

## AUTOCONJUGATE FUNCTIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS OF MONOTONE OPERATORS

JEAN-PAUL PENOT

We show the existence of a convex representation of a maximal monotone operator by a convex function which is invariant with respect to the Fenchel conjugacy (up to an interchange of variables). We use the framework of generalised convexity.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The representations of maximal monotone operators on a reflexive Banach space  $X$  by closed proper convex functions on the product  $X \times X^*$ , first obtained by Krauss [7, 8, 9, 10] and Fitzpatrick [4], have recently received a renewed interest. In particular, Martínez-Legaz and Théra [13] have characterised the image of the Fitzpatrick representation and described the inverse correspondence; Burachik and Svaiter [2] have given a criterion ensuring that a convex function on  $X \times X^*$  represents a maximal monotone operator and have introduced a whole class of such functions [3]. Penot [20] has used a special kind of representations to deduce results about operations on maximal monotone operators from classical results of convex analysis. His approach is connected with the following problem: given a monotone operator  $M : X \rightrightarrows X^*$ , it is possible to get a closed convex function  $q$  on  $X \times X^*$  such that  $q^*(x^*, x) = q(x, x^*)$  for any  $(x, x^*) \in X \times X^*$  and  $f_M \leq q \leq p_M$ , where  $f_M$  is the Fitzpatrick representation of  $M$  and  $p_M = f_M^*$ . A positive answer is provided here in the broader framework of generalised convexity and generalised monotonicity (see [1, 14, 15, 27, 29]). For the study of maximal monotone operators and their representations by convex functions (on spaces which are larger than  $X \times X^*$ ), we refer to the recent monograph by Simons [28].

### 2. DUALITIES

DEFINITION 1: Given a pair of sets  $W, Y$  a *duality* is a mapping  $D : f \mapsto f^D$  from  $\overline{\mathbb{R}}^W$  into  $\overline{\mathbb{R}}^Y$  (where  $\overline{\mathbb{R}} := \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}$ ), such that, for any family  $(f_i)_{i \in I}$  of  $\overline{\mathbb{R}}^W$ ,

$$(1) \quad \left( \inf_{i \in I} f_i \right)^D = \sup_{i \in I} f_i^D$$

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The reverse (or dual or reciprocal) duality  $D' : \mathbb{R}^Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^W$  is then defined by

$$(2) \quad g^{D'} := \inf\{h \in \mathbb{R}^W : h^D \leq g\}.$$

Then the pair  $(D, D')$  is a Galois correspondence between the complete lattices  $\mathbb{R}^W$  and  $\mathbb{R}^Y$  and one can draw from that useful consequences:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall f \in \mathbb{R}^W \quad f^{DD'D} &= f^D, & \forall g \in \mathbb{R}^Y \quad g^{D'DD'} &= g^{D'} \\ \forall f \in \mathbb{R}^W \quad \forall g \in \mathbb{R}^Y \quad (f^D \leq g) &\iff (g^{D'} \leq f) \\ \forall f \in \mathbb{R}^W \quad (f^{DD'} = f) &\iff (\exists g \in \mathbb{R}^Y : f = g^{D'}). \end{aligned}$$

We denote by  $\Gamma_D(W)$  (respectively,  $\Gamma_{D'}(Y)$ ) the image of  $D$  (respectively,  $D'$ ).

Among dualities, a familiar class is formed by *conjugacies* (or conjugations), that is, dualities for which

$$(f + r)^D = f^D - r \quad \forall f \in \mathbb{R}^W \quad \forall r \in \mathbb{R}.$$

