

## GRONWALL INEQUALITIES VIA PICARD OPERATORS

BY

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**Abstract.** In this paper we use some abstract Gronwall lemmas to study Volterra integral inequations in higher dimensions and Fredholm integral inequations.

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### 1. Introduction

Let  $(X, \leq)$  be an ordered set and  $A : X \rightarrow X$  an operator such that the equation

$$(1.1) \quad x = A(x)$$

has a unique solution,  $x_A^*$ . The operatorial inequality problem (see RUS [22]) is the following: Find conditions under which: (i)  $x \leq A(x) \implies x \leq x_A^*$ ; (ii)  $x \geq A(x) \implies x \geq x_A^*$ .

To have a "concrete" result for this problem it is necessary to determine the solution  $x_A^*$  of the equation(1.1) or to find  $y, z \in X$  such that  $x_A^* \in [y, z]$ . In the last case we ask: (i')  $x \leq A(x) \implies x \leq z$ ; (ii')  $x \geq A(x) \implies x \geq y$ .

The aim of this paper is to study this problem in the case of integral operators using some abstract Gronwall lemmas.

### 2. Notions and notations

Throughout this paper we follow the terminology and notations in [21]. For the convenience of the reader we shall recall some of them.

Let  $X$  be a nonempty set and  $A : X \rightarrow X$  an operator. Then  $A^0 := 1_X$ ,  $A^1 := A$ ,  $A^{n+1} := A \circ A^n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  - the iterate operators of the operator  $A$ .  $F_A := \{x \in X | A(x) = x\}$  - the fixed point set of the operators  $A$ . Let  $s(X) := \{(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} | x_n \in X, n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Let  $c(x) \subset s(x)$  be a subset of  $s(x)$  and  $Lim : c(X) \rightarrow X$  an operator. By definition (Fréchet (1905); see [21]) the triple  $(X, c(X), Lim)$  is called an  $L$ -space if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (i) If  $x_n = x, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in c(X)$  and  $Lim(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = x$ ;
- (ii) If  $(x_n) \in c(X)$  and  $Lim(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = x$ , then for all subsequences,  $(x_{n_i})_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ , of  $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  we have that  $(x_{n_i})_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \in c(X)$  and  $Lim(x_{n_i})_{i \in \mathbb{N}} = x$ .  
By definition an element of  $c(X)$  is a convergent sequence and  $x := Lim(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is the limit of this sequence; we write  $x_n \rightarrow x$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

In what follows we denote an  $L$ -space by  $(X, \rightarrow)$ . For some examples of  $L$ -spaces see [21].

### 3. Abstract Gronwall lemmas

Let  $(X, \rightarrow)$  be an  $L$ -space.

**Definition 3.1.** An operator  $A : X \rightarrow X$  is a Picard operator ( $PO$ ) if

- (i)  $F_A = \{x_A^*\}$
- (ii)  $A^n(x) \rightarrow x_A^*$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty, \forall x \in X$ .

For  $POs$  on ordered  $L$ -spaces we have the following results (see RUS [18], [19], [20] and [21]).

**Lemma 3.1** (Abstract Gronwall lemma). *Let  $(X, \rightarrow, \leq)$  be an ordered  $L$ -space and  $A : X \rightarrow X$  an operator. We suppose that*

- (i)  $A$  is  $PO$ ;
- (ii)  $A$  is increasing.

If we denote by  $x_A^*$  the unique fixed point of  $A$ , then

- (a)  $x \leq A(x) \implies x \leq x_A^*$ ;
- (b)  $x \geq A(x) \implies x \geq x_A^*$ .

**Lemma 3.2** (Abstract Gronwall-comparison lemma; [22]). *Let  $(X, \rightarrow, \leq)$  be an ordered  $L$ -space and  $A, B : X \rightarrow X$  two operators. We suppose that:*

- (i)  $A$  is increasing;
- (ii)  $A$  and  $B$  are POs;
- (iii)  $A \leq B$ .

Then  $x \leq A(x) \implies x \leq x_B^*$ .

