MIP Products

2DCC publications are categorized based on four science drivers listed below. For publications that cross multiple science drivers, the publication is listed in the topic area of primary influence and any secondary drivers are listed at the end of its description using the abbreviation for the driver. Publications for each primary science driver are organized into subsections by publications led by external user, local user, and in-house.

Also noted for each publication with a user are instances where co-authors are from non-R1 or minority-serving institutions or government labs. User project ID# is noted which is also cross-referenced in the MIP User Projects document with the DOI. For user projects, sample-only projects are denoted by “S” in the project number, research projects are denoted by “R” in the project number, and RSVP projects are denoted by “V”.

In the authors lists, bold face is used to designate senior 2DCC faculty (core faculty and research professors that are professional staff in the facility), italic is used to designate senior local users not participating in in-house research, and underline is used to designate senior external users.

Physics of 2D Systems (Phys2D)
This science driver focuses on providing enabling materials synthesis, characterization, and modeling capabilities to facilitate fundamental studies of new fundamental physical processes that occur in 2D systems, such as efficient spin-charge conversion and the quantum anomalous Hall effect in topological insulators, valleytronics in transition metal dichalcogenides, and quantum transport in 2D heterostructures.

Epitaxy of 2D Chalcogenides (Epi2DC)
This science driver seeks to understand fundamental mechanisms of 2D film formation in van der Waals bonded systems including the role of the substrate in nucleation and epitaxy, self-limited growth of monolayers, epitaxy in 2D heterostructures, miscibility and alloy formation, intentional doping, and native defects.

Next Generation Devices (NGDev)
This science driver focuses on providing enabling materials synthesis and characterization capabilities to facilitate development of next-generation electronics (2D tunnel transistors, thin film transistors for flexible electronics, etc.) and optoelectronics (2D photodetectors, integrated photonics, single photon sources, etc.).

Advanced Characterization and Modeling (AdvCM)
This science driver focuses on developing techniques and tools to both probe and model 2D chalcogenide films in situ to study the evolution of surface morphology, lateral and vertical domain growth, growth-related defects and grain boundaries, electronic band structure, carrier transport, closely integrated with theory and simulation that targets key kinetic processes during growth, enables new insights on in situ characterization, and accelerates the process of identifying compelling synthetic targets and overcoming experimental obstacles to their synthesis.
**Physics of 2D Systems (Phys2D)**

**External User Publications (Phys2D)**


Layer-by-layer material engineering has produced interesting quantum phenomena such as interfacial superconductivity and the quantum anomalous Hall effect. However, probing electronic states layer by layer remains challenging. This is exemplified by the difficulty in understanding the layer origins of topological electronic states in magnetic topological insulators. This study reports a layer-encoded frequency-domain photoemission experiment on the magnetic topological insulator (MnBi$_2$Te$_4$)(Bi$_2$Te$_3$) that characterizes the origins of its electronic states. Layer–frequency correspondence shows wavefunction relocation of the topological surface state from the top magnetic layer into the buried second layer, reconciling the controversy over the vanishing broken-symmetry energy gap in (MnBi$_2$Te$_4$)(Bi$_2$Te$_3$) and its related compounds. The layer–frequency correspondence can be harnessed to disentangle electronic states layer by layer in a broad class of van der Waals superlattices. Bulk Crystals are grown using a 2DCC muffle furnace.

- Also science driver AdvCM
- External User Project S0085 (R1)


This study demonstrated that film processing at higher temperature accelerates Ti segregation, film coarsening, and the formation of TiS$_2$ in the 1T phase. Crystal growth at higher temperature results in the formation of multiple binary sulfide phases, in agreement with the equilibrium phase diagram. Making highly metastable, smooth, and uniform single-phase alloy films, therefore, hinges on developing low-temperature processing. The results are relevant to the development of technologies based on designer transition metal dichalcogenide alloys, including in photonic integrated circuits and gas sensing. Bulk Crystals were grown by 2DCC CVT and flux growth instrumentation.

- External User Project R0042 (R1)


The ability to engineer potential profiles of multilayered materials is critical for designing high-performance tunneling devices such as ferroelectric tunnel junctions (FTJs). Traditional FTJs consist of metal/oxide/metal multilayered structures with unavoidable defects and interfacial trap states, which often cause compromised tunneling electroresistance (TER). While inserting just a monolayer MoS$_2$ between CIPS/graphene, the off state is further suppressed, leading to $>10^{10}$ TER. This discovery opens a new solid-state paradigm where potential profiles can be unprecedentedly engineered in a layer-by-layer fashion, fundamentally strengthening the ability
to manipulate electrons’ tunneling behaviors and design advanced tunneling devices. Bulk Crystals were grown by 2DCC CVT and flux growth instrumentation.

- External User Project S0098 (R1)


This work reveals disorder-enabled, tunable magnetic ground states in MnBi₆Te₁₀. In the ferromagnetic phase, an energy gap of 15 meV is resolved at the Dirac point on the MnBi₂Te₄ termination, contrasted with the AFM MnBi₆Te₁₀ which does not show gap opening at the surface Dirac point. Bulk crystals were grown by 2DCC flux growth instrumentation.

- Also science driver AdvCM
- External User Project S0085 (R1)


This study shows the observation of propagating hyperbolic waves in a prototypical layered nodal-line semimetal ZrSiSe. The observed waveguiding originates from polaritonic hybridization between near-infrared light and nodal-line plasmons. Unique nodal electronic structures simultaneously suppress interband loss and boost the plasmonic response, ultimately enabling the propagation of infrared modes through the bulk of the crystal. The bulk crystals were synthesized using the 2DCC chemical vapor transport instrumentation.

- External User Project S0082 (R1)


The quantum spin Hall (QSH) effect, characterized by topologically protected spin-polarized edge states, was recently demonstrated in monolayers of the transition metal dichalcogenide (TMD) WTe₂. However, the robustness of this topological protection remains largely unexplored in van der Waals heterostructures containing one or more layers of a QSH insulator. In this work, scanning tunneling microscopy and spectroscopy (STM/STS) are used to explore the topological nature of twisted bilayer (tBL) WTe₂. Using first-principles calculations, the interactions in tBL WTe₂ and its topological edge states is quantified as a function of interlayer distance and conclude that it is possible to engineer the topology of WTe₂ bilayers via the twist angle as well as interlayer interactions. Epitaxial graphene was grown using 2DCC faculty instrumentation.

- External User Project S0027 (R1)


In this paper, electronic, thermal, and thermoelectric transport studies of MnBi₂Te₄ are reported. The temperature and magnetic field dependence of its resistivity, thermal conductivity, and Seebeck coefficient indicate strong coupling between charge, lattice, and spin degrees of freedom in this system. Furthermore, MnBi₂Te₄ exhibits a large anomalous Nernst signal, which is
associated with nonzero Berry curvature of the field-induced canted antiferromagnetic state. Bulk Crystal are grown using a 2DCC muffle furnace.

- External User Project S0074


Results suggest that TaTe2 manifests intrinsic mixed dimensionality between its electronic and lattice structure and that the CDW-like phase transition is likely governed by multiple mechanisms. This work provides routes for forging unconventional CDW phases and charge-lattice entanglement that would otherwise not be available in materials with fixed dimensionality.

- External User Project S0076 (National Lab)


Magnetic insulator-topological insulator heterostructures have been studied in search of chiral edge states via proximity induced magnetism in the topological insulator, but these states have been elusive. This study identified MgAl0.5Fe1.5O4=Bi2Se3 bilayers for a possible magnetic proximity effect. The results provide a strategy via correlation of microstructure with magnetic data to confirm a magnetic proximity effect. Materials were grown using 2DCC equipment MBE1.

- External User Project S0030


Demonstration of Ta2Se3 exfoliation into nanowires that indicates strong anisotropy in the bonding strength within the basal place. Systematic thermal property measurements disclose signatures of one-dimensional phonons as the nanowire hydraulic diameter reduces below 19.2 nm with linearly escalating thermal conductivity as temperature increases and size dependence inconsistent with the classical size effect. The nanowires of Ta2Se3 used for this study were obtained from microexfoliation of bulk Ta2Se3 crystals grown using a chemical vapor transport method at the 2DCC Bulk Growth facility.

- External User Project S0061


Development of a novel quantum material testbed using FeSe/SrTiO3 thin films and bulk MnBi4Te7 magnetic topological insulators (Tis). The 2DCC grew the magnetic TIs for the user to use in the testbed.

- External User Project S0085
Quasi-two-dimensional transition-metal dichalcogenides are a key platform for exploring emergent nanoscale phenomena arising from complex interactions. Access to the underlying degrees-of-freedom on their natural time scales motivates the use of advanced ultrafast probes sensitive to self-organized atomic-scale patterns. This study reported the ultrafast investigation of TaTe$_2$, which exhibits unique charge and lattice trimer order characterized by a transition upon cooling from stripe-like chains into a (3 × 3) superstructure of trimer clusters. The work paves the way for further exploration and ultimately rapid optical and electronic manipulation of trimer superstructures. The 2DCC synthesized bulk materials used in this study using non-MIP equipment.

- External User Project S0076 (National Lab)


This study focuses on the Dirac semimetal ZrSiTe. Low-T behavior is dominated by a symmetry-protected nodal line, with NMR providing a sensitive probe of the diamagnetic response of the associate carriers. A Van Hove singularity is identified that is closely connected to this nodal line, and an associated T -induced Lifshitz transition. A disconnect in the NMR shift and linewidth at this temperature indicates the change in electronic behavior associated with this topological change. These features have an orientation-dependent behavior indicating a field-dependent scaling of the associated band energies. The 2DCC synthesized bulk crystals for this study using non-MIP equipment.

- External User Project S0078


Despite the rapid progress in understanding the first intrinsic magnetic topological insulator MnBi$_2$Te$_4$, its electronic structure remains a topic under debate. This study performs a thorough spectroscopic investigation into the electronic structure of MnBi$_2$Te$_4$ via laser-based angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy. The results represent a solid step forward in reconciling the existing controversies in the electronic structure of MnBi$_2$Te$_4$ and provides an important framework to understand the electronic structures of other relevant topological materials MnBi$_{2n}$Te$_{3n+1}$. The 2DCC synthesized bulk crystals for this study using MIP equipment. 2DCC theory personnel also contributed to the development of the theoretical model.

- External User Project S0085
- Also science driver AdvCM

This work reveals a spontaneous striped texture of coexisting insulating and metallic domains in single crystals of the quasi-2D, bilayer ruthenate Ca$_3$(Ti$_{1-x}$Ru$_x$)$_2$O$_7$ across its first-order Mott transition at T≈95K through multi-messenger low-temperature nano-imaging. The sample used in this study was synthesized by the 2DCC researchers using non-MIP equipment.

- External User Project S0059


This work reports the experimental observation of divergence of thermal conductivity ($\kappa$) at room temperature in ultrathin van der Waals crystal NbSe$_3$ nanowires. The $\kappa$ of NbSe$_3$ nanowires was also found to follow a 1/3 power law with wire length, consistent with the superdiffusive phonon transport model. These results not only demonstrate the divergent trend of the observed thermal conductivity with sample length in 1-D atomic chain system, but also unveil a possible way of creating novel 1-D van der Waals crystal-based thermal superconductors with exceptionally high $\kappa$ values. The 2DCC researchers not only synthesized high-quality NbSe$_3$ single crystals using MIP equipment for this work, but also demonstrated NbSe$_3$ nanowires are stable in air using transmission electron microscopy. These combined synthesis and characterization efforts at the 2DCC enable this achievement.

- External User Projects S0049 and S0061


In this paper, we used the 2DCC MBE facility to grow thin films of a topological insulator (TI) (Bi$_2$Se$_3$) on magnetic insulator (MI) substrates (BaFe$_{12}$O$_{19}$) provided by the user (Professor Wu, Colorado State). Measurements of the Hall effect made by the user revealed evidence of a genuine topological effect in the temperature range of T = 2–3 K and an anomalous Hall effect at T = 80–300 K. Over T = 3–80 K, the two effects coexist but show opposite temperature dependencies. Control measurements, calculations, and simulations together suggest that the observed topological Hall effect originates from skyrmions formed due to a Dzyaloshinskii–Moriya interaction at the interface. The strength of this interaction based on fitting the data is estimated to be substantially higher than that in the more extensively studied skyrmion systems derived from heavy metal-based systems. The 2DCC synthesized materials for this study using the MIP MBE1 system.

- External User Project S0057

H. Zhang, Y. L. Zhu, Y. Qiu, W. Tian, H. B. Cao, Z. Q. Mao, X. Ke, “Field-induced magnetic phase transitions and the resultant giant anomalous Hall effect in the antiferromagnetic half-
Systematic Neutron scattering and transport studies of a half-Heusler compound DyPtBi were performed using single crystals grown by the 2DCC Bulk Growth facility. This study shows that DyPtBi hosts a delicate balance between two different magnetic ground states, which can be controlled by moderate magnetic fields. One of the magnetic states hosts a giant anomalous Hall effect. These results indicate that DyPtBi is a potential material for realizing the anomalous Hall effect in an antiferromagnet with a face-centered-cubic lattice.

