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MELEK YAĞCI

LEYLA BUGAY

HAYRULLAH AYIK

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## On the second homology of the Schützenberger product of monoids

Melek YAĞCI, Leyla BUGAY\*, Hayrullah AYIK  
Department of Mathematics, Çukurova University, Adana, Turkey

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**Abstract:** For two finite monoids  $S$  and  $T$ , we prove that the second integral homology of the Schützenberger product  $S \diamond T$  is equal to

$$H_2(S \diamond T) = H_2(S) \times H_2(T) \times (H_1(S) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H_1(T))$$

as the second integral homology of the direct product of two monoids. Moreover, we show that  $S \diamond T$  is inefficient if there is no left or right invertible element in both  $S$  and  $T$ .

**Key words:** Monoid, Schützenberger product, second integral homology, efficiency

### 1. Introduction

It was shown by SJ Pride (unpublished) that, for a finitely presented monoid  $M$ ,  $\text{def}_M(M) \geq \text{rank}(H_2(M))$  where  $H_2(M)$  is the second integral homology of the monoid and

$$\text{def}_M(M) = \min\{|R| - |A| : \langle A | R \rangle \text{ is a finite monoid presentation for } M\}.$$

In [1] this result was extended to a finitely presented semigroup  $S$ , that is  $\text{def}_S(S) \geq \text{rank}(H_2(S))$  where  $H_2(S)$  is the second integral homology of  $S^1$ , the monoid obtained from  $S$  by adjoining an identity if necessary, and

$$\text{def}_S(S) = \min\{|R| - |A| : \langle A | R \rangle \text{ is a finite semigroup presentation for } S\}.$$

Moreover, it was shown that the  $n$ th integral homology of a semigroup with a left or a right zero is trivial for  $n \geq 1$  (see also [8, Lemma 1]), and the second integral homology of a finite rectangular band  $R_{m,n}$  of order  $mn$  is  $\mathbb{Z}^{(m-1)(n-1)}$ . A finite semigroup  $S$  is called *efficient* as a semigroup if  $\text{def}_S(S) = \text{rank}(H_2(S))$ , and *inefficient* otherwise. The efficiency and inefficiency of a finite monoid are defined similarly. The first examples of efficient and inefficient semigroups were given in [1], which showed that finite zero semigroups and finite free semilattices are inefficient, and finite rectangular bands are efficient. More examples of efficient semigroups can be found in [2, 3, 4, 5, 6].

It was shown in [2] that the second integral homology of a finite Rees matrix semigroup  $\mathcal{M}[G; I, \Lambda; P]$  (finite simple semigroup) is  $H_2(G) \times \mathbb{Z}^{(|I|-1)(|\Lambda|-1)}$  by using the Squier resolution (see [12]). In this paper, we also use this resolution to compute the second integral homology of the Schützenberger product of two finite monoids. We show that, for two finite monoids  $S$  and  $T$ ,

\*Correspondence: ltanguler@cu.edu.tr

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$$H_2(S \diamond T) = H_2(S) \times H_2(T) \times (H_1(S) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H_1(T)),$$

and it follows from [3, Equation (1)] that  $H_2(S \diamond T) = H_2(S \times T)$ . Moreover, we consider the efficiency of  $S \diamond T$  and conclude that, if there is no left or right invertible element in both  $S$  and  $T$ , then  $S \diamond T$  is inefficient.

## 2. Preliminaries

Since the Squier resolution given in [12] is defined by using a presentation in which the set of relations is a uniquely terminating rewriting system, we give some elementary concepts about rewriting systems.

Let  $A$  be an alphabet. We denote the free semigroup on  $A$  consisting of all nonempty words over  $A$  by  $A^+$ , and the free monoid  $A^+ \cup \{\varepsilon\}$  where  $\varepsilon$  denotes the empty word by  $A^*$ . A *rewriting system*  $R$  on  $A$  is a subset of  $A^* \times A^*$ . For  $w_1, w_2 \in A^*$ , if they are identical words then we write  $w_1 \equiv w_2$ , and if there exist  $u, v \in A^*$  and  $(r, s) \in R$  such that  $w_1 \equiv urv$  and  $w_2 \equiv usv$  then we write  $w_1 \rightarrow w_2$  and we say that  $w_1$  *rewrites to*  $w_2$ . We denote by  $\overset{*}{\rightarrow}$  the reflexive and transitive closure of  $\rightarrow$ , and by  $\sim$  the equivalence relation generated by  $\rightarrow$ . For a word  $w \in A^*$  we say that  $w$  is *reducible* ( $R$ -*reducible*) if there is a word  $z \in A^*$  such that  $w \rightarrow z$ ; otherwise we say that  $w$  is *irreducible* ( $R$ -*irreducible*). If  $w \overset{*}{\rightarrow} y$  and  $y \in A^*$  is irreducible, then we say that  $y$  is an irreducible form of  $w$ . A rewriting system  $R$  is called *terminating* if there is no infinite sequence  $(w_n)$  such that  $w_n \rightarrow w_{n+1}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . Let  $|w|$  be the length of the word  $w \in A^*$ . If  $|r| > |s|$  for all  $(r, s) \in R$  then the system  $R$  is called *length-reducing*.

