

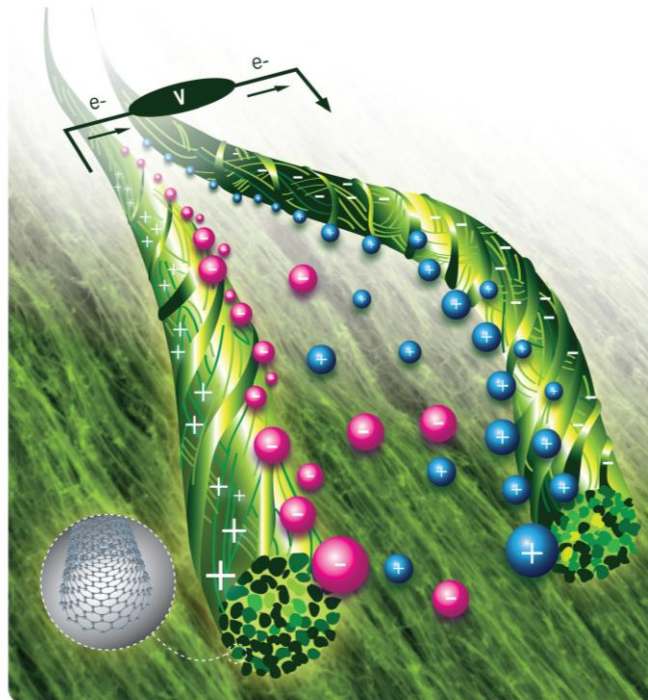
**International Workshop on  
Graphene and Carbon Nanotubes  
in Experimental Mechanics**

University of Manchester, Manchester, UK  
Wednesday 15th May 2019



## CNT fibres: materials science challenges and perspectives for industrial implementation

Juan J. Vilatela



500

Researchers

40

Nationalities



A **non-profit research organisation** (foundation) with the **Mission** of doing research of excellence in material science, contributing to tackle the challenges of society and fostering the sustainable development of the region of Madrid.





science



transfer

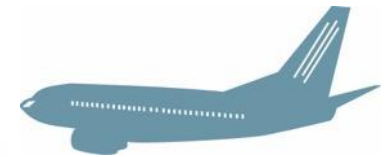


talent

## Research Programmes: Fundamental and Applied

## Societal Challenges

TALENT



Strategic Partners



science



transfer



talent



**AIRBUS**

**AIRBUS**



**ANSYS**

**RENISHAW**  
apply innovation

**AIRBUS**  
DEFENCE & SPACE

**TOLSA**

**GRUPO ANTOLIN**



**ArcelorMittal**

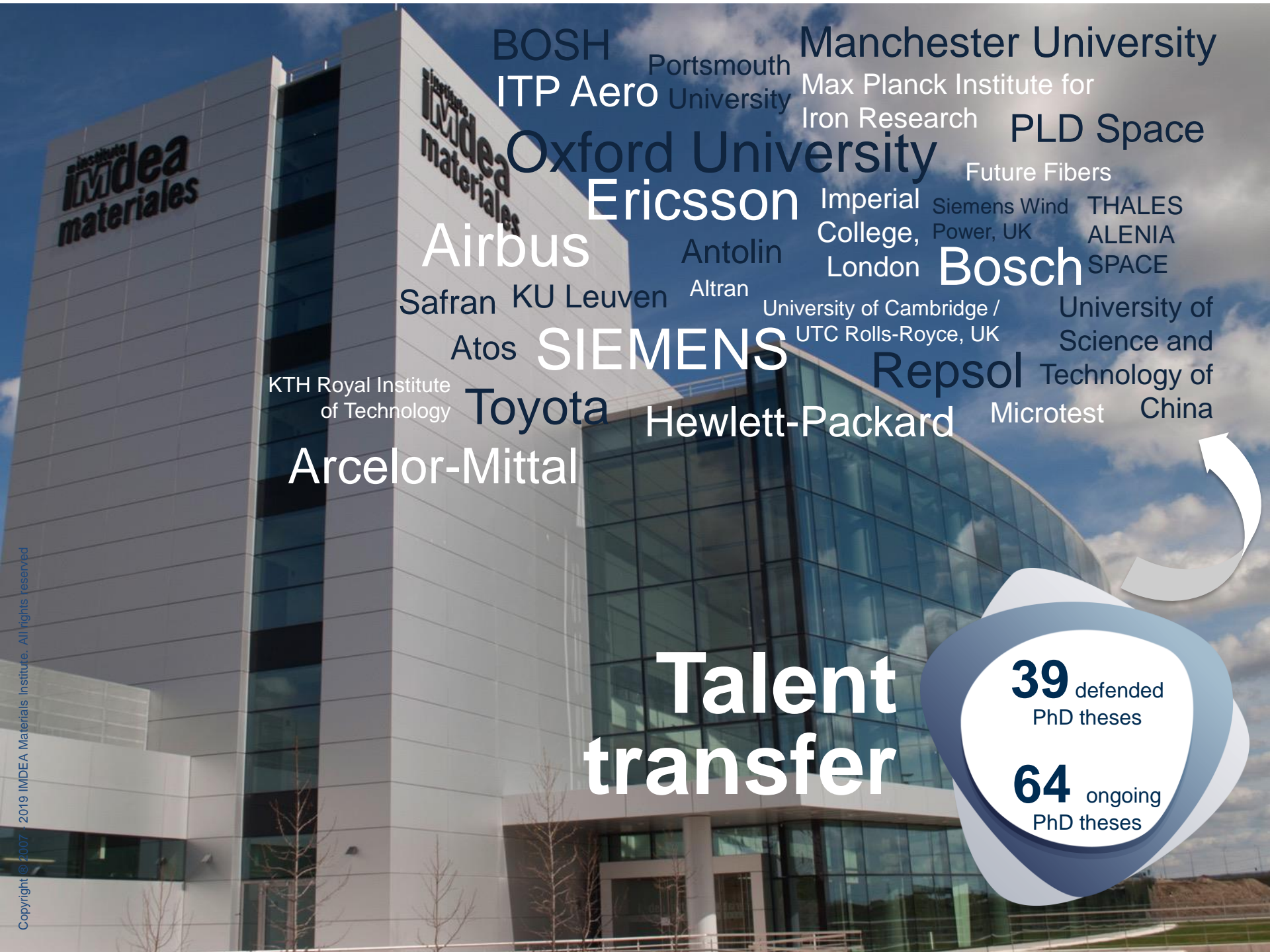


**enusa**



Liaoning Jinghua New Material Inc





BOSH  
ITP Aero  
Oxford University  
Ericsson  
Airbus  
Safran  
Atos  
KTH Royal Institute of Technology  
Arcelor-Mittal

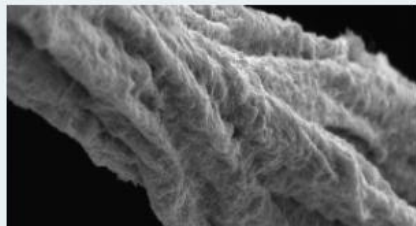
Portsmouth University  
Manchester University  
Max Planck Institute for Iron Research  
PLD Space  
Future Fibers  
Imperial College, London  
Siemens Wind Power, UK  
THALES ALENIA SPACE  
University of Cambridge / UTC  
Rolls-Royce, UK  
University of Science and Technology of China

# Talent transfer

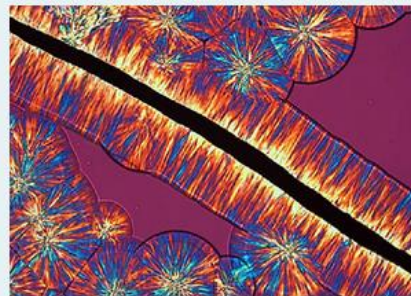
**39** defended PhD theses

**64** ongoing PhD theses

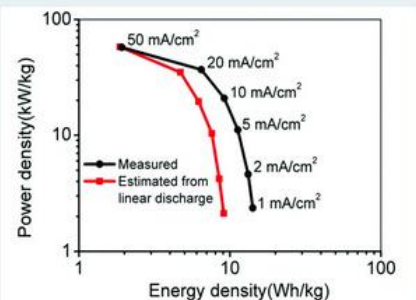
Synthesis of nanobuilding blocks  
and assembly into macroscopic  
structures



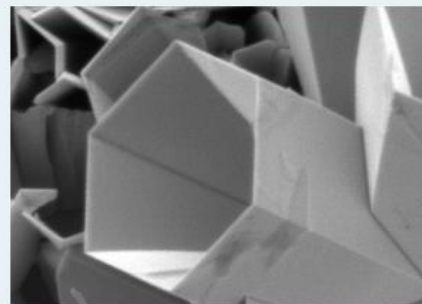
Fabrication and properties of CNT  
fibre reinforced composites



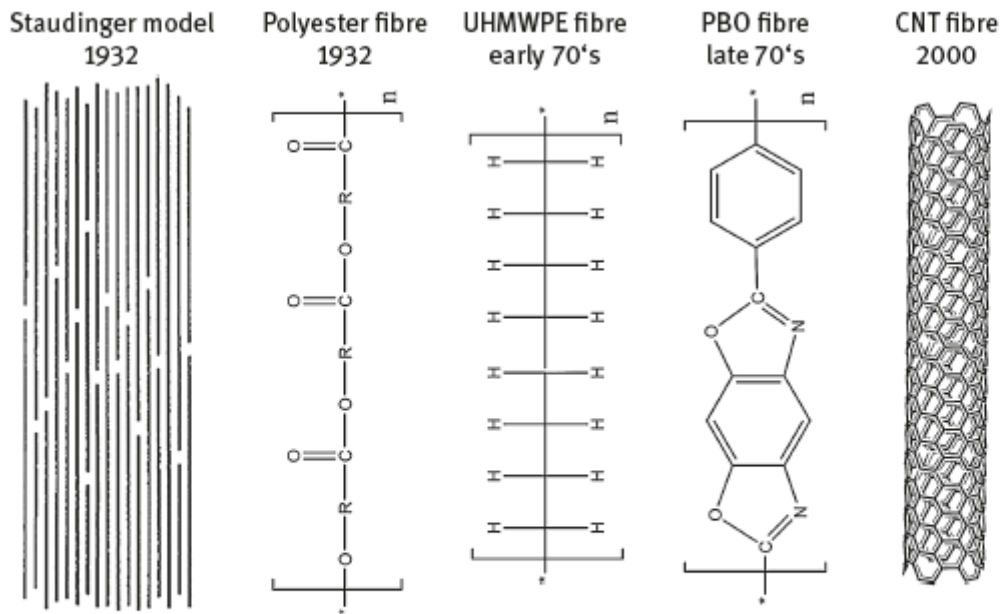
CNT fibre electrochemistry,  
sensors and energy storage  
devices



Electronic and photocatalytic  
properties of CNT-inorganic  
hybrids



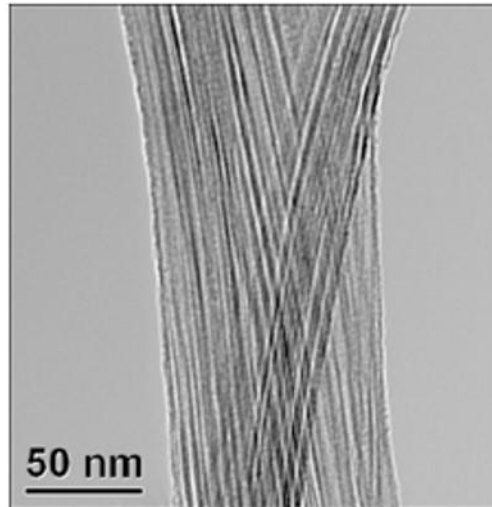
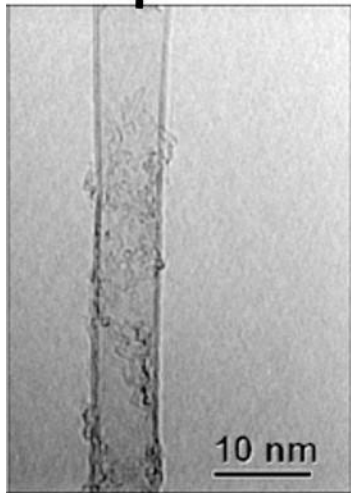
# Macroscopic fibres made up of aligned CNTs



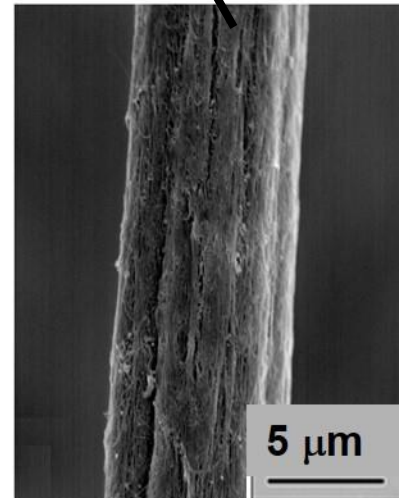
**Fig. 8.8:** The basic structure of high-performance polymer fibers (Staudinger's model [51]) and some examples of polymers and of a CNT used as building block for synthetic fibers. (Courtesy of H. Yue). With kind permission from Wiley (2006).

