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A FIXED POINT ITERATION PROCESS FOR HAMMERSTEIN EQUATIONS INVOLVING ANGLE-BOUNDED OPERATORS*

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I. **Introduction**

Let *X* be a real Banach space and $T: X \to X^*$ where X^* is the dual of X. Then *T* is said to be monotone if

$$
(1) \t\t \langle Tx-Ty,x-y\rangle\geq 0
$$

which coincides with the monotonic condition in the sense of Browder [4] and Minty [20] (see [8]). The mapping Tis said to be *strongly monotone* if for each $x, y \in D(T)$ and for some constant $\alpha > 0$

$$
\langle Tx - Ty, x - y \rangle \ge \alpha ||x - y||^2
$$

and *T* is said to be *hemicontinuous* if $T(x + t_n y)$ $\xrightarrow{w} Tx$ as $t_n \to 0^+$ for each pair $x, y \in D(T)$ where \longrightarrow denotes weak convergence.

A linear monotone operator $L: X \to X^*$ is called *angle-bounded* with constant $\sigma > 0$ if for all $x, y \in D(L)$,

(3)
$$
|\langle Lx, y\rangle - \langle Ly, x\rangle| \leq 2\sigma \langle Lx, x\rangle^{1/2} \langle Ly, y\rangle^{1/2};
$$

L is called *symmetric* if it is angle-bounded with constant $\sigma = 0$.

2. Preliminaries

In this paper, we are concerned with operator equations of the form

$$
(4) \t\t u + KNu = f;
$$

which are called Hammerstein equations in the light of [16]. Equations of the form (4) have been studied by several authors (see e. g., [1, 5-6, 10-13, 15-17, 21-24]) and it is known that several problems occurring in Differential Equations can be put in the form (4) (see e. g., $[23]$). It is also known (see e. g., [13], Chapter N) that Hammerstein operators i. e., operators of the form *I+ AB,* play a crucial role in the study of feedback control systems.

Angle bounded operators turn out to play an important role in the theory of Hammerstein equations (see e. g., [1, 6, 11, 12, 15, 23]). An important result on the solvability of Hammerstein equations involving angle-bounded operators is the following:

THEOREM (BG 1). (Browder-Gupta, [6]). *Let X be a real Banach space and* X^* *its dual.* Let $K : X \rightarrow X^*$ be an angle-bounded (with constant $\sigma > 0$)

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bounded (in the sense that for some $\beta > 0$ *<i>and for all* $x \in X$, \parallel $Kx \parallel \leq \beta \parallel x \parallel$) *linear monotone operator and let* $N : X^* \to X$ *be a hemicontinuous mapping such that for some constant* $\alpha > 0$

(5)
$$
\langle Nu - Nw, u - w \rangle \geq -\alpha ||u - w||^2; \qquad u, w \in X^*,
$$

with $\alpha(1+\sigma^2)\beta < 1.$ Then the Hammerstein equation (4) is uniquely solvable *in* x•.

In 1975, Brézis-Browder [1], established the strong convergence of suitably defined Galerkin approximations to a solution of a Hammerstein equation involving angle-bounded nonlinear operators. It is the aim in this paper to establish the norm convergence of a suitably defined Mann iteration process (see e. g., [19]) to such a solution.

An essential tool in the study of angle-bounded operators which we shall use in the sequel is the spliting of linear maps. We shall, therefore, find the following results useful in what follows.

THEOREM (BG2). (Browder-Gupta, [6]). Let $K : X \in X^*$ be a linear *monotone angle-bounded (with constant* $\sigma \geq 0$ *) operator. Then there exists a Hilhert space* H, *a continuous linear map* S *of* X *into* H *withs• (the adjoint of* S) *injective, and a skew-symmetric linear map* B *of* H *into* H *such that* $K = S^*(I + B)S$, where I denotes the identity map on H, with the fol*lowing inequalities holding:* (i) $||B|| \le \sigma$, and (ii) $||S||^2 \le \beta \leftrightarrow \forall x \in X$, $\langle Kx, x \rangle \leq \beta \| x \|^2.$

Moreover, $(I + B)^{-1}$: $H \rightarrow H$ is a bounded linear isomorphism such that $\langle (I+B)^{-1}x,x\rangle \geq (1+\sigma^2)^{-1}||x||^2, \forall x\in H.$

THEOREM (DG). (De Figueiredo-Gupta, [11]). Let $K: D(K) \subseteq X \rightarrow X^*$ be *a linear symmetric nwnotonic densely defined operator in X. Then there exists a Hilbert space H and a linear map* $S: D(K) \subseteq H \rightarrow H$ such that $K = S^*S$.

