

# 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

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

Do  $b^2$  and  $ac$  represent the same element?

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

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

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

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

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

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 (Ragnus 1932)

The WP is decidable for all 1-relation groups.

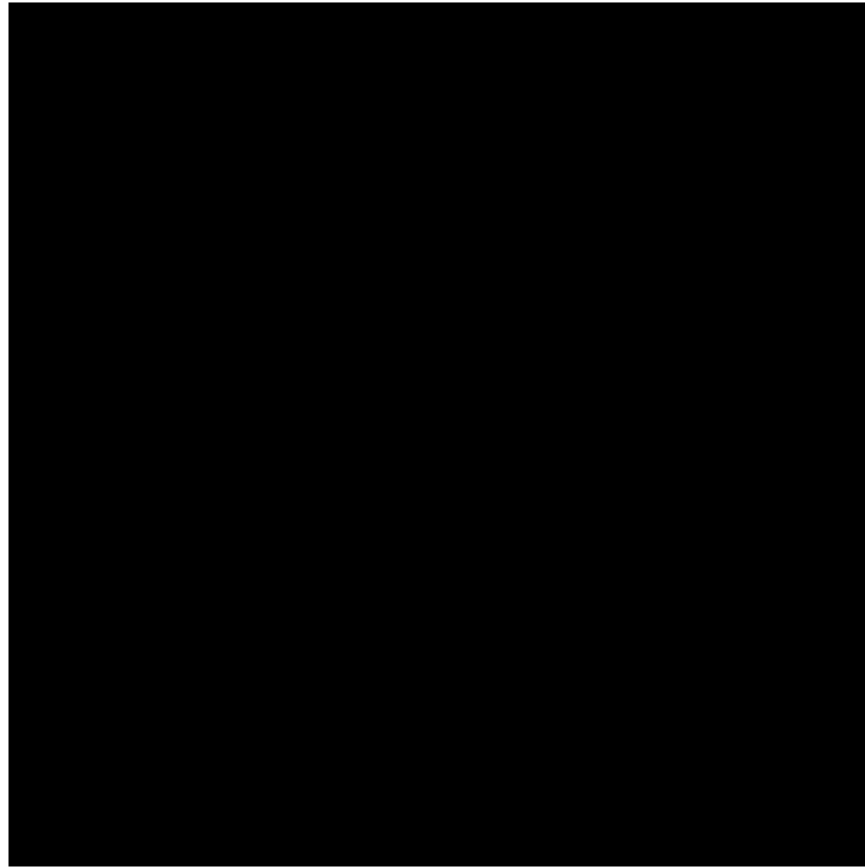
For a comprehensive introduction see:

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

$n$



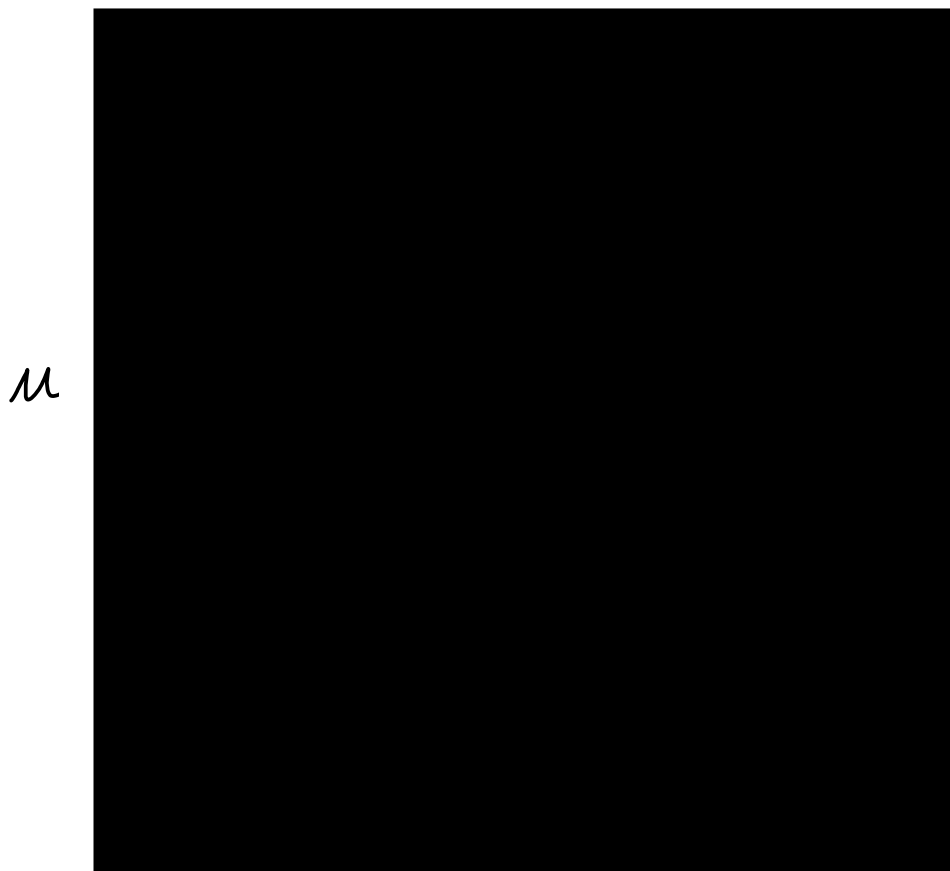
$v$

Our efforts



Our efforts

Can we solve the WP in all 2-gen. 1-relation monoids  
where  $|u|, |v| \leq 17$ ?



