

“Known Unknowns” and “Unknown Unknowns”

$A \rightarrow B$

- To safely plan a known reaction, we need access to solid thermodynamic data (e.g., ΔH_f , S° , C_v) to understand and classify risks.
- This is a “**known unknown**” in that we know the reaction, $A \rightarrow B$, but we need values for a few unknown variables.

$A \rightarrow ? \rightarrow B$; $A \rightarrow B + ?$; $A \rightarrow ?$

- $A \rightarrow ? \rightarrow B$, means that we know the net reaction, but there may be a consequential (e.g., potentially reactive) intermediate. Even if we have accurate thermodynamic data on A/B, neglecting the intermediate could be disastrous.
- The $A \rightarrow B + ?$ (unknown side-reaction) and $A \rightarrow ?$ (unknown main product), problems have similar “**unknown unknown**” characteristics.

“Known Unknowns” and “Unknown Unknowns”



TAFFI Component Incremental Theory (TCIT)

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Yet Another Reaction Program (YARP)

- The $A \rightarrow ? \rightarrow B$ means that we know the net reaction, but there may be a consequential (e.g., potentially reactive) intermediate. Even if we have accurate thermodynamic data on A/B, neglecting the intermediate could be disastrous.
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Challenges of Contemporary Group Theories

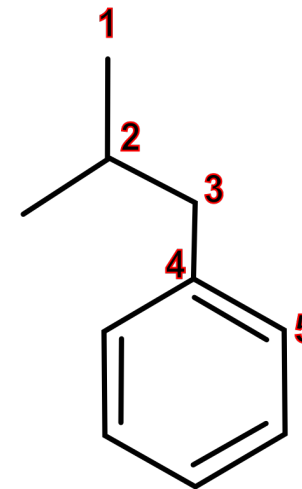
Benson Group Theory:

- The idea is to decompose molecular properties (ΔH_f , S° , C_v) as the sum of “group” contributions.
- Group contributions are calculated based on trusted experimental or computational data, and transferability is assumed.

Problems we want to address:

- **Specificity:** the definition of a “group” has never been formalized and inconsistent granularity is applied.
- **Provenance:** inconsistent thermodynamic data is available/used to determine group contributions.
- **Extensibility:** because of the provenance and specificity problems, it isn't possible to develop new groups in a consistent way.

From Anslyn and
Dougherty's
Textbook



1) C -(C)(H) ₃	2(-10.20)
2) C -(C) ₃ (H)	-1.90
3) C -(C _B)(C)(H) ₂	-4.86
4) C _B -(C)	5.51
5) C _B -(H)	5(3.30)

-5.15 kcal/mole
(-21.6 kJ/mole)

Experimental ΔH_f : -5.15 +/- 0.34 kcal/mol

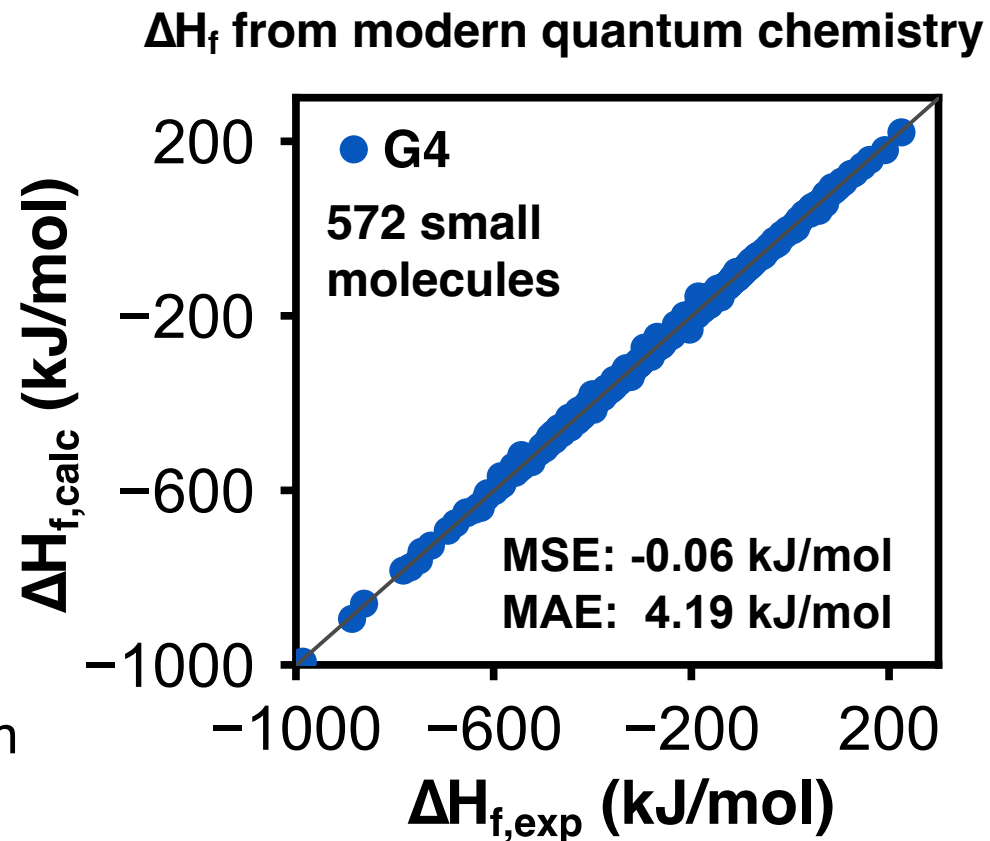
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Zhao, Q.; Savoie, B. M.; Enthalpy of Formation Prediction via a fully Self-Consistent Component Increment Theory. *J. Chem. Info. Model.* **2020**, 60, 2199-2207

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- Group
- on trust
- data, a

Prob

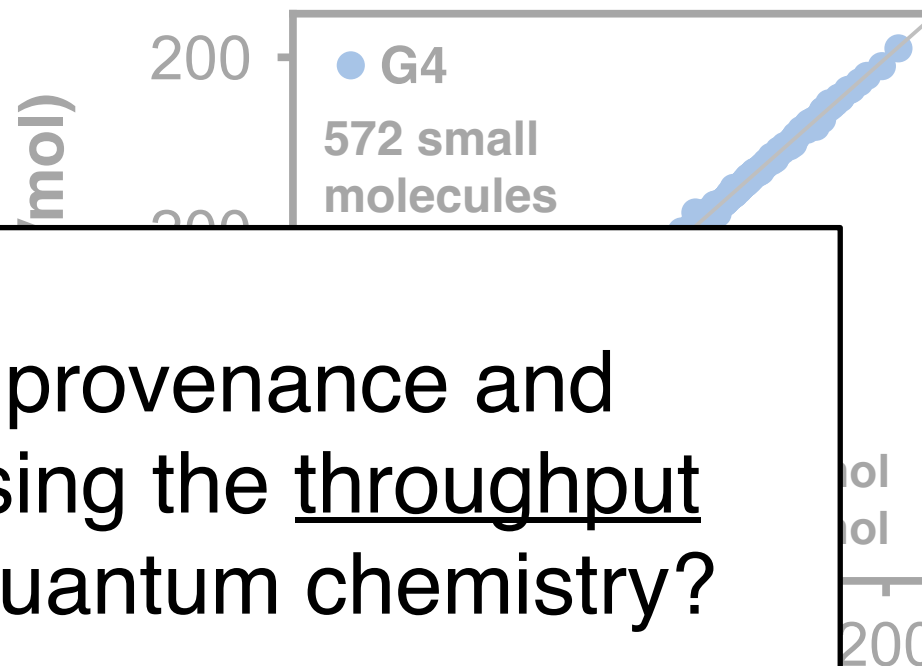
- Spec
- formal

Can we circumvent the provenance and extensibility challenges using the throughput and accuracy of modern quantum chemistry?

- **Provenance:** inconsistent thermodynamic data is available/used to determine group contributions.

- **Extensibility:** because of the provenance and specificity problems, it isn't possible to develop new groups in a consistent way.

ΔH_f from modern quantum chemistry



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TAFFI Component Increment Theory (TCIT)

The fundamental idea

- Systematize component-definitions and model compound selection with rigorous graph-based typing.

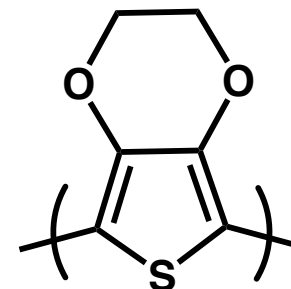
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**P2SAC
Publications**

TCIT is a component theory
(2-bond specific)



Topology Automated
Force Field Interactions



graph/structure
equivalence



S	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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O	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
C	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
H	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
H	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
O	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
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**Adjacency
matrix for
PEDOT
monomer**

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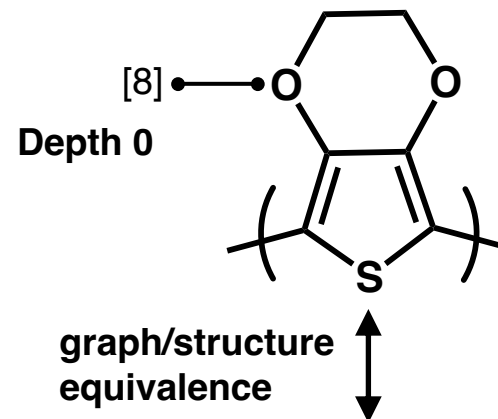
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C	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
C	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
H	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
H	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
O	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
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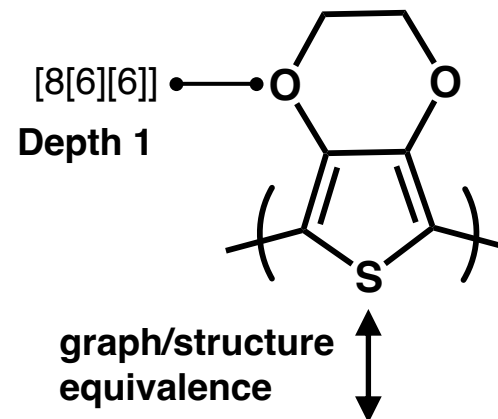
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H	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
O	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
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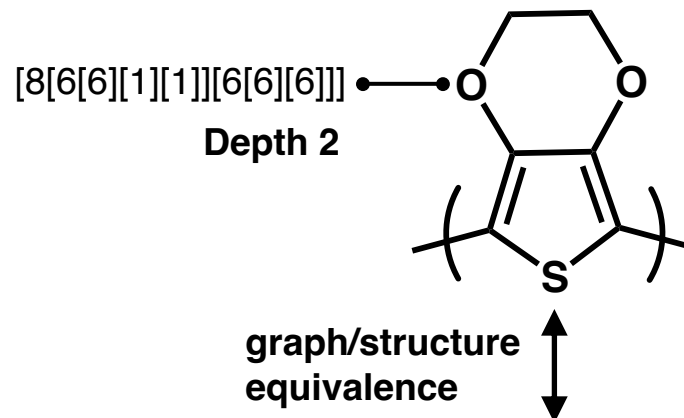
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C	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
C	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
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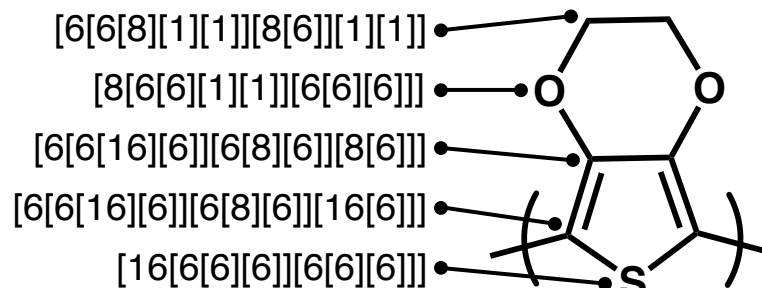
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graph/structure
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C	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
H	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
H	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
O	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
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- Systematize component-definitions and model compound selection with rigorous graph-based typing.
- Two-bond specificity should improve both the accuracy and transferability of the resulting components.
- Parameterizing a component model **would not be feasible with only experimental data.**

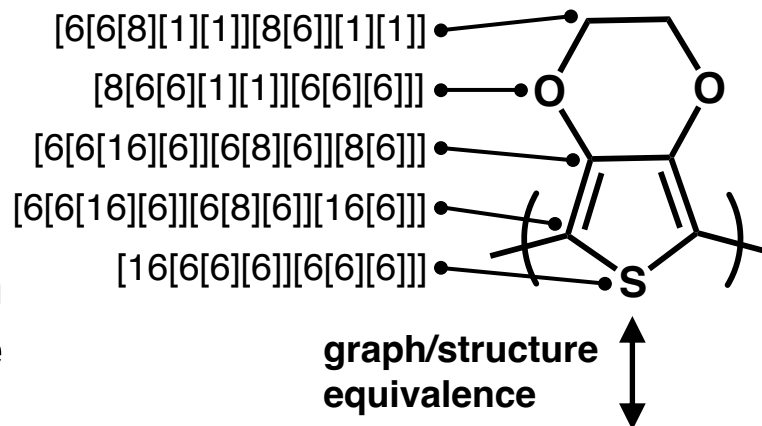
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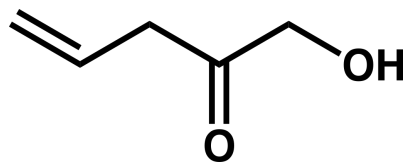
Topology Automated
Force Field Interactions



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C	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
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H	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
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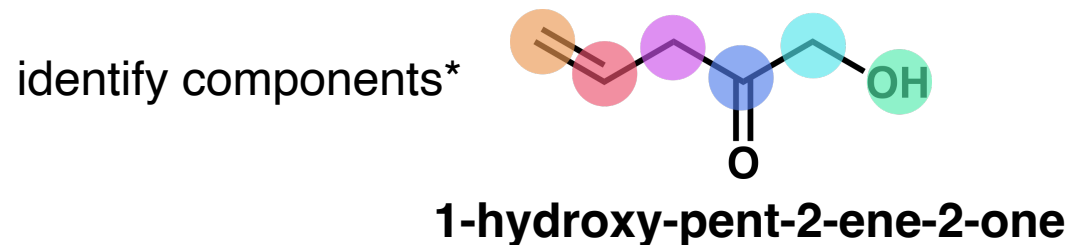
Graphical Decomposition of Model Compounds



1-hydroxy-pent-2-ene-2-one

How will we select molecules for parameterizing TCIT components?

