

# CoLoR: a Coq library on well-founded rewrite relations and its application to the automated verification of termination certificates

FRÉDÉRIC BLANQUI<sup>1</sup> and ADAM KOPROWSKI<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *INRIA, FIT 3-604, Tsinghua University, Haidian District, Beijing 100084, China*

<sup>2</sup> *MLstate, 15 Rue Berliet, 75013 Paris, France*

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Termination is an important property of programs; notably required for programs formulated in proof assistants. It is a very active subject of research in the Turing-complete formalism of term rewriting. Over the years many methods and tools have been developed to address the problem of deciding termination for specific problems (since it is undecidable in general). Ensuring reliability of those tools is therefore an important issue.

In this paper we present a library formalizing important results of the theory of well-founded (rewrite) relations in the proof assistant Coq. We also present its application to the automated verification of termination certificates, as produced by termination tools.

The sources are freely available at <http://color.inria.fr/>.

## 1. Introduction

Rewriting is a general (Turing-complete) yet very simple formalism (TeReSe, 2003) that can be used as a programming language (Borovanský *et al.*, 2000; Clavel *et al.*, 2005) or in which some other programming languages can be easily encoded (in particular logic and functional programming languages). Both cases open the way to benefit from techniques developed for term rewrite systems like termination (Giesl *et al.*, 2006; Nguyen *et al.*, 2007; Schneider-Kamp *et al.*, 2009) or complexity analysis (Marion, 2003; Hirokawa & Moser, 2008). Term rewriting is also a general tool for deciding the equality of two terms in some equational theory (Knuth & Bendix, 1970).

That is why various authors proposed logical systems where functions and predicates can be defined by arbitrary user-defined rewrite rules (instead of inductive definitions only), and where the equivalence on types/propositions is enriched with these user-defined rules (Coquand, 1992; Barbanera *et al.*, 1997; Dowek *et al.*, 2003; Blanqui, 2005). This is especially important, as enriching the equivalence on types facilitates the use of dependent types. However, in contrast with the systems where all functions and predicates are inductively defined (Coquand & Paulin-Mohring, 1988; Altenkirch, 1993; Werner, 1994), the decidability of type-checking and the logical consistency of the system are not guar-

anted anymore. To ensure these essential properties, the user-defined rules must satisfy non-trivial conditions like subject reduction, confluence, termination or definition completeness (Coquand, 1992; Dowek & Werner, 2003; Blanqui, 2005; Walukiewicz-Chrząszcz & Chrząszcz, 2008). Checking such conditions requires the use of complex and thus likely to be buggy software, which reduces the overall confidence we may have in such logical systems.

Coq is a proof assistant based on the calculus of inductive constructions (Coquand & Paulin-Mohring, 1988; Werner, 1994), a very rich typed lambda-calculus with polymorphic and dependent (inductive) types, that includes higher-order logic through the propositions-as-types principle (Barendregt, 1992). For a complete overview of this proof assistant, we refer the reader to the Coq reference manual (Coq Development Team, 2009) and to (Bertot & Castéran, 2004); instead we only mention some of its features: functions and predicates can be defined inductively (Paulin-Mohring, 1993), proof terms are obtained by executing scripts (Delahaye, 2000), definitions and proof scripts can be organized in modules (Chrząszcz, 2003).

A *rewrite relation* is simply a relation on the set of first-order terms generated from a given signature that is stable under substitutions and contexts. In general, one considers rewrite relations generated from a set of rewrite rules. A rewrite relation is *terminating* (strongly normalizing, well-founded, noetherian) if there is no term starting an infinite sequence of rewrite steps.

In this paper, we present the foundations of a formalization of the theory of well-founded first-order rewrite relations (TeReSe, 2003) in Coq. There are various motivations for this work:

- verifying correctness of certificates produced by automated termination provers;
- allowing function definitions with non-structurally recursive calls in proof assistants, and the use of external automated termination provers to check their termination;
- providing an important library of types and functions making an extensive use of dependent types.

We will elaborate on them in the following sections.

### 1.1. *Verifying correctness of termination certificates*

In the last years, many new techniques and tools have been developed to automatically (dis)prove termination of rewrite systems (Termination Portal; Termination Competition; Waldmann, 2009). These techniques and tools are more and more sophisticated, and use external tools like SAT solvers (Schneider-Kamp *et al.*, 2007; Fuhs *et al.*, 2007). As a consequence, it is hard to trust their results and, indeed, every year sees some tools disqualified because of errors found in their results.

Hence, providing a way to automatically verify correctness of termination certificates is useful for many applications like automated termination provers and proof assistants.

1.1.1. *Termination certificates.* Termination techniques can be divided into two categories: the ones that either prove a complete termination problem or fail, and the ones

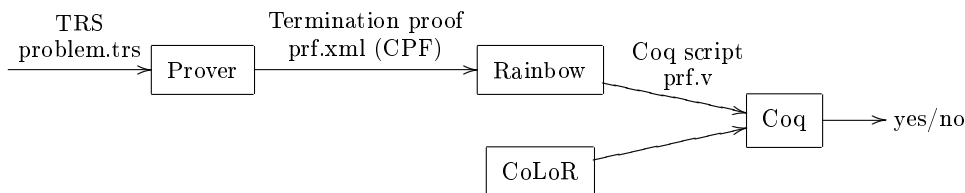


Fig. 1. Certifying termination with CoLoR and Rainbow

that transform/split a termination problem into one or more termination problems. Hence, a termination proof can be represented by a termination certificate that, roughly speaking, is a tree, a node being labelled by a termination problem, the termination technique applied at that point and its parameters.

For instance, a rewrite system can be proved terminating by finding a well-founded quasi-ordering on symbols so that, for each rule, the left-hand side is strictly greater than the right-hand side in the multiset path ordering (MPO) based on the quasi-ordering on symbols (Dershowitz, 1982). Then, a certificate for this proof can be given by a node labelled with the termination problem, the termination technique used (MPO) and its parameters (the quasi-ordering on symbols).

Verifying that a certificate is correct consists of checking that parameters indeed satisfy the conditions required by the termination technique and, in case of a transformation technique, that the subtrees are labelled by correct termination problems. Checking that some parameters satisfy the conditions required by a termination technique should be of reasonable complexity (polynomial). Otherwise, the certificate must be refined by providing more details on how to check the conditions. In the case of MPO, given a finite well-founded quasi-ordering on symbols, one only has to check that each rule is included in MPO.

A common format based on these ideas has been recently developed and used in the last termination competition (Certification Problem Format, 2010).

1.1.2. *Our approach.* In order to verify such termination certificates with the highest confidence possible, we developed the following methodology (see Figure 1).

We formalized in a proof assistant (Coq) various termination techniques used in modern automated termination provers, together with boolean functions for checking the conditions that the parameters must satisfy, and we proved their correctness. This is the CoLoR library that we are going to describe in the following sections.

Then, we wrote a program, called Rainbow, which, given a file containing a certificate in the aforementioned format, generates a Coq file containing a formalization of the termination problem, a formalization of all the parameters used in the certificate, and a short and simple proof script for the theorem stating that the rewrite system is (non-)terminating. This script consists of applying the lemmas corresponding to the termination techniques used in the certificate, and checking correctness of the parameters by testing the equality of the corresponding boolean functions to true (reflexivity proof). Coq is then called to check the correctness of this proof script.

We tried to keep Rainbow as simple as possible but, nonetheless, Rainbow itself can introduce various types of errors: parsing can be wrong or incomplete, and the formalization of the termination problem, the parameters or the termination proof may be wrong. Moreover, some termination proofs may require a lot of computations (for instance, some proofs use dozens of successive matrix interpretations), and computations in Coq are often much less efficient than in more traditional programming languages.

To improve this, we started to formalize Rainbow itself in Coq by formalizing the certificates themselves, defining boolean functions to check certificate correctness and proving that this function itself is correct, that is, that one can indeed build a termination proof if the function returns true. Then, by using Coq extraction mechanism (Paulin-Mohring, 1989; Letouzey, 2002), we can get a standalone termination certificate checker.

1.1.3. *Results.* In 2009, some experiments showed that Rainbow could successfully check up to 701 certificates among 1226 produced by AProVE (Giesl *et al.*, 2006), that is, 57%. In the 2009 termination competition, it could successfully check 399 certificates among the 964 generated by the participating provers, that is, 41%. (Rainbow did not participate to the 2010 competition held only 6 months after the 2009 competition.) This difference is due to the fact that, in the first case, the certificates were produced specifically for Rainbow while, in the second case, many certificates were produced for tools handling termination techniques not supported by Rainbow. The best tool was CeTA (Sternagel & Thiemann, 2009) with 774 certificates successfully checked, that is, 80%.

