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# Molecular Hypergraph Grammar with Its Application to Molecular Optimization

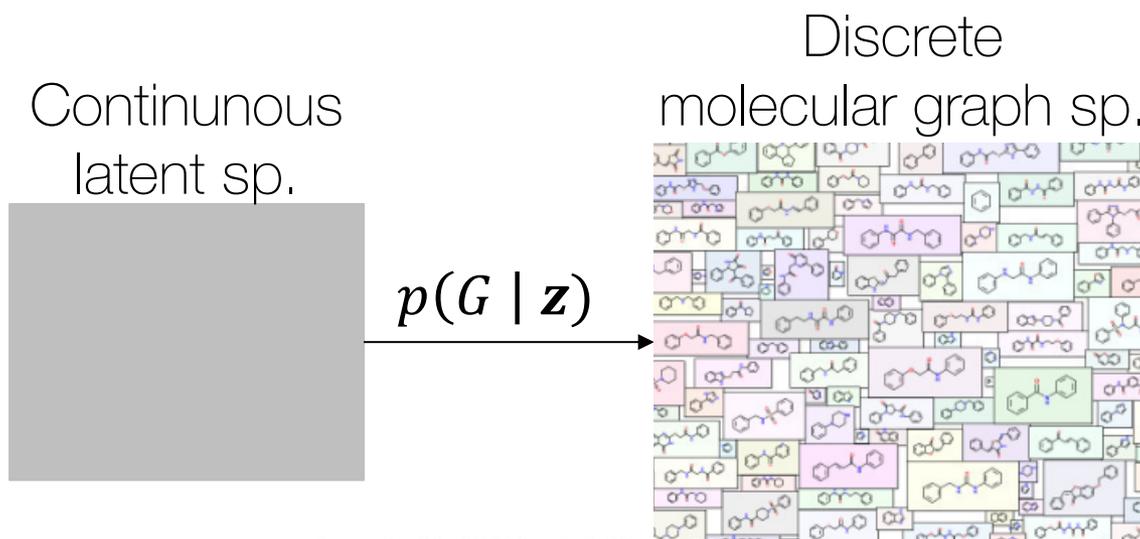
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MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab  
IBM Research - Tokyo

We wish to learn a generative model of a molecule.

- Generative model of a molecule  $p(G | \mathbf{z})$  [Gómez-Bombarelli+, 16]
  - Input: Latent vector  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^D \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_D)$
  - Output: Molecular graph  $G$  (graph w/ node labels)

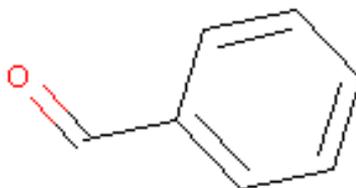
Continuous optimization problem  $\Leftrightarrow$  Molecular optimization problem



## Molecular graph generation is a non-trivial task

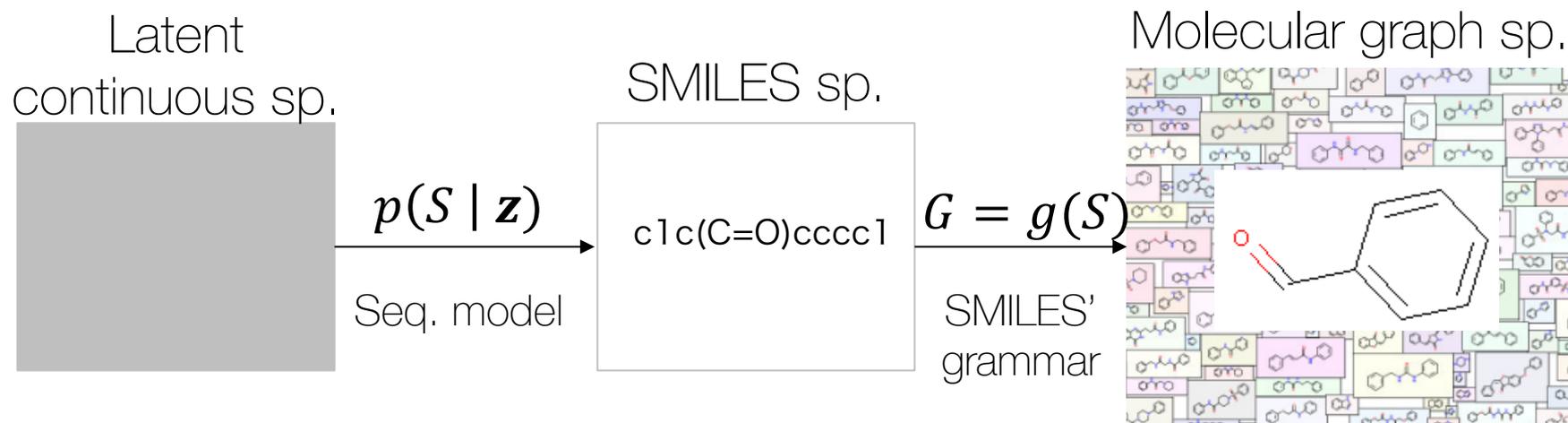
### ■ Two technical challenges

1. No consensus on a generative model of a graph
  - LSTM, GRU for path and tree
  - Ring is non-trivial
2. Hard constraints such as valence conditions
  - Degree of each node (=atom) is specified by its label
  - e.g., carbon has degree 4, oxygen has degree 2.



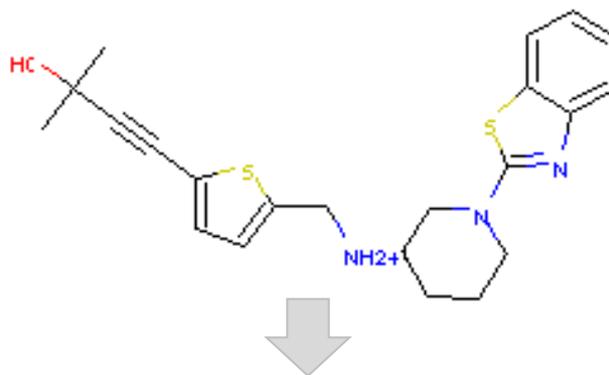
Most of the existing work employs a text representation of a molecule, called SMILES.

- Use text representation "SMILES" [Gómez-Bombarelli+, 16]
  - Pros: a standard sequential model can generate SMILES



## Statistical model has to learn a rule-based grammar

- Use text representation "SMILES" [Gómez-Bombarelli+, 16]
  - Pros: a standard sequential model can generate SMILES
  - Cons:
    - NN has to learn SMILES' grammar
    - No guarantee on valence conditions

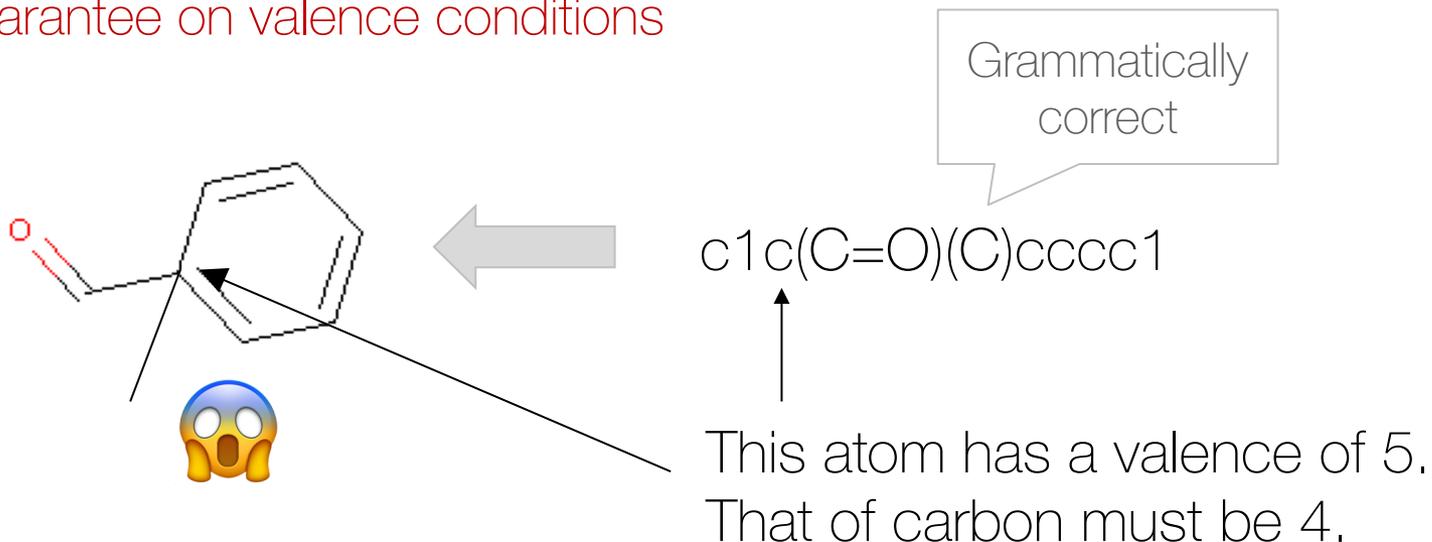


CC(C)(O)C#Cc1ccc(C[NH2+])[C@H]2CCCN(c3nc4ccccc4s3)C2)s1



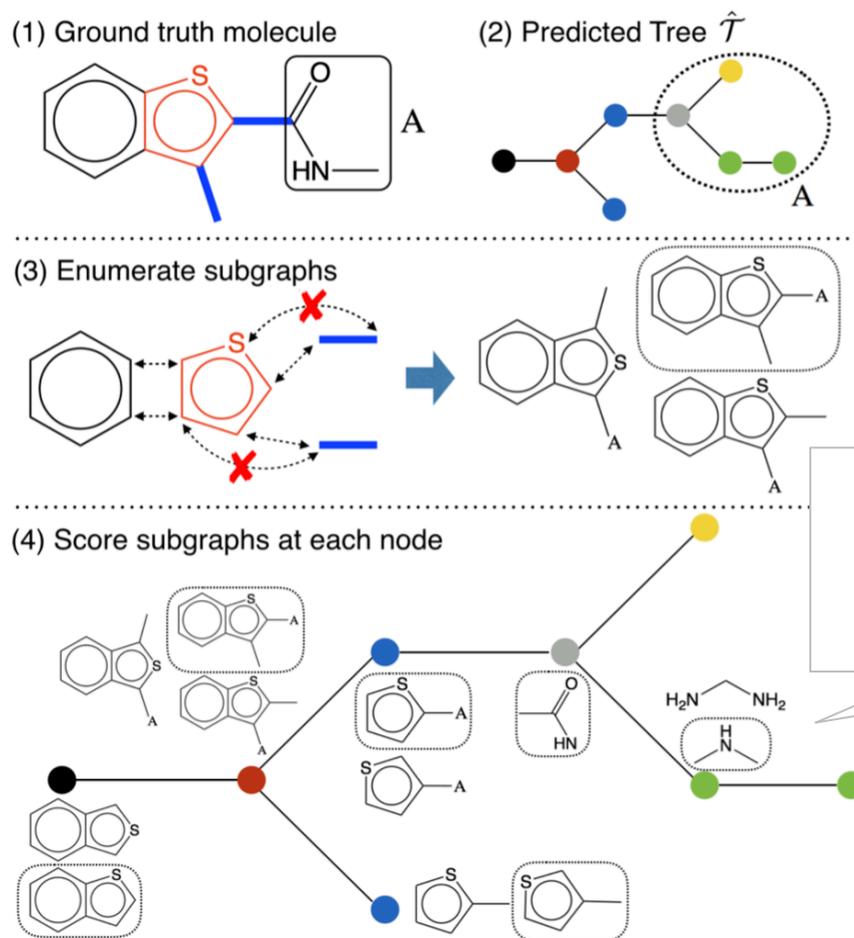
## SMILES' grammar does not prescribe valence conditions

- Use text representation "SMILES" [Gómez-Bombarelli+, 16]
  - Pros: a standard sequential model can generate SMILES
  - Cons:
    - NN has to learn SMILES' grammar
    - No guarantee on valence conditions



JT-VAE achieves 100% validity for the first time, but requires multiple NNs.

