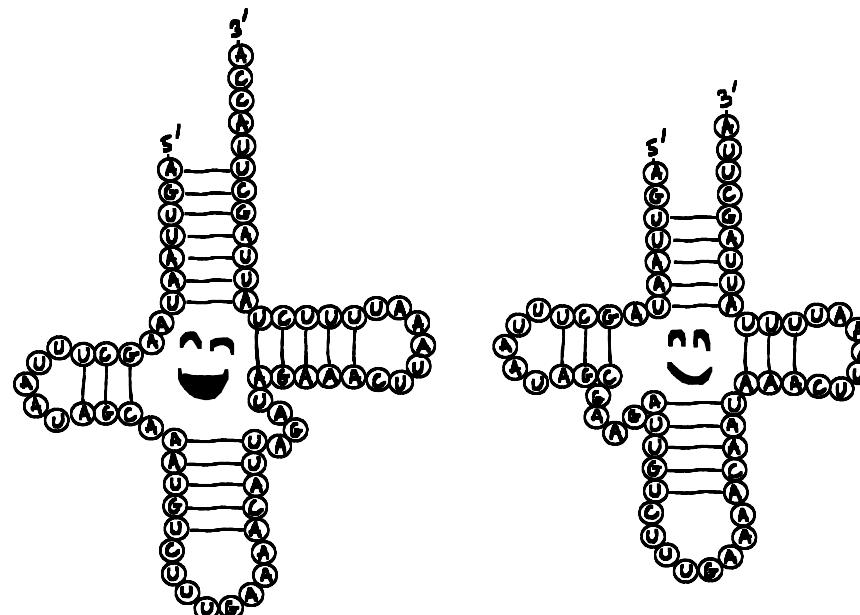


# COUNTING, GENERATING AND SAMPLING TREE ALIGNMENTS

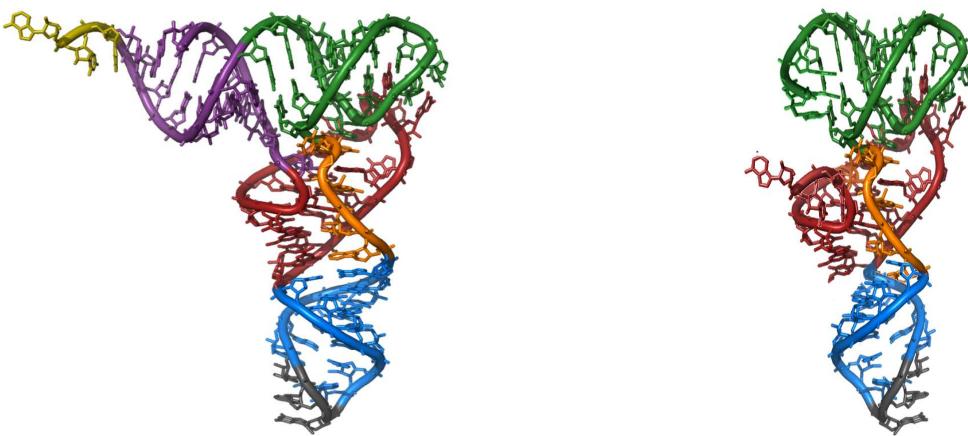
Cedric CHAUVE (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver)  
Julien COURTEL (PIMS/Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver)  
Yann PONTY (CNRS/LIX)



SeqBio 2015

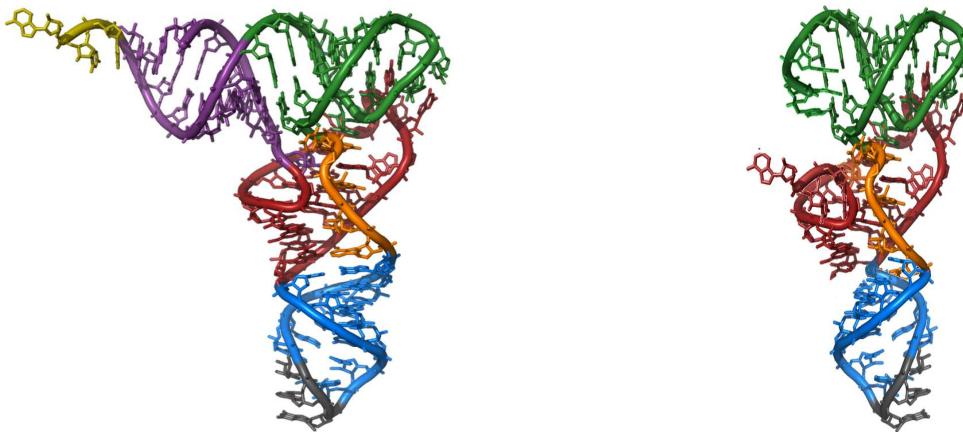
## MOTIVATION: RNA COMPARISON

Question: how to measure similarity between two RNAs?



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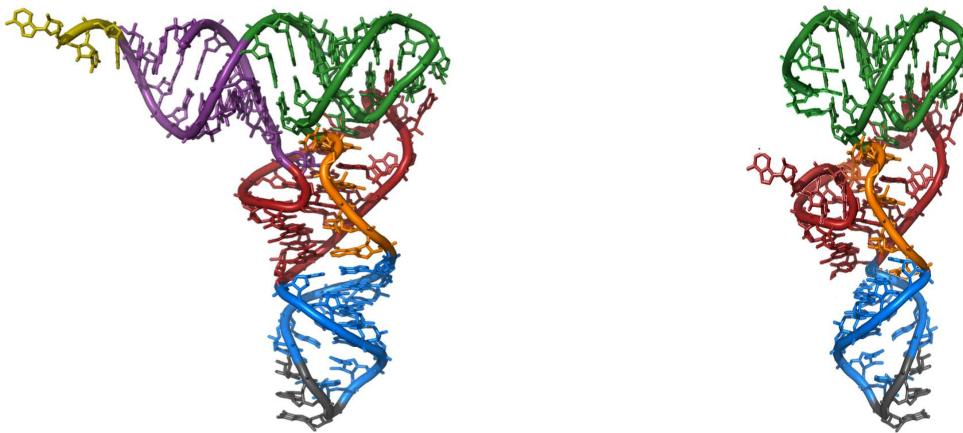
First idea: compare nucleic acid sequences.

RNA 1: AUUCG AUUA ...

RNA 2: ACCAUGAUUA ...

## MOTIVATION: RNA COMPARISON

Question: how to measure similarity between two RNAs?



First idea: compare nucleic acid sequences.  
→ sequence alignment

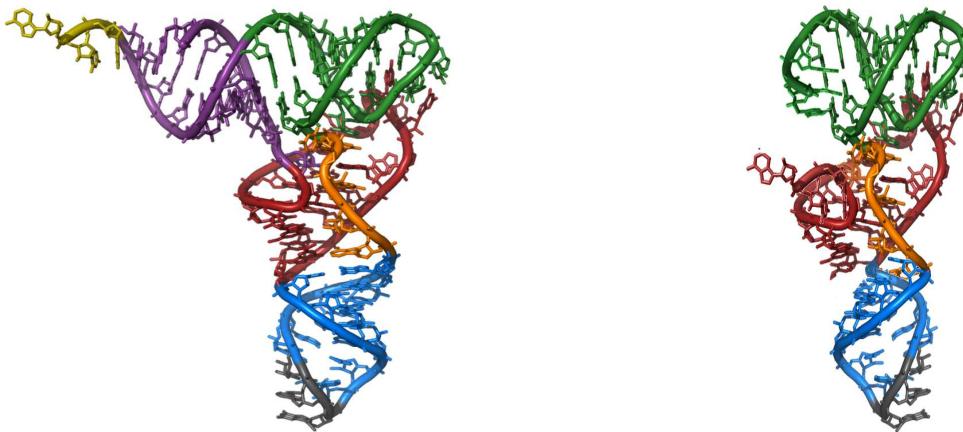
RNA 1: AUUCGUAUUA ...

RNA 2: ACCAUGAUUA ...

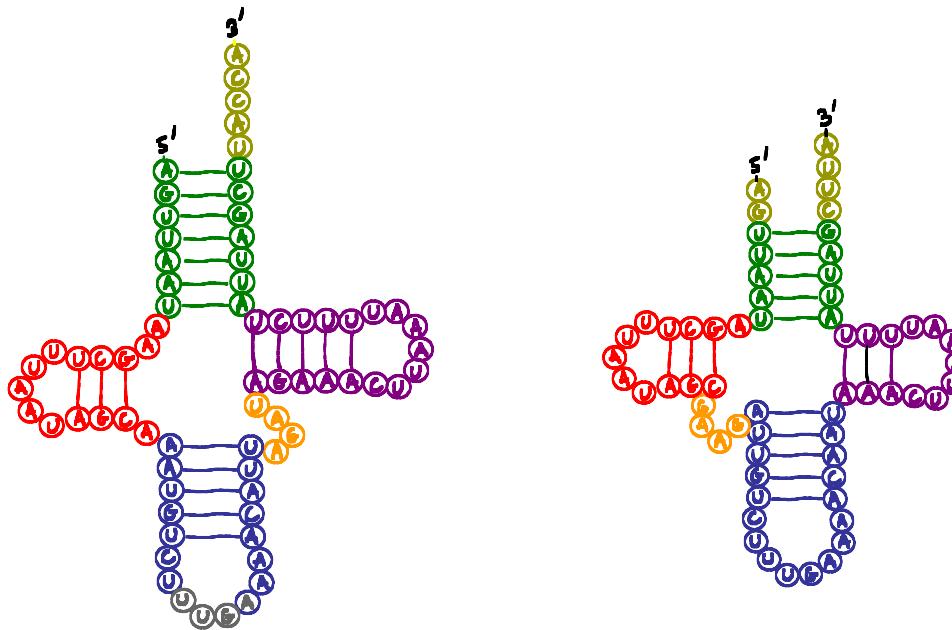
alignment: (A)(U)(C)(U)(C)(A)(U)(G)(A)(U)(U)(A) ...

## MOTIVATION: RNA COMPARISON

Question: how to measure similarity between two RNAs?

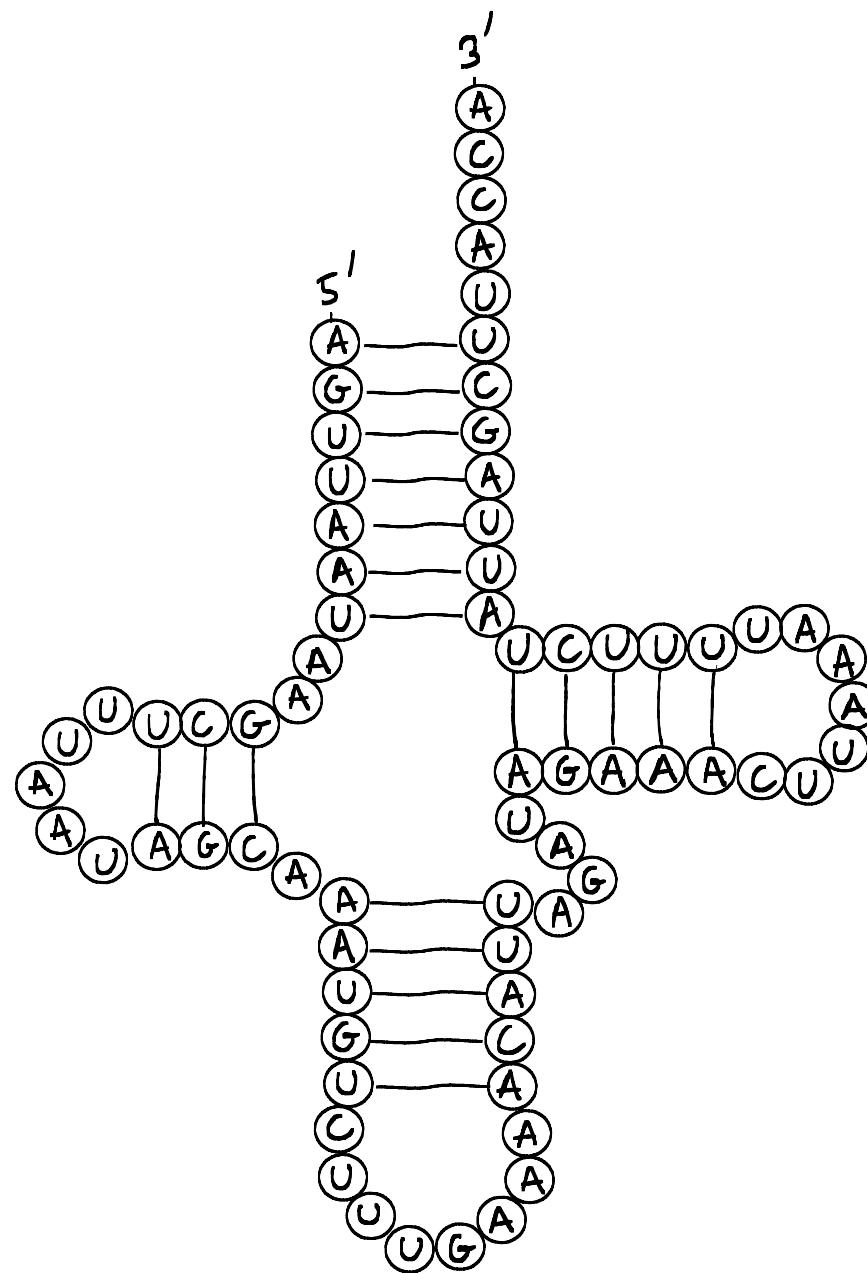


Second idea: compare secondary structures.

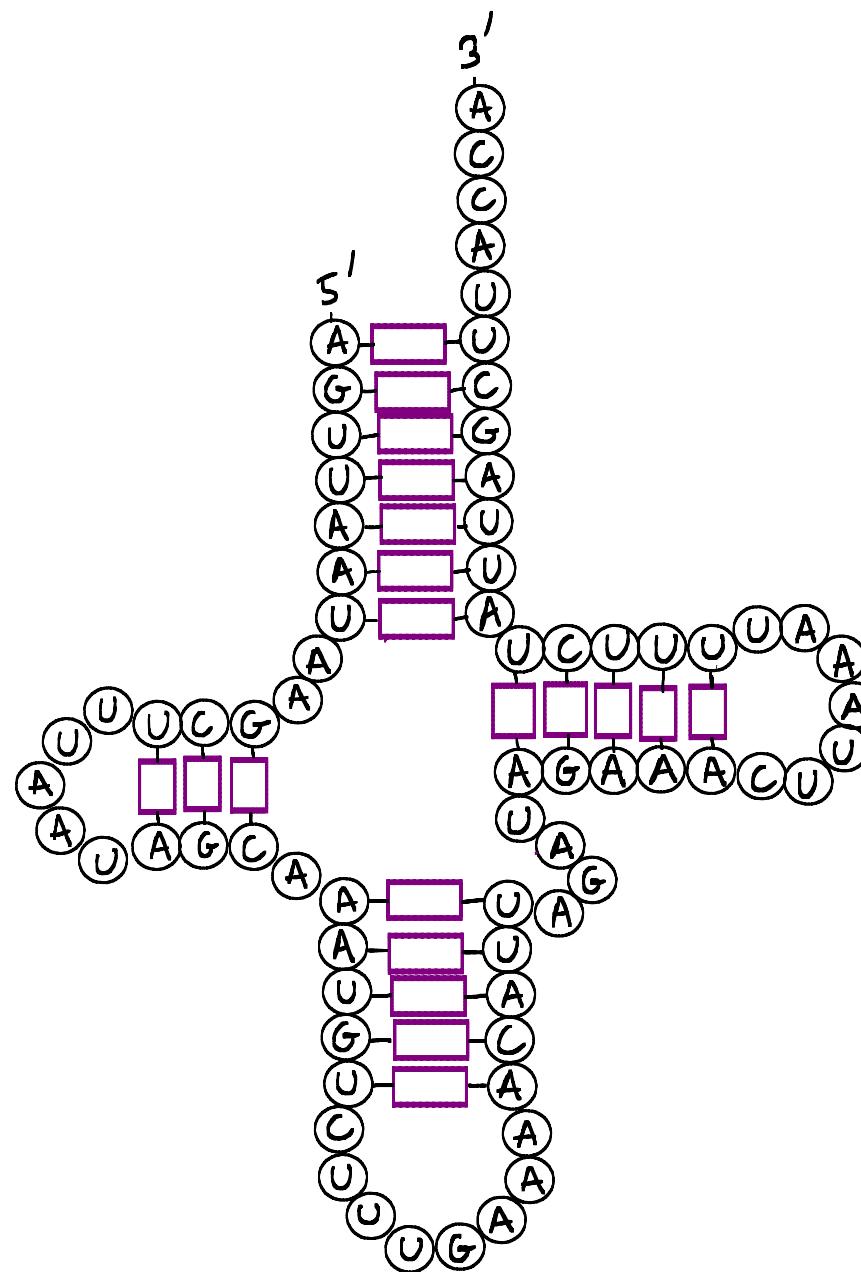


→ notion of  
tree alignment  
[Jiang, Wang,  
Zhang]

