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# Equational Abstraction Refinement for Certified Tree Regular Model Checking

Y. Boichut<sup>1</sup>, B. Boyer<sup>4</sup>, T. Genet<sup>2</sup>, and A. Legay<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> LIFO - Université Orléans, France

<sup>2</sup> IRISA - Université Rennes 1, France

<sup>3</sup> INRIA - Rennes, France

<sup>4</sup> VERIMAG - Université Joseph Fourier, France

**Abstract.** *Tree Regular Model Checking* (TRMC) is the name of a family of techniques for analyzing infinite-state systems in which states are represented by trees and sets of states by tree automata. The central problem is to decide whether a set of bad states belongs to the set of reachable states. An obstacle is that this set is in general neither regular nor computable in finite time.

This paper proposes a new CounterExample Guided Abstraction Refinement (CEGAR) algorithm for TRMC. Our approach relies on a new equational-abstraction based completion algorithm to compute a regular overapproximation of the set of reachable states in finite time. This set is represented by  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata, a new extended tree automaton formalism whose structure can be exploited to detect and remove false positives in an efficient manner. Our approach has been implemented in TimbukCEGAR, a new toolset that is capable of analyzing Java programs by exploiting an elegant translation from the Java byte code to term rewriting systems. Experiments show that TimbukCEGAR outperforms existing CEGAR-based completion algorithms. Contrary to existing TRMC toolsets, the answers provided by TimbukCEGAR are certified by Coq, which means that they are formally proved correct.

## 1 Introduction

Infinite-state models are often used to avoid potentially artificial assumptions on data structures and architectures, e.g. an artificial bound on the size of a stack or on the value of an integer variable. At the heart of most of the techniques that have been proposed for exploring infinite state spaces, is a symbolic representation that can finitely represent infinite sets of states. In this paper, we rely on Tree Regular Model Checking (TRMC) [19, 31], and assume that states of the system are represented by trees and sets of states by tree automata. The transition relation of the system is represented by a set of rewriting rules. Contrary to specific approaches that are dedicated to specific applications, TRMC is generic and expressive enough to describe a broad class of communication protocols [5], various C programs [16] with complex data structures, multi-threaded programs [34], cryptographic protocols [26, 28, 6], and Java [13].

In TRMC, the central objective is to decide whether a set of states representing some state-property belongs to the set of reachable states. An obstacle is that this set is in general neither regular nor computable in a finite time. Most existing solutions rely on computing the transitive closure of the transition relation of the systems through heuristic-based semi-algorithms [31, 5], or on the computation of some regular abstraction of the set of reachable states [19, 16]. While the first approach is precise, it is acknowledged to be ineffective on complex systems. This paper focuses on the second approach.

The first abstraction-based technique for TRMC, *Abstract Tree Regular Model Checking* (ATRMC), was proposed by Bouajjani et al [17, 15, 16]. ATRMC computes sequences of automata by successive applications of the rewriting relation to the automaton representing the initial set of states. After each computation step, techniques coming from predicate abstraction are used to over-approximate the set of reachable states. If the property holds on the abstraction, then it also holds on the concrete system. Otherwise, a counter-example is detected and the algorithm has to decide if it is a false positive or not. In case of a spurious counter-example, the algorithm refines the abstraction by backward propagation of the set of rewriting rules. The approach, which may not terminate, proceeds in a CounterExample Guided Abstraction Refinement fashion by successive abstraction/refinement until a decision can be taken. The approach has been implemented in a toolset capable, in part, to analyse C programs.

Independently, Genet et al. [24] proposed *Completion* that is another technique to compute an over-approximation of the set of reachable states. Completion exploits the structure of the term rewriting system to add new transitions in the automaton and obtain a possibly overapproximation of the set of one-step successor states. Completion leads to a direct application of rewriting rules to the automaton, while other approaches rely on possibly heavy applications of sequences of transducers to represent this step. Completion alone may not be sufficient to finitely compute the set of reachable states. A first solution to this problem is to plug one of the abstraction techniques implemented in ATRMC. However, in this paper, we prefer another solution that is to apply equational abstraction [33]. There, the merging of states is induced by a set of equations that largely exploit the structure of the system under verification and its corresponding TRS, hence leading to accurate approximations. We shall see that, initially, such equations can easily be derived from the structure of the system. Later, they are refined automatically with our procedure without manual intervention. Completion with equational abstraction has been applied to very complex case studies such as the verification of (industrial) cryptography protocols [26, 28] and Java bytecode applications [13]. CEGAR algorithms based on equational-abstraction completion exist [11, 12], but are known to be inefficient.

In this paper, we design the first efficient and certified CEGAR framework for equational-abstraction based completion algorithm. Our approach relies on  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton, that is a new tree automaton formalism for representing sets of reachable states. In  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata, equational abstraction does not merge states, but rather link them with rewriting rules labeled with equations. Such

technique is made easy by exploiting the nature of the completion step. During completion steps, such equations are propagated, and the information can be used to efficiently decide whether a set of terms is reachable from the set of initial states. If the procedure concludes positively, then the term is indeed reachable. Else, one has to refine the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton and restart the process again.

Our approach has been implemented in TimbukCEGAR. (T)RMC toolsets result from the combination of several libraries, each of them being implemented with thousands of lines of code. It is thus impossible to manually prove that those tools deliver correct answers. A particularity of TimbukCEGAR is that it is certified. In order to ensure that the whole set of reachable states has been explored, any TRMC technique needs to check whether a candidate overapproximation  $B$  is indeed a fixed point, that is if  $\mathcal{L}(B) \supseteq \mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A))$ . Such check has been implemented in various TRMC toolsets, but there is no guarantee that it behaves correctly. In [20], a checker for tree automata completion was designed and proved correct using the Coq [10] proof assistant. Any automaton  $B$  that passes the checker can be claimed to formally satisfy the fixed point. TimbukCEGAR implements an extension of [20] for  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata, which means that the tool delivers correct answers. Our TimbukCEGAR is capable, in part, of analyzing Java programs by exploiting an elegant translation from the javabyte code to term rewriting systems. Experiments show that TimbukCEGAR outperforms existing CEGAR-based completion algorithms by orders of magnitude.

**Related work.** Regular Model Checking (RMC) was first applied to compute the set of reachable states of systems whose configurations are represented by words [18, 14, 22]. The approach was then extended to trees and applied to very simple case studies [5, 19]. Other regular model checking works can be found in [3, 4], where an abstraction of the transition relation allows to exploit well-quasi-ordering for finite termination. Such techniques may introduce false positives; a CEGAR approach exists for the case of finite words [2], but not for the one of trees. Learning techniques apply to RMC [37, 38] but trees have not yet been considered. We mention that our work extends equational abstractions [33, 36] with counter-example detection and refinement. We mention the existence of other automata-based works that can handle a specific class of system [34]. CEGAR principles have been implemented in various tools such as Arme [35] or SLAM [8]. Those specific tools are more efficient than our approach. On the other hand, RMC and rewriting rules offer a more general framework in which the abstraction and the refinements can be computed in a systematic manner.

**Structure of the paper.** Section 2 introduces the basic definitions and concepts used in the paper. TRMC and Completion are introduced in Section 3.  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata are introduced in Section 4. A new completion procedure is then defined in Section 5. Section 6 proposes a CEGAR approach for TRMC and Completion. Section 7 presents TimbukCEGAR. Section 8 concludes the paper and discusses future research. Due to space constraints proofs are reported to appendix.

## 2 Background

In this section, we introduce some definitions and concepts that will be used throughout the rest of the paper (see also [7, 21, 30]). Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a finite set of symbols, each associated with an arity function, and let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a countable set of *variables*.  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{X})$  denotes the set of *terms* and  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  denotes the set of *ground terms* (terms without variables). The set of variables of a term  $t$  is denoted by  $\text{Var}(t)$ . A *substitution* is a function  $\sigma$  from  $\mathcal{X}$  into  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{X})$ , which can be uniquely extended to an endomorphism of  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{X})$ . A *position*  $p$  for a term  $t$  is a word over  $\mathbb{N}$ . The empty sequence  $\lambda$  denotes the top-most position. The set  $\text{Pos}(t)$  of positions of a term  $t$  is inductively defined by  $\text{Pos}(t) = \{\lambda\}$  if  $t \in \mathcal{X}$  and  $\text{Pos}(f(t_1, \dots, t_n)) = \{\lambda\} \cup \{i.p \mid 1 \leq i \leq n \text{ and } p \in \text{Pos}(t_i)\}$  otherwise. If  $p \in \text{Pos}(t)$ , then  $t|_p$  denotes the subterm of  $t$  at position  $p$  and  $t[s]_p$  denotes the term obtained by replacement of the subterm  $t|_p$  at position  $p$  by the term  $s$ .

A *term rewriting system* (TRS)  $\mathcal{R}$  is a set of *rewrite rules*  $l \rightarrow r$ , where  $l, r \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{X})$ ,  $l \notin \mathcal{X}$ , and  $\text{Var}(l) \supseteq \text{Var}(r)$ . A rewrite rule  $l \rightarrow r$  is *left-linear* (resp. *right-linear*) if each variable of  $l$  (resp.  $r$ ) occurs only once in  $l$ . A TRS  $\mathcal{R}$  is left-linear if every rewrite rule  $l \rightarrow r$  of  $\mathcal{R}$  is left-linear. The TRS  $\mathcal{R}$  induces a rewriting relation  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$  on terms as follows. Let  $s, t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{X})$  and  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$ ,  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$  denotes that there exists a position  $p \in \text{Pos}(s)$  and a substitution  $\sigma$  such that  $s|_p = l\sigma$  and  $t = s[r\sigma]_p$ . The reflexive transitive closure of  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$  is denoted by  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^*$  and  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^! t$  denotes that  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* t$  and  $t$  is irreducible by  $\mathcal{R}$ . The set of  $\mathcal{R}$ -descendants of a set of ground terms  $I$  is  $\mathcal{R}^*(I) = \{t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}) \mid \exists s \in I \text{ s.t. } s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* t\}$ . An *equation set*  $E$  is a set of *equations*  $l = r$ , where  $l, r \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{X})$ . For all equation  $l = r \in E$  and all substitution  $\sigma$ , we have  $l\sigma =_E r\sigma$ . The relation  $=_E$  is the smallest congruence such that for all substitution  $\sigma$  we have  $l\sigma = r\sigma$ . Given a TRS  $\mathcal{R}$  and a set of equations  $E$ , a term  $s \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  is rewritten modulo  $E$  into  $t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$ , denoted  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E} t$ , if there exist  $s' \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  and  $t' \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $s =_E s' \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t' =_E t$ . Thus, the set of  $\mathcal{R}$ -descendants modulo  $E$  of a set of ground terms  $I$  is  $\mathcal{R}_{/E}^*(I) = \{t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}) \mid \exists s \in I \text{ s.t. } s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}^* t\}$ .

Let  $Q$  be a finite set of symbols with arity 0, called *states*, such that  $Q \cap \mathcal{F} = \emptyset$ .  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F} \cup Q)$  is called the set of *configurations*. A *transition* is a rewrite rule  $c \rightarrow q$ , where  $c$  is a configuration and  $q$  is state. A transition is *normalized* when  $c = f(q_1, \dots, q_n)$ ,  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  is of arity  $n$ , and  $q_1, \dots, q_n \in Q$ . A  $\varepsilon$ -*transition* is a transition of the form  $q \rightarrow q'$  where  $q$  and  $q'$  are states. A bottom-up nondeterministic finite tree automaton (tree automaton for short) over the alphabet  $\mathcal{F}$  is a tuple  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_F, \Delta \rangle$ , where  $Q_F \subseteq Q$ ,  $\Delta$  is a set of normalized transitions and  $\varepsilon$ -transitions. The transitive and reflexive *rewriting relation* on  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F} \cup Q)$  induced by all the transitions of  $A$  is denoted by  $\rightarrow_A^*$ . The tree language recognized by  $A$  in a state  $q$  is  $\mathcal{L}(A, q) = \{t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}) \mid t \rightarrow_A^* q\}$ . We define  $\mathcal{L}(A) = \bigcup_{q \in Q_F} \mathcal{L}(A, q)$ .

## 3 Tree Regular Model Checking with Completion

We first introduce *Tree Regular Model Checking* (TRMC), a tree automata based framework to represent possibly infinite-state systems. In TRMC, a program is

represented by a tuple  $(\mathcal{F}, A, \mathcal{R})$ , where  $\mathcal{F}$  is an alphabet on which a set of terms  $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  can be defined;  $A$  is the tree automaton representing a possibly infinite set of configurations  $I$ , and  $\mathcal{R}$  is a set of term rewriting rules that represent a transition relation  $Rel$ . We consider the following problem.

**Definition 1 (Reachability Problem (RP)).** *Consider a program  $(\mathcal{F}, A, \mathcal{R})$  and a set of bad terms  $Bad$ . The Reachability Problem consists in checking whether there exists a term of  $\mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A))$  that belongs to  $Bad$ .*

For finite-state systems, computing the set of reachable terms ( $\mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A))$ ) reduces to enumerating the terms that can be reached from the initial set of configurations. For infinite-state systems, acceleration-based methods are needed to perform this possibly infinite enumeration in a finite time. In general, such accelerations are not precise and the best one can obtain is an  $R$ -closed approximation  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$ . A tree automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$  is  $\mathcal{R}$ -closed if for all terms  $s, t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$  and  $s$  is recognized by  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$  into state  $q$  then so is  $t$ . It is easy to see that if  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$  is  $\mathcal{R}$ -closed and  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*) \supseteq \mathcal{L}(A)$ , then  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*) \supseteq \mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A))$ . A wide range of acceleration techniques have been developed, most of them have been discussed in Section 1. Here, we focus on Completion [24], whose objective is to compute successive automata  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^0 = A, A_{\mathcal{R}}^1, A_{\mathcal{R}}^2, \dots$  that represent the effect of applying the set of rewriting rules to the initial automaton. To compute infinite sets in a finite time, each completion step is eventually followed by an widening operator. More precisely, each application of  $\mathcal{R}$ , which is called a *completion step*, consists in searching for *critical pairs*  $\langle t, q \rangle$  with  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$ ,  $s \rightarrow_A^* q$  and  $t \not\rightarrow_A^* q$ . The idea being that the algorithm solves the critical pair by building from  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^i$ , a new tree automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^{i+1}$  with the additional transitions that represent the effect of applying  $\mathcal{R}$ . As the language recognized by  $A$  may be infinite, it is not possible to find all the critical pairs by enumerating the terms that it recognizes. The solution that was promoted in [24] consists in applying sets of substitutions  $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \mapsto Q$  mapping variables of rewrite rules to states that represent infinite sets of (recognized) terms. Given a tree automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^i$  and a rewrite rule  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$ , to find all the critical pairs of  $l \rightarrow r$  on  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^i$ , completion uses a *matching algorithm* [23] that produces the set of substitutions  $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \mapsto Q$  and states  $q \in Q$  such that  $l\sigma \rightarrow_{A_{\mathcal{R}}^i}^* q$  and  $r\sigma \not\rightarrow_{A_{\mathcal{R}}^i}^* q$ . Solving critical pairs thus consists in adding new transitions:  $r\sigma \rightarrow q'$  and  $q' \rightarrow q$ . Those new transitions may have to be *normalized* in order to satisfy the definition of transitions of tree automata (see [23] for details). As it was shown in [24], this operation may add not only new transitions but also new states to the automaton. In the rest of the paper, the completion-step operation will be represented by  $\mathbb{C}$ , i.e., the automaton obtained by applying the completion step to  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^i$  is denoted  $\mathbb{C}(A_{\mathcal{R}}^i)$ . Observe that when considering right-linear rewriting rules, we have that  $\mathbb{C}$  is precise, i.e. it does not introduce in  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^{i+1}$  terms that cannot be obtain from  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^i$  by applying the set of rewriting rules. Observe also that if the system is non left-linear, then completion step may not produce all the reachable terms. Non left-linear rules will not be considered in the present paper.

