Analogs of α-Methylphenethylamine (Amphetamine). I. Synthesis and Pharmacological Activity of Some Methoxy and/or Methyl Analogs¹

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A series of amphetamine derivatives substituted on the benzene ring with MeO and/or Me groups was synthesized. The pharmacological activity of these compounds was evaluated for toxicity, effects on barbiturate sleeping time, and ability to disrupt mouse behavior. Those which were active in behavioral disruption included 1-(2,5-dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)-, 1-(2,4-5-trimethoxyphenyl)-, 1-(2,4-dimethoxy-3-methylphenyl)-, and 1-(3,4-methylphendioxyphenyl)-2-aminopropane. In addition, 1-(3-methoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane, structurally resembling 1-(2,5-dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane (DOM), was found to be just as active and long lasting as DOM. The amphetamine derivatives either diminished or prolonged the barbiturate sleeping time. 1-(3,4-Methylenedioxyphenyl)-2-aminopropane and DOM were equally effective in decreasing the sleeping time, while 1-(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)- and 1-(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-aminopropanes were the most active in the potentiation of the sleeping time.

For many years, there has been interest in the structure of some known hallucinogens. Smythies, et al., have studied the structure-action relationship of a number of mescaline analogs on the behavior of rats. Some ring-substituted amphetamine derivatives have been studied in humans by Shulgin, and in animals by Smythies, et al., and Beaton, et al. Snyder and Richelson proposed a common configuration for the

action of different classes of some hallucinogens on the basis of steric factors. A correlation between hallucinogenic activities of these different classes of compounds with the electronic properties of the phenyl or indole nucleus was also presented by Snyder and Merril.⁷

In this study, a series of compounds related to amphetamine (1) and 1-(2,5-dimethoxy-4-methylphen-yl)-2-aminopropane (DOM or STP, 2) was synthesized and their pharmacological activity was evaluated for their effect on barbiturate sleeping time and their ability to disrupt mouse behavior. It was hoped that evaluation of the compounds in this series would provide information as to which of the substituents on DOM is essential for its action. These compounds included 1-(2-methoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane (3), 1-(3-methoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane (4), and

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(3) (a) A. T. Shinlgin, Experientia, 20, 366 (1964); (b) Nature, 201, 1120 (1964).

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⁽⁷⁾ S. H. Snyder and C. R. Merril, ibid., 54, 258 (1965).

TABLE I PHYSICAL CONSTANTS OF

$$R_4$$
 R_5
 R_4
 R_6
 R_6
 R_6
 R_6
 R_7
 R_8
 R_8
 R_8
 R_8
 R_8

						Yield, a			
No.	R_2	Ra	R_4	Ra	Re	%	Mp, °C	Formula	Analyses
3	OCH3	H	CH_3	H	H	38	162-162.5 ^A	Ca Ha CINO	C. H. N
4	H	H	CH ₃	OCH ₃	H	58	182-183	Cn Hacino	C, H, N
5	OCH ₁	H	H	OCH ₃	H	26	$111.5-112.5^{e.d}$		100000000000000000000000000000000000000
9	OCH_1	H	OCH ₂	OCH ₃	H	40	188-190.5°		
10	H	OCH3	OCH ₁	OCH_3	H	36	216-217/	C12H20CINO2	C, H, N
11	H	OCH3	OCH ₂	H	H	22	147.5-148a.k	3070 0070 0070	
12	H	OCH,	H	OCH ₃	H	32	160-1610.	C11H18CINO2	C, H, N
13	OCH ₁	OCH ₁	H	H	H	46	154-156	C11H18CINO2	C, H, N
14	OCH_a	CH ₃	OCH ₁	H	H	25	163-164s	C12H20ClNO2	C, H, N
15	H	CH ₂	OCH ₃	CH ₃	H	20	255-257*	C12H29CINO	C, H, N
16	H	CH ₄	OH	CH ₃	H	14	224-225	C11H18CINO	C, H, N
17	CH,	H	CH ₂	H	CH ₄	18	269-271	C12H20CIN	C, H, N
18	H	O ₂ (CH ₂	H	H	35	181-182/		Some State Control

