

Confluence of Conditional Rewriting Modulo

– Invited talk –

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Equational Generalized Term Rewriting Systems \mathcal{R} (EGTRSs) consist of [Luc24, Luc25]:

- Conditional **equations** (E)
- **Horn clauses** (H)
- Conditional rewrite rules (R)

$$xs ++ (ys ++ zs) = (xs ++ ys) ++ zs$$

$$\text{Nat}(0)$$

$$\text{Nat}(s(n)) \Leftarrow \text{Nat}(n)$$

$$x \approx y \Leftarrow x \rightarrow^* y$$

$$0 + n \rightarrow n$$

$$s(m) + n \rightarrow s(m + n)$$

$$\text{sum}(m) \rightarrow n \Leftarrow m \approx n, \text{Nat}(n)$$

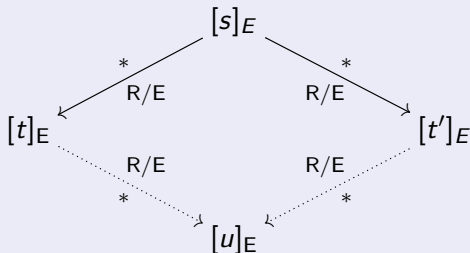
$$\text{sum}(ms) \rightarrow m + n$$

$$\Leftarrow ms \approx m ++ ns, \text{Nat}(m), \\ \text{sum}(ns) \approx n$$

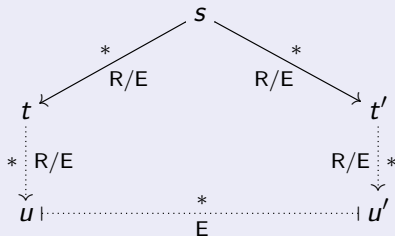
$$\text{sum}(\overbrace{0 ++ s(0) ++ s(s(0))}^{0 ++ [s(0) ++ s(s(0))])} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E} 0 + s(s(s(0))) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E} s(s(s(0)))$$

$$[0 ++ s(0)] ++ s(s(0))$$

E -confluence ($\text{CR}(\text{R}/E)$) is confluence of rewriting on *equivalence classes*



Equivalent to the commutation of the following diagram on *terms*



- Lambda calculus (*β -reduction* + *α -conversion*) [CR36, Hin64, Hin69]
- Code optimization [ASU72]
- Rewriting-based *equational reasoning* [KB70, Set74, Hue80, Jou83]
- Theorem proving *modulo equations* [Dow99, DHK03]
- Programming languages implementing *rewriting on equivalence classes* (e.g., Maude) [Mes92, Mes12, CDE⁺07]
- Extensions to Logically Constrained Term Rewriting Systems [ANS24], Nominal Rewriting [FNSS25], etc.
- ...

ABSTRACT APPROACHES

Early abstract approaches

Newman [New42], Hindley [Hin64, Hin69], Rosen [Ros70, Ros73], Aho, Sethi, Ullman [ASU72], Sethi [Set74], Huet [Hue77, Hue80], Jouannaud [Jou83]

Definitions [JK86]:

Let \vdash_E be a *symmetric* relation on A

Let R and R^E be *reduction* relations on A

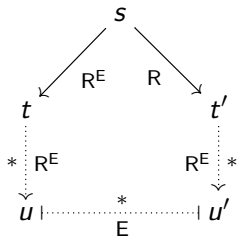
Assumptions:

J&K1: \sim_E is \vdash_E^*

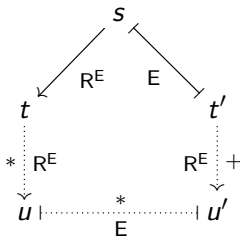
J&K2: $\rightarrow_{R/E} = \sim_E \circ \rightarrow_R \circ \sim_E$

Fundamental assumption J&K3

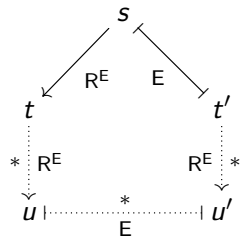
$$\rightarrow_R \subseteq \rightarrow_{R^E} \subseteq \rightarrow_{R/E}$$



Local Confluence
of R^E modulo E with R
 $\text{LConf}_E(R^E, R)$



Local Coherence
of R^E modulo E
 $\text{LCoh}_E(R^E)$

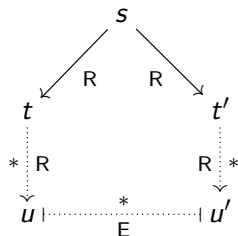


Local Coherence
of R^E modulo E
(assume $\text{SN}(R/E)$)

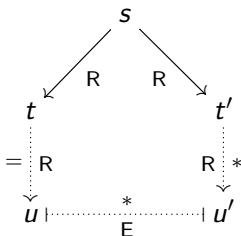
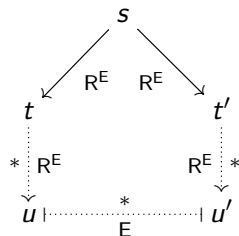
Main result cf. [JK86, Theorem 5]: An *E*-terminating relation R is *E*-confluent if

R^E is *locally confluent* with R modulo E and *locally coherent* modulo E .

Non-*E*-confluence: If there is a *non- $\downarrow_{R/E}$ -joinable* $R^E \uparrow_R$ -peak, then R is *not E-confluent*. (Note: $R^E \uparrow_E$ -peaks are always $\downarrow_{R/E}$ -joinable!)