The project started in 2004 and since then the Rainbow program grew to about 6,000 lines of OCaml code and the CoLoR library to approximately 70,000 lines of Coq, with its contents roughly broken down as follows:

- 12%: basic mathematical theories (relations, semi-rings),
- 25%: data structures (lists, vectors, multisets, matrices, polynomials),
- 38%: term structures and rewriting theory,
- 25%: termination techniques.

It contains about 1500 definitions (types, predicates or functions), and about 3500 theorems, many of them being of course simple theorems stating introduction/elimination rules for the defined notions, or equalities/equivalences used to explicitly rewrite terms or propositions in proofs. The library also provides about 185 (simple) tactics (Delahaye, 2000) that are used in CoLoR or in the termination proof scripts generated by Rainbow.

Developing libraries of functions and theorems on some data structures or basic mathematical theories is interesting in itself since it can be reused by other people for doing other developments. This is the case for CoLoR which has so far been used in a formalization of the Spi calculus (Briaies, 2008), a modular development of certified program verifiers (Chlipala, 2006) and an efficient Coq tactic for deciding Kleene algebras (Braibant & Pous, 2010).

## 1.2. Using dependent types

Another motivation for this work was to make a development heavily using dependent types (Barendregt, 1992). First-order terms with symbols of fixed arity can be naturally

formalized using dependent types as we will see in the next sections. However, it is well known that, in current proof assistants, dependent types may sometimes be difficult to work with, because the equivalence on types is not rich enough. Such developments can therefore be used as a benchmark for evaluating proof assistants on the feasibility and ease of use of dependent types. Currently, to address this problem, one needs to introduce auxiliary functions or explicitly apply type casting functions. As already mentioned, the use of rewriting or (certified) decision procedures in the equivalence on types, solves many of these problems (Blanqui, 2005; Blanqui *et al.*, 2008; Strub, 2010). This approach is adopted in Coq modulo theories (CoqMT), a new extension of Coq where type equivalence can be extended by decision procedures such as linear arithmetic (Strub, 2010).

### 1.3. Outline

Preliminary overview of CoLoR was given in (Blanqui *et al.*, 2006; Koprowski, 2008; Blanqui & Koprowski, 2009). Detailed descriptions of formalizations of some particular termination techniques are presented in prior publications, to which we refer for more details:

- polynomial interpretations (Hinderer, 2004),
- recursive path ordering (Coupet-Grimal & Delobel, 2006),
- multiset ordering and higher-order recursive path ordering (Koprowski, 2006; Koprowski, 2008; Koprowski, 2009),
- matrix and arctic interpretations (Koprowski & Zantema, 2008; Koprowski & Waldmann, 2008; Koprowski, 2008).

In this paper, we give a detailed presentation of CoLoR’s foundations (definitions of terms, rewriting, *etc.*) and of key termination techniques not presented before (dependency pairs, dependency graph decomposition and reduction pairs).

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows.

In Section 2, we discuss related work.

In Section 3, we present our formalization of the basic notions of rewriting theory: signatures, terms, contexts, interpretations, substitutions, rules, rewriting and termination. We also discuss some of the problems we faced in Coq and how we addressed them.

In Section 4, we describe the formalization and the proof of the main theorem on dependency pairs, a key notion of modern automated termination provers. This development provides an interesting example of a use of a higher-order, polymorphic and dependent program (for computing the cap and aliens of a term).

In Section 5, we present the formalization of the dependency graph decomposition, another key technique of modern automated termination provers.

In Section 6, we describe the formalization of the general termination technique based on reduction pairs/orderings. A particular instance of this technique is the polynomial interpretations over natural numbers described in Section 7.

In Section 8, we illustrate our approach by presenting a complete example of automatically generated Coq script for some simple termination certificate.

Finally, Section 9 provides some concluding remarks and presents future directions of research.

## 2. Related work

There are two other libraries/tools aiming at verifying termination certificates that participate in the termination competition (Termination Competition): CiME3 (E. Contejean & Urbain, 2009) and CeTA (Sternagel *et al.*, 2010). In addition, proof assistants generally have their own termination checkers.

### 2.1. CiME3

CiME3 also produces Coq scripts based on a Coq library called Coccinelle (Contejean, 2007; Contejean *et al.*, 2007; Courtieu *et al.*, 2008). The approach taken in that tool is slightly different from ours. In Rainbow, we use a *deep embedding*: every type of objects and every termination technique used in certificates is formalized in CoLoR and can be the subject of a mathematical study. In CiME3, this is not always the case: a *shallow embedding* is used for some types of objects and some termination techniques.

For instance, to formalize a termination problem, Rainbow defines the set of rules and uses the definition of rewrite relation generated by a set of rules defined in CoLoR. On the other hand, CiME3 generates an *ad hoc* inductive predicate defining the rewrite relation. Hence, the Coq scripts generated by CiME3 are often longer, less readable and take significantly more time to be checked by Coq.

The main advantage of the shallow embedding approach is the ability to leverage some features of the proof assistant to get some work done for free. For instance defining polynomials as native functions in the proof assistant (shallow embedding), instead of as a new inductive data-type (deep embedding), forbids us from studying their meta-theory but gives us for free the capability to evaluate a polynomial on given values.

However, because the amount and the complexity of the generated code is more important, we think that this makes CiME3 more difficult to develop and maintain. Even more importantly, the use of a shallow embedding makes it impossible to develop meta-theory and hence generic checkers for termination techniques. Therefore one cannot benefit from the Coq extraction mechanism to obtain an independent, certified checker; an approach that we plan to incorporate to our toolset in the near future.

Some notions or techniques can be found in both libraries, but they are often formalized differently and work with different notions of terms. Indeed, CoLoR and Coccinelle do not define terms in the same way (we will come back to this point in the next section). However, in CoLoR, we defined a translation of CoLoR terms into Coccinelle terms in order to reuse some results/functions available in Coccinelle only, like its certified decision procedures for matching modulo AC (associativity and commutativity), unification modulo ACU (associativity and commutativity with a neutral element) and the recursive path ordering (RPO). Hence, the last version of Rainbow could verify RPO proofs by using Coccinelle. The converse translation (of Coccinelle terms to CoLoR terms) should also be

possible, although slightly more complicated, as it would have to translate a Coccinelle term to an *optional* CoLoR term, checking term well-formedness in the process.

## 2.2. CeTA

CeTA is a Haskell (Peyton-Jones, 2003) program (there is also an OCaml version (Leroy *et al.*, 2010)) extracted (Berghofer & Nipkow, 2002; Haftmann & Nipkow, 2010) from a library called IsaFoR (Sternagel & Thiemann, 2009; Sternagel & Thiemann, 2010) developed in the proof assistant Isabelle/HOL (Nipkow *et al.*, 2002). Hence, it also uses a full deep embedding approach and is naturally faster than CiME3 and the current non-extracted version of Rainbow.

IsaFoR now includes most techniques previously formalized in CoLoR and Coccinelle and some new important ones (most notably the subterm criterion and usable rules) that greatly increase the number of termination proofs that can be verified. Apart from termination techniques, also parsing of termination certificates is formalized in IsaFoR, so that extraction gives a complete, stand-alone tool for checking termination proofs. IsaFoR is now nearly 40,000 lines of Isabelle/HOL.

At the moment, CeTA is the best termination certificate verifier: at the time of writing, it can successfully verify 1432 certificates over 1536 found by TTT2 (Korp *et al.*, 2009) on 2132 termination problems, hence it is capable of certifying 93% of TTT2 proofs.

The main difference between IsaFoR on the one hand, and Coccinelle and CoLoR on the other hand, is therefore the language and the axioms used to define objects and properties. In IsaFoR, it is a ML-like (Harper *et al.*, 1986) simply typed lambda-calculus with (implicitly universally quantified) type variables and inductive predicates, while in Coccinelle and CoLoR, the language used is the calculus of inductive constructions (Coquand & Paulin-Mohring, 1988; Werner, 1994) featuring fully polymorphic and dependent types. Moreover, in IsaFoR, the (higher-order) logic imposed by the system is *classical*, while in Coccinelle and CoLoR it is *intuitionistic*. It is however possible, and sometimes necessary, to use in Coq the excluded middle (we will come back to this point later). Hence, in IsaFoR, termination is defined as the absence of infinite sequences of rewrite steps, while in Coccinelle and CoLoR, termination is defined as a constructive inductive predicate called accessibility (more on that in Section 3.7). Since most of the correctness proofs of termination techniques that one can find in the literature are classical, their adaptation to a constructive setting is an interesting endeavour. We leave for future work a more detailed comparison of the two approaches.

