

The HOM problem is decidable

Guillem Godoy Omer Giménez Lander Ramos Carme Àlvarez

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya,
Departament de Llenguatges i Sistemes Informàtics,
Jordi Girona 1, Barcelona, Spain

ggodoy@lsi.upc.edu, omer.gimenez@gmail.com, landertxu@gmail.com, alvarez@lsi.upc.edu

Abstract

We close affirmatively a question which has been open for long time: decidability of the HOM problem. The HOM problem consists in determining, given a tree homomorphism H and a regular tree language L represented by a tree automaton, whether $H(L)$ is regular.

In order to decide the HOM problem, we develop new constructions and techniques which are interesting by themselves, and provide several significant intermediate results. For example, we prove that the universality problem is decidable for languages represented by tree automata with equality constraints, and that the equivalence and inclusion problems are decidable for images of regular languages through tree homomorphisms.

Our contributions are based on the following new constructions. We describe a simple transformation for converting a tree automaton with equality constraints into a tree automaton with disequality constraints recognizing the complementary language. We also define a new class of automata with arbitrary disequality constraints and a particular kind of equality constraints. An automaton of this new class essentially recognizes the intersection of a tree automaton with disequality constraints and the image of a regular language through a tree homomorphism. We prove decidability of emptiness and finiteness for this class by a pumping mechanism. We combine the above constructions adequately to provide an algorithm deciding the HOM problem.

Categories and Subject Descriptors F.4.2 [Mathematical Logic and Formal Languages]: Grammars and Other Rewriting Systems; F.4.3 [Mathematical Logic and Formal Languages]: Formal Languages

General Terms Logic, Theory, Decidability

Keywords Tree automata, Homomorphisms, Regular languages, Transducers

1. Introduction

Finite-state tree automata (TA) [5] were introduced by Thatcher and Wright [22] in the context of circuit verification. Many famous researchers contributed to this school in the late 60's and the early 70's, establishing connections between automata and logic. In the 70's many new results were established concerning TA, which lose a bit their connections with the applications and were studied for their own. Applications of TA to program verification revived in the 80's, after the relative failure of automated deduction in this field. Automata, and in particular TA, also appeared as an approximation of programs on which fully automated tools can be used. New results were obtained connecting properties of programs or type systems or rewrite systems with automata. These applications are widely used nowadays and an extended matter of research.

TA are a well studied formalism for representing term languages, due to their good computational and expressiveness properties. They characterize the “regular term languages”, a classical concept used, e.g., to describe the parse trees of a context-free grammar or the well-formed terms over a sorted signature, and to naturally capture type formalisms for tree-structured XML data [20, 2]. Similar as in the case of regular sets of words, regular term languages have numerous convenient properties such as closure under Boolean operations (intersection, union, negation), decidable properties such as inclusion and equivalence, and they are characterized by many different formalisms such as regular grammars, regular term expressions, congruence classes of finite index, deterministic bottom-up TA, non-deterministic top-down TA, or sentences of monadic second-order logic [5]. Deterministic TA, for instance, can be effectively minimized and give rise to efficient parsing.

When the used formalism for representing an infinite set of terms is not a TA, it is often expedient to decide whether the represented set is in fact regular, or when a given transformation preserves regularity. For example, when the set is described as the reachable configurations of a program/system from a starting configuration, regularity of such set allows checking interesting properties of reachable configurations, like validity.

1.1 The HOM problem

Tree homomorphisms are the natural extension of word homomorphisms to trees. They were defined in 1970 as a special case of tree transducers by Thatcher in [21], and by Engelfriet in [10]. From the beginning, it was noted that, the classical property stating that a word homomorphism preserves regularity, is no longer true when one deals with tree languages. For example, the tree language $\{g^n(a)|n \geq 0\}$ is regular since it is recognized by the tree automaton $\{a \rightarrow q, g(q) \rightarrow q\}$, where q is an accepting state. But its image through the tree homomorphism H defined by $H(a) = a$ and $H(g(x)) = f(H(x), H(x))$ is the set of complete trees over binary f and constant a , which is well-known to be non-regular. It has been a long-standing open question the decidability of the HOM problem: given a regular tree language L and a tree homomorphism H , is $H(L)$ regular?

This problem is not only a fundamental theoretical question. Tree homomorphisms are a powerful representation system. Several representation mechanisms based on tree patterns are just particular cases of images of regular languages through tree homomorphisms, and the set of reducible instances of any term rewrite system also can be represented in this way. Hence, it is not surprising that particular cases and variants of this problem have been studied along the past 35 years. For example, as it can easily be derived from the fundamental results in [10], the HOM problem is equivalent to the following problem: given a bottom-up tree transducer T , is the range of T regular? Many variants, results and appli-

cations of tree transducers are studied along the 70's and 80's (see the book [12] and the handbook [13]). In [14] the decidability of the HOM problem is still stated as an open question, and the particular case of the regularity of the reducible terms by a term rewrite system is also left as an open problem. This particular case is posted as the 7th problem in the RTA list of open problems in 1991 by Comon and Dauchet. It is solved independently in [17, 23, 19]. The HOM problem appears also in [11], where the more general case of regularity of the range of a top-down tree transducer is shown undecidable. In the more recent years, some other particularizations of the HOM problem have been taken into consideration. Tree automata with constraints are used to prove decidability of the HOM problem restricted to shallow homomorphisms in [3]. The HOM problem restricted to monadic signatures or to top-copying homomorphisms is proved decidable in [16]. The latter result is based on the decidability of first-order equational formulae with regular membership constraints proved in [6].

In this work, we prove decidability of the entire HOM problem, without any further restriction. To this end, we develop new constructions and techniques, which are interesting by themselves, and provide several significant intermediate results. We detail them in the following subsections.

1.2 Tree Automata with constraints

In order to prove decidability of HOM, we make use of several ideas, techniques and results related to tree automata with disequality and equality constraints, $TA_{\neq,=}$ for short, developed along the last 15 years. For this reason, we dedicate this specialized subsection of the introduction to these remarkable results. As an example of tree automaton with equality constraints consider the following: $a \rightarrow q, f(q, q) \stackrel{1=2}{\rightarrow} q$. The constraint $1 = 2$ imposes that the first and second child must coincide for the application of the rule. Thus, the above automaton recognizes the set of complete trees over binary f and constant a .

Tree automata with equality constraints, $TA_{=}$ for short, have been studied in the early 80s by M. Dauchet and J. Mongy. When we consider its closure by boolean operations, we get the class of $TA_{\neq,=}$. Unfortunately, properties like emptiness, finiteness, and regularity of the represented language are undecidable, even for the restricted class of $TA_{=}$. But some positive results have been obtained for other particular cases of $TA_{\neq,=}$. Emptiness of tree automata having only disequality constraints, TA_{\neq} for short, is proved decidable in [7]. Exptime-completeness of this problem is proved in [8]. This result is developed in order to prove exptime-completeness of the ground reducibility problem. The decidability result in [7] is extended in [9] to the so-called class of reduction automata, which allow for arbitrary disequalities and a limited amount of equalities. Roughly speaking, a fixed number of equalities are permitted at each path of a run. This result is used to prove decidability of the first order theory of reduction. Emptiness and finiteness of tree automata with disequality and equality constraints between brothers (direct children) is proved decidable in [4]. Regularity for this class was proved decidable in [3]. As a consequence, the HOM problem is proved decidable for the particular case of shallow homomorphisms, as we have mentioned above. But also, these results are key for proving decidability of preservation of regularity for shallow term rewrite systems and innermost rewriting in [15]. Several other variants of tree automata with constraints have been developed, providing decidability results in logic and term rewriting, with application in protocol verification. We do not mention them since there are lots, and the provided techniques have not been used in this paper.

1.3 Our contributions

In the path of solving the HOM problem, we develop several ideas and techniques which are interesting by themselves, and produce significant intermediate results.

Our first contribution consists in a construction for converting a $TA_{=}$ into a TA_{\neq} recognizing the complement language of the first one. This construction is rather easy, but up to our knowledge, it has not been stated before, although similar arguments are used in [7] to construct a TA_{\neq} recognizing the set of normal forms of a term rewrite system. The complement construction has significant consequences, like decidability of the universality problem for tree automata with equality constraints, and more generally, decidability of the inclusion of a regular language into the language represented by a $TA_{=}$. Moreover, it gives a simple proof of undecidability of regularity test for TA_{\neq} , and hence, for reduction tree automata (this question was left open in [3]).

In a second step, we define a new class of automata with constraints called tree automata with disequality and HOM equality constraints, $TA_{\neq, hom}$ for short. Essentially, they recognize the intersection language between a TA_{\neq} and the image of a regular language through a tree homomorphism. We also define the particular subclass of TA_{hom} which recognize images of regular languages through tree homomorphisms.

This new class of tree automata with constraints is interesting by itself. It is essentially a particular subclass of $TA_{\neq,=}$, subsumes the class of tree automata with disequality and equality constraints between brothers, and is independent from the class of reduction automata. In contrast to reduction automata, $TA_{\neq, hom}$ permit an unbounded number of equalities at each path of a run. As we will see, emptiness and finiteness are decidable for $TA_{\neq, hom}$.

The above constructions and results allow to derive new significant consequences. Since two TA_{hom} A and B represent the images of regular languages through tree homomorphisms, by complementing A and intersecting with B we obtain a $TA_{\neq, hom}$ whose emptiness is equivalent to the inclusion $\mathcal{L}(A) \supseteq \mathcal{L}(B)$. Therefore, we are able to prove decidability of inclusion and equivalence problems for images of regular languages through tree homomorphisms.

Our decision algorithm for the HOM problem has a very simple description. First, it generates a TA_{hom} A recognizing the language $H(L)$, for the given TA A and the given tree homomorphism H . Second, it linearizes A into a TA B by removing all equality constraints and replacing the involved positions in the constraints by all possible valid terms up to a certain height. Third, it checks $\mathcal{L}(A) = \mathcal{L}(B)$, concludes “regularity” in the affirmative case, and concludes “non-regularity” in the negative case.

Nevertheless, proving that this algorithm decides HOM is more complicated, and requires to argue using all the above constructions. In Section 7 we provide more intuition about the underlying ideas of this argumentation.

1.4 Organization of the paper

In Section 2 we introduce basic concepts on terms and tree automata. In Section 3 we present the construction transforming a $TA_{=}$ into a TA_{\neq} . In Section 4 we define $TA_{\neq, hom}$ and TA_{hom} and their runs, show that the image of a regular language through a tree homomorphism can be recognized by a TA_{hom} , define the intersection of a TA_{hom} and a TA_{\neq} , the intersection of two runs, and the respective projections to recover the original runs from a run of the intersection. In Section 5, we define the concept of pumping of a run of a $TA_{\neq, hom}$. Also we show that for a big enough run there exists a pumping providing a smaller run, thus concluding decidability of the emptiness problem for $TA_{\neq, hom}$. Moreover, we show that for a big enough run there exist pumpings providing infinitely many bigger runs, thus concluding decidability of the finiteness problem for $TA_{\neq, hom}$. In Section 6 we show all the significant intermedi-

ate consequences of our constructions. In Section 7 we use all the developed techniques to prove decidability of the HOM problem.

2. Preliminaries

2.1 Terms

The size of a set S is denoted by $|S|$, and the powerset of S is denoted by 2^S . We assume that the reader is familiarized with terms, positions, substitutions and replacements. For more detailed explanations see [1].

A *signature* consists of an alphabet Σ , i.e., a finite set of symbols, together with a mapping that assigns to each symbol in Σ a natural number, its *arity*. We write $\Sigma^{(m)}$ to denote the subset of symbols in Σ that are of arity m , and we write $f^{(m)}$ to denote that f is a symbol of arity m . The *set of all terms over Σ* is denoted $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$ and is inductively defined as the smallest set T such that for every $f \in \Sigma^{(m)}$, $m \geq 0$, and $t_1, \dots, t_m \in T$, the term $f(t_1, \dots, t_m)$ is in T . For a term of the form $a()$ we simply write a . For instance, if $\Sigma = \{f^{(2)}, a^{(0)}\}$ then $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$ is the set of all terms that represent binary trees with internal nodes labeled f and leaves labeled a . We fix the set $\mathcal{X} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ of variables, i.e., any set V of variables is always assumed to be a subset of \mathcal{X} . The set of terms over Σ with variables in \mathcal{X} , denoted $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup \mathcal{X})$, is the set of terms over $\Sigma \cup \mathcal{X}$ where every symbol in \mathcal{X} has arity zero. By $|t|$ we denote the size of t , defined recursively as $|f(t_1, \dots, t_m)| = 1 + |t_1| + \dots + |t_m|$ for each $f \in \Sigma^{(m)}$, $m \geq 0$ and $t_1, \dots, t_m \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$, and $|x| = 1$ for each $x \in \mathcal{X}$. By $\text{height}(t)$ we denote the height of t , defined recursively as $\text{height}(f(t_1, \dots, t_m)) = 1 + \max(\text{height}(t_1), \dots, \text{height}(t_m))$ for each $f \in \Sigma^{(m)}$, $m \geq 1$ and $t_1, \dots, t_m \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$, $\text{height}(a) = 0$ for each $a \in \Sigma^{(0)}$, and $\text{height}(x) = 0$ for each $x \in \mathcal{X}$. Positions in terms are sequences of natural numbers. Given a term $f(t_1, \dots, t_m) \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$, its set of positions $\text{Pos}(t)$ is defined recursively as $\{\lambda\} \cup_{1 \leq i \leq m} \{i.p \mid p \in \text{Pos}(t_i)\}$. Here, λ denotes the empty sequence (position of the root node), and $.$ denotes concatenation. The subterm of t at position p is denoted by $t|_p$, and is formally defined as $t|_\lambda = t$, and $f(t_1, \dots, t_m)|_{i.p} = t_i|_p$. $\text{root}(f(t_1, \dots, t_m))$ is f for any symbol f . Thus, the symbol of t occurring at position p is denoted by $\text{root}(t|_p)$, and we say that t at position p is labeled by $\text{root}(t|_p)$. For instance, for $s = g(f(a, b), c)$, $s|_1$ equals $f(a, b)$ and $\text{root}(t|_{1.2})$ is b . For a set Γ , we use $\text{Pos}_\Gamma(t)$ to denote the set of positions of t that are labeled by symbols in Γ . When a position p is of the form $p_1.p_2$, we say that p_1 is a prefix of p , denoted $p_1 \leq p$, and p_2 is a suffix of p . If in addition p_2 is not λ , then we say that p_1 is a proper prefix of p , denoted $p_1 < p$. Moreover, with $p - p_1$ we denote p_2 . We say that two positions p_1 and p_2 are parallel, denoted $p_1 \parallel p_2$, if neither $p_1 \leq p_2$ nor $p_2 \leq p_1$ hold. For terms s, t and $p \in \text{Pos}(s)$, we denote by $s[t]_p$ the result of replacing the subterm at position p in s by the term t . More formally, $s[t]_\lambda$ is t , and $f(s_1, \dots, s_m)[t]_{i.p}$ is $f(s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}, s_i[t]_p, s_{i+1}, \dots, s_m)$. For instance, $f(f(a, a), a)[a]_1$ is $f(a, a)$. A *substitution* σ is a mapping from variables to terms. It can be homomorphically extended to a function from terms to terms: $\sigma(t)$ denotes the result of simultaneously replacing in t every $x \in \text{Dom}(\sigma)$ by $\sigma(x)$. For example, if σ is $\{x \mapsto f(b, y), y \mapsto a\}$, then $\sigma(g(x, y))$ is $g(f(b, y), a)$. A *rewrite rule* is a pair of terms $l \rightarrow r$. Application of a rewrite rule $l \rightarrow r$ to a term $s[\sigma(l)]_p$ at position p produces the term $s[\sigma(r)]_p$. If R is a set of rules, application of a rule of R to a term s resulting into a term t is denoted by $s \rightarrow_R t$, and the reflexive-transitive closure of this relation is denoted by $\rightarrow_{\bar{R}}$.

Along this paper, unless the opposite is stated, by $t|_{p_1} = t|_{p_2}$ we mean that p_1 and p_2 are positions in $\text{Pos}(t)$ and the subterms of t at positions p_1 and p_2 coincide. On the other side, by $t|_{p_1} \neq t|_{p_2}$ we mean that either p_1 or p_2 is not in $\text{Pos}(t)$, or that the subterms $t|_{p_1}$

and $t|_{p_2}$ are different. Note that, with this semantics, $t|_{p_1} \neq t|_{p_2}$ is the negation of $t|_{p_1} = t|_{p_2}$.

2.2 Tree automata with constraints

Tree automata and regular languages are well-known concepts of theoretical computer science [12, 13, 5]. We assume that the reader knows the Boolean closure properties and the decidability results on regular tree languages. Here we only recall the notion of tree automata with constraints.

The subsequent presentation is not the most usual one for tree automata with constraints, but it is an equivalent one. We use this presentation in order to make it more similar to other definitions of automata appearing in the rest of the article, thus preparing the reader for further definitions.

DEFINITION 2.1 (automata with constraints). *A tree automaton with disequality and equality constraints, $TA_{\neq,=}$ for short, is a tuple $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$, where Q is a set of states, Σ is a signature, $F \subseteq Q$ is the subset of final states, and Δ is a set of rules of the form $f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q$, where q_1, \dots, q_m, q are in Q , f is in $\Sigma^{(m)}$ and c is a conjunction/set of atoms of the form $p_1 \neq p_2$ and $p_1 = p_2$ for arbitrary positions p_1, p_2 . When all constraints in Δ contain only disequalities (respectively, equalities) we say that A is a TA_{\neq} (respectively, a $TA_{=}$). When all the constraints are empty, we say that A is a TA .*

In order to define the concept of run of a $TA_{\neq,=}$ we define the alphabet for describing runs on terms, which are just terms with labels indicating which rule has been applied at each node.

DEFINITION 2.2 (alphabet of a run). *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq,=}$. The alphabet of a run of A is Δ , where each symbol of the form $(f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)$ has arity m , i.e. the same as f .*

The resulting state of a term r in $\mathcal{T}(\Delta)$ is q if r is of the form $(f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)(t_1, \dots, t_m)$.

The projection $\pi_\Sigma : \mathcal{T}(\Delta) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$ is recursively defined as $(\pi_\Sigma(f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)(t_1, \dots, t_m)) = f(\pi_\Sigma(t_1), \dots, \pi_\Sigma(t_m))$.

