

# Self-Assembly of a Chiral Cubic Three-Connected Net from the High Symmetry Molecules $C_{60}$ and $SnI_4$

Daniel B. Straus\* and Robert J. Cava\*

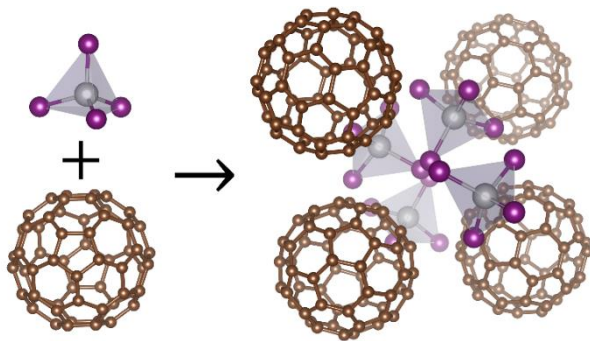
Department of Chemistry, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544 USA

\*Authors to whom correspondence should be addressed. Email: [dstraus@princeton.edu](mailto:dstraus@princeton.edu), [rcava@princeton.edu](mailto:rcava@princeton.edu)

## Abstract

The design of new chiral materials usually requires stereoselective organic synthesis to create molecules with chiral centers. Less commonly, achiral molecules can self-assemble into chiral materials, despite the absence of intrinsic molecular chirality. Here, we demonstrate the assembly of high-symmetry molecules into a chiral van der Waals structure by synthesizing crystals of  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  from icosahedral buckminsterfullerene ( $C_{60}$ ) and tetrahedral  $SnI_4$  molecules through spontaneous self-assembly. The  $SnI_4$  tetrahedra template the Sn atoms into a chiral cubic three-connected net of the  $SrSi_2$  type that is held together by van der Waals forces. Our results represent the remarkable emergence of a self-assembled chiral material from two of the most highly symmetric molecules, demonstrating that almost any molecular, nanocrystalline, or engineered precursor can be considered when designing chiral assemblies.

## TOC Graphic



## Introduction

Chiral materials are prized for their unique structural, optical, and catalytic properties.<sup>1-6</sup> Most chiral materials are molecules synthesized using stereoselective organic synthesis to imprint chirality through the arrangement of atoms. A molecule is chiral if its mirror image is not superimposable on itself, and enantiomerically pure chiral molecules always form chiral crystals.<sup>7</sup> The chirality of a molecule is maintained even when crystals containing such molecules are dissolved in solution. Another class of chiral materials are three-dimensional covalent or ionic inorganic solids with chiral crystal structures. Examples are the covalent  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -quartz, both of which are intrinsically chiral because of the connectivity of their corner-sharing  $\text{SiO}_4$  tetrahedra,<sup>8</sup> as well as the ionic  $\text{NaClO}_3$ .<sup>7</sup>

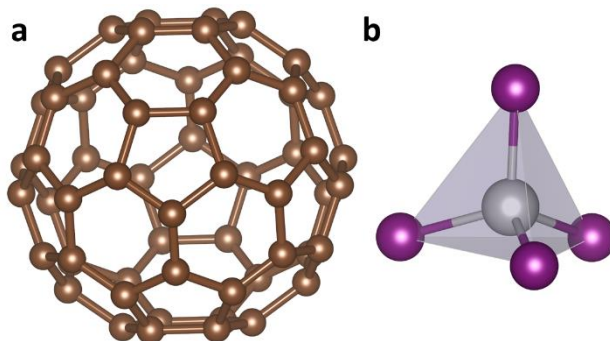
A third class of chiral materials can occur when achiral molecules self-assemble into a chiral material. These molecules are not bonded to one another and are held together by van der Waals forces, and, when dissolved in solution, the achiral building blocks are recovered and the optical activity of the crystal is lost.<sup>7</sup> Chiral molecular materials formed from achiral building blocks greatly expand the phase-space of optically active species because their chirality is not limited by the connectivity of atoms. The achiral molecules making up these chiral crystals usually contain aromatic substituents and are low symmetry and/or planar compounds.<sup>9,10</sup> One-component chiral crystals formed from achiral molecules are relatively common and are reported to make up ~8% of the Cambridge Structural Database,<sup>10</sup> but chiral crystals composed of two or more achiral molecules are scarcely reported.<sup>11-15</sup>

Here we synthesize the chiral van der Waals compound  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  from the highly symmetric achiral molecules  $\text{C}_{60}$  and  $\text{SnI}_4$ . One of the molecular constituents of our new compound,  $\text{C}_{60}$ , is in the  $I_h$  icosahedral point group (Figure 1a), which is the highest possible

symmetry for a molecule.<sup>16</sup> Further, if a  $C_{60}$  molecule freely rotates in a solid like in  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$ , it behaves as if it is spherically symmetric.<sup>17</sup> At room temperature where the  $C_{60}$  molecules freely rotate,  $C_{60}$  itself crystallizes in an achiral centrosymmetric face-centered cubic (FCC) structure, and below 260 K, where the rotation of  $C_{60}$  is frozen, the material undergoes a phase transition to a lower-symmetry but still achiral centrosymmetric simple cubic structure.<sup>18–20</sup> The other molecular constituent of our new compound is  $\text{SnI}_4$ , which crystallizes as a molecular solid in an achiral centrosymmetric simple cubic structure where each  $\text{SnI}_4$  molecule is in the  $T_d$  tetrahedral point group (Figure 1b).<sup>21</sup>

Surprisingly, we find that  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  self-assembles in the chiral enantiomorphic cubic space group  $P4_332$  (#212), which is intrinsically chiral because it has a  $4_3$ -screw axis. The  $\text{SnI}_4$  tetrahedra template the Sn atoms to form a chiral three-dimensional three-connected  $\text{SrSi}_2$ -type net, despite the lack of Sn-Sn bonding.<sup>22–24</sup> The formation of a chiral three-connected  $\text{SrSi}_2$ -type net in this type of van der Waals structure is unprecedented because it has previously only been found where the atoms comprising the net are adjacent to one another, such as in extended inorganic solids, metal-organic frameworks, and the hydrogen bonding network of crystalline  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .<sup>22,25–27</sup> Furthermore, based on our extensive analysis of the Cambridge Structural Database, we believe  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  is the first chiral van der Waals crystal assembled from two or more neutral components that each have  $T_d$  or greater symmetry. Other chiral  $C_{60}$  intercalation compounds have low-symmetry intercalants,<sup>28,29</sup> ambiguous Flack parameters demonstrating the handedness of the structure is not determined,<sup>30</sup> or very high R values indicating further refinement is needed.<sup>31</sup> Existing  $C_{60}$  intercalation compounds with tetrahedral intercalants are achiral.<sup>32–34</sup> The emergence of chirality from the combination of these highly symmetric achiral

molecules provides design principles for the three-dimensional chiral self-assembly of molecules, colloidal nanocrystals,<sup>35</sup> and engineered nanostructures.<sup>36</sup>



**Figure 1: Molecular constituents of  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$ :** Individual molecules of (a)  $C_{60}$  and (b)  $SnI_4$ .<sup>18,21</sup>

## Methods

In a typical crystallization,  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  is grown in solution by dissolving 20 mg  $C_{60}$  (BuckyUSA, >99.5%) and 1000 mg  $SnI_4$  (Alfa-Aesar, >95%) in 40 mL 1,2-dichlorobenzene (Acros Organics, 99%). 200 mL of pentane (Sigma-Aldrich, 98%) is carefully layered on top of the 1,2-dichlorobenzene solution and the jar is sealed and left undisturbed for several weeks while the two layers mix. Two crystal habits form: black hexagonal crystals of  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  at the bottom of the jar, and black needle-like crystals on the sides of the jar which have a unit cell corresponding to the  $C_{60}$ -pentane intercalation compound  $C_{60}(C_5H_{12})$ .<sup>37</sup> The amount of  $C_{60}(C_5H_{12})$  that crystallizes can be reduced by layering a small amount of benzene on top of 1,2-dichlorobenzene before layering pentane.