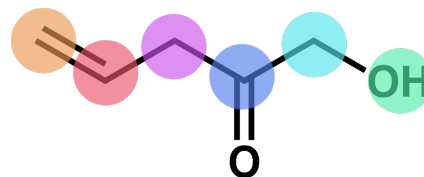
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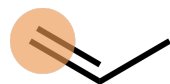
Graphical Decomposition of Model Compounds

identify components*



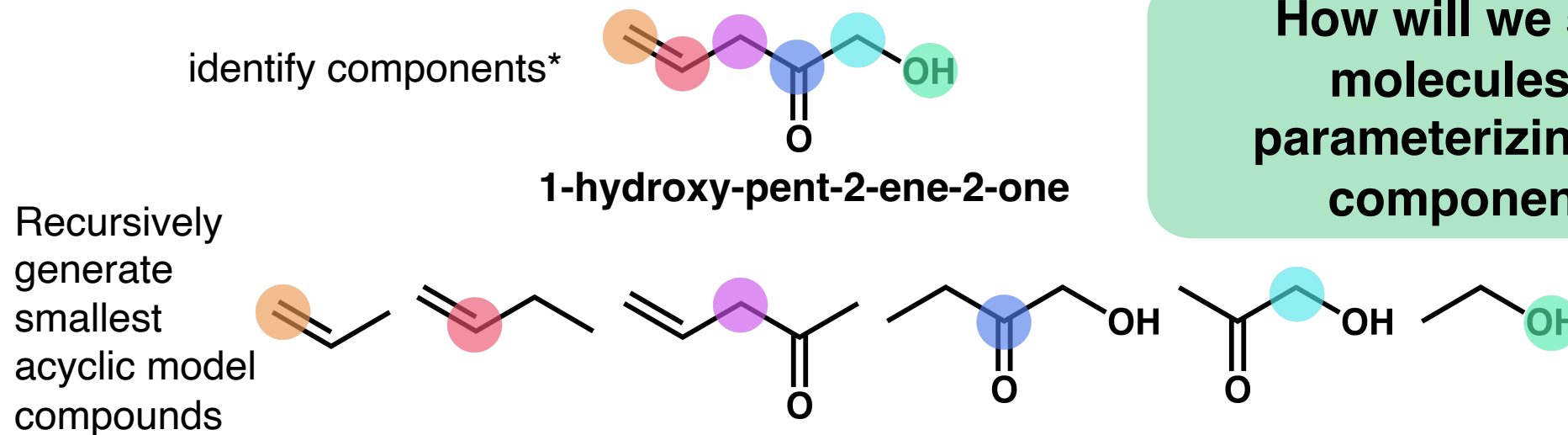
1-hydroxy-pent-2-ene-2-one

Recursively
generate
smallest
acyclic model
compounds



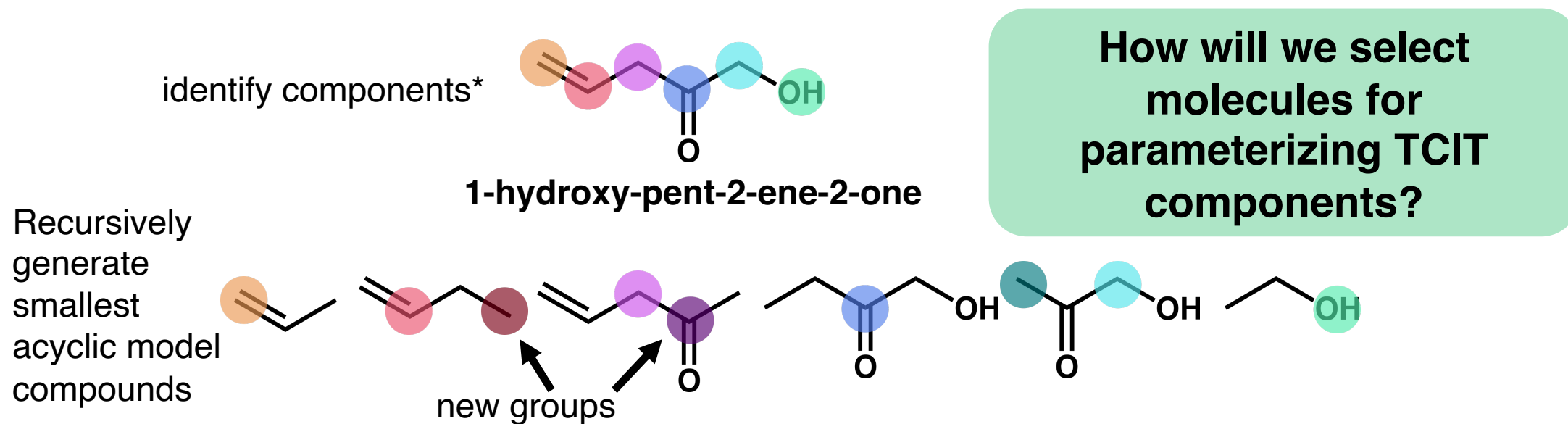
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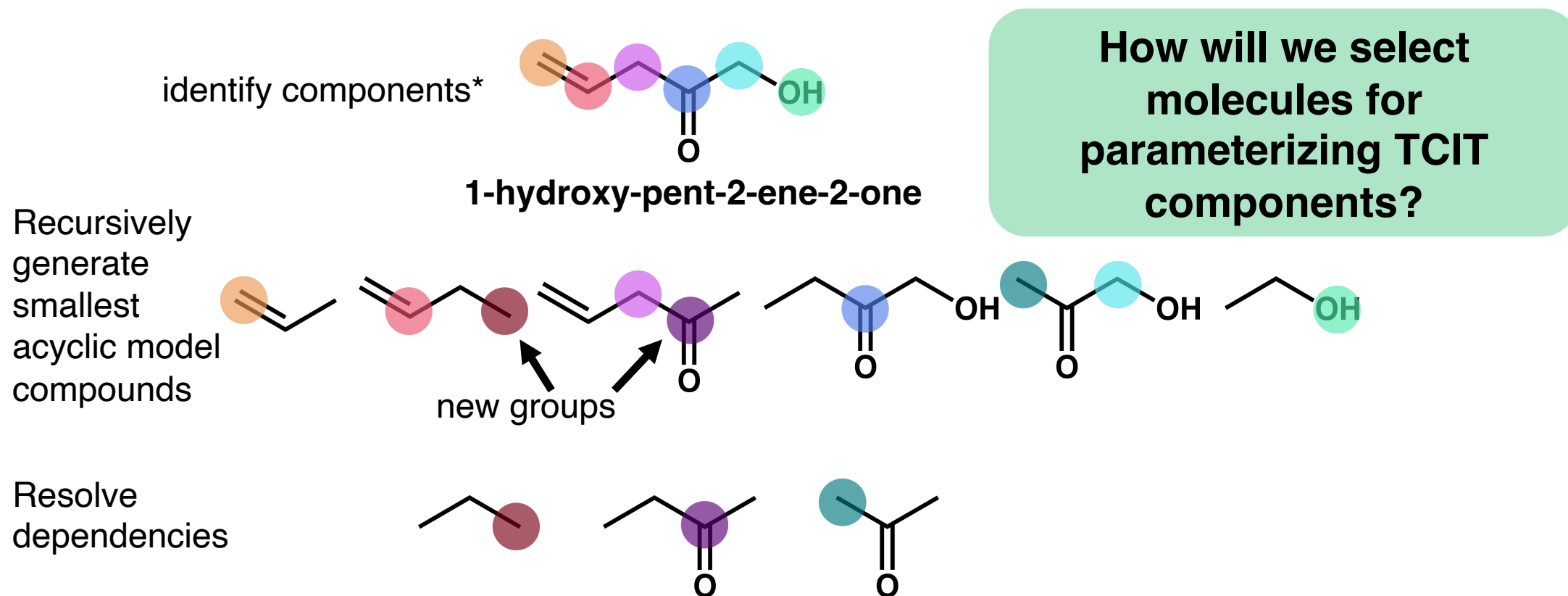


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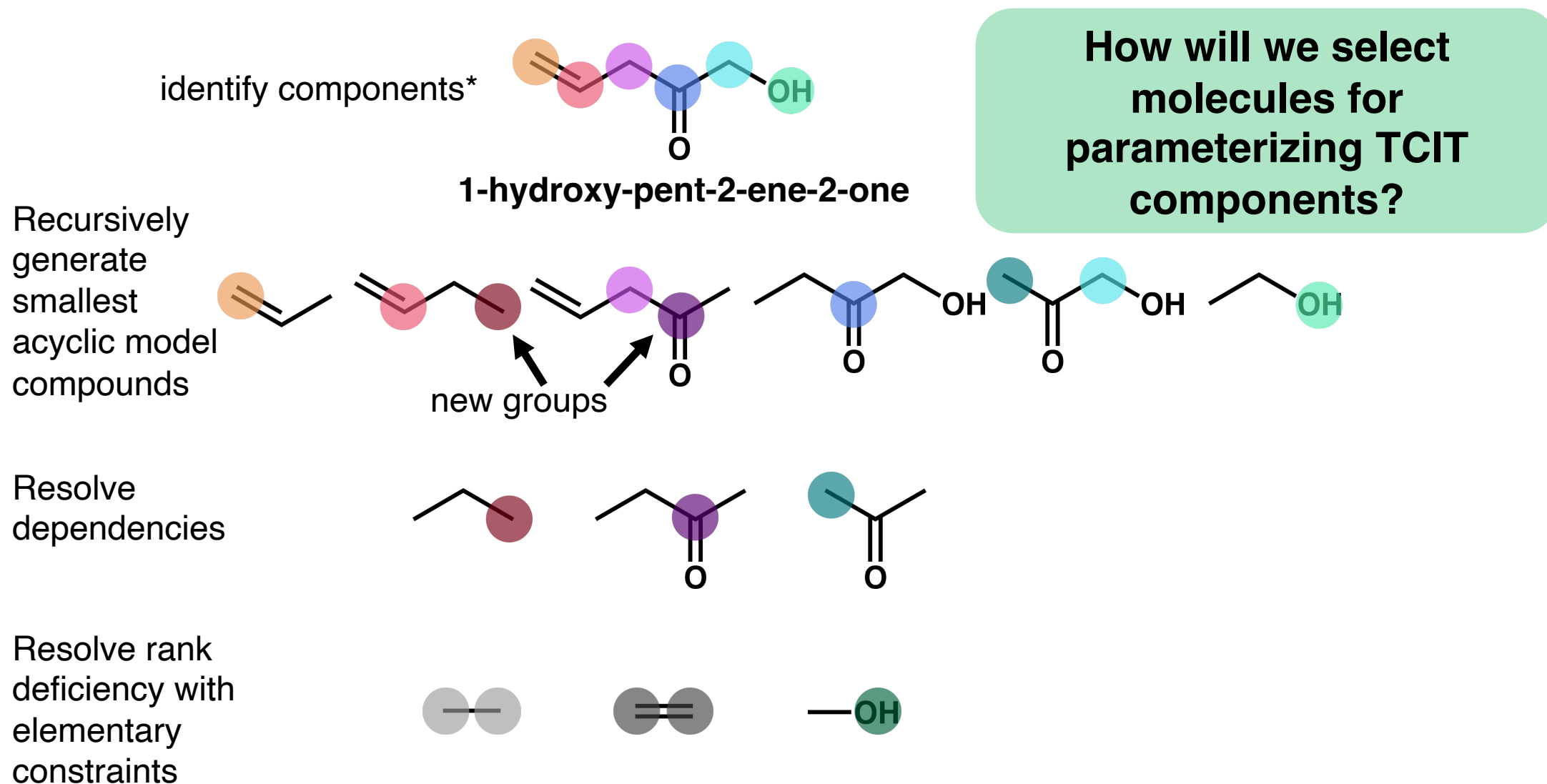
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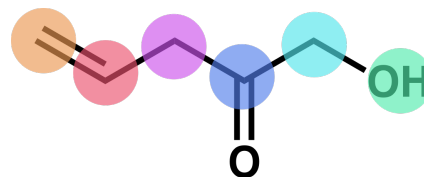


Graphical Decomposition of Model Compounds



Graphical Decomposition of Model Compounds

Prediction target:



1-hydroxy-pent-2-ene-2-one

$$\Delta H_{f,G4} = -259.9 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

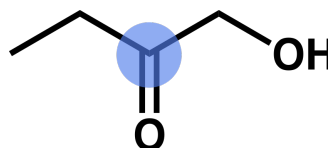
$$\Delta H_{f,TCIT} = -259.3 \text{ kJ/mol}$$

no experimental data

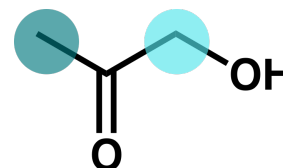
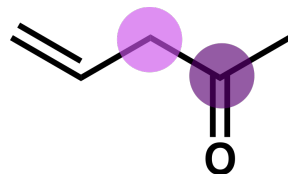
Topologically
sort
dependency
graph

(Automatically
handled by
TCIT software)

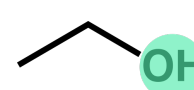
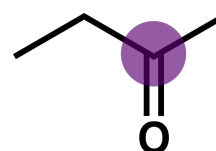
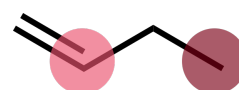
Gen 4:



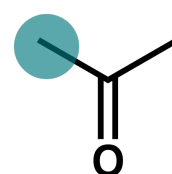
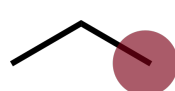
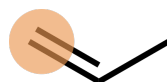
Gen 3:



Gen 2:



Gen 1:



Gen 0:



Model compounds
are small enough to
perform the highest
quality quantum
chemistry
calculations (G4
throughout)

Graphical Decomposition of Model Compounds

Have we solved the specificity problem?

All components are unique out to a graph depth of two,
no exceptions.

Have we solved the provenance problem?

All ΔH_f data is calculated at the G4 composite level,
no exceptions.

Have we solved the extensibility problem?

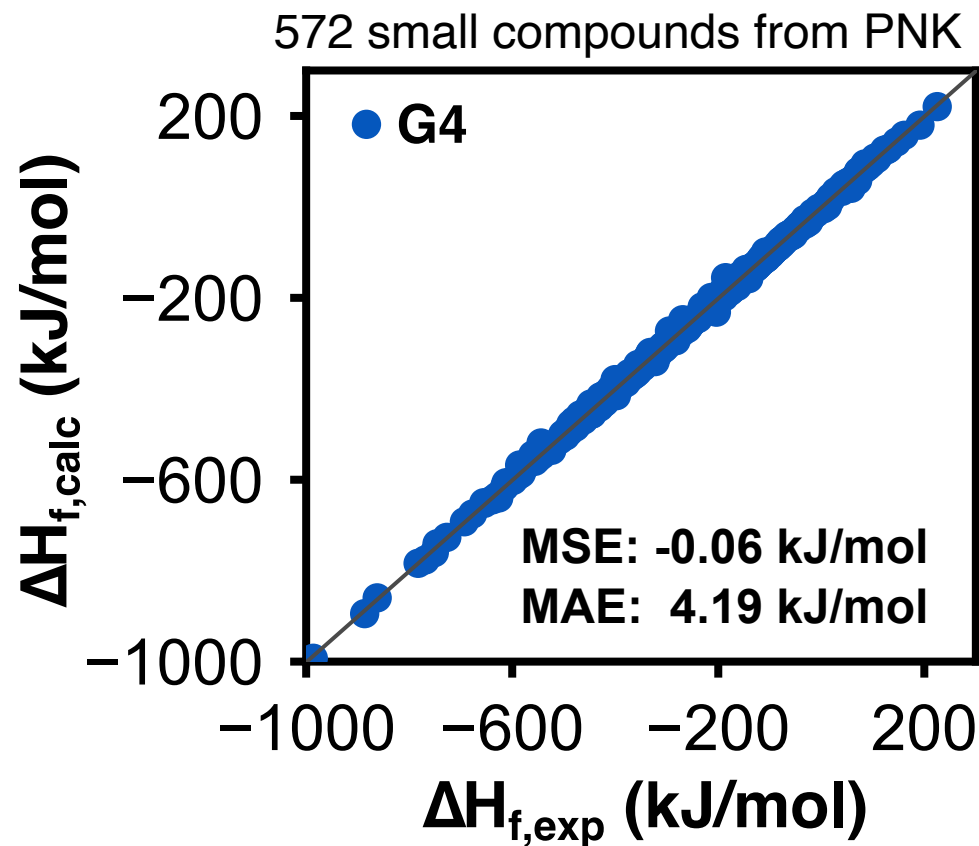
Model compounds exist for all conceivable components,
no exceptions.

Benchmarking $\Delta H_{f,gas}$ Predictions Against the PNK Dataset

- Initial benchmarking set consists of ~1100 **linear** C,H, and O containing compounds from PNK¹

(1) J. B. Pedley, R. D. Naylor, S. P. Kirby "Thermochemical Data of Organic Compounds" 2nd ed. 1986

- PNK is a core dataset for fitting Benson groups
- ~600 PNK compounds are small enough for G4 calculations and comparison with experiment.



