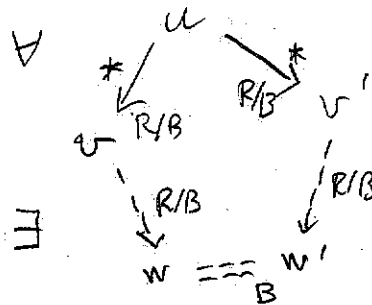


J. Meseguer

Recall the definition of the $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ relation for $R = (\Sigma, B, R)$ a rewrite theory as the relation $\rightarrow_{R/B} = \equiv_B \circ \rightarrow_R \circ \equiv_B$. Recall also the notions of:

1. $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ terminating (i.e., no infinite $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ -sequences)

2. $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ confluent:



1. The $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ Relation

Obviously, the $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ relation is conceptually the one we want to reason modulo the equational properties B , since it induces an entirely similar relation of B -equivalence classes $[u], [v] \in T_{\Sigma/B}(X)$ by:

$$[u] \rightarrow_{R/B} [v] \iff \text{def. } u \rightarrow_{R/B} v$$

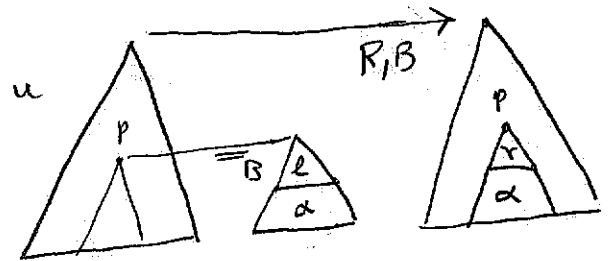
However, computing the $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ can be very inefficient, since to decide whether we can rewrite a term u with $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ we may need to explore all u' such that $u \equiv_B u'$.

to see if any such u' is such that $u' \xrightarrow{R} v'$, and there can be an infinite number of u' with $u =_B u'$, or even if $[u]_B$ is a finite set (e.g. for $B = \text{assoc}$, or $\text{assoc} \& \text{comm}$) it may be very inefficient to search for all u' such that $u' =_B u$.

For this reason, a much more efficient relation $\xrightarrow{R, B}$ based on the idea of B-matching is used:

Def. Let $R = (\Sigma, B, R)$ be a rewrite theory and $u, v \in T_\Sigma(X)$. We define $u \xrightarrow{R, B} v$ iff there is a position p , a rule $l \rightarrow r \in R$ and a substitution α such that:

$$\begin{cases} 1. & u|_p =_B l\alpha \\ 2. & v = u[r\alpha]_p \end{cases}$$



We then call α a B-match substitution, and say that $u|_p$ B-matches the lefthand side l , denoted: $l \stackrel{\alpha}{\equiv}_B u|_p$.

Of course, for $\xrightarrow{R, B}$ to be implementable we need a B-match algorithm in the following sense:

Def. An equational theory has a B-match algorithm iff there is an algorithm such that for each $u, v \in T_E(X)$,

1. If $\nexists \alpha$ such that $u \stackrel{\alpha}{\equiv}_B v$ (i.e., such that $u \alpha \equiv v$), then the algorithm stops in finite time with "failure".

2. If $\exists \alpha$ such that $u \stackrel{\alpha}{\equiv}_B v$, then the algorithm generates a complete set of B-matches, denoted $\text{Match}_B(u, v)$, i.e., substitutions α such that:

(i) $\forall \alpha \in \text{Match}_B(u, v), u \stackrel{\alpha}{\equiv}_B v$

(ii) $\forall \beta$ s.t. $u \stackrel{\beta}{\equiv}_B v \exists \alpha \in \text{Match}_B(u, v)$ and the algorithm terminates.

The B-matching algorithm is called such that $\beta \stackrel{\alpha}{\equiv}_B \alpha$. iff $\text{Match}_B(u, v)$ is always finite

Example. B is assoc. and com. of $+$, $u = a + x + y$

$v = (b + d) + (c + a)$. Then $\text{Match}_{AC}(u, v)$ has six

AC-match substitutions:

$$\{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto c + d\}$$

$$\{x \mapsto c, y \mapsto b + d\}$$

$$\{x \mapsto d, y \mapsto b + c\}$$

$$\{x \mapsto c + d, y \mapsto b\}$$

$$\{x \mapsto b + d, y \mapsto c\}$$

$$\{x \mapsto b + c, y \mapsto d\}$$

Another AC-match substitution is, e.g., $\{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto d + c\}$,

but then we have $\{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto d + c\} \stackrel{AC}{=} \{x \mapsto b, y \mapsto c + d\}$.

