

## Research Article

# Tripled Fixed Point Results in Generalized Metric Spaces

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We establish a tripled fixed point result for a mixed monotone mapping satisfying nonlinear contractions in ordered generalized metric spaces. Also, some examples are given to support our result.

## 1. Introduction and Preliminaries

The study of fixed points of mappings satisfying certain contractive conditions has been at the center of rigorous research activity, see [1–3]. The notion of  $D$ -metric space is a generalization of usual metric spaces and it is introduced by Dhage [4–7]. Recently, Mustafa and Sims [8, 9] have shown that most of the results concerning Dhage's  $D$ -metric spaces are invalid. In [8, 9], they introduced an improved version of the generalized metric space structure which they called  $G$ -metric spaces. For more results on  $G$ -metric spaces, one can refer to the papers [10–26].

Now, we give some preliminaries and basic definitions which are used throughout the paper. In 2006, Mustafa and Sims [9] introduced the concept of  $G$ -metric spaces as follows.

*Definition 1.1* (see [9]). Let  $X$  be a nonempty set,  $G : X \times X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be a function satisfying the following properties:

$$(G1) \quad G(x, y, z) = 0 \text{ if } x = y = z,$$

$$(G2) \quad 0 < G(x, x, y) \text{ for all } x, y \in X \text{ with } x \neq y,$$

(G3)  $G(x, x, y) \leq G(x, y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$  with  $y \neq z$ ,

(G4)  $G(x, y, z) = G(x, z, y) = G(y, z, x) = \dots$  (symmetry in all three variables),

(G5)  $G(x, y, z) \leq G(x, a, a) + G(a, y, z)$  for all  $x, y, z, a \in X$  (rectangle inequality).

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

Every  $G$ -metric on  $X$  will define a metric  $d_G$  on  $X$  by

$$d_G(x, y) = G(x, y, y) + G(y, x, x), \quad \forall x, y \in X. \quad (1.1)$$

*Example 1.2.* Let  $(X, d)$  be a metric space. The function  $G : X \times X \times X \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ , defined by

$$G(x, y, z) = \max\{d(x, y), d(y, z), d(z, x)\}, \quad (1.2)$$

or

$$G(x, y, z) = d(x, y) + d(y, z) + d(z, x), \quad (1.3)$$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ , is a  $G$ -metric on  $X$ .

*Definition 1.3* (see [9]). Let  $(X, G)$  be a  $G$ -metric space, and let  $(x_n)$  be a sequence of points of  $X$ ; therefore, we say that  $(x_n)$  is  $G$ -convergent to  $x \in X$  if  $\lim_{n,m \rightarrow +\infty} G(x, x_n, x_m) = 0$ , that is, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $G(x, x_n, x_m) < \varepsilon$ , for all  $n, m \geq N$ . One calls  $x$  the limit of the sequence and writes  $x_n \rightarrow x$  or  $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} x_n = x$ .

**Proposition 1.4** (see [9]). *Let  $(X, G)$  be a  $G$ -metric space. The following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $(x_n)$  is  $G$ -convergent to  $x$ ,
- (2)  $G(x_n, x_n, x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ ,
- (3)  $G(x_n, x, x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ ,
- (4)  $G(x_n, x_m, x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n, m \rightarrow +\infty$ .

*Definition 1.5* (see [9]). Let  $(X, G)$  be a  $G$ -metric space. A sequence  $(x_n)$  is called a  $G$ -Cauchy sequence if, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $G(x_n, x_m, x_l) < \varepsilon$  for all  $m, n, l \geq N$ , that is,  $G(x_n, x_m, x_l) \rightarrow 0$  as  $n, m, l \rightarrow +\infty$ .

**Proposition 1.6** (see [9]). *Let  $(X, G)$  be a  $G$ -metric space. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) the sequence  $(x_n)$  is  $G$ -Cauchy,
- (2) for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $G(x_n, x_m, x_m) < \varepsilon$ , for all  $m, n \geq N$ .

*Definition 1.7* (see [9]). A  $G$ -metric space  $(X, G)$  is called  $G$ -complete if every  $G$ -Cauchy sequence is  $G$ -convergent in  $(X, G)$ .

*Definition 1.8.* Let  $(X, G)$  be a  $G$ -metric space. A mapping  $F : X \times X \times X \rightarrow X$  is said to be continuous if for any three  $G$ -convergent sequences  $(x_n)$ ,  $(y_n)$ , and  $(z_n)$  converging to  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ , respectively,  $(F(x_n, y_n, z_n))$  is  $G$ -convergent to  $F(x, y, z)$ .

