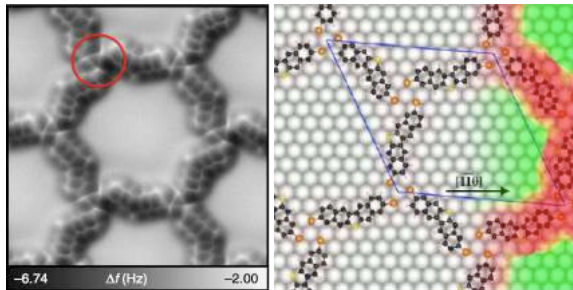


# Imaging Noncovalent Bonds; Overinterpretation Criticized by Simulations

Ali Sadeghi  
Shahid Beheshti University



Modeling & Fabrication of Nanostructures made of 2D Materials, July 2019, Tehran

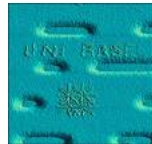
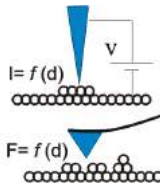
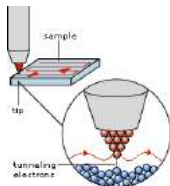
# Outline

- 1 Scanning Probe Microscopy
- 2 Imaging Intermolecular Bonds
- 3 Mechanism of Intermolecular Contrast in AFM

# "The Lab on a Tip"

- Surface physicists need **imaging surfaces with atomic resolution** to investigate local electric properties, topography, charge distribution, ...
- The tool of the choice: Scanning Probe Microscopy (SPM)  
A large family: numerous variants
- sensor = probe tip with atomically sharp apex
 

{	current $I = f(x, y; d)$ : STM (1981) $\Rightarrow$ Nobel prize (1986)
	force $F = f(x, y; d)$ : AFM (1986) $\Rightarrow$ non-conducting samples
	capacitance $C = f(x, y; d)$
	...
- Manipulation



[www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie) (Henger's webpage)

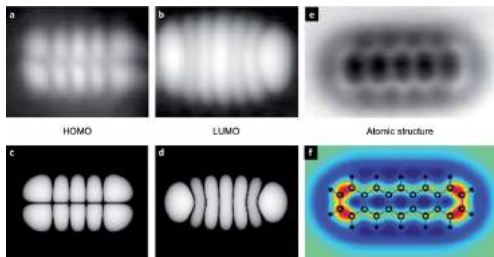
# What is really imaged at atomic scale?

- **STM = Orbital Imaging:** Tersoff-Hamann  $I(\mathbf{r}) \propto \sum_{E_f - eV_{\text{tip}}}^{E_f} |\Psi_i(\mathbf{r})|^2$

Measuring the **Local Density Of electronic States** (LDOS) at position  $\mathbf{r}$ ,  
 $\Rightarrow$  No direct connection to the chemical structure!

- **AFM = Electron Density Imaging:** **due to Pauli repulsion**

Sensing the force on the tip-apex by **total electronic density** at position  $\mathbf{r}$ ,  
 $\Rightarrow$  More directly related to chemical structure

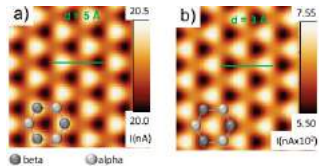


J. Repp et al. PRL (2005); L. Gross, Nature Chem. (2011)

# Not so Easy to Explain Imaging Mechanism

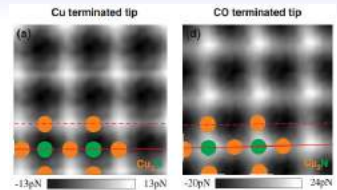
## CO Tip Functionalization Inverts Atomic Force Microscopy Contrast via Short-Range Electrostatic Forces

M. Schneiderbauer et al. PRL (2014)



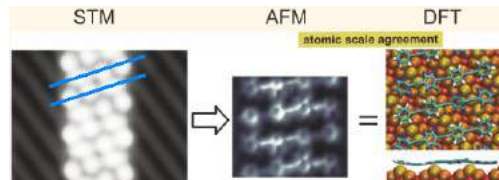
## Obtaining Detailed Structural Information about Supramolecular Systems on Surfaces