It is well known that if there exists an ordering  $<$  on a set  $S$  such that, for each distinct pair  $s, s' \in S$ , either  $s < s'$  or  $s' < s$ , then the ordering  $<$  is called *linear* (or *total*) *ordering* and the set  $S$  is called *linearly* (or *totally*) *ordered*. For  $u, v \in A^*$ , if  $|u| > |v|$  or if  $|u| = |v|$  and  $v$  precedes  $u$  in the lexicographic ordering induced by a linear ordering on  $A$  then we write  $v \ll u$  and  $\ll$  is called *length-lexicographic ordering*. A rewriting system  $R$  is called a *length-lexicographic rewriting system* if  $s \ll r$  for all  $(r, s) \in R$ . It is clear that length-reducing systems and length-lexicographic rewriting systems are terminating.

A semigroup (monoid) presentation is an ordered pair  $\langle A \mid R \rangle$ , where  $R \subseteq A^+ \times A^+$  ( $R \subseteq A^* \times A^*$ ). Let  $S$  be a semigroup (monoid).  $S$  is called a *semigroup (monoid) defined by the semigroup (monoid) presentation*  $\langle A \mid R \rangle$  if  $S$  is isomorphic to  $A^+/\rho$  ( $A^*/\rho$ ), where  $\rho$  is the congruence on  $A^+$  ( $A^*$ ) generated by  $R$ . For  $w_1, w_2 \in A^*$ , we also write  $w_1 = w_2$  if  $(w_1, w_2) \in \rho$ ; that is,  $w_2$  is obtained from  $w_1$  by applying relations from  $R$ , or, equivalently, there is a finite sequence

$$w_1 \equiv \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n \equiv w_2$$

of words from  $A^*$  in which every  $\alpha_i$  is obtained from  $\alpha_{i-1}$  by applying a relation from  $R$  (see [9, Proposition 1.5.9]).

A rewriting system  $R$  is called *confluent* if, for any  $x, y, z \in A^*$  such that  $x \overset{*}{\rightarrow} y$ ,  $x \overset{*}{\rightarrow} z$ , there exists  $w \in A^*$  such that  $y \overset{*}{\rightarrow} w$ ,  $z \overset{*}{\rightarrow} w$ . Also, a rewriting system  $R$  is called *complete* if it is both terminating and confluent. For a given rewriting system  $R$ , let the subset  $R_1 \subseteq A^*$  be the set of all  $r \in A^*$  such that there exists  $(r, s) \in R$  for some  $s \in A^*$ . The system  $R$  is called *reduced* if for each  $(r, s) \in R$ ,  $R_1 \cap A^*rA^* = \{r\}$  and  $s$  is  $R$ -irreducible. Finally, a reduced complete rewriting system  $R$  is called a *uniquely terminating rewriting system*.

**Lemma 2.1** ([7, Theorem 1.1] or [12, Theorem 2.1]) *Let  $R$  be a terminating rewriting system on  $A$ . Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $R$  is confluent (and hence complete);
- (ii) for any pair  $(r_1r_2, s_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, s_{2,3}) \in R$ , where  $r_2$  is nonempty, there exists a word  $w \in A^*$  such that  $s_{1,2}r_3 \xrightarrow{*} w$  and  $r_1s_{2,3} \xrightarrow{*} w$ ; for any pair  $(r_1r_2r_3, s_{1,2,3}), (r_2, s_2) \in R$ , where  $r_2$  is nonempty, there exists a word  $w \in A^*$  such that  $s_{1,2,3} \xrightarrow{*} w$  and  $r_1s_2r_3 \xrightarrow{*} w$ ;
- (iii) any word  $w \in A^*$  has exactly one irreducible form. Moreover,  $w \sim w'$  if and only if  $w$  and  $w'$  have the same irreducible form.

