

$(m + k, m)$ -BANDS

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**Abstract.** In this paper  $p$ -zero  $(m + k, m)$ -semigroups are defined and it is proved that there are exactly  $(m + 1)$   $p$ -zero semigroups. An  $(m + k, m)$ -semigroup  $(Q; [ ])$  which is a direct product of all  $(m + 1)$   $p$ -zero  $(m + k, m)$ -semigroups, defined previously, is called an  $(m + k, m)$ -band. Characterizations of  $(m + k, m)$ -bands are given.

1.  $p$ -ZERO  $(m + k, m)$ -SEMIGROUPS

First, we will introduce some notations which will be used further on:

1) The elements of  $Q^s$ , where  $Q^s$  denotes the  $s$ -th Cartesian power of  $Q$ , will be denoted by  $x_1^s$ .

2) The symbol  $x_i^j$  will denote the sequence  $x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_j$  when  $i \leq j$ , and the empty sequence when  $i > j$ .

3) If  $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_s = x$ , then  $x_1^s$  is denoted by the symbol  $\overset{s}{x}$ .

4) The set  $\{1, 2, \dots, s\}$  will be denoted by  $\mathbb{N}_s$ .

Let  $Q \neq \emptyset$  and  $n, m$  are positive integers. If  $[ ]$  is a map from  $Q^n$  into  $Q^m$ , then  $[ ]$  is called an  $(n, m)$ -operation. A pair  $(Q; [ ])$  where  $[ ]$  is an  $(n, m)$ -operation is said to be an  $(n, m)$  groupoid. Every  $(n, m)$ -operation on  $Q$  induces a sequence  $[ ]_1, [ ]_2, \dots, [ ]_m$  of  $n$ -ary operations on the set  $Q$ , such that

$$((\forall i \in \mathbb{N}_m) [x_1^n]_i = y_i) \Leftrightarrow [x_1^n] = y_1^m.$$

Let  $m \geq 2, k \geq 1$ . An  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoid  $(Q; [ ])$  is called an  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup if for each  $i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, k\}$

$$[x_1^i [x_{i+1}^{i+m+k} x_{i+m+k+1}^{m+2k}] = [[x_1^{m+k}] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k}]$$

**Definition 1.1.** An  $(m + k, m)$ -groupoid  $(Q; [ ])$  is said to be a projection  $(m + k, m)$ -groupoid if there are  $1 \leq \alpha_1 < \alpha_2 < \dots < \alpha_m \leq m + k$ , such that

$$[x_1^{m+k}] = x_{\alpha_1} x_{\alpha_2} \dots x_{\alpha_m},$$

for any  $x_1^{m+k} \in Q^{m+k}$ .

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $0 \leq p \leq m$ . An  $(m + k, m)$ -groupoid  $(Q; [ ])$  is said to be a  $p$ -zero  $(m + k, m)$ -groupoid if  $[x_1^{m+k}] = x_1^p x_{p+k+1}^{m+k}$ , for any  $x_1^{m+k} \in Q^{m+k}$ .

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The operation  $[ ]$  for  $p$ -zero  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoid will be denoted by  $[ ]^p$ . In  $[1]$   $m$ -zero  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoid is called left zero  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoid, and  $0$ -zero  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoid is called right zero  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoid. Left and right zero  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoids are examples of  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroups.

**Proposition 1.3.** *Any  $p$ -zero  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoid  $(Q; [ ]^p)$  is an  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup.*

*Proof.* Let  $(Q; [ ]^p)$ ,  $0 \leq p \leq m$  be a  $p$ -zero  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoid. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ x_1^i \left[ x_{i+1}^{i+m+k} \right]^p x_{i+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]^p = \left[ x_1^i x_{i+1}^{i+p} x_{i+p+k+1}^{i+m+k} x_{i+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]^p = \\ & = x_1^p x_{m+2k-(m-p)+1}^{m+2k} = x_1^p x_{p+2k+1}^{m+2k} = \left[ x_1^p x_{p+k+1}^{m+k} x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]^p = \\ & = \left[ \left[ x_1^{m+k} \right]^p x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]^p. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 1.4.** If  $i \in \mathbb{N}_m$  is fixed, then either  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i^p = x_i$  or  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i^p = x_{i+k}$  holds in  $p$ -zero  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup  $(Q; [ ]^p)$ .

**Proposition 1.5.** *If  $(Q; [ ])$  is a projection  $(m+k, m)$ -groupoid which is also an  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup, then  $(Q; [ ])$  is a  $p$ -zero  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup, for some  $0 \leq p \leq m$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_j$ . Then  $i \leq j$  and  $m-i \leq m+k-j$ , i.e.  $i \leq j \leq k+i$ . It follows  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_{i+q}$ , where  $0 \leq q \leq k$  and

$$\left[ x_1^q \left[ x_{q+1}^{q+m+k} \right] x_{q+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i = \left[ x_{q+1}^{q+m+k} \right]_i = x_{q+i+q} = x_{i+2q}.$$

We will consider two cases: A)  $m \leq k$  and B)  $m > k$ .

A) Let  $m \leq k$ .

A1. Let  $i+q > m$ , i.e. let  $i+q = m+t$ , where  $t > 0$ . Then  $[[x_1^{m+k}] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k}]_i = x_{m+k+t} = x_{i+q+k}$ . Since  $(Q; [ ])$  is an  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup,  $\left[ x_1^q \left[ x_{q+1}^{q+m+k} \right] x_{q+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i = [[x_1^{m+k}] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k}]_i$  hold in  $(Q; [ ])$ . Then  $x_{i+2q} = x_{i+q+k}$ . So,  $i+2q = i+q+k$ , i.e.  $q = k$ . Finally,  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_{i+k}$ .

A2. Let  $i+q \leq m \leq k$ . We have  $[x_1^k [x_{k+1}^{m+2k}]]_i = x_{i+q}$ .  $\left[ x_1^q \left[ x_{q+1}^{q+m+k} \right] x_{q+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i = [x_1^k [x_{k+1}^{m+2k}]]_i$  implies that  $x_{i+2q} = x_{i+q}$ . So,  $i+2q = i+q$ , i.e.  $q = 0$ . Finally,  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_i$ .

B) Let  $m > k$ .

B1. Let  $i+q > m$  i.e.  $i+q = m+t$ , where  $t > 0$ . We have  $[[x_1^{m+k}] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k}]_i = x_{m+k+t} = x_{i+q+k}$ . Then  $x_{i+2q} = x_{i+q+k}$ . So,  $i+2q = i+q+k$  i.e.  $q = k$ . Finally,  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_{i+k}$ .

