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## Lexicographical polytopes

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## ABSTRACT

Within a fixed integer box of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , lexicographical polytopes are the convex hulls of the integer points that are lexicographically between two given integer points. We provide their descriptions by means of linear inequalities.

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Throughout,  $\ell, u, r, s$  will denote integer points satisfying  $\ell \leq r \leq u$  and  $\ell \leq s \leq u$ , that is  $r$  and  $s$  are within  $[\ell, u]$ . A point  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^n$  is *lexicographically smaller than*  $y \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ , denoted by  $x \preccurlyeq y$ , if  $x = y$  or the first nonzero coordinate of  $y - x$  is positive. We write  $x < y$  if  $x \preccurlyeq y$  and  $x \neq y$ . The *lexicographical polytope*  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \preccurlyeq s}$  is the convex hull of the integer points within  $[\ell, u]$  that are lexicographically between  $r$  and  $s$ :

$$P_{\ell,u}^{r \preccurlyeq s} = \text{conv}\{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n : \ell \leq x \leq u, r \preccurlyeq x \preccurlyeq s\}.$$

The *top-lexicographical polytope*  $P_{\ell,u}^{\leq s} = \text{conv}\{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n : \ell \leq x \leq u, x \preccurlyeq s\}$  is the special case when  $r = \ell$ . Similarly, the *bottom-lexicographical polytope* is  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \preccurlyeq} = \text{conv}\{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n : \ell \leq x \leq u, r \preccurlyeq x\}$ .

Given  $a, u \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}_+$ , the *knapsack polytope* defined by  $K_u^{a,b} = \text{conv}\{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n : \mathbf{0} \leq x \leq u, ax \leq b\}$  is *superdecreasing* if:

$$\sum_{i>k} a_i u_i \leq a_k \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n. \quad (1)$$

Close relations between top-lexicographical and superdecreasing knapsack polytopes appear in the literature. For the 0/1 case, that is when  $\ell = \mathbf{0}$  and  $u = \mathbf{1}$ , Gillmann and Kaibel [2] first noticed that top-lexicographical polytopes are special cases of superdecreasing knapsack ones, and the converse has been later established by Muldoon et al. [5]. Recently, Gupte [3] generalized the latter result by showing that all superdecreasing knapsacks are top-lexicographical polytopes.

To prove this last statement, Gupte [3] observes that a superdecreasing knapsack  $K_u^{a,b}$  is the top-lexicographical polytope  $P_{\mathbf{0},u}^{\leq s}$ , where  $s$  is the lexicographically greatest integer point of  $K_u^{a,b}$ . The non trivial inclusion actually holds because every integer point  $x$  of  $P_{\mathbf{0},u}^{\leq s}$  satisfies  $ax \leq as$ . Indeed, by definition, if  $x < s$ , there exists  $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $x_k + 1 \leq s_k$  and  $x_i = s_i$

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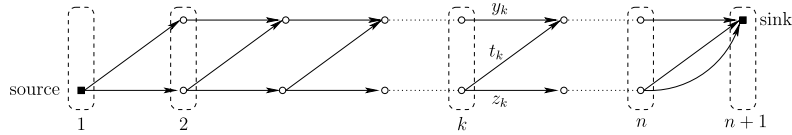


Fig. 1. Path representation of the points of  $X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$ .

for  $i < k$ . Hence, we have  $b - ax \geq as - ax \geq \sum_{i>k} a_i(s_i - x_i) + a_k \geq \sum_{i>k} a_i(s_i - x_i + u_i) \geq 0$ , because of (1),  $s_i \geq 0$  and  $u_i \geq x_i$ .

