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**ITERATIONS AND FIXPOINTS**

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## ITERATIONS AND FIXPOINTS

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Starting with a decreasing map  $\varphi: X \rightarrow X$  on a partially ordered set  $X$  we construct a map  $\text{It } \varphi$  which intuitively can be understood as the iteration (countable or transfinite) of  $\varphi$ . The main properties which  $\text{It } \varphi$  inherits from  $\varphi$  are investigated. As application of the main result some fixpoint theorems are proved. Besides, our method yields constructive proofs for results which are usually demonstrated with the help of the axiom of choice.

**I. The iteration theorem.** We consider a partially ordered set  $(X, \cong)$  and a decreasing map  $\varphi: X \rightarrow X$ . For  $Y \subset X$  we denote by  $\min(Y)$  the set of minimal elements in  $Y$ . A totally ordered subset  $Y \subset X$  is said to be a  $\varphi$ -chain if:

$$(C1) \ y \cong \varphi(x) \text{ for all } x, y \in Y \text{ with } x \neq y \text{ and } y \cong x$$

$$(C2)^+ \ \varphi(Y \setminus \min(Y)) \subset Y.$$

$(X, \cong)$  is assumed to be  $\varphi$ -complete, which means that every nonempty  $\varphi$ -chain has an infimum. A  $\varphi$ -chain  $Y$  is called a *strong  $\varphi$ -chain* if:

$$(C2)^* \ \varphi(\inf(\bar{Y})) \in Y \text{ for all nonempty } \bar{Y} \subset Y \text{ with } \inf(\bar{Y}) \neq \inf(Y).$$

Condition  $(C2)^*$  obviously implies  $(C2)^+$ . Elementary examples for strong  $\varphi$ -chains are  $\{x\}$  and  $\{x, \varphi(x)\}$ . A strong  $\varphi$ -chain  $Y$  is said to be a *complete  $\varphi$ -chain* if  $\varphi(\inf(Y)) \in Y$ .

REMARK 1. (i) A totally ordered subset  $Y \subset X$  is a complete  $\varphi$ -chain iff (C1) and

$$(C2) \ \varphi(\inf(\bar{Y})) \in Y \text{ for all nonempty } \bar{Y} \subset Y.$$

(ii) The intersection of a family of strong (complete)  $\varphi$ -chains is a strong (complete)  $\varphi$ -chain.

LEMMA 1. Every strong  $\varphi$ -chain  $Y$  is contained in a complete  $\varphi$ -chain. The complete  $\varphi$ -chains containing  $Y$  have a minimum  $I_Y$  with respect to  $\subset$ .

*Proof.* Let  $M$  be the set of strong  $\varphi$ -chains containing  $Y$ . We define  $\bar{\varphi}: M \rightarrow M$  by  $\bar{\varphi}(\tilde{Y}) = \tilde{Y} \cup \{\varphi(\inf(\tilde{Y}))\}$ . According to Zermelo's fixpoint-lemma [4, Theorem I.2.5]  $\bar{\varphi}$  has a fixpoint, which is by definition a complete  $\varphi$ -chain.  $I_Y$  is obviously given by  $\cap \{\tilde{Y} \in M \mid \bar{\varphi}(\tilde{Y}) = \tilde{Y}\}$ .\*

A  $\varphi$ -invariant subset  $Y \subset X$  is called a  $\varphi$ -subset if the infimum of every strong  $\varphi$ -chain in  $Y$  is an element of  $Y$ . A map  $F: X \rightarrow X$  is called  $\varphi$ -absorbing if:

$$(A1) \quad F \circ \varphi = F$$

(A2) if  $F$  is constant on a nonempty strong  $\varphi$ -chain  $Y$  then  $F$  is constant on  $Y \cup \{\inf(Y)\}$ .

ITERATION THEOREM. *There is a decreasing map  $\text{It } \varphi: X \rightarrow X$  such that:*

- (i) *It  $\varphi$  maps onto the  $\varphi$ -fixpoints of  $X$*
  - (ii) *It  $\varphi \circ \text{It } \varphi = \text{It } \varphi$*
  - (iii) *every  $\varphi$ -subset is It  $\varphi$ -invariant*
  - (iv) *for every  $\varphi$ -absorbing map  $F$  we have  $F \circ \text{It } \varphi = F$*
  - (v) *for every  $\varphi$ -absorbing map  $F$  with  $F(x) \leq x \Rightarrow F(x) \leq \varphi(x)$  we have  $F(x) \leq x \Rightarrow F(x) \leq \text{It } \varphi(x)$ .*
  - (vi) *It  $\varphi$  is  $\varphi$ -absorbing.*
- It  $\varphi$  is uniquely determined by  $\varphi$ .*

*Proof.* We define  $\text{It } \varphi(x) \doteq \inf(I_x)$  where  $I_x \supset \{x\}$  is the minimal complete  $\varphi$ -chain given by Lemma 1. We claim that  $\text{It } \varphi$  is constant on  $I_x$ .

