

# Benzene-Derived Diamondoid Carbon Nanothreads

**J. V. Badding**, T. Fitzgibbons, V. Crespi, E. Xu, N. Alem

*Pennsylvania State University*

G. Cody

*Carnegie Institution of Washington*

S. K. Davidowski

*Arizona State University*

R. Hoffmann, B. Chen

*Cornell University*

M. Guthrie

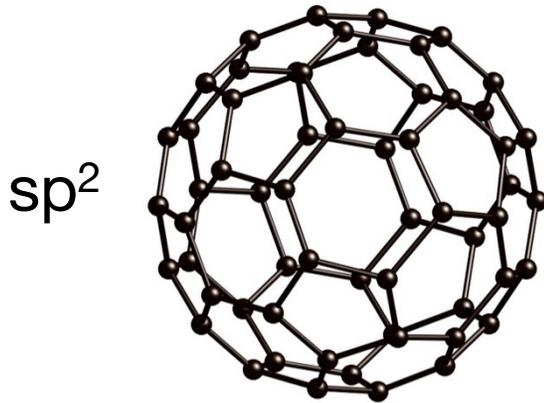
*European Spallation Source*



Funding: EFRee DOE Energy  
Frontier Research Center

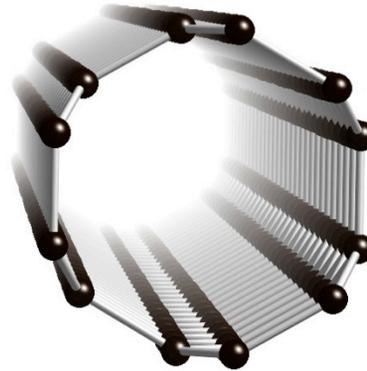
# Carbon Nanomaterial Dimensionality and Hybridization

0-d



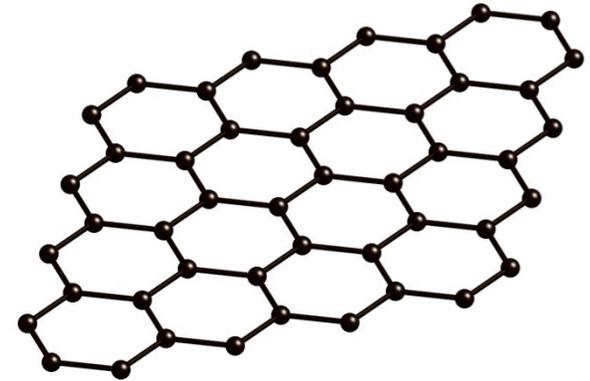
$C_{60}$

1-d



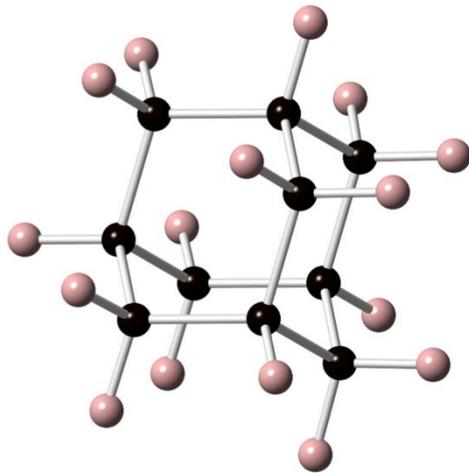
nanotubes

2-d

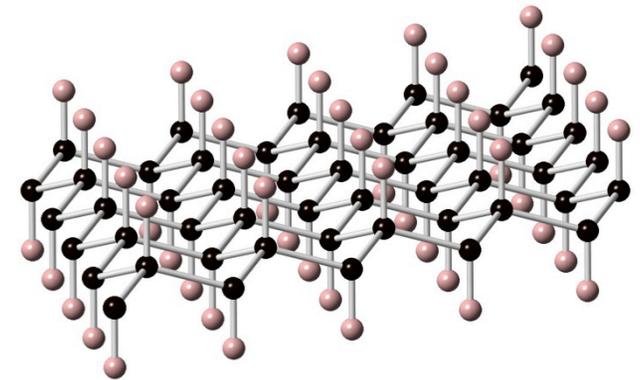


Graphene

$sp^3$



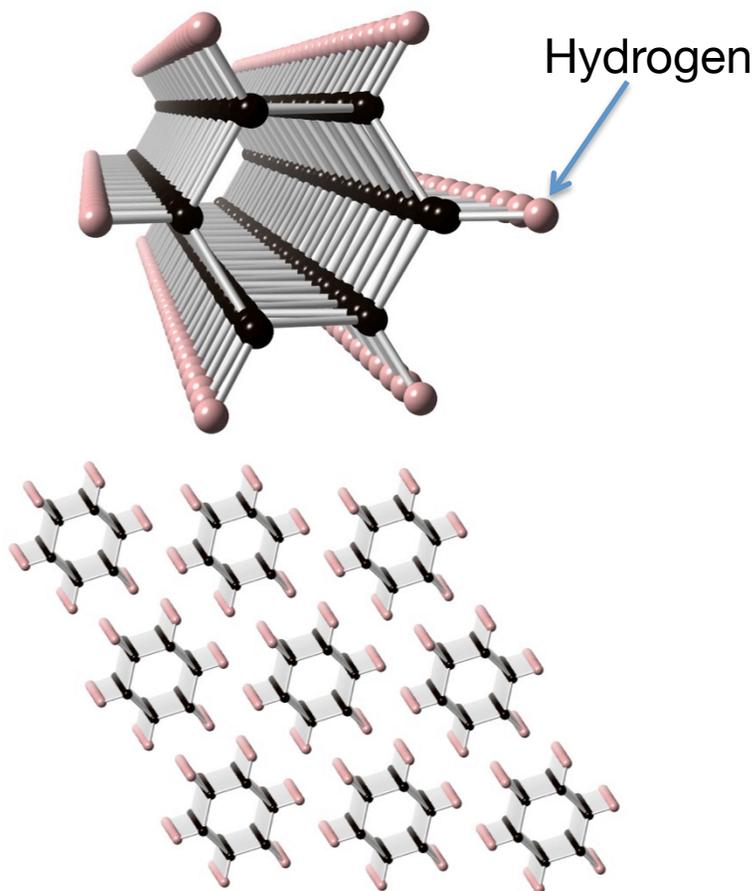
diamondoids



Graphane

# sp<sup>3</sup> Carbon Nanotube Theory Predictions

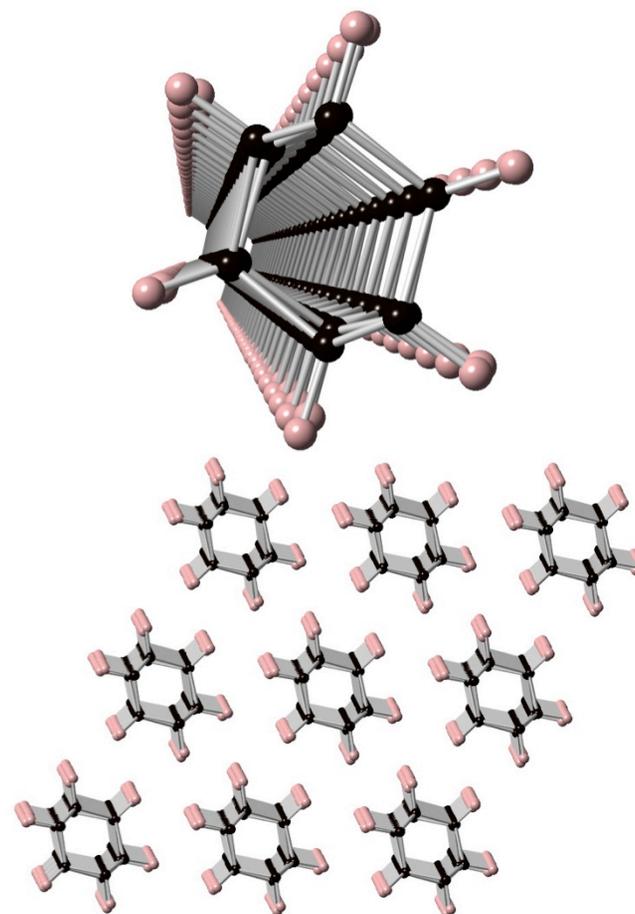
## 3,0 Tube



First evidence that very small sp<sup>3</sup> carbon nanotubes are thermodynamically stable.