It turns out that top-lexicographical polytopes are superdecreasing knapsack polytopes. Indeed, let  $P_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$  be a top-lexicographical polytope for some  $s$  within  $[\ell, u]$ . Possibly after translating, we may assume  $\ell = \mathbf{0}$ . Define  $a$  by  $a_k = \sum_{i>k} a_i u_i + 1$ , for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , and let  $b = as$ . Since the associated knapsack polytope  $K_u^{a,b}$  is superdecreasing, if  $x \preceq s$  then  $ax \leq as = b$ , for all  $x$  within  $[\mathbf{0}, u]$ . Moreover, the converse holds because, inequalities (1) being all strict,  $s \prec x$  implies  $b = as < ax$ . Therefore,  $P_{\mathbf{0},u}^{\leq s} = K_u^{a,b}$ . These observations are summarized in the following.

**Observation 1.** Superdecreasing knapsacks are top-lexicographical polytopes, and conversely (up to translations).

Motivated by a wide range of applications, such as knapsack cryptosystems [6] or binary expansion of bounded integer variables (e.g., [8, p. 477]), several papers are devoted to the polyhedral description of these families of polytopes. For the 0/1 case, the description appeared in [4] from the knapsack point of view. It was later rediscovered from the lexicographical point of view in [2,5]. Moreover, Muldoon et al. [5] and Angulo et al. [1] independently showed that intersecting a 0/1 top- with a 0/1 bottom-lexicographical polytope yields the description of the corresponding lexicographical polytope. Recently, these results were generalized for the bounded case by Gupte [3].

In this paper, we provide the description of the lexicographical polytopes using extended formulations. Our approach provides alternative proofs of the aforementioned results of Gupte [3].

The outline of the paper is as follows. In Section 1, we provide a flow based extended formulation of the convex hull of the componentwise maximal points of a top-lexicographical polytope. Projecting this formulation is surprisingly straightforward, and thus we get the description in the original space. In Section 2, using the fact that a top-lexicographical polytope is, up to translation, the submissive of the above convex hull, we derive the description of top-lexicographical polytopes. We then show that a lexicographical polytope is the intersection of its top- and bottom-lexicographical polytopes.

**1. Convex hull of componentwise maximal points**

From now on,  $X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$  will denote the set of the points  $p^i = (s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}, s_i - 1, u_{i+1}, \dots, u_n)$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n + 1$  such that  $s_i > \ell_i$ , where  $p^{n+1} = s$  by definition. Note that  $X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$  consists of the componentwise maximal integer points of  $P_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$ , to which we added, for later convenience, the point  $p^n = (s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}, s_n - 1)$  if  $s_n > \ell_n$ .

**1.1. A flow model for  $X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$**

We first model the points of  $X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$  as paths from 1 to  $n + 1$  in the digraph given in Fig. 1.

Our digraph is composed of  $n + 1$  layers, each containing two nodes except the first and the last ones. There are three arcs connecting the layer  $k$  to the layer  $k + 1$ , an upper arc  $y_k$ , a diagonal arc  $t_k$  and a lower arc  $z_k$ . The only exception concerns the first level, which does not have the upper arc.

The arcs connecting two successive layers correspond to a coordinate of  $x \in X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$ . More precisely, given a directed path  $P$  from 1 to  $n + 1$ , we define the point  $x$  by setting, for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ ,

$$x_k = \begin{cases} u_k & \text{if } y_k \in P, \\ s_k - 1 & \text{if } t_k \in P, \\ s_k & \text{if } z_k \in P. \end{cases}$$

As shown in Observation 2, the set of  $(x, y, z, t)$  satisfying the following set of inequalities is an extended formulation of  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} x_i &= u_i y_i + (s_i - 1)t_i + s_i z_i && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n, && (2) \\ y_1 &= 0 && && (3) \\ y_i &= y_{i-1} + t_{i-1} && \text{for } i = 2, \dots, n, && (4) \\ z_i &= z_{i+1} + t_{i+1} && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n - 1, && (5) \\ t_i &= 0 && \text{whenever } s_i = \ell_i, && (6) \\ y_n + t_n + z_n &= 1 && && (7) \\ y_i, t_i, z_i &\geq 0 && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n. && (8) \end{aligned}$$

**Observation 2.**  $conv(X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}) = proj_x\{(x, y, z, t) \text{ satisfying (2)–(8)}\}$ .

