REMARKS ON DIFFERENTIAL INEQUALITIES IN BANACH SPACES¹

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ABSTRACT. Under certain conditions a comparison is made between solutions of a pair of initial value problems in a Banach space. This comparison includes and unifies several recent results on differential inequalities in Banach spaces.

Let E be a real or complex Banach space with the norm on E denoted $|\cdot|$. Suppose that $T > 0$ and that A and B are continuous functions from $[0, T] \times E$ into E . In this note we consider differential inequalities and invariance properties associated with the initial value problems

$$(1) \quad u'(t) = A(t, u(t)), \quad u(\lambda) = z, \quad \lambda \leq t \leq T,$$

and

$$(2) \quad v'(t) = B(t, v(t)), \quad v(\lambda) = w, \quad \lambda \leq t \leq T,$$

where $0 \leq \lambda < T$ and z and w are in E . The results presented here have considerable overlap with recent works in this area by Redheffer, Volkmann and Walter. See, e.g., [5]–[7] and the results of Bittner [1].

Suppose that $z \in E$, $\mathfrak{E} > 0$ and $\lambda, \mu \in [0, T]$ with $\lambda < \mu$. A continuous function $\alpha = \alpha(\cdot; \lambda, \mu, z, \mathfrak{E})$ from $[\lambda, \mu]$ into E is said to be an $\mathfrak{E}$ -approximate solution to (1) on $[\lambda, \mu]$ if $\alpha(\lambda) = z$ and $\alpha'_+(t)$ exists with $|\alpha'_+(t) - A\alpha(t)| \leq \mathfrak{E}$ for all $t \in [\lambda, \mu]$. We also suppose that α'_+ is integrable on $[\lambda, \mu]$ and $\alpha(t) - \alpha(s) = \int_s^t \alpha'_+(r) dr$ for all $t, s \in [\lambda, \mu]$. Analogously we define an $\mathfrak{E}$ -approximate solution $\beta = \beta(\cdot; \lambda, \mu, w, \mathfrak{E})$ to (2) on $[\lambda, \mu]$. Now let K be a closed, convex (nonempty) subset of E . We write that $A \sim_K B$ if whenever $z, w \in E$ with $z - w \in K$ and $\lambda \in [0, T]$, it follows that

$$(3) \quad \liminf_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(z - w + h(A(\lambda, z) - B(\lambda, w)); K)/h = 0,$$

where $d(y; K) = \inf\{|y - x| : x \in K\}$ for each $y \in E$.

For our first result we use techniques similar to those of Martin [3] to relate the concept of $A \sim_K B$ to the existence of certain types of $\mathfrak{E}$ -approximate solutions to (1) and (2).

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Proposition 1. *The following statements are equivalent.*

- (i) $A \sim_K B$.
- (ii) If $z, w \in E$ with $z - w \in K$, $\lambda \in [0, T]$, and $\mathfrak{E} > 0$, there is a $\mu = \mu(z, w, \lambda, \mathfrak{E}) \in (\lambda, T]$ and $\mathfrak{E}$ -approximate solutions $\alpha = \alpha(\cdot; \lambda, \mu, z, \mathfrak{E})$ to (1) and $\beta = \beta(\cdot; \lambda, \mu, w, \mathfrak{E})$ to (2) such that $\alpha(t) - \beta(t) \in K$ for all $t \in [\lambda, \mu]$.
- (iii) If $z, w \in E$ with $z - w \in K$ and $\lambda \in [0, T]$, then

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} d(z - w + h(A(\lambda, z) - B(\lambda, w)); K)/h = 0.$$

Proof. Suppose first that (i) holds and that $z, w \in E$ with $z - w \in K$, $\lambda \in [0, T]$ and $\mathfrak{E} > 0$. Since $A \sim_K B$ there is a $\delta \in (0, T - \lambda]$ and a $p \in K$ such that

$$|z + \delta A(\lambda, z) - (w + \delta B(\lambda, w)) - p| \leq \delta \mathfrak{E}/2.$$