## 2.3. Proof assistants

Proof assistants such as Coq or Isabelle/HOL include their own automated termination provers but these provers are implemented as internal tools working on the internal representation of the proof assistant language and, unfortunately, currently can not be used outside these proof assistants.

Coq has its own termination prover developed by Bruno Barras and based on (Giménez, 1994) that essentially checks that recursive call arguments are “structurally smaller” (Co-

quand, 1992) modulo some possible reductions. Coq also provides the `Function` command (Balaa & Bertot, 2000; Barthe *et al.*, 2006) and the more recent `Program` extension (Sozeau, 2007), both of which allow one to define a function with non-structurally decreasing arguments in recursive calls, provided that one can prove that all recursive call arguments are strictly decreasing in some well-founded relation.

Isabelle/HOL has its own automated termination provers that internally generate Isabelle/HOL termination proofs (Bulwahn *et al.*, 2007; Krauss, 2007).

Since those embedded termination provers are necessarily limited, proof assistants would greatly benefit from the certification of termination proofs allowed by CeTA, CiME3 and Rainbow.

### 3. Terms and rewrite relations

In this section, we explain how terms and rewriting concepts are formalized in CoLoR. We encourage the reader to consult the actual sources of CoLoR for a more in-depth understanding of the presented notions. The sources are available for download and for online browsing (with proofs omitted) at:

<http://color.inria.fr/>.

CoLoR provides various notions of terms: strings, first-order terms with symbols of fixed arity (simply called algebraic in the following), first-order terms with varyadic symbols (a varyadic symbol can be applied to any number of arguments; this is often used when a symbol is associative and commutative), and simply typed lambda terms (Koprowski, 2009). The files about strings are prefixed by `S`, those about varyadic terms are prefixed by `V`, and those about algebraic terms are prefixed by `A`.

In this paper, we will only consider algebraic terms (directory `Term/WithArity`).

#### 3.1. Signatures

Algebraic terms are inductively defined from a signature (module `ASignature` defined in file `ASignature.v`) defining the set of symbols, the arity of each symbol, a boolean function saying if two symbols are equal or not, and a proof that this function is correct and complete wrt Coq default (Leibniz) equality predicate:

```
Record Signature : Type := mkSignature {
  symbol :> Type;
  arity : symbol -> nat;
  beq_symb : symbol -> symbol -> bool;
  beq_symb_ok : forall x y, beq_symb x y = true <-> x = y }.
```

Note that we declare the record field selection function `symbol: Signature -> Type` as an implicit coercion (keyword `>`) (Saïbi, 1997) so that a signature can always be given as argument to a function waiting for a `Type`, the Coq system adding the necessary calls to `symbol` wherever necessary.

Another solution would be to make `symbol` a parameter of a signature. It would add yet another argument to functions and lemmas using a signature, but this argument can



be inferred by the Coq system and the extracted OCaml code would be cleaner and easier to use (no `Obj.magic`). It would also allow us to use the new Coq feature of type classes (Sozeau, 2008). We leave for future work such an experimentation.

At the beginning, we were using a single lemma stating the decidability of equality on the set of symbols:

```
eq_dec: forall x y, {x=y}+{~x=y},
```

where  $\{A\} + \{B\}$  is the standard Coq notation for disjunction between  $A$  and  $B$  (the difference with the disjunction notation  $A \vee B$  having to do with extraction). Separating into a computational function (`beq_symb`) and a proof of its correctness (`beq_symb_ok`), as used, for instance, in the `Ssreflect` library (Gonthier & Mahboubi, 2009), improved the time spent by Coq for checking scripts generated by Rainbow by 9% on average. This can be explained by the fact that terms are smaller and fewer conversion tests are required.

### 3.2. Vectors and equality

For defining terms, we use the Coq module `Bvector`<sup>†</sup> of the standard library which defines the type of vectors (also called arrays or dependent lists) with elements of type  $A$ :

```
Inductive vector : nat -> Type :=
| Vnil : vector 0
| Vcons : forall (a:A) (n:nat), vector n -> vector (S n).
```

But the Coq standard library provides almost no functions and theorems about vectors. We therefore had to develop an important library on vectors (directory `Util/Vector` and, in particular, the module `VecUtil`). To our knowledge, this is the most developed library on vectors (more than 3,000 lines of Coq).

A simple yet important function that we need sometimes to use for fulfilling some type constraints is the following explicit type casting function which, given a vector of size  $m$  (`vec` is an abbreviation for `vector A`) and a proof that  $m=n$ , returns a vector of size  $n$ :

```
Fixpoint Vcast m (v : vec m) n (mn : m = n) : vec n := ...
```

This function is of course nothing but the identity from a computational point of view, but it allows one to see a vector of size  $m$  as a vector of size  $n$  whenever  $m$  and  $n$  are provably equal. It is currently defined as a recursive function breaking up and building back the vector. But it is also possible to define it as the identity (experimentation done by Pierre-Yves Strub but not integrated in CoLoR yet). It is needed in some theorems which would not be typable otherwise, such as:

```
Lemma Vapp_nil : forall n (v : vec n) (w : vec 0),
  Vapp v w = Vcast v (plus_n_0 n).
```

since `Vapp v w` is of type  $n+0$  which is not computationally but only inductively equivalent to  $n$ , because the addition is defined by induction on its first argument. Indeed, in Coq, equality is defined as follows:

```
Inductive eq (A:Type) (x:A) : A -> Prop := refl_equal : eq A x x.
```

<sup>†</sup> The “B” is there for historical reasons, as this library started as a library of vectors over booleans.

It is possible to avoid these explicit casts by instead using Conor McBride’s inductive definition of equality (McBride, 1999) which, to some extent, allows both members of the equality to have distinct types:

```
Inductive JMeq (A:Type) (x:A) : forall B:Type, B -> Prop := JMeq_refl : JMeq x x.
```

But, for eliminating such an equality, both types must be computationally equivalent. So, we preferred to stick with the standard equality of Coq, especially since tactics available in Coq are better suited for reasoning about it.

Note also that, in some cases, we need to use the identity of equality proofs (`forall h1 h2 : n=m, h1 = h2`) (Streicher, 1993). Since the equalities that we consider are on the set `nat` of natural numbers on which equality is decidable, this property can be proved and no axiom is required.

We could perhaps benefit from a recent library of lemmas and tactics to reason on heterogeneous equalities (Hur, 2009). But we will prefer to use an extension of Coq incorporating rewriting or decision procedures in the equivalence of types (Blanqui, 2005; Blanqui *et al.*, 2008; Strub, 2010). Some recent experiments show that, with CoqMT (Strub, 2010), all casts can be removed<sup>‡</sup>.

### 3.3. Terms

Given a signature `Sig`, we can define the type of algebraic terms (module `ATerm`):

```
Notation variable := nat (only parsing).
```

```
Inductive term : Type :=
```

```
  | Var : variable -> term
```

```
  | Fun : forall f : Sig, vector term (arity f) -> term.
```

Note that variables are represented by natural numbers. It is sufficient and simpler than using an arbitrary type because such a type needs to be equipped with functions and properties for, say, defining the renaming of a term away from some finite set of variables. By using natural numbers, we directly benefit from all the functions, properties and tactics available on natural numbers.

Thanks to the strong type system of Coq, every expression of type `term` corresponds to an algebraic term in the mathematical sense: a symbol cannot be applied to a number of terms distinct from its arity.

Another solution would be, like it is the case in Coccinelle, to define terms as varyadic terms, together with a function for checking the well-formedness of a term that one would use whenever it is necessary:

```
Inductive term : Type :=
```

```
  | Var : variable -> term
```

```
  | Term : symbol -> list term -> term.
```

```
Fixpoint well_formed (t:term) : bool := ...
```

The advantage is that various termination criteria defined in the literature for algebraic terms are in fact also valid for varyadic terms. However, when one needs to reason on

<sup>‡</sup> See <http://git.strub.nu/git/coqmt/tree/test-suite/dp/dlist.v>.

well-formed terms, it is much more convenient to use an inductive definition that provides these conditions for free. We will see such an example with polynomial interpretations (Section 7) which is a technique that naturally requires well-formed terms, since every symbol of arity  $n$  must be associated to a polynomial with  $n$  variables.

Since algebraic terms can easily be translated into varyadic terms, every termination criterion developed for varyadic terms can be easily applied on algebraic terms. Hence, by using a translation from CoLoR algebraic terms to Coccinelle varyadic terms (module `Coccinelle`), we could enable Rainbow to verify certificates for RPO by reusing the efficient decision procedure for RPO developed in Coccinelle.

