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# PRODUCT SYSTEMS OVER RIGHT-ANGLED ARTIN SEMIGROUPS

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Abstract. We build upon Mac Lane's definition of a tensor category to introduce the concept of a product system that takes values in a tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}$. We show that the existing notions of product systems fit into our categorical framework, as do the $k$-graphs of Kumjian and Pask. We then specialize to product systems over right-angled Artin semigroups; these are semigroups that interpolate between free semigroups and free abelian semigroups. For such a semigroup we characterize all product systems which take values in a given tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}$. In particular, we obtain necessary and sufficient conditions under which a collection of $k$ 1-graphs form the coordinate graphs of a $k$-graph.

## Introduction

Product systems were introduced by Arveson in his study of one-parameter semigroups of endomorphisms ([1]). Very roughly, a product system is a family $(E_t)_{t>0}$ of complex Hilbert spaces that is endowed with an associative multiplication such that, for every $s, t > 0$, there is a unitary isomorphism $E_s \otimes E_t \to E_{s+t}$ which maps the elementary tensor $x \otimes y$ to the product $xy$. The first discrete analogues of these were studied by Dinh in [3], where the parameter $t$ was constrained to take values in the positive cone of a countable dense subgroup of $\mathbb{R}$. Product systems over arbitrary semigroups were introduced by Fowler and Raeburn in [8], and the first author has continued this line of investigation in [5] and [6]. Although the papers cited above all focus on the $C^*$-algebras associated with product systems, here our interest is purely in the algebraic structure of product systems.

This note was inspired by two recent developments. In [7], the notion of a discrete product system was extended to allow for fibers that are right-Hilbert bimodules over a $C^*$-algebra, thus opening connections with Pimsner's generalized Cuntz algebras ([15]). Second, in [12] Kumjian and Pask developed the notion of *k-graphs*, and these have much in common with product systems over the semigroup $\mathbb{N}^k$. Our first goal is thus to generalize the definition of a product system to encompass these different algebraic structures. We do this in Section 1 by extending Mac Lane's definition of a monoidal category [13, §VII.1] to that of a *tensor groupoid* $\mathcal{G}$, and by developing the notion of a product system that takes values in $\mathcal{G}$. In addition to recovering as product systems the algebraic structures mentioned above, by considering an abelian group $G$ as a tensor groupoid we also obtain as a product system every 2-cocycle of the underlying semigroup $S$ that takes values in $G$. This suggests that, at least for some tensor groupoids, the set of all product

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systems over a semigroup $S$ should possess a natural binary operation akin to the multiplication of 2-cocycles in $Z^2(S;G)$. At the end of Section 1 we show that this is indeed the case: if $\mathcal{G}$ is a tensor groupoid which is symmetric in the sense of [13, §XI.1], then one can form the internal tensor product of two product systems over $S$ that take values in $\mathcal{G}$. The internal tensor product is associative and well-defined on isomorphism classes of product systems, so these isomorphism classes have the natural structure of a semigroup; we denote this semigroup $H^2(S;\mathcal{G})$. Although this notation suggests the existence of a cohomology theory, at this point we have been unable to place product systems in such a framework.

Section 2 is devoted to constructing and classifying product systems over right-angled Artin semigroups; these are semigroups which interpolate between free semigroups and free abelian semigroups. For a given right-angled Artin semigroup $P$ with generating set $A$, our main result, Theorem 2.1, gives conditions on an $A$-tuple $(X_a)_{a\in A}$ of objects in $\mathcal{G}$ that allow one to construct a product system over $P$ whose fiber over $a \in A$ is $X_a$. In Theorem 2.2 we show that our conditions are necessary, and that every product system over $P$ is obtained by our construction. In particular our results allow us to construct and classify $k$-graphs in terms of the coordinate 1-graphs which generate them; see Remark 2.3. In Proposition 2.8 we use our parameterization to determine when two product systems over $P$ are isomorphic, and in Corollary 2.10 we determine the automorphism group of any product system over $P$. We close with a description of the semigroup $H^2(P;\mathcal{G})$ when $\mathcal{G}$ is a symmetric tensor groupoid (Proposition 2.11); when $\mathcal{G}$ is an abelian group $G$, this gives a computation of the second cohomology group $H^2(P;G)$ (Corollary 2.12).

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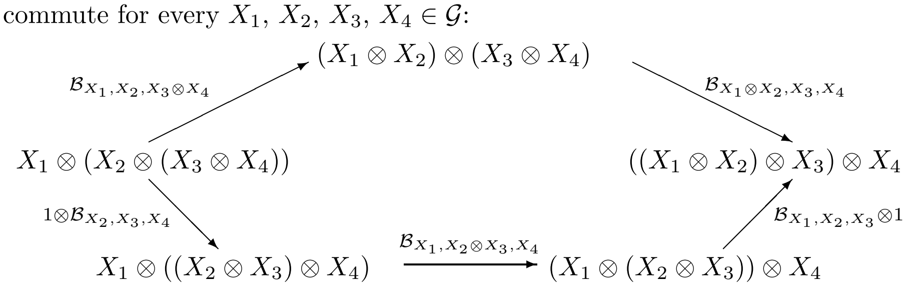
## 1. Tensor groupoids and product systems

Let $\mathcal{G}$ be a groupoid, regarded as a small category with inverses. We will write $X \in \mathcal{G}$ to denote that $X$ is an object in $\mathcal{G}$, and $S \in \operatorname{Hom}(X_1, X_2)$ or $S\colon X_1 \to X_2$ to denote that $S$ is a morphism from $X_1$ to $X_2$.

We will assume that $\mathcal{G}$ is endowed with the structure of a (relaxed) monoidal category, in the sense of [13, §VII.1]. Thus $\mathcal{G}$ is part of a sextuple $\langle \mathcal{G}, \otimes, 1_{\mathcal{G}}, \mathcal{B}, \lambda, \rho\rangle$ in which $\otimes$ is a bifunctor $\otimes\colon \mathcal{G}\times\mathcal{G}\to\mathcal{G}$, $1_{\mathcal{G}}$ is a distinguished object in $\mathcal{G}$, and $\mathcal{B}$, $\lambda$ and $\rho$ are natural isomorphisms

$$\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}_{X_1,X_2,X_3} : X_1 \otimes (X_2 \otimes X_3) \to (X_1 \otimes X_2) \otimes X_3,$$
$$\lambda = \lambda_X : 1_{\mathcal{G}} \otimes X \to X, \quad \text{and} \quad \rho = \rho_X : X \otimes 1_{\mathcal{G}} \to X,$$

such that $\rho_{1_{\mathcal{G}}} = \lambda_{1_{\mathcal{G}}} : 1_{\mathcal{G}} \otimes 1_{\mathcal{G}} \to 1_{\mathcal{G}}$, and such that the following two diagrams commute for every $X_1$, $X_2$, $X_3$, $X_4 \in \mathcal{G}$:



and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_1 \otimes (1_{\mathcal{G}} \otimes X_2) & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{B}_{X_1, 1_{\mathcal{G}}, X_2}} & (X_1 \otimes 1_{\mathcal{G}}) \otimes X_2 \\ {\scriptstyle 1 \otimes \lambda_{X_2}} \downarrow & & \downarrow {\scriptstyle \rho_{X_1} \otimes 1} \\ X_1 \otimes X_2 & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{id}_{X_1 \otimes X_2}} & X_1 \otimes X_2. \end{array}$$

By the corollaries in Sections VII.1 and VII.2 of [13], the canonical isomorphisms supplied by these natural isomorphisms allow us to write expressions such as $X_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes X_k$ without bothering to delineate the order in which adjacent factors should be tensored, and to cancel out any extra factors of $1_{\mathcal{G}}$. We shall take advantage of this notational simplification and make only occasional further references to the natural isomorphisms $\mathcal{B}$, $\lambda$ and $\rho$.

We have used the symbol $\otimes$ for our bifunctor rather than Mac Lane's more neutral $\square$ since our primary motivating examples truly are tensor products (see Examples 1.5 (2) and (3)). Consequently, we have chosen to expand on Mac Lane's alternative terminology "tensor category" [13, page 252] and refer to $\langle \mathcal{G}, \otimes, 1_{\mathcal{G}}, \mathcal{B}, \lambda, \rho \rangle$ (or just $\mathcal{G}$) as a *tensor groupoid*.

**Definition 1.1.** Let $S$ be a countable semigroup, and let $\mathcal{G}$ be a tensor groupoid. A *product system over $S$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}$* is a pair $(Y, \alpha)$ in which $Y$ is a collection $(Y_s)_{s \in S}$ of objects in $\mathcal{G}$, and $\alpha$ is a collection $(\alpha_{s,t})_{s,t \in S}$ of isomorphisms $\alpha_{s,t} \colon Y_s \otimes Y_t \to Y_{st}$ such that

$$\alpha_{rs,t}(\alpha_{r,s} \otimes 1_{Y_t}) \mathcal{B}_{Y_r, Y_s, Y_t} = \alpha_{r,st}(1_{Y_r} \otimes \alpha_{s,t}) \qquad \text{for every } r, s, t \in S. \tag{1.1}$$

If $S$ has an identity $e$, we require that $Y_e = 1_{\mathcal{G}}$, and that, for each $s \in S$, $\alpha_{e,s}$ and $\alpha_{s,e}$ are implemented by $\lambda_{Y_s}$ and $\rho_{Y_s}$, respectively.

As alluded to above we will henceforth suppress the natural equivalence $\mathcal{B}$. Equation (1.1) then becomes

$$\alpha_{rs,t}(\alpha_{r,s} \otimes 1_{Y_t}) = \alpha_{r,st}(1_{Y_r} \otimes \alpha_{s,t}) \qquad \text{for every } r, s, t \in S, \tag{1.2}$$

where both sides are regarded as isomorphisms from $Y_r \otimes Y_s \otimes Y_t$ to $Y_{rst}$; we will write $\alpha_{r,s,t}$ for this isomorphism. More generally:

*Notation* 1.2. If $k \geq 2$ and $s_1, \ldots, s_k \in S$, write $\alpha_{s_1, \ldots, s_k}$ for the isomorphism

$$Y_{s_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes Y_{s_k} \to Y_{s_1 \cdots s_k}$$

obtained by repeatedly applying appropriate isomorphisms $\alpha_{s,t}$ on adjacent factors. For $s \in S$ we define $\alpha_s := 1_{Y_s}$.

A moment's thought shows that this notation makes sense: for each way of associating the factors in $Y_{s_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes Y_{s_k}$ one can apply appropriate isomorphisms $\alpha_{s,t}$ to obtain a morphism with range $Y_{s_1 \cdots s_k}$, and a straightforward inductive argument using the naturality of $\mathcal{B}$ shows that the canonical isomorphisms supplied by $\mathcal{B}$ carry these morphisms into one another.

**Definition 1.3.** Two product systems $(Y, \alpha)$ and $(Z, \beta)$ are *isomorphic* if there is a collection $\psi = (\psi_s)_{s \in S}$ of isomorphisms $\psi_s \colon Y_s \to Z_s$ such that, for every $s, t \in S$, the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y_s \otimes Y_t & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{s,t}} & Y_{st} \\ {\scriptstyle \psi_s\otimes\psi_t}\big\downarrow & & \big\downarrow{\scriptstyle \psi_{st}} \\ Z_s \otimes Z_t & \xrightarrow{\beta_{s,t}} & Z_{st}. \end{array}$$

*Remark* 1.4. It is often useful to not require that the objects of $\mathcal{G}$ form a set. Thus we will sometimes consider structures $\langle \mathcal{G}, \otimes, 1_{\mathcal{G}}, \mathcal{B}, \lambda, \rho\rangle$ in which $\mathcal{G}$ is a category, all of whose morphisms are invertible. This is merely a convenience; for if $(Y, \alpha)$ is a product system that takes values in such a category $\mathcal{G}$, then $(Y, \alpha)$ takes values in the tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}'$ whose objects are all possible tensor products $Y_{s_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes Y_{s_n}$.

*Examples* 1.5. (1) Let $G$ be an abelian group, considered as the morphisms of a groupoid $\mathcal{G}$ with one object. Since $G$ is abelian, $g \otimes h := gh$ defines a functor $\otimes\colon \mathcal{G}^2 \to \mathcal{G}$, and it is easy to see that this gives $\mathcal{G}$ the structure of a tensor groupoid; the lone object in $\mathcal{G}$ is the identity object $1_{\mathcal{G}}$, and $\lambda$ and $\rho$ are both the identity morphism on $1_{\mathcal{G}}$.

