

3. Term Rewriting and Deduction of Equations

Goal: find methods to solve the word problem $s \equiv_{\mathcal{E}} t$ automatically.

3.1.: first method for solving the word problem
(not yet efficient/applicable in practice, but first step)

3.2.: practical method for the special case where \mathcal{E} contains no variables (congruence closure)

3.3.: practical method for the general case (term rewriting)

3.1. Deduction of Equations

Goal: check whether $\mathcal{E} \models s \equiv t$ holds

Difficult, because " \models " is defined semantically
(i.e., we have to check all possible (infinitely many) algebras)

Solution: Find a syntactical way which corresponds to the semantics, i.e., find a calculus (suitable for automation) which checks $s \equiv_{\mathcal{E}} t$.

To this end: We need 2 techniques to modify/manipulate terms:
substitutions + subterm replacements

Def 3.11 (Substitutions, Matching)

A mapping $\sigma: \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V})$ is a substitution iff

$\sigma(x) \neq x$ only holds for finitely many variables.

$\text{SUB}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V})$ is the set of all substitutions over Σ and \mathcal{V} .

The identity substitution $\text{id} \in \text{SUB}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V})$ is: $\text{id}(x) = x$ for all $x \in \mathcal{V}$.

$\text{DOM}(\sigma) = \{x \in \mathcal{V} \mid \sigma(x) \neq x\}$ is the domain of the subst. σ .

Since DOM is finite, σ can be represented as the set
 $\{x/\sigma(x) \mid x \in \text{DOM}(\sigma)\}$.

Ex 3.12 $\sigma = \{x/\text{plus}(x, y),$
 $y/\sigma,$
 $z/\text{succ}(z)\}$ $\leadsto \text{DOM}(\sigma) = \{x, y, z\}$

<p>Then: $\sigma(x) = \text{plus}(x, y)$ $\sigma(y) = y$</p>	$\sigma(\text{plus}(x, y)) = \text{plus}(\sigma(x), \sigma(y))$ $= \text{plus}(\text{plus}(x, y), y)$
---	---

Def 3.11 (cont.)

Substitutions can be extended to terms: $\sigma: \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V})$
as follows: $\sigma(f(t_1, \dots, t_n)) = f(\sigma(t_1), \dots, \sigma(t_n))$.

We say that a term s matches a term t iff there exists a substitution σ such that $\sigma(s) = t$. Then σ is called matcher of s and t .

Ex 3.12 (cont.)

$$\text{plus}(x, y) \text{ matches } \text{plus}(\text{plus}(x, y), \sigma), \text{ because}$$

$$\sigma(\text{plus}(x, y)) = \text{plus}(\text{plus}(x, y), \sigma)$$

$$\text{for } \sigma = \{x/\text{plus}(x, y), y/\sigma\}$$

For $x^\# = x_1 \dots x_n \in \mathcal{V}^\#$ with $x_i \neq x_j$ for $i \neq j$ and

$$t^\# = t_1 \dots t_n \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V})^\#$$

we often write $\{x^\# / t^\#\}$ instead of $\{x_1/t_1, \dots, x_n/t_n\}$.

Moreover, we often write $t\sigma$ instead of $\sigma(t)$.

We say that a subst. σ is a ground substitution iff
 $x\sigma \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$ for all $x \in \text{DOM}(\sigma)$.

E.g.: $\sigma = \{ x/\sigma, y/\text{succ}(\sigma) \}$ is a ground subst.
 $x\sigma = \sigma, z\sigma = z$

If $s \equiv t$ is satisfied by an algebra, then $s\sigma \equiv t\sigma$ is also satisfied by this algebra.

Similarly, $s \equiv_{\varepsilon} t$ implies $s\sigma \equiv_{\varepsilon} t\sigma$.

Thus: the relation \equiv_{ε} is "stable" (or "closed under substitutions").

Def 3.1.3 (Stability)

A relation \rightarrow on terms ($\rightarrow \subseteq \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V}) \times \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V})$) is stable (or "closed under substitutions") iff we have the following for all terms t_1, t_2 and all substitutions σ :

$$t_1 \rightarrow t_2 \quad \text{implies} \quad t_1\sigma \rightarrow t_2\sigma$$

Our goal now is to prove that \equiv_{ε} is stable.

