# Reduction Relations 

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#### Abstract

Summary. The goal of the article is to start the formalization of Knuth-Bendix completion method (see $[2,11]$ or [1]; see also [12,10]), i.e. to formalize the concept of the completion of a reduction relation. The completion of a reduction relation $R$ is a complete reduction relation equivalent to $R$ such that convertible elements have the same normal forms. The theory formalized in the article includes concepts and facts concerning normal forms, terminating reductions, Church-Rosser property, and equivalence of reduction relations.


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The terminology and notation used here are introduced in the following articles: [16], [17], [9], [3], [6], [18], [19], [4], [13], [14], [5], [15], [7], and [8].

## 1. Forgetting concatenation and reduction sequence

Let $p, q$ be finite sequences. The functor $p^{\$ \sim} q$ yielding a finite sequence is defined as follows:
(Def. 1) (i) $\quad p^{\$ \sim} q=p^{\wedge} q$ if $p=\varepsilon$ or $q=\varepsilon$,
(ii) there exists a natural number $i$ and there exists a finite sequence $r$ such that len $p=i+1$ and $r=p \upharpoonright \operatorname{Seg} i$ and $p^{\$ \curvearrowright} q=r^{\wedge} q$, otherwise.
In the sequel $p, q$ are finite sequences and $x, y$ are sets.
We now state several propositions:
(1) $\varepsilon^{\$ \sim} p=p$ and $p^{\$ \curvearrowright} \varepsilon=p$.
(2) If $q \neq \varepsilon$, then $\left(p^{\wedge}\langle x\rangle\right)^{\text {\& }} q=p^{\wedge} q$.
(3) $\quad\left(p^{\wedge}\langle x\rangle\right)^{\mathscr{S}}(\langle y\rangle \wedge q)=p^{\wedge}\langle y\rangle \wedge q$.
(4) If $q \neq \varepsilon$, then $\langle x\rangle^{\& \curvearrowright} q=q$.
(5) If $p \neq \varepsilon$, then there exist $x, q$ such that $p=\langle x\rangle \wedge q$ and len $p=\operatorname{len} q+1$.

The scheme PathCatenation concerns finite sequences $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}$ and a binary predicate $\mathcal{P}$, and states that:

Let $i$ be a natural number. Suppose $i \in \operatorname{dom}\left(\mathcal{A}^{\mathscr{}} \mathcal{\mathcal { B }}\right)$ and $i+1 \in$ $\operatorname{dom}\left(\mathcal{A}^{\text {S }} \mathcal{B}\right)$. Let $x, y$ be sets. If $x=\left(\mathcal{A}^{\text {S }} \mathcal{B}\right)(i)$ and $y=\left(\mathcal{A}^{\text {S }}\right.$ $\mathcal{B})(i+1)$, then $\mathcal{P}[x, y]$
provided the parameters satisfy the following conditions:

- For every natural number $i$ such that $i \in \operatorname{dom} \mathcal{A}$ and $i+1 \in \operatorname{dom} \mathcal{A}$ holds $\mathcal{P}[\mathcal{A}(i), \mathcal{A}(i+1)]$,
- For every natural number $i$ such that $i \in \operatorname{dom} \mathcal{B}$ and $i+1 \in \operatorname{dom} \mathcal{B}$ holds $\mathcal{P}[\mathcal{B}(i), \mathcal{B}(i+1)]$,
- len $\mathcal{A}>0$ and len $\mathcal{B}>0$ and $\mathcal{A}(\operatorname{len} \mathcal{A})=\mathcal{B}(1)$.

Let $R$ be a binary relation. A finite sequence is said to be a reduction sequence w.r.t. $R$ if:
(Def. 2) len it $>0$ and for every natural number $i$ such that $i \in$ domit and $i+1 \in$ dom it holds $\langle\mathrm{it}(i)$, it $(i+1)\rangle \in R$.
Next we state the proposition
(6) For every binary relation $R$ and for every reduction sequence $p$ w.r.t. $R$ holds $1 \in \operatorname{dom} p$ and len $p \in \operatorname{dom} p$.
Let $R$ be a binary relation. Note that every reduction sequence w.r.t. $R$ is non empty.