# Macroscopic fibres made up of aligned CNTs

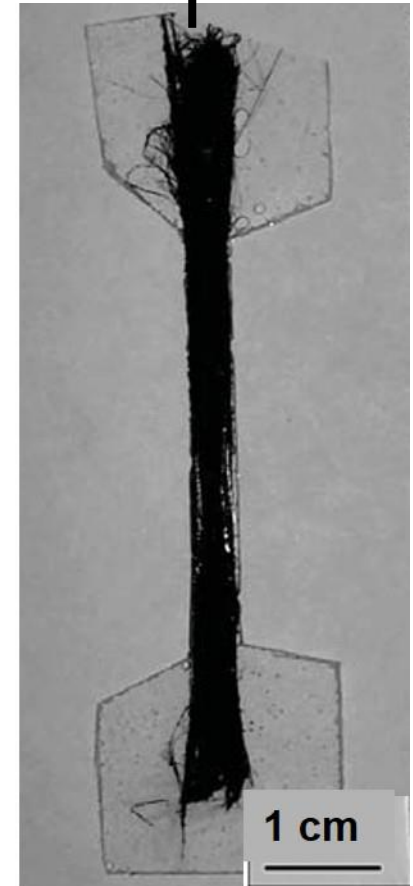
Similar to a virus



Single filament

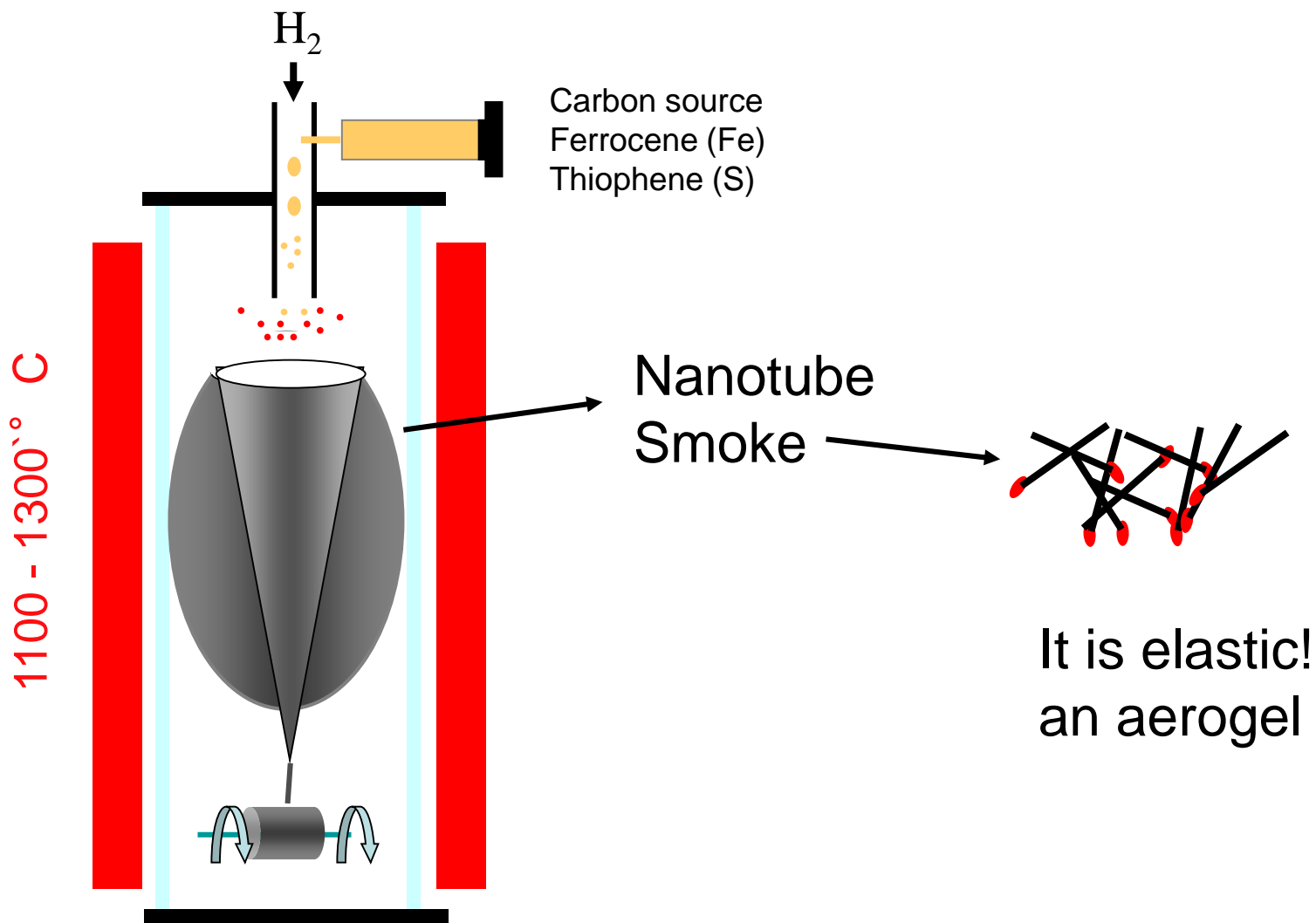


Tow

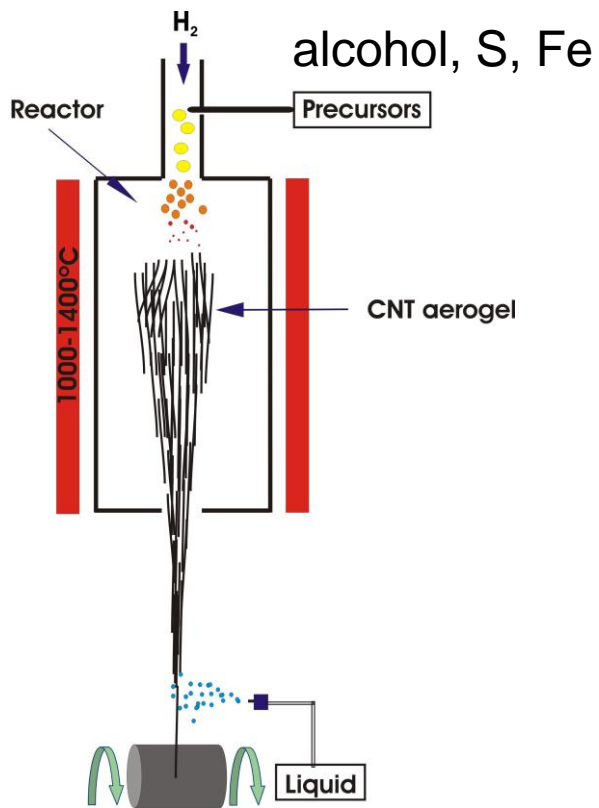




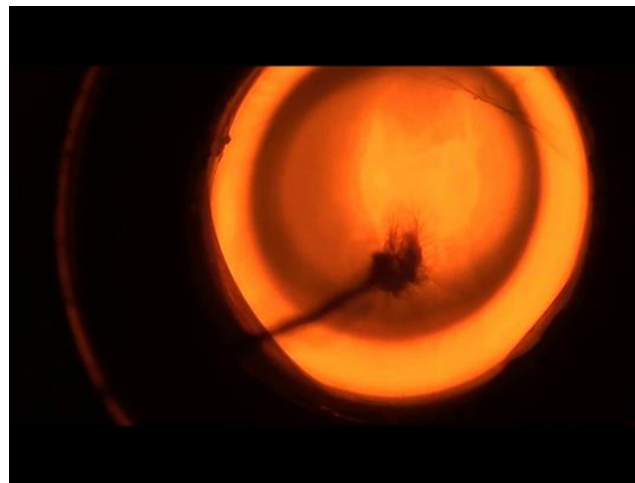
# Synthesis of continuous CNT fibres



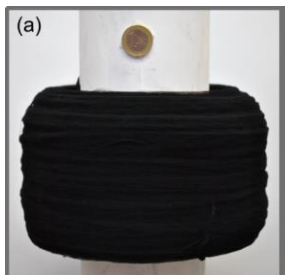
# Floating catalyst CVD



Looking up into the reactor



Continuous spinning of 1km

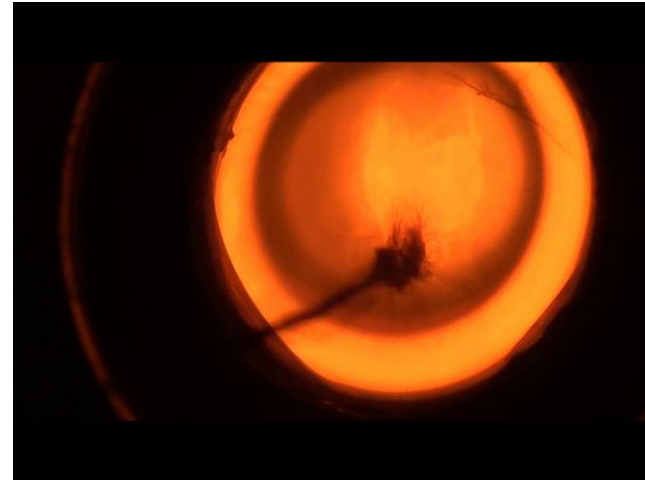


# A macroscopic fibre made of carbon nanotubes

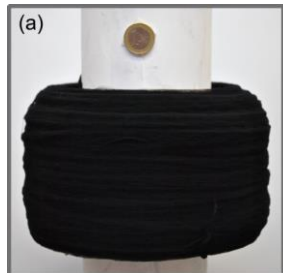
alcohol, S, Fe



Looking up into the reactor

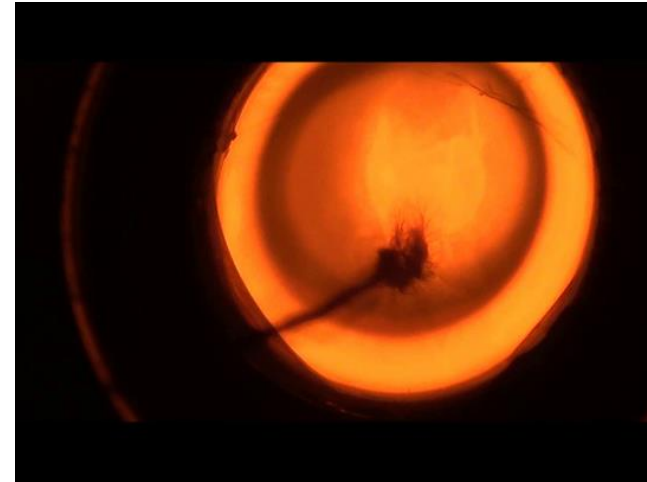


Continuous spinning of 1km

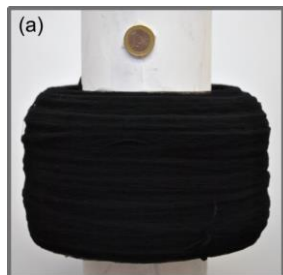


# A macroscopic fibre made of carbon nanotubes

Looking up into the reactor

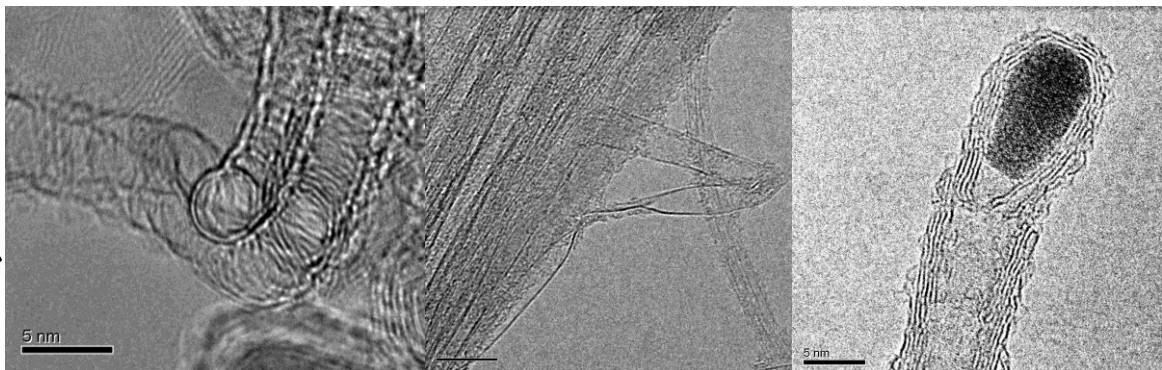
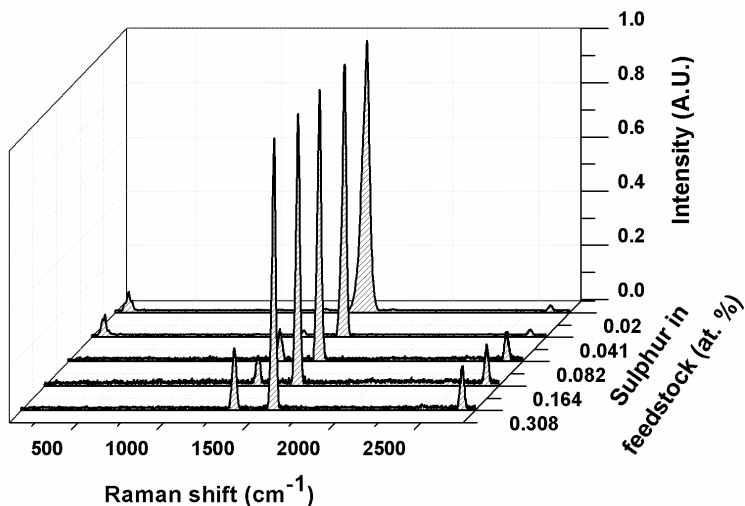


Continuous spinning of 1km

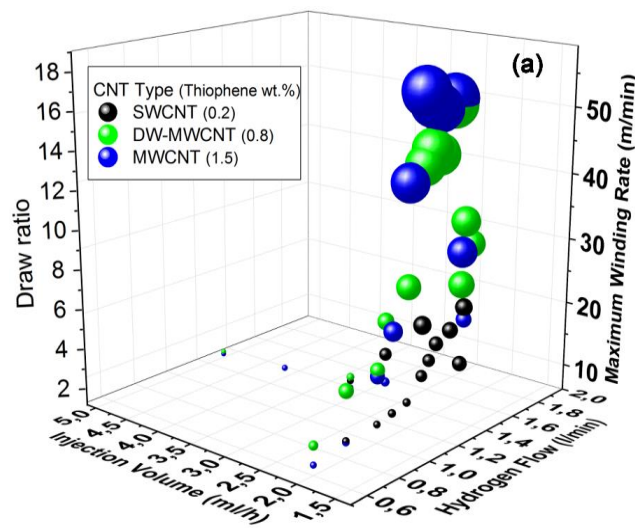
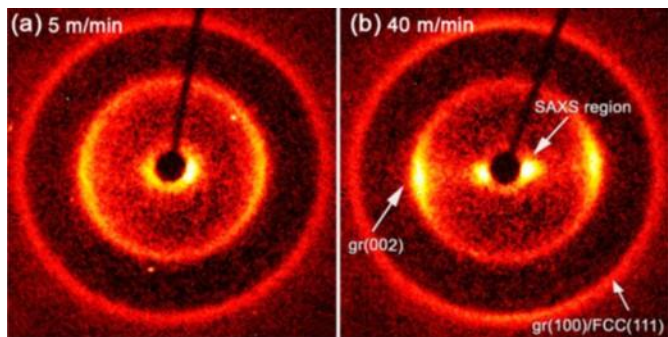


# CNT type and fibre alignment be controlled

Layers controlled through S/C ratio



Reguero et al, Chem Mater, 26, 3550 2014



Aleman et al, ACS Nano, 9, 7392, 2015

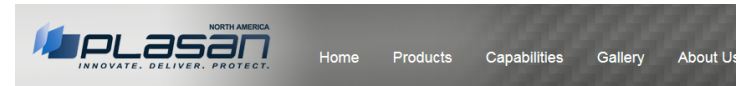
# Scale up efforts around the world



Core Conductor for Data Transmission

## Technologies

June 6, 2014 – Nanocomp Technologies, Inc. is pleased to celebrate the expansion of its manufacturing facilities in Huntsman, Utah. The company is tripling its production capacity in the upcoming year. Under the leadership of Maggie Hassan, will be present at the event and its impact on the manufacturing industry. Police Departments will be present.

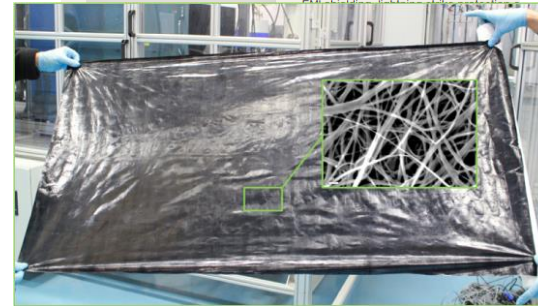


## PRODUCTS

- Overview
- Land & Vehicle Products
- Launch Canisters & Missile Containers

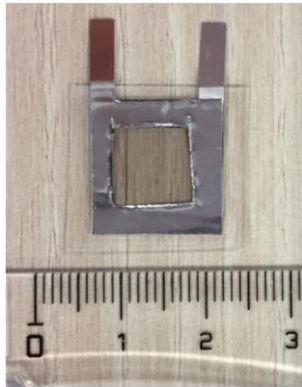
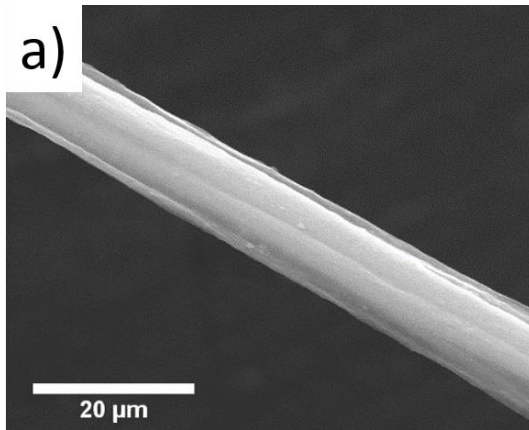
## Carbon Nanotube Materials

Nanotube fibers and mats for military and commercial applications are now a real possibility with the latest technology. Carbon Nanotubes combined with other materials such as carbon fiber, ceramic provide innumerable solutions for the industry. This material can be created with tailored properties to specific requirements such as providing greater conductivity, lower resistance to heat in electrical applications and can be...



# Different CNT fibre formats

Single filament



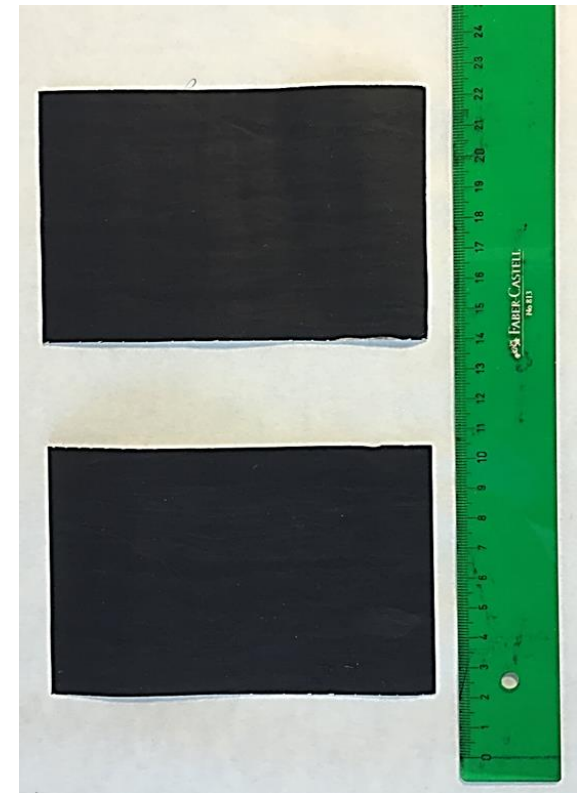
- Transparent conductor
- Microelectrode

Yarns (10-100 filament tow)



- Electrical conductor
- Electrode
- Sensor

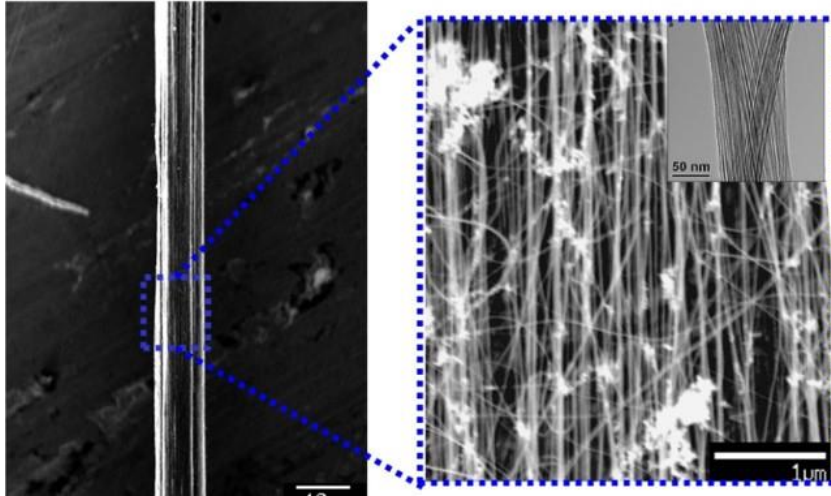
Unidirectional sheets



- Electrode/current collector
- Laminate composite reinforcement

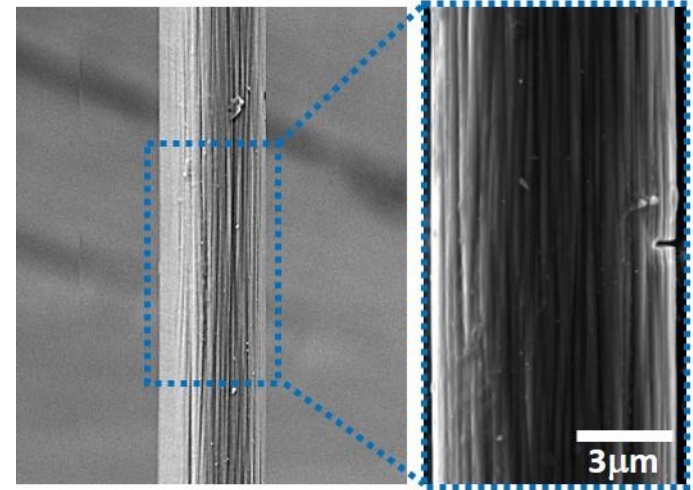
# A fundamentally different type of carbon material

CNT Fibre

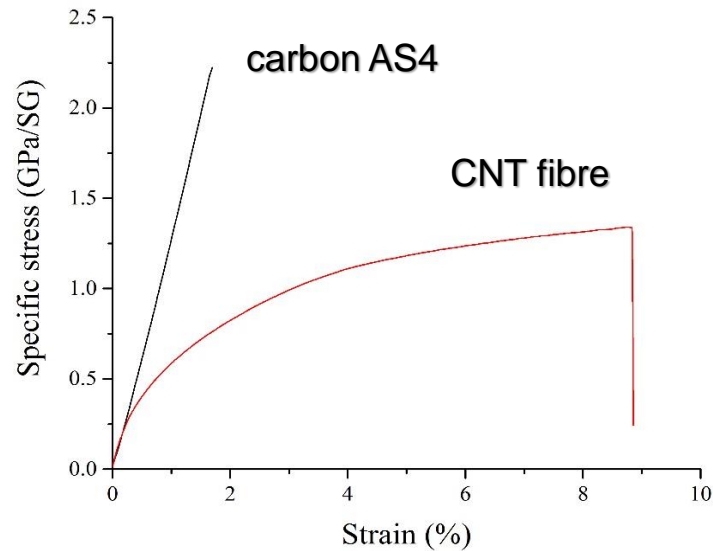


Conductivity  $10^3$  S/cm

Carbon Fibre



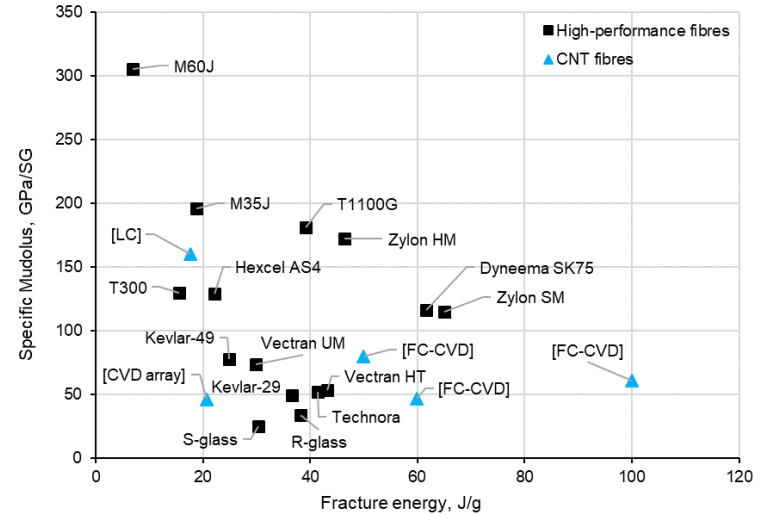
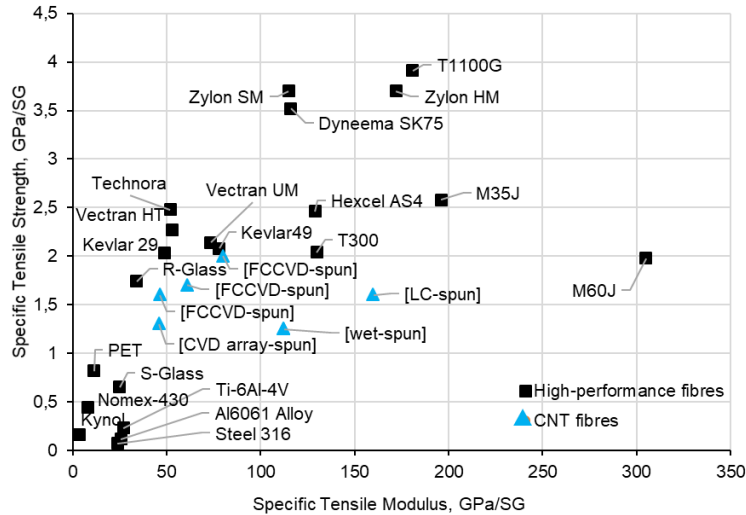
$10^2$  S/cm





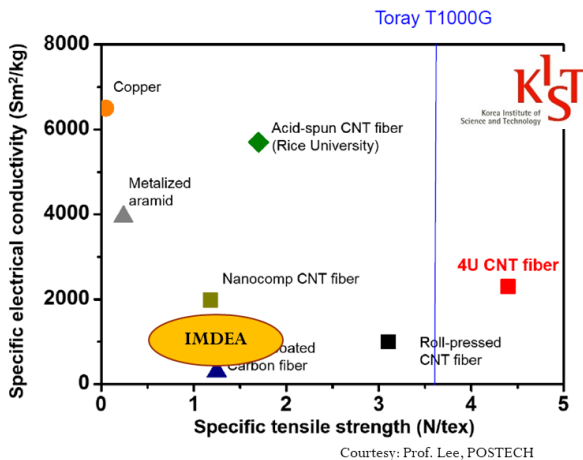
# Current fibre properties

## Mechanical

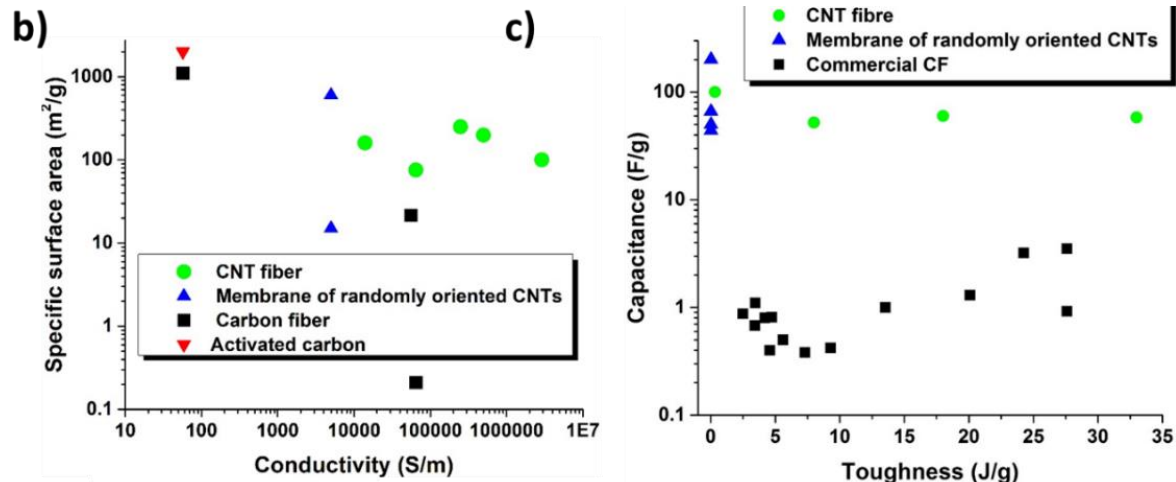


A Perspective on High-performance CNT fibres for Structural Composites; Carbon; 150, 191, 2019;

