

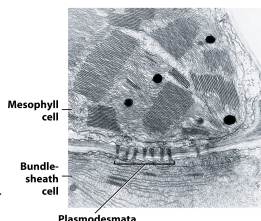
Photosynthesis

The C₄ Pathway

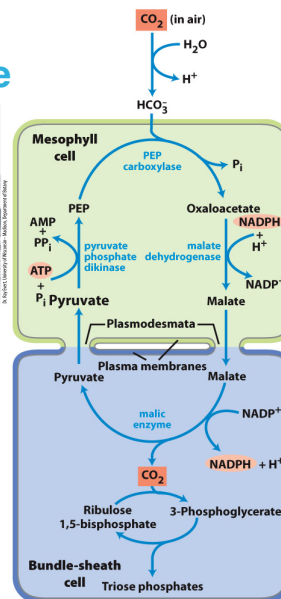
C₄ versus C₃ Plants; Benefits of C₄ Plants: Heat and Drought Resistance

- C₄ plants (tropical, hot climates) have an earlier step, in different cells, that isolate Rubisco from the air.

- In heat, the Rubisco's oxidase is favored.
- C₄ plants spatially separate CO₂ fixation from rubisco activity, resulting in less reaction of rubisco with oxygen and avoidance of the costly glycolate pathway.



- Physical separation of reactions:
 - CO₂ is captured into **oxaloacetate** in **mesophyll cells** of the leaf.
 - Oxaloacetate is converted to malate, which then passes into **bundle-sheath cells** where CO₂ is released for Rubisco.
- The C₄ pathway has a higher energy cost than the glycolate cycle on a stoichiometric basis, but its all about the ratio of carboxylase:oxidase. This pathway has overall increased efficiency in heat.
- Another pathway to avoid photorespiration was first discovered in *Crassulaceae* (**Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM)**) in high, dry conditions
 - Stomata open/close; the CO₂ from C₄ fixation is stored as malate in **vacuoles**.

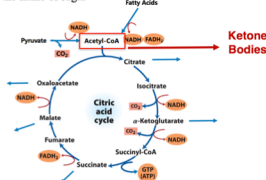


Photosynthesis

GlyOXylate Cycle

Recall in animals:

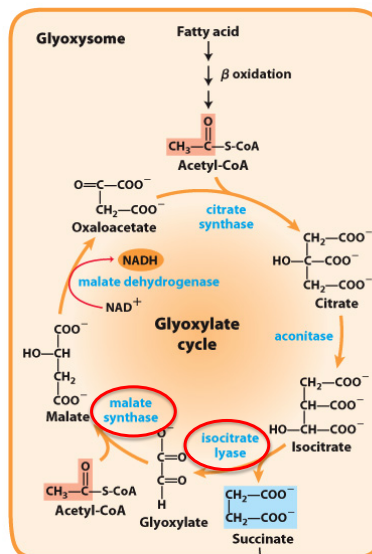
"Fat burns in the flame of sugar"



Kornberg Cycle

Plants Use Fats and Proteins for Carbohydrate Synthesis:

- In the TCA cycle, in the **glyoxysome**, instead of burning isocitrate, it short circuits TCA, taking isocitrate directly to succinate
- The result is the glyoxylate intermediate
- Re-cycle this glyoxylate by making malate from more acetyl CoA in a similar reaction as citrate synthase



We'll come back to this later.....

Photosynthesis: Carbon Fixation Summary

We learned that:

- ATP and NADPH from photosynthesis are needed in order to assimilate CO_2 into carbohydrates, which is initiated by Rubisco
- This key enzyme of the Calvin cycle fixes carbon dioxide as well as oxygen.
- assimilations of six CO_2 molecules via the Calvin cycle lead to the formation of one molecule of glucose for use in anabolic reactions
- enzymes of Calvin Cycle have common regulation mechanisms via pH, Mg^{2+} , and/or NADPH (F_d)
- In C_3 plants, issues with selectivity of rubisco for CO_2 vs. O_2 causes a wasteful incorporation of oxygen. C_4 and CAM plants have evolved structures for reducing this waste.
- Plants can convert acetyl-CoA into carbohydrates via the Kornberg Cycle (glyoxylate cycle)

