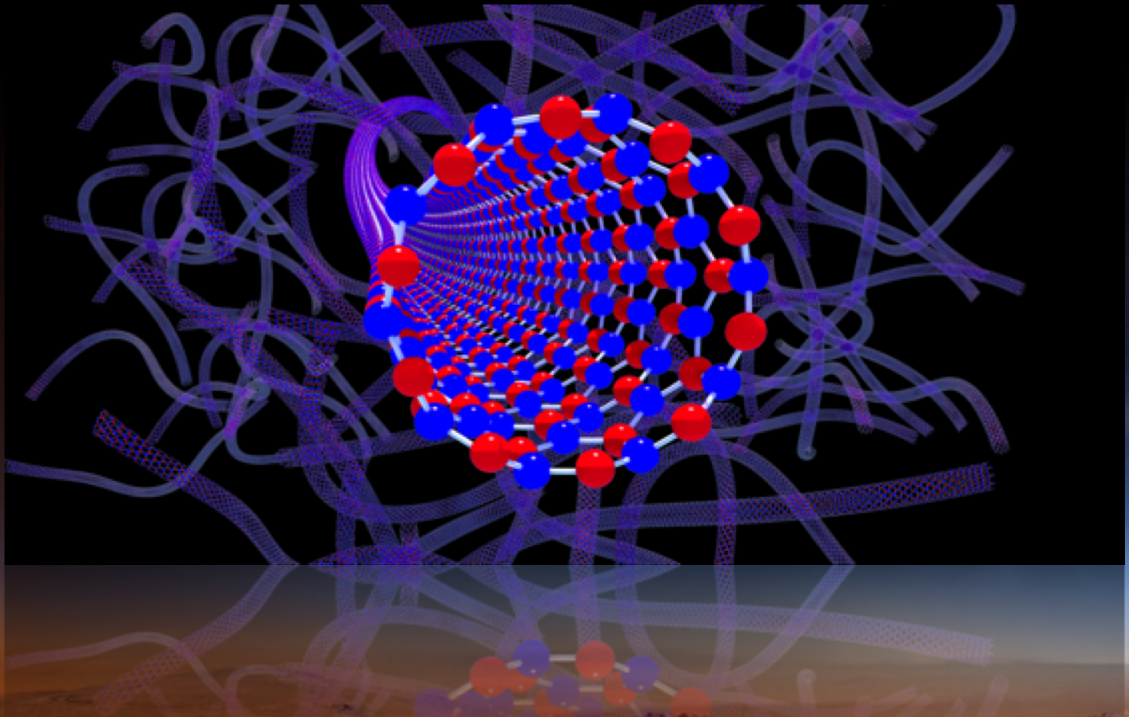
NASA Langley Research Center

Boron Nitride Nanotube (BNNT) and BNNT Composites: Overview

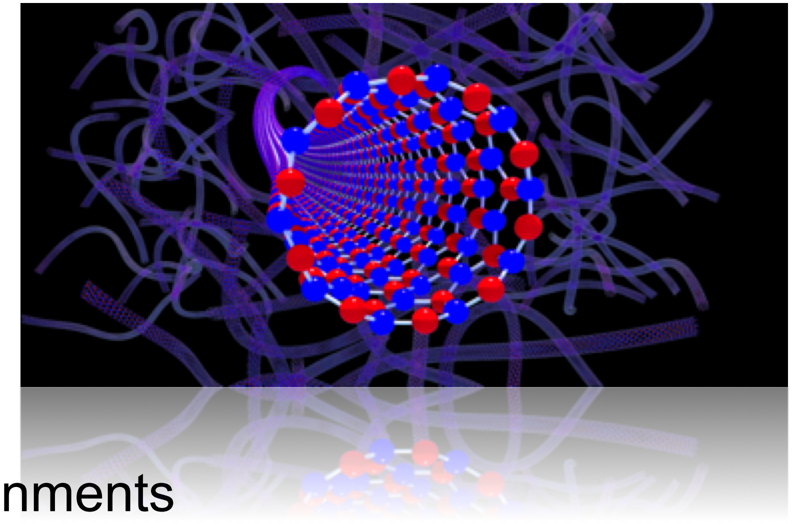
Cheol Park, Sang-Hyon Chu*, Catharine Fay



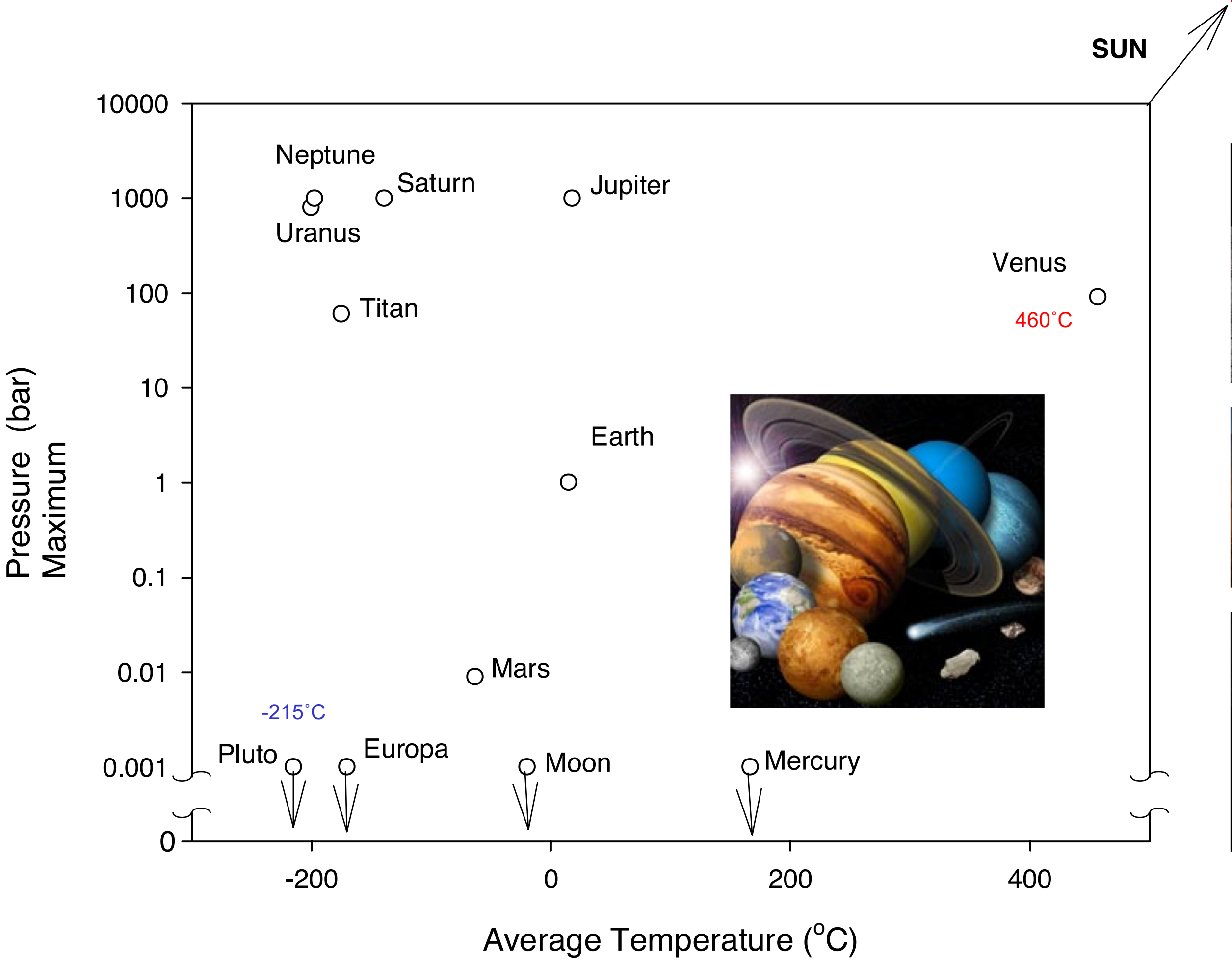
Advanced Materials and Processing Branch, NASA Langley Research Center
**National Institute of Aerospace, Hampton VA USA*

Outline

- Motivation
- BNNT Synthesis (High Temperature Pressure (HTP) Method)
- Dispersion and Purification
- Mechanical Properties
- Thermal Properties
- Multifunctional Properties in Extreme Environments
  - Sensor/Actuator/Energy Harvester
  - Radiation Shielding
- Summary

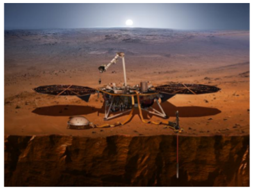


Extreme Environments in Space Exploration

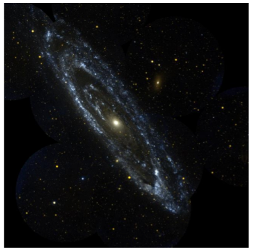


http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/solar_system/
17NASA Extreme Environments Tech Space missions Report FINAL

Lunar surface
-173 to 127˚C
-247˚C (25K) at pole
Sharp abrasive edge dust
Radiation



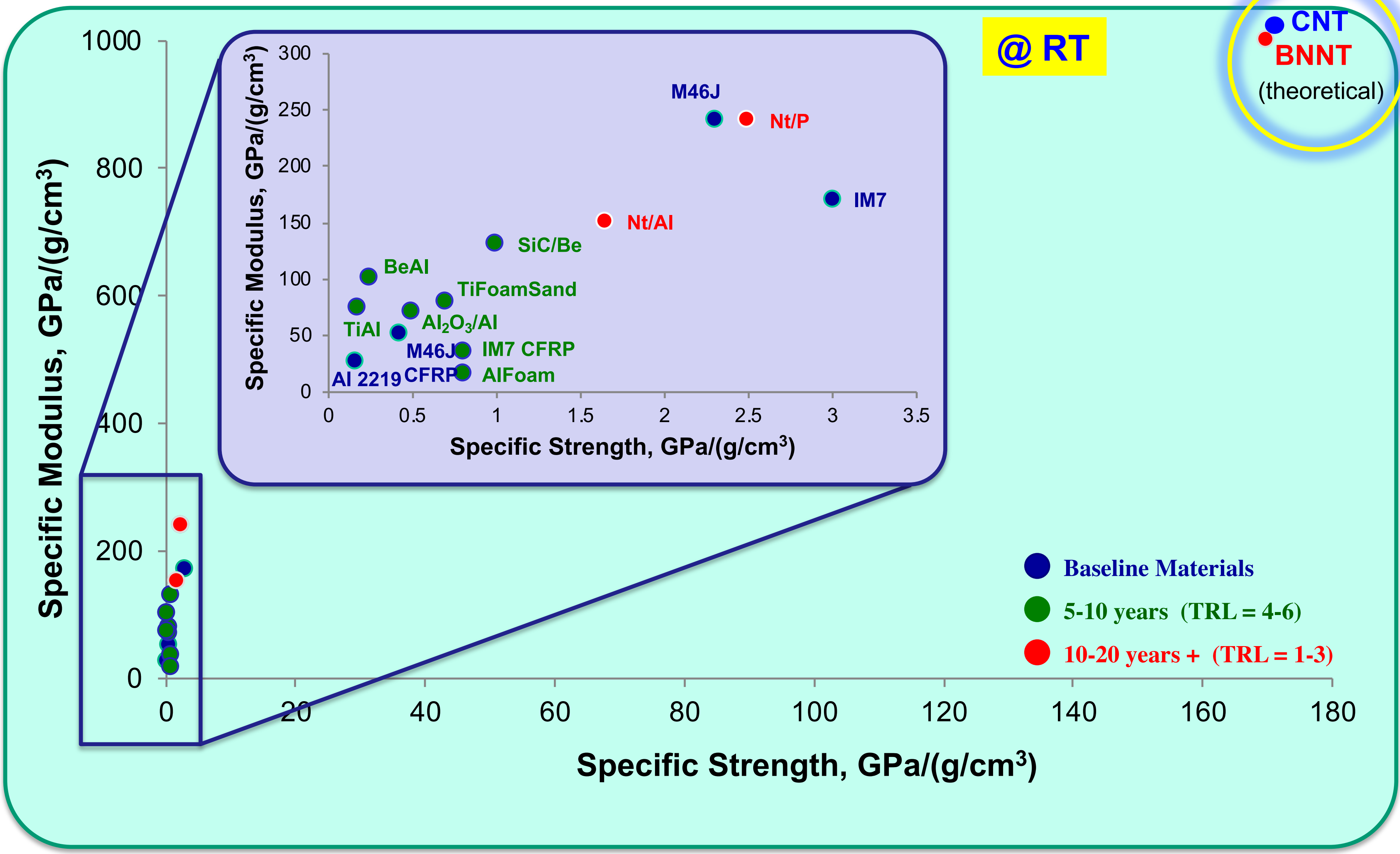
Mars surface
-126 to 21˚C
Sand storm
Radiation
Entry, Descent, & Landing



Deep space
2.7K
Radiation
Microgravity

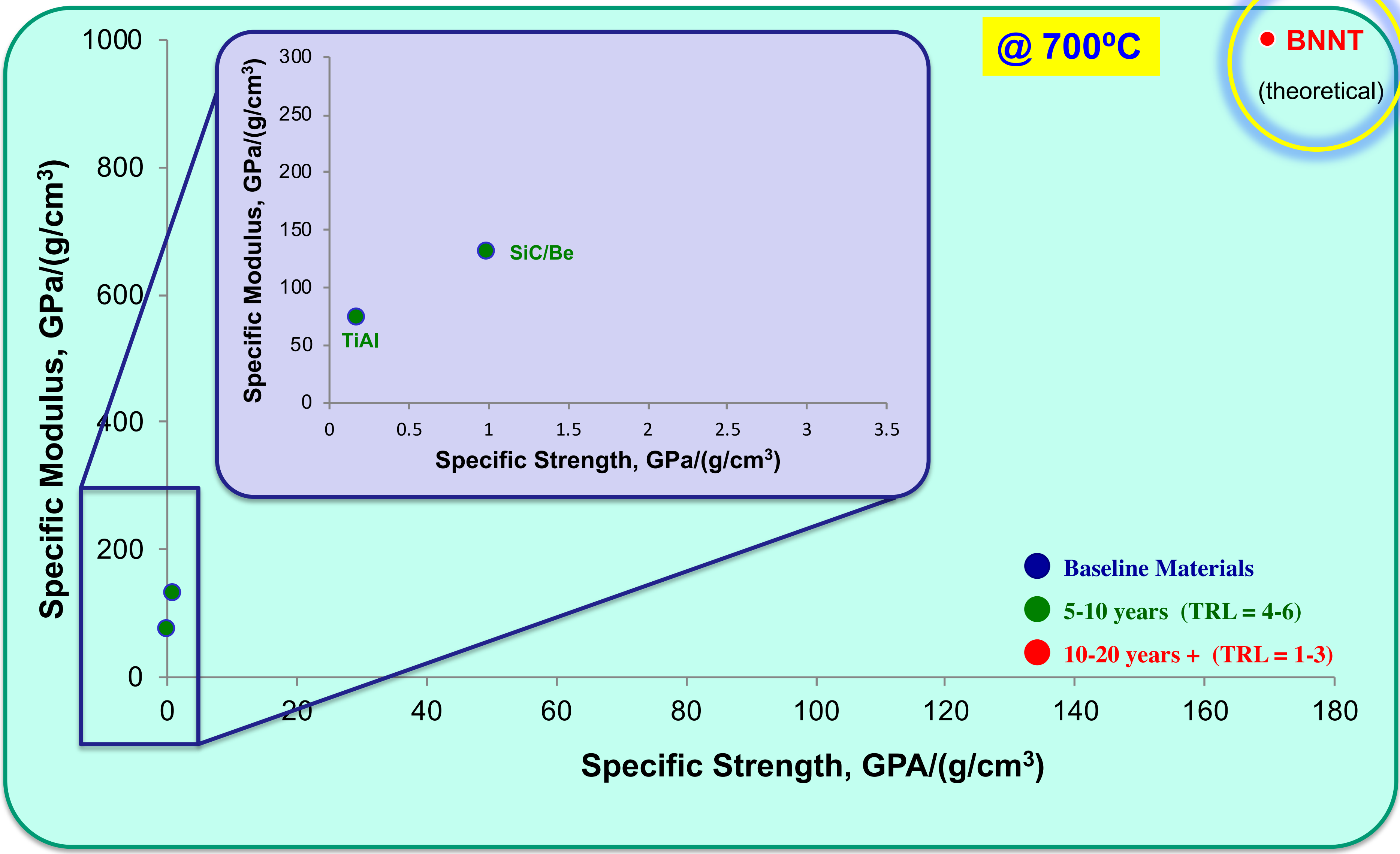
Heat flux at atmospheric entry: Heat fluxes often exceeding 10's W/cm^2
Hypervelocity impact: Higher than 3 km/sec
Low and high temperature: Lower than −55˚C and Exceeding +460˚C
Thermal cycling: Cycling between temperature extremes outside of the military standard range of −55˚C to +125˚C
High pressures: Exceeding 20 bars
High radiation: Total ionizing dose (TID) exceeding 300 krad (Si), GCR, SPE, Neutron
Low and High gravity: microgravity on comets, 2.5g on Jupiter, launch, entry, descent

Motivation: Properties of Materials for Vehicle Structure



Nanotube values are theoretical.