Recently, Berinde and Borcut [27] introduced these definitions.

*Definition 1.9.* Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a partially ordered set and  $F : X \times X \times X \rightarrow X$ . The mapping  $F$  is said to have the mixed monotone property if, for any  $x, y, z \in X$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x_1, x_2 \in X, \quad x_1 \leq x_2 &\implies F(x_1, y, z) \leq F(x_2, y, z), \\ y_1, y_2 \in X, \quad y_1 \leq y_2 &\implies F(x, y_1, z) \geq F(x, y_2, z), \\ z_1, z_2 \in X, \quad z_1 \leq z_2 &\implies F(x, y, z_1) \leq F(x, y, z_2). \end{aligned} \quad (1.4)$$

*Definition 1.10.* Let  $F : X \times X \times X \rightarrow X$ . An element  $(x, y, z)$  is called a tripled fixed point of  $F$  if

$$F(x, y, z) = x, \quad F(y, x, y) = y, \quad F(z, y, x) = z. \quad (1.5)$$

Very recently, Berinde and Borcut [28] proved some tripled coincidence theorems for contractive type mappings in partially ordered metric spaces. Also, Samet and Vetro [29] introduced the notion of fixed point of  $N$ -order as natural extension of that of coupled fixed point and established some new coupled fixed point theorems in complete metric spaces, using a new concept of  $F$ -invariant set.

Berinde and Borcut [27] proved the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.11.** *Let  $(X, \leq, d)$  be a partially ordered set and suppose there is a metric  $d$  on  $X$  such that  $(X, d)$  is a complete metric space. Suppose  $F : X \times X \times X \rightarrow X$  such that  $F$  has the mixed monotone property and*

$$d(F(x, y, z), F(u, v, w)) \leq jd(x, u) + kd(y, v) + ld(z, w), \quad (1.6)$$

for any  $x, y, z \in X$  for which  $x \leq u$ ,  $v \leq y$  and  $z \leq w$ . Suppose either  $F$  is continuous or  $X$  has the following properties:

- (1) if a nondecreasing sequence  $x_n \rightarrow x$ , then  $x_n \leq x$  for all  $n$ ,
- (2) if a nonincreasing sequence  $y_n \rightarrow y$ , then  $y \leq y_n$  for all  $n$ ,
- (3) if a nondecreasing sequence  $z_n \rightarrow z$ , then  $z_n \leq z$  for all  $n$ .

If there exist  $x_0, y_0, z_0 \in X$  such that  $x_0 \leq F(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $y_0 \geq F(y_0, x_0, z_0)$ , and  $z_0 \leq F(z_0, y_0, x_0)$ , then there exist  $x, y, z \in X$  such that

$$F(x, y, z) = x, \quad F(y, x, y) = y, \quad F(z, y, x) = z, \quad (1.7)$$

that is,  $F$  has a tripled fixed point.

In this paper, we establish a tripled fixed point result for a mapping having a mixed monotone property in  $G$ -metric spaces. Also, we give some examples to illustrate our result.

## 2. Main Results

Let  $\Phi$  be the set of all non-decreasing functions  $\phi : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \phi^n(t) = 0$  for all  $t > 0$ . If  $\phi \in \Phi$ , then following Matkowski [30], we have

- (1)  $\phi(t) < t$  for all  $t > 0$ ,
- (2)  $\phi(0) = 0$ .

The aim of this paper is to prove the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $(X, \leq)$  be partially ordered set and  $(X, G)$  a  $G$ -metric space. Let  $F : X^3 \rightarrow X$  be a continuous mapping having the mixed monotone property on  $X$ . Assume there exists  $\phi \in \Phi$  such that for  $x, y, z, a, b, c, u, v, w \in X$ , with  $x \geq a \geq u$ ,  $y \leq b \leq v$ , and  $z \geq c \geq w$ , one has*

$$G(F(x, y, z), F(a, b, c), F(u, v, w)) \leq \phi(\max\{G(x, a, u), G(y, b, v), G(z, c, w)\}). \quad (2.1)$$