Stojkovic, D. et.al. *PRL* **87**, (2001)

## Polymer I

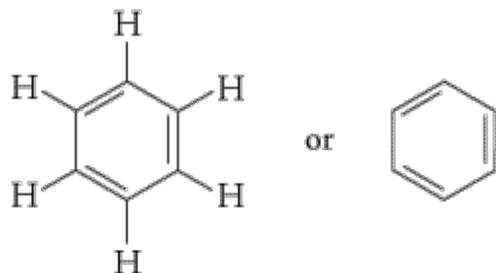


sp<sup>3</sup> tube predicted to form during a high pressure reaction of benzene

Wen, X-D. et.al. *JACS* **133**, 9023 (2011)

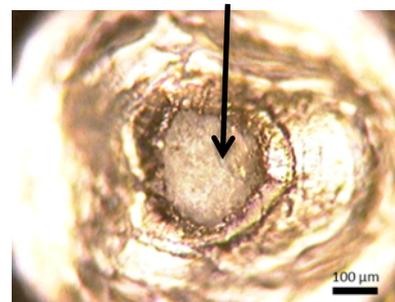
# Benzene Rapid Decompression: Amorphous Product

Liquid Benzene



25 GPa  
Diamond Anvil cell

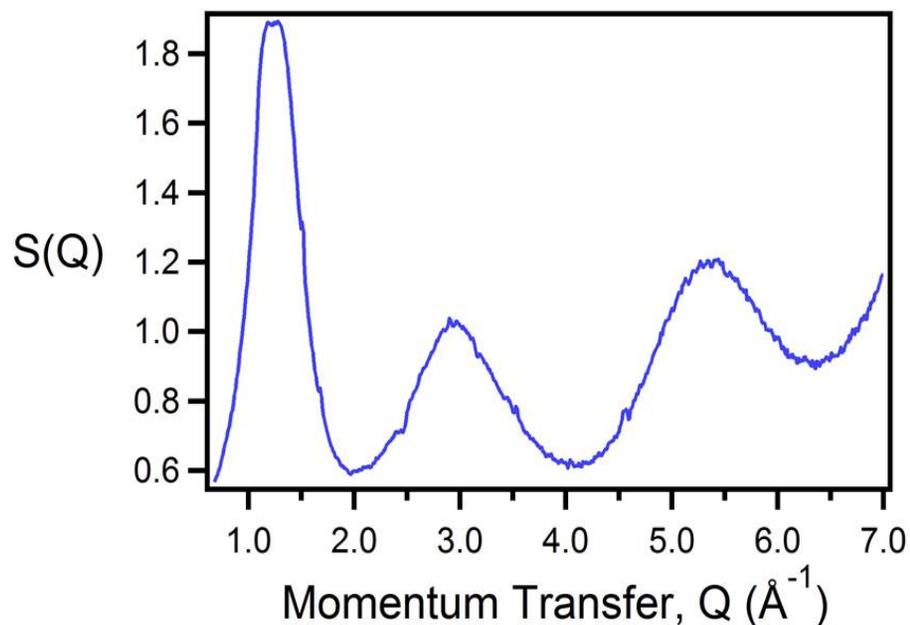
Yellow/white solid



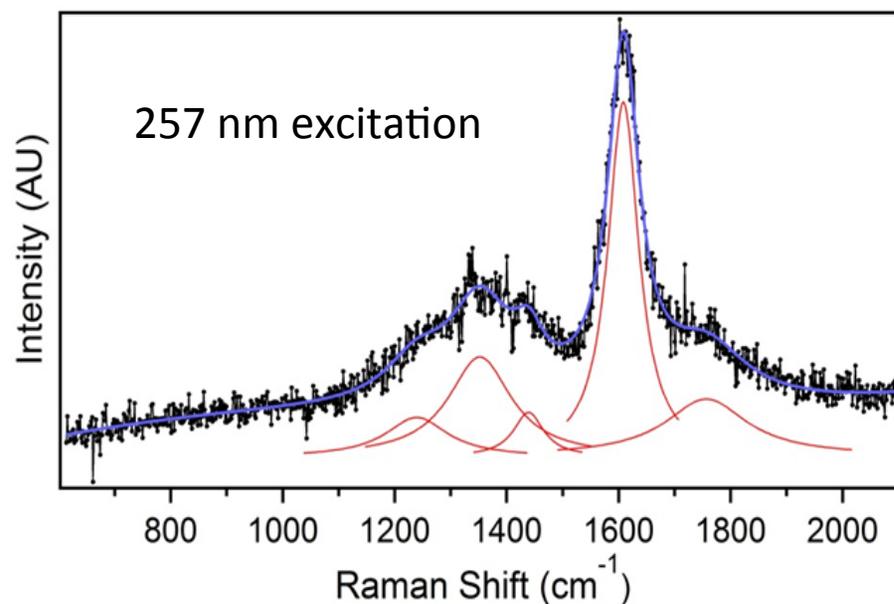
Diamond anvil cell gasket after decompression

Decompression rate  $\approx 12\text{-}20$  GPa/hr  $\rightarrow$  Broad spectral features

