

# Biochemistry

## Metabolism

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Glycogen metabolism

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# The structure of glycogen

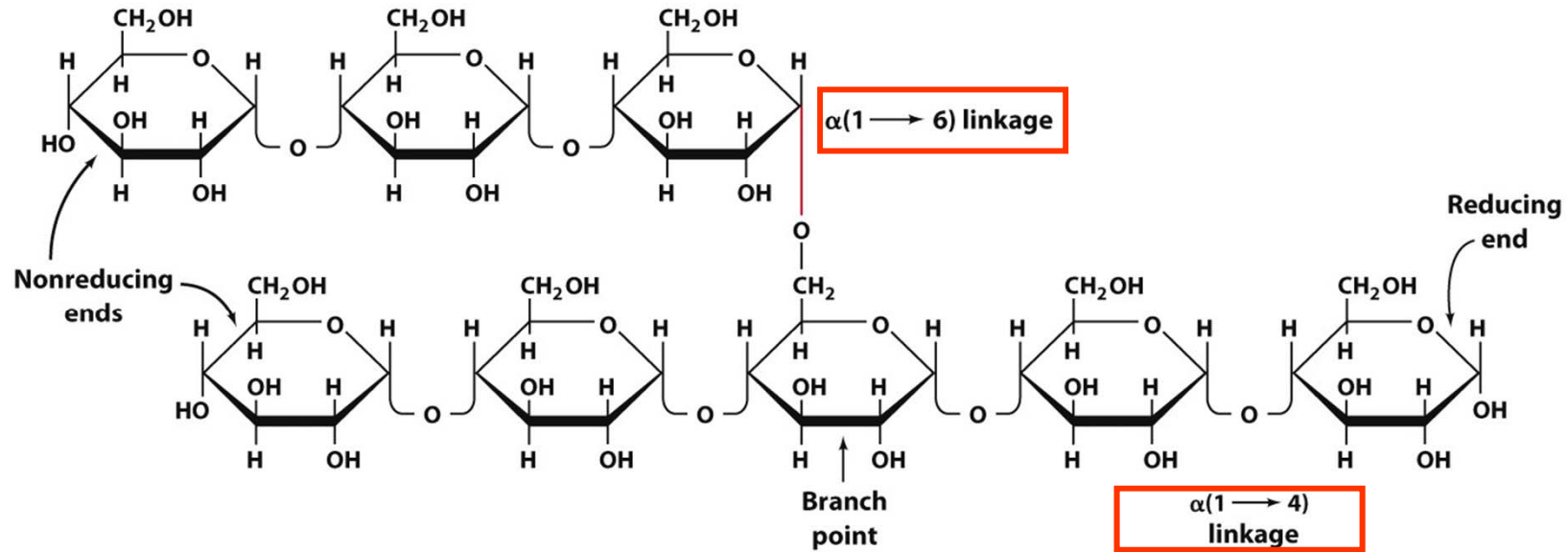


Figure 18-1a  
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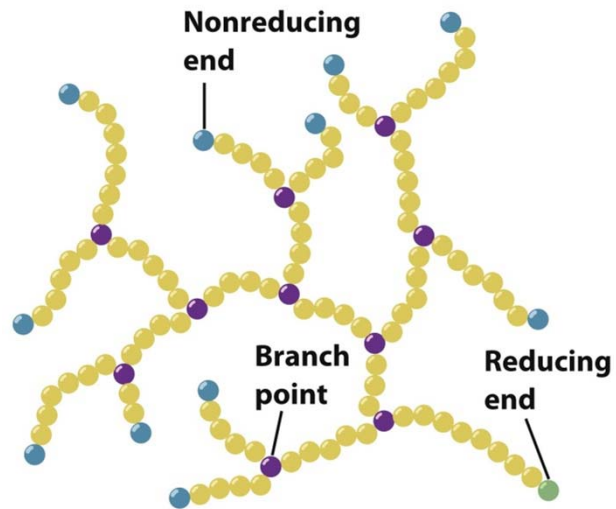


Figure 18-1b  
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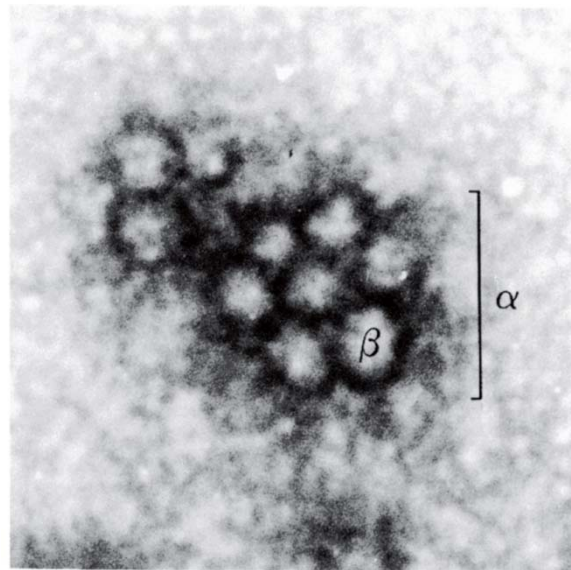


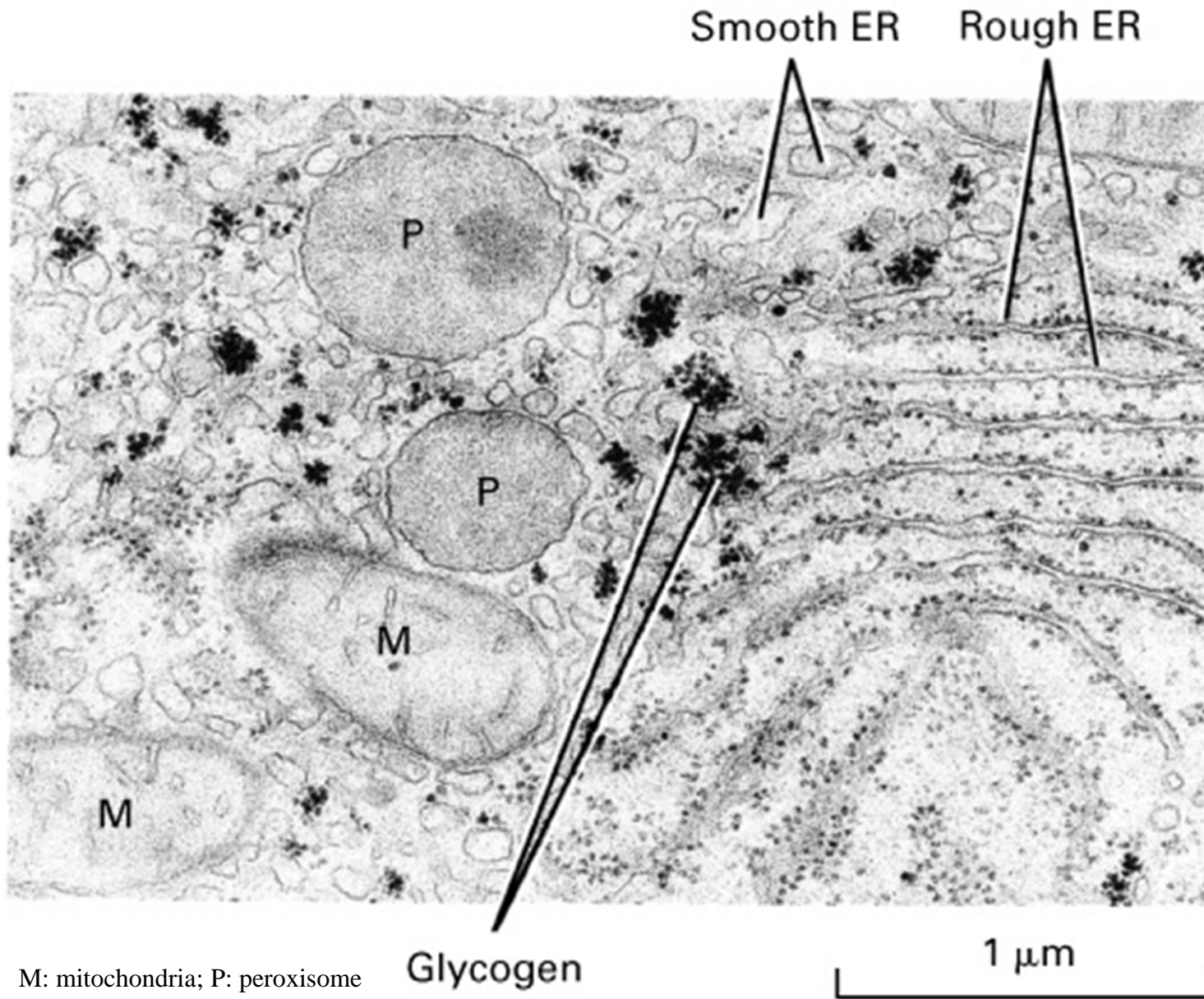
Figure 18-1c  
From Calder, P.C., *Int. J. Biochem.* 23, 1339 (1991). Copyright Elsevier Science. Used with permission.

