

# Term Rewriting Systems

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- Lecture 1: Introduction, Abstract Rewriting
- Lecture 2: Term Rewriting
- Lecture 3: Combinatory Logic
- Lecture 4: Termination
- Lecture 5: Matching, Unification
- Lecture 6: Equational Reasoning, Completion
- Lecture 7: Confluence
- Lecture 8: Modularity
- Lecture 9: Strategies
- Lecture 10: Decidability
- Lecture 11: Infinitary Rewriting

# Outline

- Overview
- Examples
- Abstract Rewrite Systems
- Newman's Lemma
- Properties of Elements
- ARSs with Multiple Relations

## Examples

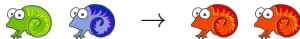
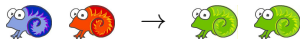
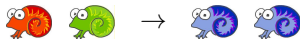


A colony of chameleons includes 20 red, 18 blue, and 16 green individuals. Whenever two chameleons of different colors meet, each changes to the third color. Some time passes during which no chameleons are born or die nor do any enter or leave the colony. Is it possible that at the end of this period, all 54 chameleons are the same color?



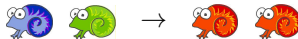
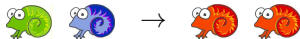
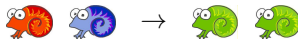
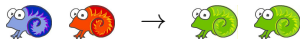
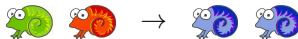
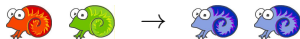


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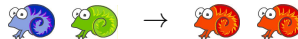
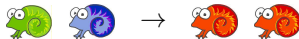
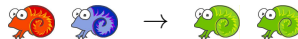
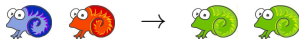
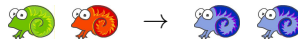
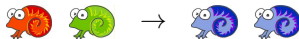


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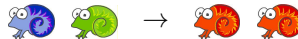
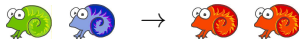
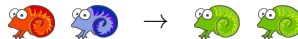
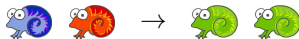
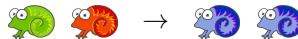
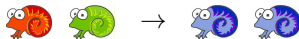
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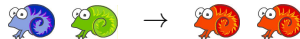
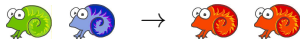
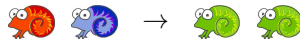
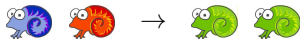
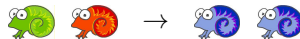
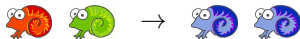


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A team of genetic engineers decides to create cows that produce cola instead of milk. To that end they have to transform the DNA of the milk gene

TAGCTAGCTAGCT

in every fertilized egg into the cola gene

CTGACTGACT



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Techniques exist to perform the following DNA substitutions

TCAT  $\leftrightarrow$  T   GAG  $\leftrightarrow$  AG   CTC  $\leftrightarrow$  TC   AGTA  $\leftrightarrow$  A   TAT  $\leftrightarrow$  CT

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Recently it has been discovered that the mad cow disease is caused by a retrovirus with the following DNA sequence

CTGCTACTGACT

What now, if accidentally cows with this virus are created? According to the engineers there is little risk because this never happened in their experiments, but various action groups demand absolute assurances.

## Example (Addition on Natural Numbers in Unary Notation)

**signature**      0 (constants)    s (unary)    + (binary, infix)

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-------	-----------	------------------	------------

rewrite rules

$$0 + y \rightarrow y$$
$$s(x) + y \rightarrow s(x + y)$$

rewriting  $s(0) + s(s(0)) \rightarrow s(0 + s(s(0))) \quad y \mapsto s(s(0))$   
 $\rightarrow s(s(s(0)))$

## Example (Group Theory)

**signature**       $e$  (constant)     $-$  (unary, postfix)     $\cdot$  (binary, infix)

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signature       $e$  (constant)     $-$  (unary, postfix)     $\cdot$  (binary, infix)

equations       $e \cdot x \approx x$      $x^- \cdot x \approx e$      $(x \cdot y) \cdot z \approx x \cdot (y \cdot z)$      $\mathcal{E}$



## Example (Group Theory)

signature	$e$ (constant)	$^-$ (unary, postfix)	$\cdot$ (binary, infix)	
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theorems	$e^- \approx_{\mathcal{E}} e$	$(x \cdot y)^- \approx_{\mathcal{E}} y^- \cdot x^-$		

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theorems       $e^{-} \approx_{\mathcal{E}} e$      $(x \cdot y)^{-} \approx_{\mathcal{E}} y^{-} \cdot x^{-}$

rewrite rules       $e \cdot x \rightarrow x$        $R$   
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rewrite rules

$R$

$e \cdot x \rightarrow x$	$x \cdot e \rightarrow x$
$x^{-} \cdot x \rightarrow e$	$x \cdot x^{-} \rightarrow e$
$(x \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow x \cdot (y \cdot z)$	$x^{-} \rightarrow x$
$e^{-} \rightarrow e$	$(x \cdot y)^{-} \rightarrow y^{-} \cdot x^{-}$
$x^{-} \cdot (x \cdot y) \rightarrow y$	$x \cdot (x^{-} \cdot y) \rightarrow y$

