

Non-autonomous implicit integral equations with discontinuous right-hand side

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Abstract. We deal with the implicit integral equation

$$h(u(t)) = f\left(t, \int_I g(t, z) u(z) dz\right) \text{ for a.a. } t \in I,$$

where $I := [0, 1]$ and where $f : I \times [0, \lambda] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $g : I \times I \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ and $h :]0, +\infty[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. We prove an existence theorem for solutions $u \in L^s(I)$ where the continuity of f with respect to the second variable is not assumed.

Keywords: implicit integral equations, discontinuity, lower semicontinuous multifunctions, operator inclusions, selections

Classification: 45P05, 47G10

1. Introduction

Let $I := [0, 1]$ and $J := [0, \lambda]$, with $\lambda > 0$. Let us first consider the implicit integral equation

$$(1) \quad h(u(t)) = f\left(t, \int_I g(t, z) u(z) dz\right) \text{ for a.a. } t \in I,$$

where $f : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $g : I \times I \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ and $h :]0, +\infty[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Recently, in [4], an existence theorem for solutions $u \in L^\infty(I)$ of equation (1) has been proved, where, unlike other recent results in the field, the continuity of the function f is not assumed. More precisely, f is assumed to be a.e. equal to a function $f^* : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that the set

$$\{x \in J : f^* \text{ is discontinuous at } x\}$$

has null Lebesgue measure. It is immediate to check that such a function f can be discontinuous at each point of the set J .

For the special case where h is the identity mapping, the latter result has been later extended to the non-autonomous version of problem (1), that is to the equation

$$(2) \quad u(t) = f\left(t, \int_I g(t, z) u(z) dz\right) \text{ for a.a. } t \in I,$$

where $f : I \times J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (see Theorem 1 of [6]). For this latter problem, the above assumption (which specifies what kind of discontinuity is allowed for f) has the following form: there exists a function $f^* : I \times J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a set $E \subseteq J$, with null Lebesgue measure, such that $f(\cdot, x)$ is measurable for each x in a countable dense subset of J and, for a.a. $t \in I$, one has

$$(3) \quad \{x \in J : f^*(t, \cdot) \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \cup \{x \in J : f^*(t, x) \neq f(t, x)\} \subseteq E.$$

It was also proved that none of the two sets on the left hand side of (3) can depend on t .

At this point, it is natural to consider the implicit non-autonomous integral equation

$$(4) \quad h(u(t)) = f\left(t, \int_I g(t, z) u(z) dz\right) \quad \text{for a.a. } t \in I,$$

(which contains equations (1) and (2) as special cases), and to ask whether it is possible to extend to this latter problem the existence results of [4] and [6]. Our effort in this paper goes exactly in such a direction. Indeed, our aim is to prove the following result (where m denotes the Lebesgue measure on the real line and “int” stands for “interior”).

Theorem 1. *Let $I := [0, 1]$ and $J := [0, \lambda]$, with $\lambda > 0$. Let $s \in]1, +\infty]$, $A \subseteq]0, +\infty[$ an interval, $h : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a continuous functions. Let $f : I \times J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $g : I \times I \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$, $\beta \in L^s(I)$, $\phi_0 \in L^j(I)$, with $j \geq s'$ and $j > 1$, $\phi_1 \in L^{s'}(I)$, and let P be a countable dense subset of J . Assume that:*

- (i) *there exist a function $f^* : I \times J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and two sets $E_1, E_2 \subseteq J$, with E_2 closed and $m(E_1 \cup E_2) = 0$, such that for each $x \in P$ the function $f^*(\cdot, x)$ is measurable and for a.a. $t \in I$ one has*

$$(5) \quad \{x \in J : f^*(t, x) \neq f(t, x)\} \subseteq E_1$$

and

$$(6) \quad \{x \in J : f^*(t, \cdot) \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E_2;$$

- (ii) $\text{int } h^{-1}(z) = \emptyset$ for all $z \in \text{int } h(A)$;
- (iii) if one puts

$$v(t) := \text{ess inf}_{x \in J} f(t, x), \quad z(t) := \text{ess sup}_{x \in J} f(t, x),$$

then for a.a. $t \in I$ one has

$$(7) \quad [v(t), z(t)] \subseteq h(A) \quad \text{and} \quad \sup h^{-1}([v(t), z(t)]) \leq \beta(t);$$