^a Over-all yield. ^b Recrystallized from MeOH–Et₂O. ^c Recrystallized from *i*-PrOH–Et₂O. ^d R. Baltzly and J. S. Buck, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **62**, 161 (1940), reported mp 117.5°, prepared by the reaction of the corresponding benzaldehyde with diethyl malonate and subsequent conversion of this product into **9**. ^d Lit. ¹¹ mp 187°. ^J Lit. ¹² mp 208–209°, prepared by the reduction of 1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-nitropropene which was obtained from the reaction of 1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)propene and C(NO₂)₄. ^d Recrystallized from EtOH–Et₂O. ^h Identified by its sulfate salt, mp 312–315°. A. W. Schrecker, *J. Org. Chem.*, **22**, 33 (1957), reported mp 313–315°, prepared by a Curtis or Schmidt rearrangement of α-methylhydrocinnamic acid. ^d T. A. Gorindachari and M. V. Lakshmikantham, *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.*, **46A**, 406 (1957), reported mp 147°. ^d C. Mannich and W. Jacobsohn, *Ber.*, **43**, 189 (1910), reported mp 180–181°.

1-(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-aminopropane (5) which resulted from the systematic removal of substituents, one at a time, from DOM.

Chemistry.—The amines were prepared by the condensation of nitroethane with the corresponding aldehyde followed by LiAlH₄ reduction of the resulting phenylnitropropene. No attempt was made to purify the intermediate phenylnitropropenes. The aldehyde required for the preparation of 4 was obtained from 3-methoxy-p-toluic acid. Treatment of the acid with SOCl₂ afforded the acid chloride, which was then reduced to 3-methoxy-p-tolualdehyde.

Synthesis of 3 was carried out as shown in Scheme I. The carbonyl group of 2-methoxy-p-tolualdehyde (8) was derived by replacement of the bromine atom of 3-methoxy-4-bromotoluene (6). The Grignard reagent from 6 was treated with triethyl orthoformate to give the acetal 7. Acid hydrolysis of this acetal freed the carbonyl group affording the aldehyde 8. The incomplete conversion of 6 to the Grignard reagent resulted in a low yield of 8. The steric hindrance on the Br atom caused by the o-OMe substituent could account for this, although electronic factors could also be important. The use of triethyl orthoformate for the preparation of aldehydes has been reported. This method would have been satisfactory if the Grignard reagent could have been prepared in a higher yield.

Table I lists physical constants of the substituted amphetamines.

Pharmacological Studies.—The ability of compounds to disrupt mouse behavior was determined by a swim maze test. At a comparative dose of 50 μmoles/kg, compounds which were active in our swim test were 1-(2,5-dimethoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane

(8) G. B. Bachman, "Organic Syntheses," Coll. Vol. 11, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1943, p 323.

(DOM, 2), 1-(3-methoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane (4), 1-(2,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-aminopropane (9), 1-(2,4-dimethoxy-3-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane (14), 1-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-2-aminopropane (18), and 3,4,5-trimethoxyphenethylamine (mescaline, (Table II). This dose appeared to be the optimum for DOM, as in our test system doses below 50 µmoles/kg did not have a distinctive effect and no obvious increase in behavioral disruption was observed for those above 50 µmoles/kg. Of the above mentioned compounds, 2, 9, and 19 have been reported to cause hallucinations in humans.3 Furthermore, the behaviordisrupting activity of 9 and 19 has been demonstrated on animals using the Sidman avoidance schedule.2.4 It seems, therefore, that as a qualitative measurement of the disruption of animal behavior our swim maze test is applicable. Our data showed that the action of 2 and 18 were relatively long, whereas that of 19 was rather transient. In the latter case, the demethylation of one or both OMe groups and the subsequent conjugation of the resulting phenolic OH would probably account for its short action. It was rather interesting to find 14 so active, although its action was very short. Even more interesting were the data obtained from 4. This compound not only possessed behavior-disrupting activity comparable to that of 2, but the duration of its effect was also shown to be as long. Since 4 was derived from the removal of 2-OMe from 2, and, in addition, the two 2-methoxylated compounds 3 and 5 were not active, the presence of 2-OMe in 2 did not seem to be responsible for the activity of 2. In addition, judging from the finding that 1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2aminopropane (11), which differed from 4 only by the para substituent, was devoid of activity, the p-methyl group of 2 appeared to be essential for its action. This p-Me could be envisioned to do at least one of the

