



# MODELING GRAPHS WITH VERTEX REPLACEMENT GRAMMARS

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[bit.ly/graph\\_grammar](https://bit.ly/graph_grammar)



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# String Context Free Grammars

## Production Rules

$R_1 : S \rightarrow \text{NP VP}$

$R_2 : \text{NP} \rightarrow \text{the N}$

$R_3 : \text{VP} \rightarrow \text{V NP}$

$R_4 : \text{V} \rightarrow \text{sings}$

$R_5 : \text{V} \rightarrow \text{eats}$

$R_6 : \text{N} \rightarrow \text{cat}$

$R_7 : \text{N} \rightarrow \text{song}$

$R_8 : \text{N} \rightarrow \text{canary}$

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 $R_7 : N \rightarrow song$   
 $R_8 : N \rightarrow canary$

## Deriving Strings

$S \xRightarrow{R_1} NP VP$   
 $\xRightarrow{R_2} the N VP$   
 $\xRightarrow{R_6} the cat VP$   
 $\xRightarrow{R_3} the cat V NP$   
 $\xRightarrow{R_4} the cat sings NP$   
 $\xRightarrow{R_2} the cat sings the N$   
 $\xRightarrow{R_7} the cat sings the song$

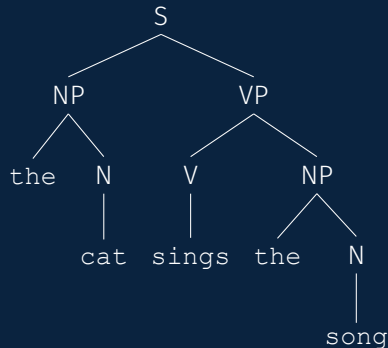
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Parse Tree

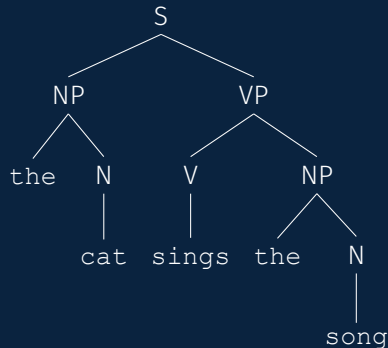
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Parse Tree

Where did the production rules comes from? Can we learn them?

# The Big Picture

## Key Questions

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- Why is grammar important for language?

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- Why is grammar important for language?
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## Goals

- Identifying *interesting* topological structures in a graph

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- Identifying *interesting* topological structures in a graph
- Finding the building blocks via graph grammar rules

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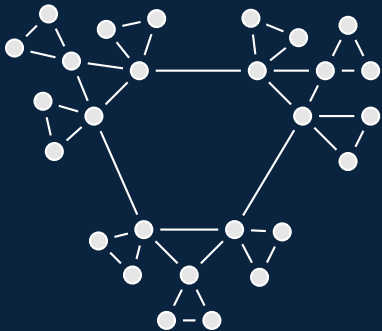
## Key Questions

- Why is grammar important for language?
- Can we do the same for graphs?

## Goals

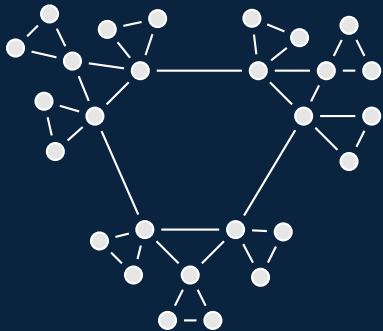
- Identifying *interesting* topological structures in a graph
- Finding the building blocks via graph grammar rules
- Using the building blocks to generate *similar* graphs

## Intuition

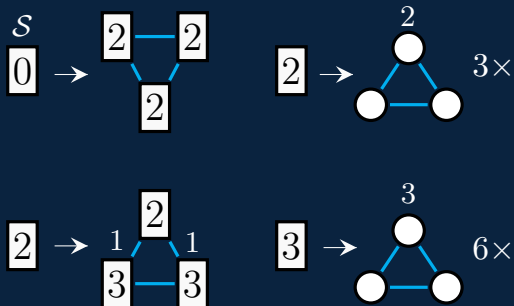


**(a)** Example Graph

## Intuition

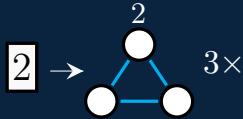
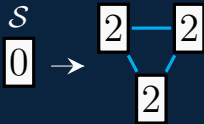


