2D crystal based Heterostructures: from Superlattices to Devices

Cinzia Casiraghi

School of Chemistry, University of Manchester (UK)

The isolation of various two-dimensional (2D) materials, and the possibility to combine them in vertical stacks, has created a new paradigm in materials science: heterostructures based on 2D crystals. Such a concept can be used to focus on particular phenomena or for specific applications.

In this talk I will show that layering sheets of graphene and hexagonal boron nitride (hBN),molybdenum disulfide (MoS₂), or tungsten disulfide (WS₂) allow operation of tunnelling transistors [1,2] and efficient flexible photovoltaic devices with external quantum efficiency of above 30% [3]. Furthermore, I will show that graphene placed on hexagonal-Boron Nitride (h-BN) experiences a superlattice potential, which leads to a strong reconstruction of graphene's electronic spectrum [4,5]. Raman spectroscopy is found to allow high-throughput and non-destructive identification of graphene/hBN superlattices [6], making this technique a fundamental tool in the fabrication of superlattice based-devices.

In the last part of this talk I will show that heterostructures can also be assembled from chemically exfoliated 2D crystals [7], allowing for low-cost and scalable methods to be used in heterostructures fabrication [8].

References

- 1. Georgiou et al, Nat. Nanotechnol. 8, 100 (2013)
- 2. Britnell et al, Science 335, 947 (2012)
- 3. Britnell et al, Science 340, 1311-1314 (2013)
- 4. Wallbankey al, Phys. Rev. B87, 245408 (2013)
- 5. Ponomarenko et al, Nature 497, 594 (2013)
- 6. Eckmann et al, Nano Lett. 13 (11), 5242 (2013)
- 7. Yang et al, 2D Materials, 1, 011012 (2014)
- 8. Whiters et, al Nano Letters, 14, 3987 (2014)
- 9. This research was supported by the Royal Society, the European Science Foundation (GOSPEL project) and the Army Research Office.



Figure 1: Heterostructure based photo-detectors can be assembled from 2D crystals inks.