

# MATCHING THEOREMS, FIXED POINT THEOREMS AND MINIMAX INEQUALITIES WITHOUT CONVEXITY

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(Received 20 April 1989)

Communicated by J. H. Rubinstein

## Abstract

Matching theorems, fixed point theorems and minimax inequalities are obtained in  $H$ -spaces which generalize the corresponding results of Bae-Kim-Tan, Browder, Fan, Horvath, Kim, Ko-Tan, Shih-Tan, Takahashi, Tan and Tarafdar to non-compact and/or non-convex settings.

1980 *Mathematics subject classification* (*Amer. Math. Soc.*) (1985 Revision): primary 47 H 10, 49 A 40; secondary 54 H 25, 54 C 60.

*Keywords and phrases*: matching theorem, fixed point theorem, minimax inequality,  $H$ -space, contractible,  $H$ -convex, weakly  $H$ -convex, compactly open (closed),  $H$ -compact,  $H$ -KKM, topological vector space, convex hull, lower semi-continuous.

## 1. Introduction

In 1972, by applying his infinite dimensional generalization [11, Lemma 1] of the classical Knaster-Kuratowski-Mazurkiewicz Theorem [18], Fan obtained a minimax inequality [12, Theorem 1] which has numerous applications to various and diverse branches of mathematics. Since then there are many generalizations in topological vector space setting, for example, [1], [2], [4], [5], [13], [20], [23], [24], [25], [26], [27] and [28]. In [14, 15, 16], Horvath obtained minimax inequalities by replacing convexity with pseudo-convexity or contractibility in a topological space but only in compact setting. In [3], using Horvath's approach in [16], Bardaro and Ceppitelli obtained some minimax inequalities in non-compact setting for mappings taking values in an ordered vector space.

This work was partially supported by NSERC of Canada under grant number A-8096.

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In this paper, we shall use Bardaro and Ceppitelli's notions of " $H$ -space", " $H$ -convex", "weak- $H$ -convex" and " $H$ -compact" in [3] to first obtain some generalizations of Fan's matching theorems [13, Theorems 2 and 3] and some results of Horvath [16, Theorem 2], Kim [17, Theorem 2], Ko and Tan [19, Theorem 7B] and Tarafdar [27, Lemma 2.1] to non-convex setting. Next by applying our earlier results, some fixed point theorems are obtained generalizing those of Browder [6, Theorem 2], Horvath [16, Theorem 2'], Kim [17, Theorem 3] and Tarafdar [27, Theorems 2.2 and 2.3 and Corollaries 2.1 and 2.2] to non-convex and non-compact setting. Several very general minimax inequalities are also presented which improve those of Bae, Kim and Tan [2, Theorem 1], Fan [12, Corollary 1], [13, Theorem 6], Horvath [16, Propositions 1, 2 and 3], Shih and Tan [21, Theorem 1], Takahashi [25, Theorem 3] and Tan [26, Theorem 1].

For further and related works and applications and for mappings taking values in an ordered vector space, we refer to Ding, Kim and Tan [7] and Ding and Tan [8, 9, 10].

## 2. Matching theorems

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be non-empty sets; we shall denote by  $2^Y$  the family of all non-empty subsets of  $Y$  and  $\mathcal{F}(X)$  the family of all non-empty finite subsets of  $X$ . If  $F: X \rightarrow 2^Y$ , define  $F^{-1}, F^*: Y \rightarrow 2^X \cup \{\emptyset\}$  and  $F^c: X \rightarrow 2^Y \cup \{\emptyset\}$  by

$$F^{-1}(y) = \{x \in X: y \in F(x)\}, \quad F^*(y) = \{x \in X: y \notin F(x)\} \quad \text{and} \\ F^c(x) = \{y \in Y: y \notin F(x)\}.$$

We shall denote by  $\Delta_n$  the standard  $n$  dimensional simplex with the vertices  $e_0, \dots, e_n$ . If  $J$  is a non-empty subset of  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ ,  $\Delta_J$  will denote the convex hull of the vertices  $\{e_j: j \in J\}$ . If  $E$  is a vector space and  $A \subset E$ , we shall denote by  $\text{co}(A)$  the convex hull of  $A$ .

The following notions which were introduced by Bardaro and Ceppitelli in [3] were motivated by an earlier work of Horvath [16] in generalizing Ky Fan's infinite dimensional generalization of the Knaster-Kuratowski-Mazurkiewicz theorem [18] and Fan's minimax inequality [12] to topological spaces without convexity.

A pair  $(X, \{F_A\})$  is said to be an  $H$ -space if  $X$  is a topological space and  $\{F_A\}$  is a given family of non-empty contractible subsets of  $X$ , indexed by  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $F_A \subset F_{A'}$  whenever  $A \subset A'$ . Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space. A non-empty subset  $D$  of  $X$  is called (i)  $H$ -convex if  $F_A \subset D$  for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(D)$ ; (ii) weakly  $H$ -convex if  $F_A \cap D$  is non-empty and

contractible for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(D)$  (this is equivalent to say that  $(D, \{F_A \cap D\})$  is an  $H$ -space); (iii) *compactly open (closed) in  $X$*  if  $D \cap C$  is open (closed) in  $C$  for each non-empty compact subset  $C$  of  $X$ .

Let  $(Y, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $X$  be a non-empty subset of  $Y$ . A non-empty subset  $X_0$  of  $X$  is said to be  *$H$ -compact in  $X$*  if, for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ , there exists a compact, weakly  $H$ -convex subset  $C_A$  of  $Y$  such that  $X_0 \cup A \subset C_A$ . A map  $F: X \rightarrow 2^Y$  is called  *$H$ -KKM* if  $F_A \subset \bigcup_{x \in A} F(x)$  for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ . We remark here that our definition of “ $H$ -compact in  $X$ ” is slightly more general than that of “ $H$ -compact” in [3]; however, the two notions coincide when  $X = Y$ .

The proof of the following useful result is contained in the proof of Theorem 1 of Horvath in [16] and is thus omitted.