B2. Let  $i+q \leq m$ .

B2.1. If  $i+q \leq k$ , then  $[x_1^k [x_{k+1}^{m+2k}]]_i = x_{i+q}$ . So,  $i+2q = i+q$  i.e.  $q = 0$ . Finally,  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_i$ .

B2.2. Let  $k < i+q \leq m$ . Then,  $[[x_1^{m+k}] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k}]_i = [x_1^{m+k}]_{i+q}$  implies that  $[x_1^{m+k}]_{i+q} = [[x_1^{m+k}] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k}]_i = \left[ x_1^q \left[ x_{q+1}^{q+m+k} \right] x_{q+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i = x_{i+2q}$ .

Let  $j$  be such that  $i + (j - 1)q \leq m$  and  $i + jq > m$ . Let  $i + jq = m + t'$ , where  $t' > 0$ . Then,  $[x_1^{m+k}]_{i+(j-1)q} = x_{i+jq}$ ,  $[[x_1^{m+k}]x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k}]_{i+(j-1)q} = x_{m+k+t'} = x_{i+jq+k}$  and  $[x_1^q [x_{q+1}^{q+m+k} x_{q+m+k+1}^{m+2k}]]_{i+(j-1)q} = [x_{q+1}^{q+m+k}]_{i+(j-1)q} = x_{q+i+jq} = x_{i+(j+1)q}$ . Thus,  $i + (j + 1)q = i + jq + k$  i.e.  $q = k$  and  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_{i+k}$ .  $\square$

Propositions 1.3 and 1.5 imply that there are exactly  $m + 1$  projection  $(m + k, m)$ –semigroups.

**Remark 1.6.** If  $(Q; [ \ ])$  is a projection  $(m + 1, m)$ –groupoid then from the definition it follows that  $(Q; [ \ ])$  is an  $p$ –zero  $(m + 1, m)$ –groupoid and so it is  $(m + 1, m)$ –semigroup. The following example shows that, in general, projection  $(m + k, m)$ –groupoid need not be an  $(m + k, m)$ –semigroup. The  $(4, 2)$ –groupoid  $(Q; [ \ ])$  where  $[ \ ]$  is defined by  $[x_1^4] = x_2^3$ , is a projection  $(4, 2)$ –groupoid, but not a  $(4, 2)$ –semigroup.

2.  $(m + k, m)$ –BANDS

Let  $(A_i; [ \ ]^i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, t$  be  $(m + k, m)$ –semigroups. Their direct product is an  $(m + k, m)$ –semigroup, where the  $(m + k, m)$ –operation  $[ \ ]$  is defined by

$$[x_1^{m+k}] = y_1^m \Leftrightarrow x_i = (x_{i,1}, x_{i,2}, \dots, x_{i,t}), y_j = (y_{j,1}, y_{j,2}, \dots, y_{j,t}),$$

$$y_{j,r} = [x_{1,j}x_{2,j} \dots x_{m+k,j}]^r, i \in \mathbb{N}_{m+k}, j \in \mathbb{N}_m, r \in \mathbb{N}_t.$$

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $A_p = (A_p; [ \ ]^p)$  be  $p$ –zero  $(m+k, m)$ –semigroups,  $0 \leq p \leq m$ . The direct product of  $A_m, A_{m-1}, \dots, A_0$  is called  $(m + k, m)$ –band.

If  $(A_m \times A_{m-1} \times \dots \times A_0; [ \ ])$  is an  $(m+k, m)$ –band then its  $(m+k, m)$ –operation  $[ \ ]$  is of the form

$$[x_1^{m+k}] = y_1^m \Leftrightarrow x_i = (x_{i,1}, x_{i,2}, \dots, x_{i,m+1}),$$

$$y_j = (x_{j,1}, x_{j,2}, \dots, x_{j,m+1-j}, x_{j+k,m+2-j}, \dots, x_{j+k,m+1}), i \in \mathbb{N}_{m+k}, j \in \mathbb{N}_m.$$

**Proposition 2.2.** An  $(m + k, m)$ –semigroup  $Q = (Q, [ \ ])$  is an  $(m + k, m)$ –band if and only if the following conditions are satisfied in  $Q$ :

(I)  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = [y_1^{i-1} x_i y_{i+1}^{i+k-1} x_{i+k} y_{i+k+1}^{m+k}]_i, i \in \mathbb{N}_m;$

(II)  $\left[ \begin{matrix} a^{j-1} \\ a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} a^{i-1} & x^{k-1} & a^{m-i} \\ a & y & a \end{matrix} \right]_i \begin{matrix} k-1 & m-j \\ a & z & a \end{matrix} \right]_j = \left[ \begin{matrix} a^{i-1} & x^{k-1} & a^{j-1} & y^{k-1} & a^{m-j} \\ a & y & a & z & a \end{matrix} \right]_j \begin{matrix} m-i \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_i,$

for a fixed element of  $Q$  and  $j \leq i$ ;

(III)  $\left[ \begin{matrix} a^{i-1} \\ a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} a^{j-1} & x^{k-1} & a^{m-j} \\ a & y & a \end{matrix} \right]_j \begin{matrix} k-1 & m-i \\ a & z & a \end{matrix} \right]_i = \left[ \begin{matrix} a^{i-1} & x^{k-1} & a^{m-i} \\ a & x & a & z & a \end{matrix} \right]_i,$  for a fixed element of  $Q$  and  $j \leq i$ ;

for a fixed element of  $Q$  and  $j \leq i$ ;

(IV)  $\left[ \begin{matrix} a^{j-1} \\ a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} a^{i-1} & x^{k-1} & a^{m-i} \\ a & y & a & z & a \end{matrix} \right]_i \begin{matrix} m-j \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_j = \left[ \begin{matrix} a^{j-1} & x^{k-1} & a^{m-j} \\ a & x & a & z & a \end{matrix} \right]_j,$  for a fixed element of  $Q$  and  $j \leq i$ ;

for a fixed element of  $Q$  and  $j \leq i$ ;

(V)  $\left[ \begin{matrix} m+k \\ x \end{matrix} \right] = \frac{m}{x}.$

*Proof.* Let  $\mathbf{Q}$  be an  $(m+k, m)$ -band. Then directly from the Definition 2.1 it follows that  $\mathbf{Q}$  satisfies (I), (II), (III), (IV) and (V).

