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# **Measures of Noncompactness and Condensing Operators**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	vii
Chapter 1. MEASURES OF NONCOMPACTNESS	1
1.1. The Kuratowski and Hausdorff measures of noncompactness	1
1.2. The general notion of measure of noncompactness	9
1.3. The measure of noncompactness $\beta$	13
1.4. Sequential measures of noncompactness	17
1.5. Condensing operators	21
1.6. Ultimately compact operators	27
1.7. $K$ -operators	35
1.8. Survey of the literature	44
Chapter 2. THE LINEAR THEORY	53
2.1. Fredholm operators	53
2.2. The “+”-operation and normal measures of noncompactness	55
2.3. Fredholmness criteria for operators	57
2.4. The $(\psi_1, \psi_2)$ -norms of an operator	61
2.5. The measure of noncompactness of the conjugate operator	67
2.6. The Fredholm spectrum of a bounded linear operator	73
2.7. Normal measures of noncompactness and perturbation theory for linear operators	81
2.8. Survey of the literature	94
Chapter 3. THE FIXED-POINT INDEX OF CONDENSING OPERATORS	99
3.1. Definitions and properties of the index	99
3.2. Examples of computation of the index of a condensing operator	105
3.3. Linear and differentiable condensing operators	107

3.4. Further properties of the index	111
3.5. Generalization of the notion of index to various classes of maps	118
3.6. The index of operators in locally convex spaces	128
3.7. The relative index	133
3.8. The index of positive operators	137
3.9. Survey of the literature	142
Chapter 4. APPLICATIONS	151
4.1. Differential equations in Banach space	151
4.2. Itô stochastic equations with deviating argument	159
4.3. The Cauchy problem for equations of neutral type	164
4.4. Periodic solutions of an equation of neutral point with small delay	175
4.5. The averaging principle for equations of neutral type	190
4.6. On the stability of solutions of equations of neutral type	203
4.7. Floquet theory for equations of neutral type	212
4.8. Continuous dependence of the Floquet exponents on the delay	216
4.9. Measures of noncompactness and condensing operators in spaces of integrable functions	220
References	233
Subject index	245

## INTRODUCTION

A condensing (or densifying) operator is a mapping under which the image of any set is in a certain sense more compact than the set itself. The degree of noncompactness of a set is measured by means of functions called measures of noncompactness.

The contractive maps and the compact maps [i.e., in this Introduction, the maps that send any bounded set into a relatively compact one; in the main text the term “compact” will be reserved for the operators that, in addition to having this property, are continuous, i.e., in the authors’ terminology, for the completely continuous operators] are condensing. For contractive maps one can take as measure of noncompactness the diameter of a set, while for compact maps can take the indicator function of a family of non-relatively compact sets. The operators of the form  $F(x) = G(x, x)$ , where  $G$  is contractive in the first argument and compact in the second, are also condensing with respect to some natural measures of noncompactness. The linear condensing operators are characterized by the fact that almost all of their spectrum is included in a disc of radius smaller than one.

The examples given above show that condensing operators are a sufficiently typical phenomenon in various applications of functional analysis, for example, in the theory of differential and integral equations.

As is turns out, the condensing operators have properties similar to the compact ones. In particular, the theory of rotation of completely continuous vector fields, the Schauder-Tikhonov fixed point principle, and the Fredholm-Riesz-Schauder theory of linear equations with compact operators admit natural generalizations to condensing operators. Therefore, establishing that a given problem for a differential or integral equation reduces to an equation with a condensing operator yields a considerable amount of information on the properties of its solutions.

The first to consider a quantitative characteristic  $\alpha(A)$  measuring the degree of noncompactness of a subset  $A$  in a metric space was K. Kuratowski in 1930, in connection with problems of general topology. In the mid Fifties in the works of G. Darbo, L. S. Gol’denshtein, I. Gohberg, A. S. Markus, W. V. Petryshyn, A. Furi, A. Vignoli, J. Daneš, Yu. G. Borisovich, Yu. I. Saponov, M. A. Krasnosel’skiĭ, P. P. Zabreĭko and others various

measures of noncompactness were applied in the fixed-point theory, the theory of linear operators, and the theory of differential and integral equations.

This book gives a systematic exposition of the notions and facts connected with measures of noncompactness and condensing operators. The main results are the characterization of linear condensing operators in spectral terms and theorems on perturbations of the spectrum (Chapter 2), and the theory of the index of fixed points of nonlinear condensing operators, together with the ensuing fixed-point theorems (Chapter 3). Chapter 1 is devoted to the main definitions, examples, and simplest properties of measures of noncompactness and condensing operators. In Chapter 4 we consider examples of applications of the techniques developed here to problems for differential equations in Banach spaces, stochastic differential equations with delay, functional-differential equations of neutral type, and integral equations.

In the treatment of the theory itself as well as of its applications we aimed at considering the simplest situation, leaving the comments concerning possible generalizations for the concluding sections or subsections. For additional information the reader is referred to the surveys [10, 28, 160].

The authors use this opportunity to express their gratitude to Mark Aleksandrovich Krasnosel'skiĭ, under whose influence many of the problems discussed here were posed and solved.