(a) Example Graph

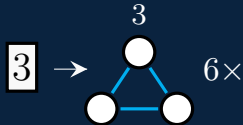
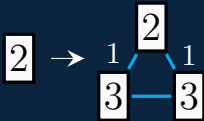


(b) Example CNRG

# Formal Definition: Clustering-based Node Replacement Grammar (CNRG)



3×



6×

$G = \langle \Sigma, \Delta, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{S} \rangle$

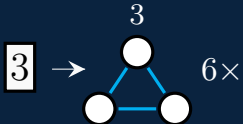
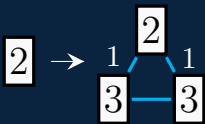
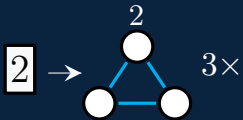
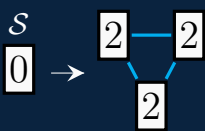
$\Sigma$ : alphabet of node labels

$\Delta$ : alphabet of *terminal* node labels

$\mathcal{P}$ : set of production rules

$\mathcal{S}$ : starting graph

# Formal Definition: Clustering-based Node Replacement Grammar (CNRG)



$G = \langle \Sigma, \Delta, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{S} \rangle$

$\Sigma: \{ \bullet, \boxed{2}, \boxed{3} \}$

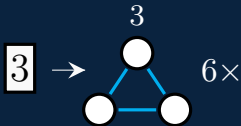
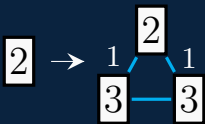
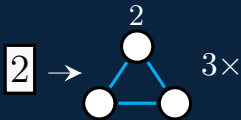
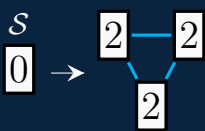
$\Delta: \{ \bullet \}$

$\mathcal{P}$ : shown on the left

$\mathcal{S}$ :  $\boxed{0}$



# Formal Definition: Clustering-based Node Replacement Grammar (CNRG)



$G = \langle \Sigma, \Delta, \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{S} \rangle$

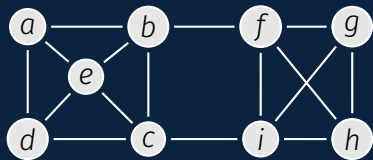
$\Sigma: \{ \bullet, \boxed{2}, \boxed{3} \}$

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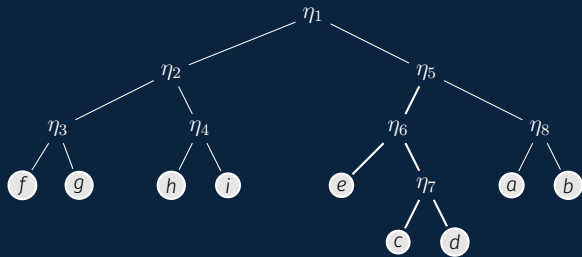
Where did the production rules comes from? Can we learn them?



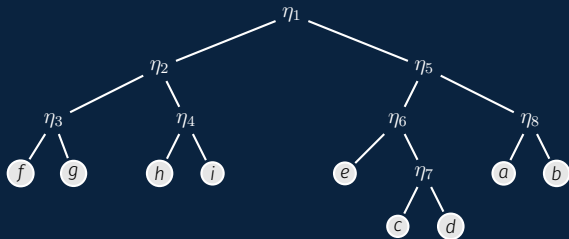
**(a)** Example graph  $H$  with 9 nodes and 16 edges