## Example (Group Theory)

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①  $s \approx t$  is valid in  $\mathcal{E}$  ( $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}} t$ ) if and only if  $s$  and  $t$  have same  $R$ -normal form

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- ①  $s \approx t$  is valid in  $\mathcal{E}$  ( $s \approx_{\mathcal{E}} t$ ) if and only if  $s$  and  $t$  have same  $R$ -normal form
- ②  $R$  admits no infinite computations
- ① & ②  $\implies \mathcal{E}$  has decidable validity problem

## Example (Combinatory Logic)

signature      S   K   I   (constants)



## Example (Combinatory Logic)

signature      S   K   I   (constants)   ·   (application, binary, infix)





## Example (Combinatory Logic)

signature       $S \ K \ I$  (constants)     $\cdot$  (application, binary, infix)

terms           $S \ ((K \cdot I) \cdot I) \cdot S \ (x \cdot z) \cdot (y \cdot z)$



## Example (Combinatory Logic)

signature       $S \quad K \quad I$  (constants)     $\cdot$  (application, binary, infix)

terms           $S \quad ((K \cdot I) \cdot I) \cdot S \quad (x \cdot z) \cdot (y \cdot z)$

rewrite rules

$$I \cdot x \rightarrow x$$

$$(K \cdot x) \cdot y \rightarrow x$$

$$((S \cdot x) \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow (x \cdot z) \cdot (y \cdot z)$$



## Example (Combinatory Logic)

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$$((S \cdot x) \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow (x \cdot z) \cdot (y \cdot z)$$

rewriting       $((S \cdot K) \cdot K) \cdot x$



## Example (Combinatory Logic)

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$$(K \cdot x) \cdot y \rightarrow x$$

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rewriting       $((S \cdot K) \cdot K) \cdot x \rightarrow (K \cdot x) \cdot (K \cdot x)$



## Example (Combinatory Logic)

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terms           $S \quad ((K \cdot I) \cdot I) \cdot S \quad (x \cdot z) \cdot (y \cdot z)$

rewrite rules

$$\begin{aligned}
 I \cdot x &\rightarrow x \\
 (K \cdot x) \cdot y &\rightarrow x \\
 ((S \cdot x) \cdot y) \cdot z &\rightarrow (x \cdot z) \cdot (y \cdot z)
 \end{aligned}$$

rewriting       $((S \cdot K) \cdot K) \cdot x \rightarrow (K \cdot x) \cdot (K \cdot x)$   
 $\rightarrow x$



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$$I \cdot x \rightarrow x$$

$$(K \cdot x) \cdot y \rightarrow x$$

$$((S \cdot x) \cdot y) \cdot z \rightarrow (x \cdot z) \cdot (y \cdot z)$$

rewriting

$$((S \cdot K) \cdot K) \cdot x \rightarrow (K \cdot x) \cdot (K \cdot x)$$

$$\rightarrow x$$

inventor      **Moses Schönfinkel** (1924)



## Example (Lambda Calculus)

signature       $\lambda$  (binds variables)



## Example (Lambda Calculus)

signature       $\lambda$  (binds variables)       $\cdot$  (**application**, binary, infix)





## Example (Lambda Calculus)

signature       $\lambda$  (binds variables)     $\cdot$  (application, binary, infix)

terms       $M ::= x \mid (\lambda x. M) \mid (M \cdot M)$



## Example (Lambda Calculus)

signature       $\lambda$  (binds variables)       $\cdot$  (application, binary, infix)

terms       $M ::= x \mid (\lambda x. M) \mid (M \cdot M)$

$\alpha$  conversion       $\lambda x. x \cdot y =_{\alpha} \lambda z. z \cdot y$



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                     replace free occurrences of  $x$  in  $M$  by  $N$

rewriting         $(\lambda x. x \cdot x) \cdot (\lambda x. x \cdot x)$



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                          replace free occurrences of  $x$  in  $M$  by  $N$

rewriting           $(\lambda x. x \cdot x) \cdot (\lambda x. x \cdot x) \rightarrow (\lambda x. x \cdot x) \cdot (\lambda x. x \cdot x)$



## Example (Lambda Calculus)

signature       $\lambda$  (binds variables)     $\cdot$  (application, binary, infix)

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inventor          **Alonzo Church** (1936)



# Motivation

Term rewriting is used in:

- functional programming (higher order term rewriting)
- model checking (e.g. mCRL)
- compiler construction (graph rewriting)
- computer algebra systems (e.g. Mathematica, Wolfram Alpha)
- proof assistants / automated theorem provers
- deciding equality in equational systems (axiom systems)
- abstract model of computation
- ...



