

Carbon nanotubes.

PH 673

Nanoscience and nanotechnology

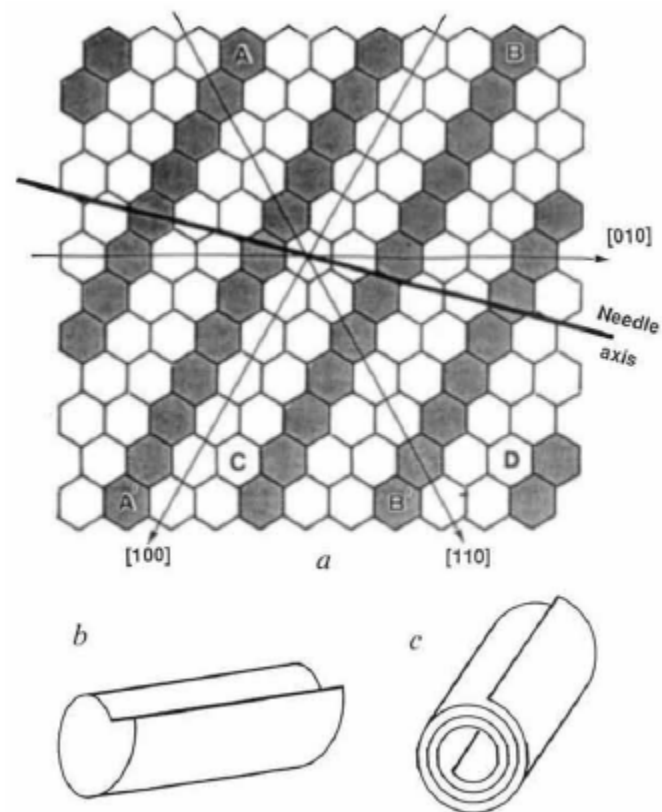
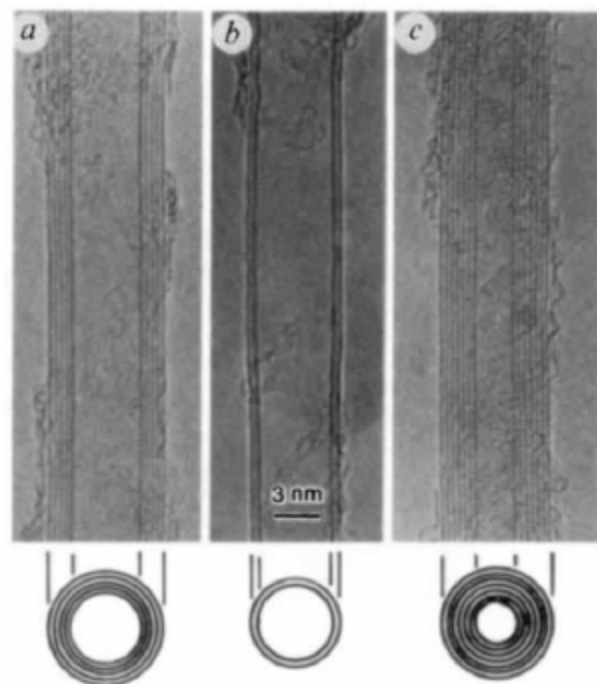
November 5, 2025

Helical microtubules of graphitic carbon

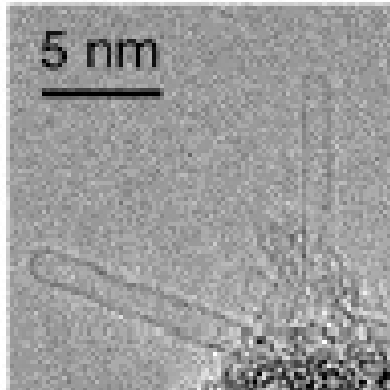
Sumio Iijima

NEC Corporation, Fundamental Research Laboratories,
34 Miyukigaoka, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan

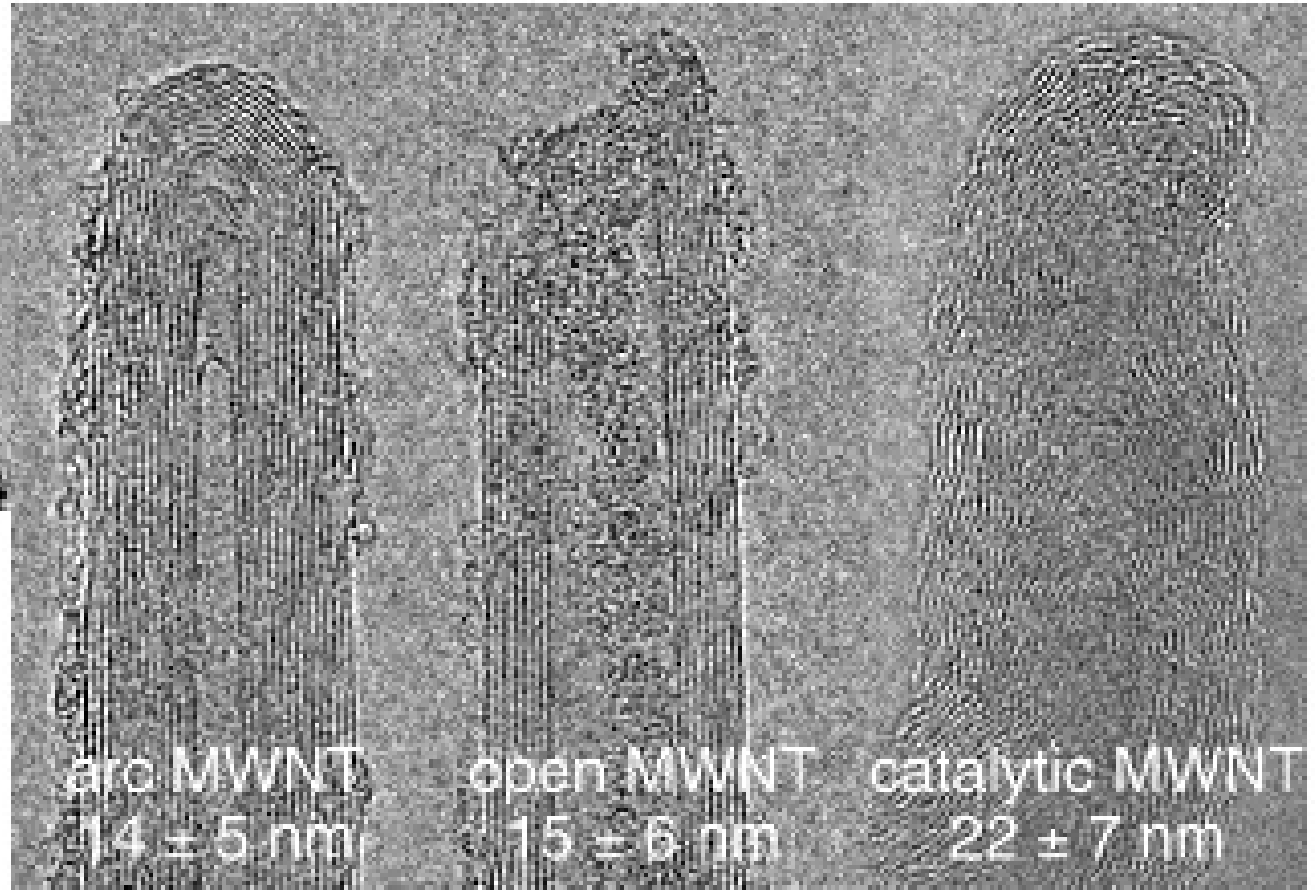
NATURE • VOL 354 • 7 NOVEMBER 1991



SWNTs and MWNTs



arc SWNT
 ~ 1.4 nm



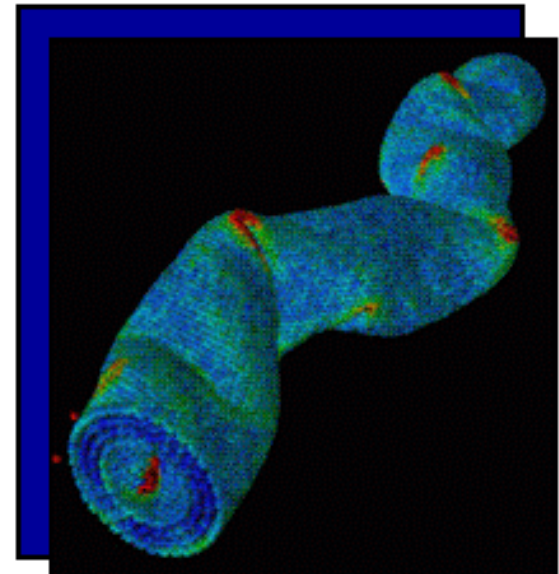
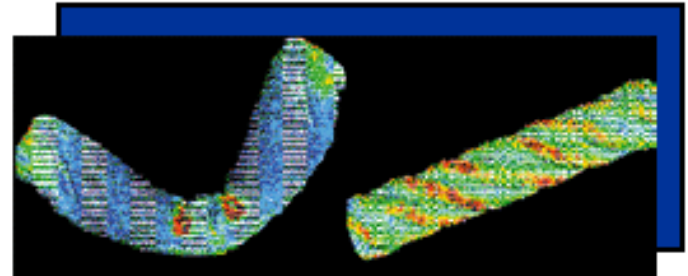
Carbon nanotubes

Physical Properties of Carbon Nanotubes

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Value and units</i>	<i>Observations</i>
Length of the unit vector	$a = \sqrt{3}a_{C-C} = 2.49 \text{ \AA}$	$a_{C-C} = 1.44 \text{ \AA}$ is the carbon bond length
Current density	$>10^9 \text{ A/cm}^2$	-1000 times larger than the current density in copper - Measured in MWCNTs
Thermal conductivity	6600 W/mK	More thermally conductive than most crystals
Young modulus	1 Tpa	Many orders of magnitude stronger than the steel
Mobility	$10,000\text{-}50,000 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$	Simulations indicate motilities beyond $100,000 \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$
Mean free path (ballistic transport)	300-700 nm semiconducting CNT 1000-3000 nm metallic CNT	- Measured at room temperature - At least three time larger than the best semiconducting heterostructures
Conductance in ballistic transport	$G = 4e^2 / h = 155\mu\text{S}$; $1/G = 6.5\text{k}\Omega$	
Luttinger parameter g	0.22	The electrons are strongly correlated in CNTs
Orbital magnetic moment	0.7 meVT^{-1} ($d = 2.6 \text{ nm}$) 1.5 meVT^{-1} ($d = 5 \text{ nm}$)	The orbital magnetic moment depends on the tube diameter

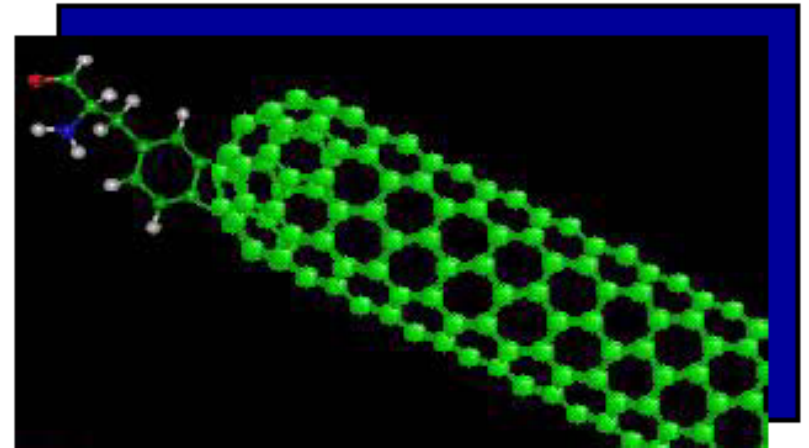
CNT Properties

- The strongest and most flexible molecular material because of C-C covalent bonding and seamless hexagonal network architecture
- Young's modulus of over 1 TPa vs 70 GPa for Aluminum, 700 GPa for C-fiber
 - strength to weight ratio 500 times > for Al; similar improvements over steel and titanium; one order of magnitude improvement over graphite/epoxy
- Maximum strain ~10% much higher than any material
- Thermal conductivity ~ 3000 W/mK in the axial direction with small values in the radial direction

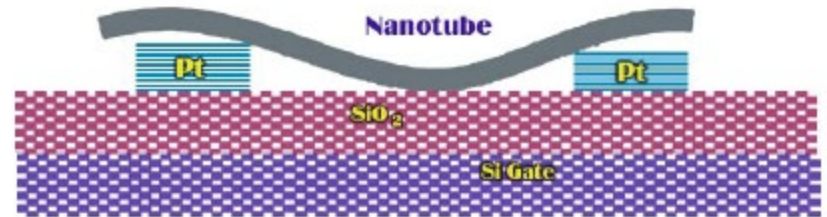


CNT Properties (cont.)

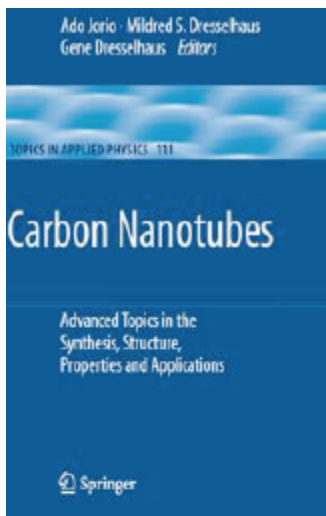
- Electrical conductivity six orders of magnitude higher than copper
- Can be metallic or semiconducting depending on chirality
 - 'tunable' bandgap
 - electronic properties can be tailored through application of external magnetic field, application of mechanical deformation...
- Very high current carrying capacity
- Excellent field emitter; high aspect ratio and small tip radius of curvature are ideal for field emission



CNT: Implications for electronics



- Carrier transport is 1-D.
- All chemical bonds are satisfied $\Rightarrow$ CNT Electronics not bound to use SiO₂ as an insulator.
- High mechanical and thermal stability and resistance to electromigration $\Rightarrow$ Current densities upto 10^9 A/cm² can be sustained.
- Diameter controlled by chemistry, not fabrication.
- Both active devices and interconnects can be made from semiconducting and metallic nanotubes.



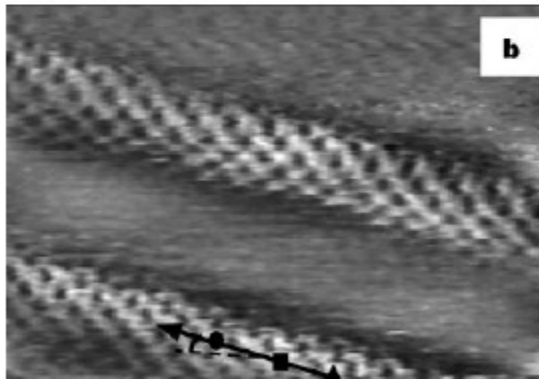
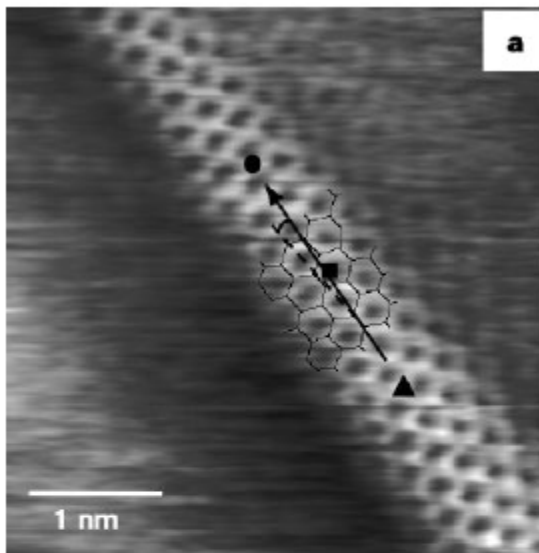
More emphasis now is on applications