u

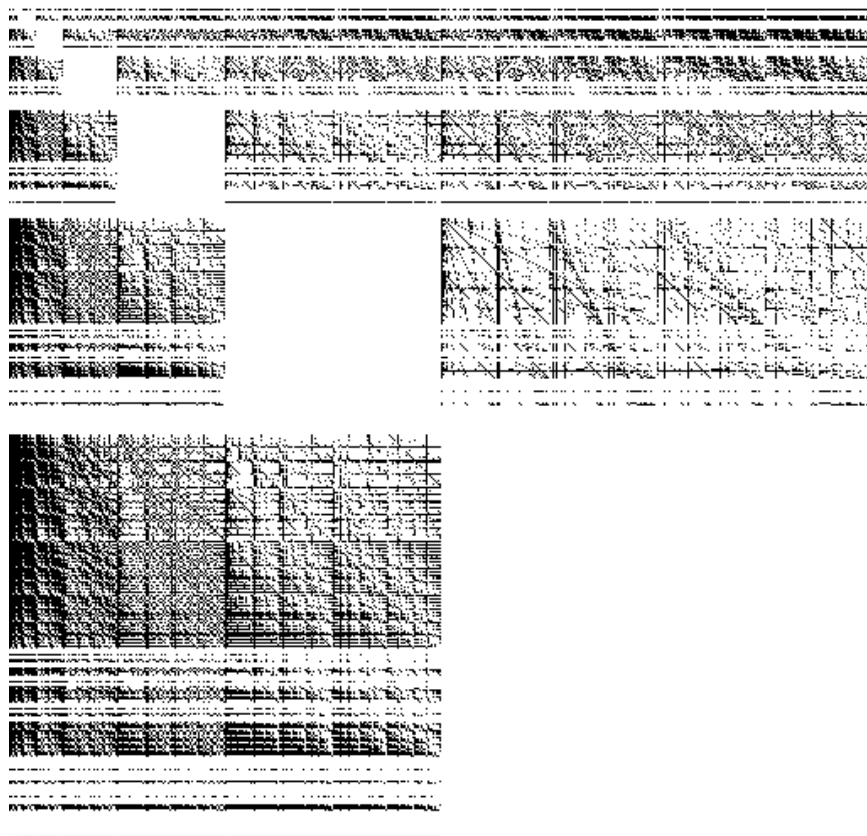
v

4'190'209  
monoids total

Our efforts

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

$bna$



$a, dwa$

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  $x \rightarrow_R y$  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

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We write  $x \xrightarrow_R^* y$  if there exists a sequence

$$x = z_1 \rightarrow_R z_2 \rightarrow_R \dots \rightarrow_R z_m = y$$

# Rewriting systems

To every rewriting system  $R$ , we associate the monoid  $M$

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

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## Observations

If  $x \rightarrow_R^* y$ , then  $x =_M y$ .

# Rewriting systems

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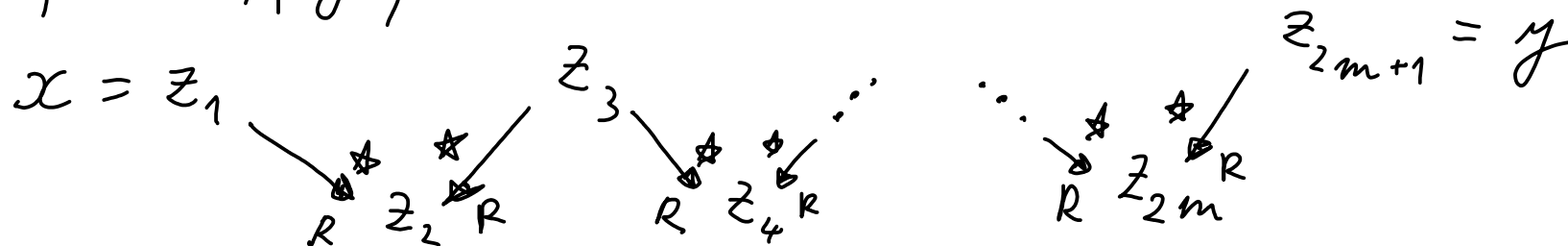
$$R = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mu_1 \rightarrow \nu_1, \\ \mu_2 \rightarrow \nu_2, \\ \vdots \\ \mu_n \rightarrow \nu_n \end{array} \right\}$$

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## Observations

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## Complete rewriting systems

A rewriting system  $R$  is

- *Terminating* if there are no infinite rewriting sequences

$$z_1 \rightarrow_R z_2 \rightarrow_R z_3 \rightarrow_R \dots \quad X$$

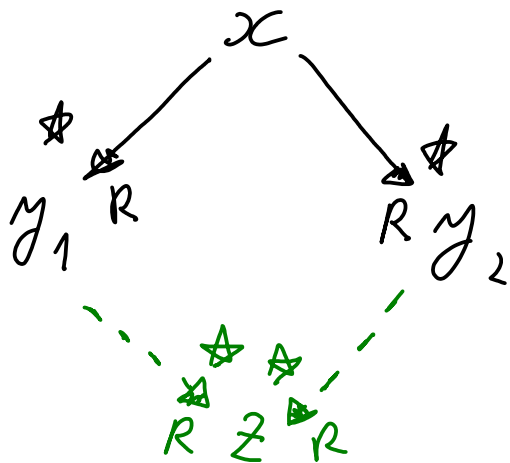
# Complete rewriting systems

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





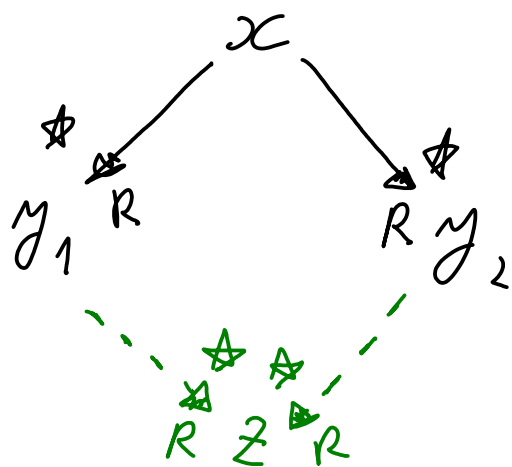
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- **Complete** if it's both confluent and terminating.

