

Vincent van Oostrom (Ed.)

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Rewriting Techniques and Applications

15th International Conference, RTA 2004
Aachen, Germany, June 2004
Proceedings

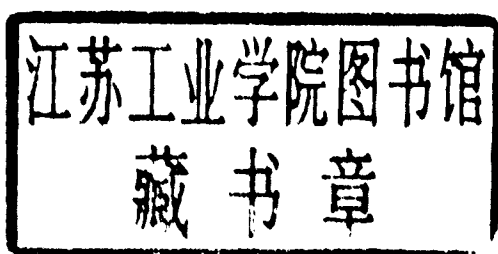


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Volume Editor

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Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the *15th International Conference on Rewriting Techniques and Applications* (RTA 2004), which was held June 2–5, 2004, at the RWTH Aachen in Germany. RTA is the major forum for the presentation of research on all aspects of rewriting. Previous RTA conferences took place in Dijon (1985), Bordeaux (1987), Chapel Hill (1989), Como (1991), Montreal (1993), Kaiserslautern (1995), Rutgers (1996), Sitges (1997), Tsukuba (1998), Trento (1999), Norwich (2000), Utrecht (2001), Copenhagen (2002), and Valencia (2003).

The program committee selected 19 papers for presentation, including five system descriptions, from a total of 43 submissions. In addition, there were invited talks by Neil Jones, Aart Middeldorp, and Robin Milner.

Many people helped to make RTA 2004 a success. I am grateful to the members of the program committee and the external referees for reviewing the submissions and maintaining the high standards of the RTA conferences. It is a great pleasure to thank the conference chair Jürgen Giesl and the other members of the local organizing committee. They were in charge of the local organization of all events partaking in the Federated Conference on Rewriting, Deduction, and Programming (RDP). Apart from RTA 2004, these events were:

- 2nd International Workshop on Higher-Order Rewriting (Delia Kesner, Femke van Raamsdonk, and Joe Wells),
- 5th International Workshop on Rule-Based Programming (Slim Abdennadher and Christophe Ringeissen),
- 13th International Workshop on Functional and (Constraint) Logic Programming (Herbert Kuchen),
- IFIP Working Group 1.6 on Term Rewriting (Claude Kirchner),
- 4th International Workshop on Reduction Strategies in Rewriting and Programming (Sergio Antoy and Yoshihito Toyama),
- 7th International Workshop on Termination (Michael Codish and Aart Middeldorp).

I thank the organizers of all these events for making RTA 2004 more attractive by collocating with it. Finally, I gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

April 2004

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Author Index

- Aoto, Takahito 269
- Blanqui, Frédéric 24
- Blom, Stefan 221
- Bohr, Nina 1
- Carme, Julien 105
- Contejean, Evelyne 70
- Falke, Stephan 210
- Felleisen, Matthias 301
- Findler, Robert Bruce 301
- Flatt, Matthew 301
- Geuvers, Herman 134
- Giesl, Jürgen 210
- Hirokawa, Nao 249
- Jones, Neil D. 1
- Ketema, Jeroen 233
- Levy, Jordi 55
- Limet, Sébastien 170
- Lucas, Salvador 200
- Mackie, Ian 155
- Matthews, Jacob 301
- Middeldorp, Aart 249
- Mitsuhashi, Ichiro 285
- Nederpelt, Rob 134
- Niehren, Joachim 105
- Ohta, Yoshikatsu 285
- Oyamaguchi, Michio 285
- Salzer, Gernot 170
- Schmidt-Schauß, Manfred 55
- Schneider-Kamp, Peter 210
- Simonsen, Jakob Grue 185
- Takai, Toshinori 119
- Thiemann, René 210
- Tommasi, Marc 105
- Toyama, Yoshihito 40, 269
- Villaret, Mateu 55
- Waldmann, Johannes 85
- Yamada, Toshiyuki 269, 285
- Zantema, Hans 95

