



Term Rewriting

Basic Concepts, Tools, and Applications

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Course Content

Day 1

abstract rewriting, properties of abstract rewrite systems, Newman's Lemma, term rewriting

Day 2

termination, polynomial interpretations, lexicographic path order, Knuth-Bendix order, derivational complexity

Day 3

critical pairs, confluence, orthogonality, Knuth-Bendix completion

Positions and Unification

Critical Pairs

Confluence

Completion

Conclusion

- ▶ define **positions** as means to identify certain portion of term t

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Definition (Positions)

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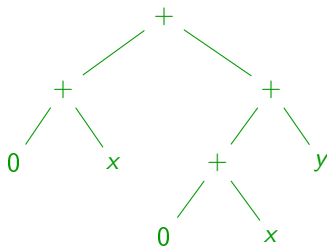
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Example

$$t = (0 + x) + ((0 + x) + y)$$



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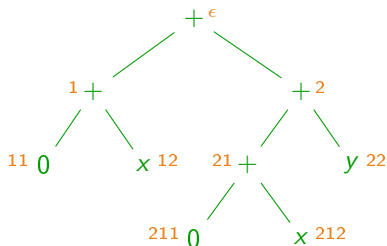
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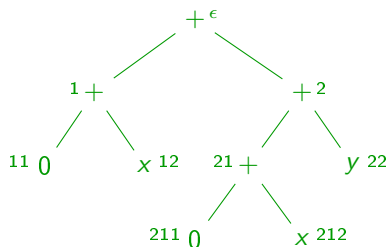
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$$\mathcal{Pos}(t) = \{\epsilon, 1, 11, 12, 2, 21, 211, 212, 22\}$$

Definitions (Operations on Terms and Positions)

► $t|_p$

subterm of t at position p

$$t|_p = \begin{cases} t & \text{if } p = \epsilon \\ t_i|_q & \text{if } t = f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \text{ and } p = i q \end{cases}$$

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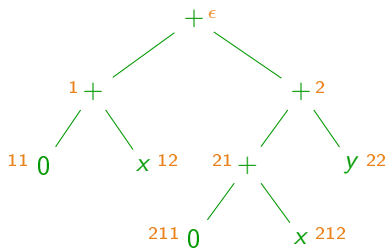
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- ▶ $t[s]_p = (t[\]_p)[s]$ replace subterm in t at position p by s

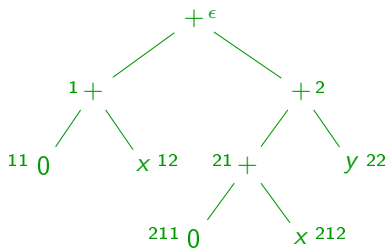
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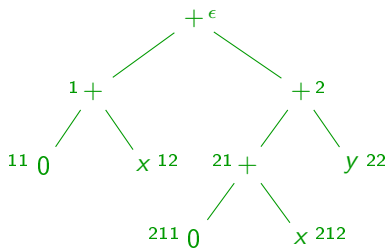
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► $t|_{11} = 0$

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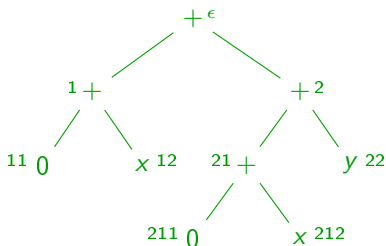
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► $t|_{11} = 0$ $t|_2 = (0 + x) + y$

► $t[z]_{11} = (z + x) + ((0 + x) + y)$ $t[0]_2 = (0 + x) + 0$

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Definitions (Unification Rules)

(d) **decomposition**

$$\frac{E_1, f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \approx f(t_1, \dots, t_n), E_2}{E_1, s_1 \approx t_1, \dots, s_n \approx t_n, E_2}$$

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($x \in \mathcal{V}$)

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(v) **variable elimination** ($x \in \mathcal{V}$)

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occurs check

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Lemma (Critical Pair Lemma)

