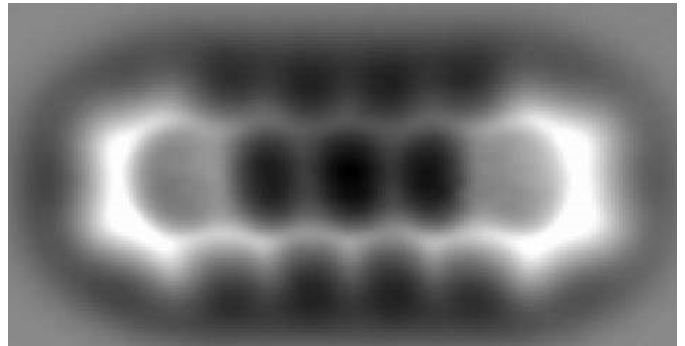


The Reality of the Non-Observable

Commentary for September 15, 2009 — Often What We Cannot See Is Real

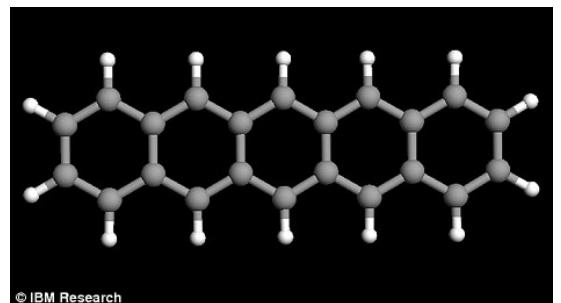
Many things that we cannot see in God's creation, things that are non-observable, are nonetheless very real. We cannot see atoms, but they exist. They make up molecules. A few months ago IBM researchers published the first "picture" of a molecule in an August 28, 2009 article in the journal *Science*. It was a wonderful achievement. The picture is of a pentacene molecule consisting of 22 carbon atoms and 14 hydrogen atoms.

Yes, the image is fuzzy. Light could not be used to illuminate the molecule being viewed. The image was created by causing the molecule to vibrate. The vibration was able to be interpreted digitally, then "read," and converted into a visual format, with varying degrees of contrast to enhance the image. The result is to the right. It is identifiable with the model given beneath it.¹



Further enhancements may allow us to view individual atoms with clarity (particularly larger atoms), even if those atoms are fields of energy and not objects in space. We shall see what the future reveals about God's smallest physical creations. In other words, through the use of technology our "sight" has been enhanced. Our ability to view God's creation is being magnified. Just as we use telescopes to look at stars that cannot be seen with the naked eye, so too we can view the ultra-small.

Note also that this image of a hydrocarbon molecule is very close to models that scientists have used for generations and that most high school science classes had available for students. Apparently our present understanding of molecular structure is correct.



Who Makes such Molecules?

It is difficult for us to keep in our minds who created molecules like this. It was none other than Christ:

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by [Greek *dia*, "through"] him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him."

• *Colossians 1:15–16*

Paul's reference to things "**visible and invisible**" certainly refers to physical (visible) and spiritual (invisible) things. But it can also mean things that are invisible because they are beyond the normal range of senses, whether because of distance (very tiny or very distant), or

1. I am referencing the internet article "[3D Molecular Structure Observed Using AFM](#)" (accessed 9/13/09). The article I am citing appeared on the website *MedGadget: Internet Journal of Emerging Medical Technologies*. For more information view the excellent 5 minute video that is at that webpage.

beyond the sensitivity of our sight, hearing, smell, or touch. Furthermore, remember also that all creation ("**visible and invisible**") is sustained by Christ, not just in the past or in the future, but at this very moment:

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church [ekklesia]: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; [why?] that in all things he might have the preeminence."

• *Colossians 1:17–18*

The "mundane" mysteries of creation are increasingly giving up secrets. While they have always been available, now scientists are increasingly able to "discover" the deeper mysteries of the physical creation. Unlocking those secrets will reveal information about God Himself:

"The invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead ..."

• *Romans 1:20*

In this passage Paul is discussing physical creation in relation to God's judgment upon mankind. As we near the time of Christ's return, mankind will learn about physical creation. As Romans chapter 1 says, mankind will be held responsible for that knowledge.

Other Unobservable Things

Consider Hebrews 11:1–3 in the Concordant Literal Version where the subject is faith:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

• *Hebrews 11:1–3, CLV*

Faith is evidence. It is a substance, yet faith is unobservable. Our prayers to God are also unobservable, and they are a present exercise of our faith. Prayers are very substantial and are very powerful: "**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much**" (James 5:16). Spirit is unobservable by sight, like the wind, yet it has great life giving power and effect (John 3:6, 8). The purpose of the eons, once hidden in the mystery of God, now has been revealed. Yet its final result is still unsearchable or untraceable (Ephesians 3:8–10). We cannot comprehend our full destiny "**in Christ**." Our future life is unobservable at present:

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

• *Colossians 3:2–3*

As we near the end of this present eon we shall see more and more "unobservable" things being made perceivable to our understanding. The unobservable hidden things of humanity will be revealed and judged by God in the future.

When Christ returns and we participate in the resurrection from the dead with all believers (most all of you reading this now), our range of sight, hearing, smell, and touch will be greatly expanded. As newly changed children of God, we will quickly learn to control our spiritual bodies with their greatly expanded limits. No longer will anything in the physical creation be unobservable. In fact we will need to limit our observations to what will be immediate and important.

In that moment and forever, we will reach our full potential as God intended from the beginning. We will be in the full image and likeness of God. It is our destiny.

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