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Cover figure: Crystal structure of Ba_6Ge_{25}. (a) Framework of condensed Ge_{20} pentagonal dodecahedra (*pdos*). A helical fragment of facesharing *pdos* along [001] is emphasized in dark. (b) Germanium environments around Ba1 (Ba1 *pdo*), Ba2 (Ba2 *polyh*) and Ba3 (Ba3 *cube*). (c) Three condensed Ba2-*polyhs* sharing a common Ge2–Ge2 edge parallel to [111]. In (b) and (c) ellipsoids are drawn at 60% probability level. Thick sticks represent Ge–Ge bonds. Thin lines are added for clarity only.