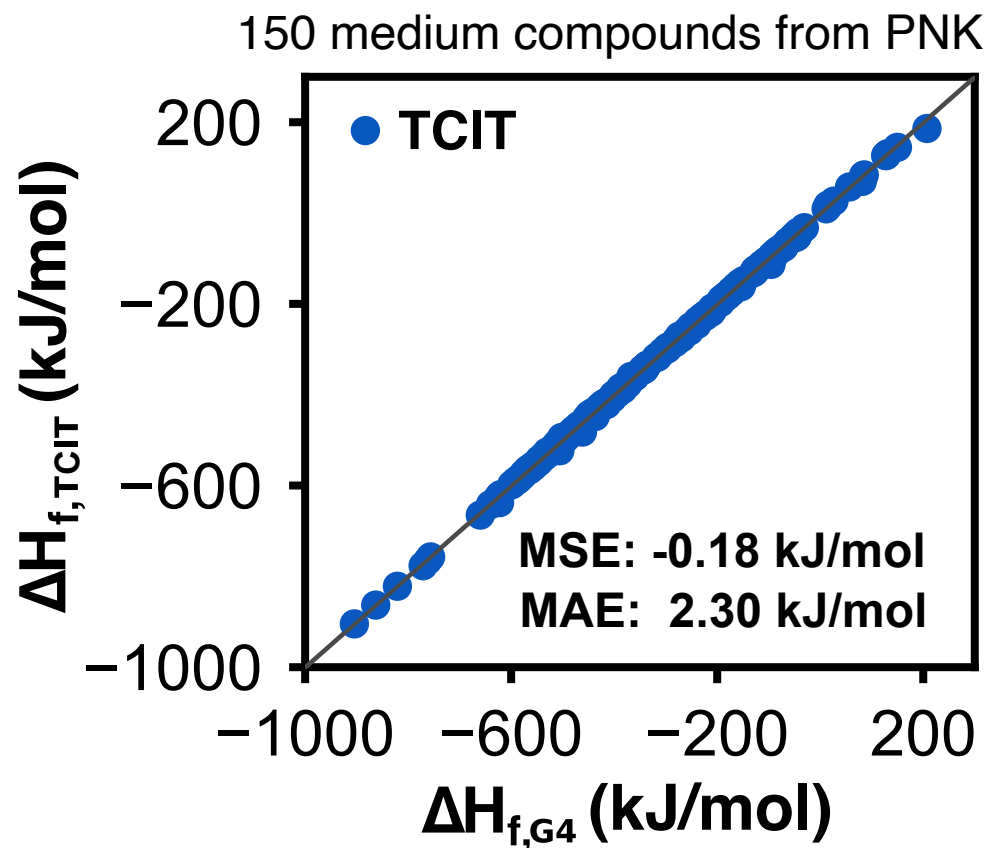
Zhao, Q.; Savoie, B. M.; Enthalpy of Formation Prediction via a Fully Self-Consistent Component Increment Theory. *J. Chem. Info. Model.* **2020**, 60, 2199-2207

Benchmarking $\Delta H_{f,gas}$ Predictions Against the PNK Dataset

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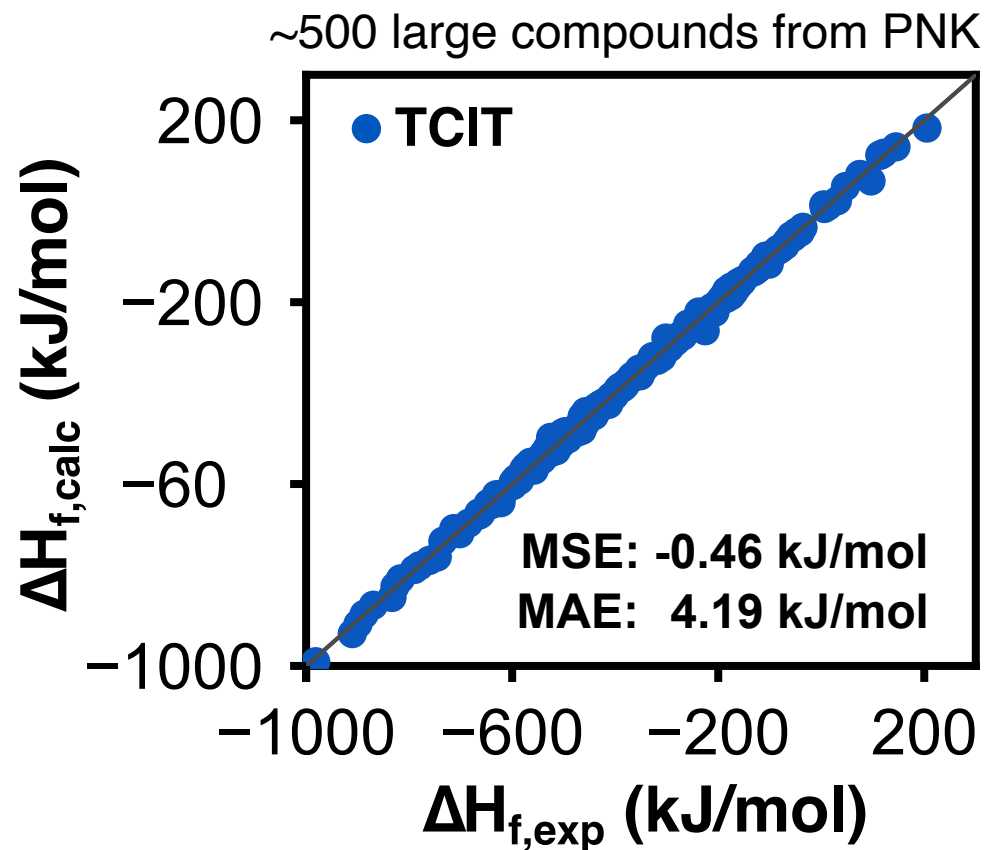
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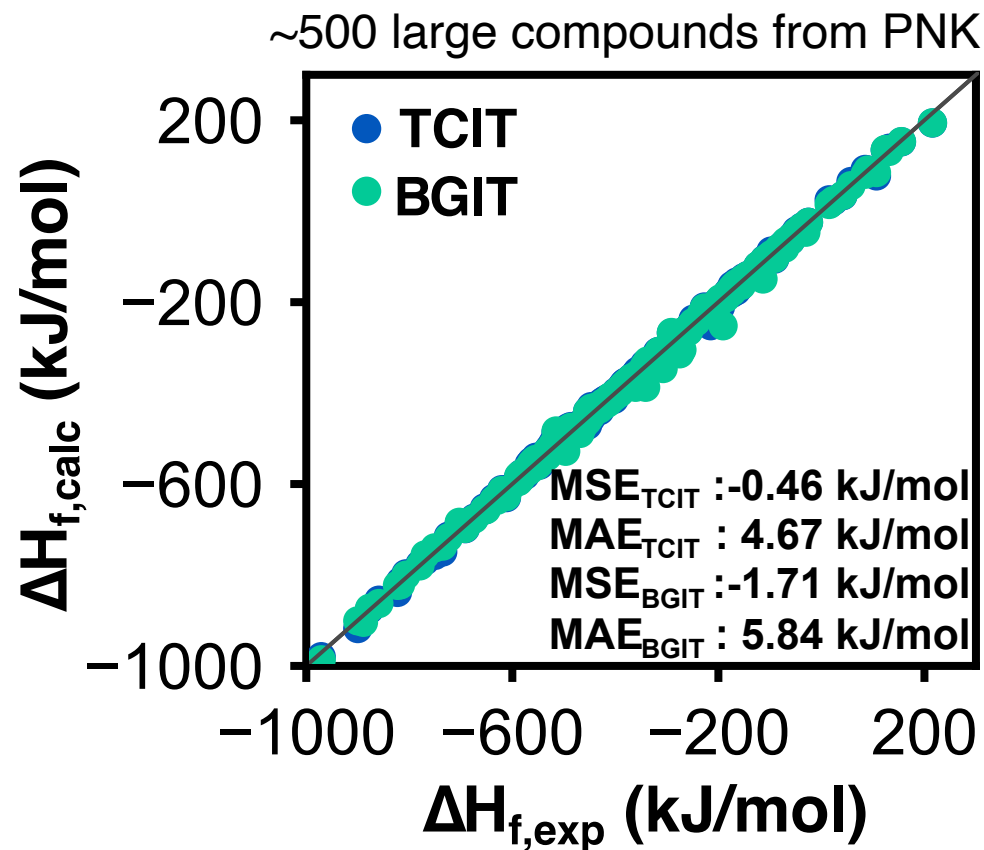
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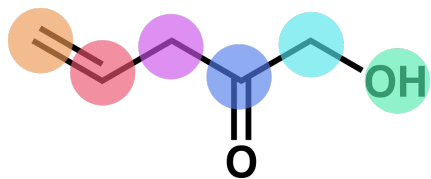


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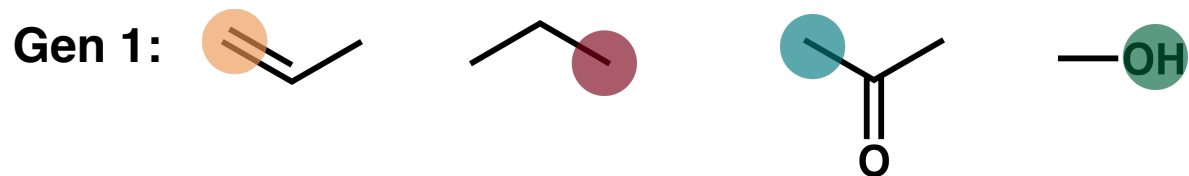
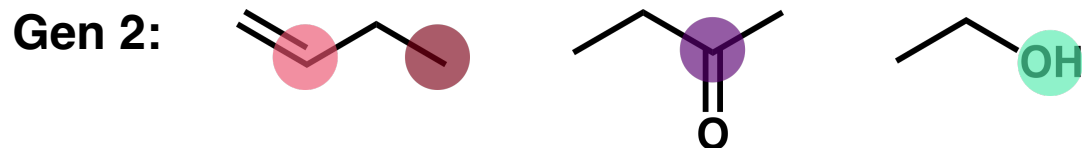
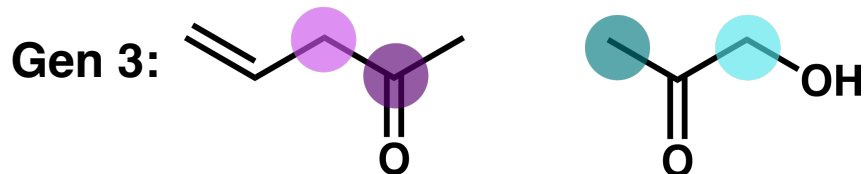
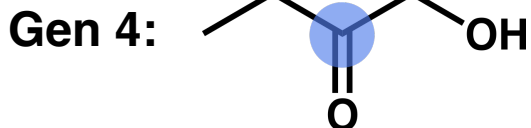
TCIT shows comparable performance to BGIT/CHETAH but is derived exclusively from extensible G4 data.

How Many Components are Possible?

Prediction target:



1-hydroxy-pent-2-ene-2-one



We database all model compounds and components for reuse.

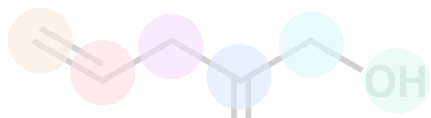
Over the past three years, we have parameterized new components in response to distinct project needs (many from P2SAC Pharma Members)

Current Database:

- ~35k distinct components for ΔH_f relevant to organic chemistry
- ~35k distinct G4 calculations on organic molecules.
- ~450 distinct ring corrections

How Many Components are Possible?

Prediction target:



We database all model compounds

How many components are required to predict the ΔH_f of **all** (physically relevant) organic molecules?

Gen 3:



response to distinct project needs
(many from P2SAC Pharma Members)

How many P2SAC funding periods would it take to make a “complete” or “gapless” component theory?

Current Database:

- ~450 distinct ring corrections

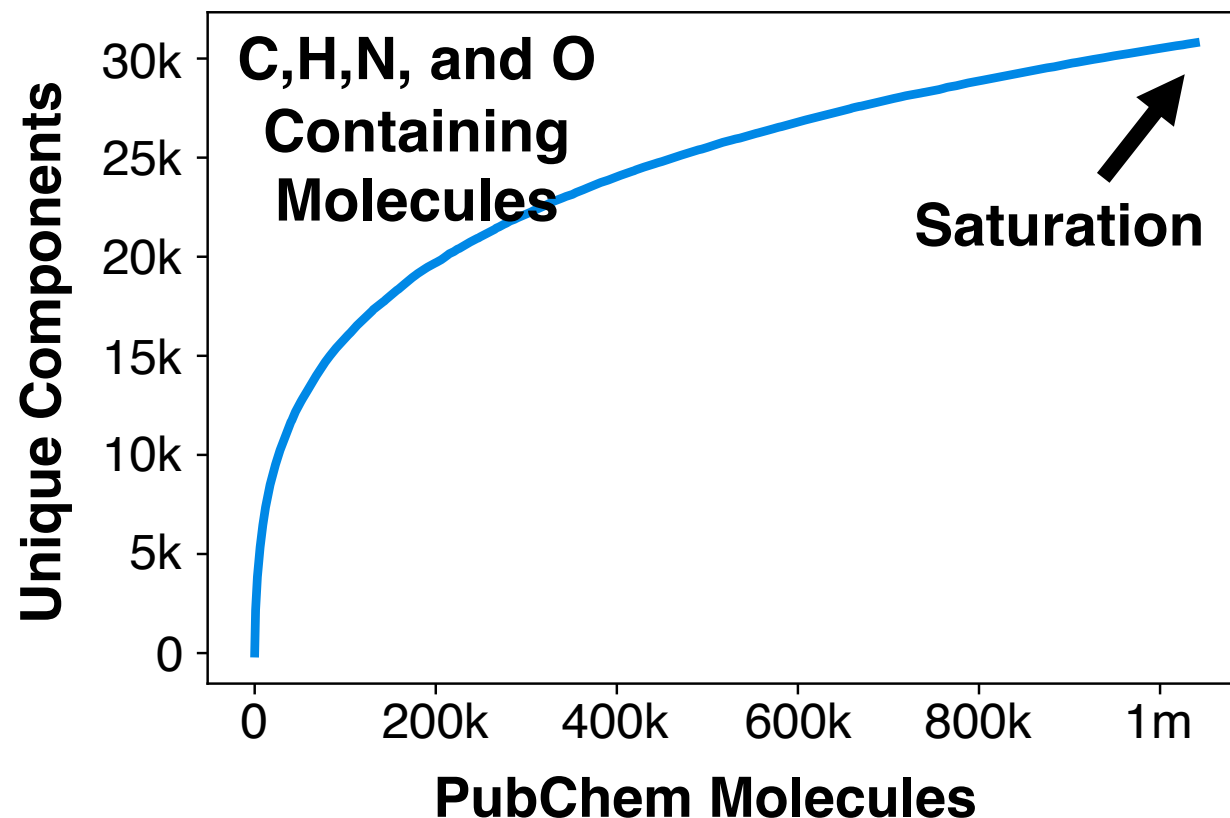
Gen 0:



Treating PubChem as a Model of Organic Chemical Space

PubChem is a repository of chemical properties that contains many millions of organic species ranging from small molecules to oligonucleotides.

We recently started mining PubChem's H,C,N, and O containing molecules for distinct components and the model compounds necessary to predict ΔH_f

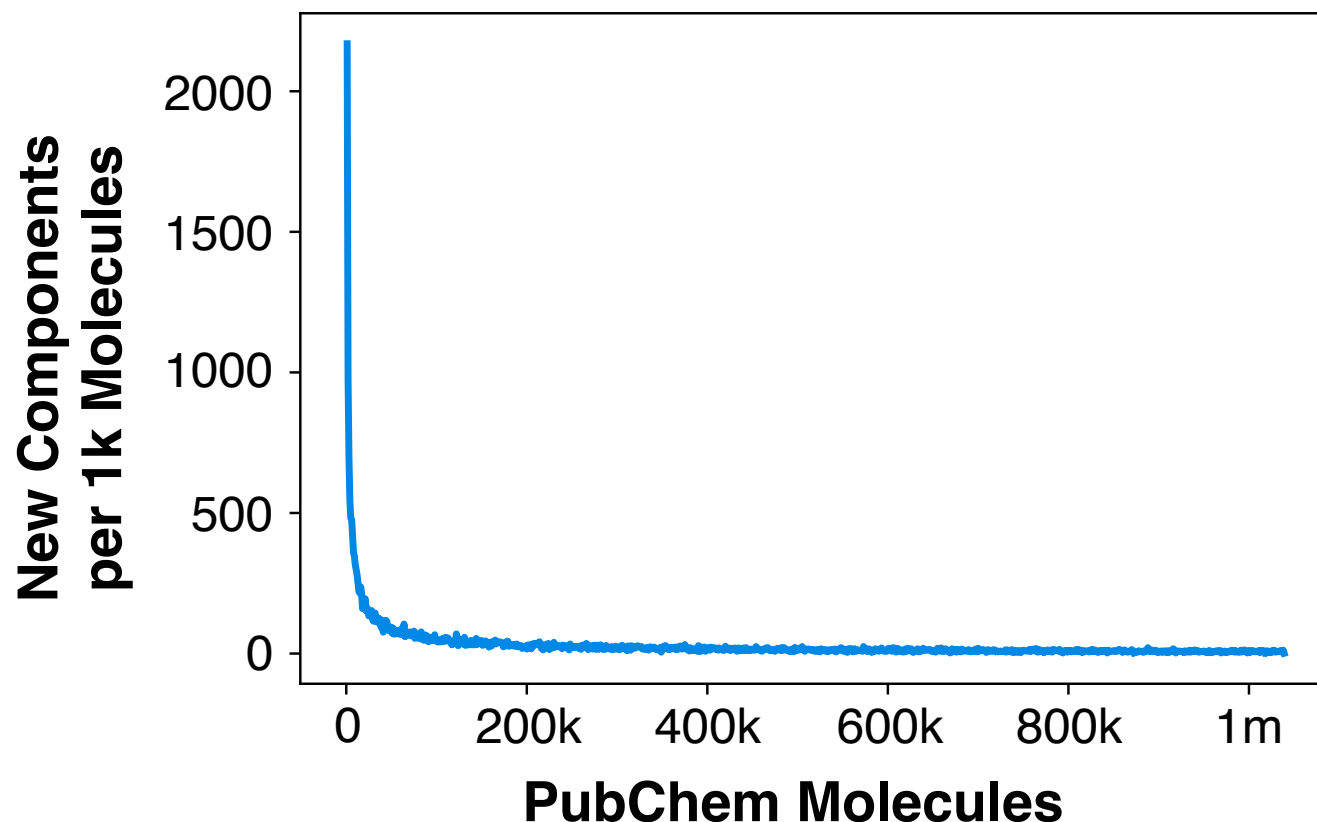


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The derivative plot shows that TCIT initially generates ~2 new components per molecule, but by the end of the sampling ~100 molecules need to be sampled to find a new component.



