

# Graph Transformations and Algorithmic Cheminformatics for an Atom-Level Modelling of Metabolic Networks

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Metabolism and mathematical models: Two for a tango

November 19, 2021

# Pentose Phosphate Pathway

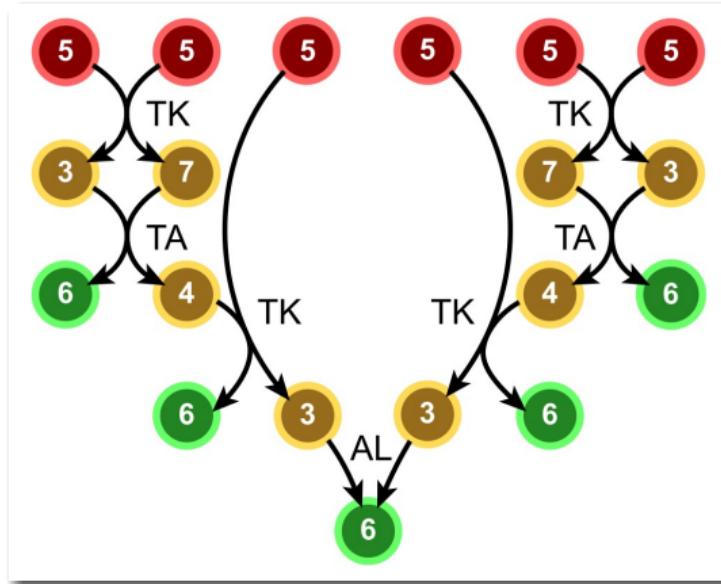
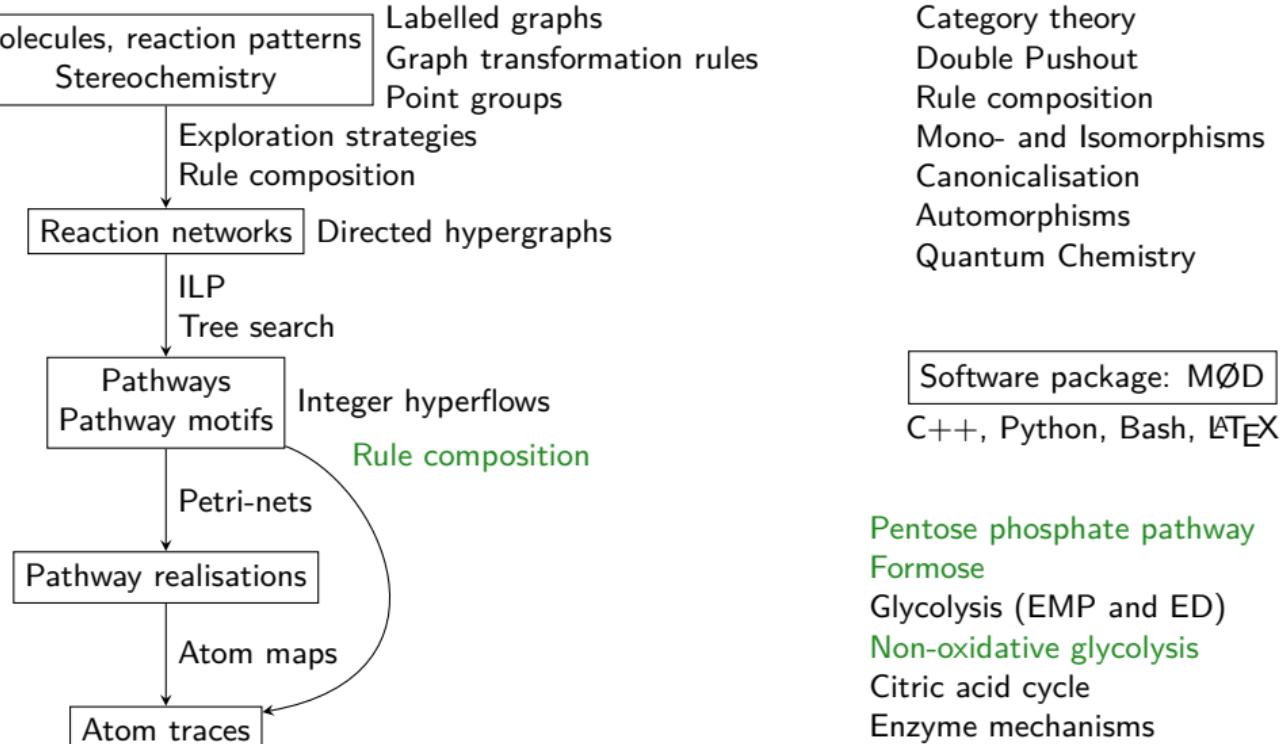


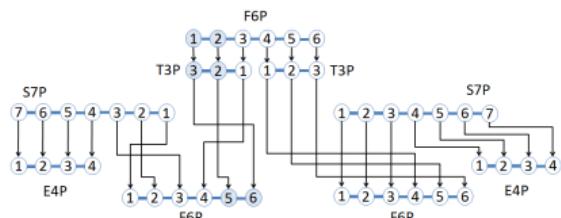
Figure adapted from Noor, E et al (2011) Central Carbon Metabolism as a Minimal Biochemical Walk between Precursors for Biomass and Energy, *J Mol Cell* 39:809-820 DOI:10.1016/j.molcel.2010.08.031

# A Graph Transformation Framework (for (Bio-)Chemistry)

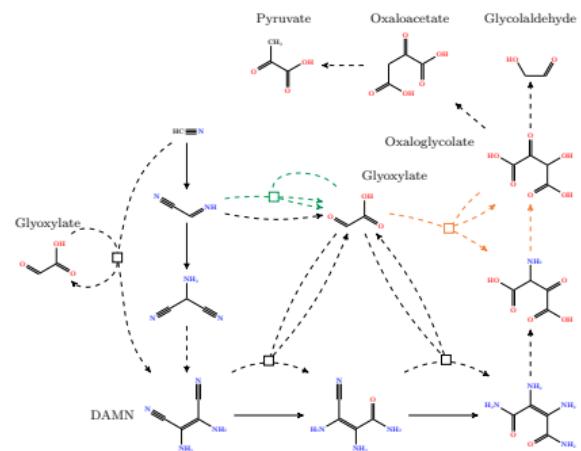
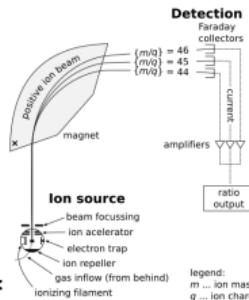
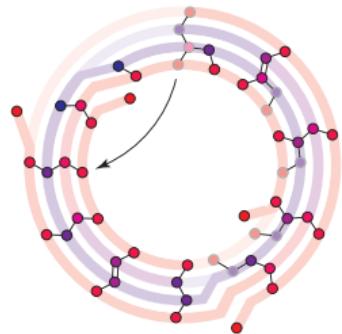


## Graph Transformation Applications - Examples

## ► Isotope labelling experiments



- ▶ Mass spectrometry
- ▶ Hypothetical (prebiotic) chemistries
- ▶ Synthesis Planning
- ▶ Multi-enzymatic cascades design
- ▶ Enzyme design
- ▶ Microbiome analysis and design
- ▶ ... anything with an underlying Chemical Reaction Network

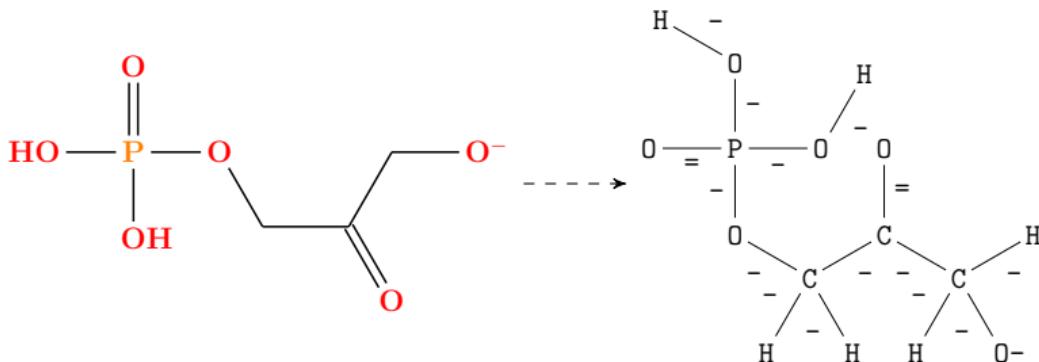


# Modelling and Analysis of Chemical Systems

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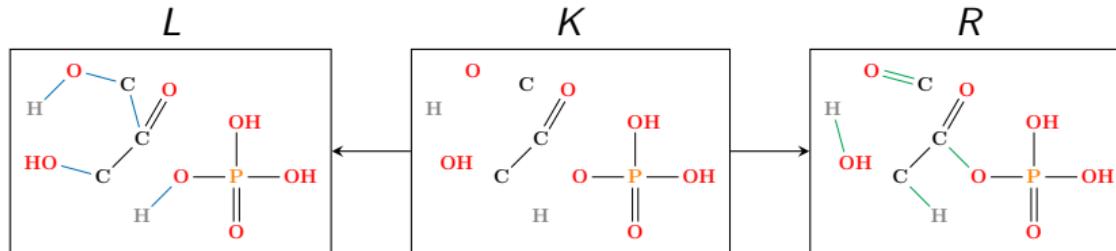
Model molecules as labelled graphs.

- An old idea: [J. J. Sylvester, *Chemistry and Algebra*, Nature 1878]
- Molecule: simple, connected, labelled graph.
- Vertex labels: atom type, charge.
- Edge labels: bond type.



# Modelling and Analysis of Chemical Systems

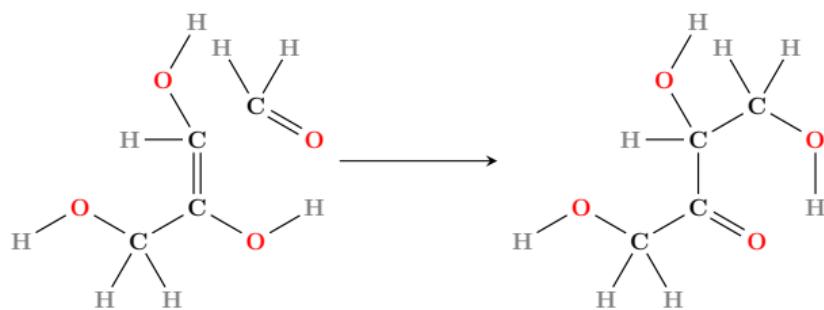
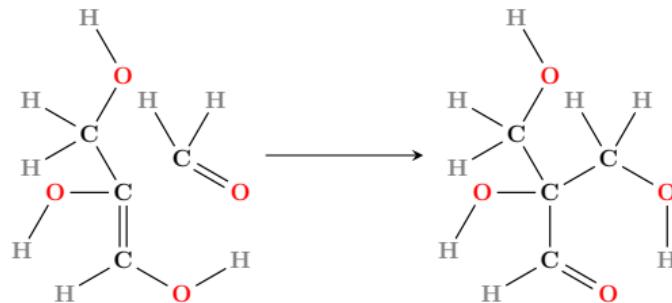
## 2. Model reaction types and graph transformation rules.



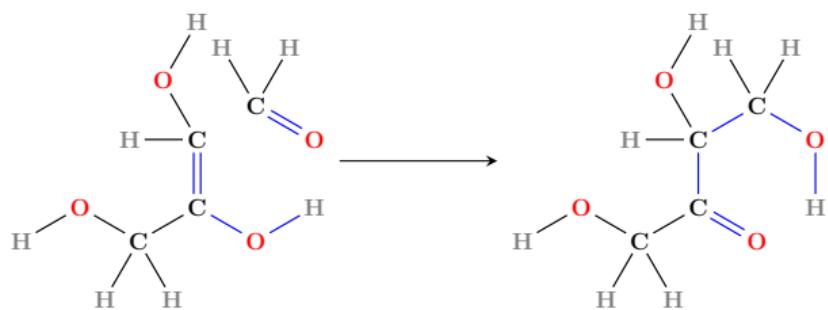
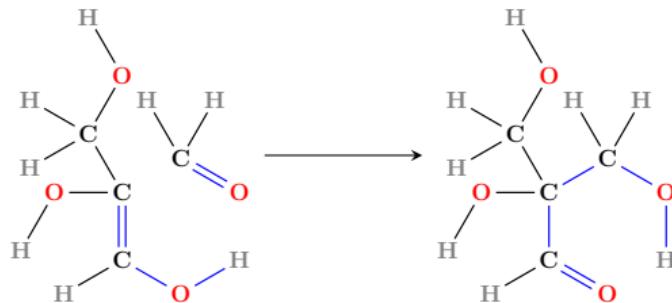
### Example: Carbon rearrangement

- ▶ Aldolase: ketone + aldehyde  $\longrightarrow$  ketone
- ▶ Aldose-Ketose: aldehyde  $\longrightarrow$  ketone
- ▶ Ketose-Aldose: ketone  $\longrightarrow$  aldehyde
- ▶ Phosphohydrolase:  $\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{C}_n\text{P} \longrightarrow \text{C}_n + \text{Pi}$
- ▶ Phosphoketolase  $\text{Pi} + \text{ketone} \longrightarrow \text{carbonyl} + \text{C}_n\text{P} + \text{water}$
- ▶ Transaldolase:  $\text{C}_n + \text{C}_m \longrightarrow \text{C}_{(n+3)} + \text{C}_{(m-3)}$
- ▶ Transketolase:  $\text{C}_n + \text{C}_m \longrightarrow \text{C}_{(n+2)} + \text{C}_{(m-2)}$

