

A Characterization of Maximal Monotone Operators

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February 5, 2007

Abstract

It is shown that a set-valued map $M : \mathbb{R}^q \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ is maximal monotone if and only if the following five conditions are satisfied: (i) M is monotone; (ii) M has a nearly convex domain; (iii) M is convex-valued; (iv) the recession cone of the values $M(x)$ equals the normal cone to the closure of the domain of M at x ; (v) M has a closed graph. We also show that the conditions (iii) and (v) can be replaced by Cesari's property (Q).

Mathematics Subject Classification (2000): 47H05, 58C07, 47H04.

Key words: monotone operators, semicontinuity, property (Q), maximal monotone.

1 Introduction

It is well-known (see e.g. [1, 8]) that a maximal monotone mapping $M : \mathbb{R}^q \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ has the following properties:

- (i) M is monotone;
- (ii) M has a nearly convex domain;
- (iii) The values $M(x)$ are convex;
- (iv) The recession cone of $M(x)$ equals the normal cone to $\text{cl dom } M$ at every $x \in \text{dom } M$;
- (v) The graph of M is closed.

We show that the conditions (i) to (v) are also sufficient for M being maximal monotone. Moreover it is shown that (iii) and (v) can be replaced by

- (vi) M is upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuous (everywhere).

Upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuity is also known as Cesari's property (Q). It plays an important role in Optimal Control (see e.g. [2, 3, 4] and the references in [7]). It is known (see e.g. [5]) that a maximal monotone mapping satisfies property (Q).

In [6] we introduced upper and lower limits with respect to a complete lattice (compare also [9]). In the special case of the complete lattice \mathcal{F} of closed subsets of \mathbb{R}^q with respect

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to inclusion, we obtain Painlevé-Kuratowski upper and lower limits (shortly PK-limits or \mathcal{F} -limits), but if we consider the complete lattice \mathcal{C} of closed convex subsets of \mathbb{R}^q with respect to inclusion, we obtain the upper and lower \mathcal{C} -limits. In [6] it is shown that \mathcal{C} -convergence of a sequence of closed convex sets is closely related to scalar convergence (i.e., pointwise convergence of the support functions of these sets). Some related results from [6] are used to prove the result of the present article.

2 Preliminaries

If not stated otherwise, we use the notation of the book "Variational Analysis" by Rockafellar and Wets [8]. Let us recall some concepts which are used in the following. For a convex set $D \subset \mathbb{R}^q$ and some $x \in D$, we denote by

$$N_D(x) := \{x^* \in \mathbb{R}^q \mid \forall x \in D : \langle x^*, x - \bar{x} \rangle \leq 0\}$$

the *normal cone* of D at x . For points $x \notin D$ the normal cone is defined to be the empty set. The *tangent cone* of a convex set D at $x \in D$ is the set

$$T_D(x) := \text{cl} \{w \in \mathbb{R}^q \mid \exists \lambda > 0 : x + \lambda w \in D\}.$$

It is well-known that $N_D(x)$ is the polar cone of $T_D(x)$. A set $B \subset \mathbb{R}^q$ is said to be *nearly convex* if there exists a convex set C such that $C \subset B \subset \text{cl} C$. The *convex hull* of a set $B \subset \mathbb{R}^q$ is denoted by $\text{co} B$. Furthermore, $\text{bd} B$ is the *boundary* and $\text{lin} B$ the *linear hull* of B . A set-valued mapping $M : \mathbb{R}^q \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ is called *monotone* if

$$\forall (x, x^*), (y, y^*) \in \text{gph} M : \langle x^* - x, y^* - y \rangle \geq 0.$$

A monotone mapping $M : \mathbb{R}^q \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ is said to be *maximal monotone*, if its graph $\text{gph} M$ is not contained in the graph of any other monotone mapping.

We now turn to the notion of limits and semicontinuity with respect to the complete lattice \mathcal{C} of all closed convex subsets of \mathbb{R}^q and with respect to set inclusion. We use the following notation of [8] (but omit the index ∞):

$$\mathcal{N} := \{N \subset \mathbb{N} \mid \mathbb{N} \setminus N \text{ finite}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{N}^\# := \{N \subset \mathbb{N} \mid N \text{ infinite}\}.$$

Similarly, for an infinite subset M of \mathbb{N} we set

$$\mathcal{N}(M) := \{N \subset M \mid M \setminus N \text{ finite}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{N}^\#(M) := \{N \subset M \mid N \text{ infinite}\}.$$