Exercise. Prove that B-matchup is a special case of B-unification (sometimes called "one-way B-unification") in the following sense: suppose (Σ, B) has a B-unification algorithm. Then we obtain from it a B-matchup algorithm as follows:

$$\text{Match}_B(u, v) = \{ \alpha \in [X \rightarrow T_\Sigma(X)] \mid \bar{\alpha} \in \text{Unif}_B(u, \bar{v}) \}$$

where $\bar{v}$ is a ground term obtained from v by turning its variables $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} = \text{vars}(v)$ into fresh new constants $\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_n$, and α is defined by the equivalence:

$$\alpha : x \mapsto w \iff \bar{\alpha} : x \mapsto \bar{w}$$

Note, therefore, that if B has a finitary B-unification algorithm it has a fortiori a finitary B-matchup algorithm.

However, the situation can be even better (and the B-matchup algorithms much more efficient). For example:

associative matchup is finitary, whereas associative unif^{on} is infinitary.

Go back to the $\rightarrow_{R, B}$ relation we obviously have:

Fact $\rightarrow_{R, B} \subseteq \rightarrow_{R/B}$

Proof $u \rightarrow_{R, B} v$ means $u \equiv_B u[\alpha]_p \rightarrow_R u[\alpha]_p$ for some $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha \\ \text{and } p \end{array} \right. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} l \rightarrow r \in R \end{array} \right.$

The crucial matter is whether $\rightarrow_{R,B}$ can simulate $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ in the following sense:

$$(SC) \quad \forall \quad \begin{array}{ccc} u & \xrightarrow{R/B} & v \\ \parallel_B & & \parallel_B \\ u' & \xrightarrow{R,B} & v' \end{array} \quad \exists$$

This is always true, for example, for $B = \text{countativity}$, but it can fail rather badly for other theories, such as associativity, or associativity-countativity.

Examples. (1) B is AC for $+$, $R = \{a+b \rightarrow c\}$

Have $(b+d)+a \xrightarrow{R/AC} d+c$, but $(b+d)+a$

cannot be rewritten with $\rightarrow_{R,AC}$

(2) B is A (assoc) for $\cdot$, $R = \{a \cdot b \rightarrow c\}$.

Have $a \cdot (b \cdot d) \xrightarrow{R/A} c \cdot d$, but $a \cdot (b \cdot d)$

cannot be rewritten with $\rightarrow_{R,A}$.

Definition $\mathcal{R} = (\Sigma, B, R)$ is strictly B -coherent iff

$\forall u, u', v \in T_{\Sigma}(X)$ such that $u =_B u'$ and $u \xrightarrow{R/B} v$ property (SC) above holds.

See the strict coherence paper in the recommended readings for an algorithm that, provided the axioms B are regular and linear and B -unifiability is decidable, will generate for each $R = (\Sigma, B, R)$ a strictly B -coherent $\bar{R} = (\Sigma, B, \bar{R})$ such that:

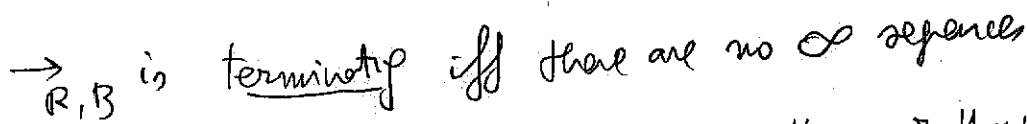
$$\begin{cases} 1. \rightarrow_{R/B} = \rightarrow_{\bar{R}/B} \\ 2. \rightarrow_{R,B} \subseteq \rightarrow_{\bar{R},B} \end{cases}$$

For B any combination of $\begin{cases} \text{assoc} \\ \text{comm} \\ \text{id} \end{cases}$ axioms, if R is finite, so is $\bar{R}$. Mandel automates the generation $R \mapsto \bar{R}$, making it invisible to the user by adding so-called B -extension rules.

examples, (1) For $B = AC$ for $+$, $R = \{a+b \rightarrow c\}$ we have $\bar{R} = R \cup \{(a+b)+x \rightarrow c+x\}$.

