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# FIXED POINT THEOREMS FOR SET-VALUED QUASI-CONTRACTION MAPS IN A $G$-METRIC SPACE 

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#### Abstract

In this paper, we achieve a fixed point theorem for $G$-metric set-valued quasi-contraction maps in a $G$-metric space. The result was obtained using a similar approach to that used by Amini-Harandi [1] and it extends the set-valued fixed point theory from metric spaces to $G$-metric spaces.


Keywords: fixed point theorem; quasi-contraction maps; set-valued maps; G-metric set-valued quasi-contractions.
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## 1. Introduction

A set-valued mapping $T$ from a set $X$ to another set $Y$ is a rule that associates one or more elements of $Y$ with every element of $X$. If $T$ is a function and $D_{T}$ is the domain of $T$ then a fixed point or an invariant point of the function $T$ is an element $x \in D_{T}$ that is mapped to itself. That is $T(x)=x$. A fixed point theorem is a result giving the conditions for which the function $T$ will have at least one fixed point.

[^0]The $D$-metric space was introduced in 1992 by Dhage [2] as an attempt to generalize the existing metric space results. In 2003 Mustafa and Sims [3] exposed some imperfections in the topological properties of the $D$-metric space, annulling the validity of the majority of results that were obtained in those spaces. In 2006, Mustafa and Sims attempted to address the $D$-metric space deficiencies by introducing a new structure of generalized metric spaces called $G$-metric spaces [4].

## 2. Preliminaries

The main aim of this section is to state some basic definitions and results that are essential for general knowledge and serves as a convenient means of reference material for subsequent use.

Definition 2.1. [2] Let $X$ be a non-empty set and let $D: X \times X \times X \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ be a function satisfying the following conditions, for all $a, x, y, z \in X$
(i) $D(x, y, z) \geq 0$;
(ii) $D(x, y, z)=0$ if and only if $x=y=z$;
(iii) $D(x, y, z)=D(x, z, y)=D(y, x, z)=D(y, z, x)=D(z, x, y)=D(z, y, x)$;
(iv) $D(x, y, z) \leq D(x, y, a)+D(x, a, z)+D(a, y, z)$.

Then $D$ is called a $D$-metric on $X$ and the pair $(X, D)$ is called a $D$-metric space.
Definition 2.2. [4] Let $X$ be a non-empty set, and let $G: X \times X \times X \rightarrow[0, \infty)$ be a function satisfying the following axioms,
(i) $G(x, y, z)=0$ if and only if $x=y=z$;
(ii) $G(x, x, y)>0$ for all $x, y \in X$ with $x \neq y$;
(iii) $G(x, x, y) \leq G(x, y, z)$ for all $x, y, z \in X$ with $z \neq y$;
(iv) $G(x, y, z)=G(x, z, y)=G(y, x, z)=G(y, z, x)=G(z, x, y)=G(z, y, x)$;
(v) $G(x, y, z) \leq G(x, a, a)+G(a, y, z)$ for all $x, y, z, a \in X$.

Then the function $G$ is called a generalized metric, or, more specifically, a $G$-metric on $X$, and the pair $(X, G)$ is called a generalized metric space or a $G$-metric space.

Definition 2.3. [4] Let $(X, G)$ be a $G$-metric space, and let $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ be a sequence of points of $X$. Then $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is $G$-convergent to $x$ if,

$$
\lim _{m, n \rightarrow \infty} G\left(x, x_{n}, x_{m}\right)=0
$$

That is, for any $\varepsilon>0$, there exist $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $G\left(x, x_{n}, x_{m}\right)<\varepsilon$, for all $n, m \geq N$. We call $x$ the limit of the sequence and write $x_{n} \rightarrow x$ or,

$$
\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n}=x .
$$

The following lemma follows directly from Definition 2.3.
Lemma 2.1. [4] Let $(X, G)$ be a G-metric space. Then the following are equivalent
(i) $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is $G$-convergent to $x$;
(ii) $G\left(x_{n}, x_{n}, x\right) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$;
(iii) $G\left(x, x, x_{n}\right) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$;
(iv) $G\left(x_{m}, x_{n}, x\right) \rightarrow 0$ as $m, n \rightarrow \infty$.