If $(Y, \alpha)$ is a product system over $S$ that takes values in $\mathcal{G}$, then $\alpha$ is a 2-cocycle on $S$ that takes values in $G$. Since $\mathcal{G}$ has but one object, the map $(Y, \alpha) \mapsto \alpha$ is a bijection between such product systems and the group $Z^2(S; G)$. Moreover, cocycles are cohomologous if and only if the corresponding product systems are isomorphic, so there is a canonical bijection between the set of isomorphism classes of product systems and the cohomology group $H^2(S; G)$.

(2) The product systems considered in [3], [4], [8], [5], and [6] can be placed in our categorical framework. We will follow the convention of the latter three references and consider product systems over a monoid $S$, and write $e$ for the identity element in $S$.

Let $\mathcal{G}$ be the category whose objects are nontrivial separable complex Hilbert spaces, and whose morphisms are intertwining unitary isomorphisms. Let $\otimes$ be the usual Hilbert space tensor product, let $1_{\mathcal{G}} = \mathbb{C}$, and let $\mathcal{B}$, $\lambda$ and $\rho$ be the natural equivalences determined by

$$\mathcal{B}_{X_1,X_2,X_3}(x_1 \otimes (x_2 \otimes x_3)) = (x_1 \otimes x_2) \otimes x_3 \qquad \text{for } x_i \in X_i, \tag{1.3}$$

$$\lambda_X(z \otimes x) = zx \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_X(x \otimes z) = zx$$

for $x \in X$ and $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Given a product system $(Y, \alpha)$ over $S$ that takes values in $\mathcal{G}$, define

$$E := \bigsqcup_{s\in S} \{s\} \times Y_s,$$

define $p : E \to S$ by $p(s, x) := s$, and define multiplication in $E$ by

$$(s, x)(t, y) := (st, \alpha_{s,t}(x, y)).$$

Then $E$ is a product system over $S$ in the sense of [8], and it is easy to see that this defines a bijective correspondence between (isomorphism classes of) the two different types of product systems.

We can replace $\mathcal{G}$ with a tensor groupoid by limiting the number of objects. For $n \geq 1$ let $\mathcal{H}_n$ be the Hilbert space $\mathbb{C}^n$, and let $\mathcal{H}_\infty := \ell^2(\mathbb{N})$. Let $\mathcal{G}'$ be the tensor groupoid whose objects are all possible Hilbert space tensor products $\mathcal{H}_{n_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}_{n_k}$, and whose morphisms are intertwining unitary operators. Exactly as above, every product system over $S$ (in the sense of [8]) corresponds to a product system over $S$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}'$.

(3) The product systems studied in [7] can also be placed in our categorical framework. Let $A$ be a $C^*$-algebra. A right Hilbert $A$-module is, roughly speaking, a right $A$-module $X_A$ which is endowed with an $A$-valued inner product. If $X_A$ is endowed with a left action of $A$ by adjointable operators, we call $X$ a *right-Hilbert $A$–$A$ bimodule*. (See [15] and [14] for details.)

Let $\mathcal{G}$ be the category in which the objects are right-Hilbert $A$–$A$ bimodules, and, for objects $X, Y \in \mathcal{G}$, $\operatorname{Hom}(X, Y)$ is the set of all bimodule isomorphisms $X \to Y$ that preserve the inner product. As a tensoring functor we use the $A$-balanced internal tensor product (see [14] for details), and then the bimodule ${}_AA_A$ serves as the identity object $1_{\mathcal{G}}$. The natural equivalence $\mathcal{B}$ is again given by (1.3), and $\lambda$ and $\rho$ are determined by $\lambda_X(a \otimes_A x) := a \cdot x$ and $\rho_X(x \otimes_A a) = x \cdot a$ for $x \in X$ and $a \in A$. As in the previous example, product systems that take values in this category correspond to the product systems introduced in [7].

(4) Let $V$ be a countable set. We construct a category $\mathcal{G}$ as follows. The objects in $\mathcal{G}$ are triples $X = (E, r_E, s_E)$ in which $E$ is a countable set and $r_E$ and $s_E$ are functions $E \to V$; we think of $V$ and $E$ as the vertices and edges of a directed graph, with $r_E$ and $s_E$ the range and source maps. We will write $r$ and $s$ rather than $r_E$ and $s_E$ when the domain is clear from context, and we somewhat imprecisely regard $E$ as an object in $\mathcal{G}$. Elements of $\operatorname{Hom}(E, E')$ are bijections $\varphi\colon E \to E'$ such that $s = s \circ \varphi$ and $r = r \circ \varphi$.

Define

$$E_1 \otimes E_2 := \{(f_1, f_2) \in E_1 \times E_2 : r(f_1) = s(f_2)\},$$

with range and source maps

$$r(f_1, f_2) := r(f_2) \quad \text{and} \quad s(f_1, f_2) := s(f_1).$$

Write $f_1 \otimes f_2$ for the edge $(f_1, f_2) \in E_1 \otimes E_2$. For $\varphi_1 \in \operatorname{Hom}(E_1, E_1')$ and $\varphi_2 \in \operatorname{Hom}(E_2, E_2')$, define $\varphi_1 \otimes \varphi_2 \in \operatorname{Hom}(E_1 \otimes E_2, E_1' \otimes E_2')$ by

$$\varphi_1 \otimes \varphi_2(f_1 \otimes f_2) := \varphi_1(f_1) \otimes \varphi_2(f_2).$$

Then $\otimes$ is a functor $\mathcal{G}^2 \to \mathcal{G}$. Equation (1.3) again defines a natural isomorphism $\mathcal{B}$ between the functors $\otimes \circ (\mathrm{id}_{\mathcal{G}} \times \otimes)$ and $\otimes \circ (\otimes \times \mathrm{id}_{\mathcal{G}})$. We define the identity object $1_{\mathcal{G}}$ to be the triple $(V, \mathrm{id}_V, \mathrm{id}_V)$, and define the natural isomorphisms $\lambda$ and $\rho$ by $\lambda_E(s_E(f) \otimes f) := f$ and $\rho_E(f \otimes r_E(f)) := f$ for all $f \in E$.

When $S$ is a monoid with no nontrivial idempotents, product systems over $S$ that take values in this category are related to the $k$-graphs of Kumjian-Pask [12]. To explain the connection, we first recall the definition of a $k$-graph. Let $\Lambda$ be (the morphisms of) a countable small category, and consider $S$ as the morphisms of a small category with one object. A functor $d\colon \Lambda \to S$ is said to have the *factorization property* if for every $\lambda \in \Lambda$ and $t_1, t_2 \in S$ with $d(\lambda) = t_1t_2$, there are unique elements $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \Lambda$ such that $\lambda = \lambda_1\lambda_2$ and $d(\lambda_1) = t_1$, $d(\lambda_2) = t_2$. When $S = \mathbb{N}^k$, such a pair $(\Lambda, d)$ is called a *$k$-graph*.

Suppose $\Lambda$ is the set of morphisms of a small category with object set $V$, and suppose $d\colon \Lambda \to S$ has the factorization property. We think of $(\Lambda, d)$ as a generalized $k$-graph. For each $t \in S$, define $Y_t := d^{-1}(t)$. With range and source maps the reverse of those inherited from $\Lambda$ (that is, $r = \mathrm{dom}$ and $s = \mathrm{cod}$), $Y_t$ becomes an object in $\mathcal{G}$. For each $t_1, t_2 \in S$, define $\alpha_{t_1,t_2} \colon Y_{t_1} \otimes Y_{t_2} \to Y_{t_1 t_2}$ by

$$\alpha_{t_1,t_2}(f_1 \otimes f_2) := f_1 f_2 \qquad \text{for } f_1 \in Y_{t_1},\ f_2 \in Y_{t_2}.$$

We claim that $(Y, \alpha)$ is a product system over $S$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}$.

To begin with, note that $\alpha_{t_1,t_2} \in \operatorname{Hom}(Y_{t_1} \otimes Y_{t_2}, Y_{t_1 t_2})$: each such map clearly preserves the range and source maps, and the factorization property is precisely the condition needed to ensure that $\alpha_{t_1,t_2}$ is bijective.

Next we will show that $Y_e = V$, where each $v \in V$ is identified with $1_v \in \Lambda$. Fix $v \in V$. Since $v$ is an idempotent so is $d(v)$, and hence $d(v) = e$; that is, $v \in Y_e$. Now fix $\lambda \in Y_e$. Since $e^2 = e$, the factorization property assures us that there are unique elements $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in Y_e$ such that $\lambda = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$. Since $s(\lambda)\lambda = \lambda = \lambda r(\lambda)$, we conclude that $\lambda = s(\lambda) = r(\lambda) \in V$. Thus $Y_e = V$.

Finally, for each $t \in S$ we have

$$\alpha_{e,t}(s(\lambda) \otimes \lambda) = s(\lambda)\lambda = \lambda = \lambda_{Y_t}(s(\lambda) \otimes \lambda) \qquad \text{for } \lambda \in Y_t,$$

and similarly $\alpha_{t,e}$ is implemented by $\rho_{Y_t}$. Thus $(Y, \alpha)$ is a product system over $S$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}$, as claimed.

Conversely, suppose one is given a product system $(Y, \alpha)$ over $S$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}$. Let

$$\Lambda := \bigcup_{t \in S} \{t\} \times Y_t,$$

and define $\operatorname{dom}, \operatorname{cod} \colon \Lambda \to V$ by $\operatorname{dom}(t, f) := r(f)$ and $\operatorname{cod}(t, f) := s(f)$. Then $\Lambda$ is the set of morphisms of a countable small category with object set $V$, in which morphisms are composed according to

$$(t_1, f_1)(t_2, f_2) := (t_1 t_2, \alpha_{t_1,t_2}(f_1 \otimes f_2)).$$

Define $d \colon \Lambda \to S$ by $d(t, f) := t$. Then $d$ is a functor, and it satisfies the factorization property because each $\alpha_{t_1,t_2}$ is a bijection.

The procedures outlined above are easily seen to be inverses of one another, and hence product systems over $S$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}$ are essentially the same as generalized $k$-graphs.

It should be pointed out that this example can be regarded as a special case of Example 1.5 (3), as follows. Suppose that $(Y, \alpha)$ is a product system over $S$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}$. For each $t \in S$, let $X_t$ be the Cuntz-Krieger bimodule associated with the directed graph $Y_t$, as in [9, Example 1.2]; $X_t$ is the completion of $C_c(Y_t)$ with respect to a certain norm defined using the range map for $Y_t$. The embeddings $y \in Y_t \mapsto \delta_y \in X_t$ induce isomorphisms $\beta_{s,t} \colon X_s \otimes X_t \to X_{st}$ that make $(X, \beta)$ into a product system of right-Hilbert $C_0(V)$–$C_0(V)$ bimodules.

**Symmetric tensor groupoids.** We now discuss tensor groupoids which are symmetric in the sense of [13, §XI.1]. Let $\mathcal{G}$ be a tensor groupoid and let $F \colon \mathcal{G}^2 \to \mathcal{G}^2$ be the "flip" functor which interchanges the order of any pair of objects or morphisms (e.g. $F(X_1, X_2) = (X_2, X_1)$). Suppose there is a natural equivalence $\mathcal{F}$ from $\otimes$ to $\otimes \circ F$; that is, there is a collection of isomorphisms $\mathcal{F}_{X_1,X_2} : X_1 \otimes X_2 \to X_2 \otimes X_1$ such that

$$(S_2 \otimes S_1) \circ \mathcal{F}_{X_1,X_2} = \mathcal{F}_{Y_1,Y_2} \circ (S_1 \otimes S_2)$$

for all $X_i, Y_i \in \mathcal{G}$, and all $S_i \in \operatorname{Hom}(X_i, Y_i)$. Suppose, furthermore, that for every $X_1, X_2, X_3 \in \mathcal{G}$, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X_1 \otimes 1_{\mathcal{G}} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}_{X_1,1_{\mathcal{G}}}} & 1_{\mathcal{G}} \otimes X_1 \\ {\scriptstyle \rho_{X_1}}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \lambda_{X_1}} \\ X_1 & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{id}_{X_1}} & X_1 \end{array} \tag{1.4}$$

commutes, and that the following two identities hold:

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}_{X_1,X_2} = \mathcal{F}_{X_2,X_1} \tag{1.5}$$

and

$$\mathcal{F}_{X_1,X_2\otimes X_3} = (1_{X_2} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{X_1,X_3})(\mathcal{F}_{X_1,X_2} \otimes 1_{X_3}). \tag{1.6}$$

Taking inverses in (1.6) and using (1.5), one also has

$$\mathcal{F}_{X_1\otimes X_2,X_3} = (\mathcal{F}_{X_1,X_3} \otimes 1_{X_2})(1_{X_1} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{X_2,X_3}). \tag{1.7}$$

Following [13, §XI.1], we call a tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}$ that admits a natural equivalence $\mathcal{F}$ with these properties a *symmetric* tensor groupoid.