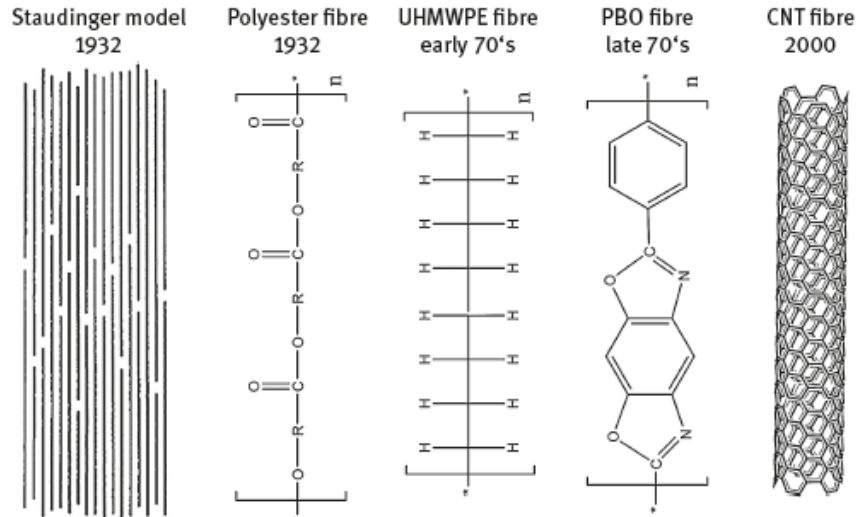
## Mechanical/electrical



## Electrochemical/mechanical



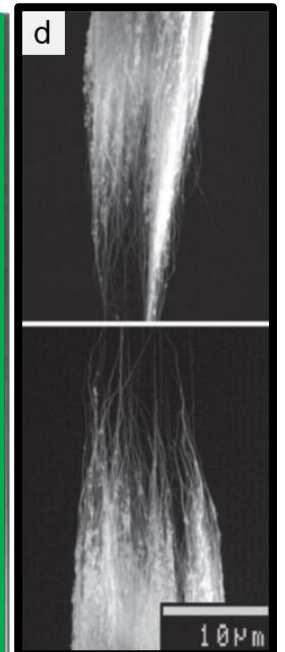
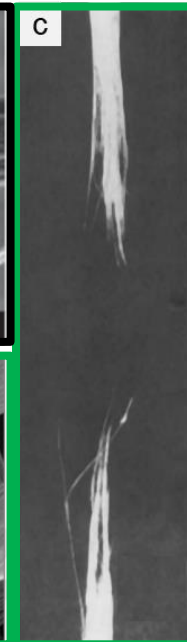
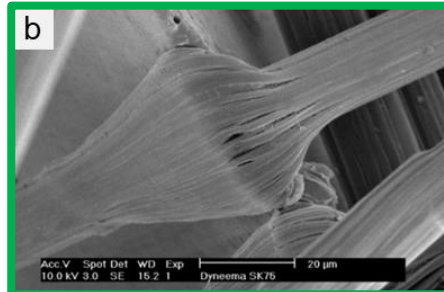
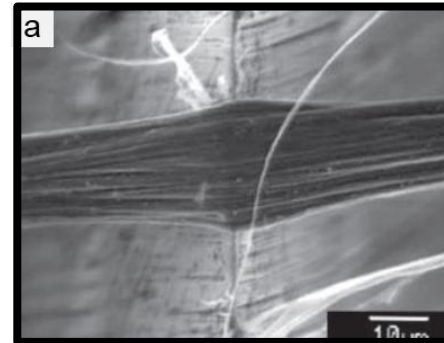
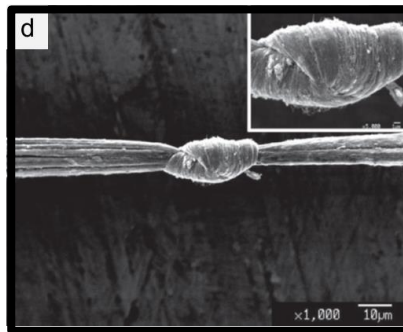
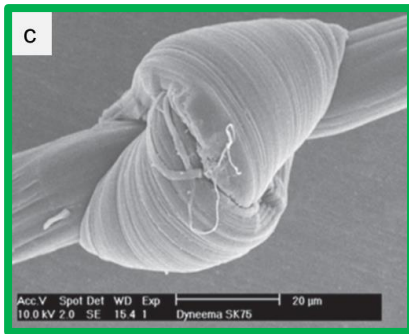
# CNT fibres as macromolecular systems



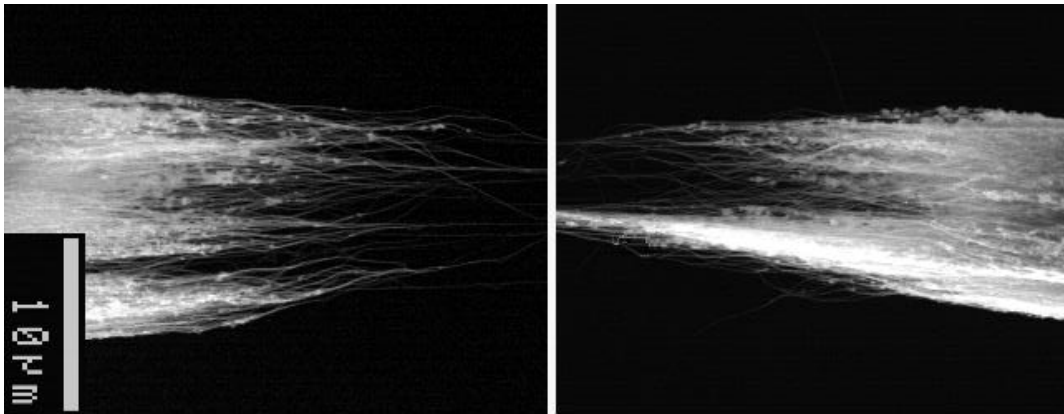
Chapter 8, Nanocarbon-Inorganic Hybrids, De Gruyter 2014

**UHMWPE fibre**

**CNT fibre**

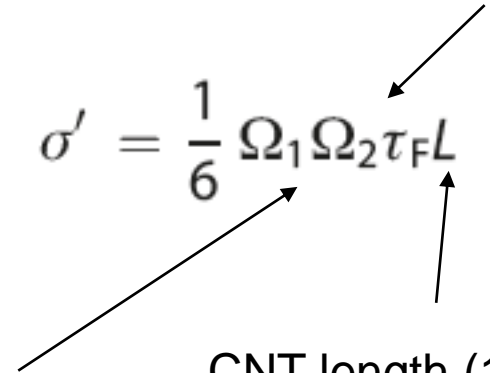


# Structure – tensile properties



Shear strength (30kPa)

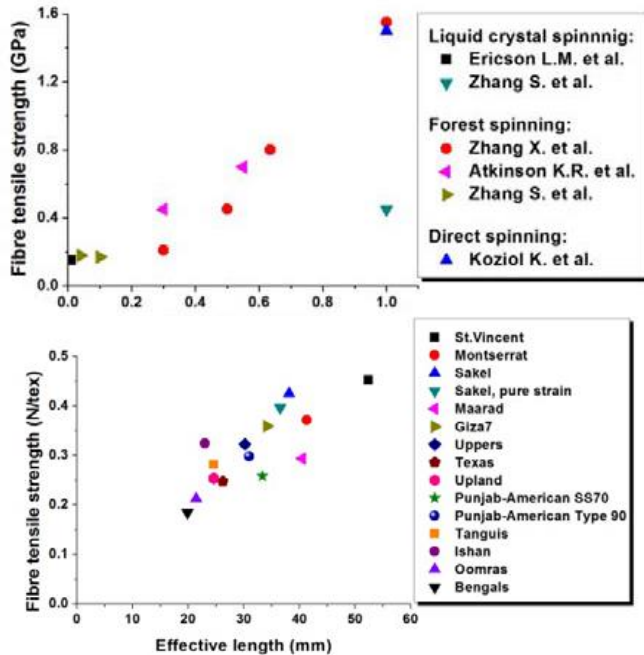
$$\sigma' = \frac{1}{6} \Omega_1 \Omega_2 \tau_{FL}$$



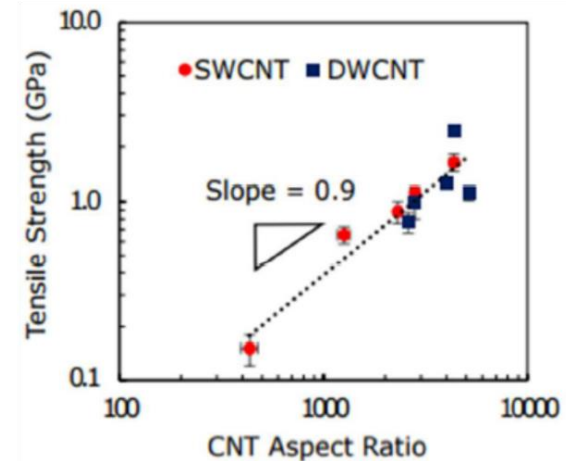
CNT length (1mm)

CNT lateral overlap

Vilatela, Elliott, Windle, ACS Nano, 2011

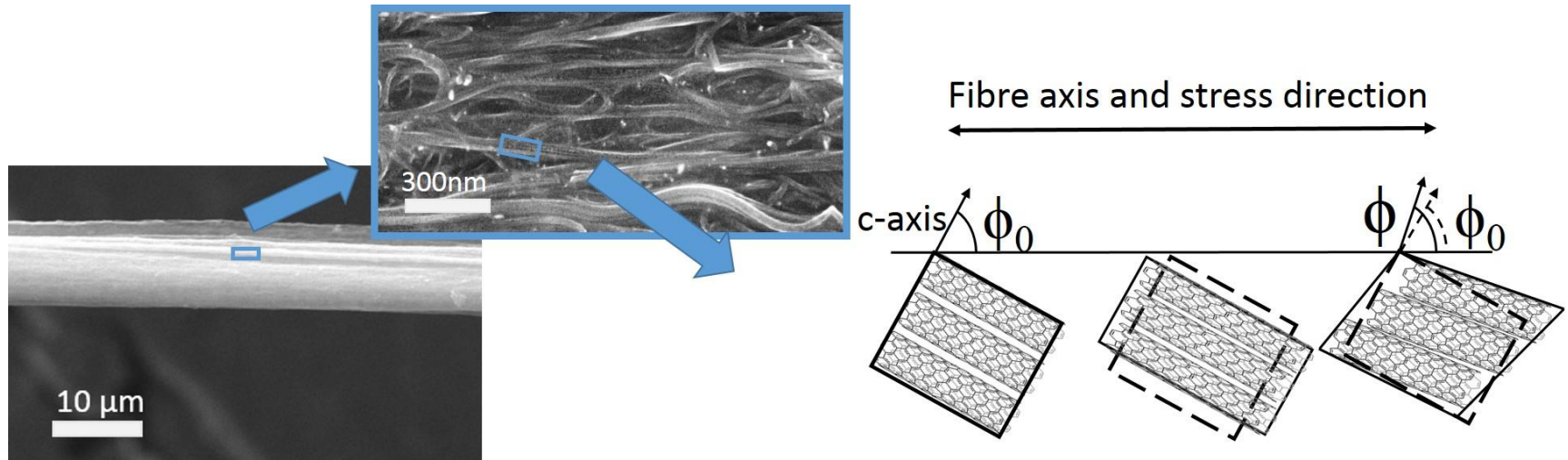


J. Eng. Fibers and Fabrics. 2013



Tsentlovich, et al.. ACS Appl Mater Interfaces 2017; 9:36189–36198

# The uniform stress transfer model



- The fibre is reduced to a network of bundles
- Deformation through bundle stretching and shear
- Only for highly aligned systems:  $\langle \sin \phi_0 \rangle \approx 1, \langle \cos^4 \phi_0 \rangle \ll \langle \cos^2 \phi_0 \rangle$

$$\frac{1}{E} = \frac{1}{e_c} + \frac{\langle \cos^2(\phi_0) \rangle}{g}$$

$$\langle \cos^2(\phi_0) \rangle = \frac{\int_0^\pi \cos^2(\phi_0) I(\phi_0) \sin(\phi_0) d\phi}{\int_0^\pi I(\phi_0) \sin(\phi_0) d\phi}$$

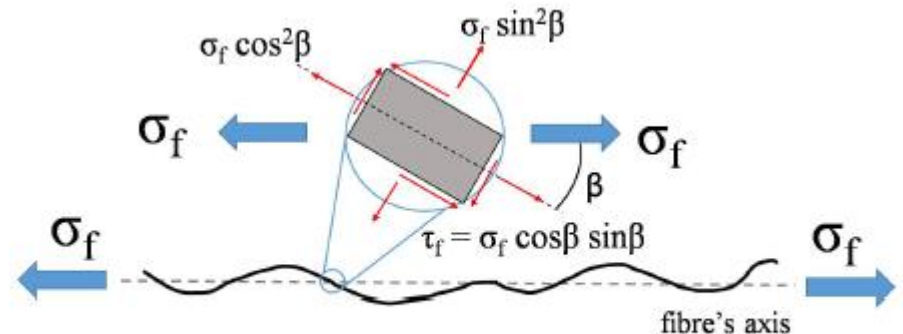
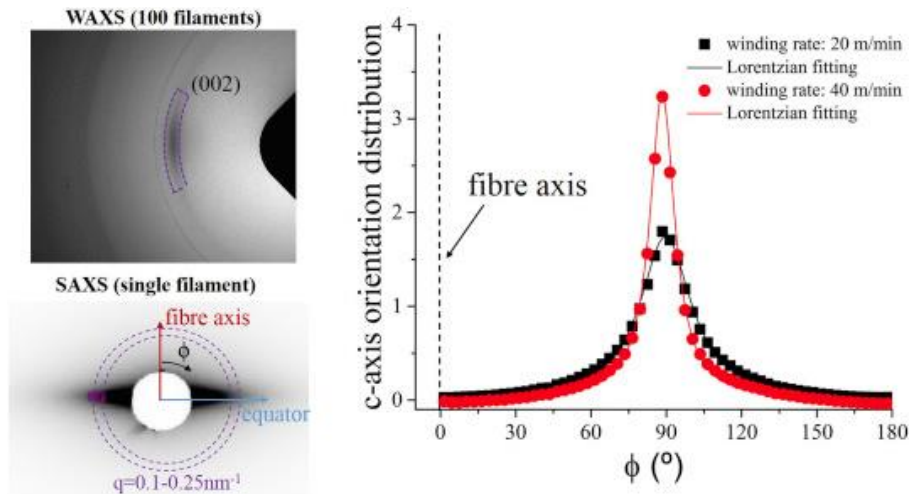


Fig. 5.4 Illustration of the state of stresses for a structural elements into the fibre according to the uniform stress model.

# Experimental study

Samples with different alignment



ODF from the form factor in SAXS

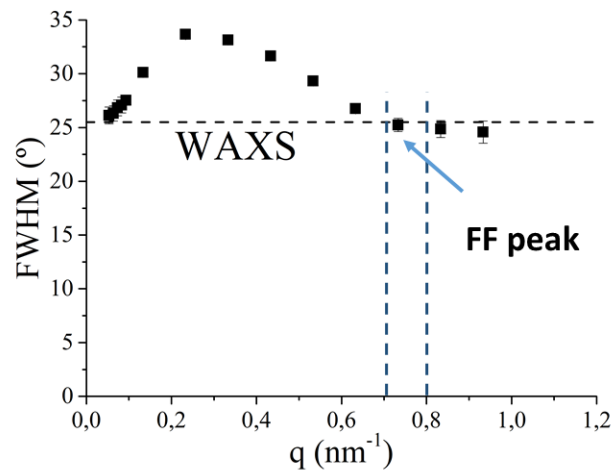
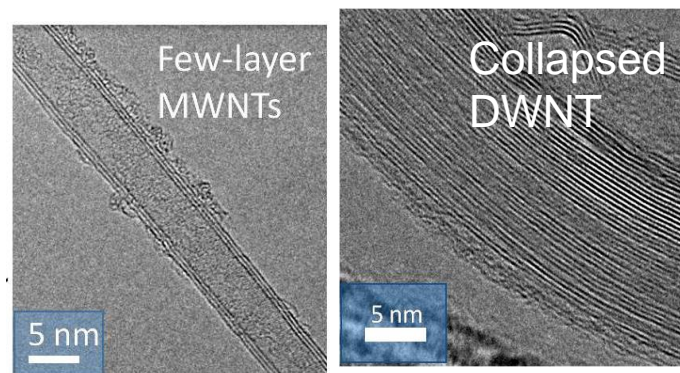


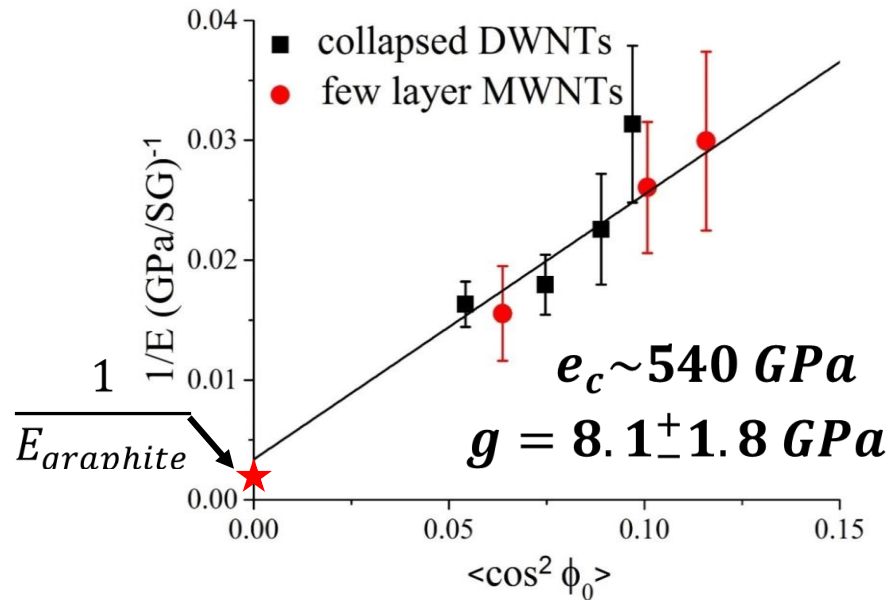
Table 1: Experimental values of CNT fibres

	winding rate (m/min)	$\langle \cos^2 \phi_0 \rangle$ ( $\times 10^{-2}$ )	$E$ (GPa)	$\sigma_b$ (GPa)	Fracture energy (J/g)
Collapsed DWNTs	4	8.89	$44 \pm 9$	$1.0 \pm 0.2$	$70 \pm 40$
	8	9.7	$32 \pm 7$	$1.1 \pm 0.1$	$90 \pm 20$
	12	7.46	$56 \pm 8$	$1.3 \pm 0.2$	$70 \pm 30$
	16	5.42	$61 \pm 7$	$1.7 \pm 0.3$	$100 \pm 30$
Few-layer MWNTs	20	11.58	$33 \pm 8$	$0.7 \pm 0.1$	$60 \pm 10$
	30	10.08	$38 \pm 8$	$0.8 \pm 0.1$	$65 \pm 15$
	40	6.37	$64 \pm 16$	$1.1 \pm 0.2$	$80 \pm 40$

