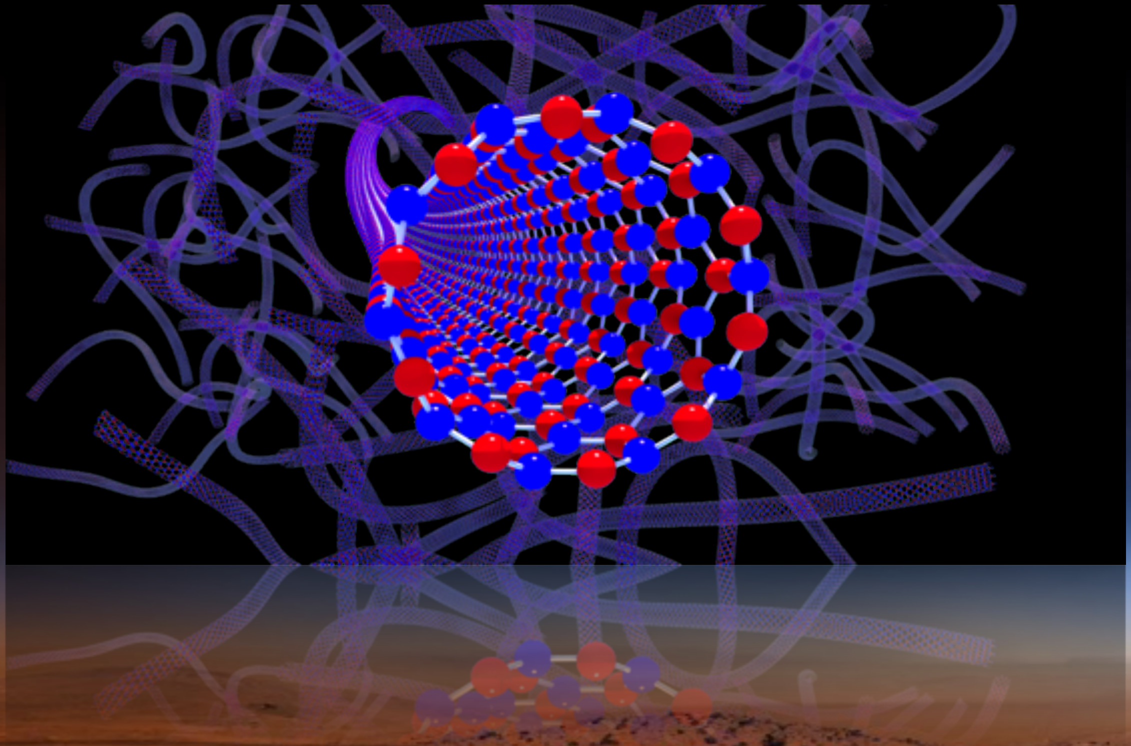
NASA Langley Research Center

Boron Nitride Nanotube (BNNT) and BNNT Composites: Overview

Cheol Park, Sang-Hyon Chu*, and Catharine Fay



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

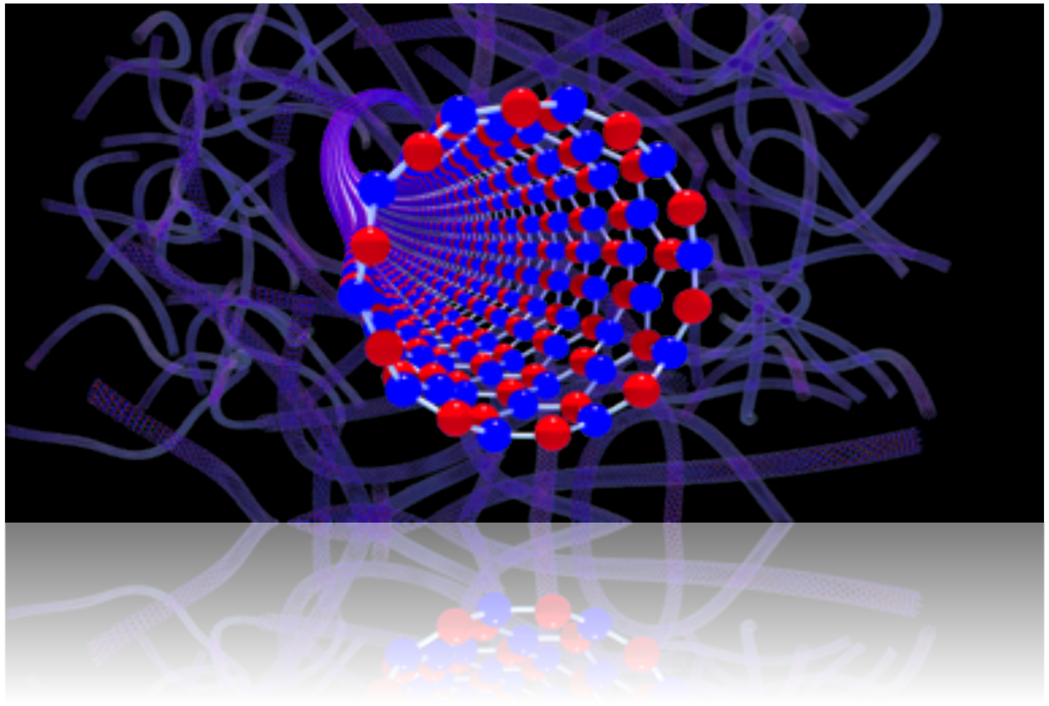
NASA Langley Research Center

NASA Langley Research Center Hampton, Virginia
Founded in 1917 (NACA): first civil aeronautical research laboratory converted to NASA in 1958
Facilities: $4 billion value
People: 2000 Civil Servants ; 1700 Contractors

All images credit: NASA

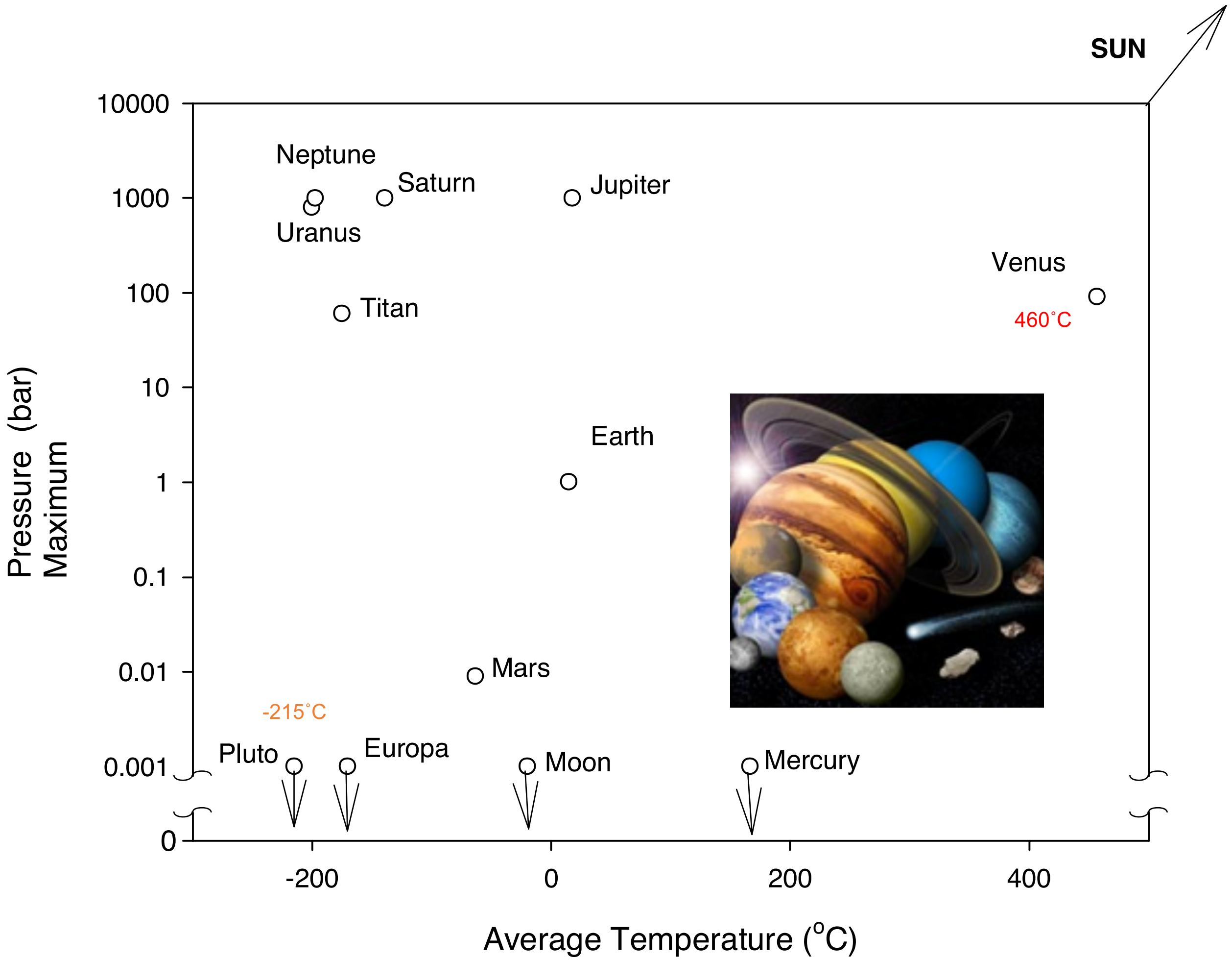
Outline

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



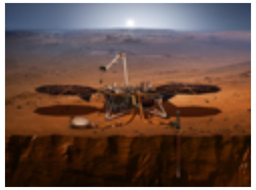
Artemis Program: About $40B by 2024

Extreme Environments in Space Exploration

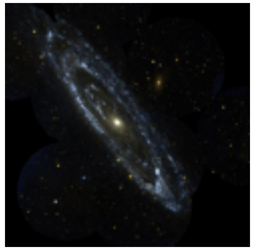


http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/solar_system/
17NASA Extreme Environments Tech Space missions Report FINAL

Lunar surface
-173 to 127˚C
-247˚C (25K) at pole
Sharp abrasive edge dust
Radiation
1/6 Earth gravity



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

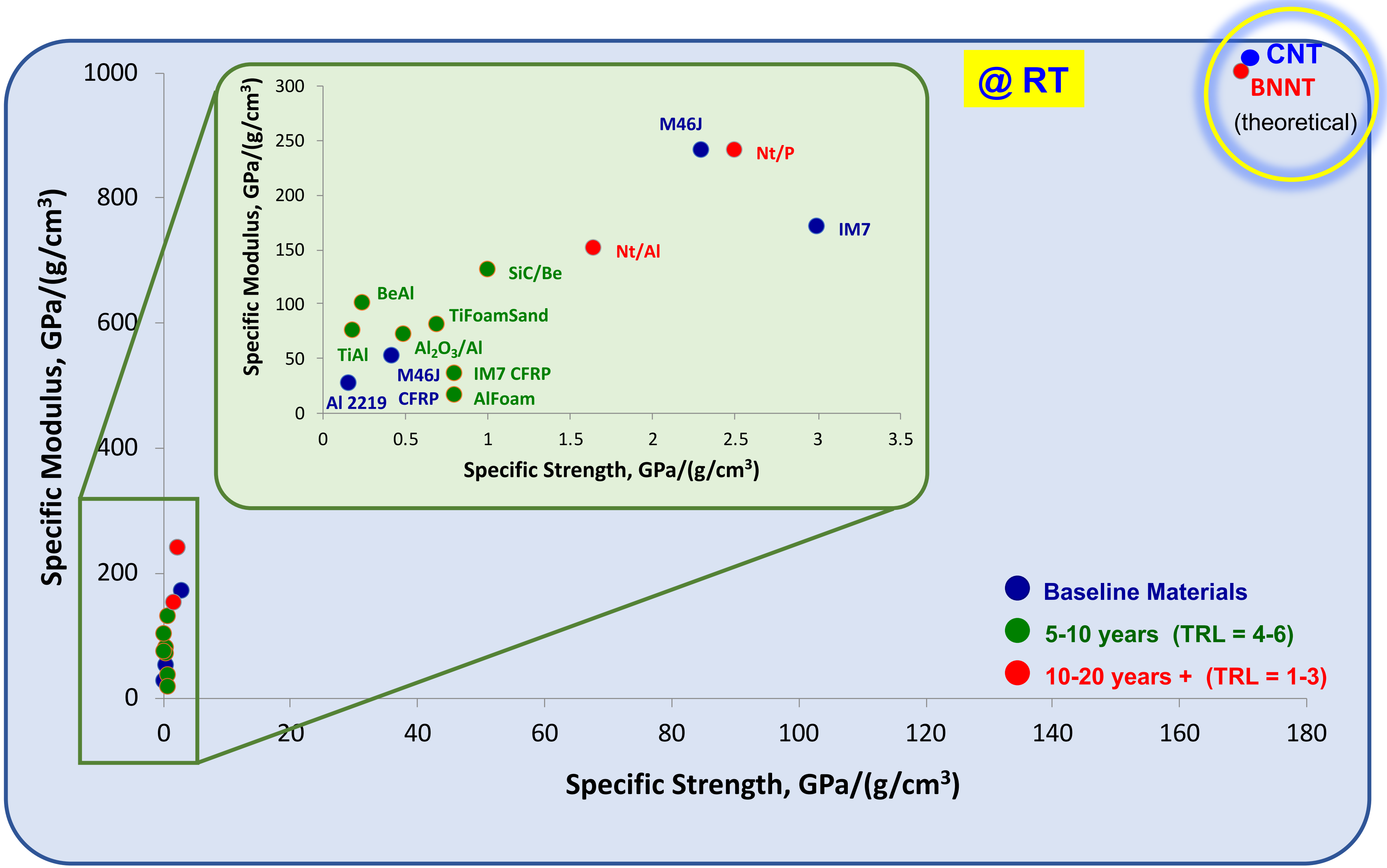


Deep space
2.7K
Radiation
Microgravity

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

Artemis Program: Send 1st Woman & next Man to the Moon by 2024 (about $40B), and then Mars and Beyond

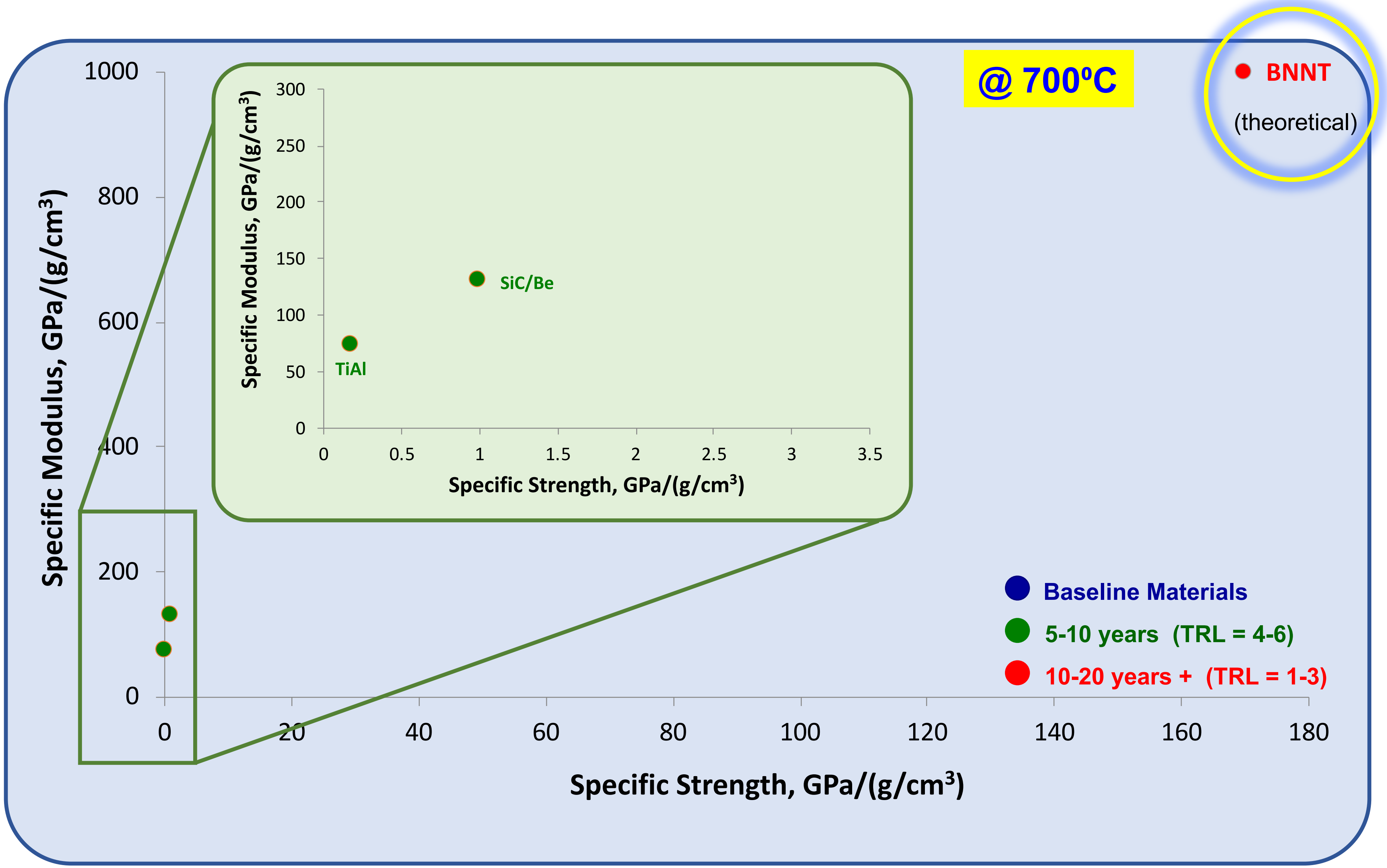
Motivation: Properties of Materials for Vehicle Structure



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

Nanotube values are theoretical.

Motivation: Properties of Materials for Vehicle Structure



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

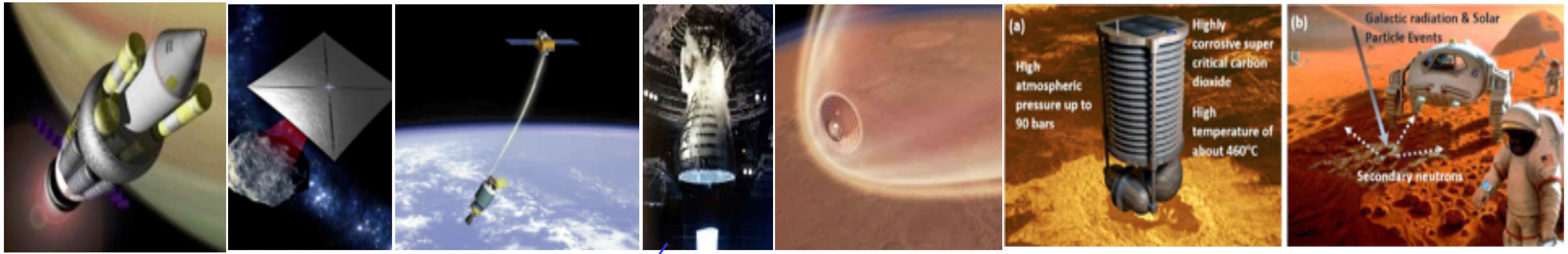
Nanotube values are theoretical.

Nanotube Comparison (Theoretical)

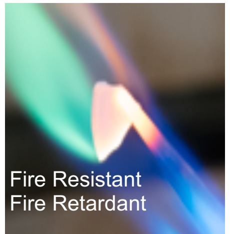
	Carbon Nanotubes	**Boron Nitride Nanotubes**
Electric Properties	Metallic or semiconducting	Wide band gap (about 6.0 eV) Insulation, corrosion resistant
Mechanical Properties (Young's Modulus)	1.33 TPa (very stiff)	1.18 TPa (very stiff)
Thermal Conductivity	>3000 W/mK (highly conductive)	~300–3000 W/mK (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)

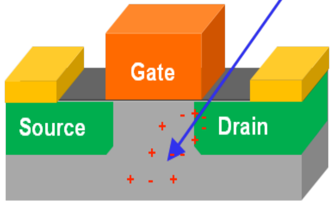
Significance of the BNNT Innovation

- **Structural/Mechanical**: **lightweight** composite armor, thermal protection, engine components, and radiation shielding materials for **extreme environments**.
- **High stiffness as well as high toughness** for spacecraft and space suits, ultrastrong tethers, meteorite impact protection layers, protective gear for astronauts.
- **Space lubricants** without moisture.
- **High temperature** thermal protection systems (**TPS**) used in the **nose cap**, wing **leading edges**, **engine parts**, lubricants, and planetary **Entry, Descent, & Landing (EDL)** TPS.
- **Fire resistant and retardant.**
- **High temperature sensor, actuator, energy harvesting devices** in extreme environments.
- **Radiation shielding, UV (ultraviolet) protection,** and electromagnetic transparency while decreasing aircraft weight.
- **Radar transparency** mitigates Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) and Radio Frequency (RF) blackout.
- **Efficient zero-energy water filter and desalination membrane in microgravity**.

