



# A Fixed Point in Partial $S_b$ -Metric Spaces

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## Abstract

In this paper, we introduce an interesting extension of the partial  $b$ -metric spaces called partial  $S_b$ -metric spaces, and we show the existence of fixed point for a self mapping defined on such spaces.

## 1 Introduction

There exist many generalizations of the concept of metric spaces in the literature. Several papers have been published on the fixed point theory in  $S$ -metric spaces [7], [8], [9], [13], and [14]. Also, fixed point results in  $b$ -metric spaces were also studied by many authors [1], [2], [3], [4], [5] and [15].

In this work, we consider a new concept of  $S$ -metric spaces called partial  $S_b$ -metric spaces, which is an extension of the  $S$ -metric spaces, by allowing the self distance to be different from zero. We extend the results obtained by Shukla [15] in partial  $b$ -metric spaces, and we prove theorems for some contractive type mapping.

First we would like to point out three errors in the proof of Theorem 1 (on page 5) in [15]. The equation  $b(Fz, Fx_l) = \lambda^{n_0} b(z, x_l)$  must be an inequality. Also, the inequality  $b(Fz, x_l) \leq s[b(Fz, Fx_l) + b(Fx_l, x_l)] - b(x_l, x_l)$ , should instead be written as  $b(Fz, x_l) \leq s[b(Fz, Fx_l) + b(Fx_l, x_l)] - b(Fx_l, Fx_l)$ . The author used a wrong argument to show that  $\{x_n\}$  is Cauchy sequence by mentioning that since  $x_n \in B[x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2}]$  and  $x_m \in B[x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2}]$ , then  $b(x_n, x_m) < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + b(x_l, x_l)$  for all  $n, m > l$ . We suggest using the contraction principle after

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showing that  $Fz \in B[x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2}]$ .

Let us recall the definitions of the  $b$ -metric spaces and the partial  $b$ -metric spaces.

**Definition 1.1.** [2] Let  $X$  be a nonempty set. A  $b$ -metric on  $X$  is a function  $d : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  if there exists a real number  $s \geq 1$  such that the following conditions hold for all  $x, y, z \in X$  :

- (i)  $d(x, y) = 0$  if and only if  $x = y$
- (ii)  $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$
- (iii)  $d(x, z) \leq s[d(x, y) + d(y, z)]$ .

The pair  $(X, d)$  is called a  $b$ -metric space.

**Definition 1.2.** [15] A partial  $b$ -metric on a nonempty set  $X$  is a function  $b : X^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that for all  $x, y, z \in X$  :

- (i)  $x = y$  if and only if  $b(x, x) = b(x, y) = b(y, y)$
- (ii)  $b(x, x) \leq b(x, y)$
- (iii)  $b(x, y) = b(y, x)$
- (iv) there exists a real number  $s \geq 1$  such that  $b(x, y) \leq s[b(x, z) + b(z, y)] - b(z, z)$ .

The partial  $b$ -metric space is a pair  $(X, b)$  such that  $X$  is a nonempty set and  $b$  is a partial  $b$ -metric on  $X$ .

**Definition 1.3.** A partial  $S_b$ -metric on a empty set  $X$  is a function  $S_b : X^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that for all  $x, y, z, t \in X$ :

- (i)  $x = y = z$  if and only if  $S_b(x, x, x) = S_b(y, y, y) = S_b(z, z, z) = S_b(x, y, z)$
- (ii)  $S_b(x, x, x) \leq S_b(x, y, z)$
- (iii)  $S_b(x, x, y) = S_b(y, y, x)$
- (iv) there exists  $s \geq 1$  such that

$$S_b(x, y, z) \leq s [S_b(x, x, t) + S_b(y, y, t) + S_b(z, z, t)] - S_b(t, t, t).$$

$(X, S_b)$  is then called a partial  $S_b$ -metric space.