If there exist  $x_0, y_0, z_0 \in X$  such that  $x_0 \leq F(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $y_0 \geq F(y_0, x_0, y_0)$ , and  $z_0 \leq F(z_0, y_0, x_0)$ , then  $F$  has a tripled fixed point in  $X$ , that is, there exist  $x, y, z \in X$  such that

$$F(x, y, z) = x, \quad F(y, x, y) = y, \quad F(z, y, x) = z. \quad (2.2)$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $x_0, y_0, z_0 \in X$  are such that  $x_0 \leq F(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $y_0 \geq F(y_0, x_0, y_0)$ , and  $z_0 \leq F(z_0, y_0, x_0)$ . Define  $x_1 = F(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $y_1 = F(y_0, x_0, y_0)$ , and  $z_1 = F(z_0, y_0, x_0)$ . Then  $x_0 \leq x_1$ ,  $y_0 \geq y_1$ , and  $z_0 \leq z_1$ . Again, define  $x_2 = F(x_1, y_1, z_1)$ ,  $y_2 = F(y_1, x_1, y_1)$ , and  $z_2 = F(z_1, y_1, x_1)$ . Since  $F$  has the mixed monotone property, we have  $x_0 \leq x_1 \leq x_2$ ,  $y_2 \leq y_1 \leq y_0$ , and  $z_0 \leq z_1 \leq z_2$ . Continuing this process, we can construct three sequences  $(x_n)$ ,  $(y_n)$ , and  $(z_n)$  in  $X$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} x_n &= F(x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, z_{n-1}) \leq x_{n+1} = F(x_n, y_n, z_n), \\ y_{n+1} &= F(y_n, x_n, y_n) \leq y_n = F(y_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), \\ z_n &= F(z_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, x_{n-1}) \leq z_{n+1} = F(z_n, y_n, x_n). \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

If, for some integer  $n$ , we have  $(x_{n+1}, y_{n+1}, z_{n+1}) = (x_n, y_n, z_n)$ , then  $F(x_n, y_n, z_n) = x_n$ ,  $F(y_n, x_n, y_n) = y_n$ , and  $F(z_n, y_n, x_n) = z_n$ ; that is,  $(x_n, y_n, z_n)$  is a tripled fixed point of  $F$ . Thus we will assume that  $(x_{n+1}, y_{n+1}, z_{n+1}) \neq (x_n, y_n, z_n)$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ; that is, we assume that either  $x_{n+1} \neq x_n$  or  $y_{n+1} \neq y_n$  or  $z_{n+1} \neq z_n$ . For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ , we have from (2.1)

$$\begin{aligned} &G(x_{n+1}, x_n, x_n) \\ &\quad := G(F(x_n, y_n, z_n), F(x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, z_{n-1}), F(x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, z_{n-1})) \\ &\quad \leq \phi(\max\{G(x_n, x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}), G(y_n, y_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), G(z_n, z_{n-1}, z_{n-1})\}), \\ &G(y_{n+1}, y_n, y_n) \\ &\quad := G(F(y_n, x_n, y_n), F(y_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), F(y_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, y_{n-1})) \\ &\quad \leq \phi(\max\{G(y_n, y_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), G(x_n, x_{n-1}, x_{n-1})\}) \\ &\quad \leq \phi(\max\{G(y_n, y_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), G(x_n, x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}), G(z_n, z_{n-1}, z_{n-1})\}), \\ &G(z_{n+1}, z_n, z_n) \\ &\quad := G(F(z_n, y_n, x_n), F(z_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, x_{n-1}), F(z_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, x_{n-1})) \\ &\quad \leq \phi(\max\{G(z_n, z_{n-1}, z_{n-1}), G(y_n, y_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), G(x_n, x_{n-1}, x_{n-1})\}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

From (2.4), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \max\{G(x_{n+1}, x_n, x_n), G(y_n, y_n, y_{n+1}), G(z_{n+1}, z_n, z_n)\} \\ & \leq \phi(\max\{G(x_n, x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}), G(y_n, y_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), G(z_n, z_{n-1}, z_{n-1})\}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