Also, the following result shall be usefull in the sequel.

LEMMA (D). (Dunn, [14]). Let $\{\alpha_n\}$ be a recursively generated by

$$
\alpha_{n+1} = (1 - \delta_n)\alpha_n + \sigma_n^2
$$

with $n \geq 1$, $\alpha_1 \geq 0$, $\{\delta_n\} \subset [0,1]$, and

$$
\sum_{n\geq 1}\sigma_n^2<\infty,\qquad \sum_{n\geq 1}\delta_n=+\infty,
$$

then $\lim_{n \to \infty} \alpha_n = 0$.

3. Main results

THEOREM (1). Let X, K, N, H, S and B be as in theorem $(BG2)$ with $\alpha(1 +$ σ^2) β < 1. Let $M = (I + B)^{-1} + SNS^*$ and let C be an appropriate bounded *closed convex nonempty subset of H. Define* $T: C \rightarrow H$ *by* $Tx = h + x - Mx$

where $h = (S^*(I+B))^{-1}f$. Let $\{c_n\}_{n\geq 0}$ be a real sequence satisfying $0 \leq c_n < 1$ *for all* $n \geq 0$, $\sum c_n = \infty$ and $\sum c_n^2 < \infty$. Then, the sequence $\{P_n\} \subset H$ *recursively generated from arbitrary* $x_0 \in C$ by

(6)
$$
P_{n+1} = (1 - c_n)x_n + c_n Tx_n, \qquad n \geq 0;
$$

where $\{x_n\} \subset C$ *is such that*

(7)
$$
\| P_{n-1} - x_n \| = \inf_{x \in C} \| P_{n-1} - x \|
$$

converges strongly to the unique solution $q \in H$ *to* $Mx = h$ *so that* S^*q *is the unique solution to the Hammerstein equation(4).*

Proof. Existence and uniqueness of a solution to the Hammerstein equation (4) follows from Theorem (BG1). Since $K = S^*(I + B)S$ (see Theorem (BG2)), (4) now becomes

$$
w+S^*(I+B)SNw=f
$$

where $w \in X^*$ is the unique solution to (4). By the injectiveness of S^* , there exists a unique $x \in H$ such that $S^*x = w$. We, therefore, have

(8)
$$
S^*x + S^*(I + B)SNS^*x = f,
$$

 $S^*(I + B)$ is single-valued and invertible, hence (8) reduces to

(9)
$$
(I + B)^{-1}x + SNS^*x = (S^*(I + B))^{-1}f = h;
$$

which is an equation in *H*. Now, $M = (I + B)^{-1} + SNS^*$ is strongly monotone since

$$
\langle Mx - My, x - y \rangle = \langle (I + B)^{-1}(x - y), x - y \rangle + \langle SNS^*x - SNS^*y, x - y \rangle
$$

\n
$$
\ge (1 + \sigma^2)^{-1} || x - y ||^2 + \langle NS^*x - NS^*y, S^*(x - y) \rangle
$$

\n
$$
\ge (1 + \sigma^2)^{-1} || x - y ||^2 + \alpha || S^*(x - y) ||^2
$$

\n
$$
\ge [(1 + \sigma^2)^{-1} - \alpha \beta] || x - y ||^2
$$

\n
$$
= \lambda || x - y ||^2
$$

where $\lambda = ((1 + \sigma^2)^{-1} - \alpha \beta) \in (0, 1)$. Also, *M* is hemicontinuous. Thus, $M : H \to H$ is surjective and hence the equation $M x = h$ is uniquely solvable. Let $q \in H$ denote such a solution. Then *q* is also a fixed point of *T*. Moreover,

$$
\langle Tx-Ty,x-y\rangle\leq (1-\lambda)\parallel x-y\parallel^2
$$

Let $R : H \to C$ be the proximity map, i.e., the map which assigns the unique element of *C* nearest to $x \in H$, $\forall x$. Then *R* is nonexpansive (see e.g., [7]). Then $x_{n+1} = R(P_n)$. Now,