(iv) one has

$$0 < \|\phi_0\|_{L^{s'}(I)} \leq \frac{\lambda}{\|\beta\|_{L^s(I)}} ;$$

(v) for each $t \in I$, the function $g(t, \cdot)$ is measurable;

(vi) for a.a. $z \in I$, the function $g(\cdot, z)$ is continuous in I , differentiable in $]0, 1[$ and

$$g(t, z) \leq \phi_0(z), \quad 0 < \frac{\partial g}{\partial t}(t, z) \leq \phi_1(z) \quad \text{for all } t \in]0, 1[.$$

Then there exists a solution $\hat{u} \in L^s(I)$ to equation (4).

Theorem 1 partially extends the main results of [4] and [6] to problem (4). Such an extension is not full since it is assumed, in addition, that the set E_2 is closed. The reader can easily check that such a function f can be discontinuous (with respect to the second variable) at each point $x \in J$. In particular, our assumption is weaker than the usual Carathéodory condition assumed in the literature (in this connection, the reader can see for instance [3], [7], [8], [10] and the references therein; in particular, we refer to [10] and to the references therein for motivations for studying equation (4)). The proof of Theorem 1 will be given in Section 3, while in Section 2 we shall fix some notations and give some preliminary technical results.

2. Notations and preliminary results

As before, m denotes the usual Lebesgue measure over the real line \mathbb{R} . Moreover, we denote by $\mathcal{L}(A)$ (resp., $\mathcal{B}(A)$) the family of all Lebesgue (resp., Borel) measurable subsets of the set A . In the sequel, the word “measurable” will stand for “Lebesgue measurable”. Also, we denote by \overline{A} and $\overline{\text{co}}A$ the closure and the closed convex hull of the set A , respectively.

If $p \in [1, +\infty]$, we denote by p' the conjugate exponent of p . As usual, we denote by $L^p(I)$ the space of all (equivalence classes of) measurable functions $u : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_I |u(t)|^p dt < +\infty & \quad \text{if } p < +\infty, \\ \text{ess sup}_{t \in I} |u(t)| < +\infty & \quad \text{if } p = +\infty, \end{aligned}$$

with the usual norm

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{L^p(I)} & := \left(\int_I |u(t)|^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} & \text{if } p < +\infty, \\ \|u\|_{L^\infty(I)} & := \text{ess sup}_{t \in I} |u(t)| & \text{if } p = +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we denote by $C^0(I)$ the space of all continuous functions $v : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

From now on, we denote by X the space $\{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ endowed with the product topology, and we put

$$D := \left\{ \{a_n\} \in X : a_n = 0 \text{ for infinitely many } n \right\} \cup \left\{ \{1_n\} \right\}$$

($\{1_n\}$ denoting the sequence which has each term equal to 1),

$$C := \left\{ \{a_n\} \in X : \{a_{2n}\} \in D \text{ and } \{a_{2n-1}\} \in D \right\},$$

$$H := \left\{ s \in [0, 1] : s = \frac{p}{2^m}, \text{ with } p, m \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } p \leq 2^m \right\} \cup \{0\},$$

$$\Omega := (I \setminus H) \times (J \setminus \lambda H).$$

Finally, let $\varphi : X \rightarrow I \times J$ be the function defined by putting, for each $\{a_n\} \in X$,

$$\varphi(\{a_n\}) = \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_{2n}}{2^n}, \lambda \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_{2n-1}}{2^n} \right).$$

The following lemma follows easily by well-known facts and can be checked directly by the reader.

Lemma 2. *The function φ is continuous in X and its restriction $\varphi|_C : C \rightarrow I \times J$ is a bijection. Moreover, the function $(\varphi|_C)^{-1} : I \times J \rightarrow C$ is continuous at each point $(t, x) \in \Omega$.*

For the definitions and the basic facts about multifunctions, we refer the reader to [2], [14]. Here we only recall that if Y and S are nonempty sets and $F : Y \rightarrow 2^S$ is a multifunction, then a function $f : Y \rightarrow S$ is called a *selection* of F if $f(x) \in F(x)$ for all $x \in Y$. The following result comes directly from the proof of Lemma 2 of [19] (for the definition and the basic properties of 0-dimensional spaces, the reader is referred to [9]).

