

PRIMELY GENERATED REFINEMENT MONOIDS

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Dedicated to the memory of María Dolores Gordillo Romero

ABSTRACT. We extend both Dobbertin's characterization of primely generated regular refinement monoids and Pierce's characterization of primitive monoids to general primely generated refinement monoids.

INTRODUCTION

The class of abelian monoids satisfying the Riesz refinement property –refinement monoids for short– has been largely studied over the last decades in connection with various problems, as non-stable K-Theory of rings and C^* -algebras (see e.g. [2, 4, 5, 10, 11]), classification of Boolean algebras (see e.g. [13]), or its own structure theory (see e.g. [7, 8, 14]). Recall that an element p in a monoid M is a *prime element* if p is not invertible in M , and, whenever $p \leq a+b$ for $a, b \in M$, then either $p \leq a$ or $p \leq b$ (where $x \leq y$ means that $y = x + z$ for some $z \in M$). The monoid M is *primely generated* if every non-invertible element of M can be written as a sum of prime elements. Primely generated refinement monoids enjoy important cancellation properties, such as separative cancellation and unperforation, as shown by Brookfield in [7, Theorem 4.5, Corollary 5.11(5)]. It was also shown by Brookfield that any finitely generated refinement monoid is automatically primely generated [7, Corollary 6.8].

Recently, the class of refinement monoids has been separated into subclasses of *tame* and *wild* refinement monoids, where the tame ones are the direct limits of finitely generated refinement monoids, and the rest are wild. This has been motivated by problems in non-stable K-theory, where many of the monoids that appear in connection with von Neumann regular rings and C^* -algebras of real rank zero are indeed tame refinement monoids. It has been asked in [3, Open Problem 5.3] whether all primely generated refinement monoids are tame.

Two classes of primely generated refinement monoids have been completely classified. The first one is the class of *primitive monoids*, i.e. antisymmetric primely generated refinement monoids, see [13]. These monoids are described by means of a set I endowed with an antisymmetric transitive relation \triangleleft . Given such a pair (I, \triangleleft) , the primitive monoid associated to

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it is the monoid generated by I with the relations $i + j = j$ if and only if $i \triangleleft j$. We observe that this is the same as giving a partial order \leq on I and a decomposition $I = I_{\text{free}} \sqcup I_{\text{reg}}$ into *free* and *regular* elements, the free elements corresponding to the elements i such that $i \not\triangleleft i$, and the regular ones corresponding to the elements i such that $i \triangleleft i$. Using this structure, tameness of primitive monoids has been verified in [3, Theorem 2.10]. The second class where a satisfactory description has been obtained is that of primely generated *regular* conical refinement monoids. These monoids were characterized by Dobbertin in [8] in terms of partial orders of abelian groups.¹ It has been shown by the second-named author and Wehrung [12, Theorem 4.4] that all regular conical refinement monoids are tame.

In the present paper, we obtain a common generalization of both results, obtaining a representation of primely generated conical refinement monoids in terms of certain partial orders of semigroups. The basic data are a poset I , together with a partition $I = I_{\text{free}} \sqcup I_{\text{reg}}$, a family of abelian groups G_i for $i \in I_{\text{reg}}$, and a family of semigroups of the form $\mathbb{N} \times G_i$, where G_i is an abelian group, for $i \in I_{\text{free}}$ (see Definition 1.1 below for the precise definition). To each one of these *I-systems* \mathcal{J} we associate a conical monoid $M(\mathcal{J})$.

With this notation and terminology at hand, we can state the main results of the paper as follows:

Theorem 0.1.

- (1) *Given any primely generated conical refinement monoid M , there is a poset I and an I -system \mathcal{J} such that $M \cong M(\mathcal{J})$.*
- (2) *For any I -system \mathcal{J} , the monoid $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a primely generated conical refinement monoid. Moreover, $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a tame monoid.*

Note that this result gives a complete description of primely generated conical refinement monoids. It also gives an affirmative answer to [3, Open Problem 5.3]. In the particular case where all the above groups G_i are trivial, we recover Pierce's characterization of primitive monoids. In the case that $I_{\text{free}} = \emptyset$, our result reduces to Dobbertin's characterization of primely generated regular conical refinement monoids. Theorem 0.1(1) will be proven in Section 2 (see Theorem 2.7).

It is readily checked that $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a primely generated conical monoid for every I -system \mathcal{J} (Remark 2.8). It will be shown in Sections 3 and 4 that $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a tame refinement monoid, thus completing the proof of Theorem 0.1. We point out that one of the main difficulties in showing the refinement property for $M(\mathcal{J})$, when $I_{\text{free}} \neq \emptyset$, lies in the fact that the archimedean components of this monoid do not satisfy refinement in general.

Section 3 is devoted to the proof of the refinement property of $M(\mathcal{J})$ for finitely generated I -systems. We show this result first in the case where all the upper subsets $I \uparrow i := \{j \in I : i \leq j\}$, for $i \in I$, are chains (Proposition 3.2), and then we adapt a technique introduced in [2] to solve the general case of a finitely generated I -system (Theorem 3.15). We believe that, in analogy with [2], the methods developed in this section will be useful in the study of

¹It should be pointed out that the definition of refinement monoid given in [8] includes the condition of being *conical* (condition (1) in [8, p. 166]). Following modern convention, refinement monoids are defined here just in terms of the accomplishment of the Riesz refinement property (see Section 1 for the precise definitions of these conditions).

the realization problem for finitely generated conical refinement monoids (see [1] for a survey on this problem).

For a general I -system \mathcal{J} , we prove in Section 4 that $M(\mathcal{J})$ can be written as a direct limit of monoids of the form $M(\mathcal{J}')$, where \mathcal{J}' are finitely generated systems. By Proposition 2.9 and Theorem 3.15, all these monoids $M(\mathcal{J}')$ are finitely generated conical refinement monoids, so we obtain at once that $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a refinement monoid, and that it is tame.

We work with conical monoids because these are the monoids that appear in non-stable K-theory. However, similar results can be obtained for non-conical refinement monoids M by considering the conical refinement monoid $M \sqcup \{0\}$ obtained by adjoining a new zero element to M .

1. I -SYSTEMS AND THEIR MONOIDS

In this section we will define I -systems –a structure extending the notion of partial order of groups– by replacing the groups by some special semigroups. Using this structure, we will construct an associated monoid in a way that extends Dobbertin’s construction [8] and Pierce’s construction [13]. First, we will recall some basic definitions.

Given a poset (I, \leq) , we say that a subset A of I is a *lower set* if $x \leq y$ in I and $y \in A$ implies $x \in A$. For any $i \in I$, we will denote by $I \downarrow i = \{x \in I : x \leq i\}$ the lower subset generated by i . We will write $x < y$ if $x \leq y$ and $x \neq y$.

All semigroups considered in this paper are abelian. We will denote by \mathbb{N} the semigroup of positive integers, and by \mathbb{Z}^+ the monoid of non-negative integers.

Given an abelian monoid M , we set $M^* := M \setminus \{0\}$. We say that M is *conical* if M^* is a semigroup, that is, if, for all x, y in M , $x + y = 0$ only when $x = y = 0$. We say that M is *separative* provided $2x = 2y = x + y$ always implies $x = y$; there are a number of equivalent formulations of this property, see e.g. [4, Lemma 2.1]. We say that M is a *refinement monoid* if, for all a, b, c, d in M such that $a + b = c + d$, there exist w, x, y, z in M such that $a = w + x$, $b = y + z$, $c = w + y$ and $d = x + z$. It will often be convenient to present this situation in the form of a diagram, as follows:

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline & c & d \\ \hline a & w & x \\ \hline b & y & z \\ \hline \end{array}.$$

If $x, y \in M$, we write $x \leq y$ if there exists $z \in M$ such that $x + z = y$. Note that \leq is a translation-invariant pre-order on M , called the *algebraic pre-order* of M . An element $x \in M$ is *regular* if $2x \leq x$. An element $x \in M$ is an *idempotent* if $2x = x$. An element $x \in M$ is *free* if $nx \leq mx$ implies $n \leq m$. Any element of a separative monoid is either free or regular. In particular, this is the case for any primely generated refinement monoid, by [7, Theorem 4.5].

A subset S of a monoid M is called an *order-ideal* if S is a subset of M containing 0, closed under taking sums and summands within M ; that is, S is a submonoid such that, for all $x \in M$ and $e \in S$, if $x \leq e$ then $x \in S$. If $(S_k)_{k \in \Lambda}$ is a family of (commutative) semigroups, $\bigoplus_{k \in \Lambda} S_k$ (resp. $\prod_{k \in \Lambda} S_k$) stands for the coproduct (resp. the product) of the semigroups S_k , $k \in \Lambda$, in the category of commutative semigroups. If the semigroups S_k are subsemigroups of a semigroup S , we will denote by $\sum_{k \in \Lambda} S_k$ the subsemigroup of S generated by $\bigcup_{k \in \Lambda} S_k$.

Note that $\sum_{k \in \Lambda} S_k$ is the image of the canonical map $\bigoplus_{k \in \Lambda} S_k \rightarrow S$. We will use the notation $\langle X \rangle$ to denote the semigroup generated by a subset X of a semigroup S .

Given a semigroup M , we will denote by $G(M)$ the Grothendieck group of M . There exists a semigroup homomorphism $\psi_M: M \rightarrow G(M)$ such that for any semigroup homomorphism $\eta: M \rightarrow H$ to a group H there is a unique group homomorphism $\tilde{\eta}: G(M) \rightarrow H$ such that $\tilde{\eta} \circ \psi_M = \eta$. $G(M)$ is abelian and it is generated as a group by $\psi(M)$. If M is already a group then $G(M) = M$. If M is a semigroup of the form $\mathbb{N} \times G$, where G is an abelian group, then $G(M) = \mathbb{Z} \times G$. In this case, we will view G as a subgroup of $\mathbb{Z} \times G$ by means of the identification $g \leftrightarrow (0, g)$. These are the only cases where we will need to consider Grothendieck groups in this article.

The following definition is crucial for this work:

Definition 1.1. Let $I = (I, \leq)$ be a poset. An I -system $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, (G_i)_{i \in I}, \varphi_{ji} (i < j))$ is given by the following data:

- (a) A partition $I = I_{free} \sqcup I_{reg}$ (we admit one of the two sets I_{free} or I_{reg} to be empty).
- (b) A family $\{G_i\}_{i \in I}$ of abelian groups. We adopt the following notation:
 - (1) For $i \in I_{reg}$, set $M_i = G_i$, and $\widehat{G}_i = G_i = M_i$.
 - (2) For $i \in I_{free}$, set $M_i = \mathbb{N} \times G_i$, and $\widehat{G}_i = \mathbb{Z} \times G_i$

Observe that, in any case, \widehat{G}_i is the Grothendieck group of M_i .

- (c) A family of semigroup homomorphisms $\varphi_{ji}: M_i \rightarrow G_j$ for all $i < j$, to whom we associate, for all $i < j$, the unique extension $\widehat{\varphi}_{ji}: \widehat{G}_i \rightarrow G_j$ of φ_{ji} to a group homomorphism from the Grothendieck group of M_i to G_j (we look at these maps as maps from \widehat{G}_i to \widehat{G}_j). We require that the family $\{\varphi_{ji}\}$ satisfies the following conditions:
 - (1) The assignment

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} i & \mapsto \widehat{G}_i \\ (i < j) & \mapsto \widehat{\varphi}_{ji} \end{array} \right\}$$

defines a functor from the category I to the category of abelian groups (where we set $\widehat{\varphi}_{ii} = \text{id}_{\widehat{G}_i}$ for all $i \in I$).

- (2) For each $i \in I_{free}$ we have that the map

$$\bigoplus_{k < i} \varphi_{ik}: \bigoplus_{k < i} M_k \rightarrow G_i$$

is surjective.

We say that an I -system $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, (G_i)_{i \in I}, \varphi_{ji} (i < j))$ is *finitely generated* in case I is a finite poset and all the groups G_i are finitely generated.

Remark 1.2. Note that, if $i \in I_{free}$ and i is a minimal element of I , then $G_i = \{e_i\}$, and so $M_i = \mathbb{N}$, by condition (c2) in Definition 1.1. Indeed the map appearing there in this special case should be interpreted as the map $\{0\} \rightarrow \{e_i\}$. For i being not minimal, the inclusion of $\{0\}$ in the domain of the map makes no difference.

Given a poset I , and an I -system \mathcal{J} , we construct a semilattice of groups based on the partial order of groups (I, \leq, \widehat{G}_i) , by following the model introduced in [8]. Let $A(I)$ be the semilattice (under set-theoretic union) of all the finitely generated lower subsets of I . These are precisely the lower subsets a of I such that the set $\text{Max}(a)$ of maximal elements of a is

finite. In case I is finite, and since the intersection of lower subsets of I is again a lower subset, $A(I)$ is a lattice. For any $a \in A(I)$, we define $\widehat{H}_a = \bigoplus_{i \in a} \widehat{G}_i$, and we define f_a^b ($a \subseteq b$) to be the canonical embedding of \widehat{H}_a into \widehat{H}_b . Given $a \in A(I)$, $i \in a$ and $u \in \widehat{G}_i$, we define $\chi(a, i, u) \in \widehat{H}_a$ by

$$\chi(a, i, u)_j = \begin{cases} u & \text{if } j = i, \\ 0_j & \text{if } j \neq i. \end{cases}$$

Let U_a be the subgroup of \widehat{H}_a generated by the set

$$\{\chi(a, i, u) - \chi(a, j, \widehat{\varphi}_{ji}(u)) : i < j \in \text{Max}(a), u \in \widehat{G}_i\}.$$

Now, for any $a \in A(I)$, set $\widetilde{G}_a = \widehat{H}_a/U_a$, and let $\Phi_a : \widehat{H}_a \rightarrow \widetilde{G}_a$ be the natural onto map. Then, for any $a \subseteq b \in A(I)$ we have that $f_a^b(U_a) \subseteq U_b$, so that there exists a unique homomorphism $\widetilde{f}_a^b : \widetilde{G}_a \rightarrow \widetilde{G}_b$ which makes commutative the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widehat{H}_a & \xrightarrow{f_a^b} & \widehat{H}_b \\ \Phi_a \downarrow & & \downarrow \Phi_b \\ \widetilde{G}_a & \xrightarrow{\widetilde{f}_a^b} & \widetilde{G}_b \end{array}$$

Hence, $(A(I), (\widetilde{G}_a)_{a \in A(I)}, \widetilde{f}_a^b(a \subseteq b))$ is a semilattice of groups. Thus, the set

$$\widetilde{M}(\mathcal{J}) := \bigsqcup_{a \in A(I)} \widetilde{G}_a,$$

endowed with the operation $x + y := \widetilde{f}_a^{a \cup b}(x) + \widetilde{f}_b^{a \cup b}(y)$ for any $a, b \in A(I)$ and any $x \in \widetilde{G}_a, y \in \widetilde{G}_b$, is a primely generated regular refinement monoid by [8, Proposition 1]. Note that $\widehat{H}_\emptyset = \widetilde{G}_\emptyset = \{0\}$. We refer the reader to [8] for further details on this construction.