For a sequence (A_n) of subsets of \mathbb{R}^q the *upper* and *lower PK-limits* (in [8] called outer and inner limits) are defined, respectively, by

$$\text{Lim sup}_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n = \bigcap_{N \in \mathcal{N}} \text{cl} \bigcup_{n \in N} A_n, \quad \text{Lim inf}_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n = \bigcap_{N \in \mathcal{N}^\#} \text{cl} \bigcup_{n \in N} A_n,$$

whereas the *upper* and *lower \mathcal{C} -limits* are defined, respectively, by

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n = \bigcap_{N \in \mathcal{N}} \text{cl co} \bigcup_{n \in N} A_n, \quad \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n = \bigcap_{N \in \mathcal{N}^\#} \text{cl co} \bigcup_{n \in N} A_n.$$

Note that the sequence (A_n) has the same upper and lower \mathcal{C} -limit than the sequence $(\text{cl co } A_n)$, therefore it is not necessary to restrict ourselves to sequences of closed convex sets. In the following we only consider upper PK-limits and upper \mathcal{C} -limits. Let us recall some related results. The following characterization of the upper \mathcal{C} -limit was shown in [6, Proposition 3.6].

Proposition 2.1 *Consider a sequence (A_n) in \mathcal{C} . Then $x \in \limsup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n$ if and only if the following assertion holds:*

$$\begin{aligned} \exists (\lambda_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset [0, 1]^{q+1}, \exists (k_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset \mathbb{N}^{q+1}, \exists (z_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \subset (\mathbb{R}^q)^{q+1}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \forall j \in \{0, 1, \dots, q\} : \\ k_n^j \geq n, z_n^j \in A_{k_n^j}, x = \lim_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{i=0}^q \lambda_n^i z_n^i. \end{aligned}$$

As shown in [6, Lemma 4.3], for a sequence (A_n) of closed convex subsets of \mathbb{R}^q and a closed convex set $B \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ it holds

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} B \times A_n = B \times \limsup A_n. \quad (1)$$

By $\sigma_A : Y \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$, we denote the support function of a set $A \subset Y$. The *recession cone* (or *horizon cone*) of a convex set A is denoted by A_∞ and the *polar cone* of a cone C is denoted by C° . We write $\text{rint } A$ for the *relative interior* of a set A . The term $\text{rint}(A_\infty)^\circ$ has to be read as $\text{rint}((A_\infty)^\circ)$. For nonempty closed convex sets $A, B \subset \mathbb{R}^q$ it holds [6, Lemma 5.4]

$$A \subset B \iff \forall y \in \text{rint}(B_\infty)^\circ : \sigma_A(y) \leq \sigma_B(y). \quad (2)$$

The following result [6, Lemma 5.8] plays a key role in the proof of our result.

Lemma 2.2 *For any sequence (A_n) in \mathcal{C} with $A := \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n \neq \emptyset$ it holds*

$$\forall y \in \text{rint}(A_\infty)^\circ, \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_{A_n}(y) = \sigma_A(y).$$

We now use the \mathcal{C} -limits to introduce a corresponding semicontinuity notion (compare [2, 3, 4, 7]). Let (X, d) be a metric space. The *upper \mathcal{C} -limit* for a set-valued map $f : X \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ at $\bar{x} \in X$ is defined as

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow \bar{x}} f(x) = \bigcup_{x_n \rightarrow \bar{x}} \bigcap_{N \in \mathcal{N}} \text{cl co} \bigcup_{n \in N} f(x_n),$$

where $\bigcup_{x_n \rightarrow \bar{x}}$ stands for the union over all sequences converging to \bar{x} . As shown in [7], the upper \mathcal{C} -limit can also be expressed as

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow \bar{x}} f(x) = \bigcap_{\delta > 0} \text{cl co} \bigcup_{d(x, \bar{x}) < \delta} f(x). \quad (3)$$

We say $f : X \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ is *upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuous* at $\bar{x} \in X$ if $f(\bar{x}) \supset \limsup_{x \rightarrow \bar{x}} f(x)$. By (3) it is clear that *upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuity* is the same as Cesari's property (Q) [2, 3, 4]. If f is upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuous at every $\bar{x} \in X$ we just say f is upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuous. By (3), the upper \mathcal{C} -limit $\limsup_{x \rightarrow \bar{x}} f(x)$ is always a closed convex set. For more details about \mathcal{C} -semicontinuity the reader is referred to [7].

3 Results

Throughout this section we denote by M a set-valued mapping $M : \mathbb{R}^q \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ and we set $D := \text{cl}(\text{dom } M)$. We start with an auxiliary assertion.

