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WELL SET VARIATIONAL PROBLEMS  
AND GENERALIZED SOLUTIONS FOR MULTIVALUED OPERATOR EQUATIONS

George DINCA and Daniel MATEESCU

Let  $X$  be a real normed space and  $X^*$  its dual. For any  $x^* \in X^*$  and  $x \in X$  we shall write  $x^*(x) = \langle x^*, x \rangle$ .

If  $f: X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}$  is a functional, then

$$f^*: X^* \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}} \quad (1)$$

$$(\forall) x^* \in X^*, \quad f^*(x^*) = \sup_{x \in X} \{ \langle x^*, x \rangle - f(x) \}$$

is called the conjugate functional of  $f$ .

The conjugate functional of  $f^*$ , that is the functional

$$f^{**}: X^{**} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$$

$$(\forall) x^{**} \in X^{**}, \quad f^{**}(x^{**}) = \sup_{x^* \in X^*} \{ \langle x^{**}, x^* \rangle - f^*(x^*) \} \quad (2)$$

is called the biconjugate of  $f$ .

PROPOSITION 1 (see for example [1], p.95, proposition 1.8). The functional  $f^*$  is convex and lower semicontinuous in the weak star topology of  $X^*$ .

REMARK 1. If  $X$  is reflexive, there follows from proposition 1:  $f^*$  is convex and lower semicontinuous in the weak topology of  $X^*$  and  $f^{**}$  is convex and lower semicontinuous in the weak topology of  $X$ .

DEFINITION 1. A functional  $f: X \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty]$  is said to be proper if

$$\text{dom } f = \{x \in X / f(x) < +\infty\} \neq \emptyset.$$

PROPOSITION 2 (see for example [1], p.89, proposition 1.5). Let  $X$  be a real normed space. A proper convex functional  $f: X \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty]$  is lower semicontinuous on  $X$  if and only if it is lower semicontinuous with respect to the weak topology of  $X$ .

From proposition 2 and remark 1 there follows:

PROPOSITION 3. If  $X$  is reflexive and  $f^*$  is proper then  $f^*$  is lower semicontinuous (with respects to the strong topology of  $X^*$ ).

PROPOSITION 4 (see for example [1], p.97, corollary 1.4). A lower semicontinuous convex functional is proper if and only if its conjugate is proper.

PROPOSITION 5 (see for example [1], p.103, proposition 2.1). Let  $f: X \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty]$  be a convex, proper and lower semicontinuous functional. Then:

$$x^* \in \partial f(x) \iff \chi(x) \in \partial f^*(x^*) \quad (3)$$

$\chi$  being the embedding injection from  $X$  to  $X^{**}$ . If  $X$  is reflexive then identifying  $X$  with  $X^{**}$ , (3) can be written



$$x^* \in \partial f(x) \Leftrightarrow x \in \partial f^*(x^*) \quad (3)$$

Finally, let us observe that from (1) and (2) there follows

$$f(x) + f^*(x^*) \geq \langle x^*, x \rangle \text{ (the Young inequality)}$$

PROPOSITION 6 (see for example [1], p.99, corollary 1.5). If  $f$  is convex then

$$f^{**} = \text{clf}, \quad (\text{clf})(x) = \lim_{y \rightarrow x} \inf f(y) = \sup_{y \in V(x)} \inf_{y \in V} f(y) \quad (4)$$

DEFINITION 2. A functional  $f: X \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty]$  is said to be uniformly convex if there is a constant  $c > 0$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\lambda, u_2, u_1} f &= \lambda f(u_2) + (1-\lambda)f(u_1) - \\ &- f(\lambda u_2 + (1-\lambda)u_1) \geq c \lambda (1-\lambda) \|u_2 - u_1\|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

for any  $u_1, u_2 \in \text{dom } f$  and  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ .

THEOREM 1. If  $f$  is uniformly convex and satisfies the condition  $\lim_{y \rightarrow x} \inf f(y) > -\infty, (\forall) x \in X$ , then  $f^{**}$  is uniformly convex.

