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## SYSTEMATICS OF ORGANIC MOLECULES, GRAPH TOPOLOGY

AND HAMILTON CIRCUITS
0. A General Outline of the DENDRAL System

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FOREWORD. This contribution is intended as an introductory survey of the topological concepts that underlie the DENDRAL system for chemical structure notation. The main purpose of the system is to provide a language in which a computer program can frame hypotheses of organic chemistry. For example, a program to generate all the isomers of a given formula has already been implemented.

This introduction is especially intended for users who wish only a general outline of DENDRAL rather than its full details of syntax. Some notation is necessarily used. This resembles the definitive DENDRAL forms, but the complete manual should be used as a definitive statement of the language.

# SYSTEMATICS OF ORGANIC MOLECULES, GRAPH TOPOLOGY AND HAMILTON CIRCUITS 

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The structural formula for an organic molecule is a paragon of a topological eraph, that is, the connectivity relations of a set of atoms. True, we recognize more than one type of connection, double, triple, and non-covalent bonds, as well as single bonds. However, from an electronic standpoint the special bonds could just as well be denoted as special atoms. The structural graph does not specify the geometry, that is, the bond distances and bond angles of the molecule. In fact, this is known for only a small proportion of the enormous number of organic molecules whose structure is very well known from a topological standpoint. Most of the syllabus of elementary organic chemistry thus comprises a survey of the topological possibilities for the distinct ways in which sets of atoms may be connected, subject to the rules of valence. The student then also learns rules which prohibit some configurations as unstable or unrealizable (and may later earn his scientific reputation by justifying or overturning one of these rules). The field of organic chemistry has, however, reached its present stature without many benefits from any general analysis of molecular topology. These benefits might arise in applications at two extremes of sophistication: the teaching of chemical principles to college undergraduates, and to electronic computers. They may also apply to the vexatious problems of nomenclature and systematic methods of information retrieval.

Aithough the topological character of chemical graphs was recognized by
the first topologists, very little vor: has been done on the explicit classification of the graphs having the most crmal interest. Some difficult proiolems, e.B., the enumeration of polyhedra, remain unsolved. However, the main oistacle may be the seeming triviality of the problems; many topologists being quite unsatisfied with systems restricted to 2- or 3-dimensional space.

Tnis article will review some elementary features of graphs that may be used for a systematic outline of organic chemistry.' The same theory has the broader significance of classifying the possible nets of relationships among the members of a set of objects. For present purposes, our graphs will be undirected, that is, any connections aie reciprocal and unpolarized. Furthermore, our atoms have a maximum valence of 4 . When we come to cyclic structures we shall have occasion to study an even more restricted set of graphs, those in which every node has a valence of 3 .

A problem statement might be: enumerate all the distinct structural isomers of a given elementary composition, say $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{7} \mathrm{NO}_{2}$. This is tantamount to producing all the connected graphs that can be constructed from the atoms of the formula, linked to one another in $\Omega 11$ distinct ways, compatible with the valence established for each elemeat ( 4,3 , and 2 for $C, N, 0$, respectively). For compactness, $H$ can be left implicit, being later restored at every unused valence.
-
Our main approach throughout this article is mapping, a rule of correspondence between a part of the chemical structure and a part of some abstract graph. Thus, each atom may be mapped on to a node: each bond to an edge or link oi the sraph. For further analysis, however, it will be important to map from complexes of the structure to elements of a graph. The abstract graphs lend themselves to canonical forms, i.e., a choice among equivalent representations
according to precise rule. Since the root problem is generally not that of producing all possible combinations of atoms, but recognizing which forms are unique, this is of utmost importance. Chemistry will re-emerge after a few levels of abstraction.

These principles have been elaborated in a computer-oriented language "Dendral-64" which is described more fully elsewhere for the purpose of possible implementation in programing systems (Lederberg, 1964).

Trees are l-connected graphs, i.e., can be separated into two parts by cutting any link, They correspond to the acyclic structures of organic chemistry. How may we establish a canonical form for a tree, after first noting its order (number of nodes).

The first step might be to find some unique place to begin the description. A tree must have at least two terminals, and may have many more if highly branched; these are therefore not very suitable. However, each tree has a unique center. In fact Jordan (1869) showed that any tree has two kinds of center, a mass-center.and a radius-center. Each center has a unique place in any trce; the two may or may not coincide.

To find the radius-center, the tree is pruned one level at a time, being cut back one link from every terminal at each level. This will leave, finally an ultimate node or node-pair (in effect, edge) as the center; the radius of the graph is the number of levels of pruning needed to reach the center.

To identify the mass-center of a tree, we must consider the two or more branches that join to each non-terminal node. The center is the node whose branches have the most evenly balanced allocation of the remaining mass (nodecount) of the tree. This is the same as to say that none of the pendant branches exceed half the total mass. A mass of even number allows the possibility of the center being a node pair or edge which joins equal halves.

Either of the centers (Fig. 1) is unique, and so could solve our probiem of defining a canonical starting point of a description. The center of mass is more pertinent to finding a list of isomers, which of course enjoy the same mass. The radius-center is ill-adapted for this, but matches conventional nomenclature, which is based on finding the longest linear path, 1.e., a diameter. The diameter is not necessarily unique. For example, urea has three diameters, $N-\ddot{C}-N$ and $N-\dot{C}=0$ (twice), but just one radiuscenter, the $C$ atom. The problem of generating isomers is the main justification for adopting the mass-center over the radius-center to work out canonical forms.

