

Q. What are the different isomers of Carbohydrate

The compounds that have the same molecular formula but different structural formula or spatial arrangement, known as isomers. The number of isomers of a compound depends on the number of asymmetric carbon, which carries four different groups on its four valencies.

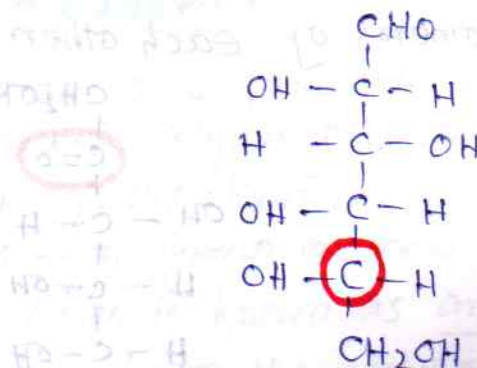
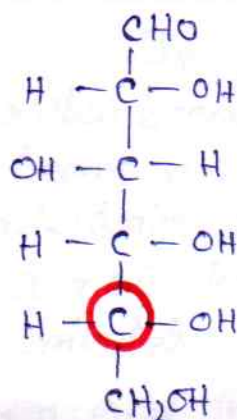
$$\text{Number of isomers} = 2^n, \quad n = \text{No. of Asymmetric Carbon}$$

For example Glucose has four asymmetric carbon therefore it has $2^4 = 16$ isomers. Several types of isomerism are found in monosaccharide.

These are —

- i) Stereo isomer
- ii) Optical isomer
- iii) Aldose-ketose isomer
- iv) Pyranose furanose isomer.
- v) α, β Anomers.

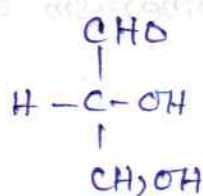
i) Stereo isomer: According to the spatial arrangement of the groups attached to the asymmetric carbon, D-L Stereo isomerism is found. On the basis of the orientation of $-H$ and $-OH$ groups on the penultimate carbon this isomer is produced. The penultimate carbon is the furthest asymmetric carbon from the functional group that is aldehyde or keto group. On the basis of these groups on the penultimate carbon **L** and **D** isomers are formed. The L isomer is the mirror image of D isomer.



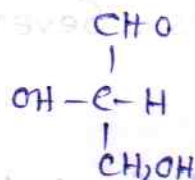
L Glucose

ii) Optical isomer:

Optical activity of a substance is the capacity to rotate the plane of polarised light depends on its asymmetric carbons. If polarised light is passed through a solution having asymmetric carbons, the light can rotate either clockwise (rotation to the right or dextrorotation) or anticlockwise (rotation to the left or levorotation). On the basis of the direction of rotation of the polarised light the optical isomers are produced. The dextrorotatory isomers are indicated by the prefix 'd' or (+). If the isomer is levorotatory then it is indicated as Prefix 'l' or (-). Two optical isomers of a substance are mirror image each other.



+ D Glyceraldehyde



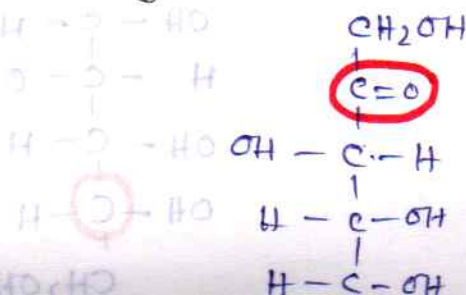
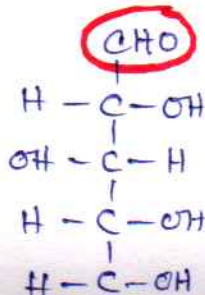
- L Glyceraldehyde

Fig: Examples of optical isomer of Glyceraldehyde.