The problem is that, except for specific classes of systems [23, 25], the automaton representing the set of reachable terms cannot be obtained by applying

a finite number of completion steps. The computation process thus needs to be accelerated. For doing so, we apply a *widening operator*  $W$  that uses a set  $E$  of equations<sup>5</sup> to merge states and produce a  $\mathcal{R}$ -closed automaton that is an over-approximation of the set of reachable terms, i.e., an automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$  such that  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*) \supseteq \mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A))$ . An equation  $u = v$  is applied to a tree automaton  $A$  as follows: for all substitution  $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \mapsto Q$  and distinct states  $q_1$  and  $q_2$  such that  $u\sigma \rightarrow_A^* q_1$  and  $v\sigma \rightarrow_A^* q_2$ , states  $q_1$  and  $q_2$  are merged. Completion and widening steps are applied, i.e.,  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^{i+1} = W(\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i))$ , until a  $\mathcal{R}$ -closed fixpoint  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$  is found. Our approximation framework and methodology are close to the equational abstractions of [33]. In [27], it has been shown that, under some assumptions, the widening operator may be exact, i.e., does not add terms that are not reachable.

*Example 1.* Let  $\mathcal{R} = \{f(x) \rightarrow f(s(s(x)))\}$  be a rewriting system,  $E = \{s(s(x)) = s(x)\}$  be an equation, and  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_F, \Delta \rangle$  be a tree automaton with  $Q_F = \{q_0\}$  and  $\Delta = \{a \rightarrow q_1, f(q_1) \rightarrow q_0\}$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{L}(A) = \{f(a)\}$ .  $s(s(q_1)) = s(q_1)$   
The first completion step finds the following critical pair:  
 $f(q_1) \rightarrow_A^* q_0$  and  $f(s(s(q_1))) \not\rightarrow_A^* q_0$ . Hence, the completion algorithm produces  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^1 = \mathcal{C}(A)$  having all transitions of  $A$  plus  $\{s(q_1) \rightarrow q_2, s(q_2) \rightarrow q_3, f(q_3) \rightarrow q_4, q_4 \rightarrow q_0\}$  where  $q_2, q_3, q_4$  are new states produced by normalization of  $f(s(s(q_1))) \rightarrow q_0$ . Applying  $W$  with the equation  $s(s(x)) = s(x)$  on  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^1$  is equivalent to rename  $q_3$  into  $q_2$ . The set of transitions of  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1$  is thus  $\Delta \cup \{s(q_1) \rightarrow q_2, s(q_2) \rightarrow q_2, f(q_2) \rightarrow q_4, q_4 \rightarrow q_0\}$ . Completion stops on  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1$  that is  $\mathcal{R}$ -closed, and thus  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^* = A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1$ .

Observe that if the intersection between  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$  and  $Bad$  is not empty, then it does not necessarily mean that the system does not satisfy the property. Consider a set  $Bad = \{f(s(a)), f(s(s(a)))\}$ , the first term of this set is not reachable from  $A$ , but the second is. There is thus the need to successively refine the  $\mathcal{R}$ -closed automaton. The latter can be done by using a CounterExample Guided Abstraction Refinement algorithm (CEGAR). Developing such an algorithm for completion and equational abstraction is the objective of this paper.

## 4 $\mathcal{R}/E$ -Automata

Existing CEGAR approaches [17, 15, 16, 11] check for spurious counter examples by performing a sequence of applications of the rewriting rules to  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$ . To avoid this potentially costly step, we suggest to replace the merging of states by the addition of new rewriting rules that carry out information on the merging through equations. Formally:

**Definition 2 ( $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton).** *Given a TRS  $\mathcal{R}$  and a set  $E$  of equations, a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A$  is a tuple  $\langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_F, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$ .  $\Delta$  is a set of normalized*

<sup>5</sup> Those equations have to be provided by the user. In many cases, they can be produced when formalizing the problem in the TRMC framework [36]. The situation is similar for the predicates used in [17, 15, 16].

transitions.  $\varepsilon_E$  is a set of  $\varepsilon$ -transitions.  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$  is a set of  $\varepsilon$ -transitions labeled by  $\top$  or conjunctions over predicates of the form  $Eq(q, q')$  where  $q, q' \in Q$ , and  $q \rightarrow q' \in \varepsilon_E$ .

Set  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$  is used to distinguish a term from its successors that has been obtained by applying one or several rewriting rules. Instead of merging states according to the set of equations,  $A$  links them with epsilon transitions in  $\varepsilon_E$ . During completion step, when exploiting critical pairs, the combination of transitions in  $\varepsilon_E$  generates transition in  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$  that are labeled with a conjunction of equations representing those transitions in  $\varepsilon_E$ . In what follows, we use  $\rightarrow_{\Delta}^*$  to denote the transitive and reflexive closure of  $\Delta$ . Given a set  $\Delta$  of normalized transitions, the set of representatives of a state  $q$  is defined by  $Rep(q) = \{t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}) \mid t \rightarrow_{\Delta}^* q\}$ .

**Definition 3 (Run of a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A$ ).**

- $t|_p = f(q_1, \dots, q_n)$  and  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q \in \Delta$  then  $t \xrightarrow{\top}_A t[q]_p$
- $t|_p = q$  and  $q \rightarrow q' \in \varepsilon_E$  then  $t \xrightarrow{Eq(q, q')}_A t[q']_p$
- $t|_p = q$  and  $q \xrightarrow{\alpha} q' \in \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$  then  $t \xrightarrow{\alpha}_A t[q']_p$
- $u \xrightarrow{\alpha}_A v$  and  $v \xrightarrow{\alpha'}_A w$  then  $u \xrightarrow{\alpha \wedge \alpha'}_A w$

**Theorem 1.**  $\forall t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F} \cup Q), q \in Q, t \xrightarrow{\alpha}_A q \iff t \rightarrow_A^* q$

A run  $\xrightarrow{\alpha}$  abstracts a rewriting path of  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}$ . If  $t \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ , then there exists a term  $s \in Rep(q)$  such that  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}^* t$ . The formula  $\alpha$  denotes the subset of transitions of  $\varepsilon_E$  needed to recognize  $t$  into  $q$ .

*Example 2.* Let  $I = f(a)$  be an initial set of terms,  $\mathcal{R} = \{f(c) \rightarrow g(c), a \rightarrow b\}$  be a set of rewriting rules, and  $E = \{b = c\}$  be a set of equations. We build  $A$  an overapproximation automaton for  $\mathcal{R}^*(I)$ , using  $E$ .

Thanks to  $\varepsilon$ -transitions, the automaton  $A$  represented in Fig. 1 contains some information about the path used to reach terms using  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $E$ . Each state has a representative term from which others are obtained. The equality  $b = c$  is represented by the two transitions  $q_c \rightarrow q_b$  and  $q_b \rightarrow q_c$  of  $\varepsilon_E$ , taking into account that  $b$  and  $c$  are the representative terms for states  $q_b$  and  $q_c$ , respectively. Consider now State  $q_c$ , Transition  $q_b \rightarrow q_c$  indicates that the term  $b$  is obtained from Term  $c$  by using the equality. Conversely, Transition  $q_c \rightarrow q_b$  leads to the conclusion that Term  $c$  is obtained

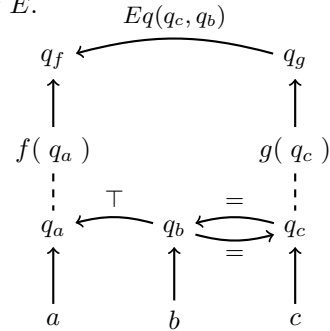


Fig. 1: Automaton  $A$



$q_b \rightarrow q_a$  of  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$  denote rewriting steps. The transition  $q_b \rightarrow q_a$  denotes that the term  $b$  is a descendant of  $a$  by rewriting. Using Definition 3, the runs  $f(c) \xrightarrow{Eq(q_c, q_b)} q$  indicates that to obtain  $f(c)$  from  $f(a)$  – the representative term of  $q_f$  – we used the equality  $b = c$ , which is obtained from  $q_c \rightarrow q_b$ . We indeed observe  $f(a) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} f(b) =_E f(c)$ . If we now consider the transition  $q_g \rightarrow q_f$  we labeled the transition with the formula  $Eq(q_c, q_b)$ . To reach  $g(c)$  from  $f(a)$ , we rewrite  $f(c)$ . We have seen this term is reachable thanks to the equivalence relation induced by  $b = c$ . By transitivity, this equivalence is also used to reach the term  $g(c)$ . We thus label the transition of  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$  to save this information. We obtain the run  $g(c) \xrightarrow{Eq(q_c, q_b)} q_f$ . We observe that the transition  $q_b \rightarrow q_a$  is labeled by the formula  $\top$  since  $b$  is reachable from  $a$  without any equivalence. By congruence, so is  $f(b)$  from  $f(a)$ . The run  $f(b) \xrightarrow{\top} q_f$  denotes it.

We now introduce a property that will be used in the refinement procedure to distinguish between counter-examples and false positives.

**Definition 4 (A well-defined  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton).** *A is a well-defined  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton, if :*

- For all state  $q$  of  $A$ , and all term  $v$  such that  $v \xrightarrow{\top}_A q$ , there exists  $u$  a term representative of  $q$  such that  $u \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* v$
- If  $q \xrightarrow{\phi} q'$  is a transition of  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$ , then there exist terms  $s, t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $s \xrightarrow{\phi}_A q$ ,  $t \xrightarrow{\top}_A q'$  and  $t \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} s$ .

The first item in Definition 4 guarantees that every term recognized by using transitions labeled with the formula  $\top$  is indeed reachable from the initial set. The second item is used to refine the automaton. A rewriting step of  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}/E}$  denoted by  $q \xrightarrow{\phi} q'$  holds thanks to some transitions of  $\varepsilon_E$  that occurs in  $\phi$ . If we remove transitions in  $\varepsilon_E$  in such a way that  $\phi$  does not hold, then the transition  $q \xrightarrow{\phi} q'$  should also be removed.

According to the above construction, a term  $t$  that is recognized by using at least a transition labeled with a formula different from  $\top$  can be removed from the language of the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton by removing some transitions in  $\varepsilon_E$ . This “pruning” operation will be detailed in Section 6.

## 5 Solving the Reachability Problem with $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton

In this section, we extend the completion and widening principles introduced in Section 3 to take advantage of the structure of  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata. We consider an initial set  $I$  that can be represented by a tree automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^0 = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^0, Q_F, \Delta^0 \rangle$ , and transition relation represented by a set of linear rewriting rules  $\mathcal{R}$ . In the next section, we will see that the right-linearity condition may be relaxed using additional hypotheses. We compute successive approximations  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^i, Q_f, \Delta^i \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^i \cup \varepsilon_E^i \rangle$  from  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^0$  using  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^{i+1} = \mathbf{W}(\mathbf{C}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i))$ . Observe that  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^0$  is well-defined as the sets  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^0$  and  $\varepsilon_E^0$  are empty.

## 5.1 The Completion step C

Extending completion to  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton requires to modify the concept of critical pair and so the algorithm to compute them. A critical pair for a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton is a triple  $\langle r\sigma, \alpha, q \rangle$  such that  $l\sigma \rightarrow r\sigma$ ,  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i} q$  and there is no formula  $\alpha'$  such that  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha'}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i} q$ . The resolution of such a critical pair consists of adding to  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i)$  the transitions to obtain  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i)} q$ . This is followed by a normalization step **Norm** whose definition is similar to the one for classical tree automata (see appendix D).

**Definition 5 (Resolution of a critical pair).** *Given a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$  and a critical pair  $p = \langle r\sigma, \alpha, q \rangle$ , the resolution of  $p$  on  $A$  is the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A' = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q', Q_f, \Delta' \cup \varepsilon'_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$  where*

- $\Delta' = \Delta \cup \text{Norm}(r\sigma, \Delta \setminus \Delta^0)$ ;
- $\varepsilon'_{\mathcal{R}} = \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \{q' \xrightarrow{\alpha} q\}$  where  $q'$  is the state such that  $r\sigma \rightarrow_{\Delta' \setminus \Delta^0} q'$ ;
- $Q'$  is the union of  $Q$  with the set of states added when creating  $\Delta'$ .

Note that  $\Delta_0$ , the set of transitions of  $A_{\mathcal{R}}^0$ , is not used in the normalization process. This is to guarantee that  $A'$  is well-defined. The  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i)$  is obtained by recursively applying the above resolution principle to all critical pairs  $p$  of the set of critical pairs between  $\mathcal{R}$  and  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$ .

The set of all critical pairs is obtained by solving the *matching problems*  $l \trianglelefteq q$  for all rewrite rule  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$  and all state  $q \in A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$ . Solving  $l \trianglelefteq q$  is in two steps. First, one computes  $S$ , that is the set of all couples  $(\alpha, \sigma)$  such that  $\alpha$  is a formula,  $\sigma$  is a substitution of  $\mathcal{X} \mapsto Q^i$ , and  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ . The formula  $\alpha$  is a conjunction of Predicate  $Eq$  that denotes the used transitions of  $\varepsilon_E$  to rewrite  $l\sigma$  in  $q$ , in accordance with Definition 3. Due to space constraints the algorithm, which always terminates, can be found in Appendix C.

Second, after having computed  $S$  for  $l \trianglelefteq q$ , we identify elements of the set that correspond to critical pairs. By definition of  $S$ , we know that there exists a transition  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i} q$  for  $(\alpha, \sigma) \in S$ . If there exists a transition  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha'}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i} q$ , then  $r\sigma$  has already been added to  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$ . If there does not exist a transition of the form  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha'}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i} q$ , then  $\langle r\sigma, \alpha', q \rangle$  is a critical pair to solve on  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$ . The following theorem shows that our methodology is complete.