We now proceed to define a Cauchy sequence in a $G$-metric space.
Definition 2.4. [4] Let $(X, G)$ be a $G$-metric space. A sequence $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is called $G$-Cauchy if for each $\varepsilon>0$, there exist $n_{0} \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $G\left(x_{m}, x_{n}, x_{p}\right)<\varepsilon$, for all $m, n, p \geq n_{0}$. That is $G\left(x_{m}, x_{n}, x_{p}\right) \rightarrow 0$ as $m, n, p \rightarrow \infty$.
The following Lemma is a consequence of Definition 2.4.
Lemma 2.2. [4] Let $(X, G)$ be a G-metric space. Then $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is called $G$-Cauchy if and only if for every $\varepsilon>0$, there exist $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $G\left(x_{n}, x_{m}, x_{m}\right)<\varepsilon$, for all $n, m \geq N$.

Definition 2.5. Let $(X, d)$ be a metric space. The family of all non-empty closed and bounded subsets of $X$ is denoted by $C B(X)$.

Definition 2.6 [1] Let $(X, d)$ be a metric space. The set-valued map $T: X \rightarrow C B(X)$ is said to be a $q$-set-valued quasi-contraction if,

$$
d_{H}(T x, T y) \leq q \cdot \max \{d(x, y), d(x, T x), d(y, T y), d(x, T y), d(y, T x)\}
$$

for any $x, y \in X$ where $0 \leq q<1$ and $d_{H}$ denotes the Hausdorff metric on $C B(X)$ induced by $d$. That is for all $A, B \in C B(X)$,

$$
d_{H}(A, B)=\max \left\{\sup _{x \in A} d(x, B), \sup _{y \in B} d(y, A)\right\}
$$

The following is a fixed point theorem for the set-valued quasi-contraction maps in metric spaces.

Theorem 2.1 [1] Let $(X, d)$ be a complete metric space. Let $T: X \rightarrow C B(X)$ be a q-set-valued quasi-contraction with $q<\frac{1}{2}$. Then $T$ has a fixed point.

## 3. Main results

In this section we introduce the concept of $G$-metric set-valued quasi-contractions in $G$-metric spaces and present our main result which extends Theorem 2.1. to $G$-metric spaces.

Definition 3.1. Let $(X, G)$ be a $G$-metric space. The family of all non-empty closed and bounded subsets of $X$ is denoted by $C B_{G}(X)$.

Definition 3.2. Let $(X, d)$ be a metric space, $(X, G)$ be a $G$-metric space and $C B_{G}(X)$ be the family of all non-empty closed and bounded subsets of $X$ in a $G$-metric space.
(a) The distance between any point $x \in X$ and any two non-empty subsets $A, B \in C B_{G}(X)$ is denoted by $G(x, A, B)$ and is defined by,

$$
G(x, A, B)=d(x, A)+d(x, B)+d(A, B),
$$

where, $d(x, A)=\inf \{d(x, y): y \in A\}, d(x, B)=\inf \{d(x, y): y \in B\}$ and $d(A, B)=\inf \{d(a, b): a \in A, b \in B\}$.
(b) Let $A, B, C \in C B_{G}(X)$. The Hausdorff $G$-metric or Hausdorff $G$-metric distance is denoted by $G_{H}(A, B, C)$ and is defined by,

$$
G_{H}(A, B, C)=\max \left\{\sup _{x \in A} G(x, B, C), \sup _{x \in B} G(x, C, A), \sup _{x \in C} G(x, A, B)\right\} .
$$

Definition 3.3. Let $(X, G)$ be a $G$-metric space, the set-valued map $T: X \rightarrow C B_{G}(X)$ is said to be a $G$-metric $q$-set-valued quasi-contraction if for any $x, y, z \in X$,

$$
G_{H}(T x, T y, T z) \leq q \cdot \max \left\{\begin{array}{ccc}
G(x, y, z), & G(x, T x, T y), & G(x, T y, T z) \\
G(x, T x, T z), & G(y, T x, T y), & G(y, T y, T z) \\
G(y, T x, T z), & G(z, T x, T y), & G(z, T y, T z) \\
& G(z, T x, T z)
\end{array}\right\}
$$

where $0 \leq q<1$ and $G_{H}$ denotes the Hausdorff metric on $C B_{G}(X)$ induced by $G$. That is, for all $A, B, C \in C B_{G}(X)$,

$$
G_{H}(A, B, C)=\max \left\{\sup _{x \in A} G(x, B, C), \sup _{x \in B} G(x, C, A), \sup _{x \in C} G(x, A, B)\right\} .
$$

The following is our main result in $G$-metric spaces, it is a fixed point theorem for $G$-metric set-valued quasi-contraction mappings.

