# Enhancing a Hieralchical Graph Rewriting Language based on MELL Cut Elimination

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(Extended version at arXiv.org)

#### Overview

#### **Hierarchical Graph Rewriting**



- Expressive formalism that subsumes term rewriting, process calculus, etc.
- ! Designing a **practical high-level declarative language** based on hierarchical graph rewriting is still a challenge.
  - The "right" construct for graph cloning and deletion is highly non-trivial.

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#### LMNtal<sup>1</sup>

- Concrete PL for hierarchical graphs
- We propose well-motivated graph cloning and deletion constructs

1. pronounced "elemental"

#### MELL<sup>2</sup> proof nets

- ✓ Hierarchical graph rewriting
  - for Linear Logic proofs
- involving cloning and deletion
  - 2. Multiplicative Exponential Linear Logic

#### **Hierarchical graphs**

Supports two structuring mechanisms: connectivity and hierarchy



Hierarchical Graphs (Nodes + Edges + Boxes) can represent all these.

### LMNtal (https://bit.ly/lmntal-portal)

- A hierarchical graph rewriting language inspired by concurrent logic languages and Constraint Handling Rules [Ued09]
  - graph nodes as **atom**(ic formula)s (no constants/functors)
  - links as (zero-assignment) logical variables
- Comes with a parallel model checker with state space visualizer



LMNtal graph

State space visualization of LTL model checking

#### **MELL proof nets**

Graph representation of MELL (Multiplicative Exponential LL) proofs [Gir87]

- Cut elimination expressed as hierarchical graph rewriting rules
- Some rules clone or delete hierarchical graphs



→ Cut elimination of MELL proof nets could provide a useful design

#### Contributions

- 1. We extended LMNtal with process context aggregates, and designed and implemented the mell API for graph cloning and deletion.
- 2. We showed that MELL proof nets and their cut elimination rules can be directly encoded into LMNtal.
- **3.** We encoded several process calculi and demonstrated the **generality of LMNtal with the proposed constructs**.





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5. Encoding MELL proof nets and process calculus

## Formulation of hierarchical graph rewriting systems

Two approaches:

(1) (traditional) **Algebraic approach** (e.g., using pushout in category theory)

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(2) **PL-style approach** with abstract syntax and small-step semantics, where graphs are represented by terms subject to structural congruence

Hierarchical Graph Rewriting System	Model or Language?	Definition Style
CHAM(Chemical Abstract Machine) [BB92]	model	(2)
BRS(Bigraphical Reactive System) [Mil01]	model	(1)
AHP(Attributed Hierarchical Portgraph) [EFP18]	model	(1)
LMNtal [Ued09]	language	(2)

LMNtal

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Encoding

(process) 
$$P ::= \mathbf{0} | p(X_1, ..., X_n) | P, P | m\{P\} | T := T$$
  
(process template)  $T ::= \mathbf{0} | p(X_1, ..., X_n) | T, T | m\{T\} | T := T$   
 $| @p | $p[X_1, ..., X_n|A] | p(*X_1, ..., *X_n)$   
(residual)  $A ::= [] | *X$ 

References

Example:





- Graphs with fixed-arity nodes are often called **port graphs**;
- Free links (half edges) play key roles in subgraph matching and rewriting

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Cloning of subgraphs is a highly expected feature of high-level graph rewriting languages, but how to handle edges of the clones is not obvious. For example,

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• In LMNtal which handles port graphs, ⓐ and ⓒ have fixed arities. We must somehow splice two clones of the subraph into the context of the original subgraph.

### Subgraph cloning (2): nlmem

LMNtal's nlmem (nonlinear membrane) API [Inu+08] provides subgraph (box)

cloning. For instance, nlmem.copy clones + (\$p) as: Şp Şp COD Sp example: b b

Can this design be supported by mathematical/logical background?

### Subgraph cloning (3)

Design of graph cloning constructs is highly non-trivial even in

(traditional) algebraic approaches.

Graph Rewriting System with cloning	Definition Style	Background
SePO [Cor+06], PBPO+[OER21]	Category Theory	$\checkmark$
DLGRS [BES18]	Description Logic	$\checkmark$
LMNtal with nlmem	PL standard	?
Present Work	PL standard	$\checkmark$

#### **Research Question:**

Can we justify our language design based on **some mathematical/logical system** as a design guideline?

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### Multiplicative Exponential Linear Logic (MELL)

#### Definition (MELL Formula)

(formula) 
$$F ::= X (atomic) \mid X^{\perp} \mid F \otimes F \mid F \Im F \mid !F \mid ?F$$

(Binding strength:  $\{^{\perp}\} > \{!,?\} > \{\otimes, ?\}$ )

#### Negation $\perp$ is moved/removed by:

$$\begin{split} A^{\perp\perp} &:= A \quad (A \otimes B)^{\perp} := A^{\perp} ~ \mathfrak{N} ~ B^{\perp} \quad (A ~ \mathfrak{N} ~ B)^{\perp} := A^{\perp} \otimes B^{\perp} \\ &(!A)^{\perp} := ~ ?(A^{\perp}) \quad (?A)^{\perp} := !(A^{\perp}) \end{split}$$

Linear implication  $-\infty$  is defined by:

$$A \multimap B := A^{\perp} \mathfrak{B} B$$

Classical implication  $\rightarrow$  can be translated by using linear implication  $\multimap$  :

 $A \to B \ \mapsto \ !A \multimap B$ 

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#### MELL inference rules (one-sided)

A, B: formulae,  $\Gamma, \Delta$ : multisets of formulae

The cut elimination theorem holds [Gir87].