Bulk  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  is synthesized in the solid-state by sealing  $C_{60}$  and  $SnI_4$  in a 1:4 molar ratio in an evacuated quartz tube and heating at 250 °C for 12 hours followed by cooling to room temperature at 3 °C/h. Excess  $SnI_4$  is used to ensure all of the  $C_{60}$  reacts. Unreacted  $SnI_4$  is

observed in the X-ray diffraction pattern, so the material is purified two times by sealing in an evacuated quartz tube, heating to 250 °C, and cooling to room temperature at 15 °C/h to sublime off the excess SnI<sub>4</sub>.

Crystals are mounted on Kapton MicroLoops (MiTiGen) with Parabar 10312 oil. Single crystal X-ray diffraction data are collected using a Bruker Kappa Apex2 CCD diffractometer using graphite-monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation with an Oxford Cryostream 700 cryocooler flowing temperature-controlled nitrogen over the crystal. COSMO (Bruker AXS) is used to determine the data collection strategy. Reflections are integrated using SAINT (Bruker AXS), and SADABS (Bruker AXS) scales the data and applies the multi-scan absorption correction. The P4<sub>3</sub>2 space group (#212) is identified through systematic absences using XPREP (Bruker AXS).

The initial solution to the single crystal structure at 295 K is found using the intrinsic phasing method in the SHELXT program,<sup>38</sup> and the structure is refined using the least-squares algorithm in the SHELXL program<sup>39</sup> in the OLEX2 GUI.<sup>40</sup> The absolute configuration of the structure is determined using the anomalous dispersion. The occupancies of the disordered iodine atom I2A and I2B freely refine but are constrained to sum to unity, and their atomic displacement parameters (ADPs) are constrained to be equal using the EADP instruction in SHELXL. The C<sub>60</sub> molecule is refined by importing the idealized C<sub>60</sub> molecule from the Molecular Structure Library<sup>41</sup> and removing all C atoms that are not needed for the asymmetric unit. The geometry of the C<sub>60</sub> asymmetric unit is restrained using the AFIX 9 instruction, and C-C distances in the six-membered rings adjacent to the asymmetric unit in the grown structure are restrained using the SADI instruction to regularize the C<sub>60</sub> molecule. The ADPs of the C atoms

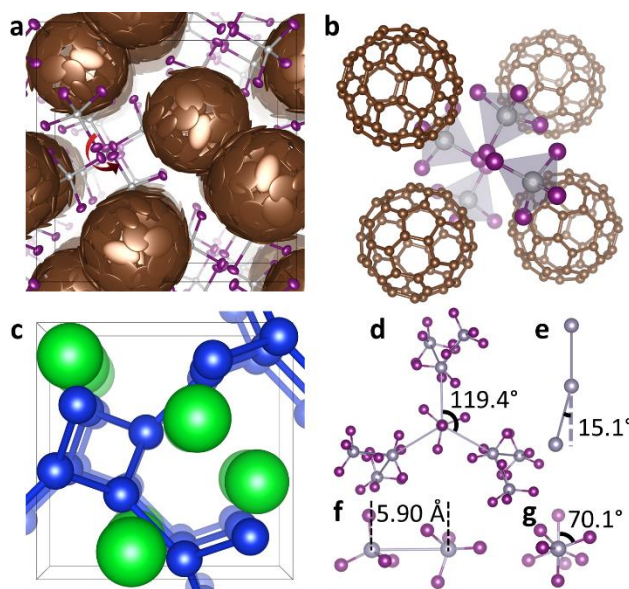
are restrained with the DELU instruction. Visualizations of all structures are created using VESTA.<sup>42</sup>

Powder X-ray diffraction data are collected on a Bruker D8 Advance Eco diffractometer in Bragg-Brentano geometry using Cu K $\alpha$  radiation with a LYNXEYE 1D strip detector. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) is conducted using a TA Instruments SDT Q600 under flowing argon. Diffuse reflectance spectra are collected using an Agilent Cary 5000 UV-Vis-NIR absorption spectrometer with an Agilent Internal DRA-2500 diffuse reflectance accessory. Materials are diluted to 2-5% w/w with dry MgO, and dry MgO is used as the reflectance standard. Pseudoabsorbance spectra are generated from diffuse reflectance spectra using the Kubelka-Munk function.<sup>43</sup> Raman scattering spectra are collected using a Thermo-Fisher DXR Smart Raman spectrometer equipped with a 780 nm HP laser.

## Results and Discussion

C<sub>60</sub> and SnI<sub>4</sub> are both molecular solids, where van der Waals forces hold the molecules together in their crystal structures. C<sub>60</sub> and SnI<sub>4</sub> co-crystallize to yield the buckminsterfullerene intercalation compound C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, which is a van der Waals compound like its crystalline parent materials. C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> crystallizes in the chiral enantiomorphic cubic space group P4<sub>3</sub>32 (#212) (Figure 2a and Table 1). The chiral 4<sub>3</sub> screw axis is highlighted in Figure 2b. The absolute configuration of the measured C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> crystal is determined using the anomalous dispersion, evidenced by the Flack parameter of -0.08(3).<sup>7</sup> One of the two independent iodine atoms resolves with disorder and has refined occupancies of 0.752(9) and 0.248(9). This disorder is omitted for clarity in Figure 2a-b; the structure with disorder and the asymmetric unit are shown in Figure S1. TGA of a single crystal (Figure S2) indicates 63% of the mass is lost when heated above 225

°C, consistent with a loss of two SnI<sub>4</sub> molecules which comprise 63.5% of the mass of C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. While the Sn and I atoms have well-behaved ADPs, the C atoms have nearly two-dimensional oblate and prolate ADPs. Abnormal ADPs usually indicate a problem with the structural model, but here they are expected because the C atoms are constrained to the surface of the C<sub>60</sub> ball which we hypothesize is rotating within the crystal like in pure C<sub>60</sub> at room temperature.<sup>17</sup> The shortest C<sub>60</sub> center-to-center distance in C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> is 10.14 Å, which is only slightly larger than the 10.02 Å distance in room temperature FCC C<sub>60</sub>.<sup>44</sup> However, in C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> each C<sub>60</sub> only has six nearest neighbors compared to twelve in FCC C<sub>60</sub>; the C<sub>60</sub> frameworks in C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> and FCC C<sub>60</sub> are shown in Figure S3. It is possible that in some preparations single crystals of C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> may crystallize in the space group P4<sub>1</sub>32 (#213), which is the enantiomer of P4<sub>3</sub>32 (#212).