2 batches of different CNT type



# Successful fitting of experimental data



$$\frac{1}{E} = \frac{1}{e_c} + \frac{\langle \cos^2(\phi_0) \rangle}{g}$$

The stiffness of CNT fibres is mainly dominated by the ODF of nanotubes

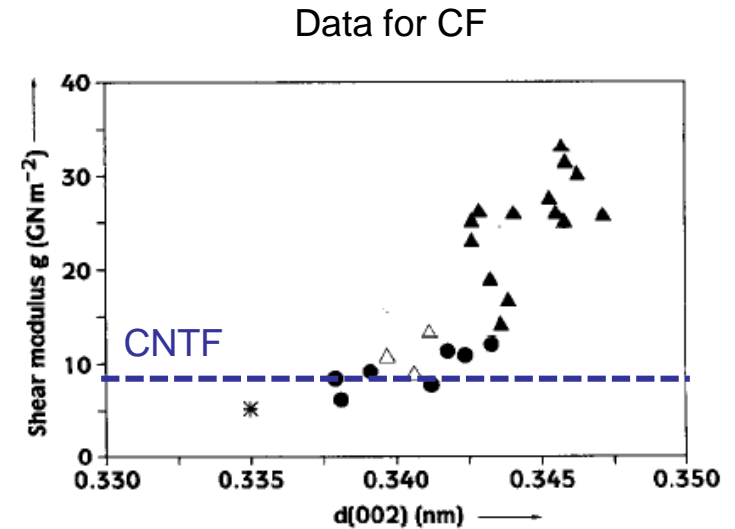
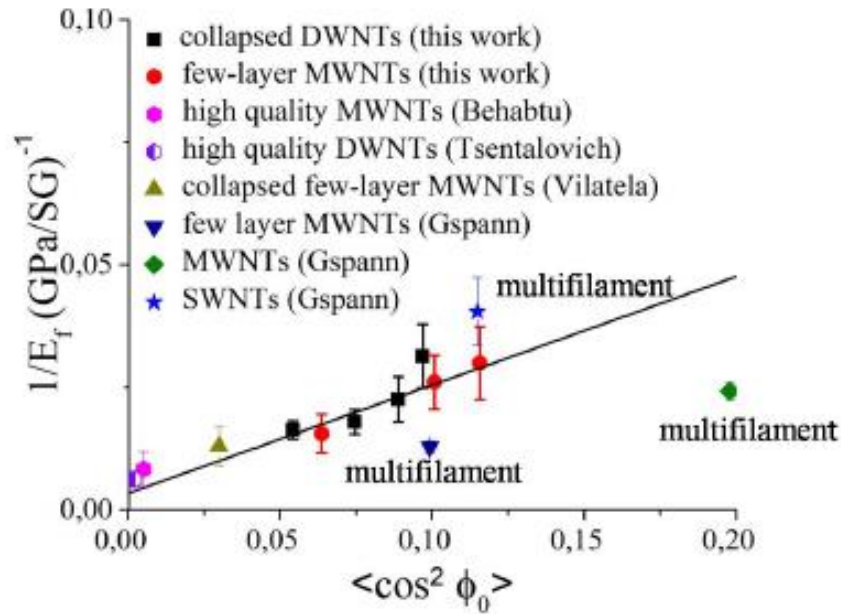


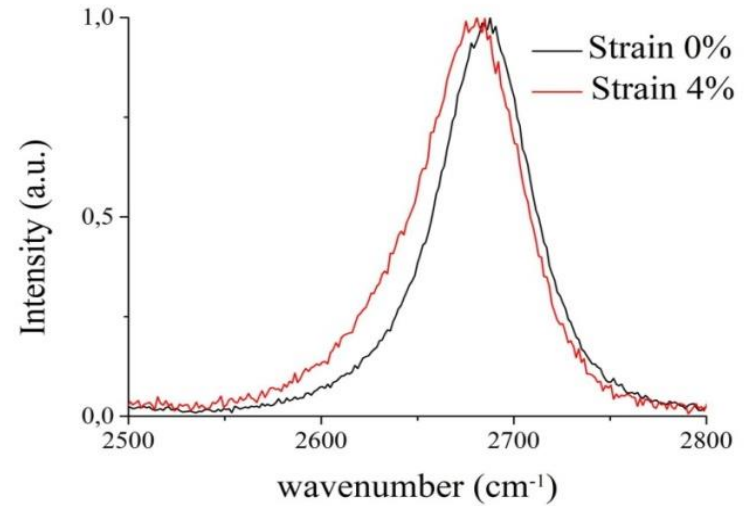
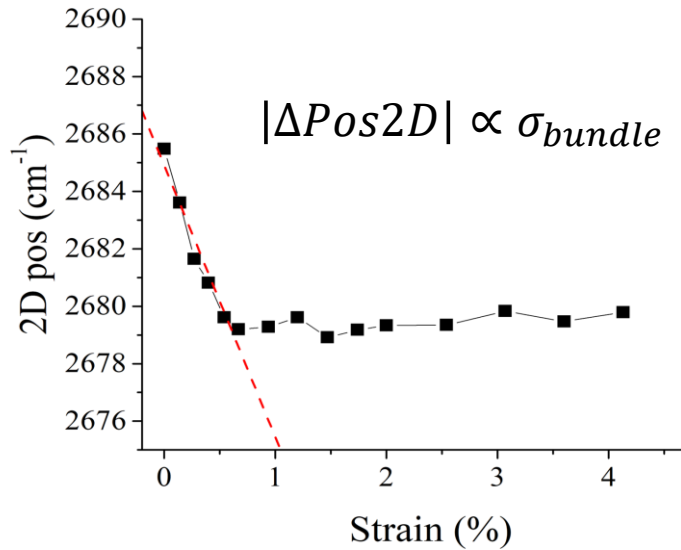
Fig. 8. Shear modulus  $g$  as a function of the lattice spacing  $d(002)$ . Graphite is indicated by (\*).

Northol et al, Carbon, 29, 1991

$$\frac{1}{E} = \frac{1}{e_c} + \frac{\langle \cos^2(\phi_0) \rangle}{g}$$

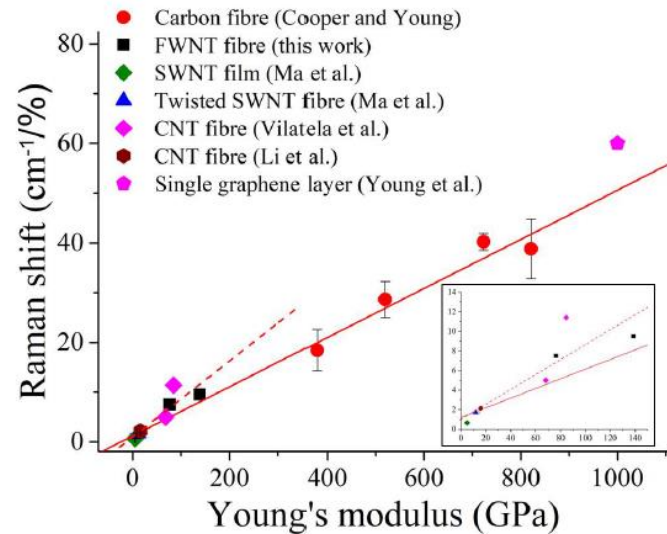
The model successfully describes the elastic properties of aligned CNT fibres

# Uniform stress transfer and Raman



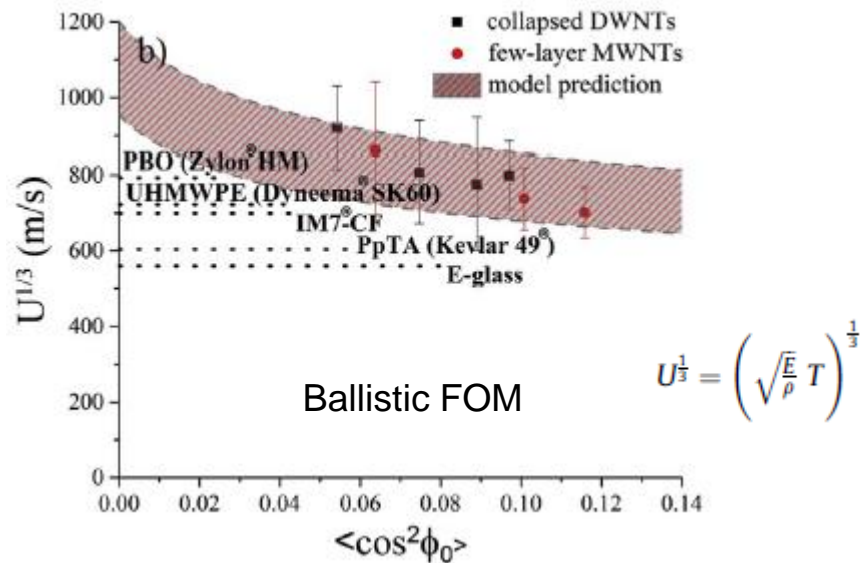
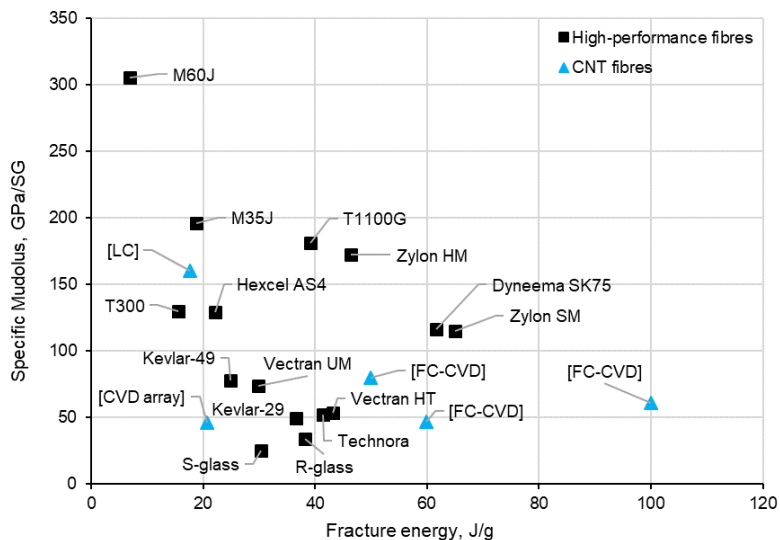
$$\frac{|\Delta Pos_{2D}|}{\Delta \epsilon_f} \propto \frac{\sigma_f}{\epsilon_f} = E_f$$

The change in stress state of a bundle (measured by Raman) per bulk strain, is proportional to the fibre bulk longitudinal modulus

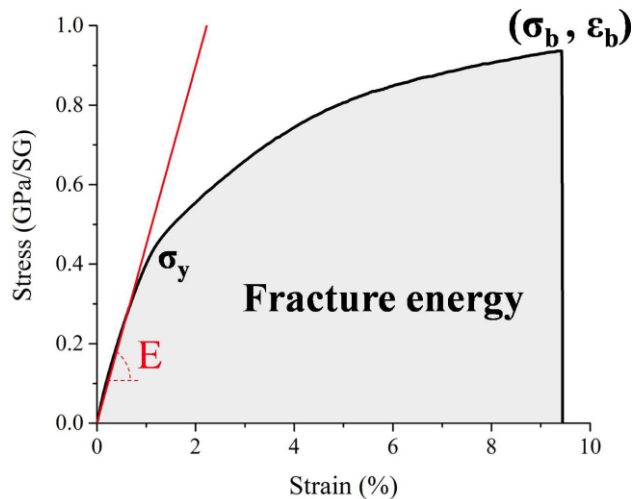




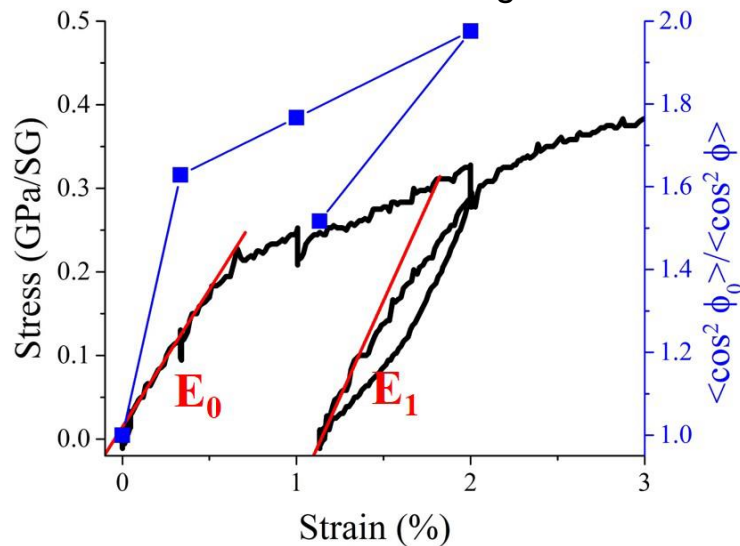
# Tensile properties and fracture energy



## Unusual elastoplastic deformation

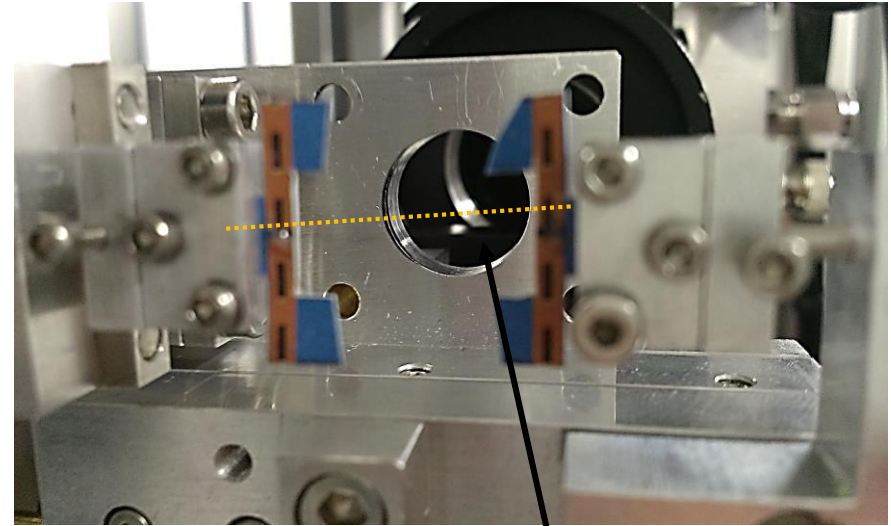
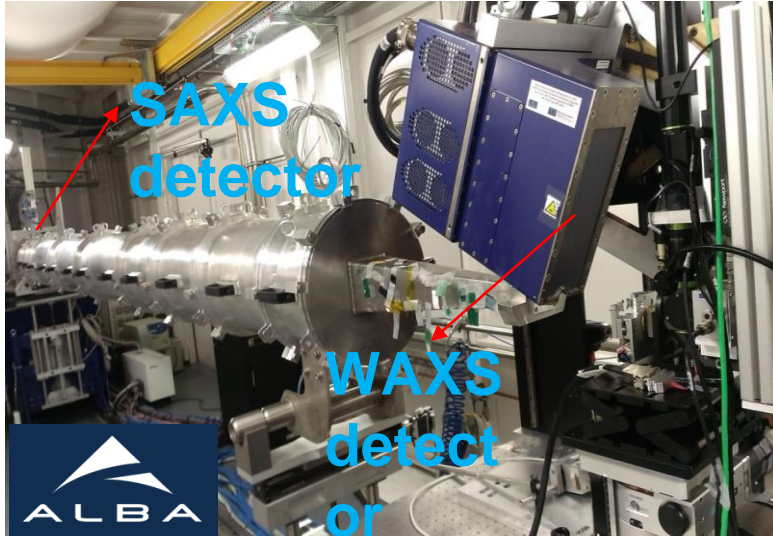


## Strain-hardening

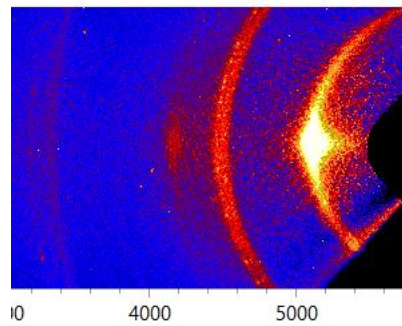




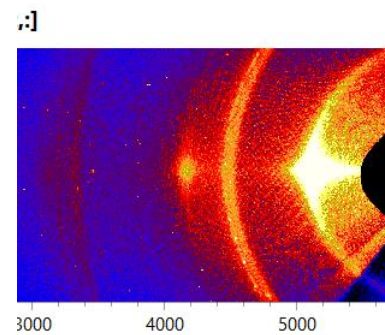
# Monitoring alignment evolution during stretching



10-micron diameter filament

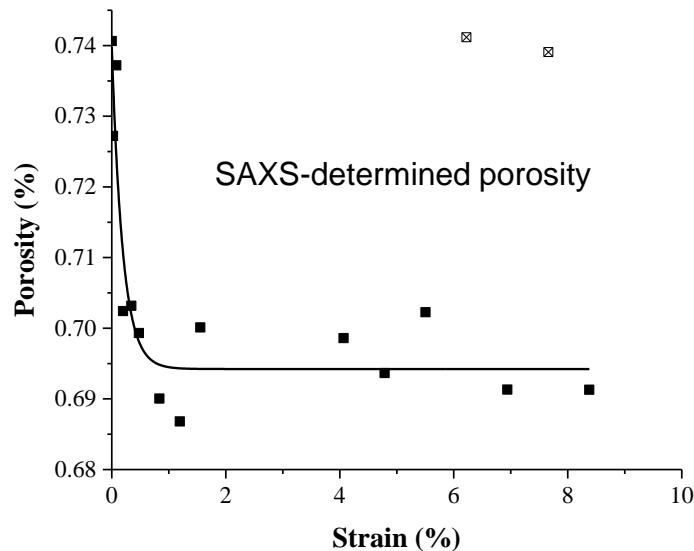
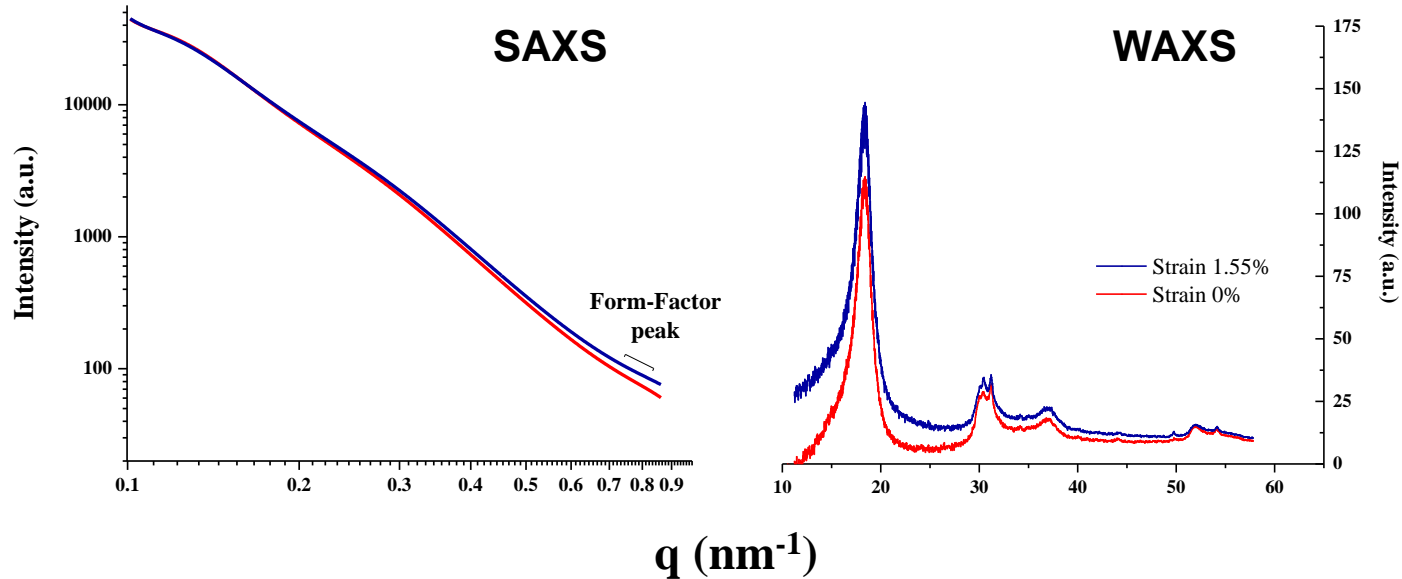


$F = 10\text{mN}$



$F = 40\text{mN}$

# Radial profiles – mesoscopic structural changes



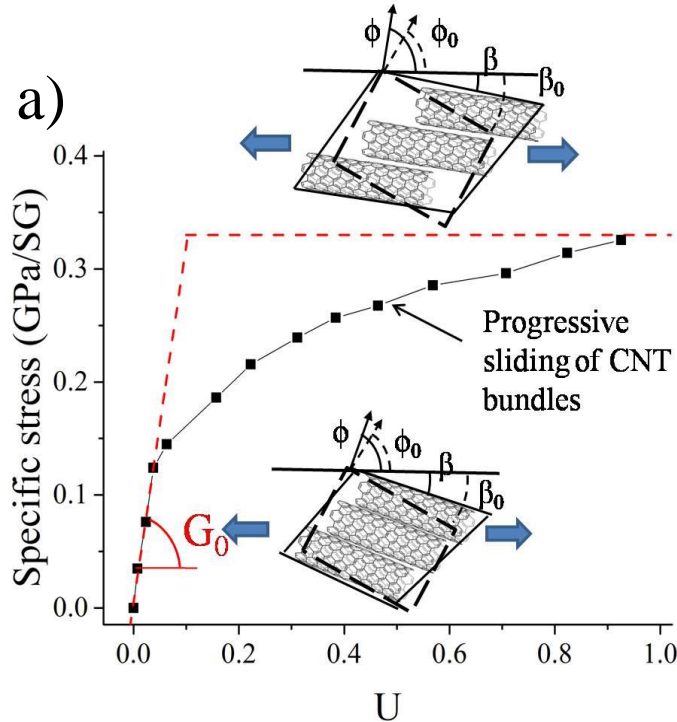
Main observations:

- Structural changes are in micro-pore structure
- No formation of turbostratic domains (stretch-crystallisation)

# A description of the elastoplastic deformation

U: strain alignment

$$U = \frac{\langle \cos^2 \phi_0 \rangle}{\langle \cos^2 \phi \rangle} - 1$$



From continuum mechanics

$$\langle \cos^2 \phi \rangle = \langle \cos^2 \phi_0 \rangle \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma}{g}\right)$$

Northol et al., Polymer, 21, 1199

$$\frac{\langle \cos^2 \phi_0 \rangle}{\langle \cos^2 \phi \rangle} = \exp\left(\frac{\sigma}{g}\right) \approx 1 + \frac{\sigma}{g}$$

$$\sigma = g \cdot U$$

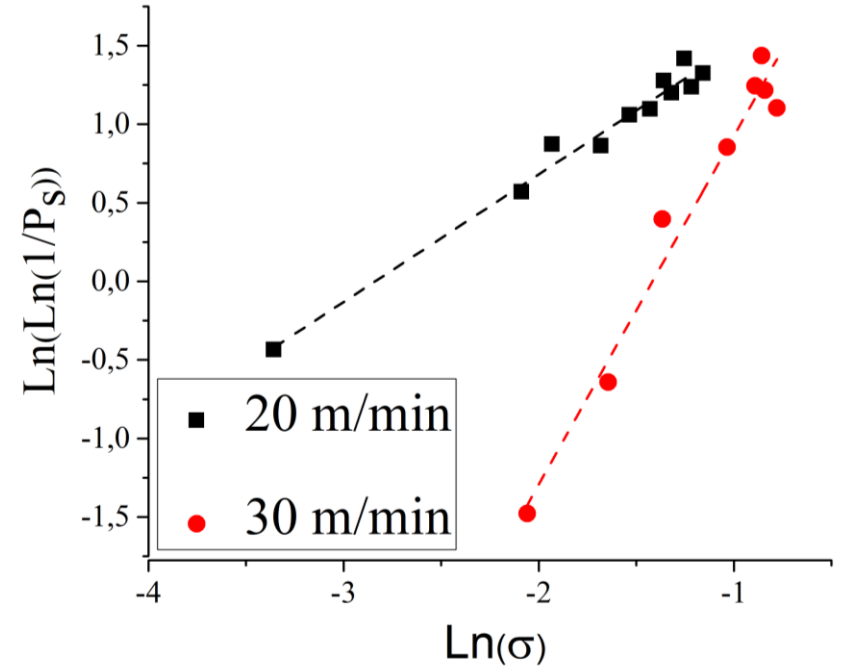
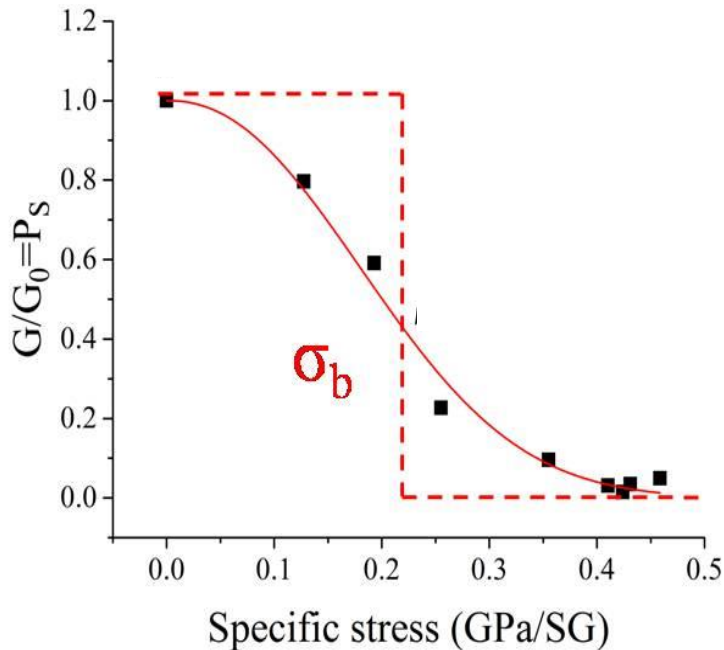
$$G = \frac{\Delta U}{\Delta \sigma}$$

The monotonic decrease in G is due to progressive sliding of CNT bundles (at different stress levels)

# Elastoplastic deformation

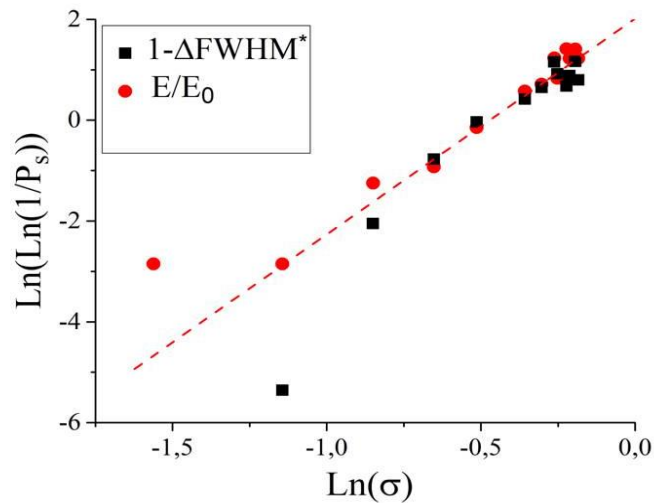
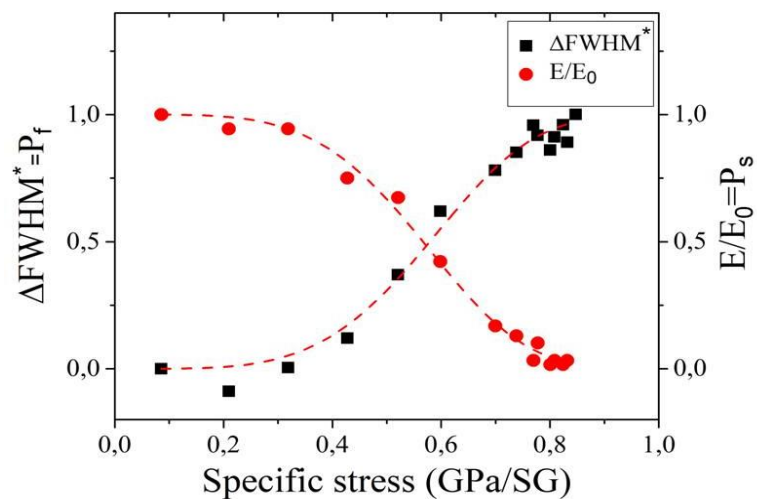
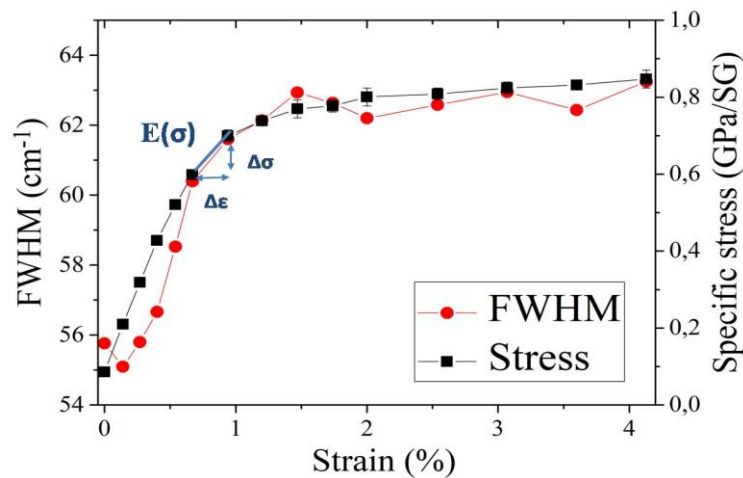
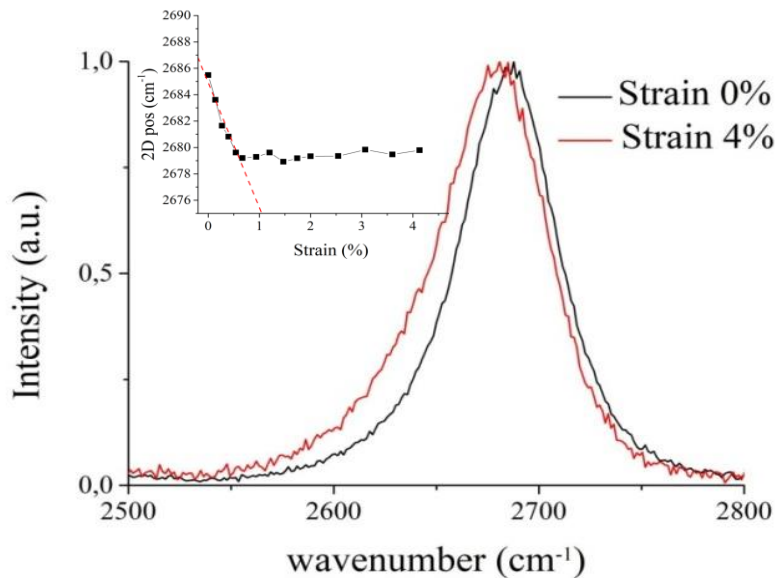
$$P_f = 1 - \frac{G}{G_0}$$

$$P_f = 1 - \exp\left[-\left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{0b}}\right)^m\right]$$



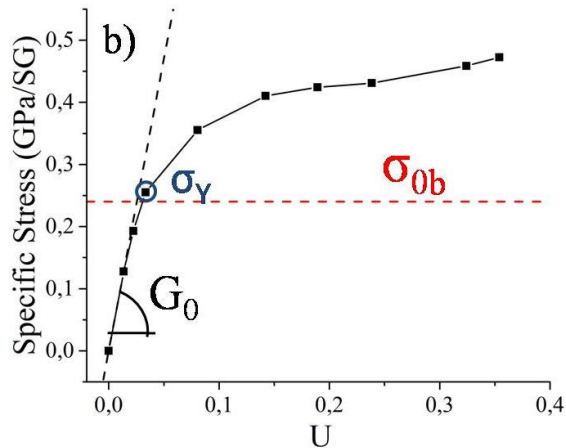
The progressive alignment upon stretching follows a Weibull distribution with axial stress, i.e. non-cooperative loading

# Elastoplastic deformation



## Parameters extracted from the analysis

Type of fibre	m (WAXS/SAXS)	m (Raman)	$\tau_b$ (MPa)
CNT fibre (20m/min)	0.8	4.3	22.4
CNT fibre (30/min)	2.2	-	40.8



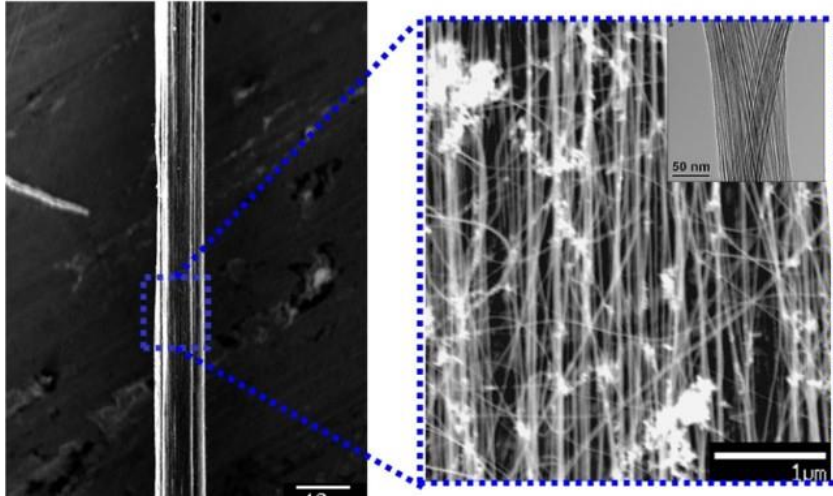
$$\tau_b = \sigma_y \cdot \langle \sin \phi_y \cdot \cos \phi_y \rangle$$

Next parameters to introduce in the model:

- Stress transfer length
- Lateral CNT packing

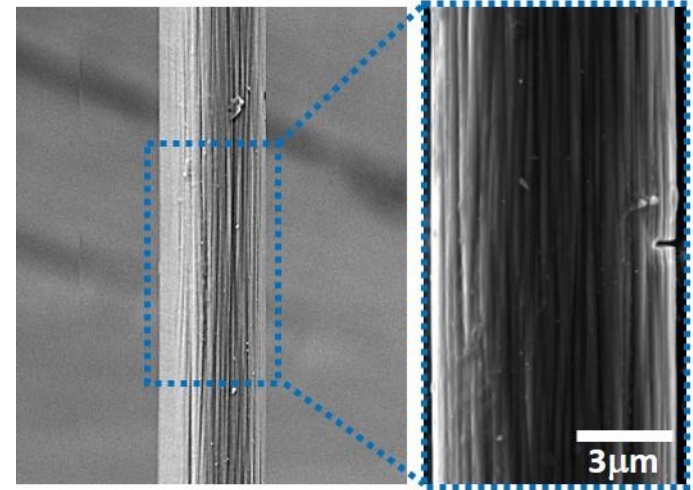
# A fundamentally different type of carbon material

**CNT Fibre**

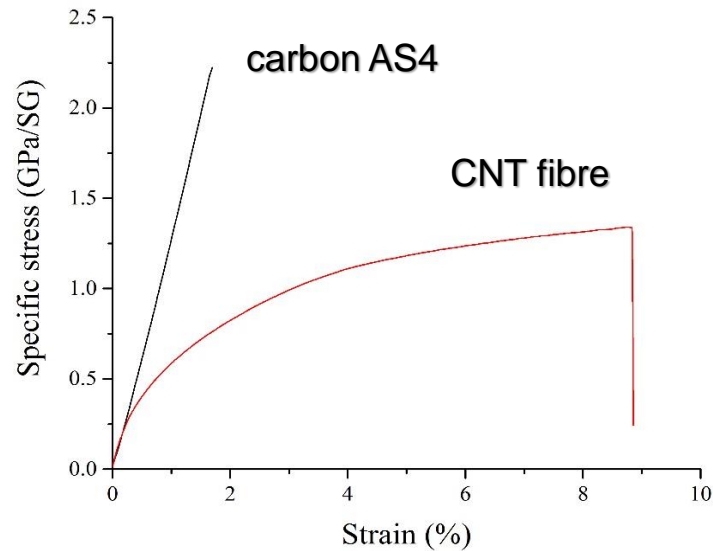


Conductivity  $10^3$  S/cm

**Carbon Fibre**

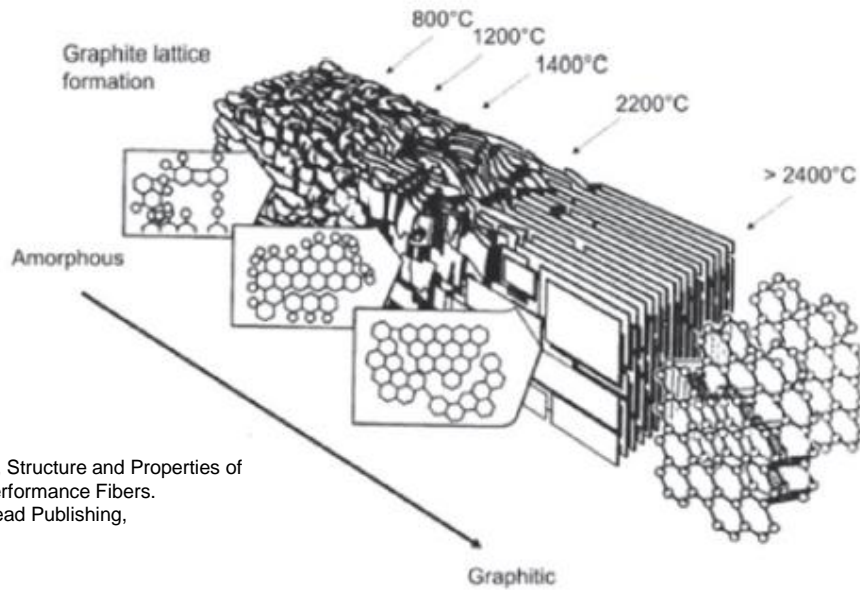


$10^2$  S/cm

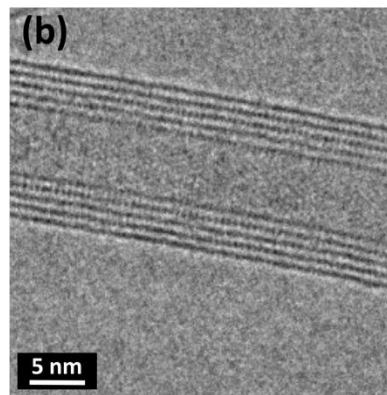
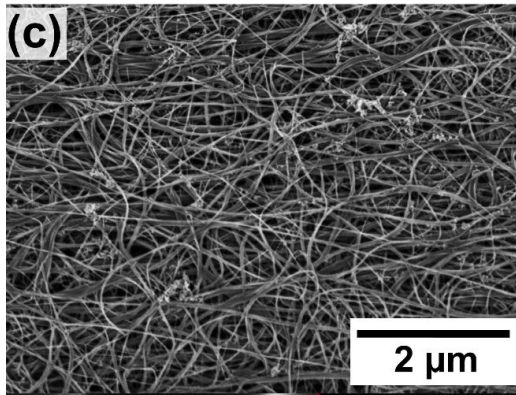
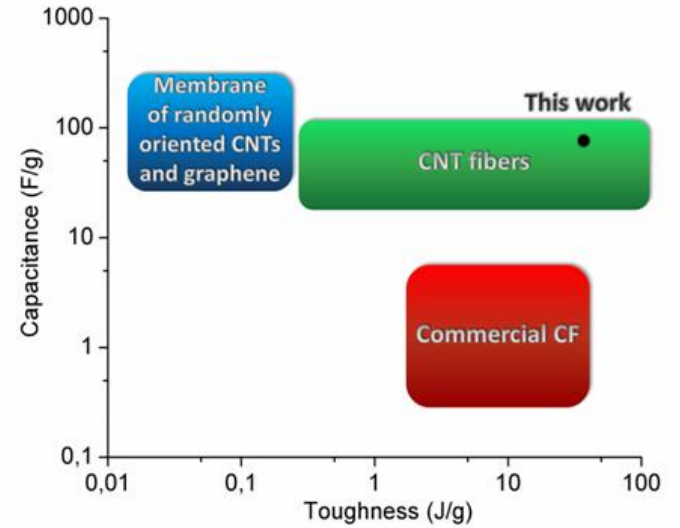




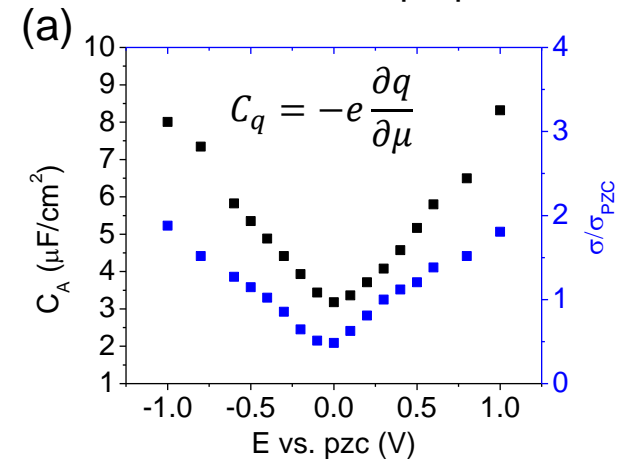
# Molecular perfection is decoupled from packing into crystalline domains



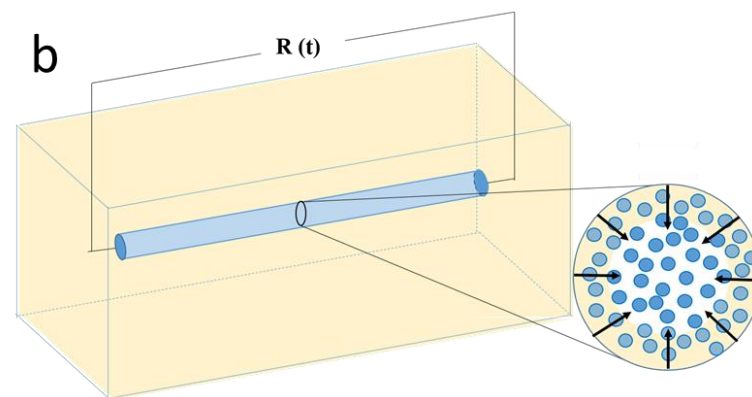
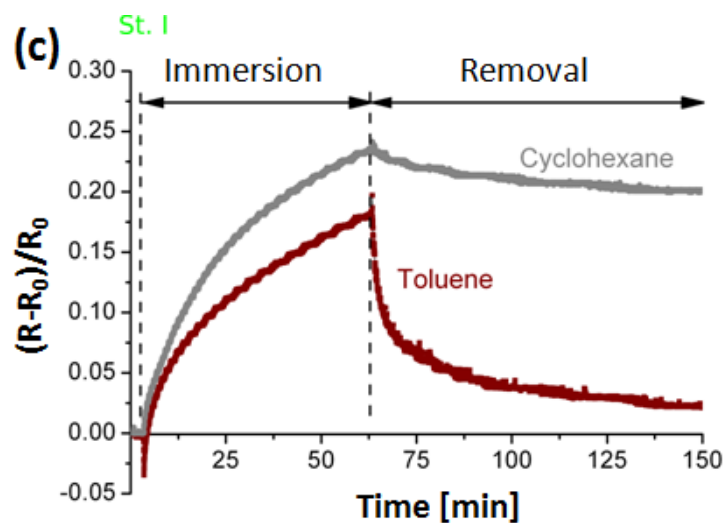
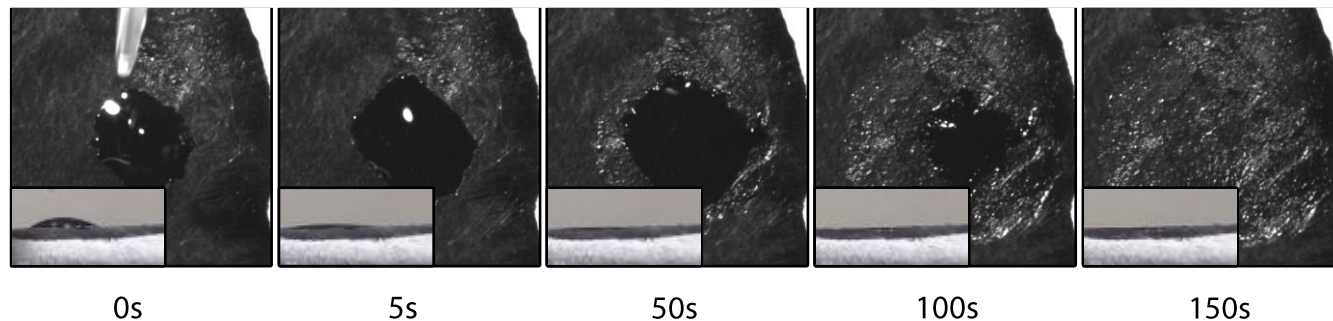
G. Bhat, Structure and Properties of High-Performance Fibers. Woodhead Publishing, 2016.