It can be shown ([12]) that  $D$  is a conjugacy if and only if there exists a coupling function  $c : W \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R} := \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}$  such that  $f^D = f^c$ , where

$$f^c(y) := - \inf\{f(w) - c(w, y) : w \in W\},$$

with the convention  $(+\infty) + (-\infty) = +\infty$ . In such a case,  $\Gamma_D(W)$  is the set of functions on  $W$  which are suprema of families of functions of the form  $w \mapsto c(w, y) - r$  for  $(y, r)$  in some subset of  $Y \times \mathbb{R}$ ; a similar assertion holds for  $\Gamma_{D'}(Y)$ . Conjugacies have been introduced by Moreau [14] and have been studied by a number of authors (see [1, 6, 11, 16, 19, 18, 15, 22, 23, 26] and the references therein). It has also been shown by Martínez-Legaz and Singer ([12]) that dualities from  $\mathbb{R}^W$  into  $\mathbb{R}^Y$  are characterised as the mappings  $D : \mathbb{R}^W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^Y$  for which there exists a function  $G : W \times Y \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (called the generating function of  $D$ ) such that for any  $(w, y) \in W \times Y$  the function  $G(w, y, \cdot)$  is nonincreasing, lower semicontinuous and such that

$$f^D(y) = \sup_{w \in W} G(w, y, f(w)) \quad \forall f \in \mathbb{R}^W \quad \forall y \in Y.$$

The generating function  $G$  is given by

$$(3) \quad G(w, y, r) := (\iota_{\{w\}} + r)^D(y),$$

where  $\iota_S$  is the *indicator* function of a subset  $S$  of  $W$  given by  $\iota_S(w) = 0$  if  $w \in S$ ,  $+\infty$  else. When  $D$  is a conjugacy with coupling function  $c$ , formula (3) is reduced to

$$G(w, y, r) = -(r - c(w, y)).$$

With any duality one can associate a notion of subdifferential. However, for simplicity, we only consider the case  $D$  is a conjugacy arising from a coupling function  $c$ ; then the  $c$ -subdifferential of a function  $f \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}^W$  at some point  $w \in W$  where  $f(w)$  is finite is the set

$$\partial^c f(w) := \{y \in Y : f(\cdot) - c(\cdot, y) \geq f(w) - c(w, y)\}.$$

As in [15, Section 2.4], which deals with the case  $c$  is an evaluation function, we observe that the multimapping  $M : w \rightrightarrows \partial^c f(w)$  is  $c$ -monotone in the following sense:

$$c(w, y) + c(w', y') \geq c(w', y) + c(w, y') \quad \forall w, w' \in W, y \in M(w), y' \in M(w').$$

When  $X$  is a Banach space,  $W = X, Y := X^*$  and  $c : X \times X^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the natural pairing  $c(\cdot, \cdot) := \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ , this definition coincides with the usual one. We say that a multimapping  $M : W \rightrightarrows Y$  is maximal  $c$ -monotone if it is  $c$ -monotone and if its graph is not strictly contained in the graph of a  $c$ -monotone operator.

### 3. REPRESENTATIONS OF MONOTONE OPERATORS.

In the sequel,  $W$  and  $Y$  are sets,  $c : W \times Y \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is a coupling function and we focus our attention on  $c$ -monotone operators  $M : W \rightrightarrows Y$ . We set  $Z := W \times Y$  and we consider the duality  $D : \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z$ , given by  $D(f) = f^D$ , with

$$f^D(w', y') := - \inf \left\{ f(w, y) - (c(w, y') + c(w', y)) : (w, y) \in Z \right\} \quad (w', y') \in Z.$$

This duality is the conjugacy associated with the coupling function  $c_D : Z \times Z \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  given by

$$c_D(z, z') := c(w, y') + c(w', y) \quad \text{for } z := (w, y), z' := (w', y') \in Z.$$

When  $W$  is a reflexive Banach space  $X, Y = X^*$  and  $c$  is the evaluation  $(x, x^*) \mapsto x^*(x)$ , this duality is close to the classical Fenchel conjugacy since it is composed of this conjugacy with the interchange of variables  $(x^*, x) \mapsto (x, x^*)$ . As in such a case, one disposes of the representations

$$f_M := (c_M)^D, \quad p_M := (c_M)^{DD}$$

of [4, 3, 20] respectively, where  $c : W \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the given pairing,  $c_M := c + \iota_M$  and where  $M$  is identified with its graph. Part of the interest of these representations is expounded in the following statement.