(2) For $B = A$ for $\cdot$, $R = \{a \cdot b \rightarrow c\}$ we have $\bar{R} = R \cup \{x \cdot (a \cdot b) \rightarrow x \cdot c, (a \cdot b) \cdot y \rightarrow c \cdot y, (x \cdot (a \cdot b)) \cdot y \rightarrow (x \cdot c) \cdot y\}$.

Def. $\rightarrow_{R, B}$ is confluent iff



Lemma. Let $R = (\Sigma, B, R)$ be strictly B -coherent. Then

1. R, B
2. $\rightarrow_{R, B}$ is terminating iff $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ is so

Proof. We will use the following lemma, which has an easy proof by induction on the number n of steps in $\rightarrow_{R/B}^*$:

lemma (SC*) For each $u, u', v \in T_E(x)$ such that

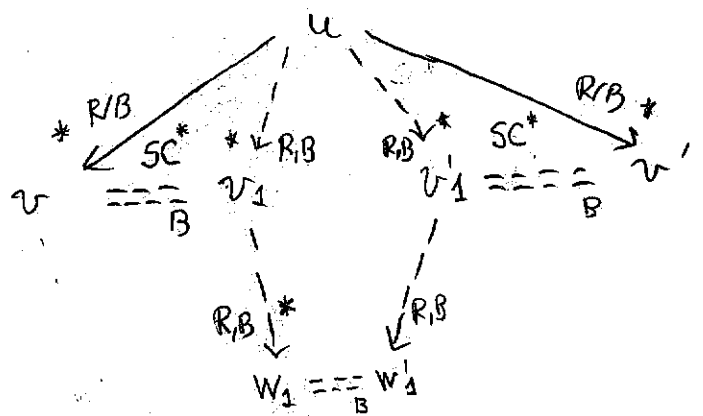
$u = u'$ and $u \xrightarrow[\text{RIB}]{*} v$ we have,

(SC*)

Diagram illustrating the SC* condition:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} u & \xrightarrow[\text{R/B}]{*} & v \\ \parallel_B & & \parallel_B \\ u' & \xrightarrow{\text{R/B}} & v' \end{array}$$

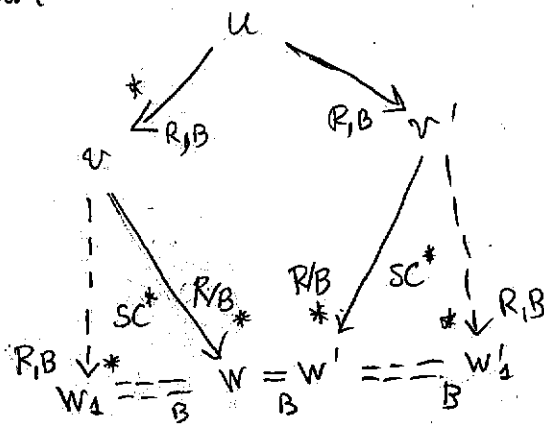
To see $(\Rightarrow)$ for (1) consider the diagram:



where obviously $v \xrightarrow[B]{*} v_1 \xrightarrow[R/B]{*} w_1$ implies $v \xrightarrow[R/B]{*} w_1$,

and we likewise have $v' \xrightarrow[R/B]{*} v'_1 \xrightarrow[R/B]{*} w'_1$, as derived.

To see $(\Leftarrow)$ for (1) note that $\rightarrow_{R,B} \subseteq \rightarrow_{R/B}$, then consider the diagram:



To see (2), note that, since $\rightarrow_{R,B} \subseteq \rightarrow_{R/B}$, $(\Leftarrow)$ for (2) is trivial. To see $(\Rightarrow)$ for (2) assume $\rightarrow_{R,B}$ terminating and $\rightarrow_{R/B}$ non-terminating. Then we get the contradiction:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 u_0 & \xrightarrow{R/B} & u_1 & \xrightarrow{R/B} & u_2 & \xrightarrow{R/B} & u_3 \dots u_n \xrightarrow{R/B} u_{n+1} \dots \\
 \parallel_B & & \parallel_B & & \parallel_B & & \parallel_B \\
 SC & & & & & & \\
 u_0 & \dashrightarrow_{R/B} & u'_1 & \dashrightarrow_{R/B} & u'_2 & \dashrightarrow_{R/B} & u'_3 \dots u'_n \dashrightarrow_{R/B} u'_{n+1} \dots
 \end{array}$$

and this finishes the proof. $\square$

We will be particularly interested in equational theories $(\Sigma, E \cup B)$ such that provable $E \cup B$ -equality becomes decidable by $\xrightarrow[\Sigma, B]{E}$ rewriting.

