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Refinement monoids: a survey.

In this talk, we will revisit the notion of refinement of an additive identity from its very origin, and how this notion give rise to refinement (abelian) monoids and (partially ordered) groups. After recalling the basic properties associated to it, we will concentrate in presenting the applications of this notion to Ring Theory (through K-theory) and to Inverse Semigroups and monoids (through type monoids). We will close the talk by showing some interesting and unexpected connections between both approaches.