**Theorem 2.** *If  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$  is well-defined then so is  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i)$ , and  $\forall q \in Q^i, \forall t \in \mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i, q), \forall t' \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}), t \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t' \implies t' \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i), q)$ .*

*Example 3.* Let  $\mathcal{R} = \{f(x) \rightarrow f(s(s(x)))\}$  be a set of rewriting rules and  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0 = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta^0 \rangle$  be a tree automaton such that  $Q_f = \{q_0\}$  and  $\Delta^0 = \{a \rightarrow q_1, f(q_1) \rightarrow q_0\}$ . The solution of the matching problem  $f(x) \trianglelefteq q_0$  is  $S = \{(\sigma, \phi)\}$ , with  $\sigma = \{x \rightarrow q_1\}$  and  $\phi = \top$ . Hence, since  $f(s(s(q_1))) \xrightarrow{\top}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0} q_0$ ,  $\langle f(s(s(q_1))), \top, q_0 \rangle$  is the only critical pair to be solved. So, we have  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0) = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^1, Q_f, \Delta^1 \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^1 \cup \varepsilon_E^0 \rangle$ , with:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^1 &= \text{Norm}(f(s(s(q_1))), \emptyset) \cup \Delta^0 = \{s(q_1) \rightarrow q_2, s(q_2) \rightarrow q_3, f(q_3) \rightarrow q_4\} \cup \Delta^0, \\ \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^1 &= \{q_4 \xrightarrow{\top} q_0\}, \text{ since } f(s(s(q_1))) \rightarrow_{\Delta^1 \setminus \Delta^0} q_4, \varepsilon_E^0 = \emptyset \text{ and } Q^1 = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}. \end{aligned}$$

Observe that if  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i) = A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$ , then we have reached a fixpoint.

## 5.2 The Widening Step W

Consider a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$ , the widening consists in computing a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $\mathbb{W}(A)$  that is obtained from  $A$  by using  $E$ .

For each equation  $l = r$  in  $E$ , we consider all pair  $(q, q')$  of distinct states of  $Q^i$  such that there exists a substitution  $\sigma$  to obtain the following diagram. Observe that  $\xrightarrow{=}_A$ , the transitive and reflexive rewriting relation induced by  $\Delta \cup \varepsilon_E$ , defines particular runs which exclude transitions of  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$ . This allow to build a more accurate approximation. The improvement in accuracy is detailed in [27].

$$\begin{array}{ccc} l\sigma & \xlongequal{E} & r\sigma \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ A & = & A \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ q & & q' \end{array}$$

Intuitively, if we have  $u \xrightarrow{=}_A q$ , then we know that there exists a term  $t$  of  $\text{Rep}(q)$  such that  $t =_E u$ . The automaton  $\mathbb{W}(A)$  is given by the tuple  $\langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon'_E \rangle$ , where  $\varepsilon'_E$  is obtained by adding the transitions  $q \rightarrow q'$  and  $q' \rightarrow q$  to  $\varepsilon_E$  (for each pair  $(q, q')$ ).

**Theorem 3.** *Assuming that  $A$  is well-defined, we have  $A$  syntactically included in  $\mathbb{W}(A)$ , and  $\mathbb{W}(A)$  is well-defined.*

*Example 4.* Consider the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0)$  given in Example 3.

Using Equation  $s(s(x)) = s(x)$ , we compute  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1 = \mathbb{W}(\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0))$ . We have  $\sigma = \{x \mapsto q_1\}$  and the following diagram. We then obtain  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1 = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^1, Q_f, \Delta^1 \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^1 \cup \varepsilon_E^1 \rangle$ , where  $\varepsilon_E^1 = \varepsilon_E^0 \cup \{q_3 \rightarrow q_2, q_2 \rightarrow q_3\}$  and  $\varepsilon_E^0 = \emptyset$ . Observe that  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1$  is a fixpoint, i.e.,  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1) = A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} s(s(q_1)) & \xlongequal{E} & s(q_1) \\ \mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0) \downarrow & & \mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0) \downarrow \\ q_3 & & q_2 \end{array}$$

## 6 A CEGAR procedure for $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata

Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a TRS,  $I$  be a set of initial terms characterized by the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0$  and  $Bad$  the set of forbidden terms represented by  $A_{Bad}$ . We now complete our CEGAR approach by proposing a technique that checks whether a term is indeed reachable from the initial set of terms. If the term is a spurious counter-example i.e. an counter-example of the approximation, then it has to be removed from the approximation automatically, else one can deduce that the involved term is actually reachable.

Let  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^k, Q_f, \Delta^k \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^k \cup \varepsilon_E^k \rangle$  be a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton obtained after  $k$  steps of completion and widening from  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0$  and assume that  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k) \cap Bad \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k \cap A_{Bad}}$  be a set of triples  $\langle q, q', \phi \rangle$  where  $q$  is a final state of  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k$ ,  $q'$  is a final state of  $A_{Bad}$  and  $\phi$  is a formula on transitions of  $\varepsilon_E^k$  and such that for each triple  $(q, q', \phi)$ , the formula  $\phi$  holds if and only if there exists  $t \in \mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k, q) \cap \mathcal{L}(A_{Bad}, q')$  and  $t \xrightarrow{\phi}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k} q$ . Note that  $S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k \cap A_{Bad}}$  can be

obtained using the algorithm in Definition 10 presented in Appendix H. We consider two cases. First, as  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k$  is well-defined, if  $\phi = \top$ , we deduce that  $t$  is indeed a reachable term. Otherwise,  $\phi$  is an formula whose atoms are of the form  $Eq(q_j, q'_j)$ , and  $t$  is possibly a spurious counter-example, and the run  $t \xrightarrow{\phi}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k} q$  must be removed. Refinement consists in computing a pruned version  $\mathsf{P}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k, S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k \cap A_{Bad}})$  of  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k$ .

**Definition 6.** Given a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_F, \Delta_0 \cup \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$  and a set of specified by the automaton  $A_{Bad}$ , the prune process is defined by

$$\mathsf{P}(A, S_{A \cap A_{Bad}}) = \begin{cases} \mathsf{P}(A', S_{A' \cap A_{Bad}}) & \text{if } S_{A' \cap A_{Bad}} \neq \emptyset \text{ and with} \\ & A' = \mathbf{Clean}(A, S_{A \cap A_{Bad}}) \\ A & \text{if } S_{A \cap A_{Bad}} = \emptyset \text{ or there exists } t \in Bad \\ & \text{s.t. } t \xrightarrow{\top}_A q_f \text{ and } q_f \in Q_F. \end{cases}$$

where  $\mathbf{Clean}(A, S_{A \cap A_{Bad}})$ , consists of removing transitions of  $\varepsilon_E$  until for each  $\langle q_f, q'_f, \phi \rangle \in S_{A \cap A_{Bad}}$ ,  $\phi$  does not hold, i.e.,  $\phi = \perp$  with  $q_f, q'_f$  respectively two final states of  $A$  and  $A_{Bad}$ .

To replace Predicate  $Eq(q, q')$  by  $\perp$  in  $\phi$ , we have to remove the transition  $q \rightarrow q'$  from  $\varepsilon_E$ . In addition, we also have to remove all transitions  $q \xrightarrow{\alpha} q' \in \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$ , where the conjunction  $\alpha$  contains some atoms transitions removed from  $\varepsilon_E$ . In general, removing Transition  $q \rightarrow q'$  may be too rude. Indeed, assuming that there also exists a transition  $q'' \rightarrow q$  of  $\varepsilon_E$ , removing the transition  $q \rightarrow q'$  also avoids the induced reduction  $q'' \rightarrow q'$  from the automaton and then, unconcerned terms of  $q''$  are also removed. To save those terms, Transition  $q'' \rightarrow q'$  is added to  $\varepsilon_E$ , but only if it has never been removed by a pruning step. This point is important to refine the automaton with accuracy. The prune step is called recursively as inferred transitions may keep the intersection non-empty.

**Theorem 4.** Let  $t \in Bad$  be a spurious counter-example. The pruning process always terminates, and removes all the runs of the form  $t \xrightarrow{\phi} q$ .

*Example 5.* We consider the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A$  of Example 2. It is easy to see that  $A$  recognizes the term  $g(c)$ . Indeed, by Definition 3, we have  $g(c) \xrightarrow{Eq(q_c, q_b)} q_f$ . Consider now the rewriting path  $f(a) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} f(b) =_E f(c) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} g(c)$ . If we remove the step  $f(b) =_E f(c)$  denoted by the transition  $q_c \rightarrow q_b$ , then  $g(c)$  becomes unreachable and should also be removed. The first step in pruning  $A$  consists thus in removing this transition. In a second step, we propagate the information by removing all transition of  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$  labeled by a formula that contains  $Eq(q_c, q_b)$ . This is done to remove all terms obtained by rewriting with the equivalence  $b =_E c$ . After having pruned all the transitions, we observe that the terms recognized by  $A$  are given by the set  $\{f(a), f(b)\}$ .

Let us now characterize the soundness and completeness of our approach.

**Theorem 5 (Soundness on left-linear TRS).** *Consider a left-linear TRS  $\mathcal{R}$ , a set of terms  $Bad$ , a set of equations  $E$  and a well-defined  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_0$ . Let  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$  be a fixpoint  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton of  $\mathbb{P}(A', S_{A' \cap A_{Bad}})$  and  $A' = \mathbb{W}(\mathbb{C}(A_i))$  for  $i \geq 0$ . If  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*) \cap Bad = \emptyset$ , then  $Bad \cap \mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A_0)) = \emptyset$ .*

**Theorem 6 (Completeness on Linear TRS).** *Given a linear TRS  $\mathcal{R}$ , a set of terms  $Bad$  defined by automata  $A_{Bad}$ , a set of equations  $E$  and a well-defined  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_0$ . For any  $i > 0$ , let us consider  $A_i$  be the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton obtained from  $A_{i-1}$  in such a way:  $A_i = \mathbb{P}(A', S_{A' \cap A_{Bad}})$  and  $A' = \mathbb{W}(\mathbb{C}(A_{i-1}))$ . If  $Bad \cap \mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A_0)) \neq \emptyset$  then there exists  $t \in Bad$  and  $j > 0$  such that  $t \xrightarrow{\top}_{A_j} q_f$  and  $q_f$  is a final state of  $A_j$ .*

This result also extends to left-linear TRS with a finite set of initial terms. This is sufficient to capture a large class of systems such as various java programs.

**Theorem 7 (Completeness on Left-Linear TRS).** *Theorem 6 extends to left-linear TRS if for any state  $q$  of  $A_0$ , the cardinality of  $Rep(q)$  is 1.*

## 7 Implementation and Certification

Our approach has been implemented in TimbukCEGAR that is an extension of the Timbuk 3.1 toolset [29]. Timbuk is a well-acknowledged tree automata library that implements several variants of the completion approach. TimbukCEGAR is around 11000 lines of OCaml, 75% of them being common with Timbuk 3.1. TimbukCEGAR exploits a BDD based representation of equation formulas through the Buddy BDD library [32].

A particularity of TimbukCEGAR is that it is certified. At the heart of any abstraction algorithm there is the need to check whether a candidate over-approximation  $B$  is indeed a fixed point, that is if  $\mathcal{L}(B) \supseteq \mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A))$ . Such check has been implemented in various TRMC toolsets, but there is no guarantee that it behaves correct, i.e., that the TRMC toolset gives a correct answer. In [20], a checker for tree automata completion was designed and proved correct using the Coq [10] proof assistant. As such, any TRMC toolset that produces an automaton  $B$  that passes the checker can be claimed to work properly. TimbukCEGAR implements an extension of [20] for  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata, which means that the tool delivers correct answers.

In what follows, we describe how Java programs can be analyzed using our approach. Both Timbuk and TimbukCEGAR are available at <http://www.irisa.fr/celtique/genet/timbuk/>.

In a national initiative called RAVAJ [1], we have defined a generic certified verification chain based on TRMC. This chain is composed of three main links. The two first links rely on an encoding of the operational semantics of the programming language as a term rewriting system and a set of rewrite rules. The third link is a TRMC toolset, here TimbukCEGAR. With regards to classical static analysis, the objective is to use TRMC and particularly tree automata completion as a foundation mechanism for ensuring, by construction, safety of

static analyzers. For Java, using approximation rules instead of abstract domains makes the analysis easier to fine-tune. Moreover, our approach relies on a checker that certifies the answer to be correct.

We now give more details and report some experimental results. We used Copster [9], to compile a Java `.class` file into a TRS. The obtained TRS models exactly a subset of the semantics<sup>6</sup> of the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) by rewriting a term representing the state of the JVM [13]. States are of the form  $\text{IO}(\text{st}, \text{in}, \text{out})$  where  $\text{st}$  is a program state,  $\text{in}$  is an input stream and  $\text{out}$  and output stream. A program state is a term of the form  $\text{state}(\text{f}, \text{fs}, \text{h}, \text{k})$  where  $\text{f}$  is current frame,  $\text{fs}$  is the stack of calling frames,  $\text{h}$  a heap and  $\text{k}$  a static heap. A frame is a term of the form  $\text{frame}(\text{m}, \text{pc}, \text{s}, \text{l})$  where  $\text{m}$  is a fully qualified method name,  $\text{pc}$  a program counter,  $\text{s}$  an operand stack and  $\text{t}$  an array of local variables. The frame stack is the call stack of the frame currently being executed:  $\text{f}$ . We consider the following program:

```
class List{
  List next;
  int val;
  public List(int elt, List l){
    next= l;
    if (elt<0) val= -elt;
    else val= elt;
  }
  public void printSum(){
    List l= this;
    int sum= 0;
    while (l != null){
      sum= sum+l.val;
      l= l.next;
    }
    System.out.println(sum);
  }
}

class TestList{
  public static void main(String[] argv){
    List ls= null;
    int x= 0;
    while (x!=-1) {
      try {x= System.in.read();}
      catch(java.io.IOException e){};
      ls= new List(x,ls);
    }
    ls.printSum();
  }
}
```

Let us now check that the sum output by the program can never be equal to zero, for all non-empty input stream of integers.

The TRS generated by Copster has 879 rules encoding both the JVM semantics and the bytecode of the above Java program. Initial terms are of the form  $\text{IO}(\text{s}, \text{lin}, \text{nilout})$  where  $\text{s}$  is the initial JVM state,  $\text{lin}$  is a non-empty unbounded list of integers and  $\text{nilout}$  is the empty list of outputs. Starting from this initial set of terms, completion is likely to diverge without approximations. Indeed, the program is going to allocate infinitely many objects of class `List` in the heap and, furthermore, compute an unbounded sum in the method `printSum`. In the heap, there is one separate heap for each class. Each heap consists of a list of objects. For instance, in the heap for class `List`, objects are stored using a list constructor  $\text{stackHeapList}(x, y)$ . Thus, to enforce termination we can approximate the heap for objects of class `List` using the following equation  $\text{stackHeapList}(x, y)=y$ . The effect of this equation is to collapse all the possible lists built using  $\text{stackHeapList}$ , hence all the possible heaps for class `List`. The other equations are  $\text{succ}(x)=x$  and  $\text{pred}(x)=x$  for approximating infinitely growing or decreasing integers.

