



### **Operational semantics** of formal calculi and programming languages



#### Rewriting = abstract form of program execution

 Paradigmatic example: λ-calculus (functional programming language, in its essence)

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	Math formalizations		
xample (Group T	heory)		Example
signature e	(constant) – (unary, postfix) · (binary, infi	×)	signature
equations e · >	$x \approx x$ $x^- \cdot x \approx e$ $(x \cdot y) \cdot z \approx x \cdot (y \cdot z)$	ε	terms
theorems	$e^- pprox_{\mathcal{E}} e$ $(x \cdot y)^- pprox_{\mathcal{E}} y^- \cdot x^-$		$\alpha$ conver
rewrite rules (×	$\begin{array}{cccc} \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{x} \to \mathbf{x} & \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{e} \to \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{x}^- \cdot \mathbf{x} \to \mathbf{e} & \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}^- \to \mathbf{e} \\ \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} ) \cdot \mathbf{z} \to \mathbf{x} \cdot (\mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{z}) & \mathbf{x}^{} \to \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{e}^- \to \mathbf{e} & (\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y})^- \to \mathbf{y}^- \cdot \mathbf{x}^- \end{array}$	$\mathcal R$	eta reduct
<i>x</i> <sup>-</sup>	$(x \cdot y) \rightarrow y \qquad x \cdot (x^- \cdot y) \rightarrow y$		rewriting
1 $s \approx t$ is valid in 2 $\mathcal{R}$ admits no in	n ${\mathcal E}$ (s $pprox_{{\mathcal E}}$ t) if and only if s and t have same ${\mathcal R}$ -no finite computations	ormal form	inventor
$(1) \& (2) \implies \mathcal{E}$	has decidable validity problem		

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Example (Lambda Calculus)						
signature	$\lambda$ (binds variables) $\cdot$ (application, binary, infix)					
terms	$M ::= x \mid (\lambda x. M) \mid (M \cdot M)$					
$\alpha$ conversion	$\lambda x. x \cdot y =_{\alpha} \lambda z. z \cdot y$					
$\beta$ reduction	$(\lambda x. M) \cdot N \rightarrow_{\beta} M[x := N]$ replace free occurrences of x in M by N (and avoid variable capturing)					
rewriting	$(\lambda x. x \cdot x) \cdot (\lambda x. x \cdot x) \rightarrow (\lambda x. x \cdot x) \cdot (\lambda x. x \cdot x)$	2				
inventor	Alonzo Church (1932)					

Modelling computation

both Combinatory Logic and Lambda Calculus are Turing-complete

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# Rewriting

- Rewrite Theory provides a powerful set of tools to study computational and operational properties of a system : normalization, termination, confluence, uniqueness of normal forms
- tools to study and compare strategies:
  - Is there a strategy guaranteed to lead to normal form, if any (normalizing strat. )?
- <u>Abstract</u> Rewrite Systems (ARS) capture the common substratum of rewrite theory (independently from the particular structure of terms) - can be uses in the study of any calculus or programming language.

# Abstract Rewriting: motivations

concrete rewrite formalisms / concrete operational semantics:

- λ-calculus
- Quantum/probabilistic/non-deterministic/......  $\lambda$ -calculus
- Proof-nets / graph rewriting
- Sequent calculus and cut-elimination
- string rewriting
- term rewriting

#### abstract rewriting

- independent from structure of objects that are rewritten
- uniform presentation of properties and proofs

# Why a theory of rewriting matters?

• Rewriting = abstract form of program execution

Rewriting theory provides a sound framework for reasoning about • programs transformations, such as compiler optimizations or parallel implementations, • program equivalence.

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Basic language

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#### Composition

- = If  $\rightarrow_1, \rightarrow_2$  are binary relations on A then  $\rightarrow_1 \cdot \rightarrow_2$  denotes their composition, *i.e.*  $t \rightarrow_1 \cdot \rightarrow_2 s$  iff there exists  $u \in A$  such that  $t \rightarrow_1 u \rightarrow_2 s$ .
- $\begin{array}{ll} & \quad \mbox{We write } (A,\{\rightarrow_1,\rightarrow_2\}) \mbox{ to denote the ARS } (A,\rightarrow) \\ & \quad \mbox{ where } \rightarrow = \rightarrow_1 \cup \rightarrow_2. \end{array}$





# Global vs Local

#### Confluence

A property of term t is *local* if it is quantified over only *one-step reductions* from t; it is *global* if it is quantified over all *rewrite sequences* from t.

#### Locally confluent (WCR) Strongly confluent Diamond

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**confluence** Let  $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \rightarrow \rangle$  be an ARS. An element  $a \in A$  is *confluent* if for all elements  $b, c \in A$  with  $b^* \leftarrow a \rightarrow^* c$  we have  $b \downarrow c$ . The ARS  $\mathcal{A}$  is confluent if all its elements are confluent.



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		Confluence	
A p it is	property of term <i>t</i> is <i>local</i> if s <i>global</i> if it is quantified ov	it is quantified over only one-step er all rewrite sequences from t.	reductions from t;
Local	ly confluent (WCR)	Strongly confluent	Diamond
	ا ا ا تو 5		
Loca elema elema	al confluence Let $\mathcal{A} = \langle A,$ ents $b, c \in A$ with $b \leftarrow a -$ ents are confluent.	→> be an ARS. An element $a \in A$ →c we have $b \downarrow c$ . The ARS A	t is confluent if all its

An ARS  $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \rightarrow \rangle$  has the diamond property ( $\diamond$ ) if  $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq | \rightarrow \cdot \leftarrow$ 

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• every ARS with diamond property is confluent

Proof by tiling

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An ARS  $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \rightarrow \rangle$  is strongly confluent (SCR) if  $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq \rightarrow^{=} \cdot^{*} \leftarrow$ , see Figure *a* Show that every strongly confluent ARS is confluent.

a Show that every strongly confluent Ab Does the converse also hold?

 $c \quad \text{Show that an ARS } \mathcal{A} = \langle A, \rightarrow \rangle \text{ is confluent if and only if } \xleftarrow{}{}^{*} \cdot \rightarrow \quad \sqsubseteq \quad \rightarrow^{*} \cdot \xleftarrow{}^{*}$ 