**Definition 1.4.** Let  $(X, S_b)$  be a partial  $S_b$ -metric space and  $\{x_n\}$  be a sequence in  $X$ . Then:

1.  $\{x_n\}$  is called convergent if and only if there exists  $z \in X$  such that  $S_b(x_n, x_n, z) \rightarrow S_b(z, z, z)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .
2.  $\{x_n\}$  is said to be Cauchy sequence in  $(X, S_b)$  if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m)$  exists and finite.
3.  $(X, S_b)$  is a complete partial  $S_b$ -metric space if for every Cauchy sequence  $\{x_n\}$  there exists  $x \in X$  such that:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, x) = S_b(x, x, x).$$

Now, we give an example of a partial  $S_b$ -metric space that is not a partial  $S$ -metric space.

**Example 1.5.** Let  $X = \mathbb{R}_+$ , and  $p > 1$  be a constant and  $S_b : X \times X \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  defined by  $S_b(x, y, z) = [\max\{x, y\}]^p + |\max\{x, y\} - z|^p$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$ . Then  $(X, S_b)$  is a partial  $S_b$ -metric space with coefficient  $s = 2p > 1$ , but it is not a partial  $S$ -metric space. Indeed, for  $x = 5, y = 2, z = 1, t = 4$  we have  $S_b(x, y, z) = 5^p + 4^p$  and  $S_b(x, x, t) + S_b(y, y, t) + S_b(z, z, t) - S_b(t, t, t) = 5^p + 1 + 3^p + 1 + 1 + 3^p - 4^p = 5^p + 2 \times 3^p + 3 - 4^p$ , hence  $S_b(x, y, z) > S_b(x, x, t) + S_b(y, y, t) + S_b(z, z, t) - S_b(t, t, t)$  for all  $p > 1$ ; therefore,  $S_b$  is not a partial  $S$ -metric on  $X$ .

## 2 Main result

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $(X, S_b)$  be a complete partial  $S_b$ -metric space with coefficient  $s \geq 1$  and  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be a mapping satisfying the following condition:

$$S_b(Tx, Ty, Tz) \leq \lambda S_b(x, y, z) \quad \forall x, y, z \in X, \quad \lambda \in [0, 1). \quad (2.1)$$

Then,  $T$  has a unique fixed point  $u \in X$  and  $S_b(u, u, u) = 0$ .

*Proof.* Let's start by proving the uniqueness of the fixed point. Let  $u, v \in X$  be two distinct fixed point of  $T$ , that is,  $Tu = u$  and  $Tv = v$ . We have

$$S_b(u, u, v) = S_b(Tu, Tu, Tv) \leq \lambda S_b(u, u, v) < S_b(u, u, v).$$

So, we must have  $S_b(u, u, v) = 0 \implies u = v$ . Therefore, if  $T$  has a fixed point, then it is unique.

Let prove that  $S_b(u, u, u) = 0$ .

Suppose that  $S_b(u, u, u) > 0$ . From equation (2.1),

$$S_b(u, u, u) = S_b(Tu, Tu, Tu) \leq \lambda S_b(u, u, u) < S_b(u, u, u),$$

which leads to a contradiction, then  $S_b(u, u, u) = 0$ .

For the existence of fixed point, since  $\lambda \in [0, 1)$ , we can choose  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for given  $0 < \epsilon < 1$ , we have

$$\lambda^{n_0} < \frac{\epsilon}{8s}. \quad (2.2)$$

Let  $T^{n_0} \equiv F$  and  $Fx_0^k = x_k \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $x_0 \in X$  is arbitrary. Then,  $\forall x, y \in X$  we have

$$S_b(Fx, Fy, Fz) = S_b(T^{n_0}x, T^{n_0}y, T^{n_0}z) \leq \lambda^{n_0} S_b(x, y, z).$$

For any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(x_{k+1}, x_{k+1}, x_k) &= S_b(Fx_k, Fx_k, Fx_{k-1}) \leq \lambda^{n_0} S_b(x_k, x_k, x_{k-1}) \\ &\leq \lambda^{n_0 k} S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) \longrightarrow 0 \text{ as } k \rightarrow +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we can choose  $l \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $S_b(x_{l+1}, x_{l+1}, x_l) < \frac{\epsilon}{8s}$ . (\*)

Let's define the ball

$$B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2}) := \{y \in X / S_b(x_l, x_l, y) < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l)\} \quad (2.3)$$

Now, we shall show that  $F$  maps  $B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2})$  into itself.