ANABOLISM I

Carbohydrates

Carbohydrate Synthesis in Animals

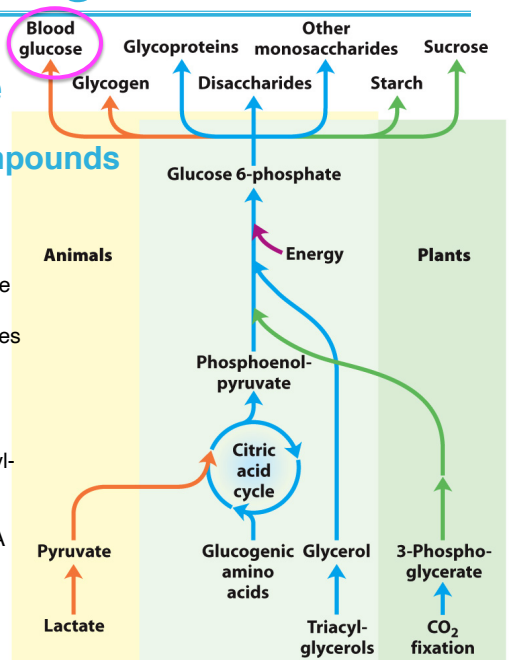
Gluconeogenesis

Gluconeogenesis: Making "New" Glucose

Precursors: From what compounds can glucose be made?

- Animals **can** produce glucose from **sugars** or **proteins**.
 - sugars: pyruvate, lactate, or oxaloacetate
 - protein: from amino acids that can be converted to citric acid cycle intermediates (or **glucogenic** amino acids)
- Animals **cannot** produce glucose from **fatty acids**.
 - product of fatty acid degradation is acetyl-CoA coming from fatty acids and **ketogenic** amino acids
 - There is no net conversion of acetyl-CoA to oxaloacetate in Kreb's Cycle

Plants, yeast, and many bacteria use the Kornberg Cycle to convert acetyl-CoA to oxaloacetate, thus producing glucose from fatty acids.

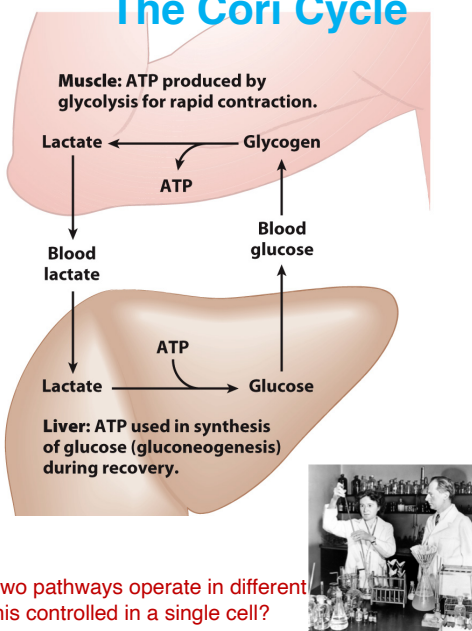


Gluconeogenesis

The Cori Cycle

- Blood glucose is largely made in the liver, although other organs can reverse glycolysis, but not deliver free glucose into the blood
- Synthesis of glucose from simpler compounds: **called gluconeogenesis**
- Operates only if ATP and NADH are plentiful
- Other tissues deliver carbon to liver from "waste" products (Ala and Cori Cycles).

As you can see the two pathways operate in different tissues, but how is this controlled in a single cell?

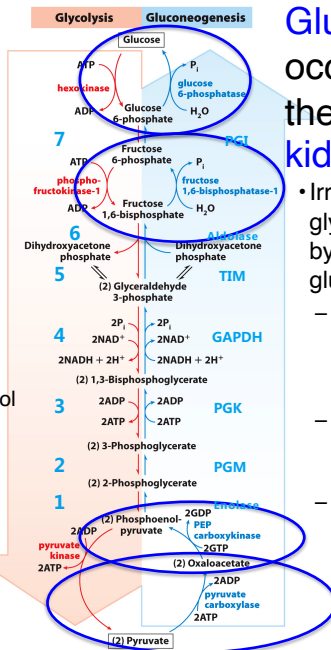


Gluconeogenesis

Glycolysis versus Gluconeogenesis

Glycolysis occurs mainly in the **muscle and brain**.