Motivation: Properties of Materials for Vehicle Structure



Charlie E. Harris, M. J. Shuart, H. Gray, NASA/TM-2002-211664

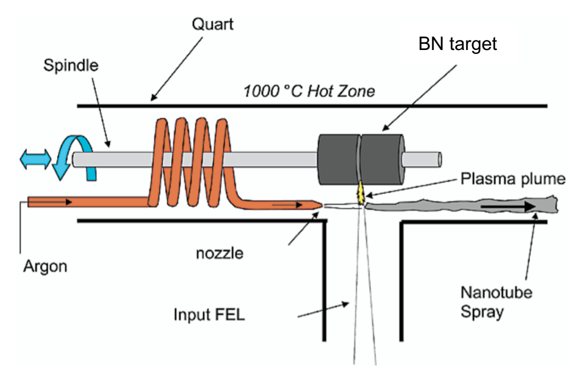
Nanotube values are theoretical.

Nanotube Comparison (Theoretical)

	Carbon Nanotubes	Boron Nitride Nanotubes
Electric Properties	Metallic or semiconducting	Wide band gap (about 6.0 eV) Insulation, corrosion resistant
Mechanical Properties (Young's Modulus)	1.33 TPa (very stiff)	1.18 TPa (very stiff)
Thermal Conductivity	>3000 W/mK (highly conductive)	~300–3000 W/mK (highly conductive)
Thermal Oxidation Resistance	Stable up to 300-400 °C in air	Stable to over 900 °C in air
Neutron Absorption Cross-Section	C = 0.0035 barn	B = 767 barn (B^{10} ~3800 barn) N = 1.9 barn Excellent radiation shielding
Polarity	No dipole	Permanent dipole Piezoelectric (0.25-0.4 C/m^2)
Surface Morphology	Smooth	Corrugated Better interfacial strength for composites, ionic bonding
Color	Black	White (can be colored)
Coefficient of Thermal Expansion	-1×10^{-6} K^{-1} (very low)	-1×10^{-6} K^{-1} (very low)

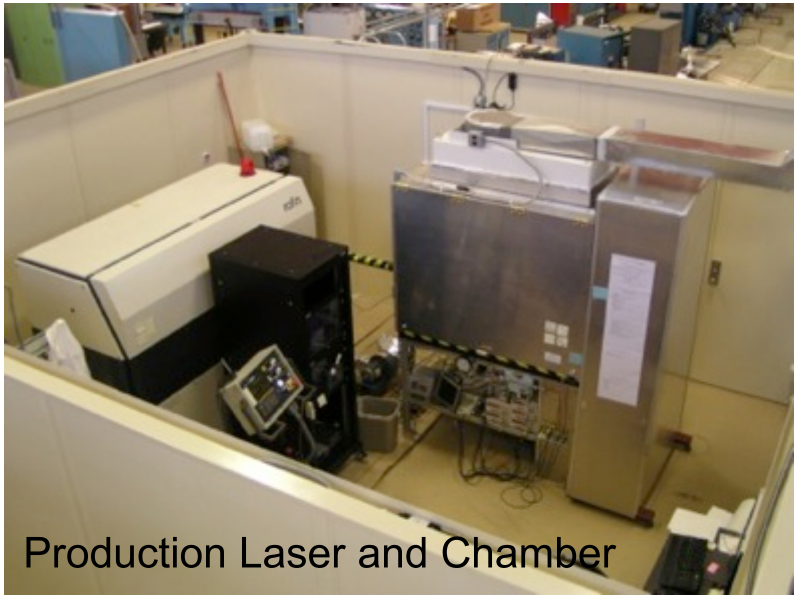
High Temperature-Pressure (HTP) BNNT

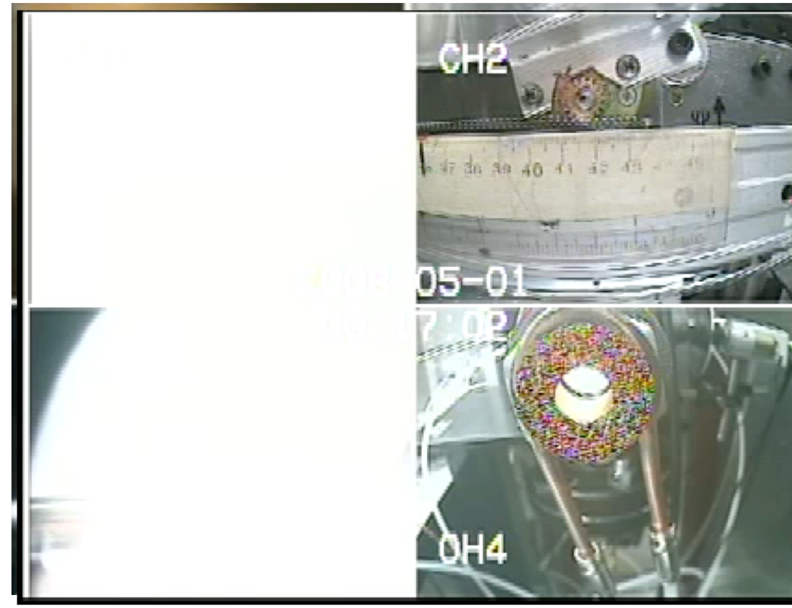
- Free Electron Laser (FEL) or CO_2 laser
- ***No Catalyst, only B and N resource***
- Very long, small diameter, highly crystalline BNNT

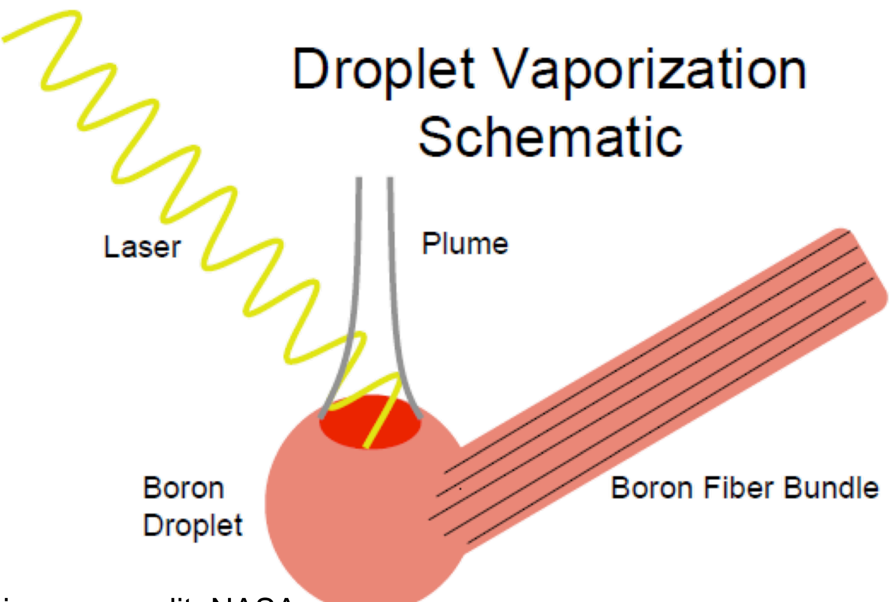


Nanotechnology, **20** 505604 (2009)
US Patent 8206674 B2 (2012)

BNNT Synthesis Lab: NASA Langley (1st Gen)





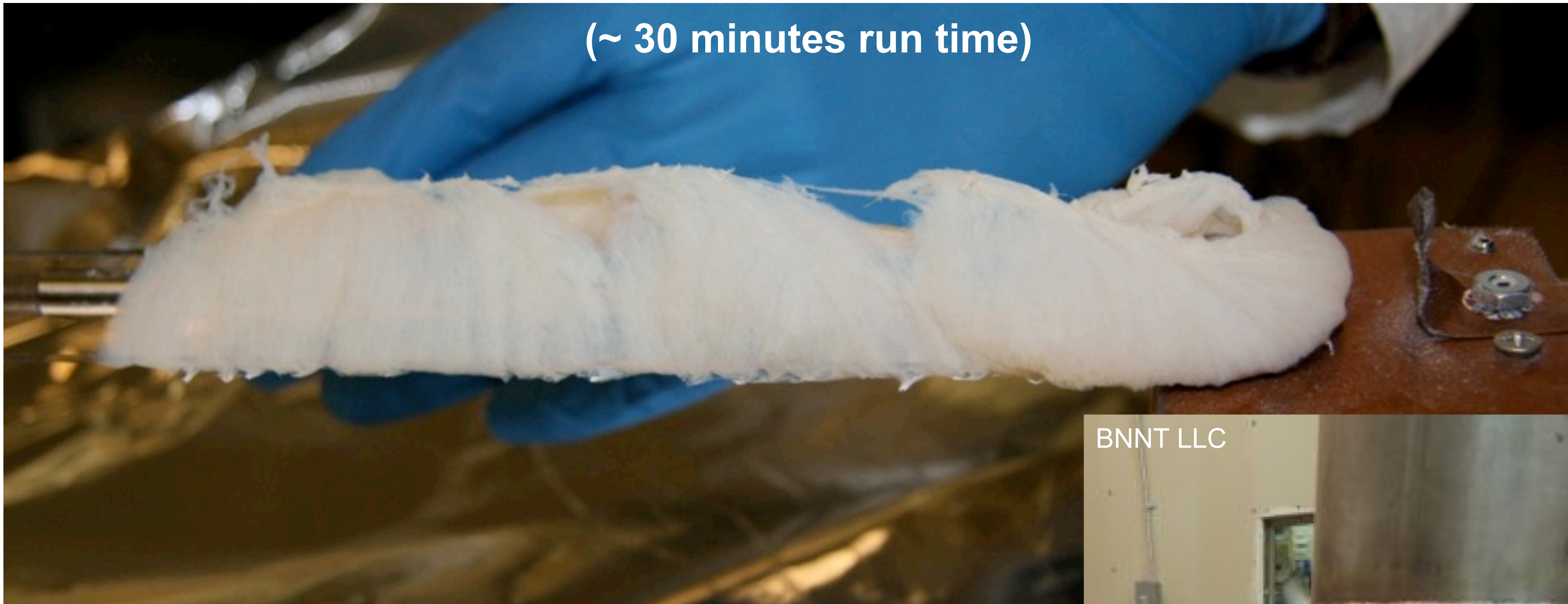


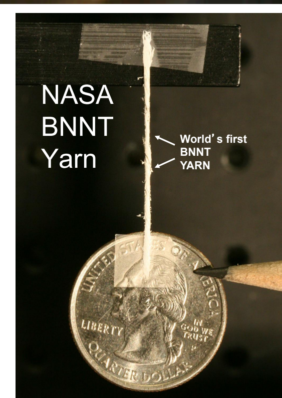
- 5 kW of infrared radiation @ 10.6μm
- Heat source for vaporizing Boron feed stock above 3500ºC
- Pressurized with Nitrogen to 13.6 atm (200 psi)

Nanotechnology, **20** 505604 (2009)
J. Thermophysics and Heat Transfer **27** 369 (2013)
Proc. SPIE **9060** 906006 (2014)

All images credit: NASA

Cotton-like High Pressure and Temperature (HPT)-BNNT





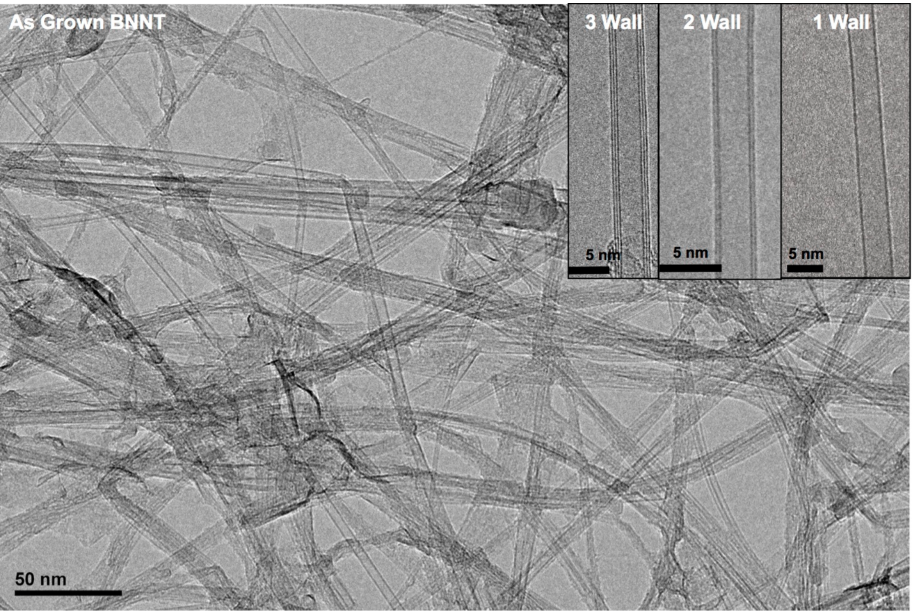
(From: M. W. Smith et al, Nanotechnology, 20, 505604 (2009))

Benefits

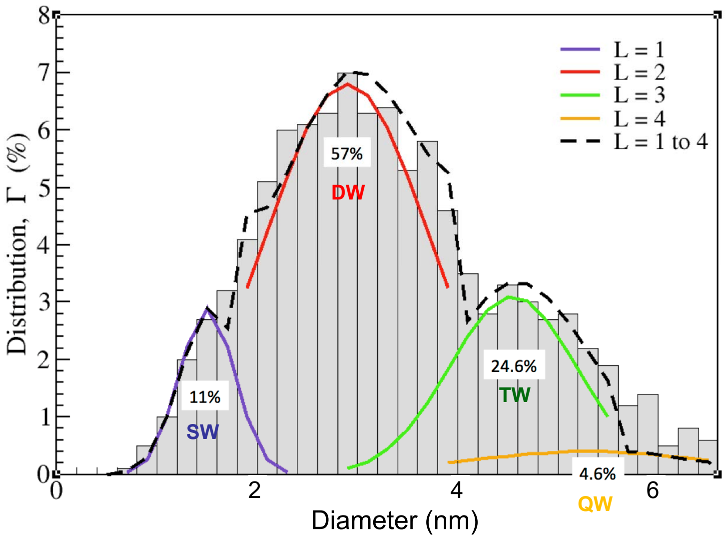
- One-to-few-walled tubes with high crystallinity
- Very long, high-aspect ratio tubes
- High scale-up potential
- No toxic catalysts (only B and N as reactants)
- Standard industrial cutting/welding lasers
- High service temperature (over 800ºC)
- Highly electroactive (due to the B-N polar bond)
- Neutron radiation shielding (due to their B content)

Nanotube Wall Number and Distribution of HTP-BNNTs

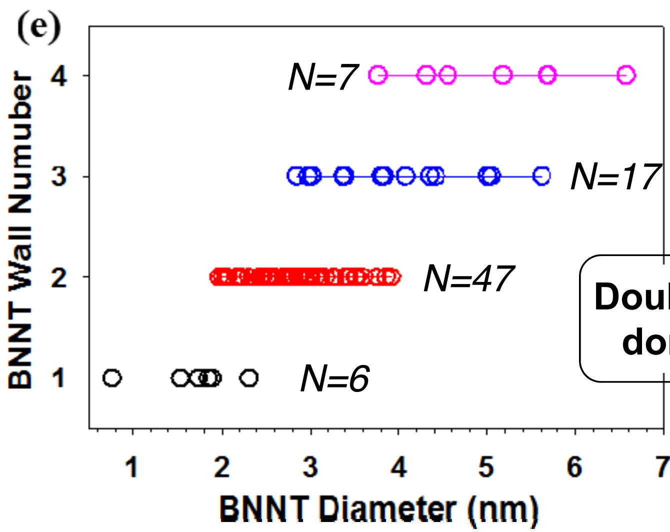
TEM Micrographs



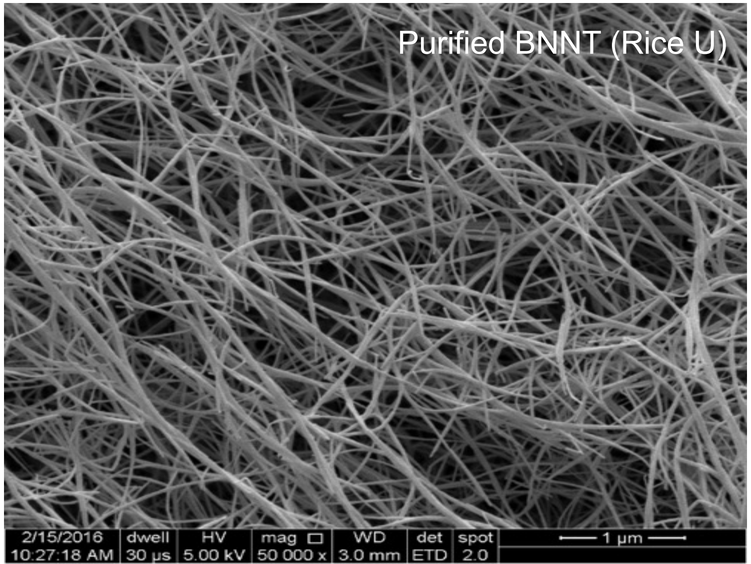
Based on AFM measurements of 1,000 randomly selected individual BNNTs



