



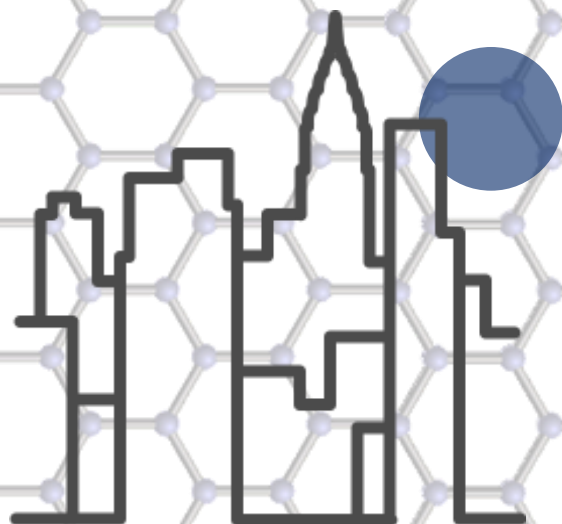
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International Conference

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ABSTRACTS BOOK



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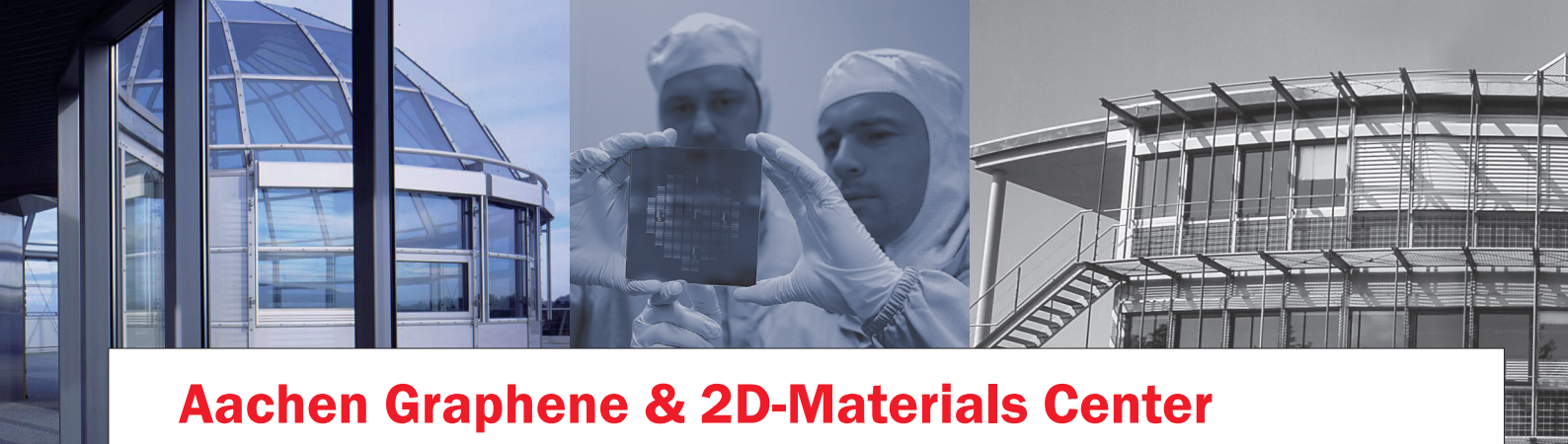
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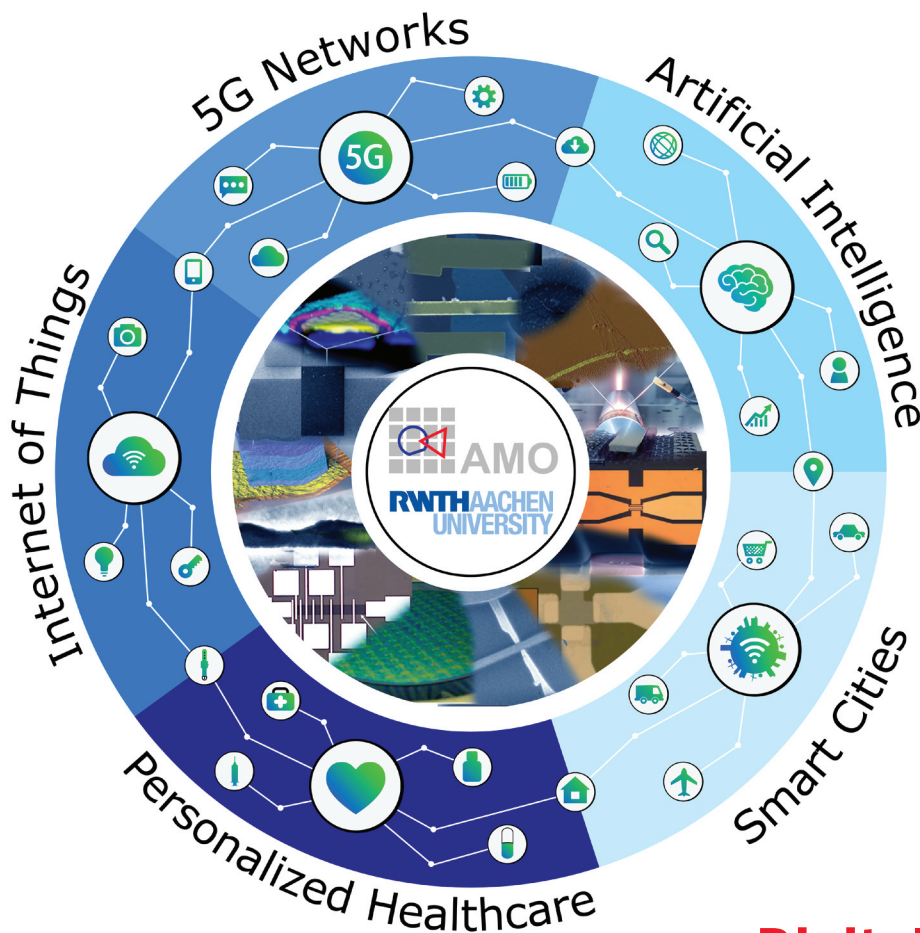


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INDEX

Foreword Page 4

Committees Page 5

Sponsors Page 6

Exhibitors Page 7

Speakers List Page 8

Abstracts Page 11

FOREWORD

On behalf of the Organising Committee we take great pleasure in welcoming you to the 4th edition of the **GrapheneforUS** 2021 International Conference.

GrapheneforUS 2021 online will be a 2 days event that means to gather the key players of the Graphene Community and related sectors. This event is launched again following the success of the 2018, 2019 & 2020 in-person editions. **GrapheneforUS** is now already an established event attracting global participants and sharing, exchanging, exploring new avenues of graphene-related scientific and commercial developments.

We truly hope that **GrapheneforUS** 2021 serves as an international platform for communication between science and business.

We are indebted to the following Scientific Institutions and Companies for their help and/or financial support: AMO GmbH, Heidelberg Instruments, PennState (Materials Research Institute) / Center for 2-Dimensional and Layered Materials (2DLM), Columbia University, Texas Instruments and SRC nCORE.

We also would like to thank all the exhibitors, speakers and participants that join us this year.

One thing we have for granted: very few industries, one way or another, will escape from the influence of Graphene and 2D Materials and the impact on businesses is here to stay.

Hope to see you again in the next edition of **GrapheneforUS** to be held in 2022 in New York.

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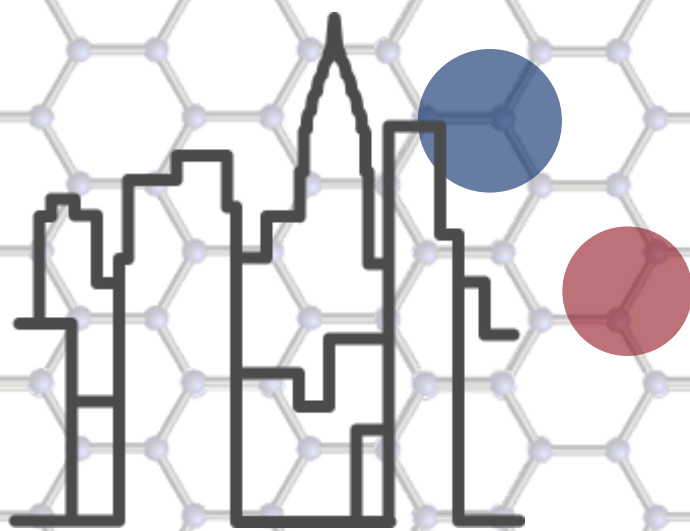
ABSTRACTS INDEX

Index alphabetical order

		Page
Ali, Fida (Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea)		
<i>Density of Interface States in Layered-WSe₂ Semiconductor</i>	Oral	32
Antony, Abhinandan (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Ultralow-Resistance Contacts to 2D Superconductors</i>	ePoster	48
Bai, Yusong (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Moiré excitons in transition metal dichalcogenide heterobilayers</i>	ePoster	49
Banerjee, Kaustav (University of California, USA)		
<i>Next-generation integrated electronics uniquely enabled by van der Waals materials and heterostructures</i>	Keynote	-
Bonaccorso, Francesco (BeDimensional, Italy)		
<i>Large-scale production of 2D crystals for energy applications</i>	Keynote	-
Bonaventura, Eleonora (Cnr-IMM and Università Milano Bicocca, Italy)		
<i>Optical Properties of Silicon and Tin Nanosheets</i>	ePoster	50
Boukhicha, Mohamed (BNL, USA)		
<i>Large-scale Lithium-intercalated Multilayer Graphene Production</i>	Oral	33
Cebadero, Óscar (Universidad de Sevilla, Spain)		
<i>Characterization and cytotoxicity of Reduced Graphene oxide on CaCo-2 cells</i>	ePoster	51
Chen, An (Semiconductor Research Corporation, USA)		
<i>Nanoelectronics Research for Computing beyond CMOS</i>	Invited	22
Chen, Zhihong (Purdue University, USA)		
<i>2D Materials for Back-end-of-line Interconnect Application</i>	Keynote	12
Choi, Minsup (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>High-quality p-type doping of 2D materials by UV-ozone treated WSe₂</i>	ePoster	52
Conesa Boj, Sonia (TU Delft, The Netherlands)		
<i>From crafting to visualization: low-dimensional TMD nanostructures under the electron microscope lamppost</i>	Invited	23
de Vries, Folkert (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)		
<i>Gate-Defined Josephson Junctions in Magic-Angle Twisted Bilayer Graphene</i>	Oral	34
Dlubak, Bruno (CNRS/Thales, France)		
<i>Spin filtering in graphene based magnetic tunnel junctions</i>	Invited	24
Ebrahimi, Aida (Pennsylvania State University, USA)		
<i>All-Ink Dopamine Sensors with Ultralow Detection Limit Enabled by One-Step Annealing of Graphene Ink</i>	Invited	25
Efetov, Dmitri (ICFO, Spain)		
<i>Competing phases of correlated Chern insulators in Superconducting Twisted Bilayer Graphene</i>	Keynote	13
Fuhrer, Michael (Monash University, Australia)		
<i>2D Topological Insulators for Low-Energy Electronics</i>	Keynote	-
Ghiotto, Augusto (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Quantum Criticality in Twisted Transition Metal Dichalcogenides</i>	ePoster	53
Ghosh, Avik (University of Virginia, USA)		
<i>Unconventional switching using topological properties of electrons in graphene based heterostructures</i>	Invited	26

