

ISR 2026 — Basic Track

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partially based on slides by: Aart Middeldorp

hosting institution:

Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen

The Netherlands

- Part 1-2: Abstract Rewriting
- Part 3: Term Rewriting
- Part 5: Termination: Monotonic Algebras
- Part 6: Termination: Recursive Path Ordering
- Part 7: Confluence: Unification and Critical Pairs
- Part 9-10: Weak and Strong Normalization for Typed Lambda Calculus
- Part 11: Equational Reasoning and Completion
- Part 13: Termination: Dependency Pair Framework
- Part 15: Confluence: Orthogonality
- Part 16: Confluence: Decreasing Diagrams
- Part 17: Advanced Topics

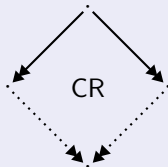
Outline

- Overview
- Orthogonality
- Beyond Orthogonality
- Developments
- Strategies

Orthogonality

Confluence

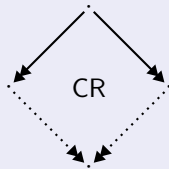
every two coinitial rewrite sequences can be joined



- ... yields uniqueness of normal forms
- ... is decidable for terminating TRSs

Confluence

every two coinitial rewrite sequences can be joined



- ... yields uniqueness of normal forms
- ... is decidable for terminating TRSs
- ... **what about nonterminating TRSs ?**

Examples (Non-Confluence)

- no confluence because of critical pairs

$$a \rightarrow b$$

$$a \rightarrow c$$

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- no critical pairs but no confluence (Klop 1978)

$$f(x, x) \rightarrow a$$

$$g(x) \rightarrow f(x, g(x))$$

$$c \rightarrow g(c)$$

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Confluence via Critical Pairs

Control interference of rewrite rules:

- Critical Pair Lemma:

$\text{WCR} \iff \leftarrow \times \rightarrow \subseteq \downarrow$ (all critical pairs are convergent)

- Combine with Newman's Lemma:

$\text{SN} \ \& \ \leftarrow \times \rightarrow \subseteq \downarrow \implies \text{CR}$

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- Combine with Newman's Lemma:

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Observe from preceding examples:

Confluence via Orthogonality

Forbid interference of rewrite rules

- **no critical pairs**
- **no equality checks** (duplicated variables in the left-hand sides)

Definitions

- term t is **linear** if each variable in $\text{Var}(t)$ occurs exactly once in t

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left-linear but not right-linear

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Examples

- $g(x) \rightarrow f(x, g(x))$
left-linear but not right-linear
- $f(\textcolor{red}{x}, \textcolor{red}{x}) \rightarrow a$
right-linear but not left-linear

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A TRS is **orthogonal** if it is **left-linear** and has **no critical pairs**.

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Examples

$$I \cdot x \rightarrow x$$

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

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

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$$\text{ack}(0, y) \rightarrow s(y)$$

$$\text{ack}(s(x), 0) \rightarrow \text{ack}(x, s(0))$$

$$\text{ack}(s(x), s(y)) \rightarrow \text{ack}(x, \text{ack}(s(x), y))$$

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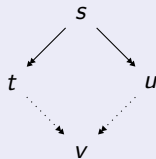
$$\text{ack}(s(x), 0) \rightarrow \text{ack}(x, s(0))$$

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Theorem

Every orthogonal TRS is confluent

$$\forall s, t, u$$

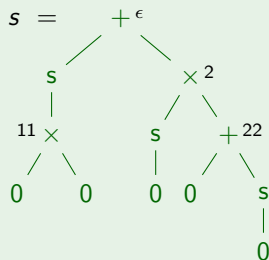


$$\exists v$$

For orthogonal TRSs there is a canonical way to compute common reduct. . .

Example

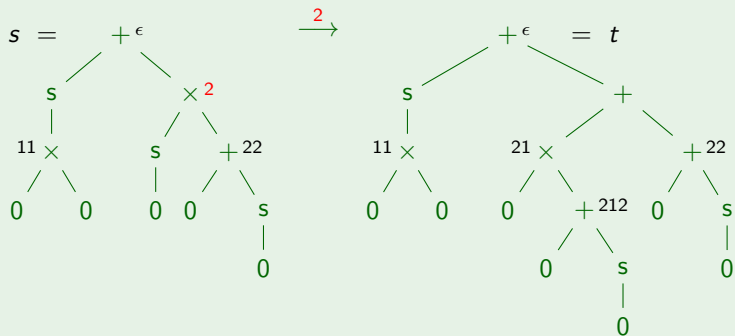
$$0 + y \rightarrow y \quad s(x) + y \rightarrow s(x + y) \quad 0 \times y \rightarrow 0 \quad s(x) \times y \rightarrow (x \times y) + y$$



redex positions in s : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid 2 \mid 22 \mid$

