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## **VECTOR VALUED ORLICZ SPACES GENERALIZED *N*-FUNCTIONS. I**

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# VECTOR VALUED ORLICZ SPACES GENERALIZED N-FUNCTIONS, I.

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The theory of Orlicz spaces generated by  $N$ -functions of a real variable is well known. On the other hand, as was pointed out by Wang, this same theory generated by  $N$ -functions of more than one real variable has not been discussed in the literature. The purpose of this paper is to develop and study such a class of generalized  $N$ -functions (called  $GN$ -functions) which are a natural generalization of the functions studied by Wang and the variable  $N$ -functions by Portnov. In second part of this study we will utilize  $GN$ -functions to define vector-valued Orlicz spaces and examine the resulting theory.

This paper is divided into five sections. In § 2, we define and examine some basic properties of  $GN$ -functions. A generalized delta condition is introduced and characterized in § 3. In § 4 and § 5 we present, respectively, the theory of an integral mean for  $GN$ -functions and the concept of a conjugate  $GN$ -function. A complete bibliography on Orlicz spaces,  $N$ -functions, and related material can be found in [4, 8]. The study of variable  $N$ -functions by Portnov can be found in [6, 7] and the study of nondecreasing  $N$ -functions by Wang in [9].

2.  $GN$ -functions. In what follows  $T$  will denote a space of points with  $\sigma$ -finite measure and  $E^n$   $n$  dimensional Euclidean space.

DEFINITION 2.1. Let  $M(t, x)$  be a real valued nonnegative function defined on  $T \times E^n$  such that

(i)  $M(t, x) = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$  for all  $t \in T, x \in E^n$ ,  
(ii)  $M(t, x)$  is a continuous convex function of  $x$  for each  $t$  and a measurable function of  $t$  for each  $x$ ,

(iii) For each  $t \in T, \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{M(t, x)}{|x|} = \infty$ , and

(iv) There is a constant  $d \geq 0$  such that

(\*)  $\inf_t \inf_{c \geq d} k(t, c) > 0$

where

$$k(t, c) = \frac{\underline{M}(t, c)}{\bar{M}(t, c)}, \quad \bar{M}(t, c) = \sup_{|x|=c} M(t, x), \\ \underline{M}(t, c) = \inf_{|x|=c} M(t, x)$$

and if  $d > 0$ , then  $\tilde{M}(t, d)$  is an integrable function of  $t$ . We call a function satisfying properties (i)—(iv) a *generalized  $N$ -function* or a *GN-function*.

GN-functions are coordinate independent and are not necessarily symmetric. Therefore, such functions as  $M(t, x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + (x_1 - x_2)^2$  which are not nondecreasing (as defined in [9]) are allowed in the class of GN-functions. The next theorem illustrates this point.

**THEOREM 2.1.** *If  $M(t, x)$  is a GN-function and  $A$  is an orthogonal linear transformation defined on  $E^n$  with range in  $E^n$ , then  $\tilde{M}(t, x) = M(t, Ax)$  is a GN-function.*

Properties (i)—(iv) when applied to  $\tilde{M}(t, x)$  follow immediately from the same properties for  $M(t, x)$  (see [8, Th. 8.1]).

The next theorem characterizes a part of property (iv) in Definition 2.1 and provides a means of comparing function values at different points for GN-functions when  $|x|$  is large.

**THEOREM 2.2.** *A necessary and sufficient condition that (\*) hold is that if  $|x| \leq |y|$ , then there exist constants  $K \geq 1$  and  $d \geq 0$  such that  $M(t, x) \leq KM(t, y)$  for each  $t \in T$  and  $|x| \geq d$ .*

If (\*) is true, then there exists a constant  $d \geq 0$  such that  $l(t) = \inf_{c \geq d} k(t, c) > 0$  for each  $t$  in  $T$ . By definition of  $k(t, c)$  this means

$$(2.2.1) \quad M(t, y) \geq \underline{M}(t, |y|) \geq l(t)\bar{M}(t, |y|)$$

for any  $y$  such that  $|y| = c \geq d$ . On the other hand, if  $d \leq |x| \leq |y|$ , then the convexity of  $M(t, x)$  and  $M(t, 0) = 0$  yields

$$(2.2.2) \quad \bar{M}(t, |y|) \geq \sup_{|z|=|x|} M(t, z).$$

Combining (2.2.1) and (2.2.2) we arrive at

$$M(t, y) \geq l(t) \sup_{|z|=|x|} M(t, z) \geq K^{-1}M(t, x)$$

whenever  $d \leq |x| \leq |y|$  where  $K^{-1} = \inf_t l(t) > 0$

The converse follows easily from the condition in the theorem.

