A FREDHOLM MAPPING OF INDEX ZERO

José M. Soriano Arbizu

ABSTRACT. Sufficient conditions are given to assert that between any two Banach spaces over \mathbb{K} Fredholm mappings share exactly N values in a specific open ball. The proof of the result is constructive and is based upon continuation methods.

1. Preliminaries

Let X and Y be two Banach spaces. If $F: X \to Y$ is a continuous mapping, then one way of solving the equation

$$(1) F(x) = 0$$

is to embed (1) in a continuum of problems

(2)
$$H(x,t) = 0 \quad (0 \le t \le 1),$$

which is resolved when t = 0. When t = 1, the problem (2) becomes (1). In the case when it is possible to continue the solution for all t in [0,1] then (1) is solved. This method is called continuation with respect to a parameter [1]-[23].

In this paper, sufficient conditions are given in order to prove that two differentiable mappings share exactly N values in a specific open ball. Other conditions, sufficient to guarantee the existence of zero points in finite and infinite dimensional settings, have been given by the author in several other papers [10]-[23]. In this paper we use continuation methods. The proof supplies the existence of implicitly defined continuous mappings whose ranges reach zero points [5]-[7]. The key is the use of the Continuous Dependence theorem on a parameter in Banach spaces [25], properties of Fredholm C^1 -mappings [25, 26], the Weierstrass theorem relative to extremum points [26], and a consequence of the properties of the algebra of Banach whose elements are the linear continuous mappings from a Banach space into itself.

We briefly recall some theorems and concepts to be used.

Received September 15, 2006.

²⁰⁰⁰ Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 58C30; Secondary 65H10.

Key words and phrases. zero point, continuation methods, continuous dependence theorem, C^1 -homotopy, proper mapping, compact mapping, regular value, Fredholm mapping, isomorphism.

This work is partially supported by D.G.E.S. Pb 96-1338-CO 2-01 and the Junta de Andalucia.

Theorem 1 ([25, pp. 17-19] Continuous Dependence Theorem). Let the following conditions be satisfied:

- (i) P is a metric space, called the parameter space.
- (ii) For each $p \in P$, the mapping T_p satisfies the following hypotheses:
 - (1) $T_p: M \subseteq X \to M$, i.e., M is mapped into itself by T_p ;
 - (2) M is a closed non-empty set in a complete metric space (X, d);
 - (3) T_p is k-contractive for fixed $k \in [0, 1)$.
- (iii) For a fixed $p_0 \in P$, and for all $x \in M$, $\lim_{p \to p_0} T_p(x) = T_{p_0}(x)$.

Thus, for each $p \in P$, the equation $x_p = T_p x_p$ has exactly one solution, where $x_p \in M$ and $\lim_{p \to p_0} x_p = x_{p_0}$.

Definition ([25, 26]). We will assume X and Y are Banach spaces over \mathbb{K} , where $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$.

Mapping $F: D(F) \subseteq X \to Y$, is said to be *compact* whenever it is continuous and the image F(B) is relatively compact (i.e., its closure $\overline{F(B)}$ is compact in Y) for every bounded subset $B \subset D(F)$.

Mapping F is said to be *proper* whenever the pre-image $F^{-1}(K)$ of every compact subset $K \subset Y$ is also a compact subset of D(F).

If D(F) is open, then mapping F is said to be a Fredholm mapping if and only if both F is a C^1 -mapping and $F'(x): X \to Y$ is a Fredholm linear mapping for all $x \in D(F)$. That $L: X \to Y$ is a linear Fredholm mapping means that L is linear and continuous and both the numbers $\dim(\ker(L))$ and $\operatorname{codim}(R(L))$ are finite, and therefore $\ker(L) = X_1$ is a Banach space and has topological complement X_2 , since $\dim(X_1)$ is finite. The integer number $\operatorname{ind}(L) = \dim(\ker(L)) - \operatorname{codim}(R(L))$ is called the index of L, where dim signifies dimension, codim codimension, ker kernel and R(L) stands for the range of mapping L.

Let $\mathcal{F}(X,Y)$ denote the set of all linear Fredholm mappings $A:X\to Y$. Let $\mathcal{L}(X,Y)$ denote the set of all linear continuous mappings $L:X\to Y$. Let $\mathrm{Isom}(X,Y)$ denote the set of all the isomorphisms $L:X\to Y$.