**Figure 2: Structural characterization.** (a) Structure of C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> with C (brown), Sn (grey), and I (purple) and atoms represented as 50% probability thermal ellipsoids. The chiral 4<sub>3</sub> screw axis is indicated by the red arrow. (b) Detail of chiral 4<sub>3</sub> screw axis. (c) Structure of SrSi<sub>2</sub> with Sr (green) and Si (blue).<sup>45</sup> (d) Top and (e) side view of Sn net, with depictions of adjacent SnI<sub>4</sub> tetrahedra (f) along and (g) down the Sn-Sn axis. Nearest-neighbor Sn-Sn distances are shown as bonds in (d-g).

**Table 1: Crystallographic Collection and Structural Parameters**

Empirical formula	C <sub>60</sub> Sn <sub>2</sub> I <sub>8</sub>
Formula weight	1973.18
Temperature (K)	295
Crystal system	cubic
Space group	P4 <sub>3</sub> 32 (#212)
a (Å)	16.5593(6)
Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	4540.7(5)
Z	4
$\rho_{\text{calc}}$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2.886
$\mu$ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	6.585
F(000)	3536
Crystal size (mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.31 × 0.301 × 0.164
Radiation	Mo K $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ = 0.71073 Å)
2 $\theta$ range for data collection (°)	3.478 to 59.152
Index ranges	-19 ≤ h ≤ 12, -8 ≤ k ≤ 22, -21 ≤ l ≤ 12
Reflections collected	8784
Independent reflections	2132 [R <sub>int</sub> = 0.0228, R <sub>sigma</sub> = 0.0246]
Data/restraints/parameters	2132/80/88
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.067
Final R indexes [I >= 2 $\sigma$ (I)]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0405, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.0957
Final R indexes [all data]	R <sub>1</sub> = 0.0518, wR <sub>2</sub> = 0.1012
Largest diff. peak/hole (e Å <sup>-3</sup> )	0.85/-0.70
Flack parameter	-0.08(3)

C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> adopts the SrSi<sub>2</sub> structure type (Figure 2c), where the center of each C<sub>60</sub> molecule is at the Sr position (green, Figure 2c) and an Sn atom occupies the Si position (blue, Figure 2c). In SrSi<sub>2</sub>, the Si atoms (blue, Figure 2c) form a chiral three-dimensional three-connected net with a Wells classification of (10,3)-a, signifying each Si atom is bonded to 3 other Si atoms, and the smallest cycle in the net is a 10-membered ring.<sup>22-24</sup> This net is also known as the **srs** net after SrSi<sub>2</sub>.<sup>24,27</sup> In addition to being found in SrSi<sub>2</sub> and similar inorganic structures, the chiral three-connected **srs** net is also found in metal-organic frameworks as well as in the hydrogen bonding network of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.<sup>22,25-27</sup> Remarkably, the Sn atoms in C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> form a chiral three-connected **srs** net despite not being adjacent to one another because the net is



templated by the orientation of the SnI<sub>4</sub> tetrahedra. Each Sn atom sits on a site with threefold rotational symmetry (Figure 2d). The four Sn atoms in each repeating unit are nearly planar, deviating by 15.08(2)<sup>°</sup> (Figure 2e), and have an internal angle of 119.42(1)<sup>°</sup> compared to the ideal 120<sup>°</sup> for the undistorted **srs** net.<sup>22,45</sup> The net in C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> is less distorted than in SrSi<sub>2</sub>, where the internal angle is 117.8<sup>°</sup> with a 29.4<sup>°</sup> deviation from planar.<sup>45</sup> Each Sn atom is separated from its three nearest-neighbors by 5.9065(7) Å (Figure 2f), and the I atoms are partially staggered when looking down the Sn-Sn axis (Figure 2g).

The packing of SnI<sub>4</sub> tetrahedra in C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> is markedly different than in pure SnI<sub>4</sub>. In crystalline SnI<sub>4</sub>,<sup>46</sup> each SnI<sub>4</sub> tetrahedron has a single nearest-neighbor that has staggered I atoms, a Sn-Sn distance of 5.465(3) Å, and a dihedral angle of 60<sup>°</sup> (Figure S4a). They each also have 6 next nearest-neighbors with a Sn-Sn distance of 6.819(1) Å and dihedral angles of 30.62(9)<sup>°</sup> (Figure S4b), and there also 6 next-next nearest neighbors that are equivalent under translation, are separated by 7.514(2) Å, and have eclipsed I atoms (Figure S4c).

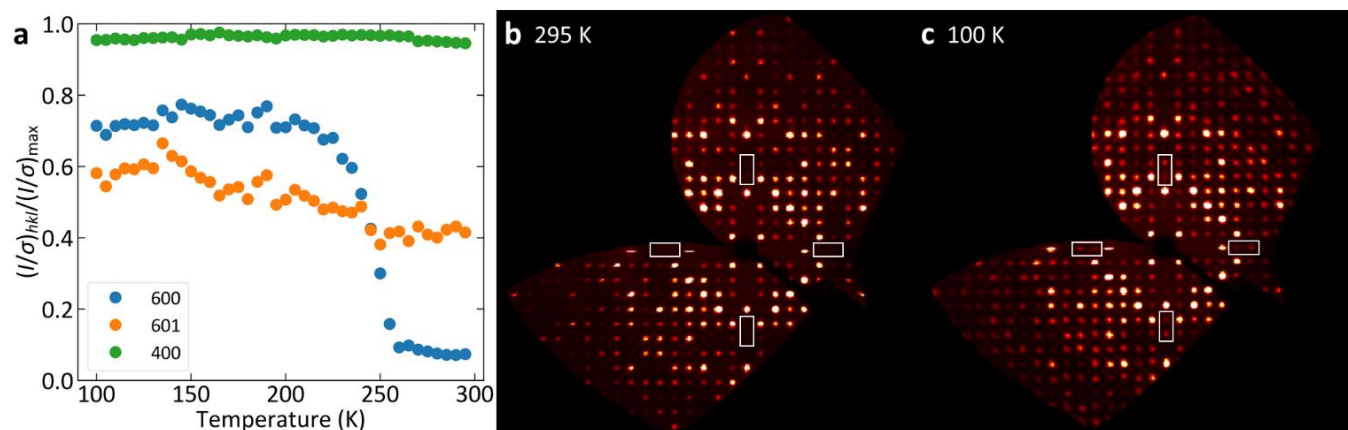
The ratio  $\gamma$  between the size of small and large atoms in binary structures has been used to rationalize and predict superlattice structures formed from binary mixtures of monodisperse quasi-spherical nanocrystals,<sup>35</sup> and the self-assembly of C<sub>60</sub> and SnI<sub>4</sub> into the SrSi<sub>2</sub> structure type is consistent with this principle. In SrSi<sub>2</sub>,  $\gamma$  is 0.55. A phase of BaSi<sub>2</sub> adopts the SrSi<sub>2</sub> structure<sup>47</sup> and  $\gamma$  is 0.53. Here, we approximate the radius of C<sub>60</sub> to be 5.01 Å, which is half of the center-to-center distance in FCC C<sub>60</sub>.<sup>44</sup> Computing the size of SnI<sub>4</sub> is difficult because tetrahedra are not spheres, and the three Sn-Sn distances in pure SnI<sub>4</sub> demonstrate that the effective size of a SnI<sub>4</sub> tetrahedron depends on the packing. In C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, there is only one geometry between adjacent SnI<sub>4</sub> tetrahedra, so we approximate the radius of SnI<sub>4</sub> by taking half of the Sn-Sn distance (2.95 Å). Using these approximations, we find  $\gamma$  to be 0.59, only 7% larger than  $\gamma$  in SrSi<sub>2</sub>.