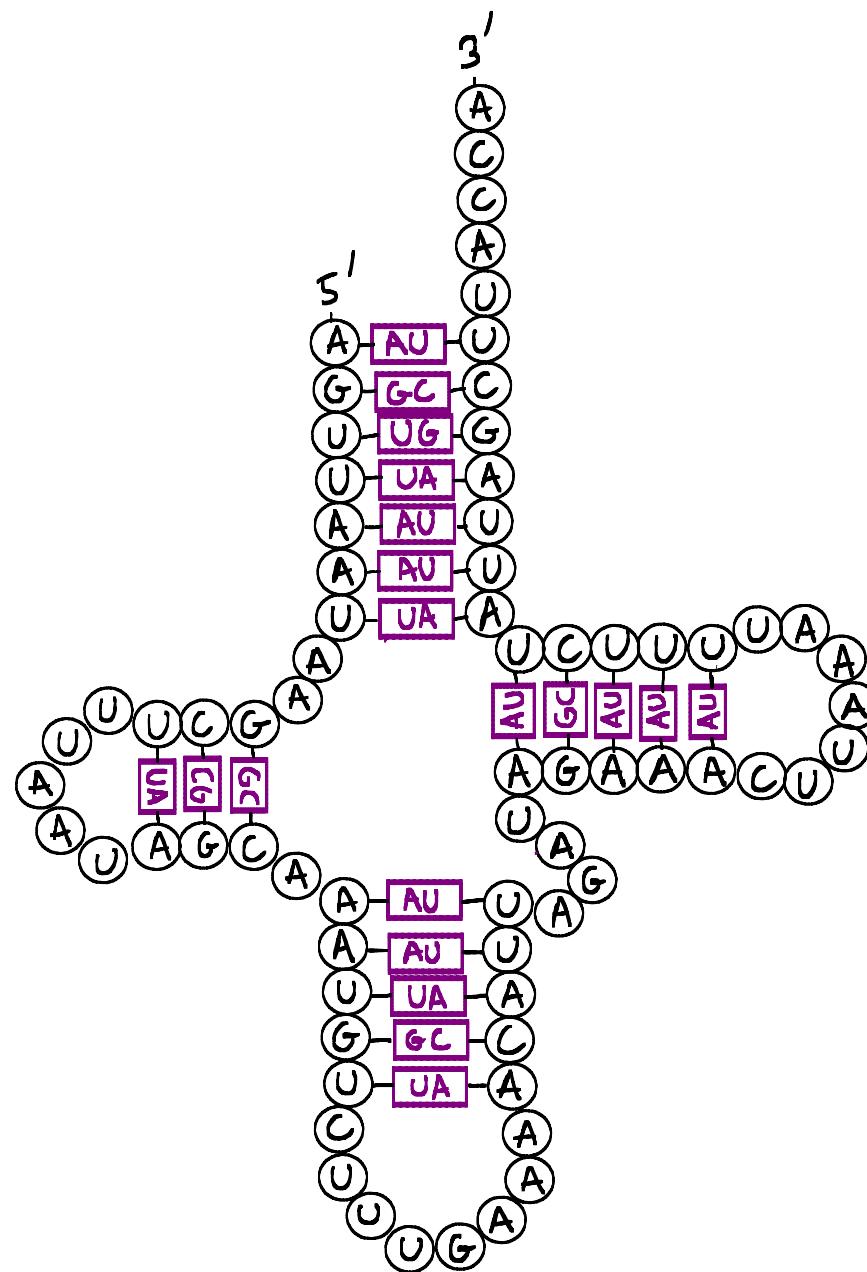
# FROM SECONDARY STRUCTURES TO TREES



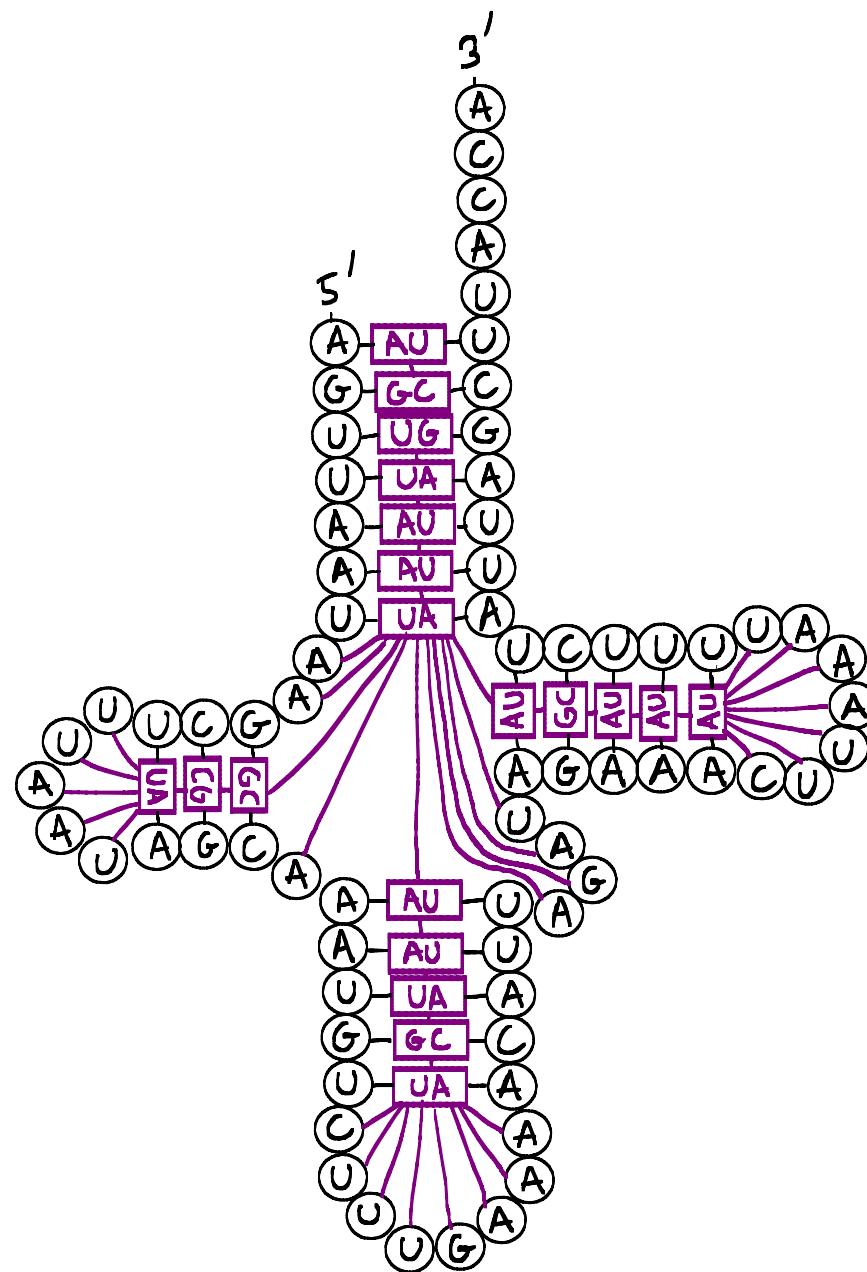
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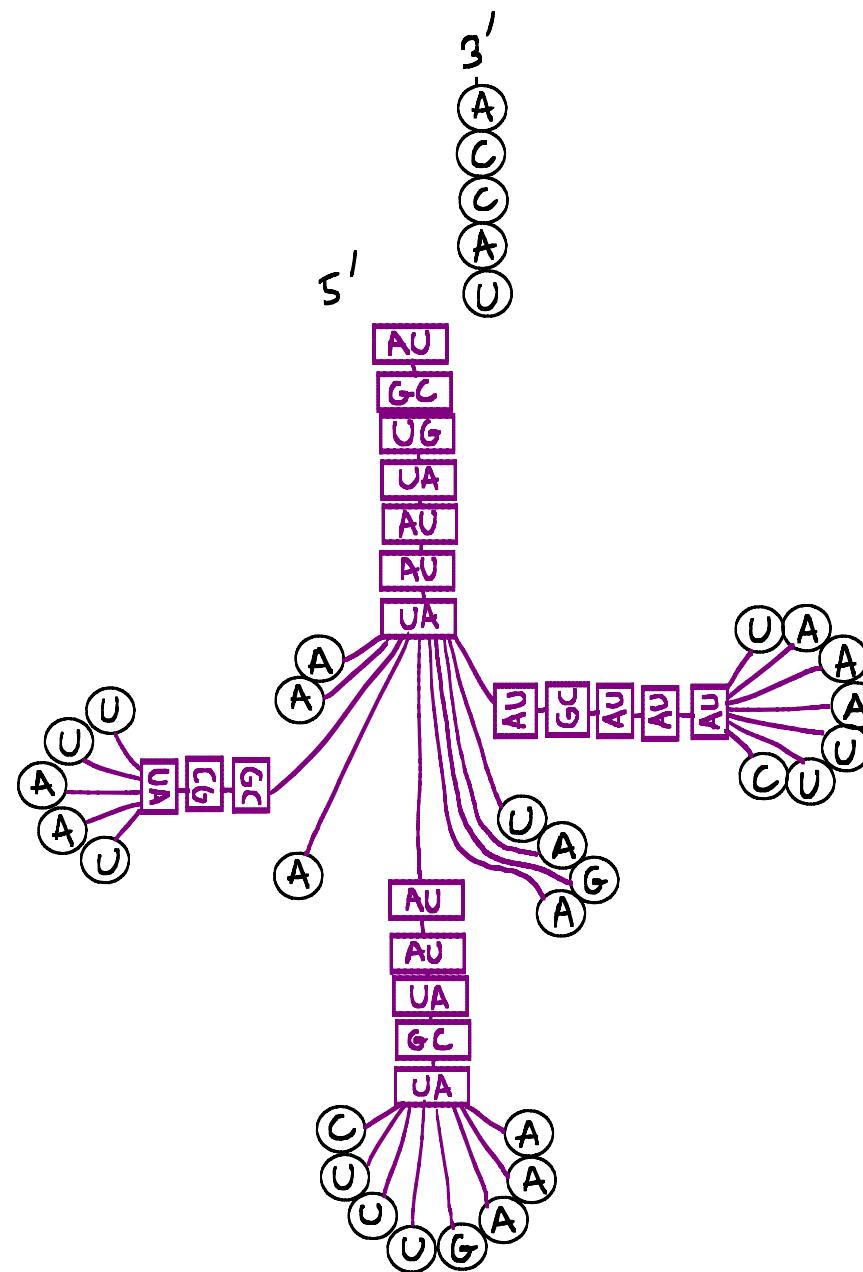
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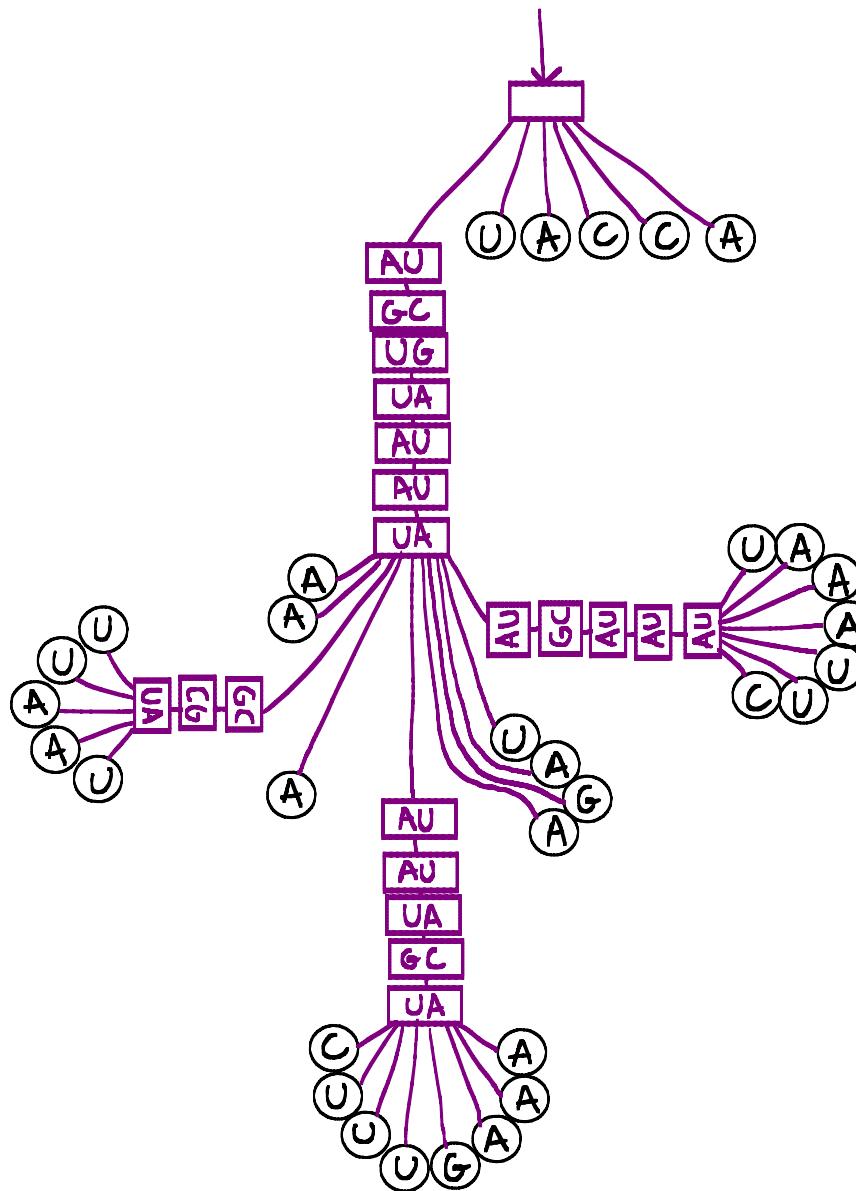
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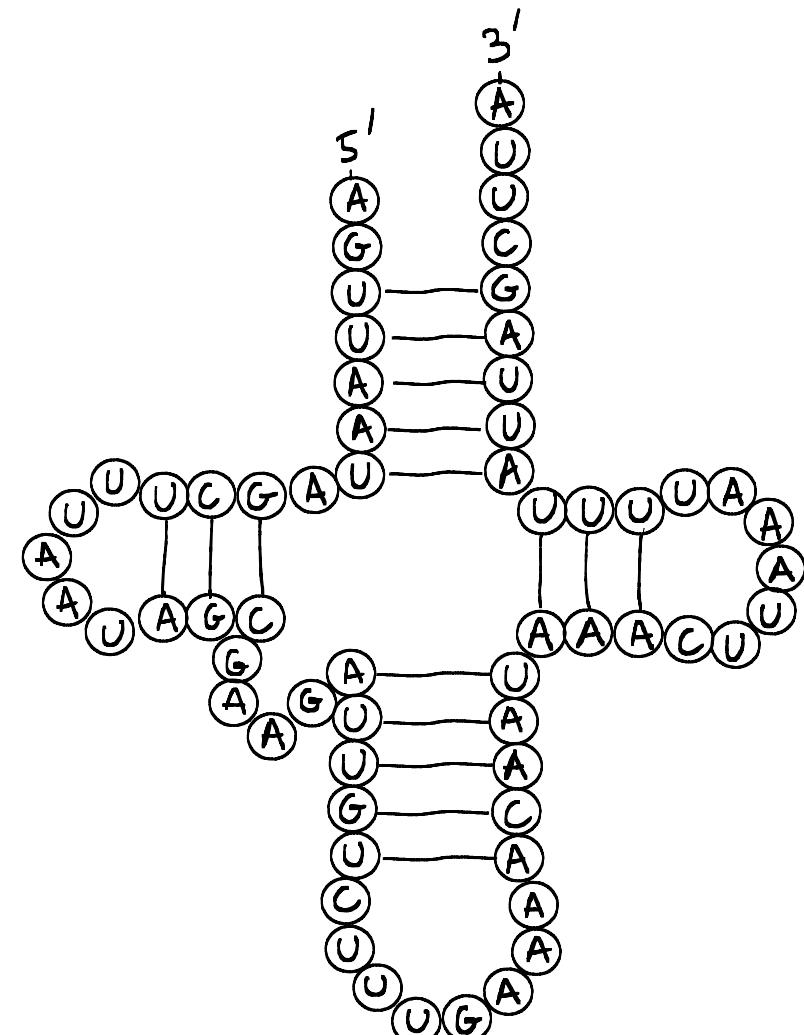
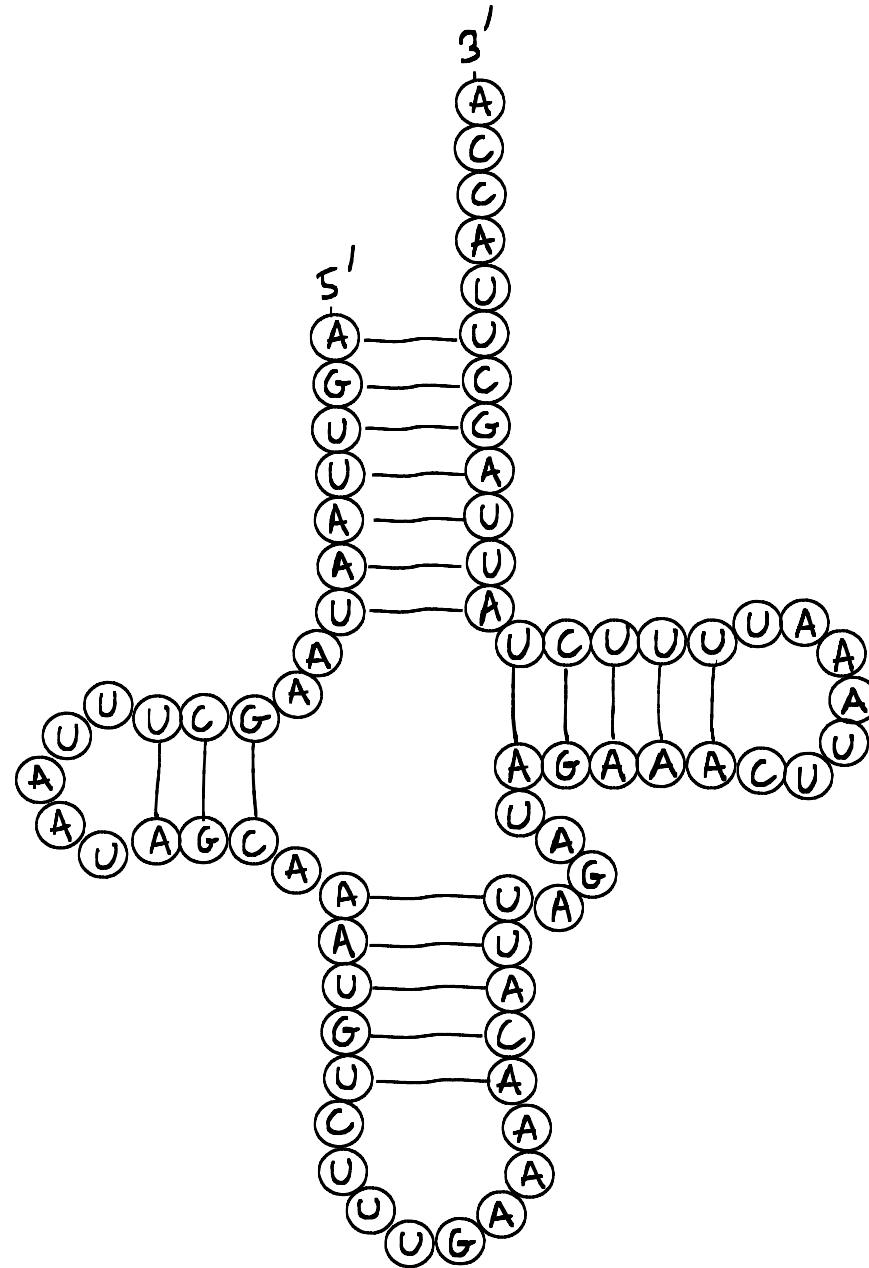


