

Copy of a printed diagram referenced as "The π [pi]-molecular orbitals in benzene"

Contributors

Fuller, Watson, 1935-

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we now stretch right round the ring, one streamer above the other below the plane of the nuclei. Electrons of this kind, which move so freely round the molecule, have been called π electrons,[†] or sometimes unsaturation electrons.

There is an interesting contrast between the v.b. and m.o.

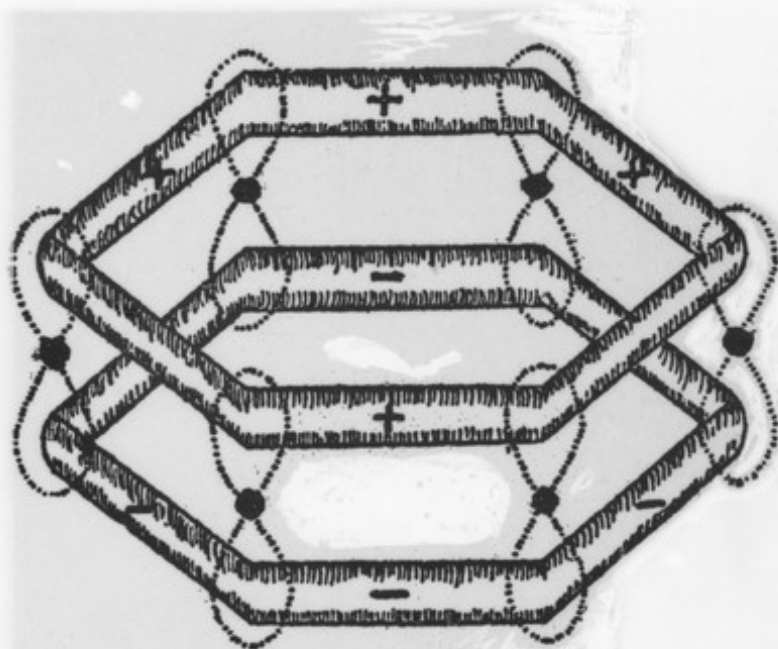


FIG. 9.3. The π -molecular orbitals in benzene (streamers).

ceptions of benzene. Both require complete delocalization of electrons. Whereas the v.b. method introduces it by superposition of Kekulé (and other) structures, in the m.o. method there is nothing that even remotely resembles a structure. This situation warns us to be more against any too literal belief in the reality of our structures.

One may be asked what justification we have for describing the Kekulé structures as a delocalization of the