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Angle dependent Pauli-paramagnetic limit in ultra-thin NbSe₂

Transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) are layered materials of abundant variety, providing the emergence of two-dimensional (2D) physical phenomena such as 2D superconductivity in NbSe₂. Main fabrication methods of TMDs have been mechanical exfoliation¹ and chemical-vapor deposition², but current attractive method for TMDs is Molecular-beam epitaxy (MBE), which leads to design broad platform for solid-state physics research. Limited in MBE thin film growth, some groups reported the growth of superconducting NbSe₂ only on conducting graphene^{3, 4, 5}. Here we report layer-by-layer MBE growth of NbSe₂ on insulating sapphire substrates, achieving the superconductivity. In the ultra-thin NbSe₂ films down to monolayer limit, we achieved superconductivity and confirmed the Ising superconductivity, the coupling of superconductivity and Zeeman-type spin-orbit interaction, through the enhanced Pauli-paramagnetic limit of H_{c2} .

Furthermore, we report the angle dependence of H_{c2} at low temperature in a NbSe₂ bilayer film, where the in- and out-of-plane H_{c2} of magnetic Pauli-paramagnetic and orbital limit, respectively. The experimentally observed cusp-like angle dependence of H_{c2} , which is usually regarded as a signature of orbital limit was well explained by the Pauli-limit within the Ginzburg-Landau formalism for 2D superconductors.

References

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- [3] M. M. Ugeda *et al*, *Nat. Phys.*, **12** (2016) 92
- [4] Y. Tanaka *et al*, *NPG Asia Materials*, **8** (2016) e321
- [5] Y. Xing *et al*, *Nano Lett.*, **17** (2017) 6802

Figures

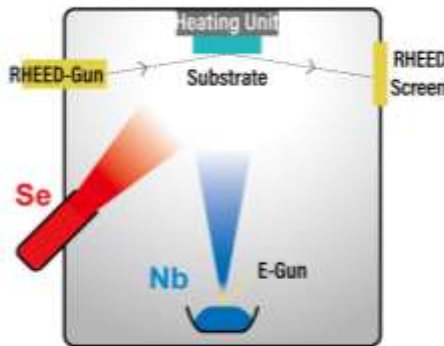


Figure 1: Schematic image of MBE experimental setup.

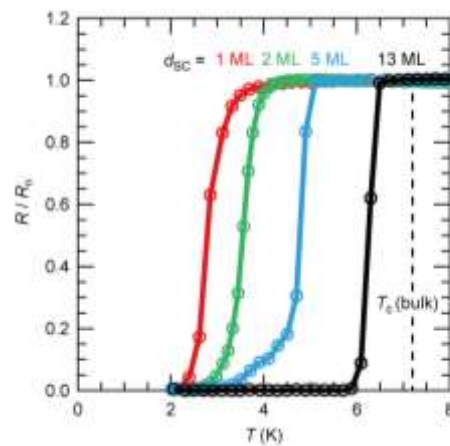


Figure 2: In-plane resistance versus temperature curves of NbSe₂ thin films with several thickness.