

## Equational Logic

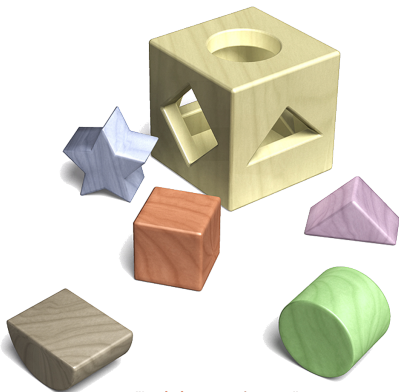
Steffen Hölldobler

International Center for Computational Logic

Technische Universität Dresden

Germany

- ▶ **Equational Systems**
- ▶ **Paramodulation**
- ▶ **Term Rewriting Systems**
- ▶ **Unification Theory**
- ▶ **Application: Multisets**



*"Logic is everywhere ..."*



## Equational Systems

- ▶ Consider a first order language with the following precedence hierarchy

$$\{\forall, \exists\} > \neg > \wedge > \vee > \{\leftarrow, \rightarrow\} > \leftrightarrow$$

- ▶ Let  $\approx$  be a binary predicate symbol written infix
- ▶ An **equation** is an atom of the form  $s \approx t$
- ▶ An **equational system**  $\mathcal{E}$  is a finite set of universally closed equations
- ▶ **Notation** Universal quantifiers are usually omitted

$\mathcal{E}_1$	$(X \cdot Y) \cdot Z \approx X \cdot (Y \cdot Z)$	(associativity)
	$1 \cdot X \approx X$	(left unit)
	$X \cdot 1 \approx X$	(right unit)
	$X^{-1} \cdot X \approx 1$	(left inverse)
	$X \cdot X^{-1} \approx 1$	(right inverse)



## Axioms of Equality

- ▶ The equality relation enjoys some typical properties expressed by the following universally closed **axioms of equality**  $\mathcal{E}_{\approx}$

$$X \approx X \quad \text{(reflexivity)}$$

$$X \approx Y \rightarrow Y \approx X \quad \text{(symmetry)}$$

$$X \approx Y \wedge Y \approx Z \rightarrow X \approx Z \quad \text{(transitivity)}$$

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^n X_i \approx Y_i \rightarrow f(X_1, \dots, X_n) \approx f(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \quad \text{(f-substitutivity)}$$

$$\bigwedge_{i=1}^n X_i \approx Y_i \wedge r(X_1, \dots, X_n) \rightarrow r(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) \quad \text{(r-substitutivity)}$$

- ▶ **Note**

- ▶ Substitutivity axioms are defined for each function symbol  $f$  and each relation symbol  $r$  in the underlying alphabet
- ▶ Universal quantifiers have been omitted



## Equality and Logical Consequence

- ▶ We are interested in computing logical consequences of  $\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx}$ 
  - ▷  $\mathcal{E}_1 \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx} \models (\exists X) X \cdot a \approx 1?$
  - ▷  $\mathcal{E}_1 \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx} \cup \{X \cdot X \approx 1\} \models (\forall X, Y) X \cdot Y \approx Y \cdot X?$
- ▶ One possibility is to apply resolution
  - ▷ There are  $10^{21}$  resolution steps needed to solve the examples
  - ▷  $\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx}$  causes an extremely large search space
- ▶ **Idea** Remove troublesome formulas from  $\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx}$  and build them into the deductive machinery
  - ▷ Use additional rule of inference like paramodulation
  - ▷ Build the equational theory into the unification computation



## Least Congruence Relation

- ▶  $\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx}$  is a set of definite clauses
- ▶ There exists a least model for  $\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx}$
- ▶ **Example**
  - ▷ Let the only function symbols be the constants  $a, b$  and the binary  $g$
  - ▷ Let  $\mathcal{E}_2 = \{a \approx b\}$
  - ▷ The least model of  $\mathcal{E}_2 \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & \{t \approx t \mid t \text{ is a ground term}\} \\ & \cup \{a \approx b, b \approx a\} \\ & \cup \{g(a, a) \approx g(b, a), g(a, a) \approx g(a, b), g(a, a) \approx g(b, b), \dots\} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Define  $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}} t$  iff  $\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx} \models \forall s \approx t$ 
  - ▷  $g(a, a) \approx_{\mathcal{E}_2} g(a, b)$
  - ▷  $g(X, a) \approx_{\mathcal{E}_2} g(X, b)$
  - ▷  $\approx_{\mathcal{E}}$  is the **least congruence relation on terms generated by  $\mathcal{E}$**