Potential Applications of Carbon Nanotubes

*Chapter by M. Endo, M. S. Strano, P. M. Ajayan @ Springer
TAP111*

	Large Volume Applications	Limited Volume Applications (Mostly based on Engineered Nanotube Structures)
Present	- Battery Electrode Additives (MWNT) - Composites (sporting goods; MWNT) - Composites (ESD* applications; MWNT) - (*ESD – Electrical Shielding Device)	- Scanning Probe Tips (MWNT) - Specialized Medical Appliances (catheters) (MWNT)
Near Term (less than ten years)	- Battery and Super-capacitor Electrodes - Multifunctional Composites - Fuel Cell Electrodes (catalyst support) - Transparent Conducting Films - Field Emission Displays / Lighting - CNT based Inks for Printing	- Single Tip Electron Guns - Multi-Tip Array X-ray Sources - Probe Array Test Systems - CNT Brush Contacts - CNT Sensor Devices - Electro-mechanical Memory Device - Thermal Management Systems
Long Term (beyond ten years)	- Power Transmission Cables - Structural Composites (aerospace and automobile etc.) - CNTs in Photovoltaic Devices	- Nano-electronics (FET, Interconnects) - Flexible Electronics - CNT based bio-sensors - CNT Filtration/Separation Membranes - Drug-delivery Systems





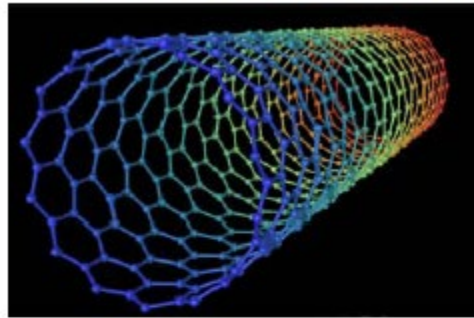
STM images of carbon nanotubes

T.W. Odom, J.-L. Huang, P.Kim, C.Lieber, Nature 391 (1998)

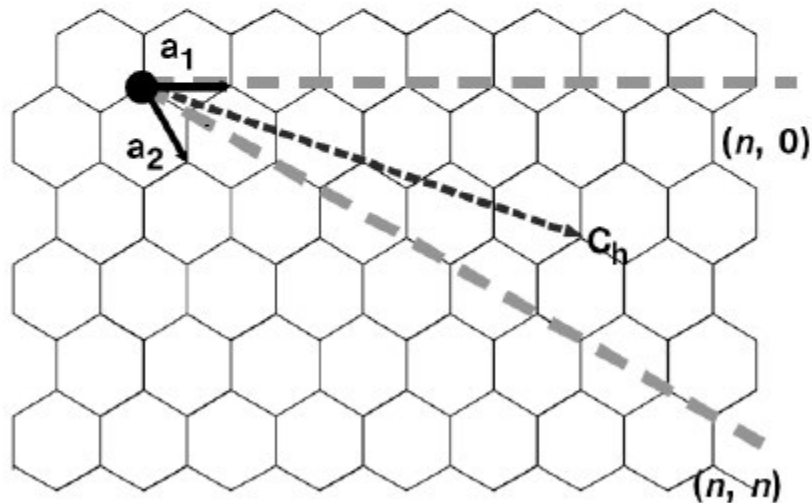
Carbon nanotubes

Iijima 1991

Smalley 1993



$$\Theta = \tan^{-1} \left[\frac{\sqrt{3}n}{2m+n} \right]$$



Chiral vector
 $C_h = na_1 + ma_2$

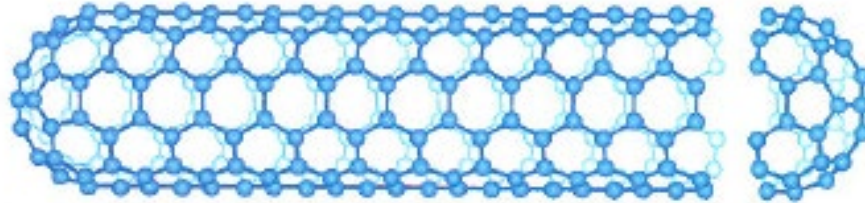
1.42 Å

$a_0 \sqrt{3}/\pi$

CNT diameter:

$$d = (n^2 + m^2 + nm)^{1/2} 0.0783 \text{ nm}$$

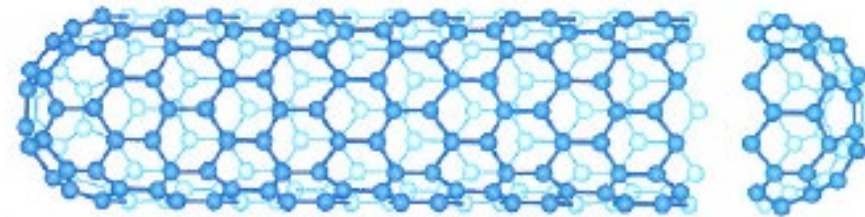
Types of carbon nanotubes



$$(n,m) = (5,5)$$

b

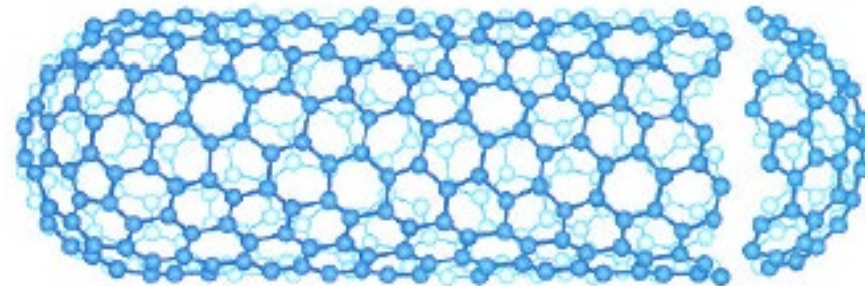
Armchair $(n,m) = (5,5)$
 $\theta = 30^\circ$



$$(n,m) = (9,0)$$

c

Zig Zag $(n,m) = (9,0)$
 $\theta = 0^\circ$

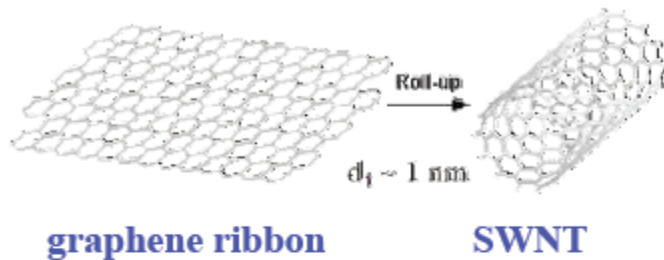


$$(n,m) = (10,5)$$

d

Chiral $(n,m) = (10,5)$
 $0^\circ < \theta < 30^\circ$

Unique Properties of Carbon Nanotubes within the Nanoworld



- **Small size:** ~1 nm diameter (down to ~10 atoms around the circumference)

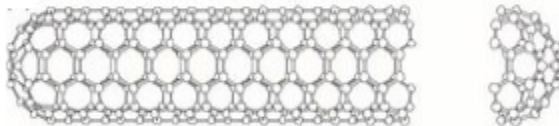
- **Electronic Properties:** can be either metallic or semiconducting depending on diameter and orientation of the hexagons

- **Mechanical:** Very high strength, modulus, and resiliency.

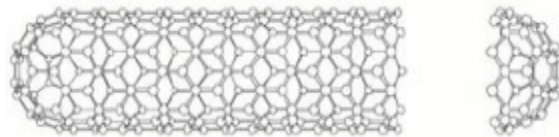
- **Physics:** model system for 1D density of electronic states.

- Single molecule Raman spectroscopy, luminescence and transport properties.

