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Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5hv4259k>

Journal

Nature Electronics, 2(2)

ISSN

2520-1131

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Publication Date

2019-02-01

DOI

10.1038/s41928-019-0207-4

Peer reviewed

1 **A dielectric-defined lateral heterojunction in a monolayer semiconductor**

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20
21 **Abstract**

22 Due to their low dimensionality, two-dimensional semiconductors, such as monolayer molybdenum disulfide,
23 have a range of properties that make them valuable in the development of nanoelectronics. For example, the
24 electronic bandgap of these semiconductors is not an intrinsic physical parameter and can be engineered
25 through the dielectric environment around the monolayer. Here we show that this dielectric dependent elec-
26 tronic bandgap can be used to engineer a lateral heterojunction within a homogeneous MoS₂ monolayer. We
27 visualize the heterostructure with Kelvin probe force microscopy and examine its influence on electrical
28 transport experimentally and theoretically. We observe a lateral heterojunction with ~90 meV band offset
29 due to different bandgap renormalization of monolayer MoS₂ when it is on a substrate in which one segment
30 is made from an amorphous fluoropolymer (Cytop) and another segment from hexagonal boron nitride. This
31 heterostructure leads to a diode-like electrical transport with a strong asymmetric behaviour.

38 Atomically thin semiconductors, such as monolayer transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs)¹⁻³, provide a
39 platform for investigating nanoscale quantum phenomena⁴⁻⁶ and have a range of potential applications in
40 nanoelectronics⁷⁻⁹. A freestanding monolayer of a transition metal dichalcogenide experiences a reduced
41 dielectric screening and an enhanced Coulomb interaction by virtue of its atomically thin structure. In
42 contrast to bulk materials, electric field lines between charges inside a monolayer can extend substantially
43 outside of the layer¹⁰⁻¹². This leads to an ineffective intrinsic screening that enhances electronic interaction
44 and leads to large exciton binding energies between 0.2–0.7 eV in these materials¹⁰⁻¹⁸. Furthermore, the
45 electronic band structure of atomically thin 2D layers is not completely intrinsic to the material and can be
46 strongly affected by the surrounding environment^{13,19-23}. With both electron and hole experiencing the
47 screening, the conduction and valence band edges shift in the opposite direction^{12,13,21,23}. *Ab initio*
48 calculations predict that there is a monotonic decrease of electronic bandgap energy with increasing
49 dielectric screening, where the reduction of bandgap can reach the order of hundreds of meV relative to the
50 bandgap of a freestanding monolayer^{13,20,22,24-27}. Recent scanning tunnelling spectroscopy¹³ and optical
51 spectroscopy^{20,22} studies provided evidence that the bandgap renormalization phenomenon in atomically thin
52 2D semiconductors can indeed be significant. Such bandgap renormalization may have a profound effect on
53 electrical transport in atomically thin 2D semiconductors; yet, the effect has not been investigated thoroughly
54 and its implications in the development of applications based on 2D materials remains unclear.

56 In this Article, we design lateral heterojunctions within a homogeneous MoS₂ monolayer exploiting the
57 dielectric-dependent bandgap renormalization and explore its influence on electrical transport. We prepared a
58 continuous monolayer MoS₂ which has a segment on a high- ϵ substrate and an adjacent segment on a low- ϵ
59 substrate (Fig. 1a). Due to the different degree of renormalization of the electronic bandgap introduced by the
60 two substrates on each segment, the monolayer MoS₂ forms an in-plane type-I heterojunction above the
61 boundary of the two substrates (Fig. 1b,c). We used this sample configuration to perform Kelvin Probe Force
62 Microscopy (KPFM) and electrical transport measurements across the heterojunction. KPFM^{28,29} examines
63 the local variation of surface potential across the device channel³⁰ and provides a direct determination of the
64 band offset of the MoS₂ heterojunction from the dielectric engineering. Electrical measurements show that
65 the presence of the heterostructure has a significant effect on electrical transport through the device, leading
66 to a strong asymmetric rectification behaviour. The experimentally observed transport phenomena can also
67 be qualitatively reproduced in a numerical simulation of the device, which exhibits several unique aspects
68 arising from the atomically thin layers. Such dielectric-defined heterostructure behaviour can be important
69 for understanding electrical transport behaviour in atomically thin 2D layers and provide a new approach for
70 engineering 2D nanoelectronic devices^{4,31}.

