

VARIATIONAL PRINCIPLES ON CONE METRIC SPACES

Seong-Hoon Cho^{1 §}, Jong-Sook Bae²

¹Department of Mathematics
Hanseo University
Chungnam, 356-706, SOUTH KOREA

²Department of Mathematics
Moyngji University
Yongin, 449-728, SOUTH KOREA

Abstract: The aim of this paper is to give an extension of Ekeland's variational principle to cone metric spaces. We give some equivalences of this variational principle.

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1. Introduction and Preliminaries

In [8, 9], Ekeland proved a result which is one of the most important results obtained in nonlinear analysis. This result is useful tools to solve problems in optimization, optimal control theory, game theory nonlinear equations and dynamical systems [4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 19]. It was known that the Petal theorem, Daneš drop theorem, Krasnosel'skii-Zabrejko and Caristi fixed point theorem are equivalent to Ekeland variational principle (see [17] and references therein). These results proved around the same time but independatly of each other. Since the discovery of Ekeland variational principle, there have appeared many extensions and equivalence formulations of Ekeland variational principle (see [1, 15, 16, 20]).

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§Correspondence author

Recently, in [11], Huang and Zhang introduced the notion of cone metric spaces as a generalization of metric spaces. They introduced the concept of convergence in cone metric spaces and obtained some fixed point theorems for contractive mappings defined on cone metric spaces.

In this paper, we obtain an extension of Ekeland's variational principle to the case cone metric spaces. We present Caristi's fixed point theorem, Takahashi's minimization theorem and Equilibrium version of Ekeland's variational principle in the setting of complete cone metric spaces. And then we prove that these results and Ekeland variational principle are equivalent.

Consistent with Huang and Zhang [11], the following definitions will be needed in the sequel.

Let E be a topological vector space. A subset P of E is a *cone* if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (i) P is nonempty closed and $P \neq \{0\}$,
- (ii) $ax + by \in P$, whenever $x, y \in P$ and $a, b \in \mathbb{R}(a, b \geq 0)$,
- (iii) $P \cap (-P) = \{0\}$.

Given a cone $P \subset E$, we define a partial ordering \leq on E with respect to P by $x \leq y$ if and only if $y - x \in P$. We write $x < y$ to indicate that $x \leq y$ but $x \neq y$.

For $x, y \in E$, $x \ll y$ stand for $y - x \in \text{int}(P)$, where $\text{int}(P)$ is the interior of P . A cone P is called *regular* if every increasing sequence which is bounded from above is convergent. That is, if $\{u_n\}$ is a sequence such that for some $z \in E$

$$u_1 \leq u_2 \leq \cdots \leq z,$$

then there exists $u \in E$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = u.$$

Equivalently, a cone P is regular if and only if every decreasing sequence which is bounded from below is convergent.

A cone P is *complete* if every upper bounded non-empty subset A of E , $\sup A$ exists in E . Equivalently, A cone P is complete if every lower bounded nonempty subset A of E , $\inf A$ exists in E .

A complete cone P is *continuous* if, for any bounded chain $\{x_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$, $\inf\{\|x_\alpha - \inf\{x_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}\| : \alpha \in \Gamma\} = 0$ and $\sup\{\|x_\alpha - \sup\{x_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}\| : \alpha \in \Gamma\} = 0$.

Note that if P is regular, complete and continuous, then for every non-increasing(resp. non-decreasing) sequence $\{x_n\} \subset P$ bounded from below(resp. above), we have $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \inf_n x_n$ (resp. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \sup_n x_n$).

If E is a normed space, a cone P is called *normal* whenever there exists a number $K > 0$ such that for all $x, y \in E$, $0 \leq x \leq y$ implies $\|x\| \leq K\|y\|$.

It is well known that every regular cone in a normed space is normal(see [11]).

The authors [2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 18, 21, 23] obtained fixed point theorems on cone metric spaces under assumption that the cone is normal. Also, the authors [6, 14, 22] proved fixed point results under assumption that the cone is regular.

