

Poly-antimatroid polyhedra

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Abstract

The notion of “antimatroid with repetition” was conceived by Björner, Lovász and Shor in 1991 as an extension of the notion of antimatroid in the framework of non-simple languages. Further they were investigated by the name of “poly-antimatroids” (Nakamura, 2005, Kempner & Levit, 2007), where the set system approach was used. If the underlying set of a poly-antimatroid consists of n elements, then the poly-antimatroid may be represented as a subset of the integer lattice \mathbb{Z}^n . We concentrate on geometrical properties of two-dimensional ($n = 2$) poly-antimatroids - poly-antimatroid polygons, and prove that these polygons are parallelogram polyominoes. We also show that each two-dimensional poly-antimatroid is a poset poly-antimatroid, i.e., it is closed under intersection.

The convex dimension $cdim(S)$ of a poly-antimatroid S is the minimum number of maximal chains needed to realize S . While the convex dimension of an n -dimensional poly-antimatroid may be arbitrarily large, we prove that the convex dimension of an n -dimensional poset poly-antimatroid is equal to n .

Keywords: Antimatroid, polyhedron, convex dimension, lattice animal, polyomino.

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1 Preliminaries

An antimatroid is an accessible set system closed under union [3]. An algorithmic characterization of antimatroids based on the language definition was introduced in [5]. Another algorithmic characterization of antimatroids that depicted them as set systems was developed in [14]. Dilworth (1940) was the first to study antimatroids, using another axiomatization based on lattice theory, and they have been frequently rediscovered in other contexts. The most updated survey on the subject may be found in [19].

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Antimatroids can be viewed as a special case of either greedoids or semimodular lattices, and as a generalization of partial orders and distributive lattices. While classical examples of antimatroids connect them with posets, chordal graphs, convex geometries, etc., game theory gives a framework in which antimatroids are interpreted as permission structures for coalitions [1]. There are also rich connections between antimatroids and cluster analysis [16]. In mathematical psychology, antimatroids are used to describe feasible states of knowledge of a human learner [9].

A poly-antimatroid [21] is a generalization of the notion of the antimatroid to multisets. If the underlying set of a poly-antimatroid consists of n elements, then the n -dimensional poly-antimatroid may be represented as a subset of the integer lattice \mathbb{Z}^n .

In this paper we investigate the correspondence between poly-antimatroids and polyominoes. In the digital plane \mathbb{Z}^2 , a *polyomino* [12] is a finite connected union of unit squares without cut points. If we replace each unit square of a polyomino by a vertex at its center, we obtain an equivalent object named a *lattice animal* [13]. Further, we use the name polyomino for the two equivalent objects.

A polyomino is called column-convex (row-convex) if all its columns (rows) are connected. In other words, each column/row has no holes. A convex polyomino is both row-convex and column-convex. The parallelogram polyominoes [6], sometimes known as staircase polygons [4, 13, 22], are a particular case of this family. In the staircase polygon each element may be reached from the source (lowest left) point by a path made only of north and east unit steps, and similarly this element may be reached from the target (highest right) point by a path made only of south and west unit steps. Hence staircase polygons are defined by a pair of monotone north-east paths that have common ending points.

We prove that a representation of a two-dimensional poly-antimatroid on the plane is a staircase polygon.

Let E be a finite set. A *set system* over E is a pair (E, \mathcal{F}) , where \mathcal{F} is a family of sets over E , called *feasible sets*. We will use $X \cup x$ for $X \cup \{x\}$, and $X - x$ for $X - \{x\}$.

Definition 1.1. [18] A finite non-empty set system (E, \mathcal{F}) is an *antimatroid* if

- (A1) for each non-empty $X \in \mathcal{F}$, there exists $x \in X$ such that $X - x \in \mathcal{F}$
- (A2) for all $X, Y \in \mathcal{F}$, and $X \not\subseteq Y$, there exists $x \in X - Y$ such that $Y \cup x \in \mathcal{F}$.

Any set system satisfying (A1) is called *accessible*.

In addition, we use the following characterization of antimatroids.