$\text{LConf}_E(R, R)$ 

[Set74, P3]

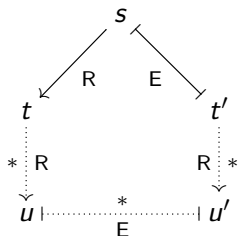
[Hue80, Property α][Ohl98, LCON \sim][Ohl98, SLCON \sim] $\text{LConf}_E(R^E, R^E)$ 

[DM12]

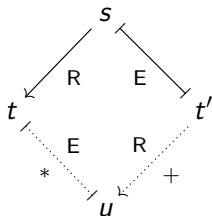
$$\text{SLCON} \sim \Rightarrow \text{LConf}_E(R, R) \Rightarrow \text{LConf}_E(R^E, R) \Rightarrow \text{LConf}_E(R^E, R^E)$$

$$\text{LCoh}_E(R) \Rightarrow \text{LCoh}_E(R^E)$$

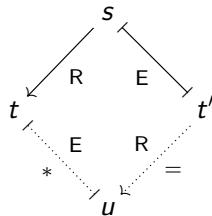
$\text{LCoh}_E(R)$ & $\text{SN}(R/E)$



[Hue80, Property γ]
[Ohl98, $\text{LCOH} \vdash$]



[JM84, Def. 11]
[Ohl98, $\text{LCMU} \vdash$]

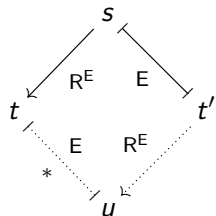


[Ohl98, $\text{SCOM} \vdash$]

$\text{SCOM} \vdash \Rightarrow \text{LCOH} \vdash$

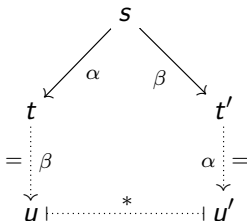
$\text{LCMU} \vdash \Rightarrow \text{LCoh}_E(R)$

$\text{SLCoh} \Rightarrow \text{LCoh}_E(R^E)$

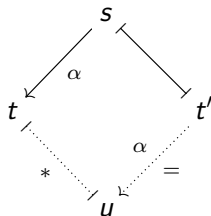


[Mes17, p. 4]
 SLCoh

Consider *Abstract Reduction Systems* $(A, \langle \rightarrow_\alpha \rangle_{\alpha \in I}, \vdash)$, where I is a set of *indices*



\rightarrow_α subcommutes with \rightarrow_β modulo \sim
[Ohl98, Fig. 8 (left)]



\rightarrow_α is SCOM \vdash
[Ohl98, Fig. 8 (right)]

[Ohl98, Corollary 15] R is *E-confluent* if

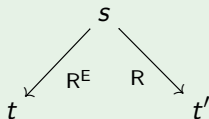
- for all $\alpha, \beta \in I$, \rightarrow_α subcommutes with \rightarrow_β modulo \sim ; and
- \rightarrow_α is SCOM \vdash

[Ohl98, Corollary 20] $SN(R) \wedge LCON \sim \wedge LCMU \vdash \Rightarrow CR(R/E)$

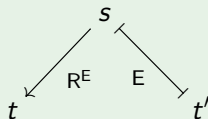
Reduction-peaks

and

Coherence-peaks



r-peak



c-peak

APPLICATION TO UNCONDITIONAL TERM REWRITING

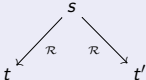
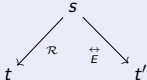
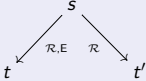
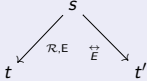
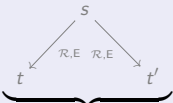

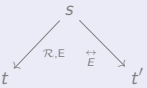
- \vdash_E is $\rightarrow_{\leftrightarrow E}$ and $\overset{\leftrightarrow}{E}$ consists of $s \rightarrow t$ and $t \rightarrow s$ for each $s = t$ in E
- \sim_E is $=_E$, i.e., $\rightarrow_{\leftrightarrow E}^*$
- $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}, E} t$ is *Peterson & Stickel* reduction modulo [PS81]:
 - $s|_p =_E \sigma(\ell)$ for some rule $\ell \rightarrow r$ in \mathcal{R} and substitution σ and
 - $t = s[\sigma(r)]_p$
- $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ is $=_E \circ \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} \circ =_E$ (which coincides with $=_E \circ \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}, E} \circ =_E$)

Necessary conditions for E -termination of \mathcal{R} [JK86, page 1169]

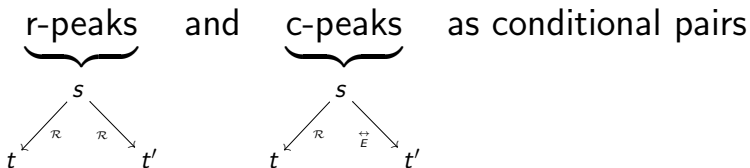
If \mathcal{R} is E -terminating, then

- E is *regular* [Sie89, page 243], i.e., for all $s = t \in E$, $\text{Var}(s) = \text{Var}(t)$
- E contains *no equation* $x = t$, where x occurs twice in t

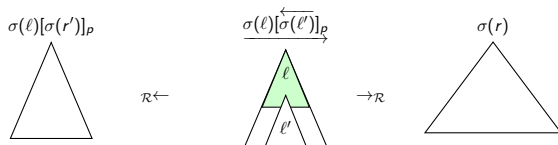
Peaks for the analysis of E -confluence of (E -terminating) \mathcal{R}

Parameterization	r-peak	c-peak	Joinability
R and R^E as $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$:			$\sim \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$
R as $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$ and R^E as $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R},E}$:			$\sim \downarrow_{\mathcal{R},E}$
R and R^E as $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R},E}$:	 <p>can be written as</p>  <p>for $s' =_E s$</p>		$\sim \downarrow_{\mathcal{R},E}$

APPLICATION TO UNCONDITIONAL TERM REWRITING



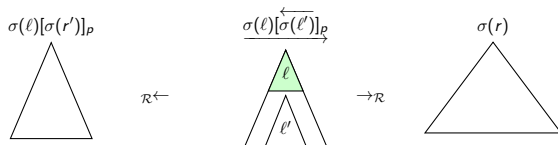
Critical r-peak

 $p \in \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\ell)$ 

$$CP : \langle \theta(\ell)[\theta(r')]_p, \theta(r) \rangle$$

$$\text{where } \ell|_p =_{\theta}^? \ell'$$

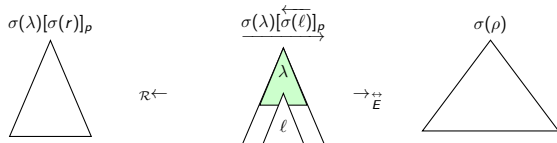
Variable r-peak

 $p \notin \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\ell)$ 

$$CVP : \langle \ell[x]_q, r' \rangle \Leftarrow x \rightarrow x'$$

$$\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}\text{-joinable}$$
 $x \in \text{Var}(\ell)$ $p \geq q \in \text{Pos}_x(\ell)$