It is certainly possible to define a translation the other way around and, for CiME3, to reuse results formalized in CoLoR on algebraic terms. As remarked before, such a translation would transform a Coccinelle term into an *optional* CoLoR term, while checking term well-formedness along the way.

**3.3.1. Remarks on recursive definitions in Coq.** The induction principle automatically generated by Coq for the type `term` is too weak since `vector term` (arity `f`) or `list term` are not seen as recursive arguments. We therefore need to redefine it by hand.

Because of the limitation of Coq termination checker, it is not possible to define the induction principle (and many other functions on terms) with two mutually recursive definitions, one on terms and another one on vectors of terms, as follows (`H1`, `H2`, ... are the induction hypotheses):

```
Fixpoint term_rect t : P t :=
  match t as t return P t with
  | Var x => H1 x
  | Fun f v => H2 f (terms_rect (arity f) v)
  end
with terms_rect n (v : terms n) : Q v :=
  match v as v return Q v with
  | Vnil => H3
  | Vcons t' n' v' => H4 (term_rect t') (terms_rect n' v')
  end.
```

Instead, we have to use a nested fixpoint:

```
Fixpoint term_rect t : P t :=
  match t as t return P t with
  | Var x => H1 x
  | Fun f v =>
    let fix terms_rect n (v : terms n) : Q v :=
      match v as v return Q v with
      | Vnil => H3
      | Vcons t' n' v' => H4 (term_rect t') (terms_rect n' v')
      end in H2 f (terms_rect (arity f) v)
    end.
```

Since inner fixpoints are anonymous, we need to duplicate its definition to give it a name and prove that both expressions are indeed equal. Finally, another disadvantage is that definition unfolding creates big terms.

### 3.4. Contexts

Contexts are defined as terms with a *unique* hole in a similar way (module AContext):

```

Notation terms := (vector term).
Inductive context : Type :=
  | Hole : context
  | Cont : forall (f : Sig) (i j : nat), i + S j = arity f ->
    terms i -> context -> terms j -> context.
Fixpoint fill (c : context) (t : term) : term := ...

```

Thanks to the use of dependent types, contexts are well-formed by construction and replacing a hole by some term always leads to a well-formed term.

As the reader may already have remarked in the previous declarations which are directly taken from the CoLoR files, Coq offers a mechanism for automatically inferring, to some extent, the missing arguments and types. This is a very important feature, especially with polymorphic and dependent types, that are heavily used in CoLoR. For instance, for a context, it is sufficient to write `(Cont h ti c tj)` where `h` is of type `i+Sj=arity f`. Then, Coq can infer that this is in fact `(Cont Sig f i j h ti c tj)`.

### 3.5. Interpretations and substitutions

We now come to the interpretation of terms into some non-empty domain  $D$  given an interpretation function  $I_f : D^n \rightarrow D$  for each function symbol  $f$  of arity  $n$  (module AInterpretation). This gives  $D$  a structure of a  $\Sigma$ -algebra where  $\Sigma$  is the signature.

```

Definition naryFunction A B n := vector A n -> B.
Definition naryFunction1 A := naryFunction A A.
Record interpretation : Type := mkInterpretation {
  domain :> Type;
  some_elt : domain;
  fint : forall f : Sig, naryFunction1 domain (arity f) }.

```

where `domain` is the domain  $D$  and `fint` corresponds to the family of functions  $I_f$ . Given a valuation  $\rho : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow D$  for the variables of  $t$  (valuation), the interpretation of a term  $t$ , written  $\llbracket t \rrbracket \rho$  (`term_int t valuation`), is the recursive application of the interpretation functions  $I_f$ :

```

Variable I : interpretation.
Definition valuation := variable -> (domain I).
Variable xint : valuation.
Fixpoint term_int t :=
  match t with
  | Var x => xint x
  | Fun f ts => fint I f (Vmap term_int ts)
  end.

```

A substitution is then nothing but an interpretation on the domain of terms by taking  $I_f(t_1, \dots, t_n) = f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ .

```

Definition IO := mkInterpretation (Var 0) (@Fun Sig).
Definition substitution := valuation IO.
Definition sub : substitution -> term -> term := @term_int Sig IO.

```

Interpretations play an important role in termination. Indeed, given an interpretation  $I$  and a relation  $>$  on the domain  $D$  of  $I$ , the relation  $>_I$  on terms such that  $t >_I u$  if  $\llbracket t \rrbracket \rho > \llbracket u \rrbracket \rho$  for all valuation  $\rho : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow D$  for the variables of  $t$  and  $u$ , is well-founded when  $>$  is well-founded (Manna & Ness, 1970). The relation  $>_I$  is always stable under substitutions and it is stable under contexts if the functions  $I_f$  are monotone wrt  $>$  in every argument (module `AWFMInterpretation`). We will come back to this point in Section 6.

Before that, we define some basic properties of relations on terms (module `ARelation`):

```

Definition preserve_vars := forall t u, R t u -> incl (vars u) (vars t).
Definition substitution_closed :=
  forall t1 t2 s, R t1 t2 -> R (sub s t1) (sub s t2).
Definition context_closed :=
  forall t1 t2 c, R t1 t2 -> R (fill c t1) (fill c t2).
Definition rewrite_ordering := substitution_closed /\ context_closed.

```

where `vars` is the set of variables of a term (module `AVariables`), modeled using `FSets`: the standard finite sets library of Coq.

### 3.6. Rewriting

Having defined the notions of context and substitutions, we can now define rewriting (module `ATrs`). Rewrite relations are defined from sets of rules, a rule simply being a pair of terms:

```

Record rule : Type := mkRule { lhs : term; rhs : term }.

```

For a system to terminate, it is necessary that the left-hand side is not a variable and that all the variables occurring in the right-hand side also occur in the left hand-side. These conditions are not required at this stage but will be part of the termination conditions to check.

The standard rewrite relation generated from a list  $R$  of rewrite rules is then defined as follows:

```

Definition red u v := exists l r c s,
  In (mkRule l r) R /\ u = fill c (sub s l) /\ v = fill c (sub s r).

```

We have `red : term -> term -> Prop`, so `red` is a relation on terms. We have a reduction step `red u v`, usually written as  $u \rightarrow_R v$ , whenever there exist a term  $l$ , a term  $r$ , a context  $C$  and a substitution  $\sigma$  such that  $l \rightarrow r \in R$ ,  $u = C[l\sigma]$  and  $v = C[r\sigma]$ .

The transformations done by modern termination techniques in fact lead to more complex relations. First, rewriting can occur at the top of a term only or, conversely, never at the top:

```

Definition hd_red u v := exists l r s,
  In (mkRule l r) R /\ u = sub s l /\ v = sub s r.
Definition int_red u v := exists l r c s, c <> Hole /\
  In (mkRule l r) R /\ u = fill c (sub s l) /\ v = fill c (sub s r).

```

And one may consider (top) rewriting modulo some other relation:

`Definition red_mod := red E # @ red R.`

`Definition hd_red_Mod := S @ hd_red R.`

`Definition hd_red_mod := red E # @ hd_red R.`

where `@` denotes the composition of two relations, and `#` the reflexive and transitive closure of a relation (module `RelUtil`).

### 3.7. Termination

We now come to the definition of termination itself. In the introduction, we defined it as the absence of infinite rewrite sequences (chains), as it is often defined in the literature.

An alternative definition is based on the notion of well-foundedness: a relation  $R$  is well-founded on a class  $X$  if every non-empty subset of  $X$  has a minimal element with respect to  $R$ .

The two definitions are equivalent in classical logic under the Axiom of Choice.

The interesting aspect of the second definition is that it provides an induction principle that is a particular case of transfinite induction: given a relation  $S$  that is well-founded on  $X$ , a property  $P$  holds for all the elements of  $X$  if, for all  $x, y \in X$ ,  $P(x)$  holds whenever  $P(y)$  holds for all  $y$  such that  $ySx$ .

Such a generic induction principle, with  $P$  as a parameter, is defined in the Coq standard library (module `Wellfounded`). Because its use requires to write rewrite steps the other way around ( $y_R \leftarrow x$  instead of  $x \rightarrow_R y$ ), in CoLoR, as it is traditional in rewriting theory, we prefer to use the following dual definition (module `SN`):

`Inductive SN x : Prop := SN_intro : (forall y, R x y -> SN y) -> SN x.`

`Definition WF := forall x, SN x.`

However, we provide lemmas to go from the CoLoR representation to the Coq representation:

`Lemma WF_transp_wf : WF (transp R) -> well_founded R.`

`Lemma wf_transp_WF : well_founded (transp R) -> WF R.`

where `transp` is a transposition of a relation: `transp R x y = R y x`.