It is interesting to note that if  $M(t, x)$  is a GN-function, then  $2\hat{M}(t, x) = M(t, x) + \tilde{M}(t, x)$  is also a GN-function where  $\tilde{M}(t, x)$  is defined as in Theorem 2.1. This means we can construct a symmetric (in  $x$ ) GN-function from one which does not possess this property. For, if  $\tilde{M}(t, x) = M(t, -x)$ , then  $\hat{M}(t, x)$  is clearly symmetric in  $x$ .

Property (iv) of Definition 2.1 provides the condition which allows

a natural generalization from  $N$ -functions of a real variable to those of several real variables. Let us observe that the function  $\bar{M}(t, c)$  is also a  $GN$ -function of a real nonnegative variable  $c$ . On the other hand,  $M(t, c)$  need not even be convex in  $c$ .

Since  $\underline{M}(t, c) \leq M(t, x) \leq \bar{M}(t, c)$  for each  $x$  such that  $|x| = c$ , we would like to find a  $GN$ -function which bounds  $\underline{M}(t, c)$  from below for all  $c$ . If  $d = 0$  in Theorem 2.2, then  $K^{-1}\bar{M}(t, c)$  would do.

One might accomplish the construction of such a function by taking the supremum of a class of convex functions bounding  $\underline{M}(t, c)$  from below. This function would be convex. However, this class may be empty. The next theorem shows that this is not the case whenever  $M(t, x)$  is a  $GN$ -function. The construction employed can be applied to more general settings than exist here.

**THEOREM 2.3.** *If  $M(t, x)$  is a  $GN$ -function and  $\underline{M}(t, c)$  is defined as above, then there exists a  $GN$ -function  $R(t, c)$  such that  $R(t, c) \leq \underline{M}(t, c)$  for all  $c \geq 0$ .*

Since  $\underline{M}(t, c)$  satisfies property (iii) of Definition 2.1, given any  $d > 0$  there is a  $c_0 > 0$  such that  $\underline{M}(t, c) \geq dc$  whenever  $c \geq c_0$ . Let us define the function

$$P(t, c) = \begin{cases} \sup_{\substack{0 < w \leq 1 \\ cw \geq c_0}} \frac{\underline{M}(t, cw)}{w} & \text{if } c \geq c_0 \\ \underline{M}(t, c) & \text{if } 0 \leq c < c_0. \end{cases}$$

Then it is easy to show that (i)  $P(t, ac) \leq aP(t, c)$  for  $0 \leq a \leq 1$ , (ii)  $\{P(t, c)/c\}$  is a nondecreasing function of  $c$ , and (iii)  $P(t, c)$  is finite for each  $c$ . We now obtain the desired function  $R(t, c)$  by defining

$$R(t, c) = \int_0^c Q(t, s) ds$$

where

$$Q(t, c) = \begin{cases} \frac{P(t, c)}{c} & \text{if } c \geq c_0 \\ \frac{cP(t, c_0)}{c_0^2} & \text{if } 0 \leq c < c_0. \end{cases}$$

We have immediately that

$$R(t, c) \leq cQ(t, c) = P(t, c) \leq \underline{M}(t, c).$$

It is not difficult to show that  $R(t, c)$  is also a  $GN$ -function.

**3. Delta condition.** In this section a generalized growth condition is defined for *GN*-functions. This growth or delta condition generalizes that definition usually given for a real variable *N*-function (e.g., see [4, 6, 7]).

**DEFINITION 3.1.** We say a *GN*-function  $M(t, x)$  satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition if there exist a constant  $K \geq 2$  and a non-negative measurable function  $\delta(t)$  such that the function  $\bar{M}(t, 2\delta(t))$  is integrable over the domain  $T$  and such that for almost all  $t$  in  $T$  we have

$$(**) \quad M(t, 2x) \leq KM(t, x)$$

for all  $x$  satisfying  $|x| \geq \delta(t)$ .

We say a *GN*-function satisfies a  $\Delta_\delta$ -condition if it satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition with  $\delta(t) = 0$  for almost all  $t$  in  $T$ .