In chemical terms, the center divides the graph into two or more radicals. These radicals can be ordered by obvious compositional principles, giving rise to a canonical description of the whole graph in a linear code. Thus arginine becomes ( $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{N})-\mathrm{N} \mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{N})-\mathrm{C}(0)-0$ ) or, in a parenthesis-free notation with some abbreviations .2.N.C.:NN 2..NC.:00. . Any linear code has an implicit number system: each atom is numbered according to when it is denoted in the string.

Some thirty years ago, Henze and Blair (1931) showed how Jordan's principle could be used for the enumeration of isomers of saturated hydrocarbons and some simple derivatives of them. Here, the nodes are all the same (carbon atoms) and the enumeration can proceed by recursion from smaller to larger complexes. For example, for the isomers of undecane, $\mathrm{C}_{11} \mathrm{H}_{24}$, one atom is designated as center, leaving 10 to be allocated among 2, 3 or 4 branches. Only the following partitions satisfy the rules (leaving dissymmetry out of account):

## BRANCHES

2


5,5

3


$$
\begin{aligned}
& 1,4,5 \\
& 2,3,5 \\
& 2,4,4 \\
& 3,3,4
\end{aligned}
$$

4


1,1,3,5
1,2,2,5
1,1,4,4
$1,2,3,4$ 2,2,2,4
$2,2,3,3$

To complete the solution, one must have calculated the number of alkyl radicals $-C_{5},-C_{4}$, etc. To illustrate with $C_{5}$ :

The radical must have an apical atom, leaving the rest to be partitioned In all distinct ways among 2, 2 or 3 pendant branches, the radicals of the next 1evel. Thus we have:


4


$$
\begin{aligned}
& 1,3 \text { or } \\
& 2,2
\end{aligned}
$$



$$
1,1,2
$$

The count of $-C_{n}$ radicals is thus derived from the table for $-C_{i}$, taking ifrom I to $n-1$, and the process may be itcrated as far as needed, i.e., until partitions into units, $C_{1}$, prevail. No deep mathematical insight is needed to
verify that the first steps of the alkyl series $C_{1}, C_{2}, C_{3}, C_{4}$ have 1,1,2,4 forms respectively.

No closed algebraic expression has been found for this enumeration. However, the recursive expansion was done by hand (Henze and Blair, 1931) with a few trivial errors found by a computer check; no organic chemist will be surprised by the enormous scope of his field. (Table 1).

The total range of acyclic compounds is of course very much larger than these subsets. At each step, instead of partitioning a mere number of nodes, an allocation to constituent radicals takes account of the kind as well as number of unused atoms. However, the specification of a hierarchy of ordering, which may be done almost arbitrarily to suit computational convenience, permits the same principles to be applied to a complete enumeration of structural isomers of a given composition, for example of alanine, $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{H}_{7} \mathrm{NO}_{2}$ ( (Table 2.)

Cyclic Structures
Cyclic graphs are much less tractable, since every path will return back to the complex, and a center is less easily defined. Sufficient reminder of the taxonomic difficulties posed by rings is the popularity of the Ring Index (1964) wherein the "ll524 rings known to chemistry" are laid out, together with a profusion of synomyous and alternative numbering systems to map them as nodes. For example, naphthoyl pyridine would ultimately form a tree, $R_{1}-C_{0}-R_{2}, R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$.

We now consider the domain of strictly cyclic structures. These are 2connected Eraphs, since at least 2 (sometimes more) links must be cut in order to separate the graph.

For further analysis, we distinguish the trivalent vertices of the structure atoms that join 3 paths, or branch points. We can then construct the full set of
abstract, trivalent graphs. Define a path as a link or an unbranched chain of links and atoms. The paths between vertices of the structure can then be mapped onto the edges of an abstract grapin which is regularly trivalent or trihedral. To illustrate, observe how pyrene is mapped onto an abstract graph of 6 vertices, indeed, the abstract prism.


Pyrene (a)


(b)

(c)

(d)

Some vertices are 4-valent, in so-called spiro forms, but these graphs can be mappedsonto 3 -valent graphs by expanding each 4-valent node into a pair or 3-valent nodes. That is, $\rangle$ becomes ; There is an obvious relationship between the number of vertices and the number of rings conventionally ascribed to a structure. We start with, say, benzene, 0 vertices, and 1 ring. Then naphthalene, 2 vertices and 2 rings. Each adaitional ring entails 2 more vertices. Hence, for $r$ rings and $n$ vertices

$$
r=1+n / 2,
$$

and for these trivalent graphs, $n$ must be an even integer. Recalling that a 4 valent vertex maps into 2 3-valent nodes, we can write

$$
r=2+n / 2+q
$$

for $q$-valent vertices. This calculation agrees with the Ring Index rule which counts rings as the number of cuts needed to convert a ring structure into a tree.

As each edge joins 2 nodes, a trivalent graph of order $n$ will have $3 n / 2$ edges.