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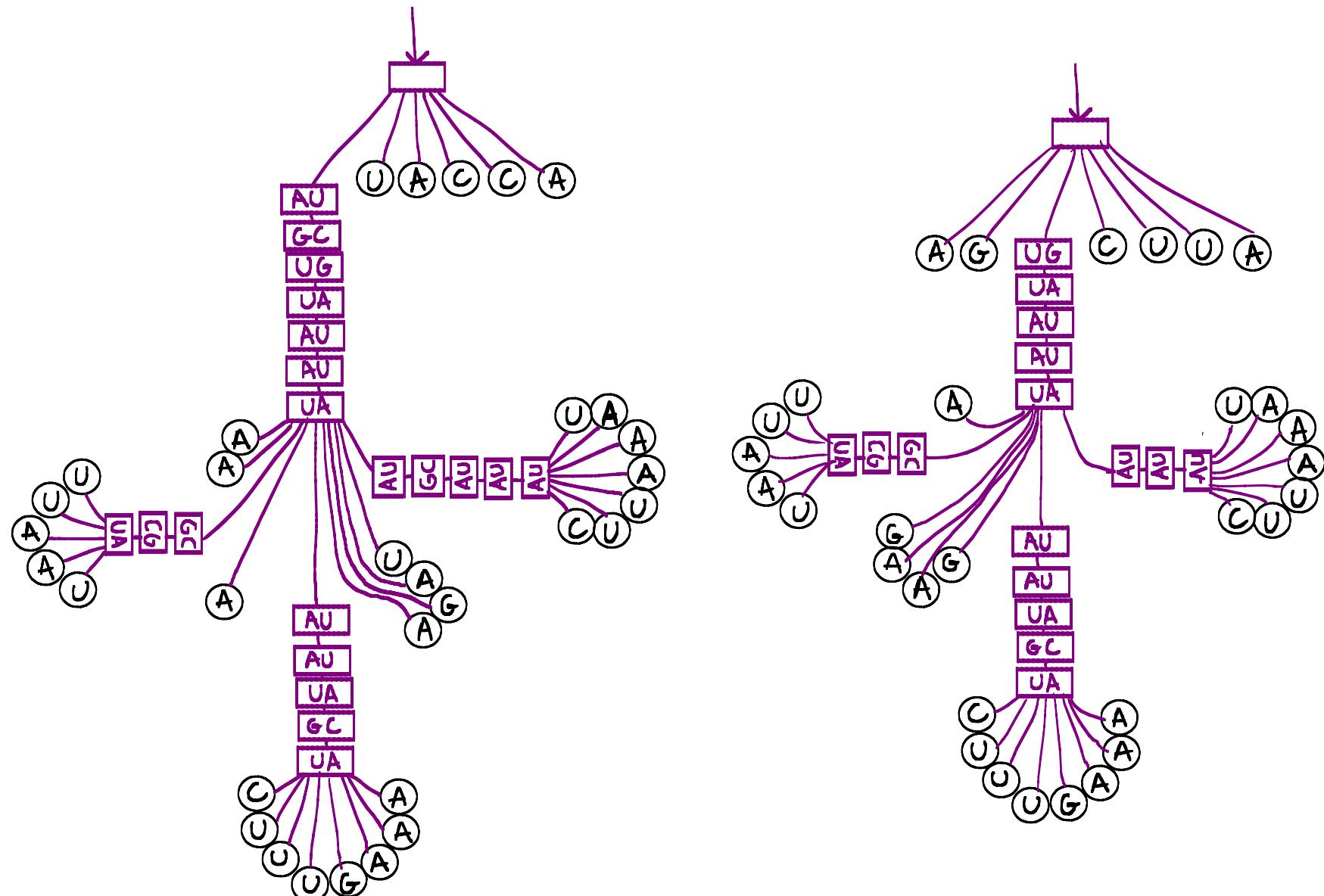
## FROM SECONDARY STRUCTURES TO TREES

Objective: Align trees coming from RNA 2<sup>ary</sup> structures



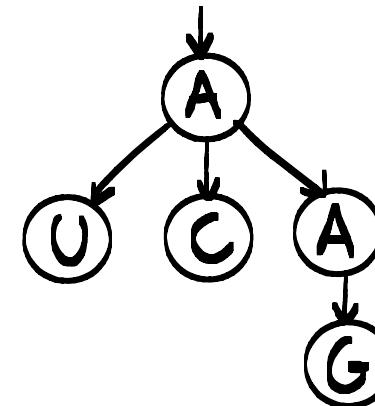
# FROM SECONDARY STRUCTURES TO TREES

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# TREES AND SUPER TREES

Trees are plane, rooted, and vertices are labeled by an alphabet  $\Sigma$ .

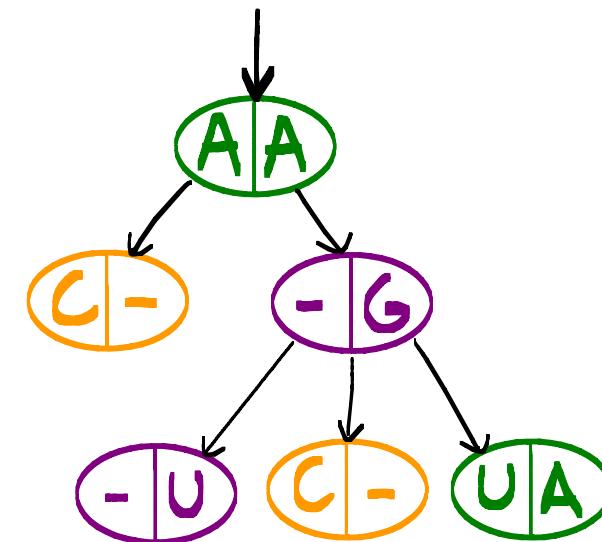


Supertree = tree with 3 types of vertices :

$X|Y$  (mis)match

$X|-$  insertion

$-|Y$  deletion



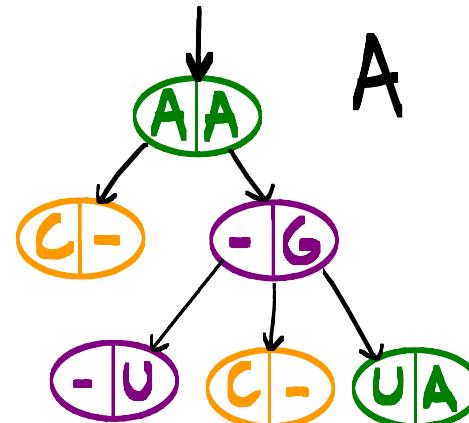
## SUPERTREES INDUCE TREE ALIGNMENTS

Let  $A$  be a supertree,

$\pi_1(A)$  = tree  
obtained by changing

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{green oval: } XY \\ \text{orange oval: } X- \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} X \\ X \end{array}$$

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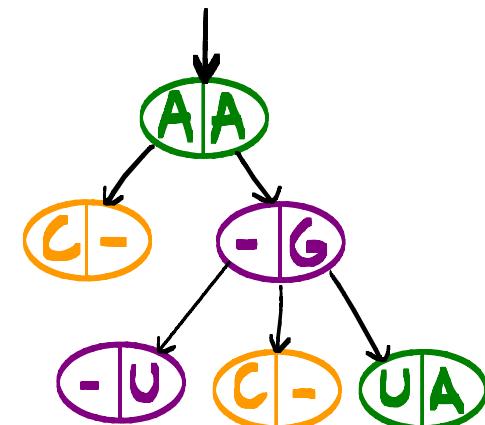
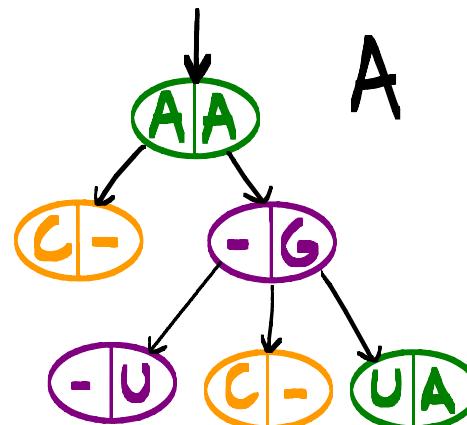
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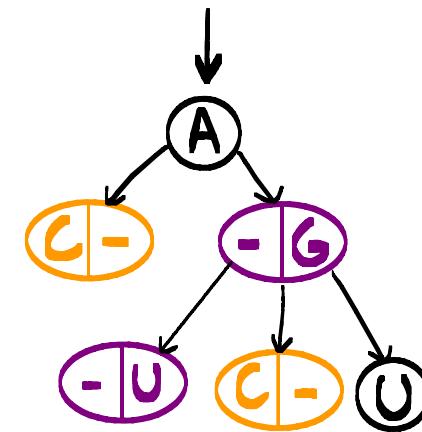
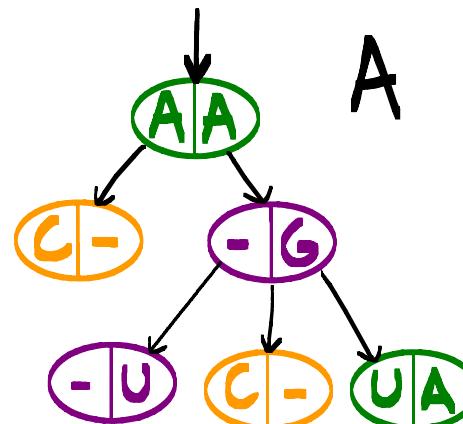
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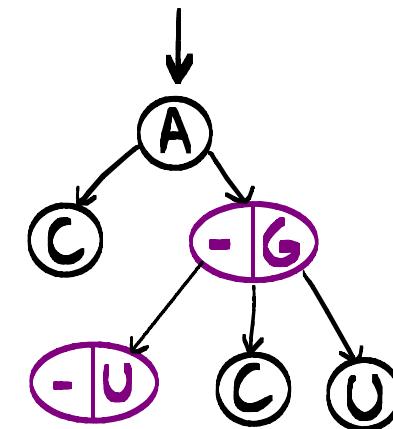
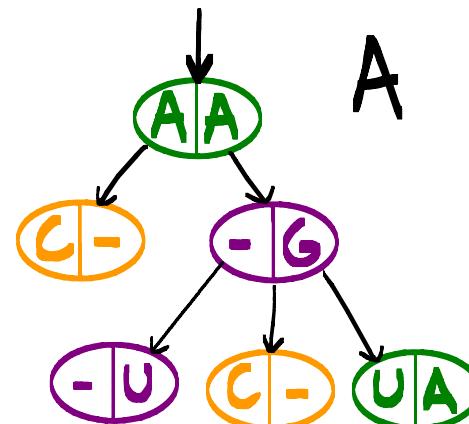
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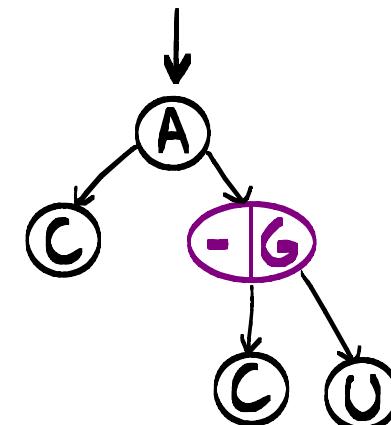
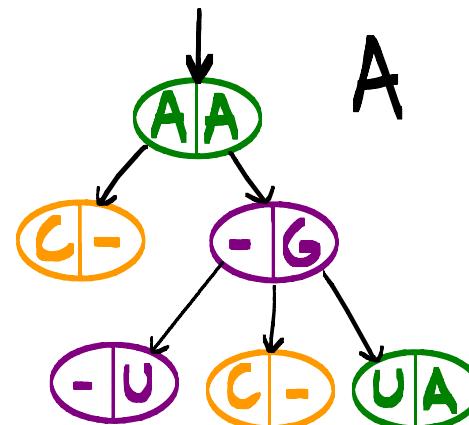
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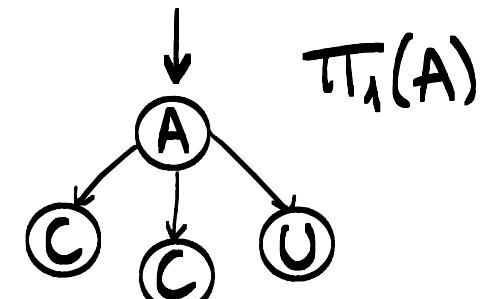
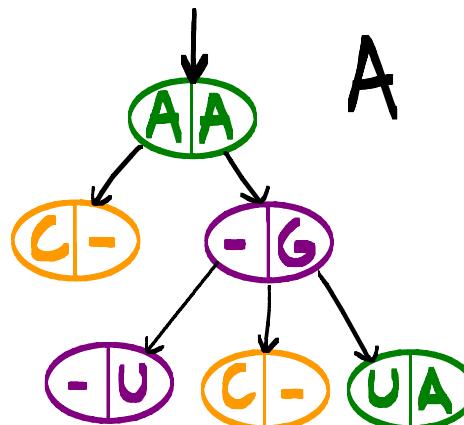
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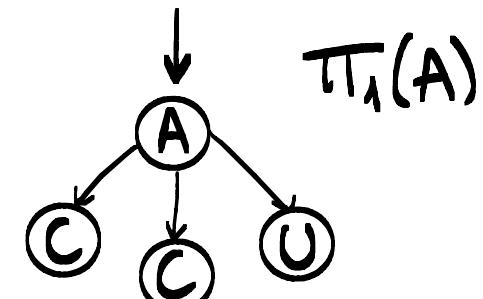
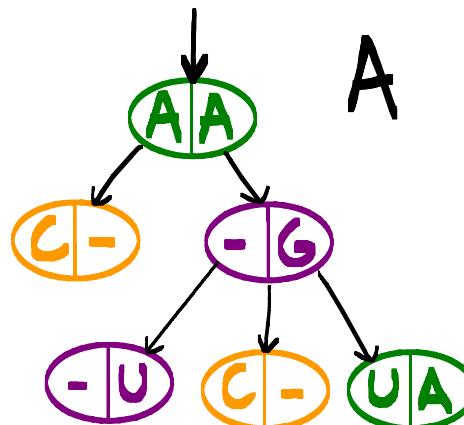
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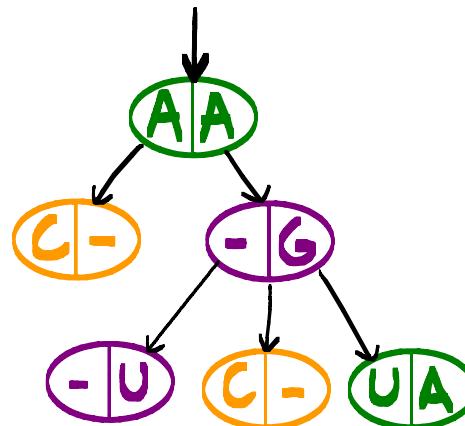
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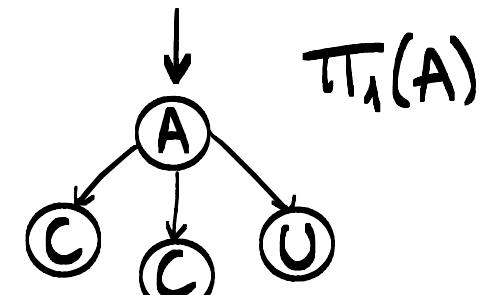
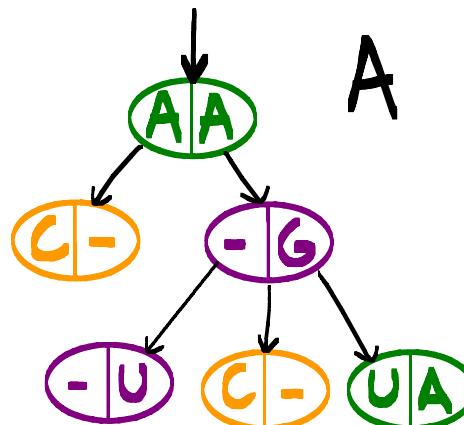
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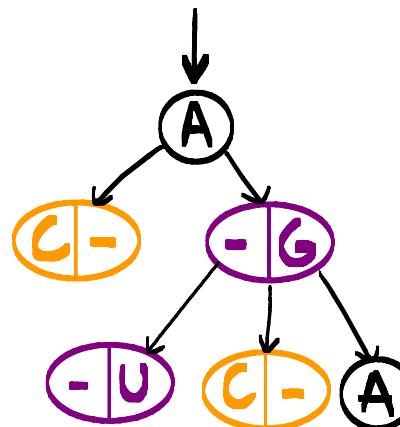
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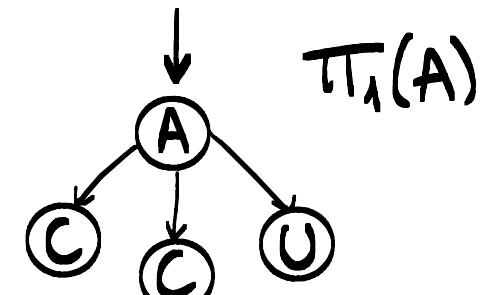
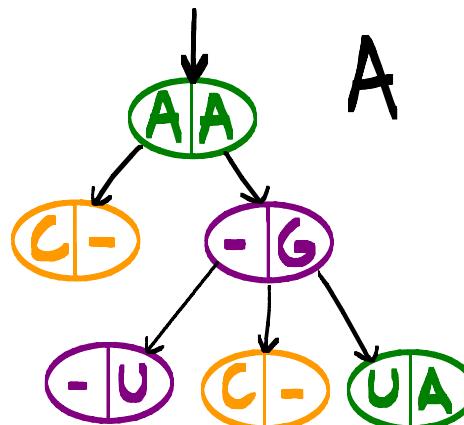
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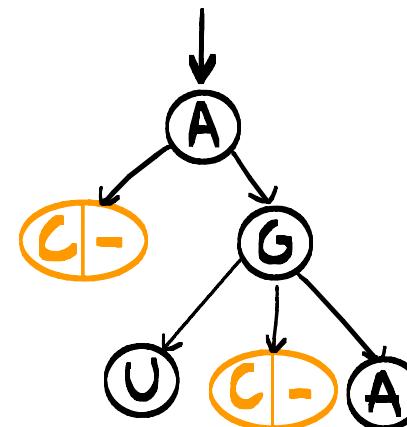
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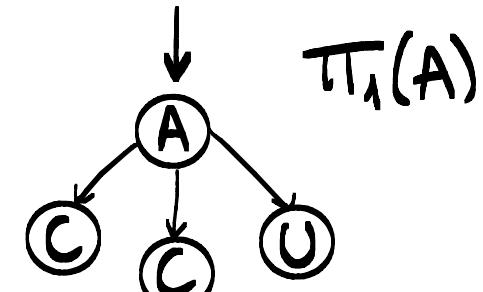
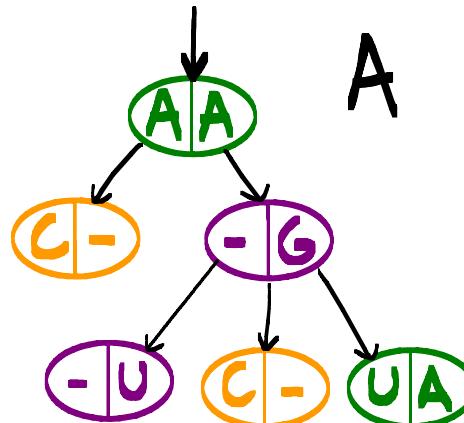
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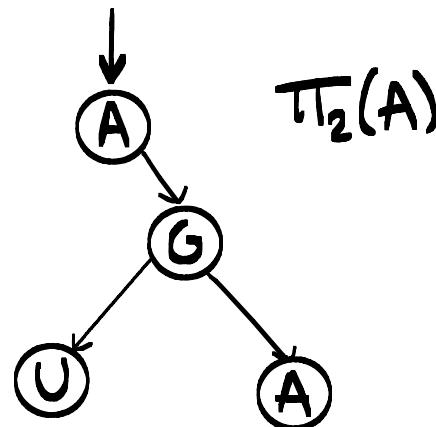
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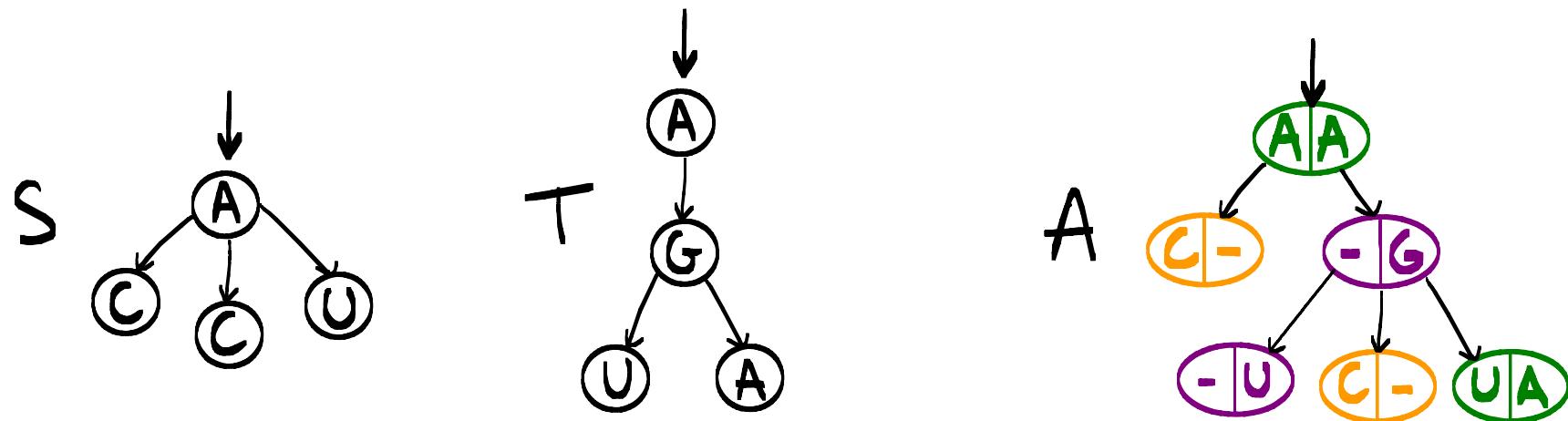
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$$\begin{array}{c} \text{XY} \\ \text{-Y} \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{Y} \\ \text{Y} \end{array}$$