In Definition 3.1 we could have used any constant  $l > 1$  in place of the scalar 2 in (\*\*). This is the basis of the next theorem which gives an equivalent definition to that employed in 3.1.

**THEOREM 3.1.** A *GN*-function  $M(t, x)$  satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition if and only if given any  $l > 1$  there exists a constant  $K_l \geq 2$  and a nonnegative measurable function  $\delta(t)$  such that  $\bar{M}(t, 2\delta(t))$  is integrable over  $T$  and such that for almost all  $t$  in  $T$  we have

$$(3.1.1) \quad M(t, lx) \leq K_l M(t, x)$$

whenever  $|x| \geq \delta(t)$ .

Suppose  $M(t, x)$  satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition and  $l > 1$ . We choose  $m$  so large that  $2^m \geq l$ . Then by convexity and our assumption of a  $\Delta$ -condition there is a  $K \geq 2$  and measurable  $\delta(t) \geq 0$  such that for almost all  $t$  in  $T$

$$M(t, lx) \leq M(t, 2^m x) \leq K^m M(t, x)$$

whenever  $|x| \geq \delta(t)$ . Therefore (3.1.1) holds with  $K_l = K^m$ . The converse follows as easily.

Whenever we deal with convex functions of several variables the concept of a one sided directional derivative plays an important role. The next result utilizes such a function, so we define it now.

**DEFINITION 3.2.** For each  $t$  in  $T$  the *directional derivative* of a *GN*-function  $M(t, x)$  in a direction  $y$  is defined by

$$M'(t, x; y) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{M(t, x + hy) - M(t, x)}{h}.$$

The important properties of directional derivatives of convex functions of several variables which will be needed can be found in [3, 8]. Using the directional derivative defined above, the next result characterizes the delta condition and generalizes similar results given in [4, 6, 7].

**THEOREM 3.2.** *A GN-function  $M(t, x)$  satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition if and only if there exists a nonnegative measurable function  $\delta(t)$  such that  $\bar{M}(t, 2\delta(t))$  is integrable over  $T$  and a constant  $c > 1$  such that for almost all  $t$  in  $T$*

$$(3.2.1) \quad \frac{M'(t, x; x)}{M(t, x)} < c$$

whenever  $|x| \geq \delta(t)$ . Moreover, if (3.2.1) holds, then for almost all  $t$  in  $T$  and for each  $x$  such that  $|x| \geq \delta(t)$  we have

$$(3.2.2) \quad M(t, px) < M(t, x)p^c$$

for all  $p > 1$ .

Suppose  $M(t, x)$  satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition. Then, by convexity (see, [8, Th. 5.3]), we must have for some  $K \geq 2$  and  $\delta(t) \geq 0$

$$KM(t, x) \geq M(t, 2x) \geq M(t, x) + M'(t, x; x)$$

whenever  $|x| \geq \delta(t)$ . This means (3.2.1) holds with  $c = K$ .

Conversely, suppose (3.2.1) holds. We choose  $s$  such that  $s \geq 1$ . Then, by assumption, there is a constant  $c > 1$  and  $\delta(t) > 0$  such that for almost all  $t$  in  $T$

$$(3.2.3) \quad \frac{M'(t, sx; sx)}{M(t, sx)} > c$$

whenever  $|x| \geq \delta(t)$ . On the other hand, we have

$$(3.2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{ds} M(t, sx) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{M(t, sx + hx) - M(t, sx)}{h} \\ &= M'(t, sx; x). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $M'(t, sx; sx) = sM'(t, sx; x)$  for all  $s \geq 0$ , we obtain from (3.2.3) using (3.2.4) that

$$(3.2.5) \quad \log M(t, sx) \Big|_{s=1}^{s=2} = \int_1^2 \frac{M'(t, sx; x)}{M(t, sx)} ds < c \int_1^2 \frac{ds}{s} = \log 2^c.$$

Therefore, upon simplifying the last inequality, we arrive at

$$M(t, 2x) < 2^c M(t, x)$$

whenever  $|x| \geq \delta(t)$  proving the first part of the theorem.

The last inequality (3.2.2) in the theorem is obtained from (3.2.5) whenever we integrate over  $1 \leq s \leq p, p > 1$ .

Inequality (3.2.2) states that  $GN$ -functions which satisfy a  $\Delta$ -condition do not grow faster than a power function along any ray passing through the origin. Let us also observe that any function  $M(t, x)$  defined on  $T \times E^n$  which is either subadditive or a positive homogeneous (of degree one) convex function always satisfies a  $\Delta_0$ -condition.