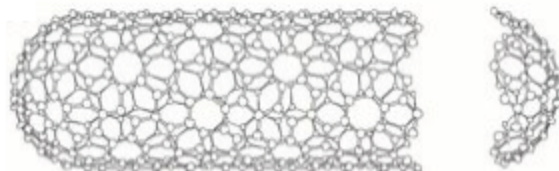
armchair



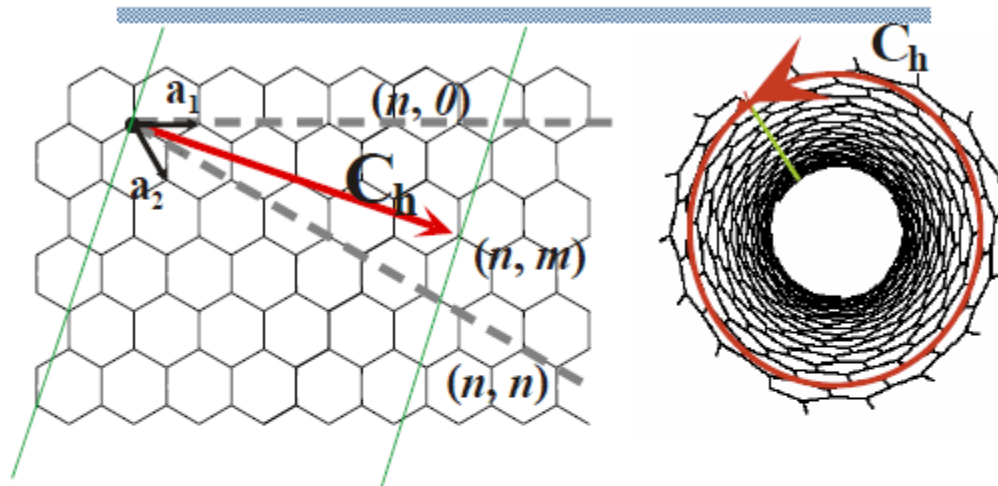
zigzag



chiral

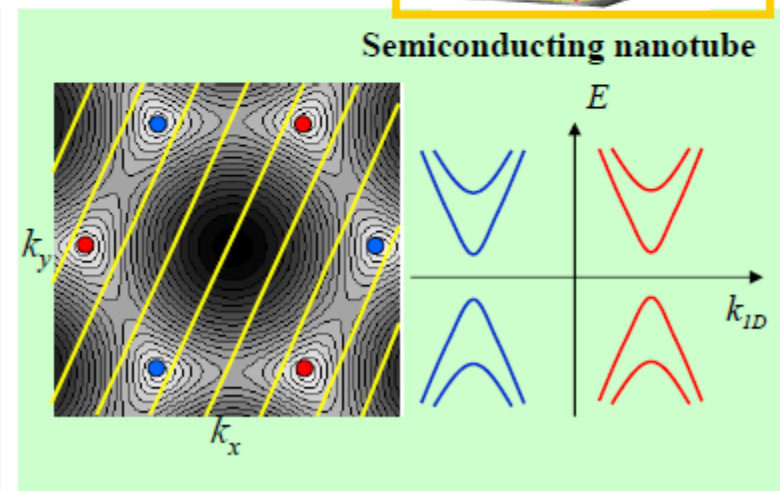
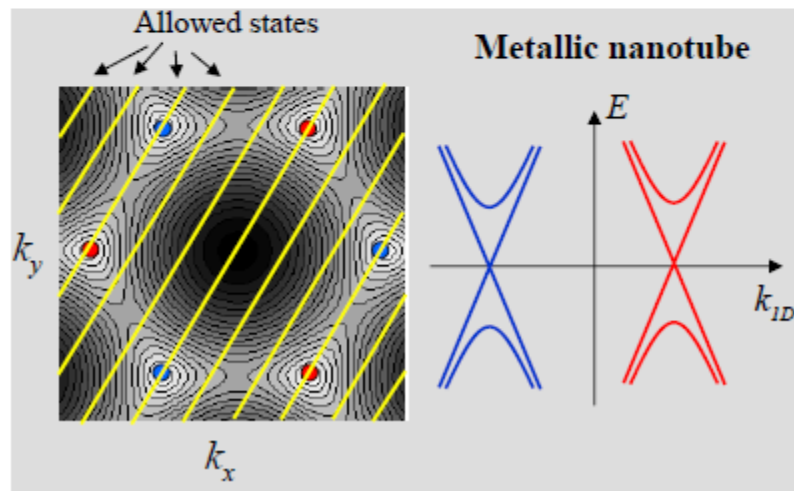
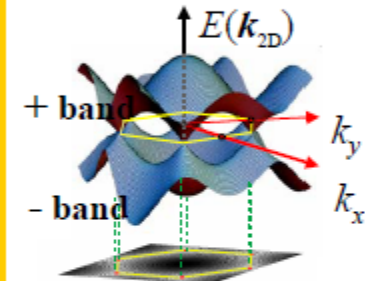


Rolling Up Graphene: Periodic Boundary Condition



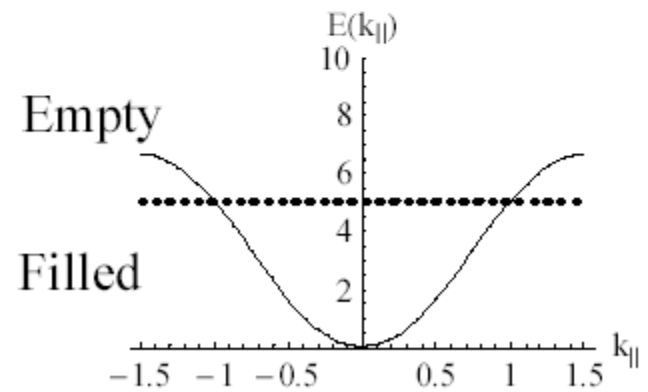
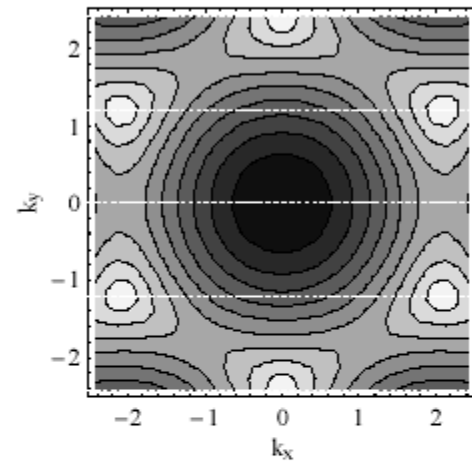
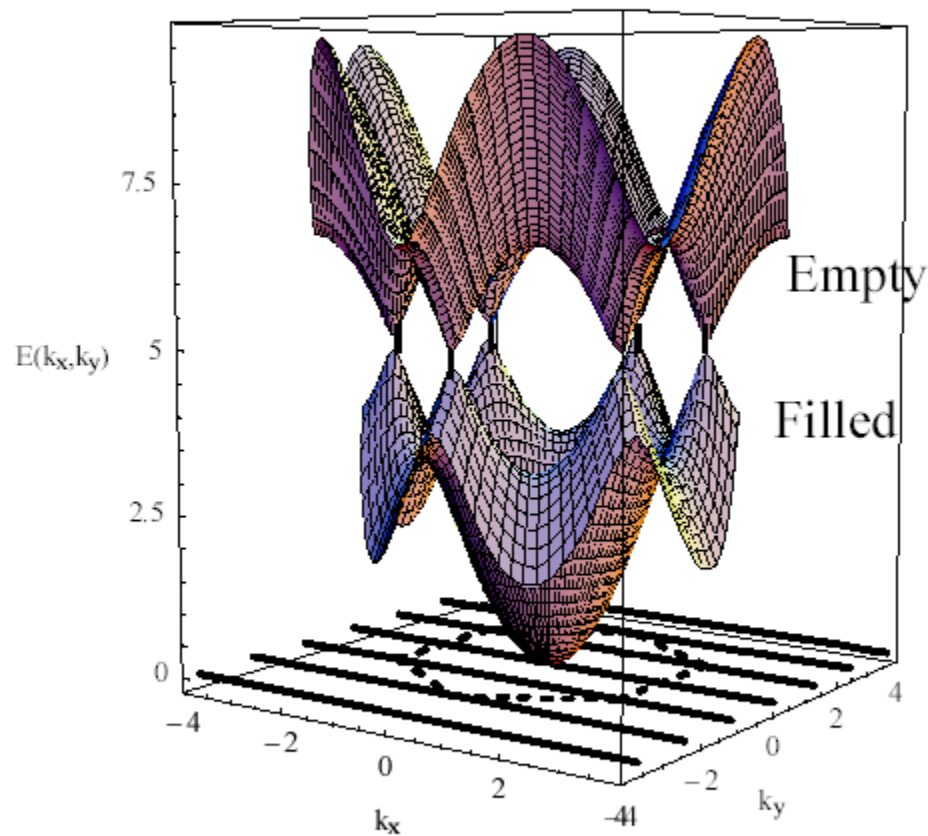
Periodic Boundary Condition