In order to attain our goal, we define a convenient substructure of \widehat{H}_a . Let H_a be the subsemigroup of \widehat{H}_a defined by

$$H_a = \left\{ (z_i)_{i \in a} \in \widehat{H}_a : z_i \in \begin{cases} \mathbb{N} \times G_i & \text{for } i \in \text{Max}(a)_{\text{free}} \\ \{(0, 0_i)\} \cup \mathbb{N} \times G_i & \text{for } i \in a_{\text{free}} \setminus \text{Max}(a)_{\text{free}} \end{cases} \right\}.$$

In what follows, whenever $i < j \in I$ with j a free element, $x = (n, g) \in \mathbb{N} \times G_j$ and $y \in M_i$, we will see $x + \varphi_{ji}(y)$ as the element $(n, g + \varphi_{ji}(y)) \in \mathbb{N} \times G_j$. This is coherent with our identification of G_j as the subgroup $\{0\} \times G_j$ of $\widehat{G}_j = \mathbb{Z} \times G_j$.

Lemma 1.3. *If $x \in H_a$ and $y \in H_b$, then*

$$f_a^{a \cup b}(x) + f_b^{a \cup b}(y) \in H_{a \cup b}.$$

Proof. This follows from the fact that $\text{Max}(a \cup b) \subseteq \text{Max}(a) \cup \text{Max}(b)$. □

Lemma 1.3 implies that we can define a semilattice of semigroups

$$(A(I), (H_a)_{a \in A(I)}, f_a^b(a \subseteq b)).$$

Now, we will construct a monoid associated to it. For, consider the congruence \sim defined on H_a , for $a \in A(I)$, given by

$$x \sim y \iff x - y \in U_a.$$

Lemma 1.4. *Let $a \in A(I)$. The congruence \sim on H_a agrees with the congruence \equiv , generated by the pairs $(x + \chi(a, i, \alpha), x + \chi(a, j, \varphi_{ji}(\alpha)))$, for $x \in H_a$, $i < j \in \text{Max}(a)$ and $\alpha \in M_i$.*

Proof. It is clear that if $x \equiv y$ then $x \sim y$.

Assume that $x \sim y$. Then there exist a finite subset A consisting of pairs $(i, j) \in I^2$ such that $i < j$ for all $(i, j) \in A$ and $j \in \text{Max}(a)$, and elements $\alpha_i^{(j)}, \beta_i^{(j)} \in M_i$ such that

$$x + \sum_{(i,j) \in A} (\chi(a, j, \varphi_{ji}(\alpha_i^{(j)})) + \chi(a, i, \beta_i^{(j)})) = y + \sum_{(i,j) \in A} (\chi(a, j, \varphi_{ji}(\beta_i^{(j)})) + \chi(a, i, \alpha_i^{(j)})). \quad (1.1)$$

Observe that

$$x + \sum_{(i,j) \in A} (\chi(a, j, \varphi_{ji}(\beta_i^{(j)})) + \chi(a, i, \alpha_i^{(j)})) \equiv y + \sum_{(i,j) \in A} (\chi(a, j, \varphi_{ji}(\beta_i^{(j)})) + \chi(a, i, \alpha_i^{(j)})),$$

so that it is enough to show that for all $z = \chi(a, i, \alpha)$ and all $z = \chi(a, j, \varphi_{ji}(\alpha))$, $i < j \in \text{Max}(a)$, $\alpha \in M_i$, and for all $x, y \in H_a$, we have $x + z \equiv y + z \implies x \equiv y$.

Assume that for $x, y \in H_a$, $i < j \in \text{Max}(a)$ and $\alpha \in M_i$ we have $x + \chi(a, i, \alpha) \equiv y + \chi(a, i, \alpha)$. We then have

$$x + \chi(a, j, \varphi_{ji}(\alpha)) \equiv x + \chi(a, i, \alpha) \equiv y + \chi(a, i, \alpha) \equiv y + \chi(a, j, \varphi_{ji}(\alpha)),$$

so that it suffices to show that $x + \chi(a, j, u) \equiv y + \chi(a, j, u)$ implies $x \equiv y$ for $u \in G_j$, $j \in \text{Max}(a)$. But this is easy: let $x^{(0)}, x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n)}$ be elements in H_a such that $x^{(0)} = x + \chi(a, j, u)$ and $x^{(n)} = y + \chi(a, j, u)$, and such that, for $m = 0, \dots, n-1$, either $x^{(m)} = (x^{(m)})' + \chi(a, k, \alpha_m)$ and $x^{(m+1)} = (x^{(m)})' + \chi(a, l, \varphi_{lk}(\alpha_m))$, or $x^{(m)} = (x^{(m)})' + \chi(a, l, \varphi_{lk}(\alpha_m))$ and $x^{(m+1)} = (x^{(m)})' + \chi(a, l, \alpha_m)$, for some $(x^{(m)})' \in H_a$, $\alpha_m \in M_k$, and some pair $k < l \in \text{Max}(a)$. Then, setting

$$z^{(m)} = x^{(m)} - \chi(a, j, u) = x^{(m)} + \chi(a, j, -u) \in H_a, \quad (m = 0, 1, \dots, n)$$

we get that $z^{(0)} = x$, $z^{(n)} = y$ and $z^{(m)}$ are elements in H_a satisfying relations analogous to the ones satisfied by $x^{(m)}$ (with $(x^{(m)})'' := (x^{(m)})' - \chi(a, j, u)$ in place of $(x^{(m)})'$). This shows that $x \equiv y$. \square

Corollary 1.5. *For every $a \in A(I)$, $M_a := H_a / \sim = H_a / \equiv$ is a submonoid of \tilde{G}_a .*

Proof. By Lemma 1.4, we have $H_a / \sim = H_a / \equiv$. Clearly, $M_a = H_a / \sim$ is a submonoid of \hat{H}_a / \sim . \square

Definition 1.6. Given an I -system $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, G_i, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$, we denote by $M(\mathcal{J})$ the set $\bigsqcup_{a \in A(I)} M_a$. By Lemma 1.3 and Corollary 1.5, $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a submonoid of \tilde{M} .

Remark 1.7. If $I = I_{reg}$, then $M(\mathcal{J})$ is the monoid constructed by Dobbertin [8]. If all groups G_i are trivial, then we recover Pierce's primitive monoids [13].

Observe that Lemma 1.4 gives:

Corollary 1.8. *$M(\mathcal{J})$ is the monoid generated by M_i , $i \in I$, with respect to the defining relations*

$$x + y = x + \varphi_{ji}(y), \quad i < j, x \in M_j, y \in M_i.$$

Proof. This follows from the fact that $M_a = H_a / \equiv$ for all $a \in A(I)$ (Lemma 1.4). \square

Notation. Assume \mathcal{J} is an I -system. For $i \in I$ and $x \in M_i$ we will denote by $\chi_i(x)$ the element $[\chi(I \downarrow i, i, x)] \in M(\mathcal{J})$. Note that, by Corollary 1.8, $M(\mathcal{J})$ is the monoid generated by $\chi_i(x)$, $i \in I$, $x \in M_i$, with the defining relations

$$\chi_j(x) + \chi_i(y) = \chi_j(x + \varphi_{ji}(y)), \quad i < j, x \in M_j, y \in M_i.$$

We will denote by $\mathcal{L}(M)$ the lattice of order-ideals of a monoid M and by $\mathcal{L}(I)$ the lattice of lower subsets of a poset I .

Proposition 1.9. *Let \mathcal{J} be an I -system. Then there is a lattice isomorphism*

$$\mathcal{L}(I) \cong \mathcal{L}(M(\mathcal{J})).$$

More precisely, given a lower subset J of I , the restricted J -system is

$$\mathcal{J}_J := (J, \leq, (G_i)_{i \in J}, \varphi_{ji}, (i < j \in J)),$$

and the map $J \mapsto M(\mathcal{J}_J)$ defines a lattice isomorphism from $\mathcal{L}(I)$ onto $\mathcal{L}(M(\mathcal{J}))$.

Proof. Since J is a lower subset, we see that \mathcal{J}_J is a J -system (of course, we set $J_{\text{free}} = J \cap I_{\text{free}}$ and $J_{\text{reg}} = J \cap I_{\text{reg}}$). Given $a \in A(J)$, we also have that $a \in A(I)$, and moreover M_a only depends on the system restricted to a , therefore we get an embedding

$$M(\mathcal{J}_J) = \bigsqcup_{a \in A(J)} M_a \hookrightarrow M(\mathcal{J}) = \bigsqcup_{a \in A(I)} M_a.$$

Clearly $M(\mathcal{J}_J)$ is an order-ideal of $M(\mathcal{J})$.

The map $J \mapsto M(\mathcal{J}_J)$ is clearly injective. To show surjectivity, let N be an order-ideal of $M(\mathcal{J})$, and let J be the subset of elements i of I such that $\chi_i(x) \in N$ for some $x \in M_i$. We claim that $M(\mathcal{J}_J) = N$. If $x \in N$ then there is $a \in A(I)$ such that $x = \sum_{i \in \text{Max}(a)} \chi_i(x_i)$ for some $x_i \in M_i$. Since N is an order-ideal, we get $\chi_i(x_i) \in N$, and so $i \in J$. This shows that $N \subseteq M(\mathcal{J}_J)$. Conversely, $M(\mathcal{J}_J)$ is generated as a monoid by the elements $\chi_i(x)$ for $i \in J$ and $x \in M_i$, so it suffices to show that all these elements belong to N . If $i \in J$ then there is an element $z \in M_i$ such that $\chi_i(z) \in N$. Observe that the archimedean component of $\chi_i(z)$ in $M(\mathcal{J})$ is precisely $\chi_i(M_i)$. Therefore, being N an order ideal of $M(\mathcal{J})$, we must have that $\chi_i(M_i) \subseteq N$.

We have shown that the map $J \mapsto M(\mathcal{J}_J)$ is a bijection. It is easily checked that this map is a lattice isomorphism. \square

Observe that the map defined in Proposition 1.9 restricts to a semilattice isomorphism from $A(I)$ to the semilattice of finitely generated order-ideals of $M(\mathcal{J})$.

2. THE I -SYSTEM OF A PRIMELY GENERATED REFINEMENT MONOID

In this section we will show that for any primely generated conical refinement monoid M there exist a poset I and an I -system \mathcal{J}_M such that M and $M(\mathcal{J}_M)$ are isomorphic.

The set of primes of an abelian monoid M is denoted by $\mathbb{P}(M)$. Two primes $p, q \in M$ are *incomparable* if $p \not\leq q$ and $q \not\leq p$. Let \overline{M} be the antisymmetrization of M , i.e. the quotient monoid of M by the congruence given by $x \equiv y$ if and only if $x \leq y$ and $y \leq x$ (see [7, Notation 5.1]). We will denote the class of an element x of M in \overline{M} by \overline{x} .

The following facts are easily proven.

Lemma 2.1. *If $p \in M$, then:*

- (1) $\bar{p} \in \overline{M}$ is regular if and only if so is p .
- (2) $\bar{p} \in \overline{M}$ is free if and only if so is p .
- (3) $\bar{p} \in \overline{M}$ is prime if and only if so is p .

For $x, y \in M$, we will write $x <^* y$ when $\bar{x} < \bar{y}$ in \overline{M} . We write $x \leq^* y$ if either $x <^* y$ or $x = y$.

Lemma 2.2. *Let $p, q \in M$ primes, and suppose that $q <^* p$. Then, $\bar{p} + \bar{q} = \bar{p}$.*

Proof. We have $\bar{p} = \bar{q} + \bar{a}$ for a nonzero $\bar{a} \in \overline{M}$, and thus either $\bar{p} \leq \bar{q}$ or $\bar{p} \leq \bar{a}$. The first case implies that $\bar{p} = \bar{q}$, contradicting the assumption. Hence, $\bar{p} + \bar{q} \leq \bar{a} + \bar{q} = \bar{p}$. and thus $\bar{p} + \bar{q} = \bar{p}$, as desired. \square

For $a \in M$, we denote by M_a the archimedean component of a , so that $x \in M_a$ if and only if $a \leq nx$ and $x \leq ma$ for some positive integers n, m .

Lemma 2.3. *Let M be a primely generated refinement monoid, and let $p \in \mathbb{P}(M)_{\text{free}}$. If $x \in M_p$, then there exists a unique $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\bar{x} = n\bar{p}$.*

Proof. By [7, Theorem 5.8], there are unique pairwise incomparable primes $\bar{q}_1, \dots, \bar{q}_s$ and uniquely determined positive integers n_1, \dots, n_s , with $n_i = 1$ if \bar{q}_i is regular, such that

$$\bar{x} = n_1\bar{q}_1 + \dots + n_s\bar{q}_s.$$

Since $\bar{x} \leq n\bar{p}$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we get that $\bar{q}_i \leq \bar{p}$ for all $i = 1, \dots, s$, and since $\bar{p} \leq m\bar{x}$ for some $m \in \mathbb{N}$ we must have $\bar{p} \leq \bar{q}_i$ for some i . Therefore $\bar{p} = \bar{q}_i$ and, since the \bar{q}_j are incomparable we must have $s = i = 1$. This gives the result. \square

We are now ready to define the I -system associated to a primely generated conical refinement monoid M :

(1) By [7, Theorem 5.2], \overline{M} is a primitive monoid. We will choose, for each prime \bar{p} of \overline{M} , a representative p of \bar{p} in M , and we will consider the set \mathbb{P} formed by the set of all the elements p obtained in this way; notice that, by Lemma 2.1, $\mathbb{P} \subseteq \mathbb{P}(M)$. We will refer to these elements as the primes of M , although any element p' such that $\bar{p} = \bar{p}'$ will be also prime of course. Note that, again by Lemma 2.1, p is regular or free according to whether \bar{p} is regular or free in \overline{M} .

The chosen poset is \mathbb{P} endowed with the partial order \leq^* . Note that (\mathbb{P}, \leq^*) is order-isomorphic with $(\overline{\mathbb{P}}, \leq) = (\mathbb{P}(\overline{M}), \leq)$.

(2) For each $p \in \mathbb{P}$, let M_p be the archimedean component of p . We separate two cases:

- (i) If p is regular then M_p is an abelian group (see e.g. [7, Lemma 2.7]), denoted by G_p . In this case, we choose as the canonical representative of \bar{p} the only idempotent element lifting \bar{p} , i.e. the unit of the group M_p .
- (ii) If p is free, we define

$$G'_p = \{p + \alpha : \alpha \in M \text{ and } p + \alpha \leq p\}.$$

Then G'_p is a group with respect to the operation \circ given by:

$$(p + \alpha) \circ (p + \beta) = p + (\alpha + \beta)$$

(see [7, Definition 2.8 & Lemma 2.9]).

In order to complete the picture for the case (ii), we need to prove the following result.

Lemma 2.4. *Let $p \in \mathbb{P}$ be a free prime. Then*

$$M_p \cong \mathbb{N} \times (G'_p, \circ).$$

Proof. If $p + \alpha \in G'_p$, then for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $np + \alpha \in M_p$. Thus, we can define a map $\varphi: \mathbb{N} \times G'_p \rightarrow M_p$ by the rule

$$\varphi(n, p + \alpha) = np + \alpha.$$

We have

$$\varphi((n, p + \alpha) + (m, p + \beta)) = \varphi(n + m, p + \alpha + \beta) = (n + m)p + \alpha + \beta = \varphi(n, p + \alpha) + \varphi(m, p + \beta),$$

showing that φ is a homomorphism.