Define $\mu = \lambda + \delta$ and define $\beta(t) = w + (t - \lambda)B(\lambda, w)$ and

$$\alpha(t) = \delta^{-1}[(\mu - t)z + (t - \lambda)(\beta(\mu) + p)] \quad \text{for all } t \in [\lambda, \mu].$$

Since

$$\alpha(t) - \beta(t) = \delta^{-1}(\mu - t)(z - w) + \delta^{-1}(t - \lambda)p,$$

we see that $\alpha(t) - \beta(t) \in K$ for all $t \in [\lambda, \mu]$. Noting that $\beta(0) = w$, $|\beta(t) - w| \leq \delta |B(\lambda, w)|$ and $|\beta'_+(t) - B(t, \beta(t))| = |B(\lambda, w) - B(t, \beta(t))|$, one sees that δ can also be chosen so that β is an $\mathfrak{E}$ -approximate solution to (2) on $[\lambda, \mu]$. Also $\alpha(0) = z$ and

$$\begin{aligned} |\alpha(t) - z| &= \delta^{-1}(t - \lambda)|-z + \beta(\mu) + p| \\ &\leq |z - w - \delta B(\lambda, w) - p| \leq \delta \mathfrak{E}/2 + \delta |A(\lambda, z)|, \end{aligned}$$

so it may be assumed that $|A(t, \alpha(t)) - A(\lambda, z)| \leq \mathfrak{E}/2$ for all $t \in [\lambda, \mu]$ as well. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} |\alpha'_+(t) - A(t, \alpha(t))| &\leq \delta^{-1}|-z + w + \delta B(\lambda, w) + p - \delta A(\lambda, z)| + \mathfrak{E}/2 \\ &\leq \delta^{-1}\delta \mathfrak{E}/2 + \mathfrak{E}/2 = \mathfrak{E}, \end{aligned}$$

and so α is an $\mathfrak{E}$ -approximate solution to (1) on $[\lambda, \mu]$. This shows that (i) implies (ii). Now suppose that (ii) holds and $z, w \in E$ with $z - w \in K$, $\lambda \in (0, T)$, and $\mathfrak{E} > 0$. If $\mu \in (\lambda, T]$ and $\alpha = \alpha(\cdot; \lambda, \mu, z, \mathfrak{E})$ and $\beta = \beta(\cdot; \lambda, \mu, w, \mathfrak{E})$ are as in (ii),

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{h \rightarrow 0^+} d(z - w + h(A(\lambda, z) - B(\lambda, w)); K)/h \\ &\leq \limsup_{h \rightarrow 0^+} |z - w + h(A(\lambda, z) - B(\lambda, w)) - (\alpha(\lambda + h) - \beta(\lambda + h))|/h \\ &\leq \limsup_{h \rightarrow 0^+} |A(\lambda, z) - [\alpha(\lambda + h) - z]/h| + |B(\lambda, w) - [\beta(\lambda + h) - w]/h| \\ &= |A(\lambda, \alpha(\lambda)) - \alpha'_+(\lambda)| + |B(\lambda, \beta(\lambda)) - \beta'_+(\lambda)| \leq 2\mathfrak{E}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus (ii) implies (iii). Since the assertion (iii) implies (i) is trivial, the proof is complete.

Now, for convenience, we introduce notations and suppositions which are frequently assumed to hold:

(C1) K is a closed, convex subset of E and $z, w \in E$ with $z - w \in K$.

(C2) $A \sim_K B$.

(C3) There are numbers $M > 1$ and $R > 0$ such that $T \leq R/M$, $|A(t, x)| \leq M - 1$ if $t \in [0, T]$ and $|x - z| \leq R$, and $|B(t, x)| \leq M - 1$ if $t \in [0, T]$ and $|x - w| \leq R$.

