EXISTENCE THEOREMS FOR THE IMPLICIT COMPLEMENTARITY PROBLEM

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ABSTRACT. Some existence theorems for the general implicit complementarity problem in an infinite dimensional space are considered.

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1. INTRODUCTION.

The study of Complementarity Problems is an interesting and important domain of applied mathematics [1], [5], [8], [10] etc. In this domain, a special chapter is the Implicit Complementarity Problem. It seems that the first Implicit Complementarity Problem was defined in 1973 by Bensoussan and Lions [2], as the mathematical model of some stochastic optimal control problems [2], [3], [4]. Now, it is well known that, the Implicit Complementarity Problem can be used to study the optimal stopping of Markov chains [6].

The first existence results for the Implicit Complementarity are the results obtained by Dolcetta and Mosco [7], [18], [19].

As numerical methods for solving the Implicit Complementarity Problem we remark the iterative methods proposed by Pang [20], [21] and Mosco [22].

In this paper, we study some existence theorems for the general Implicit Complementarity Problem in an infinite dimensional space. This paper can be considered as a complement of our paper [13].

2. DEFINITION OF PROBLEM AND PRELIMINARIES.

Let \( < E, E^* > \) be a dual system of Banach spaces. Denote by \( K \) a pointed convex cone in \( E \), that is, a subset of \( E \) satisfying the following properties:

1') \( K + K \subseteq K \)
2') \( \lambda K \subseteq K \), for all \( \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \) and
3') \( K \cap ( - K ) = \{ 0 \} \).

The closed convex cone \( K^* = \{ y \in E^* | \langle x, y \rangle \geq 0; \text{ for all } x \in K \} \) is called the dual of \( K \).
Given a subset $D \subseteq E$ and the mappings $S : D \rightarrow K$ and $T : D \rightarrow E^*$, the Implicit Complementarity Problem associated to $T, S$ and $K$ is

\[
\text{ICP}(T, S, K): \begin{cases} 
\text{find } z_0 \in D \text{ such that } \\
T(z_0) \in K^* \text{ and } \\
\langle S(z_0), T(z_0) \rangle > 0.
\end{cases}
\]

We find applications and examples of this problem in [2], [3], [4], [6], [7], [18], [19], [20], [21].

When $D = K$ and $S(z) = z$, for all $z \in K$, the problem $ICP(T, S, K)$ is exactly the nonlinear complementarity problem, which has interesting applications in: Optimization, Game Theory, Economics, Mechanics, etc. [1], [5], [8-15].

If the problem $ICP(T, S, K)$ is defined, we consider the following special variational inequality:

\[
\text{SVI}(T, S, K): \begin{cases} 
\text{find } z_0 \in D \text{ such that } \\
\langle z - S(z_0), T(z_0) \rangle \geq 0; \forall z \in K.
\end{cases}
\]

**Proposition 1.** The problem $SVI(T, S, K)$ is equivalent to the problem $ICP(T, S, K)$.

**Proof.** Indeed, if $z_0$ is a solution of the problem $SVI(T, S, K)$ then $S(z_0) \in K$ and we have

\[< z - S(z_0), T(z_0) > \geq 0; \forall z \in K.\]

Let $u \in K$ be an arbitrary element. If we put $z = u + S(z_0)$ in (1) we obtain $< u, T(z_0) > \geq 0$, for every $u \in K$, that is, we have $T(z_0) \in K^*$.

If we put $z = 0$ in (1) we have $< S(z_0), T(z_0) > \leq 0$ and since $< S(z_0), T(z_0) > \geq 0$ we deduce $< S(z_0), T(z_0) > = 0$.

Conversely, let $z_0$ be a solution of the problem $ICP(T, S, K)$. We have, $S(z_0) \in K$, $T(z_0) \in K^*$ and $< S(z_0), T(z_0) > \geq 0$ which imply $< z - S(z_0), T(z_0) > \geq 0$, for every $z \in K$.

Given a nonempty subset $D \subseteq E$ and the mappings $T : D \rightarrow E^*$ and $S : D \rightarrow K$ we consider the following problem

\[
\text{SVI}(T, S, D): \begin{cases} 
\text{find } z_0 \in D \text{ such that } \\
< z - S(z_0), T(z_0) > \geq 0; \forall z \in D.
\end{cases}
\]

To solve the problem $SVI(T, S, D)$ we use the following classical result.