Proposition 1.2. [18] For an accessible set system (E, \mathcal{F}) the following statements are equivalent:

- (i) (E, \mathcal{F}) is an antimatroid
- (ii) \mathcal{F} is closed under union ($X, Y \in \mathcal{F} \Rightarrow X \cup Y \in \mathcal{F}$)

An “antimatroid with repetition” was invented by Björner, Lovasz and Shor [2]. Further it was investigated by the name of “poly-antimatroid” as a generalization of the notion of the antimatroid for multisets. A *multiset* A over E is a function $f_A : E \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, where $f_A(e)$ is a number of repetitions of an element e in A . A *poly-antimatroid* is a finite non-empty multiset system (E, \mathcal{F}) that satisfies the antimatroid properties (A1) and (A2). So antimatroids may be considered as a particular case of poly-antimatroids. Examples of an antimatroid $(\{x, y, z\}, \mathcal{F})$ and a poly-antimatroid $(\{x, y\}, S)$ are illustrated in Figure 1.

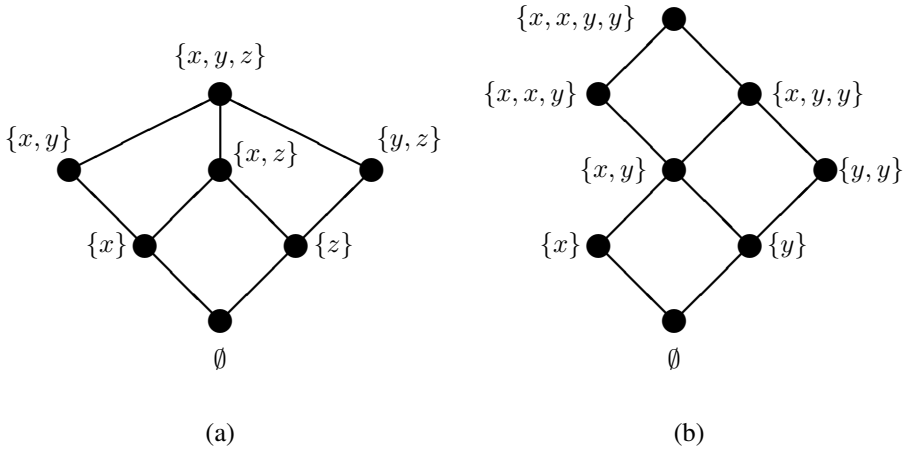


Figure 1: (a) Antimatroid. (b) Poly-antimatroid.

Definition 1.3. A multiset system (E, S) satisfies the *chain property* if for all $X, Y \in \mathcal{F}$, and $X \subset Y$, there exists a chain $X = X_0 \subset X_1 \subset \dots \subset X_k = Y$ such that $X_i = X_{i-1} \cup x_i$ and $X_i \in S$ for $0 \leq i \leq k$.

It is easy to see that the chain property follows from (A2), but they are not equivalent. It is clear that each poly-antimatroid satisfies the chain property.

Antimatroids have already been investigated within the framework of lattice theory by Dilworth [7]. The feasible sets of an antimatroid ordered by inclusion form a lattice, with lattice operations: $X \vee Y = X \cup Y$, and $X \wedge Y$ is the maximal feasible subset of set $X \cap Y$ called a *basis*. Since an antimatroid is closed under union, it has only one basis.

A finite lattice L is called *join-distributive* [3] if for any $x \in L$ the interval $[x, y]$ is Boolean, where y is the join of all elements covering x . Such lattices have appeared under several different names, e.g. locally free lattices [18] and upper locally distributive lattices (ULD) [10, 20]. Distributive lattices are exactly those that are both upper and lower locally distributive.

Theorem 1.4. [3, 18] *A finite lattice is join-distributive if and only if it is isomorphic to the lattice of feasible sets of some antimatroid.*

It is easy to see that feasible sets of a poly-antimatroid ordered by inclusion form a join-distributive lattice as well.

Consider a particular case of antimatroids called *poset antimatroids* [18]. A poset antimatroid has as its feasible sets the lower sets of a poset (partially ordered set). Poset antimatroids can be characterized as the unique antimatroids, which are closed under intersection [18]. We extend this definition to poly-antimatroids.