$$C_h \cdot \vec{k}_\perp = 2\pi q$$



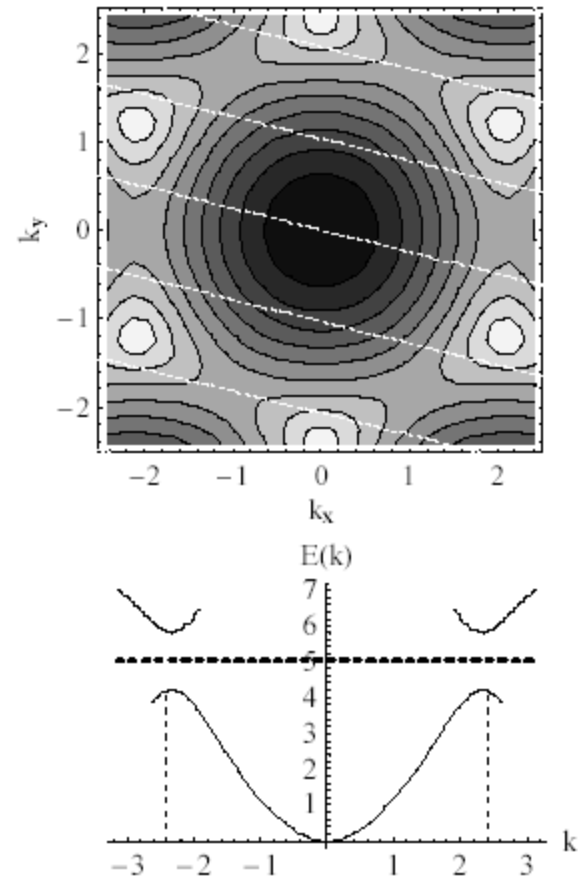
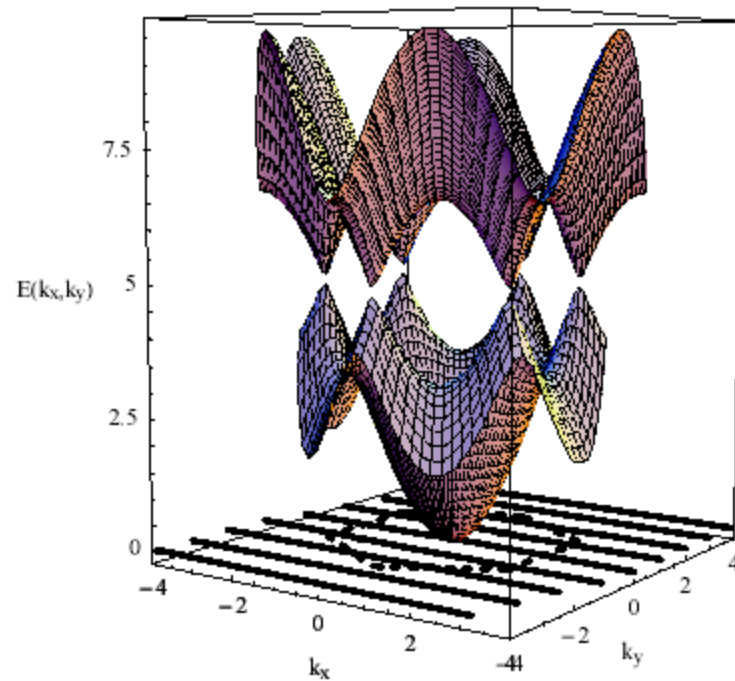
Nanotube: Metallic

Mads Brandbyge, MIC 2003



Nanotube: Semi-conductor

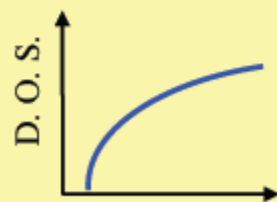
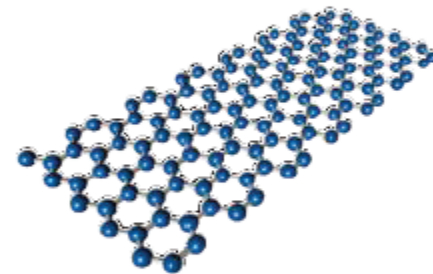
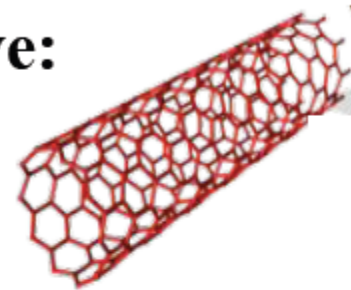
Mads Brandbyge, MIC 2003



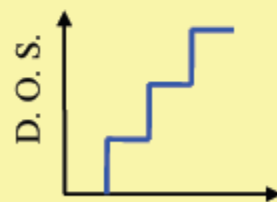
Unique One Dimensional (1D) Properties

Carbon nanotubes and nanoribbons have:

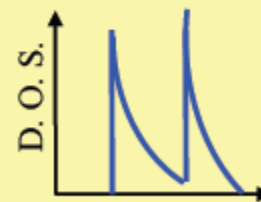
- **High aspect ratio**
- **Enhanced density of states in 1D**
- **Molecular behavior (spikes in DOS)**
- **Solid state behavior (tails in DOS)**



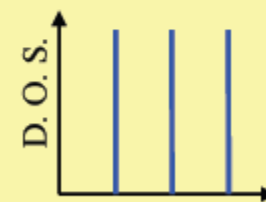
3D
Bulk Semiconductor



2D
Quantum Well



1D
Quantum Wire



0D
Quantum Dot

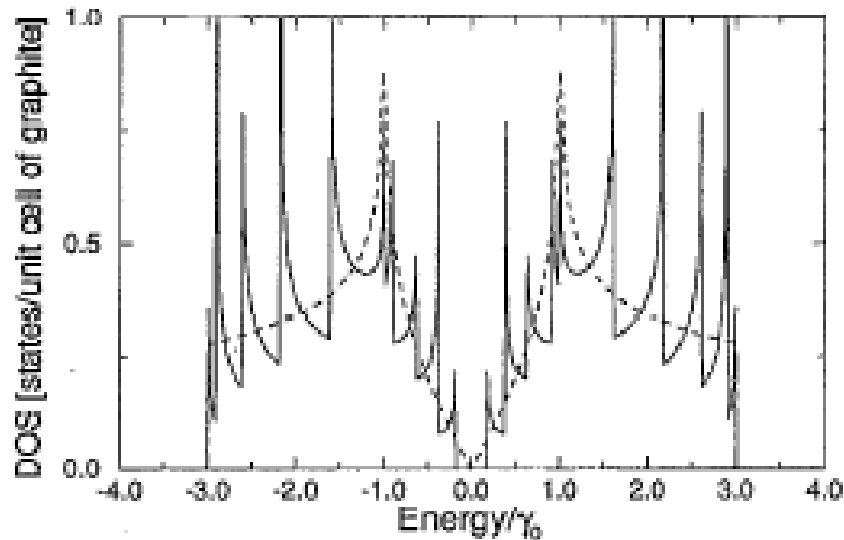
Electronic structure of chiral graphene tubules

R. Saito, M. Fujita, G. Dresselhaus, and M. S Dresselhaus
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

(Received 27 January 1992; accepted for publication 4 March 1992)

