

Carbohydrates

Carbohydrates are substances with the general formula $C_x(H_2O)_y$, and were called carbohydrates because they contained hydrogen and oxygen in the same proportion as in water. However, a number of compounds have been discovered which are carbohydrates by chemical behaviour, but do not conform to the formula $C_x(H_2O)_y$, e.g. 2-deoxyribose, $C_5H_{10}O_4$. It is also important to note that all compounds conforming to the formula $C_x(H_2O)_y$ are not necessarily carbohydrates e.g. formaldehyde, CH_2O .

All carbohydrates are polyhydroxy aldehyde or ketones or substances that yield on hydrolysis

Carbohydrates are divided into two main classes sugar and polysaccharides. Sugars are crystalline substances with a sweet taste and soluble in water. Polysaccharides are more complex than the sugars, their molecular weights being far greater. Most of them are non-crystalline substances which are not sweet, and are insoluble or less soluble in water, than the sugar.

Sugars are subdivided into two major groups:

1. Monosaccharides: These are sugars which can not be hydrolysed into smaller molecules. Their general formula is $C_nH_{2n}O_n$, where n is 2-10, and the most important are the pentoses and hexoses.

2. Oligosaccharides: These yield 2-10 monosaccharide molecules on hydrolysis.

Polysaccharides are carbohydrates which yield a mono-saccharide molecule on hydrolysis. The most widely spread polysaccharides have the general formula $(C_6H_{10}O_5)_x$ e.g. starch, cellulose etc.

Sugars: $(C_6H_{12}O_6)$

The aldohexoses are ~~another~~ important group of monosaccharides, and their structure has been elucidated as follows:

i. Analysis and MW determinations show the molecular formula of the aldohexoses is $C_6H_{12}O_6$

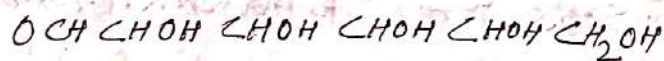
ii. When treated with AC_2O , aldohexoses form the penta-acetate. This indicates the presence of five hydroxyl groups.

iii. Aldohexoses form an oxime when treated with hydroxylamine, and therefore contain a carbonyl group.

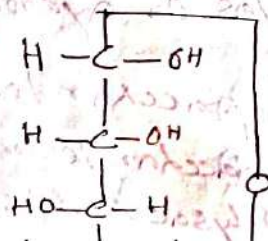
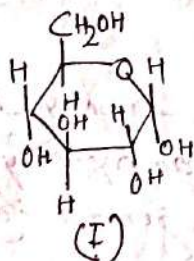
iv. When an aldohexose is oxidised with Br_2 /water, a pentahydroxy-acid of formula $C_6H_{12}O_7$ is obtained. This indicates that the carbonyl group is present in an aldehydic group.

v. When reduced with conc. HI and red P at $100^\circ C$ aldohexoses give a mixture of 2-iodohexane and n-hexane. This indicates that the six carbon atoms in an aldohexose are in straight chain.

The foregoing reactions show that the structure of aldohexoses is

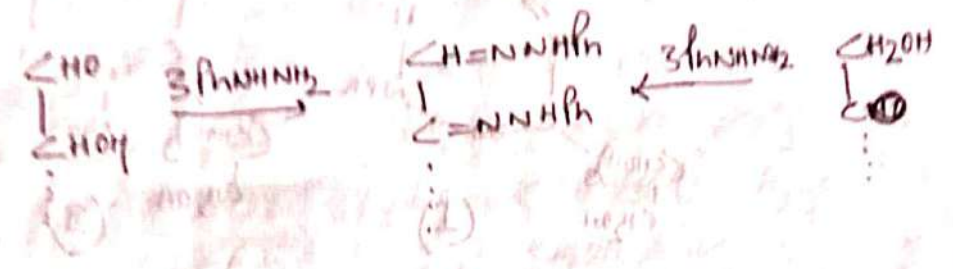


Although the foregoing evidence indicates an open-chain structure, there is further evidence which shows that the sugars actually exist as six-membered rings in the solid state. The ring structure is hexagonal (I), but it is convenient to use planar formula (II)

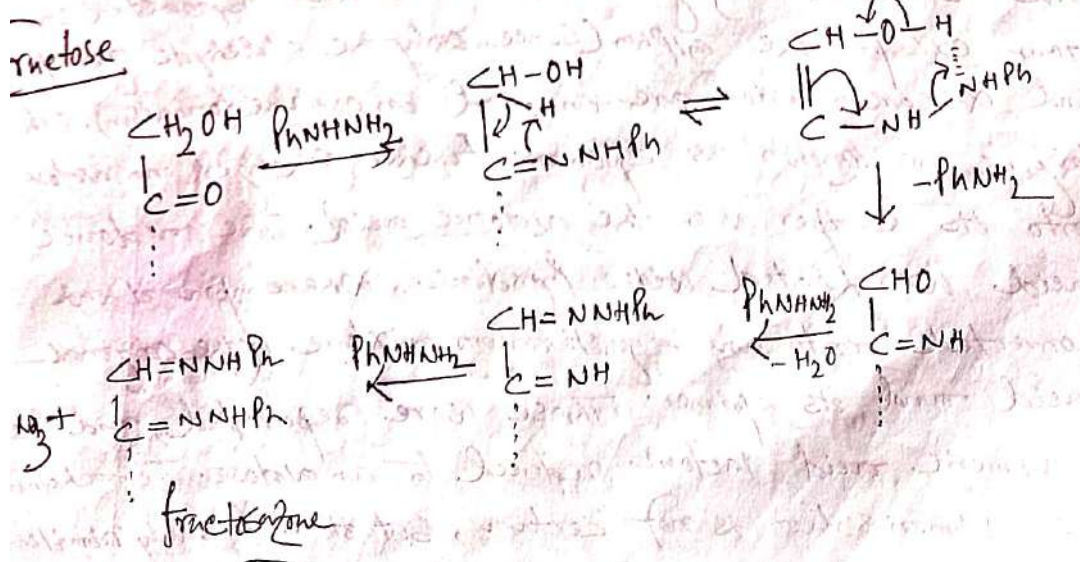
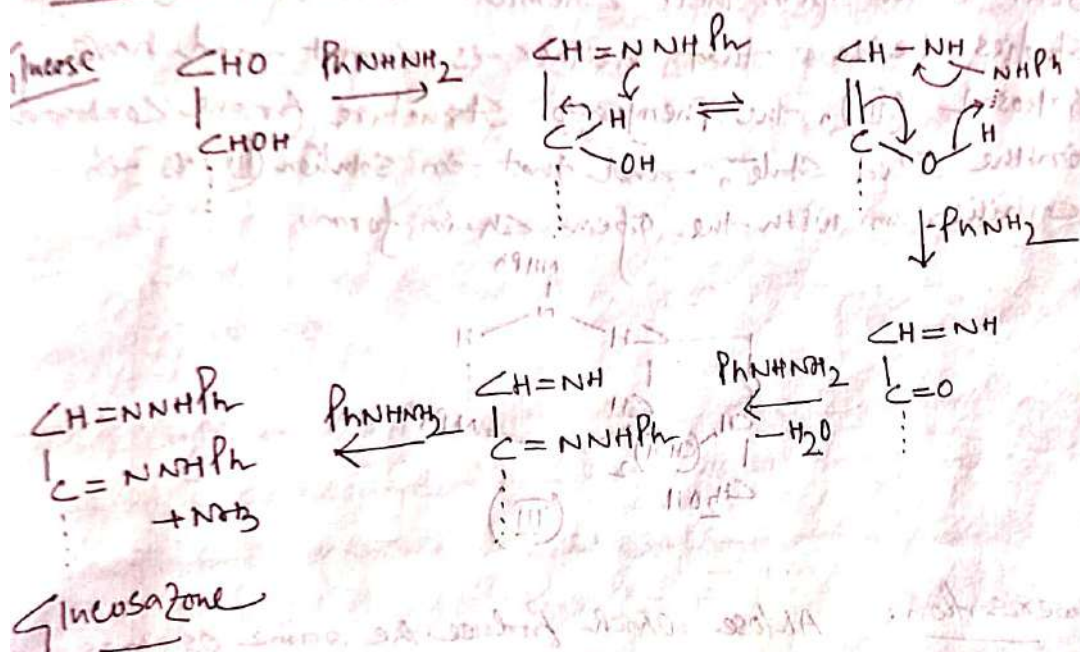


Reaction of glucose and fructose with phenylhydrazine:

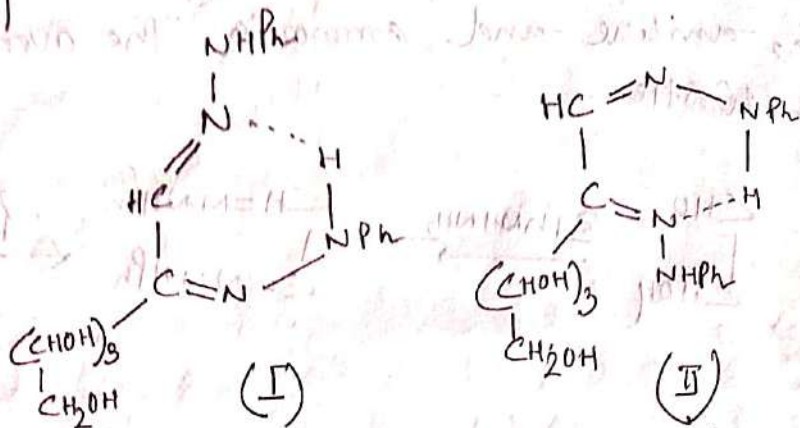
(1) Fischer showed that both aldose and ketose react with excess of phenylhydrazine to form osazones, aniline and ammonia. The overall equation may be written:



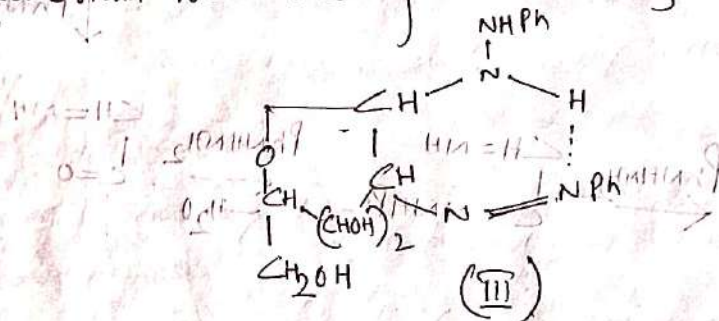
Mechanism:



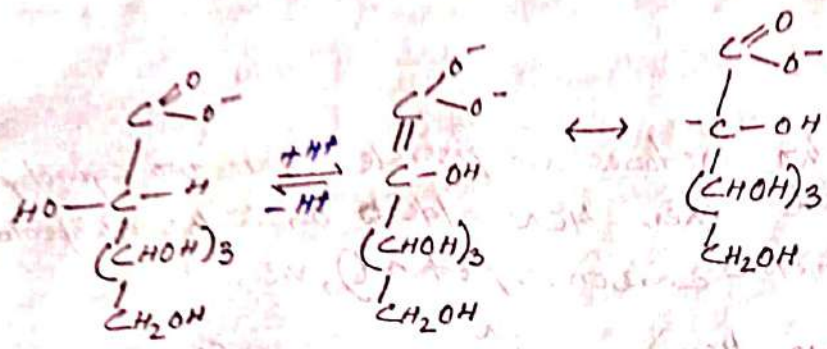
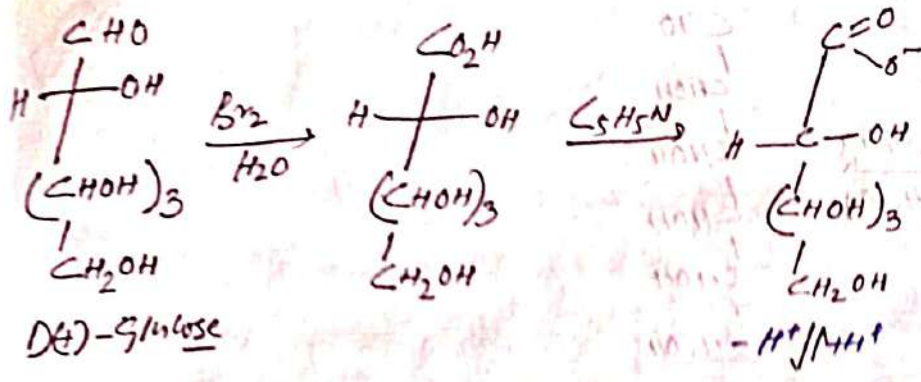
The failure to undergo further reaction has been explained by stabilisation of the osazone by chelation, i.e. the osazones have ring structures. Two alternatives (I) and (II) were proposed.



Meyer believed that (I) was the correct structure, but Blair et al. from their chemical and i.r. and U.V. studies, believe that neither is correct and have proposed (III), the phenylazo structure for the compound in the solid state, and that in solution (II) is in equilibrium with the open chain form.

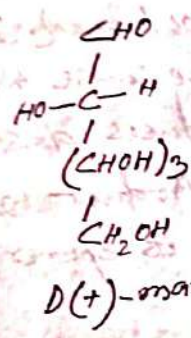


Epimerisation: Aldose which produce the same osazones must have identical configurations on all their asymmetric carbon atoms except the alpha (since only the aldehyde group and α -carbon atom are involved in osazone formation). Such sugars are known as epimers. Fischer changed an aldose into its epimer via the aldonic acid. The aldonic acid was treated with pyridine, where upon it was converted into an equilibrium mixture of the original acid and its epimer. These were reprecipitated, and the epimeric acid lactone reduced to an aldose. The mechanism of epimerisation is not certain, but it is probably similar to racemisation, e.g. epimerisation of glucose into mannose.



↓ i. HCl
ii. methanol

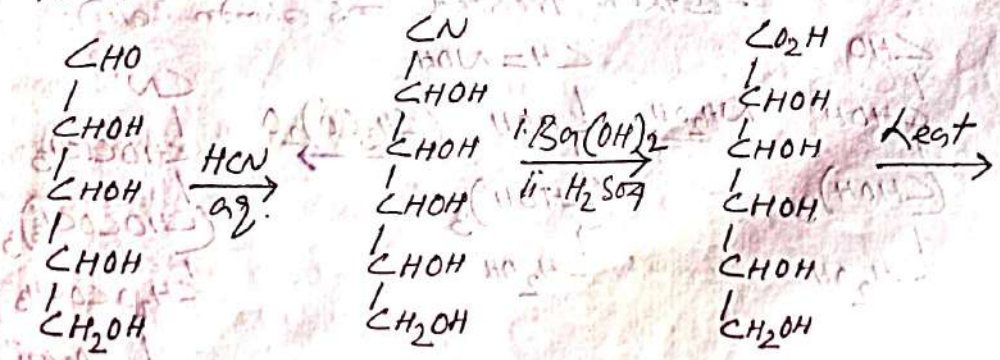
Show how D-glucose is converted to D-mannose.

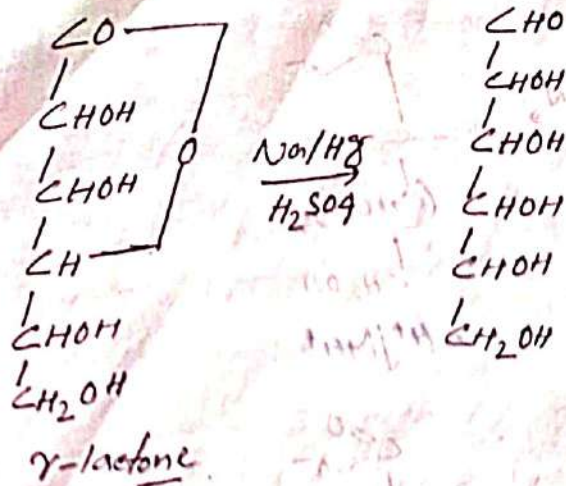


This change of configuration of one asymmetric carbon atom in a compound containing two or more asymmetric carbon atoms is known as epimerisation.

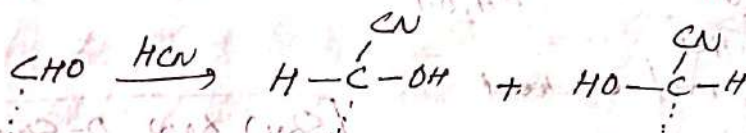
* Method of ascending the sugar series: (Chain lengthening)

An aldose may be converted into its next higher aldose, e.g. an aldopentose into an aldohexose, by means of the Kiliani reaction.





Theoretically, two lactones are possible, since two cyanohydrins may be formed when HCN adds to the aldehyde. (A new asymmetric carbon is produced), viz.,

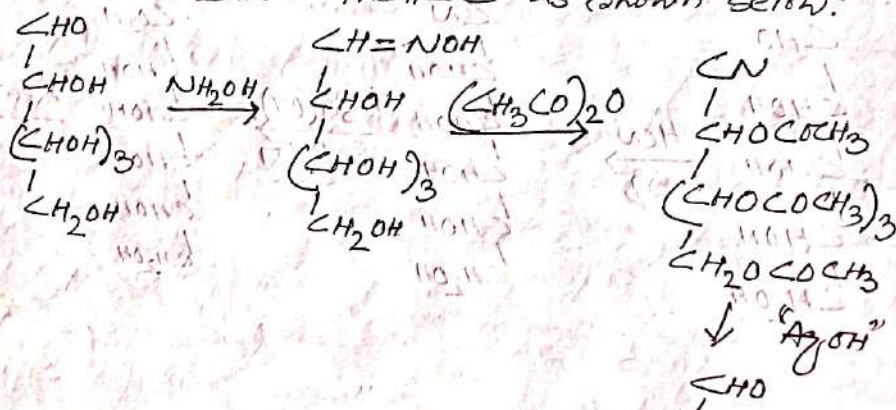


Thus two epimeric aldohexoses should be obtained. In practice, one cyanohydrin predominates because the asymmetry present in the molecule produces diastereotacticity at the double bond. Hence the final product will be mainly one aldohexose, and very little of its epimer.