**4. Generalized mean functions.** In this section an integral mean will be defined for  $GN$ -functions. We will show under what conditions the mean function is a  $GN$ -function and satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition. Moreover, we examine how the minimizing points in the definition of the mean function affect a basic property of the ordinary integral mean.

Let us begin with a definition.

**DEFINITION 4.1.** For each  $t$  in  $T$  and  $h > 0$  let

$$M_h(t, x) = \int_{E^n} M(t, x + y) J_h(y) dy$$

where  $J_h(y)$  is a nonnegative,  $c^\infty$  function with compact support in a ball of radius  $h$  such that  $\int_{E^n} J_h(y) dy = 1$ . Moreover, let  $x_0$  be any point (depending on  $h, t$ ) which satisfies the inequality

$$M_h(t, x_0) \leq M_h(t, x)$$

for all  $x$  in  $E^n$ . Then the function  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$  defined for each  $t$  in  $T$  and  $h > 0$  by

$$\hat{M}_h(t, x) = M_h(t, x + x_0) - M_h(t, x_0)$$

is called a *mean function for  $M(t, x)$  relative to the minimizing point  $x_0$* .

The next theorem shows under what condition  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$  is a  $GN$ -function.

**THEOREM 4.1.** *If  $M(t, x)$  is a  $GN$ -function for which  $\bar{M}(t, c)$  is integrable in  $t$  for each  $c$ , then  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$  is a  $GN$ -function.*

We will show this result by justifying conditions (i)–(iv) of Definition 2.1. By hypothesis and the choice of  $x_0$ , we have for each  $h$ ,  $\hat{M}_h(t, x) \geq 0$  and  $\hat{M}_h(t, 0) = 0$ . On the other hand, if  $x \neq 0$ , then

$M(t, x) > 0$ , and hence there is constant  $h_0$  such that

$$a = \inf_{|z| \leq h_0} M(t, x + z) > 0.$$

However, since  $M(t, x) = 0$  if and only if  $x = 0$ , the minimizing points  $x_0$  tend to zero as  $h$  tends to zero. Therefore, we can choose  $g_0 \leq h_0$  such that if  $h \leq g_0$ , then  $M(t, x_0 + y) < a$  for all  $y$  for which  $|x_0 + y| < h$ . For this  $g_0$  we obtain the inequality

$$M(t, x + x_0 + y) \geq \inf_{|z| \leq g_0} M(t, x + z) \geq a > M(t, x_0 + y)$$

whenever  $|x_0 + y| \leq g_0$ . This means for some  $h \leq g_0$  we have

$$M_h(t, x + x_0) > M_h(t, x_0)$$

or  $\hat{M}_h(t, x) > 0$  if  $x \neq 0$  which proves property (i).

Properties (ii) and (iii) for  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$  follow easily from the same properties for  $M(t, x)$ . Let us now show (iv). By assumption, there is a constant  $d \geq 0$  such that

$$(4.1.1) \quad l(t) \bar{M}(t, c) \leq \underline{M}(t, c)$$

for all  $c \geq d$ . Furthermore, it is not difficult to show that for all  $c$  we have

$$(4.1.2) \quad \bar{M}(t, c) \geq \sup_{|x| \leq c} M(t, x)$$

and for some fixed  $z$ ,

$$(4.1.3) \quad \inf_{|x| \geq c} M(t, x + z) \leq \inf_{|x| = c} M(t, x + z).$$

Using (4.1.2), we obtain for each  $t$  in  $T$  that

$$(4.1.4) \quad \begin{aligned} l(t) \sup_{|x| = c} M(t, z) &\leq l(t) \sup_{|w| < c + |x_0 + y_1|} M(t, w) \\ &\leq l(t) \sup_{|w| = c + |x_0 + y_1|} M(t, w) \end{aligned}$$

where  $z = x + x_0 + y$ . On the other hand, by (4.1.1) and (4.1.3), we achieve

$$(4.1.5) \quad \begin{aligned} l(t) \sup_{|w| = c + |x_0 + y_1|} M(t, w) &\leq \inf_{|w| = c + |x_0 + y_1|} M(t, w) \\ &< \inf_{|x| \geq c} M(t, x + x_0 + y) \\ &< \inf_{|x| = c} M(t, x + x_0 + y). \end{aligned}$$