In this paper, we use the concept of regularity to obtain our results.

Without special mention, we assume that E is a normed space, P is a cone in E with $int(P) \neq \emptyset$ and \leq is a partial ordering with respect to P .

For a non-empty set X , a mapping $d : X \times X \rightarrow E$ is called *cone metric* on X if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (i) $0 \leq d(x, y)$ for all $x, y \in X$, and $d(x, y) = 0$ if and only if $x = y$,
- (ii) $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$ for all $x, y \in X$,
- (iii) $d(x, y) \leq d(x, z) + d(z, y)$ for all $x, y, z \in X$.

A sequence $\{x_n\}$ of points in a cone metric space (X, d) *converges* [11] to a point $x \in X$ (denoted by $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$ or $x_n \rightarrow x$) if for any $c \in int(P)$, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $n > N$, $d(x_n, x) \ll c$. A sequence $\{x_n\}$ of points in a cone metric space (X, d) is *Cauchy* [11] if for any $c \in int(P)$, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for all $n, m > N$, $d(x_n, x_m) \ll c$. A cone metric space (X, d) is called *complete* if every Cauchy sequence is convergent.

Note that if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, x) = 0$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$. The converse is true if E is a normed space and P is a normal cone. Also, note that if $\lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, x_m) = 0$, then $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in X . If E is a normed space and P is a normal cone, then $\{x_n\}$ is a Cauchy sequence in X if and only if $\lim_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} d(x_n, x_m) = 0$.

Let (X, d) be a cone metric space with a partial ordering \triangleleft .

A sequence $\{x_n\}$ of points in X is called *decreasing* if $x_{n+1} \triangleleft x_n$ for all $n \geq 0$. The set $S(x) = \{y \in X : y \triangleleft x\}$ is \triangleleft -*complete* if every decreasing Cauchy sequence in $S(x)$ converges in it.

Let (X, d) be a cone metric space, and let $\phi : X \rightarrow E$ be a mapping. We define an ordering \preceq on X as

$$y \preceq x \text{ if and only if } d(x, y) \leq \phi(x) - \phi(y). \quad (1.1)$$

Note that \preceq is a partial ordering, and $y \preceq x$ if and only if $\phi(x) - \phi(y) - d(x, y) \in P$.

A function $f : X \rightarrow E$ is called *lower semi-continuous from above* if, for every sequence $\{x_n\} \subset X$ converging to some point $x \in X$ and satisfying $f x_{n+1} \leq f x_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have $f x \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f x_n$.

2. Main Results

We start with the following theorem which is an extension of Brezis-Browder theorem to a normed space.

Theorem 2.1. *Let $P \subset E$ be a complete and continuous cone, and let (X, \preceq) be a preordered set. Suppose that a mapping $\psi : X \rightarrow E$ is satisfying the following conditions:*

- (1) $x \preceq y$ and $x \neq y$ imply $\psi(x) < \psi(y)$;
- (2) for every \preceq -decreasing sequence $\{x_n\} \subset X$, there exists $y \in X$ such that $y \preceq x_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$;
- (3) ψ is bounded from below.

Then, for each $x \in X$, $S(x)$ has a minimal element in $S(x)$, where $S(x) = \{y \in X : y \preceq x\}$.

Proof. Suppose that, for some $x_0 \in X$, the result is false.

Then $S(x_0)$ has no minimal element in $S(x_0)$.

Let $\{x_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$ be a chain in $S(x_0)$. Then $\{\psi(x_\alpha) : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$ is a chain in E . By (3), $\{\psi(x_\alpha) : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$ is bounded from below, and hence it is bounded. Let $\alpha_1 \in \Gamma$ be fixed. Since P is complete, $r = \inf\{\psi(x_\alpha) : x_\alpha \preceq x_{\alpha_1}\}$ exists in E . Also, we obtain $\inf\{\|\psi(x_\alpha) - r\| : x_\alpha \preceq x_{\alpha_1}\} = 0$, because P is continuous.