Definition (1) A rewrite theory $R = (\Sigma, B, R)$ is convergent iff (i) it is strictly B -coherent, (ii) $\xrightarrow{R, B}$ is confluent, and (iii) $\xrightarrow{R, B}$ is terminating.

Notation. For $t \in T_\Sigma(X)$, $t!_{R, B}$ denotes a term

(i) it is R, B -irreducible (i.e., $\nexists u$ s.t. $t!_{R, B} \xrightarrow{R, B} u$), and (ii) $t \xrightarrow[\star]{R, B} t!_{R, B}$. Note that, by confluence,

$t!_{R, B}$ is unique up to B -equality.

(2) a rewrite theory $R = (\Sigma, B, \vec{E})$ with B regular and linear is a decomposition of the equational theory $(\Sigma, E \cup B)$ iff R is convergent.

The main theorem, making $E \cup B$ -equality decidable is:

Church-Rosser Theorem. Let $R = (\Sigma, B, R)$ be a decomposition of $(\Sigma, E \cup B)$. Then the followings are equivalent for $t, t' \in T_\Sigma(X)$

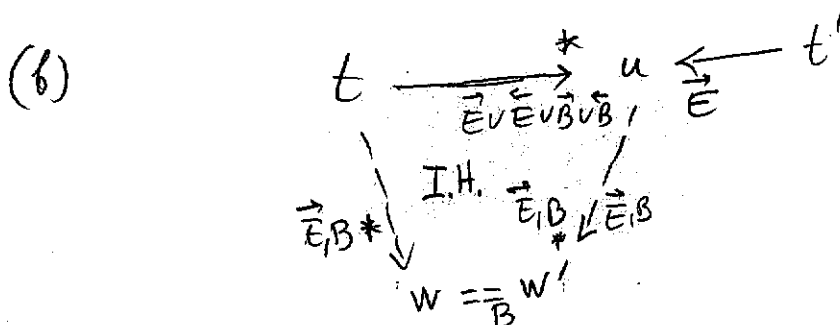
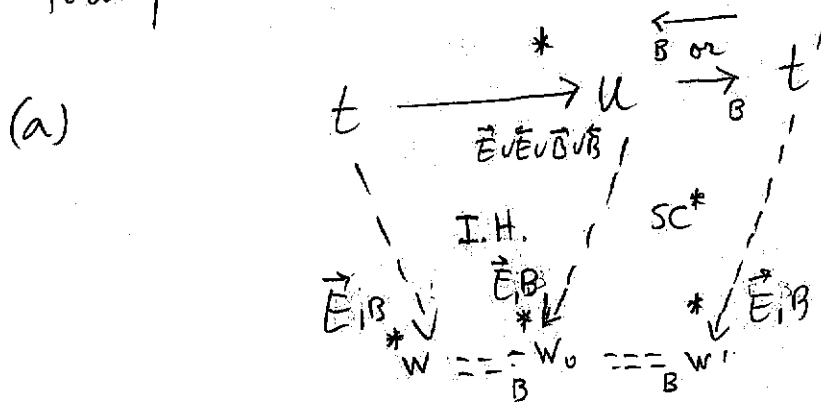
$$1. \quad t \stackrel{E \cup B}{=} t'$$

$$2. \quad t \downarrow_{\vec{E}, B} t' \quad (\text{i.e., } \exists w, w'. \quad t \xrightarrow[\vec{E}, B]{*} w =_B w' \xleftarrow[\vec{E}, B]{*} t')$$