If we combine (4.1.4) and (4.1.5), then for all  $c \geq d$  we arrive at

$$l(t) \sup_{|x| = c} M(t, x + x_0 + y) \leq \inf_{|x| = c} M(t, x + x_0 + y).$$



From this inequality we obtain

$$(4.1.6) \quad \inf_{|x|=c} \hat{M}_h(t, x) \geq \int_{E^n} \inf_{|x|=c} \{M(t, x + x_0 + y) - M(t, x_0 + y)\} J_h(y) dy \\ \geq \int_{E^n} \{l(t) \sup_{|x|=c} M(t, x + x_0 + y) - M(t, x_0 + y)\} J_h(y) dy$$

and

$$(4.1.7) \quad \sup_{|x|=c} \hat{M}_h(t, x) \leq \int_{E^n} \sup_{|x|=c} M(t, x + x_0 + y) J_h(y) dy.$$

Moreover, since  $\lim_{c \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|x|=c} M(t, x + x_0 + y) = \infty$  for fixed  $x_0, y$  such that  $|y| \leq h$ , given  $K_1(t) = 2 \sup_{|y| \leq h} M(t, x_0 + y) / \inf_t l(t)$  there is a  $d_1 > 0$  such that if  $c \geq d_1$ , then  $\sup_{|x|=c} M(t, x + x_0 + y) \geq K_1$ . Therefore, using (4.1.6) and (4.1.7), we achieve the inequalities

$$(4.1.8) \quad \frac{\inf_{|x|=c} \hat{M}_h(t, x)}{\sup_{|x|=c} \hat{M}_h(t, x)} \geq l(t) - \frac{\sup_{|y| \leq h} M(t, x_0 + y)}{\inf_{|y| \leq h} \sup_{|x|=c} M(t, x + x_0 + y)} \\ \geq l(t) - \frac{1}{2} \inf_t l(t)$$

for all  $c \geq d_0 = \max(d, d_1, |x_0|)$ . Taking the infimum of both sides of (4.1.8) over  $t$ , shows the first part of property (iv). To show the latter part, assume  $d_0 > 0$ . Then  $\sup_{|x|=d_0} \hat{M}_h(t, x)$  is integrable over  $t$  in  $T$  since it is bounded by the integrable function  $\bar{M}(t, d_2)$  where  $d_2 = d_0 + |x_0| + h$ . This proves property (iv) and the theorem.

In the next theorem we show under what condition  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$  satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition.

**THEOREM 4.2.** *If  $M(t, x)$  is a GN-function satisfying a  $\Delta$ -condition and for which  $\bar{M}(t, c)$  is integrable in  $t$  for each  $c$ , then  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$  satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition.*

It suffices to show that  $M_h(t, x)$  satisfies a  $\Delta$ -condition. For,  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$  is the sum of a constant and a translation of  $M_h(t, x)$  and neither of these operations affects the growth condition. Let us observe first that if  $|x| \geq 2, |y| \leq h \leq 1$ , then  $|2x + y| \leq 3|x + y|$ . Hence, by Theorem 2.2, there are constants  $K \geq 1$  and  $d_1 \geq 0$  such that

$$M_h(t, 2x) \leq K \int_{E^n} M(t, 3(x + y)) J_h(y) dy$$

for all  $x$  such that  $|x| \geq d_2 = \max(d_1, 2)$ . On the other hand, by Theorem 3.1, there is a constant  $K_3 \geq 2$  and  $\delta(t) \geq 0$  such that for almost all  $t$  in  $T$

$$\int_{E^n} M(t, 3(x + y)) J_h(y) dy \leq K_3 M_h(t, x)$$

for all  $x, y$  such that  $|x + y| \geq \delta(t)$  where  $|y| \leq h$ . Combining the above two inequalities we achieve

$$M_h(t, 2x) \leq KK_3 M_h(t, x)$$

for all  $|x| > \max(d_2, \delta(t) + h) = \delta_1(t)$ . Since  $\bar{M}(t, 2\delta_1(t))$  is integrable over  $T$ , this yields the integrability of  $\bar{M}_h(t, 2\delta_1(t))$  proving the theorem.

For each  $t$  in  $T$  and each  $x$  in  $E^n$  it is known that  $\lim_{h=0} M_h(t, x) = M(t, x)$ . However, the same property does not hold in general for  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$ . This is the point of the next theorem.