Hence we can choose $x_{\alpha_2} \in S(x_{\alpha_1})$ such that

$$\|\psi(x_{\alpha_2}) - \inf\{\psi(x_\alpha) : x_\alpha \preceq x_{\alpha_1}\}\| < \frac{1}{2}.$$

Again, we can choose $x_{\alpha_3} \in S(x_{\alpha_2})$ such that

$$\|\psi(x_{\alpha_3}) - \inf\{\psi(x_\alpha) : x_\alpha \preceq x_{\alpha_2}\}\| < \frac{1}{3}.$$

Inductively, we obtain a sequence $\{x_{\alpha_n}\}$ in X such that

$$x_{\alpha_{n+1}} \in S(x_{\alpha_n})$$

and

$$\|\psi(x_{\alpha_{n+1}}) - \inf\{\psi(x_\alpha) : x_\alpha \preceq x_{\alpha_n}\}\| < \frac{1}{n+1} \tag{2.1}$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Then $x_{\alpha_{n+1}} \preceq x_{\alpha_n}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. By (2), there exists $y \in X$ such that $y \preceq x_{\alpha_n}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence

$$\psi(y) \leq \psi(x_{\alpha_n}) \tag{2.2}$$

for all $n \geq 0$.

By assumption, y is not a minimal element in $S(x_0)$. So there exists $u \in X$ such that $u \preceq y$ and $u \neq y$. By (1), we have

$$\psi(u) < \psi(y).$$

Since $u \preceq x_{\alpha_n}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$r = \inf\{\psi(x_{\alpha_n}) : x_\alpha \preceq x_{\alpha_n}\} \leq \psi(u). \tag{2.3}$$

From (2.1) we have $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \psi(x_{\alpha_n}) = r$. From (2.2) and (2.3) we obtain $\psi(y) \leq r \leq \psi(u)$, which is a contradiction. \square

Theorem 2.2. *Let (X, d) be a cone metric space such that P is complete and continuous, and let $\phi : X \rightarrow E$ be a mapping bounded from below. Suppose that, for each $x \in X$, $S(x) = \{y \in X : y \preceq x\}$ is \preceq -complete, where \preceq is a partial ordering on X defined as (1.1).*

Then, for each $x_0 \in X$, there exists $\bar{x} \in X$ such that

- (a) $\phi(x_0) - \phi(\bar{x}) - d(x_0, \bar{x}) \in P$,
- (b) $\phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(x) - d(\bar{x}, x) \notin P$ for all $x \in X$ with $x \neq \bar{x}$.

Proof. We define a partial ordering \preceq on X as (1.1).

If $x \preceq y$ and $x \neq y$, then $0 < d(y, x) \leq \phi(y) - \phi(x)$, and so $\phi(x) < \phi(y)$.

Let $\{x_n\}$ be a decreasing sequence in X . Then $x_{n+1} \in S(x_n)$ for all $n \geq 0$, and $\{\phi(x_n)\}$ is bounded from below, because ϕ is bounded from below. Hence $\{\phi(x_n)\}$ is bounded. Since P is complete, $u = \inf \phi(x_n)$ exists in E . Also, since P is continuous, $\inf\{\|\phi(x_n) - u\| : n \in \mathbb{N}\} = 0$. Hence $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(x_n) = u$ and $u \leq \phi(x_n)$ for all $n \geq 0$.

For $m > n$, since $x_m \preceq x_n$, $d(x_n, x_m) \leq \phi(x_n) - \phi(x_m) \leq \phi(x_n) - u$. Hence $\{x_n\}$ is a decreasing Cauchy sequence in $S(x_0)$. Since $S(x_n)$ is \preceq -complete and

$x_{n+1} \in S(x_n)$ for all $n \geq 0$, there exists $x \in S(x_n)$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$. Thus, $x \preceq x_n$ for all $n \geq 0$.