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF TABLE II

E Front N + 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	+ 2 + 2 + 2	2- 2.3 2+ 2+ 1- 2.6 2+ 3+ 3+ 4- 4- 4- 4- 4- 4- 4- 4- 4- 4- 4- 4- 4-
2. 2. 2. 4. 4. 2. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4.	22 14 3.3 34	2- 2.3 2+ 1- 2.6 2+
0 1 2 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 2 1 1 2	22 1+ 3.3	2- 2.3
	2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2	2-1
* 1	F 21	
Compt 1 28 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 6 6 6 6 6 6 6		8 22
88 + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +	10+	++6
\$	++	+ + +
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tinne ⁴ Divining Lion Lion NO N	51	177
Steeping P	<0.001	<0.01
2.5.5.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.	4.8	2.1
Mean # min #	80.5 ± 26.1 ±	34.4 ± 67.0 ±
E	1.2	7.1
Mouse LD ₀ ± SE, mg/kg 80 ± 4.2 92 ± 4.2 96 ± 3.6 135 ± 7.9 180 ± 13.3 250 ± 14.6 210 ± 9.7 155 ± 9.3 108 ± 7.9 160 ± 29.7 78 ± 7.9	88.38	15 ± 2 80 ± 1
	CIL	
0CH, 0CH, 0CH, 0CH, 0CH, 0CH, 0CH, 0CH,	НН	H H H
R R CH3 CCH3 CCH3 CCH3 CCH3 CCH3 CCH3 CC	CH3 H,	OCH,
R	H O'C	OCH,
СП, ОСП, ОСП, ОСП, ОСП, ОСП, ОСП, ОСП, О	СН	нн
* 6555555556666666	CH,	нн
N 1 2 8 4 6 9 9 1 1 2 8 1 4 2 5 5	17 18	19

1. EtOH, H* 2. EtNO. 3. LiAIH, -CH(OC,H,), SCHEME I 30-39, 2+; 20-29, 1+; 10-19, 1-; 0-9, 2-; -1 and below, 3-. ${}^{d}E=\hat{x}^{1/2}+(\hat{x}+1)^{1/2}$, where \hat{x} is the mean number of errors. 1+. I p value larger than 0.05 was considered to be not significant (NS). g No change. L Mg-(C,H,),0 2. HC(OC,H,), 3, R. - OCH3; R. - CH3; R. - H 4, R₂ = H; R₄ = CH₃, R₅ = OCH₃ 5, R₅ = R₆ = OCH₃; R₄ = H 1, R₂ = R₁ = R₅ = H 2, R₂ = R₅ = OCH₅; R₄ = CH₅

following: (a) it could increase the solubility of 2 and thus facilitate its entering into the CNS, or (b) it may have changed the electronic property of the benzence

ring and made it bind better to the receptor.