- Generate a molecule by assembling subgraphs [Jin+, 18]





No existing work satisfies all of the three properties

	VAE-based		RL-based
	SMILES	Graph	Graph
Validity		✓	✓
Easy-to-generate	✓		
Sample complexity	✓	✓	

Our contribution is to facilitate graph-based generation with help of “graph grammar”.

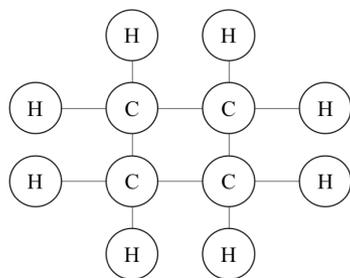
	VAE-based		RL-based
	SMILES	Graph	Graph
Validity		✓	✓
Easy-to-generate	✓	✓	✓?
Sample complexity	✓	✓	

# We develop a graph grammar tailored for molecular generation

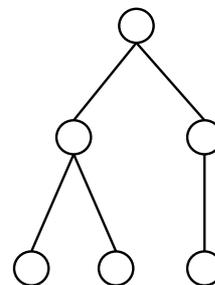
## ■ Idea

Use a context-free graph grammar for graph generation

–Graph generation boils down to *tree generation*



=



Easy to generate 🎉

–Requirements:

- Always satisfy valence conditions
- Context-freeness
- Inference algorithm from data, not hand-written rules

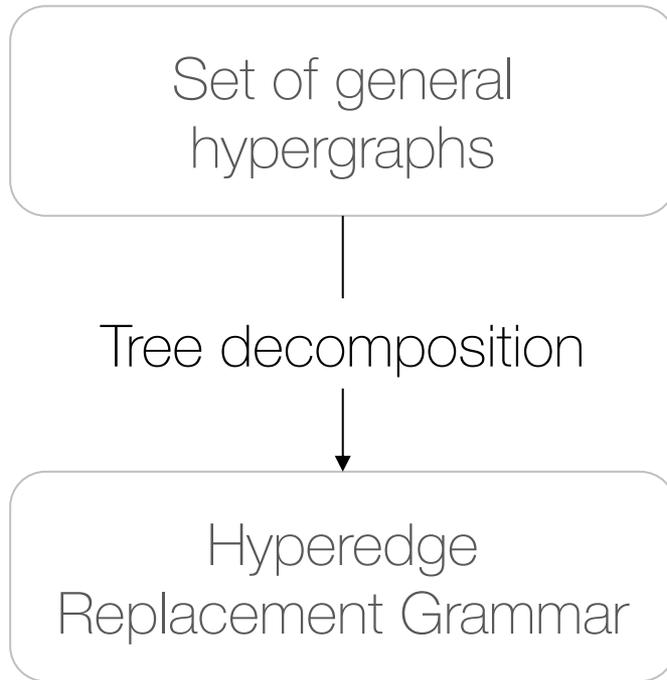
← Our main contribution

} Hyperedge  
replacement  
grammar

A hyperedge replacement grammar can be constructed from data via tree decomposition

## Existing work on graph grammar

[Aguíñaga+, 16]

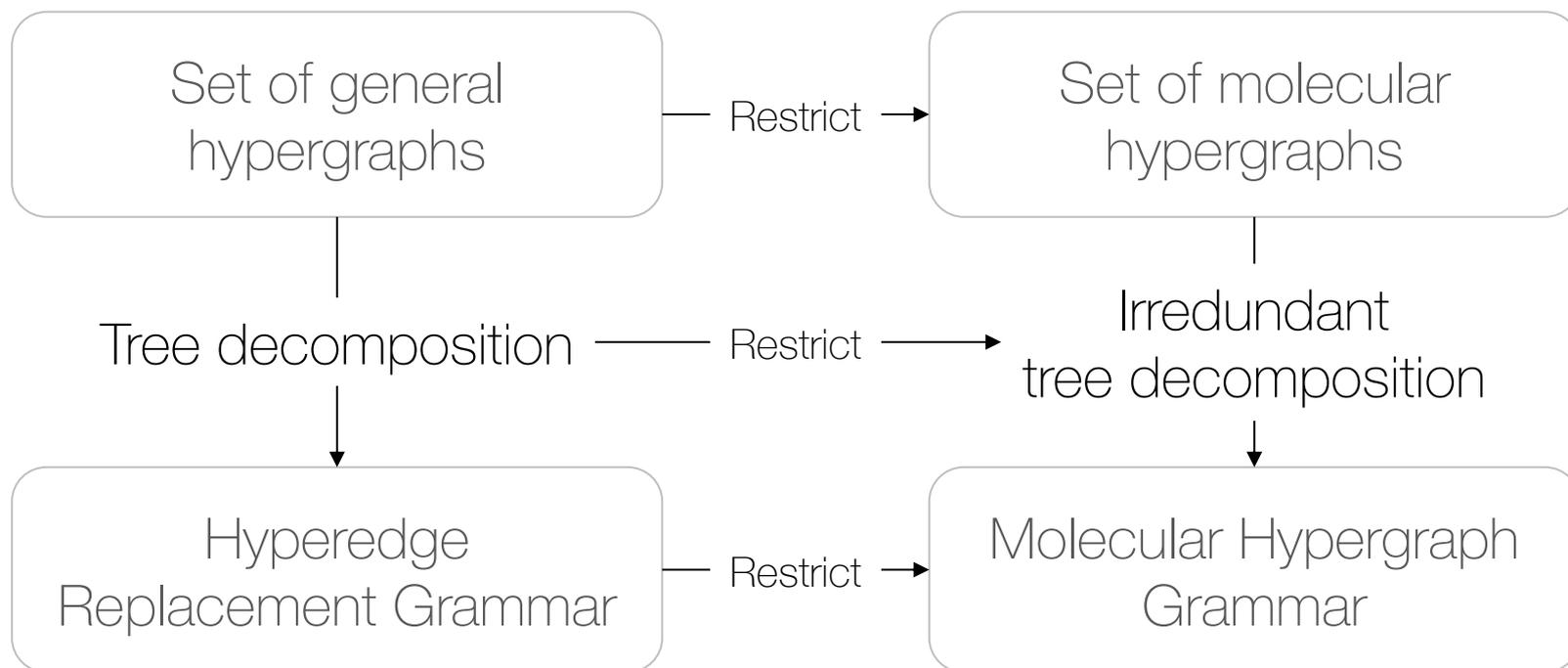


\* HRG is a context-free grammar generating hypergraphs

Each restriction is our contribution in the literature of graph grammar

## Existing work on graph grammar

[Aguiñaga+, 16]

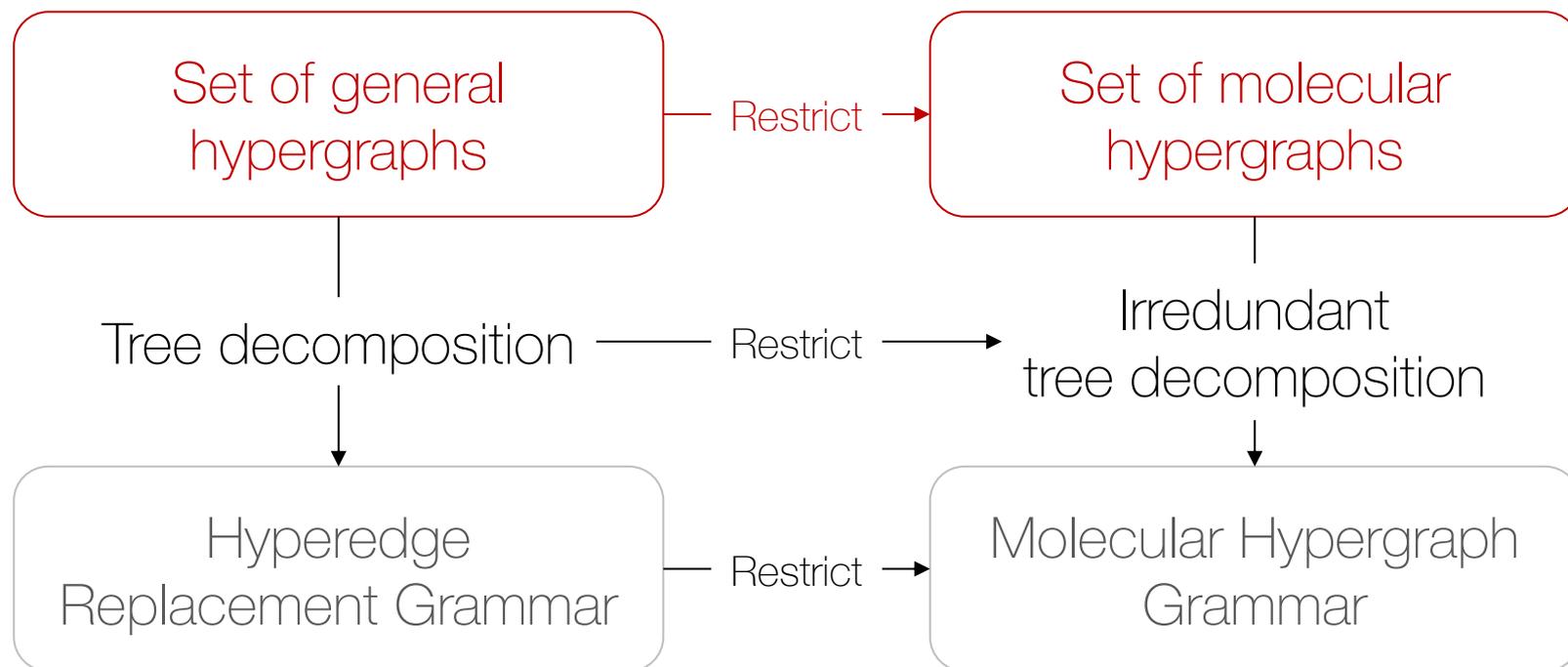


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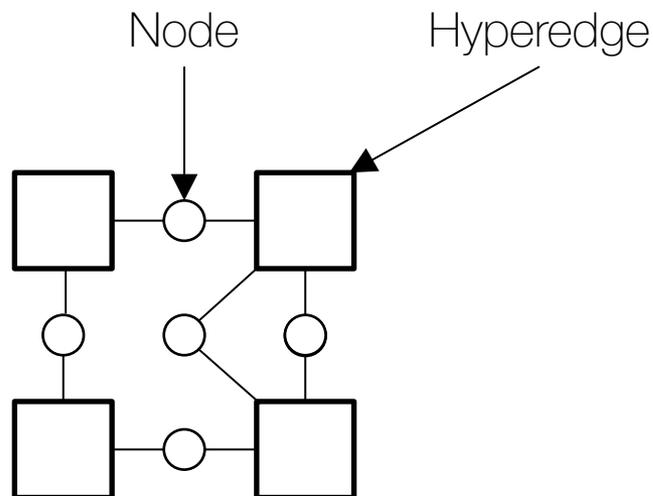
[Aguiñaga+, 16]



\* HRG is a context-free grammar generating hypergraphs

## Hypergraph is a generalization of a graph

- Hypergraph  $\mathcal{H} = (V, E)$  consists of...
  - Node  $v \in V$
  - Hyperedge  $e \in E \subseteq 2^{|V|}$  : Connect an arbitrary number of nodes  
cf, An edge in a graph connects exactly two nodes



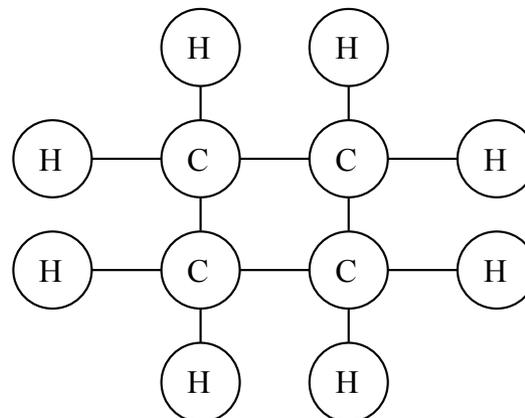
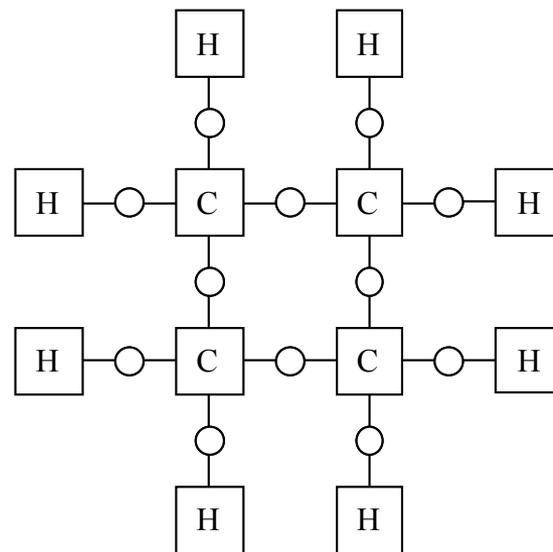
We represent a molecule using a hypergraph, not a graph.  
This helps to satisfy the valence conditions.