Leiden  
Louvain

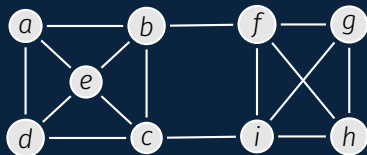
Spectral  
MinCut



**(b)** An example dendrogram  $\mathcal{D}$

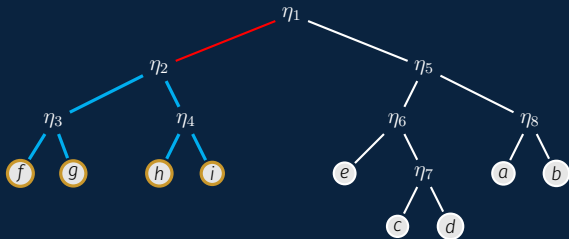


**(a)** Current Dendrogram  $\mathcal{D}$

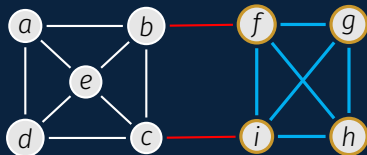


**(b)** Current Graph  $H$

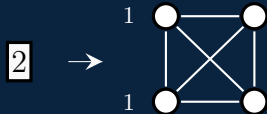
## Extracting a CNRG: II

$$(\mu = 4)$$


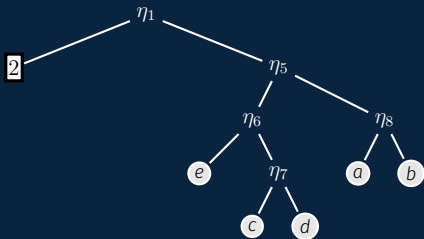
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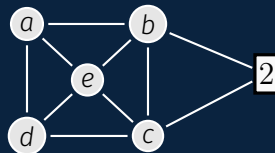
**(b)** Current Graph  $H$



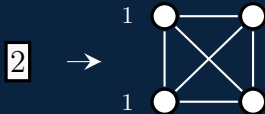
### (c) Extracted CNRG Rule



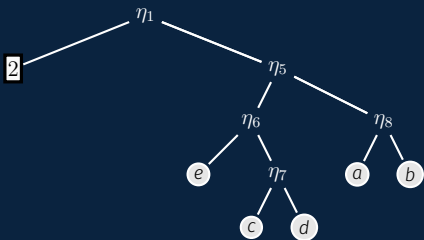
**(a)** Updated Dendrogram  $\mathcal{D}'$



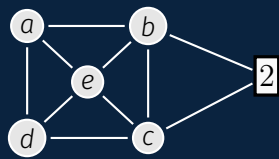
**(b)** Updated Graph  $H'$



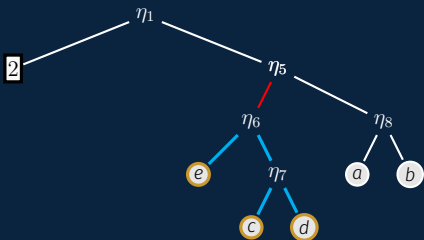
**(c)** Extracted CNRG Rule



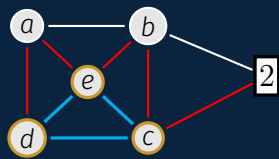
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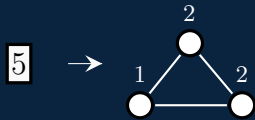
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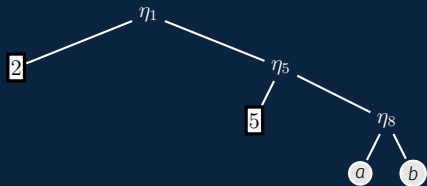
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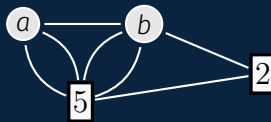
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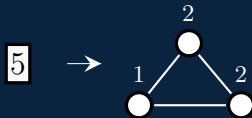
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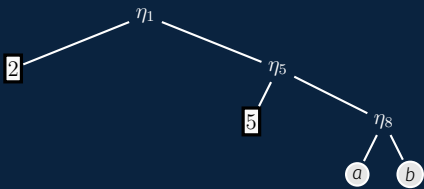


