

# Carbohydrates

Function in providing **structural support**, as a **source of energy and carbon**, and as a way of **storing energy and carbon**



# Carbohydrates

(Carbon skeletons with -OH & =O functional groups)

- Includes sugars and polymers of simple sugars
- Carbohydrates are composed of **C, H, O**

*carbo - hydr - ate*

Function:

- provide energy
- energy storage
- raw building materials
- structural materials

Ex: sugars, starches, glycogen, cellulose, chitin



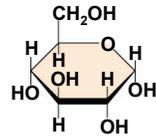
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# Simple & Complex Sugars

## Monosaccharides

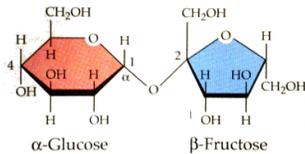
- Simple 1 monomer sugars
- Empirical Formula:  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$

Ex: Glucose  $(\text{CH}_2\text{O})_x \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$



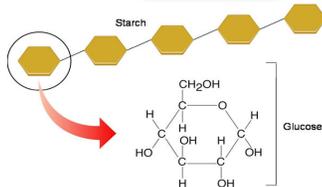
## Disaccharides

- 2 monomers
- Ex: Sucrose



## Polysaccharides

- Large polymers
- Ex: Starch



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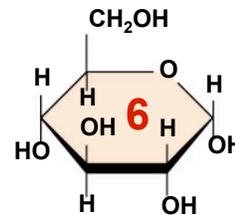
## Monosaccharides:

- Provides energy for cells.
- Raw material for construction of other organic molecules (ex: polysaccharides, fatty & amino acids).

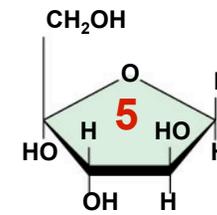
- Most names for sugars end in **-ose**
- Can be classified by number of carbons

(range from 3 to 7 C's long)

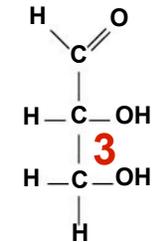
- 6C = hexose (glucose)
- 5C = pentose (ribose)
- 3C = triose (glyceraldehyde)



Glucose



Ribose



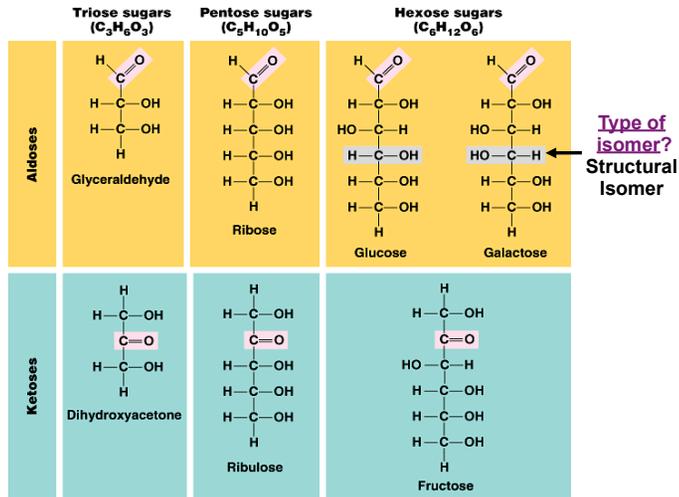
Glyceraldehyde

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## Classifying sugars according to location of Carbonyl Group

Aldehyde  
Sugar =  
aldose

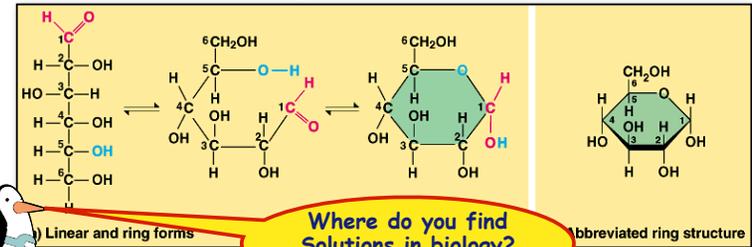
Ketone  
sugar =  
ketose



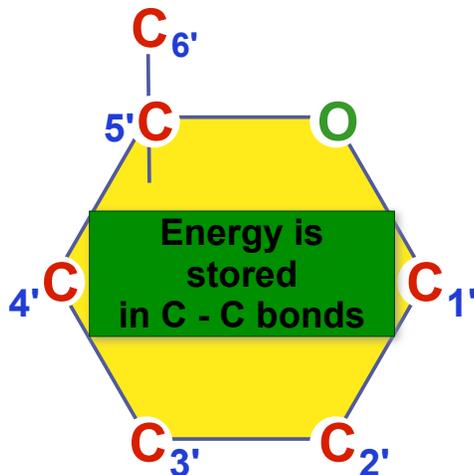
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## Sugar Numbering & Structure