- External User Project S0074


This paper reports comprehensive experimental studies of the thermal transport properties of NbSe₃ nanowires, exfoliated from the bulk NbSe₃ crystals grown by the 2DCC Bulk Growth facility. This work reveals that the electron-phonon scattering in the NbSe₃ nanowire is enhanced as the free electrons are condensed during the charge density wave transition, thus resulting in the decrease of overall thermal conductivity. This result not only reveals a net negative contribution of the free electrons due to the escalated electron-phonon scattering, but also provides insight into the competing roles of free electrons, which could lead to unexpected trends in thermal conductivity.

- External User Project Collaboration between S0061 and S0049


This work identified phase transitions that occur in WTe₂ as a result of electron doping with potassium. A postdoctoral scholar from UC-Davis (external user) received training from 2DCC personnel in the Bulk Growth Facility on CVT synthesis and worked on-site to prepare their samples. The external user also used nano-ARPES equipment at LBNL (national lab) to characterize the surface electronic structure of the samples.

- External User Project R0017


Thin films of the topological insulator Bi₂Se₃ were grown by MBE on a magnetic insulator Y₃Fe₅O₁₂ thin film. Ferromagnetic resonance measurements show that the topological surface state in Bi₂Se₃ produces a perpendicular magnetic anisotropy, results in a decrease in the gyromagnetic ratio, and enhances the damping in Y₃Fe₅O₁₂. These topological surface state-induced changes become more pronounced as the temperature decreases from 300 to 50 K. These results suggest a completely new approach for control of magnetism in magnetic thin films. Control measurements using (Bi,In)₂Se₃, a trivial insulator rule out possible artifacts.
Spectroscopic hallmarks of electronic correlations (i.e. strong reduction of the Drude weight and the Fermi velocity) are observed in a topological nodal-line semimetal ZrSiSe. This work establishes the first platform to explore correlation of relativistic fermions in low dimension. Some of the crystals used in this work were grown using the 2DCC Bulk Growth facility.

A comprehensive analysis of photons and excitons in Z(S,Se)₂ alloy crystals (synthesized in the 2DCC Bulk Growth facility) was carried out using Raman spectroscopy and spectroscopic ellipsometry. The Raman spectrum was found to be dominated by nominally IR phonons due to the large ionicity of bonding.

This study used scanning tunneling spectroscopy of 2DCC-grown WTe₂ monolayer samples in contact with NbSe₂ to study proximity-induced superconductivity in the quantum spin Hall phase. This is an important advance toward establishing a 1D topological superconductor and Majorana zero modes in condensed matter.

This project used 2DCC MBE-grown topological insulator/ferromagnet insulator bilayers (Bi₂Se₃/BaFe₁₂O₁₉) to fabricate spintronic devices that showed current-induced magnetization switching. The pronounced increase in switching efficiency at cryogenic temperatures led to the conclusion that this process is dominated by the spin-momentum locking of topological surface states that have enhanced surface conductivity at low temperatures where bulk conductivity freezes out.

MIP Publications - 8
Local User Publications (Phys2D)


Magnetism in topological materials creates phases exhibiting quantized transport phenomena with potential technological applications. However, this remains experimentally unquantified in intrinsic magnetic topological materials. Here, this interaction is quantified in MnBi₂Te₄, a topological insulator with intrinsic antiferromagnetism. This is achieved by optically exciting Bi-Te p states comprising the bulk topological bands and interrogating the consequent Mn 3d spin dynamics, using a multimodal ultrafast approach. By quantifying this exchange coupling, this study validates the materials-by-design strategy of utilizing localized magnetic order to manipulate topological phases, spanning static to ultrafast timescales. The bulk crystals in this study are synthesized using 2DCC flux growth instrumentation.

- Also science driver AdvCM
- Local user project S0062 collaboration with in-house research

In-house Research Publications (Phys2D)


Synthetic approaches in this study enable atomically sharp layers at both hetero-interfaces, which in turn promotes proximity-induced superconductivity that originates in the gallium film. A lithography-free, van der Waals tunnel junction is developed to perform transport tunnelling spectroscopy. A proximity-induced superconducting gap is demonstrated in the Dirac surface states in 5–10 quintuple-layer (Bi,Sb)2Te3/graphene/gallium heterostructures. The present material platform opens up opportunities for understanding and harnessing the application potential of topological superconductivity. TI thin films were grown using a faculty MBE and ARPES.


This study demonstrates the spin-valley locked Dirac state in BaMnSb2 can generate a strong bulk Nonlinear Hall effect (NLHE) at room temperature. In the microscale devices, the typical signature of an intrinsic NLHE is observed, i.e. the transverse Hall voltage quadratically scales with the longitudinal current as the current is applied to the Berry curvature dipole direction. Furthermore, results demonstrate the nonlinear Hall device’s functionality in wireless microwave detection and frequency doubling. These findings broaden the coupled spin and valley physics from 2D systems into a 3D system and lay a foundation for exploring bulk NLHE’s applications. Bulk crystals were synthesized using 2DCC flux growth instrumentation.

- Also science driver AdvCM


The crystal growth of γ-NaAsSe2 is challenging because it undergoes a phase transition to centrosymmetric δ-NaAsSe2. Herein, the stabilization of non-centrosymmetric γ-NaAsSe2 by doping the As site with Sb, which results in γ-NaAs0.95Sb0.05Se2 is reported. The congruent melting behavior is confirmed by differential thermal analysis with a melting temperature of 450 °C and crystallization temperature of 415 °C. The bandgap of γ-NaAs0.95Sb0.05Se2 (1.78 eV) is similar to that of AgGaSe2, thus rendering it highly attractive as a high-performing nonlinear optical material. The bulk crystals in this study were grown by faculty equipment.


The Mott metal-insulator transition remains one of the most scrutinized concepts in condensed matter physics. However, the kinetics of the charge carriers at the transition, involving both orbital and spin degrees of freedom, still remains poorly understood. This study shows a critical slowing down of the electron kinetics at the first-order Mott metal-insulator transition in the Ruddlesden-Popper oxide Ca3(Ru0.5Ti0.1)O7 using low-frequency noise in resistance fluctuations. The experiments provide compelling evidence of the formation of a spin-glass phase at the
transition in these systems. Characterization of the materials was done with faculty equipment and the bulk crystal were grown in the 2DCC facility.


MnBi$_2$Te$_4$ is a promising representative of intrinsic antiferromagnetic topological insulators, which could enable rare quantum mechanical effects like the quantum anomalous Hall effect. Among recent findings, the alloy compound Mn(Bi$_{1-x}$Sb$_x$)$_2$Te$_4$ has been suggested to be an interesting candidate for the realization of an ideal Weyl semimetal state. In this work, the optical conductivity of Mn(Bi$_{1-x}$Sb$_x$)$_2$Te$_4$ single crystals are investigated and compared with various Sb doping levels $x$ by infrared reflectivity measurements. Sb content is shown to have a large impact on the low-energy excitations characterizing the metallic state of the materials. The bulk crystal materials are grown by the 2DCC flux instruments.


This study reports the measurement of efficient charge-to-spin conversion at room temperature in Weyl semimetal-ferromagnet heterostructures with both oxidized and pristine interfaces. The study found a lower bound on the spin Hall conductivity (424 ± 110/e S/cm), which is surprisingly consistent with theoretical predictions for the single-crystal Weyl semimetal state of TaAs. The materials in this study were grown by the 2DCC MBE facility and analyzed using RHEED.


This study developed MBE growth of a new hybrid vdW topological insulator (TI)/2D superconductor (SC) quantum material by interfacing a 2D SC (monolayer NbSe$_2$) epitaxially with a canonical TO (Bi$_2$Se$_3$). It demonstrated a transition from Ising- to Rashba-like pairing in the SC. This work is an important step toward developing a wafer scale topological superconductor platform for topological quantum computing. Materials were grown using the 2DCC MBE1/ARPES and theory facilities to obtain a comprehensive understanding of this new family of heterostructures.

- Also science drivers Epi2DC and AdvCM


In this work, a dual-gated Bernal-stacked bilayer graphene devices are fabricated demonstrating unprecedented fine control over its valley isospin degrees of freedom using a perpendicular
electric field. This experiment paves the path for future efforts of manipulating the valley isospin in bilayer graphene to engineer exotic topological orders and quantum information processes.


This study reports on the investigation of nanoscale periodic ripples in suspended, single-layer graphene sheets by scanning tunneling microscopy and atomistic scale simulations. Unlike the sinusoidal ripples found in classical fabrics, it was found that graphene forms triangular ripples, where bending is limited to a narrow region on the order of a few unit cell dimensions at the apex of each ripple. This nonclassical bending profile results in graphene behaving like a bizarre fabric, which regardless of how it is draped, always buckles at the same angle.

Also science driver AdvCM


This study investigates the effect of magnetic ordering on the bulk electronic structure of Mn(Bi_{1-x}Sb_x)_{2}Te_4 with high Sb content x = 0.93 by temperature-dependent reflectivity measurements over a broad frequency range. Anomalies in the optical response across TN when the antiferromagnetic order sets suggests a coupling between the magnetic ordering and the electronic structure of the material. The bulk crystal are grown by the 2DCC flux method instruments.


The tuning of the magnetic phase, chemical potential, and structure is crucial to observe diverse exotic topological quantum states in MnBi_{2}Te_{4}(Bi_{2}Te_{3})_{m} (m = 0–3). This study shows a ferromagnetic (FM) phase with a chiral crystal structure in Mn(Bi_{1-x}Sb_{x})_{2}Te_{7}, obtained via tuning the growth conditions and Sb concentration. The bulk crystal materials are grown via the 2DCC flux method instruments.

- This is an in-house collaboration with external users S0074 (R1) S0085 (R1)


Molecular beam epitaxy is used to synthesize a vdW heterostructure that interfaces two material systems of contemporary interest: a 2D ferromagnet (1T-CrTe_{2}) and a topological semimetal (ZrTe_{2}). It was demonstrated that one unit-cell thick 1T-CrTe_{2} grown epitaxially on ZrTe_{2} is a 2D ferromagnet with a clear anomalous Hall effect. In thicker samples (12 u.c. thick CrTe_{2}), the anomalous Hall effect has characteristics that may arise from real-space Berry curvature. Finally,
in ultrathin CrTe$_2$ (3 u.c. thickness), it is demonstrated that current-driven magnetization switching in a full vdW topological semimetal/2D ferromagnet heterostructure device. The 2DCC MBE1 was used to synthesize the materials and the in vacuo ARPES and STM were used for characterization.

- Also science driver AdvCM


High-power infrared laser systems with broad-band tunability are of great importance due to their wide range of applications in spectroscopy and free-space communications. These systems require nonlinear optical (NLO) crystals for wavelength up/down conversion using sum/difference frequency generation, respectively. NLO crystals need to satisfy many competing criteria, including large nonlinear optical susceptibility, large laser-induced damage threshold (LIDT), wide transparency range, and phase-matchability. This study reveals that SnP$_2$S$_6$ is an outstanding candidate. Bulk crystals of SnP$_2$S$_6$ were grown by 2DCC CVT equipment.


The unidirectional spin Hall and Rashba−Edelstein magnetoresistance is of great fundamental and practical interest, particularly in the context of reading magnetization states in two-terminal spin−orbit torque memory and logic devices due to its unique symmetry. Here, we report large unidirectional spin Hall and Rashba−Edelstein magnetoresistance in a new material family—magnetic insulator/topological insulator Y$_3$Fe$_5$O$_{12}$/Bi$_2$Se$_3$ bilayers. We demonstrate a prototype memory device based on a magnetic insulator/topological insulator bilayer, using unidirectional spin Hall and Rashba−Edelstein magnetoresistance for electrical readout of current-induced magnetization switching aided by a small Oersted field. The materials in this study were synthesized by the 2DCC MIP MBE1 system.

- In-house collaboration with external user S0057


This study uses spin torque ferromagnetic resonance and ferromagnetic-resonance-driven spin pumping to detect spin-charge interconversion at room temperature in heterostructure devices that interface an archetypal Dirac semimetal, Cd$_3$As$_2$, with a metallic ferromagnet, Ni$_{0.80}$Fe$_{0.20}$ (permalloy). Angle-resolved photoemission directly reveals the Dirac-semimetal nature of the samples prior to device fabrication and high-resolution transmission electron microscopy is used to characterize the crystalline structure and the relevant heterointerfaces. We find that the spin-charge interconversion efficiency in Cd$_3$As$_2$/permalloy heterostructures is comparable to that in heavy metals and that it is enhanced by the presence of an interfacial oxide. Spin torque ferromagnetic resonance measurements reveal an in-plane spin polarization regardless of an oxidized or pristine interface. The 2DCC MIP facility was used for ARPES measurements of the...
Cd$_3$As$_2$ thin films via *in vacuo* transfer within the 2DCC highly integrated vacuum environment (HIVE).


In this article, we report transport evidence for a TRS-breaking type-II WSM observed in the intrinsic antiferromagnetic topological insulator Mn(Bi$_{1-x}$Sb$_x$)$_2$Te$_4$ under magnetic fields. This state is manifested by the electronic structure transition caused by the spin-flop transition. The transition results in an intrinsic anomalous Hall effect and negative c-axis longitudinal magnetoresistance attributable to the chiral anomaly in the ferromagnetic phases of lightly hole-doped samples. Our results establish a promising platform for exploring the underlying physics of the long-sought, ideal TRS-breaking type-II WSM. The 2DCC synthesized bulk crystals for this study using MIP equipment.