Enumerating the trivalent graphs. A trivalent graph may have several
representations, and some effort may $b \geq$ required to relate them to one another, and to decide which form is to be rc,ja:de. as a canonical reference for mapping purposes. Thus, the graphs of Figure 2 are all topologically equivalent or isomorpnic. This is to say, they $\varepsilon$ ll represent the same connections of node to (threc) nodes. A meaningful entmeration must unify these isomorphisms. Furthermore, it should relate to a convenient code by which to refer to each Eraph, better still, to embody a reconstruction. Finally, it should generate an obvious numbering of the nodes and edges.

Yamilton circuits. A practical key to the solution of this problem, as to many other network problems, tares ndvantage of the Hamilton circuits found in most of the abstract graphs having chemical interest. A Hamilton circuit (inc) is a round trip through the g:aph that traverses each node just once. It therefore uses $n$ edges, leavink out $n / 2$ edges. Figure 3 is Hamilton's own example, the dodecahedron, proposed by him as a parlor game, each node represcnting a city that the round.-the-worid traveller would not wish to revisit. The utility of HC representations will become evident.

Finding all HC's of a graph mixy be a challenging game, but it is reduced to a merely tedious algorithm on the computer. Start from an arbitrary node. Trace a path as through a maze, each node presenting a binary choice of different edges. If the chosen path reverts to a node already visited, backtrack one step. A successful path has $n$ correct choices. Thus, at most 2 'ngearch steps will exhaust all possible paths; in practice, closer to $1 / n$ times this number will be needed to identify all the HC's. Even for $n$ up to 20 this is a modest task. And if the work has been done once, finding any HC, at perhaps, n-fold less effort, will enable a given graph to be related to the
previously established set.
A typical problem in graph manipulation is to establish whether two complicated graphs are isomorphic. In the long run, this might require testing all possible permutations of nodes, with a scope of Factorial ( $n$ ). At $n=20$, this number is an utterly uncomputable $2.4 \times 10^{18}$ steps. On the other hand, if two graphs are isomorphic, they must have the same HC's, found with at most $2^{20}=10^{6}$ steps. ${ }^{\frac{1}{3}}$

A convenient representation of a $\ddot{i C}$ maps the nodes and edges of the circuit as vertices and bounding edges of a regular polygon. The remaining $n / 2$ edges then form chords, each node being one of the two termini of one chord. A description of the graph then needs only some notation for the $n / 2$ chords. First, we should canonicate the orientation of the polygon, having chosen to initialize the HC arbitrarily among $n$ nodes and 2 directions (the rotational and reilectional symmetries of the polygon). Each node is joined by some chord having a certain span. The span list can be put in cyclic order, where it is invariant under rotation; i.e., immaterial which node is selected as starting point. The effect of reflection is also easily computed. If the span list is regarded as a number, its minimum value under rotation/reflection becomes the canonical form. For example, an 8 -node graph might be represented (Figure 4) by any one of the span lists 17522663,31752266 , etc., or the reflections 75226631, etc. Of these, one quickly finds that 17522663 is the lowest-valued, hence the canonical form. Similarly, when other HC's are found for the same graph, they can be compared, and the lowest-valued of them chosen as the reference graph.

The same procedure establishes a canonical ordering of the nodes and
edges. For the latter, we take the iC sequence (the polygon) first, then cach chord in order of first reference.

The span list has $n$ terms. Onily $n / 2$ are necessary, since each chord is referred to twice in the span list. For an abbreviated code, simply omit the sccond reference. 27522663 becomes 1522. Indeed, one less character still suffices, the last chord being completely determined by the ones previously built. The chord list (152), or an alphabetic equivalent (8AEB) whose leading numeral merely reminds us of the order of the graph, then encodes the graph in a canonical form (Figure 4). Furthermore, the graph can be reconstructed from the code by retracing the steps just recited. Caution: Unlike span lists, the abbreviated chord lists cannot be freely rotated.

Chord lists can be computed by an obvious combinatorial procedure, with the help of a few tricks to save some fruitless effort. Most arbitrary lists bccome internally inconsistent after a limited number of initial characters; the number of cormbinations that must be tested is therefore considerably less than may appear. Additional restrictions can also be put on prospectively. In this way, exhaustive lists of trivalent graphs have been computed -- Table 3 (taken from the DENDRAL report) shows their scope. To unify isomorphisms, the complete list of HC's is computed for each chord list.

Apart from the rotation of the polygon, two or more incongruent HC's may be present in a graph. No general principle is known, except that graphs with high symmetry tend to have the fewest incongruent HC's. Tutte (1946) proved that any edge of a polyhedron must be involved in an even number (not exciuding 0 ) of HC's, and that if a polyhedron admits one HC, it must admit at least three.

Classification of trivalent graphs. Two important, independent criteria

Of abstract graphs are (1) planarity, and (2) level of connectedness.
A planar Eraph is one that can be represented on the plane without edges crossing over one another. The graph need not be drawn as an HC-polycon, which raroly lacks crossing chords: Plgure 3 is certainly planar. Kuratowski has shown that any trivalent non-planar graph must contain 6CC (Figure 5b). Fortunately, this condition is easily recornized in the building of span lists. As the surface of a polyhedron can be mapped onto the plane, planarity is a necessary condition for an abstract polyhedron.