<sup>6</sup> essentially basic types, arithmetic, object creation, field manipulation, virtual method invocation, as well as a subset of the String library.

By using those equations, TimbukCEGAR finds a counterexample. This is due to the fact that, amongst all considered input streams, an input stream consisting of a list of 0 results into a 0 sum. The solution is to restrict the initial language to non-empty non-zero integer streams. However, refinement of equations is needed since  $\text{succ}(x)=x$  and  $\text{pred}(x)=x$  put 0 and all the other integers in the same equivalence class. Refining those equations by hand is hard, *e.g.* using equations  $\text{succ}(\text{succ}(x))=\text{succ}(x)$  and  $\text{pred}(\text{pred}(x))=\text{pred}(x)$  is not enough to eliminate spurious counterexamples. After 334 completion steps and 4 refinement steps, TimbukCEGAR is able to complete the automaton and achieve the certified proof. The resulting automaton produced by the tool has 3688 transitions which are produced in 128s and certified in 17017s. The memory usage for the whole process does not exceed 531Mb. One of the reason for which certifying automata produced by TimbukCEGAR takes more time than for Timbuk 3.1 is that the checker has to normalize epsilon transitions of  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata. This is straightforward but may cause an explosion of the size of the tree automaton to be checked. It is worth mentioning that the term rewriting rules corresponding to the above example is not right-linear. However, here completion steps do not introduce spurious counter examples.

We give another example of application in Appendix J.

## 8 Conclusion

We have presented a new CounterExample Guided Abstraction Refinement procedure for TRMC based on equational abstraction. Our approach has been implemented in TimbukCEGAR that is the first TRMC toolset certified correct. Our approach leads, in part, to a java program analyzer starting from code to verification, but without relying on (1) potentially heavy assumptions on datas and architectures, (2) abstraction techniques when translating the code to TRS.

We are convinced that our work open news doors in application of RMC approaches to rigorous system design. One of the remaining challenge is definitively to consider non left-linear TRS. Completion can be extended to deal with such TRS [25]. This is necessary to verify cryptographic protocols with completion [26, 6]. The theoretical challenge is to extend the CEGAR completion to non left-linear TRS. The technical challenge is to extend the Coq checker to handle non left-linear TRS and tree automata with epsilon transitions. Tackling those two goals would allow us to propose the first *certified* automatic verification tool for security protocols, a major advance in the formal verification area.

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## A Running Example

Consider the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1$  given in Example 4 in Section 5.2. We define  $A_{Bad}$  to be a tree automaton whose final state is  $q'_0$  and whose transitions are  $a \rightarrow q'_1, s(q'_1) \rightarrow q'_2, s(q'_2) \rightarrow q'_1$  and  $f(q'_2) \rightarrow q'_0$ . The forbidden terms in  $\mathcal{L}(A_{Bad})$  are of the form  $f(s^{2k+1}(a))$ . We observe that  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1) \cap \mathcal{L}(A_{Bad}) \neq \emptyset$ . According to the intersection algorithm described in Appendix H, one can build a set  $S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1 \cap A_{Bad}}$  of triples  $(q_0, q'_0, \phi)$ , where  $\phi$  is the formula used to prune  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1$ , i.e., to remove those terms that belong to  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1) \cap \mathcal{L}(A_{Bad})$ . Here,  $S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1 \cap A_{Bad}} = \{(q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_2, q_3) \wedge Eq(q_3, q_2)), (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_2, q_3)), (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_3, q_2))\}$ . Thus, we perform the prune step  $\mathbb{P}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1, S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1 \cap A_{Bad}})$ . Removing the transition  $q_2 \rightarrow q_3$  from  $\varepsilon_E^1$  is sufficient to invalidate  $Eq(q_2, q_3) \wedge Eq(q_3, q_2)$ . Moreover, this action invalidates  $(q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_2, q_3))$  too. It remains to prune with  $(q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_3, q_2))$ . This is done by removing the transition  $q_3 \rightarrow q_2$  from  $\varepsilon_E^1$ . Thus,  $\varepsilon_E^1$  becomes empty. At this point, no transition of  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^1$  can be removed. Indeed, all these transitions are all labeled by  $\top$ . We thus define  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^2 = \mathbb{P}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1, S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^1 \cap A_{Bad}})$ , with  $\Delta^2 = \Delta^1$ ,  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^2 = \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^1$ , and  $\varepsilon_E^2 = \emptyset$ . We observe that  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^2$  is not  $\mathcal{R}$ -closed and should be completed. We thus define  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3 = \mathbb{W}(C(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^2))$ . We found a new critical pair for  $f(x) \rightarrow f(s(s(x)))$  and we obtain  $\Delta^3 = \Delta^2 \cup \{s(q_3) \rightarrow q_5, s(q_5) \rightarrow q_6, f(q_6) \rightarrow q_7, \text{ and } \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^3 = \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^2 \cup \{q_7 \xrightarrow{\top} q_4\}$ .

The interesting point is in the application of  $\mathbb{W}$ . Observe that the transitions of  $\varepsilon_E^3$  directly results from the application of the equation  $s(x) = s(s(x))$ , i.e. transitions  $q_2 \rightarrow q_3, q_3 \rightarrow q_2, q_3 \rightarrow q_5, q_5 \rightarrow q_3, q_5 \rightarrow q_6$ , and  $q_6 \rightarrow q_5$ .

The two transitions  $q_2 \rightarrow q_3$  and  $q_3 \rightarrow q_2$  are ignored since they have been deleted earlier by a prune step, but two new transitions are added:  $q_2 \rightarrow q_5$  and  $q_5 \rightarrow q_2$ . Indeed, it should have been possible to connect  $q_2$  and  $q_5$  together using transitions  $q_2 \rightarrow q_3$  and  $q_3 \rightarrow q_5$  if  $q_2 \rightarrow q_3$  had not been deleted. So,  $\varepsilon_E^3 = \{q_2 \rightarrow q_5, q_5 \rightarrow q_2, q_5 \rightarrow q_6, q_6 \rightarrow q_5, q_3 \rightarrow q_5, q_5 \rightarrow q_3\}$ . We then check the emptiness of  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3) \cap \mathcal{L}(A_{Bad})$ . This intersection is still not empty and we obtain the following set of triples:

$$S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3 \cap A_{Bad}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_3, q_5)), (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_5, q_3)), (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_5, q_6)), \\ (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_6, q_5)), (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_2, q_5) \wedge Eq(q_5, q_3)), \\ (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_2, q_5) \wedge Eq(q_5, q_6)), (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_5, q_2) \wedge Eq(q_3, q_5)), \\ (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_5, q_2) \wedge Eq(q_6, q_5)) \end{array} \right\}.$$

So, in order to perform  $\mathbb{P}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3, S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3 \cap A_{Bad}})$ , the first transitions to remove are  $q_3 \rightarrow q_5, q_5 \rightarrow q_3, q_5 \rightarrow q_6$  and  $q_6 \rightarrow q_5$ . According to Figure 2,  $\varepsilon_E^3$  of 2a. becomes the one described in 2b. Note that four new transitions are generated:  $q_3 \rightarrow q_6, q_6 \rightarrow q_3, q_2 \rightarrow q_6$  and  $q_6 \rightarrow q_2$ . We denote this new set of transitions by  $\varepsilon_E'^3$ . According to Definition 6, one has to test if the removing of guilty transitions has broken the non-empty intersection. And here, it is not the case. Indeed, it is still possible to recognize an odd number of  $s$  between the symbols  $f$  and  $a$  using for instance the transition  $q_2 \rightarrow q_6: f(s(a)) \xrightarrow{\Delta^3} f(q_2)$  and  $f(q_2) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_E'^3} f(q_6) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^3} q_0$ . Let  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}'^3$  be the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton such that  $\Delta'^3 = \Delta^3$ ,  $\varepsilon_E'^3$  and  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}'^3 = \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^3$ . Computing  $\mathbb{P}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}'^3, S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}'^3 \cap A_{Bad}})$  remains to compute  $\mathbb{P}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}'^3, S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}'^3 \cap A_{Bad}})$  where  $S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}'^3 \cap A_{Bad}}$  is defined as follows:

$$S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}'^3 \cap A_{Bad}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_2, q_6)), (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_6, q_2) \wedge Eq(q_3, q_6)), \\ (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_6, q_2)), (q_0, q'_0, Eq(q_2, q_6) \wedge Eq(q_6, q_3)) \end{array} \right\}.$$

Removing the transitions  $q_2 \rightarrow q_6$  and  $q_6 \rightarrow q_2$  makes the whole set of formula involved in  $S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}'^3 \cap A_{Bad}}$  non valid. Let  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}''^3$  be the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton such that  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}''^3 =$

$\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^3, \varepsilon_E^{\prime\prime 3} = \varepsilon_E^3 \setminus \{q_2 \rightarrow q_6, q_6 \rightarrow q_2\}$  and  $\Delta^{\prime\prime 3} = \Delta^3$ . Note that as soon as these transitions are removed, the intersection between  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^{\prime\prime 3})$  and  $\mathcal{L}(A_{Bad})$  is empty. So,  $\mathbb{P}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3, S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3 \cap A_{Bad}}) = A_{\mathcal{R},E}^{\prime\prime 3}$  and consequently,  $\mathbb{P}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3, S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3 \cap A_{Bad}}) = A_{\mathcal{R},E}^{\prime\prime 3}$ .

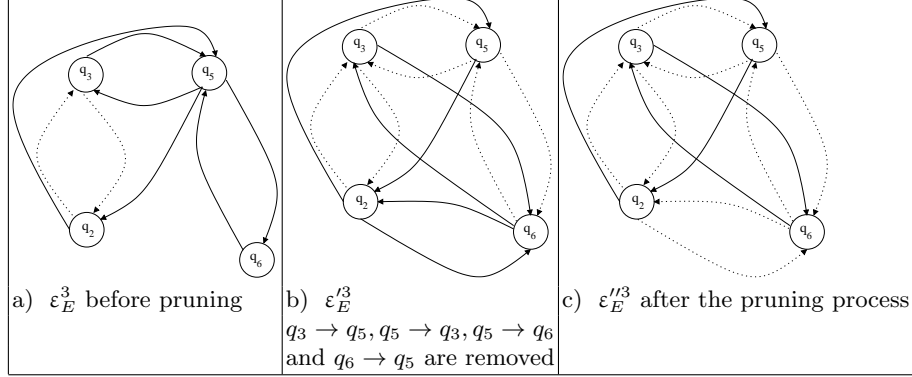


Fig. 2: Evolution of  $\varepsilon_E^3$  during the pruning process

Considering  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^4 = \mathbb{P}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3, S_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^3 \cap A_{Bad}})$ , we restart the completion process and we observe that  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^4 = \mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^4)$ . We have thus reached a fix-point. There, we observe that  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^4) \cap \mathcal{L}(A_{Bad}) = \emptyset$  and conclude that  $\mathcal{R}^*(I) \cap Bad = \emptyset$ . Observe that our refinement is accurate in this case. Indeed  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^4) = f(s^{2k}(a))$ , that is the exact set of reachable states.

The above example cannot be handled with the approach of [11]. Indeed, this technique cannot handle set of bad terms whose cardinality is infinite.

## B Proof of Theorem 1

We want to show that the following result holds:

$$\forall t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F} \cup Q), q \in Q, t \xrightarrow{\alpha}_A q \iff t \xrightarrow{*}_A q$$

*Proof.* The proof is easily done by induction by arguing that it is enough to forget the formulas manipulated by the definition 3 to have the equivalent step with  $\rightarrow_A$ .

## C Matching Algorithm for $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata

We assume a left-linear TRS  $\mathcal{R}$  and a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$  such that  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^i, Q_f, \Delta^i \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^i \cup \varepsilon_E^i \rangle$

### Definition 7 (Matching Algorithm).

Assuming the matching problem  $l \sqsubseteq q$  for a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$ .  $S$  is the solution

of the matching problem, which is denoted  $l \leq q \vdash_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i} S$ , if there exists a derivation of the statement  $l \leq q \vdash_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i} S$  using the rules:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{(Var)} \frac{}{x \leq q \vdash_A \{(\alpha_k, \{x \mapsto q_k\}) \mid q_k \xrightarrow{\alpha_k} q\}} (x \in \mathcal{X}) \\
& \text{(Delta)} \frac{t_1 \leq q_1 \vdash_A S_1 \quad \dots \quad t_n \leq q_n \vdash_A S_n}{f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \triangleleft q \vdash_A \bigotimes_1^n S_k} (f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q \in \Delta) \\
& \text{(Epsilon)} \frac{t \triangleleft q \vdash_A S_0 \quad t \triangleleft q'_1 \vdash_A S_1 \quad \dots \quad t \triangleleft q'_n \vdash_A S_n}{t \leq q \vdash_A S_0 \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^n \{(\phi \wedge \alpha_k, \sigma) \mid (\phi, \sigma) \in S_k\}} \left( \{(q_k, \alpha_k) \mid q_k \xrightarrow{\alpha_k} q\}_1^n \right) \\
& \text{Using } \bigotimes_1^n S_j = \{(\top, id) \oplus (\phi_1, \sigma_1) \oplus \dots \oplus (\phi_n, \sigma_n) \mid (\phi_j, \sigma_j) \in S_j\}, \text{ and } (\phi, \sigma) \oplus (\phi', \sigma') = (\phi \wedge \phi', \sigma \cup \sigma').
\end{aligned}$$

Observe that, by definition, the matching problem considers possibly infinite runs of the form  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ . Indeed, transitions in  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^i \cup \varepsilon_E^i$  can introduce loops. In the matching algorithm, we exclude such runs. This is done to keep a finite set of rewriting path, which is computable in a finite amount of time. It is worth mentioning that removing loops does not influence the result. As an example, consider the automaton  $A$  of Example 2. We observe that  $f(b) \xrightarrow{Eq(q_b, q_c) \wedge Eq(q_c, q_b)} q_f$  uses the loop  $f(b) \xrightarrow{=E} f(c) \xrightarrow{=E} f(b)$ . This loop can be removed as  $f(a) \xrightarrow{*} f(b)$  can be obtained by  $f(b) \xrightarrow{\top} q_f$ , a run which does not contain any loops.