Conversely, suppose that the  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup  $\mathbf{Q} = (Q; [ \ ])$ , satisfies (I), (II), (III), (IV) and (V), and  $a$  is a fixed element of  $Q$ .

(A) Let  $A_m = \left\{ \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m \mid x \in Q \right\}$  and let  $\left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_i a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m \in A_m, i \in \mathbb{N}_{m+k}$ .

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m \dots \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_{m+k} a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m \right]_i \stackrel{(I)}{=} \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & m-1 & k \\ a & \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_i a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m & a \end{smallmatrix} \begin{smallmatrix} k-1 & m-1 & k \\ a & \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_{i+k} a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i \stackrel{(IV)}{=} \\ & = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & m-1 & k \\ a & \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_i a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m & a \end{smallmatrix} \begin{smallmatrix} k-1 & m-1 & k \\ a & a & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i \stackrel{(II)}{=} \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & x_i a & a \end{smallmatrix} \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & a & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i \stackrel{(V)}{=} \\ & = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & x_i a & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_i a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m. \end{aligned}$$

Because  $\left[ \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m \dots \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_{m+k} a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m \right]_m = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m \dots \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_m a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m$ ,  $(A_m; [ \ ])$  is a left zero  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup, i.e. an  $m$ -zero  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup.

(B) Let  $A_0 = \left\{ \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} k & m-1 \\ a x & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_1 \mid x \in Q \right\}$  and  $\left[ \begin{smallmatrix} k & m-1 \\ a x_i & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_1 \in A_0, i \in \mathbb{N}_{m+k}$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} k & m-1 \\ a x_1 & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_1 \dots \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} k & m-1 \\ a x_{m+k} & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_1 \right]_i \stackrel{(I)}{=} \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & k & m-1 \\ a & \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} k & m-1 \\ a x_i & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_1 & a \end{smallmatrix} \begin{smallmatrix} k-1 & k & m-1 \\ a & \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} k & m-1 \\ a x_{i+k} & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_1 & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i \stackrel{(III)}{=} \\ & = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & a & a \end{smallmatrix} \begin{smallmatrix} k & m-1 & m-i \\ a x_{i+k} & a & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i \stackrel{(II)}{=} \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & a & a \end{smallmatrix} \begin{smallmatrix} k-1 & k & m-1 \\ a & x_{i+k} & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i \stackrel{(V)}{=} \\ & = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} k-1 & m-i \\ a & x_{i+k} a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_1 = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} k & m-1 \\ a x_{i+k} & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_1. \end{aligned}$$

So,  $(A_0; [ \ ])$  is a right zero  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup, i.e. a 0-zero  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup.

(C) Let

$$\begin{aligned} A_p & = \left\{ x \mid x \in Q, x = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m+k-1 \\ x & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_1 = \dots = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} p-1 & m+k-p \\ a & x & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_p = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} p+k & m-p-1 \\ a & x & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_{p+1} = \dots = \\ & = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} m+k-1 \\ a & x \end{smallmatrix} \right]_m \right\}, 1 \leq p \leq m-1, \text{ and } x_j \in A_p, j \in \mathbb{N}_{m+k}. \end{aligned}$$

(C1) For  $i \leq p$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ x_1^{m+k} \right]_i & \stackrel{(I)}{=} \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & x_i & a \end{smallmatrix} \begin{smallmatrix} k-1 & m-i \\ a & x_{i+k} a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & x_i & a \end{smallmatrix} \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & m+k-i \\ a & x_{i+k} & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i \stackrel{(IV)}{=} \\ & = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & x_i & a \end{smallmatrix} \begin{smallmatrix} m-i \\ a & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i = \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} i-1 & m+k-i \\ a & x_i & a \end{smallmatrix} \right]_i = x_i. \end{aligned}$$

(C2) Let  $i > p$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} [x_1^{m+k}]_i &\stackrel{(I)}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} i-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & x_i & a \\ & x_{i+k} & a \end{array} \right]_i = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} i-1 & i+k-1 & m-i \\ a & a & x_i \\ & a & a \end{array} \right]_i \stackrel{(III)}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & m-i & \\ a & x_{i+k} & a \end{array} \right]_i \\ &= \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} i-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & a & a \\ & x_{i+k} & a \end{array} \right]_i = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} i+k-1 & m-i & \\ a & x_{i+k} & a \end{array} \right]_i = x_{i+k}. \end{aligned}$$

We have  $[x_1^{m+k}] = x_1^p x_{p+k+1}^{m+k}$ . So,  $(A_p; [ ])$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq m-1$ , is a  $p$ -zero  $(m+k, m)$ -semigroup.

(D) Let  $\left( \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 \\ & a \end{array} \right]_m, x_2, \dots, x_m, \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & x_{m+1} \\ & a \end{array} \right]_1 \right) \in A_m \times A_{m-1} \times \dots \times A_1 \times A_0$ .

Define:  $\alpha_0 = x_1$ ,  $\alpha_i = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & \alpha_{i-1} & a \\ & x_{i+1} & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}_m$  and  $\beta_0 = x_{m+1}$ ,

$$\beta_i = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} i-1 & k-1 & m-i \\ a & x_{m+1-i} & a \\ & \beta_{i-1} & a \end{array} \right]_i \quad i \in \mathbb{N}_m.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_m &= \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & k-1 & m-1 \\ a & x_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 = \left[ \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} a & \alpha_{m-2} & k-1 \\ & a & x_m \\ & & a \end{array} \right]_2 \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & m-1 & \\ a & x_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 \stackrel{(II)}{=} \\ &= \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} a & \alpha_{m-2} & k-1 \\ & x_m & a \\ & & x_{m+1} \end{array} \right]_1 \begin{array}{ccc} m-2 & & \\ a & & a \end{array} \right]_2 = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} a & \alpha_{m-2} & k-1 \\ & a & \beta_1 \\ & & a \end{array} \right]_2 \stackrel{(II)}{=} \dots \stackrel{(II)}{=} \\ &= \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} i-1 & \alpha_{m-i} & k-1 \\ a & \alpha_{m-i} & a \\ & \beta_{i-1} & a \end{array} \right]_i \stackrel{(II)}{=} \dots \stackrel{(II)}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & k-1 & \\ a & \alpha_0 & a \\ & \beta_{m-1} & a \end{array} \right]_m = \\ &= \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & k-1 & \\ a & x_1 & a \\ & \beta_{m-1} & a \end{array} \right]_m = \beta_m. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\varphi : A_m \times A_{m-1} \times \dots \times A_1 \times A_0 \rightarrow Q$  be the map defined by:

$$\varphi \left( \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 \\ & a \end{array} \right]_m, x_2, \dots, x_m, \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & x_{m+1} \\ & a \end{array} \right]_1 \right) = \alpha_m,$$

for any element  $\left( \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 \\ & a \end{array} \right]_m, x_2, \dots, x_m, \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & x_{m+1} \\ & a \end{array} \right]_1 \right) \in A_m \times A_{m-1} \times \dots \times A_1 \times A_0$ .