**Lemma 3.3** ([22]). *Let  $(X, \rightarrow)$  be an  $L$ -space and  $A, B : X \rightarrow X$  two operators. We suppose that*

- (i)  $A$  and  $B$  are increasing operators;
- (ii)  $A$  and  $B$  are POs;
- (iii)  $x = A(x) \implies x \leq B(x)$ .

Then  $x \leq A(x) \implies x \leq x_B^*$ .

In what follows we shall apply the above lemmas to integral inequalities. For other applications see BUICA [3], CRACIUN [6], LUNGU [11], LUNGU and RUS [12], RUS [18]-[21]. For other integral inequalities see AGARWAL and THANDAPANI [1], BAINOV and SIMEONOV [2], CORDUNEANU [4], CORDUNEANU [5], DRAGOMIR and IONESCU [7], FLETT [8], LAKSHMIKANTHAM and LEELA [10], LAKSHMIKANTHAM, LEELA and MARTYNYUK [11], MITRINOVIĆ, PEČARIĆ and FINK [14], PACHPATTE [15], [16], POLYNIAN and MANZHIROV [17], VER EECKE [23].

## 4. Volterra integral inequations in higher dimensions

### 4.1. Volterra integral equations

In what follows we consider the following integral equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 (4.1) \quad & u(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \alpha + \int_0^{x_1} K_1(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) u(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) ds_1 \\
 & + \int_0^{x_1} \int_0^{x_2} K_2(s_1, s_2, x_3, \dots, x_m) u(s_1, s_2, x_3, \dots, x_m) ds_1 ds_2 + \dots \\
 & + \int_0^{x_1} \dots \int_0^{x_m} K_m(s_1, \dots, s_m) u(s_1, \dots, s_m) ds_1 \dots ds_m,
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha > 0, a_i > 0, i = \overline{1, m}, D = \prod_{i=1}^m [0, a_i], K_i \in C(D), i = \overline{1, m}$  and  $M_{k_i} > 0$  is such that  $|K_i(x)| \leq M_{k_i}, \forall x \in D, i = \overline{1, m}$ .

Let  $A : C(D) \rightarrow C(D)$  be the operator defined by  $A(u)(x_1, \dots, x_m) :=$  second part of (4.1). If we consider the Banach space  $(C(D), \|\cdot\|_B)$  where  $\|\cdot\|$  is a Bielecki norm  $\|u\|_B := \max_{x \in D} (|u(x)|e^{-\tau x_1}), \tau > 0$ ; then the operator  $A$  is Lipschitz with the constant  $L_A = \frac{1}{\tau}(M_{k_1} + M_{k_2}a_2 + \dots + M_{k_m}a_2 \dots a_m)$ . Thus  $A$  is a contraction with respect to  $\|\cdot\|_B$ , for  $\tau > 0$  suitable chosen. So,  $A$  is  $PO$  in  $(C(D), \xrightarrow{\|\cdot\|_B})$ . From the above considerations we have

**Theorem 4.1.** *If  $K_i \in C(D), i = \overline{1, m}$ , then the equation (4.1) has in  $C(D)$  a unique solution  $u^*$ , and  $A^n(u)$  converge uniformly to  $u^*$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , for all  $u \in C(D)$ .*

**Theorem 4.2.** *We suppose that  $\alpha > 0, K_i \in C(D, \mathbb{R}_+), i = \overline{1, m}$ . Then*

- (a)  $u^*(x) > 0, \forall x \in D$ ;
- (b) *If  $K_i(x_1, \dots, x_m)$  is increasing with respect to  $x_{i+1}, \dots, x_m, i = \overline{1, m-1}$ , then  $u^*$  is increasing.*

**Proof.** (a) Let  $u_0 \in C(D, \mathbb{R}_+)$  and  $u_n := A^n(u_0), n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ . Then from (4.1) we have that  $u_n(x) \geq \alpha > 0, \forall x \in D$  and  $u_n$  is increasing. By Theorem 4.1,  $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  converges uniformly to  $u^*(u_n \xrightarrow{\text{unif}} u^*)$ . So, we have (a).