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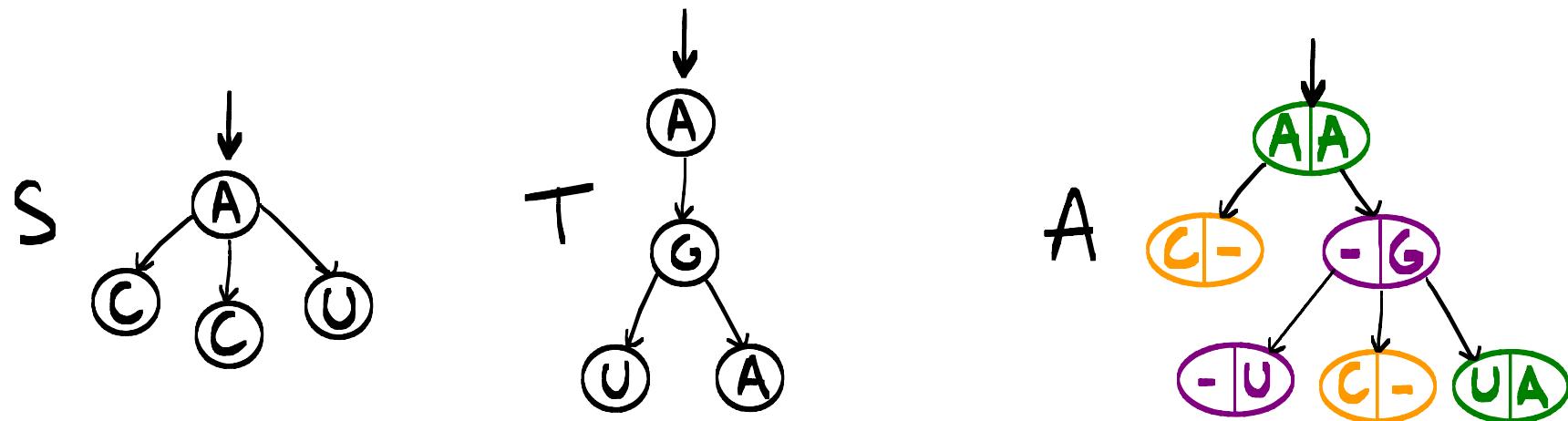


## SUPERTREES INDUCE TREE ALIGNMENTS



Given two trees  $S$  and  $T$ ,  
a supertree  $A$  defines an alignment between  $S$  and  $T$   
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$\text{cost}(A) = \text{nb of insertions} + \text{deletions} + \text{mismatches}$   
(can be changed more complicated models)

## CONNECTION WITH SEQUENCE ALIGNMENTS

Tree alignments generalize sequence alignments.

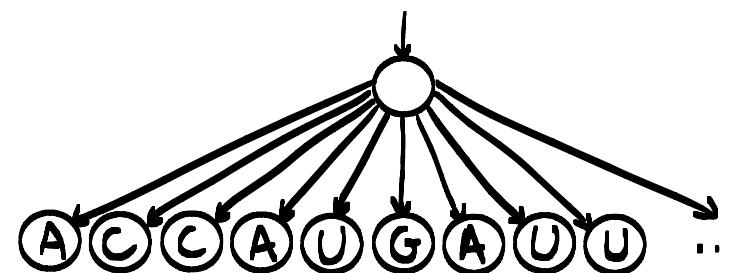
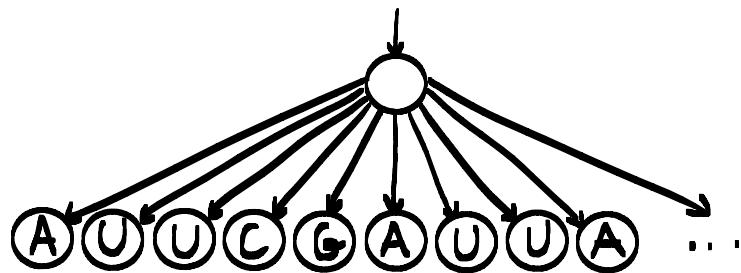
π Ζ Ζ Ζ Ζ Ζ Ζ

AUUCGGAUUA ...

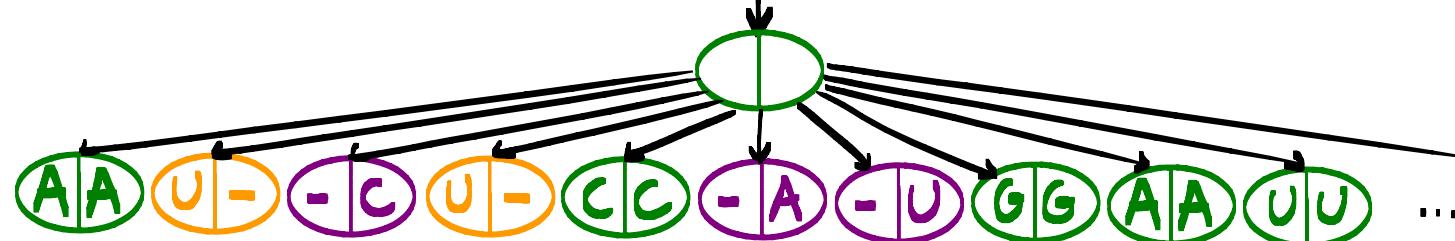
ACCAUGAUUA ...

alignment :

(A)(U)(-)(C)(U)(C)(G)(A)(U)(G)(A)(U)(U)(A) ...

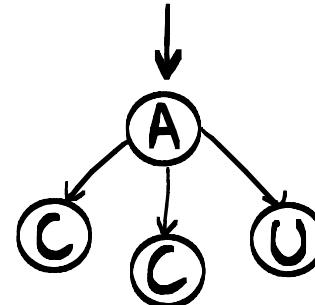


alignment :

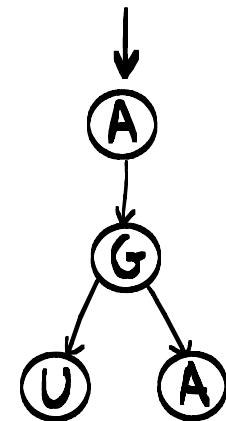


## SPACE OF ALIGNMENTS

Which alignment between  
is the most likely?

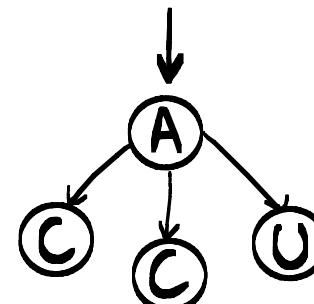


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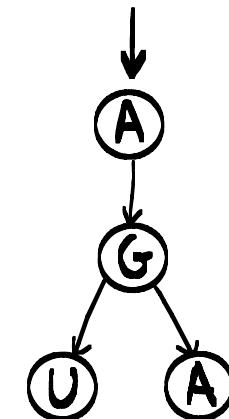


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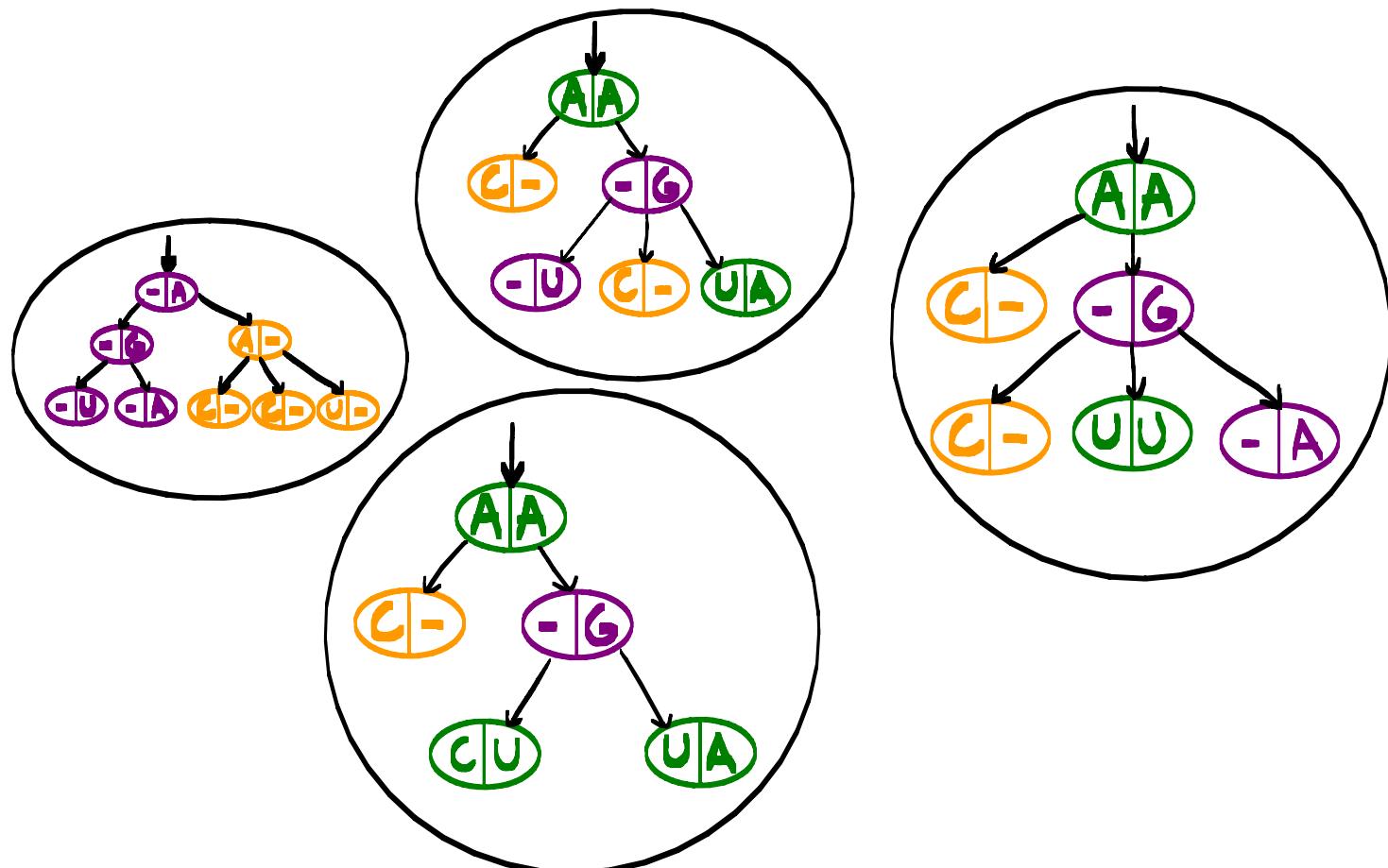
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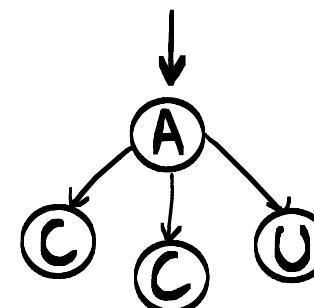


probability of  
an alignment A  
 $\propto e^{-\frac{\text{cost}(A)}{K}}$   
(Gibbs-Boltzmann  
distribution)

