

Making the Knuth-Bendix algorithm exponentially slower

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Motivation

$$M = \langle A \mid u_1 = v_1, \dots, u_n = v_n \rangle$$

$u_i, v_i \in A^*$

Word problem:

Given $x, y \in A^*$ decide if $x =_M y$ or not.

Motivation

Example

$$M = \langle a, b, c \mid b^2a^2 = ab, a^3 = 1, ba = c \rangle$$

Do b^2 and ac represent the same element?

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Yes!

$$b^2 = b^2 1 = b^2 a^3 = (b^2 a^2) a = aba = a(ba) = ac$$

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What about aba^5bc and $c^3a b^3a^7c$?

Motivation

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What about aba^5bc and $c^3a b^3a^7c$?

No!

Motivation

Theorem (Markov 1947, Post 1947)

There exists a monoid with undecidable WP.

Theorem (Matiyasevich 1967)

The monoid generated by $\{a, b\}$ with relations

$$a(ab)^2 = ba^2,$$

$$a^2b^2 = ba^2,$$

$$\begin{aligned} (ba)^{32}(b^{17}aba)^7(ba)^2b^{96} &= bab^3ab^{15}ab^2ab^{21}(ab)^{31}ab^{26}ab(b^2a)^2 \\ &\quad b^{45}ab^{54}ab^2ab^{18}(ab^2)^2b^3(b^4a)^2b^{14}ab^4 \\ &\quad ab^{18}a(b^2ab)^2bab^{16}, \end{aligned}$$

has undecidable WP.

Motivation

Open problem

Does every 1-relation monoid

$$\langle A \mid u = v \rangle \quad u, v \in A^*$$

have decidable WP?

Theorem (Magnus 1932)

The WP is decidable for all 1-relation groups.

For a comprehensive introduction see:

Nyberg-Brodda, Carl-Fredrik (2021), "The word problem for one-relation monoids: a survey", Semigroup Forum, 103 (2): 297–355, arXiv:2105.02853, doi:10.1007/s00233-021-10216-8

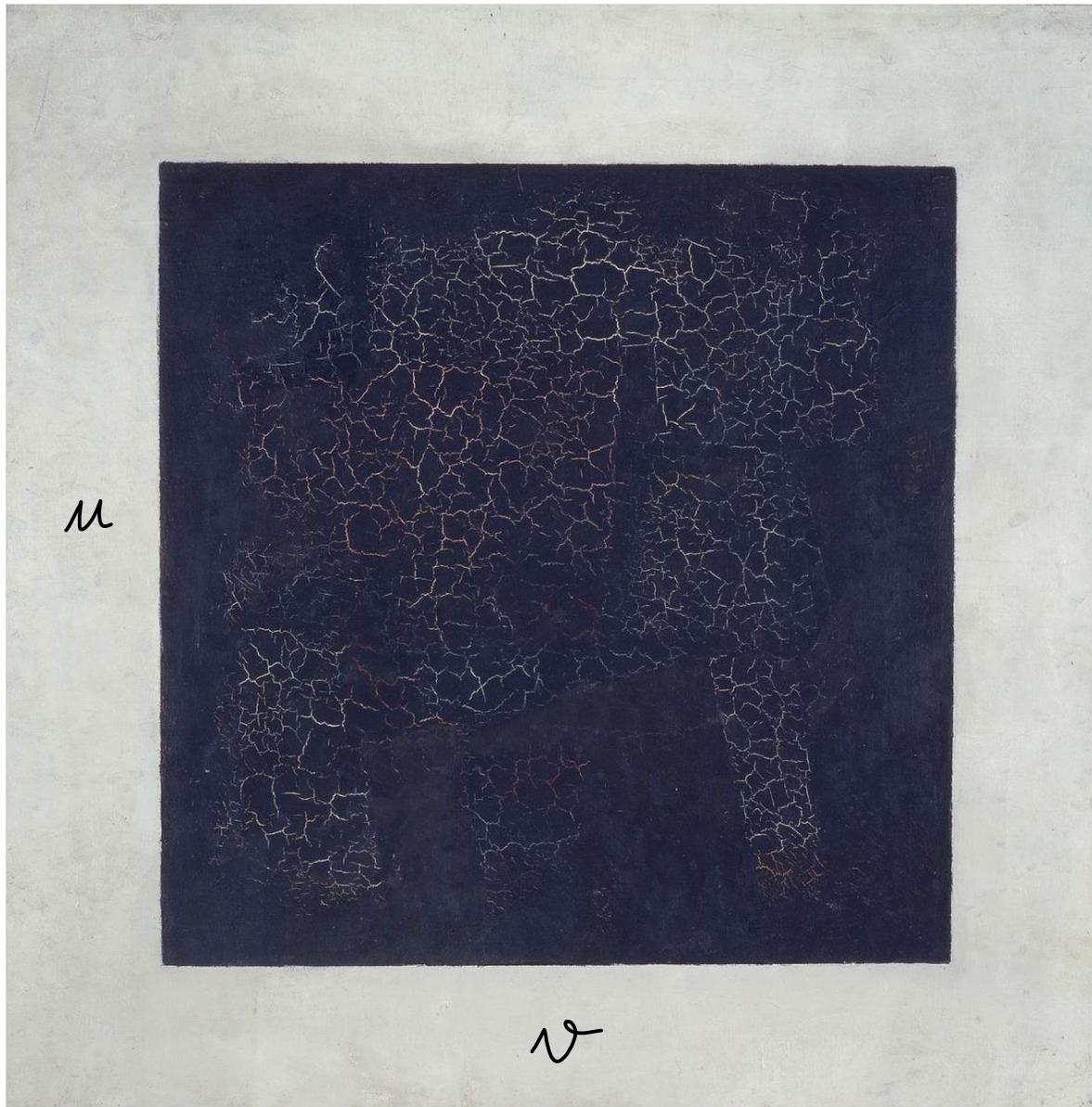
Our efforts



μ

v

Our efforts



Our efforts

Can we solve the WP in all 2-gen. 1-relation monoids
where $|u|, |v| \leq 11$?