Both diminution and potentiation of barbitrate sleeping time were observed among the 15 amphetamine derivatives. At an equimolar dose, 18 was nearly as good as amphetamine (1) in shortening the sleeping time (Table II). This reversal effect on the sleeping time as also found with DOM (2). Apparently, the 3,4dimethoxy groups of 11 did not provide the compound with any effect on the sleeping time, and this effect could only be obtained by changing the 3,4-dimethoxy groups of a 1-phenyl-2-aminopropane molecule to a 3,4methylenedioxy linkage (see 18). 1-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)-2-aminopropane (10) and mescaline (19) were equally active in shortening the sleeping time. compound found to be the most active in prolongation of the sleeping time was 1-(2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)-2aminopropane (17). 1-(3,5-Dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenv1)-2-aminopropane (16) had an effect approaching that of 17. Replacement of 4-OH by OMe resulted in a compound (15) of opposite effect. The absence or presence of a third OMe in the two phenethylamine derivatives 19 and 20 also gave opposite effects. This, however, was not observed in the amphetamine series (see 10 and 11)

Several amphetamine derivatives, most of which decreased the sleeping time, were rather toxic (Table II). A nearly threefold increase in toxicity was observed when the 4-OMe of 10 was replaced by Me to give 2, and more than a twofold decrease in LD to when the 4-OH of 16 was replaced by OMe (15).

Experimental Section⁹

Substituted Phenylnitropropenes. Condition 1 (HOAc. EtNO2, or EtOH as Solvent).—The substituted phenylnitropropenes were prepared by the condensation of the appropriate aldehyde with EtNO2 in the presence of NH4OAc. In the preparation of the intermediate nitropropenes of 15-17, HOAc was used as the solvent,10 and the corresponding amines 15-17 were obtained by LAH reduction.

Using EtNO2 as solvent the following compounds were isolated: 1-(2,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-nitropropene, mp 100-101.5° (84%) (lit.11 mp 101°), 1-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-nitropropene, mp 96-97° (63%) (lit.12 mp 94°), 1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-nitropropene, mp 76.5-78.5°, and 1-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-nitro-

propene, mp 72.5-74°

In the preparation of 1-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-nitropropene, mp 87.5-88.5° (EtOH), EtOH was used as solvent.

(C11H12NO4) C, H, N.

Condition 2 (Azeotropic Distillation).-1-(2-Methoxy-3methylphenyl)-2-nitropropene was prepared by refluxing a mixture of 25 mmoles of 3-methoxy-p-tolualdehyde, 10 ml of EtNO2, 1 g of NH4OAc, and 60 ml of C4H4 for 18 hr, with continuous removal of H2O into a Dean-Stark tube. After evaporation of the solvent the residue was distilled under reduced pressure to yield 40% of yellow oil, bp 113° (0.1 mm), which solidified upon standing to give bright yellow needles, mp 48-50°. Recrystallization from MeOH gave prisms, mp 48-51°. Anal. (C11H13NO3) C. H. N

Ring-Substituted 1-Phenyl-2-aminopropanes Hydrochlorides. -To a stirred suspension of 0.15 mole of LAH in 100-150 ml of THF was added dropwise a solution of 0.05 mole of the appropriate substituted nitrostyrene in 100 ml of THF. The mixture was refluxed with stirring for 1 hr, excess LAH was decomposed (H2O), and the solid was removed by filtration. The filter cake was washed with hot THF (three 50-ml portions). The combined filtrate and washings were evaporated in vacuo to give the crude amine, generally as an oil. When an ethereal solution of the amine was mixed with Et₂O-HCl, the hydrochloride salt precipitated. See Table I.

In cases where a hygroscopic HCl salt resulted, it was redissolved in H₂O, extracted with CH₂Cl₂ to remove impurities, and made basic with 2 N NaOH (NaHCO2 was used for 16). The free amine was extracted into C₄H₆, and the combined C₄H₆ extracts, after washing with H2O, were dried (Na2SO4), concentrated in vacuo, diluted with anhydrous Et2O, and mixed with Et2O-HCl. After this treatment the HCl salt usually was ob-

tained as a solid.