# Outline

- Overview
- Examples
- Abstract Rewrite Systems
  - Definitions
  - Properties
- Newman's Lemma
- Properties of Elements
- ARSs with Multiple Relations

# Abstract Rewrite Systems

## Motivation

concrete rewrite formalisms

- string rewriting

## Motivation

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- string rewriting
- term rewriting

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abstract rewriting

- no structure on objects that are rewritten

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abstract rewriting

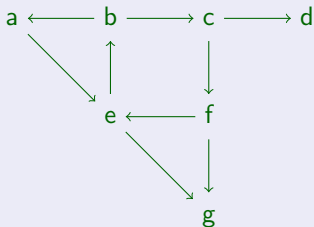
- no structure on objects that are rewritten
- uniform presentation of properties and proofs

## Definitions

- **abstract rewrite system (ARS)** is set  $A$  equipped with binary relation  $\rightarrow$

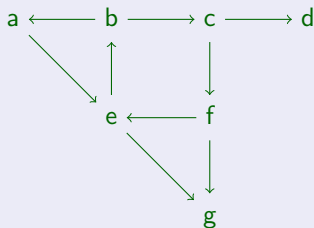
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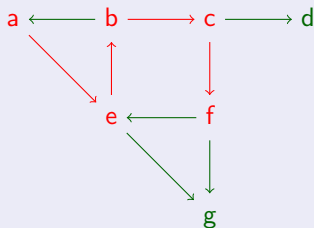


$$\text{ARS } \mathcal{A} = \langle A, \rightarrow \rangle$$

- $A = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g\}$
- $\rightarrow = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (a, e), (b, a), (b, c), (c, d), (c, f) \\ (e, b), (e, g), (f, e), (f, g) \end{array} \right\}$

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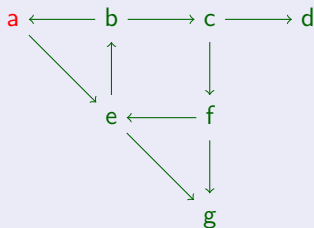
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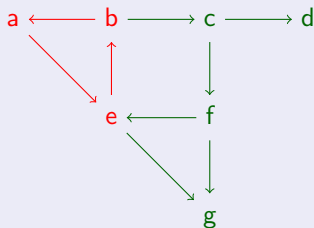
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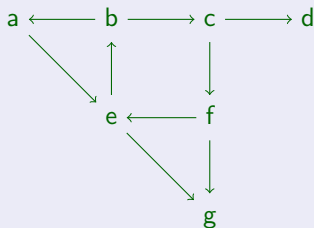
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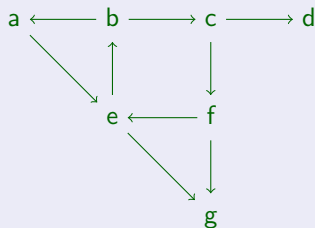
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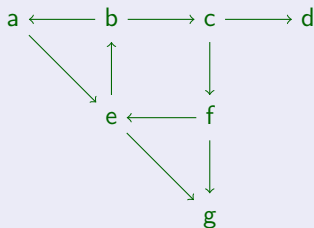
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 We write  $x \rightarrow^* y$  if  $x$  rewrites to  $y$  in 0 or more steps.

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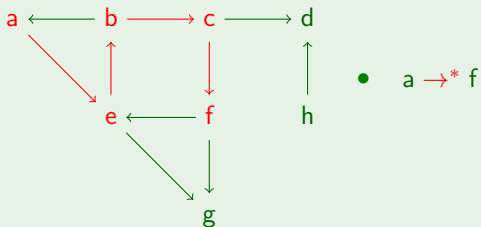
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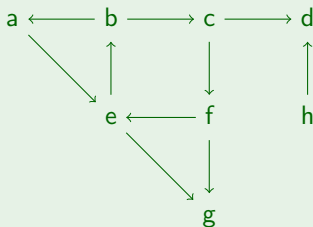
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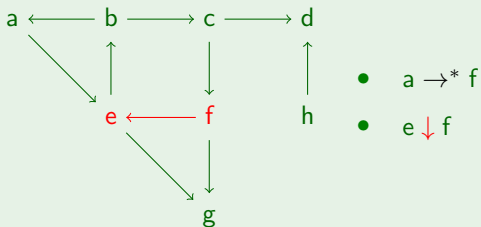


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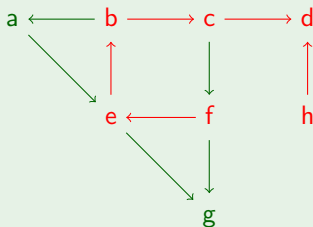




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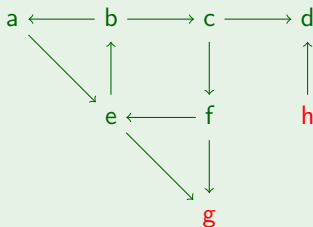


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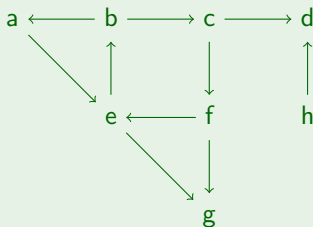


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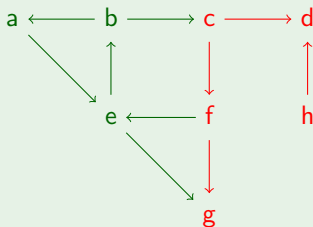