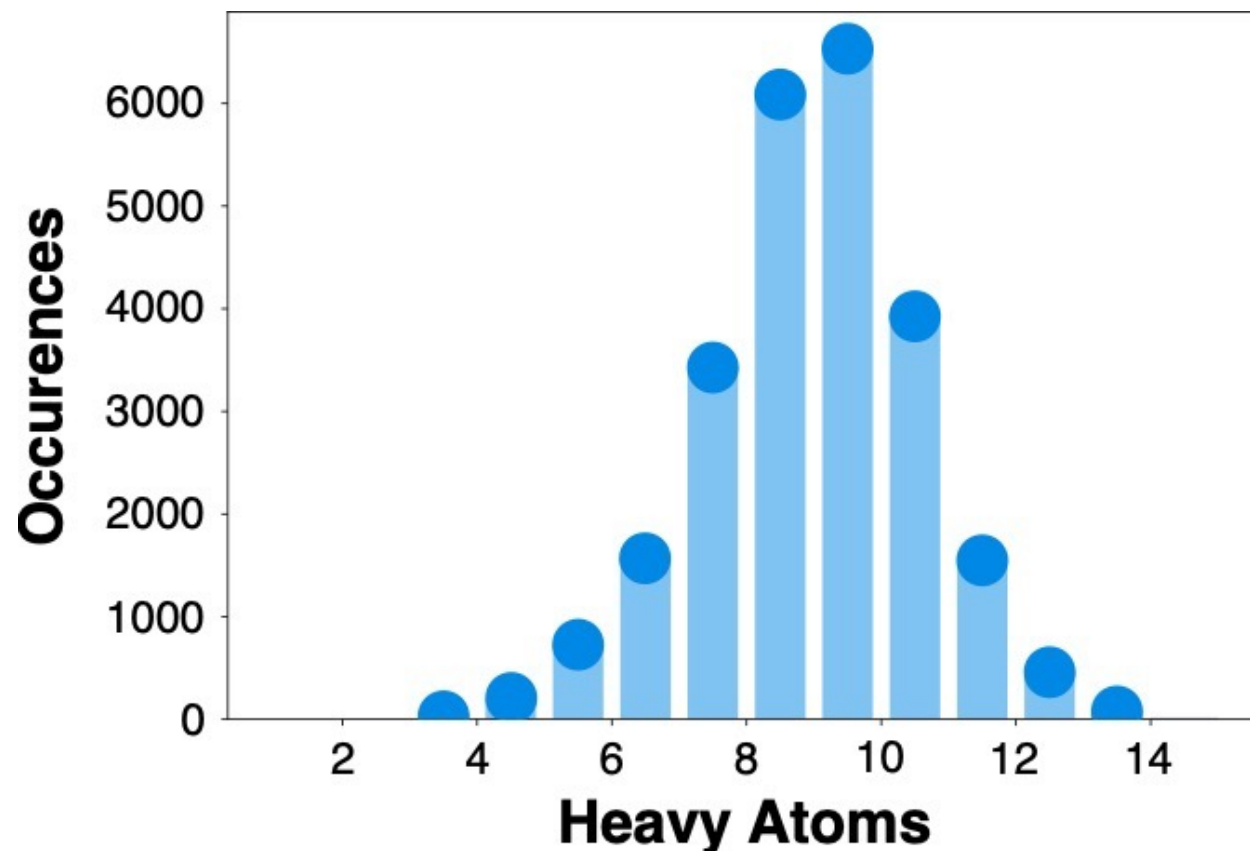
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New model compounds



Treating PubChem as a Model of Organic Chemical Space

PubChem is a repository of chemical properties that contains many millions of organic

TCIT now contains all CAVs necessary to predict ΔH_f of all N, H, O, and C-containing molecules in pubchem. **This is the largest repository of G4 calculations on large molecules in the world.**

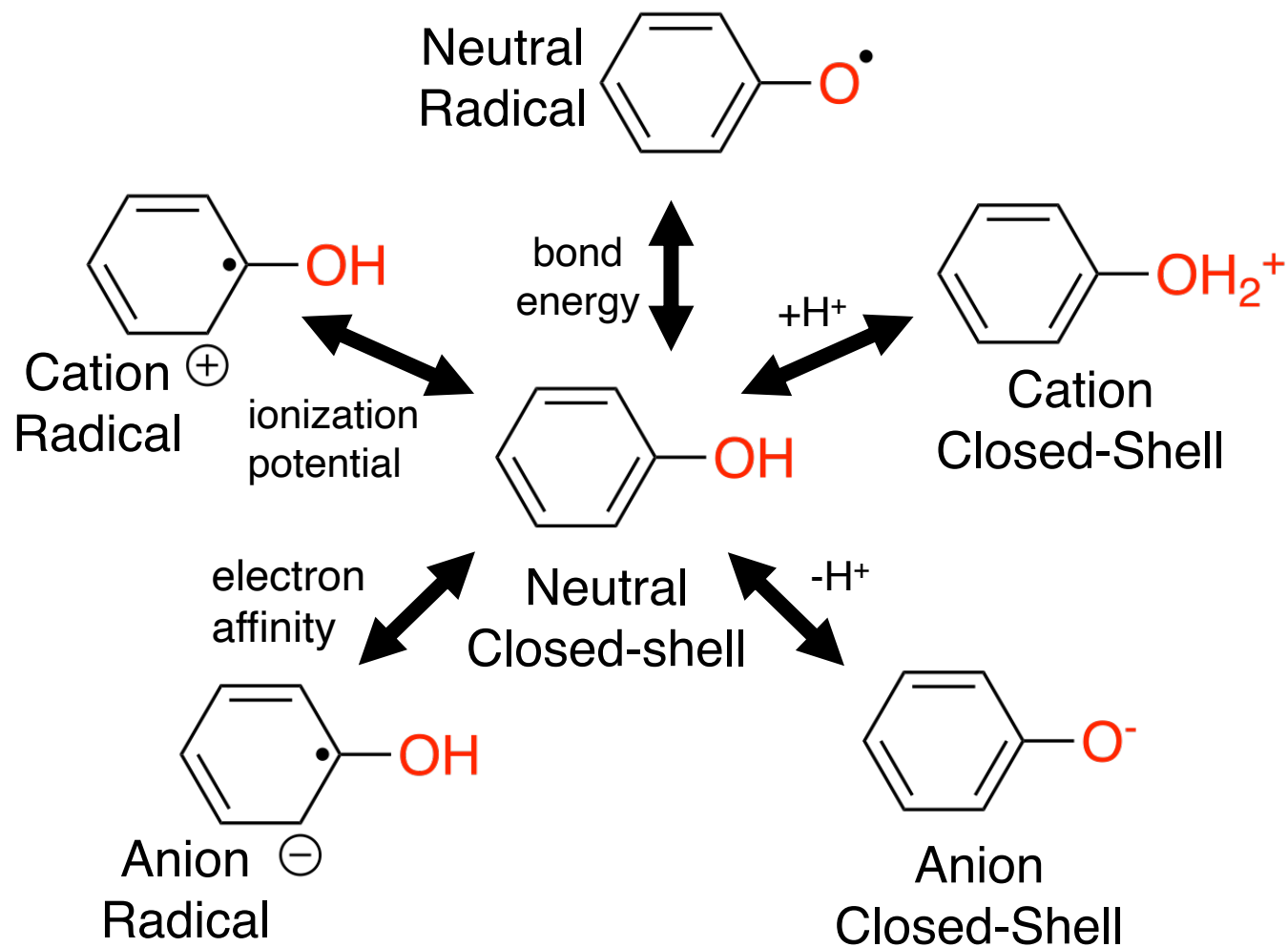
It is foreseeable that we could complete all B, F, Cl, S, and P containing structures over the next few years.

Extending TCIT to Radicals and Ions

A recurring question is when will TCIT support predictions on **radicals** and **ions**?

TCIT already covers neutral close-shell species, so these extensions require us only to predict the difference between the target and the **nearest closed-shell neutral**.

This amounts to developing models to predict IP/EA/+H⁺/-H⁺

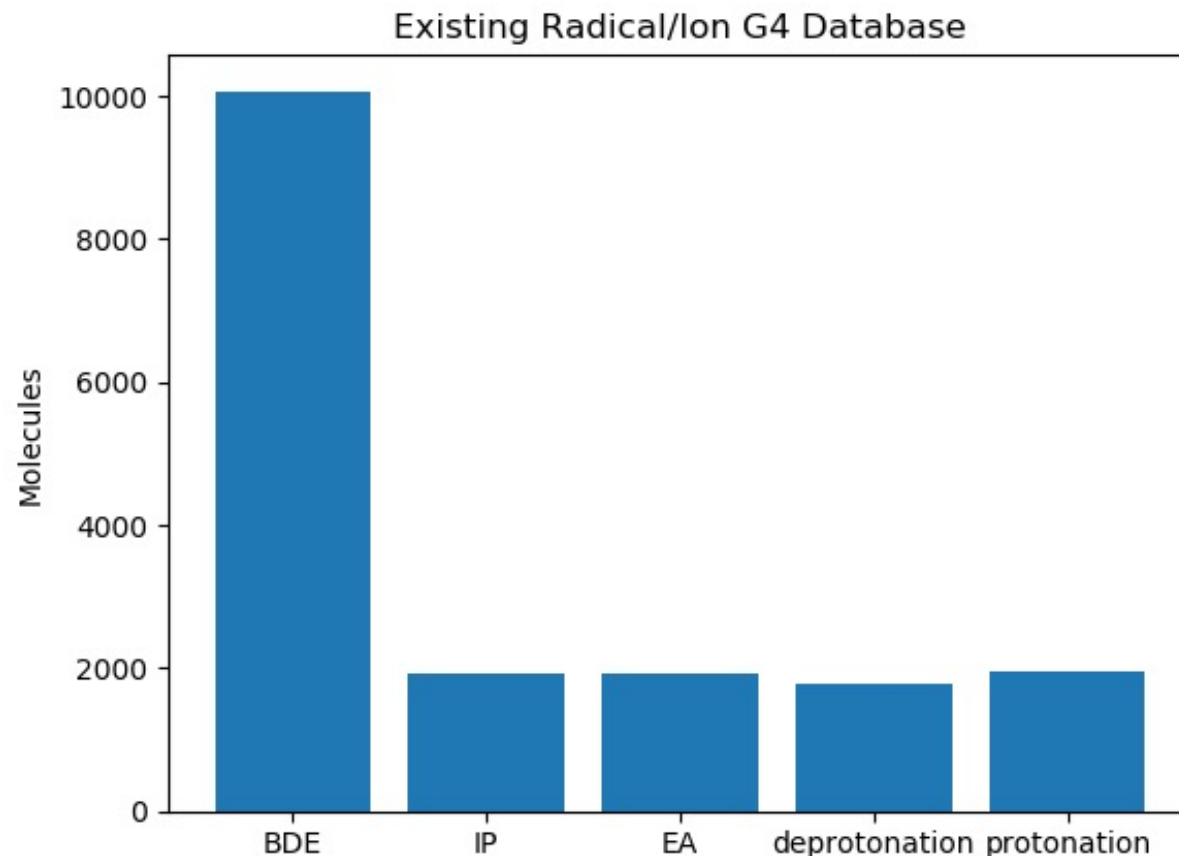


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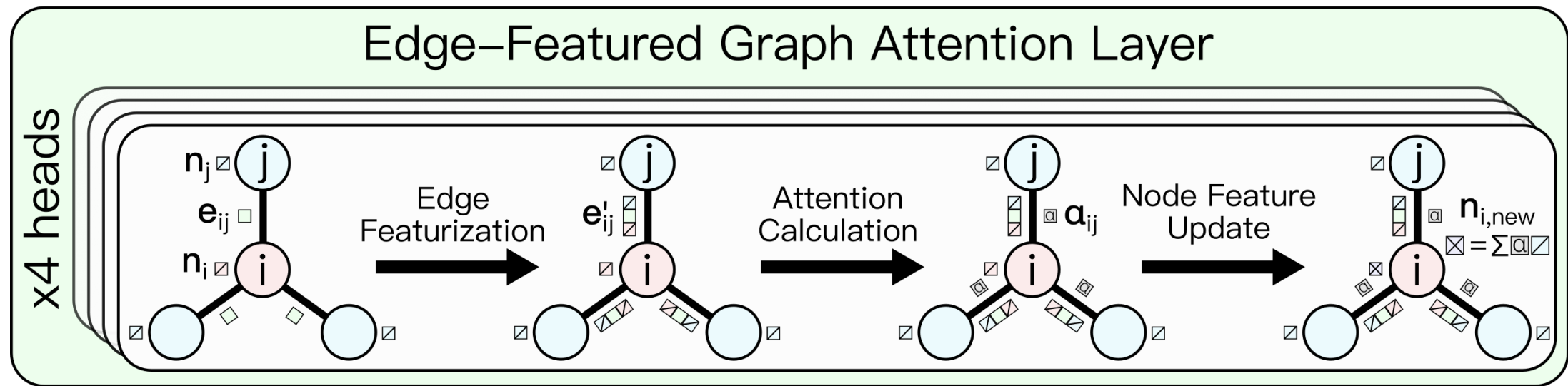
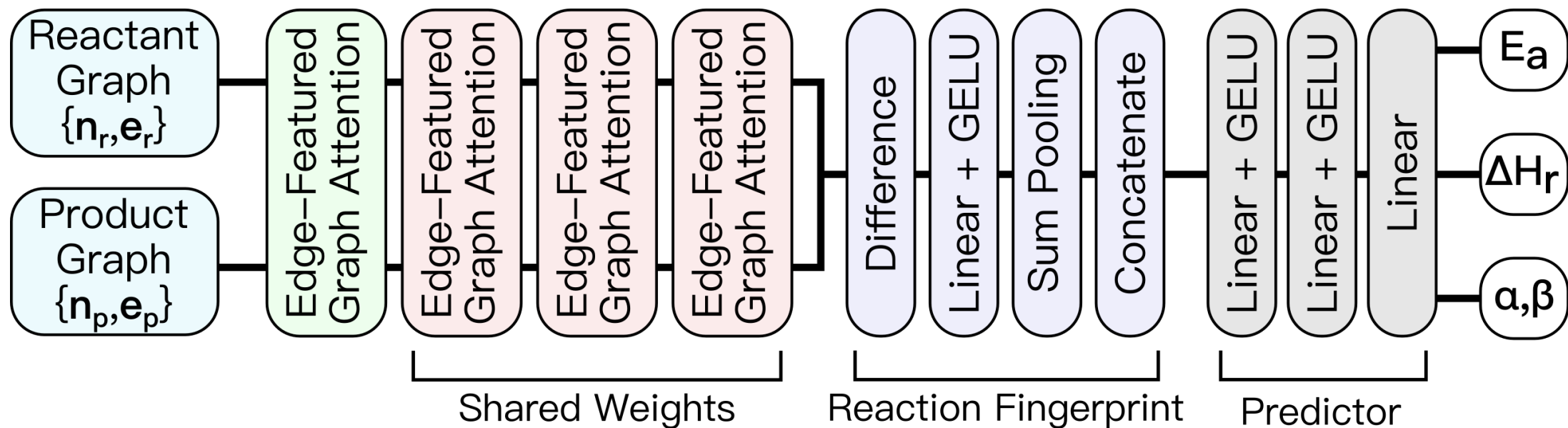
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Graph \rightarrow IP/EA/+H+/-H+ Models



The EGAT architecture has already been developed by our group for activation energy prediction

“Known Unknowns” and “Unknown Unknowns”

$A \rightarrow B$

- To safely plan a known reaction, we need access to solid thermodynamic data (e.g., ΔH_f , S° , C_v) to understand and classify risks.
- This is a “**known unknown**” in that we know the reaction, $A \rightarrow B$, but we need values for a few unknown variables.

$A \rightarrow ? \rightarrow B$; $A \rightarrow B + ?$; $A \rightarrow ?$

- $A \rightarrow ? \rightarrow B$, means that we know the net reaction, but there may be a consequential (e.g., potentially reactive) intermediate. Even if we have accurate thermodynamic data on A/B, neglecting the intermediate could be disastrous.
- The $A \rightarrow B + ?$ (unknown side-reaction) and $A \rightarrow ?$ (unknown main product), problems have similar “**unknown unknown**” characteristics.