Instead of assuming various conditions on A (or B) which guarantee the existence of solutions to (1), we use the following criteria: if (C1)–(C3) hold the function A is said to satisfy *condition (H) at z* if whenever $\{\xi_n\}_1^\infty$ is a sequence in $(0, \infty)$ with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \xi_n = 0$ and α_n is an ξ_n -approximate solution to (1) on $[0, T]$ with $\alpha_n(0) = z$, it follows that $\{\alpha_n\}_1^\infty$ has a subsequence which converges uniformly to a solution u to (1) on $[0, T]$. An analogous definition applies to the function B satisfying condition (H) at w .

Remark 1. There are various conditions that one may place on A in order that it satisfies condition (H) at z . For example, one may assume that $A = A_1 + A_2$ where A_1 is completely continuous and there is a number $L > 0$ such that $|A_2(t, x) - A_2(t, y)| \leq L|x - y|$ for all $t \in [0, T]$ and all $x, y \in E$ with $|x - z|, |y - z| \leq R$. Further examples involving dissipative and compactness conditions may be found in [4]. It is clear that condition (H) implies the existence of a solution u to (1) on $[0, T]$. Although the author is uncertain, it is probably the case that the existence of a solution to (1) on $[0, T]$ does not imply that condition (H) is satisfied.

Remark 2. Note that if (C3) holds and α is an ξ -approximate solution to (1) on $[0, S]$ with $S \leq T$ and $\xi \in (0, 1]$, then $|\alpha'_+(t)| \leq |A(t, \alpha(t))| + \xi \leq M$, and hence $|\alpha(t) - \alpha(s)| \leq M|t - s|$ for all $t, s \in [0, S]$. Similarly, if β is an ξ -approximate solution to (2) on $[0, S]$ then $|\beta(t) - \beta(s)| \leq M|t - s|$ for all $t, s \in [0, S]$.

Theorem 1. Suppose that (C1)–(C3) are fulfilled, A satisfies condition (H) at z , and that $v: [0, T] \rightarrow E$ is a solution to (2) on $[0, T]$ with $v(0) = w$. Then there is a solution u to (1) on $[0, T]$ such that $u(0) = z$ and $u(t) - v(t) \in K$ for all $t \in [0, T]$.

Proof. Let $\xi \in (0, 1]$ and let P_ξ denote the class of all ξ -approximate solutions α to (1) on $[0, S]$ with $0 \leq S \leq T$, $\alpha(S) - v(S) \in K$, and $d(\alpha(t) - v(t); K) \leq \xi$. Partially order P_ξ by $\alpha_1 \leq \alpha_2$ only in case α_2 is an extension of α_1 . Using Zorn's lemma (see also Remark 2), one easily sees that P_ξ has a maximal element α . Suppose, for contradiction, that α is defined on $[0, S]$ with $S < T$. Using (iii) of Proposition 1 and the fact

that $\alpha(S) - v(S) \in K$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(\alpha(S) + hA(S, \alpha(S)) - v(S + h); K)/h \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d\left(\alpha(S) - v(S) + h\left[A(S, \alpha(S)) - \int_S^{S+h} B(s, v(s))ds\right]; K\right)/h \\ &\leq \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(\alpha(S) - v(S) + h[A(S, \alpha(S)) - B(S, v(S))]; K)/h \\ &\quad + \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} h^{-1} \int_S^{S+h} |B(s, v(s)) - B(S, v(S))| ds \\ &= 0; \end{aligned}$$

and hence there is a $\tilde{\delta} > 0$ and a $p \in K$ such that $S + \delta \leq T$ and

$$|\alpha(S) + \delta A(S, \alpha(S)) - v(S + \delta) - p| \leq \delta \tilde{\epsilon}/2.$$

