

## Supporting Information: A natural helical crystal lattice model for carbon nanotubes

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### Comparison between the natural helical lattice model and the Clar VB model

In most cases, including all achiral CNTs and the chiral CNTs when  $r = \text{mod}(n-m, 3) = 0$  or  $2$ , it is possible to define a unit cell in the Clar VB model that coincides with the unit cell in natural helical lattice model. However when  $r = 1$ , the unit cell defined by the Clar model contains  $(2m + n - 1)/3$  aromatic sextets and one double bond. The helical vector,  $\mathbf{T}_R$  (the seam of the double bonds), parallel to  $2\mathbf{a}_1 - \mathbf{a}_2$ [1], is different from the helical vector defined in the natural helical lattice model,  $\mathbf{T}_R = \mathbf{a}_1 - 2\mathbf{a}_2$ , as shown in the case of (6,5)-CNT in Figure S1.

### References

- [1] J. L. Ormsby and B. T. King, J. Org. Chem., **69**, 4287-4291 (2004)

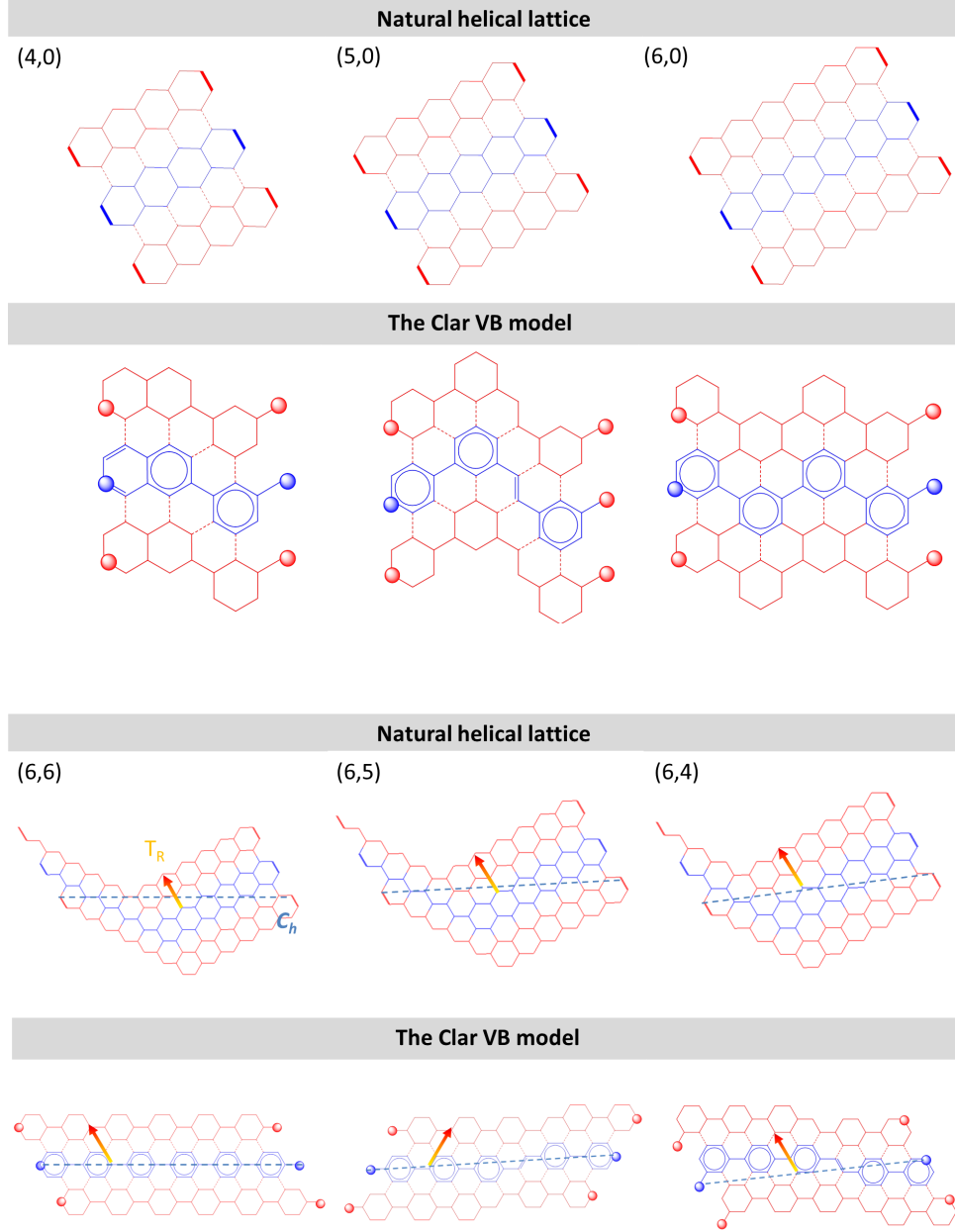


Figure S1: The unit cell for some chiral and achiral CNTs defined by the natural helical crystal lattice model and the Clar VB model. 3 unit cells are plotted in each graph and the central cell is marked in blue. The overlapping C-C bonds or C atoms are marked in bold. The circumference vector  $\mathbf{C}_h$  and the helical vector  $\mathbf{T}_R$  are also marked for chiral CNTs.