

Ion processing of molecular clusters

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Fullerenes and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are expected to be important astrophysical species [1]. Also larger carbon-containing particles are most likely present as dust and grains, and it is an open question whether such particles are formed in bottom-up, top-down, or in a combination of such processes.

In this talk, we will give an overview of results on ion-induced fragmentation and ion-induced chemistry of carbon containing clusters colliding with slow ions. In particular, ion-induced growth mechanisms in collisions of 22.5 keV He²⁺ and 3 keV Ar⁺-projectiles with pure and mixed loosely bound clusters of C₆₀ and coronene molecules will be presented [2, 3]. The two projectiles lead to dramatically different reaction products (Fig.1) and the mechanism of covalent product formation will be discussed. In addition, recent results on the effect of the molecular structure on the molecular growth will be also presented in case of C₁₆H₁₀ isomers (pyrene and fluoranthene) [4].

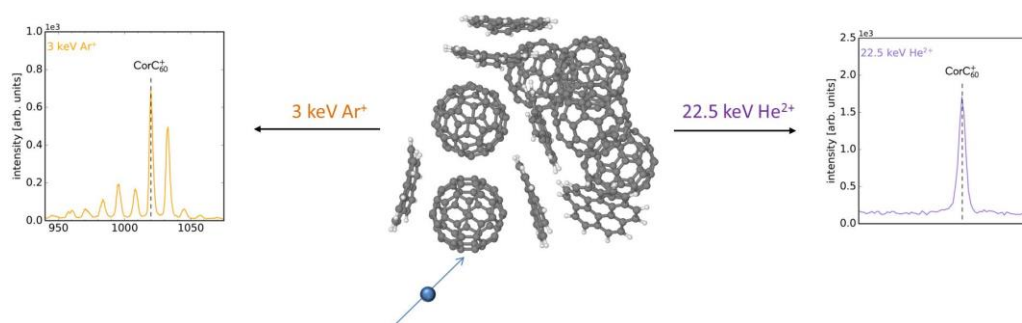


Figure 1: Ion-induced chemistry in mixed C₆₀ and coronene clusters.

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References

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