*Proof of the claim.* Let  $y_0 \in I_x$ . Then  $\{y \in I_x \mid y \leq y_0\}$  and  $\{y \in I_x \mid y \geq y_0\} \cup I_{y_0}$  are complete  $\varphi$ -chains  $\supset \{y_0\}$  and  $\supset \{x\}$  respectively. Hence from minimality of  $I_x$  and  $I_{y_0}$  it follows  $I_x = \{y \in I_x \mid y \geq y_0\} \cup I_{y_0}$ .

This implies  $\text{It } \varphi(y_0) = \inf(I_{y_0}) = \inf(I_x) = \text{It } \varphi(x)$ .

(i) and (ii):  $\text{It } \varphi(x) = \inf(I_x)$  is a  $\varphi$ -fixpoint because of  $\inf(I_x) \geq \varphi(\inf(I_x)) \in I_x$ . Now, let  $x = \varphi(x)$  then  $I_x = \{x\}$  (minimality). This implies  $\text{It } \varphi(x) = \inf(I_x) = x$ . Hence  $\text{It } \varphi$  maps onto the fixpoints and is idempotent.

(iii): Let  $x \in Y$  where  $Y$  is a  $\varphi$ -subset. Then  $\bar{I}_x \doteq \{y \in I_x \mid \{\xi \in I_x \mid y \leq \xi\} \subset Y\}$  is a complete  $\varphi$ -chain. We have  $x \in \bar{I}_x$  because  $\xi \leq x \forall \xi \in I_x$ . Hence  $\bar{I}_x = I_x$  (minimality) and  $\text{It } \varphi(x) = \inf(I_x) \in \bar{I}_x \subset Y$ .

\* The fixpoint-lemma is applied with respect to the following order in  $M$ :

$Y_1 < Y_2 \Leftrightarrow Y_1$  is ideal of  $Y_2$ , i.e.  $Y_1 \subset Y_2$  and  $y \leq x \forall y \in Y_2 \setminus Y_1, x \in Y_1$ .

(iv): Consider  $\bar{I}_x = \{y \in I_x \mid F(x) = F(\xi) \forall \xi \in I_x \text{ with } \xi \geq y\}$  where  $F$  is  $\varphi$ -absorbing.  $\bar{I}_x$  is a complete  $\varphi$ -chain  $\supset \{x\}$ . Hence  $I_x = \bar{I}_x$  and  $\text{It } \varphi(x) \in \bar{I}_x$ . This implies  $F \circ \text{It } \varphi(x) = F(x)$ .

(v): Let  $F$  be as in (v) and  $F(x) \leq x$ . Then  $\bar{I}_x = \{y \in I_x \mid y \geq F(y) = F(x)\}$  is a complete  $\varphi$ -chain  $\supset \{x\}$ . This gives  $I_x = \bar{I}_x$  and  $F(x) = F(\inf(I_x)) \leq \inf(I_x) = \text{It } \varphi(x)$ .

(vi): (A1) is a consequence of  $\varphi(x) \in I_x$  and the fact that  $\text{It } \varphi$  is constant on  $I_x$ . Now, let  $x \in Y$  where  $Y$  is a strong  $\varphi$ -chain on which  $\text{It } \varphi$  is constant. For  $\bar{x} = \inf(Y)$  we show that  $I_x \cap I_{\bar{x}} \neq \emptyset$ . This gives the desired result because for  $y \in I_x \cap I_{\bar{x}}$  we have  $\text{It } \varphi(x) = \text{It } \varphi(y) = \text{It } \varphi(\bar{x}) = \text{It } \varphi(\inf Y)$ . Assume therefore that  $I_x \cap I_{\bar{x}} = \emptyset$ . The set  $Y \cup I_{\bar{x}}$  is a complete  $\varphi$ -chain  $\supset \{x\}$ . Hence  $Y \cup I_{\bar{x}} \geq I_x$  and  $I_x$  must be a subset of  $Y$ . This gives  $\bar{x} \leq \inf(I_x)$  ( $\neq$  because of  $\bar{x} \notin I_x$ ). Since  $Y \supset I_x$  is totally ordered there is some  $y \in Y$  with  $y \leq \inf(I_x)$ . From this it follows  $\text{It } \varphi(y) \leq y \leq \inf(I_x) = \text{It } \varphi(x)$  which is in contradiction to the fact that  $\text{It } \varphi$  is constant on  $Y$ .