SW: 11%
DW: 57%
TW: 24.6%
QW: 4.6%
Total: 97.2%

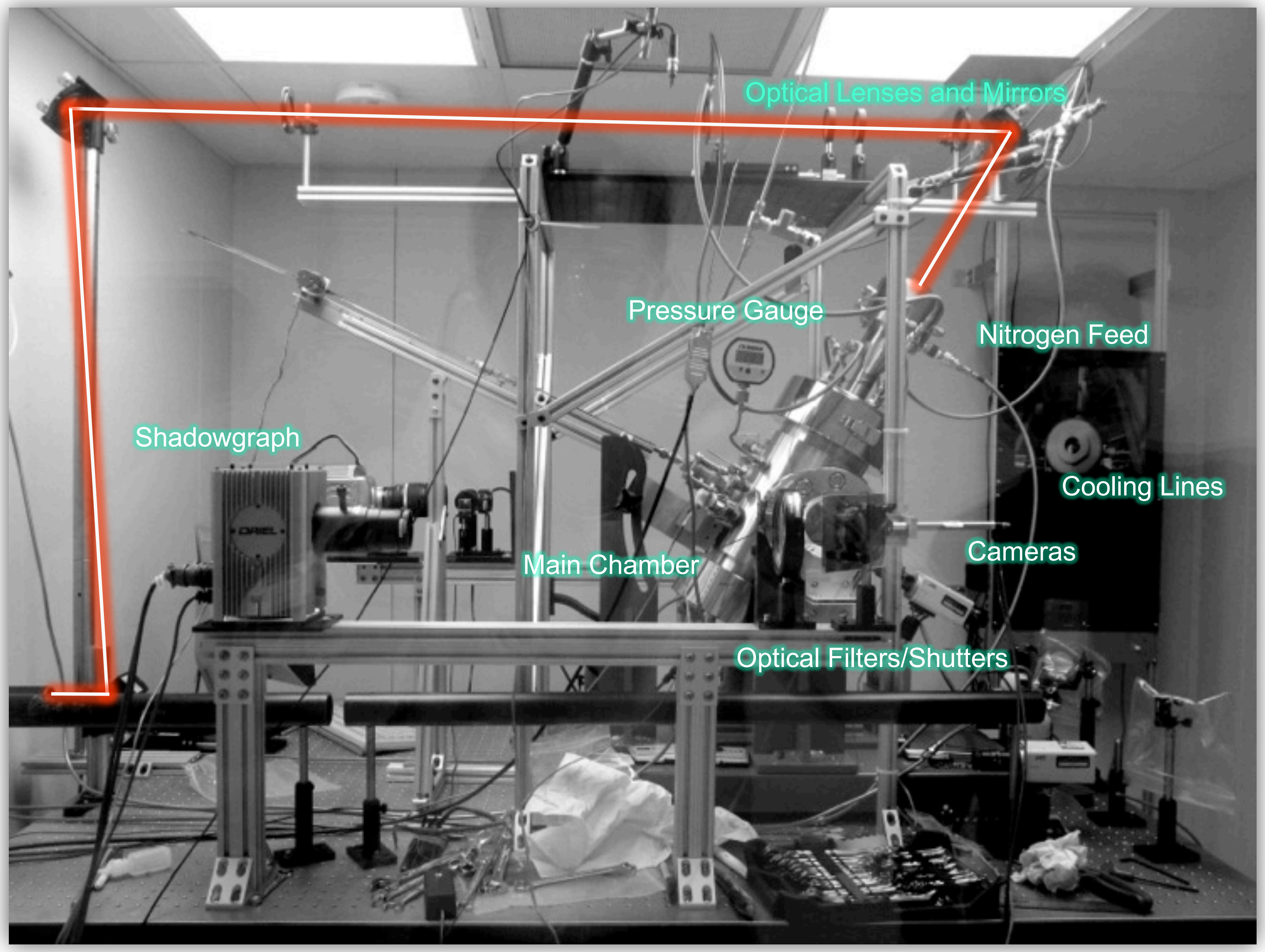


Double-walled dominance



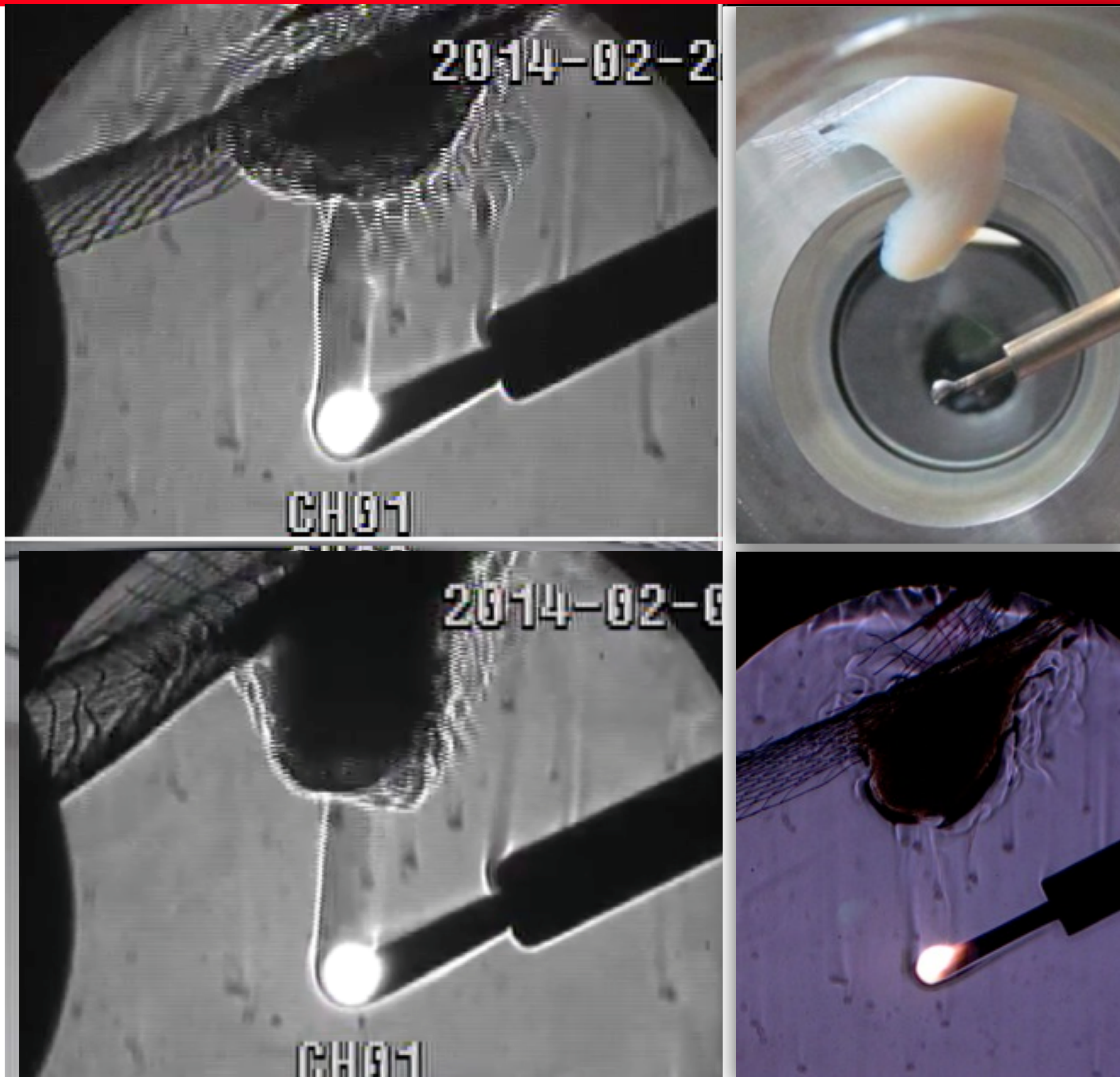
Nanotechnology, **23** 095703 (2012) *Comp. Mater. Sci.*, **135** 29 (2017)

National Institute of Aerospace (NIA) BNNT Science Chamber



All images credit: NASA/NIA

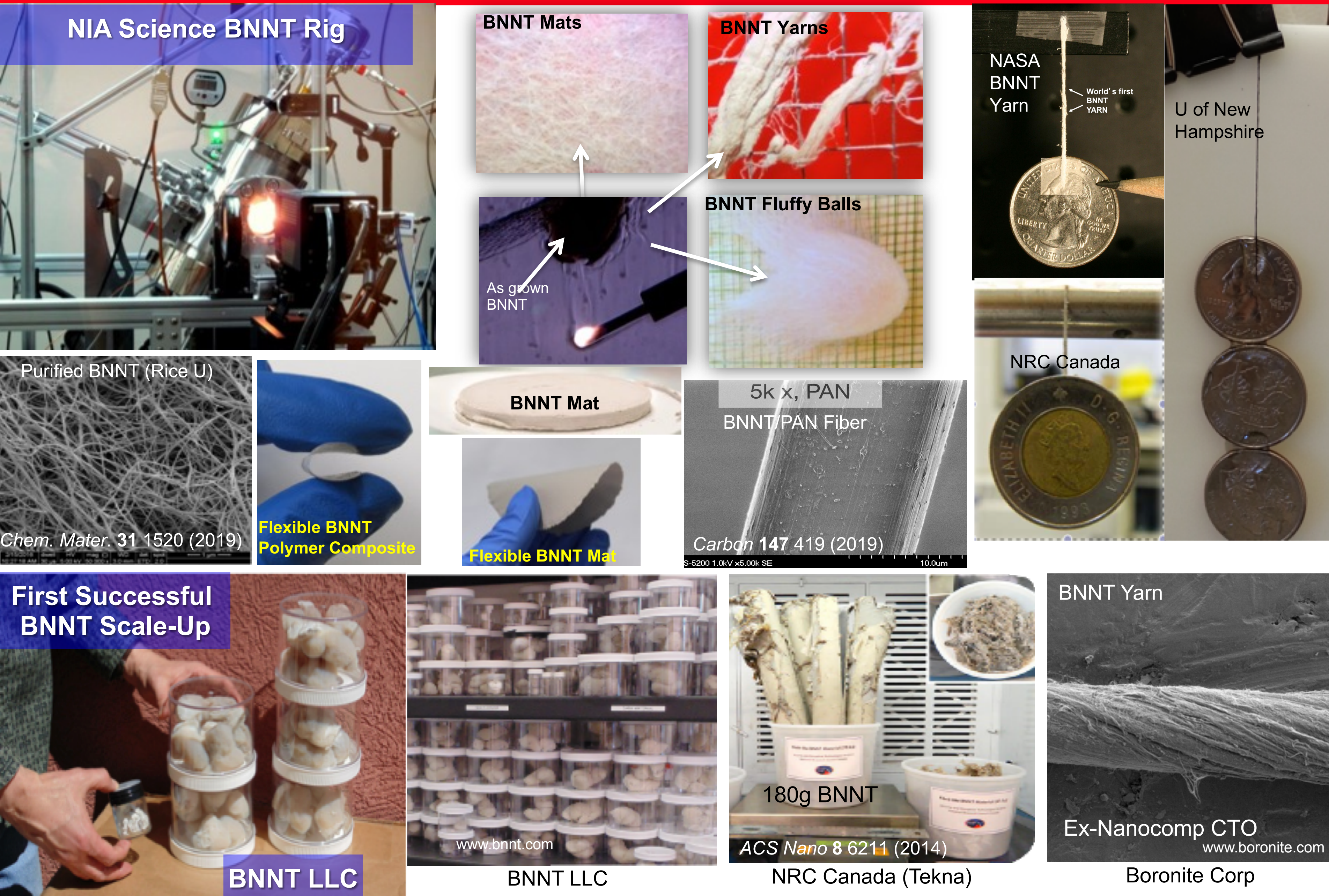
NIA Science Rig HTP BNNT Run (Snapshots)



All images credit: NASA/NIA

Proc. SPIE **9060** 906006 (2014)

BNNT Scale-Up and Various Forms of BNNT



Dispersion and Purification

Thermodynamic Approach: Effective BNNT Dispersion

Essential for Quality Yarn, Fabric, and Composite Formation

Thermodynamic Approach:
Gibbs Free Energy of Mixing

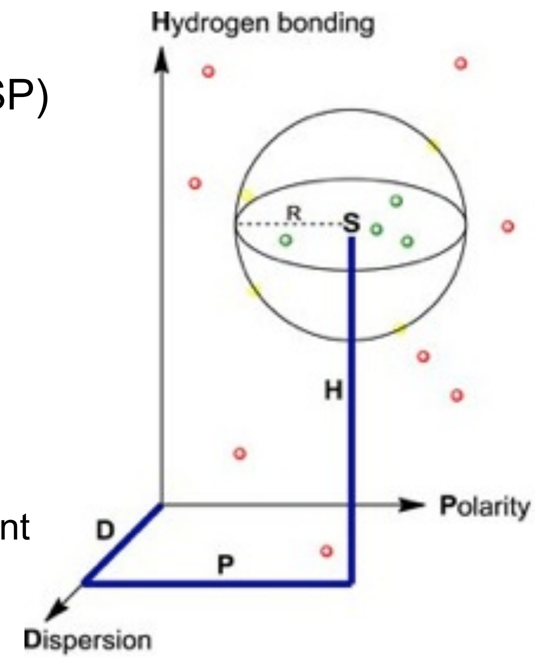
$$\Delta G_{mix} = \Delta H_{mix} - T^{*}\Delta S_{mix}$$

If ΔG_{mix} is negative, spontaneous mixing happens to form a homogeneous solution

Hansen Solubility Parameters (HSP) (δ_d, δ_p, δ_h): "like dissolves like"

$$\delta_t^2 = \delta_d^2 + \delta_p^2 + \delta_h^2$$

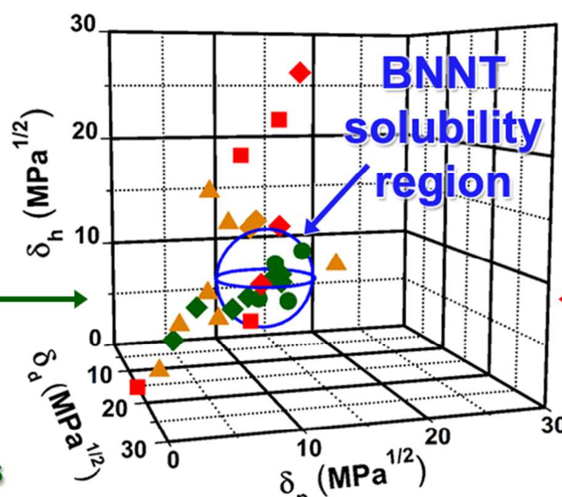
δ_t^2: Hildebrand parameter
δ_d: dispersion component
δ_p: polar component
δ_h: hydrogen bonding component



Example of 3D Hansen space*

Single and Co-solvents

good solvents



poor solvents

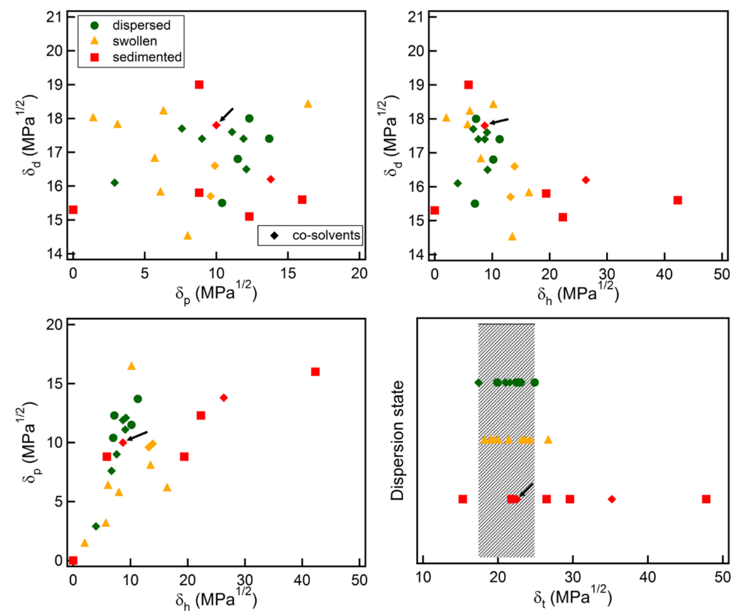
BNNT Hansen Solubility Parameters
δ_d, δ_p, δ_h = 16.8, 10.7, 9.0 MPa$^{1/2}$
δ_t = 21.8 MPa$^{1/2}$

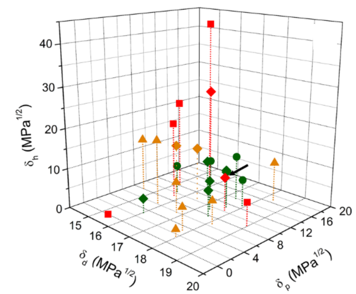
Nanoscale **8** 4348 (2016)

*http://confidentsolventselection.com/about/solubility-parameters.html

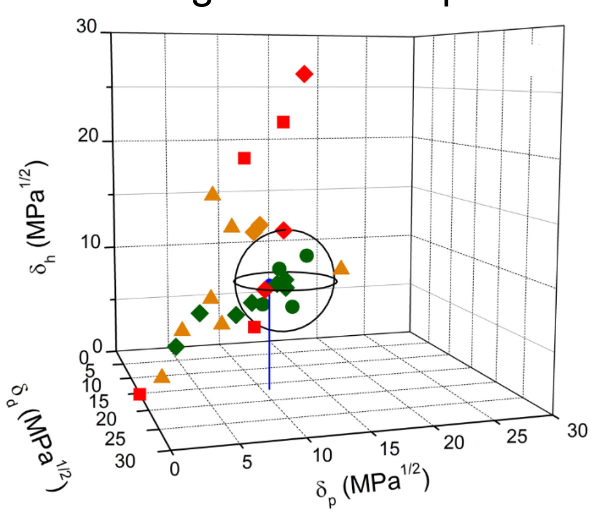
Dispersion: Dispersion State of Single and Co-solvents