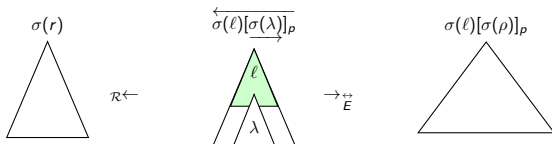
Critical c-up-peak
 $p \in \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\lambda)$



$$CP : \langle \theta(\lambda)[\theta(r)]_p, \theta(\rho) \rangle$$

$$\text{where } \lambda|_p =_{\theta}^? \ell$$

Critical c-down-peak
 $p \in \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\ell) - \{\Lambda\}$



$$CP : \langle \theta(\ell)[\theta(\rho)]_p, \theta(r) \rangle$$

$$\text{where } \ell|_p =_{\theta}^? \lambda$$

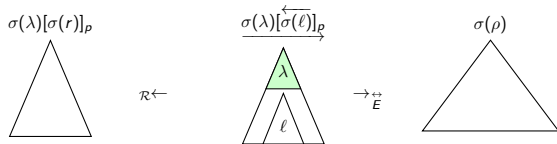
For *asymmetric* joinability criteria on *c-peaks*, e.g., $=_E \circ \overset{+}{\mathcal{R}}\leftarrow$ in LCMUH ,
 c-up CPs join with $=_E \circ \overset{+}{\mathcal{R}}\leftarrow$ and c-down CPs with $\rightarrow \overset{+}{\mathcal{R}} \circ =_E$!

Variable c-up-peak

$p \notin \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\lambda)$

$x \in \text{Var}(\lambda)$

$p \geq q \in \text{Pos}_x(\lambda)$



$\text{CVP} : \langle \lambda[x']_q, \rho \rangle \Leftarrow x \rightarrow x'$

$\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable

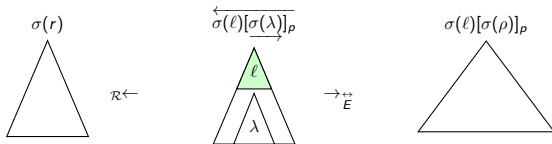
Variable

c-down-peak

$p \notin \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\ell)$

$x \in \text{Var}(\ell)$

$p \geq q \in \text{Pos}_x(\ell)$



$\text{CVP} : \langle \ell[x']_q, r \rangle \Leftarrow x \vdash x'$

For *asymmetric* joinability criteria on *c-peaks*, e.g., $=_E \circ \overset{+}{\mathcal{R}}\leftarrow$ in LCMUH ,
c-up CVPs join with $=_E \circ \overset{+}{\mathcal{R}}\leftarrow$ and c-down CVPs with $\rightarrow \overset{+}{\mathcal{R}} \circ =_E$!

Theorem (Confluence of ETRSs \mathcal{R} using $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinability)

- ① An E -terminating ETRS \mathcal{R} is E -confluent if all pairs in

$$\underbrace{\text{CP}(\mathcal{R})}_{r\text{-peaks}} \cup \underbrace{\text{CP}(E, \mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CP}(\mathcal{R}, E) \cup \text{CVP}^H(\mathcal{R})}_{c\text{-peaks}}$$

are $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable.

- ② An E -terminating *left-linear* ETRS \mathcal{R} is E -confluent if all pairs in

$$\text{CP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CP}(E, \mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CP}(\mathcal{R}, E)$$

are $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable [Hue80, Theorem 3.3].

Theorem (Non- E -confluence of ETRSs \mathcal{R})

If there is a *non- \mathcal{R}/E -joinable* $\pi \in \text{CP}(\mathcal{R})$ then \mathcal{R} is *not E -confluent*.

Example of an ETRS $\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{F}, E, R)$ from [Luc25, Example 8.14]

Let $E = \{(1)\}$ and $R = \{(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7)\}$, where

$$\begin{array}{llll}
 a = b & (1) & f(x, x) \rightarrow g(x) & (2) & b \rightarrow c & (5) \\
 & & f(x, x) \rightarrow h(x) & (3) & g(x) \rightarrow x & (6) \\
 & & a \rightarrow c & (4) & h(x) \rightarrow x & (7)
 \end{array}$$

Proof of E -termination

The associate *First-Order Theory* $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ of \mathcal{R} describes rewriting modulo:

$$s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E} t \text{ iff } \overline{\mathcal{R}} \vdash s \xrightarrow{rm} t$$

If there is a *model* \mathcal{A} of $\overline{\mathcal{R}}$ such that $(\xrightarrow{rm})^{\mathcal{A}}$ is *well-founded*, then \mathcal{R} is E -terminating

Such a model is obtained for \mathcal{R} above with AGES [GL19]

Critical pairs

Here $\text{CP}(\mathcal{R}) = \{(8)\}$, $\text{CP}(\mathcal{R}, E) = \emptyset$ and $\text{CP}(E, \mathcal{R}) = \{(9), (10)\}$, for

$$\pi_{(2), \wedge, (3)} : \quad \langle h(x), g(x) \rangle \quad (8)$$

$$\pi_{\overrightarrow{(1)}, \wedge, (4)} : \quad \langle c, b \rangle \quad (9)$$

$$\pi_{\overleftarrow{(1)}, \wedge, (5)} : \quad \langle c, a \rangle \quad (10)$$

All these critical pairs are $\Downarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable

Conditional Variable Pairs

$\text{CVP}^{\vdash}(\mathcal{R})$ consists of six $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable CVPs. For instance,

$$\pi_{(2),x,1}^{\vdash} : \langle f(x', x), g(x) \rangle \Leftarrow x \vdash x'$$

if σ satisfies $x \vdash x'$ then

$$\sigma = \{x \mapsto C[a], x' \mapsto C[b]\} \quad \text{or} \quad \sigma = \{x \mapsto C[b], x' \mapsto C[a]\}$$

for some $C[\]$ and (in the first case)

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(f(x', x)) = f(C[b], C[a]) &\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^+ \frac{f(C[c], C[c])}{\downarrow_{\mathcal{R}}} \\ \sigma(g(x)) = g(C[a]) &\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} g(C[c]) \end{aligned}$$

and similarly for the alternative σ .

