

M. Rocca

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Well-posed Vector Optimization Problems and Vector Variational Inequalities

Matteo Rocca*

Abstract

In this paper we introduce notions of well-posedness for a vector optimization problem and for a vector variational inequality of differential type, we study their basic properties and we establish the links among them. The proposed concept of well-posedness for a vector optimization problem generalizes the notion of well-setness for scalar optimization problems, introduced in [2]. On the other side, the introduced definition of well-posedness for a vector variational inequality extends the one given in [13] for the scalar case.

Keywords: vector optimization, vector variational inequality, well-posedness .

Mathematics Subject Classification (2000): 90C29, 90C31

1 Introduction

Well-posedness of a scalar minimization problem is a classical notion (see e.g. [5] and references therein) and plays a crucial role in the stability theory for optimization problems. The notion of well-posedness has been deeply studied in different areas of scalar optimization, such as mathematical programming, calculus of variations and optimal control (see e.g. [5]). In particular, we wish to recall the approach proposed by A.N. Tykhonov [18] in the 60's.

On the other hand, scalar variational inequalities provide a very general and suitable model for a wide range of problems, in particular equilibrium problems (see e.g. [10]). The links between variational inequalities of differential type (i.e. in which the operator involved is the gradient of a given function) and optimization problems have also been studied (see e.g. [10] and more recently [3, 4]). Furthermore, by means of Ekeland variational principle [6] a notion of well-posed scalar variational inequality has been introduced (see [13]) and its links with the concept of well-posed optimization problem have been investigated.

The notion of well-posedness for vector valued problems is less developed. However some definitions have been proposed for a vector minimization problem (see e.g. the survey by P. Loridan [11]) and some comparisons have been made between the definitions themselves

**Università dell'Insubria, Dipartimento di Economia, via Ravasi 2, 21100 Varese, Italia. e-mail: mrocca@eco.uninsubria.it*

and their scalar counterparts (see e.g. [14]).

Moreover, vector variational inequalities have been introduced in [7, 8] and developed in the last decades as a tool for vector optimization. Also a generalization of Ekeland variational principle has been proposed for the vector case (see e.g. [17]).

In this paper, we present a new notion of well-posedness for a vector optimization problem and we investigate its basic properties, showing in particular that analogously to the scalar case, optimization problems enjoying convexity properties are well-posed, according to the proposed definition. Further, we introduce a notion of well-posedness for vector variational inequalities of differential type and we investigate some links between this notion and the well-posedness of a vector optimization problem. The outline of the paper is the following. In Section 2 we recall some basics on Tykhonov well-posedness of a scalar optimization problem and well-posedness of a scalar variational inequality. In Section 3, we introduce the proposed concept of well-posedness for a vector optimization problem. Finally, Section 4 is devoted to the notion of well-posed vector variational inequality and its relations with the well-posedness of a vector optimization problem.

2 Well-posedness of scalar optimization problems and variational inequalities

Consider the scalar optimization problem:

$$P(f, K) \quad \min f(x), \quad x \in K$$

where $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and K is a nonempty closed convex subset of \mathbb{R}^n . Recall that a sequence $\{x^k\}_{k \geq 0} \subseteq K$ is said to be minimizing for $P(f, K)$ when $f(x^k) \rightarrow \inf_K f(x)$ as $k \rightarrow +\infty$. The following definition is classical (see for references [5]):

Definition 1. $P(f, K)$ is said to be Tykhonov well-posed when:

- i) $x^0 \in K$ is the unique solution of $P(f, K)$;
- ii) every minimizing sequence converges to x^0 .

For the sake of completeness we recall the following classical example of ill posed problem:

Example 1. Consider problem $P(f, K)$, with $f(x) = x^2 e^{-x}$ and $K = \mathbb{R}$. Then, $P(f, K)$ is not Tykhonov well posed, since the sequence $\{x_k\} = \{k\}$ is minimizing but it does not converge to the unique minimum $x_0 = 0$.

The next result is known (see e.g. [5]).