## Paramodulation

- ▶  $L[s]$  literal which contains an occurrence of the term  $s$
- ▶  $L[s/t]$  literal obtained from  $L$  by replacing an occurrence of  $s$  by  $t$

### ▶ Paramodulation

$$\frac{[L_1[s], L_2, \dots, L_n] \quad [l \approx r, L_{n+1}, \dots, L_m]}{[L_1[s/r], L_2, \dots, L_m]\theta} \theta = \text{mgu}(s, l)$$

- ▶ **Notation** Instead of  $\neg s \approx t$  we write  $s \not\approx t$

### ▶ Remember

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx} \models \forall s \approx t & \quad \text{iff} \quad \bigwedge \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx} \rightarrow \forall s \approx t \text{ is valid} \\ & \quad \text{iff} \quad \neg(\bigwedge \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx} \rightarrow \forall s \approx t) \text{ is unsatisfiable} \\ & \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx} \cup \{\neg \forall s \approx t\} \text{ is unsatisfiable} \\ & \quad \text{iff} \quad \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx} \cup \{\exists s \not\approx t\} \text{ is unsatisfiable} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ **Theorem 1**  $\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx} \cup \{\exists s \not\approx t\}$  is unsatisfiable iff there is a refutation of  $\mathcal{E} \cup \{X \approx X\} \cup \{\exists s \not\approx t\}$  wrt paramodulation, resolution and factoring



## An Example

$$\mathcal{E}_1 \cup \{X \approx X, X \cdot X \approx 1\} \models (\forall X, Y) X \cdot Y \approx Y \cdot X$$

1	$a \cdot b \not\approx b \cdot a$	initial query		.	hypothesis
2	$1 \cdot X_1 \approx X_1$	left unit		$a \cdot b \not\approx ((X_3 \cdot X_3) \cdot b) \cdot (a \cdot (X_4 \cdot X_4))$	
3	$X_2 \approx X_2$	reflexivity		.	associativity
4	$X_1 \approx 1 \cdot X_1$	pm(2,3)		$a \cdot b \not\approx (X_3 \cdot ((X_3 \cdot b) \cdot (a \cdot X_4))) \cdot X_4$	
5	$a \cdot b \not\approx (1 \cdot b) \cdot a$	pm(1,4)		.	hypothesis
6	$X_3 \cdot X_3 \approx 1$	hypothesis		$a \cdot b \not\approx (a \cdot 1) \cdot b$	
7	$X_4 \approx X_4$	reflexivity		.	right unit
8	$1 \approx X_3 \cdot X_3$	pm(6,7)		$n$	$a \cdot b \not\approx a \cdot b$
9	$a \cdot b \not\approx ((X_3 \cdot X_3) \cdot b) \cdot a$	pm(5,8)		$n'$	$X_5 \approx X_5$
.		right unit		$n''$	$[\ ]$
	$a \cdot b \not\approx ((X_3 \cdot X_3) \cdot b) \cdot (a \cdot 1)$				res ( $n, n'$ )



## The Example in Shorthand Notation

$$\mathcal{E}_1 \cup \{X \approx X, X \cdot X \approx 1\} \models (\forall X, Y) X \cdot Y \approx Y \cdot X$$

1	$a \cdot b \not\approx b \cdot a$	initial query		.	hypothesis
2	$1 \cdot X_1 \approx X_1$	left unit		$a \cdot b \not\approx ((X_3 \cdot X_3) \cdot b) \cdot (a \cdot (X_4 \cdot X_4))$	
3	$X_2 \approx X_2$	reflexivity		.	associativity
4	$X_1 \approx 1 \cdot X_1$	pm(2,3)		$a \cdot b \not\approx (X_3 \cdot ((X_3 \cdot b) \cdot (a \cdot X_4))) \cdot X_4$	
5	$a \cdot b \not\approx (1 \cdot b) \cdot a$	pm(1,4)		.	hypothesis
6	$X_3 \cdot X_3 \approx 1$	hypothesis		$a \cdot b \not\approx (a \cdot 1) \cdot b$	
7	$X_4 \approx X_4$	reflexivity		.	right unit
8	$1 \approx X_3 \cdot X_3$	pm(6,7)		$n$	$a \cdot b \not\approx a \cdot b$
9	$a \cdot b \not\approx ((X_3 \cdot X_3) \cdot b) \cdot a$	pm(5,8)		$n'$	$X_5 \approx X_5$
.		right unit		$n''$	$[\ ]$
	$a \cdot b \not\approx ((X_3 \cdot X_3) \cdot b) \cdot (a \cdot 1)$				res ( $n, n'$ )