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Table of Contents

Termination Analysis of the Untyped λ -Calculus	1
<i>Neil D. Jones and Nina Bohr</i>	
A Type-Based Termination Criterion for Dependently-Typed Higher-Order Rewrite Systems	24
<i>Frédéric Blanqui</i>	
Termination of S-Expression Rewriting Systems: Lexicographic Path Ordering for Higher-Order Terms	40
<i>Yoshihito Toyama</i>	
Monadic Second-Order Unification Is NP-Complete	55
<i>Jordi Levy, Manfred Schmidt-Schauß, and Mateu Villaret</i>	
A Certified AC Matching Algorithm	70
<i>Evelyne Contejean</i>	
Matchbox: A Tool for Match-Bounded String Rewriting	85
<i>Johannes Waldmann</i>	
TORPA: Termination of Rewriting Proved Automatically	95
<i>Hans Zantema</i>	
Querying Unranked Trees with Stepwise Tree Automata	105
<i>Julien Carme, Joachim Niehren, and Marc Tommasi</i>	
A Verification Technique Using Term Rewriting Systems and Abstract Interpretation	119
<i>Toshinori Takai</i>	
Rewriting for Fitch Style Natural Deductions	134
<i>Herman Geuvers and Rob Nederpelt</i>	
Efficient λ -Evaluation with Interaction Nets	155
<i>Ian Mackie</i>	
Proving Properties of Term Rewrite Systems via Logic Programs	170
<i>Sébastien Limet and Gernot Salzer</i>	
On the Modularity of Confluence in Infinitary Term Rewriting	185
<i>Jakob Grue Simonsen</i>	
MU-TERM: A Tool for Proving Termination of Context-Sensitive Rewriting	200
<i>Salvador Lucas</i>	

Automated Termination Proofs with AProVE	210
<i>Jürgen Giesl, René Thiemann, Peter Schneider-Kamp, and Stephan Falke</i>	
An Approximation Based Approach to Infinitary Lambda Calculi	221
<i>Stefan Blom</i>	
Böhm-Like Trees for Term Rewriting Systems	233
<i>Jeroen Ketema</i>	
Dependency Pairs Revisited	249
<i>Nao Hirokawa and Aart Middeldorp</i>	
Inductive Theorems for Higher-Order Rewriting	269
<i>Takahito Aoto, Toshiyuki Yamada, and Yoshihito Toyama</i>	
The Joinability and Unification Problems for Confluent Semi-constructor TRSs	285
<i>Ichiro Mitsuhashi, Michio Oyamaguchi, Yoshikatsu Ohta, and Toshiyuki Yamada</i>	
A Visual Environment for Developing Context-Sensitive Term Rewriting Systems	301
<i>Jacob Matthews, Robert Bruce Findler, Matthew Flatt, and Matthias Felleisen</i>	
Author Index	313

Termination Analysis of the Untyped λ -Calculus

Neil D. Jones¹ and Nina Bohr²

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Abstract. An algorithm is developed that, given an untyped λ -expression, can certify that its call-by-value evaluation will terminate. It works by an extension of the “size-change principle” earlier applied to first-order programs. The algorithm is sound (and proven so in this paper) but not complete: some λ -expressions may in fact terminate under call-by-value evaluation, but not be recognised as terminating.

The *intensional* power of size-change termination is reasonably high: It certifies as terminating all primitive recursive programs, and many interesting and useful general recursive *algorithms* including programs with mutual recursion and parameter exchanges, and Colson’s “minimum” algorithm. Further, the approach allows free use of the Y combinator, and so can identify as terminating a substantial subset of PCF.

The *extensional* power of size-change termination is the set of functions computable by size-change terminating programs. This lies somewhere between Péter’s multiple recursive functions and the class of ϵ_0 -recursive functions.

1 Introduction

The *size-change* analysis of [5] can show termination of first-order functional programs whose parameter values have a well-founded size order. The method is reasonably general, easily automated, and does not require human invention of lexical or other parameter orders. This paper applies similar ideas to establish termination of *higher-order* programs. For simplicity and generality we focus on the simplest such language, the λ -calculus. We expect that the framework can be naturally extended to higher-order functional programs, e.g., functional subsets of Scheme or ML.