Now define the function $\theta: [0, \delta] \rightarrow E$ by

$$\theta(t) = \delta^{-1}[(\delta - t)\alpha(S) + t(v(S + \delta) + p)].$$

Then $\theta(0) = \alpha(S)$ and $\theta(\delta) - v(S + \delta) = p \in K$. Assuming also that δ is sufficiently small so that $|\theta(t) - \alpha(S)| \leq \tilde{\epsilon}/2$ and $|v(S + t) - v(S)| \leq \tilde{\epsilon}/2$ for all $t \in [0, \delta]$, we have that

$$d(\theta(t) - v(S + t); K) \leq |\theta(t) - \alpha(S)| + |v(S) - v(S + t)| + d(\alpha(S) - v(S); K) \leq \tilde{\epsilon}.$$

Moreover, if $t \in [0, \delta]$ then

$$|A(S, \alpha(S)) - \theta'_+(t)| = \delta^{-1}|\alpha(S) + \delta A(S, \alpha(S)) - v(S + \delta) - p| \leq \tilde{\epsilon}/2.$$

In particular, $|\theta'_+(t)| \leq M$ and hence $|\theta(t) - \alpha(S)| \leq Mt \leq M\delta$; so we may also assume that $|A(S, \alpha(S)) - A(S + t, \theta(t))| \leq \tilde{\epsilon}/2$ for all $t \in [0, \delta]$. Thus $|\theta'_+(t) - A(S + t, \theta(t))| \leq \tilde{\epsilon}$ and it follows that if $\alpha_0(t) = \alpha(t)$ for $t \in [0, S]$ and $\alpha_0(t) = \theta(t - S)$ for $t \in [S, S + \delta]$, then $\alpha_0 \in P_{\tilde{\epsilon}}$ and α_0 is a proper extension of α . This contradiction shows that α must be defined on $[0, T]$. In particular, for each $\tilde{\epsilon} \in (0, 1]$ there is an $\tilde{\epsilon}$ -approximate solution $\alpha_{\tilde{\epsilon}}$ to (1) on $[0, T]$ such that $d(\alpha_{\tilde{\epsilon}}(t) - v(t); K) \leq \tilde{\epsilon}$. Using the fact that A satisfies condition (H) at z it now follows immediately that there is a solution u to (1) on $[0, T]$ such that $u(t) - v(t) \in K$ for all $t \in [0, T]$, and the proof is complete.

Remark 3. Note, that with the suppositions of Theorem 1, one can be assured only that there is at least one solution u to (1) on $[0, T]$ such that $u(t) - v(t) \in K$ for all $t \in [0, T]$. As can be shown by very simple examples, it is not necessarily the case that every solution of (1) must satisfy this relationship with v .

As a simple example to illustrate Theorem 1, let η be a positive number and take $K = \{x \in E: |x| \leq \eta\}$. Let F be the duality mapping from E into the class of subsets of the dual space E^* of E (i.e., $Fx = \{f \in E^*: f(x) =$

$|x|^2 = |f|^2$ for each $x \in E$). Then $A \sim_K B$ only in case $\operatorname{Re} f(A(\lambda, x) - B(\lambda, y)) \leq 0$ however $\lambda \in [0, T]$, $x, y \in E$ with $|x - y| = \eta$, and $f \in F(x - y)$.

Of course, the most important examples of convex sets K are provided by cones. We say that K is a closed cone in E if K is closed and whenever $x, y \in K$ and $a \geq 0$, it follows that $x + y \in K$ and $ax \in K$. The above results can be improved somewhat when K is a cone; so, in place of (C1), we assume the following condition:

(C1)' K is a closed cone in E and $z, w \in E$ with $z - w \in K$. Moreover, for notational convenience, if $x, y \in E$ with $x - y \in K$, we write $x \geq y$ or $y \leq x$. In this case we have the following analogous result to Theorem 1:

Theorem 2. Suppose that (C1)', (C2) and (C3) are fulfilled, A satisfies condition (H) at z , and that $v: [0, T] \rightarrow E$ is continuously differentiable with $v(0) = w$ and $v'(t) \leq B(t, v(t))$ for all $t \in [0, T]$. Then there is a solution u to (1) on $[0, T]$ such that $u(0) = z$ and $u(t) \geq v(t)$ for all $t \in [0, T]$.