*Proof of uniqueness.* Let  $F$  be  $\varphi$ -absorbing and decreasing then according to (v) we have  $F(x) \leq \text{It } \varphi(x)$  for all  $x$ . Thus  $\text{It } \varphi$  is the maximum of all decreasing  $\varphi$ -absorbing maps. Hence  $\text{It } \varphi$  is unique.

From now on  $\text{It } \varphi$  is called the *iteration* of  $\varphi$ . The reason for choosing this name will become obvious in the next chapter. It should be mentioned that the proof of the iteration theorem does not make use of Zorn's lemma or the axiom of choice. The crucial tool was Zermelo's fixpoint-lemma (see also [15]) which can be proved constructively.

## II. Examples and applications.

II.1. *Monotony and a theorem of Tarski.* First we show that  $\text{It } \varphi$  inherits monotony from  $\varphi$ .

LEMMA 2. *Let  $\varphi$  be monotone.*

- (i)  $\text{It } \varphi(x)$  is the maximum of the  $\varphi$ -fixpoints  $\leq x$ .
- (ii)  $\text{It } \varphi$  is monotone.

*Proof.* (i) Let  $x_0$  be a fixpoint  $\leq x$ . We show  $x_0 \leq \text{It } \varphi(x)$ . Obviously the constant map  $F: X \rightarrow X$  given by  $F(y) = x_0$  is  $\varphi$ -absorbing.  $x_0 \leq y$  implies  $\varphi(x_0) = x_0 \leq \varphi(y)$  because  $\varphi$  is monotone. Hence  $F$  fulfills (v) of the iteration theorem and we have  $x_0 = F(x) \leq \text{It } \varphi(x)$ .

(ii) Let  $y \leq x$  then  $\text{It } \varphi(y)$  is a  $\varphi$ -fixpoint  $\leq x$ . By (i) we know  $\text{It } \varphi(y) \leq \text{It } \varphi(x)$ . Thus  $\text{It } \varphi$  must be monotone.

EXAMPLE 1. Let  $L$  be a complete lattice and  $\mu: L \rightarrow L$  a

monotone map.  $\mu$  is decreasing on  $X \doteq \{x \in L \mid \mu(x) \leq x\}$  which is not empty because  $\sup(L) \in X$ .

$X$  contains  $\text{Fix}(\mu)$  (set of  $\mu$ -fixpoints).

$X$  is  $\mu$ -complete because the infimum of every chain in  $X$  is again element of  $X$ . This yields that  $\text{Fix}(\mu) \neq \emptyset$  (see [9]) because  $\text{Fix}(\mu)$  is the image of  $X$  under  $\text{It } \mu|_X$ .

Now, let  $Y \subset \text{Fix}(\mu)$  then by Lemma 2(i)  $\text{It } \mu|_X(\inf(Y))$  is the maximum of all fixpoints  $\leq \inf(Y)$ . Hence  $\text{It } \mu|_X(\inf(Y))$  is the infimum of  $Y$  in  $\text{Fix}(\mu)$ . So we have proved:

**THEOREM (Tarski [14]).** *Let  $\mu : L \rightarrow L$  be monotone on the complete lattice  $L$ , then  $\text{Fix}(\mu)$  is a nonempty complete lattice.*

II.2. *Contracting and condensing maps.* The next example is rather trivial. Nevertheless it shows why the name iteration was chosen for  $\text{It } \varphi$ . Let  $(Z, d)$  be a complete and bounded metric space. We call  $T : Z \rightarrow Z$  a *generalized contraction* if there is a  $q < 1$  such that  $\delta(T(A)) \leq q\delta(A)$  for all  $T$ -invariant  $A \subset Z$ , where  $\delta(\ )$  denotes the diameter. On  $X = \{A \subset Z \mid A \text{ closed, nonempty, } T\text{-invariant}\}$  we define a  $\subset$ -decreasing map  $\varphi_T$  by  $\varphi_T(A) = \text{closure}(T(A))$ . Then  $X$  is  $\varphi_T$ -complete because a  $\varphi_T$ -chain either contains only finitely many elements or is the basis of a Cauchy filter.  $\text{It } \varphi_T(X)$  is a singleton because as  $\varphi_T$ -fixpoints it has diameter 0. Furthermore  $\text{It } \varphi_T(X)$  contains (Lemma 2(i)) the closure of the set of  $T$ -fixpoints. Hence the iteration theorem yields:

**THEOREM (Banach and others).** *Every generalized contraction on  $Z$  has a unique fixpoint.*

Generalized contractions are for example the quasicontractions

$$\begin{aligned} & d(T(x), T(y)) \\ & \leq q \max\{d(x, y), d(x, T(x)), d(y, T(y)), d(x, T(y)), d(y, T(x))\} \\ & \quad \forall x, y \in Z \end{aligned}$$

recently considered [3] by Lj. B. Ćirić.

The contraction property in the last example was mainly used to assure that  $X$  is  $\varphi_T$ -complete. But if  $(Z, d)$  is compact then  $X$  is  $\varphi_T$ -complete for any map  $T$ . Therefore the same argument leads to:

**THEOREM (M. Edelstein [5]).** *Every condensing map  $T$  (i.e. a map with  $\delta(T(A)) < \delta(A)$  for every  $T$ -invariant  $A \subset Z$ , with  $\delta(A) > 0$ ) on a compact metric space has a unique fixpoint.*

For the next example let us consider a continuous map  $T: S \rightarrow S$ , where  $S$  is a nonempty closed bounded convex subset of a separated locally convex vector space.  $T$  is said to be *limit-compact* if every closed  $M \subset S$  with  $\overline{\text{co}} T(M) \supset M$  has to be compact. ( $\overline{\text{co}}$  denotes the closed convex hull).

**THEOREM (Sadovski [13]).** *Let  $T$  be limit-compact and assume that there is some nonempty  $A \subset S$  with  $\overline{\text{co}} T(A) \supset A$ . Then  $T$  has a fixpoint.*

*Proof.* On  $X = \{Y \subset S \mid \overline{\text{co}} Y = Y\}$  we consider the  $\subset$ -decreasing map  $\varphi(Y) \doteq Y \cap \overline{\text{co}} T(Y)$  and the constant map  $F(Y) \doteq \overline{\text{co}}(A)$ .  $X$  is a complete lattice with respect to  $\subset$  and therefore  $\varphi$ -complete. The  $\varphi$ -fixpoint  $K \doteq \text{It } \varphi(S)$  is compact because  $T$  is limit-compact. (v) of the iteration theorem gives  $\emptyset \neq \overline{\text{co}}(A) = F(S) \subset \text{It } \varphi(S) = K$ . So  $K$  is nonempty. Finally we get  $T(K) \subset K$  from the fact that  $\bar{X} = \{Y \in X \mid T(Y) \subset Y\}$  is a  $\varphi$ -subset. Hence the Schauder-Tychonoff Theorem [4, Theorem, V.10.5] provides a fixpoint.

A special case of this theorem is that every continuous  $\Delta$ -condensing operator on a closed bounded convex set has a fixpoint ( $\Delta$  is a measure of noncompactness, see [12]).

**II.3. Normal structure.** Throughout this chapter  $S$  will be a nonempty weakly compact set with normal structure in a Banach space.

*Normal structure* means that if  $M$  is a convex subset of  $S$  which contains more than one element then it holds that

$$r(M) \doteq \inf_{z \in M} \sup_{x \in M} \|x - z\| < \delta(M) \doteq \sup_{z, x \in M} \|x - z\|.$$

We know that for every nonempty closed convex subset  $M \subset S$  the Čebyčev-centre of  $M$  with respect to  $S$   $\text{Ceb}_S(M) \doteq \{x \in S \mid \sup_{z \in M} \|x - z\| \leq r(M)\}$  is again nonempty closed and convex (see [2], [8]). We shall write  $\text{Ceb}_M(M)$  for  $\text{Ceb}_S(M) \cap M$  and  $\text{Ceb}(M)$  for  $\text{Ceb}_M(M)$ .  $\text{Ceb}_S(M) \supset M \neq \emptyset$ , or equivalently  $\text{Ceb}(M) = M \neq \emptyset$ , happens if and only if  $M$  is a singleton. We are interested in nonexpansive maps  $T: S \rightarrow S$ . *Nonexpansive* means that  $\|T(x) - T(y)\| \leq \|x - y\|$  for all  $x, y \in S$ . It is well known ([6], [8]) that with additional conditions  $\text{Ceb}_S(M)$  is invariant under a nonexpansive map. We need this result in a slightly more general form.