One can prove the following propositions:
(7) For every binary relation $R$ and for every set $a$ holds $\langle a\rangle$ is a reduction sequence w.r.t. $R$.
(8) For every binary relation $R$ and for all sets $a, b$ such that $\langle a, b\rangle \in R$ holds $\langle a, b\rangle$ is a reduction sequence w.r.t. $R$.
(9) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $p, q$ be reduction sequences w.r.t. $R$. If $p(\operatorname{len} p)=q(1)$, then $p^{\$ \sim} q$ is a reduction sequence w.r.t. $R$.
(10) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $p$ be a reduction sequence w.r.t. $R$. Then $\operatorname{Rev}(p)$ is a reduction sequence w.r.t. $R^{\hookrightarrow}$.
(11) For all binary relations $R, Q$ such that $R \subseteq Q$ holds every reduction sequence w.r.t. $R$ is a reduction sequence w.r.t. $Q$.

## 2. Reducibility, CONVERTIBILITY and NORMAL FORMS

Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. We say that $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ if and only if:
(Def. 3) There exists a reduction sequence $p$ w.r.t. $R$ such that $p(1)=a$ and $p(\operatorname{len} p)=b$.
Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. We say that $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ if and only if:
(Def. 4) $\quad R \cup R^{\smile}$ reduces $a$ to $b$.

One can prove the following propositions:
(12) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Then $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ if and only if there exists a finite sequence $p$ such that len $p>0$ and $p(1)=a$ and $p(\operatorname{len} p)=b$ and for every natural number $i$ such that $i \in \operatorname{dom} p$ and $i+1 \in \operatorname{dom} p$ holds $\langle p(i), p(i+1)\rangle \in R$.
(13) For every binary relation $R$ and for every set $a$ holds $R$ reduces $a$ to $a$.
(14) For all sets $a, b$ such that $\emptyset$ reduces $a$ to $b$ holds $a=b$.
(15) For every binary relation $R$ and for all sets $a, b$ such that $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ and $a \notin$ field $R$ holds $a=b$.
(16) For every binary relation $R$ and for all sets $a, b$ such that $\langle a, b\rangle \in R$ holds $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$.
(17) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b, c$ be sets. Suppose $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ and $R$ reduces $b$ to $c$. Then $R$ reduces $a$ to $c$.
(18) Let $R$ be a binary relation, and let $p$ be a reduction sequence w.r.t. $R$, and let $i, j$ be natural numbers. If $i \in \operatorname{dom} p$ and $j \in \operatorname{dom} p$ and $i \leq j$, then $R$ reduces $p(i)$ to $p(j)$.
(19) For every binary relation $R$ and for all sets $a, b$ such that $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ and $a \neq b$ holds $a \in$ field $R$ and $b \in$ field $R$.
(20) For every binary relation $R$ and for all sets $a, b$ such that $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ holds $a \in$ field $R$ iff $b \in$ field $R$.
(21) For every binary relation $R$ and for all sets $a, b$ holds $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ iff $a=b$ or $\langle a, b\rangle \in R^{*}$.
(22) For every binary relation $R$ and for all sets $a, b$ holds $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ iff $R^{*}$ reduces $a$ to $b$.
(23) Let $R, Q$ be binary relations. Suppose $R \subseteq Q$. Let $a, b$ be sets. If $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$, then $Q$ reduces $a$ to $b$.
(24) Let $R$ be a binary relation, and let $X$ be a set, and let $a, b$ be sets. Then $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ if and only if $R \cup \triangle_{X}$ reduces $a$ to $b$.
(25) For every binary relation $R$ and for all sets $a, b$ such that $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ holds $R^{\smile}$ reduces $b$ to $a$.
(26) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$. Then $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ and $b$ and $a$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$.
(27) For every binary relation $R$ and for every set $a$ holds $a$ and $a$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$.
(28) For all sets $a, b$ such that $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $\emptyset$ holds $a=b$.
(29) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. If $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ and $a \notin$ field $R$, then $a=b$.
(30) For every binary relation $R$ and for all sets $a, b$ such that $\langle a, b\rangle \in R$ holds $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$.
(31) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b, c$ be sets. Suppose $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ and $b$ and $c$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$. Then $a$ and $c$
are convertible w.r.t. $R$.
(32) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$. Then $b$ and $a$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$.
(33) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. If $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ and $a \neq b$, then $a \in$ field $R$ and $b \in$ field $R$.

Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a$ be a set. We say that $a$ is a normal form w.r.t. $R$ if and only if:
(Def. 5) It is not true that there exists a set $b$ such that $\langle a, b\rangle \in R$.
The following propositions are true:
(34) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. If $a$ is a normal form w.r.t. $R$ and $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$, then $a=b$.
(35) For every binary relation $R$ and for every set $a$ such that $a \notin$ field $R$ holds $a$ is a normal form w.r.t. $R$.
Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. We say that $b$ is a normal form of $a$ w.r.t. $R$ if and only if:
(Def. 6) $\quad b$ is a normal form w.r.t. $R$ and $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$.
We say that $a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$ if and only if:
(Def. 7) There exists a set $c$ such that $R$ reduces $a$ to $c$ and $R$ reduces $b$ to $c$.
We say that $a$ and $b$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$ if and only if:
(Def. 8) There exists a set $c$ such that $R$ reduces $c$ to $a$ and $R$ reduces $c$ to $b$.
We say that $a$ and $b$ are convergent at most in 1 step w.r.t. $R$ if and only if:
(Def. 9) There exists a set $c$ such that $\langle a, c\rangle \in R$ or $a=c$ but $\langle b, c\rangle \in R$ or $b=c$.
We say that $a$ and $b$ are divergent at most in 1 step w.r.t. $R$ if and only if:
(Def. 10) There exists a set $c$ such that $\langle c, a\rangle \in R$ or $a=c$ but $\langle c, b\rangle \in R$ or $b=c$.
Next we state a number of propositions:
(36) For every binary relation $R$ and for every set $a$ such that $a \notin$ field $R$ holds $a$ is a normal form of $a$ w.r.t. $R$.
(37) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$. Then
(i) $\quad a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$,
(ii) $\quad a$ and $b$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$,
(iii) $b$ and $a$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$, and
(iv) $b$ and $a$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$.
(38) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$ or $a$ and $b$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$. Then $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$.
(39) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a$ be a set. Then $a$ and $a$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$ and $a$ and $a$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$.
(40) For all sets $a, b$ such that $a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $\emptyset$ or $a$ and $b$ are divergent w.r.t. $\emptyset$ holds $a=b$.
(41) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$. Then $b$ and $a$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$.
(42) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $a$ and $b$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$. Then $b$ and $a$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$.
(43) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b, c$ be sets. Suppose that
(i) $\quad R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ and $b$ and $c$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$, or
(ii) $\quad a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$ and $R$ reduces $c$ to $b$.

Then $a$ and $c$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$.
(44) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b, c$ be sets. Suppose that
(i) $\quad R$ reduces $b$ to $a$ and $b$ and $c$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$, or
(ii) $a$ and $b$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$ and $R$ reduces $b$ to $c$.

Then $a$ and $c$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$.
(45) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $a$ and $b$ are convergent at most in 1 step w.r.t. $R$. Then $a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$.
(46) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $a$ and $b$ are divergent at most in 1 step w.r.t. $R$. Then $a$ and $b$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$.
Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a$ be a set. We say that $a$ has a normal form w.r.t. $R$ if and only if:
(Def. 11) There exists set which is a normal form of $a$ w.r.t. $R$.
Next we state the proposition
(47) For every binary relation $R$ and for every set $a$ such that $a \notin$ field $R$ holds $a$ has a normal form w.r.t. $R$.
Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a$ be a set. Let us assume that $a$ has a normal form w.r.t. $R$ and for all sets $b, c$ such that $b$ is a normal form of $a$ w.r.t. $R$ and $c$ is a normal form of $a$ w.r.t. $R$ holds $b=c$. The functor $\operatorname{nf}_{R}(a)$ is defined by:
(Def. 12) $\operatorname{nf}_{R}(a)$ is a normal form of $a$ w.r.t. $R$.

## 3. Terminating Reductions

Let $R$ be a binary relation. We say that $R$ is reversely well founded if and only if:
(Def. 13) $\quad R^{\smile}$ is well founded.
We say that $R$ is weakly-normalizing if and only if:
(Def. 14) For every set $a$ such that $a \in$ field $R$ holds $a$ has a normal form w.r.t. $R$.
We say that $R$ is strongly-normalizing if and only if:
(Def. 15) For every many sorted set $f$ indexed by $\mathbb{N}$ there exists a natural number $i$ such that $\langle f(i), f(i+1)\rangle \notin R$.
Let $R$ be a binary relation. Let us observe that $R$ is reversely well founded if and only if the condition (Def. 16) is satisfied.
(Def. 16) Let $Y$ be a set. Suppose $Y \subseteq$ field $R$ and $Y \neq \emptyset$. Then there exists a set $a$ such that $a \in Y$ and for every set $b$ such that $b \in Y$ and $a \neq b$ holds $\langle a, b\rangle \notin R$.
The scheme coNoetherianInduction deals with a binary relation $\mathcal{A}$ and a unary predicate $\mathcal{P}$, and states that:

For every set $a$ such that $a \in$ field $\mathcal{A}$ holds $\mathcal{P}[a]$ provided the parameters meet the following conditions:

- $\mathcal{A}$ is reversely well founded,
- For every set $a$ such that for every set $b$ such that $\langle a, b\rangle \in \mathcal{A}$ and $a \neq b$ holds $\mathcal{P}[b]$ holds $\mathcal{P}[a]$.
One can check that every binary relation which is strongly-normalizing is also irreflexive and reversely well founded and every binary relation which is reversely well founded and irreflexive is also strongly-normalizing.

Let us note that every binary relation which is empty is also weakly-normalizing and strongly-normalizing.

Let us note that there exists a binary relation which is empty.
Next we state the proposition
(48) Let $Q$ be a reversely well founded binary relation and let $R$ be a binary relation. If $R \subseteq Q$, then $R$ is reversely well founded.
Let us observe that every binary relation which is strongly-normalizing is also weakly-normalizing.

## 4. Church-Rosser property

Let $R, Q$ be binary relations. We say that $R$ commutes-weakly with $Q$ if and only if the condition (Def. 17) is satisfied.
(Def. 17) Let $a, b, c$ be sets. Suppose $\langle a, b\rangle \in R$ and $\langle a, c\rangle \in Q$. Then there exists a set $d$ such that $Q$ reduces $b$ to $d$ and $R$ reduces $c$ to $d$.
Let us notice that the predicate defined above is symmetric. We say that $R$ commutes with $Q$ if and only if the condition (Def. 18) is satisfied.
(Def. 18) Let $a, b, c$ be sets. Suppose $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ and $Q$ reduces $a$ to $c$. Then there exists a set $d$ such that $Q$ reduces $b$ to $d$ and $R$ reduces $c$ to $d$. Let us notice that the predicate introduced above is symmetric.

We now state the proposition
(49) For all binary relations $R, Q$ such that $R$ commutes with $Q$ holds $R$ commutes-weakly with $Q$.
Let $R$ be a binary relation. We say that $R$ has unique normal form property if and only if the condition (Def. 19) is satisfied.
(Def. 19) Let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $a$ is a normal form w.r.t. $R$ and $b$ is a normal form w.r.t. $R$ and $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$. Then $a=b$.
We say that $R$ has normal form property if and only if the condition (Def. 20) is satisfied.
(Def. 20) Let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $a$ is a normal form w.r.t. $R$ and $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$. Then $R$ reduces $b$ to $a$.
We say that $R$ is subcommutative if and only if:
(Def. 21) For all sets $a, b, c$ such that $\langle a, b\rangle \in R$ and $\langle a, c\rangle \in R$ holds $b$ and $c$ are convergent at most in 1 step w.r.t. $R$.
We introduce $R$ has diamond property as a synonym of $R$ is subcommutative. We say that $R$ is confluent if and only if:
(Def. 22) For all sets $a, b$ such that $a$ and $b$ are divergent w.r.t. $R$ holds $a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$.
We say that $R$ has Church-Rosser property if and only if:
(Def. 23) For all sets $a, b$ such that $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ holds $a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$.
We say that $R$ is locally-confluent if and only if:
(Def. 24) For all sets $a, b, c$ such that $\langle a, b\rangle \in R$ and $\langle a, c\rangle \in R$ holds $b$ and $c$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$.
We introduce $R$ has weak Church-Rosser property as a synonym of $R$ is locallyconfluent.