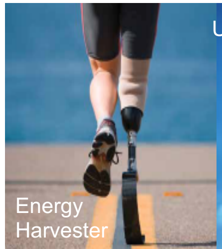


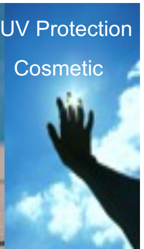

Fire Fighter Protection

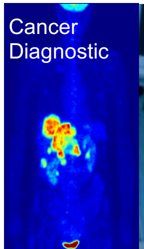

Fire Resistant Fire Retardant



Heat Sink/Radiation Hardened


Energy Harvester


UV Protection
Cosmetic


Cancer Diagnostic

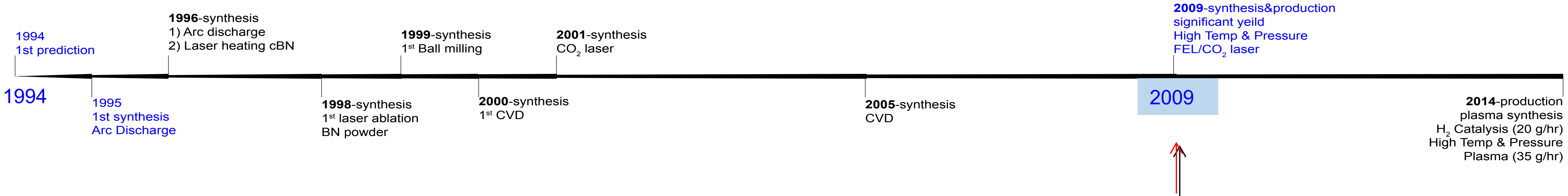

Cancer Treatment


ISS Water Filtration

All Images Credit: NASA

BNNT Synthesis History

- *First Theoretical prediction: PRB **49** 5081–5084 (1994) (UC Berkeley, Cohen), computation*
- *First Synthesis Arc Discharge: Science **269** 966 (1995) (UC Berkeley, Cohen/Zettl) BNNT by Arc Discharge*
- Arc Discharge: *PRL* **76** 4737 (1996) (ONERA France, Loiseau) Arc Discharge HfB_2 with N_2 gas
- Laser heating: *APL* **69** 2045 (1996) (NIMS Japan, Golberg, Bando), Diamond Anvil, c-BN target laser heating High pressure
- Laser ablation: *APL* **72** 1966 (1998) (Yu, BN powder with Co/Ni, first laser ablation
- Ball milling/thermal annealing: *CPL* **74** 2782 (1999) (ASU Australia, Chen) Ball milling of B powder in NH_3 gas
- CVD: *Chem. Mater*. **12** 1808 (2000) (WA Univ, Lourie, Ruoff, Buhro) CVD Borazine ($B_3N_3H_6$)
- Laser ablation, PRB **64** 121405(R) (2001) (ONERA Lee, Loiseau) CO_2 laser, no catalyst
- CVD: *Solid State Comm*. **135** 67 (2005) (NIMS, Zhi. Bando, Golberg) CVD NH_3 B_2O_3 from MgO/B powder
- *High Temp, High Pressure, Laser vaporization: Nanotechnology **20** 505604 (2009) (NIA/NASA/Jlab) High Temperature, Pressure (HTP) BNNT, Free Electron Laser/CO_2 Laser*
- High Temp Induction Thermal Plasma: *ACS Nano* **8** 6211 (2014) (NRC Canada, Kim, Kingston, Simard): 20g/hr, need H_2
- High Temp, High Press Induction Thermal Plasma: NL 14 4881 (2014) (UC Berkeley, Zettl): 35g/hr


1994
1st prediction

1994

1995
1st synthesis
Arc Discharge

1996-synthesis
1) Arc discharge
2) Laser heating cBN

1998-synthesis
1st laser ablation
BN powder

1999-synthesis
1st Ball milling

2000-synthesis
1st CVD

2001-synthesis
CO_2 laser

2005-synthesis
CVD

2009-synthesis&production
significant yeild
High Temp & Pressure
FEL/CO_2 laser

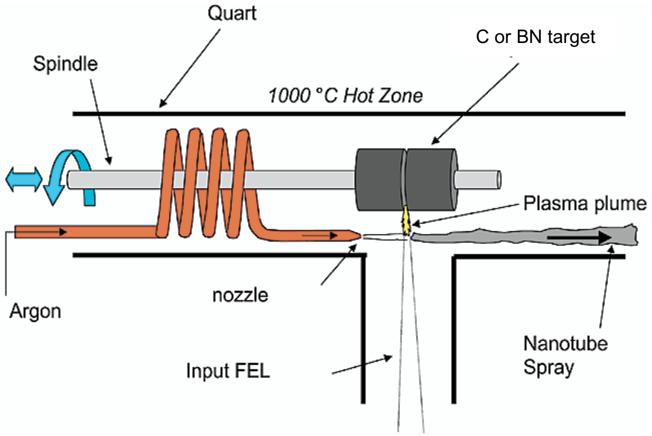
2009

2014-production
plasma synthesis
H_2 Catalysis (20 g/hr)
High Temp & Pressure
Plasma (35 g/hr)

BNNT Synthesis

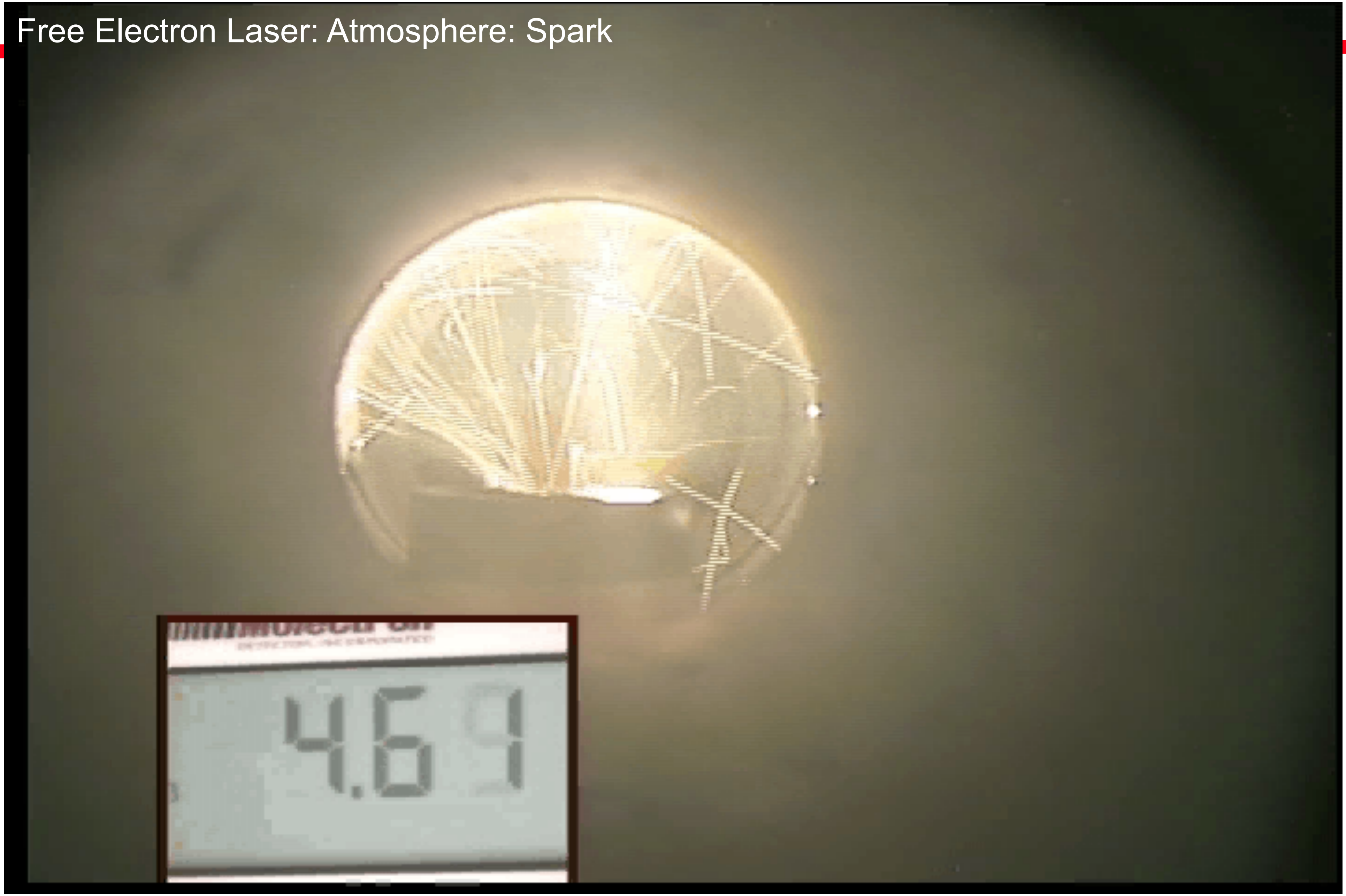
High Temperature-Pressure (HTP) BNNT

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



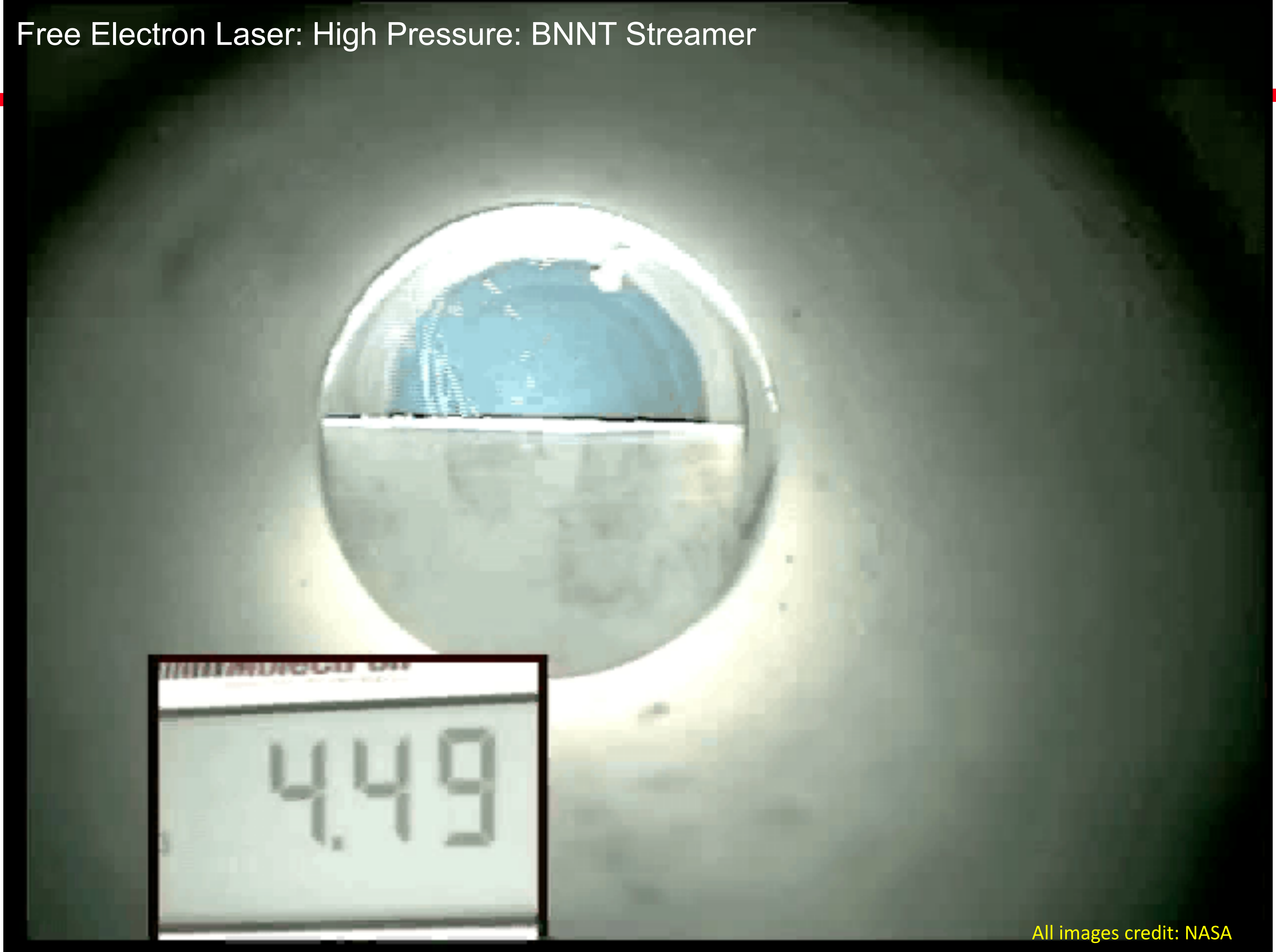
Nanotechnology, **20** 505604 (2009)
US Patent 8206674 B2 (2012)

Free Electron Laser: Atmosphere: Spark



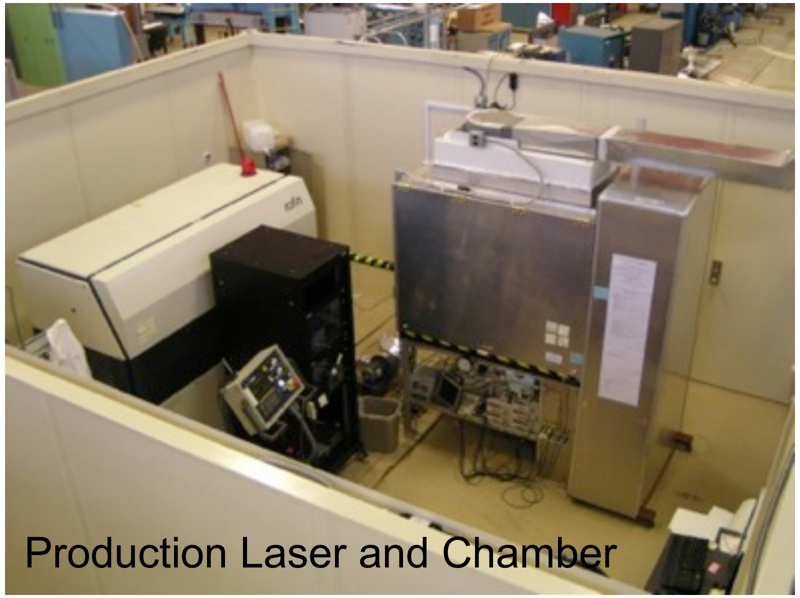
All images credit: NASA

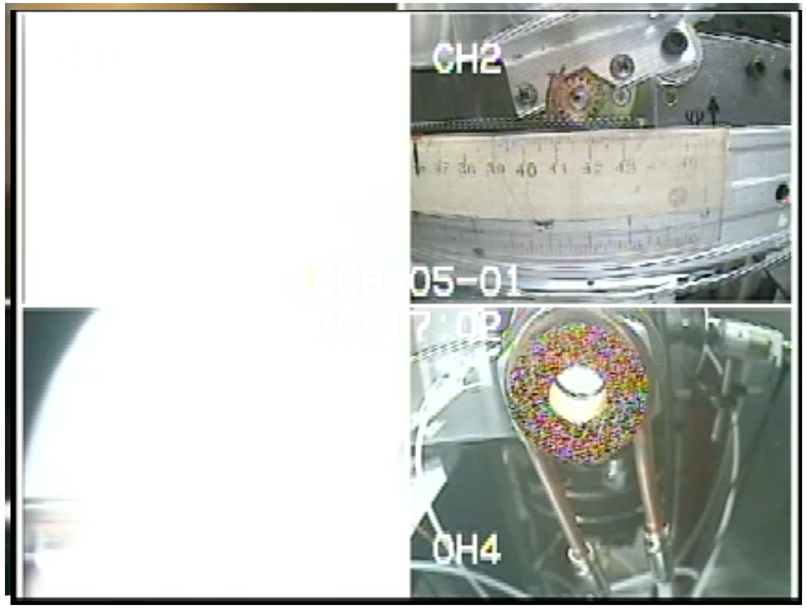
Free Electron Laser: High Pressure: BNNT Streamer

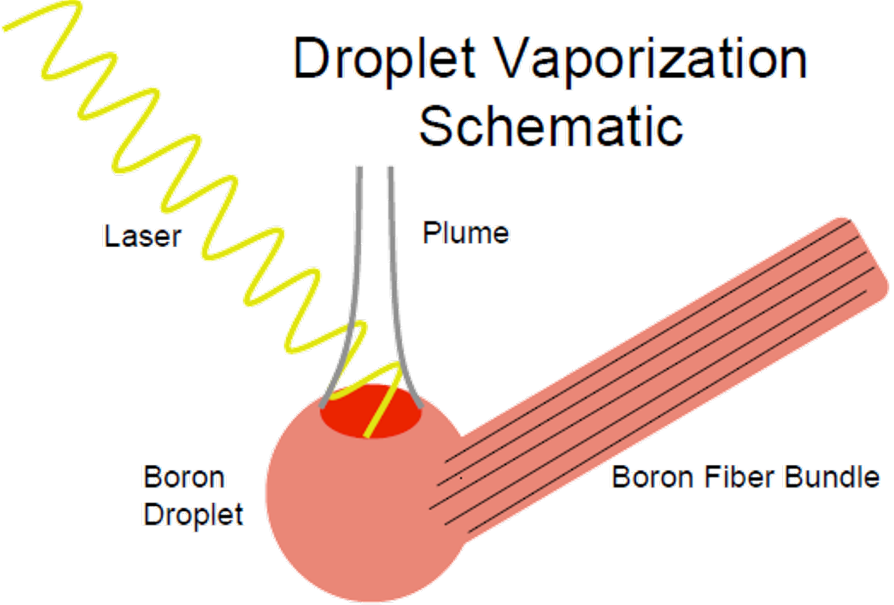


All images credit: NASA

BNNT Synthesis Lab: NASA Langley (1st Gen)


Production Laser and Chamber



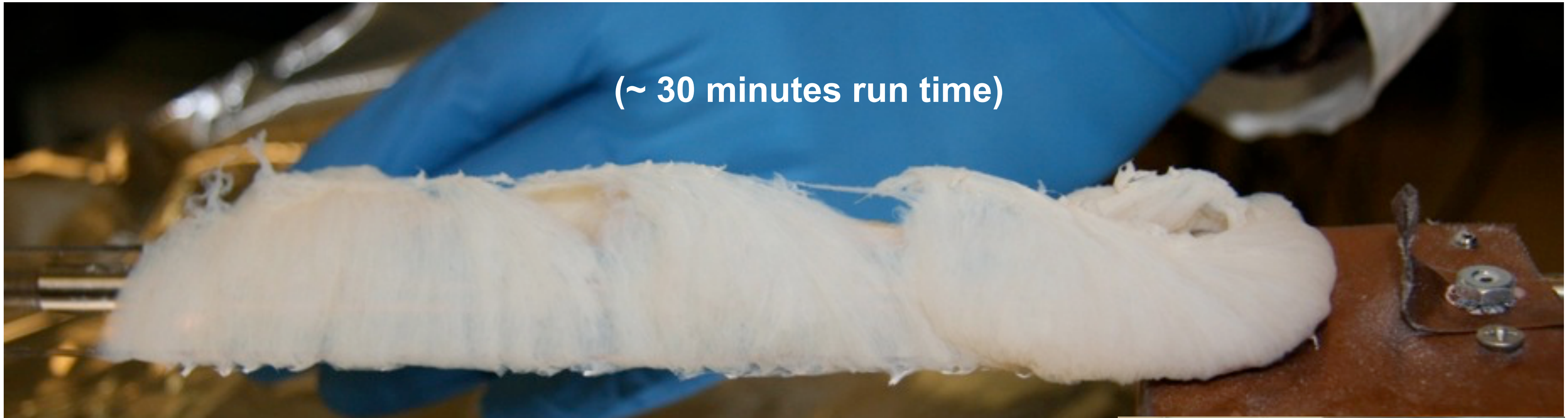


- 5 kW of infrared radiation @ 10.6μm
- Heat source for vaporizing Boron feed stock above 3500ºC
- Pressurized with Nitrogen to 13.6 atm (200 psi)

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

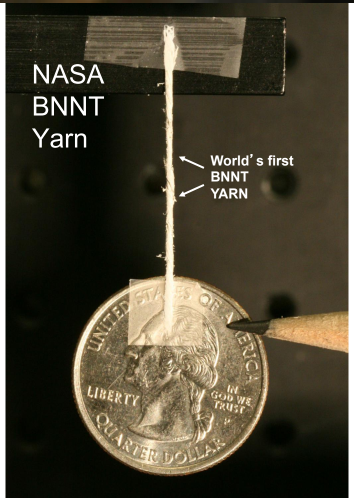
All images credit: NASA

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



Benefits

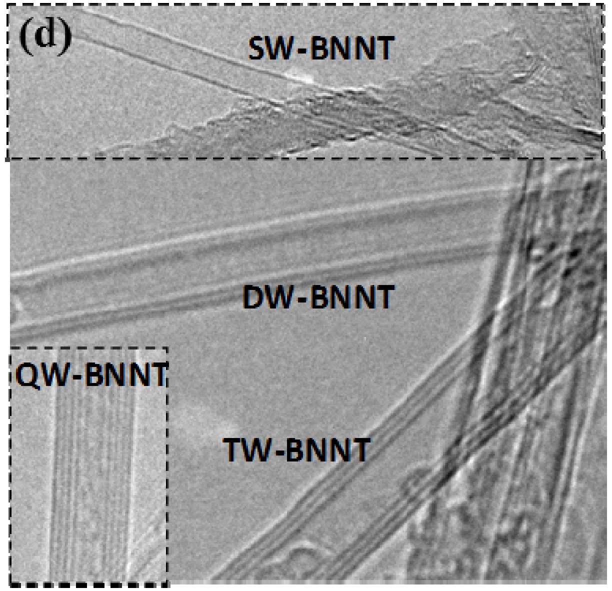
- One-to-few-walled tubes with high crystallinity
- Very long, high-aspect ratio tubes
- High scale-up potential
- No toxic catalysts (only B and N as reactants)
- Standard industrial cutting/welding lasers
- High service temperature (over 800ºC)
- Highly electroactive (due to the B-N polar bond)
- Neutron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

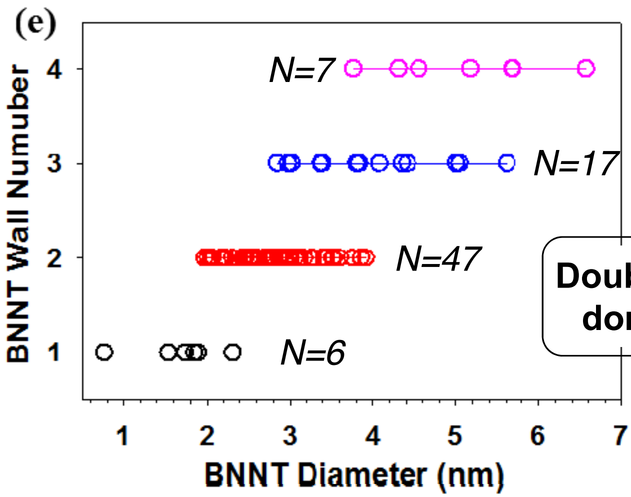


(From: M. W. Smith et al, Nanotechnology, 20, 505604 (2009))