The reduction of 1-(3-methoxy-4-methy;phenyl)-2-nitropropene with LAH was carried out in boiling anhydrous Et₂O for Excess LAH was decomposed with a few drops of 2 N NaOH and filtered. The fittrate was mixed with Et₂O-HCl to precipitate the HCl salt. Extraction of the filter cake with Et₂O and treatment of the Et₂O extracts with Et₂O-HCl gave an additional crop of the hydrochloride. The combined crude hydrochloride salts were recrystallized from MeOH-Lt₂O yielding 4.

3-Methoxy-p-tolualdehyde,-A solution of 7.3 g (0.044 mole) of 3-methoxy-p-toluic acid in 25 ml of SOCl2 was refluxed for 1 hr, then evaporated in vacuo to remove the excess SOCl2. The residue of crude acid chloride was dissolved in 25 ml of diglyme, cooled to Dry Ice temperature, and added dropwise to 80 ml (ca. 0.045 mole) of LiAlH(0-t-Bu), in diglyme; the addition required about 1 hr. The mixture was stirred for 2 hr while being allowed to reach room temperature, then poured with stirring onto 600 g of ice. The solid was collected on a filter and extracted with 95% EtOH (four 200-ml portions). The combined EtOH extracts were evaporated in vacuo leaving a mixture of pale yellow oil and a trace amount of another immiscible liquid. The oil, after being separated, was dissolved in a small amount of MeOH, and H₂O was added until turbid. Chilling the solution gave 41 g. (62%) of solid, mp 35-38°. Subsequent recrystallization from aqueous MeOH gave needles: mp 40-41°; λ_{max} (KBr) 5.90, 5.95 (C=O), 6.24, 6.31 μ (C=C). Anal. (C_pH₁₀O₂) C, H.

When the mother liquor of the crude aldehyde was evaporated in vacuo and the residue was distilled under reduced pressure, 0.9 g (13%) of an oily liquid, bp 72° (0.5 mm), was obtained. This liquid, which appeared to be the 3-methoxy-4-methylbenzyl alcohol, showed absorption peaks a 3.01 (OH) and 9.6 μ

(C-O), but was not further purified.

Lithium tri-t-butoxyaluminohydride was prepared in the fol-To 2.7 g (0.071 mole) of LAH in 200 ml of lowing manner. anhydrous Et₂O was added dropwise dried t-BuOH until H₂ evolution ceased. (The requirement of 15.6 ml (0.168 mole) of t-BuOH indicated formation of 0.056 mole (79%) of LiAlH-(O-t-Bu)1.) The product precipitated as a fine white solid. After the removal of Et₂O and t-BuOH in vacuo, the solid was dissolved in 100 ml of diglyme.

1-(2-Methoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane Hydrochloride (3).—Freshly distilled triethyl orthoformate (29.6 g, 0.20 mole) was added dropwise to the Grignard reagent prepared from 30.2 g (0.15 mole) of 4-bromo-3-methoxytoluene (6) and 3.8 g (0.16 g-atom) of Mg turnings in 125 ml of Et₂O. After the addition was complete, the mixture was refluxed for 4.5 hr. H₂O (25 ml) was slowly added, followed by enough 10% H2SO4 to make the mixture acidic (ca. pH 2). This mixture was then refluxed with stirring The aqueous layer was separated from the organic layer and extracted with Et,O (three 50-ml portions). combined Et₂O extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄), filtered, and evaporated in vacuo. Distillation of the residue gave 16 g of a mixture of 2-methoxy-p-tolualdehyde (8) and the unreacted 4-bromo-3methoxytoluene, bp 64-66° (0.15 mm), which could not be separated by fractional distillation. This mixture was then used directly in the preparation of 1-(2-methoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2 nitropropene.

For characterization, the above mixture was mixed with a solution of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine in aqueous EtOH-H₂SO₄. The 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone was collected on a filter and recrystallized from absolute EtOH, mp 222-225° dec.

(C15H14N4O4) C, H, N.