### ■ Molecular hypergraph models...

- Atom = hyperedge
- bond = node

### ■ Molecular graph models...

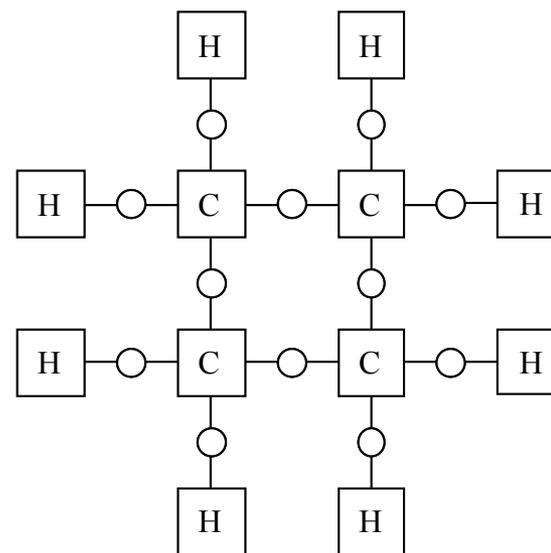
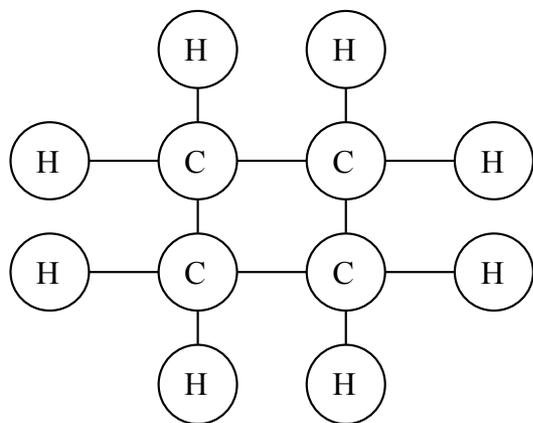
- Atom = node
- Bond = Edge



These requirements guarantee transformation between graph & hypergraph

## ■ Molecular hypergraph

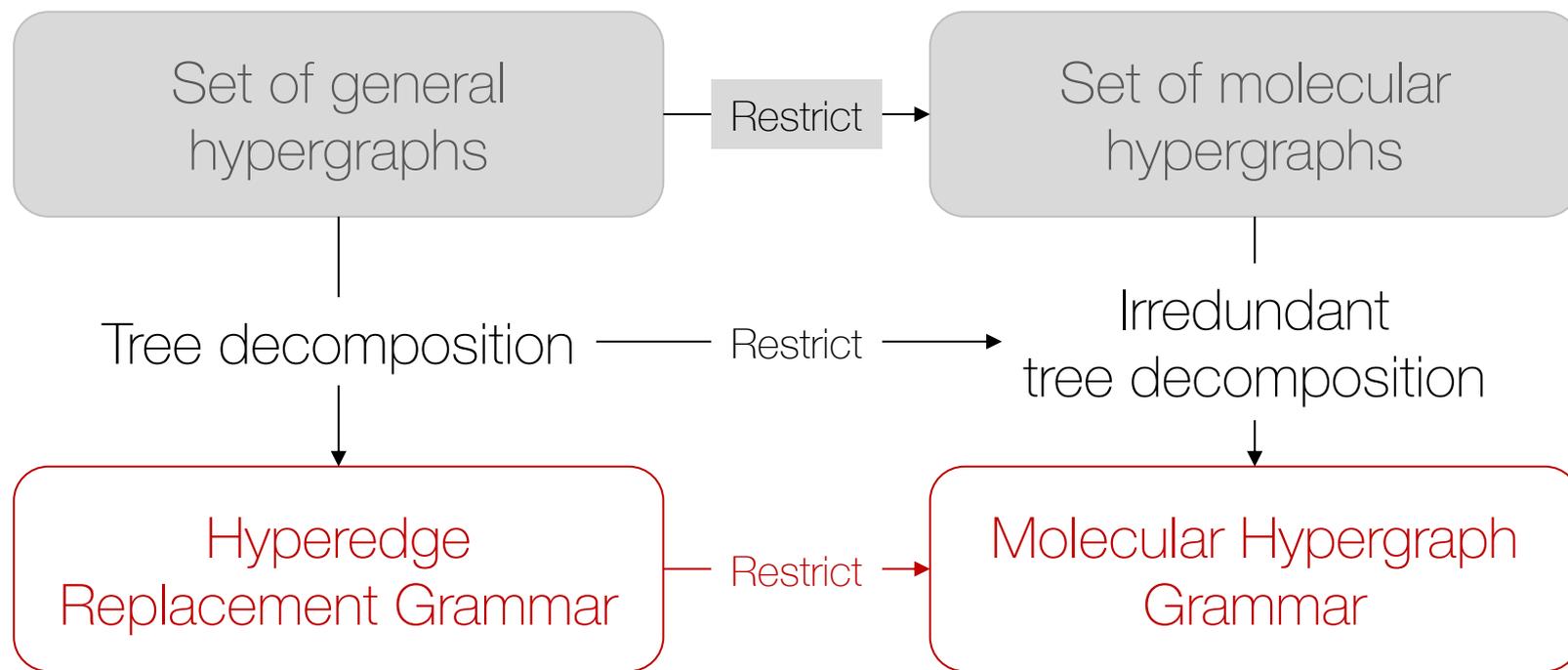
- 1. Each node has degree 2 (=2-regular)
- 2. Label on a hyperedge determines # of nodes it has (= valence)



Each restriction is our contribution in the literature of graph grammar

## Existing work on graph grammar

[Aguíñaga+, 16]



\* HRG is a context-free grammar generating hypergraphs

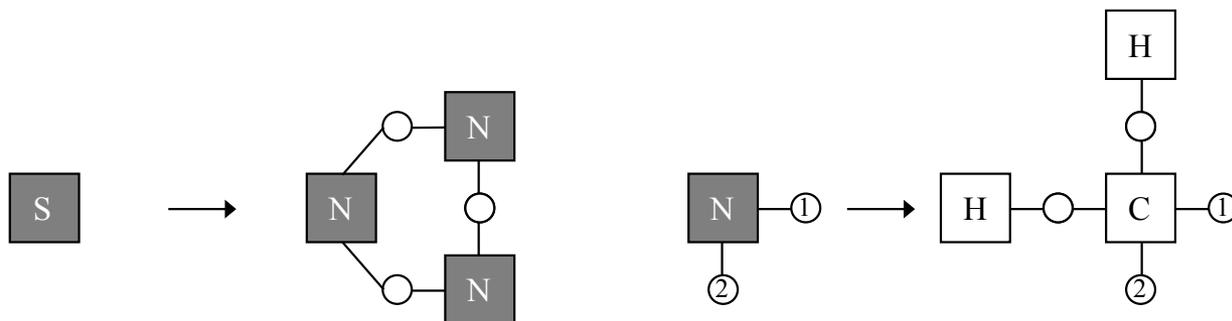
HRG generates a hypergraph by repeatedly replacing non-terminal hyperedges with hypergraphs

Hyperedge replacement grammar (HRG)  $\mathcal{G} = (N, T, S, P)$

- $N$ : set of non-terminals N
  - $T$ : set of terminals C
  - $S$ : starting symbol S
- } Labels on hyperedges

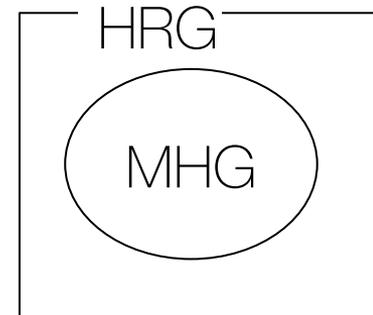
- $P$ : set of production rules

↳ A rule replaces a non-terminal hyperedge with a hypergraph



Replace l.h.s. with r.h.s.

MHG is defined as a subclass of HRG

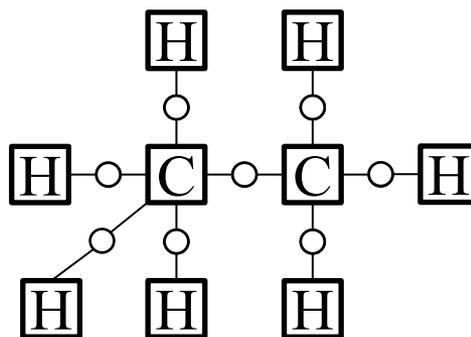


## ■ Molecular Hypergraph Grammar (MHG)

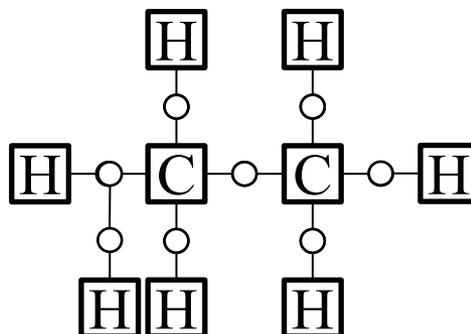
–Definition: HRG that generates molecular hypergraphs only

–Counterexamples:

Valence 🤔



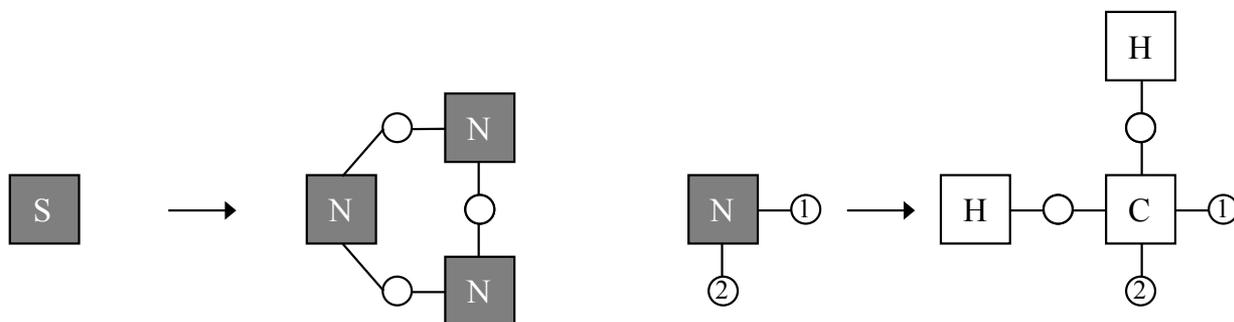
2-regularity 🤔



Start from starting symbol **S**



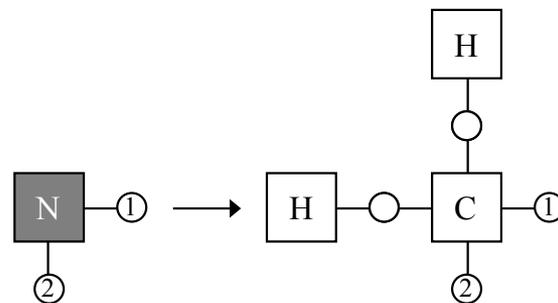
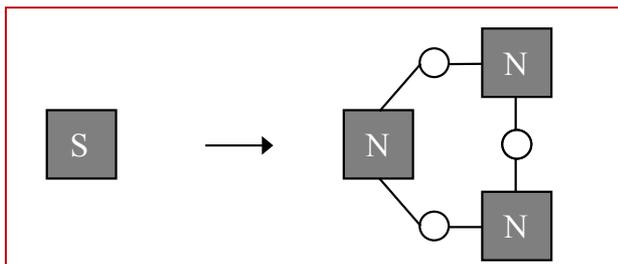
Production rules  $P$