1.1 An Example of Size-Change Analysis

Example 1. A motivating example is the size-change termination analysis of a first-order program, using the framework of [5]. Consider a program with functions f and g defined by mutual recursion:

```
f(x,y)  = if x=0 then y else 1: g(x,y,y)
g(u,v,w) = if w=0 then 3:f(u-1,w) else 2:g(u,v-1,w+2)
```

The three function calls have been labeled 1, 2 and 3. The “control flow graph” in Figure 1 shows the calling function and called function of each call, e.g.,

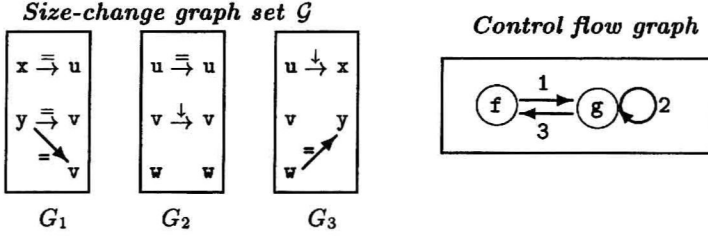


Fig. 1. Call graph and size-change graphs for the example first-order program.

$3 : g \rightarrow f$. Each call is associated with a “size-change graph”, e.g., G_3 for call 3, that describes the data flow from the calling function’s parameters to the called function’s parameters.

Termination reasoning: Consider (in order to prove it impossible) any *infinite size-change graph sequence* $\mathcal{M} = g_1 g_2 \dots \in \{G_1, G_2, G_3\}^\omega$ that follows the program’s control flow:

Case 1: $\mathcal{M} = \dots (G_2)^\omega$ ends in infinitely many G_2 ’s: In this case, *variable v descends infinitely*.

Case 2: $\mathcal{M} = \dots (G_1 G_2^* G_3)^\omega$. In this case, *variable u descends infinitely*.

Both cases are impossible (assuming, as we do, that the data value set is well-founded). Therefore a call of *any program function with any data will terminate*.

End of example.

1.2 Definitions and Terminology

We describe the structure of size-change graphs and state the size-change termination condition.

Definition 1.

1. A size-change graph $A \xrightarrow{G} B$ consists of a source set A ; a target set B ; and a set of labeled arcs $G \subseteq A \times \{=, \downarrow\} \times B$. If A, B are clear from context, we identify $A \xrightarrow{G} B$ with its arc set G .
2. The identity size-change graph for A is $A \xrightarrow{id_A} A$ where $id_A = \{x \xrightarrow{=} x \mid x \in A\}$.
3. Size-change graphs $A \xrightarrow{G_1} B$ and $C \xrightarrow{G_2} D$ are composable if $B = C$.
4. The sequential composition of size-change graphs $A \xrightarrow{G_1} B$ and $B \xrightarrow{G_2} C$ is $A \xrightarrow{G_1; G_2} C$ where

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_1; G_2 = & \left\{ x \downarrow z \mid \downarrow \in \{r, s \mid x \xrightarrow{r} y \in G_1 \text{ and } y \xrightarrow{s} z \in G_2 \right. \\
 & \left. \text{for some } y \in B \right\} \\
 \cup & \left\{ x \xrightarrow{=} z \mid \{=\} = \{r, s \mid x \xrightarrow{r} y \in G_1 \text{ and } y \xrightarrow{s} z \in G_2 \right. \\
 & \left. \text{for some } y \in B \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 1. *Sequential composition is associative. $A \xrightarrow{G} B$ implies $\text{id}_A; G = G; \text{id}_B = G$.*

Definition 2. *A multipath $\mathcal{M}$ over a set $\mathcal{G}$ of size-change graphs is a finite or infinite composable sequence of graphs in $\mathcal{G}$. Define*

$$\mathcal{G}^\omega = \{\mathcal{M} = G_0, G_1, \dots \mid \text{graphs } G_i, G_{i+1} \text{ are composable for } i = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

Definition 3.

1. *A thread in a multipath $\mathcal{M} = G_0, G_1, G_2, \dots$ is a sequence $t = a_j \xrightarrow{r_j} a_{j+1} \xrightarrow{r_{j+1}} \dots$ such that $a_k \xrightarrow{r_k} a_{k+1} \in G_k$ for every $k \geq j$ (and each r_k is $=$ or $\downarrow$.)*
2. *Thread t is of infinite descent if $r_k = \downarrow$ for infinitely many $k \geq j$.*
3. *A set $\mathcal{G}$ of size-change graphs satisfies the size-change condition if every $\mathcal{M} \in \mathcal{G}^\omega$ contains at least one thread of infinite descent.*

The size-change condition is decidable; its worst-case complexity, as a function of the size of the program being analysed, is shown complete for PSPACE in [5].

