

An Algorithm Based on Equivalence Classes for Tableau with Equality*

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Abstract: This paper introduces an algorithm based on equivalence classes for tableau with equality —CECA, which using the method based on the transformation into disjunctions of inequalities and the calculation of equivalence classes. It restrict equality applications and to avoid the generation of useless new formulae. It is possible to restrict search space. In the same time, to study the effectiveness of the algorithm, an example is made to analyze and compare its performance to Fitting's approach and Jeffrey's approach. In addition we have implemented the algorithm on a PC workstation using PROLOG. The results show tableau based on equivalence classes is superior to that of other algorithm.

Key words: disjunctions of inequality; equivalence classes; fair Heuristic

1 Introduction

One of the main goals of automated deduction is to efficiently handle first-order logic with equality. Just adding the equality to the data base leads to a huge search space. Very simple theorems cannot be proven. The only solution is to make the handling of equality part of the inference rules. Then, still, equality typically allows a lot of different derivations. Methods have to be used for further restricting the search space. For resolution-based provers such methods — the most important being paramodulation^[1] and RUE-resolution^[2]—have been known since the 1960s and have often been implemented although the problem of preventing the derivation of redundant information remains to be solved.

At the same time methods for adding equality to Gentzen-type calculi, such as semantic tableaux and the connection method, have been developed^[3]. These, have not been used as often. But recently much more efficient methods have been developed, and over the last years there has been a growing interest in handling equality in semantic tableaux and the connection method^[4].

In this paper, we adopted the idea to restrict search space by using the method based on the transformation into disjunctions of inequalities and the calculation of equivalence classes. In the same time, to study the effectiveness of the algorithm, we have implemented the algorithm on a PC workstation using PROLOG. The results show tableau based on equivalence classes is superior to that of other algorithm.

2 Analyze to Tableau with Equality

In first-order logic, the substitution can be obtained in a similar way as those needed to close a branch: If an equality $t \approx s$ is to be applied to a formula $\phi [t']$, the application of MGU μ of t and t' to the tableau is sufficient to derive $(\phi [s])^\mu$. However, the unifier μ has to be applied not only the

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The set $E(B)$ defined as $E(B) := \{t \approx s : t \approx s \in B\}$;

For every pair $\langle p(t_1, \dots, t_n), \neg p(s_1, \dots, s_n) \rangle$ of atoms that potentially close B , in $P(B)$ there is the n -place disjunction $t_1 \neq s_1 \dots t_n \neq s_n$; and for every inequality $\neg(t \approx s)$ on B , In $P(B)$ there is the One-place disjunction $t \neq s$.

In example 1, Let B_1 denotes the left and B_2 denotes the right branch of the tableau in Fig.2. The equality pair contain the problem

$$\begin{aligned} \{b \approx c, g(f(x_1)) \approx x_1\} &\subset E(B_1) \\ \{b \approx c, g(f(x_1)) \approx x_1, g(x_2) \approx f(x_2)\} &\subset E(B_2) \\ \{(g(g(a)) \neq a \quad b \neq c) \quad (x_2 \neq a)\} &\subset P(B_1). \\ \{g(g(a)) \neq a \quad b \neq c\} &\subset P(B_2) \end{aligned}$$

In general, CECA can be divided into three steps:

Step 1. Calculate the equivalent classes: Breadth-first-search can be implemented using set $\langle t \rangle_B$ that contain all the equivalence classes of a term t on a branch B associated with different substitutions.

Step 2. Search fair term: The Heuristic H for choosing an element from $\langle t \rangle_B$ to which equalities are applied has to be fair.

Step 3. Closed tableau: One can check whether a tableau T is closed according to definition of closed tableau by gradually computing the sets $\langle t \rangle_{B_i}^0, \langle t \rangle_{B_i}^1, \dots$ for every term t occurring in $P(B_1), \dots, P(B_k)$, where B_1, \dots, B_k are the branches of T .