We show that the matching algorithm given in Definition 7 is complete.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $A$  be a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton,  $q$  one of its states,  $l \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{X})$  the linear left member of a rewriting rule and  $\sigma$  a  $Q$ -substitution with a domain range-restricted to  $\mathcal{V}(l)$ . If the set  $S$  is solution of the matching problem  $l\sigma \leq q$ , then we have  $\forall (\alpha, \sigma)$ ,  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q \iff (\alpha, \sigma) \in S$*

*Proof.* Assuming  $\mathcal{F}$  a set of symbols,  $\mathcal{X}$  a set of variable and  $Q$  a set of states. We define  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$ ;  $l \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{X})$  and  $q \in Q$ ;  $\sigma : \text{Var}(l) \rightarrow Q$  and  $\alpha = \bigwedge_1^n Eq(q_k, q'_k)$  such that  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ .

The proof is done by induction on the term  $l$ .

**Base case:**  $l$  is a variable.

In this case,  $\sigma$  must be a  $Q$ -substitution of the form  $\sigma = \{l \mapsto q'\}$ . Using this observation and the hypothesis, we have  $q' \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ . The matching problem  $l \leq q$  is solved using Rule (Var). This means that  $S = \{(\alpha_k, \{l \mapsto q_k\}) \mid q_k \xrightarrow{\alpha_k} q\}$ . By definition of  $S$  we see that  $S$  contains  $(\alpha, \sigma)$ .

**Induction :** Assume now  $l$  is a linear term of the form  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ .

We are going to decompose  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$  into sequences of transitions. First observe that, by splitting  $\sigma$  into  $\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_n$ , we have that  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\sigma$  is equal to  $f(t_1\sigma_1, \dots, t_n\sigma_n)$ . Assume  $\sigma = \sigma_1 \sqcup \dots \sqcup \sigma_n$  with  $\text{dom}(\sigma_i) = \mathcal{V}(t_i)$  and  $\forall x \in \text{dom}(\sigma_i)$ ,  $\sigma_i(x) = \sigma(x)$ . Since  $l$  is linear, each variable in  $X$  occurs at most one time in  $l$ . This means that the sets  $\mathcal{V}(t_i)$  are disjoint and so are the domains of the  $\sigma_i$ . This ensures that  $\sigma$  is well-defined.

We now study the decomposition of  $f(t_1\sigma_1, \dots, t_n\sigma_n) \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$  to show that transitions of  $A$  used to recognized the term  $f(t_1\sigma_1, \dots, t_n\sigma_n)$  are considered by the corresponding steps of the matching algorithm.

We observe that the term  $f(t_1\sigma_1, \dots, t_n\sigma_n)$  is recognized in State  $q$ . Indeed, we have  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q' \in \Delta$ , and each subterm  $t_i\sigma_i$  is recognized in state  $q_i$  such that  $t_i\sigma_i \xrightarrow{\alpha_i} q_i$ . Composing recognizing of each subterm, we obtain the following sequence:

$$\begin{aligned} f(t_1, \dots, t_n) &\xrightarrow{\alpha_1} f(q_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) \xrightarrow{\wedge_1^2 \alpha_i} f(q_1, q_2, t_3, \dots, t_n) \xrightarrow{\wedge_1^3 \alpha_i} \dots \\ &\dots \xrightarrow{\wedge_1^n \alpha_i} f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \xrightarrow{\wedge_1^n \alpha_i \wedge \top} q' \end{aligned}$$

There

are two cases that have to be considered : (1)  $q = q'$  and (2)  $q \neq q'$ . (1) If  $q = q'$ , the decomposition is complete and  $f(t_1\sigma_1, \dots, t_n\sigma_n) \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$  with  $\alpha = \wedge_1^n \alpha_i$ .

$$f(t_1\sigma_1, \dots, t_n\sigma_n) \xrightarrow{\wedge_{i=1}^n \alpha_i} f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \xrightarrow{\wedge_{i=1}^n \alpha_i} q$$

(2)  $q \neq q'$ :  $f(t_1\sigma_1, \dots, t_n\sigma_n) \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$  holds only if we have a transition  $q' \xrightarrow{\alpha'} q$  such that  $\alpha = \wedge_1^n \alpha_i \wedge \alpha'$ .

$$f(t_1\sigma_1, \dots, t_n\sigma_n) \xrightarrow{\wedge_{i=1}^n \alpha_i} f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \xrightarrow{\top} q' \xrightarrow{\alpha'} q$$

By induction, we know that for each sequence  $t_i\sigma_i \xrightarrow{\alpha_i} q_i$ , the matching problem is solved *i.e.*  $t_i \leq q_i \vdash S_i$  with  $S_i$  contains  $(\alpha_i, \sigma_i)$ . Rule (Delta) is applied to all premises  $t_i \leq q_i \vdash_A S_i$  for the transition  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q' \in \Delta$ . From this, we obtain a set  $S' = \bigotimes_1^n S_i$ . By unfolding the definition of  $\bigotimes$ , we have  $S = \{(\top, id) \oplus (a^1, s^1) \oplus \dots \oplus (a^n, s^n) \mid (a^i, s^i) \in S_i\}$ . Since each  $S_i$  contains  $(\alpha_i, \sigma_i)$ ,  $S'$  contains  $(\top, id) \oplus (\alpha_1, \sigma_1) \oplus \dots \oplus (\alpha_n, \sigma_n)$  which is, by definition of  $\oplus$  equal to  $(\wedge_1^n \alpha_i, \sigma)$ . Thus, we obtain a intermediate statement  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \triangleleft q' \vdash_A S'$  such that  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\sigma \xrightarrow{\wedge_1^n \alpha_i} q'$ , where  $(\wedge_1^n \alpha_i, \sigma) \in S'$ .

This statement must correspond to one of the premises of Rule (Epsilon) to produce the expected statement  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \leq q \vdash_A S$ . Two cases have to be considered :  $q = q'$  and  $q \neq q'$ .

If  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q' \in \Delta$  is the last transition used to have  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$  then we have  $\alpha = \wedge_1^n \alpha_i$  and we are in the case  $q = q'$ : this case corresponds to the premiss 0 of Rule (Epsilon) and  $S' = S_0$ . By definition of Rule (Epsilon),  $S'$  is included in  $S$ . This means that  $(\alpha, \sigma) \in S$ .

If we have  $q \neq q'$ , then it remains a sequence of transitions  $q' \xrightarrow{\alpha'} q$  to have  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ . The couple  $(\alpha', q')$  is in the set  $\{(q_k, \alpha_k) \mid q_k \xrightarrow{\alpha_k} q\}$ . This means that the statement  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \leq q \vdash_A S'$  is one the remaining premisses. By definition of Rule (Epsilon),  $S$  contains all couple  $(a \wedge \alpha', s)$  where  $(a, s) \in S'$ . In particular,  $S$  contains  $(\wedge_1^n \alpha_i \wedge \alpha', \sigma)$  which concludes the proof.

## D Normalization for $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata

**Definition 8 (Normalization).** *The normalization is done in two mutually inductive steps parametrized by the configuration  $c$  to recognize, and by the set of transitions  $\Delta$  to extend. Let  $Q_{new}$  be a set of new states,*

$$\begin{cases} \text{Norm}(c, \Delta) = \text{Slice}(d, \Delta) & c \rightarrow_{\Delta} d, \text{ and } c, d \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F} \cup Q) \\ \text{Slice}(q, \Delta) = \Delta & q \in Q \\ \text{Slice}(f(q_1, \dots, q_n), \Delta) = \Delta \cup \{f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q\} & q_i \in Q \text{ and } q \in Q_{new} \\ \text{Slice}(f(t_1, \dots, t_n), \Delta) = \text{Norm}(f(t_1, \dots, t_n), \text{Slice}(t_i, \Delta)) & t_i \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F} \cup Q) \setminus Q \end{cases}$$

## E Proofs of Theorem 2

In order to prove that  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i)$  is well-defined, we need to show that, first  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i)$  is determinist if we do not consider the transition set of  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$  (Lemma 2) and second, solving one critical pair preserves well-definition (Lemma 3).

**Lemma 2 (Existence of a representative).** *Assume that  $A_{\mathcal{R},E} = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$  is a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton obtained after  $k$  steps of completion from  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0$ . Let  $c$  be a configuration. If  $\Delta' = \text{Norm}(c, \Delta \setminus \Delta^0)$ , then there exists a state  $q$  such that  $c \rightarrow_{\Delta'}^1 q$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mu : \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F} \cup Q) \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  be the measure that counts the number of occurrences of symbols in  $\mathcal{F}$  of a configuration. Example :  $\mu(f(q_1, g(q_2), a)) = 3$ . We define it inductively by  $\mu(q) = 0$  if  $q \in Q$ , and  $\mu(f(t_1, \dots, t_n)) = 1 + \sum_1^n \mu(t_i)$ .

Assuming  $\mathcal{F}$  a set of symbols, and  $Q$  a set of states. We define  $A_{\mathcal{R},E} = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$ ;  $c \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F} \cup Q)$ . Assume that  $\Delta^1 = \Delta \setminus \Delta^0$  is determinist.

The first step  $\text{Norm}(t, \Delta^1)$  consists in rewriting  $c$  by  $\Delta^1$  in its normal form  $d$

The second step  $\text{Slice}(d, \Delta^1)$  returns  $\Delta^2$  such that there exists a unique state  $q$  such that  $d \rightarrow_{\Delta^2}^1 q$ .

The proof is one by induction on the decreasing of  $\mu(d)$ . We consider the 3 cases of  $\text{Slice}(d, \Delta^1)$

1.  $\text{Slice}(q, \Delta^1) = \Delta^1$ . It means that  $d$  is the state  $q$ . There exists a unique state, which is  $q$ , such that  $d \rightarrow_{\Delta^1}^1 q$ .
2.  $\text{Slice}(f(q_1, \dots, q_n), \Delta^1) = \Delta^1 \cup \{f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q \mid q \in Q_{new}\}$ . Each  $q_i$  is a state. The configuration  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n)$  can be used as the left-member of a normalised ground transition. We build the new transition  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q$  using a new state  $q$ . Adding a such transition to  $\Delta^1$  preserves determinism. We know that it is impossible to rewrite more  $d = f(q_1, \dots, q_n)$  using transitions of  $\Delta^1$  : the new transition  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q$  is the unique way to rewrite  $d$ . We deduce that  $\Delta^2 = \Delta^1 \cup \{f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q \mid q \in Q_{new}\}$  is deterministic, and  $d \rightarrow_{\Delta^2}^1 q$ .
3.  $\text{Slice}(f(t_1, \dots, t_n), \Delta^1) = \text{Norm}(f(t_1, \dots, t_n), \text{Slice}(t_i, \Delta^1))$ ,  $t_i \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F} \cup Q) \setminus Q$ . Here, we have the direct subterm  $t_i$  of  $d$  which is not a state. We deduce  $\mu(t_i) < \mu(d)$  from the definition of  $\mu$ . By induction,  $\Delta$  is extended by  $\text{Slice}(t_i, \Delta^1)$  to obtain  $\Delta^2$  for which there exists a state  $q$  such that  $t_i \rightarrow_{\Delta^2}^1 q$ . Using this new set  $\Delta^2$ , we unfold  $\text{Norm}(f(t_1, \dots, t_n), \Delta^2)$  which consists in rewriting  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  using  $\Delta^2$ . We obtain a new configuration  $f(t'_1, \dots, t'_n)$  where we know at less  $t'_i$  is equal to  $q$  since the direct subterm  $t_i$  can be rewritten in  $q$  using  $\Delta^2$ . Note that if some subterms of  $t_i$  are also subterms of some other  $t_j$ , it will also be rewritten by  $\Delta^2$  in  $t'_j$  until we reach the normal form. Each step of rewriting by  $\Delta^2$  necessarily

replaces a symbol of  $\mathcal{F}$  by a state of  $Q$  by definition of a normalised transition. This remark allows to prove that  $\mu(f(t_1, \dots, t_n)) > \mu(f(t'_1, \dots, t'_n))$ . For the direct subterm  $t_i$ , we know  $\mu(t_i) > 0$  ( $t_i$  is not a state), and  $\mu(t'_i) = 0$  ( $t'_i$  is the state  $q$ ). For all other direct subterm  $t_j$  with  $j \neq i$  we deduce  $\mu(t_j) \geq \mu(t'_j)$  from  $t_j \xrightarrow{\Delta^2} t'_j$  using  $\Delta^2$ . We have  $\mu(f(t_1, \dots, t_n)) > \mu(f(t'_1, \dots, t'_n))$  by definition of  $\mu$ , and  $f(t'_1, \dots, t'_n)$  is rewritten as most as possible by the deterministic  $\Delta^2$ . Then, we use again the induction hypothesis to deduce that  $\Delta' = \text{Slice}(f(t'_1, \dots, t'_n), \Delta^2)$  extends  $\Delta^2$  in order to have a unique state  $q$  such that  $f(t'_1, \dots, t'_n) \xrightarrow{\Delta^3} q$ . By transitivity, we have  $d \xrightarrow{\Delta'} q$  using the deterministic set  $\Delta'$  for  $d$  which is equal to  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ .

Finally, we proved that  $\Delta' = \text{Slice}(d, \Delta^1)$  extends  $\Delta^1$  preserving its determinism such that there exists a state  $q$  for which  $d \xrightarrow{\Delta'} q$ . We also know that  $c \xrightarrow{\Delta'} d$ . We can conclude that  $\Delta' = \text{Norm}(c, \Delta^1)$  is deterministic, and there exists a state  $q$  such that  $c \xrightarrow{\Delta'} q$ .

Let us now show that solving one critical pair preserves well-definition. Let  $CP = \{\langle r_1\sigma_1, \alpha_1, q_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle r_n\sigma_n, \alpha_n, q_n \rangle\}$  be the finite set of critical pairs computed from  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i$  that have to be solved by using Definition 5. By definition, considering  $A_0 = A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i$  there exists a sequence of  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automata  $A_1, \dots, A_n$ , where  $A_j$  is obtained from  $A_{j-1}$  by solving the critical pair  $\langle r_j\sigma_j, \alpha_j, q_j \rangle$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i) = A_n$ . For a question of readability and in order to prevent any confusion between notations, each  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_j$  is defined as follows:  $A_j = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^{n+1}, Q_f, \Delta^j \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^j \cup \varepsilon_E^j \rangle$ .