- Also science driver AdvCM


Spin-valley locking in monolayer transition metal dichalcogenides has attracted enormous interest, since it offers potential for valleytronic and optoelectronic applications. Such an exotic electronic state has sparsely been seen in bulk materials. Here, we report spin-valley locking in a Dirac semimetal BaMnSb$_2$. This is revealed by comprehensive studies using first principles calculations, tight-binding and effective model analyses, angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy measurements. The 2DCC synthesized bulk crystals for this study using MIP equipment and contributed first-principles calculations from 2DCC personnel.

- Also science driver AdvCM


This is a review paper that provides a sweeping overview of the field of quantum computing from the perspective of a materials scientist, describing the key challenges faced by the various principal platforms for building computing hardware (superconducting Josephson junction, semiconductor quantum dots, single spin defects, ion traps, and topological superconductors). Most of the paper discussed materials beyond the scope of 2DCC, but some materials of relevance to 2DCC that were commented on include topological superconductors, graphene, and 2D van der Waals materials.

- Also science driver NGDev

This work reveals direct evidence of ferromagnetism in MnSb$_2$Te$_4$ using cryogenic magnetic force microscopy. A part of the materials used in this study was synthesized using the 2DCC bulk growth facility. While MnSb$_2$Te$_4$ was previously reported to be antiferromagnetic, the 2DCC researchers succeeded in growing the ferromagnetic phase which was not predicted in theory through tuning growth conditions. The FM MnSb$_2$Te$_4$ offers a new platform to explore new exotic quantum states in 2D magnetic materials. The 2DCC synthesized bulk crystals for this study using MIP equipment.


In this in house project, we used the 2DCC multimodule MBE system to grow and characterize ultrathin FeSe films on SrTiO$_3$. Understanding the superconductivity at the interface of FeSe/SrTiO$_3$ is a problem of great contemporary interest due to the significant increase in critical temperature ($T_c$) compared to that of bulk FeSe, as well as the possibility of an unconventional pairing mechanism and topological superconductivity. We studied the influence of a capping layer on superconductivity in thin films of FeSe grown on SrTiO$_3$ using molecular beam epitaxy. We used the 2DCC in vacuo four-probe electrical resistance measurement facility (LT-Nanoprobe) and ex situ magnetotransport measurements to examine the effect of three capping layers that provide distinct charge transfer into FeSe: insulating FeTe, nonmetallic Te, and metallic Zr. Our results show that FeTe provides an optimal cap that barely influences the inherent $T_c$ found in pristine FeSe/SrTiO$_3$, while the transfer of holes from a nonmetallic Te cap completely suppresses superconductivity and leads to insulating behavior. Finally, we used ex situ magnetoresistance measurements in FeTe capped FeSe films to extract the angular dependence of the in-plane upper critical magnetic field. Our observations reveal an almost isotropic in-plane upper critical field, providing insight into the symmetry and pairing mechanism of high-temperature superconductivity in FeSe. The 2DCC synthesized materials in this study using the MIP MBE1 and in vacuo STM.


This work revealed the distorted Sn-square net layer in the layered compound LuSn$_2$ generates relativistic fermions. The two-dimensionality of the relativistic band is found to be significantly enhanced due to the suppressed corrugation of the Sn square net layer as compared to the previously reported topological semimetal YSn$_2$. These results suggest that the dimensionality of the relativistic band in RESn$_2$ (RE=rare earth) can be tuned by the electronegativity of RE atoms. Some samples used in this study were synthesized using MIP equipment in the 2DCC bulk synthesis facility.


In this in house research, we used both a faculty MBE chamber (Chang) and the 2DCC MIP equipment (MBE1) to grow quantum anomalous Hall insulator samples derived from V- and Cr-doped Sb$_2$Te$_3$ and (Bi,Sb)$_2$Te$_3$. These samples were then studied using low temperature magnetotransport measurements to understand the intrinsic anomalous Hall effect in terms of non-zero Berry curvature in momentum space. We find that the sign of the anomalous Hall effect in the magnetic chalcogenide topological insulator layer can be changed from being positive to negative by varying the heterostructure details (e.g. layer thickness). First-principles calculations by 2DCC theorists (Liu) show that the built-in electric fields at heterointerfaces influence the band structure of the magnetically doped layers, and thus lead to a reconstruction of the Berry curvature in the heterostructure samples. This enabled the design and demonstration of an artificial “topological Hall effect”-like feature.

- Also science driver AdvCM


The breaking of time-reversal symmetry in topological materials has been extensively studied as a platform to generate quantum effects, such as the quantum anomalous Hall effect. In this research review, the recent research progress in magnetic topological materials, including intrinsic magnetic topological insulators and magnetic Weyl semimetals, are briefly overviewed.


Thin heterostructure films of magnetically-doped topological insulators (TIs), specifically Cr-doped (Bi,Sb)$_2$Te$_3$, were grown by molecular beam epitaxy on SrTiO$_3$ substrates. Using an electrostatic back gate, the films could be tuned into the quantum anomalous Hall (QAH) insulator state. Collaborators at the University of Cambridge (UK) then studied the temperature- and magnetic-field-dependence of the magnetoresistance of a magnetic TI sandwich heterostructure device. The measurements demonstrated that the predominant dissipation mechanism in thick QAH insulators can switch between nonchiral edge states and residual bulk states in different magnetic-field regimes. The paper provides a way to distinguish between the dissipation arising from the residual bulk states and nonchiral edge states, which is crucial for achieving true dissipationless transport in QAH insulators and for providing deeper insights into QAH-related phenomena.


In this study, we explore the linear optical response of 2D Ga and 2D In. The fundamental light–matter interaction which is described by the complex dielectric functions. We determine the
dielectric functions of 2D Ga and 2D In via a combination of spectroscopic ellipsometry (SE) and
density functional theory (DFT) in a large spectral range from NIR to UV. The MIP provided the
2D metals for the study.

on the optical response of the antiferromagnetic topological insulator MnBi$_2$Te$_4$,” Physical

Comprehensive temperature-dependent optical conductivity studies were performed on MnBi$_2$Te$_4$
that were grown using the 2DCC Bulk Growth facility. The observations of strong changes in the
optical conductivity at Neel temperature confirms the impact of magnetic ordering on the bulk
electronic properties of MnBi$_2$Te$_4$.

M.A. Steves, Y. Wang, N. Briggs, T. Zhao, H. Elh-Sherif, B.M. Betrsch, S. Subramanian, C.
Dong, T. Bowen, A. De La Fuente Duran, K. Nisi, M. Lassauinere, U. Wurstbauer, N.D. Bassim,
Near-Infrared to Visible Nonlinear Optical Properties from 2-D Polar Metals,” Nano Letters
20 (11), 8312-8318 (2020). 10.1021/acs.nanolett.0c03481.

Near-infrared-to-visible second harmonic generation from air-stable two-dimensional
polar gallium and indium metals is described. The photonic properties of 2D metals—including
the largest second-order susceptibilities reported for metals (approaching 10nm$^2$/V)—are
determined by the atomic-level structure and bonding of two-to-three-atom-thick crystalline
films. The MIP played a key role in developing the 2D metals and providing theory on the origin
of the optical response.

- Collaboration with External User R0024 (National Lab)

P. Li, J. Koo, W. Ning, J. Li, L. Miao, L. Min, Y. Zhu, Y. Wang, N. Alem, C.-X. Liu, Z. Mao, B.
Yan, “Giant room temperature anomalous Hall effect and tunable topology in a ferromagnetic
topological semimetal Co$_2$MnAl,” Nature Communications 11 (1), 3476 (2020). 10.1038/s41467-
020-17174-9.

This work not only reveals a giant room temperature anomalous Hall effect in a Heusler alloy
Co$_2$MnAl, but also demonstrates its band topology can be tuned by the rotation of magnetization
driven by small magnetic fields. These results pay a way for potential applications of 2D thin film
of this material in spintronic devices.

Z. Chang, “Scaling Behavior of the Quantum Phase Transition from a Quantum Anomalous Hall

Heterostructures of magnetically-doped topological insulators were grown by MBE and used to
study the phase transition from the quantum anomalous Hall phase to an axion insulator phase.
We find that the transition follows a universal scaling behavior when we analyze the temperature
dependence of the derivative of the longitudinal resistance on magnetic field at the transition
point. This behavior follows a characteristic power-law that indicates a universal scaling behavior
that can be understood by the Chalker-Coddington network model with a critical exponent which
agrees with recent high-precision numerical results.

A new ferromagnetic phase showing unusual anomalous Hall effect was synthesized through the control of disorders. This material offers opportunity to explore new topological quantum states in 2D. This involves collaboration with a minority researcher at NIST.


This work reveals a large intrinsic anomalous Hall effect with a record value of the Hall angle in a half Heusler compound. This phenomenon arises from the anticrossing of spin-split bands near the Fermi level. The physics revealed in this work can be extended to 2D systems.


MBE-grown magnetically doped topological insulator heterostructures were used to demonstrate the voltage tuned transition between and concurrence of Berry phase spin texture (characterized by the quantum anomalous Hall effect) and real space spin texture (characterized by the topological Hall effect).

- Also science driver NGDev


This study used MBE-grown magnetically doped topological insulator heterostructures with highly transparent superconducting contacts to show that the half-quantized conductance of a quantum anomalous Hall insulator channel with proximitized superconductivity is not a signature of chiral Majorana fermions as predicted by theory.


This collaborative paper used 2DCC MBE-grown samples to study the magnetoresistance and conductance fluctuations measurements in topological insulator thin films. The studies indicated the need to identify an alternative source of dephasing that dominates at low temperature in topological insulators, causing saturation in the phase breaking length and time.

This study used the 2DCC Bulk Growth facility and the 2DCC ARPES facility to study the antiferromagnetic (AFM) topological insulator MnBi₂Te₄. The key findings included the discovery of a magnetic field-driven non-collinear spin structure with an intrinsic anomalous Hall effect and a large intrinsic gap in the surface states created by strong spin fluctuations.


This study used MBE-grown ferromagnetic topological insulator/antiferromagnetic insulator heterostructures ((Cr,Sb)₂Te₃/Cr₂O₃) to demonstrate rich temperature-tuned interfacial antiferromagnetic exchange coupling and an exchange-enhanced Curie temperature in the ferromagnetic topological insulator.


This theoretical paper predicts the emergence of a magnetic field-induced topological Larkin-Ovchinnikov superconducting phase with a finite momentum pairing in bilayer superconducting topological insulator films. The theoretical model can be naturally realized in superconductor/topological insulator sandwich structure or in a Fe(Te, Se) film.


This study used 2DCC MBE-grown magnetic topological insulator heterostructures to realize a new quantum state of matter known as the axion insulator, wherein both the longitudinal and Hall conductivity vanish when the opposite surfaces of a topological insulator are oppositely gapped.

Also science driver NGDev


This collaborative paper used 2DCC MBE-grown samples to study the low frequency electrical noise in topological insulator thin films. The studies showed that even in very thin films, defect states within a bulk impurity band are the source of significant electrical noise in surface electrical transport.


This study used 2DCC MBE-grown samples to study the circular photogalvanic effect in topological insulator thin films as a function of chemical potential. The key result shows that even when photocurrents are excited using photon energies well above the bulk band gap, the transitions are still influenced by the spin-momentum correlation present in the Dirac states leading to direction control of photocurrents by the circular polarization of the optical excitation.

Also science driver NGDev

This collaborative paper demonstrates micron-scale persistent optical patterning of ferromagnetism and chemical potential landscape in magnetically doped topological insulators grown in 2DCC Thin Films facility.

- Also science driver NGDev

W. Dai, A. Richardella, R. Du, W. Zhao, X. Liu, C-X. Liu, S-H. Huang, R. Sankar, F. Chou, N. Samarth, and Q. Li, “Proximity-effect-induced Superconducting Gap in Topological Surface States - A Point Contact Spectroscopy Study of NbSe₂/Bi₂Se₃ Superconductor-Topological Insulator Heterostructures”, *Scientific Reports 2017, 7*. [10.1038/s41598-017-07990-3](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-07990-3)

Point-contact study of the proximity-induced superconductivity in a topological insulator/superconductor bilayer (Bi₂Se₃/NbSe₂) grown using the 2DCC Thin Films facility.

- Also science driver NGDev

N. Samarth, “Quantum Materials Discovery From a Synthesis Perspective,” *Nature Materials 2017, 16*, 1068-1076. [10.1038/NMAT5010](https://doi.org/10.1038/NMAT5010)

Review article on status and opportunities in materials synthesis of quantum materials including those of central interest to the 2DCC Thin Films facility.

- Also science driver NGDev


Review article on the synthesis and properties of chalcogenide crystals (tetradymites) that are of central interest to the 2DCC Thin Films facility.

- Also science driver NGDev

**Epitaxy of 2D Chalcogenides (Epi2DC)**

*External User Publications (Epi2DC)*


The study examined the effect of ⁴He⁺ ion fluence on the PL and Raman signatures of the irradiated film provides new insights into the type and concentration of defects formed in the MoS₂ lattice, which are quantified through ion beam analysis. PL and Raman spectroscopy indicate that point defects are generated without causing disruption to the underlying lattice structure of the 2D films and hence, this technique can prove to be an effective way to achieve defect-mediated control over the opto-electronic properties of MoS₂ and other 2D materials. The Materials in this study were synthesized using the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.