## Chemical Reactions (Educts → Products)

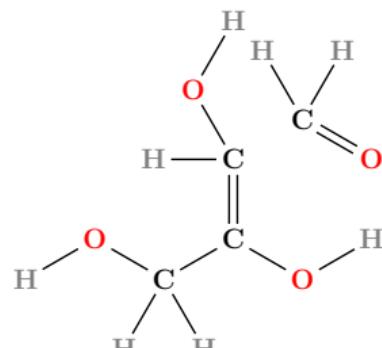
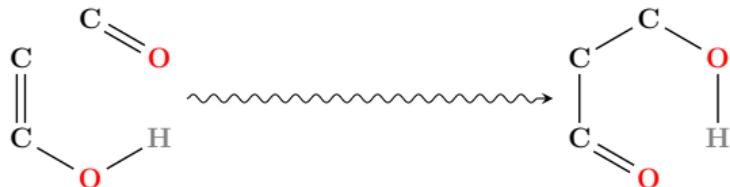


## Chemical Reactions (of the Same Type)



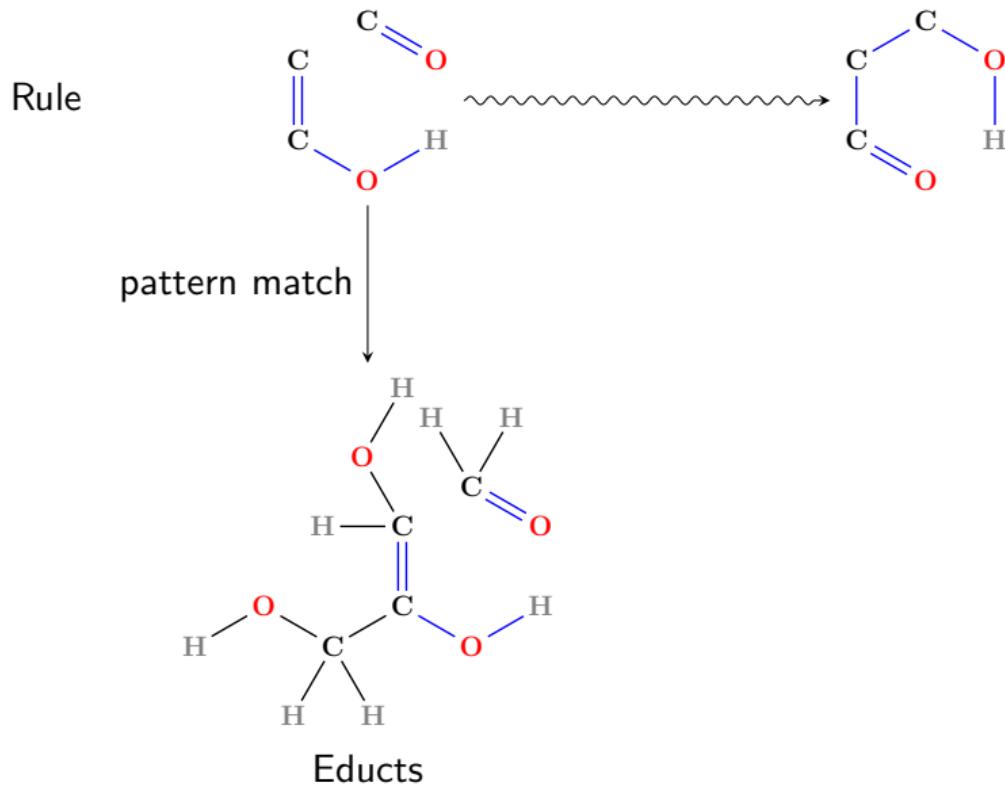
# Chemical Reaction Patterns

Rule

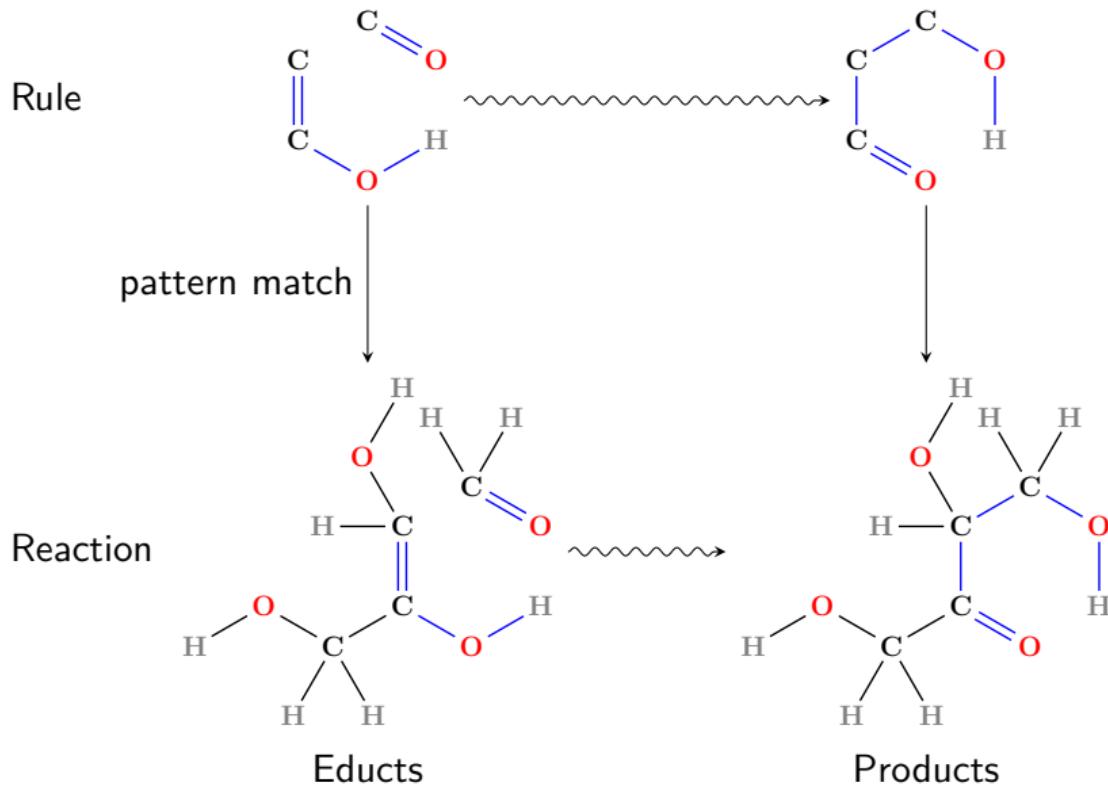


Educts

# Chemical Reaction Patterns



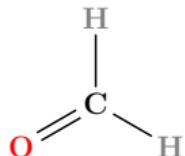
# Chemical Reaction Patterns



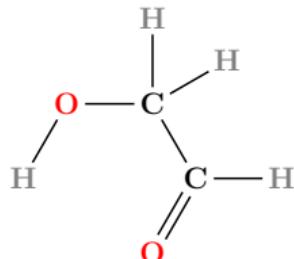
We get a precise atom map!

## Grammar Example: The Formose Chemistry

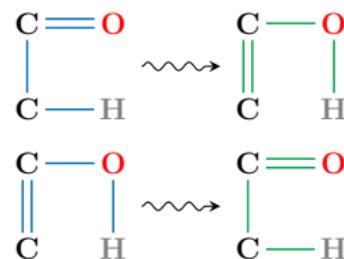
Formaldehyde:



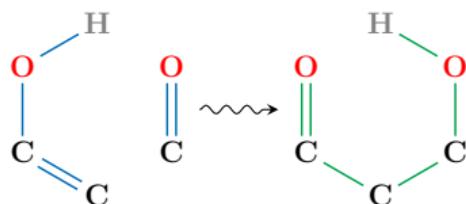
Glycolaldehyde:



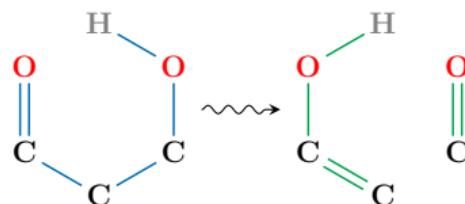
Keto-enol tautomerism:



Aldol addition:



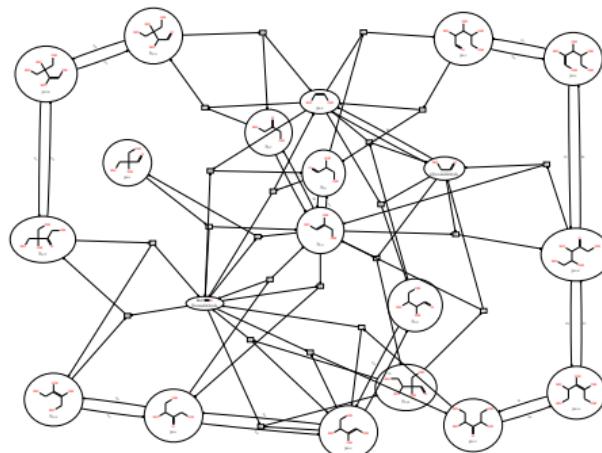
Retro aldol addition:



# Modelling and Analysis of Chemical Systems

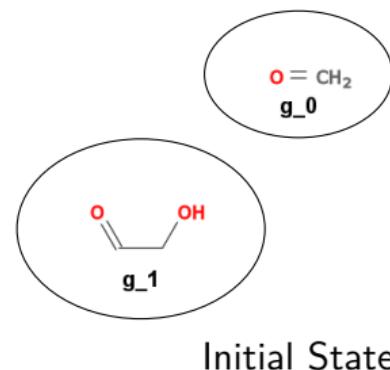
## 3. Generate a reaction network.

```
dg = dgRuleComp(inputGraphs,
    addSubset(inputGraphs) >> rightPredicate[
        lambda d: all(countCarbon(a) <= 5 for a in d.right)
    ](
        repeat(inputRules)
    )
dg.calc()
```

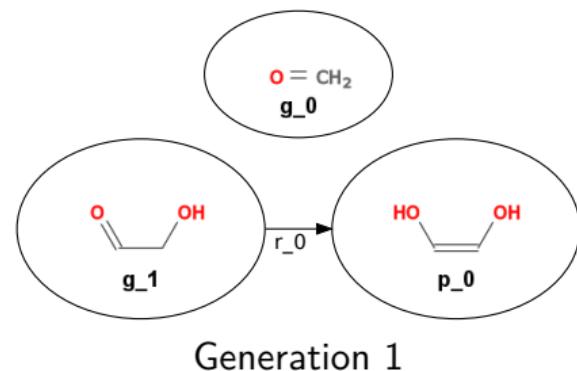


Generic Strategies for Chemical Space Exploration Jakob L. Andersen, Christoph Flamm, Daniel Merkle, and Peter F. Stadler. *International Journal of Computational Biology and Drug Design*, 7(2/3):225-258, 2014.