(b) Follows from (a) and from (4.1).  $\square$

#### 4.2. Lower solutions of (4.1)

Now we consider the inequation

$$(4.2) \quad u \leq A(u).$$

By definition a solution of (4.2) is a lower solution of (4.1). We have

**Theorem 4.3.** *We suppose that the conditions of Theorem 4.2 are satisfied. If  $u \in C(D, \mathbb{R}_+)$  is a lower solution of (4.1), then*

$$u(x_1, \dots, x_m) \leq \alpha \exp \left( \int_0^{x_1} K_1(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) ds_1 + \dots + \int_0^{x_1} \dots \int_0^{x_m} K_m(s_1, \dots, s_m) ds_1 \dots ds_m \right).$$

**Proof.** First, we remark that under the conditions of Theorem 4.3 the operator  $A$  is increasing. Let  $u \in C(D, \mathbb{R}_+)$  be a lower solution of (4.1). Then by Lemma 3.1,  $u \leq u^*$ . From the Theorem 4.2 we have that

$$\begin{aligned} u^*(s_1, s_2, x_3, \dots, x_m) &\leq u^*(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m), \dots, u^*(s_1, \dots, s_m) \\ &\leq u^*(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $s, x \in D, s \leq x$ . Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} (4.3) \quad u^*(x) &= A(u^*)(x) \leq \alpha + \int_0^{x_1} K_1(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) u(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) ds_1 \\ &+ \int_0^{x_1} \int_0^{x_2} K_2(s_1, s_2, x_3, \dots, x_m) u(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) ds_1 ds_2 + \dots \\ &+ \int_0^{x_1} \dots \int_0^{x_m} K_m(s_1, \dots, s_m) u(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) ds_1 \dots ds_m. \end{aligned}$$

Consider the operator  $B : C(D) \rightarrow C(D)$  defined by  $B(u)(x) :=$  last part of (4.3). It is clear that the operator  $B$  is  $PO$  on  $(C(D), \xrightarrow{unif.})$  and is increasing. Let  $u_B^*$  be the unique fixed point of  $B$ . Thus we have (see 4.3),  $u^* = A(u^*) \leq B(u^*)$ . From Lemma 3.3, we have that  $u^* \leq u_B^*$ . From the definition of  $B$  we have that

$$(4.4) \quad \frac{\partial u_B^*(x)}{\partial x_1} = \left[ K_1(x) + \int_0^{x_2} K_2(x_1, s_2, x_3, \dots, x_m) ds_2 + \dots + \int_0^{x_2} \dots \int_0^{x_m} K_m(x_1, s_2, \dots, s_m) ds_2 \dots ds_m \right] u_B^*(x)$$

and  $u^*(0, x_2, \dots, x_m) = \alpha$ . From (4.4) we have the Theorem 4.3.  $\square$

**Remark 4.1.** For  $m = 2$  we have a result of KIM [9].

**Remark 4.2.** Theorem 4.3 remains true if (4.1) is replaced by

$$\begin{aligned} u(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) &= \alpha + \int_0^{x_1} K_1(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) f_1(u(s_1, x_2, \dots, x_m)) ds_1 + \dots \\ &+ \int_0^{x_1} \dots \int_0^{x_m} K_m(s_1, \dots, s_m) f_m(u(s_1, \dots, s_m)) ds_1 \dots ds_m, \end{aligned}$$

where  $f_i(u) \leq u$ ,  $f_i$  increasing and Lipschitz.

**Remark 4.3.** As in [8] and [13] we can use the above results to study the solutions and lower solutions of Darboux problem  $\frac{\partial^m u}{\partial x_1 \dots \partial x_m} = f(x, u(x))$ ,  $u(x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}, 0) = \varphi_1(x_1, \dots, x_{m-1}), \dots, u(0, x_2, \dots, x_m) = \varphi_m(x_2, \dots, x_m)$ , where  $f \in C(D \times \mathbb{R})$ ,  $f(x, \cdot) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $L_f$ -Lipschitz and increasing and  $\varphi_i, i = \overline{1, m}$  are continuous.