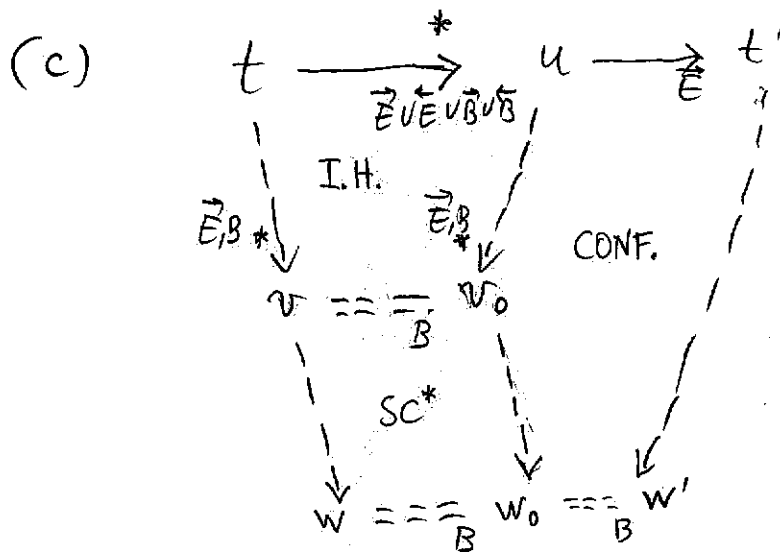
$$3. \quad t \downarrow_{\vec{E}, B} =_B t' \downarrow_{\vec{E}, B}$$

Proof $(1) \Rightarrow (2)$ follows by induction on n realizing that $\stackrel{E \cup B}{=}$ in the rewrite relation $\xrightarrow[\vec{E} \cup \vec{E} \cup \vec{B} \cup \vec{B}]{*}$, consider the

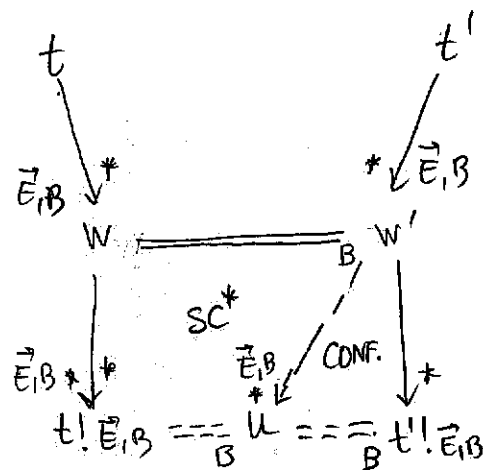
following cases for the $n+1$ step:



since $\vec{E} \subseteq \vec{E}, B$



(2) $\Rightarrow$ (3)



Note that by SC,
since $t! \vec{E}, B$ is $\vec{E}, B$ -irred.,
we have u $\vec{E}, B$ -irred.,
forcing $u = t! \vec{E}, B$
by confluence.

(3) $\Rightarrow$ (1) trivial, since

$$t \xrightarrow[\vec{E}, B]{*} t! \vec{E}, B =_B t! \vec{E}, B \xleftarrow[\vec{E}, B]{*} t'$$

implies $t =_{E \cup B} t'$. $\square$

2. More on B-unifiers

Certain precision and hygiene conditions will make it easier to reason about B-unifiers. To begin with, unifiers are irrelevant outside the variables of a system of equations, so we may as well define:

Def. Given (Σ, B) an equational theory, and $\varphi = \bigwedge_{j \in J} u_j = v_j$ a system of Σ -equations, a B-unifier for φ is a substitution $\theta \in [X \rightarrow T_{\Sigma}(X)]$ such that:

$$(i) \text{ dom}(\theta) \subseteq \text{vars}(\varphi)$$

$$(ii) \forall j \in J, \quad u_j \theta =_B v_j \theta$$

Second, up to renaming of variables a B-unifier θ can always be assumed to be idempotent, in the sense that $\text{dom}(\theta) \cap \text{ran}(\theta) = \emptyset$, which easily implies the idempotence equation $\theta\theta = \theta$.

Recall the $\equiv_B$ relation between B-unifiers:

$$\alpha \equiv_B \beta \text{ iff } \exists \rho \text{ s.t. } \alpha\rho =_B \beta\rho.$$

Lemma. Let θ be a B-unifier of φ . Then there is an idempotent B-unifier γ of φ such that $\theta \sqsupseteq_B \gamma$ and $\gamma \sqsupseteq_B \theta$.