One can check that this is consistent with Mac Lane's definition of a symmetric monoidal category: our (1.4) corresponds to [13, §XI.1 (6)], (1.5) corresponds to [13, §XI.1 (8)], and (1.6) and (1.7) correspond to [13, §XI.1 (7)] with the instances of $\mathcal{B}$ suppressed.

*Examples* 1.6. (1) Let $\mathcal{G}$ be the tensor groupoid associated with an abelian group $G$, as in Examples 1.5(1). Then $\mathcal{G}$ is a symmetric tensor groupoid: $\mathcal{G}^2$ has but one object, and assigning the identity element of $G$ to this object gives the desired natural equivalence $\mathcal{F}$.

(2) Let $\mathcal{G}'$ be the tensor groupoid introduced in Examples 1.5(2). For $X_1, X_2 \in \mathcal{G}$, define $\mathcal{F}_{X_1,X_2} \colon X_1 \otimes X_2 \to X_2 \otimes X_1$ by

$$\mathcal{F}_{X_1,X_2}(x_1 \otimes x_2) := x_2 \otimes x_1 \qquad \text{for } x_i \in X_i.$$

Then $\mathcal{F}$ is a natural equivalence from $\otimes$ to $\otimes \circ F$, so $\mathcal{G}'$ is a symmetric tensor groupoid.

In a symmetric tensor groupoid, one can take tensor products of product systems:

**Proposition 1.7.** *Suppose $(Y, \alpha)$ and $(Y', \alpha')$ are product systems over semigroups $S$ and $S'$, respectively, both taking values in a symmetric tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}$. For every $(s, s') \in S \times S'$ define*

$$Z_{(s,s')} := Y_s \otimes Y'_{s'},$$

*and for every $(s, s'), (t, t') \in S \times S'$ define $\beta_{(s,s'),(t,t')} \colon Z_{(s,s')} \otimes Z_{(t,t')} \to Z_{(ss',tt')}$ by*

$$\beta_{(s,s'),(t,t')} := (\alpha_{s,t} \otimes \alpha'_{s',t'})(1_{Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{s'},Y_t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{t'}}).$$

*Then $(Z, \beta)$ is a product system over $S \times S'$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}$.*

*Remark* 1.8. We call $(Z, \beta)$ the *external tensor product* of $(Y, \alpha)$ and $(Y', \alpha')$.

*Proof.* We must show that $\beta$ satisfies the associativity condition (1.2). Suppose $(r,r'),(s,s'),(t,t') \in S \times S'$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
&\beta_{(r,r'),(st,s't')}(1_{Z_{(r,r')}} \otimes \beta_{(s,s'),(t,t')}) \\
&\quad = (\alpha_{r,st} \otimes \alpha'_{r',s't'})(1_{Y_r} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_{st}} \otimes 1_{Y'_{s't'}}) \\
&\qquad (1_{Y_r \otimes Y'_{r'}} \otimes \alpha_{s,t} \otimes \alpha_{s',t'})(1_{Y_r \otimes Y'_{r'} \otimes Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{s'},Y_t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{t'}}) \\
&\quad = (\alpha_{r,st} \otimes \alpha'_{r',s't'})(1_{Y_r} \otimes \alpha_{s,t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{r'}} \otimes \alpha'_{s',t'}) \\
&\qquad (1_{Y_r} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_s \otimes Y_t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{s'} \otimes Y'_{t'}})(1_{Y_r \otimes Y'_{r'} \otimes Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{s'},Y_t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{t'}}),
\end{aligned} \tag{1.8}$$

whereas

$$\begin{aligned}
&\beta_{(rs,r's'),(t,t')}(\beta_{(r,r'),(s,s')} \otimes 1_{Z_{(t,t')}}) \\
&\quad = (\alpha_{rs,t} \otimes \alpha'_{r's',t'})(1_{Y_{rs}} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r's'},Y_t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{t'}}) \\
&\qquad (\alpha_{r,s} \otimes \alpha'_{r',s'} \otimes 1_{Y_t \otimes Y'_{t'}})(1_{Y_r} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_s} \otimes 1_{Y'_{s'} \otimes Y_t \otimes Y'_{t'}}) \\
&\quad = (\alpha_{rs,t} \otimes \alpha'_{r's',t'})(\alpha_{r,s} \otimes 1_{Y_t} \otimes \alpha'_{r',s'} \otimes 1_{Y'_{t'}}) \\
&\qquad (1_{Y_r \otimes Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'} \otimes Y'_{s'},Y_t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{t'}})(1_{Y_r} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_s} \otimes 1_{Y'_{s'} \otimes Y_t \otimes Y'_{t'}}).
\end{aligned} \tag{1.9}$$

Since $\alpha$ and $\alpha'$ each satisfy (1.2), the product of the first two factors in (1.8) is equal to the corresponding product in (1.9). Hence it suffices to show that

$$(\mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_s \otimes Y_t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{s'}})(1_{Y'_{r'} \otimes Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{s'},Y_t}) = (1_{Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'} \otimes Y'_{s'},Y_t})(\mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_s} \otimes 1_{Y'_{s'} \otimes Y_t}).$$

By (1.6), the left-hand side of this equation is equal to

$$(1_{Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{s'}})(\mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_s} \otimes 1_{Y_t \otimes Y'_{s'}})(1_{Y'_{r'} \otimes Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{s'},Y_t}),$$

and by (1.7), the right-hand side is equal to

$$(1_{Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_t} \otimes 1_{Y'_{s'}})(1_{Y_s \otimes Y'_{r'}} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Y'_{s'},Y_t})(\mathcal{F}_{Y'_{r'},Y_s} \otimes 1_{Y'_{s'} \otimes Y_t}).$$

These last two expressions are obviously equal, and the proof is complete. □

When $S = S'$, one can restrict the external tensor product to the diagonal to obtain another product system over $S$:

**Definition 1.9.** Suppose $(Y,\alpha)$ and $(Z,\beta)$ are product systems over $S$ taking values in a symmetric tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}$. The *internal tensor product* $(Y,\alpha) \otimes (Z,\beta)$ is the product system $(Y \otimes Z, \alpha \otimes \beta)$ defined by

$$(Y \otimes Z)_s := Y_s \otimes Z_s \qquad \text{for } s \in S$$

and

$$(\alpha \otimes \beta)_{s,t} := (\alpha_{s,t} \otimes \beta_{s,t})(1_{Y_s} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{Z_s,Y_t} \otimes 1_{Z_t}) \qquad \text{for } s,t \in S.$$

**Lemma 1.10.** *The internal tensor product is associative and well-defined on isomorphism classes.*

*Proof.* Let $(Y,\alpha)$, $(Z,\beta)$ and $(W,\gamma)$ be product systems over $S$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}$, and suppose $s,t\in S$. Making frequent use of (1.6) and (1.7), we calculate

$$\begin{aligned}((\alpha\otimes\beta)\otimes\gamma)_{s,t} &= ((\alpha\otimes\beta)_{s,t}\otimes\gamma_{s,t})(1_{Y_s\otimes Z_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{W_s,Y_t\otimes Z_t}\otimes 1_{W_t})\\ &= (\alpha_{s,t}\otimes\beta_{s,t}\otimes\gamma_{s,t})(1_{Y_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{Z_s,Y_t}\otimes 1_{Z_t\otimes W_s\otimes W_t})\\ &\qquad (1_{Y_s\otimes Z_s\otimes Y_t}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{W_s,Z_t}\otimes 1_{W_t})(1_{Y_s\otimes Z_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{W_s,Y_t}\otimes 1_{Z_t\otimes W_t})\\ &= (\alpha_{s,t}\otimes\beta_{s,t}\otimes\gamma_{s,t})(1_{Y_s\otimes Y_t\otimes Z_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{W_s,Z_t}\otimes 1_{W_t})\\ &\qquad (1_{Y_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{Z_s,Y_t}\otimes 1_{W_s\otimes Z_t\otimes W_t})(1_{Y_s\otimes Z_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{W_s,Y_t}\otimes 1_{Z_t\otimes W_t})\\ &= (\alpha_{s,t}\otimes(\beta\otimes\gamma)_{s,t})(1_{Y_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{Z_s\otimes W_s,Y_t}\otimes 1_{Z_t\otimes W_t})\\ &= (\alpha\otimes(\beta\otimes\gamma))_{s,t}.\end{aligned}$$

This gives associativity.

Now suppose that $(\psi_s)_{s\in S}$ is an isomorphism from $(Y,\alpha)$ to $(Y',\alpha')$, and that $(\varphi_s)_{s\in S}$ is an isomorphism from $(Z,\beta)$ to $(Z',\beta')$. For any $s,t\in S$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}&(\psi_{st}\otimes\varphi_{st})(\alpha\otimes\beta)_{s,t}\\ &\quad= (\psi_{st}\otimes\varphi_{st})(\alpha_{s,t}\otimes\beta_{s,t})(1_{Y_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{Z_s,Y_t}\otimes 1_{Z_t})\\ &\quad= (\alpha'_{s,t}\otimes\beta'_{s,t})(\psi_s\otimes\psi_t\otimes\varphi_s\otimes\varphi_t)(1_{Y_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{Z_s,Y_t}\otimes 1_{Z_t})\\ &\quad= (\alpha'_{s,t}\otimes\beta'_{s,t})(1_{Y'_s}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{Z'_s,Y'_t}\otimes 1_{Z'_t})(\psi_s\otimes\varphi_s\otimes\psi_t\otimes\varphi_t)\\ &\quad= (\alpha'\otimes\beta')_{s,t}(\psi_s\otimes\varphi_s\otimes\psi_t\otimes\varphi_t),\end{aligned}$$

so $(\psi_s\otimes\varphi_s)_{s\in S}$ is an isomorphism from $(Y\otimes Z,\alpha\otimes\beta)$ to $(Y'\otimes Z',\alpha'\otimes\beta')$. □

*Remark* 1.11. Essentially the same proofs show that the external tensor product is also associative and well-defined on isomorphism classes of product systems.

Motivated by Examples 1.5(1), we write $Z^2(S;\mathcal{G})$ for the set of product systems over $S$ taking values in $\mathcal{G}$, and $H^2(S;\mathcal{G})$ for the set of isomorphism classes of such product systems. It follows from the previous lemma that when $\mathcal{G}$ is symmetric, the internal tensor product makes both $Z^2(S;\mathcal{G})$ and $H^2(S;\mathcal{G})$ into semigroups.

When $\mathcal{G}$ is the symmetric tensor groupoid associated with an abelian group $G$ (as in Examples 1.5(1) and 1.6(1)), the map $(Y,\alpha)\in Z^2(S;\mathcal{G})\mapsto\alpha\in Z^2(S;G)$ is an isomorphism of groups, and descends to an isomorphism from $H^2(S;\mathcal{G})$ to $H^2(S;G)$. In the next section we give an explicit description of $H^2(S;\mathcal{G})$ for arbitrary $\mathcal{G}$ in the special case when $S$ is a right-angled Artin semigroup.

## 2. Right-angled Artin semigroups

Let $\Gamma$ be a (non-directed) graph with countable vertex set $A$. We will assume that $\Gamma$ is simple; that is, that $\Gamma$ has no loops (edges from a vertex to itself) or multiple edges. We write $a\leftrightarrow b$ when $a,b\in A$ are joined by an edge in $\Gamma$.

Let $\mathbb{F}_A$ be the free group on $A$, and let $*_\Gamma\mathbb{Z}$ be the graph product of $|A|$ copies of $\mathbb{Z}$; that is, $*_\Gamma\mathbb{Z}$ is the quotient of $\mathbb{F}_A$ by the smallest normal subgroup that contains the commutators $[a,b]$ for which $a\leftrightarrow b$. (See [10] and [11] for details.) Since each of the factors in the graph product is $\mathbb{Z}$, $*_\Gamma\mathbb{Z}$ is a *right-angled Artin group*. Let $\pi\colon\mathbb{F}_A\to *_\Gamma\mathbb{Z}$ be the canonical quotient map.