To prove this we first give:

LEMA 1. If  $f: X \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty]$  satisfies the condition  $\lim_{y \rightarrow x} \inf f(y) > -\infty$  then: for any  $u_0 \in \text{dom } f^{**}$  there is  $(u_n) \subset \text{dom } f$  such that  $u_n \rightarrow u_0$  and  $f(u_n) \rightarrow f^{**}(u_0)$ .



Proof. Let

$$d = f^{**}(u_0) = \sup_{u \in \mathcal{V}(u_0)} \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}} f(u) \in \mathbb{R} \quad (6)$$

Consider the sequence of open balls  $B_k$  such that

$$B_k \supset B_{k+1}, \text{ diam } B_k \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty, u_0 \in B_k, (\forall) k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

(for instance  $B_k = B(u_0, \frac{1}{k})$ ).

Let  $n$  be a natural number. From (6) there follows:

$$(3) \quad U_n \in \mathcal{W}(u_0) \text{ such that } d - \frac{1}{n} < \inf_{u \in U_n} f(u) \quad (7)$$

Owing to the way in which the sequence of open balls  $B_k$  has been chosen there exists  $k_n$  such that

$$B_{k_n} \subset U_n \text{ and } B_i \subset B_{k_n}, (\forall) i \geq k_n \quad (8)$$

From (7) and (8) there follows

$$d - \frac{1}{n} < \inf_{u \in B_{k_n}} f(u)$$

and, all the more

$$d - \frac{1}{n} < f(u), (\forall) u \in B_{k_n} \quad (9)$$

On the other hand, because  $B_{k_n} \in \mathcal{W}(u_0)$ , from (6) there follows

$$d + \frac{1}{n} > \inf_{u \in B_{k_n}} f(u)$$

Consequently, there will be  $u_{k_n} \in B_{k_n}$  such that

$$f(u_{k_n}) < d + \frac{1}{n} \quad (10)$$

Therefore, for any  $n$  there is  $U_n \in \mathcal{W}(u_0)$ , a natural number  $k_n$  and  $u_{k_n} \in B_{k_n}$  such that

$$\left. \begin{aligned} B_i \subset B_{k_n} \subset U_n, \quad (\forall) \quad i \geq k_n \\ d - \frac{1}{n} < f(u_{k_n}) < d + \frac{1}{n} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (11)$$

(By virtue of (8) we can always assume  $k_n < k_{n+1}$  and as  $d(u_{k_n}, u_0) \leq \text{diam } B_{k_n} \rightarrow 0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty$ , we shall have  $u_{k_n} \rightarrow u_0, \quad n \rightarrow \infty$ . From (11) we can assert  $f(u_{k_n}) \rightarrow d, \quad n \rightarrow \infty$  and the lemma is proved. We can now pass to the proof of theorem 1. Let  $u, v \in \text{dom } f^{**}$ . As  $f^{**}$  is convex we have

$$\lambda u + (1-\lambda) v \in \text{dom } f^{**}, \quad (\forall) \quad \lambda \in (0, 1).$$

Let  $(u_n) \subset \text{dom } f, \quad (v_n) \subset \text{dom } f$  such that

$$u_n \rightarrow u, \quad f(u_n) \rightarrow f^{**}(u);$$

$$v_n \rightarrow v, \quad f(v_n) \rightarrow f^{**}(v).$$

Obviously,  $\lambda u_n + (1-\lambda)v_n \rightarrow \lambda u + (1-\lambda)v$  and, from this,



$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(\lambda u_n + (1-\lambda)v_n) &\geq \liminf_{z \rightarrow \lambda u + (1-\lambda)v} f(z) = \\ &= (cl f)(\lambda u + (1-\lambda)v) = f^{**}(\lambda u + (1-\lambda)v) \end{aligned}$$

Using the uniform convexity of  $f$  we can assert:

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda f(u_n) + (1-\lambda)f(v_n) - c\lambda(1-\lambda)\|u_n - v_n\|^2 &\geq \\ &\geq f(\lambda u_n + (1-\lambda)v_n) \end{aligned}$$

and from where, passing to the inferior limit with  $n \rightarrow \infty$  we obtain

$$\lambda f^{**}(u) + (1-\lambda)f^{**}(v) - c\lambda(1-\lambda)\|u - v\|^2 \geq f^{**}(\lambda u + (1-\lambda)v)$$

which means the uniform convexity of  $f^{**}$ .