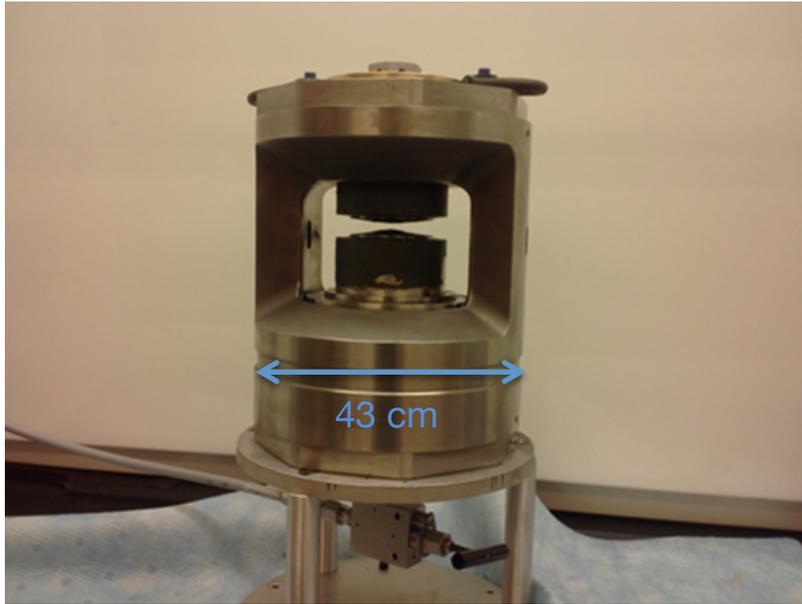
Powder X-Ray Diffraction



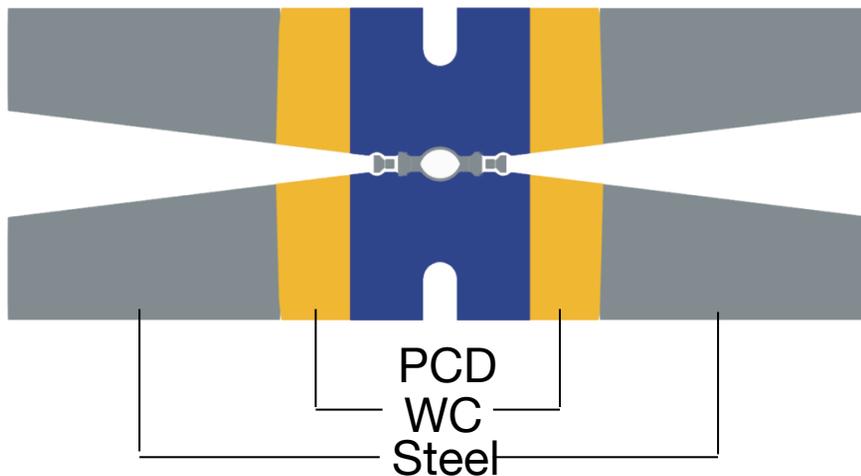
UV Raman Spectrum



# Slow Decompression in Larger Volumes

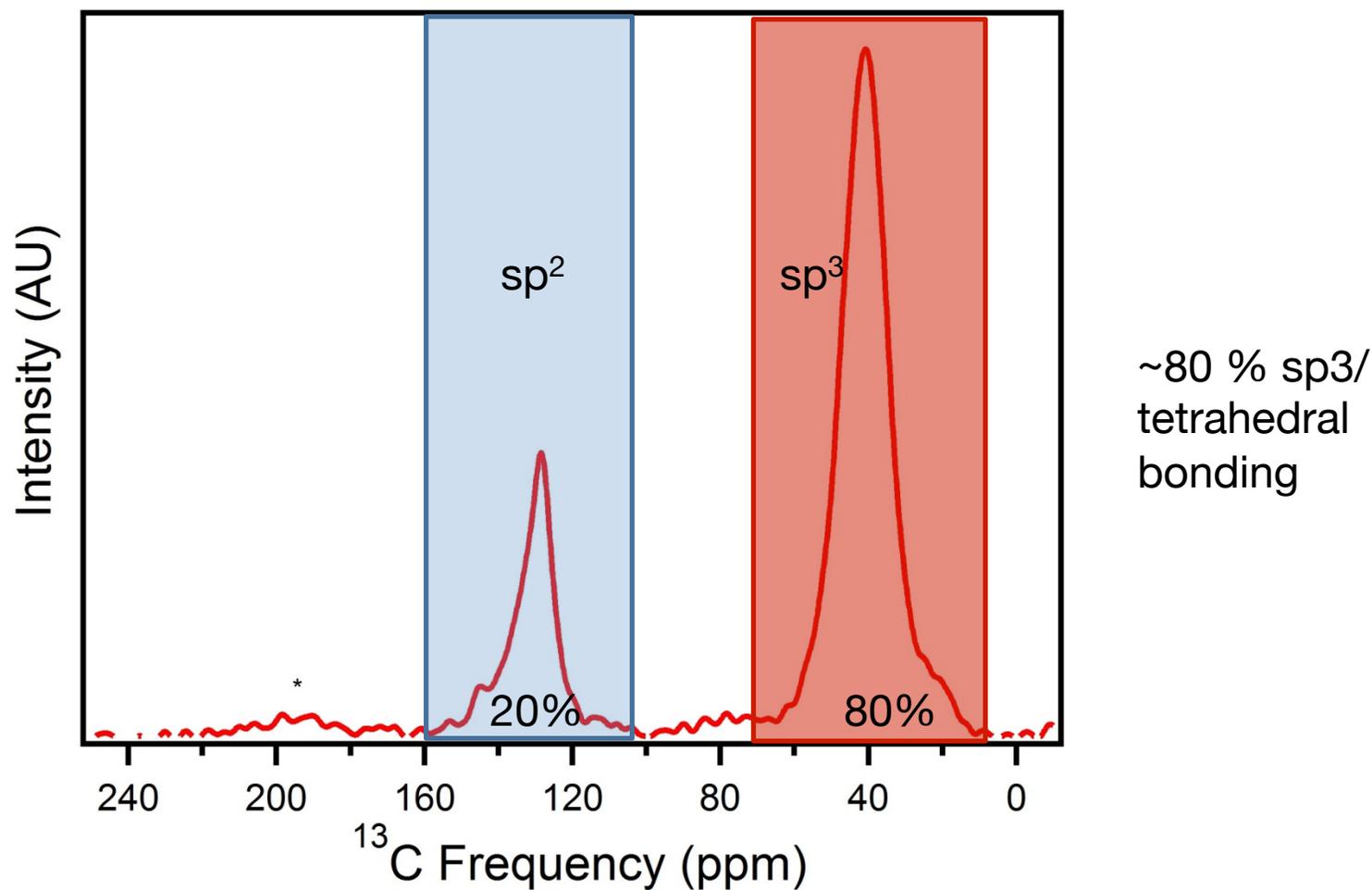


SNAP/ORNL Paris-Edinburgh cell allows for large sample volumes (mg to tens of mg scale).

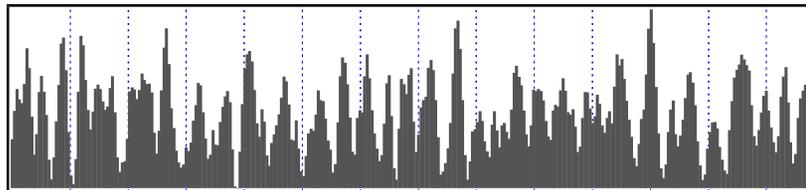
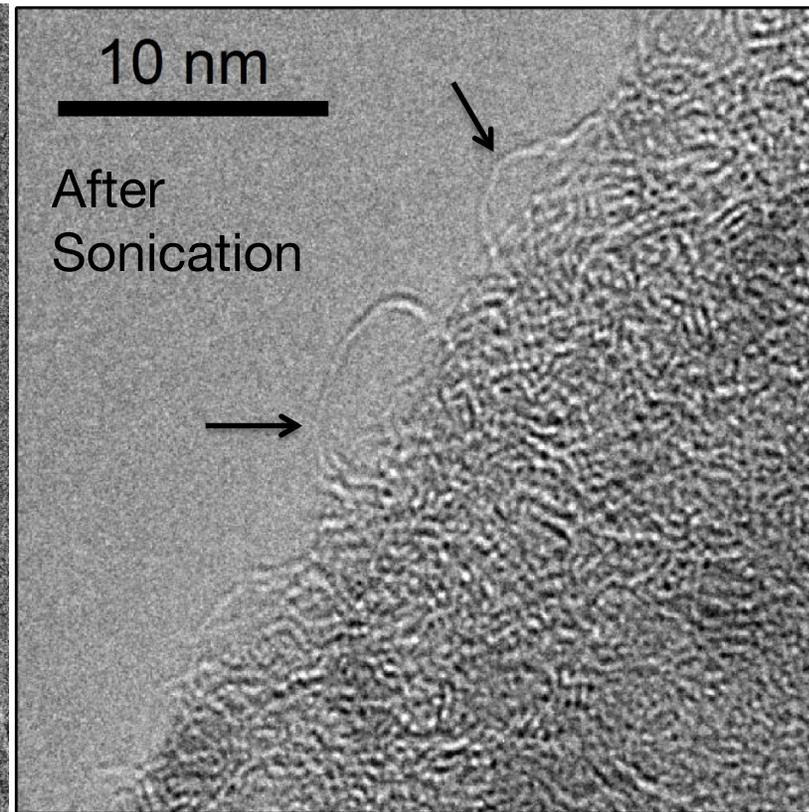
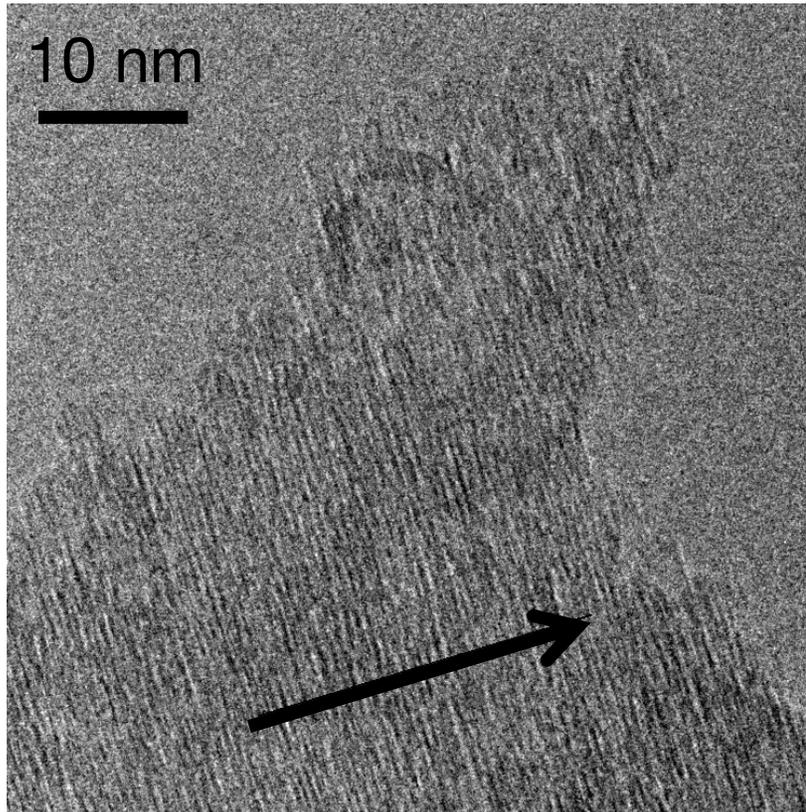


Decompression rate  $\approx 2-7$  GPa/hr

# C<sup>13</sup> Solid State NMR Reveals sp<sup>3</sup> Bonding



# TEM of Slowly Decompressed Benzene: Nanothreads!

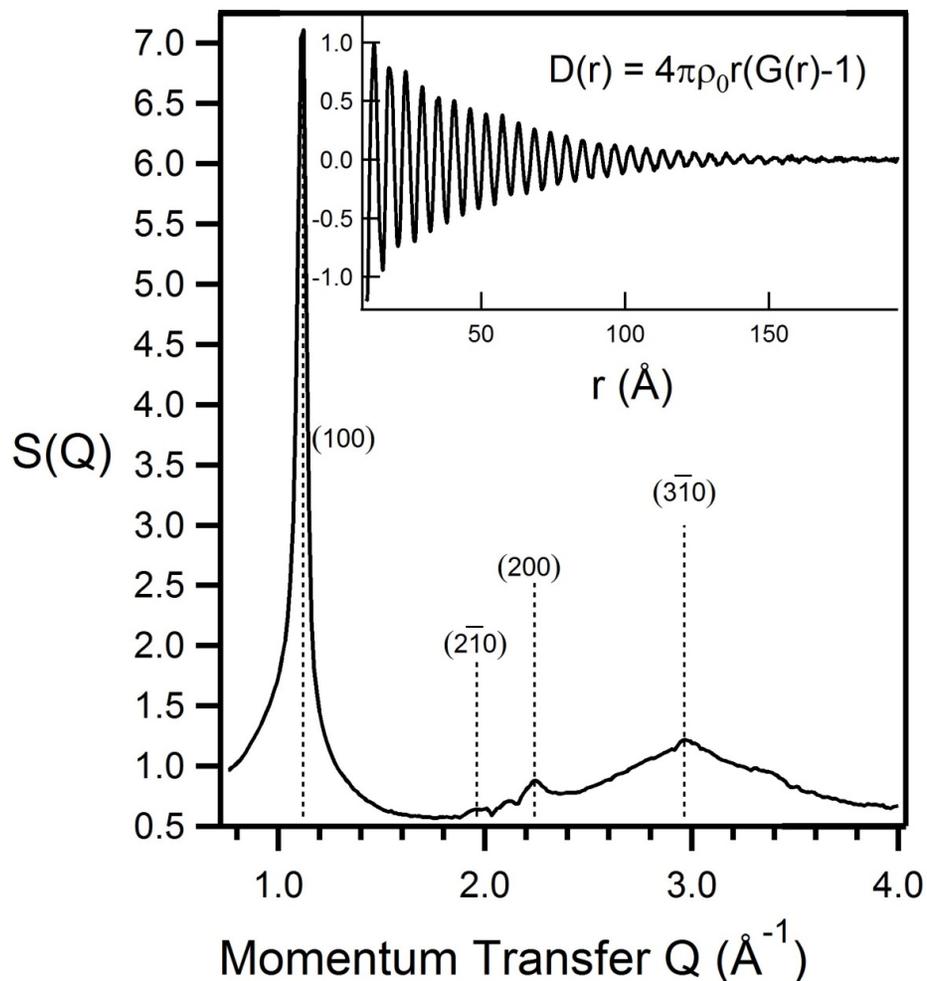


Fitzgibbons et.al., Benzene-derived carbon nanothreads. *Nat. Mater.* **14**, 43-47 (2015)

Crystalline order – striations separated by  $6.4 \text{ \AA}$  .