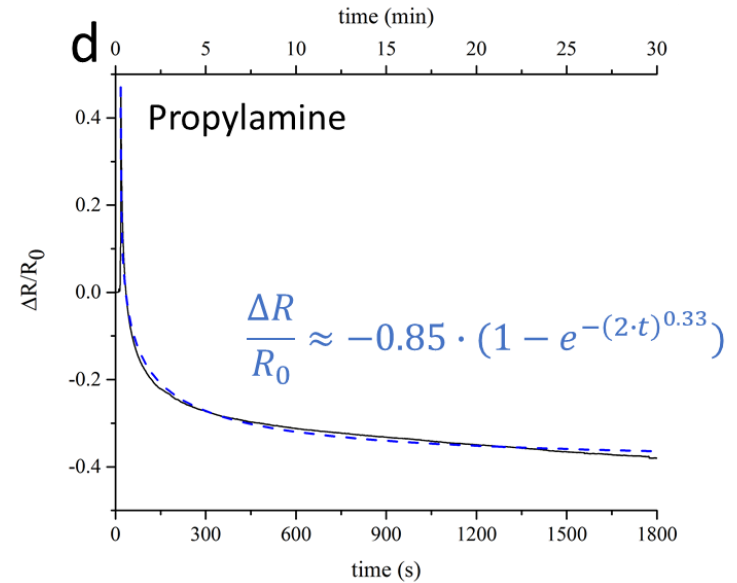
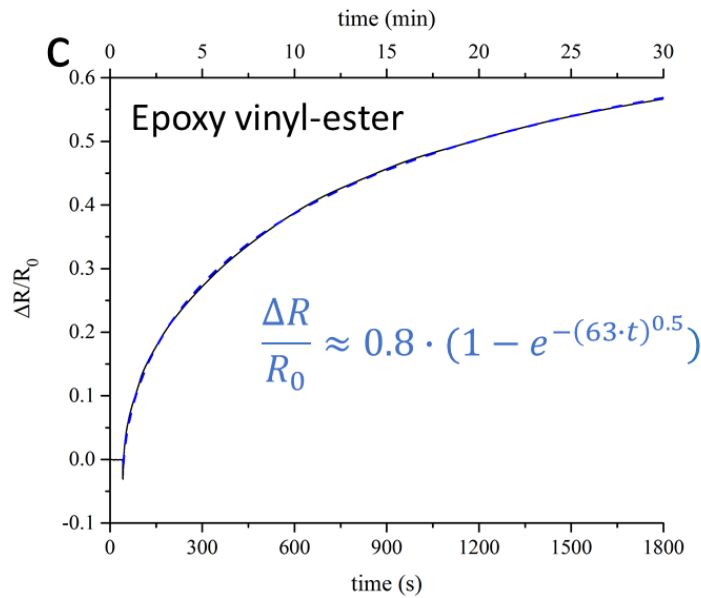
## Low dimensional properties



# Sensitivity to liquid and gas molecules



# Kinetics of resistance change

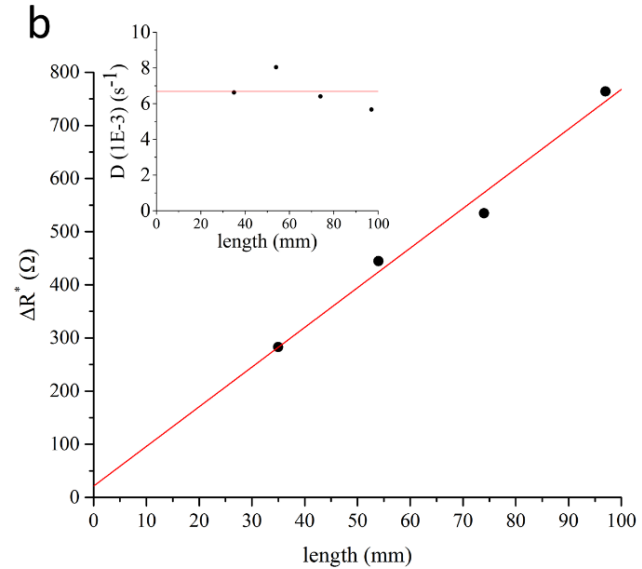
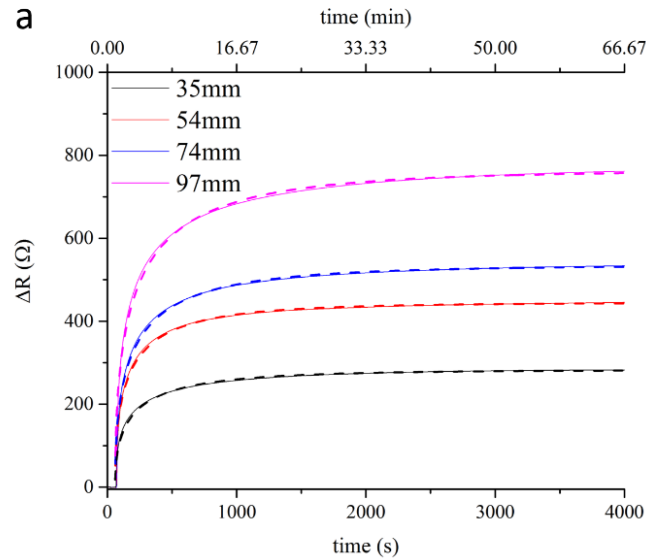


$$\Delta R \approx \Delta R^* \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{D \cdot t}} \right)$$

Kinetics of polymer adsorption

$$\frac{\Gamma(t)}{\Gamma_\infty} \sim \left( 1 - e^{-(t/\tau)^\beta} \right)$$

# Sensor calibration

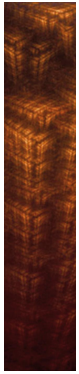


Infiltration of vinyl ester

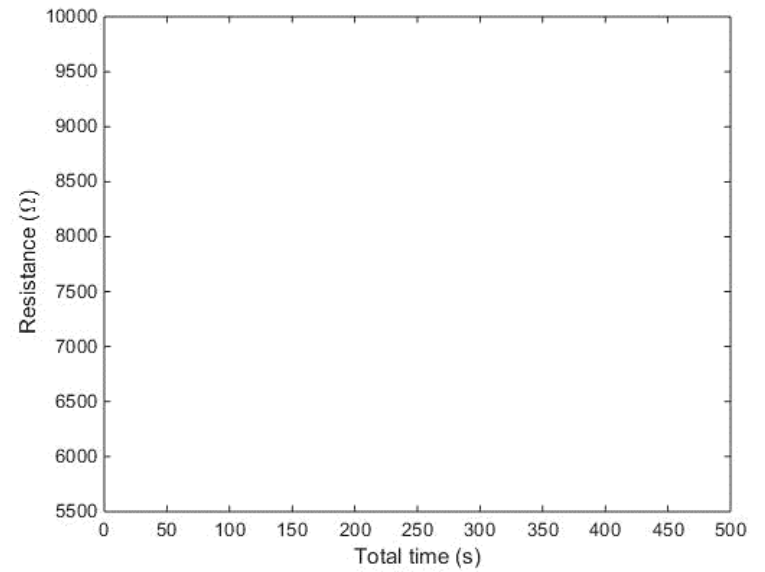
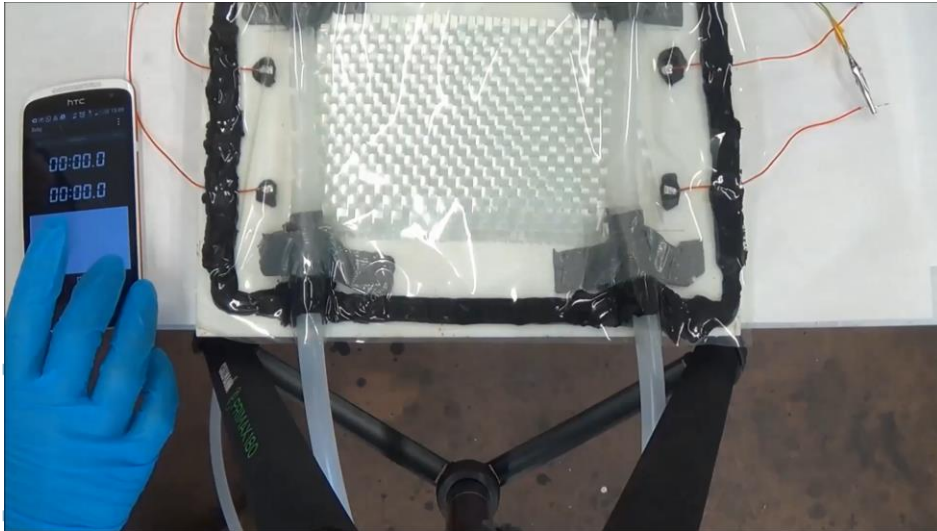
With this information, it is possible to predict longitudinal flow

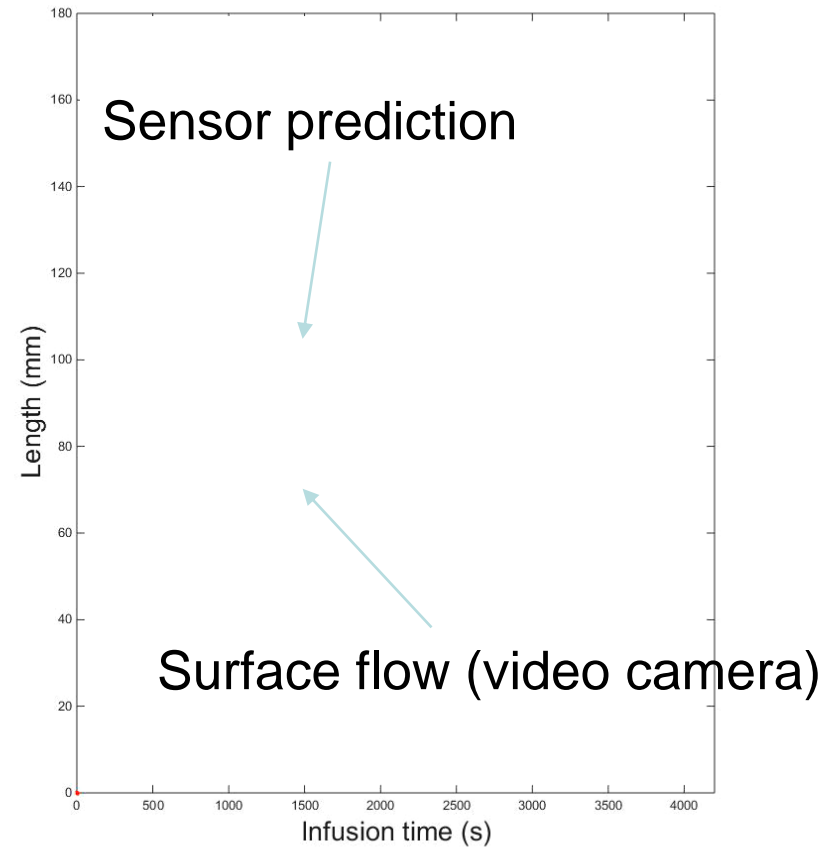
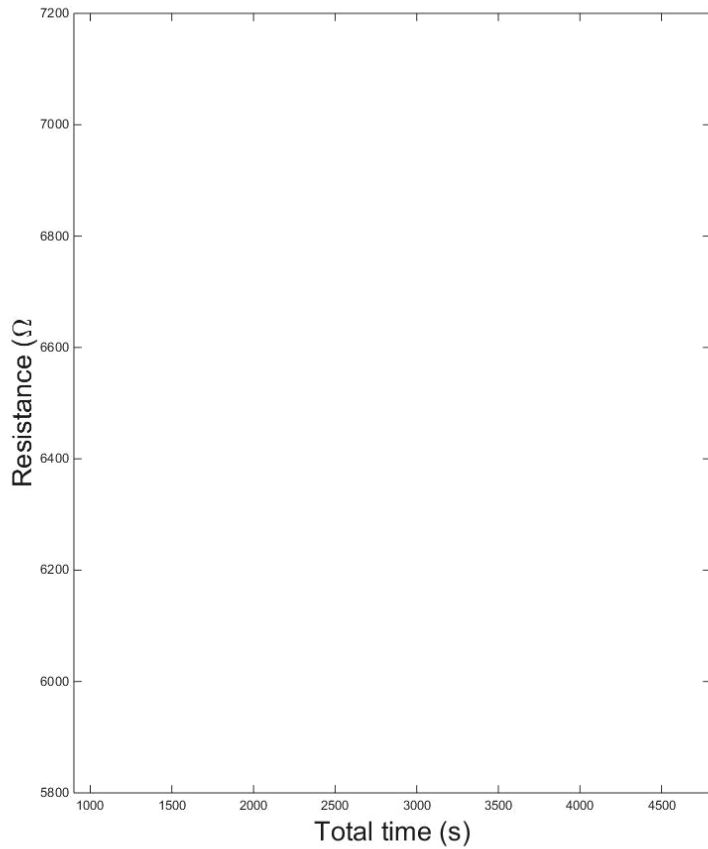
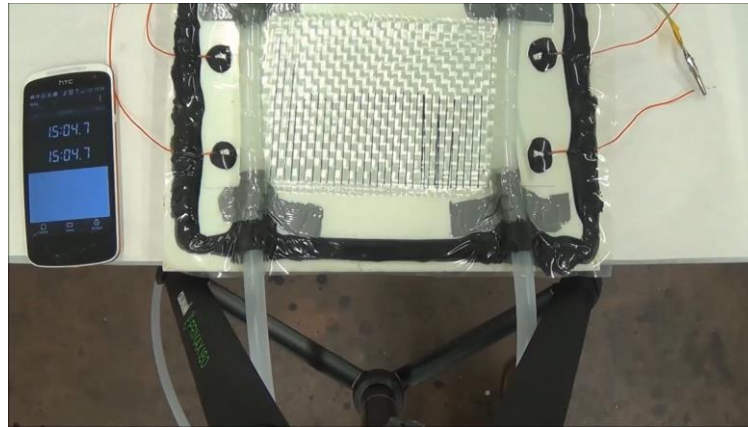
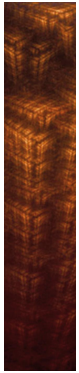
$$l(t) = R(t) * \frac{C}{1 - e^{-\sqrt{D*t}}}$$

Chemoresistive gauge factor

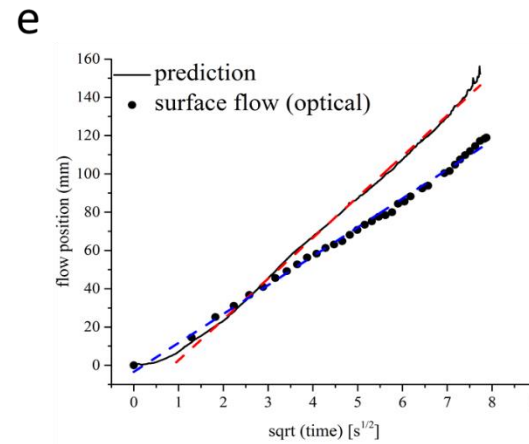
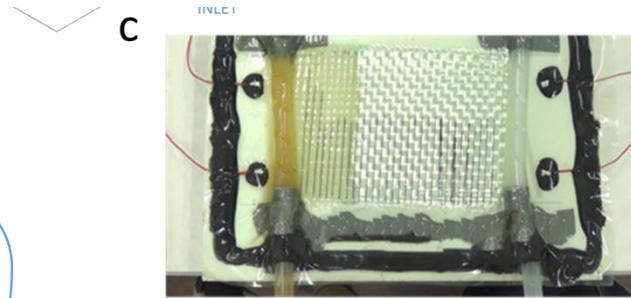
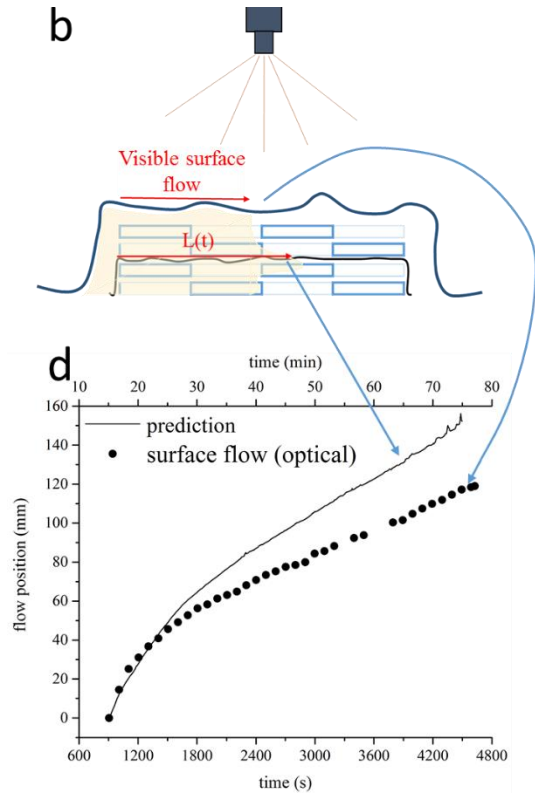


# Vacuum infusion process





# Polymer flow sensor during vacuum infusion

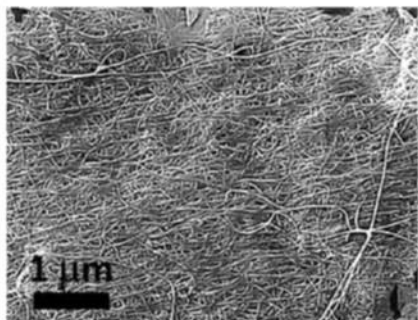


Darcy's law

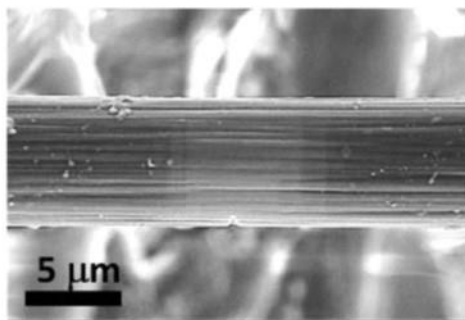
$$l(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2kP_{atm}}{\eta} t}$$