Well-founded relations can also be used to define functions recursively. In Coq, the well-foundedness proof itself can be used as an extra-argument to make explicit the decrease of the arguments in the recursive calls.

Hence, CoLoR can also be seen as a toolbox for defining functions by well-founded induction and proving the totality of such functions. Indeed, CoLoR provides various results on the theory of arbitrary (well-founded) relations (and not only rewrite relations) like, for instance, the multiset extension of a relation (directory `Util/Multiset`) and some general results on the union and composition of well-founded relations (directory `Util/Relation`).

Finally, we formalized the relations between the two definitions of termination.

When a relation is finitely branching (the set of successors is always finite, although not necessarily bounded), we proved that the existence of an infinite chain implies that the

relation is not well-founded (module `IS_NotSN`). Proving this implication for non-finitely-branching relations would require to develop some general theory of ordinals. However, we proved that a rewrite relation generated from a set of rules is finitely branching whenever the set of rules is finite (module `AReduct`).

For proving the converse, that is, that there is an infinite chain if the relation is not well-founded (module `NotSN_IS`), as already mentioned, we need to use the Axiom of Excluded Middle and the Axiom of (Dependent) Choice:

`Definition IS R f := forall i, R (f i) (f (S i)).`

`Definition classic_left_total R := forall x, exists y, R x y.`

`Axiom dep_choice : forall (B : Type) (b : B) (R : relation B),  
 classic_left_total R -> exists f, IS R f.`

where `IS` stands for infinite-sequence and expresses that there is an infinite reduction in `R`. The `dep_choice` axiom is a consequence of a more general choice axiom (*cf.* `DepChoicePrf` in `CoLoR` and `ClassicalChoice` in Coq standard library).

#### 4. Dependency pairs

In this section, we explain the formalization and proof of a key notion of modern termination techniques: the notion of dependency pairs (Arts & Giesl, 2000; Hirokawa & Middeldorp, 2005; Giesl *et al.*, 2006).

We call a function symbol *f* *defined* if there is a rule which left-hand side is headed by *f*; otherwise it is a *constructor*. Further denote by  $\xrightarrow{\varepsilon}$  (resp.  $\xrightarrow{\geq \varepsilon}$ ) rewriting at the top (resp. below the top); defined in Coq as `hd_red` (resp. `int_red`).

Let  $R$  be a set of rewrite rules, and assume that the rewrite relation generated by  $R$  does not terminate. Let  $\mathcal{T}_\infty$  be the (non-empty) set of non-terminating terms whose subterms are all terminating. Then, for all  $t \in \mathcal{T}_\infty$ , there is a rule  $l \rightarrow r \in R$  and a subterm  $s$  of  $r$  headed by a defined symbol that is not a strict subterm of  $l$  (Dershowitz, 2004), and such that  $t \xrightarrow{\geq \varepsilon}_R^* l \sigma \xrightarrow{\varepsilon}_R r \sigma \supseteq s \sigma \in \mathcal{T}_\infty$ .

The pairs  $l \rightarrow s$  such that  $l \rightarrow r \in R$  and  $s$  is a subterm of  $r$  headed by a defined symbol that is not a strict subterm of  $l$  are called the *dependency pairs* of  $R$ , and the relation  $\xrightarrow{\geq \varepsilon}_R^* \xrightarrow{\varepsilon}_R$  (relation composition is written by juxtaposition) is called a *chain* (module `ADP`):

```
Fixpoint mkdp (S : rules) : rules :=
  match S with
  | nil => nil
  | a :: S' => let (l,r) := a in
    map (mkRule l) (filter (negb_subterm l) (calls R r)) ++ mkdp S'
  end.
```

`Definition dp := mkdp R.`

`Definition chain := int_red R # @ hd_red dp.`

where `++` (concatenation), `map` and `filter` are usual functions of the Coq standard library on lists, `negb_subterm l` says if a term is not a subterm of  $l$  (`negb` standing for negation on the `bool` type, as opposed to `not` on `Prop`), and `calls R r` gives the list of subterms of  $r$  which are headed by a symbol defined by a rule of  $R$ .

In the literature, dependency pairs are generally expressed in the extended signature  $\Sigma = \Sigma \cup \{f^\#\mid f \in \Sigma\}$  by replacing in both sides of a dependency pair the top symbol by their  $\#$  version. As a consequence,  $\geq_{\mathcal{R}}^{\mathcal{E}}$  can be replaced by  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{R}}$  since no rule of  $\mathcal{R}$  can be applied at the top of a term of the form  $f^\#(t_1, \dots, t_n)$ . This transformation is also formalized in CoLoR in the module `ADuplicateSymb`.

Then, the main theorem of dependency pairs says (module `ADP`):

```
Variable hyp1 : forallb (@is_notvar_lhs Sig) R = true.
Variable hyp2 : rules_preserve_vars R.
Lemma WF_chain : WF chain -> WF (red R).
```

As just explained, the classical proof consists of assuming an infinite sequence of  $\mathcal{R}$  steps and showing that one can build an infinite sequence of `chain` steps. But a direct constructive proof can be given by well-founded induction on `chain`. As shown in (Blanqui, 2006), the proof technique is the same as the one based on Tait and Girard computability/reducibility predicates (Girard *et al.*, 1988) for proving the termination of  $\beta$ -reduction, the correctness of the notion of computability closure (Blanqui, 2007), or the termination of the higher-order recursive path ordering (Jouannaud & Rubio, 1999).

First, we proceed by well-founded induction on `chain`. Second, we prove that every term  $t$  terminates by induction on  $t$  and well-founded induction on the terminating subterms of  $t$ . If  $t$  is a variable, then it follows from the assumption `hyp1` that no rule left-hand side is a variable (module `ASN`). Otherwise, by definition of termination, it suffices to prove that every reduct of  $t$  terminates. If the reduction does not occur at the top, then the conclusion follows from the induction hypotheses. Otherwise, there is a rule  $l \rightarrow r$  and a substitution  $\sigma$  such that  $t = l\sigma$  and the reduct is  $r\sigma$ . Then, we can conclude by proving the following two lemmas:

- 1 Every subterm of  $r\sigma$  headed by a defined symbol terminates, either because it is a strict subterm of  $l\sigma$ , or because it is a `chain` reduct. In both cases, we can conclude by induction hypothesis.
- 2 We have  $r\sigma = s\theta$  where  $s$  is the constructor term obtained from  $r\sigma$  by replacing subterms headed by a defined symbol by distinct fresh variables, and  $\theta$  is the substitution mapping each one of these fresh variables to the corresponding subterms. Then, one can prove that, for all constructor terms  $s$  and terminating substitutions  $\theta$  (*i.e.*  $x\theta$  terminates for all  $x$ ),  $s\theta$  terminates (module `ASN`).

The term  $s$  is generally called the (constructor) *cap* of  $r\sigma$ , and the substitution  $\theta$  the corresponding *alien* substitution of  $t$ . The cap and the alien substitution are unique up to the renaming of fresh variables used in the cap. The definitions of cap and aliens provide a nice example of higher-order, dependent and polymorphic function (module `ACap`). It uses an auxiliary function `capa` which, for every term  $t$ , computes an element of type:

```
Definition Cap := { k : nat & (terms k -> term) * terms k }.
```

which is a dependent triple  $(k, f, v)$  where:

- $k$  is the number of aliens of  $t$  (function `nb_alien`),
- $f$  is a function which, given a vector  $x$  of  $k$  terms, returns the cap with the  $i$ -th alien replaced by the  $i$ -th term of  $x$  (function `fcap`),
- $v$  is the vector of the  $k$  aliens of  $t$  (function `aliens`).