S. Kawai, AS, et al., ACS Nano (2013)



## Forces and currents in carbon nanostructures: are we imaging atoms?

M. Ondracek et al. PRL (2011)



Imaging Noncovalent Bonds; Overinterpretation Criticized by Simulations

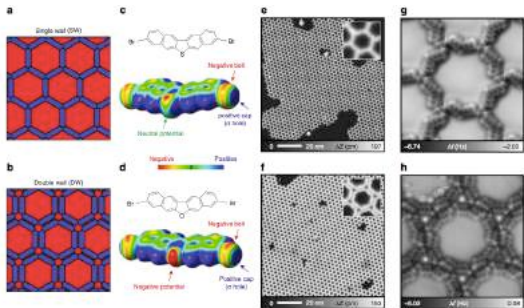
# Not so Easy to Explain Imaging Mechanism

- Experiment:
  - How can we accurately detect the signal?
  - How can we enhance the resolution?
  - Can we develop imaging methods based on new mechanisms?
  - ...
- Theory:
  - How to interpret the image as a signature of **local interactions**?  
⇒ *atomistic calculations are required on an atomic scale.*
  - *How to translate tip-sample **local interactions** to surface properties?*

## The common practice:

### Experimental-Theoretical-Computational Joint

I Piquero-Zulaica, J. Lobo-Checa, [AS](#), Z. M. Abd El-Fattah, C. Mitsui, T. Okamoto, R. Pawlak, T. Meier, A. Arnau, J. Enrique Ortega, J. Takeya, S. Goedecker, E. Meyer, and S. Kawai, Nature Commun. 8, 787 (2017)



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# Intermolecular Bonds

WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

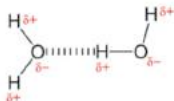
Main page  
Contents  
Featured content

## Non-covalent interactions

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **non-covalent interaction** differs from a **covalent bond** in that it does not involve the sharing of electrons, but rather involves more dispersed variations of **electromagnetic interactions** between **molecules** or within a molecule.<sup>[1]</sup>

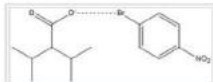
### Hydrogen bonding [ edit ]



A **hydrogen bond** (H-bond), is a specific type of interaction that involves dipole-dipole attraction between a partially positive hydrogen atom and a highly electronegative, partially negative oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, or fluorine atom (not covalently bound to said hydrogen atom). It is not a covalent bond, but instead is classified as a strong non-covalent interaction. It is responsible for why water is a liquid at room temperature and not a gas (given water's low **molecular weight**). Most commonly, the strength of hydrogen bonds lies between 0 - 4 kcal/mol, but can sometimes be as strong as 40 kcal/mol<sup>[1]</sup>

### Halogen bonding [ edit ]

**Halogen bonding** is a type of non-covalent interaction which does not involve the formation nor breaking of actual bonds, but rather is similar to the **dipole-dipole interaction** known as **hydrogen bonding**. In halogen bonding, a halogen atom acts as an **electrophile**, or electron-seeking



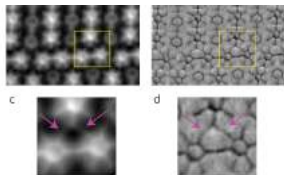


# Imaging Intermolecular Bonds

## Extended Halogen Bonding between Fully Fluorinated Aromatic Molecules

Shigeki Kawal,<sup>\*,1,2</sup> Ali Sadeghi,<sup>1,3</sup> Feng Xu,<sup>1</sup> Lifan Peng,<sup>2</sup> Akihiro Orita,<sup>2</sup> Junzo Otera,<sup>2</sup> Stefan Goedecker,<sup>†</sup> and Ernst Meyer<sup>†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physics, University of Basel, Klingelbergstrasse 82, CH-4056 Basel, Switzerland, <sup>2</sup>PRESTO, Japan Science and Technology Agency, 4-1-8 Honcho, Kawaguchi 332-0012, Japan, <sup>3</sup>Department of Physics, Shahid Beheshti University, Esfah, 19839 Tehran, Iran, and <sup>†</sup>Department of Applied Chemistry, Okayama University of Science, 1-1 Ridai-cho, Kita-ku, Okayama 700-0005, Japan



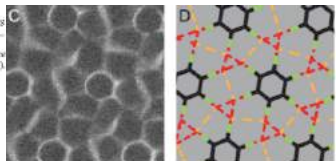
Science

REPORTS

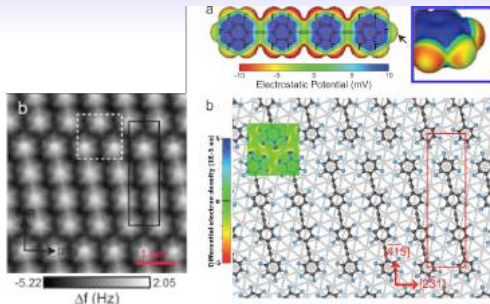
Cite as: Z. Han et al., Science  
10.1126/science.1218625 (2017).