Nanotube Wall Number and Distribution of HTP-BNNTs

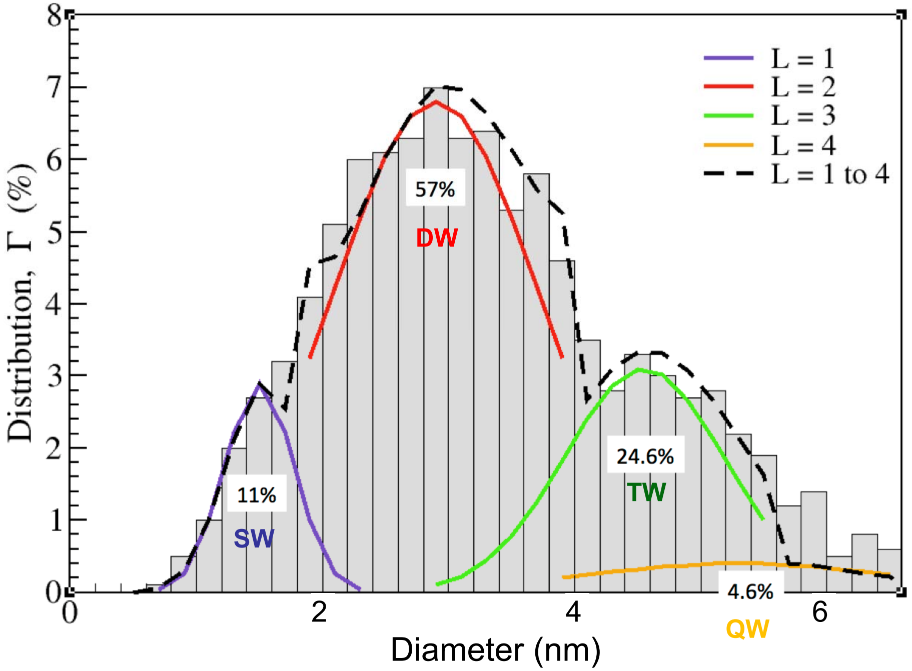
TEM Micrographs



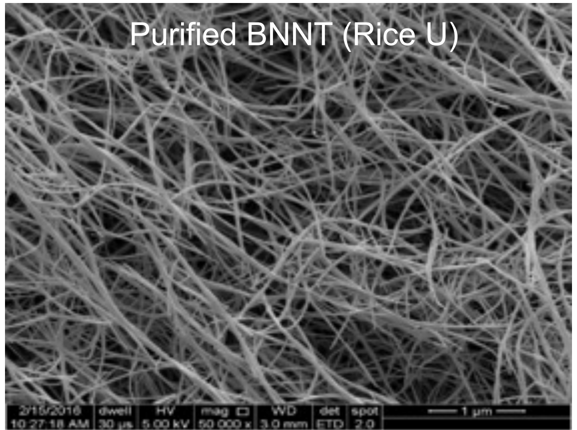


Double-walled dominance

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



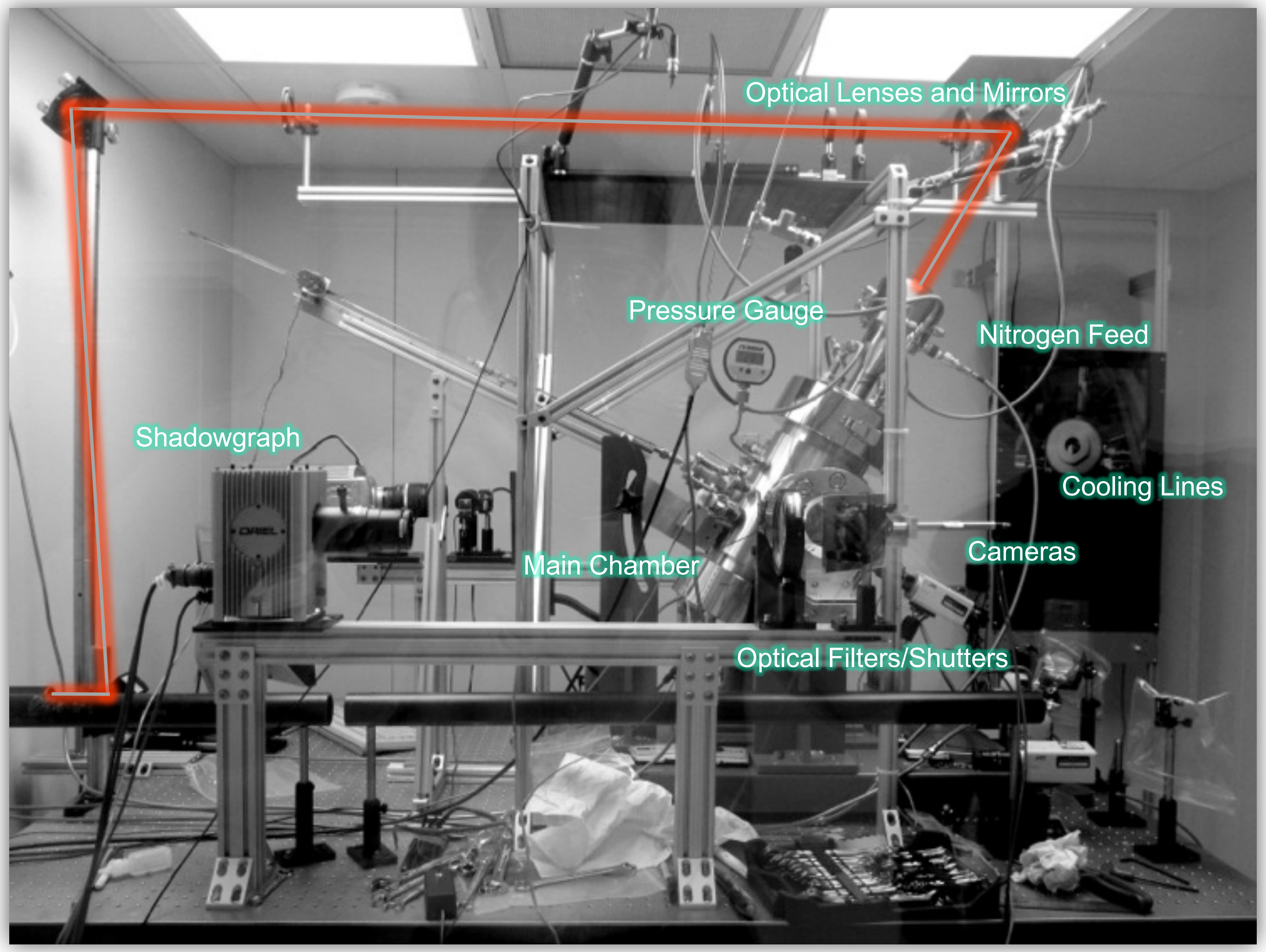
SW: 11%
DW: 57%
TW: 24.6%
QW: 4.6%
Total: 97.2%


Purified BNNT (Rice U)

Nanotechnology, **23** 095703 (2012)

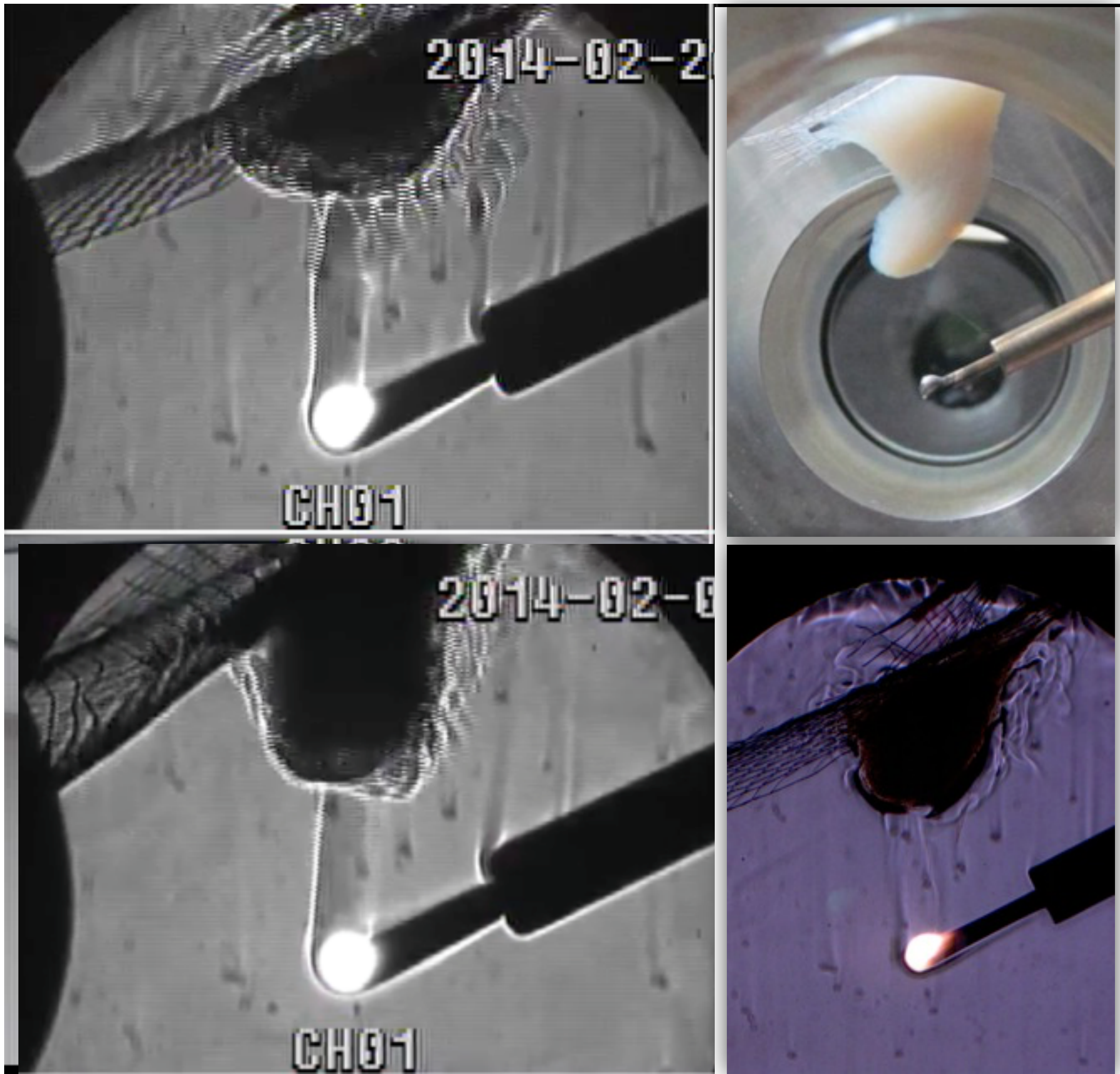
Comp. Mater. Sci., **135** 29 (2017)

National Institute of Aerospace (NIA) BNNT Science Chamber



All images credit: NASA/NIA

NIA Science Rig HTP BNNT Run (Snapshots)

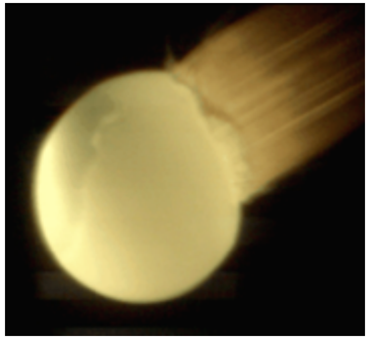


All images credit: NASA/NIA

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

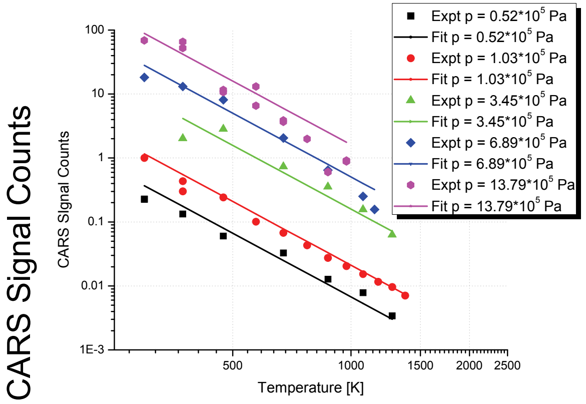
In-situ Optical Diagnostics

- Understand chemistry and flow physics of nanotube generation
- Improve and validate simulation/modeling
- Optimize material properties, production rate
- Specific Goals:
    - Determine gas and melt-ball temperatures
    - Determine amount of B_2, B, BN, N and N_2
- In-situ, on-surface measurement:
    - High speed imaging; high speed (1 kHz) optical pyrometer being developed to study melt-ball dynamics
- Off-surface, gas phase measurement:
    - High-speed, high-resolution imaging
        - Shadowgraph and visible emission
    - Species sensitive imaging (BN PLIF)
    - Temperature measurements (CARS)



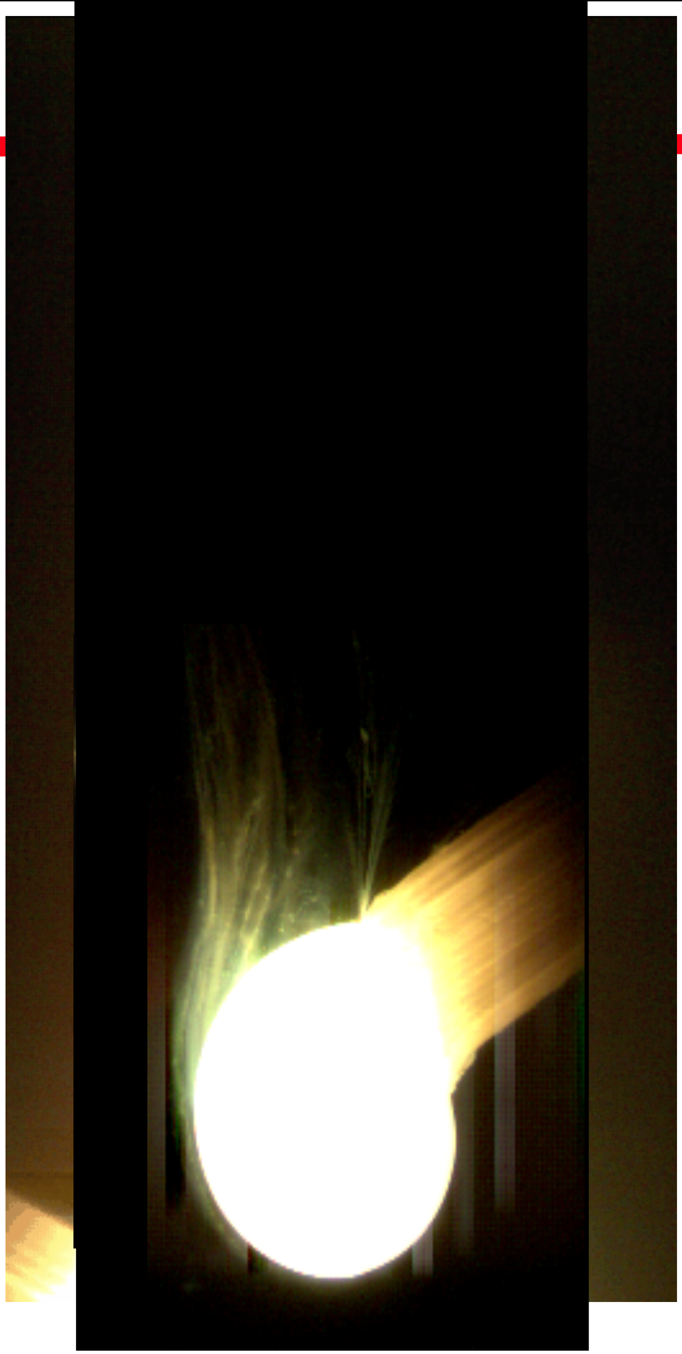
High Speed Camera

Shadowgraph



CARS Intensity Measurement

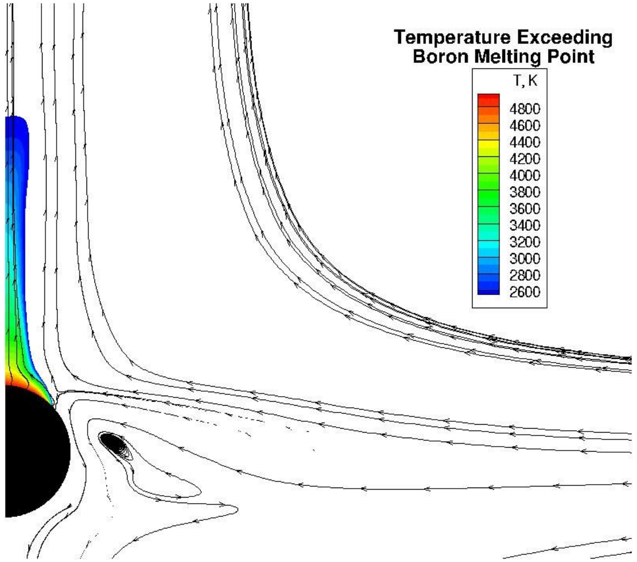
Jennifer Inman, Paul Danehy, Steve Jones, Joe Lee (D304), Andrew Cuttler (GWU)



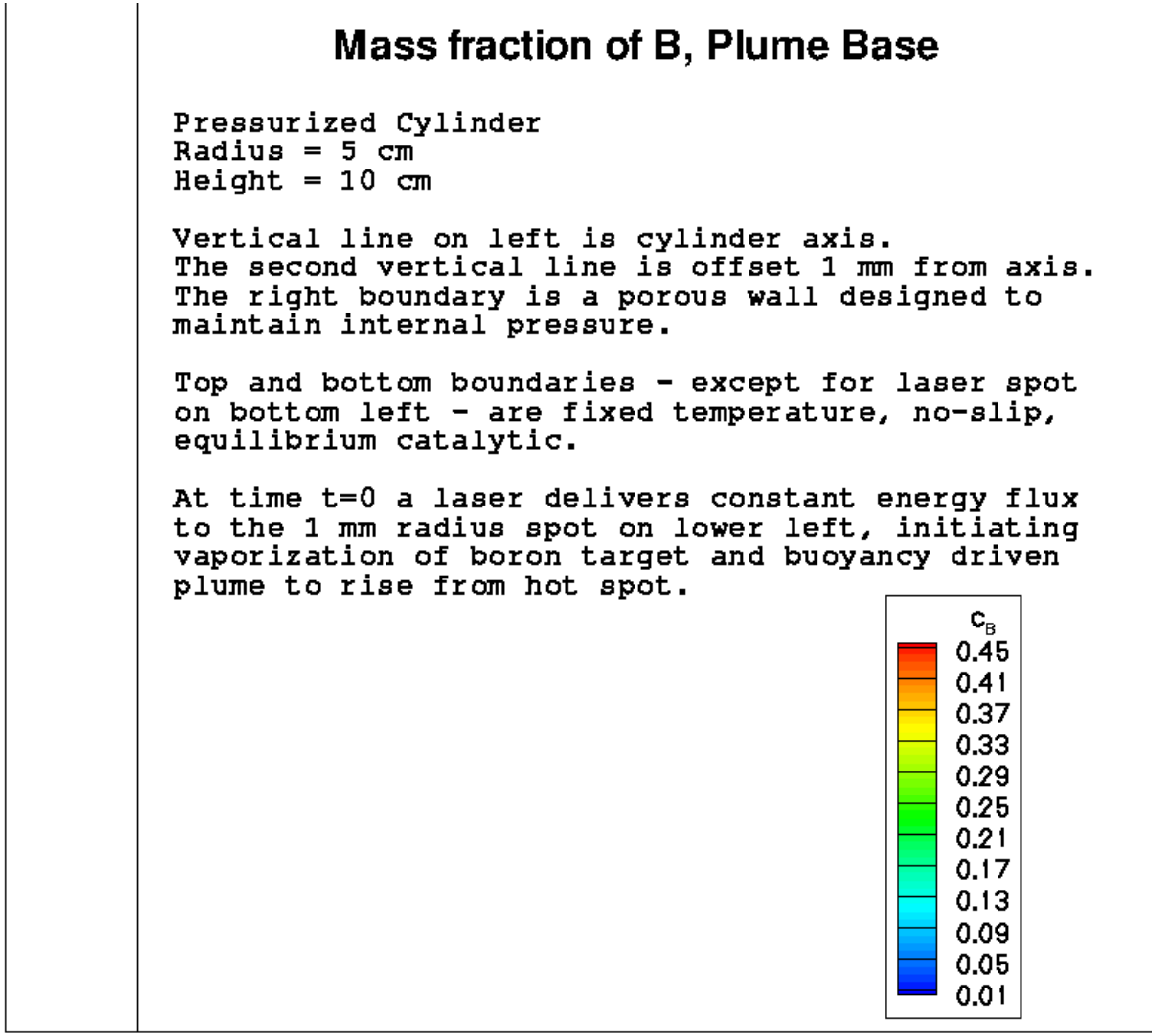
AIAA SciTech2014-1098 (2014)
Proc. SPIE **9060** 906006 (2014)

All images credit: NASA/NIA

Modeling of Laser Ablation and Plume Chemistry in a Boron Nitride Nanotube Production Rig



Contour lines of temperatures and mass fraction of BN in the plume



Mass fraction of B, Plume Base

Pressurized Cylinder
Radius = 5 cm
Height = 10 cm

Vertical line on left is cylinder axis. The second vertical line is offset 1 mm from axis. The right boundary is a porous wall designed to maintain internal pressure.

Top and bottom boundaries - except for laser spot on bottom left - are fixed temperature, no-slip, equilibrium catalytic.

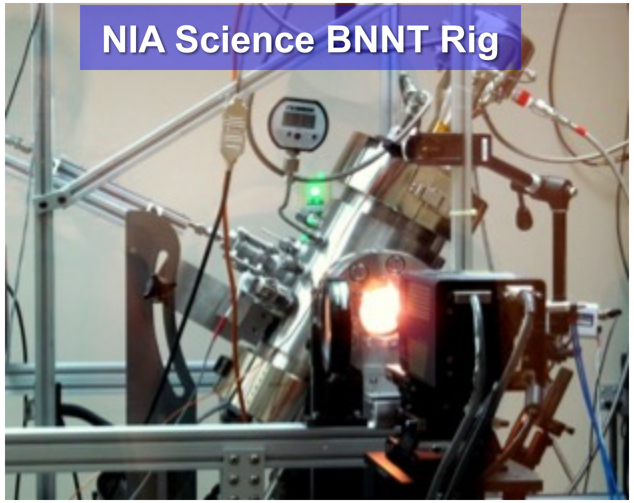
At time t=0 a laser delivers constant energy flux to the 1 mm radius spot on lower left, initiating vaporization of boron target and buoyancy driven plume to rise from hot spot.

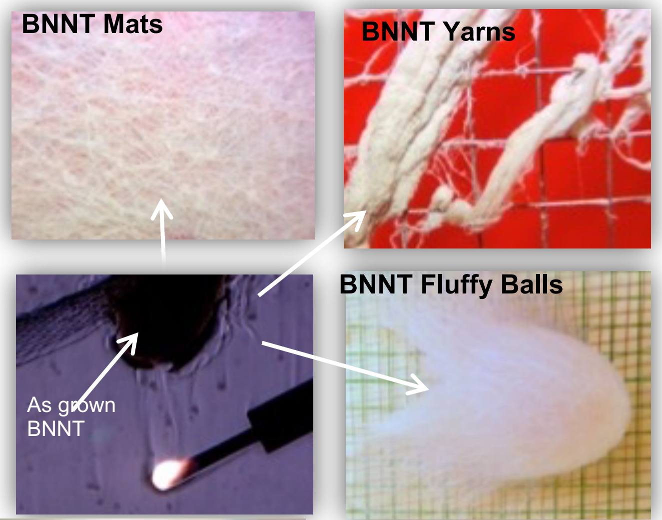
Peter Gnoffo (D305)
Aerothermodynamics Branch
LAURA Code

Proc. SPIE **9060** 906006 (201
J. Thermophysics and Heat Transfer **27** 369 (2

All images credit: NASA

BNNT Scale-Up and Various Forms of BNNT

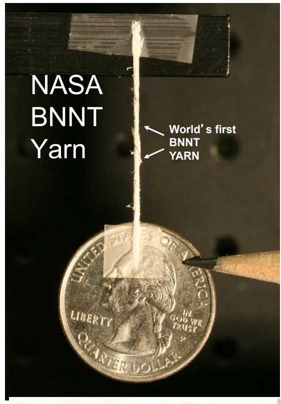

NIA Science BNNT Rig

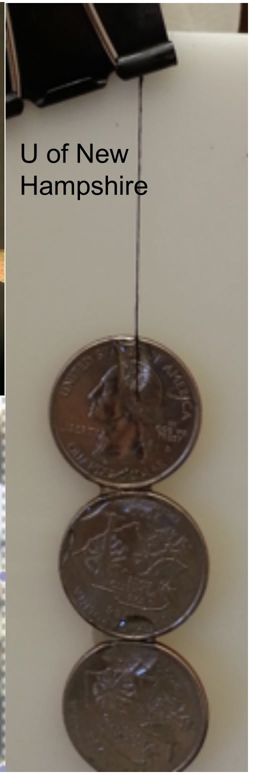

BNNT Mats

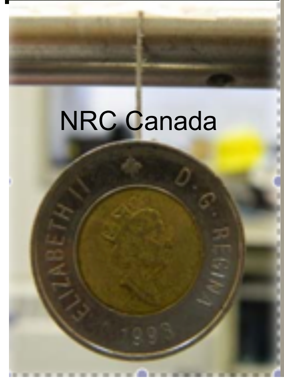
BNNT Yarns

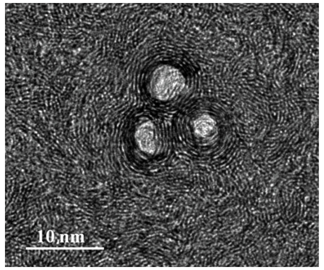
As grown BNNT

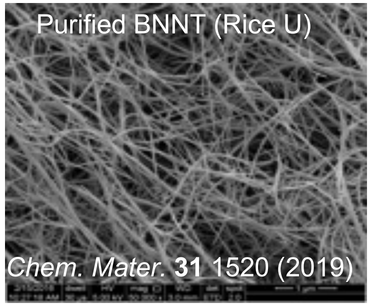
BNNT Fluffy Balls


NASA BNNT Yarn

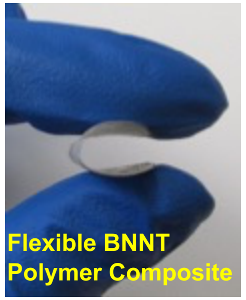

U of New Hampshire


NRC Canada

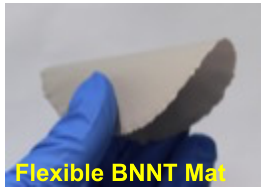


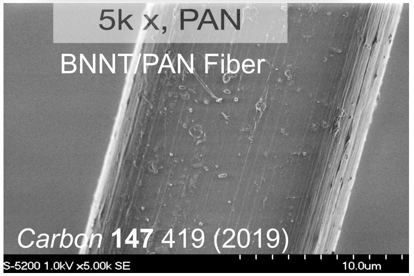

Purified BNNT (Rice U)