Let $B(x_0, \rho)$ denote the open ball of centre x_0 and radius ρ , and $S(x_0, \rho)$ the sphere of centre x_0 and radius ρ . If $u: X \to Y$ is a linear continuous bijective operator, the inverse linear continuous operator to u will be denoted by u^{-1} .

Theorem 2 ([27, pp. 23-24]). (a) The set $\text{Isom}\mathcal{L}(X,Y)$ is open in $\mathcal{L}(X,Y)$. (b) The mapping $\beta : \text{Isom}(X,Y) \to \mathcal{L}(Y,X), \beta(u) := u^{-1}$ is continuous.

Theorem 3 ([26, p. 296]). Let $g: D(g) \subset X \to Y$ be a compact mapping, where $a \in D(g)$. If the derivative g'(a) exists, then $g'(a) \in \mathcal{L}(X,Y)$ is also a compact mapping.

Theorem 4 ([26, p. 366]). Let $S \in \mathcal{F}(X,Y)$. The perturbed mapping S + C verifies $S + C \in \mathcal{F}(X,Y)$ and $\operatorname{ind}(S + C) = \operatorname{ind}(S)$ if $C \in \mathcal{L}(X,Y)$ and C is a compact mapping.

Definition ([26, p.318]). Let $F: X \to Y$ be a C^1 -mapping.

The point $u \in X$ is called a regular point of F if and only if $F'(u) \in \mathcal{L}(X,Y)$ maps onto Y, and $\ker(F'(x))$ splits X into a topological direct sum.

The point $v \in Y$ is called a *regular value* of A if and only if the pre-image $F^{-1}(v)$ is empty or consists solely of regular points.

2. A Fredholm mapping

If we can say u := f - g, then u has a zero if and only if f and g share a value, that is, there is $x \in X$ with f(x) = g(x). We thereby establish our result in terms of f, g.

Theorem 5. Let $f, g: X \to Y$ be two C^1 -mappings, where X and Y are two Banach spaces over $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ or $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$.

- (i) f is a proper and Fredholm mapping of index zero and g is a compact mapping.
 - (ii) Mapping f has N zeros, $x_i, i = 1, ..., N$ in $B(x_0, \rho)$.
- (iii) Zero is a regular value of the mapping $f(\cdot) tg(\cdot) : X \to Y$ for each parameter $t \in [0, 1]$.
 - (iv) If $(x, t) \in S(x_0, \rho) \times [0, 1]$ then $f(x) \neq tg(x)$.

Hence the following statement holds true:

- (a) f and g share exactly N values in the open ball $B(x_0, \rho)$.
- *Proof.* (a) Henceforth $X \times \mathbb{R}$ is provided by the topology, given by the product norm. $\mathcal{L}(X,Y), \mathcal{L}(Y,X)$ are provided by the topologies given by their respective operator norm.
- (a1) Let us construct the following homotopy $H: X \times [0,1] \to Y$, H(x,t) := f(x) tg(x), which is a C^1 -homotopy between the mappings f and f g.

Henceforth partial derivatives will generally be denoted by writing initial spaces as subindices of mappings.

We will see here for any $(x,t) \in X \times [0,1]$ that $H_{_X}(x,t) = f'(x) - tg'(x)$ verifies $H_{_X}(x,t) \in \mathcal{F}(X,Y)$, and $\mathrm{ind}H_{_X}(x,t) = 0$.

Since g is a compact mapping and the derivative g'(x) exists for any fixed $x \in X$, Theorem 3 implies that $g'(x) \in \mathcal{L}(X,Y)$ is a compact mapping and therefore for any $(x,t) \in X \times [0,1]$, $tg'(x) \in \mathcal{L}(X,Y)$, is also a compact mapping.

Since f is a Fredholm mapping of index zero, then $f'(x) \in \mathcal{F}(X,Y), \forall x \in X$ and $\operatorname{ind}(f'(x)) = 0, \forall x \in X$.

These results together with Theorem 4 imply that $H_X(x,t) \in \mathcal{F}(X,Y)$, and $\operatorname{ind} H_X(x,t) = 0, \forall (x,t) \in X \times [0,1]$.