In practice, nonplanar graphs are so far unknown in organic chemistry (barring coordination complexes); however, they might in principle be realized, e.g. by the hypothetical Figure 5d.

Connectedness is the least number of cuts that will anywhere separate the graph. The 3-connected planar graphs are the abstract convex polyhedra. Intuitively, it is obvious that a region bounded only by 2 edges would be unable to enclose a volume. Steinitz (see Lyusternik, 1963) showed that every 3 -connected planar trivalent graph could be realized as a polyhadron. These graphs have, naturally, attracted some interest as a mecting point of topolosy and classic Greek geometry. Nevertheless, a complete enumeration is still unknown. In 1901, Brllckner published figures of the trivalent polyhedra for $n \leqq 16$; in an abstract and unpublished manuscript (1928) he also showed 1250 for $n=28$. This work, done by hand over several decades, was repeated on the computer by Grace (1965) who found some errors in Br-lickner's

Iistings, and found 2249. However, even this census admits some possibility of bcing incomplete, though this is remote. Grace generated the polyhedra by induction as all possible slicings of the faces of smaller polyhedra. This produces many isomorphisms which must be unified; for this, Grace used a criterion, "equisurroundedness", which is already known to be too weak, albcit for much larger graphs. Therefore, it cannot be rigorously shown that the list of 2249 has not excluded additional forms, equisurrounded, but not isomorphic with the stated set. The analysis of HC's could afford an independent avenue of corroboration at relatively low cost.

The polyhedra play an important role in the classification of cyclic graphs but have no remarkable chemical significance except that they represent the most tightly caged polycyclic stracturesi/ Note that many unfamiliar isomorphisms are generated by portraying a polyhedron as a planar mesh, i.e., as projected within an arbitrarily chosen fince, called the base. The projection can be visualized as the view of the polyhedron from a point just outside the place of the face chosen as base (Fißure 2).

HC-free graphs. These are promptly encountered in the 2-connected series, starting with $n_{8}(8(A C: 8,1: A)$ Figure 6). An analysis of the conditions for no-HC illuminates some of the combinatorial processes involved in building graphs. Since all the graphs for $n=6$ have HC's, an HC-free graph is generated by a particulur mode of union of HC's of lower order. The simplest mode is bilincal, one edge is cut on each of two smaller graphs and reunited. If cither of the'edges involved is barred from any HC of its graph, the bilineal union will be HC-free. This follows, since the union introduced nodes which must be traversed by a path known to be forbidden.

In general, an HC-free graph can be canonicated by dissecting it into the lareest cirbuits it contains. The dissertions are first completed across the bilineal (2-connecting) unions. If any resulting subgraphs are still HC-free, we must consider HC-free polyhedra as a mathematical, if not a pragmatic chemical possibility.

BC-Free polyhedra. Tait beljeved that all convex trihedral polyhedra contained HC's and his conjecture was indeed unchallenged for over 60 years. nowever, Tutte (1946) refuted the congecture with an example ingeniously proven to be HC-free, though with 46 vertices it woulid defy exhaustive search. ${ }^{3}$ Chemical eraphs of this order ( 24 rings) are out of range of systematic prediction, but the argument gives further insight into the combinatoric of abstract graphs.

We deal here with the process of trilineal union. This can be done in all possible ways by extracting one node from any source polyhedron, leaving 3 cut edges. This 3-cut graph can then replace one node of another graph. However, to influence the possibility of forming an HC , the edges must be subject to some restrictions distinguishing the 3-cut complex from a single node. The node poses no restrictions. That is, its 3 edges are available in any pairwise combination, thus any one of 3 ways. If the corresponding edges of the source graph have the same property, i.e., none of the 3 edges is either compulsory or forbidden, then the 3-cut graph will not influence the occurrence of an HC. By induction, the lower order polyhedra that already contain some 3-connected regions can be passed over in looking for special graphs. A systematic survey of the few 4-connected, - i.e., 4-connected except for the isolated nodes which are, of course, 3-connected, - graphs (Table 4) shows the polyhedron (26CGDIGDF), the smallest with a special edge, namely that the
ones marked are obligatory in any ïC of the polynedron (Figure 7). Tutte then replaced 3 nodes of a tetraheciron with a 3-cut graph from (16CGDIGDF) leading to the contradiction that all three edges from one node must be included in any HC; hence there can de no HC in this graph of $46=4+3(14)$ nodes. Tine cut graph can also be planted at two mutually-exclusive edges of the pentagonal prism to give an HC-iree polyhedron of $38=10+2(14)$ edges. $\mathbf{U '}^{\prime \prime}$ This is clearly the smallest $\ddot{H} C$-free polyhearon with two 3-connected regions.

A smaller HC-free polyhedron may yet be found by analogous studies of 4-lineal $5 .^{\circ}$ and 5-lineal unions, and if so, is just within the bounds of reasonable computational effort.

If Grace's list of polyheara is correct, every one through $n_{18}$ has an $\operatorname{HC}$. This conclusion is corroborated by a detailed consideration of the properties of the graphs $n_{16}$ of table 3. By the inductive argument, forms with any triangular face -- indeed, any 3-connected region -- could be passed over, greatly reducing the computational effort. Of course, from the smallest HCfree polyhedron, larger ones can be generated by replacing a node with a triangle or larecr 3-connected region.