**Proof.** First, note that there is a one-to-one correspondence between the points of  $X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$  and the paths from layer 1 to layer  $n + 1$  of the digraph. This implies that  $X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s}$  is the projection onto the  $x$  variables of the integer points of  $Q = \{(x, y, z, t) \text{ satisfying (2)–(8)}\}$ . The digraph being acyclic, the set of  $(y, z, t)$  satisfying (3)–(8) is a path polytope and thus is an integral polytope [7, Theorem 13.10]. The integrality of  $u$  and  $s$  implies that  $Q$  is integer, hence so is its projection onto the  $x$  variables, which concludes the proof.  $\square$

1.2. Description of  $conv(X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s})$

In the following result, we use Observation 2 to provide a linear description of  $conv(X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s})$ .

**Lemma 3.**  $conv(X_{\ell,u}^{\leq s})$  is described by the inequalities:

$$\sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^n A_i(x) \geq -1 \tag{9}$$

$$A_k(x) \leq 0 \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n, \tag{10}$$

$$A_k(x) \geq 0 \quad \text{when } s_k = \ell_k, \tag{11}$$

where, for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ ,

$$A_k(x) := (x_k - s_k) + (u_k - s_k) \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^{k-1} \left( \prod_{j=i+1, s_j > \ell_j}^{k-1} (u_j - s_j + 1) \right) (x_i - s_i).$$

**Proof.** By Observation 2, it suffices to project onto the  $x$  variables of the set of  $x, y, t, z$  satisfying (2)–(8).

For  $k = 1, \dots, n$ , we get  $y_k = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} t_i$  by (3) and (4). This, combined with (5) and (7), yields  $z_k = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^k t_i$ . Using those two equations in (2), and  $t_k = 0$  whenever  $s_k = \ell_k$ , we obtain

$$t_k = s_k - x_k + (u_k - s_k) \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^{k-1} t_i, \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n. \tag{12}$$

We now show by induction on  $k$  that, for all  $k = 1, \dots, n$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^k t_i = \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^k (s_i - x_i) \prod_{j=i+1, s_j > \ell_j}^k (u_j - s_j + 1). \tag{13}$$

By definition of  $t_k$ , (13) holds for  $k = 1$ . Let us suppose that (13) holds for  $k < n$  and show that it holds for  $k + 1$ . The result is immediate if  $s_{k+1} = \ell_{k+1}$ , hence assume that  $s_{k+1} > \ell_{k+1}$ . We have

$$\sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^{k+1} t_i = (s_{k+1} - x_{k+1}) + (u_{k+1} - s_{k+1}) \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^k t_i + \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^k t_i \tag{14}$$

$$= (s_{k+1} - x_{k+1}) + (u_{k+1} - s_{k+1} + 1) \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^k (s_i - x_i) \prod_{j=i+1, s_j > \ell_j}^k (u_j - s_j + 1) \tag{15}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^{k+1} (s_i - x_i) \prod_{j=i+1, s_j > \ell_j}^{k+1} (u_j - s_j + 1).$$

Above, equality (14) follows from (12) applied to  $t_{k+1}$  and equality (15) follows using (13).

Injecting (13) in (12) yields

$$t_k = s_k - x_k + (u_k - s_k) \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^{k-1} (s_i - x_i) \prod_{j=i+1, s_j > \ell_j}^{k-1} (u_j - s_j + 1) \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n. \tag{16}$$

Up to now, we only used linear transformations, thus projecting out the variables  $y, z$  gives us (16),  $\sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^n t_i \leq 1$ ,  $t_k = 0$  whenever  $s_k = \ell_k$  and  $t_k \geq 0$  otherwise. Then, projecting onto the  $x$  variable gives the desired result.  $\square$

Note that the following derives from the above proof by combining (12) and the fact that, by (16), we have  $t_k = -A_k$ :

$$A_k(x) = (x_k - s_k) + (u_k - s_k) \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^{k-1} A_i(x), \quad \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n. \tag{17}$$

**2. Lexicographical polytopes**

In this section, we first provide the description of top-lexicographical polytopes. We then show that a lexicographical polytope is the intersection of its top- and bottom-lexicographical polytopes.

