

Hole Mobility Enhancement and p-doping in Monolayer WSe₂ by Gold Decoration

Chang-Hsiao Chen¹, Chun-Lan Wu², Jiang Pu³, Ming-Hui Chiu⁴, Pushpendra Kumar², Taishi Takenobu³, Lain-Jong Li⁴

¹Center for Micro/Nano Science and Technology, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

²Institute of Atomic and Molecular Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, 11529, Taiwan

³Department of Applied Physics, Waseda University, Tokyo 169-8555, Japan

⁴Physical Sciences and Engineering, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Thuwal, 23955-6900, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

chchen55@mail.ncku.edu.tw

Abstract

Tungsten diselenide (WSe₂) is an attractive transition metal dichalcogenide material, since its Fermi energy close to the mid gap makes it an excellent candidate for realizing p–n junction devices and complementary digital logic applications. Doping is one of the most important technologies for controlling the Fermi energy in semiconductors, including 2D materials. Moreover, the Fermi level engineering or doping in monolayer WSe₂ is still relatively unexplored. Recently, Fang et al have reported transistors based on WSe₂ using high-k materials as the gate dielectrics, where the chemically doped source/drain contacts exhibit low contact resistances. Selective treatment with potassium is able to form degenerately doped n+ contacts for electron injection while NO₂ treatment forms p+ contacts [1–3]. Liu et al have demonstrated the n-type WSe₂ FET by using indium as a contact metal [4]. Chuang et al have revealed that graphene can be a work-function-tunable electrode material for few-nanometre WSe₂ FETs [5]. It is noted that the small molecules adsorbed on the 2D materials tend to desorb from the surfaces and the alkali metals are known to be sensitive to moisture and oxygen. Here we present a simple, stable and controllable p-doping technique on a WSe₂ monolayer, where a more p-typed WSe₂ field effect transistor is realized by electron transfer from the WSe₂ to the gold (Au) decorated on the WSe₂ surfaces. Related changes in Raman spectroscopy are also reported. The p-doping caused by Au on WSe₂ monolayers lowers the channel resistance by orders of magnitude. The effective hole mobility is ~100 (cm²/Vs) and the near ideal subthreshold swing of ~60 mV/decade and high on/off current ratio of >10⁶ are observed. The Au deposited on the WSe₂ also serves as a protection layer to prevent a reaction between the WSe₂ and the environment, making the doping stable and promising for future scalable fabrication.

References

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Figures