Theorem 3.1. Let $(X, G)$ be a complete $G$-metric space. Suppose that $T: X \rightarrow C B_{G}(X)$ is a $G$-metric $q$-set-valued quasi-contraction with $q<\frac{1}{2}$. Then $T$ has a fixed point. That is there exist $u \in X$ such that $u=T u(u \in T u)$.

Proof. We first observe that for each $A, B, C \in C B_{G}(X), a \in A$ and $\alpha>0$ with $G_{H}(A, B, C)<\alpha$, there exist $b \in B$ and $c \in C$ such that $G(a, b, c)<\alpha$. Now let $r>0$ be such that $q<r<\frac{1}{2}$. Then by Definition 3.3, we find that

$$
G_{H}(T x, T y, T z)<r \cdot \max \left\{\begin{array}{ccc}
G(x, y, z), & G(x, T x, T y), & G(x, T y, T z) \\
G(x, T x, T z), & G(y, T x, T y), & G(y, T y, T z) \\
G(y, T x, T z), & G(z, T x, T y), & G(z, T y, T z) \\
& G(z, T x, T z)
\end{array}\right\}
$$

If we replace $x, y$ and $z$ by $x_{0}, x_{1}$ and $x_{2}$ respectively, then we get

$$
G_{H}\left(T x_{0}, T x_{1}, T x_{2}\right)<r . \max \left\{\begin{array}{ccc}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right), & G\left(x_{0}, T x_{0}, T x_{1}\right), & G\left(x_{0}, T x_{1}, T x_{2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{0}, T x_{0}, T x_{2}\right), & G\left(x_{1}, T x_{0}, T x_{1}\right), & G\left(x_{1}, T x_{1}, T x_{2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{1}, T x_{0}, T x_{2}\right), & G\left(x_{2}, T x_{0}, T x_{1}\right), & G\left(x_{2}, T x_{1}, T x_{2}\right), \\
& G\left(x_{2}, T x_{0}, T x_{2}\right)
\end{array}\right\}
$$

But by observation $G_{H}(A, B, C)<\alpha, a \in A$ and $\alpha>0$. This implies that there exist $b \in B$ and $c \in C$ such that $G(a, b, c)<\alpha$. Setting $x_{1} \in T x_{0}, x_{2} \in T x_{1}$ and $x_{3} \in T x_{2}$, we get

$$
G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)<r \cdot \max \left\{\begin{array}{cll}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right), & G\left(x_{0}, T x_{0}, T x_{1}\right), & G\left(x_{0}, T x_{1}, T x_{2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{0}, T x_{0}, T x_{2}\right), & G\left(x_{1}, T x_{0}, T x_{1}\right), & G\left(x_{1}, T x_{1}, T x_{2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{1}, T x_{0}, T x_{2}\right), & G\left(x_{2}, T x_{0}, T x_{1}\right), & G\left(x_{2}, T x_{1}, T x_{2}\right), \\
& G\left(x_{2}, T x_{0}, T x_{2}\right)
\end{array}\right\}
$$

Continuing in this manner, by induction, we obtain a sequence $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ in $X$ such that $x_{n+1} \in T x_{n}$, which implies,

$$
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right)<r . \max \left\{\begin{array}{cc}
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-1}, T x_{n}, T x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n}\right), & G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n}, T x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n+1}, T x_{n}, T x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n+1}\right)
\end{array}\right\} .
$$

We have several cases.
Case I: If $x_{n}=x_{n+1}$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ then $x_{n}=x_{n+1} \in T x_{n}$. That is $x_{n}$ is a fixed point of $T$ and the proof is completed.
Case II: If $x_{n+1}=x_{n+2}$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then $x_{n+1}=x_{n+2} \in T x_{n+1}$. That is $x_{n+1}$ is a fixed point of $T$ and the proof is completed.
Case III: $x_{n} \neq x_{n+1} \neq x_{n+2}$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Now $x_{n} \in T x_{n-1}, x_{n+1} \in T x_{n}$ and $x_{n+2} \in T x_{n+1}$.