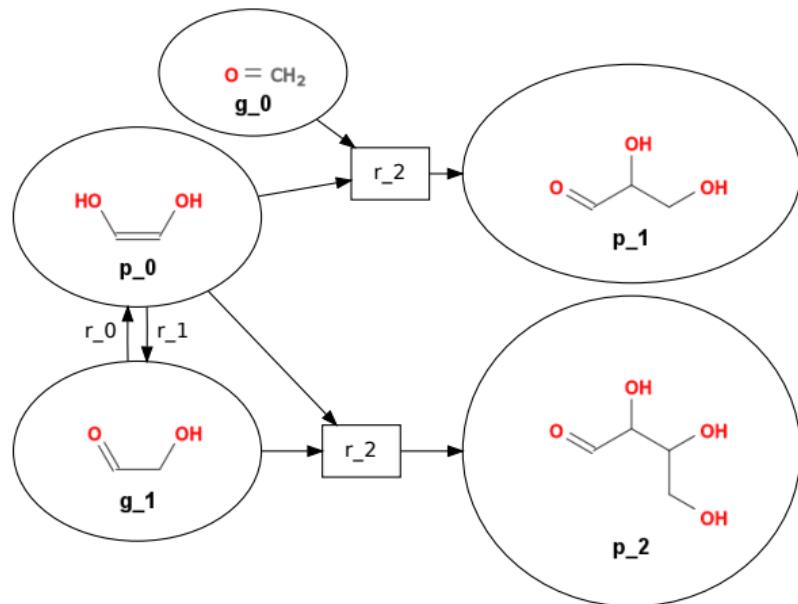
# Reaction Network for Formose



# Reaction Network for Formose

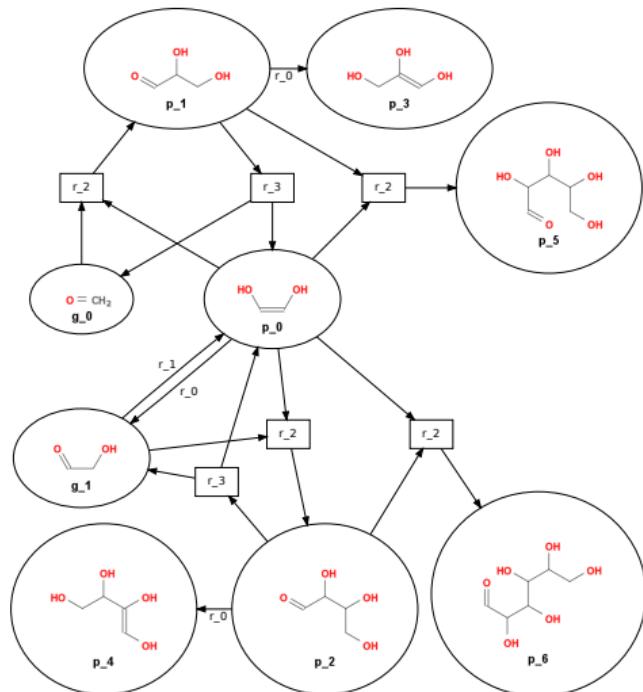


## Reaction Network for Formose



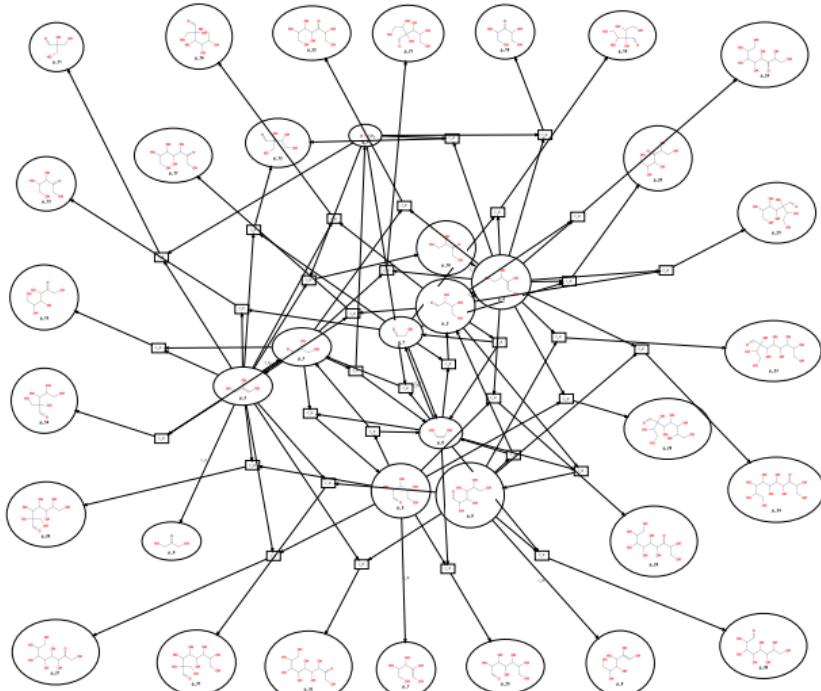
Generation 2

# Reaction Network for Formose



Generation 3

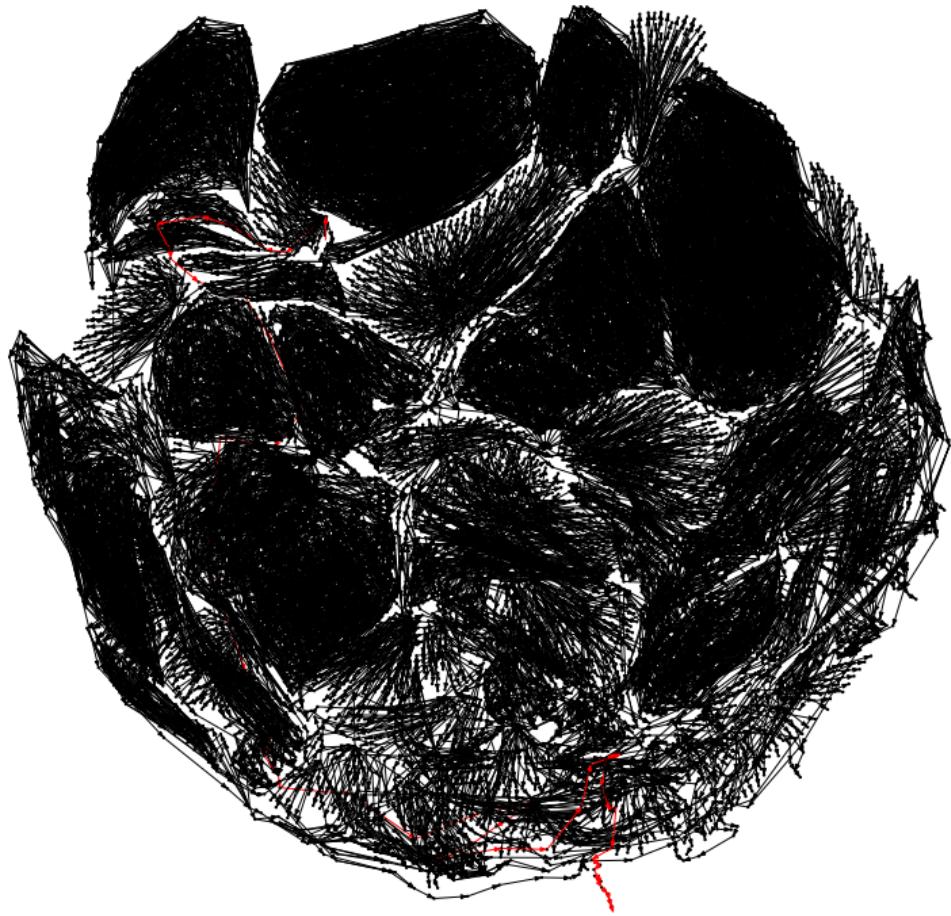
# Reaction Network for Formose



Generation 4

The Chemical Space is a **Hypergraph**

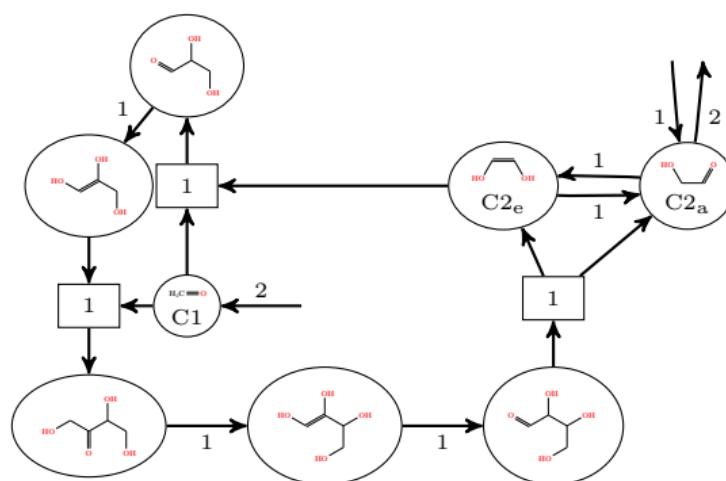
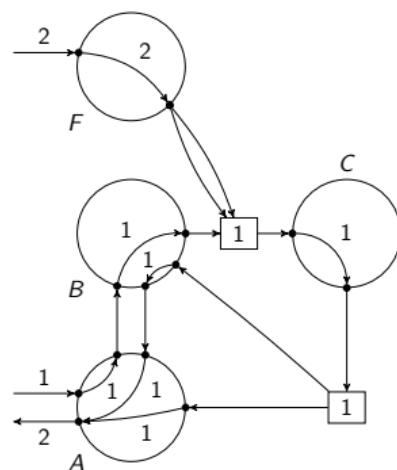
## Another Example of a Search Space (Catalan)



# Modelling and Analysis of Chemical Systems

## 4. Setup pathway model and formulate pathway question.

Example: i.) Given 2 formaldehyde and 1 glycolaldehyde, how can 2 glycolaldehyde be produced? ii.) Or more general: Is there autocatalysis?



(Demonstration 1)

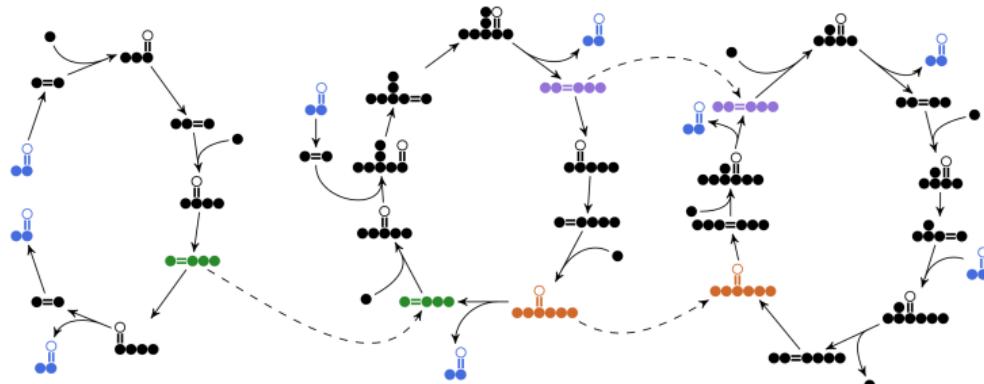
# Modelling and Analysis of Chemical Systems

5. Enumerate many alternate pathways.

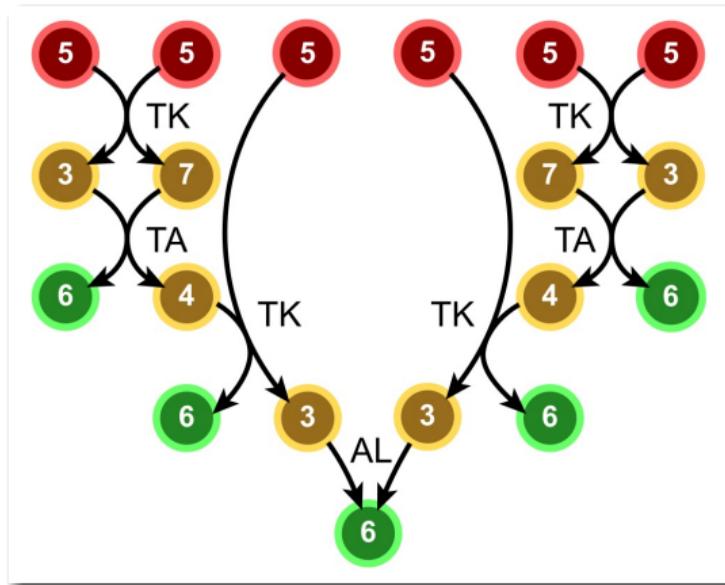
Example (Formose):

Network: all molecules with at most 9 carbon atoms.

Reactions used	Maximum #C						
	4	5	6	7	8	9	Sum
6	0	0	1	1	1	2	5
7	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
8	1	5	7	17	37	68	135
9	0	0	12	12	37	69	130
10	0	12	50	274	849	—	$\geq 1185$
11	0	5	41	190	738	—	$\geq 974$
							$\geq 2431$

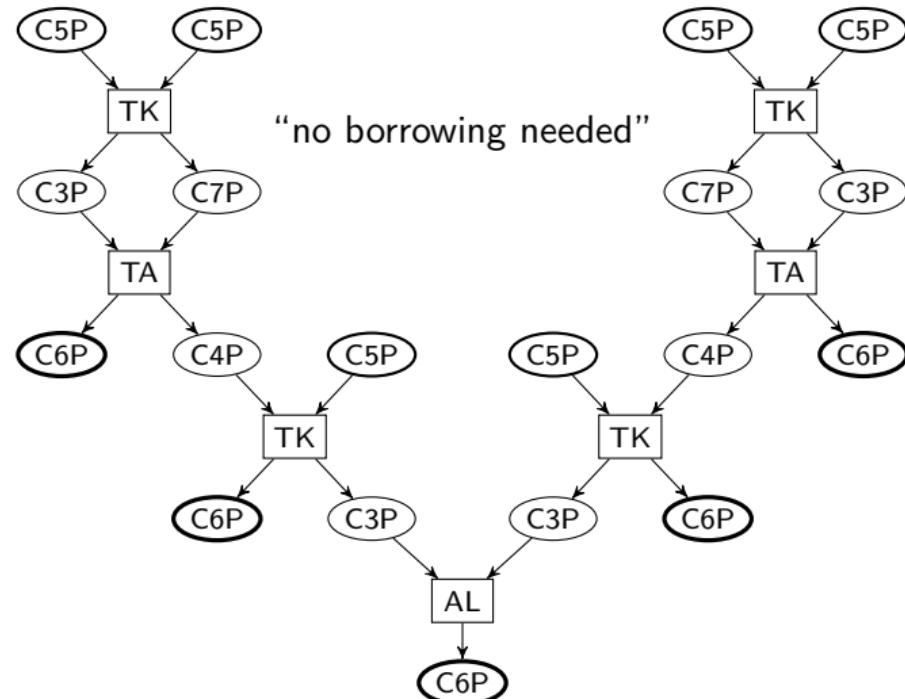


# Pentose Phosphate Pathway

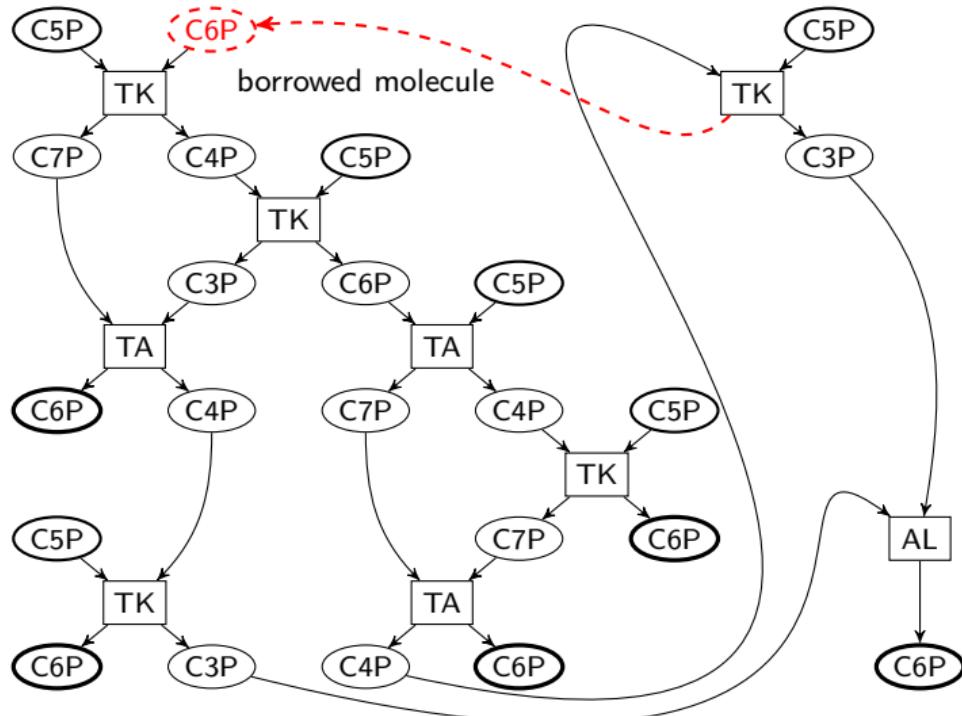


# Pentose Phosphate Pathway — Another View

Simplified visualisation (from Integer-Hyperflow to Petri Net analysis)