DEFINITION 2.3 (run). *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq,=}$. We define the concept of run of A as a term in $\mathcal{T}(\Delta)$ satisfying certain conditions recursively as follows. Let $(f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)$ be a rule of Δ . Let r_1, \dots, r_m be runs of A with resulting states q_1, \dots, q_m , respectively. Let t be $f(\pi_\Sigma(r_1), \dots, \pi_\Sigma(r_m))$. Suppose $t|_{p_1} \neq t|_{p_2}$ holds for each $(p_1 \neq p_2) \in c$, and that $t|_{p_1} = t|_{p_2}$ holds for each $(p_1 = p_2) \in c$. Then, $(f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)(r_1, \dots, r_m)$ is a run of A on the term t .*

By $\mathcal{L}(A, q)$ we denote the set of terms t for which there exists a run r of A with resulting state q such that $\pi_\Sigma(r) = t$. The language accepted by A , denoted $\mathcal{L}(A)$, is $\bigcup_{q \in F} \mathcal{L}(A, q)$. A language L is regular if there exists a TA A such that $\mathcal{L}(A) = L$ holds.

DEFINITION 2.4 (tree homomorphisms). *Let Σ_1, Σ_2 be two signatures. A tree homomorphism is a function $H : \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_2)$ which can be defined as follows.*

Let X_m represent the set of variables $\{x_1, \dots, x_m\}$ for each natural number m . The definition of a tree homomorphism $H : \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_2)$ requires to define $H(f(x_1, \dots, x_m))$ for each function symbol $f \in \Sigma_1$ of arity m as a term t_f in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma_2 \cup X_m)$. After that, $H(f(t_1, \dots, t_m))$ is defined, for each term $f(t_1, \dots, t_m) \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_1)$, as $\{x_1 \mapsto H(t_1), \dots, x_m \mapsto H(t_m)\}(t_f)$.

Alternatively, tree homomorphisms can be defined in the following way as a function $H : \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_2)$ satisfying the following condition. For any arbitrary set of variables \mathcal{X} , there exists an extension $\bar{H} : \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_1 \cup \mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_2 \cup \mathcal{X})$ of H such that,

$\bar{H}(x) = x$ for each x in \mathcal{X} , and for each term $t \in \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_1 \cup \mathcal{X})$ and each substitution $\sigma : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_1 \cup \mathcal{X})$, $\bar{H}(\sigma(t))$ is $(\bar{H}(\sigma))(\bar{H}(t))$, where $(\bar{H}(\sigma))(x)$ is interpreted in the natural way as $\bar{H}(\sigma(x))$.

DEFINITION 2.5. *The HOM problem is defined as follows:*

Input: A TA A and a tree homomorphism H .

Question: Is $H(A)$ regular?

3. The complement of a TA₌

For a given TA₌ $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ we want to construct a TA_≠ B recognizing the complement of $\mathcal{L}(A)$. This construction is rather easy. We just need to consider 2^Q as the set of states of B . The intuitive meaning of each state $S \subseteq Q$ is that there exists a run with B of a term t with resulting state S if and only if, for each q in S , there is no run with A of t with resulting state q . In other words, using B we are computing sets of states which cannot be reached using A . The rules $f(S_1, \dots, S_m) \xrightarrow{D} S$ of B are constructed to ensure that, for those states q in S , no rule of A with right-hand side q can be applied.

DEFINITION 3.1 (Complement of a TA₌). *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA₌. Then, the complement TA_≠ B of A is defined as the tuple $\langle 2^Q, \Sigma, \{F' \mid F \subseteq F' \subseteq Q\}, \Delta' \rangle$ where Δ' is the set of rules $f(S_1, \dots, S_m) \xrightarrow{D} S$ satisfying the following:*

- $S_1, \dots, S_m, S \subseteq Q$.
- D is a conjunction of disequalities $p \neq q$ such that $p = q$ occurs in the constraint of some rule in Δ .
- For each q in S and each rule of the form $f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q$ in Δ either there exists some i in $\{1, \dots, m\}$ satisfying $q_i \in S_i$, or there exist positions p_1, p_2 such that $p_1 = p_2$ occurs in c and $p_1 \neq p_2$ occurs in D .

EXAMPLE 3.2. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be the TA₌ with $Q = \{q\}$, $\Sigma = \{f^{(2)}, a^{(0)}\}$, $F = \{q\}$, and where Δ contains the two rules $a \rightarrow q$ and $f(q, q) \xrightarrow{1=2} q$. This TA₌ recognizes the language of the complete trees. We can construct the complement TA_≠ as follows. The set of states is $2^Q = \{\emptyset, \{q\}\}$, the signature is the same Σ , the set of accepting states is $F' = \{\{q\}\}$ and some of the rules in Δ' are:*

- $a \rightarrow \emptyset$
- $f(\emptyset, \emptyset) \rightarrow \emptyset$
- $f(\emptyset, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{1 \neq 2} \{q\}$
- $f(\{q\}, \emptyset) \rightarrow \{q\}$
- $f(\emptyset, \{q\}) \rightarrow \{q\}$
- $f(\{q\}, \{q\}) \rightarrow \{q\}$

This automaton clearly recognizes the language of the non-complete trees (because at each position we can non-deterministically check that either at least one child is non-complete, or both children are not equal). According to the definition of the complement of a TA₌, there exist more rules in Δ' (like $f(\{q\}, \{q\}) \xrightarrow{1 \neq 2} \{q\}$), but they are unnecessary or useless.

The following lemma establishes one of the directions of the statement mentioned above: whenever a state S is the result of a run of B on a term t , no state q in S can be the result of a run of A on t .

LEMMA 3.3. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA₌, and $B = \langle 2^Q, \Sigma, \{F' \mid F \subseteq F' \subseteq Q\}, \Delta' \rangle$ be its complement TA_≠. Let q be a state in Q and let S be a state of B containing q . Let t be a term in $\mathcal{L}(B, S)$.*

Then, t is not in $\mathcal{L}(A, q)$.

Proof. We prove it by contradiction. Let t be a minimum term in size contradicting the statement, i.e. there exists $S \subseteq Q$, a run r' of B satisfying $\pi_\Sigma(r') = t$ with resulting state S , a state q in S and a run r of A satisfying $\pi_\Sigma(r) = t$ with resulting state q , and no other term smaller than t accomplishes this statement.

We write t more explicitly as $f(t_1, \dots, t_m)$, and the above runs r' and r as $(f(S_1, \dots, S_m) \xrightarrow{D} S)(r'_1, \dots, r'_m)$ and $(f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)(r_1, \dots, r_m)$, respectively. Note that S_1, \dots, S_m are the resulting states of the runs r'_1, \dots, r'_m of B on t_1, \dots, t_m , respectively, and q_1, \dots, q_m are the resulting states of the runs r_1, \dots, r_m of A on t_1, \dots, t_m , respectively.

By the definition of Δ' , since q belongs to S , for the rule $f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q$ it holds that either (i) there exists some i in $\{1, \dots, m\}$ satisfying $q_i \in S_i$, or (ii) there exist positions p_1, p_2 such that $p_1 = p_2$ occurs in c and $p_1 \neq p_2$ occurs in D .

In case (i), t_i, S_i, r'_i, q_i , and r_i satisfy the assumed conditions for t, S, r', q and r , but also $|t_i| < |t|$ holds. This is in contradiction with the minimality of t .

In case (ii), by the definition of run applied on r , it holds $t|_{p_1} = t|_{p_2}$. But, similarly, by the definition of run applied on r' , it holds $t|_{p_1} \neq t|_{p_2}$, which is a contradiction again. \square

The following lemma establishes the other direction of the above statement, but for maximal S 's, that is, given a term t , there exists a run r with B of t whose resulting state S is just the set of states q which cannot be the result of a run with A of t . Moreover, this is also the case for each subrun (subterm) of t .

LEMMA 3.4. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA₌, and $B = \langle 2^Q, \Sigma, \{F' \mid F \subseteq F' \subseteq Q\}, \Delta' \rangle$ be its complement TA_≠. Let t be a term.*

Then, there exists a run r of B satisfying $\pi_\Sigma(r) = t$ and such that, for each $p \in \text{Pos}(r)$ it holds that $r|_p$ is a run with resulting state $\{q \in Q \mid t|_p \notin \mathcal{L}(A, q)\}$.

Proof. We prove it by induction on $|t|$. We write t more explicitly as $f(t_1, \dots, t_m)$. By induction hypothesis, for each t_i there exists a run r_i of B satisfying $\pi_\Sigma(r_i) = t_i$ and such that, for each $p \in \text{Pos}(r_i)$ it holds that $r_i|_p$ is a run with resulting state $\{q \in Q \mid t_i|_p \notin \mathcal{L}(A, q)\}$. In particular, the resulting state S_i of r_i is $\{q \in Q \mid t_i \notin \mathcal{L}(A, q)\}$.

Let D be the constraint defined as the conjunction of disequalities $p_1 \neq p_2$ such that $p_1 = p_2$ occurs in the constraint of some rule of A and $t|_{p_1} \neq t|_{p_2}$ holds (recall that, by $t|_{p_1} \neq t|_{p_2}$, we understand that either p_1 or p_2 is not in $\text{Pos}(t)$, or that the subterms $t|_{p_1}$ and $t|_{p_2}$ are different). In order to conclude, it suffices to prove that $f(S_1, \dots, S_m) \xrightarrow{D} S$ for $S = \{q \in Q \mid t|_p \notin \mathcal{L}(A, q)\}$ is a rule of B . To this end, we must show, for each q in S and each rule of the form $f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q$ in Δ , that either some i in $\{1, \dots, m\}$ satisfies $q_i \in S_i$, or there exist positions p_1, p_2 such that $p_1 = p_2$ occurs in c and $p_1 \neq p_2$ occurs in D . Thus, consider any of such q and $f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q$ and suppose that all i in $\{1, \dots, m\}$ satisfy $q_i \notin S_i$. Then, by the definition of each of such S_i , there exists a run r'_i of A satisfying $\pi_\Sigma(r'_i) = t_i$ and with resulting state q_i . Since q is in S , by the definition of S it holds that there is no run r' with resulting state q such that $\pi_\Sigma(r') = t$. Hence, $(f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)(r'_1, \dots, r'_m)$ is not a run. Thus, some $p_1 = p_2$ occurring in the constraint c must be unsatisfied on t , i.e. $t|_{p_1} \neq t|_{p_2}$ for some $p_1 = p_2$ in c . By the election of D , $p_1 \neq p_2$ occurs in D . Thus, the existence of such p_1, p_2 concludes the proof. \square

THEOREM 3.5. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA₌, and $B = \langle 2^Q, \Sigma, \{F' \mid F \subseteq F' \subseteq Q\}, \Delta' \rangle$ be its complement TA_≠. Then, $\mathcal{L}(A) = \mathcal{L}(B)$.*

Proof.

- We first prove $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A)} \supseteq \mathcal{L}(B)$. Let t be a term in $\mathcal{L}(B)$. Then, there exists a run r' of B with resulting state S such that $\pi_\Sigma(r') = t$ and $F \subseteq S \subseteq Q$ hold. Hence, for each q in F , by Lemma 3.3 it follows that t is not in $\mathcal{L}(A, q)$. Thus, t is not in $\mathcal{L}(A)$.
- Now, we prove $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A)} \subseteq \mathcal{L}(B)$. Let t be a term which is not accepted by A . Then, for each state q of F , $t \notin \mathcal{L}(A, q)$ holds. By Lemma 3.4, t is in $\mathcal{L}(B, S)$ where S is $\{q \in Q \mid t|_p \notin \mathcal{L}(A, q)\}$, and since $F \subseteq S \subseteq Q$ holds, it follows that t is in $\mathcal{L}(B)$.

□

Proceeding analogously we could transform a TA_{\neq} into a $\text{TA}_{=}$ recognizing the complement of the first. We do not develop this transformation since it is very similar and we do not use it for the proof of the HOM problem, but state the analogous consequence as follows.

THEOREM 3.6. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA_{\neq} . Then, it can be computed a $\text{TA}_{=} B = \langle 2^Q, \Sigma, \{F' \mid F \subseteq F' \subseteq Q\}, \Delta' \rangle$, called the complement $\text{TA}_{=}$ of A , such that $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A)} = \mathcal{L}(B)$.*

4. Tree automata with disequality and HOM equality constraints

Our aim is to define a new class of automata, with a certain kind of equality constraints, recognizing images of tree homomorphisms applied to regular languages. These will be the tree automata with HOM constraints, denoted TA_{hom} , and they essentially recognize the range of a bottom up tree transducer. But we will define a more general class including also arbitrary disequality constraints, denoted $\text{TA}_{\neq, hom}$. The reason is that we will need to argue about the intersection language of the languages represented by a TA_{hom} and a TA_{\neq} .

The definition of $\text{TA}_{\neq, hom}$ has differences from the definition of $\text{TA}_{\neq, =}$. The left-hand side of rules are not necessarily flat. Thus, they directly use information of states computed at relative positions deeper than 1. The disequality constraints are arbitrary, but the equality constraints are restricted. They always refer to positions with identical computed states. The rules are also labeled. The labels are not relevant at all for further definitions of run, pumping, etc. We will use them later, when intersecting two automata, for keeping the necessary information to recover the runs of the two original automata from a run of their intersection automaton.

DEFINITION 4.1 (new automata). A tree automaton with disequality and HOM equality constraints, $\text{TA}_{\neq, hom}$ for short, is a tuple $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$, where Q is a set of states, Σ is a signature, $F \subseteq Q$ is the subset of final states, and Δ is a set of labeled rules of the form $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)$, where I is the label, s is a term over $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup Q) - Q$, interpreting the states of Q as 0-ary symbols, and c is a conjunction/set of atoms of the form $p_1 \neq p_2$ for arbitrary positions p_1, p_2 , and atoms of the form $\hat{p}_1 = \hat{p}_2$, where \hat{p}_1 and \hat{p}_2 are different positions satisfying $s|_{\hat{p}_1} = s|_{\hat{p}_2} \in Q$. Moreover, for all positions $\hat{p}_1, \hat{p}_2, \hat{p}_3$, if $(\hat{p}_1 = \hat{p}_2)$ and $(\hat{p}_2 = \hat{p}_3)$ occur in c , then $(\hat{p}_1 = \hat{p}_3)$ also occurs in c . By $h(A)$ we denote the maximum among the heights of left-hand sides of rules in Δ and the lengths of positions occurring in the constraints of Δ , and write h when A is clear from the context. When no constraint in Δ contains a disequality, we say that A is a TA_{hom} .

EXAMPLE 4.2. As an example of TA_{hom} consider $A_{ex} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$, where $Q = F = \{q\}$, $\Sigma = \{f^{(3)}, h^{(1)}, a^{(0)}\}$, and Δ is the set of rules

- $\rho_1 = I_1 : a \rightarrow q$
- $\rho_2 = I_2 : h(a) \rightarrow q$
- $\rho_3 = I_3 : h(f(q, q, q)) \xrightarrow{1,1=1,2} q$.

Note that the equality constraint refers to positions with the same state, which is mandatory for this kind of automata.

As in the case of tree automata with constraints, in order to define the concept of run of a $\text{TA}_{\neq, hom}$ we define the alphabet for describing runs on terms, which are just terms with additional labels indicating which rule has been applied at each node. The difference with respect to the case of plain tree automata with constraints is that now we may also use function symbols in Σ for defining runs, but not only rules. Roughly speaking, this is because the rules are not applied at all the positions of a term, since the left-hand sides of rules are not necessarily flat. The projection π_Σ is overloaded to this alphabet.

DEFINITION 4.3 (alphabet of a run). Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $\text{TA}_{\neq, hom}$. The alphabet of a run of A is $\Sigma \cup \Delta$, where each rule $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)$ has the same arity as the one of the symbol $\text{root}(s)$.

The resulting state of a term r in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup \Delta)$ is q if r is of the form $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)(t_1, \dots, t_m)$.

The projection $\pi_\Sigma : \mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup \Delta) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$ is recursively defined as $\pi_\Sigma(f(t_1, \dots, t_m)) = f(\pi_\Sigma(t_1), \dots, \pi_\Sigma(t_m))$ and as $\pi_\Sigma((I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)(t_1, \dots, t_m)) = (\text{root}(s))(\pi_\Sigma(t_1), \dots, \pi_\Sigma(t_m))$ for each rule $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)$ in Δ .

For a term t in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup \Delta)$ and a position p in $\text{Pos}(t)$, we say that p is a Δ position (of t) if $\text{root}(t|_p)$ is in Δ . If in addition p is not λ and the only proper prefix of p being a Δ position is λ , we say that p is a first Δ position (of t). We will usually denote with a hat (\hat{p}) the first Δ positions.

Runs of $\text{TA}_{\neq, hom}$ are defined similarly to runs of $\text{TA}_{\neq, =}$. One of the differences is that, for a given equality $(p_1 = p_2)$, while a $\text{TA}_{\neq, =}$ checks for equality of the projected terms at the relative positions p_1 and p_2 , a $\text{TA}_{\neq, hom}$ checks for equality of the subruns at the relative positions p_1 and p_2 , before projecting. This difference is not relevant, since by interpreting equalities in the usual way we would have the same expressiveness, as can be seen in the proof of Lemma 4.8. We have chosen it for presentation purposes, thus making the proofs easier.

DEFINITION 4.4 (run). Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $\text{TA}_{\neq, hom}$. We define the concept of a run of A as a term in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup \Delta)$ satisfying certain conditions recursively as follows. Let $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)$ be a rule of Δ , where s is of the form $f(s_1, \dots, s_m)$. Let $P = \{\hat{p}_1, \dots, \hat{p}_n\}$ be the set of positions of s such that $(\hat{p} \in P \Leftrightarrow s|_{\hat{p}} \in Q)$ holds. Let q_1, \dots, q_n be $s|_{\hat{p}_1}, \dots, s|_{\hat{p}_n}$, respectively. Let r_1, \dots, r_n be runs of A with resulting states q_1, \dots, q_n , respectively. Let s' be $\pi_\Sigma(s[r_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\hat{p}_n})$. Suppose $r_i = r_j$ for each $(\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_j) \in c$, and $s'|_{\hat{p}_1} \neq s'|_{\hat{p}_2}$ for each $(p_1 \neq p_2) \in c$. Then, $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$ is a run of A . Note that P is the set of first Δ positions of r .

By $\mathcal{L}(A, q)$ we denote the set of terms t for which there exists a run r of A with resulting state q such that $\pi_\Sigma(r) = t$. The language accepted by A , denoted $\mathcal{L}(A)$, is $\bigcup_{q \in F} \mathcal{L}(A, q)$.

EXAMPLE 4.5. (Following example 4.2) The term $r_{ex} = \rho_3(f(\rho_1, \rho_1, \rho_2(a)))$ is a run of A_{ex} with projection $\pi_\Sigma(r_{ex}) = h(f(a, a, h(a)))$.

The following lemma establishes that TA_{hom} can be used to represent images of regular languages through tree homomorphisms.