## 5. Volterra-Fredholm integral inequations

### 5.1. Volterra-Fredholm integral equations

In what follows we consider the following integral equation

$$(5.1) \quad u(x_1, x_2) = \alpha + \int_0^{x_1} \int_0^b F(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2, u(s_1, s_2)) ds_1 ds_2$$

where  $F \in C(D \times D \times \mathbb{R})$ ,  $D = [0, a] \times [0, b]$ ,  $a > 0, b > 0$ .

Let us consider the operator  $A : C(D) \rightarrow C(D)$  defined by  $A(u)(x_1, x_2) :=$  second part of (5.1). We consider the Banach space  $(C(D), \|\cdot\|_B)$  where  $\|\cdot\|_B$  is a Bielecki norm  $\|\cdot\|_B := \max_{x \in D} \{|u(x_1, x_2)|e^{-\tau x_1}\}$ ,  $\tau > 0$ . If we suppose that  $F(x, s, \cdot) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is Lipschitz with a constant  $L$ , for all  $(x, s) \in D \times D$ , then the operator  $A$  is Lipschitz with the constant  $L_A = \frac{bL}{\tau}$ . Thus  $A$  is a contraction with respect to  $\|\cdot\|_B$ , for  $\tau > L \cdot b$ . So,  $A$  is  $PO$  in  $(C(D), \xrightarrow{\text{unif.}})$ .

From the above considerations we have

**Theorem 5.1.** *We suppose that*

- (i)  $F \in C(D \times D \times \mathbb{R})$ ,
- (ii) *there exists  $L > 0$  such that  $|F(x, s, v) - F(x, s, w)| \leq L|v - w|$ , for all  $x, s \in D, v, w \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*Then the equation (5.1) has in  $C(D)$  a unique solution  $u^*$  and  $A^n(u) \xrightarrow{\text{unif.}} u^*$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , for all  $u \in C(D)$ .*

In addition we suppose that

- (iii)  $F(x, s, \cdot) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is increasing, for all  $x, s \in D$ ,
- (iv) *there exists  $K \in C(D \times D, \mathbb{R}_+)$  such that  $F(x, s, v) \leq K(x, s)v$ , for all  $x, s \in D, v \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

We consider the equation

$$(5.2) \quad u(x_1, x_2) = \alpha + \int_0^{x_1} \int_0^b K(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2) u(s_1, s_2) ds_1 ds_2.$$

Let  $B : C(D) \rightarrow C(D)$  be defined by  $B(u)(x_1, x_2) :=$  second part of (5.2).

It is clear that the operator  $B$  is  $PO$  on  $(C(D), \xrightarrow{\text{unif}})$ .

Let  $u_B^*$  the unique fixed point of  $B$ . Let  $u \in C(D)$  be a lower solution of (5.1). Then by Lemma 3.1,  $u \leq u^*$ . Moreover we have  $u^* = A(u^*) \leq B(u^*)$ .

From Lemma 3.3, we have that  $u^* \leq u_B^*$ . So, we have

**Theorem 5.2.** *We suppose that the conditions (i)-(iv) are satisfied. If  $u \in C(D)$  is a lower solution of (5.1), then*

$$u(x_1, x_2) \leq \alpha + \alpha \int_0^{x_1} \int_0^b \Gamma(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2) ds_1 ds_2,$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the resolvent kernel of the equation (5.2).

**Example 5.1.** We consider the following integral equation

$$(5.3) \quad u(x_1, x_2) = \alpha + \int_0^{x_1} \int_0^b e^{x_1 - x_2 - s_1 + s_2} u^p(s_1, s_2) ds_1 ds_2, \quad \alpha > 1$$

Evidently,

$$(5.4) \quad u(x_1, x_2) \leq \alpha + \int_0^{x_1} \int_0^b e^{x_1 - x_2 - s_1 + s_2} u(s_1, s_2) ds_1 ds_2$$

and the operators  $A$  and  $B$  are:

$$(5.5) \quad A := \alpha + \int_0^{x_1} \int_0^b (e^{x_1 - x_2 - s_1 + s_2}, u^p(s_1, s_2)) ds_1 ds_2,$$

$$(5.6) \quad B := \alpha + \int_0^{x_1} \int_0^b e^{x_1 - x_2 - s_1 + s_2} u(s_1, s_2) ds_1 ds_2.$$

Let  $u \in C(D)$  be a lower solution of (5.3), then  $u \leq u^*$ , where  $u^*$  is the unique solution of (5.3). If  $u_B^*$  is the unique fixed point of  $B$ , then  $u^* \leq u_B^*$ .

