

Disjunctive Termination for Affluent Families

Vincent van Oostrom 


University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom

Abstract

We introduce *affluence*, a condition on composition that entails a finite *family* of rewrite relations is terminating iff its *union* is (disjunctive termination), and relate it to *jumping*. Our proofs transform infinite reductions in the family union into such in family members, by induction on family size.

2012 ACM Subject Classification Theory of computation → Equational logic and rewriting

Keywords and phrases Rewriting, disjunctive termination, affluence, modularity

Acknowledgements We thank Carsten Fuhs, Thomas Powell, reviewers for comments, Nachum Dershowitz for feedback and Georg Moser, Julian Parsert for work on application. CC by 4.0 . This note evolved in 4 acts: (I) [Preponement](#) (2006) introduced the *proof-by-picture* in Fig. 1, obtaining Geser’s Cor. 5(2) (*transitivity*) and Doornbos and von Karger’s Cor. 12(1) (*jumping*) via the *contrapositive* of that *non-termination* of a doubleton family *transfers* to one of its members; (II) [Preponement](#) (2011) recast the proof as a *transformation* into *progressive* reductions (Def. 3); (III) [More Modular Termination](#) (2023) showed Podelski and Rybalchenko’s Cor. 8(3) and Dawson, Dershowitz and Goré’s Cor. 14(1) follow from that reductions in *finite* families can be *upgraded*, *inductively* using *promotion* for *doubleton* families (Def. 3), and introduced *affluence* (betwixt transitivity and jumping; Sec. 2). It showed how to *blend* promotion results, *modularising* old and suggesting new blends (Cor. 16); (IV) Here, we make the proof of promotion uniform, dependent on *restricting* rewrite relations to the objects *in* (\downarrow ; Def. 2) and *along* (\downarrow ; Def. 9) a reduction.

1 Introduction

We model program execution by means of rewrite systems, where we leave the objects abstract in order to not commit to any particular execution model. Suppose a program P comprises a finite family $(P)_I$ of program modules P_i for $i \in I$, such that the rewrite relation \rightarrow modelling P is the union $\bigcup (\rightarrow)_I$ of the finite family $(\rightarrow)_I$ of rewrite relations modelling $(P)_I$. It is good science to aim for modularity, here, to try to show termination of P as a consequence of termination of (each module in) the family $(P)_I$. Naïvely taken, this fails: both $a \triangleright b$ and $b \blacktriangleright a$ are terminating, but their union $\rightarrow := \triangleright \cup \blacktriangleright$ is not, allowing the reduction cycle $a \rightarrow b \rightarrow a$. The example exhibits feature interaction: composing steps from the different modules \triangleright and \blacktriangleright was not accounted for, and indeed led to non-termination. Therefore, to account for that executions of P arise by composing executions of its modules in $(P)_I$, it is natural to make additional *assumptions on compositions*. We discuss two such assumptions, *affluence* and *jumping*, showing statements for them of shape: for a finite family $(\rightarrow)_I$ and $\rightarrow := \bigcup (\rightarrow)_I$, if there’s a \rightarrow -reduction γ having property \mathcal{P} , then there’s a \rightarrow_i -reduction δ having property \mathcal{Q} for *some* $i \in I$. Our proofs *transform* γ into δ and are by *induction* on the family size. Letting both \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{Q} express that the reduction is infinite, it then follows by contraposition that \rightarrow is terminating if $(\rightarrow)_I$ is, giving our main applications.

We use arrow-like notations $\rightarrow, \triangleright, \blacktriangleright, \dots$ to denote *rewrite* relations, binary endorelations, and $\gamma, \delta, \epsilon, \dots$ to range over *reductions*, sequences of consecutive steps of such, denoted by repeated-arrows like $\Rightarrow, \blackRightarrow, \triangleright\triangleright, \dots$. See the literature, *e.g.*, [8], for more on rewriting.

2 Affluent families

► **Definition 1** ([5, Def. 2.3]). $\triangleright, \blacktriangleright$ is affluent if $\triangleright \cdot \blacktriangleright \subseteq \triangleright \cup \blacktriangleright$.