PROPOSITION 4.6. Let $B = \langle Q, \Sigma_1, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA. Let $H : \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_2)$ be a tree homomorphism. Then, it can be computed a TA_{hom} A satisfying $H(\mathcal{L}(B)) = \mathcal{L}(A)$.

Proof. We define A as $\langle Q, \Sigma_2, F, \Delta' \rangle$ where Δ' is defined as follows. Let Δ'' be the set of rules of the form $\sigma(t_f) \xrightarrow{c} q$, for substitutions σ and terms t_f satisfying the following conditions:

- There exists a rule $f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \rightarrow q$ in Δ for a function symbol f of arity m such that $H(f(x_1, \dots, x_m)) = t_f$.
- Moreover, c is the conjunction of equalities ($\hat{p}_1 = \hat{p}_2$) such that $t_f|_{\hat{p}_1}$ and $t_f|_{\hat{p}_2}$ are the same variable.
- The substitution σ is $\{x_1 \mapsto q_1, \dots, x_m \mapsto q_m\}$.

Now, we define Δ' as the set obtained by closing Δ'' by the fixpoint computation $\Delta'' := \Delta'' \cup \{s \xrightarrow{c} q \mid \exists (s \xrightarrow{c} q'), (q' \rightarrow q) \in \Delta'' : (s \notin Q)\}$, and afterward by removing from Δ'' all rules of the form $q' \rightarrow q$. It is straightforward to see that $H(\mathcal{L}(B))$ equals $\mathcal{L}(A)$ by induction of the size of the involved terms. \square

EXAMPLE 4.7. Let $A_r = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be the TA satisfying $Q = F = \{q\}$, $\Sigma = \{a^{(0)}, b^{(0)}, g^{(2)}\}$ and $\Delta = \{a \rightarrow q, b \rightarrow q, g(q, q) \rightarrow q\}$. That is, a TA recognizing the set of all trees with a binary symbol g and leaves a and b . Let Σ_{ex} be the signature of the TA_{hom} A_{ex} of example 4.2. Let $H : \mathcal{T}(\Sigma) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\Sigma_{ex})$ be the tree homomorphism defined as follows:

- $H(a) = a$
- $H(b) = h(a)$
- $H(g(x_1, x_2)) = h(f(x_2, x_2, x_1))$

The construction of Proposition 4.6 produces A_{ex} , and it is easy to prove that $H(\mathcal{L}(A_r)) = \mathcal{L}(A_{ex})$ holds.

The following lemma establishes that a TA_{hom} is essentially a particular case of a $TA_{=}$, that is, for each TA_{hom} we can construct a $TA_{=}$ recognizing the same language. It will be useful to obtain a TA_{\neq} recognizing the complement of a TA_{hom} . The difficult point to prove this inclusion is the fact that equalities of a TA_{hom} ask for identical runs, while equalities of a $TA_{=}$ ask just for identically projected runs. But this is easy to solve by transforming a run of the constructed $TA_{=}$ in order to make those identically projected runs also identical as runs.

LEMMA 4.8. Given a TA_{hom} $A_{hom} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$, a $TA_{=}$ $A_{=}$ can be computed satisfying $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}) = \mathcal{L}(A_{=})$. Moreover, the set of states Q' of $A_{=}$ includes Q , and for each q in Q , $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}, q) = \mathcal{L}(A_{=}, q)$ holds.

Proof. For making the proof easier to read, the Q' we will define does not include Q , but it includes a set $\{\mathbf{q}_q \mid q \in Q\}$, and by renaming each \mathbf{q}_q to q the result holds.

We define $A_{=}$ as $\langle Q', \Sigma, F', \Delta' \rangle$, where Q' is $\{\mathbf{q}_t \mid t \text{ is a proper subterm of a left-hand side of a rule in } \Delta\} \cup \{\mathbf{q}_q \mid q \in Q\}$, F' is $\{\mathbf{q}_q \mid q \in F\}$ and Δ' is $\{f(\mathbf{q}_{t_1}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{t_m}) \xrightarrow{c} \mathbf{q}_{f(t_1, \dots, t_m)} \mid \mathbf{q}_{f(t_1, \dots, t_m)} \in Q'\} \cup \{f(\mathbf{q}_{t_1}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{t_m}) \xrightarrow{c} \mathbf{q}_q \mid (f(t_1, \dots, t_m) \xrightarrow{c} q) \in \Delta\}$. It remains to prove $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}) = \mathcal{L}(A_{=})$, and, more in general, $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}, q) = \mathcal{L}(A_{=}, \mathbf{q}_q)$ for each q in Q .

- We prove $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}, q) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(A_{=}, \mathbf{q}_q)$ by induction on the size of the involved terms. Let t be a term in $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}, q)$. Let r be a run of A_{hom} with resulting state q such that $\pi_{\Sigma}(r) = t$. Let r be of the form $(f(s_1, \dots, s_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$. Let t_1, \dots, t_n be the terms $\pi_{\Sigma}(r_1), \dots, \pi_{\Sigma}(r_n)$, respectively. Let q_1, \dots, q_n be the resulting states of r_1, \dots, r_n . Note that each t_i is in its corresponding $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}, q_i)$. Thus, by induction hypothesis, each t_i

is also in its corresponding $\mathcal{L}(A_{=}, \mathbf{q}_{q_i})$. Therefore, there exist runs r'_1, \dots, r'_n of $A_{=}$ with resulting states $\mathbf{q}_{q_1}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{q_n}$, respectively, and such that $\pi_{\Sigma}(r'_1) = t_1, \dots, \pi_{\Sigma}(r'_n) = t_n$ hold. For each i in $\{1, \dots, n\}$, we define s'_i as the term satisfying $\text{Pos}(s'_i) = \text{Pos}(s_i)$, and for each p in $\text{Pos}(s_i)$, either $s_i|_p$ is in Q and $\text{root}(s'_i|_p)$ is $\mathbf{q}_{s_i|_p}$, or $\text{root}(s_i|_p)$ is a symbol g in Σ of a certain arity k and $\text{root}(s'_i|_p)$ is $(g(\mathbf{q}_{s_i|_{p,1}}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{s_i|_{p,k}}) \rightarrow \mathbf{q}_{s_i|_p})$. It is straightforward to check that $r' = (f(\mathbf{q}_{s_1}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{s_m}) \xrightarrow{c} \mathbf{q}_q)(s'_1, \dots, s'_m)[r'_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r'_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$ is a run of $A_{=}$ satisfying $\pi_{\Sigma}(r') = t$.

- We prove $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}, q) \supseteq \mathcal{L}(A_{=}, \mathbf{q}_q)$ by induction on the size of the involved terms. Let t be a term in $\mathcal{L}(A_{=}, \mathbf{q}_q)$. Let r be a run of $A_{=}$ with resulting state \mathbf{q}_q such that $\pi_{\Sigma}(r) = t$. Let $\text{root}(r)$ be of the form $f(\mathbf{q}_{s_1}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{s_m}) \xrightarrow{c} \mathbf{q}_q$. By the definition of $A_{=}$, the existence of this rule in Δ' implies the existence of the rule $f(s_1, \dots, s_m) \xrightarrow{c} q$ in Δ . Let $\hat{p}_1, \dots, \hat{p}_n$ be the positions \hat{p}_i satisfying $(f(s_1, \dots, s_m)|_{\hat{p}_i} \in Q)$. Again by the definition of $A_{=}$, r is necessarily of the form $(f(\mathbf{q}_{s_1}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{s_m}) \xrightarrow{c} \mathbf{q}_q)(s'_1, \dots, s'_m)[r'_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r'_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$, where each s'_i is the term satisfying $\text{Pos}(s'_i) = \text{Pos}(s_i)$, and for each p in $\text{Pos}(s_i)$, either $s_i|_p$ is in Q and $\text{root}(s'_i|_p)$ is $\mathbf{q}_{s_i|_p}$, or $\text{root}(s_i|_p)$ is a symbol g in Σ of a certain arity k and $\text{root}(s'_i|_p)$ is $(g(\mathbf{q}_{s_i|_{p,1}}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{s_i|_{p,k}}) \rightarrow \mathbf{q}_{s_i|_p})$. Moreover, r_1, \dots, r_n are runs of $A_{=}$ with resulting states $\mathbf{q}_{s|_{\hat{p}_1}}, \dots, \mathbf{q}_{s|_{\hat{p}_n}}$, respectively, where s is $f(s_1, \dots, s_m)$, and such that $\pi_{\Sigma}(r_1) = t|_{\hat{p}_1}, \dots, \pi_{\Sigma}(r_n) = t|_{\hat{p}_n}$ hold. By induction hypothesis, there exist runs r'_1, \dots, r'_n of A_{hom} with resulting states $s|_{\hat{p}_1}, \dots, s|_{\hat{p}_n}$, respectively, such that $\pi_{\Sigma}(r'_1) = t|_{\hat{p}_1}, \dots, \pi_{\Sigma}(r'_n) = t|_{\hat{p}_n}$ hold. Note that, it could be the case that, for some $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, a constraint ($\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_j$) occurs in c , thus $t|_{\hat{p}_i} = t|_{\hat{p}_j}$ holds, but the runs r'_i and r'_j are different. For this reason, $(f(s_1, \dots, s_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r'_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r'_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$ is not necessarily a run. Let r''_1, \dots, r''_n be defined inductively as follows for each j in $\{1, \dots, n\}$. If, for some $i < j$, a constraint ($\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_j$) occurs in c , then r''_j is defined as r'_i . Otherwise r''_j is defined as r'_j . It is straightforward to check that $r'' = (f(s_1, \dots, s_m) \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r''_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r''_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$ is a run of A_{hom} with resulting state q and such that $\pi_{\Sigma}(r'') = t$. \square

From Lemmas 4.8, 3.3 and 3.4, the following corollary follows.

COROLLARY 4.9. Given a TA_{hom} $A_{hom} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$, a TA_{\neq} A_{\neq} can be computed satisfying the following conditions.

- The set of states of A_{\neq} is $2^{Q'}$, where Q' is a set including Q .
- For each state q in Q , and each state S in $2^{Q'}$ containing q and each term t in $\mathcal{L}(A_{\neq}, S)$, t is not in $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}, q)$.
- For each term t in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$, there exists a run r of A_{\neq} satisfying $\pi_{\Sigma}(r) = t$ and such that, for each $p \in \text{Pos}(r)$, $r|_p$ is a run of A_{\neq} with a resulting state S satisfying $S \cap Q = \{q \in Q \mid t|_p \notin \mathcal{L}(A_{hom}, q)\}$. Moreover, if two positions $p_1, p_2 \in \text{Pos}(t)$ satisfy $t|_{p_1} = t|_{p_2}$, then $r|_{p_1} = r|_{p_2}$ holds.

DEFINITION 4.10. Given a TA_{hom} A_{hom} , by $\overline{A_{hom}}$ we define the TA_{\neq} provided by Corollary 4.9.

Now, we provide the necessary definitions and lemmas to intersect a TA_{\neq} and a TA_{hom} producing a $TA_{\neq, hom}$, and to intersect the corresponding runs. Here is when the labels play an important role, keeping the necessary information of the original runs in order to be able to recover them by projection from a run of the produced $TA_{\neq, hom}$. We do not give the proofs of these lemmas, since they

are rather straightforward. We do not mind about the labels of the initial TA_{hom} , and obviate them.

DEFINITION 4.11 (Intersection of a TA_{hom} and a TA_{\neq}).

Let $A = \langle Q_A, \Sigma, F_A, \Delta_A \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let $B = \langle Q_B, \Sigma, F_B, \Delta_B \rangle$ be a TA_{\neq} . We define the $TA_{\neq, hom} A \cap B$ as $\langle Q_A \times Q_B, \Sigma, F_A \times F_B, \Delta \rangle$, where Δ is the set of rules ($I : s \xrightarrow{c} \langle q_A, q_B \rangle$) satisfying the following conditions.

- s is a term in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup (Q_A \times Q_B))$.
- there exists a rule ($s' \xrightarrow{c'} q_A$) in Δ_A satisfying $\text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s') = \text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s)$ and for each $p \in \text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s')$, $\text{root}(s'|_p) = \text{root}(s|_p)$ holds.
- For each $\hat{p} \in \text{Pos}(s)$ such that $s|_{\hat{p}}$ is of the form $\langle q'_A, q'_B \rangle$, $s'|_{\hat{p}}$ is q'_A .
- $I : \text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s) \rightarrow \Delta_B$ is a mapping satisfying the following conditions for each $p \in \text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s)$: If $I(p)$ is of the form ($f(q_{1B}, \dots, q_{mB}) \xrightarrow{c''} q'_B$), then $\text{root}(s|_p)$ is f , and for each i in $\{1, \dots, m\}$, either $s|_{p.i}$ is a state of the form $\langle \cdot, q_{iB} \rangle$, or $I(p.i)$ is defined as a rule with right-hand side q_{iB} .
- c is the set $c' \cup \{p.p_1 \neq p.p_2 \mid p \in \text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s) \wedge \exists t, c'', q'_B : (I(p) = (t \xrightarrow{c''} q'_B) \wedge (p_1 \neq p_2) \in c''))\}$. Moreover, for each $\hat{p}_1 = \hat{p}_2$ in c' , $s|_{\hat{p}_1} = s|_{\hat{p}_2}$ holds.

EXAMPLE 4.12. Let $A_d = \langle Q', \Sigma, F', \Delta' \rangle$ be a TA_{\neq} with $Q' = F' = \{q'\}$, $\Sigma = \Sigma_{\text{ex}}$ (the signature of the TA_{hom} A_{ex} of example 4.2), and where Δ' contains the rules:

- $\bar{\rho}_1 = a \rightarrow q'$
- $\bar{\rho}_2 = f(q', q', q') \xrightarrow{2 \neq 3} q'$
- $\bar{\rho}_3 = h(q') \xrightarrow{1.1 \neq 1.3} q'$
- $\bar{\rho}_4 = h(q') \xrightarrow{1.1 \neq 1.2} q'$

We can compute the $TA_{\neq, hom} \hat{A} = A_{\text{ex}} \cap A_d$ obtaining $\langle Q \times Q', \Sigma, F \times F', \Delta \rangle$, where Δ contains the following rules:

- $\hat{\rho}_1 = I_1 : a \rightarrow \langle q, q' \rangle$, with label $I_1(\lambda) = \bar{\rho}_1$.
- $\hat{\rho}_2 = I_2 : h(a) \xrightarrow{1.1 \neq 1.3} \langle q, q' \rangle$, with label $I_2(\lambda) = \bar{\rho}_3$, $I_2(1) = \bar{\rho}_1$. (Note that the constraint is always satisfied.)
- $\hat{\rho}_3 = I_3 : h(a) \xrightarrow{1.1 \neq 1.2} \langle q, q' \rangle$, with label $I_3(\lambda) = \bar{\rho}_4$, $I_3(1) = \bar{\rho}_1$. (Note that the constraint is always satisfied.)
- $\hat{\rho}_4 = I_4 : h(f(\langle q, q' \rangle, \langle q, q' \rangle, \langle q, q' \rangle)) \xrightarrow{\substack{1.1 = 1.2 \\ 1.2 \neq 1.3 \\ 1.1 \neq 1.3}} \langle q, q' \rangle$, with label $I_4(\lambda) = \bar{\rho}_3$, $I_4(1) = \bar{\rho}_2$.
- $\hat{\rho}_5 = I_5 : h(f(\langle q, q' \rangle, \langle q, q' \rangle, \langle q, q' \rangle)) \xrightarrow{\substack{1.1 = 1.2 \\ 1.2 \neq 1.3 \\ 1.1 \neq 1.2}} \langle q, q' \rangle$, with label $I_5(\lambda) = \bar{\rho}_4$, $I_5(1) = \bar{\rho}_2$, which is useless because the constraint is unsatisfiable.

PROPOSITION 4.13. Let A be a TA_{hom} . Let B be a TA_{\neq} . Then, $\mathcal{L}(A \cap B) = \mathcal{L}(A) \cap \mathcal{L}(B)$.

DEFINITION 4.14. Let $A = \langle Q_A, \Sigma, F_A, \Delta_A \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let $B = \langle Q_B, \Sigma, F_B, \Delta_B \rangle$ be a TA_{\neq} . Let $r = (I : s \xrightarrow{c} \langle q, q' \rangle)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$ be a run of $A \cap B$.

The projected run $\pi_{hom}(r)$ is defined recursively as ($s \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[\pi_{hom}(r_1)]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [\pi_{hom}(r_n)]_{\hat{p}_n}$.

The projected run $\pi_{\neq}(r)$ is defined recursively as follows. Let r'_1, \dots, r'_n be $\pi_{\neq}(r_1), \dots, \pi_{\neq}(r_n)$, respectively. Let s' be any term satisfying $\text{Pos}(s') = \text{Pos}(s)$, and for each $p \in \text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s)$ it holds that $\text{root}(s'|_p)$ is $I(p)$. Then, $\pi_{\neq}(r)$ is defined as $s'[r'_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r'_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$.

PROPOSITION 4.15. Let $A = \langle Q_A, \Sigma, F_A, \Delta_A \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let $B = \langle Q_B, \Sigma, F_B, \Delta_B \rangle$ be a TA_{\neq} . Let r be a run of $A \cap B$. Then, $\pi_{hom}(r)$ is a run of A , and $\pi_{\neq}(r)$ is a run of B . Moreover, $\pi_{\Sigma}(r) = \pi_{\Sigma}(\pi_{hom}(r)) = \pi_{\Sigma}(\pi_{\neq}(r))$ holds.

LEMMA 4.16. Let $A = \langle Q_A, \Sigma, F_A, \Delta_A \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let $B = \langle Q_B, \Sigma, F_B, \Delta_B \rangle$ be a TA_{\neq} . Let r_1, r_2 be runs of $A \cap B$. Let p be a position in $\text{Pos}(r_1) \cap \text{Pos}(r_2)$ such that $\text{root}(r_1|_p) = \text{root}(r_2|_p)$ holds.

Then, $\text{root}((\pi_{hom}(r_1))|_p) = \text{root}((\pi_{hom}(r_2))|_p)$ holds. Moreover, if for all prefix p' of p , $\text{root}(r_1|_{p'}) = \text{root}(r_2|_{p'})$ holds, then $\text{root}((\pi_{\neq}(r_1))|_p) = \text{root}((\pi_{\neq}(r_2))|_p)$ holds.

DEFINITION 4.17 (intersection of runs of a TA_{hom} and a TA_{\neq}).