**Theorem 1.** A mapping $T_0 : D \rightarrow 2^D$, where $D \subseteq X$, have a fixed point if the following conditions are satisfied:

1') $X$ is a locally convex space and the set $D$ is nonempty, compact, and convex,

2') the set $T_0(X)$ is nonempty and convex for all $x \in D$ and the preimages $T_0^{-1}(y) = \{ z \in D \mid y \in T_0(z) \}$ are relatively open with respect to $D$, for all $y \in D$.

**Proof.** The proof is in [25][Proposition 9.9, p. 453].

**Theorem 2.** Let $D \subseteq E$ be a nonempty compact convex set, $T : D \rightarrow E^*$ and $S : D \rightarrow K$ two continuous mappings.

If for every $z \in D$ we have $< S(z), T(z) > \leq < z, T(z) >$, then the problem $SVI(T, S, D)$ has a solution.

**Proof.** If the problem $SVI(T, S, D)$ does not have a solution then,

\[< z - S(z), T(z) > < 0 \]
Let $T_0 : D \to D$ be the point-to-set mapping defined by, $T_0(x) = \{ u \in D \mid <u - S(x), T(x)> < 0 \}$, for every $x \in D$.

We remark that $T_0(x)$ is nonempty and convex for every $x \in D$.

Since $T$ and $S$ are continuous, the mapping $\mapsto <x - S(v), T(v)>$ is continuous too and we have that $T_0^{-1}(y) = \{ x \in D \mid y \in T_0(x) \} = \{ x \in D \mid <y - S(x), T(x)> < 0 \}$ is relatively open with respect to $D$.

Hence, by Theorem 1 there is an element $x_0 \in D$ such that $x_0 \in T_0(x_0)$, that is, $<x - S(x_0), T(x_0)> < 0$, which is impossible since for every $x \in D$ we have (by assumption) $<S(x), T(x)> \leq <x, T(x)>$.

Let $K$ be a pointed convex cone in $E$. We say that a subset $B$ of $K$ is a base, if $B$ is convex and for every $x \in K \setminus \{0\}$ there is a unique $b_x \in B$ and a unique number $\lambda_x \in \mathbb{R}^+ \setminus \{0\}$ such that $x = \lambda_x b_x$.

A closed pointed convex cone $K \subset E$ is locally compact if and only if, it has a compact base [Klee's Theorem].

If $r \in \mathbb{R}^+ \setminus \{0\}$ we denote $K^r = \{ x \in K \mid ||x|| \leq r \}$ and $K_r^r = \{ x \in K \mid ||x|| < r \}$.

We say that a convex cone $K \subset E$ is a Galerkin cone [10] if there exists a countable family of convex subcones $(K_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of $K$ such that:

i) $K_n$ is locally compact for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

ii) if $n \leq m$ then $K_n \subseteq K_m$,

iii) $K = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} K_n$.

A Galerkin cone will be denoted by $K(K_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.

We recall that if $D \subset E$ is a closed convex set, we say that a continuous operator (not necessary linear) $P : E \to E$ is a projection onto $D$ if $P(E) \subset D$ and $P(x) = x$ for every $x \in D$.

By the same proof as in our paper [12] we can prove that if $K(K_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a Galerkin cone in a Banach space, then for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists a projection $P_n$ onto $K_n$ such that for every $x \in K$ we have $\lim_{n \to \infty} P_n(x) = x$.

Given two Banach spaces $(E, ||||)$ and $(F, ||||)$ we say that an operator (not necessary linear) $T : E \to F$ is strongly continuous if for every sequence $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset E$, weakly convergent to $x$, we have that $(T(x_n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset F$, weakly convergent to $T(x)$.

This class of operators is very important and was intensively studied by Vainberg [24] and Lipkin [17].

3. PRINCIPAL RESULTS.

The principal aim of this paper is to give some existence theorems for the problem $ICP(T, S, K)$.

In this sense, we suppose given a dual system $<E, E^*>$ of Banach spaces. We consider on $E^*$ the strong topology.