But,  $u_B^*$  can be obtained by successive approximation. So,

$$\begin{aligned}
 K_1(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2) &= K(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2) = e^{x_1 - x_2 - s_1 + s_2} \\
 K_2(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2) &= \int_{s_1}^{x_1} \int_0^b e^{x_1 - x_2 - z_1 + z_2} \cdot e^{z_1 - z_2 - s_1 + s_2} dz_1 dz_2 \\
 &= b \frac{(x_1 - s_1)}{1!} e^{x_1 - x_2 - s_1 + s_2} \\
 K_3(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2) &= b^2 \frac{(x_1 - s_1)^2}{2!} e^{x_1 - x_2 - s_1 + s_2} \\
 &\dots\dots\dots \\
 K_n(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2) &= \int_{s_1}^{x_1} \int_0^b K(x_1, x_2, z_1, z_2) K_{n-1}(z_1, z_2, s_1, s_2) dz_1 dz_2 \\
 K_n(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2) &= b^{n-1} \frac{(x_1 - s_1)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} e^{x_1 - x_2 - s_1 + s_2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

In this case the resolvent kernel is

$$\Gamma(x_1, x_2, s_1, s_2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b^n \frac{(x_1 - s_1)^n}{n!} e^{x_1 - x_2 - s_1 + s_2} = e^{(b+1)(x_1 - s_1) - s_1 + s_2}.$$

Then  $u_B^*(x_1, x_2) = \alpha + \frac{\alpha}{b+1}(e^{b-x_2} - e^{-x_2})(e^{(b+1)x_1} - 1)$  and  $u^*(x_1, x_2) \leq \alpha + \frac{\alpha}{b+1}(e^{b-x_2} - e^{-x_2})(e^{(b+1)x_1} - 1)$ .

**Remark 5.1.** Let  $X$  be an ordered Banach space,  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  a bounded domain,  $a > 0$ ,  $g \in C(D, X)$ ,  $F \in C(D \times D \times X, X)$ , where  $D := [0, a] \times \bar{\Omega}$ . We consider the following integral equation

$$(5.7) \quad u(t, x) = g(t, x) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} F(t, x, \xi, s) d\xi ds.$$

In a similar way we have

**Theorem 5.3.** *We suppose that*

- (i) *There exist  $L > 0$  such that  $\|F(t, x, \xi, s, v) - F(t, x, \xi, s, w)\|_X \leq L\|v - w\|_X$ , for all  $t, \xi \in [0, \alpha], x, s \in \bar{\Omega}, v, w \in X$ ;*
- (ii)  *$F(t, x, \xi, s, \cdot) : X \rightarrow X$  is increasing, for all  $t, \xi \in [0, a], x, s \in \bar{\Omega}$ ;*



(iii) there exists a continuous and linear positive operator  $K(t, x, \xi, s) : X \rightarrow X$  for each  $t, \xi \in [0, a], x, s \in \bar{\Omega}$ , such that  $F(t, x, \xi, s, v) \leq K(t, x, \xi, s)v$ , for all  $t, \xi \in [0, a], x, s \in \bar{\Omega}$ .

Then the equation (5.7) has in  $C(D, X)$  a unique solution and if  $u \in C(D, X)$  is a lower solution of (5.7), then

$$u(t, x) \leq g(t, x) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \Gamma(t, x, \xi, s)g(\xi, s)d\xi ds,$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the resolvent kernel of the equation

$$u(t, x) = g(t, x) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} K(t, x, \xi, s)g(\xi, s)d\xi ds.$$

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