



## Research Article

# Characterizations of Finite Semigroups of Multiple Operators

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## Abstract

In the present paper, we studied  $\Omega$ -monoids. We define and characterize the  $\Omega$ -semigroups as a universal algebra which is a semigroup and in which there is given a system of binary operations  $\Omega$  satisfying the associative condition:  $((x, y), z)\beta = (x, (y, z)\beta)\alpha$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$  and for each pair of binary operations  $\alpha, \beta$ .

**Keywords:**  $\Omega$ -semigroup; Finite derivation type; String-rewriting systems; Derivation graph; Homotopy.

## Introduction

A monoid has finite derivation type (FDT) if the full homotopy relation is generated by a finite set called a homotopy base [1]. Squier proved that this property is indeed a property of finitely presented monoids, that is, it is an intrinsic property of a monoid independent of its presentation [2]. He established the fact that every monoid that can be presented through a finite convergent presentation does have FDT. Thus, FDT is one of the necessary conditions that a finitely presented monoid must satisfy in order that it can be presented by some finite convergent string-rewriting system. In this paper we generalize these results in the case of  $\Omega$ -monoids [3].

We define, first, the  $\Omega$ - semigroups as a universal algebra which is a semigroup and in which there is given a system of binary operations  $\Omega$  satisfying the associative condition:  $((x, y), z)\beta = (x, (y, z)\beta)\alpha$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$  and for each pair of binary operations  $\alpha, \beta$  [4]. In the first sections of the paper we define and give some general results related to the  $\Omega$ -string rewriting systems, the properties of confluence, Noetherian, Church-Rosser, critical peaks, the word problem for the  $\Omega$ -monoids and so on [5]. The last two sections are dedicated to the property of finite derivation type (FDT) and the

related results of [6] generalized in the case of  $\Omega$ - monoids.

## Preliminaries

In this section we give some preliminaries which are useful in the sequel. We begin by the following definition.

### Definition 2.1

A binary relation on  $X$  is a subset  $R \subseteq X \times X$ . If  $(x, y) \in R$ , then we denote this by  $xRy$  and we say that  $x$  is related to  $y$  by  $R$ . The inverse relation of  $R$  is the binary relation  $R^{-1} \subseteq X \times X$  defined by  $yR^{-1}x \Leftrightarrow (x, y) \in R$ . The relation  $IX = \{(x, x), x \in X\}$  is called the identity relation. The relation  $(X)^2$  is called the complete relation [7, 8, 9].

Let  $R \subseteq X \times X$  and  $S \subseteq X \times X$  two binary relations. The composition of  $R$  and  $S$  is a binary relation  $S \circ R \subseteq X \times X$  defined by  $xS \circ Rz \Leftrightarrow \exists y \in X$  such that  $xRy$  and  $ySz$ .

A binary relation  $R$  on a set  $X$  is said to be

- i. Reflexive if  $xRx$  for all  $x \in X$ ;
- ii. Symmetric if  $xRy$  implies  $yRx$ ;
- iii. Transitive if  $xRy$  and  $yRz$  imply  $xRz$ ;

4. Antisymmetric if  $xRy$  and  $yRx$  imply  $x = y$ .

Let  $R$  be a relation on a set  $X$ . The reflexive closure of  $R$  is the smallest reflexive relation  $R^0$  on  $X$  that contains  $R$ ; that is,

- i.  $R \subseteq R^0$

ii. If  $R'$  is a reflexive relation on  $X$  and  $R \subseteq R'$ , then  $R^0 \subseteq R'$ .

The symmetric closure of  $R$  is the smallest symmetric relation  $R+$  on  $X$  that contains  $R$ ; that is

i.  $R \subseteq R+$   
 ii. If  $R'$  is a symmetric relation on  $X$  and  $R \subseteq R'$  then  $R+ \subseteq R'$ .

The transitive closure of  $R$  is the smallest transitive relation  $R*$  on  $X$  that contains  $R$ ; that is

i.  $R \subseteq R*$   
 ii. If  $R'$  is a transitive relation on  $X$  and  $R \subseteq R'$  then  $R* \subseteq R'$ .