Proposition 3.1 *Let M be monotone, let D be convex and $\bar{x} \in D$. Consider sequences $x_n \rightarrow \bar{x}$, $v_n \in M(x_n)$ and $\lambda_n \searrow 0$. If the sequence $\lambda_n v_n$ is bounded, then there is a subsequence of $\lambda_n v_n$ converging to some $v^* \in N_D(\bar{x})$.*

Proof. Take $(y, y^*) \in \text{gph } M$. Then $\langle y - x_n, y^* - x_n^* \rangle \geq 0$, and so $\langle y - x_n, \lambda_n y^* - \lambda_n x_n^* \rangle \geq 0$ for every n . The sequence $(\lambda_n x_n^*)$, being bounded, has a subsequence $(\lambda_n x_n^*)_{n \in P}$ (with $P \in \mathcal{N}^\#$) converging to some $v^* \in \mathbb{R}^q$. Taking the limit for $P \ni n \rightarrow \infty$ in the preceding inequality we get $\langle y - \bar{x}, v^* \rangle \leq 0$ for every $y \in \text{dom } M$. The conclusion follows. \square

With a slightly more precise notation our conditions (i) to (v) reads as follows.

- (i) M is monotone;
- (ii) There is a convex set C such that $C \subset \text{dom } M \subset \text{cl } C$;
- (iii) $M(x)$ is convex for every x ;
- (iv) $\forall x \in \text{dom } M : (M(x))_\infty = N_D(x)$;
- (v) $\text{gph } M$ is closed.

It is well-known that $\text{gph } M$ is closed if and only if M is upper PK-semicontinuous (everywhere). Moreover, M being upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuous implies that M is upper PK-semicontinuous. In [7] (based on [6]), conditions for the opposite implication are given. Although this result does not apply here, we use a similar proof to obtain the following lemma.

Lemma 3.2 *If M satisfies the conditions (i) to (v), then M is upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuous.*

Proof. A) In this first part of the proof we assume that $\text{int}(\text{dom } M) \neq \emptyset$. Let $\bar{x} \in D$ (the case $x \notin D$ is obvious) be arbitrarily chosen and let $\bar{x}^* \in \limsup_{x \rightarrow \bar{x}} M(x)$, i.e., there is a sequence $(x_n) \rightarrow \bar{x}$ such that $\bar{x}^* \in \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} M(x_n)$. By Proposition 2.1, there exist sequences $(\lambda_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in $[0, 1]^{q+1}$, $(k_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in \mathbb{N}^{q+1} , $(z_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in $(\mathbb{R}^q)^{q+1}$ such that

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \forall j \in \{0, 1, \dots, q\} : \sum_{i=0}^q \lambda_n^i = 1, k_n^j \geq n, z_n^j \in M(x_{k_n^j}), \bar{x}^* = \lim_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{i=0}^q \lambda_n^i z_n^i.$$

Without loss of generality we can assume that $\|\lambda_n^0 z_n^0\| \leq \|\lambda_n^1 z_n^1\| \leq \dots \leq \|\lambda_n^q z_n^q\|$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. There exists $N \in \mathcal{N}^\#$ such that

$$\forall j \in \{0, \dots, q\} : (\lambda_n^j) \xrightarrow{N} \lambda^j \in [0, 1].$$

Assume that the sequence $(\lambda_n^q z_n^q)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is unbounded. Hence there exists $N' \in \mathcal{N}^\#(N)$ such that $(\|\lambda_n^q z_n^q\|)_{n \in N'} \rightarrow \infty$. Consequently, there exists $N'' \in \mathcal{N}^\#(N')$ such that

$$\forall j \in \{0, \dots, q\} : (\|\lambda_n^q z_n^q\|^{-1} \lambda_n^j z_n^j) \xrightarrow{N''} y^j \in \mathbb{R}^q.$$

We have $(\lambda_n^j / \|\lambda_n^q z_n^q\|)_{n \in N''} \rightarrow 0$ for all $j \in \{0, \dots, q\}$. By Proposition 3.1 it follows that $y^j \in N_D(\bar{x})$ for all j . Setting $v_n := \sum_{i=0}^q \lambda_n^i z_n^i$ we have $v_n \rightarrow \bar{x}^*$. Passing to the limit (for $n \in N''$) in the relation

$$\|\lambda_n^q z_n^q\|^{-1} v_n = \sum_{j=0}^q \|\lambda_n^q z_n^q\|^{-1} \lambda_n^j z_n^j$$