## The Example in Shorthand Notation Again

$b \cdot a$	$\approx$	$(1 \cdot b) \cdot a$	left unit
	$\approx$	$((X_3 \cdot X_3) \cdot b) \cdot a$	hypothesis
	$\approx$	$((X_3 \cdot X_3) \cdot b) \cdot (a \cdot 1)$	right unit
	$\approx$	$((X_3 \cdot X_3) \cdot b) \cdot (a \cdot (X_4 \cdot X_4))$	hypothesis
	$\approx$	$(X_3 \cdot ((X_3 \cdot b) \cdot (a \cdot X_4))) \cdot X_4$	associativity
	$\approx$	$(a \cdot 1) \cdot b$	hypothesis
	$\approx$	$a \cdot b$	right unit

- ▶ Now, the search space is  $10^{11}$  instead of  $10^{21}$  steps
  - ▷ Symmetry can be simulated, which leads to cycles
  - ▷ All terms  $s$  occurring in  $L_1$  are candidates
  - ▷  $L_1[s]$  may be a variable and can be unified with any term
- ▶ There are still many redundant and useless steps
- ▶ **Idea** Use equations only from left to right  $\rightsquigarrow$  term rewriting systems



## Term Rewriting Systems

- ▶ An expression of the form  $s \rightarrow t$  is called **rewrite rule**
- ▶ A **term rewriting system** is a finite set of rewrite rules
- ▶ In the sequel,  $\mathcal{R}$  shall denote a term rewriting system
- ▶  $s[u]$  denotes a term  $s$  which contains an occurrence of  $u$   
 $s[u/v]$  denotes the term obtained from  $s$  by replacing an occ. of  $u$  by  $v$
- ▶ The **rewrite relation**  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$  on terms is defined as follows:  $s[u] \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$  iff there exist  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$  and  $\theta$  such that  $u = l\theta$  and  $t = s[r\theta]$

- ▶ **Example**  $\mathcal{R}_3 = \{ \text{append}([], X) \rightarrow X, \text{append}([X|Y], Z) \rightarrow [X|\text{append}(Y, Z)] \}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{append}([1, 2], [3, 4]) &\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}_3} [1|\text{append}([2], [3, 4])] \\
 &\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}_3} [1, 2|\text{append}([], [3, 4])] \\
 &\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}_3} [1, 2, 3, 4]
 \end{aligned}$$



## Matching

▶ **Matching problem**

Given terms  $u$  and  $l$ , does there exist a substitution  $\theta$  such that  $u = l\theta$  ?

If such a substitution exists, then it is called a **matcher**

- ▶ If a matching problem is solvable, then there exists a most general matcher
- ▶ It can be computed by a variant of the unification algorithm, where variables occurring in  $u$  are treated as (different new) constant symbols
- ▶ Whereas unification is in the complexity class  $\mathcal{P}$ , matching is in  $\mathcal{NC}$



## Closures

- ▶  $\rightarrow^*_R$  denotes the reflexive and transitive closure of  $\rightarrow_R$ 
  - ▷  $append([1, 2], [3, 4]) \xrightarrow{*R_3} [1, 2, 3, 4]$
- ▶  $s \leftrightarrow_R t$  iff  $s \leftarrow_R t$  or  $s \rightarrow_R t$ 
  - ▷ Let  $R_4 = \{a \rightarrow b, c \rightarrow b\}$ ,  
then  $a \rightarrow_{R_4} b \leftarrow_{R_4} c$  and, consequently,  $a \leftrightarrow_{R_4} b \leftrightarrow_{R_4} c$
- ▶  $\leftrightarrow^*_R$  denotes the reflexive and transitive closure of  $\leftrightarrow_R$ 
  - ▷  $a \leftrightarrow^*_{R_4} c$
- ▶ We sometimes simply write  $\rightarrow$  or  $\leftrightarrow$  instead of  $\rightarrow_R$  or  $\leftrightarrow_R$ , respectively