*2.1. Description of top-lexicographical polytopes*

The following observation unveils the polyhedral relation between a top-lexicographical polytope and the convex hull of its componentwise maximal points.

**Observation 4.**  $P_{\ell, u}^{\leq s} = (\text{conv}(X_{\ell, u}^{\leq s}) + \mathbb{R}_-^n) \cap \{x \geq \ell\}$ .

**Proof.** Since  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell, u}^{\leq s})$  is integer and contained in  $\{x \geq \ell\}$ , the polyhedron on the right is integer. Seen the definitions, the observation follows. □

Remark that, when  $\ell = \mathbf{0}$ ,  $P_{\ell, u}^{\leq s}$  is precisely the submissive of  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell, u}^{\leq s})$ . Now, we derive from Lemma 3 and Observation 4 the linear description of top-lexicographical polytopes.

**Theorem 5.**  $P_{\ell, u}^{\leq s} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \ell \leq x \leq u, A_k(x) \leq 0, \text{ for } k = 1, \dots, n\}$ .

**Proof.** Theorem 5 immediately follows from Observation 4 and the following description of  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell, u}^{\leq s}) + \mathbb{R}_-^n$ ,

$$\text{conv}(X_{\ell, u}^{\leq s}) + \mathbb{R}_-^n = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : x \leq u \text{ and } A_k(x) \leq 0, \text{ for } k = 1, \dots, n\}. \tag{18}$$

To prove (18), denote by  $Q$  its right hand side. By Lemma 3, the above inequalities are valid for  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell, u}^{\leq s})$ . Since their coefficients for  $x$  are nonnegative, they also hold for  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell, u}^{\leq s}) + \mathbb{R}_-^n$ . Note that the latter and  $Q$  have the same recession cone, thus it remains to show that the vertices of  $Q$  are vertices of  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell, u}^{\leq s})$ . Let us prove it by induction on the dimension, the base case being immediate. We may assume that  $u_n > s_n$ , as otherwise  $A_n(x) = x_n - s_n$  and the induction concludes. Let  $\bar{x}$  be a vertex of  $Q$ .

**Claim 6.**  $\sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^n A_i(\bar{x}) \geq -1$ .

**Proof.** The indices  $i$  of  $A_i(x)$  involved in sums throughout this proof satisfy  $s_i > \ell_i$ , yet to ease the reading, we will omit the subscripts “ $s_i > \ell_i$ ”. By contradiction, assume that  $\sum_{i=1}^n A_i(\bar{x}) < -1$ . Since  $\bar{x}$  is a vertex, and  $x_n$  appears only in  $x_n \leq u_n$  and  $A_n(x) \leq 0$ , at least one of them holds with equality. If the latter does, then by (17) and  $u_n > s_n$ , we get the contradiction  $0 = A_n(\bar{x}) \leq (u_n - s_n)(1 + A_1(\bar{x}) + \dots + A_{n-1}(\bar{x})) < (u_n - s_n)(1 - 1) = 0$ . Therefore  $A_n(\bar{x}) < 0$  and  $\bar{x}_n = u_n$ . For  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we denote  $x' := (x_1, \dots, x_{n-1})$ . Necessarily,  $x'$  satisfies to equality  $n - 1$  linearly independent of the remaining inequalities, and hence  $x'$  is a vertex of  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} : x_k \leq u_k, A_k(x) \leq 0, \text{ for } k = 1, \dots, n - 1\}$ . By the induction hypothesis,  $x'$  is a vertex of  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell', u'}^{\leq s'}) + \mathbb{R}_-^{n-1}$ , hence  $\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} A_i(x') \geq -1$ . But now  $A_n(\bar{x}) < 0, \bar{x}_n = u_n$  and (17) imply  $A_1(\bar{x}') + \dots + A_{n-1}(\bar{x}') < -1$ , a contradiction. ■