The ETRS \mathcal{R} is proved E -confluent (Huet's result does *not* apply)

Limitations of $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinability with ETRSs $\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{F}, E, R)$

Let $E = \{(11)\}$ and $R = \{(12)\}$ as in [Hue80, Remark in page 818], with

$$a = b \quad (11)$$

$$f(x, x) \rightarrow g(x) \quad (12)$$

Note: $\text{CP}(\mathcal{R}) = \text{CP}(E, \mathcal{R}) = \text{CP}(\mathcal{R}, E) = \emptyset$ and $\text{CVP}^{\perp}(\mathcal{R})$ consists of

$$\pi_{(12),x,1}^{\perp} : \langle f(x', x), g(x) \rangle \Leftarrow x \vdash x'$$

$$\pi_{(12),x,2}^{\perp} : \langle f(x, x'), g(x) \rangle \Leftarrow x \vdash x'$$

which are *not* $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable: $\sigma = \{x \mapsto a, x' \mapsto b\}$ satisfies $x \vdash x'$, but $f(b, a)$ and $g(a)$ are *not* $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable (but they are $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R},E}$ -joinable).

$\text{LConf}_E(\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}, \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}})$ *holds* but $\text{LCoh}_E(\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}})$ *fails* to hold

Neither E -confluence *nor* non- E -confluence follow from previous results.

Actually, \mathcal{R} *is* E -confluent, see below

Limitations of CPs and CVPs with ETRSs $\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{F}, E, R)$

Consider $\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{F}, E, R)$ with $E = \{(13), (14)\}$ and $R = \{(15), (16)\}$ for

$$b = f(a) \quad (13) \qquad c \rightarrow d \quad (15)$$

$$a = c \quad (14) \qquad b \rightarrow d \quad (16)$$

from [Luc24, Example 14]. Note that $\text{CP}(\mathcal{R}) = \text{CVP}^H(\mathcal{R}) = \emptyset$.

$\text{CP}(\mathcal{R}, E) = \emptyset$ and $\text{CP}(E, \mathcal{R}) = \{(17), (18)\}$, where

$$\pi_{\overrightarrow{(13)}, \wedge, (16)} : \quad \langle d, f(a) \rangle \quad (17)$$

$$\pi_{\overleftarrow{(14)}, \wedge, (15)} : \quad \langle d, a \rangle \quad (18)$$

are both $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}, E}$ -joinable (but *not* $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable): $f(a) =_E b \rightarrow_{(16)} d$ and $a =_E c \rightarrow_{(15)} d$.

$\text{LConf}_E(\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}, \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}})$ holds but $\text{LCoh}_E(\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}})$ fails to hold.

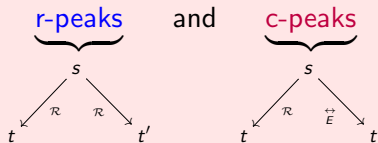
Neither E -confluence nor non- E -confluence follow from previous results.

Actually, \mathcal{R} is *not E -confluent*, see below

Critical and Conditional Variable Pairs of ETRSs in

$\text{CP}(\mathcal{R})$, $\text{CP}(E, \mathcal{R})$, $\text{CP}(\mathcal{R}, E)$, and $\text{CVP}^{\text{H}}(\mathcal{R})$

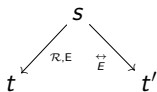
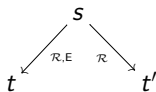
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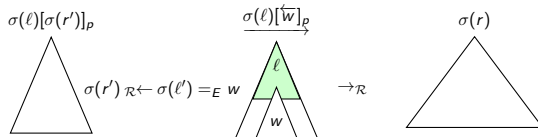
are *not enough to capture all (non-)E-confluence situations*
either by $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinability or by $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}, E}$ -joinability

APPLICATION TO UNCONDITIONAL TERM REWRITING

PS-r-peaks and PS-c-peaks as conditional pairs



PS-r-up
Critical peak
 $p \in \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\ell)$



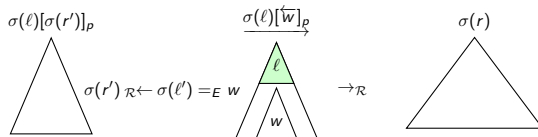
$$ECP : \langle \theta(\ell)[\theta(r')]_p, \theta(r) \rangle$$

$$LCCP : \langle \ell[r']_p, r \rangle \Leftarrow \ell|_p = \ell'$$

$\ell|_p \stackrel{?,\theta}{=} \ell'$ *E-unifier!*

No *E-unifier!*

PS-r-up
Variable peak
 $p \notin \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\ell)$

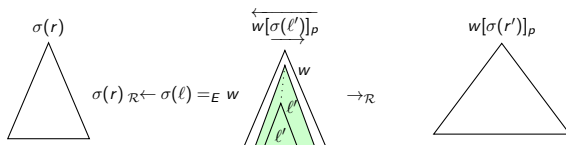


$x \in \text{Var}(\ell)$
 $p \geq q \in \text{Pos}_x(\ell)$

$$CVP : \langle \ell[x']_q, r \rangle \Leftarrow x \xrightarrow{ps} x'$$

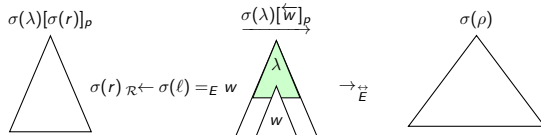
$\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R},E}$ -joinable