Enforcing affluence bars the monster in Sec. 1 since $a \rightarrow a$ though $a \triangleright b \blacktriangleright a$. Affluence is *rich*: (i) If $\blacktriangleright = \triangleright$ it expresses *transitivity*; (ii) confluence (*flowing together*) $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq \rightarrow \cdot \leftarrow$ is strengthened by affluence (*flowing toward*, a river being a tributary), $\leftarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq \leftarrow \cup \rightarrow$, when instantiating \triangleright and \blacktriangleright with inverse reductions \leftarrow respectively reductions \rightarrow ; (iii) For less-than-or-equal \leq on the natural numbers the assumption $n \geq \cdot \leq m$ holds for *any* n, m as $0 \leq n, m$, so affluence expresses *totality*: $n \geq m$ or $n \leq m$; (iv) The prefix order \sqsubseteq on finite \rightarrow -reductions is affluent, *i.e.* \sqsubseteq, \sqsubseteq is, iff \rightarrow is *deterministic* (cf. the [CompCert formalisation](#)). The intuition is that affluence affords to compress consecutive out-of-order steps to yield a reduction that is progressive (\blacktriangleright -steps occur before \triangleright -steps in the reduction) and preferential (given an object in the reduction, \blacktriangleright -steps from it are preferred over \triangleright -steps). To generalise that from two rewrite relations \blacktriangleright and \triangleright to finite families later, we relativize affluence.

► **Definition 2.** Given a \rightarrow -reduction γ , $\upharpoonright\gamma$ denotes restricting a rewrite relation to objects in γ and steps to be co-initial to some step in γ , and $\blacktriangleright, \triangleright$ is affluent for a \rightarrow -reduction γ if $\blacktriangleright \upharpoonright\gamma, \triangleright \upharpoonright\gamma$ is affluent, where $\rightarrow = \blacktriangleright \cup \triangleright$.

Affluence entails affluence for any reduction γ : if $a ((\triangleright \upharpoonright\gamma) \cdot (\blacktriangleright \upharpoonright\gamma)) b$, then a, b in γ and $a (\triangleright \cdot \blacktriangleright) b$ by definition of restriction so $a (\triangleright \cup \blacktriangleright) b$ by assumption, so $a ((\triangleright \upharpoonright\gamma) \cup (\blacktriangleright \upharpoonright\gamma)) b$ by definition. Observe that if $\rightarrow \upharpoonright\gamma = \rightarrow$ then \rightarrow has at most one normal form, which if it exists is the target of γ and thus, if γ is infinite any maximal reduction¹ is infinite too.

► **Definition 3.** A reduction δ is progressive if \blacktriangleright -steps precede \triangleright -steps in δ except possibly for an infinite \blacktriangleright -tail, and preferential if \triangleright -steps in δ are from \blacktriangleright -normal forms. For $\rightarrow \upharpoonright\gamma = \rightarrow = \blacktriangleright \cup \triangleright$ a reduction γ upgrades to δ , denoted by $\gamma \nearrow \delta$ (promotes to δ , denoted by $\gamma \nearrow \delta$) if δ is co-initial to γ , maximal and progressive (and preferential).

Observe if $\gamma \nearrow \delta$ then δ has shape $\blacktriangleright \cdot \triangleright^\alpha$ or $\blacktriangleright \cdot \triangleright^\omega$ for $\alpha \leq \omega$ with $\alpha = \omega$ if γ is infinite.

► **Lemma 4.** For a reduction γ with $\rightarrow \upharpoonright\gamma = \rightarrow = \blacktriangleright \cup \triangleright$ and $\blacktriangleright, \triangleright$ affluent, $\gamma \nearrow \hat{\gamma}$ for some $\hat{\gamma}$.

Proof. Under the assumptions, let δ be a maximal \blacktriangleright -reduction co-initial to γ . If δ is infinite, then $\gamma \nearrow \hat{\gamma}$ for $\hat{\gamma} := \delta$. Otherwise, we construct a \triangleright -reduction ϵ by initially setting it to the empty reduction on the target of δ and repeating as long as its target is not that of γ and in \blacktriangleright -normal form, to append to ϵ some \triangleright -step to an object that is either a \blacktriangleright -normal form or non- \blacktriangleright -terminating, which we claim exists. ■ If ϵ is infinite, then per construction $\gamma \nearrow \delta \cdot \epsilon$, so we set $\hat{\gamma}$ to $\delta \cdot \epsilon$, as visualised in Fig. 1 for reductions δ and ϵ , with \blacktriangleright marking \blacktriangleright -normal forms in γ ; ■ If ϵ is finite, its target is either non- \blacktriangleright -terminating or the target of γ and we have $\gamma \nearrow \hat{\gamma}$ when setting $\hat{\gamma}$ to $\delta \cdot \epsilon$, in the former case followed by any infinite \blacktriangleright -reduction.