Example

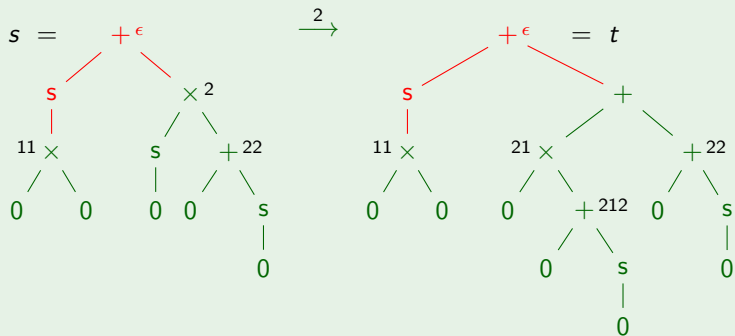
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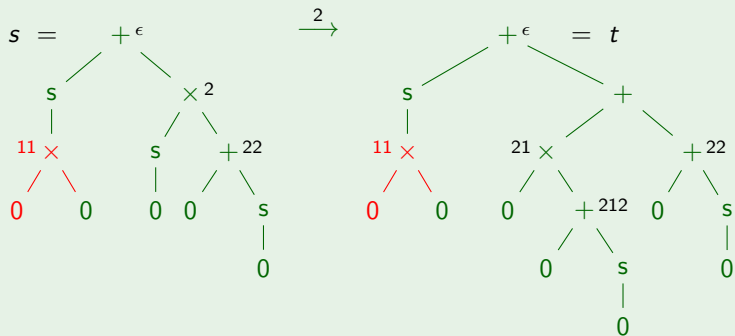


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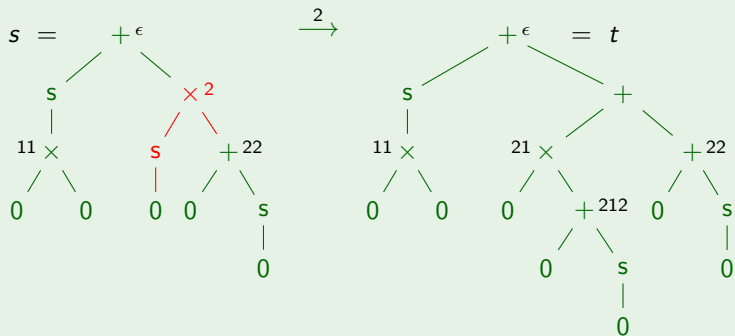


redex positions in s : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid 2 \mid 22 \mid$

redex positions in t : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid 212 \mid 22 \mid$

Example

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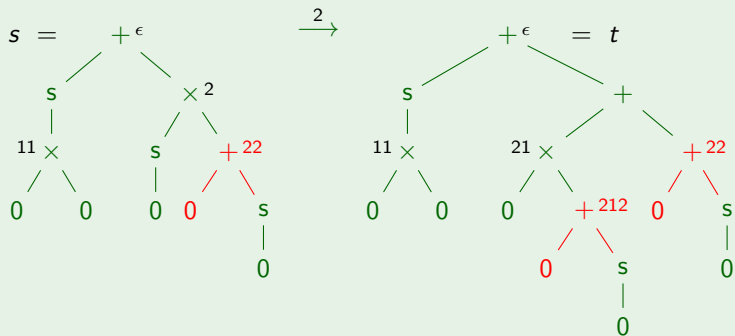


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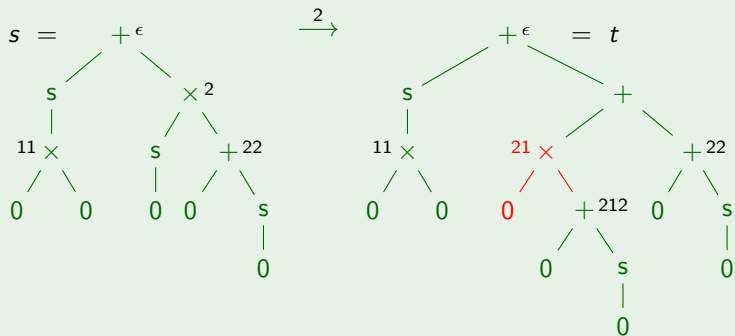
redex positions in s : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid 2 \mid \textcolor{red}{22} \mid$

redex positions in t : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid \textcolor{red}{212} \mid \textcolor{red}{22} \mid$

duplicated

Example

$$0 + y \rightarrow y \quad s(x) + y \rightarrow s(x + y) \quad 0 \times y \rightarrow 0 \quad s(x) \times y \rightarrow (x \times y) + y$$



redex positions in s : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid 2 \mid 22$