u

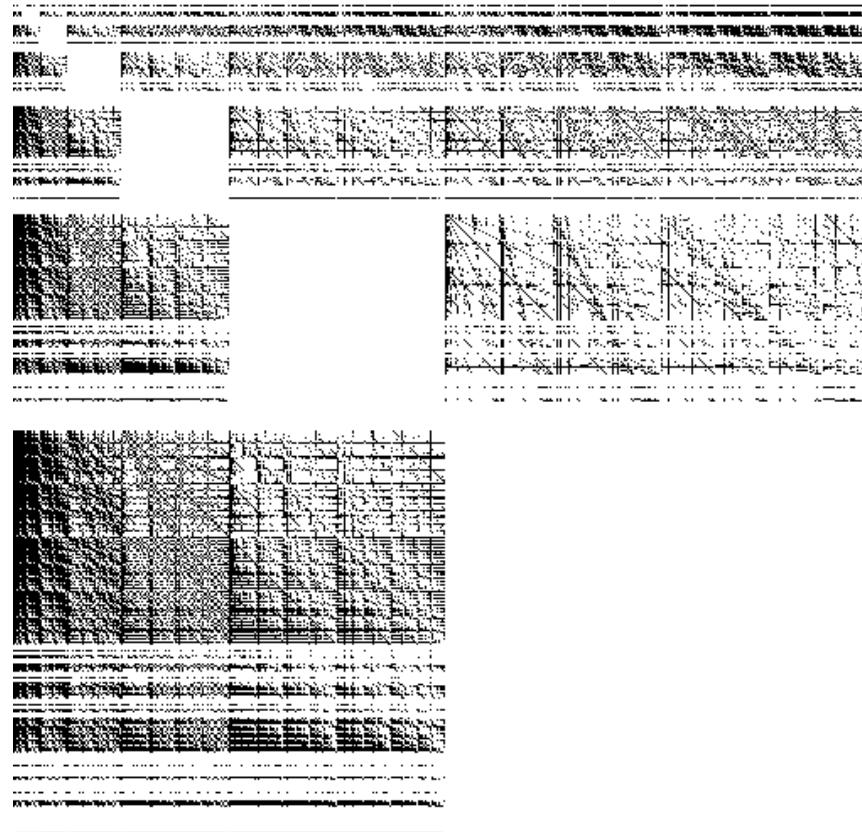
v

4'190'209
monoids total

Our efforts

All 4'190'209 reduce to one of 42'020.

bma



α , $d\wedge a$

Our efforts

C., James Mitchell, Finn Smith, "The word problem for 1-relation monoids is mostly decidable", WIP

Online encyclopedia of 1-relation monoid presentations

[Home](#) | [Unsolved Cases](#) | [About](#)

Enter a pair of words separated by an "=" using the alphabet {a, b}, e.g. $baa = aa$:

Displaying search results for "abb=aa".

The presentation $\langle a, b \mid abb = aa \rangle$ is equivalent to $\langle a, b \mid bba = aa \rangle$ via the following transformations:

► Click here to show the transformation steps

Displaying proofs for $\langle a, b \mid bba = aa \rangle$ instead!

$\langle a, b \mid bba = aa \rangle$

Unconditional proofs of the decideability of the word problem

There are 5 unconditional proofs for the decideability of the word problem in $\langle a, b \mid bba = aa \rangle$.

1. This proof proceeds by establishing that the Watier condition holds.

► Click here to expand the proof

For more details about this proof, see [Proof #121314](#).

2. This proof proceeds by constructing a complete rewriting system for the presentation.

► Click here to expand the proof

For more details about this proof, see [Proof #121315](#).

3. This proof proceeds by constructing a complete rewriting system for the presentation.

▼ Click here to expand the proof

○ Reversing the words in the presentation:

$\langle a, b \mid bba = aa \rangle$

yields

$\langle a, b \mid aa = abb \rangle$.

42'020 remain...

42'020 remain...

Can we do better?

Rewriting systems

$$R = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_1 \rightarrow v_1, \\ u_2 \rightarrow v_2, \\ \vdots \\ u_n \rightarrow v_n \end{array} \right\}$$

$u_i, v_i \in A^*$

Rewriting systems

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Given $x, y \in A^*$ we write $x \xrightarrow{R} y$ if we can factorize

$$x = s u_i t, \quad y = s v_i t$$

for some $s, t \in A^*, i \in \mathbb{N}$.

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A word $x \in A^*$ is **irreducible** if it cannot be written as

$$x = s u_i t \text{ for any } s, t \in A^*, i \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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A word $x \in A^*$ is **irreducible** if it cannot be written as

$$x = s u_i t \text{ for any } s, t \in A^*, i \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Write $x \xrightarrow{* R} y$ if there exists a sequence

$$x = z_1 \xrightarrow{R} z_2 \xrightarrow{R} \dots \xrightarrow{R} z_m = y$$

Rewriting systems

To every rewriting system R , we associate the monoid M

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Observations

If $x \xrightarrow{R^*} y$, then $x =_M y$.

Rewriting systems

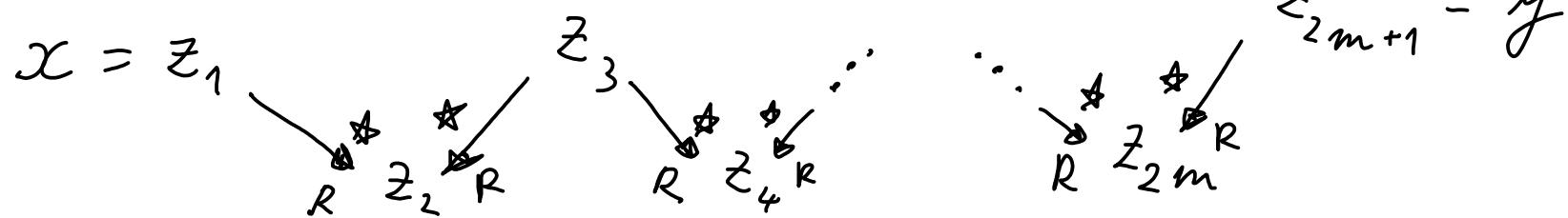
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Complete rewriting systems

A rewriting system R is

- **Terminating** if there are no infinite rewriting sequences

$$z_1 \xrightarrow{R} z_2 \xrightarrow{R} z_3 \xrightarrow{R} \dots \quad \text{X}$$

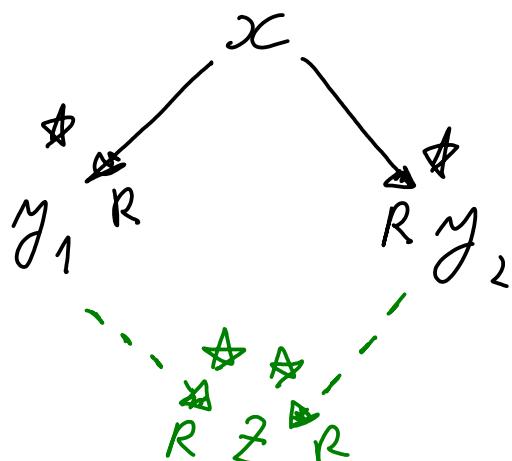
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- **Confluent** if $\forall x, y_1, y_2 \in A^*$ s.t. $x \xrightarrow{* R} y_1, x \xrightarrow{* R} y_2$
 $\exists z \in A^*$ s.t. $y_1 \xrightarrow{* R} z, y_2 \xrightarrow{* R} z$, i.e.



Complete rewriting systems

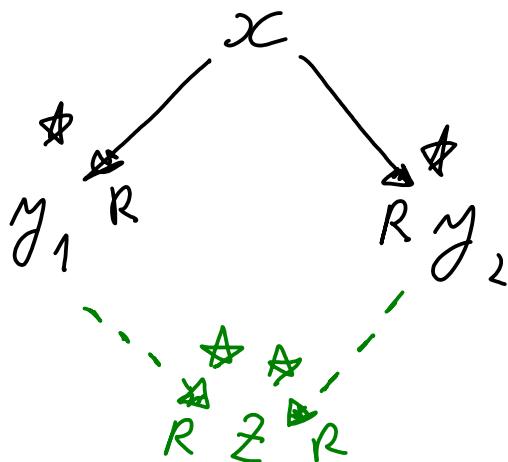
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- **Complete** if its both confluent and terminating.