Proposition 1. Let $f : K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex function. If f has a unique global minimizer over K , then $P(f, K)$ is Tykhonov well-posed.

The following Theorem gives an alternative characterization of Tykhonov well-posedness.

Theorem 1. *If $P(f, K)$ is Tykhonov well-posed on K , then:*

$$\text{diam } \{\varepsilon - \text{argmin}(f, K)\} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{for } \varepsilon \downarrow 0, \quad (1)$$

where $\varepsilon - \text{argmin}(f, K) := \{x \in K \mid f(x) \leq \varepsilon + \inf_K f(x)\}$ is the set of ε -minimizers of f over K .

Moreover, if f is lower semicontinuous and bounded from below, then condition (1) implies Tykhonov well-posedness of $P(f, K)$.

The notion of Tykhonov well-posedness is strong, since one of the requirements is that problem $P(f, K)$ has a unique solution. In order to weaken this assumption, other more general notions of well-posedness have been introduced. Here we wish to recall the concept of well-setness introduced in [2]. Given a set $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, and a point $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we denote by $d(b, A) = \inf_{a \in A} \|b - a\|$, the distance of the point b from the set A .

Definition 2. *Problem $P(f, K)$ is said to be well-set when for every minimizing sequence $\{x^k\}_{k \geq 0} \subseteq K$ we have $d(x^k, \text{argmin}(f, K)) \rightarrow 0$, where $\text{argmin}(f, K)$ denotes the set of solutions of problem $P(f, K)$.*

Now, let us turn briefly our attention to scalar variational inequalities of differential type. Assume that f is differentiable on an open set containing K and denote by f' the gradient of f . We recall that a point $x^* \in K$ is a solution of a (Stampacchia) variational inequality of differential type when:

$$VI(f', K) \quad \langle f'(x^*), y - x^* \rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall y \in K.$$

Clearly $VI(f', K)$ is a necessary optimality condition for problem $P(f, K)$. The following definition gives the notion of well-posed variational inequality of differential type (see e.g. [5]).

Definition 3. *The variational inequality $VI(f', K)$ is well-posed when:*

- i) $T(\varepsilon) \neq \emptyset, \quad \forall \varepsilon > 0;$
- ii) $\text{diam } T(\varepsilon) \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{if } \varepsilon \downarrow 0;$

where $T(\varepsilon) := \{x \in K \mid \langle f'(x), x - y \rangle \leq \varepsilon \|y - x\|, \quad \forall y \in K\}$.

The link between Tykhonov well-posedness and well-posedness of $VI(f', K)$ is given by the following Theorem (see e.g. [5], [13]).

Theorem 2. *Let f be bounded from below and differentiable on an open set containing K . If $VI(f', K)$ is well-posed, then problem $P(f, K)$ is Tykhonov well-posed. The converse is true if f is convex.*

3 A notion of well-posedness in vector optimization

Consider a function $f : K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$ and a cone $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^l$ that we assume to be closed, convex, pointed and with nonempty interior. In the following we deal with the vector optimization problem:

$$VP(f, K) \quad \text{v-min}_C f(x), \quad x \in K$$

where K is a nonempty closed, convex subset of \mathbb{R}^n .

We recall (see e.g. [12]) that a point $x^0 \in K$ is said to be an efficient (weakly efficient) solution of problem $VP(f, K)$, when $f(x) - f(x^0) \notin -C \setminus \{0\}$, $(f(x) - f(x^0) \notin -\text{int } C)$, $\forall x \in K$. We will denote by $\text{Eff}(f, K)$ ($\text{WEff}(f, K)$) the set of efficient solutions (weakly efficient solutions) of problem $VP(f, K)$. In the sequel, we assume that $\text{Eff}(f, K)$ is nonempty.

The next definition can be found in [9, 17] and extends to the vector case the notion of ε -minimizer.