THEOREM 3. Let $K \subset E$ be a pointed locally compact cone and $S : K \to E$, $T : K \to E^*$ continuous mappings. If the following assumptions are satisfied:

1') there is a number $r > 0$ such that $S(K_r^r) \subseteq K$,

2') there is an element $u_0 \in K$ such that $S(u_0) \in K$, $||S(u_0)|| < r$ and $<x - S(u_0), T(x)> \geq 0$, for all $x \in K$ satisfying $r \leq ||x|| \leq \max(r, r_o)$ where $r_o$ is a number such that $\sup_{u \in K_r^r} ||S(u)||$ is of the form $\max(r, r_o)$,

3') $<S(x), T(x)> \leq <x, T(x)>$; $\forall x \in K_r^r$,

then the problem $ICP(T, S, K)$ has a solution $x_0 \in K_r^r$ such that $||S(x_0)|| \leq \max(r, r_o)$.
PROOF. Since $\mathbf{K}$ is locally compact we have that $\mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}}$ is a convex compact set. Applying Theorem 2 with $D = \mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}r}$, we obtain an element $z_{r} \in \mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}}$ such that

\[(3): < z - S(z_{r}), T(z_{r}) > \geq 0; \forall z \in \mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}} \]

We have that $S(z_{r}) \in \mathbf{K}$. Two cases are possible:

I) $||S(z_{r})|| < r$. If $z \in \mathbf{K}$ is an arbitrary element then there is a sufficiently small $\lambda \in ]0, 1[$ such that $w = \lambda z + (1 - \lambda)S(z_{r}) \in \mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}r}$. If in (3) we put $z = w$ we have, $\lambda < z - S(z_{r}), T(z_{r}) \geq 0$, that is, $< z - S(z_{r}), T(z_{r}) > \geq 0$ for all $z \in \mathbf{K}$ and by Proposition 1 we obtain that $z_{r}$ is a solution of the problem $ICP(T, S, \mathbf{K})$.

II) $||S(z_{r})|| \geq r$. In this case we have $r \leq ||S(z_{r})|| \leq max(r, r_{0})$ and by assumption 2') we obtain,

\[(4): < S(z_{r}) - S(u_{0}), T(z_{r}) > \geq 0, \]

and since for every $z \in \mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}r}$ we have

\[(5): < z - S(z_{r}), T(z_{r}) > \geq 0 \]

we deduce (using (4) and (5)), $< z - S(u_{0}), T(z_{r}) > = < z - S(z_{r}) + S(z_{r}) - S(u_{0}), T(z_{r}) >$

\[= < z - S(z_{r}), T(z_{r}) > + < S(z_{r}) - S(u_{0}), T(z_{r}) > \geq 0, \]

that is, we have

\[(6): < z - S(u_{0}), T(z_{r}) > \geq 0; \forall z \in \mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}r}. \]

If $z \in \mathbf{K}$ is an arbitrary element then there is a sufficiently small $\lambda \in ]0, 1[$ such that $v = \lambda z + (1 - \lambda)S(u_{0}) \in \mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}r}$. Now, if we put $z = v$ in (6) we obtain,

\[(7): < z - S(u_{0}), T(z_{r}) > \geq 0; \forall z \in \mathbf{K}. \]

Since $||S(u_{0})|| < r$ we can put $z = S(u_{0})$ in (3) and we deduce,

\[(8): < S(u_{0}) - S(u_{0}), T(z_{r}) > \geq 0. \]

From (7) and (8) we obtain

\[(9): < z - S(z_{r}), T(z_{r}) > \geq 0; \forall z \in \mathbf{K}. \]

Since $S(z_{r}) \in \mathbf{K}$, from (9) and Proposition 1 we obtain that $z_{r}$ is a solution of the problem $ICP(T, S, \mathbf{K})$ and the proof is finished.

Theorem 3 can be extended to Galerkin cones. To obtain this extension we need to introduce a new concept.

We say that $S: \mathbf{K} \rightarrow E$ is subordinate to the approximation $(\mathbf{K}_{n})_{n \in N}$ if there exists $n_{0} \in N$ such that for every $n \geq n_{0}$ we have $S(\mathbf{K}_{n}) \subseteq \mathbf{K}_{n}$.

In [13] we indicated some examples of mappings with this property.

Independent of us in [16] is defined the concept of F-mapping which is similar to our concept.

