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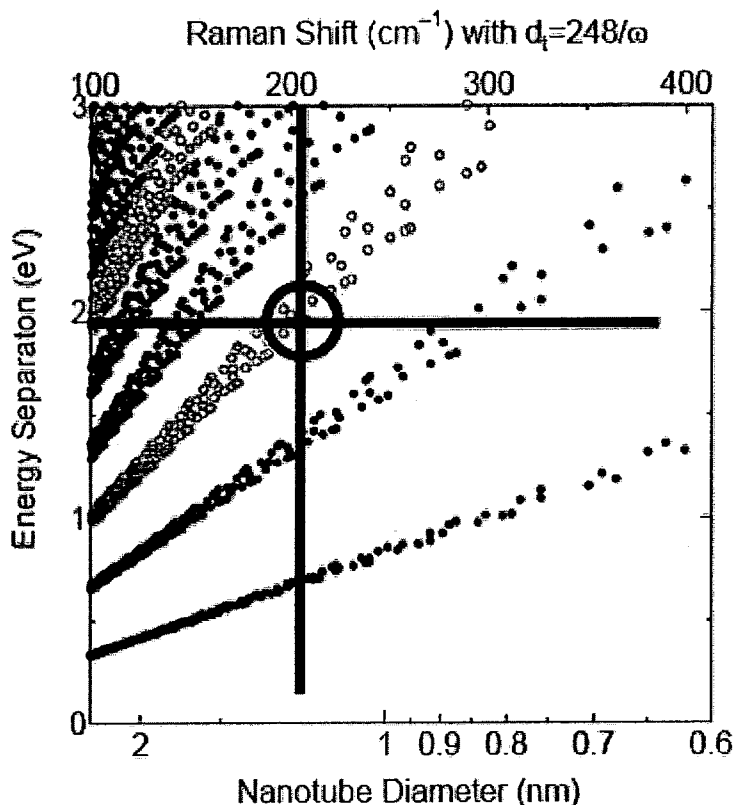
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF SEPARATING CARBON NANOTUBES



(57) Abstract: A method of separating carbon nanotubes having substantially the same diameter including the steps of: providing a sample of carbon nanotubes; separating individual nanotubes within the sample, and mixing with a solution comprising fibrous protein fibrils so that at least some individual nanotubes form a complex with the protein fibrils, and separating out those nanotubules which have formed a complex. Preferably the protein is collagen. The separated nanotubes can be used in the fields of electronics, medical and materials science.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C01B A61K		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX, INSPEC		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2006/093313 A (CALPIS CO LTD [JP]; FUJIWARA SHIGERU [JP]; KANZATO HIROKI [JP]; HACHIM) 8 September 2006 (2006-09-08)	15-18, 20
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:		
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family	
Date of the actual completion of the international search <div style="text-align: center;">28 February 2008</div>	Date of mailing of the international search report <div style="text-align: center;">10/03/2008</div>	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center;">Lecerf, Nicolas</div>	

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International application No
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P,A	<p>US 2006/223068 A1 (ZHANG YUEGANG [US] ET AL) 5 October 2006 (2006-10-05) abstract</p>	1-21

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International application No
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

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