Let $A = \langle Q_A, \Sigma, F_A, \Delta_A \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let $B = \langle Q_B, \Sigma, F_B, \Delta_B \rangle$ be a TA_{\neq} . Let t be a term in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$, and let $r_A = (s \xrightarrow{c} q)[r_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$ and r_B be runs of A and B , respectively, such that $\pi_{\Sigma}(r_A) = \pi_{\Sigma}(r_B) = t$. The intersected run $r = r_A \cap r_B$ is defined recursively to satisfy the following conditions:

- $\text{Pos}(r) = \text{Pos}(r_A) = \text{Pos}(r_B)$.
- For each i in $\{1, \dots, n\}$, $r|_{\hat{p}_i} = (r_i \cap (r_B|_{\hat{p}_i}))$ holds.
- For each p in $\text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s) - \{\lambda\}$, $\text{root}(r|_p) = \text{root}(r_A|_p)$ holds.
- $\text{root}(r)$ is ($I : s' \xrightarrow{c'} \langle q, q' \rangle$), where q' is the resulting state of r_B , $\text{Pos}(s) = \text{Pos}(s')$ holds, for each p in $\text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s)$ the equalities $\text{root}(s'|_p) = \text{root}(s|_p)$ and $I(p) = r_B|_p$ hold, and for each \hat{p} in $\text{Pos}_Q(s)$ the term $s'|_{\hat{p}}$ is $\langle s|_{\hat{p}}, q'_B \rangle$, where q'_B is the resulting state of the corresponding $r_B|_{\hat{p}}$. Moreover, c' is the set $c \cup \{p.p_1 \neq p.p_2 \mid p \in \text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s) \wedge \exists t, c'', q'_B : (I(p) = (t \xrightarrow{c''} q'_B) \wedge (p_1 \neq p_2) \in c''))\}$. Furthermore, for each $\hat{p}_1 = \hat{p}_2$ in c' , $s'|_{\hat{p}_1} = s'|_{\hat{p}_2}$ holds.

EXAMPLE 4.18. (Continues example 4.12) The following run \hat{r} is a run of \hat{A} : $\hat{r} = \hat{\rho}_4(f(\hat{\rho}_1, \hat{\rho}_1, \hat{\rho}_2(a)))$, with projection $\pi_{\Sigma}(\hat{r}) = h(f(a, a, h(a)))$, and it is the intersection of the runs $\pi_{hom}(\hat{r}) = \rho_3(f(\rho_1, \rho_1, \rho_2(a)))$ (but without labels) and $\pi_{\neq}(\hat{r}) = \bar{\rho}_3(\bar{\rho}_2(\bar{\rho}_1, \bar{\rho}_1, \bar{\rho}_3(\bar{\rho}_1)))$.

PROPOSITION 4.19. Let A be a TA_{hom} . Let B be a TA_{\neq} . Let r_A, r_B be runs of A and B , respectively. Then, $\pi_{\neq}(r_A \cap r_B) = r_B$ and $\pi_{hom}(r_A \cap r_B) = r_A$ hold.

5. Pumpings

Pumping is a traditional concept in automata theory, and in particular, they are very useful to reason about tree automata. The basic idea is to convert a given run r into another run by replacing a subterm at a certain position p in r by a run r' , thus obtaining a run $r[r']_p$. For plain tree automata, the necessary and sufficient condition to ensure that $r[r']_p$ is a run is that the resulting states of $r|_p$ and r' coincide, since the correct application of a rule at a certain position depends only on the resulting states of the subruns of the direct children. When the tree automata has equality and disequality constraints, the constraints may be falsified when replacing a subrun by a new run. For $TA_{\neq, hom}$, we will define a notion of pumping ensuring that the equality constraints are satisfied, while nothing is guaranteed for the disequality constraints.

DEFINITION 5.1 (pumping of a run). Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, hom}$. Let r, r' be runs of A , and let \bar{p} be a position such that $r|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run of A and $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r')$ holds. The pumping of r' into r at position \bar{p} , denoted $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$, is a term in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup \Delta)$ defined recursively as follows. Let r be of the form ($I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$.

Suppose first that \bar{p} is λ . Then, $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is r' .

Otherwise, suppose that \bar{p} is of the form $\hat{p}_i.\bar{p}$ for some i in $\{1, \dots, n\}$, and let r'_i be $r_i[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$. Then, $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is $r[r'_1]_{\bar{p}_1} \dots [r'_n]_{\bar{p}_n}$, where each r'_j is defined as r'_i in the case where j is i or ($\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_j$) occurs in c , and r'_j is defined as r_j otherwise.

The case where \bar{p} is not λ and no \hat{p}_i is a prefix of \bar{p} is not possible, by the condition that $r|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run.

Note that $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is just a new term in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup \Delta)$. Nevertheless, by abuse of notation, when we write $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ we sometimes consider it as the action of constructing a pumping by assuming that r , r' and \bar{p} are still explicit.

While the definition above preserves satisfaction of equalities in the constraints, nothing is guaranteed for disequalities. The following basic lemma is independent from the definition of pumping, but it will be very useful to reason about pumpings. It intuitively says that, when a concrete disequality is falsified as a consequence of a simultaneous replacement of occurrences of one term by another new term, the new term is uniquely determined.

LEMMA 5.2. *Let s and t be terms in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$ such that $s \neq t$. Let $P = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ be a set of positions in $\text{Pos}(s)$. Let $P' = \{p'_1, \dots, p'_k\}$ be a set of positions in $\text{Pos}(t)$. Suppose that $s|_{p_1} = \dots = s|_{p_n} = t|_{p'_1} = \dots = t|_{p'_k}$ holds.*

Then, there exists at most one term u satisfying $s[u]_{p_1} \dots [u]_{p_n} = t[u]_{p'_1} \dots [u]_{p'_k}$

Proof. We prove it by induction on $|s| + |t|$, and distinguishing cases depending on whether some p_i or p'_i is λ or not.

If some p_i or p'_i is λ , say p_1 , then n is 1 and since $s \neq t$ and $s|_{p_1}$ coincides with all $t|_{p'_j}$, it follows that no p'_j is λ . Therefore, either k is 0 and hence $t|_{p'_1} \dots [u]_{p'_k}$ is t for any term u , or k is not 0 and hence u is a proper subterm of $t|_{p'_1} \dots [u]_{p'_k}$ for any term u . In the first case, only $u = t$ makes the equality $s[u]_{p_1} \dots [u]_{p_n} = u = t = t|_{p'_1} \dots [u]_{p'_k}$ true, and we are done. In the second case, no u satisfies the equality $s[u]_{p_1} \dots [u]_{p_n} = t|_{p'_1} \dots [u]_{p'_k}$, and we are done.

Otherwise, suppose that none of the p_i 's and p'_i 's is λ . Since s and t are different, either $\text{root}(s) \neq \text{root}(t)$, or s and t are of the form $f(s_1, \dots, s_m), f(t_1, \dots, t_m)$, respectively, and there exists some i in $\{1, \dots, m\}$ such that s_i and t_i are different. In the first case it is obvious that no u satisfies $s[u]_{p_1} \dots [u]_{p_n} = t|_{p'_1} \dots [u]_{p'_k}$, and we are done. Thus, assume that the second case holds for a certain i , and let P_i and P'_i be $\{p|i, p \in P\}$ and $\{p|i, p \in P'\}$, respectively. The terms s_i, t_i , and sets of positions P_i and P'_i satisfy the conditions of the lemma, and $|s_i| + |t_i| < |s| + |t|$. Hence, induction hypothesis apply for them, and it follows also for s and t that there exists at most one term u such that $s[u]_{p_1} \dots [u]_{p_n} = t|_{p'_1} \dots [u]_{p'_k}$ holds. \square

The following lemma connects with the previous one because it argues that a pumping is just a simultaneous replacement of occurrences of one term by another new term.

LEMMA 5.3. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Let r be a run of A , and let \bar{p} be a position such that $r|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run of A .*

Then, there exist parallel positions $\bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_k$ including \bar{p} such that, for all run r' satisfying $\text{root}(r') = \text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}})$, then $r|_{\bar{p}_1} = \dots = r|_{\bar{p}_k}$ and $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}} = r[r'_1]_{\bar{p}_1} \dots [r'_k]_{\bar{p}_k}$ hold.

Moreover, if a prefix p of \bar{p} satisfies that $r|_p$ is a run and for some i in $\{1, \dots, k\}$, p is a prefix of \bar{p}_i and $|\bar{p}_i - p| \leq h(A)$, then, $|\{p' | p \leq p' < \bar{p} \wedge r|_{p'} \text{ is a run}\}|$ is bounded by $h(A)$.

Proof. It is easy to verify that the set of positions $\text{reppos}(r, \bar{p})$, defined recursively as follows for a given run r and a position \bar{p} under the above assumptions, satisfies the statement. $\text{reppos}(r, \lambda)$ is defined as $\{\lambda\}$, and $\text{reppos}((I : s \xrightarrow{c})$

$q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r_1]_{\bar{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\bar{p}_n}, \hat{p}_i.\bar{p})$ is defined as $\{\hat{p}_j.\bar{p}' | (j = i \vee (\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_j) \in c) \wedge \bar{p}' \in \text{reppos}(r_i, \bar{p})\}$ \square

When a pumping does not produce a run, there must exist at least one falsified disequality, and one of them must be a prefix of the position \bar{p} of the pumping.

LEMMA 5.4. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Let r, r' be runs of A , and let \bar{p} be a position such that $r|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run of A and $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r')$ holds. Suppose that $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is not a run.*

Then, there exists a position p such that $\text{root}((r[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_p)$ is of the form $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)$, and there exists $(p_1 \neq p_2)$ in c satisfying $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_{p.p_1} = \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_{p.p_2}$. Moreover, p can be chosen to be a prefix of \bar{p} .

Proof. We prove it by induction on $\text{height}(r)$. If \bar{p} is λ , then, $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is r' , which is a run, thus contradicting the statement. Hence, without loss of generality, assume that r is of the form $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r_1]_{\bar{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\bar{p}_n}$ and that \bar{p} is of the form $\hat{p}_1.\bar{p}$.

If $r_1[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is not a run, then, by induction hypothesis, there exists a prefix p' of \bar{p} such that $\text{root}((r_1[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_{p'})$ is of the form $(I' : s' \xrightarrow{c'} q')$, and there exists $(p_1 \neq p_2)$ in c' satisfying $\pi_{\Sigma}(r_1[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_{p'.p_1} = \pi_{\Sigma}(r_1[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_{p'.p_2}$. By defining p as $\hat{p}_1.p'$ the lemma follows.

Otherwise, assume that $r_1[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is a run. Since $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is not a run, this can only be due to the existence of a disequality $(p_1 \neq p_2)$ in c satisfying $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_{p_1} = \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_{p_2}$. By defining p as λ the lemma follows. \square

DEFINITION 5.5 (replaced positions and falsified disequalities).

Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Let r be a run of A , and let \bar{p} be a position such that $r|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run of A .

According to Lemma 5.3, there exist parallel positions $\bar{p}_1 = \bar{p}, \dots, \bar{p}_k$ such that $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}} = r[r'_1]_{\bar{p}_1} \dots [r'_k]_{\bar{p}_k}$ for any run r' satisfying $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r')$. We call the replaced positions of any of such pumpings $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ to these positions. We will usually denote them with a bar (\bar{p}_i), or with a tilde (\tilde{p}_i).

Let r' be a run such that $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r')$ holds but $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is not a run. According to Lemma 5.4, there exists a position p such that $\text{root}((r[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_p)$ is of the form $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)$, and there exists $(p_1 \neq p_2)$ in c satisfying $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_{p.p_1} = \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}})|_{p.p_2}$. In such a case, we say that the pumping $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ falsifies $(p_1 \neq p_2)$ at p . Moreover, if some \bar{p}_i is a proper prefix of $p.p_1$ ($p.p_2$) we say that the pumping $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies $(p_1 \neq p_2)$ at $\langle p, \bar{p}_i, p.p_1 \rangle$ (at $\langle p, \bar{p}_i, p.p_2 \rangle$). Note that, it may happen that $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies $(p_1 \neq p_2)$ at $\langle p, \bar{p}_i, p.p_1 \rangle$ and at $\langle p, \bar{p}_i, p.p_2 \rangle$. In the case where $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ falsifies $(p_1 \neq p_2)$ at p but no \bar{p}_i is a proper prefix of p_1 or of p_2 , we say that $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ far-falsifies $(p_1 \neq p_2)$ at p .

EXAMPLE 5.6. (Continues Example 4.18) *Let r_p be a run of \hat{A} , defined as $r_p = \hat{\rho}_2(a)$. Then, the pumping $\hat{r}[[r_p]]_{1.1}$ is the run $\hat{r} = \hat{\rho}_4(f(\hat{\rho}_2(a), \hat{\rho}_2(a), \hat{\rho}_2(a)))$, which far-falsifies the disequalities $1.1 \neq 1.3$ and $1.2 \neq 1.3$ at position λ .*

In order to give an example of a close-falsified disequality, let $A_{\text{ex2}} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$ where $Q = F = \{q\}$ holds, $\Sigma = \{f^{(2)}, h^{(1)}, a^{(0)}\}$ holds, and Δ is the following conjunction of rules:

- $\rho_1 = a \rightarrow q$
- $\rho_2 = h(q) \xrightarrow{1,1 \neq 1,2} q$
- $\rho_3 = f(q, q) \xrightarrow{1=2} q$

Let r_{ex2} be the following run of A_{ex2} : $\rho_3(\rho_2(\rho_2(\rho_1)), \rho_2(\rho_2(\rho_1)))$, with projection $\pi_{\Sigma}(r_{\text{ex2}}) =$

$f(h(h(a)), h(h(a)))$, and let r_p be $\rho_3(\rho_1, \rho_1)$, whose projection is $\pi_\Sigma(r_p) = f(a, a)$. Then, the pumping $r_{\text{ex2}}[[r_p]]_{1.1}$ is: $\rho_3(\rho_2(\rho_3(\rho_1, \rho_1)), \rho_2(\rho_3(\rho_1, \rho_1)))$ which is not a run, because it close-falsifies (1.1 \neq 1.2) at $\langle 1, 1.1, 1.1.1 \rangle$ (or at $\langle 1, 1.1, 1.1.2 \rangle$), and it close-falsifies (1.1 \neq 1.2) at $\langle 2, 2.1, 2.1.1 \rangle$ (or at $\langle 2, 2.1, 2.1.2 \rangle$).

The following technical definitions and lemmas are used to argue for the existence of certain pumpings when a term is big enough. These proofs are developed in the following two subsections.

LEMMA 5.7. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Let r, r' be runs of A , and let \bar{p} be a position such that $r|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run of A and $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r')$ holds.*

If $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies some disequality, then $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies a disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at a tuple $\langle p, \bar{p}_i, p.p_1 \rangle$ where p is a prefix of \bar{p} .

Proof. We prove it by induction on $\text{height}(r)$. If \bar{p} is λ , then, $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is r' , which is a run, thus contradicting the statement. Hence, without loss of generality, assume that r is of the form $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r_1]_{\bar{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\bar{p}_n}$ and that \bar{p} is of the form $\hat{p}_1.\bar{p}$.

If $r_1[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies some disequality, then, by induction hypothesis, $r_1[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies a disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at a tuple $\langle p', \bar{p}_i, p'.p_1 \rangle$ where p' is a prefix of \bar{p} . By defining p as $\hat{p}_1.p'$ and \bar{p}_i as $\hat{p}_1.\bar{p}_i$ the lemma follows.

Otherwise, assume that $r_1[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ does not close-falsify any disequality. Since $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies some disequality, it must be a disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$) close-falsified at a tuple of the form $\langle \lambda, \bar{p}_i, \lambda.p_1 \rangle$. By defining p as λ the lemma follows. \square

DEFINITION 5.8 (*h-similar terms*). *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Recall that with h we denote $h(A)$. Let s and t be terms in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$. By $s =_h t$ we denote that the following conditions hold:*

- For each position p with $|p| \leq h$, ($p \in \text{Pos}(s) \Leftrightarrow p \in \text{Pos}(t)$) holds.
- For each $p \in \text{Pos}(s)$ with $|p| \leq h$, ($\text{root}(s|_p) = \text{root}(t|_p)$) holds.
- For each positions $p_1, p_2 \in \text{Pos}(s)$ with $|p_1|, |p_2| \leq h$, ($(s|_{p_1} = s|_{p_2}) \Leftrightarrow (t|_{p_1} = t|_{p_2})$) holds.

Note that $=_h$ is an equivalence relation with a finite number of classes depending on h . By $\mathcal{H}(A)$, or \mathcal{H} when A is clear from the context, we denote such a number of classes.

LEMMA 5.9. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Let r, r_1, r_2 be runs of A , and let \bar{p} be a position such that $r|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run of A and $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r_1) = \text{root}(r_2)$ holds. Suppose that $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}}$ and $r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}}$ are not runs. Let $\bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_k$ be the replaced positions of both $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}}$ and $r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}}$.*

- If both $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}}$ and $r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}}$ far-falsify the same ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at the same p , then, $\pi_\Sigma(r_1) = \pi_\Sigma(r_2)$.
- If $\pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}}) =_h \pi_\Sigma(r_1) =_h \pi_\Sigma(r_2)$ and both $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}}$ and $r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsify the same ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at the same $\langle p, \bar{p}_i, p.p_1 \rangle$, then $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}.((p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i)} \neq \pi_\Sigma(r_1)|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i} = \pi_\Sigma(r_2)|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i}$.

Proof. The first item is a direct consequence of previous definitions and Lemma 5.2.

For the second item, we first observe that $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}.((p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i)} = \pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}})|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i} = \pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}_i})|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i} = \pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}_i.((p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i)} = \pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p.p_1} \neq \pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p.p_2}$ holds.

Second, we prove that no position in $\{\bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_k\}$ can be a proper prefix of $p.p_2$ by contradiction. Thus, assume that,

for some position in $\{\bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_k\}$, say \bar{p}_j , \bar{p}_j is a proper prefix of $p.p_2$. Note that $r|_{\bar{p}} = r|_{\bar{p}_i} = r|_{\bar{p}_j}$ holds. Thus, $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p.p_2} = \pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}_j.((p.p_2) - \bar{p}_j)} = \pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}_j})|_{((p.p_2) - \bar{p}_j)} = \pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}})|_{((p.p_2) - \bar{p}_j)} = \pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}.((p.p_2) - \bar{p}_j)}$ holds, and hence, $\pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}})|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i} \neq \pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}})|_{((p.p_2) - \bar{p}_j)}$ follows from our first observation. Since $\pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}}) =_h \pi_\Sigma(r_1)$ holds, then $\pi_\Sigma(r_1)|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i} \neq \pi_\Sigma(r_1)|_{(p.p_2) - \bar{p}_j}$ holds. But this is in contradiction with the fact that $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at $\langle p, \bar{p}_i, p.p_1 \rangle$.

