t, u(t))\) for every \(u \in \bar{U}\) and \(t \in [0, h]\). In the same way, from the mapping \(g\) we can define \(g : C_{[0, h]} \rightarrow C_{[0, h]}\).

Let us now consider the multi-valued mapping:

\[
K(u)(t) = \left\{ \int_0^t y(\tau) \, d\tau \mid y(\tau) \in F(\tau, u(\tau)) \text{ almost everywhere } \tau \in [0, h] \right\},
\]

where \(u \in \bar{U}\) and \(t \in [0, h]\).

**Proposition 4.1.** The operator \(K\) is upper semicontinuous and has non-empty compact convex images, i.e.,

\[
K : \bar{U} \rightarrow K_C([0, h]).
\]

For the proof of the proposition see [8], [1].

We can consider now the following operator inclusion:

\[
(2) \quad \theta \in f(u) - \varepsilon \, (g \circ K) (u)
\]

The solution of the inclusion (2) is a continuous mapping \(u_0 : [0, h] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n\) such that

\[
\theta \in f(u_0)(t) - \varepsilon \, (g \circ K) (u_0)(t)
\]

for every \(t \in [0, h]\).

**Proposition 4.2.** The problems (1) and (2) are equivalent.

*Proof.* Let \((x_0(\cdot), y_0(\cdot))\) be a solution of System (1). Then \(f(t, x_0(t)) = \varepsilon \, g(t, \int_0^t y_0(\tau) \, d\tau)\), where \(y_0(\tau) \in F(\tau, x_0(\tau))\) for almost everywhere \(\tau \in [0, h]\). So, we can deduce that \(f(x_0)(t) \in \varepsilon \, (g \circ K) (x_0)(t)\), and this means that \(x_0\) is a solution of the problem (2).

Consider now \(u_0\) a solution of the problem (2). Then \(f(u_0)(t) \in \varepsilon \, (g \circ K) (u_0)(t)\). This signifies that there exists a mapping \(z\) such that \(z(\tau) \in F(\tau, u_0(\tau))\) for almost everywhere \(\tau \in [0, h]\) and \(f(t, u_0(t)) \in \varepsilon \, g(t, \int_0^t z(\tau) \, d\tau)\).
Then if \( y_0(t) = \int_0^t z(\tau) \, d\tau \) the pair \((x_0(\cdot), y_0(\cdot))\) is a solution of the problem (1).

Let us now consider the solvability of the problem (2). For this purpose we shall make the following hypotheses.

1. The mapping \( f : [0, h] \times W \to \mathbb{R}^n \) is continuous. Moreover, for \((t, v) \in [0, h] \times W\), \( f \) has continuous partial derivatives with respect to the vector variable \( v \).
2. The Jacobian matrix \( f'(t, v) \) satisfies \( \det [f'(t, v)] \neq 0 \) for every \( t \in [0, h] \) and \( v \in W \).
3. The single-valued mapping \( f_t = f(t, \cdot) : W \to \mathbb{R}^n \) is a homeomorphism for every \( t \in [0, h] \).

In [15] we can find some properties for functions \( f_t \) which satisfy the above assumption.

**Proposition 4.3.** The operator of superposition \( f : U \to C_{[0, h]} \) is Fréchet-differentiable and is a nonlinear Fredholm operator of index zero.

The proof of this proposition is a consequence of the fact that the Fréchet-derivative \( f' (u) \) of the operator of superposition \( f \) is an isomorphism for every \( u \in U \).

**Proposition 4.4.** The operator of superposition \( f \) is a homeomorphism on its range of values.

**Proof.** To show that \( f \) is an injective mapping, suppose that there exists a function \( y \in f(U) \) such that \( f(x) = y, f(x_1) = y \) and, for some \( t_0 \in [0, h] \), we have \( x(t_0) \neq x_1(t_0) \). Then, using Condition 3, we can deduce that \( f(t_0, x(t_0)) \neq f(t_0, x_1(t_0)) \). But \( y(t_0) = f(t_0, x(t_0)) = f(t_0, x_1(t_0)) \), from which we obtain the desired contradiction.

The mapping \( f^{-1} \) is continued because \( f \) is a local homeomorphism.

**Proposition 4.5.** The operator of superposition \( f \) is proper.

The proof is a consequence of the proposition 4.4.

**Proposition 4.6.** The mapping \( G = g \circ K : U \to K(\mathbb{C}_{[0, h]}) \) is an admissible, compact, upper semicontinuous and multi-valued mapping.

**Proof.** Let \( \Gamma_K \) be the graph of the multi-valued mapping \( K \), and let \((t, r)\) be the pair composed of the natural projectors \( t : \Gamma_K \to U \) and \( r : \Gamma_K \to C_{[0, h]} \). Then the pair of single-valued mappings \((t, g \circ r)\) is a selected \( \ast \)-pair of the multi-valued mapping \( G \). On the other hand, \( t^{-1}(x) \) is acyclic because this set is convex.