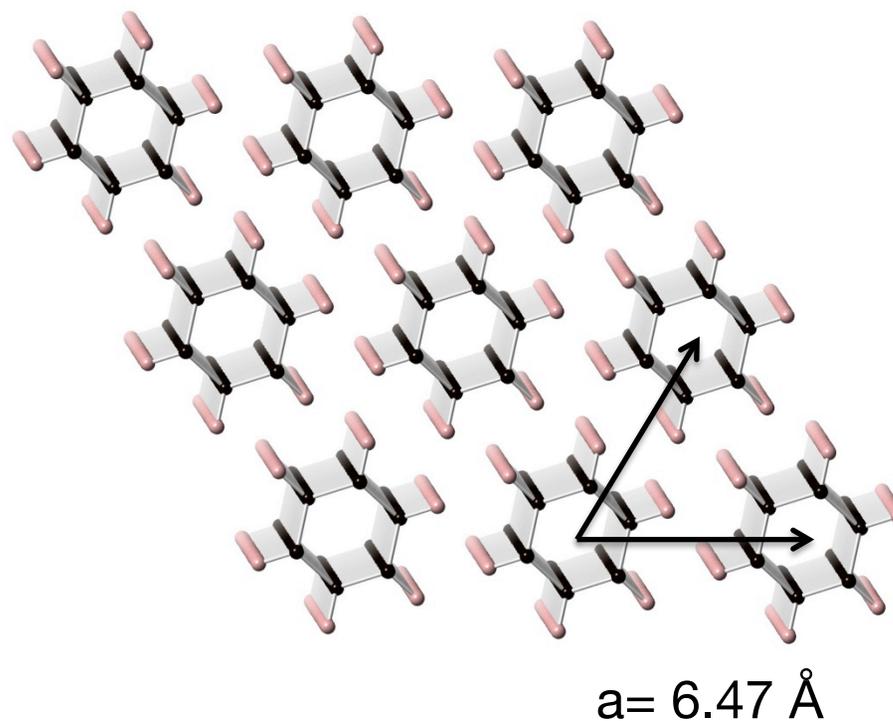
# Diffraction Shows Order Too

X-ray Total Scattering  
Structure Function  $S(Q)$



$$Q=2\pi/d$$

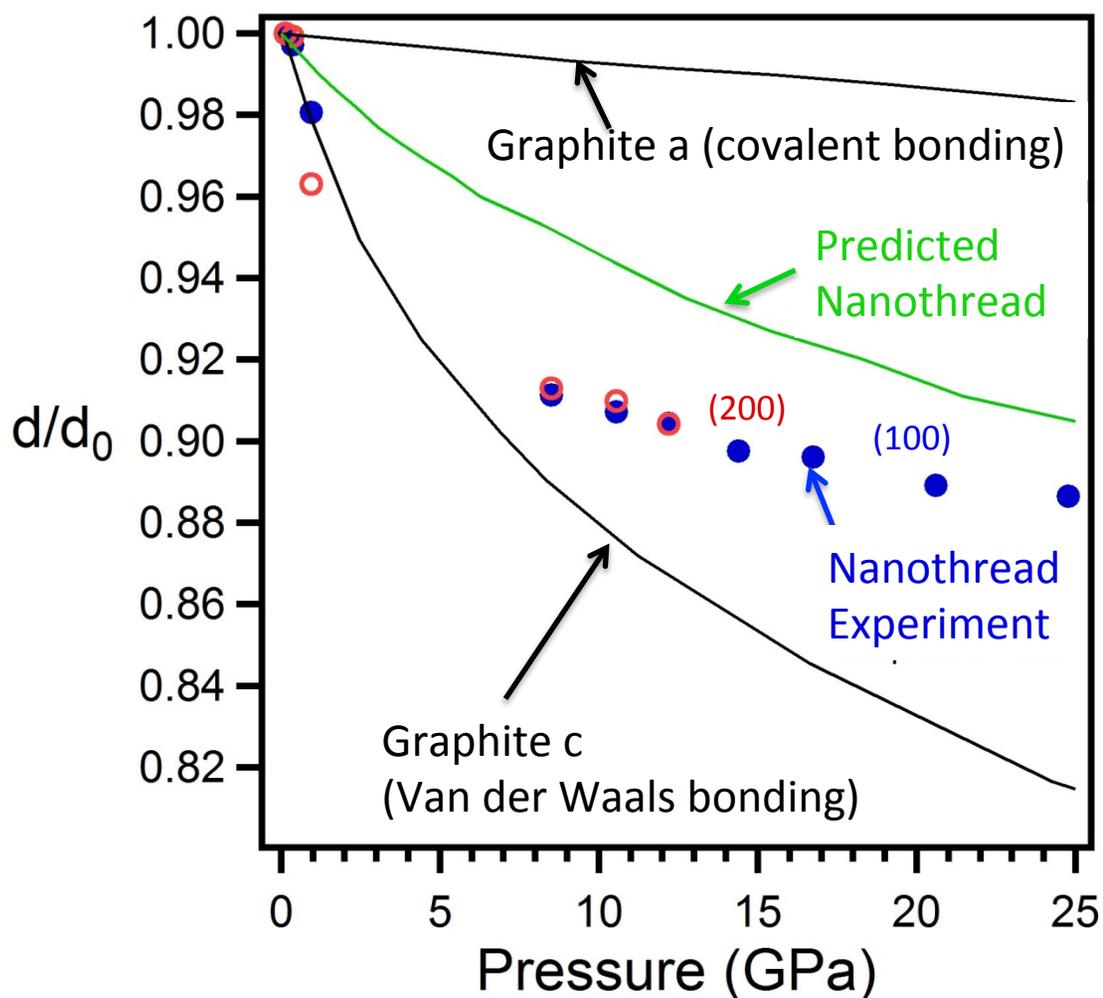
Index Bragg peaks with  
hexagonal 2-d lattice



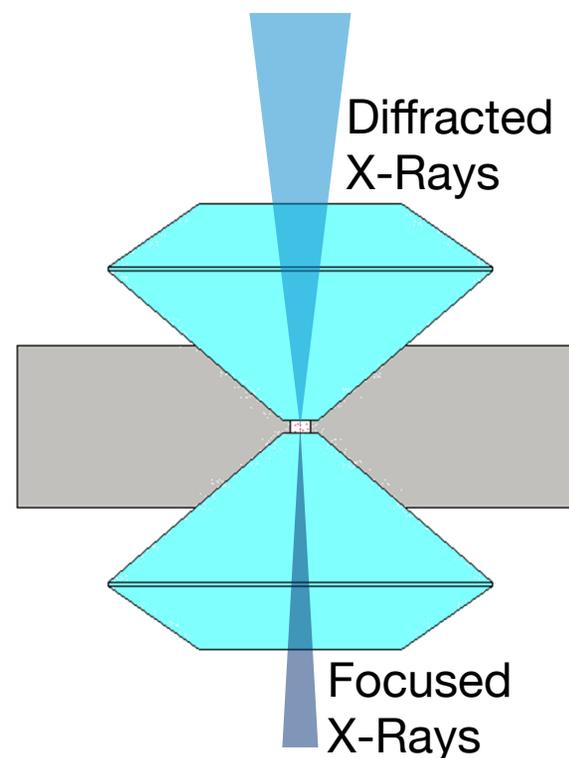
First principles modeling:  
similar lattice parameter

# Weak Inter-thread Bonding

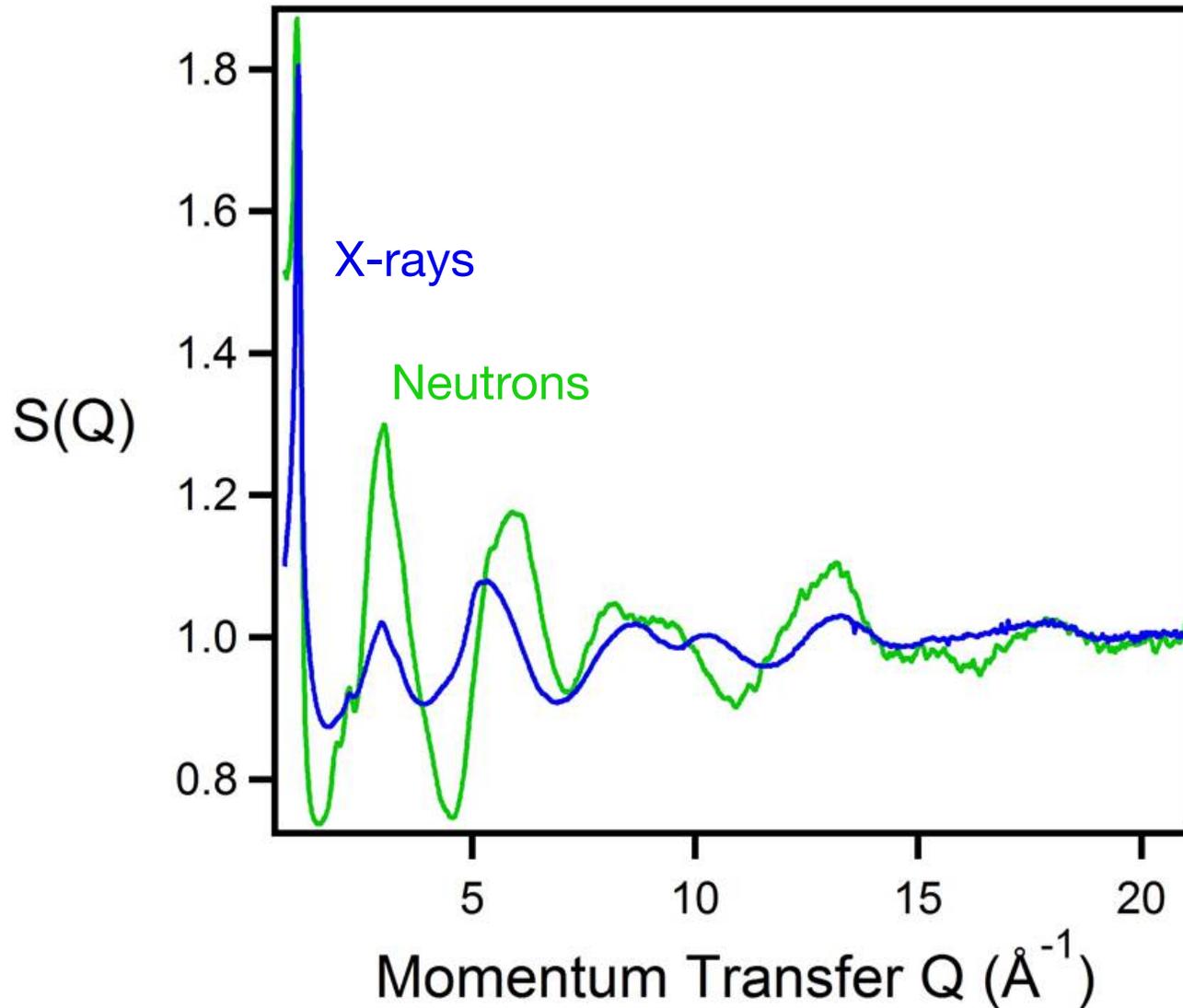
## Interplanar spacing vs pressure of nanothread and graphite