Proof Let $Y = \text{vars}(\varphi)$. Let $Y_0 \subseteq Y$ be $Y_0 = \text{dom}(\theta)$, $Y_1 = Y - Y_0$, and $Z_0 = \text{ran}(\theta)$. Then,

$$\text{vars}(\varphi\theta) = Y_1 \cup Z_0. \quad \text{Let } Z = Y_1 \cup Z_0.$$

Since we assume an infinite set X of variables we can always choose a set of fresh variables Z' disjoint from $Y \cup Z_0$, and therefore from Z such that there is a bijective renaming of variables $\alpha: Z \xrightarrow{\sim} Z'$. Define $\gamma = \theta\alpha$. Then we have, $\text{dom}(\gamma) = Y$, and $\text{ran}(\gamma) = Z'$, so $Y \cap Z' = \emptyset$ and γ is idempotent. Furthermore, since $\gamma = \theta\alpha$, γ is a B-unifier, and $\theta \sqsupseteq_B \gamma$. But note that $\gamma\alpha^{-1} = \theta$, so we also have $\gamma \sqsupseteq_B \theta$. $\square$

The above lemma in particular means that without loss of generality we can always assume that all B -unifiers in $\text{Unif}_B(\varphi)$ are idempotent. Also, note that if $\gamma \in \text{Unif}_B(\varphi)$ is idempotent, then $\text{dom}(\gamma) = \text{vars}(\varphi)$.

The following lemma is also useful.

Lemma. Let γ be an idempotent B -unifier of φ , and let θ be a B -unifier of B such that $\gamma \sqsupseteq_B \theta$. Then we can always choose the substitution δ such that $\gamma\delta =_B \theta$ so that $\text{dom}(\delta) \subseteq \text{ran}(\gamma)$.

Proof. In any case we have δ_0 such that $\gamma\delta_0 =_B \theta$. Let $Y = (\text{vars}(\varphi) = \text{dom}(\gamma))$, $Z = \text{ran}(\gamma)$.

If $\text{dom}(\delta_0) = W$ is such that $W \not\subseteq Z$, let

$\delta = \delta_0|_Z$. For each $x \in Y$ we must have

$\theta(x) =_B \delta_0(\gamma(x)) = \delta(\gamma(x))$, and for $x \notin Y$,

either $x \in \text{dom}(\delta)$, and then $\theta(x) =_B \delta_0(\gamma(x)) = \delta_0(x) =$

$\delta(x) = \delta(\gamma(x))$, or $x \in W - \text{dom}(\delta)$, and then $\delta(x) =$

$\delta_0(x) = \theta(x)$, as required.

$$\theta(x) = x =_B f_0(\gamma(x)) = f_0(x) =_B x = f(x) = f(\gamma(x)),$$

or $x \notin W$ and then $\theta(x) = x = f_0(\gamma(x)) = f_0(x) = x = f(x) = f(\gamma(x))$, so that we have $\theta =_B \gamma f$, as desired. $\square$

Here is another useful lemma.

and such that $\forall x \in X$, x is R, B -irred (irred. variable).

Lemma. Let B be regular and linear, and $R = (\Sigma, B, R)$ strictly coherent. Let θ be an R, B -irreducible substitution (i.e., $\forall x \in X$, $\theta(x)$ is R, B -irreducible). Suppose that there exist γ and f such that:

$$1. \quad \theta =_B \gamma f$$

$$2. \quad \text{dom}(f) \subseteq \text{ran}(\gamma)$$

Then both γ and f are R, B -irreducible

Proof (i) Suppose there exists $x \in X$ with $\gamma(x) \rightarrow_{R, B} u$.

Then, by definition of $\rightarrow_{R, B}$ it follows that

(by strict coherence)

$\theta(x) =_B x \gamma f \rightarrow_{R, B} u f$, so that θ is not R, B -irred.

(ii) Suppose f is R, B -reducible. By the R, B -irred variable assumption, we must have $x \in \text{dom}(f)$ such that $f(x) \rightarrow_{R, B} v$. But by $\text{dom}(f) \subseteq \text{ran}(\gamma)$ there exists $y \in X$ such that $x \in \text{vars}(\gamma(y))$, so that $f(x)$ is a subterm of $\gamma \gamma f$

and therefore $\gamma \delta \delta$ is R, B -reducible. But, by strong coherence, and $\theta(x) \equiv_B \gamma \delta \delta$ we then have $\theta(x)$ R, B -reducible, contradicting θ R, B -irred. $\square$