Therefore,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right)<r . \max \left\{\begin{array}{cc}
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-1}, T x_{n}, T x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n}\right), & G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n}, T x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n+1}, T x_{n}, T x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n+1}\right)
\end{array}\right\} \\
& \leq r \cdot \max \left\{\begin{array}{cc}
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n}, x_{n+2}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n}, x_{n+2}\right)
\end{array}\right\} \\
&=r . \max \left\{\begin{array}{c}
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right)
\end{array}\right\} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus, we have

$$
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right)<r . \max \left\{\begin{array}{c}
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right),  \tag{3.1}\\
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right)
\end{array}\right\} .
$$

Note that we can modify Equation (3.1) by replacing $n$ by $n-2$ to get that

$$
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right)<r \cdot \max \left\{\begin{array}{c}
G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}\right),  \tag{3.2}\\
G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)
\end{array}\right\} .
$$

From Equation (3.2), we have three choices

$$
\begin{aligned}
& G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}\right), \\
& G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right), \\
& G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Now we show by induction that for each $n \geq 3$ there exist $1 \leq i<j \leq n$, where $j \in\{i+1, i+2\}$ such that, (note that $r \leq \frac{r}{1-r}$ )

$$
\begin{equation*}
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $n=3$, the three choices become

$$
\begin{aligned}
& G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right), \\
& G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{3}\right), \\
& G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

That is, $G\left(x_{3}, x_{2}, x_{1}\right) \leq \frac{r}{1-r} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)=\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{3-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)$ for some $1 \leq i<j \leq 3$, $j \in\{i+1, i+2\}$. Thus Equation (3.3) holds for $n=3$. (Note that for $n=4$ we can modify Equation (3.1) by replacing $n$ by $n-3$ and for $n=5$ we can modify Equation (3.1) by replacing $n$ by $n-4$ and so on).

Next, we assume that Equation (3.3) holds for all values less than $n$, we will show that it holds for $n$. Now Equation (3.3) trivially holds if $G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}\right)$. Therefore we consider the choices when

$$
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right) \text { and } G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)
$$

First, we suppose that

$$
\begin{equation*}
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right) \tag{3.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Then by Definition 2.2 and our assumption, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right) & =G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-3}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}\right)+G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-3}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right)+G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-3}\right) \\
& \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right)+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-3} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore, we have

$$
(1-r) G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-3} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)
$$

This implies that

$$
G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right) \leq \frac{1}{1-r}\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-3} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)
$$

Substituting in Equation (3.4), we find that

$$
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)
$$

This implies that Equation (3.3) holds. Second, we suppose

$$
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)
$$

Then by Definition 2.2 and our assumption, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) & =G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-3}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-2}\right)+G\left(x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-3}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right)+G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-3}\right) \\
& \leq r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-3} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore, we have

$$
(1-r) G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-3} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)
$$

This implies that $G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) \leq \frac{1}{1-r}\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-3} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)$. Hence, we have

$$
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)
$$

This implies that Equation (3.3) holds. We proceed to show that $T$ has a fixed point. Firstly we show that the sequence $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is bounded, then we show $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is Cauchy. To show that $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is bounded, put $\delta_{1}=G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, T x_{1}\right)$. Now from Equation (3.1), we have three choices. Either

$$
\begin{aligned}
& G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right), \\
& G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{3}\right) \text { or, } \\
& G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Suppose that $G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)$. Note that

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) & =G\left(x_{3}, x_{2}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{3}, x_{0}, x_{0}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{3}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \\
& \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

That is,

$$
G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq(1+r) G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \leq\left(1+\frac{r}{1-r}\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)
$$

Considering the second choice $G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{3}\right)$ Note that

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) & =G\left(x_{3}, x_{2}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{3}, x_{0}, x_{0}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{3}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \\
& \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{3}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \\
& \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{3}, x_{3}\right)+r G\left(x_{3}, x_{1}, x_{3}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \\
& \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)+r G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

That is,

$$
G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq(1+2 r) G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \leq\left(1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)
$$

Finally the third choice $G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)$ Now,

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) & =G\left(x_{3}, x_{2}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{3}, x_{0}, x_{0}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{3}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \\
& \leq r G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \\
& \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

This implies that $\left(1-\frac{r}{1-r}\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)$. Therefore, we have

$$
G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq\left(\frac{1}{1-\frac{r}{1-r}}\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)
$$

Put

$$
\delta_{2}=\left(\frac{1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)}{1-\frac{r}{1-r}}\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)
$$

Note that for the three cases $\delta_{1} \leq \delta_{2}$ and $G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq \delta_{2}$. Let us define the nondecreasing sequence $\left\{\boldsymbol{\delta}_{n}\right\}$ such that

$$
\max \left\{G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right\} \leq \delta_{n}
$$

for $1 \leq i<j \leq n$, where $j \in\{i+1, i+2\}$. Now

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) & =G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-2}\right)+G\left(x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}\right) \\
& \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