# CNT fibre materials are the ultimate current collector

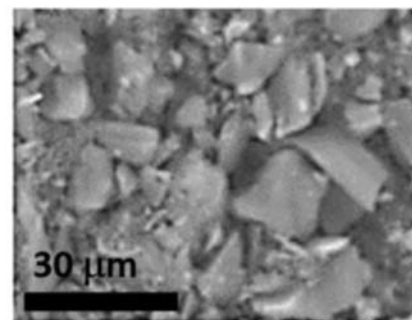
a)



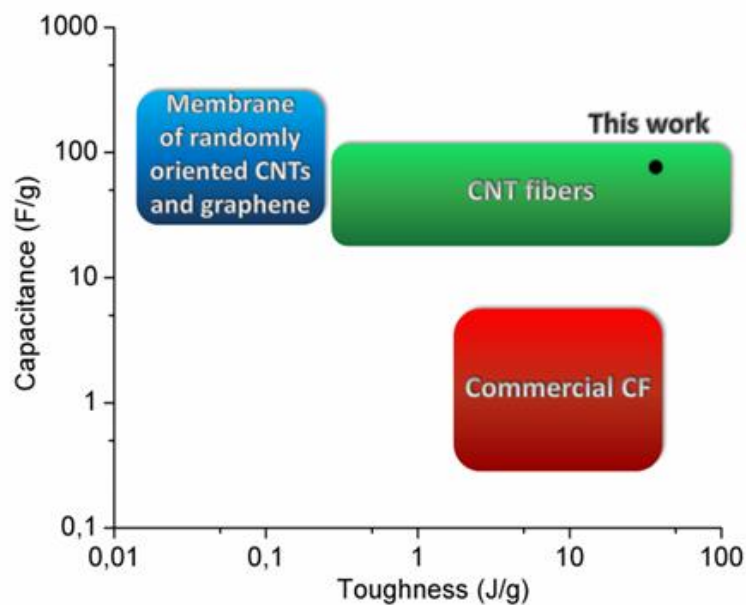
$8 \times 10^5$  S/m (longitudinal)



$6 \times 10^4$  S/m (longitudinal)



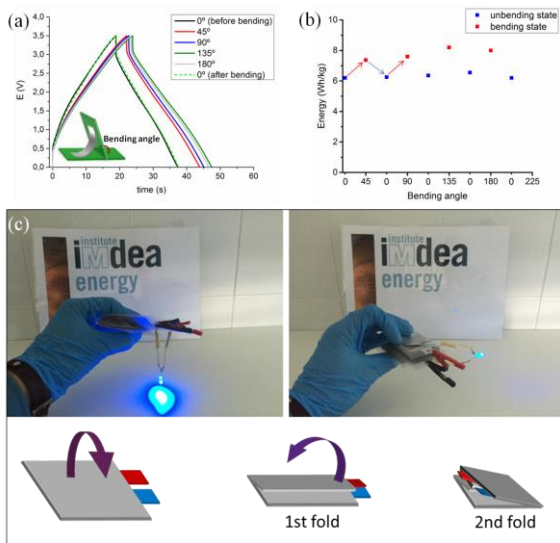
$10^3 - 10^4$  S/m



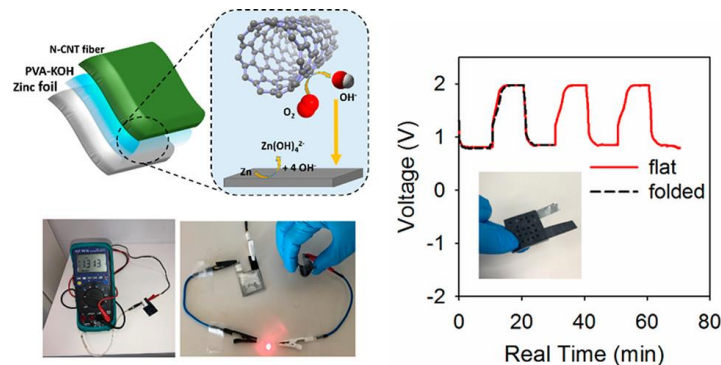


# Some examples of applications

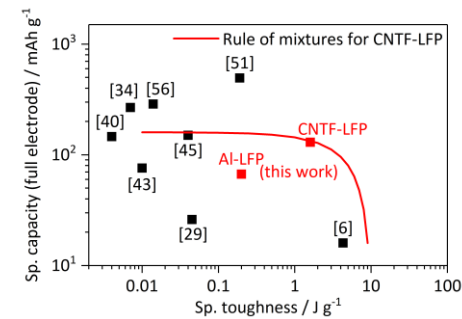
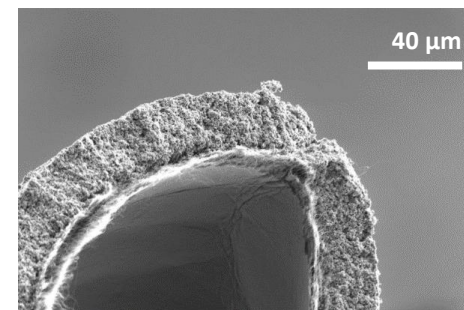
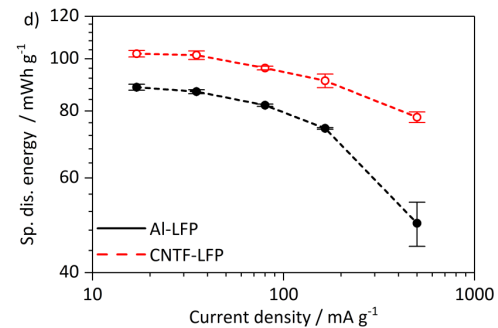
## Electrode in supercapacitors



## Electrode for ORR and OER in Zn-air battery



## Lighter, tough LIB electrodes

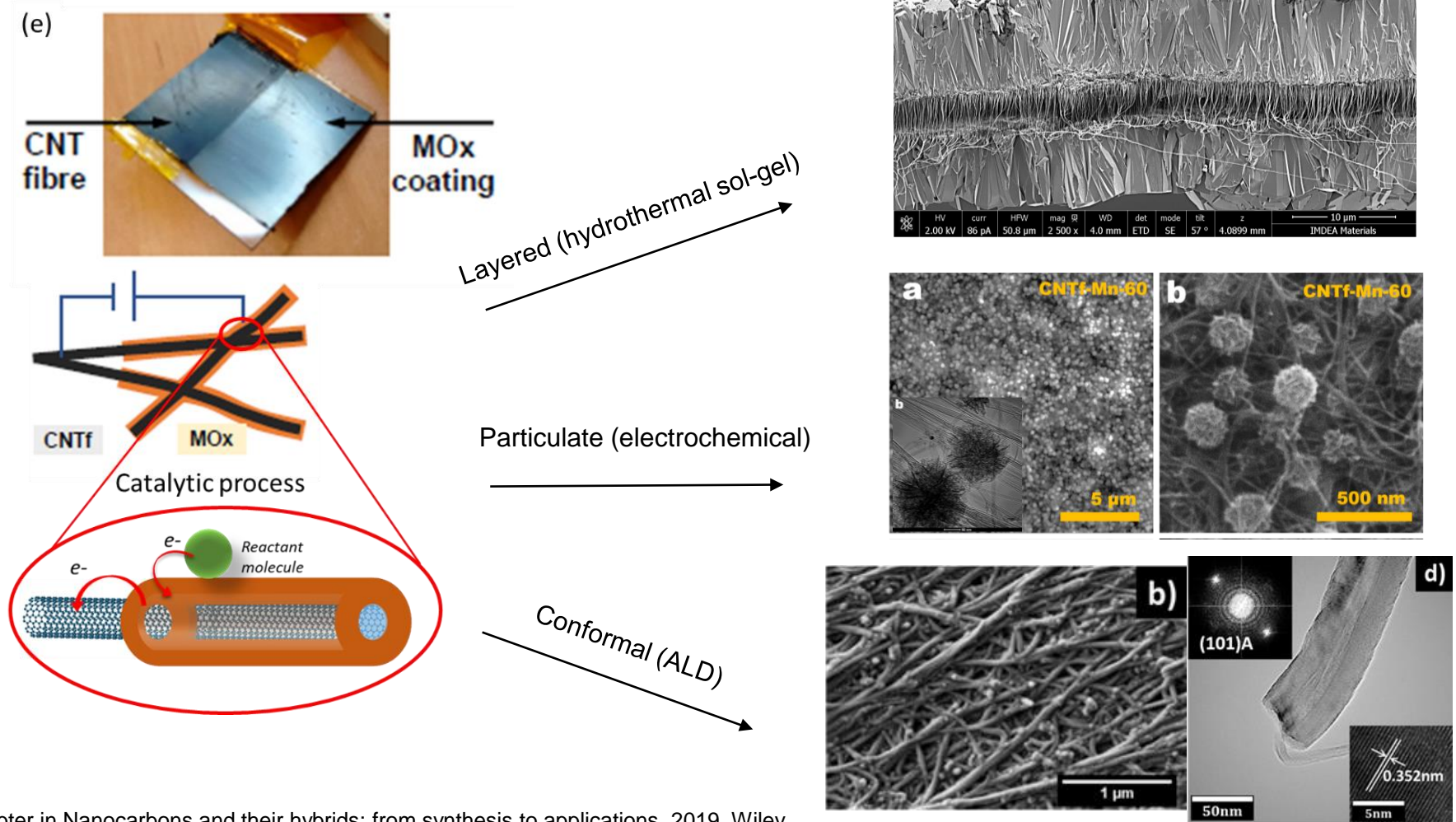


Boaretto et al; DOI:10.1021/acsaem.9b00906

# Large-area CNT fibre/MOx hybrids

Conceptually similar to a mesoporous semiconductor electrodes with a built-in current collector

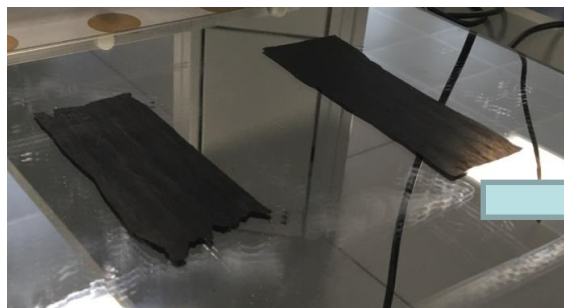
Hybrids with inorganics:  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{MnO}_2$ ,  $\text{MoS}_2$ ,  $\text{Cu}$ ,  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ , etc



# Current collector for batteries

## Coating with active material (LFP)

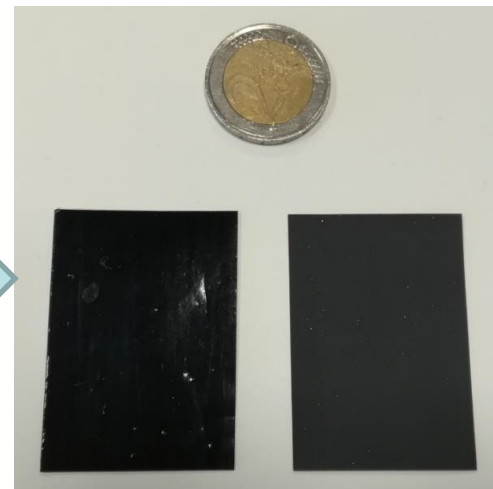
CNTf sheets before coating



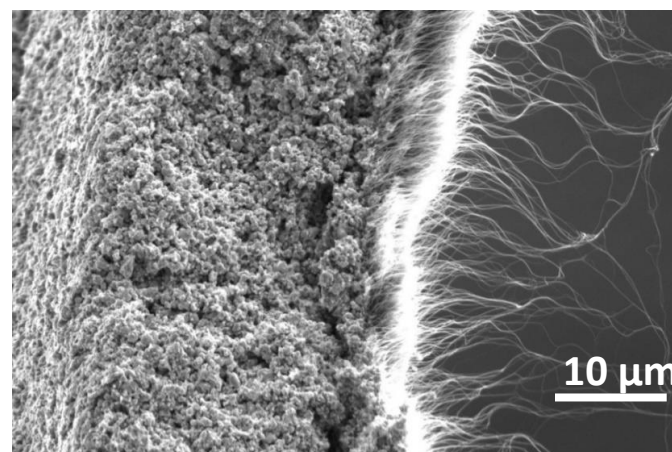
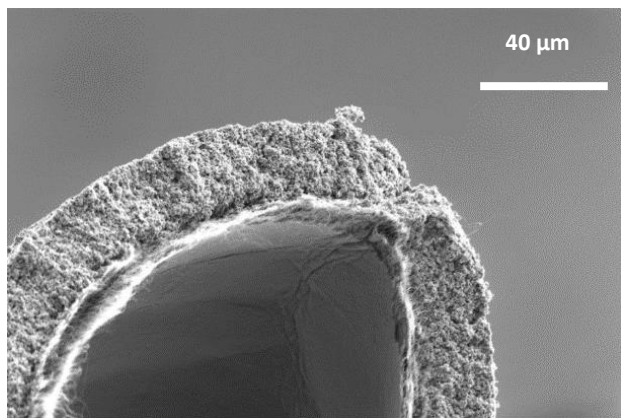
Dried electrodes



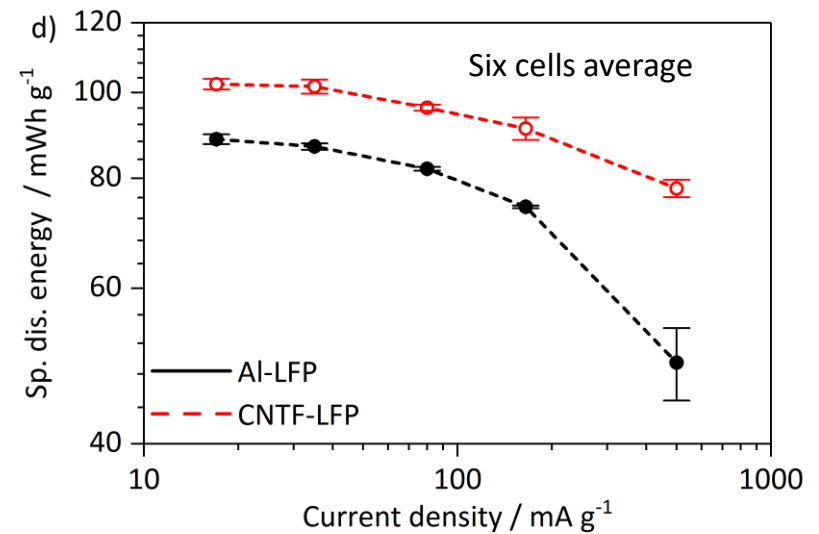
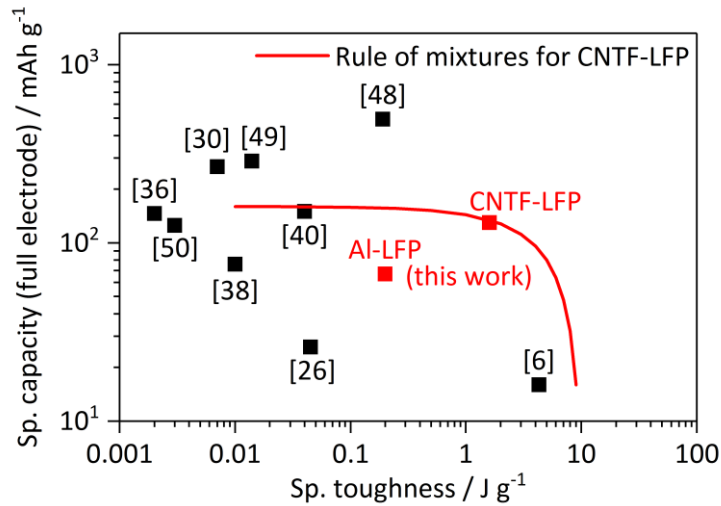
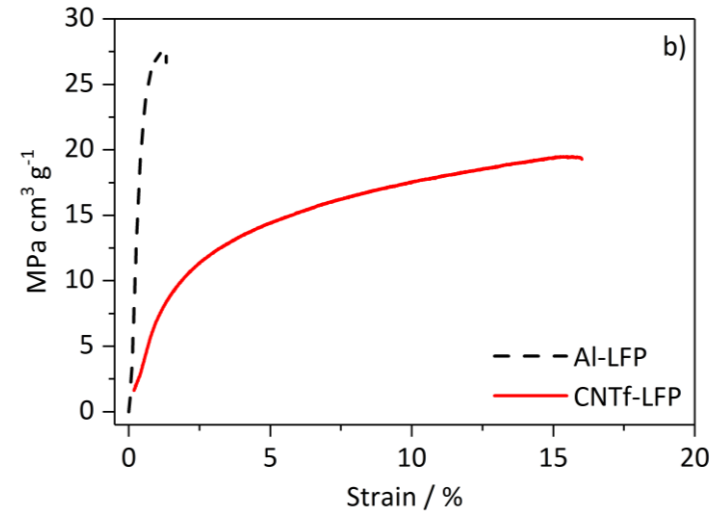
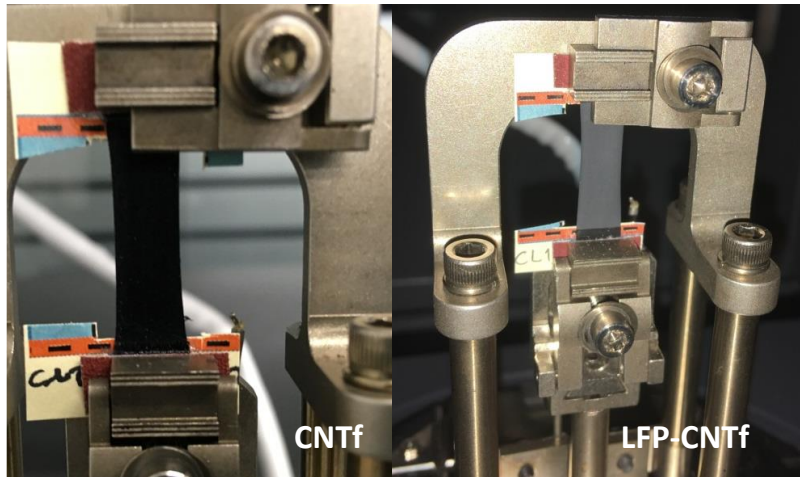
## Full electrodes (for pouch cells)



	Thickness / $\mu\text{m}$	Density / $\text{g cm}^{-3}$
Al	18	2.7
CNTf	10	0.3

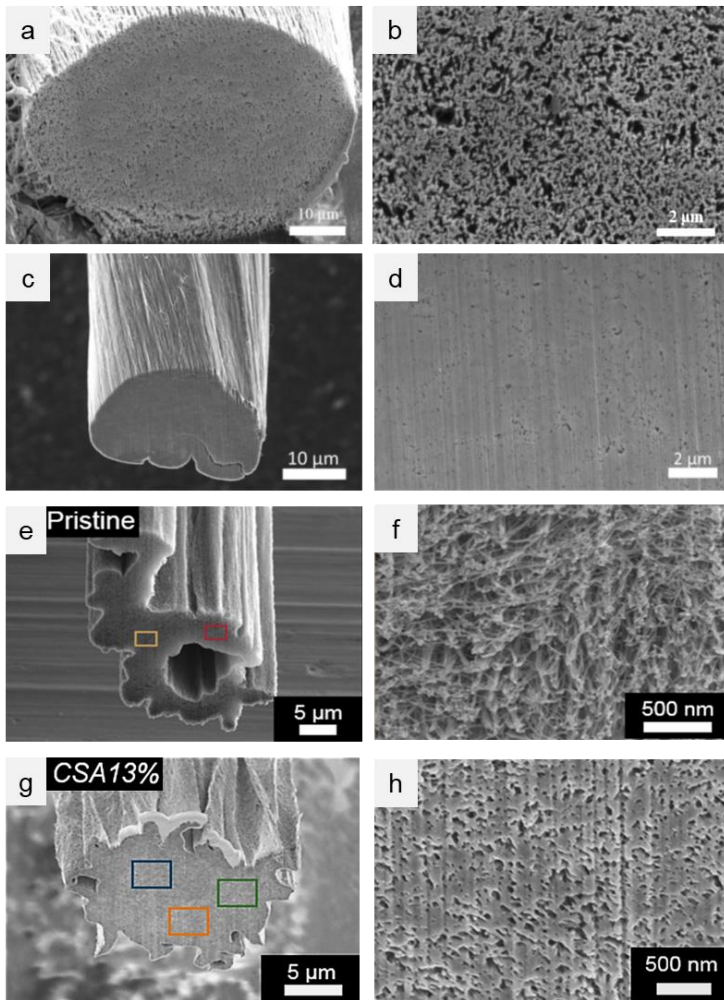


# CNTf-based electrodes – Mechanical properties

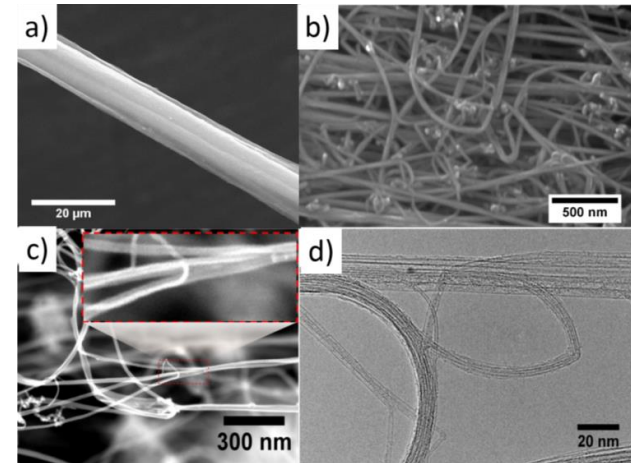


# Complex, irregular structure

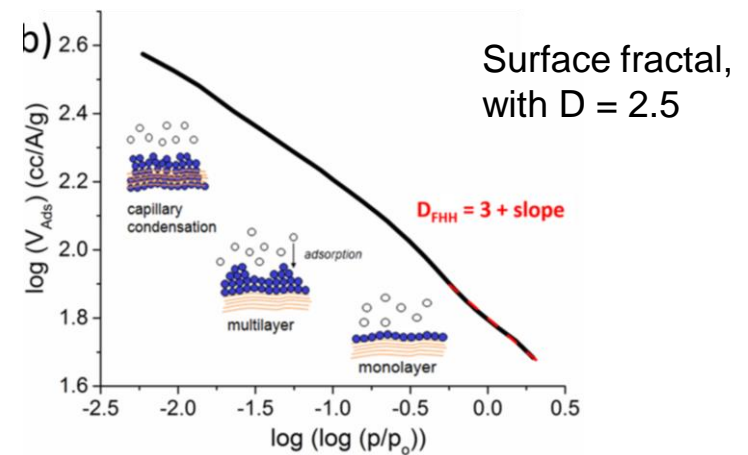
CNT fibres produced by different methods