Now we show that φ is injective. Suppose that $np + \alpha = mp + \beta$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $p + \alpha, p + \beta \in G'_p$. Passing to \bar{M} and using that p is free, we get $n = m$. Now by separative cancellation ([7, Theorem 4.5]), we get $p + \alpha = p + \beta$.

To show that φ is surjective, take any $x \in M_p$. By Lemma 2.3, $\bar{x} = n\bar{p}$ for some positive integer n , so that $x + \alpha = np$ and $np + \beta = x$ for some $\alpha, \beta \in M$. We thus obtain $np = np + \alpha + \beta$, which again by separative cancellation gives $p = p + \alpha + \beta$, showing that $p + \beta \in G'_p$. We obtain $x = \varphi(n, p + \beta)$. \square

Remark 2.5. Observe that, for p free, the group (G'_p, \circ) is identified with a subgroup G_p of $G(M_p) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times (G'_p, \circ)$ by the rule $(p + \alpha) \leftrightarrow (p + \alpha) - p \in G(M_p)$ for $p + \alpha \in G'_p$. With this identification, M_p is naturally identified with $\mathbb{N} \times G_p$ through the map $\psi_p: \mathbb{N} \times G_p \rightarrow M_p$ given by $\psi_p((n, (p + \alpha) - p)) = np + \alpha$, and so is $G(M_p)$ with $\mathbb{Z} \times G_p$.

The groups $(G_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}$ constructed above are the groups for our \mathbb{P} -system.

(3) We now define maps $\varphi_{pq}: M_q \rightarrow G_p$ for $q <^* p, p, q \in \mathbb{P}$. First we need the following fact

Lemma 2.6. *If $q <^* p \in \mathbb{P}$ and $x \in M_q$, then $p + x \leq p$.*

Proof. We separate two cases:

- (1) If q is regular, then for any $x \in M_q$ we have $q + x \leq nq \leq q$. By Lemma 2.2 $p \leq p + q \leq p$, and thus $p + x \leq (p + q) + x = p + (q + x) \leq p + q \leq p$.
- (2) If q is free, then by Lemma 2.4 there exist $n \in \mathbb{N}, a \in M$ with $q + a \leq q$ and $x = nq + a$. Again by Lemma 2.2, $p + q \leq p$, and thus $p + x = p + nq + a \leq p + nq \leq p$.

\square

For $x \in M_q$, set

$$\varphi_{pq}(x) = (p + x) - p \in G_p \subseteq G(M_p).$$

Observe that this map is well-defined by Lemma 2.6. Also, it is clearly a semigroup homomorphism. It is straightforward to show that the induced maps $\widehat{\varphi}_{pq}: \widehat{G}_q \rightarrow \widehat{G}_p$ satisfy condition (c1) of Definition 1.1. We finally look at condition (c2). Let p be a free prime in \mathbb{P} and let $\alpha \in M$ be a nonzero element such that $p + \alpha \leq p$. By [7, Theorem 5.8], there exists pairwise incomparable primes $q_1, \dots, q_r \in \mathbb{P}$ such that $q_i <^* p$ for all i , and uniquely determined positive integers n_i , with $n_i = 1$ if q_i is regular, such that

$$\bar{\alpha} = n_1 \bar{q}_1 + \dots + n_r \bar{q}_r.$$

Since $\alpha \leq n_1q_1 + \cdots + n_rq_r$, we can apply refinement to get $\alpha = \alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_r$ with $\alpha_i \leq n_iq_i$ for all i . Observe that we obtain $\bar{\alpha}_i = n_i\bar{q}_i$, as otherwise we would arrive to a contradiction with the uniqueness of the expression of $\bar{\alpha}$ as a sum of primes in \bar{M} . In particular we obtain $\alpha_i \in M_{q_i}$, and

$$(p + \alpha) - p = \sum_{i=1}^r \varphi_{p,q_i}(\alpha_i) \in \left(\bigoplus_{q < p} \varphi_{q,p} \right) \left(\bigoplus_{q < p} M_q \right),$$

as desired.

We have thus built a \mathbb{P} -system $\mathcal{J}_M = (\mathbb{P}, \leq^*, (G_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}, \varphi_{pq}(q <^* p))$ associated to the monoid M .

Theorem 2.7. *With the above notation, we have that there is a natural isomorphism of monoids*

$$M(\mathcal{J}_M) \longrightarrow M.$$

Proof. For each $p \in \mathbb{P}$, there is a natural map

$$\psi_p : M(\mathcal{J}_M)_p \rightarrow M_p,$$

which coincides with the identity map when p is regular, and with the map $(n, (p+a) - p) \mapsto np + a$ when p is free and $p+a \in G'_p$. As observed in Remark 2.5, the map ψ_p is an isomorphism. Now, let $q <^* p \in \mathbb{P}$, let $x \in M_p$ and $y \in M_q$. By Lemmas 2.4 and 2.6, we have $x + y \in M_p$, and so $x + y = x + y + 0_p = x + [(p+y) - p] = x + \varphi_{pq}(y)$ holds in M , where 0_p is the identity of the group \widehat{G}_p . By Corollary 1.8, there exists a unique monoid homomorphism $\psi : M(\mathcal{J}_M) \rightarrow M$ which restricts to ψ_p for every $p \in \mathbb{P}$. Since M is primely generated and conical, ψ is a surjective map.

To show that ψ is injective, we use the description of $M(\mathcal{J}_M)$ obtained above and an argument of Dobbertin [8, pp. 172–173]. Since ψ_p is an isomorphism for all $p \in \mathbb{P}$, and in order to simplify the notation, we will identify $M(\mathcal{J}_M)_p$ and M_p for the rest of the proof.

Let $\tilde{x}, \tilde{y} \in M(\mathcal{J}_M)$ be such that $\psi(\tilde{x}) = \psi(\tilde{y})$. Adopting the notation introduced in Section 1, we may assume that \tilde{x}, \tilde{y} have representatives $x \in H_a$ and $y \in H_b$, respectively, for $a, b \in A(I)$, of the form

$$x = \sum_{p \in \text{Max}(a)} \chi(a, p, x_p), \quad y = \sum_{q \in \text{Max}(b)} \chi(b, q, y_q),$$

where $x_p \in M_p$ for all $p \in \text{Max}(a)$ and $y_q \in M_q$ for all $q \in \text{Max}(b)$.

Observe that

$$\sum_{p \in \text{Max}(a)} x_p = \psi(\tilde{x}) = \psi(\tilde{y}) = \sum_{q \in \text{Max}(b)} y_q$$

in M . Applying [7, Theorem 5.8], we deduce that $\text{Max}(a) = \text{Max}(b)$, and so $a = b$.

Since M has refinement, there are elements z_{pq} in M such that $x_p = \sum_{q \in \text{Max}(b)} z_{pq}$ and $y_q = \sum_{p \in \text{Max}(a)} z_{pq}$. Since M is primely generated, we can write

$$z_{pq} = \sum_{l=1}^{n_{pq}} w_{pql},$$

where $w_{pql} \in M_l$ for $l \in \mathbb{P}$. Observe that, looking at x_p as an element of \widehat{G}_p , we have $x_p = \sum_q (\sum_l \widehat{\varphi}_{p,l}(w_{pql}))$, and similarly, looking at y_q as an element of \widehat{G}_q , we have $y_q = \sum_p (\sum_l \widehat{\varphi}_{q,l}(w_{pql}))$.

The following computation is performed in the group \widehat{H}_a (cf. [8]):

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{p,q,l} \left(\chi(a, p, \widehat{\varphi}_{p,l}(w_{pql})) - \chi(a, l, w_{pql}) \right) \\
& + \sum_{p,q,l} \left(\chi(a, l, w_{pql}) - \chi(a, q, \widehat{\varphi}_{q,l}(w_{pql})) \right) \\
& = \sum_{p,q,l} \chi(a, p, \widehat{\varphi}_{p,l}(w_{pql})) - \chi(a, q, \widehat{\varphi}_{q,l}(w_{pql})) \\
& = \sum_p \left(\chi(a, p, \sum_q (\sum_l \widehat{\varphi}_{p,l}(w_{pql}))) \right) - \sum_q \left(\chi(a, q, \sum_p (\sum_l \widehat{\varphi}_{q,l}(w_{pql}))) \right) \\
& = \left(\sum_p \chi(a, p, x_p) \right) - \left(\sum_q \chi(a, q, y_q) \right) \\
& = x - y.
\end{aligned}$$

This shows that $x - y \in U_a$, and so $\tilde{x} = \tilde{y}$ in $M_a = H_a / \sim$ (see Corollary 1.5). This concludes the proof. \square

Remark 2.8. It can be easily checked that, for any I -system \mathcal{J} , the primes of $M(\mathcal{J})$ are precisely the elements of the form $\chi_i(x)$, for $i \in I_{\text{reg}}$ and $x \in G_i$ and the elements of the form $\chi_j((1, x))$ for $j \in I_{\text{free}}$ and $x \in G_j$. So, $M(\mathcal{J})$ is always a primely generated monoid.

Proposition 2.9. *An I -system \mathcal{J} is finitely generated if and only if $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a finitely generated monoid.*

Proof. Assume first that $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, (G_i)_{i \in I}, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$ is a finitely generated I -system. By Remark 1.2, for every $i \in I_{\text{free}}$ minimal, the semigroup M_i is generated by $(1, e_i)$, and thus it is finitely generated. Then, using condition (c2) in Definition 1.1, it is easily seen that $M(\mathcal{J})$ is generated as a monoid by the elements of the form $\chi_i(1, e_i)$, for $i \in I_{\text{free}}$ and the elements of the form $\chi_i(x_{i,t})$, for $i \in I_{\text{reg}}$, where $\{x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,l_i}\}$ is a finite family of semigroup generators of G_i .

Conversely, suppose that $M(\mathcal{J})$ is finitely generated. We first show that I is finite. Indeed consider the I -system \mathcal{J}^\equiv , with the same partition of I as disjoint union of free and regular elements, and with $G_i^\equiv = \{e_i\}$ for all $i \in I$. Then $M(\mathcal{J}^\equiv)$ is the antisymmetrization of $M(\mathcal{J})$, and so is a finitely generated monoid. It is readily seen that a minimal set of generators of the primely generated refinement monoid $M(\mathcal{J}^\equiv)$ [13] is precisely the set of primes $\mathbb{P}(M(\mathcal{J}^\equiv)) = I$ of $M(\mathcal{J}^\equiv)$. Therefore I is finite.

Now, let $i \in I_{\text{reg}}$, and let \mathcal{G} be a finite family of semigroup generators of $M(\mathcal{J})$. If $g \in \mathcal{G}$ and $\chi_i(e_i) + g \leq \chi_i(e_i)$, then there is an element $g_i \in G_i$ such that $\chi_i(g_i) = \chi_i(e_i) + g$. It is easy to check that the finite family

$$\{g_i : g \in \mathcal{G} \text{ and } \chi_i(e_i) + g \leq \chi_i(e_i)\}$$

generates G_i as a semigroup. Therefore, G_i is a finitely generated group if $i \in I_{\text{reg}}$. Now, if $i \in I_{\text{free}}$ then one shows using (c2) in Definition 1.1 and induction that G_i is also a finitely generated abelian group. \square

3. THE REFINEMENT PROPERTY OF $M(\mathcal{J})$ FOR FINITELY GENERATED I -SYSTEMS

In this section we show that, for any finitely generated I -system \mathcal{J} , the monoid $M(\mathcal{J})$ has the refinement property. Indeed, we prove more generally this result for arbitrary I -systems over finite posets I . This will be used in the next section to show the refinement property for the monoids associated to arbitrary I -systems. We remark that a main difficulty in establishing the refinement property for $M(\mathcal{J})$ is that the components M_a , for $a \in A(I)$, do not satisfy refinement in general.

The first step is to show that the result holds when I satisfies the additional condition that, for every $p \in I$, the set $I \uparrow p = \{i \in I : p \leq i\}$ is a chain (Proposition 3.2). For this result, we do not require I to be finite. Given $i \in I$, we will denote the lower subset $I \downarrow i = \{x \in I : x \leq i\}$ by $a(i)$.

We establish in the next result one of the crucial steps for proving the refinement property.

Lemma 3.1. *Let $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, G_i, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$ be an I -system. Let $i \in I$ and consider elements $x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2 \in M_i$ such that $x_1 + x_2 = y_1 + y_2$ in M_i . Then there are elements $z^{(ij)}$ such that $z^{(11)} = \chi(a(i), i, z_{11})$, $z^{(22)} = \chi(a(i), i, z_{22})$, for some elements z_{11}, z_{22} in M_i , $z^{(12)}, z^{(21)} \in \bigsqcup_{b \subseteq a(i)} H_b$ such that the identities $[\chi(a(i), i, x_r)] = \sum_s [z^{(rs)}]$ for $r = 1, 2$ and $[\chi(a(i), i, y_s)] = \sum_r [z^{(rs)}]$ for $s = 1, 2$ hold in $M(\mathcal{J})$.*

Proof. If $i \in I_{\text{reg}}$, then M_i is a group, whence the result is clear. So assume that $i \in I_{\text{free}}$. Write $x_r = (n_r, g_r) \in \mathbb{N} \times G_i$ and $y_s = (m_s, h_s) \in \mathbb{N} \times G_i$, for $r, s \in \{1, 2\}$. Consider a refinement of the equality $n_1 + n_2 = m_1 + m_2$ of the form

	m_1	m_2
n_1	$\alpha_{1,1}$	$\alpha_{1,2}$
n_2	$\alpha_{2,1}$	$\alpha_{2,2}$

with $\alpha_{1,1}$ and $\alpha_{2,2}$ positive integers and $\alpha_{1,2}$ and $\alpha_{2,1}$ non-negative integers. On the other hand we may consider a refinement

	h_1	h_2
g_1	$\beta_{1,1}$	$\beta_{1,2}$
g_2	$\beta_{2,1}$	$\beta_{2,2}$

of the identity $g_1 + g_2 = h_1 + h_2$ in the group G_i . For the indices (r, s) such that $\alpha_{r,s} = 0$, use condition (c2) in Definition 1.1 to find finitely many elements $\delta_k^{(rs)} \in M_k$, with $k < i$, satisfying that $\sum_k \varphi_{ik}(\delta_k^{(rs)}) = \beta_{r,s}$. Now take $z_{11} = (\alpha_{1,1}, \beta_{1,1})$, $z_{22} = (\alpha_{2,2}, \beta_{2,2})$, and for $r \neq s$, take $z^{(rs)} = \chi(a(i), i, (\alpha_{r,s}, \beta_{r,s}))$ in case $\alpha_{r,s} \neq 0$ and $z^{(rs)} = \sum_k \chi(a(k), k, \delta_k^{(rs)}) \in H_b$ in case $\alpha_{r,s} = 0$, where $b \in A(I)$ and $b \subseteq a(i)$. It is then clear by Lemma 1.4 that the identities $[\chi(a(i), i, x_r)] = \sum_s [z^{(rs)}]$ for $r = 1, 2$ and $[\chi(a(i), i, y_s)] = \sum_r [z^{(rs)}]$ for $s = 1, 2$ hold in $M(\mathcal{J})$. \square

Now, we are ready to prove the desired result for a special kind of posets.