TRS is *locally confluent* $\iff s \downarrow t$ for all *critical pairs* $s \approx t$

Example

$$e \cdot x \rightarrow x$$

$$x^{-} \cdot x \rightarrow e$$

$$(x \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow x \cdot (y \cdot z)$$

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$$1 \quad \langle e \cdot u \rightarrow u, 1, (x \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow x \cdot (y \cdot z) \rangle$$

$$2 \quad \langle u^{-} \cdot u \rightarrow e, 1, (x \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow x \cdot (y \cdot z) \rangle$$

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$$e \cdot x \rightarrow x$$

$$x^- \cdot x \rightarrow e$$

$$(x \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow x \cdot (y \cdot z)$$

► overlaps

$$1 \quad \langle e \cdot u \rightarrow u, 1, (x \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow x \cdot (y \cdot z) \rangle$$

$$2 \quad \langle u^- \cdot u \rightarrow e, 1, (x \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow x \cdot (y \cdot z) \rangle$$

$$3 \quad \langle (u \cdot v) \cdot w \rightarrow u \cdot (v \cdot w), 1, (x \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow x \cdot (y \cdot z) \rangle$$

Example

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► critical peaks

$$1 \quad u \cdot z \leftarrow (e \cdot u) \cdot z \rightarrow e \cdot (u \cdot z)$$

$$2 \quad e \cdot z \leftarrow (u^- \cdot u) \cdot z \rightarrow u^- \cdot (u \cdot z)$$

$$3 \quad (u \cdot (v \cdot w)) \cdot z \leftarrow ((u \cdot v) \cdot w) \cdot z \rightarrow (u \cdot v) \cdot (w \cdot z)$$

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► critical pairs

$$1 \quad u \cdot z \approx e \cdot (u \cdot z)$$

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Positions and Unification

Critical Pairs

Confluence

Completion

Conclusion

Lemma (Critical Pair Lemma)

TRS is locally confluent $\iff s \downarrow t$ for all critical pairs $s \approx t$

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terminating and locally confluent TRS is confluent

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$\bullet(\bullet(x)) \rightarrow \circ(x) \quad \circ(\circ(x)) \rightarrow \circ(x) \quad \bullet(\circ(x)) \rightarrow \bullet(x) \quad \circ(\bullet(x)) \rightarrow \bullet(x)$

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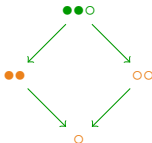
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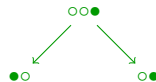
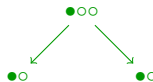
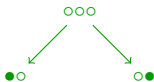
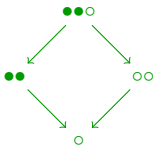
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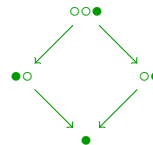
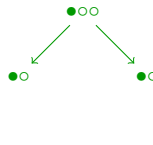
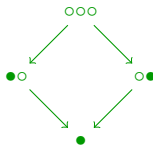
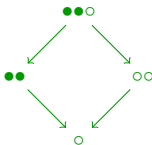
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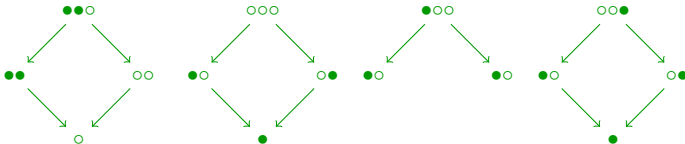
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► critical pairs:



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every strategy is winning strategy for player 2!