#### MELL proof nets are graph representations of proofs of MELL sequents

with higher level of abstraction.



MELL proof nets are defined in two steps:

- 1. graph structures (proof structures)
- 2. geometric constraints on proof structures (using switching graphs).

#### **MELL proof structures**

#### **Definition (MELL proof structures)**

An **MELL proof structure** is a directed acyclic multigraph that combines the cells and wires and the promotion box.



#### **MELL proof nets**

#### **Definition (MELL proof nets)**

- A **switching** for a proof structure is a choice of left or right for  $\Re$  and ?c.
- A **switching graph** is obtained by rewriting all  $\Im$  and ?c cells according to switching, and removing the outer frame of all promotion boxes.



• A **MELL proof net** is a proof structure whose switching graphs have no undirected cycles and such that the content of each box is a proof net, inductively.

MELL proof nets can be converted to MELL (+ mix rule) sequents.

#### An example of MELL proof nets



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### Some examples of cut elimination rules (1) (!-!)

The cut elimination rules for MELL proof nets are hierarchical graph rewriting rules corresponding to those for MELL sequent calculus.

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#### Some examples of cut elimination rules (2) (!-?c)



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This rule involves box **cloning**.

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#### An example of cut elimination



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#### Some properties of cut elimination

The following hold for cut elimination of MELL proof nets [Gir87; Gir93; PF10]:

- 1. (Cut Elimination) All cuts of an MELL proof net can be eliminated.
- 2. (Stability) An MELL proof net is still a proof net after cut elimination.
- 3. (Confluence) Cut elimination is confluent on MELL proof nets.
- 4. (Strong Normalization) Cut elimination is strongly normalizing.

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### Research question, recap

We wish to establish a closer connection between

- LMNtal (concrete, general-purpose programming language based on hierarchical graph rewriting) and
- (2) MELL proof nets (hierarchical graph rewriting system for a logical system)

by providing (1) with well-motivated **graph cloning and deletion constructs** inspired by (2).



#### Syntax extension for process contexts

We define a new syntactic construct, process context aggregates:

$$T ::= \cdots | \$p[*X_1, *X_2, \dots, *X_n] (n > 0)$$

where each  $*X_i$  is a bundle which (i) appears in a process context with the same name and (ii) has the same number of links, i.e.,  $|*X_1| = |*X_2| = \cdots = |*X_n|$ 

This construct represents (dynamically determined) |\*X| copies of *n*-ary \$*p*'s.

#### → We can now represent an unspecified number of wildcards.

• An example usage on the next page.

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### API design and implementation

We can describe cloning and deletion using process context aggregates.



$$\begin{split} \text{mell.copy}(X,A1,A2,A3,B1,B2,C1,C2), \{\$p[X|*Z]\}, \{\$a[A1,A2,A3]\}, \{\$b[B1,B2]\} \\ & \rightarrow \{\$p[X'|*Z']\}, \{\$p[X''|*Z'']\}, \texttt{$a[*Z',*Z'',*Z]}, \$b[X',C1], \$b[X'',C2]. \end{split}$$

We implemented it as API of SLIM runtime https://github.com/lmntal/slim/.

• Deletion is also defined in the similar way. Please see the paper for details.

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### API design and implementation

We can describe cloning and deletion using process context aggregates.

For instance, mell.copy clones as: \$p \$p COD Represents an unspecified number (|\*Z|) of \$a mell.copy(X,A1,A2,A3,B1,B2,C1,C2), {\$p[X|^2]} (\$a[A1,A2,A3]}, {\$b[B1,B2]} → {\$p[X'|\*Z']}, {\$p[X''|\*Z'']}, **\$a[\*Z',\*Z'',\*Z]**, \$b[X',C1], \$b[X'',C2].

We implemented it as API of SLIM runtime https://github.com/lmntal/slim/.

• deletion is also defined in the same way. Prease see the paper for details.

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# Encoding MELL proof nets in LMNtal, overview

We showed that **MELL proof nets and their cut elimination rules can be** directly encoded in LMNtal

(i.e., each cut elimination rule encoded into one LMNtal rule).

- **1.** We encoded MELL proof structures.
- 2. We encoded cut elimination rules.
- **3.** We constructed and visualized the state space of cut elimination.
- **4.** We encoded some additional proposed rules and checked their consequences.