$$
\| P_n - q \|^2 = (1 - c_n)^2 \| x_n - q \|^2 + c_n^2 \| Tx_n - Tq \|^2
$$

+ $2c_n(1 - c_n)\langle Tx_n - Tq, x_n - q \rangle$
 $\leq \left\{ (1 - c_n)^2 + 2(1 - \lambda)c_n(1 - c_n) \right\} \| x_n - q \|^2$
+ $c_n^2 \| Tx_n - Tq \|^2$
 $\leq (1 - \lambda c_n)^2 \| P_{n-1} - q \|^2 + c_n^2 d^2$

on adding $(1 - \lambda)^2 c_n^2 \parallel x_n - q \parallel^2$ to the *RHS*, setting $d = \sup_{n>0} ||Tx_n - Tq||$ and using the nonexpansiveness of R. Observe that $d < \infty$ since $D(T) \subset C$ and $R(N)$ is bounded. Routine argument, using lemma (D), now shows that $x_n \rightarrow q$, in norm, as $n \rightarrow \infty$ (see e.g., [9,14]). However, for completeness, we present the details.

Let $1 - r_n = (1 - \lambda c_n)^2 > 0$ so that $r_n = \lambda c_n(2 - \lambda c_n)$ and set $\varphi_{n+1} =$ $P_n - q \parallel^2$ to obtain

$$
(10) \qquad \qquad \varphi_{n+1} \leq (1-r_n)\varphi_n + c_n^2 d^2;
$$

A simple induction on (10) easily yields

(11)
$$
0 \leq \varphi_n \leq A^2 \mu_n, \text{ for all } n \geq 1;
$$

where $\mu_n \geq 0$ is recursively generated by

(12a)
$$
\mu_{n+1} = (1 - r_n)\mu_n + c_n^2, \quad \mu_1 = 1;
$$

and

$$
(12b) \qquad \qquad A^2 = \max\{\varphi_1, d^2\},
$$

Conditions on the real sequence now yield

(13)
$$
\sum r_n = 2\lambda \sum c_n - \lambda^2 \sum c_n^2 = +\infty
$$

From $\sum c_n^2 < \infty$ we have lim $c_n = 0$. Hence, we can choose an integer $n_0 > 0$ sufficiently large such that for all $n \geq n_0, r_n \in [0, 1]$. Now, for $j \geq 1$, set $\alpha_j = \mu_{n_0+j}, \delta_j = r_{n_0+j}, \sigma_j = c_{n_0+j}$. So that, from $\alpha_1 = \mu_{n_0+1} \geq 0$, Lemma (D) applies to show that $\mu_n \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$. The inequality (11) now implies that $\varphi_n \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$ so that $\{P_n\}$ converges strongly to *q*.

Now from $Mq = h$, or equivalently

$$
(I + B)^{-1}q + SNS^*q = (S^*(I + B))^{-1}f
$$

we have

$$
S^*q + S^*(I + B)SNS^*q = f
$$

so that

$$
S^*q + KNS^*q = f
$$

and S^* *q* is the unique solution to (4) and completes the proof.

Remark If *N* is monotone, the hypothesis on *K* can be significantly weakened. We have the following result.

COROLLARY (1). Let X, X^* , C, M, T, $\{x_n\}$ and $\{c_n\}$ be as in Theorem (1). *Suppose* $K: X \to X^*$ *is an angle-bounded (with constant* $\sigma > 0$ *) linear monotone operator, and* $N : X^* \to X$ *is a hemicontinuous monotone operator. Then the conclusions of Theorem* (1) *reamain valid.*

Proof. The Corollary follows immediately from Theorem (1) on setting $\alpha = 0$ so that $\lambda = (1 + \sigma^2)^{-1} \in (0, 1)$.

Remark. (i) Theorem (1) remains valid if the requirement that $R(N)$ be bounded is replaced with the condition that *N* be a bounded map or more generally, that $N(C)$ be a bounded set.