3.2 Calculate the equivalent classes

For ground version of tableau, we handle tableau with equalities based on transformation into disjunctions of inequalities and calculation of equivalence classes, it can be solved by searching for equivalence classes. But for free variable version of tableau, one has to take into account that different substitutions may lead to different equivalence classes. It is important to find a suitable substitution that allow to refute all inequalities in a disjunction simultaneously.

Definition 2. $\langle t \rangle_B$ is a set that contain all the equivalence classes of a term t on a branch B associated with different substitutions. The elements s_{δ} of $\langle t \rangle_B$ are terms labeled with the substitution which is needed to derive them from t using equalities in $E(B)$.

For example, the application of $\{a/x\}$ leads to an equivalence class of term a that contains $g(f(a))$, the element $g(f(a))_{\{a/x\}}$ is in $\langle a \rangle_B$.

$\langle t \rangle_B$ is in general an infinite set, but there is a sequence of approximations $(\langle t \rangle_B^n)_{n \geq 0}$ to $\langle t \rangle_B$ that can be computed with a deterministic algorithm.

Definition 3. Suppose s, s' are terms and δ, δ' are substitutions. s_{δ} **subsumes** $s'_{\delta'}$ if s and s' are unifiable with an MGU τ such that $s^{\tau} = s'^{\tau}$ and both δ and τ are more general than δ' .

For example, $f(x)_{\{a/y\}}$ subsumes $f(a)_{\{a/x, a/y\}}$; $a_{\{y/x\}}$ subsumes $a_{\{b/x, b/y\}}$; On the other hand, $a_{\{f(y)/x\}}$ does not subsume $a_{\{f(b)/x\}}$.

Algorithm description 1. (Sequence of Sets $\langle t \rangle_B^n$)

The sets $\langle t \rangle_B^n$ are inductively calculate as follows:

1. $\langle t \rangle_B^0 = \{t_{id}\}$
2. $\Theta_n = \{s_{\delta} : \text{all the elements from } \langle t \rangle_B^n \text{ and in addition the terms } r_i \text{ that can be derived in one step}$

from $s_\delta = H(\langle t \rangle_B^n)$, where r_1 can be derived in one step from s_δ as follows:}

τ is an MGU of a subterm of s and side of equality $G \in E(B)$.

r can be derived from s^1 by application of G^1 .

σ is more general than τ .

3. $\langle t \rangle_B^{n+1} = (\langle t \rangle_B^n \ominus_n) \setminus \{s_i : \text{elements are subsumed by another element in } \Theta_n\}$.

Example 2. Table 1 shows the computation of $\langle a \rangle_B^n$ ($n=0,1,2$) using the set of equalities $E(B) = \{g(f(x_1)) \approx x_1, g(x_2) = f(x_2)\}$.

Table Computation of $\langle a \rangle_B^n$ ($n=0,1,2$)

n	$\langle a \rangle_B^n$	$H(\langle a \rangle_B^n)$	Θ_n
0	a_{id}	a_{id}	a_{id} $g(f(a))_{\{a/x1\}}$
1	a_{id} $g(f(a))_{\{a/x1\}}$	$g(f(a))_{\{a/x1\}}$	a_{id} $g(f(a))_{\{a/x1\}}$ $a_{\{a/x1\}}$ $g(f(g(f(a))))_{\{a/x1\}}$ $g(g(a))_{\{a/x1, a/x2\}}$ $f(f(a))_{\{a/x1, f(a)/x2\}}$
2	a_{id} $g(f(a))_{\{a/x1\}}$ $a_{\{a/x1\}}$ $g(f(g(f(a))))_{\{a/x1\}}$ $g(g(a))_{\{a/x1, a/x2\}}$ $f(f(a))_{\{a/x1, f(a)/x2\}}$		

3.3 Search fair term

The Heuristic H for choosing an element from $\langle t \rangle_B$ to which equalities are applied has to be fair in the following sense:

Definition 4(Fair Heuristic) A heuristic H is fair if for each term t , each $n \geq 0$, and each element $s_\sigma \in \langle t \rangle_B^n$ there is an $m \geq 0$ such that $H(\langle t \rangle_B^m)$ subsumes s_σ .