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a linear TRS. Let  $A$  and  $A'$  be two  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton such that  $A'$  is obtained from  $A$  by solving a critical pair  $\langle r\sigma, \alpha, q \rangle$  of  $A$ . If  $A$  is well-defined then so is  $A'$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$  and  $A' = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q', Q_f, \Delta' \cup \varepsilon'_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon'_E \rangle$ . According to Definition 5,  $\Delta' = \Delta \cup \text{Norm}(r\sigma, \Delta \setminus \Delta^0)$ ,  $\varepsilon'_{\mathcal{R}} = \{q' \xrightarrow{\alpha} q\} \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$  and  $\varepsilon'_E = \varepsilon_E$ . Following Definition 4, we first show in (1) that for all state  $q''$  of  $A'$ , and all term  $v$  such that  $v \xrightarrow{A'} q''$ , there exists  $u$  a term representative of  $q''$  such that  $u \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}} v$ . Then, in (2) we show that if  $q_1 \xrightarrow{\phi} q_2$  is a transition of  $\varepsilon'_{\mathcal{R}}$ , then there exist terms  $s, t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $s \xrightarrow{\phi} q_1$ ,  $t \xrightarrow{A'} q_2$  and  $t \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} s$ .

1. We show the property by induction on the height of  $t$ . Let us assume that for all term  $t'$  of height less than the height of  $t$  and for all  $q \in Q_{A'}$ , we have  $t' \xrightarrow{A'} q \implies \exists u \in \text{Rep}(q) : u \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}} t'$ . Now let us prove that the result holds for  $t$ . We consider several cases.
  - If  $q \in Q_A$  and  $t \xrightarrow{A} q$ , then since  $A$  is well defined, we get the representative  $u \in \text{Rep}(q)$  such that  $u \xrightarrow{\mathcal{R}} t$  from well-definition of  $A$ .
  - Assume now that  $q \in Q_{A'}$ ,  $t \not\xrightarrow{A} q$  and  $t \xrightarrow{A'} q$ . We show the property by induction on the height of  $t$ . Since  $t$  is recognized in  $A'$  and not in  $A$ , this means that the run  $t' \xrightarrow{A'} q$  needs the transitions added by the resolution of a critical pair. Hence there exists a rewrite rule  $l \rightarrow r$ , a substitution  $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \mapsto Q_A$ , a formula  $\alpha$  and a state  $q_c$  such that  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q_c$  and  $\langle r\sigma, \alpha, q_c \rangle$  is the critical pair. Moreover, the resolution of this critical pair produces the following set of transitions:  $\Delta_{A'} = \text{Norm}(r\sigma, \Delta_A \setminus \Delta_0)$  and  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^{A'} = \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^A \cup \{q_c \rightarrow q_c\}$  such that  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{\Delta' \setminus \Delta_0} q_c$ . Recall that  $t' \xrightarrow{A'} q$  needs transitions not

- occurring in  $A$ . However, all the *new* transitions produced by  $\text{Norm}(r\sigma, \Delta_A \setminus \Delta_0)$  necessarily range on *new* states, i.e. states not occurring in  $Q_A$ . As a result, those transitions cannot be used to get  $t' \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} q$  with  $q \in Q_A$ . This means that the run  $t \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} q$  uses at least once  $q'_c \rightarrow q_c$  and  $\alpha = \top$ . To sum up, we know that there exists a ground context  $C[\ ]$  such that  $t = C[t'] \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} C[q'_c] \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} C[q_c] \xrightarrow{\top}_A q$ . Note that if  $q'_c \rightarrow q_c$  the same reasoning can be applied. We start to reason on the occurrence of  $q'_c \rightarrow q_c$  that is the closest to  $q$ . Now, our objective is to show that there exists  $u \in \text{Rep}(q'_c)$  such that  $u \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* t'$ . If  $t' \xrightarrow{\top}_A q'_c$ , then since  $A$  is well defined the result is a direct consequence of Definition 4. Otherwise this means that  $q'_c$  is a new state of  $A$  (i.e.  $q'_c \notin Q_A$ ) that has been added by the resolution of the critical pair, i.e.  $r\sigma \rightarrow_{\Delta'}^! q'_c$ . By Lemma 2, we get that there exists a substitution  $\sigma' : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $t' = r\sigma'$ . Using the same Lemma, from  $t' = r\sigma' \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} q'_c$  and  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} q'_c$ , we get that for all variable  $x$  of  $r$ :  $\sigma'(x) \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} \sigma(x)$ . Note that  $\sigma(x) \in Q_A$  and that  $\sigma'(x)$  are necessarily terms of height less to the height of  $t$ . Using the induction hypothesis, we get that for all state  $\sigma(x)$  there exists a representative  $u_x$  such that  $u_x \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* \sigma'(x)$ . Let  $\sigma_{\text{Rep}}$  be the substitution mapping every variable  $x$  to  $u_x$ . We have  $r\sigma_{\text{Rep}} \in \text{Rep}(q'_c)$ . Moreover,  $r\sigma_{\text{Rep}} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* r\sigma' = t'$ . Now, we show that  $l\sigma_{\text{Rep}} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} r\sigma_{\text{Rep}}$ . This is not straightforward since  $\text{Var}(l) \supseteq \text{Var}(r)$ . However, it is possible to extend  $\sigma_{\text{Rep}}$  into  $\sigma'_{\text{Rep}}$ , where every variable  $y$  of  $\text{Var}(l)$  not occurring in  $\sigma_{\text{Rep}}$  is mapped to a representative of  $\sigma(y)$ . Hence,  $l\sigma'_{\text{Rep}} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} r\sigma'_{\text{Rep}} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* t'$ . From the critical pair we know that  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{A'} q_c$  and we found that  $\alpha = \top$ . Hence  $l\sigma'_{\text{Rep}} \xrightarrow{\top}_A q_c$ . Since  $A$  is well-defined, we get that there is a representative  $v \in \text{Rep}(q_c)$  such that  $v \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* l\sigma'_{\text{Rep}}$ . By transitivity of  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$ , we get that  $v \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* t'$ . Above, we found that  $t = C[t'] \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} C[q'_c] \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} C[q_c] \xrightarrow{\top}_A q$ . From this and  $v \in \text{Rep}(q_c)$ , we get that  $C[v] \xrightarrow{\top}_A q$ . Since  $A$  is well defined, we know that there exists a representative  $w \in \text{Rep}(q)$  such that  $w \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* C[v]$ . To conclude, we found  $w \in \text{Rep}(q)$  and  $w \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* C[v] \rightarrow C[t'] = t$ .
- If  $q \notin Q_A$  ( $q \in Q'_A \setminus Q_A$ ),  $t \not\xrightarrow{\top}_A q$  and  $t \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} q$ . Since  $q \in Q'_A \setminus Q_A$ , we know that  $q$  has been added by the resolution of a critical pair. As above, we can deduce that there exists a rewrite rule  $l \rightarrow r$ , a substitution  $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \mapsto Q_A$ , a formula  $\alpha$  and a state  $q_c$  such that  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha}_A q_c$  and  $\langle r\sigma, \alpha, q_c \rangle$  is the critical pair. Moreover, the resolution of this critical pair creates  $\Delta_{A'} = \text{Norm}(r\sigma, \Delta_A \setminus \Delta_0)$  and  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^{A'} = \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^A \cup \{q'_c \rightarrow q_c\}$  such that  $r\sigma \rightarrow_{\Delta'}^! q'_c$ . Since  $q$  is a new state of  $A'$  that has been used in the normalization of a subterm of  $r\sigma$ . More precisely, we know that there exists a term  $s \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{X})$  and a context  $C[\ ]$  (possibly empty) such that  $r\sigma = C[s]$ ,  $C[s]\sigma \rightarrow_{\Delta'}^* q'_c$  and  $s\sigma \rightarrow_{\Delta'}^* q$ . Similarly, we know that there exists a substitution  $\sigma' : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $s\sigma' = t$ . We get that for every variable  $x$  of  $r$ :  $\sigma'(x) \xrightarrow{\top}_{A'} \sigma(x)$ . Note that  $\sigma(x) \in Q_A$  and that  $\sigma'(x)$  are necessarily terms of height lesser to the height of  $t$ . By induction hypothesis, we obtain that for every state  $\sigma(x)$  there exists a representative  $u_x$  such that  $u_x \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* \sigma'(x)$ . Let  $\sigma_{\text{Rep}}$  be the substitution mapping every variable  $x$  to  $u_x$ . We have  $s\sigma_{\text{Rep}} \in \text{Rep}(q)$  and  $s\sigma_{\text{Rep}} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}^* s\sigma' = t$ .
2. It is easy to see that, for any transitions  $q_1 \xrightarrow{\phi} q_2 \in \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$ , the property still holds. Let us now focus on the transition  $q' \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$  resulting from the resolution of Critical pair  $\langle r\sigma, \alpha, q \rangle$ . By definition,  $\langle r\sigma, \alpha, q \rangle$  results from the application of the matching algorithm of Definition 7 given in Appendix C. So there exists a rule  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$  such



that  $(\alpha, \sigma) \in S$ , with  $l \sqsubseteq q \vdash_A S$ . Moreover, since the critical pair has to be solved:  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$  and there is no formula  $\alpha'$  such that  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha'}_A q$ . Since  $\mathcal{R}$  is left-linear, for each variable  $x \in \text{Var}(l)$ , one can define the substitution  $\sigma' : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  as follows: Assuming  $q_s$  being the state of  $A$  such that  $\sigma(x) = q_s$ , let  $\sigma'(x) = \text{Rep}(q_s)$ . By definition of  $\text{Rep}$ ,  $\text{Rep}(q_s) \xrightarrow{\top} q_s$ . So, there exists a derivation such that  $l\sigma' \xrightarrow{\top} l\sigma$  and  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ . One can deduce that  $r\sigma' \xrightarrow{\top} r\sigma$ . According to Lemma 2, one can deduce that there exists a unique  $q'$  such that  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{*}_{\text{Norm}(r\sigma, \Delta \setminus \Delta^0)} q'$ . If  $\text{Norm}(r\sigma, \Delta \setminus \Delta^0) \neq \emptyset$  then each transition composing it is of the form  $f(q'_1, \dots, q'_n) \rightarrow q'_{n+1}$ . Consequently,  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{\top} q'$ . Considering the transition  $q' \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ , one has  $r\sigma' \xrightarrow{\top} r\sigma \xrightarrow{\top} q' \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ . Finally, assuming  $s = l\sigma'$  and  $t = r\sigma'$ , there exists  $s, t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that one has  $s \xrightarrow{\alpha} q$ ,  $t \xrightarrow{\alpha} q'$  and  $s \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t$ .

To conclude,  $A'$  is also well-defined.

Theorem 2 is in two parts. We first show that  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i)$  is well-defined if  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i$  is well-defined.

*Proof.* Let  $P_n$  be the following proposition:  $A_n$  is well-defined.

- $P_0$ : Trivial since  $A_0 = A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i$  and  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i$  is well-defined by hypothesis.
- $P_n \Rightarrow P_{n+1}$ : By hypothesis,  $A_{n+1}$  is obtained from  $A_n$  by solving the critical pair  $\langle r_{n+1}\sigma_{n+1}, \alpha_{n+1}, q_{n+1} \rangle$ . Applying Lemma 3, one obtains automatically that  $A_{n+1}$  is well-defined.

So, one can deduce that  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i)$  is well-defined.

We now show that  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i))$ .

*Proof.* Let  $q$  be a state of  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i$  and  $t$  be a term of  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i, q)$ . Suppose that there exist a position  $p \in \text{Pos}(t)$ , a rule  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$  and a substitution  $\sigma' : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $t|_p = l\sigma'$ . Let  $t'$  be the term such that  $t' = t[r\sigma']_p$ . Since  $t \in \mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i, q)$ , there exists a state  $q'$  of  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i$  such that  $t|_p = l\sigma' \xrightarrow{*}_{A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i} q'$  and  $t[q']_p \xrightarrow{*}_{A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i} q$ . Following Property 1 given in Appendix C, there exists  $(\alpha, \sigma) \in S$  with  $l \sqsubseteq q' \vdash_{A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i} S$  such that  $l\sigma' \xrightarrow{*}_{A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i} l\sigma$  and  $l\sigma \xrightarrow{*}_{A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i} q'$ . If  $\langle r\sigma, \alpha, q' \rangle$  is already solved then  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{*}_{A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i} q'$ . Consequently,  $r\sigma'$  can also be reduced to  $q'$  in  $A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i$ . Since  $t' = t[r\sigma']_p \xrightarrow{*}_{A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i} q$ ,  $t' \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i), q)$ . Suppose now that  $r\sigma \not\xrightarrow{*}_{A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i} q'$ . So, there exists  $\langle r_i\sigma_i, \alpha_i, q_i \rangle \in CP$  such that  $\langle r_i\sigma_i, \alpha_i, q_i \rangle = \langle r\sigma, \alpha, q' \rangle$ . By construction,  $r\sigma \xrightarrow{*}_{A_i} q'$ . Consequently,  $r\sigma'$  can also be reduced to  $q'$  in  $A_i$ . Since  $A_i$  is syntactically included in  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i)$ , one can deduce that  $t' = t[r\sigma']_p \xrightarrow{*}_{\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R}, E}^i)} q$ . Concluding the proof.

## F Proofs of Theorem 3

The theorem is in two parts. We first show that if a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A$  is well-defined, then so is  $\mathbb{W}(A)$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon_E \rangle$  is well-defined. We have  $\mathbb{W}(A) = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q, Q_f, \Delta \cup \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \cup \varepsilon'_E \rangle$ . We also have  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \supseteq \varepsilon'_E$ . Indeed,  $\mathbb{W}$  only adds transitions to the  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$ . We have to prove that the two items of Definition 4 are satisfied.

- The transitions of  $\varepsilon'_E$  do not participate to runs of the form  $\xrightarrow{\alpha}$ , which  $\alpha = \top$  (due to the second item in Definition 3). This means that for any term  $t$  and any state  $q$ ,  $t \xrightarrow{\top}_{W(A)} q$  is equivalent to  $t \xrightarrow{\top}_A q$ . Since  $A$  is well-defined, we know that there exists  $u \in \text{Rep}(q)$  such that  $u \xrightarrow{*}_{\mathcal{R}} t$ .  $u$  is also a representative of  $W(A)$ , and we deduce that first item of Definition 4 holds for  $W(A)$ .
- By definition,  $W$  only adds transitions to  $\varepsilon'_E$  and do not remove transitions of  $A$ . For all transitions  $q \xrightarrow{\alpha} q' \in \varepsilon'_{\mathcal{R}}$ , we have  $q \xrightarrow{\alpha} q' \in \text{Drw}$ . Since  $A$  is well-defined, we know that there exist terms  $s, t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $s \xrightarrow{\phi}_A q$ ,  $t \xrightarrow{\top}_A q'$  and  $t \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} s$ . We also have  $s \xrightarrow{\phi}_{W(A)} q$ ,  $t \xrightarrow{\top}_{W(A)} q'$  and  $t \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} s$ .

We now show the second part of the theorem. For all  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(W(A)) \supseteq \mathcal{L}(A)$ .

*Proof.* We observe that the widening operator can only adds transitions. As a consequence, this operator cannot restrict the language of  $A$ .

## G Proofs of Theorem 4

The theorem is in two parts. We first show that the pruning process always terminates.