Third, we show that $p.p_2$ is not a prefix of any position in $\{\bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_k\}$, again by contradiction. Thus, assume that, for some position in $\{\bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_k\}$, say \bar{p}_j , $p.p_2$ is a prefix of \bar{p}_j . Then, r_1 is a subterm of $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}.p.p_2}$. On the other side, since \bar{p}_i is a proper prefix of $p.p_1$, it holds that $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}.p.p_1}$ is a proper subterm of r_1 . Thus, $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}.p.p_1} = r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}.p.p_2}$ is not possible, contradicting the fact that $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at $\langle p, \bar{p}_i, p.p_1 \rangle$.

From the two above previous facts, we conclude that $p.p_2$ is parallel with all replaced positions $\bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_n$. Thus, $r|_{p.p_2} = r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}.p.p_2} = r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}.p.p_2}$ holds. Moreover, recall from the first observation that $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}.((p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i)} \neq \pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p.p_2} = \pi_\Sigma(r|_{p.p_2})$ holds. Hence, $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}.((p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i)} \neq \pi_\Sigma(r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}})|_{p.p_2} = \pi_\Sigma(r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}.p.p_2})$. Note also that $\pi_\Sigma(r_1)|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i} = \pi_\Sigma(r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}})|_{p.p_1} = \pi_\Sigma(r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}})|_{p.p_2} = \pi_\Sigma(r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}.p.p_2})$, and $\pi_\Sigma(r_2)|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i} = \pi_\Sigma(r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}})|_{p.p_1} = \pi_\Sigma(r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}})|_{p.p_2} = \pi_\Sigma(r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}.p.p_2})$ hold. Therefore, $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}.((p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i)} \neq \pi_\Sigma(r_1)|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i} = \pi_\Sigma(r_2)|_{(p.p_1) - \bar{p}_i}$ also hold, and we are done. \square

5.1 decreasing pumpings

When a term is big enough, it can be argued the existence of a pumping decreasing the size and producing a correct run. This allows to prove decidability of emptiness. The argumentation of this fact follows the ideas presented in [9].

LEMMA 5.10. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Let s be a term of minimal size among all the terms accepted by A . Let M be $\mathcal{H} \cdot |\Delta| \cdot (2N h)^{(2N h + 1)}$, where N is the number of different disequalities in the rules of Δ .*

Then, $\text{height}(s) \leq h \left[((N + 1)^M - 1)(N + 1)/N \right]$.

Proof. Let r be a run of A with an accepting resulting state and such that $\pi_\Sigma(r) = s$. Let \bar{p} be a position of r . In order to conclude, it suffices to bound $|\bar{p}|$ by $h \left[((N + 1)^M - 1)(N + 1)/N \right]$.

We will apply a conceptual process dealing with a data structure of the form $\langle S, \{ \langle E_1, P_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle E_k, P_k \rangle \} \rangle$, where all $S, E_1, P_1, \dots, E_k, P_k$ are sets of positions satisfying the following invariants:

- $S \cup E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_k$ is the set of all positions p such that $p \leq \check{p}$ holds and $r|_p$ is a run.
- The sets S, E_1, \dots, E_k are pairwise disjoint.
- For each i in $\{1, \dots, k\}$ and each two positions $\bar{p}, p \in E_i$, $s|_{\bar{p}} =_h s|_p$ and $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r|_p)$ hold.
- P_1, \dots, P_k contain positions that are suffixes of positions occurring in the constraint of some rule in Δ .
- For each i in $1, \dots, k$, and each $\bar{p}, p \in E_i$, and each \check{p} in P_i , $s|_{\bar{p}. \check{p}} = s|_{p. \check{p}}$ holds.

Starting the process: The first tuple of our process will be $\langle \emptyset, \{ \langle E_1, \emptyset \rangle, \dots, \langle E_k, \emptyset \rangle \} \rangle$, where $\{E_1, \dots, E_k\}$ is the partition satisfying that $E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_k$ is the set of all positions p such that $p \leq \check{p}$ holds, $r|_p$ is a run, and two positions \bar{p}, p are in the same E_i if and only if $(s|_{\bar{p}} =_h s|_p \wedge \text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r|_p))$ holds. It is clear that the first tuple satisfies the invariants.

A step of the process: Now, at each step of the process with a current tuple $\langle S, \{\langle E_1, P_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle E_k, P_k \rangle\} \rangle$, it is chosen the minimum position \bar{p} of $E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_k$ in size. Without loss of generality, suppose that \bar{p} is in E_1 . Note that \bar{p} is a proper prefix of all positions p in $E_1 - \{\bar{p}\}$, and that $r|_{\bar{p}}$ and all $r|_p$ for each of such p are runs. Moreover, by the minimality of s , no $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ for each of such p is a run. By Lemma 5.4, each of such $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ falsifies some disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at some p' . Moreover, by Lemma 5.7, in the case where $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies a disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at some $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$, this p' can be chosen to be a prefix of \bar{p} . Now, the process considers the set S' of all positions p in $E_1 - \{\bar{p}\}$ such that $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ far-falsifies some disequality. Note that, by the minimality of \bar{p} , on the one side $|\bar{p}| \leq |S| + 1$, and on the other side, by the first item of Lemma 5.9, $|S'| \leq N|\bar{p}|$. Thus, $|S'|$ is bounded by $N(|S| + 1)$. Now note that, for each p in $E_1 - \{\bar{p}\} \cup S'$, $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies some disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at some $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$. Moreover, by Lemma 5.7, for each of such p we can assume that the corresponding p' is a prefix of \bar{p} . Note also that, by the last part of the statement in Lemma 5.3, such a p' can be chosen only among $h(A)$ possibilities. The process constructs a partition $\{E'_1, \dots, E'_n\}$ of $E_1 - \{\bar{p}\} \cup S'$ and satisfying the following condition: for each i in $\{1, \dots, n\}$, there exists a position \check{p}_i , a disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$), and a tuple $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$, such that, for each position p in E_i , the pumping $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$, p' is a prefix of \bar{p} and $p'.p_1 - \bar{p}'$ equals \check{p}_i (note that there could be several different elections for the partition $\{E'_1, \dots, E'_n\}$ if some $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies several disequalities). For each of such i 's, disequalities ($p_1 \neq p_2$), and tuples $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$, by the second item of Lemma 5.9, $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}, (\langle p', p_1 \rangle - \bar{p}')}$ is different from $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p, (\langle p', p_1 \rangle - \bar{p}')}$ for each p in E'_i , and all of such $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p, (\langle p', p_1 \rangle - \bar{p}')}$ are identical. It follows $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}, \check{p}_i} \neq \pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p, \check{p}_i}$ for each p in E'_i , and all $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p, \check{p}_i}$ are identical for all p in E'_i . Thus, by the invariants of the process, \check{p}_i is not in P_1 (note that this consequence is valid for $\check{p}_1, \dots, \check{p}_n$). The tuple constructed for the next step is $\langle S \cup \{\bar{p}\} \cup S', \{\langle E'_1, P_1 \cup \{\check{p}_1\} \rangle, \dots, \langle E'_n, P_1 \cup \{\check{p}_n\} \rangle, \langle E_2, P_2 \rangle, \dots, \langle E_k, P_k \rangle\} \rangle$. From the above observations it follows that the new tuple satisfies the invariants, too.

Recall that, at each step, $\langle E_1, P_1 \rangle$ is removed and new $\langle E'_1, P_1 \cup \{\check{p}_1\} \rangle, \dots, \langle E'_n, P_1 \cup \{\check{p}_n\} \rangle$ are added, where each of such $P_1 \cup \{\check{p}_i\}$ satisfy that \check{p}_i is not in P_1 . Also recall that, by the invariants, the sets P_j contain suffixes of positions occurring at disequalities in the constraints of rules in Δ . There are at most $2Nh$ different suffixes of this kind. Moreover, by the last part of the statement in Lemma 5.3, the triples $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$ are constructed by choosing p' among h possibilities, and p_1 among $2N$ possibilities, from which \bar{p}' is uniquely determined. Hence, there are at most $2Nh$ possible triples. Thus, when $\langle E_1, P_1 \rangle$ is replaced by $\langle E'_1, P_1 \cup \{\check{p}_1\} \rangle, \dots, \langle E'_n, P_1 \cup \{\check{p}_n\} \rangle$, such an n is bounded by $2Nh$. Therefore, the number of execution steps of the process is bounded by $M = \mathcal{H} \cdot |\Delta| \cdot (2Nh)^{(2Nh+1)}$. It follows that the process terminates, and S contains all prefixes p of \bar{p} such that $r|_p$ is a run when it halts. Let S_i represent the set S at the i -th execution step. By the above remarks $|S_{i+1}| \leq |S_i| + N(|S_i| + 1) + 1$. Since $|S_0| = 0$, we can bound $|S_i|$ by $((N+1)^i - 1)(N+1)/N$, and hence, the number of prefixes p of \bar{p} such that $r|_p$ is a run is bounded by $|S_M| \leq \left[((N+1)^M - 1)(N+1)/N \right]$, and this concludes the proof since, as a consequence, h times this number bounds $|\bar{p}|$. \square

COROLLARY 5.11. *The emptiness problem is decidable for $TA_{\neq, hom}$.*

5.2 Increasing pumpings

When a term is big enough, it can be argued the existence of infinite pumpings increasing the size and producing correct runs. This allows to prove decidability of finiteness, but also, it will be a key point for the decidability of the HOM problem.

DEFINITION 5.12. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, hom}$. We define $\check{h}(A)$ as $\mathcal{H} \cdot |\Delta| \cdot (h(A)^2 + h(A)) \cdot ((2Nh(A) + 1)^{(2Nh(A)+1)})$, where N is the number of different disequalities in the rules of Δ .*

The key lemma of this subsection is Lemma 5.19. For its proof, we need to develop several intermediate technical results related to falsified disequalities.

LEMMA 5.13. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, hom}$. Let r be a run of A satisfying $\text{height}(r) > \check{h}(A)$. Let \bar{p} be a position in $\text{Pos}(r)$ satisfying $|\bar{p}| = \text{height}(r)$. Then, there are two positions p, \check{p} of $\text{Pos}(r)$ satisfying the following conditions:*

- $p < \bar{p} \leq \check{p}$ and $|p| + h(A)^2 < |\bar{p}|$.
- $r|_p$ and $r|_{\bar{p}}$ are runs satisfying $\text{root}(r|_p) = \text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}})$.
- $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ does not close-falsify any disequality.

Proof. We proceed by contradiction by assuming that such two positions do not exist. Thus, for any two positions p, \bar{p} satisfying $p < \bar{p} \leq \check{p}$, $|p| + h^2 < |\bar{p}|$, $r|_p$ and $r|_{\bar{p}}$ are runs, and $\text{root}(r|_p) = \text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}})$, it holds that the pumping $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies some disequality.

Since $|\bar{p}| = \text{height}(r)$ holds, in particular, $|\bar{p}| > \check{h}(A)$ holds. From the prefixes of \bar{p} we can choose a set E with $|E| \geq \check{h}(A)/(\mathcal{H} \cdot |\Delta| \cdot (h^2 + h)) = (2Nh + 1)^{(2Nh+1)}$ and satisfying the following conditions.

- For each position p in E , $r|_p$ is a run.
- For each two positions p, \bar{p} in E , $\pi_\Sigma(r|_p) = \pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}})$ and $\text{root}(r|_p) = \text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}})$ hold.
- For each two positions p, \bar{p} in E , satisfying $p < \bar{p}$, $|p| + h^2 < |\bar{p}|$ holds.

By our assumptions, for any two positions $p < \bar{p}$ in E , the pumping $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies some disequality.

We will proceed by modifying E and a set of positions P as follows by preserving the above conditions, and also by preserving the following invariant: P contains suffixes of positions occurring at disequalities in the constraints of rules in Δ , and for each position \check{p} in P and each two positions $p < \bar{p}$ in E , $\pi_\Sigma(r|_{p, \check{p}}) = \pi_\Sigma(r|_{\bar{p}, \check{p}})$ holds.

Initially, P is \emptyset and E is defined as above. At each step, we consider the maximum position \bar{p} of E in size. Note that, for each position $p < \bar{p}$ in E the pumping $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies some disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at some $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$. Moreover, by Lemma 5.7, for each of such p we can assume that the corresponding p' is a prefix of \bar{p} . Note also that, by the last part of the statement in Lemma 5.3, such a p' can be chosen only among h possibilities.

Let $\{E_1, \dots, E_n\}$ be a partition of $E - \{\bar{p}\}$ satisfying the following condition: for each i in $\{1, \dots, n\}$, there exists a position \check{p}_i , a disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$), and a tuple $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$, such that, for each position p in E_i , the pumping $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$, p' is a prefix of \bar{p} and $p'.p_1 - \bar{p}'$ equals \check{p}_i (note that there could be several different elections for the partition $\{E_1, \dots, E_n\}$ if some $r[[r|_p]]_{\bar{p}}$ close-falsifies several disequalities). For each of such i 's, disequalities ($p_1 \neq p_2$), and tuples $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$, by the second item of Lemma 5.9, $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}, (\langle p', p_1 \rangle - \bar{p}')}$ is different from $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p, (\langle p', p_1 \rangle - \bar{p}')}$ for each p in E_i , and all of such $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p, (\langle p', p_1 \rangle - \bar{p}')}$ are identical. It follows $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{\bar{p}, \check{p}_i} \neq \pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p, \check{p}_i}$ for each p in E_i , and all $\pi_\Sigma(r)|_{p, \check{p}_i}$ are

identical for all p in E_i . Thus, by the invariant, \check{p}_i is not in P (note that this consequence is valid for $\check{p}_1, \dots, \check{p}_n$). For the next step, we choose E as the E_i with maximum cardinality $|E_i|$, and choose P as $P \cup \{\check{p}_i\}$. From the above observations it follows that the new E, P satisfy the invariants, too.

Note that, at each step, P increases its cardinality by 1. Also recall that the set P contains suffixes of positions occurring at disequalities in the constraints of rules in Δ . There are at most $2Nh$ different suffixes of this kind. It follows that the number of execution steps is bounded by $2Nh$. Moreover, by the last part of the statement in Lemma 5.3, the triples $\langle p', \bar{p}', p'.p_1 \rangle$ are constructed by choosing p' among h possibilities, and p_1 among $2N$ possibilities, from which \bar{p}' is uniquely determined. Hence, there are at most $2Nh$ possible triples. Thus, the partition E_1, \dots, E_n has at most $2Nh$ parts. Hence, the cardinal of E is subtracted by 1 and then divided by at most $2Nh$ at each execution step, i.e. $|E_{j+1}| \geq \lceil (|E_j| - 1)/(2Nh) \rceil$. Note that, according to the assumptions, E must be empty at the last execution step. Thus, the starting E satisfies $|E| < ((2Nh + 1)^{(2Nh+1)})$, and this is in contradiction with $|E| \geq (2Nh + 1)^{(2Nh+1)}$. \square

LEMMA 5.14. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, hom}$. Let r, r' be runs of A , and let \bar{p} be a position such that $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r')$. Let p_1, p_2 be two positions such that $r|_{p_1}$ is a run, $r|_{p_1} \neq r|_{p_2}$ holds, and both p_1, p_2 are prefixes of replaced positions in $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$. Then, either $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p_1}$ is a proper subterm of $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p_2}$, or $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p_2}$ is a proper subterm of $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p_1}$.*

Proof. We prove it by induction on $|\bar{p}|$. We write r more explicitly as $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$. If p_1 or p_2 is λ , the result follows trivially. Thus, assume that none of them is λ . If p_2 is a position in $\text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s)$, then, since both p_1 and p_2 are prefixes of replaced positions and $r|_{p_1}$ is a run, it follows that p_1 is of the form $\hat{p}_i.p'_1$, and p_2 is a proper prefix of a certain \hat{p}_j satisfying that $(\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_j)$ occurs in c . The result follows trivially by the definition of pumping. Thus, assume that p_2 is not in $\text{Pos}_{\Sigma}(s)$. In this case, p_1 is of the form $\hat{p}_i.p'_1$, and p_2 is of the form $\hat{p}_j.p'_2$ where $(\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_j)$ occurs in c . Let \hat{p}_k be the prefix of \bar{p} among the positions $\hat{p}_1, \dots, \hat{p}_n$. Note that either \hat{p}_i is \hat{p}_k or $(\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_k)$ occurs in c , and either \hat{p}_j is \hat{p}_k or $(\hat{p}_j = \hat{p}_k)$ occurs in c . Now, observe that the runs $r|_{\hat{p}_k}, r'$, the position $\bar{p} - \hat{p}_k$, and the two positions p'_1 and p'_2 satisfy the assumptions of the lemma and $|\bar{p} - \hat{p}_k| < |\bar{p}|$ holds. Therefore, by induction hypothesis, either $(r|_{\hat{p}_k})[[r']]_{\bar{p}-\hat{p}_k|p'_1}$ is a proper subterm of $(r|_{\hat{p}_k})[[r']]_{\bar{p}-\hat{p}_k|p'_2}$, or $(r|_{\hat{p}_k})[[r']]_{\bar{p}-\hat{p}_k|p'_2}$ is a proper subterm of $(r|_{\hat{p}_k})[[r']]_{\bar{p}-\hat{p}_k|p'_1}$. Finally, since either \hat{p}_i is \hat{p}_k or $(\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_k)$ occurs in c , and either \hat{p}_j is \hat{p}_k or $(\hat{p}_j = \hat{p}_k)$ occurs in c , then $(r|_{\hat{p}_k})[[r']]_{\bar{p}-\hat{p}_k|p'_1}$ and $(r|_{\hat{p}_k})[[r']]_{\bar{p}-\hat{p}_k|p'_2} = r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ hold, and hence, the result follows. \square

LEMMA 5.15. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, hom}$. Let r, r' be runs of A , and let \bar{p} be a position such that $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{root}(r')$. Let p be a prefix of \bar{p} such that $\text{height}(r|_p) = |\bar{p} - p| + \text{height}(r|_{\bar{p}})$ holds. Let p_1 be a position such that $p.p_1$ is a prefix of a replaced position in $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$. Let k be $\{p' | p \leq p' < p.p_1 \wedge r|_{p'} \text{ is a run}\}$.*

Then, $\text{height}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p.p_1}) \geq |\bar{p} - p| + \text{height}(r') - k \cdot h(A)$.

Proof. We prove it by induction on k . If $r|_{p.p_1}$ is not a run, then, since p_1 is a prefix of a replaced position, p_1 can be enlarged to satisfy that $r|_{p.p_1}$ is a run, by preserving the rest of assumptions and the value for k . Thus, assume that $r|_{p.p_1}$ is a run.

Assume that p_1 is λ . Then k is 0, $\text{height}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p.p_1}) = \text{height}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p}) \geq |\bar{p} - p| + \text{height}(r')$ holds, and hence, $\text{height}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p.p_1}) \geq |\bar{p} - p| + \text{height}(r') - k \cdot h$ follows.