		Page
Giubileo, Filippo (CNR-SPIN Università di Salerno, Italy)		
<i>Transition metal dichalcogenide monolayers as gate controlled field emitters</i>	FlashPoster	46
Guerrero, Raúl (Centro de Física de Materiales, Spain)		
<i>Rhombohedral Phase in Trilayer-graphene</i>	Oral	35
Hamid, Saher (University of Ottawa, Canada)		
<i>Multilayer Graphene as Adaptive Thermal Camouflage</i>	ePoster	54
Harling, Gordon (CMC Microsystems, Canada)		
<i>Accessing Infrastructure for Prototyping and Measurement</i>	Invited	-
Jorio, Ado (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil)		
<i>Phonon localization in low-angle twisted bilayer graphene</i>	Keynote	14
Jos, Angeles (Universidad de Sevilla, Spain)		
<i>Synthesis, characterization and cytotoxicity of graphene oxide</i>	ePoster	55
Kaner, Richard (UCLA, USA)		
<i>Graphene Synthesis and Applications in Supercapacitors</i>	Keynote	15
Kim, Brian (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Tunable charge-transfer surface plasmon polaritons at tungsten oxyselenide/graphene interface</i>	ePoster	56
Kim, Philip (Harvard University, USA)		
<i>Josephson Junctions based on van der Waals heterostructures</i>	Keynote	-
Krayev, Andrey (HORIBA Scientific, USA)		
<i>Nanoscale Structural Peculiarities in Mono- to Few-Layer Crystals of $Ti_3C_2T_x$ MXene Revealed by TERS.</i>	Oral	36
Lanza, Mario (KAUST, Saudi Arabia)		
<i>Wafer-scale integration of two-dimensional materials in high-density memristive crossbar arrays for artificial neural networks</i>	Invited	27
Li, Baichang (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>The Critical Role of Electrolyte Gating on the Hydrogen Evolution Performance of Monolayer MoS_2</i>	ePoster	57
Li, Jia (Brown University, USA)		
<i>Tuning moiré flatband in magic-angle twisted bilayer graphene</i>	Keynote	-
Liu, Song (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Synthesis of Ultrapure Transition Metal Dichalcogenides</i>	ePoster	58
Lou, Jun (Rice University, USA)		
<i>Electrochemical Behaviors of Two-Dimensional Materials for Energy and Environmental Applications</i>	Keynote	16
Luican-Mayer, Adina (University of Ottawa, Canada)		
<i>Visualizing 2D materials at the atomic scale</i>	Invited	28
Ngo, Tien Dat (Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea)		
<i>Fermi-level de-pinning at the intrinsic WSe_2-metal junction via van der Waals bottom contacts</i>	Oral	37
Pasupathy, Abhay (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Quantum phenomena in moire heterostructures</i>	Keynote	-
Piskunow, Pablo (Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Spain)		
<i>Hinge Spin Polarization in Magnetic Topological Insulators Revealed by Resistance Switch</i>	Oral	38
Polverino, Salvatore (Università degli studi di Genova, Italy)		
<i>Few-layer graphene-based sustainable cement mortar</i>	Oral	39
Power, Stephen (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)		
<i>Manipulating valley currents in graphene nanostructures</i>	Oral	40
Redwing, Joan Marie (The Pennsylvania State University, USA)		
<i>Progress in epitaxial growth of wafer-scale TMD monolayers</i>	Keynote	-
Rinke, Gordon (AMO GmbH, Germany)		
<i>Wafer Scale Integration of Graphene - 2D Experimental Pilot Line at AMO</i>	Invited	29
Roche, Stephan (ICREA/ICN2, Spain)		
<i>Topological Spin Transport in Quantum Materials and Entanglement</i>	Keynote	17

		Page
Rubio Verdu, Carmen (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Universal moiré nematic phase in twisted graphitic systems</i>	ePoster	59
Ruoff, Rodney (UNIST/CMCM, South Korea)		
<i>F-diamane from AB-stacked graphene</i>	Keynote	18
Sadowski, Jerzy (Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA)		
<i>Interlayer coupling effects in the 30deg-twisted bilayer graphene</i>	Keynote	-
Schuck, Jim (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Nonlinear twistoptics at symmetry-broken interfaces</i>	Keynote	-
Srivastava, Pawan (Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea)		
<i>Resonant tunneling through twisted black phosphorus homostructures</i>	Oral	41
Steves, Megan (The Pennsylvania State University, USA)		
<i>Correlating nonlinear optical properties with atomic-level structure in 2D-polar metals</i>	Oral	42
Telford, Evan (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Layered Antiferromagnetism Induces Large Negative Magnetoresistance in the van der Waals Semiconductor CrSBr</i>	ePoster	-
Tomadin, Andrea (Università di Pisa, Italy)		
<i>Microscopic theory of plasmon-enabled resonant terahertz detection in bilayer graphene</i>	Oral	43
Torres Alonso, Elías (Graphenea, Spain)		
<i>Graphenea Foundry: a platform for the manufacture of graphene-based devices</i>	Invited	30
Tutuc, Emanuel (The University of Texas at Austin, USA)		
<i>Correlated Insulators and Topological Transport in Twisted Double Bilayer Graphene</i>	Keynote	-
Van der Zande, Arend (University of Illinois, USA)		
<i>Electromechanical systems enabled by interfacial slip in 2D material heterostructures</i>	Keynote	19
Wallace, Robert (The University of Texas at Dallas, USA)		
<i>An update on contact reactions with TMDs</i>	Keynote	20
Wang, Jue (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Probing Coulomb interaction in monolayer MoSe₂</i>	ePoster	60
Warner, Jamie (University of Texas at Austin, USA)		
<i>Air Stable Noble Metal Dichalcogenide 2D layered Materials</i>	Keynote	-
Wijnaendts van Resandt, Niels (Heidelberg Instruments, USA)		
<i>Direct Write Lithography Tools and Applications</i>	Oral	44
Williams, Adam (Columbia University, USA)		
<i>Towards high transparency in crystallographic superconductor-graphene interfaces</i>	ePoster	61
Yankowitz, Matthew (University of Washington, USA)		
<i>Tunable correlated and topological states in twisted monolayer-bilayer graphene</i>	Keynote	-



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Zhihong Chen

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2D Materials for Back-end-of-line Interconnect Application

2D materials have unique properties that can be utilized in designing next generation interconnects. For example, some 2D materials have been considered as alternative barrier/liner to replace conventional TaN/Ta bilayer, since these atomically thin materials are proven to be able to efficiently block Cu diffusion and their atomically thin body thickness can maximize Cu volume in ultra-scaled interconnects to achieve lower line resistance. In this talk, I will show that the diffusion barrier and liner properties of several 2D materials are investigated by various characterization methods. We observe that the lifetime of the dielectrics surrounding Cu electrodes can be significantly extended with the presence of the tested 2D barriers, providing strong evidence for promising alternative barrier/liner solutions.

Dmitri Efetov

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Competing phases of correlated Chern insulators in Superconducting Twisted Bilayer Graphene

Flat-bands in magic angle twisted bilayer graphene (MATBG) have recently emerged as a rich platform to explore strong correlations, superconductivity and magnetism. Here we use magneto-transport and Hall measurements to reveal a rich sequence of wedge-like regions of quantized Hall conductance with Chern numbers $C = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 4$ which nucleate from integer fillings of the moiré unit cell $\nu = \pm 3, \pm 2, \pm 1, 0$ correspondingly. We interpret these phases as spin and valley polarized many-body Chern insulators. The exact sequence and correspondence of Chern numbers and filling factors suggest that these states are driven directly by electronic interactions, which specifically break time-reversal symmetry in the system. In addition we observe correlated Chern insulator in zero magnetic field in hBN non-aligned MATBG, which manifests itself in an anomalous Hall effect around a filling of one electron per moiré unit cell $n = +1$ with a Chern number of $C = 1$ and has a relatively high Curie temperature of $T_c \approx 4.5$ K. Slight gate tuning away from this state exposes strong superconducting phases with critical temperatures of up to $T_c \approx 3.5$ K. In a perpendicular magnetic field above $B > 0.5$ T we observe a transition of the $n = +1$ Chern insulator from a Chern number $C = -1$ to a higher $C = 3$, which is characterized by a quantized Hall plateau with $R_{yx} = h/3e^2$. These observations show that interaction-induced time-reversal symmetry breaking in MATBG leads to a zero-field ground state which consists of almost degenerate and closely competing Chern insulators, where the B-field always couples strongest to states with higher Chern numbers. Our study is also the first demonstration of a system which allows gate-induced transitions between magnetic and superconducting phases, and hence marks a major milestone in the creation of a new generation of quantum electronics.

Ado Jorio¹

AC Gadelha¹, DAA Ohlberg¹, C Rabelo¹, JL Campos¹, JS Lemos¹, V Ornelas¹, D Miranda¹, R Nadas¹, FC Santana¹, LC Campos¹, G Medeiros-Ribeiro¹, LG Cançado¹, EGS Neto², TL Vasconcelos³, V-H Nguyen⁴, D Paszko⁴, J-C Charlier⁴, B van Troeye⁵, M Lamparski⁵, V Meunier⁵

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Phonon localization in low-angle twisted bilayer graphene

Superconductivity has been found in bilayer graphene at the magic angle [1]. Below the magic angle, the bilayer graphene exhibits reconstruction, entering the strain soliton regime [2]. Direct optical images of the crystal superlattice in reconstructed twisted bilayer graphene are reported here [3], generated by nano-Raman spectroscopy (see figure) [4-9]. The observation of the crystallographic structure with visible light is made possible due to lattice dynamics localization, the images resembling spectral variations caused by the presence of strain solitons and topological points. The results are rationalized by a nearly-free-phonon model and electronic calculations that highlight the relevance of solitons and topological points, particularly pronounced for structures with small twist angles.

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Figures

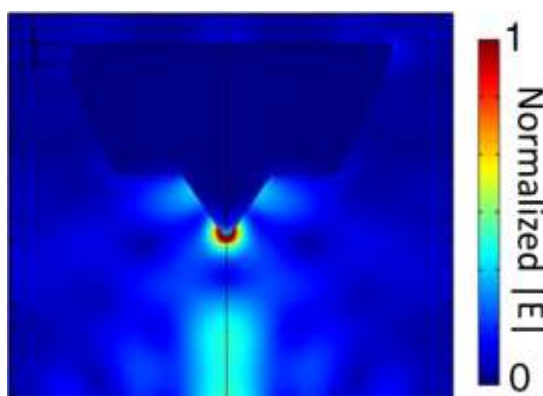


Figure 1: Nano-Raman field distribution generated in the tip-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (TERS) configuration [8].

Richard B. Kaner

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Graphene Synthesis and Applications in Supercapacitors

Graphene is the ultimate two-dimensional material consisting of a single layer of sp^2 hybridized carbon.[1] A facile, inexpensive, solid-state method for generating, patterning and electronic tuning of laser converted graphene will be discussed (Figure 1).[2] Briefly, graphite can be converted into graphene oxide (GO) sheets, which readily disperse in water, and can then be reduced by various methods.[3] Due to its unique ability to be solution processed and patterned, GO can be laser reduced to graphene directly onto various substrates without masks, templates, post processing, or transfer techniques.[4,5] This work paves the way for the fabrication of inexpensive electrochemical energy storage devices that combine the energy density of batteries and the power density of capacitors.[6]

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Figures

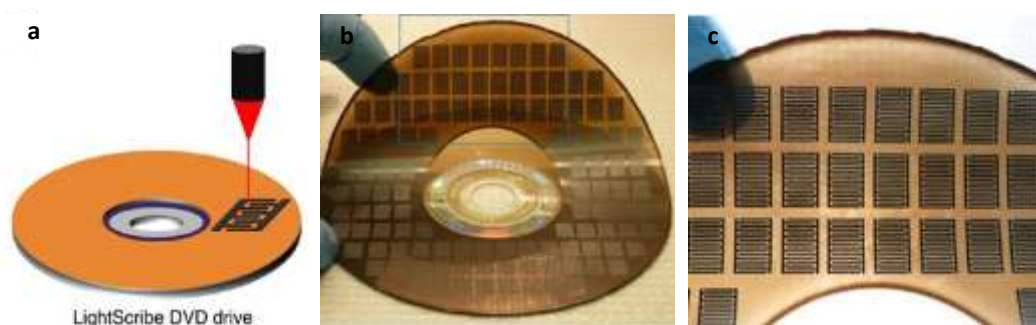


Figure 1: (a) Schematic showing the fabrication process of a graphene micro-supercapacitor using a Light Scribe DVD drive. (b,c) This technique can create more than 100 micro-devices in a single run on virtually any substrate.

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Electrochemical Behaviors of Two-Dimensional Materials for Energy and Environmental Applications

In this talk, several aspects of the electrochemical behaviors of two-dimensional (2D) materials for energy and environmental applications will be discussed. We developed a local probe electrochemical measurement method and successfully applied it to the electro-catalytic activity measurement of various kinds of transition metal dichalcogenides. The catalytic activity and turnover frequencies of the 2H-MoS₂ basal plane versus edge as well as the 1T'-MoS₂ basal plane are identified by this measurement. At the same time, the basal plane activity and turnover frequencies of transition metal dichalcogenides from different element groups has been systematically studied. We have shown that the general trend of the transition metal dichalcogenides in the form of volcano plot follows the trend of metals. VB-VIA dichalcogenides have been identified as the preferred selection for non noble metal hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) catalysts. Finally, we will demonstrate the application of 2D h-BN as high-performance anti-corrosion coatings for electrothermal membrane distillation of hypersaline waters.

Stephan Roche

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Topological Spin Transport in Quantum Materials and Entanglement

Abstract

In this talk, I will present theoretical spin transport features in MoTe_2 and WTe_2 -based materials which have recently been the subject of great attention within the broad context of Quantum Materials [1]. By focusing on the monolayer limit, using DFT-derived tight-binding models and using both efficient bulk and multi-terminal formalisms and techniques [2,3], I will first discuss the emergence of new forms of intrinsic spin Hall effect (SHE) that produce large and robust in-plane spin polarizations. Quantum transport calculations on realistic device geometries with disorder demonstrate large charge-to-spin interconversion efficiency with gate tunable spin Hall angle as large as $\theta_{xy} \approx 80\%$, and SHE figure of merit $\lambda_s \theta_{xy} \sim 8\text{-}10$ nm, largely superior to any known SHE material [4]. Besides, I will present our theoretical prediction of an unconventional canted quantum spin Hall phase in the monolayer Td-WTe_2 , which exhibits hitherto unknown features in other topological materials [5]. The low-symmetry of the structure induces a canted spin texture in the yz plane, dictating the spin polarization of topologically protected boundary states. Additionally, the spin Hall conductivity gets quantized ($2e^2/h$) with a spin quantization axis parallel to the canting direction. Our theoretical predictions for the canted QSHE findings have just been confirmed experimentally [6]. I will finally discuss the role of entanglement between intraparticle degrees of freedom in spin transport and dynamical patterns of entanglement [7].