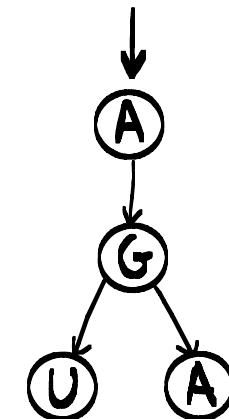


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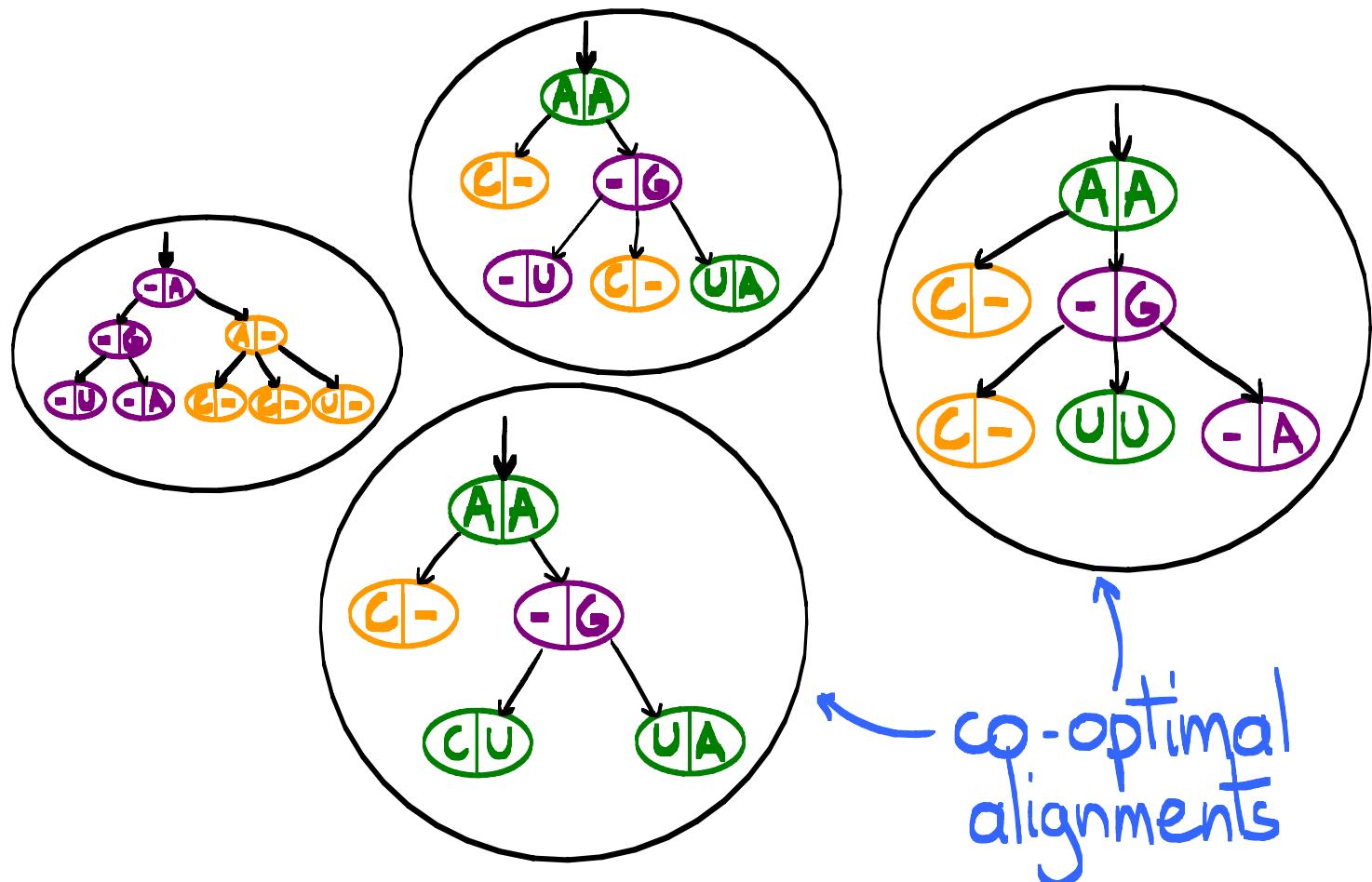
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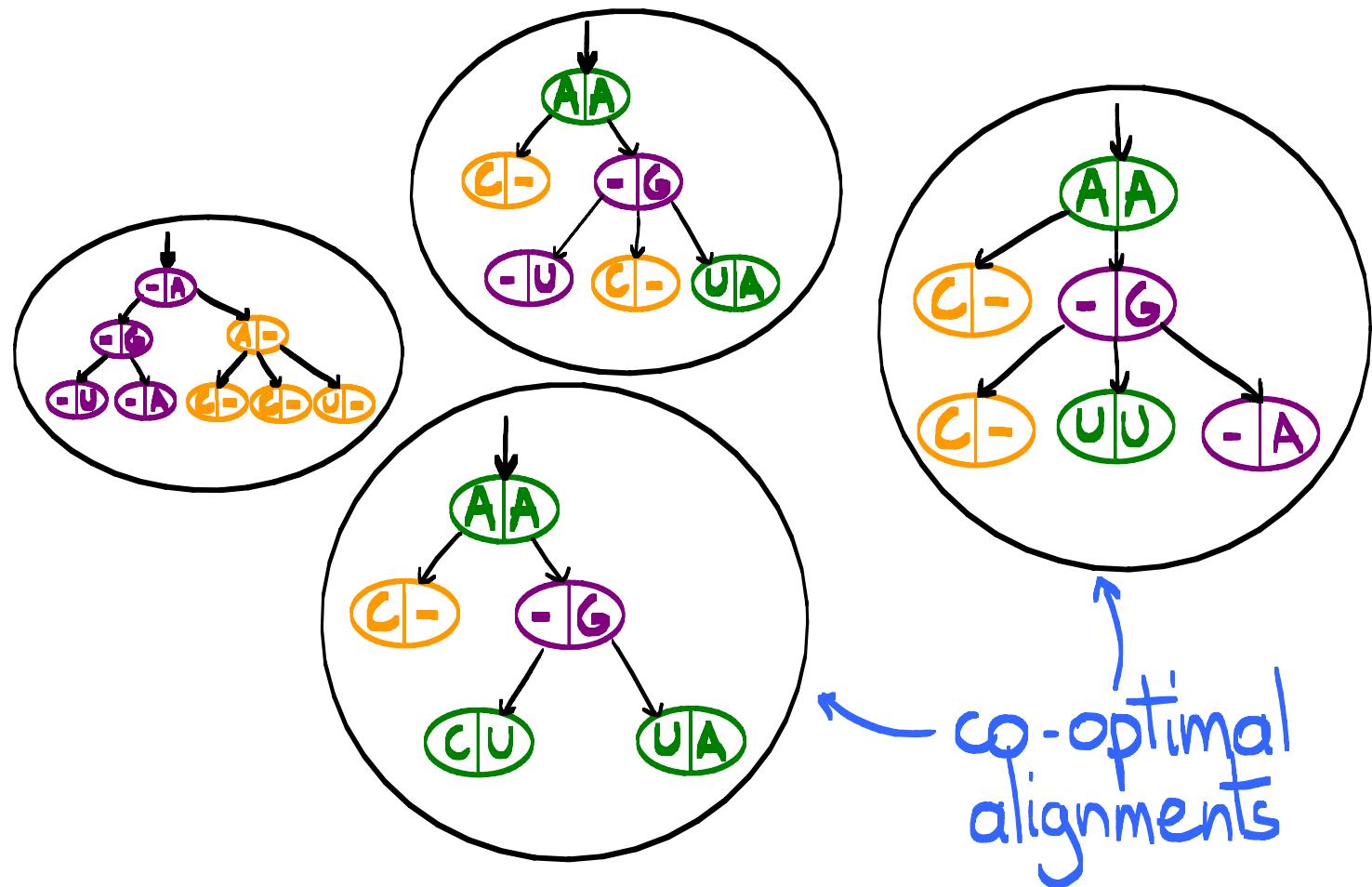
Why finding one optimal alignment may be  
inadequate:

- ▶ Co-optimal alignments can be very different.  
(see for instance [Vingron, Argos, 1990])
- ▶ Exploring the space of alignments enables the detection of high probability features -

# SPACE OF ALIGNMENTS

Objective: Sampling alignments under the Gibbs - Boltzmann probability distribution .

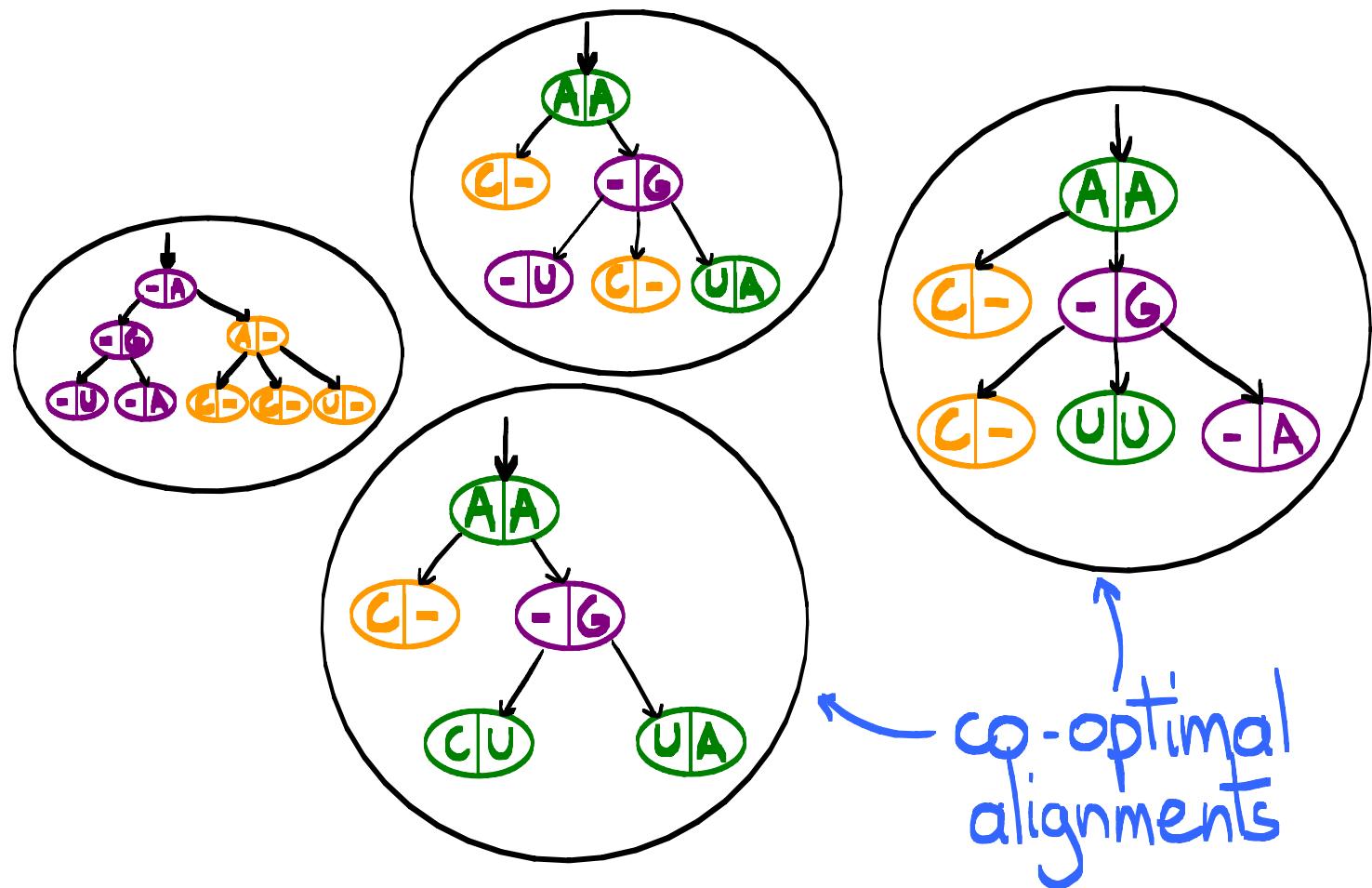
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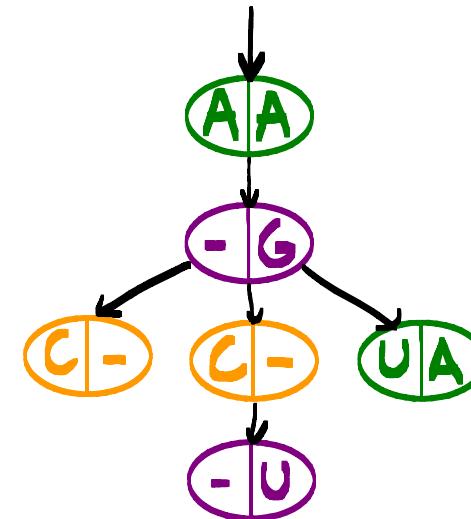
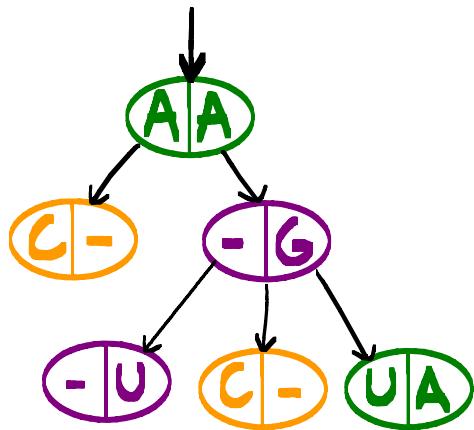
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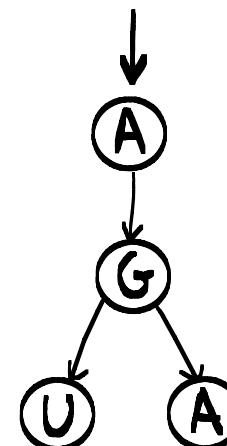
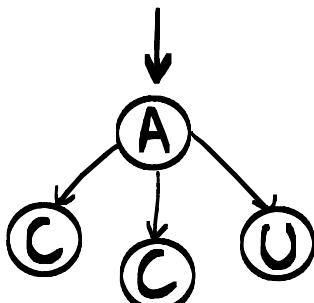


# AMBIGUITY OF ALIGNMENTS

The two supertrees

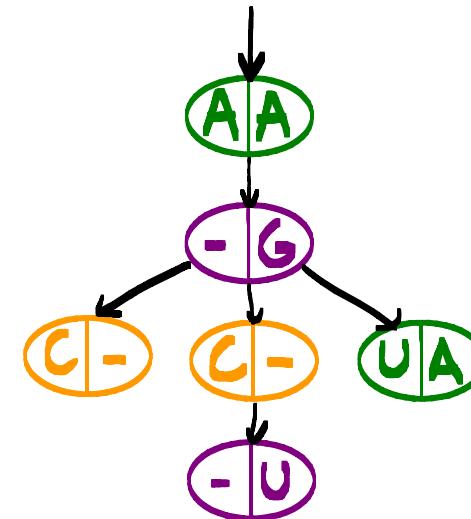
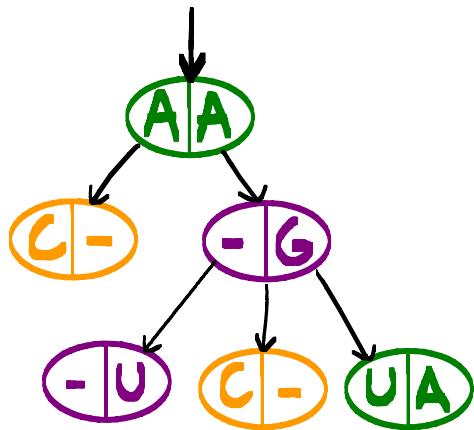