Chem. Mater. **31** 1520 (2019)


Flexible BNNT Polymer Composite


BNNT Mat


Flexible BNNT Mat


5k x, PAN

BNNT/PAN Fiber

Carbon **147** 419 (2019)


First Successful BNNT Scale-Up

BNNT LLC

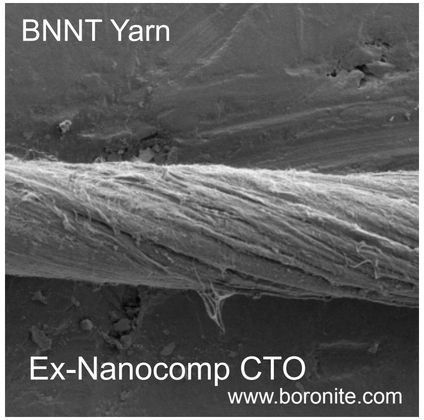

www.bnnt.com

BNNT LLC


180g BNNT

ACS Nano **8** 6211 (2014)

NRC Canada (Tekna)


BNNT Yarn

Ex-Nanocomp CTO

www.boronite.com

Boronite Corp

Dispersion and Purification

Thermodynamic Approach: Effective BNNT Dispersion

Essential for Quality Yarn, Fabric, and Composite Formation

Thermodynamic Approach:
Gibbs Free Energy of Mixing

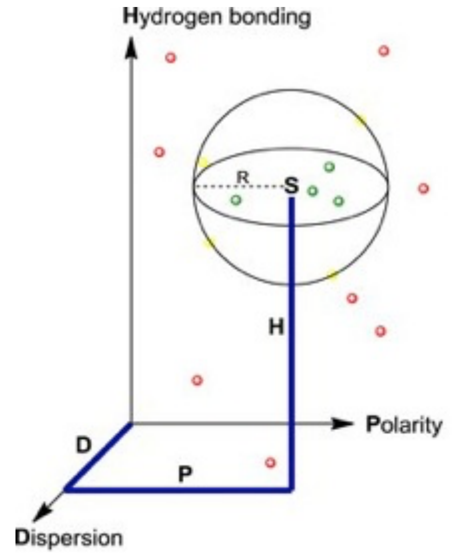
$$\Delta G_{mix} = \Delta H_{mix}\downarrow - T^*\Delta S_{mix}\uparrow$$

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

Hansen Solubility Parameters (HSP)
(d_d, d_p, d_h): “like dissolves like”

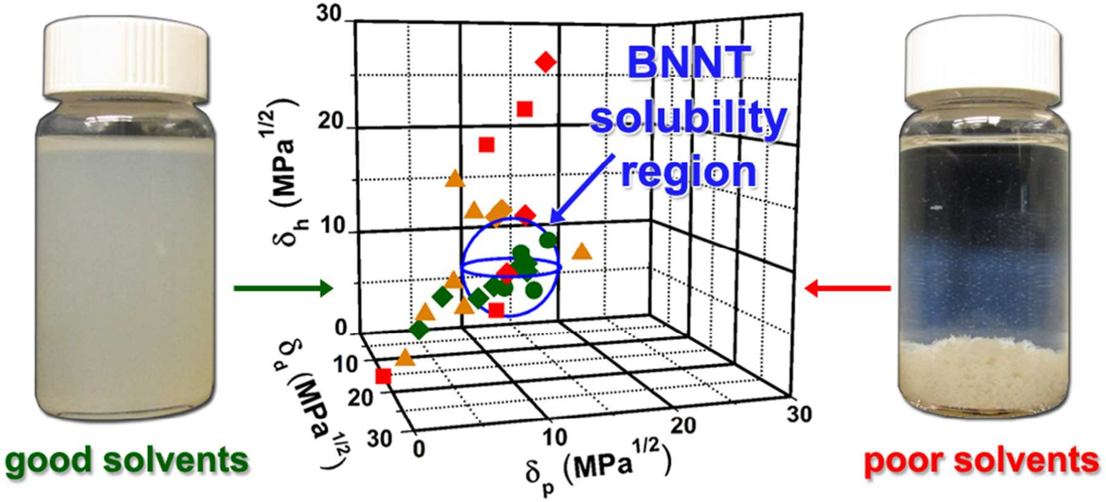
$$\delta_t^2 = \delta_d^2 + \delta_p^2 + \delta_h^2$$

d_t^2: Hildebrand parameter
d_d: dispersion component
d_p: polar component
d_h: hydrogen bonding component



Example of 3D Hansen space*

Single and Co-solvents



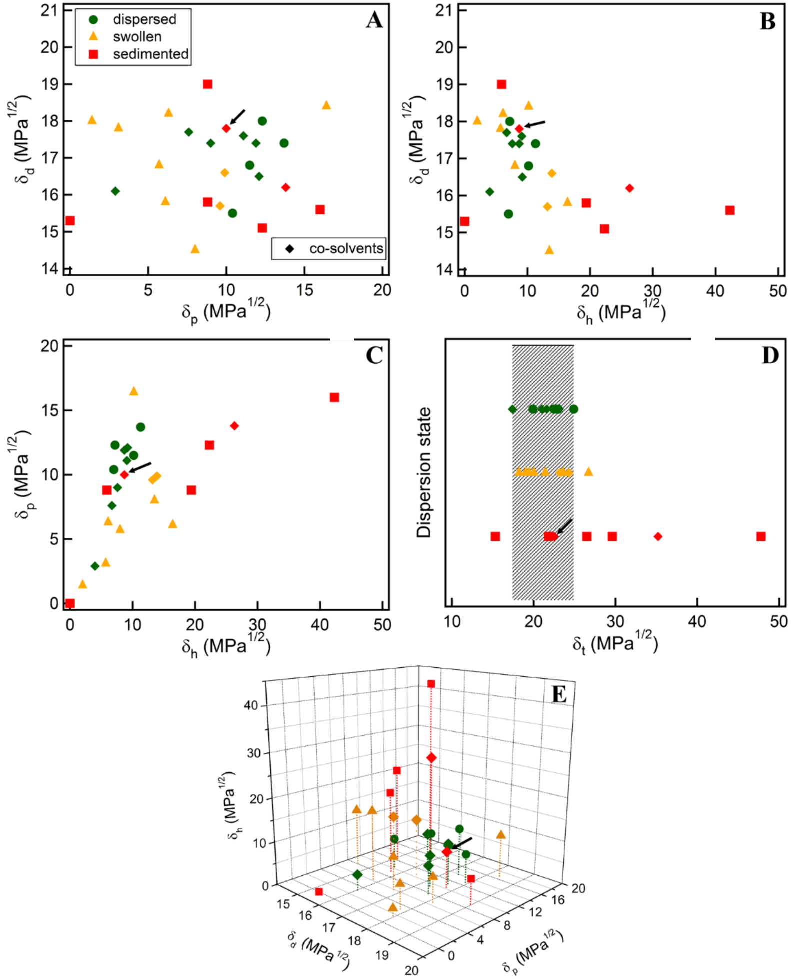
BNNT Hansen Solubility Parameters
δ_d, δ_p, δ_h = 16.8, 10.7, 9.0 MPa$^{1/2}$
δ_t = 21.8 MPa$^{1/2}$

Nanoscale **8** 4348 (2016)

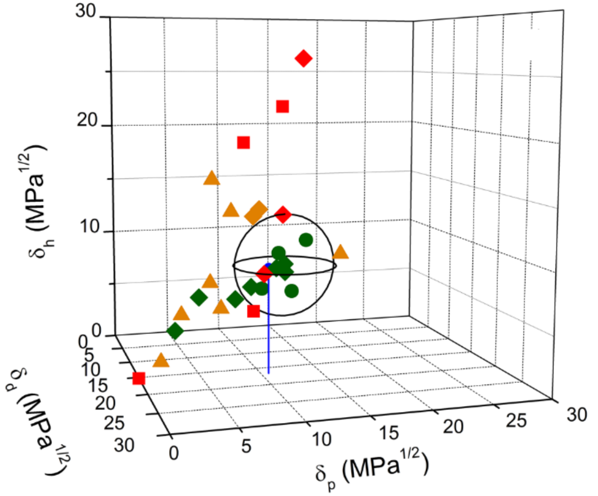
*http://confidentsolventselection.com/about/solubility-parameters.html

Dispersion: Dispersion State of Single and Co-solvents

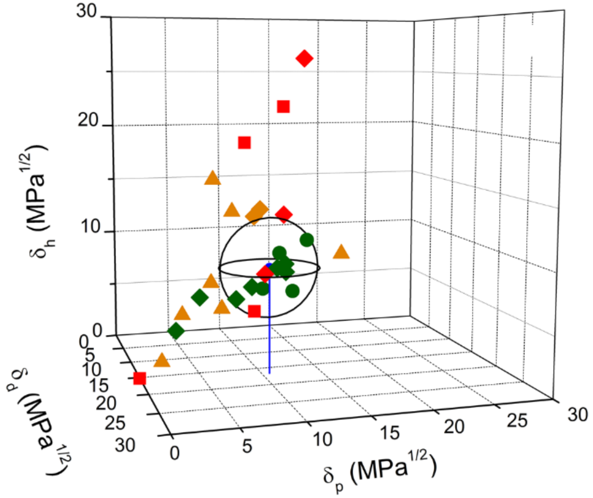
Co-solvent	δ_d, MPa$^{1/2}$	δ_p, MPa$^{1/2}$	δ_h, MPa$^{1/2}$	δ_t, MPa$^{1/2}$	Dispersion state (stirring only)	Dispersion state (stirring + 30 mins sonication)	R_a[c]	RED[d]
THF-NMP	17.4	9.0	7.6	21.0	swollen	dispersed/swollen[b]	2.51	0.58
DMF-acetone	16.5	12.1	9.2	22.4	swollen[a]	dispersed/swollen[b]	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

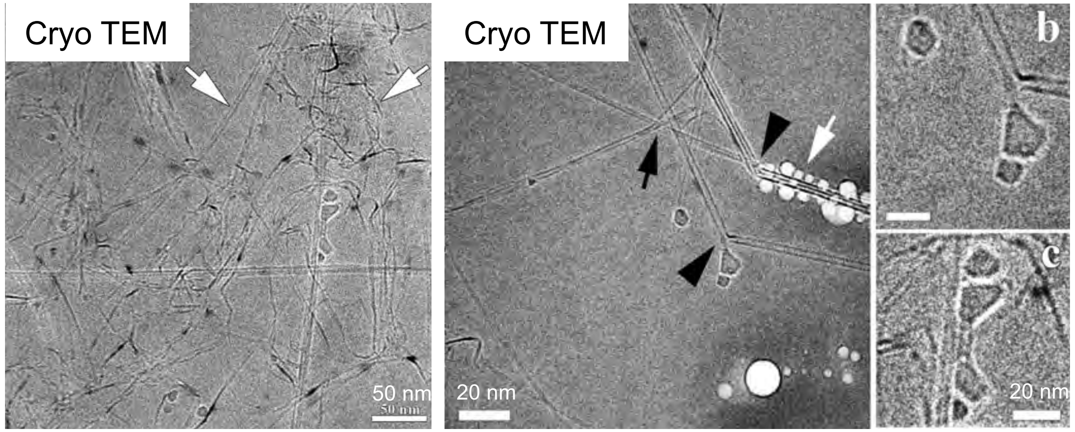
δ_d, δ_p, δ_h = 16.8, 10.7, 9.0 MPa$^{1/2}$

δ_t = 21.8 MPa$^{1/2}$

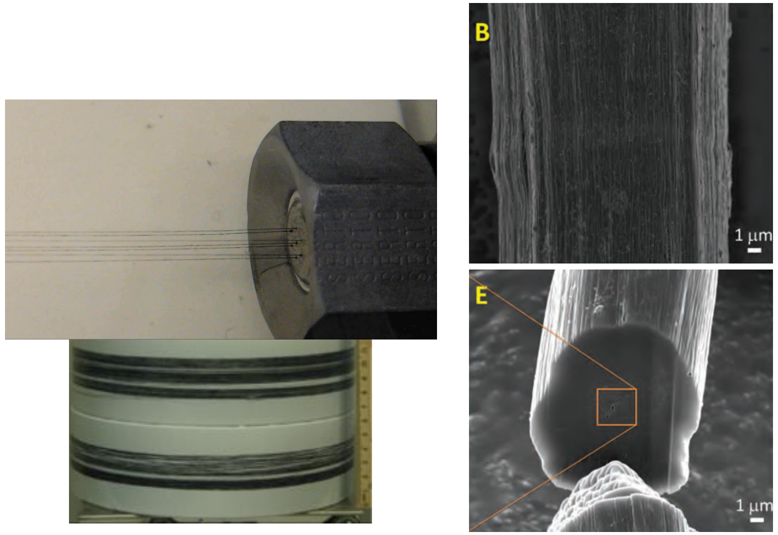
Nanoscale **8** 4348 (2016)

Dispersion and Purification

Dispersion in a Superacid (Chlorosulfuric acid)



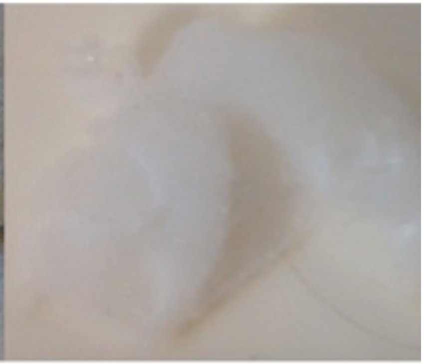
BNNT in Chlorosulfuric acid (HSO_3Cl)



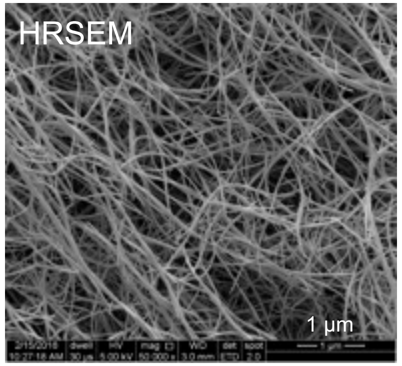
Rice U Nanotube Spinning (*Science* **339** 182 (2013))

Purification: Wet Thermal Oxidation

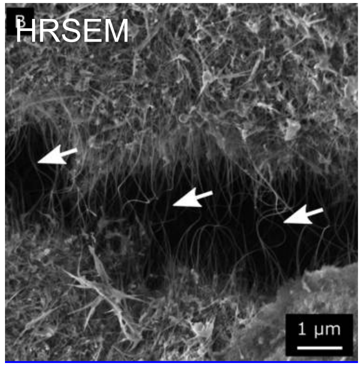
As grown BNNT



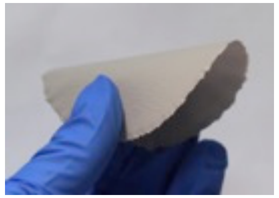
Purified BNNT



Purified BNNT



BNNT Film (superacid)



Flexible
BNNT Mat

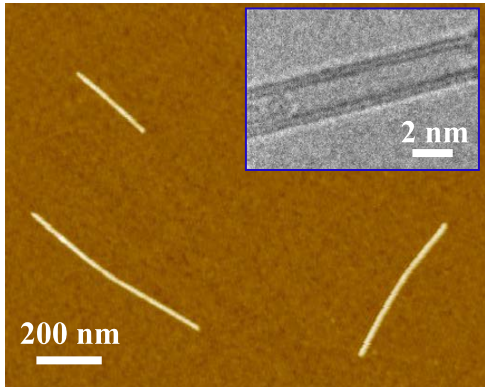
Credit: Prof Pasquali Group at Rice University

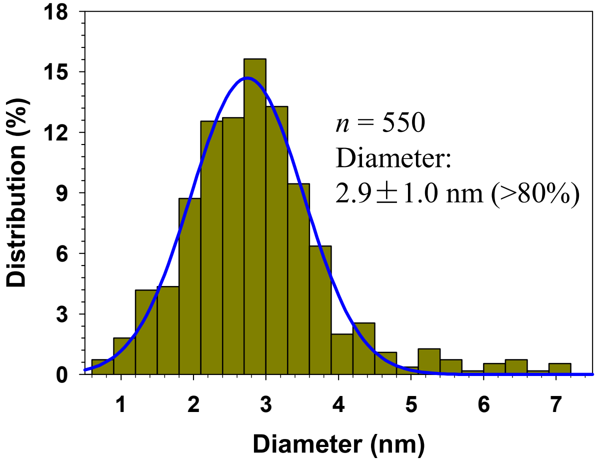
Langmuir **33** 14340 (2017), *Nano Lett* **18** 1615 (2018), *Chem. Mater.* **31** 1520 (2019)

Mechanical and Thermal Properties

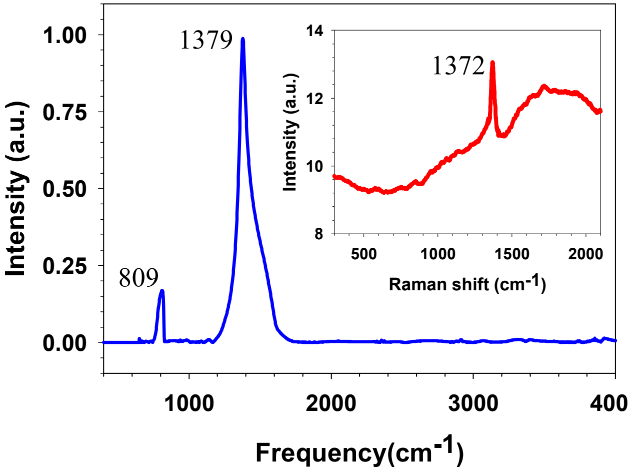
In-situ Single BNNT Test inside of an SEM

AFM

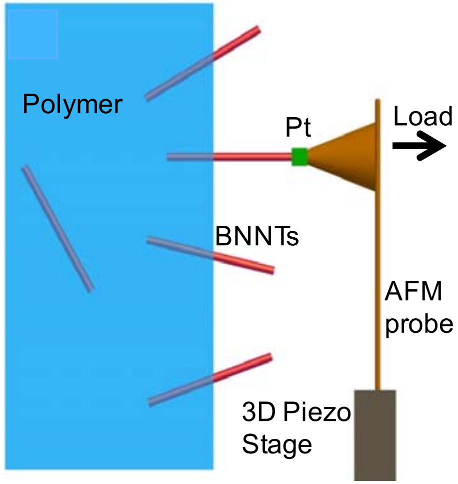




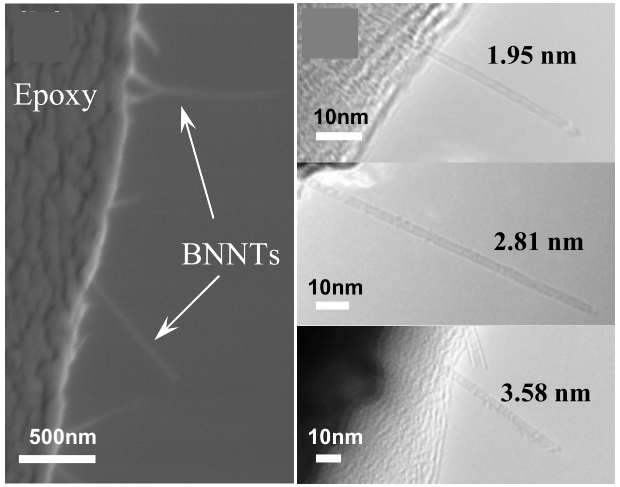
FTIR and Raman



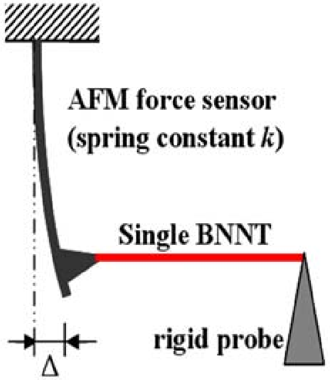
Pull-Out Test

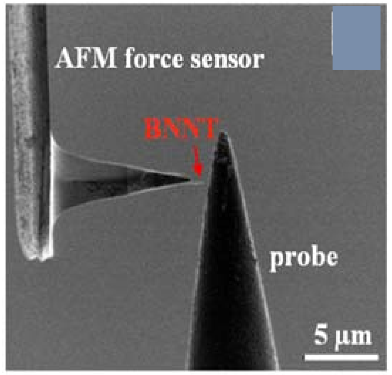


SEM



Tensile Test



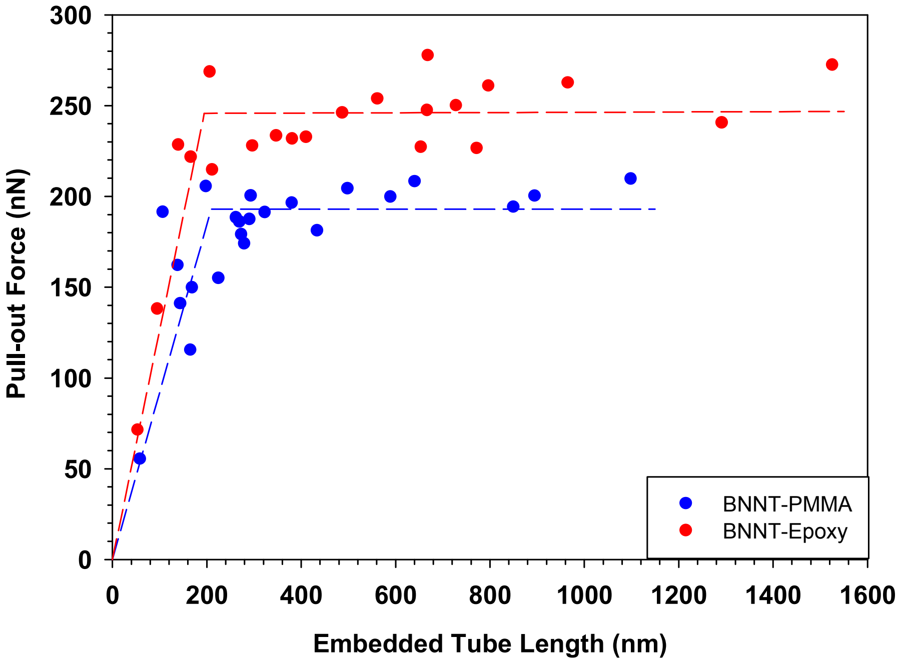


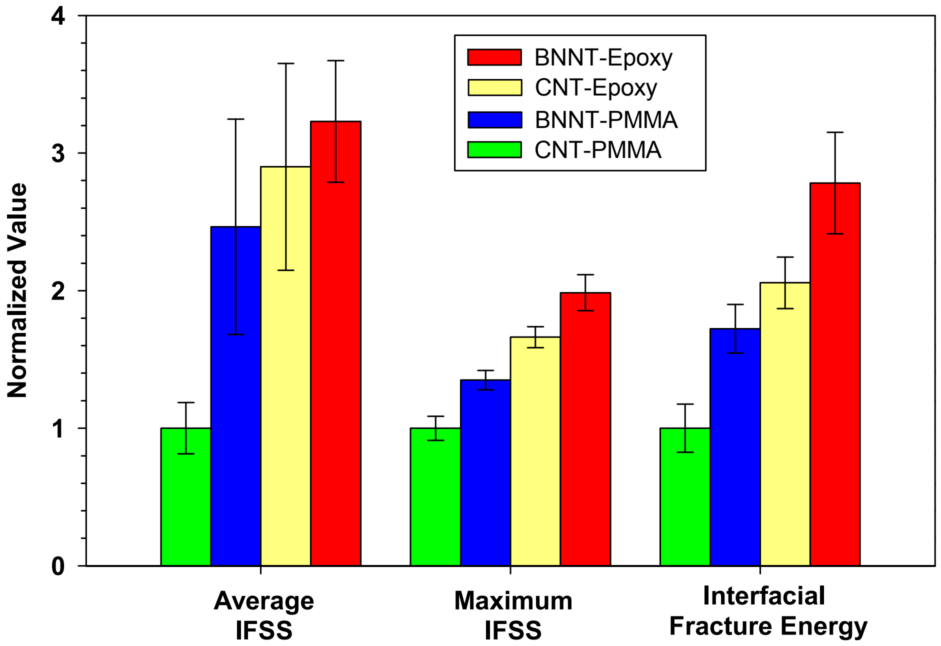
Small **9** 3345 (2013), Carbon **82** 214 (2015), *APL* **107** 253105 (2015)
Carbon **25** 93 (2017), *Carbon* **132** 548 (2018)