To this end: show the connection between

variable assignments β (semantical) and substitutions σ (syntactical).

To prove statements about terms (and about other inductively defined data structures):

Structural Induction

For terms: We want to prove a statement $\varphi(t)$ for all terms t .

Induction Base: Prove $\varphi(x)$ for all variables $x \in \mathcal{V}$.

Induction Step: Prove $\varphi(f(t_1, \dots, t_n))$.

As induction hypothesis, one can use that $\varphi(t_1), \dots, \varphi(t_n)$ holds.

Lemma 3.14 (\equiv_ε stable)

Let $I = (\mathcal{A}, \alpha, \beta)$ be an interpretation, let $s, t \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V})$, let $\sigma \in \text{SUB}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V})$, let $I' = (\mathcal{A}, \alpha, \beta')$ with $\beta'(x) = I(x\sigma)$.

(a) $I(t\sigma) = I'(t)$ for all $t \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma, \mathcal{V})$ } Substitution
 (b) $I \models s\sigma \equiv t\sigma$ iff $I' \models s \equiv t$ } Lemma

(c) For all algebras A , we have:

$A \models s \equiv t$ implies $A \models s\sigma \equiv t\sigma$

(d) For all sets of equations \mathcal{E} , we have

$S \equiv_\mathcal{E} t$ implies $S\sigma \equiv_\mathcal{E} t\sigma$

Goal: Mimick the semantical relation $\equiv_\mathcal{E}$ in a syntactical.

Examples to illustrate Lemma 3.1.4

$I = (\mathbb{N}, \alpha, \beta)$ with

$$\alpha_{\text{succ}}(u) = u+1$$

$$\alpha_{\text{plus}}(u, m) = u+m$$

$$\beta(x) = 5$$

$$\beta(y) = 3$$

$I' = (\mathbb{N}, \alpha, \beta')$

$$\beta'(x) = I(x\sigma) = I(s(x)) = 6$$

(a) $t = \text{plus}(x, x)$, $\sigma = \{x / \text{succ}(x)\}$

$$I(t\sigma) = I(\text{plus}(\text{succ}(x), \text{succ}(x))) = 12$$

$$I'(t) = I'(\text{plus}(x, x)) = 12$$

(b) $I \models \underbrace{s^6(x)\sigma}_{12} \equiv \underbrace{\text{plus}(x, x)\sigma}_{12}$

$$I' \models s^6(x) \equiv \text{plus}(x, x)$$

(c) $A \models \text{plus}(x, \sigma) \equiv x$ implies

$$A \models \text{plus}(\text{succ}(x), \sigma) \equiv \text{succ}(x)$$

(d) $\text{plus}(x, \sigma) \equiv_{\varepsilon} x$ implies

$$\text{plus}(\text{succ}(x), \sigma) \equiv_{\varepsilon} \text{succ}(x)$$

Proof of Lemma 3.1.4

(a) We prove the following statement $\varphi(t)$ for all terms t :

$$\text{For all } I, I', \sigma \text{ as above: } I(t\sigma) = I'(t)$$

We use structural induction on terms.

Ind. Base: Here, t is a variable $x \in \mathcal{V}$.

$$I(x\sigma) = \beta'(x) = I'(x) \quad \checkmark$$

Ind. Step: Here, t has the form $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$.

$$\begin{aligned} & I(f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\sigma) \\ &= I(f(t_1\sigma, \dots, t_n\sigma)) \\ &= \alpha_f(\underbrace{I(t_1\sigma)}, \dots, \underbrace{I(t_n\sigma)}) \\ &= \alpha_f(I'(t_1), \dots, I'(t_n)) \quad \text{by the ind. hypothesis} \\ &= I'(f(t_1, \dots, t_n)) \end{aligned}$$

(b) $I \models s\sigma \equiv t\sigma$

$$\text{iff } \underbrace{I(s\sigma)} = \underbrace{I(t\sigma)}$$

$$\text{iff } I'(s) = I'(t) \quad \text{by (a)}$$

$$\text{iff } I' \models s \equiv t$$

(c) Let $A \models s \equiv t$.

