



Introduction to Term Rewriting

lecture 5

Aart Middeldorp and Femke van Raamsdonk

Institute of Computer Science
University of Innsbruck

Department of Computer Science
VU Amsterdam



Overview

Outline

- Critical Pairs
- Unification
- Completion

Overview

Sunday

introduction, examples, abstract rewriting, equational reasoning, term rewriting

Monday

termination, **completion**

Tuesday

completion, termination

Wednesday

confluence, modularity, strategies

Thursday

exam, advanced topics

AM & FvR

ISR 2010 – lecture 5

2/28

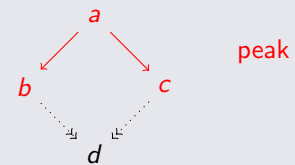
Critical Pairs

Newman's Lemma

SN & WCR \Rightarrow CR

Definition (WCR)

$\forall a, b, c$

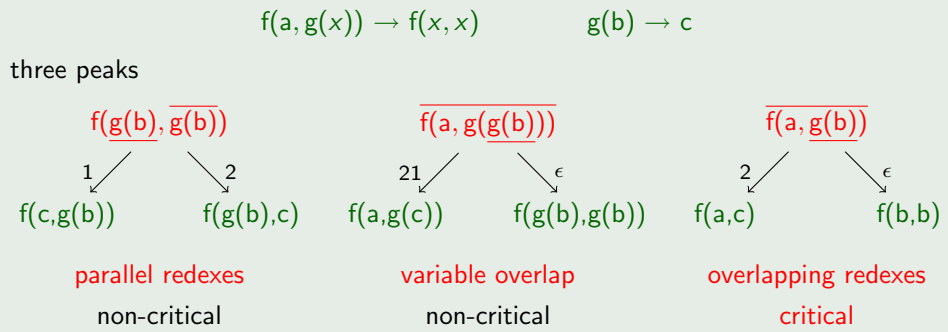


$\exists d$

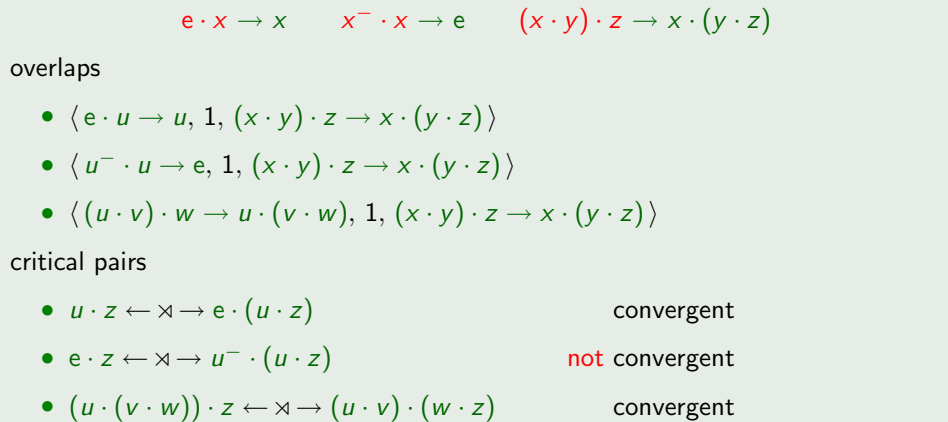
Question

how to prove WCR ?

Example



Example



Theorem (Knuth & Bendix 1970)

terminating TRS is confluent \iff all critical pairs are convergent

Definitions

- **overlap** is triple $\langle l_1 \rightarrow r_1, p, l_2 \rightarrow r_2 \rangle$ such that
 - 1 $l_1 \rightarrow r_1$ and $l_2 \rightarrow r_2$ are rewrite rules without common variables
 - 2 $p \in \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(l_2)$
 - 3 l_1 and $l_2|_p$ are unifiable with most general unifier σ
 - 4 if $p = \epsilon$ then $l_1 \rightarrow r_1$ and $l_2 \rightarrow r_2$ are not variants
- $l_2\sigma[r_1\sigma]_p \leftarrow \times \rightarrow r_2\sigma$ **critical pair**
- critical pair $s \leftarrow \times \rightarrow t$ is **convergent** if $s \downarrow t$

Critical Pair Lemma (Huet 1980)

TRS is locally confluent \iff all critical pairs are convergent

Outline

- Critical Pairs
- Unification
- Completion

Definition

composition of substitutions σ and τ :

$$\sigma\tau = \{x \mapsto \sigma(x)\tau \mid x \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

Example

$$\sigma = \{x \mapsto s(y), y \mapsto x + s(0)\} \quad \tau = \{x \mapsto s(0), z \mapsto s(s(y))\}$$