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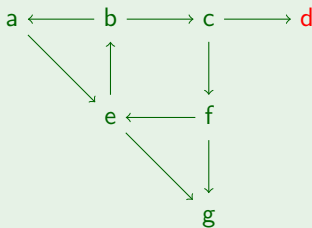
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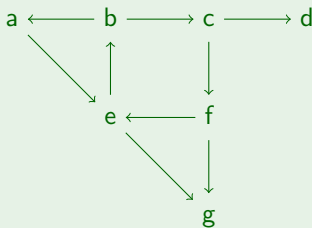
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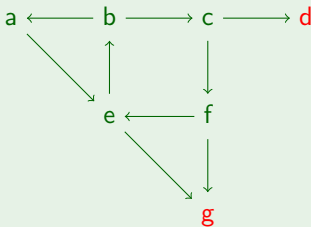
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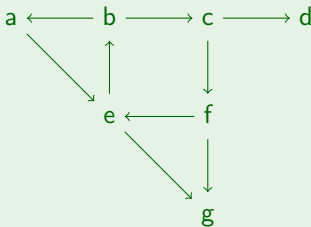
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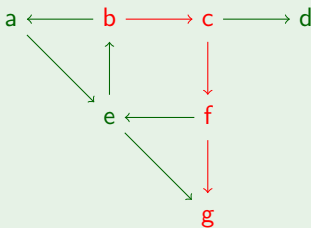
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## Definitions

- NF      normal form property
  - if an element  $a$  is convertible with a normal form  $b$ , then  $a$  rewrites to  $b$
  - $\forall a, b$  if  $a \leftrightarrow^* b$  and  $b$  is a normal form then  $a \rightarrow^* b$
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## Lemmata

$$1 \quad \text{SN} \implies \text{WN}$$

$$2 \quad \text{SN} \not\Leftarrow \text{WN}$$

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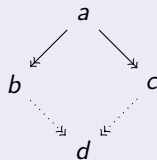
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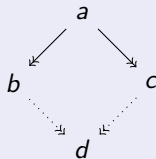
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## Lemma (An Equivalent Formulation of Confluence)

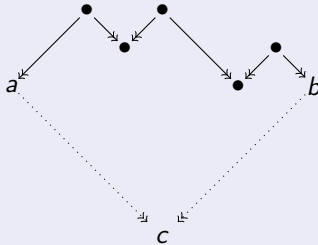
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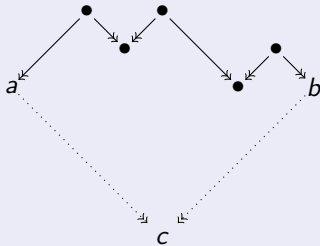
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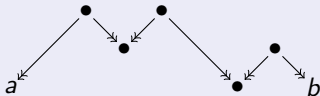
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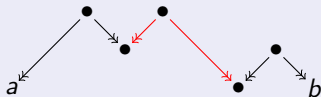
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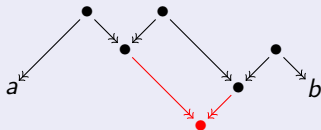
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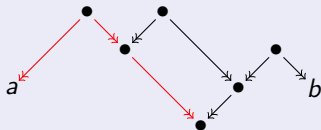
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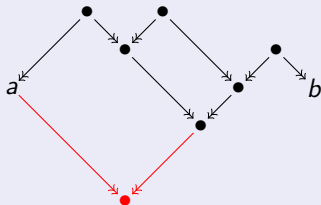
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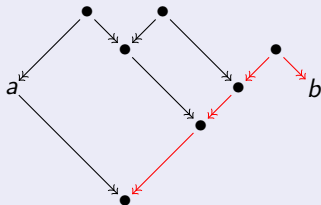
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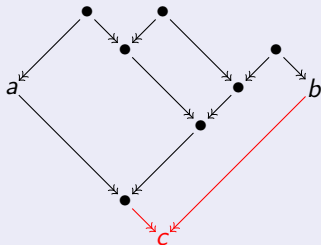
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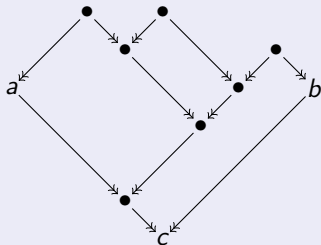
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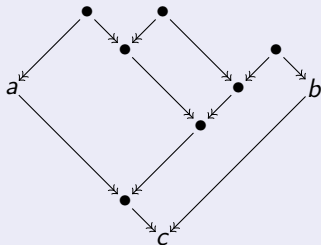
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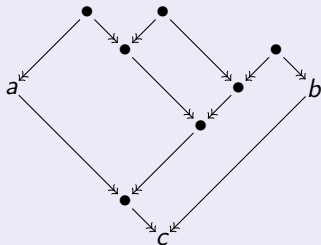
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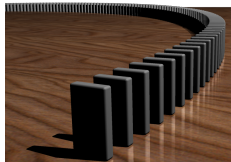
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*To prove that a statement  $P(n)$  holds for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  do:*

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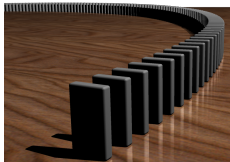


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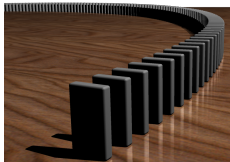


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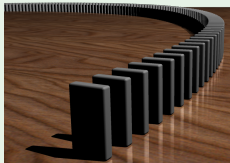
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Wikipedia

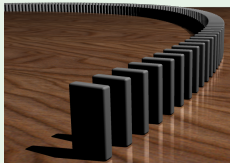
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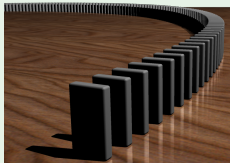
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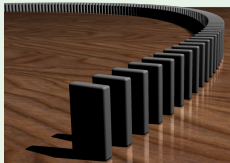
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Then you have proven that all dominoes will fall.

