

Automated Reasoning

Week 10. Termination

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Fall 2024

Recall: Term Rewriting Systems

$$\text{add}(x, s(y)) \Rightarrow s(\text{add}(x, y))$$

$$\text{add}(x, p(y)) \Rightarrow p(\text{add}(x, y))$$

$$\text{add}(x, 0) \Rightarrow x$$

$$s(p(x)) \Rightarrow x$$

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$$\text{rev}(\text{nil}) \Rightarrow \text{nil}$$

$$\text{rev}(a : x) \Rightarrow \text{conc}(\text{rev}(x), a : \text{nil})$$

$$\text{conc}(\text{nil}, x) \Rightarrow x$$

$$\text{conc}(a : x, y) \Rightarrow a : \text{conc}(x, y)$$

Lecture plan

Last week: LPO

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This lecture: **monotonic algebras** and **dependency pairs**.

Basic intuition of **monotonic algebras**

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Find a weight function W from terms to natural numbers in such a way that $W(u) > W(v)$ for all terms u, v satisfying $u \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} v$.

Example

Rules:

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Then:

$$\begin{aligned}W(\text{add}(s(0), 0)) &= 2 * W(s(0)) + W(0) = 2 * 2 + 1 = 5 \\ W(s(\text{add}(0, 0))) &= W(\text{add}(0, 0)) + 1 = (2 * 1 + 1) + 1 = 4 \\ W(s(0)) &= W(0) + 1 = 1 + 1 = 2\end{aligned}$$

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- \succ is **well-founded**
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- \succ is **monotonic** (so preserved under contexts)

Then it suffices to prove $\ell \succ r$ for all the rules.

Monotonic algebras

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- Choose finitely many **function symbol** interpretations.

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Side bonus: no restriction to \mathbb{N} .

Definition

Let \mathcal{A} be a set and $>$ a well-founded relation on \mathcal{A} .

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Here **monotonic** means:

if for all $a_i, b_i \in \mathcal{A}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$ with $a_i > b_i$ for some i and $a_j \geq b_j$ for all $j \neq i$ then

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Examples:

<i>monotonic</i>	<i>not monotonic</i>
$\lambda x. x$	$\lambda x. 2$
$\lambda x. x + 1$	$\lambda x, y. x + 1$
$\lambda x. 2 * x$	$\lambda x, y. x * y$
$\lambda x, y. x + y$	$\lambda x, y. \max(x, y)$
$\lambda x, y. 2 * x + y + 1$	

Definition (continued)

Define:

- $W(x) = x$ for a variable
- $W(\textcolor{red}{f}(s_1, \dots, s_n)) = [\textcolor{red}{f}](W(s_1), \dots, W(s_n))$

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Theorem

The relation \succ defined by:

$s \succ t$ if and only if $\forall \vec{x}[W(s) \succ W(t)]$,

where $\{\vec{x}\}$ is the set of variables occurring in s, t

is a reduction ordering.

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Proof idea. Stability follows from the $\forall \vec{x}$, monotonicity from monotonicity of all $[\textcolor{red}{f}]$ interpretation functions, and well-foundedness from well-foundedness of $>$ in \mathcal{A} . \square

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and:

$$\begin{aligned}W(\text{add}(s(x), y)) &= 2 * (x + 1) + y = 2 * x + y + 2 \\ &> 2 * x + y + 1 = W(s(\text{add}(x, y)))\end{aligned}$$

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Hence proving termination of \mathcal{R} .

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$[g]$ is not monotonic.

So monotonicity really is essential.

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Challenge: specify “an interpretation” in (basic) SMT!

Parametric interpretations

Idea: assign to function symbol f of arity n a *parametric interpretation function* of a specific shape; for instance

$$\begin{aligned} [0] &= \underline{n} \\ [s] &= \lambda x. \underline{s_0} + \underline{s_1} * x \\ [\text{add}] &= \lambda x, y. \underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * x + \underline{a_2} * y \end{aligned}$$

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Compute the resulting requirements for the rules:

$$\begin{aligned} W(\text{add}(0, y)) &= \underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{n} + \underline{a_2} * y \\ W(y) &= y \\ W(\text{add}(s(x), y)) &= \underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * (\underline{s_0} + \underline{s_1} * x) + \underline{a_2} * y \\ &= \underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{s_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{s_1} * x + \underline{a_2} * y \\ W(s(\text{add}(x, y))) &= \underline{s_0} + \underline{s_1} * (\underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * x + \underline{a_2} * y) \\ &= \underline{s_0} + \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_0} + \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_1} * x + \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_2} * y \end{aligned}$$

Inequalities with (universally quantified) variables

We now have to solve a problem of the shape:

find parameters such that:

- all $[f]$ are monotonic functions, and
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We require that: $\underline{s_1} \geq 1$, $\underline{a_1} \geq 1$, $\underline{a_2} \geq 1$.