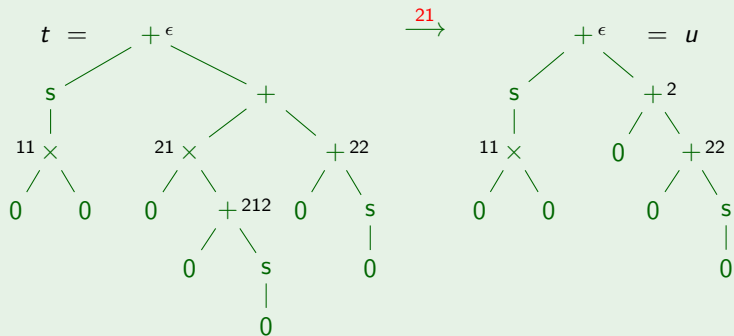
redex positions in t : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid 212 \mid 22 \mid 21$

redex at position 22 is duplicated

redex at position 21 is **created**

Example

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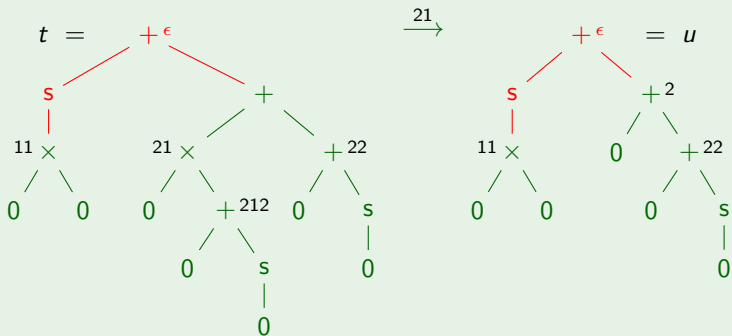


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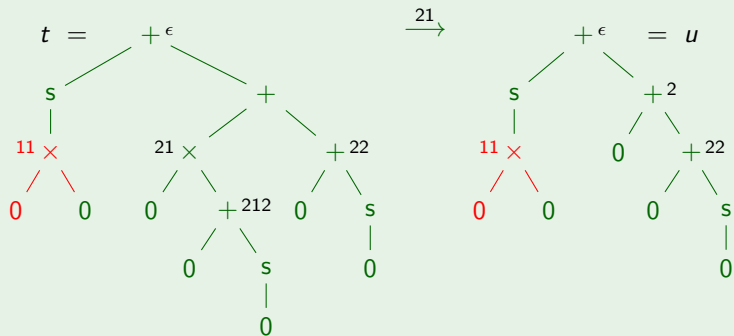
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redex positions in s : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid 2 \mid 22 \mid$
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 redex positions in u : $\epsilon \mid$

Example

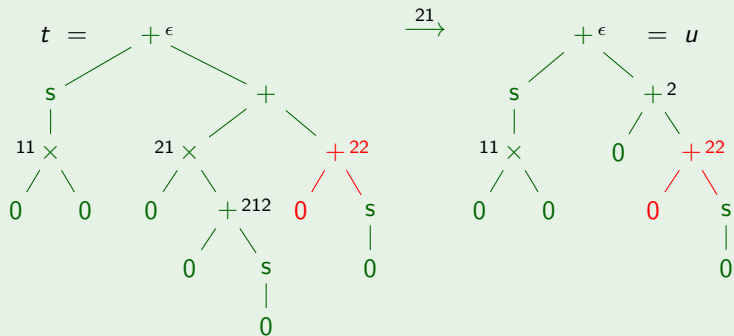
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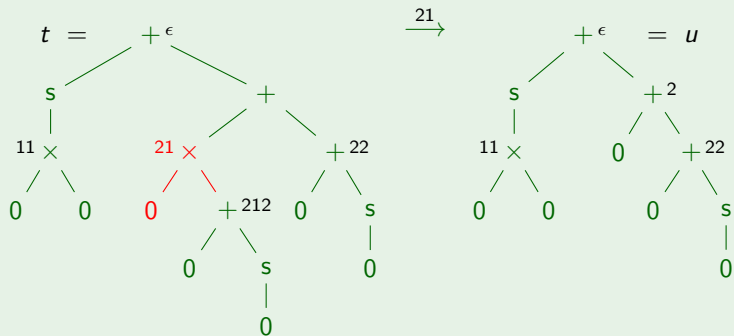
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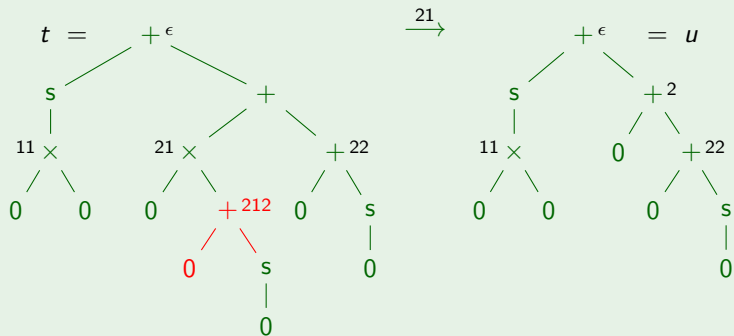
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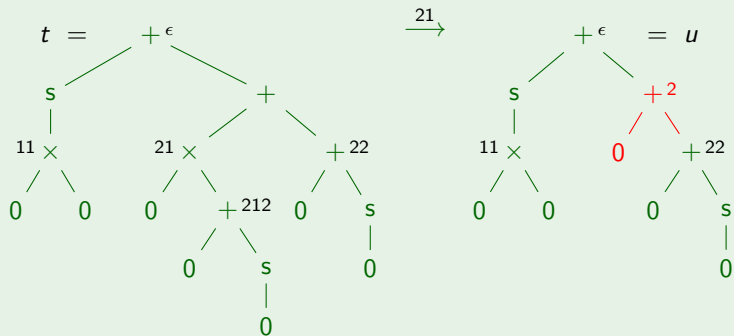