Proposition 3.2. *Let $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, G_i, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$ be an I -system. Assume that, for every $p \in I$, the set $I \uparrow p = \{i \in I : p \leq i\}$ is a chain. Then, the associated monoid $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a refinement monoid.*

Proof. Assume that $x^{(1)} + x^{(2)} = y^{(1)} + y^{(2)}$ in $M := M(\mathcal{J})$, where $x^{(r)} \in M_{a_r}$ and $y^{(s)} \in M_{b_s}$ for $a_r, b_s \in A(I)$. Then $a := a_1 \cup a_2 = b_1 \cup b_2$. Write $A_r = \text{Max}(a_r)$, $B_s = \text{Max}(b_s)$, and $A = \text{Max}(a)$. Observe that $A_1 \cap A_2 \subseteq A \subseteq A_1 \cup A_2$ and similarly $B_1 \cap B_2 \subseteq A \subseteq B_1 \cup B_2$.

We first reduce to the case where A is a singleton. For, observe that, because of our hypothesis that $I \uparrow p$ is a chain for every $p \in I$, the sets $a(k)$, for $k \in A$, are mutually disjoint. Indeed, if $k, l \in A$ and $x \in a(k) \cap a(l)$, then $k, l \in I \uparrow x$, which by hypothesis is a chain. Then, $k \leq l$ or $l \leq k$, and since both are maximal we conclude that $k = l$. Now, for each $k \in A$, let $N_k = \bigsqcup_{b \subseteq a(k)} M_b$ be the order-ideal of M generated by the archimedean component $M_{a(k)}$. By the above remark, we have that the internal direct sum of order-ideals

$N := \sum_{k \in A}^{\oplus} N_k$ is the order ideal of M generated by $x^{(1)} + x^{(2)} = y^{(1)} + y^{(2)}$. Restricting the equality $x^{(1)} + x^{(2)} = y^{(1)} + y^{(2)}$ to each N_k , $k \in A$, we may thus assume that $A = \{k\}$ for a single element $k \in I$ (and consequently $a = a(k)$). Note that there exist $r, s \in \{1, 2\}$ such that $k \in A_r \cap B_s$. Without loss of generality, we shall assume that $r = s = 1$, so that $k \in A_1 \cap B_1$.

By Lemma 1.4, for $r = 1, 2$ we can take representatives $\tilde{x}^{(r)}$ of $x^{(r)}$ in H_{a_r} of the form $\tilde{x}^{(r)} = \sum_{i \in A_r} \tilde{x}_i^{(r)}$, where $\tilde{x}_i^{(r)} \in M_i$ for $i \in A_r$ (and where $\tilde{x}_i^{(r)} = 0_i \in \widehat{G}_i$ if $i \in a_r \setminus A_r$). Similarly, we can take representatives $\tilde{y}^{(s)}$ of $y^{(s)}$ in H_{b_s} of the form $\tilde{y}^{(s)} = \sum_{i \in B_s} \tilde{y}_i^{(s)}$, where $\tilde{y}_i^{(s)} \in M_i$ for $i \in B_s$.

Since $\tilde{x}^{(1)} + \tilde{x}^{(2)} \sim \tilde{y}^{(1)} + \tilde{y}^{(2)}$ in H_a , it follows that there are elements $u_i \in \widehat{G}_i$ for $i < k$ such that

$$\tilde{x}^{(1)} + \tilde{x}^{(2)} - (\tilde{y}^{(1)} + \tilde{y}^{(2)}) = \sum_{i < k} \left(\chi(a, i, u_i) - \chi(a, k, \widehat{\varphi}_{ki}(u_i)) \right). \quad (3.1)$$

For $i \in a \setminus (A_1 \cup A_2 \cup B_1 \cup B_2)$ we thus obtain that $u_i = 0_i$.

We now proceed to obtain the refinement. We need to distinguish several cases. To start with, observe that the refinement is trivial in case $x^{(2)} = 0$ or $y^{(2)} = 0$, so we will assume that $A_2 \neq \emptyset$ and $B_2 \neq \emptyset$.

Since for any $i = 1, 2$ we have $a_i \subseteq a_1 \cup a_2 = a(k)$ and $b_i \subseteq b_1 \cup b_2 = a(k)$, we have that $y \leq k$ for every $y \in A_i$ and for every $y \in B_i$ ($i = 1, 2$).

Assume first that $k \in A_1 \cap A_2 \cap B_1 \cap B_2$. Then we have $A_1 = A_2 = B_1 = B_2 = \{k\}$. So, we obtain from (3.1) that $\tilde{x}_k^{(1)} + \tilde{x}_k^{(2)} = \tilde{y}_k^{(1)} + \tilde{y}_k^{(2)}$ in M_k , and the result follows from Lemma 3.1.

A second case appears when $k \in A_1 \cap A_2 \cap B_1$ but $k \notin B_2$. Then we have $A_1 = A_2 = B_1 = \{k\}$, and $b_2 = \bigcup_{d \in B_2} a(d) \subsetneq a$. From (3.1), we get

$$\tilde{x}_k^{(1)} + \tilde{x}_k^{(2)} - \tilde{y}_k^{(1)} = - \sum_{d \in B_2} \widehat{\varphi}_{kd}(u_d), \quad \tilde{y}_d^{(2)} = -u_d \quad (d \in B_2). \quad (3.2)$$

Set

$$z^{(22)} = \tilde{y}^{(2)}, \quad z^{(12)} = 0, \quad z^{(11)} = \tilde{x}^{(1)}, \quad z^{(21)} = \chi(a, k, \tilde{x}_k^{(2)} - \sum_{d \in B_2} \widehat{\varphi}_{kd}(\tilde{y}_d^{(2)})). \quad (3.3)$$

Then it follows from (3.2) that $x^{(r)} = \sum_s [z^{(rs)}]$ and $y^{(s)} = \sum_r [z^{(rs)}]$ in $M(\mathcal{J})$, giving the desired refinement. The case where $k \in A_1 \cap B_1 \cap B_2$ and $k \notin A_2$ is treated similarly.

Finally we consider the case where $k \notin A_2 \cup B_2$. (Recall that we are assuming throughout that $k \in A_1 \cap B_1$). Then we have $A_1 = B_1 = \{k\}$ and $a_2, b_2 \subsetneq a$. We have from (3.1):

$$\tilde{x}_k^{(1)} - \tilde{y}_k^{(1)} = - \sum_{d \in A_2 \cup B_2} \widehat{\varphi}_{kd}(u_d), \quad u_d = x_d^{(2)} \text{ for } d \in A_2 \setminus B_2, \quad (3.4)$$

$$u_d = -y_d^{(2)} \text{ for } d \in B_2 \setminus A_2, \quad u_d = x_d^{(2)} - y_d^{(2)} \text{ for } d \in A_2 \cap B_2, \quad (3.5)$$

Set $z^{(22)} = 0$, $z^{(12)} = \tilde{y}^{(2)} = \sum_{d \in B_2} \tilde{y}_d^{(2)}$, $z^{(21)} = \tilde{x}^{(2)} = \sum_{d \in A_2} \tilde{x}_d^{(2)}$, and

$$z^{(11)} = \chi\left(a(k), k, \tilde{x}_k^{(1)} - \sum_{d \in B_2} \widehat{\varphi}_{kd}(\tilde{y}_d^{(2)})\right).$$

It is clear that $x^{(2)} = [z^{(21)}] + [z^{(22)}]$, $y^{(2)} = [z^{(12)}] + [z^{(22)}]$ and $x^{(1)} = [z^{(11)}] + [z^{(12)}]$. Using equations (3.4) and (3.5), we also obtain $y^{(1)} = [z^{(11)}] + [z^{(21)}]$. This concludes the proof. \square

Now we start our approach to the proof of the refinement property for the monoids associated to systems over finite posets. We first analyze the functoriality of our main construction.

Definition 3.3. Let $I^{(t)}$ be posets ($t = 1, 2$), and let $\mathcal{J}_t = (I^{(t)}, \leq, G_i^{(t)}, \varphi_{ji}^{(t)} (i < j))$ be $I^{(t)}$ -systems. A homomorphism of systems $f: \mathcal{J}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{J}_2$ consists of an order-preserving map $\psi: I_1 \rightarrow I_2$ such that $\psi(i) < \psi(j)$ whenever $i < j$ (that is, it is injective on chains), $\psi(I_{\text{free}}^{(1)}) \subseteq I_{\text{free}}^{(2)}$ and $\psi(I_{\text{reg}}^{(1)}) \subseteq I_{\text{reg}}^{(2)}$, and a family of group homomorphisms $f_i: G_i^{(1)} \rightarrow G_{\psi(i)}^{(2)}$ such that for $i < j$ in $I^{(1)}$ the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M_i^{(1)} & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{ji}^{(1)}} & G_j^{(1)} \\ \bar{f}_i \downarrow & & \downarrow f_j \\ M_{\psi(i)}^{(2)} & \xrightarrow{\varphi_{\psi(j), \psi(i)}^{(2)}} & G_{\psi(j)}^{(2)} \end{array} \quad (3.6)$$

where for $i \in I_{\text{reg}}^{(1)}$, $\bar{f}_i = f_i$, and, for $i \in I_{\text{free}}^{(1)}$, $\bar{f}_i: M_i^{(1)} \rightarrow M_{\psi(i)}^{(2)}$ is defined by $\bar{f}_i(n, h) = (n, f_i(h))$, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $h \in G_i^{(1)}$.

We have the following result:

Lemma 3.4. *Let $I^{(t)}$ be posets ($t = 1, 2$), and let \mathcal{J}_t be $I^{(t)}$ -systems. Then, any homomorphism of systems $f: \mathcal{J}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{J}_2$ induces a monoid homomorphism $M(f): M(\mathcal{J}_1) \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}_2)$.*

Proof. We set $M(f)(\chi_i(x)) = \chi_{\psi(i)}(\bar{f}_i(x))$ for all $x \in M_i^{(1)}$, $i \in I^{(1)}$. By Corollary 1.8, to show that this is a well-defined homomorphism, it is enough to show that, if $i < j$ in $I^{(1)}$, $x \in M_j^{(1)}$ and $y \in M_i^{(1)}$, then

$$\chi_{\psi(j)}(\bar{f}_j(x)) + \chi_{\psi(j)}(\bar{f}_i(y)) = \chi_{\psi(j)}(\bar{f}_j(x + \varphi_{ji}^{(1)}(y))).$$

For this, observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{\psi(j)}(\bar{f}_j(x + \varphi_{j_i}^{(1)}(y))) &= \chi_{\psi(j)}(\bar{f}_j(x) + f_j(\varphi_{j_i}^{(1)}(y))) \\ &= \chi_{\psi(j)}(\bar{f}_j(x) + \varphi_{\psi(j), \psi(i)}^{(2)}(\bar{f}_i(y))) = \chi_{\psi(j)}(\bar{f}_j(x)) + \chi_{\psi(i)}(\bar{f}_i(y)), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the commutativity of the diagram (3.6) for the second equality. \square

Recall that given a poset I , and an element $i \in I$, the *lower cover* of i in I is the set

$$L(I, i) = \{j \in I : j < i \text{ and } [j, i] = \{j, i\}\}.$$

Under certain circumstances we can pullback an I -system, as follows.

Lemma 3.5. *Let $I^{(1)}, I^{(2)}$ be finite posets, let $\mathcal{J}_2 = (I^{(2)}, \leq, G_i^{(2)}, \varphi_{j_i}^{(2)} (i < j))$ be an $I^{(2)}$ -system, and let $\psi: I^{(1)} \rightarrow I^{(2)}$ be an order-preserving surjective map such that $\psi(i) < \psi(j)$ for $i < j$ in $I^{(1)}$. Assume moreover that ψ induces a bijection from $L(I^{(1)}, i)$ onto $L(I^{(2)}, \psi(i))$ for all $i \in I^{(1)}$. Set $G_i^{(1)} = G_{\psi(i)}^{(2)}$ for all $i \in I^{(1)}$, and $\varphi_{j_i}^{(1)} = \varphi_{\psi(j), \psi(i)}^{(2)}$ for all $i, j \in I^{(1)}$ with $i < j$. Then, $\mathcal{J}_1 = (I^{(1)}, \leq, G_i^{(1)}, \varphi_{j_i}^{(1)} (i < j))$ is an $I^{(1)}$ -system, and there is a natural homomorphism of systems $f: \mathcal{J}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{J}_2$ inducing a surjective monoid homomorphism $M(f): M(\mathcal{J}_1) \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}_2)$.*

Proof. The proof is straightforward. The only thing to be remarked is that property (c2) for the $I^{(1)}$ -system \mathcal{J}_1 follows from the condition that ψ induces a bijection from $L(I^{(1)}, i)$ to $L(I^{(2)}, \psi(i))$ for all $i \in I^{(1)}$. Indeed, assume that $i \in I_{\text{free}}^{(1)}$. It suffices to note that, given any $j' \in I^{(2)}$ such that $j' < \psi(i)$, there exists $j \in I^{(1)}$ such that $j < i$ and $\psi(j) = j'$. For this, take a chain $j' = j'_0 < j'_1 \cdots < j'_l = \psi(i)$ in $I^{(2)}$ such that $j'_t \in L(I^{(2)}, j'_{t+1})$ for $t = 0, \dots, l-1$. Then, by using our hypothesis, we can build a sequence $j_0 < j_1 \cdots < j_l = i$ in $I^{(1)}$ such that $j_t \in L(I^{(1)}, j_{t+1})$ for $t = 0, \dots, l-1$ and $\psi(j_t) = j'_t$ for all t . Now set $j = j_0$. \square

To obtain the refinement of $M(\mathcal{J})$ for a general I -system \mathcal{J} over a finite poset I , we will use a technique introduced in [2, Section 6]. In that paper, given a finite poset \mathbb{P} with a greatest element, another poset \mathbb{F} is constructed with the property that $\mathbb{F} \uparrow i$ is a chain for every $i \in \mathbb{F}$, such that there is a surjective order-preserving map $\Psi: \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$ satisfying certain properties [2, Proposition 6.1]. Denoting by $M(\mathbb{P})$ the monoid generated by \mathbb{P} with the only relations given by the rules $p + q = p$ whenever $q < p$, it was shown in [2, Proposition 6.5] that $M(\mathbb{P})$ is obtained from $M(\mathbb{F})$ by a sequence of crowned pushouts (see below for the definition). We aim here to obtain a corresponding result for the monoids $M(\mathcal{J})$, which in particular will provide a proof of the refinement property for them.

We will use here [2, Proposition 6.1] and the order-theoretic method behind the proof of [2, Proposition 6.5]. The monoid content of [2, Proposition 6.5] needs to be adapted in order to be applied to our situation. We proceed to do that adaptation, in various steps.

Let us recall from [2, Section 4] the definition of a crowned pushout.