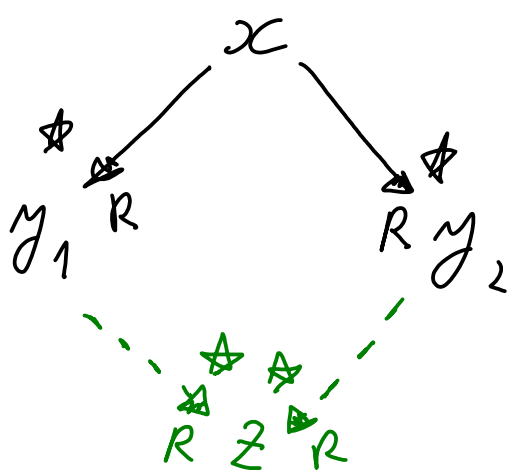
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## Theorem

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

Complete rewriting systems

*True:* It is undecidable if a given rws is terminating

Complete rewriting systems

*True:* It is undecidable if a given rws is terminating  
is confluent.

—//—

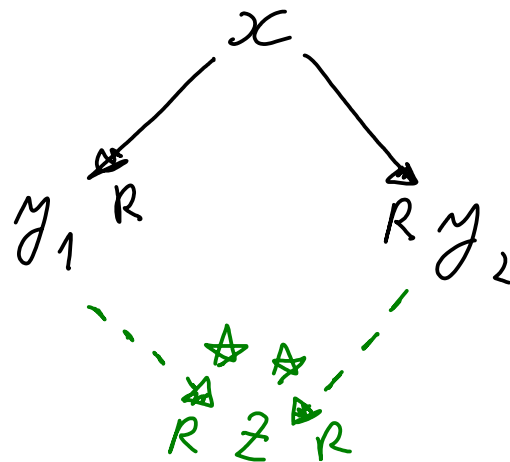
Complete rewriting systems

**True:** It is undecidable if a given rws is terminating  
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—//—

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

$\forall x, y_1, y_2 \in A^*$  s.t.  $x \rightarrow_R y_1, x \rightarrow_R y_2$   
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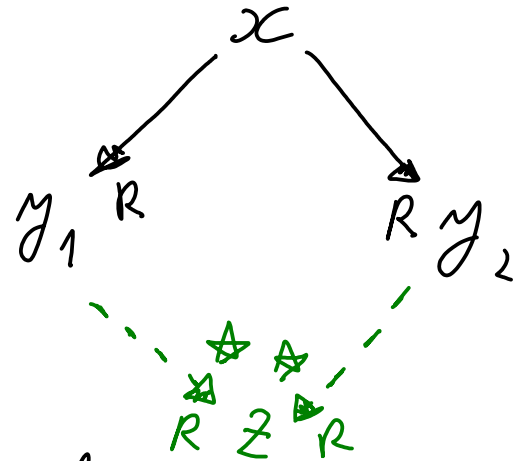
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Lemma (Newman 1942)

Locally confluent and terminating  $\Rightarrow$  confluent.

Observation

Local confluence is decidable if  $R$  is terminating.

Critical pairs

Example

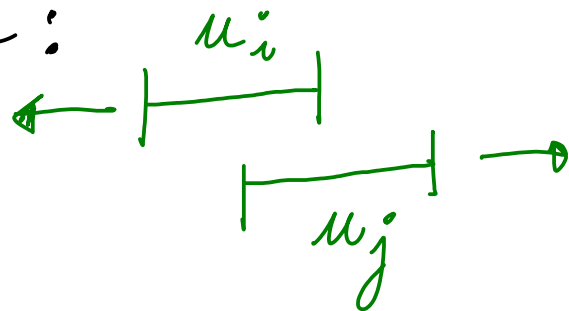
$$R = \{ bbaa \rightarrow ab, aaa \rightarrow 1, ba \rightarrow c \}$$

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Idea:





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Idea:  $\leftarrow bbaa$   
 $aada \rightarrow$

Critical pairs

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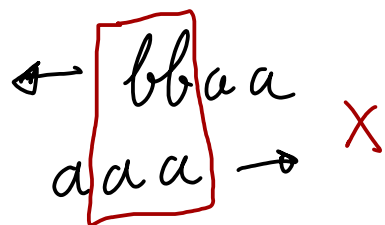
$$\begin{array}{l} \leftarrow \boxed{bbaa} \times \\ aada \rightarrow \end{array}$$

Critical pairs

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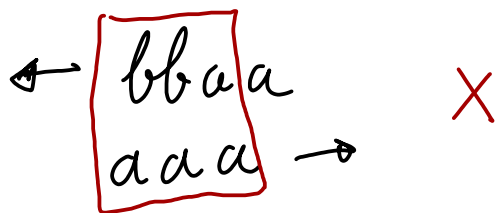


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$$R = \{ bbaa \rightarrow ab, aada \rightarrow 1, ba \rightarrow c \}$$

Idea:

$$\leftarrow \begin{array}{|c|} \hline bbaa \\ \hline aada \\ \hline \end{array} \rightarrow X$$

Critical pairs

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

Idea:

$$\leftarrow \begin{array}{|l} bbaa \\ aada \end{array} \rightarrow \checkmark$$

$bbaa$   
↙ ↘

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$bbaa$   
 $\swarrow \quad \searrow$