- Opposing pathways that are both thermodynamically favorable:
- Glycolysis: $\Delta G^\circ = -35 \text{ kcal/mol}$
- Gluconeogenesis: $\Delta G^\circ = -9 \text{ kcal/mol}$
 - operate in opposite direction
 - end product of one is the starting compound of the other
- **Seven** Reversible reactions are used by both pathways.
- **Three** "glycolysis-specific" steps are reversed with **Four** "gluconeogenesis-specific" steps.

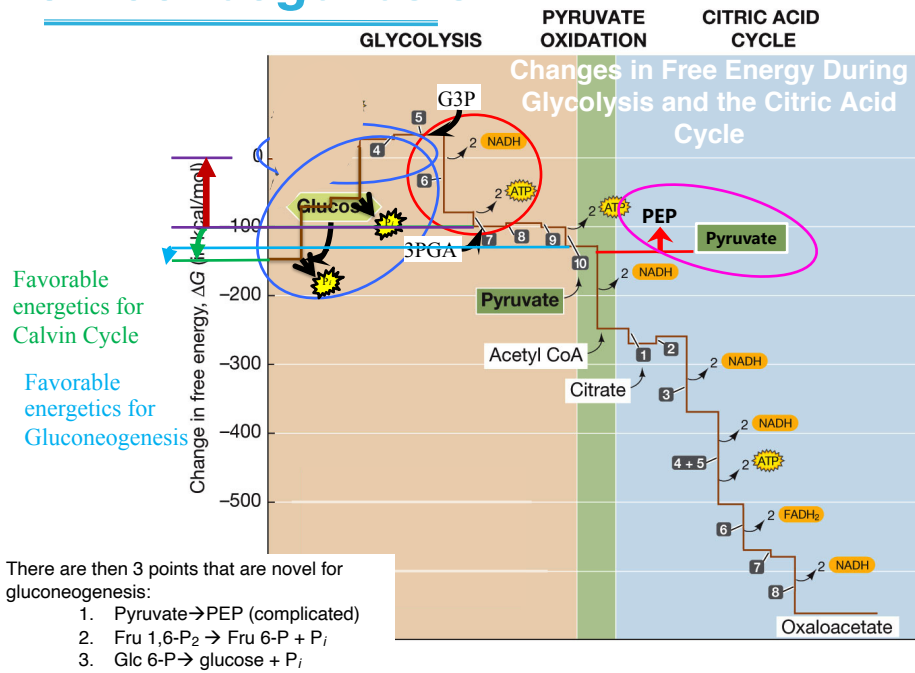


Gluconeogenesis occurs mainly in the **liver and kidney cortex**.

- Irreversible reactions of glycolysis must be bypassed in gluconeogenesis.
 - no ATP generated during gluconeogenesis; instead 6 ATPs and 2 NADH needed per Glc.
 - Some different enzymes results in the different pathways
 - differentially regulated to prevent a futile cycle