The HC-free polyhedra can be classified by the same principles used for bilincal unions, as complexes of the largest circuits united over the least levels of connectedness.

While distant from chemical graphs of any reasonable size, those studies do furnish a clearer indication of the sufficiency of HC representations, and of the sources of exceptions.

Recanitulation: the scone of anticination and recornition. There is no perceptible limit except the computation of HC 's and of alternative dissections to restrict the encoding of abstract graphs either as HC's or as canonicated unions of HC's. These assignments also facilitate the recognition of isomorphisms between given graphs.

The anticipation of all possibilities poses a greater burden. liowever, all the graphs up to $n_{12}$ ( 7 rings) have been tabulated together with their isomorpinisms and symmetries. The series expands so rapidly that further extension would tax the output-printer, ana before long the computer itself.

Mapping and symmetry. Having explored the trihedral graphs, we now return to mapping chemical atoms on their nodes ana bonds or linear chains on their edges. Many graphs have substantial symmetry, and the corresponding by redundant operations must be considered to decide on a canonical representation. Here again, the HC's are helpful. If an HC is present, it can also be projected on the same graph after any symmetry operation. $6^{\prime}$ Therefore, the whole set of symmetry operations is included within the list of the HC's, giving remarkable economy of computational effort to the search for the symmetries, as well as a straichtforward expression of the operators. To describe a molecular structure, it can be mapped on an arbitrary choice of form, and the result then subjected to the symmetry operators. The canonical representation satisfies some mule, say the highest order listing, or the mamped elements. Thus, for
the morphine nucleus, we would have to cloo:se arong the 4 symmetries of its underlying graph: (Figure 8).

Since this choice is readily computable, the human user may be relieved of the burden to make these tedious calculations.

Besides the linear paths of the cyclic structure, the mapping may also include specifications for fused edges (l-hedral centers), heteroatom replacements of vertices, and specifications of sterecasymutry of vertices. The details are inevitably fussy and are given el.sewhere. After the mapping, each atom is numbered in the order of its reference.

Mercing cycles and trees. Each cyclic structure is now fully defined, with rules for a canonical code and numbering of every atom. The structure can then be handied as a node in a tree, the rumbering system allowing precise reference for the point(s) of connection.

## Appiications

This development was needed for a continuing effort to program the automatic computation of structural hypotheses to be matched against various scts of analytical data, especially mass spectra. The growing sophistication of instrumenial methods has already begun to outdo the chemist's capacity to interpret the results. Since mass spectrometers are now commercially
available that can generate 10,000 spectra per second, the need for computational assistance to make full use oì such defices is self-evident. (Biemann \& McMurray 1965; Lederberg 19640) Such device:; are also being considered for the automated exploretion of the planets, which juts even heavier demands on the local intelligence available to the systam.

These applications relate primarily to the possibility of anticipatinc hypothetical structures. The languaje also provides a format for expressing synthetic insights, i.e., the elementary reactions by which functional groups can be altered or exchanged. We mizat then expect the ultimate development of computer programs which have been taught a few thousand unit processes, and their limitations, and could be challengea to anticipate a synthetic route from given precursors or to a given end product. Such programs might at least assist the chemist by reminding of a few among myriad possibilities of combining the unit processes learned from the same chemist, or better, from a diverse school. For the moment we leave out of consideration the empirical testing in its own laboratory of a few thousand routes chosen on the computer's own initiative.

The nomenclatural applications of any system of canonical forms are also self-evident. We are very nearly at the point where linear notation may again be dispensable, since the computer should be able to interpret structural graphs a.s such. However, a mathematically complete system of classification of structures is still important, regardless of the notation in which the structures are expressed.

The simple graph-theoretical ideas of DENDRAL could be implemented with a number of possible notations. The one adopted for DENDRAT - 64 aims to emulate
traditional notation for all linear chains, only the most obvious abbreviations, like "3." for "C.C.C.", and a "repeat" syniool, arbitrarily "/", being laid on. The user must of course understand the principles and notation for the abstract cyclic graphs. However, it would be quite reasonable to produce an abridged version of the Ring Index which would list the carbocyclic equivalents of expected forias, and allow the most unskilled assistant to transcribe structural data in a form readily matched to DENDRAL.

Some examples of structural codes the isomers of alanine, Table 2 are appended as a challenge to puzzle-minded readers. Hopefully the tedious manual of detailed specifications (Lederberg 1964 a ) is not required reading for pragmatic understanding of the system.

There are of course many alternative approaches to notation reviewed by a National Academy of Sciences Comittee (1964) and appearing from time to time in the Journal of Chemical Documentation. As far as I know none of them has been addressed to the exhaustive prediction of cananical forms and most of them are too complicated to be easily adaptable to this end.

Syntax and induction. One of the motives for this study was to uncover the kinds of problems that would be encountered in computer-emulation of the process of scientific induction from experimental data. A necessary step is a means of generating a set of relevant hypotheses. I have been impressed with both the difficulty and the utility of establishing a precise syntactical framowork for the range of hypotheses even in a field as well structured as organic chemistry.