**THEOREM 4.3.** *For each  $h > 0$  let  $x_0^h$  be the minimizing point of  $M_h(t, x)$  defining  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$ . Then for each  $t$  in  $T$  and each  $x$  in  $E^n$ , there exists  $K(t, x)$  such that*

$$\lim_{h=0} \hat{M}_h(t, x) = M(t, x) + K(t, x) \lim_{h=0} |x_0^h|.$$

By definition of  $\hat{M}_h(t, x)$  we can write

$$(4.3.1) \quad \begin{aligned} & |\hat{M}_h(t, x) - M(t, x)| \\ & \leq \int_{E^n} |M(t, x + x_0^h + y) - M(t, x_0^h + y) - M(t, x)| J_h(y) dy. \end{aligned}$$

However, we know that

$$(4.3.2) \quad \begin{aligned} & |M(t, x + x_0^h + y) - M(t, x_0^h + y) - M(t, x)| \\ & \leq |M(t, x + x_0^h + y) - M(t, x)| \\ & \quad + |M(t, x_0^h + y) - M(t, y)| + |M(t, y)|. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, since  $M(t, x)$  is a convex function, it satisfies a Lipschitz condition on compact subsets of  $E^n$  (see, [8, Th. 5.1]). Therefore, there exist  $K_1(t, x)$  and  $K_2(t, x)$  such that

$$(4.3.3) \quad |M(t, x + x_0^h + y) - M(t, x)| \leq K_1(t, x) |x_0^h + y|$$

and

$$(4.3.4) \quad |M(t, x_0^h + y) - M(t, y)| \leq K_2(t, x) |x_0^h|.$$

If we combine (4.3.3) and (4.3.4) with (4.3.2) and if we substitute the resulting expression into (4.3.1), we achieve the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & |\hat{M}_h(t, x) - M(t, x)| \leq |x_0^h| (K_1(t, x) + K_2(t, x)) \\ & \quad + \int_{E^n} K_1(t, x) |y| J_h(y) dy + \int_{E^n} |M(t, y)| J_h(y) dy. \end{aligned}$$

Since the last two integrals on the right side tend to zero as  $h$  tends to zero, we prove the theorem by setting  $K(t, x) = K_1(t, x) + K_2(t, x)$ .

**COROLLARY 4.3.1.** *Suppose  $M(t, x)$  is a GN-function such that  $M(t, x) = M(t, -x)$ . Then for each  $t$  in  $T$  and  $x$  in  $E^n$ ,*

$$\lim_{h=0} M_h(t, x) = \hat{M}(t, x).$$

This result is clear since  $\lim_{h=0} |x_0^h| = 0$  if  $M(t, x) = M(t, -x)$ . In fact, if  $M(t, x)$  is even in  $x$  then the  $x_0^h = 0$  for all  $h$ .

For each  $t$  in  $T$  let  $A_h$  denote the set of minimizing points of  $M_h(t, x)$  and let  $B$  represent the null space of  $M(t, x)$  relative to points in  $E^n$ , i.e.,

$$B = \{y \text{ in } E^n: M(t, y) = 0\}.$$

If  $M(t, x)$  is a GN-function, then  $B = \{0\}$ . For the sake of argument, let us suppose that  $M(t, x)$  has all the properties of a GN-function except that  $M(t, x) = 0$  need not imply  $x = 0$ . We will show the relationships that exist between  $A_h$  and  $B$ . This is the content of the next few theorems.

**THEOREM 4.4.** *The sets  $B$  and  $A_h$  are closed convex sets.*

This result follows from the convexity and continuity of  $M(t, x)$  in  $x$  for each  $t$  in  $T$ .

**THEOREM 4.5.** *Let  $B_e = \{x: M(t, x) < e\}$  for each  $t$  in  $T$ . Then given any  $e > 0$ , there is a constant  $h_0 > 0$  such that  $A_h \subseteq B_e$  for each  $h \leq h_0$ .*

Since  $B \subseteq B_e$ , we can choose  $h_0$  sufficiently small so that if  $x$  is in  $B$ , then  $x + y$  is in  $B_e$  for all  $y$  such that  $|y| \leq h_0$ . Let  $z$  be an arbitrary but fixed point in  $A_h$ ,  $h \leq h_0$ . Then

$$M_h(t, z) \leq M_h(t, x)$$

for all  $x$ . Therefore, if  $x$  is in  $B$ , we have by our choice of  $h_0$  that  $M_h(t, z) < e$ . Letting  $h$  tend to zero yields  $M(t, z) < e$ , i.e.,  $z$  in  $B_e$ .

