

Hybrid (spin)interface between a 2D material and a metal

Johann Coraux

^aUniv. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Grenoble INP, Institut NEEL, 38000 Grenoble, France. Email: johann.coraux@neel.cnrs.fr

Abstract:

Interfaces between molecules and inorganic materials, e.g. metals, are at the heart of molecular electronics, optoelectronics or spintronics. They sometimes even dominate the behaviour of devices, and for this reason are fields of investigation in their own right - spinterface being a striking illustration. Seeing two-dimensional materials (graphene, boron nitride or transition metal dichalcogenides, etc) as molecules may seem far-fetched. I wish to discuss the idea that just like molecules they form hybrid interfaces with metals, though. And in fact these interfaces share interesting similitudes with molecule/metal interfaces, but come together with original features. Graphene, as the first studied two-dimensional material, has been scrutinised by us and others, to try to answer several key questions in this respect: What is the physico-chemistry, noteworthy the nature of bonding, at the graphene/metal interface? What is special with having a highly cohesive material instead of molecules in contact with the metal surface? How can we prepare and control interfaces with (functional) metals at will? Answering these questions opens opportunities: Graphene (or molecules) may serve as a building-block in magnetic multilayers to be used in carbon-inside spintronic devices; Highly transparent graphene-superconductor junctions may be created and superconductivity induced in graphene; Other two-dimensional materials may be used instead of graphene, to seek for more advanced interfacial phenomena in the future.

References:

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