72 Theoretical calculations^{21,23,32,33} show that the change in the bandgap of the 2D layer due to dielectric
73 screening effect by the substrate(s) is most dramatic when the 2D layer has a low intrinsic dielectric constant
74 (ϵ). In addition, a high contrast from the dielectric screening environment involving a low- ϵ substrate and a
75 high- ϵ substrate is desirable to introduce a significant change in the bandgap of the 2D layer at the
76 heterojunction. We choose the fluoropolymer Cytop ($\epsilon = 2.0-2.1$) and hBN ($\epsilon(0) = 6.9$, $\epsilon(\infty) = 5.0$ normal to
77 c -axis³⁴) to serve as the ϵ_{low} and ϵ_{high} substrates respectively. The fluoropolymer Cytop substrate is one of
78 the materials with the lowest dielectric constant that still allows ease of processing and device fabrication.
79 Meanwhile, the straight edges of as-exfoliated thin hBN flake provide a boundary that is atomically sharp for
80 a well-defined junction area. Moreover, both Cytop³⁵ and hBN³⁶ are known to be insulating layer with a low
81 density of surface trap states.

83 Heterojunction device design and electrical measurement

84 We transferred a monolayer of MoS₂ atop the boundary of an hBN flake on a Cytop film and then fabricated
85 electrical contacts onto the monolayer to form a device channel that is perpendicular to the Cytop/hBN
86 substrate boundary (Fig. 2a). The electrical measurements are then performed in 4-terminal configuration to
87 minimize the influence of contacts. Fig. 2b shows the I - V measurement of the device for different back gate-
88 source voltages (which we shall refer to as “gate voltage” for brevity) $V_{\text{gs}} > 0$ V, which correspond to electron
89 doping. With the MoS₂ segment on Cytop grounded, the device exhibited a rectification behavior that is
90 reminiscent of a diode. This rectification behaviour is consistent with the expected type-I heterojunction
91 formation drawn in Fig. 1c, where the MoS₂ segments above the ϵ_{low} and ϵ_{high} substrates have different
92 electronic bandgap due to dielectric screening. This behaviour is similar to an n-n heterojunction with MoS₂
93 segment on Cytop (hBN) containing the depletion (accumulation) regime³⁷.

94

95 In comparison, the reference MoS₂ monolayer device on a uniform Cytop film exhibits linear Ohmic-like
 96 behaviour (Fig. 2c), suggesting that the rectification arises from the presence of the heterojunction at the
 97 boundary between high- ϵ and low- ϵ substrates. Furthermore, we also conducted control experiments with
 98 MoS₂ monolayer on a step edge of an hBN flake that otherwise supports a uniform dielectric environment
 99 (Supplementary Fig. 7). Such control device shows symmetric output curves, which also substantiates that
 100 the rectification cannot be attributed only to the presence of step edge (*e.g.*, strain-induced or otherwise)
 101 without introducing dielectric contrast.

102

103 A prominent feature of our MoS₂ heterojunction device behaviour is that the I - V curve at forward bias that is
 104 higher than $V_{\text{ch}} \approx 0.1$ V is mostly linear. This behaviour is commonly found in a real diode, which can be
 105 described by a piecewise linear model with a "turn-on" voltage (V_t) before the device appears to be Ohmic-
 106 like³⁸. The turn-on voltage is often correlated to the potential landscape of the diode (*e.g.*, built-in voltage in
 107 Si p-n diode), and it provides an estimate of conduction band offset across the heterojunction. Our low-
 108 temperature transport measurements yield a turn-on voltage $V_t \sim 90$ mV in the device (17 K, Fig. 2d).

109

110

111 **KPFM characterization**

112 Fig. 3a illustrates the KPFM measurement configuration, where lift mode with a constant tip height ($h = 30$
 113 nm) is used and the DC component of bias voltage (V_{bias}) is applied to the sample. Fig. 3b displays the
 114 topography scan of atomic force microscope (AFM) from the MoS₂ heterojunction area at the Cytop/hBN
 115 substrate boundary. The averaged height profile (Fig. 3c) shows that the thickness of the hBN is around 10
 116 nm. The exposed top surface in our devices allows for direct KPFM characterization.

117

118 As KPFM typically requires the sample to be sufficiently conducting, we performed KPFM on the MoS₂
 119 when it is electrostatically gated to its on-state (electron accumulation) at high gate voltage. Fig. 3d shows
 120 the map of V_{bias} that was applied to the sample to cancel the electrostatic force between the tip and the
 121 sample, which is imaged at $V_{\text{gs}} = 50$ V. Meanwhile, Fig. 3e shows the corresponding averaged V_{bias} profile.
 122 The V_{bias} magnitude is related to the work function of the sample and that of the tip by $W_{f,\text{sample}} = eV_{\text{bias}} +$
 123 $W_{f,\text{tip}}$ (see Supplementary Fig. 8). Therefore, the difference in local work function between two segments of
 124 the sample that are imaged by the same tip is given by:

125

$$126 \Delta W_{f,\text{sample}} = e\Delta V_{\text{bias}} \quad (1)$$

127

128 Two distinct areal regions of V_{bias} are seen in Fig. 3d that correlates well with the two segments of MoS₂ on
 129 Cytop and hBN from the topographic image (Fig. 3b). By using the averaged line profile in Fig. 3e, we
 130 therefore conclude that the work function difference ($\Delta W_f = W_{f,\text{low}} - W_{f,\text{high}}$) of MoS₂ on the Cytop and
 131 hBN substrate is -90 ± 20 meV at $V_{\text{gs}} = 50$ V. Here, the negative sign means that the vacuum level of MoS₂
 132 on Cytop is lower than that on hBN.