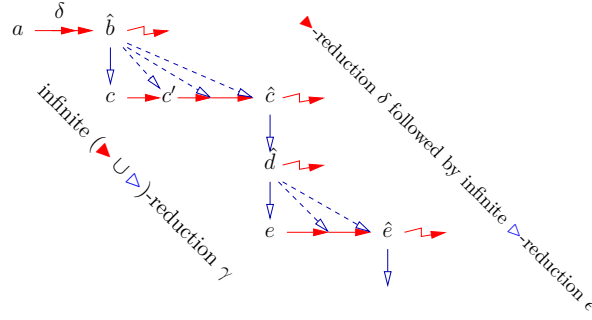
To prove the claim, note an object \hat{b} being in \blacktriangleright -normal form and not the target of γ , has a step $\hat{b} \triangleright c$ for some c . If c is in \blacktriangleright -normal form we return the \triangleright -step to it. Otherwise, $c \blacktriangleright c'$ for some c' . By $\hat{b} \triangleright c \blacktriangleright c'$ and affluence, we have $\hat{b} \triangleright c'$ as we cannot have the other disjunct² by \hat{b} being in \blacktriangleright -normal form. Repeating this for c' instead of c , we eventually end up in the first case or find an infinite reduction $c \blacktriangleright c' \blacktriangleright \dots$ so return the \triangleright -step to c . ◀

Assuming a non-terminating \rightarrow -reduction γ were to exist, restricting affluent $\blacktriangleright, \triangleright$ to γ allows one to conclude to non-termination of \blacktriangleright or \triangleright by Lem. 4 (using the observations), so:

► **Corollary 5.** Let $\rightarrow := \blacktriangleright \cup \triangleright$. $\blacktriangleright, \triangleright$ are terminating iff \rightarrow is, if: 1. $\blacktriangleright, \triangleright$ is affluent [2, 1]; 2. $\rightarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq \rightarrow$ (transitivity) [3, pp. 31,32][2, 8, 6, 1].

¹ A reduction is *maximal* if it is infinite or ends in a normal form [8]. *Computations* in [6] are maximal.

² That is, we cannot have the other *operand of the union* in the definition of affluence, Def. 1 here $\hat{b} \blacktriangleright \dots$



■ **Figure 1** Transformation of γ into $\delta \cdot \epsilon$ of shape $\blacktriangleright \cdot \blacktriangleright^\omega$ in the proof of Lem. 4 with $\gamma \not\rightarrow \delta \cdot \epsilon$

We extend the above to finite families $(\rightarrow)_I$ of rewrite relations with I ordered by $<$.

► **Definition 6.** For $\mathcal{F} := (\rightarrow)_I$ a family of rewrite relations, \mathcal{F} is *affluent* if $\rightarrow_{>i} \cdot \rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow := \bigcup \mathcal{F}$ for $i \in I$, and *affluent* for a reduction γ if $(\rightarrow \upharpoonright \gamma)_I$ is *affluent*.

Affluence entails affluence for any reduction γ and $\bigcup (\rightarrow \upharpoonright \gamma)_I = (\bigcup \mathcal{F}) \upharpoonright \gamma$, by distributivity. From now on we let index-sets range over intervals $[\ell, n]$ of natural numbers. A reduction δ is *progressive* if \rightarrow_i -steps precede \rightarrow_j -steps in δ for $i < j$, except possibly for an infinite \rightarrow_k -tail for some k , so has shape $\rightarrow_\ell \dots \rightarrow_n (\cdot \rightarrow_k^\omega)$ with the last part optional, and *preferential* if from any source of a \rightarrow_j -step in δ there's no \rightarrow_i -step, for $i < j$.

► **Theorem 7.** Let γ be a reduction with $\rightarrow \upharpoonright \gamma = \rightarrow = \bigcup \mathcal{F}$ with $\mathcal{F} := (\rightarrow)_{[\ell, n]}$ and let \nearrow be defined as in Def. 3 under these assumptions. If \mathcal{F} is *affluent*, then $\gamma \nearrow \epsilon$ for some ϵ .