- External User Project S0041 (National Lab)

This work reveals that thinning silver down to a monolayer leads to the metal transforming to a semiconductor. This work demonstrates that new semiconductors can be formed from transition 2D metals, with the potential for next generation devices for beyond silicon CMOS. The combined capacity of epitaxial graphene growth and advanced characterization, along with Theory at 2DCC-MIP enables this achievement. The materials were synthesized by the 2DCC graphene system and simulations were conducted using the 2DCC computational allocation using ICDS.

- Also science driver AdvCM
- External User Project S0105 (R1)


This paper reported for the first time the real-time in-operando observation of the degree of crystallographic ordering in a Bi2Se3 film that corresponded to ex-situ assessment of film quality through electronic transport measurements. A precise understanding of the quality of crystal properties of topological insulators and their improvement is crucial to advance the field of quantum materials to harvest their properties in future applications. The 2DCC MBE2 was used to grow the materials and the in-situ SE and RHEED was used to analyze them during growth.

- External User Project S0013 (Non-R1, PUI) and RSVP Training Project V0009 (Non-R1)
- RSVP trainee P.D. Patil is noted as senior personnel and underlined as they are the submitting PI of the RSVP project


This paper reported the development of a fast optical method to characterize the presence of twin domains in wafer scale films of a 2D van der Waals (vdW) material, alpha-SnSe. This method was exploited to characterize the formation of twin domains during MBE growth of alpha-SnSe films grown on MgO and then used to demonstrate a vast improvement in the crystalline quality of these films by using an appropriate symmetry-matched substrate (a-plane sapphire). The results establish a convenient and rapid methodology for characterizing the structural quality of vdW thin films at the wafer scale. This provides quick feedback to MBE growers seeking to improve the quality of thin films. The materials were synthesized using the 2DCC MBE2 system.

- External User Project R0054 (R1)

This study demonstrates a bottom-up, scalable, and lithography-free approach for creating large areas of localized emitters with high density (~150 emitters/µm²) in a WSe₂ monolayer. This approach of using a metal nanoparticle array to generate a high density of strained quantum emitters will be applied to scalable, tunable, and versatile quantum light sources. WSe₂ use in this study was grown using the 2DCC MOCVD1 equipment.


All-optical graphene modulators reported so far require high pump fluence due to the ultrashort photo-carrier lifetime and limited absorption in graphene. This study presents modulator designs based on graphene-metal hybrid plasmonic metasurfaces with highly enhanced light-graphene interaction in the nanoscale hot spots at pump and probe (signal) wavelengths. The proposed designs hold the promise to address the challenges in the realization of ultrafast all-optical modulators for mid- and far-infrared wavelengths. The 2DCC contributed graphene using faculty equipment.


Molybdenum trioxide (MoO₃), an important transition metal oxide (TMO), has been extensively investigated over the past few decades due to its potential in existing and emerging technologies, including catalysis, energy and data storage, electrochromic devices, and sensors. This study demonstrates a facile route to obtain wafer-scale monolayer amorphous MoO₃ using 2D MoS₂ as a starting material, followed by UV–ozone oxidation at a substrate temperature as low as 120 °C. This simple yet effective process yields smooth, continuous, uniform, and stable monolayer oxide with wafer-scale homogeneity, as confirmed by several characterization techniques, including atomic force microscopy, numerous spectroscopy methods, and scanning transmission electron microscopy. The 2DCC contributed materials in this study from MIP equipment MOCVD1.


This study reports a simple, economical, and highly efficient approach for obtaining pristine graphene on a suitable substrate (e.g., SiO₂/Si) by utilizing Soxhlet extraction apparatus for delicate removal of the polymer with a freshly distilled ultrapure solvent (acetone) in a continuous fashion. Excellent structural and morphological qualities of the material thus produced
were confirmed using optical microscopy, atomic force microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, and Raman spectroscopy. Compared to the conventional protocol, graphene produced by the current approach has a lower residual polymer content, leading to a root mean square roughness of only 1.26 nm. Graphene materials provided in this study were created using non-MIP faculty equipment.

- External User Project R0062 (Non-R1)


In this work, a multidimensional optical imaging technique is developed in order to map subdiffractional distributions for doping and strain and understand the role of those for modulation of the electronic properties of the material. As an example, vertical heterostructures comprised of monolayer graphene and single-layer flakes of transition metal dichalcogenide MoS$_2$ were fabricated and used for biosensing. The 2DCC contributed materials for this study using the MIP equipment MOCVD1.

- External User Project Collaboration between S0016 (Non-R1) and S0034 (Non-R1, MSI/HBCU)


This study presents optical dispersion engineering in a superlattice structure comprising alternating layers of 2D excitonic chalcogenides and dielectric insulators. By carefully designing the unit cell parameters, we demonstrate greater than 90% narrow band absorption in less than 4 nm of active layer excitonic absorber medium at room temperature, concurrently with enhanced photoluminescence in square-centimeter samples. These superlattices show evidence of strong light–matter coupling and exciton–polariton formation with geometry-tunable coupling constants. The results demonstrate proof of concept structures with engineered optical properties and pave the way for a broad class of scalable, designer optical metamaterials from atomically thin layers. Materials in this study were provided by the 2DCC using MIP equipment MOCVD1.

- External User Project Collaboration among S0065, S0070 and S0077 (Industry)


Azimuthal reflection high-energy electron diffraction (ARHEED) is demonstrated to be a powerful technique to measure the symmetry, lattice constants, and in-plane orientation domain dispersion in wafer-scale, continuous monolayer WSe$_2$ epitaxially grown by metal organic chemical vapor deposition on c-plane sapphire substrate. The constructed 2D reciprocal map from ARHEED reveals few degrees’ dispersion in WSe$_2$ orientation domains due to the step meandering/bunching/mosaic of sapphire substrate. Minor 30° orientation domains are also observed. The methodology can be applied to study other TMDCs epitaxial monolayers,
graphene, and confined atomically thin hetero-epitaxial metals. Materials in this study were provided by the 2DCC using MIP equipment MOCVD1.


This study unveils the respective roles and impacts of the substrate material, graphene, substrate–graphene interface, and epitaxial material for electrostatic coupling of these materials, which governs cohesive ordering and can lead to single-crystal epitaxy in the overlying film. Results demonstrate that simply coating a graphene layer on wafers does not guarantee successful implementation of remote epitaxy, since atomically precise control of the graphene-coated interface is required and provides key considerations for maximizing the remote electrostatic interaction between the substrate and adatoms. This was enabled by exploring various material systems and processing conditions, and we demonstrate that the rules of remote epitaxy vary significantly depending on the ionicity of material systems as well as the graphene–substrate interface and the epitaxy environment. The 2DCC provided graphene through use of faculty equipment.

- External User Project S0048


This paper reports on the successful growth and modification of monolayer MoS$_2$ (1L MoS$_2$) by controlling carrier concentration and manipulating bandgap in order to improve the efficiency of light emission. Atomic size MoS$_2$ vacancies were created using a Helium Ion Microscope, then the defect sites were doped with 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro7,7,8,8-tetracyanoquinodimethane (F4TCNQ). The carrier concentration in intrinsic (as-grown) and engineered 1L MoS$_2$ was calculated using Mass Action model. The results are in a good agreement with Raman and photoluminescence spectroscopy as well as Kelvin probe force microscopy characterizations. The 2DCC provided MoS$_2$ materials in this study synthesized by MIP equipment MOCVD1.

- External User Collaboration S0016 (Non-R1) and S0034 (Non-R1, MSI/HBCU)


In-operando spectroscopic ellipsometry used in this study enabled determining the dielectric function of substrate and growing film unobscured by surface or interface reactions. Its sensitivity to sample temperature and film thickness variations allows determining growth temperature, absolute film thickness, and growth rate in real time, rendering it a reliable and universal approach for a direct comparison of growth conditions between different growth campaigns, thus offering the potential to improve reproducibility of the growth conditions for Bi$_2$Se$_3$ based films and heterostructures. Materials in this study were synthesized using the 2DCC MIP equipment MBE2 and its onboard spectroscopic ellipsometer.

- External User Project S0013 (non-R1, PUI)
This paper reports on the synthesis of hexagonal boron nitride bulk crystal at room temperature using a single component iron flux which is simpler and more cost effective than current multi-component flux processes. A low nucleation density for WSe$_2$ was observed on the hBN surface indicating a low defect density. The hBN exhibits excellent structural and electrical properties. (WSe$_2$ growth by MIP equipment MOCVD1 was carried out in the 2DCC facility.)

- External User Project S0087


This project explored the use of pump-probe measurements to study the interlayer elastic properties of TMD flakes exfoliated from bulk crystals. Undergraduate students from Vassar College (external user) received training and worked on-site at the 2DCC facility during the summer to synthesize and characterize TMD films which were used during the academic year to carry out the ultrasonic measurements in the lab at Vassar College. Five of the co-authors including the first author are undergraduate students as Vassar.

- Also Science Driver AdvCM
- External User Project R0027 (non-R1, PUI)


This study employed x-ray and UV photoelectron spectroscopy to study possible charge transfer between TMD monolayer and gold surfaces and revealed that shifts in the XPS spectra were due to interactions of defects in the TMD monolayer with the gold surface. Wafer-scale MoS$_2$ monolayers from the 2DCC Thin Films facility were supplied to NRL (external user) for this study.

- External User Project R0024 (National Lab)


This study employed x-ray and UV photoelectron spectroscopy to study possible charge transfer between TMD monolayer and gold surfaces and revealed that shifts in the XPS spectra were due to interactions of defects in the TMD monolayer with the gold surface. Wafer-scale MoS$_2$ monolayers from the 2DCC Thin Films facility were supplied to NRL (external user) for this study.
Large hexagonal boron nitride crystals were synthesized by solution growth with a temperature gradient. The crystals have low defect density and narrow Raman peak width, providing an alternative method to high-pressure synthesis. Epitaxial growth of TMDs on hBN was carried out in the 2DCC to assess the defect density.

Demonstration of the ability to select different rotational alignments by changing epitaxial growth conditions. This may be used in future wafer-scale growth of hBN/graphene heterostructures to achieve varying degrees of graphene band structure modulation. The project utilized non-MIP equipment to provide epitaxial graphene to external users for hBN growth.

Joint experiment/theory study of the distribution and the origin of inhomogeneities in monolayer MoS$_2$ of relevance for understanding and optimizing the quality of materials supplied by 2DCC.

Development and study of a multi-step process to grow coalesced epitaxial monolayer 2D chalcogenide films on scalable substrates in collaboration with external user.

**Local User Publications (Epi2DC)**

Materials composed of nitrogen-doped carbon are useful as catalyst supports due to their low cost, low density, and enhanced metal-support interaction. One way to synthesize catalytic single atoms and nuclei on these supports is via vapor phase deposition processes. Here, density functional theory (DFT) was used to evaluate the effects of N doping and oxidation of graphene on the adsorption and dissociation of trimethyl(methylcyclopentadienyl) platinum (MeCpPtMe₃), which is a commonly used precursor in vapor deposition of platinum. DFT calculations confirmed that oxygen incorporation into graphene via oxidation of vacancies is thermodynamically favorable with and without N dopants. The 2DCC contributed DFT using the computational allocation on ICDS.


This study combines experiment and theory in the 2DCC. The electronic and optical properties of two-dimensional materials can be strongly influenced by defects, some of which can find significant implementations, such as controllable doping, prolonged valley lifetime, and single-photon emissions. In this work it is demonstrated that defects created by remote N₂ plasma exposure in single-layer WS₂ can induce a distinct low-energy photoluminescence (PL) peak at 1.59 eV, which is in sharp contrast to that caused by remote Ar plasma. The WS₂ thin films in this study were grown by 2DCC MOCVD equipment.


This study demonstrates how a population of stochastic artificial neurons based on monolayer MoS₂ field effect transistors (FETs) can use an optimum amount of white Gaussian noise and population voting to detect invisible signals at a frugal energy expenditure (~10s of nano-Joules). The findings can aid remote sensing in the emerging era of the Internet of things (IoT) that thrive on energy efficiency. MoS₂ materials in this study were synthesized using MIP equipment MOCVD1.


Demonstration that sizeable epitaxial strain can stabilize a tetragonal distortion and lead to ferroelectric ground state of CaTiO₃ at room temperature.

Investigation of ALD growth of ZnO on TMD monolayers grown in the 2DCC Thin Films facility.
- Local User Project S0035

**In-house Research Publications (Epi2DC)**


This chapter presents the current status of scalable synthesis techniques for prominent 2D materials, including graphene, transition metal dichalcogenides, and hexagonal boron nitride. Exfoliation methods used to produce large quantities of graphene for inkjet printing are presented. Vapor phase deposition approaches for synthesizing large-scale single-crystalline films are discussed in detail. Critical parameters and their impact on synthesis, such as precursor choice, flux control, and substrate properties, have been examined. 2DCC instruments and faculty instruments are both represented in this summary.
- Collaboration with external user S0069 (National Lab)


This work investigates gas-source metal–organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) of tungsten selenide (WSe\textsubscript{2}) on highly crystalline CVD graphene. Single- and multi-layer graphene constitute interesting testing grounds for investigating fundamental WSe\textsubscript{2} growth mechanisms owing to its atomically smooth surface, absence of dangling bonds, chemical inertness, and hexagonal lattice symmetry. Results show how the graphene template properties influence the WSe\textsubscript{2} nucleation site density, growth rate, in-plane orientation, and thickness. WSe\textsubscript{2} growth behavior strongly depends on the number of graphene layers, their stacking order/twisting angle, as well as on the nature of the substrate underneath. The 2DCC MOCVD1 was used for synthesis of the WSe\textsubscript{2} and the Raman on MOCVD was used for characterization.