Acknowledgment

The author acknowledges the European Union Seventh Framework Programme under Grant Agreement No. 881603 Graphene Flagship. ICN2 is supported by the Severo Ochoa program from Spanish MINECO (grant no. SEV-2017-0706) and funded by the CERCA Programme/Generalitat de Catalunya

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F-diamane from AB-stacked graphene

Abstract

I describe our conversion of AB-stacked bilayer graphene [1,2] to the fluorinated diamane product, F-diamane [3], that can be thought of as an ultrathin (“2-atom thick”) layer of diamond that has “every other” C atom on each of the top and bottom surfaces functionalized by F: C_2F stoichiometry.

Time permitting, I will also describe some other research of probable interest. *Support from the Institute for Basic Science (IBS-R019-D1) is appreciated.*

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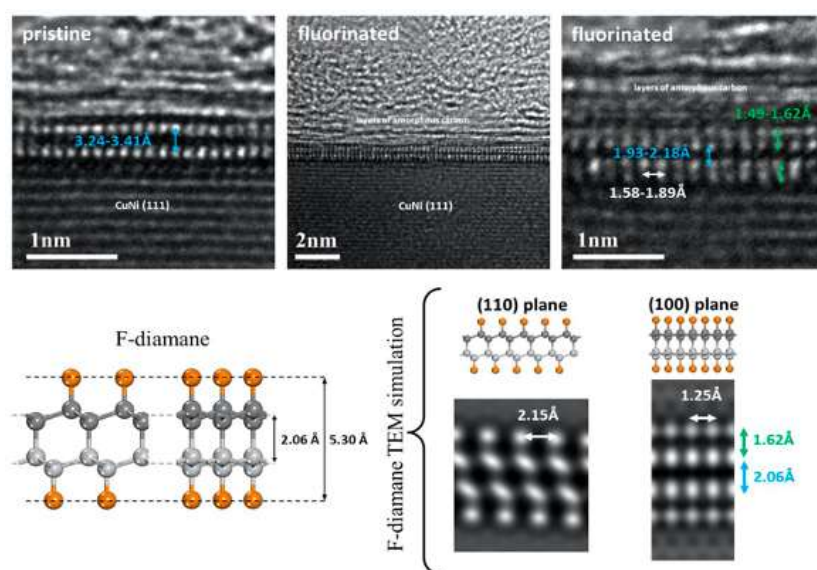


Figure 1: HRTEM cross section images of AB-stacked bilayer graphene (top left) and after its fluorination: F-diamane.

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Electromechanical systems enabled by interfacial slip in 2D material heterostructures

Understanding the mechanical deformability of nanomaterials is critical to realizing a host of next generation technologies like stretchable electronics, reconfigurable quantum states, three dimensional multifunctional surfaces, and nanoscale machines. Due to their unparalleled mechanical strength and stability, two-dimensional (2D) materials like graphene and MoS₂ represent the ultimate limit in size of both mechanical atomic membranes and molecular electronics. Moreover, many of the most interesting properties of 2D materials and new functionality arise from the van der Waals interfaces between layers and in engineering multilayer heterostructures. Open questions include how the interface affects the mechanical properties of 2D heterostructures and how to integrate the outstanding mechanical properties and electronic functionality of 2D materials together. In this presentation, we will examine the impact of the van der Waals interface on the mechanics of bending and crumpling of 2D atomic membranes, slip in nanoelectromechanical drumhead resonators, and optoelectronic devices from crumpled 2D heterostructures. Taken together, these experiments show that interfacial slip strongly affects the mechanics of 2D materials and heterostructures and leads to membranes which are orders of magnitude more deformable than conventional 3D materials

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An update on contact reactions with TMDs

Transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) are promising for applications in various electronic and photonics devices. MoS₂, as one of the most studied TMDs, demonstrates impressive subthreshold slope, I_{on}/I_{off} ratio and mobilities. However, the contact resistance of the highest-performance metal contacts to MoS₂ based devices is orders of magnitude higher than that required for state-of-the-art logic circuits. Recent studies have noted that the contact resistance can be impacted by the deposition ambient of the metal contacts.[1] Various metal contact (Au, Ti, Ir, Cr, and Sc) on MoS₂ have been studied to understand their interface chemistry and the origin of Fermi level pinning under different deposition ambients. But the interface chemistry of now popular Ni and Ag contacts on MoS₂ has not been systematically reported. CVD MoS₂ films tend to have more intensive defects than the MoS₂ bulk crystal. This difference in defect density could potentially impact the interface chemistry of the metal contacts on MoS₂ and thus probably lead to different device performance. We will present an update of our prior study of deposition ambient effects [2,3] incorporating recent results with Ag and Ni contacts.[4] This work was supported in part by NEWLIMITS, a center in nCORE, a Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC) program sponsored by NIST through award number 70NANB17H041.

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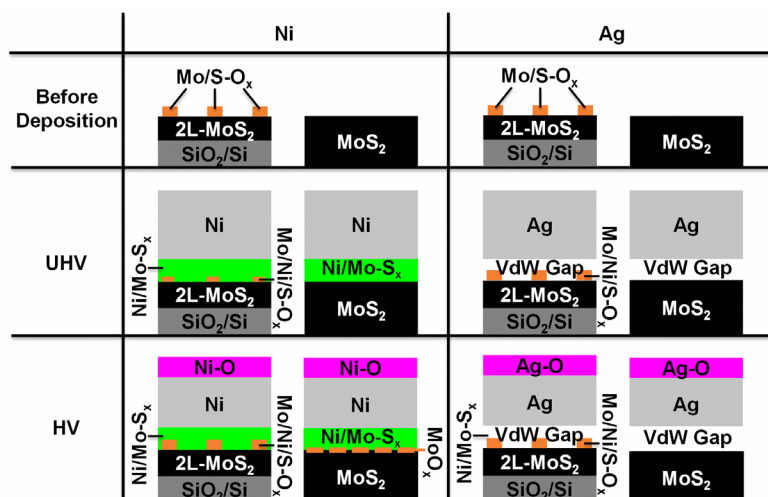
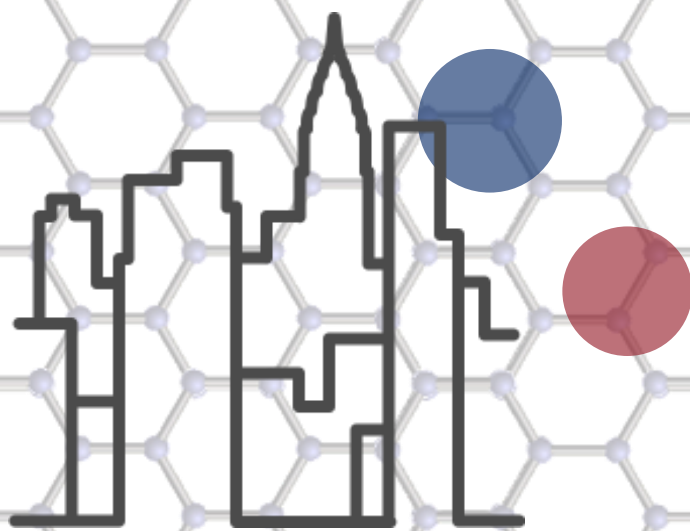


Figure 1: Schematic representations of the interface chemistry formed between contact metals (Ni, and Ag) and MoS₂ substrates (MoS₂ bulk, and 2L-MoS₂ film).



INVITED SPEAKERS

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Nanoelectronics Research for Computing beyond CMOS

As a leading research consortium in the semiconductor industry, the Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC) has funded academic research for over 35 years, helped to invent some of the most important semiconductor technologies, and educated generations of experts and technology leaders for the industry. Through a collaborative research platform provided by SRC, major semiconductor companies partner with US government funding agencies (e.g., DARPA, NSF, NIST) to sponsor cutting-edge research at the universities to advance semiconductor technologies. The “Nanoelectronics Research Initiative (NRI)” was co-funded by SRC, NSF, and NIST in 2005 with an ambitious goal – to explore nanoelectronic switches fundamentally different from CMOS transistors to achieve orders of magnitude lower switching energy. NRI has made significant contributions to the fundamental research of novel materials and devices; however, no new switch has been identified to be capable of replacing CMOS. Important lessons learned from the NRI program have helped to define the strategies of new nanoelectronics research programs: (1) unique characteristics of nanoelectronic materials and devices may be utilized for novel computing paradigms beyond Boolean logic and von Neumann architectures; (2) basic material and device research play critical roles to enable novel computing solutions; (3) beyond-CMOS research requires a holistic approach with device-architecture cooptimization supported by innovations in characterization, fabrication, and modeling. A joint NSF-SRC program, “Energy-Efficient Computing from Devices to Architectures (E2CDA)”, was launched in 2017 to address the cooptimization of emerging devices and architectures to achieve over 100x improvement in system-level energy efficiency. Based on the learning from NRI, a follow-on “nanoelectronic Computing Research (nCORE)” program was launched in 2018 by SRC, NIST, and NSF to explore emerging material, device, and interconnect solutions to enable novel computing and storage paradigms based on a holistic approach. The nCORE program has funded research in 2D materials, spintronic materials and devices, analog/neuromorphic computing devices, new interconnect materials, as well as novel computing architectures including in-memory computing, probabilistic computing, etc. This talk will present these nanoelectronics research programs at SRC, review the lessons learned, and discuss potential future directions.

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From crafting to visualization: low-dimensional TMD nanostructures under the electron microscope lamppost

One of the driving forces of the ongoing nanotechnology revolution is the ever-improving ability to understand and control the properties of quantum matter down to the atomic scale. Key drivers in this revolution are quantum materials, such as the two-dimensional (2D) materials of the transition metal dichalcogenide (TMD) family. The realization of novel TMD-based devices relies heavily on understanding the relation between structural and electrical properties at the nanoscale. The ultimate goal is that of crafting TMD nanostructures in a way that makes possible the tailored control of their properties. In this talk, recent studies illustrating novel fabrication approaches of TMD nanostructures based on combining top-down and bottom-up methods will be presented. These allow to control the resulting geometries and material combinations, making possible the realization of novel functionalities such as metallic edge states arising in MoS₂ nanowalls [1] and nanowires, enhanced nonlinear response in vertically-oriented MoS₂ nanostructures [2], and surface and edge plasmons in WS₂ nanoflowers [3]. I will emphasize the crucial role that cutting-edge transmission electron microscopy techniques play in these studies, together with that of machine learning techniques [4] which make possible extract a wealth of novel information which would be lost otherwise.

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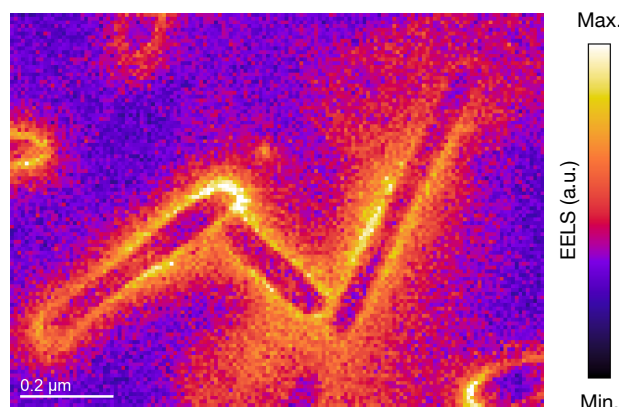


Figure 1: Experimental study of low-loss EELS acquired in MoS₂ nanotubes. Intensity map of the EELS signals integrated for a energy-loss window between 1-2 eV.

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Spin filtering in graphene based magnetic tunnel junctions

The discovery of graphene has opened novel exciting opportunities in terms of functionalities and performances for spintronics devices. To date, it is mainly graphene properties for efficient in-plane spin transport which have been put forward. We will present here experimental results concerning integration of graphene in vertical Magnetic Tunnel Junctions. We will show that a thin graphene passivation layer, directly integrated by low temperature catalyzed chemical vapor deposition (CVD) [1][2], allows to preserve a highly surface sensitive spin current polarizer/analyzer behavior and adds new enhanced spin filtering property. The graphene layer prevents the oxidation of the ferromagnet enabling the use of novel processes for spintronics devices.[3][4] We will illustrate this property by demonstrating the use of ozone based ALD processes to fabricate efficient spin valves protected with graphene. Characterizations of complete spin valves making use of graphene grown by CVD will then be presented. We will discuss the measured experimental spin signals in light of bulk band structure spin filtering effect as usually observed with MgO [1][3][4], but also highlight the role of interfacial hybridization for spin selection (a.k.a spinterface) with ab-initio calculations in support.[5] We will further discuss these observed spin filtering effects by analyzing results with other 2D materials (such as h-BN and WS₂) integrated in MTJ devices. The different presented experiments unveil promising uses of 2D materials for spintronics.