$\gamma$  is not the only predictor of a structure type because a ratio of 0.59 is also within the range of stability for the  $\text{AlB}_2$  structure type,<sup>35</sup> where the B atoms form another type of three-connected net. In  $\text{AlB}_2$ , however, the net is a planar honeycomb (graphene) net rather than a chiral three-dimensional **srs** net. In  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$ , forming a planar net would require rotations about Sn-Sn axes that would cause eclipsed I atoms on some adjacent  $\text{SnI}_4$  tetrahedra. An eclipsed geometry would require longer Sn-Sn distances and would likely break the 3-fold rotational symmetry, and longer Sn-Sn distances would not minimize the free volume in the structure. We therefore hypothesize that the chiral three-connected **srs** net is templated by the tetrahedral shape of the  $\text{SnI}_4$  molecules, suggesting that appropriately sized and shaped<sup>48</sup> colloidal nanocrystals and/or engineered nanostructures<sup>36</sup> may also be able to self-assemble into chiral assemblies with the  $\text{SrSi}_2$  structure.

$\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  can also be synthesized directly by heating  $\text{C}_{60}$  with an excess of  $\text{SnI}_4$  (to ensure that all  $\text{C}_{60}$  reacts) in an evacuated quartz tube and subsequently subliming away the excess  $\text{SnI}_4$ . Direct synthesis in the solid-state results in the formation of a powder rather than single crystals, and the X-ray diffraction pattern of the powder is shown in dark red in Figure S5 with a simulated pattern from the single crystal structure in black. The chiral three-connected **srs** net still forms under solid-state synthesis. No excess  $\text{SnI}_4$  is observed in the pattern. TGA on the powder reveals the presence of an additional 10% of  $\text{SnI}_4$  compared to the crystals, resulting in an empirical formula of  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_{2.2}$  (Figure S6), which could be the result of excess  $\text{SnI}_4$  not incorporated into the crystal structure even though it is not observed in the diffraction pattern.

Upon cooling below 260 K, a reversible phase transition occurs that may disrupt the chiral three-connected **srs** net. We follow this transition crystallographically by observing the appearance of reflections that are systematically absent in  $\text{P4}_3\text{32}$  (Figure 3). Pure  $\text{C}_{60}$  also

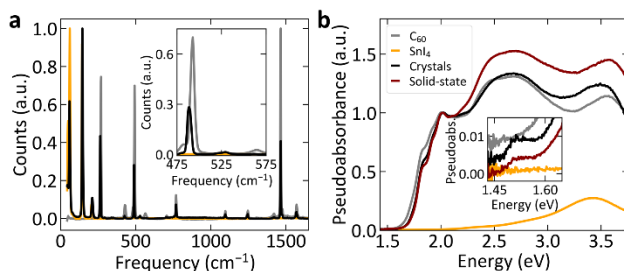
undergoes a phase transition upon cooling below 255-260 K where the  $C_{60}$  molecules rotationally order, resulting in a change from a FCC to a primitive cubic structure.<sup>19,20</sup> Given the nearly identical temperatures of the phase transitions in  $C_{60}$  and  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$ , we hypothesize that a similar rotational ordering of  $C_{60}$  occurs in  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$ , which breaks the  $4_3$  screw axis because the  $C_{60}$  molecules no longer behave as spherical shells and become inequivalent by symmetry. However, we are unable to solve the structure of  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  below 260 K because of twinning, which is indicated at 100 K by the  $|E^2 - 1|$  statistic of 0.555 (compared to 0.541 for a perfectly twinned acentric crystal) as well as the cumulative intensity distribution (Figure S7).<sup>49,50</sup> Determination of the low temperature crystal structure is beyond the scope of the current study.



**Figure 3: Phase transition.** (a) Temperature-dependent intensity of selected allowed ((601) and (400)) and systematically absent (600) reflections. Synthesized precession images of  $h0l$  plane at (b) 295 K and (c) 100 K. White boxes highlight systematically absent reflections ( $h00 = 0k0 = 00l \neq 4n$ ) at 295 K that appear prominently at temperatures below 260 K.

Optically,  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  behaves similarly to a combination of pure  $C_{60}$  and  $\text{SnI}_4$ , which is expected because  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  is a van der Waals compound composed of discrete  $C_{60}$  and  $\text{SnI}_4$  molecules. Raman scattering spectra (Figure 4a) demonstrate that the  $C_{60}$  and  $\text{SnI}_4$  molecules only weakly interact in  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  because its Raman spectrum is almost identical to the combination of the spectra of pure  $C_{60}$  and  $\text{SnI}_4$ . One notable difference is the region between

475 and 575  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 4a, inset). In  $\text{C}_{60}$ , the 493  $\text{cm}^{-1}$   $\text{a}_g$  vibrational mode<sup>51</sup> is known to shift to higher frequency upon reduction to  $\text{C}_{60}^-$  and to lower frequency upon oxidation to  $\text{C}_{60}^+$ ,<sup>52</sup> and the shift of this mode to lower frequency in  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  suggests that that  $\text{C}_{60}$  may be oxidized. Another difference is that a weak peak<sup>53</sup> observed at 564  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in  $\text{C}_{60}$  shifts to 529  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  in  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$ . The absorption onset of  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  matches pure  $\text{C}_{60}$  near the band edge, further indicating that  $\text{C}_{60}$  and  $\text{SnI}_4$  only weakly interact. Pseudoabsorbance spectra are shown in Figure 4b. Whether synthesized in solution or in the solid-state,  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  has a direct band gap of 1.76(1) eV, almost identical to the 1.74(1) eV band gap we find for pure  $\text{C}_{60}$  (Figure S8). Interestingly,  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  has a weak transition around 1.5 eV shown in the inset of Figure 3A that is absent in pure  $\text{C}_{60}$  and  $\text{SnI}_4$ . It is possible that this is another indication of oxidation of  $\text{C}_{60}$  and corresponds to the transition from the  $\text{g}_g + \text{h}_g$  to  $\text{h}_u$  molecular orbitals of  $\text{C}_{60}$ ,<sup>54</sup> though the energy of the observed transition is larger than the 1.26 eV one electron oxidation potential of  $\text{C}_{60}$  measured in solution by cyclic voltammetry.<sup>55</sup> Above the band edge,  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  has increased absorption in the range where pure  $\text{SnI}_4$  absorbs, and the solid-state synthesized sample with an empirical formula  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_{2.2}$  absorbs more strongly than the solution-synthesized sample, consistent with the presence of additional  $\text{SnI}_4$ . Detailed electronic structure calculations are needed to understand the interaction between  $\text{C}_{60}$  and  $\text{SnI}_4$  molecules in  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$ .