Definition 4. *i) A point $x^\varepsilon \in K$ is said to be an approximately efficient solution of $VP(f, K)$ with respect to $c^0 \in \text{int } C$ and $\varepsilon \geq 0$, when, $\forall x \in K$ it holds:*

$$f(x) - f(x^\varepsilon) + \varepsilon c^0 \notin -C \setminus \{0\}.$$

ii) A point $x^\varepsilon \in K$ is said to be a weakly approximately efficient solution of $VP(f, K)$ with respect to $c^0 \in \text{int } C$ and $\varepsilon \geq 0$, when, $\forall x \in K$ it holds:

$$f(x) - f(x^\varepsilon) + \varepsilon c^0 \notin -\text{int } C.$$

The set of solutions which fulfill Definition 4 i) is denoted by $\text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K)$. From the definition it follows that, for every $\varepsilon \geq 0$ and $c^0 \in \text{int } C$ we have $\text{Eff}(f, K) \subseteq \text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K)$, with equality holding if $\varepsilon = 0$. Analogously, the set of solutions that satisfy Definition 4 ii) is denoted by $\text{WEff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K)$.

In order to define a notion of well-posedness for problem $VP(f, K)$, we need also the concept of Hausdorff convergence of sequences of sets. Let E, F be subsets of \mathbb{R}^n and define:

$$\delta(E, F) = \max\{e(E, F), e(F, E)\}$$

where $e(E, F) = \sup_{a \in E} d(a, F)$.

Definition 5. *Let A_k be a sequence of subsets of \mathbb{R}^n . We say that A_k converges to $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ in the sense of Hausdorff and we write $A_k \rightarrow A$, when $\delta(A_k, A) \rightarrow 0$.*

We can similarly define upper and lower convergence of sets in the sense of Hausdorff.

Definition 6. *A sequence of sets $A_k \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be upper (resp. lower) Hausdorff convergent to a set $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, and we write $A_k \rightarrow A$ ($A_k \dashrightarrow A$) when:*

$$e(A_k, A) \rightarrow 0 \quad \left(e(A, A_k) \rightarrow 0 \right).$$

Clearly if both $A_k \rightarrow A$ and $A_k \rightharpoonup A$, then $A_k \longrightarrow A$.

Observe that the previous definitions can be given analogously when we consider a family of sets A_ε , $\varepsilon > 0$, instead of a sequence of sets. For a deeper exposition on the notions of set-convergence, see e.g. [16].

The next definition introduces a notion of well-posedness for vector optimization problems by means of Hausdorff upper convergence of the sets of approximately efficient solutions of problem $VP(f, K)$.

Definition 7. *The vector optimization problem $VP(f, K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed when:*

$$\text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K) \rightarrow \text{Eff}(f, K), \quad \text{as } \varepsilon \downarrow 0,$$

for every $c^0 \in \text{int } C$.

The previous definition can be rephrased by means of appropriate minimizing sequences. If $c^0 \in \text{int } C$, we say that a sequence $x^k \in K$ is a c^0 -minimizing sequence for $VP(f, K)$ when there exists a sequence $\varepsilon_k \downarrow 0$, such that $x^k \in \text{Eff}_{\varepsilon_k c^0}(f, K)$. The proof of the following result is easy and we omit it.

Proposition 2. *Problem $VP(f, K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed if and only if for every $c^0 \in \text{int } C$ we have $d(x^k, \text{Eff}(f, K)) \rightarrow 0$, whatever the c^0 -minimizing sequence x^k .*

Remark 1. Assume $l = 1$, $C = \mathbb{R}_+$ and let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then the previous definition reduces to the notion of well-setness (Definition 2). If in particular, f admits a unique minimizer over K , then Definition 7 collapses into the notion of Tykhonov well-posedness. The idea behind the notion of Hausdorff well-posedness is to extend the characterization of Tykhonov well-posedness in Theorem 1 to the vector case, but to avoid the requirement of the uniqueness of the solution. Indeed the latter is quite unusual for vector optimization.

Another rephrasing of Definition 7 can be given in terms of upper Hausdorff continuity of a set-valued map (see e.g. [15]). Denote by $S : X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ a set valued map. We recall that S is said to be upper Hausdorff continuous at $x^0 \in X$ when for every neighborhood V of 0 in \mathbb{R}^n , there exists a neighborhood W of $x^0 \in X$, such that $S(x) \subseteq S(x^0) + V$, for every $x \in W \cap X$.