**Theorem 4.7.** Let the above conditions on the mappings \( f, g, F \) be satisfied. Assume further that the following conditions hold.
1. \( \theta \in f(t,W) \) for every \( t \in [0,h] \);
2. \( \theta \notin f(t,y) \) for every \( t \in [0,h], y \in \partial W \).

Then there exists \( \varepsilon_0 > 0 \) such that for every \( \varepsilon \in [0,\varepsilon_0] \) the system (1) has a solution.

Proof. Let us prove that the operator inclusion (2) has a solution in \( U \). From the fact that the single-valued mapping \( f \) is continuous on the compact subset \([0,h] \times \partial W\) and is not null in \([0,h] \times \partial W\), there exists \( \delta > 0 \) such that \( U_\delta(\theta) \cap f([0,h] \times \partial W) = \emptyset \). Then for every \( u \in \partial U \) we have \( \|f(u)\| \geq \delta \). Since the multi-valued mapping \( G \) is upper semicontinuous and compact there exists \( N > 0 \) such that \( \|z\| \leq N \) for every \( z \in G(U) \).

Consider \( 0 < \varepsilon_0 < \frac{\delta}{N} \). Then \( \varepsilon \notin f(x) - \varepsilon G(x) \) for every \( x \in \partial U \) and \( \varepsilon \in [0,\varepsilon_0] \). Consider now the homotopy \( \Phi(\lambda,x) = f(x) - \varepsilon \lambda G(x) \). It is easy to see that \( \theta \notin \Phi(\lambda,x) \) for every \( \lambda \in [0,1] \) and \( x \in \partial U \), and, consequently, \( \text{Deg}_\theta(\Phi(0,\cdot),U) \cap \text{Deg}_\theta(\Phi(1,\cdot),\overline{U}) \neq \emptyset \). Considering that \( \Phi(0,\cdot) = f(\cdot) \) and the fact that \( f \) is a homeomorphism and \( \theta \in f(U) \), we can deduce that \( \text{Deg}_\theta(f,\overline{U}) = \{1\} \) (see [6]). So, \( 1 \in \text{Deg}_\theta(f - \varepsilon G, \overline{U}) \). Then from the proposition we can deduce that there exists a solution for the operator inclusion (2).

Now we consider the problems (1) and (2) when \( \varepsilon = 1 \).

Let \( r = \min_{(t,x) \in [0,h] \times \partial W} \|f(t,x)\| \) and \( N = \max_{(t,x) \in [0,h] \times \partial W} y \in F(t,x) \| y \| \).

Theorem 4.8. If the conditions Theorem 4.7 are satisfied and \( N < r \), then the operator inclusion

\[ \theta \in f(u) - (g \circ K)(u) \]

has a solution.

The proof of this theorem is similar to the preceding one.

References


Special Issue on
Decision Support for Intermodal Transport

Call for Papers

Intermodal transport refers to the movement of goods in a single loading unit which uses successive various modes of transport (road, rail, water) without handling the goods during mode transfers. Intermodal transport has become an important policy issue, mainly because it is considered to be one of the means to lower the congestion caused by single-mode road transport and to be more environmentally friendly than the single-mode road transport. Both considerations have been followed by an increase in attention toward intermodal freight transportation research.

Various intermodal freight transport decision problems are in demand of mathematical models of supporting them. As the intermodal transport system is more complex than a single-mode system, this fact offers interesting and challenging opportunities to modelers in applied mathematics. This special issue aims to fill in some gaps in the research agenda of decision-making in intermodal transport.

The mathematical models may be of the optimization type or of the evaluation type to gain an insight in intermodal operations. The mathematical models aim to support decisions on the strategic, tactical, and operational levels. The decision-makers belong to the various players in the intermodal transport world, namely, drayage operators, terminal operators, network operators, or intermodal operators.

Topics of relevance to this type of decision-making both in time horizon as in terms of operators are:

- Intermodal terminal design
- Infrastructure network configuration
- Location of terminals
- Cooperation between drayage companies
- Allocation of shippers/receivers to a terminal
- Pricing strategies
- Capacity levels of equipment and labour
- Operational routines and lay-out structure
- Redistribution of load units, railcars, barges, and so forth
- Scheduling of trips or jobs
- Allocation of capacity to jobs
- Loading orders
- Selection of routing and service

Before submission authors should carefully read over the journal’s Author Guidelines, which are located at http://www.hindawi.com/journals/jamds/guidelines.html. Prospective authors should submit an electronic copy of their complete manuscript through the journal Manuscript Tracking System at http://mts.hindawi.com/, according to the following timetable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manuscript Due</th>
<th>June 1, 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Round of Reviews</td>
<td>September 1, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication Date</td>
<td>December 1, 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lead Guest Editor

Gerrit K. Janssens, Transportation Research Institute (IMOB), Hasselt University, Agoralaan, Building D, 3590 Diepenbeek (Hasselt), Belgium; Gerrit.Janssens@uhasselt.be

Guest Editor

Cathy Macharis, Department of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Information for Systems (MOSI), Transport and Logistics Research Group, Management School, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussel, Belgium; Cathy.Macharis@vub.ac.be