- $\sigma\tau = \{x \mapsto s(y), y \mapsto s(0) + s(0), z \mapsto s(s(y))\}$
- $\tau\sigma = \{x \mapsto s(0), y \mapsto x + s(0), z \mapsto s(s(x + s(0)))\}$

Lemma

$(\rho\sigma)\tau = \rho(\sigma\tau)$ for all substitutions ρ, σ, τ

Definitions

- \leq subsumption
 $s \leq t \iff \exists \sigma: s\sigma = t$ “s subsumes t” “t is instance of s”
- $<$ proper subsumption
 $s < t \iff s \leq t \wedge \neg(t \leq s)$

Example

$$x + y \leq s(y) + s(0) \quad s(x) + y \not\leq x + s(0) \quad s(x) + y \leq s(x) + x$$

Lemma

$>$ is well-founded order on terms

Definitions

- \doteq literal similarity
 $s \doteq t \iff s \leq t \wedge t \leq s$
- variable substitution is substitution from \mathcal{V} to \mathcal{V}
- renaming is bijective variable substitution
- terms s and t are variants if $s = t\sigma$ for some renaming σ

Lemma

terms s and t are variants $\iff s \doteq t$

Example

$$s(x) + s(y + 0) \doteq s(y) + s(z + 0) \quad s(x) + s(y + 0) \not\doteq s(x) + s(x + 0)$$

Definition (Unification Problem)

instance: terms s, t

question: \exists substitution $\sigma: s\sigma = t\sigma$?
unifier

Definition

substitution σ is at least as general as τ ($\sigma \leq \tau$) if \exists substitution $\rho: \sigma\rho = \tau$

Lemma

$>$ is well-founded order on substitutions

Definition

most general unifier (mgu) is at least as general as any other unifier

Definition (Unification Rules)

d decomposition

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

t removal of trivial equations $(x \in \mathcal{V})$

$$\frac{E_1, x \approx x, E_2}{E_1, E_2}$$

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

$$\frac{E_1, x \approx t, E_2}{(E_1, E_2)\sigma} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{E_1, t \approx x, E_2}{(E_1, E_2)\sigma}$$

if $x \notin \mathcal{V}\text{ar}(t)$ and $\sigma = \{x \mapsto t\}$
occurs check

Example

$$x + (0 + s(y)) \approx s(z) + (0 + x)$$

d ↓

$$x \approx s(z), 0 + s(y) \approx 0 + x$$

v ↓ $x \mapsto s(z)$

$$0 + s(y) \approx 0 + s(z)$$

d ↓

$$0 \approx 0, s(y) \approx s(z)$$

mgu $\{x \mapsto s(z), y \mapsto z\}$

d ↓

$$s(y) \approx s(z)$$

d ↓

$$y \approx z$$

v ↓ $y \mapsto z$

□

Theorem

- there are no infinite derivations

$$s \approx t \Rightarrow_{\sigma_1} E_1 \Rightarrow_{\sigma_2} E_2 \Rightarrow_{\sigma_3} \dots$$

- if s and t are unifiable then for every maximal derivation

$$s \approx t \Rightarrow_{\sigma_1} E_1 \Rightarrow_{\sigma_2} E_2 \Rightarrow_{\sigma_3} \dots \Rightarrow_{\sigma_n} E_n$$

- $E_n = \square$
- $\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \dots \sigma_n$ is mgu of s and t

Optional Failure Rules

$$\frac{E_1, f(s_1, \dots, s_n) \approx g(t_1, \dots, t_m), E_2}{\perp} \quad \frac{E_1, x \approx t, E_2}{\perp} \quad \frac{E_1, t \approx x, E_2}{\perp}$$

if $x \in \mathcal{V}\text{ar}(t)$

Outline

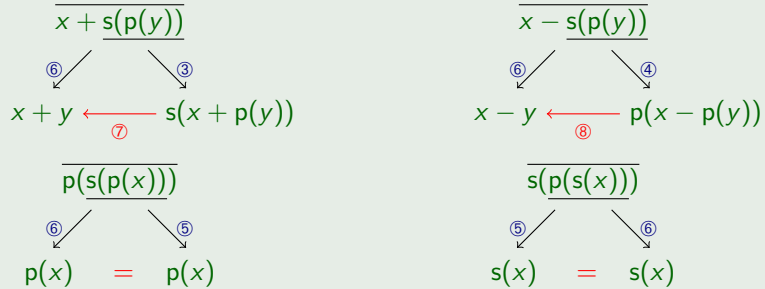
- Critical Pairs
- Unification
- Completion
 - Example
 - Procedure