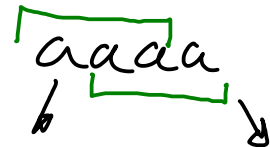
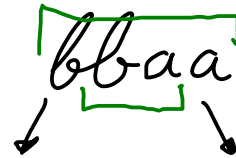
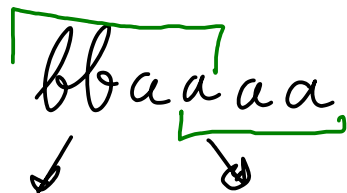
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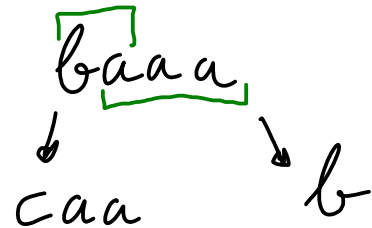
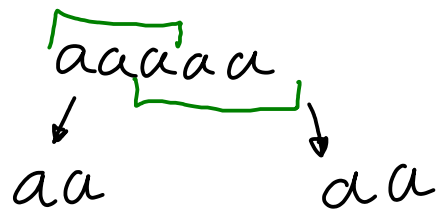
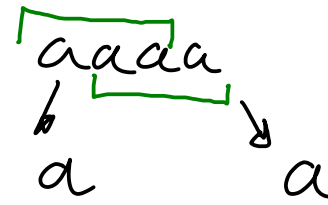
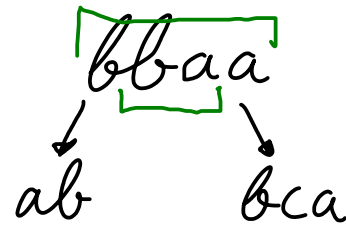
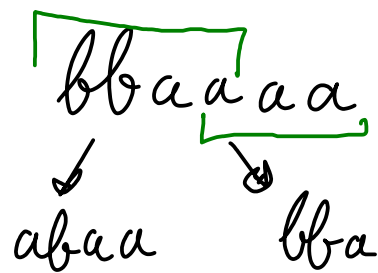
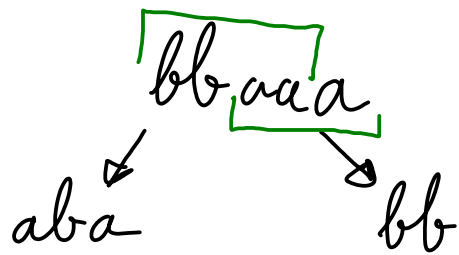


Critical pairs

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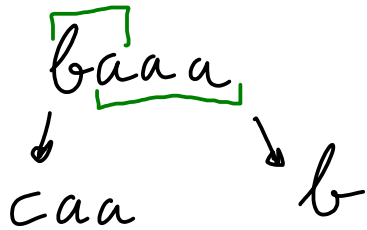
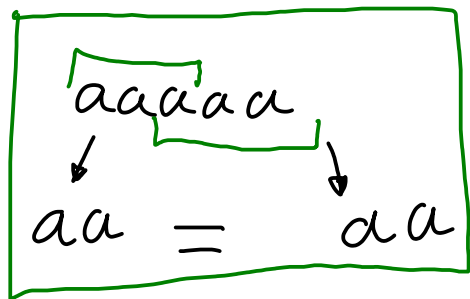
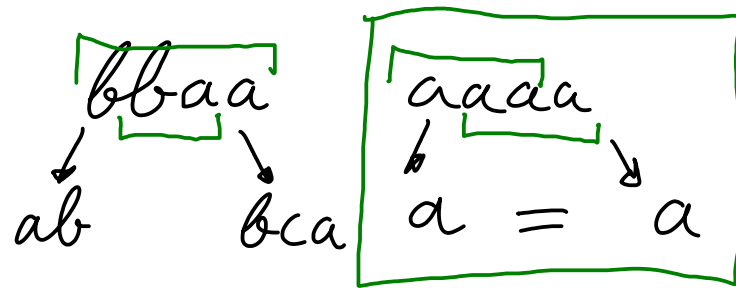
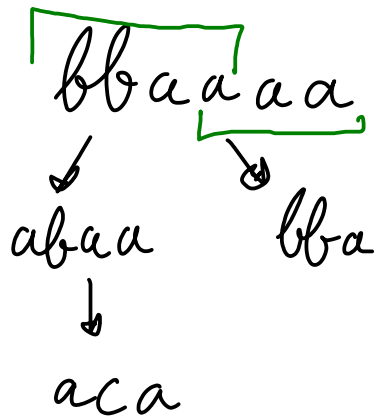
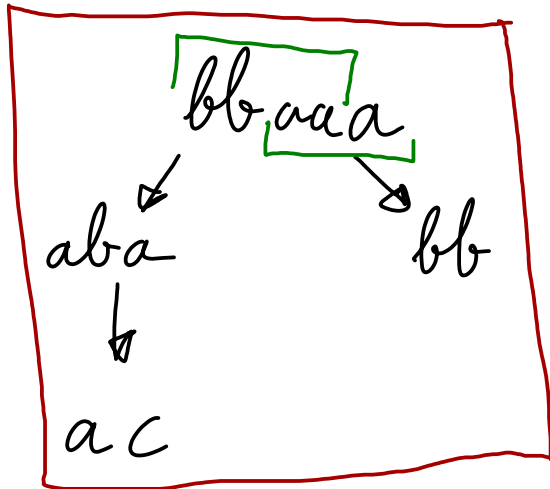