For our implementation we used the following heuristic for choosing the next element from $\langle t \rangle_B^n$ to which equalities are applied:

Algorithm description 2. (Implemented Heuristic) The criteria for selection, ordered by their importance, are as follows:

1. Elements that have been chosen before are not considered again.
2. The term weight $W(s)$ and the distance $D(s) = W(s') - W(s)$ to the weight of the term s' from which s has been derived. Terms s are preferred that
 - have a positive weight distance $D(s)$,
 - have a lower weight $W(s)$,
 - have a higher weight distance $D(s)$.
3. The number of steps necessary to derive a term. Terms that can be derived in fewer steps are preferred.

Theorem 2. The heuristic H that is chosen an element from $\langle t \rangle_B^n$ by Algorithm 1 is fair.

Proof. Let any element $s_\sigma \in \langle t \rangle_B^n$. For all $m \geq n$, there must exist $s'_\sigma \in \langle t \rangle_B^m$, and $s'_\sigma \gg s_\sigma$. By

algorithm 1, the elements of $\langle t \rangle_B^{n+k}$ is derived from $\langle t \rangle_B^{n+k+1}$. So $\langle t \rangle_B^{n+k+1}$ contains all elements of $\langle t \rangle_B^{n+k}$. Then for all $s'_{\sigma'} \in \langle t \rangle_B^n$ there must exist $W(s) \leq W(s')$. So $D(s) = W(s') - W(s)$ is a positive distance.

Suppose s_{σ} has been chosen when $m < n$. Then it must be chosen in $\langle t \rangle_B^{n+m}$ when $m \geq 0$. It must have a lower weight $W(s)$. Because every term can be chosen only one, this case is impossible.

3.4 Closed tableau

Algorithm description 3. (Closed Tableau): One can check whether a tableau T is closed according to definition of closed tableau by gradually computing the sets $\langle t \rangle_{B_i}^0, \langle t \rangle_{B_i}^1, \dots$ for every term t occurring in $P(B_1), \dots, P(B_k)$, where B_1, \dots, B_k are the branches of T .

1. For each branch $B_i (1 \leq i \leq k)$: $D_i = (t_{i1} \neq s_{i1} \vee \dots \vee t_{in_i} \neq s_{in_i}) \in P(B_i)$
2. For $1 \leq j \leq n_i$: $r_{\rho_{ij}}^{ij} \in \langle t_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}^{l_{ij}}$ and $r_{\underline{\rho}_{ij}}^{ij} \in \langle s_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}^{l_{ij}}$ where $r_{\rho_{ij}}^{ij}$ and $r_{\underline{\rho}_{ij}}^{ij}$ are unifiable with an MGU $\underline{\rho}_{ij}$
3. There is a grounding substitution σ such that all of the substitutions $\rho_{ij}, \underline{\rho}_{ij}, \underline{\rho}_{ij} (1 \leq i \leq k, 1 \leq j \leq n_i)$ are more general than σ .

Lemma 1. If for some $n \geq 0$ there is an element $s_{\sigma} \in \langle t \rangle_B^n$, and σ is more general than the grounding substitution τ , then the equivalence class of t that is associated with τ contains the term s^{τ} .

Proof. By induction on n .

For $n=0$ there is $s_{\sigma} \in \langle t \rangle_B = \{t_{id}\}$ with $s^{\tau} = t^{\tau} [t^{\tau}]_{\tau}$. By definition 2, there must exist $(s^{\tau})_{\tau} \in \langle t \rangle_B$. The Lemma 1 holds.

Suppose for $n=k$ Lemma 1 holds. For $s_{\sigma} \in \langle t \rangle_B$ and $s_{\sigma} \in \Theta$, we divide into two cases.