we obtain $0 = \sum_{j=0}^q y^j$. Thus we get $y^q \in N_D(\bar{x}) \cap -N_D(\bar{x})$. Since $\text{int } D \neq \emptyset$, $N_D(\bar{x})$ is pointed. Whence the contradiction $y^q = 0$ (because $\|y^q\| = 1$). It follows that the sequences $(\lambda_n^j z_n^j)_{n \in N}$ are bounded for all j . Hence there exists $N' \in \mathcal{N}^\#(N)$ such that $(\lambda_n^j z_n^j) \xrightarrow{N'} w^j$ for all j . If $\lambda^j \neq 0$ we have $z_n^j \xrightarrow{N'} z^j := (\lambda^j)^{-1} w^j$. Since $\text{gph } M$ is closed, we obtain $z^j \in M(\bar{x})$. Otherwise, if $\lambda^j = 0$, Proposition 3.1 yields that $w^j \in N_D(\bar{x})$. As $M(\bar{x})$ and $N_D(\bar{x})$ are convex we get

$$\bar{x}^* = \lim_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{i=0}^q \lambda_n^i z_n^i = \sum_{\substack{i \in \{0, \dots, q\} \\ \lambda^i \neq 0}} \lambda^i z^i + \sum_{\substack{i \in \{0, \dots, q\} \\ \lambda^i = 0}} w^i \in M(\bar{x}) + N_D(\bar{x}) \stackrel{(4)}{=} M(\bar{x}).$$

B) It remains to prove the case where $\text{int}(\text{dom } M)$ is empty. Without loss of generality we can assume that $0 \in \text{dom } M$. Set $X_0 := \text{lin } D$. We have $X_0^\perp \subset N_D(x) = (M(x))_\infty$ and hence $M(x) + X_0^\perp = M(x)$ for all $x \in D$. We define a map $M_0 : X_0 \rightrightarrows X_0$ as follows:

$$M_0(x) := M(x) \cap X_0.$$

Letting $N_D^0(x)$ be the normal cone relative to X_0 , we have

$$(M_0(x))_\infty = (M(x) \cap X_0)_\infty = (M(x))_\infty \cap X_0 \quad \text{and} \quad N_D^0(x) = N_D(x) \cap X_0.$$

Now it is easy to see that the conditions (i) to (v) are satisfied for M_0 , and $\text{int}(\text{dom } M_0) \neq \emptyset$. Part A) yields that M_0 is upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuous. Taking into account the relation $M(x) = M_0(x) \times X_0^\perp$ and (1), we conclude that M is upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuous. \square

It follows our main result, a characterization of maximal monotone mappings.

Theorem 3.3 *A mapping $M : \mathbb{R}^q \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ is maximal monotone if and only if the conditions (i) to (v) are satisfied.*

Proof. The conditions (i) to (v) are well-known properties of maximal monotone mappings, see e.g. [8]. Therefore it remains to show that the conditions (i) to (v) imply that M is maximal monotone.

A) In the first part of the proof we assume that $\text{int } \text{dom } M \neq \emptyset$. Assume that M is not maximal monotone. Then there exists a maximal monotone mapping $M' : \mathbb{R}^q \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ such that $\text{gph } M' \supsetneq \text{gph } M$. Set $D' := \text{cl } \text{dom } M'$. Since M' is maximal monotone, D' is convex. Let $(\bar{x}, \bar{x}^*) \in \text{gph } M' \setminus \text{gph } M$. We distinguish three cases:

a) $\bar{x} \in \text{dom } M$. We have $\bar{x}^* \notin M(\bar{x})$. By (2), there exists some

$$\bar{y} \in \text{rint}((M(\bar{x}))_\infty)^\circ \stackrel{(iv)}{=} \text{rint}(N_D(\bar{x}))^\circ = \text{rint } T_D(\bar{x})$$

such that

$$\langle \bar{y}, \bar{x}^* \rangle > \sigma_{M(\bar{x})}(\bar{y}).$$

Since $\text{int } T_D(\bar{x}) = \{w \in \mathbb{R}^q \mid \exists \lambda > 0 : \bar{x} + \lambda w \in \text{int } D\}$ [8, Theorem 6.9], we have

$$\exists \lambda > 0 : \quad \bar{x} + \lambda \bar{y} \in \text{int } D = \text{int cl dom } M \subset \text{int dom } M,$$

where the latter inclusion follows from the fact that $\text{dom } M$ is nearly convex (i.e., there exists a convex set C such that $C \subset \text{dom } M \subset \text{cl } C$). Consider the sequence $(x_n) \rightarrow \bar{x}$ where

$$x_n := \begin{cases} \bar{x} + \frac{\lambda}{n} \bar{y} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ \bar{x} & \text{if } n \text{ is even} . \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Since M' is monotone, for n being odd and all $x_n^* \in M(x_n)$ we have

$$\langle \bar{y}, x_n^* - \bar{x}^* \rangle = \frac{n}{\lambda} \langle x_n - \bar{x}, x_n^* - \bar{x}^* \rangle \geq 0. \quad (5)$$