- Linear sugars are drawn carbonyl end up
- Carbons are numbered starting from the carbonyl end
- 5C & 6C sugars form rings in solution (there exists a chemical equilibrium between the two shapes, linear and ringed. Ringed is favored in solution)
  - The O of the hydroxyl on the #5 C, covalently bonds to the #1 C of the carbonyl



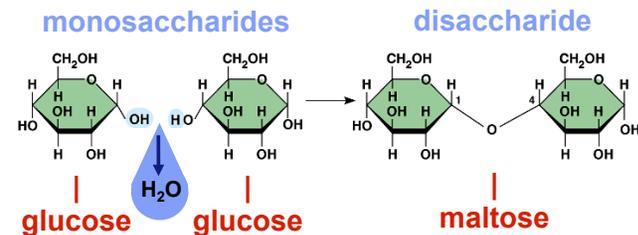
## Position of Numbered Carbons



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## Building double sugars

### Dehydration synthesis



What is the name of the covalent bond joining two sugar monomers through a dehydration reaction?

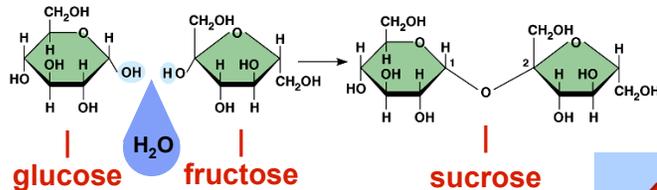
A Glycosidic Linkage



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## Building double sugars

- Can make distinct sugars by combining different **monosaccharides**



Glucose + Glucose = Maltose  
 Glucose + Fructose = Sucrose  
 Glucose + Galactose = Lactose

sucrose  
 (table sugar,  
 plant sugars)



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## Polysaccharides are MACROMOLECULES

- Polymers of sugars (100's to 1000's of monomers)
  - costs little energy to build
  - easily reversible, releasing energy when needed
- Function - determined by the types of sugar monomers and the positioning of glycosidic linkages.



- energy storage - can be hydrolyzed to release sugar for cells when needed
  - starch (plants)
  - glycogen (animals)
    - in liver & muscles



- structural
  - cellulose (plants)
  - chitin (arthropods exoskeleton & fungi cell wall)

## Storage Polysaccharides: Linear vs. Branched

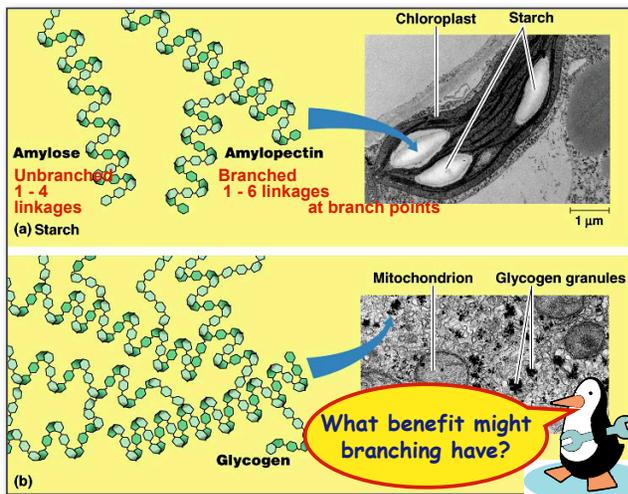
**Purpose:** Storing sugars for later use

Plants store **starch** in plastids.