$\alpha$ , glycogen granule

$\beta$ , glycogen molecule  
(up to 120,000 glucose residues)

(monomer conc. = 0.4M)  
polymer conc. =  $10^{-8}$ M

# Electron micrograph of rat hepatocyte



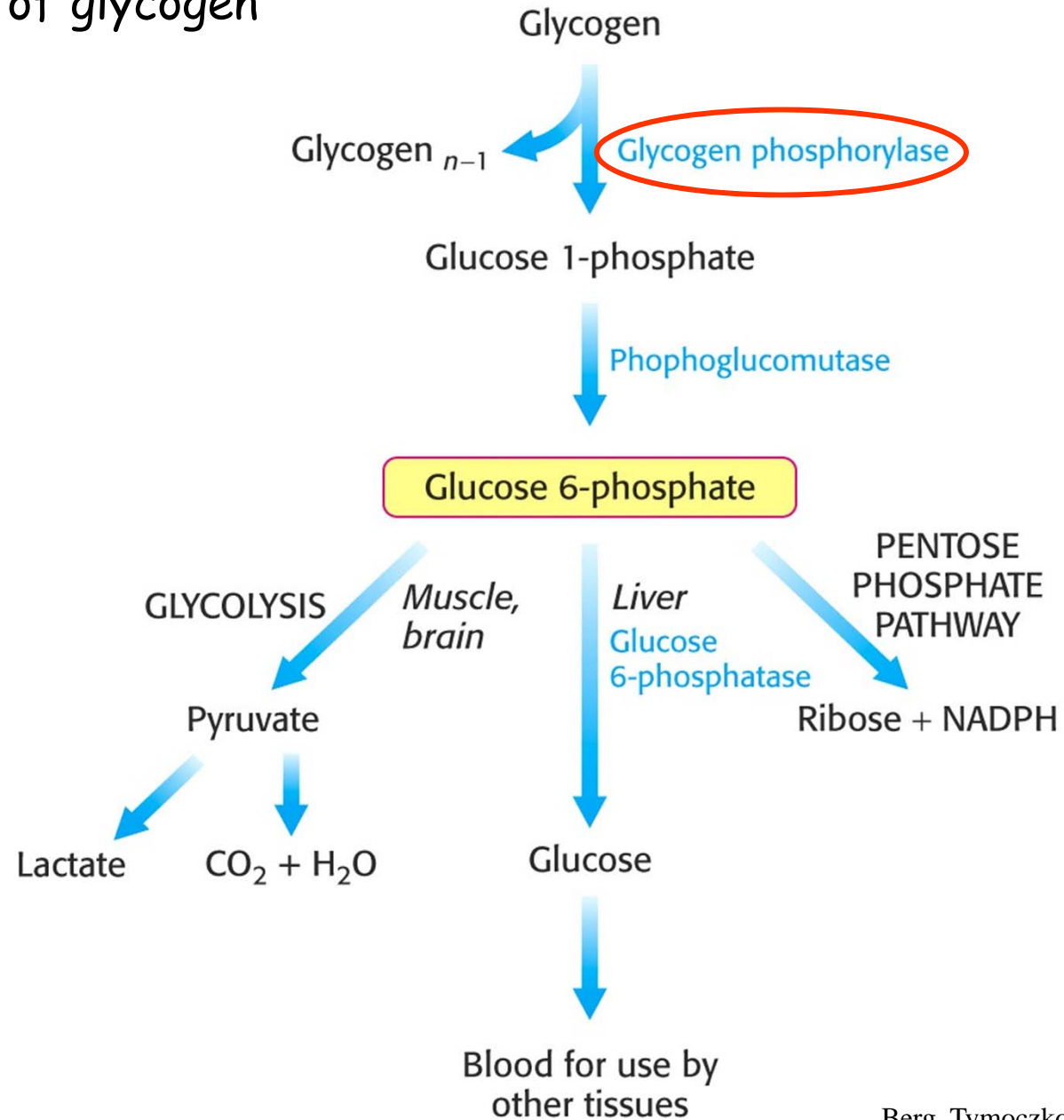
carbohydrate rich meal:  
glycogen = 5-10% of **liver**  
net weight  
12-18 h fasting: liver  
essentially glycogen free  
  