(D1) Proof that  $\varphi$  is a well-defined map.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 \\ & a \end{array} \right]_m &= \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & u_1 \\ & a \end{array} \right]_m, \quad x_j = u_j, \quad j \in \mathbb{N}_m \setminus \{1\}, \quad \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & x_{m+1} \\ & a \end{array} \right]_1 = \\ &= \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & u_{m+1} \\ & a \end{array} \right]_1. \end{aligned}$$

Then,  $\left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 \\ & a \end{array} \right]_m = \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & u_1 \\ & a \end{array} \right]_m$  implies

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 \\ & a \end{array} \right]_m & k-1 \\ & a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m &= \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & u_1 \\ & a \end{array} \right]_m & k-1 \\ & a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m \stackrel{(III)}{\Rightarrow} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & x_1 & k-1 \\ a & a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m &= \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & u_1 & k-1 \\ a & a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m \stackrel{(I)}{\Rightarrow} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} m+k \\ x_1 \end{bmatrix}_m &= \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & x_1 \end{bmatrix}_m \stackrel{(V)}{\Rightarrow} \\ x_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & x_1 \end{bmatrix}_m. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} k \\ a x_{m+1} & m-1 \\ a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} k \\ a u_{m+1} & m-1 \\ a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 \text{ implies}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{m+1} & k-1 \\ a & \begin{bmatrix} k \\ a x_{m+1} & m-1 \\ a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 \\ & m-1 \end{bmatrix}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{m+1} & k-1 \\ a & \begin{bmatrix} k \\ a u_{m+1} & m-1 \\ a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 \\ & m-1 \end{bmatrix}_1 \stackrel{(IV)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{m+1} & k-1 \\ a & x_{m+1} & m-1 \\ & a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} x_{m+1} & k-1 \\ a & u_{m+1} & m-1 \\ & a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 \stackrel{(I)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} m+k \\ x_{m+1} \end{bmatrix}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & u_{m+1} & a \end{bmatrix}_1 \stackrel{(V)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$x_{m+1} = \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & u_{m+1} & a \end{bmatrix}_1.$$

$$\alpha_0 = x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & x_1 \end{bmatrix}_m; \alpha'_0 = u_1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k-1 \\ a & \alpha_0 & a & x_2 \end{bmatrix}_m = \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & m-1 & k-1 \\ a & a & u_1 & a & x_1 \end{bmatrix}_m \begin{bmatrix} k-1 \\ a & x_2 \end{bmatrix}_m \stackrel{(III)}{=} \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & x_2 \end{bmatrix}_m = \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k-1 \\ a & \alpha'_0 & a & u_2 \end{bmatrix}_m = \alpha'_1 \end{aligned}$$

⋮

$$\alpha_i = \begin{bmatrix} m-i & k-1 \\ a & \alpha_{i-1} & a & x_{i+1} & i-1 \\ & a & a \end{bmatrix}_{m+1-i} = \begin{bmatrix} m-i & k-1 \\ a & \alpha'_{i-1} & a & u_{i+1} & i-1 \\ & a & a \end{bmatrix}_{m+1-i} = \alpha'_i,$$

$$1 \leq i \leq m-1.$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_m &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{m-1} & k-1 \\ \alpha_{m-1} & a & x_{m+1} & m-1 \\ & a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha'_{m-1} & k-1 \\ \alpha'_{m-1} & a & \begin{bmatrix} k-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & u_{m+1} & a \end{bmatrix}_1 \\ & m-1 \end{bmatrix}_1 \stackrel{(IV)}{=} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \alpha'_{m-1} & k-1 \\ \alpha'_{m-1} & a & u_{m+1} & m-1 \\ & a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 = \alpha'_m. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So, } \varphi \left( \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 & a \end{bmatrix}_m, x_2, \dots, x_m, \begin{bmatrix} k \\ a x_{m+1} & m-1 \\ a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 \right) &= \\ = \varphi \left( \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & u_1 & a \end{bmatrix}_m, u_2, \dots, u_m, \begin{bmatrix} k \\ a u_{m+1} & m-1 \\ a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 \right). \end{aligned}$$

(D2) Proof that  $\varphi$  is an injection.

Let

$$\varphi \left( \begin{bmatrix} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 & a \end{bmatrix}_m, x_2, \dots, x_m, \begin{bmatrix} k \\ a x_{m+1} & m-1 \\ a & a \end{bmatrix}_1 \right) =$$

$$= \varphi \left( \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k \\ a & u_1 & a \end{array} \right]_m, u_2, \dots, u_m, \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & u_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 \right) \text{ i.e. } \alpha_m = \alpha'_m.$$

Since  $\alpha_m = \alpha'_m$  it follows

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & & m-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k-1 & m-1 \\ \alpha_{m-1} & a & x_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 & a & \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_1 \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & & m-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k-1 & m-1 \\ \alpha'_{m-1} & a & u_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 & a & \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_1 \end{array} \right] \stackrel{(IV)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & & m-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & x_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & & m-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & u_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 \stackrel{(I)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} m+k \\ x_{m+1} \end{array} \right]_1 = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & & m-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & u_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 \stackrel{(V)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$x_{m+1} = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & & m-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & u_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1.$$

Using this:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & x_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k & & m-1 \\ a & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & & m-1 \\ x_{m+1} & a & u_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 & a & \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_1 \end{array} \right] \stackrel{(IV)}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k-1 & & m-1 \\ a & a & u_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1 = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k & & m-1 \\ a & u_{m+1} & a \end{array} \right]_1.$$

Since  $\beta_m = \beta'_m$  it follows

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k-1 \\ a & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k-1 \\ a & x_1 & a & \beta_{m-1} \end{array} \right]_m & a & \left[ \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k-1 \\ a & \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & \beta'_{m-1} \end{array} \right]_m & a & \left[ \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m \end{array} \right] \stackrel{(III)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k-1 \\ a & x_1 & a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m \stackrel{(I)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} m+k \\ x_1 \end{array} \right]_m = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m \stackrel{(V)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$x_1 = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m.$$