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erased

Example

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redex positions in t : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid 212 \mid 22 \mid 21$

redex positions in u : $\epsilon \mid 11 \mid 22 \mid 2$

redex at position 212 is erased

redex at position 2 is **created**

rewrite step $A: s \xrightarrow[\ell \rightarrow r]{p} t$ at position $p \in \mathcal{Pos}(s)$ set of positions $Q \subseteq \mathcal{Pos}(s)$

Definition (Descendants after Rewrite Step)

- The **descendants** of q after A in t

$$q/A = \begin{cases} \{q\} & \text{if } q < p \text{ or } q \parallel p \\ \{pp_3p_2 \mid r|_{p_3} = \ell|_{p_1}\} & \text{if } q = pp_1p_2 \text{ with } p_1 \in \mathcal{Pos}_{\mathcal{X}}(\ell) \\ \emptyset & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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- The descendants of Q after A in t are

$$Q/A = \bigcup_{q \in Q} q/A$$

rewrite **sequence** $A: s \rightarrow^* t$ set of positions $Q \subseteq \mathcal{Pos}(s)$

Definition (Descendants after Rewrite Sequence)

The descendants of Q after A in t

$$Q/A = \begin{cases} Q & \text{if } A \text{ is empty sequence} \\ (Q/A_1)/A_2 & \text{if } A = A_1; A_2 \text{ with } A_1: s \rightarrow u \text{ and } A_2: u \rightarrow^* t \end{cases}$$

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Lemma

For left-linear TRSs: if Q is parallel ($\forall p \neq q \in Q: p \parallel q$) then so is Q/A .

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Lemma

For orthogonal TRSs: if Q is set of redex positions then so is Q/A .

A descendant of redex is called **residual**.

Remark

- In non-left-linear TRS descendant of redex is not necessarily redex

$$\begin{array}{ll} a \rightarrow b & f(a,a) \rightarrow f(b,a) \\ f(x,x) \rightarrow b & \end{array}$$

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- In non-left-linear TRS descendant of redex is not necessarily redex

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- In TRS with critical pairs descendant of redex is not necessarily redex

$$\begin{array}{ll} a \rightarrow b & f(a) \rightarrow f(b) \\ f(a) \rightarrow b & \end{array}$$

Definition (Parallel Rewriting)

$$1 = \subseteq \Rightarrow$$

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$$1 \quad = \subseteq \multimap$$

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$$3 \quad f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \multimap f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \text{ if } s_i \multimap t_i \text{ for each } 1 \leq i \leq n$$

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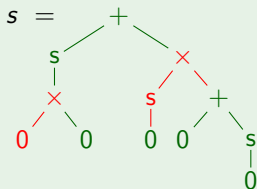
$$1 \quad = \subseteq \Downarrow$$

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Example

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Definition (Parallel Rewriting)

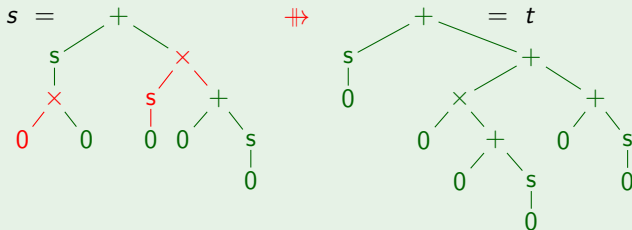
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3 $f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \Downarrow f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ if $s_i \Downarrow t_i$ for each $1 \leq i \leq n$

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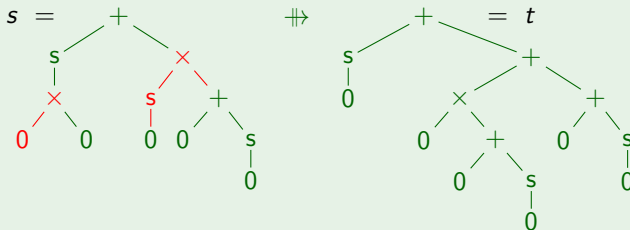
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Lemma

$$s \Downarrow t \iff s \rightarrow^* t \text{ by contracting redexes at pairwise parallel positions in } s$$

Definition (Projection)

$A: s \twoheadrightarrow t_1$ by contracting redexes at positions in P_A

$B: s \twoheadrightarrow t_2$ by contracting redexes at positions in P_B

Definition (Projection)