Proof. By induction on $n - \ell$ with base case Lem. 4. Otherwise, the \rightarrow -reduction γ can be seen as a $(\blacktriangleright \cup \blacktriangleleft)$ -reduction for $\blacktriangleright := \rightarrow_\ell$ and $\blacktriangleleft := \bigcup (\rightarrow)_J$ with $J := [\ell + 1, n]$. Then $\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft$ is *affluent*, so $\gamma \nearrow \hat{\gamma}$ by Lem. 4 with $\hat{\gamma}$ of shape either $\blacktriangleright \cdot \blacktriangleleft^\omega$ or $\blacktriangleright \cdot \blacktriangleleft^\alpha$ for $\alpha \leq \omega$. In either case let δ be the \blacktriangleleft -subreduction of $\hat{\gamma}$. The family $(\rightarrow \upharpoonright \delta)_J$ is *affluent* for δ since not only are the objects in δ objects in γ by $\gamma \nearrow \hat{\gamma}$, they are (when source of a step in δ) in $\blacktriangleright \upharpoonright \gamma$ -normal form, entailing $(\rightarrow \upharpoonright \delta)_J$ -steps compose to other such, cannot compose to \blacktriangleright -steps (Cf. the proof of the claim in Lem. 4, footnote 2). Hence the IH applies to δ yielding $\delta \nearrow \hat{\delta}$ with $\hat{\delta}$ of shape $\rightarrow_{\ell+1} \dots \rightarrow_n (\cdot \rightarrow_k^\omega)$ with the last infinite part (for some $\ell + 1 \leq k \leq n$) optional. Setting ϵ to the reduction obtained by substituting³ $\hat{\delta}$ for δ in $\hat{\gamma}$ we conclude to $\gamma \nearrow \epsilon$. ◀

► **Corollary 8.** Let $\mathcal{F} := (\rightarrow)_I$ and $\rightarrow := \bigcup \mathcal{F}$. 1. \mathcal{F} is *terminating* iff \rightarrow is, for *affluent* \mathcal{F} ; 2. $\mathcal{F} = (\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft, \gg)$ is *terminating* iff \rightarrow is, if $(\blacktriangleleft \cdot \blacktriangleright) \cup (\gg \cdot \blacktriangleright) \cup (\gg \cdot \blacktriangleleft) \subseteq \rightarrow$ [1, Thm. 2]; 3. \mathcal{F} is *terminating* iff \rightarrow is, if $\rightarrow \cdot \rightarrow \subseteq \rightarrow$ (transitivity; disjunctive termination) [6].

Whereas Cor. 8(3) cannot be proven directly from Cor. 5(2) **by induction** on family size, as argued on [7, p. 1218], it does not follow as implied there that one can't proceed by induction: we showed Thm. 7 from Lem. 4 **inductively**, having the former as consequences.

3 Jumping families

Sec. 2 was written such that its development (Def. 2, Def. 3, Lem. 4, Def. 6, Thm. 7) is preserved when **replacing** *affluence* and \upharpoonright everywhere by *jumping* and $|$, both defined next, where $|$ relaxes restriction \upharpoonright (Def. 2) to accommodate that jumping is *weaker*⁴ than affluence.

³ We use the convention that concatenating to an infinite reduction yields the infinite reduction.

⁴ It can be further weakened to *yumping*, by adding $\blacktriangleright \cdot \rightarrow^\omega$ as a third disjunct to its right-hand side.

► **Definition 9.** $\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft$ is jumping if $\blacktriangleright \cdot \blacktriangleleft \subseteq \blacktriangleleft \cup (\blacktriangleright \cdot \rightarrow)$ for $\rightarrow := \blacktriangleright \cup \blacktriangleleft$ [2, 1]. For \rightarrow -reduction γ , $|\gamma$ restricts a rewrite relation to objects c along γ , i.e. to objects c such that the source of γ reduces to c and c reduces to the target of γ (if any) or is not terminating.

Jumping entails jumping for any reduction γ using that if $\delta : a \rightarrow b$ for a, b along γ then all c in δ are along γ . If $\rightarrow|\gamma = \rightarrow$, only the target of γ (if any) can be a normal form, since if c is non-terminating, then *some* d with $c \rightarrow d$ is non-terminating too.

► **Lemma 10.** For reduction γ with $\rightarrow|\gamma = \rightarrow = \blacktriangleright \cup \blacktriangleleft$ and $\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft$ jumping, $\gamma \not\rightarrow \hat{\gamma}$ for some $\hat{\gamma}$.