Using this:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k \\ a & x_1 & a \end{array} \right]_m = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k \\ a & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m & a & \left[ \begin{array}{c} k \\ a \end{array} \right]_m \end{array} \right] \stackrel{(III)}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k-1 \\ a & u_1 & a & a \end{array} \right]_m = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-1 & & k \\ a & u_1 & a \end{array} \right]_m.$$

Let  $2 \leq i \leq m$ . Since

$$\alpha_m = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & & k-1 \\ a & \alpha_{i-1} & a & \beta_{m-i} & a & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & & k-1 \\ a & \alpha'_{i-1} & a & \beta'_{m-i} & a & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} = \alpha'_m,$$

we have

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & & k-1 \\ a & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & & k-1 \\ a & \alpha_{i-1} & a & \beta_{m-i} & a & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} & a & \left[ \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a & \alpha_{i-1} & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} \end{array} \right] =$$

$$= \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & & k-1 \\ a & \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & & k-1 \\ a & \alpha'_{i-1} & a & \beta'_{m-i} & a & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} & a & \left[ \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a & \alpha_{i-1} & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} \end{array} \right] \stackrel{(III)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & & k-1 \\ a & \alpha_{i-1} & a & \alpha_{i-1} & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & & k-1 \\ a & \alpha'_{i-1} & a & \alpha_{i-1} & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} \stackrel{(I)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\left[ \begin{matrix} m+k \\ \alpha_{i-1} \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} &= \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & \alpha'_{i-1} & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \stackrel{(V)}{\Rightarrow} \\
\alpha_{i-1} &= \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & \alpha'_{i-1} & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & \alpha_{i-2} & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} \right]_{m+1-i} \stackrel{(IV)}{\Rightarrow} \\
\alpha_{i-1} &= \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & \alpha'_{i-1} & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \Rightarrow \\
\left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & \alpha_{i-2} & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} &= \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & a & \alpha'_{i-2} & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} \left[ \begin{matrix} k-1 & i-1 \\ a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \stackrel{(II)}{\Rightarrow} \\
\left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & \alpha_{i-2} & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} &= \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & \alpha'_{i-2} & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \right]_{m+2-i} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-2 \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} .
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & \alpha_{i-2} & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} \right]_{m+2-i} = \\
&= \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & \alpha'_{i-2} & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \right]_{m+2-i} \right]_{m+2-i} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-2 \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} \stackrel{(IV)}{\Rightarrow}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} = \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \right]_{m+2-i} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-2 \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} \stackrel{(I)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$\left[ \begin{matrix} m+k \\ x_i \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} = \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \right]_{m+2-i} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-2 \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} \stackrel{(V)}{\Rightarrow}$$

$$x_i = \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \right]_{m+2-i} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-2 \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} .$$

Since  $x_i = \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \right]_{m+2-i} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-2 \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i}$  and  $x_i, u_i \in A_{m+1-i}$ ,

$2 \leq i \leq m$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
x_i &= \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1+k-i & i-2 \\ a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} = \\
&= \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1+k-i & m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & a & x_i & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \right]_{m+2-i} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-2 \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} \stackrel{(IV)}{=} \\
&= \left[ \begin{matrix} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & a & a \end{matrix} \left[ \begin{matrix} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+1-i} \right]_{m+2-i} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-2 \\ a \end{matrix} \right]_{m+2-i} \stackrel{(II)}{=}
\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-i \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m+1-i & k-1 & i-2 \\ a & a & u_i \end{array} \right]_{m+2-i} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ x_i \end{array} \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} = \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-i \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m+1+k-i & i-2 \\ a & u_i & a \end{array} \right]_{m+2-i} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ x_i \end{array} \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ x_i \end{array} \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} = \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-i \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ u_i \end{array} \begin{array}{c} m-i \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & k+i-1 \\ a & x_i & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} \stackrel{(IV)}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & k-1 & i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} = \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} m-i & k+i-1 \\ a & u_i & a \end{array} \right]_{m+1-i} = u_i.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\left( \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & x_1 \end{array} \right]_m, x_2, \dots, x_m, \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & x_{m+1} \end{array} \right]_1 \right) = \left( \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & u_1 \end{array} \right]_m, u_2, \dots, u_m, \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & u_{m+1} \end{array} \right]_1 \right),$$

i.e.  $\varphi$  is an injection.

(D3) Proof that  $\varphi$  is a surjection.

Let  $x \in Q$ . Then  $\left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & x \end{array} \right]_m \in A_m$  and  $\left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & x \end{array} \right]_1 \in A_0$ . We will prove that

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+i & m-i-1 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} m+k-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i \in A_i, 1 \leq i \leq m-1.$$

1. If  $j \leq i$  then

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left[ \begin{array}{c} j-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+i & m-i-1 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} m+k-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i \begin{array}{c} m+k-j \\ a \end{array} \right]_j \stackrel{(II)}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+i & m-i-1 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} j-1 & k-1 & m-j \\ a & a & a \end{array} \right]_j \begin{array}{c} m-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i \stackrel{(V)}{=} \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+i & m-i-1 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} m-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i = \left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+i & m-i-1 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} m+k-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i.
\end{aligned}$$

2. If  $i < j$  then

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left[ \begin{array}{c} k+j-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+i & m-i-1 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} m+k-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i \begin{array}{c} m-j \\ a \end{array} \right]_j \stackrel{(II)}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} j-1 & k-1 & m-j \\ a & a & a \end{array} \right]_j \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+i & m-i-1 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} m-j \\ a \end{array} \right]_j \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} m-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i \stackrel{(II)}{=} \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} i \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} j-1 & k-1 & m-j \\ a & a & a \end{array} \right]_j \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} m-i-1 \\ x \end{array} \begin{array}{c} m+k-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} m+k-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i \stackrel{(V)}{=} \left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} i & k-1 & m-i-1 \\ a & a & x \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} m+k-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i = \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+i & m-i-1 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} m+k-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i.
\end{aligned}$$

So,  $\left[ \begin{array}{c} i-1 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+i & m-i-1 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_{i+1} \begin{array}{c} m+k-i \\ a \end{array} \right]_i \in A_i, 1 \leq i \leq m-1$ .