The Reaction Prediction Problem

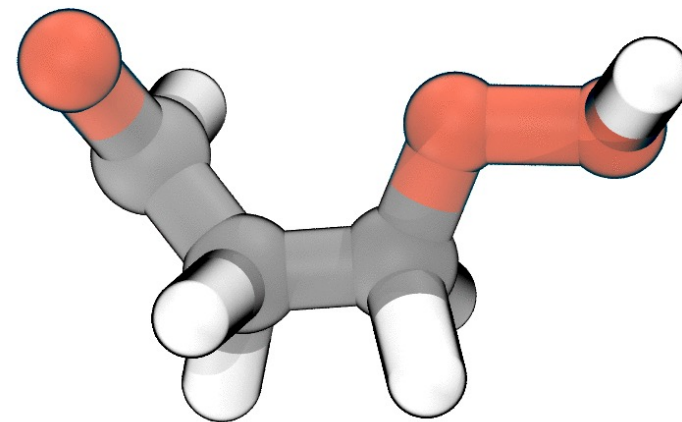
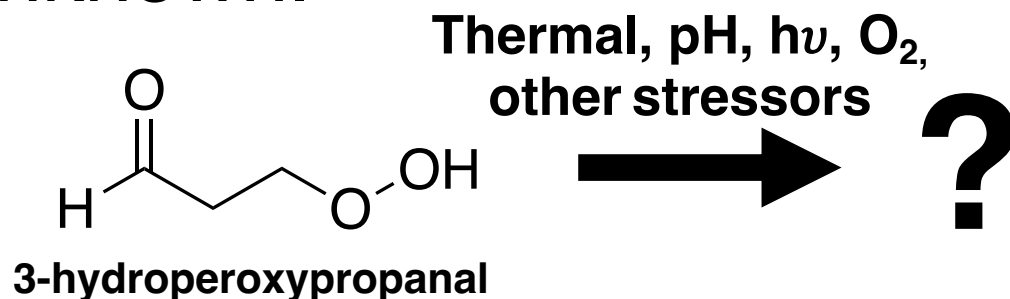
A → B : When we know the reactants and products, mature quantum chemistry tools exist to characterize transition states and establish pathways

A → ? : For degradation reactions, plausible reactions are often unknown.

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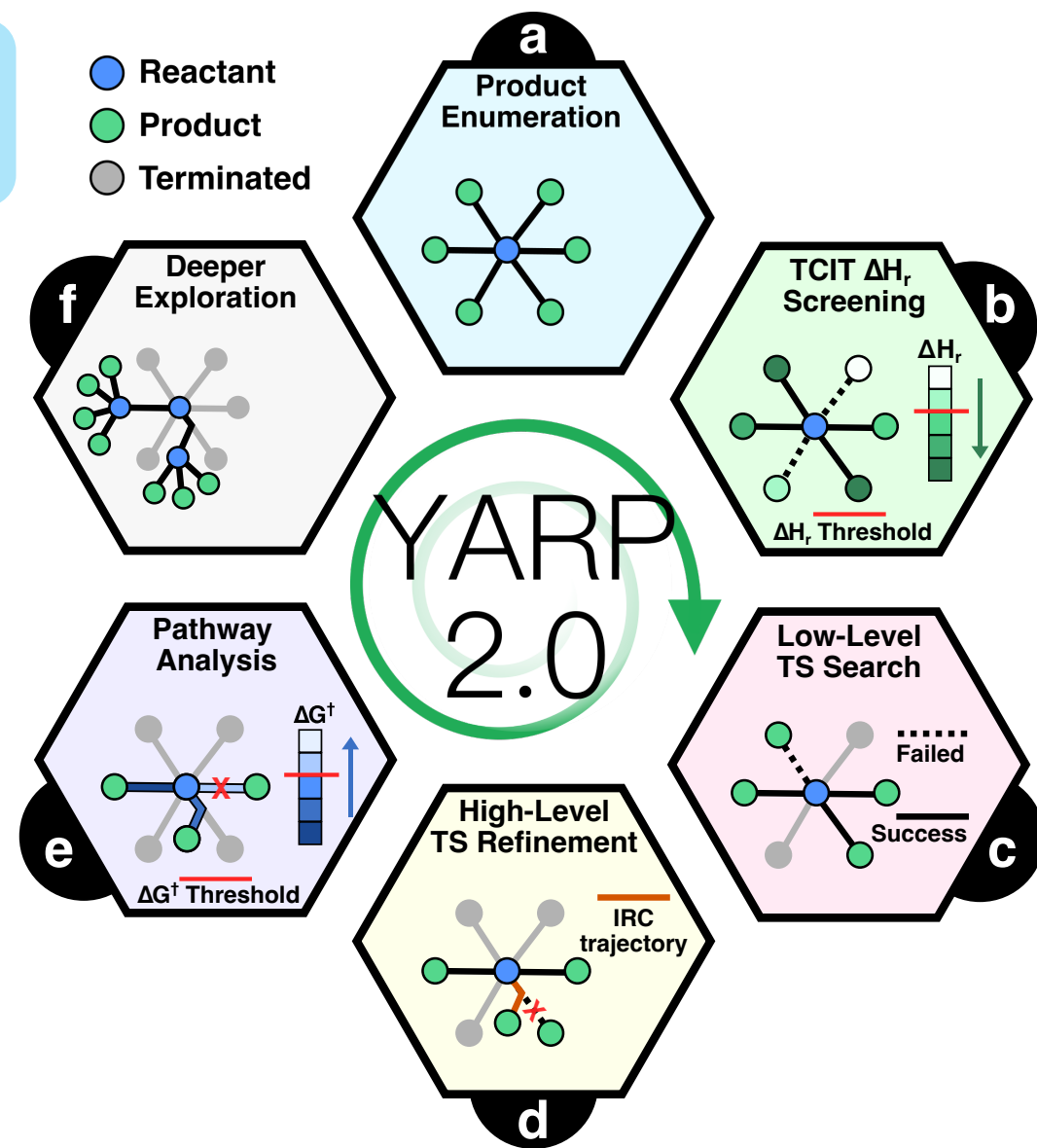


Yet Another Reaction Program (YARP)

Idea: Turn the $A \rightarrow ?$ problem into tractable (and parallelizable) $A \rightarrow B$ problems.

Observations:

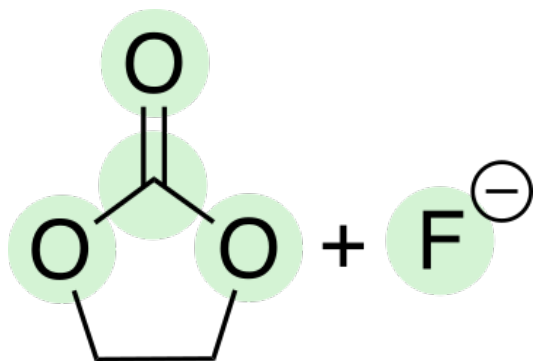
- Product enumeration is easier than transition state enumeration.
- Transition state algorithms for $A \rightarrow B$ problems are mature. Let the TS algorithm identify physical reactions.
- Recent developments in semi-empirical models and ML create opportunities.
- Solving the $A \rightarrow ?$ problem is the prerequisite for reaction network prediction.



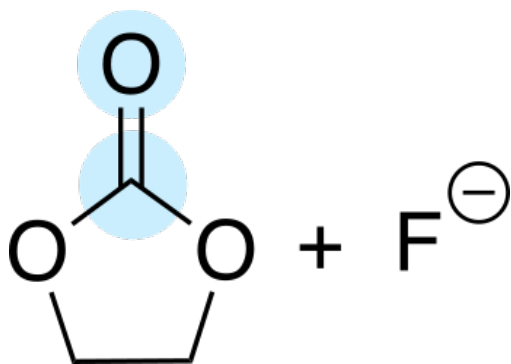
YARP: Elementary Reaction Step(s)

Polar and pericyclic organic reactions are decomposed into elementary electron donor and acceptor reactions with concomitant σ -bond breaks

bnfn
will refer to
 σ -bond
changes,
 π -bonds are
allowed
to arbitrarily
rearrange.



Lone-Pair Donors

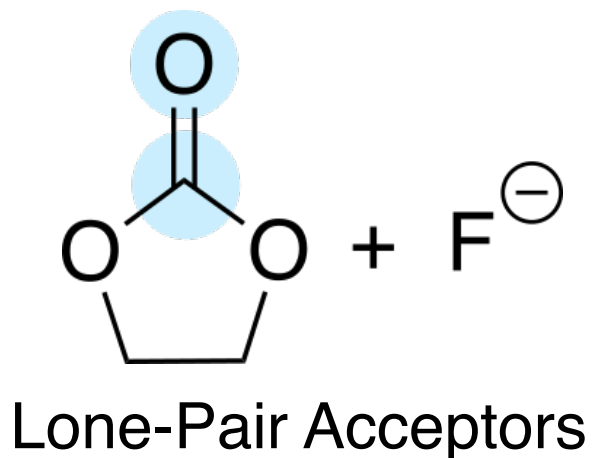
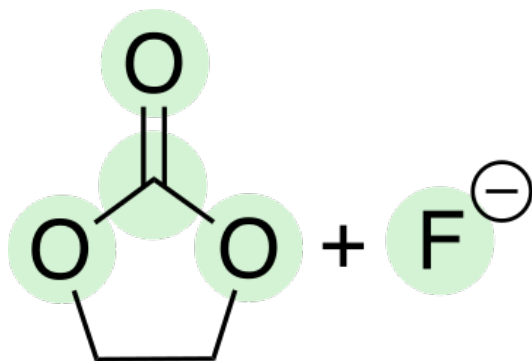


Lone-Pair Acceptors

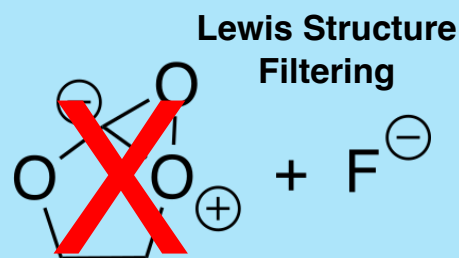
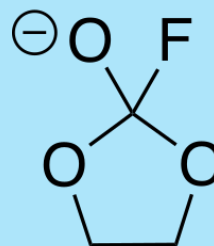
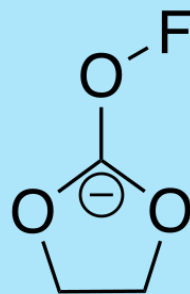
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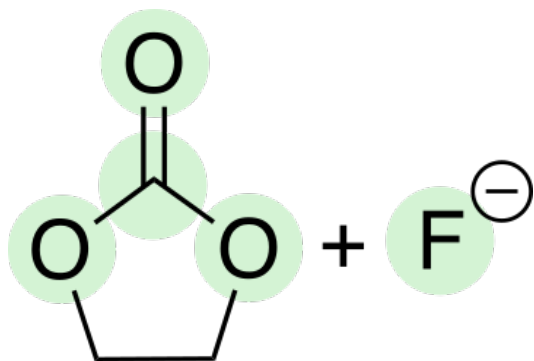
Form 1 Products



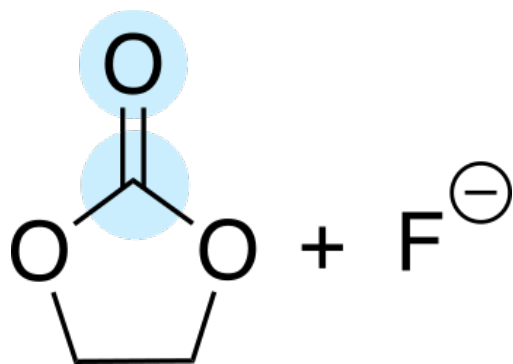
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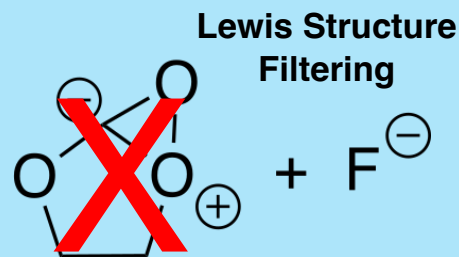
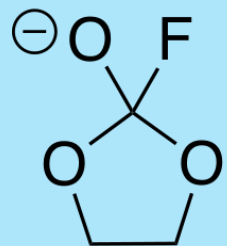
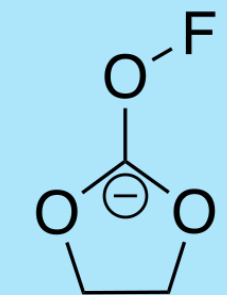


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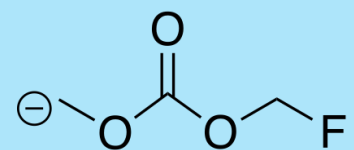
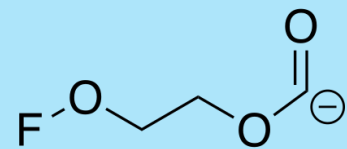
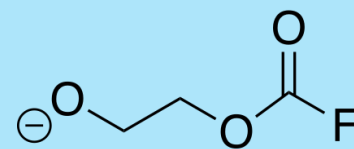
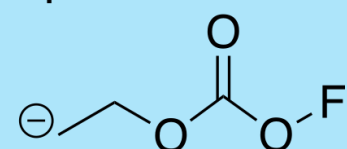
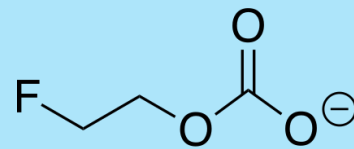
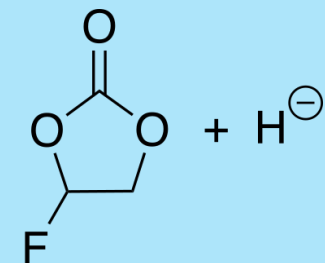
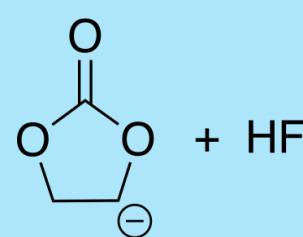


Lone-Pair Acceptors

Form 1 Products



Break 1 Form 1 Products



+ 28 others

YARP: Elementary Reaction Step(s)

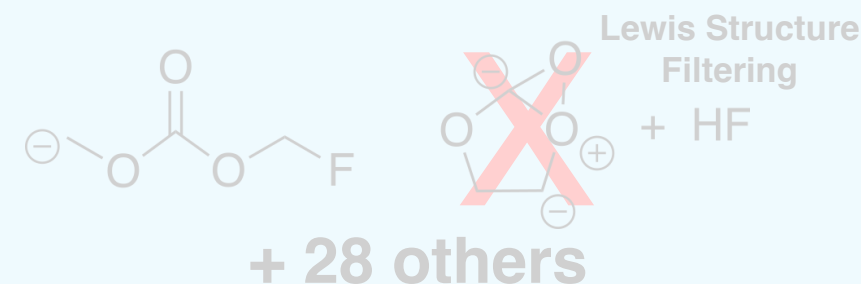
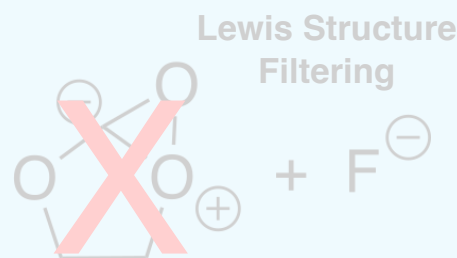
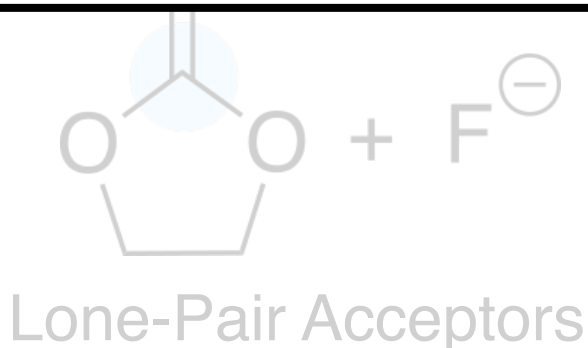
Polar and pericyclic organic reactions are decomposed into elementary electron donor and acceptor reactions with concomitant σ -bond breaks