Otherwise, assume that p_1 is not λ . We write r more explicitly as $(I : s \xrightarrow{c} q)(s_1, \dots, s_m)[r_1]_{\hat{p}_1} \dots [r_n]_{\hat{p}_n}$. Let \hat{p}_j be the prefix

of \bar{p} among the positions $\hat{p}_1, \dots, \hat{p}_n$. Since $r|_{p.p_1}$ is a run, $p.p_1$ is of the form $p.\hat{p}_i.p'_1$ for some \hat{p}_i such that either \hat{p}_i is \hat{p}_j , or $(\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_j)$ occurs in c . Now, note that the runs r, r' , the position \bar{p} , and the positions $p.\hat{p}_j$ and p'_1 satisfy the assumptions of the lemma for $k - 1$. Thus, by induction hypothesis, $\text{height}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p.\hat{p}_j.p'_1}) \geq |\bar{p} - (p.\hat{p}_j)| + \text{height}(r') - (k - 1) \cdot h$ holds.

Since either \hat{p}_i is \hat{p}_j or $(\hat{p}_i = \hat{p}_j)$ occurs in c , it follows that $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p.p_1}$ coincides with $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p.\hat{p}_j.p'_1}$. Since $|\bar{p} - p| \leq |\bar{p} - (p.\hat{p}_j)| + h$ holds, it follows $\text{height}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p.p_1}) \geq |\bar{p} - p| + \text{height}(r') - k \cdot h$ and we are done. \square

COROLLARY 5.16. *Suppose the hypothesis of the previous lemma and $\text{height}(r') > \text{height}(r|_{\bar{p}}) + k \cdot h(A)$.*

Then, $\text{height}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p.p_1}) > \text{height}(r|_p)$.

LEMMA 5.17. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, hom}$. Let r be a run of A satisfying $\text{height}(r) > \check{h}(A)$. Let \bar{p} be a position in $\text{Pos}(r)$ satisfying $|\bar{p}| = \text{height}(r)$. Then, there exist two positions p, \bar{p}' of $\text{Pos}(r)$ satisfying the following conditions:*

- $p < \bar{p} \leq \bar{p}$ and $|p| + h(A)^2 < |\bar{p}'|$.
- $r|_p$ and $r|_{\bar{p}'}$ are runs such that $\text{root}(r|_p) = \text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}'})$.
- $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is a run.

Proof. We consider p, \bar{p}' to be the two positions given by Lemma 5.13. In order to conclude, it suffices to prove that $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ does not far-falsify any disequality. We proceed by contradiction by assuming that it far-falsifies a disequality ($p_1 \neq p_2$) at a position p' . Thus, $\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_1}) \neq \pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_2})$ and $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_1}) = \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2})$ hold. By Lemma 5.4, p' can be assumed to be a prefix of \bar{p} . Note that, by the definition of far-falsification, no replaced position in $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is a proper prefix of $p'.p_1$ nor $p'.p_2$. Since $\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_1}) \neq \pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_2})$ holds, there exists a position p'' satisfying the following conditions:

- $|p''| \leq h$.
- no replaced position in $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$ is a proper prefix of $p'.p_1.p''$ nor $p'.p_2.p''$.
- $\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_1.p''}) \neq \pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_2.p''})$.
- either (i) the roots of $\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_1.p''})$ and $\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_2.p''})$ differ, or (ii) some of $r|_{p'.p_1.p''}$ or $r|_{p'.p_2.p''}$ is a run.

We choose p'' to be minimal in size satisfying the above conditions. Note that, since $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_1}) = \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2})$ holds, then $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_1.p''}) = \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2.p''})$ also holds.

In case (i), it follows $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_1.p''}) \neq \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2.p''})$, a contradiction. Thus, assume that case (ii) holds. At this point, we distinguish the following cases:

- Assume that both $p'.p_1.p''$ and $p'.p_2.p''$ are prefixes of replaced positions in $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$. Since either $r|_{p'.p_1.p''}$ or $r|_{p'.p_2.p''}$ is a run, by Lemma 5.14, either $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_1.p''}$ is a proper subterm of $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2.p''}$ or $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2.p''}$ is a proper subterm of $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_1.p''}$. In any case, $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_1.p''}) \neq \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2.p''})$ follows, a contradiction.
- Assume that none of $p'.p_1.p''$ and $p'.p_2.p''$ is a prefix of a replaced position in $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$. In this case, $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_1.p''})$ coincides with $\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_1.p''})$, and $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2.p''})$ coincides with $\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_2.p''})$. This is in contradiction with $\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_1.p''}) \neq \pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_2.p''})$ and $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_1.p''}) = \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2.p''})$.
- Finally, assume that only one of $p'.p_1.p''$ and $p'.p_2.p''$ is a prefix of a replaced position in $r[[r']]_{\bar{p}}$. We assume that it is $p'.p_1.p''$ (the other case reaches a contradiction analogously). Thus, $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r']]_{\bar{p}|p'.p_2.p''})$ coincides with $\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_2.p''})$. Note that $\text{height}(r|_{p'.p_2.p''}) < \text{height}(r|_{p'})$ holds. By the

minimality election for p'' , it holds that $k = |\{p''' \mid p' \leq p''' < p'.p_1.p'' \wedge r|_{p''} \text{ is a run}\}|$ is smaller than or equal to h . Recall that p' is a prefix of \bar{p} , $p'.p_1.p''$ is a prefix of a replaced position in $r[[r|_{\bar{p}}]]_{\bar{p}}$, and since \bar{p} is a prefix of \bar{p} , then $\text{height}(r|_{p'}) = |(\bar{p} - p')| + \text{height}(r|_{\bar{p}})$ holds. Recall also that $|\bar{p} - p| > h^2$ holds, and hence, $\text{height}(r|_{p'}) > \text{height}(r|_{\bar{p}}) + h^2$ holds. Thus, by Corollary 5.16, $\text{height}(r[[r|_{\bar{p}}]]_{\bar{p}}|_{p'.p_1.p''}) > \text{height}(r|_{p'})$ holds. It follows $\text{height}(r[[r|_{\bar{p}}]]_{\bar{p}}|_{p'.p_1.p''}) > \text{height}(r|_{p'.p_2.p''}) = \text{height}(\pi_{\Sigma}(r|_{p'.p_2.p''})) = \text{height}(\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r|_{\bar{p}}]]_{\bar{p}}|_{p'.p_2.p''}))$. Therefore, $\pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r|_{\bar{p}}]]_{\bar{p}}|_{p'.p_1.p''}) \neq \pi_{\Sigma}(r[[r|_{\bar{p}}]]_{\bar{p}}|_{p'.p_2.p''})$ holds, a contradiction. \square

COROLLARY 5.18. *Let $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Let r be a run of A satisfying $\text{height}(r) > \check{h}(A)$. Let \bar{p} be a position in $\text{Pos}(r)$ satisfying $|\bar{p}| = \text{height}(r)$. Let \tilde{p} be the minimum prefix of \bar{p} in size satisfying that $r|_{\tilde{p}}$ is a run and $|\tilde{p}| > h(A)^2$.*

Then, there exists a run r' satisfying that $r[[r']]_{\tilde{p}}$ is a run and $\text{height}(r') > \text{height}(r|_{\tilde{p}})$.

Proof. Let p, \tilde{p} be the positions given by Lemma 5.17. Thus, they satisfy the following conditions:

- $p < \tilde{p} \leq \bar{p}$ and $|p| + h^2 < |\tilde{p}|$.
- $r|_p$ and $r|_{\tilde{p}}$ are runs such that $\text{root}(r|_{\tilde{p}}) = \text{root}(r|_p)$.
- $r[[r|_p]]_{\tilde{p}}$ is a run.

In order to conclude, it suffices to observe that the pumping $r[[r|_{\tilde{p}}]]_{\tilde{p}}$ at \tilde{p} can be seen as a pumping at \bar{p} , since $r[[r|_{\tilde{p}}]]_{\tilde{p}}$ equals $r[[((r|_{\tilde{p}})[[r|_p]]_{\tilde{p}-\tilde{p}})]]_{\tilde{p}}$. \square

LEMMA 5.19. *Let A be a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Let r be a run of A such that $\text{height}(r) > \check{h}(A)$. Then, there exists a position \bar{p} in r and infinitely many different runs r_1, r_2, \dots of A such that:*

- $|\bar{p}| > h(A)^2$ and $r|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run.
- all $\text{root}(r|_{\bar{p}}), \text{root}(r_1), \text{root}(r_2), \dots$ coincide.
- all pumpings $r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}}, r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}}, \dots$ are runs.

Proof. Let \bar{p} be any position in $\text{Pos}(r)$ satisfying $|\bar{p}| = \text{height}(r)$. We choose \bar{p} as the minimum prefix of \bar{p} in size satisfying that $r|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run and $|\bar{p}| > h^2$. By Corollary 5.18, there exists a run r_1 satisfying that $r'_1 := r[[r_1]]_{\bar{p}}$ is a run and $\text{height}(r_1) > \text{height}(r|_{\bar{p}})$. Note that \bar{p} is also the minimum prefix of a position in $\text{Pos}(r'_1)$ with length $\text{height}(r'_1)$. Thus, Corollary 5.18 can be applied again, concluding the existence of a run r_2 satisfying that $r'_2 := r'_1[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}} = r[[r_2]]_{\bar{p}}$ is a run and $\text{height}(r_2) > \text{height}(r'_1|_{\bar{p}}) = \text{height}(r_1)$. We conclude by noting that this inference can be iterated again and again. \square

COROLLARY 5.20. *The finiteness problem is decidable for $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$.*

Proof. By Lemma 5.19, in order to decide this problem for a given a $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$ $A = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$, it suffices to check whether there is a run r of A with an accepting resulting state and satisfying $\text{height}(r) > \check{h}(A)$. This question can be easily reduced to the emptiness problem, which is decidable, according to Corollary 5.11. To this end, it suffices to straightforwardly construct a new $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$ A' accepting the same language as A minus the terms with height smaller than or equal to $\check{h}(A)$, and then decide emptiness of $\mathcal{L}(A')$. \square

6. Consequences

We first mention the consequences from the complementary construction.

THEOREM 6.1. *The inclusion problem $\mathcal{L}(A) \supseteq \mathcal{L}(B)$ is decidable for a $TA_{=} A$ and a $TA B$ given as input.*

Proof. By Theorem 3.5, the complement $TA_{\neq} \bar{A}$ of A recognizes $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A)}$. It is well-known how to compute a new TA_{\neq} recognizing the intersection of the languages represented by a TA_{\neq} and a TA (in fact, our Definition 4.11 subsumes this construction). Thus, a $TA_{\neq} \bar{A} \cap B$ recognizing $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A)} \cap \mathcal{L}(B)$ can be computed. It is well-known (see [7, 8]) that emptiness of a TA_{\neq} is decidable (in fact, our Corollary 5.11 subsumes this result). Thus, we conclude by noting that deciding emptiness of $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A)} \cap \mathcal{L}(B)$ is equivalent to deciding $\mathcal{L}(A) \supseteq \mathcal{L}(B)$. \square

COROLLARY 6.2. *The universality problem is decidable for $TA_{=}$.*

Proof. Deciding $\mathcal{L}(A) = \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$ is equivalent to deciding $\mathcal{L}(A) \supseteq \mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$, and since $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$ is regular, from Theorem 6.1 it follows that universality is decidable. \square

COROLLARY 6.3. *The finiteness problem of $\mathcal{L}(B) - \mathcal{L}(A)$ is decidable for a $TA_{=} A$ and a $TA B$ given as input.*

Proof. As in the proof of Theorem 6.1, we can construct a TA_{\neq} recognizing $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A)} \cap \mathcal{L}(B)$. In order to conclude, we mention that it is well-known that finiteness of a TA_{\neq} is decidable (in fact, our Corollary 5.20 subsumes this result). \square

COROLLARY 6.4. *The regularity test is undecidable for TA_{\neq} , and thus, for reduction tree automata.*

Proof. Since regularity is undecidable for $TA_{=}$, our transformation of a $TA_{=}$ into a TA_{\neq} recognizing the complement is a reduction from this problem into regularity of a TA_{\neq} . Since TA_{\neq} are a particular case of reduction automata, the second part of the statement follows, too. \square

Now, we mention the consequences of combining the complementary construction and the decidability of emptiness and finiteness of $TA_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. Some of them generalize previous ones.

THEOREM 6.5. *The inclusion problem is decidable for images of tree homomorphisms, that is, $\mathcal{L}(H_A(A)) \supseteq \mathcal{L}(H_B(B))$ is decidable for a $TA A$, a $TA B$, and tree homomorphisms H_A and H_B given as input.*

Proof. By Proposition 4.6, two $TA_{=} A'$ and B' recognizing $\mathcal{L}(H_A(A))$ and $\mathcal{L}(H_B(B))$, respectively, can be computed. By Lemma 4.8 and Theorem 3.5, the complement $TA_{\neq} \bar{A}'$ of A' recognizes $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A')}$. By Proposition 4.13, $\bar{A}' \cap B'$ recognizes $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A')} \cap \mathcal{L}(B')$. By Corollary 5.11, emptiness of $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A')} \cap \mathcal{L}(B')$ is decidable. Thus, we conclude by noting that deciding emptiness of $\overline{\mathcal{L}(A')} \cap \mathcal{L}(B')$ is equivalent to deciding $\mathcal{L}(H_A(A)) \supseteq \mathcal{L}(H_B(B))$. \square

COROLLARY 6.6. *The equivalence problem is decidable for images of tree homomorphisms, that is, $\mathcal{L}(H_A(A)) = \mathcal{L}(H_B(B))$ is decidable for a $TA A$, a $TA B$, and tree homomorphisms H_A and H_B given as input.*

COROLLARY 6.7. *The inclusion and equivalence problems are decidable for ranges of bottom-up tree transducers.*

COROLLARY 6.8. *The finiteness problem of $\mathcal{L}(H_B(B)) - \mathcal{L}(H_A(A))$ is decidable for a $TA A$, a $TA B$, and tree homomorphisms H_A and H_B given as input.*

Proof. As in the proof of Theorem 6.5, we can construct a TA_{\neq} recognizing $\overline{\mathcal{L}(H_A(A))} \cap \mathcal{L}(H_B(B))$. In order to conclude, we note that, by Corollary 5.20, finiteness of the previous set is decidable. \square

7. Decision of the HOM problem

In this section we prove that the HOM problem is decidable. The algorithm, which is simple, is presented in the first subsection. The remaining subsections prove its correctness. To this end we make use of almost all results obtained for $\text{TA}_{\neq, \text{hom}}$ in the previous sections.

7.1 The algorithm deciding the HOM problem

DEFINITION 7.1 (linearization of a TA_{hom}). *Let $A_{\text{hom}} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let h be a natural number. The linearization of A_{hom} by h is the TA_{hom} $\langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta' \rangle$, denoted $\text{linearize}(A_{\text{hom}}, h)$, where Δ' is the set of all rules of the form $s[s_1]_{p_1} \dots [s_n]_{p_n} \rightarrow q$ such that:*

- A rule of the form $s \xrightarrow{c} q$ occurs in Δ .
- p_1, \dots, p_n are the positions occurring in c .
- For each i in $\{1, \dots, n\}$, s_i is a term in $\mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}}, s|_{p_i})$ such that $\text{height}(s_i) \leq h$.
- For each i, j in $\{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $(p_i = p_j)$ occurs in c , $s_i = s_j$ holds.

It is straightforward that a linearization of any TA_{hom} is computable and recognizes a regular language, since no equality constraints appear. It is also clear that $\mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}})$ includes the language of any of its linearizations. Moreover, in the case where $\mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}})$ is included in some of its linearizations, we can conclude that $\mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}})$ is regular.

EXAMPLE 7.2. *Let $A_{\text{ex3}} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} such that $Q = \{q, q'\}$ and $F = \{q'\}$ hold, $\Sigma = \{f^{(2)}, a^{(0)}\}$ holds, and the rules of Δ are:*

- $\rho_1 = a \rightarrow q$
- $\rho_2 = h(q) \rightarrow q$
- $\rho_3 = f(q, q) \xrightarrow{1=2} q'$
- $\rho_4 = f(q, h(q)) \rightarrow q'$

Then, the linearization $\text{linearize}(A_{\text{ex3}}, 0)$ is $\langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta' \rangle$, where Δ' is the set of rules $\{\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_4\}$ such that ρ_3 is the rule $f(a, a) \rightarrow q'$. It is easy to see that the language of the linearization contains the original language of A_{ex3} , and it follows that $\mathcal{L}(A_{\text{ex3}})$ is regular.

But if we consider the $\text{TA}_{\neq, \text{hom}}$ $A_{\text{ex4}} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta'' \rangle$, where Δ'' is $\Delta - \{\rho_4\}$, it can be proved that no linearization of A_{ex4} contains the original language.

The key point for deciding the HOM problem using linearization is stated by the following lemma.

LEMMA 7.3. *Let A_{hom} be a TA_{hom} . Let \check{h} be $\check{h}(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}})$. Suppose that $\mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}})$ is not included in $\mathcal{L}(\text{linearize}(A_{\text{hom}}, \check{h}))$. Then, $\mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}})$ is not regular.*

The proof of this lemma is done along the next subsections. It provides a simple decision algorithm for the HOM problem, described as follows.

- Input: A tree automaton A and a tree homomorphism H .
- Construct a TA_{hom} A_{hom} recognizing $H(A)$.
- Construct the linearization B of A_{hom} by $\check{h} = \check{h}(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}})$.
- If $\mathcal{L}(\text{linearize}(A_{\text{hom}}, \check{h}))$ includes $\mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}})$ then halt with output “REGULAR”.
- Otherwise, halt with output “NON-REGULAR”.

The construction of the second item can be done according to Proposition 4.6. The $\text{TA}_{\neq} \overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$ is constructed according to Definitions 3.1 and 4.10. The $\text{TA}_{\neq, \text{hom}} \overline{A_{\text{hom}}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$ is constructed according to definition 4.11. The natural number h is the one of definition 5.12. There is a straightforward algorithm based on a fix-point computation for deciding the inclusion of the fourth item. Nevertheless, Theorem 6.5 provides a more general decision procedure.

THEOREM 7.4. *The HOM problem is decidable.*

To conclude, it remains to prove Lemma 7.3.

7.2 A non-terminating process detecting non-regularity

In order to prove Lemma 7.3, we describe a non-terminating process. We emphasize that this process is not executed in order to decide regularity (the algorithm has already been presented in the previous section). It will just help us to argue about the certainness of Lemma 7.3.

The process deals with sets of terms with equality constraints. They represent an infinite set of ground terms: the ones obtained by applying substitutions holding the constraints.