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All-Ink Dopamine Sensors with Ultralow Detection Limit Enabled by One-Step Annealing of Graphene Ink

Existing analytical tools for detection of dopamine (an important neurotransmitter involved in motor function, neurological diseases, and blood pressure regulation) are expensive, bulky, or require highly-skilled personnel, making them challenging to scale to point-of-care (POC) settings.(1) Among various biosensing technologies, electrochemical devices are the leading technology in POC diagnostics owing to their simple operation, real-time readout, low cost, high sensitivity, and portability.(2-3) Being atomically thin and having high specific surface area, 2D materials are ideal for developing highly sensitive electrochemical sensors. Beyond enabling high sensitivity, analyte-specific biosensors can be developed by modifying physical, (opto)electronic, and electrochemical properties of the 2D layer via various physical and chemical modification approaches. In particular, graphene is an attractive sensing layer for dopamine detection due to their π - π interaction and favorable electrostatic interactions at physiological pH. However, the lowest reported detection limit solely based on graphene is limited to 1 nM. In this talk, I will present our recent work on developing an all-ink sensor on polyimide for electrochemical quantification of dopamine down to 5 pM, even in serum.(4) The record-low limit of detection is achieved through a one-step, low-temperature post-deposition annealing process to favorably tune the surface chemistry and surface interactions between the graphene ink layer and the dopamine molecule. Using X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), Raman spectroscopy, Scanning Electrochemical Microscopy (SECM), and electrochemical analysis with specific control molecules, we studied the role of functional groups, defects, and anisotropy (edge vs. basal plane) on the sensor response.

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Unconventional switching using topological properties of electrons in graphene based heterostructures

Arguably the biggest challenge with graphene-based electronic switching is the lack of a band-gap. Unfortunately, forcing a band-gap through differential doping or vertical fields increases the effective mass and kills mobility. In contrast, the topology of spins/pseudospins in Dirac cone materials offers truly novel opportunities in electron dynamics, but has traditionally been touted for their impact on the on current, even while the off current remains the main challenge. We argue that the transmission of electrons across PN junctions can actually be gate-modulated significantly^[1-4] due to added constraints imposed by their winding (Chern) number – for pseudospins in bulk monolayer/bilayer graphene, spins in topological insulators and Weyl semi-metals, magnetization in skyrmionic materials. Experiments show the control of Dirac fermion optics through negative index (Veselago) behavior, conductance modulation (Klein tunneling), magnetoconductance minima in Corbino discs (anti-Klein tunneling), current saturation and angle-dependent transmission (Malus' law) across bulk graphene PN junctions. Based on these data, we explain the opportunities for graphene based electronics and the material challenges along the way.

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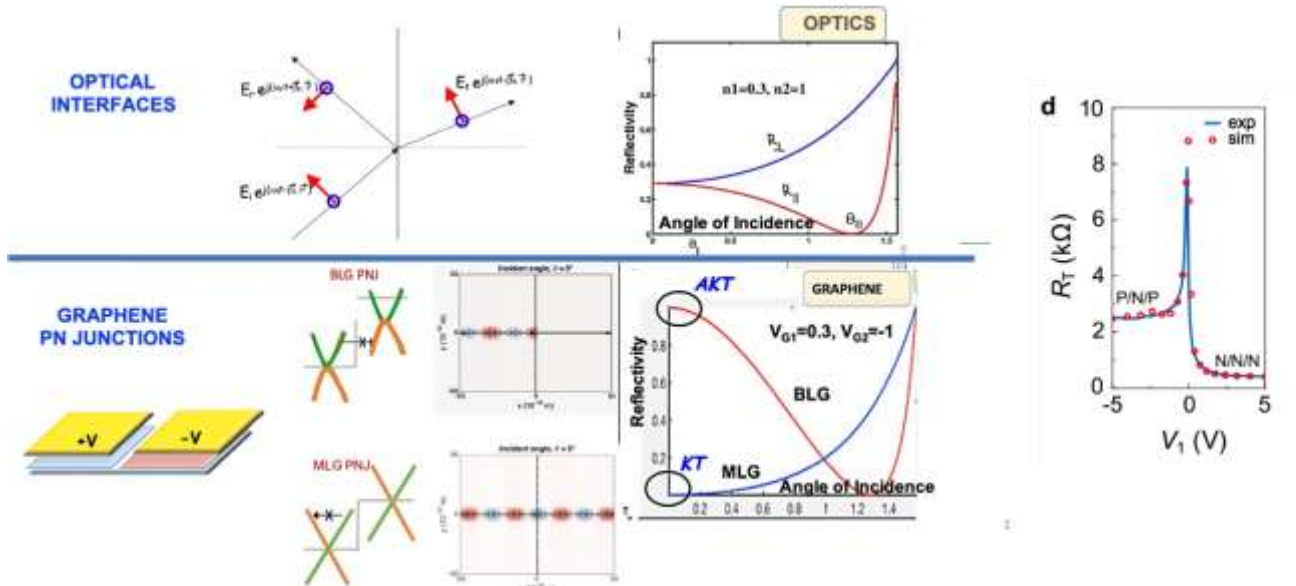


Figure 1: (Top Left) Optical Reflectivity at material interfaces at normal incidence depends on refractive index ratio at the interface. (Bottom Left) Electron reflectivity at graphene PN junctions depends only on topology of pseudospins around the Fermi circle, and is zero (Klein tunneling) for odd layer and unity (Anti-Klein tunneling) for even layers. The pinned value at normal incidence allows us to collimate electrons with a split gate and realize a *Klein tunnel transistor* with bulk graphene, based on gate-geometry alone. (Right) Experiments showing conductance modulation by gating from NNN to PNP doping in bulk graphene [2].

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Wafer-scale integration of two-dimensional materials in high-density memristive crossbar arrays for artificial neural networks

Memristors have attracted enormous interest due to their excellent capability to store digital information, and they are being considered to be a key element to build future artificial neural networks for bio-inspired neuromorphic computing systems [1-5]. Recent works have shown that memristors made of layered two-dimensional (2D) materials can exhibit performances that traditional memristors (made of transition metal oxides) do not show, such as excellent transparency and flexibility, high-temperature stability, and unique controllability of the conductance potentiation, depression and relaxation [6-10]. However, most studies on 2D materials based memristors focused on single devices, and system level performances like yield and device-to-device variability have never been analyzed in depth, despite the great interest that they have raised [11-14]. In this talk, I will present the first wafer-scale statistical analysis of high-density memristive crossbar arrays made of 2D layered materials, their nanoscale electronic characterization with conductive atomic force microscopy [15-16], and their application to neuromorphic computing.

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Visualizing 2D materials at the atomic scale

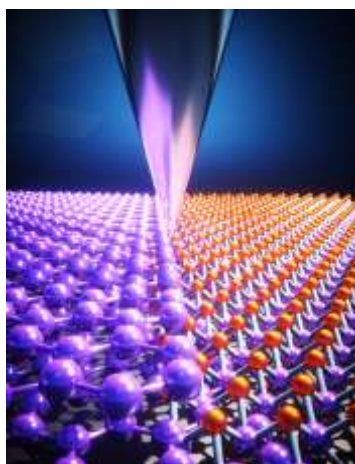
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Understanding and controlling the properties of 2D materials to our advantage can be contemplated with the development of experimental tools to probe and manipulate electrons and their interactions at the atomic scale. In this talk, I will present scanning tunnelling microscopy and spectroscopy experiments aimed at: elucidating the nature of atomic-scale defects in 2D materials [1], visualizing moiré patterns between crystals with different symmetries [2] and imaging surface and edge states in a magnetic topological system. Moreover, I will discuss how we leverage our expertise in probing and engineering electronic states at surfaces of 2D materials to further the development of graphene-based gas sensors [3] and gated quantum dot circuits based on 2D semiconductors [4].

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Wafer Scale Integration of Graphene for the 2D Experimental Pilot Line at AMO

Graphene has great potentials for applications in different fields such as electronics, optoelectronics, sensors, etc.[1] Forecasts of the markets of GRM based applications integrated with silicon technology show a massive economic impact.[2] To realize these applications, a path to integrate graphene to state-of-the-art silicon technology process line platform needs to be developed. A fundamental roadblock facing the wafer-scale processing of graphene devices is addressed recently by the EU funded 2D-EPL Project which is part of the Graphene Flagship. In this presentation, AMO within the 2D-EPL Project is introduced and the current progress and examples of wafer scale integration of graphene is shown.

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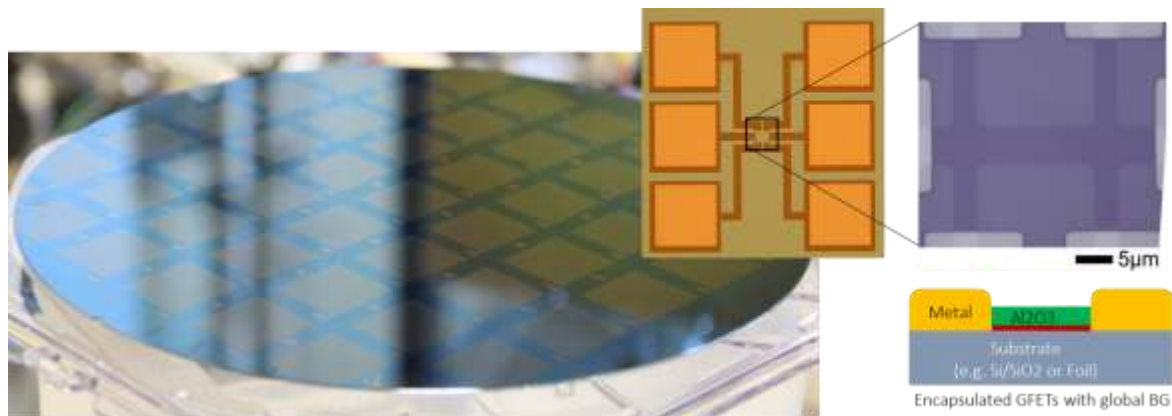


Figure 1: Graphene devices processed on 200 mm wafer at AMO

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Graphenea Foundry: a platform for the manufacture of graphene-based devices

Graphene has been the subject of intense research during the past decade. A myriad of findings with potential applications in many fields have been discovered, yet no commercial products that take advantage of its fantastic and exotic properties. The reasons for this will be discussed in this talk.

In an attempt to accelerate the development and the introduction of graphene technologies into the market, the Graphenea Foundry will be introduced in this talk. Following a pure-play model, our customers seize the different process flows to manufacture a wide range of device applications, tailored to their specs, especially suited for biosensing and photonic/optoelectronic applications.

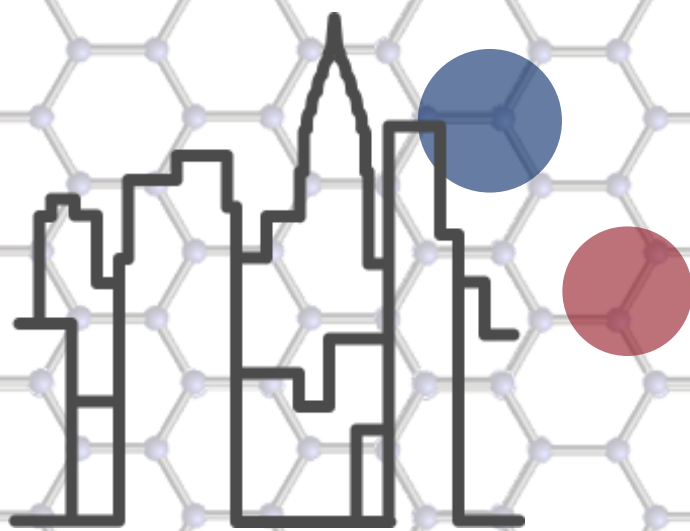
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Figures



Figure 1: The GFETs S20 (left) and S22 (right), dedicated graphene biosensors.



ORAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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Density of Interface States in Layered-WSe₂ Semiconductor

Unlike conventional bulk materials, the physical characteristics of two-dimensional (2D) materials are tailored by thickness variation and the quality of interface formed with the immediate environments. [1,2] Here, we investigate the thickness dependent intrinsic and interfacial characteristics of WSe₂ with special focus on hBN/WSe₂ interface by performing capacitance-voltage (C-V) measurements. Our results show that the interface state density (D_{it}) at the edge of WSe₂ band gap is drastically reduced from $\sim 10^{13}$ to $10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ eV}^{-1}$ with the increase of WSe₂ thickness from few to multilayers. The high D_{it} in thin flake-based device demonstrate that the thin flake is more sensitive to the interface to induced strain from the substrate surface roughness, device processing defects, and intrinsic defect density at the WSe₂ surface. Therefore, our findings emphasize the need of low intrinsic defect density and interfacial defect density to fabricate the reliable and high-quality 2D devices. These results can be used to understand the intrinsic and interfacial properties of 2D materials and provide guidelines to design future reliable and doping-free 2D solid-state devices.