In [16] we showed that every DC-mapping can be approximated by an F-mapping while the class of DC-mappings is very reach.

We say that $S: \mathbf{K} \rightarrow E$ is r-subordinate to the approximation $(\mathbf{K}_{n})_{n \in N}$ if there exist $r > 0$ and $n_{0} \in N$ such that for every $n \geq n_{0}$ we have $S(\mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}r}) \subseteq \mathbf{K}_{n}$, where $\mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}r} = \{z \in \mathbf{K}_{n} | ||z|| \leq r \}$.

REMARK. If $S: \mathbf{K} \rightarrow E$ is continuous and r-subordinate to the approximation $(\mathbf{K}_{n})_{n \in N}$ then $S(\mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}r}) \subseteq \mathbf{K}$.

Indeed, if $z \in \mathbf{K}_{r^{\perp}r}$ then we have two cases:
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a) \[ \| z \| < r. \] Since \( K \) is a Galerkin cone there is a sequence \( \{ z_n \}_{n \in N} \) such that \( z = \lim_{n \to \infty} z_n \) and for every \( n \in N, z_n \in K_n. \)

There exists \( n_1 \in N \) such that \( \| z_n - z \| < r - \| z \|, \) for every \( n \geq n_1, \) which implies, \( \| z_n \| \leq \| z_n - z \| + \| z \| < r. \)

Since, for every \( n \geq \max(n_0, n_1) \) we have \( S(z_n) \in K_n \subset K, \) we obtain by continuity that \( S(z) \in K. \)

b) \[ \| z \| = r. \] If for every \( n \in N, z_n \in K_n \lim_{n \to \infty} z_n = z \) and \( r < \| z_n \| \) then considering the sequence \( y_n = \left( \frac{r}{\| z_n \|} - \epsilon_n \right) z_n, \) where \( 0 < \epsilon_n < \frac{r}{\| z_n \|}; \) \( \forall n \in N \) and \( \lim_{n \to \infty} \epsilon_n = 0 \) we have that \( y_n \in K_n, \| y_n \| < r \) and \( \lim_{n \to \infty} y_n = z, \) which imply that \( S(z) = \lim_{n \to \infty} S(y_n) \in K. \)

THEOREM 4. Let \((E, \| \|)\) be a reflexive Banach space and \( K(K_n)_{n \in N} \) a Galerkin cone in \( E. \) Let \( S:K\rightarrow E \) and \( T:K\rightarrow E^* \) be strongly continuous mappings.

If the following assumptions are satisfied:

1) \( S \) is \( r \)-subordinate to the approximation \( K(K_n)_{n \in N}, \)

2) there exist \( m \in N \) and \( u_0 \in K_m \) such that \( \| S(u_0) \| < r, \) \( S(u_0) \in K_m \) and \( < S(u_0) - z, T(z) > > 0, \)

3) \( \| S(z) - T(z) \| < \| S(z) \|, \) \( \forall z \in K, \)

then the problem \( ICP(T, S, K) \) has a solution \( z_s \) such that \( \| z_s \| \leq r. \)

PROOF. We remark that for every \( n \geq \max(n_0, m) \) the all assumptions of Theorem 3 are satisfied for every problem \( ICP(T, S, K_n) \) and hence we have a solution \( z_s^n \) for each of these problems.

Since for every \( z_s^n \) (with \( n \geq \max(n_0, m) \)) we have \( \| z_s^n \| \leq r \) we have that \( \{ z_s^n \}_{n \in N} \) is a bounded sequence.

Because \( E \) is reflexive \( \{ z_s^n \}_{n \in N} \) has a weakly convergent subsequence \( \{ z_{sk} \}_{k \in N}. \) We denote again this subsequence by \( \{ z_s^n \}_{n \in N} \) and we put \( z_s = (w) - \lim_{n \to \infty} z_s^n. \) We have that \( z_s \in K \) and \( \| z_s \| \leq r, \) since \( K \subset K \) is closed and convex. Hence \( S(z_s) \in K. \)

Let \( z \in K \) be an arbitrary element. For every \( n \geq \max(n_0, m) \) we have,

\[ (10): < P_n(z) - S(z_s^n), T(z_s^n) > \geq 0, \]

where \( \{ P_n \}_{n \in N} \) is a sequence of projections. Since \( S \) and \( T \) are strongly continuous, computing the limit in (10) we obtain,

\[ (11): < z - S(z_s), T(z_s) > \geq 0; \forall z \in K. \]

The proof is finished since from (11) by Proposition 1 we have that \( z_s \) is a solution of the problem \( ICP(T, S, K). \)

We consider now the case when \( S(K) \subset K. \)

THEOREM 5. Let \((E, \| \|)\) be a Banach space, \( K \subset E \) a pointed locally compact convex cone and \( S:K\rightarrow K, T:K\rightarrow E^* \) continuous mappings.