To show: $A \models s\sigma \equiv t\sigma$

Let $A = (\mathcal{U}, \alpha)$.

For any $I = (\mathcal{U}, \alpha, \beta)$, we therefore have to show:

$$I \models s\sigma \equiv t\sigma$$

Let $I' = (A, \alpha, \beta')$ with $\beta'(x) = I(x\sigma)$ for all $x \in \mathcal{V}$.

Since I' results from the algebra A by adding a var. assignment,

$$A \models s \equiv t \quad \text{implies} \quad I' \models s \equiv t.$$

By (b): $I \models s\sigma \equiv t\sigma.$

(d) Let $s \equiv_{\varepsilon} t$, i.e., $E \models s \equiv t$.

So for any algebra A with $A \models E$, we have $A \models s \equiv t$.

By (c), we also have $A \models s\sigma \equiv t\sigma$.

Hence: $s\sigma \equiv_{\varepsilon} t\sigma$



First syntactic concept: Substitution $\Rightarrow \equiv_{\varepsilon}$ is closed under substitutions (stable)

Second syntactic concept: positions $\Rightarrow \equiv_{\varepsilon}$ is closed under contexts (monotonic)

Def 3.15 (Positions)

For a term t , let $\text{Occ}(t)$ be the set of all positions of t . Here, $\text{Occ}(t)$ is the smallest subset of \mathbb{N}^* with:

- $\varepsilon \in \text{Occ}(t)$ (empty position / top position)
- $i\pi \in \text{Occ}(t)$, if $t = f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$, $1 \leq i \leq n$, and $\pi \in \text{Occ}(t_i)$.

For a term t with $\pi \in \text{Occ}(t)$, $t|_{\pi}$ is the subterm of t at the position π , which is defined as follows:

- $t|_{\varepsilon} = t$

follows:

- $t|_{\epsilon} = t$

- $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)|_{i\pi} = t_i|_{\pi}$

Ex. 3.16. $t = \text{plus}(\text{succ}(\text{plus}(\sigma, \text{succ}(\sigma))), \text{succ}(\sigma))$

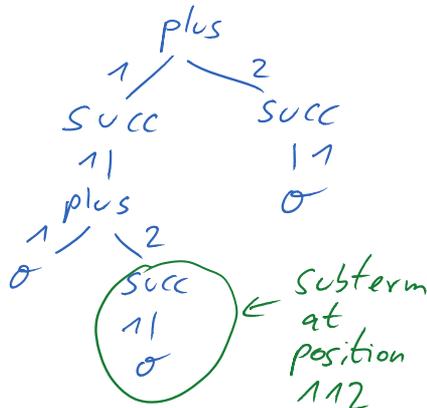
$t|_{\epsilon} = t$

$t|_{1} = \text{succ}(\text{plus}(\sigma, \text{succ}(\sigma)))$

$t|_{2} = \text{succ}(\sigma)$

$t|_{11} = \text{plus}(\sigma, \text{succ}(\sigma))$

$t|_{112} = \text{succ}(\sigma)$



$t[\text{times}(\sigma, \sigma)]_{112} = \text{plus}(\text{succ}(\text{plus}(\sigma, \text{times}(\sigma, \sigma))), \text{succ}(\sigma))$

$112 >_{IN} 11 >_{IN} 1 >_{IN} \epsilon. \quad 112 \perp 111$

Def 3.15 (cont.)

For a term t and a $\pi \in \text{Occ}(t)$, let $t[r]_{\pi}$ be the term that results from replacing $t|_{\pi}$ by the term r :

- $t[r]_{\epsilon} = r$

- $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)[r]_{i\pi} = f(t_1, \dots, t_i[r]_{\pi}, \dots, t_n)$

For $\pi_1, \pi_2 \in \text{Occ}(t)$, we say that π_1 is below π_2

($\pi_1 >_{IN} \pi_2$) iff π_2 is a proper prefix of π_1

(i.e.: $\pi_1 = \pi_2 \pi$ for some $\pi \in N^+$, i.e. $\pi \neq \epsilon$).