Acknowledgement

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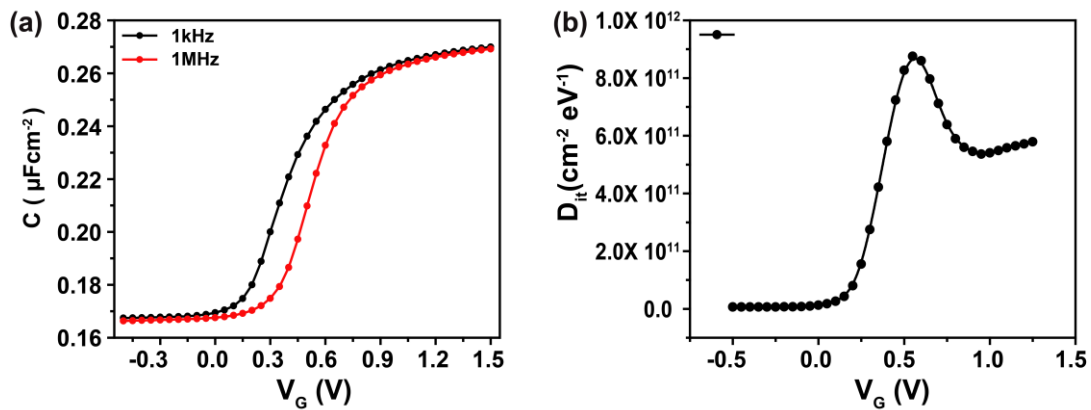


Figure 1: (a) C-V characteristics of the exfoliated n-type WSe₂ MIS capacitor at low 1 kHz and high 1 MHz frequencies. (b) Extracted D_{it} as a function of applied V_G of n-type WSe₂.

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Large-scale Lithium-intercalated Multilayer Graphene Production

For more than 70 years, Graphite Intercalated Compounds (GICs) have been extensively studied, wherein LiC₆ was discovered as a lead material for high-capacity electrical energy storage. With the recent surge of compact electronic devices in commercial production, we present a novel fabrication technique for ultra-thin LiC₆ devices. Here we present a new transfer method, termed “bifacial float transfer”, which enables large-scale multilayer graphene transfer from both sides of a nickel growth catalyst [1]. Bifacial float transfer has the potential to reduce graphene production costs by transferring chemically vapor deposited (CVD) graphene films from both sides of their native nickel substrate, with one graphene film transferred to a polymer and the other graphene film transferred to another target substrate. In traditional transfer methods, the graphene on the “non-preferred” side, that is, the bottom of the substrate, is removed with oxygen plasma before removal of the metal catalyst in etchant solution. Although this treatment prevents undesired aggregation of the graphene films, it fails to utilize both sides of CVD-grown graphene. In this talk, we compare the quality of graphene transferred from both sides onto target glass and polymer substrates. The results of optical microscopy, confocal Raman spectroscopy, atomic force microscopy, and electronic transport measurements suggest that the quality of the multilayer graphene on the “non-preferred” side does not differ significantly from that of the “preferred” side. This method will allow more efficient and cost-effective use of graphene by doubling the usable graphene per area of growth substrate, and by eliminating the need for intermediate sacrificial transfer substrates such as poly(methyl methacrylate). By modifying the air-liquid interface, we also attempt similar polymer-free transfer of progressively thinner multilayer graphene films. The fabricated samples are then lithiated using the in-situ short-circuit direct contact method [2]. The ultra-thin LiC₆ exhibits metallic behavior at room temperature with low sheet resistance and improved optical transparency in the visible spectrum [3]. We present preliminary results on the fabrication and characterization of these large-scale, stable LiC₆ films.

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Gate-Defined Josephson Junctions in Magic-Angle Twisted Bilayer Graphene

In the past two years, magic-angle twisted bilayer graphene has emerged as a uniquely versatile experimental platform that combines metallic, superconducting, magnetic and insulating phases in a single crystal [1,2]. In particular the ability to tune the superconducting state with a gate voltage opened up intriguing prospects for novel device functionality. We present the first demonstration of a device based on the interplay between two distinct phases in adjustable regions of a single magic-angle twisted bilayer graphene crystal [3]. We electrostatically define the superconducting and insulating regions of a Josephson junction and observe tunable DC and AC Josephson effects (see Figure 1). We show that superconductivity is induced in different electronic bands and describe the junction behaviour in terms of these bands, taking in consideration interface effects as well. Shapiro steps, a hallmark of the AC Josephson effect and therefore the formation of a Josephson junction, are observed. This work is an initial step towards devices where separate gate-defined correlated states are connected in single-crystal nanostructures. We envision applications in superconducting electronics and quantum information technology as well as in studies exploring the nature of the superconducting state in magic-angle twisted bilayer graphene.

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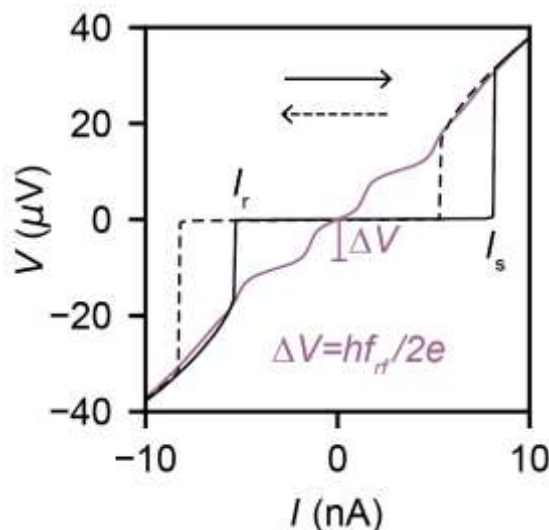


Figure 1: Current (I) versus voltage (V) linetraces showing the AC (magenta) and DC (black) Josephson effects.

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Rhombohedral Phase in Trilayer-graphene

Twisted bilayer graphene systems revealed flat bands near Fermi level that exhibit interesting electronic effects, such as low-temperature superconductivity [1]. Exploring multilayer graphene in more detail is then needed, because it could still present many properties to be unravelled. Adding a third layer, trilayer-graphene (TLG) shows many new degrees of freedom in their electronic properties. The two most stable forms of TLG are Bernal and rhombohedral (see Figure 1). Despite of the fact that in these two phases the number of interlayer first-neighbors and the interactions between those are of the same kind, the phases can be seen as different by the shift of the last layer. The former contains a carbon chain in an epitaxial order, and the second one has the layers stacked in a stair shape. They show different electronic structures at low energies. Around the K-point, the Bernal phase shows symmetric parabolic and linear electronic bands, and the rhombohedral phase shows partially flat bands but non fully symmetric around that point. For that reason, the rhombohedral stacking is expected to reveal many interesting electron phenomena, including strong correlation and superconductivity [2,3].

For many years, Bernal phase has been considered as the more stable form; however, recent studies show that this question needs to be revised [3-5]. In our work, the results for TLG show that the rhombohedral stacking can be more stable than the Bernal one using a large number of functionals in calculations. We then study the role of the mechanical deformations that provoke a transition between the rhombohedral and the Bernal phase. We conclude that the symmetry breaking between the layer sublattices is crucial to induce the Bernal to rhombohedral phase transition. These findings help in answering how to either preserve or change the stackings in multilayer graphene samples.

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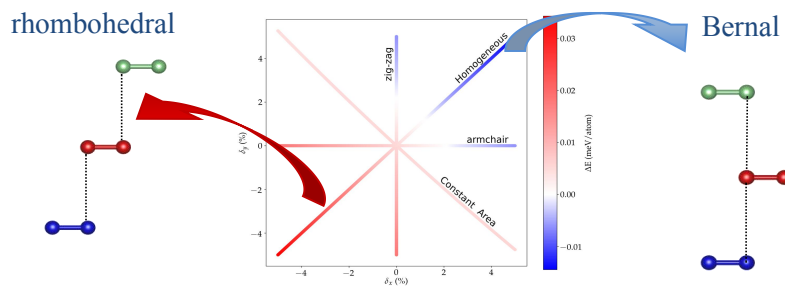


Figure 1: Energy difference between Bernal and rhombohedral stacking for in-plane deformations along different axes. Red and blue colors represent the stability of rhombohedral and Bernal stacking, respectively.

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Nanoscale Structural Peculiarities in Mono- to Few-Layer Crystals of $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$ MXene Revealed by TERS.

We report first time ever Raman imaging of mono- and few-layer crystals of 2D $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$ MXene, (T_x stands for surface groups such as =O, -OH and -F) deposited on gold substrate enabled by tip-enhanced Raman scattering (TERS) with 785 nm and 830 nm excitation wavelengths, matching the transversal plasmon resonance of 2D $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$, which is located at 780-800 nm. TERS spectra collected on the monolayers are strongly dominated by the intense peak A_{1g} (Ti, C, T_x) at 203 cm^{-1} . As the number of layers increases, relative intensity of the resonant 126 cm^{-1} and 725 cm^{-1} peaks, as compared to the intensity of the 203 cm^{-1} peak, also increases, though the absolute intensity of the peaks comes down. In addition to that, we observed peculiar TERS response from wrinkles in MXene sheets, which commonly appear in crystals of $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$ (and other 2D materials) deposited from colloidal suspensions. TERS spectra of the wrinkles featured a strongly enhanced absolute intensity of the 126 cm^{-1} and 725 cm^{-1} peaks, even in wrinkles that were up to 20 nm high. Using TERS for nanoscale spectroscopic characterization of $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$ allows collecting fast Raman maps with deep sub-diffractional resolution at the laser power density on the sample about an order of magnitude lower as compared to prior confocal Raman measurements. In addition to that, we show that the intensity of TERS response from the mono- to few-layer crystals of $\text{Ti}_3\text{C}_2\text{T}_x$ can be used to track early stages of degradation in ambient conditions, well before noticeable morphological changes start to appear in these crystals.

Tien Dat Ngo

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Fermi-level de-pinning at the intrinsic WSe₂-metal junction via van der Waals bottom contacts

Fermi-level pinning has been a critical challenge in the integration of 2D materials into semiconductor devices. In metal-semiconductor contact formed by physical vapor deposition, the Fermi level is pinned inside the band gap due to interface states or crystal disorder. Herein, we report a pinning-free tungsten diselenide (WSe₂) field-effect transistors (FETs) by utilizing the van der Waals bottom electrical contact. Our device structure is free of chemical disorder and crystal defects arising from metal deposition, which enables a near ideal Fermi-level de-pinning. The pinning factor of our device structure equals to 0.93, which proves our pinning free MS contact, allows us to effectively control the device polarity. With the ability to control the device polarity through metal work function variation, we prepared a complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) inverter with an ultrahigh gain of 198 at a bias voltage of 4.5V. Our study addresses an effective method to overcome the roadblock of further application of 2D materials to modern electronics.

Acknowledgement

This work was supported by the Global Research Laboratory (GRL) Program (2016K1A1A2912707) and the Global Frontier R&D Program (2013M3A6B1078873), both funded by the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF).

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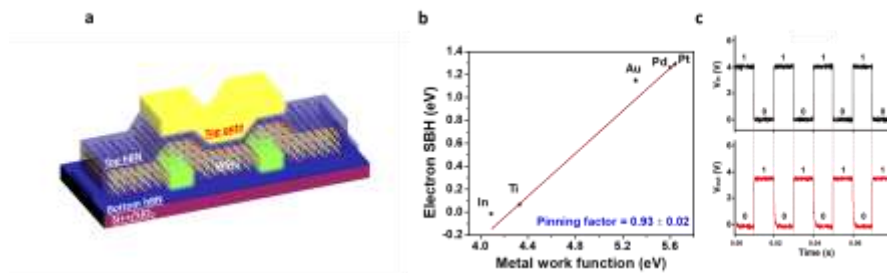


Figure 1: a) Schematic of the WSe₂ van der Waals bottom contact field-effect transistors. b) Pinning factor of our van der Waals bottom contact device. c) Dynamic output voltage response of our doping-free bottom contact CMOS inverter.

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Hinge Spin Polarization in Magnetic Topological Insulators Revealed by Resistance Switch

We report on the possibility to detect hinge spin polarization (HSP) [1] in magnetic topological insulators (MTI) [2-4] by resistance measurements. By implementing a three-dimensional model of MTIs [5-7] into a multi-terminal device with ferromagnetic contacts near the top surface, local spin features of the chiral edge modes are unveiled. We find local spin polarization at the hinges that inverts sign between top and bottom surfaces. At the opposite edge, the topological state with inverted spin polarization propagates in the reverse direction. Large resistance switch between forward and backward propagating states is obtained, driven by the matching between the spin polarized hinges and the ferromagnetic contacts. This feature is general to the ferromagnetic (FM), antiferromagnetic (AFM) and canted-antiferromagnetic (c-AFM) phases [8-10], and enables the design of spin-sensitive devices, with the possibility of reversing the hinge spin polarization of the currents.

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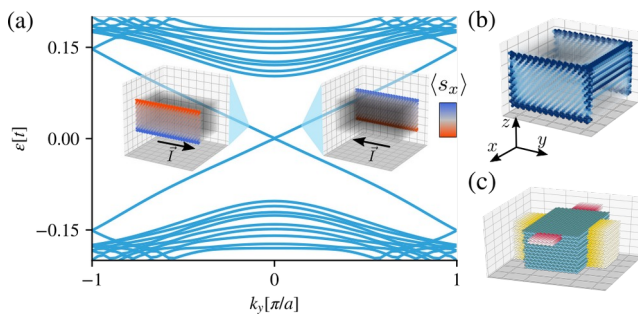


Figure 1: MTI in the FM phase. a) Dispersion relation of a slab infinite in y . The left (right) inset depicts the local spin density of states (s_x) of the edge state that covers the side wall of the slab and propagates to the right (left). b) Local density of states of a finite square slab. The edge state circulates around the sample, covers the sidesurfaces perpendicular to x , and propagates along the top or bottom hinges of the side surfaces perpendicular to y . c) Sideview of transport setup geometry: metallic leads connect to the whole walls at both ends of the slab (golden color), and ferromagnetic leads connect to the lateral walls only near top hinge (red color).