* Method of descending the Sugar Series (Chain Shortening):

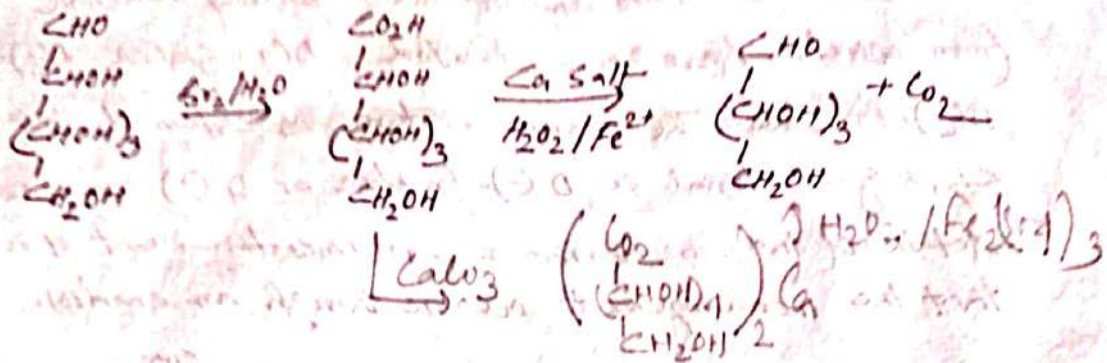
There are various methods of converting a sugar into the next lower sugar. All of these methods start with the aldose and hence, in order to convert a ketose into the lower aldose it is first necessary to transform it into aldose.

Wohl's method: Wohl's method starts with aldose oxime, which is then treated as shown below:



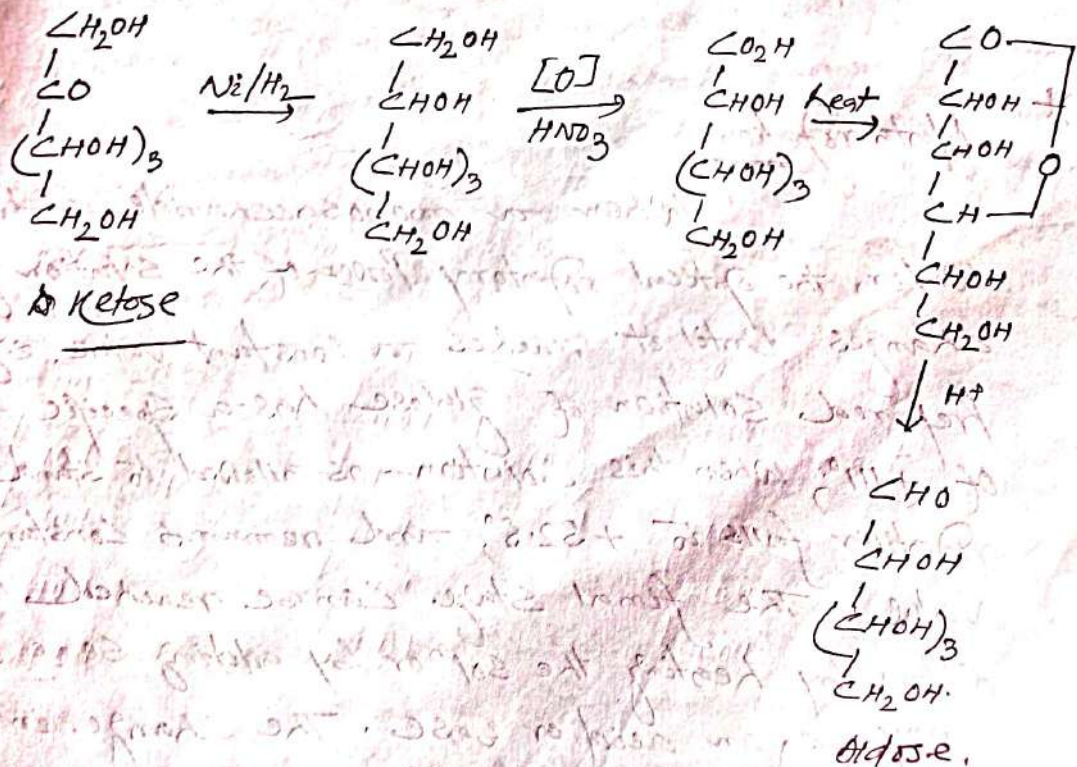
Ruff's method:

The aldose is oxidised (by bromine water) to the corresponding aldonic acid; when the calcium salt of this acid is treated with Fenton's reagent it is converted into the lower aldose.



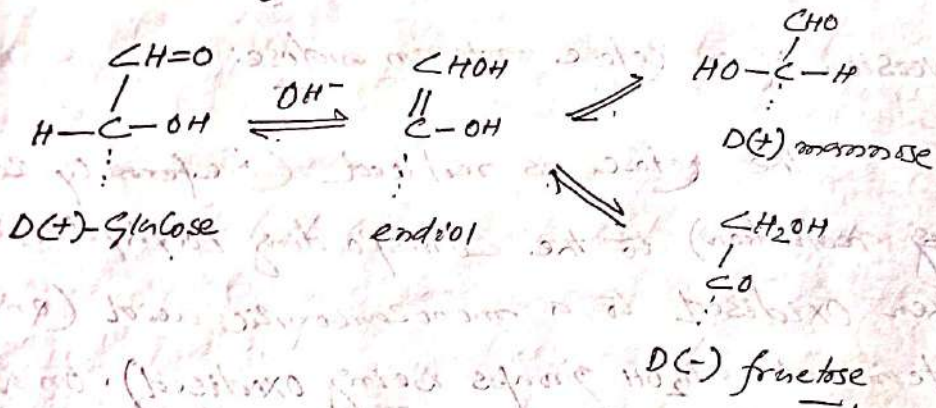
Conversion of a ketose into an aldose:

The ketose is reduced (preferably by catalytic ~~hydrogen~~ reduction) to the corresponding polyhydric alcohol, which is then oxidised to a monocarboxylic acid (only one of the terminal CH_2OH groups being oxidised). On warming the acid is converted into the γ -lactone which, on reduction with sodium amalgam in faintly acid solution, is converted into the aldose.



*

Lobry de Bruyn-van Ekenstein rearrangement: When ²⁰ with concentrated alkali, sugars first turn yellow, then brown and finally resinify. In the presence of dilute alkali or amines, sugars undergo rearrangements; e.g. a dilute solution of glucose, in the presence of alkali is converted into an almost optically inactive solⁿ from which have been isolated D(+)-glucose, D(+)-fructose. The same mixture is obtained if the starting material is D(-)-fructose or D(+)-maltose. Details of the mechanism is uncertain, but it is clear that the rearrangement occurs through an enediol.

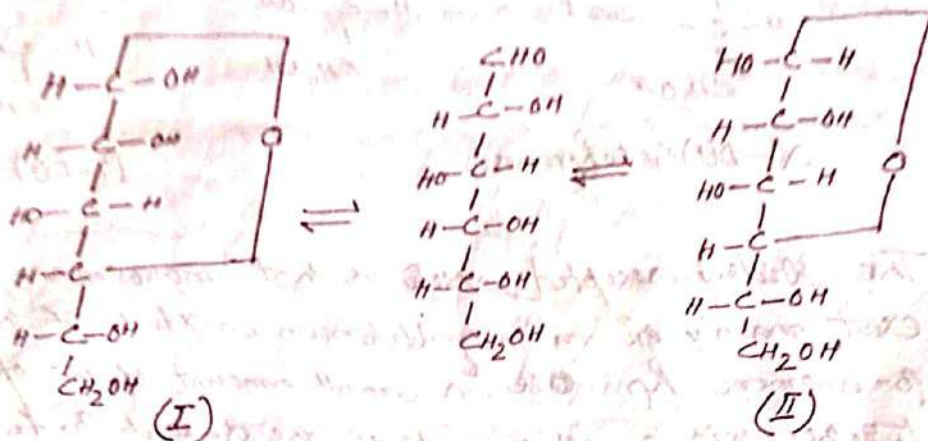


Since the rearrangement takes place in alkaline media it is best to carry out reactions with the sugars in neutral or acid media.

* Mutarotation:

When a monosaccharide is dissolved in water, the optical rotatory power of the solution gradually changes until it reaches a constant value, e.g. a freshly prepared solution of glucose has a specific rotation of $+111^\circ$; when this solution is allowed to stand, the specific rotation falls to $+52.5^\circ$, and remains constant at this value. The final stage can be reached more rapidly either by heating the solⁿ or by adding some catalyst which may be an acid or base. The change in value of specific rotation is called mutarotation.

To account for mutarotation, Tollens suggested an oxide ring structure for D(+)-glucose, whereby two forms would be produced since, in the formation of the ring, another asymmetric carbon atom is produced. Tollens assumed that a five-membered ring was produced (I) and (II). The difficulty of this suggestion was that there is no experimental evidence for the existence of these two forms.



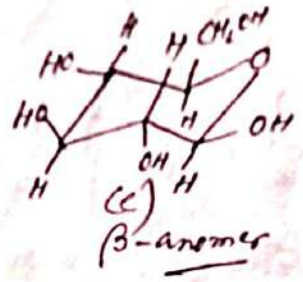
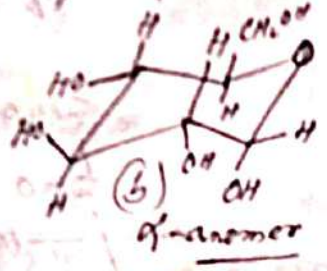
~~Tollens~~ Tollens, however, isolated two isomeric forms of D(+)-glucose, thus apparently verifying Tollens' supposition. The two forms are called α - and β -D(+)-glucofuranose; (I) is the α -form and (II) the β .