**Figure 4: Optical characterization.** (a) Raman scattering spectra of  $\text{C}_{60}$  (grey),  $\text{SnI}_4$  (orange), and  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  crystallized from solution (black). (b) Pseudoabsorbance spectra of  $\text{C}_{60}$  (grey),  $\text{SnI}_4$  (orange), and  $\text{C}_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  crystallized from solution (black) and synthesized in the solid-state (dark red).

## Conclusion

The synthesis of  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  indicates that highly symmetric achiral molecules can crystallize into a multi-component chiral van der Waals structure by self-assembly that includes a chiral three-connected **srs** net. While the  $C_{60}$  and  $SnI_4$  components maintain their discrete molecular character, shifts in the energy of vibrational modes and the appearance of a sub-band gap optical transition in  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  suggest that  $C_{60}$  may be slightly oxidized, indicating a small degree of charge transfer from  $C_{60}$  to  $SnI_4$ . This discovery expands the library of molecules that can be used to form multi-component chiral assemblies as well as demonstrating that tetrahedra can template the chiral self-assembly of a binary material. Topologically, we demonstrate that a chiral three-connected **srs** net can form, even though the members of the net do not directly contact each other. Our results lay the framework for the design and creation of novel optical and catalytic materials formed by the self-assembly of highly symmetric precursors. In addition to molecules, the principles developed herein can guide the design of mixtures of tetrahedral<sup>48</sup> and spherical nanoparticles and/or engineered nanostructures<sup>36</sup> that will self-assemble into chiral  $SrSi_2$ -type structures.

## Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at [PLACEHOLDER]

Single crystal X-ray crystallographic data have been deposited at the Cambridge

Crystallographic Data Centre under deposition number CCDC 1997295 and can be accessed at

<https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structures/> as well as in the Supporting Information (CIF)

Figures S1-S8: Additional structural depictions, TGA, cumulative intensity distributions of single crystal X-ray diffraction data, band gap determination (PDF)

## Acknowledgments

We thank Dr. Robert A. Pascal for discussion on chiral crystal structures and Dr. Weiwei Xie for conversations on polar intermetallics. This work is supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation under grant GBMF-4412.

## References

- (1) Kitaev, V. Chiral Nanoscale Building Blocks—from Understanding to Applications. *J. Mater. Chem.* **2008**, *18*, 4745.
- (2) Song, C. E.; Lee, S. G. Supported Chiral Catalysts on Inorganic Materials. *Chem. Rev.* **2002**, *102*, 3495–3524.
- (3) Adams, J. B.; Filice, A. L. Spectral Reflectance 0.4 to 2.0 Microns of Silicate Rock Powders. *J. Geophys. Res.* **1967**, *72*, 5705–5715.
- (4) Soai, K.; Osanai, S.; Kadowaki, K.; Yonekubo, S.; Shibata, T.; Sato, I. D - and l -Quartz-Promoted Highly Enantioselective Synthesis of a Chiral Organic Compound. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1999**, *121*, 11235–11236.
- (5) Smerdon, J. A.; Rankin, R. B.; Greeley, J. P.; Guisinger, N. P.; Guest, J. R. Chiral “Pinwheel” Heterojunctions Self-Assembled from C 60 and Pentacene. *ACS Nano* **2013**, *7*, 3086–3094.
- (6) Xu, B.; Tao, C.; Cullen, W. G.; Reutt-Robey, J. E.; Williams, E. D. Chiral Symmetry Breaking in Two-Dimensional C 60 - ACA Intermixed Systems. *Nano Lett.* **2005**, *5*, 2207–2211.
- (7) Flack, H. D. Chiral and Achiral Crystal Structures. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **2003**, *86*, 905–921.
- (8) Tucker, M. G.; Keen, D. A.; Dove, M. T. A Detailed Structural Characterization of Quartz on Heating through the  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  Phase Transition. *Mineral. Mag.* **2001**, *65*, 489–507.
- (9) Liu, M.; Zhang, L.; Wang, T. Supramolecular Chirality in Self-Assembled Systems. *Chem. Rev.* **2015**, *115*, 7304–7397.
- (10) Matsuura, T.; Koshima, H. Introduction to Chiral Crystallization of Achiral Organic Compounds: Spontaneous Generation of Chirality. *J. Photochem. Photobiol. C*

*Photochem. Rev.* **2005**, *6*, 7–24.

- (11) Tan, T. F.; Han, J.; Pang, M. L.; Song, H. Bin; Ma, Y. X.; Meng, J. Ben. Achiral Benzoic Acid Derivatives as Chiral Cocystal Building Blocks in Supramolecular Chemistry: Adducts with Organic Amines. *Cryst. Growth Des.* **2006**, *6*, 1186–1193.
- (12) Koshima, H.; Miyauchi, M. Polymorphs of a Cocystal with Achiral and Chiral Structures Prepared by Pseudoseeding: Tryptamine/Hydrocinnamic Acid. *Cryst. Growth Des.* **2001**, *1*, 355–357.
- (13) Koshima, H.; Nakagawa, T.; Matsuura, T.; Miyamoto, H.; Toda, F. Synthesis, Structure, and Discrimination of Chiral Bimolecular Crystals by Using Diphenylacetic Acid and Aza Aromatic Compounds. *J. Org. Chem.* **1997**, *62*, 6322–6325.
- (14) Koshima, H.; Matsuura, T. Chiral Bimolecular Crystallization of Achiral Molecules. *Mol. Cryst. Liq. Cryst. Sci. Technol. Sect. A Mol. Cryst. Liq. Cryst.* **1998**, *313*, 65–74.
- (15) Koshima, H.; Matsuura, T. Chiral Crystallization of Achiral Organic Compounds. Generation of Chirality without Chiral Environment. (Part 2). *J. Synth. Org. Chem. Japan* **1998**, *56*, 466–477.
- (16) Rassat, A. Chirality and Symmetry Aspects of Spheroarenes, Including Fullerenes. *Chirality* **2001**, *13*, 395–402.
- (17) Fischer, J. E.; Heiney, P. A.; McGhie, A. R.; Romanow, W. J.; Denenstein, A. M.; McCauley, J. P.; Smith III, A. B. Compressibility of Solid C<sub>60</sub>. *Science* **1991**, *252*, 1288–1290.
- (18) David, W. I. F.; Ibberson, R. M.; Matthewman, J. C.; Prassides, K.; Dennis, T. J. S.; Hare, J. P.; Kroto, H. W.; Taylor, R.; Walton, D. R. M. Crystal Structure and Bonding of Ordered C<sub>60</sub>. *Nature* **1991**, *353*, 147–149.
- (19) David, W. I. F.; Ibberson, R. M.; Dennis, T. J. S.; Hare, J. P.; Prassides, K. Structural Phase Transitions in the Fullerene C<sub>60</sub>. *Europhys. Lett.* **1992**, *18*, 735–736.
- (20) Heiney, P. A. Structure, Dynamics and Ordering Transition of Solid C<sub>60</sub>. *J. Phys. Chem. Solids* **1992**, *53*, 1333–1352.
- (21) Dickinson, R. G. The Crystal Structure of Tin Tetra-Iodide. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1923**, *45*, 958–962.
- (22) Wells, A. F. *Three-Dimensional Nets and Polyhedra*; Wiley: New York, 1977.
- (23) Ienco, A.; Proserpio, D. M.; Hoffmann, R. Main Group Element Nets to a T. *Inorg. Chem.* **2004**, *43*, 2526–2540.
- (24) Zheng, C.; Hoffmann, R. Conjugation in the Three-Connected Net: The AIB<sub>2</sub> and ThSi<sub>2</sub> Structures and Their Transition-Metal Derivatives. *Inorg. Chem.* **1989**, *28*, 1074–1080.