**(b)** Updated Graph  $H'$

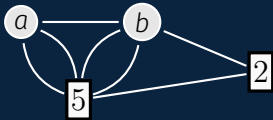


**(c)** Extracted CNRG Rule

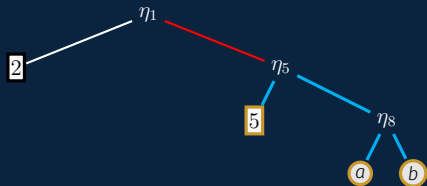




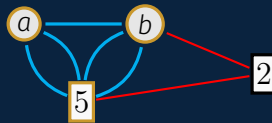
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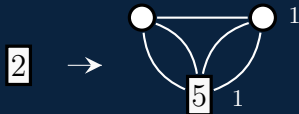
(b) Current Graph  $H$



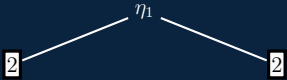
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(b) Current Graph  $H$



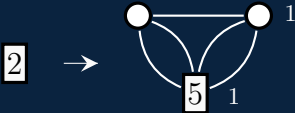
(c) Extracted CNRG Rule



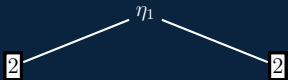
(a) Updated Dendrogram  $\mathcal{D}'$



(b) Updated Graph  $H'$



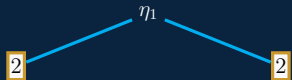
(c) Extracted CNRG Rule



**(a)** Current Dendrogram  $\mathcal{D}$



**(b)** Current Graph  $H$



**(a)** Current Dendrogram  $\mathcal{D}$



**(b)** Current Graph  $H$



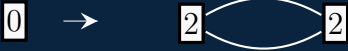
**(c)** Extracted CNRG Rule

0

0

(a) Updated Dendrogram  $\mathcal{D}'$

(b) Updated Graph  $H'$



(c) Extracted CNRG Rule

0

0

(a) Updated Dendrogram 1



(b) Updated Graph  $H'$

0



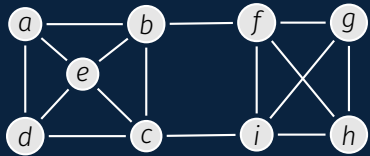
2



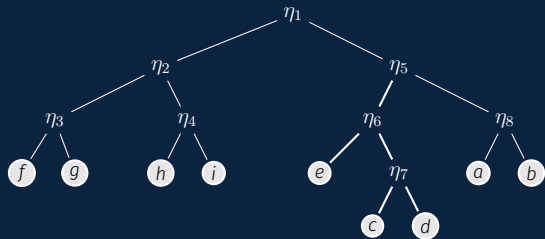
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(c) Extracted CNRG Rule