Lemma 3. *Let Y and S be two metric spaces, and assume that Y is 0-dimensional. Let $G : Y \rightarrow 2^S$ be a multifunction with nonempty and complete values, and let $M \subseteq Y$ a given set. If G is lower semicontinuous at each point of $Y \setminus M$, then there exists a selection $s : Y \rightarrow S$ of G which is continuous at each point of $Y \setminus M$.*

Lemma 4. *Let S be a metric space, let $V \subseteq I \times J$ and $B \subseteq I \times J$ be two given sets (with $B \neq \emptyset$), and $F : B \rightarrow 2^S$ be a multifunction with nonempty and complete values. Assume that F is lower semicontinuous at each point of $B \setminus V$.*

Then there exists a selection $g : B \rightarrow S$ of F which is continuous at each point of the set $(B \cap \Omega) \setminus V$.

PROOF: Let us put for simplicity $\varphi_C := \varphi|_C$, and let $Y := \varphi_C^{-1}(B)$. Then the space Y is 0-dimensional. Let $G : Y \rightarrow 2^S$ be the multifunction defined by putting, for each $\{a_n\} \in Y$,

$$G(\{a_n\}) = F(\varphi(\{a_n\})).$$

Since φ is continuous in X , G is lower semicontinuous at each point of $Y \setminus \varphi^{-1}(V)$. By Lemma 3, there exists a selection $s : Y \rightarrow S$ of G which is continuous at each point of $Y \setminus \varphi^{-1}(V)$. For each $(t, x) \in B$, let us put

$$g(t, x) := s(\varphi_C^{-1}(t, x)).$$

At this point, it is immediate to check that g satisfies the conclusion. □

The following lemma follows at once from the proof of Lemma 2.3 of [1].

Lemma 5. *Let Y and S be metric spaces, with S separable, $F : Y \rightarrow 2^S$ a multifunction with nonempty values, $\{u_n\}$ a dense sequence in S , and $y_0 \in Y$. Let d denotes the distance in S . Then one has:*

- (a) *if F is lower semicontinuous at y_0 , then for each $u \in S$ the function $y \in Y \rightarrow d(u, F(y))$ is upper semicontinuous at y_0 ;*
- (b) *if for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the function $y \in Y \rightarrow d(u_n, F(y))$ is upper semicontinuous at y_0 , then F is lower semicontinuous at y_0 .*

Lemma 6. *Let $T \in \mathcal{L}(I)$, let $f : T \times J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function and $E \subseteq J$ a given set. Assume that:*

- (i) *f is $\mathcal{L}(T) \otimes \mathcal{B}(J)$ -measurable;*
- (ii) *for each $t \in T$ one has*

$$\{x \in J : f(t, \cdot) \text{ is not lower semicontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E;$$

- (iii) $\inf_{T \times J} f > -\infty$.

Then, for each $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $K \in \mathcal{L}(T)$ such that $m(T \setminus K) \leq \varepsilon$ and the function $f|_{K \times J}$ is lower semicontinuous at each point $(t, x) \in K \times (J \setminus E)$.

PROOF: Without loss of generality we can assume that $f(t, x) \geq 0$ for all $(t, x) \in T \times J$. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $f_n : T \times J \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ be the function defined by putting, for each $(t, x) \in T \times J$,

$$f_n(t, x) := \inf_{y \in J} \left[n|x - y| + f(t, y) \right].$$

Of course, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and each $(t, x) \in T \times J$ one has $f_n(t, x) \leq f(t, x)$. Consequently, the function $f^* : T \times J \rightarrow [0, +\infty[$ defined by

$$f^*(t, x) := \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f_n(t, x)$$

satisfies the inequality

$$(8) \quad f^*(t, x) \leq f(t, x) \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in T \times J.$$

Now, let us observe the following facts.

(a) For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and each $x \in J$, the function $f_n(\cdot, x)$ is measurable. This follows from Lemma III.39 of [5], since the function

$$(t, y) \rightarrow n|x - y| + f(t, y)$$

is $\mathcal{L}(T) \otimes \mathcal{B}(J)$ -measurable.