glycogen amount never  
exceeds 1% of **muscle**  
net weight

M: mitochondria; P: peroxisome

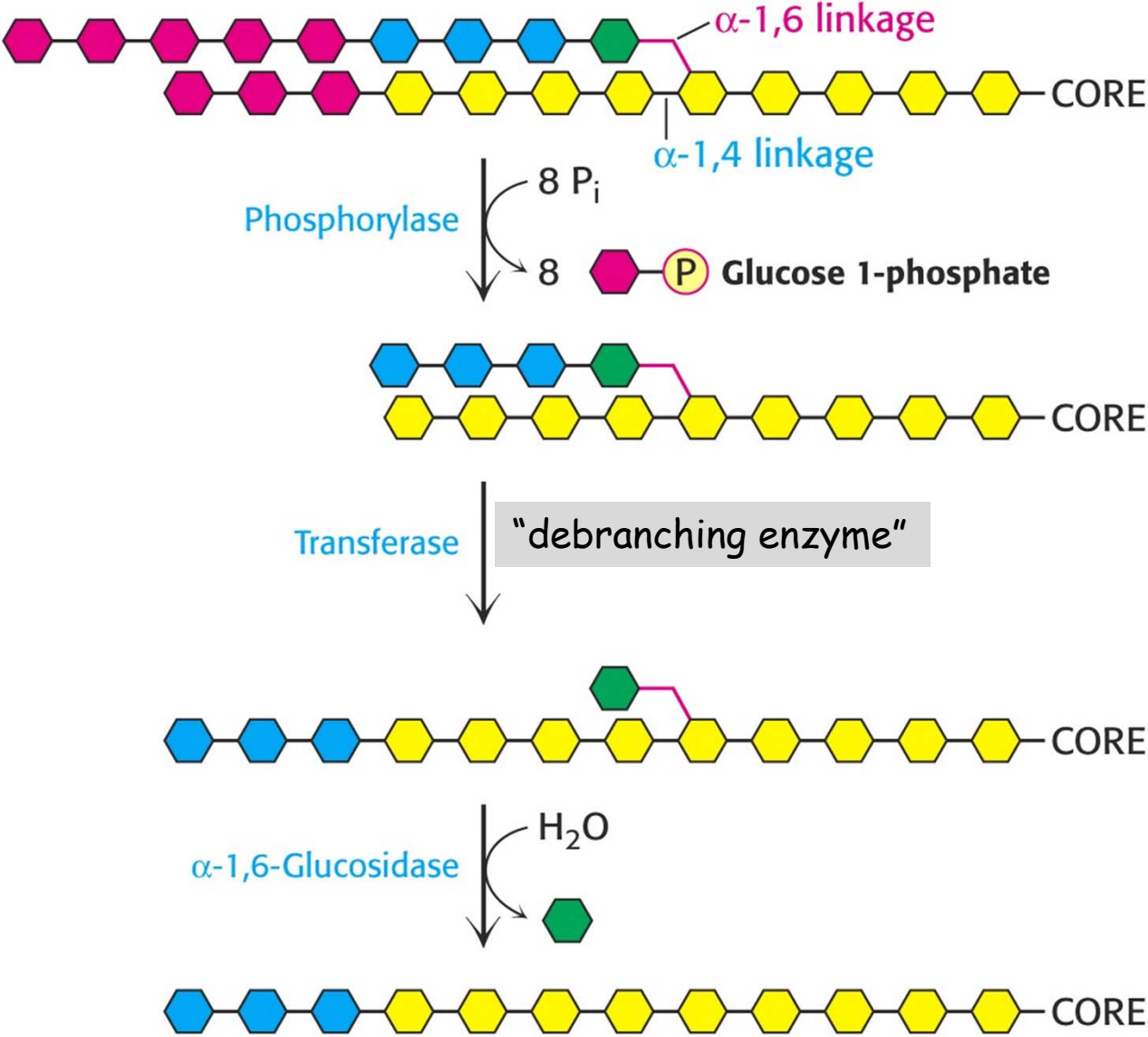
Glycogen

1 μm

# Utilization of glycogen



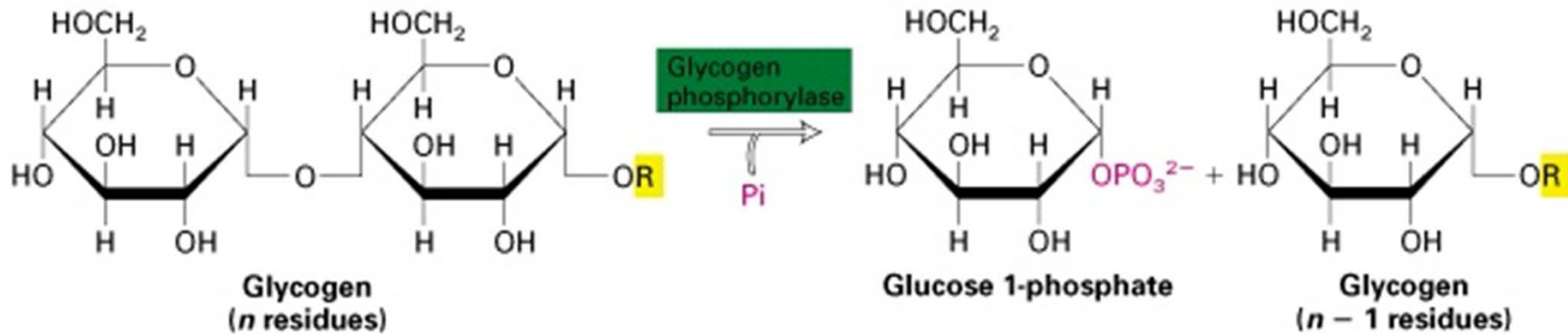
# The strategy of glycogen breakdown





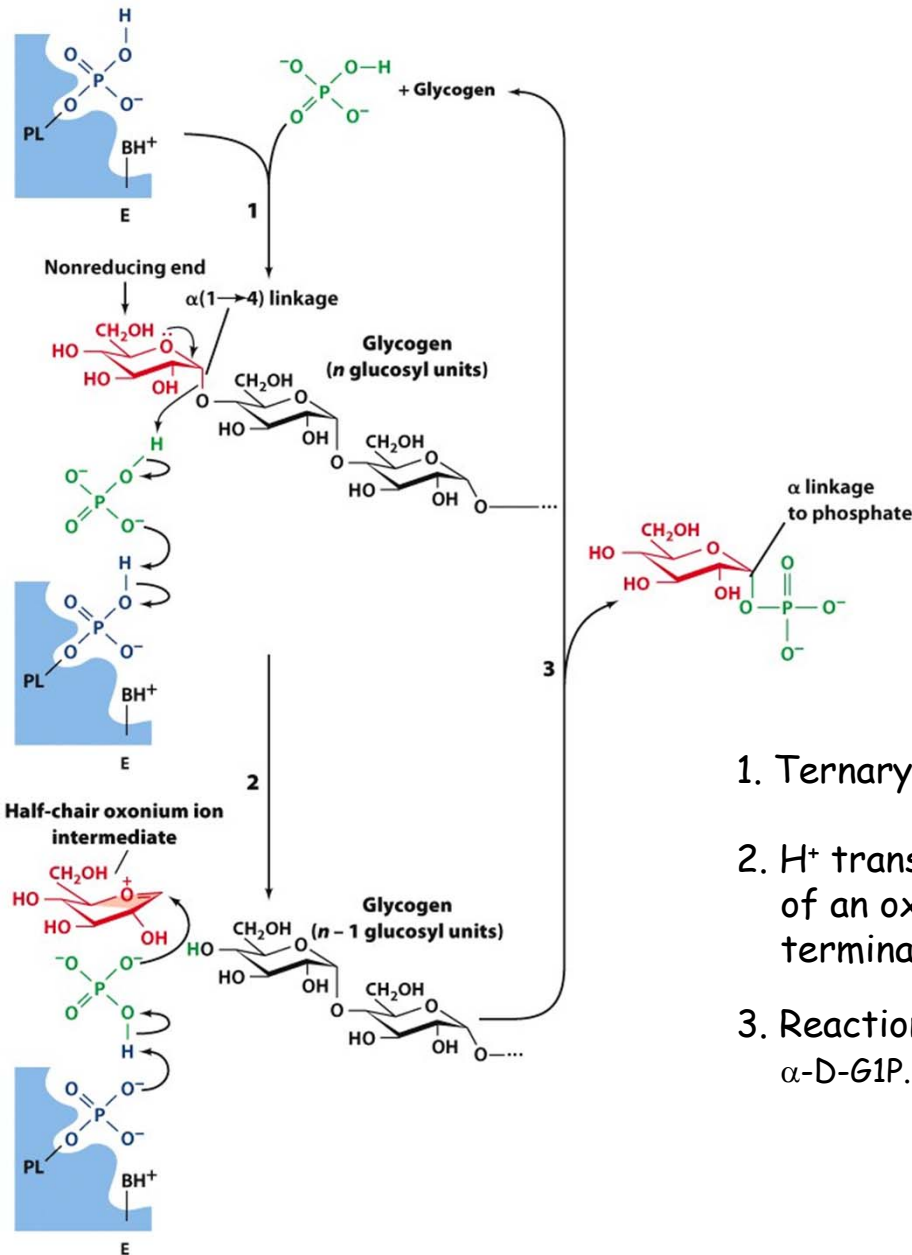
**Glycogen phosphorylase** catalyzes the phosphorolytic cleavage of an  $\infty$  1,4 glycosidic linkage generating glucose-1-phosphate

(b) Degradation of glycogen



- ✓ rate-limiting for glycogen breakdown  
catalyses velocity  $\gg$  "debranching enzyme"
- ✓ Highly regulated:
- ✓ covalent modification: phosphorylation of serine
- ✓ allosteric modulators:
  - (of the b form) **ATP, G6P** - inhibiting, **AMP, calcium** - stimulating
  - (of the a form) **glucose** - inhibiting

# The reaction mechanism of glycogen phosphorylase



PL: Pyridoxal phosphate  
 BH<sup>+</sup>: Lys-residue

1. Ternary complex formation
2. H<sup>+</sup> transfer from PLP to  $P_i$  facilitates formation of an oxonium ion intermediate from the terminal glucosyl residue and acid catalysis by  $P_i$ .
3. Reaction of  $P_i$  with the oxonium ion to generate  $\alpha$ -D-G1P.