We have  $B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \neq \emptyset$  since  $x_l \in B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2})$ . Let  $x_z \in B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2})$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(Fx_z, Fx_z, Fx_l) &\leq \lambda^{n_0} S_b(x_z, x_z, x_l) \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{8s} S_b(x_z, x_z, x_l) \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{8s} [\frac{\epsilon}{2} + S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l)] \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{8s} [1 + S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l)]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Using the definition of the partial  $S_b$ -metric space, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_b(Fx_z, Fx_l, Fx_l) &\leq s[S_b(Fx_z, Fx_z, Fx_l) + S_b(Fx_l, Fx_l, Fx_l) + S_b(Fx_l, Fx_l, Fx_l)] \\
 &\quad - S_b(Fx_l, Fx_l, Fx_l) \\
 &\leq s\left[\frac{\epsilon}{8s}(1 + S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l)) + 2S_b(x_l, x_l, Fx_l)\right] \\
 &\leq s\left[\frac{\epsilon}{8s}(1 + S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l)) + 2S_b(x_l, x_l, x_{l+1})\right] \\
 &\leq s\left[\frac{\epsilon}{8s}(1 + S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l)) + 2\frac{\epsilon}{8s}\right] \\
 &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{8} + \frac{\epsilon}{8}S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l) + \frac{\epsilon}{4} \\
 &\leq \frac{3\epsilon}{8} + \frac{\epsilon}{8}S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l) \\
 &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} + S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l).
 \end{aligned}$$

Then,  $Fx_z \in B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2})$ . Thus  $F$  maps  $B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2})$  to itself.

We note that  $x_l \in B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2})$ , therefore  $Fx_l \in B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2})$ . By repeating this process, we obtain  $F^n x_l \in B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , that is  $x_m \in B_b(x_l, \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \forall m \geq l$ . Therefore, we obtain for all  $m > n \geq l$ ; let  $n = l + i \implies i = n - l$

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) &= S_b(Tx_{n-1}, Tx_{n-1}, Tx_{m-1}) \\
 &\leq \lambda S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, x_{m-1}) \\
 &\leq \lambda^2 S_b(x_{n-2}, x_{n-2}, x_{m-2}) \\
 &\quad \vdots \\
 &\leq \lambda^i S_b(x_l, x_l, x_{m-l}) \\
 &< S_b(x_l, x_l, x_{m-l}) \\
 &< \frac{\epsilon}{2} + S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l).
 \end{aligned}$$

But,  $S_b(x_l, x_l, x_l) < S_b(x_l, x_l, x_{l+1}) < \frac{\epsilon}{8s}$ .

Hence,

$$S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{8s} < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon.$$

Thus,  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence.

Since  $X$  is a complete partial  $S_b$ -metric sapce, there exists  $u \in X$  such that:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, u) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) = S_b(u, u, u) = 0.$$

Let's prove that  $u$  is a fixed point of  $T$ . For all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(u, u, Tu) &\leq s[S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + S_b(Tu, Tu, x_{n+1})] \\ &\quad - S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}) \\ &\leq s[2S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + S_b(Tu, Tu, Tx_n)] \\ &\leq s[2S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + S_b(Tu, Tu, Tx_n)] \\ &\leq s[2S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + \lambda S_b(u, u, x_n)] \\ &\leq (2sS_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + s\lambda S_b(u, u, x_n)) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $S_b(u, u, Tu) = 0$ , that is  $Tu = u$ . Hence,  $u$  is a unique fixed point of  $T$ .  
 $\square$

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $(X, S_b)$  be a complete partial  $S_b$ -metric space with coefficient  $s \geq 1$  and  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be a mapping satisfying the following condition:*

$$S_b(Tx, Ty, Tz) \leq \lambda[S_b(x, x, Tx) + S_b(y, y, Ty) + S_b(z, z, Tz)] \quad \forall x, y, z \in X. \tag{2.5}$$

where  $\lambda \in [0, \frac{1}{3})$ ,  $\lambda \neq \frac{1}{3s}$ . Then,  $T$  has a unique fixed point  $u \in X$  and  $S_b(u, u, u) = 0$ .