Definition 1.5. A poly-antimatroid is called a *poset poly-antimatroid* if it is closed under intersection.

Evidently, feasible sets of a poset poly-antimatroid ordered by inclusion form a distributive lattice.

2 Two-dimensional poly-antimatroids and polyominoes

In this section we consider a geometric characterization of two-dimensional poly-antimatroids.

Let $E = \{x, y\}$. In this case each point $A = (x_A, y_A)$ in the digital plane \mathbb{Z}^2 may be considered as a multiset A over E , where x_A is a number of repetitions of an element x , and y_A is a number of repetitions of an element y in multiset A . Thus a set of points in the digital plane \mathbb{Z}^2 that satisfies the properties of an antimatroid is a representation of a two-dimensional poly-antimatroid.

Definition 2.1. A set of points S in the digital plane \mathbb{Z}^2 is a poly-antimatroid polygon if

- (A1) for every point $(x_A, y_A) \in S$, such that $(x_A, y_A) \neq (0, 0)$, either $(x_A - 1, y_A) \in S$ or $(x_A, y_A - 1) \in S$
- (A2) for all $A \not\subseteq B \in S$, if $x_A \geq x_B$ and $y_A \geq y_B$ then either $(x_B + 1, y_B) \in S$ or $(x_B, y_B + 1) \in S$
- if $x_A \leq x_B$ and $y_A \geq y_B$ then $(x_B, y_B + 1) \in S$
- if $x_A \geq x_B$ and $y_A \leq y_B$ then $(x_B + 1, y_B) \in S$

Notice that accessibility implies $\emptyset \in S$.

For example, see a poly-antimatroid polygon in Figure 2.

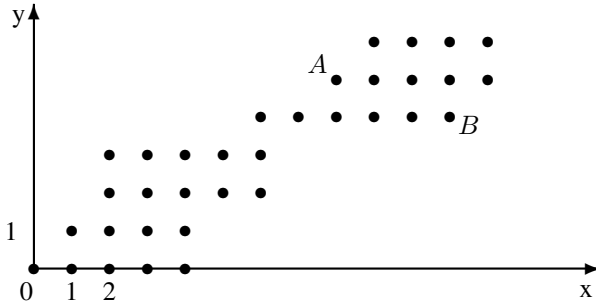


Figure 2: A poly-antimatroid polygon.

We use the following notation [17]. If $A = (x, y)$ is a point in a digital plane, the 4-neighborhood $N_4(x, y)$ is the set of points

$$N_4(x, y) = \{(x - 1, y), (x, y - 1), (x + 1, y), (x, y + 1)\}$$

and 8-neighborhood $N_8(x, y)$ is the set of points

$$N_8(x, y) = \{(x - 1, y), (x, y - 1), (x + 1, y), (x, y + 1), (x - 1, y - 1), (x - 1, y + 1), (x + 1, y - 1), (x + 1, y + 1)\}.$$

Let m be any of the numbers 4 or 8. A sequence A_0, A_1, \dots, A_n is called an N_m -path if $A_i \in N_m(A_{i-1})$ for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Any two points $A, B \in S$ are said to be N_m -connected in S if there exists an N_m -path $A = A_0, A_1, \dots, A_n = B$ from A to B such that $A_i \in S$ for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. A digital set S is an N_m -connected set if any two points

P, Q from S are N_m -connected in S . An N_m -connected component of a set S is a maximal subset of S , which is N_m -connected.