**LEMMA 1.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space. For each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ , let  $F_J$  be a non-empty contractible subset of  $X$ . If  $J \subset J'$  implies  $F_J \subset F_{J'}$ , then there exists a continuous map  $f: \Delta_n \rightarrow X$  such that  $f(\Delta_J) \subset F_J$  for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ .*

The following result is a variation of Theorem 1 of Horvath [16]:

**LEMMA 2.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $\{R_i\}_{i=0}^n$  be a family of subsets of  $X$ . Suppose*

(i) *for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ , there exists a non-empty contractible subset  $F_J$  of  $X$  such that  $F_J \subset \bigcup_{j \in J} R_j$  and  $F_J \subset F_{J'}$ , whenever  $J \subset J'$ ;*

(ii) *for each  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ ,  $F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap R_i$  is closed in  $F_{\{0, \dots, n\}}$ .*

*Then  $\bigcap_{i=0}^n R_i \neq \emptyset$ .*

**PROOF.** By Lemma 1, there exists a continuous function  $f: \Delta_n \rightarrow X$  such that  $f(\Delta_J) \subset F_J$  for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ . For each  $i = 0, \dots, n$ , let  $S_i = f^{-1}(F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap R_i)$ , then  $S_i$  is a closed subset of the simplex  $\Delta_n$ . For each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_{j \in J} S_j &= f^{-1} \left( F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap \left( \bigcup_{j \in J} R_j \right) \right) \supset f^{-1}(F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap F_J) \\ &= f^{-1}(F_J) \supset \Delta_J. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\text{co}\{e_j : j \in J\} \subset \bigcup_{j \in J} S_j.$$

By the Knaster-Kuratowski-Mazurkiewicz theorem [18],  $\bigcap_{i=0}^n S_i \neq \emptyset$ . Take any  $p \in \bigcap_{i=0}^n S_i$ , then  $f(p) \in \bigcap_{i=0}^n (F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap R_i)$  so that  $\bigcap_{i=0}^n R_i \neq \emptyset$ .

The following result is the dual of Lemma 2 and generalizes Theorem 2 of Kim in [17] to non-convex setting.

**LEMMA 3.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $\{R_i\}_{i=0}^n$  be a family of subsets of  $X$ . Suppose*

(i) *for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ , there exists a non-empty contractible subset  $F_J$  of  $X$  such that  $F_J \subset \bigcup_{j \in J} R_j$  and  $F_J \subset F_{J'}$  whenever  $J \subset J'$ ;*

(ii) *for each  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ ,  $F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap R_i$  is open in  $F_{\{0, \dots, n\}}$ .*

*Then  $\bigcap_{i=0}^n R_i \neq \emptyset$ .*

**PROOF.** By Lemma 1, there exists a continuous function  $f: \Delta_n \rightarrow X$  such that  $f(\Delta_J) \subset F_J$  for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ . For each  $i = 0, \dots, n$ , let  $S_i = f^{-1}(F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap R_i)$ , then  $S_i$  is an open subset of the simplex  $\Delta_n$  and for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{0, \dots, n\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \bigcup_{j \in J} S_j &= f^{-1} \left( F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap \left( \bigcup_{j \in J} R_j \right) \right) \supset f^{-1}(F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap F_J) \\ &= f^{-1}(F_J) \supset \Delta_J. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $\text{co}\{e_j : j \in J\} \subset \bigcup_{j \in J} S_j$ . It follows from Corollary 1 of Shih and Tan [22] (also Theorem 1 of Kim [17]) that  $\bigcap_{i=0}^n S_i \neq \emptyset$ . Take any  $p \in \bigcap_{i=0}^n S_i$ , then  $f(p) \in \bigcap_{i=0}^n (F_{\{0, \dots, n\}} \cap R_i)$  so that  $\bigcap_{i=0}^n R_i \neq \emptyset$ .

As applications of Lemmas 2 and 3, we have the following matching theorems.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  be  $n$  closed subsets of  $X$  such that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = X$ . For each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ , let  $F_J$  be a non-empty contractible subset of  $X$  such that  $F_J \subset F_{J'}$  whenever  $J \subset J'$ . Then there exists a non-empty subset  $J_0$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $F_{J_0} \cap \bigcap_{j \in J_0} A_j \neq \emptyset$ .*

**PROOF.** Suppose the conclusion were not true, then  $F_J \cap \bigcap_{j \in J} A_j = \emptyset$  for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . For each  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , let  $G_j = S \setminus A_j$ , then  $G_j$  is open in  $X$ . It follows that  $F_J \subset \bigcup_{j \in J} G_j$  for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . By Lemma 3,  $\bigcap_{j=1}^n G_j \neq \emptyset$ , which contradicts the assumption  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = X$ . This completes the proof.

If  $X$  is a convex subset of a topological vector space and  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in X$ , let  $F_J$  be the convex hull of  $\{x_j : j \in J\}$  for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ , we see then Theorem 1 generalizes Theorem 2 of Fan in [13].

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $B_1, \dots, B_n$  be  $n$  open subsets of  $X$  such that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^n B_i = X$ . For each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ , let  $F_J$  be a non-empty contractible subset of  $X$  such that  $F_J \subset F_{J'}$  whenever  $J \subset J'$ . Then there exists a non-empty subset  $J_0$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $F_{J_0} \cap \bigcap_{j \in J_0} B_j \neq \emptyset$ .*

**PROOF.** Suppose the conclusion were not true, then  $F_J \cap \bigcap_{j \in J} B_j = \emptyset$  for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . For each  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , let  $G_j = X \setminus B_j$ , then  $G_j$  is closed in  $X$ . It follows that  $F_J \subset \bigcup_{j \in J} G_j$  for each non-empty subset  $J$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . By Lemma 2,  $\bigcap_{j=1}^n G_j \neq \emptyset$ , which contradicts the assumption  $\bigcup_{j=1}^n B_j = X$ . This completes the proof.

The above result generalizes Theorem 7B of Ko and Tan in [19] to a non-convex setting.