induce the same alignment between the trees

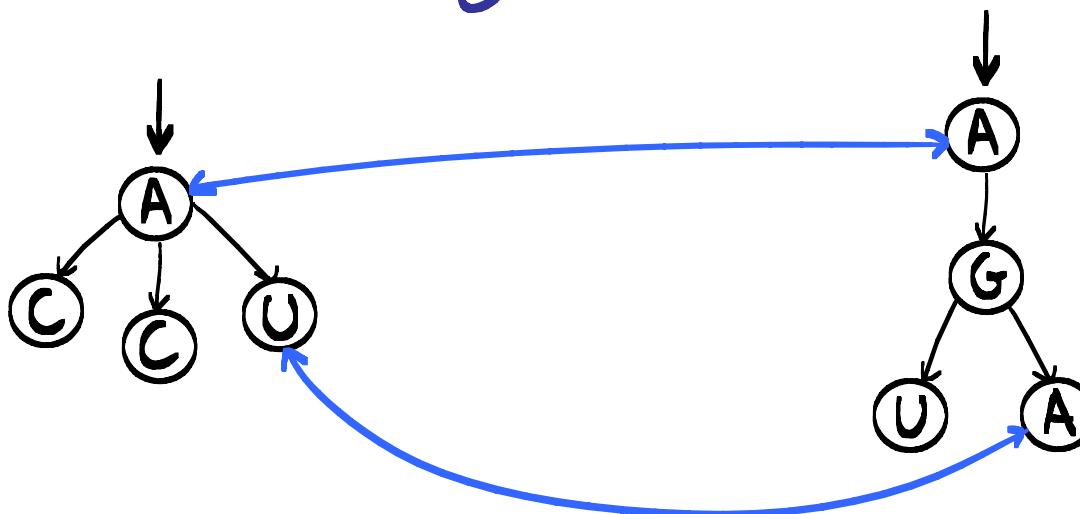


# AMBIGUITY OF ALIGNMENTS

The two supertrees

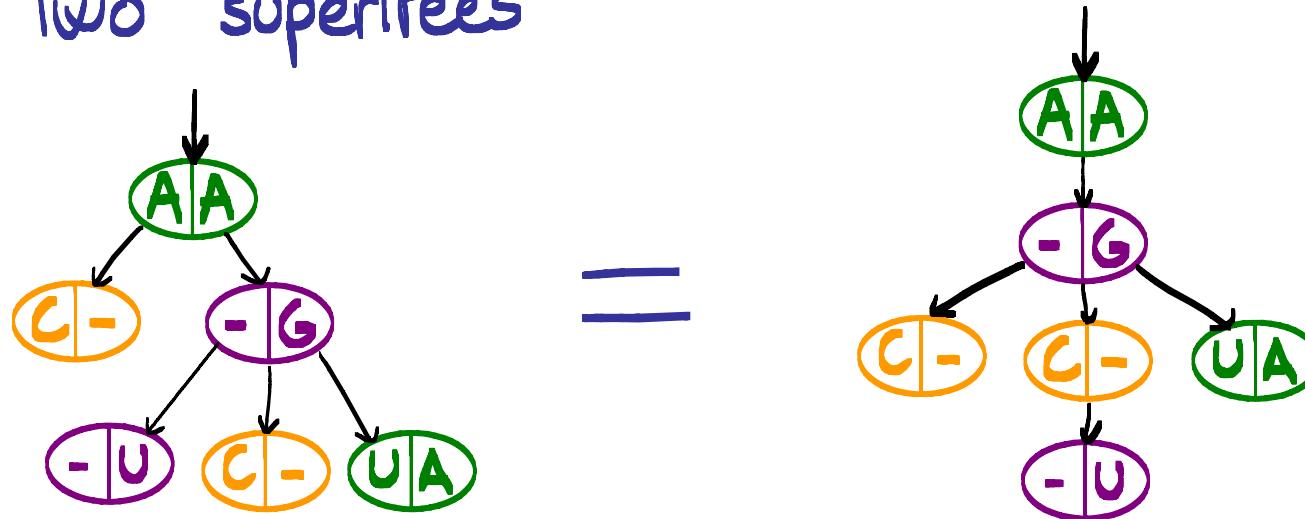


induce the same alignment between the trees

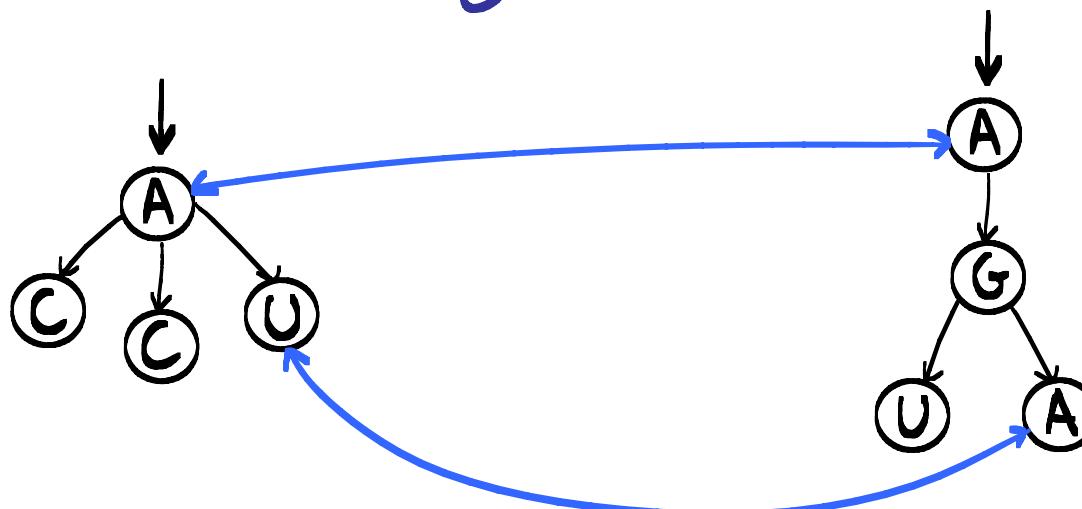


# AMBIGUITY OF ALIGNMENTS

The two supertrees



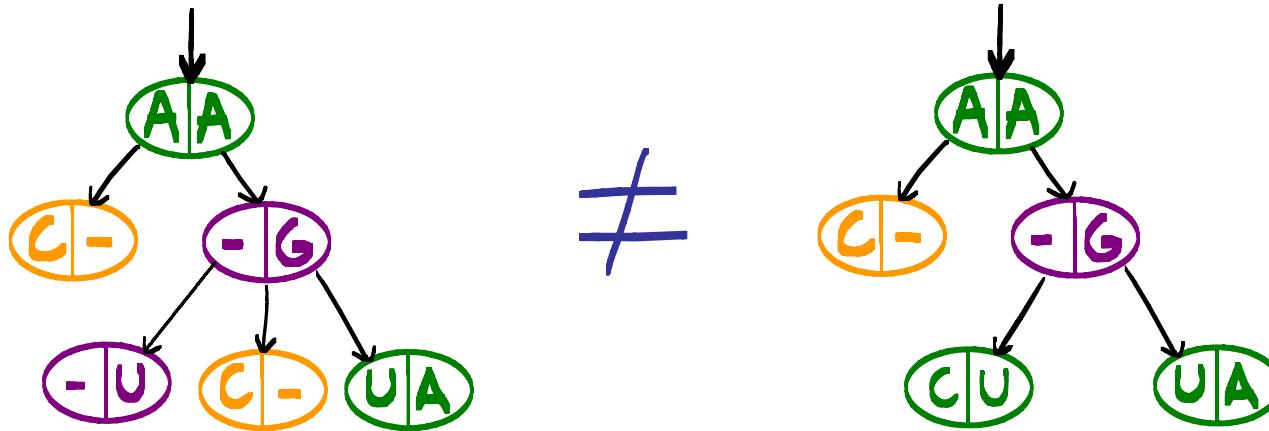
induce the same alignment between the trees



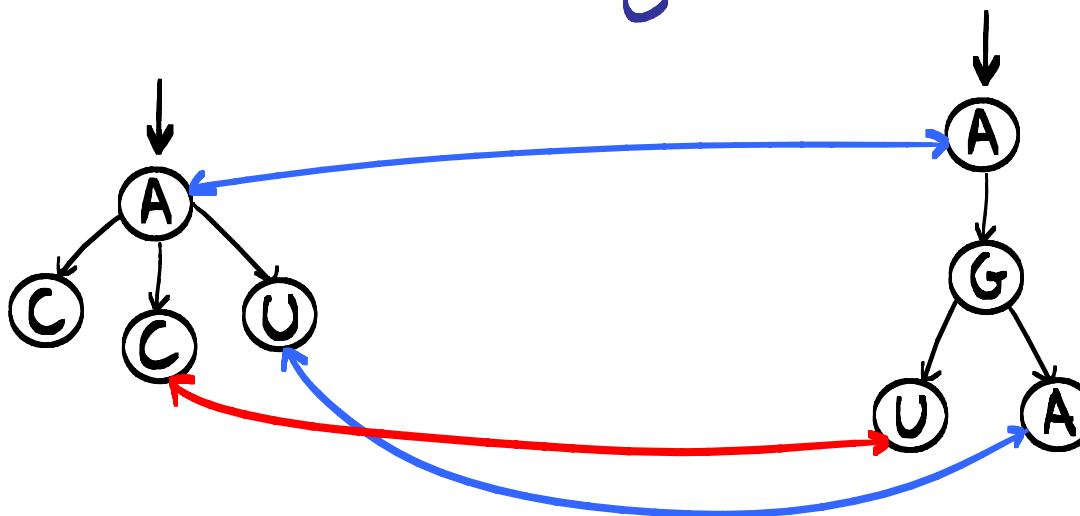
They are the same!

# AMBIGUITY OF ALIGNMENTS

The two supertrees



do not induce the same alignment between the trees



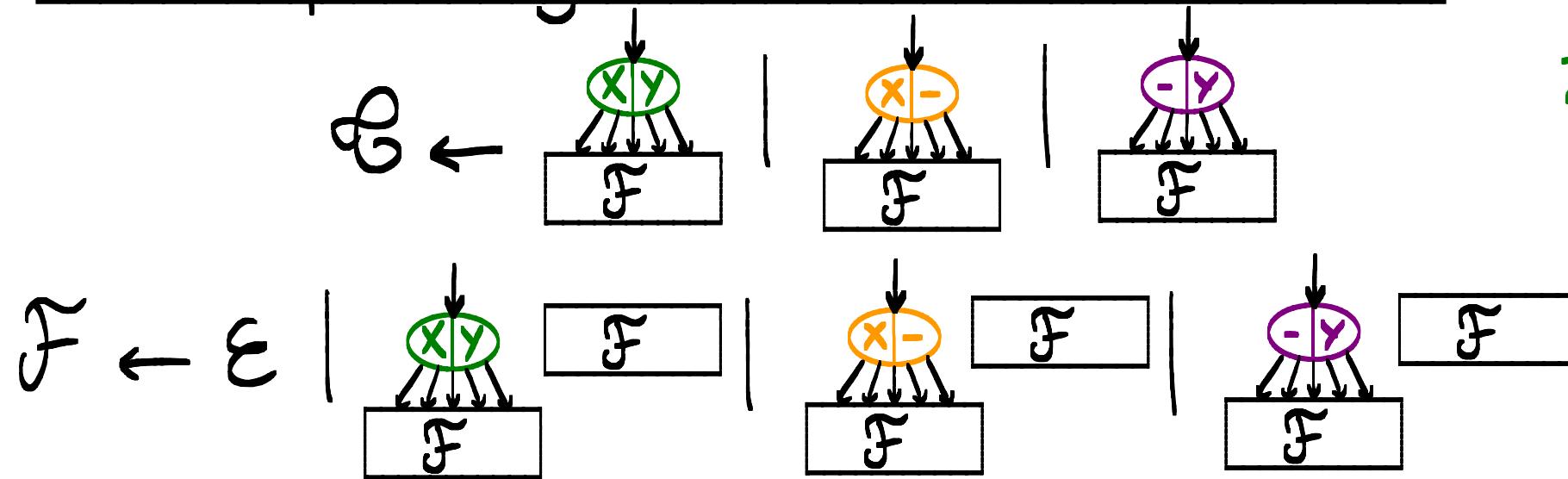
## A GRAMMAR FOR ALIGNMENTS

Strategy: Build a context-free grammar that generates every alignment exactly once

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An example of grammar that does not work:

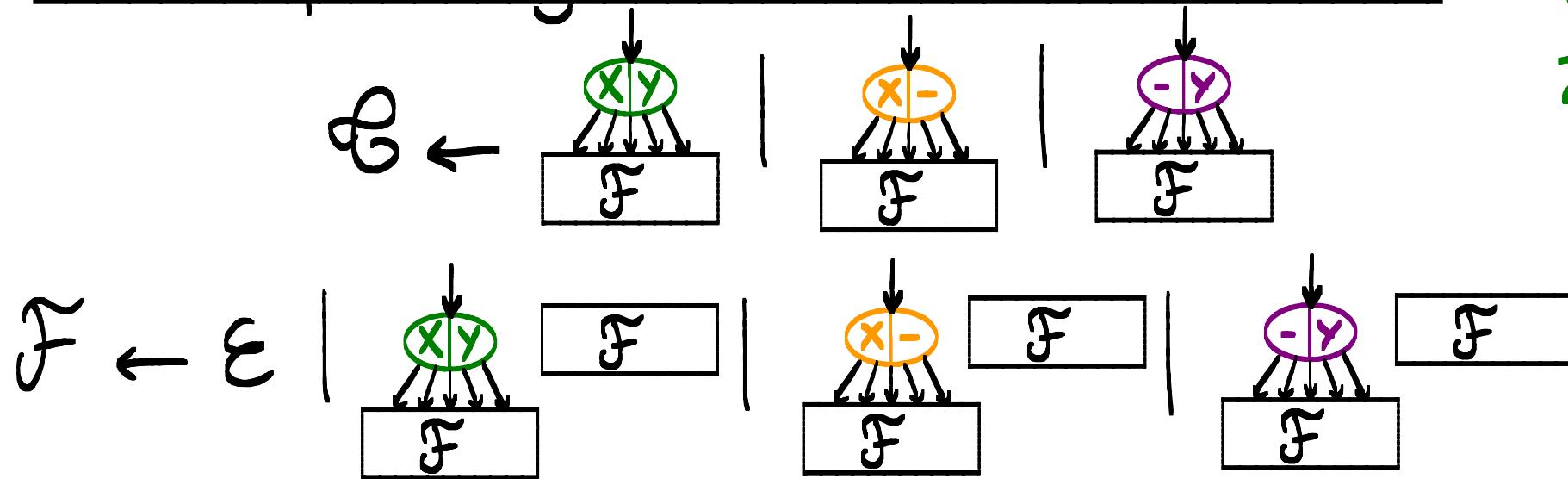


[Jiang,  
Wang,  
Zhang]

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[Jiang,  
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Ex:

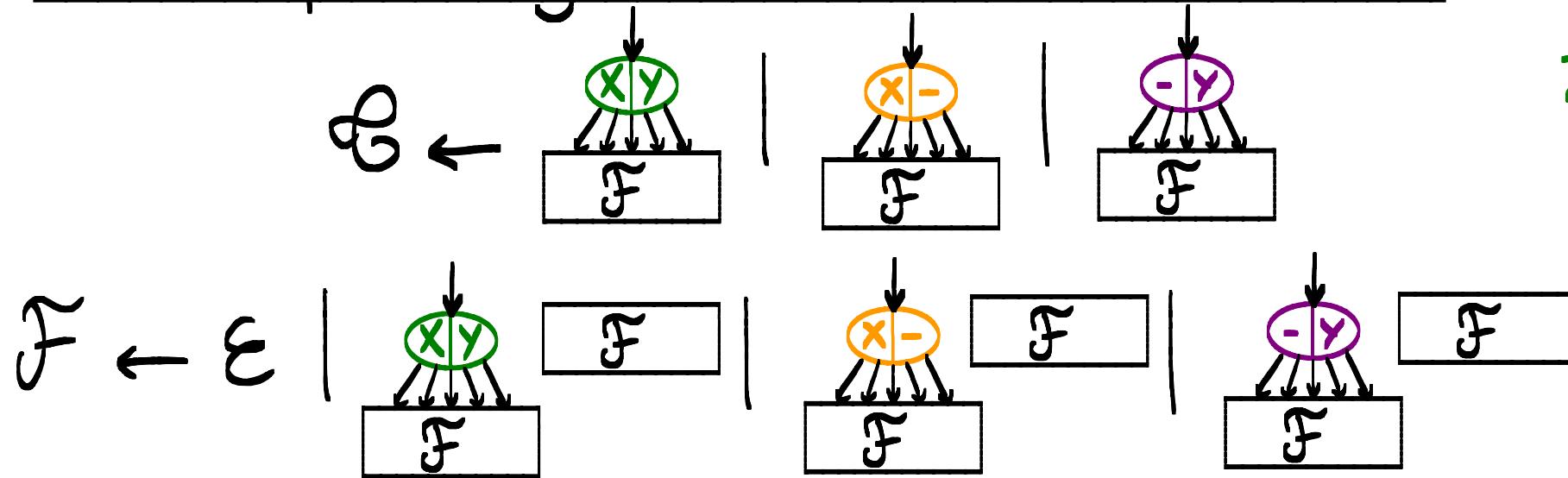
$\boxed{e}$

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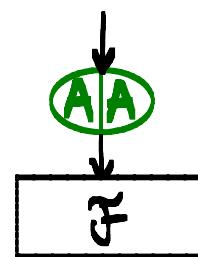
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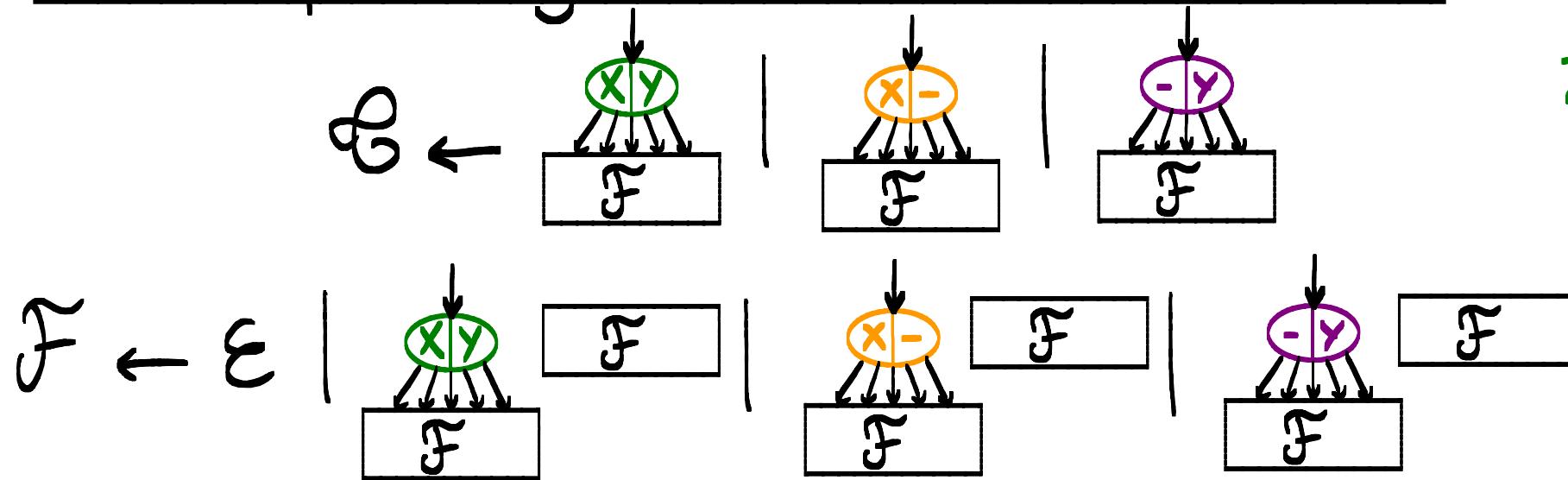
Ex:



# A GRAMMAR FOR ALIGNMENTS

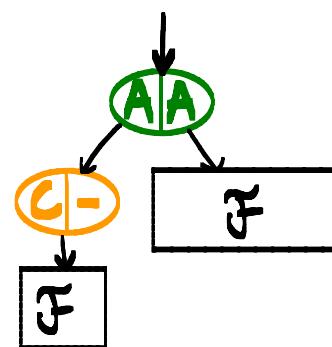
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[Jiang,  
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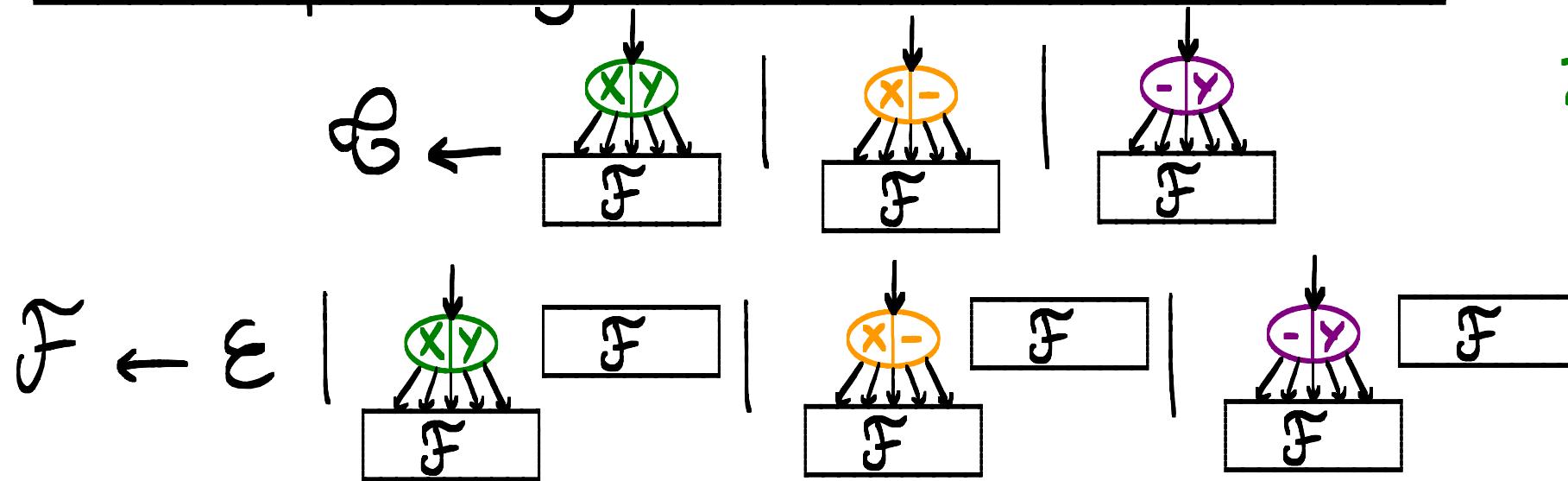
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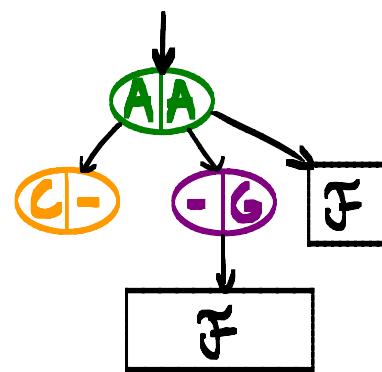
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[Jiang,  
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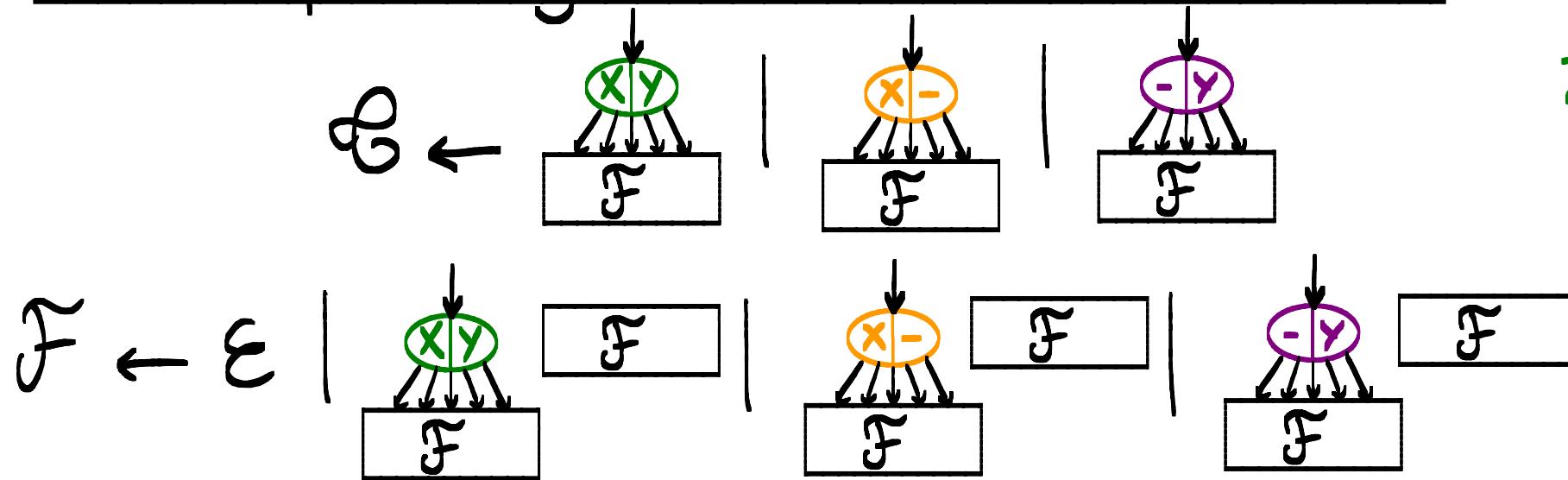
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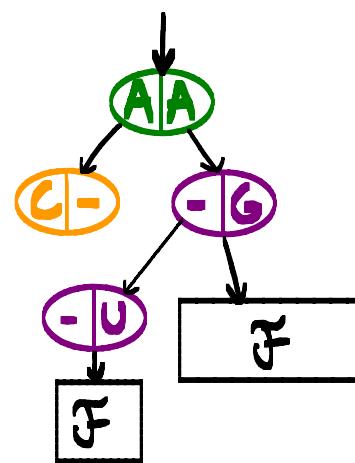
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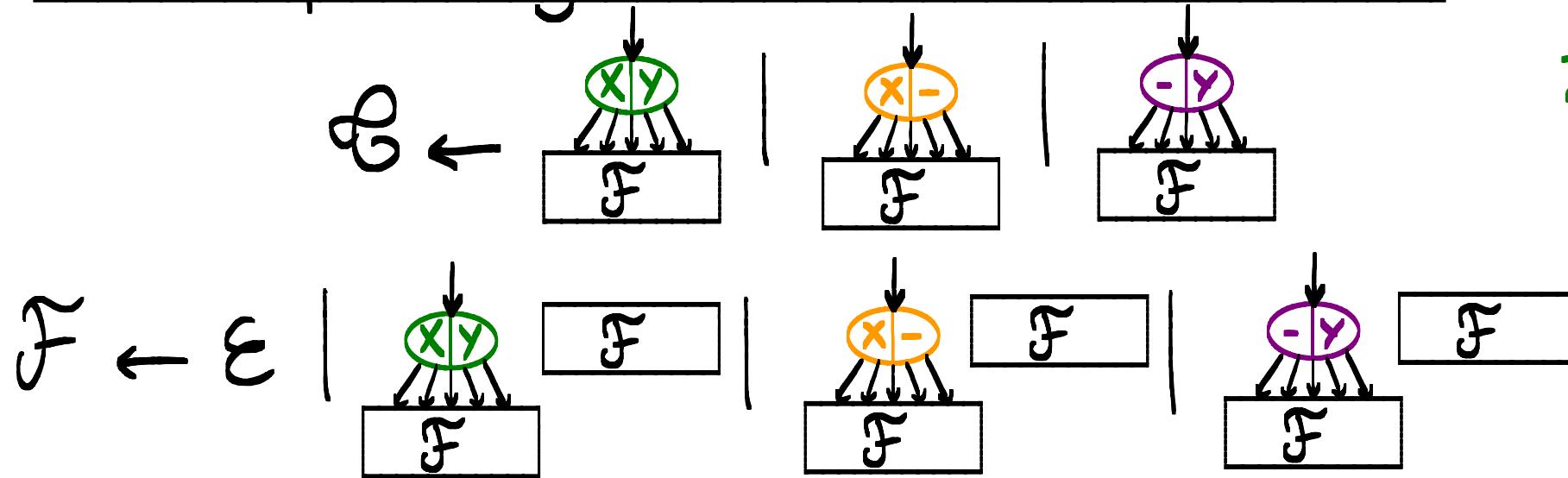
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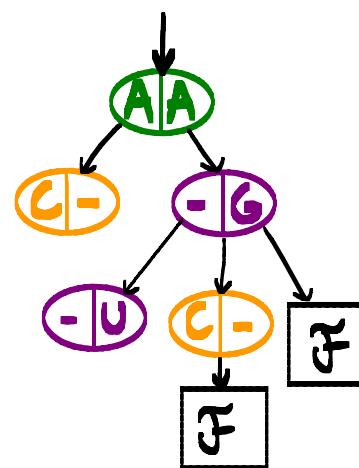
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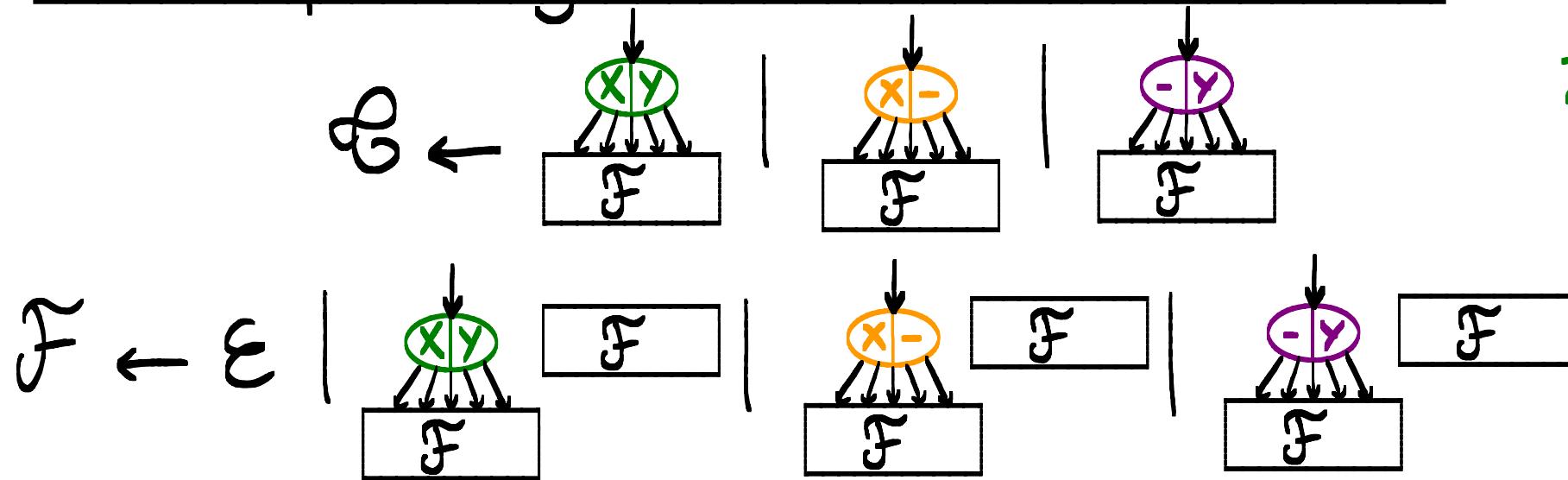
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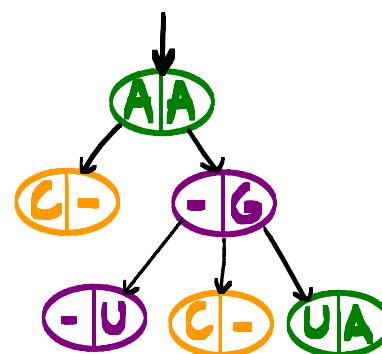
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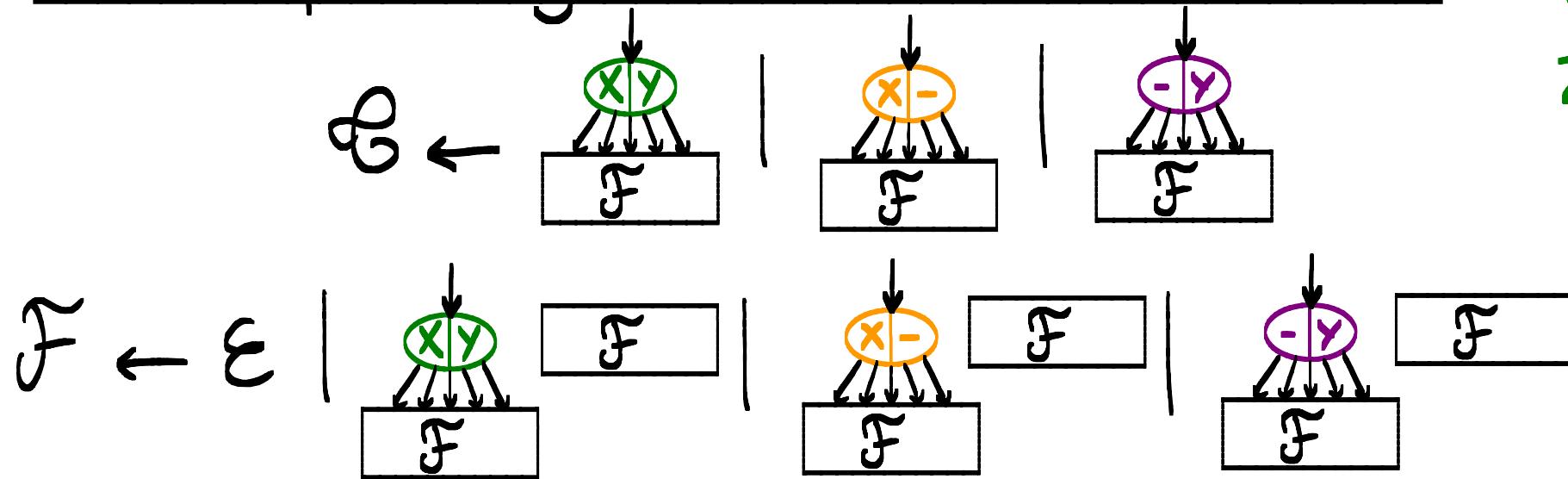
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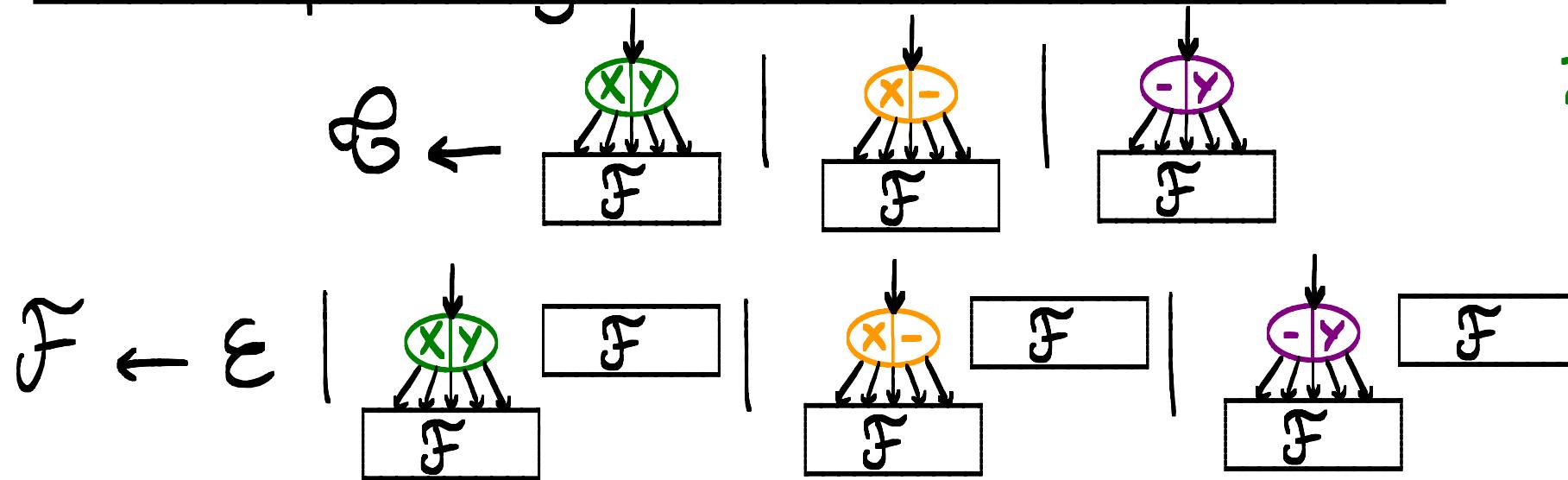


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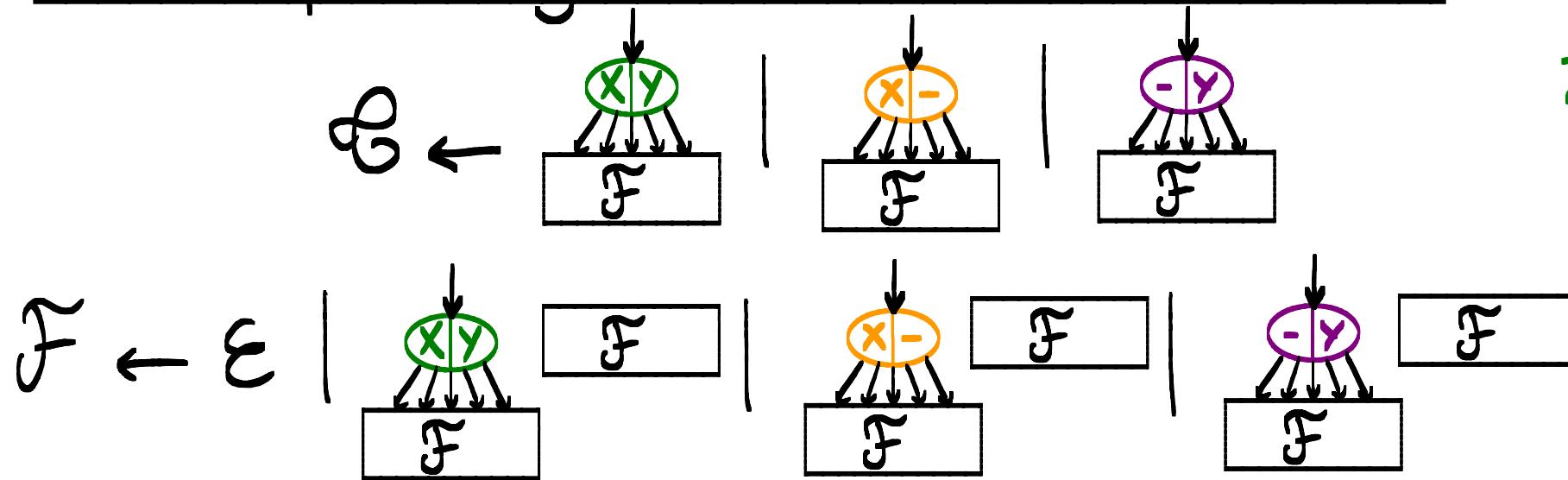


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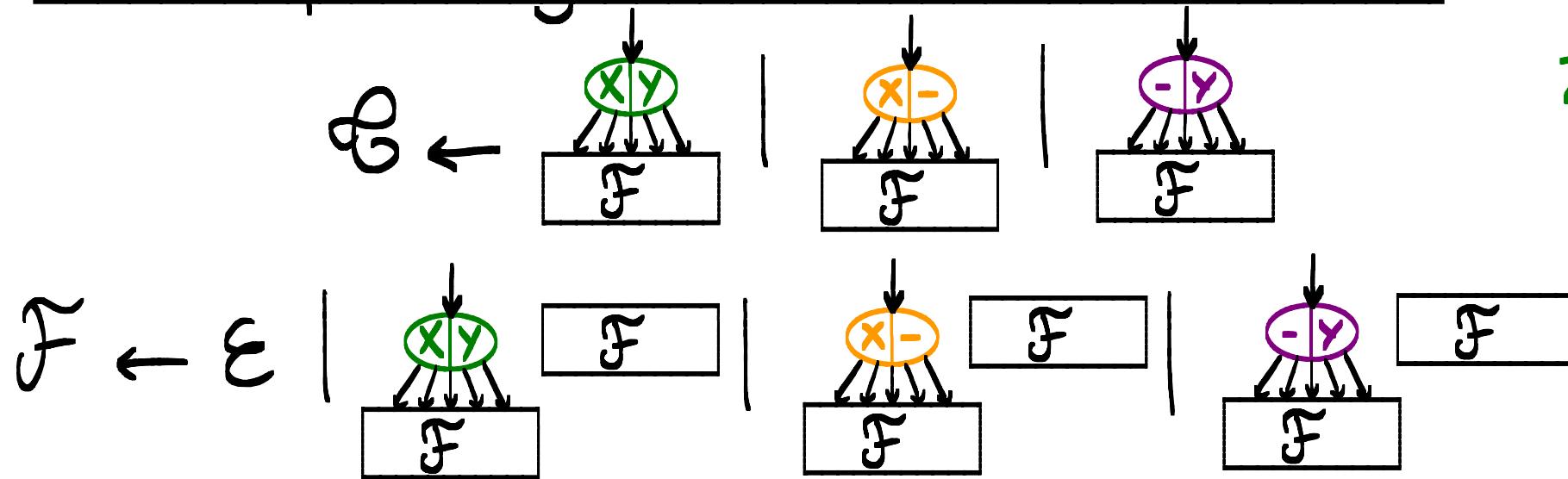