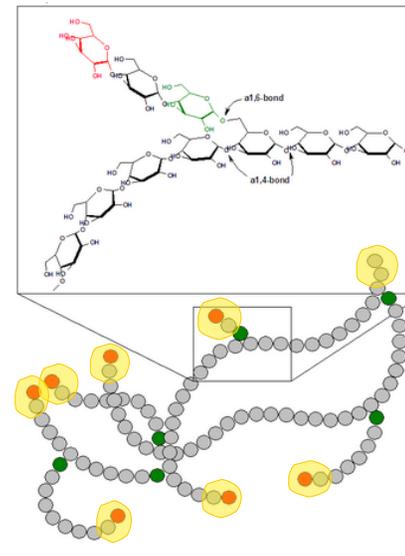
**Starch** = polymer of glucose monomers

Animals store **glycogen** in liver and muscles

**Glycogen** = **HIGHLY BRANCHED** polymer of glucose



## Benefits of Branched Polysaccharides



### Form Follows Function:

During times of shortage, enzymes attack one end of the polymer chain and **cut off glucose molecules, one at a time.**

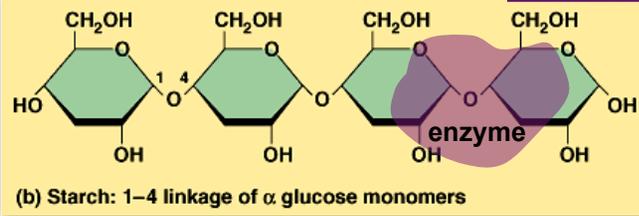
The more branches, the more points at which enzymes attack the polysaccharide.

Thus, a **highly branched** polysaccharide is better **suited for the rapid release of glucose** than a linear polymer.

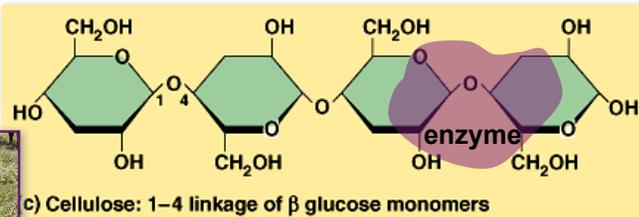
## Digesting starch vs. cellulose



**starch**  
easy to digest



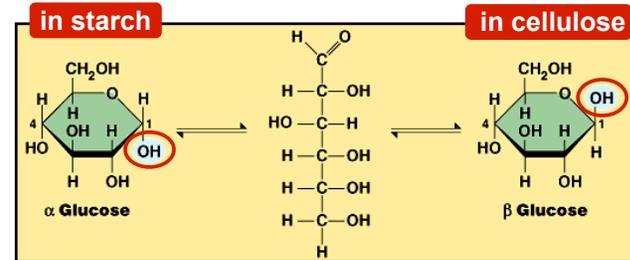
**cellulose**  
hard to digest



## Structural Polysaccharides: Cellulose & Chitin

### Cellulose: Most abundant organic compound on Earth

- Component of cell walls in plant cells
- Polymer of glucose
  - Cellulose contains  $\beta$  glucose monomers
  - Starch contains  $\alpha$  glucose monomers

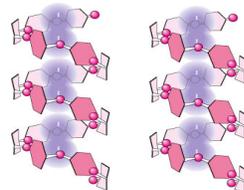
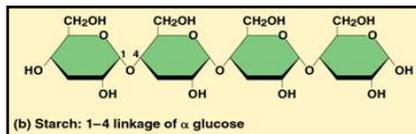


- Structural isomers of glucose
- Structure determines function...

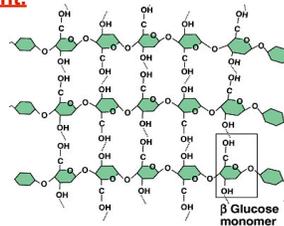
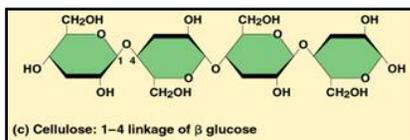
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## Linkage determines shape of polymers

- In Starch glucose monomers are in the **same orientation** one after the other, but their glycosidic bond causes the entire chain to be **helical**.

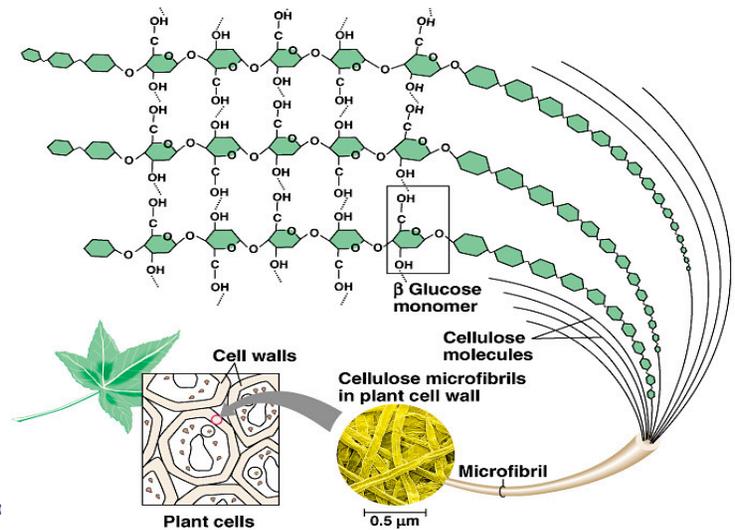


- In Cellulose every other glucose monomer is **upside down** compared to its neighbor and the chain remains **straight**.