That is,

$$
\begin{equation*}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)+\delta_{n-1} \tag{3.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Also since $j \in\{i+1, i+2\}$, we have $G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) \leq G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{i+1}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{i+2}\right)$, for $i<j<$ $n$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) & \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{i+1}\right)+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{i+2}\right) \\
& \leq 2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} \delta_{n-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore Equation (3.5) becomes

$$
G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) \leq\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] \delta_{n-1}
$$

For $i<j=n$, we have

$$
\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right)
$$

Therefore Equation (3.5) becomes

$$
\begin{aligned}
{\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) } & \leq\left[1+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] \delta_{n-1} \\
& \leq\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] \delta_{n-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

That is,

$$
G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) \leq\left[\frac{1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}}{1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}}\right] \delta_{n-1}
$$

Let

$$
\delta_{n}=\left[\frac{1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}}{1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}}\right] \delta_{n-1}
$$

Note that $\delta_{n-1} \leq \delta_{n}$ and $G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) \leq \delta_{n}$. The sequence $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is bounded if and only if

$$
\delta=\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \delta_{n}=\frac{\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]}{\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]}<\infty
$$

Now the series,

$$
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] \text { and } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]
$$

are convergent since $\frac{r}{1-r}<1$. Therefore,

$$
\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]<\infty, \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]<\infty \text { and } \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]>0
$$

Hence, $\delta<\infty$.
Case IV: If $x_{n}=x_{n+2}$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we proceed as we did in case III.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right)<r . \max \left\{\begin{array}{cc}
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-1}, T x_{n}, T x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n}\right), & G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n}, T x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n+1}, T x_{n}, T x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, T x_{n-1}, T x_{n+1}\right)
\end{array}\right\} \\
& \leq r \cdot \max \left\{\begin{array}{rr}
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n}, x_{n+2}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n}, x_{n+2}\right)
\end{array}\right\} \\
&=r . \max \left\{\begin{array}{rr}
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n}, x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right), & G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+2}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n+2}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+2}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}\right), \\
G\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right), & G\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+2}\right)
\end{array}\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}\right)<r G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}\right) \tag{3.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Note that we can modify Equation (3.6) by replacing $n$ by $n-2$ to get

$$
\begin{equation*}
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right)<r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n}, x_{n-1}\right) \tag{3.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now we show by induction that for each $n \geq 3$ there exist $1 \leq i<j \leq n$, where $j \in\{i+1, i+2\}$ such that, (note that $r \leq \frac{r}{1-r}$ )

$$
\begin{equation*}
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right)<\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) \tag{3.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

For $n=3$, we have

$$
G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)<r G\left(x_{0}, x_{3}, x_{2}\right) \leq \frac{r}{1-r} G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)=\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{3-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)
$$

for $i=2, j=3$. Therefore Equation (3.8) holds for $n=3$. Next, we assume that Equation (3.8) holds for all values less than $n$. We show that it holds for $n$. By our assumption

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n}, x_{n-1}\right) & =G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-3}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-2}\right)+G\left(x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-3}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right)+G\left(x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-3}\right) \\
& <r G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n}, x_{n-1}\right)+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-3} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore, we have

$$
(1-r) G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n}, x_{n-1}\right)<\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-3} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)
$$

This implies that $G\left(x_{n-3}, x_{n}, x_{n-1}\right)<\frac{1}{1-r}\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-3} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)$. Substitute in Equation (3.7) to get,

$$
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right)<\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)
$$

This implies that Equation (3.8) holds. To show that $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is bounded, put $\delta_{1}=G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, T x_{1}\right)$. From Equation (3.6), we have

$$
G\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)<r G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) .
$$

Now

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) & =G\left(x_{3}, x_{2}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{3}, x_{0}, x_{0}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{3}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \\
& <r G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) \\
& <\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

This implies that $\left(1-\frac{r}{1-r}\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)<G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)$. Therefore, we have $G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)<$ $\left(\frac{1}{1-\frac{r}{1-r}}\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)$. Put

$$
\delta_{2}=\left(\frac{1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)}{1-\frac{r}{1-r}}\right) G\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right) .
$$

Note that $\delta_{1}<\delta_{2}$ and $G\left(x_{0}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right) \leq \delta_{2}$. Let us define the nondecreasing sequence $\left\{\delta_{n}\right\}$ such that $\max \left\{G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)\right\} \leq \delta_{n}$ for $1 \leq i<j \leq n$, where $j \in\{i+1, i+2\}$. Now

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) & =G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-2}\right)+G\left(x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}, x_{0}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}\right) \\
& <\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-1}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