PS-r-down peak
 $p > \Lambda$



$$DCP : \langle r, x' \rangle \Leftarrow x = \ell, x \xrightarrow{>\Lambda} x'$$

PS-c-up
Critical peak
 $p \in \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\lambda)$

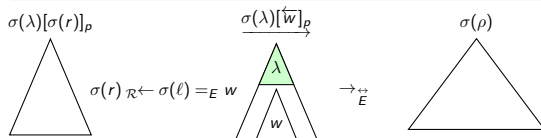


$$ECP : \langle \theta(\lambda)[\theta(r)]_p, \theta(\rho) \rangle$$

$$LCCP : \langle \lambda[r]_p, \rho \rangle \Leftarrow \lambda|_p = \ell$$

$$\lambda|_p \stackrel{?, \theta}{=}_{E, \theta} \ell$$

PS-c-up
Variable peak
 $p \notin \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\lambda)$



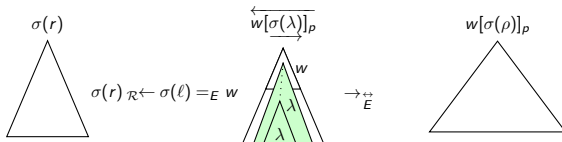
$x \in \text{Var}(\lambda)$
 $p \geq q \in \text{Pos}_x(\lambda)$

$$CVP : \langle \lambda[x']_q, \rho \rangle \Leftarrow x \xrightarrow{ps} x'$$

$$\Downarrow_{\mathcal{R},E} \text{-joinable}$$

PS-c-down peak
 $p > \Lambda$

$\Downarrow_{\mathcal{R},E}$ -joinable!
(no pairs needed)



Theorem (Confluence of ETRSs \mathcal{R} using $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R},E}$ -joinability)

An E -terminating ETRS \mathcal{R} is *E-confluent* if all pairs in

$$\text{LCCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{LCCP}(E, \mathcal{R}) \quad (\text{resp. } \text{ECP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{ECP}(E, \mathcal{R}))$$

are $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R},E}$ -joinable (resp. $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ -joinable [JK86, Theorem 16]).

Theorem (Non- E -confluence of ETRSs \mathcal{R})

If there is a *non- \mathcal{R}/E -joinable*

$$\pi \in \text{LCCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{DCP}(\mathcal{R})$$

then \mathcal{R} is *not E-confluent*

Confluence of an ETRS $\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{F}, E, R)$ [Hue80, Remark in p. 818]

Let $E = \{(19)\}$ and $R = \{(20)\}$, with

$$a = b \tag{19}$$

$$f(x, x) \rightarrow g(x) \tag{20}$$

LCCP(\mathcal{R}) is *empty* and LCCP(E, \mathcal{R}) consists of two *infeasible* LCCPs

$$\pi_{\langle (19), (20) \rangle}^{\text{LCCP}} : \langle g(x), b \rangle \Leftarrow a = f(x, x)$$

$$\pi_{\langle (19), (20) \rangle}^{\text{LCCP}} : \langle g(x), a \rangle \Leftarrow b = f(x, x)$$

hence trivially $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R},E}$ -joinable.

Since \mathcal{R} is *E-terminating* [Luc25, Example 5.17], it is *E-confluent*

DCPs in proofs of non- E -confluence

Consider again the ETRS \mathcal{R} [Luc24, Example 14]:

$$b = f(a) \tag{21}$$

$$a = c \tag{22}$$

$$c \rightarrow d \tag{23}$$

$$b \rightarrow d \tag{24}$$

All pairs in $\text{LCCP}(\mathcal{R})$ are joinable. But

$$\pi_{(24)}^{\text{DCP}} : \langle d, x' \rangle \Leftarrow x = b, x \xrightarrow{>\Lambda} x'$$

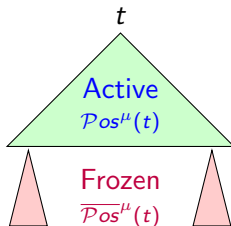
is not $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ -joinable: $\sigma = \{x \mapsto f(c), x' \mapsto f(d)\}$ satisfies $x = b, x \xrightarrow{>\Lambda} x'$, but d and $\sigma(x') = f(d)$ are not \mathcal{R}/E -joinable.

Thus, \mathcal{R} is not E -confluent

APPLICATION TO CONDITIONAL SYSTEMS

An *EGTRS* is a tuple $\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{F}, \Pi, \mu, E, H, R)$ where

- \mathcal{F} is a signature of **function symbols**,
- Π is a signature of **predicate symbols** with $=, \rightarrow, \rightarrow^* \in \Pi$,
- μ is a **replacement map** for \mathcal{F} , decomposing positions as follows:



Besides,

- E is a set of **conditional equations** $s = t \Leftarrow c$, for terms s and t ;
- H is a set of definite **Horn clauses** $A \Leftarrow c$ where $A = P(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ for some terms t_1, \dots, t_n , $n \geq 0$, is such that $P \notin \{=, \rightarrow, \rightarrow^*\}$; and
- R is a set of **conditional rules** $\ell \rightarrow r \Leftarrow c$ for terms $\ell \notin \mathcal{X}$ and r .

where c is a sequence of **atoms**.

$$xs \mathrel{++} (ys \mathrel{++} zs) = (xs \mathrel{++} ys) \mathrel{++} zs \quad (25)$$

$$\text{Nat}(0) \quad (26)$$

$$\text{Nat}(s(n)) \Leftarrow \text{Nat}(n) \quad (27)$$

$$x \approx y \Leftarrow x \rightarrow^* y \quad (28)$$

$$0 + n \rightarrow n \quad (29)$$

$$s(m) + n \rightarrow s(m + n) \quad (30)$$

$$\text{sum}(m) \rightarrow n \Leftarrow m \approx n, \text{Nat}(n) \quad (31)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{sum}(ms) &\rightarrow m + n \\ &\Leftarrow ms \approx m \mathrel{++} ns, \text{Nat}(m), \text{sum}(ns) \approx n \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Computational relations are defined by deduction of atoms in **FO-theories**:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Th}_E &\vdash s = t \\ \text{Th}_\mathcal{R} &\vdash s \rightarrow t \\ \text{Th}_{\mathcal{R},E} &\vdash s \xrightarrow{ps} t \\ \text{Th}_{\mathcal{R}/E} &\vdash s \xrightarrow{rm} t\end{aligned}$$