*Proof.* We first prove the uniqueness of the fixed point of  $T$  if it has. We must show that, if  $u \in X$  is a fixed point of  $T$ , that is  $Tu = u$  then  $S_b(u, u, u) = 0$ .

From(2.5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(u, u, u) = S_b(Tu, Tu, Tu) &\leq \lambda[S_b(u, u, Tu) + S_b(u, u, Tu) + S_b(u, u, Tu)] \\ &= 3\lambda S_b(u, u, Tu) \text{ since } \lambda \in [0, \frac{1}{3}), \text{ we have} \\ &< S_b(u, u, u), \end{aligned}$$

which implies that we must have  $S_b(u, u, u) = 0$

Suppose  $u, v \in X$  be two fixed point, that is  $Tu = u$  and  $Tv = v$ . Then we have  $S_b(u, u, u) = S_b(v, v, v) = 0$ .

Equation (2.5) gives

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(u, u, v) &= S_b(Tu, Tu, Tv) \\ &\leq \lambda[S_b(u, u, Tu) + S_b(u, u, Tu) + S_b(v, v, Tv)] \\ &= 2\lambda S_b(u, u, u) + \lambda S_b(v, v, v) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $u = v$ . Thereby, the uniqueness of the fixed point if it exists.

For the existence of the fixed point, let  $x_0 \in X$  arbitrary, set  $x_n = T^n x_0$  and  $S_{b_n} = S(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1})$ .

We can assume  $S_{b_n} > 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  otherwise  $x_n$  is a fixed point of  $T$  for at least one  $n \geq 0$ . For all  $n$ , we obtain from (2.5)

$$\begin{aligned} S_{b_n} &= S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) = S_b(Tx_{n-1}, Tx_{n-1}, Tx_n) \\ &\leq \lambda[2S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, Tx_{n-1}) + S_b(x_n, x_n, Tx_n)] \\ &= \lambda[2S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, x_n) + S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1})] \\ &= \lambda[2S_{b_{n-1}} + S_{b_n}]. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $(1 - \lambda)S_{b_n} \leq 2\lambda S_{b_{n-1}}$ . Thus

$$S_{b_n} \leq \frac{2\lambda}{1 - \lambda} S_{b_{n-1}}, \quad \lambda \in [0, \frac{1}{3}]. \quad (2.6)$$

Let  $\beta = \frac{2\lambda}{1 - \lambda} < 1$ . By repeating this process we obtain

$$S_{b_n} \leq \beta^n b_0.$$

Therefore,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{b_n} = 0$ . Let prove that  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence. It follows from (2.5) that for  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) &= S_b(T^n x_0, T^n x_0, T^m x_0) \\ &= S_b(Tx_{n-1}, Tx_{n-1}, Tx_{m-1}) \\ &\leq \lambda[2S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, Tx_{n-1}) + S_b(x_{m-1}, x_{m-1}, Tx_{m-1})] \\ &= \lambda[2S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, x_n) + S_b(x_{m-1}, x_{m-1}, x_m)] \\ &= \lambda[2S_{b_{n-1}} + S_{b_{m-1}}]. \end{aligned}$$

So, for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , as  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{b_n} = 0$ , we can find  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $S_{b_{n-1}} < \frac{\epsilon}{4}$  and  $S_{b_{m-1}} < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$  for all  $n, m > n_0$ . Then, we obtain  $2S_{b_{n-1}} + S_{b_{m-1}} \leq 2\frac{\epsilon}{4} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon$ .

As  $\lambda < 1$  it follows that  $S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) < \epsilon \forall n, m > n_0$ .

Thus,  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $X$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) = 0$ .