Let

$$\varphi \left( \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-1 & k \\ a & x \end{array} \right]_m, \left[ \begin{array}{cc} m-2 & m+k-1 \\ a & x \end{array} \right]_m \begin{array}{c} k+1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m-1}, \dots, \left[ \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} k+1 & m-2 \\ a & x & a \end{array} \right]_2 \begin{array}{c} m+k-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_1, \left[ \begin{array}{cc} k & m-1 \\ a & x \end{array} \right]_1 \right) = \alpha_m.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_1 &= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m+k-1 \\ a \quad x \end{array} \right]_m \begin{array}{c} k+1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \right]_m \quad \underline{\text{(II)}} \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad a \quad a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \right]_m \right]_m \quad \underline{\text{(IV)}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \right]_{m-1} \quad \underline{\text{(II)}} \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_m \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \quad \underline{\text{(I)}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m+k \\ x \end{array} \right]_m \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \quad \underline{\text{(V)}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k+1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} ; \\
\alpha_2 &= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad \alpha_1 \quad a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-3 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m+k-2 \\ a \quad xa \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \begin{array}{c} k+2 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m-2} \right]_{m-1} \quad \underline{\text{(II)}} \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad \alpha_1 \quad a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad a \quad a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-3 \quad k-1 \quad 2 \\ a \quad x \quad a \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-2} \right]_{m-1} \right]_{m-1} \quad \underline{\text{(IV)}} \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad \alpha_1 \quad a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-3 \quad k-1 \quad 2 \\ a \quad x \quad a \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-2} \right]_{m-1} \quad \underline{\text{(II)}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-3 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad \alpha_1 \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \quad 2 \\ a \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-2} = \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-3 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k+1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \\ a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \quad 2 \\ a \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-2} \quad \underline{\text{(III)}} \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-3 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-2 \quad k-1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \quad 2 \\ a \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-2} \quad \underline{\text{(I)}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-3 \\ a \end{array} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m+k \\ x \end{array} \right]_{m-1} \begin{array}{c} k-1 \quad 2 \\ a \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-2} \quad \underline{\text{(V)}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-3 \quad k+2 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-2} \\
&\vdots
\end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha_i = \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-i-1 \quad k+i \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_{m-i}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m-1.$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_m &= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \quad k-1 \quad m-1 \\ \alpha_{m-1} \quad a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_1 = \left[ \left[ \begin{array}{c} m+k-1 \\ x \quad a \end{array} \right]_1 \begin{array}{c} k-1 \quad m-1 \\ a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_1 \quad \underline{\text{(III)}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} k-1 \quad m-1 \\ x \quad a \quad x \quad a \end{array} \right]_1 \quad \underline{\text{(I)}} \\
&= \left[ \begin{array}{c} m+k \\ x \end{array} \right]_1 \quad \underline{\text{(V)}} = x
\end{aligned}$$

and therefore  $\varphi$  is a surjection.

(D4) Proof that  $\varphi$  is  $(m+k, m)$ -homomorphism.

Let

$$\gamma_j = \left( \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} k \\ x_{j,1} \quad a \end{array} \right]_m, x_{j,2}, \dots, x_{j,m}, \left[ \begin{array}{c} k \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} m-1 \\ x_{j,m+1} \quad a \end{array} \right]_1 \right) \in A_m \times \dots \times A_1 \times A_0, \quad j \in \mathbb{N}_{m+k}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\varphi([\gamma_1^{m+k}]_i) &= \\
&= \varphi \left( \left[ \begin{array}{c} m-1 \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} k \\ x_{i,1} \quad a \end{array} \right]_m, x_{i,2}, \dots, x_{i,m+1-i}, x_{i+k,m+2-i}, \dots, \left[ \begin{array}{c} k \\ a \end{array} \begin{array}{c} m-1 \\ x_{i+k,m+1} \quad a \end{array} \right]_1 \right) =
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \alpha_{m-i} & a^{k-1} & \beta_{i-1} & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i = \alpha_m.$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\varphi(\gamma_1) \dots \varphi(\gamma_{m+k})]_i &\stackrel{(I)}{=} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \varphi(\gamma_i) & a^{k-1} & \varphi(\gamma_{i+k}) & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i = \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \alpha'_m & a^{k-1} & \alpha''_m & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i = \\ &= \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \alpha'_{m-i} & a^{k-1} & \beta'_{i-1} & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i & a^{k-1} & \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \alpha''_{m-i} & a^{k-1} & \beta''_{i-1} & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i \stackrel{(III)}{=} \\ &= \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \alpha'_{m-i} & a^{k-1} & \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \alpha''_{m-i} & a^{k-1} & \beta''_{i-1} & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i \stackrel{(IV)}{=} \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \alpha'_{m-i} & a^{k-1} & \beta''_{i-1} & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i = \\ &= \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & \alpha_{m-i} & a^{k-1} & \beta_{i-1} & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i = \alpha_m. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\varphi$  is  $(m + k, m)$ -homomorphism.

Hence,  $(A_m \times \dots \times A_1 \times A_0; [ \ ] ) \cong \mathbf{Q}$ . □

### 3. A CHARACTERIZATION OF $(m + k, m)$ -BANDS

In the sequel we will give a characterization of  $(m + k, m)$ -bands using the usual rectangular bands, where a rectangular band is a semigroup  $(Q; *)$  that satisfies the following two identities  $x * y * z = x * z$  and  $x * x = x$ , for each  $x, y, z \in Q$ .

**Proposition 3.1.**  $\mathbf{Q} = (Q; [ \ ])$  is an  $(m + k, m)$ -band if and only if there are rectangular bands  $(Q; *_i), i \in \mathbb{N}_m$ , such that

(i)  $(x *_i y) *_j z = x *_i (y *_j z), j \leq i;$

(ii)  $(x *_j y) *_i z = x *_i z, j \leq i;$

(iii)  $x *_j (y *_i z) = x *_j z, j \leq i;$

and  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_i *_i x_{i+k}, x_1^{m+k} \in Q^{m+k}, i \in \mathbb{N}_m.$

*Proof.* Suppose  $\mathbf{Q} = (Q; [ \ ])$  is an  $(m + k, m)$ -band. According to Proposition 2.2, (I), (II), (III), (IV) and (V) are satisfied in  $\mathbf{Q}$ . For a fixed  $i$  in  $\mathbb{N}_m$ ,

be an operation defined on  $Q$ , by  $x *_i y = \left[ \begin{matrix} i-1 & & & & \\ a & x & a^{k-1} & y & a^{m-i} \\ & & & & \end{matrix} \right]_i$ . Then using (I), (II),

(III), (IV) and (V) we can obtain that  $(Q; *_i), i \in \mathbb{N}_m$  are rectangular bands, satisfying (i), (ii) and (iii) and  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_i *_i x_{i+k}, x_1^{m+k} \in Q^{m+k}, i \in \mathbb{N}_m.$

Conversely, let  $(Q; *_i), i \in \mathbb{N}_m$ , be rectangular bands, satisfying (i), (ii) and (iii) and  $[x_1^{m+k}]_i = x_i *_i x_{i+k}, x_1^{m+k} \in Q^{m+k}, i \in \mathbb{N}_m.$

Clearly,  $Q = (Q; [ \ ])$  is an  $(m + k, m)$ -groupoid.