Co-solvent	δ_d, MPa$^{1/2}$	δ_p, MPa$^{1/2}$	δ_h, MPa$^{1/2}$	δ_t, MPa$^{1/2}$	Dispersion state (stirring only)	Dispersion state (stirring + 30 mins sonication)	R_a[c]	RED[d]
THF-NMP	17.4	9.0	7.6	21.0	swollen	dispersed/swollen[b]	2.51	0.58
DMF-acetone	16.5	12.1	9.2	22.4	swollen[a]	dispersed/swollen[b]	1.54	0.36
DMAc-NMP	17.4	11.9	8.7	22.8	swollen[a]	dispersed/swollen	1.72	0.40
DMSO-THF	17.6	11.1	9.1	23.1	swollen	dispersed/swollen[b]	1.65	0.38
DMF-toluene	17.7	7.6	6.7	21.6	swollen	dispersed	4.26	0.99
IPA-DMF	16.6	9.9	13.9	24.3	sediment	dispersed/swollen[b]	4.98	1.16
ethanol-acetone	15.7	9.6	13.2	23.2	swollen	dispersed/swollen[b]	4.87	1.13
DMF-DCM	17.8	10.0	8.7	22.5	swollen	dispersed/swollen[b]	2.14	0.50
THF-hexane	16.1	2.9	4.0	17.4	sediment	dispersed/swollen	9.37	2.18
DMAc-water	16.2	13.8	26.3	35.2	swollen	sediment	17.62	4.10

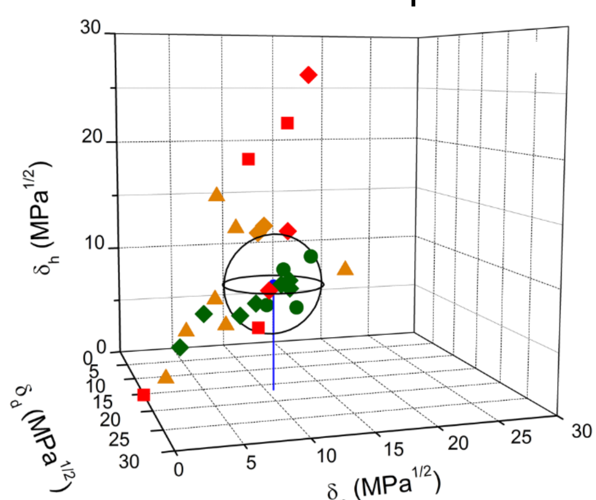




Single Solvent Sphere



Co-solvent Sphere

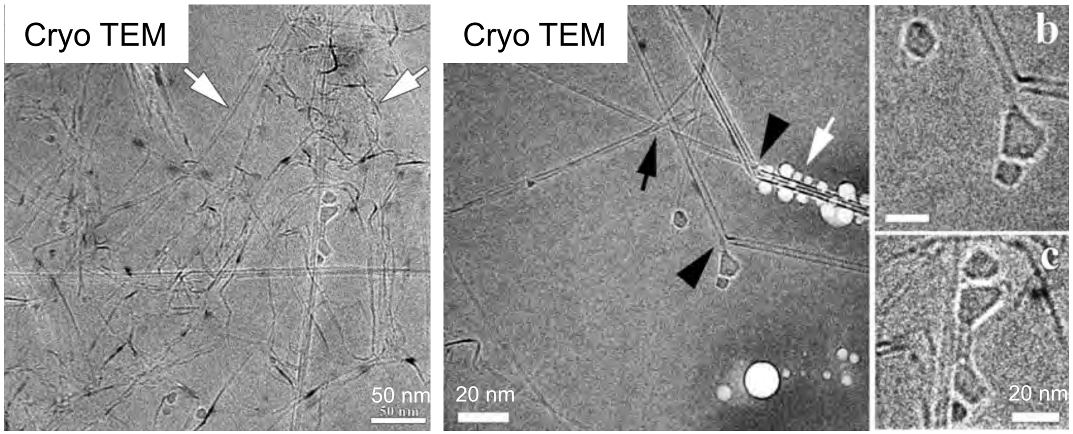


BNNT HSP
δ_d, δ_p, δ_h = 16.8, 10.7, 9.0 MPa$^{1/2}$
δ_t = 21.8 MPa$^{1/2}$

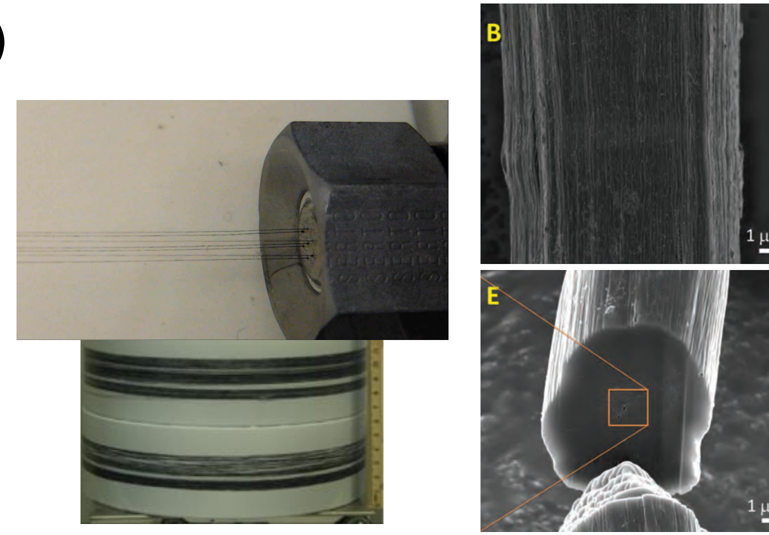
Nanoscale **8** 4348 (2016)

Dispersion and Purification

Dispersion in a Superacid (Chlorosulfuric acid)



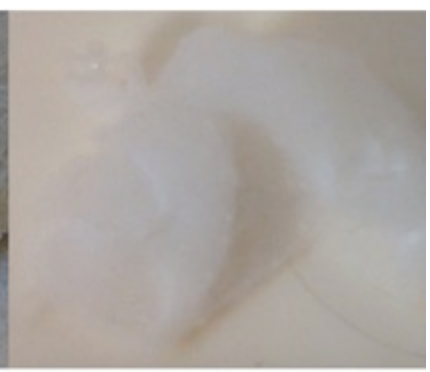
BNNT in Chlorosulfuric acid (HSO_3Cl)



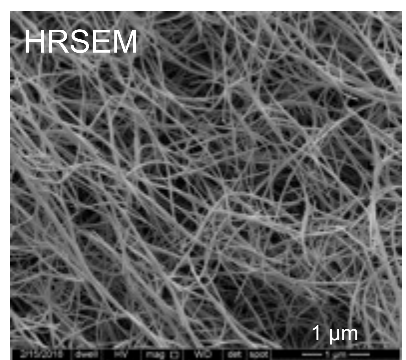
Rice U Nanotube Spinning (*Science* **339** 182 (2013))

Purification: Wet Thermal Oxidation

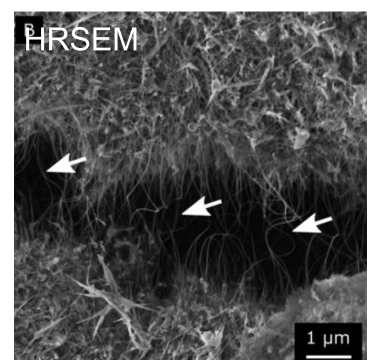
As grown BNNT



Purified BNNT



Purified BNNT



BNNT Film (superacid)

Flexible BNNT Mat

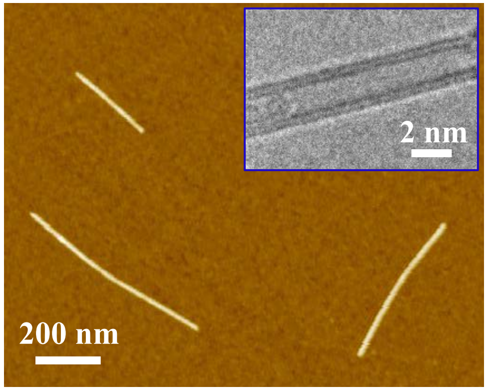
Credit: Prof Pasquali Group at Rice University

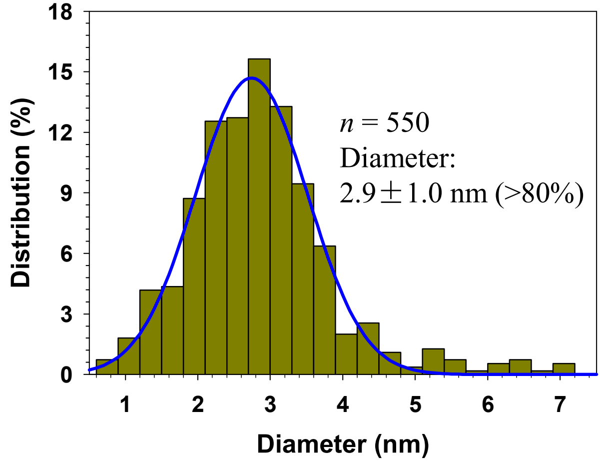
Langmuir **33** 14340 (2017), *Nano Lett* **18** 1615 (2018), *Chem. Mater.* **31** 1520 (2019)

Mechanical and Thermal Properties

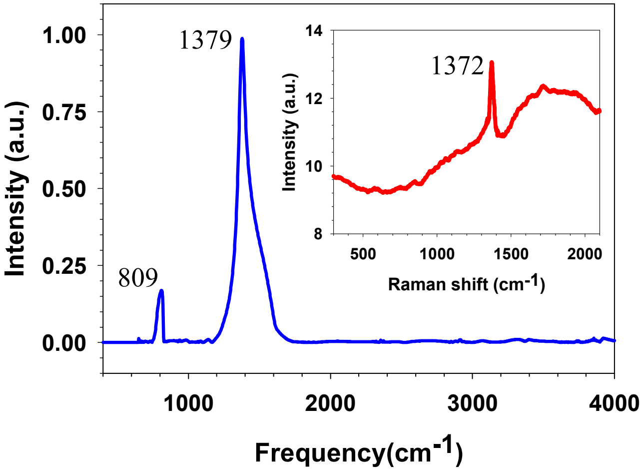
In-situ Single BNNT Test inside of an SEM

AFM

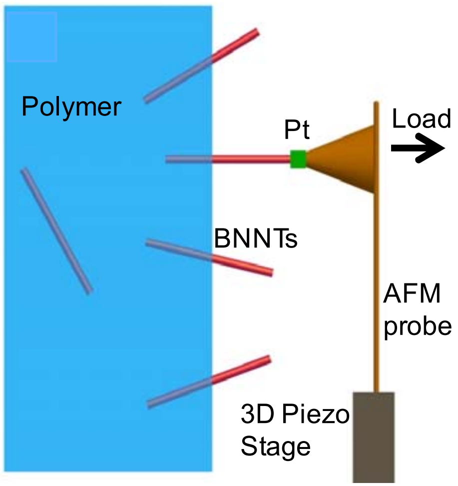




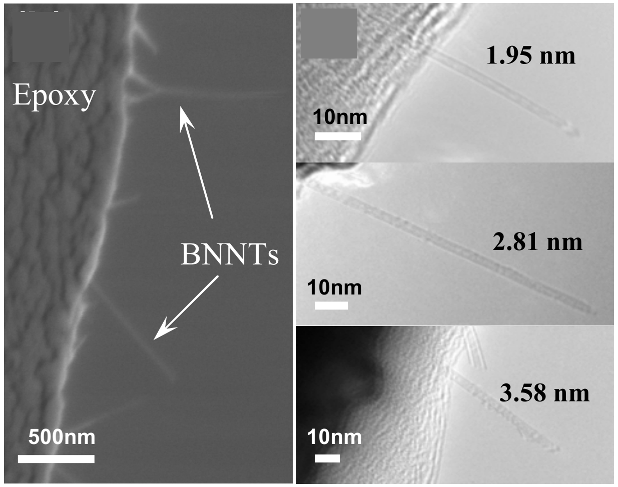
FTIR and Raman



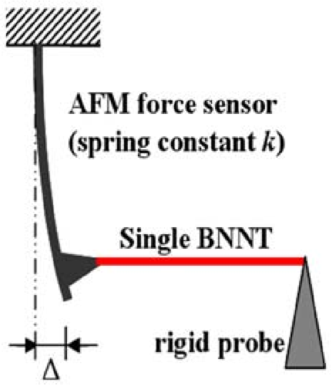
Pull-Out Test

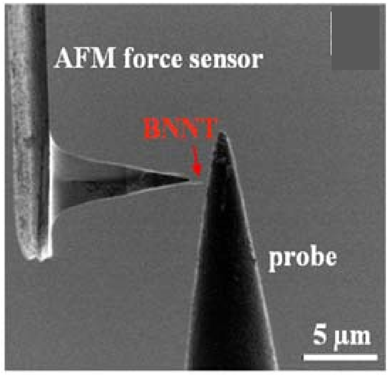


SEM



Tensile Test



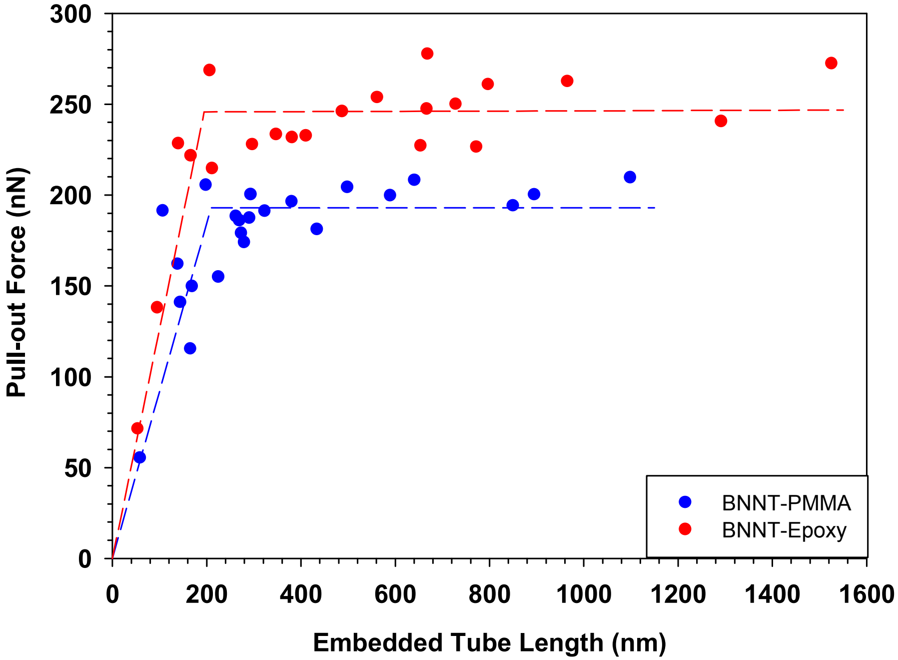


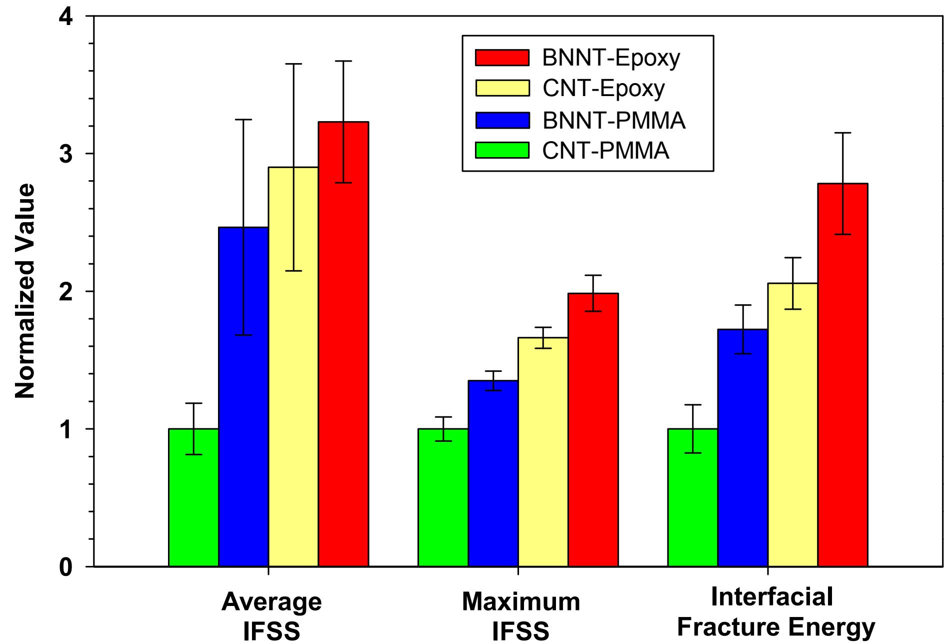
Credit: Prof Ke (SUNY Binghamton)