Figure 18-3  
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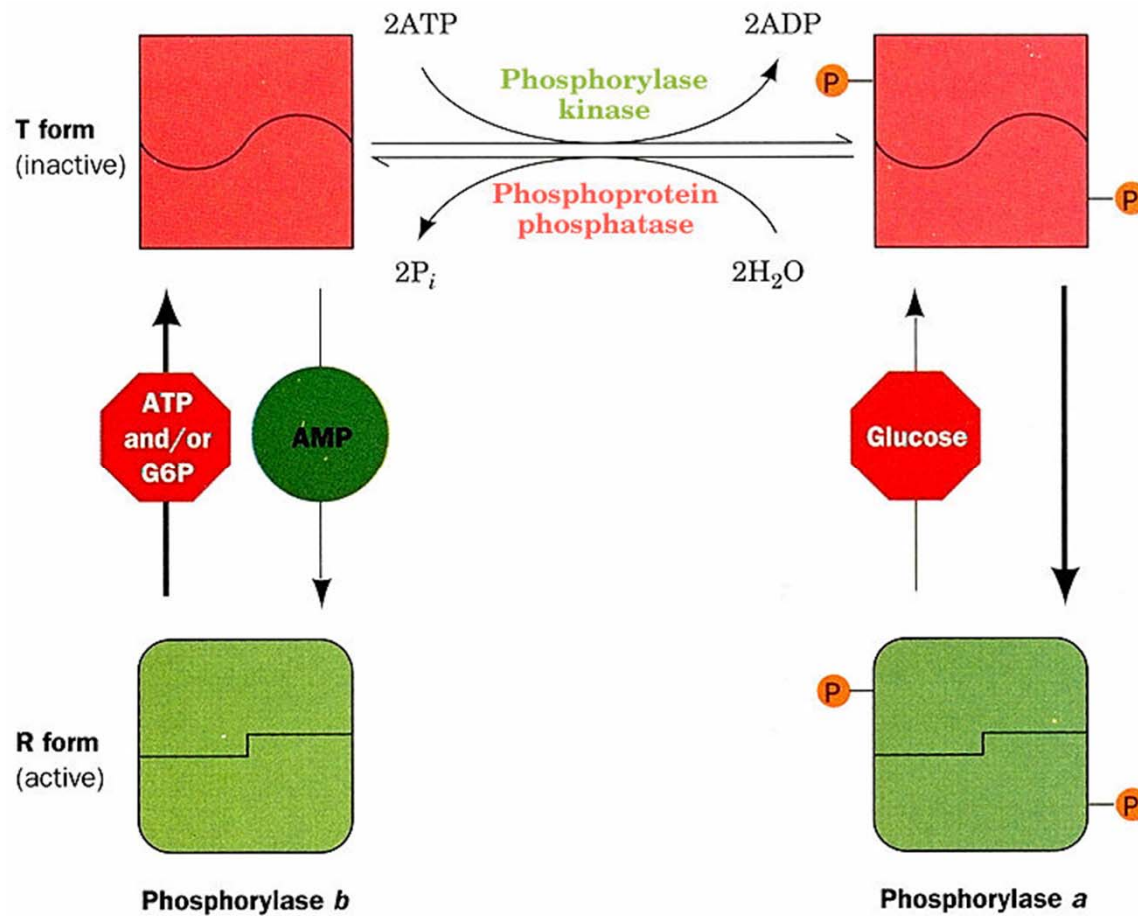
The control of the homodimeric glycogen phosphorylase:

a.) covalent modification: Ser-phosphorylation

b.) allosteric modulators: of the b-form: AMP, calcium - activators

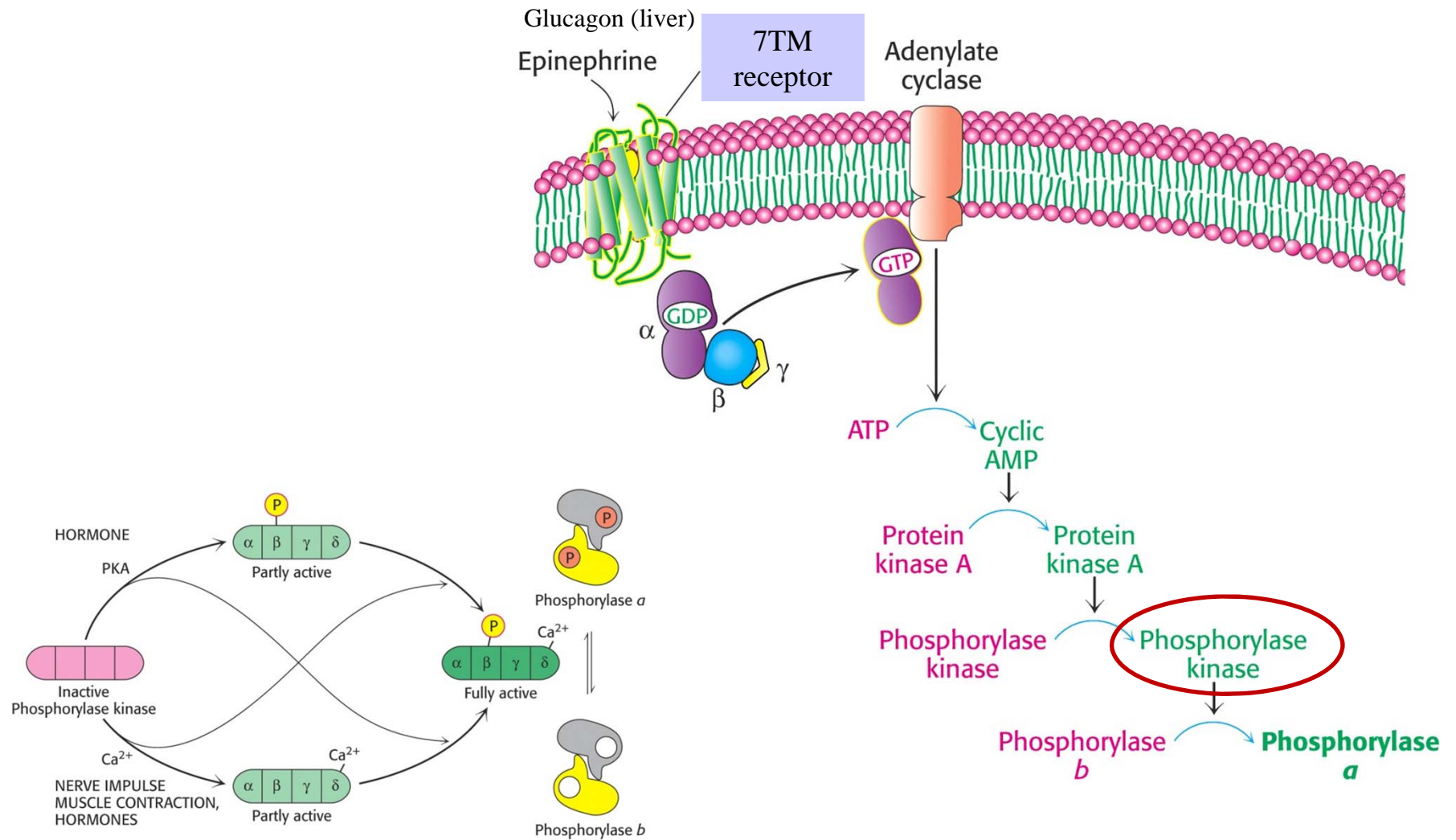
ATP, G6P - inhibitors

of the a-form: glucose - inhibitor



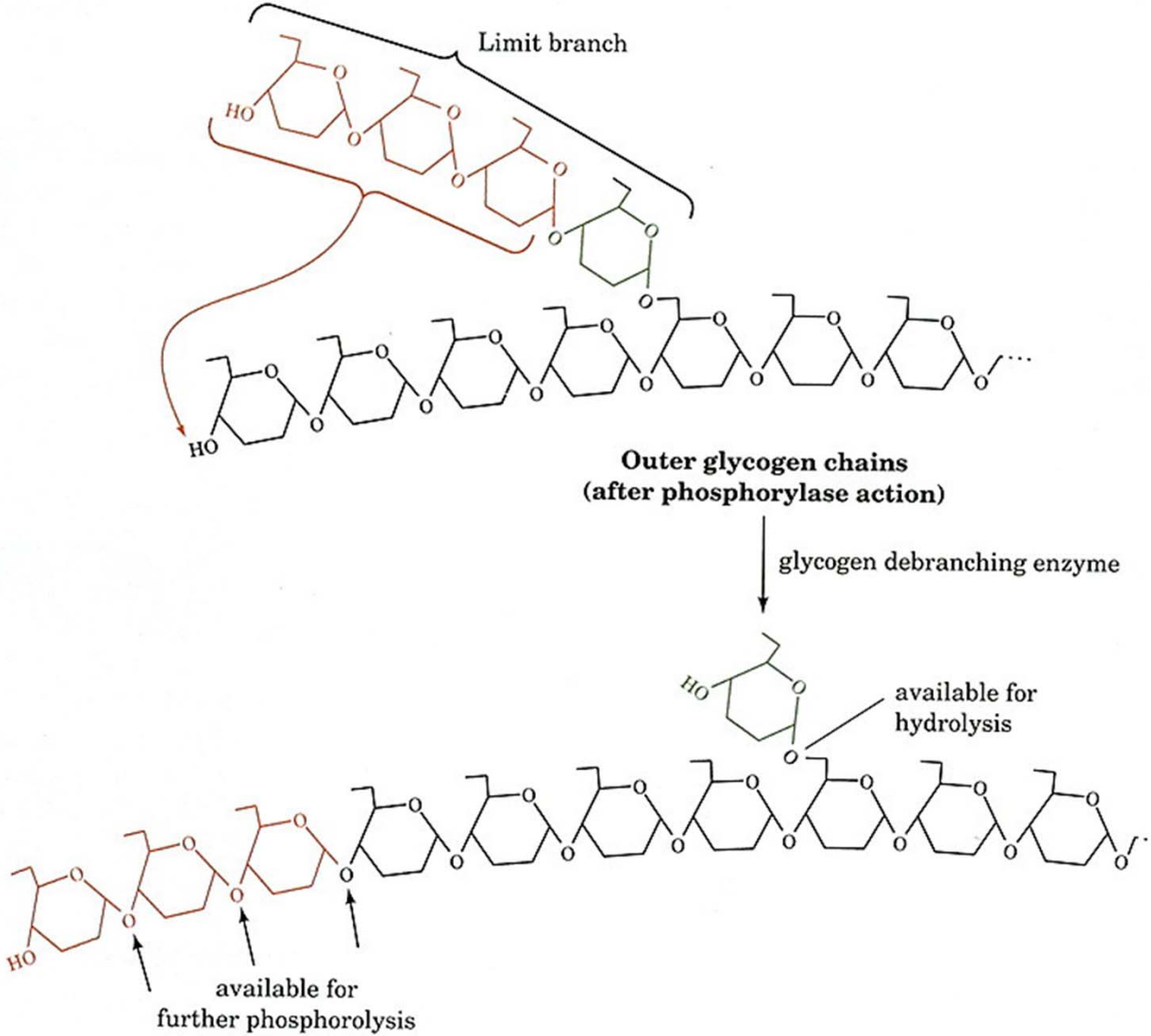


c.) the hormonal regulation of glycogen phosphorylase



Activation of phosphorylase kinase

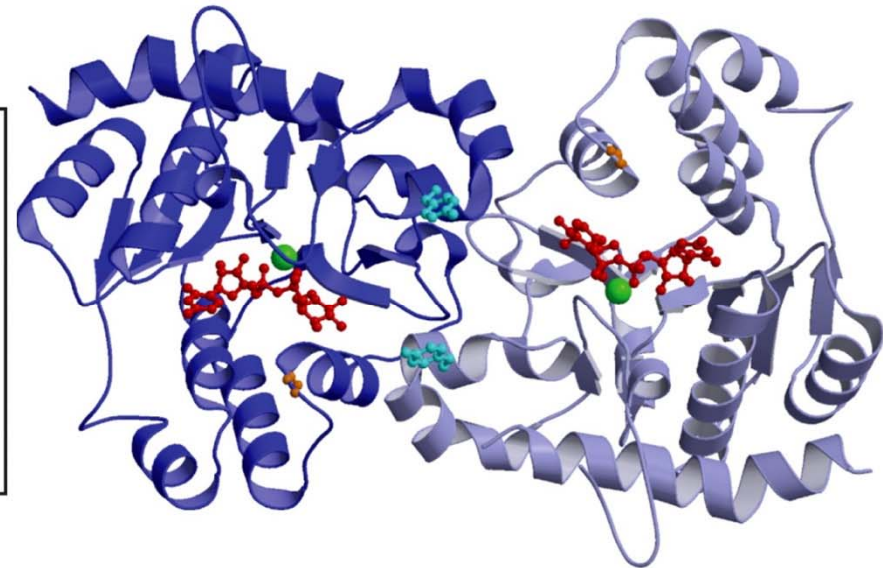
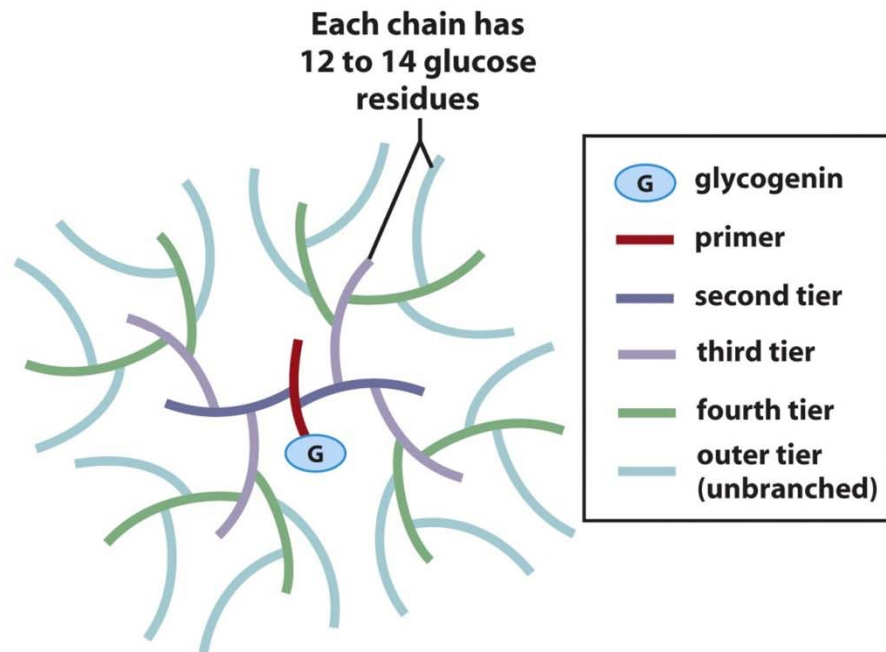
Glycogen debranching is catalyzed by:  $\infty 1,4 \rightarrow \infty 1,4$  glucosyltransferase and amylo 1,6-glucosidase



# Glycogenin and the structure of the glycogen particle

Glycogenin initiates glycogen synthesis (*primes the initial sugar residues in glycogen*)

here: the dimeric protein from human muscle tissue



UDP-Glc

Tyr

Asp

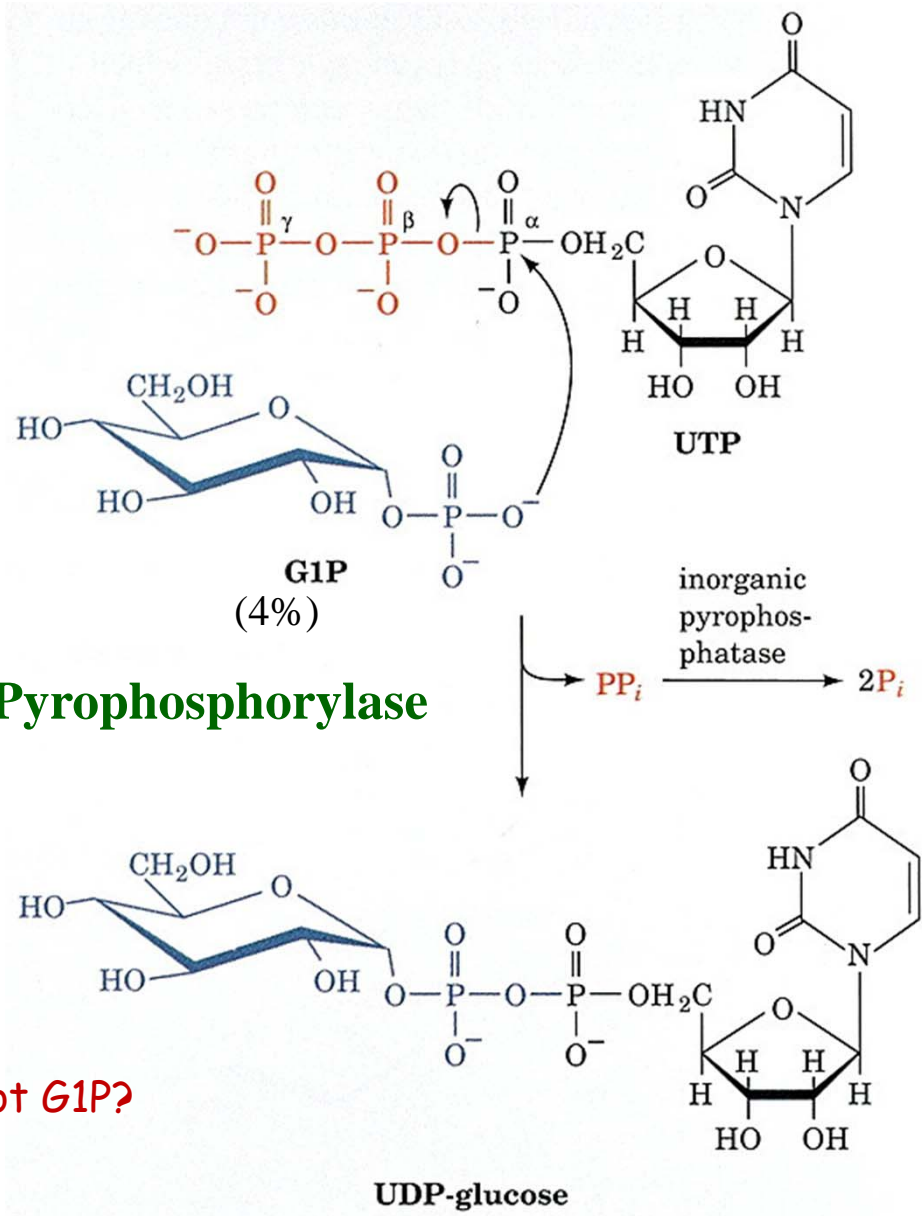
Mn<sup>2+</sup>

UDP-Glc, the substrate of glycogen synthase is generated by the activation of glucose (G1P) with UTP