**LEMMA 2.** *Let  $M : W \rightrightarrows Y$  be a  $c$ -monotone operator. Then*

- (a) *the functions  $f_M$  and  $p_M$  belong to  $\Gamma_D(Z)$  and one has  $f_M \leq p_M \leq c_M$ ;*
- (b) *if (the graph of)  $M$  is contained in the domain of  $c$  then one has  $c = f_M = p_M$  on  $M$ ;*

- (c) if  $M$  is maximal  $c$ -monotone, then one has  $c \leq f_M \leq p_M$  and  $\{z \in Z : f_M(z) = c(z)\} \subset M$ ;
- (d) if  $M$  is maximal  $c$ -monotone and if its graph is contained in the domain of  $c$  then one has  $c \leq f_M \leq p_M$  and  $M = \{z \in Z : f_M(z) = c(z)\} = \{z \in Z : p_M(z) = c(z)\}$ .

PROOF: (a) The inclusions  $f_M, p_M \in \Gamma_D(Z)$  are obvious. Using [14, Proposition 3.c], we deduce from the  $c$ -monotonicity of  $M$  that for any  $(w', y') \in W \times Y, (w, y) \in W \times Y$

$$c(w', y') + \iota_M(w', y') \geq -[c(w, y) + \iota_M(w, y) - (c(w', y) + c(w, y'))].$$

Setting  $c_M := c + \iota_M$  and taking the supremum over  $(w, y) \in W \times Y$  we get

$$c_M \geq f_M.$$

Taking the biconjugates, we obtain  $p_M \geq f_M$ .

(b) When  $M$  is contained in the domain of  $c$ , for  $(w', y') \in M$  one can take  $(w, y) = (w', y')$  in the supremum giving  $f_M$ , one can simplify by  $c(w', y')$  and get  $f_M(w', y') \geq -[-c(w', y') + \iota_M(w', y')] = c(w', y')$ . Since  $c_M \geq p_M \geq f_M$ , one gets  $c(w', y') = c_M(w', y') = p_M(w', y') = f_M(w', y')$ .

(c) If  $M$  is maximal  $c$ -monotone, for any  $(w', y') \in (W \times Y) \setminus M$  one can find some  $(w, y) \in M$  such that

$$c(w', y') + c(w, y) < c(w', y) + c(w, y').$$

Then one has  $c(w', y') < +\infty, c_M(w, y) = c(w, y) < +\infty$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} c(w', y') &< c(w', y) + c(w, y') - c(w, y) = -[c_M(w, y) - (c(w', y) + c(w, y'))] \\ &\leq \sup\{-[c_M(w'', y'') - (c(w', y'') + c(w'', y'))] : (w'', y'') \in W \times Y\} \\ &\leq f_M(w', y'). \end{aligned}$$

(d) is a consequence of (b) and (c). □

A partial converse of assertion (d) of the preceding lemma can be given. When  $W$  is a reflexive Banach space,  $Y = W^*$  and  $c$  is the evaluation map given by  $c(w, y) = y(w)$ , a full converse is displayed in [2].

**LEMMA 3.** *Suppose  $W$  and  $Y$  are convex subsets of some vector spaces and  $Z := W \times Y$ . If  $g : Z \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is a convex function such that  $g \geq c$ , and if the coupling function  $c$  takes finite values and is concave in both variables, then  $M := \{z : g(z) = c(z)\}$  is  $c$ -monotone.*

PROOF: Let  $z := (w, y) \in M$ ,  $z' := (w', y') \in M$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}c(w, y) + \frac{1}{2}c(w', y') &= \frac{1}{2}g(w, y) + \frac{1}{2}g(w', y') \\ &\geq g\left(\frac{1}{2}(w, y) + \frac{1}{2}(w', y')\right) \geq c\left(\frac{1}{2}(w + w'), \frac{1}{2}(y + y')\right) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{4}c(w, y) + \frac{1}{4}c(w, y') + \frac{1}{4}c(w', y) + \frac{1}{4}c(w', y'), \end{aligned}$$

so that  $c(w, y) + c(w', y') \geq c(w', y) + c(w, y')$ :  $M$  is  $c$ -monotone.  $\square$

The preceding proof is similar to an argument due to Martínez-Legaz and Svaiter; see also [20, Proposition 3] in which its origins are described. The assumptions on  $c$  are satisfied in each of the following examples.

