

Relative quantification:

Elem. Atomic ratio (/C) Percent content

B 0.78 ± 0.110 31.03 ± 4.37

 $\begin{array}{lll} C & 1.00 \pm 0.000 & 39.99 \\ N & 0.72 \pm 0.102 & 28.98 \pm 4.11 \end{array}$

Fig. A1. The EEL spectrum of BNC nanotube and the relative quantification of the elements. It can be seen from the quantification, that the amounts of boron and nitrogen are almost equal (within the accuracy of the quantification), and that there are about 40 at. % of carbon content, which particularly (but hardly wholly) may be regarded to the surrounding thin amorphous carbon shell.

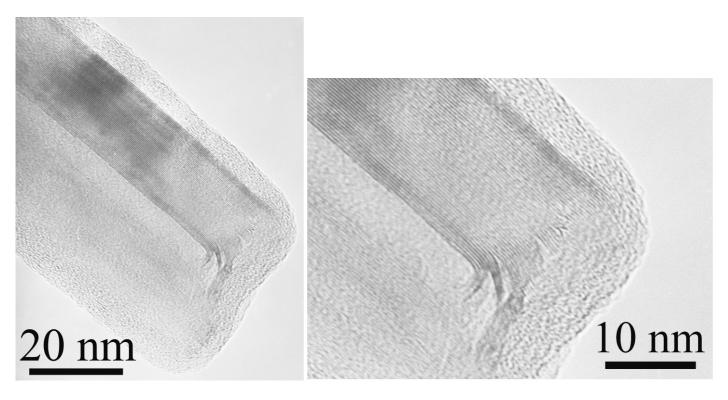


Fig. A2. High resolution images of BN-nanotube. The nanotube is covered by amorphous carbon shell.

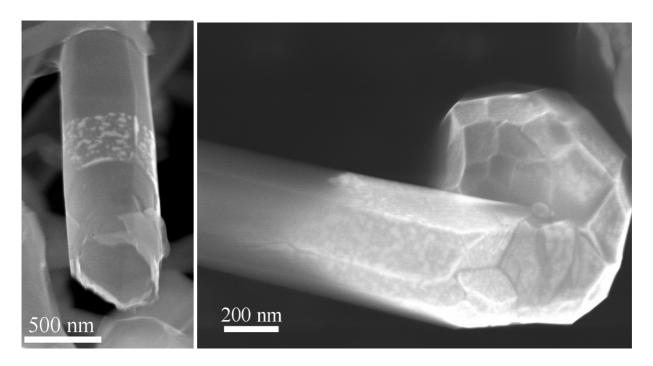


Fig. A3. SEM images of prismatic BN nanotubes.