## Term Rewriting Systems and Equational Systems

- ▶ Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a term rewriting system
- ▶  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}} := \{l \approx r \mid l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}\} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx}$ 
  - ▶ For  $\mathcal{R}_4 = \{a \rightarrow b, c \rightarrow b\}$  we obtain  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}_4} = \{a \approx b, c \approx b\} \cup \mathcal{E}_{\approx}$
- ▶ **Theorem 2**
  - (i)  $s \xrightarrow{*}_{\mathcal{R}} t$  implies  $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}}} t$
  - (ii)  $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}}} t$  iff  $s \overset{*}{\leftrightarrow}_{\mathcal{R}} t$
- ▶ **Proof**  $\rightsquigarrow$  **Exercise**
  - ▶  $g(X, a) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}_4} g(X, b)$  and  $g(X, a) \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}_4}} g(X, b)$
  - ▶  $g(X, a) \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}_4}} g(X, c)$  and  $g(X, a) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}_4} g(X, b) \leftarrow_{\mathcal{R}_4} g(X, c)$



## Reducibility and Normal Forms

- ▶  $s$  is **reducible** wrt  $\mathcal{R}$  **iff** there exists  $t$  such that  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$ 
  - ▷ otherwise it is **irreducible**
- ▶  $t$  is a **normal form** of  $s$  wrt  $\mathcal{R}$  **iff**  $s \xrightarrow{*}_{\mathcal{R}} t$  and  $t$  is irreducible
  - ▷  $[1, 2, 3, 4]$  is the normal form of  $append([1, 2], [3, 4])$  wrt  $\mathcal{R}_3$
- ▶ Normal forms are not necessarily unique. Consider

$$\mathcal{R}_5 = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{neg}(\text{neg}(X)) & \rightarrow X, \\ \text{neg}(\text{or}(X, Y)) & \rightarrow \text{and}(\text{neg}(X), \text{neg}(Y)), \\ \text{neg}(\text{and}(X, Y)) & \rightarrow \text{or}(\text{neg}(X), \text{neg}(Y)), \\ \text{and}(X, \text{or}(Y, Z)) & \rightarrow \text{or}(\text{and}(X, Y), \text{and}(X, Z)), \\ \text{and}(\text{or}(X, Y), Z) & \rightarrow \text{or}(\text{and}(Y, Z), \text{and}(Z, X)) \end{array} \right\}$$

$\text{and}(\text{or}(X, Y), \text{or}(U, V))$  has the normal forms  
 $\text{or}(\text{or}(\text{and}(Y, U), \text{and}(U, X)), \text{or}(\text{and}(Y, V), \text{and}(V, X)))$  and  
 $\text{or}(\text{or}(\text{and}(Y, U), \text{and}(Y, V)), \text{or}(\text{and}(V, X), \text{and}(X, U)))$  wrt  $\mathcal{R}_5$



## Confluent Term Rewriting Systems

- ▶  $s \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$  **iff** there exists  $u$  such that  $s \xrightarrow{*}_{\mathcal{R}} u \xleftarrow{*}_{\mathcal{R}} t$
- ▶  $s \uparrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$  **iff** there exists  $u$  such that  $s \xleftarrow{*}_{\mathcal{R}} u \xrightarrow{*}_{\mathcal{R}} t$ 
  - ▷ Consider  $\mathcal{R}_6 = \{b \rightarrow a, b \rightarrow c\}$ . Then  $a \not\downarrow_{\mathcal{R}_6} c$ , but  $a \uparrow_{\mathcal{R}_6} c$
- ▶  $\mathcal{R}$  is **confluent** **iff** for all terms  $s$  and  $t$  we find  $s \uparrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$  implies  $s \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$ 
  - ▷  $\mathcal{R}_7 = \mathcal{R}_6 \cup \{a \rightarrow c\}$  is confluent
- ▶  $\mathcal{R}$  is **Church-Rosser** **iff** for all terms  $s$  and  $t$  we find  $s \overset{*}{\leftrightarrow}_{\mathcal{R}} t$  **iff**  $s \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$
- ▶ **Theorem 3**  $\mathcal{R}$  is Church-Rosser **iff**  $\mathcal{R}$  is confluent
- ▶ **Remember**  $s \overset{*}{\leftrightarrow}_{\mathcal{R}} t$  **iff**  $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}}} t$ 
  - ▷ If a term rewriting system is confluent,  
then rewriting has only to be applied in one direction, viz. from left to right !