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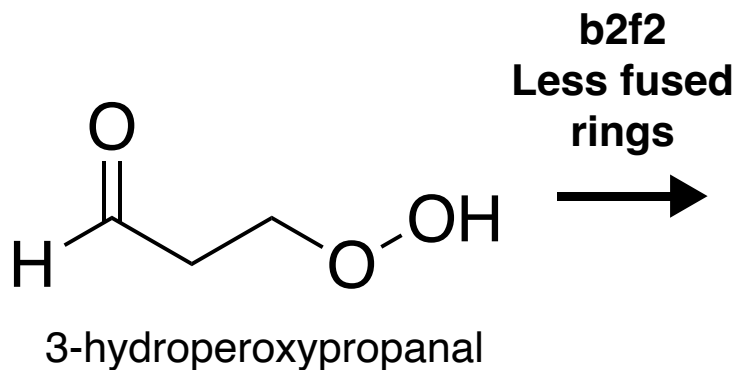
Break 1 Form 1 Products

All bnf products are $b(n-1)f(n-1)$ decomposable

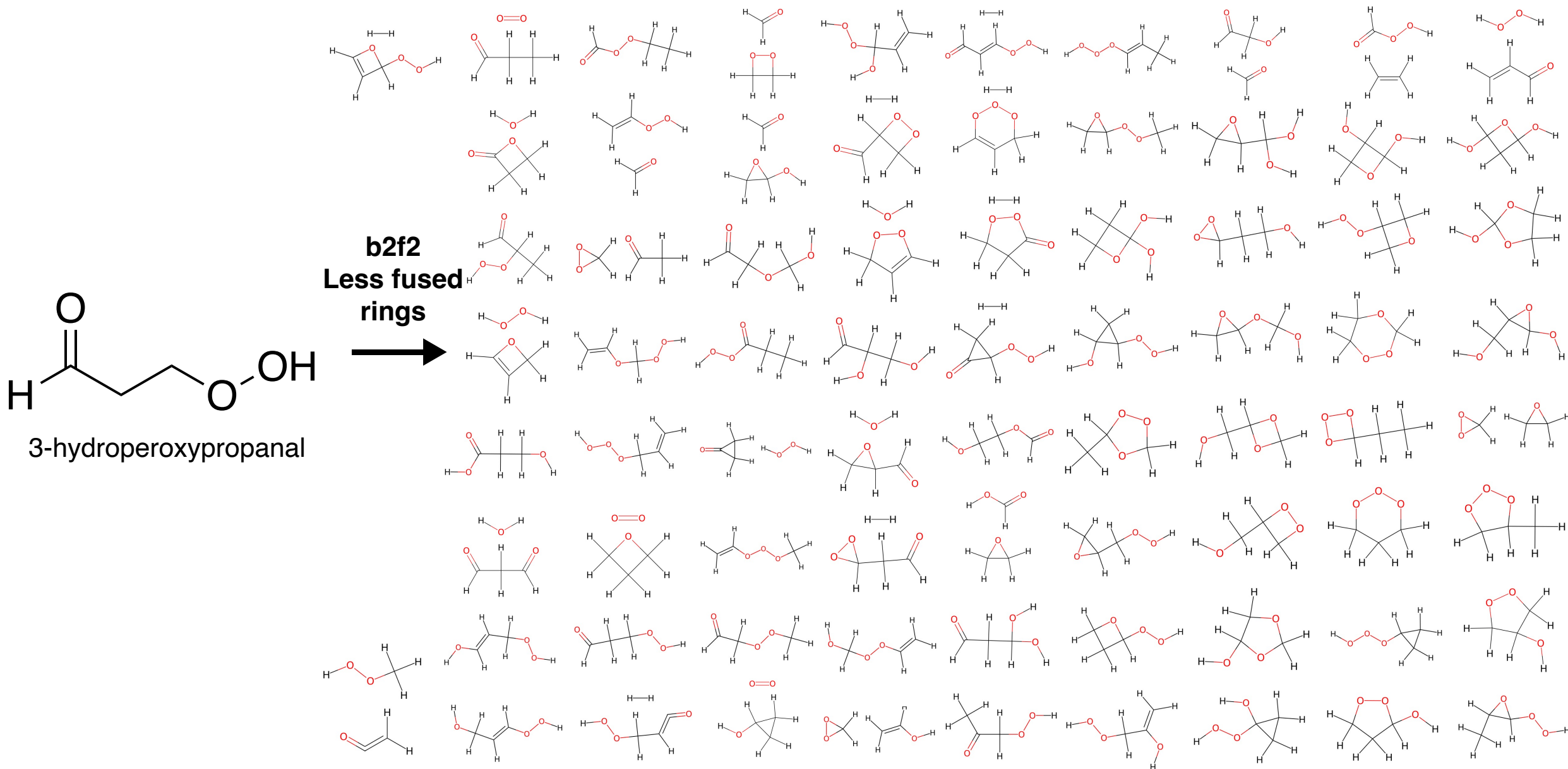
This means that using only “break 1 bond form 1 bond” (b1f1) for radicals and ions won't miss any products, but it will potentially miss important transition states (i.e., by predicting a sequential mechanism when a concerted mechanism is favored)



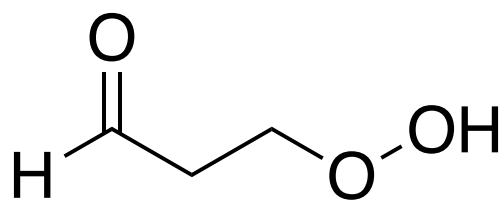
Testing YARP on a Unimolecular Decomposition Problem



Testing YARP on a Unimolecular Decomposition Problem

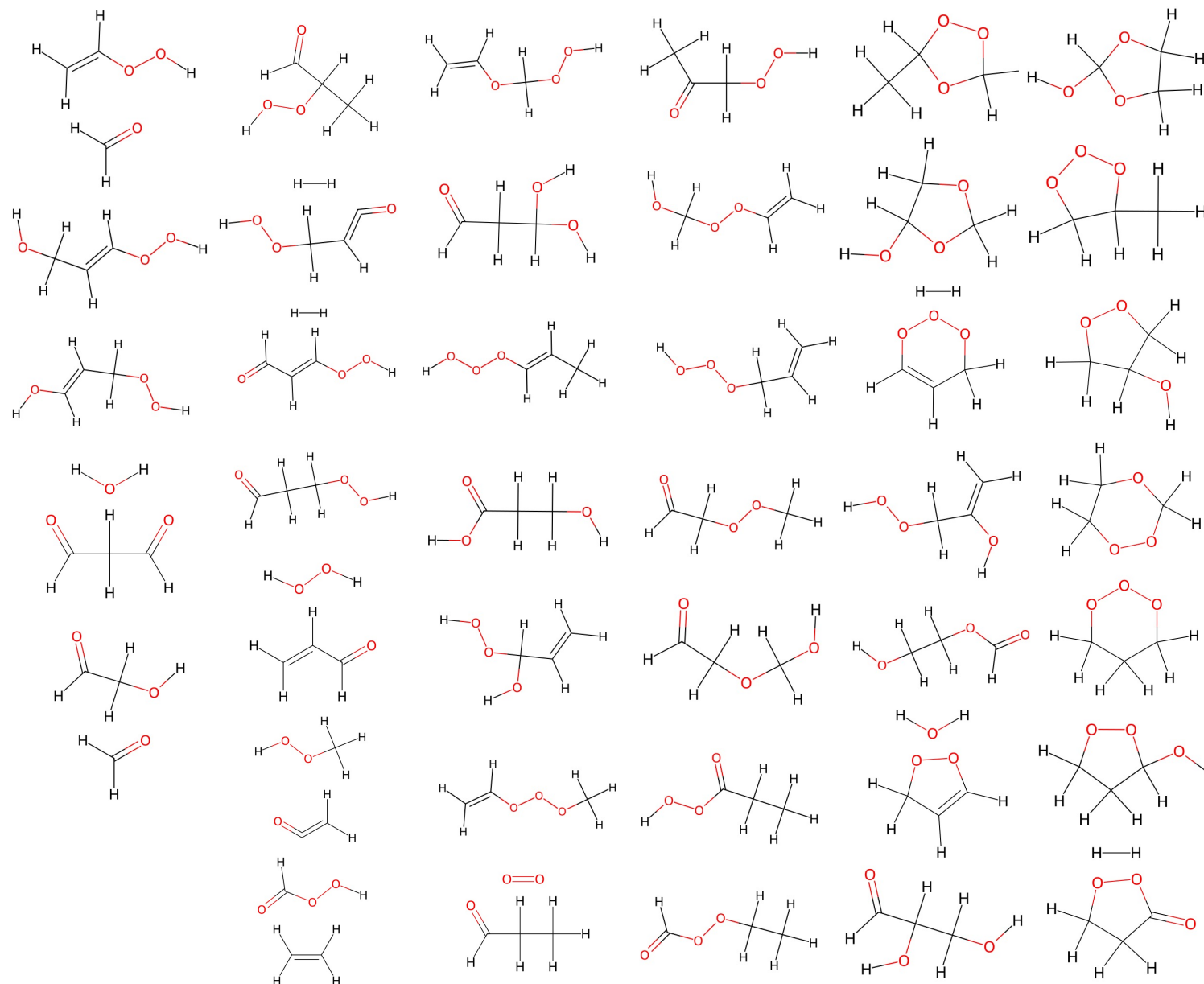


Testing YARP on a Unimolecular Decomposition Problem



3-hydroperoxypropanal

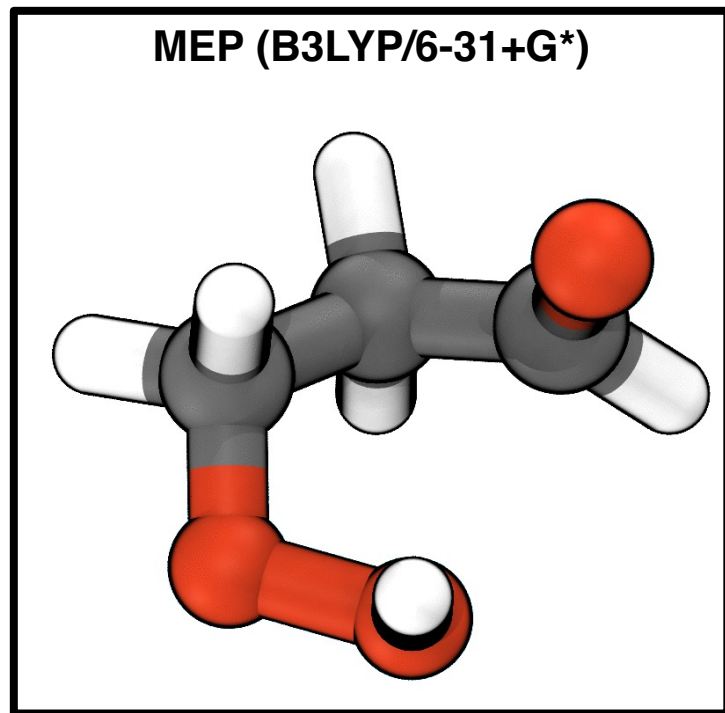
b2f2
Less fused
rings
Filtering
3 and 4
membered
rings



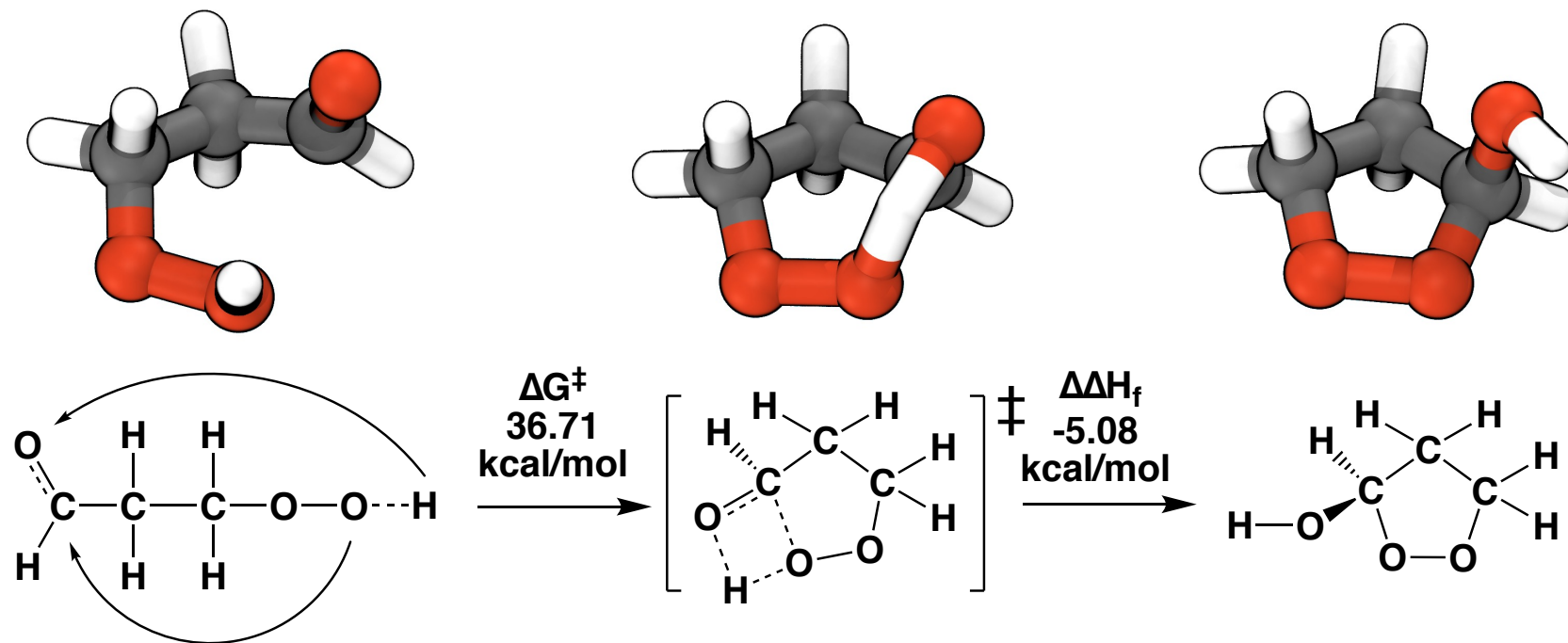
What Happens First?

Jensen, R. K.; Korcek, S.; Mahoney, L. R.; Zinbo, M. *JACS* **1979**, 101, 7574

The Korcek Mechanism



According to YARP, this is the lowest barrier unimolecular reaction.



Fully resolved (along with subsequent ROOH and R=O formation) 30 years later by

Green and Truhlar: Jalan, A.; Alecu, I. M.; Meana-Pañeda, R.; Aguilera-Iparraguirre, J.; Yang, K. R.; Merchant, S. S.; Truhlar, D. G.; Green, W. H. *JACS* **2013**, 135 (30), 11100–11114.

Reaction Network Case Study: β -D-Glucose Pyrolysis

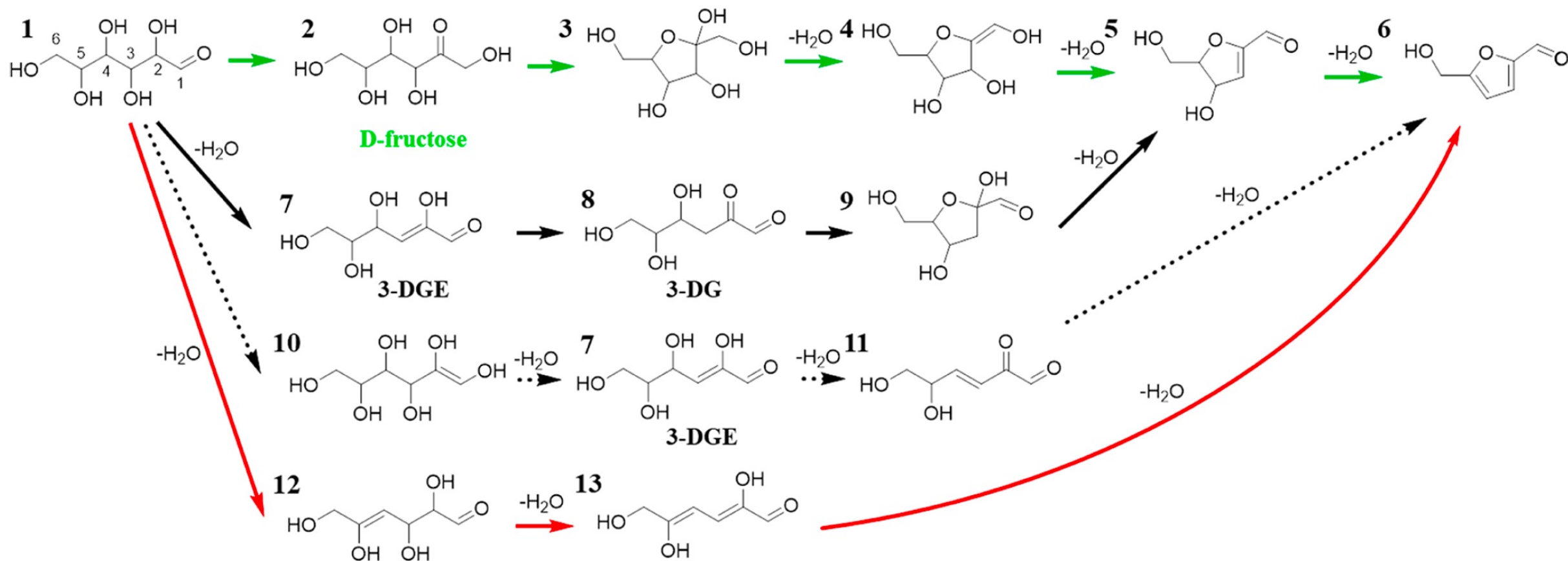
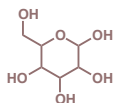


Figure 1. Proposed pathways in literature from glucose to HMF, namely the fructose path (green), 3-DG paths (black and black dotted), and direct path (red). The molecules are indicated by numbers and some key molecules are named as follows: 1. D-glucose; 2. D-fructose; 3. D-fructofuranose; 6. 5-hydroxymethylfurfural (5-HMF); 7. 3-deoxyglucos-2-ene (3-DGE); 8. 3-deoxyglucosone (3-DG); and 10. hex-1-ene-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexaol (enol form of glucose).