We say that π_1 and π_2 are independent (" $\pi_1 \perp \pi_2$ ") iff

neither $\pi_1 >_{IN} \pi_2$ nor $\pi_2 >_{IN} \pi_1$ nor $\pi_1 = \pi_2$.

We know: \equiv_{ϵ} is closed under substitutions

Now we show: \equiv_{ϵ} is closed under contexts
(monotonic)

Def 3.17 (Monotonic)

A relation \rightarrow on terms is monotonic iff the following holds for all terms t_1, t_2, q and all $\pi \in \text{Occ}(q)$:

$$t_1 \rightarrow t_2 \quad \text{implies} \quad q[t_1]_{\pi} \rightarrow q[t_2]_{\pi}$$

E.g.: if $\text{plus}(x, 0) \rightarrow x$

then $\text{succ}(\text{plus}(x, 0)) \rightarrow \text{succ}(x)$

Lemma 3.1.8. (\equiv_{ε} is monotonic)

Let s, t, q be terms, let $\pi \in \text{Occ}(q)$. Then we have:

(a) for all algebras A , we have:

$$\text{if } A \models s \equiv t, \text{ then } A \models q[s]_{\pi} \equiv q[t]_{\pi}.$$

(b) for all sets of equations ε , we have:

$$\text{if } s \equiv_{\varepsilon} t, \text{ then } q[s]_{\pi} \equiv_{\varepsilon} q[t]_{\pi}$$

(i.e.: \equiv_{ε} is monotonic)

Proof: (a) We have to prove the following statement for all positions π :

"For all algebras A , all terms s, t, q with $\pi \in \text{Occ}(q)$, we have: $A \models s \equiv t$ implies $A \models q[s]_{\pi} \equiv q[t]_{\pi}$."

We prove this statement by structural induction on the position π .

Ind. Base: $\pi = \varepsilon$

We know $A \models s \equiv t$.

$$\text{To prove: } A \models \underbrace{q[s]_{\varepsilon}}_s \equiv \underbrace{q[t]_{\varepsilon}}_t \quad \checkmark$$

Ind. Step: $\pi = i \pi'$

Since $i \pi' \in \text{Occ}(q)$, q has the form $f(q_1, \dots, q_i, \dots, q_n)$.

We know: $A \models s \equiv t$

To prove: $A \models q[s]_{\pi'} \equiv q[t]_{\pi'}$,

$$\text{i.e., } A \models \underbrace{f(q_1, \dots, q_n)[s]_{\pi'}} \equiv \underbrace{f(q_1, \dots, q_n)[t]_{\pi'}}$$

$$A \models f(q_1, \dots, q_i[s]_{\pi'}, \dots, q_n) \equiv f(q_1, \dots, q_i[t]_{\pi'}, \dots, q_n)$$

Let $A = (\mathcal{U}, \alpha)$. For every interpretation $I = (\mathcal{U}, \alpha, \beta)$, we have to show

$$I \models f(q_1, \dots, q_i[s]_{\pi'}, \dots, q_n) \equiv f(q_1, \dots, q_i[t]_{\pi'}, \dots, q_n),$$

$$\text{i.e., } \alpha_f(I(q_1), \dots, \underline{I(q_i[s]_{\pi'})}, \dots) = \alpha_f(I(q_1), \dots, \underline{I(q_i[t]_{\pi'})}, \dots)$$

It suffices to show that

$$I(q_i[s]_{\pi'}) = I(q_i[t]_{\pi'}). \quad (*)$$

The induction hypothesis implies:

"For all A, s, t, q' : $A \models s \equiv t$ implies $A \models q'[s]_{\pi'} \equiv q'[t]_{\pi'}$."