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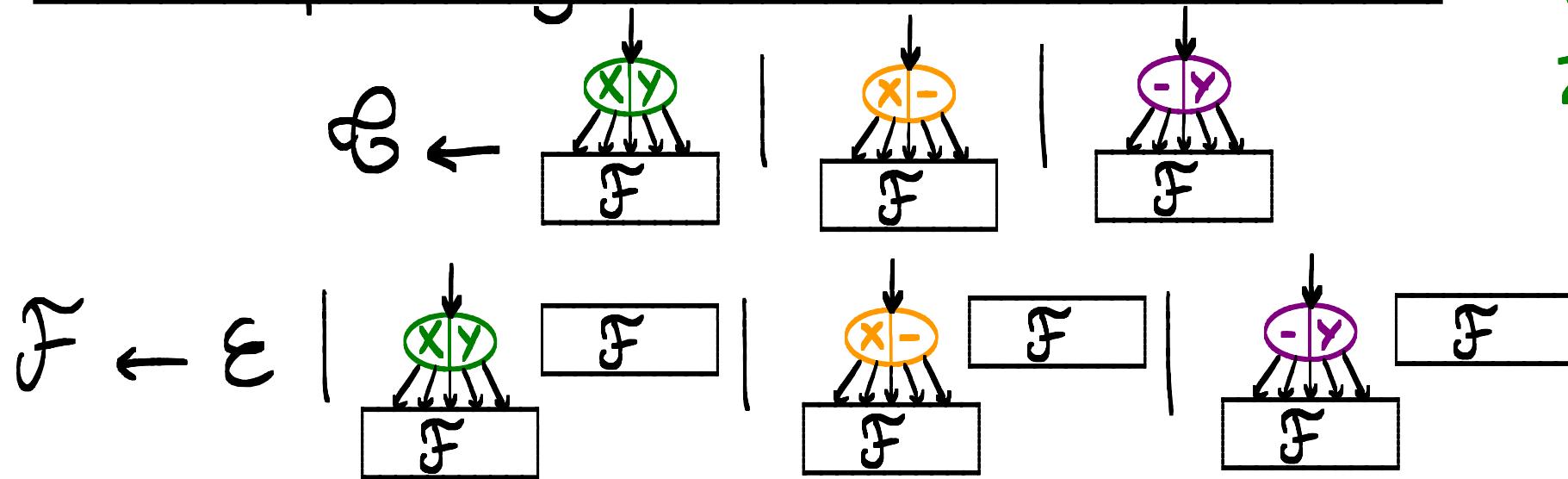
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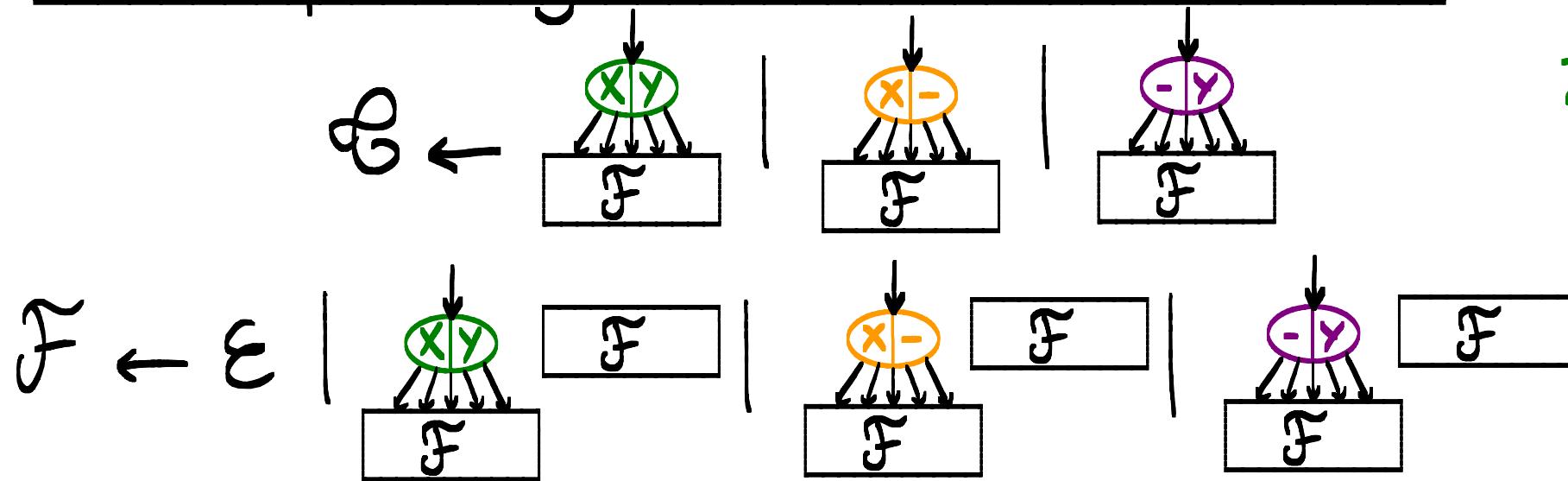


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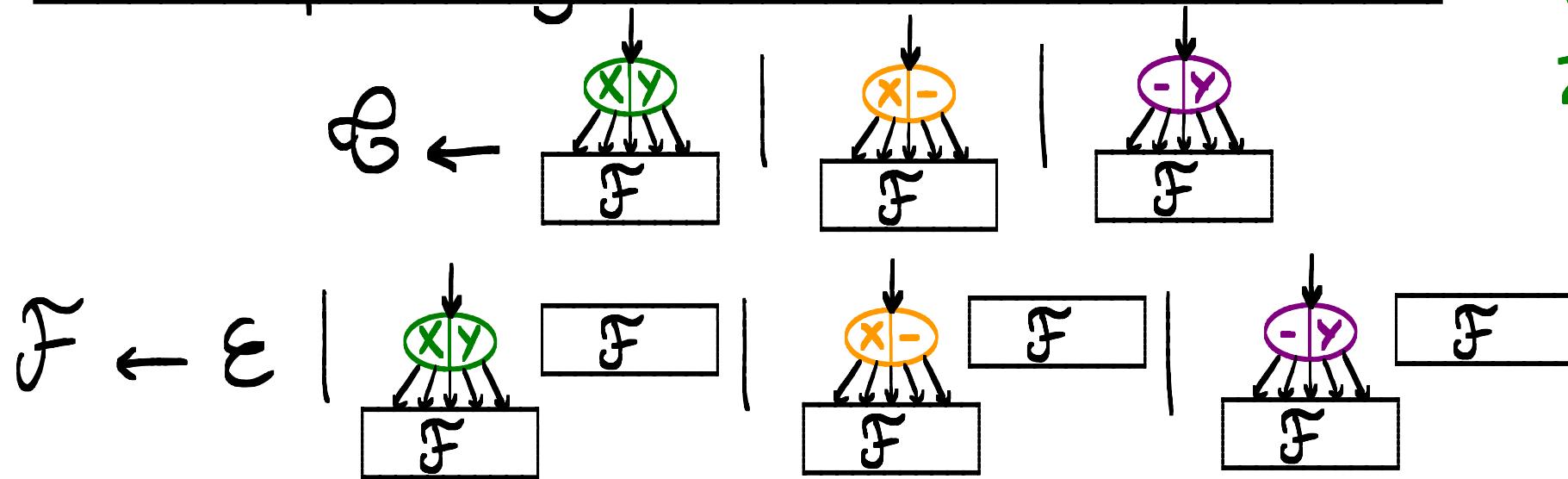


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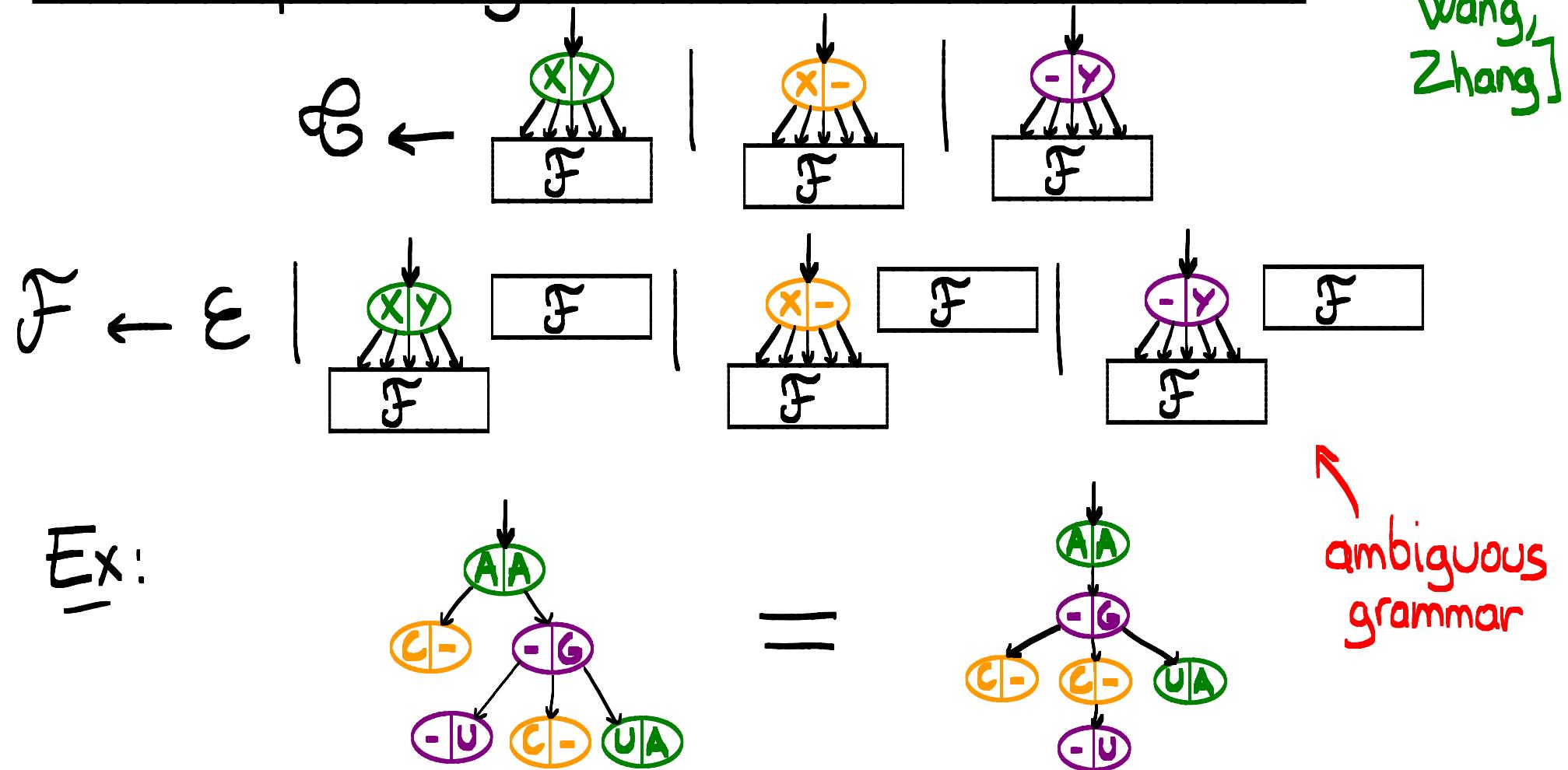
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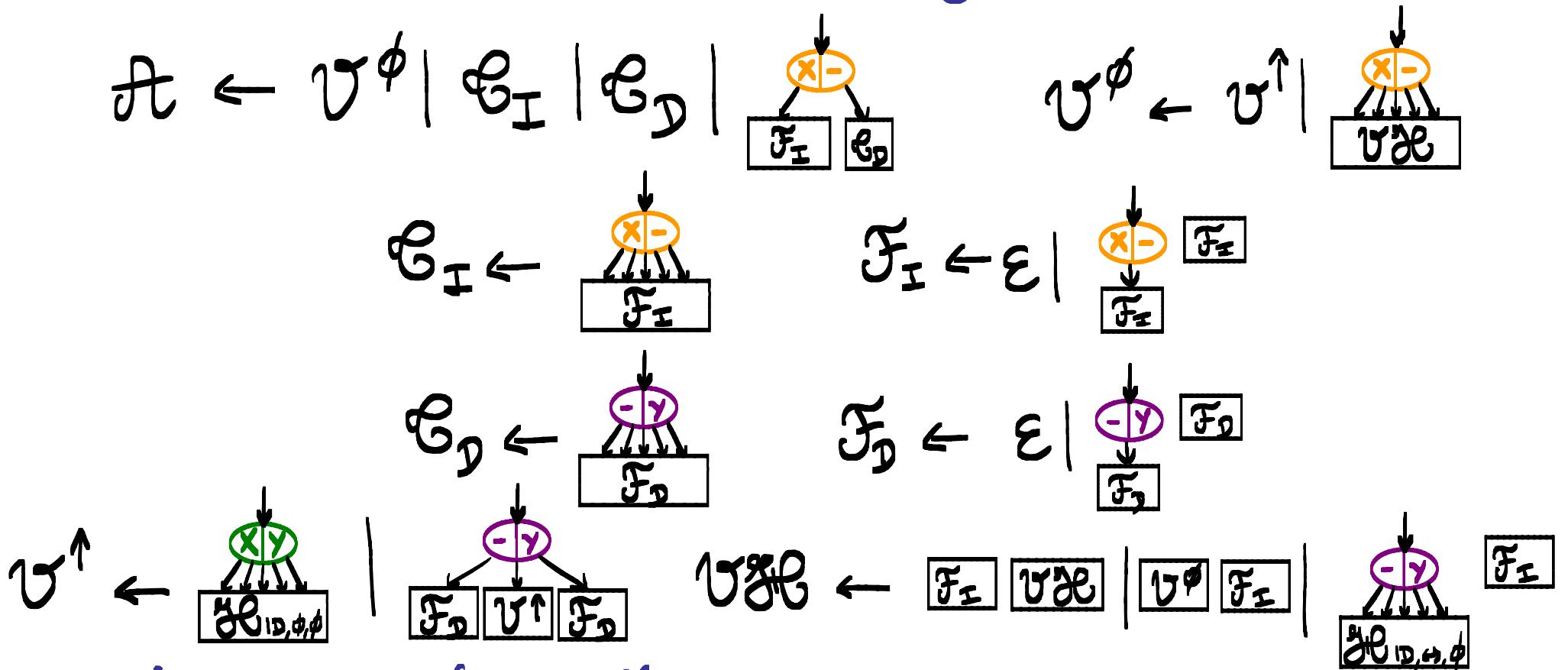


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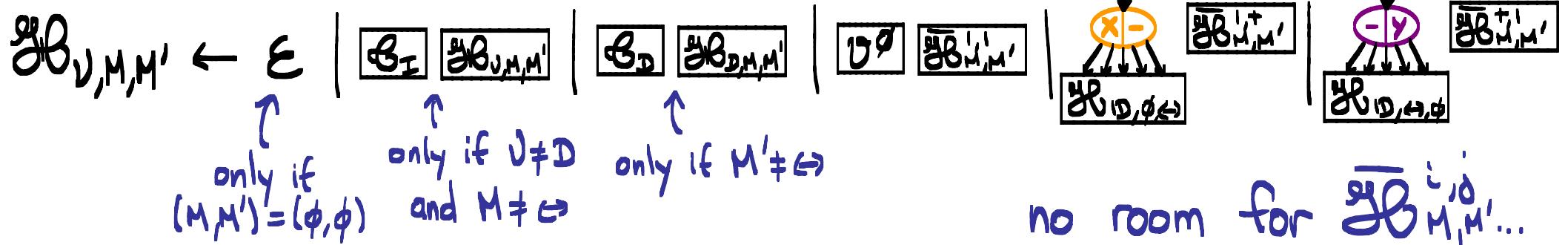
Theorem : The set  $\mathcal{F}$  generated by the following grammar contains every tree alignment exactly once.

# A GRAMMAR FOR ALIGNMENTS

Our (complicated) non-ambiguous grammar:



For  $J \in \{D, D'\}$ ,  $(M, M') \in \{\phi, \rightarrow, \leftrightarrow\}^2$ :



## SOME STATISTICAL PROPERTIES

Theorem There are on average

$$C \times 1.5^n \text{ alignments}$$

between two random trees of cumulative size  $n$

where  $C = 0.299\dots$

Corollary: A same alignment was repeated

$$\sim 0.875 \times 1.412^n \text{ times on average in the previous ambiguous grammar.}$$

## SAMPLING

Theorem Let  $S$  and  $T$  be two trees of size  $n_1$  and  $n_2$ .

Sampling alignments between  $S$  and  $T$  under the Gibbs-Boltzmann distribution can be done with worst-case time and space complexities  $O(n_1 n_2 (n_1 + n_2)^2)$  and with average-case time and space complexities  $O(n_1 n_2)$ .

Strategy:

- Filter the grammar to obtain a new grammar that only generates alignments between  $S$  and  $T$
- Use dynamic programming-

## SAMPLING

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Proof inspired by  
[Herrbach, Denise, Dulucq]

## CONCLUSION

- We are using our grammar and adapted dynamic programming algorithms to revisit the 3D alignments of RNA structures.
- more general method?  
new way to design  
dynamic programming algorithms?