Let  $R$  be a relation on a set  $X$ . Then

i.  $R^0 = R \cup IX$   
 ii.  $R^+ = R \cup R^{-1}$   
 iii.  $R^* = \bigcup_{k=1}^{+\infty} R^k$

Let  $X$  be an alphabet. A semi-Thue system  $R$  over  $X$ , for briefly STS, is a finite set  $R \subseteq X^* \times X^*$ , whose elements are called rules [10]. A rule  $(s, t)$  will also be written as  $s \rightarrow t$ . The set  $(R)$  of all left-hand sides and  $r(R)$  of all right-hand sides are defined as follows:

$$(R) = \{s \in X^*, \exists t \in X^*: (s, t) \in R\} \text{ and } r(R) = \{t \in X^*, \exists s \in X^*: (s, t) \in R\}.$$

If  $R$  is finite, then the size of  $R$  is denoted by  $\|R\|$  and is defined as  $\|R\| = \sum (|s| + |t|) (s, t) \in R$ .

We define the binary relation  $\rightarrow R$  as follows, where  $u, v \in X^*$ :  $u \rightarrow R v$  if there exist  $x, y \in X^*$  and  $(r, s) \in R$  with  $u = xry$  and  $v = xsy$ . We write  $u \rightarrow R^* v$  if there are words  $u_0, u_1, \dots, u_n \in X^*$  such that  $u_0 = u$ ,  $u_i \rightarrow R u_{i+1}$ ,  $\forall 0 \leq i \leq n-1$ ,  $u_n = v$ . If  $n = 0$ , we have  $u = v$ , and if  $n = 1$ , then we have  $u \rightarrow R v$ . Note that  $\rightarrow R^*$  is the reflexive transitive closure of  $\rightarrow$ . The Thue congruence  $\leftrightarrow R^*$  is the equivalence relation generated by  $\rightarrow$ . If  $R$  is a relation on  $X^*$  and  $R\#$  denotes the congruence generated by  $R$  then the relations  $\leftrightarrow R^*$  and  $R\#$  coincide. A decision problem is a restricted type of an algorithmic problem where for each input there are only two possible outputs. In other words, a decision problem is a function that associates with each input instance of the problem a truth value true or false.

### Definition 2.2.

A graph  $G$  is a 5-tuple  $G = (V, E, \sigma, \tau, -1)$ , where  $V$  is the set of vertices and  $E$  is the set of edges of  $G$ ;  $\sigma, \tau: E \rightarrow V$  are mappings, which associate with each edge  $e \in E$  its initial vertex  $\sigma(e)$  and its terminal vertex  $\tau(e)$ ,

respectively.; and  $e^{-1}: E \rightarrow E$  is a mapping satisfying the following conditions:  $e^{-1} \neq e$ ,  $(e^{-1})^{-1} = e$ ,  $\sigma(e^{-1}) = \tau(e)$  and  $\tau(e^{-1}) = \sigma(e)$  for all  $e \in E$ .

### Definition 2.3

Let  $G = (V, E, \sigma, \tau, -1)$  be a graph, and let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . A path in  $G$  (of length  $n$ ) is a  $(2n+1)$ -tuple  $p = (v_0, e_1, v_1, \dots, v_{n-1}, e_n, v_n)$  with  $v_0, v_1, \dots, v_n \in V$  and  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n \in E$  such that  $\sigma(e_i) = v_{i-1}$  and  $\tau(e_i) = v_i$  hold for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . In this situation  $p$  is a path from  $v_0$  to  $v_n$ , and the mappings  $\sigma, \tau$  can be extended to paths by setting  $(p) = v_0$  and  $(p) = v_n$ . For  $u, v \in V$ ,  $(u, v)$  denotes the set of paths in  $G$  from  $u$  to  $v$ . In particular, for each  $v \in V$ ,  $(v, v)$  contains the empty path  $(v)$ .

Also the mapping  $-1$  can be extended to paths. The inverse path  $p-1 \in (vn, v0)$  of  $p$  is the following path  $p^{-1} = (v_n, e_n^{-1}, v_{n-1}, \dots, v_1, e_1^{-1}, v_0)$ . Finally, if  $p \in (u, v)$  and  $q \in (v, w)$ , then the composite path  $p \circ q \in (u, w)$  is defined in the obvious way.