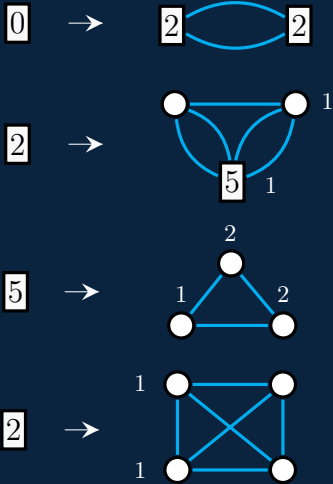
# Extracted CNRG Rules



(a) Graph  $H$



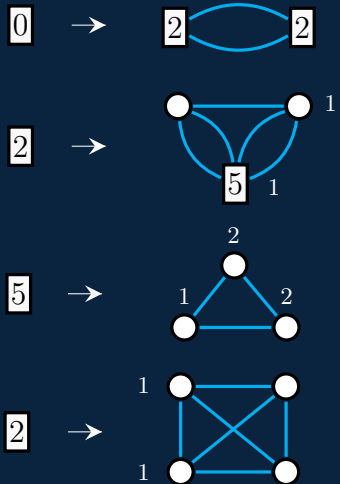
(b) Dendrogram  $\mathcal{D}$



(c) Extracted CNRG Rules



# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: I



Extracted CNRG Rules

$\mathcal{S}$   
0

Current Graph  $H'$

Next Graph  $\hat{H}$

# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: I



Extracted CNRG Rules

0

Current Graph  $H'$

Next Graph  $\hat{H}$

# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: I



Extracted CNRG Rules

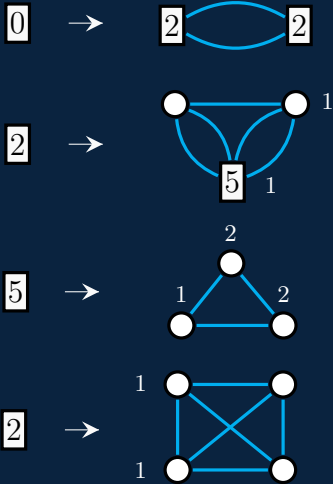
0

Current Graph  $H'$



Next Graph  $\hat{H}$

# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: II



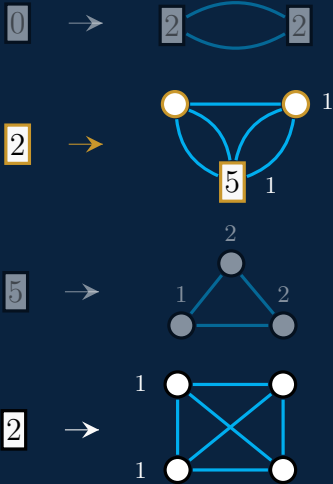
Extracted CNRG Rules



Current Graph  $H'$

Next Graph  $\hat{H}$

# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: II



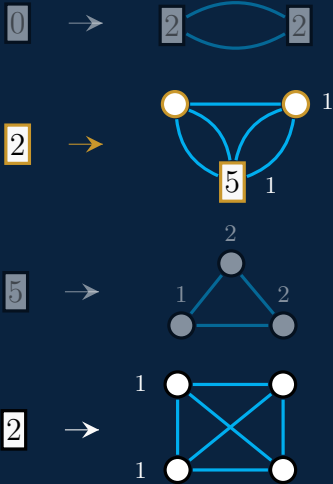
Extracted CNRG Rules



Current Graph  $H'$

Next Graph  $\hat{H}$

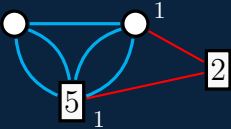
# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: II