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $S: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that*  
 (a)  $\bigcup_{x \in X} S(x) = X$ ;  
 (b) *for some  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $S^c(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S^c(x_0) \cap S^c(x)$  is closed in  $S^c(x_0)$ ;*  
 (c) *for each  $x \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A \cap S^c(x)$  is closed in  $F_A$ .*  
*Then there exists  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $F_A \cap \bigcup_{x \in A} S(x) \neq \emptyset$ .*

**PROOF.** Suppose the assertion is false; then for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} S(x) = \emptyset$  so  $F_A \subset X \setminus \bigcap_{x \in A} S(x) = \bigcup_{x \in A} S^c(x)$ . Define  $G: X \rightarrow 2^X$  by  $G(x) = S^c(x)$  for each  $x \in X$ ; then  $G$  is an  $H$ -KKM map. By (c), for each  $x \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A \cap G(x)$  is closed in  $F_A$ . Thus by Lemma 2 the family  $\{G(x): x \in X\}$  has the finite intersection property. By (b),  $G(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $G(x_0) \cap G(x)$  is closed in  $G(x_0)$ . It follows that  $\bigcap_{x \in X} G(x) \neq \emptyset$  which contradicts (a). Hence the assertion must hold.

Theorem 3 can be restated in its contrapositive form and in terms of the complement  $G(x)$  of  $S(x)$  in  $X$  as follows.

**THEOREM 4.** *Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $G: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that*  
 (a)  *$G$  is an  $H$ -KKM map;*  
 (b) *for some  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $G(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $G(x_0) \cap G(x)$  is closed in  $G(x_0)$ ;*  
 (c) *for each  $x \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A \cap G(x)$  is closed in  $F_A$ .*  
*Then  $\bigcap_{x \in X} G(x) \neq \emptyset$ .*

As an immediate consequence of Theorem 4, we have the following.

**THEOREM 5.** *Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $F, G: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that*

- (a) *for each  $x \in X$ ,  $F(x) \subset G(x)$  and  $x \in F(x)$ ;*
  - (b) *for each  $x \in X$ ,  $F^*(x)$  is  $H$ -convex;*
  - (c) *for some  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $G(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $G(x_0) \cap G(x)$  is closed in  $G(x_0)$ ;*
  - (d) *for each  $x \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A \cap G(x)$  is closed in  $F_A$ .*
- Then  $\bigcap_{x \in X} G(x) \neq \emptyset$ .*

**PROOF.** By Theorem 4, we need only to show that  $G$  is an  $H$ -KKM map. If  $G$  were not  $H$ -KKM, then there exists  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $F_A$  is not contained in  $\bigcup_{x \in A} G(x)$ ; let  $y \in F_A$  be such that  $y \notin \bigcup_{x \in A} G(x)$ . It follows that  $A \subset G^*(y) \subset F^*(y)$  by (a) so that  $F_A \subset F^*(y)$  by (b). As  $y \in F_A$ , we must have  $y \in F^*(y)$  so that  $y \notin F(y)$  which contradicts (a). This completes the proof.

Theorem 5 generalizes Lemma 2.1 of Tarafdar in [27] to non-convex setting and to a pair of maps and Theorem 2 of Horvath in [16] in several aspects. As another immediate consequence of Theorem 4, we have the following.

**COROLLARY 1.** *Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and let  $G: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that*

- (a)  *$G$  is  $H$ -KKM;*
  - (b) *for some  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $G(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $G(x)$  is closed in  $X$ .*
- Then  $\bigcap_{x \in X} G(x) \neq \emptyset$ .*

As another application of Lemma 2, we have the following

**THEOREM 6.** *Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $S: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that*

- (a) *for some  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $S^*(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S^*(x_0) \cap S^*(x)$  is closed in  $S^*(x_0)$ ;*
- (b) *for each  $x \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A \cap S^*(x)$ , is closed in  $F_A$ .*

*Then there exists  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} S^{-1}(x) \neq \emptyset$ .*

**PROOF.** Suppose the assertion were false; then for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} S^{-1}(x) = \emptyset$  so that  $F_A \subset X \setminus \bigcap_{x \in A} S^{-1}(x) = \bigcup_{x \in A} X \setminus S^{-1}(x) = \bigcup_{x \in A} S^*(x)$ . Define  $G: X \rightarrow 2^X$  by  $G(x) = S^*(x)$  for each  $x \in X$ ;

then  $G$  is an  $H$ -KKM map. It follows from (b) and Lemma 2 that the family  $\{G(x) : x \in X\}$  has the finite intersection property so that by (a)  $\bigcap_{x \in X} G(x) \neq \emptyset$ . Take any  $y \in \bigcap_{x \in X} G(x)$ , then for each  $x \in X$ ,  $y \in G(x) = S^*(x)$  and hence  $x \notin S(y)$ . Thus  $S(y) = \emptyset$ , which is a contradiction. Hence the assertion must hold.

**LEMMA 4.** *Let  $(Y, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $X$  be a non-empty subset of  $Y$ . Let  $B : X \rightarrow 2^Y$  be such that*

- (a) *for each  $x \in X$ ,  $B(x)$  is compactly open in  $Y$ ;*
- (b)  $\bigcup_{x \in X} B(x) = Y$ ;
- (c) *there exists a non-empty compact weakly  $H$ -convex subset  $C$  of  $Y$  such that  $X \subset C$ .*

*Then there exists  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} B(x) \neq \emptyset$ .*

**PROOF.** By (a) and (c),  $B(x) \cap C$  is open in  $C$  for each  $x \in S$ . By (b),  $C = \bigcup_{x \in X} (B(x) \cap C)$ . Thus there exists  $\{x_0, \dots, x_n\} \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $C = \bigcup_{i=0}^n (B(x_i) \cap C)$ . For each  $i \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ , let  $G(x_i) = C \setminus (B(x_i) \cap C)$ ; then  $G(x_i)$  is closed in  $C$ . By (c), for each non-empty  $J \subset \{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$  ( $\subset X \subset C$ ),  $F_J \cap C$  is a non-empty contractible subset of  $C$  such that  $F_J \subset F_{J'}$  whenever  $J \subset J'$ . Now suppose that the assertion were false, then for each non-empty subset  $A$  of  $\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$ ,  $F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} B(x) = \emptyset$  so that  $(F_A \cap C) \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} (B(x) \cap C) = \emptyset$  and hence

$$F_A \cap C \subset C \setminus \left( \bigcap_{x \in A} (B(x) \cap C) \right) = \bigcup_{x \in A} G(x).$$

By Lemma 2,  $\bigcap_{i=0}^n G(x_i) \neq \emptyset$ ; but

$$\bigcap_{i=0}^n G(x_i) = \bigcap_{i=0}^n (C \setminus (B(x_i) \cap C)) = C \setminus \bigcup_{i=0}^n (B(x_i) \cap C)$$

which contradicts the fact that  $C = \bigcup_{i=0}^n (B(x_i) \cap C)$ . Hence the conclusion of Lemma 4 must hold.