### Encoding MELL proof structure (1): Cells and wires



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- Non-commutativity of inputs to  $\otimes$  and  $\Im$  cells is represented by atoms,
- while the **commutativity of the arguments** of ax and cut is represented using **membranes**.
- A ?*c* cell with **commutative inputs and a single output** is represented by using both **an atom and a membrane**.



- The blank space [is represented by a **process context** \$p[X1|\*X].
- ✓ The MELL proof structure can be represented by a combination of cells, wires and boxes.

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### **Encoding cut elimination rules**

# We showed that all six cut elimination rules of MELL proof nets can be directly encoded into LMNtal with the mell API.

The following three rules involve non-trivial box operations:



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### Encoding the cut elimination rule (!-!)

LMNtal encoding of (!-!):



- {'!'(X1,X2), **\$p**[X1|\*X]}, {**\$q**[X3|\*Y]}, cut{+X2,+X3}
- :- { { '!'(X1,X2), \$p[X1|\*X]} , \$q[X3|\*Y], cut{+X2,+X3}}.

The migration of the box can be represented by the movement of the braces.

## Encoding the cut elimination rule (!-?c)

#### LMNtal encoding of (!-?c):



{'!'(X1,X2), \$p[X1|\*X]}, '?c'({+C1,+C2},X3), cut{+X2,+X3},

:- mell.copy(X2,A1,A2,A3,B1,B2,C1,C2), {'!'(X1,X2), \$p[X1|\*X]}, {'?c'({+A1,+A2},A3)}, {cut{+B1,+B2}}.

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### Encoding the cut elimination rule (!-?c)

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Encoding of (!-?c):



{'!'(X1,X2), \$p[X1|\*X]}, '?c'({+C1,+C2},X3), cut{+X2,+X3},

- :- mell.copy(X2,A1,A2,A3,B1,B2,C1,C2), {'!'(X1,X2), \$p[X1|\*X]},
  - {'?c'({+A1,+A2},A3)} {cut{+B1,+B2}}.

Three rules were necessary with nlmem, but now it can be encoded with one rule.

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## **Encoding MELL proof nets: State space (1)**

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Example:  $\beta$ -reduction of the simply typed  $\lambda$ -calculus

• By the CH isomorphism, the type derivation tree has a corresponding net, and its cut elimination corresponds to *β*-reduction [Gir87].



### **Encoding MELL proof nets: State space (2)**



✓ We confirmed well-known properties such as CR and SN, as well as non-trivial properties such as the existence of redundant paths.

### Encoding MELL proof nets: Addition of rules (1)

Additional rules have been proposed in the literature, and we can readily

observe changes in the state space. For example, the rule



{'!'(X1,X2), \$p[X1|\*X]}, '?w'(X3) :- {'!'(X1,X2), '?w'(X3), \$p[X1|\*X]}.

is used in the expression of substitution [Vau07], but confluence is lost by this rule [Tra11] (next slide).

### Encoding MELL proof nets: Addition of rules (2)

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Before (1 end state)

After (4 end states)

- The number of final states increased to 4, losing confluence.
- ✓ Rules could be easily added.
- ✓ Consequences of rule addition could be visually confirmed.
- → LMNtal with the mell API is useful as a workbench for proof nets.

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MELL Proof Nets

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We showed that several process calculi can be encoded in LMNtal.

Encoding

**Example**: Replication rule of the **Ambient Calculus**, where **ambients are box** structures that may be duplicated, migrated and deleted

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!(open  $m.P) \mid m[Q] \rightarrow P \mid Q \mid$ !(open m.P)

open\_repl@ open\_repl(M,{\$p}),{amb(M1),{id,+M1,-M2,\$mm},\$q,@q},{id,+M,+M2,\$m}

:- mell.copy({\$p},A1,A2,A3,B1,B2,remove,P),{cp(A1,A2,A3)},{B1=B2},

\$q,{id,+M3,\$m,\$mm},open\_repl(M3,P).

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open\_repl\_aux@@ remove({\$p}) :- \$p.

#### → Sufficiently general for modeling and computation.

### Other Related Work

MELL Proof Nets

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Overview

• Some hierarchical graph rewriting systems based on Proof Nets [Mur20; AFM11] are useful as models of functional languages, whereas LMNtal is desighned as general-purpose modeling language.

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- Linear Logic Programming languages [HM94; Hod+98] are based on LL, but our work is based on proof nets.
- **Quantifiers in graph rewriting** enables the handling of an indefinite number of atoms [Gha+12; MU24], whereas our work is concerned also with handling an unspecified number of free links in port graph rewriting.



**We introduced mell API**, which is based on the cut elimination rules of MELL proof nets, to perform cloning and deletion of hierarchical graphs in LMNtal.

Hierarchical graph rewriting language acquired:

 a PL-style, validated, and general-purpose
 cloning and deletion constructs  ↔ Proof nets acquired:
 ✓ a concrete PL that enables concise encoding of proof nets
 ✓ and a useful workbench.

➔ Beneficial bridge to both sides

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