(ii) If *N* is assumed to be Lipschitzean (with constant $L_N > 0$) in Theorem (1), we obtain the additional information of an explicit error estimate. Moreover, in this case, *T* defined on the whole of *H* is Lip (*L*) with $L = 1 + \delta + \beta L_N$. Observe that if $C = H$, then (6) reduces to

$$
x_{n+1}=(1-c_n)x_n+c_nTx_n, \quad n\geq 0.
$$

COROLLARY (2). *In theorem* (1) *(as well Corollary (1)), let* $T : H \rightarrow H$ and let N be additionally Lipschitzean. Further, let ${c_n}$ be a real sequence satisfying (i) $0 \le c_n \le \lambda (L^2 + 2\lambda - 1)^{-1}$, for all $n \ge 0$, and (ii) $\sum c_n = +\infty$. Then the *conclusions of theorem* (1) *remain valid. Moreover, if* $c_n = \lambda(L^2 + 2 - 1)^{-1}$ *for* $all n \geq 0, then$

 $\|x_n - q\| \leq (1 - \mu)^{n/2} \|x_0 - q\|$ *with* $\mu = \lambda^2 (L^2 + 2\lambda - 1)^{-1} \in (0, 1).$

Proof.
$$
||Tx - Ty|| \le ||x - y|| + \delta ||x - y|| + \beta L_N ||x - y||
$$

$$
\parallel Tx-Ty \parallel=L \parallel x-y \parallel; L=1+\delta+\beta L_N
$$

so that we obtain

$$
\|x_{n+1} - q\|^2 \le [(1 - c_n)^2 + 2(1 - \lambda)c_n(1 - c_n) + L^2 c_n^2] \|x_n - q\|^2
$$

\n
$$
\le (1 - \lambda c_n) \|x_n - q\|^2
$$

\n
$$
\exp(-\lambda c_n) \|x_n - q\|^2
$$

Thus, iterating from *o* to N, using (iii), yields

$$
\|x_{N+1}-q\|^2 \leq \exp(-\lambda \sum_{n=0}^N c_n) \|x_0-q\|^2 \to 0 \text{ as } N \to \infty.
$$

If $c_n \equiv \lambda (L^2 + 2\lambda - 1)^{-1}$, inequality (14) reduces to

$$
\parallel x_{n+1}-q\parallel^2 \geq [1-\lambda^2(L^2+2\lambda-1)^{-1}]\parallel X_n-q\parallel^2
$$

Routine induction now yields the desired error estimate. This completes the proof.

In the case *K* is not everywhere defined on *X,* some alternative hypotheses on *K* yield the same result as the foregoing ones.

THEOREM (2). Suppose $K : D(K) \subset X \to X^*$ *is a densely-defined linear symmetric (or self-adjoint) monotonic operator such that* $\forall x \in D$ *(K) and some* $\beta > 0$, $\langle Kx, x \rangle \leq \beta \parallel x \parallel^2$, and $N : X^* \to X$ is a hemicontinuous bounded *below operator with constant* $-\alpha$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ (*i.e., N satisfies* (5)) *with* $\alpha\beta < 1$. Let $M = I + SNS^*$ and define $T: C \to H$ by $Tx = g + x - Mx$ where $g = (S^*)^{-1}f$ *and C is an appropriate bounded closed convex nonempty subset of the Hilbert space* H. *Then the conclusions of Theorem* (1) *remain valid.*

Proof. By theorem (DG), $K = S^*S$. Let $w \in X^*$ be the unique solution to (4). Then we have

$$
w+S^*SNw=f
$$

so that the injectiveness of S^* yields the existence of a unique $x \in H$ such that

$$
S^*x + S^*SNS^*x = f
$$

and hence by the unique invertibility of S^* ,

$$
x + SNS^*x = (S^*)^{-1}f = g
$$

which is an equation in H . Now,

$$
\langle Mx - My, x - y \rangle \geq \lambda \parallel x - y \parallel^2; \quad \lambda = (1 - \alpha \beta) \in (0, 1)
$$

The rest of the argument now follows as in theorem (1) and the proof is complete.

COROLLARY (3). In theorem (2), let $N : X^* \to X$ be a hemicontinuous mono*tone map and let* $K : X \to X^*$ *be a linear densely-defined symmetric monotone map. Then the conclusions of theorem* (2) *reamin valid.*

Proof. Set $\alpha = 0$ in theorem (2) so that $\lambda = 1$. Now, in the proof of theorem (1), set $\lambda = 1$ and the corollary follows.

