Pi electrons in a molecule have higher energy than sigma electrons and, therefore, have greater freedom to move. When an aromatic ring is placed in an external magnetic field, it positions itself so that it is perpendicular to the external magnetic field, and the conjugated pi electron system in the ring is induced to move in a specific manner within and around the ring. This movement of pi electrons is known as the ring current.

eg: benzene

![Diagram of benzene ring with external magnetic field]

Contributors

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