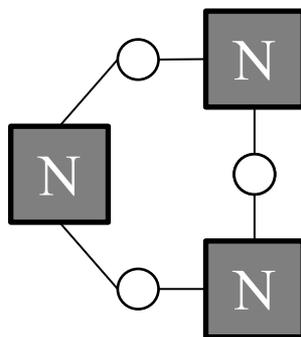
The left rule is applicable



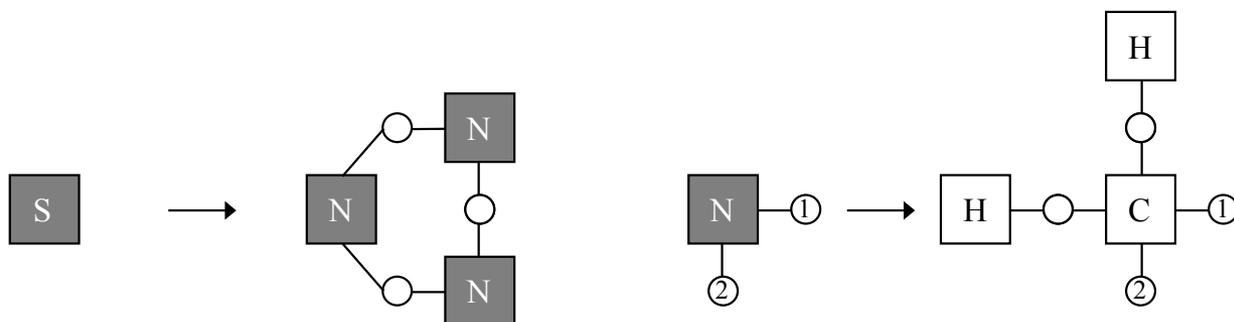
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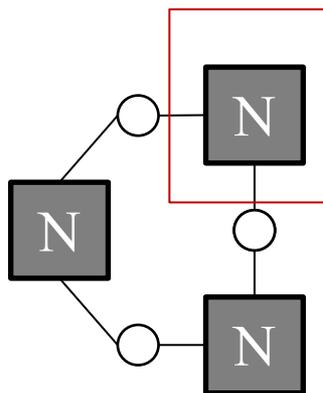
We obtain a hypergraph with three non-terminals



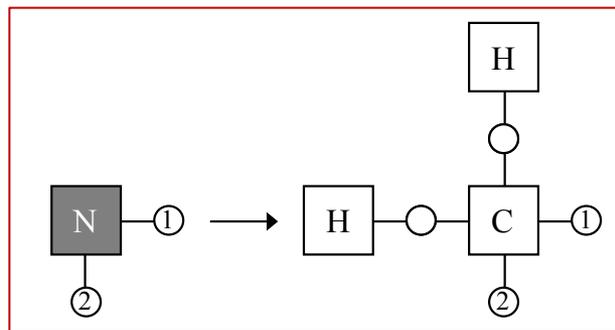
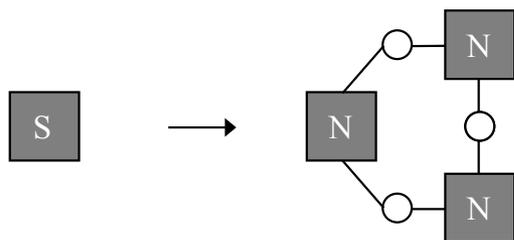
Production rules  $P$



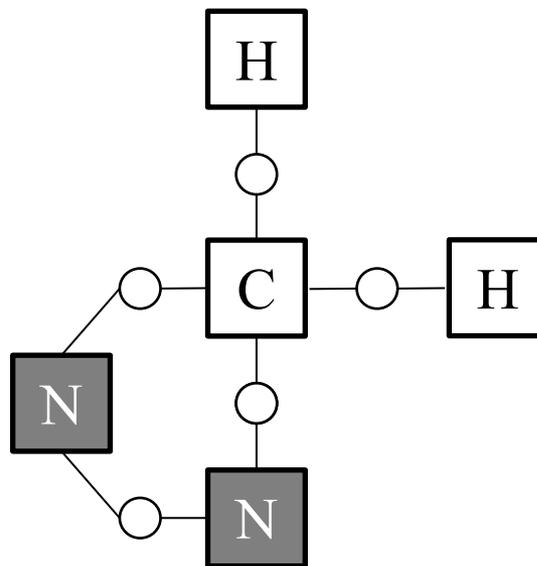
Apply the right rule to one of the non-terminals



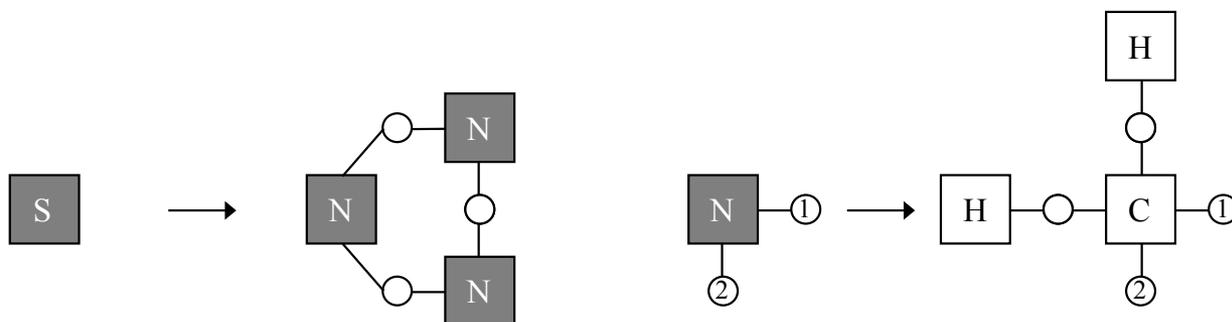
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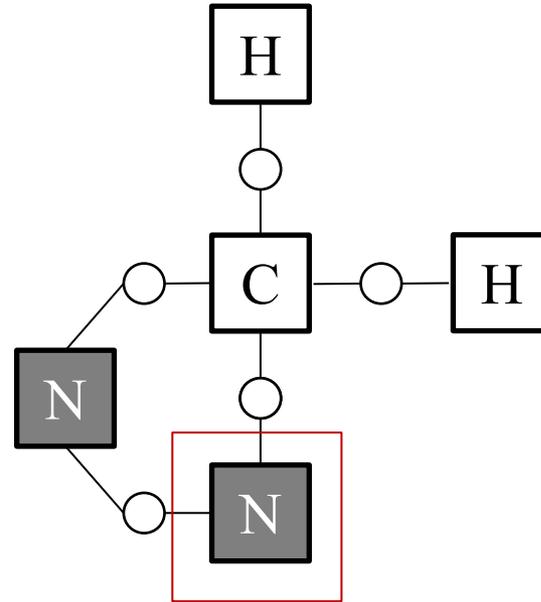
Two non-terminals remain



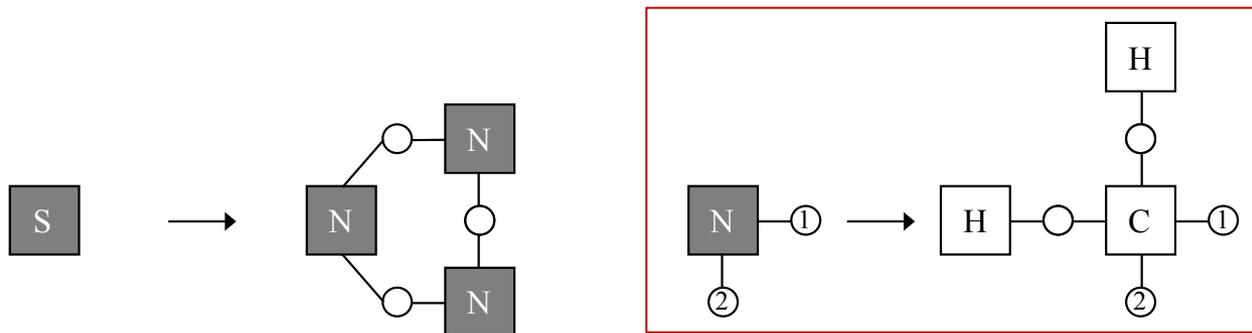
Production rules  $P$



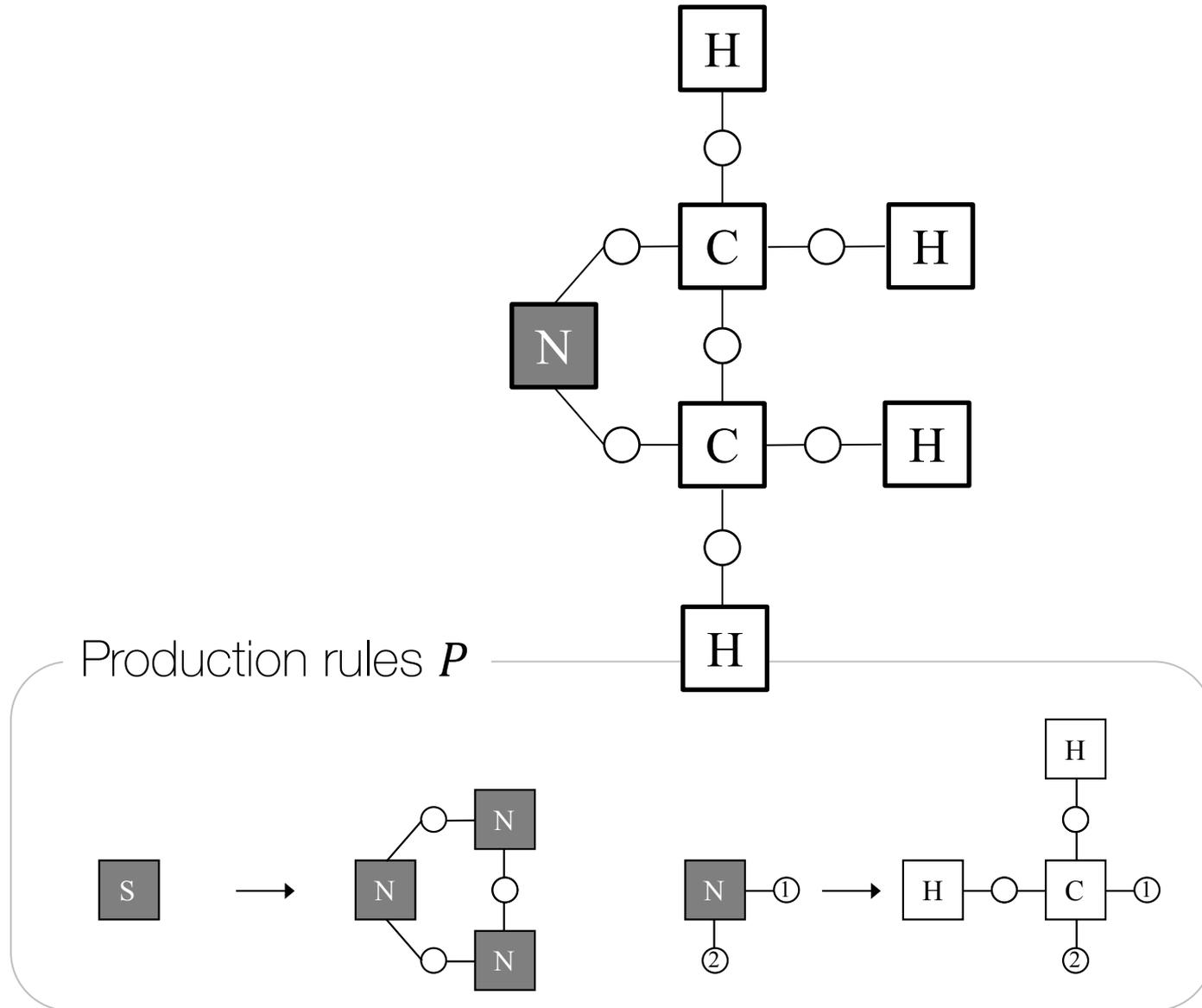
Repeat the procedure until there is no non-terminal