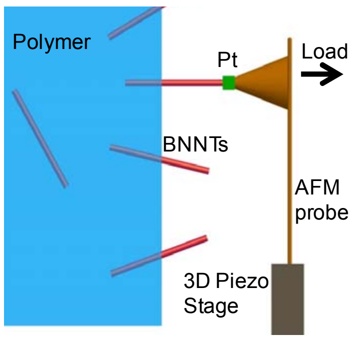
FEI Nanolab 600

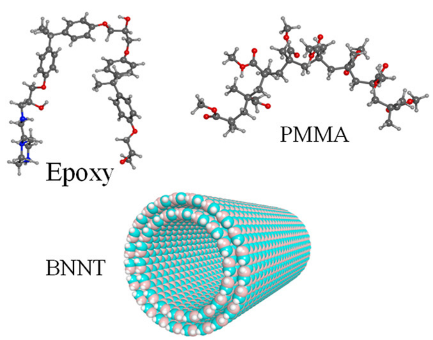
Small **9** 3345 (2013), Carbon **82** 214 (2015), *APL* **107** 253105 (2015)
Carbon **25** 93 (2017), *Carbon* **132** 548 (2018)

Interfacial Strength: *In-situ* Single Nanotube Pull-Out Test

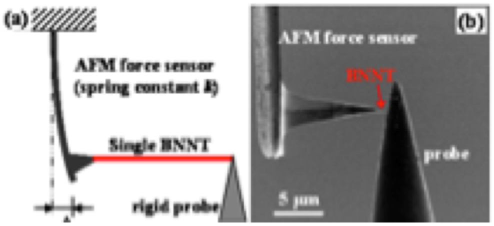








BNNT Tensile Test Results

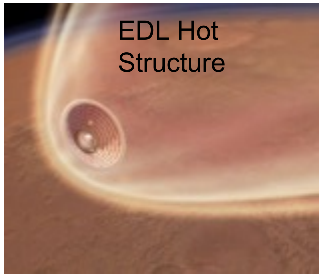


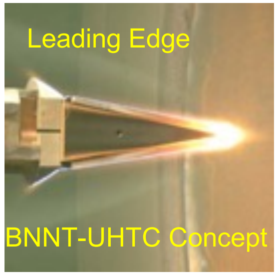
Diameter	Elastic modulus (GPa)	Breaking Strength (GPa)
D = 2.5 nm	760-960	14-38

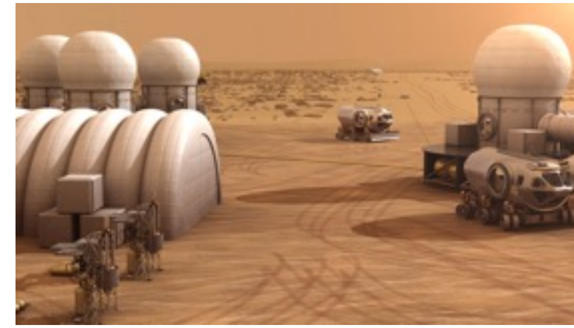
Small **9** 3345 (2013), Carbon **82** 214 (2015), *APL* **107** 253105 (2015)

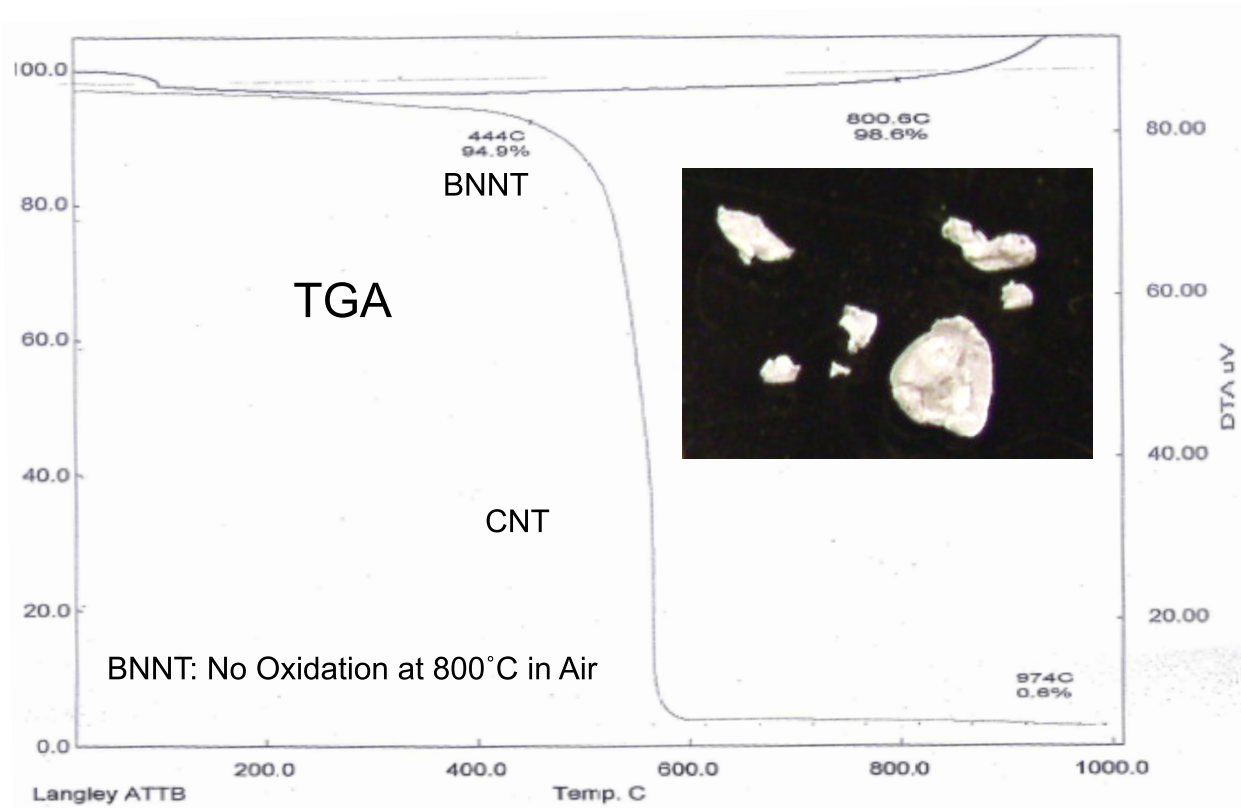
Credit: Prof Ke (SUNY Binghamton)

Thermal Properties of BNNT









Nanotechnology, **20** 505604 (2009)

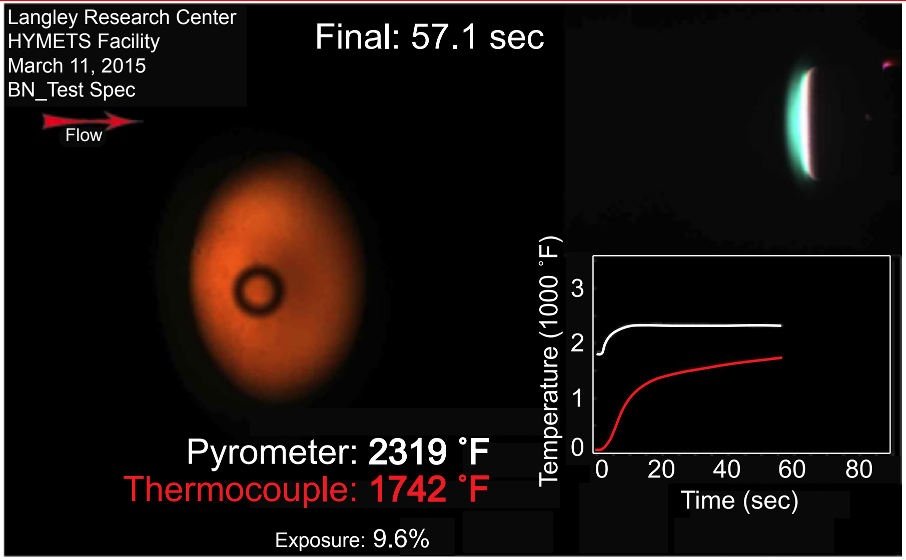
Hypersonic Materials Experiment Test System (HYMETS)

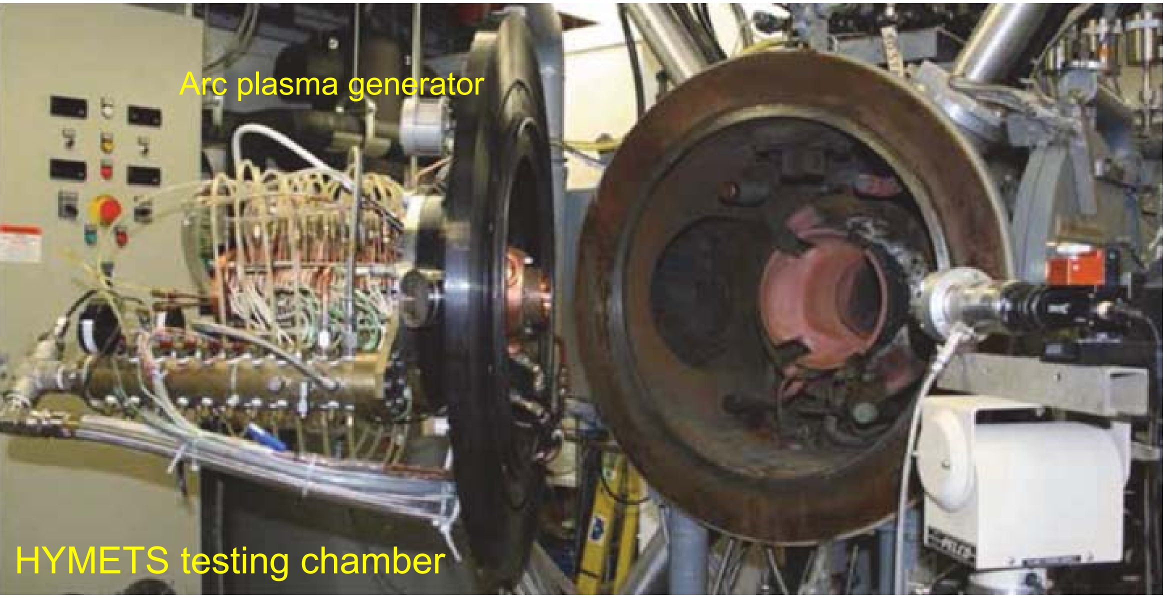
LaRC HYMETS Test Conditions

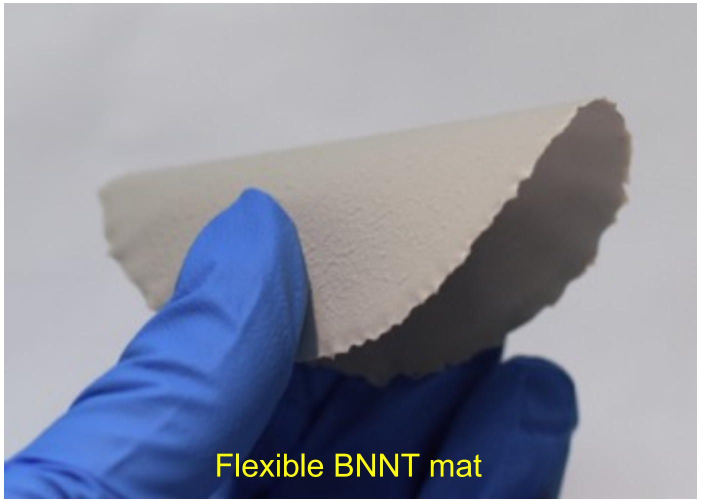
- Specimen Surface Temperature (°C): 1260-2482
- Specimen Stagnation Pressure (atm): 0.013-0.079
- Free Stream Mach Number: 5.0
- Free Stream Enthalpy (kJ/kg): 5350-26749

HYMETS TEST for BNNT Mats

- Heat flux: Set at **50 W/cm²** (2nd Gen Mars EDL)
- Duration: 1 min - 5 min
- Atmosphere: Air (with 5% Ar)
- Cooled under Vacuum





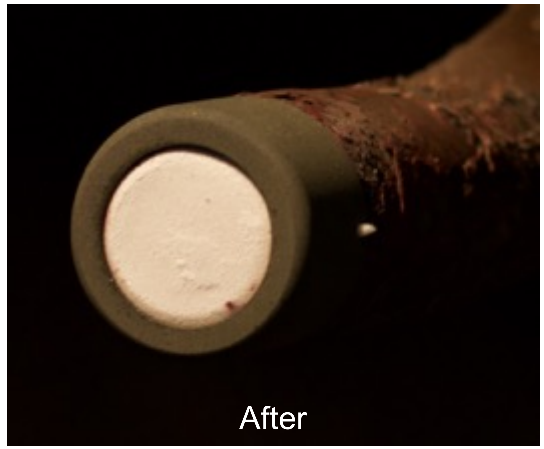


All images credit: NASA

Collaborators: Scott Splinter, Jeff Gragg, Kamran Daryabeigi (AIAA, 2011)

Hypersonic Materials Experiment Test System (HYMETS)

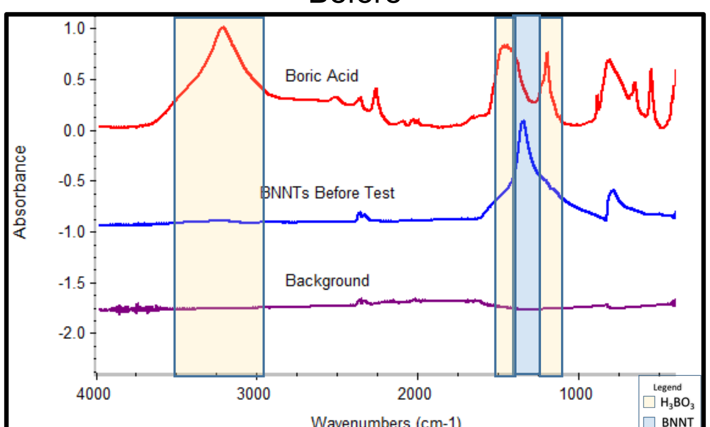
Sample: BNNT Mat (as grown, nonwoven)
- Fabricated by a vacuum filtration process
- Diameter: 25 mm, Thickness: 2 mm, Density: ~ 0.3 g/cm^3



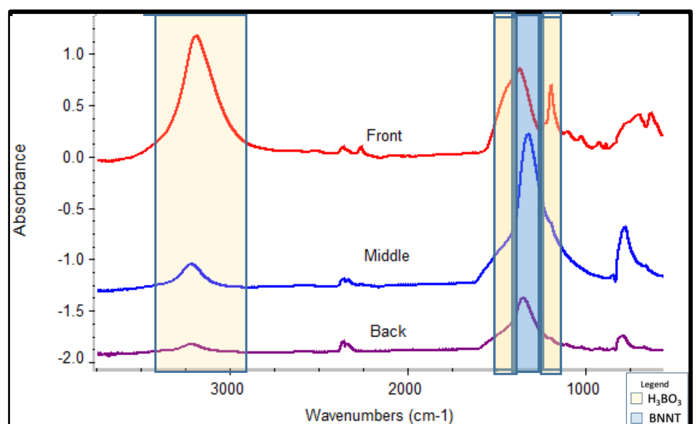
HYMETS Test Conditions
- Test duration: 1 min
- Surface temperature: 2400 ^{o}F (1315 ^{o}C)

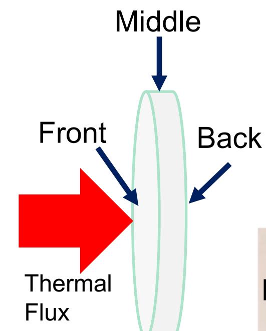
FT-IR Analysis of BNNT mat

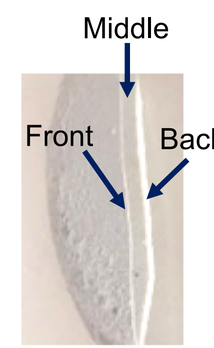
Before



After

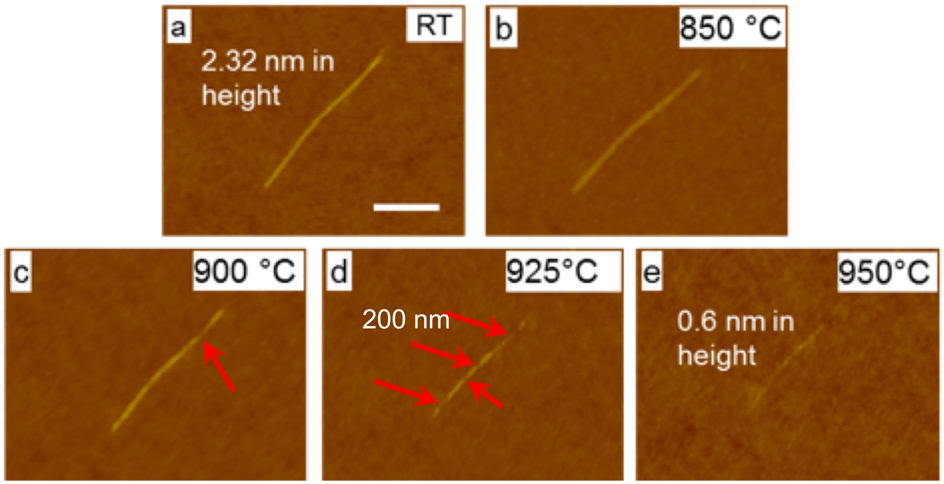




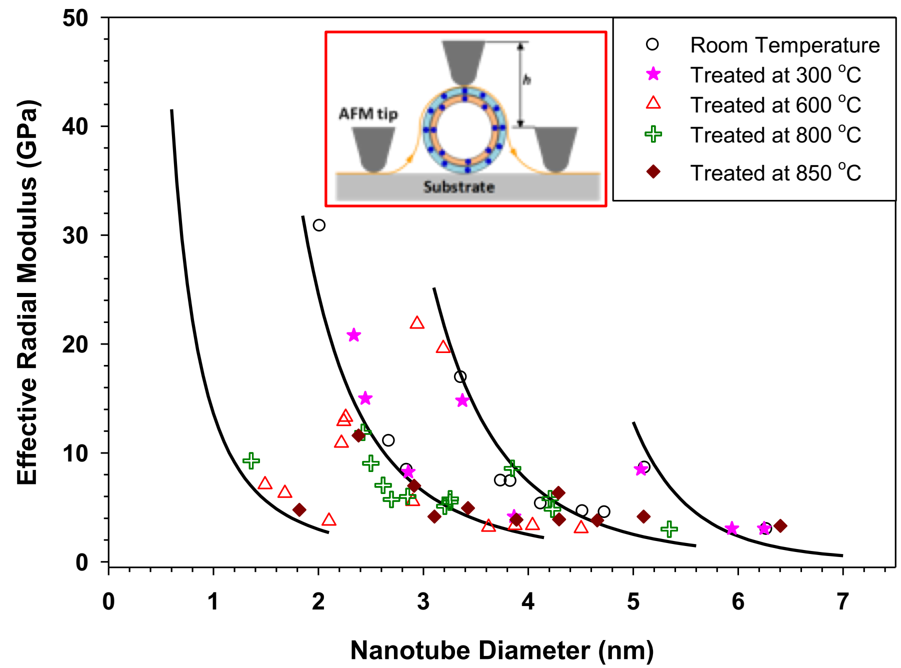


Superior Structural and Mechanical Properties of BNNTs in High Temperature Environments

Credit: Binghamton U (Prof. Ke)



AFM studies show that individual BNNTs can survive at up to 850 ˚C in air and captures the sign of their structural degradation at 900 ˚C and above. (the red arrows mark the positions of the oxidation-induced tube broken sites).