Consider the homomorphism $\ell\colon\mathbb{F}_A\to\mathbb{Z}$ determined by $\ell(a)=1$ for $a\in A$. Since every commutator $[a,b]$ belongs to the kernel of $\ell$, we have $\ker\pi\subseteq\ker\ell$. Thus $\ell$ descends to a homomorphism $*_\Gamma\mathbb{Z}\to\mathbb{Z}$, also denoted $\ell$, which satisfies $\ell(\pi(a))=1$ for each $a\in A$. We call $\ell$ the *length function*.

Let $\mathbb{F}_A^+$ be the subsemigroup of $\mathbb{F}_A$ generated by $A$. Each element $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ can be uniquely written as a word in the alphabet $A$; we denote by $\mu_i$ the $i^{th}$ element of this word, so that $\mu = \mu_1 \cdots \mu_{\ell(\mu)}$ with $\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_{\ell(\mu)} \in A$.

Let $P$ be the subsemigroup of $*_\Gamma \mathbb{Z}$ which is the image of $\mathbb{F}_A^+$ under the quotient map $\pi$. We call $P$ a *right-angled Artin semigroup*. It is worth bearing in mind the following extreme cases: if $\Gamma$ has no edges, then $P$ is the free semigroup $\mathbb{F}_A^+$, whereas if $\Gamma$ is the complete graph on $A$, then $P$ is free abelian.

The remainder of this note is devoted to constructing and classifying product systems over $P$. Our analysis makes use of a specific section $\delta\colon P \to \mathbb{F}_A^+$ of the quotient map $\pi$, called the *preferred section*. To define it, we fix once and for all a well-ordering of the vertex set $A$. (Since $A$ is countable, this does not require the Axiom of Choice: one can simply enumerate the elements of $A$.) The section $\delta$ is defined recursively, starting with $\delta(\pi(a)) := a$ for each $a \in A$. Suppose $\delta$ has been defined on all words of length at most $k$ for some $k \geq 1$. Fix $t \in P$ of length $k+1$, and use the well-ordering of $A$ to define

$$a := \min\{\mu_1 : \mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+, \pi(\mu) = t\}.$$

Choose any $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ such that $\pi(\mu) = t$ and $\mu_1 = a$, and express $\mu = \mu_1\mu'$. Then $t' := \pi(\mu')$ is independent of the choice of $\mu$ and has length $k$, and we define $\delta(t) := a\delta(t')$.

Now suppose $\mathcal{G}$ is a tensor groupoid. For our first theorem, fix a collection $(X_a)_{a\in A}$ of objects in $\mathcal{G}$, and define

$$X_\mu := X_{\mu_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes X_{\mu_{\ell(\mu)}} \qquad \text{for } \mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+.$$

Write $1_\mu$ for the identity morphism on $X_\mu$.

Suppose $T = (T_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ is a collection of isomorphisms

$$T_{a,b}\colon X_a \otimes X_b \to X_b \otimes X_a$$

such that

$$T_{a,b}^{-1} = T_{b,a} \qquad \text{whenever } a \leftrightarrow b, \tag{2.1}$$

and, whenever $a$, $b$ and $c$ form the vertices of a triangle in $\Gamma$ (i.e., whenever $a \leftrightarrow b$, $b \leftrightarrow c$ and $c \leftrightarrow a$), the following hexagonal equation is satisfied:

$$(T_{b,c} \otimes 1_a)(1_b \otimes T_{a,c})(T_{a,b} \otimes 1_c) = (1_c \otimes T_{a,b})(T_{a,c} \otimes 1_b)(1_a \otimes T_{b,c}). \tag{2.2}$$

(Both sides of this equation are isomorphisms $X_a \otimes X_b \otimes X_c \to X_c \otimes X_b \otimes X_a$.)

Our first theorem asserts that such a collection $T$ is all that is necessary to construct a product system over $P$.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Fix a well-ordering of $A$, and let $\delta\colon P \to \mathbb{F}_A^+$ be the corresponding preferred section of the quotient map $\pi\colon \mathbb{F}_A^+ \to P$. Then there is a unique product system $(Y, \alpha) = (Y^T, \alpha^T)$ over $P$ taking values in the tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}$ such that*

$$Y_t = X_{\delta(t)} \qquad \textit{for every } t \in P, \tag{2.3}$$

$$\alpha_{s,t} = 1_{\delta(st)} \qquad \textit{if } \delta(st) = \delta(s)\delta(t), \textit{ and} \tag{2.4}$$

$$\alpha_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} = T_{a,b} \qquad \textit{if } a \leftrightarrow b \textit{ and } a > b. \tag{2.5}$$

Our second theorem asserts that, up to isomorphism, this construction gives all possible product systems over $P$. It also implies that the well-ordering used in Theorem 2.1 does not affect the isomorphism class of the resulting product system.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Suppose $(Z, \beta)$ is a product system over $P$ which takes values in the tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}$. Define*

$$X_a := Z_{\pi(a)} \qquad \text{for } a \in A \tag{2.6}$$

*and*

$$T_{a,b} := \beta^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)} \beta_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} \qquad \text{for every } a, b \in A \text{ such that } a \leftrightarrow b. \tag{2.7}$$

*Then the collection $(T_{a,b})_{a \leftrightarrow b}$ satisfies (2.1) and (2.2). Moreover, the corresponding product system $(Y^T, \alpha^T)$ given by Theorem 2.1 is isomorphic to $(Z, \beta)$ via an isomorphism $(\psi_s)_{s \in P}$ such that, for each $a \in A$, $\psi_{\pi(a)}$ is the identity morphism on $Z_{\pi(a)}$.*

Notice that if $a \leftrightarrow b$, then $\pi(a)\pi(b) = \pi(b)\pi(a)$, and the isomorphisms $\beta_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}$ and $\beta_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}$ each have range $Z_{\pi(a)\pi(b)}$. Thus the equation (2.7) used to define $T_{a,b}$ makes sense.

*Remark* 2.3. Before proving these theorems, we give an application to the $k$-graphs of Kumjian and Pask. Resume the notation of Examples 1.5(4). Let $d \colon \Lambda \to \mathbb{N}^k$ be a $k$-graph, and let $V := d^{-1}(0)$ be the set of objects in $\Lambda$. For each $t \in \mathbb{N}^k$, $Y_t := d^{-1}(t)$ is the edge set of a directed graph with vertex set $V$; the range and source maps are the reverse of those inherited from $\Lambda$. Moreover, since $d$ satisfies the factorization property, for every $t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{N}^k$ the map $\alpha_{t_1,t_2} \colon Y_{t_1} \otimes Y_{t_2} \to Y_{t_1+t_2}$ defined by $\alpha_{t_1,t_2}(f_1 \otimes f_2) = f_1 f_2$ is an isomorphism; composing with $\alpha^{-1}_{t_2,t_1}$ we see that $Y_{t_1} \otimes Y_{t_2}$ and $Y_{t_2} \otimes Y_{t_1}$ are isomorphic.

Given a collection $E_1, \ldots, E_k$ of countable directed graphs, each with vertex set $V$, which satisfy

$$E_i \otimes E_j \cong E_j \otimes E_i \qquad \text{for } 1 \le i, j \le k,$$

one might thus ask if there is a $k$-graph $d \colon \Lambda \to \mathbb{N}^k$ such that $d^{-1}(e_i)$ is isomorphic to $E_i$ for each $i$. (Here $\{e_i : 1 \le i \le k\}$ is the canonical basis for $\mathbb{N}^k$.) In [12, Section 6], Kumjian and Pask observed that, when $k = 2$, any isomorphism $\theta \colon E_2 \otimes E_1 \to E_1 \otimes E_2$ can be used to construct such a 2-graph. Roughly, the idea is this. For each $t \in \mathbb{N}^2$ let

$$E_t := E_1^{\otimes t_1} \otimes E_2^{\otimes t_2}$$

with the usual range and source maps, and define $\Lambda := \bigsqcup_{t \in \mathbb{N}^k} E_t$. One can use $\theta$ in the obvious way to construct isomorphisms $E_s \otimes E_t \to E_{s+t}$ for every $s, t \in \mathbb{N}^2$, and the resulting binary operation on $\Lambda$ makes it a small category with object set $V$. With $d \colon \Lambda \to \mathbb{N}^k$ defined by $d(f) := t$ for $f \in E_t$, $(\Lambda, d)$ is a $k$-graph.

When $k \ge 3$, things are more complicated. For each pair $(i, j)$ with $1 \le i < j \le k$, fix an isomorphism $E_j \otimes E_i \to E_i \otimes E_j$. Somewhat imprecisely, we write $f \otimes g \mapsto g' \otimes f'$ for each of these isomorphisms, and we also write $g \otimes f \mapsto f' \otimes g'$ for the inverse maps $E_i \otimes E_j \to E_j \otimes E_i$. Taking $A = \{1, \ldots, k\}$ with its usual ordering, Theorems 2.1 and 2.2 say that the analogue of the construction of 2-graphs outlined above yields a $k$-graph if and only if the following condition holds: whenever $1 \le i < j < l \le k$, the composite map

$$\begin{aligned} f \otimes g \otimes h &\mapsto f \otimes h' \otimes g' \mapsto h'' \otimes f' \otimes g' \mapsto h'' \otimes g'' \otimes f'' \\ &\mapsto g''' \otimes h''' \otimes f'' \mapsto g''' \otimes f''' \otimes h'''' \mapsto f'''' \otimes g'''' \otimes h'''' \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

is the identity on $E_l \otimes E_j \otimes E_i$. Moreover, up to isomorphism, every $k$-graph arises in this manner.

Condition (2.8) holds vacuously when $k = 2$, thus reproducing the result of Kumjian and Pask. It also holds when the vertex matrices $M_i$ of the directed graphs $E_i$ satisfy Robertson and Steger's conditions (H0), (H1a), (H1b) and (H1c) from [16]; that is, if the $M_i$'s are pairwise commuting $\{0,1\}$-matrices such $M_iM_j$ is a $\{0,1\}$-matrix whenever $i < j$, and $M_iM_jM_l$ is a $\{0,1\}$-matrix whenever $i < j < l$. This is easy to see: under these conditions there are unique isomorphisms $E_j \otimes E_i \to E_i \otimes E_j$, and (2.8) holds since the identity map is the only automorphism of $E_l \otimes E_j \otimes E_i$. See [12, Examples 1.7] for a more direct translation of the Robertson-Steger conditions into $k$-graphs.

Note that our result holds for both finite and infinite $k$, and that one can replace $\mathbb{N}^k$ with an arbitrary right-angled Artin semigroup to obtain a more general result.

To prove Theorems 2.1 and 2.2, we need a few preliminary results. First some notation and terminology. Define an action of the symmetric group $S_k$ on the words of length $k$ in $\mathbb{F}_A^+$ by

$$\sigma\mu := \mu_{\sigma^{-1}(1)} \dots \mu_{\sigma^{-1}(k)} \qquad \text{for } \sigma \in S_k,\ \mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+,\ \ell(\mu) = k.$$

For $1 \le i \le k-1$, let $\tau_i \in S_k$ be the transposition $(i, i+1)$; we shall omit the dependence on $k$, but this should not cause any confusion.

We call $\tau_i$ an *allowable transposition for* $\mu$ if $\mu_i \leftrightarrow \mu_{i+1}$. Note that since $\Gamma$ has no loops, $\tau_i$ is not an allowable transposition for $\mu$ when $\mu_i = \mu_{i+1}$. We call $\sigma \in S_k$ an *allowable permutation for* $\mu$ if it can be written as a product $\tau_{i_m} \cdots \tau_{i_1}$ in which $\tau_{i_j}$ is an allowable transposition for $\tau_{i_{j-1}} \cdots \tau_{i_1}\mu$ for each $j$.

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let $\sigma$ and $\rho$ be allowable permutations for $\mu$. Then*:
(1) *$\pi(\sigma\mu) = \pi(\mu)$.*
(2) *If $i < j$ and $\mu_i \not\leftrightarrow \mu_j$, then $\sigma(i) < \sigma(j)$.*
(3) *If $\sigma\mu = \rho\mu$, then $\sigma = \rho$.*

*Proof.* The first assertion follows immediately from the graph product relations upon writing $\sigma$ as a product of allowable transpositions. For (2), suppose $i < j$ and $\mu_i \not\leftrightarrow \mu_j$. Since the result is obvious for the identity permutation, we may inductively assume that $\sigma = \tau_l\kappa$, where $\kappa$ is an allowable permutation for $\mu$ such that $\kappa(i) < \kappa(j)$ and $\tau_l$ is an allowable transposition for $\kappa\mu$. Since $\tau_l$ is allowable, we have $(\kappa\mu)_l \leftrightarrow (\kappa\mu)_{l+1}$; that is, $\mu_{\kappa^{-1}(l)} \leftrightarrow \mu_{\kappa^{-1}(l+1)}$. Since $\mu_i \not\leftrightarrow \mu_j$, this implies that either $\kappa(i) \ne l$ or $\kappa(j) \ne l+1$. From the assumption that $\kappa(i) < \kappa(j)$ we can thus deduce that $\tau_l\kappa(i) < \tau_l\kappa(j)$, and hence $\sigma(i) < \sigma(j)$.