If there exists a pair  $(r_1r_2, s_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, s_{2,3}) \in R$  or  $(r_1r_2r_3, s_{1,2,3}), (r_2, s_2) \in R$  such that  $r_2$  is a nonempty word, then we define the *overlaps* to be the ordered pairs  $[(r_1r_2, s_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, s_{2,3})]$  and  $[(r_1r_2r_3, s_{1,2,3}), (r_2, s_2)]$ , respectively. Note that the overlaps of the form  $[(r_1r_2r_3, s_{1,2,3}), (r_2, s_2)]$  do not exist in a reduced rewriting system.

Let  $\langle A \mid R \rangle$  be a presentation for a monoid  $S$  in which  $R$  is a uniquely terminating rewriting system on  $A$ . Also, let  $\mathbb{Z}S$  denote the monoid ring of  $S$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}$ . In [12] Squier defined the free resolution of  $\mathbb{Z}$  as follows:

$$P_3 \xrightarrow{\partial_3} P_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} P_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} P_0 \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0,$$

where  $P_0$  is the free  $\mathbb{Z}S$ -module on a single formal symbol  $[ ]$  and the augmentation map  $\varepsilon : P_0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is defined by  $\varepsilon([ ]) = 1$ .  $P_1$  is the free  $\mathbb{Z}S$ -module on the set of formal symbols  $[a]$  for each  $a \in A$  and the map  $\partial_1 : P_1 \longrightarrow P_0$  is defined by

$$\partial_1([a]) = (a - 1)[ ].$$

$P_2$  is the free  $\mathbb{Z}S$ -module on the set of formal symbols  $[r, s]$ , for each  $(r, s) \in R$ . For each  $a \in A$ , a function  $\partial/\partial_a : A^* \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}A^*$ , which is called a *derivation*, is defined by induction as follows:

$$\partial/\partial_a(1) = 0,$$

and if  $w \in A^*$  and  $b \in A$ , then

$$\partial/\partial_a(wb) = \begin{cases} \partial/\partial_a(w) & (\text{if } b \neq a), \\ \partial/\partial_a(w) + w & (\text{if } b = a). \end{cases}$$

Then the map  $\partial_2 : P_2 \longrightarrow P_1$  is defined by

$$\partial_2([r, s]) = \sum_{a \in A} \phi(\partial/\partial_a(r) - \partial/\partial_a(s))[a],$$

where  $\phi : \mathbb{Z}A^* \longrightarrow \mathbb{Z}S$  is the map induced by the natural homomorphism from  $A^*$  to  $S$ . Finally,  $P_3$  is the free  $\mathbb{Z}S$ -module on the set of formal symbols  $[(r_1r_2, s_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, s_{2,3})]$ , for each pair  $(r_1r_2, s_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, s_{2,3}) \in R$  where  $r_2$  is not an empty word. Let  $w$  be in  $A^*$  and let  $u$  be the irreducible form of  $w$ . Then we have a sequence

$$w \equiv u_1r_1v_1 \rightarrow u_1s_1v_1 \equiv u_2r_2v_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow u_qs_qv_q \equiv u$$

where  $u_i, v_i \in A^*$  and  $(r_i, s_i) \in R$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, q$ . Then the map  $\Phi : A^* \longrightarrow P_2$  is defined by

$$\Phi(w) = \sum_{i=1}^q \phi(u_i)[r_i, s_i],$$

and the map  $\partial_3 : P_3 \rightarrow P_2$  is defined by

$$\partial_3([(r_1r_2, s_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, s_{2,3})]) = r_1[r_2r_3, s_{2,3}] - [r_1r_2, s_{1,2}] + \Phi(r_1s_{2,3}) - \Phi(s_{1,2}r_3).$$

Squier showed that  $P_3 \xrightarrow{\partial_3} P_2 \xrightarrow{\partial_2} P_1 \xrightarrow{\partial_1} P_0 \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0$  is an exact sequence if  $R$  is a uniquely terminating rewriting system and we assume that for each word  $w \in A^*$ , the chosen relation chain from  $w$  to the irreducible form of  $w$  consists of reductions only; that is, if  $(r, s) \in R$ , then  $(s, r) \notin R$ .

If we apply the tensor product  $\mathbb{Z} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}S} -$  to the resolution of  $\mathbb{Z}$  given above, we obtain the chain complex of abelian groups

$$\mathbb{Z} \otimes P_3 \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \partial_3} \mathbb{Z} \otimes P_2 \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \partial_2} \mathbb{Z} \otimes P_1 \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \partial_1} \mathbb{Z} \otimes P_0 \xrightarrow{1 \otimes \varepsilon} \mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0,$$

or simply,

$$\bar{P}_3 \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_3} \bar{P}_2 \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_2} \bar{P}_1 \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_1} \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0 \tag{1}$$

where  $\bar{P}_1$ ,  $\bar{P}_2$ , and  $\bar{P}_3$  are the free abelian groups on the set of formal symbols  $[a]$ ,  $[r, s]$ , and  $[(r_1r_2, s_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, s_{2,3})]$  where  $a \in A$ ;  $(r, s), (r_1r_2, s_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, s_{2,3}) \in R$  with  $r_2$  not an empty word, respectively. Clearly the map  $\bar{\partial}_1 : \bar{P}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is the zero map.