- (25) Carlucci, L.; Ciani, G.; Proserpio, D. M.; Sironi, A. A Three-Dimensional, Three-Connected Cubic Network of the SrSi<sub>2</sub> Topological Type in Coordination Polymer Chemistry: [Ag(Hmt)](PF<sub>6</sub>)·H<sub>2</sub>O (Hmt = Hexamethylenetetraamine). *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1995**, *117*, 12861–12862.
- (26) Yaghi, O. M.; Davis, C. E.; Li, G.; Li, H. Selective Guest Binding by Tailored Channels in a 3-D Porous Zinc(II)–Benzenetricarboxylate Network. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1997**, *119*, 2861–2868.
- (27) Hyde, S. T.; O’Keeffe, M.; Proserpio, D. M. A Short History of an Elusive yet Ubiquitous Structure in Chemistry, Materials, and Mathematics. *Angew. Chemie - Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 7996–8000.
- (28) Penicaud, A.; Boubekour, K.; Kotov, A. I.; Yagubskii, E. B. Novel Infinite Three-Dimensional Network of Neutral Fullerene Molecules in (C<sub>60</sub>)<sub>8</sub> (Twin-TDAS) 6. *Acta Crystallogr. Sect. B Struct. Sci.* **2000**, *56*, 497–500.
- (29) Szymański, M. P.; Jędrzejewska, H.; Wierzbicki, M.; Szumna, A. On the Mechanism of Mechanochemical Molecular Encapsulation in Peptidic Capsules. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2017**, *19*, 15676–15680.
- (30) Konarev, D. V.; Kovalevsky, A. Y.; Khasanov, S. S.; Saito, G.; Lopatin, D. V.; Umrikhin, A. V.; Otsuka, A.; Lyubovskaya, R. N. Synthesis, Crystal Structures, Magnetic Properties and Photoconductivity of C<sub>60</sub> and C<sub>70</sub> Complexes with Metal Dialkyldithiocarbamates M(R<sub>2</sub>dtc)<sub>x</sub>, Where M = CuII, CuI, AgI, ZnII, CdII, HgII, Mn II, NiII, and PtII; R = Me, Et, and NPr. *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2006**, No. 9, 1881–1895.
- (31) Boeyens, J. C. A.; Ramm, M.; Zobel, D.; Luger, P. Static Disorder and Packing in Two Orthorhombic Crystal Structures of Fullerene Inclusion Compounds. *South African J. Chem.* **1997**, *50*, 28–33.
- (32) Locke, I. W.; Darwish, A. D.; Kroto, H. W.; Prassides, K.; Taylor, R.; Walton, D. R. M. Phosphorus/Buckminsterfullerene Intercalation Compounds, C<sub>60</sub>(P<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1994**, *225*, 186–190.
- (33) Troyanov, S. I.; Kemnitz, E. Structure of Fullerene C<sub>60</sub> in the Crystalline Adduct C<sub>60</sub> · 3TiCl<sub>4</sub>. *Russ. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2001**, *46*, 1547–1552.
- (34) Céolin, R.; Agafonov, V.; André, D.; Dworkin, A.; Szwarc, H.; Dugué, J.; Keita, B.; Nadjjo, L.; Fabre, C.; Rassat, A. Fullerene C<sub>60</sub>, 2CCl<sub>4</sub> Solvate. A Solid-State Study. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1993**, *208*, 259–262.
- (35) Shevchenko, E. V.; Talapin, D. V.; Murray, C. B.; O’Brien, S. Structural Characterization of Self-Assembled Multifunctional Binary Nanoparticle Superlattices. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2006**, *128*, 3620–3637.
- (36) Zhang, M.; Guo, J.; Yu, Y.; Wu, Y.; Yun, H.; Jishkariani, D.; Chen, W.; Greybush, N. J.; Kübel, C.; Stein, A.; et al. 3D Nanofabrication via Chemo-Mechanical Transformation of



- Nanocrystal/Bulk Heterostructures. *Adv. Mater.* **2018**, *30*, 1800233.
- (37) Chancellor, C. J.; Bowles, F. L.; Franco, J. U.; Pham, D. M.; Rivera, M.; Sarina, E. A.; Ghiassi, K. B.; Balch, A. L.; Olmstead, M. M. Single-Crystal X-Ray Diffraction Studies of Solvated Crystals of C 60 Reveal the Intermolecular Interactions between the Component Molecules. *J. Phys. Chem. A* **2018**, *122*, 9626–9636.
- (38) Sheldrick, G. M. SHELXT – Integrated Space-Group and Crystal-Structure Determination. *Acta Crystallogr. Sect. A Found. Adv.* **2015**, *71*, 3–8.
- (39) Sheldrick, G. M. Crystal Structure Refinement with SHELXL. *Acta Crystallogr. Sect. C Struct. Chem.* **2015**, *71*, 3–8.
- (40) Dolomanov, O. V.; Bourhis, L. J.; Gildea, R. J.; Howard, J. A. K.; Puschmann, H. OLEX2 : A Complete Structure Solution, Refinement and Analysis Program. *J. Appl. Crystallogr.* **2009**, *42*, 339–341.
- (41) Guzei, I. A. An Idealized Molecular Geometry Library for Refinement of Poorly Behaved Molecular Fragments with Constraints. *J. Appl. Crystallogr.* **2014**, *47*, 806–809.
- (42) Momma, K.; Izumi, F. VESTA 3 for Three-Dimensional Visualization of Crystal, Volumetric and Morphology Data. *J. Appl. Crystallogr.* **2011**, *44*, 1272–1276.
- (43) Hecht, H. G. The Interpretation of Diffuse Reflectance Spectra. *J. Res. Natl. Bur. Stand. Sect. A Phys. Chem.* **1976**, *80A*, 567.
- (44) Fischer, J. E. Structure and Dynamics of Solid C60 and Its Intercalation Compounds. *Mater. Sci. Eng. B* **1993**, *19*, 90–99.
- (45) Evers, J. Transformation of Three-Dimensional Three-Connected Silicon Nets in SrSi<sub>2</sub>. *J. Solid State Chem.* **1978**, *24*, 199–207.
- (46) Reuter, H.; Pawlak, R. Zinnhalogenverbindungen. II. Die Molekül- Und Kristallstrukturen von Zinn(IV)-Bromid Und -Iodid. *Zeitschrift für Krist. - Cryst. Mater.* **2001**, *216*, 34–38.
- (47) Evers, J.; Oehlinger, G.; Weiss, A. Solid Solutions M<sub>1-x</sub>Sr<sub>x</sub>Si<sub>2</sub> (M = Ca, Eu, Ba) and BaSi<sub>2-y</sub>Gey with SrSi<sub>2</sub>-Type Structure. *J. Less Common Met.* **1980**, *69*, 399–402.
- (48) Narayanan, R.; El-Sayed, M. A. Effect of Nanocatalysis in Colloidal Solution on the Tetrahedral and Cubic Nanoparticle SHAPE: Electron-Transfer Reaction Catalyzed by Platinum Nanoparticles. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2004**, *108*, 5726–5733.
- (49) Yeates, T. O.; Tsai, Y. Detecting Twinning by Merohedry. In *International Tables for Crystallography Vol. F*; Arnold, E., Himmel, D. M., Rossmann, M. G., Eds.; International Union of Crystallography: Chester, England, 2012; pp 311–316.
- (50) Dauter, Z. Twinned Crystals and Anomalous Phasing. *Acta Crystallogr. - Sect. D Biol. Crystallogr.* **2003**, *59*, 2004–2016.