Complete rewriting systems

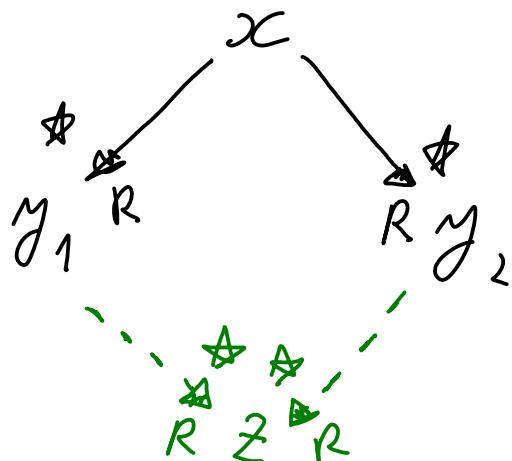
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- **Complete** if it's both confluent and terminating.



Theorem

The WP is decidable in the associated monoid of any complete rws.

Complete rewriting systems

Issue: It is undecidable if a given rws is terminating

Complete rewriting systems

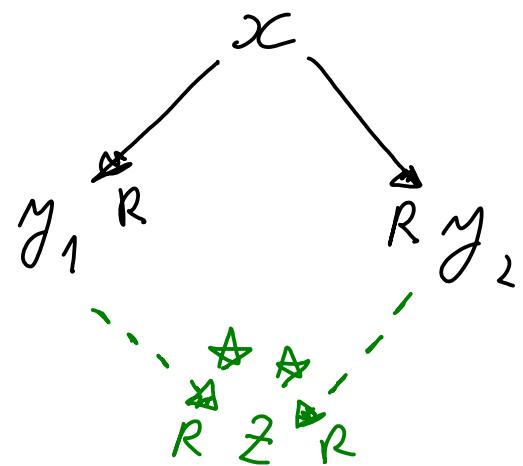
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— II — is confluent.

Complete rewriting systems

Issue: It is undecidable if a given rws is terminating
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is confluent.

Def: A rws R is **locally confluent** if

$\forall x, y_1, y_2 \in A^*$ s.t. $x \xrightarrow{R} y_1, x \xrightarrow{R} y_2$
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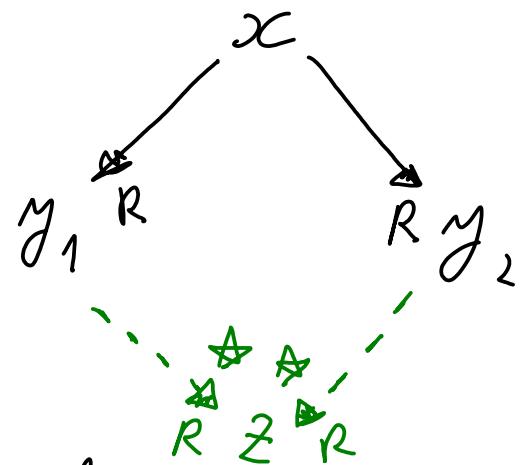


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Lemma (Newman 1942)

Locally confluent and terminating \Rightarrow confluent.

Observation

Local confluence is decidable if R is terminating.

Critical pairs

Example

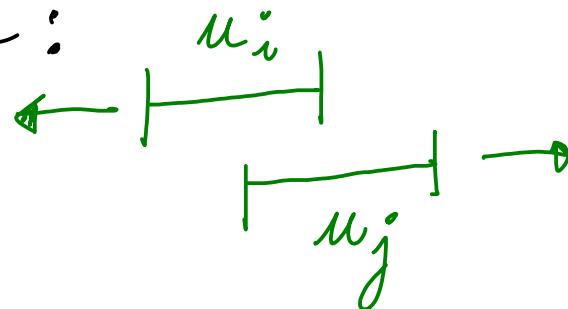
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Idea:

$\xleftarrow{\quad} bbaa$

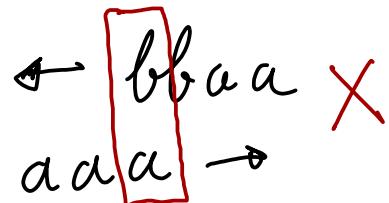
$aaa \rightarrow$

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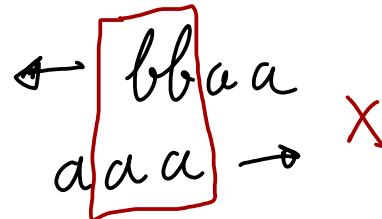


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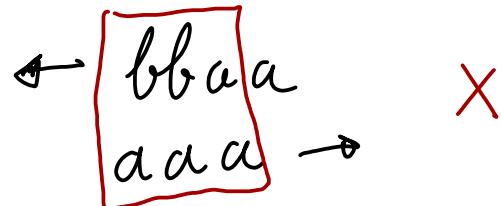


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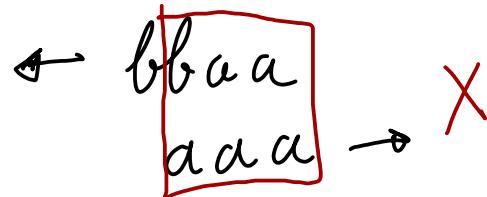


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Idea:

$$\xleftarrow{\quad} \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline bbaa \\ \hline aaa \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow \checkmark$$

$$\xleftarrow{\quad} \begin{array}{c} bbaaa \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \end{array}$$

Critical pairs

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$\leftarrow bba\boxed{a}\right. \\ \left. \quad \quad \quad aaa \rightarrow \checkmark \right.$

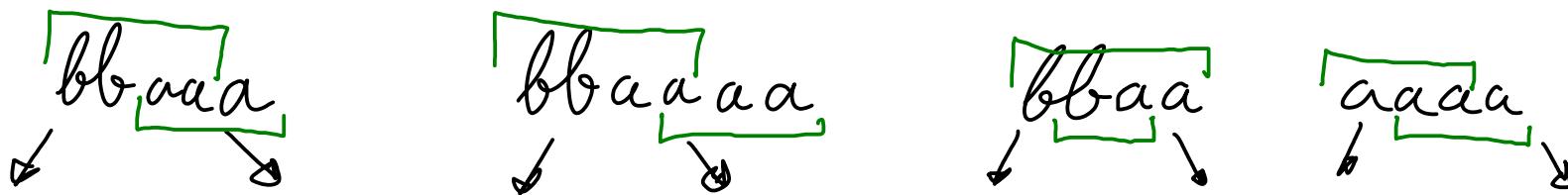
$\leftarrow \begin{matrix} bbaaa \\ \leftarrow \quad \rightarrow \right. \end{matrix} \quad \left. \begin{matrix} bbaaaa \\ \leftarrow \quad \rightarrow \right. \right.$