For  $a \in A$  and  $w \in A^*$ , the number of occurrences of the letter  $a$  in the word  $w$  is called *a-length of w* and denoted by  $\|w\|_a$ . Moreover, if  $w \equiv a_1a_2 \cdots a_m$ , then we denote the list  $[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m]$  by  $C[w]$ . (Note that in any list some of the elements can be the same; for example,  $C[ab^2a^2] = [a, b, b, a, a]$ .)

The maps  $\bar{\partial}_2 : \bar{P}_2 \rightarrow \bar{P}_1$  and  $\bar{\partial}_3 : \bar{P}_3 \rightarrow \bar{P}_2$  are defined by

$$\bar{\partial}_2([r, s]) = \sum_{a \in A} (\|r\|_a - \|s\|_a)[a]$$

and

$$\bar{\partial}_3([(r_1r_2, s_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, s_{2,3})]) = [r_2r_3, s_{2,3}] - [r_1r_2, s_{1,2}] + \bar{\Phi}(r_1s_{2,3}) - \bar{\Phi}(s_{1,2}r_3),$$

respectively, where  $\bar{\Phi} : A^* \rightarrow \bar{P}_2$  is the map defined by

$$\bar{\Phi}(w) = \sum_{i=1}^q [r_i, s_i] \text{ if } \Phi(w) = \sum_{i=1}^q \phi(u_i)[r_i, s_i].$$

With this notation we have the following immediate result:

**Lemma 2.2** ([3, Lemma 3.1]) *If a monoid S has a presentation  $\langle A \mid R \rangle$  such that R is a uniquely terminating rewriting system on A, then*

$$H_1(S) = H_1(G) = G/G' = \langle A \mid \sum_{a \in A} (\|r\|_a - \|s\|_a)[a] = 0 \quad ((r, s) \in R) \rangle,$$

where  $G$  is the group defined by  $\langle A \mid R \rangle$  as a group presentation and  $G'$  is the derived subgroup of  $G$ .

**Lemma 2.3** ([11, Chapter 6]) *Let  $\langle A \mid R \rangle$  and  $\langle B \mid Q \rangle$  ( $A$  and  $B$  are distinct) be presentations for the monoids  $S$  and  $T$ , respectively. Then the tensor product of their first homologies, namely  $H_1(S) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H_1(T)$ ,*

can be given by the abelian group presentation

$$\langle [A, B] \mid \sum_{a \in A} (\|r\|_a - \|s\|_a)[ab, ba] = 0 \quad (b \in B, (r, s) \in R) \\ \sum_{b \in B} (\|u\|_b - \|v\|_b)[ab, ba] = 0 \quad (a \in A, (u, v) \in Q) \rangle,$$

where  $[A, B] = \{[ab, ba] \mid a \in A, b \in B\}$ .

### 3. The second integral homology of the Schützenberger product of monoids

Let  $S$  and  $T$  be two finite monoids, and let  $\mathcal{P}(S \times T)$  denote the set of all subsets of  $S \times T$ . Now we define the sets

$$sX = \{(sx, y) : (x, y) \in X\} \text{ and } Xt = \{(x, yt) : (x, y) \in X\},$$

where  $X \in \mathcal{P}(S \times T)$ ,  $s \in S$ , and  $t \in T$ . Then the set  $S \times \mathcal{P}(S \times T) \times T$  is a monoid, denoted by  $S \diamond T$  and called the *Schützenberger product of  $S$  and  $T$* , with identity  $(1_S, \emptyset, 1_T)$  by the multiplication

$$(s_1, X_1, t_1)(s_2, X_2, t_2) = (s_1 s_2, X_1 t_2 \cup s_1 X_2, t_1 t_2).$$

If  $S$  is a finitely presented monoid then it is clear that  $S$  is linearly ordered by considering the length-lexicographic ordering. In this section we consider that the monoids  $S$  and  $T$  are well ordered. Moreover, the direct product  $S \times T$  is also linearly ordered, with the ordering  $(s, t) \prec (s', t')$  if  $s < s'$  or if  $s = s'$  and  $t < t'$ .