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Hence the formula holds for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

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## Second proof: induction.

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We proof by induction on  $n$  that  $a (\leftarrow^* \cdot \rightarrow^*)^n b$  implies  $a \rightarrow^* \cdot \leftarrow^* b$ .

## Lemma

$$\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow \iff \leftrightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$$

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We proof by induction on  $n$  that  $a (\leftarrow^* \cdot \rightarrow^*)^n b$  implies  $a \rightarrow^* \cdot \leftarrow^* b$ .

- Base case  $n = 0$ :  $a (\leftarrow^* \cdot \rightarrow^*)^0 b$ .

## Lemma

$$\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow \iff \leftrightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$$

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Let  $a (\leftarrow^* \cdot \rightarrow^*)^{n+1} b$ .

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- Hence  $a \rightarrow^* f \leftarrow^* d$  for some  $f$  by induction hypothesis.

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- Now  $f \leftarrow^* e \rightarrow^* b$  and thus  $f \rightarrow^* \cdot \leftarrow^* b$  since by assumption  $\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow$ .

## Lemma

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We conclude  $a \rightarrow^* \cdot \leftarrow^* b$ , that is,  $a \downarrow b$ .

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$$\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow \iff \leftrightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$$

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Hence we have shown  $\uparrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$ .

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- Now  $f \leftarrow^* e \rightarrow^* b$  and thus  $f \rightarrow^* \cdot \leftarrow^* b$  since by assumption  $\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow$ .

We conclude  $a \rightarrow^* \cdot \leftarrow^* b$ , that is,  $a \downarrow b$ .

Hence we have shown  $\uparrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$ . It follows  $\leftrightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$  since  $\leftrightarrow^* \subseteq \uparrow^*$ . ■



## Lemma

*Confluence  $\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow$  is equivalent to:*

- $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$

## Lemma

Confluence  $\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow$  is equivalent to:

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- $\forall a, b, c$

$$\exists d$$



## Lemma

Confluence  $\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow$  is equivalent to:

- $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$

- $\forall a, b, c$

$\exists d$



- $\forall a, b, c. \quad a \rightarrow^* b \wedge a \rightarrow c \quad \Rightarrow \quad \exists d. \quad b \rightarrow^* d \wedge c \rightarrow^* d$

## Lemma

$$\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$$

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## Proof.

## Lemma

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$\Rightarrow$  Assume  $\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow$ .

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$\Rightarrow$  Assume  $\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow$ . We have  $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \uparrow \subseteq \downarrow$ .

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$$\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow \iff \leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$$

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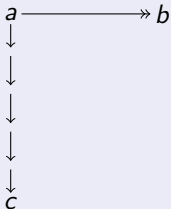
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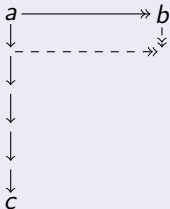
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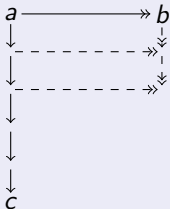
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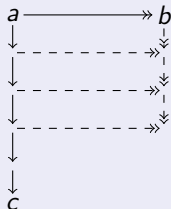
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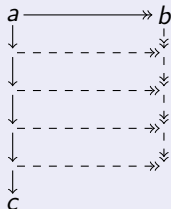
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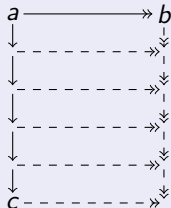
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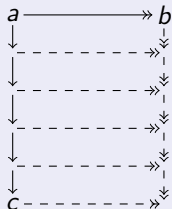
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$\Leftarrow$  Assume  $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$ . We show  $\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow$ .

By induction on  $n$  we show:  ${}^n\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$  for all  $n$ .



## Lemma

$$\uparrow \subseteq \downarrow \iff \leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$$

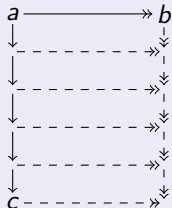
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By induction on  $n$  we show:  ${}^n\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$  for all  $n$ .

- Base case  $n = 0$ :  ${}^0\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* = \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$ .





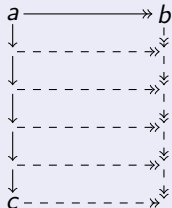
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By induction on  $n$  we show:  ${}^n\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$  for all  $n$ .

- Base case  $n = 0$ :  ${}^0\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* = \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$ .
- Induction step  $n + 1$ :

## Lemma

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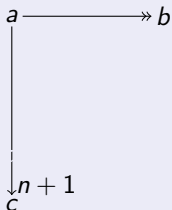
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By induction on  $n$  we show:  ${}^n\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$  for all  $n$ .

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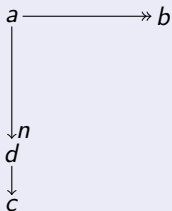
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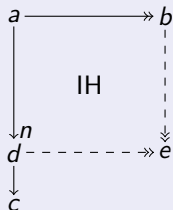
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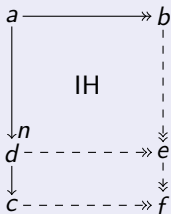
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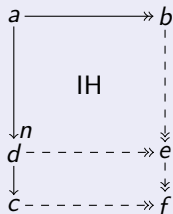
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  - By induction hypothesis  $d \rightarrow^* e \xleftarrow{*} b$ .
  - Then  $c \rightarrow^* f \xleftarrow{*} e$  since  $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow^* \subseteq \downarrow$ .