HPCAT, APS X-ray diffraction  
 Nanothread sample loaded in diamond cell



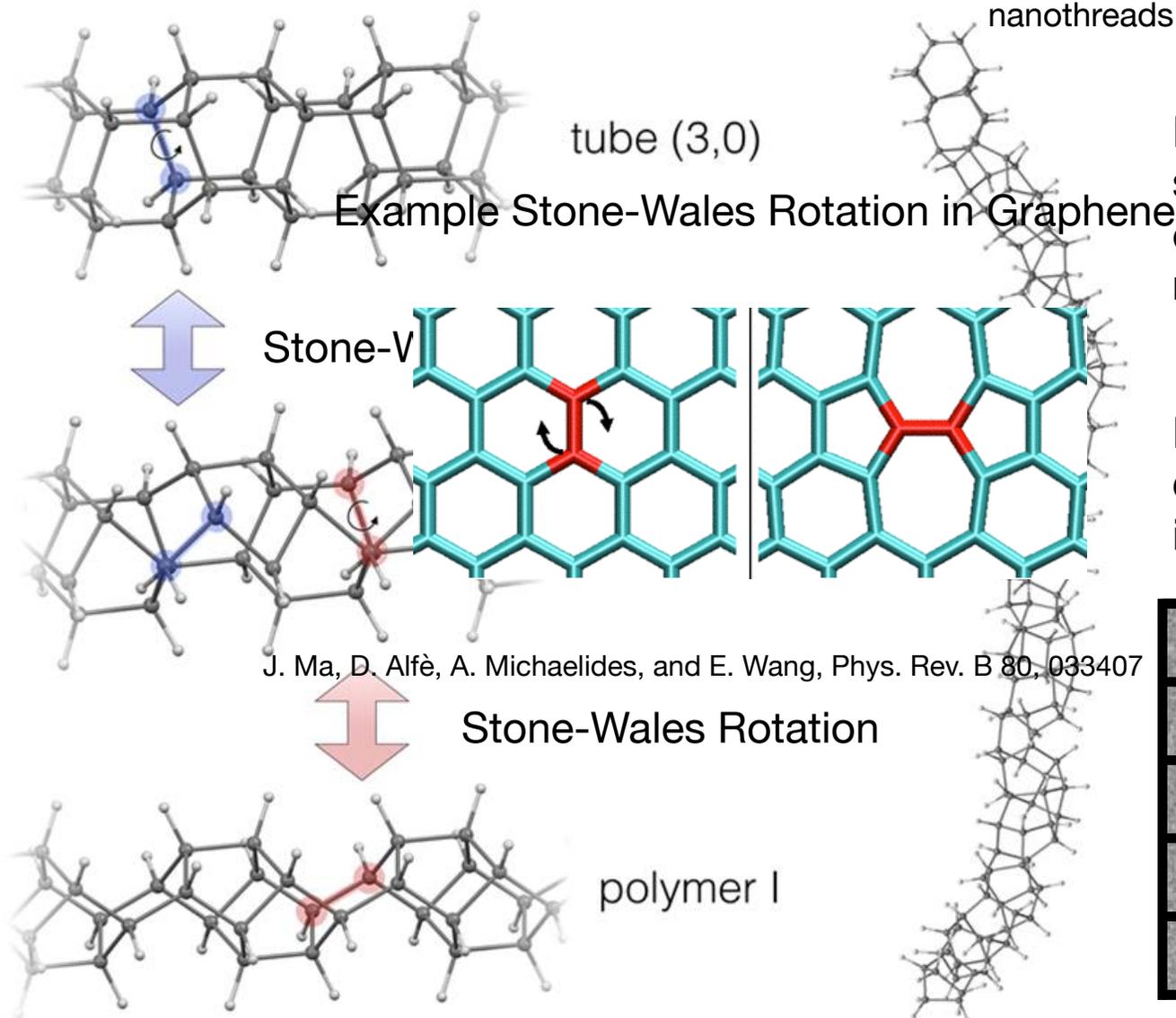
# Diffraction to High Q Indicates Disorder in 1-D



Bragg peaks at low  $Q$  with diffuse scattering at high  $Q$

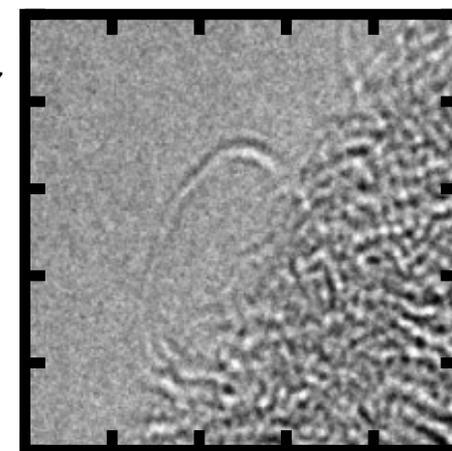
# Theory Helps Predict Disorder

Fitzgibbons et.al., Benzene-derived carbon nanothreads. *Nat. Mater.* **14**, 43-47 (2015)



Monte Carlo simulation allowing only Stone-Wales rotation defects.

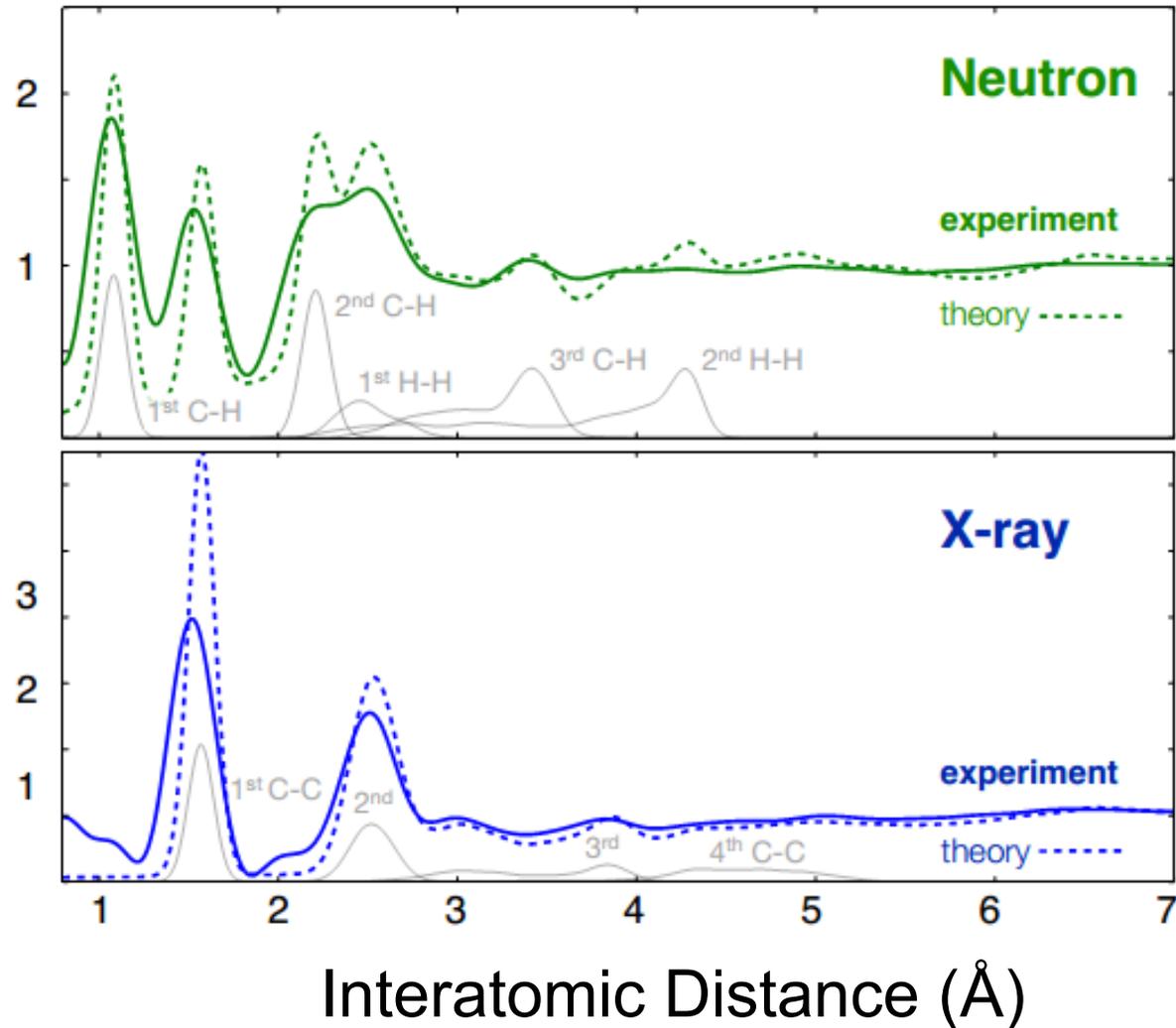
Defects induce curvature observed in TEM