(3) First suppose $\sigma\mu = \mu$. We claim that $\sigma$ is the identity permutation. If not, then there exists $i$ such that $i < \sigma(i)$. From $\sigma\mu = \mu$ we deduce that $\mu_{\sigma^m(i)} = \mu_{\sigma^{m+1}(i)}$, and hence $\mu_{\sigma^m(i)} \not\leftrightarrow \mu_{\sigma^{m+1}(i)}$, for every $m$. Repeated applications of (2) yield the contradiction

$$i < \sigma(i) < \sigma^2(i) < \sigma^3(i) < \cdots.$$

Now suppose $\sigma\mu = \rho\mu$. Then $\rho^{-1}\sigma$ is an allowable permutation for $\mu$ such that $\rho^{-1}\sigma\mu = \mu$, and hence $\sigma = \rho$. □

We now make use of a result from [10], which, when formulated in the language we have developed, states that if two elements of $\mathbb{F}_A^+$ have the same image under the quotient map $\pi$, then they are connected by a sequence of allowable transpositions; i.e., one is obtainable from the other by an allowable permutation. (See also [11].) Hence for each $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ there is an allowable permutation $\sigma$ for $\mu$ such that $\sigma\mu =$

$\delta(\pi(\mu))$. By part (3) of the previous lemma, the permutation $\sigma$ is unique. Thus we define:

**Definition 2.5.** For each $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$, let $\sigma_\mu$ be the unique allowable permutation for $\mu$ such that $\sigma_\mu \mu = \delta(\pi(\mu))$.

For each permutation $\sigma$ let

$$\iota(\sigma) := |\{(i,j) : i < j \text{ and } \sigma(i) > \sigma(j)\}|,$$

the number of inversions in $\sigma$.

**Lemma 2.6.** *Let $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$.*
(1) *If $\rho$ is an allowable permutation for $\mu$, then $\sigma_{\rho\mu} = \sigma_\mu \rho^{-1}$.*
(2) *If $\sigma_\mu(i) > \sigma_\mu(i+1)$, then $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_i \mu}) = \iota(\sigma_\mu) - 1$ and $\mu_i \leftrightarrow \mu_{i+1}$.*

*Proof.* (1) By Lemma 2.4(1) we have

$$\sigma_\mu \mu = \delta(\pi(\mu)) = \delta(\pi(\rho\mu)) = \sigma_{\rho\mu}(\rho\mu).$$

Since $\sigma_{\rho\mu}\rho$ is an allowable permutation for $\mu$, (1) now follows from part (3) of Lemma 2.4.

The assumption $\sigma_\mu(i) > \sigma_\mu(i+1)$ implies that $\iota(\sigma_\mu \tau_i) = \iota(\sigma_\mu) - 1$. The first conclusion of (2) now follows from (1), and the second is an immediate consequence of Lemma 2.4(2). □

The following proposition is our main technical result.

**Proposition 2.7.** *Let $T = (T_{a,b})_{a \leftrightarrow b}$ be a family of isomorphisms*

$$T_{a,b} \colon X_a \otimes X_b \to X_b \otimes X_a$$

*which satisfies* (2.1) *and* (2.2). *Fix a well-ordering of the vertex set $A$ and let $\delta \colon P \to \mathbb{F}_A^+$ be the corresponding preferred section. Then there is a unique family $(U_\mu)_{\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+}$ of isomorphisms $U_\mu \colon X_\mu \to X_{\delta(\pi(\mu))}$ which satisfies*

$$U_\mu = 1_\mu \qquad \text{if } \delta(\pi(\mu)) = \mu \tag{2.9}$$

*and*

$$U_\mu = U_{\tau_i \mu} T_i^\mu \qquad \text{whenever } \mu_i \leftrightarrow \mu_{i+1}, \tag{2.10}$$

*where $T_i^\mu$ is the isomorphism*

$$1_{\mu_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes 1_{\mu_{i-1}} \otimes T_{\mu_i, \mu_{i+1}} \otimes 1_{\mu_{i+2}} \otimes \cdots \otimes 1_{\mu_{\ell(\mu)}} \colon X_\mu \to X_{\tau_i \mu}.$$

*For this family, we have*

$$U_{\delta(\pi(\mu))\nu}(U_\mu \otimes 1_\nu) = U_{\mu\nu} = U_{\mu\delta(\pi(\nu))}(1_\mu \otimes U_\nu) \qquad \text{for all } \mu, \nu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+. \tag{2.11}$$

*Proof.* We begin by recursively defining the family $(U_\mu)_{\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+}$. If $\iota(\mu) = 0$, define $U_\mu := 1_\mu$. Now let $k \geq 0$, and suppose that we have defined $U_\mu$ for every $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ such that $\iota(\sigma_\mu) \leq k$. Fix $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ such that $\iota(\sigma_\mu) = k+1$, and let

$$j := \min\{l : \sigma_\mu(l) > \sigma_\mu(l+1)\}.$$

By Lemma 2.6(2) we have $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_j \mu}) = \iota(\sigma_\mu) - 1 = k$ (so that $U_{\tau_j \mu}$ is defined) and $\mu_j \leftrightarrow \mu_{j+1}$ (so that $T_j^\mu$ is defined), so we can define $U_\mu$ recursively by

$$U_\mu := U_{\tau_j \mu} T_j^\mu.$$

If $\delta(\pi(\mu)) = \mu$, then $\iota(\sigma_\mu) = 0$, so (2.9) holds by definition of $U_\mu$. We claim that

$$U_\mu = U_{\tau_i\mu} T_i^\mu \qquad \text{whenever } \sigma_\mu(i) > \sigma_\mu(i+1); \tag{2.12}$$

again we remark that, by Lemma 2.6(2), the condition $\sigma_\mu(i) > \sigma_\mu(i+1)$ ensures that $T_i^\mu$ is defined. Before verifying (2.12), let us show how it implies (2.10). For this, it suffices to show that (2.10) holds whenever $\mu_i \leftrightarrow \mu_{i+1}$ and $\sigma_\mu(i) < \sigma_\mu(i+1)$. Using Lemma 2.6(1), we compute that

$$\sigma_{\tau_i\mu}(i) = \sigma_\mu\tau_i(i) = \sigma_\mu(i+1) > \sigma_\mu(i) = \sigma_\mu\tau_i(i+1) = \sigma_{\tau_i\mu}(i+1).$$

Hence we may apply (2.12) to $\tau_i\mu$ to deduce that

$$U_{\tau_i\mu} = U_\mu T_i^{\tau_i\mu}.$$

Composing both sides on the right with $(T_i^{\tau_i\mu})^{-1} = T_i^\mu$ gives (2.10).

We will verify (2.12) by induction on $\iota(\sigma_\mu)$. If $\iota(\sigma_\mu) = 0$, then $\sigma_\mu = \mathrm{id}$, and (2.12) holds vacuously. Let $k \geq 1$, and suppose inductively that (2.12) holds whenever $\iota(\sigma_\mu) \leq k-1$. Fix $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ with $\iota(\sigma_\mu) = k$, and suppose $i \in \{1, \dots, \ell(\mu)-1\}$ is such that $\sigma_\mu(i) > \sigma_\mu(i+1)$. Let

$$j := \min\{l : \sigma_\mu(l) > \sigma_\mu(l+1)\},$$

so that by definition $U_\mu = U_{\tau_j\mu} T_j^\mu$. Then $j \leq i$, and we consider three cases.

**Case 1:** $i = j$. Then $U_\mu = U_{\tau_i\mu} T_i^\mu$ holds by definition of $U_\mu$.

**Case 2:** $i \geq j+2$.

By Lemma 2.6(2) we have $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_i\mu}) = k-1$, and using Lemma 2.6(1) we check that

$$\sigma_{\tau_i\mu}(j) = \sigma_\mu\tau_i(j) = \sigma_\mu(j) > \sigma_\mu(j+1) = \sigma_\mu\tau_i(j+1) = \sigma_{\tau_i\mu}(j+1).$$

Hence we may apply (2.12) to $\tau_i\mu$ to obtain

$$U_{\tau_i\mu} = U_{\tau_j\tau_i\mu} T_j^{\tau_i\mu}.$$

Similarly,

$$U_{\tau_j\mu} = U_{\tau_i\tau_j\mu} T_i^{\tau_j\mu}.$$

Since $i \geq j+2$ we have $\tau_j\tau_i = \tau_i\tau_j$. Moreover, with $\nu := \mu_1 \cdots \mu_{j-1}$, $\lambda := \mu_{j+2} \cdots \mu_{i-1}$ and $\theta := \mu_{i+2} \cdots \mu_{\ell(\mu)}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
T_j^{\tau_i\mu} T_i^\mu &= (1_\nu \otimes 1_{\mu_{i+1}\mu_i} \otimes 1_\lambda \otimes T_{\mu_j,\mu_{j+1}} \otimes 1_\theta)(1_\nu \otimes T_{\mu_i,\mu_{i+1}} \otimes 1_\lambda \otimes 1_{\mu_j\mu_{j+1}} \otimes 1_\theta) \\
&= (1_\nu \otimes T_{\mu_i,\mu_{i+1}} \otimes 1_\lambda \otimes 1_{\mu_{j+1}\mu_j} \otimes 1_\theta)(1_\nu \otimes 1_{\mu_i\mu_{i+1}} \otimes 1_\lambda \otimes T_{\mu_j,\mu_{j+1}} \otimes 1_\theta) \\
&= T_i^{\tau_j\mu} T_j^\mu.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$U_\mu = U_{\tau_j\mu} T_j^\mu = U_{\tau_i\tau_j\mu} T_i^{\tau_j\mu} T_j^\mu = U_{\tau_j\tau_i\mu} T_j^{\tau_i\mu} T_i^\mu = U_{\tau_i\mu} T_i^\mu,$$

as required.

**Case 3:** $i = j+1$.

Lemma 2.6(2) gives $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_j\mu}) = k-1$, and, since $\sigma_\mu(j) > \sigma_\mu(j+1) > \sigma_\mu(j+2)$, we can use Lemma 2.6(1) to check that

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma_{\tau_j\mu}(j+1) &= \sigma_\mu\tau_j(j+1) = \sigma_\mu(j) \\
&> \sigma_\mu(j+2) = \sigma_\mu\tau_j(j+2) = \sigma_{\tau_j\mu}(j+2).
\end{aligned} \tag{2.13}$$

Hence we may apply (2.12) to $\tau_j\mu$ to obtain

$$U_{\tau_j\mu} = U_{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu} T_{j+1}^{\tau_j\mu}.$$

By Lemma 2.6(2), (2.13) also implies that $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j}) = \iota(\sigma_{\tau_j\mu}) - 1 = k - 2$, and using Lemma 2.6(1) we check that

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu}(j) &= \sigma_\mu\tau_j\tau_{j+1}(j) = \sigma_\mu(j+1)\\ &> \sigma_\mu(j+2) = \sigma_\mu\tau_j\tau_{j+1}(j+1) = \sigma_{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu}(j+1).\end{aligned}$$

Hence we may apply (2.12) to $\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu$ to obtain

$$U_{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu} = U_{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu}T_j^{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu}.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}U_\mu &= U_{\tau_j\mu}T_j^\mu\\ &= U_{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu}T_{j+1}^{\tau_j\mu}T_j^\mu\\ &= U_{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu}T_j^{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu}T_{j+1}^{\tau_j\mu}T_j^\mu.\end{aligned} \tag{2.14}$$

Since $\sigma_\mu(j) > \sigma_\mu(j+1) > \sigma_\mu(j+2)$, Lemma 2.6(2) implies that $\mu_j$, $\mu_{j+1}$ and $\mu_{j+2}$ form the vertices of a triangle in $\Gamma$. Using expansions such as

$$T_j^\mu = 1_\nu \otimes (T_{\mu_j,\mu_{j+1}} \otimes 1_{\mu_{j+2}}) \otimes 1_\theta,$$

(where $\nu := \mu_1 \cdots \mu_{j-1}$ and $\theta := \mu_{j+3} \cdots \mu_{\ell(\mu)}$), the hexagonal equation (2.2) gives

$$T_j^{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\mu}T_{j+1}^{\tau_j\mu}T_j^\mu = T_{j+1}^{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_j^{\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_{j+1}^\mu.$$

Using this and $\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\tau_j = \tau_{j+1}\tau_j\tau_{j+1}$ in (2.14) gives

$$U_\mu = U_{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_{j+1}^{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_j^{\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_{j+1}^\mu. \tag{2.15}$$

As above, one now verifies that $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_{j+1}\mu}) = k-1$ and $\sigma_{\tau_{j+1}\mu}(j) > \sigma_{\tau_{j+1}\mu}(j+1)$, from which (2.12) gives

$$U_{\tau_{j+1}\mu} = U_{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_j^{\tau_{j+1}\mu}.$$

One then verifies that $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}) = k-2$, and that $\sigma_{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}(j+1) > \sigma_{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}(j+2)$, from which (2.12) gives

$$U_{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu} = U_{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_{j+1}^{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}.$$

Combining these last two equations with (2.15) gives

$$\begin{aligned}U_\mu &= U_{\tau_{j+1}\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_{j+1}^{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_j^{\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_{j+1}^\mu\\ &= U_{\tau_j\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_j^{\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_{j+1}^\mu\\ &= U_{\tau_{j+1}\mu}T_{j+1}^\mu.\end{aligned}$$

This concludes Case 3, and the proof of (2.12) is complete.