Hence  $c \rightarrow^* \cdot \xleftarrow{*} b$ .

## Lemmata

1 SN  $\Rightarrow$  WN

2 SN  $\nRightarrow$  WN

3 CR  $\Rightarrow$  NF  $\Rightarrow$  UN  $\Rightarrow$  UN $^\rightarrow$

4 UN  $\nRightarrow$  UN $^\rightarrow$

5 NF  $\nRightarrow$  UN



## Lemmata

1 SN  $\Rightarrow$  WN

2 SN  $\nRightarrow$  WN

3 CR  $\Rightarrow$  NF  $\Rightarrow$  UN  $\Rightarrow$  UN $^\rightarrow$

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5 NF  $\nRightarrow$  UN

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## Lemmata

1 SN  $\Rightarrow$  WN

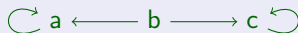
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4 UN  $\nRightarrow$  UN $^\rightarrow$

5 NF  $\nRightarrow$  UN

6 CR  $\nRightarrow$  NF



## Lemmata

$$1 \quad \text{SN} \implies \text{WN}$$

$$2 \quad \text{SN} \not\Leftarrow \text{WN}$$



$$3 \quad \text{CR} \implies \text{NF} \implies \text{UN} \implies \text{UN}^\rightarrow$$

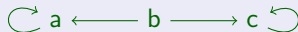
$$4 \quad \text{UN} \not\Leftarrow \text{UN}^\rightarrow$$



$$5 \quad \text{NF} \not\Leftarrow \text{UN}$$



$$6 \quad \text{CR} \not\Leftarrow \text{NF}$$



$$7 \quad \text{CR} \iff \iff^* \subseteq \downarrow$$

## Lemmata

$$1 \quad \text{SN} \implies \text{WN}$$

$$2 \quad \text{SN} \not\Leftarrow \text{WN}$$



$$3 \quad \text{CR} \implies \text{NF} \implies \text{UN} \implies \text{UN}^\rightarrow$$

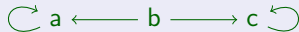
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$$1 \quad \text{SN} \implies \text{WN}$$

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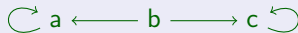
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## Definitions

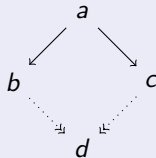
- WCR local confluence or weak Church-Rosser property
  - $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq \downarrow$

## Definitions

- **WCR** local confluence or weak Church-Rosser property

- $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq \downarrow$

- $\forall a, b, c$



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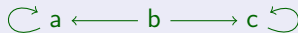
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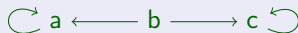
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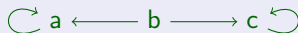
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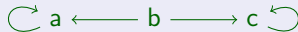
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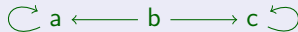
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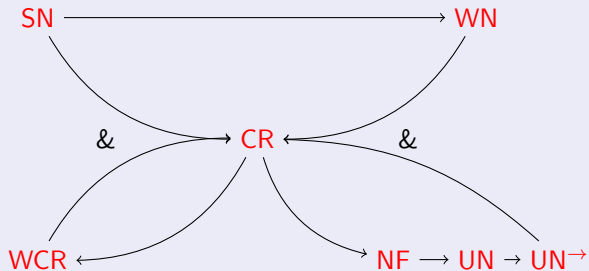
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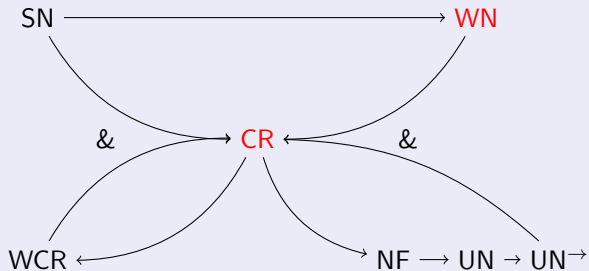
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Newman's Lemma