Critical pairs

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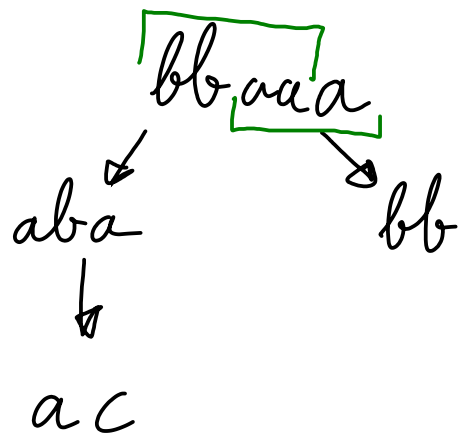
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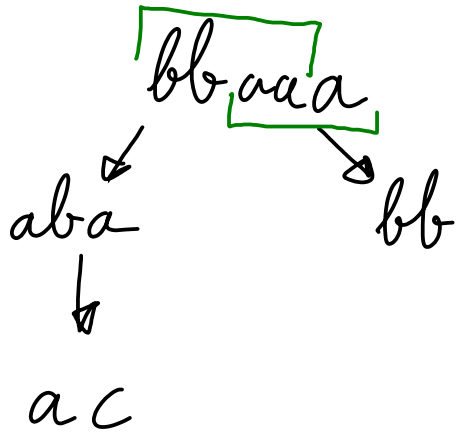
Not locally confluent!

Critical pairs



$$\Rightarrow ac =_M bb$$

# Critical pairs



$$\Rightarrow ac =_M bb$$

So can add

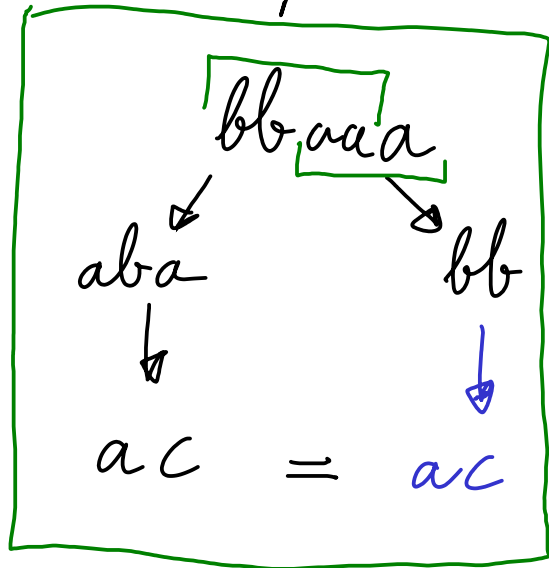
$$ac \rightarrow bb$$

or

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without changing underlying monoid.

# Critical pairs



$$\Rightarrow ac =_M bb$$

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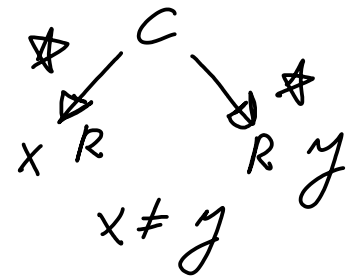
Let's add  $bb \rightarrow ac$

# 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  $>_{\text{lex}}$  on  $A^*$  by

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

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

E.g.

$abc >_{\text{lex}} bac$

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

How to preserve termination?

Importantly  $x > \text{lub } Y \Rightarrow \exists x' t > \text{lub } Y t$   
and every infinite set contains its minimum.



How to preserve termination?

Importantly  $x >_{\text{lex}} y \Rightarrow sx t >_{\text{lex}} sy t$   
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Other examples: Weights, RPO etc.

How to preserve termination?

Importantly  $x >_{lex} y \Rightarrow \exists x' t' >_{lex} \exists y' t'$   
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Observation:

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

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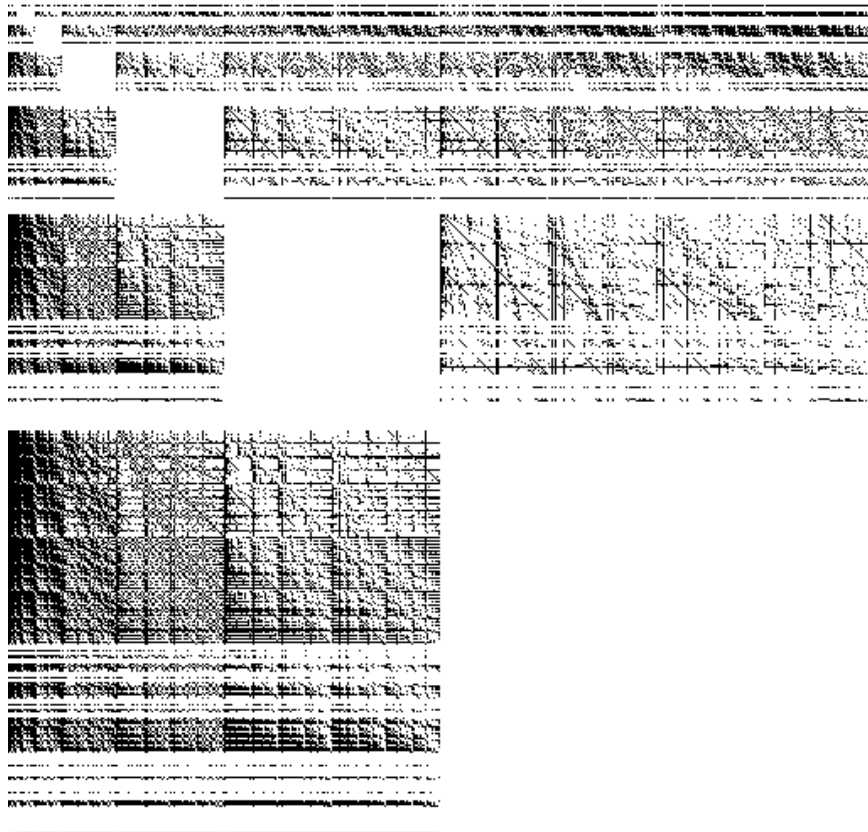
When adding  $x =_M y$  to  $R$ , pick  $x \rightarrow y$  if  $x > y$   
and  $y \rightarrow x$  if  $y > x$ .