For uniqueness, suppose $(V_\mu)_{\mu\in\mathbb{F}_A^+}$ is a different family of isomorphisms $V_\mu\colon X_\mu \to X_{\delta(\pi(\mu))}$ which satisfies (2.9) and (2.10). Choose $\mu$ with $\iota(\sigma_\mu)$ minimal such that $U_\mu \neq V_\mu$. Since both collections satisfy (2.9) we have $\iota(\sigma_\mu) \geq 1$, and hence there exists $i$ with $\sigma_\mu(i) > \sigma_\mu(i+1)$. By Lemma 2.6(2) we have $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_i\mu}) < \iota(\sigma_\mu)$, so by minimality $U_{\tau_i\mu} = V_{\tau_i\mu}$. Using (2.10) we obtain the contradiction

$$U_\mu = U_{\tau_i\mu}T_i^\mu = V_{\tau_i\mu}T_i^\mu = V_\mu.$$

Thus the collection is unique.

We now verify (2.11). We will prove that

$$U_{\delta(\pi(\mu))\nu}(U_\mu \otimes 1_\nu) = U_{\mu\nu} \qquad \text{for all } \mu,\nu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+; \tag{2.16}$$

the proof of the other half of (2.11) proceeds in a similar fashion. We verify (2.16) by induction on $\iota(\sigma_\mu)$. If $\iota(\sigma_\mu) = 0$, then $\delta(\pi(\mu)) = \mu$, and

$$U_{\delta(\pi(\mu))\nu}(U_\mu \otimes 1_\nu) = U_{\mu\nu}(1_\mu \otimes 1_\nu) = U_{\mu\nu}.$$

Suppose inductively that (2.16) holds whenever $\iota(\sigma_\mu) \leq k-1$. Let $\nu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ be arbitrary, and fix $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ satisfying $\iota(\sigma_\mu) = k$. Since $k \geq 1$, there exists $i$ such that $\sigma_\mu(i) > \sigma_\mu(i+1)$, and Lemma 2.6(2) gives $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_i\mu}) = k-1$ and $\mu_i \leftrightarrow \mu_{i+1}$. The inductive hypothesis gives that

$$U_{\delta(\pi(\tau_i\mu))\nu}(U_{\tau_i\mu} \otimes 1_\nu) = U_{(\tau_i\mu)\nu}. \tag{2.17}$$

Since $\pi(\tau_i\mu) = \pi(\mu)$,

$$\begin{aligned} U_{\delta(\pi(\mu))\nu}(U_\mu \otimes 1_\nu) &= U_{\delta(\pi(\tau_i\mu))\nu}(U_{\tau_i\mu}T_i^\mu \otimes 1_\nu) && \text{(by 2.10)} \\ &= U_{\delta(\pi(\tau_i\mu))\nu}(U_{\tau_i\mu} \otimes 1_\nu)(T_i^\mu \otimes 1_\nu) \\ &= U_{(\tau_i\mu)\nu}(T_i^\mu \otimes 1_\nu) && \text{(by 2.17)} \\ &= U_{\tau_i(\mu\nu)}T_i^{\mu\nu} \\ &= U_{\mu\nu} && \text{(by 2.10)}, \end{aligned}$$

and the proof is complete by induction. □

*Proof of Theorem 2.1.* We begin by proving the existence of a product system $(Y, \alpha)$ which satisfies the conditions of the theorem. The collection $Y$ is determined by (2.3). Let $(U_\mu)_{\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+}$ be the family of isomorphisms $U_\mu \colon X_\mu \to X_{\delta(\pi(\mu))}$ given by Proposition 2.7. If $s, t \in P$, then $Y_s \otimes Y_t = X_{\delta(s)} \otimes X_{\delta(t)} = X_{\delta(s)\delta(t)}$ and $Y_{st} = X_{\delta(st)} = X_{\delta(\pi(\delta(s)\delta(t)))}$, so we can define $\alpha_{s,t} \colon Y_s \otimes Y_t \to Y_{st}$ by

$$\alpha_{s,t} := U_{\delta(s)\delta(t)}.$$

To see that $(Y, \alpha)$ satisfies the associativity condition (1.2), suppose $r, s, t \in P$. Setting $\mu = \delta(r)\delta(s)$ and $\nu = \delta(t)$ in the first part of (2.11) gives

$$\alpha_{rs,t}(\alpha_{r,s} \otimes 1_{Y_t}) = U_{\delta(rs)\delta(t)}(U_{\delta(r)\delta(s)} \otimes 1_{\delta(t)}) = U_{\delta(r)\delta(s)\delta(t)},$$

and setting $\mu = \delta(r)$ and $\nu = \delta(s)\delta(t)$ in the second part of (2.11) gives

$$\alpha_{r,st}(1_{Y_r} \otimes \alpha_{s,t}) = U_{\delta(r)\delta(st)}(1_{\delta(r)} \otimes U_{\delta(s)\delta(t)}) = U_{\delta(r)\delta(s)\delta(t)}.$$

Thus (1.2) holds, and $(Y, \alpha)$ is a product system.

To check (2.4), suppose $\delta(st) = \delta(s)\delta(t)$. By (2.9) we have $U_{\delta(st)} = 1_{\delta(st)}$, and hence

$$\alpha_{s,t} = U_{\delta(s)\delta(t)} = U_{\delta(st)} = 1_{\delta(st)},$$

giving (2.4). For (2.5), suppose $a, b \in A$ satisfy $a \leftrightarrow b$ and $a > b$. Then $\alpha_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} = U_{\delta(\pi(a))\delta(\pi(b))} = U_{ab} = U_{ba}T_{a,b}$, where the last equality is by (2.10). But $\delta(\pi(ba)) = ba$, so by (2.9) we have $U_{ba} = 1_{ba}$, and hence $\alpha_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} = T_{a,b}$, as required.

For uniqueness, we first establish that

$$\alpha_{s_1,\dots,s_k} = U_{\delta(s_1)\cdots\delta(s_k)} \qquad \text{for all } k \geq 1 \text{ and } s_1, \dots, s_k \in P. \tag{2.18}$$

(See Notation 1.2.) This equation holds by definition when $k \leq 2$, so suppose inductively that it holds for some $k \geq 2$. Let $s_1, \dots, s_{k+1} \in P$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{s_1,\dots,s_{k+1}} &= \alpha_{s_1\cdots s_k, s_{k+1}}(\alpha_{s_1,\dots,s_k} \otimes 1_{Y_{s_{k+1}}}) && \text{(associativity of } \alpha) \\ &= U_{\delta(s_1\cdots s_k)\delta(s_{k+1})}(U_{\delta(s_1)\cdots\delta(s_k)} \otimes 1_{\delta(s_{k+1})}) && \text{(induction)} \\ &= U_{\delta(s_1)\cdots\delta(s_{k+1})},\end{aligned}$$

with the last equality following from (2.11) by setting $\mu = \delta(s_1)\cdots\delta(s_k)$ and $\nu = \delta(s_{k+1})$. Hence (2.18) holds for $k+1$, and inductively for all $k$.

Now suppose $(Y, \beta)$ is another product system over $P$ which satisfies (2.3), (2.4) and (2.5). Define

$$V_\mu := \beta_{\pi(\mu_1),\dots,\pi(\mu_{\ell(\mu)})} \qquad \text{for } \mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+.$$

Then $V_\mu$ is an isomorphism from $Y_{\pi(\mu_1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes Y_{\pi(\mu_k)}$ to $Y_{\pi(\mu)}$, or, equivalently, from $X_\mu$ to $X_{\delta(\pi(\mu))}$. We claim that $(V_\mu)_{\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+}$ is the unique family of isomorphisms given by Proposition 2.7.

We begin by verifying (2.9). Suppose $\delta(\pi(\mu)) = \mu$. If $\ell(\mu) = 1$, then $V_\mu = 1_\mu$ by definition. Suppose inductively that $V_\mu = 1_\mu$ whenever $\delta(\pi(\mu)) = \mu$ and $\ell(\mu) \leq k$ for some $k \geq 1$. Fix $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ such that $\delta(\pi(\mu)) = \mu$ and $\ell(\mu) = k+1$. Express $\mu = \mu_1\nu$. By definition of $\delta(\pi(\mu))$ we have $\delta(\pi(\mu)) = \mu_1\delta(\pi(\nu))$, and since $\delta(\pi(\mu)) = \mu = \mu_1\nu$, we deduce that $\delta(\pi(\nu)) = \nu$. Since

$$\delta(\pi(\mu_1))\delta(\pi(\nu)) = \mu_1\nu = \mu = \delta(\pi(\mu)) = \delta(\pi(\mu_1)\pi(\nu)),$$

(2.4) gives that $\beta_{\pi(\mu_1),\pi(\nu)} = 1_\mu$. By induction we also have $V_\nu = 1_\nu$, so

$$V_\mu = \beta_{\pi(\mu_1),\pi(\nu)}(1_{\pi(\mu_1)} \otimes V_\nu) = 1_\mu,$$

as required.

We now verify (2.10). First suppose that $a, b \in A$ satisfy $a \leftrightarrow b$. Then

$$V_{ab} = \beta_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} = \begin{cases} T_{a,b} & \text{if } a > b \\ 1_{ab} & \text{if } a < b, \end{cases}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} V_{ab}T_{b,a} &= \begin{cases} 1_{ba} & \text{if } a > b \\ T_{b,a} & \text{if } a < b \end{cases} \\ &= V_{ba}. \end{aligned}$$

Now suppose $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ and $\mu_i \leftrightarrow \mu_{i+1}$. Express $\mu = \nu\mu_i\mu_{i+1}\theta$ with $\nu, \theta \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\tau_i\mu}T_i^\mu &= V_{\tau_i\mu}(1_\nu \otimes T_{\mu_i,\mu_{i+1}} \otimes 1_\theta) \\ &= \beta_{\pi(\nu),\pi(\mu_{i+1}\mu_i),\pi(\theta)}(V_\nu \otimes V_{\mu_{i+1}\mu_i} \otimes V_\theta)(1_\nu \otimes T_{\mu_i,\mu_{i+1}} \otimes 1_\theta) \\ &= \beta_{\pi(\nu),\pi(\mu_i\mu_{i+1}),\pi(\theta)}(V_\nu \otimes V_{\mu_i\mu_{i+1}} \otimes V_\theta) \\ &= V_\mu, \end{aligned}$$

giving (2.10).