A combined experimental and theoretical approach was used to investigate the effects of defects, thickness nonuniformities, and chemical functionalization of epitaxial graphene (EG) formed on SiC on Ga intercalation and 2D-GaN\textsubscript{x} formation to gain insight into this synthesis process. The 2DCC theory computational allocation on ICDS was used for simulation and an existing faculty system was used for materials intercalation.
- Also science driver AdvCM

Novel confinement techniques facilitate the formation of non-layered 2D materials. Here it is demonstrated that the formation and properties of 2D oxides (GaOx, InOx, SnOx) at the epitaxial graphene (EG)/silicon carbide (SiC) interface is dependent on the EG buffer layer properties prior to element intercalation. This study presented here is foundational for development of atomic-scale, vertical 2D/3D heterostructure for applications requiring short transit times, such as GHz and THz devices. Faculty equipment was used for materials intercalation.


Contacting two-dimensional (2D) semiconductors with van der Waals semimetals significantly reduces the contact resistance and Fermi level pinning due to defect-free interfaces. This study examined the evolution of the valence and conduction band edges in pristine and heavily vanadium (0.44%), i.e., $p$-type, doped epitaxial WSe$_2$ on quasi-freestanding graphene (QFEG) on silicon carbide as a function of thickness. When increasing number of layers the Fermi level of the doped WSe$_2$ gets pinned at the highest dopant level for three or more monolayers. A faculty CVD instrument was used for the materials in this study.


The temperature-dependent desorption behavior of selenium and tellurium is investigated. The direct and quantitative determination of the chalcogen desorption process provides important insights into the kinetics of chalcogenide-based film growth and is in addition of applied benefit to the research community in the area of Se/Te capping and decapping of air sensitive materials as it provides temperature ranges and rates at which full desorption is achieved. The 2DCC MBE2 system was used for growing the materials in this study.


This study analyzes W$_{1-x}$Mo$_x$S$_2$ films grown by metal–organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) that have been intentionally grown with various degrees of anisotropy. Because MOCVD allows the controllable introduction of precursors, it is possible to target the growth of predominantly random alloys, as well as alloys with ordering of the metal atoms. Quantification of the atomic positions are presented and connections are made between the atomic structure and the growth conditions. The 2DCC MOCVD1 is use for the synthesis of the materials in this study.


In this work, MoSe₂/WSe₂ (nanodot/matrix) in-plane heterostructures are synthesized on c-plane sapphire substrates using metal organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) process in order to assess unique light emission properties that arise from spatially confined material. The 2DCC MOCVD1 was used for the synthesis of materials.


Magnetic domains and their corresponding atomic lattice are imaged in monolayer WS₂ for a range of vanadium dopant concentrations using Lorentz TEM and atomic-resolution STEM. The material was found to not be uniformly magnetized but contains micron-sized monolayer ferromagnetic domains with an in-plane easy axis and a saturation field of ~50 mT. The 2DCC contributed Theory through use of the computational allocation at ICDS and PARADIM contributed TEM analysis.

- Also science driver AdvCM


The epitaxial growth of wafer-scale semiconducting TMDs monolayers (MoS₂, WS₂, WSe₂) on c-plane sapphire by metalorganic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) is demonstrated and the resulting structural and optical properties of the films are compared to elucidate trends based on metal and chalcogen species. The sulfur based TMDs exhibit improved epitaxy, fewer defects and increased photoluminescence intensity on sapphire compared to WSe₂ which is attributed to a smaller effective lattice mismatch and improved stability. The 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument is used for synthesis of materials.


This book chapter was contributed based on synthesis techniques used by the 2DCC in-house research team. The chapter discusses challenges in synthesizing high-quality TMDs and provides an overview on the thin-film deposition techniques that show a great potential for making electronic-grade 2D TMD, including powder-based and metal-organic chemical vapor deposition (CVD), as well as molecular beam epitaxy. Second, the chapter discusses several aspects of 2D crystals growth in CVD that would impact the material quality, such as substrates, precursor dissociation dynamics, as well as nucleation and growth kinetics in detail. Lastly, a review of the engineering methods for controlling their heterogeneity through controlling defect type and density, heterostructure formation, and substitutional doping.


Ferroelectric semiconductor field effect transistors can be key enablers to improve energy efficiency and overall chip and memory performance. In this work, low-temperature processed,
back-end-of-the-line compatible transistors were demonstrated by depositing a layered chalcogenide ferroelectric semiconductor, beta-phase In$_2$Se$_3$, at temperature as low as 400 °C. Top gate n-channel In$_2$Se$_3$ thin film transistors were fabricated with field-effect mobility $\sim$ 1 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$, and simple polarization switching based memory results are presented. The In$_2$Se$_3$ in this study was grown by a high-pressure chemical vapor deposition (HPCVD) system, faculty equipment.

- External user collaborator S0069 (National Lab)


The structural properties of co-deposited ultrathin PtSe$_2$ films grown at low temperatures by molecular beam epitaxy on c-plane Al$_2$O$_3$ are studied. Postgrowth anneals under a Se flux was found to dramatically improve the crystalline quality of the films. Even before the postgrowth anneal in Se, the crystallinity of PtSe$_2$ films grown with the co-deposition method was superior to films realized by thermal assisted conversion. Postgrowth annealed films showed Raman modes with narrower peaks and more than twice the intensity. Transmission electron microscopy investigations revealed that the deposited material transitioned to a two-dimensional layered structure only after the postgrowth anneal. PtSe$_2$ growth was found to start as single layer islands that preferentially nucleated at atomic steps of the substrate and progressed in a layer-by-layer fashion. Materials in this project were grown by 2DCC equipment MBE2.


Chemical vapor deposition (CVD) of hexagonal boron nitride (hBN) using diborane (B$_2$H$_6$) and ammonia (NH$_3$) is reported. The effect of growth conditions on hBN growth rate using continuous vs. flow modulation epitaxy (FME) method is investigated to gain insight into the role of gas-phase chemistry during film deposition. The results provide additional insight into the effects of gas-phase reactions on CVD of hBN. The 2DCC provided materials in this study from non-MIP faculty equipment.


In this work, subthreshold Boltzmann transport is exploited in complementary 2D field-effect transistors (p-type WSe$_2$ and n-type MoS$_2$) integrated with an analog, nonvolatile, and programmable floating-gate memory stack to develop in-memory computing primitives necessary for energy- and area-efficient hardware acceleration of SA for Ising spin systems. The hardware-realistic numerical simulations further highlight the astounding benefits of SA in accelerating the search for larger spin lattices. MoS$_2$ and WSe$_2$ materials in this study were synthesized using MIP equipment MOCVD1.

A comparison of hexagonal boron nitride (hBN) layers grown by chemical vapor deposition on C-plane (0001) versus A-plane (11\overline{2}0) sapphire (α-Al₂O₃) substrate is reported. Under the typical growth conditions required for high crystalline quality hBN growth, A-plane sapphire provides a more chemically stable substrate. Materials (hBN) in this study were provided by 2DCC faculty non-MIP equipment and RHEED analysis was contributed using MIP equipment MBE2.


The electron dynamics of atomically thin 2-D polar metal heterostructures, which consisted of a few crystalline metal atomic layers intercalated between hexagonal silicon carbide and graphene grown from the silicon carbide, were studied using nearly degenerate transient absorption spectroscopy. Optical pumping created charge carriers in both the 2-D metals and graphene components. Wavelength-dependent probing suggests that graphene-to-metal carrier transfer occurred on a sub-picosecond time scale. These studies provided insights into electronic carrier dynamics in 2-D crystalline elemental metals, including resolving contributions from specific components of a 2-D metal-containing heterojunction. The correlative ultrafast spectroscopy and nonlinear microscopy results suggest that the energy dissipation rates can be tuned through atomic-level structures. Materials provided by the 2DCC in this study were grown on non-MIP faculty equipment.


Semiconducting two-dimensional (2D) transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) are considered a key materials class to scale microelectronics to the ultimate atomic level. The robust quantum properties in TMDs also enable new device concepts that promise to push quantum technologies beyond cryogenic environments. In this Perspective, the authors review some recent results on engineering and probing atomic point defects in 2D TMDs. Furthermore, we provide a personal outlook on the next frontiers in this fast evolving field. Materials included in the 2DCC portion of the analysis were synthesized using non-MIP faculty equipment.


This study discusses newly discovered low-frequency (LF) (<100 cm⁻¹) Raman features due to the formation of unique 2D polar metals (Ag, Cu, Pb, Bi, Ga, In) or metal alloys (In,Ga₄₋ₓ) intercalated at an epitaxial graphene (EG)/silicon carbide (SiC) interface and demonstrate that 2D-Ag and 2D-Ga can have spatially distinct phases with their own unique Raman responses. Additionally, the study establishes that the 2D-Ga exhibits a structural evolution as a function of temperature, independent of the SiC and EG, that can lead to nucleation of secondary phases. The newly identified LF Raman responses discussed here lay the foundation for rapid, direct, and spatially resolved evaluation of 2D polar metals in ambient. Materials provided by the 2DCC were synthesized using non-MIP faculty equipment.

Patterned polymeric coatings are broadly relevant for all areas of bioengineering: anti-biofouling, controlled protein adsorption, guided cell growth, and many more. This contribution describes a robust topographical and chemical patterning platform that combines an LED digital light projector with oxygen-tolerant light-mediated polymerization to design advanced surfaces on the micron scale and in mild ambient conditions. The user-friendly nature of this approach is targeted towards bringing complex chemical patterning abilities based on surface-tethered polymers into the hands of non-experts and enabling both fundamental and applied studies related to patterned surfaces in bioengineering.


Chemically stable quantum-confined 2D metals are of interest in next-generation nanoscale quantum devices. Bottom-up design and synthesis of such metals could enable the creation of materials with tailored, on-demand, electronic and optical properties for applications that utilize tunable plasmonic coupling, optical nonlinearity, epsilon-near-zero behavior, or wavelength-specific light trapping. In this work, it is demonstrated that the electronic, superconducting, and optical properties of air-stable 2D metals can be controllably tuned by the formation of alloys. Environmentally robust large-area 2D-In,Ga1−x alloys are synthesized by Confinement Heteroepitaxy (CHet). Materials in this study were synthesized using non-MIP faculty equipment. Theoretical analysis was provided by 2DCC personnel.

- Also science driver AdvCM
- In-house Research Collaboration with External User S0048 (Non-R1)


Engineering atomic-scale defects is crucial for realizing wafer-scale, single-crystalline transition metal dichalcogenide monolayers for electronic devices. Using electron microscopy and ReaxFF
reactive force field-based molecular dynamics simulations, this study provides insights into WS$_2$ crystal growth mechanisms, providing a direct link between synthetic conditions and microstructure. Imaging and ReaxFF simulations uncover two types of translational mismatch, and we discuss their origin related to relatively fast growth rates. Statistical analysis of $>$1300 facets demonstrates that microstructural features are constructed from nanometer-scale building blocks, describing the system across sub-Ångstrom to multimicrometer length scales. WS$_2$ materials in this study were synthesized using MIP equipment MOCVD1 and ReaxFF simulations were conducted by 2DCC personnel.

- Also science driver AdvCM


Scalable substitutional doping of 2D transition metal dichalcogenides is a prerequisite to developing next-generation logic and memory devices based on 2D materials. In this study scalable growth and vanadium (V) doping of 2D WSe$_2$ at front-end-of-line and back-end-of-line compatible temperatures of 800 and 400 °C, respectively, is reported. A combination of experimental and theoretical studies confirm that vanadium atoms substitutionally replace tungsten in WSe$_2$, which results in $p$-type doping via the introduction of discrete defect levels that lie close to the valence band maxima. The $p$-type nature of the V dopants is further verified by constructed field-effect transistors, where hole conduction becomes dominant with increasing vanadium concentration. Therefore, this study presents a method to precisely control the density of intentionally introduced impurities, which is indispensable in the production of electronic-grade wafer-scale extrinsic 2D semiconductors. Materials in this study were synthesized using non-MIP faculty MOCVD equipment for the doping. Theoretical studies were contributed by 2DCC personnel.

- Also science driver AdvCM


This work focused on the direct and quantitative determination of sticking coefficients of selenium and tellurium which provides important insights into the kinetics of chalcogenide-based film growth and points toward the need of a precise sample temperature control. Results were obtained from materials grown on the 2DCC MIP equipment MBE2.


This paper demonstrated that steps on the sapphire substrate surface can be used to achieve a preferential alignment of WS$_2$ monolayer domains grown by MIP equipment MOCVD1 in the 2DCC facility resulting in a dramatic reduction of anti-phase boundaries coalesced wafer-scale WS$_2$ films. Translational boundaries which result from coalescence of WS$_2$ domains with the same crystallographic direction, but sub-unit cell offsets were observed to be the predominant line defect in the films. The optical and transport properties of the MOCVD-grown TMD monolayers were comparable to that reported for exfoliated flakes.

This review article summarizes recent breakthroughs in low-temperature synthesis for TMDs for semiconductor applications. It is the first review of its kind.


The study demonstrates a viable approach to introducing dopant-level impurities with high precision, specifically focusing on Re as the dopant atom, which can be scaled up to batch production for applications beyond digital electronics. The MIP provided support for both theory and experiment.