Some years ago, Woodger (1937) attempted to axiomatize developmental and Genctic biolosy. His efforts were perhaps too remote from the experimental
ciata now available. However, he may have pointed the way to a more feasible entcrprise, to establish a precise synvax for hypothetical statements in biolocy. This is a more modest aim, since it does not purport to deauce which statements are correct. However, there is every good reason why computers should compete very successfully in the exercises of model-building that preoccupy many biologists today, and with advantage to the rigor with which they are put together.

## Footnote p. 2.

$l_{\text {While }}$ this paper was being revised, another algorithm requiring only about $10 n^{2}$ steps was discovered and programmed for routine use. It depends on (1) growing a subgraph, adding one node at a time, (2) defining the list of possible circuits at each level by recursion from the list of previous level, and
(3) looking ahead some steps to choose nodes which close facets of the graph 80 as to minimize the size of the list that must be maintained.

Footnote to p. 12.
${ }^{2}$ The speculative "polyhedranes" have been discussed by Schultz, H.P.: Topological Organic Chemistry. Polyhedranes and Prismanes. J. Org. Chem. 30, 1361 (1965).

Footnote to p. 13.
${ }^{3}$ This is no longer true. With a new algorithm', Tutte's graph was exhausted in 29 seconds of 7090 time. The same algorithm is also very apt for finding the largest circuits and for forbidden edges.

Footnote to p. 14.
This had already been found by other workers as disclosed in private communications: D. Barnett, University of Washington and J. Bosak, Bratislava.

Footnote to p. 14.
STutte (1960) quotes an example with 224 nodes If any HC-free polyhedron has fewer than 38 nodes it probably has one 3-connected region. Mr own investigations leave no encouragement for such an example at less than $\mathbf{n}_{36}$.

Footnote to p. 15.
${ }^{6}$ I note the following conjecture, that the symmetries of any abstract convex trihedral polyhedron can be realized in a geometrical polyhedron in 3-space with reflection, i.e. can be assigned to a point group. However, this conjecture is not a premise of the method indicated for finding the symmetries. The conjecture is plainly inapplicable to 2-connected or to non-planar graphs. I would be grateful for any refutation, or a formal proof, new or otherwise.

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## C. . . NY2.S.C


C. . . NYZ. /C



OENZOPERYLENE



WITH MAPPING OF BENZOPERYLENE


ABC
OR AW


BEDE OR FOR


DEF


ABEFW OR


Fig. 2. (a) Benzoperylene and its mapping on a polyhedron (b) which has four isomorphic planar meshes, ie. four kinds of faces, as labelled. (c) is the equivalent Hamilton circuit. Do not confuse the lettered labels of the nodes with abbreviated code for this graph which is 10BCC. The reader may enjoy satisfying himself that these graphs are indeed isomorphic (equi-connected).


Fig. 3. Hamilton's Hamilton circuit. The abstract dodecahedron, represented as a planar map of 20 nodes.


Fig. 4. Symetries and encoding of a cyclic trivalent graph with 8 nodes. There are 16 symmetry operation ( 8 rotational X 2 reflection). Shown are 8 rotations, and a reflection that could be combined with each of these. With each figure is also a span list; the canonical choice of the 16 (not all distinct) 18 the loweat valued span list, 17522663, calculated with the upper rightmost node as the initial. This can then be reduced to the coda AEBB, or even more economically AEB, as outined in the text.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

Fig. 5. Non planar graphs. (a) and (b) are Kuratowski's fundamental forms, 4-valent and 3 -valent respectively. At least one of these must be included in any nonplanar graph. (c) is a projection of (b) as a tetrahedron with an additional internal chord, and (d) ie a hypothetical molecular structure that maps on to (c).

Figure 6 Caption follows


2
0


6AA


6 AB


8AAB


8ACD


8BBB

8CEC



6AC


8AEB


8BDD


8(6AC:8,1:2)

Fig. 6. The cyclic, trivalent planar graphs with 8 or fewer nodes. Where possible, these are represented as Hamilton circuits, the nodes of the graph being projected as vertices of a polygon which constitutes the circuit, the remaining edges shown as chords. Each of these figures can also be drawn as a planar map. The codes are abbreviated forms from which the graph can be reconstructed. Note that $8 B C C$ and $8 B D D$ are isomorphic despite the incongruence of the Hamilton circuits. The abstract polyhedra of this list include two degenerate forms (-, circle; 2, hosohedron) and 4B, tetrahedron; 6BC, prism; 8 CEC, cube; 8BCC = 8BDD, pentagonal wedge. One of these graphs, $8(6 C: 8,1: 2)$ has no Hamilton circuit, and is classified as a union which splices the $8^{\prime}$ th edge of graph 6AC With the $1^{\prime}$ st edge of graph 2. Complete lists of the graphs through 12 nodes are presented in Lederberg (1965).

(a)
(b)

(c)
(d)

Fig. 7. A graph with special edges and two KC-free polyhedra. (a) has 16 nodes. The marked edges are included in any HC of the graph. Hence the 3-cut (b), with 15 nodes, obligates the marked edge as part of an HC of any graph in which (b) is inserted. This leads to a contradiction, le., no Hamilton circuit In (c) Tut te's graph, with 46 nodes and (d) with 38 nodes.