For $s_{\sigma} \in \langle t \rangle_B$ $(s^{\tau})_{\tau} \in \langle t \rangle_B$ can be derived directly.

For $s_{\sigma} \in \Theta_n$ there is an element $s'_{\sigma'} \in \langle t \rangle_B$ that can be derived by some s_{σ} step by step. Term s can be derived in one step from s^{σ} and equality $G \in E(B)$ by a certain heuristic H . And there must be exist $\tau' \succ \sigma$. Since $s'_{\sigma'} \in \langle t \rangle_B$ and τ' is a substitution, it must be exist $(s^{\tau'})_{\tau'} \in \langle t \rangle_B$ and $s^{\tau'} [t^{\tau'}]_{\tau'}$.

Since there is a substitution σ that is more general than σ , and s^{τ} is be derived in one step from $s^{\tau'}$ and equality $G \in E(B)$ by a certain heuristic H , s^{τ} is in $[t^{\tau}]_{\tau}$. By definition 2, there must exist $(s^{\tau})_{\tau} \in \langle t \rangle_B$. The Lemma 1 holds.

Lemma 2. If $r_{\sigma} \in \langle t \rangle_B$, then for some $n \geq 0$ there is an element $r'_{\sigma'} \in \langle t \rangle_B^n$ and $r'_{\sigma'} \succ r_{\sigma}$.

Proof. If $r_{\sigma} \in \langle t \rangle_B$, by definition 7, there must be exist $r [t^{\sigma}]_{\sigma}$.

For $m \geq 0$ from $t_{\sigma} r$ can be derived from $u^0 \dots u^m$ by equalities sequence of $E_1 \dots E_m$ in $E(B)$.

$$t^{\sigma} = u^0 \xrightarrow{E_1} u^1 \xrightarrow{E_2} \dots \xrightarrow{E_m} u^m = r = t_{id}$$

By induction on $0 \leq k \leq m$.

For $k=0$ there is only an element $r_{\sigma_0}^0 = t_{id} \in \langle t \rangle_B^n$ that subsumes $u_{\sigma}^0 = (t_{\sigma})_{\sigma}, r_{\sigma_0}^0 \succ u_{\sigma}^0$

Suppose $k=n$ for $l_k \geq 0$ there is an element $r_{\sigma_k}^k \in \langle t \rangle_B^{l_k}$ and $r_{\sigma_k}^k \succ u_{\sigma}^k$

For $k=n+1$ there must be exist $r'_{\sigma'_k} \succ r_{\sigma_k}^k$ by a heuristic H . Also there must be exist $H(\langle t \rangle_B^{l_{k+1}-1}) = r'_{\sigma'_k} \succ r_{\sigma_k}^k \succ u_{\sigma}^k$. There is a substitution σ such that $r'_{\sigma'_k} \succ r_{\sigma}^k = r^{k\sigma}$.

$u^{k\sigma} = u^k \xrightarrow{E_{k+1}} u^{k+1}$ Where $\sigma'_k \succ \sigma$ holds. By Algorithm 1, there is $\sigma'_{k+1} \succ \sigma$ such that $u^{k+1} \in \Theta_{k+1}$ holds.

At the same theory, there is an element $r_{\sigma'_{k+1}}^{k+1} \in \langle \tau \rangle_B^{k+1}$, and $u^{k+1} \gg_{\sigma}^{k+1}$. For $m=k$, there is $r'_{\sigma} = r_{\sigma_m}^m \in \langle \tau \rangle_B^m = \langle \tau \rangle_B^m$, and $r'_{\sigma} \gg_{\sigma}^m = r_{\sigma}$

Theorem 3. Suppose T is a tableau with root formula ϕ .

Soundness: If T is closed according to Algorithm 3 then ϕ is not satisfiable in a normal model.

Completeness: If ϕ is not satisfiable in a normal model and if the limit q for γ -rule applications is sufficiently high, T is closed according to Algorithm 3.