Proof. With the above replacements, the proof is that of Lem. 4 including it being illustrated by Fig. 1, where \blacktriangleleft now marks \blacktriangleright -normal forms *along* γ , not necessarily *in* γ , cf. [5, Fig. 7]. ◀

► **Example 11.** $\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft$ given by $a' \blacktriangleleft a$ and $\gamma : a \blacktriangleleft b \blacktriangleright c$ and $\epsilon : a \blacktriangleright a' \blacktriangleright a' \blacktriangleright \dots$, is jumping but not affluent: γ promotes (only) to ϵ with objects of γ all *along* γ , not all *in* γ (a' isn't).

► **Corollary 12.** Let $\rightarrow := \blacktriangleright \cup \blacktriangleleft$. 1. $\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft$ are terminating iff \rightarrow is, for jumping $\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft$ [2]; 2. $a \blacktriangleright \cdot \blacktriangleleft^\omega$ if a is \blacktriangleright -terminating but not \rightarrow -terminating, and $\blacktriangleleft \cdot \blacktriangleright \subseteq \blacktriangleright \cdot \blacktriangleleft$ (\diamond) [4, Lem. 51].

Proof. 2. If $a \rightarrow^\omega \not\rightarrow \hat{\gamma}$ then $\hat{\gamma}$ is not of shape $a \blacktriangleright \cdot \blacktriangleleft \cdot \blacktriangleright^\omega$ as \diamond entails $\blacktriangleleft \cdot \blacktriangleright \subseteq \blacktriangleright \cdot \blacktriangleleft$. ◀

Call a family \mathcal{F} *jumping* [1] if $\rightarrow_{>i} \cdot \rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow_{>i} \cup (\rightarrow_i \cdot \rightarrow_{\geq i})$ for $i \in I$.⁵

► **Theorem 13.** Let γ be a reduction with $\rightarrow|\gamma = \rightarrow = \bigcup \mathcal{F}$ with $\mathcal{F} := (\rightarrow)_{[\ell, n]}$ and let \nearrow be defined as in Def. 3 under these assumptions. If \mathcal{F} is jumping, then $\gamma \nearrow \epsilon$ for some ϵ .

Proof. With the above replacements, the proof is that of Thm. 7, using Lem. 10 instead of 4 with the IH applicable since $(\rightarrow|\delta)_J$ -steps compose to other such by J being a *suffix* of I . ◀

► **Corollary 14.** Let $\mathcal{F} := (\rightarrow)_I$, $\rightarrow := \bigcup \mathcal{F}$. 1. \mathcal{F} is terminating iff \rightarrow is, for jumping \mathcal{F} [1]; 2. $\mathcal{F} = (\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft, \gg)$ is terminating iff \rightarrow is, if $(\blacktriangleleft \cup \gg) \cdot \blacktriangleright \subseteq (\blacktriangleleft \cup \gg) \cup (\blacktriangleright \cdot \rightarrow^*)$ and $\gg \cdot \blacktriangleleft \subseteq \gg \cup (\blacktriangleleft \cdot (\blacktriangleleft \cup \gg)^*)$ [1, Thm. 8].

4 Blending Affine and Jumping Families

Blending families [1] is limited only by (correctness of) one's illusion. We give examples.

► **Lemma 15.** Let γ be an \mathcal{F} -reduction for $\mathcal{F} := (\rightarrow)_I$ and $I := [\ell, n]$, and let $\rightarrow := \bigcup \mathcal{F}$. $\gamma \nearrow \epsilon$ for some ϵ , if: 1. $\rightarrow_{>i} \cdot \rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow_{>\ell} \cup (\rightarrow_\ell \cdot \rightarrow)$ for $\ell \leq i \leq n$ (affluence $_\wedge$); or 2. $\blacktriangleright_i, \rightarrow_{>i}$ is affluent for all i (partite), for ϵ a \mathcal{G} -reduction ϵ ,⁶ with $\mathcal{G} := (\blacktriangleright)_{[\ell, n]}$ and $\blacktriangleright_i := \rightarrow_i^+$ for $i < n$ and $\blacktriangleright_n := \rightarrow_n$; or 3. $\rightarrow_{>i} \cdot \rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow_{>\ell} \cup \rightarrow_i^+ \cup (\rightarrow_\ell \cdot \rightarrow)$ for $\ell \leq i < n$ (partite $_\wedge$).