# PDF Analysis Supports Nanothread Interpretation

Pair  
distribution  
function

$G(r)$

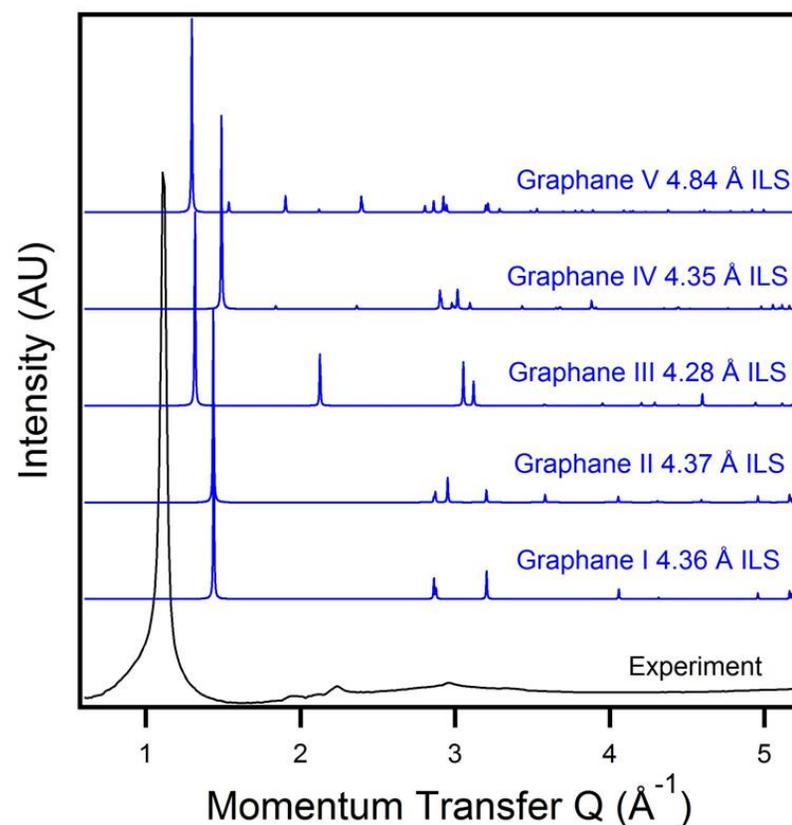
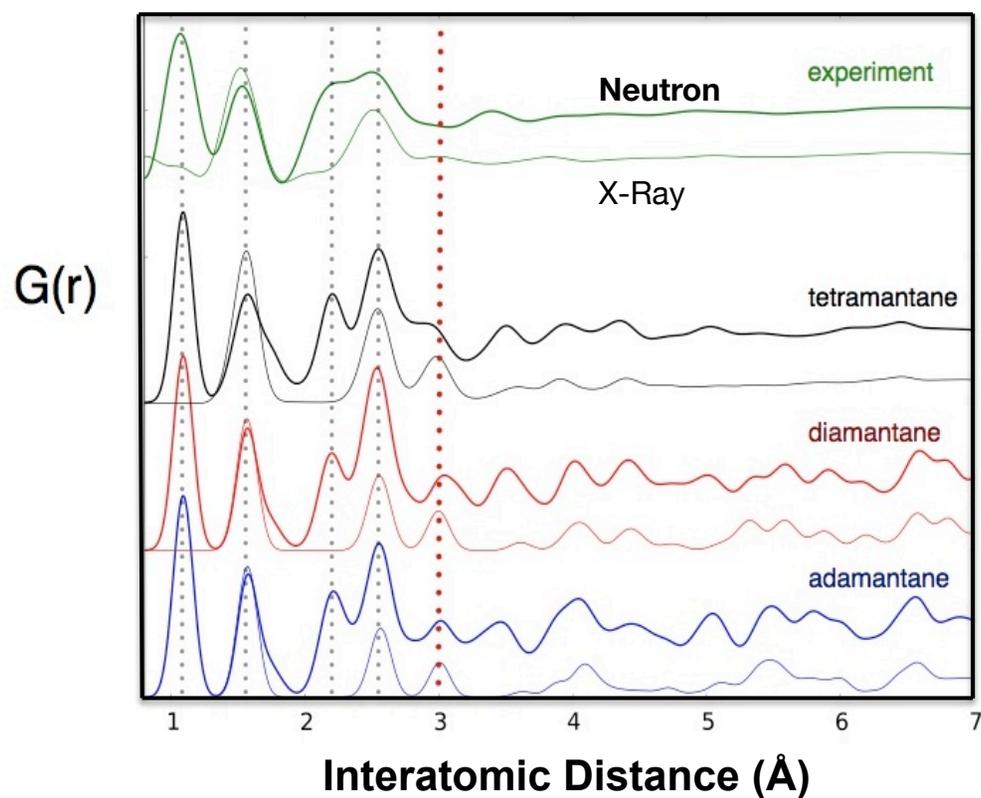


Good agreement out to 3<sup>rd</sup> nearest neighbors!

# Other Carbon Nanomaterials Excluded

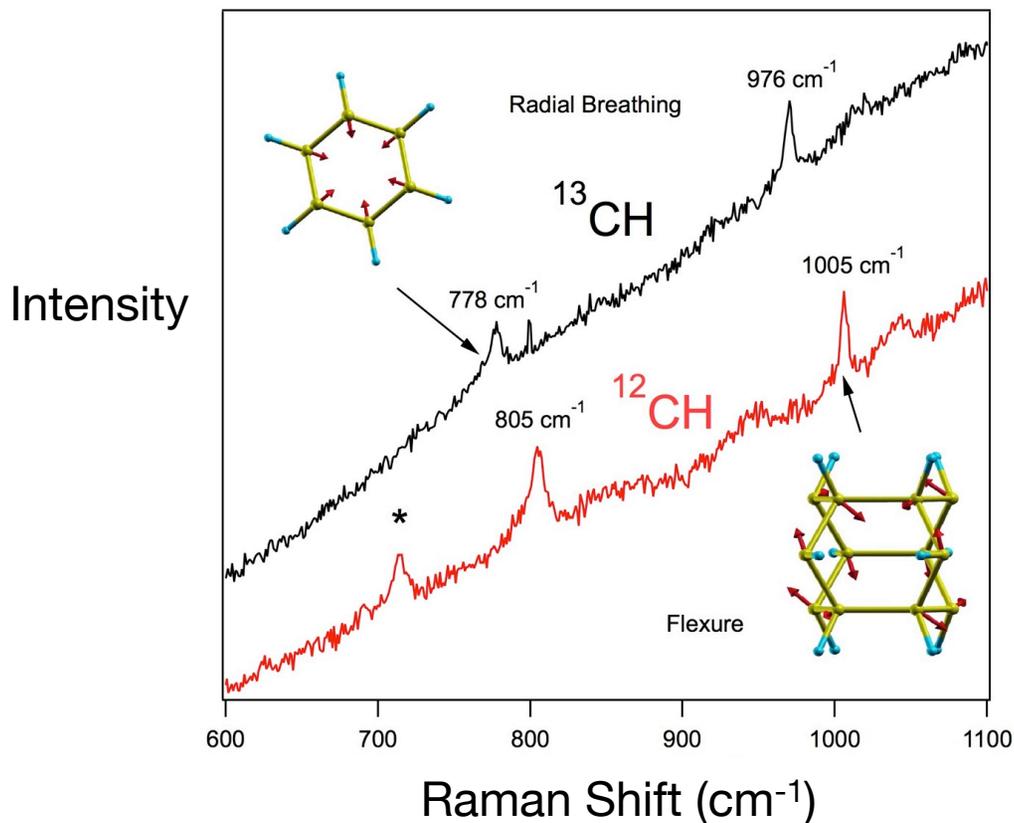
Diamondoids have peaks not present in experiment.