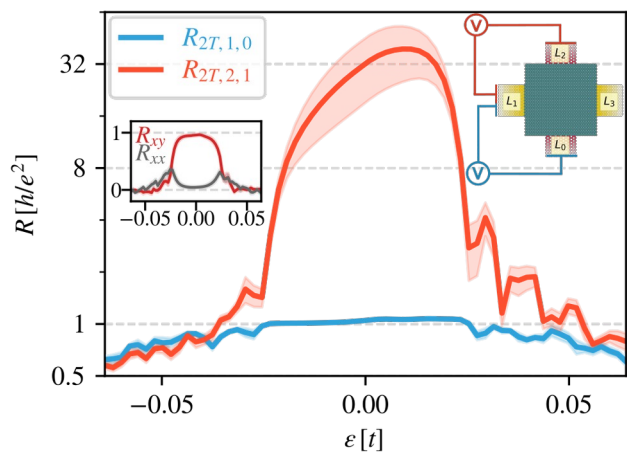


Figure 2: Transport simulations of a FM slab between metallic leads ($L1$ and $L3$) and ferromagnetic leads ($L0$ and $L2$) with spin down ($s_x, \downarrow$) polarization. The FM lead $L0$ matches the top HSP, while $L2$ has the opposite spin polarization. The matching or mismatching of the spin polarizations is revealed by a large resistance switch and allows us to characterize the HSP.

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Few-layer graphene-based sustainable cement mortar

Building materials have a high impact on the environment during their life cycle [1]. Cement composites, the most widely used class of construction materials worldwide, is struggling in keeping the current pace of growth [2]. More than 4 billion tonnes of cement are produced every year, accounting for around 8 per cent of global CO₂ emissions. Various strategies can be adopted to reduce the impact on the environment, e.g., improving the production techniques, reducing the ratio of cement to clinker, and using innovative technologies [3]. Among the technological resources for improving cement composites sustainability, a solution is the use of nano additives. Nanoparticles (e.g., aluminium dioxide or titania nanoparticles) can increase the durability of cement conglomerates [4]. Graphene stands out among the wide variety of carbon-based nano additives that could revolutionise the cement composites sector. Nevertheless, the large scale production of graphene is still limited, precluding the desired high-performance cement composites commercialisation. [5,6]

A high-pressure homogeniser (HPH) method is proposed to produce multi-layer and few-layers graphene using non-toxic solvents at semi-industrial rates, i.e. kg per day [7]. The high production rate of graphene offered by HPHs enables us for testing innovative graphene-based cement mortar (**Fig 1**). The few-layer graphene-based composite produced shown an improvement between the 25 and 29% for both the flexural and compressive strength compared to a standard cement mortar.

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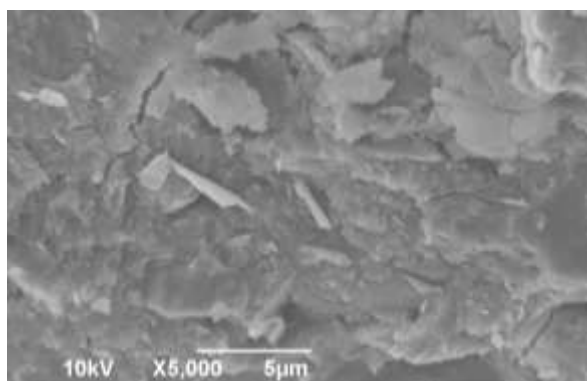


Figure 1: SEM image of the graphene-based cement mortar.

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Manipulating valley currents in graphene nanostructures

Two-dimensional materials are promising valleytronic candidates due to the K and K' valleys at the Dirac points. All-electronic control is particularly desirable for device applications. Many proposed setups exploit strain-induced pseudomagnetic fields which act oppositely in the K and K' valleys, e.g. graphene nanobubbles can filter or split a charge current into its different valley components [1]. Experimental approaches in this direction are advancing, but promising signatures of valley-dependent phenomena have also emerged from graphene/hexagonal boron nitride heterostructures.

Large non-local resistance signals here have been interpreted in terms of a valley Hall effect (VHE) driven by a bulk Berry curvature [2], which in turn emerges from a finite, global mass term. A complete understanding of such measurements in terms of either bulk [3]- or edge-driven [4] mechanisms is very much an open question.

Here [5] we demonstrate the emergence of bulk, valley-polarized currents in graphene-based devices, driven by spatially varying regions of broken sublattice symmetry, and revealed by non-local resistance (RNL) fingerprints. Using a combination of quantum transport formalisms, the presence of a non-uniform local bandgap is shown to give rise to valley-dependent scattering and a finite Fermi surface contribution to the valley Hall conductivity, related to RNL characteristics. Our findings suggest both an alternative mechanism for the generation of valley Hall effect in graphene, and a route towards valley-dependent electron optics, by device engineering.

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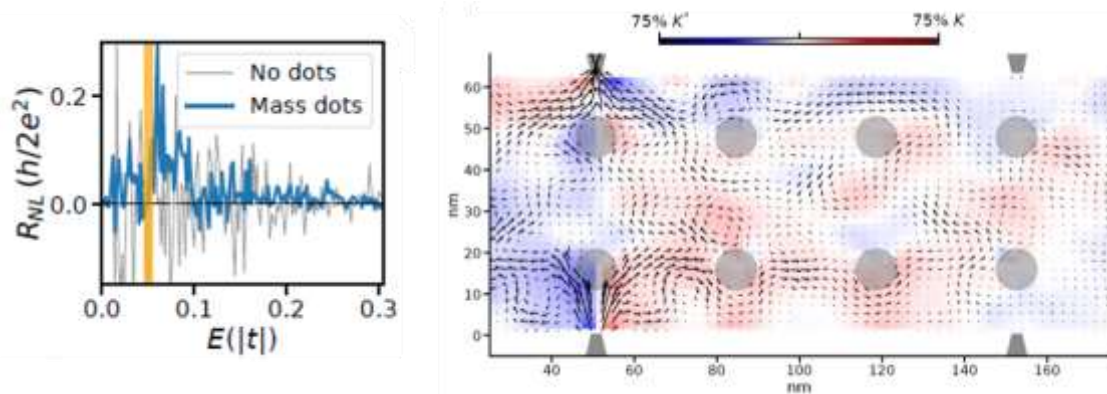


Figure 1: Nonlocal resistance and valley-dependent current flow in a graphene Hall bar with periodic mass dots [5].

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Resonant tunneling through twisted black phosphorus homostructures

The advent of atomically thin two-dimensional materials heterostructures open new opportunities for rethinking conventional semiconductors heterostructures devices such as light-emitting diodes¹, quantum well lasers², tunneling field-effect transistors³, resonant tunneling transistors, among many others. Here, we explore electronic transport in homostructures based on anisotropic material, black phosphorus and demonstrate the unprecedented degree of control that the relative stacking twist angle between anisotropic layers has on the vertical transport behavior. Interlayer coupling strength between anisotropic layers depends sensitively on the twist angle and subsequently dictates the transport behavior from Ohmic to tunneling. Utilizing high quality homostructures made of orthogonally stacked anisotropic black phosphorus multilayers, we demonstrate resonant tunneling through quantum well states without the need of any physical tunneling materials⁴, hence achieving the largest tunneling conductance and peak-to-valley ratio in negative differential resistance characteristics.

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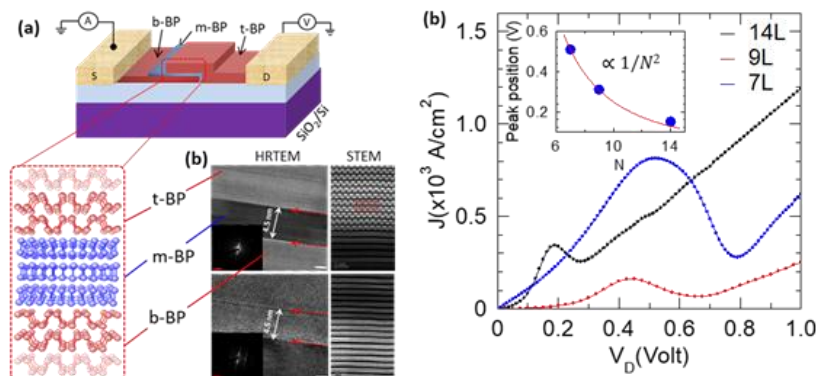


Figure 1: (a) Schematics of the BP trilayer twisted homostructure device and HRTEM/STEM images which reveal (90°) twisted middle layer. (b) Resonant tunneling feature as obtained from device shown in (a).

Acknowledgements This work was supported by National Research Foundation of Korea (Grant no. 2016K1A1A2912707, 2018R1D1A1B07049669, 2019R1A2B5B01070477, 2020R1A2C2014687) and Samsung Research & Incubation Funding Center of Samsung Electronics under Project Number SRFC-TB1803-04.

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Correlating nonlinear optical properties with atomic-level structure in 2D-polar metals

We report on the nonlinear optical properties of 2D polar metals, an emerging group of materials synthesized through confinement heteroepitaxy (CHet) [1]. These heterostructures, consisting of two- to three- atomic layers of indium or gallium on a SiC substrate with a graphene capping layer, exhibit promising nonlinear optical properties in the technologically important NIR/Vis frequency range [2]. The large second order nonlinear susceptibility, approaching 10 nm/V, is unexpected for a centrosymmetric material. However, sub-Ångstrom changes in the lattice parameters as the bonding evolves over the thickness of the metal break the centrosymmetry and result in an out-of-plane dipole, which is confirmed by angle-resolved SHG microscopy. While the out-of-plane structure allows the second-order nonlinear response, the atomic-level in-plane structure of the 2D-metal imparts unique polarization-dependent nonlinear responses. Using polarization-resolved SHG microscopy, we identify regions which have small differences ($<2\text{\AA}$) in the lateral displacement of successive layers of metal due to step edges in the SiC substrate. Both the in-plane and out-of-plane structure is determined by the strong interaction of the metal with the SiC substrate, suggesting the ability to tune polarization-selective nonlinear optical properties by control of the interface. Understanding of the correlation between structure and nonlinear optical responses of 2D-metals in an air-stable platform may enable future breakthroughs in nonlinear optical technology.

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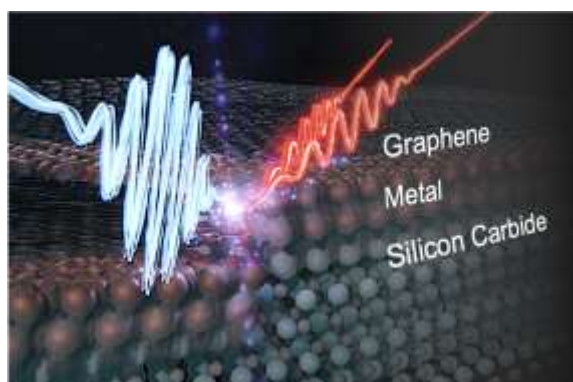


Figure 1: Second harmonic generation microscopy of 2D-polar metal heterostructure

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Microscopic theory of plasmon-enabled resonant terahertz detection in bilayer graphene

The electron gas hosted in a two-dimensional solid-state matrix under external driving supports the propagation of plasma waves.[1] Nonlinear interactions between plasma waves generate a constant density gradient which can be detected as a dc potential signal at the boundaries of the system. This phenomenon is at the heart of a plasma-wave photodetection scheme which was first introduced by Dyakonov and Shur for electronic systems with a parabolic dispersion [2] and then extended to the massless Dirac fermions in graphene.[3] Motivated by a recent experimental breakthrough in the resonant detection of plasma waves in double-gated bilayer graphene, [4] we develop the theory of plasma-wave photodetection in such geometry, [5] where the dispersion relation depends locally and dynamically on the intensity of the plasma wave. We show that quantum capacitance effects, arising from the local fluctuations of the electronic dispersion, modify the intensity of the photodetection signal. An external electrical bias, e.g. induced by top and bottom gates, can be used to control the strength of the quantum capacitance corrections, and thus the photoresponse.