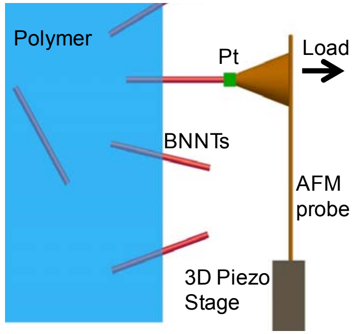
Credit: Prof Ke (SUNY Binghamton)

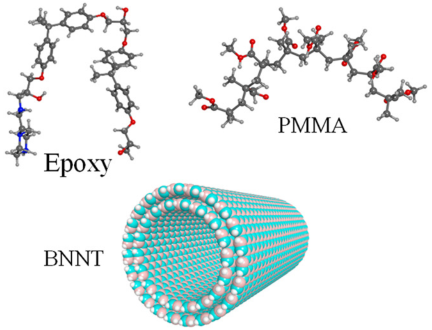
FEI Nanolab 600

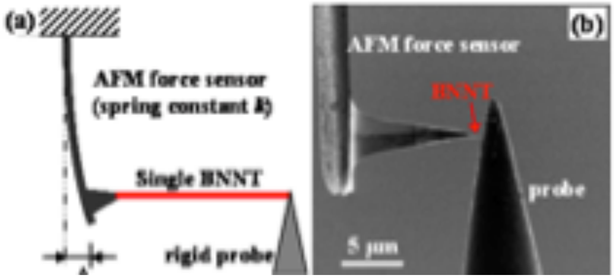
Interfacial Strength: *In-situ* Single Nanotube Pull-Out Test











BNNT Tensile Test Results

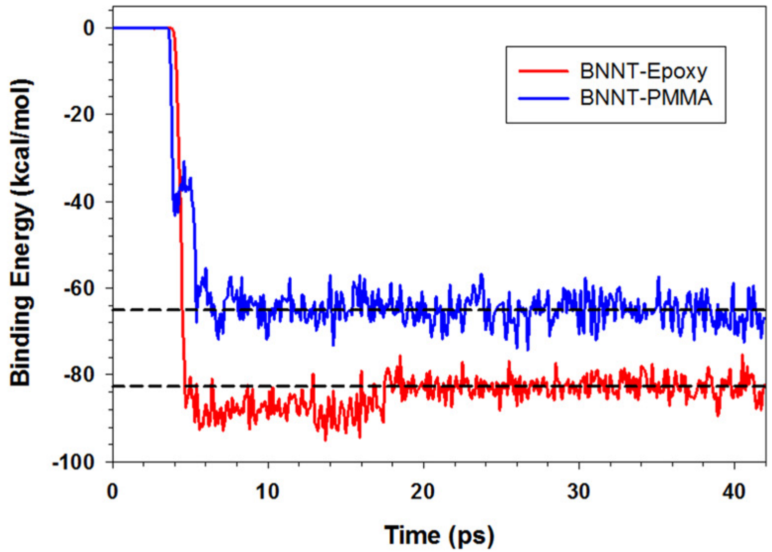
Diameter	Elastic modulus (GPa)	Breaking Strength (GPa)
D = 2.5 nm	760-960	14-38

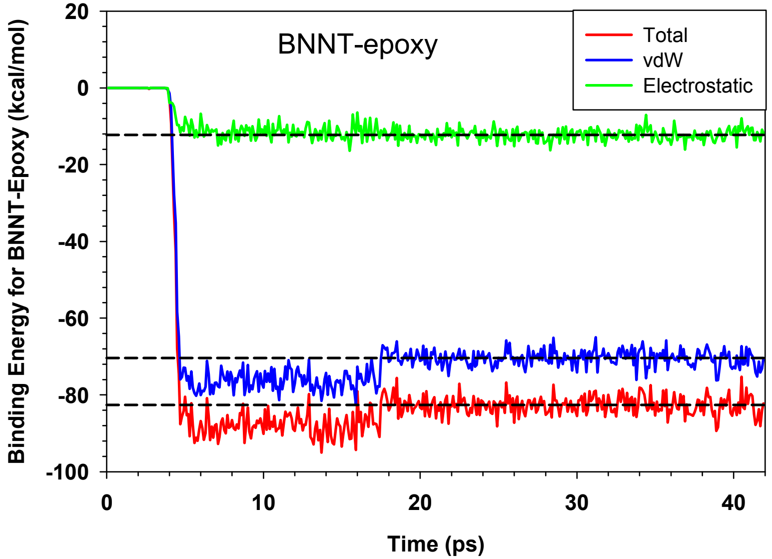
Small **9** 3345 (2013), Carbon **82** 214 (2015), *APL* **107** 253105 (2015)

Credit: Prof Ke (SUNY Binghamton)

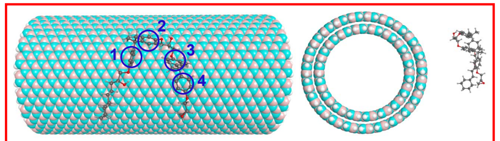
Interfacial Strength: *In-situ* Single Nanotube Pull-Out Test

Credit: Prof Ke (SUNY Binghamton)



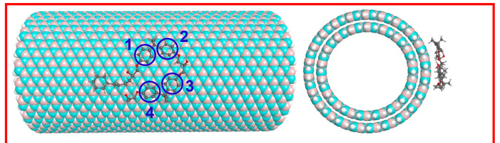


BNNT/Epoxy



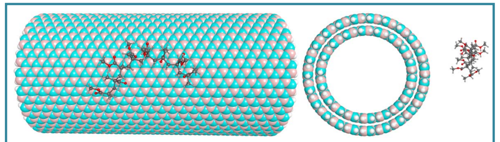
Initial configuration

BNNT/Epoxy



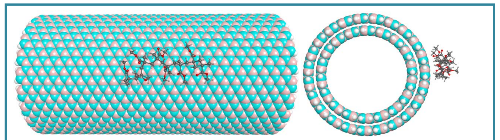
Relaxed configuration

BNNT/PMMA

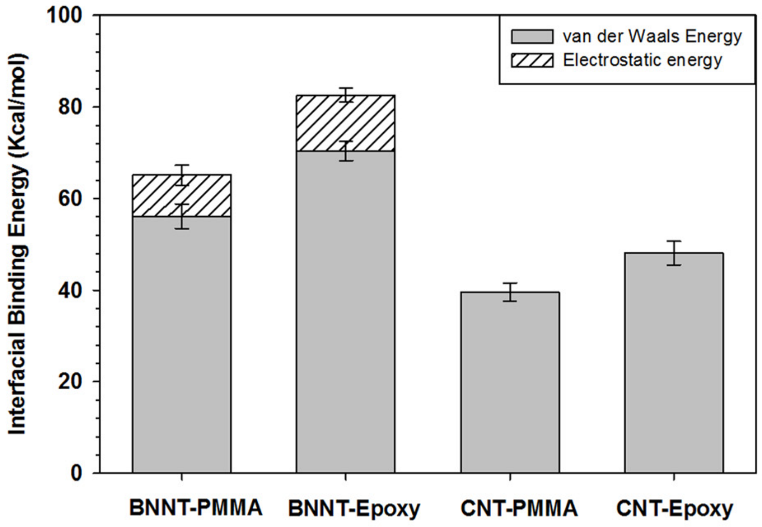


Initial configuration

BNNT/PMMA

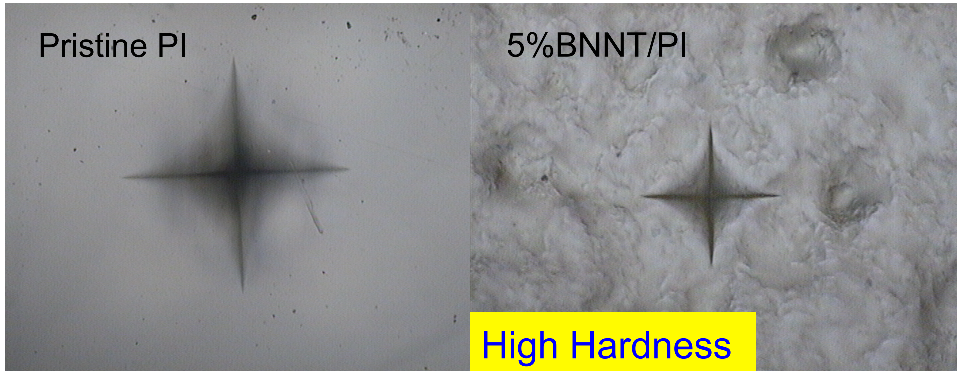


Relaxed configuration

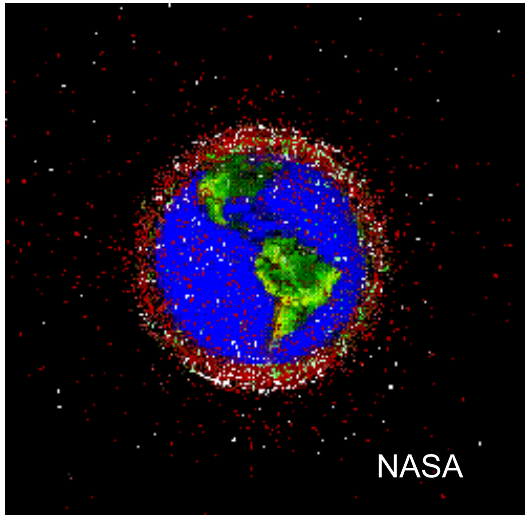


Small **9** 3345 (2013), Carbon **82** 214 (2015), *APL* **107** 253105 (2015)

High Velocity Laser Induced Micro-Bullet Impact Test: BNNT Nonwoven Mat (Micro-Ballistics)

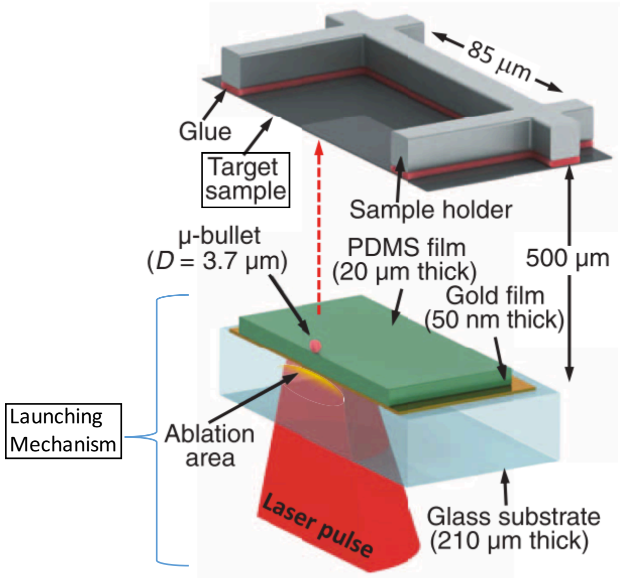


Simulated Micrometeorite Impact Test

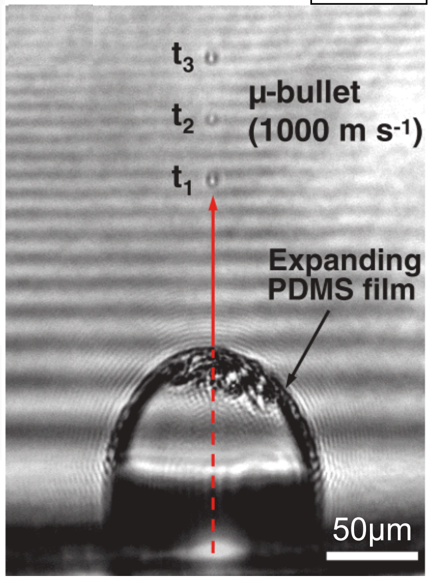


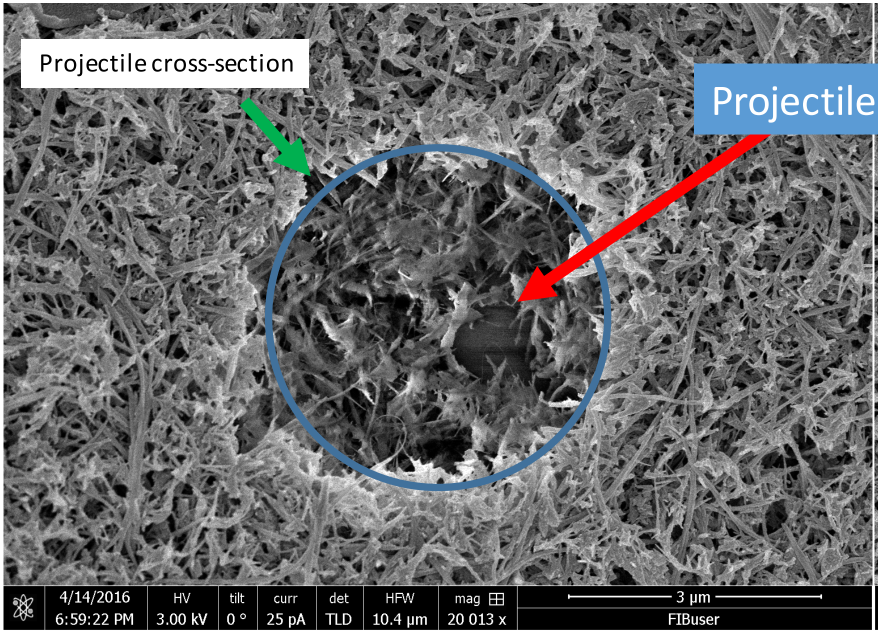
Ballistic Velocities: 100-1500 m/s

Laser Induced Projectile Impact Test (LIPIT)



Imaging Technique

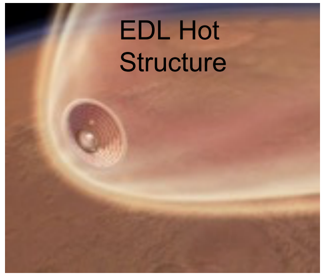


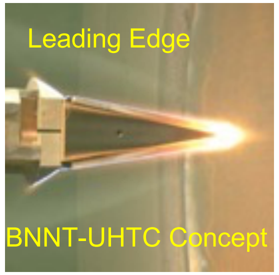


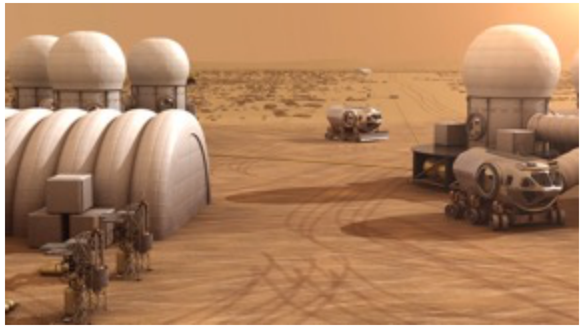
Lee, J.-H et. al. *Science* 346, 1092 (2014)

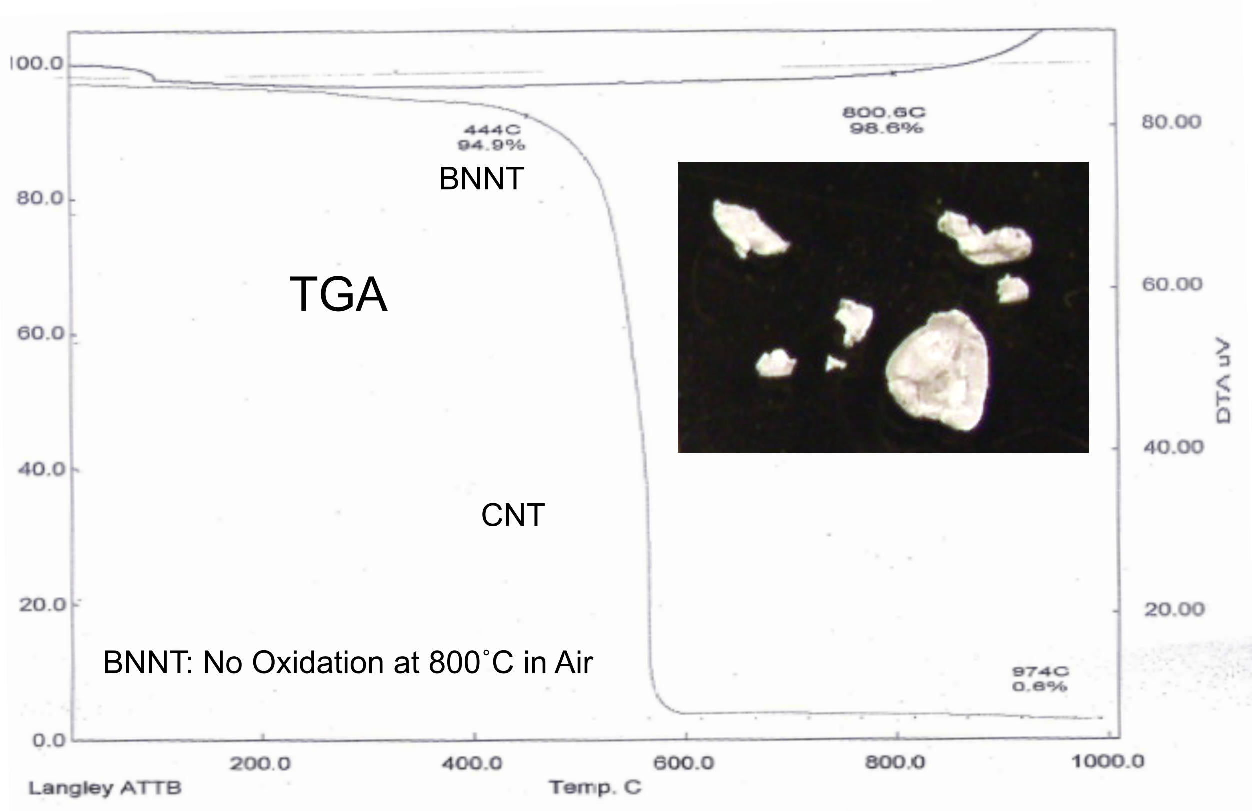
Rice University: Prof Ned Thomas group

Thermal Properties of BNNT









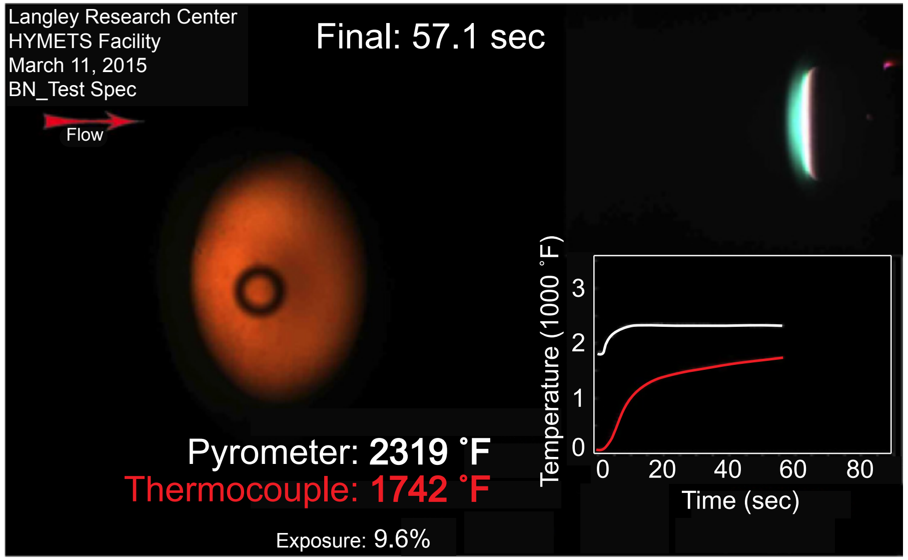
BNNT: No Oxidation at 800˚C in Air

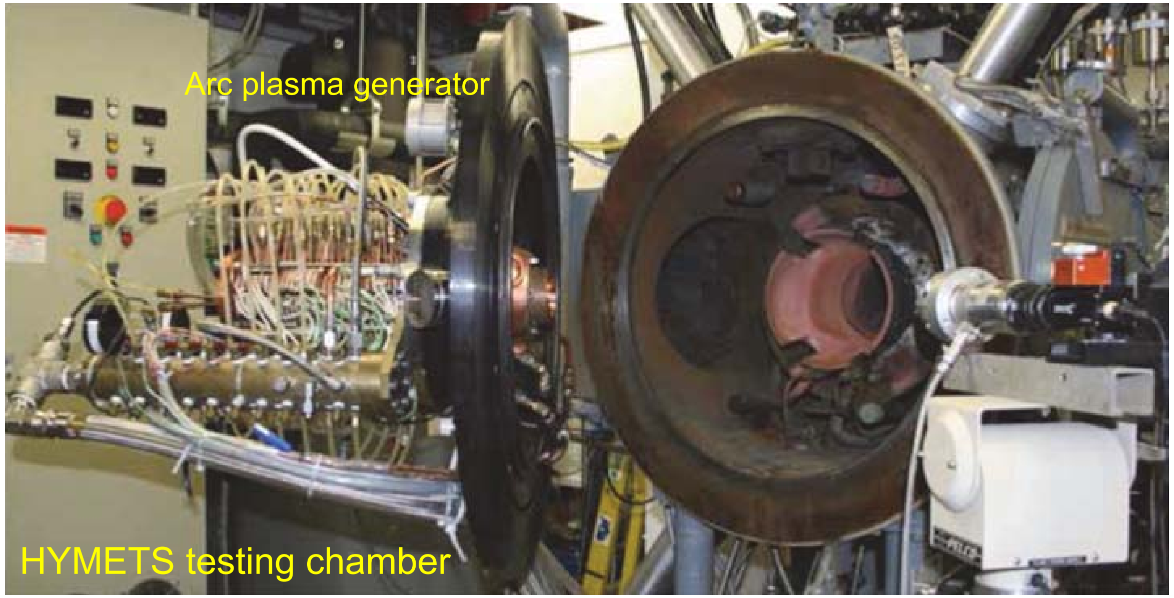
Nanotechnology, **20** 505604 (2009)