## 2. well set variational problem

In what follows,  $X$  designates a real reflexive Banach space.

Let  $\mathcal{D}(P) \subset X$  a dense subspace of  $X$  and  $P: \mathcal{D}(P) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(X^*)$  a mapping from  $\mathcal{D}(P)$  into the set of  $X^*$ 's subsets.

Let us consider yet a functional  $G: X \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty]$  so that  $\text{dom } G = \mathcal{D}(P)$  and finally let  $f^* \in X^*$  and

$$\mathcal{F}_{f^*}: X \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty], \quad \mathcal{F}_{f^*}(v) = G(v) - \langle f^*, v \rangle, \quad (\forall) v \in X. \quad (12)$$



In [2] we have introduced the concept of well set variational problem defined by the pair  $(P, \mathcal{F}_{f^*})$ .

DEFINITION 3. We say that the pair  $(P, \mathcal{F}_{f^*})$  defines a well set variational problem if for any  $f^* \in X^*$ ,

$$Pu \ni f^* \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{F}_{f^*}(u) = \min_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \mathcal{F}_{f^*}(v)$$

The first results connected with this concept were given in [2]. A detailed study with interesting consequences was realized in [3]. Here we mention the following

PROPOSITION 7 ([1]). The pair  $(P, \mathcal{F}_{f^*})$  defined a well set variational problem if and only if  $G$  is subdifferentiable and  $Pu = \partial G(u)$ ,  $(\forall) u \in \mathcal{D}(P)$  where  $\partial G(u)$  designates the subgradient of  $G$  at  $u$ .

we further assume that pair  $(P, \mathcal{F}_{f^*})$  defines a well set variational problem and that for any  $f^* \in X^*$  the following conditions are satisfied:

- i)  $\mathcal{F}_{f^*}$  is bounded from below;
- ii) any minimizing sequence for  $\mathcal{F}_{f^*}$  has a limit in  $X$ ;
- iii) all the minimizing sequences have the same limit.

DEFINITION 4 ([5]). We shall called generalized solution of equation  $Pu \ni f^*$  (in the sense of Sobolev) and write it as  $u_{s, f^*}$ , the limit in  $X$  of any minimizing sequence for the functional  $\mathcal{F}_{f^*}$ .

The name of "generalized solution" is justified by

PROPOSITION 8. 1) The classical solution of the equation  $Pu \ni f^*$  (if it exists) is a generalized solution.

2) If the generalized solution  $u_{s,f*} \in \mathcal{D}(P)$  then it is a classical one.

Proof. 1) Indeed, if  $u_c \in \mathcal{D}(P)$  satisfies  $Pu_c \ni f^*$  then  $\mathcal{F}_{f*}(u_c) = \min_{u \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \mathcal{F}_{f*}(u)$  and it is enough to observe that in this case, a minimizing sequence for  $\mathcal{F}_{f*}$  is the constant sequence  $u_n = u_c, (\forall) n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

2) We assume that  $u_{s,f*} \in \mathcal{D}(P)$ . Let  $(u_n) \subset \mathcal{D}(P)$  be a minimizing sequence of  $\mathcal{F}_{f*}$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_{f*}(u_n) &\rightarrow \inf_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \mathcal{F}_{f*}(v), \\ u_n &\rightarrow u_{s,f*} \in \mathcal{D}(P) \text{ (see definition 4)} \\ Pu_{s,f*} &= \partial G(u_{s,f*}) \neq \emptyset. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $g^* \in \partial G(u_{s,f*})$ . Then:

$$G(u_n) - G(u_{s,f*}) \geq \langle g^*, u_n - u_{s,f*} \rangle$$

or

$$\mathcal{F}_{f*}(u_n) - [G(u_{s,f*}) - f^*, u_n] \geq \langle g^*, u_n - u_{s,f*} \rangle$$

Passing to the limit with  $n \rightarrow \infty$  then follows

$$\inf_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \mathcal{F}_{f*}(v) - \mathcal{F}_{f*}(u_{s,f*}) \geq 0$$

that is  $\mathcal{F}_{f*}(u_{s,f*}) = \inf_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \mathcal{F}_{f*}(v)$  from where, as the pair  $(P, \mathcal{F}_{f*})$  defines a well posed variational problem we can assert  $Pu_{s,f*} \ni f^*$ .