If the monoid presentations  $\langle A \mid R \rangle$  and  $\langle B \mid Q \rangle$  ( $A$  and  $B$  are distinct) define the monoids  $S$  and  $T$ , respectively, then the presentation  $\langle A \cup B \cup C \mid R \cup Q \cup Z \rangle$  where  $C = \{c_{s,t} : s \in S, t \in T\}$  and

$$Z = \{ \quad c_{s,t}^2 = c_{s,t} \quad (s \in S, t \in T), \\ c_{s,t} c_{s',t'} = c_{s',t'} c_{s,t} \quad ((s', t') \prec (s, t) \in S \times T), \\ ac_{s,t} = c_{as,t} a \quad (a \in A, s \in S, t \in T), \\ c_{s,t} b = b c_{s,tb} \quad (b \in B, s \in S, t \in T), \\ ab = ba \quad (a \in A, b \in B) \}$$

defines  $S \diamond T$  in terms of the generating set

$$\{(a, \emptyset, 1_T), (1_S, \emptyset, b), (1_S, \{(s, t)\}, 1_T) : a \in A, b \in B, (s, t) \in S \times T\}.$$

(For a proof, see [10, Theorem 3.2].)

Note that, for ease of notation, we write  $c_{as,t}$  and  $c_{s,tb}$  instead of  $c_{\pi_S(a)s,t}$  and  $c_{s,t\pi_T(b)}$  where  $\pi_S : A^* \rightarrow S$  and  $\pi_T : B^* \rightarrow T$  are the natural homomorphisms, respectively. Thus, for  $r, p \in A^*S$  and  $u, v \in TB^*$ , the words  $c_{r,u}$  and  $c_{p,v}$  are identical if the relations  $r = p$  and  $u = v$  hold in  $S$  and  $T$ , respectively.

**Lemma 3.1** *Let  $S$  and  $T$  be two finite monoids, and let  $\langle A \mid R \rangle$  and  $\langle B \mid Q \rangle$  be their finite monoid presentations such that  $R$  and  $Q$  are uniquely terminating rewriting systems on  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively. With the above notations, the rewriting system  $R \cup Q \cup Z$  is uniquely terminating on  $A \cup B \cup C$ .*

**Proof** For an arbitrary word  $w$  in  $(A \cup B \cup C)^*$ , it is clear that the reduced form of  $w$  has the form  $w_1 w_2 w_3$  where  $w_1$ ,  $w_2$ , and  $w_3$  are reduced words in  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $A$ , respectively. It is also clear that  $R \cup Q \cup Z$  is

terminating and reduced. The overlaps are:

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_1 &= [(r_1r_2, p_{1,2}), (r_2r_3, p_{2,3})], \\
 V_2 &= [(ra, p), (ac_{s,t}, c_{as,ta})], \\
 V_3 &= [(ra, p), (ab, ba)], \\
 V_4 &= [(u_1u_2, v_{1,2}), (u_2u_3, v_{2,3})], \\
 V_5 &= [(c_{s,t}c_{s,t}, c_{s,t}), (c_{s,t}c_{s,t}, c_{s,t})], \\
 V_6 &= [(c_{s,t}c_{s,t}, c_{s,t}), (c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t})]((s', t') \prec (s, t)), \\
 V_7 &= [(c_{s,t}c_{s,t}, c_{s,t}), (c_{s,t}b, bc_{s,tb})], \\
 V_8 &= [(c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}), (c_{s',t'}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'})]((s', t') \prec (s, t)), \\
 V_9 &= [(c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}), (c_{s',t'}c_{s'',t''}, c_{s'',t''}c_{s',t'})]((s'', t'') \prec (s', t') \prec (s, t)), \\
 V_{10} &= [(c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}), (c_{s',t'}b, bc_{s',t'b})]((s', t') \prec (s, t)), \\
 V_{11} &= [(ac_{s,t}, c_{as,ta}), (c_{s,t}c_{s,t}, c_{s,t})], \\
 V_{12} &= [(ac_{s,t}, c_{as,ta}), (c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t})]((s', t') \prec (s, t)), \\
 V_{13} &= [(ac_{s,t}, c_{as,ta}), (c_{s,t}b, bc_{s,tb})], \\
 V_{14} &= [(c_{s,t}b, bc_{s,tb}), (bu, v)], \\
 V_{15} &= [(ab, ba), (bu, v)],
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $a \in A$ ;  $b \in B$ ;  $(ra = p)$ ,  $(r_1r_2 = p_{1,2})$ ,  $(r_2r_3 = p_{2,3}) \in R$ ;  $(bu = v)$ ,  $(u_1u_2 = v_{1,2})$ ,  $(u_2u_3 = v_{2,3}) \in Q$ ;  $(s, t)$ ,  $(s', t')$ ,  $(s'', t'') \in S \times T$ . Now it follows from Lemma 2.1 that  $R \cup Q \cup Z$  is confluent and so a uniquely terminating rewriting system.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.2** *If  $S$  and  $T$  are two finite monoids, then*

$$H_2(S \diamond T) = H_2(S) \times H_2(T) \times (H_1(S) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H_1(T)).$$