Ring formation of a sugar is really hemiacetal formation, one alcohol group of the sugar forming a hemiacetal with the aldehyde group of same molecule, thus producing a ring structure. This equilibrium between the open and ring forms is an example of ring-chain tautomerism. The carbon atom in the chain tend to form a loop, and this results in the OH on C₄ and C₅ being very close to the CHO group. With ketoses, it is the OH group on C₅ or C₆ that is close to the CO group. In both aldoses and ketoses, therefore the geometry of the molecule is very favourable for hemiacetal formation.

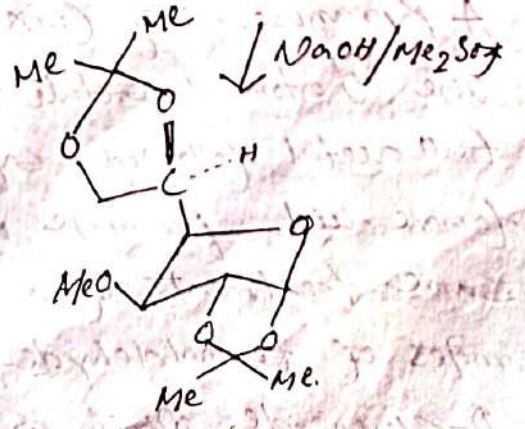
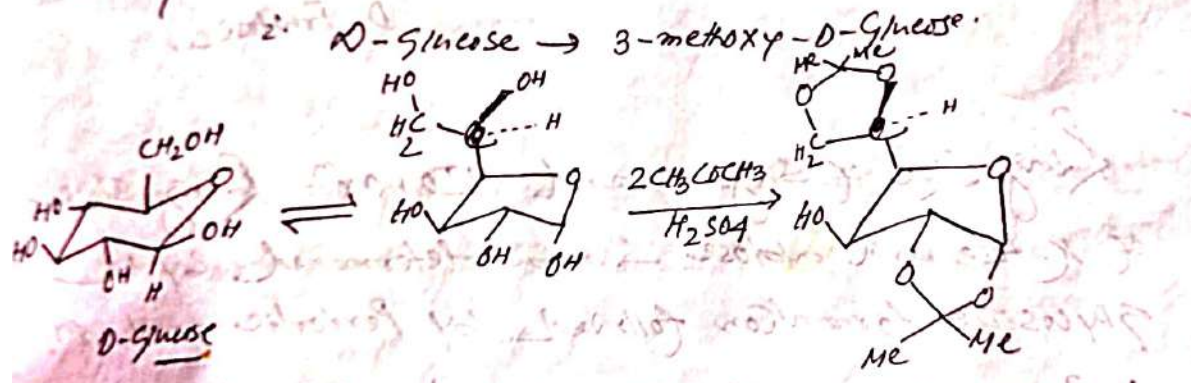
Later work by Haworth, Hirst and their co-workers has shown that glucose (and other sugar) exist, not as a five-membered ring but as a six-membered ring, the two forms being α - and β -D(+)-glucopyranose. Such

The cyclic structure of the sugars accounts for the following facts
 i. the existence of two isomers, e.g. α - and β -glucose.
 ii. mutarotation
 iii. Glucose and other aldoses do not give certain characteristic reactions of aldehyde e.g. Schiff's reaction, do not form a bisulphite.

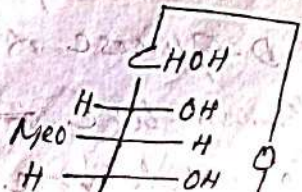
Leaves has shown that the conformation of α -D-glucopyranose is (b) and that of the β -anomer is (c). Both have the chair form, but in the former the hydroxyl is axial and in the latter equatorial.



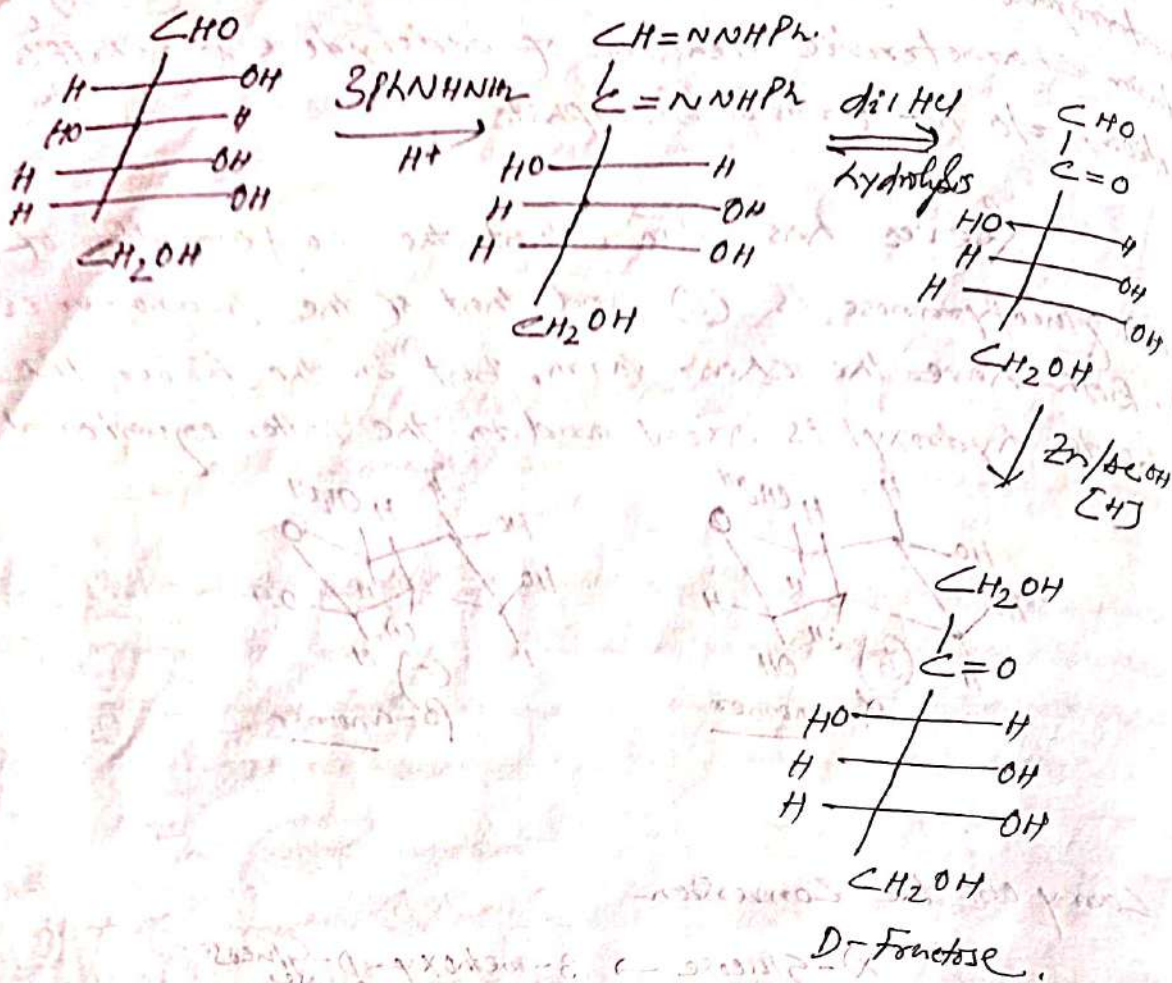
* Carry out the conversion



$\text{HCl}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$
hydrolysis - $2 \text{Me}_2\text{CO}$

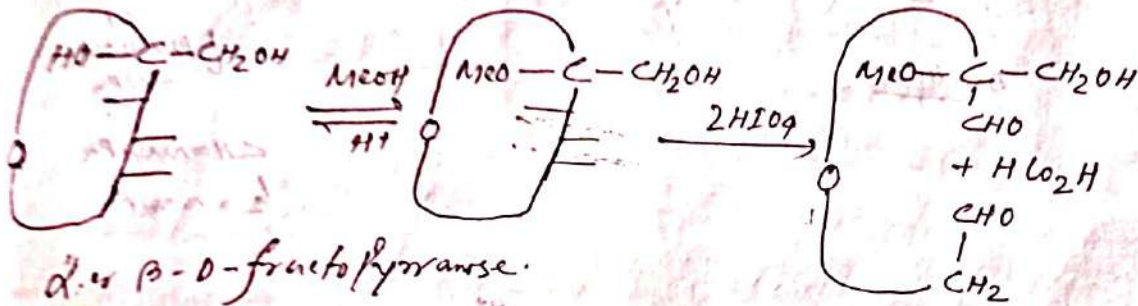
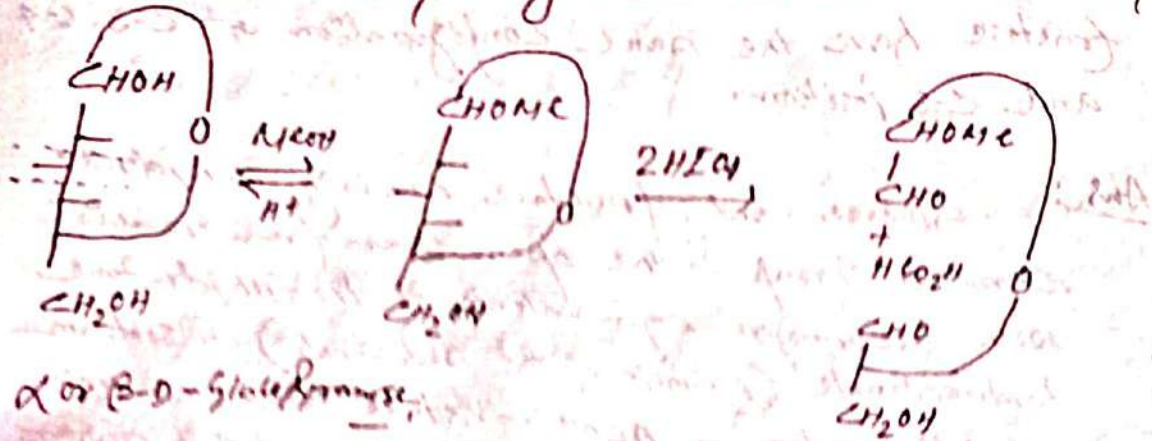


* Convert D-glucose to D-fructose.