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For the second requirement, we use **absolute positiveness**.

Absolute positiveness

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$$a_0 + a_1 * x_1 + \cdots + a_m * x_m > b_0 + b_1 * x_1 + \cdots + b_m * x_m$$

certainly holds if:

- $a_0 > b_0$
- each $a_i \geq b_i$

Example (continued)

We must show that:

$$\begin{aligned} W(\text{add}(0, y)) &= \underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{n} + \underline{a_2} * y \\ &> y \\ &= W(y) \\ W(\text{add}(s(x), y)) &= \underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{s_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{s_1} * x + \underline{a_2} * y \\ &> \underline{s_0} + \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_0} + \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_1} * x + \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_2} * y \\ &= (s(\text{add}(x, y))) \end{aligned}$$

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That is:

$$(\underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{n}) + \underline{a_2} * y > y$$

and

$$(\underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{s_0}) + (\underline{a_1} * \underline{s_1}) * x + \underline{a_2} * y > (\underline{s_0} + \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_0}) + (\underline{s_1} * \underline{a_1}) * x + (\underline{s_1} * \underline{a_2}) * y$$

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Using absolute positiveness, it suffices if:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{n} > 0 & \underline{a_0} + \underline{a_1} * \underline{s_0} > \underline{s_0} + \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_0} \\ & \underline{a_1} * \underline{s_1} \geq \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_1} \\ \underline{a_2} \geq 1 & \underline{a_2} \geq \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_2} \end{array}$$

Completing the example

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$$\underline{a_1} * \underline{s_1} \geq \underline{s_1} * \underline{a_1}$$

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An SMT solver will for instance yield

$$\underline{n} = 1, \underline{s_0} = 1, \underline{s_1} = 1, \underline{a_0} = 0, \underline{a_1} = 2, \underline{a_2} = 1$$

giving the same interpretations we had before:

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 [0] & = & \underline{n} \\
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 \implies
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Many other interpretations are also possible.

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In practice: $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ usually suffice.

Limitations

Absolute positiveness also works with combinations of variables, e.g.,

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Downside: more sophisticated shape = more complex SMT problem

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This is also valuable in **complexity analysis** of programs.

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- sets of terms terminating under some different well-founded ordering \succ

Subterm property

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The bad:

- Not all TRSs can be ordered this way!

Motivating example

$\text{minus}(x, 0) \Rightarrow x$
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Hence, this system **cannot** be ordered using any recursive path ordering, or an interpretation to \mathbb{N} .

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Wish: split a termination problem into multiple smaller problems.

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The core idea of dependency pairs is to look at **function calls**.

To start, split functions in **constructors** and **defined symbols**.

Identifying function calls

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We isolate the calls from one defined symbol to another:

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Dependency pair chains

We can prove the following result:

Theorem

For a given set of rules R , let DP be the corresponding set of dependency pairs.

$\Rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$ is terminating if and only if there is no infinite (DP, R) -**chain**: a reduction $s_1 \Rightarrow_{\text{DP}} \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* s_2 \Rightarrow_{\text{DP}} \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* s_3 \dots$

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So $\Rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$ is terminating iff there is no infinite sequence where:

- the steps using \Rightarrow_{DP} occur at the root of the term;
- the steps using $\Rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$ do not occur at the root of the term;
- there are infinitely many steps using \Rightarrow_{DP} .

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Infinite chain:

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Proof idea. By these requirements:

- If $s \Rightarrow_{\text{DP}} t$ (by a step at the root), then $s \succ t$.
- If $s \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$ then $s \succeq t$.
- Hence, if $s \Rightarrow_{\text{DP}} \cdot \Rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* t$, then $s \succ \cdot \succeq^* t$, and therefore $s \succ t$.



Quot/minus: ordering requirements

$\text{minus}(x, 0) \succcurlyeq x$
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if $s \geq t$, then $[f](\dots, s, \dots) \geq [f](\dots, t, \dots)$.

Many functions that are not monotonic, are still weakly monotonic; for example:

- functions that ignore arguments: $\lambda x, y. x$
- min / max functions: $\lambda x, y. \min(x, y)$ or $\lambda x. \max(x - 1, 0)$

Completing quot/minus

Back to our example!

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This is satisfied by choosing:

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$$\begin{array}{rcl} x & \geq & x \\ x + 1 & \geq & x \\ 0 & \geq & 0 \\ x + 1 & \geq & x + 1 \\ x + 1 & > & x \\ x + 1 & > & x \\ x + 1 & > & x \end{array}$$

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Hence, we clearly gained something!