## Summary



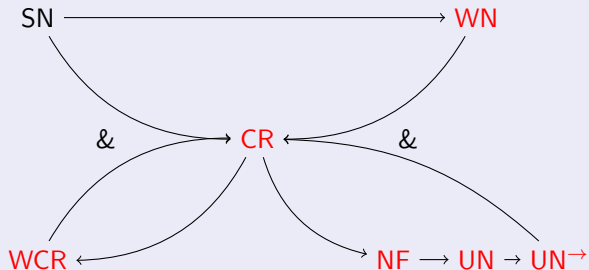
## Summary



## Definitions

- **semi-completeness**
  - CR & WN

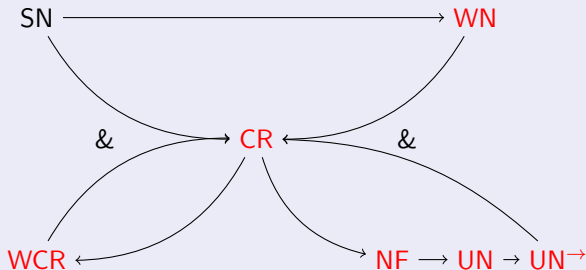
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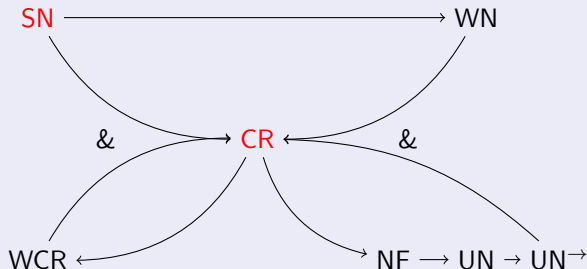
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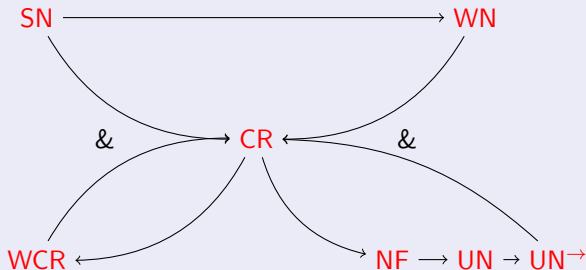


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## Definition

- diamond property

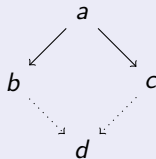
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- **diamond property**

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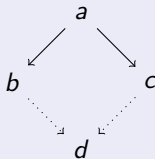
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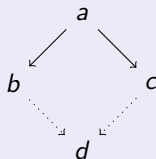
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## Lemma

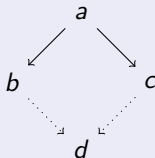
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## Proof.

Exercise. ■

## Lemma

ARS  $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \rightarrow_1 \rangle$  is confluent if

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$$\Rightarrow {}^*_1 \leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow_1^* \subseteq \rightarrow_1^* \cdot {}^*_1 \leftarrow$$



# Outline

- Overview
- Examples
- Abstract Rewrite Systems
- **Newman's Lemma**
- Properties of Elements
- ARSs with Multiple Relations

## Well-Founded Induction

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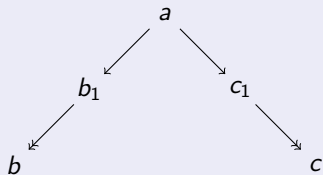
for arbitrary element  $a$

$$\left( \forall a: \left( \forall b: a \rightarrow b \implies P(b) \right) \implies P(a) \right) \implies \forall a: P(a)$$

## Newman's Lemma

$$\text{SN}(\mathcal{A}) \ \& \ \text{WCR}(\mathcal{A}) \implies \text{CR}(\mathcal{A})$$

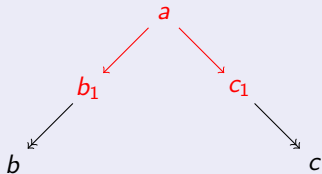
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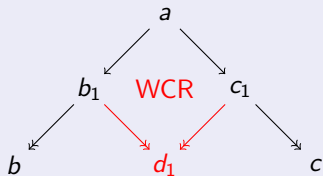
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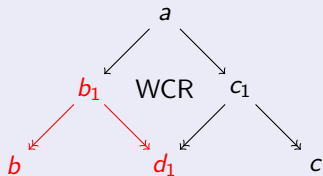
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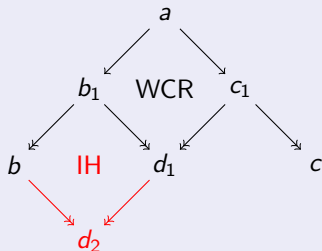
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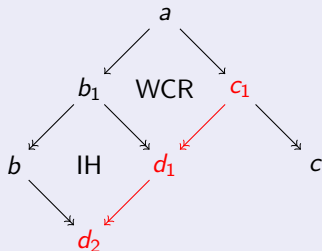




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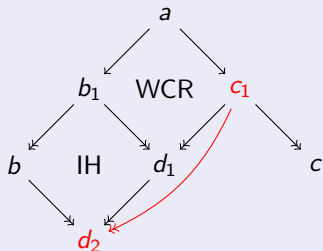
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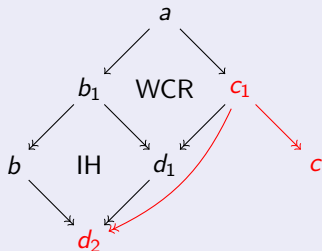
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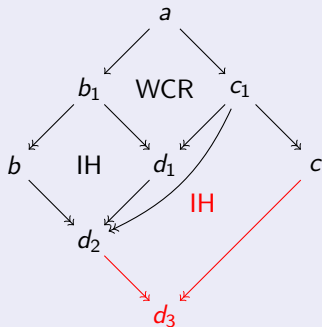
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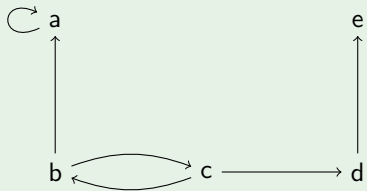
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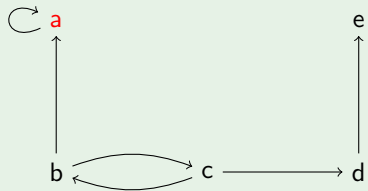
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An ARS has the property if all its elements have the respective property.