**LEMMA 3.** *Let  $f: S \rightarrow S$  be nonexpansive and  $M \subset S$  such that  $\overline{\text{co}} f(M) \supset M = \overline{\text{co}}(M)$ . Then  $\text{Ceb}_S(M)$  is  $f$ -invariant.*

*Proof.* Let  $x \in M$  and  $x_0 \in \text{Ceb}_s(M)$  be arbitrary. By assumption for  $\epsilon > 0$  there are  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \geq 0$  with  $\sum \lambda_i = 1$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_n \in M$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(x_0) - x\| &\leq \|f(x_0) - \sum \lambda_i f(y_i)\| + \epsilon \leq \sum \lambda_i \|f(x_0) - f(y_i)\| + \epsilon \\ &\leq \sum \lambda_i \|x_0 - y_i\| + \epsilon \quad (\text{because } f \text{ is nonexpansive}) \\ &\leq r(M) + \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

This implies  $\|f(x_0) - x\| \leq r(M) \forall x \in M$  and  $f(x_0)$  must be in  $\text{Ceb}_s(M)$ .

**THEOREM (Kirk [8]).** *Every nonexpansive  $T: S \rightarrow S$  has a fixpoint.*

*Proof.*  $X = \{Y \subset S \mid \emptyset \neq Y = \overline{\text{co}}(Y), T(Y) \subset Y\}$  is  $\varphi$ -complete for every decreasing  $\varphi$  because it consists of weakly compact sets. We define a decreasing  $\varphi_1: X \rightarrow X$  by  $\varphi_1(Y) = \overline{\text{co}} T(Y)$ . The Čebyčev centre of  $\text{It } \varphi_1(Y)$  is  $T$ -invariant because of Lemma 3.

Thus  $\varphi_2(Y) \doteq \text{Ceb}(\text{It } \varphi_1(Y))$  is a decreasing map  $X \rightarrow X$  and  $K = \text{It } \varphi_2(S)$  must be an element of  $X$  with  $\text{Ceb}(K) = K$ . Hence  $K$  is a  $T$ -invariant singleton. That means  $K$  consists of one  $T$ -fixpoint.

We close this section with a theorem of the Belluce–Kirk type. Let  $T: S \rightarrow S$  be nonexpansive and  $\mathcal{F}$  a family of nonexpansive with  $T$  commuting maps  $S \rightarrow S$  such that for every  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  there is a  $g \in \mathcal{F}$  with  $f \circ g = T$ .

**THE LAST THEOREM.**  *$\mathcal{F}$  has a common fixpoint.*

*Proof.* Consider

$$\begin{aligned} Z^* &= \{Y \subset S \mid T(Y) \subset Y\}, \\ Z &= \{Y \in Z^* \mid f(Y) \subset Y \forall f \in \mathcal{F}\} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$X = \{M \subset S \mid \emptyset \neq M = \overline{\text{co}} M, T(M) \subset M, f(M) \subset M \forall f \in \mathcal{F}\}.$$

The map  $\varphi(Y) \doteq T(Y)$  is decreasing monotone on  $Z^*$ . Since  $Z$  is a  $\varphi$ -subset of  $Z^*$ ,  $\text{It } \varphi$  maps  $Z \rightarrow Z$ . By Kirk's theorem there is a  $T$ -fixpoint  $x_M \in M$  for every  $M \in X$ . Thus  $\{x_M\}$  is a  $\varphi$ -fixpoint and according to Lemma 2(i) we have  $x_M \in \text{It } \varphi(M)$  and  $\text{It } \varphi(M)$  must be nonempty. Furthermore we know  $\overline{\text{co}} f(\text{It } \varphi(M)) \supset f(\text{It } \varphi(M)) =$

It  $\varphi(M)$  because of  $\text{It } \varphi(M) = T(\text{It } \varphi(M)) = f \circ g(\text{It } \varphi(M)) \subset f(\text{It } \varphi(M))$ . With the aid of Lemma 3 we conclude that  $\Psi: M \rightarrow \text{Ceb}_M \overline{\text{co}}(\text{It } \varphi(M))$  is a map  $X \rightarrow X$ . Obviously we have  $\text{Ceb}(\text{It } \Psi(S)) = \text{It } \Psi(S)$ . Hence  $\text{It } \Psi(S)$  is a singleton consisting of a fixpoint for  $\mathcal{F}$ .