An N_m -path $A = A_0, A_1, \dots, A_n = B$ from A to B is called a *monotone increasing* N_m -path if $A_i \subset A_{i+1}$ for all $0 \leq i < n$, i.e.,

$$(x_{A_i} < x_{A_{i+1}}) \wedge (y_{A_i} \leq y_{A_{i+1}}) \text{ or } (x_{A_i} \leq x_{A_{i+1}}) \wedge (y_{A_i} < y_{A_{i+1}}).$$

The chain property and the fact that the family of feasible sets of a poly-antimatroid is closed under union mean that for each two points A, B : if $B \subset A$, then there is a monotone increasing N_4 -path from B to A , and if A is incomparable with B , then there is a monotone increasing N_4 -path from both A and B to $A \cup B = (\max(x_A, x_B), \max(y_A, y_B))$. In particular, for each $A \in S$ there is a monotone decreasing N_4 -path from A to 0 . So, we can conclude that a poly-antimatroid polygon is an N_4 -connected component in the digital plane \mathbb{Z}^2 .

Definition 2.2. A point set $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^2$ is defined to be orthogonally convex if, for every line L that is parallel to the x-axis ($y = y^*$) or to the y-axis ($x = x^*$), the intersection of S with L is empty, a point, or a single interval $([(x_1, y^*), (x_2, y^*)] = \{(x_1, y^*), (x_1 + 1, y^*), \dots, (x_2, y^*)\})$.

It follows immediately from the chain property that every poly-antimatroid polygon S is both connected and orthogonally convex.

In what follows we prove that poly-antimatroid polygons are closed not only under union, but under intersection as well.

Lemma 2.3. A poly-antimatroid polygon is closed under intersection, i.e., if two points $A = (x_A, y_A)$ and $B = (x_B, y_B)$ belong to a poly-antimatroid polygon S , then the point $A \cap B = (\min(x_A, x_B), \min(y_A, y_B)) \in S$.

Proof. The claim of the lemma is evident for two comparable points. Consider two incomparable points A and B , and assume without loss of generality that $x_A < x_B$ and $y_A > y_B$. Then there is a monotone decreasing N_4 -path from A to 0 , and so there is a point $C = (x_C, y_B) \in S$ on this path with $x_C \leq x_A$. Hence, the point $A \cap B$ belongs to S , since it is located on the monotone increasing N_4 -path from C to B . \square

Thus, every poly-antimatroid polygon is a distributive lattice polyhedron [11], since $x, y \in S \Rightarrow \min(x, y), \max(x, y) \in S$.

Consider the following rectangles:

$$R = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}^2 : x_{\min} \leq x \leq x_{\max} \wedge y_{\min} \leq y \leq y_{\max}\} \text{ and } |R| > 1$$

Definition 2.4. The sequence of n rectangles C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n is called regular if

- (a) $x_{\min}^0 = y_{\min}^0 = 0$
- (b) $x_{\min}^i \leq x_{\min}^{i+1} \wedge y_{\min}^i \leq y_{\min}^{i+1}$
and for each $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$ at least one of the inequality is strong
- (c) $x_{\min}^{i+1} \leq x_{\max}^i \wedge y_{\min}^{i+1} \leq y_{\max}^i$ for each $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$
- (d) $x_{\max}^i \leq x_{\max}^{i+1} \wedge y_{\max}^i \leq y_{\max}^{i+1}$
and for each $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$ at least one of the inequality is strong

Lemma 2.3 implies that every poly-antimatroid polygon is a union of rectangles built on each pair of incomparable points. The following is even more explicit.

Lemma 2.5. *Every poly-antimatroid polygon is a regular sequence of rectangles.*

Proof. Consider the set of rectangles built on pairs of incomparable points and leave only maximal rectangles, i.e., rectangles that are not covered completely by other rectangles. These rectangles forms a regular sequence. Indeed, the property (a) and (c) follows from the definition of a poly-antimatroid polygon (A1).

Suppose there are two maximal rectangles R_1 and R_2 with two incomparable minimal points (x_{\min}^1, y_{\min}^1) and (x_{\min}^2, y_{\min}^2) . Then, since poly-antimatroid polygons are closed under union and under intersection, these rectangles are covered by two rectangles. The minimal and maximal points of the first rectangle are

$$(\min(x_{\min}^1, x_{\min}^2), \min(y_{\min}^1, y_{\min}^2)), (\min(x_{\max}^1, x_{\max}^2), \min(y_{\max}^1, y_{\max}^2)).$$