Each theory is obtained from generic sentences:

Label	Purpose	Label	Purpose
$(\text{Rf})_\boxtimes$	\boxtimes is reflexive	$(\text{Tr})_\boxtimes$	\boxtimes is transitive
$(\text{Sy})_\boxtimes$	\boxtimes is symmetric	$(\text{Co})_{\boxtimes, \boxtimes^*}$	\boxtimes and then \boxtimes^* is in \boxtimes^*
$(\text{Pr})_{f,i}^\boxtimes$	\boxtimes propagated in terms	$(\text{HC})_{A \Leftarrow A_1, \dots, A_n}$	Clause as sentence

$(\text{R},E)_{\ell \rightarrow r \Leftarrow A_1, \dots, A_n}$ Peterson & Stickel:

$$(\forall x, \vec{x}) \ x = \ell \wedge A_1 \wedge \dots \wedge A_n \Rightarrow x \xrightarrow{ps} r$$

(R/E) Rewriting modulo:

$$(\forall x, x', y, y') \ x = x' \wedge x' \rightarrow y' \wedge y' = y \Rightarrow x \xrightarrow{rm} y$$

Extending J&K'86 abstract approach for ETRSs to EGTRSs?

Abstract reduction: $\vdash_E \quad \sim_E \quad \rightarrow_R \quad \rightarrow_{R^E} \quad \rightarrow_{R/E}$
 Application to ETRSs \mathcal{R} : $\rightarrow_{\overleftrightarrow{E}} \quad \rightarrow_{\overleftrightarrow{E}}^* \quad \text{is } =_E \quad \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} \quad \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R},E} \quad \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}$

Problem: (J&K2) fails for EGTRSs: $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ is not $=_E \circ \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} \circ =_E$

$$a = b$$

$$a \rightarrow c$$

$$a \rightarrow d \leftarrow b \rightarrow^* c$$

We have

- $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} = \{(a, c)\}$ and
- $(=_E \circ \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} \circ =_E) = \{(a, c), (b, c)\}$, but
- $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E} = \{(a, c), (b, c), (a, d), (b, d)\}$.

Noticed by Meseguer [Mes17, Section 4.3]. His solution: $R = R^E = \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R},E}$

Only $\mathcal{R}, E \leftarrow \circ \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R},E}$ and $\mathcal{R}, E \leftarrow \circ \vdash_E$ peaks are considered

E-confluence analysis based on *ECCPs*

In the *CR-theory* $\overline{\mathcal{R}^{\text{CR}}}$ of an EGTRS,

goals $s \rightarrow t$ (resp $s \rightarrow^* t$)
in conditions of rules or Horn clauses
are *always* evaluated using $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ (resp. $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}^*$).

Then,

- $\overline{\mathcal{R}^{\text{CR}}} \vdash s = t$ and $\overline{\mathcal{R}^{\text{CR}}} \vdash s \xrightarrow{rm} t$ remain as $s =_E t$ and $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E} t$.
- $\overline{\mathcal{R}^{\text{CR}}} \vdash s \rightarrow t$ is denoted now as $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}} t$.
- $\overline{\mathcal{R}^{\text{CR}}} \vdash s \xrightarrow{ps} t$ is denoted now as $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}, E} t$.

Use of Jouannaud & Kirchner's framework with EGTRSs

Abstract reduction:	\vdash_E	\sim_E	$\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$	$\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}^E}$	$\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}$
Application to EGTRSs \mathcal{R} :	$\rightarrow_{\leftrightarrow_E}$	$=_E$	$\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}}$	$\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}, E}$	$\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}$

Consider $\alpha : \ell \rightarrow r \Leftarrow c, \alpha' : \ell' \rightarrow r' \Leftarrow c' \in \mathcal{R}^{rm}$ and $\beta : \lambda \rightarrow \rho \Leftarrow \gamma \in \tilde{E}$

For r-peaks



and c-peaks



with $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}}$

Set of GCPs	Label	Structure	Notes
CCP(\mathcal{R})	$\pi_{\alpha,p,\alpha'}$	$\langle \theta(\ell)[\theta(r')]_p, \theta(r) \rangle \Leftarrow \theta(c), \theta(c')$	$p \in \mathcal{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mu}(\ell), \ell _p \stackrel{?}{=}_{\theta} \ell'$
CVP $^{\rightarrow}$ (\mathcal{R})	$\pi_{\alpha,x,p}^{\rightarrow}$	$\langle \ell[x']_p, r \rangle \Leftarrow x \rightarrow x', c$	$x \in \mathcal{Var}^{\mu}(\ell), p \in \mathcal{Pos}_x^{\mu}(\ell)$
CCP(E, \mathcal{R})	$\pi_{\beta,p,\alpha}$	$\langle \theta(\lambda)[\theta(r)]_p, \theta(\rho) \rangle \Leftarrow \theta(c), \theta(\gamma)$	$p \in \mathcal{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mu}(\lambda), \lambda _p \stackrel{?}{=}_{\theta} \ell$
CCP(\mathcal{R}, E)	$\pi_{\alpha,p,\beta}$	$\langle \theta(\ell)[\theta(\rho)]_p, \theta(r) \rangle \Leftarrow \theta(c), \theta(\gamma)$	$p \in \mathcal{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mu}(\lambda), \ell _p \stackrel{?}{=}_{\theta} \lambda$
CVP $^{\rightarrow}$ (E)	$\pi_{\beta,x,p}^{\rightarrow}$	$\langle \lambda[x']_p, \rho \rangle \Leftarrow x \rightarrow x', \gamma$	$x \in \mathcal{Var}^{\mu}(\lambda), p \in \mathcal{Pos}_x^{\mu}(\lambda)$
CVP $^{\perp}$ (\mathcal{R})	$\pi_{\alpha,x,p}^{\perp}$	$\langle \ell[x']_p, r \rangle \Leftarrow x \Vdash x', c$	$x \in \mathcal{Var}^{\mu}(\ell), p \in \mathcal{Pos}_x^{\mu}(\ell)$

