

## Torn crystal and van der Waals forces

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Scientists in Japan have measured how strong these forces are. They pulled apart two layers of gallium selenide crystal until it broke.

This took  $0.023 \times 10^6 \text{ N/m}^2$ . They increased this force seven-fold by adding 10% tellurium.



Read the full article at [rsc.li/2hpdDeY](https://rsc.li/2hpdDeY), published 10 November 2017

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1. What exactly does 'high boiling point' mean?
2. Why do you think it is significant that water has a high boiling point?
3. A control variable is part of the experiment that is kept the same. What do you think the three most important control variables were for the scientists? Why?
4. What does  $0.023 \times 10^6 \text{ N/m}^2$  mean?