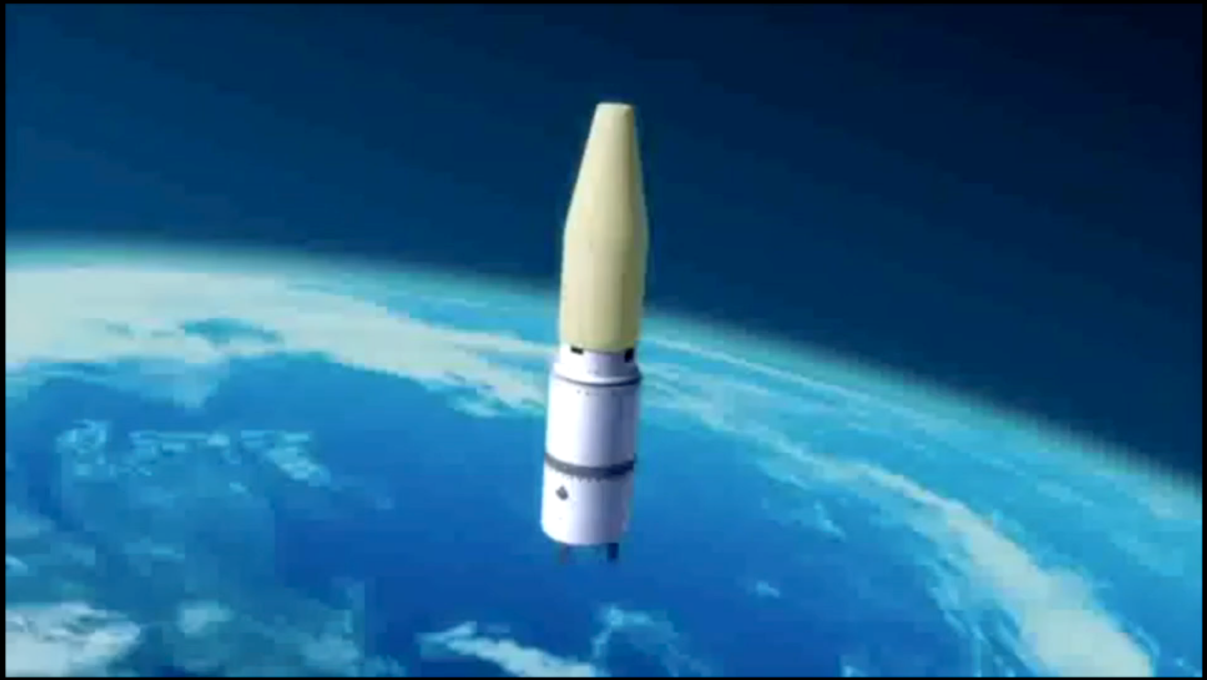


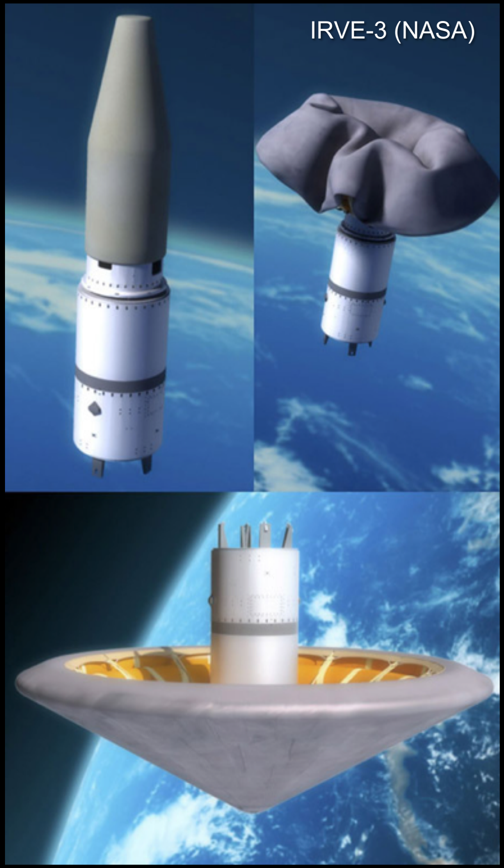
AFM-based nanomechanical compression tests (illustrated in inset drawing) show that the mechanical properties of individual BNNTs remain intact after thermally baked at up to 850 ˚C in air.

Xiaoming Chen, Christopher M Dmuchowski, Cheol Park, Catharine C. Fay and Changhong Ke, "Quantitative Characterization of Structural and Mechanical Properties of Boron Nitride Nanotubes in High Temperature Environments," *Scientific Reports,* **7**, 1138 (2017).

NASA Missions for Extreme Environment

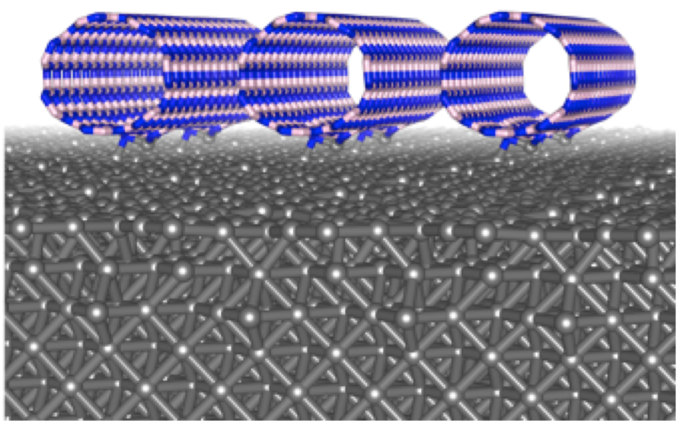
- Ultralight, flexible, shielding materials for extreme environment conditions (thermal, mechanical, chemical, and radiation)
- NASA applications:
  - Materials for space vehicles and structures.
  - Flexible TPS (FTPS) for hypersonic inflatable aerodynamic decelerator (HIAD).

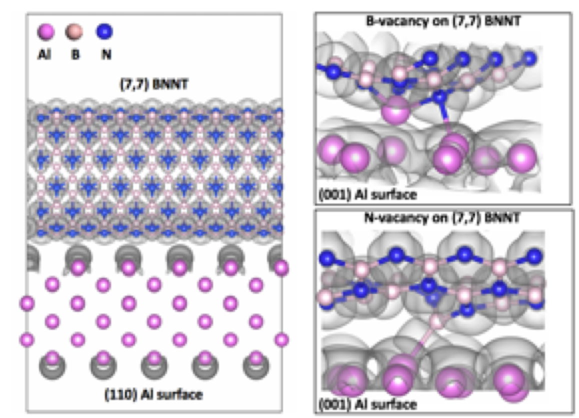




All image credit: NASA

BNNT Metal Matrix Composite (MMC)
BNNT Ceramic Matrix Composite (CMC)



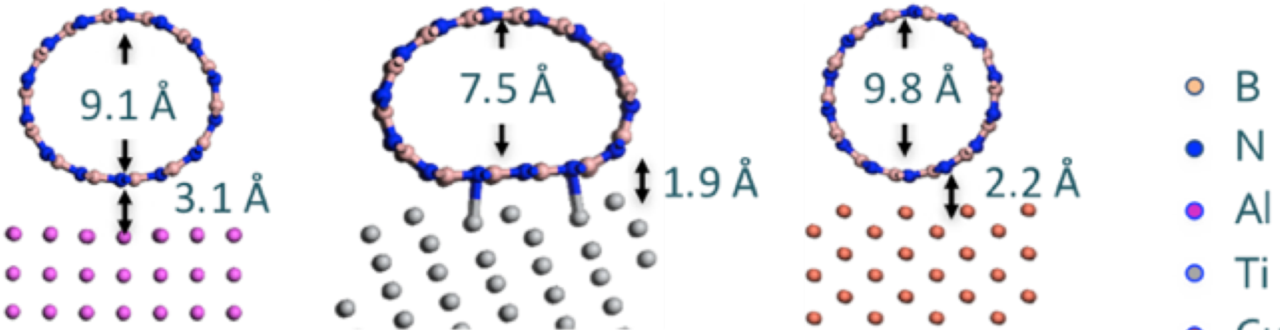


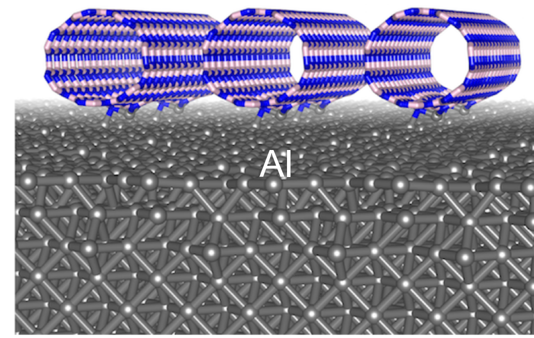
J. Phys. Chem. C **120** 3509 (2016)
J. Phys. Chem. C **122** 15266 (2018)

BNNT Metal Matrix Composite (BNNT-MMC)

U Queensland: Prof Bernhardt & Dr. Rhomann (AFOSR/AOARD)

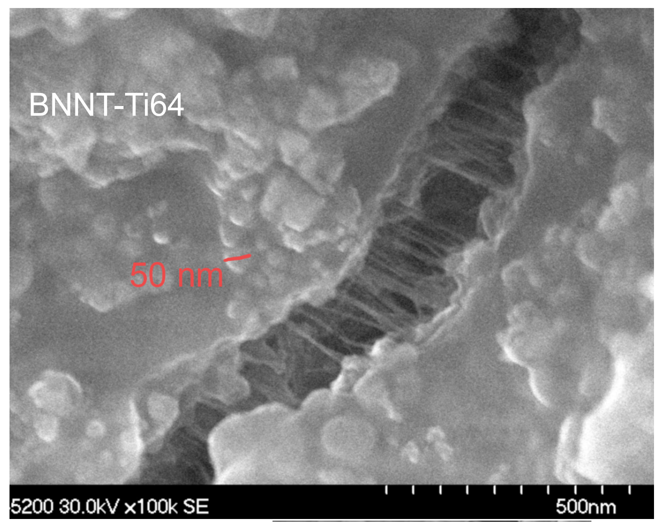
Pristine BNNT (7, 7)

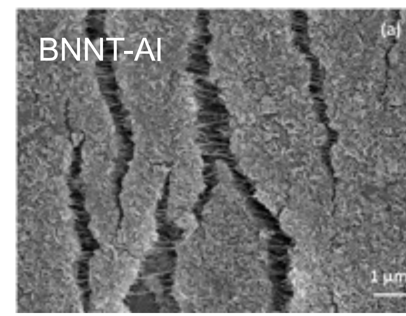


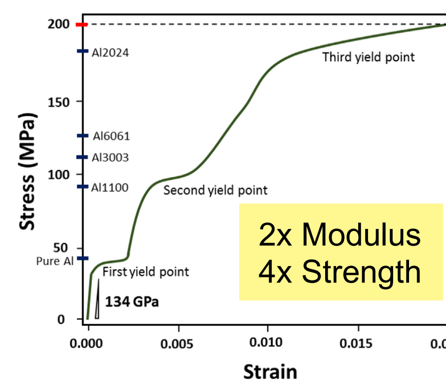


Al [100] surface | Ti [111] surface | Cu [110] surface

Binding Energies**	Al[100] Surface	Ti[111] Surface	Cu[110] Surface
Pristine	-0.41	-1.77	-0.95
N-vacancy	-0.69	-2.00	-1.23
B-vacancy	-1.26	-3.30	n/a
C sub N	-0.64	-2.17	-1.26
C sub B	-0.51	-1.41	-1.00





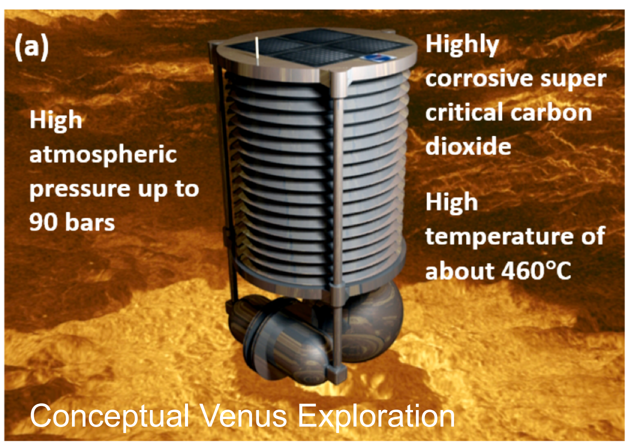


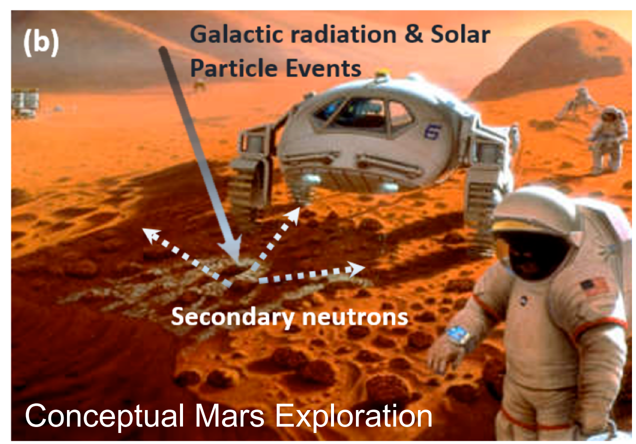
J. Phys. Chem. C **120** 3509 (2016)
J. Phys. Chem. C **122** 15266 (2018)
Nanotechnology, **30** 25706 (2019) BNNT-ceramic interfacial strength
J. Am. Cer. Soc. Early view, BNNT-PDC composite (κ: 2000% increase)