## Example

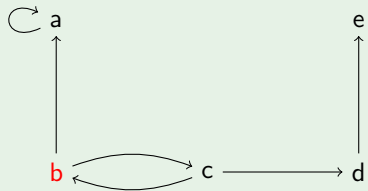


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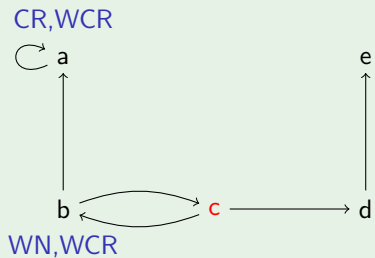


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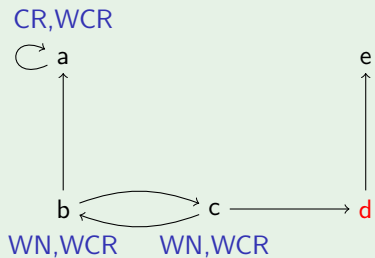
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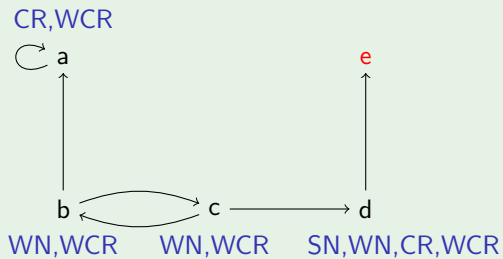
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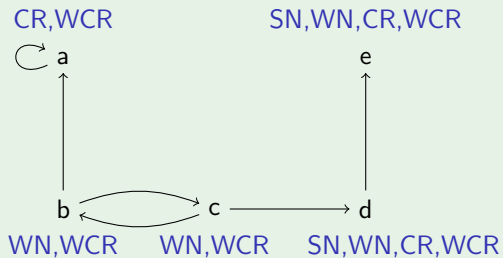


## Example





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# ARSs with Multiple Relations

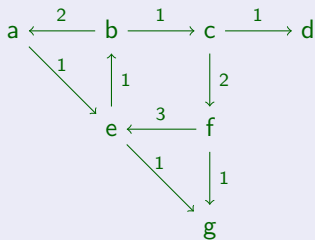
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- **abstract rewrite system (ARS)** is set  $A$  with binary relations  $\rightarrow_i$  for  $i \in \mathcal{I}$

# ARSs with Multiple Relations

## Definitions

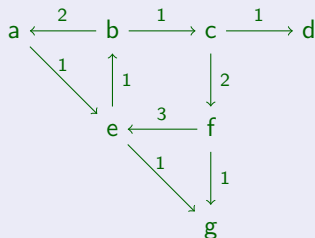
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ARS  $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \rightarrow_1, \rightarrow_2, \rightarrow_3 \rangle$

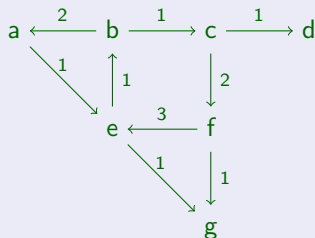
- $A = \{a, b, c, d, e, f, g\}$
- $\rightarrow_1 = \{(a, e), (b, c), (c, d), (e, b), (e, g), (f, g)\}$
- $\rightarrow_2 = \{(b, a), (c, f)\}$
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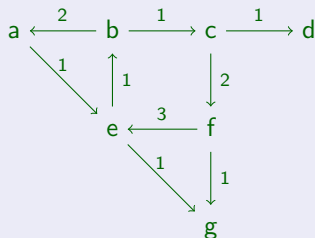
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# ARSs with Multiple Relations

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- $\rightarrow_2 = \{(b, a), (c, f)\}$
- $\rightarrow_3 = \{(f, e)\}$

- $\rightarrow = \rightarrow_1 \cup \rightarrow_2 \cup \rightarrow_3$
- $\rightarrow_{12} = \rightarrow_1 \cup \rightarrow_2, \quad \rightarrow_{13} = \rightarrow_1 \cup \rightarrow_3, \quad \dots$

## Definition

Let  $\mathcal{A} = \langle A, \rightarrow_1, \rightarrow_2 \rangle$  be an ARS.

- $\rightarrow_1$  commutes with  $\rightarrow_2$
- ${}^*\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow_1^* \subseteq \rightarrow_1^* \cdot {}^*\leftarrow$

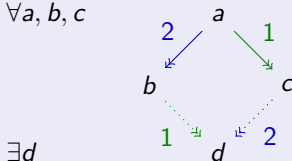
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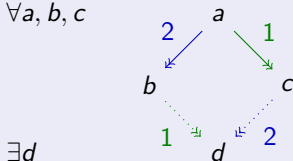
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- $\rightarrow_1$  commutes weakly with  $\rightarrow_2$

- ${}_2 \leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow_1 \subseteq \rightarrow_1^* \cdot {}_2^* \leftarrow$

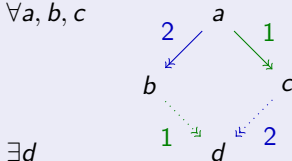
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- $\forall a, b, c$