$A: s \twoheadrightarrow t_1$ by contracting redexes at positions in P_A

$B: s \twoheadrightarrow t_2$ by contracting redexes at positions in P_B

- $B/A: t_1 \twoheadrightarrow u_1$ by contracting redexes at positions in P_B/A

Definition (Projection)

A : $s \twoheadrightarrow t_1$ by contracting redexes at positions in P_A

B : $s \twoheadrightarrow t_2$ by contracting redexes at positions in P_B

- B/A : $t_1 \twoheadrightarrow u_1$ by contracting redexes at positions in P_B/A
- A/B : $t_2 \twoheadrightarrow u_2$ by contracting redexes at positions in P_A/B

Definition (Projection)

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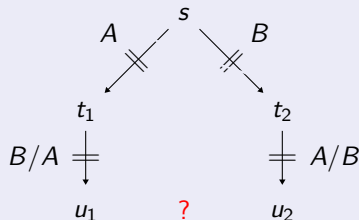
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Parallel Moves Lemma

For every orthogonal TRS:



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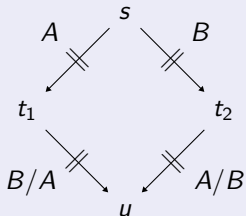
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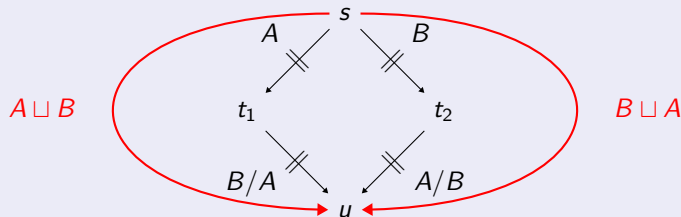
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Definition

$A: s_1 \rightarrow^* t_1$ and $B: s_2 \rightarrow^* t_2$ are **permutation equivalent** ($A \simeq B$) if

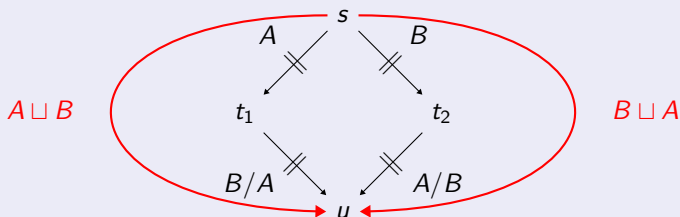
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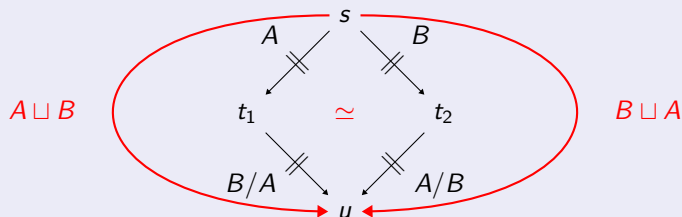


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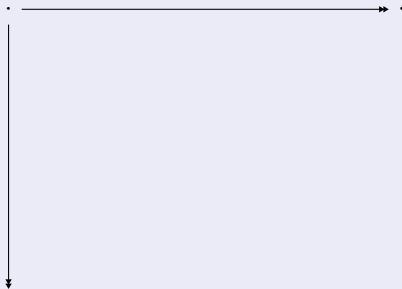
Parallel Moves Lemma (with Permutation Equivalence)



Corollary

Every orthogonal TRSs is confluent.

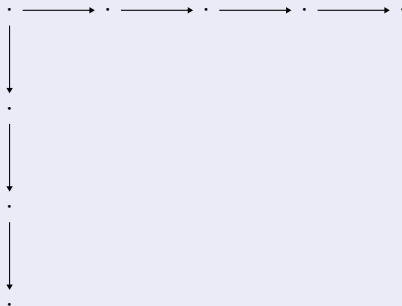
Proof.



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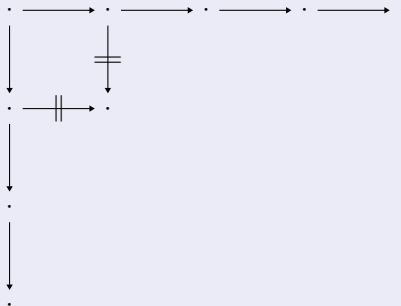
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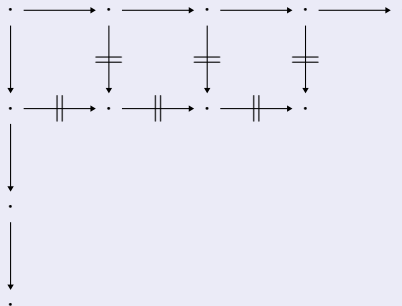
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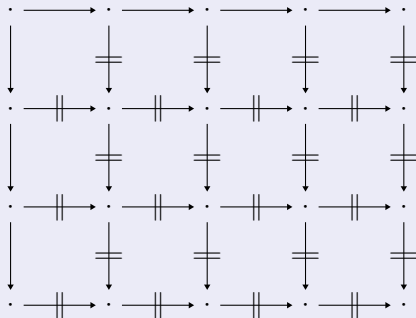
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Corollary

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Outline

- Overview
- Orthogonality
- Beyond Orthogonality
- Developments
- Strategies

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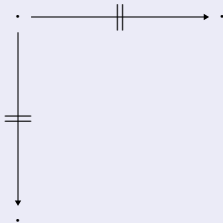
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Proof Sketch.