Proof. Set $g(t) = B(t, v(t)) - v'(t)$ for all $t \in [0, T]$ and define

$$B_1(t, x) = B(t, x) - g(t) \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in [0, T] \times E.$$

One has that $v'(t) = B_1(t, v(t))$ for all $t \in [0, T]$ and hence Theorem 2 will be a direct consequence of Theorem 1 once it is shown that $A \sim_K B_1$. Note that, since K is a cone, if $x \in E$ and $y \in K$ then $d(x + y; K) \leq d(x; K)$ (for if $\{p_n\}_1^\infty$ is a sequence in K such that $d(x; K) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |x - p_n|$, then $p_n + y \in K$ and hence $d(x + y; K) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |(x + y) - (p_n + y)| = d(x; K)$). Since $hg(t) \in K$ for all $h > 0$ and $t \in [0, T]$, we see that if $x \geq y$ and $t \in [0, T]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(x - y + h[A(t, x) - B_1(t, y)]; K)/h \\ = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(x - y + h[A(t, x) - B(t, y)] + hg(t); K)/h \\ \leq \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(x - y + h[A(t, x) - B(t, y)]; K)/h = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $A \sim_K B_1$ and the proof of Theorem 2 is complete.

Remark 4. Theorem 2 is not true for general convex subsets K of E .

As a simple example, take $K = \{x \in E: |x| \leq 1\}$ and define $A(t, x) = B(t, x) = \theta$ for all $(t, x) \in [0, 1] \times E$. Set $z = 0$ and let $w \in E$ be such that $|w| = 1$. Define $v(t) = (1 + t)w$ for all $t \in [0, 1]$. Then $B(t, v(t)) - v'(t) = -w \in K$ and, since $u(t) = \theta$ for all $t \in [0, 1]$, we see that $u(t) - v(t) = -(1 + t)w \notin K$ and $v(t) - u(t) = (1 + t)w \notin K$ for any $t \in (0, 1]$.

In the case that one imposes further smoothness conditions on A and B , an additional result may be obtained. In the theorem below, we let F denote the duality mapping from E into the class of subsets of E^* (see the paragraph following Remark 3).

Theorem 3. Suppose that (C1)' holds, $A \sim_K A$, $A \sim_K B$ and $B \sim_K B$.

Suppose further that there is a number $L > 0$ such that

(4) $\operatorname{Re} f[A(t, x) - A(t, y)] \leq L|x - y|^2$ and $\operatorname{Re} f[B(t, x) - B(t, y)] \leq L|x - y|^2$ for all $t \in [0, T]$, $x, y \in E$, and $f \in F(x - y)$. Also, let $u, v: [0, T] \rightarrow E$ be continuously differentiable with $u(0) = z$, $v(0) = w$ and

$$u'(t) - A(t, u(t)) \geq v'(t) - B(t, v(t)) \quad \text{for all } t \in [0, T].$$

Then $u(t) \geq v(t)$ for all $t \in [0, T]$.

Indication of proof. By using a standard argument, it is enough to show that if $0 \leq \lambda < T$ and $u(t) \geq v(t)$ for all $t \in [0, \lambda]$, then there is a $\delta > 0$ such that $\lambda + \delta \leq T$ and $u(t) \geq v(t)$ for all $t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta]$. So assume that $u(t) \geq v(t)$ for all $t \in [0, \lambda]$ and that $0 \leq \lambda < T$. Define $g_1(t) = v'(t) - B(t, v(t))$ for all $t \in [\lambda, T]$ and $A_1(t, x) = A(t, x) + g_1(t)$ for all $(t, x) \in [\lambda, T] \times E$. Set $K_- = \{-x: x \in K\}$ and note that if $t \in [\lambda, T)$ and $x, y \in E$ with $x - y \in K_-$, then $y - x \in K$ and