Now consider the map $S_{c^0} : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, defined as:

$$S_{c^0}(\varepsilon) = \{x^\varepsilon \in K : f(x) - f(x^\varepsilon) + \varepsilon c^0 \notin -C \setminus \{0\}\} = \text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K).$$

Observe that clearly $S_{c^0}(0) = \text{Eff}(f, K)$.

Proposition 3. *Problem $VP(f, K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed if and only if for every $c^0 \in \text{int } C$, the set valued map $S_{c^0}(\varepsilon)$ is upper Hausdorff continuous at $\varepsilon = 0$.*

Proof: It follows readily from the definitions and hence is omitted. \square

We now show that under convexity assumptions on the function f and compactness of the set $\text{Eff}(f, K)$, problem $VP(f, K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed.

Definition 8. A function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$ is said to be C -convex over the convex set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ (respectively $\text{int } C$ -convex) when, $\forall x, y \in K$ and $\forall t \in [0, 1]$, it holds:

$$\begin{aligned} f(tx + (1-t)y) - tf(x) - (1-t)f(y) &\in -C \\ (f(tx + (1-t)y) - tf(x) - (1-t)f(y) &\in -\text{int } C) \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3. Let f be $\text{int } C$ -convex. If $\text{Eff}(f, K)$ is compact, then $VP(f, K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed.

Proof: By contradiction, assume that for some $c^0 \in \text{int } C$ it holds $\text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K) \not\subseteq \text{Eff}(f, K)$. Then $\exists \delta > 0$ and sequences $\varepsilon_k \downarrow 0$ and $x^k \in \text{Eff}_{\varepsilon_k c^0}(f, K)$, such that $x^k \notin \text{Eff}(f, K) + \delta \mathcal{B}$ (here \mathcal{B} denotes the closed unit ball in \mathbb{R}^n).

For some arbitrarily chosen $x^0 \in \text{Eff}(f, C)$, consider the points $tx^0 + (1-t)x^k$. For all k there exists some $t_k \in (0, 1)$ such that $y^k = t_k x^0 + (1-t_k)x^k \in \text{bd}[\text{Eff}(f, K) + \delta \mathcal{B}]$. Hence we have:

$$f(x) - f(x^k) \notin -\varepsilon_k c^0 - C \setminus \{0\}, \quad \forall x \in K$$

and $f(x) - f(x^0) \notin -C \setminus \{0\}$. By the $\text{int } C$ -convexity of f , we also have:

$$-f(y^k) \in -t_k f(x^0) - (1-t_k)f(x^k) + \text{int } C.$$

Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) - f(y^k) &\in t_k f(x) - t_k f(x^0) + (1-t_k)f(x) - (1-t_k)f(x^k) + \text{int } C = \\ &= t_k(f(x) - f(x^0)) + (1-t_k)(f(x) - f(x^k)) + \text{int } C \subseteq \\ &\subseteq t_k[-C \setminus \{0\}]^c + (1-t_k)[- \varepsilon_k c^0 - C \setminus \{0\}]^c + \text{int } C = \\ &= -[C \setminus \{0\}]^c + (1-t_k)[- \varepsilon_k c^0 - (C \setminus \{0\})^c] + \text{int } C. \end{aligned}$$

Since $t_k \in [0, 1]$, we can assume, without loss of generality, that $t_k \rightarrow \bar{t} \in [0, 1]$ and also $y^k \rightarrow \bar{y} \in \text{bd}[\text{Eff}(f, C) + \delta \mathcal{B}]$, since this last set is compact.