It is clear that, the composition of paths is an associative operation, and the empty paths act as identities for composition. Next, if  $p \in (u, v)$ , then  $(p-1)-1 = p$ , and if  $q \in P(v, w)$  then  $(p \circ q)-1 = q-1 \circ p-1$ . Finally, if  $p$  is an empty path, then  $p-1 = p$ . If  $G$  is a graph, then  $P(G)$  will denote the set of all paths in  $G$ , and  $P(2)(G) = \{(p, q) | p, q \in P(G) \text{ such that } \sigma(p) = \sigma(q) \text{ and } \tau(p) = \tau(q)\}$  is the set of all pairs of paths that have a common initial vertex and a common terminal vertex.

### Definition 2.4.

Let  $G1 = (V1, E1, \sigma1, \tau1, -1)$  and  $G2 = (V2, E2, \sigma2, \tau2, -1)$  be graphs. A mapping from  $G1$  to  $G2$  is an ordered pair  $f = (fV, fE)$  of functions, where  $fV: V1 \rightarrow V2$  and for each  $e \in E1$ ,  $fE(e)$  is a path in  $G2$  from  $fV(\sigma1(e))$  to  $fV(\tau1(e))$ . Further, for each  $e \in E1$ ,  $fE(e-1) = (fE(e))^{-1}$ . The mapping  $f$  is called a morphism if  $fE$  carries edges to edges.

It is clear that a mapping  $f: G1 \rightarrow G2$  induces a mapping  $f: (G1) \rightarrow (G2)$ .

### Definition 2.5.

Let  $G = (V, E, \sigma, \tau, -1)$  be a graph. A subgraph  $G1 = (V1, E1, \sigma1, \tau1, -1)$  of  $G$  consists of a subset  $V1$  of  $V$  and a subset  $E1$  of  $E$  such

that, for all  $e \in E1$ ,  $\sigma 1(e) = \sigma(e) \in V1$  and  $\tau 1(e) = \tau(e) \in V1$ . Next,  $e-1 \in E1$  for all  $e \in E1$ .

### Definition 2.6.

([6]) A type of universal algebras is an ordered pair of a set  $T$  and a mapping  $\omega \mapsto n\omega$  that assigns to each  $\omega \in T$  a nonnegative integer  $n\omega$ , the formal arity of  $\omega$ . A universal algebra, or just algebra of type  $T$  is an ordered pair of a set  $A$  and a mapping, the type –  $T$  algebra structure on, that assigns to each  $\omega \in T$  an operation  $\omega A$  on  $A$  of arity  $n\omega$ .

### Results and discussion

A semigroup with multiple operators or a  $\Omega$ -semigroup is a universal algebra which is a semigroup and in which there is given a system of binary operations  $\Omega$  satisfying the associative condition:  $((x, y), z) = (x, (y, z))$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$  and for each pair of binary operations  $\alpha, \beta$ . Let  $(S, \Omega), (T, \Omega)$  be two  $\Omega$ -semigroups. Then,  $f: S \rightarrow T$  is a homomorphism if  $((x, y)) = ((x), (y))$ ,  $x, y \in S, \forall \omega \in \Omega$ . Next, we define the free  $\Omega$ -semigroup using the concept of the free word algebra of a type  $T$  with the set  $X$  as basis, as it is described in [ 6 ]. For the case of  $\Omega$ -semigroups, we agree, first, that their type is simply a set of binary relations which we denote by  $\Omega$ . So, we construct, inductively, the free  $\Omega$ -word algebras as follows: denote  $W0 = X$ , then for  $k > 0$  denote  $Wk$  the set of all sequences  $(\gamma, w1, w2)$  where  $w1, w2 \in Wk-1$  and  $\gamma \in \Omega$ . For each  $\alpha \in \Omega$ , we denote by  $\lambda\alpha$  the empty word related to  $\alpha$ . Now, we take  $WX = \bigcup_{k \geq 0} Wk$ . Writing this in letters, we will have that  $W1$  is the set of all sequences  $(\gamma, x, y)$  where  $\gamma \in \Omega$  and  $x, y \in X$ . It is more convenient to denote these sequences in the form  $x\gamma y$ . The product  $x\beta\lambda\beta$  is defined to be  $x$ , and similarly the product of the form  $\lambda\alpha\lambda\alpha$  is defined to be  $y$ , where,  $\lambda\beta$  are the empty words related to the operators  $\alpha, \beta$ , respectively. In the next step,  $W2$  would have as elements the sequences  $(\gamma, w1, w2)$  where  $w1, w2 \in W1$  and  $\gamma \in \Omega$ . If  $w1 = x1\gamma1y1$  and  $w2 = x2\gamma2y2$ , then  $(\gamma, w1, w2)$  would be just the sequence  $x1\gamma1y1\gamma x2\gamma2y2$ , with our new notations. And this procedure continues.