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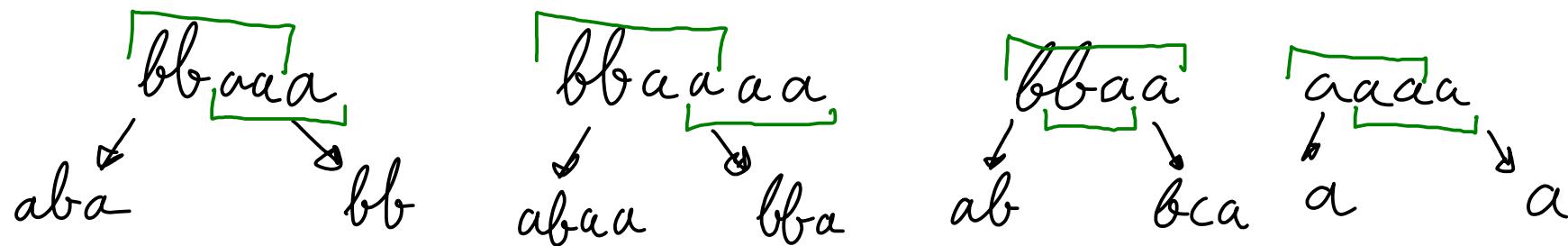


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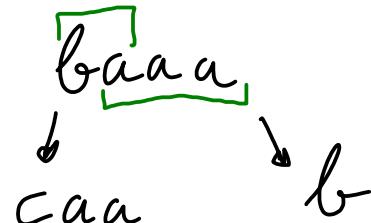
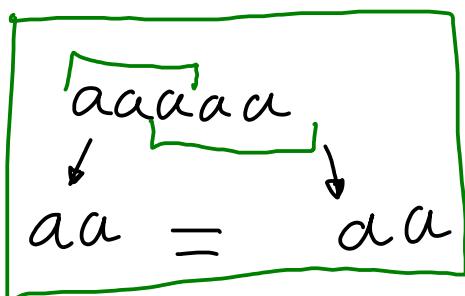
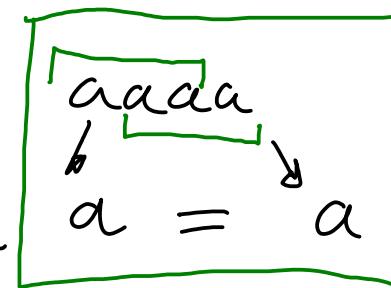
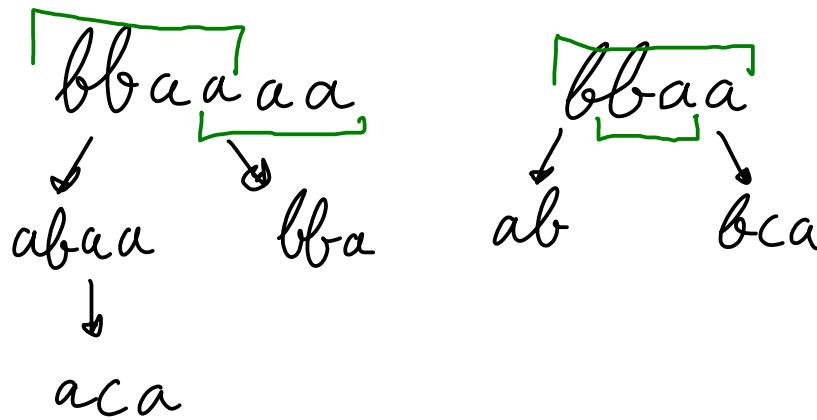
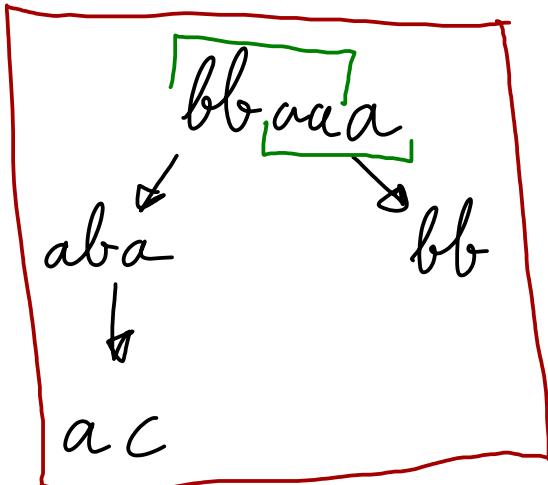


Critical pairs

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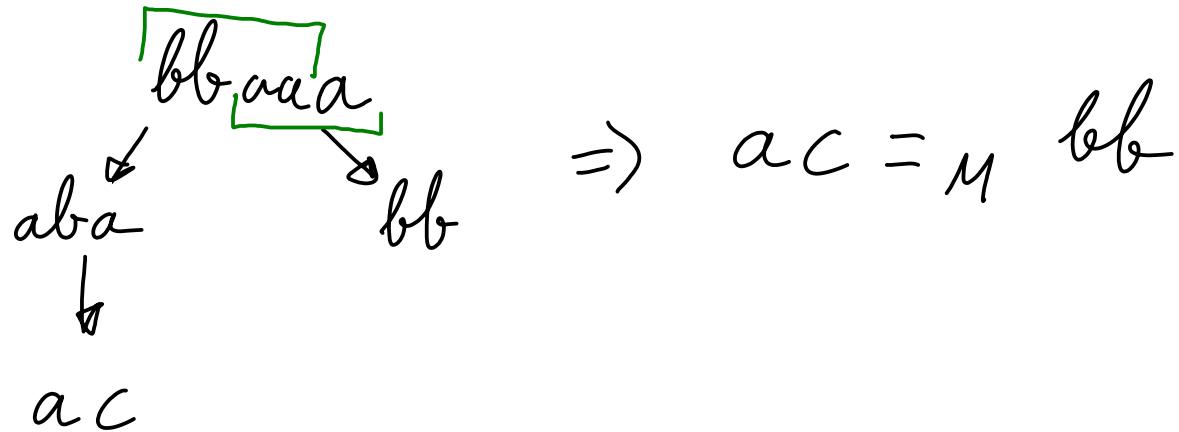
$$R = \{ bbaa \rightarrow ab, aaa \rightarrow 1, ba \rightarrow c \}$$

Idea:



Not locally confluent!