EXAMPLE 1.  $W$  is a normed vector space,  $Y = W^*$  and the coupling function  $c$  is given by  $c(w, y) := \langle y, w \rangle - k(w)$ , where  $k : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is convex. The case  $k(\cdot) = (1/2)r \|\cdot\|^2$  corresponds to the classical theory of augmented Lagrangians ([6, 25]); some extensions to more general situations are given in [1, 18, 23, 26].

EXAMPLE 2.  $W$  is a normed vector space,  $Y = W^*$  and the coupling function  $c$  is given by  $c(w, y) := \min(\langle y, w \rangle, 0)$ , an important case for quasiconvex programming ([11, 17, 22, 24]).

EXAMPLE 3.  $W$  is a normed vector space,  $Y = W^* \times \mathbb{R}$  and the coupling function  $c$  is given by  $c(w, (w^*, r)) := \min(\langle w^*, w \rangle, r)$ , which is also important for quasiconvex duality ([11, 16, 21]).

EXAMPLE 4.  $W$  is a normed vector space,  $Y = W^* \times L_+(W, W^*)$  where  $L_+(W, W^*)$  is the cone of positive semidefinite symmetric operators from  $W$  into  $W^*$  and  $c(w, (w^*, A)) = \langle w^*, w \rangle - 1/2\langle Aw, w \rangle$  ([5]).

The representation we have in view is given in the following statement.

**THEOREM 4.** For any  $c$ -monotone operator  $M : W \rightrightarrows Y$  there exists  $q \in \Gamma_D(W \times Y)$  such that  $q^D = q$  and  $f_M \leq q \leq p_M$ . If moreover  $M$  is maximal  $c$ -monotone and contained in the domain of  $c$ , then  $M = \{(w, y) : q(w, y) = c(w, y)\}$ .

**COROLLARY 5.** ([20]) For any reflexive Banach space  $X$  and any maximal monotone operator  $M : X \rightrightarrows X^*$  there exists a closed convex function  $q : X \times X^* \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  such that  $q^*(x^*, x) = q(x, x^*)$  for any  $(x, x^*) \in X \times X^*$  and  $f_M \leq q \leq p_M$ . If moreover  $M$  is maximal monotone then  $M = \{(x, x^*) : q(x, x^*) = \langle x^*, x \rangle\}$ .

The theorem is a consequence of Lemma 2 and of the following proposition inspired by [9] Theorem 4 and [20] Proposition 10. Let us note that here too uniqueness of  $q$  is not ensured. However, as claimed by the second assertion, the coincidence set of  $q$  and  $c$  is independent of the choice of  $q$  when  $M$  is maximal monotone; this assertion stems from the fact that this set is also the coincidence set of  $p_M$  with  $c$  and of  $p_M^D$  with  $c$ .

In the following proposition which casts the preceding statement in a more general framework,  $Z$  is any set and  $D : \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z$  is a duality satisfying the conditions:

- (A)  $((1/2)q + (1/2)q^D)^D \leq (1/2)q + (1/2)q^D$  for any function  $q \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z$  such that  $q^D \leq q$ ;
- (B) for any  $z \in Z$  one has  $\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} (r - (\iota_{\{z\}} + r)^D(z)) > 0$ ,

Condition (B) can be rephrased in terms of the generating function  $G$  of  $D$  as:

- (B') for any  $z \in Z$  one has  $\limsup_{r \rightarrow \infty} (r - G(z, z, r)) > 0$ .

It is satisfied when  $D$  is the conjugacy induced by a coupling  $c$  such that  $c(z, z)$  is finite for each  $z \in Z$ , since then  $\iota_z^D(z) = c(z, z)$  and  $(f + r)^D = f^D - r$  for any  $f \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z$  and any  $r \in \mathbb{R}$  (or since then  $r - G(z, z, r) = 2r - c(z, z)$ ). Since  $G(z, z, \cdot)$  is nonincreasing, it is also satisfied when the following condition is fulfilled:

- (B'') for any  $z \in Z$  there exists some  $r \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $G(z, z, r) < +\infty$ .