The function `capa` is then defined as follows:

```
Fixpoint capa (t : term) : Cap :=
  match t with
  | Var x => mkCap (fun _ => t, Vnil)
  | Fun f ts =>
    if defined f R then
      mkCap (fun v => Vnth v (lt_0_Sn 0), Vcons t Vnil)
    else
      let cs := Vmap capa ts in
      mkCap (fun v => Fun f (Vmap_sum cs v), conc cs)
  end.
```

where `mkCap` is a function to construct term of type `Cap`, `lt_0_Sn` is a proof that  $0 < S\ n$  for arbitrary `n` and `conc` concatenates all the aliens of a vector of caps:

```
Fixpoint conc n (cs : Caps n) : terms (sum cs) :=
  match cs as cs return terms (sum cs) with
  | Vnil => Vnil
  | Vcons c _ cs' => Vapp (aliens c) (conc cs')
  end.
```

and, given a vector `cs` of caps and a vector `v` of `(sum cs)` terms, `Vmap_sum` breaks `v` in vectors which sizes are the numbers of aliens of every cap of `cs`, applies every `fcap` to the corresponding vector, and concatenates all the results:

```
Fixpoint Vmap_sum n (cs : Caps n) : terms (sum cs) -> terms n :=
  match cs as cs in vector _ n return terms (sum cs) -> terms n with
  | Vnil => fun _ => Vnil
  | Vcons c _ cs' => fun ts =>
    let (hd,tl) := Vbreak ts in Vcons (fcap c hd) (Vmap_sum cs' tl)
  end.
```

Finally, the cap and aliens are obtained as follows:

Definition `cap t := match capa t with existS n (f,_) => f (fresh_for t n) end.`

Definition `alien_sub t := fsub (maxvar t) (aliens (capa t)).`

where `existS x P` is the single constructor of the subset type behind the notation  $\{x \mid P\}$ , `fresh_for t n` is a vector of `n` variables fresh for `t` and `fsub x0 n v` is the substitution  $\{x_0 + 1 \mapsto v_1, \dots, x_0 + n \mapsto v_n\}$ .

## 5. Dependency graph decomposition

The next major result of the dependency pair framework is based on the analysis of the possible sequences of function calls. This is accomplished by means of an analysis of the so-called *dependency graph*,  $\mathcal{G}(R)$ . The dependency graph is the graph where nodes are the dependency pairs of  $R$  and edges are given by the relation  $\geq_{R}^{\varepsilon^*}$ : there is an edge from  $l_1 \rightarrow s_1$  to  $l_2 \rightarrow s_2$  if  $s_1 \sigma_1 \geq_{R}^{\varepsilon^*} l_2 \sigma_2$  for some substitutions  $\sigma_1$  and  $\sigma_2$ . Then, the relation  $\geq_{R}^{\varepsilon^*} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} \xrightarrow{C}$  terminates if, for every strongly connected component  $C$  of  $\mathcal{G}(R)$ ,  $\geq_{R}^{\varepsilon^*} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} \xrightarrow{C}$  terminates (Giesl *et al.*, 2002). This important result allows one to split a termination

problem into simpler ones that can be dealt with independently (and in parallel) using different techniques.

In CoLoR,  $\mathcal{G}(R)$  is formalized as an instance, taking  $(\text{int\_red } R\#)$  for  $S$ , and  $(\text{dp } R)$  for  $D$ , of the following relation `hd_rules_graph` on rules, where `shift p` is the substitution mapping a variable  $x$  to the variable  $x+p$  (using a shift and a substitution is equivalent and no more difficult than using two substitutions):

Variable  $S$  : relation term.

Variable  $D$  : rules.

```
Definition hd_rules_graph a1 a2 := In a1 D /\ In a2 D
  /\ exists p, exists s, S (sub s (rhs a1)) (sub s (shift p (lhs a2))).
```

However, the graph  $\mathcal{G}(R)$  is generally not decidable. To address this problem, various decidable over-approximations have been introduced. The most common one is based on unification (module `AUnif`): there is an edge from  $l_1 \rightarrow s_1$  to  $l_2 \rightarrow s_2$  if  $\text{RENCAP}(s_1)$  and  $l_2$  are unifiable, where  $\text{RENCAP}(s_1)$  (module `ARenCap`) is like the cap of  $s_1$  defined in the previous section but with variables considered as aliens too and alien subterms replaced by fresh variables not occurring in  $l_2$  (Arts & Giesl, 2000). Note that, by definition of the cap, two occurrences of the same alien subterm are replaced by distinct fresh variables. Hence,  $\text{RENCAP}(s_1)$  is linear and its variables are distinct from those of  $l_2$ . The Coq formalization (module `ADPUnif`) is as follows ( $\ll$  is the notation for relation inclusion):

Variables  $R D$  : rules.

```
Definition connectable u v := unifiable (ren_cap R (S (maxvar v)) u) v.
```

```
Definition dpg_unif (r1 r2 : rule) :=
```

```
  In r1 D /\ In r2 D /\ connectable (rhs r1) (lhs r2).
```

```
Lemma dpg_unif_correct : hd_rules_graph (red R #) D << dpg_unif.
```

Now, to avoid the computation inside Coq of the strongly connected components of the chosen over-approximation of  $\mathcal{G}(R)$  (represented hereafter by a boolean function `approx`) and of their topological ordering, and also to allow the user to deal with various components at the same time, we introduce a notion of valid decomposition of the set of dependency pairs:

Variable `approx` : rule -> rule -> bool.

Notation `decomp` := (list rules).

```
Fixpoint valid_decomp (cs : decomp) : bool :=
```

```
  match cs with
  | nil => true
  | ci :: cs' => valid_decomp cs' &&
    forallb (fun b =>
      forallb (fun cj =>
        forallb (fun c => negb (approx b c)) cj)
        cs')
    ci
  end.
```

A decomposition  $(c_1, \dots, c_n)$  (the order is important) is valid if for all  $i$ , for every rule  $b$  in  $c_i$ , for all  $j > i$ , and for every rule  $c$  in  $c_j$ , there is no edge from  $b$  to  $c$ . Hence, we

can proceed by induction on the size  $n$  of the decomposition to prove the decomposition theorem under the following assumptions (module ADecomp):

Definition Graph  $x\ y := \text{approx } x\ y = \text{true}$ .

Variable approx\_correct : hd\_rules\_graph S D << Graph.

Lemma WF\_decomp :

```
forall (hypD : rules_preserve_vars D) (cs : decomp) (hyp1 : incl D (flat cs))
  (hyp2 : incl (flat cs) D) (hyp3 : valid_decomp cs = true)
  (hyp4 : lforall (fun ci => WF (hd_red_Mod S ci)) cs),
  WF (hd_red_Mod S D).
```

Indeed, if  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are two terminating relations, then  $R_1 \cup R_2$  terminates whenever  $R_1 R_2 \subseteq R_2 R_1$  (module Union), which is trivially the case here since  $R_1 R_2$  is empty (there is no edge from  $c_i$  to  $c_j$  if  $j > i$ ).

## 6. Reduction pairs

A general termination technique consists of checking that every rule is included in some *reduction ordering*, i.e. a well-founded rewrite relation, like, for instance, the recursive path ordering (Dershowitz, 1982) (module AMannaNess):

Variables (R : rules) (succ : relation term).

Definition reduction\_ordering := WF R /\ rewrite\_ordering R.

Definition compat := forall l r : term, In (mkRule l r) R -> succ l r.

Lemma manna\_ness : reduction\_ordering succ -> compat -> WF (red R).

This basic result can be extended to (top) rewriting modulo by using (weak) *reduction pairs* (Kusakari *et al.*, 1999), that is, pairs of relations ( $\succ, \succeq$ ) closed by substitution such that  $\succ$  is well-founded,  $\succeq \cdot \succ \subseteq \succ$  and  $\succeq$  (and  $\succ$ ) are closed by context (module ARelation):

Definition absorb A (R S : relation A) := S @ R << R.

Record Weak\_reduction\_pair : Type := mkWeak\_reduction\_pair {

```
  wp_succ : relation term;
  wp_succ_eq : relation term;
  wp_subs : substitution_closed wp_succ;
  wp_subs_eq : substitution_closed wp_succ_eq;
  wp_cont_eq : context_closed wp_succ_eq;
  wp_absorb : absorb wp_succ wp_succ_eq;
  wp_succ_wf : WF wp_succ }.
```

Lemma manna\_ness\_hd\_mod : forall wp : Weak\_reduction\_pair Sig,

```
  compat (wp_succ_eq wp) E -> compat (wp_succ wp) R -> WF (hd_red_mod E R).
```

More generally, if all rules are included in  $\succeq$ , then all rules included in  $\succ$  can be removed (Endrullis *et al.*, 2008). Reduction pairs can therefore be used to simplify termination problems. This is formalized in CoLoR by a functor (Chrzęszcz, 2003) taking as argument boolean functions representing some decidable under-approximations of the relations  $\succ$  and  $\succeq$  (module ARedPair):

Module Type WeakRedPair.

```
  Parameter Sig : Signature. Notation term := (@term Sig).
```

```

Parameter succ : relation term.
Parameter wf_succ : WF succ.
Parameter sc_succ : substitution_closed succ.
Parameter bsucc : term -> term -> bool.
Parameter bsucc_sub : rel bsucc << succ.
...
End WeakRedPair.

Module WeakRedPairProps (Import WP : WeakRedPair).
  Notation rule := (rule Sig). Notation rules := (rules Sig).
  Definition wp := mkWeak_reduction_pair
    sc_succ sc_succeq cc_succeq succ_succeq_compat wf_succ.
  Lemma WF_wp_hd_red_mod : forall E R,
    forallb (brule bsucceq) E = true ->
    forallb (brule bsucceq) R = true ->
    WF (hd_red_mod E (filter (brule (neg bsucc)) R)) ->
    WF (hd_red_mod E R).
End WeakRedPairProps.