By completeness of  $X$ , there exists  $u \in X$  such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, u) = \lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, u) = S_b(u, u, u) = 0. \quad (2.7)$$

Now, we shall prove that  $Tu = u$ . For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(u, u, Tu) &\leq s[2S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + S_b(Tu, Tu, x_{n+1})] - S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}) \\ &\leq s[2S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + S_b(Tu, Tu, Tx_n)] \\ &\leq s[2S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + \lambda[2S_b(u, u, Tu) + S_b(x_n, x_n, Tx_n)]]. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $(1 - 2s\lambda)S_b(u, u, Tu) \leq 2sS_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + s\lambda S_b(x_n, x_n, Tx_n)$  giving

$$S_b(u, u, Tu) \leq \frac{2s}{1 - 2s\lambda} S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + \frac{s\lambda}{1 - 2s\lambda} S_b(x_n, x_n, Tx_n).$$

Since  $S_b(x_n, x_n, Tx_n) \rightarrow S_b(u, u, Tu)$ ,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(u, u, Tu) &\leq \frac{2s}{1 - 2s\lambda} S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + \frac{s\lambda}{1 - 2s\lambda} S_b(u, u, Tu) \\ (1 - \frac{s\lambda}{1 - 2s\lambda})S_b(u, u, Tu) &\leq \frac{2s}{1 - 2s\lambda} S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) \\ S_b(u, u, Tu) &\leq \frac{2s}{1 - 3s\lambda} S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}). \end{aligned}$$

As  $\lambda \neq \frac{1}{3s}$  and from (2.7), we obtain  $S_b(u, u, Tu) = 0$  and then  $Tu = u$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $(X, S_b)$  be a complete partial  $S_b$ -metric space with coefficient  $s > 1$  and  $T : X \rightarrow X$  be a mapping satisfying the following condition:*

$$S_b(Tx, Ty, Tz) \leq \lambda \max[S_b(x, y, z), S_b(x, x, Tx), S_b(y, y, Ty), S_b(z, z, Tz)] \quad \forall x, y, z \in X. \tag{2.8}$$

where  $\lambda \in [0, \frac{1}{2s})$ . Then,  $T$  has a unique fixed point  $u \in X$  and  $S_b(u, u, u) = 0$ .

*Proof.* Let us prove that if a fixed point of  $T$  exists, then it is unique. Let  $u, v \in X$  be two fixed points of  $T$ ,  $u \neq v$ , that is  $Tu = u$  and  $Tv = v$ . It follows from (2.8):

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(u, u, v) &= S_b(Tu, Tu, Tv) \leq \lambda \max[S_b(u, u, v), S_b(u, u, Tu), S_b(u, u, Tu), S_b(v, v, Tv)] \\ &= \lambda \max[S_b(u, u, v), S_b(u, u, u), S_b(v, v, v)] \\ &= \lambda S_b(u, u, v) \\ &< S_b(u, u, v) \text{ since } \lambda < 1. \end{aligned}$$

We obtain  $S_b(u, u, v) < S_b(u, u, v)$  which gives  $S_b(u, u, v) = 0$ , then  $u = v$ . Therefore, if a fixed point of  $T$  exists, then it is unique.



Let  $x_0 \in X$  and define a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  by  $x_{n+1} = Tx_n \forall n \geq 0$ . For any  $n$ , we obtain from (2.8)

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_n) &= S_b(Tx_n, Tx_n, Tx_{n-1}) \\ &\leq \lambda \max[S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n-1}), S_b(x_n, x_n, Tx_n), S_b(x_n, x_n, Tx_n), S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, Tx_{n-1})] \\ &= \lambda \max[S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n-1}), S_b(x_n, x_n, Tx_n), S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, Tx_{n-1})]. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, Tx_{n-1}) = S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, x_n)$  and by symmetry we have  $S_b(x_{n-1}, x_{n-1}, x_n) = S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n-1})$ , thus

$$S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_n) \leq \lambda \max[S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n-1}), S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1})].$$

If  $\max[S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n-1}), S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1})] = S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1})$ , then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_n) &\leq \lambda S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) \\ &= \lambda S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_n) \\ &< S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_n) \text{ absurd.} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\max[S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n-1}), S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1})] = S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n-1})$  and

$$S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_n) \leq \lambda S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n-1}), \quad (2.9)$$

that is

$$S_b(Tx_n, Tx_n, Tx_{n-1}) \leq \lambda S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n-1}). \quad (2.10)$$