**COROLLARY (Belluce–Kirk [1]).** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a finite family of commuting nonexpansive maps  $S \rightarrow S$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}$  has a common fixpoint in  $S$ .*

*Proof.* Use the last theorem for  $T = f_1 \circ f_2 \circ \dots \circ f_n$ , where  $\mathcal{F}$  consists of all compositions of different elements of  $\{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ .

The last theorem is quite general because whenever a family  $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}$  of nonexpansive maps has a common fixpoint  $x_0 \in S$  then we can find a  $T$  and a family  $\mathcal{F} \supset \tilde{\mathcal{F}}$  fulfilling the required conditions. For example define  $T(x) = x_0 \forall x \in S$  and  $\mathcal{F} = \tilde{\mathcal{F}} \cup \{T\}$  then obviously  $f \circ T = T \forall f \in \tilde{\mathcal{F}}$ .

There are very many other theorems which are simple applications of the iteration theorem. One example: the fixpoint theorem of Brodski–Milman [2]. Lim's generalization of the Belluce–Kirk Theorem ([10], [11]) also can be simplified with the iteration theorem. But it seems that Lim's theorem cannot be done without the axiom of choice. All theorems of this paper are theorems of constructive functional analysis although many of them are usually proved with the aid of Zorn's lemma. This seems worthwhile to mention because the interest in constructive analysis has grown with the discovery of Solovay's model [7].

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Richard Julian Bagby, <i>On <math>L^p</math>, <math>L^q</math> multipliers of Fourier transforms</i> .....	1
Robert Beauwens and Jean-Jacques Van Binnebeek, <i>Convergence theorems in Banach algebras</i> .....	13
James Cyril Becker, <i>Skew linear vector fields on spheres in the stable range</i> .....	25
Michael James Beeson, <i>Continuity and comprehension in intuitionistic formal systems</i> .....	29
James K. Deveney, <i>Generalized primitive elements for transcendental field extensions</i> .....	41
Samuel S. Feder, Samuel Carlos Gitler and K. Y. Lam, <i>Composition properties of projective homotopy classes</i> .....	47
Nathan Jacob Fine, <i>Tensor products of function rings under composition</i> .....	63
Benno Fuchssteiner, <i>Iterations and fixpoints</i> .....	73
Wolfgang H. Heil, <i>On punctured balls in manifolds</i> .....	81
Shigeru Itoh, <i>A random fixed point theorem for a multivalued contraction mapping</i> .....	85
Nicolas P. Jewell, <i>Continuity of module and higher derivations</i> .....	91
Roger Dale Konyndyk, <i>Residually central wreath products</i> .....	99
Linda M. Lesniak and John A. Roberts, <i>On Ramsey theory and graphical parameters</i> .....	105
Vo Thanh Liem, <i>Some cellular subsets of the spheres</i> .....	115
Dieter Lutz, <i>A perturbation theorem for spectral operators</i> .....	127
P. H. Maserick, <i>Moments of measures on convex bodies</i> .....	135
Stephen Joseph McAdam, <i>Unmixed 2-dimensional local domains</i> .....	153
D. B. McAlister and Norman R. Reilly, <i>E-unitary covers for inverse semigroups</i> .....	161
William H. Meeks, III and Julie Patrusky, <i>Representing codimension-one homology classes by embedded submanifolds</i> .....	175
Premalata Mohapatro, <i>Generalised quasi-Nörlund summability</i> .....	177
Takahiko Nakazi, <i>Superalgebras of weak-<math>*</math>Dirichlet algebras</i> .....	197
Catherine Louise Olsen, <i>Norms of compact perturbations of operators</i> .....	209
William Henry Ruckle, <i>Absolutely divergent series and isomorphism of subspaces. II</i> .....	229
Bernard Russo, <i>On the Hausdorff-Young theorem for integral operators</i> .....	241
Arthur Argyle Sagle and J. R. Schumi, <i>Anti-commutative algebras and homogeneous spaces with multiplications</i> .....	255
Robert Evert Stong, <i>Stiefel-Whitney classes of manifolds</i> .....	271
D. Suryanarayana, <i>On a theorem of Apostol concerning Möbius functions of order <math>k</math></i> .....	277
Yoshio Tanaka, <i>On closedness of <math>C</math>- and <math>C^*</math>-embeddings</i> .....	283
Chi Song Wong, <i>Characterizations of certain maps of contractive type</i> .....	293