```

This functor also provides high-level tactics (Delahaye, 2000) for applying its lemmas and automatically checking their conditions:

```

Ltac check_eq := vm_compute; refl.
Ltac do_prove_termination prove_cc_succ lemma := apply lemma;
  match goal with
  | |- context_closed _ => prove_cc_succ
  | |- WF _ => idtac
  | |- _ = _ => check_eq || fail "some rule is not in the ordering"
  end.
Ltac prove_termination prove_cc_succ :=
  let prove := do_prove_termination prove_cc_succ in
  match goal with
  | |- WF (red _) => prove WF_rp_red
  | |- WF (red_mod _ _) => prove WF_rp_red_mod
  | |- WF (hd_red_mod _ _) => prove WF_wp_hd_red_mod ...
  end.

```

The first tactic tries to prove a goal of the form  $\_ = \_$  by first reducing each side of the equality to their normal form using Coq efficient normalization procedure `vm_compute` (Grégoire & Leroy, 2002), and then by checking the syntactic equality of the resulting terms.

The second tactic takes as argument another tactic `prove_cc_succ` for checking that `succ` is closed by context, and the termination `lemma` to use. The generated subgoals of the form `WF _` are left unchanged (`idtac`), and the generated subgoals of the form  $\_ = \_$  are proved by using the first tactic.

Finally, the third tactic takes `prove_cc_succ` as argument and, depending on the form of the goal, calls the second tactic with the appropriate termination lemma (*e.g.* `WF_wp_hd_red_mod` for a relative top termination problem).

There are various ways to build reduction orderings/pairs. As already mentioned in Section 3.5, interpretation in some well-founded domain is a popular one (Manna & Ness, 1970).

Indeed, an interpretation  $I$  and a relation  $R$  on the domain of  $I$  provide a relation on terms by universally quantifying on all possible interpretations of variables (module `AWFMInterpretation`):

```
Definition IR : relation term :=
  fun t u => forall xint, R (term_int xint t) (term_int xint u).
```

Many properties satisfied by  $R$  are also satisfied by  $IR$ , in particular well-foundedness. Moreover,  $IR$  is closed by substitution. However, for  $IR$  to be closed by context, the interpretation of each symbol needs to be monotone wrt  $R$ :

```
Definition monotone := forall f, Vmonotone1 (fint I f) R.
```

```
Lemma IR_reduction_ordering : monotone -> WF R -> reduction_ordering IR.
```

Based on the notions of a reduction pair and of interpretation into some well-founded domain, a generic module (`AMonAlg`) of (extended) monotone algebras is defined, following the presentation of (Endrullis *et al.*, 2008), with support for total, relative and relative-top termination.

## 7. Polynomial interpretations

In this section, we present a formalization of a widely used class of interpretations on the well-founded domain of natural numbers: polynomial interpretations (Lankford, 1979; Contejean *et al.*, 2005).

Our current formalization of integer polynomials (module `Polynom`) is simple, but sufficient for our purpose since polynomials used in termination proofs are often small (degree and coefficients are often bounded by small constants like 1 or 2).

The type of polynomials depends on the maximum number  $n$  of variables. A polynomial is represented by a list of pairs made of an integer and a monomial, a monomial being a vector of size  $n$  made of the powers of each variable:

```
Notation monom := (vector nat).
```

```
Definition poly n := list (Z * monom n).
```

For instance, if  $n = 2$  and the variables are denoted by  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , then the monomial  $x_1^3 x_2$  is represented by the vector  $(3, 1)$ .

This representation is not canonical: a polynomial can be represented in various ways. It is however easy to compute the coefficient of a monomial:

```
Fixpoint coef n (m : monom n) (p : poly n) : Z :=
  match p with
  | nil => 0
  | cons (c,m') p' =>
    match monom_eq_dec m m' with
    | left _ => c + coef m p'
    | right _ => coef m p'
    end
  end
end.
```

The module `Polynom` then provides basic operations on polynomials: addition, subtraction, multiplication, power, composition and evaluation to an integer ( $\mathbb{Z}$ ) given values for variables.

Now, a polynomial interpretation consists of associating to every function symbol of arity  $n$ , an integer polynomial with  $n$  variables (module `APolyInt`).

**Definition** `PolyInterpretation` := forall f : Sig, poly (arity f).

Then, every term with  $n$  variables can be interpreted by an integer polynomial with  $n$  variables, by recursively composing the polynomials interpreting the function symbols occurring in the term. However, to define this polynomial, we need to know the number of variables in advance. To this end, we use an intermediate representation for terms where variables (which are represented by natural numbers) are bounded (module `ABterm`):

```
Variable k : nat.
Inductive bterm : Type :=
  | BVar : forall x : nat, x <= k -> bterm
  | BFun : forall f : Sig, vector bterm (arity f) -> bterm.

Fixpoint inject_term (t : term) : maxvar_le k t -> bterm := ...

Variable PI : PolyInterpretation.
Fixpoint termpoly k (t : bterm k) : poly (S k) :=
  match t with
  | BVar x H => ((1)%Z, mxi (gt_le_S (le_lt_n_Sm H))) :: nil
  | BFun f v => pcomp (PI f) (Vmap (@termpoly k) v)
  end.
```

where `mxi H` is the monomial  $x_i$  if  $H$  is a proof of  $i < n$ .

Now, for proving termination of some rewrite system, the polynomial interpretation must satisfy two conditions:

- polynomials must be monotone in each variable;
- for every rule  $l \rightarrow r$ , the interpretation of  $l$  (polynomial  $P_l$ ), must be strictly bigger than the interpretation of  $r$  (polynomial  $P_r$ ), for all evaluations of variables in  $\mathbb{N}$ .

The latter problem corresponds directly to the positiveness test for the polynomial  $P_l - P_r - 1 \geq 0$ , which is undecidable in general. We follow the usual approach taken in most termination provers and use absolute positiveness check for that purpose *i.e.*, a polynomial is absolutely positive if all its coefficients are non-negative (Contejean *et al.*, 2005).

We also use a simple test for (strict) monotonicity, by testing that each monomial  $x_i$  is (strictly) positive. However, we plan to implement more general conditions, especially for polynomials of degree two.

```
Program Definition rulePoly_ge rule :=
  let l := lhs rule in
  let r := rhs rule in
  let m := max (maxvar l) (maxvar r) in
  termpoly (@inject_term _ m l _) - termpoly (@inject_term _ m r _).
```

`Definition rulePoly_gt rule := rulePoly_ge rule - 1.`

The minus ( $-$ ) operator and the constant 1 above are overwritten notations for polynomial operations.

Then, given a polynomial interpretation, one can define an instance of a monotone algebra (`AMonAlg`), as described in the preceding section, and use the associated tactics to simplify termination problems, by removing strictly decreasing rules.

## 8. Example of automatically generated termination proof

In this section, we present *in extenso* an example of Coq script automatically generated by Rainbow from some simple termination certificate.

