

ENGINEERING THE BAND STRUCTURE OF DECACHLOROFULLERENE[50] CARBON NANOTUBE PEAPODS.

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We use ab initio density functional theory to calculate the structural and electronic properties of decachlorofullerene[50], C₅₀Cl₁₀, carbon nanotube peapods (CNPs). The inhomogeneous charge distribution over the C₅₀Cl₁₀ molecule, where the covalently bonded chlorine atoms form a ring of negative charge around the rim of the wheel-shaped molecule, creates new energetic and electronic characteristics in the CNP due to the electrostatic interaction between the carbon nanotube (CNT) walls and chlorine atoms. One such effect is to induce a splitting of the CNT mini-bands at the X point of the folded CNT which is an extra feature to appear alongside the hybridisation of the CNT and C₅₀Cl₁₀ bands near the HOMO step edge. By exploiting the new degrees of control over the CNP geometry introduced by the electrostatic characteristics we demonstrate a method of engineering the band structures by ordering the C₅₀Cl₁₀ inter-molecule separation within the CNP which results in dramatic changes to the electron transport characteristics through the CNT walls.