If the following assumptions are satisfied:

1) \( < S(z), T(z) > \leq < z, T(z) > \); \( \forall z \in K, \)

2) there is \( r > 0 \) such that for every \( z \in K \) with \( \| z \| \leq r \) there is an element \( v_z \in K \) such that \( \| v_z \| < r \) and \( < S(z) - v_z, T(z) > > 0, \) then the problem \( ICP(T, S, K) \) has a solution \( z_s \) such that \( \| z_s \| < r. \)

PROOF. We denote \( D_n = \{ z \in K \mid \| z \| \leq n \}. \) Since \( K \) is locally compact we have that for every \( n \in N, D_n \) is a convex compact set.

We apply Theorem 2 with \( D = D_n \) and we obtain a solution \( z_s^n \) for the problem \( SVI(T, S, D_n). \)
So we have:

\[
\begin{align*}
(12): \quad & \text{for every } n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ there is } x_n^* \in D \text{ such that } \\
& \langle S(x_n^*) - v, T(x_n^*) \rangle \leq 0; \forall v \in D_n
\end{align*}
\]

The sequence \( \{x_n^*\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \) is bounded. Indeed, supposing the contrary we have \((\forall k > 0)(\exists n \in \mathbb{N})(\|x_n^*\| \geq k)\).

If \( k \geq r \) then there is a natural number \( n \) such that, \( n \geq \|x_n^*\| \geq k \geq r \). For this \( x_n^* \), by assumption 2') there is an element \( v_{x_n^*} \in K \) such that \( \|v_{x_n^*}\| < r \) and,

\[
(13): \quad \langle S(x_n^*) - v_{x_n^*}, T(x_n^*) \rangle > 0.
\]

But, since \( \|v_{x_n^*}\| < r \), from (12) we have \( \langle S(x_n^*) - v_{x_n^*}, T(x_n^*) \rangle \leq 0 \), which is a contradiction of (13).

Hence, \( \{x_n^*\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \) is bounded and because \( K \) is locally compact the sequence \( \{x_n^*\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \) has a norm convergent subsequence \( \{x_{n_k}^*\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \).

Let \( x_\ast = \lim_{k \to \infty} x_{n_k}^* \). We show now that \( x_\ast \) is a solution of the problem \( ICP(T,S,K) \).

Indeed, if \( v \in K \) is an arbitrary element, then there is \( m \in \mathbb{N} \) such that for every \( n \geq m \) we have \( v \in D_n \) and for every \( n_k \geq m \) and \( < S(x_{n_k}^*) - v, T(x_{n_k}^*) \rangle \leq 0 \).

Using the continuity of \( S \) and \( T \) we obtain,

\[
\langle S(x_\ast) - v, T(x_\ast) \rangle \leq 0, \quad \forall v \in K,
\]

that is \( x_\ast \) is a solution of the problem \( SVI(T,S,K) \) which, by Proposition 1 is equivalent to the problem \( ICP(T,S,K) \). Obviously, by assumption 2') we must have \( \|x_\ast\| < r \).

From Theorem 5 we deduce two important corollaries.

COROLLARY 1. Let \( K \subset E \) be a pointed locally compact cone and \( S:K \to K, \; T:K \to E^* \) continuous mappings. If the following assumptions are satisfied:

1') \( \langle S(x), T(x) \rangle \geq < x, T(x) >; \forall x \in K, \)

2') there is a number \( r > 0 \) such that for every \( x \in K \) with \( r \leq \|x\| \) we have \( \langle S(x), T(x) \rangle > 0 \),

then the problem \( ICP(T,S,K) \) has a solution \( x_\ast \) such that \( \|x_\ast\| \leq r \).