By repeating (2.5)  $n$ -times and using the fact that  $\phi$  is non-decreasing, we get that

$$\begin{aligned} & \max\{G(x_{n+1}, x_n, x_n), G(y_{n+1}, y_n, y_n), G(z_{n+1}, z_n, z_n)\} \\ & \leq \phi(\max\{G(x_n, x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}), G(y_n, y_{n-1}, y_{n-1}), G(z_n, z_{n-1}, z_{n-1})\}) \\ & \leq \phi^2(\max\{G(x_{n-1}, x_{n-2}, x_{n-2}), G(y_{n-1}, y_{n-2}, y_{n-2}), G(z_{n-1}, z_{n-2}, z_{n-2})\}) \\ & \quad \vdots \\ & \leq \phi^n(\max\{G(x_1, x_0, x_0), G(y_1, y_0, y_0), G(z_1, z_0, z_0)\}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Now, we shall show that  $(x_n)$  is a  $G$ -Cauchy sequence in  $X$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \phi^n(\max\{G(x_1, x_0, x_0), G(y_1, y_0, y_0), G(z_1, z_0, z_0)\}) = 0, \quad (2.7)$$

and  $\epsilon > \phi(\epsilon)$ , there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\phi^n(\max\{G(x_1, x_0, x_0), G(y_1, y_0, y_0), G(z_1, z_0, z_0)\}) < \epsilon - \phi(\epsilon) \quad \forall n \geq n_0. \quad (2.8)$$

By (2.6), this implies that

$$\max\{G(x_{n+1}, x_n, x_n), G(y_{n+1}, y_n, y_n), G(z_{n+1}, z_n, z_n)\} < \epsilon - \phi(\epsilon) \quad \forall n \geq n_0. \quad (2.9)$$

For  $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we prove by induction on  $m$  that

$$\max\{G(x_n, x_n, x_m), G(y_n, y_n, y_m), G(z_n, z_n, z_m)\} < \epsilon \quad \forall m \geq n \geq n_0. \quad (2.10)$$

Since  $\epsilon - \phi(\epsilon) \leq \epsilon$ , then by using (2.9) and the property (G4), we conclude that (2.10) holds when  $m = n + 1$ . Now suppose that (2.10) holds for  $m = k$ . For  $m = k + 1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & G(x_n, x_n, x_{k+1}) \\ & \leq G(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + G(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{k+1}) \\ & < \epsilon - \phi(\epsilon) + G(F(x_n, y_n, z_n), F(x_n, y_n, z_n), F(x_k, y_k, z_k)) \\ & \leq \epsilon - \phi(\epsilon) + \phi(\max\{G(x_n, x_n, x_k), G(y_n, y_n, y_k), G(z_n, z_n, z_k)\}) \\ & \leq \epsilon - \phi(\epsilon) + \phi(\epsilon) = \epsilon. \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

Similarly, we show that

$$\begin{aligned} & G(y_n, y_n, y_{k+1}) < \epsilon, \\ & G(z_n, z_n, z_{k+1}) < \epsilon. \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

Hence, we have

$$\max\{G(x_n, x_n, x_{k+1}), G(y_n, y_n, y_{k+1}), G(z_n, z_n, z_{k+1})\} < \epsilon. \quad (2.13)$$

Thus (2.10) holds for all  $m \geq n \geq n_0$ . Hence  $(x_n)$ ,  $(y_n)$ , and  $(z_n)$  are  $G$ -Cauchy sequences in  $X$ . Since  $X$  is a  $G$ -complete metric space, there exist  $x, y, z \in X$  such that  $(x_n)$ ,  $(y_n)$ , and  $(z_n)$  converge to  $x, y$ , and  $z$ , respectively. Finally, we show that  $(x, y, z)$  is a tripled fixed point of  $F$ . Since  $F$  is continuous and  $(x_n, y_n, z_n) \rightarrow (x, y, z)$ , we have  $x_{n+1} = F(x_n, y_n, z_n) \rightarrow F(x, y, z)$ . By the uniqueness of limit, we get that  $x = F(x, y, z)$ . Similarly, we show that  $y = F(y, x, y)$  and  $z = F(z, y, x)$ . So  $(x, y, z)$  is a tripled fixed point of  $F$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.** *Let  $(X, \leq)$  be partially ordered set and  $(X, G)$  a  $G$ -metric space. Let  $F : X^3 \rightarrow X$  be a continuous mapping having the mixed monotone property on  $X$ . Suppose that there exists  $k \in [0, 1)$  such that for  $x, y, z, a, b, c, u, v, w \in X$ , with  $x \geq a \geq u$ ,  $y \leq b \leq v$ , and  $z \geq c \geq w$  one has*

$$G(F(x, y, z), F(a, b, c), F(u, v, w)) \leq k \max\{G(x, a, u), G(y, b, v), G(z, c, w)\}. \quad (2.14)$$