(a2) We will now prove that, if $H(x,t)=0, (x,t)\in B(x_0,\rho)\times [0,1]$, then $H_X(x,t)\in \mathrm{isom}(X,Y)$.

Let $(x,t) \in X \times [0,1]$, H(x,t) = 0. Since zero is a regular value of f(x) - tg(x), therefore $H_X(x,t)$ maps onto Y, therefore $\operatorname{codim}(\mathbb{R}(H_X(x,t))) = \dim(Y/Y) = 0$ and hence $\operatorname{ind}(H_X(x,t)) = \dim(\ker(H_X(x,t)))$.

Furthermore, since $\operatorname{ind}(H_X(x,t))=0$, therefore $\operatorname{dim}(\ker(H_X(x,t)))=0$, and hence $H_X(x,t)$ is also injective. Thus, $H_X(x,t)$ is a bijective linear continuous mapping, and since Y is a Banach space, the linear inverse mapping $H_X(x,t)^{-1} \in \mathcal{L}(Y,X)$ is also continuous. Hence, $H_X(x,t) \in \operatorname{isom}(X,Y)$.

(a3) We will prove the existence of a compact set V'' which contains all $x \in X$ such that f(x) - tg(x) = 0, when $(x, t) \in B(x_0, \rho) \times [0, 1]$. Let us define the set V := g(D), where

$$D := \{x \in B(x_0, \rho) : \exists t \in [0, 1], t = t(x), \text{ such that } f(x) = tg(x)\}.$$

Since $f(x_i) = 0 = f(x_i) - 0g(x_i)$, i = 1, ..., N, therefore $x_i \in D$, i = 1, ..., N, hence D is not empty. Owing to $V \subset g(B(x_0, \rho))$, we know that V is a bounded set, and with g as a compact mapping, then V is a relatively compact set.

We now construct the set $V' := \{ty : t \in [0,1], y \in \overline{V}\}$. V' is a compact set in Y due to the fact that it can be written in the following way $V' = v(\overline{V} \times [0,1])$, where v is the continuous mapping $v : \overline{V} \times [0,1] \subset Y \times [0,1] \to Y$, v(y,t) = ty, and $\overline{V} \times [0,1]$ is a compact set in the topological product space $Y \times \mathbb{R}$.

Since f is a proper mapping and V' is a compact set on Y, the pre-image of V' under f, $V'' := f^{-1}(V')$ is a compact set on X, which contains all x which verify the following f(x) - tg(x) = 0, $(x, t) \in B(x_0, \rho) \times [0, 1]$.

(a4) We will prove that there is a real number C > 0 such that if

$$(x,t) \in (H^{-1}\{0\}) \cap (B(x_0,\rho) \times [0,1]),$$

where $H^{-1}\{0\}$ is the pre-image of zero under H, then $||H_{_X}(x,t)^{-1}|| \leq C$, where $H_{_X}(x,t)^{-1}$ is the inverse mapping of $H_{_X}(x,t)$.

Since H is a C^1 -mapping, the mapping $H_X: X \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathcal{L}(X,Y), (x,t) \mapsto H_X(x,t)$ is continuous. From (a2) if (x,t) belongs to $(H^{-1}\{0\}) \cap (B(x_0,\rho) \times [0,1])$, then $H_X(x,t) \in \mathrm{Isom}(X,Y)$. From Theorem 2, the mapping inverse formation $\beta: \mathrm{Isom}(X,Y) \subset \mathcal{L}(X,Y) \to \mathcal{L}(Y,X), \beta(u) = u^{-1}$, is a continuous mapping. Consequently, by composition of continuous mappings, the mapping

$$\|\cdot\|\circ\beta\circ H_{\scriptscriptstyle X}:H^{-1}\{0\}\cap (V''\times[0,1])\subset X\times\mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R},\ (x,t)\mapsto \|H_{\scriptscriptstyle X}(x,t)^{-1}\|,$$
 is continuous.