A mixture of 6.0 g of the impure aldehyde, 7.5 g of EtNO₂, 1 g of NH4OAc, and 75 ml of C4H6 was refluxed for 10 hr, while the

⁽⁹⁾ Melting points are corrected and were taken on a Fisher-Johns or Mel-Temp apparatus. Where analyses are indicated only by symbols of the elements or function, analytical results obtained for those elements or functions were within ±0.4% of the theoretical values.
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⁽¹¹⁾ V. Bruckner, J. Prakt. Chem., 138, 268 (1933), prepared from the treatment of the corresponding phenylpropene with NaNO₂ in HOAc.

⁽¹²⁾ A. T. Shulgin, Experientia, 20, 366 (1964), prepared from the treatment of the corresponding phenylpropene with C(NO2)4.

H₂O from the reaction was continuously removed by a Dean–Stark tube. The resulting solution, after cooling, was washed with 10 ml of H₂O, dried (Na₂SO₄), and evaporated in vacuo. During distillation of the residue, two fractions were collected. The first fraction, 3.5 g, bp 55° (0.15 mm), was identified by ir as the 3-methoxy-4-bromotoluene. The second fraction, which weighed 2.5 g, was a bright yellow, viscous oil, bp 132° (0.4 mm). Its ir spectrum showed the absence of an absorption peak due to C=O.

The above oil, with no further purification, was dissolved in 50 ml of Et₂O and was added dropwise to a suspension of 1.5 g of LAH in 75 ml of Et₂O, while the temperature was maintained between 0 and 5°. The mixture was refluxed for 4 hr, and H₂O and 10% NaOH were added successively to decompose excess LAH. The inorganic solids were removed by filtration, and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo leaving a light yellow oil. A solution of this oil in 50 ml of Et₂O was saturated with HCl to precipitate the HCl salt. Recrystallization from MeOH-Et₂O gave 1.4 g (38% over-all, based on the recovered 3-methoxy-4-bromotoluene) of 1-(2-methoxy-4-methylphenyl)-2-aminopropane hydrochloride.

Pharmacology. Swim Maze Test.—The H-shaped swim maze, $^{12.14}$ constructed of galvanized metal sheet, has an over-all dimension of $80 \times 60 \times 15$ cm, three swim channels 6 cm in width, and a landing strip 30×6 cm with a 10-cm projection at 40° angle. An 8-cm level of H_2O was maintained at 37° by several straps of heating tape placed underneath the tank.

Prior to the administration of drugs, mice were trained to swim the maze for 2 consecutive days (at intervals of 2 hr). They were placed in the H₂O at one end of the tank and the swimming time was recorded as the time from placement in the tank until exit at the landing strip. The trained animals were able to complete the two-right-turn swimming task in an average of 5 sec and with an average of less than one error. During the training period, those that did not show good performance were excluded from the study. The animals in groups of ten were injected intraperitoneally with 50 μ moles/kg of compounds in 30% aqueous propylene glycol. The control group was given only propylene glycol. The swim tests were performed at both 10 and 30 min after the injection. The results were expressed as (a) the completion time for swimming (X), and (b) number of errors (Y) during that time. With the emphasis on Y, the disruption of mouse behavior was evaluated as X+2Y.

Effects on Barbiturate Sleeping Time.—Mice in groups of ten were injected intraperitoneally with 50 μ moles/kg of compounds in 30% propylene glycol. After 5 min, sodium pentobarbital (40 mg/kg) in saline was given via the same route. Controls were first given 30% propylene glycol, then pentobarbital in saline. The presleeping time and sleeping time (loss of the righting reflex) were recorded and treated statistically.

Acute Toxicity.—All compounds dissolved in 30% propylene glycol (10 mg/kg) were administered intraperitoneally to groups of ten male albino Yale–Swiss mice weighing 17–23 g. The LD $_{\omega}$ within a 24-hr period was determined graphically according to the method of Miller and Tainter. ¹⁵

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