*Proof.* Let  $t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  be a term such that  $t \xrightarrow{\phi}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k} q$  and  $\phi \neq \top$ . By hypothesis,  $t$  is thus a spurious counter-example. Moreover,  $\phi$  is a formula whose atoms are of the form  $Eq(q_i, q_j)$ , with  $q_i \rightarrow q_j \in \varepsilon_E^k$ . Pruning  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k$  remains to remove transitions  $q'_i \rightarrow q'_j$  from  $\varepsilon_E^k$  until  $\phi$  does not hold anymore i.e.  $\phi = \perp$ . Since  $\varepsilon_E^k$  is finite, the pruning process always terminates.

We now show that the pruning process removes any spurious counter-example using established results in Appendix C and Appendix D.

Now, let us show that the pruning process removes a given spurious counter-example from  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k)$ .

*Proof.* According to Lemma 1, the matching algorithm is complete. So given a term  $t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$ , if  $t \in \mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k)$  then there exists  $q \in Q_f$  such that  $t \xrightarrow{*}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k} q$ . According to Theorem 1, there exists  $\alpha$  such that  $t \xrightarrow{\phi}_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k} q$ . More precisely, using Definition 7 given in Appendix C, one can deduce that  $(\alpha, \emptyset) \in S$  with  $t \trianglelefteq q \vdash_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k} S$ . Let  $\phi$  be the following formula:  $\phi = \bigvee_{(\alpha', \emptyset) \in S} (\alpha')$ . Consequently,  $\phi$  is a formula characterizing all possible reductions of  $t$  into  $q$ . Since  $t$  is a spurious counter-example, for all  $(\alpha', \emptyset) \in S$ ,  $\alpha' \neq \top$ . Removing transitions of  $\varepsilon_E^k$  until  $\phi$  does not hold remains to remove each possible reduction in  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^k$  of  $t$  into  $q$ . As a conclusion, when the pruning process terminates,  $t$  is not recognized anymore.

## H Computing the Intersection of a Tree Automaton and a $\mathcal{R}/E$ -Automaton

In Definition 10, we propose a specific algorithm building the set  $S$  of reachable states for the intersection between a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A$  and automaton  $B$  where each product

state is labelled by a formula on states of  $A$ . As stated in Section 6, this is useful to characterize the possibly infinite set of terms that have to be refined in a single step. In addition, Lemma 4 proposes a methodology to decide whether the intersection is empty or not.

We first define an order  $>$  on formulas.

**Definition 9.** Given  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  two formulas,  $\phi_1 > \phi_2$  iff  $\phi_2 \models \phi_1$  and  $\phi_1 \not\models \phi_2$ .

**Definition 10 (Reachable states of the product of a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton and a tree automaton).** Let  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^A, Q_f^A, \Delta^A, \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}, \varepsilon_E \rangle$  be a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton and  $B = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^B, Q_f^B, \Delta^B \rangle$  be an epsilon-free tree automaton. The set  $S$  of reachable states of  $A \times B$  is the set of triples  $(q, q', \phi)$  where  $q \in Q^A, q' \in Q^B$  and  $\phi$  is a formula. Starting from the set  $Q^A \times Q^B \times \{\perp\}$ , the value of  $S$  can be computed using the following two deduction rules :

$$\frac{\{(q_1, q'_1, \phi_1), \dots, (q_n, q'_n, \phi_n)\} \cup \{(q, q', \phi)\} \cup P}{\{(q_1, q'_1, \phi_1), \dots, (q_n, q'_n, \phi_n)\} \cup \{(q, q', \phi \vee \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi_i)\} \cup P} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{if } f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q \in \Delta^A \\ \text{and } f(q'_1, \dots, q'_n) \rightarrow q' \in \Delta^B \\ \text{and } (\phi \vee \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi_i) > \phi \end{array}$$

$$\frac{\{(q_1, q, \phi_1), (q_2, q, \phi_2)\} \cup P}{\{(q_1, q, \phi_1), (q_2, q, (\phi_1 \wedge \phi) \vee \phi_2)\} \cup P} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{if } q_1 \xrightarrow{\phi} q_2 \in \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} \text{ and } ((\phi_1 \wedge \phi) \vee \phi_2) > \phi_2 \\ \text{or} \\ \text{if } q_1 \rightarrow q_2 \in \varepsilon_E \text{ and } \phi = Eq(q_1, q_2) \\ \text{and } ((\phi_1 \wedge \phi) \vee \phi_2) > \phi_2 \end{array}$$

With regards to the reachability problem, this definition, provides a way to distinguish between real counterexamples and terms which can be rejected using abstraction refinement. Indeed, for all triple  $(q, q', \phi) \in S$  with  $q$  final in  $A$  and  $q'$  final in  $B$ , if  $\phi \models \top$  then some of the terms recognized by  $q'$  in  $B$  are reachable. Otherwise,  $\phi$  is the formula to invalidate, i.e. negate some of its atom so that it becomes  $\perp$ .

**Lemma 4 (Emptiness decision of the product of a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton and a tree automaton).** Let  $A$  be a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton and  $B$  a tree automaton. Let  $S$  be the set of reachable states of  $A \times B$  defined according to definition 10. For all final state  $q$  of  $A$ , all final state  $q'$  of  $B$ , all formulas  $\phi_S \neq \perp, \phi \neq \perp$  and all term  $t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$ , we have  $t \xrightarrow{\phi}^* q$  and  $t \rightarrow_B^* q'$  (i.e.  $\mathcal{L}(A) \cap \mathcal{L}(B) \neq \emptyset$ ) if and only if there exists a triple  $(q, q', \phi_S) \in S$  such that  $\phi \models \phi_S$ .

*Proof.* Let  $A = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^A, Q_f^A, \Delta^A, \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}, \varepsilon_E \rangle$  be the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton and  $B = \langle \mathcal{F}, Q^B, Q_f^B, \Delta^B \rangle$  be the tree automaton. We prove a stronger property on all states  $q$  of  $A$  and  $q'$  of  $B$  (and not only for final states). First, we prove the 'only if' part. Let us assume that there exists a term  $t \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$  such that  $t \xrightarrow{\phi}^* q, t \rightarrow_B^* q'$ . By induction on the height of  $t$  we have:

- If  $t$  is a constant, since  $B$  is an epsilon-free tree automaton, the only way to have  $t \rightarrow_B^* q'$  is to have  $t \rightarrow q' \in B$ . With regards to  $A$ , by definition 3,  $t \xrightarrow{\phi}^* q$  means that there exists states  $q_0, q_1, \dots, q_n$  and formulas  $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n$  such that  $t \rightarrow_{\Delta^A} q_0 \xrightarrow{\phi_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{\phi_2} \dots q_n$  with  $q = q_n$  and  $\phi = \phi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \phi_n$ . Transitions  $q_i \xrightarrow{\phi_i} q_{i+1}$  are either transitions of  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$  or transitions of  $\varepsilon_E$  with  $\phi_i = \top$ . Because of transitions  $t \rightarrow q_0 \in \Delta^A$  and  $t \rightarrow q' \in \Delta^B$ , using the first case of definition 10, we get that  $(q_0, q', \top) \in S$ . Similarly, using the second case of the definition, we obtain

that there exists formulas  $\phi'_i$  with  $i = 1 \dots n$  such that  $(q_1, q', \phi_1 \vee \phi'_1), (q_2, q', (\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2) \vee \phi'_2), \dots, (q_n, q', (\phi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \phi_n) \vee \phi'_n)$  belong to  $S$ . Finally, since  $q_n = q$  and  $\phi = \phi_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \phi_n$ , we that  $(q, q', \phi \vee \phi'_n) \in S$ . Furthermore, we trivially have that  $\phi_S = \phi \vee \phi'_n$  and  $\phi \models \phi_S$ .

- Assume that for all term of height lesser or equal to  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the property is true. Let us prove that it is also true for a term  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$  with  $t_1, \dots, t_n$  of height lesser or equal to  $n$ . Since  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \rightarrow_B^* q'$  and  $B$  is an epsilon free tree automaton, we obtain that  $\exists q'_1, \dots, q'_n \in Q^B$  such that  $\forall i = 1 \dots n : t_i \rightarrow_B^* q'_i$  and  $f(q'_1, \dots, q'_n) \rightarrow q' \in \Delta_B$ . With regards to  $A$ , by definition 3,  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \xrightarrow{\phi}^* q$  means that there exists states  $q_0, q_1, \dots, q_m, q'_1, \dots, q'_n$  and formulas  $\phi_1, \dots, \phi_m, \phi'_1, \dots, \phi'_n$  such that  $\forall i = 1 \dots n : t_i \xrightarrow{\phi'_i}^* q''_i, f(q''_1, \dots, q''_n) \rightarrow_{\Delta_A} q_0$  and  $q_0 \xrightarrow{\phi_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{\phi_2} \dots q_n, q = q_n$ . Furthermore, we obtain that  $\phi = \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi'_i \wedge \bigwedge_{i=1}^m \phi_i$ . Since terms  $t_i$  are of height lesser or equal to  $n, \forall i = 1 \dots n : t_i \rightarrow_B^* q_i$  and  $\forall i = 1 \dots n : t_i \xrightarrow{\phi'_i}^* q''_i$ , we can apply the induction hypothesis and obtain that  $\forall i = 1 \dots n : (q_i, q''_i, \phi''_i) \in S$  with  $\phi'_i \models \phi''_i$ . Besides to this, using case 1 of definition 3 on  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q' \in \Delta_B, f(q''_1, \dots, q''_n) \rightarrow q_0 \in \Delta_A$ , and  $\forall i = 1 \dots n : (q_i, q''_i, \phi''_i) \in S$ , we obtain that there exists a formula  $\phi'$  such that  $(q_0, q', (\bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi''_i) \vee \phi') \in S$ . Then, like in the base case, since  $q_0 \xrightarrow{\phi_1} q_1 \xrightarrow{\phi_2} \dots q_n, q = q_n$ , we can deduce that there exists a formula  $\phi''$  such that  $(q, q', (\bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi''_i \wedge \bigwedge_{i=1}^m \phi_i) \vee \phi'') \in S$ . Let  $\phi_S = (\bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi''_i \wedge \bigwedge_{i=1}^m \phi_i) \vee \phi''$ . Since we know from above that  $\phi = \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi'_i \wedge \bigwedge_{i=1}^m \phi_i$  and  $\forall i = 1 \dots n : \phi'_i \models \phi''_i$ , we obtain that  $\phi \models \phi_S$ .

Second, we prove the 'if' part: if  $(q, q', \phi_S) \in S$  and  $\phi_S \neq \perp$  then there exists a term  $t$  and a formula  $\phi \neq \perp$  such that  $\phi \models \phi_S, t \xrightarrow{\phi}^* q$  and  $t \rightarrow_B^* q'$ . We make a proof by induction on the number of applications of the two rules of definition 10, necessary to prove that  $(q, q', \phi_S) \in S$ .

- If the number of steps is 0 then, since the computation of  $S$  starts from the set  $Q^A \times Q^B \times \perp$ , then all  $(q, q', \phi_S)$  are such that  $\phi_S = \perp$ , which is a contradiction.
- We assume that the property is true for any triple  $(q, q', \phi_S)$  which can be deduced by  $n$  or less applications of the rules of definition 10. Now, we consider the case of a triple  $(q, q', \phi_S)$  that is deduced at the  $n+1$ -th step of application of the deduction rules.
  - If the first rule is concerned, this means that there exists triples  $(q_1, q'_1, \phi_1), \dots, (q_n, q'_n, \phi_n)$  and  $(q, q', \phi)$  in  $S$  deduced before  $n+1$ -th step, as well as transitions  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q \in \Delta_A$  and  $f(q'_1, \dots, q'_n) \rightarrow q' \in \Delta_B$ . Furthermore, we know that  $\phi_S = \phi \vee \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi_i$ . If  $\phi \neq \perp$  then, since  $(q, q', \phi)$  was shown to belong to  $S$  before  $n+1$ -th step, we can apply the induction hypothesis and directly obtain that there exists a term  $t$  and a formula  $\phi'$  such that  $\phi' \models \phi, t \xrightarrow{\phi'}^* q$  and  $t \rightarrow_B^* q'$ . Note that  $\phi' \models \phi$  implies  $\phi' \models \phi_S$ . Otherwise, if  $\phi = \perp$ , then we can apply the induction hypothesis on triples  $(q_i, q'_i, \phi_i), i = 1 \dots n$  and obtain that  $\forall i = 1 \dots n : \exists \phi'_i : \exists t_i \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F}) : \phi'_i \models \phi_i, t_i \xrightarrow{\phi'_i}^* q_i$  and  $t_i \rightarrow_B^* q'_i$ . Finally, because of the two transitions  $f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow q \in \Delta_A$  and  $f(q'_1, \dots, q'_n) \rightarrow q' \in \Delta_B$ , we get that  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \xrightarrow{\phi'}^* f(q_1, \dots, q_n) \rightarrow_A^* q$  with  $\phi' = \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi'_i$  on one side and  $f(t_1, \dots, t_n) \rightarrow_B f(q'_1, \dots, q'_n) \rightarrow_B^* q$  on the other side. Furthermore, since  $\forall i = 1 \dots n : \phi'_i \models \phi_i$ , we have  $\bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi'_i \models \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi_i$ . Recall that  $\phi' = \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi'_i$  and  $\phi_S = \phi \vee \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \phi_i$ . Hence,  $\phi' \models \phi_S$ .

- If the second rule is concerned, this means that there exists triples  $(q_1, q', \phi_1)$  and  $(q, q', \phi_2)$  in  $S$  deduced before the  $n + 1$ -th step. Furthermore, we know that  $\phi_S = (\phi_1 \wedge \phi) \vee \phi_2$ . Like above, if  $\phi_2 \neq \perp$  then we can apply induction hypothesis on  $(q, q', \phi_2)$  and trivially get the result. Otherwise, if  $\phi_2 = \perp$  then we can use induction hypothesis on the triple  $(q_1, q', \phi_1)$  and obtain that there exists a formula  $\phi'_1$  and a term  $t_1$  such that  $t_1 \xrightarrow{\phi'_1}_A q_1$ ,  $t_1 \rightarrow_B^* q'$  and  $\phi'_1 \models \phi_1$ . Then, by case on the epsilon transition used for the deduction on  $S$ , we prove that  $t_1 \xrightarrow{\phi'_1 \wedge \phi}_A q$ :
  - \* Assume that  $q_1 \xrightarrow{\phi} q \in \varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}$ . Then, by definition 3, we obtain that  $t_1 \xrightarrow{\phi'_1 \wedge \phi}_A q$ . Furthermore, since  $\phi'_1 \models \phi_1$ , we have that  $\phi'_1 \wedge \phi \models \phi_1 \wedge \phi$  and, finally, that  $\phi'_1 \wedge \phi \models \phi_S$ .
  - \* Assume that  $q_1 \rightarrow q \in \varepsilon_E$ . By definition 3, we obtain that  $t \xrightarrow{\phi_1 \vee Eq(q_1, q)}_A q$ . Finally, like above, we can deduce that  $\phi'_1 \wedge Eq(q_1, q) \models \phi_1 \wedge Eq(q_1, q)$  and thus  $\phi'_1 \wedge Eq(q_1, q) \models \phi_S$ .