(b) For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and each $t \in T$, the function $f_n(t, \cdot)$ is n -Lipschitzian over J . Indeed, for each $x, z \in J$ one has

$$\begin{aligned} f_n(t, x) &\leq \inf_{y \in J} \left[n|x - z| + n|z - y| + f(t, y) \right] \\ &= n|x - z| + f_n(t, z), \end{aligned}$$

hence the claim follows easily.

(c) One has

$$(9) \quad f^*(t, x) = f(t, x) \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in T \times (J \setminus E).$$

To see this, choose any $(t, x) \in T \times (J \setminus E)$ and $\eta > 0$. Since the function $f(t, \cdot)$ is lower semicontinuous at x , there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for each $y \in J$ with $|x - y| < \delta$ one has

$$f(t, y) > \beta := f(t, x) - \eta.$$

Fix $n^* > \beta/\delta$. Then, for each $y \in J$ one has

$$\begin{cases} n^*|x - y| + f(t, y) \geq f(t, y) > \beta & \text{if } |x - y| < \delta \\ n^*|x - y| + f(t, y) \geq n^*\delta + f(t, y) > \beta + f(t, y) \geq \beta & \text{if } |x - y| \geq \delta. \end{cases}$$

It follows that $f_{n^*}(t, x) \geq \beta$, hence the claim follows.

Now, choose any $\varepsilon > 0$. By Theorem 2 of [15], for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists a set $K_n \in \mathcal{L}(T)$ such that

$$m(T \setminus K_n) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2^n}$$

and the function $f_n|_{K_n \times J}$ is continuous. If we put $K := \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} K_n$, then $K \in \mathcal{L}(T)$, $m(T \setminus K) \leq \varepsilon$ and the function $f^*|_{K \times J}$ is lower semicontinuous. Fix any point $(t^*, x^*) \in K \times (J \setminus E)$, and let us show that the function $f|_{K \times J}$ is lower semicontinuous at (t^*, x^*) . To this aim, let $\gamma > 0$. By the lower semicontinuity of $f^*|_{K \times J}$, there exists a neighborhood U of (t^*, x^*) in $K \times J$ such that

$$f^*(t^*, x^*) - \gamma < f^*(t, x) \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in U.$$

By (8) and (9), it follows that

$$f(t, x) \geq f^*(t, x) > f^*(t^*, x^*) - \gamma = f(t^*, x^*) - \gamma \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in U,$$

as desired. □

Lemma 7. *Let $T \in \mathcal{L}(I)$, let S be a separable metric space, $F : T \times J \rightarrow 2^S$ a multifunction with nonempty values and $E \subseteq J$ a given set. Assume that:*

- (i) F is $\mathcal{L}(T) \otimes \mathcal{B}(J)$ -measurable;
- (ii) for each $t \in T$ one has

$$\{x \in J : F(t, \cdot) \text{ is not lower semicontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E.$$

Then, for each $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a set $K \in \mathcal{L}(T)$ such that $m(T \setminus K) \leq \varepsilon$ and the multifunction $F|_{K \times J}$ is lower semicontinuous at each point $(t, x) \in K \times (J \setminus E)$.

PROOF: Let ρ be an equivalent distance over S such that $\rho \leq 1$, and let $\{y_n\}$ be a dense sequence in S . By Proposition 13.2.2 of [14], for each $y \in S$ the function $\rho(y, F(\cdot, \cdot))$ is $\mathcal{L}(T) \otimes \mathcal{B}(J)$ -measurable. Moreover, by Lemma 5, for each $t \in T$ and each $y \in S$ one has that

$$\{x \in J : \rho(y, F(t, \cdot)) \text{ is not upper semicontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E.$$

Fix $\varepsilon > 0$. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, applying Lemma 6 to the function $-\rho(y_n, F(\cdot, \cdot))$, we have that there exists $K_n \in \mathcal{L}(T)$ such that

$$m(T \setminus K_n) \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2^n}$$

and the function

$$\rho(y_n, F(\cdot, \cdot))|_{K_n \times J}$$

is upper semicontinuous at each point $(t, x) \in K_n \times (J \setminus E)$. Putting $K := \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} K_n$, we have that $m(T \setminus K) \leq \varepsilon$ and for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the function

$$\rho(y_n, F(\cdot, \cdot))|_{K \times J}$$

is upper semicontinuous at each point $(t, x) \in K \times (J \setminus E)$. By Lemma 5 our claim follows. □