Example: Bean Game

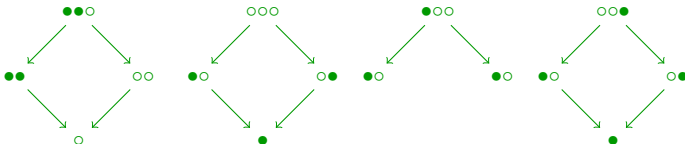
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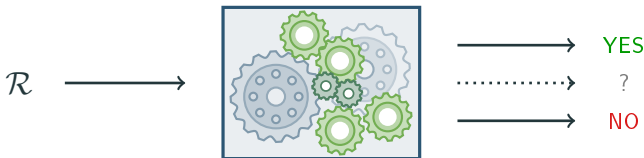
► all critical pairs are joinable: system is confluent

Confluence: Tool Support

CSI

input: term rewrite system $\mathcal{R}$

output: YES + confluence proof, or NO + counterexample

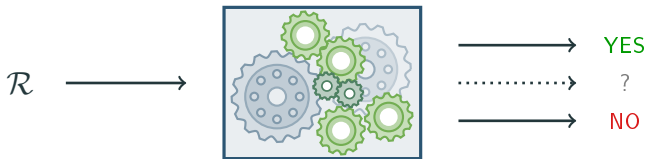


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Example (Bean Game)

●● → ○

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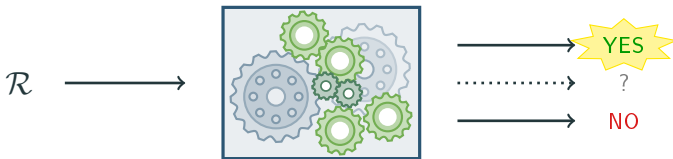
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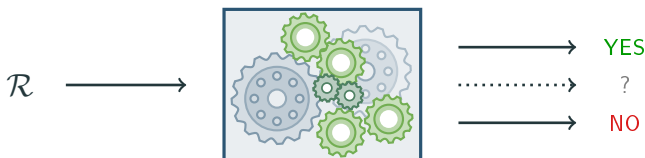
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Example (Sieve of Eratosthenes)

$\text{primes} \rightarrow \text{sieve}(\text{from}(\text{s}(\text{s}(0))))$

$\text{sieve}(0 : y) \rightarrow \text{sieve}(y)$

$\text{from}(x) \rightarrow x : \text{from}(\text{s}(x))$

$\text{sieve}(\text{s}(x) : y) \rightarrow \text{s}(x) : \text{sieve}(\text{filter}(x, y, x))$

$\text{hd}(x : y) \rightarrow x$

$\text{filter}(0, y : z, w) \rightarrow 0 : \text{filter}(w, z, w)$

$\text{tl}(x : y) \rightarrow y$

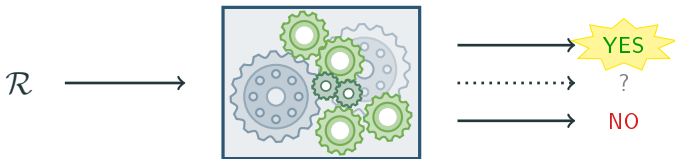
$\text{filter}(\text{s}(x), y : z, w) \rightarrow y : \text{filter}(x, z, w)$

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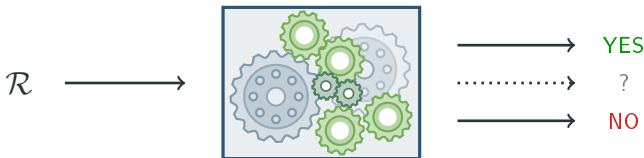
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Definition

TRS $\mathcal{R}$ is **orthogonal** if

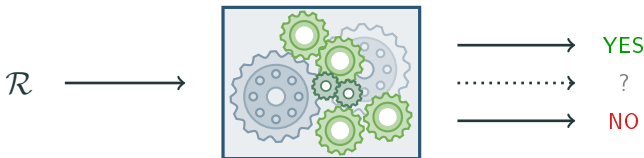
- ▶ in left-hand sides of $\mathcal{R}$ every variable occurs at most once
- ▶ $\mathcal{R}$ has no critical pairs

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- ▶ in left-hand sides of $\mathcal{R}$ every variable occurs at most once
- ▶ $\mathcal{R}$ has no critical pairs