COROLLARY (4). *In corollary* (2), *let X, M, Kand T be as in theorem* (2) (with $T: H \to H$). Then the same conclusions are obtained.

COROLLARY (5). Let X, M, T and $\{x_n\}$ be as in corollary (4) and let K be as *in corollary* (3). *Suppose N is Lipschitzean monotone map and* {en} *satisfies* (i) $0 \le c_n \le (L^2 + 1)^{-1}$ for all $n \ge 0$ and (ii) $\sum c_n = \infty$. Then the conclusions *of theorem (2) all hold. Moreover, if* $c_n = (L^2 + 1)^{-1}$ *for all* $n \geq 0$ *, then with* $\mu = (L^2 + 1)^{-1}$

$$
\parallel x_n-q\parallel\leq (1-\mu)^{n/2}\parallel x_0-q\parallel
$$

Further, if $c_n = (n + L^2)^{-1}$ *for all* $n \ge 1$ *, then the rate of convergence is of the order* $O(n^{-1/2})$.

Proof. Clearly, $\sum c_n(1 - c_n) = \sum (n + L^2 - 1)(n + L^2)^{-2} = \infty$. Setting $\varphi_n = \|x_n - q\|^2$ gives that $\varphi_{n+1} \leq \varphi_n$ for each *n* and also

(15)
$$
(n+L^2)^2 \varphi_{n+1} - (n+L^2-1)^2 \varphi_n \leq L^2 \varphi_1;
$$

Summing from 1 to *N,* observing that the *LHS* of (15) telescopes, yields

$$
(n+L^2)^2\varphi_{N+1}-L^4\varphi_1\leq NL^2\varphi_1
$$

so that

$$
\varphi_{N+1}\leq L^2(N+L^2)^{-1}\varphi_1.
$$

This yields the stated order of convergence and completes the proof.

It turns out to be that if *N* is Lipschitzean, the usual Picard iterations converges. We have the following result

COROLLARY (6). *Let X, X", K, N, Mand H be as in theorem* (1) *or* (2) *and let N be additionally Lipschitzean. Then the usual Picard iterations generated from an arbitrary* $x_0 \in H$ *converges strongly to the unique solution* $q \in H$ *to* $Mx = h$. Moreover, convergence is at least as fast as a geometric progression *with ratio c* = $(1 - \lambda^2 L^{-2})^{1/2} \in (0, 1)$.

Proof. Define the iteration operator T_r : $H \rightarrow H$ by

$$
T_rx = x - r(Mx - h); \quad x \in H \text{ and some } r > 0.
$$

Now,

$$
\begin{aligned} \| \ T_r x - T_r y \|^2 &= \| \ x - y \|^2 - 2r \langle Mx - My, x - y \rangle + r^2 \parallel Mx - My \|^2 \\ &\le (1 - 2\lambda r + r^2 L^2) \parallel x - y \parallel^2 \\ &\le c^2 \parallel x - y \parallel^2 \qquad (c = 1 - \lambda^2 L^{-2}, \quad r = \lambda L^{-2} > 0) \end{aligned}
$$

Hence, T_r is a contraction so that the usual Picard iterations defined by $x_{n+1} =$ *Trxn* converges strongly to the unique fixed point of *Tr* with the stated error estimate. This completes the proof.

Remarks. The Mann process converges with convergence being (i) at least as fast as a geometric progression with ratio $k = (1 - \lambda^2(L^2 + 2\lambda - 1)^{-1})^{1/2} \in$ $(0, 1)$ provided $c_n \equiv \lambda (L^2 + 2\lambda - 1)^{-1}$ (ii) of order $O(n^{-1/2})$ if $c_n = (n + L^2)^{-1}$ for all $n \geq 0$. The usual Picard iterations converge with convergence being at least as fast as a geometric progresion with ratio $c = (1 - \lambda^2 L^{-2})^{1/2} \in (0, 1)$.

Thus, if $2\lambda - 1 < 0$ then the Mann process has a faster rate of convergence than the usual Picard iterations while otherwise, the Picard iterations have a faster rate of convergence and so the Mann process is unnecessary. However, since, in general, λ can be made as small as possible, it stands that $2\lambda - 1 < 0$ so that the Mann process affords an improvement on the usual Picard iterations.