Hence, for odd $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $\sigma_{M(x_n)}(\bar{y}) \geq \langle \bar{y}, x_n^* \rangle \geq \langle \bar{y}, \bar{x}^* \rangle$. It follows that

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_{M(x_n)}(\bar{y}) \geq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_{M(x_{2n+1})}(\bar{y}) \geq \langle \bar{y}, \bar{x}^* \rangle > \sigma_{M(\bar{x})}(\bar{y}). \quad (6)$$

From Lemma 3.2 we conclude that $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} M(x_n) = M(\bar{x}) \neq \emptyset$, where the equality follows from the fact that (x_n) contains a subsequence all whose members equal \bar{x} . But, Lemma 2.2 implies

$$\forall y \in \text{rint}((M(\bar{x}))_\infty)^\circ : \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma_{M(x_n)}(y) = \sigma_{M(\bar{x})}(y),$$

which contradicts (6).

b) $\bar{x} \in D$ and $M(\bar{x}) = \emptyset$. From $\text{int } D \neq \emptyset$ we conclude that $\text{int } T_D(\bar{x})$ is nonempty. Choose an arbitrary point $\bar{y} \in \text{int } T_D(\bar{x})$ and consider the sequence $x_n := \bar{x} + \frac{\lambda}{n}$, where λ is chosen as (4), and a sequence $x_n^* \in M(x_n)$. Since $(\bar{x}, \bar{x}^*) \in \text{gph } M'$, we see as above that (5) holds. Assuming that (x_n^*) is unbounded, we obtain some $N \in \mathcal{N}^\#$ such that $x_n^* / \|x_n^*\| \xrightarrow{N} v^* \neq 0$. By Proposition 3.1 we get $v^* \in N_D(\bar{x})$. It follows that $\langle \bar{y}, v^* \rangle < 0$. But (5) yields the contradiction

$$0 \leq \frac{1}{\|x_n^*\|} \langle \bar{y}, x_n^* - \bar{x}^* \rangle \xrightarrow{N} \langle \bar{y}, v^* \rangle.$$

On the other hand, if (x_n^*) is bounded, there is some $N' \in \mathcal{N}^\#(N)$ such that $(x_n, x_n^*) \xrightarrow{N'} (\bar{x}, \bar{z}^*)$. As $\text{gph } M$ is closed, we get $\bar{x} \in \text{dom } M$, a contradiction.

c) $\bar{x} \notin D$. Let $x^0 \in \text{int } D$ and let $\hat{x} \in \text{bd } D$ such that $\hat{x} = \lambda x^0 + (1 - \lambda)\bar{x} \in \text{bd } D$ where $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ is uniquely defined. If $M(\hat{x}) \neq M'(\hat{x})$, we have the situation of either a) or b). Otherwise, $M(\hat{x})$ is nonempty and bounded as $\hat{x} \in \text{int } D'$. But $N_D(\hat{x}) = (M(\hat{x}))_\infty$ is unbounded, a contradiction.

B) We now prove the case where $\text{int}(\text{dom } M)$ is empty. We consider the map $M_0 : X_0 \rightrightarrows X_0$ as defined in the proof of Lemma 3.2. We have seen there that M_0 satisfies the conditions (i) to (v) and $\text{int}(\text{dom } M_0) \neq \emptyset$. By Part A of the proof we conclude that M_0 is maximal monotone. It follows that M is maximal monotone. Indeed, if we assume the contrary, there exists a maximal monotone extension M' of M . As M' satisfies (i) to (v), we get by $M'_0 : X_0 \rightrightarrows X_0$, $M'_0(x) := M'(x) \cap X_0$ a maximal monotone extension of M_0 (see Part B of the proof of Lemma 3.2). \square

We easily conclude the following characterization of maximal monotone mappings by upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuity (Cesari's property (Q)).

Corollary 3.4 *The mapping $M : \mathbb{R}^q \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^q$ is maximal monotone if and only the conditions (i), (ii), (iv) and*

(vi) M is upper \mathcal{C} -semicontinuous (everywhere);

are satisfied.

Proof. This follows from Lemma 3.2 and Theorem 3.3 and the fact that condition (vi) implies the conditions (iii) and (v). \square

Acknowledgments. The author wishes to express his gratitude to C. Zălinescu for the many helpful suggestions to simplify the proofs and to make this article more concise.

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