Definition 3.6. Let P be a conical monoid. Suppose that P contains order-ideals I and I' , with $I \cap I' = 0$, such that there is an isomorphism $\varphi: I \rightarrow I'$. We have a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} I & \xrightarrow{=} & I \\ \varphi \downarrow & & \downarrow \iota_1 \\ I' & \xrightarrow{\iota_2} & P \end{array}$$

which is not commutative.

The *crowned pushout* Q of (P, I, I', φ) is the coequalizer of the maps $\iota_1: I \rightarrow P$ and $\iota_2 \circ \varphi: I \rightarrow P$, so that there is a map $f: P \rightarrow Q$ with $f(\iota_1(x)) = f(\iota_2(\varphi(x)))$ for all $x \in I$ and given any other map $g: P \rightarrow Q'$ such that $g(\iota_1(x)) = g(\iota_2(\varphi(x)))$ for all $x \in I$, we have that g factors uniquely through f .

Proposition 3.7 ([2, Proposition 4.2]). *Let P be a conical refinement monoid. Suppose that P contains order-ideals I and I' , with $I \cap I' = 0$, such that there is an isomorphism $\varphi: I \rightarrow I'$. Let Q be the crowned pushout of (P, I, I', φ) . Then, Q is the monoid P / \sim where \sim is the congruence on P generated by $x + i \sim x + \varphi(i)$ for $i \in I$ and $x \in P$. Moreover Q is a conical refinement monoid, and Q contains an order-ideal Z , isomorphic with I , such that the projection map $\pi: P \rightarrow Q$ induces an isomorphism $P / (I + I') \cong Q / Z$.*

It was observed in the proof of [2, Proposition 4.2] that the equivalence relation \sim on P is *refining*, that is, if $x \sim y + z$ then there is a decomposition $x = x_1 + x_2$ such that $x_1 \sim y$ and $x_2 \sim z$. In the terminology of [8], this means that the quotient map $\pi: P \rightarrow Q$ is a V-homomorphism. The refinement of Q follows from this fact.

3.8. Let I be a finite poset, let $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, G_i, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$ be an I -system, and let i be a maximal element of I . Since $I \downarrow i$ is a finite poset, we can take the $(I \downarrow i)$ -system

$$\mathcal{J}_i = (I \downarrow i, \leq, (G_j)_{j \in I \downarrow i}, \varphi_{jk}(k < j, j \in I \downarrow i))$$

obtained by restricting \mathcal{J} to $I \downarrow i$. Since i is a greatest element for the poset $I \downarrow i$, we can use the construction in [2, Proposition 6.1] to obtain a poset $\mathbb{F}(i)$ and a surjective order-preserving map $\psi: \mathbb{F}(i) \rightarrow I \downarrow i$ satisfying the following properties:

- (1) The map ψ preserves chains, that is, if S is a chain in $\mathbb{F}(i)$ then ψ restricts to a bijection from S to $\psi(S)$.
- (2) The map $S \rightarrow \psi(S)$ is a bijection from the set of maximal chains of $\mathbb{F}(i)$ onto the set $\mathcal{S}^0(i)$ of maximal chains of $I \downarrow i$.
- (3) For every $t \in \mathbb{F}(i)$, the interval $[t, i]$ is a chain [2, Proposition 6.1].
- (4) For $t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{F}(i)$, if $\psi([t_1, i]) = \psi([t_2, i])$ then $t_1 = t_2$. (This follows directly from the construction of $\mathbb{F}(i)$).
- (5) For every $q \in \mathbb{F}(i)$, the map Ψ induces a bijection from $L(\mathbb{F}(i), q)$ onto $L(I \downarrow i, \Psi(q))$ [2, Lemma 6.4].

Definition 3.9. Let I be a finite poset and let $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, G_i, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$ be an I -system. A \mathcal{J} -compatible pair of I is a pair of lower subsets I_1 and I_2 of I such that $I_1 \cap I_2 = \emptyset$, and such that there is an isomorphism of posets $\psi: I_1 \rightarrow I_2$ satisfying the following conditions:

- (1) $\psi((I_1)_{\text{reg}}) = (I_2)_{\text{reg}}$ and $\psi((I_1)_{\text{free}}) = (I_2)_{\text{free}}$.
- (2) $G_i = G_{\psi(i)}$ for all $i \in I_1$.

- (3) $\varphi_{ji} = \varphi_{\psi(j),\psi(i)}$ if $i < j$ and $i, j \in I_1$.
- (4) $\varphi_{ji} = \varphi_{j,\psi(i)}$ if $i \in I_1, j \in I \setminus (I_1 \cup I_2), i < j$, and $\psi(i) < j$.

We have the following easy fact.

Lemma 3.10. *Let (I_1, I_2) be a \mathcal{J} -compatible pair of lower subsets, and for $t = 1, 2$, let \mathcal{J}_t be the I_t -system obtained by restricting the I -system \mathcal{J} to I_t . Then, $M(\mathcal{J}_t)$ are order-ideals of $M(\mathcal{J})$ for $t = 1, 2$, with $M(\mathcal{J}_1) \cap M(\mathcal{J}_2) = 0$, and there is a monoid isomorphism $\psi: M(\mathcal{J}_1) \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}_2)$ sending $\chi_i(x)$ to $\chi_{\psi(i)}(x)$ for all $i \in I_1$ and all $x \in M_i$.*

Proof. By Proposition 1.9, $M(\mathcal{J}_t)$ are order-ideals of $M(\mathcal{J})$ and, since $I_1 \cap I_2 = \emptyset$, we have that $M(\mathcal{J}_1) \cap M(\mathcal{J}_2) = \{0\}$. By Lemma 3.4, the poset isomorphism $\psi: I_1 \rightarrow I_2$ induces a monoid isomorphism $\psi: M(\mathcal{J}_1) \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}_2)$ with the desired properties. \square

Using a compatible pair of I , we can construct a new system, as follows.

Definition 3.11. Let I be a finite poset, let $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, G_i, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$ be an I -system, and let (I_1, I_2) be a \mathcal{J} -compatible pair of lower subsets of I . We define $\mathcal{J}' = (I', \leq', G'_i, \varphi'_{ji}(i < j))$, where:

- (1) $I' = I \setminus I_2$.
- (2) \leq' is the order relation obtained by setting $i \leq' j$ if and only if either $i \leq j$ in I or $i \in I_1, j \in I \setminus (I_1 \cup I_2)$, and $\psi(i) < j$ in I .
- (3) $G'_i = G_i$ for $i \in I'$.
- (4) For $i <' j$ in I' , we have $\varphi'_{ji} = \varphi_{ji}$ if $i < j$ in I , and $\varphi'_{ji} = \varphi_{j,\psi(i)}$ if $i \in I_1, j \in I \setminus (I_1 \cup I_2)$ and $\psi(i) < j$ in I .

Lemma 3.12. *Let I be a finite poset, let $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, G_i, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$ be an I -system, and let (I_1, I_2) be a \mathcal{J} -compatible pair of lower subsets of I . Then, $\mathcal{J}' = (I', \leq', G'_i, \varphi'_{ji}(i < j))$ is an I' -system.*

Proof. Note that condition (4) in Definition 3.9 says that φ'_{ji} is well-defined for $i <' j$.

To show condition (c1) in Definition 1.1, take i, j, k in I' such that $i <' j <' k$. We have to show that $\widehat{\varphi}'_{ki} = \widehat{\varphi}'_{kj} \widehat{\varphi}'_{ji}$.

If $i < j < k$ in I , then the condition follows from the corresponding condition for \mathcal{J} . If $i, j \in I_1, k \in I \setminus (I_1 \cup I_2)$, and $\psi(j) < k$, then $\psi(i) < \psi(j)$ because ψ is order-preserving, and thus $\psi(i) < k$. Therefore,

$$\widehat{\varphi}'_{ki} = \widehat{\varphi}_{k,\psi(i)} = \widehat{\varphi}_{k,\psi(j)} \widehat{\varphi}_{\psi(j),\psi(i)} = \widehat{\varphi}'_{kj} \widehat{\varphi}'_{ji} = \widehat{\varphi}'_{kj} \widehat{\varphi}'_{ji},$$

where we have used condition (3) in Definition 3.9 for the third equality. A similar proof applies in the case where $i \in I_1, j \in I \setminus (I_1 \cup I_2)$ and $\psi(i) < j$.

We show now condition (c2) in Definition 1.1. For this observe that, given $i \in I'$, we have

$$\bigoplus_{\{k \in I': k <' i\}} \varphi'_{ik} = \left(\bigoplus_{\{k \in I': k < i\}} \varphi_{ki} \right) \bigoplus \left(\bigoplus_{\{k \in I_1: \psi(k) < i \text{ and } k \not\leq i\}} \varphi_{i,\psi(k)} \right).$$

Since $\varphi_{i,\psi(k)} = \varphi_{ik}$ for all $k \in I_1$ such that $k < i$ and $\psi(k) < i$, we obtain that

$$\bigoplus_{\{k \in I': k <' i\}} \varphi'_{ik} : \left(\bigoplus_{\{k \in I': k <' i\}} M'_{ik} \right) \longrightarrow G'_i$$

is surjective. \square

The following result plays a central role in the proof of the main result of this section.

Lemma 3.13. *Let I be a finite poset, let $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, G_i, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$ be an I -system, and let (I_1, I_2) be a \mathcal{J} -compatible pair of lower subsets of I . Then, the crowned pushout of $M(\mathcal{J})$ with respect to $\psi: M(\mathcal{J}_1) \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}_2)$ is the monoid $M(\mathcal{J}')$, where \mathcal{J}' is the system introduced in Definition 3.11.*

Proof. Let Q be the crowned pushout of $M(\mathcal{J})$ with respect to $\psi: M(\mathcal{J}_1) \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}_2)$, and let $f: M(\mathcal{J}) \rightarrow Q$ be the canonical homomorphism.

There is a surjective homomorphism $\pi: M(\mathcal{J}) \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}')$ which sends $\chi_i(x)$ to $\chi_i(x)$ if $i \in I \setminus I_2$ and $x \in M_i$, and sends $\chi_{\psi(i)}(y)$ to $\chi_i(y)$ if $i \in I_1$ and $y \in M_{\psi(i)} = M_i$. Obviously this homomorphism equalizes ι_1 and $\iota_2 \circ \psi$, so there is a unique homomorphism $\bar{\pi}: Q \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}')$ such that $\pi = \bar{\pi} \circ f$. Note that $\bar{\pi}$ is surjective.

To show that $\bar{\pi}$ is an isomorphism, we only need to build a homomorphism $\rho: M(\mathcal{J}') \rightarrow Q$ such that $\rho \circ \bar{\pi} = \text{Id}_Q$. We define $\rho(\chi_i(x)) = f(\chi_i(x))$ for $i \in I'$ and $x \in M'_i = M_i$. We have to check that ρ is well-defined. By Corollary 1.8, it suffices to check that

$$f(\chi_j(x)) + f(\chi_i(y)) = f(\chi_j(x + \varphi'_{ji}(y)))$$

for $i, j \in I'$ with $i <' j$, $x \in M'_j$ and $y \in M'_i$.

Assume first that $i < j$ in I . Then,

$$f(\chi_j(x)) + f(\chi_i(y)) = f(\chi_j(x) + \chi_i(y)) = f(\chi_j(x + \varphi_{ji}(y))) = f(\chi_j(x + \varphi'_{ji}(y))).$$

Suppose now that $i \in I_1$, $j \in I \setminus (I_1 \cup I_2)$ and $\psi(i) < j$. Note that, since f equalizes ι_1 and $\iota_2 \circ \psi$, we have

$$f(\chi_i(y)) = f(\iota_1(\chi_i(y))) = f(\iota_2\psi(\chi_i(y))) = f(\chi_{\psi(i)}(y)).$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} f(\chi_j(x)) + f(\chi_i(y)) &= f(\chi_j(x)) + f(\chi_{\psi(i)}(y)) = f(\chi_j(x) + \chi_{\psi(i)}(y)) \\ &= f(\chi_j(x + \varphi_{j,\psi(i)}(y))) = f(\chi_j(x + \varphi'_{ji}(y))). \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that $\rho \circ \bar{\pi} = \text{Id}_Q$. This concludes the proof. \square

The proof of the following lemma is contained in the proof of [2, Proposition 6.5].

Lemma 3.14. *Let I be a finite poset and let $k \in \text{Max}(I)$. Then, there exist a positive integer n , a family $(I^t)_{0 \leq t \leq n}$ of finite posets, and a family $\psi_t: I^t \rightarrow I^{t+1}$ of surjective order-preserving maps such that, if we denote $\Psi_t = \psi_{n-1} \circ \cdots \circ \psi_t$ ($0 \leq t \leq n-1$), then:*

(1) $I^0 = \mathbb{F}(k)$, $I^n = I \downarrow k$, and Ψ_0 is the map $\psi: \mathbb{F}(k) \rightarrow I \downarrow i$ in 3.8.

(2) For $t = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$, there exist disjoint lower subsets I_1^t and I_2^t of I^t such that:

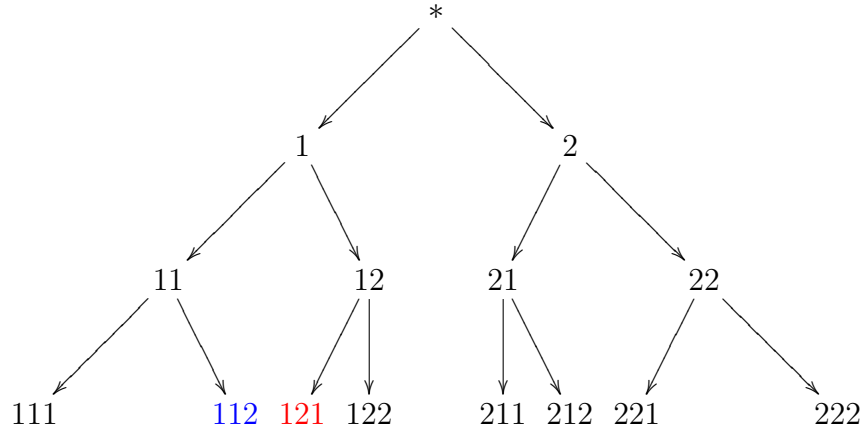
(a) $\Psi_t|_{I_s^t}: I_s^t \rightarrow \Psi_t(I_s^t)$ is an isomorphism for $s = 1, 2$.

(b) $\Psi_t(I_1^t) = \Psi_t(I_2^t)$, whence one obtains an isomorphism of posets $\tau_t: I_1^t \rightarrow I_2^t$ by setting $\tau_t = (\Psi_t|_{I_2^t})^{-1} \circ (\Psi_t|_{I_1^t})$.