Proof. 1. γ can be seen as a $(\rightarrow_\ell|\gamma, \rightarrow_{>\ell}|\gamma)$ -reduction. By assumption and Lem. 10, $\gamma \not\rightarrow \hat{\gamma}$ for some $\hat{\gamma}$. Let δ be the $\rightarrow_{>\ell}|\gamma$ -subreduction of $\hat{\gamma}$. Viewed as a $(\rightarrow_{>\ell}|\gamma)\upharpoonright\delta$ -reduction, Thm. 7 yields $\delta \nearrow \hat{\delta}$ for some $\hat{\delta}$, and we conclude by setting ϵ to $\hat{\gamma}$ in which δ is replaced by $\hat{\delta}$. Thm. 7 is applicable to δ since the second disjunct of affluence $_\wedge$ cannot hold, reducing it to affluence: if $a \rightarrow_\ell c \rightarrow b$ for a, b in δ , with a the source of some $(\rightarrow_{>\ell}|\gamma)$ -step in δ , then a, b and hence c would be along γ by δ being part of $\hat{\gamma}$, contradicting that a be in $\rightarrow_\ell|\gamma$ -normal form per $\gamma \not\rightarrow \hat{\gamma}$. 2. Adaptating the proof of Thm. 7 using *bait and switch* in the induction: a $\rightarrow_{\geq i}$ -reduction γ (the bait) can be seen as a $(\blacktriangleright_i|\gamma, \rightarrow_{>i}|\gamma)$ -reduction (the switch) since $\rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow_i^+$. By assumption and Lem. 4 that promotes to some $\hat{\gamma}$, from which we conclude by applying the IH to its $\rightarrow_{>i}|\gamma$ -subreduction, yielding ϵ ; 3. As for 1 but using 2 instead of Thm. 7. ◀

⁵ We based jumping of $(\rightarrow)_{[\ell, n]}$ on that of $(\rightarrow)_{[\ell+1, n]}$. For basing it on $(\rightarrow)_{[\ell, n-1]}$ see [1, Thm. 7, Cor. 20].

⁶ Though objects in ϵ must be in γ , this no longer holds if we unfold its \rightarrow_i^+ -steps into single \rightarrow_i -steps.

► **Corollary 16.** $\mathcal{F} := (\rightarrow)_I$ is terminating iff $\rightarrow := \bigcup \mathcal{F}$ is, if: 1. *affluence_↗*; or 2. *partite*; or 3. *partite_↗* [1, Thm. 22]; or 4. $\mathcal{F} = (\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft, \gg)$ and $(\blacktriangleleft \cup \gg) \cdot \blacktriangleright \subseteq \blacktriangleleft \cup \gg \cup (\blacktriangleright \cdot (\blacktriangleright \cup \blacktriangleleft \cup \gg)^*)$ (*jumping₃*) [1, Thm. 4]; or 5. for some $k \leq n$, $\rightarrow_{>i} \cdot \rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow_{>0} \cup (\rightarrow_0 \cdot \rightarrow)$ for $i < k$, and $\rightarrow_{>i} \cdot \rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow_{>i} \cup (\rightarrow_i \cdot \rightarrow_{\geq i})$ for $k \leq i < n$ (*affluence_↗*); or 6. for some $k \leq n$, $\rightarrow_{>i} \cdot \rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow_{>i} \cup \rightarrow_i^+ \cup (\rightarrow_0 \cdot \rightarrow)$ for $i < k$, and $\rightarrow_{>i} \cdot \rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow_{>i} \cup (\rightarrow_i \cdot \rightarrow_{\geq i})$ for $k \leq i < n$ (*partite_↗*) [1, Thm. 28].