Graphane interlayer spacings do not match large d spacings present in experiment

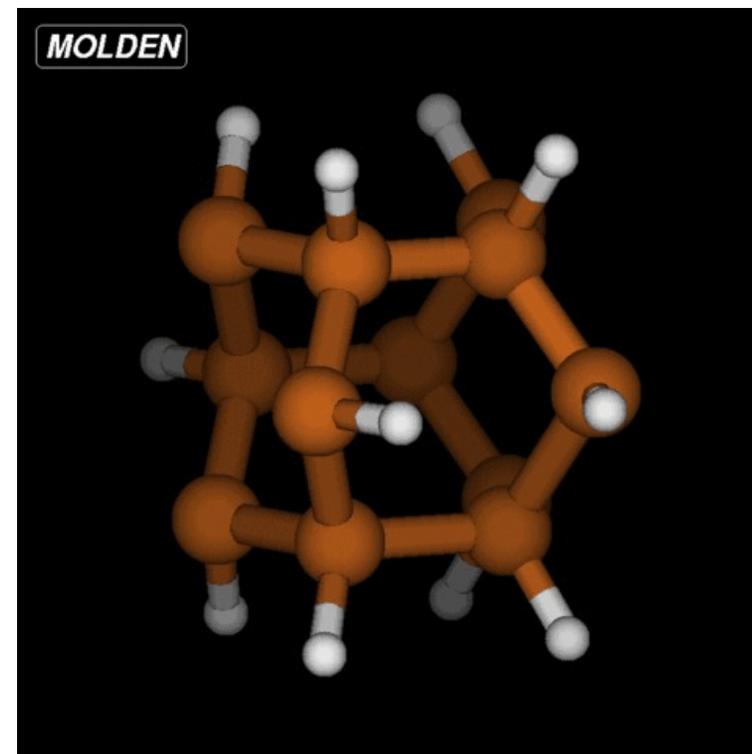


# Vibrational Spectra Support Nanowire Interpretation

## C-C Raman mode isotope shifts match predictions



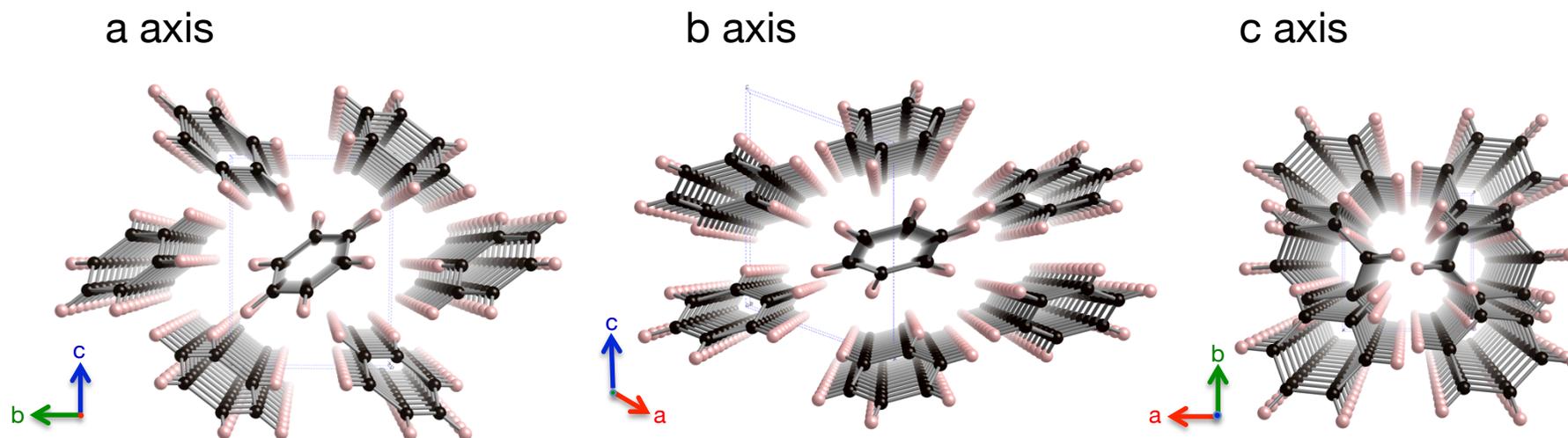
## Flexure Mode



Further experiment shows totally symmetric radial breathing mode is polarized and non-totally symmetric flexure is not: strong constraints on structure

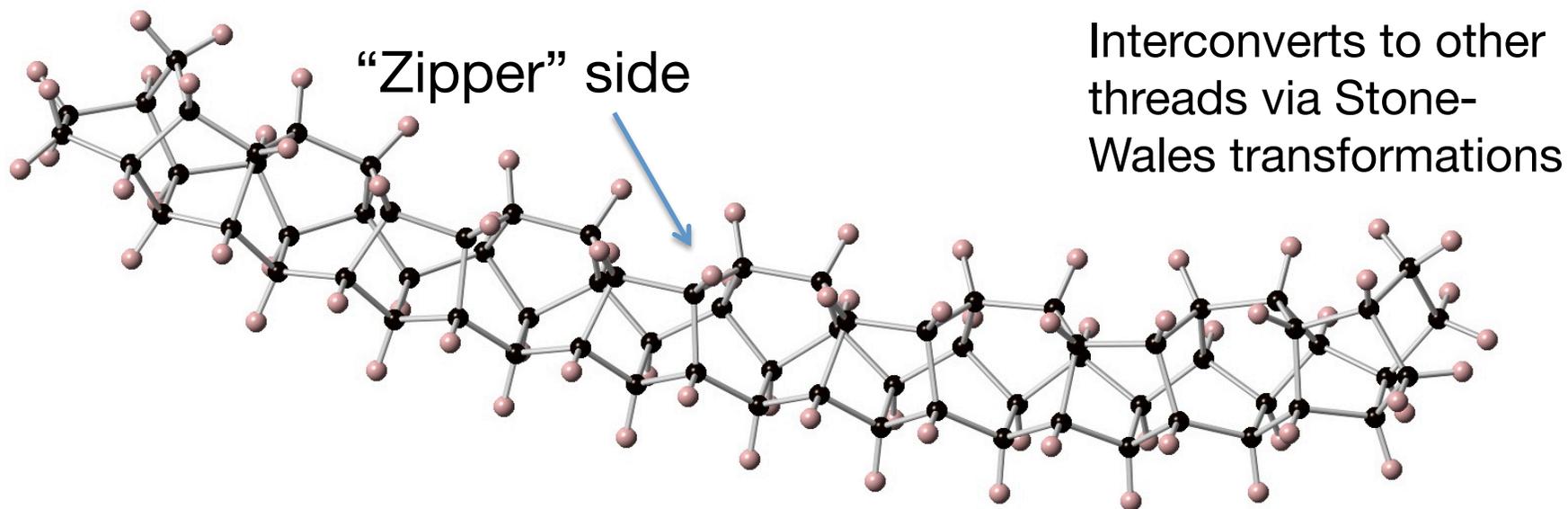
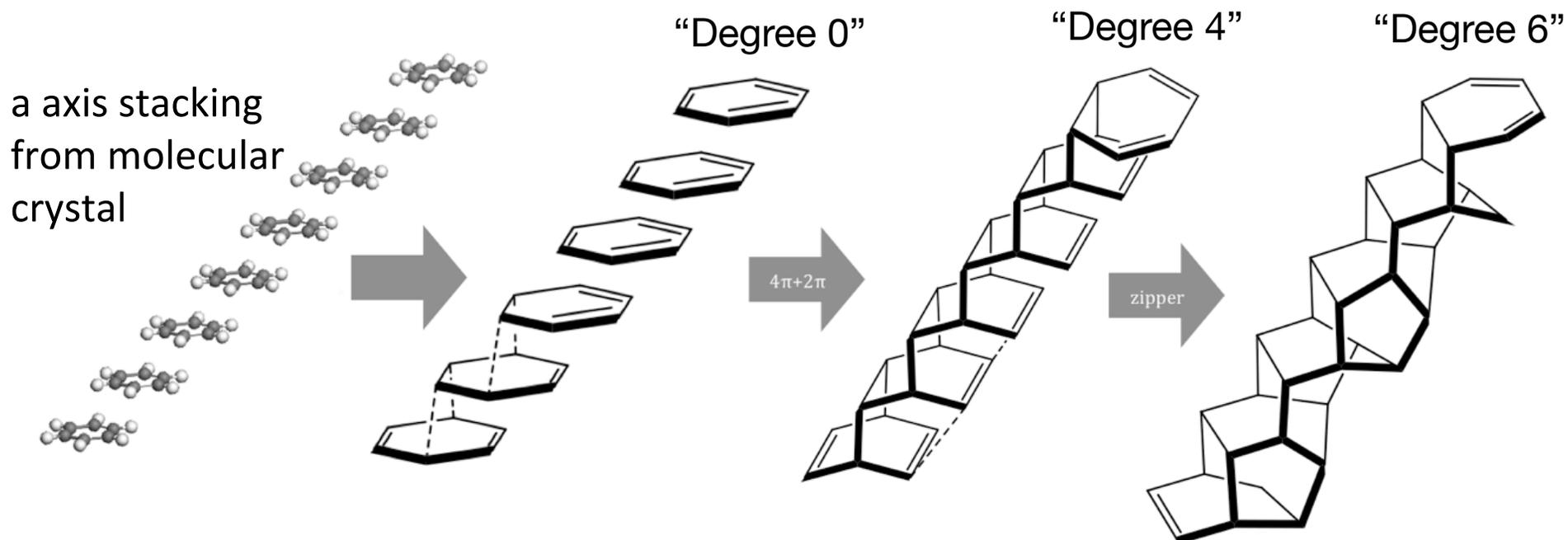
# “Crystal Directed” Chemical Reaction?