Example

TRS \mathcal{R}

- ① $x + 0 \rightarrow x$
- ② $x - 0 \rightarrow x$
- ③ $x + s(y) \rightarrow s(x + y)$
- ④ $x - s(y) \rightarrow p(x - y)$
- ⑤ $p(s(x)) \rightarrow x$
- ⑥ $s(p(x)) \rightarrow x$
- ⑦ $s(x + p(y)) \rightarrow x + y$
- ⑧ $p(x - p(y)) \rightarrow x - y$

- SN ? (e.g.) LPO with precedence $+ > s$ and $- > p$
- WCR ? 4 critical pairs



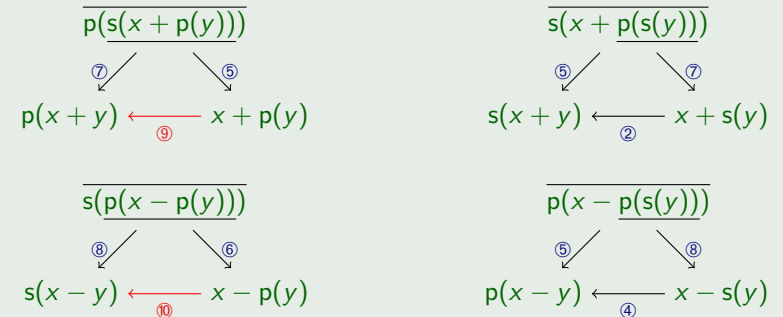
Example (cont'd)

- added rewrite rules

- ⑦ $s(x + p(y)) \rightarrow x + y$
- ⑧ $p(x - p(y)) \rightarrow x - y$

preserve termination and do not change \leftrightarrow^*

- new critical pairs



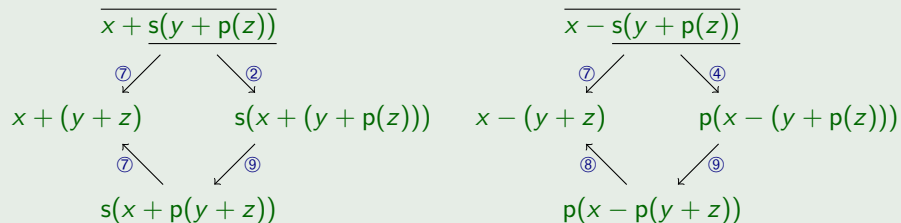
Example (cont'd)

- added rewrite rules

- ⑨ $x + p(y) \rightarrow p(x + y)$
- ⑩ $x - p(y) \rightarrow s(x - y)$

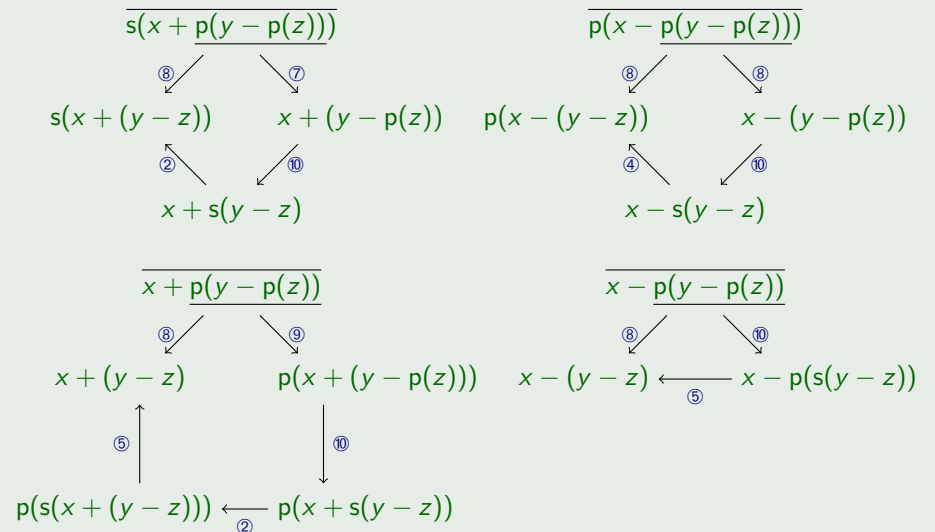
preserve termination (extend LPO precedence with $+ > p$ and $- > s$)

- new critical pairs



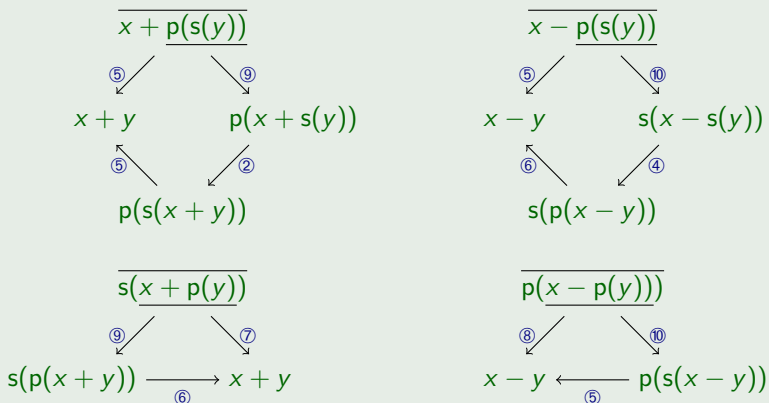
Example (cont'd)