The example revisited: The program of Figure 1 has three size-change graphs, one for each of the calls $1 : f \rightarrow g, 2 : g \rightarrow g, 3 : g \rightarrow f$, so $\mathcal{G} = \{A \xrightarrow{G_1} B, B \xrightarrow{G_2} B, B \xrightarrow{G_3} A\}$ where $A = \{x, y\}$ and $B = \{u, v, w\}$. (Note: the vertical layout of the size-change graphs in Figure 1 is inessential, though intuitively appealing. One could simply write, for instance, $G_3 = \{u \downarrow x, w \bar{\rightarrow} y\}$.)

The termination reasoning shows that $\mathcal{G}$ satisfies the size-change condition: Every infinite multipath has either a thread that decreases u infinitely, or a thread that decreases v infinitely.

2 The Call-by-Value λ -Calculus

We first summarise some standard definitions and results.

Definition 4. *Exp is the set of all λ -expressions that can be formed by these syntax rules, where $@$ is the application operator (sometimes omitted). We use the teletype font for λ -expressions.*

$e, P ::= x \mid e @ e \mid \lambda x. e$
 $x ::= \text{Variable name}$

- *The set of free variables $fv(e)$ is defined in the usual way: $fv(x) = \{x\}$, $fv(e @ e') = fv(e) \cup fv(e')$ and $fv(\lambda x. e) = fv(e) \setminus \{x\}$. A closed λ -expression e satisfies $fv(e) = \emptyset$.*
- *A program, usually denoted by P , is any closed λ -expression.*
- *The set of subexpressions of a λ -expression e is denoted by $subexp(e)$.*

The following is standard, e.g., [9]. Notation: $e[v/x]$ (β -reduction) is the result of substituting v for all free occurrences of x in e and renaming λ -bound variables if needed to avoid capture.

Definition 5. (Call-by-value semantics) *The call-by-value evaluation relation is defined by the following inference rules, with judgement form $e \Downarrow v$ where e is a λ -expression and $v \in \text{ValueS}$. ValueS (for “standard value”) is the set of all abstractions $\lambda x.e$.*

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{(ValueS)} \quad \frac{}{v \Downarrow v} \quad (\text{If } v \in \text{ValueS}) \\[10pt] \text{(ApplyS)} \quad \frac{e_1 \Downarrow \lambda x.e_0 \quad e_2 \Downarrow v_2 \quad e_0[v_2/x] \Downarrow v}{e_1 @ e_2 \Downarrow v} \end{array}$$

Lemma 2. (Determinism) *If $e \Downarrow v$ and $e \Downarrow w$ then $v = w$.*

Lemma 3. *If e is closed and its λ -variables are all distinct, then a deduction of $e \Downarrow v$ involves no renaming.*

3 Challenges in Termination Analysis of the λ -Calculus

The size-change termination analysis of [5] is based on several concepts including

1. Identifying nontermination as being caused by *infinite sequences of state transitions*.
2. A fixed set of *program control points*.
3. *Observable decreases* in data value sizes.
4. *Construction* of one size-change graph for each function call.
5. Finding the program’s entire *control flow graph*, and the call sequences that follow it.

At first sight *all* these concepts seem to be absent from the λ -calculus, except that an application must be a call; and even then, it is not a priori clear *which* function is being called. We will show, one step at a time, that all the concepts do in fact exist in call-by-value λ -calculus evaluation.

3.1 Identifying Nontermination (Challenge 1)

We will sometimes write $e \Downarrow$ to mean $e \Downarrow v$ for some $v \in \text{ValueS}$, and write $e \not\Downarrow$ to mean there is no $v \in \text{ValueS}$ such that $e \Downarrow v$, i.e., if evaluation of e does not terminate.

A proof of $e \Downarrow v$ is a finite object, and no such proof exists if the computation of e fails to terminate. In order to trace an arbitrary computation, terminating or not, we introduce the “calls” relation $e \rightarrow e'$. The rationale is straightforward: $e \rightarrow e'$ if in order to deduce $e \Downarrow v$ for some value v , it is necessary first to deduce $e' \Downarrow u$ for some u , i.e., some inference rule has form $\frac{\dots e' \Downarrow ? \dots}{e \Downarrow ?}$. Applying this to Definition 5 gives the following.