That is,

$$
\begin{equation*}
G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)<\delta_{n-1}+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) \tag{3.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

Also since $j \in\{i+1, i+2\}$, we have $G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) \leq G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{i+1}\right)+G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{i+2}\right)$, for $i<j<$ $n$, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) & \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{i+1}\right)+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{i+2}\right) \\
& \leq 2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} \delta_{n-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore Equation (3.9) becomes

$$
G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)<\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] \delta_{n-1}
$$

For $i<j=n$, we have

$$
\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-2}, x_{n}\right)
$$

Therefore Equation (3.9) becomes

$$
\begin{aligned}
{\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right) } & <\left[1+\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] \delta_{n-1} \\
& \leq\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] \delta_{n-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

That is,

$$
G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)<\left[\frac{1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}}{1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}}\right] \delta_{n-1}
$$

Let $\delta_{n}=\left[\frac{1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}}{1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}}\right] \delta_{n-1}$. Note that $\delta_{n-1}<\delta_{n}$ and $G\left(x_{0}, x_{n-1}, x_{n}\right)<\delta_{n}$. The sequence $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is bounded if and only if

$$
\delta=\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} \delta_{n}=\frac{\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]}{\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]}<\infty
$$

Now the series

$$
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right] \text { and } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]
$$

are convergent since $\frac{r}{1-r}<1$. Therefore,

$$
\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1+2\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]<\infty, \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]<\infty \text { and } \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}\left[1-\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2}\right]>0
$$

Hence, $\delta<\infty$.
We now show that $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is a Cauchy sequence for both Case III and Case IV.
For Case III. Suppose $M=\sup \left\{G\left(x_{m}, x_{n}, x_{p}\right): m, n, p \in \mathbb{N}\right\}$. From Equation (3.3), we have

$$
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} G\left(x_{0}, x_{i}, x_{j}\right) \leq\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{n-2} M .
$$

Now for $m, n$ sufficiently large with $m<n$, we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n}, x_{m}\right) & =G\left(x_{m}, x_{n}, x_{n}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{m}, x_{m+1}, x_{m+1}\right)+G\left(x_{m+1}, x_{n}, x_{n}\right) \\
& \leq G\left(x_{m}, x_{m+1}, x_{m+2}\right)+G\left(x_{m+1}, x_{m+2}, x_{m+3}\right) \\
& <\sum_{k=m}^{n-2} G\left(x_{k}, x_{k+1}, x_{k+2}\right) \\
& \leq \sum_{k=m}^{n-2}\left(\frac{r}{1-r}\right)^{k} M \\
& <\varepsilon
\end{aligned}
$$

In a similar manner, we obtain $G\left(x_{n}, x_{n}, x_{m}\right)<\varepsilon$ for Case IV. This implies that for both Case III and Case IV, $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is a Cauchy sequence. Now since $\left\{x_{n}\right\}$ is a Cauchy sequence and $(X, G)$ is complete, for both Case III and Case IV there exist $u \in X$ such that $\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n}=u$. Now

$$
\begin{aligned}
G(u, u, T u) & =\lim _{n \rightarrow \infty}\left(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, T u\right) \\
& \leq \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} G_{H}\left(T x_{n}, T x_{n}, T u\right) \\
& \leq \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} q \cdot \max \left\{\begin{array}{ccc}
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n}, u\right), & G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n}, T x_{n}\right), & G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n}, T u\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n}, T u\right), & G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n}, T x_{n}\right), & G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n}, T u\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, T x_{n}, T u\right), & G\left(u, T x_{n}, T x_{n}\right), & G\left(u, T x_{n}, T u\right), \\
& G\left(u, T x_{n}, T u\right)
\end{array}\right\} \\
& \leq \lim _{n \rightarrow \infty} q \cdot \max \left\{\begin{array}{rrr}
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n}, u\right), & G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, T u\right), \\
G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, T u\right), & G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(x_{n}, x_{n+1}, T u\right), \\
G\left(u, x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}\right), & G\left(u, x_{n+1}, T u\right),
\end{array}\right\} \\
& =q \cdot G(u, u, T u) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
G(u, u, T u) \leq q \cdot G(u, u, T u) . \tag{3.10}
\end{equation*}
$$

Since $q<\frac{1}{2}$ the only way Equation (3.10) will hold is if $G(u, u, T u)=0$, which implies $u=T u$ (that is $u \in T u$ ). Hence $u$ is a fixed point of $T$ in $X$.

## Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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