**THEOREM 7.** *Let  $(Y, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $X$  be a non-empty subset of  $Y$ . Let  $B : X \rightarrow 2^Y$  be such that*

- (a) *for each  $x \in X$ ,  $B(x)$  is compactly open in  $Y$ ;*
- (b)  $\bigcup_{x \in X} B(x) = Y$ ;
- (c) *there exists a non-empty subset  $X_0$  of  $X$  which is  $H$ -compact in  $X$  such that  $Y \setminus \bigcup_{x \in X_0} B(x)$  is empty or compact.*

*Then there exists  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} B(x) \neq \emptyset$ .*

**PROOF.** *Case 1.* Suppose  $Y = \bigcup_{x \in X_0} B(x)$ , then the conclusion follows from Lemma 4.

*Case 2.* Suppose  $Y \setminus \bigcup_{x \in X_0} B(x)$  is non-empty and compact, then by (b),  $Y = \bigcup_{x \in X} B(x) \supset Y \setminus \bigcup_{x \in X_0} B(x)$  so that we can find  $A = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset X \setminus X_0$  such that  $\bigcup_{x \in A} B(x) \supset Y \setminus \bigcup_{x \in X_0} B(x)$ . Thus  $\bigcup_{x \in X_0 \cup A} B(x) = Y$ . Since  $X_0$  is  $H$ -compact in  $X$ , by Lemma 4 again, we obtain the desired result.

Theorem 7 may be restated in its contrapositive form and in terms of the complement  $F(x)$  of  $B(x)$  in  $Y$  as follows.

**THEOREM 8.** *Let  $(Y, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $X$  be a non-empty subset of  $Y$ . Let  $F: X \rightarrow 2^Y$  be an  $H$ -KKM map such that*

- (a) *for each  $x \in X$ ,  $F(x)$  is compactly closed in  $Y$ ;*
- (b) *there exists a non-empty subset  $X_0$  of  $X$  which is  $H$ -compact in  $X$  such that  $\bigcap_{x \in X_0} F(x)$  is empty or compact.*

*Then  $\bigcap_{x \in X} F(x) \neq \emptyset$ .*

Lemma 4, Theorem 7 and Theorem 8 generalize Lemma 1, Theorem 3 and Theorem 4 of Fan in [13], respectively, to a non-convex setting. We emphasize that our Theorem 8 is a true generalization of Theorem 4 of Fan in [13] while Theorem 1 of Bradaro-Ceppitelli in [3] only generalizes a special case (namely, when  $X = Y$ ) of the corresponding result.

### 3. Fixed point theorems

We first shall apply Lemma 3 to obtain the following fixed point theorem which generalizes Theorem 3 of Kim in [17] to a non-convex setting and to a pair of maps.

**THEOREM 9.** *Let  $X$  be a topological space,  $x_0, \dots, x_n \in X$  and  $S, T: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that*

- (a) *for each  $i = 0, \dots, n$ ,  $S(x_i) \subset T(x_i)$ ;*
- (b) *for each non-empty subset  $A$  of  $\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$ , there exists a non-empty contractible subset  $F_A$  of  $X$  such that  $F_A \subset F_{A'}$  whenever  $A \subset A'$ ;*
- (c) *for each  $i = 0, \dots, n$ ,  $F_{\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}} \cap S(x_i)$  is closed in  $F_{\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}}$ ;*
- (d) *for each non-empty subset  $A$  of  $\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$  with  $A \subset T^{-1}(y)$  for some  $y \in X$ ,  $F_A \subset T^{-1}(y)$ ;*
- (e)  $\bigcup_{i=0}^n S(x_i) = X$ .

*Then there exists  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .*



**PROOF.** For each  $x \in X$ , let  $F(x) = T^c(x)$  and  $G(x) = S^c(x)$ . Suppose  $F_A \subset \bigcup_{x \in A} G(x)$  for each non-empty subset  $A$  of  $\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$ . By (c), for each  $i = 0, \dots, n$ ,  $F_{\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}} \cap G(x_i)$  is open in  $F_{\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}}$ . By Lemma 3,  $\bigcap_{i=0}^n G(x_i) \neq \emptyset$ , which contradicts (e). Thus there must exist a non-empty subset  $A$  of  $\{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$  such that  $F_A$  is not contained in  $\bigcup_{x \in A} G(x)$ . Take any  $\hat{x} \in F_A$  with  $\hat{x} \notin \bigcup_{x \in A} G(x)$ . It follows that for each  $x \in A$ ,  $\hat{x} \in S(x) \subset T(x)$  by (a) so that  $x \in T^{-1}(\hat{x})$ . Therefore  $A \subset T^{-1}(\hat{x})$  and hence  $F_A \subset T^{-1}(\hat{x})$  by (d). As  $\hat{x} \in F_A$ , we have  $\hat{x} \in T^{-1}(\hat{x})$  so that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

**THEOREM 10.** Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $S, T: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that

- (a) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S(x) \subset T(x)$ ;
- (b)  $\bigcup_{x \in X} S(x) = X$ ;
- (c) for some  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $S^c(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S^c(x_0) \cap S^c(x)$  is closed in  $S^c(x_0)$ ;

(d) for each  $x \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A \cap S^c(x)$  is closed in  $F_A$ ;

(e) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $T^{-1}(x)$  is  $H$ -convex.

Then there exists  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

**PROOF.** By Theorem 3, there exists  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} S(x) \neq \emptyset$ . Take any  $\hat{x} \in F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} S(x)$ ; then  $\hat{x} \in F_A$  and  $A \subset S^{-1}(\hat{x}) \subset T^{-1}(\hat{x})$  by (a). By (e),  $F_A \subset T^{-1}(\hat{x})$ ; but then  $\hat{x} \in T^{-1}(\hat{x})$  so that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

The following is an immediate consequence of Theorem 10.