Lemma 8. *Let S be a separable metric space, $F : I \times J \rightarrow 2^S$ a multifunction with nonempty complete values, $E \subseteq J$ a given set. Assume that:*

- (i) F is $\mathcal{L}(I) \otimes \mathcal{B}(J)$ -measurable;
- (ii) for each $t \in I$ one has

$$\{x \in J : F(t, \cdot) \text{ is not lower semicontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E.$$

Then, there exists a selection $\phi : I \times J \rightarrow S$ of F such that:

- (a) for a.a. $t \in I$, one has

$$\{x \in J : \phi(t, \cdot) \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E \cup \lambda H;$$

- (b) for each $x \in J \setminus (E \cup \lambda H)$, the function $\phi(\cdot, x)$ is measurable.

PROOF: By Lemma 7, the interval I can be partitioned into a sequence of measurable sets $\{K_n\}$ and in one negligible set Y such that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the multifunction $F|_{K_n \times J}$ is lower semicontinuous at each point $(t, x) \in K_n \times (J \setminus E)$. By Lemma 4, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists a function $g_n : K_n \times J \rightarrow S$ such that

$$g_n(t, x) \in F(t, x) \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in K_n \times J$$

and g_n is continuous at each point $(t, x) \in [K_n \times (J \setminus E)] \cap \Omega$. For each $t \in Y$, let $h_t : J \rightarrow S$ be any selection of the multifunction $F(t, \cdot)$. Now, let the function $\phi : I \times J \rightarrow S$ be defined by putting, for each $(t, x) \in I \times J$,

$$\phi(t, x) = \begin{cases} g_n(t, x) & \text{if } t \in K_n \\ h_t(x) & \text{if } t \in Y. \end{cases}$$

Of course, ϕ is a selection of F . To show conclusion (a), choose $t^* \in I \setminus (Y \cup H)$, and let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that $t^* \in K_n$. Since $t^* \notin H$, we have that $g_n : K_n \times J \rightarrow S$ is continuous at each point (t^*, x) with $x \in J \setminus (E \cup \lambda H)$. Hence, we have that

$$\{x \in J : g_n(t^*, \cdot) \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E \cup \lambda H.$$

Since one has $\phi(t^*, \cdot) = g_n(t^*, \cdot)$, (a) follows. To show (b), fix $\hat{x} \in J \setminus (E \cup \lambda H)$. Observe that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the function $g_n : K_n \times J \rightarrow S$ is continuous at each point (t, \hat{x}) such that $t \in K_n \setminus H$. It follows that $g_n(\cdot, \hat{x}) : K_n \rightarrow S$ is continuous at each point $t \in K_n \setminus H$, hence the function $g_n(\cdot, \hat{x})|_{K_n \setminus H}$, being continuous, is measurable. Since H and Y are negligible, the conclusion follows. \square

3. Proof of Theorem 1

Without loss of generality we can assume that (5), (6) and (7) hold for all $t \in I$. Moreover, we can assume $j < +\infty$.

Firstly, let us show that $v(t)$ and $z(t)$ are measurable in I . Indeed, by assumption (i) it is not difficult to check that for each $t \in I$ one has

$$(10) \quad v(t) = \inf_{x \in J \setminus E_2} f^*(t, x), \quad z(t) = \sup_{x \in J \setminus E_2} f^*(t, x).$$

Again by (i), the set $P \cap (J \setminus E_2)$ is dense in $J \setminus E_2$ and countable. Hence, the function $f^*|_{I \times (J \setminus E_2)}$ is $\mathcal{L}(I) \otimes \mathcal{B}(J \setminus E_2)$ -measurable by the Lemma at p. 198 of [15]. By Lemma III.39 of [5] our claim follows.