PROOF. We apply Theorem 5 with \( v_x = 0 \) for every \( x \in K \) satisfying \( \|x\| \geq r \).

COROLLARY 2. Let \( K \subset E \) be a pointed locally compact cone and \( S:K \to K, \; T:K \to E^* \) continuous mappings. If the following assumptions are satisfied:

1') \( \langle S(x), T(x) \rangle \leq < x, T(x) >; \forall x \in K, \)

2') there is a number \( r_0 \geq 0 \) and \( u_0 \in K \) such that for every \( x \in K \) with \( r_0 \leq \|x\| \) we have \( \langle S(x) - u_0, T(x) \rangle > 0 \),

then the problem \( ICP(T,S,K) \) has a solution \( x_\ast \) such that \( \|x_\ast\| < 1 + \max(r_0, \|u_0\|) \).

PROOF. If we denote, \( r = \max(r_0, \|u_0\|) + 1 \), we have \( r > r_0 \) and \( r > \|u_0\| \).

Now, we can apply Theorem 5 since this theorem is satisfied with \( v_x = u_0 \), for every \( x \in K \) with \( \|x\| \geq r \).

REMARK. Condition 2') of Corollary 2 is satisfied if \( T \) is semicoercive with respect to \( S \) in the following sense:

\[
(\exists u_0 \in K) \left( \lim_{\|x\| \to +\infty} \frac{\langle S(x) - u_0, T(x) \rangle}{\|x\|} = +\infty \right)
\]
If \( S(x) = x \), for every \( x \in K \), this notion is similar to the semicoercivity used by Stampacchia and Lions [22], [23].

Obviously, condition 2’) is satisfied if there is a number \( \alpha > 0 \) such that \( <S(x), T(x)> \geq \alpha \|x\|^2 \), for every \( x \in K \).

Finally, we give an extension of Theorem 5 to Galerkin cone.

**THEOREM 6.** Let \((E, \|\|)\) be a reflexive Banach space and \( K(K_n) \ n \in N\) a Galerkin cone in \( E \). Let \( S:K \rightarrow K \) and \( T:K \rightarrow E^* \) be strongly continuous mappings.

If the following assumptions are satisfied:

1. \( S \) is subordinate to the approximation \((K)_n\ n \in N\),

2. \( <S(x), T(x)> \leq <x, T(x)> \) \( \forall x \in K \),

3. there is a number \( r > 0 \) such that for every \( n \geq n_0 \) and every \( x \in K_n \) with \( \|x\| \leq r \) there is an element \( v_x \in K_n \) such that \( \|v_x\| < r \) and \( <S(x) - v_x, T(x)> > 0 \),

then the problem \( ICP(T,S,K) \) has a solution \( x_\ast \) such that \( \|x_\ast\| \leq r \).

**PROOF.** Since, for every \( n \geq n_0 \) we have \( S(K_n) \subseteq K_n \) and the all assumptions of Theorem 5 are satisfied, we have that for every \( n \geq n_0 \) the problem \( ICP(T,S,K_n) \) has a solution \( x_\ast_n \).

Because for every \( n \geq n_0 \) we have \( \|x_\ast_n\| < r \) and \( E \) is reflexive the sequence \( \{x_\ast_n\}_n \in N \) has a weakly convergent subsequence denoted again by \( \{x_\ast_n\}_n \in N \). We put \( x_\ast = (w) - \lim_{n \to \infty} x_\ast_n \).

Now, as in the proof of Theorem 4 we conclude that \( x_\ast \) is a solution of the problem \( ICP(T,S,K) \). Obviously, \( \|x_\ast\| \leq r \).

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The study of dynamic equations on a time scale goes back to its founder Stefan Hilger (1988), and is a new area of still fairly theoretical exploration in mathematics. Motivating the subject is the notion that dynamic equations on time scales can build bridges between continuous and discrete mathematics; moreover, it often reveals the reasons for the discrepancies between two theories.

In recent years, the study of dynamic equations has led to several important applications, for example, in the study of insect population models, neural network, heat transfer, and epidemic models. This special issue will contain new researches and survey articles on Boundary Value Problems on Time Scales. In particular, it will focus on the following topics:

- Existence, uniqueness, and multiplicity of solutions
- Comparison principles
- Variational methods
- Mathematical models
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