**COROLLARY 2.** Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $S, T: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that

- (a) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S(x) \subset T(x)$ ;
- (b)  $\bigcup_{x \in X} S(x) = X$ ;
- (c) for some  $x_0 \in S$ ,  $S^c(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S(x)$  is open in  $X$ ;

(d) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $T^{-1}(x)$  is  $H$ -convex.

Then there exists  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

Theorem 10 and Corollary 2 generalize Theorem 2.3 and Corollary 2.2 of Tarafdar in [27] respectively to a non-convex setting and to a pair of maps.

**THEOREM 11.** Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $S, T: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that

- (i) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S(x) \subset T(x)$ ;
- (ii) for each  $y \in X$ ,  $S^{-1}(y)$  is open in  $X$ ;
- (iii) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $T(x)$  is  $H$ -convex;
- (iv) there exist a non-empty compact subset  $L$  of  $X$  and a point  $y_0 \in X$  such that  $y_0 \in S(x)$  for all  $x \in X \setminus L$ .

Then there exists a point  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

**PROOF.** Suppose the assertion is false, that is,  $x \notin T(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . For each  $x \in X$ , let  $G(x) = S^*(x)$  and  $F(x) = T^*(x)$ . Then we have the following properties:

- (a) by (i), for each  $y \in X$ ,  $F(y) \subset G(y)$ ;
- (b) for each  $x \in X$ , since  $x \notin T(x)$ , we must have  $x \in F(x)$ ;
- (c) by (ii),  $G(y)$  is closed in  $X$  for each  $y \in X$ ; by (iv),  $G(y_0)$  is a subset of  $L$  so that  $G(y_0)$  is compact;
- (d) since  $F^*(x) = T(x)$  for each  $x \in X$ , by (iii)  $F^*(x)$  is  $H$ -convex for each  $x \in X$ .

Thus all hypotheses of Theorem 5 are satisfied. By Theorem 5,  $\bigcap_{y \in X} G(y) \neq \emptyset$ . Take any  $u \in \bigcap_{y \in X} G(y)$ , then  $u \notin \bigcup_{y \in X} S^{-1}(y) = X$ , which is impossible. Therefore there must exist  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

As an immediate consequence of Theorem 11, we have

**COROLLARY 3.** Let  $X$  be a convex subset of a topological vector space  $E$  and  $S, T: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that

- (i) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S(x) \subset T(x)$ ;
- (ii) for each  $y \in X$ ,  $S^{-1}(y)$  is open in  $X$ ;
- (iii) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $T(x)$  is convex;
- (iv) there exist a non-empty compact subset  $L$  of  $X$  and a point  $y_0 \in X$  such that  $y_0 \in S(x)$  for all  $x \in X \setminus L$ .

Then there exists a point  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

**PROOF.** For each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ , let  $F_A = \text{co}(A)$ ; then all hypotheses of Theorem 11 are satisfied; the conclusion follows from Theorem 11.

Even when  $S = T$ , Corollary 3 improves Theorem 2 of Browder in [6] where  $X$  is also assumed to be closed.

**THEOREM 12.** Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $S, T: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that

- (a) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S(x) \subset T(x)$ ;

(b) for some  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $S^*(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S^*(x_0) \cap S^*(x)$  is closed in  $S^*(x_0)$ ;

(c) for each  $x \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(x)$ ,  $F_A \cap S^*(x)$  is closed in  $F_A$ ;

(d) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $T(x)$  is  $H$ -convex.

Then there exists  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

**PROOF.** By Theorem 6, there exists  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} S^{-1}(x) \neq \emptyset$ . Take any  $\hat{x} \in F_A \cap \bigcap_{x \in A} S^{-1}(x)$ ; then  $\hat{x} \in F_A$  and  $A \subset S(\hat{x}) \subset T(\hat{x})$  by (a). By (d),  $F_A \subset T(\hat{x})$ . Therefore  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

Theorem 12 generalizes Theorem 2.2 of Tarafdar in [27] to a non-convex setting and to a pair of mappings. The following result is an immediate consequence of Theorem 12.

**COROLLARY 4.** Let  $(X, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space and  $S, T: X \rightarrow 2^X$  be such that

(a) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S(x) \subset T(x)$ ;

(b) for some  $x_0 \in X$ ,  $S^*(x_0)$  is compact and for each  $x \in X$ ,  $S^*(x)$  is closed in  $X$ ;

(c) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $T(x)$  is  $H$ -convex.

Then there exists  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\hat{x} \in T(\hat{x})$ .

Corollary 4 generalizes Corollary 2.1 of Tarafdar in [27] to a non-convex setting and Theorem 2' of Horvath in [16] to a non-compact setting.

#### 4. Minimax inequalities

Throughout this section,  $X$  denotes a topological space and  $h: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  denotes a fixed real-valued function. For each  $(x, r) \in X \times \mathbb{R}$ , let  $H(x, r) = \{y \in X: h(y, x) \leq r\}$ . We shall assume that the function  $h$  has the following property: For each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ , the set  $F_A = \bigcap \{H(x, r): A \subset H(x, r) \text{ and } (x, r) \in X \times \mathbb{R}\}$  is contractible. Clearly, we have  $F_A \subset F_{A'}$ , whenever  $A \subset A'$ . Hence  $(X, \{F_A\})$  becomes an  $H$ -space.

**THEOREM 13.** Let  $f, g: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be such that

(i)  $g(x, y) \leq f(x, y)$  for each  $(x, y) \in X \times X$ ;

(ii) for each  $y, z \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ , if  $f(z, y) < f(x, y)$  for each  $x \in A$ , then there exists  $w \in X$  such that  $h(x, w) < h(z, w)$  for each  $x \in A$ ;

(iii) for each fixed  $x \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $g(x, y)$  is a lower semi-continuous function of  $y$  on  $F_A$ .

For any  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , if there exist a non-empty compact subset  $L$  of  $X$  and  $x_0 \in L$  such that

(iv)  $g(x_0, y) > \lambda$  for all  $y \in X \setminus L$ ,

(v)  $g(x, y)$  is also a lower semi-continuous function of  $y$  on  $L$ , then either there exists  $\hat{y} \in L$  such that  $g(x, \hat{y}) \leq \lambda$  for all  $x \in X$  or there exists  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $f(\hat{x}, \hat{x}) > \lambda$ .