The minimal and maximal points of the second rectangle are

$$(\max(x_{\min}^1, x_{\min}^2), \max(y_{\min}^1, y_{\min}^2)), (\max(x_{\max}^1, x_{\max}^2), \max(y_{\max}^1, y_{\max}^2))$$

respectively. There are the cases that these two rectangles are identical. See Figure 3. Thus the rectangles R_1 and R_2 are not maximal and so all minimal points are comparable. The same is true for maximal points as well. \square

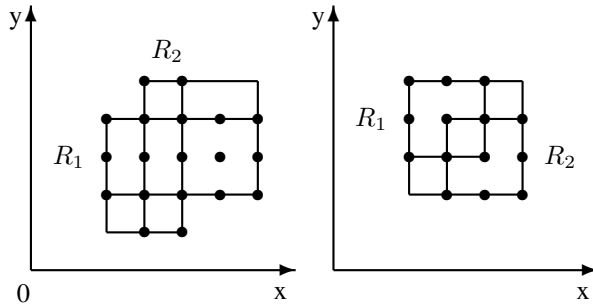


Figure 3: Two examples for proof of Lemma 2.5.

The following theorem shows that a poly-antimatroid polygon is a parallelogram polyomino.

Theorem 2.6. *A set of points S in the digital plane \mathbb{Z}^2 is a poly-antimatroid polygon if and only if it is an orthogonally convex N_4 -connected set that is bounded by two monotone increasing N_4 -paths between $(0, 0)$ and the maximum point of the set (x_{\max}, y_{\max}) .*

To prove the “if” part of Theorem 2.6 it remains to give a definition of the boundary.

A point A in set S is called an *interior point* in S if $N_8(A) \in S$. A point in S which is not an interior point is called a *boundary point*. All boundary points of S constitute the boundary of S . We can see a poly-antimatroid polygon with its boundary in Figure 4.

Since poly-antimatroid polygons are closed under union and under intersection, there are six types of boundary points that we divide into two sets – lower and upper boundary:

$$\mathcal{B}_{lower} = \{(x, y) \in S : (x + 1, y) \notin S \vee (x, y - 1) \notin S \vee (x + 1, y - 1) \notin S\}$$

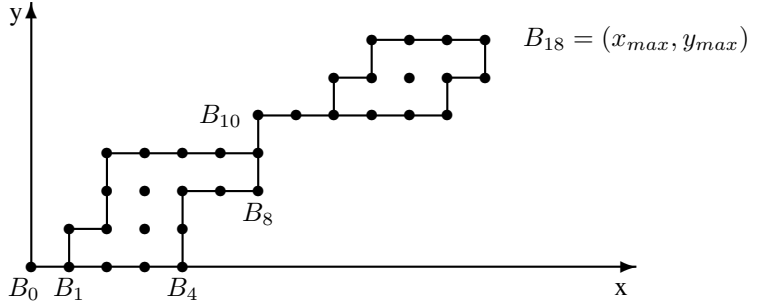


Figure 4: A boundary of a poly-antimatroid polygon.

$$\mathcal{B}_{upper} = \{(x, y) \in S : (x - 1, y) \notin S \vee (x, y + 1) \notin S \vee (x - 1, y + 1) \notin S\}$$

It is possible that $\mathcal{B}_{lower} \cap \mathcal{B}_{upper} \neq \emptyset$. For example, the point B_{10} in Figure 4 belongs to both the lower and upper boundaries.

From Lemma 2.5 it follows immediately that lower and upper boundaries are boundaries of regular sequence of rectangles and so a poly-antimatroid polygon is an orthogonally convex N_4 -connected set bounded by two monotone increasing N_4 -paths.

The following lemma is the “only-if” part of Theorem 2.6.

Lemma 2.7. *An orthogonally convex N_4 -connected set S that is bounded by two monotone increasing N_4 -paths between $(0, 0)$ and (x_{max}, y_{max}) is a poly-antimatroid polygon.*

Proof. By Definition 2.1 we have to check the two properties (A1) and (A2):

(A1) Let $A = (x, y) \in S$. If A is an interior point in S then $(x - 1, y) \in S$ and $(x, y - 1) \in S$. If A is a boundary point, then the previous point on the boundary $((x, y - 1)$ or $(x - 1, y))$ belongs to S .