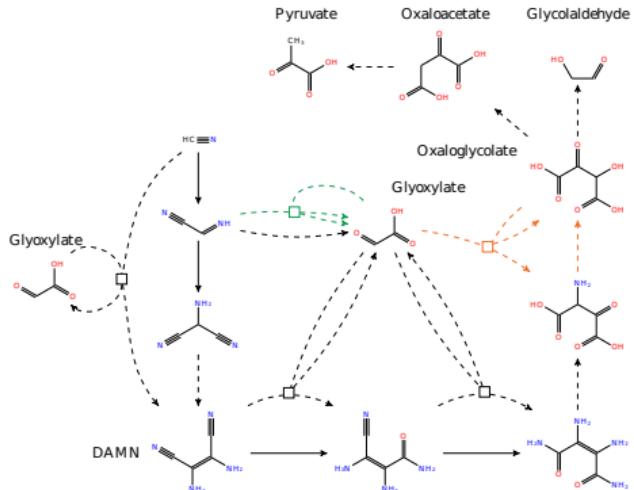
# Pentose Phosphate Pathway with Borrowing



(Demonstration 2)

## Another Example: Eschenmoser's Glyoxylate Scenario

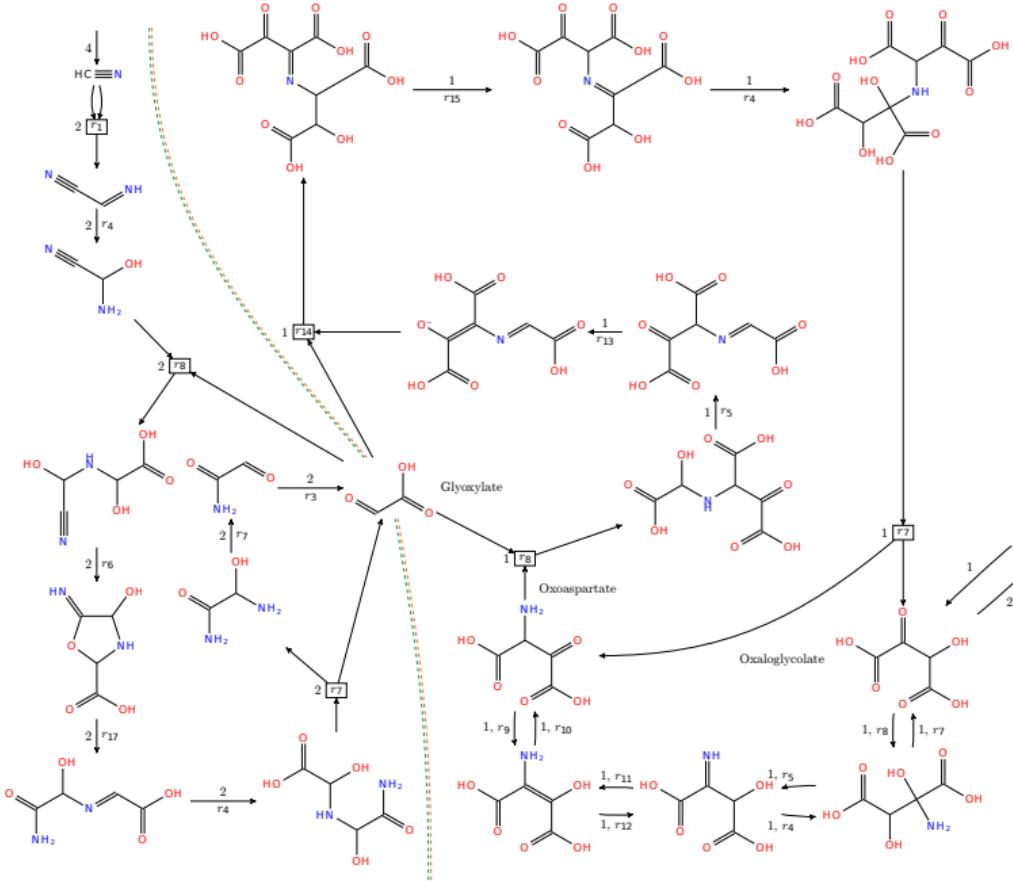
- ▶ Prebiotic Chemistry
- ▶ Cascade of autocatalytic pathways from HCN to glyoxylate to oxaloglycolate



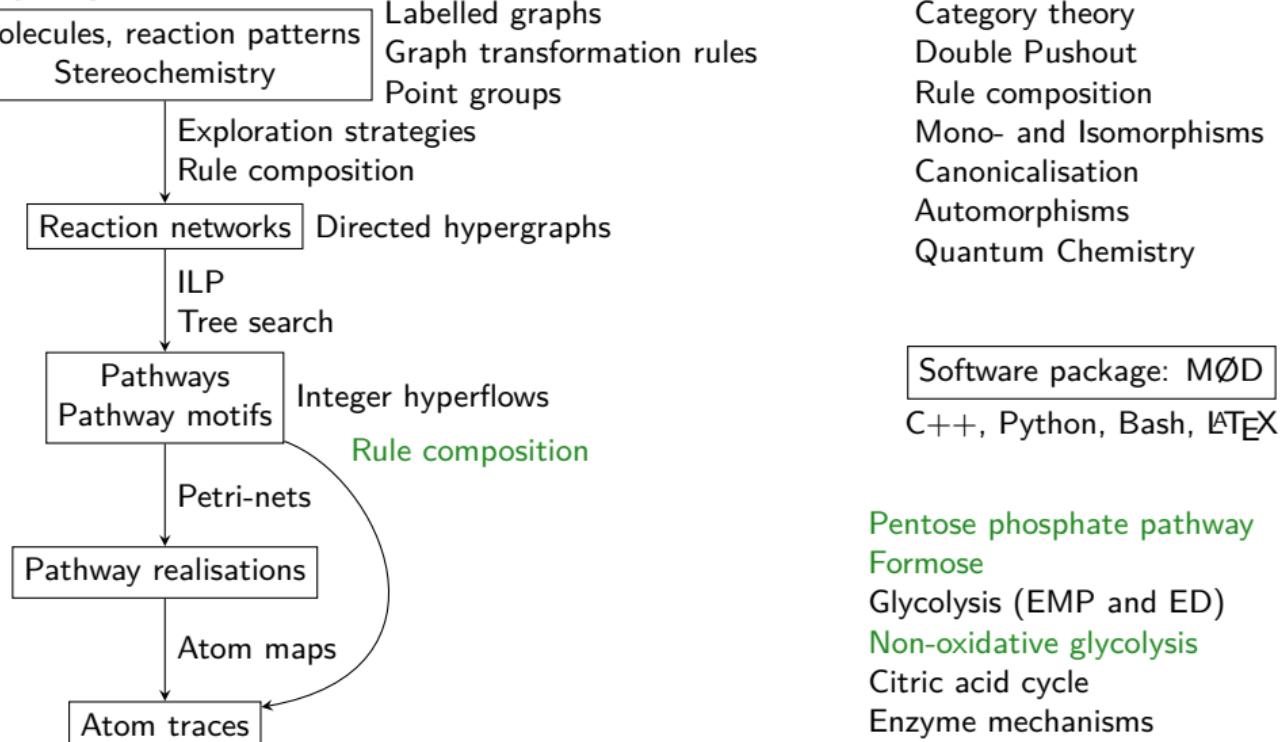
Albert Eschenmoser. On a hypothetical generational relationship between HCN and constituents of the reductive citric acid cycle. *Chem. Biodivers.*, 4:554–573, 2007.

In silico Support for Eschenmoser's Glyoxylate Scenario Jakob L. Andersen, Christoph Flamm, Daniel Merkle, and Peter F. Stadler. *Israel Journal of Chemistry*, 55(8):919-933, 2015.

# Eschenmoser's Glyoxylate Scenario - ILP solution



# Overview



## Outline

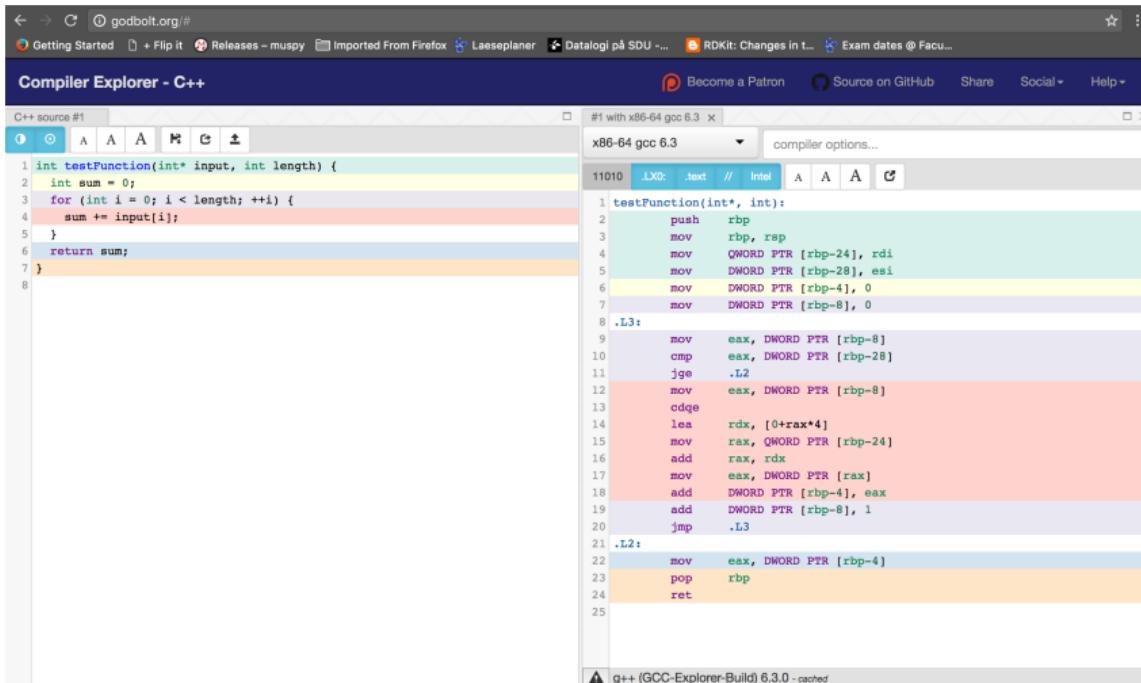
- ▶ Switch of Abstraction Levels: Rule Composition
- ▶ Design of Non-Oxidative Glycolysis (Multi-enzymatic Cascade)
- ▶ Atom Tracing and Hierarchical Decomposition with Cayley Graphs
- ▶ Enzyme Mechanism Design and Analysis
- ▶ Future Project: MATOMIC

- ▶ Analysis of Enzyme Chemistry (Multi-step, single enzyme)
- ▶ Exploring and Evaluating Reaction Mechanisms
- ▶ Thermodynamics
- ▶ Connection to Quantum Mechanical Methods
- ▶ Stochastic Simulations

# Rule Composition

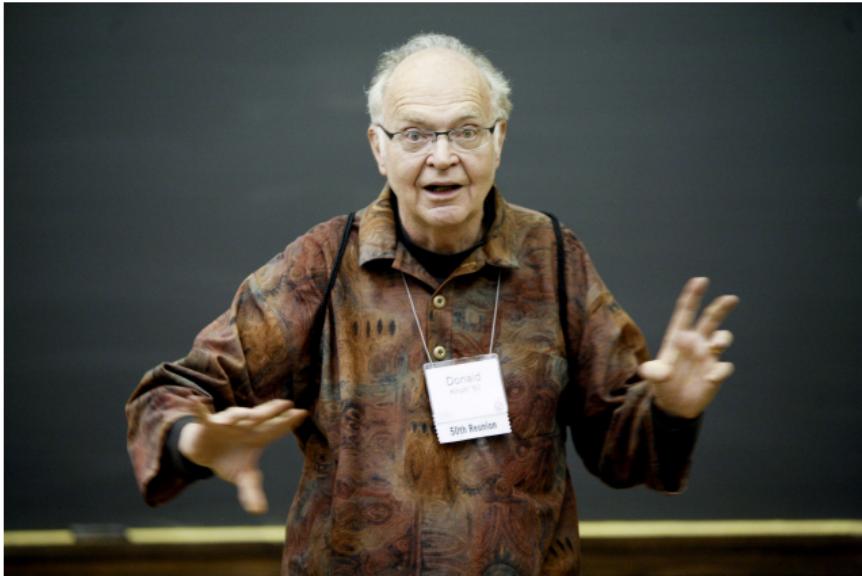
# Levels of Abstraction in Programming



The screenshot shows the Compiler Explorer interface for C++ on the godbolt.org website. The left pane displays the C++ source code for a function named `testFunction`:1 int testFunction(int\* input, int length) {  
2 int sum = 0;  
3 for (int i = 0; i < length; ++i) {  
4 sum += input[i];  
5 }  
6 return sum;  
7 }The right pane shows the generated assembly code for the x86-64 architecture using gcc 6.3:11010 .LX0: .text // Intel  
1 testFunction(int, int):  
2 push rbp  
3 mov rbp, rsp  
4 mov QWORD PTR [rbp-24], rdi  
5 mov DWORD PTR [rbp-28], esi  
6 mov DWORD PTR [rbp-4], 0  
7 mov DWORD PTR [rbp-8], 0  
8 .L3:  
9 mov eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-8]  
10 cmp eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-28]  
11 jge .L2  
12 mov eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-8]  
13 cdqe  
14 les rdx, [0+rax\*4]  
15 mov rax, QWORD PTR [rbp-24]  
16 add rax, rdx  
17 mov eax, DWORD PTR [rax]  
18 add eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-4], eax  
19 add eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-8], 1  
20 jmp .L3  
21 .L2:  
22 mov eax, DWORD PTR [rbp-4]  
23 pop rbp  
24 retThe assembly code is color-coded by section: `.LX0:` (grey), `testFunction:` (light green), `.L3:` (light orange), `.L2:` (light grey), and `ret` (light orange). The status bar at the bottom indicates "g++ (GCC-Explorer-Build) 6.3.0 - cached".