**Proof** We consider the uniquely terminating rewriting system  $R \cup Q \cup Z$  on  $A \cup B \cup C$  given in Lemma 3.1 and the chain complex (1) arising from it.

Before we compute the second integral homology of  $S \diamond T$ , that is  $H_2(S \diamond T) = \ker \bar{\partial}_2 / \text{im } \bar{\partial}_3$ , we assume that  $H_2(S) = \ker \bar{\partial}_{2|_S} / \text{im } \bar{\partial}_{3|_S}$  and  $H_2(T) = \ker \bar{\partial}_{2|_T} / \text{im } \bar{\partial}_{3|_T}$  where  $\ker \bar{\partial}_{2|_S}$ ,  $\text{im } \bar{\partial}_{3|_S}$ ,  $\ker \bar{\partial}_{2|_T}$ , and  $\text{im } \bar{\partial}_{3|_T}$  are the free abelian groups on  $\{X_i : i \in I\}$ ,  $\{Y_j : j \in J\}$ ,  $\{U_k : k \in K\}$ , and  $\{W_l : l \in L\}$  (which are found by using the Squier resolution), respectively.

Now we find a generating set for the free abelian group  $\text{im } \bar{\partial}_3$  by using the overlaps in the proof of Lemma 3.1. We compute the following.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_1) &= \text{im } \bar{\partial}_{3|_S} \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_2) &= [ac_{s,t}, c_{as,ta}] - [ra, p] + \bar{\Phi}(rc_{as,ta}) - \bar{\Phi}(pc_{s,t}) \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_3) &= \sum_{a \in C[ra]} [ab, ba] - \sum_{a \in C[p]} [ab, ba]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_4) &= \text{im } \bar{\partial}_{3|_T} \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_5) &= 0 \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_6) &= [c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}] \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_7) &= [c_{s,t}b, bc_{s,tb}] - [c_{s,t}^2, c_{s,t}] + [c_{s,tb}^2, c_{s,tb}] \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_8) &= -[c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}] \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_9) &= 0 \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_{10}) &= -[c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}] + [c_{s,tb}c_{s',t'}b, c_{s',t'}b c_{s,tb}] \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_{11}) &= [c_{s,t}^2, c_{s,t}] - [ac_{s,t}, c_{as,t}a] - [c_{as,t}^2, c_{as,t}] \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_{12}) &= [c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}] - [c_{as,t}c_{as',t'}, c_{as',t'}c_{as,t}] \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_{13}) &= [c_{s,t}b, bc_{s,tb}] - [ac_{s,t}, c_{as,t}a] + [ac_{s,tb}, c_{as,tb}a] - [c_{as,t}b, bc_{as,tb}] \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_{14}) &= -[c_{s,t}b, bc_{s,tb}] + \bar{\Phi}(c_{s,t}v) - \bar{\Phi}(c_{s,tb}u) \\
 \bar{\partial}_3(V_{15}) &= \sum_{b \in C[v]} [ab, ba] - \sum_{b \in C[bu]} [ab, ba]
 \end{aligned}$$

Now let

$$\begin{aligned}
 W(ra, p) &= \sum_{a \in C[ra]} [ab, ba] - \sum_{a \in C[p]} [ab, ba], \\
 W(bu, v) &= \sum_{b \in C[v]} [ab, ba] - \sum_{b \in C[bu]} [ab, ba], \\
 W(a, s, t) &= [c_{s,t}^2, c_{s,t}] - [ac_{s,t}, c_{as,t}a] - [c_{as,t}^2, c_{as,t}], \\
 W(b, s, t) &= [c_{s,t}b, bc_{s,tb}] - [c_{s,t}^2, c_{s,t}] + [c_{s,tb}^2, c_{s,tb}], \\
 W(s', t', s, t) &= [c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}] \quad ((s', t') \prec (s, t))
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $a \in A$ ,  $b \in B$ ,  $s, s' \in S$ ,  $t, t' \in T$ ,  $(ra, p) \in R$ , and  $(bu, v) \in Q$ . Then we show that the set

$$\{Y_j, W_l, W(ra, p), W(bu, v), W(a, s, t), W(b, s, t), W(s', t', s, t) \mid ((s', t') \prec (s, t))\}$$

$$j \in J; l \in L; a \in A; b \in B; s, s' \in S; t, t' \in T; (ra, p) \in R; (bu, v) \in Q \}$$

is a generating set for the free abelian group  $\text{im } \bar{\partial}_3$  as follows.