133

134 The conduction band offset can be obtained from the work function difference by

135

$$136 \Delta E_c = -\Delta W_f - kT \ln \left[\frac{\exp\left(\frac{\pi\hbar^2 n_{\text{low}}}{m^*kT}\right) - 1}{\exp\left(\frac{\pi\hbar^2 n_{\text{high}}}{m^*kT}\right) - 1} \right] \quad (2)$$

137

138 with the carrier density $n = C_g(V_{\text{gs}} - V_{\text{th}})/e$, where V_{th} is the gate threshold voltage, and m^* is the effective
 139 mass of electrons. Because the serial gate capacitance (C_g) at ϵ_{high} and ϵ_{low} side of the device does not differ
 140 significantly (the geometric capacitance of the 285 nm SiO₂ substrate dominates the serial capacitance), the
 141 ratio $n_{\text{low}}/n_{\text{high}}$ becomes closer to unity at high gate voltage. Applying these considerations to equation (2)
 142 in combination with (1) suggests that performing the measurement at the high gate voltage provides two
 143 major benefits: first, it counters the doping contribution from the environment to allow the relative carrier
 144 density on both sides of the junction to be more balanced since the charge density is dominated by that
 145 induced by the gate. Secondly, as the consequence of $n_{\text{low}}/n_{\text{high}} \approx 1$, KPFM measurements at high gate

146 voltage allow direct interpretation of the conduction band offset from the V_{bias} contrast. Fig. 3e therefore
 147 implies that $\Delta E_c \approx -e\Delta V_{\text{bias}} \sim 90$ meV for our experimental condition, *i.e.*, E_c for MoS₂ on Cytop is
 148 positioned higher than that on hBN.
 149

150 The heterojunction measured by KPFM is consistent with the electrical transport data. It suggests that
 151 dielectric engineered bandgap difference is around $\Delta E_g \approx 2\Delta E_c = -180 \pm 40$ meV (illustrated in Fig. 1c),
 152 assuming electron-hole symmetry. We compare this experimental result with the theoretical calculation of
 153 the electronic bandgap of MoS₂ within the *ab initio* GW₀ approach as implemented in the BerkeleyGW
 154 package³⁹⁻⁴¹ and account for the dielectric screening effect from the substrates using the in-plane substrate
 155 averaging approach (details regarding the GW₀ calculation is in Supplementary Note 4)^{13,33}. The GW₀
 156 calculation shows that the bandgap of MoS₂ on a similar dielectric fluoropolymer as Cytop, after accounting
 157 of surface roughness (Supplementary Fig. 3), is larger than that of MoS₂ on hBN by 120 ± 40 meV, of which
 158 the CBM offset is $\sim 70 \pm 20$ meV (Fig. 3f). Our calculations reveal that the roughness of the Cytop surface
 159 decreases the effective dielectric screening experienced by MoS₂; the same calculation performed on a
 160 perfectly smooth Cytop-like substrate results in a CBM offset of ~ 40 meV. The calculated bandgap and CBM
 161 offset agree well with the experimental results, with overlapping error bars. The CBM and VBM offsets are
 162 also approximately symmetric.
 163

164 Energy band modelling

165 We model the electrical potential and charge transport through the junction numerically to understand the
 166 unusual electrical transport from an atomically thin 2D heterojunction. While the rectification behaviour of
 167 the heterojunction is consistent with the predicted band alignment in Fig. 1c, the transport data cannot be
 168 aptly modelled with a thermionic emission theory commonly used to describe a Schottky diode, in which the
 169 current level predicted from a thermionic emission mechanism is several orders of magnitude larger than that
 170 measured herein (Supplementary Note 1 and Supplementary Fig. 1-2). The thermionic emission model fails
 171 in atomically thin 2D layers because these 2D materials tend to have rather low mobility, and the drift-
 172 diffusion behaviour of charge carriers plays a dominant role in the transport across the heterojunction³⁷. To
 173 accurately model the device behaviour, we introduce a carrier density dependent electron mobility in MoS₂
 174 by $\mu(n) = \mu_0/[1 + \exp(\alpha^{-n+n_0})]$. Here, the mobility has a constant value of μ_0 at high doping but drops
 175 significantly at low doping. This functional form is reminiscent to an activated behaviour with a certain
 176 density of trap states, and the relevant parameters are obtained through gate-dependent transport data from a
 177 homogeneous MoS₂ monolayer (Supplementary Fig. 5f-g). The density-dependent mobility is especially
 178 relevant at the depletion region, which would experience increased local electrical resistance due to lowered
 179 carrier density (Fig. 4d).
 180