- Also Science Driver AdvCM


This work identified a new type of structural defect – metal vacancy arrays – which form in epitaxial WS2 monolayers grown by MOCVD due to coalescence of domains that are slightly offset from one another. This study was a collaboration between 2DCC personnel in the Thin Films and In Situ Characterization Facility and the Theory/Simulation working on epitaxial growth of TMDs, advanced electron microscopy characterization and theory and simulation.

- Also Science Driver AdvCM


Review article highlighting fundamental issues associated with vapor phase growth and epitaxy of TMDs

- Included external user from Government Lab on user project S0069 and external user from project S0067


Demonstration of MOCVD growth and properties of WSe2 epitaxial films grown on sapphire in collaboration with external user. The project utilized non-MIP equipment as part of the Thin Film facility to create the 2D films.
- Included external user from project R0011


Combined experimental and computational modeling study of powder vapor transport of MoS\textsubscript{2} films carried out in collaboration with local and external users.

- Included external user from project R0001 (User from Non-R1)


This work introduces a new class of 2D materials – air-stable atomically thin metals encapsulated in graphene – whose discovery and development followed from a close coupling of experiment with predictive in-house first-principles calculations of formation energies, electronic properties, electron-phonon coupling, and superconductivity. The project utilized non-MIP equipment as part of the Thin Films facility to create the 2D films, and 2DCC theory. Sample provision of this emerging family of novel 2D metals will be a core future offering of the 2DCC.

- Also science driver AdvCM


First demonstration of epitaxial growth of beta-In\textsubscript{2}Se\textsubscript{3} by MOCVD.


Demonstration of effects of surface roughness and processing conditions on the transfer process for CVD graphene. Samples were grown using individual faculty equipment in the 2DCC.


CVD graphene layers (synthesized using individual faculty equipment) were used as substrates for the growth of zinc phthalocyanine nanostructures.


Layered Sn(S,Se)\textsubscript{2} alloys are of interest for the top absorber layer in tandem Si photovoltaics. This study explored the epitaxial growth and properties of these alloys across the entire composition range.

MIP Publications - 36

Demonstration of high-throughput synthesis of uniform single-layer highly crystalline graphene on 3-inch wafers.


In-house research minireview on processes of epitaxial-graphene/SiC intercalation that underpin Platform advances in developing the new family of atomically, air-stable two-dimensional metals described in 10.1007/s11664-020-08087-w. The project also utilized faculty owned equipment as part of the Thin Film facility to create the 2D films.


A collaborative follow-up to initial work with MoS$_2$ that provides evidence for the generality of the proposed mechanism of defect-assisted epitaxial growth with orientation control, here demonstrated for WSe$_2$ grown on hBN with extensive characterization. Uses 2DCC facilities closely coupled to 2DCC-supported theory and informs growth of materials supplied to Platform users.


Demonstration of in-plane x-ray diffraction for characterization of epitaxial TMD monolayers grown at 2DCC.


Study of epitaxial growth and properties of NbS$_2$ thin films.


Investigation of the effect of precursor chemistry on the growth and properties of WS$_2$ thin films grown by MOCVD in the 2DCC Thin Films facility.


MIP Publications - 37
Development of chemical transformation routes towards expanding the suite of 2D systems that are synthetically accessible starting from a chalcogenide initial state. The project utilized faculty owned equipment as part of the Thin Films facility to create the 2D films.

- Also science driver AdvCM

**Next Generation Devices (NGDev)**

*External User Publications (NGDev)*


This work demonstrated nanoscale crossed p-n junctions formed by nanowires of two quasi-1D van der Waals (vdW) materials, i.e. p-type Ta$_2$Pd$_3$Se$_8$ (TPdS) and n-type Ta$_2$Pt$_3$Se$_8$ (TPtS). Such p-n junctions exhibit asymmetric nonlinear output behaviors, inelastic tunneling effects, and isotropic photocurrent signals. This study not only offers a way to build nanoscale junctions but also provides fundamental understandings of the electronic and optoelectronic properties of vdW nanowires and their heterojunctions. TPdS and TPtS single crystals used in this were synthesized using non-MIP CVT faculty equipment.

- External User S0049


Quantifying and understanding the oxidation mechanisms in the 2DCC-grown ZrS$_x$Se$_{2-x}$ alloy series is particularly useful for processing electronic devices from Zr-based TMD. In this study, we provide insight and quantitative guidance for designing and processing semiconductor devices.

- External User Project Collaboration between R0014 and R0016


High-frequency characteristics of WSe$_2$ MOSFETs were studied as a function of temperature to assess device performance. WSe$_2$ samples provided by 2DCC were used in this study.

- External User Project S0009 (non-R1)

The high anisotropy of the 1T phase of ZrSe$_2$ and ZrS$_2$ gives rise to a high absorption coefficient which is of interest for photovoltaics and photodetectors. This study explored the CVT synthesis and optical properties of the Zr(S,Se)$_2$ alloy bulk crystals, synthesized in the 2DCC Bulk Growth facility, over the entire composition range.


Successful integration of PtSe$_2$ (synthesized in the 2DCC Thin Films facility) as a new channel material into field effect transistor geometry and analysis of device characteristics.


Plasmon-exciton coupling was studied in WSe$_2$/WS$_2$ bilayers (synthesized in the 2DCC Thin Films facility) that were integrated with patterned Au nanorod arrays.

Demonstration of how two-dimensional crystal overlayers influence the recrystallization of relatively thick metal films and the subsequent synergetic benefits this provides for coupling surface plasmon-polaritons (SPPs) to photon emission in 2D semiconductors. TMD samples were grown in the 2DCC facility.


Demonstration of tunable and active modulation of valley dynamics in a monolayer WSe$_2$ (synthesized in 2DCC Thin Films facility) at room temperature through controllable chiral Purcell effects in plasmonic chiral metamaterials.
Detailed microscopy study of types of disorder present in topological insulator films grown on YIG using atomic force microscopy and scanning transmission electron microscopy, revealing the presence of an amorphous metal oxide layer between the substrate and the film, which appears to smooth out the nanometer-scale undulations in a YIG surface. Using density functional theory, the study explores the impact of observed basal twins on the electronic structure of TI films.

- External User Project S0025


Demonstration of quantum emission from strain-localized WSe$_2$ epitaxial films that were grown in the 2DCC Thin Films facility.

- External User Project S0007


Demonstration of lasing with a narrow linewidth from WS$_2$ epitaxial monolayers grown in 2DCC Thin Films facility and integrated into a silicon nitride photonic crystal cavity.

- External User Project S0010 (User from MSI).


This project used Bi$_2$Se$_3$ and (Bi,Sb)$_2$Te$_3$ grown in the 2DCC Thin Films facility to carry out the first room temperature demonstration of energy efficient current driven spin-orbit torque switching in topological insulator-ferrimagnet heterostructure spintronic devices.

- External User Project S0003

Local User Publications (NGDev)


In this article it shown how two-dimensional (2D) material, in this case MoS$_2$, based in-memory computing elements such as memtransistors can be used as hardware Trojans. Logic gates based on 2D memtransistors can be made to malfunction by exploiting their inherent programming capabilities. While 2D memtransistor-based integrated circuits are used as the testbed for the demonstration, the results are equally applicable to any state-of-the-art and emerging in-memory computing technologies. The materials in this study were synthesized by the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.

- Also science driver Epi2DC
- Local User Project S0084

This study exploits the cycle-to-cycle variability in the programmed conductance states of monolayer-MoS$_2$-based 2D memtransistors to create s-bits with a reconfigurable probability of obtaining “1” in the bit-stream using an s-bit generator circuit comprising six memtransistors. The stochastic computing (SC) architecture consumes miniscule energy (≈1 nJ) to perform arithmetic operations and uses a limited number of memtransistors to achieve a small active-area footprint. This demonstrates a way to accelerate SC using a non-von-Neumann platform based on novel 2D materials and devices. The 2DCC MOCVD1 was used for synthesis of the MoS$_2$ materials.

- Also science driver Epi2DC
- Local User Project S0084


This study exploits optoelectronic, computing, and programmable memory devices based on emerging two-dimensional (2D) layered materials such as MoS$_2$ to demonstrate a monolithically integrated, multipixel, and “all-in-one” bioinspired neural network (BNN) capable of sensing, encoding, learning, forgetting, and inferring at minuscule energy expenditure. The findings highlight the potential of in-memory computing and sensing based on emerging 2D materials, devices, and integrated circuits to not only overcome the bottleneck of von Neumann computing in conventional CMOS designs but also to aid in eliminating the peripheral components necessary for competing technologies such as memristors. The MoS$_2$ in this study was synthesized by the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.

- Also science driver Epi2DC
- Local User Project S0084


This study introduces a 2D APS technology based on a monolayer MoS$_2$ phototransistor array, where each pixel uses a single programmable phototransistor, leading to a substantial reduction in footprint (900 pixels in ~0.09 cm$^2$) and energy consumption (100s of fJ per pixel). By exploiting gate-tunable persistent photoconductivity the following is achieved: a responsivity of $\sim 3.6 \times 10^7$ A W$^{-1}$, specific detective of $\sim 5.6 \times 10^{13}$ Jones, spectral uniformity, a high dynamic range of $\sim 80$ dB and in-sensor de-noising capabilities. Further it is demonstrated a near-ideal yield and uniformity in photoresponse across the 2D APS array. The MoS$_2$ materials were synthesized by the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.

- Also science driver Epi2DC
- Local User Project S0084
This study demonstrates a bioinspired machine vision system based on a 2D phototransistor array fabricated from large-area monolayer molybdenum disulfide (MoS$_2$) and integrated with an analog, nonvolatile, and programmable memory gate-stack; this architecture not only enables dynamic learning and relearning from visual stimuli but also offers learning adaptability under noisy illumination conditions at miniscule energy expenditure. The demonstrated “all-in-one” hardware vision platform combines “sensing”, “computing”, and “storage” to not only overcome the von Neumann bottleneck of conventional complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) technology but also to eliminate the need for peripheral circuits and sensors. The MoS$_2$ materials were synthesized by the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.

- Also science driver Epi2DC
- Local User Project S0084

This work demonstrates the development of computational primitives needed for a BNN accelerator, using 2D memtransistors. The cycle-to-cycle variation in the programming of the MoS$_2$ memtransistor is exploited as a source of randomness and a circuit comprising of two such memtransistors is used to obtain an ultra-low-power and stochastic synapse, which allows sampling of both positive and negative weights from a Gaussian distribution with reconfigurable mean and standard deviation. Components are integrated into a crossbar array architecture to perform efficient MAC operations and develop a BNN circuit to perform on-chip inference to classify the PIMA Indians dataset and evaluate its performance using circuit simulations. The MoS$_2$ materials were synthesized by the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.

- Also science driver Epi2DC
- Local User Project S0084

This study demonstrates a fabricated standalone in-memory stochastic computing architecture utilizing 29 MoS$_2$ memtransistors for the hardware implementation of Bayesian networks. This includes experimentally demonstrated low-power, and compact stochastic bit (s-bit) generator circuit built entirely using 2D memtransistors and monolithically integrated s-bit generators with 2D memtransistor-based logic gates to achieve hardware implementation of Bayesian networks at an energy expenditure of 1.2 nJ of energy for precise computation. 2DCC-MIP’s MOCVD1 growth of high-quality, wafer-scale MoS$_2$ films enables the fabrication of medium-scale integrated circuits for hardware implementation of Bayesian networks.

- Also science driver Epi2DC
- Local User Project S0084

Experimental demonstration of an MSI optoelectronic circuit composed of 21 photosensitive 2D memtransistors for spike-timing-based encoding of external visual information. As experimentally demonstrated, this photoencoder can transcribe optical stimuli into sparse spike trains with the information on illumination intensity being encoded into time-to-first spike, allowing it to function as a bioinspired solid-state afferent neuron. This demonstration highlights the importance of multifunctional 2D semiconductors, which are shown to offer sensing, computing, and non-volatile and analog storage capabilities. The MoS$_2$ in this study was synthesized by the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.
- Also science driver Epi2DC
- Local User Project S0084


In this study an 8 × 8 crossbar array was fabricated of fully integrated crypto engines consisting of 320 MoS$_2$ memtransistors to sense, store, and encrypt the information sensed by light. This is a first time for monolithically integrating all the essential components of Internet of Things (IoT) that include sensing, storage, computing, and security on a single platform based on monolayer MoS$_2$. This research can assist in developing low power cryptographic primitives for next generation IoT applications. The MoS$_2$ in this study was synthesized by the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.
- Also science driver Epi2DC
- Local User Project S0084


This paper benchmarks device-to-device variation in field-effect transistors (FETs) based on wafer-scale monolayer MoS$_2$ and WS$_2$ grown by MIP equipment MOCVD1 in the 2DCC facility. Statistical measures were used to evaluate key FET performance indicators for several hundred 2D FETs and were compared against existing literature as well as ultra-thin body Si FETs. Our results show consistent performance of the 2D FETs owing to high quality uniform layers and clean transfer onto device substrates. We demonstrate record high carrier mobility of 33 cm$^2$/Vs was measured in WS$_2$ FETs, which is a 1.5X improvement compared to the best literature report. Our results confirm the technological viability of 2D FETs in future integrated circuits.
- Local User project S0084
- Also science driver Epi2DC

An ultra-low-power sensor based on stochastic resonance phenomena was demonstrated in photodetectors fabricated using large-area MoS$_2$ monolayers synthesized in the 2DCC facility. Stochastic resonance enables the detection of weak signals within the noise limit of the system and mimics the sensory information processing abilities of animals adapted to extreme and resource limited environments.

