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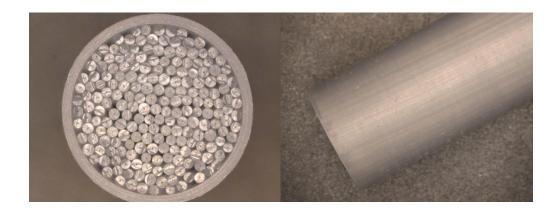


Fig. 1 The radial and axial images of the first step fibers packing together in the thin-wall PMMA tube.

The fibers obtained from the first drawing step were cut into short pieces with equal length, which were stacked together to form a hexagonal bundle in a thin-wall PMMA tube for the next drawing step. Actually, there is still some way off preparing fibers with perfect hexagonal lattices inside the tube due to the slight differences of the fiber diameters, resulting in a broad size distribution of the pores and the spaces of pores. Relevant optimization studies for improving the structural uniformity of the fibers will be done in the future.