SYMMETRIES


HAMILTON CIRCUIT REPRESENTATIONS

Fig. 8. Morphine nucleus: symmetry and choice for coding. The dashed edge 7---8 stands for the spiro- (quadrivalent) center in the morphine ring; however, 4 permutations are possible under the symmetry operations. In the canonical form, after account is taken of the mapping of the chemical graph onto the abstract graph, this edge is labelled 2-a-3. The canonical map would be coded as ( $8 B D D-N .3, \$, 0,3,0,3, C)$ each comma marking the next edge of the map. This code 18 oufficient input for the computer program to reconstruct the molecular structure and return the familiar two-dimensional graphic representation of it.
fnumeration of the alkanes STEREISOMERISM DISREGARDED

'dable 1. Enumeration of isomeric alkanes (disregarding stereoisomerism), from methane to pentacontane. The values marked disagree in some digits with the values calculated manually by Henze and blair (1931) and Perry (1932). While this is an amusing exercise for the computer, the discrepancies, neediess to eay, will have no pragmatic chemical significance. In any case, a proportion of the structures will be unrealizable owing to steric hindrance.
$-C \cdot C \cdot C \quad O \cdot N=O$ - $C \cdot \bullet C C \quad O \cdot N=O$ $\cdot C \cdot C=C$ N.O.O - C. $C=C \quad 0 . N . O$ - $C . C=C \quad 0 . O . N$ -C.C.C N..OO - CaC.C N.O.O - CःC.C O.N.O - CaC.C O.O.N - CeC.C N..OO -C. $=$ CC N.O.O $\cdot C .=C C$ O.N.O $-C .=C C \quad 0 . O \cdot N$ -C. $=C C$ N..OO -C.C.N O.C=O - C.C.N C. =OO - C.N.C O.C=O -C.N.C C. $=00$ - N.C.C O.C=O - N.C.C C. $=00$ - C. CN O.C=O -C..CN C. $=00$ - N..CC O.C=O - N..CC C. $\mathrm{N}=00$ - C.C $=N$ C.O.O -C.C=N O.C.O -C.CッN O.O.C -C.C=N C..OO - $C=C . N \quad C . O . O$ - $C=C . N O . C . O$ - C=C.N O.O.C - $C=C . N$ C..OO - C. $N=C$ C.O.O - C. $N=C \quad O \cdot C . O$ - C. $N=C$ O.O.C - $C . N=C \quad C .00$ - CrN.C C.O.O $-C \equiv N . C \quad O . C . O$ - $\mathrm{Ca}=\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{C} 0 . \mathrm{O}, \mathrm{C}$
$C \ldots C=N \quad 0.0$ $C \ldots C \quad N=C \quad 0.0$ C.E.C C.N O.O C.a.C N.C 0.0 $C 』 . C C . N 0.0$ $C \backsim . . C N . C O . O$ $C \ldots C \quad C . O \quad N=0$ $C . . C O \cdot C \quad N=O$ $C \ldots C \quad C=0$ N.O $C \ldots C \quad C=O \quad O . N$
$\because=C$ C.O N.O
.. $\quad$ C O.C N.O
$\because . C$ C.O N.O
.$=C$ C.O O.N
$\because . C_{C . O}$
$\because C N O C=O$
$\therefore C O O C=N$
-C=N.C C..OO - $\mathrm{N} \cdot \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ C.O.O - $N . C=C \quad O . C . O$ - N. $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C} 0 . \mathrm{O} \cdot \mathrm{C}$ - N.CaC C..OO - $N=C . C$ C.O.O - $N=C . C O . C . O$ - $N=C . C O . O . C$ - NoC.C C.OOO -C. $=C N$ C.O.O -C. $=C N$ O.C.O -C. C CN O.O.C - C. $=C N$ C..OO -C=.CN C.O.O -C..CN O.C.O - $C=. C N$ O.O.C -C=.CN C..OO -C.C.O C. $\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{O}$ -C.C.O C=N.O -C.C.O N.C=O -C.C.O $N=C . O$ -C.C.O O.C=N - C.C.O O. $\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{C}$ -C.C.O C. $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{NO}$ -C.C.O C=.NO - C.O.C C. $\mathrm{N}=0$ -C.O.C C=N.O -C.O.C $\mathrm{N} \cdot \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ - C.O.C $\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O}$ - C.O.C O.C=N -C.O.C O. $\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{C}$ - C.O.C C. $=$ NO -C.O.C Ce.NO -O.C.C C. $N=0$ -O.C.C $C=N . O$ -O.C.C N.C=O -O.C.C $\mathrm{N}=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O}$ -O.C.C O.C=N
C...C C.O O.N $C=. C O . C N . O$
$C=. C O . C O . N$
$C \ldots N \quad C=C \quad 0.0$
C. $=. N$ C.C 0.0
$C=. N C . C O . O$
C...N C.O C=O
$C . . . N \quad C=O \quad 0 . C$
C.OAN C.O C.O
C.I.N C.O O.C
$C=. N$ C.O C.O
$C=. N C . O O . C$
C=...N O.C O.C
C...O C.C $N=0$
$\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{OO}_{\mathrm{O}} \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C} \mathrm{N} . \mathrm{O}$
$C \cdots O O \quad N=C$
$C \cdots O O C=C$
$. O . C . C \quad O . N=C$
-O.C.C C. =NO
-O.C.C C=.NO
-C..CO C.N=O
-C..CO $C=N . O$
-C..CO N.C=O
-C..CO N=C.O
-C.CO O.C=N
-C. CO O. $N=C$
-C..CO C. $=$ NO