- $\leftarrow \parallel \cdot \parallel \rightarrow \subseteq \parallel \rightarrow \cdot \leftarrow \parallel$

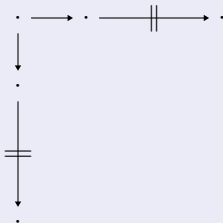


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interesting case

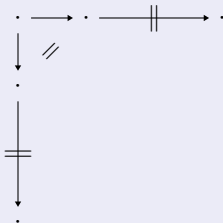


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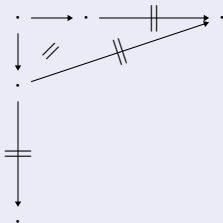


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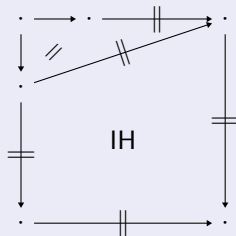


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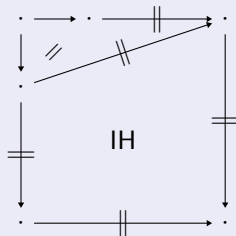


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interesting case

- $\rightarrow \subseteq \parallel \rightarrow \subseteq \rightarrow^*$



Theorem (Huet 1980)

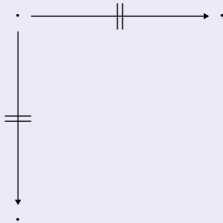
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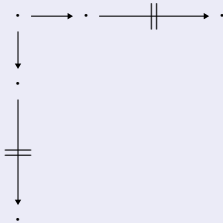


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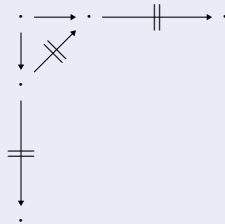


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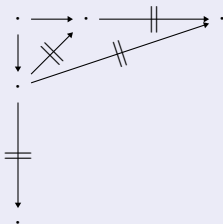


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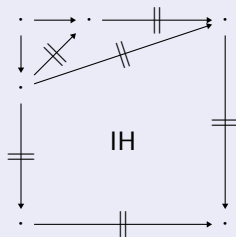


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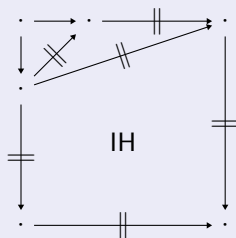


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interesting case

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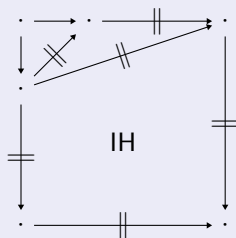


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Open Problem

left-linearity & $\leftarrow \bowtie \rightarrow \subseteq \leftarrow \implies CR ?$

Theorem (Huet 1980)

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Notation

- $s \leftarrow \bowtie \rightarrow t$ for critical pair originating from overlap $\langle l_1 \rightarrow r_1, \epsilon, l_2 \rightarrow r_2 \rangle$
- $\leftarrow \bowtie \rightarrow = \leftarrow \bowtie \rightarrow \setminus \leftarrow \bowtie \rightarrow$

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Theorem (van Oostrom 1996)

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Developments

Definition

A **development** of set of redex positions Q in term t is a rewrite sequence starting from t in which all contracted redex positions descend from positions in Q .

Example

- rewrite rules

$$0 + y \rightarrow y$$

$$s(x) + y \rightarrow s(x + y)$$

$$0 \times y \rightarrow 0$$

$$s(x) \times y \rightarrow (x \times y) + y$$

- rewrite sequences

$$\underline{s(0) \times (0 \times 0)} \rightarrow (0 \times \underline{(0 \times 0)}) + (0 \times 0) \rightarrow (0 \times 0) + (0 \times 0)$$



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Definition (Overlining)

For a TRS $\mathcal{R} = \langle \Sigma, R \rangle$ we define the **overlined** TRS $\overline{\mathcal{R}} = \langle \overline{\Sigma}, \overline{R} \rangle$:

- $\overline{\Sigma} = \Sigma \cup \{\overline{f} \mid f \in \Sigma\},$
- $\overline{R} = \{\overline{\rho} \mid \rho \in R\}$

where $\overline{\rho}$ is obtained from ρ by overlining the head symbol of the left-hand side.

$$\rho : f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \rightarrow r \quad \text{yields} \quad \overline{\rho} : \overline{f}(s_1, \dots, s_n) \rightarrow r$$

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Example

The overlined version of Combinatory Logic:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \overline{Ap}(Ap(Ap(S, x), y), z) & \rightarrow Ap(Ap(x, z), Ap(y, z)) \\ \overline{Ap}(Ap(K, x), y) & \rightarrow x \\ \overline{Ap}(I, x) & \rightarrow x \end{array}$$

We write $t \geq s$ if t can be obtained from s by overlining some redex positions.