(A2) Let $A \not\subseteq B \in S$. Consider two cases:

(i) $x_a \geq x_b$ and $y_a \geq y_b$. If B is an interior point in S then $(x_b + 1, y_b) \in S$ and $(x_b, y_b + 1) \in S$. If B is a boundary point, then the next point on the boundary $((x_b, y_b + 1)$ or $(x_b + 1, y_b))$ belongs to S .

(ii) $x_a \leq x_b$ and $y_a \geq y_b$. We have to prove that $(x_b, y_b + 1) \in S$. Suppose the opposite. Then the point B is an upper boundary point. Since $y_a \geq y_b$ there exists an upper boundary point (x_a, y) with $y \geq y_b$ that contradicts the monotonicity of the boundary. \square

Corollary 2.8. *Any poly-antimatroid polygon S may be represented as the **union** of its boundary:*

$$S = \mathcal{B}_{lower} \vee \mathcal{B}_{upper} = \{X \cup Y : X \in \mathcal{B}_{lower}, Y \in \mathcal{B}_{upper}\}$$

3 Convex dimension

Definition 3.1. Convex dimension [18] $cdim(S)$ of any antimatroid S is the minimum number of maximal chains

$$\emptyset = X_0 \subset X_1 \subset \dots \subset X_k = X_{max} \text{ with } X_i = X_{i-1} \cup x_i$$

whose union gives the antimatroid S .

The set of maximal chains sufficient to realize a poly-antimatroid is called a *convex realizer*.

The result of Corollary 2.8 shows that the convex dimension of a two-dimensional poly-antimatroid equals two. Note, that the convex dimension of an arbitrary three-dimensional poly-antimatroid may be arbitrarily large [8]. Let S be a set of points:

$$S = \{(x, y, z) : (0 \leq x, y \leq N) \wedge (0 \leq z \leq 1) \wedge (z = 1 \Rightarrow x + y \geq N)\}.$$

It is easy to check that S is a three-dimensional poly-antimatroid. Consider $N + 1$ points $(x, y, 1)$ with $x + y = N$. Since each of these points cannot be represented as a union of any points from S with smaller coordinates, the convex dimension of S is at least $N + 1$.

In the sequel we prove that the convex dimension of an n -dimensional poset poly-antimatroids is at most n .

An *endpoint* of a feasible set X is an element $e \in X$ such that $X - e$ is a feasible set too. A feasible set that has only one endpoint is called a *path* of the antimatroid. It is easy to see that a path is an union-irreducible element of the lattice and each feasible set is the union of its path subsets. The family of ideals in the set of paths partially ordered by set inclusion forms *path poset* antimatroid.

Theorem 3.2. [18] *The convex dimension of antimatroid is equal to the width of its path poset.*

It is easy to check that the theorem holds for poly-antimatroids as well.

Denote by $\dim(S)$ the *order dimension* of the lattice of feasible multisets of a poly-antimatroid. The order (or the Dushnik-Miller) dimension of a poset is the smallest number of total orders the intersection of which gives the partial order.

Corollary 3.3. [18]

$$\dim(S) \leq \text{cdim}(S)$$

Since any n -dimensional poly-antimatroid may be represented as a subset of the integer lattice \mathbb{Z}^n , its order dimension is at most n [23].

For poset poly-antimatroids their convex dimension should equal to order dimension, since feasible sets of a poset poly-antimatroid form a distributive lattice and order dimension of distributive lattice is equal to the width of its path poset (ideals of the union-irreducible elements)[23]. Eventually, we obtain the following.

Proposition 3.4. *The convex dimension of the n -dimensional poset poly-antimatroids is at most n .*

4 Conclusions

It turned out that a two-dimensional case of a poly-antimatroid known in this paper as a poly-antimatroid polygon is equivalent to special cases of polyominoes, lattice animals, and staircase polygons. It seems to be a challenging problem to generalize the path structure of poly-antimatroid polygons to upper dimensions.

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