NIKOLAOS E CHRONAKIS

Lecturer
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Personal Profile

• B.Sc. in Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of Crete, 1994.
• Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of Crete, 2000.
• Post-doctoral Research Associate, Laboratory of Organic Chemistry, Federal Technical University (ETH) of Zürich, Switzerland, 2002-2003.
• Post-doctoral Research Associate, Institute of Organic Chemistry, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, 2003-2005.
• Lecturer, Department of Chemistry, University of Cyprus, 2005.

Research Profile

The subject of Nikos' research is a molecule that was discovered in 1985 and it looks like this ball we all know since we were kids, only much smaller. It is called carbon-60. In short, C-60.

It is, perhaps the first molecule that engaged the attention of all sciences-Physics, chemistry, biology and material engineering.
Even philosophy dealt with the molecule of carbon! The first thing we notice about this football-like molecule is its symmetry. This symmetry is based on the eicosahedron resulting in a very symmetric molecule.
The way ancient Greeks perceived this symmetry is very interesting. For them eicosahedral symmetry symbolized the universe. It is one of the so called platonic shapes which symbolised the elements of nature.
He is also involved in the synthesis of C-60 helical polymers and fullerene-porphyrin conjugates for Photoinduced Electron Transfer.

Other interests

Nikos loves cooking, especially Mediterranean cuisine and likes listening to music to help him relax.
relatively fixed hours of his employment (unlike the

Relevant Links or info

Further information about Nikolaos Chronakis view http://www.ucy.ac.cy/~nchronak.aspx