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# Mollyâ€™a language for typesetting molecular structure diagrams

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### Abstract

MOLLY is a language for drawing 2-D molecular structure diagrams commonly seen in scientific journals and textbooks. Implemented as a PIC macro library, MOLLY is integrated with the TROFF family of typesetting software available for UNIX and MS-DOS operating systems. The language is device-independent and can be used to produce publication-quality molecular drawings on laser printers and phototypesetters. MOLLY offers a new paradigm for drawing chemical structuresâ€™atomic groups are drawn in a way analogous to how a branching tree or road is traversed. The atomic groups and bonds are placed intuitively and accurately at any orientationâ€™even when entire structures are rotated and reflected. The user can extend the language and build libraries of reusable moieties and templates. This paper describes the design of MOLLY and gives examples of its use.



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