Phosphoglucomutase  
G6P →  
(96%)

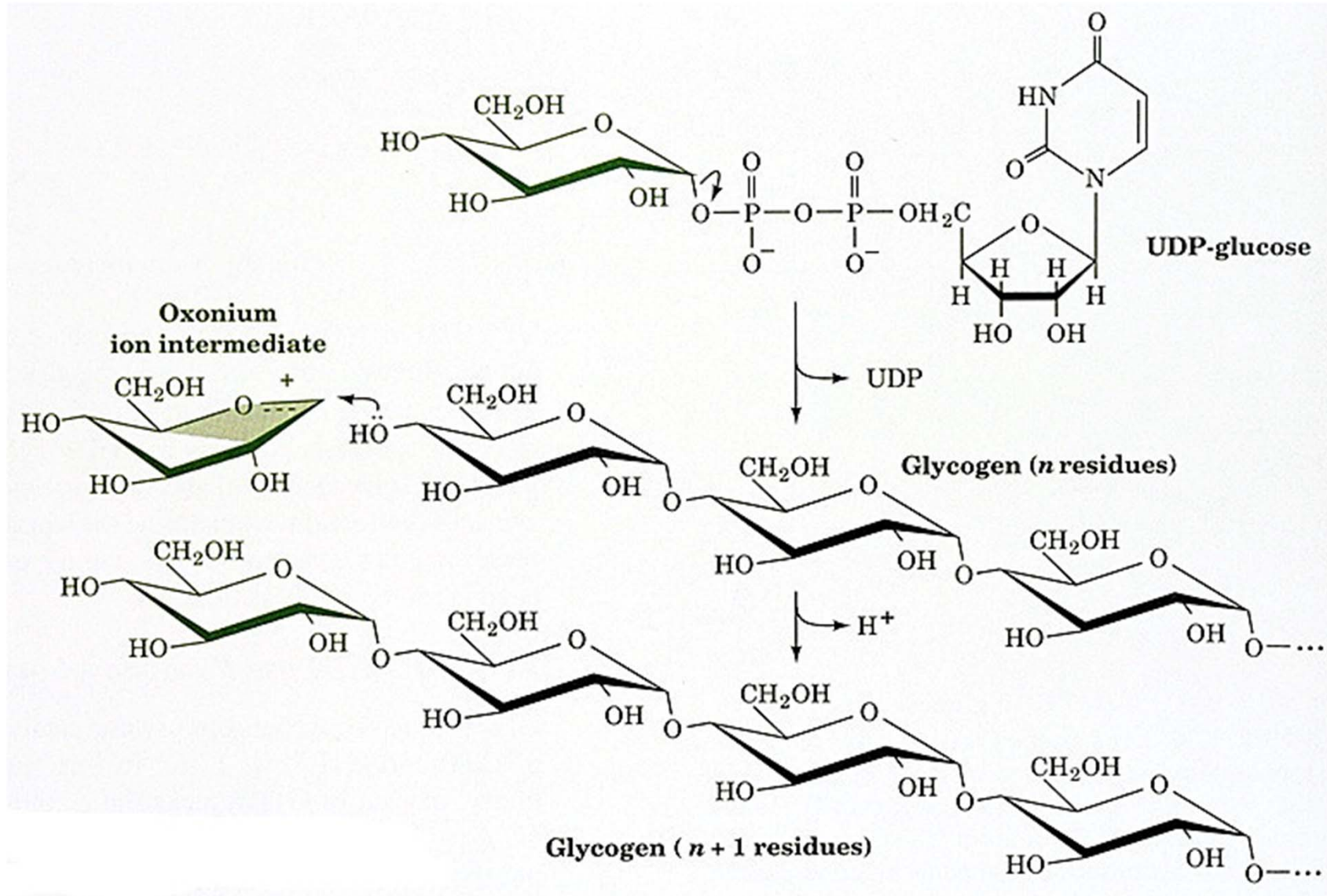
UDP-Glucose Pyrophosphorylase

Why UDP-Glc and not G1P?