Extracted CNRG Rules

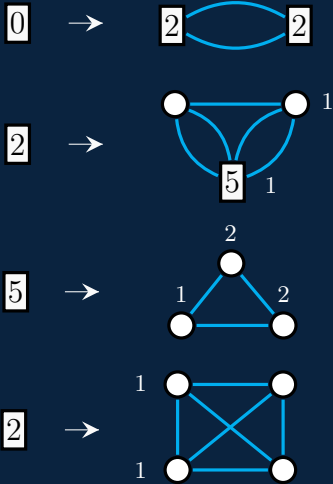


Current Graph  $H'$

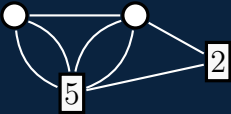


Next Graph  $\hat{H}$

# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: III



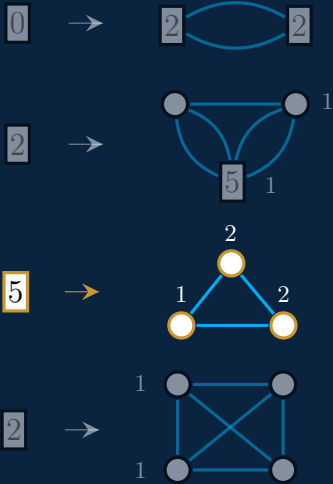
Extracted CNRG Rules



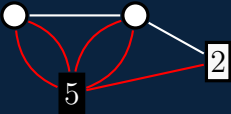
Current Graph  $H'$

Next Graph  $\hat{H}$

# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: III



Extracted CNRG Rules

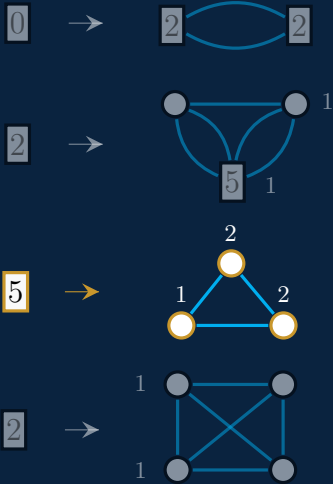


Current Graph  $H'$

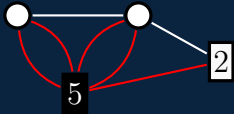
Next Graph  $\hat{H}$



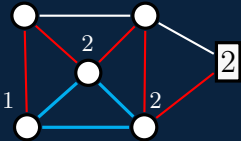
# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: III



Extracted CNRG Rules

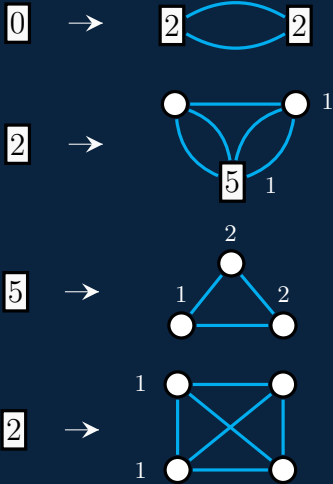


Current Graph  $H'$

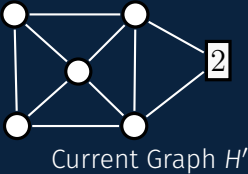


Next Graph  $\hat{H}$

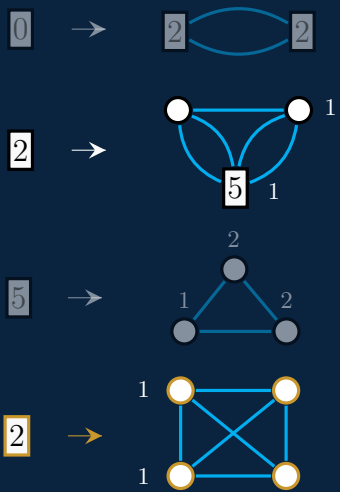
# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: IV



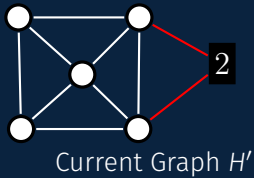
Extracted CNRG Rules



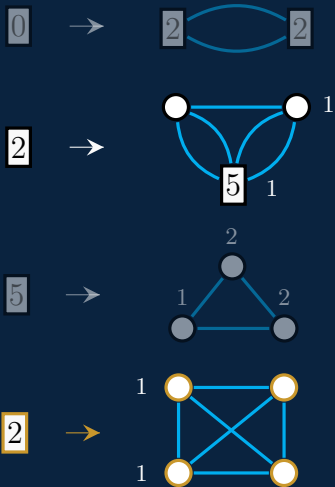
# Generating Graphs from a CNRG: IV



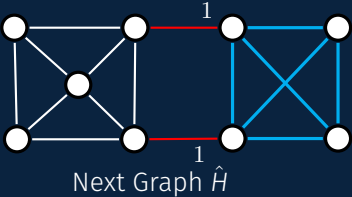
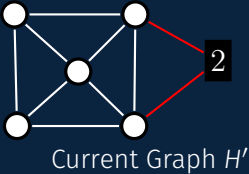
Extracted CNRG Rules