**PROOF.** Suppose  $f(x, x) \leq \lambda$  for all  $x \in X$ . For each  $x \in X$ , let

$$F(x) = \{y \in X: f(x, y) \leq \lambda\} \quad \text{and} \quad G(x) = \{y \in X: g(x, y) \leq \lambda\}.$$

(a) For each  $x \in X$ ,  $F(x) \subset G(x)$  by (i) and  $x \in F(x)$  by the assumption.

(b) Suppose  $A \subset F^*(y)$  for some  $y \in X$ , then  $A \cap F^{-1}(y) = \emptyset$  so that for any fixed  $z \in F^{-1}(y)$ ,

$$f(z, y) \leq \lambda < f(a, y) \quad \text{for all } a \in A;$$

by (ii), there exists  $w \in X$  such that

$$h(a, w) < h(z, w) \quad \text{for all } a \in A.$$

Choose  $r_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $h(a, w) \leq r_0 < h(z, w)$  for all  $a \in A$ ; then  $A \subset H(w, r_0)$  and  $z \notin H(w, r_0)$  so that  $z \in F_A$  for any  $z \in F^{-1}(y)$ . It follows that  $F_A \subset F^*(y)$ . Thus  $F^*(y)$  is  $H$ -convex for each  $y \in X$ .

(c) By (iv),  $G(x_0) \subset L$  and by (v)  $G(x_0)$  is closed in  $L$ ; thus  $G(x_0)$  is compact. Moreover, for each  $x \in X$ ,  $G(x) \cap L$  is closed in  $L$  by (v) so that  $G(x_0) \cap G(x) = G(x_0) \cap (G(x) \cap L)$  is closed in  $G(x_0)$ .

(d) By (iii), for each  $x \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A \cap G(x)$  is closed in  $F_A$ .

Therefore all hypotheses of Theorem 5 are satisfied. By Theorem 5,  $\bigcap_{x \in X} G(x) \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $\hat{y} \in \bigcap_{x \in X} G(x)$ . Then  $\hat{y} \in L$  as  $G(x_0) \subset L$  and  $g(x, \hat{y}) \leq \lambda$  for all  $x \in X$ .

Theorem 13 generalizes Proposition 1 of Horvath in [16] to non-compact topological spaces and hence also generalizes the corresponding results of Ben-El-Mechaiekh, Deguire and Granas in [4] and of Fan in [12].

**COROLLARY 5.** Let  $\phi, \psi: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be such that

(i)  $\phi \leq \psi$  on the diagonal  $\Delta = \{(x, x): x \in X\}$  and  $\phi \geq \psi$  on  $(X \times X) \setminus \Delta$ ;

(ii) for each fixed  $x \in X$ ,  $y \rightarrow \phi(y, y) - \phi(x, y)$  is lower semi-continuous on  $X$ ;

(iii) for each  $y, z \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ , if  $\psi(a, y) < \psi(z, y)$  for all  $a \in A$ , then there exists  $w \in X$  such that  $h(a, w) < h(z, w)$  for all  $a \in A$ ;

(iv) *there exist a non-empty compact subset  $L$  of  $X$  and  $x_0 \in L$  such that  $\phi(y, y) > \phi(x_0, y)$  for all  $y \in X \setminus L$ .*

*Then there exists  $\hat{y} \in L$  such that  $\phi(\hat{y}, \hat{y}) \leq \phi(x, \hat{y})$  for all  $x \in X$ .*

**PROOF.** Define  $f, g: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by

$$f(x, y) = \psi(y, y) - \psi(x, y), \quad g(x, y) = \phi(y, y) - \phi(x, y).$$

Then  $f$  and  $g$  satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 13 with  $\lambda = 0$  and  $f(x, x) = 0$  for all  $x \in X$ . By Theorem 13 there exists  $\hat{y} \in L$  such that  $g(x, \hat{y}) \leq 0$  for all  $x \in X$ ; that is,  $\phi(\hat{y}, \hat{y}) \leq \phi(x, \hat{y})$  for all  $x \in X$ .

The above result generalizes Proposition 2 of Horvath in [16] and Theorem 1 of Shih and Tan in [21] which in turn generalizes Corollary 1 of Fan in [12].

**COROLLARY 6.** *Let  $a: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $f, g: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be such that*

- (i) *for each  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ , the set  $\{y \in X: a(y) \leq r\}$  is empty or contractible;*
- (ii)  *$g(x, y) \leq f(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ ;*
- (iii) *for  $x, y, z \in X$ , if  $f(z, y) < f(x, y)$ , then  $a(x) < a(z)$ ;*
- (iv) *for each fixed  $x \in X$  and for any  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $g(x, y)$  is a lower semi-continuous function of  $y$  on  $\{y \in X: a(y) \leq r\}$ .*

*For any  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , if there exist a non-empty compact subset  $L$  of  $X$  and  $x_0 \in L$  such that*

(v)  *$g(x_0, y) > \lambda$  for all  $y \in X \setminus L$ .*

(vi)  *$g(x, y)$  is also a lower semi-continuous function of  $y$  on  $L$ ,*  
*then either there exists  $\hat{y} \in L$  such that  $g(x, \hat{y}) \leq \lambda$  for all  $x \in X$  or there exists  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $f(\hat{x}, \hat{x}) > \lambda$ .*

**PROOF.** Define  $h: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  by  $h(x, y) = a(x)$ ; then for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A = \bigcap \{H(x, r): A \subset H(x, r) \text{ and } (x, r) \in X \times \mathbb{R}\} = \bigcap \{\{y \in X: a(y) \leq r\}: A \subset \{y \in X: a(y) \leq r\} \text{ and } r \in \mathbb{R}\} = \{y \in X: a(y) \leq \bar{r}\}$  where  $\bar{r} = \inf\{r \in \mathbb{R}: A \subset \{y \in X: a(y) \leq r\}\}$ . Thus Theorem 13 can be applied to obtain the desired conclusion.

Corollary 6 generalizes Proposition 3 of Horvath in [16] to a non-compact setting.

