# 12 Arenes and Aromaticity

ESTRADIOL

## **12.1 AROMATIC COMPOUNDS**



## **12.2 THE COVALENT STRUCTURE OF BENZENE**









Only one bromobenzene isomer exists. Therefore, all six hydrogen atoms in benzene must be equivalent.

**Resonance Theory and Benzene** 



equivalent contributing structures for the resonance hybrid of benzene

## **Resonance Energy**





**Figure 12.1 Heats of Hydrogenation and the Resonance Stabilization of Benzene** The relative energies of cyclohexene, 1,3-cyclohexadiene, "1,3,5-cyclohexatriene," and benzene and their heats of hydrogenation to form cyclohexane in kJ mole<sup>-1.</sup>



cyclohexane

# **12.3 THE HÜCKEL RULE**

- 1. To be aromatic, a molecule must be *cyclic*.
- 2. The molecule must be *planar*.
- 3. The ring must contain only sp<sup>2</sup>-hybridized atoms that can form a delocalized system of  $\pi$  molecular orbitals.
- 4. The number of  $\pi$  electrons in the delocalized  $\pi$  system must equal 4n + 2, where n is an integer.

## Nonaromatic and Antiaromatic Cyclic Polyenes





tub conformation of cyclooctatetraene

# Aromatic lons, I



resonance structures of cycloheptatrienyl cation

# Aromatic Ions, II



# Aromatic Ions, III



## **12.4 MOLECULAR ORBITALS OF AROMATIC AND ANTIAROMATIC COMPOUNDS**



Figure 12.2 Relative energies of benzene's MOs and their occupancy.

#### Figure 12.3 Molecular Orbitals in Benzene and Their Relative Energies

Relative energies of benzene's MOs and their occupancy. The lowest energy MO,  $\pi_1$  is symmetric, and has no nodal planes. Orbitals  $\pi_2$  and  $\pi_3$ , have the same energy. They are antisymmetric, and have one nodal plane. Each of the bonding MOs has two electrons. MOs  $\pi_4$ ,  $\pi_5$  and  $\pi_6$  have energy greater than zero. They are antibonding, and contain no electrons.



#### Figure 12.4 Energy Levels and Occupancies of the Molecular Orbitals of Cycloheptatrienyl Cation

The cylcoheptatrienyl cation contains  $4n + 2 = 6 \pi$  electrons. Therefore, it is aromatic. All three bonding  $\pi$  MOs are fully occupied, and the antibonding orbitals are empty.



#### Figure 12.5 Energy Levels and Occupancies of the Molecular Orbitalsof Cyclopentadienyl Anion

The cylcopentadienyl anion contains  $4n + 2 = 6 \pi$  electrons. Therefore, it is aromatic. All three bonding  $\pi$  MOs are fully occupied, and the antibonding orbitals are empty.



#### Figure 12.6 Energy Levels and Occupancies of the Molecular Orbitals of Cycloheptatrienyl Anion

The cylcoheptatrienyl anion contains  $4n = 8 \pi$  electrons, where n = 2. Therefore, it is an unstable antiaromatic species. All three bonding  $\pi$  MOs are fully occupied, but the antibonding  $\pi_4^*$ ,  $\pi_5^*$  orbitals each have one electron.



## **12.5 HETEROCYCLIC AROMATIC COMPOUNDS**



## **12.7 POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC COMPOUNDS**



naphthalene

anthracene

phenanthrene

### Figure 12.8 Resonance Structures of Naphthalene

The ten  $\pi$  electrons of naphthalene are delocalized over both rings. Three resonance forms can be written using localized double bonds.





2p orbitals in naphthalene

Less stable resonance form



Most stable resonance form

# **Carcinogenic Aromatic Compounds**





#### Figure 12.7 Relative Energy Levels of the Cyclopropenium Ion

The cyclopropenium cation contains  $4n + 2 = 2\pi$  electrons for n = 0. Therefore, it is aromatic. Its two bonding  $\pi$  electrons occupy  $\pi_1$ , and the antibonding  $\pi_2^*$ ,  $\pi_3^*$  orbitals are empty.



## Figure 12.8 Relative Energy Levels of Cyclobutadiene

Cyclobutadiene is a 4n  $\pi$  antiaromatic molecule, for n =1. It has two bonding electrons in  $\pi_1$ , and one electron in each of the nonbonding  $\pi_2^*$ ,  $\pi_3^*$  orbitals. It is a very unstable diradical.