We have commented above that  $A_h = \{0\}$  if  $M(t, x) = M(t, -x)$ . It is also true if  $M(t, x)$  is strictly convex in  $x$  for each  $t$  in  $T$ .

**THEOREM 4.6.** *Suppose  $M(t, x)$  is a GN-function which is strictly convex in  $x$  for each  $t$ . Then for each  $h$ ,  $A_h = \{0\}$ .*

Suppose there exists  $y_0 \neq x_0$  such that  $x_0, y_0$  are in  $A_h$ . Let  $z =$

$(x_0 + y_0)/2$ . Then, since  $M(t, x)$  is strictly convex,  $M_h(t, x)$  is strictly convex in  $x$ . Therefore, we have

$$(4.6.1) \quad M_h(t, z) < \frac{1}{2} M_h(t, x_0) + \frac{1}{2} M_h(t, y_0).$$

However,  $x_0, y_0$  being in  $A_h$  reduces (4.6.1) to the inequality

$$M_h(t, z) < M_h(t, x)$$

for all  $x$ . This means  $z$  is in  $A_h$  and  $x_0, y_0$  are not in  $A_h$  which is a contradiction. Hence,  $x_0 = y_0$ . Since  $M(t, x)$  is a  $GN$ -function,  $B = \{0\}$ . In this case  $x_0 = y_0 = 0$ .

**5. Conjugate  $GN$ -functions.** In the study of Orlicz spaces the concept of a conjugate  $N$ -function plays a significant role. In particular, the definition of these linear spaces may involve a conjugate function. The study of convex functions of several variables and their related conjugate functions can be found in [1, 2, 3, 5].

In this section the concept of a generalized conjugate function is defined and some of its important properties are examined. Many of the standard results which hold for  $N$ -functions and conjugate functions of a real variable will be generalized here.

We begin with the main definition.

**DEFINITION 5.1.** Let  $M(t, x)$  be a  $GN$ -function. Then we call  $M^*(t, x)$  the *conjugate function* of  $M(t, x)$  if for each  $t$  in  $T$

$$(+) \quad M^*(t, x) = \sup_{z \text{ in } E^n} \{zx - M(t, z)\}.$$

The notation  $zx$  represents the scalar product of the vectors  $x$  and  $z$ .

Let us observe that if  $zx \leq 0$  in  $(+)$ , then  $zx - M(t, z) \leq 0$ . This means we could, equivalently, restrict the definition to those  $z$  for which  $zx \geq 0$ . Moreover, the equation  $(+)$  yields immediately for each  $t$  in  $T$  that

$$(++) \quad zx \leq M(t, z) + M^*(t, x)$$

for all  $z, x$  in  $E^n$ . Inequality  $(++)$  could have been used as a definition of the conjugate function.

Fenchel [3] states that to every  $z$  in  $E^n$  such that  $M'(t, z; y) < \infty$  for all  $y$  for which it is defined, there is at least one point  $x$  in  $E^n$  such that equality holds in  $(++)$ . However, by [8, Th. 5.2] when applied to  $GN$ -functions, we know for  $z$  in  $E^n$  that  $M'(t, z; y) < \infty$  for all  $y$ . Therefore, the supremum in  $(+)$  is attained for at least one point.

The next theorem gives a necessary and sufficient condition in order that equality hold in  $(++)$ .

**THEOREM 5.1.** *Let  $M(t, x)$  be a GN-function for which  $M'(t, x; y)$  is linear in  $y$ . Then, given any  $x_0, z^i = M'(t, x_0; e_i)$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  if and only if  $zx_0 = M(t, x_0) + M^*(t, z)$  where  $\{e_i\}$  is a basis for  $E^n$ .*

Clearly, if

$$zx_0 = M(t, x_0) + M^*(t, z)$$

for each  $t$  in  $T$ , then  $z^i = M'(t, x_0; e_i)$  for each  $i$ . On the other hand, suppose  $z^i = M'(t, x_0; e_i)$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Then, by convexity of  $M(t, x)$  and linearity of  $M'(t, x; y)$ , we have for  $t$  in  $T$

$$(5.1.1) \quad M(t, x) \geq M(t, x_0) + z(x - x_0)$$

for all  $x$  in  $E^n$ . Rewriting (5.1.1) we obtain for all  $x$  in  $E^n$

$$x_0 z - M(t, x_0) \geq xz - M(t, x) .$$

Therefore, we have

$$x_0 z - M(t, x_0) \geq \sup_x \{xz - M(t, x)\} = M^*(t, z)$$

or

$$(5.1.2) \quad x_0 z \geq M(t, x_0) + M^*(t, z) .$$

Since  $(++)$  always holds, combining (5.1.2) with  $(++)$  shows that equality holds in (5.1.2).