REMARK 2. Given the uniqueness of the generalized solution, proposition 8 intrinsically contains a proof of the uniqueness of the classical solution (if it exists).



### 3. Extension theorems. Variational characterization of the generalized solution

In what follows we shall offer a variational characterization of the generalized solution for the equation  $Pu \ni f^*$ .

This characterization is actually contained in the theorem 2.

Let  $G^*$  be the conjugate of  $G$ . Then:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} G^* \text{ is proper; } \operatorname{dom} G^* &= X^* \\ (\forall) f^* \in X^*, G^*(f^*) &= -\inf_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \mathcal{F}_{f^*}(v) \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (13)$$

Indeed,  $(\forall) f^* \in X^*$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} G^*(f^*) &= \sup_{v \in X} \{ \langle f^*, v \rangle - G(v) \} = \sup_{v \in \operatorname{dom} G} \{ \langle f^*, v \rangle - G(v) \} = \\ &= \sup_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} (-\mathcal{F}_{f^*}(v)) = -\inf_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \mathcal{F}_{f^*}(v) \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

Taking into account (13) as well as proposition 3 we can assert that  $G^*$  is convex, proper and lower semicontinuous. From proposition 4 it now follows that  $G^{**}$  is proper, convex and lower semicontinuous on  $X^{**} = X$ .

Finally, from proposition 5 it follows that

$$u \in \partial G^*(f^*) \iff f^* \in \partial G^{**}(u) \quad (14)$$



THEOREM 2. We have

$$\partial G^{**}(u_{s, f^*}) \ni f^*, \quad (\forall) f^* \in X^* \quad (15)$$

Proof. To prove (14) it means to show that (see (14))

$$\partial G^*(f^*) \ni u_{s, f^*}$$

what is

$$(\forall) g^* \in X^*, \quad G^*(g^*) - G^*(f^*) \geq \langle u_{s, f^*}, g^* - f^* \rangle \quad (16)$$

Let  $(u_n) \subset \mathcal{D}(P) = \text{dom } G$  be a minimizing sequence for  $\mathcal{F}_{f^*}$ . Then

$$u_n \rightarrow u_{s, f^*},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{f^*}(u_n) \rightarrow \inf_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \mathcal{F}_{f^*}(v) = -G^*(f^*) \quad (\text{see (13)})$$

According to the Young inequality, we have that

$$G^*(g^*) + G(u_n) \geq \langle g^*, u_n \rangle$$

which can also be written as

$$G^*(g^*) + \mathcal{F}_{f^*}(u_n) \geq \langle u_n, g^* - f^* \rangle \quad (17)$$

Passing to the limit in (17) with  $n \rightarrow \infty$  follows (16).

We shall now show that, indeed, theorem 2 intrinsically contains a variational characterization of the generalized solution of the equation  $Pu \ni f^*$ .

Actually, let us consider, for each  $f^* \in X^*$  the functional

$$(\forall) v \in X (= X^{**}), \quad \tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{f^*}(v) = G^{**}(v) - \langle v, f^* \rangle \quad (18)$$

Let us also consider  $\tilde{P} = \partial G^{**}$ .

According to proposition 7, the variational problem for the pair  $(P, \tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{f^*})$  is well set.

Then, from proposition 2 it follows that

$$\partial G^{**}(u) = \tilde{P}u \ni f^* \Leftrightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{f^*}(u) = \min_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{f^*}(v) \quad (19)$$

In conclusion: if  $u_{s,f^*}$  is the generalized solution of the equation  $Pu \ni f^*$  then  $u_{s,f^*}$  is a classical solution of the equation  $\partial G^{**}(u_{s,f^*}) \ni f^*$  and, according to (19) we have

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{f^*}(u_{s,f^*}) = \min_{v \in \mathcal{D}(P)} \tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{f^*}(v),$$

this last equality being the variational characterization we have announced.

Finally, to complete the significance of (14) let us observe that  $\partial G^{**}$  is an extension of  $P$ .