Theorem (Rosen 1973)

orthogonal TRSs are confluent

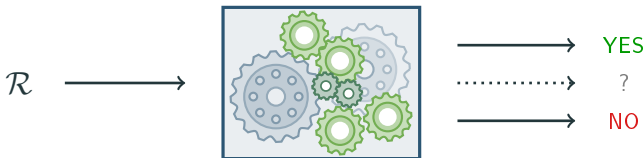
Confluence: Tool Support

CSI

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► CSI



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Positions and Unification

Critical Pairs

Confluence

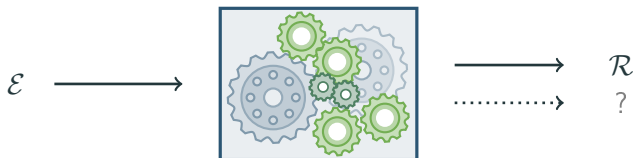
Completion

Conclusion

Knuth-Bendix Completion

input: set of equations $\mathcal{E}$

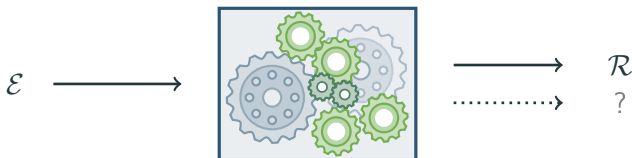
output: terminating and confluent TRS $\mathcal{R}$ such that $\leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}^* = \leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^*$



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output: terminating and confluent TRS $\mathcal{R}$ such that $\leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}^* = \leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^*$



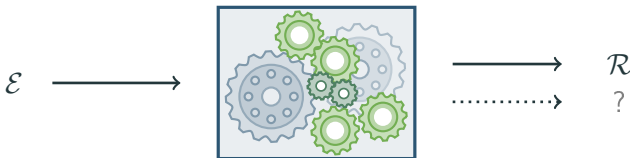
Definition

TRS $\mathcal{R}$ is **complete** if terminating and confluent

Knuth-Bendix Completion

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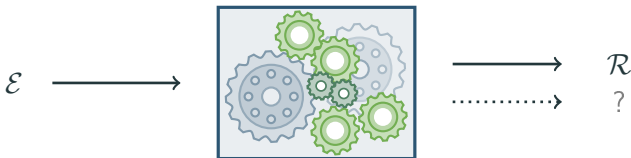
Aim: Theorem Proving via Completion

- ▶ in complete TRS every term has **unique normal form**

Knuth-Bendix Completion

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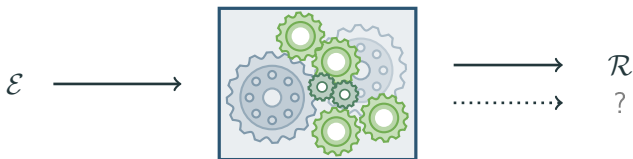
Aim: Theorem Proving via Completion

- ▶ in complete TRS every term has unique normal form
- ▶ if $\mathcal{R}$ complete and $\leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}^* = \leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^*$: $\forall s, t$ can **decide** whether $s \leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}^* t$:
check whether $\mathcal{R}$ -normal forms of s and t are equal

Knuth-Bendix Completion

input: set of equations $\mathcal{E}$

output: terminating and confluent TRS $\mathcal{R}$ such that $\leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}^* = \leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^*$



Example (Group Theory)

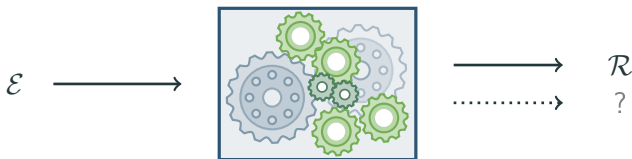
$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}: \quad & 1 \cdot x \approx x \\ & (-x) \cdot x \approx 1 \\ & x \cdot (y \cdot z) \approx (x \cdot y) \cdot z\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{R}: \quad & -1 \rightarrow 1 & -(-x) \rightarrow x \\ & 1 \cdot x \rightarrow x & (-x) \cdot (x \cdot y) \rightarrow y \\ & x \cdot 1 \rightarrow x & y \cdot ((-y) \cdot x) \rightarrow x \\ & (-x) \cdot x \rightarrow 1 & x \cdot (y \cdot z) \rightarrow (x \cdot y) \cdot z \\ & x \cdot (-x) \rightarrow 1 & -(x \cdot y) \rightarrow -y \cdot (-x)\end{aligned}$$