- new critical pairs



Example (cont'd)

- new critical pairs



Outline

- Critical Pairs
- Unification
- Completion
 - Example
 - Procedure

Example (cont'd)

TRS $\mathcal{R} = \{①, ②, ③, ④, ⑤, ⑥\}$ TRS $\mathcal{S} = \{①, ②, ③, ④, ⑤, ⑥, ⑦, ⑧, ⑨, ⑩\}$

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| ① | $x + 0 \rightarrow x$ | ② | $x + s(y) \rightarrow s(x + y)$ |
| ③ | $x - 0 \rightarrow x$ | ④ | $x - s(y) \rightarrow p(x - y)$ |
| ⑤ | $p(s(x)) \rightarrow x$ | ⑥ | $s(p(x)) \rightarrow x$ |
| ⑦ | $s(x + p(y)) \rightarrow x + y$ | ⑧ | $p(x - p(y)) \rightarrow x - y$ |
| ⑨ | $x + p(y) \rightarrow p(x + y)$ | ⑩ | $x - p(y) \rightarrow s(x - y)$ |

- \mathcal{S} is SN LPO with precedence $+ > s, p$ and $- > s, p$
- \mathcal{S} is WCR all critical pairs of \mathcal{S} are convergent
- $\xrightarrow[\mathcal{S}]{}^* = \xrightarrow[\mathcal{R}]{}^*$

Knuth–Bendix Completion Procedure (Simple Version)

input ES \mathcal{E} and reduction order $>$
 output complete TRS \mathcal{R} such that $\xrightarrow[\mathcal{E}]{}^* = \xrightarrow[\mathcal{R}]{}^*$

```

 $\mathcal{R} := \emptyset$      $C := \mathcal{E}$ 
while  $C \neq \emptyset$  do
  choose  $s \approx t \in C$      $C := C \setminus \{s \approx t\}$ 
  compute  $\mathcal{R}$ -normal forms  $s'$  and  $t'$  of  $s$  and  $t$ 
  if  $s' \neq t'$  then
    if  $s' > t'$  then
       $\alpha := s'$      $\beta := t'$ 
    else if  $t' > s'$  then
       $\alpha := t'$      $\beta := s'$ 
    else
      failure
   $\mathcal{R} := \mathcal{R} \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}$ 
   $C := C \cup \{e \in CP(\mathcal{R}) \mid \alpha \rightarrow \beta \text{ was used to generate } e\}$ 
    
```



Invariants

- 1 $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \succ$
- 2 $\overset{*}{\leftarrow} \varepsilon = \overset{*}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{R} \cup \overset{*}{\leftarrow} C$
- 3 equations in $CP(\mathcal{R}) \setminus C$ are convergent with respect to \mathcal{R}

Three Possibilities

Knuth-Bendix completion procedure may

- 1 terminate without failure $\implies \mathcal{R}$ is complete and $\overset{*}{\leftarrow} \varepsilon = \overset{*}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{R}$
- 2 terminate with failure
- 3 not terminate (divergence)

Three Possibilities

Knuth-Bendix completion procedure may

- 2 terminate with failure

Example

- rewrite rules

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

$$f(x, y) \rightarrow h(y)$$

- two critical pairs

$$g(x) \leftarrow \times \rightarrow h(y)$$

$$h(y) \leftarrow \times \rightarrow g(x)$$

- no orientation possible \implies failure

Three Possibilities

Knuth-Bendix completion procedure may

- 3 not terminate (divergence)

Example

- rewrite rules

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

$$g(a) \rightarrow b$$

$$g(h(a)) \rightarrow f(b)$$

$$g(h(h(a))) \rightarrow f(f(b))$$

$$g(h(h(h(a)))) \rightarrow f(f(f(b)))$$

...

- LPO with precedence $a > f > g > h > b$

- critical pairs

$$f(b) \leftarrow \times \rightarrow g(h(a))$$

$$f(f(b)) \leftarrow \times \rightarrow g(h(h(a)))$$

$$f(f(f(b))) \leftarrow \times \rightarrow g(h(h(h(a))))$$



Simple Word Problems in Universal Algebras

Donald E. Knuth and Peter Bendix

in: Computational Problems in Abstract Algebra, Pergamon Press, pp. 263 – 297, 1970