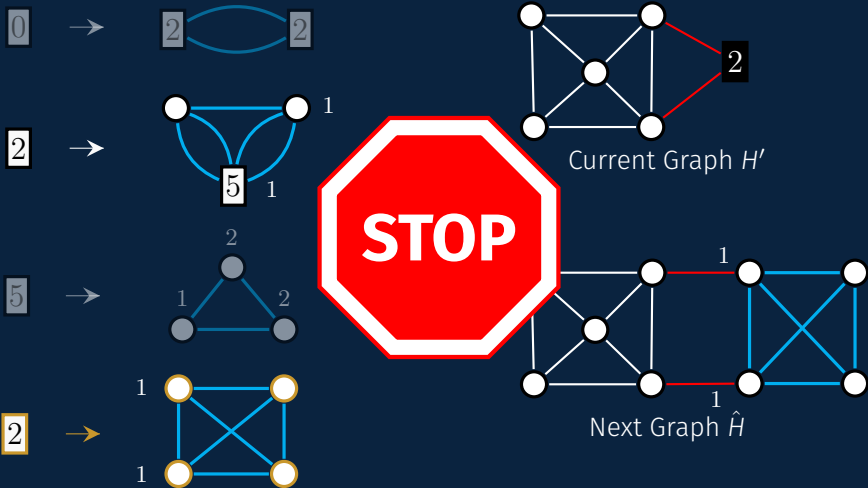
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Extracted CNRG Rules

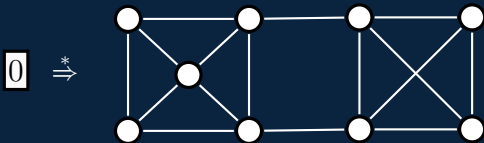


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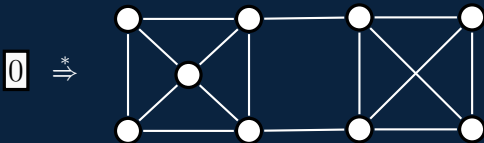
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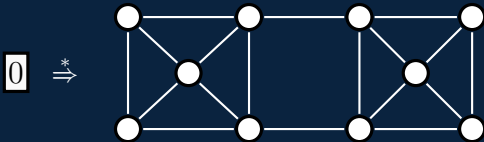


Isomorphic with  $p = \frac{1}{2}$ !

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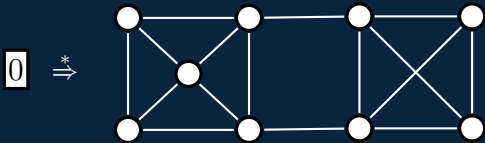


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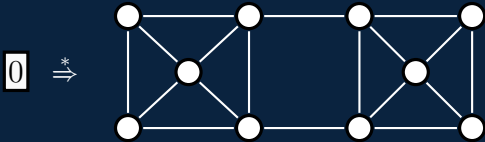