Definition (Lifting)

A $\mathcal{R}$ rewrite sequence $A : s_1 \rightarrow s_2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow s_n$ can be **lifted** if:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 t_1 & \xrightarrow{\langle \bar{\rho}_1, p_1 \rangle} & t_2 & \xrightarrow{\langle \bar{\rho}_2, p_2 \rangle} & \dots & \xrightarrow{\langle \bar{\rho}_{n-1}, p_{n-1} \rangle} & t_n \\
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Lemma

For orthogonal TRSs: a reduction is a development $\iff$ it can be lifted.

Theorem

Properties of $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ for orthogonal TRSs $\mathcal{R}$:

- $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ is orthogonal.
- $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ is SN.
- $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ is CR.

Proof.

The orthogonality of $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ is immediate. Hence $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ is CR.

For SN we show that $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ is ILPO terminating where $\bar{f} > g$ for every $f, g \in \Sigma$.

Let $\ell = \bar{f}(\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n)$ and $r \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \mathcal{X})$ with $\text{Var}(r) \subseteq \text{Var} \ell$.

Then $\ell^* \rightarrow_{ilpo}^* r$ by induction on r :

- If $r \in \text{Var}(\ell)$, then we use $\rightarrow_{put}$ and $\rightarrow_{select}$.
- If $r = g(r_1, \dots, r_m)$, then we use $\ell^* \rightarrow_{copy} g(\ell^*, \dots, \ell^*)$.
Moreover by the induction hypothesis $\ell^* \rightarrow_{ilpo}^* r_i$ for every i .

Theorem

*Developments are **finite**.*

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Developments are finite.

Definition

A development $A: s \rightarrow^* t$ of $Q \subseteq \mathcal{P}\text{os}(s)$ is **complete** if $Q/A = \emptyset$.

We write $s \twoheadrightarrow t$ (called **multi-step**) if there is a complete development $s \rightarrow^* t$.

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Theorem

*All complete developments of Q are **permutation equivalent**.*

Strategies

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- $\mathcal{S}$ is **perpetual** if every maximal $\mathcal{S}$ rewrite sequence starting from any non-terminating term is infinite

Definition

A rewrite sequence is **maximal** if it is infinite, or it ends in a normal form.

Definition

A **rewrite strategy** $\mathcal{S}$ is mapping that assigns to every reducible term t a nonempty set of finite nonempty rewrite sequences starting from t .

- $\mathcal{S}$ is **deterministic** if $|\mathcal{S}(t)| = 1$ for every reducible term t
- $\mathcal{S}$ **normalizes** term t if there are no infinite $\mathcal{S}$ rewrite sequences starting from t
- $\mathcal{S}$ is **normalizing** if it normalizes every term that has a normal form
- $\mathcal{S}$ is **perpetual** if every maximal $\mathcal{S}$ rewrite sequence starting from any non-terminating term is infinite

Definition

A rewrite sequence is **maximal** if it is infinite, or it ends in a normal form.

Lemma

*For terminating TRSs every strategy is **normalizing** and **perpetual**.*

Example

- rewrite rules

$0 + 0 \rightarrow 0$	$1 + 0 \rightarrow 1$	$\dots$	$9 + 0 \rightarrow 9$
$0 + 1 \rightarrow 1$	$1 + 1 \rightarrow 2$	$\dots$	$9 + 1 \rightarrow 1 : 0$
$0 + 2 \rightarrow 2$	$1 + 2 \rightarrow 3$	$\dots$	$9 + 2 \rightarrow 1 : 1$
$0 + 3 \rightarrow 3$	$1 + 3 \rightarrow 4$	$\dots$	$9 + 3 \rightarrow 1 : 2$
$0 + 4 \rightarrow 4$	$1 + 4 \rightarrow 5$	$\dots$	$9 + 4 \rightarrow 1 : 3$
$0 + 5 \rightarrow 5$	$1 + 5 \rightarrow 6$	$\dots$	$9 + 5 \rightarrow 1 : 4$
$0 + 6 \rightarrow 6$	$1 + 6 \rightarrow 7$	$\dots$	$9 + 6 \rightarrow 1 : 5$
$0 + 7 \rightarrow 7$	$1 + 7 \rightarrow 8$	$\dots$	$9 + 7 \rightarrow 1 : 6$
$0 + 8 \rightarrow 8$	$1 + 8 \rightarrow 9$	$\dots$	$9 + 8 \rightarrow 1 : 7$
$0 + 9 \rightarrow 9$	$1 + 9 \rightarrow 1 : 0$	$\dots$	$9 + 9 \rightarrow 1 : 8$
$x + (y : z) \rightarrow y : (x + z)$			$0 : x \rightarrow x$
$(x : y) + z \rightarrow x : (y + z)$			$x : (y : z) \rightarrow (x + y) : z$