If  $r \equiv a_1 \cdots a_m$  and  $p \equiv a'_1 \cdots a'_n$  ( $a_1, \dots, a_m, a'_1, \dots, a'_n \in A$ ) then we define

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_0 &= W(a_m, as, t), \\
 W_i &= W(a_{m-i}, a_{m+1-i} \cdots a_m as, t) \quad (1 \leq i \leq m-1), \\
 W'_0 &= W(a'_n, s, t), \\
 W'_j &= W(a'_{n-j}, a'_{n+1-j} \cdots a'_n s, t) \quad (1 \leq j \leq n-1).
 \end{aligned}$$



Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\partial}_3(V_2) &= [ac_{s,t}, c_{as,t}a] + \bar{\Phi}(rc_{as,t}) - \bar{\Phi}(pc_{s,t}) = [ac_{s,t}, c_{as,t}a] \\ &\quad + [a_m c_{as,t}, c_{a_m as,t} a_m] + \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} [a_{m-i} c_{a_{m+1-i} \dots a_m as,t}, c_{a_{m-i} \dots a_m as,t} a_{m-i}] \\ &\quad - [a'_n c_{s,t}, c_{a'_n s,t} a'_n] - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} [a'_{n-j} c_{a'_{n+1-j} \dots a'_n s,t}, c_{a'_{n-j} \dots a'_n s,t} a'_{n-j}] \\ &= -W(a, s, t) + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} W'_j - \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} W_i, \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\bar{\partial}_3(V_2)$  is a linear combination of  $W(a, s, t)$ s. Similarly, it can be shown that  $\bar{\partial}_3(V_{14})$  is a linear combination of  $W(b, s, t)$ s. Moreover, it is clear that all of  $\bar{\partial}_3(V_6)$ ,  $\bar{\partial}_3(V_8)$ ,  $\bar{\partial}_3(V_{10})$ , and  $\bar{\partial}_3(V_{12})$  are linear combinations of  $W(s', t', s, t)$ s, and that

$$\bar{\partial}_3(V_{13}) = W(b, s, t) + W(a, s, t) - W(a, s, tb) - W(b, as, t).$$

Next we find a generating set for  $\ker \bar{\partial}_2$ . Since any  $\alpha \in \bar{P}_2$  has the form

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= \sum_{(r=s) \in R} \alpha_{(r,s)}[r, s] + \sum_{(u=v) \in Q} \alpha_{(u,v)}[u, v] + \sum_{a \in A, b \in B} \alpha_{(a,b)}[ab, ba] \\ &\quad + \sum_{s \in S, t \in T} \alpha_{(s,t)}[c_{s,t}^2, c_{s,t}] + \sum_{(s',t') \prec (s,t) \in S \times T} \alpha_{(s',t',s,t)}[c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}] \\ &\quad + \sum_{a \in A, s \in S, t \in T} \alpha_{(a,s,t)}[ac_{s,t}, c_{as,t}a] + \sum_{b \in B, s \in S, t \in T} \alpha_{(b,s,t)}[c_{s,t}b, bc_{s,t}] \end{aligned}$$

where all the coefficients are integers, then  $\alpha \in \ker \bar{\partial}_2$  if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\partial}_2\left(\sum_{(r=s) \in R} \alpha_{(r,s)}[r, s]\right) &= 0, \quad \bar{\partial}_2\left(\sum_{(u=v) \in Q} \alpha_{(u,v)}[u, v]\right) = 0 \quad \text{and} \\ \sum_{s \in S, t \in T} \alpha_{(s,t)}[c_{s,t}] &+ \sum_{a \in A} \alpha_{(a,s,t)}([c_{s,t}] - [c_{as,t}]) + \sum_{b \in B} \alpha_{(b,s,t)}([c_{s,t}] - [c_{s,t}b]) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