Declarative Description  $\leftrightarrow$  DSL  $\leftrightarrow$  C++  $\leftrightarrow$  Assembler

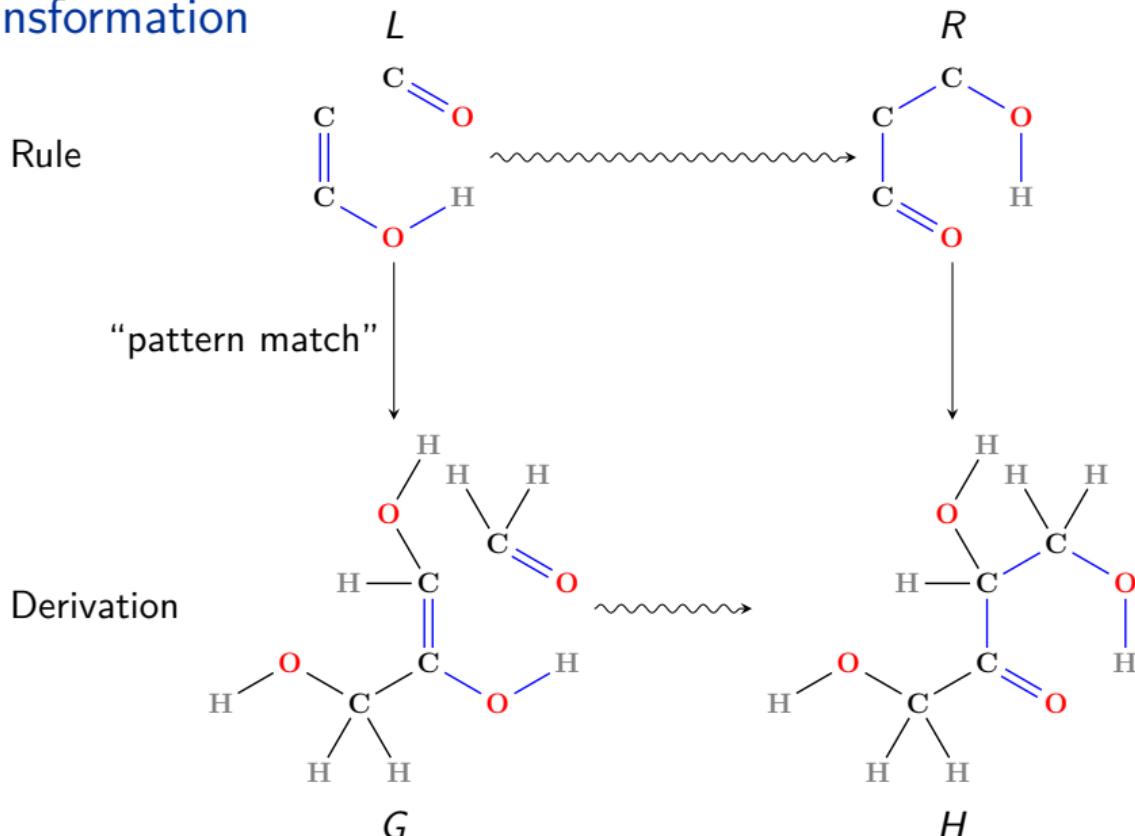
# Levels of Abstraction in Computer Science



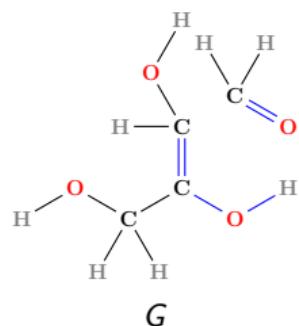
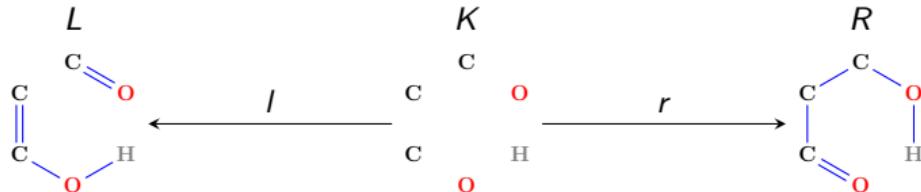
*"The psychological profiling [of a Computer Scientist] is mostly the ability to **shift levels of abstraction**, from low level to high level. To see something in the small and to see something in the large."*

Donald Knuth

# Graph Transformation

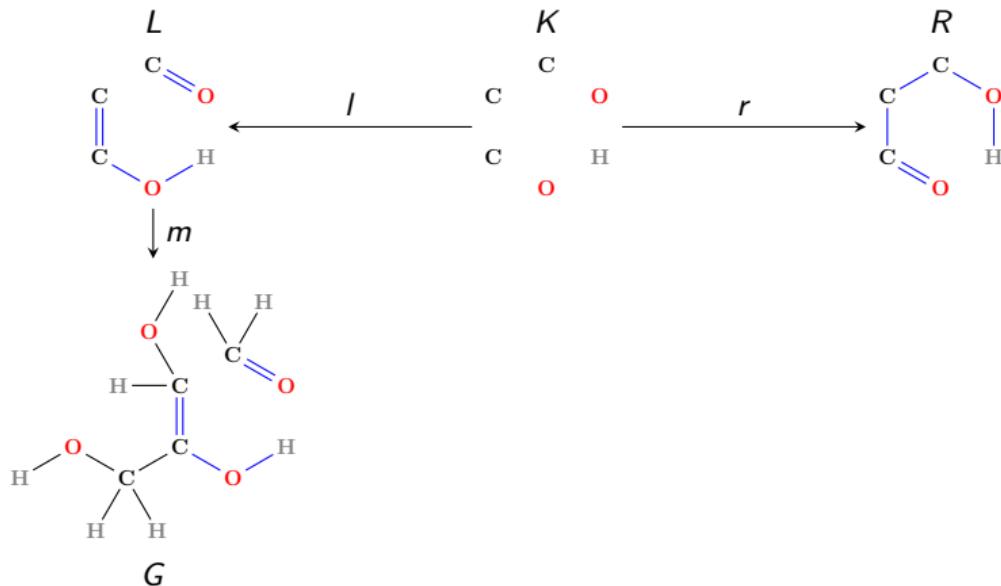


## Rule Application



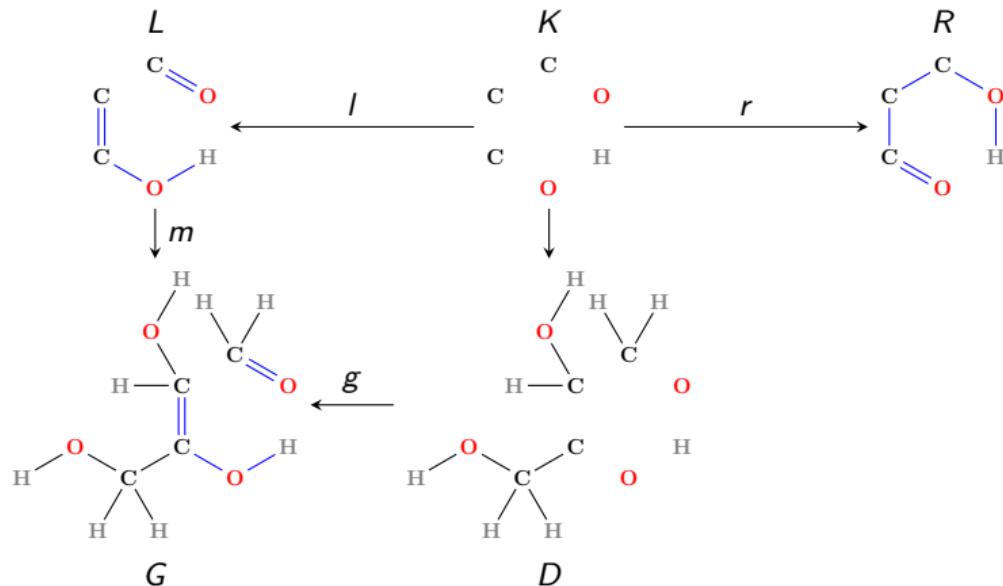
Given a rule  $p = (L \xleftarrow{l} K \xrightarrow{r} R)$  and a graph  $G$ ,

## Rule Application



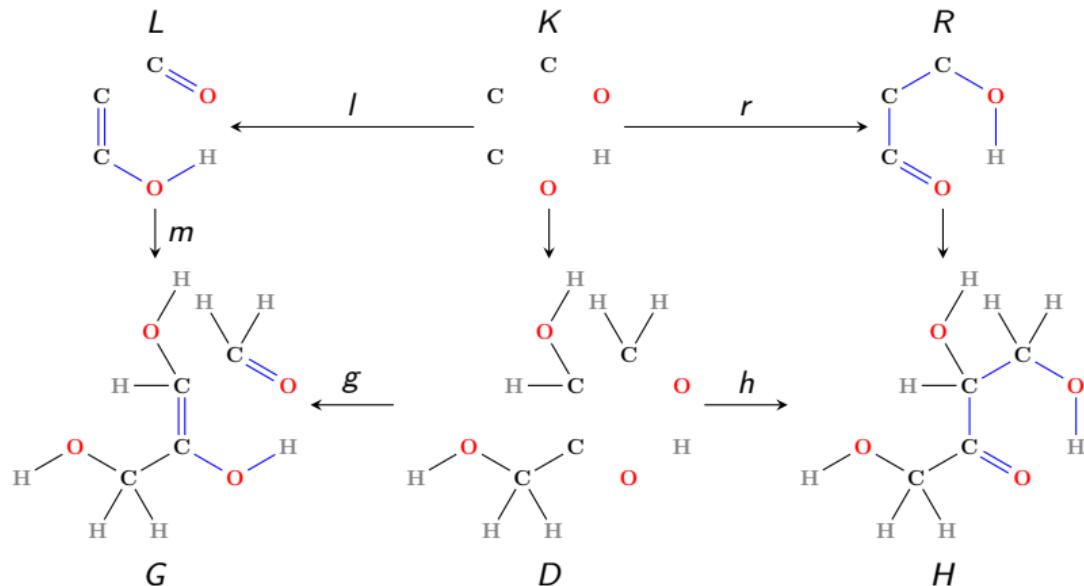
find a monomorphism  $m: L \rightarrow G$ ,

## Rule Application



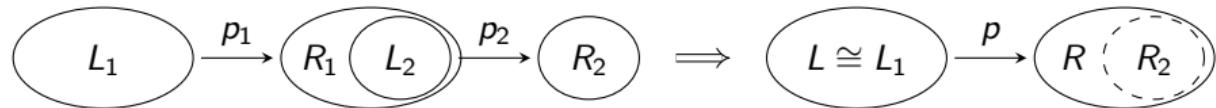
construct  $D$  as the pushout complement of  $K \rightarrow L \rightarrow G$ ,

## Rule Application

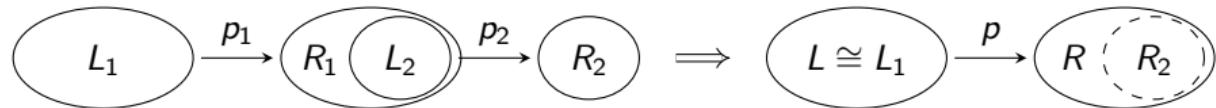


and construct  $H$  as the pushout object of  $D \leftarrow K \rightarrow R$ .

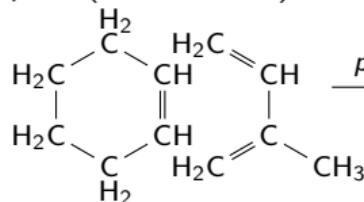
## Full Rule Composition



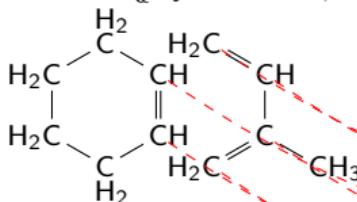
# Full Rule Composition



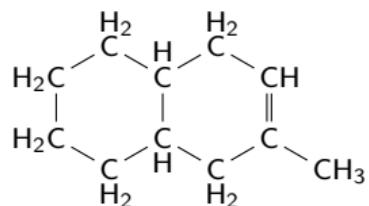
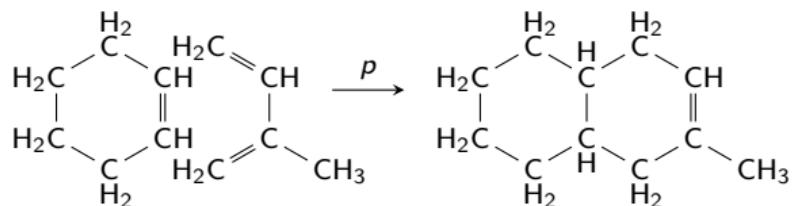
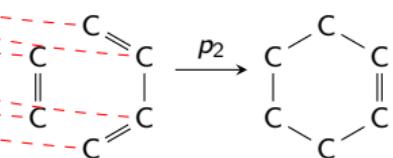
$p_1 = (G \leftarrow G \rightarrow G)$