We have now:

$$f(x) - f(y^k) = c^k + (1-t_k)[- \varepsilon_k c^0 - \beta^k] - \gamma^k$$

where $c^k \in \text{int } C$, $\beta^k \in [C \setminus \{0\}]^c$ and $\gamma^k \in [C \setminus \{0\}]^c$. Therefore:

$$f(x) - f(\bar{y}) \notin -\text{int } C,$$

which together with the $\text{int } C$ -convexity of f , leads to the conclusion that \bar{y} is an efficient solution to $VP(f, K)$. This contradicts to $y \in \text{bd}[\text{Eff}(f, K) + \delta \mathcal{B}]$ and completes the proof. \square

The $\text{int } C$ -convexity assumption in the previous Theorem cannot be weakened to C -convexity, as shown by the following example.

Example 2. Let $f : [-2, 2] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be defined as $f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \varphi(x) \end{bmatrix}$, where:

$$\varphi(x) = \begin{cases} (x+1)^2, & -2 \leq x \leq -1 \\ 0, & -1 < x < 0 \\ x^2, & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \end{cases}$$

and let $K = [-2, 2]$ and $C = \mathbb{R}_+^2$. Then f is C -convex, but not int C -convex and we have $\text{Eff}(f, \mathbb{R}_+^2) = [-2, -1]$ and $\text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K) = [-2, 0]$, $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \forall c^0 \in \text{int } \mathbb{R}_+^2$.

It follows that the vector optimization problem corresponding to f is not Hausdorff well-posed.

4 Well-posed vector variational inequalities

The scalar variational inequality of differential type introduced in Section 2 has been extended to the vector case in [7]. If $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$ is a function differentiable on an open set containing the closed convex set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, we denote its Jacobian with f' and the components of f by f_i . The vector variational inequality problem (of differential type) consists in finding a point $x^0 \in K$ such that:

$$VVI(f', K) \quad \langle f'(x^0), y - x^0 \rangle_l \notin -\text{int } C, \quad \forall y \in K,$$

where $\langle f'(x^0), y - x^0 \rangle_l$ stands for the vector whose components are the inner products $\langle f'_i(x^0), y - x^0 \rangle$.

It is well known that $VVI(f', K)$ is a necessary optimality condition for x^0 to be an efficient solution of problem $VP(f, K)$ (see e.g. [7]). Furthermore, if f is int C -convex (resp. C -convex), $VVI(f', K)$ is a sufficient condition for x^0 to be an efficient solution (resp. weakly efficient solution) of $VP(f, K)$.

In this section, our aim is to introduce a notion of well-posedness for the vector variational inequality problem $VVI(f', K)$ and to give some links between this notion and the Hausdorff well-posedness of problem $VP(f, K)$.

To this extent we need to recall the following result that can be deduced from Theorem 1 in [9] (see also [17]) and regarded as an extension of the classical Ekeland's variational principle.

Theorem 4 ([9]). Let $c^0 \in \text{int } C$. For every $\varepsilon > 0$ and any element $x^0 \in \text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K)$, there exists $x^\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that:

- $\alpha)$ $x^\varepsilon \in \text{WEff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K)$;
- $\beta)$ $\|x^\varepsilon - x^0\| \leq \sqrt{\varepsilon}$;
- $\gamma)$ $x^\varepsilon \in \text{WEff}(f_{\varepsilon c^0}, K)$.

where $f_{\varepsilon c^0}(x) := f(x) + \sqrt{\varepsilon}\|x - x^\varepsilon\|c^0$.

The next result follows from Theorem 4 and can be viewed as an extension of Corollary 11 in [6].

Theorem 5 ([9]). *Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$ be differentiable and $c^0 \in \text{int } C$. Then $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ and $x^0 \in \text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K)$ there exists $x^\varepsilon \in K$ with:*

$$\alpha') \quad x^\varepsilon \in \text{WEff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K);$$

$$\beta') \quad \|x^\varepsilon - x^0\| \leq \sqrt{\varepsilon};$$

$$\gamma') \quad \langle f'(x^\varepsilon), y - x^\varepsilon \rangle_l \notin -\sqrt{\varepsilon}\|y - x^\varepsilon\|c^0 - \text{int } C.$$

