

## Re: beanstalks (was Re: Metallic hydrogen ...)

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Vincent Cate wrote:

> *About 48 years ago they discovered "graphite whiskers"*  
> *with a tensile strength of 20 Gpa.*

Tensile strength of alumina whiskers is 42.7 GPa.

PS. This thread stinks! Even if cheap, long buckytubes are available, beanstalks/skyhooks will not be made for security reasons — they are too easy to destroy. This is one reason why slings make much more sense than skyhooks. My favorite transportation system is made of a rocket which accelerates cargo to 2 km/s, a hoop electrotube (orbital eddy current contraption described in my space book), which accelerates the cargo to 4 km/s, and a bolo, which accelerates the cargo to 8 km/s.