Next we state four propositions:
(50) Let $R$ be a binary relation. Suppose $R$ is subcommutative. Let $a, b$, $c$ be sets. Suppose $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ and $\langle a, c\rangle \in R$. Then $b$ and $c$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$.
(51) For every binary relation $R$ holds $R$ is confluent iff $R$ commutes with $R$.
(52) Let $R$ be a binary relation. Then $R$ is confluent if and only if for all sets $a, b, c$ such that $R$ reduces $a$ to $b$ and $\langle a, c\rangle \in R$ holds $b$ and $c$ are convergent w.r.t. $R$
(53) For every binary relation $R$ holds $R$ is locally-confluent iff $R$ commutesweakly with $R$.
One can verify the following observations:

* every binary relation which has Church-Rosser property is confluent,
* every binary relation which is confluent is also locally-confluent and has Church-Rosser property,
* every binary relation which is subcommutative is also confluent,
* every binary relation which has Church-Rosser property has also normal form property,
* every binary relation which has normal form property has also unique normal form property, and
* every binary relation which is weakly-normalizing and has unique normal form property has Church-Rosser property.
One can check that every binary relation which is empty is also subcommutative.

One can verify that there exists a binary relation which is empty.
The following three propositions are true:
(54) Let $R$ be a binary relation with unique normal form property and let $a, b, c$ be sets. Suppose $b$ is a normal form of $a$ w.r.t. $R$ and $c$ is a normal form of $a$ w.r.t. $R$. Then $b=c$.
(55) Let $R$ be a weakly-normalizing binary relation with unique normal form property and let $a$ be a set. Then $\operatorname{nf}_{R}(a)$ is a normal form of $a$ w.r.t. $R$.
(56) Let $R$ be a weakly-normalizing binary relation with unique normal form property and let $a, b$ be sets. If $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$, then $\mathrm{nf}_{R}(a)=\mathrm{nf}_{R}(b)$.
Let us note that every binary relation which is strongly-normalizing and locally-confluent is also confluent.

Let $R$ be a binary relation. We say that $R$ is complete if and only if:
(Def. 25) $\quad R$ is confluent and strongly-normalizing.
Let us note that every binary relation which is complete is also confluent and strongly-normalizing and every binary relation which is confluent and stronglynormalizing is also complete.

Let us mention that there exists a binary relation which is empty.
Let us note that there exists a non empty binary relation which is complete.
We now state three propositions:
(57) Let $R, Q$ be binary relations with Church-Rosser property. If $R$ commutes with $Q$, then $R \cup Q$ has Church-Rosser property.
(58) For every binary relation $R$ holds $R$ is confluent iff $R^{*}$ has weak ChurchRosser property.
(59) For every binary relation $R$ holds $R$ is confluent iff $R^{*}$ is subcommutative.

## 5. Completion method

Let $R, Q$ be binary relations. We say that $R$ and $Q$ are equivalent if and only if the condition (Def. 26) is satisfied.
(Def. 26) Let $a, b$ be sets. Then $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ if and only if $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $Q$.
Let us observe that the predicate introduced above is symmetric.
Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. We say that $a$ and $b$ are critical w.r.t. $R$ if and only if:
(Def. 27) $a$ and $b$ are divergent at most in 1 step w.r.t. $R$ and $a$ and $b$ are not convergent w.r.t. $R$.
We now state four propositions:
(60) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $a, b$ be sets. Suppose $a$ and $b$ are critical w.r.t. $R$. Then $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$.
(61) Let $R$ be a binary relation. Suppose that it is not true that there exist sets $a, b$ such that $a$ and $b$ are critical w.r.t. $R$ Then $R$ is locally-confluent.
(62) Let $R, Q$ be binary relations. Suppose that for all sets $a, b$ such that $\langle a, b\rangle \in Q$ holds $a$ and $b$ are critical w.r.t. $R$. Then $R$ and $R \cup Q$ are equivalent.
(63) Let $R$ be a binary relation. Then there exists a complete binary relation $Q$ such that
(i) field $Q \subseteq$ field $R$, and
(ii) for all sets $a, b$ holds $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ iff $a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. $Q$.
Let $R$ be a binary relation. A complete binary relation is said to be a completion of $R$ if it satisfies the condition (Def. 28).
(Def. 28) Let $a, b$ be sets. Then $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ if and only if $a$ and $b$ are convergent w.r.t. it.
Next we state three propositions:
(64) For every binary relation $R$ and for every completion $C$ of $R$ holds $R$ and $C$ are equivalent.
(65) Let $R$ be a binary relation and let $Q$ be a complete binary relation. If $R$ and $Q$ are equivalent, then $Q$ is a completion of $R$.
(66) Let $R$ be a binary relation, and let $C$ be a completion of $R$, and let $a, b$ be sets. Then $a$ and $b$ are convertible w.r.t. $R$ if and only if $\mathrm{nf}_{C}(a)=\operatorname{nf}_{C}(b)$.

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