

Index

- acetone 64
- aluminum 64–65
- arc-discharged carbon 25
- argon ion laser 43
- aromaticity
 - 2D 99
 - 3D 89–90, 98
 - planar 89
 - spherical 90
- astronomy 113, 125, 127, 131
- atoms
 - chlorine 107–108
 - titanium 161–162
- benzene 28, 61, 102–104, 125, 138–141
- benzene rings 103–104
- biphenyl 103–104
- boranes 89–90
- buckminsterfullerene 4, 22–23, 80, 115
- buckminsterfullerene structure 19, 22
- buckyballs 75, 79
- C_{60}
 - chemical synthesis of 101–108
 - discovery of 6, 8, 10, 28, 67, 71, 91, 101, 106, 169
 - synthesizing 105, 107–108
 - C_{60} buckminsterfullerene 87
 - C_{60} buckminsterfullerene formation process 149–174
- carbon 7, 10, 47–48, 75, 80, 83, 90, 92, 115, 131, 133, 139, 162–163, 166, 168
- carbon atoms 7, 15, 17, 19, 25, 29, 47–48, 143, 154, 160, 162
 - pyramidalized trigonal 102
- carbon chains 10, 12, 75, 83
- carbon chains in space and stars 6, 9
- carbon chemistry 28, 82
- carbon cluster experiments 155
- carbon cluster source 156–157
- carbon cluster studies 6–7
- carbon clusters 63, 75, 82, 154, 156, 158, 169
- carbon dust 119
- carbon in space dust 6, 10
- carbon materials science 28
- carbon nanotubes 92–93, 108, 150, 174
- carbon particles 114, 116
- carbon rod 161–162
- carbon vapour 29, 164, 166–174
- closed-network growth (CNG) 172–174
- CNG, *see* closed-network growth

- corannulene 98–99, 105–106
 - synthesis of 106
- cyanopolyynes 18–19
- decacyclene 107
- DIBs, *see* diffuse interstellar bands
- diffuse interstellar bands (DIBs)
 - 6, 10–12, 31
- dye laser 57, 59–61
- electron beam 56
- electrons 97–98, 163
- excimer laser 63, 65–67
- fast flow cluster reactor 84
- flash vacuum pyrolysis (FVP) 103, 105–108
- formaldehyde 54, 59–60
- FT-ICR-MS 28–30
- fullerene addition reactivity
 - pattern 28
- fullerene arc apparatus 128
- fullerene C₂₈ 160
 - endohedral 161
 - small 28
- fullerene cages 164
 - concentric 21
- fullerene chemistry 75, 82
- fullerene collaborations 125
- fullerene conjecture 24
- fullerene creation process 164
- fullerene dynamics 23
- fullerene experiments 58
- fullerene formation 163–164, 166, 174
- fullerene growth 165, 172
- fullerene research 84, 93
 - post-1990 29
- fullerene science 92–93, 125, 140–141, 143
 - birth of 140–143
- fullerene soot generator 144
- fullerene synthesis 108, 157
- fullerenes
 - closed-cage 29
 - empty cage 165
 - endohedral 143
 - giant 21, 103
 - smallest 154, 157, 160–161
 - surface-coated 166
- FVP, *see* flash vacuum pyrolysis
- GaAs 74–75, 79
- geodesic curvature 104–105
- geodesic polyarenes 105–107
- graphite 17, 81, 103, 130, 166, 169
 - pure 168–169
- graphite rod 166–167, 169
- Harry Kroto's Nobel Prize 146
- heterofullerene 108, 171
- heterofullerenes 108, 174
- higher fullerenes 107
 - synthesis of 108
- hollow carbon molecule 48
- hydrocarbon flames 30
- hydrocarbons 102–103
- hydrogen 11, 41, 103, 105, 107, 154, 160, 172
 - atoms 103, 106

- IMPR, *see* isolated multiplet
 pentagon rule
 intramolecular vibrational
 relaxation (IVR) 62
 ionization 55, 61, 63
 IPR, *see* isolated pentagon rule
 iron 64, 81
 iron atoms 64
 isolated multiplet pentagon rule
 (IMPR) 19–20
 isolated pentagon rule (IPR) 6,
 19–20
 isotope separation, uranium 44
 IVR, *see* intramolecular vibrational
 relaxation
- Kamel soot 115, 117, 119–120,
 122, 124
 Kamel spectrum 115, 118
- laser ablation 166–167
 laser-induced fluorescence (LIF)
 61, 67
 laser pyrolysis 50–51
 laser vaporization source 61, 65
 LIF, *see* laser-induced fluorescence
- metallofullerene 163
 metallofullerene $\text{La}_2\text{@C}_{80}$ 171
 metallofullerenes 81, 160, 162,
 164, 171–172, 174
 metastable fullerene cations 83
 molecular beams 39–40, 42–43,
 54–55, 59, 64, 80
- nanotubes 28–29, 92
 nitrogen 11, 29, 41, 43, 54
 nude ionization gauge 58–59
- PAHs
see polycyclic aromatic
 hydrocarbons
 planar 105–107
 phenyl radical 63
 photoionization 60, 65
 photolysis 63–64
 photolysis laser 64
 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
 (PAHs) 104, 107
- ruby laser 50
- semiconductor clusters 67, 74,
 79
 superaromaticity 98–99
 superphane 102
- Td- C_{28} fullerene 161
 Td- C_{28} fullerene isomer 154
 thermal cyclodehydrogenations
 105, 107
 titanium 28, 161–162
 toluene 61, 125, 138, 140
 Two Micron Sky Survey 69–70
- uranium complexes 62
 vaporization laser 65

"This marvelous book brings together the story of C₆₀ in the words of many of those who played an important role in the work. The very well-written introduction by Nobel Laureate Harold Kroto brings a clear perspective to the whole story showing how the works of the contributors fit together. Altogether, this is a wonderful window into the very human thoughts of scientists at all levels as they pursue their dreams."

Prof. Robert F. Curl
Nobel Laureate

This compendium of accounts reveals the unique perspectives of many scientists who made major contributions to the Nobel Prize-winning discovery of C₆₀ buckminsterfullerene but who have not previously published personal accounts. The introduction attempts to provide a rational framework for understanding how this discovery came about and how firmly it rested on earlier technical breakthroughs and how important were the contributions of researchers who were young students at the time. In addition to these accounts, most of the key publications are also reprinted. More than anything else, this book gives an in-depth overview of how important cross-disciplinary advances from laboratory synthesis, molecular spectroscopy, radio-astronomy, stellar chemistry, and cluster chemistry were in the discovery. Indeed, the story shows not only how major breakthroughs are often impossible to predict but also that the discovery is a perfect example of the value of fundamental science and why it must continue to be supported.



Sir Harold (Harry) Walter Kroto, FRS, is the British chemist who shared the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Robert Curl and Richard Smalley. Kroto is the Francis Eppes Professor of Chemistry at the Florida State University, which he joined in 2004. Prior to that, he spent a large part of his career at the University of Sussex, where he now holds an emeritus professorship.



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