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input: set of equations $\mathcal{E}$

output: terminating and confluent TRS $\mathcal{R}$ such that $\leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}}^* = \leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^*$



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► group theory is decidable

Definition (Completion Inference System)

set of equations $\mathcal{E}$ set of rewrite rules $\mathcal{R}$ reduction order $>$

inference system **KB** consists of eight rules

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set of equations $\mathcal{E}$

set of rewrite rules $\mathcal{R}$

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delete $\mathcal{E} \uplus \{s \approx s\}, \mathcal{R}$

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$$\text{deduce} \quad \frac{\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{R}}{\mathcal{E} \cup \{s \approx t\}, \mathcal{R}}$$

if $s \mathcal{R} \leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$

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$$\text{compose} \quad \frac{\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{R} \uplus \{s \rightarrow t\}}{\text{if } t \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} u}$$

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$$\text{collapse} \quad \frac{\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{R} \uplus \{t \rightarrow s\}}{\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{R} \cup \{t \rightarrow s\}}$$

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Definition (Completion Inference System)

set of equations $\mathcal{E}$

set of rewrite rules $\mathcal{R}$

reduction order $>$

inference system **KB** consists of eight rules

$$\text{delete} \quad \frac{\mathcal{E} \uplus \{s \approx s\}, \mathcal{R}}{\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{R}}$$

$$\text{deduce} \quad \frac{\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{R}}{\mathcal{E} \cup \{s \approx t\}, \mathcal{R}}$$

if $s \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}} \cdot \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$

$$\text{compose} \quad \frac{\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{R} \uplus \{s \rightarrow t\}}{\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{R} \cup \{s \rightarrow u\}}$$

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Example

$$f(f(x)) \approx g(x)$$

$$g(a) \approx b$$

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► deduce $f(b) \leftarrow f(g(a)) \rightarrow g(f(a))$

critical pair

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$$f(b) \approx g(f(a))$$

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- ▶ LPO with precedence $f > g > b > a$
- ▶ complete TRS

Definition (Fair Run)

run for given ES $\mathcal{E}$ is finite sequence

$$\mathcal{E}_0, \mathcal{R}_0 \vdash \mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{R}_1 \vdash \cdots \vdash \mathcal{E}_n, \mathcal{R}_n$$

such that $\mathcal{E}_0 = \mathcal{E}$ and $\mathcal{R}_0 = \emptyset$

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- ▶ run fails if $\mathcal{E}_n \neq \emptyset$
- ▶ run is **fair** if $\text{CP}(\mathcal{R}_n) \subseteq \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}_n} \cup \bigcup_{i=0}^n \mathcal{E}_i$

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$\text{CP}(\mathcal{R}_n)$ is set of critical pairs of $\mathcal{R}_n$

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Theorem

for every fair non-failing run

$$\mathcal{E}_0, \mathcal{R}_0 \vdash \mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{R}_1 \vdash \cdots \vdash \mathcal{E}_n, \mathcal{R}_n$$

$\mathcal{R}_n$ is complete and $\leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}_n}^* = \leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{E}_0}^*$

Example: Virus Genes

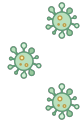


A COVID medication research team wants to develop a medicine that transforms the SARS-CoV-2 DNA:

TAGCTAGCTAGCT

into the DNA of a known and relatively benign influenza virus:

CTGACTGACT



Techniques exist to perform the following DNA transformations:

TCAT ↔ T GAG ↔ AG CTC ↔ TC AGTA ↔ A TAT ↔ CT

Recently it has been discovered that the mad cow disease is caused by a retrovirus with the following DNA sequence

CTGCTACTGACT

What now, if accidentally this virus is created? According to the engineers there is little risk because this never happened in their experiments, but medical authorities demand absolute assurance.