*If there exist  $x_0, y_0, z_0 \in X$  such that  $x_0 \leq F(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $y_0 \geq F(y_0, x_0, y_0)$ , and  $z_0 \leq F(z_0, y_0, x_0)$ , then  $F$  has a tripled fixed point in  $X$ , that is, there exist  $x, y, z \in X$  such that*

$$F(x, y, z) = x, \quad F(y, x, y) = y, \quad F(z, y, x) = z. \quad (2.15)$$

*Proof.* It follows from Theorem 2.1 by taking  $\phi(t) = kt$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.3.** *Let  $(X, \leq)$  be partially ordered set and  $(X, G)$  be a  $G$ -metric space.*

*Let  $F : X^3 \rightarrow X$  be a continuous mapping having the mixed monotone property on  $X$ . Suppose that there exists  $k \in [0, 1)$  such that for  $x, y, z, a, b, c, u, v, w \in X$ , with  $x \geq a \geq u$ ,  $y \leq b \leq v$ , and  $z \geq c \geq w$  one has*

$$G(F(x, y, z), F(a, b, c), F(u, v, w)) \leq \frac{k}{3} (G(x, a, u) + G(y, b, v) + G(z, c, w)). \quad (2.16)$$

*If there exist  $x_0, y_0, z_0 \in X$  such that  $x_0 \leq F(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $y_0 \geq F(y_0, x_0, y_0)$ , and  $z_0 \leq F(z_0, y_0, x_0)$ , then  $F$  has a tripled fixed point in  $X$ , that is, there exist  $x, y, z \in X$  such that*

$$F(x, y, z) = x, \quad F(y, x, y) = y, \quad F(z, y, x) = z. \quad (2.17)$$

*Proof.* Note that

$$G(x, a, u) + G(y, b, v) + G(z, c, w) \leq 3 \max\{G(x, a, u), G(y, b, v), G(z, c, w)\}. \quad (2.18)$$

Then, the proof follows from Corollary 2.2.  $\square$

By adding an additional hypothesis, the continuity of  $F$  in Theorem 2.1 can be dropped.

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $(X, \leq)$  be a partially ordered set and  $(X, d)$  a complete metric space. Let  $F : X \times X \times X \rightarrow X$  be a mapping having the mixed monotone property. Assume that there exists  $\phi \in \Phi$  such that

$$G(F(x, y, z), F(a, b, c), F(u, v, w)) \leq \phi(\max\{G(x, a, u), G(y, b, v), G(z, c, w)\}) \quad (2.19)$$

for all  $x, y, z, a, b, c, u, v, w \in X$  with  $x \geq a \geq u$ ,  $y \leq b \leq v$ , and  $z \geq c \geq w$ . Assume also that  $X$  has the following properties:

- (i) if a nondecreasing sequence  $x_n \rightarrow x$ , then  $x_n \leq x$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,
- (ii) if a nonincreasing sequence  $y_n \rightarrow y$ , then  $y_n \geq y$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

If there exist  $x_0, y_0, z_0 \in X$  such that  $x_0 \leq F(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ ,  $y_0 \geq F(y_0, x_0, y_0)$ , and  $z_0 \leq F(z_0, y_0, x_0)$ , then  $F$  has a tripled fixed point.

*Proof.* Following proof of Theorem 2.1 step by step, we construct three G-Cauchy sequences  $(x_n)$ ,  $(y_n)$ , and  $(z_n)$  in  $X$  with

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &\leq x_2 \leq \cdots \leq x_n \leq \cdots, \\ y_1 &\geq y_2 \geq \cdots \geq y_n \geq \cdots, \\ z_1 &\leq z_2 \leq \cdots \leq z_n \leq \cdots \end{aligned} \quad (2.20)$$

such that  $x_n \rightarrow x \in X$ ,  $y_n \rightarrow y \in X$ , and  $z_n \rightarrow z \in X$ . By the hypotheses on  $X$ , we have  $x_n \leq x$ ,  $y_n \geq y$ , and  $z_n \leq z$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If for some  $n \geq 0$ ,  $x_n = x$ ,  $y_n = y$ , and  $z_n = z$ , then

$$x = x_n \leq x_{n+1} \leq x = x_n, \quad y = y_n \geq y_{n+1} \leq y = y_n, \quad z = z_n \leq z_{n+1} \leq z = z_n, \quad (2.21)$$

which implies that  $x_n = x_{n+1} = F(x_n, y_n, z_n)$ ,  $y_n = y_{n+1} = F(y_n, x_n, y_n)$ , and  $z_n = z_{n+1} = F(z_n, y_n, x_n)$ ; that is,  $(x_n, y_n, z_n)$  is a tripled fixed point of  $F$ . Now, assume that, for all  $n \geq 0$ ,  $(x_n, y_n, z_n) \neq (x, y, z)$ . Thus, for each  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$\max\{G(x, x, x_n), G(y, y, y_n), G(z, z, z_n)\} > 0. \quad (2.22)$$