A linear strongly monotone map *K* with constant $\lambda > 0$ is angle-bounded with constant $\sigma = \lambda^{-1} || K ||$, since

$$
\begin{aligned} \left| \langle x, Ky \rangle - \langle y, Kx \rangle \right| &\leq \parallel x \parallel \parallel Ky \parallel + \parallel y \parallel \parallel Kx \parallel \\ &\leq 2 \parallel K \parallel \parallel x \parallel \parallel y \parallel \\ &\leq 2\lambda^{-1} \parallel K \parallel \langle x, Kx \rangle^{1/2} \langle y, Ky \rangle^{1/2} \end{aligned}
$$

If *K* is quasipositive with constant $\mu > 0$, i.e.,

$$
\langle x, Kx \rangle \geq \mu \parallel Kx \parallel^2
$$

and also satisfies a weak coercivity condition of the form

$$
\parallel Kx\parallel\geq\theta\parallel x\parallel, \quad \text{ for some } \theta>0
$$

then it follows that *K* is angle-bounded with constant $\sigma = \mu^{-1}\theta^{-1}$.

Using these facts, we obtain the following generalisations of the result in Chidume-Moore [10] and Moore [21,22].

THEOREM (3). *In Theorem* (1), *let K be a linear strongly monotone map with constant* $\lambda > 0$. Then the conclusions of Theorem (1) remain valid.

THEOREM (4). *In Theorem* (3), *let K be a linear quasi-positive and weakly coercive. Then the same conclusions are obtained.*

Setting $\sigma = \delta^{-1} || K ||$ and $\beta = || K ||$ in the first instance and $\sigma = \mu^{-1} \theta^{-1}$ and $\beta = \mu^{-1}$ in the second instance in Theorem (1) yields the assertions.

It is definitely routine now to see that the Corollaries also apply to Theorems 3 and 4.

General remarks

If X is a reflexive Banach space (in particular, if X is L_p or l_p , $1 < p < \infty$) we then consider the Hammerstein operator $I + KN$ defined on *X* (instead of X^*

as done above). The same results as in Theorems (1)-(4) and their Corollaries are easily obtained in the new setting where $K: X^* \to X$ and $N: X \to X^*$.

The basic tool we have employed all through is the splitting of linear anglebounded monotone maps; i.e., for $K : X \to X^*$ we have that either $K =$ $S^*(I + B)S$ where $S: X \to H$, hence, $S^*: H \to X^*$, and $I + B: H \to H$ or $K = S^*S$ with $S : X \to H$ and $S^* : H \to X^*$. If however, $D(K) \subseteq X^*$, then we would have $S: X^* \to H$ and $S^* : H \to X^{**}$. We, therefore, need the reflexivity of X to indentify X^{**} with X. We have not been able to dispense with reflexivity in this regard so far. It would, therefore, be interesting to obtain results analogous to Theorems (1)-(4) and their Corollaries for the Hammerstein operator *I+ KN* defined on *X,* a Banach space, which need not be reflexive.

Furthermore, these results were possible because we were able to reduce the Hammerstein equation $(I + K\overline{N})u = f$ in X^* (or for a reflexive X, $(I +$ $KN(x) = f$ in X) to an equivalent equation $Mx = h$ in H a Hilbert space, which process, in turn, was made possible by the splitting of angle-bounded linear monotone maps. In a setting where such splitting is not possible, the method above fails; we require an alternate method. The methods used in Chidume-Moore [10] and Moore [21] i.e., defining *T* by

(i)
$$
Tx = K^{-1}f + x - (K^{-1} + N)x
$$
, (16a)

and (ii) $Tx = f + x - (K^* + KNK^*)x$, (16b)

are adequate only for $X = H$, a Hilbert space. For a real Banach space with K : $X^* \to X$ (or $K : X \to X^*$) and $N : X \to X^*$ (or $N : X^* \to X$), the definitions (16) fail to make nice sense. The alternate approach used in Chidume [8] and Moore [21,22] i.e., defining *T* thus

$$
Tx = f - KNx
$$

is again disadvantaged by the fact a product (i.e., composition) of monotone operators need not be monotone.

It would, therefore, be of considerable interest to define a mapping *T* : $X \to X$ or $T : X^* \to X^*$, for a real Banach space X, that will be suited for approximating solutions to the Hammerstein equations involving monotone operators using fixed point iteration processes.

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