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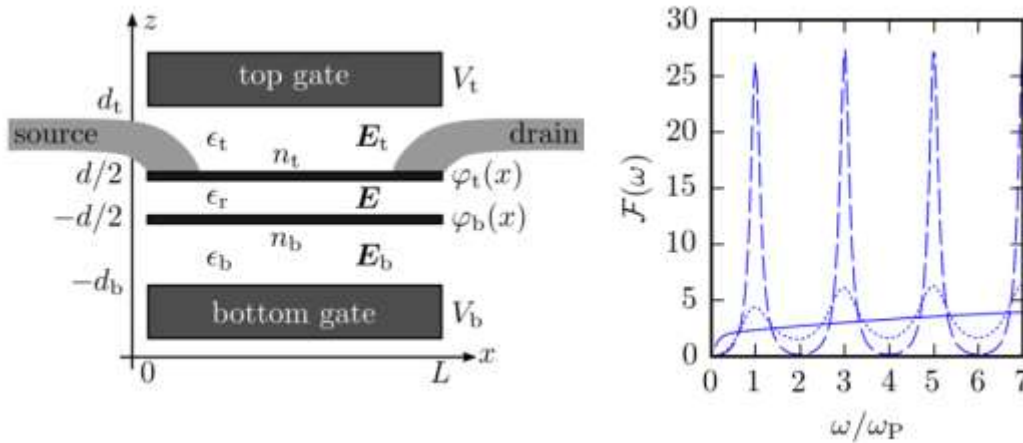


Figure 1: Schematics of the double-gated bilayer graphene setup (left) and photoresponse as a function of the driving frequency (right) for several carrier densities $n = 0.1$ (solid), 1.0 (dotted), and 5.0 (dashed) $\times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$.

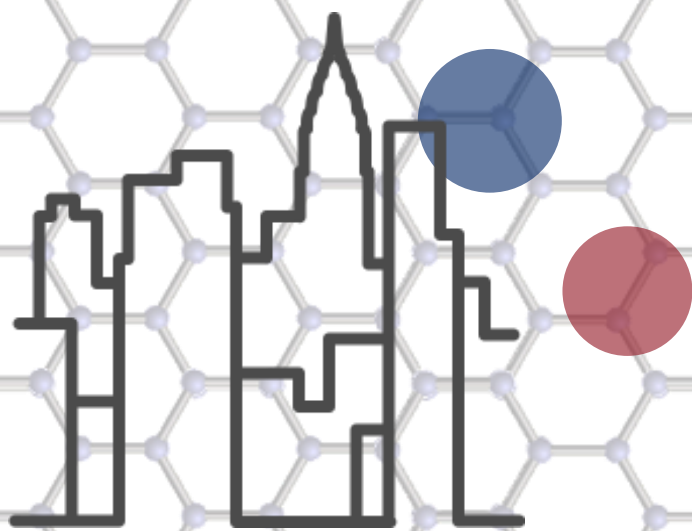
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Direct Write Lithography Tools and Applications

In this talk you will receive a brief overview of Heidelberg Instruments' direct write tools and a number of interesting applications. We will also highlight the ability to do 'in situ' lithography with our MLA150 Maskless aligner and the Nanofrazor systems.



FLASH POSTERS

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Transition metal dichalcogenide monolayers as gate controlled field emitters

Monolayers of molybdenum disulfide (MoS_2) and tungsten diselenide (WSe_2) have been synthesized by chemical-vapour deposition on a SiO_2/Si substrate. They were initially contacted to realize back-gated field-effect transistors, both showing n-type conduction under high-vacuum conditions. The n-type conduction enables field emission (FE), i.e. the extraction of electrons by quantum tunneling under the application of a high electric field. Local field emission measurements from the edges of the monolayers have been performed inside a scanning electron microscope (SEM) by using a nanomanipulated tip-shaped anode [1,2]. We demonstrate a turn-on field of the order of $100 \text{ V } \mu\text{m}^{-1}$ and a good time stability of the emitted current for both materials. Finally, we show that the field emission current can be modulated by the back-gate voltage, opening the way for the development of a field-emission vertical transistor.

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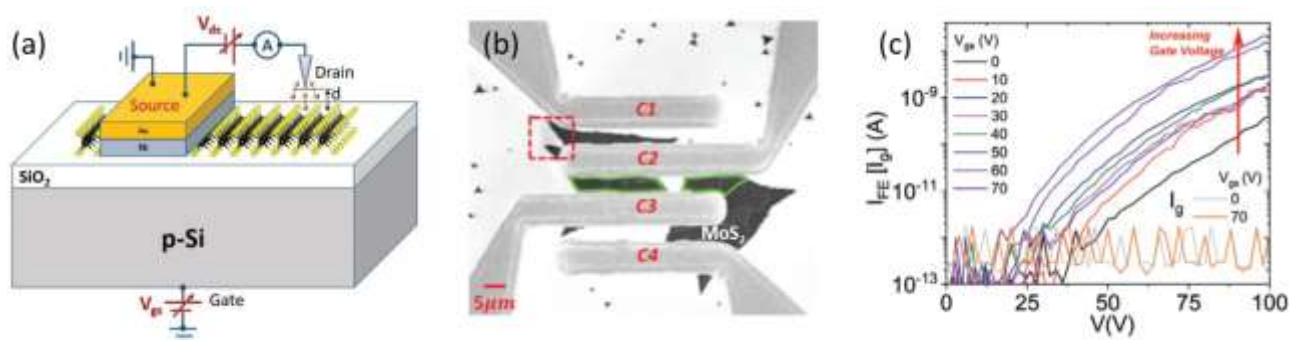
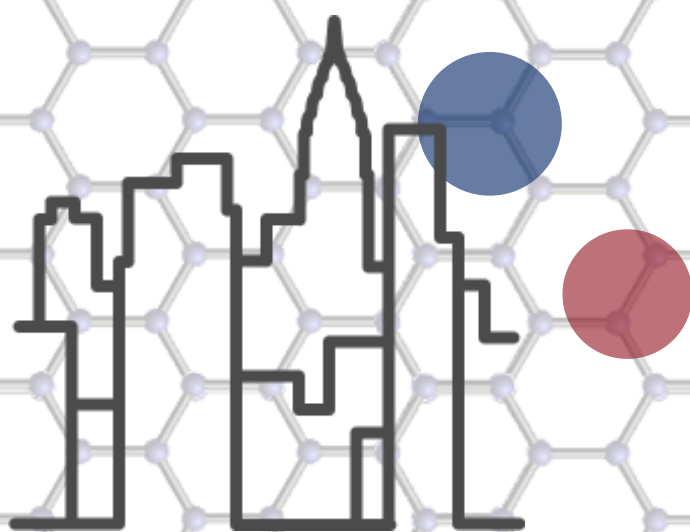


Figure 1: (a) Layout of a back-gate FE transistor with a TMD monolayer channel over a SiO_2/Si substrate. (b) SEM images of the MoS_2 device. The red dashed square highlights the part of the flake used for field emission measurements. (c) Field emission current measured at $d = 200 \text{ nm}$ for increasing gate voltage.



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Ultralow-Resistance Contacts to 2D Superconductors

Two dimensional Van der Waals (VdWs) superconductors show great promise as materials for quantum information systems thanks to their crystallinity and potentially defect and dirt free interfaces. Common VdWs superconductors such as niobium diselenide (NbSe₂) are highly air sensitive, and fabricating ultra-high performance contacts to these superconductors has remained a challenge[1][2]. Here we report a reliable method for making superconducting contact to many layer NbSe₂ using argon ion milling to remove oxidised layers of NbSe₂ before in situ aluminium deposition. To test the performance of these contacts at the levels needed for quantum applications, we measured resonators embedded with contacted NbSe₂ flakes at cryogenic temperatures. We find that the contacts have losses low enough to be used in high quality quantum devices even at microwave frequencies.

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Moiré Excitons in Transition Metal Dichalcogenide Heterobilayers

The possibility of confining interlayer excitons in interfacial moiré patterns has recently gained attention as a strategy to form ordered arrays of zero-dimensional quantum emitters and topological superlattices in transition metal dichalcogenide heterostructures.[1] Strain is expected to play an important role in the modulation of the moiré potential landscape, tuning the array of quantum dot-like zero-dimensional traps into parallel stripes of one-dimensional quantum wires. Here, we present real-space imaging[2] of unstrained zero-dimensional and strain-induced one-dimensional moiré patterns along with photoluminescence measurements of the corresponding excitonic emission from WSe₂/MoSe₂ heterobilayers.[3] Whereas excitons in zero-dimensional moiré traps display quantum emitter-like sharp photoluminescence peaks with circular polarization, the photoluminescence emission from excitons in one-dimensional moiré potentials shows linear polarization and two orders of magnitude higher intensity. These results establish strain engineering as an effective method to tailor moiré potentials and their optoelectronic response on demand.

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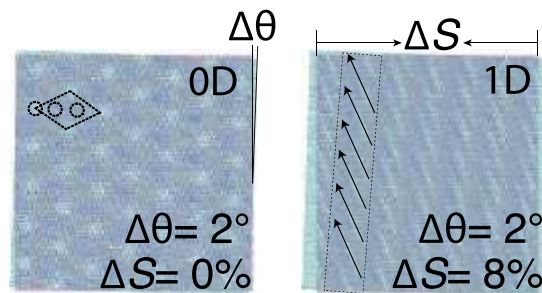


Figure 1: Schematic of hexagonal moiré superlattices (left) vs quasi-1D (strained) moiré superlattices (right). $\Delta\theta$ is the twist angle, ΔS is the uniaxial tensile strain.

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Optical Properties of Silicon and Tin Nanosheets

The dimensional reduction brought by the advent of two-dimensional (2D) materials opens new routes for nanoelectronics and photonics applications. In this framework, the Xenes - artificial graphene-like monoelemental lattices - represent a new forefront due to their electronic structure that is expected to be tunable by the substrate interaction or surface chemistry [1]. The possibility of hosting Dirac electrons in their band structure makes them particularly interesting also for plasmonics [2]. Epitaxial thin films of silicon and tin could be the experimental way to access the optical properties of silicene and stanene. To this purpose, silicon and tin nanosheets on a transparent substrate like sapphire are investigated by means of optical spectroscopy in the photon range from THz to UV. Here, we report on the Dirac-like electrodynamics in silicon nanosheets deduced from the observation of a low-energy optical conductivity feature, when a 2D regime is approached [3]. Similarly, the same experimental approach is also extended to tin therein showing an unexpected optical behavior with stanene-like properties [4].

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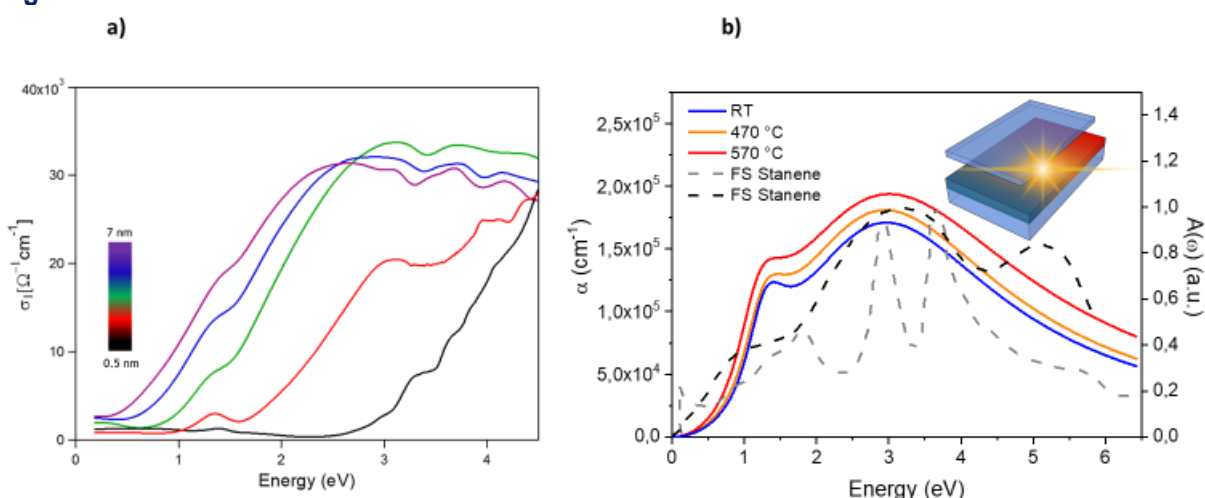


Figure: **a)** The real part of the optical conductivity of silicon nanosheets. **b)** Absorption coefficients $\alpha(\omega)$ of tin films compared with the theoretical absorbance $A(\omega)$ of freestanding stanene (black and gray dashed lines).

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Characterization and cytotoxicity of Reduced Graphene oxide on CaCo-2 cells.

Recently, reduced graphene oxide (rGO) has attracted attention for food packaging applications owing to its ability to provide enhanced mechanical and barrier properties¹. The commercial rGO (Graphitene, Ltd), prepared by thermal reduction procedure, was assessed by structural studies and its potential toxic effects on a human colorectal adenocarcinoma cell line (CaCo-2).

The commercial rGO was characterized by Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), Zeta Potential (ζ potential), transmission electron microscopy (TEM), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) and X-ray diffraction (XRD). By FTIR the main functional groups still remaining onto the surface of GO after its thermal reduction process was determined. The ζ potential shows negative values in cell culture medium (-15.8 ± 2.5) and Milli-Q water (-17.4 ± 0.4). TEM and SEM images revealed wrinkled and scrolled structures in rGO samples. The atomic content, measured by XPS, showed oxygen content (13.6 At %), carbon content (86.3 At %) and traces of chlorine (0.1 At %). The diffraction peak, analyzed by XRD, was detected at $2\theta = 21.5^\circ$.