DEFINITION 7.5 (constrained terms). *Let $A_{\text{hom}} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . A constrained term with respect to A_{hom} is a pair $t|c$, where t is a term in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma \cup Q)$, and c is a conjunction/set of equalities of positions $(p_1 = p_2)$ satisfying that $t|_{p_1} = t|_{p_2} \in Q$ holds and p_1 and p_2 are different. Moreover, if $(p_1 = p_2)$, $(p_2 = p_3)$ occur in c , then $(p_1 = p_3)$ also occurs in c , for arbitrary positions p_1, p_2, p_3 . We identify a term t with a constrained term $t|\emptyset$, that is, with an empty conjunction of equalities. We also define the replacement of a subterm $t|_p$ in a term t at position p by a constrained term $s|c$, denoted $t[s|c]_p$, as $t[s]_p \wedge_{(p_1=p_2) \in c} (p.p_1 = p.p_2)$.*

An instance of $t|c$ is a ground term of the form $t[s_1]_{p_1} \dots [s_n]_{p_n}$, where $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ are the positions p_i satisfying $t|_{p_i} \in Q$, $\{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$ are ground terms satisfying $s_i \in \mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}}, t|_{p_i})$ such that, for each $(p_i = p_j)$ occurring in c , $s_i = s_j$ holds. The set of instances of a constrained term $t|c$ with respect to A_{hom} is denoted by $\text{instances}(t|c, A_{\text{hom}})$, or by $\text{instances}(t|c)$ when A_{hom} is clear from the context. The set of instances of a set S of constrained terms with respect to a TA_{hom} A_{hom} , denoted $\text{instances}(S, A_{\text{hom}})$ or $\text{instances}(S)$ when A_{hom} is clear from the context, is $\bigcup_{(t|c) \in S} (\text{instances}(t|c))$.

DEFINITION 7.6 (linearization of constrained terms). *Let $A_{\text{hom}} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let h be a natural number. Let $t|c$ be a constrained term with respect to A_{hom} . The linearization of $t|c$ by h , denoted $\text{linearize}(t|c, h)$, is the set of terms $t[s_1]_{p_1} \dots [s_n]_{p_n}$, where $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ are the positions occurring in c , $\{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$ are ground terms satisfying $s_i \in \mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}}, t|_{p_i})$, each $\text{height}(s_i)$ is smaller than or equal to h , and for each $(p_i = p_j)$ occurring in c , $s_i = s_j$ holds.*

EXAMPLE 7.7. *Consider the TA_{hom} of Example 7.2 and the constrained term $t|c = f(q, f(q, q))|\{1 = 2\}$. Then, $\text{linearize}(t|c, 0)$ is $f(a, f(q, a))$.*

The process has a TA_{hom} $A_{\text{hom}} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ as input, constructs a set S of constrained terms with respect to A_{hom} , and proceeds by modifying S until it (eventually) detects a condition implying non-regularity. The following invariants are satisfied at the beginning of each step of the process:

- I1. Each $t|c$ in S satisfies that c is \emptyset , i.e. S contains just terms.
- I2. $\text{instances}(S)$ is equal to $\mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}})$.

13. For each two terms t_1, t_2 in S and each two positions p_1, p_2 satisfying that $t_1|_{p_1}$ and $t_2|_{p_2}$ are in Q , $||p_2| - |p_1|| \leq h(A_{hom})$.

The description of the process is as follows

1. Input: A $TA_{hom} A_{hom} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$.
2. Assign $S := F$.
3. If all terms in S are in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$, i.e. no state in Q occurs in S , then halt with output “REGULAR”.
4. Otherwise, let p be a position minimal in size among $\{p' \mid \exists t \in S : t|_{p'} \in Q\}$. Let t be a term of S satisfying $t|_p \in Q$. Let q be $t|_p$. Assign $S := (S - \{t\}) \cup \{t[s|c]_p \mid (s \xrightarrow{c} q) \in \Delta\}$. (Note that, at this point, S satisfies all the invariants except I1).
5. While S does not satisfy I1 do:
 - a. Let $t'|c'$ be a constrained term in S where c' is not empty.
 - b. If there exists a position p' in c' and a term t'' in $\text{instances}(t'|c') - \text{instances}(S - \{t'|c'\})$ such that $\text{height}(t''|_{p'}) > \check{h}(A_{hom} \cap \overline{A_{hom}})$, then halt with output “NON-REGULAR”.
 - c. Otherwise, assign $S := (S - \{t'|c'\}) \cup \text{linearize}(t'|c', \check{h}(A_{hom} \cap \overline{A_{hom}}))$.
6. Go to 3.

It is clear that the above process satisfies all the invariants when it passes through item 3. We insist again that this process is not executed. Thus, it does not matter if the used instructions are computable (nevertheless they are).

LEMMA 7.8. *If the process does not halt with output “NON-REGULAR”, then $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom}) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(\text{linearize}(A_{hom}, \check{h}(A_{hom} \cap \overline{A_{hom}})))$ holds.*

Proof. Let Δ' the set of rules of $\text{linearize}(A_{hom}, \check{h}(A_{hom} \cap \overline{A_{hom}}))$. Note that, when step 3 is executed, any term u inside S satisfies $u \xrightarrow{\Delta'}^* q'$ for some $q' \in F$. Thus, in order to conclude, it suffices to prove that any term u in $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom})$ is included in S at some point of the execution, under the assumptions of the lemma.

Assume that the process does not halt with output “NON-REGULAR”. Let u be a term in $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom})$. Note that, either the process halts with output “REGULAR” at step 3, or it does not halt. In the first case, by Invariant I2, u belongs to S when the process halts. In the second case, at some point of the execution in step 3, the minimal position p in size among $\{p' \mid \exists t \in S : t|_{p'} \in Q\}$ satisfies $|p| > \text{height}(u)$. Thus, by Invariant I2, at this point of the execution, u is also in S , and we are done. \square

The contraposition of the statement in Lemma 7.8 says that, if $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom})$ is not included into $\mathcal{L}(\text{linearize}(A_{hom}, \check{h}(A_{hom} \cap \overline{A_{hom}})))$, then the process halts with output “NON-REGULAR”. Hence, in order to prove Lemma 7.3, it rests to see that, when the process halts with output “NON-REGULAR”, $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom})$ is not regular. This reduces to check that, when the condition in step 5b of the process is satisfied, it follows that $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom})$ is not regular.

7.3 Intuition behind the non-regularity condition

The proofs of the following subsection are very technical. Here, we briefly try to provide some intuition, in order to show one of the fundamental tricks of the proofs, and how the constructions of previous sections play an important role.

For simplifying, first we call A to A_{hom} and suppose that A is just a deterministic TA instead of an arbitrary TA_{hom} , and that S is the set of constrained terms $\{f(q_1, q_1)|(1 = 2), f(q_2, q_1)\}$ for different states q_1, q_2 of A . Also suppose that we have a “big enough” term $f(t, t)$ in $\text{instances}(f(q_1, q_1)|(1 = 2)) -$

$\text{instances}(f(q_2, q_1))$. Our goal is to prove that $\text{instances}(S)$ is not regular. (Although these assumptions are not compatible with our context, since $\text{instances}(S) = \mathcal{L}(A)$ is not possible, they will be useful to our clarifying purposes).

Note that, by the definition of instance, t belongs to $\mathcal{L}(A, q_1)$, and since A is deterministic and q_1 and q_2 are different, t does not belong to $\mathcal{L}(A, q_2)$. Since $f(t, t)$ is “big”, by means of pumpings on t we can construct infinite terms t_1, t_2, \dots such that each t_i reaches q_1 with A . Thus, $f(t_i, t_i)$ is in $\text{instances}(f(q_1, q_1)|(1 = 2)) - \text{instances}(f(q_2, q_1))$ by the same reason, i.e. each t_i is in $\mathcal{L}(A, q_1)$, and hence, it is not in $\mathcal{L}(A, q_2)$.

Now, in order to prove that $\text{instances}(S)$ is not regular, we proceed by contradiction by assuming the existence of a TA C satisfying $\mathcal{L}(C) = \text{instances}(S)$. From the above infinite terms we can choose a t_i which is “big enough” with respect to the size of A and C . By means of a pumping on t_i , we can construct a new t'_i different from t_i but reaching the same state with A and the same state with C . Thus, $f(t'_i, t_i)$ reaches an accepting state with C , and t'_i reaches q_1 with A . Note that $f(t'_i, t_i)$ is not an instance of $f(q_1, q_1)|(1 = 2)$ because t'_i and t_i are different, neither an instance of $f(q_2, q_1)$ because t'_i reaches q_1 with A . Hence, we have reached a contradiction since $f(t'_i, t_i)$ is in $\mathcal{L}(C) - \text{instances}(S)$.

The previous ideas have a big obstacle when A is an arbitrary TA_{hom} instead of just a TA. The reason is that the starting homomorphism could be non-injective, and, in fact, TA_{hom} are inherently non-deterministic: thus, even when t reaches q_1 and not q_2 with A , it may happen that the generated t_1, t_2, \dots by pumping reach both q_1 and q_2 with A . Hence, the new infinitely many terms $f(t_i, t_i)$ are not necessarily in $\text{instances}(f(q_1, q_1)|(1 = 2)) - \text{instances}(f(q_2, q_1))$, and we cannot repeat the argument above. Here is when \overline{A} plays an important role. Note that there exists an execution of t with \overline{A} reaching a set S containing q_2 . If t is “big enough” with respect to the size of A and \overline{A} , then, we can perform infinite pumpings producing terms t_1, t_2, \dots such that each t_i reaches q_1 with A , and S with \overline{A} , thus ensuring that each t_i cannot reach q_2 with A . This allows to reproduce the same argument as before.

7.4 Correctness of the process

We will use the following lemma, which characterizes when a term is not an instance of a constrained term. It holds due to the fact that each symbol has a fixed arity.

LEMMA 7.9. *Let $A_{hom} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let $s|d$ be a constrained term. Let t be a term in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma) - \text{instances}(\{s|d\})$. Then, one of the following conditions hold:*

- *There is a position p in $\text{Pos}_\Sigma(s) \cap \text{Pos}(t)$ such that $\text{root}(s|_p)$ is different from $\text{root}(t|_p)$.*
- *There is a position p in $\text{Pos}_Q(s)$ such that $t|_p$ is not in $\mathcal{L}(A, s|_p)$.*
- *There is an equality $(p_1 = p_2)$ in d such that $t|_{p_1}$ is different from $t|_{p_2}$.*

The following two lemmas allow to conclude that, when condition in step 5b of the process is satisfied, it follows that $\mathcal{L}(A_{hom})$ is not regular.

LEMMA 7.10. *Let $A_{hom} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let S be a set of constrained terms satisfying I2 and I3. Let $t|c$ be a constrained term in S . Let $\check{p}_1, \dots, \check{p}_n$ be the positions \check{p}_i satisfying $t|_{\check{p}_i} \in Q$. Suppose that \check{p}_1 occurs in c , and that, without loss of generality, $\check{p}_2, \dots, \check{p}_k$ are all positions \check{p}_j such that $(\check{p}_1 = \check{p}_j)$ occurs in c . Suppose that $t' = t[t_1]_{\check{p}_1} \dots [t_1]_{\check{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\check{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\check{p}_n}$ is a term in $\text{instances}(t|c) - \text{instances}(S - \{t|c\})$ such that $\text{height}(t_1) > \check{h}(A_{hom} \cap \overline{A_{hom}})$ holds.*

Then, there exist infinitely many terms $t_{1,1}, t_{1,2}, \dots$ such that all $t[t_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [t_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n}$ are also terms in $\text{instances}(t|c) - \text{instances}(S - \{t|c\})$.

Proof. By the definition of instance, there exists a run r_1 of A_{hom} such that $\pi_\Sigma(r_1) = t_1$ and the resulting state of r_1 is $t|_{\tilde{p}_1}$. Let \bar{r} be a run of $\overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$ satisfying $\pi_\Sigma(\bar{r}) = t'$ and all conditions given by Corollary 4.9. In particular, for each $p \in \text{Pos}(\bar{r})$ it holds that $\bar{r}|_p$ is a run with a resulting state including $\{q \in Q \mid t'|_p \notin \mathcal{L}(A_{\text{hom}}, q)\}$, and $\bar{r}|_{\tilde{p}_1} = \dots = \bar{r}|_{\tilde{p}_n}$ holds. Let \hat{r}_1 be the run $r_1 \cap \bar{r}|_{\tilde{p}_1}$ of $A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$. By Lemma 5.19, there exist a position \hat{p} in \hat{r}_1 and infinitely many different runs $\hat{r}_{1,1}, \hat{r}_{1,2}, \dots$ of $A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$ such that:

- $|\hat{p}| > h(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}})^2$ and $\hat{r}_1|_{\hat{p}}$ is a run.
- All $\text{root}(\hat{r}_1|_{\hat{p}}), \text{root}(\hat{r}_{1,1}), \text{root}(\hat{r}_{1,2}), \dots$ coincide.
- All pumpings $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\hat{p}}, \hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,2}]]_{\hat{p}}, \dots$ are runs.

We define $\hat{t}_{1,1} := \pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\hat{p}}), \hat{t}_{1,2} := \pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,2}]]_{\hat{p}}), \dots$

Now, consider p as any position in $\text{Pos}(\hat{r}_1)$ satisfying $|p| \leq h(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}})$. Since $|\hat{p}| > h(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}})^2$, by the last part of the statement in Lemma 5.3, no replaced position in $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\hat{p}}$ is a prefix of p . Thus, for each of such positions p and each $j \geq 1$, $\text{root}(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}}|_p)$ coincides with $\text{root}(\hat{r}_1|_p)$. By Lemma 4.19, $\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1) = \bar{r}|_{\tilde{p}_1}$ and $\pi_{\text{hom}}(\hat{r}_1) = r_1$ hold, and by Lemma 4.16, for each of such positions p and each $j \geq 1$, the resulting states of $\bar{r}|_{\tilde{p}_1}|_p$ and $(\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}}))|_p$ coincide. Moreover, again by Lemma 4.16, the resulting states of r_1 and $\pi_{\text{hom}}(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})$ coincide, i.e. they are $t|_{\tilde{p}_1}$.

One of the particular implications of the above comments is that each $t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n}$ is an instance of $t|c$. Thus, at first look, we could try to define the desired terms $t_{1,1}, t_{1,2}, \dots$ of the statement of the lemma as $\hat{t}_{1,1}, \hat{t}_{1,2}, \dots$, respectively. The problem is that some $t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n}$ could also be in $\text{instances}(S - \{t|c\})$. In order to conclude, it suffices to see that only a finite number of them satisfy this condition. To this end, we show that, for each $s|d$ in $S - \{t|c\}$, at most a finite number of terms $t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n}$ are instances of $s|d$.

Consider any constrained term $s|d$ in $S - \{t|c\}$. Since t' is not an instance of $s|d$, according to Lemma 7.9, we can distinguish the following cases:

- Assume that there is a position p in $\text{Pos}_\Sigma(s) \cap \text{Pos}(t')$ such that $\text{root}(s|_p)$ is different from $\text{root}(t'|_p)$. We distinguish the following cases:
 - Suppose first that p is of the form $\tilde{p}_i.p'.p''$ for some i in $\{1, \dots, k\}$ and some positions p', p'' such that $|p'| = h(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}}) + 1 > h(A_{\text{hom}})$. By Invariant I3, it holds that $s|_{\tilde{p}_i.p'}$ is a term in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$, i.e. without any symbol in Q . Note that $t'|_{\tilde{p}_i.p'}$ is a term different from $s|_{\tilde{p}_i.p'}$ because they differ at the symbol located at their relative position p'' . Recall that no replaced position in $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\hat{p}}$ is a proper prefix of p' . Thus, by Lemma 5.2, at most one term $\hat{t}_{1,j}$ makes $(t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_{\tilde{p}_i.p'}$ equal to $s|_{\tilde{p}_i.p'}$, and we are done.
 - Second, suppose p is not of the form $\tilde{p}_i.p'.p''$ for some i in $\{1, \dots, k\}$ and some positions p', p'' such that $|p'| = h(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}}) + 1$. In this case, $\text{root}(t'|_p)$ coincides with all $\text{root}((t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_p)$, and thus, it differs from $\text{root}(s|_p)$. Hence, none of these terms is an instance of $s|d$, and we are done.

- Assume that there is a position p in $\text{Pos}_Q(s)$ such that $t'|_p$ is not in $\mathcal{L}(A, s|_p)$. Let q be $s|_p$ and let S_p be the resulting state of $\bar{r}|_p$. By the election of \bar{r} , it holds that q is in S_p .

Let us fix a $j \geq 1$ and suppose that $\bar{r}[\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_k}$ is a run of $\overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$. Note that, by Invariant I3, either no position in $\tilde{p}_1, \dots, \tilde{p}_k$ is a prefix of p , or p is of the form $\tilde{p}_i.p'$ for some i in $\{1, \dots, k\}$ and some p' satisfying $|p'| \leq h(A_{\text{hom}}) \leq h(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}})$. In the second case, recall that, for such a position p' , $\text{root}(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}}|_{p'})$ coincides with $\text{root}(\hat{r}_1|_{p'})$. Thus, in any case, the resulting state of $(\bar{r}[\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_k})|_p$ is S_p . By Lemma 4.9, it follows that $t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n}$ is not an instance of $s|d$.

Hence, in order to conclude, it suffices to argue that the terms $\bar{r}[\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_k}$ are runs of $\overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$ except for a finite number of j 's.

Note that \bar{r} and each term $\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})$ is a run of $\overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$, and $\text{root}(\bar{r}|_{\tilde{p}_1}) = \dots = \text{root}(\bar{r}|_{\tilde{p}_n}) = \text{root}(\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}}))$ holds. Thus, if, for a concrete j , $\bar{r}[\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_k}$ is not a run of $\overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$, there must exist a position p'' satisfying the following assumptions:

- $p'' < \tilde{p}_i$ for some i in $\{1, \dots, k\}$.
- $\text{root}(\bar{r}[\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_k})|_{p''}$, i.e. $\text{root}(\bar{r}|_{p''})$, is a rule $f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{e} q'$ where e contains a disequality $p_1 \neq p_2$ such that $(t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_{p''.p_1}$ is equal to $(t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_{p''.p_2}$.

Since \bar{r} is a run of $\overline{A_{\text{hom}}}$, $t'|_{p''.p_1}$ is different from $t'|_{p''.p_2}$. Recall that, all replaced positions in $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}}$ have length greater than $h(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}}) \geq h(\overline{A_{\text{hom}}})$. Thus, $(t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_{p''.p_1}$ and $(t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_{p''.p_2}$ can be obtained from $t'|_{p''.p_1}$ and $t'|_{p''.p_2}$, respectively, by replacing $t'|_{\tilde{p}_1.\hat{p}}$ by $\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_{1,j})$ at some positions which are independent from j . By Lemma 5.2, only one term can satisfy this statement for such p'' and $p_1 \neq p_2$.