* Ring Size of Sugars and $\text{HIO}_4 \text{Ox}^m$. Ring size of ketose and aldose can be determined by the glycoside formation followed by periodic acid-ox^m. A pyranose ring, (six membered; 5C atoms and one O atom constitute the ring) on conversion to a full acetal followed by $\text{HIO}_4 \text{Ox}^m$ gives one mole formic acid per mole of the ^{keto or} aldo pyranose, while the same treatment of a keto or aldofuranose gives a moles of formaldehyde per mole of the substrate. Methyl D-glucoside, which is formed by the reaction of methyl alcohol and D-glucose under reflux condition, gives one mole of formic acid per mole of D-glucose by $\text{HIO}_4 \text{Ox}^m$. Therefore, D-glucose has a pyranose ring. If the ring were a furan-like, then there would have been one mole of formaldehyde instead of formic acid.

In the permanganate way ring size can also be determined.

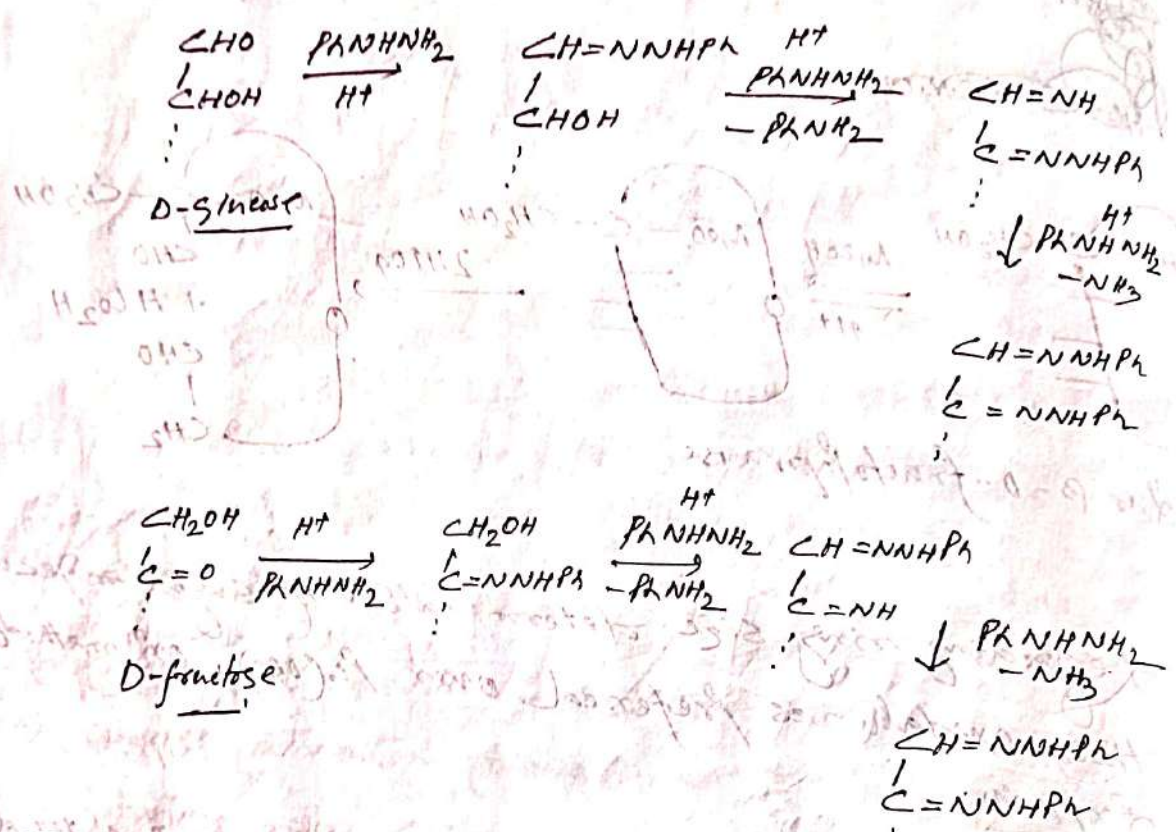


* Regarding ring size determination of sugar molecules, HIO_4 oxidation is preferred over $Pb(OAc)_4$ oxidation method.
 Explanation.

Ans → An aqueous solⁿ of HIO_4 or a solⁿ of lead tetraacetate in organic solvent serves as remarkably selective reagents for the cleavage of C-C bond of 1,2-diols. Compounds insoluble in water are cleaved with lead tetraacetate in an organic solvent more readily. Sugars being polyhydroxy carbonyl compounds or their condensation product, generally dissolves more readily in water rather than in an organic solvent. So to cleave the C-C bond of vicinal diols of sugar during ring size determination, an aqueous solⁿ of HIO_4 was ^{generally used} added to an aqueous solⁿ sugar for facile repⁿ.

* How would you prove that D(+)-Glucose and D(-)-Fructose have the same configuration at C-3, C-4 and C-5 position.

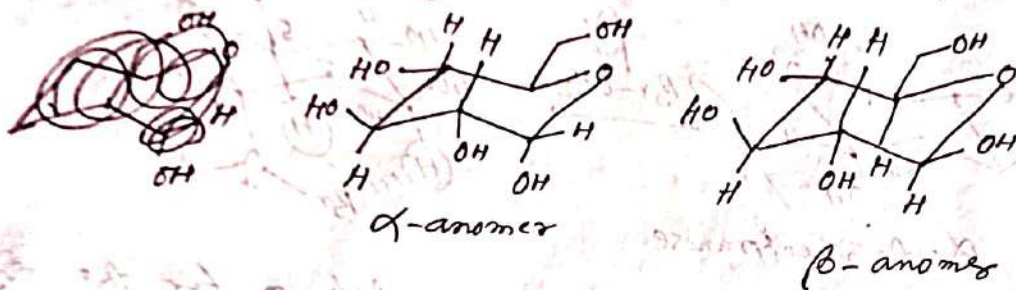
Ans: Glucose and fructose having α -hydroxy carbonyl group in the open chain form react with free and/or equivalents of phenylhydrazine hydrochloride (permute of the substrate) in sodium-acetate/water or AcOH mixture at about 100°C to form dihydrazone derivatives of reducing sugars called osazones.



In this rxn only the carbonyl group and α -hydroxy group take part. The other groups and atom do not get affected through this rxn. Therefore, C-2 epimeric reducing aldoses and C-2 isomeric ketoses having differences in carbonyl group and in configuration of the α -C and no other difference in constitution or in configuration of other chiral carbon will give the same osazone. Since D(+)-glucose and D(-)-fructose give the same osazone, it can be concluded that they have same configuration at C-3, C-4 and C-5 position.

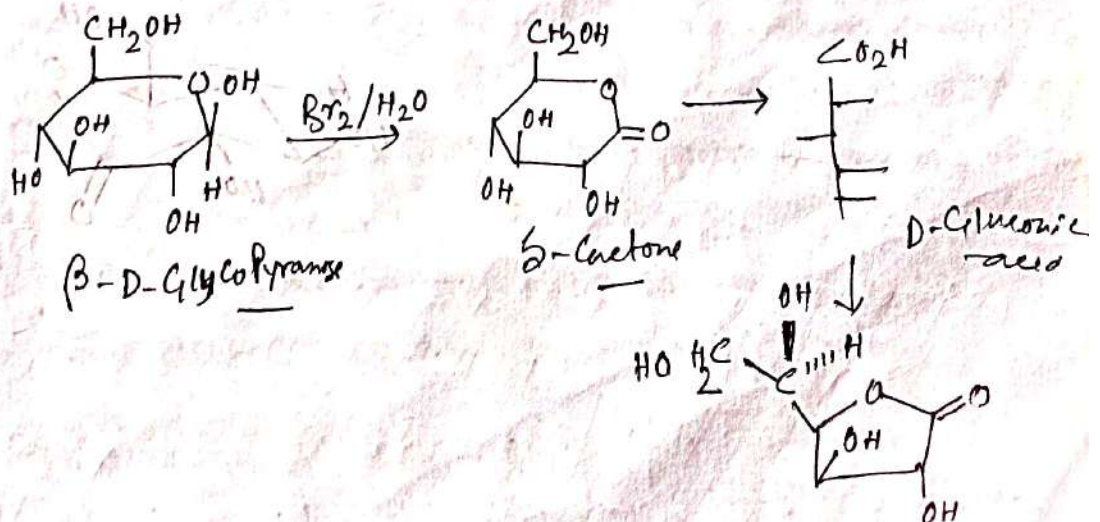
Define an anomer with a suitable example?