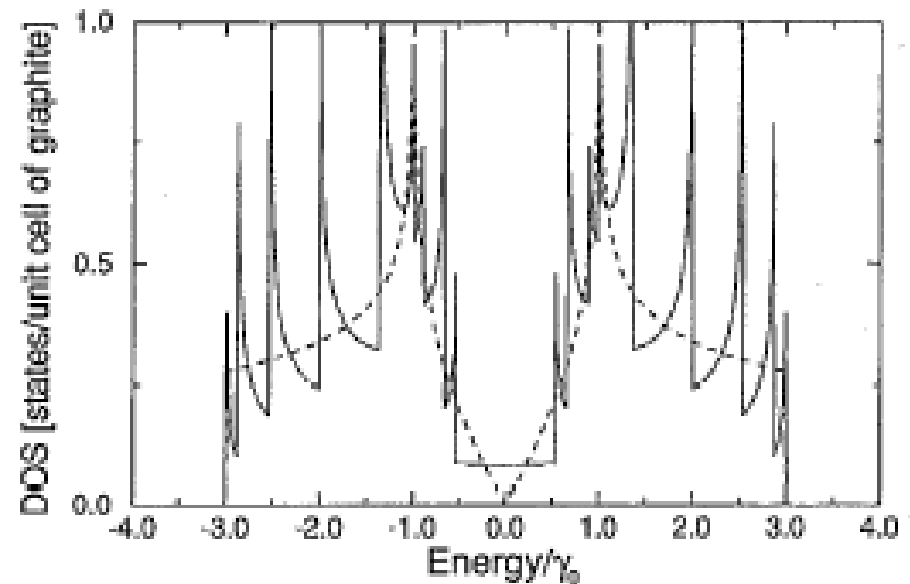
semiconducting

(a) $(n_1, n_2) = (10, 0)$



metallic

(b) $(n_1, n_2) = (9, 0)$



Dashed line: graphene

Note: linear density of states at around zero in graphene –
different from either metallic or semiconducting nanotubes !!

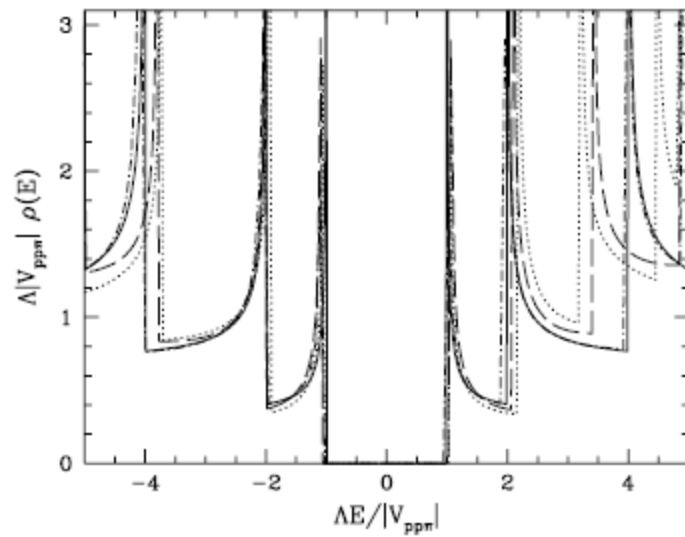
Universal Density of States for Carbon Nanotubes

J. W. Mintmire and C. T. White

Code 6179, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C. 20375-5342

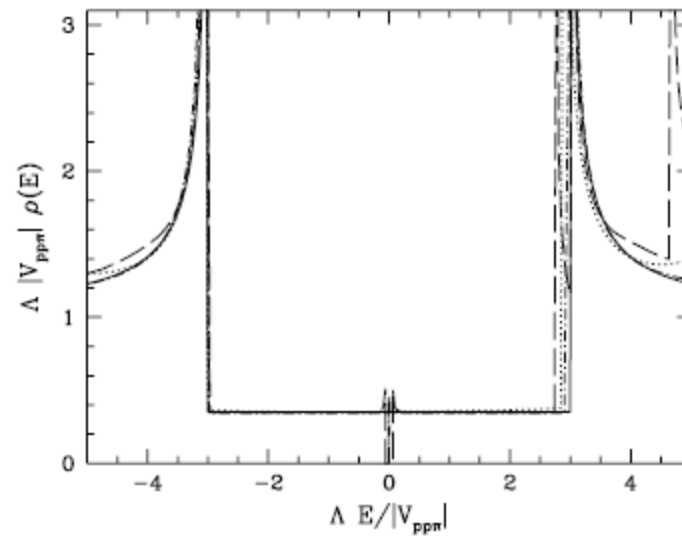
(Received 13 March 1998)

Semiconducting



(16,0); (13,6); (21,20)

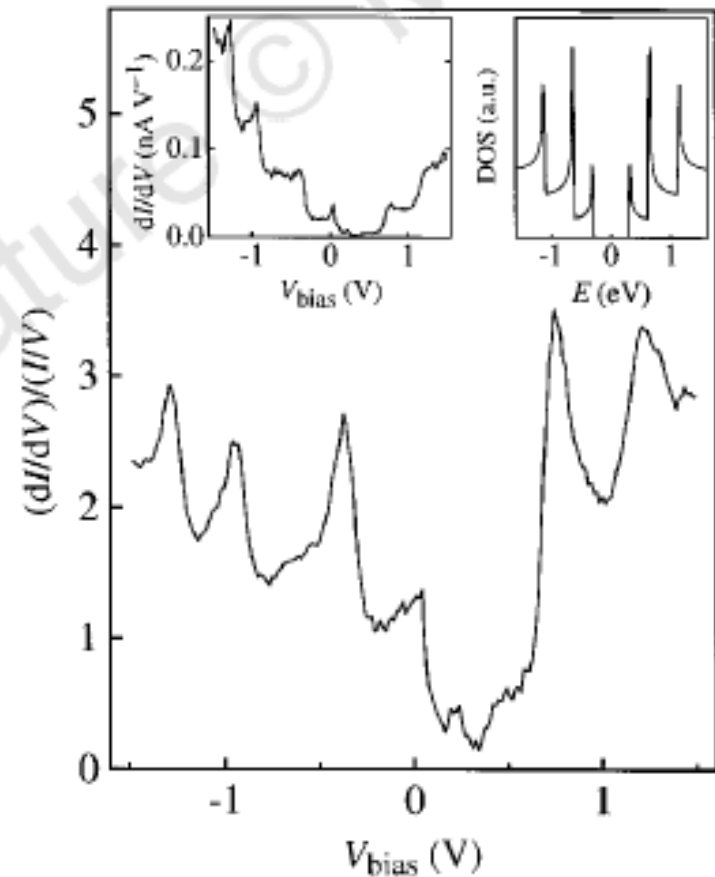
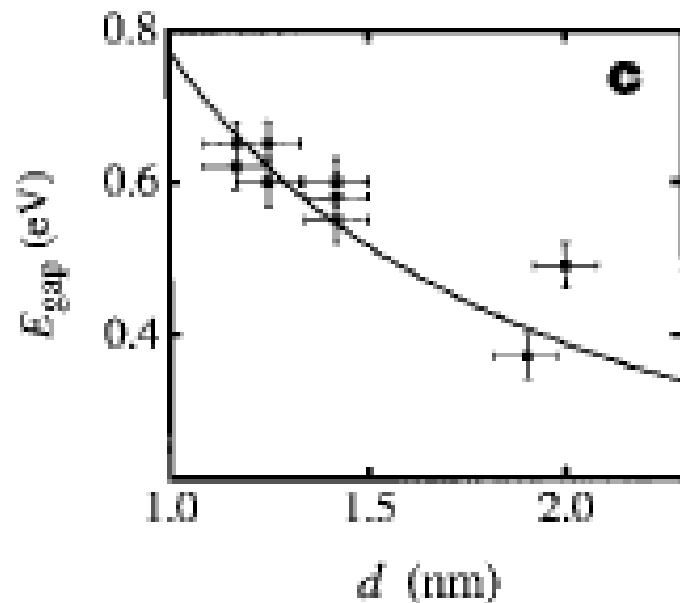
Metallic