Step-by-step proofs

Challenge: dealing with **large** systems.

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Example:

Rules:

$$\text{minus}(x, 0) \Rightarrow x$$

$$\text{minus}(s(x), s(y)) \Rightarrow \text{minus}(x, y)$$

$$\text{quot}(0, s(y)) \Rightarrow 0$$

$$\text{quot}(s(x), s(y)) \Rightarrow s(\text{quot}(\text{minus}(x, y), s(y)))$$

DPs:

A $\text{minus}^\#(s(x), s(y)) \Rightarrow \text{minus}^\#(x, y)$

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Question: what does an infinite chain look like?

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Question: what does an infinite chain look like?

We conclude: split DP into $\{A\}$ and $\{C\}$!

Mandatory material ends here

The material before this slide is expected knowledge, and you should be able to use monotonic algebras, and dependency pairs with weakly monotonic algebras, on the exam. You should also know the overall idea of the DP framework.

The following slides are optional material. However, you are *allowed* to use it on the exam; for example to answer a question “prove termination of this system”, which can often be done much faster using the dependency pair framework with the graph and subterm criterion (see subsequent slides).

Using a graph

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Idea: Graph with DPs as nodes, edges between nodes if one can follow another in a chain.

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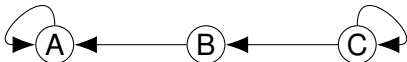
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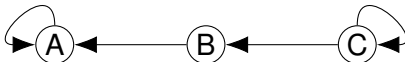


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Observation: each **strongly connected component** may be considered separately.

Dependency graph processor – another example

$$R = \{f(f(x)) \rightarrow f(g(f(x)))\}$$

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Hence, we can remove dependency pair A.

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Hence, we can remove dependency pair A.

Note: not always easy to see if one DP can follow another, but we can use **approximations**.

Dependency graph processor

Formally:

Dependency graph processor

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Definition

Let (\mathcal{D}, R) be a DP problem, and G a graph whose nodes are the elements of \mathcal{D} , and which has an edge from ρ to μ if it is possible for ρ to be followed by μ in a (\mathcal{D}, R) -chain (there may be more edges than this).

Suppose A_1, \dots, A_n are the **strongly connected components** of G .

Then the dependency graph processor maps (\mathcal{D}, R) to $\{(A_1, R), \dots, (A_n, R)\}$.

The subterm criterion

- A. $\text{exp}^\#(s(x), y) \Rightarrow \text{double}^\#(x, y, 0)$
- B. $\text{double}^\#(x, 0, z) \Rightarrow \text{exp}^\#(x, z)$
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Idea: consider the **first argument** of each side of the dependency pairs.

Then we can remove the dependency pairs where the chosen argument becomes smaller (in this case A).

The subterm criterion processor

Definition

For all marked symbols \mathfrak{f}^\sharp , let $\nu(\mathfrak{f}^\sharp) \in \{1, \dots, \text{arity}(\mathfrak{f})\}$.

Let (\mathcal{D}, R) be a DP problem, and write $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_1 \cup \mathcal{D}_2$.

Suppose:

- $\ell_{\nu(\mathfrak{f}^\sharp)} = r_{\nu(\mathfrak{g}^\sharp)}$ for all $\mathfrak{f}^\sharp(\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n) \Rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^\sharp(r_1, \dots, r_m) \in \mathcal{D}_1$
- $r_{\nu(\mathfrak{f}^\sharp)}$ is a subterm of $\ell_{\nu(\mathfrak{g}^\sharp)}$ for all $\mathfrak{f}^\sharp(\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n) \Rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^\sharp(r_1, \dots, r_m) \in \mathcal{D}_2$

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Then the subterm criterion processor maps (\mathcal{D}, R) to $\{(\mathcal{D}_1, R)\}$.

Implementation: a simple SMT implementation using integer variables $\nu(f^\sharp)$, and boolean variables `strict ρ` .

Graph + subterm criterion

Class exercise:

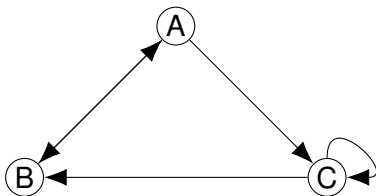
$$\begin{aligned}\text{exp}(0, y) &\Rightarrow y \\ \text{exp}(s(x), y) &\Rightarrow \text{double}(0, x, y) \\ \text{double}(r, x, 0) &\Rightarrow \text{exp}(x, r) \\ \text{double}(r, x, s(y)) &\Rightarrow \text{double}(s(s(r)), x, y)\end{aligned}$$

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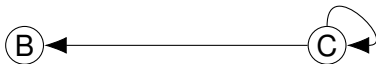


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Reduction pair processor

We can also reformulate reduction pairs as a processor:

Definition

Let \succ be a well-founded, stable ordering and \succeq a stable monotonic quasi-ordering on terms, such that $\succ \succeq \subseteq \succ$.