**THEOREM 14.** *Let  $f, g: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be such that*

- (a)  *$g(x, y) \leq f(x, y)$  for each  $x, y \in X$ ;*
- (b) *for each fixed  $x \in X$ ,  $g(x, y)$  is a lower semi-continuous function of  $y$  on  $C$  for each non-empty compact subset  $C$  of  $X$ ;*

(c) for each  $y, z \in X$  and for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ , if  $f(z, y) < f(x, y)$  for each  $x \in A$ , then there exists  $w \in X$  such that  $h(x, w) < h(z, w)$  for each  $x \in A$ .

For any  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , if there exist a non-empty subset  $X_0$  of  $X$  and a non-empty compact subset  $K$  of  $X$  such that for each  $B \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ , there is a compact weakly  $H$ -convex subset  $C_B$  of  $X$  having the following properties:

(d)  $X_0 \cup B \subset C_B$ ;

(e) for each  $y \in C_B \setminus K$ , there is  $x \in C_B$  such that  $g(x, y) > \lambda$ , then either there exists  $\hat{y} \in K$  such that  $g(x, \hat{y}) \leq \lambda$  for all  $x \in X$  or there exists  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $f(\hat{x}, \hat{x}) > \lambda$ .

**PROOF.** Suppose  $f(x, x) \leq \lambda$  for all  $x \in X$ . For each  $x \in X$ , let

$$K(x) = \{y \in K : g(x, y) \leq \lambda\};$$

then  $K(x)$  is closed in  $K$  by (b). Let  $B \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  be given. By hypotheses, there exists a compact weakly  $H$ -convex subset  $C_B$  of  $X$  satisfying (d) and (e).

Now for each  $x \in C_B$ , let

$$F(x) = \{y \in C_B : f(x, y) \leq \lambda\}, \quad G(x) = \{y \in C_B : g(x, y) \leq \lambda\}.$$

Then we have

(i) for each  $x \in C_B$ ,  $F(x) \subset G(x)$  by (a) and  $x \in F(x)$  by assumption;

(ii) since  $C_B$  is weakly  $H$ -convex,  $(C_B, \{F_A \cap C_B\})$  is also an  $H$ -space; let  $A \in \mathcal{F}(C_B)$  be an arbitrarily given set such that  $A \subset F^*(y)$ ; then  $A \cap F^{-1}(y) = \emptyset$  so that for any fixed  $z \in F^{-1}(y)$ ,  $f(z, y) \leq \lambda < f(a, y)$  for all  $a \in A$ . By (c), there is  $w \in X$  such that  $h(a, w) < h(z, w)$  for all  $a \in A$ . Choose  $r_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $h(a, w) \leq r_0 < h(z, w)$  for all  $a \in A$ ; then  $A \subset H(w, r_0)$  and  $z \notin H(w, r_0)$  so that  $z \notin F_A$  for all  $z \in F^{-1}(y)$ . It follows that  $F_A \cap C_B \subset F^*(y)$  and hence  $F^*(y)$  is  $H$ -convex for each  $y \in C_B$ .

(iii) by (b), for each  $x \in C_B$ ,  $G(x)$  is closed in  $C_B$  and is therefore also compact.

By Theorem 5 with  $X = C_B$ ,  $\bigcap_{x \in C_B} G(x) \neq \emptyset$ . In other words, there exists a point  $y_0 \in C_B$  such that  $g(x, y_0) \leq \lambda$  for all  $x \in C_B$ . By (e), we must have  $y_0 \in K$  so that  $y_0 \in \bigcap_{x \in B} K(x)$  by (d). This shows that  $\{K(x) : x \in X\}$  has the finite intersection property. By the compactness of  $K$ , we have  $\bigcap_{x \in X} K(x) \neq \emptyset$ . Take any  $\hat{y} \in \bigcap_{x \in X} K(x)$ , then  $\hat{y} \in K$  and  $g(x, \hat{y}) \leq \lambda$  for all  $x \in X$ . This completes the proof.

As an immediate consequence of Theorem 14, we obtain the following very general minimax inequality in a topological vector space.

**THEOREM 15.** *Let  $X$  be a non-empty convex subset in a topological vector space  $E$ . Let  $f, g: X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be such that*

- (a)  $g(x, y) \leq f(x, y)$  for each  $x, y \in X$ ;
- (b) for each fixed  $x \in X$ ,  $g(x, y)$  is a lower-semicontinuous function of  $y$  on  $C$  for each non-empty compact subset  $C$  of  $X$ .

For any  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , if

- (c) for each fixed  $y \in X$ , the set  $\{x \in X: F(x, y) > \lambda\}$  is convex,
  - (d) there exist a non-empty compact convex subset  $X_0$  of  $X$  and a non-empty compact subset  $K$  of  $X$  such that for each  $y \in X \setminus K$ , there exists  $x \in \text{co}(X_0 \cup \{y\})$  such that  $g(x, y) > \lambda$ ,
- then either there exists  $\hat{y} \in K$  such that  $g(x, \hat{y}) \leq \lambda$  for all  $x \in X$  or there exists  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $f(\hat{x}, \hat{x}) > \lambda$ .

**PROOF.** For each  $(x, y) \in X \times X$ , let  $h(x, y) = -f(x, y)$ ; then we have

$$H(y, r) = \{x \in X: h(x, y) \leq r\} = \{x \in X: f(x, y) \geq -r\}.$$

By (c), for each  $y \in X$  and for each  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $H(y, r)$  is convex, so that for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  $F_A = \bigcap \{H(y, r): A \subset H(y, r) \text{ and } (y, r) \in X \times \mathbb{R}\}$  is convex and hence  $F_A$  is a non-empty contractible subset of  $X$ . Thus  $(X, \{F_A\})$  is an  $H$ -space. For each  $B \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  let  $C_B = \text{co}(X_0 \cup B)$ . It is easy to see that all hypotheses of Theorem 14 are satisfied so that the conclusion follows.

Theorem 15 is equivalent to a minimax inequality of Bae, Kim and Tan [2, Theorem 1] which in turn generalizes minimax inequalities of Tan [26, Theorem 1], Allen [1, Theorem 2], Yen [28, Theorem 1] and Fan [13, Theorem 6]. For applications of Theorem 15 to variational inequalities and fixed point theorems, we refer to Bae, Kim and Tan [2].