(10,10); (14,5); (22,19)

Electronic structure of atomically resolved carbon nanotubes

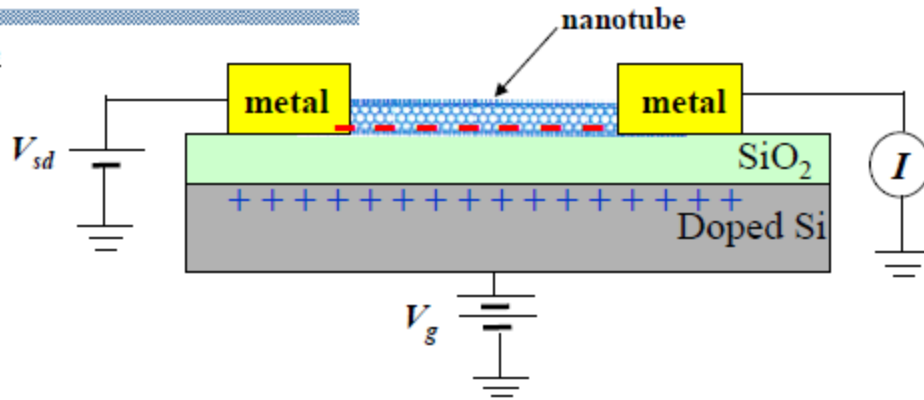
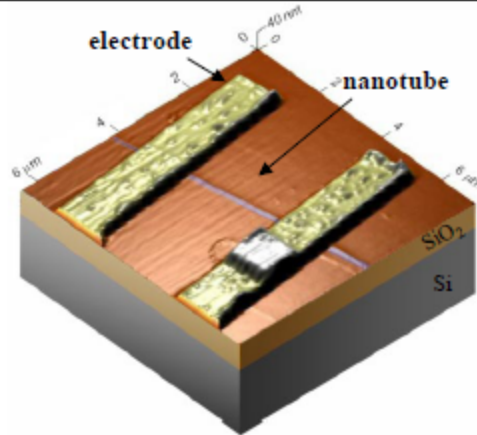
Jeroen W. G. Wildöer^{*}, Liesbeth C. Venema^{*},
Andrew G. Rinzler[†], Richard E. Smalley[†] & Cees Dekker^{*}



Use STM to probe DOS: shifts and broadening due to hybridization of CNT wave functions with Au substrate

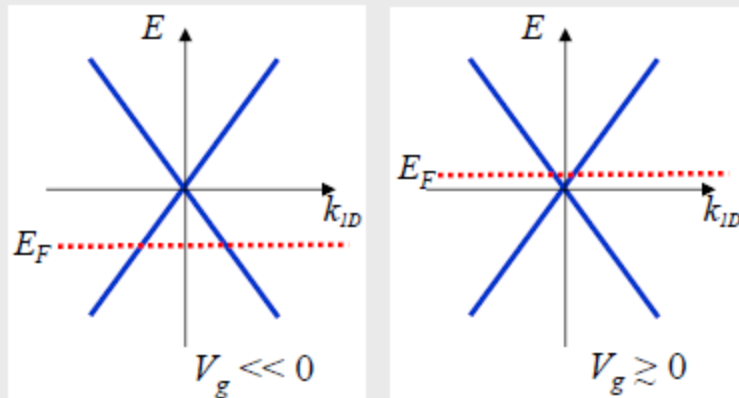
Tuning Carrier Density by Electric Field Effect

Atomic force microscope image of nanotube device

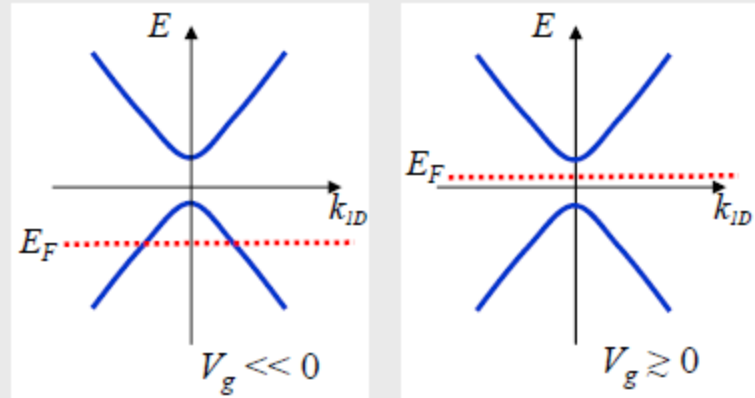


$$\text{Induced charge: } C_g V_g = e n = e (\text{D.O.S}) \Delta E_F$$

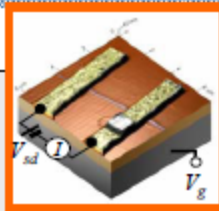
Metallic nanotube



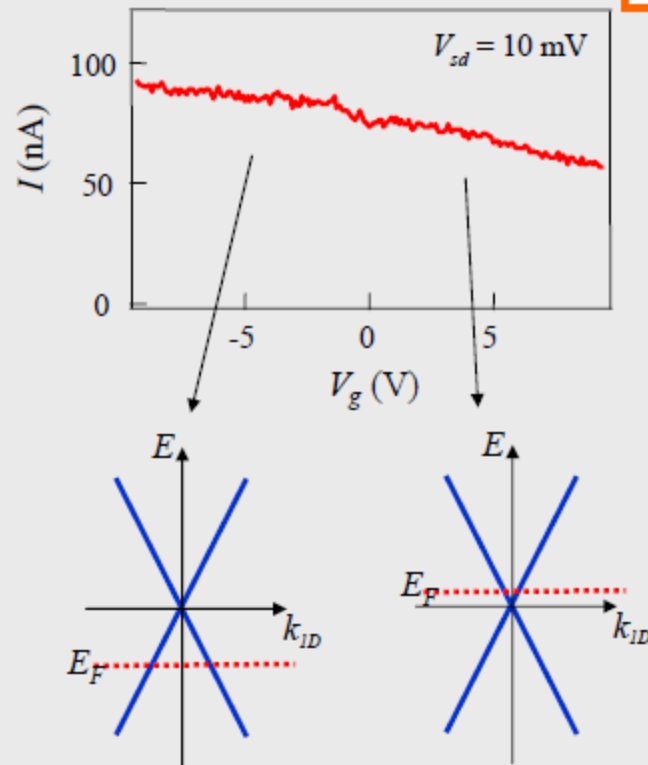
Semiconducting nanotube



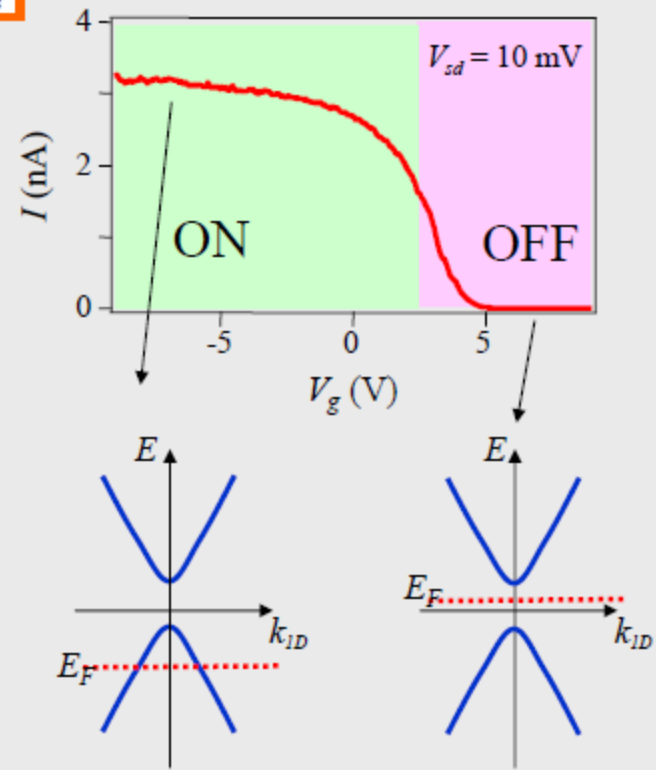
Electrical Transport in Nanotube Devices