Let us show that  $A_k(\bar{x}) = 0$  whenever  $s_k = \ell_k$ . Indeed, in this case,  $\bar{x}_k$  only appears in  $A_k(\bar{x}) \leq 0$  and  $\bar{x}_k \leq u_k$ , and one is satisfied with equality since  $\bar{x}$  is a vertex. If  $\bar{x}_k = u_k$ , then by (17), Claim 6 and  $A_i(\bar{x}) \leq 0$ , for  $i = 1 \dots, n$ , we get  $0 \geq A_k(\bar{x}) = (u_k - s_k)(1 + \sum_{i=1, s_i > \ell_i}^{k-1} A_i(\bar{x})) \geq 0$ . Consequently,  $\bar{x}$  belongs to  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell, u}^{\leq s})$  and this proves (18). □

Symmetrically, bottom-lexicographical polytopes are described as follows.

**Corollary 7.**  $P_{\ell, u}^{\geq s} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \ell \leq x \leq u, B_k(x) \leq 0, \text{ for } k = 1, \dots, n\}$ , where, for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ ,

$$B_k(x) = (r_k - x_k) + (r_k - \ell_k) \sum_{i=1, r_i < u_i}^{k-1} \left( \prod_{j=i+1, r_j < u_j}^{k-1} (r_j - \ell_j + 1) \right) (r_i - x_i).$$

2.2. Lexicographical polytopes

By definition, we have  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq s} \subseteq P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq} \cap P_{\ell,u}^{s \leq}$ . It turns out that the converse holds, see Theorem 8. In particular,  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq} \cap P_{\ell,u}^{s \leq}$  is an integer polytope.

**Theorem 8.** A lexicographical polytope is the intersection of its top- and bottom-lexicographical polytopes.

**Proof.** It remains to prove that  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq s} \supseteq Q$ , where  $Q = P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq} \cap P_{\ell,u}^{s \leq}$ . Let us prove it by induction on the dimension, the one-dimensional case being immediate.

If  $r_1 = s_1$ , then the problem reduces to the  $(n - 1)$ -dimensional case, and using induction concludes.

If  $r_1 + 1 \leq \pi \leq s_1 - 1$  for some integer  $\pi$ , then let  $\ell'$  be obtained from  $\ell$  by replacing  $\ell_1$  by  $\pi$ . By  $s_1 > \ell'_1$  and the definition of  $A_k(x)$ , applying Theorem 5 gives  $P_{\ell',u}^{s \leq} \cap \{x_1 \geq \pi\} = P_{\ell',u}^{s \leq}$ . Moreover, since  $\pi > r_1$ , the latter is contained in  $P_{\ell',u}^{r \leq}$ . Therefore  $Q \cap \{x_1 \geq \pi\} = P_{\ell',u}^{s \leq}$  is integer. Similarly,  $Q \cap \{x_1 \leq \pi\}$  is integer, hence so is  $Q$ , and we are done.

The remaining case is when  $r_1 = s_1 - 1$ . Let  $\bar{x} \in P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq} \cap P_{\ell,u}^{s \leq}$ . If  $\bar{x}_1 = s_1$ , when  $\bar{x}$  is written as a convex combination of integer points of  $P_{\ell,u}^{s \leq}$ , all of them have their first coordinate equal to  $s_1$ , and hence belong to  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq s}$ . By convexity, so does  $\bar{x}$  and we are done. A similar argument may be applied if  $\bar{x}_1 = r_1$ . Therefore, we may assume that  $r_1 < \bar{x}_1 < s_1$ .