From the first two equations given above we obtain the generators  $\{X_i : i \in I\}$  and  $\{U_k : k \in K\}$  for  $\ker \bar{\partial}_{2|_S}$  and  $\ker \bar{\partial}_{2|_T}$ , respectively. Now we concentrate on the last equation. By rearranging it, we have

$$\alpha_{(s,t)} = - \sum_{a \in A} \alpha_{(a,s,t)} - \sum_{b \in B} \alpha_{(b,s,t)} + \sum_{\substack{a' \in A, s' \in S \\ a' s' = s}} \alpha_{(a',s',t)} + \sum_{\substack{b' \in B, t' \in T \\ t' b' = t}} \alpha_{(b',s,t')} \tag{2}$$

for each  $(s, t) \in S \times T$ . For fixed  $\alpha_{(a,s,t)}$ , we assume that  $\alpha_{(a,s,t)} = 1$  and all the other variables on the right-hand side of Equation (2) are zero, and so we obtain  $\alpha_{(s,t)} = -1$  and  $\alpha_{(as,t)} = 1$ . Thus, we have the following generators:

$$W_1(a, s, t) = [ac_{s,t}, c_{as,t}a] - [c_{s,t}^2, c_{s,t}] + [c_{as,t}^2, c_{as,t}].$$

Similarly, we have

$$W_2(b, s, t) = [c_{s,t}b, bc_{s,tb}] - [c_{s,t}^2, c_{s,t}] + [c_{s,tb}^2, c_{s,tb}].$$

Therefore,

$$\{X_i, U_k, [ba, ab], W_1(a, s, t), W_2(b, s, t), [c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}] : i \in I; k \in K; a \in A; \\ b \in B; s, s' \in S; t, t' \in T((s', t') \prec (s, t))\}$$

is a generating set for  $\ker \bar{\partial}_2$ .

Notice that  $W_1(a, s, t)$ ,  $W_2(b, s, t)$  and  $[c_{s,t}c_{s',t'}, c_{s',t'}c_{s,t}]$  are also in the generating set for  $\text{im } \bar{\partial}_3$  given above, and so

$$\begin{aligned} H_2(S \diamond T) &= \langle X_i, U_k, [ab, ba] (i \in I, k \in K, a \in A, b \in B) \mid \\ &Y_j = 0, W_l = 0, W(ra, p) = 0, W(bu, v) = 0 \\ &(j \in J, l \in L, (ra, p) \in R, (bu, v) \in Q) \rangle \\ &= H_2(S) \times H_2(T) \times \langle [ab, ba] (a \in A, b \in B) \mid W(ra, p) = 0, \\ &W(bu, v) = 0 ((ra, p) \in R, (bu, v) \in Q) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\langle [ab, ba] (a \in A, b \in B) \mid W(ra, p) = 0, W(bu, v) = 0, ((ra, p) \in R, (bu, v) \in Q) \rangle$  is equal to  $H_1(S) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} H_1(T)$ , from Lemma 2.3, the proof is complete.  $\square$

Notice that one may consider the Schützenberger product  $S \diamond T$  as “a kind of direct product” of the monoids  $S \times T$  and the free semilattice over  $S \times T$  (the monoid considered as the set of all subsets of  $S \times T$  with set-theoretical union as a multiplication). Therefore, from [1, Proposition 3.1] and [3, Equation (1), p. 282], the result in the last theorem is perhaps not surprising.

#### 4. Remark

In [1, Theorem 3.3] it was shown that if  $A$  is a finite nonempty set of size  $n$ , then

$$\text{def}_S(SL_A) = n(n - 1)/2, \tag{3}$$

and for  $n \geq 2$   $SL_A$  is inefficient, where  $SL_A$  is the set of all nonempty subsets of  $A$  with set-theoretic union as multiplication.

For convenience, first we state a probably well-known lemma that can be proved easily.

**Lemma 4.1** *Let  $S$  be a monoid,  $P = \langle A \mid R \rangle$  be a presentation of  $S$ ,  $T$  be a subsemigroup of  $S$ , and  $S \setminus T$  be an ideal of  $S$ . Then  $T$  has a presentation  $\langle B \mid Q \rangle$  such that  $B \subset A$  and  $Q \subset R$ .*

**Corollary 4.2** *If  $S$  and  $T$  are two finite monoids without any left or right invertible element, then  $S \diamond T$  is inefficient.*

**Proof** Consider the sets

$$\begin{aligned} U &= \{(1_S, X, 1_T) \mid X \subset S \times T\} \text{ and} \\ V &= (S \diamond T) \setminus U = \{(s, X, t) \in S \diamond T \mid (s, t) \neq (1_S, 1_T)\}. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that  $U$  is a subsemigroup of  $S \diamond T$  and isomorphic to the free semilattice  $SL_{S \times T}$ . Moreover,  $V$  is an ideal of  $S \diamond T$ . It follows from Lemma 4.1, Equation (3), and Theorem 3.2 that  $S \diamond T$  is inefficient.  $\square$

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