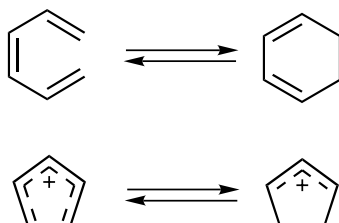
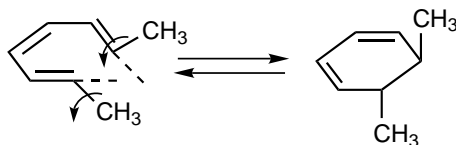


electrocyclic reaction

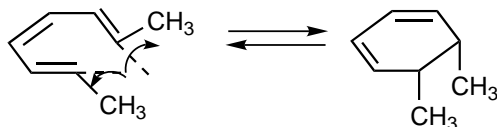
A *molecular rearrangement* that involves the formation of a σ -bond between the termini of a fully *conjugated* linear π -electron system (or a linear fragment of a π -electron system) and a decrease by one in the number of π -bonds, or the reverse of that process. For example:



The stereochemistry of such a process is termed ‘conrotatory’ or *antarafacial* if the substituents at the interacting termini of the conjugated system both rotate in the same sense, e.g.



or ‘disrotatory’ (or *suprafacial*) if one terminus rotates in a clockwise and the other in a counter-clockwise sense, e.g.



See also *pericyclic reaction*.
1994, 66, 1108