Critical pairs



Critical pairs

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{bb} \\ \text{aa} \\ \text{aa} \end{array} \quad \Rightarrow \quad ac =_M bb$$

\downarrow

$$aba \quad \quad \quad bb$$

\downarrow

$$ac$$

So can add

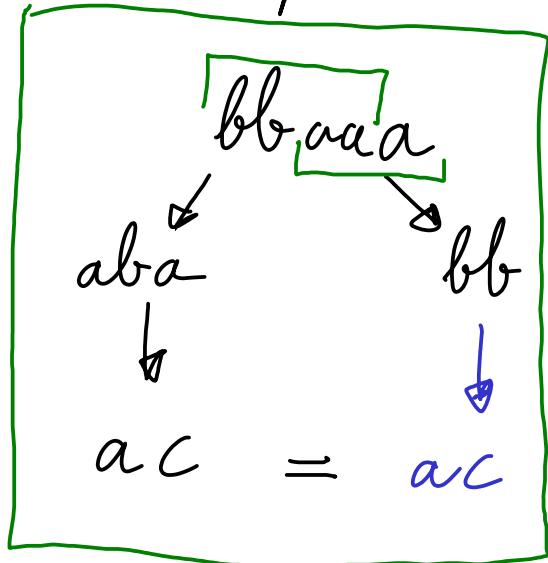
$$ac \rightarrow bb$$

or

$$bb \rightarrow ac$$

without changing underlying monoid.

Critical pairs



$$\Rightarrow ac =_M bb$$

So can add

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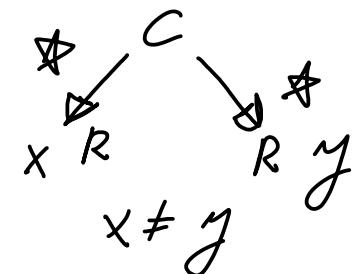
without changing underlying monoid.

Let's add $bb \rightarrow ac$

Knuth - Bendix algorithm

Input : terminating rws R

1. While R is not locally confluent ;
2. Pick an unresolved critical pair
3. Add either $x \rightarrow y$ or $y \rightarrow x$ to R ,
preserving termination
4. Return R



How to preserve termination?

Option 1: Termination orders

Example: Len - lex ordering

Assign an order to alphabet, say $a < b < c$

Define $>_{\text{lenlex}}$ on A^* by

$x >_{\text{lenlex}} y \quad \text{if} \quad \text{len}(x) > \text{len}(y)$

or if $\text{len}(x) = \text{len}(y)$ and y comes before x in a dictionary.

E.g. $aab >_{\text{lenlex}} ba$

$bca >_{\text{lenlex}} acc$

How to preserve termination?

Importantly $x >_{\text{lex}} y \Rightarrow sx t >_{\text{lex}} sy t$
and every infinite set contains its minimum.

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Other examples: Weights, RPO etc.

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If a rws R preserves a term. order $>$, then
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How to preserve termination?

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Other examples: Weights, RPO etc.

Observation:

If a rws R preserves a term. order $>$, then it is terminating.

When adding $x =_R y$ to R, pick $x \rightarrow y$ if $x > y$ and $y \rightarrow x$ if $y > x$.

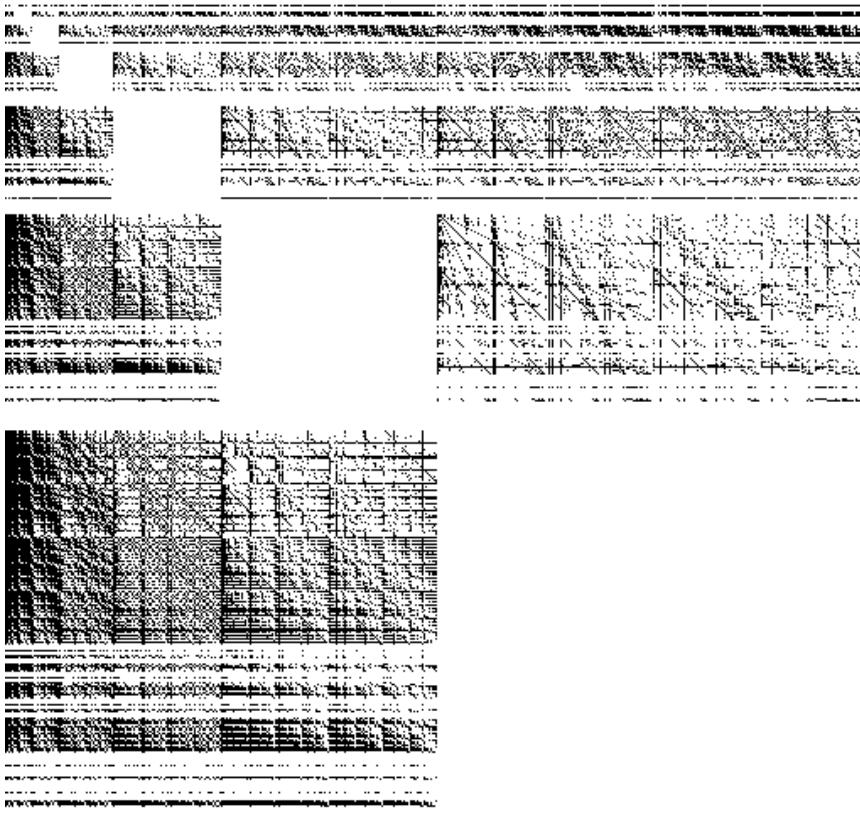
How to reserve termination?

$$R = \left\{ bb \rightarrow ab, aa \rightarrow 1, ba \rightarrow c \right\}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{KB}$

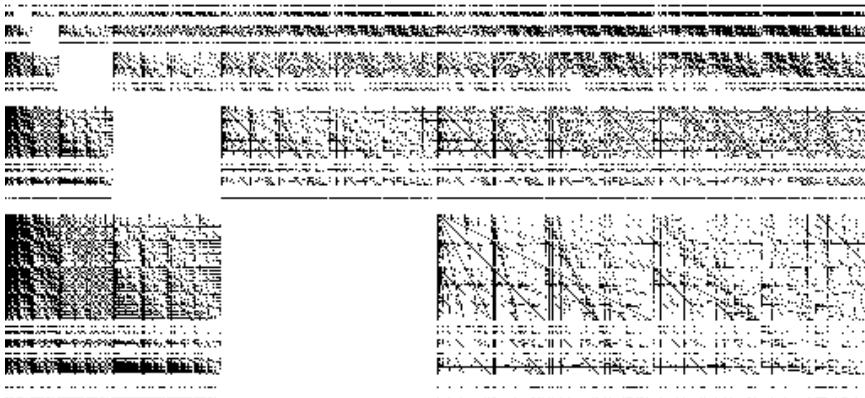
$$R' = \left\{ ba \rightarrow c, bb \rightarrow ac, aa \rightarrow 1, aca \rightarrow bc, acb \rightarrow cc, bca \rightarrow ab, caa \rightarrow b, cca \rightarrow acc,ccb \rightarrow bcc, aabc \rightarrow ca, aacc \rightarrow cb, bcbc \rightarrow aab, bccc \rightarrow abc'b, cabc \rightarrow ab, cacc \rightarrow bcb, acccc \rightarrow cbcb, ccccc \rightarrow c \right\}$$

Knuth - Bendix with termination ordering

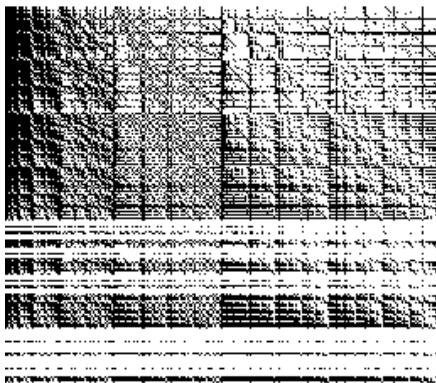


42'020

Knuth - Bendix with termination ordering



KB
→



4'020

1'226

Knuth-Bendix with termination ordering

Smallest one we can't do with KB:

$$\langle a, b \mid baa \ baa = aba \rangle$$

Can we do better?