The elections for p'' and $p_1 \neq p_2$ are finitely bounded. Thus, at most for a finite number of j 's, $\bar{r}[\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\hat{p}})]_{\tilde{p}_k}$ is not a run, and we are done.

- Finally, assume that there is an equality ($p_1 = p_2$) in d such that $t'|_{p_1}$ is different from $t'|_{p_2}$. Note that both $s|_{p_1}$ and $s|_{p_2}$ are identical and in Q . Hence, by Invariant I3, p_1 and p_2 are not of the form $\tilde{p}_i.p'.p''$ for some i in $\{1, \dots, k\}$ and some positions p', p'' such that $|p'| = h(A_{\text{hom}} \cap \overline{A_{\text{hom}}}) + 1 > h(A_{\text{hom}})$. Note also that, in the case where some \tilde{p}_i for i in $\{1, \dots, k\}$ is a prefix of p_1 (p_2), no replaced position in $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\hat{p}}$ is a proper prefix of $p_1 - \tilde{p}_i$ ($p_2 - \tilde{p}_i$). Thus, for each $j \geq 1$ $(t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_{p_1}$ and $(t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_{p_2}$ can be obtained from $t'|_{p_1}$ and $t'|_{p_2}$, respectively, by replacing $t'|_{\tilde{p}_1.\hat{p}}$ by $\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_{1,j})$ at some positions which are independent from j . By Lemma 5.2, at most one term $\hat{t}_{1,j}$ makes $(t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_{p_1}$ equal to $(t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n})|_{p_2}$. Hence, for all the remaining j 's, $t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_1} \dots [\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\tilde{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\tilde{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\tilde{p}_n}$ is

not an instance of $s|d$, due to the same reason as t' , and we are done. \square

LEMMA 7.11. *Let $A_{hom} = \langle Q, \Sigma, F, \Delta \rangle$ be a TA_{hom} . Let S be a set of constrained terms satisfying I2 and I3. Let $t|c$ be a constrained term in S . Let $\check{p}_1, \dots, \check{p}_n$ be the positions \check{p}_i satisfying $t|_{\check{p}_i} \in Q$. Suppose that \check{p}_1 occurs in c , and that, without loss of generality, $\check{p}_2, \dots, \check{p}_k$ are all positions \check{p}_j such that $(\check{p}_1 = \check{p}_j)$ occurs in c . Suppose that there exist terms t_{k+1}, \dots, t_n and infinitely many terms $t_{1,1}, t_{1,2}, \dots$ such that all $t[\hat{r}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1} \dots [t_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\check{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\check{p}_n}$ are in $\text{instances}(t|c) - \text{instances}(S - \{t|c\})$.*

Then, $\text{instances}(S)$ is not regular.

Proof. We proceed by contradiction by assuming that $\text{instances}(S)$ is regular. Thus, let C be a TA recognizing $\text{instances}(S)$. Note that, in particular, C is a TA_{hom} . Among all the terms $t_{1,j}$ we choose one, called t_1 , such that $\text{height}(t_1) > \check{h}(C \cap \overline{A_{hom}})$ holds. Note that $t' = t[\hat{r}_1]_{\check{p}_1} \dots [t_1]_{\check{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\check{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\check{p}_n}$ is in $\text{instances}(t|c) - \text{instances}(S - \{t|c\})$. In particular, t' is in $\text{instances}(S)$, and hence, t' belongs to $\mathcal{L}(C)$. Thus, there exists a run r of C with a resulting accepting state such that $\pi_\Sigma(r) = t'$. Let \bar{r} be a run of $\overline{A_{hom}}$ satisfying $\pi_\Sigma(\bar{r}) = t'$ and all conditions given by Lemma 4.9. In particular, for each $p \in \text{Pos}(\bar{r})$ it holds that $\bar{r}|_p$ is a run with a resulting state including $\{q \in Q \mid t'|_p \notin \mathcal{L}(A_{hom}, q)\}$. Let \hat{r}_1 be the run $\bar{r}|_{\check{p}_1} \cap \bar{r}|_{\check{p}_1}$ of $C \cap \overline{A_{hom}}$. By Lemma 5.19, there exist a position \bar{p} in \hat{r}_1 and infinitely many different runs $\hat{r}_{1,1}, \hat{r}_{1,2}, \dots$ of $C \cap \overline{A_{hom}}$ such that:

- $|\bar{p}| > h(C \cap \overline{A_{hom}})^2$ and $\hat{r}_1|_{\bar{p}}$ is a run.
- All $\text{root}(\hat{r}_{1,1}), \text{root}(\hat{r}_{1,2}), \dots$ coincide.
- All pumpings $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\bar{p}}, \hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,2}]]_{\bar{p}}, \dots$ are runs.

We define $\hat{t}_{1,1} := \pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\bar{p}})$, $\hat{t}_{1,2} := \pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,2}]]_{\bar{p}}), \dots$

Now, consider p as any position in $\text{Pos}(\hat{r}_1)$ satisfying $|p| \leq h(C \cap \overline{A_{hom}})$. Since $|\bar{p}| > h(C \cap \overline{A_{hom}})^2$, by the last part of the statement in Lemma 5.3, no replaced position in $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\bar{p}}$ is a prefix of p . Thus, for each of such positions p and each $j \geq 1$, $\text{root}(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}}|_p)$ coincides with $\text{root}(\hat{r}_1|_p)$. By Lemma 4.19, $\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1) = \bar{r}|_{\check{p}_1}$ and $\pi_{hom}(\hat{r}_1) = r|_{\check{p}_1}$ hold, and by Lemma 4.16, for each of such positions p and each $j \geq 1$, the resulting states of $\bar{r}|_{\check{p}_1}|_p$ and $(\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}}))|_p$ coincide. Moreover, again by Lemma 4.16, the resulting states of $r|_{\check{p}_1}$ and $\pi_{hom}(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}})$ coincide.

One of the particular implications of the above comments is that each $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}$ is in $\mathcal{L}(C)$. It is also clear that each $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}$, for $\hat{t}_{1,j} \neq t_1$, is not an instance of $t|c$, since the terms at the positions \check{p}_1 and \check{p}_2 differ. Thus, in order to reach a contradiction, it suffices to prove that, for some j satisfying $\hat{t}_{1,j} \neq t_1$, $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}$ is not an instance of $S - \{t|c\}$. To conclude we will prove that, only for a finite number of j 's, the terms $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}$ are instances of $S - \{t|c\}$. To this end, it can be shown that, for each $s|d$ in $S - \{t|c\}$, at most a finite number of terms $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1} = t[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1} [t_1]_{\check{p}_2} \dots [t_1]_{\check{p}_k} [t_{k+1}]_{\check{p}_{k+1}} \dots [t_n]_{\check{p}_n}$ are instances of $s|d$.

Consider any constrained term $s|d$ in $S - \{t|c\}$. Since t' is not an instance of $s|d$, according to Lemma 7.9, we can distinguish the following cases:

- Assume that there is a position p in $\text{Pos}_\Sigma(s) \cap \text{Pos}(t')$ such that $\text{root}(s|_p)$ is different from $\text{root}(t'|_p)$. We distinguish the following cases: \square

- Suppose first that p is of the form $\check{p}_1.p'.p''$ for some positions p', p'' such that $|p'| = h(C \cap \overline{A_{hom}}) + 1 > h(A_{hom})$. By Invariant I3, it holds that $s|_{\check{p}_1.p'}$ is a term in $\mathcal{T}(\Sigma)$, i.e. without any symbol in Q . Note that $t'|_{\check{p}_1.p'}$ is a term differentiated from $s|_{\check{p}_1.p'}$ because they differ at the symbol located at their relative position p'' . Recall that no replaced position in $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\bar{p}}$ is a proper prefix of p' . Thus, by Lemma 5.2, at most one term $\hat{t}_{1,j}$ makes $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_{\check{p}_1.p'}$ equal to $s|_{\check{p}_1.p'}$, and we are done.

- Second, suppose p is not of the form $\check{p}_1.p'.p''$ for some positions p', p'' such that $|p'| = h(C \cap \overline{A_{hom}}) + 1$. In this case, $\text{root}(t'|_p)$ coincides with all $\text{root}(t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_p)$, and thus, it differs from $\text{root}(s|_p)$. Hence, none of these terms is an instance of $s|d$, and we are done.

- Assume that there is a position p in $\text{Pos}_Q(s)$ such that $t'|_p$ is not in $\mathcal{L}(A, s|_p)$. Let q be $s|_p$ and let S_p be the resulting state of $\bar{r}|_p$. By the election of \bar{r} , it holds that q is in S_p .

Let us fix a $j \geq 1$ and suppose that $\bar{r}[\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}})]_{\check{p}_1}$ is a run of $\overline{A_{hom}}$. Note that, by Invariant I3, either \check{p}_1 is not a prefix of p , or p is of the form $\check{p}_1.p'$ for some p' satisfying $|p'| \leq h(A_{hom}) \leq h(C \cap \overline{A_{hom}})$. In the second case, recall that, for such position p' , $\text{root}(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}}|_{p'})$ coincides $\text{root}(\hat{r}_1|_{p'})$. Thus, in any case, the resulting state of $(\bar{r}[\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}})]_{\check{p}_1})|_p$ is S_p . By Lemma 4.9, it follows that $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}$ is not an instance of $s|d$.

Hence, in order to conclude, it suffices to argue that the terms $\bar{r}[\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}})]_{\check{p}_1}$ are runs of $\overline{A_{hom}}$ except for a finite number j 's.

Note that \bar{r} and each term $\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}})$ is a run of $\overline{A_{hom}}$, and $\text{root}(\bar{r}|_{\check{p}_1}) = \text{root}(\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}}))$. Thus, if, for a concrete j , $\bar{r}[\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}})]_{\check{p}_1}$ is not a run of $\overline{A_{hom}}$, there must exist a position p'' satisfying the following assumptions:

- $p'' < \check{p}_1$.
- $\text{root}(\bar{r}[\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}})]_{\check{p}_1}|_{p''})$, i.e. $\text{root}(\bar{r}|_{p''})$, is a rule $f(q_1, \dots, q_m) \xrightarrow{e} q'$ where e contains a disequality $p_1 \neq p_2$ such that $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_{p''} = t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_{p''}$.

Since \bar{r} is a run of $\overline{A_{hom}}$, $t'|_{p''} = t'|_{p''}$ is different from $t'|_{p''}$. Recall that, all replaced positions in $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}}$ have length greater than $h(C \cap \overline{A_{hom}}) \geq h(A_{hom})$. Thus, $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_{p''}$ and $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_{p''}$ can be obtained from $t'|_{p''}$ and $t'|_{p''}$, respectively, by replacing $t'|_{\check{p}_1}$ by $\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_{1,j})$ at some positions which are independent from j . By Lemma 5.2, only one term can satisfy this statement for such p'' and $p_1 \neq p_2$.

The elections for p'' and $p_1 \neq p_2$ are finitely bounded. Thus, at most for a finite number of j 's, $\bar{r}[\pi_\neq(\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,j}]]_{\bar{p}})]_{\check{p}_1}$ is not a run, and we are done.

- Finally, assume that there is an equality $p_1 = p_2$ in d such that $t'|_{p_1}$ is different from $t'|_{p_2}$. Note that both $s|_{p_1}$ and $s|_{p_2}$ are identical and in Q . Hence, by Invariant I3, p_1 and p_2 are not of the form $\check{p}_1.p'.p''$ for some positions p', p'' such that $|p'| = h(C \cap \overline{A_{hom}}) + 1 \geq h(A_{hom})$. Note also that, in the case where \check{p}_1 is a prefix of p_1 (p_2), no replaced position in $\hat{r}_1[[\hat{r}_{1,1}]]_{\bar{p}}$ is a prefix of $p_1 - \check{p}_1$ ($p_2 - \check{p}_1$). Thus, for each $j \geq 1$, $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_{p_1}$ and $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_{p_2}$ can be obtained from $t'|_{p_1}$ and $t'|_{p_2}$, respectively, by replacing $t'|_{\check{p}_1}$ by $\pi_\Sigma(\hat{r}_{1,j})$ at some positions which are independent from j . By Lemma 5.2, at most one term $\hat{t}_{1,j}$ makes $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_{p_1}$ equal to $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}|_{p_2}$. Hence, for all the rest j 's, $t'[\hat{t}_{1,j}]_{\check{p}_1}$ is not an instance of $s|d$, due to the same reason as t' , and we are done. \square

8. Conclusion

We have closed affirmatively the open question of the decidability of the HOM problem. By studying in detail our algorithm and taking into account the definition of \hat{h} , it can be derived a time complexity with a tower of four exponentials with respect to the size of the input. But there is space for improvements. In [8] a propagation technique is presented for proving exptime-completeness of the emptiness problem for TA_{\neq} . It could be interesting to study the applicability of this technique to the case of $\text{TA}_{\neq, \text{hom}}$ in order to improve the time complexity.

Our result implies decidability of other related questions. For example, in [11] the decidability of the regularity of the range of a given tree homomorphism is questioned. This is a particular case of the HOM problem, and hence, we also close this question affirmatively.

THEOREM 8.1. *Given a tree homomorphism H , it is decidable whether the rank of H is regular.*

On the other side, tree homomorphisms are a particular case of bottom-up tree transducers. In [10] it is shown that for any given regular language L and any given bottom-up tree transducer T , a regular language L' and a tree homomorphism H can be computed such that $T(L) = H(L')$ holds. Thus, as a consequence of our result we have the following:

THEOREM 8.2. *Given a regular language L and a bottom-up tree transducer T , it is decidable whether $T(L)$ is regular.*

This is in contrast with top-down tree transducers: tree homomorphisms are also a particular case of top-down tree transducer, but it is well known [11] that the regularity of the image of a given regular language through a top-down tree transducer is undecidable. On the other hand, top-down tree transducers with just one state are, in fact, tree homomorphisms, so our results imply the following partial result.

THEOREM 8.3. *Given a regular language L and a top-down tree transducer T with just one state, it is decidable whether $T(L)$ is regular.*

We have introduced the new class $\text{TA}_{\neq, \text{hom}}$. This class of automata is at the same time *meaningful* (it contains the images of regular languages through tree homomorphisms) and *tractable* (many properties are decidable for automata of this class). It would be interesting to know whether $\text{TA}_{\neq, \text{hom}}$ could still be further extended in a meaningful way while still keeping at the same time its tractability. Also, we believe that the study of $\text{TA}_{\neq, \text{hom}}$ may provide further insights into other topics. For example, tree automata with global constraints, which are similar to the equality constraints occurring in our TA_{hom} in the sense that we impose equality of terms reaching identical (but local) states, are used for the analysis of security protocols [18].

Acknowledgments: We greatly appreciate the comments of Z. Fülöp.

References

- [1] F. Baader and T. Nipkow. *Term Rewriting and All That*. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1998.
- [2] V. Benzaken, G. Castagna, H. Hosoya, B.C. Pierce, and S. Vansummeren. *The Encyclopedia of Database Systems*, chapter “XML Typechecking”. Springer. To appear.
- [3] B. Bogaert, F. Seynhaeve, and S. Tison. The recognizability problem for tree automata with comparison between brothers. In *Foundations of Software Science and Computation Structures (FOSSACS)*, pages 150–164, 1999.
- [4] B. Bogaert and S. Tison. Equality and disequality constraints on direct subterms in tree automata. In *International Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science (STACS)*, pages 161–171, 1992.
- [5] H. Comon, M. Dauchet, R. Gilleron, C. Löding, F. Jacquemard, D. Lugiez, S. Tison, and M. Tommasi. Tree automata techniques and applications. Available at <http://www.grappa.univ-lille3.fr/tata>, 2007.
- [6] H. Comon and C. Delor. Equational formulae with membership constraints. *Information and Computation*, 112:167–216, 1994.
- [7] H. Comon and F. Jacquemard. Ground reducibility and automata with disequality constraints. In *International Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science (STACS)*, pages 151–162, 1994.
- [8] H. Comon and F. Jacquemard. Ground reducibility is EXPTIME-complete. In *Logic in Computer Science (LICS)*, pages 26–34, 1997.
- [9] M. Dauchet, A.-C. Caron, and J.-L. Coquidé. Automata for reduction properties solving. *Journal of Symbolic Computation*, 20(2):215–233, 1995.
- [10] J. Engelfriet. Bottom-up and top-down tree transformations - a comparison. *Mathematical Systems Theory*, 9(3):198–231, 1975.
- [11] Z. Fülöp. Undecidable properties of deterministic top-down tree transducers. *Theoretical Computer Science*, 134:311–328, 1994.
- [12] F. Gécseg and M. Steinby. *Tree Automata*. Akadémiai Kiadó, 1984.
- [13] F. Gécseg and M. Steinby. Tree languages. In G. Rozenberg and A. Salomaa, editors, *Handbook of Formal Languages*, volume 3, pages 1–68. Springer-Verlag, 1997.
- [14] R. Gilleron. Decision problems for term rewriting systems and recognizable tree languages. In *International Symposium on Theoretical Aspects of Computer Science (STACS)*, pages 148–159, 1991.
- [15] G. Godoy and E. Huntingford. Innermost-reachability and innermost-joinability are decidable for shallow term rewrite systems. In *Term Rewriting and Applications (RTA)*, pages 184–199, 2007.
- [16] G. Godoy, S. Maneth, and S. Tison. Classes of tree homomorphisms with decidable preservation of regularity. In *Foundations of Software Science and Computation Structures (FOSSACS)*, pages 127–141, 2008.
- [17] D. Hofbauer and M. Huber. Computing linearizations using test sets. In *Third International Workshop on Conditional Term Rewriting Systems (CTRS)*, pages 287–301, 1992.
- [18] Florent Jacquemard, Francis Klay, and Camille Vacher. Rigid tree automata. In *Language and Automata Theory and Applications (LATA)*, pages 446–457, 2009.
- [19] G. Kucherov and M. Tajine. Decidability of regularity and related properties of ground normal form languages. *Information and Computation*, 118:91–100, 1995.
- [20] M. Murata, D. Lee, M. Mani, and K. Kawaguchi. Taxonomy of XML schema languages using formal language theory. *ACM Transactions of Internet Technologies*, 5(4):660–704, 2005.
- [21] J. W. Thatcher. Generalized² sequential machine maps. *Computer and System Sciences*, 4:339–367, 1970.
- [22] J. W. Thatcher and J. B. Wright. Generalized finite automata theory with an application to a decision problem of second-order logic. *Mathematical Systems Theory*, 2(1):57–81, 1968.
- [23] S. Vágvolgyi and R. Gilleron. For a rewrite system it is decidable whether the set of irreducible, ground terms is recognizable. *Bulletin of the EATCS*, 48:197–209, 1992.