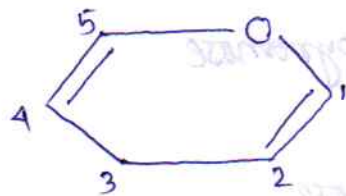
If a solution contains the equimolar mixture of the optical isomers shows no optical activity, Such mixture is known as d-l mixture or Racemic mixture.

iii) Aldose-ketose isomer:

Aldose are monosaccharides having an aldehyde group ($\text{H}-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{||}}{\text{C}}}-$) at one end (C_1) of the molecule e.g. Glucose, Galactose, mannose etc. Ketoses are the monosaccharides having a ketone group ($-\overset{\text{O}}{\underset{\text{||}}{\text{C}}}-$) on the position other than (C_1). Aldose-ketose isomerism is the existence of an aldose and ketose with the same formula. Glucose is an Aldose-hexose and fructose is a ketohexose. So they are Aldose-ketose isomers of each other.



These isomers are based on the stable ring structure of monosaccharide & similar to the structure of Pyran and furan ring.



Pyran ring

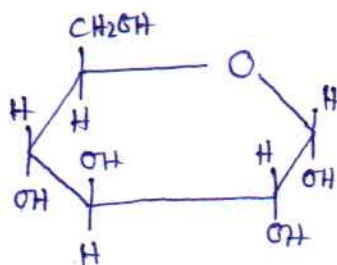


Furan ring.

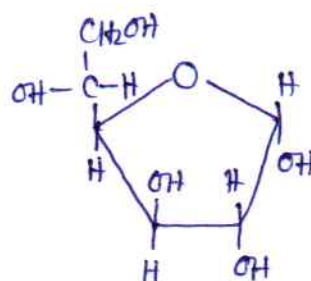
Both aldose and ketose with six or more carbons can show the Pyran and furan forms. In this form the aldehyde or ketone group is changed to an addition of $-OH$ group and linked to the alcoholic carbon by $C-O-C$ bridge.

Pyranose isomer : Six members pyran ring
(5 Carbon + 1 oxygen)

Furanose isomer : Five members furan ring
(4 carbon + 1 oxygen)



D Glucopyranose

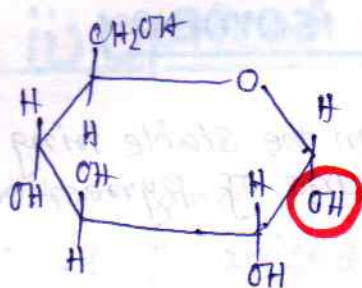


D Glucofuranose

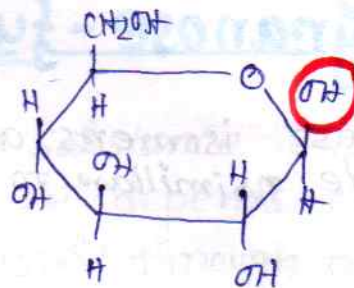
D Glucose exists as an equilibrium mixture of D Glucopyranose, D Glucofuranose and open chain D Glucose.

V) α, β Anomerism :

In pyranose and furanose the aldehydic and ketonyl carbon becomes a new asymmetric carbon. This new asymmetric carbon bears an $-OH$ group known as anomeric $-OH$. The special orientation of this $-OH$ group on new asymmetric carbon produces a new isomer which is known as anomerism. If the $-OH$ group is orientate furthest from the alcoholic group is called α anomer and the opposite orientation is known as β anomer.



α -D Glucopyranose

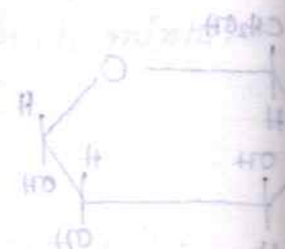


β -D Glucopyranose

Fig: Examples of α and β anomers of Glucose.

Pyranose isomer: six members pyran ring
(5 Carbon + 1 oxygen)

Furanose isomer: five members furan ring
(4 Carbon + 1 oxygen)



D-glucopyranose

D-glucopyranose

In pyranose and furanose the anomeric carbon becomes a new asymmetric carbon. This new asymmetric carbon is called the anomeric carbon. It is the carbon atom which is bonded to both the hydroxyl group and the hydrogen atom. The anomeric carbon is the carbon atom which is bonded to both the hydroxyl group and the hydrogen atom. The anomeric carbon is the carbon atom which is bonded to both the hydroxyl group and the hydrogen atom.