Indeed, let  $u \in \mathcal{D}(P)$  and  $f^* \in Pu$ . Then, according to proposition 8,  $u = u_{s,f^*}$  and according to theorem 2,  $f^* \in \partial G^{**}(u)$ . Therefore  $Pu \subset \partial G^{**}(u)$ ,  $(\forall) u \in \mathcal{D}(P)$ .



Coupling these remarks with theorem 2 we get:

THEOREM 3. We assume that the pair  $(P, \mathcal{F}_{f^*})$  determines a well set variational problem,  $\mathcal{F}_{f^*}$  being defined by

$$\mathcal{F}_{f^*}(v) = G(v) - \langle f^*, v \rangle$$

where  $X$  is a real reflexive Banach space,  $\mathcal{D}(P) \subset X$  is a dense subspace,  $P: \mathcal{D}(P) \rightarrow \mathcal{I}(X^*)$ ,  $G: X \rightarrow (-\infty, +\infty]$  with  $\text{dom } G = \mathcal{D}(P)$  and  $f^* \in X^*$ .

We also assume that  $\mathcal{F}_{f^*}$  have all the properties

(i)-(iii) for any  $f^* \in X^*$ . Then:

1)  $\tilde{P} = \partial G^{**}$  is an extension of  $P$ ;

2) the generalized solution of the equation  $\tilde{P}u \ni f^*$  is a classical solution of the equation  $Pu \ni f^*$ ;

3) the generalized solution of the equation  $Pu \ni f^*$  is a minimizer on  $\mathcal{D}(P)$  of the functional  $(v) \forall v \in X (= X^{**})$ ,  
 $\mathcal{F}_{f^*}(v) = G^{**}(v) - \langle v, f^* \rangle$ .

THEOREM 4. If, in addition to the hypotheses of theorem 3,  $G$  is uniformly convex then, for any  $f^* \in X^*$ ,  $\partial G^{**}(u) \ni f^*$  has a unique solution which is a uniformly continuous function of  $f^*$ .

(In other words, under the hypotheses of theorem 4, the equation  $\tilde{P}u \ni f^*$  has a unique solution which is precisely the generalized solution of the equation  $Pu \ni f^*$  and this generalized solution is a uniform continuous function of  $f^*$ ).

Proof. The existence of the solution is given by point 2 of theorem 3.



To obtain the uniqueness of the solution let us notice that, because  $G$  is uniformly convex,  $G^{**}$  is uniformly convex too (theorem 1).

Because  $G^{**}$  is uniformly convex and lower semicontinuous it follows that  $\partial G^{***}$  is single valued and uniformly continuous (see [4], theorem 2.2). But (see [1], p.95, proposition 1.8)  $G^{***} = (G^*)^{**} = G^*$ . Consequently,  $\partial G^{***} = \partial G^*$  is single valued and uniformly continuous. Such being the case, from (3)' (written for  $G^*$  and  $G^{**}$ ) we obtain:

$$\partial G^*(f^*) = u \iff f^* \in \partial G^{**}(u) \quad (20)$$

From (20) there follows the uniqueness of the solution of the equation  $\partial G^{**}(u) \ni f^*$ .

Indeed if  $f^* \in \partial G^{**}(u_1)$  and  $f^* \in \partial G^{**}(u_2)$  then from (20) it follows that

$$u_1 = u_2 = G^*(f^*).$$

The uniformly continuous dependence of the solution on the right member also follows from (20) considering that  $\partial G^*$  is single valued and uniformly continuous.

#### 4. APPLICATIONS

We consider a well set variational problem for the pair  $(P, \mathcal{F}_{f^*})$  where  $\mathcal{F}_{f^*}(u) = G(u) - \langle f^*, u \rangle$  and  $G(u) = \phi(u) + \beta(u)$ ,  $(\forall) u \in \text{dom } G$ .

The variational problem being well set we have (proposition 1).

$$Pu = \partial G(u) = \partial(\phi + \beta)(u)$$

so that the equation  $Pu \ni f^*$  becomes

$$\partial(\phi + \beta)(u) \ni f^* \quad (21)$$

We assume that  $G$  satisfies the conditions of theorem 4. Then the generalized solution of the equation (21) is the unique classical solution of the equation

$$\partial(\phi + \beta)^{**}(u) \ni f^* \quad (22)$$

and is a uniformly continuous function of  $f^*$ .