Local User project S0084


A compact, low power nanoscale collision detector is demonstrated that mimics the lobula giant movement detector (LGMD) neuron in locusts which can detect an approaching object and prevent collisions within a swarm of millions of locusts. The biomimetic collision detector is comprised of molybdenum disulfide photodetectors stacked on top of a non-volatile and programmable floating-gate memory architecture. Large area MoS$_2$ monolayers synthesized in the 2DCC facility were used for photodetector fabrication.

Local user project S0084


Field-effect transistors (FET), which use exfoliated nano flakes of ferroelectric semiconductor alpha-In$_2$Se$_3$ grown by the 2DCC bulk growth facility as the channel material were fabricated and tested. The transport measurements on these devices reveal evidence for the reorientation of electrical polarization and an electric field induced metallic state in alpha-In$_2$Se$_3$. These results suggest the alpha-In$_2$Se$_3$ based FET devices can serve as a platform for the fundamental study of ferroelectric metals as well as the exploration of potential applications of semiconducting ferroelectrics.

Local User Project S0039


A rapid non-destructive method based on Raman spectroscopy was developed to analyze the reactivity of contact metals with WS2 monolayers prepared in the 2DCC Thin Films facility. The metal/WS$_2$ reactivity observed in this study is in excellent agreement with predictions from bulk thermodynamics, which can provide good guidance for studies of other metal/TMD systems.

Local User Project S0035


Focused ion beam was used to create defects in WSe$_2$ (bulk crystals and MOCVD monolayers synthesized in 2DCC Thin Films facility). Long photoluminescence lifetime was measured for
defect-related emission peaks which is valuable for valleytronics, quantum emitters and other applications.

- Local User Project S0023


Investigation and interpretation of interlayer interactions in 2D heterostructures grown in the 2DCC Thin Films facility by Raman spectroscopy.

- Local User Project S0023

**In-house Research Publications (NGDev)**


Experimental demonstration of a new technique of locking basic digital logic designs (AND, NAND, OR, XOR, and NOT gates) composed of programmable monolayer MoS2 memtransistors. This programmability is attributed to charge trapping and detrapping in the local back-gate oxide and/or at the Al2O3/MoS2 interface and offers excellent retention properties. The approach of harnessing material properties and device phenomena at the nanoscale architecture can offer attractive solutions for solving critical hardware security problems, such as IP overbuilding and piracy, that stem from the globalized and interconnected nature of today’s semiconductor supply chain system and resource-constrained edge devices. The MoS2 in this study was synthesized by the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.

- Also science driver Epi2DC


This study demonstrates a bottom-up fabrication process for heterogeneous integration of large area MoS2 and V-doped WSe2 for 2D CMOS technology and integration of non-volatile and analog memory storage with the 2D FETs for demonstration of post-von Neumann CMOS. The MoS2 materials were synthesized by the 2DCC MOCVD1 instrument.

- Also science driver Epi2DC


In this paper, enhanced spin transfer torques from the Rashba spin current in heterostructures of permalloy (Py) and WSe2 is reported. The study shows that insertion of up to two monolayers of WSe2 enhances the spin transfer torques in a Rashba system by up to 3×, without changing the fieldlike Rashba spin–orbit torque (SOT), a measure of interface polarization. The results indicate
that low layer count TMD films can be used as an interfacial “scattering promoter” in heterostructure interfaces without quenching the original polarization. Materials in this study were provided by the 2DCC using non-MIP MOCVD faculty equipment.

- Also science driver Epi2DC


Demonstration of how TMD transport can be electrostatically controlled using advanced polymer electrolytes. The project utilized non-MIP equipment as part of the Thin Film facility to create the 2D films, with contributions from in-house researchers.

- Also science driver AdvCM


2D transition metal dichalcogenide system PtSe\textsubscript{2} was grown by MBE using in-situ post-deposition selenization to study layer crystallinity of this material system to be used as high mobility transistor channel materials for ultra-thin-body electronics.


Review article highlighting applications, current status and future directions for the synthesis, processing and characterization of 2D layered chalcogenides with contributions from in-house researchers, local users and external users of 2DCC.

- Included external users from projects R0037 (User from Non-R1) and R0011


Close coupling of theory and experiment here helps to accelerate the development of device applications for 2D materials through advancing the understanding of interfaces in lateral heterostructures that include transition metal dichalcogenides. The project utilized non-MIP equipment as part of the Thin Film facility to create the 2D films.

- Also science driver AdvCM


In this study, we investigate a non-thermal annealing process for two-dimensional materials. Instead of high temperature, we exploit the electron wind force at near-room temperature conditions. The process is demonstrated on back-gated WSe\textsubscript{2} transistors. To explain the atomistic
mechanisms behind the room-temperature annealing, we perform molecular dynamics simulation. The project utilized non-MIP equipment as part of the Thin Films facility to create the 2D films.

Also science driver AdvCM


Benchmark of carbon and alkali salt-free synthesis of fully coalesced, stoichiometric 2D WSe$_2$ films on amorphous SiO$_2$/Si substrates at BEOL-compatible temperatures (475 °C) via gas-source metal-organic chemical deposition. This work highlights the necessity of a Se-rich environment in a kinetically limited growth regime for successful integration of low-temperature 2D WSe$_2$. The project utilized non-MIP equipment as part of the Thin Films facility to create the 2D films.

**Advanced Characterization and Modeling (AdvCM)**

*External User Publications (AdvCM)*


A multiscale model for WSe$_2$ MOCVD was developed using ReaxFF, CFD and Phase field methods. At the atomic scale, using reactive MD simulations based on DFT calculations, it provides the relationship between the ratio of precursor concentrations and stable morphology of 2D materials; At the macroscale, it connects experimentally controllable parameters with concentration of precursor and its gradient over the substrate; It combines the information from both nanoscale and macroscale simulations to predict the coverage and uniformity of as-grown 2D materials. This computational framework provides a unique alternative to exhaustive trial-and-error experimentations and a powerful tool to develop and optimize the synthesis of new 2D materials. It can further serve as an observer for controllers of the growth process, providing the feedback loop capability, thus, precise control over the growth process, which opens new routes to design and fabricate the next generation of nanodevices for application in quantum computing and artificial intelligence. The 2DCC Theory/Simulation/Data facility provided the atomic-scale (DFT, ReaxFF) expertise to provide parameters for CFD simulations carried out by the external user. The wafer-scale growth of WSe$_2$ films was carried out by MOCVD1 in the 2DCC Thin Films facility.

- Also science driver Epi2DC
- External User Project R0037 (Non-R1)


The role of grain boundary defects with varying misorientation angles on the mechanical properties of WSe$_2$ at different temperatures was investigated using MD simulations. The results
presented here provide a fundamental understanding of the role of grain boundaries in bi-atomic monolayers, such as TMDCs, on their final mechanical performance. Thus, it paves the way to design next-generation optoelectronic devices. The 2DCC computational allocation on ICDS was used for ReaxFF simulations.

- External User Project R0037 (Non-R1)


This study developed a new ReaxFF reactive force field for Mo, Ti, Au, O, S, and H (ReaxFF Mo/Ti/Au/O/S/H-2022) to investigate the role of Ti clusters in preventing the oxidation and hydrogenation of a monolayer MoS\textsubscript{2} surface in O\textsubscript{2}- and H\textsubscript{2}O-rich environments. The ReaxFF molecular dynamics (MD) simulations reveal the oxidation and hydrogenation mechanisms for the MoS\textsubscript{2} surfaces exposed to O\textsubscript{2} and H\textsubscript{2}O environments with and without the presence of Ti clusters. The 2DCC’s allocations on the PSU’s Institute for Computational and Data Sciences - Advanced Cyber Infrastructure (ICDS-ACI) cluster enabled the ReaxFF force field training and the series of MD simulations for this work.

- External User Project R0051 (National Lab)


This study combines external user theory and in-house experiment. The study reveals the role of the substrate’s energy landscape on the orientation of as-grown TMDs, where the presence of monolayer–substrate energy barriers perpendicular to the streamlines hinder the detachment of precursor nuclei from the substrate. MoS\textsubscript{2} monolayers with controlled orientations could not be grown on the SiO\textsubscript{2} substrate and revealed that amorphization of the substrate changes the intensity and equilibrium distance of monolayer–substrate interactions. Simulations indicate that 0° rotated MoS\textsubscript{2} is the most favorable configuration on a sapphire substrate, consistent with experimental results. The experimentally validated computational results and insight presented in this study pave the way for the high-quality synthesis of TMDs for high-performance electronic and optoelectronic devices. Materials were grown using a faculty CVD machine.

- Also science driver Epi2DC
- External User Project R0037 (Non-R1)


This study introduces a multiscale/multiphysics model based on coupling continuum fluid mechanics and phase-field models for CVD growth of 2D materials. It connects the macroscale experimentally controllable parameters, such as inlet velocity and temperature, and mesoscale growth parameters such as surface diffusion and deposition rates, to morphology of the as-grown 2D materials. The model can guide the CVD growth of monolayer materials and paves the way to their synthesis-by-design. Data from MIP equipment MOCVD1 was used in this study. Simulations were conducted using the computational resources of the non-MIP ICDS facility at Penn State.

This study sought to understand fundamental growth mechanisms governing 2D materials synthesized by CVD and their correlation with experimentally specified parameters. A multiscale computational framework was developed and deployed to correlate the macroscale heat and mass flow with the mesoscale morphology of the as-grown 2D materials by solving the coupled system of heat/mass transfer and phase-field equations. Hexagonal boron nitride (h-BN) was used as the model material and investigated the effect of substrate enclosure on its growth kinetics and final morphology. Results included observation of lower concentration with a more uniform distribution on the substrate in an enclosed-growth than open-growth. Simulations were conducted using the computational resources of the non-MIP ICDS facility at Penn State.


This molecular dynamics study used interface analysis techniques developed under user project R0037 as applied to heterostructures to delve into relationships of interface thickness and formation of vacancies and interstitials. This relationship is important to the 2DCC in understanding the broader behavior of heterostructures.


A study on surface effects and their role in the strength and mechanical properties of materials. The knowledge and expertise developed will apply to materials, where surface effects dominate, including 2D materials. Particularly, the indentation experiments can be used to make new 2D materials such as diamane.


Computational study with reactive force fields of the role of shear in the generation of interlayer bonding in a 2D material, multilayer graphene, providing potential insights into the generation of interlayer bonds in other 2D multilayers.

This work used a helium ion beam to create defects in MoS$_2$. The defect structure was correlated to the appearance of an acoustic phonon mode in the Raman spectra which introduces a new method for quantifying defects in 2D materials. The study used samples provided by 2DCC.

- **External User Projects S0016 (User from Non-R1) and S0034 (User from MSI/HBCU)**


  Quantitative analysis of MoS$_2$, providing direct evidence that bulk crystals exhibit a sulfur deficient surface composition of MoS$_{1.8}$, and impurities below the XPS detection limit.

- **External User Project R0011**


  This comprehensive review of computational and data-centric approaches to materials growth and discovery (led by a 2DCC user) spans from atomistic to mesoscopic, macroscopic and materials genomic methods and thus embodies the core theory/data mission of the 2DCC in materials discovery and development. Resources reviewed here, such as advanced reactive force fields, are provided to the community.

- **External User Project R0037 (non-R1)**


  Development of XPS protocols for the analysis of 2D TIs, in concert with and in support of external users.

- **External User Project R0011**


  Development of XPS protocols for the analysis of 2D TIs, in concert with and in support of external users.

- **External user Project R0011**


  Demonstration of the possibility to synthesize diamond films from multilayer graphene using the molecular dynamics approach with reactive force fields provided by the 2DCC.

- **External User Project R0001 (User from Non-R1)**

Development of computational tools to simulate CVD growth of 2D materials in conditions relevant to 2DCC.

- External User Project R0001 (User from Non-R1).

Local User Publications (AdvCM)


A high-throughput computational analysis of the elastic and piezoelectric response of fifty-six 2D chalcogenide materials that identifies synthetic targets of potential interest to the Platform and broader materials community based on predicted extreme piezoelectric response.

- Local User Project R0002


Development of XPS protocols for the analysis of 2D transition metal dichalcogenides, in concert with and in support of external users.

- Local user participating on external user project R0011

In-house Research Publications (AdvCM)


This study demonstrates a means to dope layered materials that stabilizes the doped layers against oxidation (making them more useful for applications) and also decoupling the individual layers from each other by means of the insulating salt slabs intercalated between them, allowing one to recover monolayer-like behavior in bulk materials. Many intriguing properties of 2D materials have limited application due to the thinness of the samples. If such properties (such as a direct bandgaps or 2D superconductivity) can be achieved in bulk materials by decoupling the layers, it may open the scope of possible applications for 2D and layered materials. This publication features a combination of in-house and external user expertise in computational materials design and use of 2DCC’s allocations on the ICDS cluster.

- In-house collaboration with external user R0076 (R1)


This theoretical study addresses disclinations in a 2D sheet of graphene. The study demonstrated regions of Gaussian curvature whose inversion produces a reconfigurable surface with many distinct metastable shapes, as shown by molecular dynamics of a disclinated graphene monolayer. This material has a near-Gaussian “density of shapes” and an effectively antiferromagnetic interaction between adjacent cones. As this approach is purely geometrical, it should apply to
any atomically thin sheet, which could be polar (h-BN), hydrophilic (graphene oxide), or stiffer than graphene. This publication includes use of the 2DCC’s allocation on the ICDS cluster.