Since $H: X \times [0,1]$ is a continuous mapping, $H^{-1}\{0\} \subset X \times [0,1]$ is a closed set, and as $V'' \times [0,1] \subset X \times \mathbb{R}$ is a compact set, therefore $H^{-1}\{0\} \cap (V'' \times [0,1]) \subset X \times \mathbb{R}$ is a compact set. Weierstrass Theorem implies that there is maximum of $\|H_X(x,t)^{-1}\|$ when $(x,t) \in H^{-1}\{0\} \cap (V'' \times [0,1])$, and hence, there is a real number C > 0, such that $\|H_X(x,t)^{-1}\| \leq C$, $\forall (x,t) \in (H^{-1}\{0\}) \cap (V'' \times [0,1])$.

(a5) Let suppose that $(x_a, t_a) \in B(x_0, \rho) \times [0, 1]$ and that $H(x_a, t_a) = 0$. Therefore:

From (a3),
$$(x_a, t_a) \in V'' \times [0, 1]$$
.

From (a2),
$$H_X(x_a, t_a) \in \text{Isom}(X, Y)$$
.

We will now prove the existence of $r_0 > 0, r > 0$ and the existence a continuous mapping $x(\cdot) : [t_a - r_0, t_a + r_0] \cap [0, 1] \to X$, which verifies

$$||x(t)|| < r, H(x_a + x(t), t) = 0, \forall t \in [t_a - r_0, t_a + r_0] \cap [0, 1].$$

To this end, we define $G(x,t) := H(x_a + x,t), \forall x \in X$, and we solve the equation

$$G(x,t) = 0$$

for x. Obviously, we have $G(0, t_a) = H(x_a, t_a) = 0$, and furthermore, $G_X(0, t_a)$ verifies $G_X(0, t_a) = H_X(x_a, t_a)$.

We transform Equation (3) into the following equivalent equation:

(4)
$$H_{X}(x_{a}, t_{a})^{-1}[H_{X}(x_{a}, t_{a})(x) - G(x, t)] = x.$$

Equation (4) leads us to define the two following mappings

$$h(x,t) := H_x(x_a, t_a)(x) - G(x,t),$$

and

$$T_t(x) := H_X(x_a, t_a)^{-1}((h(x, t)),$$

where h is a C^1 -mapping, and

$$(5) h(0, t_a) = 0.$$

Equation (4) is equivalent to the following "key equation"

$$(6) T_t(x) = x.$$

Let us observe that t in the definition of T_t is an index and not a partial derivative as is usually written. Equation (3) is equivalent to the Fixed Point Equation (6), which will be studied below.

Let $x, x' \in B(x_0, \rho)$; $t, t_a \in [0, 1]$ such that $|t - t_a|$, ||x||, ||x'|| < r, $|t - t_a| < r_0$, where r, r_0 will be fixed at a later stage.

Since $h_X(x,t) = H_X(x_a,t_a) - G_X(x,t)$, hence

$$h_x(0, t_a) = 0.$$

From Equation (7) and since $h_X: X \times [0,1] \to \mathcal{L}(X,Y), \ (x,t) \mapsto h_X(x,t)$ is continuous, the Taylor theorem implies that

(8)
$$\begin{split} \|h(x,t)-h(x',t)\| &\leq \sup\{\|h_X((x'+\theta(x-x'),t)\|:\theta\in[0,1]\}\|x-x'\|\\ &= o(1)\|x-x'\|,\quad o(1)\to 0\quad\text{as}\quad r\to 0. \end{split}$$

Due to Equations (5) and (8), and since h is a continuous mapping, therefore

$$||h(x,t)|| \le ||h(x,t) - h(0,t)|| + ||h(0,t)|| = o(1)||x|| + o'(1),$$

$$o(1) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad r \rightarrow 0, \quad o'(1) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad r'_0 \rightarrow 0.$$

Hence

$$||T_t(x)|| \le ||H_x(x_a, t_a)^{-1}||||h(x, t)|| \le ||H_x(x_a, t_a)^{-1}||(o(1)||x|| + o'(1)),$$

(9)
$$o(1) \to 0 \text{ as } r \to 0, \quad o'(1) \to 0 \text{ as } r'_0 \to 0.$$

Now r is fixed so that $o(1) \leq \frac{1}{2C}$, and then the closed and non-empty set $M := \{x \in X : ||x|| \leq r\}$ is constructed. We are now able to fix r'_0 , so that $o'(1) < \frac{r}{2C}$, and the set $M' := \{t \in [0,1] : |t - t_a| \leq \min\{r, r'_0\} = r_0\}$ is constructed. We prove below that the hypotheses of Theorem 1 are verified by the spaces and mappings, we have just defined.