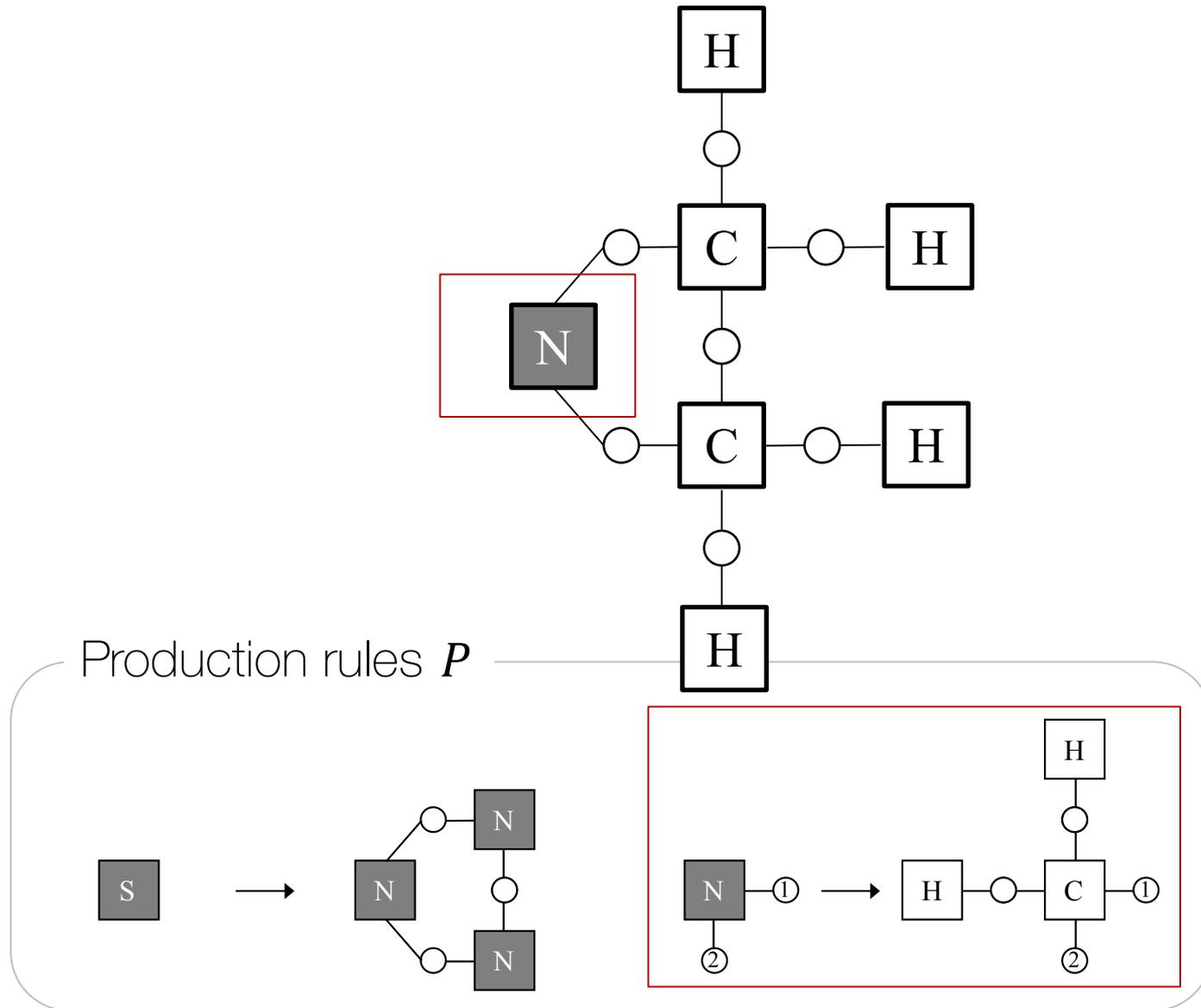
Production rules  $P$



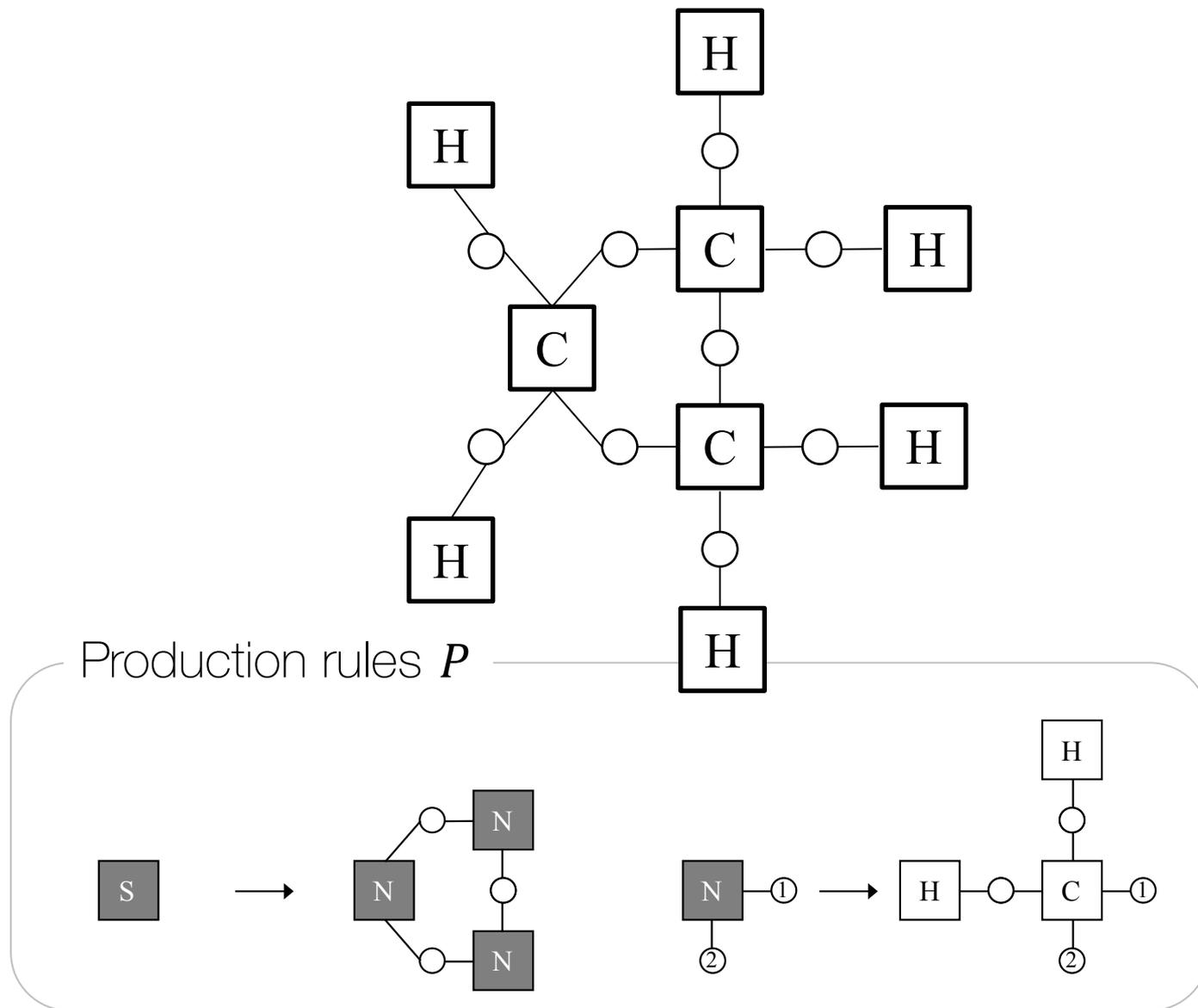
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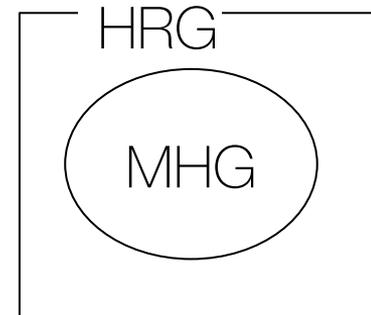
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Graph generation halts when there is no non-terminal,



MHG is defined as a subclass of HRG

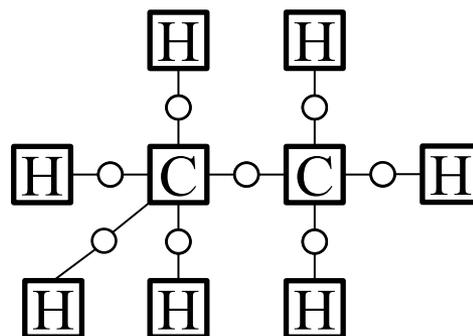


## ■ Molecular Hypergraph Grammar (MHG)

–Definition: HRG that generates molecular hypergraphs only

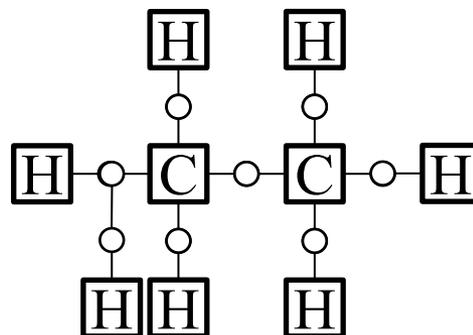
–Counterexamples:

Valence 😡

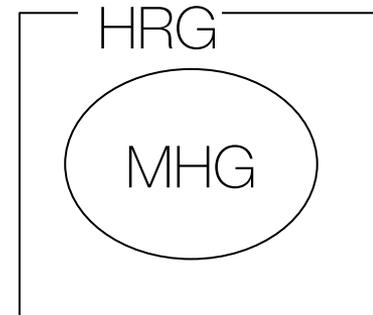


This can be avoided by learning HRG from data [Aguiñaga+, 16]

2-regularity 😡



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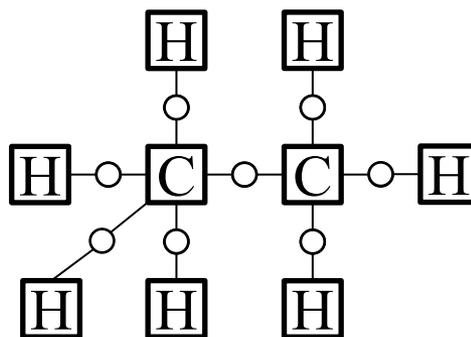


