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Sommario/riassunto	Carbon nanotubes are one of the newest materials to be discovered, being barely 20 years old. They are also the most promising one, with one particular sample of multi-walled nanotube attaining a tensile strength of 63GPa, and with carbon nanotubes in general having a specific strength of up to 48000kNm/kg: effectively a direct exploitation of the covalent sp <sup>2</sup> bonding between carbon atoms. Plastic deformation begins at about 5% strain. The nanotubes can be produced in lengths of up to 550mm, and thicknesses as small as 4.3Å; making them perfect reinforcement fibres for composites. They also h