How to reserve termination?

$$R = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} bb \rightarrow ab, \quad aaa \rightarrow 1, \quad ba \rightarrow c \\ \downarrow \\ KB \end{array} \right\}$$

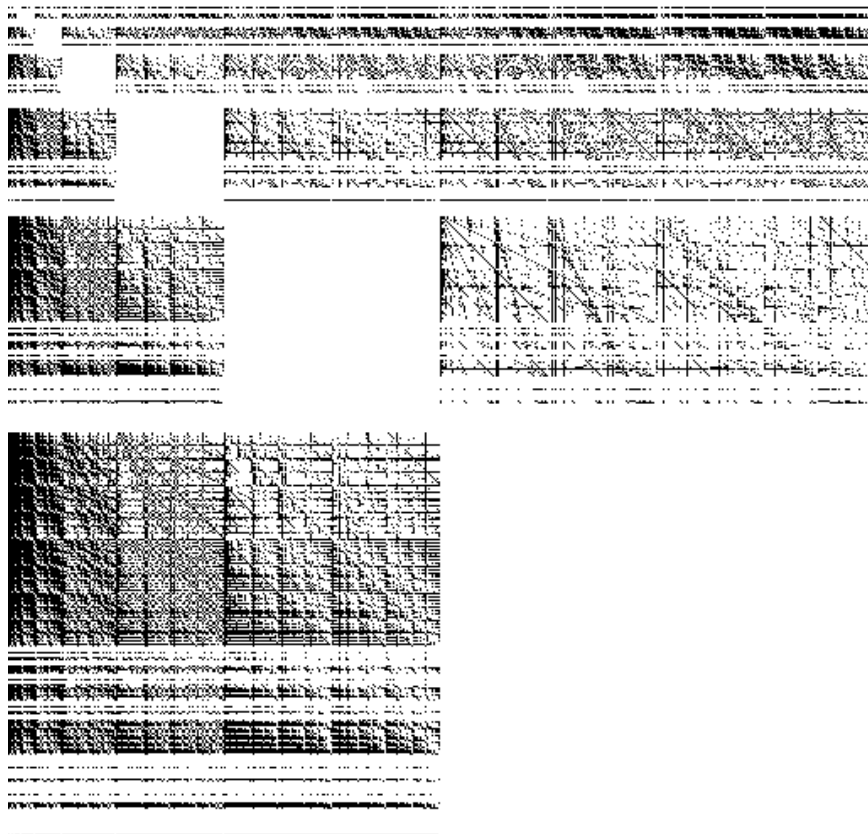
$$R' = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} ba \rightarrow c, \quad bb \rightarrow ac, \quad aaa \rightarrow 1, \quad aca \rightarrow bc, \\ acb \rightarrow cc, \quad bca \rightarrow ab, \quad caa \rightarrow b, \\ cca \rightarrow acc, \quad ccb \rightarrow bcc, \quad aabc \rightarrow ca, \\ aacc \rightarrow cb, \quad bc bc \rightarrow aab, \quad bccc \rightarrow abcb, \\ cab c \rightarrow ab, \quad cacc \rightarrow bcb, \quad acccc \rightarrow cbcb, \\ ccccc \rightarrow c \end{array} \right\}$$

# Knuth - Bendix with termination ordering



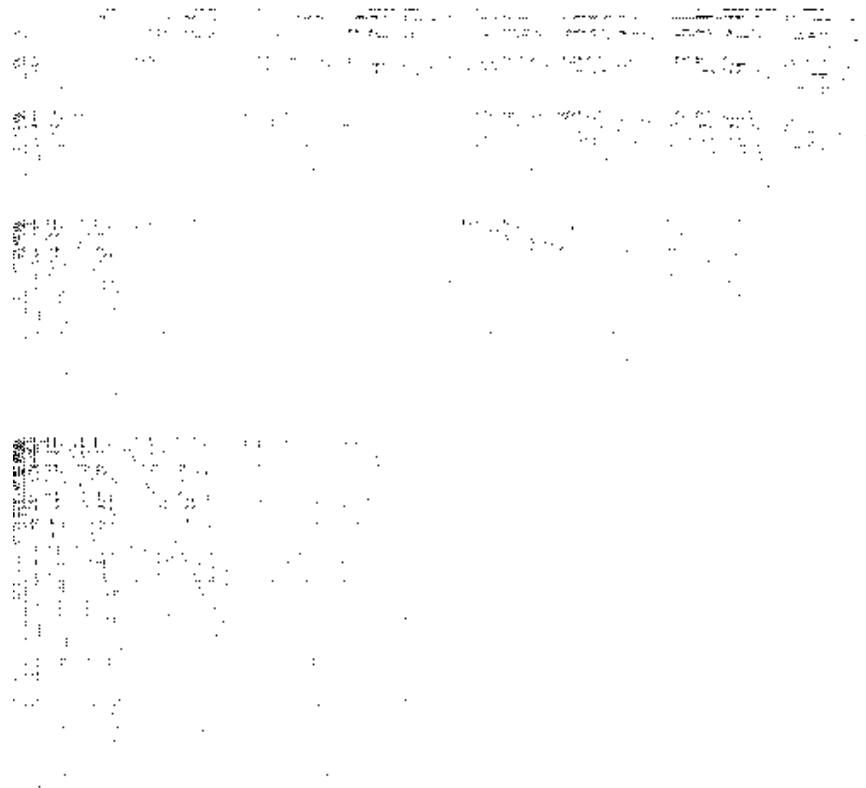
42'020

# Knuth - Bendix with termination ordering



42'020

KB  
→



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 [\[Show configs\]](#) [\[Show scores\]](#) [\[One column\]](#)