## Imaging the halogen bond in self-assembled halogenbenzenes on silver

Zhumin Han,<sup>1</sup> Gregory Czup,<sup>1</sup> Chi-lun Chiang,<sup>1</sup> Chen Xu,<sup>1</sup> Peter J. Wagner,<sup>1</sup> Xinyuan Wei,<sup>1,2</sup> Yanxing Zhang,<sup>1,2</sup> Ruqian Wu,<sup>1,2\*</sup> W. Ho<sup>1,2\*</sup>



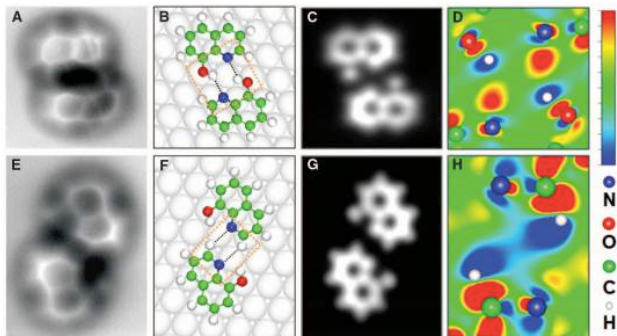
# Extended X-Bonding



- Experiment:
  - Directional self-assembly despite F-F repulsion
  - High contrast inter-molecular bonds (X-bonds) in filtered AFM images
- DFT calculations:
  - No conventional  $\sigma$ -hole in case of F atoms
  - vdW attraction + directional ES repulsion
  - No electron accumulation on X-bonds

# Imaging H-Bonding

**Fig. 3. AFM measurements and DFT calculations of 8-hq dimers on Cu(111).** Constant-height frequency shift image of the O-H...N dimer (A) and the N...H-Ph dimer (Ph, phenyl) (E) and their corresponding DFT-calculated structure models (B and F), electron density maps (C and G), and charge difference maps (D and H). Imaging parameters:  $V = 0$  V,  $A = 100$  pm,  $\Delta z = +50$  pm (A),  $\Delta z = +10$  pm (E). Image size: (A) 1.6 by 1.6 nm; (E) 1.5 by 2.0 nm. The dashed frames in (B) and (F) indicate the calculation regions in (D) and (H).

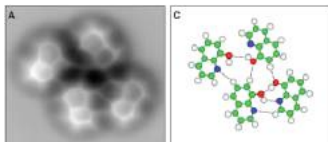


J. Zhang, et al. Science, 342 (2013)

# Imaging H-Bonding

Claiming:

- Real-space visualization of the formation of H-bonding in 8-hq molecular assemblies on a Cu(111) substrate, using AFM



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Volume 52 Issue 46 | p. 8 | News of The Week  
Issue Date: November 17, 2014 | Web Date: November 14, 2014

## Hydrogen Bond Images From AFM Questioned

Microscopy: "Bonds" may be artifact of tip flexibility

By Jyllian Kemsley

[+Enlarge]



**Purported hydrogen bond** interactions appearing in atomic force microscopy (AFM) images may be an experimental artifact.

AFM images published last year by a team led by Xiaohui Qiu and Zhihai Cheng of China's National Center for Nanoscience &

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# Halogen Bond Imaging Explanation

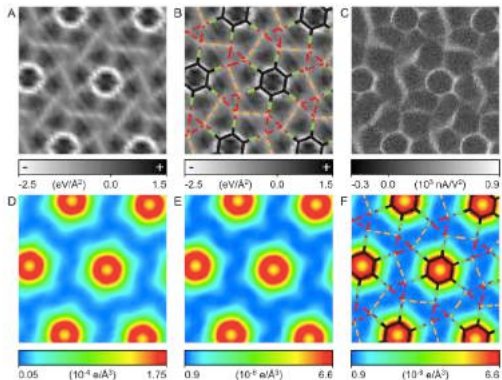
Science

REPORTS

Cite as: Z. Han et al., *Science*  
10.1126/science.1251825 (2017).