Consider $\alpha : \ell \rightarrow r \Leftarrow c, \alpha' : \ell' \rightarrow r' \Leftarrow c' \in \mathcal{R}^{rm}$ and $\beta : \lambda \rightarrow \rho \Leftarrow \gamma \in \tilde{E}$

For PS-r-peaks



and PS-c-peaks



with $\tilde{\Downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}, E}$

Set of GCPs	Label	Structure	Notes
LCCP(\mathcal{R})	$\pi_{\alpha, p, \alpha'}^{\text{LCCP}}$	$\langle \ell[r']_p, r \rangle \Leftarrow \ell _p = \ell', c, c'$	$p \in \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mu}(\ell)$
$\text{CVP}^{\xrightarrow{ps}}(\mathcal{R})$	$\pi_{\alpha, x, p}^{\xrightarrow{ps}}$	$\langle \ell[x']_p, r \rangle \Leftarrow x \xrightarrow{ps} x', c$	$x \in \text{Var}^{\mu}(\ell), p \in \text{Pos}_x^{\mu}(\ell)$
DCP(\mathcal{R})	$\pi_{\alpha}^{\text{DCP}}$	$\langle r, x' \rangle \Leftarrow x = \ell, x \xrightarrow{>\Lambda} x', c$	
LCCP(E, \mathcal{R})	$\pi_{\beta, p, \alpha}^{\text{LCCP}}$	$\langle \lambda[r]_p, \rho \rangle \Leftarrow \lambda _p = \ell, c, \gamma'$	$p \in \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\mu}(\lambda)$
$\text{CVP}^{\xrightarrow{ps}}(E)$	$\pi_{\beta, x, p}^{\xrightarrow{ps}}$	$\langle \lambda[x']_p, \rho \rangle \Leftarrow x \xrightarrow{ps} x', \gamma$	$x \in \text{Var}^{\mu}(\lambda), p \in \text{Pos}_x^{\mu}(\lambda)$

A rule $\ell \rightarrow r \Leftarrow c$ is

- μ -left-linear if no active variable occurs twice in ℓ
- μ -left-homogeneous if no active variable in ℓ is frozen in ℓ
- μ -compatible if no active variable in ℓ is frozen in r and no active variable in ℓ occurs in c

Joinability of CVPs for *conditional* rules $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}^{rm}$ and $\beta \in \vec{E}$

If α and β are left μ -homogeneous and μ -compatible, then

CVP	Joinable with
$\pi_{\alpha, x, p}^{\rightarrow}$	$\downarrow \mathcal{R}^{rm}$
$\pi_{\beta, x, p}^{\rightarrow}$	$\widetilde{\downarrow} \mathcal{R}^{rm}$
$\pi_{\alpha, x, p}^{\sqcup}$	$\widetilde{\downarrow} \mathcal{R}^{rm}, E$ ($\widetilde{\downarrow} \mathcal{R}^{rm}$, if α is μ -left-linear)
$\pi_{\alpha, x, p}^{\xrightarrow{ps}}$	$\widetilde{\downarrow} \mathcal{R}^{rm}, E$

Theorem (E-Confluence of EGTRSs \mathcal{R} by $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}}$ -joinability)

\mathcal{R} is *E-confluent* if it is *E-terminating* and one of ❶ – ❸ holds:

- ❶ all conditional pairs in the following set are $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}}$ -joinable:

$$\text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CVP}^{\rightarrow}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CCP}(E, \mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}, E) \cup \text{CVP}^{\rightarrow}(E) \cup \text{CVP}^{\text{H}}(\mathcal{R})$$

- ❷ it is μ -left-homogeneous and μ -compatible, and all conditional pairs in the following set are $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable:

$$\text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CCP}(E, \mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}, E) \cup \text{CVP}^{\text{H}}(\mathcal{R})$$

- ❸ it is μ -left-linear, μ -left-homogeneous and μ -compatible, and all conditional pairs in the following set are $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable:

$$\text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CCP}(E, \mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}, E)$$

Theorem (Non-E-confluence)

If there is a non- $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ -joinable $\pi \in \text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CVP}^{\rightarrow}(\mathcal{R})$, then \mathcal{R} is *not E-confluent*

The “sum-of-nats” EGTRS \mathcal{R} is E -confluent

- ① \mathcal{R} is μ -left-linear (hence μ -left-homogeneous) and μ -compatible.
- ② The only *proper* CCP $\pi_{(33),\Lambda,(34)}$, where

$$\text{sum}(\textcolor{red}{m}) \rightarrow n \Leftarrow m \approx n, \text{Nat}(n) \quad (33)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{sum}(\textcolor{red}{ms}) &\rightarrow m + n \\ &\Leftarrow ms \approx m ++ \textcolor{red}{ns}, \text{Nat}(m), \text{sum}(\textcolor{red}{ns}) \approx n \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

is *infeasible*, hence $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle m + n, n' \rangle &\Leftarrow ms \approx_{rm} n', \text{Nat}(n'), ms \approx_{rm} m ++ \textcolor{red}{ns}, \text{Nat}(m), \\ &\quad \text{sum}(\textcolor{red}{ns}) \approx_{rm} n \end{aligned}$$

- ③ *Improper* CCPs $\pi_{(33)}^I$ and $\pi_{(34)}^I$ are proved $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}}$ -joinable by induction
- ④ $\text{CCP}(E, \mathcal{R})$ and $\text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}, E)$ are *empty*
- ⑤ It is not difficult to see that \mathcal{R} is E -terminating.