The Metric Space $(M', |\cdot|)$ will be considered as the parameter space of the hypothesis (i) of Continuous Dependence Theorem 1. M will be considered as the closed and non-empty set and $(X, ||\cdot||)$ as the complete metric space considered in hypothesis (ii) of Theorem 1, which is verified as we will see in the two following paragraphs.

Owing to Equation (9), for any fixed $t \in M'$, and for all $x \in M$,

$$||T_t(x)|| \le ||H_X(x_a, t_a)^{-1}||(o(1)||x|| + o'(1)) \le C(\frac{1}{2C}r + \frac{1}{2C}r) \le r,$$

therefore $T_t(x) \in M$, and hence $T_t: M \to M$. That is, T_t maps the closed non-empty set M of the Banach space X into itself.

Due to Equation (8), for any $x, x' \in M$ and all fixed $t \in M'$

$$||T_t(x) - T_t(x')|| \le ||H_X(x_a, t_a)^{-1}(h(x, t) - h(x', t))||$$

$$\le ||H_X(x_a, t_a)^{-1}||\frac{1}{2C}||x - x'|| \le \frac{1}{2}||x - x'||,$$

therefore T_t is half-contractive for any $t \in M'$ which has been fixed. Hence hypothesis (ii) of Theorem 1 is verified.

For any fixed $t_0 \in M'$ and for all $x \in M$,

$$\begin{split} \lim_{t \to t_0, t \in M'} T_t(x) &= \lim_{t \to t_0, t \in M'} H_{\scriptscriptstyle X}(x_a, t_a)^{-1} (H_{\scriptscriptstyle X}(x_a, t_a)(x) - G(x, t)) \\ &= H_{\scriptscriptstyle X}(x_a, t_a)^{-1} (H_{\scriptscriptstyle X}(x_a, t_a)(x) - G(x, t_0)) = T_{t_0}(x), \end{split}$$

and hence hypothesis (iii) of Theorem 1 is also verified.

Thus, Theorem 1 implies, for any $t \in M'$, that T_t has a unique fixed point $T_t(x) = x := x(t)$, and it is verified that $x(t) \to x(t_0)$ as $t \to t_0$, $t, t_0 \in M'$, that is, $x(\cdot)$ is a continuous mapping. Thus for each $t \in M'$ there is only one $x(t) \in M \subset X$ such that G(x(t), t) = 0, and hence

(10)
$$H(x_a + x(t), t) = 0.$$

Let us also observe that $T_{t_a}(0) = 0$, $x(t_a) = 0$. Equation (10) can be written in the following way: $H(\alpha(t), t) = 0$, $\forall t \in M'$, where α is the following continuous mapping $\alpha: M' \to Y$, $\alpha(t) := x_a + x(t)$.

(a6) We will now prove that f and g share exactly N values in the open ball $B(x_0, \rho)$, using iteratively the process of the previous section a finite number of times, to find each shared value. To this end we have to prove that it is possible to select the same r_0 for each iteration of the process of the previous section.

Let us define the mapping

$$\varphi: V'' \times [0,1] \times V'' \times [0,1] \subset X \times [0,1] \times X \times [0,1] \to Y,$$

$$\varphi(x_a, t_a; x, t) := H_X(x_a, t_a)x - H(x_a + x, t),$$

which, as a composition of continuous mappings, is uniformly continuous on the compact set $V'' \times [0,1] \times V'' \times [0,1]$ of the product topological space $X \times \mathbb{R} \times X \times \mathbb{R}$. Therefore for any fixed r > 0, there is $\delta(\frac{r}{2C}) > 0$ such that, if $(x_a, t_a; x, t), (x_{a'}, t_{a'}; x', t') \in V'' \times [0,1] \times V'' \times [0,1]$, with $\|(x_a, t_a; x, t) - (x_{a'}, t_{a'}; x', t')\| < \delta(\frac{r}{2C})$, then $\|\varphi(x_a, t_a; x, t) - \varphi(x_{a'}, t_{a'}; x', t')\| < \frac{r}{2C}$.