### Example 3.1

A semigroup is a set with a single binary operation. Here  $\Omega$  consists of a single element  $\mu$  of arity two such that the following associative

law is satisfied  $xy\mu z\mu = xyz\mu\mu$  for all  $x, y, z \in S$ .

### Example 3.2

A  $\Gamma$ -semigroup is a special case of an  $\Omega$ -semigroup. Indeed, we define in  $S$  binary operators  $\bar{\alpha}: S \times S \rightarrow S$  such that  $\bar{\alpha}(x, y) = xay$ ,  $\forall \alpha \in \Gamma$ . Then,  $(S, \bar{\Gamma})$  is a  $\Omega$ -algebra where  $\bar{\Gamma} = \{\bar{\gamma}: \gamma \in \Gamma\}$  satisfying the conditions  $\bar{\beta}(\bar{\alpha}(x, y), z) = \bar{\alpha}(x, \bar{\beta}(y, z))$ ,  $\forall x, y, z \in S, \bar{\alpha}, \bar{\beta} \in \bar{\Gamma}$ .

### Example 3.3

It is clear that the free  $\Omega$ -semigroup defined as above is a  $\Omega$ -semigroup. We will denote with  $MX*\Omega$  the free  $\Omega$ -monoid on  $X$ , that is the set of finite products  $x1\gamma1 \dots xn-1\gamma n-1xn$  with  $x1, \dots, xn \in X, \gamma i \in \Omega, i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ , including the empty product 1. It is the smallest  $\Omega$ -submonoid of  $M$  containing  $X$ .

If  $MX*\Omega = M$ , we say that  $X$  generates  $M$ , or that  $X$  is a set of generators for  $M$ . If  $X$  is finite and generates  $M$ , we say that  $M$  is a finitely generated  $\Omega$ -monoid. If  $X$  generates  $M$  and no strict subset of  $X$  does, we say that  $X$  is a minimal set of generators for  $M$ .

### Theorem 3.4

If  $M$  is a finitely generated  $\Omega$ -monoid and  $X$  is a set of generators for  $M$ , then there is a finite subset of  $X$  which generates  $M$ . In particular, any minimal set of generators for  $M$  is finite.

### Proof:

Indeed, for any  $y = x1\gamma1 \dots xn-1\gamma n-1xn \in M$  with  $x1, \dots, xn \in X, \gamma \in \Omega$ , we get a finite set  $X(y) = \{x1, \dots, xn\} \subset X$ . If  $Y = \{y1, \dots, ym\}$  generates  $M$ , so does the finite set  $X(Y) = X(y1) \cup \dots \cup X(ym) \subset X$ . Now, if  $M$  is a  $\Omega$ -monoid, then any map  $f: X \rightarrow M$  extends to a unique morphism  $\bar{f}: MX*\Omega \rightarrow M$ . A presentation is a pair  $(X; R)$  where  $X$  is an alphabet and  $R$  is the following set  $R = \{(u, v) | u, v \in \}$ . The congruence generated by  $R$  is defined as follows:

- i.  $u\alpha u'\beta v \leftrightarrow R u\alpha v'\beta v$  whenever  $u, v \in MX*\Omega$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \Omega$ , and  $u' R v'$
- ii.  $x \leftrightarrow R * y$  whenever  $x = x0 \leftrightarrow R x1 \leftrightarrow R \dots \leftrightarrow R xn = y$ .

We denote by  $MR$  the quotient  $MR = MX*\Omega / \leftrightarrow R$  which is a  $\Omega$ -semigroup.