## I Soundness and Completeness

Concerning the prune step P, it preserves also the well-definition of a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton. Indeed, given an  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^i$ , one can see the prune step as a removing of transitions of  $\varepsilon_E^i$  and  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}}^i$ . So, it does not affect Definition 4.

### I.1 Proof of Theorem 5

The completion stops when any critical pair is solved. We show that this automaton is  $\mathcal{R}$ -closed for any state of  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$  the fixpoint  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton. Since  $\mathcal{C}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*) = A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$ , for any  $q$  of  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$ , any rule  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$  and any substitution  $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \mapsto Q$ , one has  $l\sigma \rightarrow_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*}^* q \Rightarrow r\sigma \rightarrow_{A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*}^* q$ . Applying Theorem 2, one has for any state  $q$  of  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$ , any  $u \in \mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*, q)$ , any  $v \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$ ,  $u \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} v \implies v \in \mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*, q)$ . Thanks to the fixpoint property, this result extends to the reflexive and transitive closure of  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$  for all state, and especially final states of  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$ . We then deduce  $\mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*)) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*)$ . Finally, all the transitions of the initial automaton  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0$  are always preserved at each step of C and W, and never removed by P.

Similarly, the set of final states is never modified during the process. It means that we have a syntactical inclusion of all transitions of  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^0$  in  $A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*$ , and thus  $\mathcal{L}(A_0) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*)$ . The conjunction of this last result with  $\mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*)) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*)$  is sufficient to conclude that if  $\mathcal{L}(A_{\mathcal{R},E}^*) \cap \mathcal{L}(A_{Bad}) = \emptyset$  then  $\mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A_0)) \cap \mathcal{L}(A_{Bad}) = \emptyset$ .

### I.2 Proof of Theorem 6

Since P preserves the well-definition of a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton, one can deduce that any  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_i$  is then well-defined for linear TRS.

Let  $t \in Bad$  and  $t \in \mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A_0))$ . Note that if  $A_i$  exists then necessarily, in order to get  $t \xrightarrow{\top} q_f$  and  $q_f$  a final state of  $A_i$ ,  $A_i$  must contain a rewriting chain  $t_0 \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_1 \dots \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_n$  such that  $t_0 \in \mathcal{L}(A_0)$ ,  $t_n = t$  and for any  $t_i$ ,  $t_i \xrightarrow{\top} q_f$ . Let  $t \in Bad$  and  $t \in \mathcal{R}^*(\mathcal{L}(A_0))$ . Thus, there exists a minimal rewriting chain  $t_0 \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_1 \dots \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_n$  such that  $t_0 \in \mathcal{L}(A_0)$  and  $t_n = t$ . We are going to show that a such rewriting chain leads eventually to the wanted  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_j$ .

$n = 0$  By hypothesis,  $t_0 \in \mathcal{L}(A_0) \cap \text{Bad}$ . Since  $\varepsilon_E^0 = \emptyset$ , one can deduce that there exists  $q_f \in Q_f$  such that  $t_0 \xrightarrow{\top}_{A_0} q_f$ . So,  $A_0$  is the wanted  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton.

$n + 1$  Suppose that the property is true for a rewriting chain of length  $n$ . Then, there exists a  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $A_k$  such that for any  $t_i$  with  $i = 0, \dots, n$ ,  $t_i \xrightarrow{\top}_{A_k} q_f$  and  $t_n \notin \mathcal{L}(A_{k-1})$ . Consider now a rewriting chain of length  $n + 1$ . So, one has  $t_0 \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_1 \dots \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} t_{n+1}$ . By construction,  $t_{n+1}$  can not be in  $\mathcal{L}(A_k)$ . Indeed, the rewriting chain is the minimal one to get  $t_{n+1}$ . So, if  $t_{n+1}$  was in a previous  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton then it has been deleted because  $t_{n+1}$  would have been obtained by accelerating the computation and then considered as a spurious example. Thus,  $A_k$  is not  $\mathcal{R}$ -closed. So, applying Theorem 2 one gets that  $t_{n+1} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{C}(A_k))$ . Moreover, since there exists  $q_f \in Q_f$  such that  $t_n \xrightarrow{\top} q_f$ , one can deduce that there exists  $u, v \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{F})$ ,  $p \in \text{Pos}(t_n)$  and  $q \in Q^k$  such that  $u \xrightarrow{\top}_{A_k} q$ ,  $t_n|_p = u$ ,  $u \rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}} v$  and  $t_{n+1} = t_n[v]_p$ . Consequently, there exists a rule  $l \rightarrow r \in \mathcal{R}$  and a substitution  $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow Q^k$  such that  $u \xrightarrow{\top}_{A_k} l\sigma$  and  $v \xrightarrow{\top}_{A_k} r\sigma$ . So, one can deduce that  $t_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\top}_{\mathcal{C}(A_k)}$ . Trivially, if  $t_{n+1} \in \text{Bad}$  then there exists  $j > 0$  such that  $t_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\top}_{A_j}$ .

### I.3 Proof of Theorem 7

Since  $\mathcal{R}$  is not linear, we can not applied directly Theorem 2.

We illustrate the problem of the non right-linearity of  $\mathcal{R}$ . Let  $A$  be the  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton whose  $\Delta = \{a \rightarrow q', b \rightarrow q'f(q') \rightarrow q\}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{\mathcal{R}} = \emptyset$  and  $\varepsilon_E = \emptyset$ . Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be the TRS composed of a single rule  $f(x) \rightarrow g(x, x)$ . To compute  $\mathcal{C}(A)$ , we have to add the new transitions  $g(q', q') \rightarrow q''$  and  $q'' \xrightarrow{\top} q$ . We have the new runs  $g(a, a) \xrightarrow{\top} q$ ,  $g(b, b) \xrightarrow{\top} q$ ,  $g(a, b) \xrightarrow{\top} q$  and  $g(b, a) \xrightarrow{\top} q$ . but we note that terms  $g(a, b)$  and  $g(b, a)$  are not reachable from  $f(a)$  or  $f(b)$ .  $\mathcal{R}/E$ -automaton  $\mathcal{C}(A)$  is not well-defined anymore. The reason is that several representative terms are in  $\text{Rep}(q')$ : it implies the term  $g(q', q')$  denotes more than the expected terms. To avoid this approximation, it is sufficient to ensure that all  $q$  has a unique representative term the initial RE-automaton. The normalization defined in Appendix D maintains this property by producing a fresh state for each new transition created.

## J Additional Experiments

### J.1 Processes Counting Symbols

The example considered in [11] is linear. The example deals with a simple two processes counting system. The following TRS describes the behavior of two processes each one equipped with an input list and a FIFO. Each process receives a list of symbols '+' and '-' to count, as an input. One of the processes, say  $P_+$ , is counting the '+' symbols and the other one, say  $P_-$  is counting the '-' symbols. When  $P_+$  receives a '+', it counts it and when it receives a '-', it adds the symbol to  $P_-$ 's FIFO. The behavior of  $P_-$  is symmetric. When a process input list and FIFO is empty then it stops and gives the value of its counter.

Here is a possible rewrite specification of this system, given in the Timbuk language, where  $\mathbf{S}(-, -, -, -)$  represents a configuration with a process  $P_+$ , a process  $P_-$ ,  $P_+$ 's FIFO and  $P_-$ 's FIFO. The term  $\text{Proc}(-, -)$  represents a process with an input list and

a counter, `add(.,.)` implements adding of an element in a FIFO, and `cons, nil, s, o` are the usual constructors for lists and natural numbers (peano's representation). The symbols '+' and '-' are represented respectively by the terms `plus` and `minus`. When a process has terminated its task, the value returned by the process is represented by a term of the form `stop(i)` where `i` is a peano's integer.

A first TRS representing this system is given in Section J.2.

Our objective is to show that no deadlock state can be reached. A deadlock state is a state when the process has stopped but there are still symbols to count.

The set of bad terms is also defined by a tree automaton recognizing all terms of the form `S(stop(.),.,cons(plus,.),.)` and `S(.,stop(.),.,cons(minus,.),.)`, i.e. any configuration where a stopped process has a non empty FIFO. What remains to be done is to provide the equations so as to have a finite model. Since each process reads symbols in an unbounded list and either counts it or adds it to the other's process FIFO, the terms which are likely to become infinite are counters and FIFOs. To have a finite completion, it is enough to add the following equations: `s(X)=X` whose effect is to place all natural numbers in the same equivalence class and `add(X,add(Y,Z))=add(X,Z)` whose effect is to place all terms built on FIFO additions in the same equivalence class. If we launch TimbukCEGAR on this example it stops in less than a second and states that there is a counterexample. This is due to the fact that after  $P_+$  termination,  $P_-$  may add a "+" to  $P_+$ 's FIFO. This can be solved by a more precise termination condition for each process: when a process exhausts its list it adds an `end` symbol to the FIFO of the other process. A process terminates if it exhausts its list and if it reads `end` on its FIFO. This patched specification is given in Section J.3.

Refining the termination condition in the TRS of the Timbuk's specification, we can restart completion. Then no counterexample is found but a refinement is necessary. This is due to the fact that the equation `add(X,add(Y,Z))=add(X,Z)` may break the order of symbols in the FIFO. Thus, using this equation, "+" or "-" symbols may be occur in the FIFO after the `end` symbol, resulting in a false counterexample. To achieve the proof using Timbuk 3.1, it was necessary to guess a good set of equations, which is hard in general. On this particular example, it is necessary to figure out that the equation `add(X,add(Y,Z))=add(X,Z)` is likely to mix additions of "+", "-" and `end` symbols. Hence, replacing this equation by the three equations `add(plus,add(plus,Z))=add(plus,Z)`, `add(minus,add(minus,Z))=add(minus,Z)` and `add(end,add(end,Z))=add(end,Z)` avoid this problem and permits to have a terminating completion and no false counterexamples. Tuning of equations by hand is hard on large examples and can be avoided here using automatic refinement. TimbukCEGAR and the initial equation proves it in 8 steps of completion and 5 steps of refinement. All the results can be certified by the checker.

The table of Figure 3 gives the number of rules of the TRS, the number of transitions of initial tree automaton, the number of refinement steps, the size of the completed automaton, execution time and memory usage for completion, and checking time. Line 1 gives the results for the automatic refinement of the initial equation. The same example is run with the three good equations (no refinement necessary) on line 2 and with Timbuk 3.1 on line 3.

The completion time with refinement (255s) has to be compared with the execution time of [11] which is superior to one hour<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> Personnal communication with the authors, not given in the paper.

Tool	$\mathcal{R}$ nb of rules	Initial TA nb of trans.	Ref. steps	Final TA nb of trans.	Comp. time	Comp. memory	Checking time
TimbukCEGAR	12	8	5	4145	255s	170Mb	12504s
TimbukCEGAR	12	8	0	1996	20s	63Mb	693s
Timbuk 3.1	12	8	0	12219	19s	25Mb	21s
TimbukCEGAR	879	14	4	3688	128s	531Mb	17017s

Fig. 3: Time and memory usage for completion with and without refinement.

## J.2 Timbuk Specification leading to a Counterexample

Ops

S:4 proc:2 stop:1 cons:2 nil:0 plus:0 minus:0 s:1 o:0 add:2

Vars X Y Z U C M N

TRS R1

```

add(X,nil) -> cons(X,nil)
add(X,cons(Y,Z)) -> cons(Y,add(X,Z))
S(proc(cons(plus,Y),C),Z,M,N) -> S(proc(Y,s(C)),Z,M,N)
S(proc(cons(minus,Y),C),U,M,N) -> S(proc(Y,C),U,M,add(minus,N))
S(X,proc(cons(minus,Y),C),M,N) -> S(X,proc(Y,s(C)),M,N)
S(X,proc(cons(plus,Y),C),M,N) -> S(X,proc(Y,C),add(plus,M),N)
S(proc(X,C),Z,cons(plus,M),N) -> S(proc(X,s(C)),Z,M,N)
S(X,proc(Z,C),M,cons(minus,N)) -> S(X,proc(Z,s(C)),M,N)
S(proc(nil,C),Z,M,N) -> S(stop(C),Z,M,N)
S(X,proc(nil,C),M,N) -> S(X,stop(C),M,N)

```

Automaton A1

States q0 qinit qzero qnil qlist qsymb

Final States q0

Transitions

```

o -> qzero          nil -> qnil
plus -> qsymb       minus -> qsymb
cons(qsymb,qnil) -> qlist    cons(qsymb,qlist) -> qlist
proc(qlist,qzero) -> qinit   S(qinit,qinit,qnil,qnil) -> q0

```

## J.3 Timbuk Specification leading to a Conclusive Analysis

Ops

S:4 proc:2 stop:1 cons:2 nil:0 plus:0 minus:0 s:1 o:0 end:0 add:2

Vars X Y Z U C M N



TRS R1

```
add(X,nil) -> cons(X,nil)
add(X,cons(Y,Z)) -> cons(Y,add(X,Z))
S(proc(cons(plus,Y),C),Z,M,N) -> S(proc(Y,s(C)),Z,M,N)
S(proc(cons(minus,Y),C),U,M,N) -> S(proc(Y,C),U,M,add(minus,N))
S(proc(nil,C),U,M,N) -> S(proc(Y,C),U,M,add(end,N))
S(X,proc(cons(minus,Y),C),M,N) -> S(X,proc(Y,s(C)),M,N)
S(X,proc(cons(plus,Y),C),M,N) -> S(X,proc(Y,C),add(plus,M),N)
S(X,proc(nil,C),M,N) -> S(X,proc(Y,C),add(end,M),N)
S(proc(X,C),Z,cons(plus,M),N) -> S(proc(X,s(C)),Z,M,N)
S(X,proc(Z,C),M,cons(minus,N)) -> S(X,proc(Z,s(C)),M,N)
S(proc(nil,C),Z,cons(end,nil),N) -> S(stop(C),Z,M,N)
S(X,proc(nil,C),M,cons(end,nil)) -> S(X,stop(C),M,N)
```

Automaton A1

States q0 qinit qzero qnil qlist qsymb

Final States q0

Transitions

o -> qzero	nil -> qnil
plus -> qsymb	minus -> qsymb
cons(qsymb,qnil) ->qlist	cons(qsymb,qlist) -> qlist
proc(qlist,qzero) -> qinit	S(qinit,qinit,qnil,qnil) -> q0