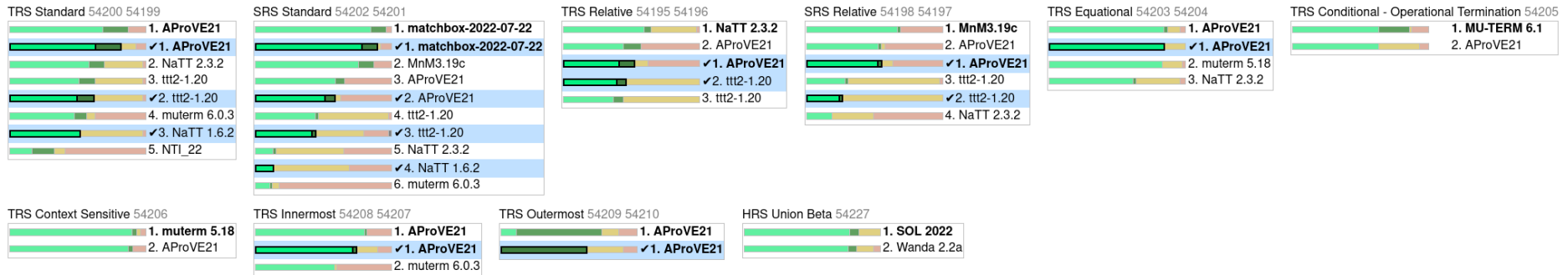
### Competition-Wide Ranking

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

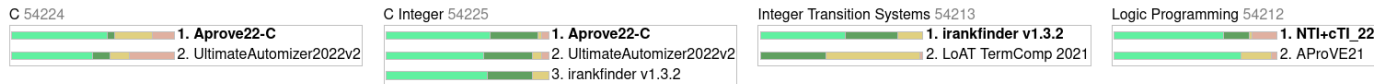
### Advancing-the-State-of-the-Art Ranking

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

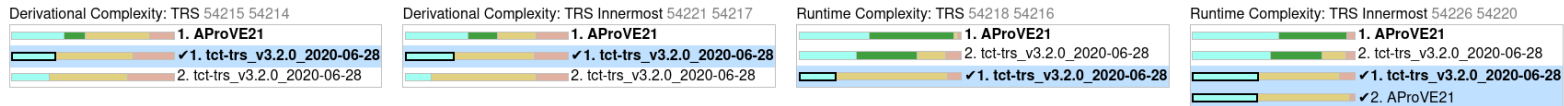
### Termination of Rewriting Progress: 100%, CPU Time: 85d 8:05:33, Node Time: 34d 3:49:50



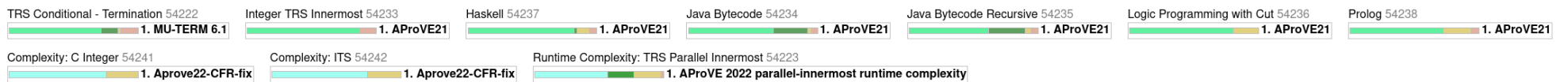
### Termination of Programs Progress: 100%, CPU Time: 3d 3:22:33, Node Time: 2d 4:20:44