The properties of GN-functions possessed by  $M^*(t, x)$  are given in the next result.

**THEOREM 5.2.** *Let  $M(t, x)$  be a GN-function for which*

$$\lim_{|x| \rightarrow 0} \frac{M(t, x)}{|x|} = 0$$

*for each  $t$  in  $T$ . Then  $M^*(t, x)$  satisfies properties (i)–(iii) of Definition 2.1. Moreover, if  $M(t, x) = M(t, -x)$ , then*

$$M^*(t, x) = M^*(t, -x) .$$

Condition (i) for  $M^*(t, x)$  follows directly from the same condition for  $M(t, x)$  and the equation in the hypothesis. Convexity follows from the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} M^*(t, ax + by) &= \sup \{ axz - aM(t, z) + byz + bM(t, z) \} \\ &\leq aM^*(t, x) + bM^*(t, y) \end{aligned}$$

where  $a + b = 1, a \geq 0, b \geq 0$ . Measurability in  $t$  also follows from the same property for  $M(t, x)$ . Finally, if we substitute  $z = kx/|x|, k > 1$  into  $(++)$  we arrive at

$$(5.2.1) \quad \frac{M^*(t, x)}{|x|} \geq k - \frac{M\left(t, \frac{kx}{|x|}\right)}{|x|}.$$

However,  $M(t, kx/|x|)$  is bounded on every compact set in  $E^n$  (see [8, Th. 2.5]). Letting  $|x|$  tend to infinity in (5.2.1) results in property (iii).

Suppose  $M(t, x)$  is an even function of  $x$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} M^*(t, x) &= \sup_z \{-zx - M(t, -z)\} \\ &= \sup_z \{z(-x) - M(t, z)\} = M^*(t, -x). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we give conditions when  $M(t, x)$  is the conjugate function of  $M^*(t, x)$ .

**THEOREM 5.3.** *Suppose  $M(t, x)$  is a GN-function for which  $M'(t, x; y)$  is linear in  $y$ . Then  $M(t, x)$  is the conjugate function of  $M^*(t, x)$ .*

Since  $M(t, x)$  is convex in  $x$  and  $M'(t, x; y)$  is linear in  $y$ , we achieve for any  $x, x_0$  in  $E^n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M(t, x) - M(t, x_0) &\geq M'(t, x_0; x - x_0) \\ &\geq M'(t, x_0; x) - M'(t, x_0; x_0) \end{aligned}$$

from which it follows that

$$(5.3.1) \quad M'(t, x_0; x_0) - M(t, x_0) \geq \sup_x \{xy - M(t, x)\}$$

where  $y^i = M'(t, x_0; e_i)$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and  $\{e_i\}$  basis vectors for  $E^n$ . On the other hand, it is clear that

$$(5.3.2) \quad M'(t, x_0; x_0) - M(t, x_0) \leq \sup_x \{xy - M(t, x)\}$$

since  $M'(t, x_0; x_0) = x_0 y$ . Combining (5.3.1) and (5.3.2) we obtain the equation

$$(5.3.3) \quad x_0 y - M(t, x_0) = M^*(t, y).$$

However, by  $(++)$ , we know that

$$(5.3.4) \quad x_0 z \leq M(t, x_0) + M^*(t, z)$$

for all  $x_0, z$  in  $E^n$ . Rewriting (5.3.4) yields

$$(5.3.5) \quad M(t, x_0) \geq \sup_z \{x_0 z - M^*(t, z)\}.$$

Since (5.3.3) holds for some  $y$ , it follows that

$$(5.3.6) \quad M(t, x_0) = x_0 y - M^*(t, y) \leq \sup_z \{x_0 z - M^*(t, z)\}.$$

Therefore, combining (5.3.5) and (5.3.6) produces the desired result that

$$M(t, x_0) = \sup_z \{x_0 z - M^*(t, z)\}.$$

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