From (2.19), we have

$$\begin{aligned} G(F(x, y, z), F(x, y, z), x_{n+1}) &:= G(F(x, y, z), F(x, y, z), F(x_n, y_n, z_n)) \\ &\leq \phi(\max\{G(x, x, x_n), G(y, y, y_n), G(z, z, z_n)\}), \\ G(y_{n+1}, F(y, x, y), F(y, x, y)) &:= G(F(y_n, x_n, y_n), F(y, x, y), F(y, x, y)) \\ &\leq \phi(\max\{G(y_n, y, y), G(x_n, x, x)\}) \\ G(F(z, y, x), F(z, y, x), z_{n+1}) &:= G(F(z, y, x), F(z, y, x), F(z_n, y_n, x_n)) \\ &\leq \phi(\max\{G(x, x, x_n), G(y, y, y_n), G(z, z, z_n)\}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

Letting  $n \rightarrow +\infty$  in (2.23) and using (2.22) in the fact that  $\phi(t) < t$  for all  $t > 0$ , it follows that  $x = F(x, y, z)$ ,  $y = F(y, x, y)$ , and  $z = F(z, y, x)$ . Hence  $(x, y, z)$  is a tripled fixed point of  $F$ .  $\square$

Now we give some examples illustrating our results.

*Example 2.5.* Take  $X = [0, +\infty)$  endowed with the complete  $G$ -metric:

$$G(x, y, z) = \max\{|x - y|, |x - z|, |y - z|\}, \quad (2.24)$$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ . Set  $k = 1/2$  and  $F : X^3 \rightarrow X$  defined by  $F(x, y, z) = (1/6)x$ . The mapping  $F$  has the mixed monotone property. We have

$$G(F(x, y, z), F(a, b, c), F(u, v, w)) = \frac{1}{6}G(x, a, u) \leq \frac{k}{3} \max\{G(x, a, u), G(y, b, v), G(z, c, w)\} \quad (2.25)$$

for all  $x \geq a \geq u$ ,  $y \leq b \leq v$ , and  $z \geq c \geq w$ , that is, (2.14) holds. Take  $x_0 = y_0 = z_0 = 0$ , then all the hypotheses of Corollary 2.2 are verified, and  $(0, 0, 0)$  is the unique tripled fixed point of  $F$ .

*Example 2.6.* As in Example 2.5, take  $X = [0, +\infty)$  and

$$G(x, y, z) = \max\{|x - y|, |x - z|, |y - z|\}, \quad (2.26)$$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$ . Set  $k = 1/2$  and  $F : X^3 \rightarrow X$  defined by  $F(x, y, z) = (1/36)(6x - 6y + 6z + 5)$ . The mapping  $F$  has the mixed monotone property. For all  $x \geq a \geq u$ ,  $y \leq b \leq v$ , and  $z \geq c \geq w$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} G(F(x, y, z), F(a, b, c), F(u, v, w)) &= \frac{1}{6}(|x - u| + |y - v| + |z - w|) \\ &= \frac{1}{6}(G(x, a, u) + G(y, b, v) + G(z, c, w)) \quad (2.27) \\ &= \frac{k}{3}(G(x, a, u) + G(y, b, v) + G(z, c, w)), \end{aligned}$$

that is, (2.16) holds. Take  $x_0 = y_0 = z_0 = 1/6$ , then all the hypotheses of Corollary 2.3 hold, and  $(1/6, 1/6, 1/6)$  is the unique tripled fixed point of  $F$ .

*Remark 2.7.* In our main results (Theorems 2.1 and 2.4), the considered contractions are of nonlinear type. Then, inequality (2.1) does not reduce to any metric inequality with the metric  $d_G$  (this metric is given by (1.1)). Hence our theorems do not reduce to fixed point problems in the corresponding metric space  $(X, d_G)$ .

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