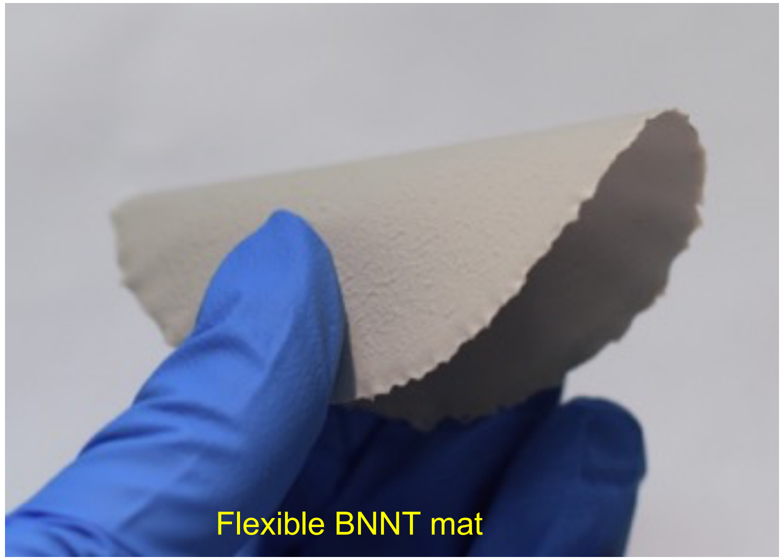
Hypersonic Materials Experiment Test System (HyMETS)

LaRC HYMETS Test Conditions
- Specimen Surface Temperature (°C): 1260
- 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/cm^2** (2nd Gen Mars EDL)
- Duration: 1 min - 5 min
- Atmosphere: Air (with 5% Ar)
- Cooled under Vacuum







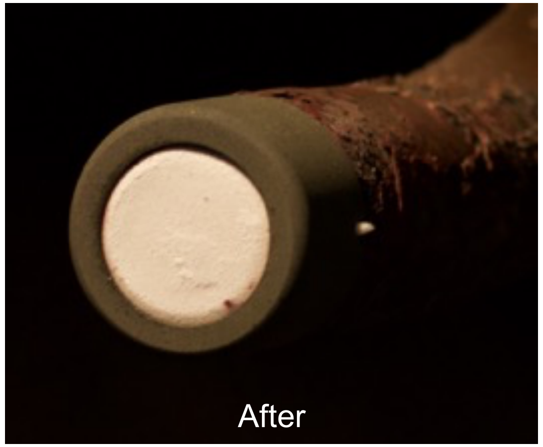
All images credit: NASA

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

Hypersonic Materials Experiment Test System (HYMETS)

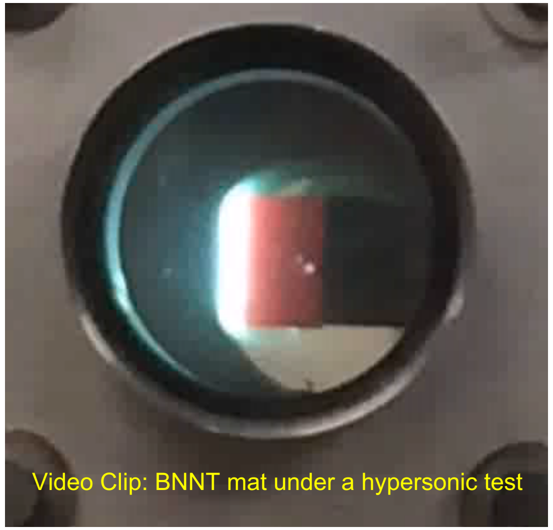
<u>Sample: BNNT Mat</u> <u>(as grown, nonwoven)</u>

- Fabricated by a vacuum filtration process
- Diameter: 25 mm, Thickness: 2 mm, Density: ~ 0.3 g/cm^3



<u>HYMETS Test Conditions</u>

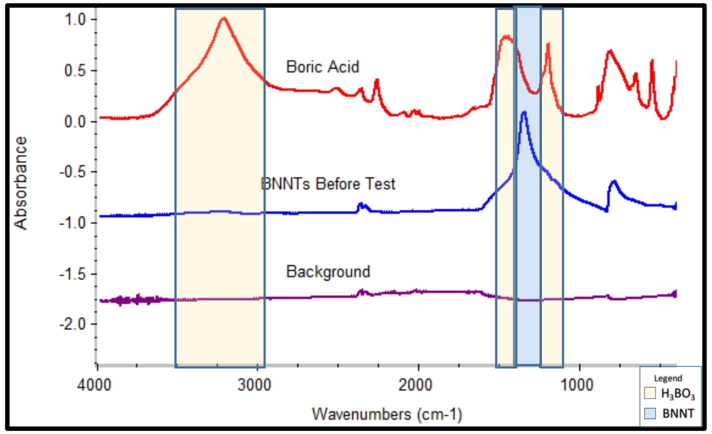
- Test duration: 1 min
- Surface temperature: 2400 ^{o}F (1315 ^{o}C)



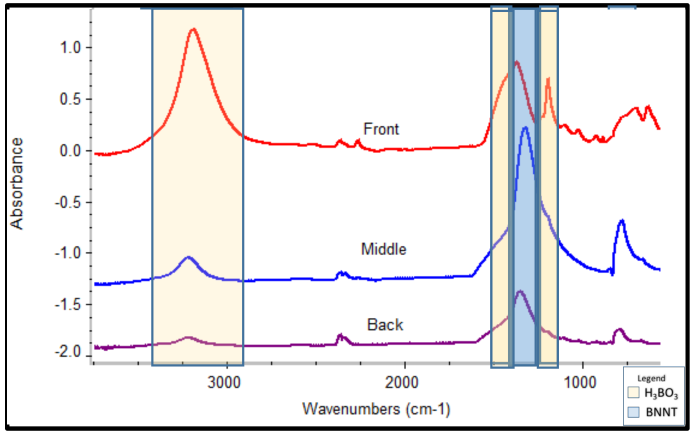
Video Clip: BNNT mat under a hypersonic test

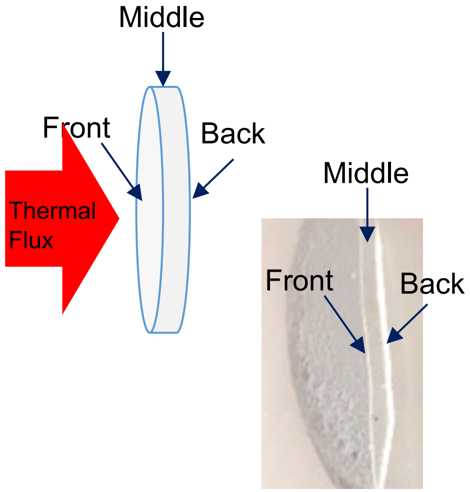
<u>FT-IR Analysis of BNNT mat</u>

Before

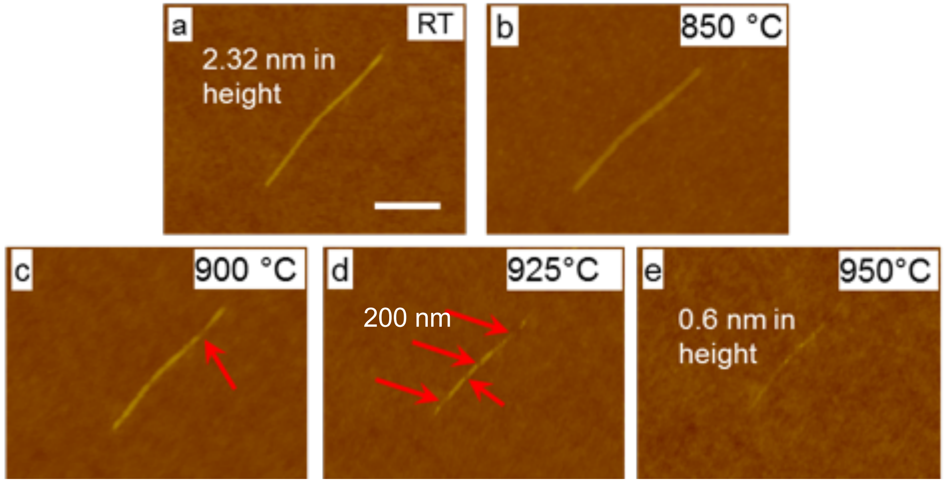


After

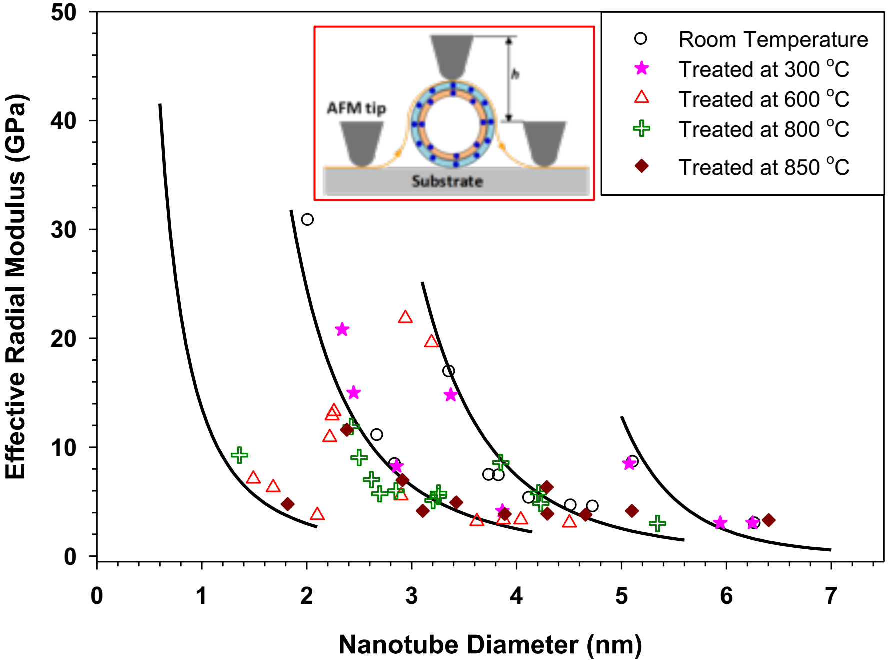




Superior Structural and Mechanical Properties of BNNTs in High Temperature Environments



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).



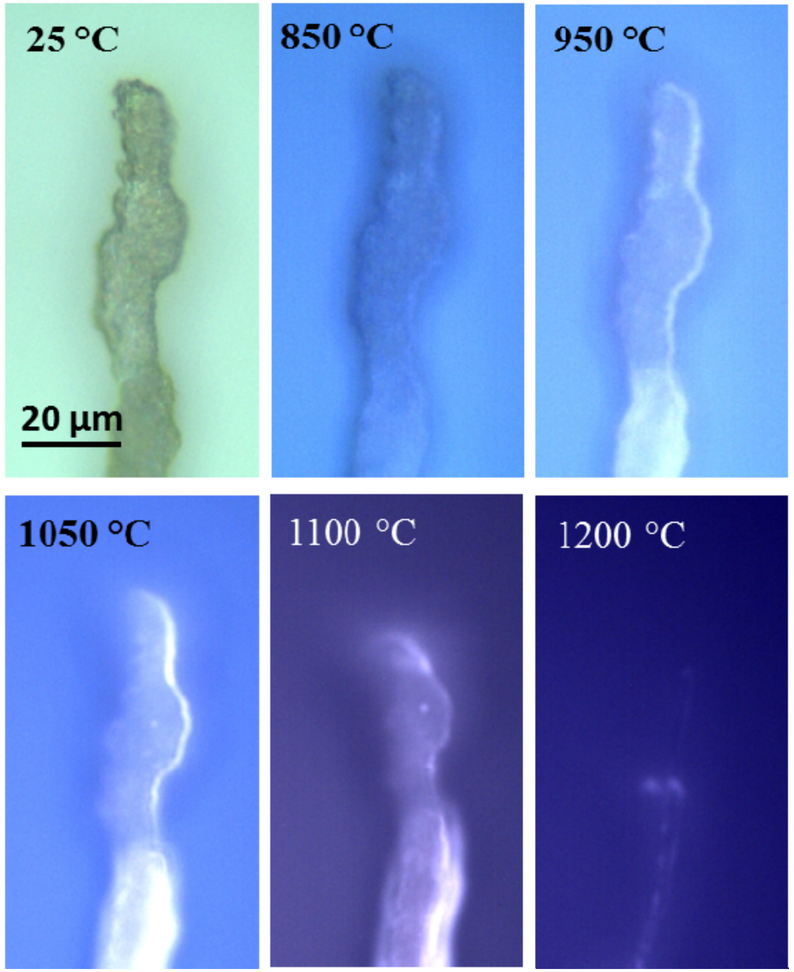
AFM-based nanomechanical compression tests (illustrated in inset drawing) show that the mechanical properties of individual BNNTs remain intact after thermally baked at up to 850 ˚C in air.

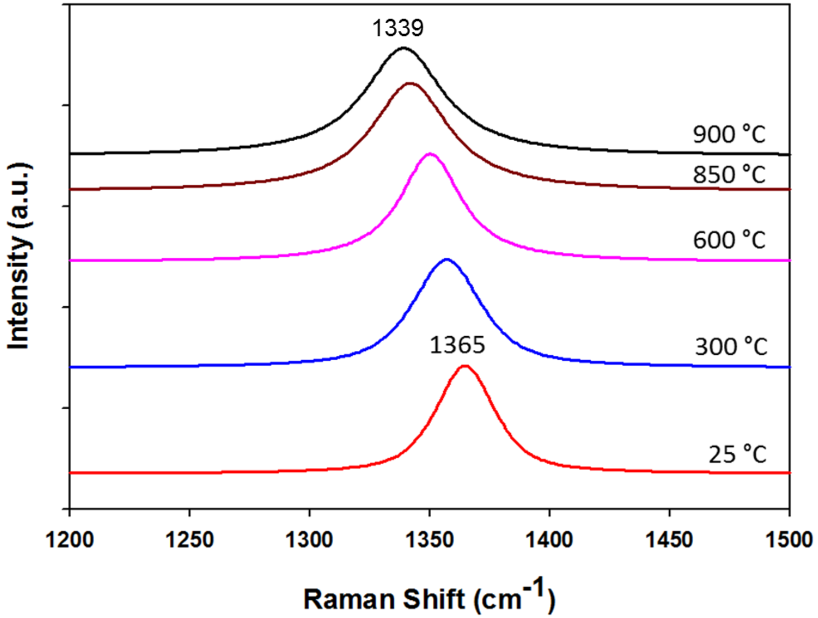
Credit: Binghamton U (Prof. Ke)

Xiaoming Chen, Christopher M Dmuchowski, Cheol Park, Catharine C. Fay and Changhong Ke, *Scientific Reports,* **7**, 1138 (2017)

In-situ Optical and Raman Spectroscopy of BNNT

In Air

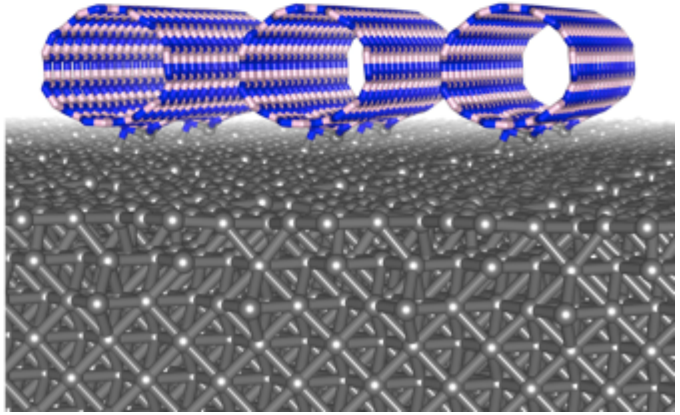


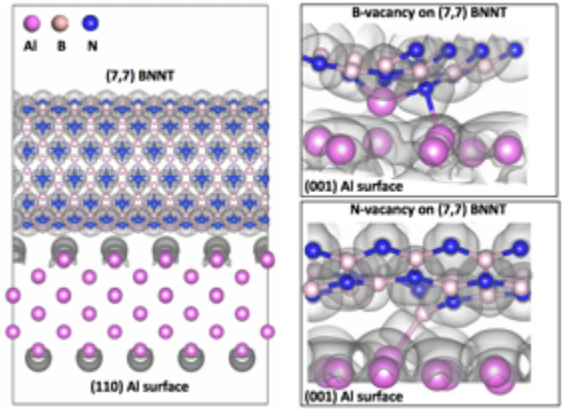


Noticeable structural damage to BNNT occurs at ~1050 ^{o}C in Air

Scientific Reports, **7**, 1138 (2017)

BNNT Metal Matrix Composite (MMC)

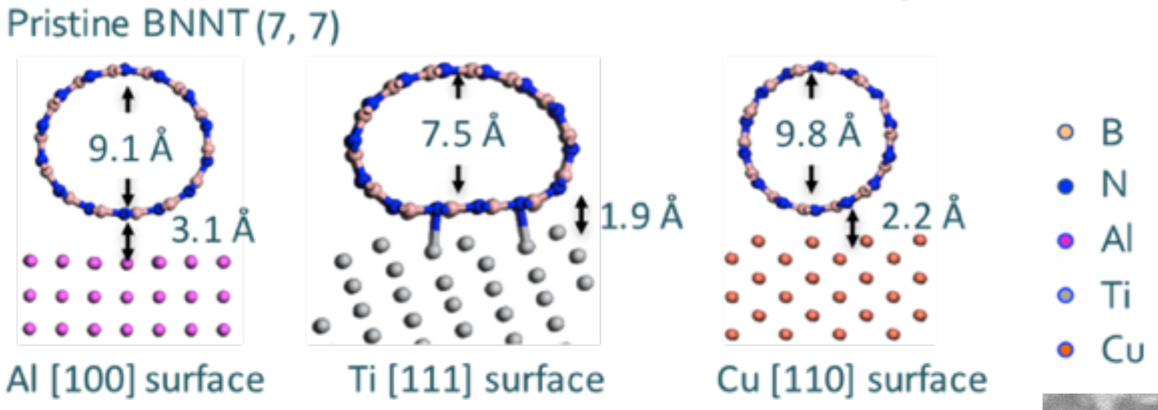


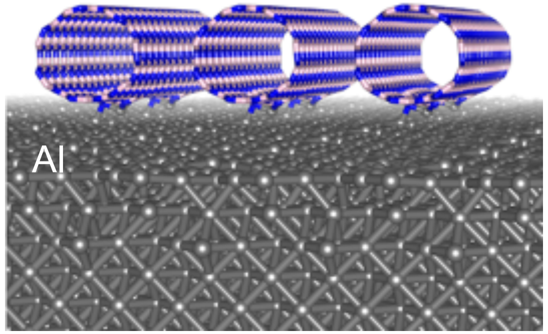


J. Phys. Chem. C **120** 3509 (2016
J. Phys. Chem. C **122** 15266 (201

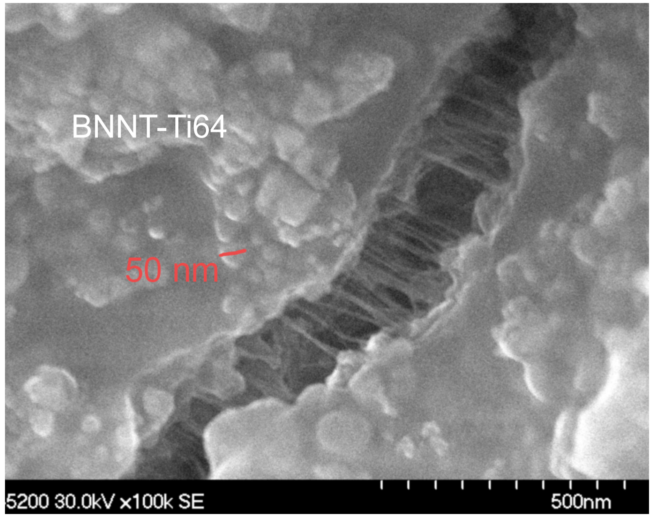
BNNT Metal Matrix Composite (BNNT-MMC)

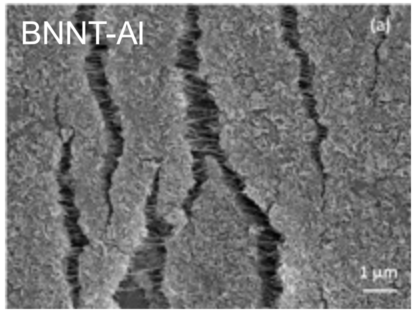
U Queensland: Prof Bernhardt & Dr. Rhomann (AFOSR/AOARD)

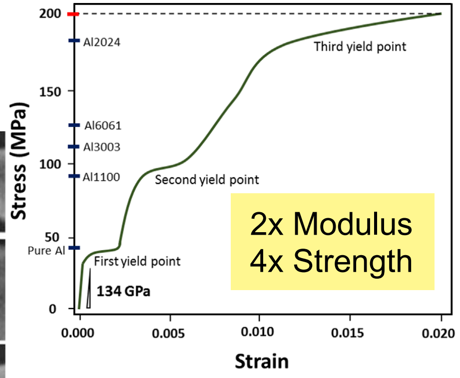




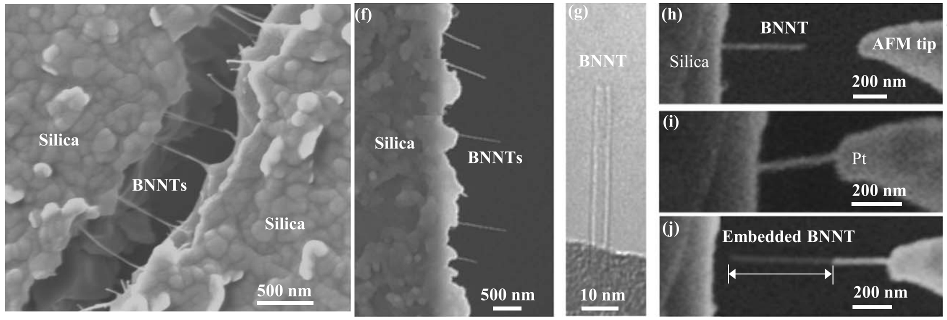
Binding Energies**	Al[100] Surface	Ti[111] Surface	Cu[110] Surface
Pristine	-0.41	-1.77	-0.95
N-vacancy	-0.69	-2.00	-1.23
B-vacancy	-1.26	-3.30	n/a
C sub N	-0.64	-2.17	-1.26
C sub B	-0.51	-1.41	-1.00







2x Modulus
4x Strength

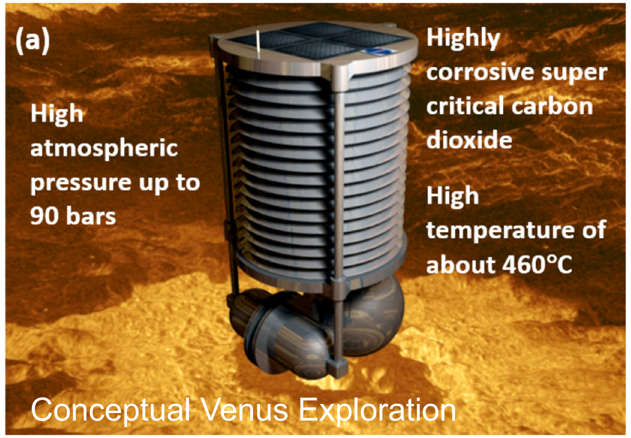


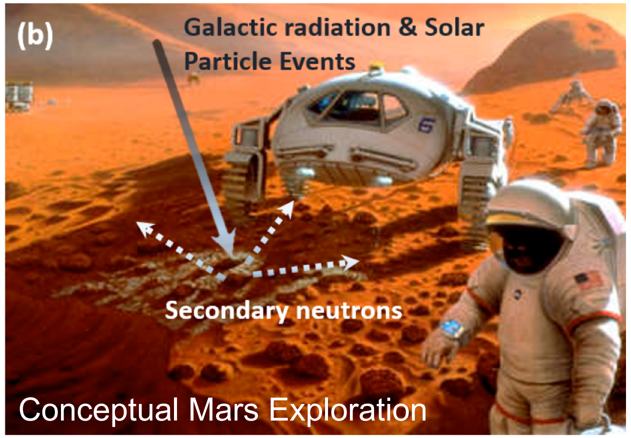
J. Phys. Chem. C **120** 3509 (2016)
J. Phys. Chem. C **122** 15266 (2018)
Nanotechnology, **30** 25706 (2019) BNNT-ceramic interfacial strength
J. Am. Cer. Soc. Early view, BNNT-PDC composite (k: 2000% increase)