### 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  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
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 30.45/7.00 ✓/0.01	YES 30.70/5.30 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.26/0.22	YES 4.74/2.34 ✓/0.01	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 30.45/9.38 ✓/0.01	YES 18.10/5.03 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.27/0.23	YES 3.98/2.52 ✓/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 30.91/5.15 ✓/0.01	YES 16.27/4.90 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.26/0.24	YES 3.96/4.53 ✓/0.01	YES
Secret_05_SRS/aprove4.xml	YES	timeout (wallclock)	YES 0.32/0.28	MAYBE 196.31/49.54	YES 9.44/5.26	YES 27.91/7.84	YES 17.58/5.63	YES 30.81/10.30 ✓/0.01	YES 34.04/6.93 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.37/0.31	YES 11.49/5.25 ✓/0.01	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 31.15/5.31 ✓/0.01	YES 37.85/7.80 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.47/0.43	YES 16.70/7.87 ✓/0.01	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 30.93/7.36 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.37/0.34	YES 7.92/3.83 ✓/0.01	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 17.90/27.00 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.48/0.42	YES 34.72/20.18 ✓/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 30.93/7.36 ✓/0.01	YES 30.45/13.34 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.26/0.23	YES 1.41/0.93 ✓/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 35.97/11.92 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.34/0.28	YES 31.98/11.38 ✓/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 30.93/7.36 ✓/0.01	YES 31.98/7.96 ✓/0.01	YES 0.40/0.37 ✓/0.01	YES 3.94/2.04 ✓/0.01	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 30.93/7.36 ✓/0.01	YES 32.94/5.35 ✓/0.01	YES 1.57/1.43 ✓/0.01	YES 11.45/5.85 ✓/0.01	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 31.98/9.98 ✓/0.01	YES 33.96/5.73 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.41/0.38	YES 3.67/3.94 ✓/0.01	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 31.98/10.33 ✓/0.01	YES 30.93/5.93 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.14/0.10	YES 2.28/1.33 ✓/0.01	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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 33.97/4.37 ✓/0.01	YES 0.24/0.24 ✓/0.01	YES 3.70/3.48 ✓/0.01	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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 31.98/5.31 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.59/0.54	YES 3.08/3.08 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 30.93/10.78 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.33/0.29	YES 3.47/4.43 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 30.93/2.35 ✓/0.01	YES 0.20/0.20 ✓/0.01	YES 1.50/0.50 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 31.98/4.21 ✓/0.01	MAYBE 0.31/0.29	YES 1.17/0.68 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 1.00/1.11 ✓/0.01	YES 3.10/1.50 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 33.93/4.30 ✓/0.01	YES 1.27/0.23 ✓/0.01	YES 1.94/0.73 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 31.98/3.25 ✓/0.01	YES 0.20/0.20 ✓/0.01	YES 0.20/0.20 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 34.93/4.74 ✓/0.01	YES 0.32/0.32 ✓/0.01	YES 0.20/0.20 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 30.93/10.28 ✓/0.01	YES 0.60/0.64 ✓/0.01	YES 2.14/1.20 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 30.93/7.36 ✓/0.01	YES 30.94/4.30 ✓/0.01	YES 0.34/0.34 ✓/0.01	YES 3.97/3.06 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 30.93/7.36 ✓/0.01	YES 31.98/7.36 ✓/0.01	YES 0.20/0.20 ✓/0.01	YES 1.00/0.70 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_04/z011.xml	YES	YES 0.14/0.14	YES 0.07/0.07	YES 1.95/0.74	YES 0.20/0.19	YES 14.94/4.53	YES 1.68/0.66	YES 30.93/7.36 ✓/0.01	YES 31.98/4.25 ✓/0.01	YES 0.34/0.34 ✓/0.01	YES 1.17/0.71 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 0.20/0.20 ✓/0.01	YES 0.20/0.20 ✓/0.01	YES
Zanتما_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 31.98/13.00 ✓/0.01	YES 31.98/4.78 ✓/0.01	YES 0.12/0.14 ✓/0.01	YES 0.20/0.20 ✓/0.01	YES

# Termination solvers

## Examples:

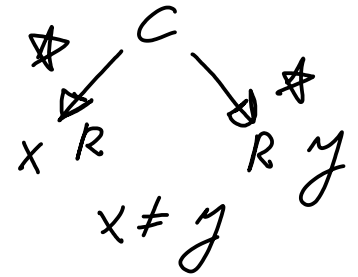
- Waldmann, J. (2004). Matchbox: A Tool for Match-Bounded String Rewriting. In: van Oostrom, V. (eds) Rewriting Techniques and Applications. RTA 2004. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol 3091. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-25979-4\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-25979-4_6)
- 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](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

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

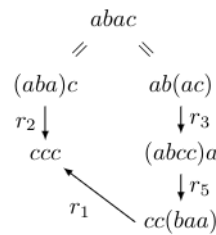
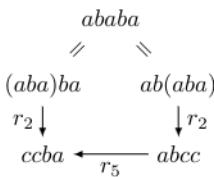
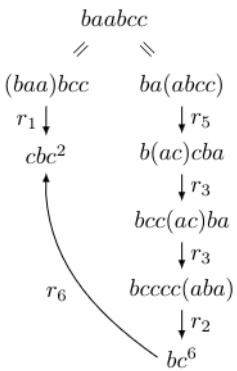
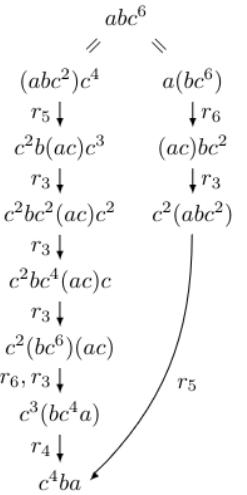
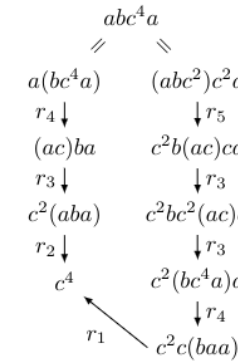
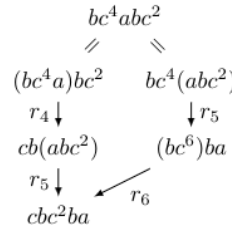
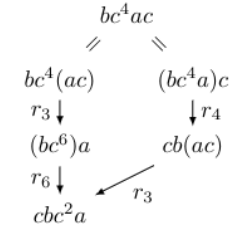
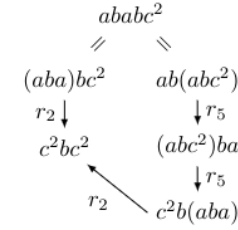
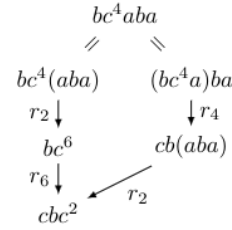
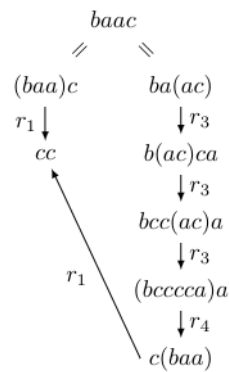
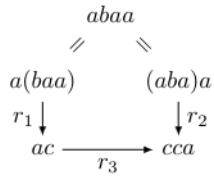
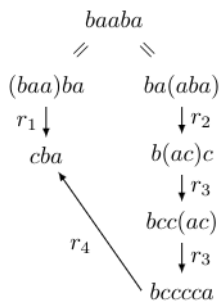
$\Downarrow$

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

$\Downarrow$  KB Backtrack

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

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



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](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!*