By Theorem 2.1, $S(x_0)$ has a minimal element \bar{x} in $S(x_0)$. Hence $\bar{x} \preceq x_0$, and hence $d(x_0, \bar{x}) \leq \phi(x_0) - \phi(\bar{x})$. Thus, $\phi(x_0) - \phi(\bar{x}) - d(x_0, \bar{x}) \in P$, and (a) is proved.

We prove (b).

Assume that (b) is false.

Then there exists $x \neq \bar{x}$ such that $\phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(x) - d(\bar{x}, x) \in P$. Then, $d(\bar{x}, x) \leq \phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(x)$. Thus $x \preceq \bar{x}$, which is a contradiction. \square

Theorem 2.3. *Let (X, d) be a complete cone metric space such that P is complete and continuous. Suppose that $\phi : X \rightarrow E$ is lower semi-continuous from above and bounded from below.*

Then, for each $x_0 \in X$, there exists $\bar{x} \in X$ such that

- (a) $\phi(x_0) - \phi(\bar{x}) - d(x_0, \bar{x}) \in P$,
- (b) $\phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(x) - d(\bar{x}, x) \notin P$ for all $x \in X$ with $x \neq \bar{x}$.

Proof. We define a partial ordering \preceq on X as (1.1). It suffice to show that, for each $x_0 \in X$, $S(x_0)$ is \preceq -complete.

Let $x_0 \in X$ be a fixed, and let $\{x_n\}$ be a decreasing Cauchy sequence in $S(x_0)$. Then it is a decreasing Cauchy sequence in X . Hence, $\phi(x_{n+1}) \leq \phi(x_n)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Since X is complete, there exists $x \in X$ such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = x$. Since ϕ is lower semi-continuous from above, $\phi(x) \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(x_n)$. Thus $\phi(x) \leq \phi(x_n)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Since $x_m \preceq x_n$ for $m > n$, we obtain

$$d(x_n, x_m) \leq \phi(x_n) - \phi(x_m) \leq \phi(x_n) - \phi(x).$$

Letting $m \rightarrow \infty$ in above inequality, we have $d(x_n, x) \leq \phi(x_n) - \phi(x)$ because d is continuous. Thus we have $x \preceq x_n$, and so $x \preceq x_n \preceq x_0$. Hence $x \in S(x_0)$, and hence $S(x_0)$ is \preceq -complete. From Theorem 2.1 conclusions are satisfied. \square

Theorem 2.4. *Let (X, d) be a complete cone metric space such that P is complete and continuous. Suppose that $\phi : X \rightarrow E$ is lower semi-continuous from above and bounded from below.*

Then the following are equivalent.

- (1) Ekeland variational principle:

For each $x_0 \in X$, there exists $\bar{x} \in X$ such that

- (1a) $\phi(x_0) - \phi(\bar{x}) - d(x_0, \bar{x}) \in P$,
- (1b) $\phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(x) - d(\bar{x}, x) \notin P$ for all $x \neq \bar{x}$.

- (2) Caristi fixed point theorem:

If a mapping $f : X \rightarrow X$ is satisfying

$$\phi(x) - \phi(fx) - d(x, fx) \in P \tag{2.4}$$

for all $x \in X$, then f has a fixed point in X .

(3) Takahashi minization theorem:

If, for each $x_* \in X$ with $\inf_{z \in X} \phi(z) \neq \phi(x_*)$ there exists $x \in X$ such that $x \neq x_*$ and $d(x_*, x) \leq \phi(x_*) - \phi(x)$, then there exists $\bar{x} \in X$ such that $\phi(\bar{x}) = \inf_{z \in X} \phi(z)$.

(4) Equilibrium version of Ekeland variational principle:

Suppose that a mapping $F : X \times X \rightarrow E$ is satisfying

(E1) $F(x, z) \leq F(x, y) + F(y, z)$ for all $x, y, z \in X$,

(E2) for each $x \in X$, the mapping $F(x, \cdot) : X \rightarrow E$ is lower semi-continuous from above and bounded from below.