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

Multifunctional BNNT Polymer Composites

- Electroactive Properties
- Radiation Shielding Properties





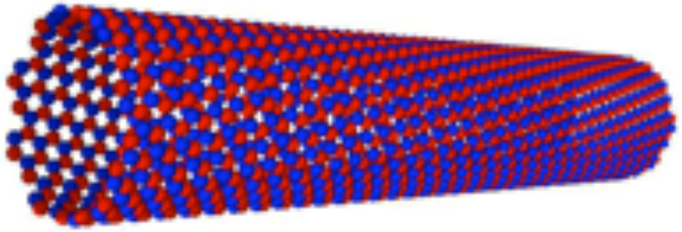
MRS Bulletin **40** 836 (2015)
Comp. Mater. Sci., **95** 362 (2014)
ACS Nano **9** 11942 (2015)

All images credit: NASA

Experiment Displacement Study

Polymer Matrix:
- Polyimides [CP2, (b-CN)AMPB/ODPA (bCNAO), (b-CN)APB/PMDA (bCNAP)]
- Polyurethane
- PMMA
- Nylon 6,10

Inclusions:
- h-BN (hexagonal boron nitride powders)
- BNNT (purchased CVD, large, large diameter tubes)
- BNNT (high pressure, high temp, CO_2 laser as grown)



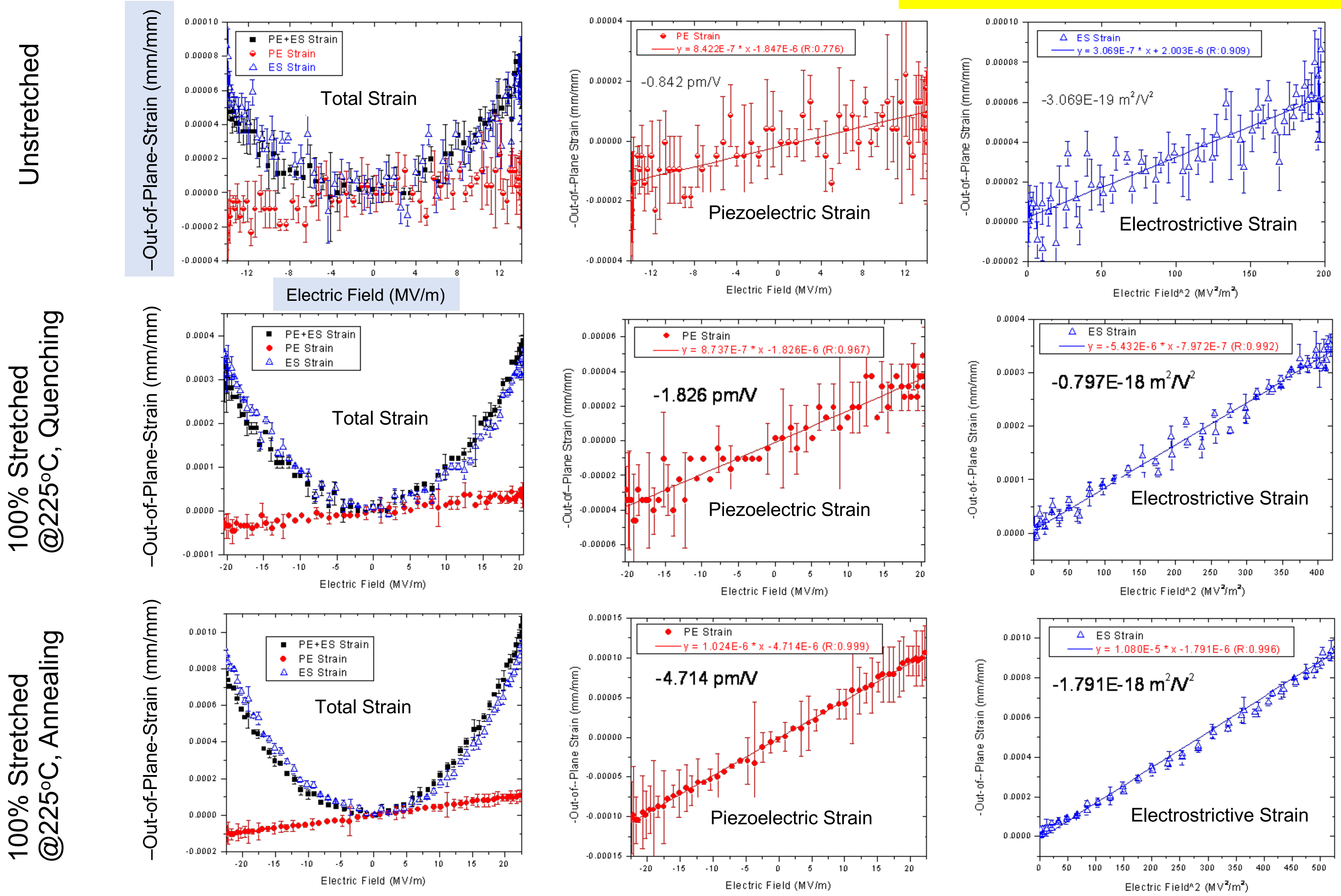
Alignment (stretched)
No alignment (unstretched) and stretched (up to 100%)

Polyimide (CP2)
Polyimide (bCNAO)
Polyimide (bCNAM) (unstretched and stretched 100%)
5wt%hBN/polyimide (stretched 110%)
5wt%BNNT(CVD)/polyimide
2wt%BNNT(laser)/polyimide (unstretched and stretched 100%)

ACS Nano **9** 11942 (2015)

Actuation of Unstretched/Stretched 2% BNNT/Polyimide

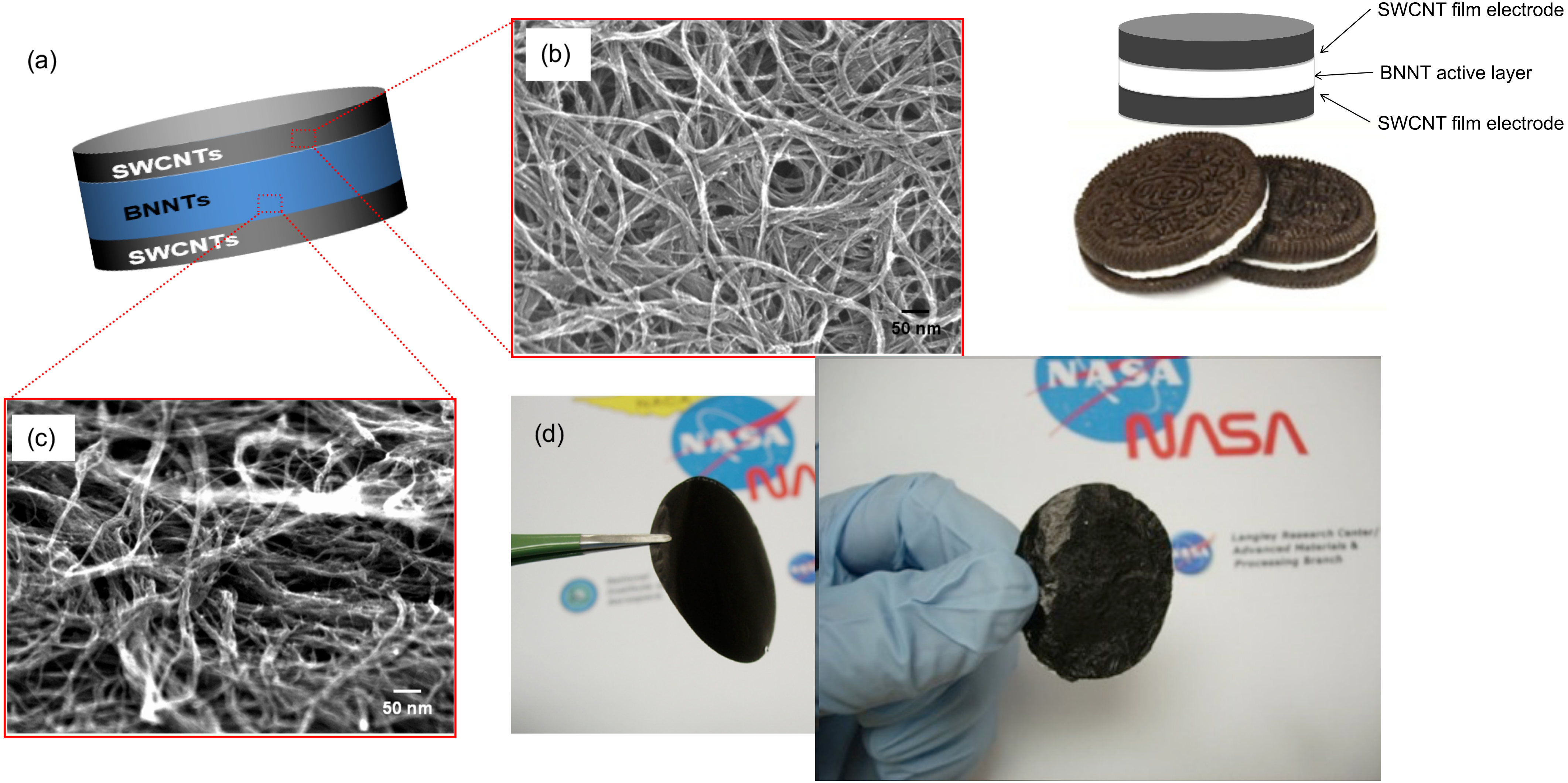
Origin of Actuation → BNNT


Unstretched

100% Stretched @225°C, Quenching

100% Stretched @225°C, Annealing

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

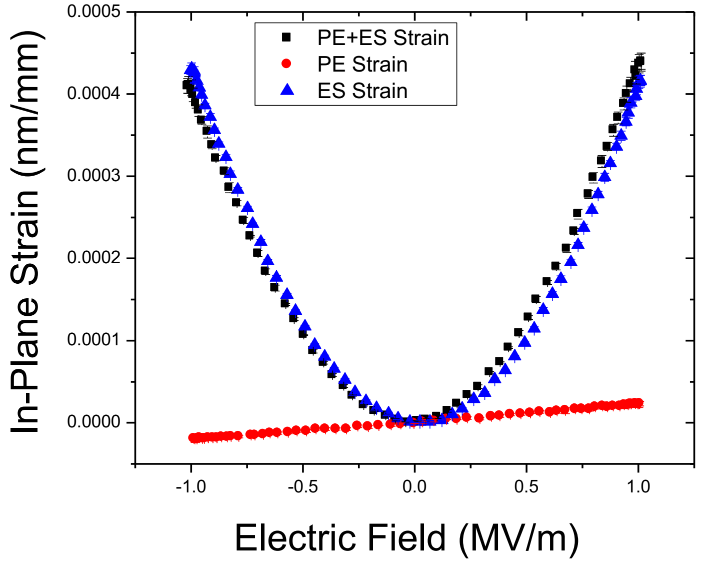


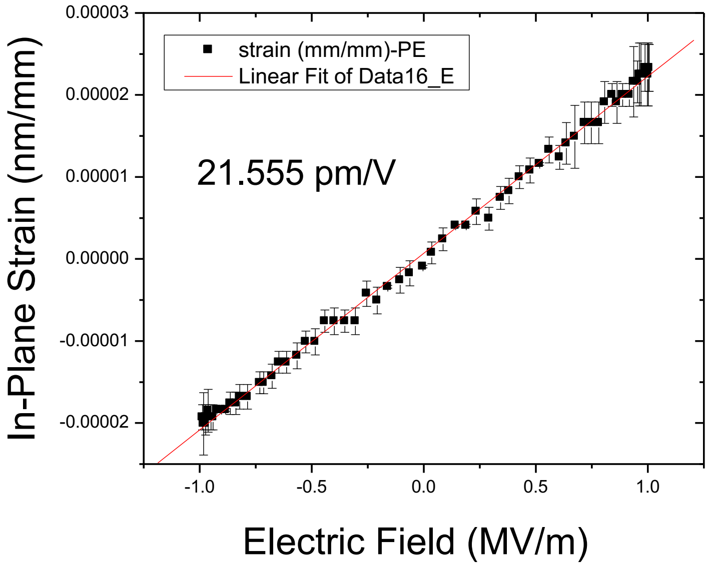
Goal: Flexible, transparent, large actuation, high sensitivity, mechanically durable

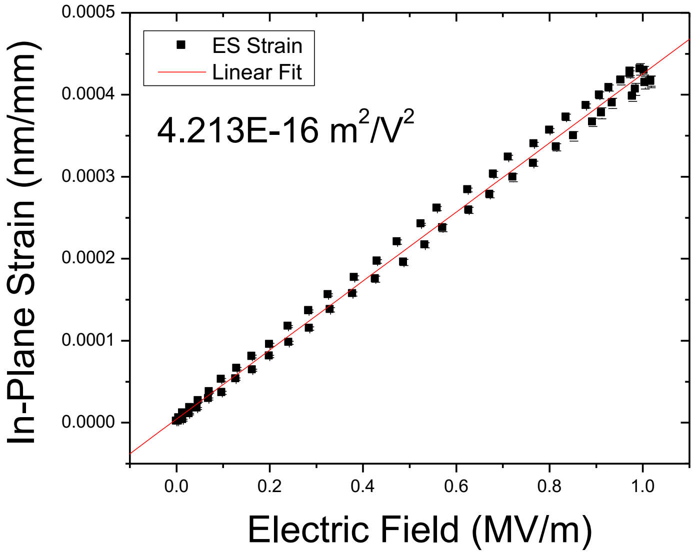
All images credit: NASA

ACS Nano **9** 11942 (2015)

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







Field induced strain (e_{33})

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

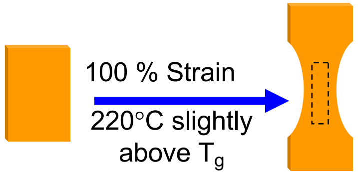
$d_{33:}$ piezoelectric coefficient
$M_{33:}$ electrostrictive coefficient
E: applied electric field

ACS Nano **9** 11942 (2015)

Actuation of Unstretched/Stretched h-BN/BNNT Materials

Materials	Inclusions	Polymer	Actuation
Polyimide (PI)	None	Polyimide	None
5%hBN/Polyimide (100% stretched)	5%hBN	Polyimide	None
5%BNNT (CVD)/Polyimide	5%BNNT (CVD)	Polyimide	None
Polyimide (100% stretched)	None	Polyimide	None
2%BNNT (laser)/Polyimide 2% BNNT (laser)/Polyimide (100% stretched) 20%BNNT/Polyurethane	2%BNNT 2%BNNT >20% BNNT	Polyimide Polyimide Polyurethane	

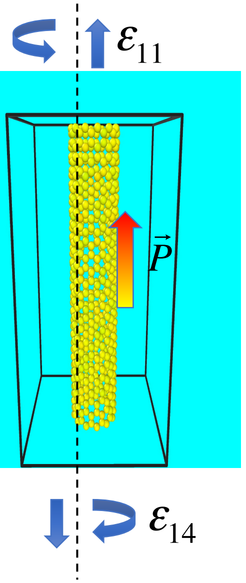
h-BN → No Actuation
Commercial BNNT (CVD) → No Actuation
Polymer → No Actuation
Stretched Polymer → No Actuation
BNNT (high pressure, high temp laser) → Origin of the Actuation



All images credit: NASA

Results: Piezoelectricity under Deformation

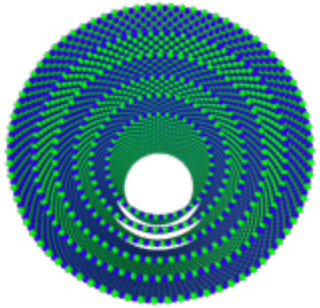
The Molecular Dynamics (MD) model is successful in representing the piezoelectric properties of BNNTs

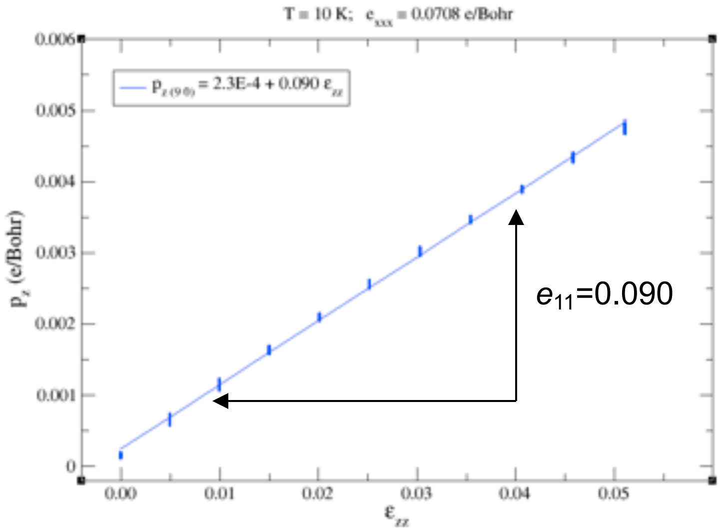


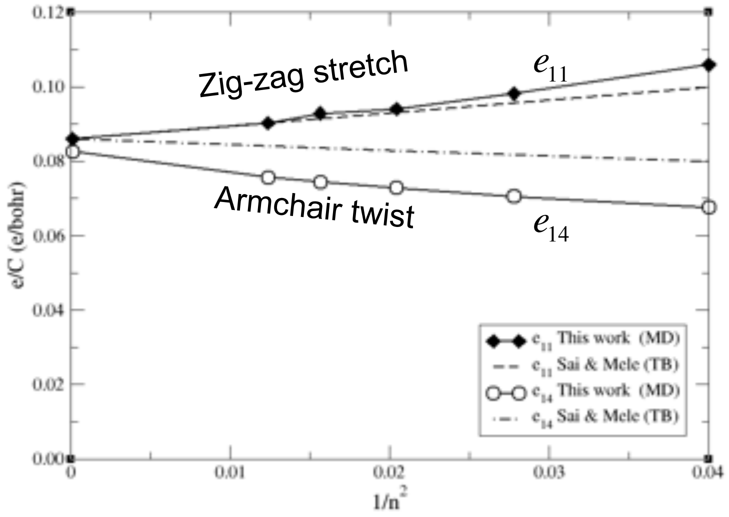
$p_z(stretch) = e_{11}\varepsilon_s$

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

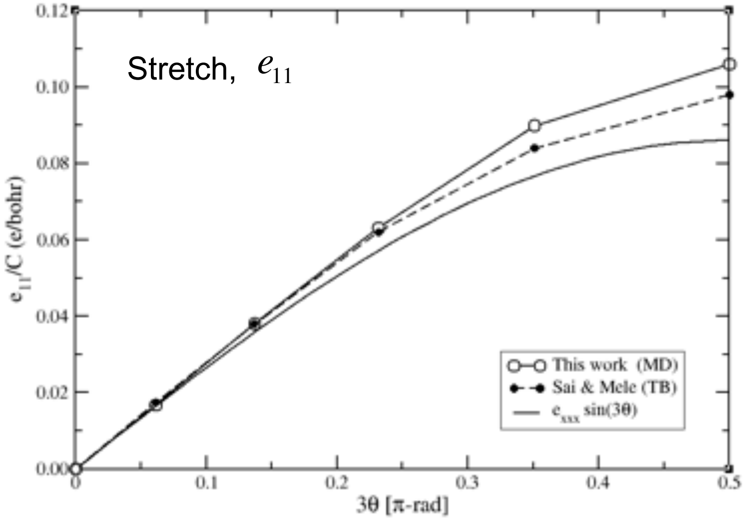
MWBNNT

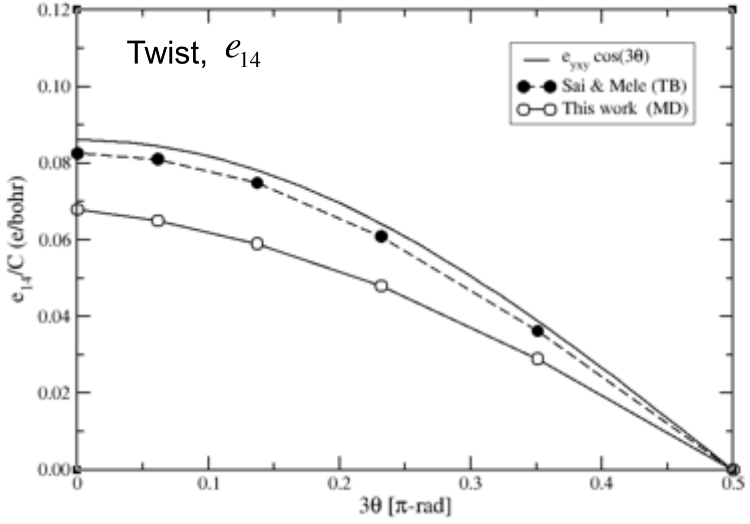






Armchair -> Chiral -> Zig-zag



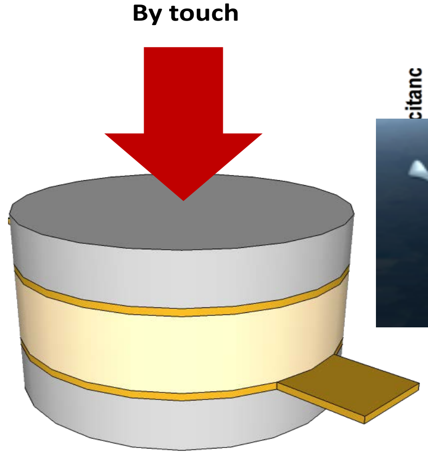


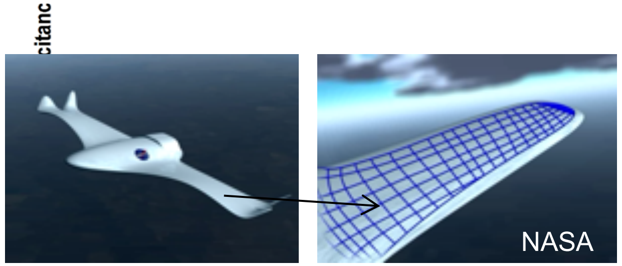
Comp. Mater. Sci., **135** 29 (2017)

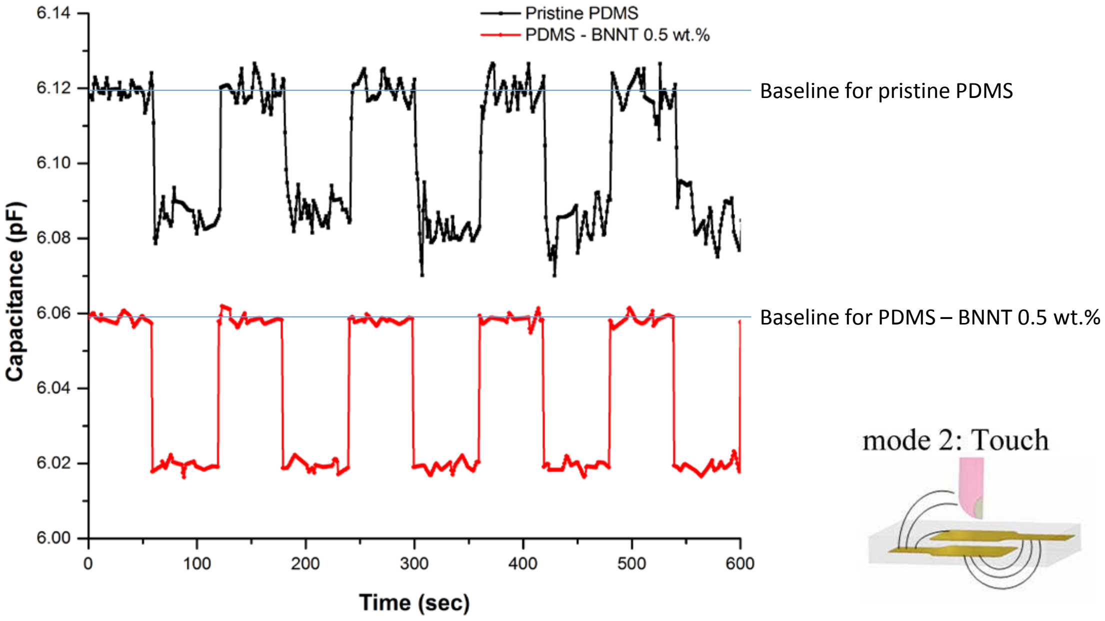
Comp. Mater. Sci., **95** 362 (2014)