The rewrite system that we consider is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minus}(x, \text{zero}) &\rightarrow x \\ \text{minus}(\text{succ}(x), \text{succ}(y)) &\rightarrow \text{minus}(x, y) \\ \text{quot}(\text{zero}, \text{succ}(y)) &\rightarrow \text{zero} \\ \text{quot}(\text{succ}(x), \text{succ}(y)) &\rightarrow \text{succ}(\text{quot}(\text{minus}(x, y), \text{succ}(y))) \end{aligned}$$

This system computes the quotient of two natural numbers encoded in unary notation. This system is not simply terminating (by taking  $y = \text{succ}(x)$ , the right-hand side of the fourth rule can be embedded in the corresponding left-hand side). It can however be dealt with by a simplification ordering (Dershowitz & Jouannaud, 1990) after applying some argument filtering (Arts & Giesl, 2000) (by erasing the first argument of `minus`), another simple but very useful technique that is formalized in the module `AFilter` but that we will not explain in this paper. Hence, we do the argument filtering by hand and consider the resulting system instead:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minus}(\text{zero}) &\rightarrow \text{zero} \\ \text{minus}(\text{succ}(x)) &\rightarrow \text{succ}(\text{minus}(x)) \\ \text{quot}(\text{zero}, \text{succ}(y)) &\rightarrow \text{zero} \\ \text{quot}(\text{succ}(x), \text{succ}(y)) &\rightarrow \text{succ}(\text{quot}(\text{minus}(x), \text{succ}(y))) \end{aligned}$$

and the following termination certificate (in the Rainbow format with some XML tags removed for the sake of simplicity; note that Rainbow also supports the CPF format used by many termination provers) that could be automatically generated by some termination prover:

```
<dp>
<decomp><graph><hde/></graph>
<component>
  <rules><!-- minus(succ(x)) -> minus(x) -->...</rules>
  <manna_ness>
  <poly_int>
    <fun>zero</fun>
    <polynomial><!-- 0 -->...</polynomial>
    <fun>succ</fun>
    <polynomial><!-- 1.x_1 + 2 -->...</polynomial>
    <fun>minus</fun>
```

```

    <polynomial><!-- 1.x_1 + 1 -->...</polynomial>
    <fun>quot</fun>
    <polynomial><!-- 1.x_1.x_2 + 1.x_1 + 1.x_2 -->...</polynomial>
  </poly_int>
  <trivial/>
</manna_ness>
</component>
<component>
  <rules><!-- quot(succ(x),succ(y)) -> minus(x) -->...</rules>
</component>
<component>
  <rules><!--quot(succ(x),succ(y)) -> quot(minus(x),succ(y))-->...</rules>
  <manna_ness>
    <poly_int>
      <fun>zero</fun>
      <polynomial><!-- 0 -->...</polynomial>
      <fun>succ</fun>
      <polynomial><!-- 1.x_1 + 2 -->...</polynomial>
      <fun>minus</fun>
      <polynomial><!-- 1.x_1 + 1 -->...</polynomial>
      <fun>quot</fun>
      <polynomial><!-- 1.x_1.x_2 + 1.x_1 + 1.x_2 -->...</polynomial>
    </poly_int>
    <trivial/>
  </manna_ness>
</component>
</decomp>
</dp>

```

This certificate proposes to prove the termination of the system by the following procedure:

- 1 apply the dependency pair transformation,
- 2 decompose the resulting problem into 3 components:
  - (a) eliminate all the rules of the first component that strictly decrease in the given polynomial interpretation, resulting in an empty set of rules (XML tag `<trivial/>`),
  - (b) do nothing with the second component since it contains no loop in the dependency graph,
  - (c) eliminate all the rules of the third component that strictly decrease in the given polynomial interpretation, resulting in an empty set of rules (XML tag `<trivial/>`).

The Coq script generated by Rainbow is the following. It first defines the signature and the set of rules:

```

Require Import (* necessary CoLoR modules *) ...
Open Scope nat_scope.

(* set of function symbols *)
Module M. Inductive symb : Type := minus : symb | ... End M.

```



```

Definition beq_symb (f g : M.symb) : bool :=
  match f, g with M.minus, M.minus => true | ... | _, _ => false end.
Lemma beq_symb_ok : forall f g : M.symb, beq_symb f g = true <-> f = g.
  Proof. beq_symb_ok. Qed.
Definition ar (s : M.symb) : nat := match s with M.minus => 1 | ... end.

(* signature 1 *)
Module S1.
  Definition Sig := ASignature.mkSignature ar beq_symb_ok.
  Definition Fs : list Sig := M.zero::M.succ::M.quot::M.minus::nil.
  Lemma Fs_ok : forall f : Sig, In f Fs. Proof. list_ok. Qed.
  Definition some_symbol : Sig := M.minus.
  Lemma arity_some_symbol : arity some_symbol > 0. Proof. check_gt. Qed.
End S1.

(* rewrite rules *)
Definition E : ATrs.rules S1.Sig := nil.
Definition R : ATrs.rules S1.Sig := @ATrs.mkRule S1.Sig
  (@Fun S1.Sig M.minus (Vcons (@Fun S1.Sig M.zero Vnil) Vnil))
  (@Fun S1.Sig M.zero Vnil) :: ... :: nil.
Definition rel := ATrs.red_mod E R.

  Then, it defines each parameter required in the termination proof:

(* graph decomposition 1 *)
Definition cs1 : list (list (@ATrs.rule S1.Sig)) :=
  (@ATrs.mkRule S1.Sig (@Fun S1.Sig M.minus
    (Vcons (@Fun S1.Sig M.succ (Vcons (@Var S1.Sig 0) Vnil)) Vnil))
    (@Fun S1.Sig M.minus (Vcons (@Var S1.Sig 0) Vnil))
    :: nil) :: ... :: nil.

(* polynomial interpretation 1 *)
Module PIS1.
  Definition sig := S1.Sig.
  Definition trsInt (f : S1.Sig) :=
    match f as f return poly (@ASignature.arity sig f) with
    | M.zero => (0%Z, Vnil) :: nil | ... end.
  Lemma trsInt_wm : PolyWeakMonotone trsInt.
    Proof. PolyWeakMonotone S1.Fs S1.Fs_ok. Qed.
End PIS1.
Module PI1 := PolyInt PIS1.

(* reduction ordering 1 *)
Module WP1 := WP_MonAlg PI1.MonotoneAlgebra.
Module WPR1.
  Include (WeakRedPairProps WP1).
  Ltac prove_cc := PI1.prove_cc_succ_by_refl S1.Fs S1.Fs_ok.
  Ltac prove_termin := prove_termination prove_cc.
End WPR1.

```

```
(* polynomial interpretation 2 *) ...
(* reduction ordering 2 *) ...
```

Finally, it generates a short proof script for the termination theorem, each termination technique used in the certificate giving rise to one tactic call:

```
(* termination proof *)
Lemma termination : WF rel.
Proof.
  unfold rel.
  dp_trans.
  let D := fresh "D" in set_rules_to D;
  graph_decomp S1.Sig (hde_bool D) cs1; subst D.
  hde_bool_correct.
  right. WPR1.prove_termin.
  termination_trivial.
  left. co_scc.
  right. WPR2.prove_termin.
  termination_trivial.
Qed.
```

`hde_bool` is the over-approximation based on the equality of top symbols, and `co_scc` is the tactic taking care of acyclic components.

## 9. Conclusion

In this paper we presented the outline of our formalization of the theory of well-founded rewrite relations (Dershowitz & Jouannaud, 1990; TeReSe, 2003) in the proof assistant Coq (Coq Development Team, 2009). This includes some key notions (dependency pairs, dependency graph decomposition and reduction pairs) that are at the heart of modern state-of-the-art automated termination provers (Giesl *et al.*, 2006; Hirokawa & Middeldorp, 2007).

We also showed how this formalization is successfully used in the termination competition (Termination Competition) for automatically verifying correctness of termination certificates generated by those automated termination provers (Certification Problem Format, 2010).

We think that this work and the related approaches described in Section 2 should allow the safe use of external termination provers in proof assistants, and the development of safe proof assistants where functions and predicates can be defined by rewrite rules (Dowek *et al.*, 2003; Blanqui, 2005; Walukiewicz-Chrzęszcz & Chrzęszcz, 2008; Boespflug, 2010), which is one of the solutions proposed so far to increase usability of dependent types in proof assistants. The other, complementary, solution is the integration of certified decision procedures (Blanqui *et al.*, 2007; Blanqui *et al.*, 2008; Strub, 2010; Strub, 2010).

Other termination techniques have already been formalized in CoLoR that are not described here: argument filtering (directory `Filter`) (Arts & Giesl, 2000), multiset ordering (directory `Util/Multiset`), higher-order recursive path ordering (directory `HORPO`)

(Jouannaud & Rubio, 1999; Koprowski, 2009; Koprowski, 2008), matrix and arctic interpretations (directory `MatrixInt`) (Koprowski & Waldmann, 2008; Koprowski & Zantema, 2008), semantic and root labelling (Zantema, 1995; Sternagel & Middeldorp, 2008) (directory `SemLab`), loops (directory `NonTermin`), subterm criterion (directory `SubtermCrit`) (Hirokawa & Middeldorp, 2007), and usable rules (directory `DP`) (Arts & Giesl, 2000; Giesl *et al.*, 2003; Hirokawa & Middeldorp, 2007).

The formalizations of the subterm criterion and usable rules are interesting since their classical proofs do not seem convertible into direct constructive proofs. Their formalization in Coq therefore requires the use of classical logic and the Axiom of Choice. It will then be interesting to compare it with the same development in Isabelle/HOL (Sternagel & Thiemann, 2010).

We also started to formalize Rainbow itself in Coq in order to get an efficient standalone certificate checker by using Coq extraction mechanism (Letouzey, 2002).

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