By choosing q' to be q_i , we know that

$$A \models s \equiv t \text{ implies } A \models q_i[s]_{\pi'} \equiv q_i[t]_{\pi'}$$

Hence: $I \models q_i[s]_{\pi'} \equiv q_i[t]_{\pi'}$, i.e.,

(*) holds.

(b) $s \equiv_{\varepsilon} t$ means that

$$A \models \varepsilon \text{ implies } A \models s \equiv t.$$

This implies $A \models q[s]_{\pi} \equiv q[t]_{\pi}$, by (a)

2 syntactical properties of \equiv_{ε} :

- stable ($s \equiv_{\varepsilon} t \sim sv \equiv_{\varepsilon} tv$)

- monotonic ($s \equiv_{\varepsilon} t \sim q[s]_{\pi} \equiv_{\varepsilon} q[t]_{\pi}$)

Word Problem:

$$s \equiv_{\varepsilon} t$$

Def 3.19 (Equivalence Relation, Congruence Relation)

Let M be a set, let \rightarrow be a relation on M

($\rightarrow \subseteq M \times M$). Then the relation \rightarrow is called

- reflexive iff $t \rightarrow t$ holds for all $t \in M$ (e.g. $\geq_{\mathbb{N}}, \leq$)
- symmetric iff $t_1 \rightarrow t_2$ implies $t_2 \rightarrow t_1$ for all $t_1, t_2 \in M$ (e.g. $=_{\mathbb{N}}$)
- transitivity iff $t_1 \rightarrow t_2$ and $t_2 \rightarrow t_3$ implies $t_1 \rightarrow t_3$ for all $t_1, t_2, t_3 \in M$ (e.g. $\geq_{\mathbb{N}}, >_{\mathbb{N}}, \leq$)
- an equivalence relation iff \rightarrow is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive (e.g. $=_{\mathbb{N}}$)

For a relation \rightarrow ,

- $\rightarrow^=$ is the reflexive closure of \rightarrow , where $\rightarrow^=$ is the smallest relation that contains \rightarrow and is reflexive, i.e. it is the smallest relation such that
 - if $t_1 \rightarrow t_2$, then $t_1 \rightarrow^= t_2$ for all $t_1, t_2 \in M$
 - $t \rightarrow^= t$ for all $t \in M$
- \rightarrow^+ is the transitive closure of \rightarrow , where \rightarrow^+ is the smallest relation that contains \rightarrow and is transitive, i.e.:

$$t_1 \rightarrow^+ t_2 \text{ iff there exist } s_0, \dots, s_n \text{ with } n > 0$$
 such that:

$$t_1 = s_0 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow s_n = t_2$$
- \rightarrow^* is the transitive-reflexive closure of \rightarrow , where:

$$t_1 \rightarrow^* t_2 \text{ iff there exist } s_0, \dots, s_n \text{ with } n \geq 0$$
 such that $t_1 = s_0 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow s_n = t_2$.
- \leftrightarrow is the symmetric closure of \rightarrow , where

$$t_1 \leftrightarrow t_2 \text{ iff } t_1 \rightarrow t_2 \text{ or } t_2 \rightarrow t_1$$
- \leftrightarrow^* is the transitive-reflexive-symmetric closure, i.e., the smallest equivalence relation that contains

\rightarrow , on terms
A relation \rightarrow is a congruence relation iff it is
an equivalence relation and \rightarrow is monotonic.

We write $t_1 \xrightarrow{n} t_2$ for $t_1 = s_0 \rightarrow s_1 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow s_n = t_2$.

We already know that $\equiv_{\mathcal{E}}$ is stable and monotonic.
The following lemma states that $\equiv_{\mathcal{E}}$ is also
reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

Lemma 3.1.10 ($\equiv_{\mathcal{E}}$ is an equivalence relation)

Let \mathcal{E} be a set of equations. Then $\equiv_{\mathcal{E}}$ is an
equivalence and a congruence relation.

Proof: clear, because $\equiv_{\mathcal{E}}$ is a form of equality.

E.g.: $A \models t \equiv t$ holds for any algebra A ,
therefore it also holds for any model A
of \mathcal{E} . $\sim t \equiv_{\mathcal{E}} t$ □