Adv. Eng. Mater. **18** 1747 (2016)
Agarwal Group FIT

Multifunctional BNNT Polymer Composites

- Electroactive Properties
- Radiation Shielding Properties

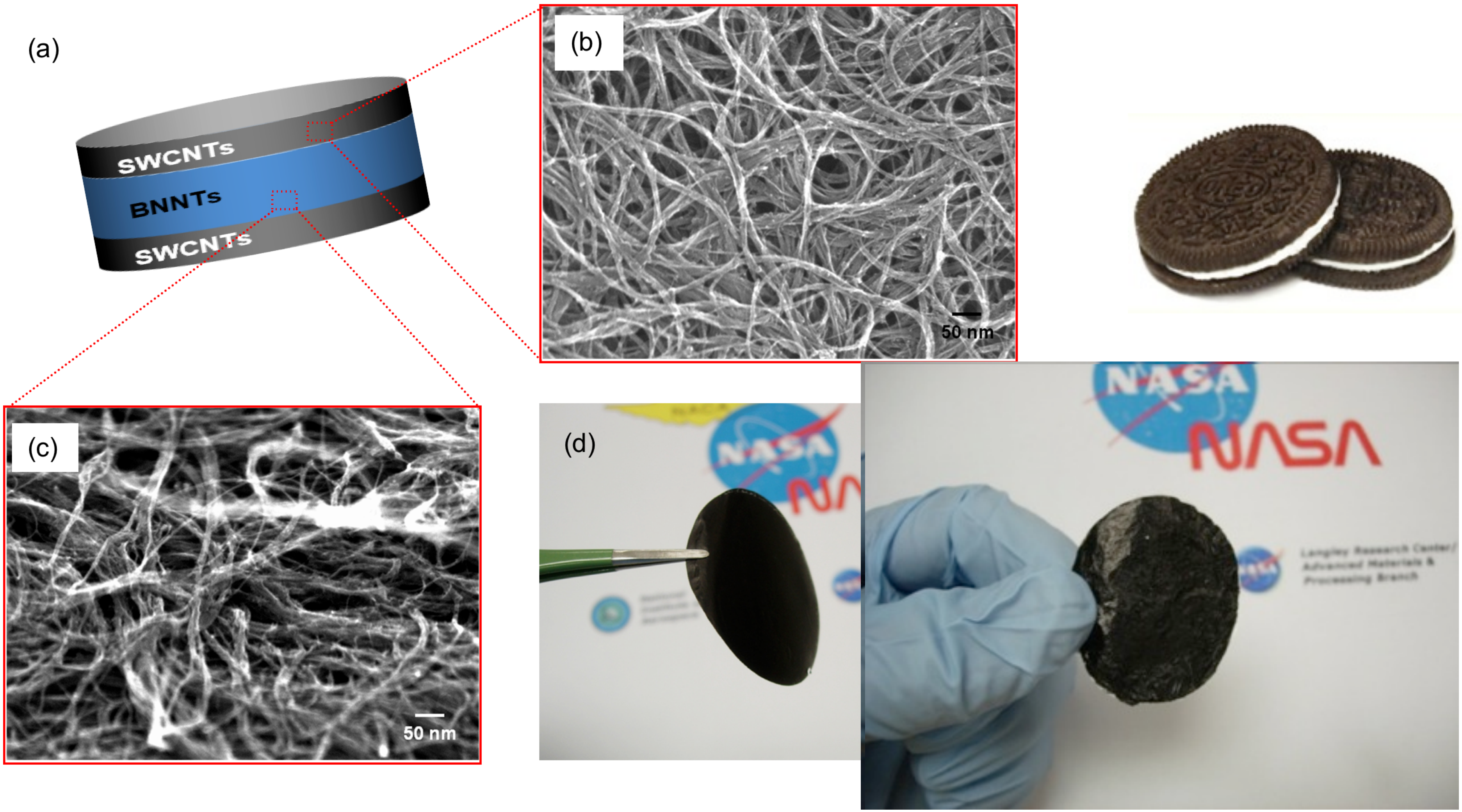




MRS Bulletin **40** 836 (2015)
Comp. Mater. Sci., **95** 362 (2014)
ACS Nano **9** 11942 (2015)
Comp. Mater. Sci., **135** 29 (2017)

All images credit: NASA

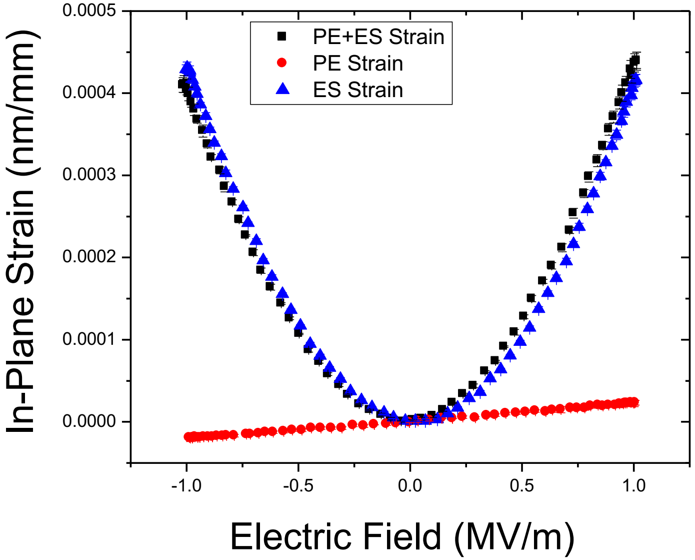
Langley All-Nanotubes Actuator/Sensor (LaRC-ANAS) Film

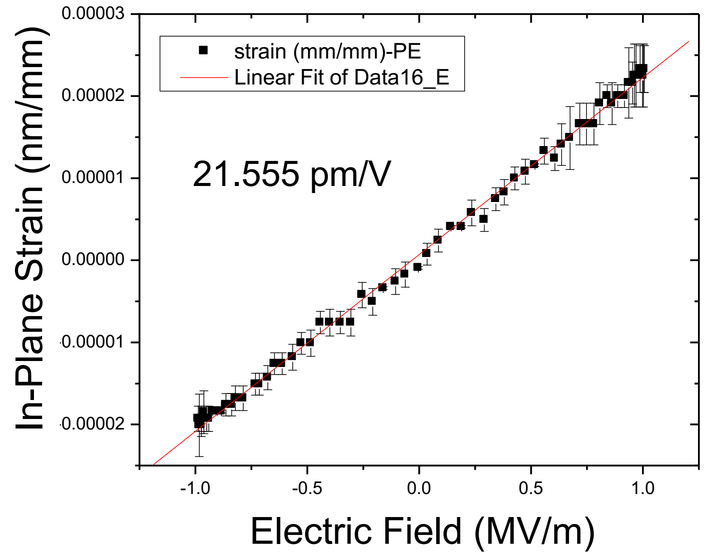


Goal: Flexible, transparent, large actuation, high sensitivity, mechanically durable

ACS Nano **9** 11942 (2015)

All-Nanotubes Actuator/Sensor Film: In-Plane Strain

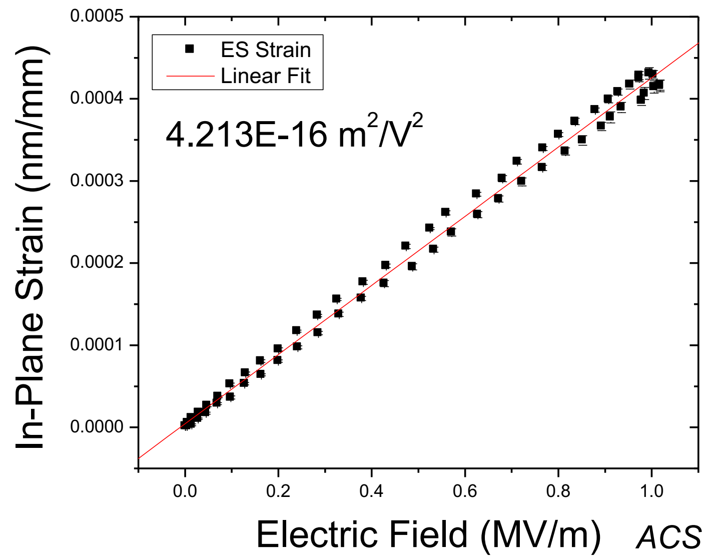




Field induced strain (ε_{33})

$$\varepsilon_{33} = d_{33} \cdot \boldsymbol{E} + M_{33} \cdot \boldsymbol{E}^2 + \ldots$$

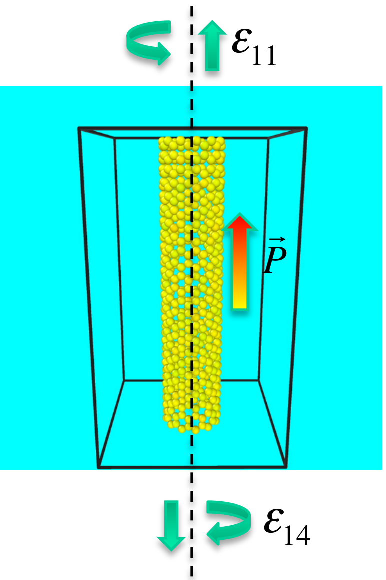
d_{33}: piezoelectric coefficient
M_{33}: electrostrictive coefficient
E: applied electric field

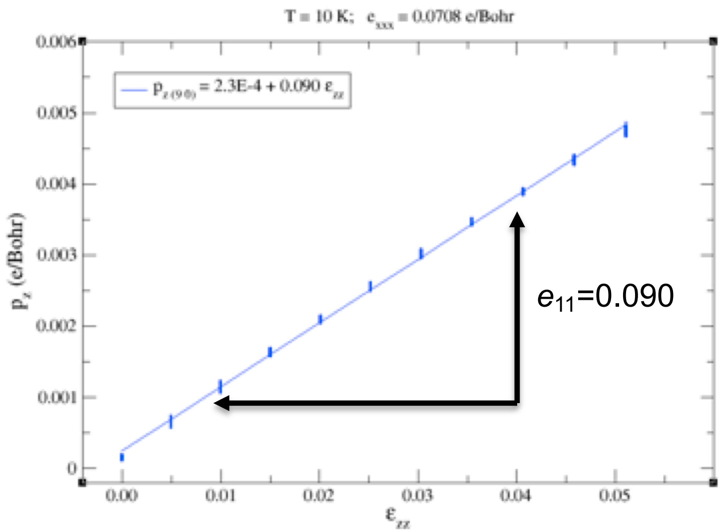


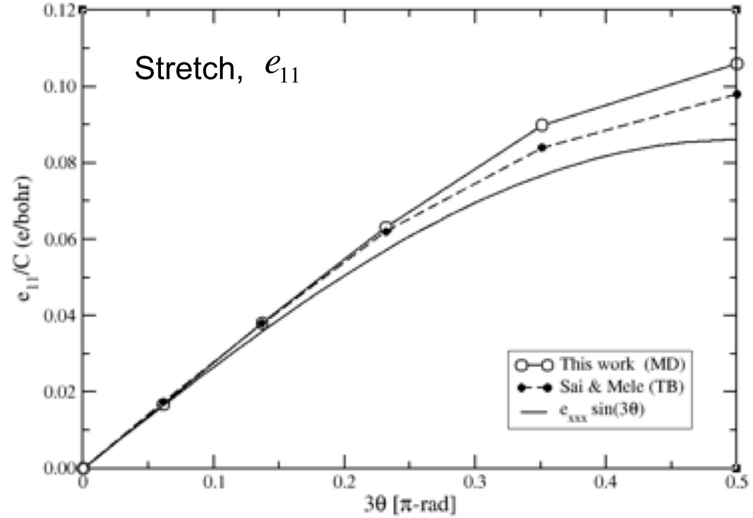
ACS Nano **9** 11942 (2015)

Results: Piezoelectricity under Deformation

The Molecular Dynamics (MD) model is successful in representing the piezoelectric properties of BNNTs

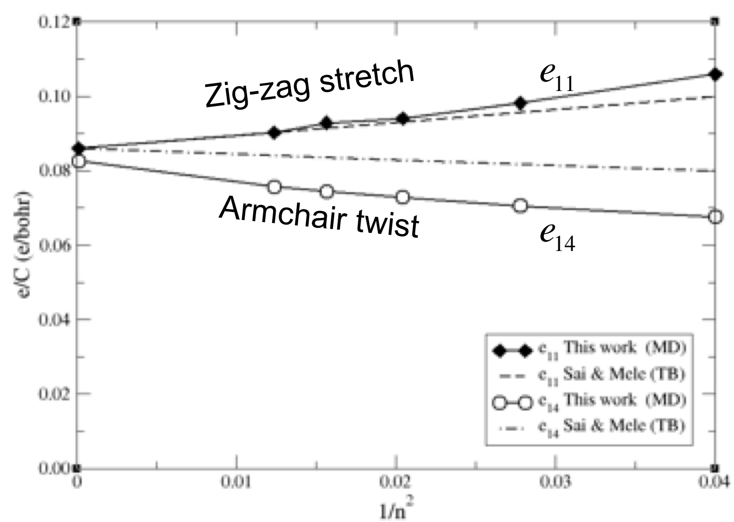


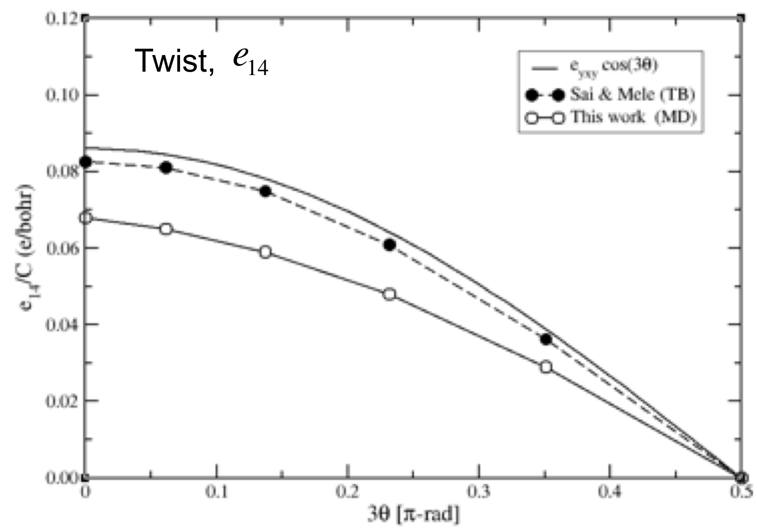




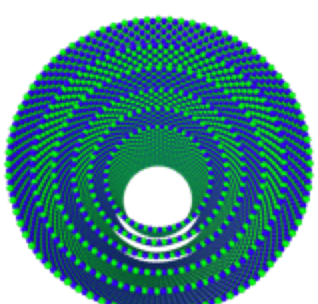
$$p_z(stretch) = e_{11}\varepsilon_s$$

$$p_z(twist) = e_{14}\varepsilon_t$$





MWBNNT



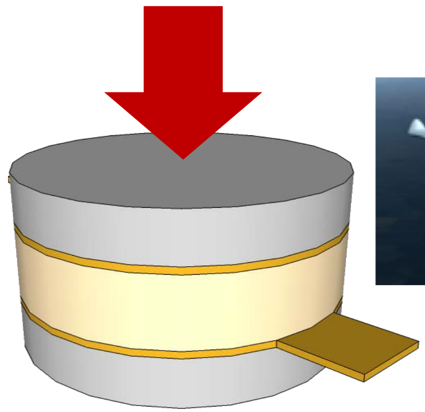
Comp. Mater. Sci., **135** 29 (2017)

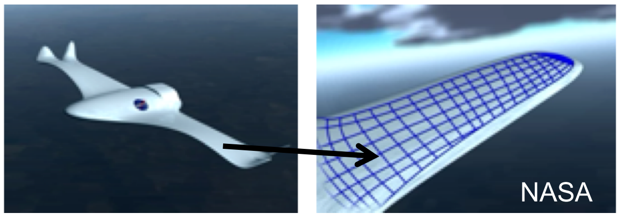
Comp. Mater. Sci., **95** 362 (2014)

2D Printed Electronics as Sensory Applications: BNNT/PDMS Composites Capacitive Sensors