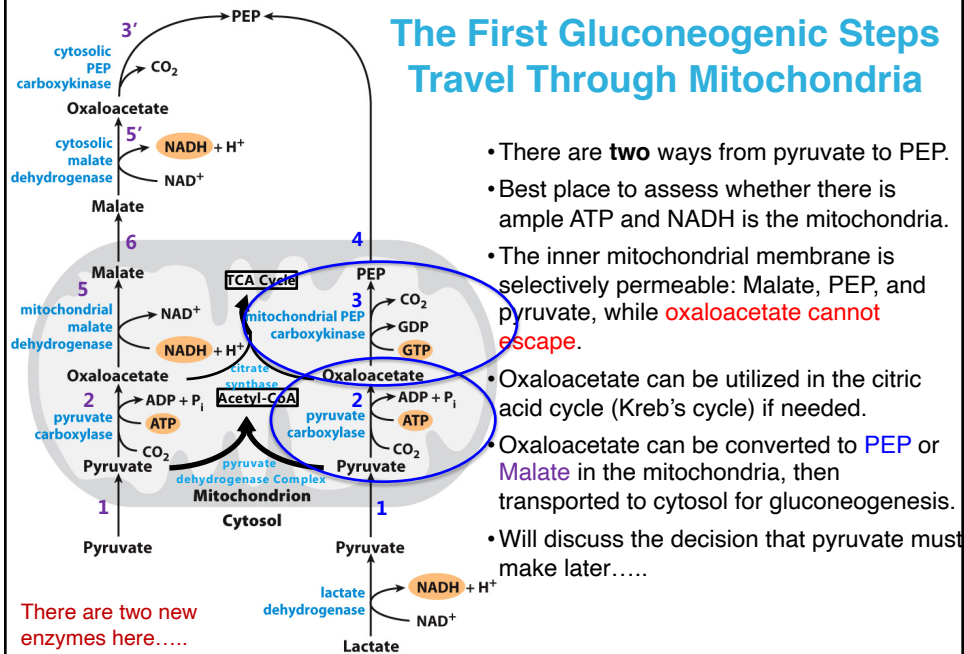
Lets look at the energetics of making glucose.....

Gluconeogenesis



Gluconeogenesis

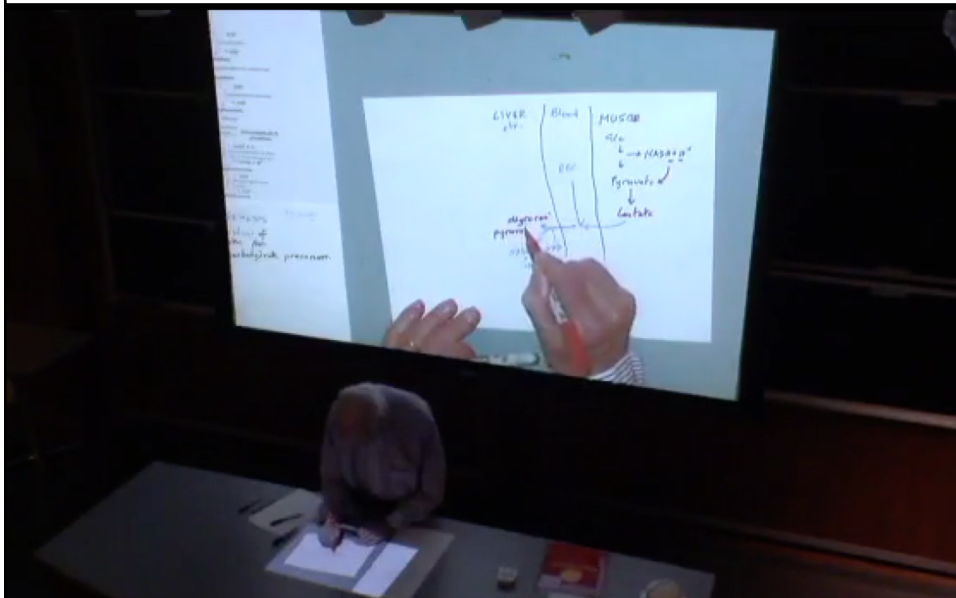
The First Gluconeogenic Steps Travel Through Mitochondria



- There are **two** ways from pyruvate to PEP.
- Best place to assess whether there is ample ATP and NADH is the mitochondria.
- The inner mitochondrial membrane is selectively permeable: Malate, PEP, and pyruvate, while **oxaloacetate cannot escape**.
- Oxaloacetate can be utilized in the citric acid cycle (Kreb's cycle) if needed.
- Oxaloacetate can be converted to **PEP** or **Malate** in the mitochondria, then transported to cytosol for gluconeogenesis.
- Will discuss the decision that pyruvate must make later.....