- C..CD C=.NO
- C. $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ C.N.O
- C. $C=0 \mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{O} \cdot \mathrm{N}$
-C. $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ N.C.O
- C.C $=0 \mathrm{~N} \cdot \mathrm{O} \cdot \mathrm{C}$
- C. $C=O$ O.C.N
- C. $C=O$ O.N.C
- C.C $=0$ C..NO
- C. $C=O$ N..CO
- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O}$ C.N.O
- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{O} \mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{O} \cdot \mathrm{N}$
- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{O} \mathrm{N} \cdot \mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{O}$
- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O} \mathrm{N} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{C}$
- $C=C . O$ O.C.N
- $C=C . O$ O.N.C
- $C=C . O$ C..NO
- $C=C . O \quad N . . C O$
- O. $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C} \mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{N} . \mathrm{O}$
-O. $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C} \quad \mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{N}$
- O. $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ N.C.O
- O.C $=\mathrm{C}$ N.O.C
- O.C $=C$ O.C.N
- O.C $=\mathrm{C}$ O.N.C
- O. $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ C..NO
- O.C $=C$ N..CO
- C. $=$ CO C. N .0
-C. $=C O C . O . N$
- C. $=C O$ N.C.O
$C . . O \quad C=C O . N$
C.. $=O$ C.C N.O
C.E.O C.C N.O
$C .=. O$ C.C O.N
$C=. . O$ C.C N.O
$C=. O$ C.C O.N
$C \ldots O \quad C . N \quad C=O$
$C \ldots O$ N.C $C=O$
$C . . . O C=N C . O$
C...O C=N O.C
C...O $N=C \quad C . O$
$C . . O \quad N=C O . C$
$C . .=O \quad C . N C . O$
$C . .=O$ N.C.C.O
- $\mathrm{C}_{-}=\mathrm{CO} \mathrm{N} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{C}$
-C. $=$ CO O.C.N
-C. C CO O.N.C
- C. $=C O \quad$ C...NO
- $C_{.}=C O$ N..CO
- $C=. C O C \cdot N \cdot O$
- $\mathrm{C}=. \mathrm{CO} \mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{N}$
- $C=. C O \quad N \cdot C \cdot O$
- $\mathrm{C}=. \mathrm{CO} \mathrm{N} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{C}$
- $C=. C O$ O.C.N
. $C=. C O$ O.N.C
- $C=. C O \quad C . . N O$
-C=.CO N..CO
$=C . C . C$ N.O.O
$=C . O C N . O . O$
$=C . C . N C . O . O$
$=C . C . N$ C..OO
$=C . N . C$ C.O.O
$=C . N . C$ C..OO
$=\mathrm{N}, \mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{C} \mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{O}$
$=N . C . C$ C.OOO
$=C . O N$ C.O.O
$=C . . C N$ C..OO
$=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{C.O} \mathrm{C.N.O}$
$=C . C . O C . O . N$
$=C . C . O N . C . O$
$=\mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{C} .0 \mathrm{~N} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{C}$
$=C . C . O$ C..NO
$=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{C}$ C.N. O
$=C . O . C$ C.O.N
$=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{CN} \mathrm{N} . \mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O}$
$=\mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{O} \cdot \mathrm{C} \mathrm{N} . \mathrm{O} \cdot \mathrm{C}$
$=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{C} \mathrm{C.ONO}$
=C..CO C.N.O
$=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{CO} \mathrm{C.O.N}^{\mathrm{N}}$
$=C . . C O N . C . O$
=C.CO N.O.C
$=\mathrm{C} . \mathrm{CO} \mathrm{C.ONO}^{\text {C. NO }}$

| C. $=0$ | C.N C.O |
| :---: | :---: |
| $C .=0$ | C.N O.C |
| $C_{0}=.0$ | N.C C.O |
| $C .=0$ | N.C O.C |
| $C=.0$ | C.N C.O |
| $C=.0$ | C.N O.C |
| $C=.00$ | N.C C.O |
| $\mathrm{C}=.0 \mathrm{O}$ | N.C O.C |
| N...C | $C=0.0$ |
| N...C | $\mathrm{C} \cdot \mathrm{O} \quad \mathrm{C}=0$ |
| N...C | $C=00 . C$ |
| N...O | $C \cdot C=0$ |
| $N . . . O$ | $C=C \quad C .0$ |
| N...O | C=C O.C |

nble 2 . The isomers of alanine (.C..CN C. $=00$ ) systematically ordered in DENDRAL-64 lotation. Each "." or "m" stands for a single or double bond respectively which ust be satisfied by a trailing atom or radical. This will be the first previously inreferenced item in the list to the right of the bond. A leading bond constitutes 1 central link, which must then be followed by two radicals. A space is used :o separate the primary radicals for convenience in reading but has no coding ignificance. Some 25 of these topological possibilities are recognized chemical orms; an equal number are their tautomers. Most of the remainder are either peroxides $r$ Schiff bases or similar unstable forms. A few, like hydracrylaldoxime, (.C.C. 0 C $=\mathrm{N} .0$ ) ight be realizable but were not found in a cursory search of the literature.