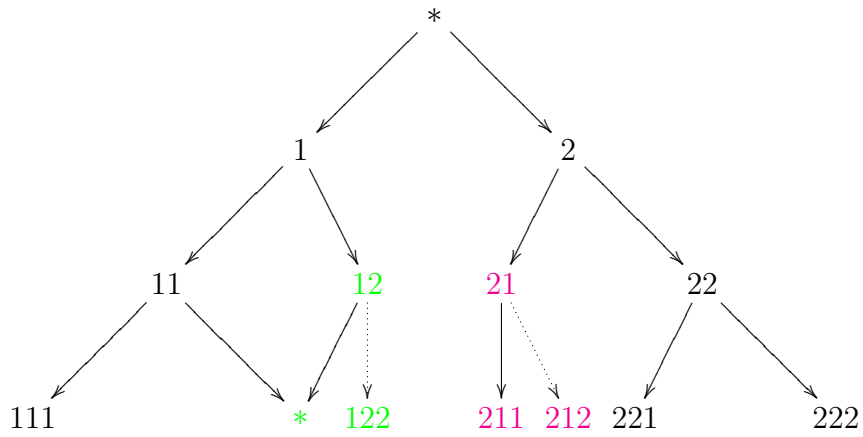
(c) Ψ_t factors as $\Psi_t = \Psi_{t+1} \circ \psi_t$, where $I^{t+1} = I^t \setminus I_2^t$, with the order in I^{t+1} defined by $i <' j$ if either $i < j$ in I^t or $i \in I_1^t$, $j \in I^t \setminus (I_1^t \cup I_2^t)$ and $\tau_t(i) < j$, the map $\psi_t: I^t \rightarrow I^{t+1}$ is the natural identification map, and the map $\Psi_{t+1}: I^{t+1} \rightarrow I \downarrow k$ is the restriction of Ψ_t to I^{t+1} .

The following pictures illustrate the procedure described in Lemma 3.14 in a basic case:

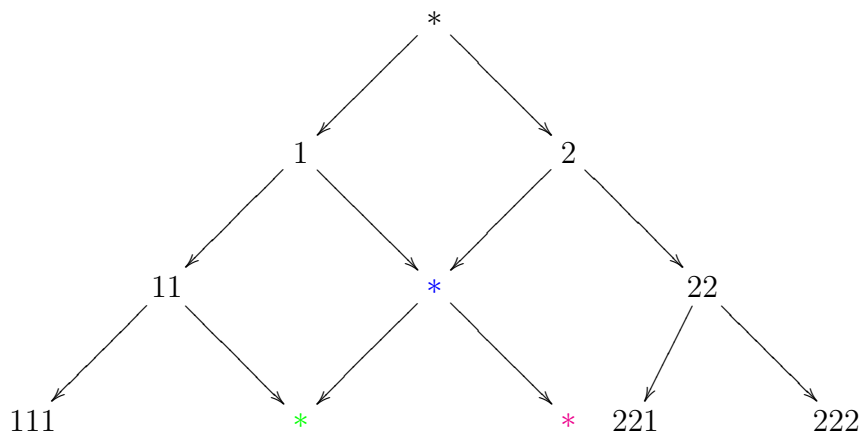
$$\mathbb{F} = I^0$$



$$I^1$$



$$I = I^2$$



In these pictures, I is a poset with a maximum element, and \mathbb{F} is the corresponding poset having the property that all the subsets $\mathbb{F} \uparrow p$ are chains. In this case, the process described in Lemma 3.14 enables us to pass from \mathbb{F} to I in two steps. In the first step, we identify the elements 112 and 121 to obtain the poset I^1 . In the second step, we identify $(I^1) \downarrow (12)$ with $(I^1) \downarrow (21)$ to get $I^2 = I$ from I^1 .

Now, we are ready to prove the main result in this section.

Theorem 3.15. *Let I be a finite poset and let $\mathcal{J} = (I, \leq, G_i, \varphi_{ji}(i < j))$ be an I -system. Then, $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a conical refinement monoid.*

Proof. We will show that $M(\mathcal{J})$ enjoys the refinement property.

For this, we will follow the process used in the proof of [2, Proposition 6.5], using Lemmas 3.13 and 3.14. Given $k \in \text{Max}(I)$, let $\mathbb{F}(k)$ be the poset constructed in [2, Proposition 6.1] from $I \downarrow k$. By 3.8, there is a surjective order-preserving map $\psi: \mathbb{F}(k) \rightarrow I \downarrow k$ satisfying the conditions stated in Lemma 3.5. Therefore, there is an $\mathbb{F}(k)$ -system $\mathcal{J}_{\mathbb{F}(k)}$ and a homomorphism of systems, also denoted by ψ ,

$$\psi: \mathcal{J}_{\mathbb{F}(k)} \longrightarrow \mathcal{J}_k,$$

where \mathcal{J}_k is the $(I \downarrow k)$ -system obtained by restricting \mathcal{J} to $I \downarrow k$, which induces a surjective monoid homomorphism $M(\mathcal{J}_{\mathbb{F}(k)}) \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}_k)$. Note that $M(\mathcal{J}_k)$ is an order-ideal of $M(\mathcal{J})$ (see Proposition 1.9).

Take the sequence of posets I^t ($t = 0, 1, \dots, n$) such that $I^0 = \mathbb{F}(k)$ and $I^n = I \downarrow k$, and surjective maps $\psi_t: I^t \rightarrow I^{t+1}$, for $t = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$, such that $\psi = \psi_{n-1} \circ \dots \circ \psi_1 \circ \psi_0$, given by Lemma 3.14. For each $t = 0, \dots, n-1$, the map $\Psi_t: I^t \rightarrow I \downarrow k$ satisfies the properties required in the statement of Lemma 3.5; this follows by induction and Lemma 3.14. Indeed, assuming the result is true for Ψ_t , it follows from Lemma 3.14(2c) that $i <' j$ in I^{t+1} implies that $\Psi_{t+1}(i) < \Psi_{t+1}(j)$ in $M \downarrow k$. On the other hand, if $i \in I^{t+1} = I^t \setminus I_2^t$ then, by induction, Ψ_t induces a bijection from $L(I^t, i)$ onto $L(I \downarrow k, \Psi_t(i))$. Now, if $j \in L(I^t, i) \cap I_2^t$, then there is a unique $j' \in I_1^t$ such that $\tau_t(j') = j$. Then, we have $j' <' i$ in I^{t+1} (see Lemma 3.14(2c)), and it easily follows that $j' \in L(I^{t+1}, i)$. Note that $j' \notin L(I^t, i)$, because $\Psi_t(j') = \Psi_t(j)$ and Ψ_t is injective on $L(I^t, i)$. It follows that

$$L(I^{t+1}, i) = \left(L(I^t, i) \setminus I_2^t \right) \bigsqcup \left(\tau_t^{-1}(L(I^t, i) \cap I_2^t) \right),$$

and that Ψ_{t+1} induces a bijection from $L(I^{t+1}, i)$ onto $L(I \downarrow k, \Psi_{t+1}(i)) = L(I \downarrow k, \Psi_t(i))$.

Hence, by Lemma 3.5, we can construct the I^t -system \mathcal{J}^t by taking the pullback of the $I \downarrow k$ -system \mathcal{J}_k through Ψ_t , for all $t = 0, \dots, n-1$. It is easily seen that the pair (I_1^t, I_2^t) is a compatible \mathcal{J}^t -system with respect to the isomorphism $\tau_t: I_1^t \rightarrow I_2^t$ (see Definition 3.9).

Notice that \mathcal{J}^{t+1} coincides with the I^{t+1} -system $(\mathcal{J}^t)'$ described in Definition 3.11 (using the \mathcal{J}^t -compatible pair (I_1^t, I_2^t)). Therefore, by Lemma 3.13, $M(\mathcal{J}^{t+1})$ is a crowned pushout of $M(\mathcal{J}^t)$. Observe that $M(\mathcal{J}^n) = M(\mathcal{J}_k)$.

So, $M(\mathcal{J}_k)$ can be obtained from $M(\mathcal{J}_{\mathbb{F}(k)})$ by a sequence of crowned pushouts. Since the poset $\mathbb{F}(k)$ satisfies the condition that $[p, k]$ is a chain for every $p \in \mathbb{F}(k)$ (3.8), Proposition 3.2 proves that $M(\mathcal{J}_{\mathbb{F}(k)})$ is a refinement monoid. Therefore, by Proposition 3.7, $M(\mathcal{J}^t)$ is a conical refinement monoid for all $t = 0, 1, \dots, n$. In particular $M(\mathcal{J}_k)$ is a refinement monoid.

In order to extend this result to I , we will apply a similar strategy to the onto poset map $\Psi: \bigsqcup_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} (I \downarrow k) \rightarrow I$. For, we produce, by recurrence on t , a family $(I^t)_{0 \leq t \leq s}$ of

posets and a family $\psi_t : I^t \rightarrow I^{t+1}$ of onto poset maps, starting with $I^0 = \bigsqcup_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} (I \downarrow k)$ and ending with $I^s = I$, satisfying the properties stated in Lemma 3.14. Let us illustrate the procedure with the first step. For, we enumerate $\text{Max}(I) = \{k_0, k_1, \dots, k_s\}$. We define $I_1^0 = (I \downarrow k_0) \cap (I \downarrow k_1) \subset (I \downarrow k_0)$ and $I_2^0 = (I \downarrow k_0) \cap (I \downarrow k_1) \subset (I \downarrow k_1)$ (that is, we look at this intersection, first in the disjoint copy of $I \downarrow k_0$ in $\bigsqcup_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} (I \downarrow k)$, and then in the disjoint copy of $I \downarrow k_1$ in $\bigsqcup_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} (I \downarrow k)$). Clearly, I_1^0 and I_2^0 are disjoint lower sets of $\bigsqcup_{i \in \text{Max}(I)} (I \downarrow i)$, the map Ψ restricted to I_j^0 ($j = 1, 2$) is injective, and $\Psi(I_1^0) = \Psi(I_2^0)$. So, $\tau_0 = (\Psi|_{I_2^0}^{-1} \circ \Psi|_{I_1^0}) : I_1^0 \rightarrow I_2^0$ is an isomorphism. Now we define $I^1 = (I^0)' = I^0 \setminus I_2^0$, with the order \leq' determined as in Lemma 3.14(c2). Let $\psi_0 : I^0 \rightarrow I^1$ be the canonical identification map, and let $\Psi_1 : I^1 \rightarrow I$ be the restriction map. Proceeding in this way, we obtain the desired family of posets and the desired family of onto poset maps.

Note that the pullback of \mathcal{J} with respect to Ψ is precisely $\bigsqcup_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} \mathcal{J}_k$, and that the corresponding monoid is

$$M\left(\bigsqcup_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} \mathcal{J}_k\right) = \prod_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} M(\mathcal{J}_k).$$

Moreover, the map induced by Ψ is just the natural map $\prod_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} M(\mathcal{J}_k) \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J})$ induced by the inclusions of the order-ideals $M(\mathcal{J}_k)$ into $M(\mathcal{J})$. Now, the same proof that we have used above shows that $M(\mathcal{J})$ can be obtained from $\prod_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} M(\mathcal{J}_k)$ by a finite sequence of crowned pushouts. By the above argument, $M(\mathcal{J}_k)$ is a refinement monoid for every $k \in \text{Max}(I)$, and thus so is $\prod_{k \in \text{Max}(I)} M(\mathcal{J}_k)$. Therefore, we can conclude from Proposition 3.7 that $M(\mathcal{J})$ has refinement. This concludes the proof. \square

4. TAMENESS AND REFINEMENT PROPERTY OF $M(\mathcal{J})$ FOR ARBITRARY I -SYSTEMS

In this section we will prove that the monoids associated to I -systems are tame refinement monoids (Theorem 4.6). We will proceed to develop the proof through several intermediate steps. We seek to apply [3, Theorem 2.6], so our aim is to build, given an I -system \mathcal{J} and a finitely generated submonoid M' of $M(\mathcal{J})$, a finitely generated *refinement* monoid \mathcal{M} and monoid homomorphisms $\gamma : M' \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ and $\delta : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J})$ such that $\delta \circ \gamma = \text{Id}_{M'}$. Note that, in order to achieve this, we can replace M' by any larger submonoid of $M(\mathcal{J})$. The larger submonoid needed for the proof will be of the form considered in Lemma 4.1. Lemmas 4.2 and 4.5 provide the technical ingredients needed to build a suitable finitely generated refinement monoid \mathcal{M} and suitable maps γ, δ .

Lemma 4.1. *Let I be an arbitrary poset, let \mathcal{J} be an I -system, let $M := M(\mathcal{J})$ be the associated conical monoid, and let M' be a finitely generated submonoid of M . Then, there exists a finite subset K of I and a family of subsemigroups S_i of M_i for all $i \in K$ such that:*

- (1) $M' \subseteq \{0\} \sqcup \left(\sum_{i \in K} \chi_i(S_i) \right)$.
- (2) *There exist finitely generated subgroups X_i of G_i , $i \in K$, such that*

$$S_i = \begin{cases} X_i, & \text{if } i \in K_{\text{reg}} \\ \mathbb{N} \times X_i, & \text{if } i \in K_{\text{free}} \end{cases}$$

Proof. This is clear from Corollary 1.8 and the form of the semigroups M_i for $i \in I$. \square

We want to enlarge the data in Lemma 4.1 to a larger set of data, so that the relations satisfied by the monoid $\{0\} \sqcup \left(\sum_{i \in K} \chi_i(S_i) \right)$ are “explained” by the new monoid we are going to build. For this, it is convenient to use the associated partial order of groups $((\widehat{G}_i)_{i \in I}, \widehat{\varphi}_{ji}(i < j))$ (see Section 1). For any poset Λ and any Λ -system \mathfrak{J} , denote by $\widetilde{M}(\mathfrak{J})$ the conical regular monoid associated to the partial order of groups $((\widehat{G}_i)_{i \in I}, \widehat{\varphi}_{ji}(i < j))$. Recall that $M(\mathfrak{J}) \subseteq \widetilde{M}(\mathfrak{J})$ (see Definition 1.6 and Corollary 1.5).

Recall the semilattice of abelian groups $\left((\widehat{H}_a)_{a \in A(I)}, f_a^b (a \subset b) \right)$ associated in Section 1 to the partial order of groups $((\widehat{G}_i)_{i \in I}, \widehat{\varphi}_{ji})$. There is a corresponding associated monoid $MH(\mathcal{J}) = \bigsqcup_{a \in A(I)} \widehat{H}_a$, and a canonical surjective monoid homomorphism

$$\Phi: MH(\mathcal{J}) \rightarrow \widetilde{M}(\mathcal{J}).$$

Let K be a finite subset of I , and let $(X_i)_{i \in K}$ be a family of finitely generated groups, with X_i a subgroup of G_i for each $i \in K$. Let \widehat{X}_i be the corresponding (finitely generated) subgroup of \widehat{G}_i (so that $\widehat{X}_i = X_i$ if $i \in I_{\text{reg}}$ and $\widehat{X}_i = \mathbb{Z} \times X_i$ if $i \in I_{\text{free}}$). Consider the monoid

$$F = \{0\} \sqcup \left(\bigoplus_{i \in K} \widehat{X}_i \right).$$

We have an obvious homomorphism $f: F \rightarrow MH(\mathcal{J})$ sending $x \in \widehat{X}_i$ to $\chi(\downarrow i, i, x) \in \widehat{H}_{\downarrow i}$.