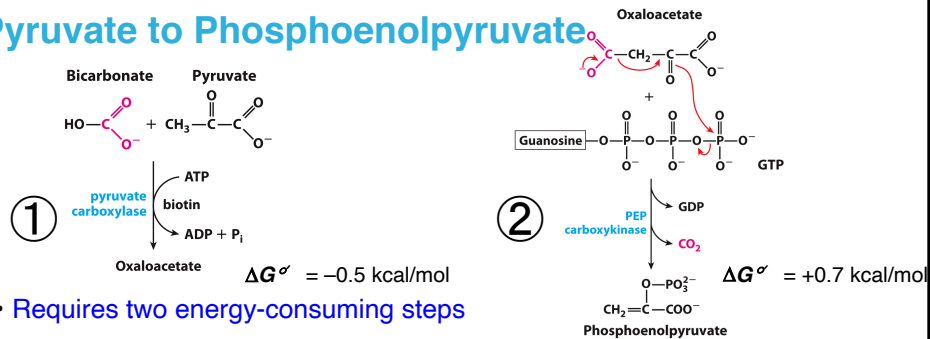
Gluconeogenesis

Pyruvate to Phosphoenolpyruvate



Gluconeogenesis

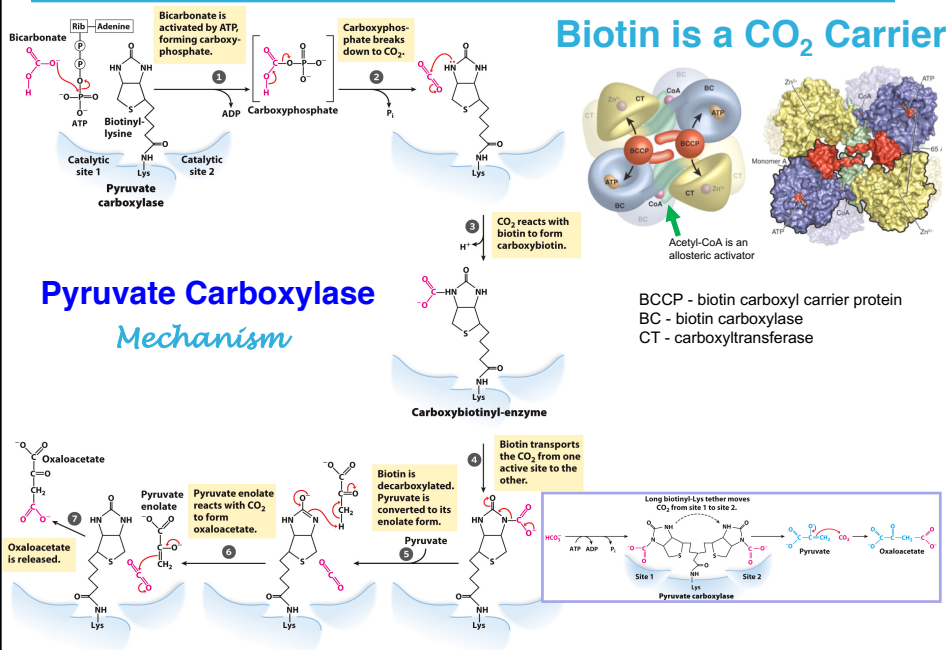
Pyruvate to Phosphoenolpyruvate



- Requires two energy-consuming steps
- The first step, **pyruvate carboxylase (PC)** converts pyruvate to oxaloacetate.
 - carboxylation using a **biotin** cofactor
 - This enzyme is only in the mitochondria; requires transport of pyruvate
- The second step, **phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase (PEPCK)** converts oxaloacetate to PEP.
 - phosphorylation from GTP and decarboxylation
 - occurs in mitochondria or cytosol depending on the organism
- During this 2-step conversion, the same carbon from CO_2 is added and immediately removed from the structure.

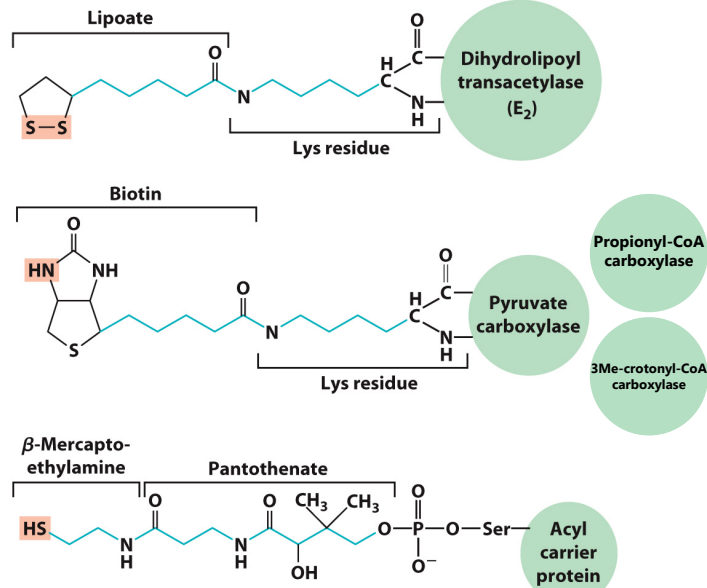
Lets look at the PC mechanism more closely.....