Termination solvers

Termination Competition 2022 [Show configs] [Show scores] [One column]

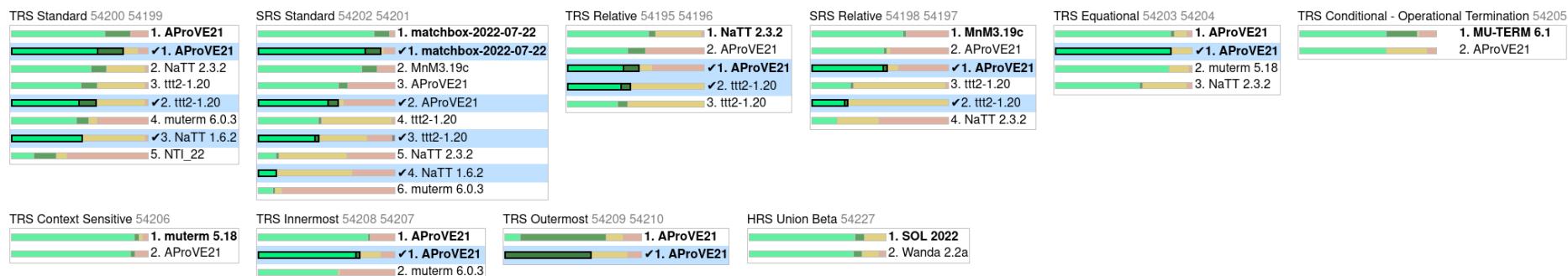
Competition-Wide Ranking

AProVE+LoAT(4.0811) MU-TERM(1.9331) TTT2+TcT(1.9082) NaTT(1.4268) Matchbox(1.3425) iRankFinder(1.2594) Ultimate(1.2079) MultumNonMultia(1.1930) NTI+cTl(0.9649) SOL(0.9180) Wanda(0.8975)

Advancing-the-State-of-the-Art Ranking

Matchbox(67) MultumNonMultia(48) AProVE+LoAT(31.25) SOL(16) NaTT(1) NTI+cTl(1) TTT2+TcT(0.375) iRankFinder(0) MU-TERM(0) Ultimate(0) Wanda(0)

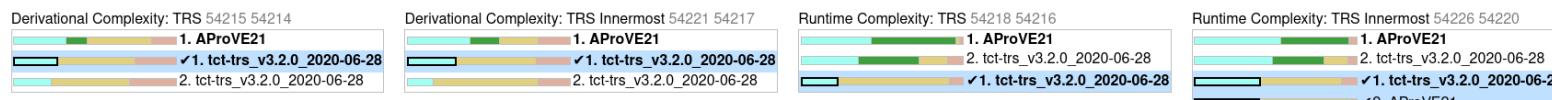
Termination of Rewriting Progress: 100%, CPU Time: 85d 8:05:33, Node Time: 34d 3:49:50



Termination of Programs Progress: 100%, CPU Time: 3d 3:22:33, Node Time: 2d 4:20:44



Complexity Analysis Progress: 100%, CPU Time: 129d 22:10:39, Node Time: 42d 19:13:03



Demonstrations Progress: 100%, CPU Time: 6d 17:00:21, Node Time: 2d 16:08:07



Termination solvers

TermCOMP 2022: SRS Standard

54202 [Job info CSV] 54201 [Job info CSV] Showing all results.