$$p = \frac{1}{4}$$

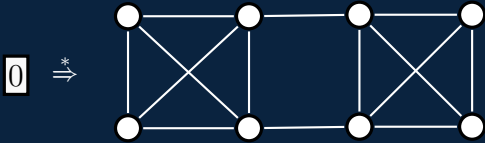
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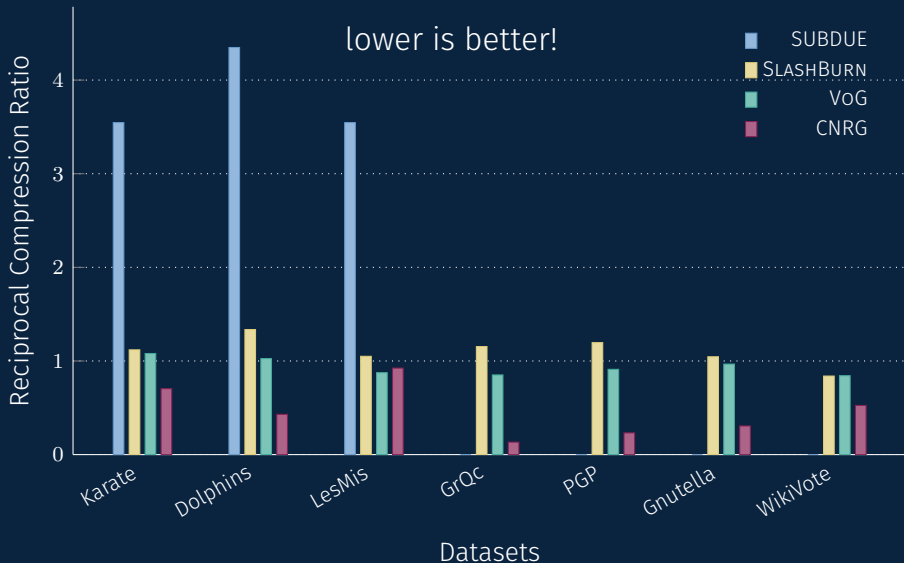
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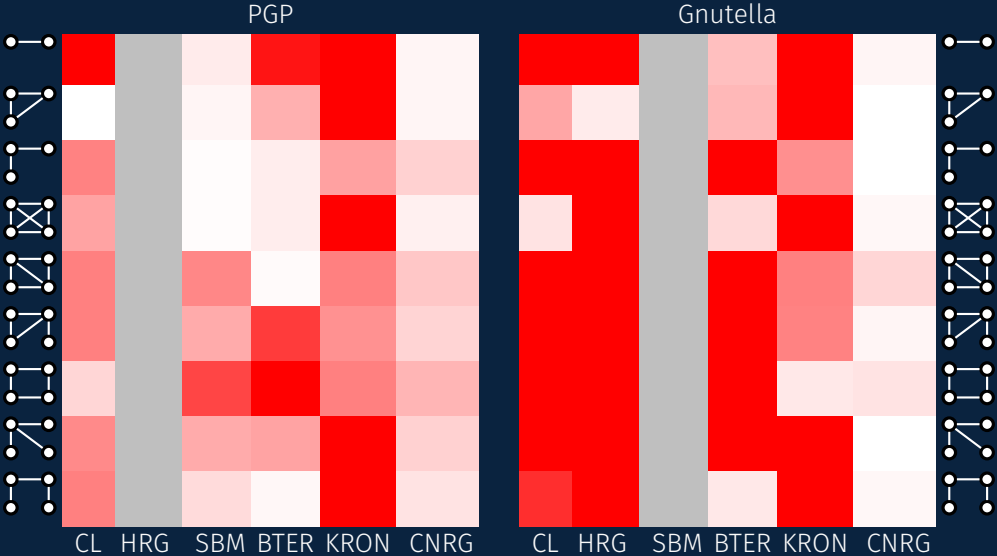
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# Model Size Comparison



# Graph Generation Quality Comparison (Lighter Red is Better)



# Takeaways and Future Work

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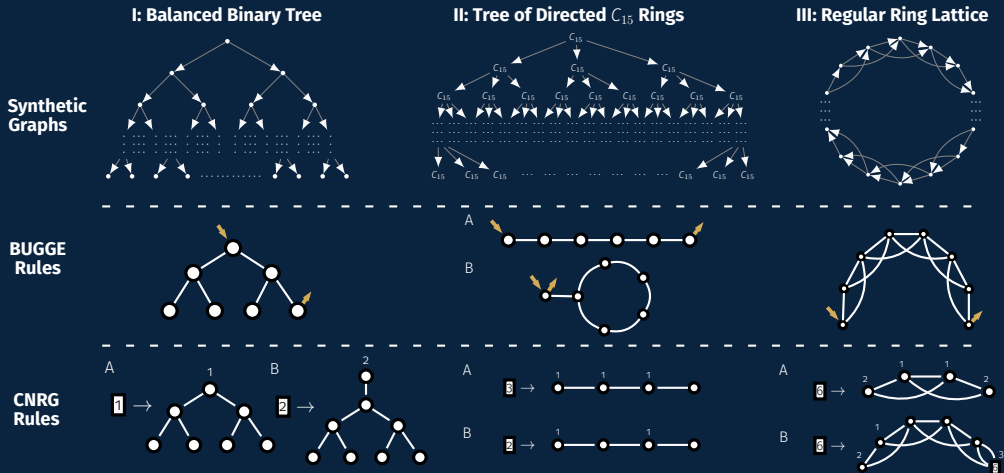
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- Can we adapt the formalism for attributed graphs?
- Can we utilize a related formalism to study and track changes in dynamic graphs?

# What's Next? Making Sense of Grammar Rules



*Towards Interpretable Graph Modeling with Vertex Replacement Grammars*, J. Hibshman, S. Sikdar, and T. Wening, accepted at IEEE BigData 2019.

# Thanks!

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