By the uniqueness assertion of Proposition 2.7, we have $V_\mu = U_\mu$ for every $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$, which, together with (2.18), gives

$$\alpha_{\pi(\mu_1),\dots,\pi(\mu_k)} = \beta_{\pi(\mu_1),\dots,\pi(\mu_k)} \qquad \text{for every } \mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+.$$

Now suppose $s, t \in P$. Let $k := \ell(s)$, $l := \ell(t)$, $\mu := \delta(s)$, and $\nu := \delta(t)$. Then

$$\alpha_{s,t}(\alpha_{\pi(\mu_1),\dots,\pi(\mu_k)} \otimes \alpha_{\pi(\nu_1),\dots,\pi(\nu_l)}) = \alpha_{\pi(\mu_1),\dots,\pi(\mu_k),\pi(\nu_1),\dots,\pi(\nu_l)}$$

and

$$\beta_{s,t}(\beta_{\pi(\mu_1),\dots,\pi(\mu_k)} \otimes \beta_{\pi(\nu_1),\dots,\pi(\nu_l)}) = \beta_{\pi(\mu_1),\dots,\pi(\mu_k),\pi(\nu_1),\dots,\pi(\nu_l)},$$

from which we deduce that $\alpha_{s,t} = \beta_{s,t}$. Thus $(Y, \alpha)$ is the unique product system over $P$ which satisfies (2.3), (2.4) and (2.5). □

*Proof of Theorem 2.2.* It is obvious that (2.1) holds for the family $(T_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ defined by (2.7). To verify the hexagonal equation (2.2), suppose $a$, $b$ and $c$ are the vertices of a triangle in $\Gamma$. We will show that the following equivalent version of (2.2) is satisfied:

$$(T_{b,a} \otimes 1_c)(1_b \otimes T_{c,a})(T_{c,b} \otimes 1_a)(1_c \otimes T_{a,b})(T_{a,c} \otimes 1_b)(1_a \otimes T_{b,c}) = 1_{abc}.$$

The left-hand side of this equation is

$$\begin{aligned}(\beta^{-1}_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} \otimes 1_c)(\beta_{\pi(b),\pi(a)} \otimes 1_c)(1_b \otimes \beta^{-1}_{\pi(a),\pi(c)})(1_b \otimes \beta_{\pi(c),\pi(a)})\\ (\beta^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(c)} \otimes 1_a)(\beta_{\pi(c),\pi(b)} \otimes 1_a)(1_c \otimes \beta^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)})(1_c \otimes \beta_{\pi(a),\pi(b)})\\ (\beta^{-1}_{\pi(c),\pi(a)} \otimes 1_b)(\beta_{\pi(a),\pi(c)} \otimes 1_b)(1_a \otimes \beta^{-1}_{\pi(c),\pi(b)})(1_a \otimes \beta_{\pi(b),\pi(c)}),\end{aligned}$$

which by five applications of (1.2) simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned}(\beta^{-1}_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} \otimes 1_c)\beta^{-1}_{\pi(ba),\pi(c)}\beta_{\pi(b),\pi(ac)}\beta^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(ca)}\beta_{\pi(bc),\pi(a)}\beta^{-1}_{\pi(cb),\pi(a)}\beta_{\pi(c),\pi(ba)}\\ \beta^{-1}_{\pi(c),\pi(ab)}\beta_{\pi(ca),\pi(b)}\beta^{-1}_{\pi(ac),\pi(b)}\beta_{\pi(a),\pi(cb)}(1_a \otimes \beta_{\pi(b),\pi(c)}).\end{aligned}$$

Since $\pi(ab) = \pi(ba)$, $\pi(bc) = \pi(cb)$ and $\pi(ca) = \pi(ac)$, this in turn collapses to

$$(\beta^{-1}_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} \otimes 1_c)\beta^{-1}_{\pi(ab),\pi(c)}\beta_{\pi(a),\pi(bc)}(1_a \otimes \beta_{\pi(b),\pi(c)}),$$

which by one last application of (1.2) is the identity morphism on $X_{abc}$, as required.

Let $(Y, \alpha)$ be the product system $(Y^T, \alpha^T)$ associated with this collection $T$; that is, $Y_s := X_{\delta(s)}$ and $\alpha_{s,t} := U_{\delta(s)\delta(t)}$, where $(U_\mu)_{\mu\in\mathbb{F}_A^+}$ is the family of isomorphisms $U_\mu\colon X_\mu \to X_{\delta(\pi(\mu))}$ given by Proposition 2.7. We will define an isomorphism $\psi$ from $(Y, \alpha)$ to $(Z, \beta)$. Fix $s \in P$, let $\mu := \delta(s)$, and let $k := \ell(\mu)$. Then

$$Y_s = X_{\delta(s)} = X_{\mu_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes X_{\mu_k} = Z_{\pi(\mu_1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes Z_{\pi(\mu_k)},$$

so

$$\psi_s := \beta_{\pi(\mu_1),\dots,\pi(\mu_k)}$$

is an isomorphism from $Y_s$ to $Z_{\pi(\mu)} = Z_s$. It remains only to show that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y_s \otimes Y_t & \xrightarrow{\alpha_{s,t}} & Y_{st} \\ {\scriptstyle \psi_s\otimes\psi_t}\downarrow & & \downarrow{\scriptstyle \psi_{st}} \\ Z_s \otimes Z_t & \xrightarrow{\beta_{s,t}} & Z_{st} \end{array}$$

commutes for every $s, t \in P$. Let $\mu = \delta(s)$ as above, let $\nu = \delta(t)$, and let $l := \ell(\nu)$. Since $\alpha_{s,t} = U_{\mu\nu}$ and $\beta_{s,t}(\psi_s \otimes \psi_t) = \beta_{\pi(\mu_1),\dots,\pi(\mu_k),\pi(\nu_1),\dots,\pi(\nu_l)}$, it suffices to show that

$$\beta_{\pi(\theta_1),\dots,\pi(\theta_m)} = \psi_{\pi(\theta)}U_\theta \qquad \text{for every } \theta = \theta_1 \cdots \theta_m \in \mathbb{F}_A^+. \tag{2.19}$$

We will establish this equation by induction on $\iota(\sigma_\theta)$. If $\iota(\sigma_\theta) = 0$, then $\delta(\pi(\theta)) = \theta$, and (2.9) gives $U_\theta = 1_\theta$. Since $\delta(\pi(\theta)) = \theta$, (2.19) is then immediate from the definition of $\psi_{\pi(\theta)}$. Suppose inductively that (2.19) holds whenever $\iota(\sigma_\theta) \leq k$ for some $k \geq 0$, and fix $\theta \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ with $\iota(\sigma_\theta) = k + 1$. There exists $i$ such that

$\sigma_\theta(i) > \sigma_\theta(i+1)$, and Lemma 2.6(2) gives that $\theta_i \leftrightarrow \theta_{i+1}$ and $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_i\theta}) = \iota(\sigma_\theta)-1 = k$. By (2.10) and induction we thus have

$$\psi_{\pi(\theta)} U_\theta = \psi_{\pi(\tau_i\theta)} U_{\tau_i\theta} T_i^\theta = \beta_{\pi(\theta_1),\dots,\pi(\theta_{i+1}),\pi(\theta_i),\dots,\pi(\theta_m)} T_i^\theta. \tag{2.20}$$

To further simplify the right-hand side of this equation, let $\mu := \theta_1 \cdots \theta_{i-1}$, let $\nu := \theta_{i+2} \cdots \theta_m$, and observe that

$$\begin{aligned}\beta&_{\pi(\theta_1),\dots,\pi(\theta_{i+1}),\pi(\theta_i),\dots,\pi(\theta_m)}\\ &= \beta_{\pi(\mu),\pi(\theta_{i+1}\theta_i),\pi(\nu)}\big(\beta_{\pi(\theta_1),\dots,\pi(\theta_{i-1})} \otimes \beta_{\pi(\theta_{i+1}),\pi(\theta_i)} \otimes \beta_{\pi(\theta_{i+2}),\dots,\pi(\theta_m)}\big)\end{aligned}$$

and

$$T_i^\theta = 1_\mu \otimes T_{\theta_i,\theta_{i+1}} \otimes 1_\nu.$$

By the definition of $T_{\theta_i,\theta_{i+1}}$ we have

$$\beta_{\pi(\theta_{i+1}),\pi(\theta_i)} T_{\theta_i,\theta_{i+1}} = \beta_{\pi(\theta_i),\pi(\theta_{i+1})},$$

so equation (2.20) simplies to

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_{\pi(\theta)} U_\theta &= \beta_{\pi(\mu),\pi(\theta_i\theta_{i+1}),\pi(\nu)}\big(\beta_{\pi(\theta_1),\dots,\pi(\theta_{i-1})} \otimes \beta_{\pi(\theta_i),\pi(\theta_{i+1})} \otimes \beta_{\pi(\theta_{i+2}),\dots,\pi(\theta_m)}\big)\\ &= \beta_{\pi(\theta_1),\dots,\pi(\theta_m)}.\end{aligned}$$

This completes the induction, and hence the proof of the theorem. □

**Proposition 2.8.** *Suppose $(Y,\alpha)$ and $(Z,\beta)$ are product systems over the right-angled Artin semigroup $P$ which take values in the tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}$. If $\psi = (\psi_s)_{s\in P}$ is an isomorphism from $(Y,\alpha)$ to $(Z,\beta)$, then defining*

$$\vartheta_a := \psi_{\pi(a)} \qquad \text{for } a \in A \tag{2.21}$$

*gives a collection $\vartheta := (\vartheta_a)_{a\in A}$ of isomorphisms $\vartheta_a \colon Y_{\pi(a)} \to Z_{\pi(a)}$ which satisfies*

$$(\vartheta_b \otimes \vartheta_a)\alpha^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}\alpha_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} = \beta^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}\beta_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}(\vartheta_a \otimes \vartheta_b) \tag{2.22}$$

*for every $a, b \in A$ such that $a \leftrightarrow b$. Moreover, given any such collection $\vartheta$, there is a unique isomorphism $\psi\colon (Y,\alpha) \to (Z,\beta)$ such that $\psi_{\pi(a)} = \vartheta_a$ for every $a \in A$.*

*Remark* 2.9. If $\Gamma$ has no edges, then $P$ is the free semigroup $\mathbb{F}_A^+$, and Theorem 2.1 associates a product system to each collection $(X_a)_{a\in A}$ of objects in $\mathcal{G}$. Since condition (2.22) is then vacuous, Proposition 2.8 implies that the $A$-tuple of isomorphism classes of the $X_a$'s is a complete isomorphism invariant for product systems over $\mathbb{F}_A^+$.

*Proof of Proposition 2.8.* Suppose $\psi = (\psi_s)_{s\in P}$ is an isomorphism from $(Y,\alpha)$ to $(Z,\beta)$; that is, $\psi_s$ is an isomorphism $Y_s \to Z_s$, and

$$\psi_{st}\alpha_{s,t} = \beta_{s,t}(\psi_s \otimes \psi_t) \qquad \text{for all } s,t \in P.$$

Applying this equation with $s = \pi(a)$ and $t = \pi(b)$ gives

$$\beta^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}\beta_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}(\psi_{\pi(a)} \otimes \psi_{\pi(b)}) = \beta^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}\psi_{\pi(a)\pi(b)}\alpha_{\pi(a),\pi(b)},$$

and applying it with $s = \pi(b)$ and $t = \pi(a)$ gives

$$(\psi_{\pi(b)} \otimes \psi_{\pi(a)})\alpha^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}\alpha_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} = \beta^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}\psi_{\pi(b)\pi(a)}\alpha_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}.$$

Since $\pi(a)\pi(b) = \pi(b)\pi(a)$, this shows that (2.22) holds for the collection $\vartheta$ defined by (2.21).

Conversely, suppose we have a collection $\vartheta = (\vartheta_a)_{a\in A}$ of isomorphisms $\vartheta_a\colon Y_{\pi(a)} \to Z_{\pi(a)}$ which satisfies (2.22). Define

$$W_a := Y_{\pi(a)} \quad \text{and} \quad X_a := Z_{\pi(a)} \qquad \text{for } a \in A$$

and, for every $a, b \in A$ such that $a \leftrightarrow b$, define

$$S_{a,b} := \alpha^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}\alpha_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}\colon W_a \otimes W_b \to W_b \otimes W_a$$

and

$$T_{a,b} := \beta^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}\beta_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}\colon X_a \otimes X_b \to X_b \otimes X_a.$$

By Theorem 2.2, the collections $S = (S_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ and $T = (T_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ satisfy equations (2.1) and (2.2), and the product systems $(Y, \alpha)$ and $(Z, \beta)$ are isomorphic to $(Y^S, \alpha^S)$ and $(Y^T, \alpha^T)$, respectively, via isomorphisms which are the identity on the fibers over $\pi(a)$ for $a \in A$. Hence it suffices to construct an isomorphism $\psi$ from $(Y^S, \alpha^S)$ to $(Y^T, \alpha^T)$ such that $\psi_{\pi(a)} = \vartheta_a$ for every $a \in A$.