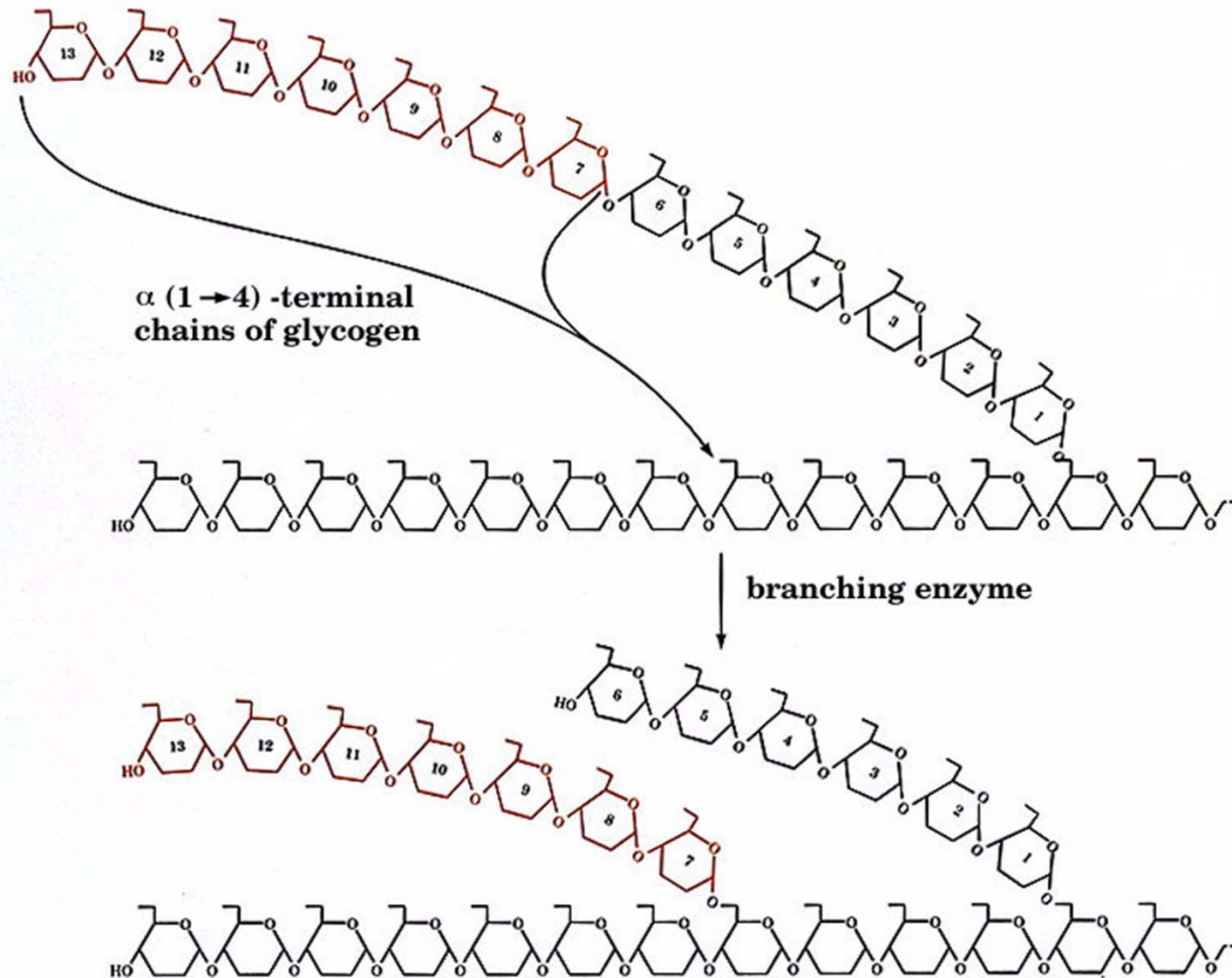




# Reaction catalyzed by glycogen synthase



The branching of glycogen is catalyzed by amylo-1,4→1,6 transglycosylase





Glycogen synthase activity is under the control of covalent modifications

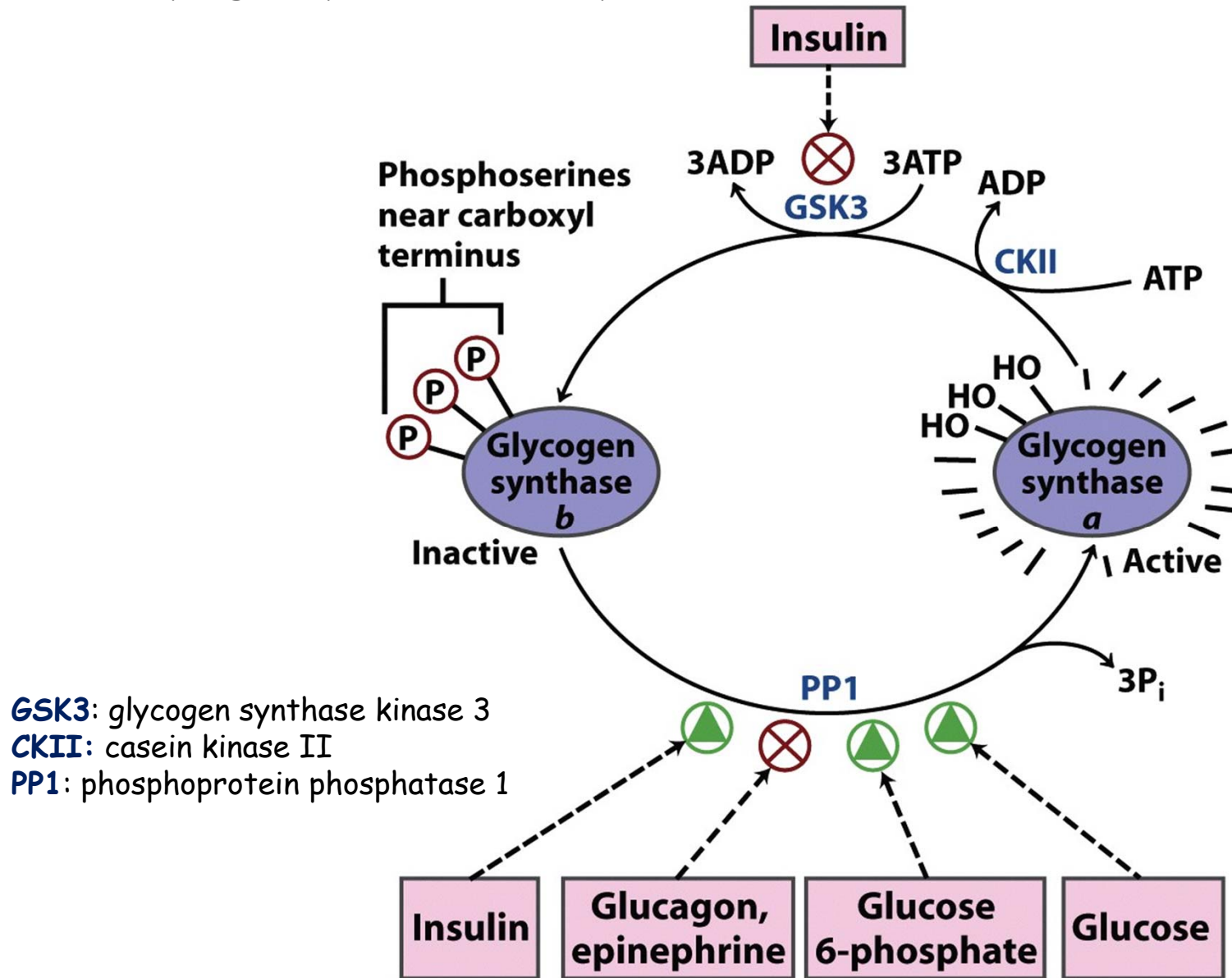
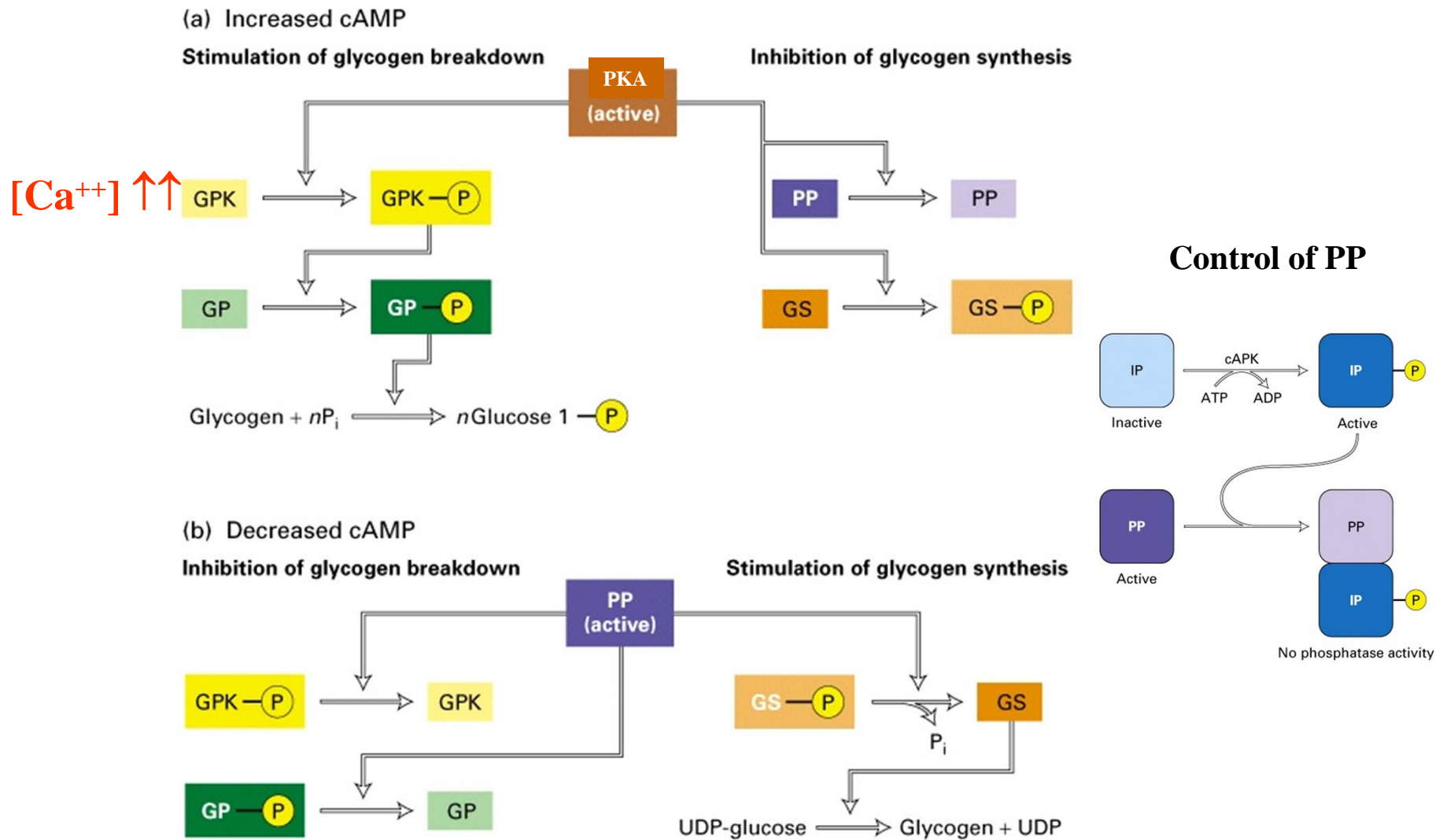
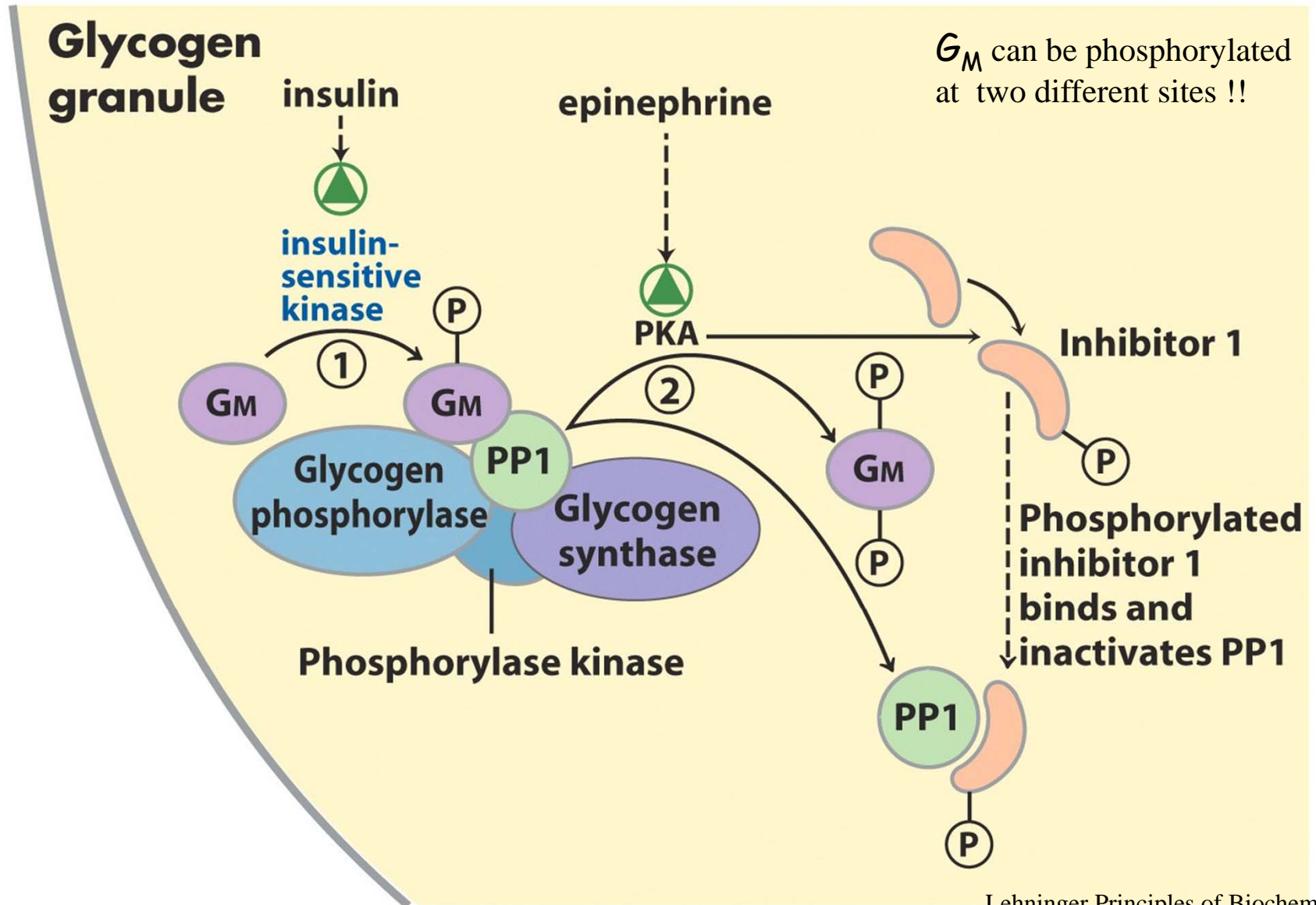