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(x - y + h[A_1(t, x) - A_1(t, y)]; K_-)/h \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(y - x + h[A(t, y) - A(t, x)]; K)/h = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $A_1 \sim_{K_-} A_1$. The dissipative condition (4) on A , and hence on A_1 , shows that A_1 satisfies condition (H) on $[\lambda, \lambda + \delta]$ at $u(\lambda)$ for some $\delta > 0$, and also that the solution to the initial value problem $u_1'(t) = A_1(t, u_1(t))$, $u_1(\lambda) = u(\lambda)$, $t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta]$ is unique. Thus, by Theorem 2 with K replaced by K_- , $A = B = A_1$, and $z = w = u(\lambda)$, we see that $u_1(t) - u(t) \in K$ and hence

$$(5) \quad u(t) \geq u_1(t) \quad \text{for all } t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta],$$

where $u_1'(t) = A_1(t, u_1(t))$, $u_1(\lambda) = u(\lambda)$ and $t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta]$. Similarly, defining $g_2(t) = u'(t) - A(t, u(t))$ and $B_1(t, x) = B(t, x) + g_2(t)$ for all $t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta]$ and all $x \in E$, we see that $B_1 \sim_K B_1$ and $v'(t) \leq B_1(t, v(t))$ for all $t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta]$. Again using (4) and applying Theorem 2 with $A = B = B_1$ and $z = w = v(\lambda)$, we see that

$$(6) \quad v(t) \leq v_1(t) \quad \text{for all } t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta],$$

where $v_1'(t) = B_1(t, v_1(t))$, $v_1(\lambda) = v(\lambda)$ and $t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta]$. Now let $x, y \in E$ with $x \geq y$. Noting that $g_1(t) \geq g_2(t)$ we have that $g_1(t) - g_2(t) \in K$ and hence, since $A \sim_K B$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(x - y + h[A_1(t, x) - B_1(t, x)]; K)/h \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(x - y + h[A(t, x) - B(t, x)] + h[g_1(t) - g_2(t)]; K)/h \\ &\leq \lim_{h \rightarrow 0+} d(x - y + h[A(t, x) - B(t, x)]; K)/h \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $A_1 \sim_K B_1$ and Theorem 1 with $A = A_1$ and $B = B_1$ implies since solutions are unique that

$$(7) \quad u_1(t) \geq v_1(t) \quad \text{for all } t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta].$$

Inequalities (5), (6) and (7) show that $u(t) \geq v(t)$ for all $t \in [\lambda, \lambda + \delta]$ and the assertion of Theorem 3 now follows.

Remark 5. When $A = B$ in Theorem 3 and the dissipative assumption (4) is replaced by a Lipschitz condition, then we obtain a result of Volkmann [7]. The proof techniques here and those of Volkmann [7] are considerably different, however.

Remark 6. The definition of $A \sim_K B$ (see equation (3)) can also be expressed in terms of inequalities involving members of the dual space E^* of E . If K is a closed convex subset of E and $z, w \in E$ with $z - w \in \partial K$ (where ∂K is the boundary of K), then (3) holds only in case $\operatorname{Re} f(A(\lambda, z) - B(\lambda, w)) \leq 0$ whenever $f \in E^*$ with the property that $f(z - w) = r \geq 0$ and $\operatorname{Re} f(x) \leq r$ for all $x \in K$. See Redheffer and Walter [5]. See also Köthe [2, p. 345].

Remark 7. The results of Proposition 1 and Theorem 1 are valid if one assumes only that K is a closed subset of E . However, one needs an alteration in (ii) of Proposition 1. Instead of assuming that $\alpha(t) - \beta(t) \in K$ for all $t \in [\lambda, \mu]$, we assume that $\alpha(\mu) - \beta(\mu) \in K$ and for each $t \in [\lambda, \mu]$ there is an $\eta(t) \in [\lambda, t]$ such that $t - \eta(t) \leq \xi$ and $\alpha(\eta(t)) - \beta(\eta(t)) \in K$.

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