Let $l : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be any measurable function such that

$$(11) \quad v(t) \leq l(t) \leq z(t) \quad \text{for all } t \in I,$$

and let $\hat{f} : I \times J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$\hat{f}(t, x) = \begin{cases} f^*(t, x) & \text{if } x \notin E_2 \\ l(t) & \text{if } x \in E_2. \end{cases}$$

Since E_2 is closed, (6) implies that for each $t \in I$ one has

$$(12) \quad \{x \in J : \hat{f}(t, \cdot) \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E_2.$$

Moreover, the function \hat{f} is $\mathcal{L}(I) \otimes \mathcal{B}(J)$ -measurable and by (10) and (11), one has

$$(13) \quad v(t) \leq \hat{f}(t, x) \leq z(t) \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in I \times J.$$

Now, observe that by (ii) and by Theorem 2.4 of [18] the function h is inductively open. That is, there exists a set $Y \in \mathcal{B}(A)$ such that $h|_Y$ is open and $h(Y) = h(A)$. It follows that the multifunction $T : h(A) \rightarrow 2^Y$ defined by

$$T(s) = h^{-1}(s) \cap Y$$

is lower semicontinuous in $h(A)$ with nonempty values. Let $G : I \times J \rightarrow 2^Y$ be defined by

$$G(t, x) = T(\hat{f}(t, x)) = h^{-1}(\hat{f}(t, x)) \cap Y$$

(G is well defined by (7) and (13)). Then G is $\mathcal{L}(I) \otimes \mathcal{B}(J)$ -measurable and, by (12), for all $t \in I$ one has

$$\{x \in J : G(t, \cdot) \text{ is not lower semicontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E_2.$$

Consequently, the multifunction

$$(14) \quad (t, x) \in I \times J \rightarrow \overline{G(t, x)}$$

is $\mathcal{L}(I) \otimes \mathcal{B}(J)$ -measurable and for each $t \in I$ one has

$$\{x \in J : \overline{G(t, \cdot)} \text{ is not lower semicontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E_2.$$

By Lemma 8, there exists a selection $k : I \times J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of the multifunction (14) such that for a.a. $t \in I$ one has

$$(15) \quad \{x \in J : k(t, \cdot) \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E_2 \cup \lambda H,$$

and for each $x \in J \setminus (E_2 \cup \lambda H)$ the function $k(\cdot, x)$ is measurable. For each $t \in I$, let us put

$$\alpha(t) := \inf h^{-1}([v(t), z(t)]).$$

By the continuity of h and by (7) and (13) we get

$$(16) \quad k(t, x) \in h^{-1}(\hat{f}(t, x)) \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in I \times J$$

and

$$0 < \alpha(t) \leq k(t, x) \leq \beta(t) \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in I \times J.$$

Let $T_1 \subseteq I$ be such that $m(T_1) = 0$ and (15) holds for all $t \in I \setminus T_1$. Let $\psi : I \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$\psi(t, x) = \begin{cases} k(t, x) & \text{if } (t, x) \in (I \setminus T_1) \times (J \setminus E_2) \\ \beta(t) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then, for each $t \in I \setminus T_1$ one has

$$(17) \quad \{x \in \mathbb{R} : \psi(t, \cdot) \text{ is discontinuous at } x\} \subseteq E_2 \cup \lambda H.$$

Let $P' := \lambda((\mathbb{Q} \cap I) \setminus H)$ (where \mathbb{Q} denotes the set of rational real numbers). Then P' is countable and dense in J . If P'' is any countable dense subset of $\mathbb{R} \setminus J$, then the set $P^* := P' \cup P''$ is countable and dense in \mathbb{R} , and by the above construction the function $\psi(\cdot, x)$ is measurable for all $x \in P^*$.

Thus, all the assumptions of Proposition 2 of [6] are satisfied. Consequently, the multifunction $F : I \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$F(t, x) := \bigcap_{m \in \mathbb{N}} \overline{\text{co}} \left(\bigcup_{\substack{y \in P'' \\ |y-x| \leq \frac{1}{m}}} \{\psi(t, y)\} \right)$$

satisfies the conclusion of the same proposition. Moreover, by the above construction it follows that

$$(18) \quad F(t, x) \subseteq [\alpha(t), \beta(t)] \quad \text{for all } (t, x) \in I \times \mathbb{R}.$$

Now we want to apply Theorem 1 of [17], with $T = I$, $X = Y = \mathbb{R}$, $p = s$, $q = j'$, $V = L^s(I)$, $\Psi(u) = u$, $r = \|\beta\|_{L^s(I)}$, $\varphi \equiv +\infty$,

$$\Phi(u)(t) = \int_I g(t, z) u(z) dz,$$

and $F : I \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{R}}$ as defined above. To this aim, we argue as in [6] and observe the following facts.