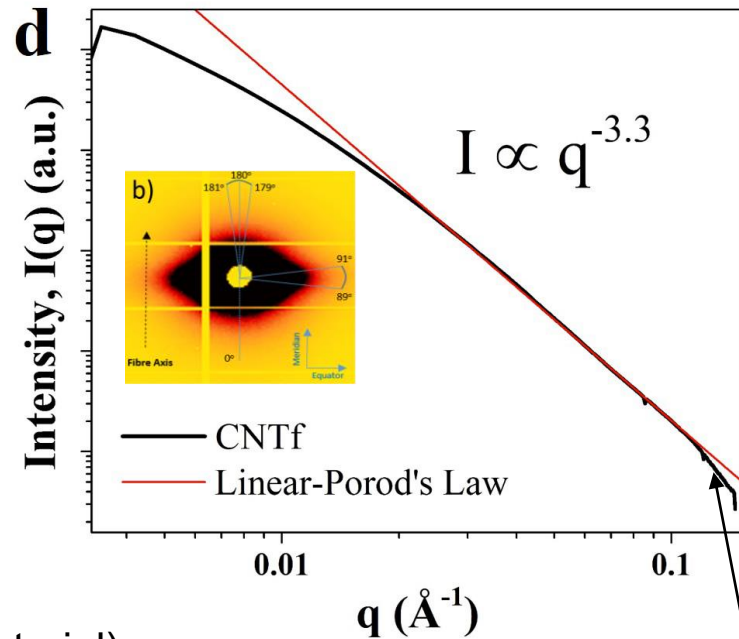
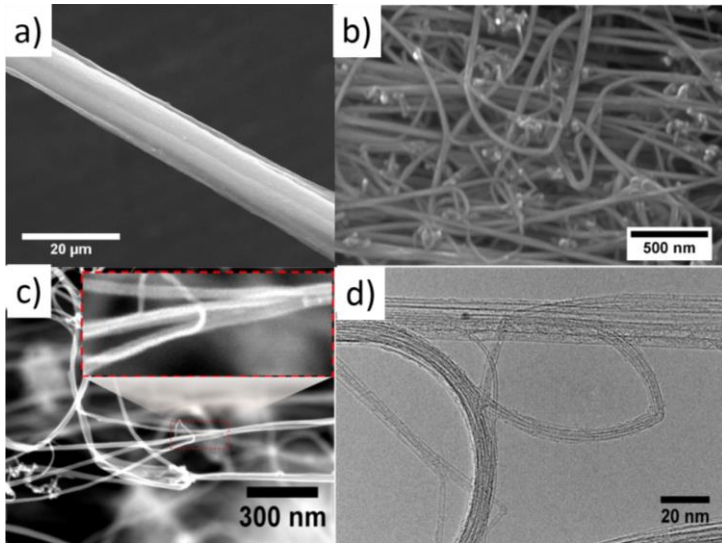
CNT fibres at different length-scales



It is a challenge to characterise this structure



# Characterisation of irregular structure by SAXS



Non-integer Porod exponent (rough, “fractal” material)

Surface to volume ratio

$$K_p = \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} q^4 I(q) = 2\pi(\Delta\rho)^2 S v$$

Porosity (wrt Bernal graphite)

$$Q = 8\pi(\Delta\rho)^2 P(1 - P)$$

$$L_p = \frac{Q}{K_p}$$

Coherence length along cross-section

$$1/L_p = 1/l_{pore} + 1/l_{bundle}$$

# Density fluctuations

Glassy Carbon

$$I_{obs} = I_{pores} + I_{DF} + \dots$$

$$I_{DF} = b_2 q^{-2}$$

CNT fibre

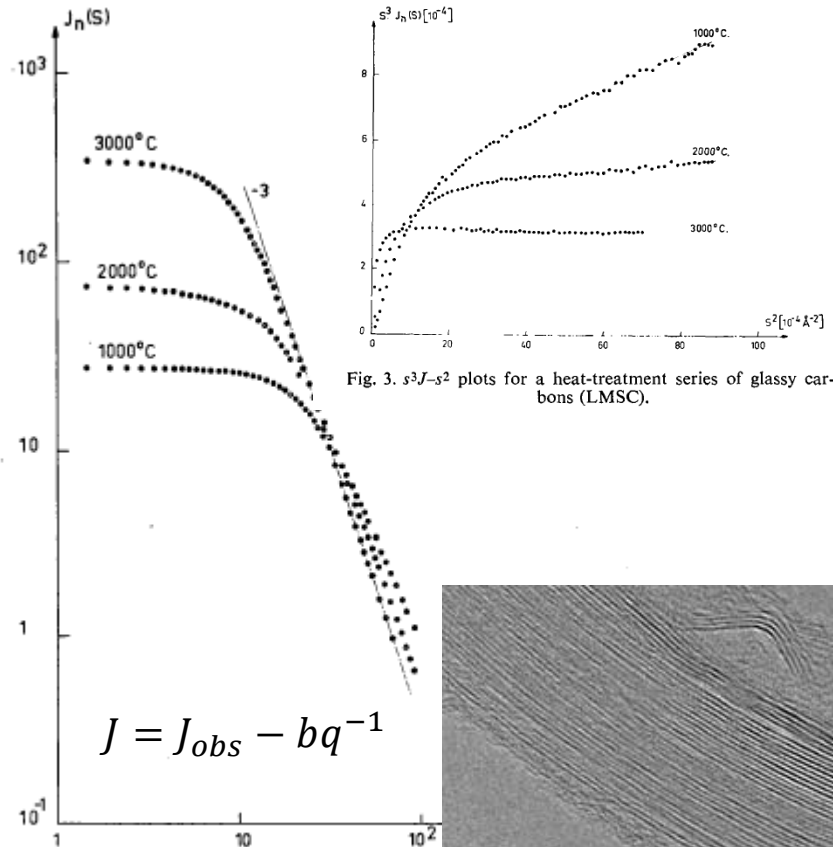


Fig. 3.  $s^3 J-s^2$  plots for a heat-treatment series of glassy carbons (LMSC).

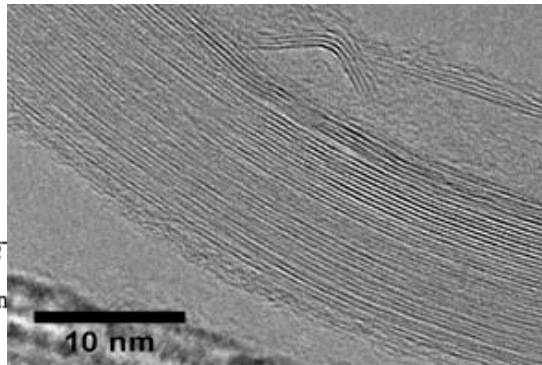
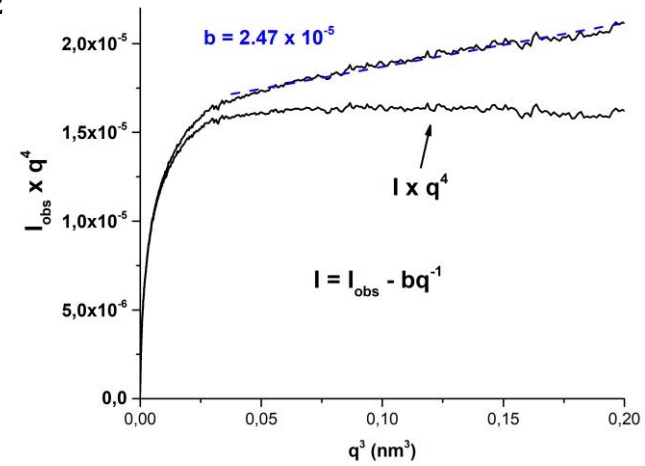
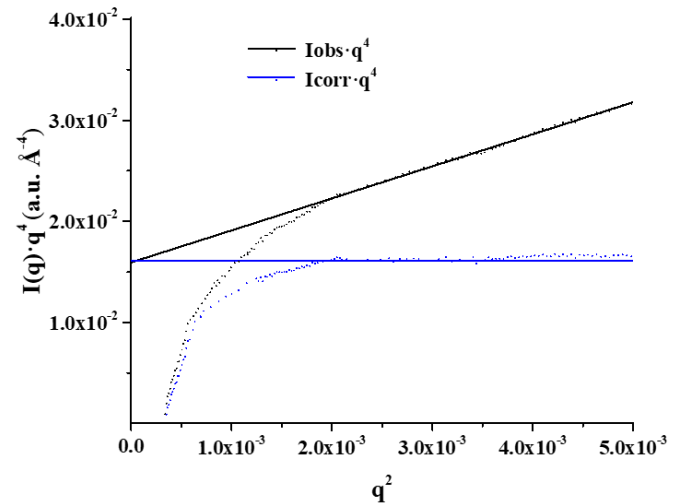


Fig. 1.  $\log J-\log s$  plots for a heat-treatment series of glassy carbons (LMSC).

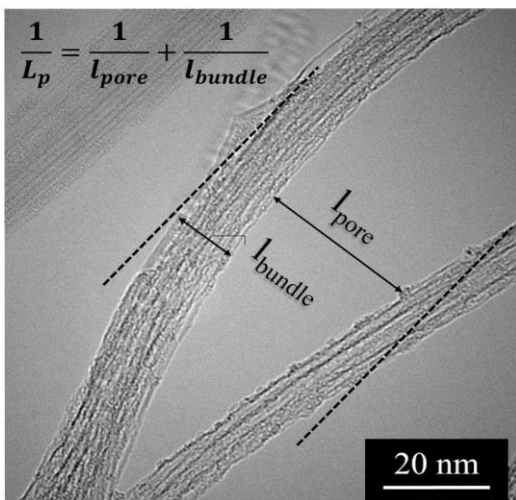


BNNT, National Research Council Canada



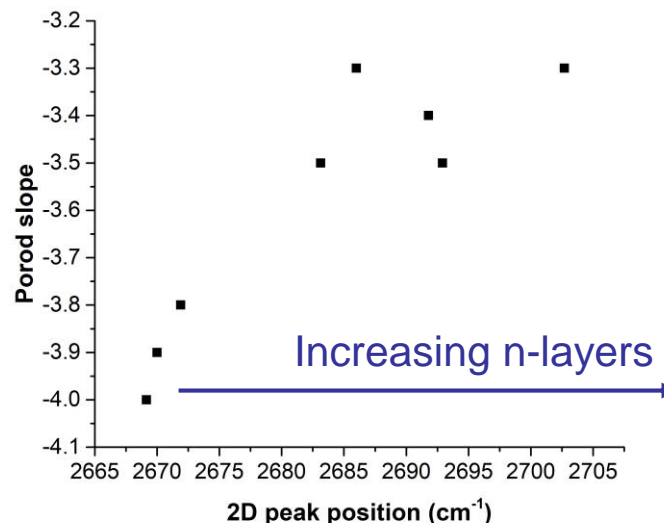
## Structural parameters after DF correction

Material	Porod slope	DFs	Porosity	$l_{\text{pore}}$ (Å)	$l_{\text{bundle}}$ (Å)	Sv (m <sup>2</sup> /cm <sup>3</sup> )	SSA (m <sup>2</sup> /g)
SWCNTF	-4.0	0	0.7	205	89	136	656
CNTF (3-5 layers)	-3.34	1.913	0.66	305	161	85	259.0
MWCNTs Bucky	-3.30	1.91	0.78	552	160	56.1	701.6
CF (PAN, MP)	-3.3, -4	0 - 0-012	0.097-0.33	6-17	36-124	0 - 680	0-367
BNNT	-3.21	2.10	0.81	591	139	54.8	148.1



$$\frac{1}{L_p} = \frac{1}{l_{\text{pore}}} + \frac{1}{l_{\text{bundle}}}$$

$$\text{DFs} = \frac{8\pi^2 b_2 P}{a_3 Q} = \frac{\langle \Delta^2 a_3 \rangle}{\langle a_3 \rangle^2} + \frac{\langle \Delta^2 L \rangle}{\langle L \rangle^2}$$

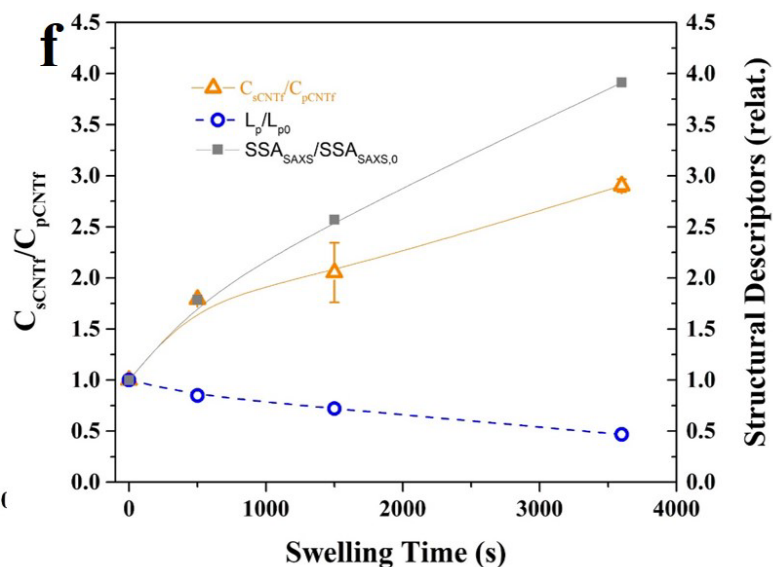
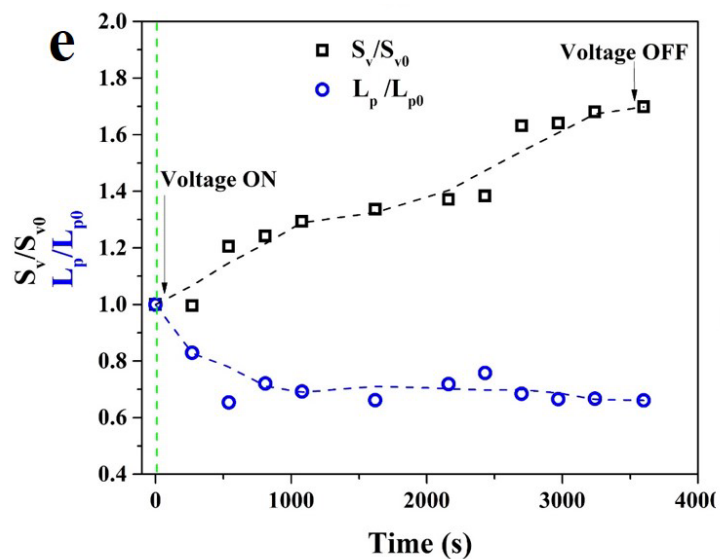
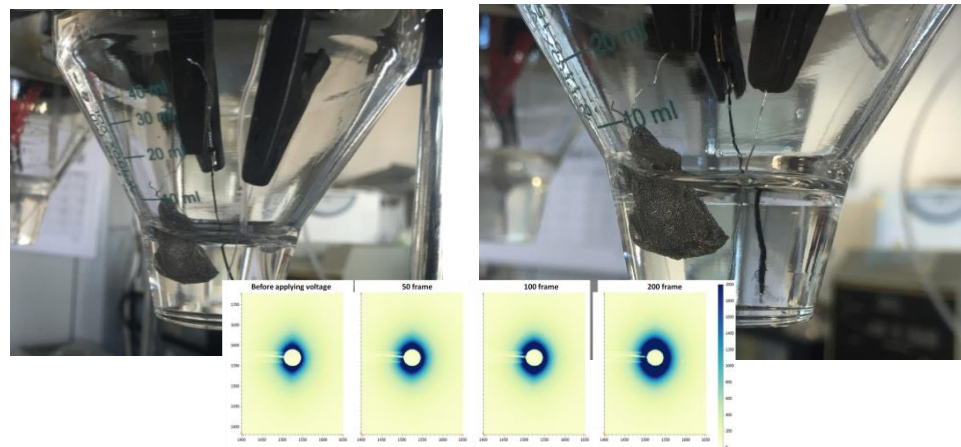
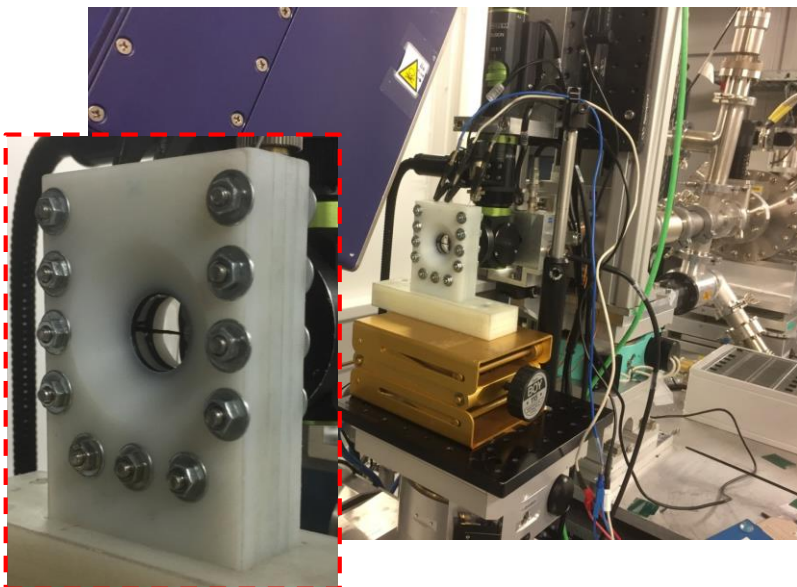


The variations in graphitic spacing and stack size increase with increasing number of layers, producing “coupling of the disorder of lateral fluctuations to the pore structure” Carbon 123 (2017)



# In-situ vs ex-situ monitoring of pore/bundle structure during electrochemical swelling

At -3.5 V wrt SHE in  $\text{PYR}_{14}\text{TFSI}$



## Summary

- CNT fibres can be best described as molecular solids, or graphitic systems with Decoupled crystallinity parallel/perpendicular to basal plane.
- Their tensile properties can be described by the USM and a Weibull distribution of stress distribution through the cross section, with alignment dominating over composition
- CNT fibres are interesting piezo and chemo resistive sensors
- CNT fibres are ideal current collectors for energy storage and transfer.



Carbon  
Volume 150, September 2019, Pages 191-215



A perspective on high-performance CNT fibres for structural composites

Anastasiia Mikhailchan and Juan José Vilatela

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.carbon.2019.04.113>

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## Collaborators:

**Carlos González**  
**Rubén Costa**  
**Álvaro Ridruejo**  
**Federico Sket**  
**De-Yi Wang**



**Rebeca Marcilla**  
**Jesús Palma**  
**Enrique García**  
(IMDEA Energy)

**Emilio Pérez**  
**Dani Granados**  
(IMDEA Nanoscience)