Proof. Soundness.

Suppose a grounding substitution τ is more general than σ . By definition 11, all substitution of τ are included in $\rho_{ij} \ \underline{\rho}_{ij} \ \underline{\rho}_{ij} : 1 \leq i \leq k, 1 \leq j \leq n_i$. Then for any $1 \leq i \leq k, 1 \leq j \leq n_i$, $r_{\rho_{ij}}^{ij} \in \langle t_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}^{ij}$ and $\underline{r}_{\underline{\rho}_{ij}}^{ij} \in \langle s_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}^{ij}$. By lemma 1, there is $(r_{ij}^{ij})_{\tau} \in \langle t_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}$ and $(\underline{r}_{ij}^{ij})_{\tau} \in \langle s_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}$. Where r_{ij}^{ij} and \underline{r}_{ij}^{ij} are unifiable with an MGU $\underline{\rho}_{ij}$. So $r_{ij}^{ij} \tau \in \langle t_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}$ and $\underline{r}_{ij}^{ij} \tau \in \langle s_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}$. By theorem 1, formula ϕ is not satisfiable in a normal model.

Completeness.

If formula ϕ is not satisfiable in a normal model. And if the limit q for γ -rule applications is sufficiently high. Then there must be exist a grounding substitution σ , for each branch B there is a disjunction $t_1 \neq s_1 \ \dots \ t_n \neq s_n \ P(B)$ such that for $1 \leq i \leq n$ $[t_i]_B = [s_i]_B$ and $1 \leq i \leq k, 1 \leq j \leq n_i$ there is an element $r_{\sigma}^{ij} \in \langle t_{ij} \rangle_{B_i} \cap \langle s_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}$. By lemma 2, $r_{\rho_{ij}}^{ij} \in \langle t_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}^{ij}$ and $\underline{r}_{\underline{\rho}_{ij}}^{ij} \in \langle s_{ij} \rangle_{B_i}^{ij}$. $r_{\rho_{ij}}^{ij} \gg_{\sigma}^{ij}$ and $\underline{r}_{\underline{\rho}_{ij}}^{ij} \gg_{\sigma}^{ij}$ holds.

At same time, there are substitution μ and ν such that $r_{ij}^{ij} \mu = \underline{r}_{ij}^{ij} \nu$, where $\mu \vee \nu \ \rho_{ij} \ \underline{\rho}_{ij} \ \underline{\rho}_{ij} (1 \leq i \leq k, 1 \leq j \leq n_i)$ are more general than σ . Since $r_{ij}^{ij} \mu = \underline{r}_{ij}^{ij} \nu$ holds and r_{ij}^{ij} and \underline{r}_{ij}^{ij} are unifiable with an MGU $\underline{\rho}_{ij}$ T is closed i.e.

4 Example and Assay to Algorithm

In this section we are going through an example in detail which shows how the method works and which also demonstrates most of its advantages.

Example 3. Fig. 3 shows a tableau that proves the following formulae to be tautology.

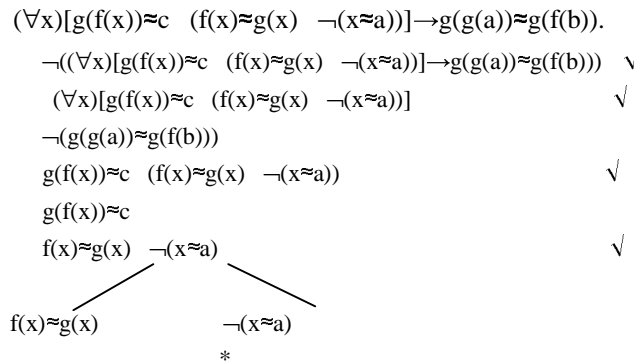


Fig.3 Expanded tableau after first stage

The first stage of tableau expansion yields the tableau shown in Fig.2. By applying the standard

tableau rules, formula and are derived from , from , and and from , and from . The right branch is close The expansion using logical rules is finished, but the tableau cannot be closed by the inequality . (the substitution $\{a/x\}$ has already been applied).