By repeating this process, we obtain

$$S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_n) \leq \lambda^n S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0). \quad (2.11)$$

For  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $m > n$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) &\leq s[S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + S_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + S_b(x_m, x_m, x_{n+1})] \\
&\quad - S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}) \\
&\leq 2sS_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + sS_b(x_m, x_m, x_{n+1}) \\
&\leq 2sS_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + s \left[ s \left( S_b(x_m, x_m, x_{n+2}) + S_b(x_m, x_m, x_{n+2}) \right. \right. \\
&\quad \left. \left. + S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}) \right) - S_b(x_{n+2}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+2}) \right] \\
&\leq 2sS_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + s \left[ s(2S_b(x_m, x_m, x_{n+2}) + S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2})) \right] \\
&\leq 2sS_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + s^2 S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}) + 2s^2 S_b(x_m, x_m, x_{n+2}) \\
&\leq 2sS_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + s^2 S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}) + 2s^2 [s(2S_b(x_m, x_m, x_{n+3}) + \\
&\quad + S_b(x_{n+2}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+3}))] \\
&\leq 2sS_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + s^2 S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}) + 2s^3 S_b(x_{n+2}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+3}) \\
&\quad + 2^2 s^3 S_b(x_m, x_m, x_{n+3}) \\
&\leq 2sS_b(x_n, x_n, x_{n+1}) + s^2 S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}) + \dots + \\
&\quad + 2^{m-n-2} s^{m-n} S_b(x_m, x_m, x_{m-1}). \\
&= 2sS_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_n) + s^2 S_b(x_{n+2}, x_{n+2}, x_{n+1}) + \dots + \\
&\quad + 2^{m-n-2} s^{m-n} S_b(x_m, x_m, x_{m-1}).
\end{aligned}$$

Now, using (2.11), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) &\leq 2s\lambda^n S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) + s^2 \lambda^{n+1} S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) + 2s^3 \lambda^{n+2} S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) + \dots + \\
&\quad + 2^{m-n-2} s^{m-n} \lambda^{m-1} S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) \\
&\leq s\lambda^n [2 + s\lambda + 2s^2 \lambda^2 + 2s^3 \lambda^3 + \dots + 2^{m-n-2} s^{m-n-1} \lambda^{m-n-1}] S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) \\
&\leq 2s\lambda^n \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{2} s\lambda + s^2 \lambda^2 + s^3 \lambda^3 + \dots + 2^{m-n-3} s^{m-n-1} \lambda^{m-n-1} \right] S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) \\
&< 2s\lambda^n [1 + 2s\lambda + (2s\lambda)^2 + (2s\lambda)^3 + \dots + (2s\lambda)^{m-n-1}] S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) \\
&\leq 2s\lambda^n \frac{1 - (2s\lambda)^{m-n}}{1 - 2s\lambda} S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) \\
&< 2s\lambda^n \frac{1}{1 - 2s\lambda} S_b(x_1, x_1, x_0) \longrightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \longrightarrow \infty.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) = 0$ .

Thus,  $\{x_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $X$ . Since  $X$  is a complete partial metric

space, then there exists  $u \in X$  such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, u) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_b(x_n, x_n, x_m) = S_b(u, u, u) = 0. \quad (2.12)$$

Let's prove that  $u$  is a fixed point of  $T$ .  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(u, u, Tu) &\leq s[2S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + S_b(Tu, Tu, x_{n+1})] - S_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}) \\ &\leq s[2S_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + S_b(Tu, Tu, Tx_n)]. \end{aligned}$$

Using (2.10), we obtain  $S_b(Tu, Tu, Tx_n) \leq \lambda S_b(u, u, x_n)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} S_b(u, u, Tu) &\leq 2sS_b(u, u, x_{n+1}) + s\lambda S_b(u, u, x_n) \\ &= 2sS_b(x_{n+1}, x_{n+1}, u) + s\lambda S_b(x_n, x_n, u). \end{aligned}$$

Using (2.12) in the above inequality, we obtain  $S_b(u, u, Tu) = 0$ , then  $Tu = u$ . Therefore,  $u$  is a fixed point of  $T$  and it is unique.  $\square$

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