Indeed, it easily verified that the congruence generated by  $R$ , as we defined it, is a  $\Omega$ -congruence. For this, it's enough to see that  $u\alpha u'\beta v \leftrightarrow_R u\alpha v'\beta v \Rightarrow u\alpha u'\beta v\gamma w \leftrightarrow_R u\alpha v'\beta v\gamma w$  and  $u\alpha u'\beta v \leftrightarrow_R u\alpha v'\beta v \Rightarrow w\gamma u\alpha u'\beta v \leftrightarrow_R w\gamma u\alpha v'$ . Let us denote shortly by  $\rho$  this congruence. Now, for  $u\rho, v\rho \in MR$  and  $\gamma \in \Omega$ , let  $(u\rho)(v\rho) = (u\gamma v)\rho$ . This is well-defined, since for all  $u, v \in MX*\Omega$  and  $\gamma \in \Omega$ ,  $u\rho = u'\rho$  and  $v\rho = v'\rho \Rightarrow (u, u'), (v, v') \in \rho \Rightarrow (u\gamma v, u'\gamma v), (u'\gamma v, u'\gamma v') \in \rho \Rightarrow (u\gamma v, u'\gamma v') \in \rho \Rightarrow (u\gamma v) = (u'\gamma v')\rho$ . Let  $u, v, w \in MX*\Omega$  and  $\gamma, \mu \in \Omega$ . Then, it follows that  $(u\rho\gamma v\rho)\mu w\rho = ((u\gamma v)\rho)\mu w\rho = ((u\gamma v)\mu w)\rho = (u\gamma(v\mu w))\rho = u\rho\gamma(v\mu w)\rho = u\rho\gamma(v\rho\mu w\rho)$  and this result completes the proof.

We have a canonical surjection :  $MX*\Omega \rightarrow MX*\Omega/\leftrightarrow_R *$  as well. Moreover, if  $f: X \rightarrow M$  is a map such that  $(x) = (y)$  whenever  $xRy$  and  $\tilde{f}: MX*\Omega \rightarrow M$  its extension we obtain a unique morphism  $\tilde{f}: MX*\Omega/\leftrightarrow_R * \rightarrow M$  such that  $\tilde{f} \circ \pi R = f$ . If the map  $\tilde{f}$  is bijective, we write  $M \cong MX*\Omega/\leftrightarrow_R *$  and we say that  $(X; R)$  is a presentation of the  $\Omega$ -monoid  $M$ . This means that the set  $(X)$  generates  $M$ , and that  $\tilde{f}(x) = \tilde{f}(y)$  if and only if  $x \leftrightarrow_R * y$ . If the map  $\tilde{f}$  is bijective and both  $X$  and  $R$  are finite we say that  $M$  is a finitely presented  $\Omega$ -monoid. And again, if the map  $\tilde{f}$  is bijective,  $(X)$  is a minimal set of generators and no strict subset of  $R$  generates the congruence  $\leftrightarrow_R *$ , then we say that  $(X; R)$  is a minimal presentation of  $M$ .

### Corollary 3.5

For any morphism:  $MX*\Omega/\leftrightarrow_R * \rightarrow MY*\Omega/\leftrightarrow_S *$ , there is a morphism  $\varphi: MX*\Omega \rightarrow MY*\Omega$  such that  $\pi S \circ \varphi = f \circ \pi R$ .

**Proof:**  $MX*\Omega \xrightarrow{\varphi} MY*\Omega$ ,  $\pi R \downarrow \downarrow \pi S$  and  $MX*\Omega/\leftrightarrow_R * \xrightarrow{f} MY*\Omega/\leftrightarrow_S *$ . It is sufficient to define  $(x)$  for each  $x \in X$ , and for this we have to use the fact that  $\pi S$  is surjective.

As a crucial step, we define the derivations for the presentation as follows:

i) An atomic derivation  $r A \rightarrow s$  is given by a pair  $(r, s) \in R$ ,

ii) An elementary derivation  $x E \rightarrow y$  is given by two words  $u, v \in MX*\Omega$  and an atomic derivation  $r A \rightarrow s$  such that  $x = u\alpha r\beta v$  and  $y = u\alpha s\beta v$ . If  $u = v = 1$ , we identify  $E$  with the atomic derivation  $A$ ,

iii) A derivation  $x F \rightarrow y$  is given by a sequence  $x = x_0 E_1 \rightarrow x_1 E_2 \rightarrow \dots E_n \rightarrow x_n = y$  of elementary derivations. If  $n = 1$ , we identify  $F$  with the elementary derivation  $E_1$ . If  $n = 0$ , we get the identity derivation.