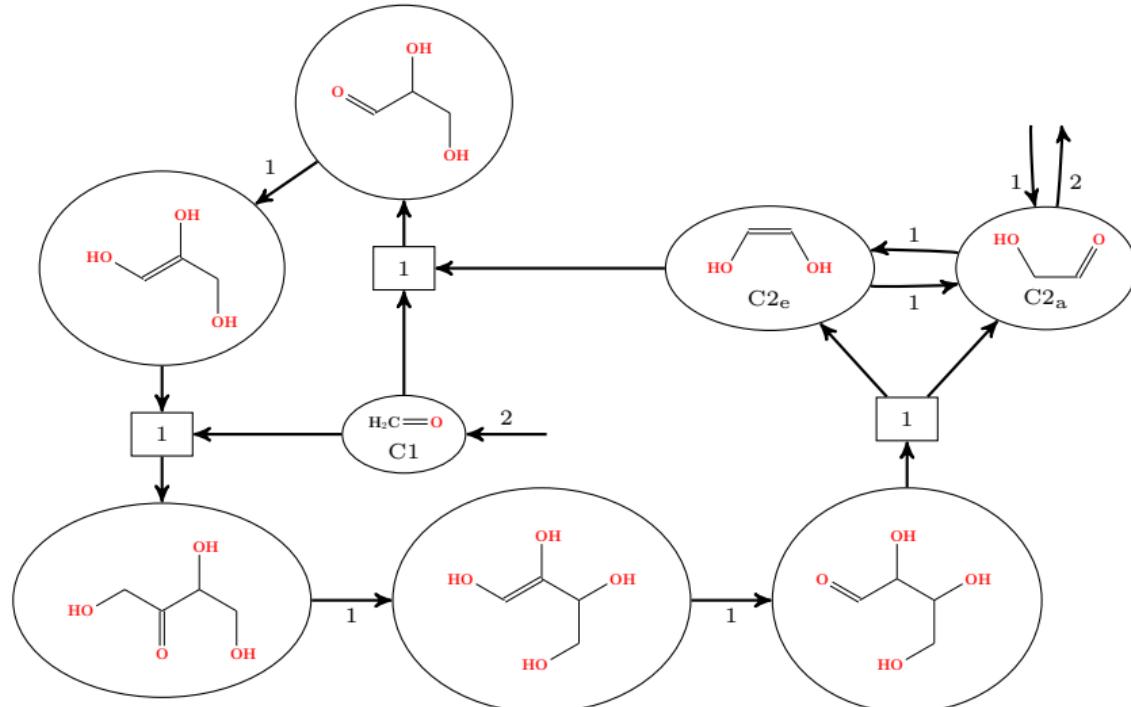
$G = \{\text{Cyclohexene, Isoprene}\}$



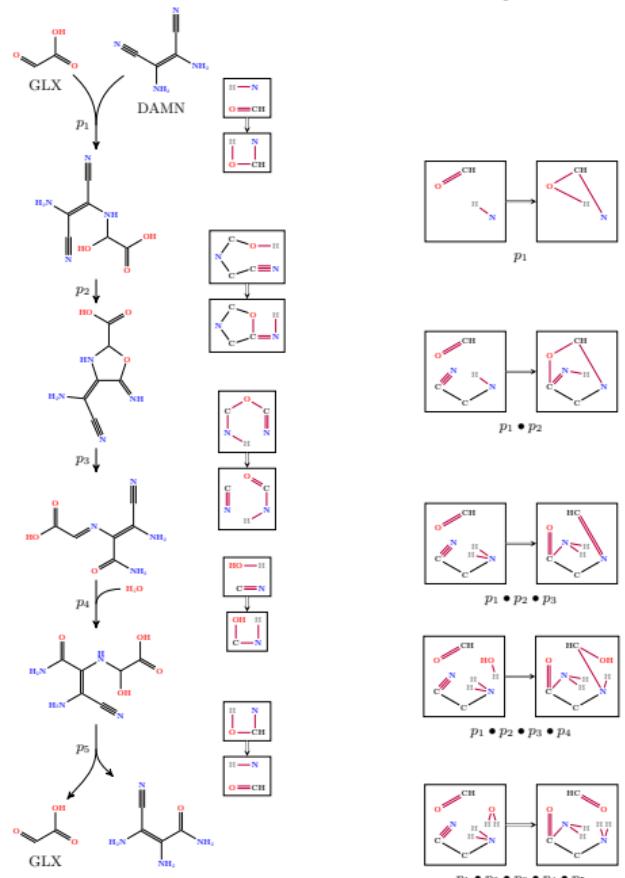
$p_2 = \text{Diels-Alder reaction}$



## Demonstration 3 : Rule Composition in Formose



# Levels of Abstraction in Computational Chemistry



## Automatic Abstraction:

Aldehydes acting as catalysts for the hydrolysis of an HCN-terramer.

[Eschenmoser, 2007]

# Atom-Tracing Glycolysis Pathways

Glucose  $\longrightarrow$  2 Pyruvate, two implementations:

- Embden–Meyerhof–Parnas (EMP) pathway.
- Entner–Doudoroff (ED) pathway.

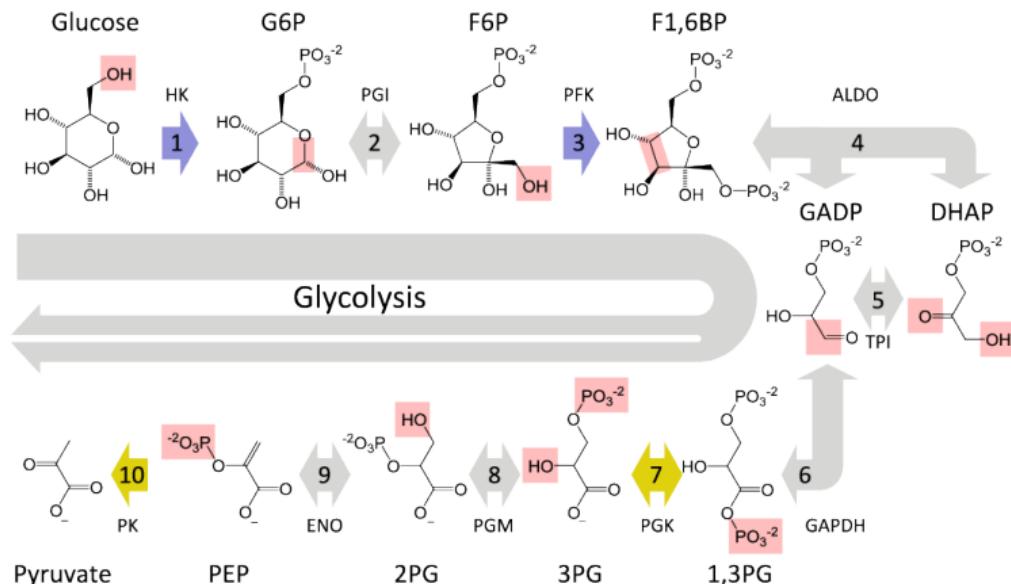
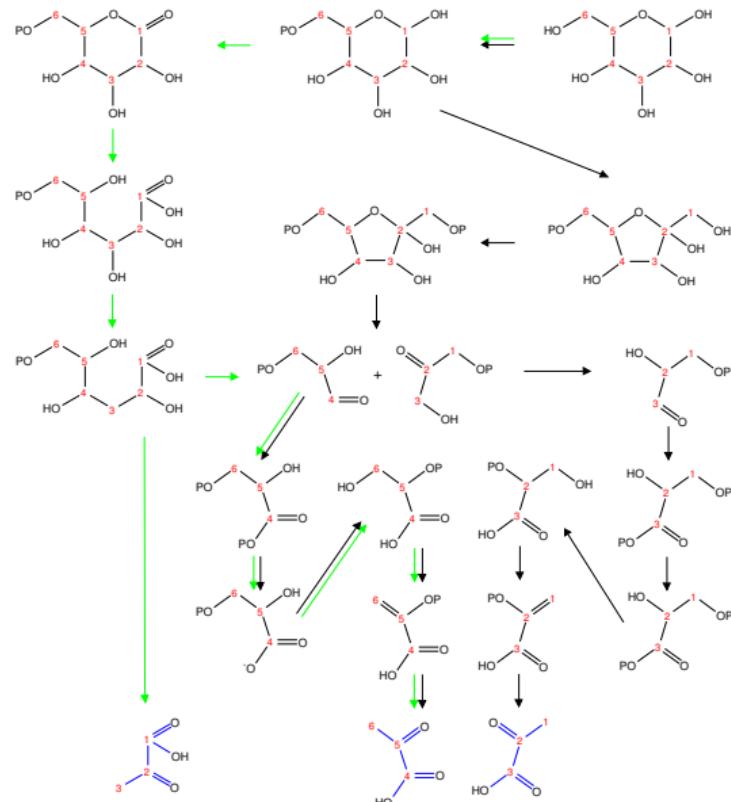


Figure: Embden–Meyerhof–Parnas (EMP) pathway [Wikipedia].

# Atom-Tracing of Glycolysis Pathways

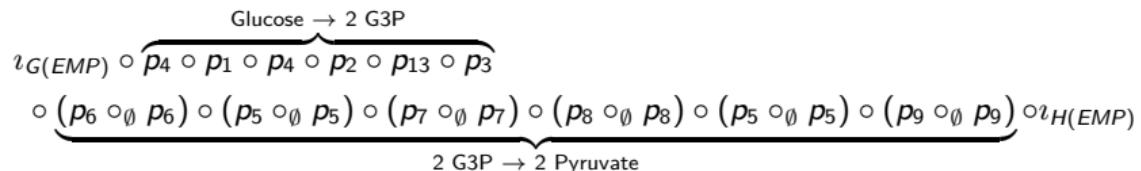


Andersen, Flamm, Merkle, and Stadler. 50 Shades of rule composition: From chemical reactions to higher levels of abstraction. *Formal Methods in Macro-Biology*, volume 8738 of LNCS., pages 117–135, 2014

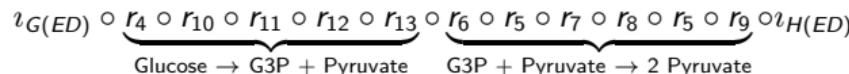
# Atom-Tracing of Glycolysis Pathways

1. Model each reaction as a rule, with correct atom-map:  
13 rules.
2. Let  $G(EMP)$ ,  $G(ED)$ ,  $H(EMP)$ , and  $H(ED)$  be  
the combined educt and product graphs.
3. Express the pathways as rule composition expressions:

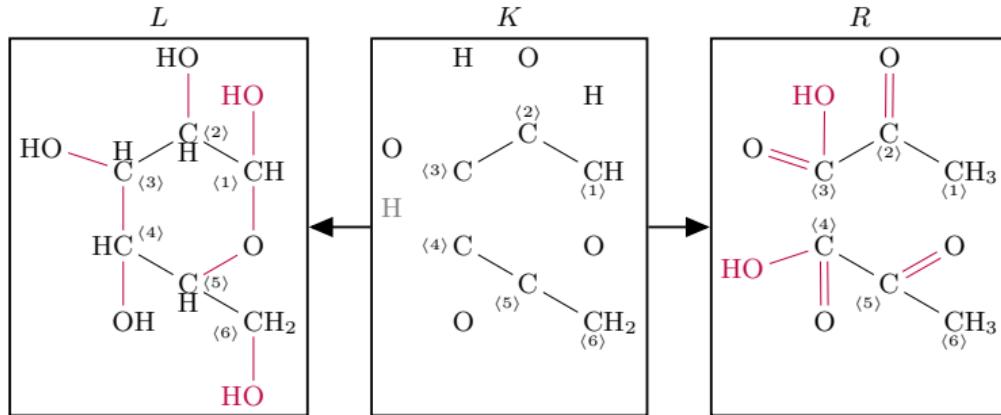
EMP:



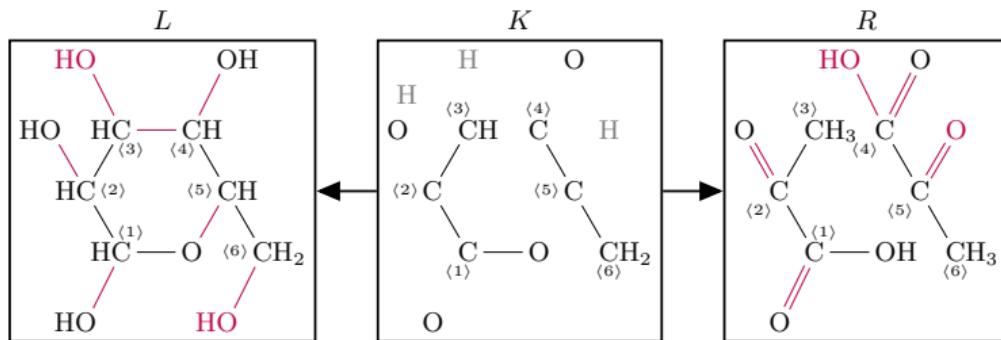
ED:



## Overall EMP Pathway:

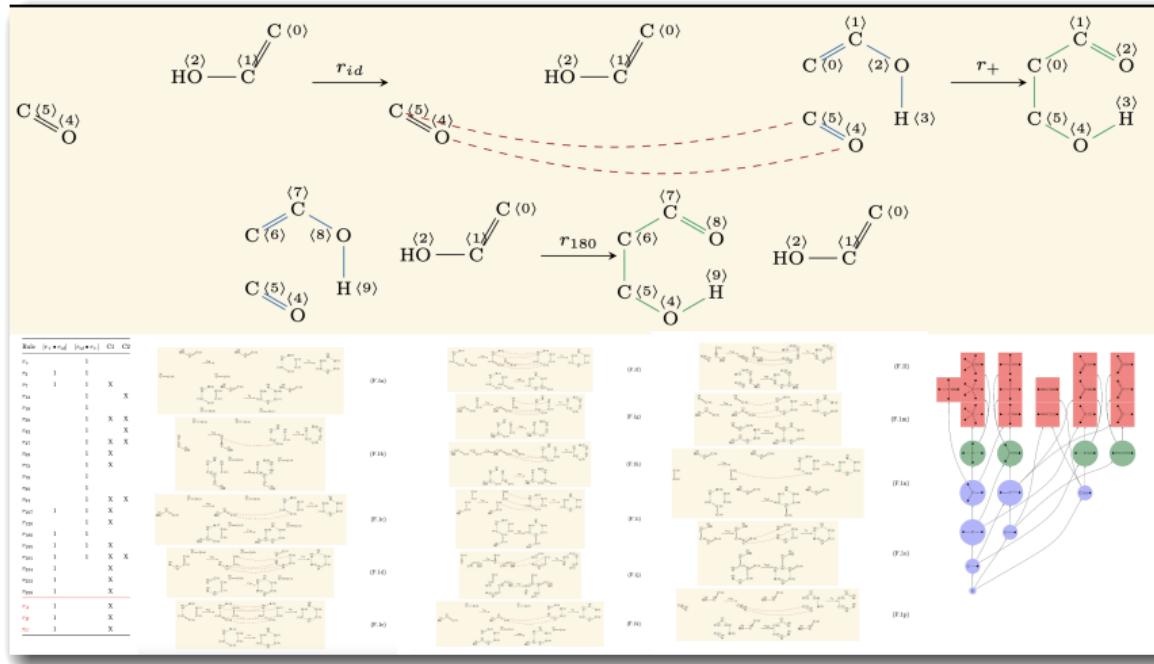


## Overall ED Pathway:



# More Applications of Rule Composition

Universal theory of continuous-time Markov chains for stochastic rewriting systems.



Allows for "static analysis" of biochemical (rule-based) models.