In order to prove that  $Q = (Q; [ \ ])$  is an  $(m + k, m)$ -semigroup, we need to go through the following three cases: (1)  $k = m;$  (2)  $k > m,$  i.e.  $k = m + s, s \geq 1,$  and (3)  $k < m.$

(1)  $[[x_1^{2m}] x_{2m+1}^3]_i = [x_1^{2m}]_i *_i x_{2m+i} = (x_i *_i x_{i+m}) *_i x_{i+2m} = x_i *_i x_{i+2m}.$

We will prove that  $[x_1^j [x_{j+1}^{j+2m}] x_{j+2m+1}^3]_i = x_i *_i x_{i+2m}.$

a) Let  $i \leq j$ . Then  $i + m \leq j + m$ . We obtain,  $i + m = j + t$ , for  $1 \leq t \leq m$ . It is also true that  $i + m = j + t \leq m + t$ . So  $i \leq t$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m} \right] x_{j+2m+1}^{3m} \right]_i &= x_i * i \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m} \right]_t = x_i * i (x_{j+t} * t x_{j+t+m}) \stackrel{(iii)}{=} \\ &= x_i * i x_{j+t+m} = x_i * i x_{i+2m}. \end{aligned}$$

b) Let  $j < i$ .  $j < i \leq m$  implies  $j < m$ . Let  $j + t = m$ , then  $i = j + \lambda$ , where  $1 \leq \lambda \leq t$  and  $i + m > j + m$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m} \right] x_{j+2m+1}^{3m} \right]_i &= \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m} \right]_\lambda *_{j+\lambda} x_{j+2m+\lambda} = \\ &= (x_{j+\lambda} * \lambda x_{j+\lambda+m}) *_{j+\lambda} x_{j+2m+\lambda} \stackrel{(ii)}{=} x_{j+\lambda} *_{j+\lambda} x_{j+2m+\lambda} = x_i * i x_{i+2m}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $[[x_1^{2m} x_{2m+1}^{3m}]_i = [x_1^j [x_{j+1}^{j+2m} x_{j+2m+1}^{3m}]_i]$ , for any  $i \in \mathbb{N}_m$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq m$ . So,  $(Q; [ \ ])$  is an  $(2m, m)$  semigroup.

(2)  $[[x_1^{2m+s} x_{2m+s+1}^{3m+2s}]_i = [x_1^{2m+s}]_i * i x_{2m+s+s+i} = (x_i * i x_{i+m+s}) * i x_{i+2m+2s} = x_i * i x_{i+2m+2s}$ . We will prove that  $[x_1^j [x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} x_{j+2m+s+1}^{3m+2s}]_i = x_i * i x_{i+2m+2s}$ .

a) Let  $i < j \leq m + s$ .

a1) Let  $j \leq s$ . Then  $i + s + m > s + m \geq j + m$ .  $[x_1^j [x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} x_{j+2m+s+1}^{3m+2s}]_i = x_i * i x_{j+2m+s+s-j+i} = x_i * i x_{i+2m+2s}$ .

a2) Let  $s < j \leq m + s$ . If  $s + t = j$  then  $s + t \leq m + s$  i.e.  $t \leq m$ . So,  $1 \leq t \leq m$ .

a2.1)  $i \leq t$ . Then  $i + m + s \leq t + m + s = j + m$  and  $j \leq m + s \leq i + m + s \leq j + m$

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right] x_{j+2m+s+1}^{3m+2s} \right]_i &= \\ &= \left[ x^{s+t} \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_1 \dots \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_{m-t} \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_{m-t+1} \dots \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_{m-t+t} x_{j+2m+s+1}^{3m+2s} \right]_i = \\ &= x_i * i \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_{m-t+i} = x_i * i (x_{j+m-t+i} *_{m-t+i} x_{j+m-t+i+m+s}) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $i \leq m - t + i$ , using (iii) we have

$$\begin{aligned} x_i * i (x_{j+m-t+i} *_{m-t+i} x_{j+m-t+i+m+s}) &\stackrel{(iii)}{=} x_i * i x_{j+m-t+i+m+s} = \\ &= x_i * i x_{s+t+m-t+i+m+s} = x_i * i x_{i+2m+2s}. \end{aligned}$$

a2.2)  $i > t$ . Then  $i + m + s > t + m + s = j + m$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right] x_{j+2m+s+1}^{3m+2s} \right]_i &= \\ &= \left[ x_1^{s+t} \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_1 \dots \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_{m-t} \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_{m-t+1} \dots \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_{m-t+t} x_{j+2m+s+1}^{3m+2s} \right]_i = \\ &= x_i * i x_{j+2m+s+i-t} = x_i * i x_{s+t+2m+s+i-t} = x_i * i x_{i+2m+2s}. \end{aligned}$$

b) Let  $i = j$ .  $[x_1^i [x_{i+1}^{i+2m+s} x_{i+2m+s+1}^{3m+2s}]_i = x_i * i x_{i+2m+s+s} = x_i * i x_{i+2m+2s}$ .

c)  $i > j$ . Then  $i \leq m$  implies that  $m > j$ . Let  $j + t = m$ . So,  $i = j + \lambda$ ,  $1 \leq \lambda \leq t$

(clearly,  $i + m + s > j + m$ ). We have

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right] x_{j+2m+s+1}^{3m+2s} \right]_i &= \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right]_\lambda *_{i} x_{j+2m+s+\lambda+s} = \\ &= (x_{j+\lambda} *_{\lambda} x_{j+\lambda+m+s}) *_{i} x_{j+2m+s+\lambda+s} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\lambda \leq i$ , using (ii) we have

$$(x_{j+\lambda} *_{\lambda} x_{j+\lambda+m+s}) *_{i} x_{j+2m+s+\lambda+s} \stackrel{(ii)}{=} x_{j+\lambda} *_{i} x_{j+2m+s+\lambda+s} = x_i *_{i} x_{i+2m+2s}.$$

Then  $\left[ \left[ x_1^{2m+s} \right] x_{2m+s+1}^{3m+2s} \right]_i = \left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+2m+s} \right] x_{j+2m+s+1}^{3m+2s} \right]_i$ , for any  $i \in \mathbb{N}_m$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq m$ . So  $(Q; [\ ])$  is a  $(2m + s, m)$ -semigroup.