If we restrict the domain of mapping φ by fixing any $(x_a, t_a) \in V'' \times [0, 1]$ such that $H(x_a, t_a) = 0$, we obtain mapping h considered in the previous section, that is

$$\begin{split} h:(H^{-1}\{0\})\cap (V''\times[0,1])\subset X\times\mathbb{R}\to Y,\\ h(x,t)&=\varphi(x_a,t_a;x,t)=H_{_X}(x_a,t_a)(x)-H(x_a+x,t). \end{split}$$

We are now able to fix r'_0 considered in the previous section by taking $r'_0 = \delta(\frac{r}{2C})$, where r will be established later in this section.

On the other hand the mapping $\varphi_X: V'' \times [0,1] \times V'' \times [0,1] \to \mathcal{L}(X,Y)$, $\varphi_X(x_a,t_a;x,t) = H_X(x_a,t_a) - H_X(x_a+x,t)$, is uniformly continuous on the compact set $V'' \times [0,1] \times V'' \times [0,1]$, and therefore there is $\delta(\frac{1}{2C}) > 0$ such that,

$$\begin{aligned} \forall (x_a, t_a; x, t), & (x_{a'}, t_{a'}; x', t') \in V'' \times [0, 1] \times V'' \times [0, 1], \\ \| (x_a, t_a; x, t) - (x_{a'}, t_{a'}; x', t') \| < \delta(\frac{1}{2C}) \\ \Rightarrow \| \varphi_X(x_a, t_a; x, t) - \varphi_X(x_{a'}, t_{a'}; x', t') \| < \frac{1}{2C}. \end{aligned}$$

Let us observe that the mapping h_X considered in the previous section is the mapping φ_X , when (x_a, t_a) is fixed: $h_X : V'' \times [0, 1] \to \mathcal{L}(X, Y)$,

$$h_{\scriptscriptstyle X}(x,t) = \varphi_{\scriptscriptstyle X}(x_a,t_a;x,t) = H_{\scriptscriptstyle X}(x_a,t_a) - H_{\scriptscriptstyle X}(x_a+x,t).$$

At this point we determine the previously mentioned r by taking $r = \delta(\frac{1}{2C})$. Since r and r'_0 have been fixed, we are now able to fix r_0 in the same way as in the previous section, that is, $r_0 = \min\{r, r'_0\}$.

The previous section implies that if $H(x_a, t_a) = 0, (x_a, t_a) \in B(x_0, \rho) \times [0, 1]$ then there is a continuous mapping $x(\cdot) : [t_a - r_0, t_a + r_0] \cap [0, 1] \to X$, which verifies

$$H(x_a + x(t), t) = 0, \forall t \in [t_a - r_0, t_a + r_0] \cap [0, 1].$$

This lets us construct the continuous mapping $\alpha: [t_a, t_a + r_0] \to Y$, $\alpha(t) = x_a + x(t)$ with $H(\alpha(t), t) = 0$, $\forall t \in [t_a, t_a + r_0]$, $\alpha(t_a) = x_a$.

We repeat this process of (a5) by taking $(\alpha(t_a+r_0),t_a+r_0)$ as an initial point in each iteration, where (x_a,t_a) is the previous initial point, and $(x_i,0) \in B(x_0,\rho) \times [0,1], i \in 1,\ldots,N$ as the initial point of the first iteration with $\alpha:[0,r_0] \to Y, \alpha(t)=x_i+x(t), \alpha(0)=x_i$ to be extended in successive iterations of the process. A point $(x_i',1) \in B(x_0,\rho) \times [0,1]$ which verifies $H(x_i',1)=0, i \in 1,\ldots,N$ is reached in a finite number of iterations, since [0,1] is a compact set, and from the frontier condition established in hypothesis (iv) of the theorem. In an identical way, but starting at in a value shared by f and g, and by the same process but taking initial successive points conveniently, we reach a zero

of f on the ball $B(x_0, \rho)$. Therefore f has the same number of zeros that shared values by f and g.