The cytotoxicity of rGO was investigated by mitochondrial activity (MTS) and protein content (PC) on CaCo-2 cells at $0-250 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ after 24-48h of exposure. MTS reduction shows a significant reduction in cell viability from $62.5 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ for 24 h and at $250 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ after 48h of exposure. Nevertheless, CaCo-2 cells exposed to rGO showed no significant changes in PC after both exposure times at any concentration assayed.

In conclusion, rGO was characterized and the toxicity observed should be further evaluated before its potential application of rGO as food contact material.

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High-quality p-type doping of 2D materials by UV-ozone treated WSe₂

Abstract

The use of graphene as a transparent electrode requires the development of high-quality doping methods. There have been many studies of graphene doping techniques that use electrostatic force, chemical adsorption, molecular doping, annealing, and UV/plasma treatments.[1] Many of these techniques have trade-offs such as process damage, dopant instability, and poor transparency due to thick polymer coatings. Here, we develop an atomic-layer of p-type doping for graphene using 'monolayer' tungsten oxyselenide (TOS), which is formed by the room-temperature UV-ozone oxidation of monolayer WSe₂. The conversion from WSe₂ to TOS strongly p-type dopes graphene as evidenced by G band shift in Raman spectra, missing Dirac peak in the measured range, low sheet resistance of $\sim 100 \text{ } \Omega/\square$, and high hole density ($3.2 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$). With additional WSe₂ interlayers between TOS and graphene, sheet resistance further reduces to $48 \text{ } \Omega/\square$ and graphene shows acoustic phonon-limited mobility, extending mobility trend of edge contacted graphene to higher density.[2] More importantly, the high doping density improves the transmittance of graphene >99% at near IR region. This work demonstrates the potential of 'monolayer' TOS as a p-type dopant for graphene for use in electronics as well as an IR transparent electrode.

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Quantum Criticality in Twisted Transition Metal Dichalcogenides

In moiré heterostructures, gate-tunable quantum phases driven by electronic correlations have been recently discovered [1]. Here, we report the properties of the metallic phases and the metal-insulator transition in twisted WSe₂ near half filling. We find that the metal-insulator transition as a function of both density and displacement field is continuous. At the metal-insulator boundary, the low temperature resistivity displays strange metal T-linear behavior down to the lowest temperature of our measurement (200mK) with dissipation comparable to the Planckian limit. Further into the metallic phase, the low temperature resistance recovers a Fermi-liquid quadratic dependence at low temperature, whose coefficient rises an order of magnitude as it approaches the quantum critical point. More surprisingly, the projected zero-temperature resistivity of the metallic regime is a qualitative predictor of the insulating gap.

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Multilayer Graphene as Adaptive Thermal Camouflage

In this work we explore the use of multi-layer graphene (MLG) films grown by chemical vapor deposition for adaptive thermal camouflage. Using different ionic liquids, we tune the opto-electronic properties of MLG (150 – 200 layers) and investigate changes in optical reflectivity and emissivity in the infrared region (IR). We fabricate devices having a metallic back electrode supporting a porous membrane onto which we deposit the MLG as shown in Figure 1. We use both non-stretchable polyethylene (PE), and stretchable polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) as porous membranes. Using a thermal imaging system, we demonstrate that even when the device temperature is maintained higher than the environment, the MLG emissivity can be electrically controlled such that the device appears indistinguishable from the environment [1]. Moreover, we evaluate the performance of such devices based on flexible textiles towards developing a new material platform for defense applications.

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Figure

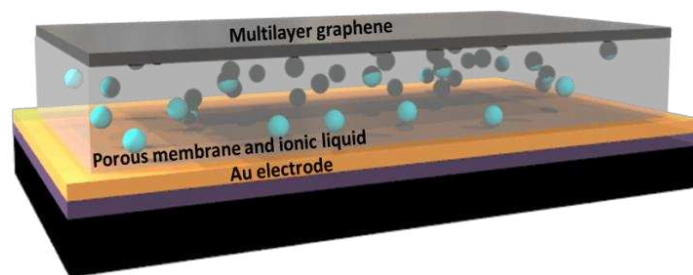


Figure 1: Schematic of the Adaptive Thermal-Camouflage Device.

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Synthesis, characterization and cytotoxicity of graphene oxide

Graphene oxide (GO) is a derivate of graphene whose structure have a high oxygen content. This structure confers many important properties to be used in improved packaging materials¹. But before the application of this material, it is required to know its potential toxic effects.

Graphene oxide was synthetized from graphite by using the Modified Hummers Method². The product obtained was characterized by Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS), Zeta Potential (ζ potential), X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and transmission electron microscopy (TEM).

FTIR was used to confirm the introduction of the oxygen-containing functional groups onto the surface of graphite. The elemental composition of GO, investigated by XPS, revealed carbon content (66.3 At%), oxygen content (33.2 At%) and traces of nitrogen (0.6 At%). The C/O atomic ratio was 1.99. The ζ potential in cell culture medium was -10.9 ± 0.3 and -30.3 ± 0.6 in Milli-Q water. GO showed two diffraction peaks at $2\theta = 12.6$ and $2\theta = 42.5$. SEM micrographs showed that large number of layers have been stacked to each other and formed into thick and bulk sheet clusters which are opaque in nature.

The toxicological effects were evaluated on a human colorectal adenocarcinoma cell line (CaCo-2) by the MTS reduction assay and protein content assay. Caco-2 cells showed no significant changes in the endpoints considered after 24 and 48h of exposure at any concentration assayed (0-250 $\mu\text{g/mL}$). Further toxicological tests are required before the potential application of GO as food contact material.

Acknowledgement: Project US-1259106 cofunded by Programa Operativo FEDER 2014-2020 and Consejería de Economía, Conocimiento, Empresas y Universidad de la Junta de Andalucía. And project P18-RT-1993 (PAIDI-2020, Junta de Andalucía). Functional characterization, microscopy, photoelectron spectroscopy, X-ray diffraction and Biology Services of CITIUS are acknowledged for technical assistance.

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Tunable charge-transfer surface plasmon polaritons at tungsten oxyselenide/graphene interface

Surface plasmon polaritons (SPP) are of fundamental interest due to their ability to confine light at the nanoscale, providing exciting opportunities for fundamental studies and applications, including lasing, topological protection, and biosensing [1,2]. Here, we use mid-infrared near-field imaging to study SPP at tungsten oxyselenide (TOS)/graphene interface. We find clear signatures of SPP propagation at TOS/graphene interface in an ungated geometry, verifying a significant amount of charge transfer across the interface [3]. We further demonstrate that the degree of charge transfer can be systematically tuned by inserting WSe₂ layers at the TOS/graphene interface. More importantly, we find that the quality factor of SPP approaches the fundamental limit of graphene plasmons as we increase the layer number of the WSe₂ layer. Our work provides a general strategy for engineering graphene SPP on demand without external gate or chemical doping.

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The Critical Role of Electrolyte Gating on the Hydrogen Evolution Performance of Monolayer MoS₂

According to density functional theory, monolayer (ML) MoS₂ is predicted to possess electrocatalytic activity for the hydrogen evolution reaction (HER) that approaches that of platinum. However, its observed HER activity is much lower, which is widely believed to result from a large Schottky barrier between ML MoS₂ and its electrical contact. In order to better understand the role of contact resistance in limiting the performance of ML MoS₂ HER electrocatalysts, this study has employed well-defined test platforms that allow for the simultaneous measurement of contact resistance and electrocatalytic activity toward the HER during electrochemical testing. At open circuit potential, these measurements reveal that a 0.5 M H₂SO₄ electrolyte can act as a strong p-dopant that depletes free electrons in MoS₂ and leads to extremely high contact resistance, even if the contact resistance of the as-made device in air is originally very low. However, under applied negative potentials this doping is mitigated by a strong electrolyte-mediated gating effect which can reduce the contact and sheet resistances of properly configured ML MoS₂ electrocatalysts by more than 5 orders of magnitude. At potentials relevant to HER, the contact resistance becomes negligible and the performance of MoS₂ electrodes is limited by HER kinetics. These findings have important implications for the design of low-dimensional semiconducting electrocatalysts and photocatalysts.

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Synthesis of Ultrapure Transition Metal Dichalcogenides

There has been explosive research on 2D transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) due to their novel optical and electronic properties. These properties offer great promise for energy, health, composite material, optoelectronics and nanophotonics applications. TMDs exhibit a unique combination of direct band-gap, strong spin-orbit coupling and fascinating optical and electronic properties, which are of great interest for fundamental studies and new applications. To date, a variety of methods has been developed for TMDs synthesis, including chemical vapor transport (CVT), chemical vapor deposition (CVD) and molecular beam epitaxy (MBE). However, the experimental measurements of their physical properties are still be far from the theoretical predictions. This indicates that disorder in these materials has been poorly controlled by the aforementioned growth methods, obscuring their intrinsic behaviors. Thus, improving the quality of these materials is urgently needed to advance fundamental studies and practical applications. In this work, we developed self-flux growth technique to reduce defect density by two orders of magnitude in TMDs, comparing to the commercially available crystals. A combination of scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) and scanning transmission electron microscopy (STEM) was utilized to characterize the type and density of intrinsic defects in MoSe₂ and WSe₂. The fundamental study of how process parameters affect the type and density of intrinsic defects enables us to control the properties in TMDs. By studying the low-temperature photoluminescence (PL) of monolayer WSe₂ and MoSe₂ with different defects density, we found a new series of low energy excitonic emission in WSe₂ and near unity quantum yield in MoSe₂.

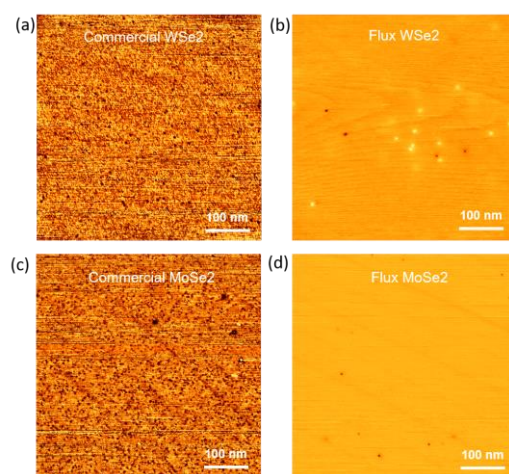


Figure 1: Scanning Tunneling Microscopy (STM) topographic images of 500×500 nm² area of WSe₂ grown by a, commercial companies and b, self-flux method and MoSe₂ grown by c, commercial companies and d, self-flux method.

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Universal moiré nematic phase in twisted graphitic systems

Graphene moiré superlattices display electronic flat bands. At integer fillings of these flat bands, energy gaps due to strong electron-electron interactions are generally observed. However, the presence of other correlation-driven phases in twisted graphitic systems at non-integer fillings is unclear. Here, we report scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) measurements that reveal the existence of threefold rotational (C_3) symmetry breaking in twisted double bilayer graphene (tDBG). Using spectroscopic imaging over large and uniform areas to characterize the direction and degree of C_3 symmetry breaking, we find it to be prominent only at energies corresponding to the flat bands and nearly absent in the remote bands. We demonstrate that the C_3 symmetry breaking cannot be explained by heterostrain or the displacement field, and is instead a manifestation of an interaction-driven electronic nematic phase, which emerges even away from integer fillings. Comparing our experimental data with a combination of microscopic and phenomenological modeling, we show that the nematic instability is not associated with the local scale of the graphene lattice, but is an emergent phenomenon at the scale of the moiré lattice, pointing to the universal character of this ordered state in flat band moiré materials.

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Probing Coulomb interaction in monolayer MoSe₂

The Coulomb interaction in two-dimensional (2D) transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDCs) plays the fundamental role in series of quantum phenomena, ranging from strongly correlated states in equilibrium to excitonic many-body complexes under photo-excitation. The celebrated Rytova-Keldysh model [1], while successful in most situations, failed to recover the behavior of trion under dielectric screening [2]. Here we take advantage of the deep understanding of exciton and trion in monolayer MoSe₂ and the high sensitivity of time, space and energy resolved photoluminescence (PL) spectroscopy to probe the nature of Coulomb interaction in TMDCs. We observed a surprising disorder tolerant trion binding energy which suggests extra screening mechanism at nanometer scale, probably from the chalcogen atomic sheets in TMDCs. The phonon broadening of trion binding energy distribution indicates the involvement of phonon in trion binding processes [3]. Furthermore, the Coulomb interaction can be effectively screened by photo-doping, resulting in the disappearance of trion and exciton peaks in PL spectrum and emergence of halo effects in PL diffusion [4] across Mott transition. Our observations reveal the highly confined nature of Coulomb interaction in TMDCs while establishing trion and exciton as probes of Coulomb interaction and call for further identification of similar quantum sensors.

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Towards high transparency in crystallographic superconductor-graphene interfaces

The interface of superconductors and normal materials is characterized by their transparency, or the likelihood of Andreev reflection over normal reflection of particles crossing the junction. In this study we probe the transparency of contact to the van der Waals superconductor NbSe₂ via tunneling spectroscopy in transport. We find that the granularity of deposited gold contact erases superconducting features whereas crystalline graphene and graphite contacts do not.

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