(3) Since  $k < m$ , let  $k + t = m$ ,  $t \geq 1$ .

First, we will prove that  $\left[ \left[ x_1^{m+k} \right] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i = x_i *_{i} x_{i+2k}$ .

a) Let  $i \leq t$ . Then  $i + k \leq t + k = m$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \left[ x_1^{m+k} \right] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i &= \left[ x_1^{m+k} \right]_i *_{i} \left[ x_1^{m+k} \right]_{i+k} = (x_i *_{i} x_{i+k}) *_{i} (x_{i+k} *_{i+k} x_{i+2k}) = \\ &= x_i *_{i} (x_{i+k} *_{i+k} x_{i+2k}) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $i \leq i + k$ , (iii) implies that:

$$x_i *_{i} (x_{i+k} *_{i+k} x_{i+2k}) \stackrel{(iii)}{=} x_i *_{i} x_{i+2k}.$$

b) Let  $t < i \leq m$ . Then  $i = t + \lambda$ ,  $1 \leq \lambda \leq k$  and  $i + k = t + \lambda + k = m + \lambda$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \left[ x_1^{m+k} \right] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i &= \left[ x_1^{m+k} \right]_i *_{i} x_{m+k+\lambda} = (x_i *_{i} x_{i+k}) *_{i} x_{m+k+\lambda} = \\ &= x_i *_{i} x_{m+k+\lambda} = x_i *_{i} x_{t+k+k+\lambda} = x_i *_{i} x_{i+2k}. \end{aligned}$$

Further on we will prove that  $\left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right] x_{j+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i = x_i *_{i} x_{i+2k}$ .

c) Let  $i \leq j$ . Then  $i \leq j < j + t$  implies  $i + k < j + t + k = j + m$ . Moreover,  $i + k > k \geq j$  i.e.  $j < i + k < j + m$ . Let  $i + k = j + \lambda$  (then  $i + k = j + \lambda \leq k + \lambda$  i.e.  $i \leq \lambda$ ).

We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right] x_{j+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i &= \\ &= \left[ x_1^i x_{i+1}^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right]_1 \cdots \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right]_\lambda \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right]_{\lambda+1} \cdots \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right]_m x_{j+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i = \\ &= x_i *_{i} \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right]_\lambda = x_i *_{i} (x_{j+\lambda} *_{\lambda} x_{j+\lambda+k}). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $i \leq \lambda$ , (iii) implies that:

$$x_i *_{i} (x_{j+\lambda} *_{\lambda} x_{j+\lambda+k}) \stackrel{(iii)}{=} x_i *_{i} x_{j+\lambda+k} = x_i *_{i} x_{i+k+k} = x_i *_{i} x_{i+2k}.$$

d) Let  $j < i$ .

d1) Let  $j + 1 \leq i \leq j + t$  i.e.  $i = j + \lambda$ ,  $1 \leq \lambda \leq t$ .

Then  $i + k = j + \lambda + k \leq j + t + k = j + m$ . Also,  $i + k = j + \lambda + k \leq k + \lambda + k$ , therefore  $i \leq \lambda + k$ .

$$\left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right] x_{j+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i = \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right]_\lambda *_{i} \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right]_{\lambda+k} =$$

$$= (x_{j+\lambda} *_{\lambda} x_{j+\lambda+k}) *_{\lambda+k} (x_{j+\lambda+k} *_{\lambda+k} x_{j+\lambda+k+k}).$$

Since  $\lambda \leq i$ , using (ii) we have

$$(x_{j+\lambda} *_{\lambda} x_{j+\lambda+k}) *_{\lambda+k} (x_{j+\lambda+k} *_{\lambda+k} x_{j+\lambda+k+k}) \stackrel{(ii)}{=} x_{j+\lambda} *_{\lambda+k} (x_{j+\lambda+k} *_{\lambda+k} x_{j+\lambda+k+k}).$$

Since  $i \leq \lambda + k$ , by (iii) we have

$$x_{j+\lambda} *_{\lambda+k} (x_{j+\lambda+k} *_{\lambda+k} x_{j+\lambda+k+k}) \stackrel{(iii)}{=} x_{j+\lambda} *_{\lambda+k} x_{j+\lambda+k+k} = x_i *_{\lambda+k} x_{i+2k}.$$

d2) Let  $j + t < i$  i.e.  $i = j + t + \lambda$ ,  $1 \leq \lambda \leq k - j$ . Then  $j + t + k < i + k$  i.e.  $j + m < i + k$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right] x_{j+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i &= \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right]_{t+\lambda} *_{\lambda+k} x_{j+m+k+\lambda} = \\ &= (x_{j+t+\lambda} *_{t+\lambda} x_{j+t+\lambda+k}) *_{\lambda+k} x_{j+k+t+k+\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $t + \lambda \leq i$ , using (ii) we have

$$(x_{j+t+\lambda} *_{t+\lambda} x_{j+t+\lambda+k}) *_{\lambda+k} x_{j+k+t+k+\lambda} \stackrel{(ii)}{=} x_{j+t+\lambda} *_{\lambda+k} x_{j+k+t+k+\lambda} = x_i *_{\lambda+k} x_{i+2k}.$$

Then  $\left[ \left[ x_1^{m+k} \right] x_{m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i = \left[ x_1^j \left[ x_{j+1}^{j+m+k} \right] x_{j+m+k+1}^{m+2k} \right]_i$ , for any  $i \in \mathbb{N}_m$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq m$ .

So,  $(Q; [ \ ])$  is an  $(m + k, m)$ -semigroup, when  $k < m$ .

Since  $(Q; *_{\lambda})$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}_m$ , are rectangular bands, satisfying (i), (ii) and (iii) and  $\left[ x_1^{m+k} \right]_i = x_i *_{\lambda+k} x_{i+k}$ ,  $x_1^{m+k} \in Q^{m+k}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}_m$ , it follows that in  $(Q; [ \ ])$  (I), (II), (III), (IV) and (V) are satisfied.

Hence, according to Proposition 2.2,  $Q$  is an  $(m + k, m)$ -band.  $\square$

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