(a) $\Phi(L^s(I)) \subseteq C^0(I)$. This follows from our assumptions (v) and (vi) and the Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem.

(b) If $v \in L^s(I)$ and $\{v^k\}$ is a sequence in $L^s(I)$, weakly convergent to v in $L^{j'}(I)$, then the sequence $\{\Phi(v^k)\}$ converges to $\Phi(v)$ strongly in $L^1(I)$. This follows by Theorem 2 at p.359 of [13], since g is j -th power summable in $I \times I$ (note that g is measurable on $I \times I$ by the classical Scorza-Dragnoni's theorem; see [20] or also [12]).

(c) By (18), the function

$$\omega : t \in I \rightarrow \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} d(0, F(t, x))$$

belongs to $L^s(I)$ and $\|\omega\|_{L^s(I)} \leq \|\beta\|_{L^s(I)}$ (for what concerns the measurability of ω , we refer to [17]).

Thus, all the assumptions of Theorem 1 of [17] are satisfied. Consequently there exist $\hat{u} \in L^s(I)$ and a set $T_2 \subseteq I$, with $m(T_2) = 0$, such that

$$(19) \quad \hat{u}(t) \in F(t, \Phi(\hat{u})(t)) \quad \text{for all } t \in I \setminus T_2.$$

We now want to prove that $\hat{u}(t)$ is a solution of equation (4). To this aim, we argue as in [6]. Firstly, let us observe that by (18) we have

$$(20) \quad \hat{u}(t) \in [\alpha(t), \beta(t)] \quad \text{for all } t \in I \setminus (T_1 \cup T_2).$$

For each $t \in I$, put

$$\gamma(t) := \Phi(\hat{u})(t) = \int_I g(t, z) \hat{u}(z) dz.$$

By assumptions (iv) and (v), taking into account (20), for each $t \in I$ we get

$$0 \leq \gamma(t) \leq \|\phi_0\|_{L^{s'}(I)} \cdot \|\hat{u}\|_{L^s(I)} \leq \frac{\lambda}{\|\beta\|_{L^s(I)}} \cdot \|\beta\|_{L^s(I)} = \lambda,$$

hence $\gamma(I) \subseteq J$. By assumptions (v) and (vi), by (20) and by Lemma 2.2 at p. 226 of [16], we get

$$\gamma'(t) = \int_I \frac{\partial g}{\partial t}(t, z) \hat{u}(z) dz > 0 \text{ for all } t \in]0, 1[.$$

In particular, the continuous function γ is strictly increasing in I . Hence, by Theorem 2 of [21] the function γ^{-1} is absolutely continuous. Let us put

$$S := \gamma^{-1}[(E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \lambda H) \cap \gamma(I)].$$

By assumption (i) and by Theorem 18.25 of [11] we have that $m(S) = 0$. Let

$$S^* := S \cup T_1 \cup T_2.$$

For each $t \in I \setminus S^*$, since $\gamma(t) \in J \setminus (E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \lambda H)$ and taking into account (17), (19) and Proposition 2 of [6], we get

$$\hat{u}(t) \in F(t, \gamma(t)) = \{\psi(t, \gamma(t))\} = \{k(t, \gamma(t))\}.$$

Consequently, taking into account (5) and (16), for each $t \in I \setminus S^*$ we get

$$h(\hat{u}(t)) = \hat{f}(t, \gamma(t)) = f^*(t, \gamma(t)) = f(t, \gamma(t)) = f(t, \int_I g(t, z) \hat{u}(z) dz).$$

This ends our proof. □

Remark. The example at p. 245 of [4] shows that in the assumption (vi) of Theorem 1 one cannot assume that

$$0 \leq \frac{\partial g}{\partial t}(t, z) \leq \phi_1(z).$$

Moreover, the Example at the end of [6] shows that none of the sets E_1, E_2 in the statement of Theorem 1 can depend on t .

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