First-principles density-functional theory study to determine the equilibrium defect structures, formation energies, charge transition levels, and electronic structures of Sn and S vacancies in monolayer SnS. Both Sn and S vacancies exhibit multiple charge transition levels and in-gap defect states, indicating that they may be stable in different charge states depending on the Fermi level in the system.


This work provides an in-depth atomic scale understanding into the complex interplay between defects and precursors, thus providing an effective way to design defects for 2D metal fabrication. It is a joint theory and experimental investigation on the defect-mediated surface interactions of gallium (Ga) metals and trimethyl-gallium (TMGa) molecules with graphene. Experimental results are connected to ReaxFF simulations, which further confirm that the Ga and TMGa adsorption on graphene is strongly impacted by the presence and size of defects. Non-MIP equipment was used for synthesis and ReaxFF parameters developed by MIP were used.


Two-dimensional (2D) hexagonal boron nitride materials are isomorphs of carbon nanomaterials and hold promise for electronics applications owing to their unique properties. Understanding the growth mechanism of BN nanostructures through modeling and experiments is key to improving its widespread production. This work presents the development of a ReaxFF-based force field capable of modeling the gas-phase chemistry important for the chemical vapor deposition (CVD) synthesis process.


Two-dimensional semiconductor phosphorene has attracted extensive research interests for potential applications in optoelectronics, spintronics, catalysis, sensors, and energy conversion. To harness phosphorene's potential requires a better understanding of how intrinsic defects control carrier concentration, character, and mobility. Using density functional theory and a charge correction scheme to account for the appropriate boundary conditions, this comprehensive study elucidates the effect of structure on the formation energy, electronic structure, and charge transition level of the charged vacancy point defects in phosphorene.


This study developed a ReaxFF reactive force field verified against quantum mechanical data to investigate the temperature and composition dependency of BSTO in non-
ferroelectric/ferroelectric phases. This potential was also explicitly designed to capture the surface energetics of STO with SrO and TiO$_2$ terminations. This is an important study for the 2DCC in understanding substrate materials in a number of semiconductor applications.


This study reports the first reactive force field (ReaxFF) for Mo/Se/H interactions, which enables large-scale molecular dynamics simulations of the synthesis, processing, and characterization of 2D-MoSe$_2$ and whose parameters are trained primarily on first-principles energetics data including both periodic and non-periodic calculations. This new potential elucidates the structural transition from metallic to semiconducting phases, the energetics of various defects, and the Se-vacancy migration barrier. MoSe$_2$ materials used in the analysis were synthesized by the MIP equipment MOCVD1.

- Also science driver Epi2DC


This paper describes the development of a reactive force field (ReaxFF) description for hexagonal boron nitride (h-BN) and the effect of water molecules on the interfacial interactions with vacancy defective hexagonal boron nitride (h-BN) nanosheets by introducing parameters suitable for the B/N/O/H chemistry. This study provides important information for the use of h-BN nanosheets in nanodevices for water desalination and underwater applications, as these h-BN nanosheets possess the desired adsorption capability and structural stability.


In this paper, two ReaxFF reactive force fields are reported, GaCH-2020 and InCH-2020, which were developed to investigate the, metal–organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) gas-phase reactions of Ga and In film growth from trimethylgallium (TMGa) and trimethylindium (TMIn) precursors, respectively, and the surface interactions of TMGa and TMIn with graphene. The newly developed force fields were applied to determine the optimal conditions for the thermal decomposition of TMGa/TMIn to achieve Ga/In nanoclusters with low impurities. Additionally, the cluster formation of Ga/In on a graphene substrate with different vacancies and edges was studied with ReaxFF, providing targets for future experimental work. Data from non-MIP MOCVD equipment was used in analysis.

- Also science Driver Epi2DC

Complex empirical interatomic potentials, like ReaxFF, require optimization of many force field parameters to tune interatomic interactions to mimic ones obtained by quantum chemistry-based methods. Here, we report an INItial-DEsign Enhanced Deep learning-based OPTimization (INDEEDopt) framework to accelerate and improve the quality of the ReaxFF parameterization. The procedure starts with a Latin Hypercube Design (LHD) algorithm that is used to explore the parameter landscape extensively. The LHD passes the information about explored regions to a deep learning model, which finds the minimum discrepancy regions, eliminates unfeasible regions and constructs a more comprehensive understanding of physically meaningful parameter space. We demonstrate the procedure here for the parameterization of a nickel–chromium binary force field and a tungsten–sulfide–carbon–oxygen–hydrogen quinary force field. We show that INDEEDopt produces improved accuracies in shorter development time compared to the conventional ReaxFF optimization methods.


This paper validates the capability of ReaxFF to reproduce complex graphite bending patterns near metal support surfaces. Using ReaxFF reactive molecular simulations, we have investigated the possible bending of graphene in vacuum and near copper surfaces. We describe the energy cost for graphene bending and the binding energy with hydrogen and copper with two different ReaxFF parameter sets, demonstrating the relevance of using the more recently developed ReaxFF parameter sets for graphene properties. Moreover, the draping angle at copper step edges obtained from our atomistic simulations is in good agreement with the draping angle determined from experimental measurements, thus validating the ReaxFF results.

- Also science Driver Epi2DC


This work addresses the key first step in CHet synthesis of novel 2D systems through the development and application of reactive force fields adapted to the specific physical processes active during the growth of the graphene layer that acts as a “superstrate” to the subsequent growth of CHet materials, combined with treatment of the SiC substrate and the interaction between the two. Optimizations in reactive potentials are available to the community.

- Also science driver Epi2DC


This work advances understanding of defects and dopants in 2D chalcogenides through first-principles simulation, which correlated strongly with experimental characterization of these systems and optimization of growth to control defect and dopant properties. Defect properties are an important component of developing data resources.
This closely coupled experimental and theoretical work employs and investigates the role of dopants and defects in inducing ferromagnetism in 2D semiconductors, with careful consideration of the role of defect-defect coupling. This fundamental study initiates a pathway towards possible 2D magnetic semiconducting devices.

This work combines experimental validation with computational development of new reactive force fields for chalcogenide systems that can interrogate questions of synthesis and post-synthesis annealing, structural modification, and environmental interactions. These new reactive potentials add to the suite currently available to the community.

The interaction of tensile and compressive strain and ion irradiation on the formation and evolution of defects in 2D transition metal dichalcogenides, including the crystalline-to-amorphous transition, is elucidated through first-principles calculations to establish insights on new ways to modify the properties of 2D materials.

Computational investigation of the formation energies and symmetry-lowering relaxations of charged chalcogenide vacancies in transition metal dichalcogenides, a major target in optimization of materials quality.

The platform-supported component of this joint experimental/computational work comprises first-principles calculations of defect properties in 2D transition metal dichalcogenides to elucidate formation energies, charge state, and influence on optical response.

The platform contributed in-house first-principles computations on the energetics and kinetics of metal deposition onto two-dimensional transition metal dichalcogenides in a close theory/experiment collaboration that advances Platform goals in accelerating the development of device applications, here through understanding the metal/2D interface, which is crucial for contact formation.

- Also science driver NGDev


In-house first-principles calculations here closely couple to experimental work to demonstrate a means to optically image atomic-scale defects in two-dimensional transition metal dichalcogenides; this work relates to Platform goals in understanding and controlling defects in 2D materials with special focus on high-throughput optical methods whose application is enabled or facilitated by supporting first-principles computations.


This comprehensive multi-disciplinary computational framework helps to advance the understanding of gas-phase kinetics in MOCVD synthesis of TMDs by combining first-principles methods, empirical atomistic reactive molecular dynamics, and computational fluid dynamics to efficiently model gas-phase physiochemical processes leading to WSe$_2$ growth in a cold-wall chamber whose geometry is designed to model the 2DCC tool used to provide many MOCVD-based user samples.


Study demonstrating that the combination of chemical destabilization, size-selective precipitation, and low-temperature annealing provides a potentially generalizable kinetic pathway to metastable variants of refractory compounds, including bulk Mo$_2$AlB$_2$ and Mo$_2$AlB$_2$–AlO$_x$ nanosheet heterostructures, and opens the door to other previously elusive 2-D materials.


Atomistic simulations of the mechanical response of deformed 2D materials with particular focus on distinct 2D morphologies such as ripples, whose formation (or suppression thereof) can play a
key role in device fabrication from 2D materials, making use of intermolecular potentials developed by 2DCC personnel and provided to the community.


In situ study that elucidates the passivation mechanism in TMDs upon laser irradiation and demonstrates a way to controllably n-dope CVD-grown monolayer MoS$_2$ on SiO$_2$ substrates, with in-house 2DCC theory/computation work in close concert with experiment.


Joint experiment/theory discovery of a defect-complex mechanism that results in a preferred orientation for transition metal dichalcogenides grown epitaxially on hexagonal boron nitride, providing insights towards achieving single-crystal monolayers of materials relevant to 2DCC mission, performed using 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility. Insights deriving from these results inform MOCVD synthesis efforts on samples for 2DCC users.


Combined experimental and theoretical study of octahedral tilts and polar distortions at perovskite interfaces including collaborators from 2DCC and PARADIM.


Joint experimental/computational effort on the catalytic properties of the edges of 2D transition metal dichalcogenides, of relevance for both application and understanding and controlling edge exposure and edge properties in these systems, using 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility.


Theoretical and computational proposal for a novel 2D system formed from adsorption onto a suspended 2D monolayer, with a general scheme that could apply to any sufficiently thin semiconducting or insulator 2D layer, performed using 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility.


Investigation of defects and functionalization of 2D transition metal dichalcogenide thin films through reactive force field simulation performed in part by the 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility and using reactive force fields in the class developed under Platform support.

Computational development of a new controlled defect induction concept utilizing adhesion of 2D chalcogenide monolayers through reactive force field simulation carried out using the 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility. This work advances general understanding of defect properties in 2D materials and their description at an empirical potential level.


Development of reactive force fields to handle silicon, carbon, and hydrogen of relevance to platform efforts on confinement heteroepitaxy, a novel means of growing new types of 2D materials.


Development of new theoretical/computational tools to understand and interpret optical response of 2D systems, in close concert with experiment, to enhance capabilities of interpretation of in situ and ex situ platform optical probes, performed using 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility and of particular interest to applications and fundamental phenomena exploiting the excitonic optical response of 2D TMDs.


The first reactive potential to describe TMD systems, of broad general utility in simulations of kinetic processes e.g. (growth) and also structural distortions of TMDs, with initial application to ripple deformations; this potential is available to users through the 2DCC website, with extensions to other metals, chalcogens and also substrate interactions completed or underway in the Platform.


Theoretical study predicting superconducting phases in bilayer transition metal dichalcogenides.

- Also science driver Phys2D


Theory-driven proposal for a general mechanism of grain boundary engineering in a 2D material, which could provide a way to place grain boundaries of desired misfit angles at desired locations, performed using 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility. We are currently extending this theory as a possible route to growing multilayer magic angles, encouraged by preliminary experimental results that suggest certain 2D materials may support growth modes that are conducive to this mechanism.

Theory-driven methodology to program a folding structure into an arbitrary 2D semimetallic or semiconducting system by applying key concepts from origami to complementary p and n type doping, using 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility.


The first calculation of resonant Raman response in a Rhenium-based TMD in close collaboration with experiment, identifying the origins of a complex assembly of Raman modes in this low-symmetry 2D chalcogenide. This work extends the suite of 2D chalcogenides for which we are able to interpret optical probes and uses the 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility.


A methodology to identify important defects in TMDs through rapid optical spectroscopic characterization, and elucidation of the mechanisms of exciton/defect binding, using 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility and supportive of optical characterization of thin films produced by the Platform.


Elucidation of the correct resonant intervalley origin for key Raman modes in TMD MoS\textsubscript{2} through close theory/experiment collaboration, an effort that provides guidance for the interpretation of optical characterization of samples produced by 2DCC and in the community at large, using 2DCC Theory/Simulation facility.

A. Azizi, Y. Wang, G. Stone, A. L. Elias, Z. Lin, M. Terrones, V. H. Crespi, and N. Alem, “Defect Coupling and Sub-Angstrom Structural Distortions in W\textsubscript{1-x}Mo\textsubscript{x}S\textsubscript{2}Monolayers”, Nano Lett. 2017, 17, 2802. 10.1021/acs.nanolett.6b05045

Experimental and theoretical study demonstrating coupling of vacancies and metal atoms in transition metal dichalcogenide alloys carried out by 2DCC Thin Films and Theory/Simulation facilities. This work advances the understanding of defects in 2D materials, which is important for optimizing growth and understanding properties of thin films produced by the platform and the community at large.


Experimental and theoretical study of atomic scale ordering in 2D transition metal dichalcogenide alloys carried out by collaborators in 2DCC Thin Films and Theory/Simulation facilities; this
work has guided later exploratory synthetic efforts to exploit the phenomena therein discerned to potentially create sharp, thin lateral heterostructures.

- Also science driver Epi2DC


Thermodynamic investigation into the effects of processing conditions on the growth mode of transition metal dichalcogenide films carried out in collaboration with 2DCC Thin Films facility.