An anomer is a type of geometric variation found in certain atoms in carbohydrate molecules. An anomer is an epimer at the hemiacetal/acetal carbon in a cyclic saccharide, an atom called the anomeric carbon. The anomeric carbon is the carbon derived from the carbonyl carbon of the open chain form of the carbohydrate molecule. Anomerization is the process of conversion of one anomer to the other. As is typical for stereoisomeric compounds, different anomers have different physical properties melting points and specific rotations.

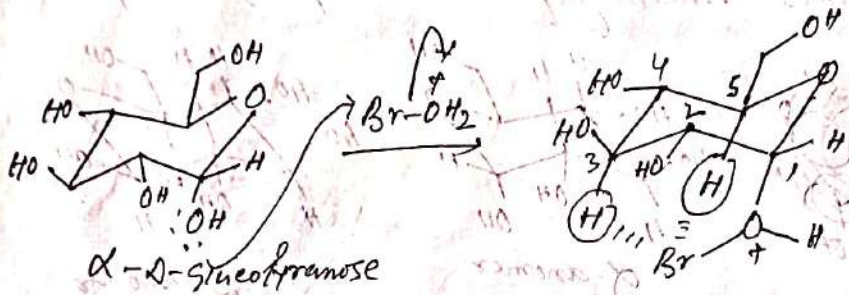
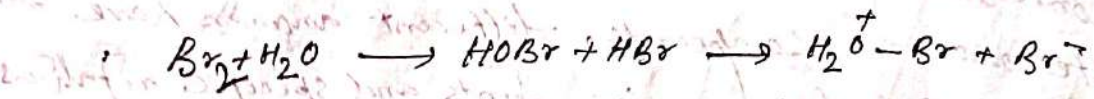


β -anomer of D-Glucopyranoside undergoes oxidation with Br_2-H_2O at faster rate than that of α -anomer.

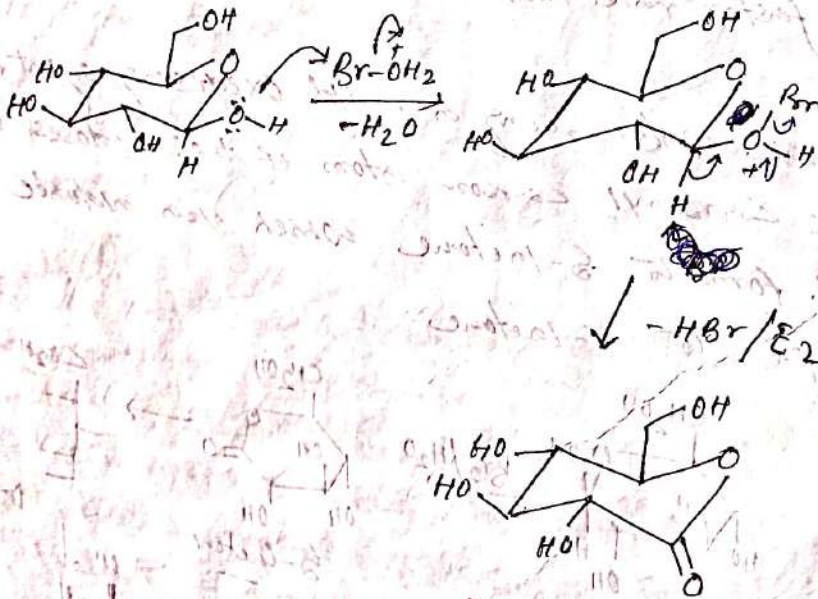
Bromine water being a mild oxidising agent, it oxidises the carbonyl carbon atom of the aldoses in the hemiacetal form to β -lactone which via aldonic acid is changed to α -lactone.



The stereo electronic requirement for an S_N2 reaction is the anti-periplanar arrangement of the two leaving groups. In the case of β -D-glucose the stereo electronic condition for the S_N2 reaction involving C_1-H and $O-Br$ is fulfilled. H of C_1 and Br of $O-Br$ are the two leaving groups. In the case of α -D-glucose this stereo electronic condition does not exist because of the 1,3-diaxial interaction involving C_1-O-Br/C_3-H and C_1-O-Br/C_5-H as shown below:

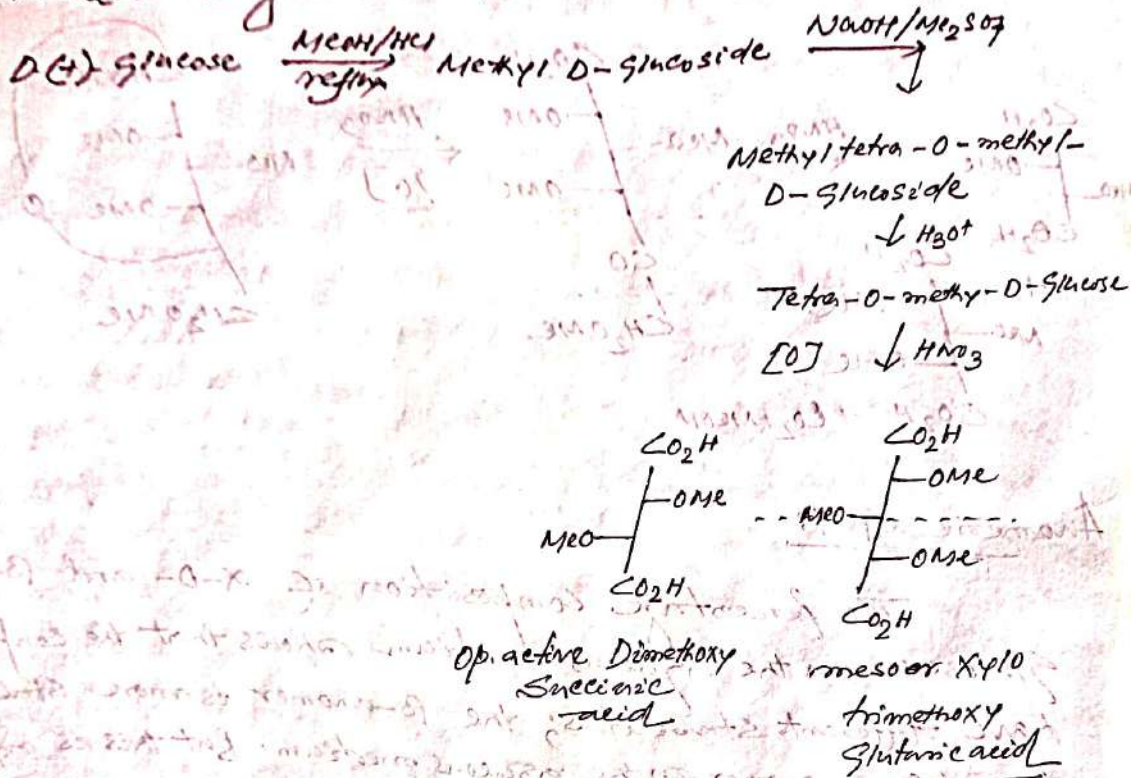


Since the stereo electronic condition for the S_N2 reaction is fulfilled in β -anomer it undergoes bromine-water oxidation ~~200~~ 250 times faster than α -anomer.