The formulae marked with an asterisk are no longer present on the tableau. After the first stage of tableau, the expansion using logical rules is finished, but the tableau cannot be closed. Let us the letter B to the open branch. Then B is converted into the following data structure:

$$E(B) = \{ g(f(x)) \approx c, f(x) \approx g(x) \} \quad P(B) = \{ g(g(a)) \neq g(f(b)) \}$$

In the second stage of tableau expansion, the algorithm tries to find unifiable elements in the sets $\langle g(g(a)) \rangle_B^n$ and $\langle g(f(b)) \rangle_B^n$.

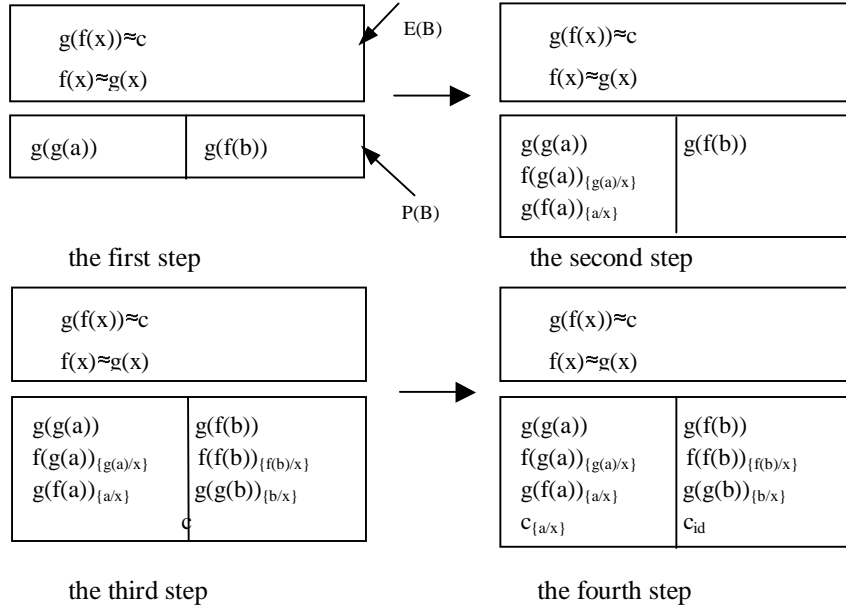


Fig. 5 Second stage of tableau expansion

In figure 3, set P(B) is separated two parts in the first step. In the second step by equation the terms $f(g(a))$ and $g(f(a))$ are derived from $g(g(a))$, the required substitutions is $\{g(a)/x\}$ and $\{a/x\}$. In the third step by equation the terms $f(f(a))$ and $g(g(b))$ are derived from $\langle g(f(b)) \rangle_B^1$, the required substitutions is $\{f(b)/x\}$ and $\{b/x\}$, the term c is derived from $g(f(b))$ using equation . In the fourth step by equation the terms c is derived from $g(f(a))$. Now the disjunction $g(g(a)) \neq g(f(b))$ and thus branch B can be closed using the compatible elements $c_{\{a/x\}}$ $\langle g(g(a)) \rangle_B^2$ c_{id} $\langle g(f(b)) \rangle_B^1$, then the tableau is closed.

In the example 3, if the same formula was to be proven to be a tautology using Fitting's method, first of all, the γ -limit q would have to be raised and more branches would have to be closed in the subtree for $T \phi$. In addition, more equality applications would be necessary to be prove the inequality $g(g(a)) \neq g(f(b))$ to be unsatisfiable. If the same heuristic was used to select the terms and equalities that we used for our implementation, the about 15 equality applications would be needed. Several times free variable substitutions would be applied that prevent the branch from being closed resulting in backtracking.