Condition (A) is also satisfied whenever  $D$  is the conjugacy induced by a coupling  $c$ . More generally, condition (A) is satisfied when the generating function  $G$  associated with the duality  $D$  is convex in its third variable. Then  $D$  satisfies the following convexity property:

- (A') for any  $f, g \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z$ ,  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}_+$  with  $s + t = 1$  one has  $(sf + tg)^D \leq sf^D + tg^D$ .

In fact, for any  $f, g \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z$ ,  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}_+$  with  $s + t = 1$  and for any  $z \in Z$  one has

$$\begin{aligned} (sf + tg)^D(z) &= \sup_{w \in Z} G(w, z, sf(w) + tg(w)) \\ &\leq s \sup_{w \in Z} G(w, z, f(w)) + t \sup_{w' \in Z} G(w', z, g(w')) \\ &\leq sf^D(z) + tg^D(z). \end{aligned}$$

**PROPOSITION 6.** *Let  $Z$  be an arbitrary set and let  $D : f \mapsto f^D$ ,  $D : \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}^Z$  be a duality satisfying conditions (A) and (B). Let  $p : Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  be such that  $p \geq p^D$ . Then there exists a function  $q : Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  such that  $q^D = q$  and  $p \geq q \geq p^D$ .*

The first part of the following proof is a simplified form due to C. Zalinescu of a proof given in a preliminary version of the paper [20]. The second part fills a gap disclosed by B.F. Svaiter while reading a draft of [20].

**PROOF:** Let  $R$  be the set of functions  $r : Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  such that  $r^{DD} = r$ ,  $p \geq r \geq r^D \geq p^D$ . This set is nonempty as  $p^{DD} \in R$ . Let us show that  $R$  is (downward) inductive for the pointwise order. Given a totally ordered family  $(r_i)_{i \in I}$ , let  $r := (\inf_{i \in I} r_i)^{DD}$ . Then  $r$  is such that  $p \geq r \geq p^D$  and  $r^D = (\inf_{i \in I} r_i)^D = \sup_{i \in I} r_i^D = \lim_{i \in I} r_i^D$ , so that  $r^D \leq \inf_{i \in I} r_i$ . Taking biconjugates, we get  $r^D \leq r$  and  $r \in R$  is a minorant of  $(r_i)_{i \in I}$ . By Zorn lemma,  $R$  has a minimal element  $q$ . Let us show that  $q^D = q$ . Let  $r = (1/2)q + (1/2)q^D \leq q$ .

Then  $r^D \geq q^D \geq p^D$ . On the other hand, by assumption (A),

$$r^D(z) \leq \frac{1}{2}q^D(z) + \frac{1}{2}q(z) = r(z).$$

Thus  $r \in R$ . Since  $r \leq q$ , we get  $r = q$ , hence  $q = q^D$  on  $\text{dom}q$ .

Suppose now that there exists some  $a \in Z \setminus \text{dom}q$  such that  $q^D(a) < +\infty$ . Let  $\alpha \geq q^D(a)$  and let  $s : Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  be defined by  $s(a) := \alpha$ ,  $s(z) := +\infty$  for  $z \neq a$ . Taking  $\alpha$  large enough, by assumption (B), we may suppose that  $s^D(a) \leq \alpha$ . Thus  $s^D \leq s$  and since  $s \geq q^D$  we also have  $s^D \leq q$ . Let  $t := (\min(q, s))^{DD}$ . Then  $t \leq q \leq p$  and  $t^D = (\min(q, s))^D = \max(q^D, s^D) \leq q$ ; we also have  $\max(q^D, s^D) \leq s$ , so that  $t^D \leq \min(q, s)$ . Taking biconjugates, we get  $t^D \leq t : t \in R$ . Since  $t \leq q$ , the minimality of  $q$  implies that  $t = q$ . Since  $t(a) \leq \alpha < +\infty = q(a)$ , we get a contradiction. Thus  $q^D = q$  everywhere.  $\square$

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Laboratoire de Mathématiques Appliquées  
CNRS ERS 2055  
Faculté des Sciences  
Université de Pau  
BP 1155, 64013 PAU Cedex  
France