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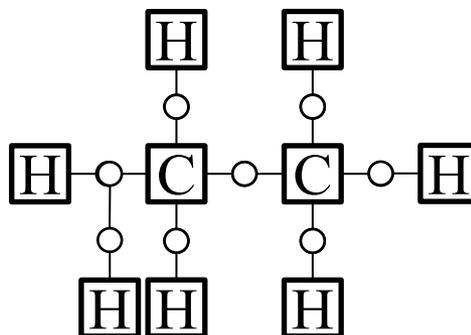
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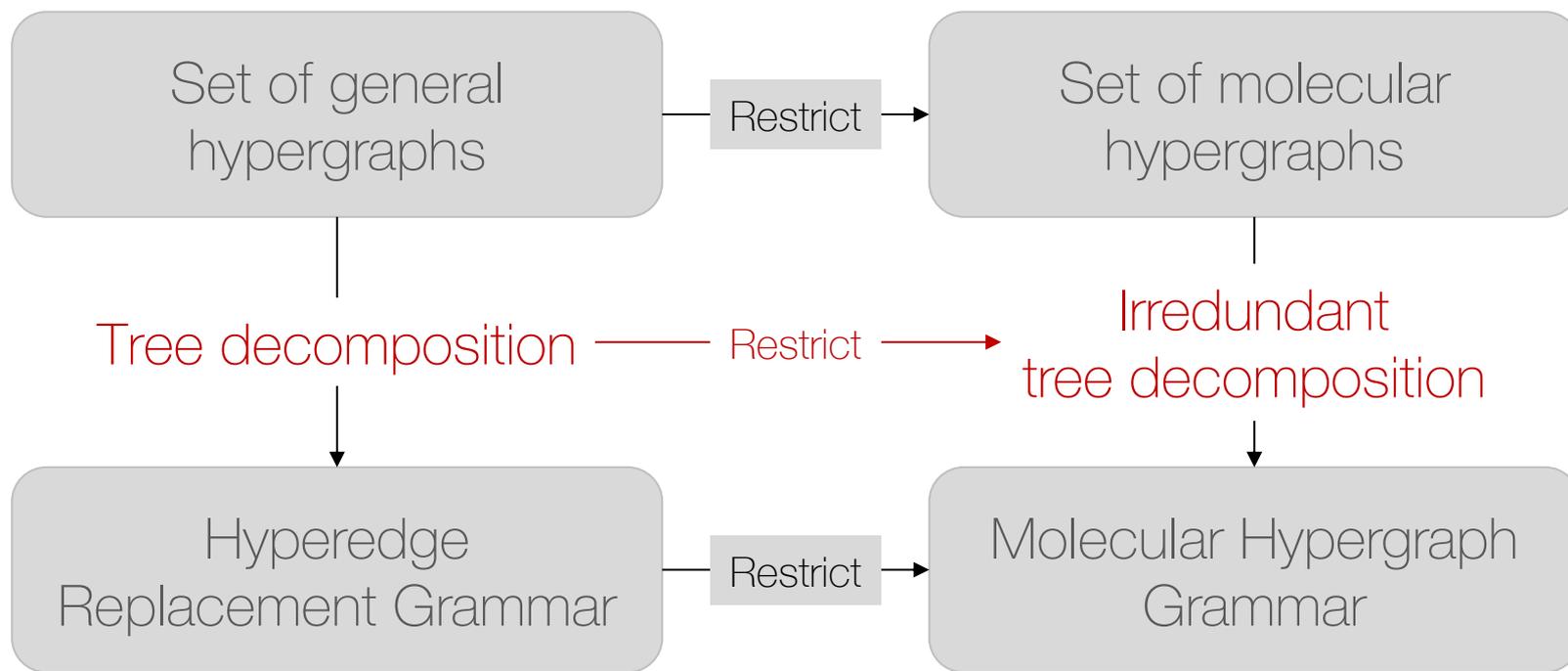


Use an irredundant tree decomposition (our contribution)

Each restriction is our contribution in the literature of graph grammar

## Existing work on graph grammar

[Aguiñaga+, 16]

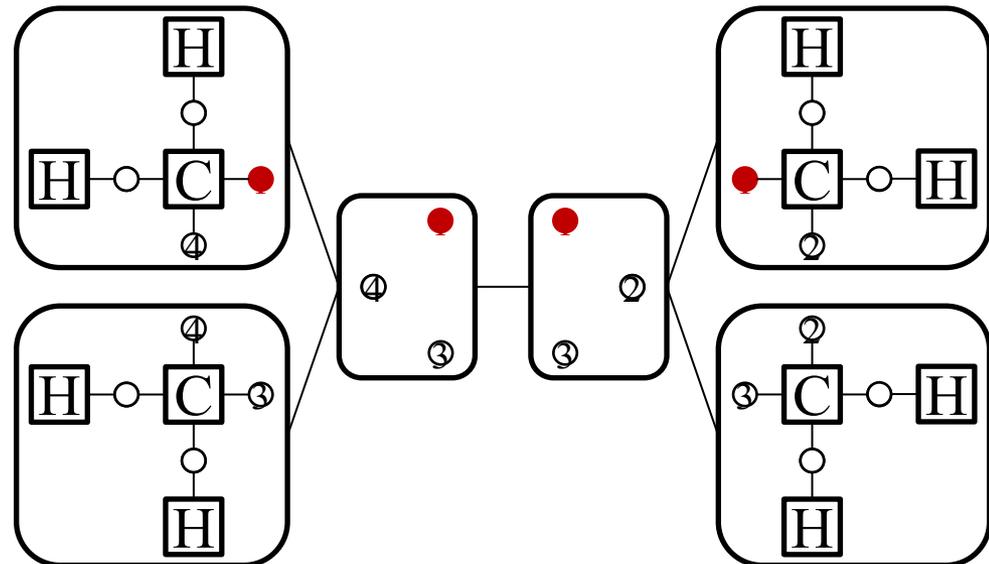
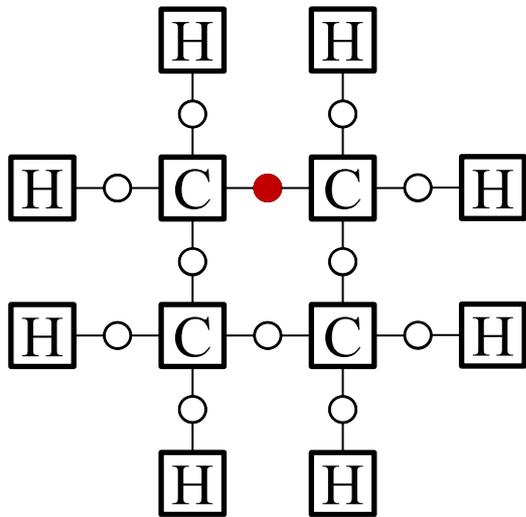


\* HRG is a context-free grammar generating hypergraphs

Tree decomposition discovers a tree-like structure in a graph

■ Tree decomposition

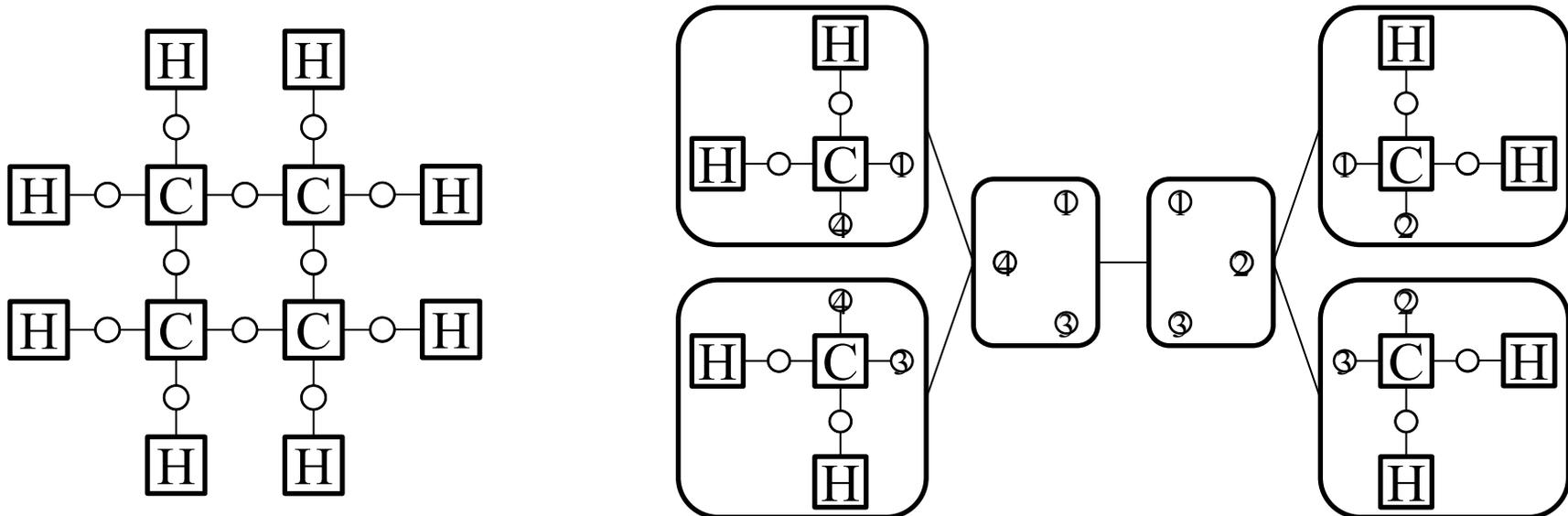
- All of the nodes and edges must be included in the tree
- For each node, the tree nodes that contain it must be connected



## Tree decomposition and (a syntax tree of) HRG are equivalent

- Relationship between tree decomposition and HRG

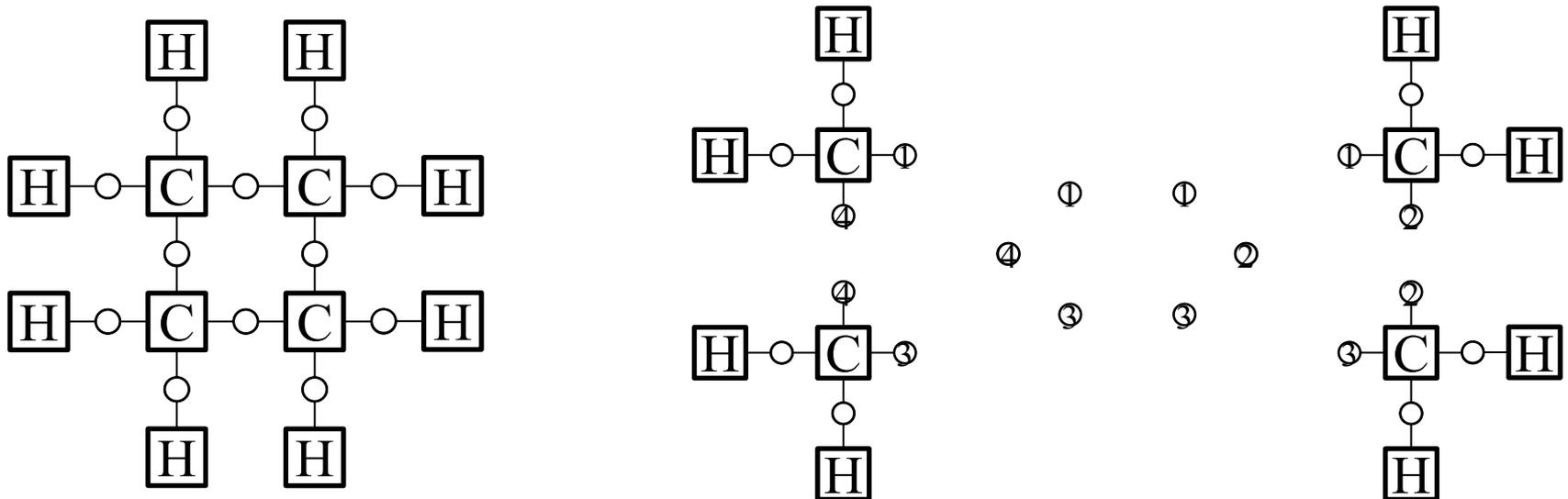
1. Connecting hypergraphs in tree recovers the original hypergraph
2. Connection  $\Leftrightarrow$  Hyperedge replacement