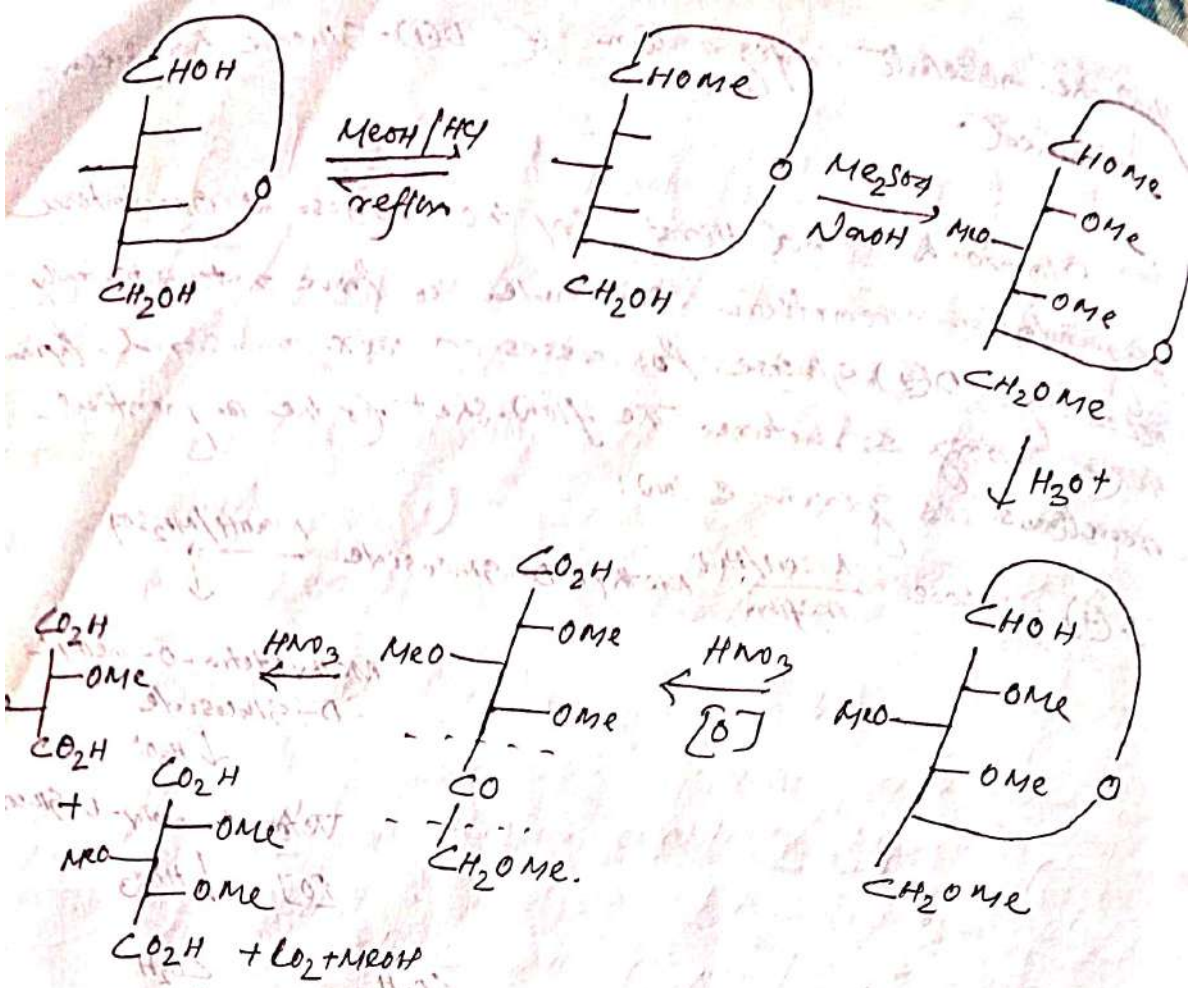
* How the absolute configuration of D(+)-glucose has been established?

Ans: Haworth and Hirst by the classical oxidative degradation reaction were able to prove that naturally occurring D(+)-glucose possesses a six-membered pyranose ring structure. The flow-sheet for the sequential reactions is given below:



Since meso or xylotrimethoxyglutaric acid is obtained as one of the products C-2 and C-4 must have the same configuration and C-3 may have the same or opposite configuration with respect to C-2 and C-4. Again if C-2, C-3 and C-4 had been the same configuration, the other product of oxidative degradation of tetra-O-methyl-D-glucopyranoside would have been meso-dimethoxy succinic acid. Since the product is optically active, we could easily say that C-2 and C-4 have one and the same configuration and C-3 has a configuration ~~not~~ opposite to that of C-2 and C-4.

Haworth and Hirst from the above observation correctly predicts the absolute configuration of D(+)-glucose.

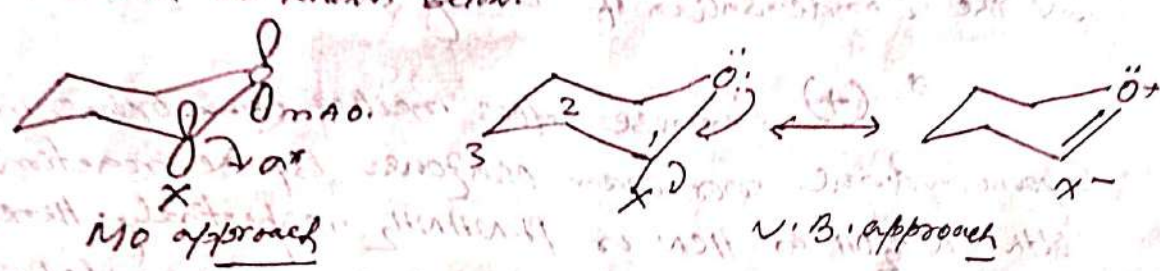


Anomeric effect:

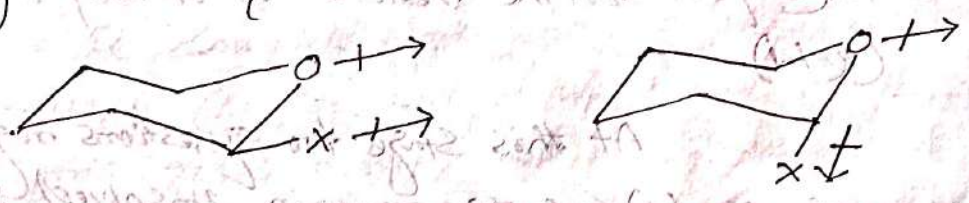
The percentage composition of α -D- and β -D-glucoses in the aqueous medium shows that the conformations have different stabilities; the β -anomer is more stable than the α -anomer in the aqueous medium. But this is not the fact for all cases. There are a large number of examples in the carbohydrate chemistry where pyranose sugars with a strong electronegative substituent, such as halogens or NO_2 etc. at C_1 are more often more stable when the substituent has an axial orientation rather than equatorial one though the axial orientation of $\text{C}_1\text{-OH}$ involves 1,3-diaxial strain. The phenomenon of axial preference for an electronegative substituent at the anomeric C_1 of a pyranose derivative in solution is known as anomeric effect.

No fully convincing explanation for the anomeric effect has yet been obtained. It has been found that there is always a non-bonding A.O with electron pair and the A.O is anti-periplanar to the polar bond in compounds exhibiting anomeric effect.

Called a stereoelectronic effect. The major contribution to the ~~stereoelectronic~~ stereoelectronic factor of the anomeric effect comes from the interaction of the occupied p orbital of the ring O atom with the antibonding sigma (σ^*) orbital of the $C-X$ bond. (i.e. $n \rightarrow \sigma^*$ interaction; MO theory). According to the V.B. theory, it is a case of coupling effect of resonance, called no-bond resonance, involving the lone pair of es of the ring O atom and the axial $C-X$ bond as shown below:



The fact that the anomeric effect increases with the decreasing dielectric constant of the solvent tells us that the dipole-dipole interaction also contributes to the anomeric effect. The dipoles of the ring O and $C-X$ bond in the equatorial form being parallel, the interaction is very strong and the equatorial form loses stability while in the axial isomer, the two dipoles being divergent, the dipole-dipole interaction is weak and the axial form gets stability.



- Ex: i. β -D-Glucopyranose is more stable than β -D-Galactopyranose - Explain
- ii. The axial anomer of (D) glucose pentaacetate is more stable than the equatorial anomer. Why?

Sucrose:

* ~~D~~ Molecular Formula $\rightarrow C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$

* On dilute acid hydrolysis or enzymatic hydrolysis of one molecule of (+) sucrose, one molecule of D(+)-glucose and one molecule ~~(D)~~ D(-) fructose are obtained. So (+) sucrose is a disaccharide formed by the condensation of D(+)-glucose and D(-) fructose.

* (+) Sucrose does neither form oxime nor cyanohydrine nor even osazone by the reaction with NH_2OH or HCN or $PhNHNH_2$ respectively. Hence in the aqueous medium it has no free aldehyde and α -keto carbonyl groups. It does not also mutarolyse in any medium. Therefore, it does not form either a hemiacetal nor a hemiketal. If it were so, there would have been mutarolysis, formation of oxime, cyanohydrine and osazone and the exhibition of reducing properties involving Fehling's reagent, Tollen's reagent etc. Thus we conclude that the ~~anomeric~~ ^{anomeric} OH of D-glucose and that of D-fructose take part in the reaction to develop the full acetal (ketal).

At this stage two questions regarding the structure of (+) sucrose remain unsolved: (1) What is the nature of the linkage? Is that α, α or α, β or β, α or β, β .

(2) What are the size of the D-glucose ring and the D-fructose ring.

The answer to the first question is as follows: Maltase, an enzyme, which hydrolyses α -linkage also hydrolyses (+) sucrose. Since enzymes are optically active highly stereospecific reagents and