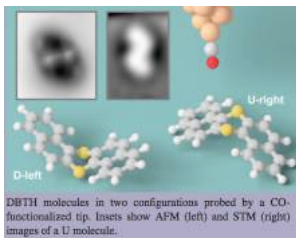
## Imaging the halogen bond in self-assembled halogenbenzenes on silver

Zhumin Han,<sup>1</sup> Gregory Czap,<sup>1</sup> Chi-lun Chiang,<sup>1</sup> Chen Xu,<sup>1</sup> Peter J. Wagner,<sup>1</sup> Xinyuan Wei,<sup>1,3</sup> Yanxing Zhang,<sup>1,2</sup> Ruqian Wu,<sup>1,2\*</sup> W. Ho<sup>1,4\*</sup>



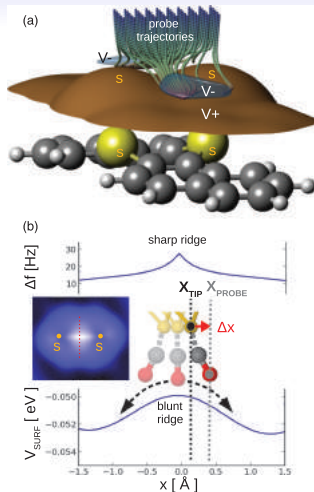
Imaging Noncovalent Bonds; Overinterpretation Criticized by Simulations

# AFM Contrast with no Chemical Bonds!



High-resolution STM & AFM of stereochemically resolved dibenzo[a,h]thianthrene molecules, Pavlicek et al, Phys. Status Solidi B (2013)

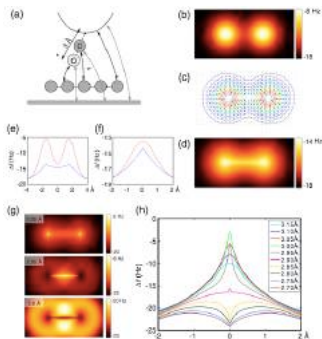
- Experiment: Ridges not necessarily correlates with chemical bonds
- Simulation: Sharp structural resolution, in AFM & STM, is due to **strong lateral relaxations of the tip apex particle**



Mechanism of high-resolution STM/AFM imaging with functionalized tips, Hapala and Jelinek, Phys. Rev. B 90

Imaging Noncovalent Bonds; Overinterpretation Criticized by Simulations

# AFM Contrast with no Chemical Bonds!



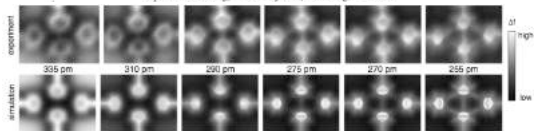
PRL 113, 186102 (2014)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
31 OCTOBER 2014

## Intermolecular Contrast in Atomic Force Microscopy Images without Intermolecular Bonds

Sampsa K. Hämillinen,<sup>1</sup> Nadine van der Heijden,<sup>2</sup> Joost van der Ligt,<sup>2</sup>  
Stephan den Hartog,<sup>2</sup> Peter Lijeroth,<sup>1\*</sup> and Ingmar Swart<sup>2†</sup>





# Summary

## Imaging non-covalent bonds

- We Know that
  - AFM experiment with CO-functionalized tips: H-bonds, X-bonds, ...
  - Theory: no electron accumulation + lateral relaxation of apex particle
  - $\Rightarrow$  different from real imaging of chemical bonds
- Still

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Letter

### Imaging van der Waals Interactions

Zhumin Han<sup>†</sup>, Xinyuan Wei<sup>†\*</sup>, Chen Xu<sup>†</sup>, Chi-Hun Chiang<sup>†</sup>, Yanxing Zhang<sup>†§</sup>, Ruqian Wu<sup>†</sup>, and W. Ho<sup>†¶</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California, Irvine, California 92697-4575, United States

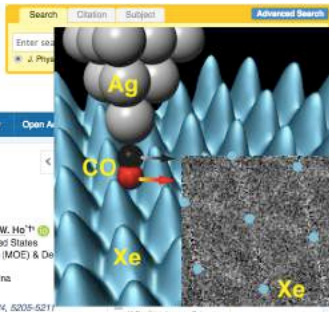
<sup>‡</sup> State Key Laboratory of Surface Physics and Key Laboratory for Computational Physical Sciences (MOE) & Department of Physics, Fudan University, Shanghai 200433, China

<sup>§</sup> College of Physics and Materials Science, Henan Normal University, Xinxiang, Henan 453007, China

<sup>¶</sup> Department of Chemistry, University of California, Irvine, California 92697-2025, United States

J. Phys. Chem. Lett., 2016, 7 (24), pp 5205–5211

[Cite this: J. Phys. Chem. Lett., 7, 24, 5205-5211](#)



Thank you for your attention!