PROPOSITION 9. If  $\beta$  is continuous convex with  $\text{dom } \beta = X$  and  $\phi$  is convex and proper then

$$\partial(\phi + \beta) = \partial\phi + \partial\beta \quad (23)$$

$$\partial(\phi + \beta)^{**} = \partial\phi^{**} + \partial\beta \quad (24)$$

Proof. The equality (23) immediately follows from a classical result.

To prove (24) we first show that

$$(\phi + \beta)^{**} = \phi^{**} + \beta \quad (25)$$



that is

$$\text{dom } (\phi^{**} + \beta) = \text{dom } (\phi + \beta)^{**} \quad (26)$$

and for any  $u_0 \in \text{dom } (\phi^{**} + \beta) = \text{dom } (\phi + \beta)^{**}$  we have

$$(\phi^{**} + \beta)(u_0) = (\phi + \beta)^{**}(u_0) \quad (27)$$

To prove (26) let  $u_0 \in \text{dom } (\phi^{**} + \beta) = \text{dom } \phi^{**}$ . Then (see lemma 1):

$$\begin{aligned} (\exists) (u_n) \subset \text{dom } \phi \text{ such that } u_n \rightarrow u_0 \text{ and} \\ \phi(u_n) \rightarrow \phi^{**}(u_0). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^{**}(u_0) + \beta(u_0) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(u_n) + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \beta(u_n) = \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\phi(u_n) + \beta(u_n)) \geq \liminf_{u \rightarrow u_0} (\phi(u) + \beta(u)) = \\ &= (\phi + \beta)^{**}(u_0) \end{aligned}$$

therefore  $u_0 \in \text{dom } (\phi + \beta)^{**}$ .

In conclusion,

$$\text{dom } (\phi^{**} + \beta) \subset \text{dom } (\phi + \beta)^{**}$$

and

$$(\forall) u \in \text{dom } (\phi^{**} + \beta) \Rightarrow \phi^{**}(u) + \beta(u) \geq (\phi + \beta)^{**}(u) \quad (28)$$

Let now  $u_0 \in \text{dom } (\phi + \beta)^{**}$ . Like before,

$$(3) \quad (u_n) \subset \text{dom } (\phi + \beta) \text{ so that } u_n \rightarrow u_0 \text{ and} \\ (\phi + \beta)(u_n) \rightarrow (\phi + \beta)^{**}(u_0).$$

Taking into account that  $\beta$  is continuous it follows that

$$\phi(u_n) \rightarrow (\phi + \beta)^{**}(u_0) - \beta(u_0)$$

therefore

$$(\phi + \beta)^{**}(u_0) - \beta(u_0) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi(u_n) \geq \liminf_{u \rightarrow u_0} \phi(u) = \\ = \phi^{**}(u_0)$$

so that  $u_0 \in \text{dom } (\phi^{**} + \beta)$ .

As  $u_0$  was arbitrarily chosen, it follows that

$$\text{dom } (\phi + \beta)^{**} \subset \text{dom } (\phi^{**} + \beta)$$

$$\text{and, } (\forall) u \in \text{dom } (\phi + \beta)^{**} \Rightarrow (\phi + \beta)^{**}(u) \geq \phi^{**}(u) + \beta(u) \quad (29)$$

From (28) and (29) the result is (27).

On the basis of (27) we have

$$\partial(\phi + \beta)^{**} = \partial(\phi^{**} + \beta) = \partial\phi^{**} + \partial\beta$$

the last equality being justified by the fact that  $\phi$  and  $\beta$  are convex, proper,  $\beta$  is continuous and  $\text{int}(\text{dom } \beta) \cap \text{dom } \phi^{**} = X \cap \text{dom } \phi^{**} = \text{dom } \phi^{**} = \emptyset$ .



The fact that, under the hypotheses of proposition 9 the equation (22) can be written as  $(\partial\phi^{**} + \partial\beta)(u) \ni f^*$  is useful in obtaining some results concerning the regularity of the generalized solution.

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