## Canonical Term Rewriting Systems

- ▶  $\mathcal{R}$  is **terminating** iff it has no infinite rewriting sequences
  - ▷ The question whether  $\mathcal{R}$  is terminating is undecidable
- ▶  $\mathcal{R}$  is **canonical** iff  $\mathcal{R}$  is confluent and terminating
  - ▷ If  $\mathcal{R}$  is canonical, then  $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}}} t$  iff  $s \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$
  - ▷ If  $\mathcal{R}$  is canonical, then  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}}$  is decidable
- ▶ Given  $\mathcal{E}$ . If  $\approx_{\mathcal{E}} = \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}}}$  for some canonical term rewriting system  $\mathcal{R}$ , then the application of paramodulation can be restricted:
  - ▷  $L_1[\pi]$  may not be a variable
  - ▷ Symmetry can no longer be simulated
  - ▷ Equations, i.e., rewrite rules, are only applied from left to right
  - ▷ Further restrictions concerning  $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_{L_1}$  are possible
  - ▷ This restricted form of paramodulation is called **narrowing**





## Termination

- ▶ Is a given term rewriting system  $\mathcal{R}$  terminating?
- ▶ Let  $\succ$  be a partial order on the set of terms, i.e.,  $\succ$  is reflexive, transitive, and antisymmetric
  - ▷  $s \succ t$  iff  $s \succ t$  and  $s \neq t$
  - ▷  $s \succ t$  is **well-founded** iff there is no infinite sequence  $s_1 \succ s_2 \succ \dots$
- ▶ **Idea** Search for a well-founded ordering  $\succ$  such that  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$  implies  $s \succ t$
- ▶ A **termination ordering**  $\succ$  is a well-founded, transitive, and antisymmetric relation on the set of terms satisfying the following properties:
  - ▷ **full invariance property** if  $s \succ t$  then  $s\theta \succ t\theta$  for all  $\theta$
  - ▷ **replacement property** if  $s \succ t$  then  $u[s] \succ u[s/t]$
- ▶ **Theorem 4**  
Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a term rewriting system and  $\succ$  a termination ordering. If for all rules  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$  we find that  $l \succ r$  then  $\mathcal{R}$  is terminating



## Termination Orderings: Two Examples

- ▶ Let  $|s|$  denote the length of the term  $s$   
 $s \succ t$  **iff** for all grounding substitutions  $\theta$  we find that  $|s\theta| > |t\theta|$ 
  - ▷  $f(X, Y) \succ g(X)$
  - ▷  $f(X, Y)$  and  $g(X, X)$  can not be ordered
- ▶ **Polynomial ordering** assign to each function symbol a polynomial with coefficients taken from  $\mathbb{N}^+$ 
  - ▷ Let  $f(X, Y)^l = 2X + Y$   
 $g(X, Y)^l = X + Y$
  - ▷ Define  $s \succ t$  **iff**  $s^l > t^l$
  - ▷ Then,  $f(X, Y) \succ g(X, X)$
- ▶ There are many other termination orderings !
- ▶  $\succ'$  is **more powerful than**  $\succ$  **iff**  $s \succ t$  implies  $s \succ' t$  but not vice versa



# Confluence

- ▶ Is a given terminating term rewriting system confluent?
- ▶  $\mathcal{R}$  is **locally confluent**  
**iff** for all terms  $r, s, t$  we find: If  $t \leftarrow_{\mathcal{R}} r \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} s$  then  $s \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$
- ▶ **Theorem 5** Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a terminating term rewriting system.  
 $\mathcal{R}$  is confluent **iff** it is locally confluent



## Local Confluence

- ▶ Is a given terminating term rewriting system locally confluent?
- ▶ A subterm  $u$  of  $t$  is called a **redex**  
iff there exists  $\theta$  and  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$  such that  $u = l\theta$
- ▶ Let  $l_1 \rightarrow r_1 \in \mathcal{R}$  and  $l_2 \rightarrow r_2 \in \mathcal{R}$  be applicable to  $t \rightsquigarrow$  two redexes
  - ▷ **Case analysis**
    - (a) They are disjoint
    - (b) one redex is a subterm of the other one and corresponds to a variable position in the left-hand-side of the other rule
    - (c) one redex is a subterm of the other one but does not correspond to a variable position in the left-hand-side of the other rule (the redexes **overlap**)