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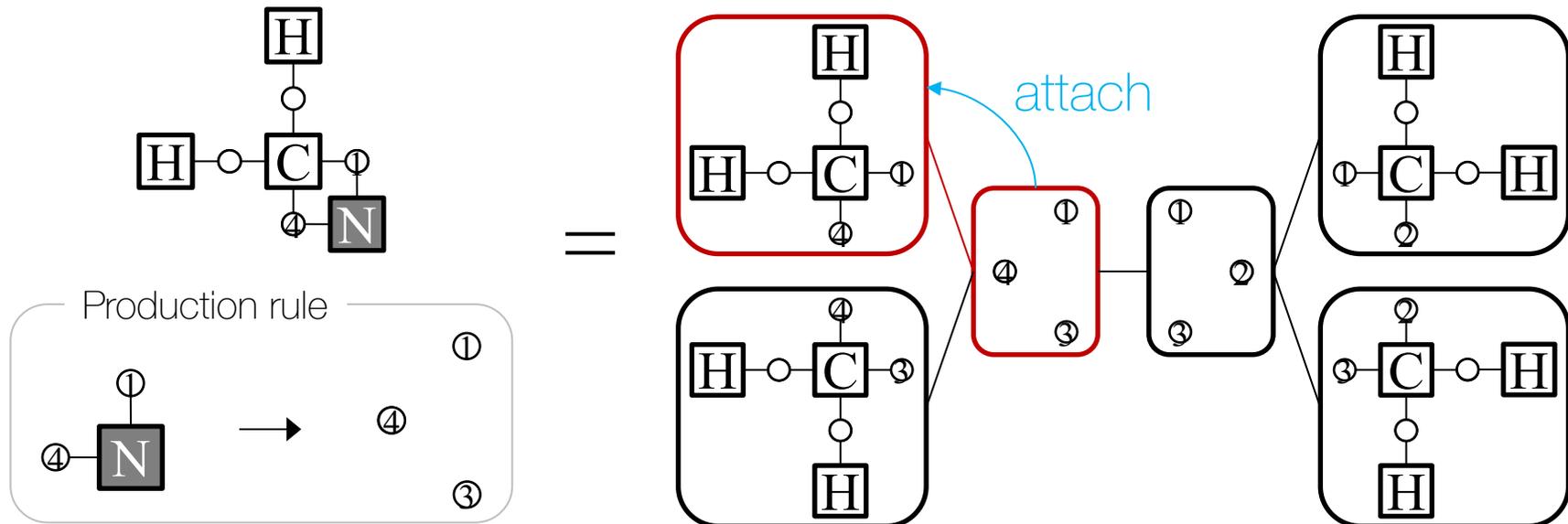
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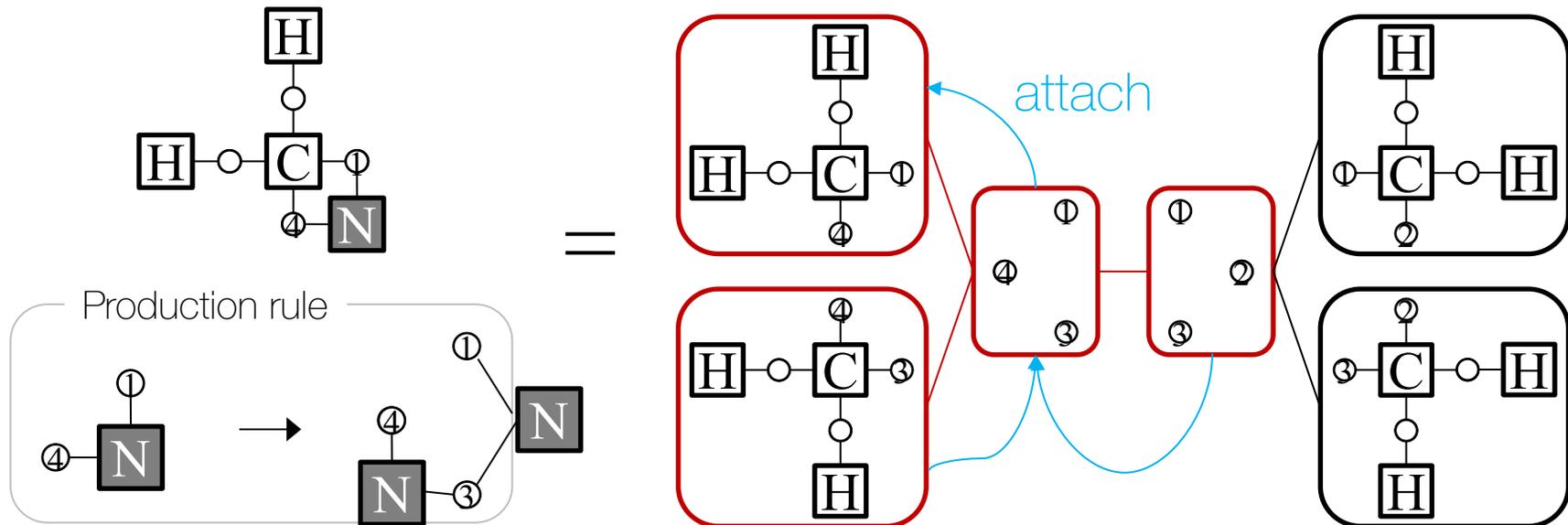
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We want to attach next!

Extract production rules from a tree decomposition;  
then HRG with the rules can reconstruct the original hypergraph

■ HRG inference algorithm [Aguíñaga+, 16]

–Input: Set of hypergraphs

–Output: HRG w/ the following properties:

- All of the input hypergraphs are in the language 😊
- Guarantee the valence conditions 😊
- No guarantee on 2-regularity 😭

1. Compute tree decompositions of input hypergraphs
2. Extract production rules
3. Compose HRG by taking their union

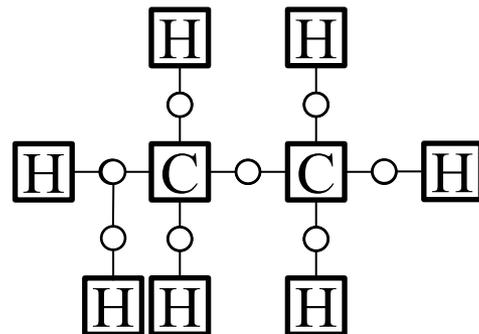
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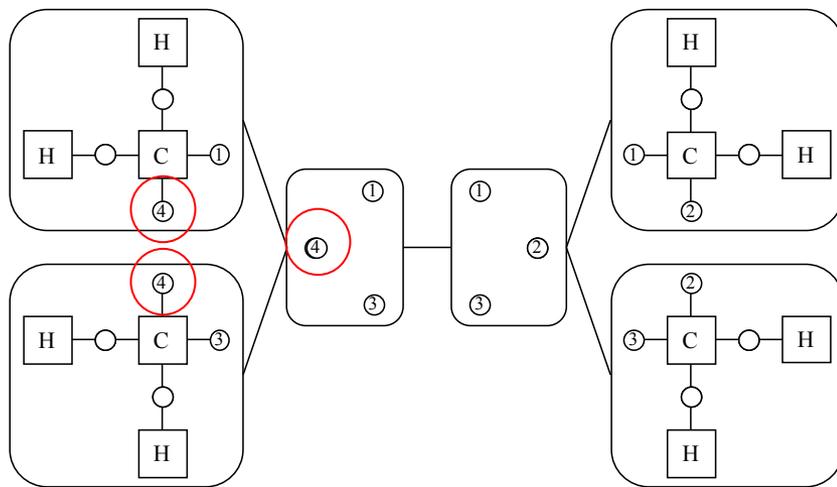


← This cannot be transformed into a molecular graph

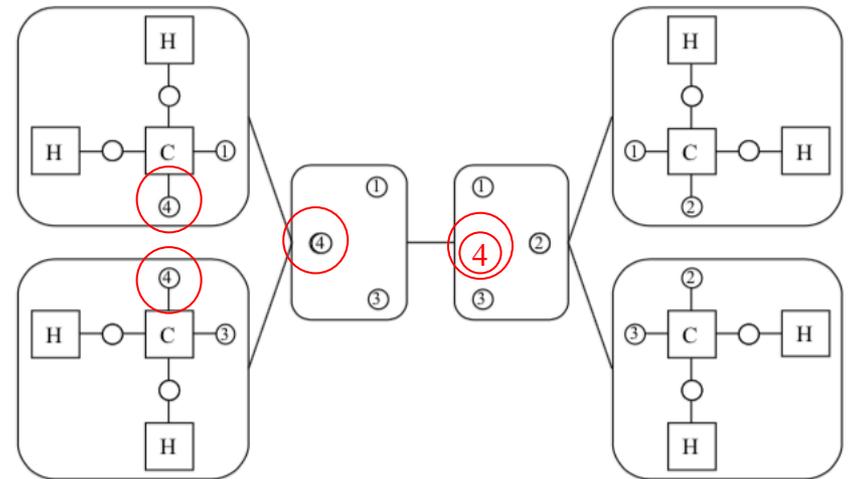
Irredundant tree decomposition is a key to guarantee 2-regularity

■ Irredundant tree decomposition

- The connected subgraph induced by a node must be a path
- Any tree decomposition can be made irredundant in poly-time



Irredundant

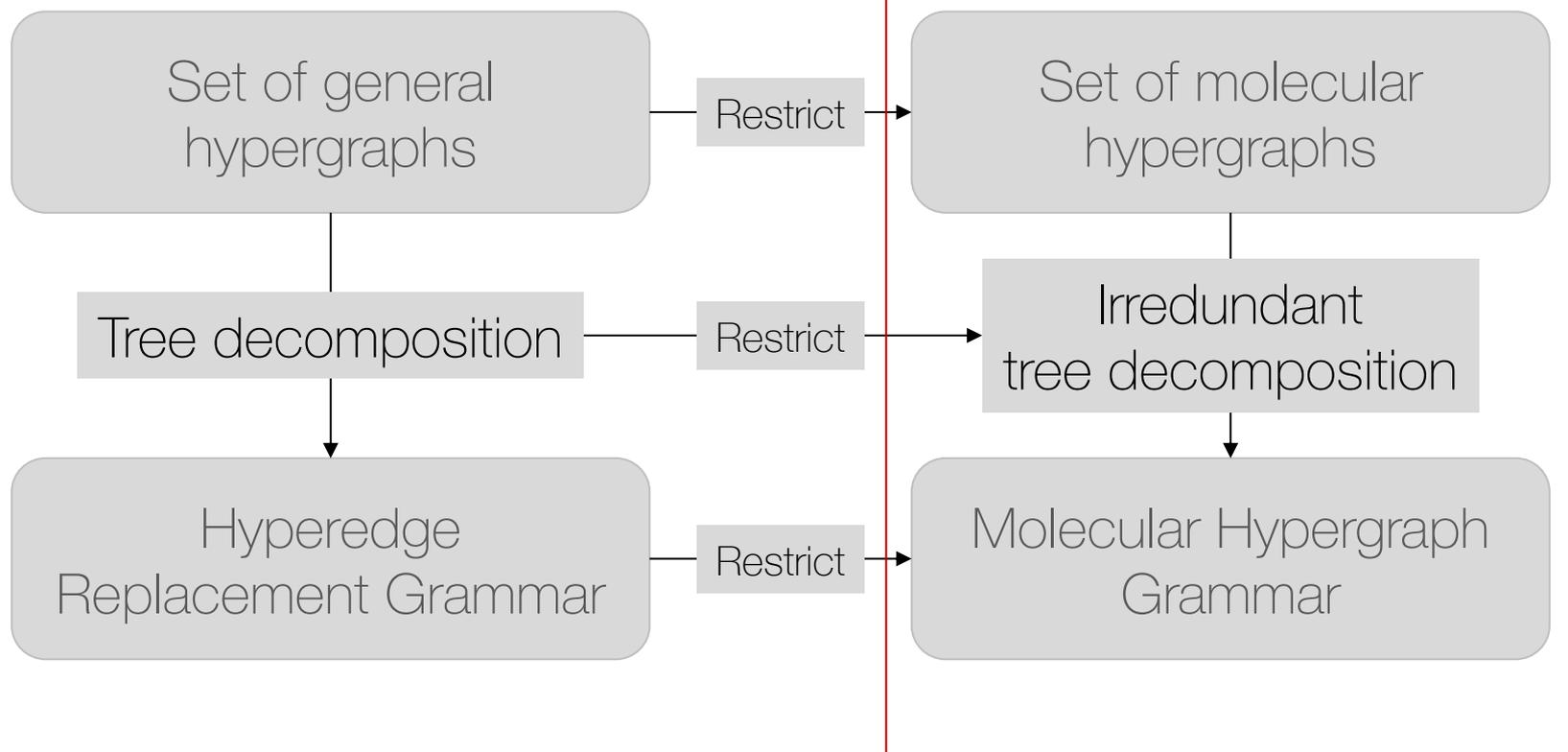


Redundant

Each restriction is our contribution in the literature of graph grammar

## Existing work on graph grammar

[Aguíñaga+, 16]



\* HRG is a context-free grammar generating hypergraphs

Molecular hypergraph is used to satisfy the valence conditions, and irredundant tree decomposition guarantees 2-regularity.

