

The international debate on Two dimensional lateral complicated structure

Duan Xidong

Hunan University, China

Two-dimensional layered materials such as graphene, MoS₂ and WSe₂ have attracted considerable interest in recent times as semiconductor after Si and becoming an important material platform in condensed matter physics and modern electronics and optoelectronics. The studies to date however generally rely on mechanically exfoliated flakes which always be limited to simple 2D materials, especially 2D lateral complicated structure can not be prepared through exfoliation strategy. Much like the traditional semiconductor technique, complicated structure such as controlling the space distribution of composition and electronic structure of two dimensional semiconductor material is essential to construct all modern electronic and optoelectronic devices, including transistors, p–n diodes, photovoltaic/photodetection devices, light-emitting diodes and laser diodes. And many physics phenomenon can only appear in more complicated structure. To fully explore the potential of this new class of materials, it is necessary to develop rational synthetic strategies of two dimensional lateral complicated structure, such as lateral heterostructure, multiheterostructure, superlattice, quantum well etc., With a relatively small lattice mismatch (~4%) between MoS₂ and MoSe₂ or WS₂ and WSe₂, it is possible to produce coher-

ent MoS₂–MoSe₂ and WS₂–WSe₂ heterostructures through a lateral epitaxial process (Fig. 1a). Our studies indicate that simple sequential growth often fails to produce the desired heterostructures because the edge growth front can be easily passivated

after termination of the first growth and exposure to ambient conditions. To retain a fresh, unpassivated edge growth front is important for successive lateral epitaxial growth. To this end, we have designed a thermal CVD process that allows in situ switching of the vapour-phase reactants to enable lateral epitaxial growth of single- or few-layer TMD lateral heterostructures. We used this technique to realize the growth of compositionally modulated MoS₂–MoSe₂ and WS₂–WSe₂ lateral heterostructures. From the Fig. 1 b,c,d,e we can see the formation of WS₂–WSe₂ lateral heterostructures clearly. The WS₂–WSe₂ lateral heterostructures with both p- and n-type characteristics can also allow us to construct many other functional devices, for example, a CMOS inverter. Fig. 1g is the optical image of the invert constructed using the WS₂–WSe₂ lateral heterostructures and the curves of the output–input and the voltage gain. The voltage gain reaches as large as 24.