

Approach to check $s \equiv_{\mathcal{E}} t$:

1. Generate a TRS \mathcal{R} that is equivalent to \mathcal{E} .
2. Reduce s and t as much as possible:

$$s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} s_1 \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} s_2 \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} \dots \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} s_n \quad \text{and} \quad t_m \leftarrow_{\mathcal{R}} \dots \leftarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_2 \leftarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_1 \leftarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$$

i.e., s has the normal form $s \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}} = s_n$, t has the normal form $t \downarrow_{\mathcal{R}} = t_m$

3. If $s_n = t_m$, then return “*True*”, else “*False*”.

Prerequisites:

- \mathcal{R} *terminates*,
i.e., $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$ is *well founded*,
i.e., no infinite reduction $t_0 \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_1 \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} \dots$
- \mathcal{R} has the *Church-Rosser property*, i.e., $s \leftrightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* t$ implies $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* q \leftarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* t$.