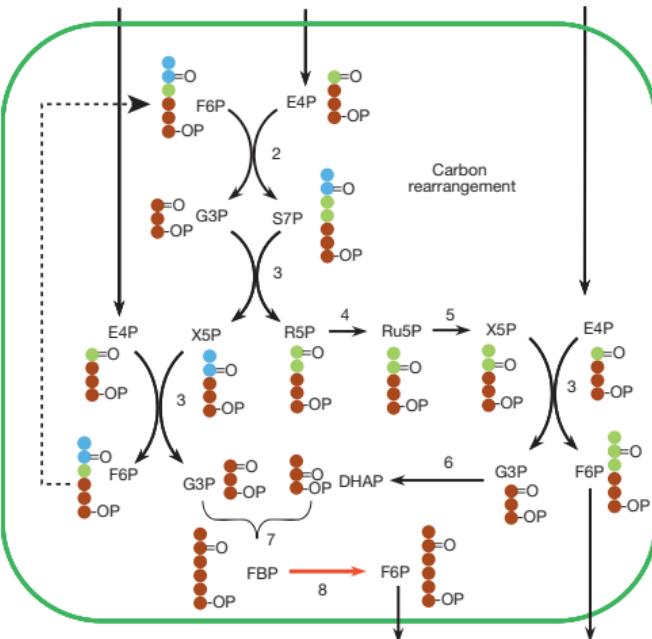
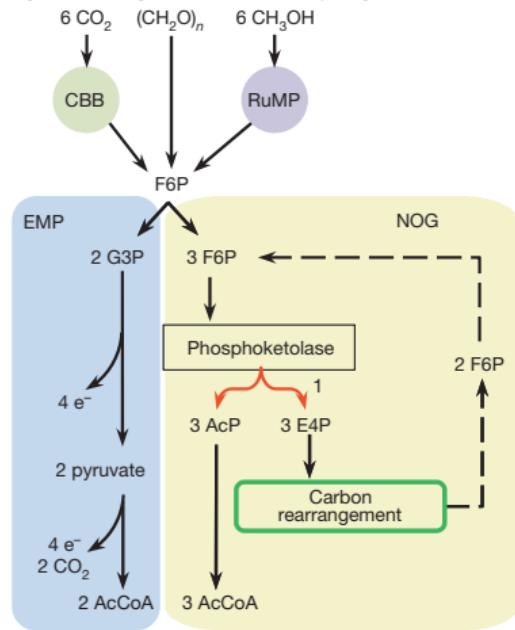
# Multi-Enzymatic Cascade Design

# Central Carbon Metabolism – Alternate Pathways?

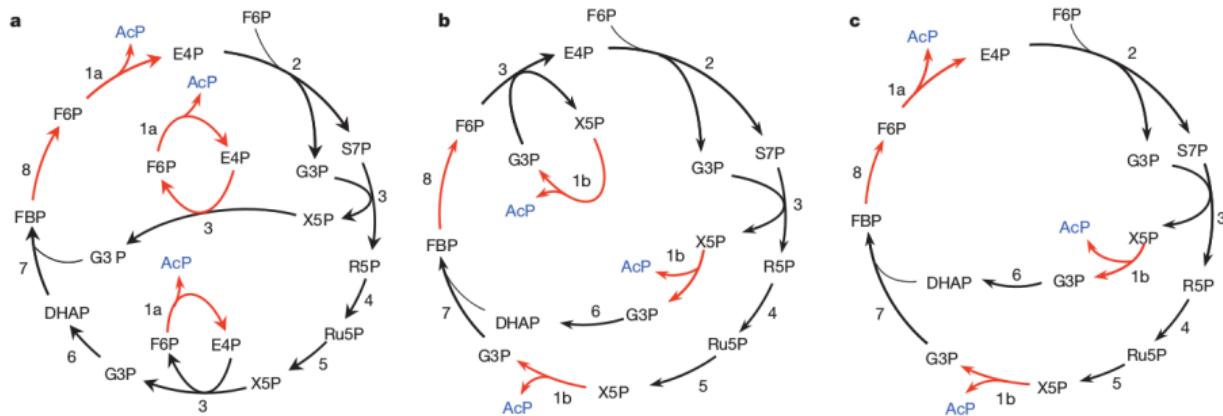
## Synthetic non-oxidative glycolysis enables complete carbon conservation

Igor W. Bogorad<sup>1,2</sup>, Tzu-Shyang Lin<sup>1</sup> & James C. Liao<sup>1,3</sup>

[Nature, 2013]



# Non-Oxidative Glycolysis (all 100% carbon yield)



**Figure 2 |** Three FBP-dependent NOG networks. **a–c**, NOG using Fpk only (a), NOG using Xpk only (b) and NOG using F/Xpk (c). These configurations differ from those shown in Fig. 1 because the Xpk-linked Tkt has been

integrated with carbon rearrangement. The red arrows in **a–c** indicate irreversible reactions that drive the cycle. Enzyme numbers are defined in Fig. 1 legend, except: 1a, Fpk; 1b, Xpk.

These networks are **engineered**.  
Works *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

# Generation of Reaction Network

Expansion strategy: apply rules unless we make too large molecules

Python (using PyMØD):

```
stratBFS = (
    addSubset(water, Pi, AcP, G3P, E4P, moreSugarPhosphates)
    >> rightPredicate[
        lambda d: all(a.vLabelCount("C") <= 8 for a in d.right)
    ](
        repeat(nogRules)
    )
)
dg = dgRuleComp(inputMolecules, stratBFS)
dg.calc()
```

# Enumerating NOG Pathways

## I/O Constraints:

- ▶ 1 F6P as input (the only carbon source)
- ▶ AcP as output (the only carbon sink)
- ▶  $P_i$  and water as input and output (food/waste molecules)

## Python:

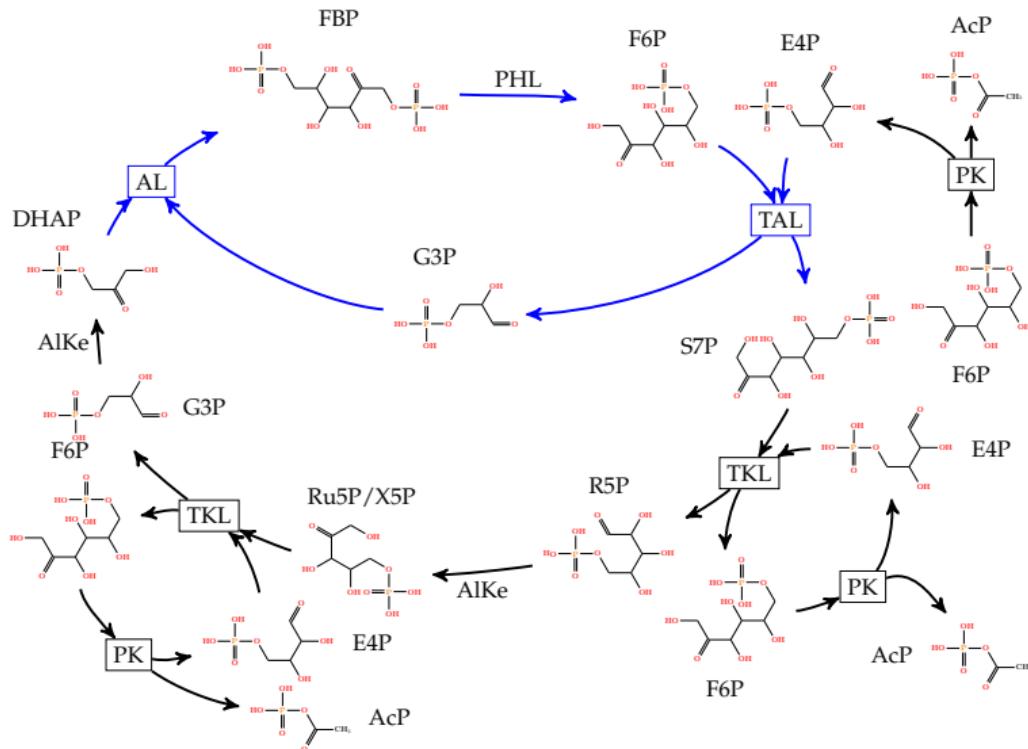
```
flow = dgFlow(dg)
flow.objectiveFunction = edge # implicitly minimised
for a in {Pi, water}:
    flow.addSource(a)
    flow.addSink(a)
flow.addSource(F6P)
flow.addConstraint(inFlow(F6P) == 1)
flow.addSink(AcP)
# enumerate solutions (optimal and optimal+1)
flow.setSolverEnumerateBy(absGap=1)
flow.calc()
```

# Central Carbon Metabolism – Alternate Pathways?

PK Type X, F, S, O	Only FBP				Other Bisphosphates							
	8 Unique React.				7 Unique React.				8 Unique React.			
	Reactions				Reactions				Reactions			
8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	
0, 0, 0, 3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	16	
0, 0, 1, 2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	2	
0, 0, 2, 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	
0, 0, 3, 0	–	–	1	2	–	–	1	2	–	–	9	
0, 1, 0, 2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	4	
0, 1, 1, 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	
0, 1, 2, 0	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	8	2	
0, 2, 0, 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	
0, 2, 1, 0	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	9	–	
0, 3, 0, 0	–	–	2	4 <sub>a</sub>	–	–	2	4	–	–	14	
1, 0, 0, 2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	
1, 0, 1, 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	
1, 0, 2, 0	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	6	2	
1, 1, 0, 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	
1, 1, 1, 0	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	3	–	–	
1, 2, 0, 0	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	10	–	
2, 0, 0, 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	
2, 0, 1, 0	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	7	–	
2, 1, 0, 0	–	2 <sub>c</sub>	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	10	–	
3, 0, 0, 0	–	–	2 <sub>b</sub>	4	–	–	2	4	–	–	12	
											20	

(263 solutions)

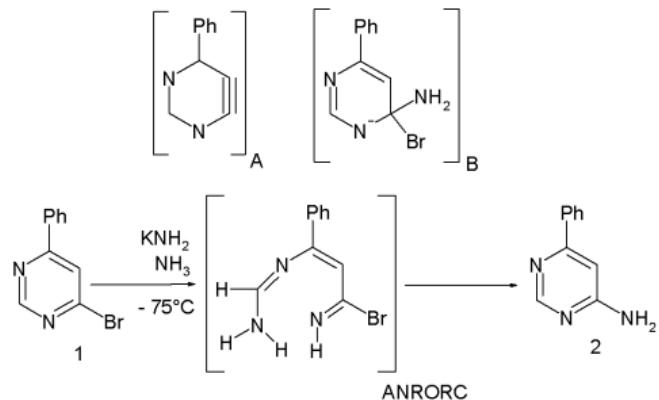
## Example Pathway: 3 FPK, Only FBP, shortest



# Atom Tracing and Hierarchical Decomposition with Cayley Graphs

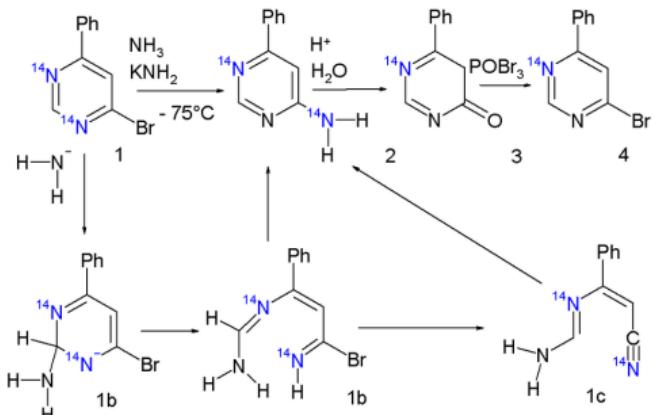
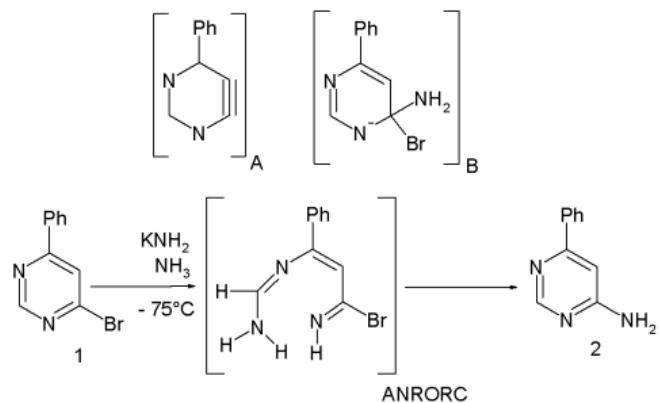
# Atom Tracing and Hierarchical Decomposition with Cayley Graphs

Addition of the Nucleophile, Ring Opening, and Ring Closure (ANRORC mechanism)



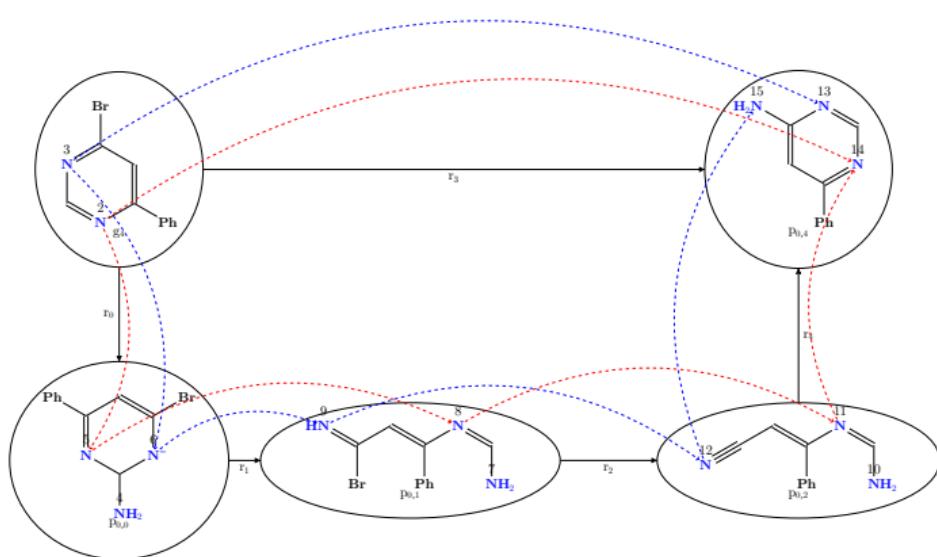
# Atom Tracing and Hierarchical Decomposition with Cayley Graphs