Example: Virus Genes (2)

equational system of known DNA transformations $\mathcal{E}$:

$\text{TCAT} \approx \text{T}$ $\text{GAG} \approx \text{AG}$ $\text{CTC} \approx \text{TC}$ $\text{AGTA} \approx \text{A}$ $\text{TAT} \approx \text{CT}$

Example: Virus Genes (2)

equational system of known DNA transformations $\mathcal{E}$:

$TCAT \approx T$ $GAG \approx AG$ $CTC \approx TC$ $AGTA \approx A$ $TAT \approx CT$

has complete presentation $\mathcal{R}$:

$GA \rightarrow A$ $AGT \rightarrow AT$ $ATA \rightarrow A$ $TCA \rightarrow TA$ $TAT \rightarrow T$ $CT \rightarrow T$

Example: Virus Genes (2)

equational system of known DNA transformations $\mathcal{E}$:

$$\text{TCAT} \approx \text{T} \quad \text{GAG} \approx \text{AG} \quad \text{CTC} \approx \text{TC} \quad \text{AGTA} \approx \text{A} \quad \text{TAT} \approx \text{CT}$$

has complete presentation $\mathcal{R}$:

$$\text{GA} \rightarrow \text{A} \quad \text{AGT} \rightarrow \text{AT} \quad \text{ATA} \rightarrow \text{A} \quad \text{TCA} \rightarrow \text{TA} \quad \text{TAT} \rightarrow \text{T} \quad \text{CT} \rightarrow \text{T}$$

► (Sars-CoV-2) $\text{TAGCTAGCTAGCT} \xleftrightarrow[\mathcal{E}]{*} \text{CTGACTGACT}$ (influenza)

$$\text{TAGCTAGCTAGCT} \xrightarrow[\mathcal{R}]{!} \text{T} \xleftarrow[\mathcal{R}]{!} \text{CTGACTGACT}$$

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$$\text{TAGCTAGCTAGCT} \xrightarrow[\mathcal{R}]{!} \text{T} \neq \text{TGT} \xleftarrow[\mathcal{R}]{!} \text{CTGCTACTGACT}$$

Example: Virus Genes (2)

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► mkbtt

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Example: Chameleon Puzzle



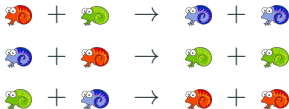
A colony of chameleons consists of 20 red, 18 blue, and 16 green animals. Whenever two of different color meet, both change to the third color. Is it possible that all 54 chameleons become the same color?

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$$x + y \approx y + x$$

$$(x + y) + z \approx x + (y + z)$$

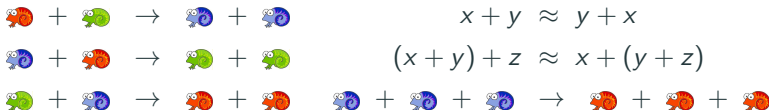
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`mkbtt` produces complete TRS (modulo associativity + commutativity):



► `mkbtt`

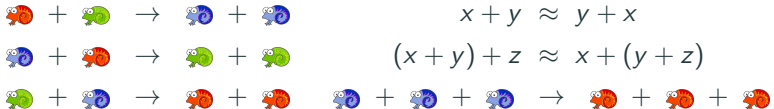
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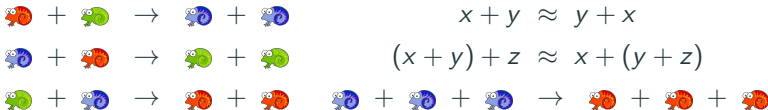
► initial colony: 20  + 18  + 16 

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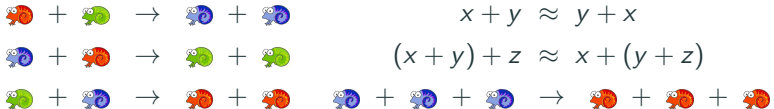
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- 54 $\rightarrow^!$ 54 54 $\rightarrow^!$ 54 54 $\rightarrow^!$ 54