## ■ MHG Inference algorithm

–Input: Set of molecular graphs

–Output: MHG w/ the following properties:

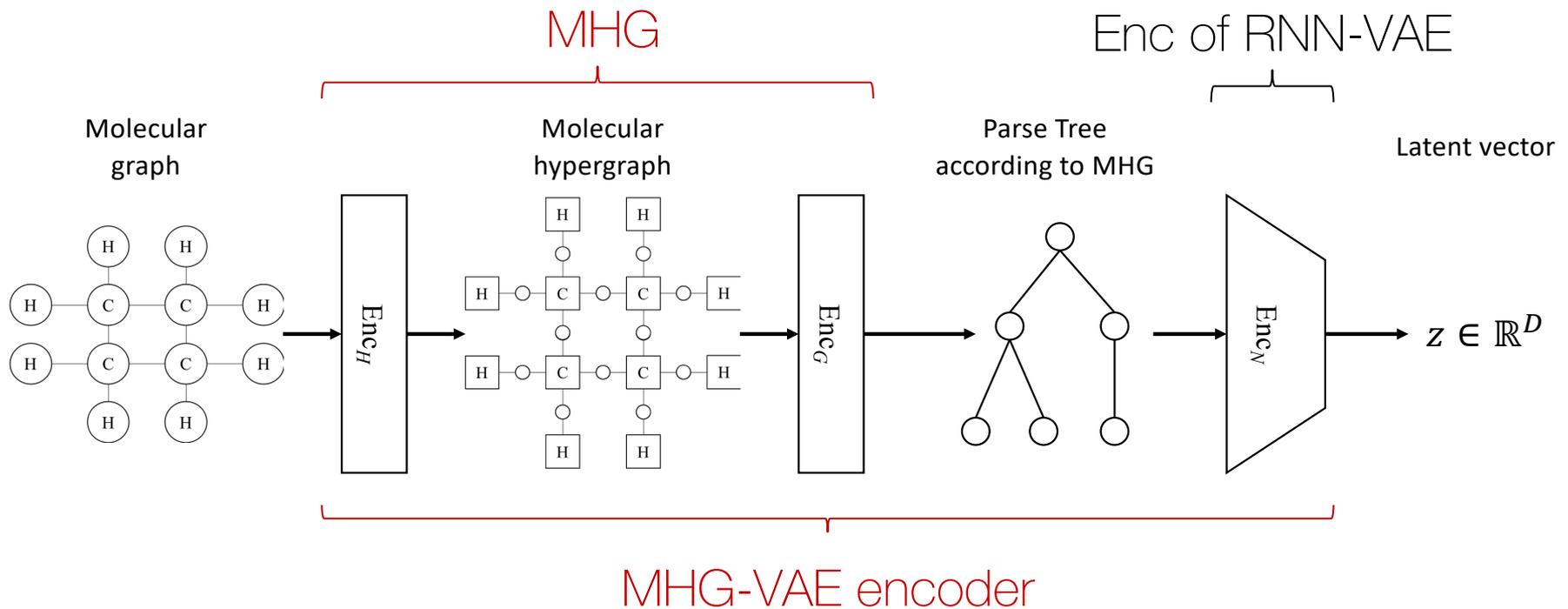
- All of the input hypergraphs are in the language 😊
  - Guarantee the valence conditions 😊
  - Guarantee 2-regularity 🥳
- } Thanks to HRG
- ← Our contribution

1. Convert molecular graphs into molecular hypergraphs
2. Compute tree decompositions of molecular hypergraphs
3. Convert each tree decomposition to be irredundant
4. Extract production rules
5. Compose MHG by taking their union

# Application to Molecular Optimization

We obtain (Enc, Dec) between molecule and latent vector by combining MHG and RNN-VAE

- MHG-VAE: (Enc, Dec) between molecule & latent vector



First, we learn (Enc, Dec) between a molecule and its vector representation using MHG-VAE

## ■ Global molecular optimization

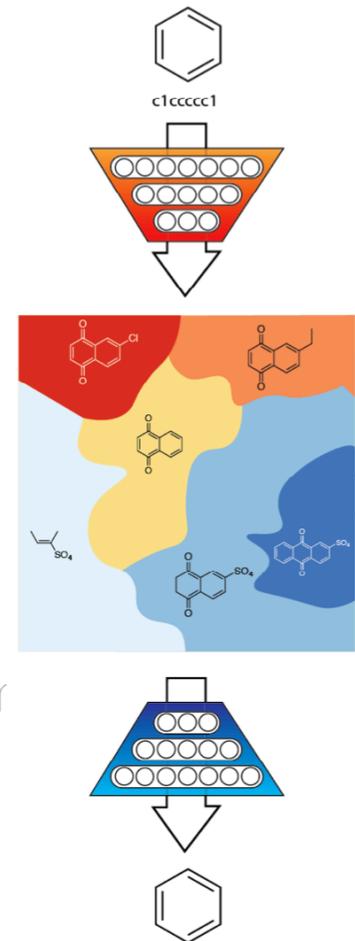
–Find: Molecule that maximizes the target

–Method: VAE+BO

1. Obtain MHG from the input molecules
2. Train RNN-VAE on syntax trees
3. Obtain vector representations  $\{\mathbf{z}_n \in \mathbb{R}^D\}_{n=1}^N$

Some of which have target values  $\{y_n \in \mathbb{R}\}$

4. BO gives us candidates  $\{\mathbf{z}_m \in \mathbb{R}^D\}_{m=1}^M$  that may maximize
5. Decode them to obtain molecules  $\{G_m\}_{m=1}^M$



Given vector representations and their target values, we use BO to obtain a vector that optimizes the target

## ■ Global molecular optimization

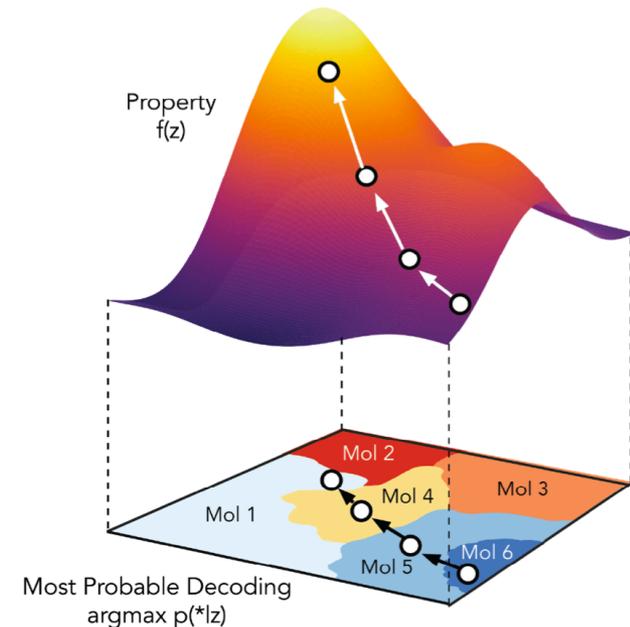
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5. Decode them to obtain molecules  $\{G_m\}_{m=1}^M$



We wish to understand the dependency of the performance on # of evaluations of function,  $f: \text{Molecule} \mapsto \text{Property}$

## ■ Purpose of our empirical studies

Validate the following questions:

1. MHG improves the performance compared to JT-VAE?
2. If # of evaluations is not limited, RL will be better than VAE
3. If # of evaluations is limited, VAE will be better than RL

$$f(m) = \widehat{\log P}(m) - \widehat{SA}(m) - \widehat{\text{cycle}}(m)$$

Water solubility

Synthetic accessibility score

Penalty to a ring larger than six

## MHG achieves higher performance than the other VAE-based methods 😊

- Purpose of our empirical studies

Validate the following questions:

1. MHG improves the performance compared to VAE-based ones?
2. If # of evaluations is not limited, RL will be better than VAE
3. If # of evaluations is limited, VAE will be better than RL

Method	% Reconst.	Valid prior	Unlimited oracle case				
			1st	2nd	3rd	50th	Top 50 Avg.
CVAE	44.6%	0.7%	1.98	1.42	1.19	–	–
GVAE	53.7%	7.2%	2.94	2.89	2.80	–	–
SD-VAE	76.2%	43.5%	4.04	3.50	2.96	–	–
JT-VAE	76.7%	100%	5.30	4.93	4.49	3.48	3.93
GCPN	–	–	7.98	7.85	7.80	–	–
<b>Ours</b>	94.8%	100%	5.56	5.40	5.34	4.12	4.49

JT-VAE by Jin et al., ICML '18 (VAE+BO)

GCPN by You et al., NeurIPS '18 (RL)

But RL-based method is better than ours when # of evaluations is not limited 😞

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3. If # of evaluations is limited, VAE will be better than RL

Method	% Reconst.	Valid prior	Unlimited oracle case				
			1st	2nd	3rd	50th	Top 50 Avg.
CVAE	44.6%	0.7%	1.98	1.42	1.19	–	–
GVAE	53.7%	7.2%	2.94	2.89	2.80	–	–
SD-VAE	76.2%	43.5%	4.04	3.50	2.96	–	–
JT-VAE	76.7%	100%	5.30	4.93	4.49	3.48	3.93
GCPN	–	–	7.98	7.85	7.80	–	–
<b>Ours</b>	94.8%	100%	5.56	5.40	5.34	4.12	4.49

JT-VAE by Jin et al., ICML '18 (VAE+BO)

GCPN by You et al., NeurIPS '18 (RL)

Ours is better than the RL-based method  
when # of evaluations is limited to 500 😊

## ■ Purpose of our empirical studies

Validate the following questions:

1. MHG improves the performance compared to VAE-based ones?
2. If # of evaluations is not limited, RL will be better than VAE
3. If # of evaluations is limited, VAE will be better than RL

Method	Limited oracle case				
	1st	2nd	3rd	50th	Top 50 Avg.
JT-VAE	1.69	1.68	1.60	-9.93	-1.33
GCPN	2.77	2.73	2.34	0.91	1.36
<b>Ours</b>	5.24	5.06	4.91	4.25	4.53

JT-VAE by Jin et al., ICML '18 (VAE+BO)

GCPN by You et al., NeurIPS '18 (RL)

We develop a graph-grammar based molecular representation, MHG, as well as its combination with VAE.

- We develop a molecular hypergraph grammar (MHG)
  - Molecules generated by MHG always satisfy the valence conditions
    - Hypergraph representation
    - Irredundant tree decomposition
  - Inference algorithm from data
    - No need to write rules by hand
    - The inferred MHG can describe all of the input data
  
- We apply MHG to molecular optimization
  - MHG-VAE > JT-VAE
  - MHG-VAE > GCPN when # of evals is limited

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