Gluconeogenesis



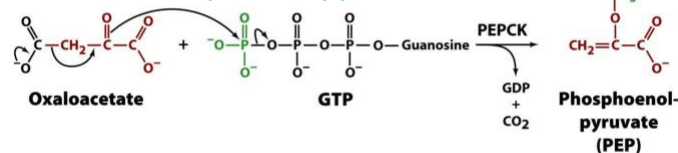
Gluconeogenesis

Biological
Tethers
Allow
Flexibility



Gluconeogenesis

Oxaloacetate to Phosphoenolpyruvate

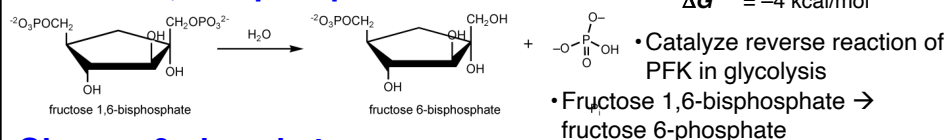


Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxykinase (PEPCK)

Phosphoenolpyruvate to Fru 6-P



Fructose 1,6-bisphosphatase



Glucose 6-phosphatase

ΔG° = -3.3 kcal/mol

Glucose 6-phosphate → glucose

- Water hydrolyzes the His-P_i
- DOES NOT generate ATP

Mechanism on [wehi.ac](#)

Gluconeogenesis

Why do we need glucose?

RECALL:

Pyruvate	Succinyl-CoA
Alanine	Isoleucine ^a
Cysteine	Methionine
Glycine	Threonine
Serine	Valine
Threonine	Fumarate
Tryptophan ^a	Phenylalanine ^a
	Tyrosine ^a
α-Ketoglutarate	Oxaloacetate
Arginine	Asparagine
Glutamate	Aspartate
Glutamine	
Histidine	
Proline	

Note: All these amino acids are precursors of blood glucose or liver glycogen, because they can be converted to pyruvate or citric acid cycle intermediates. Of the 20 common amino acids, only leucine and lysine are unable to furnish carbon for net glucose synthesis. ^aThese amino acids are also ketogenic (see Fig. 18-15).

- Physiologically necessary: Brain, nervous system, and red blood cells generate ATP ONLY from glucose.
- When we can't get it from pyruvate, amino acids are utilized, which allows generation of glucose when glycogen stores are depleted:
 - during starvation
 - during vigorous exercise
 - can generate glucose from amino acids, but not fatty acids

$\Delta G^\circ = -9 \text{ kcal/mol}$

Gluconeogenesis Costs 4 ATP, 2 GTP, and 2 NADH. Net reaction:

$$2 \text{ Pyruvate} + 4 \text{ ATP} + 2 \text{ GTP} + 2 \text{ NADH} + 2 \text{ H}^+ + 4 \text{ H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Glucose} + 4 \text{ ADP} + 2 \text{ GDP} + 6 \text{ P}_i + 2 \text{ NAD}^+$$

Glycogen Synthesis

Storing a ready-reserve of carbohydrate

Glycogen Synthesis

- Synthesis of glycogen requires two enzymes, whereas glycogen degradation, only used **phosphorylase**. Both pathways use **α -phosphoglucomutase**; the start and end junction is **Glc 1-P**.

- Blood glucose must be:

- Phosphorylated: Glc \rightarrow Glc-6-P
- Then converted: Glc 6-P \rightarrow **Glc 1-P**
- Activated with UDP (**UDP-Glc** is the precursor)
- Added to glycogen