Composition of derivations is defined in obvious way. Also, if  $x, y$  are words and  $z F \rightarrow z'$  is a derivation, the derivation  $x\alpha z\beta y xFy \rightarrow x\alpha z'\beta y$  is defined in the obvious way.

Let  $(X; R)$  be a  $\Omega$ -monoid presentation such that the  $\Omega$ -string-rewriting system  $R$  is noetherian. This means that there is no infinite sequence  $x_0 E_1 \rightarrow x_1 E_2 \rightarrow \dots E_n \rightarrow x_n E_{n+1} \rightarrow \dots$  of elementary derivations. Then for any  $y \in MX*\Omega$ , there is a derivation  $x F \rightarrow y$  where  $y$  is reduced which means that no elementary derivation starts from  $y$ . This  $y$  is called a normal form of  $x$ .

A peak is an unordered pair of elementary derivations  $x E \rightarrow y$  and  $x E' \rightarrow y'$  starting from the same word  $x$ . Such a peak is called confluent if there is a word  $z$  and two derivations  $y F \rightarrow z$  and  $y' F' \rightarrow z$ . It is called critical if  $E \neq E'$  and if it is of the form  $r\alpha v = u'\alpha' r'$  where, in the first case,  $u'$  is a strict prefix of  $r$ , or equivalently,  $v$  is a strict suffix of  $r'$ .

### Theorem 3.6

If  $(X; R)$  is a finite convergent presentation then  $\leftrightarrow_R *$  is a decidable relation.

#### Proof:

It would be enough to compare the reduced form which, in this case, are obviously computable. If  $\leftrightarrow_R *$  is a decidable relation then we say that that the  $\Omega$ -monoid  $M$  has a decidable word problem and this property does not depend on the choice of the presentation as long as this presentation is finitely generated, i.e.  $X$  is finite. Indeed, assume that  $(X; R)$  and  $(Y; S)$  are finitely generated presentations of the  $\Omega$ -monoid  $M$  such that  $MR \cong M \cong MS$ . Then for every  $a \in X$  there exists a word  $wa \in MY*\Omega$  such that  $a$  and  $wa$  represent the same element of  $M$ . If we define the homomorphism  $h: MX*\Omega \rightarrow MY*\Omega$  by  $h(a) = wa$  then for all  $u, v \in MX*\Omega$  we have  $u \leftrightarrow_R * v$  if and only if  $h(u) \leftrightarrow_R * h(v)$ . Thus the word problem for  $(X; R)$  can be reduced to the word problem for  $(Y; S)$  and vice versa. Thus the decidability and complexity of the word problem does not depend on the chosen presentation. Hence, we may just speak of the word problem for the  $\Omega$ -monoid  $M$ .

### Theorem 3.7

Convergence is a decidable property for any finite noetherian presentation.

#### Proof:

It follows from the facts that there are finitely many critical peaks in this case and is easily seen that they are computable.

### Conclusions

In the present paper we have shown that if  $(X; R)$  is a presentation of a  $\Omega$ -monoid, each  $\rho = (x, y) \in R$  can be seen as a rewrite rule  $x \rho \rightarrow y$ , with source  $x$  and target  $y$ . An elementary reduction is of the form  $uax\beta v \xrightarrow{upv} uay\beta v$  where  $u, v$  are words and  $x \rho \rightarrow y$  is a rule (as we define it). A reduction is a finite sequence  $x = x_0 r_1 \rightarrow x_1 r_2 \rightarrow x_2 \dots x_{n-1} r_n \rightarrow x_n = y$  of elementary reductions. Each rule is considered as an elementary reduction, and any elementary reduction is considered as a reduction of length 1. If  $x r \rightarrow y$  and  $y s \rightarrow z$  are reductions, we write  $r * s$  for the composed reduction  $x r \rightarrow y s \rightarrow z$ . Furthermore, there is an empty reduction  $\rightarrow x$  for any word  $x \in MX*\Omega$ . So we obtain a category of reductions  $(X; R)$ . We call  $R$  a  $\Omega$ -string rewriting system.

### Conflicts of interest

Authors declare no conflict of interest.

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