We begin by observing that, for each $a \in A$, $\vartheta_a$ is an isomorphism $W_a \to X_a$, and that the hypothesis (2.22) can be rewritten as

$$(\vartheta_b \otimes \vartheta_a)S_{a,b} = T_{a,b}(\vartheta_a \otimes \vartheta_b) \qquad \text{whenever } a \leftrightarrow b. \tag{2.23}$$

Define

$$\vartheta_\mu := \vartheta_{\mu_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \vartheta_{\mu_{\ell(\mu)}}\colon W_\mu \to X_\mu \qquad \text{for } \mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$$

and

$$\psi_s := \vartheta_{\delta(s)} \qquad \text{for } s \in P.$$

Then $\psi := (\psi_s)_{s\in P}$ is a collection of isomorphisms $\psi_s\colon Y^S_s \to Y^T_s$. We claim that

$$\psi_{st}\alpha^S_{s,t} = \alpha^T_{s,t}(\psi_s \otimes \psi_t) \qquad \text{for } s, t \in P \tag{2.24}$$

is satisfied, so that $\psi$ is an isomorphism of product systems.

Let $(U_\mu)_{\mu\in\mathbb{F}_A^+}$ and $(V_\mu)_{\mu\in\mathbb{F}_A^+}$ be the families of isomorphisms

$$U_\mu\colon X_\mu \to X_{\delta(\pi(\mu))} \quad \text{and} \quad V_\mu\colon W_\mu \to W_{\delta(\pi(\mu))}$$

given by Proposition 2.7, so that

$$\alpha^S_{s,t} = V_{\delta(s)\delta(t)} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha^T_{s,t} = U_{\delta(s)\delta(t)} \qquad \text{for } s, t \in P.$$

The equation (2.24) which we aim to verify can then be rewritten as

$$\vartheta_{\delta(st)}V_{\delta(s)\delta(t)} = U_{\delta(s)\delta(t)}\vartheta_{\delta(s)\delta(t)} \qquad \text{for all } s, t \in P,$$

so it suffices to show that

$$\vartheta_{\delta(\pi(\mu))}V_\mu = U_\mu\vartheta_\mu \qquad \text{for all } \mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+. \tag{2.25}$$

We establish this by induction on $\iota(\sigma_\mu)$. If $\iota(\sigma_\mu) = 0$, then $\delta(\pi(\mu)) = \mu$, and the equation holds by (2.9). Suppose (2.25) is satisfied whenever $\iota(\sigma_\mu) \le k - 1$ for some $k \ge 1$. Fix $\mu \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$ with $\iota(\sigma_\mu) = k$. Since $k \ge 1$, there exists $i$ such that $\sigma_\mu(i) > \sigma_\mu(i + 1)$, and by Lemma 2.6(2) we have $\iota(\sigma_{\tau_i\mu}) = \iota(\sigma_\mu) - 1 = k - 1$ and $\mu_i \leftrightarrow \mu_{i+1}$. By (2.10) and induction,

$$\vartheta_{\delta(\pi(\mu))}V_\mu = \vartheta_{\delta(\pi(\tau_i\mu))}V_{\tau_i\mu}S^\mu_i = U_{\tau_i\mu}\vartheta_{\tau_i\mu}S^\mu_i. \tag{2.26}$$

Express $\mu = \nu\mu_i\mu_{i+1}\theta$ with $\nu, \theta \in \mathbb{F}_A^+$. Using expansions such as

$$\vartheta_{\tau_i\mu} = \vartheta_\nu \otimes (\vartheta_{\mu_{i+1}} \otimes \vartheta_{\mu_i}) \otimes \vartheta_\theta$$

and

$$S_i^\mu = 1_\nu \otimes S_{\mu_i,\mu_{i+1}} \otimes 1_\theta,$$

it is easy to see that equation (2.23) gives $\vartheta_{\tau_i\mu} S_i^\mu = T_i^\mu \vartheta_\mu$. Using this in (2.26) and applying (2.10) gives

$$\vartheta_{\delta(\pi(\mu))} V_\mu = U_{\tau_i\mu}\vartheta_{\tau_i\mu} S_i^\mu = U_{\tau_i\mu} T_i^\mu \vartheta_\mu = U_\mu \vartheta_\mu,$$

thus establishing (2.25). □

Using Proposition 2.8 it is easy to characterize the automorphism group of a product system over $P$.

**Corollary 2.10.** *Suppose $(Y,\alpha)$ is a product system over the right-angled Artin semigroup $P$ which takes values in the tensor groupoid $\mathcal{G}$. Then the automorphism group of $(Y,\alpha)$ is isomorphic to the subgroup of $\prod_{a\in A} \operatorname{Aut} Y_{\pi(a)}$ consisting of those $A$-tuples $(\vartheta_a)_{a\in A}$ which satisfy*

$$\alpha_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}(\vartheta_a \otimes \vartheta_b)\alpha^{-1}_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} = \alpha_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}(\vartheta_b \otimes \vartheta_a)\alpha^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}$$

*whenever $a \leftrightarrow b$.*

**The semigroup $H^2(P;\mathcal{G})$.** Let $\mathcal{G}$ be a symmetric tensor groupoid. We now describe the structure of the semigroup $H^2(P;\mathcal{G})$ in terms of the collections $T = (T_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ used in Theorem 2.1 to construct product systems $(Y^T,\alpha^T)$. Consider the composite map

$$T \mapsto (Y^T,\alpha^T) \in Z^2(P;\mathcal{G}) \mapsto [(Y^T,\alpha^T)] \in H^2(P;\mathcal{G}).$$

By Theorem 2.2, this map is surjective and does not depend on the choice of well-ordering of the vertex set $A$. The following proposition describes the equivalence relation required on the domain to make the map bijective, and then describes the binary operation on the domain which corresponds to multiplication in $H^2(P;\mathcal{G})$.

**Proposition 2.11.** *Let $(W_a)_{a\in A}$ and $(X_a)_{a\in A}$ be collections of objects in $\mathcal{G}$, and let $S = (S_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ and $T = (T_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ be collections of isomorphisms*

$$S_{a,b}\colon W_a \otimes W_b \to W_b \otimes W_a \quad \text{and} \quad T_{a,b}\colon X_a \otimes X_b \to X_b \otimes X_a$$

*which satisfy conditions (2.1) and (2.2). Then $[(Y^S,\alpha^S)] = [(Y^T,\alpha^T)]$ as elements of $H^2(P;\mathcal{G})$ if and only if there exists a collection $(\vartheta_a)_{a\in A}$ of isomorphisms $\vartheta_a\colon W_a \to X_a$ which satisfies*

(2.27) $$(\vartheta_b \otimes \vartheta_a)S_{a,b} = T_{a,b}(\vartheta_a \otimes \vartheta_b) \qquad \text{whenever } a \leftrightarrow b.$$

*Moreover, multiplication in $H^2(P;\mathcal{G})$ is given by*

$$[(Y^S,\alpha^S)][(Y^T,\alpha^T)] = [(Y^{S\otimes T},\alpha^{S\otimes T})],$$

*where $((S\otimes T)_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ is the collection of isomorphisms*

$$(S\otimes T)_{a,b}\colon (W_a \otimes X_a) \otimes (W_b \otimes X_b) \to (W_b \otimes X_b) \otimes (W_a \otimes X_a)$$

*defined by*

$$(S\otimes T)_{a,b} := (1_{W_b} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{W_a,X_b} \otimes 1_{X_a})(S_{a,b} \otimes T_{a,b})(1_{W_a} \otimes \mathcal{F}_{X_a,W_b} \otimes 1_{X_b}).$$

*Proof.* Since $(\alpha^T_{\pi(b),\pi(a)})^{-1}\alpha^T_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} = T_{a,b}$ whenever $a \leftrightarrow b$, the first assertion follows immediately from Proposition 2.8. For the second, first recall that multiplication in $H^2(P;\mathcal{G})$ is given by the internal tensor product (Definition 1.9), so that

$$[(Y^S,\alpha^S)][(Y^T,\alpha^T)] = [(Y^S\otimes Y^T, \alpha^S\otimes\alpha^T)].$$

We claim that

$$(S\otimes T)_{a,b} = (\alpha^S\otimes\alpha^T)^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}(\alpha^S\otimes\alpha^T)_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} \tag{2.28}$$

whenever $a \leftrightarrow b$. This will complete the proof, since it then follows from Theorem 2.2 that the collection $((S\otimes T)_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ satisfies (2.1) and (2.2), and that $(Y^{S\otimes T}, \alpha^{S\otimes T})$ is isomorphic to $(Y^S\otimes Y^T, \alpha^S\otimes\alpha^T)$.

To establish (2.28), first observe that if $a \leftrightarrow b$, then

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha^S_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}&\otimes\alpha^T_{\pi(b),\pi(a)})^{-1}(\alpha^S_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}\otimes\alpha^T_{\pi(a),\pi(b)})\\ &= ((\alpha^S_{\pi(b),\pi(a)})^{-1}\alpha^S_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}\otimes(\alpha^T_{\pi(b),\pi(a)})^{-1}\alpha^T_{\pi(a),\pi(b)})\\ &= S_{a,b}\otimes T_{a,b}.\end{aligned}$$

Using this and Definition 1.9 we thus have

$$\begin{aligned}(\alpha^S&\otimes\alpha^T)^{-1}_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}(\alpha^S\otimes\alpha^T)_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}\\ &= (1_{W_b}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{X_b,W_a}\otimes 1_{X_a})^{-1}(\alpha^S_{\pi(b),\pi(a)}\otimes\alpha^T_{\pi(b),\pi(a)})^{-1}\\ &\qquad(\alpha^S_{\pi(a),\pi(b)}\otimes\alpha^T_{\pi(a),\pi(b)})(1_{W_a}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{X_a,W_b}\otimes 1_{X_b})\\ &= (1_{W_b}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{W_a,X_b}\otimes 1_{X_a})(S_{a,b}\otimes T_{a,b})(1_{W_a}\otimes\mathcal{F}_{X_a,W_b}\otimes 1_{X_b})\\ &= (S\otimes T)_{a,b},\end{aligned}$$

giving (2.28). □

As a corollary we calculate $H^2(P;G)$ for an arbitrary abelian group $G$. For this, let $E$ be the set of edges in $\Gamma$, and, when $a \leftrightarrow b$, write $e_{a,b}$ for the edge between $a$ and $b$. Note that $e_{a,b} = e_{b,a}$.

**Corollary 2.12.** *Fix a well-ordering of $A$, and let $\delta\colon P \to \mathbb{F}^+_A$ be the corresponding preferred section. Then for each function $f\colon E\to G$, there is a unique 2-cocycle $\alpha^f \in Z^2(P;G)$ which satisfies*

$$\alpha^f_{s,t} = 1_G \qquad \text{if } \delta(st) = \delta(s)\delta(t) \tag{2.29}$$

*and*

$$\alpha^f_{\pi(a),\pi(b)} = f(e_{a,b}) \qquad \text{if } a\leftrightarrow b \text{ and } a > b. \tag{2.30}$$

*The resulting map $f \mapsto [\alpha^f]$ is an isomorphism from $\prod_{e\in E} G$ to $H^2(P;G)$.*

*Proof.* Let $\mathcal{G}$ be the tensor groupoid with one object, morphisms $G$, and tensoring functor $g\otimes h := gh$ for $g,h\in G$. Given a function $f\colon E\to G$, define a collection $(T_{a,b})_{a\leftrightarrow b}$ of morphisms by

$$T_{a,b} := \begin{cases} f(e_{a,b}) & \text{if } a < b,\\ f(e_{a,b})^{-1} & \text{if } a > b.\end{cases} \tag{2.31}$$

Equation (2.1) is obviously satisfied, and the hexagonal equation (2.2) holds since $G$ is abelian. Let $(Y^T,\alpha^T) \in Z^2(P;\mathcal{G})$ be the product system given by Theorem 2.1. Then $\alpha^f := \alpha^T$ is the unique element of $Z^2(P;G)$ which satisfies (2.29) and (2.30), and using this uniqueness property it is easy to see that $f \mapsto [\alpha^f]$ is a group homomorphism from $\prod_{e\in E} G$ to $H^2(P;G)$. Moreover, condition (2.27) in Proposition 2.11 implies that this homomorphism is injective. Since every collection $(T_{a,b})$ arises from a function $f\colon E \to G$ according to (2.31), and since $T \mapsto [(Y^T, \alpha^T)]$ is surjective, so is $f \mapsto [\alpha^f]$. □

*Remark* 2.13. When $\Gamma$ has no edges, Corollary 2.12 says that the free semigroup $\mathbb{F}_A^+$ has trivial second cohomology. When $\Gamma$ is the complete graph on $A$, it says that $H^2(\mathbb{N}^k;G)$ is isomorphic to the direct product of $\binom{k}{2}$ copies of $G$.

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