Let (\mathcal{D}, R) be a DP problem, and write $\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_1 \cup \mathcal{D}_2$.

Suppose:

- $\ell \succeq r$ for all $\ell \rightarrow r \in R$
- $\ell \succeq r$ for all $\ell \Rightarrow r \in \mathcal{D}_1$, and
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That is, we can use a reduction pair, and remove all dependency pairs that were ordered with \succ .

Example: using a reduction pair processor

`append`(`nil`, `z`) \rightarrow `z`
`append`(`cons`(`x`, `y`), `z`) \rightarrow `cons`(`x`, `append`(`y`, `z`))
`rev`(`nil`) \rightarrow `nil`
`rev`(`cons`(`x`, `y`)) \rightarrow `append`(`rev`(`y`), `cons`(`x`, `nil`))
`append`[#](`cons`(`x`, `y`), `z`) \Rightarrow `append`[#](`y`, `z`)
`rev`[#](`cons`(`x`, `y`)) \Rightarrow `rev`[#](`y`)
`rev`[#](`cons`(`x`, `y`)) \Rightarrow `append`[#](`rev`(`y`), `cons`(`x`, `nil`))

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$\text{append}(\text{nil}, z) \rightarrow z$
 $\text{append}(\text{cons}(x, y), z) \rightarrow \text{cons}(x, \text{append}(y, z))$
 $\text{rev}(\text{nil}) \rightarrow \text{nil}$
 $\text{rev}(\text{cons}(x, y)) \rightarrow \text{append}(\text{rev}(y), \text{cons}(x, \text{nil}))$
 $\text{append}^\#(\text{cons}(x, y), z) \Rightarrow \text{append}^\#(y, z)$
 $\text{rev}^\#(\text{cons}(x, y)) \Rightarrow \text{rev}^\#(y)$
 $\text{rev}^\#(\text{cons}(x, y)) \Rightarrow \text{append}^\#(\text{rev}(y), \text{cons}(x, \text{nil}))$

We choose:

$$\begin{aligned} [\text{nil}] &= 0 \\ [\text{cons}] &= \lambda x, y. y + 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\text{append}] &= \lambda x, y. x + y \\ [\text{rev}] &= \lambda x. x \\ [\text{append}^\#] &= \lambda x, y. x + y \\ [\text{rev}^\#] &= \lambda x. x \end{aligned}$$

Example: using a reduction pair processor

$$\begin{aligned} z &\geq z \\ (y + 1) + z &\geq (y + z) + 1 \\ 0 &\geq 0 \\ y + 1 &\geq y + (0 + 1) \\ (y + 1) + z &> y + z \\ y + 1 &> y \\ y + 1 &\geq y + (0 + 1) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{array}{rcl} z & \geq & z \\ (y + 1) + z & \geq & (y + z) + 1 \\ 0 & \geq & 0 \\ y + 1 & \geq & y + (0 + 1) \\ (y + 1) + z & > & y + z \\ y + 1 & > & y \\ y + 1 & \geq & y + (0 + 1) \end{array}$$

Hence, we can remove all but the last dependency pair, and continue with:

$$(\{\text{rev}^\sharp(\text{cons}(x, y)) \Rightarrow \text{append}^\sharp(\text{rev}(y), \text{cons}(x, \text{nil}))\}, R)$$

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Replace $\text{minus}(x, y)$ by $\text{minus}'(x)$.

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Searching a filter can be included in the SAT encoding of LPO.

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More complex (but powerful!): combining usable rules with an argument filtering and a reduction pair.

Quiz

1. Prove termination of the following TRS using a monotonic algebra to \mathbb{N} :

$$\begin{aligned}\text{append}(\text{nil}, z) &\rightarrow z \\ \text{append}(\text{cons}(x, y), z) &\rightarrow \text{cons}(x, \text{append}(y, z))\end{aligned}$$

- give (linear) parametric interpretations for all symbols
- compute the requirements (monotonicity and rule orientation)
- use absolute positiveness to find SMT requirements
- solve them by hand and give the resulting interpretation functions, and check your result!

2. Determine the dependency pairs of:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{f}(\text{h}(x), y) &\rightarrow \text{g}(x, \text{f}(x, \text{h}(y))) \\ \text{g}(x, \text{h}(y)) &\rightarrow \text{g}(\text{h}(x), y)\end{aligned}$$

3. Split these dependency pairs up into one or more groups of DPs that can be analysed separately.