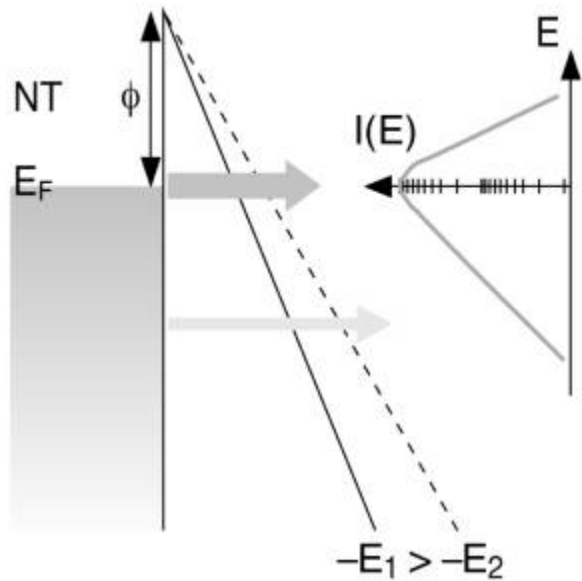
Metallic nanotube



Semiconducting nanotube



Field emission: CNTs are much better than metals



Fowler-Nordheim

$$I = a V^2 \exp \left(-\frac{b \phi^{1.5}}{\beta V} \right)$$

Physics of carbon nanotube electronic devices

553

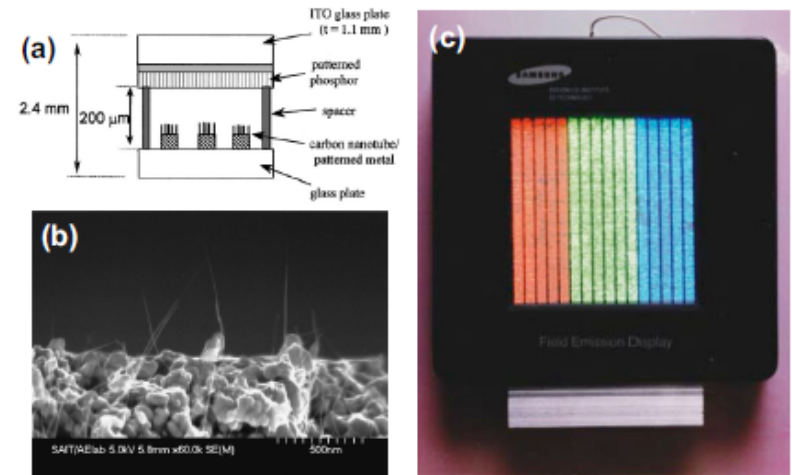
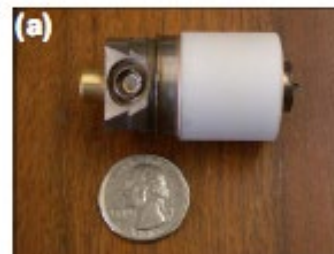
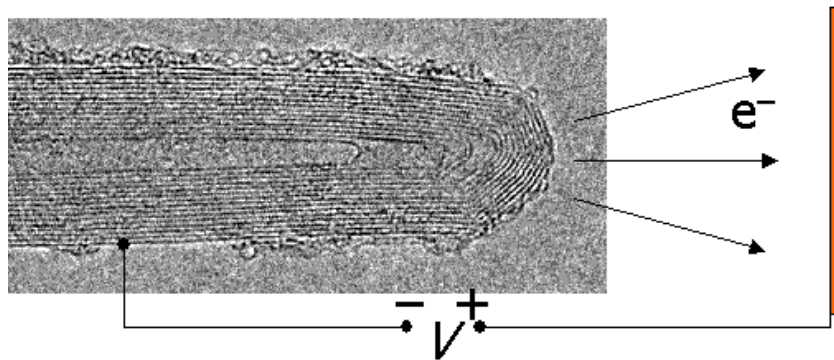


Figure 57. (a) Picture representing the set-up of a field emission display. CNTs are deposited on a patterned metal substrate. Field emitted electrons hit the phosphor screen and cause light emission in a colour that depends on the chemical compound on the phosphor screen. (b) SEM image of nanotube bundles projecting from the metal electrode. (c) A sealed CNT field emission display emitting light in three different colours. The dimension of the display is 4.5 in. From [Cho99a].



CNT-based compact low-power X-ray sources

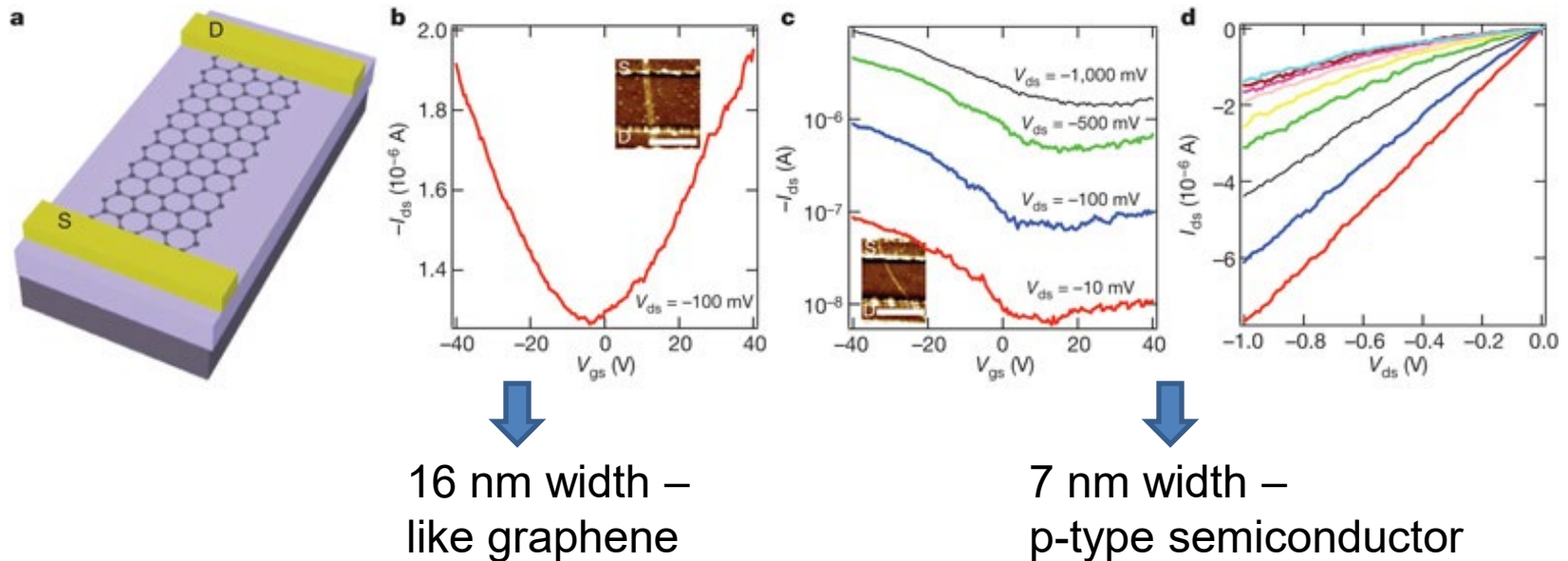
Issues

- Large range of production techniques:
- Carbon arc discharge
 - Laser vaporization or ablation
 - Chemical vapour deposition
 - Electrolysis

- Remaining challenges:
- Chemical modification
 - Functionalization
 - Solubilization
 - Separation into specific (n,m)
 - Filling
 - Doping
 - Manipulation of individual tubes

Grobert, *Materials Today* **10**, 28 (2007)

Room-temperature electrical properties of GNR devices.



The all-semiconducting nature of sub-10-nm GNRs could bypass the problem of the extreme chirality dependence of the metal or semiconductor nature of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) in future electronics

LY Jiao *et al.* *Nature* **458**, 877-880 (2009) doi:10.1038/nature07919

nature