- (51) Eklund, P. C.; Ping, Z.; Kai-An, W.; Dresselhaus, G.; Dresselhaus, M. S. Optical Phonon Modes in Solid and Doped C<sub>60</sub>. *J. Phys. Chem. Solids* **1992**, *53*, 1391–1413.
- (52) Fulara, J.; Jakobi, M.; Maier, J. P. Electronic and Infrared Spectra of C<sub>60</sub> and C<sub>70</sub> in Neon and Argon Matrices. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1993**, *211*, 227–234.
- (53) Dennis, T. J.; Hare, J. P.; Kroto, H. W.; Taylor, R.; Walton, D. R. M.; Hendra, P. J. The Vibrational Raman Spectra of C<sub>60</sub> and C<sub>70</sub>. *Spectrochim. Acta Part A Mol. Spectrosc.* **1991**, *47*, 1289–1292.
- (54) Haddon, R. C. Electronic Structure, Conductivity and Superconductivity of Alkali Metal Doped C<sub>60</sub>. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1992**, *25*, 127–133.
- (55) Xie, Q.; Arias, F.; Echegoyen, L. Electrochemically-Reversible, Single-Electron Oxidation of C<sub>60</sub> and C<sub>70</sub>. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 9818–9819.

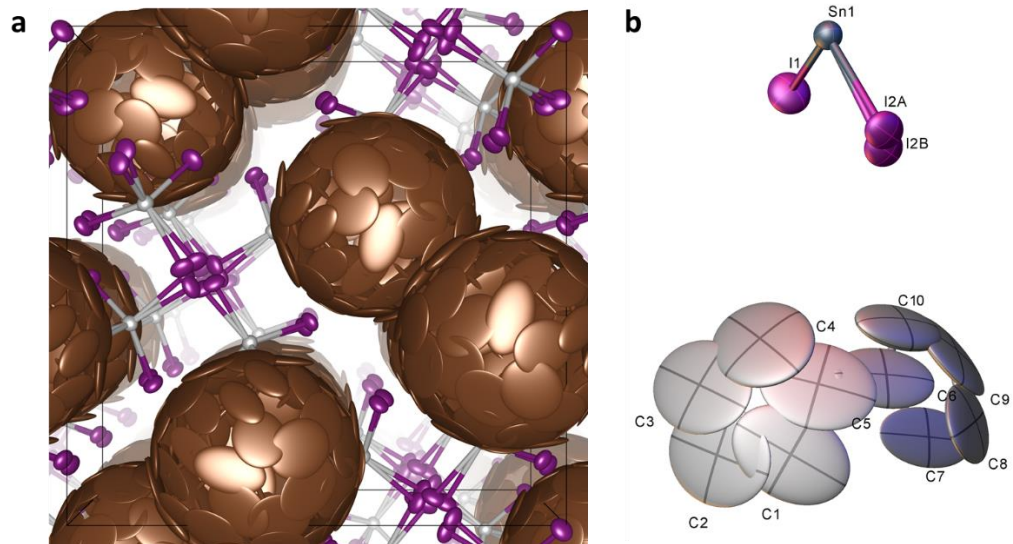
Supporting Information: Self-Assembly of a Chiral Cubic Three-Connected Net  
from the High Symmetry Molecules C<sub>60</sub> and SnI<sub>4</sub>

Daniel B. Straus\* and Robert J. Cava\*

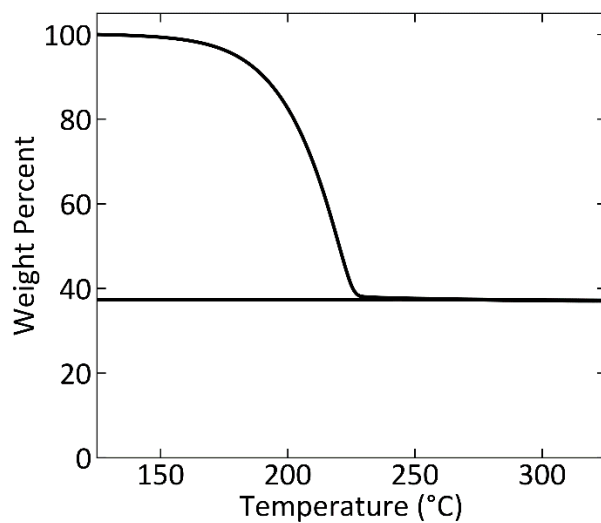
Department of Chemistry, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544 USA

\*Authors to whom correspondence should be addressed. Email: [dstraus@princeton.edu](mailto:dstraus@princeton.edu),  
[rcava@princeton.edu](mailto:rcava@princeton.edu)