References

- E. L. Allgower, A Survey of Homotopy Methods for Smooth Mappings, Numerical solution of nonlinear equations (Bremen, 1980), pp. 1-29, Lecture Notes in Math., 878, Springer, Berlin-New York, 1981.
- [2] E. L. Allgower, K. Glashoff, and H. Peitgen, Proceedings of the Conference on Numerical Solutions of Nonlinear Equations, Bremen, July 1980, Lecture Notes in Math. 878. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1981.
- [3] E. L. Allgower and K. Georg, Numerical Continuation Methods, An introduction. Springer Series in Computational Mathematics, 13. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1990.
- [4] J. C. Alexander and J. A. Yorke, The homotopy continuation method: numerically implementable topological procedures, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 242 (1978), 271-284.
- [5] S. Bernstein, Sur la généralisation du problème de Dirichlet, Math. Ann. 69 (1910), no. 1, 82-136.
- [6] C. B. Garcia and T. Y. Li, On the number of solutions to polynomial systems of equations, SIAM J. Numer. Anal. 17 (1980), no. 4, 540-546.
- [7] C. B. Garcia and W. I. Zangwill, Determining all solutions to certain systems of non-linear equations, Math. Oper. Res. 4 (1979), no. 1, 1-14.
- [8] J. Leray and J. Shauder, Topologie et equations fonctionnelles, Ann. Sci. Ecole Norm. Sup. (3) 51 (1934), 45-78.
- [9] J. M. Soriano, Existence of zeros for bounded perturbations of proper mappings, Appl. Math. Comput. 99 (1999), no. 2-3, 255-259.
- [10] _____, Global minimum point of a convex function, Appl. Math. Comput. 55 (1993), no. 2-3, 213-218.
- [11] ______, Extremum points of a convex function, Appl. Math. Comput. 66 (1994), no. 2-3, 261-266.
- [12] _____, On the existence of zero points, Appl. Math. Comput. 79 (1996), no. 1, 99-104.
- [13] _____, On the number of zeros of a mapping, Appl. Math. Comput. 88 (1997), no. 2-3, 287-291.
- [14] _____, On the Bezout theorem real case, Comm. Appl. Nonlinear Anal. 2 (1995), no. 4, 59-66.
- [15] _____, On the Bezout theorem, Comm. Appl. Nonlinear Anal. 4 (1997), no. 2, 59-66.
- [16] _____, Mappings sharing a value on finite-dimensional spaces, Appl. Math. Comput. 121 (2001), no. 2-3, 391-395.
- [17] ______, Compact mappings and proper mappings between Banach spaces that share a value, Math. Balkanica (N.S.) 14 (2000), no. 1-2, 161-166.
- [18] ______, Zeros of compact perturbations of proper mappings, Comm. Appl. Nonlinear Anal. 7 (2000), no. 4, 31-37.
- [19] _____, A compactness condition, Appl. Math. Comput. 124 (2001), no. 3, 397-402.
- [20] _____, Open trajectories, Appl. Math. Comput. 124 (2001), no. 2, 235-240.
- [21] _____, On the existence of zero points of a continuous function, Acta Math. Sci. Ser. B Engl. Ed. 22 (2002), no. 2, 171-177.
- [22] ______, Fredholm and compact mappings sharing a value, Chinese translation in Appl. Math. Mech. 22 (2001), no. 6, 609-612.
- [23] J. M. Soriano and V. G. Angelov, A zero of a proper mapping, Fixed Point Theory 4 (2003), no. 1, 97-104.
- [24] S. Smale, An infinite dimensional version of Sard's theorem, Amer. J. Math. 87 (1965), 861–866.

- [25] E. Zeidler, Nonlinear Functional Analysis and Its Applications. III, Variational methods and optimization. Translated from the German by Leo F. Boron. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1985.
- [26] ______, Applied Functional Analysis, Applied Mathematical Sciences, 109. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1995.
- [27] H. Cartan, Differential Calculus, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1971.

DEPARTAMENTO DE ANÁLISIS MATEMÁTICO FACULTAD DE MATEMÁTICAS UNIVERSIDAD DE SEVILLA APTDO. 1160, SEVILLA 41080, SPAIN E-mail address: soriano@us.es