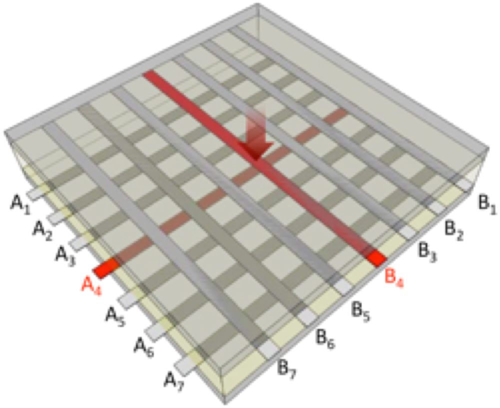
Touch Sensitive Sensor

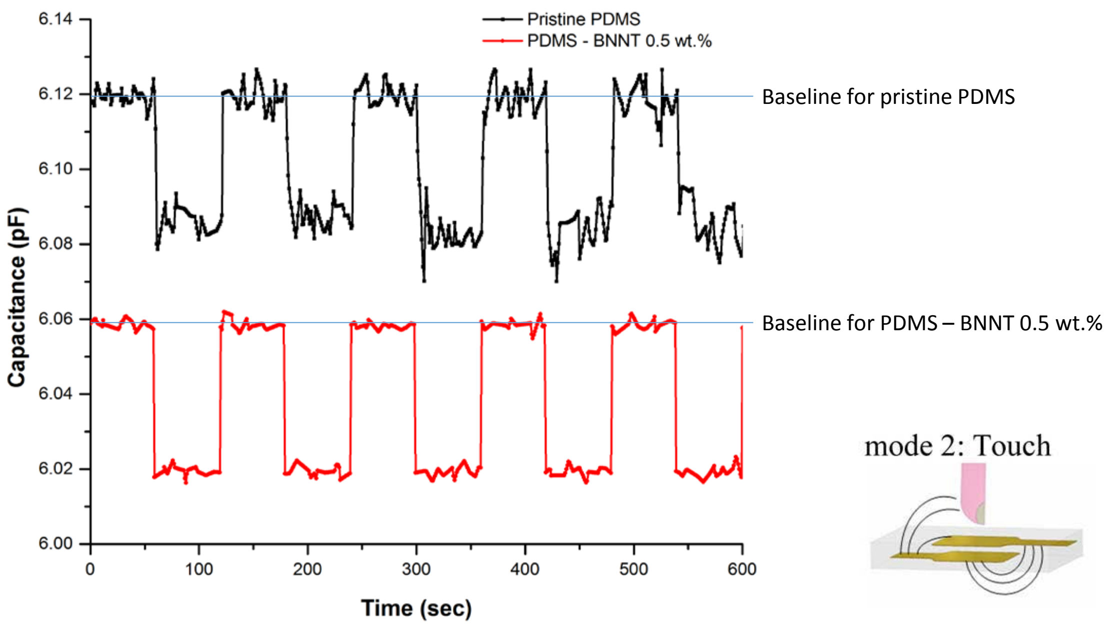
By touch

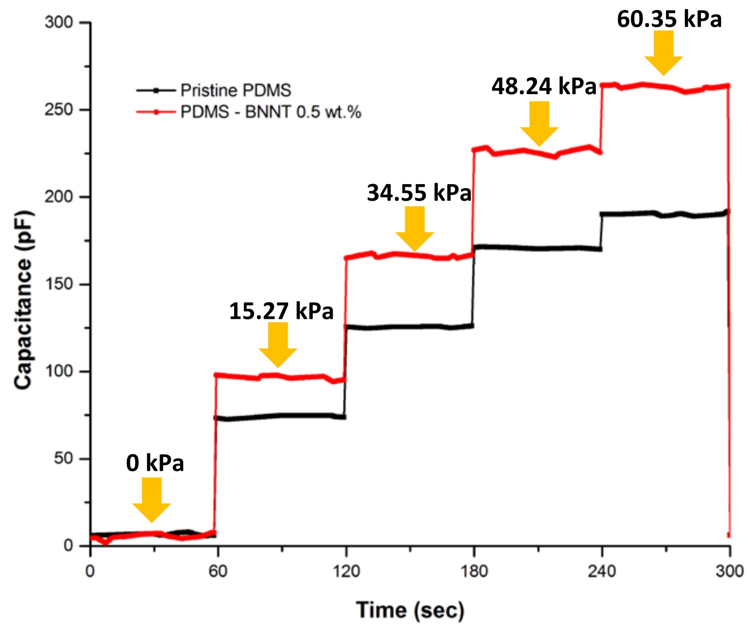




Pressure Sensitive Sensor

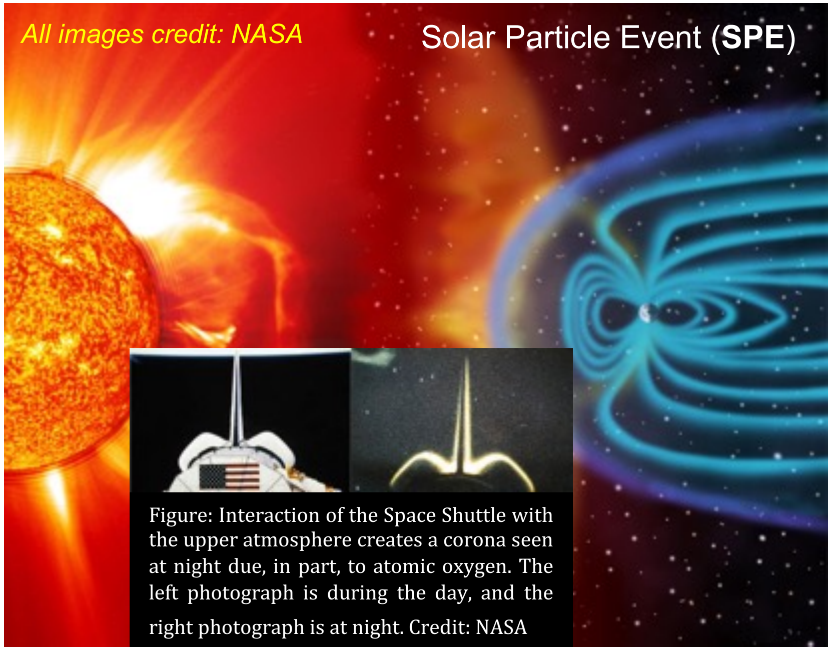






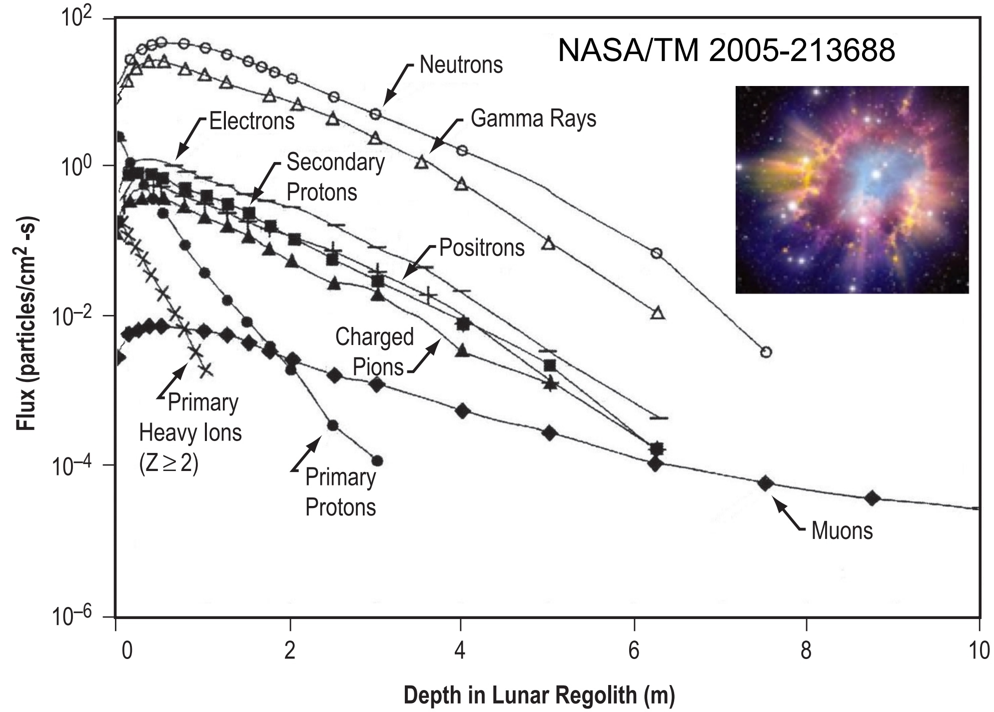
GIT : Prof Chuck Zhang/Ben Wang Group

Radiation Shielding Properties



Science **340** 1080 (2013)

Galactic Cosmic Ray (**GCR**) and produced Secondaries in lunar regolith



Measurements of Energetic Particle Radiation in Transit to Mars on the Mars Science Laboratory

C. Zeitlin,[1*] D. M. Hassler,[1] F. A. Cucinotta,[2] B. Ehresmann,[1] R. F. Wimmer-Schweingruber,[3] D. E. Brinza,[4] S. Kang,[4] G. Weigle,[5] S. Böttcher,[3] E. Böhm,[3] S. Burmeister,[3] J. Guo,[2] J. Köhler,[3] C. Martin,[3] A. Posner,[6] S. Rafkin,[1] G. Reitz[7]

The Mars Science Laboratory spacecraft, containing the Curiosity rover, was launched to Mars on 26 November 2011, and for most of the 253-day, 560-million-kilometer cruise to Mars, the Radiation Assessment Detector made detailed measurements of the energetic particle radiation environment inside the spacecraft. These data provide insights into the radiation hazards that would be associated with a human mission to Mars. We report measurements of the radiation dose, dose equivalent, and linear energy transfer spectra. The dose equivalent for even the shortest round-trip with current propulsion systems and comparable shielding is found to be 0.66 ± 0.12 sievert.

Spacecraft data nails down radiation risk for humans going to Mars

Nature News, May 30, 2013, Ron Cowan

Interviewed Sheila Thibeault at NASA Langley about the study published in *Science*

Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) during its cruise to Mars between 6 December 2011 and 14 July 2012 (253 days)

Mars Round Trip Dose Equivalent is around 0.66 Sievert

MRS Bulletin **40** 836 (2015)

Neutron Radiation Shielding Study

Materials

- Hydrogen, Boron, Nitrogen
- BN, BNNT, Gd
- Low density polyethylene (LDPE), polyimide (Kapton, CP2, (β-CN)APB/ODPA), polyurethane

Radiation Shielding Structural Materials

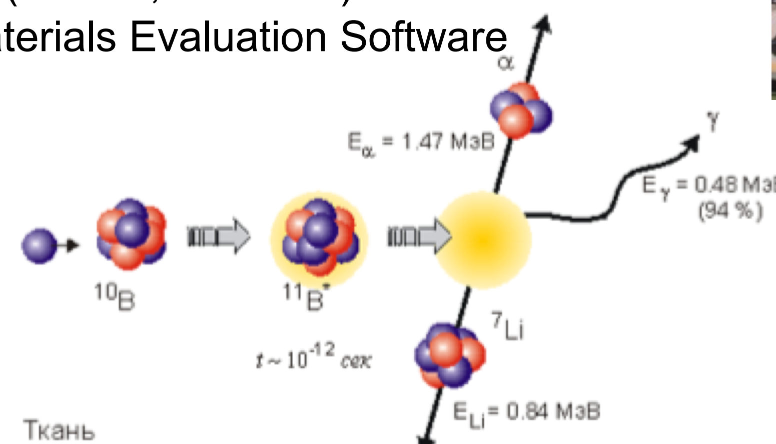
- In-situ polymerization under simultaneous sonication and shear
- Supercritical Fluid Infusion

Characterization

- Neutron Radiation Exposure Lab: Source: Am/Be 1Curie
- Moderated by borated polyethylene cylinder block (44mm thick): 45 mrem/hr thermal neutrons
- Sample: 2 x 2” polymer and BN polymer composites
- Detection Foil: 1.25” Indium Foil (0.5mm, 19 barns)
- RSMES: Radiation Shielding Materials Evaluation Software

$^{115}In(n, \gamma)^{116}In$

neutron



http://www.inp.nsk.su/bnct/introduction/introduction.en.shtml

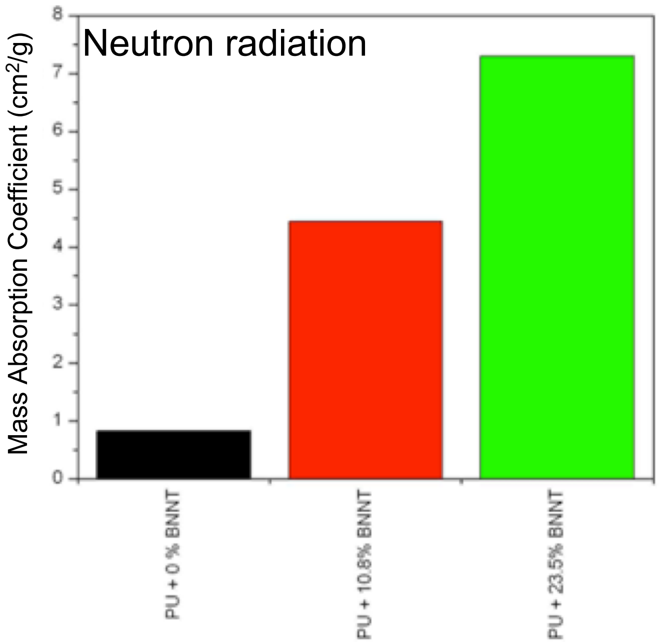
Geiger-Mueller Tube

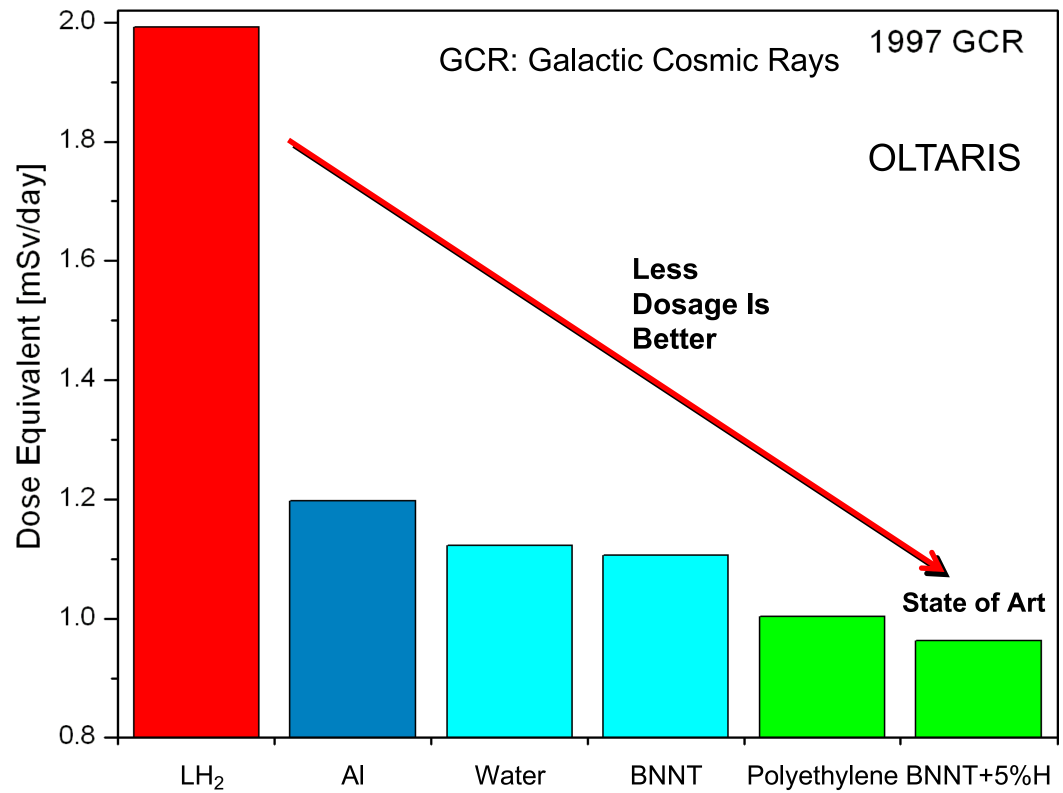
Modeling

- OLTARIS

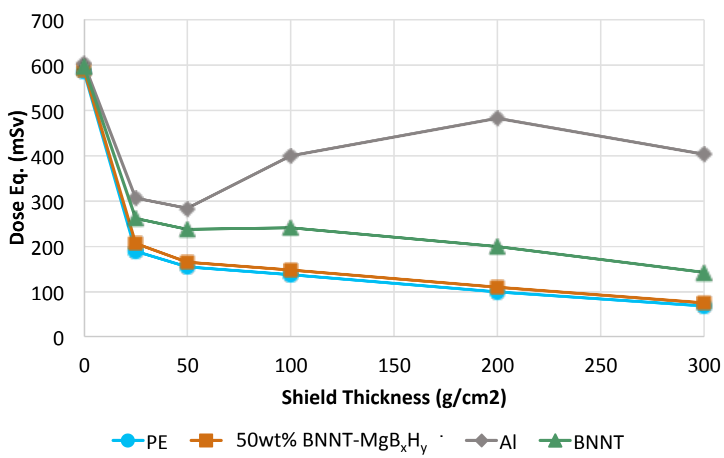
All images credit: NASA

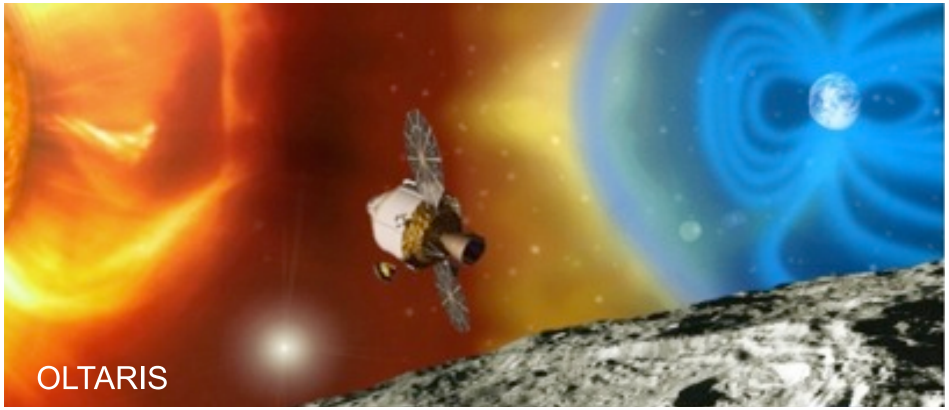
Radiation Shielding Effectiveness of BNNT Composites





BON-14 GCR Model in Free Space with 1977 Solar Min. incident on Vehicles with varying thicknesses





http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/716082main_ Thibeault_2011_PhI_Radiation_Protection.pdf (NASA NAIC Phase I Report)

Summary

- High Temperature-Pressure BNNT synthesis method was introduced.
- BNNT dispersion was successfully achieved by thermodynamic approach using Hansen solubility parameters for single and co-solvent systems.
- Interfacial shear strength and fracture energy of BNNT with polymers were superior to those of CNT.
- BNNT exhibited excellent thermal stability under a simulated planetary entry environment along with flame resistance and retardation properties
- BNNT and BNNT polymer composites exhibited excellent piezoelectricity as well as electrostrictive behavior even without poling.
- BNNT exhibited excellent neutron radiation shielding effectiveness and hydrogen containing BNNT showed superb shielding effectiveness against GCR and SPE.
- New materials, new processes, new propulsions, and new concepts are needed for successful crew missions to the Moon, Mars, and Beyond.

Acknowledgements

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Meng Zheng, Xiaoming Chen, Changhong Ke, Howard Wang

Rice University
Mohammad Adnan, Daniel Marincel, Matteo Pasquali
Wale Lawal, Thevamaran Ramathasan, Ned Thomas

Georgia Tech
Huibin Chang, Prabhakar Gulgunje, Jeffrey Luo, Satish Kumar
Chuck Zhang, Ben Wang

NASA C&I, B&P, GCD, IRAD, CIF, NIAC

Thank you

Image credit: NASA