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

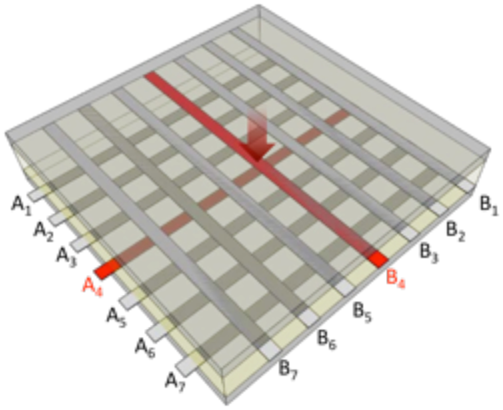
Touch Sensitive Sensor

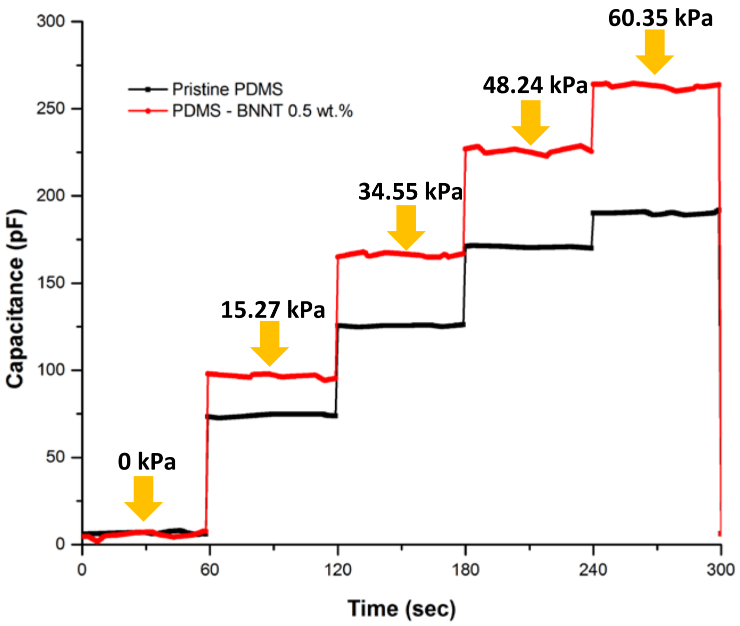






Pressure Sensitive Sensor





Credit: GA Tech Prof Chuck Zhang/Ben Wang Group

Radiation Shielding Properties

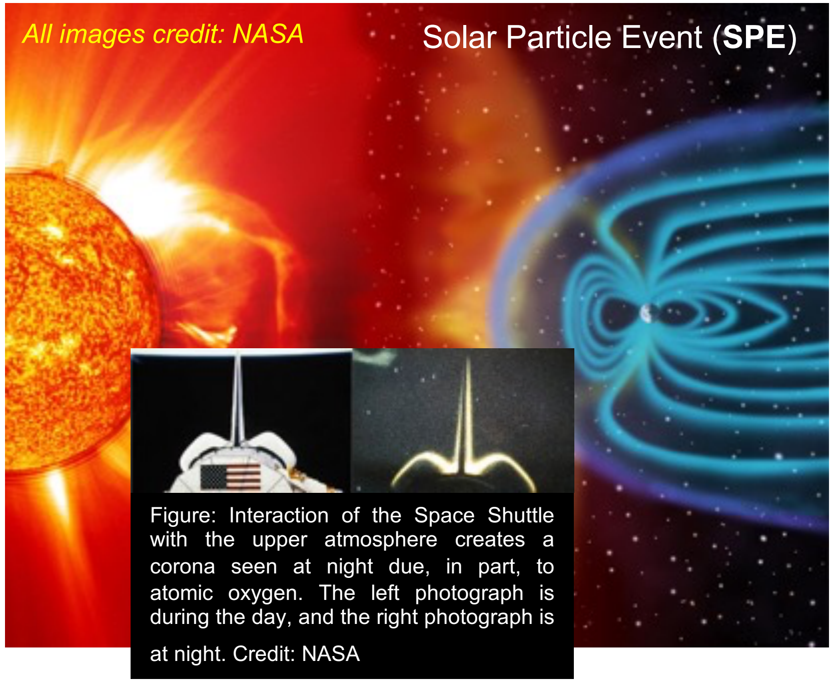
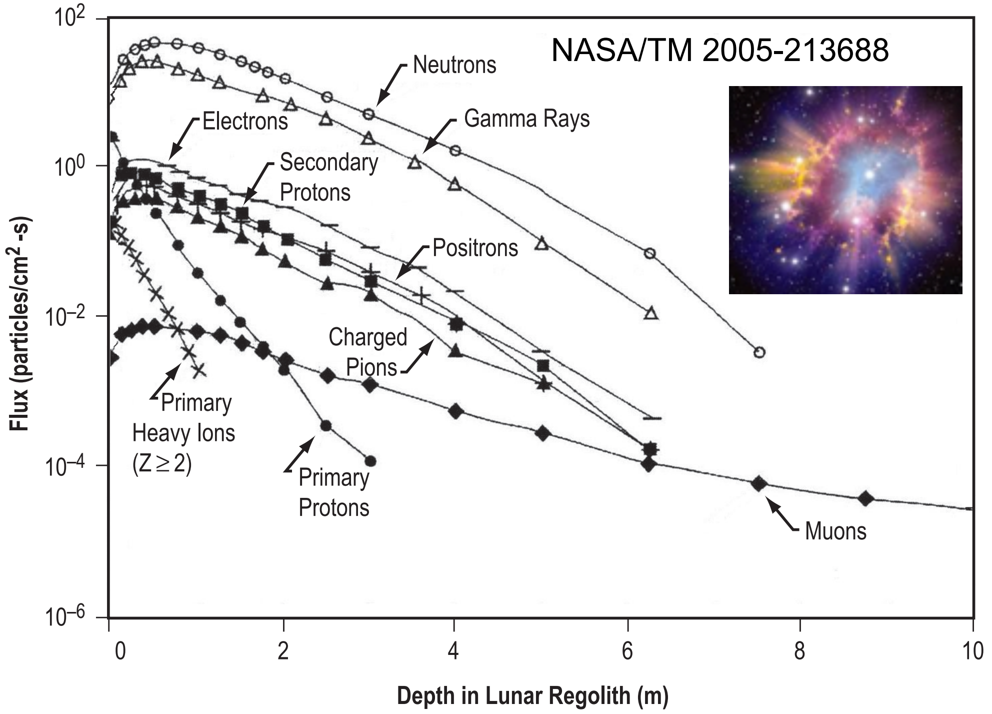
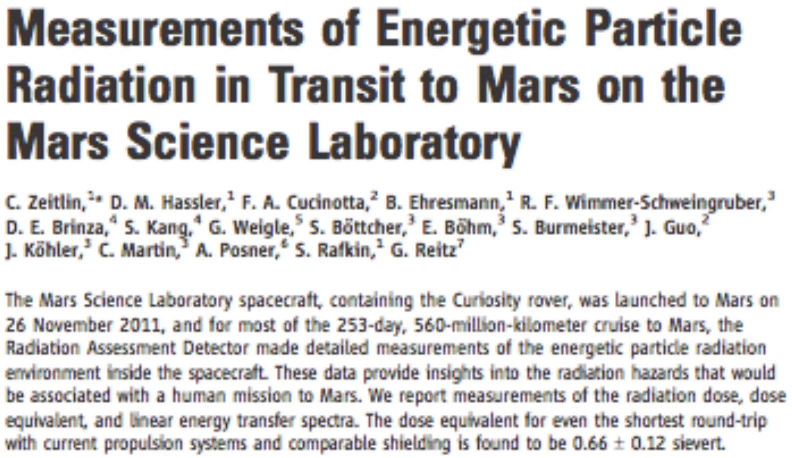


Figure: Interaction of the Space Shuttle with the upper atmosphere creates a corona seen at night due, in part, to atomic oxygen. The left photograph is during the day, and the right photograph is at night. Credit: NASA

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

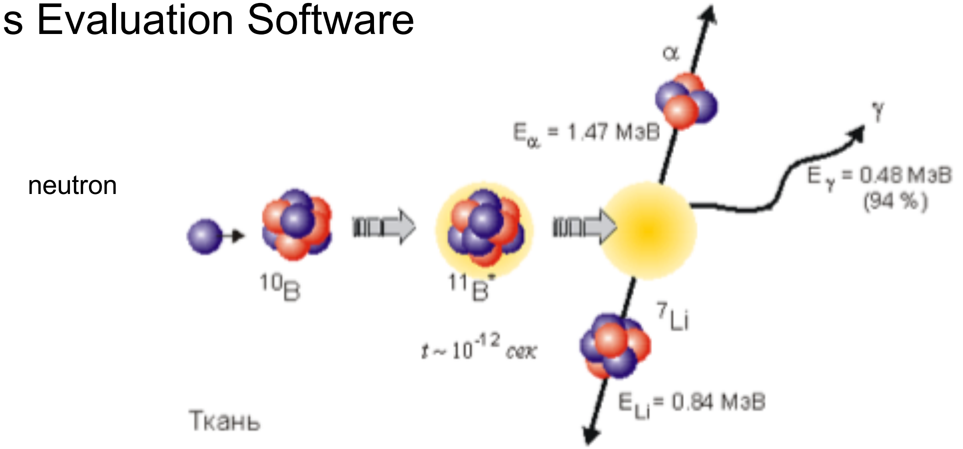
Materials
- Hydrogen, Boron, Nitrogen
- BN, BNNT, Gd
- Low density polyethylene (LDPE), polyimide (Kapton, CP2, (b-CN)APB/ODPA), polyurethane

Radiation Shielding Structural Materials
- In-situ polymerization under simultaneous sonication and shear
- Supercritical Fluid Infusion

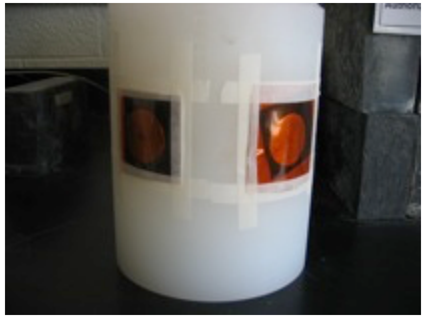
Characterization
- Neutron Radiation Exposure Lab: Source: Am/Be 1Curie
- Moderated by borated polyethylene cylinder block (44mm thick): 45 mrem/hr thermal neutrons
- Sample: 2 x 2” polymer and BN polymer composites
- Detection Foil: 1.25” Indium Foil (0.5mm, 19 barns)
- RSMES: Radiation Shielding Materials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

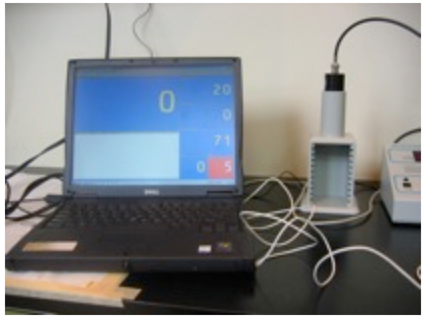
$^{115}\text{In}(n, \gamma)^{116}\text{In}$

Modeling
- OLTARIS



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

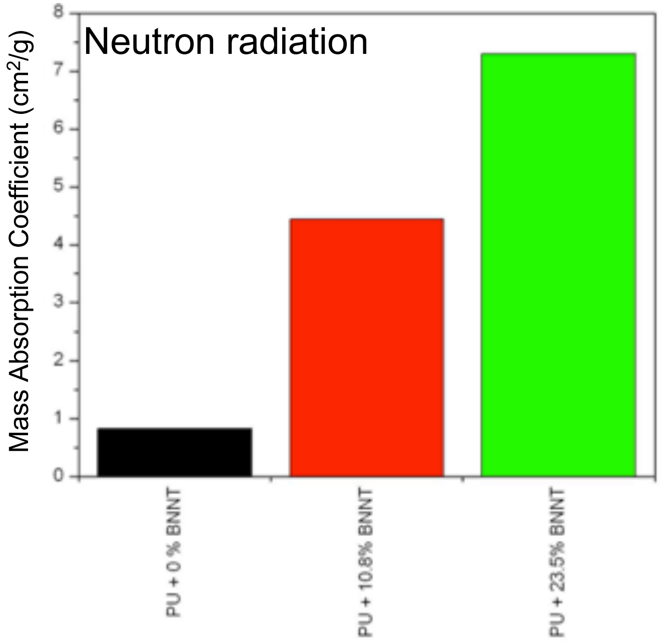


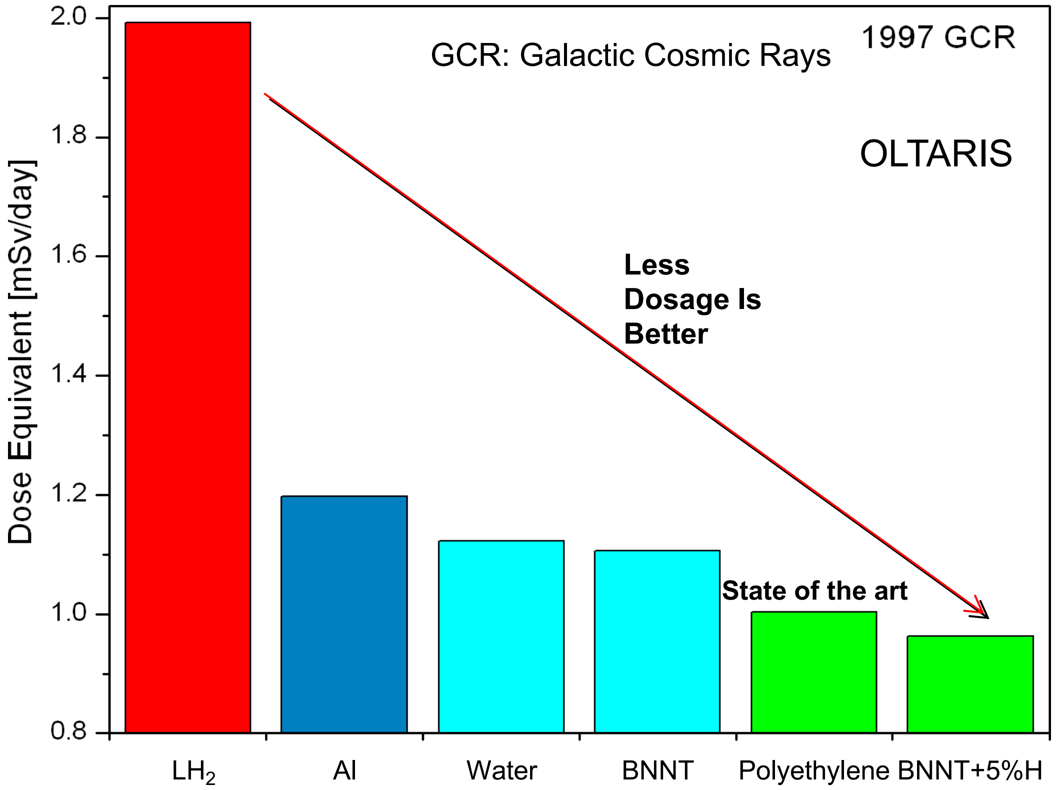


Geiger-Müller Tube

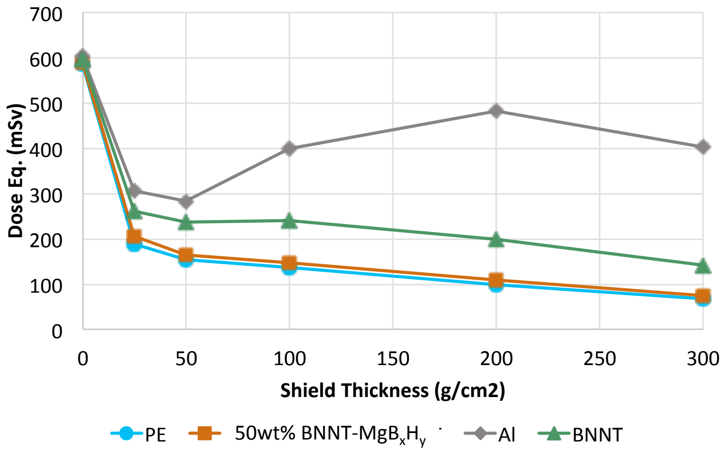
All images credit: NASA

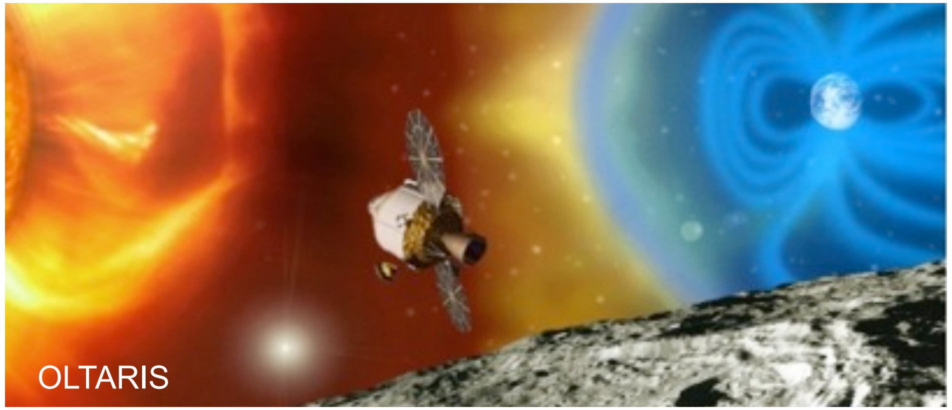
Radiation Shielding Effectiveness of BNNT Composites





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.

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Wale Lawal, Thevamaran Ramathasan, Ned Thomas

Georgia Tech
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Chuck Zhang, Ben Wang

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Thank you

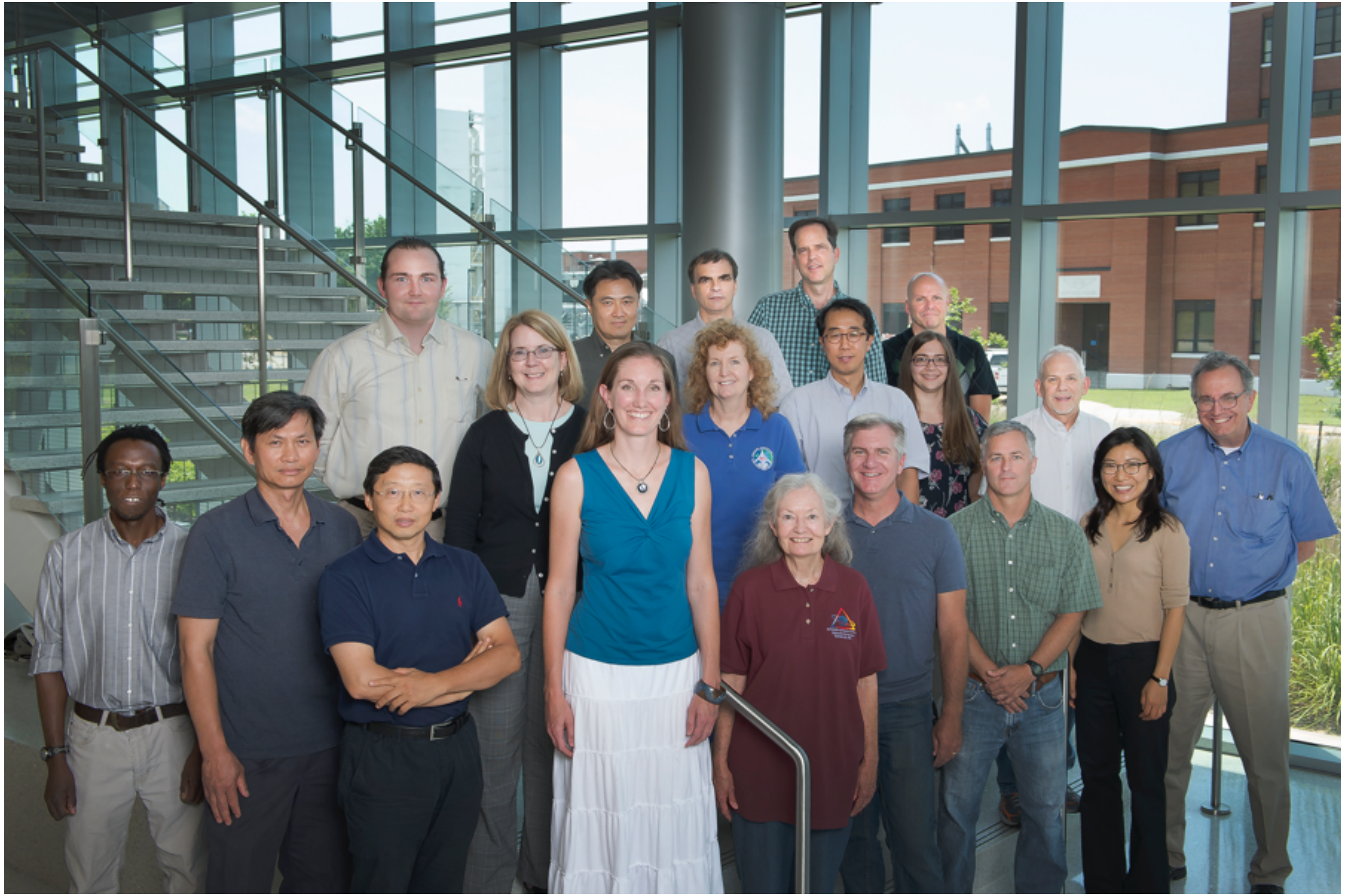

Image credit: NASA

Team BNNT

2016 NASA Government Invention of the Year Award

NASA Invention of the Year Award

NASA develops and funds the development of many valuable innovations. The annual IOY program recognizes those inventions that have significantly contributed to NASA programs, or that exemplify NASA's mission to transfer cutting edge technology to U.S. industry.

Two distinct awards are presented: the NASA Government Invention of the Year, and the NASA Commercial Invention of the Year. The Invention and Contributions Board makes recommendations on the competition outcome, based on nominations it receives, to the General Counsel. The General Counsel, as the competition sponsor, makes the final recommendation to the NASA Administrator, who has final authority to approve the monetary awards.

2016 Government Award Winner: Boron Nitride Nanotubes

The NASA Government Invention of the Year Award is awarded to the invention Boron Nitride Nanotubes, from the Langley Research Center. The invention includes a novel approach to synthesizing high quality boron nitride nanotubes (BNNTs) without a metal catalyst using a high pressure and temperature method. This is the first breakthrough discovery to produce high quality BNNTs without any catalyst at a scalable amount since the first BNNT synthesis was reported back in 1994. The BNNTs produced from this process are lightweight, stable, and exhibit high strength. This heat resistant material can be used at high service temperatures and for radiation shielding.

2016 Commercial Award Winner: Hydrogen Leak Detection

Source: http://icb.nasa.gov/invention-of-the-year