Figure 15-37  
 Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry, Fifth Edition  
 © 2008 W. H. Freeman and Company

# Coordinated regulation of glycogen turnover by cAMP (in liver and muscle)



Glycogen targeting protein  $G_M$  is one of a family of proteins that bind other proteins (including PP1) to glycogen particles.



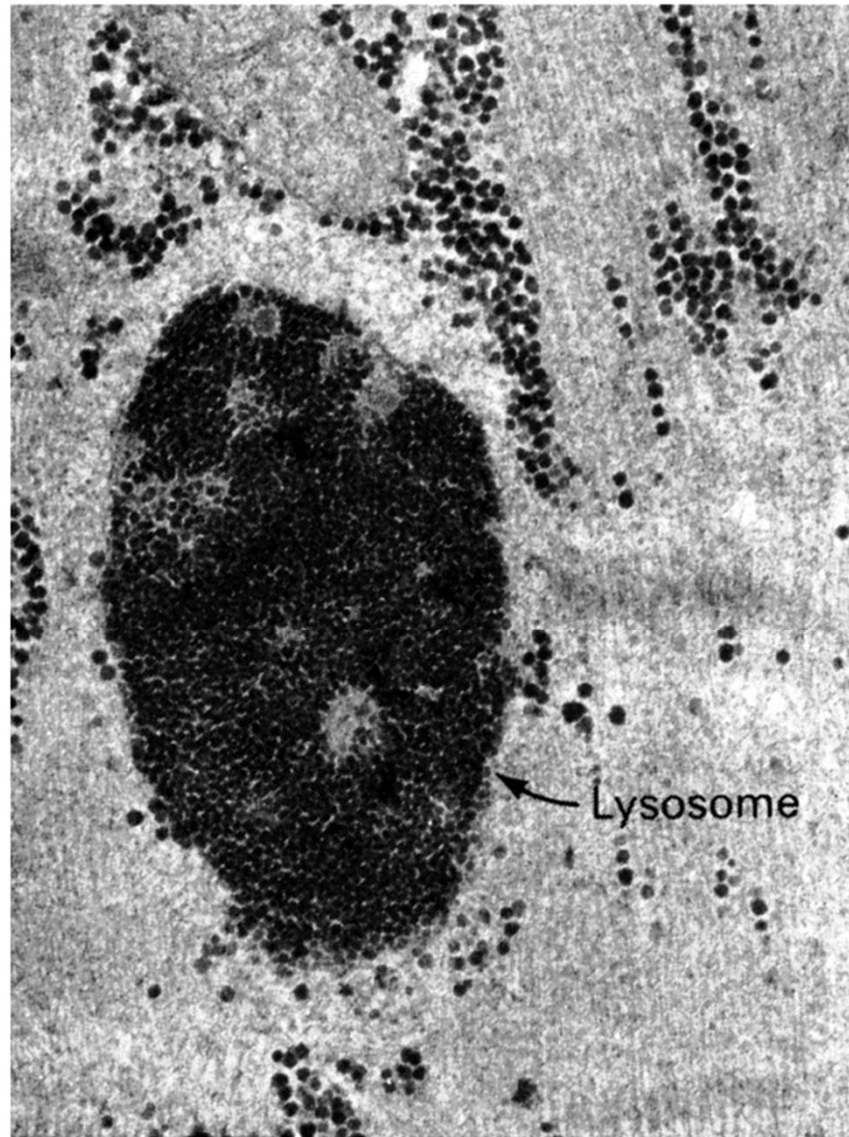
**TABLE 21.1 Glycogen-storage diseases**

Type	Defective enzyme	Organ affected	Glycogen in the affected organ	Clinical features
I Von Gierke disease	Glucose 6-phosphatase or transport system	Liver and kidney	Increased amount; normal structure.	Massive enlargement of the liver. Failure to thrive. Severe hypoglycemia, ketosis, hyperuricemia, hyperlipemia.
II Pompe disease	$\alpha$ -1,4-Glucosidase (lysosomal)	All organs	Massive increase in amount; normal structure.	Cardiorespiratory failure causes death, usually before age 2.
III Cori disease	Amylo-1,6-glucosidase (debranching enzyme)	Muscle and liver	Increased amount; short outer branches.	Like type I, but milder course.
IV Andersen disease	Branching enzyme ( $\alpha$ -1,4 $\rightarrow$ $\alpha$ -1,6)	Liver and spleen	Normal amount; very long outer branches.	Progressive cirrhosis of the liver. Liver failure causes death, usually before age 2.
V McArdle disease	Phosphorylase	Muscle	Moderately increased amount; normal structure.	Limited ability to perform strenuous exercise because of painful muscle cramps. Otherwise patient is normal and well developed.
VI Hers disease	Phosphorylase	Liver	Increased amount.	Like type I, but milder course.
VII	Phosphofructokinase	Muscle	Increased amount; normal structure.	Like type V.
VIII	Phosphorylase kinase	Liver	Increased amount; normal structure.	Mild liver enlargement. Mild hypoglycemia.

Note: Types I through VII are inherited as autosomal recessives. Type VIII is sex linked.

Berg, Tymoczko, Stryer: Biochemistry

Pompe disease: lysosomal storage of glycogen is fatal



1  $\mu\text{m}$

Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry  
Nelson & Cox