benchmark	VBS	muterm 6.0.3 default	NaTT 2.3.2 default	ttt2-1.20 ttt2	matchbox-2022-07-22 std.sh	AProVE21 standard	MnM3.19c default	ttt2-1.20 ttt2_cert	AProVE21 certified	NaTT 1.6.2 Certifiable	matchbox-2022-07-22 std-cert.sh	-Y2021
	Filter...	-- ✓	-- ✓	-- ✓	-- ✓	-- ✓	-- ✓	-- ✓	-- ✓	-- ✓	-- ✓	-- ✓
Secret_05_SRS/aprove1.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 0.49/0.41	YES 179.68/45.43	YES 0.81/0.47	YES 20.29/5.97	YES 4.46/1.38	YES 20.45/7.93 ✓ 0.01	YES 20.35/5.89 ✓ 0.02	MAYBE 0.26/0.22	YES 4.74/2.64 ✓ 0.03	YES
Secret_05_SRS/aprove2.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 0.75/0.67	YES 12.91/3.52	YES 0.18/0.12	YES 23.02/13.14	YES 4.86/1.47	YES 22.29/6.55 ✓ 0.02	YES 19.10/5.60 ✓ 0.01	MAYBE 0.27/0.23	YES 0.88/0.52 ✓ 0.01	YES
Secret_05_SRS/aprove3.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 1.03/0.92	YES 25.88/6.78	YES 7.98/4.05	YES 17.52/5.23	YES 12.46/3.40	YES 25.91/6.73 ✓ 0.02	YES 16.27/4.90 ✓ 0.01	MAYBE 0.26/0.24	YES 8.95/4.53 ✓ 0.03	YES
Secret_05_SRS/aprove4.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	YES 0.32/0.28	MAYBE 196.31/49.54	YES 0.44/5.26	YES 27.91/7.84	YES 17.58/5.63	YES 39.61/19.28 ✓ 0.01	YES 24.04/6.83 ✓ 0.02	MAYBE 0.37/0.31	YES 11.48/6.83 ✓ 0.02	YES
Secret_05_SRS/aprove5.xml	YES	YES 145.95/146.99	YES 0.44/0.44	YES 185.37/46.98	YES 15.16/7.40	YES 26.68/7.55	YES 9.88/2.79	YES 34.49/8.91 ✓ 0.03	YES 27.85/7.80 ✓ 0.01	MAYBE 0.47/0.43	YES 16.70/7.87 ✓ 0.03	YES
Secret_05_SRS/jambox1.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 0.98/0.93	MAYBE 198.10/49.84	YES 7.09/3.53	YES 29.10/8.10	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 951.36/300.30	YES 7.95/7.35 ✓ 0.02	MAYBE 0.37/0.34	YES 7.82/3.83 ✓ 0.00	YES
Secret_05_SRS/jambox2.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 4.02/3.81	MAYBE 198.36/50.05	YES 4.13/2.43	timeout (wallclock)	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 952.57/300.30	MAYBE 1163.26/292.50	MAYBE 0.84/0.76	timeout (wallclock)	YES
Secret_05_SRS/jambox3.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 1.07/0.96	YES 41.65/10.69	YES 1.31/0.75	YES 92.04/23.88	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 953.07/300.30	YES 7.85/22.66 ✓ 0.01	MAYBE 0.48/0.42	YES 64.72/25.19 ✓ 0.01	YES
Secret_05_SRS/jambox4.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 0.52/0.47	YES 4.25/1.33	YES 0.78/0.44	YES 5.71/2.12	YES 18.82/4.98	YES 28.95/7.59 ✓ 0.01	YES 36.45/14.34 ✓ 0.01	MAYBE 0.26/0.23	YES 1.41/0.83 ✓ 0.01	YES
Secret_05_SRS/jambox5.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 0.72/0.61	YES 12.27/3.34	YES 0.59/0.35	YES 43.65/11.71	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 952.85/300.31	YES 42.67/11.62 ✓ 0.01	MAYBE 0.34/0.28	YES 21.60/11.86 ✓ 0.01	YES
Secret_05_SRS/matchbox1.xml	YES	YES 12.45/12.93	YES 0.21/0.21	YES 7.96/2.35	YES 4.90/2.62	YES 26.27/7.40	YES 7.12/2.06	YES 9.66/2.71 ✓ 0.00	YES 27.93/7.65 ✓ 0.01	YES 2.42/1.91 ✓ 0.02	YES 3.64/2.04 ✓ 0.02	YES
Secret_05_SRS/matchbox2.xml	YES	YES 4.02/4.22	YES 0.51/0.44	YES 5.50/1.64	YES 0.09/0.08	YES 6.52/2.40	YES 2.42/0.86	YES 13.02/1.07 ✓ 0.00	YES 12.84/6.55 ✓ 0.01	YES 3.57/1.45 ✓ 0.03	YES 11.45/6.60 ✓ 0.04	YES
Secret_05_SRS/torpa1.xml	YES	YES 2.20/2.37	MAYBE 0.93/0.86	YES 3.94/1.31	YES 0.34/0.21	YES 6.32/2.29	YES 7.87/2.21	YES 21.28/5.58 ✓ 0.03	YES 19.55/5.73 ✓ 0.00	MAYBE 0.41/0.38	YES 9.57/5.04 ✓ 0.03	YES
Secret_05_SRS/torpa2.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 0.33/0.31	MAYBE 197.74/49.78	YES 2.62/2.01	YES 18.04/5.32	YES 9.44/2.67	YES 48.32/12.49 ✓ 0.00	YES 20.62/5.93 ✓ 0.00	MAYBE 0.14/0.13	YES 2.29/1.33 ✓ 0.00	YES
Secret_05_SRS/torpa3.xml	YES	YES 4.24/4.60	YES 0.07/0.30	YES 7.22/2.09	YES 0.68/0.40	YES 13.45/4.16	YES 7.62/2.17	YES 13.64/3.66 ✓ 0.02	YES 13.82/4.27 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.64/0.04 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.76/0.46 ✓ 0.11	YES
Secret_05_SRS/torpa4.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	YES 0.19/0.20	YES 9.54/2.67	YES 0.08/0.07	YES 17.94/5.42	YES 6.23/1.80	YES 21.37/5.68 ✓ 0.01	YES 21.82/6.31 ✓ 0.00	MAYBE 0.59/0.54	YES 0.08/0.08 ✓ 0.00	YES
Zantema_04/syracuse.xml	MAYBE	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 1.26/1.21	MAYBE 198.67/49.99	timeout (wallclock)	timeout (wallclock)	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 953.02/300.30	MAYBE 1170.62/293.93	MAYBE 0.67/0.64	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE
Zantema_04/z001.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	MAYBE 0.73/0.65	YES 1.08/0.52	YES 0.04/0.05	YES 5.26/2.03	YES 2.71/0.94	YES 23.18/6.05 ✓ 0.28	YES 7.92/20.76 ✓ 0.04	MAYBE 0.33/0.29	YES 9.47/4.43 ✓ 0.00	YES
Zantema_04/z002.xml	YES	YES 15.45/15.74	YES 0.05/0.05	YES 0.90/0.50	YES 0.17/0.13	YES 5.65/2.12	YES 0.81/0.43	YES 4.93/1.49 ✓ 0.01	YES 5.09/2.35 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.25/0.22 ✓ 0.00	YES 1.56/0.93 ✓ 0.01	YES
Zantema_04/z003.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	YES 0.08/0.09	YES 2.42/1.12	YES 0.22/0.15	YES 5.60/2.08	YES 1.67/0.66	YES 0.14/2.53 ✓ 0.00	YES 3.78/4.21 ✓ 0.00	MAYBE 0.31/0.29	YES 1.17/0.64 ✓ 0.01	YES
Zantema_04/z004.xml	YES	YES 0.07/0.09	YES 0.14/0.13	YES 0.79/0.46	YES 0.16/0.10	YES 5.48/2.08	YES 1.21/0.54	YES 8.46/2.36 ✓ 0.00	YES 15.70/4.74 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.18/0.17 ✓ 0.00	YES 3.15/1.80 ✓ 0.00	YES
Zantema_04/z005.xml	YES	YES 59.32/60.30	YES 0.45/0.39	YES 1.48/0.63	YES 0.21/0.14	YES 5.73/2.19	YES 0.91/0.44	YES 21.39/5.60 ✓ 0.00	YES 13.43/4.20 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.47/0.23 ✓ 0.00	YES 1.34/0.79 ✓ 0.00	YES
Zantema_04/z006.xml	YES	YES 0.03/0.04	YES 0.04/0.04	YES 0.99/0.50	YES 0.06/0.06	YES 5.43/2.18	YES 0.72/0.39	YES 1.99/0.73 ✓ 0.00	YES 2.80/3.22 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.02/0.02 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.09/0.06 ✓ 0.00	YES
Zantema_04/z007.xml	YES	YES 0.01/0.02	YES 0.04/0.04	YES 1.25/0.57	YES 0.05/0.06	YES 5.33/2.04	YES 0.81/0.43	YES 2.74/1.92 ✓ 0.00	YES 5.43/3.14 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.12/0.02 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.35/0.05 ✓ 0.00	YES
Zantema_04/z008.xml	YES	YES 135.83/63.21	YES 1.15/1.11	YES 4.16/1.32	YES 0.84/0.50	YES 16.50/4.97	YES 3.02/0.99	YES 15.03/4.01 ✓ 0.00	YES 20.11/5.85 ✓ 0.01	YES 0.68/0.64 ✓ 0.01	YES 2.14/1.20 ✓ 0.01	YES
Zantema_04/z009.xml	YES	YES 0.04/0.46	YES 0.05/0.05	YES 2.18/0.81	YES 0.24/0.15	YES 11.99/3.88	YES 1.44/0.60	YES 3.06/1.35 ✓ 0.00	YES 16.04/4.92 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.03/0.03 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.97/0.55 ✓ 0.00	YES
Zantema_04/z010.xml	YES	YES 0.03/0.04	YES 0.04/0.04	YES 1.11/0.54	YES 0.05/0.05	YES 11.88/3.82	YES 0.85/0.46	YES 2.90/0.96 ✓ 0.00	YES 11.77/3.78 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.02/0.02 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.06/0.06 ✓ 0.00	YES
Zantema_04/z011.xml	YES	YES 0.14/0.14	YES 0.07/0.07	YES 1.95/0.74	YES 0.20/1.29	YES 14.94/4.53	YES 1.68/0.66	YES 4.83/1.44 ✓ 0.00	YES 15.03/4.55 ✓ 0.01	YES 0.04/0.04 ✓ 0.00	YES 1.17/0.71 ✓ 0.01	YES
Zantema_04/z012.xml	YES	YES 0.08/0.08	YES 0.05/0.05	YES 0.89/0.49	YES 0.06/0.06	YES 21.33/6.13	YES 2.11/0.80	YES 1.17/0.55 ✓ 0.01	YES 15.70/4.74 ✓ 0.01	YES 0.12/0.03 ✓ 0.00	YES 0.36/0.05 ✓ 0.00	YES
Zantema_04/z013.xml	YES	YES 0.94/0.94	YES 0.05/0.05	YES 1.73/0.70	YES 0.19/0.13	YES 5.92/2.18	YES 1.37/0.65	YES 8.27/2.31 ✓ 0.01	YES 15.89/4.73 ✓ 0.02	YES 0.12/0.11 ✓ 0.01	YES 0.58/0.35 ✓ 0.00	YES