Addition of the Nucleophile, Ring Opening, and Ring Closure (ANRORC mechanism)



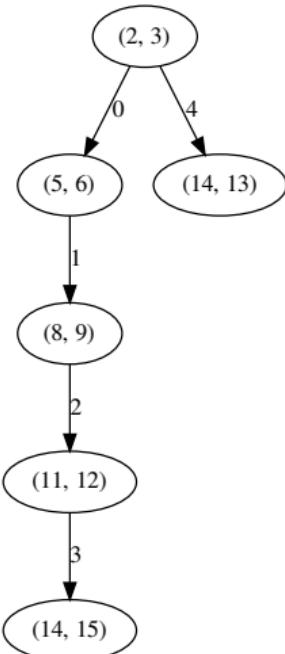
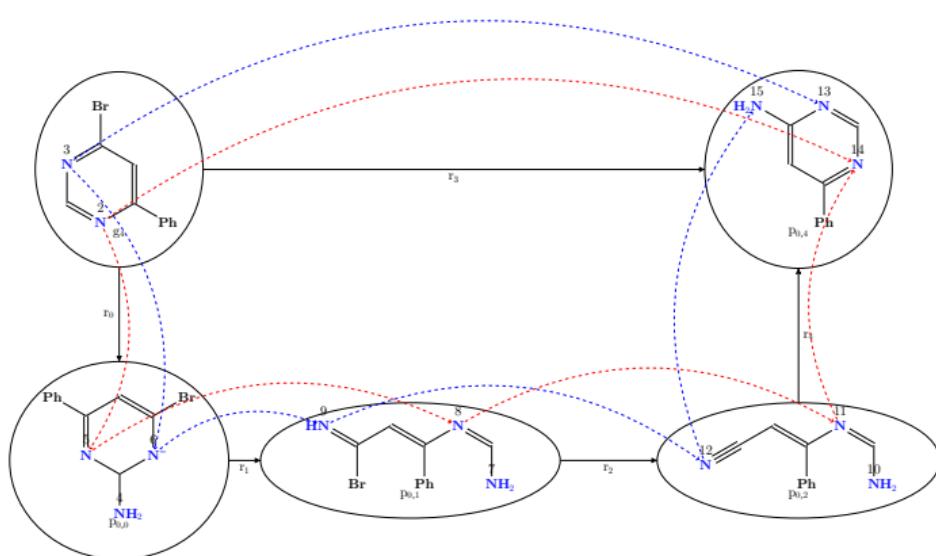
# Atom Tracing: Example ANRORC mechanism

Mechanism alternatives and the (right) Cayley Graph



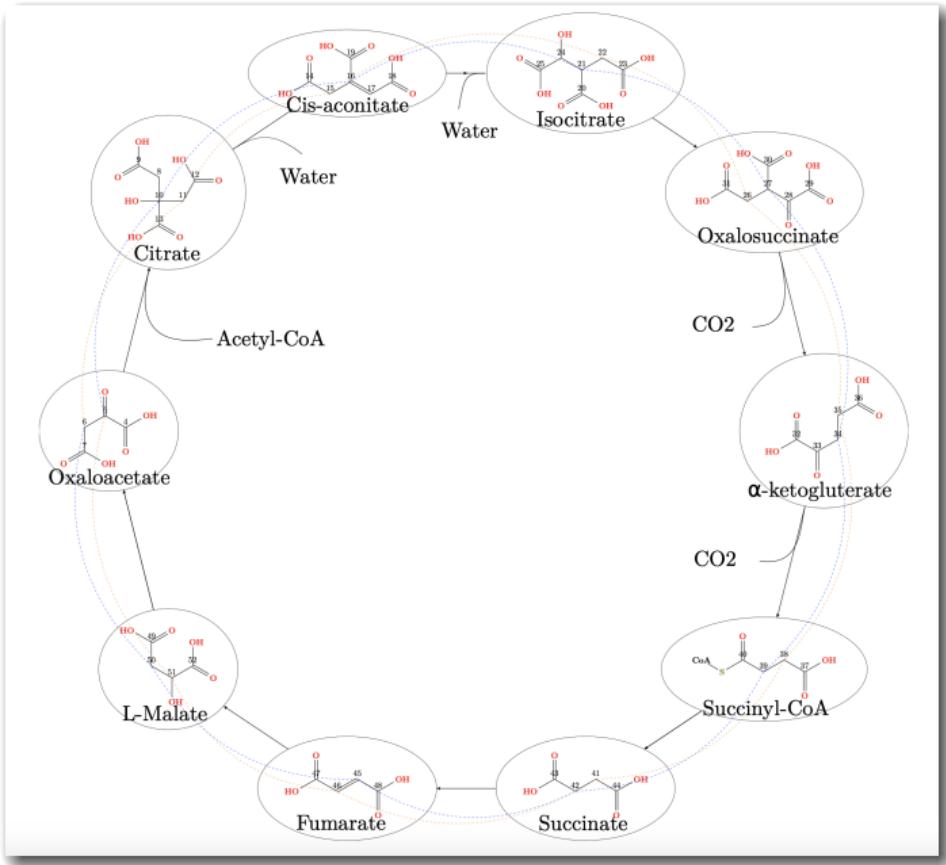
# Atom Tracing: Example ANRORC mechanism

Mechanism alternatives and the (right) Cayley Graph



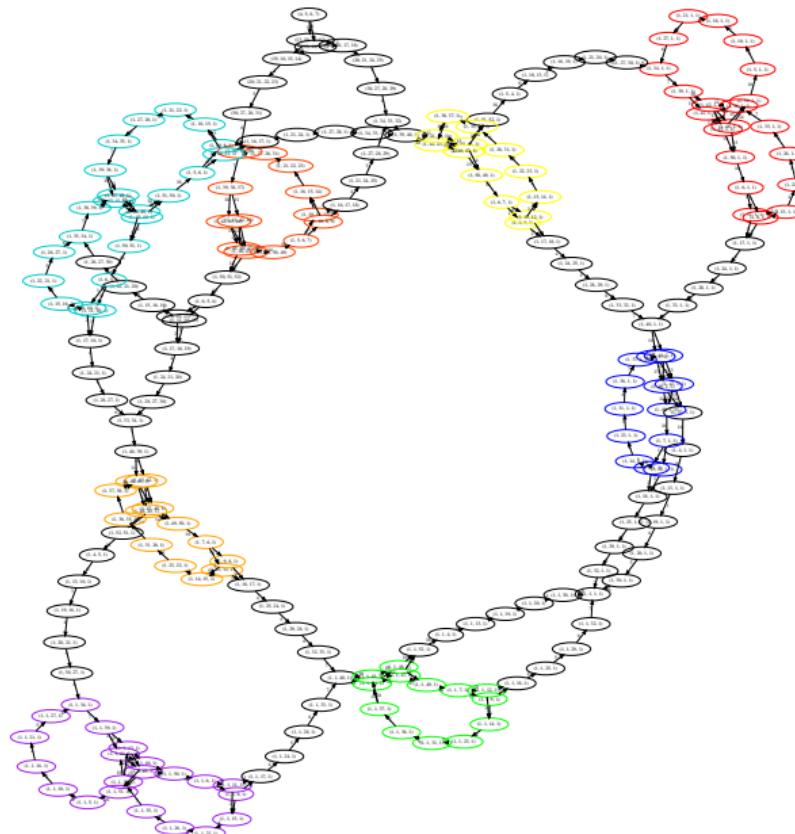
- ▶ Automatic enumeration of distinguishing subgraphs (e.g.  $^{14}\text{NH}_2$ )
- ▶ NMR spectroscopy / mass spectrometry

# Atom Tracing: Example Citric Acid Cycle



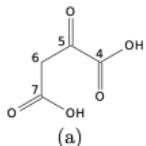
# Atom Tracing: Example Citric Acid Cycle

Cayley graph (of the 4 C atoms of OAA)

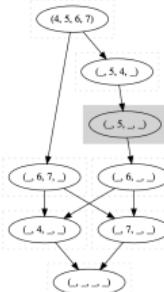


## Atom Tracing: Example TCA Cycle

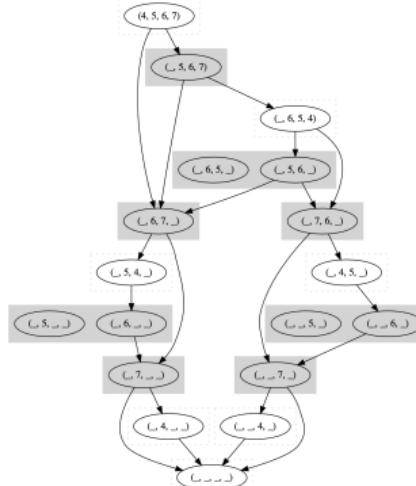
## “Components” of the Cayley graph



6



(b)

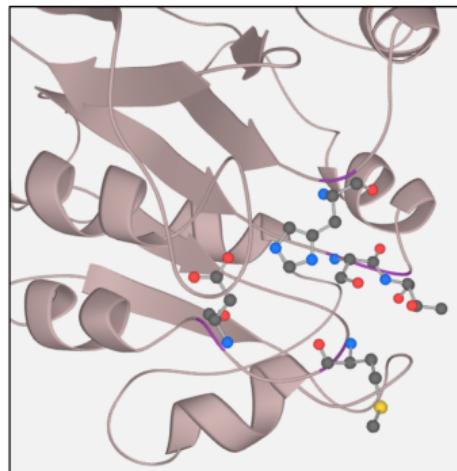
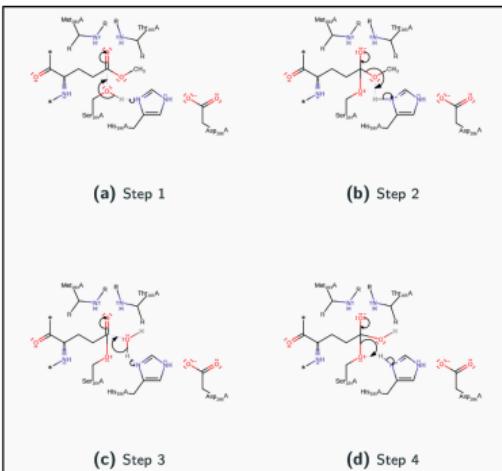
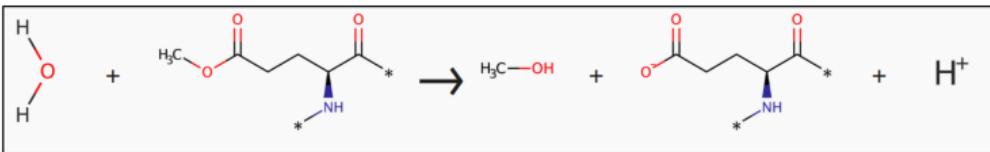
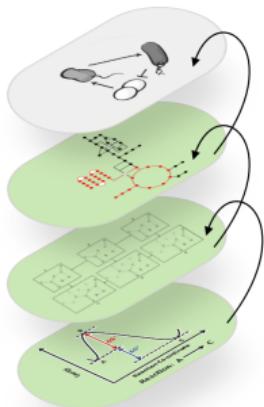


(c)

- ▶ Automated analysis of hierarchical structures
- ▶ Natural formal approach for isotope labelling design  
(ongoing: M/S and NMR spec. prediction)

# Enzyme Mechanisms Analysis and Design

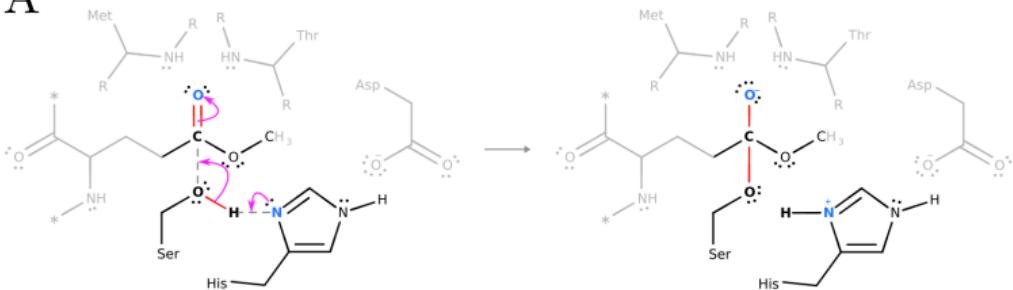
# Enzymatic Mechanisms - Analysis and Design



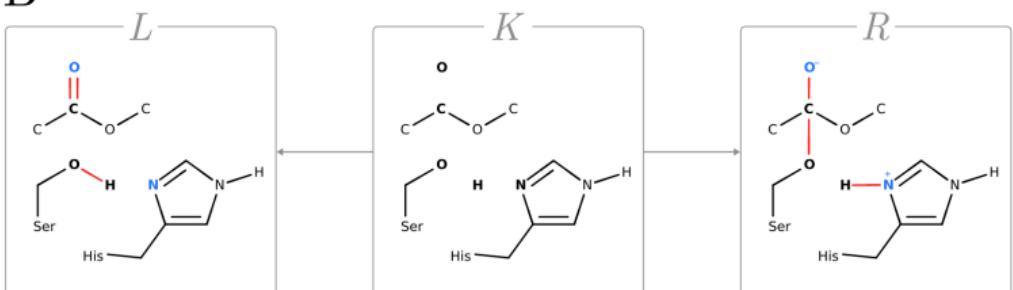
- ▶ Illustrated: protein-glutamate methylesterase (EC3.1.1)
- ▶ Novo Nordisk Foundation Exploratory Synergy Grant  
Harvard Medical School (Fontana), University of Vienna (Flamm), 2020-2022

## First step of protein-glutamate methyltransferase

A



B



# A Proposed New Mechanism

Proposed mechanism for the conversion of choline (i) and sinapoyl-glucose (iv) into glucose (vii) and sinapoyl-choline (xi) (RHEA:12024 entry)

- **Catalytic Mechanism:** a sequence of steps that is cyclical in the participating amino acids and whose traversal converts substrate(s) into product(s)
- Input to theozymes and compuzymes design methods.