Practice Example: Data Migration

- ▶ commercial data migration tool **AQL** by ConexusAI is based on category theory and uses **(ordered) completion**
- ▶ many symbols and possible orders, ground complete system required
- ▶ AQL uses reimplementations of **mædmax**

$$\text{ylsW}(a_1) \approx w_{29} \quad \text{ylsW}(a_{78}) \approx w_{16} \quad \text{ylsW}(a_{61}) \approx w_{30}$$

$$\text{ylsL}(a_{37}) \approx l_{80} \quad \text{ylsL}(a_{84}) \approx l_6 \quad \text{ylsL}(a_{29}) \approx l_{47}$$

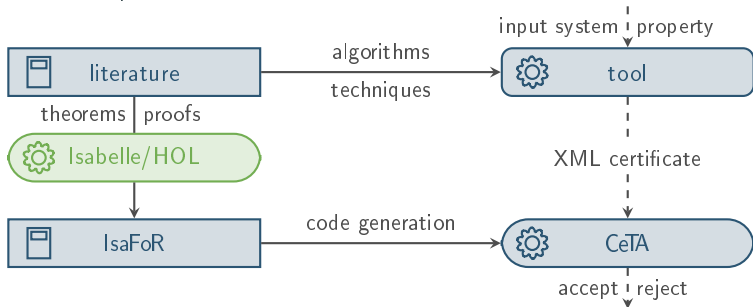
...

$$\text{ylsL}(a_{51}) \approx l_{77} \quad \text{ylsL}(a_{88}) \approx l_9 \quad \text{ylsL}(X) \approx \text{ylsWW}(\text{ylsW}(X))$$

<http://conexus.com>

Why Trust These Tools?

The IsaFoR/CeTA framework



- ▶ formalize tool methods in proof assistant Isabelle/HOL
- ▶ obtain code-generated proof checker CeTA to verify tool output

Certification of Tool Output: Overview

▶ $T_T T_2$					
standard TRS:	829	YES	(750 )	200	NO (193 )
standard SRS:	733	YES	(670 )	43	NO (24 )
▶ CSI					
standard TRS:	42	YES	(28 )	33	NO (23 )
▶ $T_C T$					
TPDB:	203	YES	(165 )		
▶ mædmax					
TPTP:	112	SAT	(69 )	621	UNSAT (612 )

Data taken from Termination and Confluence Competitions 2019, [AST15], [WM18], [SWZ15].

Positions and Unification

Critical Pairs

Confluence

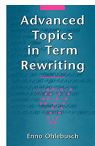
Completion

Conclusion

Further Reading

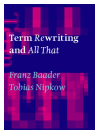


Franz Baader and Tobias Nipkow. *Term Rewriting and All That*. Cambridge University Press, 1998.

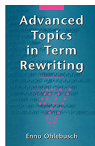


Enno Ohlebusch. *Advanced Topics in Term Rewriting*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Further Reading



Franz Baader and Tobias Nipkow. *Term Rewriting and All That*. Cambridge University Press, 1998.



Enno Ohlebusch. *Advanced Topics in Term Rewriting*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.

International Summer School on Rewriting

- ▶ general website of IFIP working group
- ▶ last and upcoming editions:
 - ▶ 2019 in Paris, France
 - ▶ 2021 in Madrid, Spain
 - ▶ 2022 in Tbilisi, Georgia

Conclusion

Term Rewriting^{*}



- ▶ Turing complete model of computation
- ▶ rewriting techniques can serve as toolbox to analyze properties

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^{*} Many thanks to Aart Middeldorp for permission to use his slides.

Conclusion

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Applications

program analysis, theorem proving, simplification systems, ...

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Conclusion

Term Rewriting^{*}



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- ▶ rewriting techniques can serve as toolbox to analyze properties

Applications

program analysis, theorem proving, simplification systems, ...

Automatic Tools

- ▶ termination analysis
- ▶ confluence analysis
- ▶ Knuth-Bendix completion
- ▶ complexity analysis

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Exercises

1

2

3

4

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