Effects of oxidation and chlorine defects on ferromagnetic CrCl₃ monolayer

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Layered vdW transition metals trihalides

Overview of the layered vdW transition metals trihalides MX₃ crystals

CrCl₃ crystals



M. McGuire et al., Crystals, 7, 121 (2017) Kazim S. et al. Nanotechnology, 31, 395706 (2020) D. Mastrippolito et al., Nanoscale Advances, 3, 4756-4766 (2021)

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CrCl₃ nanoflakes

Blue tape mechanical exfoliation and atomic layer deposition





Optical images on a 270 nm SiO_2/Si substrate (ad) and (e-h) on a 285 nm SiO_2/Si substrate (e-h)





TEM images of freshly exfoliated CrCl₃



EDX micro-analysis

Kazim S. et al. Nanotechnology, 31, 395706 (2020) D. Mastrippolito et al., Nanoscale Advances, 3, 4756-4766 (2021)

CrCl₃ nanoflakes







Ordered O-CrCl₃ structure

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Monolayer CrCl₃ phases



4 4 – CI 3p 2 2 Cr 3d Energy (eV) 0 0 -2 -2 -4 -4 -6 -6 10 X G -10 G Y S 0 PDOS (electrons/eV)

Cl-defective 2X1 supercell (CrCl_{2.75})

Cr₂

CI

Cl

Ordered O-CrCl₃ 2.366 Å 2.750 Å 4 O 2p Cr 3d 2 Cl 3p -2 Energy (eV) c¹ 0 -2 -4 -4 -6 -6 10 G Κ G -10 Μ 0 PDOS (electrons/eV)

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D. Mastrippolito et al., Nanoscale Advances, 3, 4756-4766 (2021)

Spin-resolved Electronic Bands

Magnetic properties of Cl-defective CrCl₃



Magnetic properties of O-CrCl₃



 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Cr magnetic moment (3.05 } \mu_{\text{B}}) \text{ of } \text{O-CrCl}_{3} \\ \\ \text{O magnetic moment (1.37 } \mu_{\text{B}}) \text{ of } \text{O-CrCl}_{3} \\ \\ \text{Magnetic moment (4.27 } \mu_{\text{B}}) \text{ per unit cell (Cr}_{2}\text{Cl}_{6}\text{O}) \end{array}$

Mean field T_{C} (110 K)



Conclusions

- Cl-vacancy defective and ordered oxidized induced extrinsic phases in 2D CrCl₃
- Halogen vacancies represent a low-cost method to enhance the magnetic ordering temperature of the 2D transition metal trihalides class
- Oxygen intercalated impurities result in unconventional 2D ferrimagnetic hexagonal system

Acknowledgment



Other collaborators:

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Thank you for the attention

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Valence and conduction bands



Surface-sensitive UPS (red curve) and bulk-sensitive XPS (dashed red curve) valence bands compared with TDOS of O–CrCl₃ (black curve) and the 1.85% Cl-defective $CrCl_3$ (dashed black curve) structure.



TDOS of O–CrCl₃ (black) compared with surface normalized conductance (red)