β -D-Glucose Pyrolysis Network Exploration



To perform a deep network exploration, we've implemented a modified version of Dijkstra's algorithm

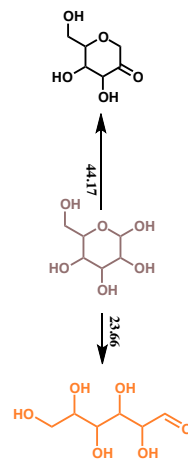
At each iteration:

- (1)** all b2f2 reactions are explored for active nodes.
- (2)** Active nodes are determined by the minimum barrier to a given product (with a window)
- (3)** Water catalyzed reactions are considered for all H-transfers

Depth 1:



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Depth 1: 
Depth 2: 

β -D-Glucose Pyrolysis Network Exploration

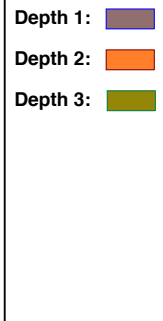
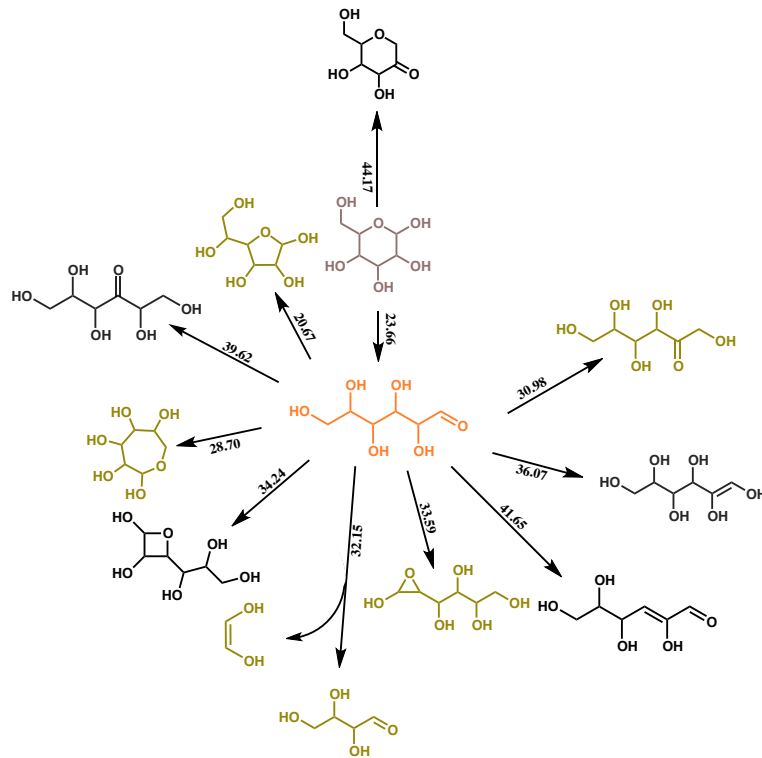
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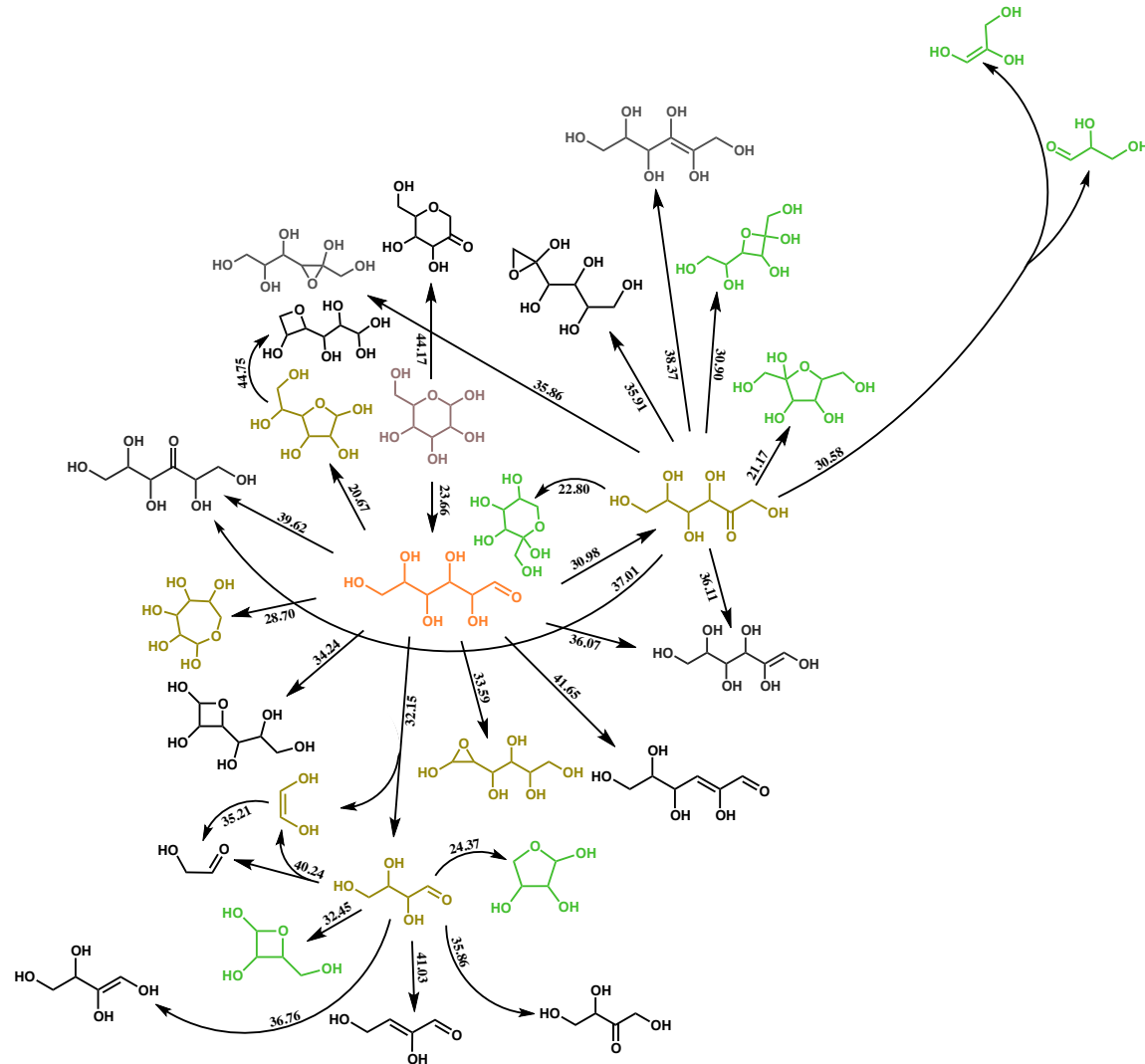
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Zhao, Q.; Savoie, B. M. Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. 120, 2023



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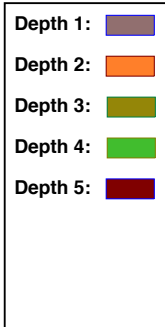
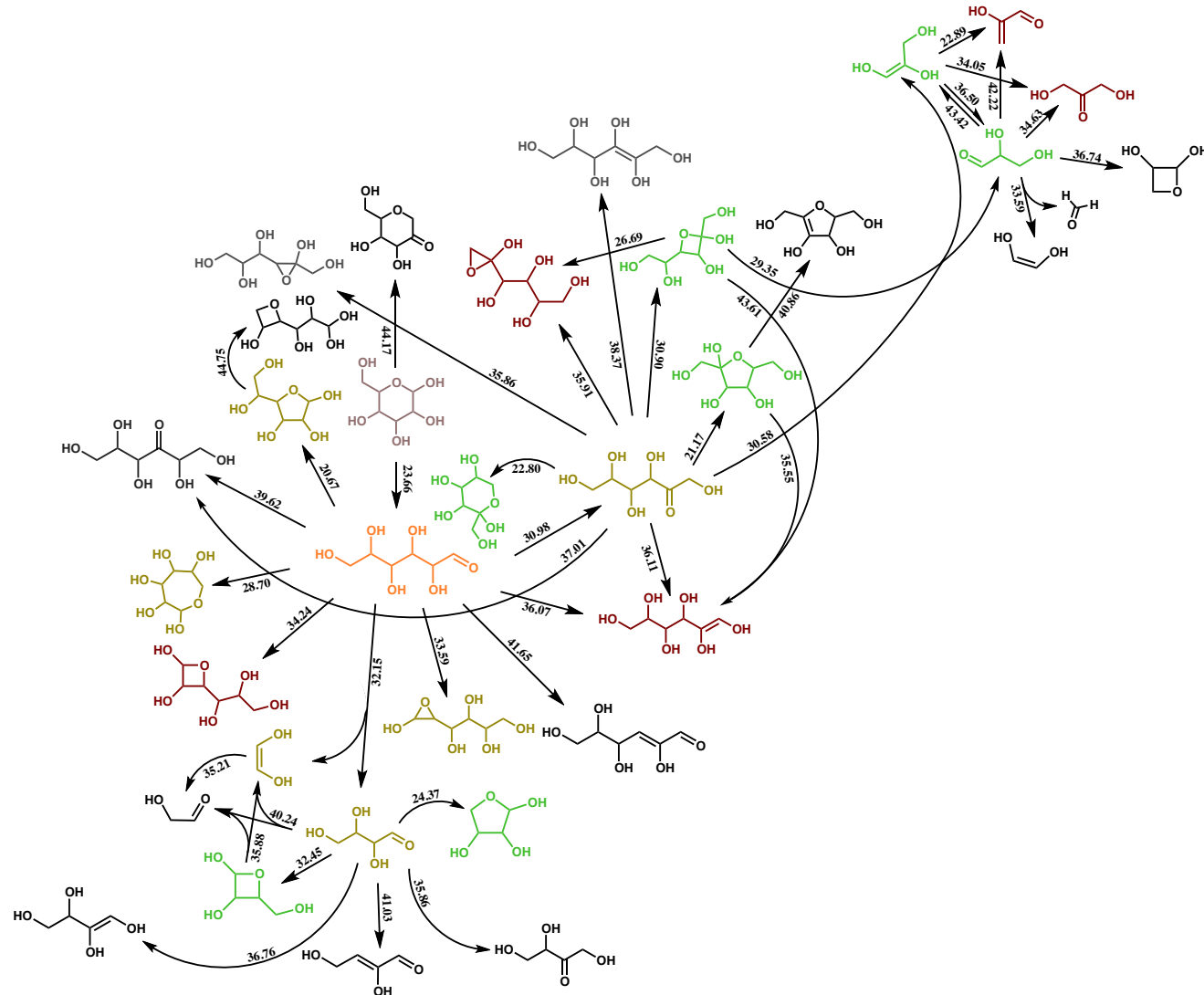
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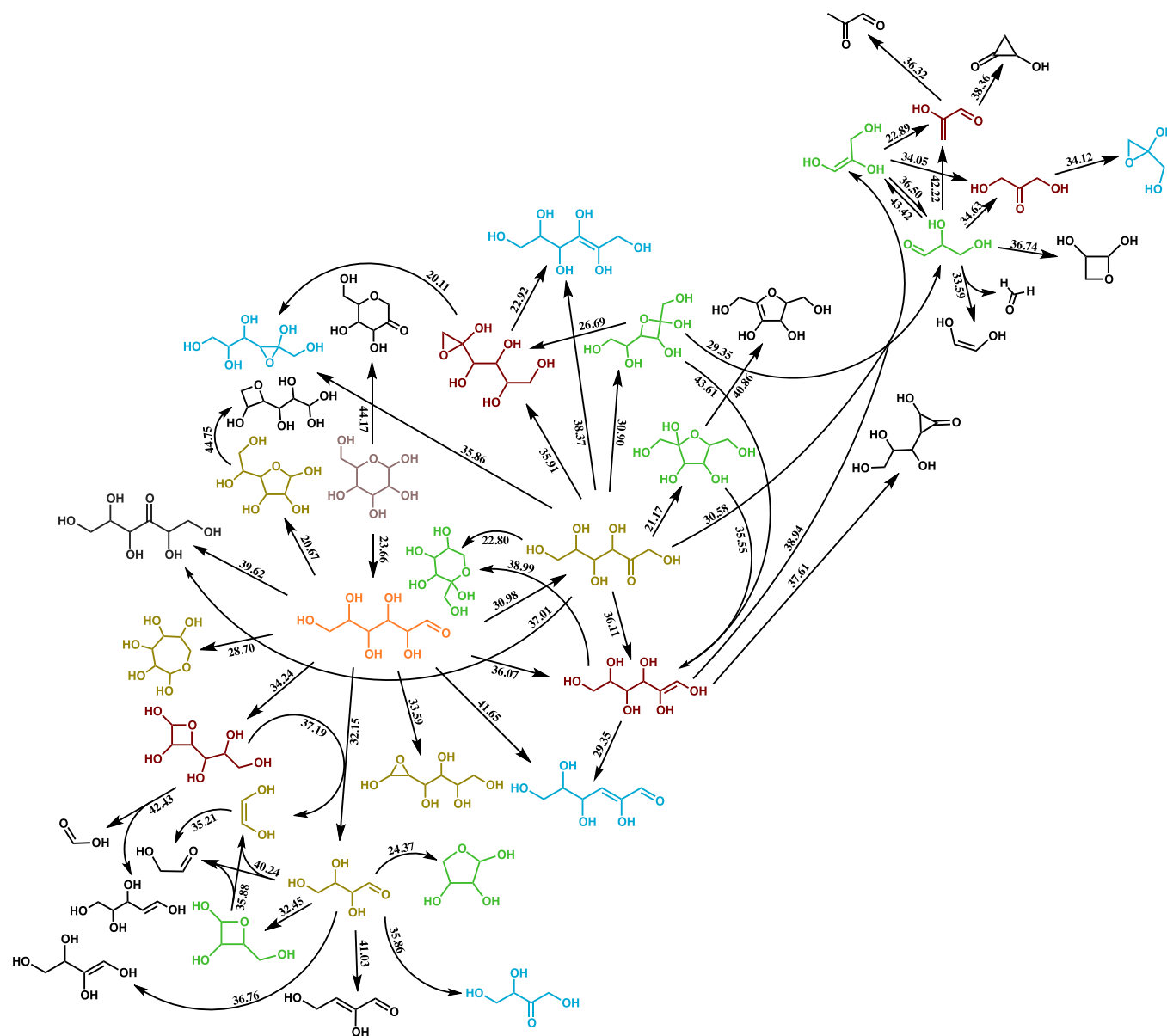
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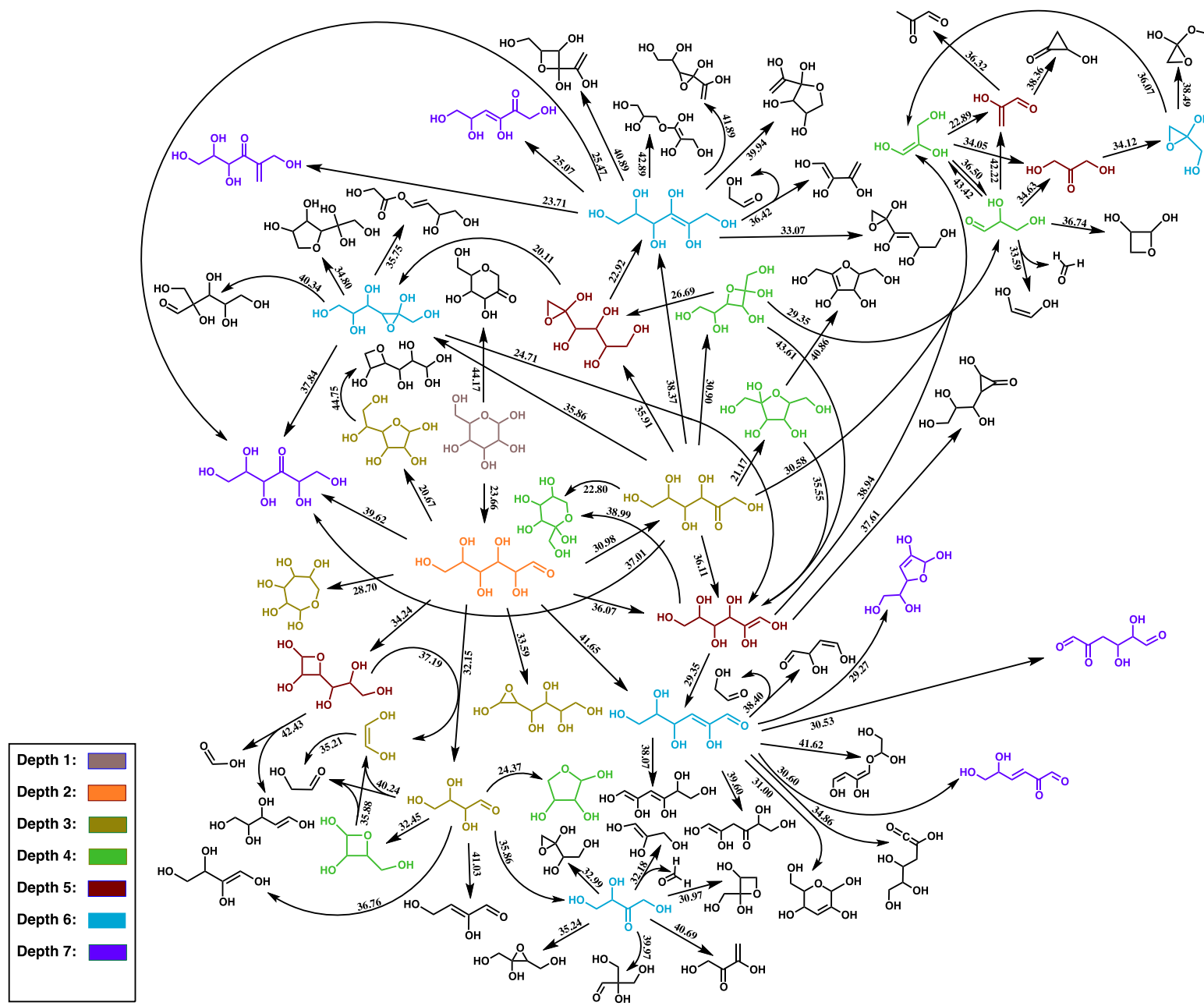
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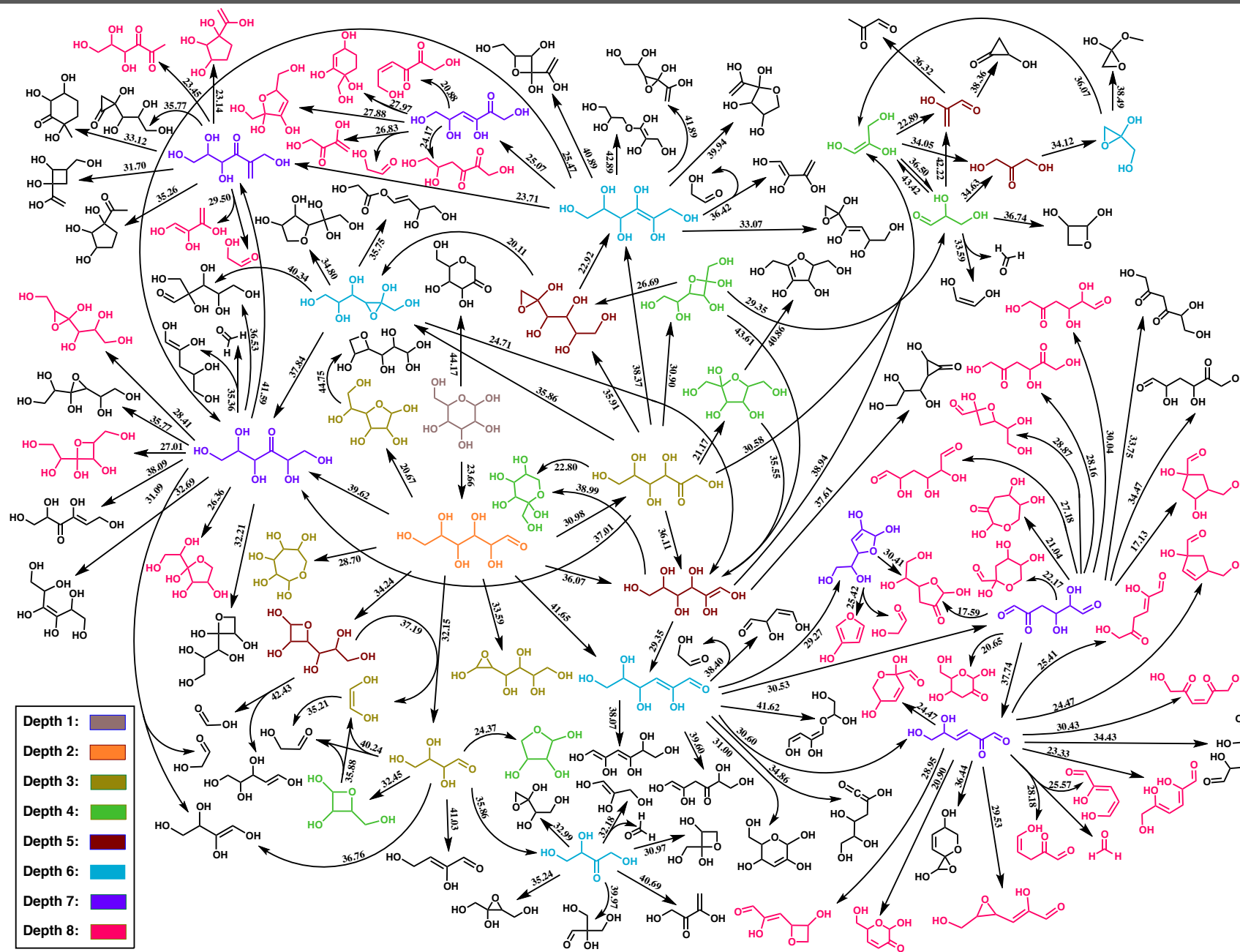
At each iteration:

(1) all b2f2 reactions are explored for active nodes.

(2) Active nodes are determined by the minimum barrier to a given product (with a window)

(3) Water catalyzed reactions are considered for all H-transfers

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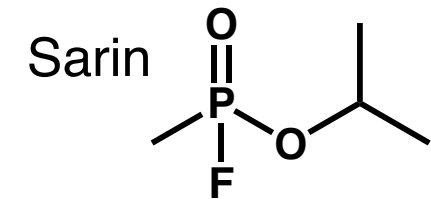
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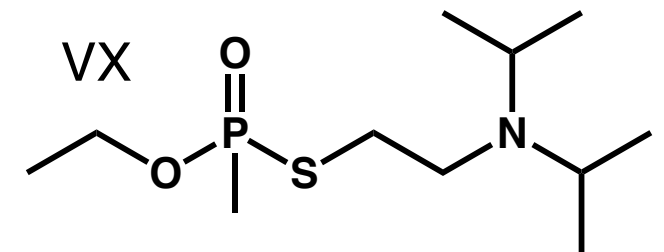
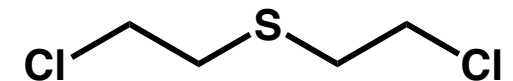
Studying Chemical Warfare Agents (CWAs) with YARP

Degradation products are often the only evidence of CWA use or existence. Establishing mechanistic pathways provides evidentiary value to investigators.

CWA type	Chemical agents	Method of exposure	Clinical symptoms
Nerve agents	G-agents (sarin, cyclosarin, tabun, soman)	Inhalation	SLUDGE, miotic pupils, bradycardia, bronchospasm, bronchorrea, muscle spasms/fasciculations, weakness, flaccid paralysis, tachycardia, seizures, respiratory failure
	V-agents (VE, VG, VM, VR, VX)		
Blistering agents	Nitrogen mustard & sulfur mustard (mustard gas)	Inhalation	Acute: Skin, eye and lung damage (pulmonary edema and pulmonary hemorrhage), erythematous rash, skin blistering
			Chronic: Lung damage (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, bronchiolitis obliterans), neutropenia, pancytopenia
Asphyxiants	Carbon monoxide, chlorine, phosgene, hydrogen sulfide gases	Inhalation	Upper airway distress, skin and eye irritation, fatal pulmonary edema and acute respiratory distress syndrome
Blood agents	Cyanide	Skin absorption, inhalation and ingestion	Severe distress, tachycardia, cyanosis, hypotension, severe metabolic acidosis, seizures, cardiac arrest
Hydrofluoric acid	—	Skin absorption, inhalation and ingestion	Severe pain in exposed area, gastrointestinal distress, vomiting, cardiac arrhythmias, hypocalcemia, hyperkalemia



Mustard Gas (HB)



Savoie Research Group I

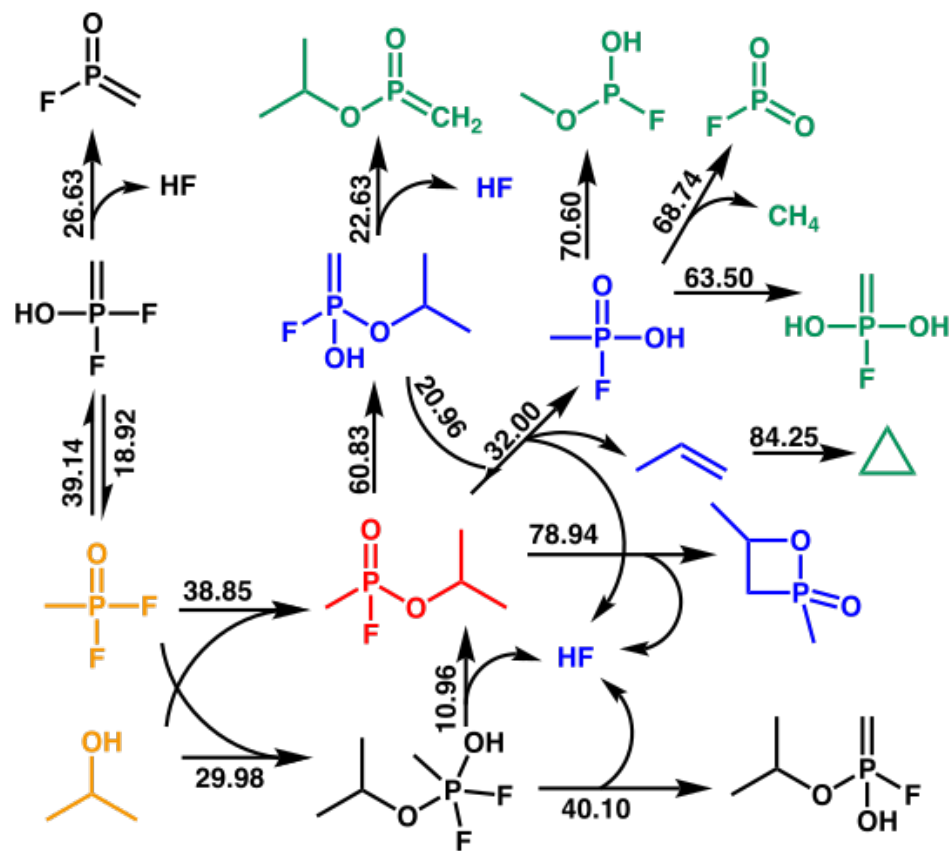


Chemical reaction scheme showing the synthesis of a nucleoside derivative. The reaction involves the condensation of a nucleobase (adenine) and a nucleoside (2'-deoxyribose-3'-phosphate) to form a nucleoside derivative (adenosine). The reaction is catalyzed by a phosphorane reagent (triethylphosphorane) and a base (triethylamine). The reaction is reversible, with equilibrium constants of 148.10 and 130.79.

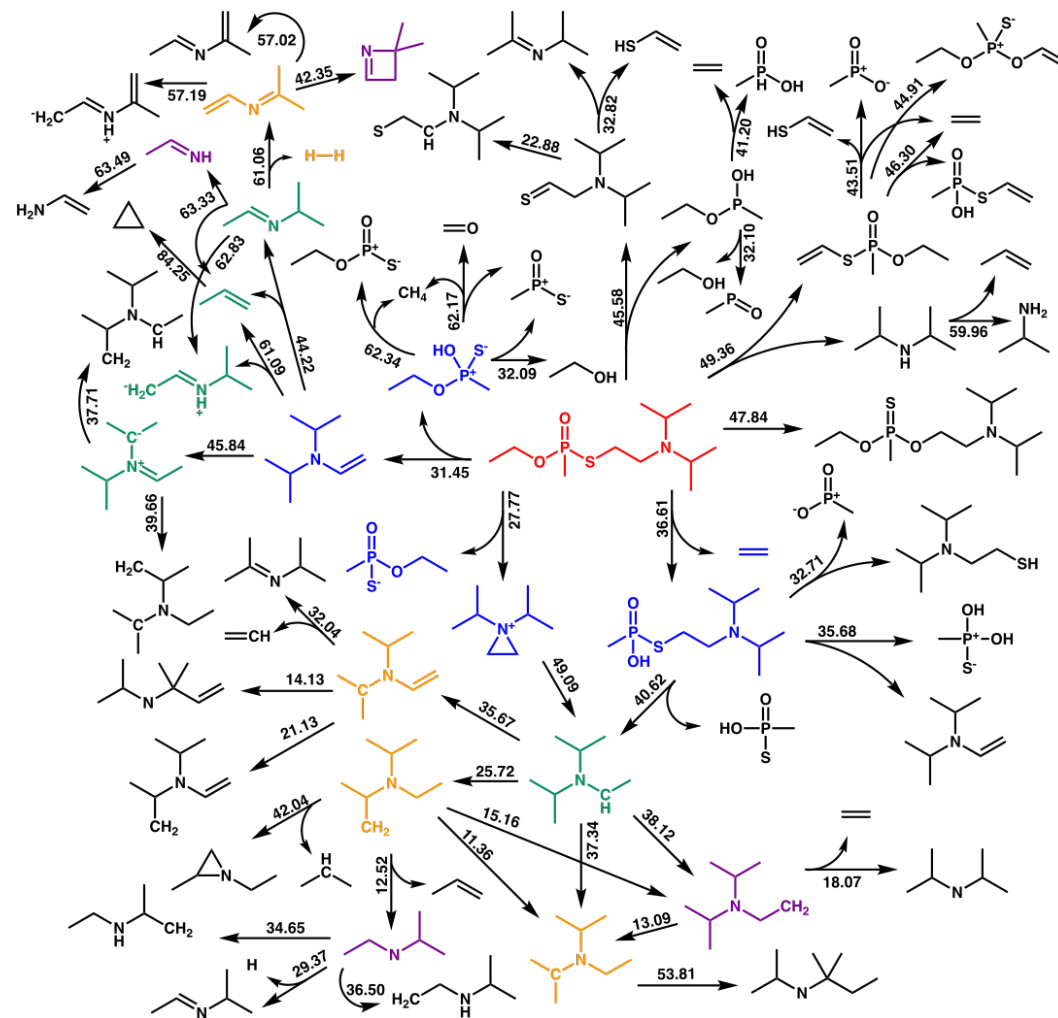
Lowest barrier bimolecular reaction

Predicted Reactivity for Organophosphorus Nerve Agents

Sarin (GB)



VX



Outlook and Acknowledgements

Students: Qiyuan Zhao, Tyler Pasut, Michael Woulfe

State-of-the-art:

- The accurate calculation of thermodynamic properties has become routine in many scenarios. Major opportunities lie in automation, systemization, and low-cost models.
- Practical solutions to the $A \rightarrow ? \rightarrow B$, $A \rightarrow B + ?$, and $A \rightarrow ?$ problems are now available. We envision black-box tools for non-experts in the near future that will assist in hypothesis generation and potentially reactivity screening.



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- Ray Mentzer (Purdue)
- Spencer Goldrich (PMP)