Chemist discovers new information about elemental boron
29 January 2015

Boron, while not found in its pure elemental form on Earth, is a main component of compounds such as boron nitride and boron carbide. These are the second and third hardest materials in the world, making the element one of the most useful in terms of strength and weight. Only diamond is harder but boron can withstand higher temperatures. Boron compounds are found in aerospace technology, bulletproof vests and cutting tools.

"With this research, we're providing an underpinning for better understanding of many materials and we're adding to the fundamental knowledge that's necessary for the advancement of many technologies and industries," says White. "All matter is made of elements and there are only about 90-some naturally occurring elements, with about 30 in high abundance. To find out something new about an important element is amazing."


Provided by Dalhousie University