Claims

1. A method for dispersing carbon nanotubes, comprising contacting the nanotubes with an electronic liquid comprising a metal and an amine solvent, wherein the ratio of metal atoms in the electronic liquid to carbon atoms in the carbon nanotubes with which the electronic liquid is contacted is greater than ~~about~~ 1:15 and less than ~~about~~ 1:10.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein a solution of individual nanotubes is produced.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein a nanotubide salt is produced.

4. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of alkali metals and alkaline earth metals, in one embodiment, an alkali metal.

5. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the amine is ammonia.

6. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the metal is included in the electronic liquid in an amount such that the ratio of metal atoms in the electronic liquid to carbon atoms in the nanotubes with which the electronic liquid is contacted is in the range from about 1:14 to about 1:11.

7. A method according to any preceding claim, comprising a further step of separating the dispersed nanotubes.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the dispersed nanotubes are separated on the basis of electronic character, size, in one embodiment by chromatographic techniques, and/or helicity.