- term

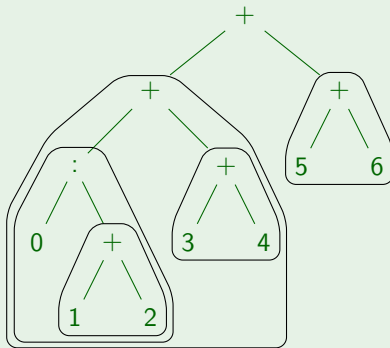
$$((0 : (1 + 2)) + (3 + 4)) + (5 + 6)$$

Example (cont'd)

term

$$0 : 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6$$

tree representation

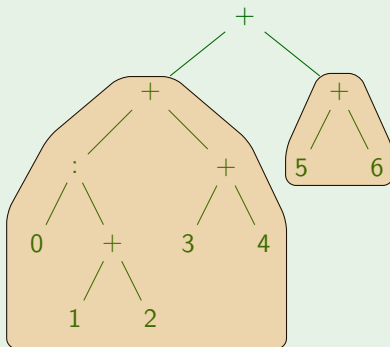


Example (cont'd)

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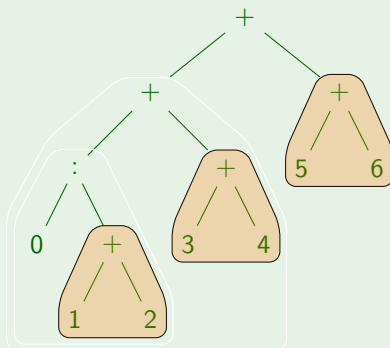
outermost redexes

Example (cont'd)

term

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tree representation



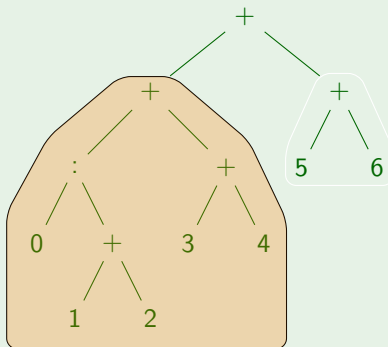
innermost redexes

Example (cont'd)

term

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tree representation



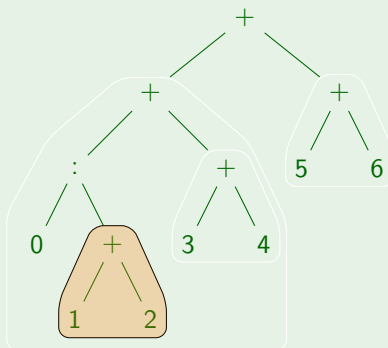
leftmost outermost strategy

Example (cont'd)

term

$$0 : 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6$$

tree representation



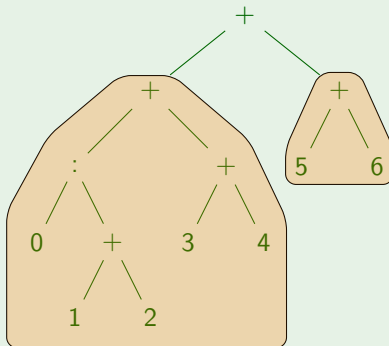
leftmost innermost strategy

Example (cont'd)

term

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tree representation



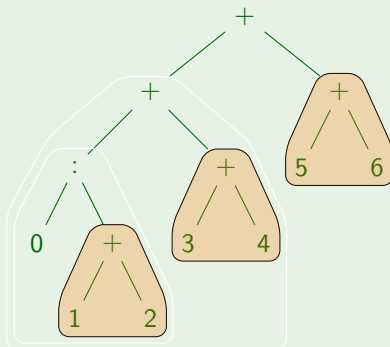
parallel outermost strategy

Example (cont'd)

term

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tree representation



parallel innermost strategy

Definition

Leftmost outermost strategy always reduces the leftmost of the outermost redexes.

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Definition

Parallel outermost strategy always reduces all outermost redexes in parallel.

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Definition

The **full substitution** strategy performs **complete development** of all redexes.

Theorem

For orthogonal TRSs

- *full substitution and parallel outermost strategies are normalizing*
- *outermost-fair strategies are normalizing*
- *innermost strategies are perpetual*
- *leftmost outermost strategy is not normalizing*

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Example

$a \rightarrow b$

$c \rightarrow c$

$f(x, b) \rightarrow b$

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| • leftmost outermost | $f(c, a)$ |
| • leftmost innermost | $f(c, a)$ |
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| • parallel innermost | $f(c, a)$ |
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