Let  $\lambda = \bar{x}_1 - r_1$ , and define  $y$  by  $y_1 = s_1$  and  $y_k = u_k + \frac{\bar{x}_k - u_k}{\lambda}$  for  $k = 2, \dots, n$ . Similarly, define  $z$  by  $z_1 = r_1$  and  $z_i = \ell_i + \frac{\bar{x}_i - \ell_i}{1 - \lambda}$ , for  $i = 2, \dots, n$ . The following claim finishes the proof, where, given two points  $v$  and  $w$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\max(v, w)$  (resp.  $\min(v, w)$ ) will denote the point of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  whose  $i$ th coordinate is  $\max\{v_i, w_i\}$  (resp.  $\min\{v_i, w_i\}$ ) for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

**Claim 9.**  $\bar{x}$  is a convex combination of  $\bar{y} = \max(y, \ell)$  and  $\bar{z} = \min(z, u)$  which both belong to  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq s}$ .

**Proof.** First, let us show that  $y \in \text{conv}(X_{\ell,u}^{s \leq}) + \mathbb{R}_-^n$ . As  $\bar{x} \leq u$ , we have  $y \leq u$ . Moreover,  $A_1(y) = y_1 - s_1 = 0$ . Now, we prove by induction that  $A_k(y) = \frac{1}{\lambda} A_k(\bar{x})$  for  $k = 2, \dots, n$ . Using (17),  $A_1(y) = 0$ , the definition of  $y_k$ , and the induction hypothesis, we have  $A_k(y) = \frac{1}{\lambda} [\bar{x}_k - s_k + (\lambda - 1)(u_k - s_k) + (u_k - s_k) \sum_{i=2, s_i > \ell_i}^{k-1} A_i(\bar{x})]$ . Since  $\lambda - 1 = \bar{x}_1 - s_1 = A_1(\bar{x})$  and  $s_1 = r_1 + 1 > \ell_1$ , we get by (17) that  $A_k(y) = \frac{1}{\lambda} A_k(\bar{x})$ , for  $k = 2, \dots, n$ . Since  $A_k(\bar{x}) \leq 0$ , we have  $A_k(y) \leq 0$ . Hence,  $y \in \text{conv}(X_{\ell,u}^{s \leq}) + \mathbb{R}_-^n$ . Therefore, there exists  $y^+$  of  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell,u}^{s \leq})$  with  $y^+ \geq y$ . Clearly,  $y^+ \geq \ell$  hence  $y^+ \geq \max(y, \ell)$ . Thus,  $\max(y, \ell)$  belongs to  $\text{conv}(X_{\ell,u}^{s \leq}) + \mathbb{R}_-^n$  and, by Observation 4, to  $P_{\ell,u}^{s \leq}$ . Moreover, as its first coordinate equals  $s_1$ ,  $\max(y, \ell)$  belongs to  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq s}$ . Similarly,  $\min(z, u)$  also belongs to  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq s}$ .

Finally, we have  $(1 - \lambda)\bar{z}_1 + \lambda\bar{y}_1 = (1 - \lambda)(s_1 - 1) + \lambda s_1 = s_1 - 1 + \lambda = \bar{x}_1$ . For  $i \in \{2, \dots, n\}$ , we have  $(1 - \lambda)\bar{z}_i + \lambda\bar{y}_i = \min(\bar{x}_i - \lambda\ell_i, (1 - \lambda)u_i) + \max((\lambda - 1)u_i + \bar{x}_i, \lambda\ell_i) = \bar{x}_i - \max(\lambda\ell_i, (\lambda - 1)u_i + \bar{x}_i) + \max((\lambda - 1)u_i + \bar{x}_i, \lambda\ell_i) = \bar{x}_i$ . Therefore,  $\bar{x} = (1 - \lambda)\bar{z} + \lambda\bar{y}$  and we are done. ■ □

Note that the above result implies that the family of lexicographical polytopes defined on a fixed box  $[\ell, u]$  is closed by intersection. Beside, combined with Theorem 5 and Corollary 7, it provides the description of lexicographical polytopes.

**Corollary 10.** The lexicographical polytope  $P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq s}$  is described as follows:

$$P_{\ell,u}^{r \leq s} = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \begin{array}{ll} A_k(x) \leq 0 & \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n \\ B_k(x) \leq 0 & \text{for } k = 1, \dots, n \\ \ell \leq x \leq u \end{array} \right\}.$$

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