## Benzene II Molecular Crystal at 2.5 GPa



Block, S., Weir, C. E. & Piermari, G. *Science* **169**, 586 (1970)

# Possible Cycloaddition + “Zipper” Reaction Mechanism



# Evidence for Axial Order

TEM of second sample

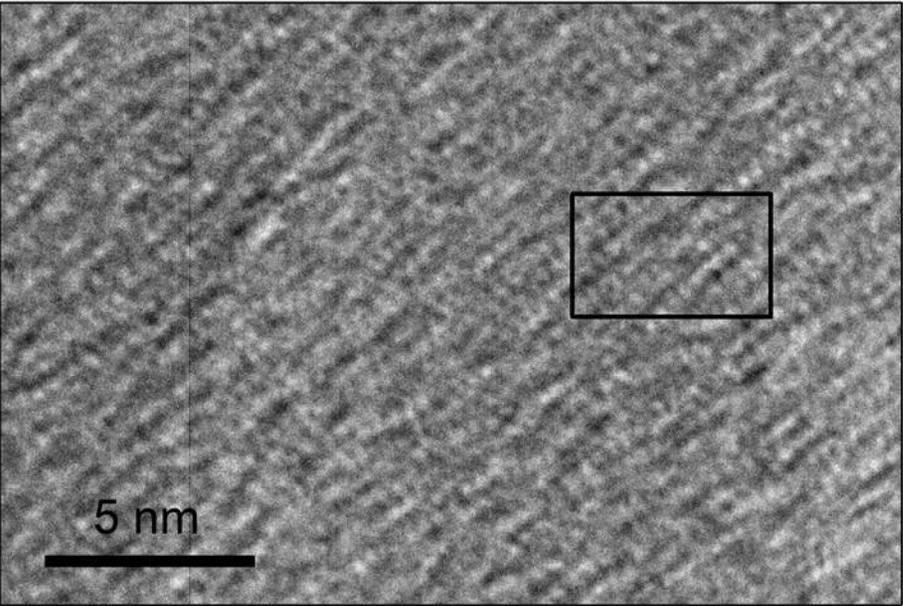
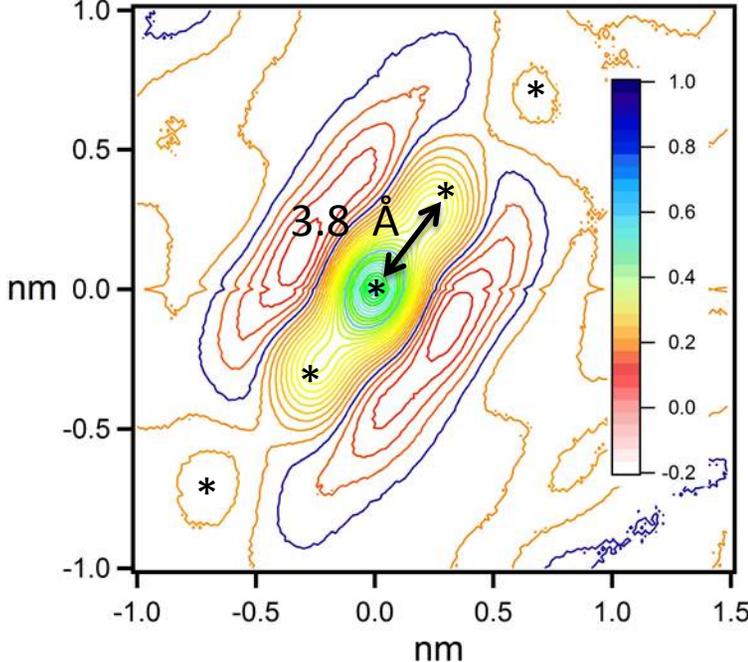


Image Autocorrelation

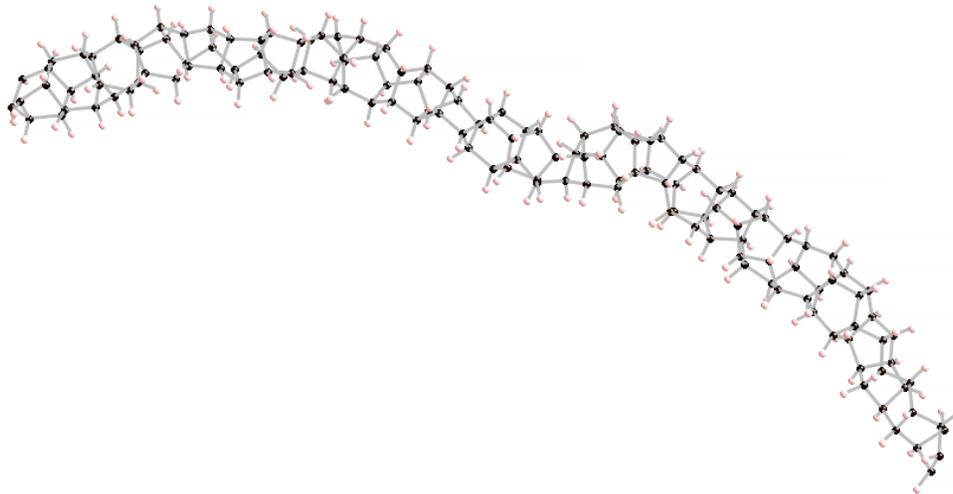


\* Axial beading at  $\approx 3.8 \text{ \AA}$

# Future

---

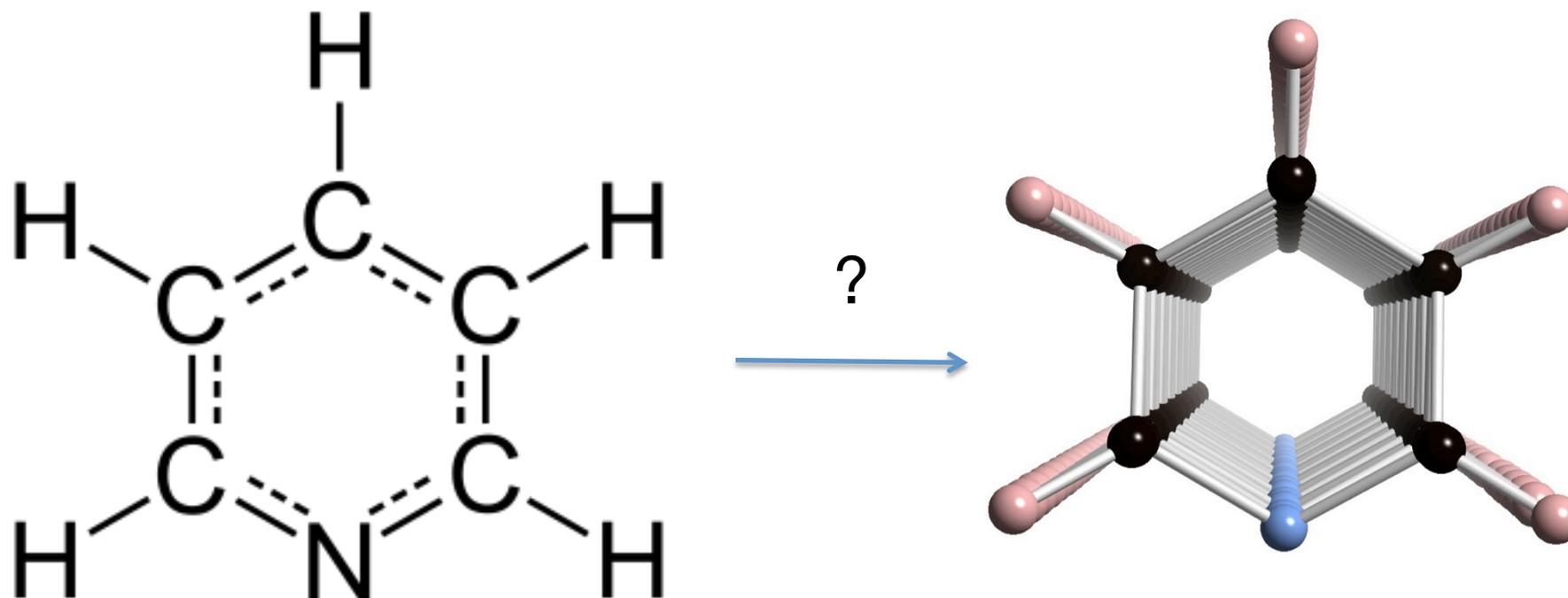
## Increased axial order possible?



- Higher tensile moduli(1.5 TPa) than nanotubes?
- Intercalation of metals and molecules?
- Chemical functionalization?
- Conducting  $sp^2/sp^3$  threads?
- Cross linked high strength composites?
- Low pressure synthesis?

# Kinetic Control of Carbon Nanomaterials Synthesis?

Heteroatoms? Substitutions? Multiple Aromatic Rings?



Methods of organic chemistry are more versatile than conventional carbon nanomaterials thermolytic synthesis from individual atoms

# Acknowledgements

Tom Fitzgerald and Bonding Group



Synthesis: Stephen Aro, Kuo Li, and Jamie Molaison

TEM: Ke Wang and Trevor Clark

Neutron Diffraction: Joerg Neuefeind

X-ray Diffraction: Chris Benmore

NMR: Jeffery Yarger, Gregory Holland



Funding: EFRee DOE Energy  
Frontier Research Center



Spallation Neutrons at  
Pressure (SNAP) beamline  
Oak Ridge National Lab



HPCAT Beamline, Advanced  
Photon Source, Argonne  
National Lab