5 Implementation

To study the effectiveness of the algorithm, we have implemented the algorithm on a PC workstation using PROLOG. It is crucial to use most general substitutions to build up equivalence classes leads to a search tree for side of an inequality. In the implementation, we have used breadth-first-search, i.e. all branches are searched simultaneously. Breadth-first-search is much more powerful, because any heuristic can be used to push ahead the search in some of the branches more quickly than in others. Since breach-first-search cannot be based on PROLOG's backtracking, it is, however, slightly more difficult to implement in PROLOG. In general, It will take less than a second to solve a tableau with equality. For example 1, procedure of implementation is as follows:

```

Beginning search for closure with equality of branch b1
Equalities extracted from branch:
1: [ ] b = c
2: [ ] c = b
3: [x1] g(f(x1)) = x1
4: [x1] x1 = g(f(x1))
Disjunctions extracted from branch:
(1.1): g(g(a)) = a
(1.2): b = c
(1.2.1.0): (0.1) b f [ ]
(1.2.r.0): (0.1) c f [ ]
(1.1.1.0): (0.5) g(g(a)) f [ ]
(1.1.r.0): (0.1) a f [ ]
(2.1): a = x2 closed by [ (x2 = a) ]
(2.1.r.0): (0.1) a f [ ]
(2.1.1.0): (0.1) x2 f [ ]
Branch closed by one of its inequalities with [x2 = a]
-----
Beginning search for closure with equality of branch b2
Equalities extracted from branch:
1: [ ] b = c
2: [ ] c = b
3: [ ] g(a) = f(a)
4: [ ] f(a) = g(a)
5: [x1] g(f(x1)) = x1
6: [x1] x1 = g(f(x1))
Disjunctions extracted from branch:
(1.1): g(g(a)) = a
(1.2): b = c
(1.2.1.0): (0.1) b f [ ]
(1.2.r.0): (0.1) c f [ ]
(1.1.1.0): (0.5) g(g(a)) f [ ]
(1.1.r.0): (0.1) a f [ ]
(1.1.1.0): (0.5) g(g(a)) -5-> (1.1.1.1): (0.5) g(f(a)) f [ ]
(1.1.1.0): (0.5) g(g(a)) -6-> (1.1.1.2): (-2.8) g(f(g(g(a)))) f [ ]
(1.1.1.0): (0.5) g(g(a)) -6-> (1.1.1.3): (-2.8) g(g(f(g(a)))) f [ ]
(1.1.1.0): (0.5) g(g(a)) -6-> (1.1.1.4): (-2.8) g(g(g(f(a)))) f [ ]
(1.2.1.0): (0.1) b -1-> (1.2.1.1): (0.1) c f [ ]
(1.2.1.0): (0.1) b -6-> (1.2.1.2): (-2.5) g(f(b)) f [ ]
Ineq. (1.2) closed by c = c f [ ]
(1.1.r.0): (0.1) a -6-> (1.1.r.1): (-2.5) g(f(a)) f [ ]
Ineq. (1.1) closed by g(f(a)) = g(f(a)) f [ ]
Disj. (1) closed with [ ]
-----
-----PROOF-----
Branch   Backtracking   Time   ψ-limit
  2         0         0.425s   1
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6 Conclusion

In this paper, based on adding new tableau expansion rules, a new tableau algorithm with equality, called 'two separate tableau', is proposed. In this algorithm, we adopted the idea of separating the tableau expansion into two stages. In the first stage the standard rules are applied until the tableau is exhausted. Thus, in the second stage, it is possible to restrict equality applications and to avoid the generation of useless new formulae. It is possible to restrict search space by using the method based on the transformation into disjunctions of inequalities and the calculation of equivalence classes. In the

implementation, it can be improved for efficiency raised in the follow two: Firstly, we can improved the algorithm of heuristic in order to raise the speech of calculation of equivalence classes; Secondly, we can store the result of calculation of equivalence classes by the structure of tree which has a lot of peculiarities that can be used to improve efficiency.

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