Then, for each $x_0 \in X$, there exists $\bar{x} \in X$ such that

$$(4a) \quad F(x_0, \bar{x}) + d(x_0, \bar{x}) \in (-P),$$

$$(4b) \quad F(\bar{x}, x) + d(\bar{x}, x) \notin (-P) \text{ for all } x \in X \text{ with } x \neq \bar{x}.$$

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2): Assume that f has no fixed point in X . Then $\bar{x} \neq f\bar{x}$. Thus from (1b) $\phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(f\bar{x}) - d(\bar{x}, f\bar{x}) \notin P$, and from (3.1) we have $\phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(f\bar{x}) - d(\bar{x}, f\bar{x}) \in P$, which is a contradiction. Thus the implication (1) \Rightarrow (2) is proved.

(2) \Rightarrow (3): Define a mapping $f : X \rightarrow X$ by $fx = y$ such that $d(x, y) \leq \phi(x) - \phi(y)$. Then (2.4) is satisfied, and hence there exists $\bar{x} \in X$ such that $\bar{x} = f\bar{x}$. By assumption, for each $x_* \in X$ with $\inf_{z \in X} \phi(z) \neq \phi(x_*)$ there exists $x \in X$ such that $x \neq x_*$ and $d(x_*, x) \leq \phi(x_*) - \phi(x)$. By definition of f , $fx_* = x$. Thus, $x_* \neq fx_*$ whenever $\inf_{z \in X} \phi(z) \neq \phi(x_*)$. Hence $\bar{x} = f\bar{x}$ implies $\phi(\bar{x}) = \inf_{z \in X} \phi(z)$.

(3) \Rightarrow (4): Let $x_0 \in X$ be fixed, and let $\phi(x) = F(x_0, x)$ for all $x \in X$. Since $F(x_0, \cdot)$ is bounded from below and P is complete, $\inf_{z \in X} \phi(z)$ exists in E .

Suppose that (4b) is not satisfied.

Then, for all $x \in X$, there exists $y \in X$ with $x \neq y$ such that $F(x, y) + d(x, y) \in (-P)$. So $x \neq y$ and $F(x, y) + d(x, y) \leq 0$.

From (E1) we have $F(x_0, y) - F(x_0, x) \leq F(x, y)$.

Thus we obtain

$$\phi(y) - \phi(x) + d(x, y)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= F(x_0, y) - F(x_0, x) + d(x, y) \\
&\leq F(x, y) + d(x, y) \\
&\leq 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$x \neq y \text{ and } d(x, y) \leq \phi(x) - \phi(y). \quad (2.5)$$

By (3), there exists $\bar{x} \in X$ such that $\phi(\bar{x}) \leq \phi(z)$ for all $z \in X$.

Substitute x by \bar{x} in (2.5), we obtain that for some $y \in X$, $y \neq \bar{x}$ and $d(\bar{x}, y) \leq \phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(y)$. That is, $0 < d(\bar{x}, y) \leq \phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(y)$. Thus we have that, for some $y \in X$

$$\phi(y) < \phi(\bar{x}),$$

which is a contradiction.

(4) \Rightarrow (1): Let $F(x, y) = \phi(y) - \phi(x)$ for all $x, y \in X$, and let $x_0 \in X$. By (4), there exists $\bar{x} \in X$ such that $\phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(x_0) + d(x_0, \bar{x}) = F(x_0, \bar{x}) + d(x_0, \bar{x}) \in (-P)$. Hence $\phi(x_0) - \phi(\bar{x}) - d(x_0, \bar{x}) \in P$.

Also, for all $x \neq \bar{x}$, $\phi(x) - \phi(\bar{x}) + d(x, \bar{x}) = F(\bar{x}, x) + d(\bar{x}, x) \notin (-P)$ by (4b). Thus we have $\phi(\bar{x}) - \phi(x) - d(\bar{x}, x) \notin P$ for all $x \neq \bar{x}$. \square

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