Lemma 4.2. *In the situation described before, there exists a finite subset I' of I containing K , and a family of finitely generated subgroups G'_i of G_i , for $i \in I'$, with $X_i \subseteq G'_i$ for $i \in K$, such that $\ker(\Phi \circ f)$ is generated by a finite set of elements \mathcal{F} satisfying the following property: For each $(x, y) \in \mathcal{F}$ there is a unique $a \in A(I)$ such that $f(x), f(y) \in \widehat{H}_a$, and $f(x) - f(y)$ belongs to the subgroup of \widehat{H}_a generated by the elements $\chi(a, i, g) - \chi(a, j, \widehat{\varphi}_{ji}(g))$, with $g \in \widehat{G}'_i$ and $i, j \in I', i < j \in a$.*

Proof. Since F is a finitely generated abelian monoid, it follows from Redei’s Theorem [9] that $\ker(\Phi \circ f)$ is a finitely generated congruence. So, there is a finite set \mathcal{F} of elements generating $\ker(\Phi \circ f)$. For $(x, y) \in \mathcal{F}$, $\Phi(f(x)) = \Phi(f(y)) \in \widehat{H}_a/U_a$ for a unique $a \in A(I)$. Therefore $f(x), f(y) \in \widehat{H}_a$, and $f(x) - f(y)$ is a finite sum of elements of the form $\pm(\chi(a, i, u) - \chi(a, j, \widehat{\varphi}_{ji}(u)))$, for $u \in \widehat{G}_i$ and $i < j \in a$. Now, let I' be the union of K and the (finite) support of all these elements. For $i \in K$, let G'_i be the subgroup of G_i generated by X_i and the G_i -components of the elements of \widehat{G}_i appearing in the above expressions (that is, elements u in \widehat{G}_i such that $\chi(a, i, u) - \chi(a, j, \widehat{\varphi}_{ji}(u))$ appears in the expression of $f(x) - f(y)$ for some $(x, y) \in \mathcal{F}$, and elements of the form $\widehat{\varphi}_{ij}(u)$, where $u \in \widehat{G}_j$, $j < i$, and $\chi(a, j, u) - \chi(a, i, \widehat{\varphi}_{ij}(u))$ appears in the expression of $f(x) - f(y)$ for some $(x, y) \in \mathcal{F}$). Similarly, for $i \in I' \setminus K$, let G'_i be the subgroup of G_i generated by the G_i -components of the elements of \widehat{G}_i appearing in the above expressions. \square

The subset I' of I obtained in Lemma 4.2 will be considered as a poset with the order \leq inherited from (I, \leq) . Now, for any pair $i, j \in I$ with $j < i$, we define an auxiliary subgroup S_{ij} of G_i .

Definition 4.3. Let I be a poset, and let $\mathcal{J} = (I, (G_i)_{i \in I}, \varphi_{ij}(j < i))$ be a I -system. Then, for any $i, j \in I$ with $j < i$, we define a group S_{ij} as follows:

- (1) If j is regular, we define S_{ij} to be the trivial subgroup of G_i .
- (2) If i is regular and j is free, we define S_{ij} to be the subgroup of G_i generated by $\varphi_{ij}(1, e_j)$.
- (3) If both i and j are free then, by condition (c2) in Definition 1.1, there are a finite subset $T_{ij} \subset I$ and elements $\{z_t^{(ij)} : t \in T_{ij}\}$ with $t < i$, and $z_t^{(ij)} \in M_t$ for all $t \in T_{ij}$, such that

$$-\varphi_{ij}(1, e_j) = \sum_{t \in T_{ij}} \varphi_{it}(z_t^{(ij)}).$$

We define S_{ij} to be the subsemigroup of G_i generated by

$$\{\varphi_{ij}(1, e_j)\} \cup \left(\{\varphi_{it}(z_t^{(ij)}) : t \in T_{ij}\} \right).$$

Note that S_{ij} is indeed a *finitely generated subgroup* of G_i , since it contains the inverse of each one of its generators.

Remark 4.4. Observe that we can assume, without loss of generality, that the finitely generated subgroups G'_i , for $i \in I'$, obtained in Lemma 4.2, satisfy that $\sum_{j < i, j \in I'} S_{ij} \subseteq G'_i$.

We now state a crucial lemma.

Lemma 4.5. *Let I' and $\{G'_i : i \in I'\}$ be as stated in Lemma 4.2, and assume that $\sum_{j < i, j \in I'} S_{ij} \subseteq G'_i$ for all $i \in I'$. Then, there exists a finite poset*

$$(I'', \leq') = (I' \bigsqcup J', \leq')$$

such that

- (1) *The elements of J' are pairwise incomparable minimal elements of I'' ,*
- (2) *The order \leq' agrees with the original order \leq on I' ,*

and there exist a family of finitely generated subgroups $(G''_i)_{i \in I'}$, with $G'_i \subseteq G''_i \subseteq G_i$ for all $i \in I'$, a map $\tau : J' \rightarrow (I \setminus I')$ such that, for $j \in J'$ and $i \in I'$, we have $j \leq' i \implies \tau(j) < i$ in I , and elements $x_j \in M_{\tau(j)}$, $j \in J'$, such that

- (a) $G''_i = \sum_{j < i, j \in I'} \varphi_{ij}(M''_j) + \sum_{j \leq' i, j \in J'} \langle \varphi_{i, \tau(j)}(x_j) \rangle$ for all $i \in I'_{\text{free}}$
- (b) $G''_i \supseteq \sum_{j < i, j \in I'} \varphi_{ij}(M''_j) + \sum_{j \leq' i, j \in J'} \langle \varphi_{i, \tau(j)}(x_j) \rangle$ for all $i \in I'_{\text{reg}}$

where, for $i \in I'$, we set

$$M''_i = \begin{cases} G''_i, & \text{if } i \in (I')_{\text{reg}} \\ \mathbb{N} \times G''_i, & \text{if } i \in (I')_{\text{free}} \end{cases}$$

Proof. We will show by (order-)induction the following statement:

Let \mathcal{U} be an upper subset of I' . Then there exists a finite poset

$$(I_{\mathcal{U}}, \leq_{\mathcal{U}}) = (I' \bigsqcup J_{\mathcal{U}}, \leq_{\mathcal{U}})$$

such that

- (1) *The elements of $J_{\mathcal{U}}$ are pairwise incomparable minimal elements of $I_{\mathcal{U}}$,*
- (2) *The order $\leq_{\mathcal{U}}$ agrees with the original order \leq on I' ,*

(3) For $j \in J_{\mathcal{U}}$ and $i \in I'$ we have $j \leq_{\mathcal{U}} i \implies i \in \mathcal{U}$,

and there exist a family of finitely generated subgroups $(G_i^{\mathcal{U}})_{i \in I'}$, with $G_i' \subseteq G_i^{\mathcal{U}} \subseteq G_i$ for all $i \in I'$, a map $\tau_{\mathcal{U}}: J_{\mathcal{U}} \rightarrow (I \setminus I')$ such that, for $j \in J_{\mathcal{U}}$ and $i \in I'$, we have $j \leq_{\mathcal{U}} i \implies \tau_{\mathcal{U}}(j) \leq i$ in I , and elements $x_j \in M_{\tau_{\mathcal{U}}(j)}$, $j \in J_{\mathcal{U}}$, such that

- (a) $G_i^{\mathcal{U}} = \sum_{j < i, j \in I'} \varphi_{ij}(M_j^{\mathcal{U}}) + \sum_{j \leq_{\mathcal{U}} i, j \in J_{\mathcal{U}}} \langle \varphi_{i, \tau_{\mathcal{U}}(j)}(x_j) \rangle$ for all $i \in \mathcal{U}_{\text{free}}$
- (b) $G_i^{\mathcal{U}} \supseteq \sum_{j < i, j \in I'} \varphi_{ij}(M_j^{\mathcal{U}}) + \sum_{j \leq_{\mathcal{U}} i, j \in J_{\mathcal{U}}} \langle \varphi_{i, \tau_{\mathcal{U}}(j)}(x_j) \rangle$ for all $i \in \mathcal{U}_{\text{reg}}$

where, for $i \in I'$, we set

$$M_i^{\mathcal{U}} = \begin{cases} G_i^{\mathcal{U}}, & \text{if } i \in (I')_{\text{reg}} \\ \mathbb{N} \times G_i^{\mathcal{U}}, & \text{if } i \in (I')_{\text{free}} \end{cases}$$

Once this is done, the statement in the lemma follows by taking $J' := J_{I'}$, $\leq' := \leq_{\mathcal{U}}$, $\tau := \tau_{I'}$, and $G_i'' := G_i^{\mathcal{U}}$ for all $i \in I'$.

We start with $\mathcal{U} = \emptyset$. In this case we set $J_{\emptyset} = \emptyset$, so that $I_{\emptyset} = I'$ with the order \leq induced from I , and we set $G_i^{\emptyset} = G_i'$.

Assume that \mathcal{U} is an upper subset of I' for which we have defined $I_{\mathcal{U}} = I' \sqcup J_{\mathcal{U}}$, together with the partial order $\leq_{\mathcal{U}}$ which satisfies the stated conditions (1)–(3), the map $\tau_{\mathcal{U}}$, subgroups $G_i^{\mathcal{U}}$, $i \in I'$ and elements $x_j \in M_{\tau_{\mathcal{U}}(j)}$, $j \in J_{\mathcal{U}}$ satisfying conditions (a),(b). Let i_0 be a maximal element in $I' \setminus \mathcal{U}$. We will build the corresponding objects for the upper subset $\mathcal{U}' := \mathcal{U} \cup \{i_0\}$.

Assume first that i_0 is regular. Then, we set $J_{\mathcal{U}'} = J_{\mathcal{U}}$, $\tau_{\mathcal{U}'} = \tau_{\mathcal{U}}$, $\leq_{\mathcal{U}'} = \leq_{\mathcal{U}}$, and $G_i^{\mathcal{U}'} = G_i^{\mathcal{U}}$ for $i \in I' \setminus \mathcal{U}'$.

We define

$$G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'} = G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}} + \sum_{i < i_0, i \in I'} \widehat{\varphi}_{i_0, i}(G_i^{\mathcal{U}'}).$$

For $i \in \mathcal{U}$, we define inductively $G_i^{\mathcal{U}'}$ by

$$G_i^{\mathcal{U}'} = G_i^{\mathcal{U}} + \sum_{j < i, j \in I'} \widehat{\varphi}_{i, j}(G_j^{\mathcal{U}'}).$$

We have to check condition (b) for i_0 and conditions (a) or (b) for $i \in \mathcal{U}$ according to whether i is free or regular respectively.

Note that condition (b) for i_0 reads

$$G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'} \supseteq \sum_{j < i_0, j \in I'} \varphi_{i_0, j}(M_j^{\mathcal{U}}).$$

(Use condition (3) and the facts that $J_{\mathcal{U}'} = J_{\mathcal{U}}$ and $\leq_{\mathcal{U}'} = \leq_{\mathcal{U}}$). For $j \in I'$ with $j < i_0$, since $S_{i_0, j} \subseteq G_{i_0}' \subseteq G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$, we only need to show that $\widehat{\varphi}_{i_0, j}(G_j^{\mathcal{U}'}) \subseteq G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$, but this is obvious from the definition.

If $i \in \mathcal{U}_{\text{free}}$, then (a) follows from the induction hypothesis and the observation that, for $j < i$, $j \in I'$, we have $S_{ij} + \varphi_{ij}(M_j^{\mathcal{U}'}) = S_{ij} + \widehat{\varphi}_{ij}(G_j^{\mathcal{U}'})$. The proof of (b) in case $i \in \mathcal{U}_{\text{reg}}$ is similar.

We now consider the case where i_0 is free. Since \mathcal{J} is an I -system and $G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}}$ is finitely generated, there is a finite subset $I^{(i_0)}$ of $\{j \in I : j < i_0\}$ and finitely generated subsemigroups

N'_j of M_j , for $j \in I^{(i_0)}$, such that

$$G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}} \subseteq \sum_{j \in I^{(i_0)}} \varphi_{ij}(N'_j). \quad (4.1)$$

Recall from the construction of S_{ij} for $j < i$ with $i, j \in I_{\text{free}}$ (Definition 4.3(3)), that S_{ij} is the semigroup generated by the elements $\varphi_{ij}(1, e_j)$ and $\varphi_{it}(z_t^{(ij)})$, where $z_t^{(ij)} \in M_t$, $t \in T_{ij}$, and that this semigroup is indeed a group. We denote by $\tilde{z}_t^{(ij)}$ the group component of $z_t^{(ij)} \in M_t$, that is $z_t^{(ij)} = (n_t^{(ij)}, \tilde{z}_t^{(ij)}) \in \mathbb{N} \times G_t$ if t is free and $z_t^{(ij)} = \tilde{z}_t^{(ij)} \in M_t$ if t is regular. We use a similar notation for the generators of each N'_j , so letting $x_{j,1}, \dots, x_{j,n_j}$ be a finite set of semigroup generators of N'_j , we denote by $\tilde{x}_{j,t} \in G_j$ the group component of each $x_{j,t}$, so that $x_{j,t} = (n_{j,t}, \tilde{x}_{j,t})$ if j is free and $x_{j,t} = \tilde{x}_{j,t}$ if j is regular.

Let $J_{i_0} := \bigcup_{j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)}} T_{i_0,j}$ be the support of the elements $z_t^{(i_0j)}$ with $j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)}$. Note that J_{i_0} is a finite subset of I , and that $t < i_0$ for all $t \in J_{i_0}$.

We first define $G_j^{\mathcal{U}'}$ for $j \in I' \setminus \mathcal{U}'$. We use the notation $\text{Gp}(X)$ to denote the subgroup generated by a subset X of a group G .

- If $j \in I' \setminus \mathcal{U}'$ and $j \notin J_{i_0} \cup I^{(i_0)}$, then set $G_j^{\mathcal{U}'} := G_j^{\mathcal{U}}$.
- If $j \in I' \setminus \mathcal{U}'$, $j \notin J_{i_0}$, and $j \in I^{(i_0)}$, then set $G_j^{\mathcal{U}'} := G_j^{\mathcal{U}} + \text{Gp}(\tilde{N}'_j)$.
- If $j \in I' \setminus \mathcal{U}'$, $j \in J_{i_0}$ and $j \notin I^{(i_0)}$, then set $G_j^{\mathcal{U}'} := G_j^{\mathcal{U}} + \text{Gp}(\{\tilde{z}_j^{(i_0,j')}\} : j' \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)}, j \in T_{i_0,j'})$.
- If $j \in I' \setminus \mathcal{U}'$ and $j \in J_{i_0} \cap I^{(i_0)}$, then set

$$G_j^{\mathcal{U}'} := G_j^{\mathcal{U}} + \text{Gp}(\tilde{N}'_j) + \text{Gp}(\{\tilde{z}_j^{(i_0,j')}\} : j' \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)}, j \in T_{i_0,j'}).$$

It is convenient at this point to introduce the following set:

$$Z_{i_0} := \{(j, s) \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)} \times (J_{i_0} \setminus I') : s \in T_{i_0,j}\}.$$

In words, Z_{i_0} is the set of all ordered pairs (j, s) such that $j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)}$ and $s \in T_{i_0,j} \setminus I'$.