Now we define the following sets:

$$Z_\varepsilon(c^0) := \left\{ x \in K : f(y) - f(x) \notin -\sqrt{\varepsilon}\|y - x\|c^0 - \text{int } C \right\}$$

and

$$T_\varepsilon(c^0) := \left\{ x \in K : \langle f'(x), y - x \rangle_l \notin -\sqrt{\varepsilon}\|y - x\|c^0 - \text{int } C, \forall y \in K \right\}.$$

Remark 2. *Observe that when $l = 1$ and $C = \mathbb{R}_+$, then the set $T_\varepsilon(c^0)$ reduces to the set $T(\varepsilon)$ of Definition 3.*

From Theorem 4 we easily get the inclusions:

$$\text{Eff}(f, K) \subseteq \text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K) \subseteq Z_\varepsilon(c^0) + \sqrt{\varepsilon}\mathcal{B},$$

and from Theorem 5 also:

$$\text{Eff}(f, K) \subseteq T_\varepsilon(c^0) + \sqrt{\varepsilon}\mathcal{B}.$$

The next result gives a sufficient condition for Hausdorff well-posedness of $VP(f, K)$.

Theorem 6. *If, for every $c^0 \in \text{int } C$, $Z_\varepsilon(c^0) \rightarrow \text{Eff}(f, K)$, as $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$, then $VP(f, K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed.*

Proof: It follows from the chain of inclusions:

$$\text{Eff}(f, K) \subseteq \text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K) \subseteq Z_\varepsilon(c^0) + \sqrt{\varepsilon}\mathcal{B}$$

□

We can now, analogously to the scalar case, state the following definition of well-posedness for the vector variational inequality $VVI(f', K)$.

Definition 9. *The variational inequality $VVI(f', K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed when for every $c^0 \in \text{int } C$, it holds:*

$$T_\varepsilon(c^0) \rightarrow \text{Eff}(f, K)$$

The notion in Definition 9 is motivated by the next result, which relates it to Hausdorff well-posedness of $VP(f, K)$.

Theorem 7. *If the variational inequality $VVI(f', K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed, then problem $VP(f, K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed.*

Proof: From the chain of inclusions:

$$\text{Eff}(f, K) \subseteq \text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K) \subseteq T_\varepsilon(c^0) + \sqrt{\varepsilon}\mathcal{B}$$

the thesis follows. □

Remark 3. When $l = 1$ and f is a function which admits a unique minimizer over K , then we recover the first part of Theorem 2.

Theorem 7 can be reverted under convexity assumptions on f and a compactness hypothesis on the set K .

Theorem 8. *Let $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a compact convex set and $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$ be a continuously differentiable int C -convex function such that $\text{Eff}(f, K)$ is nonempty and compact. If $VP(f, K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed, then $VVI(f, K)$ is Hausdorff well-posed.*

Proof: By assumption we have:

$$\text{Eff}_{\varepsilon c^0}(f, K) \rightarrow \text{Eff}(f, K), \quad \forall c^0 \in \text{int } C.$$

By contradiction, assume that $T_\varepsilon(c^0) \not\subseteq \text{Eff}(f, K)$, for some $c^0 \in \text{int } C$. Then it can always be found some positive δ and suitable sequences $\varepsilon_k \downarrow 0$ and $x^k \in T_{\varepsilon_k}(c^0)$, such that $x^k \notin \text{Eff}(f, K) + \delta\mathcal{B}$. Since K is compact, we can assume, without loss of generality, that $x^k \rightarrow \bar{x} \in K$. Therefore:

$$\langle f'(x^k), y - x^k \rangle_l \notin -\sqrt{\varepsilon_k} \|y - x^k\| c^0 - \text{int } C, \quad \forall y \in K.$$

We can now consider the limit as $k \rightarrow +\infty$ to get:

$$\langle f'(\bar{x}), y - \bar{x} \rangle_l \notin -\text{int } C, \quad \forall y \in K.$$

Since f is int C -convex, we get $\bar{x} \in \text{WEff}(f, K) = \text{Eff}(f, K)$ and the latter contradict the assumption $x^k \notin \text{Eff}(f, K) + \delta\mathcal{B}$. \square

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