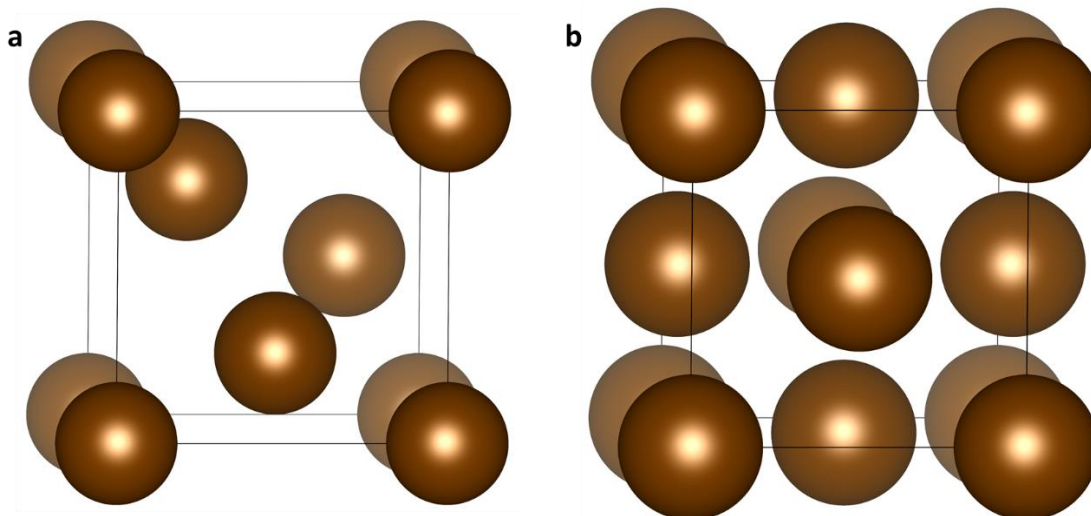
## Additional Figures



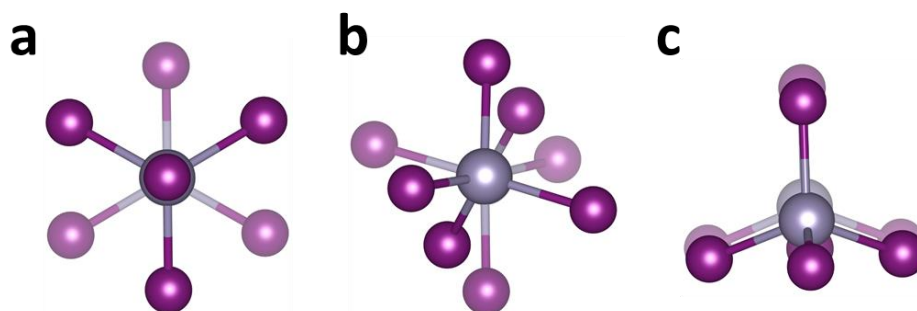
**Figure S1:** (a)  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  with both disordered I atoms, and (b) asymmetric unit. Atoms are represented as 50% probability thermal ellipsoids. (B) created using OLEX2.



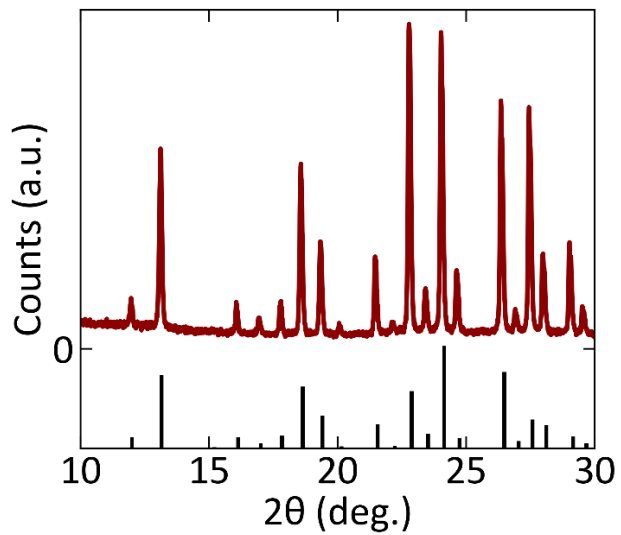
**Figure S2:** TGA of  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  single crystal heated at 0.5 °C/min.



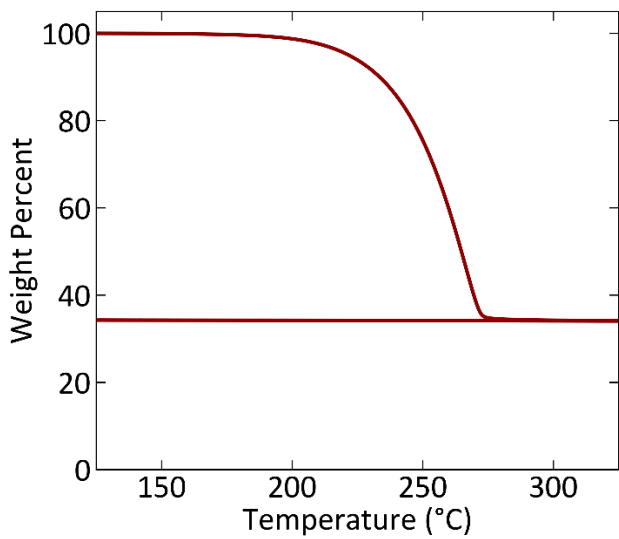
**Figure S3:** (a) The C<sub>60</sub> atoms in C<sub>60</sub>(SnI<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> represented as spheres. The origin of the unit cell is shifted by (1/8, 1/8, 1/8) to locate a C<sub>60</sub> at each corner. (b) The C<sub>60</sub> atoms in FCC C<sub>60</sub> represented as spheres.



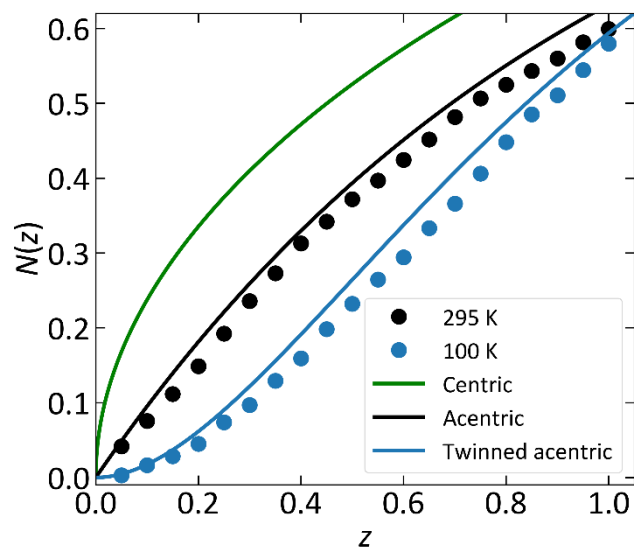
**Figure S4:** Views of (a) nearest, (b) next-nearest, and (c) next-next-nearest neighbor SnI<sub>4</sub> tetrahedra down Sn-Sn axis in crystalline SnI<sub>4</sub>.



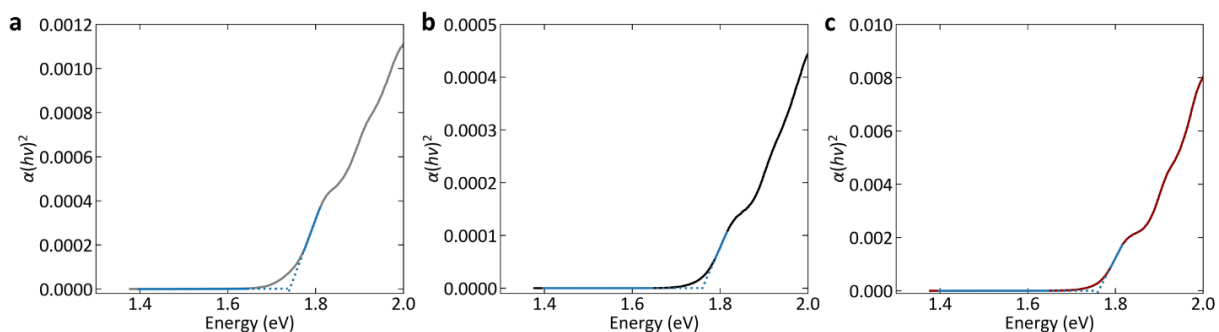
**Figure S5:** X-ray diffraction pattern of  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  synthesized by a solid-state method (dark red) with simulated powder diffraction pattern from single crystal structure (black).



**Figure S6:** TGA of  $C_{60}(SnI_4)_2$  powder from solid-state synthesis heated at 10 °C/min.



**Figure S7:** Cumulative intensity distribution for single crystal X-ray diffraction data at 295 K (black circles) and 100 K (blue circles) with ideal distributions for centric (green line), acentric (black line), and twinned acentric (blue line) crystals.



**Figure S8:** Tauc plots of (a)  $C_{60}$  and  $C_{60}(\text{SnI}_4)_2$  synthesized (b) in solution and (c) in the solid-state.