We now observe the following.

**LEMMA 5.** *Let  $(Y, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space,  $X$  be a non-empty subset of  $Y$ ,  $\psi: X \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

- (1) *If  $\psi(x, x) \leq \alpha$  for all  $x \in X$  and for each  $y \in Y$ , the set  $\{x \in X: \psi(x, y) > \alpha\}$  is  $H$ -convex, then for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  and for each  $y \in F_A$ ,  $\min_{x \in A} \psi(x, y) \leq \alpha$ .*

- (2) *If  $\psi(x, x) \leq \alpha$  for all  $x \in X$ , define  $F: X \rightarrow 2^Y$  by  $F(x) = \{y \in Y: \psi(x, y) \leq \alpha\}$  for all  $x \in X$ . Then  $F$  is an  $H$ -KKM map if and only if for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(x)$  and for each  $y \in F_A$ ,  $\min_{x \in A} \psi(x, y) \leq \alpha$ .*

**PROOF.** (1) Let  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  and  $y \in F_A$  be given. Suppose  $\min_{x \in A} \psi(x, y) > \alpha$ ; then  $A \subset \{x \in X: \psi(x, y) > \alpha\}$  so that by assumption  $F_A \subset \{x \in$

$X: \psi(x, y) > \alpha\}$ . As  $y \in F_A$ , it follows that  $\psi(y, y) > \alpha$  which is a contradiction. Hence we must have  $\min_{x \in A} \psi(x, y) \leq \alpha$ .

(2) Suppose  $F$  is  $H$ -KKM. Let  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  and  $y \in F_A$ ; as  $y \in F_A \subset \bigcup_{x \in A} F(x)$ , we must have  $\psi(x, y) \leq \alpha$  for some  $x \in A$  and hence

$$\min_{x \in A} \psi(x, y) \leq \alpha.$$

Conversely, if  $F$  is not  $H$ -KKM, then there exists  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  such that  $F_A \not\subset \bigcup_{x \in A} F(x)$ . Let  $y \in F_A$  be such that  $y \notin \bigcup_{x \in A} F(x)$ ; it follows that  $\psi(x, y) > \alpha$  for all  $x \in A$  so that  $\min_{x \in A} \psi(x, y) > \alpha$ .

We remark here that the condition “for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  and for each  $y \in F_A$ ,  $\min_{x \in A} \psi(x, y) \leq \alpha$ ” is a generalization of the notion “ $\alpha$ -DQCV in  $x$ ” introduced by Zhou and Chen in [29].

As an application of Theorem 8, we present another very general minimax inequality:

**THEOREM 16.** *Let  $(Y, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space,  $X$  be a non-empty subset of  $Y$ ,  $\phi: X \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm, \infty\}$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  be such that*

(a) *for each fixed  $x \in X$ ,  $\phi(x, y)$  is a lower semi-continuous function of  $y$  on  $C$  for each non-empty compact subset  $C$  of  $Y$ ;*

(b) *for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  and for each  $y \in F_A$ ,  $\min_{x \in A} \phi(x, y) \leq \alpha$ ;*

(c) *there exists a non-empty subset  $X_0$  of  $X$  which is  $H$ -compact in  $X$  such that the set  $\{y \in X: \phi(x, y) \leq \alpha \text{ for all } x \in X_0\}$  is compact.*

*Then either there exists a point  $\hat{y} \in Y$  such that  $\phi(x, \hat{y}) \leq \alpha$  for all  $x \in X$  or there exists a point  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\phi(\hat{x}, \hat{x}) > \alpha$ .*

**PROOF.** Suppose  $\phi(x, x) \leq \alpha$  for all  $x \in X$ . Define  $F: X \rightarrow 2^Y$  by  $F(x) = \{y \in Y: \phi(x, y) \leq \alpha\}$  for each  $x \in X$ . Then by (b) and Lemma 5,  $F$  is an  $H$ -KKM map and by (a), for each  $x \in X$ ,  $F(x)$  is compactly closed in  $Y$  and by (c),  $\bigcap_{x \in X_0} F(x)$  is compact. Thus by Theorem 8,  $\bigcap_{x \in X} F(x) \neq \emptyset$ . Take any  $\hat{y} \in \bigcap_{x \in X} F(x)$ ; then  $\phi(x, y) \leq \alpha$  for all  $x \in X$ .

As an application of Theorem 16, we have the following new minimax inequality:

**THEOREM 17.** *Let  $(Y, \{F_A\})$  be an  $H$ -space,  $X$  be a non-empty subset of  $Y$ ,  $\phi, \psi: X \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm, \infty\}$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  be such that*

(a)  *$\phi(x, y) \leq \psi(x, y)$  for all  $(x, y) \in X \times Y$ ;*

(b) *for each fixed  $x \in X$ ,  $\phi(x, y)$  is a lower semi-continuous function of  $y$  on  $C$  for each non-empty compact subset  $C$  of  $Y$ ;*

(c) *for each fixed  $y \in Y$ , the set  $\{x \in X: \psi(x, y) > \alpha\}$  is  $H$ -convex;*



(d) there exists a non-empty subset  $X_0$  of  $X$  which is  $H$ -compact in  $X$  such that the set  $\{y \in Y : \phi(x, y) \leq \alpha \text{ for all } x \in X_0\}$  is compact.

Then either there exists a point  $\hat{y} \in Y$  such that  $\phi(x, \hat{y}) \leq \alpha$  for all  $x \in X$  or there exists a point  $\hat{x} \in X$  such that  $\psi(\hat{x}, \hat{x}) > \alpha$ .

**PROOF.** Suppose  $\psi(x, x) \leq \alpha$  for all  $x \in X$ . Then by (c) and Lemma 5, for each  $A \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  and for each  $y \in F_A$ ,  $\min_{x \in A} \psi(x, y) \leq \alpha$ , so that by (a),  $\min_{x \in A} \phi(x, y) \leq \alpha$ . Hence by (a) and Theorem 16, there exists  $\hat{y} \in Y$  such that  $\phi(x, \hat{y}) \leq \alpha$  for all  $x \in X$ .

Even when  $Y$  is a subset of a topological vector space, Theorem 17 generalizes a minimax inequality of Takahashi [25, Theorem 3] in several ways.

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