Thus, \mathcal{R} is E -confluent

Theorem (Confluence of EGTRSs \mathcal{R} by $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}, E}$ -joinability)

\mathcal{R} is *E-confluent* if it is *E-terminating* and one of ① or ② holds:

- ① all conditional pairs in the following set are $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}, E}$ -joinable:

$$\text{LCCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CVP}^{\text{ps}}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{LCCP}(E, \mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CVP}^{\text{ps}}(E)$$

- ② $R \cup \overset{\leftrightarrow}{E}$ is μ -left-homogeneous and μ -compatible and all conditional pairs in the following set are $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}, E}$ -joinable:

$$\text{LCCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{LCCP}(E, \mathcal{R})$$

Theorem (Non-E-confluence)

If there is a non- $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ -joinable $\pi \in \text{LCCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CVP}^{\text{ps}}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{DCP}(\mathcal{R})$, then \mathcal{R} is *not E-confluent*

Subsumes non- $\tilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ -joinability of $\pi \in \text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CVP}^{\rightarrow}(\mathcal{R})$

Consider the following EGTRS \mathcal{R} where $R \cup \overset{\leftrightarrow}{E}$ is μ -left-linear and μ -compatible:

$$a = b \quad (35)$$

$$a \rightarrow c \quad (36)$$

$$a \rightarrow d \Leftarrow b \rightarrow^* c \quad (37)$$

$$c \rightarrow d \quad (38)$$

The CCP $\pi_{\langle \overrightarrow{(35)}, \wedge, (36) \rangle} : \langle c, b \rangle \in \text{CCP}(E, \mathcal{R})$ is *not* $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}}$ -joinable

However, $\pi_{\langle \overrightarrow{(35)}, \wedge, (36) \rangle}^{\text{LCCP}} : \langle c, b \rangle \Leftarrow a = a \in \text{LCCP}(E, \mathcal{R})$ is $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}, E}$ -joinable

All pairs in $\text{LCCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{LCCP}(E, \mathcal{R})$ are $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}, E}$ -joinable

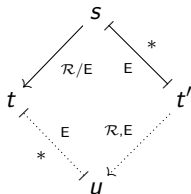
E -termination of \mathcal{R} is proved as explained above [Luc25, Example 11.6]

Thus, \mathcal{R} is E -confluent

RELATED WORK

Durán and Meseguer prove *E-confluence of conditional rewrite theories* $\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{F}, E, R)$ such that [DM12, Theorem 2]:

- ① E is a set of *linear* and *regular* unconditional equations;
- ② R is *strongly E-coherent* [DM12, page 819]:



- ③ the rules in R are *strongly deterministic*; and
- ④ \mathcal{R} is *quasi-decreasing*.

E -confluence is *characterized* as the $\Downarrow_{\mathcal{R}, E}$ -joinability of each ECCP

$$\langle \theta(\ell)[\theta(r')]_p, \theta(r) \rangle \Leftarrow \theta(c), \theta(c')$$

where $p \in \text{Pos}_{\mathcal{F}}(\ell)$ and $\ell|_p \stackrel{?}{=}_{E, \theta} \ell'$

The *E*-confluence of

$$a = b \quad (39)$$

$$a \rightarrow c \quad (40)$$

$$a \rightarrow d \Leftarrow b \rightarrow^* c \quad (41)$$

$$c \rightarrow d \quad (42)$$

cannot be proved as rule (41) is *not* strongly deterministic (c is *reducible*)

The *non-E-confluence* of \mathcal{R} in [Luc24, Example 14]:

$$b = f(a)$$

$$a = c$$

$$c \rightarrow d$$

$$b \rightarrow d$$

cannot be proved as \mathcal{R} is *not strongly E-coherent*. We have

$$f(d) \mathcal{R}/E \leftarrow b =_E b$$

but $b \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R},E} d$ is the only $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R},E}$ -step on b , and $f(d) \neq_E d$.

Note: the rules define *no ECCP*

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

E-confluence of *E*-terminating EGTRSs \mathcal{R} can be *proved* by checking:

- $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}}$ -joinability of
 - *Conditional Critical Pairs* in $\text{CCP}(\mathcal{R})$, $\text{CCP}(E, \mathcal{R})$, $\text{CCP}(\mathcal{R}, E)$, and
 - *Conditional Variable Pairs* in $\text{CVP}^{\rightarrow}(\mathcal{R})$, $\text{CVP}^{\rightarrow}(E)$, and $\text{CVP}^{\perp}(\mathcal{R})$
- $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}^{rm}, E}$ -joinability of
 - *Logic-based Conditional Critical Pairs* in $\text{LCCP}(\mathcal{R})$ and $\text{LCCP}(E, \mathcal{R})$, and
 - *Conditional Variable Pairs* in $\text{CVP}^{\overset{ps}{\rightarrow}}(\mathcal{R})$ and $\text{CVP}^{\overset{ps}{\rightarrow}}(E)$

Simplifications possible depending on the *structure of equations and rules*

Our methods apply to *ETRSs* and *Conditional Rewrite Theories* as particular cases of EGTRSs

Non-E-confluence of EGTRSs can be proved as the non- $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ -joinability of some conditional pair in $\text{LCCP}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{CVP}^{\overset{ps}{\rightarrow}}(\mathcal{R}) \cup \text{DCP}(\mathcal{R})$

Our examples would *not* be handled by previous works [JK86, DM12].

Implementation

Envisaged implementation in our confluence tool **CONFident**, including:

- Improving **MU-TERM** to prove E -termination of EGTRSs
- Improving **infChecker** to deal with (in)feasibility proofs with EGTRSs

Theoretical developments

Conditions to use $\widetilde{\downarrow}_{\mathcal{R},E}$ -joinability of CCPs instead of ECCPs or LCCPs

Develop methods to prove E -termination of EGTRSs

Use abstract results of E -confluence not requiring E -termination

Extension to other rewriting-based frameworks

- Logically-Constrained Term Rewriting Systems,
- Higher-Order Rewriting,
- Nominal Rewriting

Application to **Maude**

Thanks!

Confluence of Conditional Rewriting Modulo

– Invited talk –

Salvador Lucas

DSIC & VRAIN, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

14TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONFLUENCE

IWC 2025



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