Termination solvers

Examples:

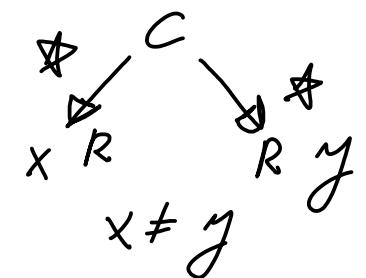
- Waldmann, J. (2004). Matchbox: A Tool for Match-Bounded String Rewriting.
In: van Oostrom, V. (eds) Rewriting Techniques and Applications. RTA 2004.
Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 3091. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-25979-4_6
- Giesl, J. et al. (2014). Proving Termination of Programs Automatically with AProVE .
In: Demri, S., Kapur, D., Weidenbach, C. (eds) Automated Reasoning. IJCAR 2014.
Lecture Notes in Computer Science(), vol 8562. Springer, Cham.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-08587-6_13

Knuth - Bendix algorithm

Input : terminating rws R

1. While R is not locally confluent ;

2. Pick an unresolved critical pair



3. Add either $x \rightarrow y$ or $y \rightarrow x$ to R,
preserving termination

4. Return R

Explore both options

Example

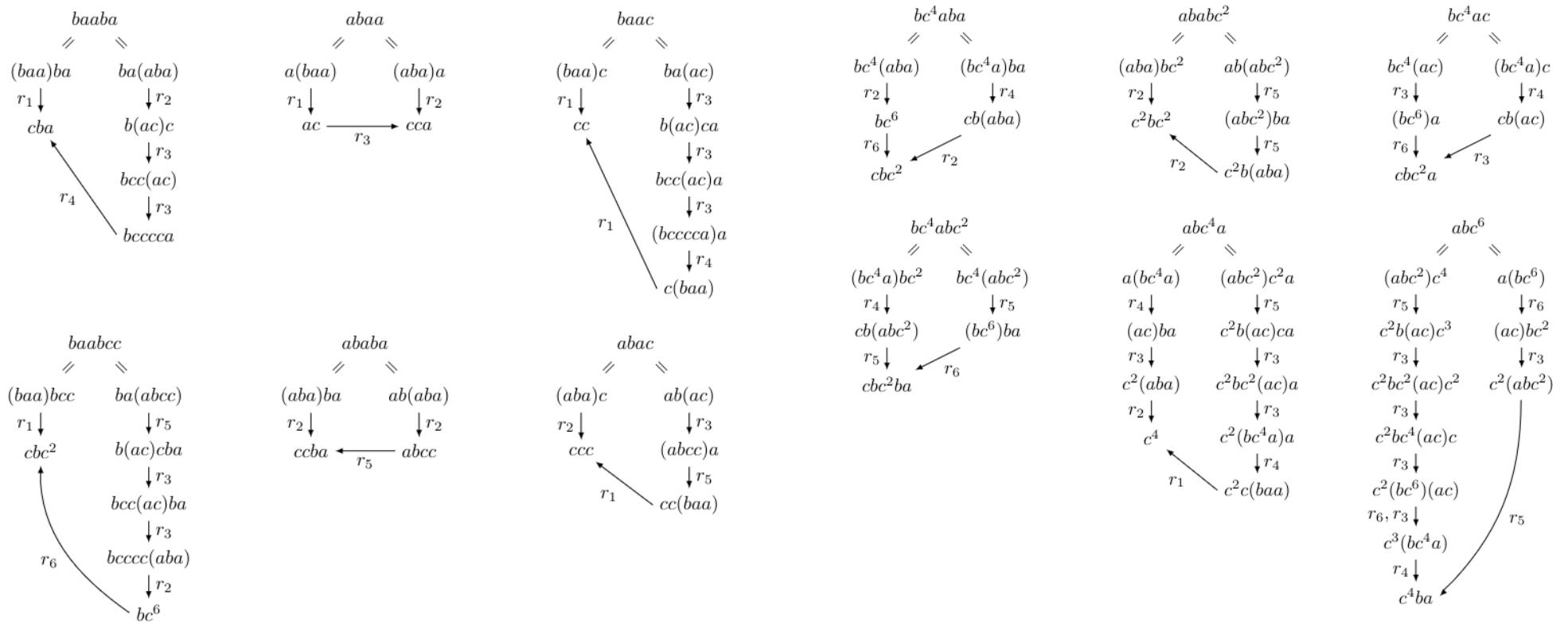
$$\langle a, b \mid \overbrace{baa}^T baa = aba \rangle$$

$$\langle a, b \mid baa = c, aba = cc \rangle$$

\Downarrow KB Backtrack

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} ba^2 \rightarrow c, \quad aba \rightarrow c^2, \quad ac \rightarrow c^2a, \\ bc^4a \rightarrow cba, \quad abc^2 \rightarrow c^2ba, \quad bc^6 \rightarrow cbc^2 \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} ba^2 \rightarrow c, \quad aba \rightarrow c^2, \quad ac \rightarrow c^2a, \\ bc^4a \rightarrow cba, \quad abc^2 \rightarrow c^2ba, \quad bc^6 \rightarrow cbc^2 \end{array} \right\}$$



With KB-Backtrack can further reduce unsolved presentations to

$$1'226 \rightarrow 1'043$$

This is not a new idea, see e.g.

- Wehrman, I., Stump, A., Westbrook, E. (2006).
Slothrop: Knuth-Bendix Completion with a Modern Termination Checker.
In: Pfenning, F. (eds) Term Rewriting and Applications. RTA 2006.
Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 4098. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.
https://doi.org/10.1007/11805618_22
- H. Sato, S. Winkler, M. Kurihara, and A. Middeldorp.
Constraint-based multi-completion procedures for term rewriting systems.
IEICE Transactions on Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers,
E92-D(2):220-234, 2009.

Thank you!