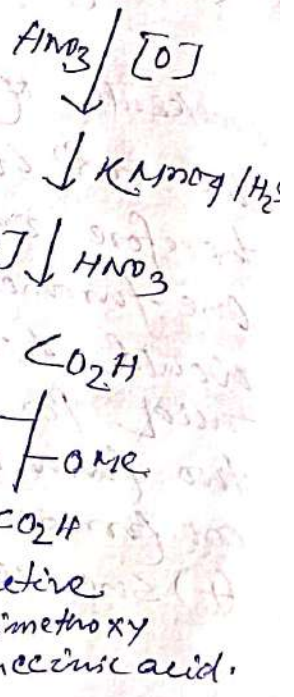
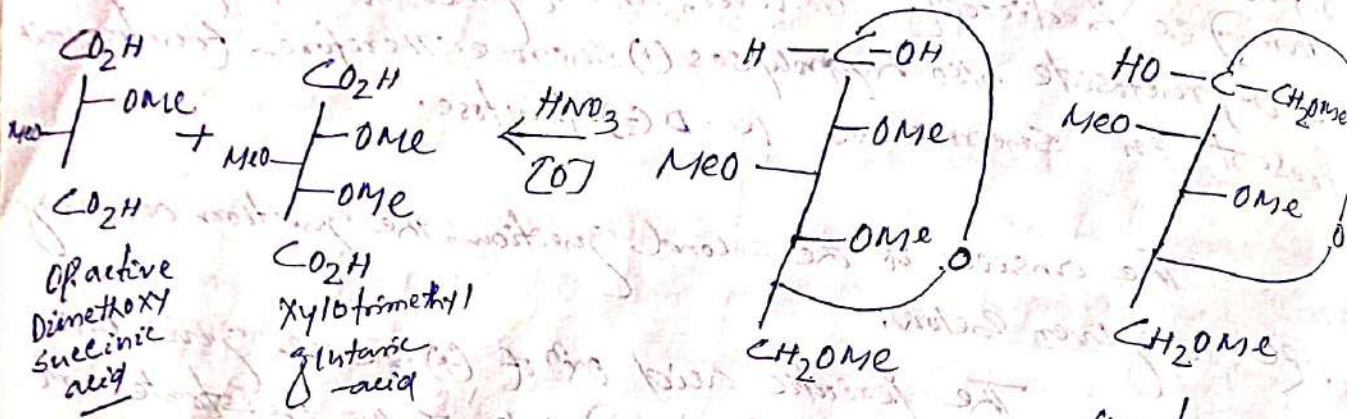
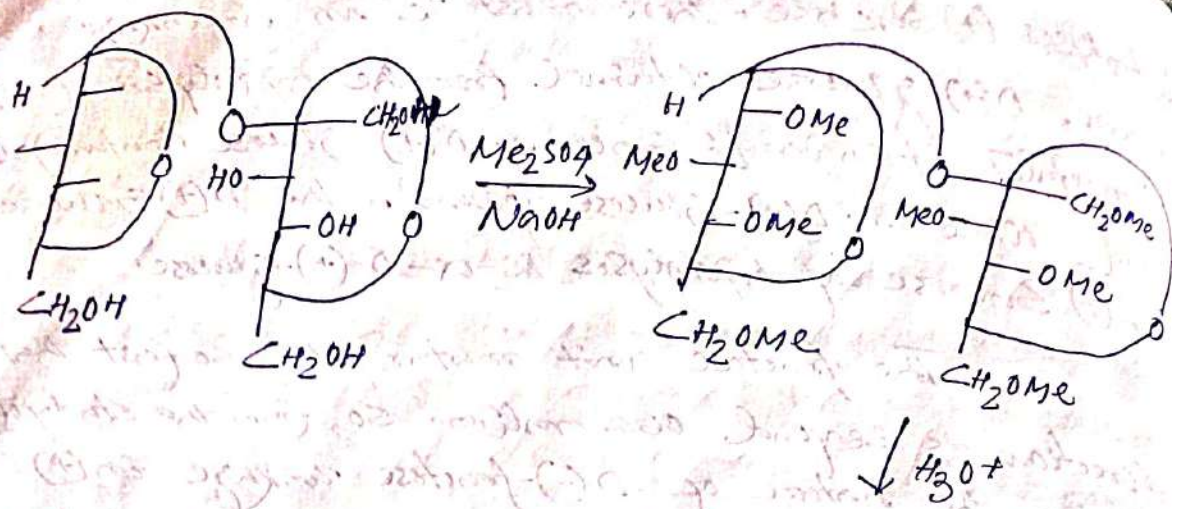
Hydrolyses (+) sucrose, there must be an α -linkage in sucrose. Again, D(+)-glucose obtained from the hydrolysis of (+) sucrose mutarotates downwards since α -D(+)-glucose mutarotates downwards while β -D(+)-glucose upwards, the D(+)-glucose obtained from (+) sucrose by hydrolysis is α -D(+)-glucose.

The fructose unit mutarotates so fast that its function is beyond observation. So, from the study of mutarotation, the nature of D(-)-fructose linkage in (+) sucrose cannot be predicted. However, an enzyme which hydrolyses β -D-fructoside also hydrolyses (+) sucrose. Therefore, fructose unit present in sucrose is β -D(-)-fructose.

The answer to the second question, the question on ring size is given below:

The periodic acid oxⁿ of (+) sucrose gives one molecule of formic acid per molecule of the substrate and the reⁿ consume three molecules of HIO_4 . This reaction therefore indicates the presence of one pyranose ring and one furanose ring. If there were two pyranose rings, there would have been the formation of two molecules of formic acid per molecule of the substrate. Again, had there been two furanose rings in (+) sucrose, there would have been no formic acid in the oxⁿ products. So, one ring in (+) sucrose is pyranose and the other furanose.

The complete methylation of (+) sucrose by dimethyl sulphate (Me_2SO_4) and dilute NaOH solⁿ followed by hydrolysis gives tetra-O-methyl-D-glucose and tetra-O-methyl-D-fructose. When these two compounds are subjected to the classical oxidative degradation as carried out by Haworth and Hirst show that tetra-O-methyl-D-fructose is 1,3,4,6-tetra-O-methyl- β -D-fructose and the tetra-O-methyl-D-glucose is 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-methyl- α -D-glucose. Therefore, the α -D(+)-glucose unit in (+) sucrose has a pyranose structure and that of β -D(-)-fructose has a furanose structure. Hence (+) sucrose is α -D-glucopyranosyl- β -D-fructofuranoside or β -D-fructofuranosyl- α -D-glucopyranoside.



The isolation of meso or xylotrimethoxy glutaric acid from the D-glucose and dimethoxy succinic acid ~~from~~ from the D-fructose unit tell us that the glucose and fructose units are D-glycofuranose and D-fructofuranose respectively.

Maltose

Molecular Formula $\rightarrow C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$

When one mole of (+) maltose is subjected to acid-catalysed hydrolysis, two moles of D-glucose are obtained. So it is a condensation product of two units of D-glucose. (+) Maltose reduces Fehling solution and Tollen's reagent; it also mutarrotates. Therefore, there is at least one hemiacetal linkage.

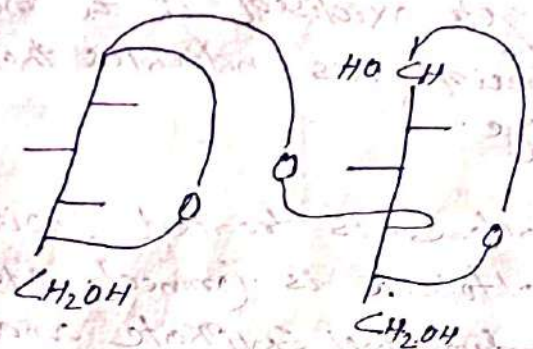
(+) Maltose gets oxidised to a monocarboxylic acid, D-maltobionic acid. This indicates that there is only one hemiacetal linkage.

When (+) maltose is treated with methyl iodide and HCl, methyl maltoside is formed. Methyl maltoside on treatment with dimethyl sulphate and NaOH (aq), methyl hepta-O-methylmaltoside is formed; the latter on hydrolysis by very dilute acid gives hepta-O-methylmaltose which on hydrolysis under stronger condition gives 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-methyl-D-glucose and 2,3,6-tri-O-methyl-D-glucose.

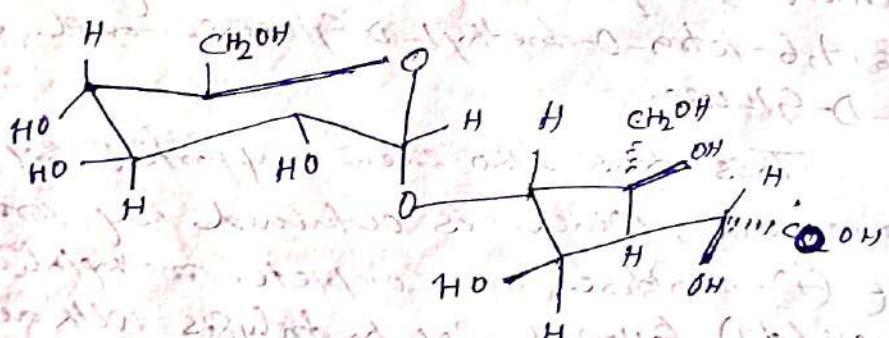
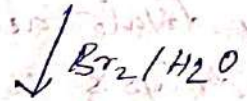
This has also been supported by the fact that D-maltobionic acid, which is obtained by ferric-oxalate oxidation of (+)-maltose, on complete methylation with $Me_2SO_4/NaOH$ (dil) followed by hydrolysis with acid catalyst, gives 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-methyl-D-glucose (a) and 2,3,5,6-tetra-O-methyl-D-gluconic acid (b). This experiment also tells us that the second compound indicates that the first product (a) is obtained from a pyranose ring which has a full acetal linkage because, C-5 OH of the compound (a) is free and it does not get oxidised to gluconic acid. This experiment also tells us that the second compound (b) bears a free C-4 OH group, and a carboxyl group. This is possible if this is obtained from a gluco pyranose unit in the hemiacetal form and linked to the first glucose unit through its C-4 OH group. Thus the glycosidic linkage is

formed by the reaction between anomeric OH of one D-glucopyranose and a C-4 OH of another D-glucopyranose. The latter unit is in hemiacetal form while the former is full acetal.

Lastly (+) maltose is hydrolysed by maltase - an enzyme which hydrolyses α -glycosidic linkage and (+)-maltase does not hydrolyse by emulsin, which hydrolyses a β -glycosidic linkage. Therefore, (+) maltose contain an α -glycosidic linkage and no β -glycosidic linkage.



β -Maltose



D-Mannobionic acid