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## Cellulose: Hydroxyls of adjacent strands hydrogen bond forming strong microfibrils



AP Bic

# Cellulose

- Herbivores have evolved a mechanism to digest cellulose
- Most carnivores have not



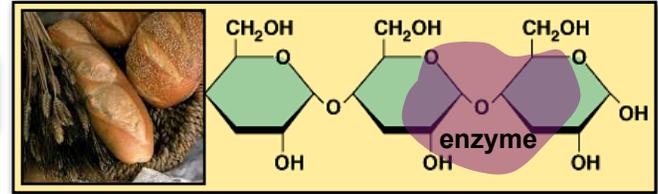
- That's why they **eat meat** to get their energy & nutrients
- For us, omnivores, cellulose = **undigestible roughage** but still a necessary component of a healthy diet



But it tastes like hay!  
Who can live on this stuff?!

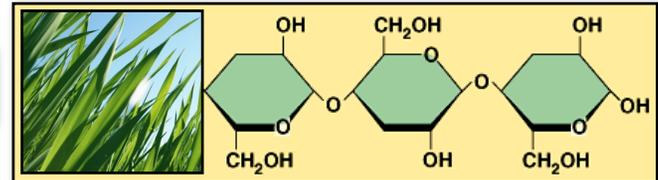
# For us humans for example:

Starch = easy to digest



We have enzymes that can hydrolyze  $\alpha$  glycosidic bonds and lack those that hydrolyze  $\beta$  glycosidic bonds.

Cellulose = hard to digest



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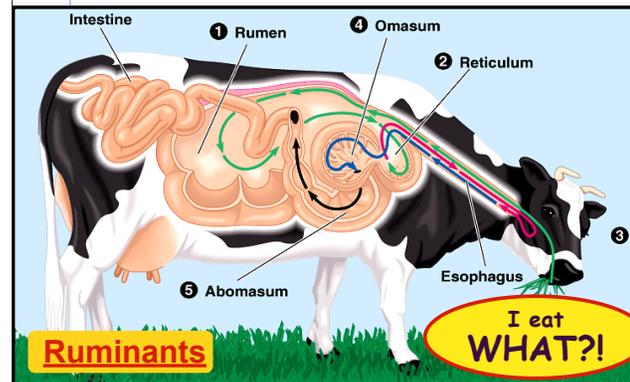
**Cow:**  
can digest cellulose well; no need to eat other sugars

**Gorilla:**  
can't digest cellulose well; must add another sugar source, like fruit to diet

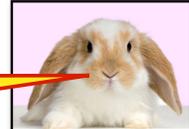


# Helpful bacteria

- How can herbivores digest cellulose so well?
  - BACTERIA** live in their digestive systems & help digest cellulose-rich (grass) meals (These prokaryotes have the right enzyme)
  - Some will pass the food through the digestive system twice to help soak up more nutrients



Rabbits practice **Coprophagia** (consuming feces).

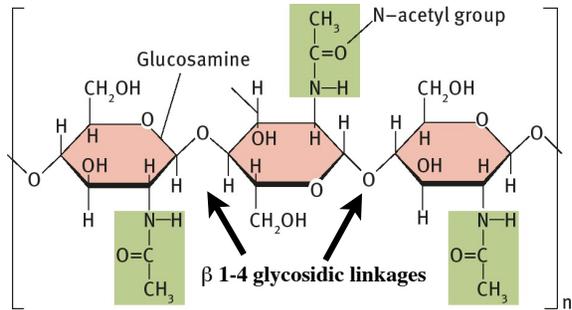


I eat **WHAT?**

**Ruminants**

# Chitin

- Same structure as cellulose polysaccharide but hydroxyl on the 2' Carbon is replaced with **nitrogen-containing group of atoms.**
- Forms the **exoskeleton of arthropods** (insects, spiders, lobsters, shrimp)
- Also forms the **cell walls of fungal cells**



Let's ~~bu~~<sup>EAT</sup>ild some  
**Carbohydrates!**