Now, we define

$$J_{\mathcal{U}'} := J_{\mathcal{U}} \bigsqcup \left(\bigsqcup_{j \in I^{(i_0)} \setminus I'} \{v_{j,\pm t} : 1 \leq t \leq n_j\} \right) \bigsqcup \left(\bigsqcup_{j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)} \setminus I'} \{u_j\} \right) \bigsqcup \left(\bigsqcup_{(j,s) \in Z_{i_0}} \{w_{(j,s)}\} \right).$$

The new order $\leq_{\mathcal{U}'}$ on $I_{\mathcal{U}'} := I' \bigsqcup J_{\mathcal{U}'}$ is defined by extending the order $\leq_{\mathcal{U}}$ on $I_{\mathcal{U}}$ and adding the new relations:

- (i) $v_{j,\pm t} <_{\mathcal{U}'} i$, when $j \in I^{(i_0)} \setminus I'$, $i \in I'$ and $i_0 \leq i$.
- (ii) $u_j <_{\mathcal{U}'} i$, when $j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)} \setminus I'$, $i \in I'$ and $i_0 \leq i$.
- (iii) $w_{(j,s)} <_{\mathcal{U}'} i$, when $(j, s) \in Z_{i_0}$ and $i_0 \leq i$.

Note that the new order enjoys (1 – 3).

Define $\tau_{\mathcal{U}'} : J_{\mathcal{U}'} \rightarrow I \setminus I'$ by:

- (i) $\tau_{\mathcal{U}'} = \tau_{\mathcal{U}}$ on $J_{\mathcal{U}}$.
- (ii) $\tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(v_{j,\pm t}) = j$ for $j \in I^{(i_0)} \setminus I'$.
- (ii) $\tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(u_j) = j$ for $j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)} \setminus I'$.
- (iv) $\tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(w_{(j,s)}) = s$ for $(j, s) \in Z_{i_0}$.

Observe that, for $\alpha \in J_{\mathcal{U}'}$ and $i \in \mathcal{U}'$, we have $\alpha \leq_{\mathcal{U}'} i \implies \tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(\alpha) < i$. Indeed, this is clear by induction on $J_{\mathcal{U}}$, and for $v_{j,t}$, u_j , and $w_{(j,s)}$ follows from the facts that $j < i_0 \leq i$ whenever $j \in I^{(i_0)}$ and that $s < i_0 \leq i$ whenever $s \in J_{i_0} \setminus I'$.

The elements x_j for $j \in J_{\mathcal{U}}$ are defined to be the same elements $x_j^{\mathcal{U}'}$ which were previously defined by induction, and

$$x_{v_{j,\pm t}} := (n_{j,t}, \pm \tilde{x}_{j,t}), \quad x_{u_j} = (1, e_j), \quad x_{w_{(j,s)}} := z_s^{(i_0,j)}.$$

Note that $x_\alpha \in M_{\tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(\alpha)}$ for all $\alpha \in J_{\mathcal{U}'}$.

Finally, we set

$$\begin{aligned} G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'} &= G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}} + \sum_{j < i_0, j \in I'} \widehat{\varphi}_{i_0,j}(G_j^{\mathcal{U}'}) + \sum_{j \in I^{(i_0)} \setminus I'} \sum_{t=1}^{n_j} \langle \widehat{\varphi}_{i_0,j}(\pm \tilde{x}_{j,t}) \rangle + \\ &+ \sum_{j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)} \setminus I'} \langle \varphi_{i_0,j}(1, e_j) \rangle + \sum_{(j,t) \in Z_{i_0}} \langle \varphi_{i_0,t}(z_t^{(i_0,j)}) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $S_{i_0,j} \subseteq G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$ for all $j \in I^{(i_0)}$. So, $G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$ is a group.

We have to verify condition (a) in Lemma 4.5 for $G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$. Let us denote by A the right hand side of that formula. Note that

$$A = \sum_{j < i_0, j \in I'} \varphi_{i_0,j}(M_j^{\mathcal{U}'}) + \sum_{\alpha \in J_{\mathcal{U}'} \setminus J_{\mathcal{U}}} \langle \varphi_{i_0, \tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(\alpha)}(x_\alpha) \rangle,$$

because if $\alpha \in J_{\mathcal{U}}$ then $\tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(\alpha) \not< i_0$. We first check that $A \subseteq G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$. For $j \in I'$ with $j < i_0$, since $S_{i_0,j}$ and $\widehat{\varphi}_{i_0,j}(G_j^{\mathcal{U}'})$ are contained in $G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$, we get that $\varphi_{i_0,j}(M_j^{\mathcal{U}'}) \subseteq G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$. Similarly, for $j \in I^{(i_0)} \setminus I'$, we have that $S_{i_0,j} \subseteq G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$, and so

$$\varphi_{i_0,j}(x_{v_{j,\pm t}}) = \varphi_{i_0,j}((n_{j,t}, \pm \tilde{x}_{j,t})) \in G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$$

It is obvious that $\varphi_{i_0,j}(x_{u_j}) = \varphi_{i_0,j}(1, e_j)$ for $j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)} \setminus I'$, and $\varphi_{i_0,t}(x_{w_{(j,t)}}) = \varphi_{i_0,t}(z_t^{(i_0,j)})$ for $j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)}$ and $t \in J_{i_0} \setminus I'$, belong to $G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}$.

Conversely, we now show that $G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'} \subseteq A$. Again, the choice of the groups $G_j^{\mathcal{U}'}$ and the elements x_α makes it clear that $S_{i_0,j} \subseteq A$ for all $j \in I^{(i_0)}$. Indeed, given $j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)}$, we have two possibilities:

- (i) If $j \in I'$, then $(1_j, e_j) \in M_j^{\mathcal{U}'}$, and thus $\varphi_{i_0,j}(1, e_j) \in A$.
- (ii) If $j \notin I'$, then $x_{u_j} = (1, e_j)$, and thus $\varphi_{i_0,j}(1, e_j) \in A$.

Now, if $t \in T_{i_0,j} \cap I'$, then $z_t^{(i_0,j)} \in M_t^{\mathcal{U}'}$, as $\tilde{z}_t^{(i_0,j)} \in G_t^{\mathcal{U}'}$, while if $t \in T_{i_0,j} \setminus I'$, then $(j, t) \in Z_{i_0}$ and so $z_t^{(i_0,j)} = x_{w_{(j,t)}}$ and $\varphi_{i_0,t}(z_t^{(i_0,j)}) \in A$.

By (4.1) and the choice of the groups $G_j^{\mathcal{U}'}$ for $j \in I^{(i_0)} \cap I'$, we have

$$G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'} \subseteq \sum_{j \in I^{(i_0)}} \varphi_{i_0,j}(N_j') \subseteq \sum_{j \in I^{(i_0)} \cap I'} \left(S_{i_0,j} + \widehat{\varphi}_{i_0,j}(\tilde{N}_j') \right) + \sum_{j \in I^{(i_0)} \setminus I'} \varphi_{i_0,j}(N_j') \subseteq A.$$

In particular, we obtain that $S_{i_0,j} \subseteq A$ for all $j \in I^{(i_0)}$ and for all $j \in I'$ such that $j < i_0$ (use that $S_{i_0,j} \subseteq G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'} \subseteq G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}}$ for $j \in I'$ with $j < i_0$). From this we easily obtain that $\widehat{\varphi}_{i_0,j}(G_j^{\mathcal{U}'}) \subseteq A$ for all $j \in I'$ such that $j < i_0$, and that $\widehat{\varphi}_{i_0,j}(\pm \tilde{x}_{j,t}) \in A$ for all $j \in I^{(i_0)} \setminus I'$ and all $t = 1, \dots, n_j$.

The elements $\varphi_{i_0,j}(1, e_j)$, for $j \in I_{\text{free}}^{(i_0)} \setminus I'$, and $\varphi_{i_0,t}(z_t^{(i_0,j)})$, for $(j, t) \in Z_{i_0}$, trivially belong to A . This concludes the proof of (a) for i_0 and \mathcal{U}' .

Now define inductively $G_i^{\mathcal{U}'}$ for $i \in \mathcal{U}$ by the formula

$$G_i^{\mathcal{U}'} := G_i^{\mathcal{U}} + \sum_{j < i, j \in I'} \widehat{\varphi}_{ij}(G_j^{\mathcal{U}'}).$$

We have to show condition (a) or (b) for $i \in \mathcal{U}$ and $G_i^{\mathcal{U}'}$, depending on whether i is free or regular. Assume that i is free. Then (a) reads

$$G_i^{\mathcal{U}'} = \sum_{j < i, j \in I'} \varphi_{ij}(M_j^{\mathcal{U}'}) + \sum_{j \leq_{\mathcal{U}'} i, j \in J_{\mathcal{U}'}} \langle \varphi_{i, \tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(j)}(x_j) \rangle.$$

Now, for $j \in J_{\mathcal{U}'} \setminus J_{\mathcal{U}}$, we have that $j \leq_{\mathcal{U}'} i$ if and only if $i_0 < i$, and, in this case, we have $\tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(j) < i_0 < i$. Therefore, we get

$$\varphi_{i, \tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(j)}(x_j) = \widehat{\varphi}_{i, i_0}(\varphi_{i_0, \tau_{\mathcal{U}'}(j)}(x_j)) \in \widehat{\varphi}_{i, i_0}(G_{i_0}^{\mathcal{U}'}) \subseteq G_i^{\mathcal{U}'}$$

Using this and induction, it is easy to verify (a). If i is regular, a similar argument shows that (b) holds for i and \mathcal{U}' . This concludes the proof. \square

Now, we are ready to prove the main result in this section.

Theorem 4.6. *Let I be an arbitrary poset, and let \mathcal{J} be an I -system. Then, the monoid $M(\mathcal{J})$ is a tame refinement monoid.*

Proof. Let I be an arbitrary poset, let \mathcal{J} be an I -system, and let $M := M(\mathcal{J})$ be the associated conical monoid.

Now, we will show that for any finitely generated submonoid M' of M there exist a finite poset I'' , a finitely generated I'' -system \mathcal{J}'' and monoid homomorphisms $\gamma : M' \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}'')$ and $\delta : M(\mathcal{J}'') \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J})$ such that $\delta \circ \gamma = \text{Id}_{M'}$. By Proposition 2.9, Theorem 3.15 and [3, Theorem 2.6], this implies that M is a tame refinement monoid.

Let M' be a finitely generated submonoid of $M(\mathcal{J})$. We can assume that $M' = \{0\} \sqcup \left(\sum_{i \in K} \chi_i(S_i) \right)$, where S_i are as described in Lemma 4.1. Let I' and $(G'_i)_{i \in I'}$ be the larger finite subset of I , and the family of groups, respectively, built in Lemma 4.2. We will also assume that $\sum_{j < i, j \in I'} S_{ij} \subseteq G'_i$ for all $i \in I'$ (see Remark 4.4).

Consider the poset $(I'', \leq') = (I' \sqcup J', \leq')$, the family of groups $(G''_i)_{i \in I'}$, the map $\tau : J' \rightarrow (I' \setminus I')$, and the elements $x_j \in M_{\tau(j)}$, $j \in J'$, obtained in Lemma 4.5. Now, we will define an I'' -system \mathcal{J}'' . First, we set $I''_{\text{free}} = I'_{\text{free}} \sqcup J'$ and $I''_{\text{reg}} = I'_{\text{reg}}$. The groups corresponding to $i \in I'$ are the groups G''_i . For $i \in J'$, set $G''_i = \{e_i\}$ (the trivial group). For $i, j \in I'$ with $j < i$, we define

$$\varphi''_{ij} : M''_j \longrightarrow G''_i$$

by $\varphi''_{ij} = \varphi_{ij}|_{M''_j}$. Observe that this is well defined by (a) and (b) in Lemma 4.5. If $j \leq' i$ for $j \in J'$ and $i \in I'$ then, again by Lemma 4.5, we must have $\tau(j) < i$ in I , so that we may define

$$\varphi''_{ij} : \mathbb{N} = M''_j \longrightarrow G''_i$$

by $\varphi''_{ij}(1) = \varphi_{i, \tau(j)}(x_j)$. By (a) and (b) in Lemma 4.5, we have that \mathcal{J}'' is an I'' -system.

Now, we shall use Lemma 4.2 to show that there is a well defined monoid homomorphism

$$\phi: \{0\} \sqcup \left(\sum_{i \in K} \chi_i(\widehat{X}_i) \right) \longrightarrow \widetilde{M}(\mathcal{J}''),$$

sending $\chi_i(g) \in \chi(\widehat{X}_i)$ to $\chi_i(g) \in \widehat{G}_i''$ for $g \in \widehat{X}_i$ (where we look $\{0\} \sqcup \left(\sum_{i \in K} \chi_i(\widehat{X}_i) \right)$ as a submonoid of $\widetilde{M}(\mathcal{J})$). Indeed, we have a monoid homomorphism

$$\phi_F: F = \{0\} \sqcup \left(\bigoplus_{i \in K} \widehat{X}_i \right) \longrightarrow \widetilde{M}(\mathcal{J}'')$$

sending $g \in \widehat{X}_i$ to $\chi_i(g) \in \widetilde{M}(\mathcal{J}'')$ for $i \in K$, and by the choice of the groups G'_i , $i \in I'$, we have that $\phi_F(x) = \phi_F(y)$ for all $(x, y) \in \mathcal{F}$, where \mathcal{F} is the finite set of generators of $\ker(\Phi \circ f)$ coming from Lemma 4.2. Therefore, the map ϕ_F factorizes through $(\Phi \circ f)(F) = \{0\} \sqcup \left(\sum_{i \in K} \chi_i(\widehat{X}_i) \right)$, and we obtain a well-defined monoid homomorphism ϕ from $\{0\} \sqcup \left(\sum_{i \in K} \chi_i(\widehat{X}_i) \right)$ to $\widetilde{M}(\mathcal{J}'')$ as claimed. Observe that ϕ_F restricts to a monoid homomorphism from $M' \subseteq \{0\} \sqcup \left(\sum_{i \in K} \chi_i(\widehat{X}_i) \right)$ to $M(\mathcal{J}'') \subseteq \widetilde{M}(\mathcal{J}'')$, sending $\chi_i(x) \in \chi_i(S_i)$ to $\chi_i(x) \in M(\mathcal{J}'')$ for all $i \in K$ and all $x \in S_i$. Let $\gamma: M' \rightarrow M(\mathcal{J}'')$ be this homomorphism.

Finally, we define a monoid homomorphism $\delta: M(\mathcal{J}'') \rightarrow M$ by $\delta(\chi_i(m_i)) = \chi_i(m_i)$ for $m_i \in M_i''$ and $\delta(\chi_j(1)) = \chi_{\tau(j)}(x_j) \in M_{\tau(j)}$ for $j \in J'$. If $j \in J'$, $i \in I'$, and $j <' i$, then $\tau(j) < i$ in I so that, for $x \in M_i''$ we have

$$\delta(\chi_i(x)) + \delta(\chi_j(1)) = \chi_i(x) + \chi_{\tau(j)}(x_j) = \chi_i(x + \varphi_{i, \tau(j)}(x_j)) = \chi_i(x + \varphi_{ij}''(1)) = \delta(\chi_i(x + \varphi_{ij}''(1))).$$

By Corollary 1.8, we thus get that δ is a well-defined monoid homomorphism. Clearly $\delta \circ \gamma = \iota_{M'}$. This concludes the proof. \square

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