## Example

▶ Let  $t = (g(a) \cdot f(b)) \cdot c$

(a)  $\mathcal{R}_8 = \{a \rightarrow c, b \rightarrow c\}$

▶  $a$  and  $b$  are disjoint redexes in  $t$

▶  $\mathcal{R}_8$  is locally confluent

(b)  $\mathcal{R}_9 = \{a \rightarrow c, g(X) \rightarrow f(X)\}$

▶  $a$  and  $g(a)$  are redexes in  $t$

▶  $a$  corresponds to the variable position in  $g(X)$

▶  $\mathcal{R}_9$  is locally confluent

(c)  $\mathcal{R}_{10} = \{(X \cdot Y) \cdot Z \rightarrow X, g(a) \cdot f(b) \rightarrow c\}$

▶  $(g(a) \cdot f(b)) \cdot c$  and  $g(a) \cdot f(b)$  are overlapping redexes in  $t$

▶ This is the problematic case!



## Critical Pairs

- ▶ Let
  - ▶  $l_1 \rightarrow r_1, l_2 \rightarrow r_2$  be two new variants of rules in  $\mathcal{R}$
  - ▶  $u$  be a non-variable subterm of  $l_1$  and
  - ▶  $u$  and  $l_2$  be unifiable with mgu  $\theta$
- ▶ Then, the pair  $\langle (l_1 [u/r_2])\theta, r_1\theta \rangle$  is said to be **critical**
- ▶ It is obtained by **superimposing**  $l_1$  with  $l_2$ 
  - ▶ Superimposing  $(X \cdot Y) \cdot Z \rightarrow X$  with  $g(a) \cdot f(b) \rightarrow c$  yields the critical pair  $\langle c \cdot Z, g(a) \rangle$
- ▶ **Theorem 6** A term rewriting system  $\mathcal{R}$  is locally confluent  
**iff** for all critical pairs  $\langle s, t \rangle$  of  $\mathcal{R}$  we find  $s \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$



## Completion

- ▶ Can a terminating and non-confluent  $\mathcal{R}$  be turned into a confluent one?
- ▶ Two term rewriting systems  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $\mathcal{R}'$  are **equivalent** iff  $\approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}}} = \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}'}}$
- ▶ **Idea** if  $\langle s, t \rangle$  is a critical pair then add either  $s \rightarrow t$  or  $t \rightarrow s$  to  $\mathcal{R}$ 
  - ▷ This is called **completion**
  - ▷ The equational theory remains unchanged



## Completion Procedure

- ▶ Given a terminating  $\mathcal{R}$  together with a termination ordering  $\succ$ 
  - 1 If for all critical pairs  $\langle s, t \rangle$  of  $\mathcal{R}$  we find that  $s \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$  then return “success”;  $\mathcal{R}$  is canonical
  - 2 If  $\mathcal{R}$  has a critical pair whose elements do not rewrite to a common term, then transform the elements of the critical pair to some normal form. Let  $\langle s, t \rangle$  be the normalized critical pair:
    - ▶▶ If  $s \succ t$  then add the rule  $s \rightarrow t$  to  $\mathcal{R}$  and goto 1
    - ▶▶ If  $t \succ s$  then add the rule  $t \rightarrow s$  to  $\mathcal{R}$  and goto 1
    - ▶▶ If neither  $s \succ t$  nor  $t \succ s$  then return “fail”
- ▶ The completion procedure may either succeed or fail or loop
- ▶ During completion the ordering  $\succ$  may be extended to a more powerful one
- ▶ The completion procedure may be extended to **unfailing** completion





## Completion: An Example

- ▶ Consider

$$\mathcal{R}_{11} = \{c \rightarrow b, f \rightarrow b, f \rightarrow a, e \rightarrow a, e \rightarrow d\}$$

- ▶ Let  $f \succ e \succ d \succ c \succ b \succ a$

- ▶ The critical pairs are  $\langle b, a \rangle$  and  $\langle d, a \rangle$

- ▶ They can be oriented into the new rules  $b \rightarrow a$  and  $d \rightarrow a$

- ▶ We obtain

$$\mathcal{R}'_{11} = \{c \rightarrow b, f \rightarrow b, f \rightarrow a, e \rightarrow a, e \rightarrow d, b \rightarrow a, d \rightarrow a\}$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{R}'_{11}$  is canonical

- ▶  $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}}} t$  iff  $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}'}} t$

- ▶ All proofs for  $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{R}'}} t$  are in so-called **valley form**