► **Example 17.** $\rightarrow_{>i} \cdot \rightarrow_i \subseteq \rightarrow \cup (\rightarrow_i \cdot \rightarrow_{\geq i})$ for all i , may seem a harmless blend of affluence and jumping, but though it holds for the terminating family $\mathcal{F} := (\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft, \gg)$ [1, Ex. 9(a)] given by $b \blacktriangleright d$, $c \blacktriangleleft d \blacktriangleleft a \blacktriangleleft b$, and $a \gg d$, $b \gg c$, $\bigcup \mathcal{F}$ is non-terminating: $a \gg d \blacktriangleleft a$.⁷

5 Conclusions

By modularising (factoring through promotion Def. 3) and unifying (transitivity, affluence, jumping via restriction (Defs. 2 and 9)) proofs, we related disjointed results on disjunctive termination [3, 2, 6, 1] and improved upon them (*e.g.*, Cor. 8(1)). Ideas for further research: (I) Recast using 2-rewriting for *transducing* (infinite) reductions; (II) Exploit progressiveness and sharpen promotion to (re)gain *quantitative* results, like [7] and *quasi-commutation*; (III) Automate results in *tools* (to handle, *e.g.*, Ex. 18) and *formalise* them (*axiomatically?*).

► **Example 18.** 1. [6, Fig. 2 (**CHOICE**)] presents a program having transition relation R given by relating pairs of natural numbers $\langle x, y \rangle$ and $\langle x', y' \rangle$ if the latter is either $\langle x \div 1, x \rangle$ or $\langle y \div 2, x + 1 \rangle$, assuming $x, y > 0$, and a doubleton family $\mathcal{F} := (\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft)$ of relations $\blacktriangleright := \neg P(x, y) \wedge (Q \vee P(x', y'))$ and $\blacktriangleleft := P(x, y) \wedge Q \wedge P(x', y')$ for $Q := x + y > x' + y'$ and $P(n, m) := m \div 2 \leq n \leq m \div 1$. Then $R \subseteq \rightarrow := \bigcup \mathcal{F}$, $\blacktriangleleft \cdot \blacktriangleright = \emptyset$, and \mathcal{F} is terminating since Q is and since P and $\neg P$ do not compose, yielding affluence of $\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft$ hence termination of \rightarrow by Cor. 5(1), so R is terminating. 2. [7, Ex. 6.1] presents a program having transition relation R given by $\langle x, y \rangle \rightarrow_{x>y \& x>0 \& y>0} \langle y, 2^{x+y} \rangle$ and $\langle x, y \rangle \rightarrow_{\neg(x>y) \& x>0 \& y>0} \langle x, y - 1 \rangle$, and a doubleton family $\mathcal{F} := (\blacktriangleright, \blacktriangleleft)$ of terminating relations $\blacktriangleright := \{(\langle x, y \rangle, \langle x', y' \rangle) \mid x > 0 \& x > x'\}$ and $\blacktriangleleft := \{(\langle x, y \rangle, \langle x', y' \rangle) \mid y > 0 \& y > y'\}$. Then $R \subseteq \bigcup \mathcal{F}$ but affluence of \mathcal{F} fails. Restricting \blacktriangleleft by $\{(\langle x, y \rangle, \langle x', y' \rangle) \mid x \geq x'\}$ guided by R , both hold and Cor. 5(1) applies.

References

- 1 J.E. Dawson, N. Dershowitz, and R. Goré. Well-founded unions. In *IJCAR*, volume 10900 of *LNCS*, pages 117–133. Springer, 2018. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-94205-6_9.
- 2 H. Doornbos and B. von Karger. On the union of well-founded relations. *Log. J. IGPL*, 6(2):195–201, 1998. doi:10.1093/jigpal/6.2.195.
- 3 A. Geser. *Relative Termination*. PhD thesis, Universität Passau, 1990.
- 4 A. Geser, D. Hofbauer, J. Waldmann, and H. Zantema. On tree automata that certify termination of left-linear term rewriting systems. *Inform. Comput.*, 205(4):512–534, 2007.
- 5 V. van Oostrom and H. Zantema. Triangulation in rewriting. In *RTA*, volume 15 of *LIPIcs*, pages 240–255, 2012. doi:10.4230/LIPIcs.RTA.2012.240.
- 6 A. Podelski and A. Rybalchenko. Transition invariants. In *LICS*, pages 32–41, 2004. (Winner of a LICS Test of Time Award 2024). doi:10.1109/LICS.2004.1319598.
- 7 S. Steila and K. Yokoyama. Reverse mathematical bounds for the termination theorem. *APAL*, 167(12):1213–1241, 2016. doi:10.1016/j.apal.2016.06.001.
- 8 Terese. *Term Rewriting Systems*. CUP, 2003.

⁷ Such (very) finite counterexamples can be found automatically, *e.g.*, by Zantema’s tool [Carpa](#).