181 Fig. 4 shows the calculated band diagram and the associated band bending of MoS₂ around the Cytop and
 182 hBN substrates for the conduction band edges at zero, forward, and reverse applied bias (see method in
 183 Supplementary Note 2). The electron density n_0 at $x < 0$ (at Cytop) is assumed to be $\sim 2 \times 10^{12}$ cm⁻². The zero
 184 bias calculation result (Fig. 4a) captures the built-in potential on each side of the junction (ψ_1 and ψ_2 for
 185 MoS₂ on hBN and Cytop, respectively) because of the work function differences between the two segments
 186 of MoS₂. In the case of a biased channel, the current flow is a response of a voltage drop over the whole
 187 channel: $V_{ch} = E_F(z = -L) - E_F(z = L)$ that shifts the Fermi level out of equilibrium. However, we see
 188 from both Fig. 4b and 4c that the voltage drop primarily transpires at the heterojunction, ensuring that the
 189 heterojunction property to define the I - V behaviour of the device.
 190

191 In the forward bias (Fig. 4b), the voltage drop across the heterojunction reduces the net built-in potential into
 192 $\psi_1 - V_1$ and $\psi_2 - V_2$, respectively. A net current will flow with the electrons moving from the segment on
 193 Cytop to that on hBN. At a finite temperature, electrons moving in this direction will see an energy barrier
 194 for transport across the heterojunction. However, this energy barrier becomes negligible at a sufficiently
 195 large applied bias $V_{ch} > V_t$, as illustrated in Fig. 4b. In other words, $\psi_2 - V_2 \approx 0$ and the transport across the
 196 junction should be mostly dominated by the sheet resistance of MoS₂ away from the junction and appears
 197 Ohmic-like. As an approximation, the $\psi_2 - V_2 \approx 0$ condition is achieved when the total built-in voltage
 198 across the junction: $\psi_i = \psi_1 + \psi_2 \approx V_t$. We believe that this picture might explain the I - V behaviour for the
 199 heterojunction as discussed in Fig. 2. An equivalent diode circuit for the junction is shown in the inset of Fig.
 200 4b: the heterojunction is comprised of an internal built-in potential V_t that needs to be compensated by
 201 applying an external potential, following which the current-voltage behaviour is dictated by a resistance R_s

202 in series due to the MoS₂ segment away from the junction. Our simulated I - V plot (Fig. 4e) reproduces the
203 threshold-like behavior of the device.
204

205 Conclusions

206 We have reported an operational device application of bandgap renormalization in 2D materials via dielectric
207 screening, and shown that a dielectric-engineered lateral heterojunction can strongly modify electrical
208 transport in monolayer MoS₂. Since heterostructures are fundamental building blocks in electronics, such
209 dielectric engineering can provide a powerful new route for realizing more complex device architecture. Our
210 findings also have implications for the efforts to incorporate 2D materials in optoelectronics, in order to
211 improve functionality (for example, spin-valley current for information encoding⁴²) and drive
212 miniaturization^{43,44}.
213

214 In practical applications, all aspects of manufacturing must be considered. For instance, the monolithic
215 integration of 2D materials in circuitry requires interfacing with other components, such as substrate,
216 electrodes, and interconnections. Each component may screen the 2D materials, resulting in different degree
217 of bandgap renormalization across the channel. Notably, the bandgap of MX₂ should decrease significantly
218 upon interfacing with electrodes due to the high permittivity of metals and thus a heterojunction is expected
219 to form at each border between the MX₂ segments with and without metal contact. Although the behaviour of
220 metal-MX₂ junction is dominated by other mechanisms such as Fermi-level pinning^{45,46}, recent work
221 suggests the possibility to prevent pinning by minimizing disorders and interface states at the metal-MX₂
222 junction^{47,48}. At such limit, accounting for bandgap renormalization is essential to fully understand the
223 physics of electrical contact to MX₂ monolayers.
224

225 Although we have used Cytop and hBN substrates in order to simplify fabrication, the bandgap
226 renormalization is a general phenomenon in 2D semiconductors and the heterojunction should form with
227 other combinations of dielectrics. The constraint for low ϵ_{low} substrate may be satisfied by other established
228 materials in industry, such as electronic-grade plastic substrates^{49,50} with well-developed scalability and
229 processability. Additionally, an advantage of such polymeric surfaces is the absence of dangling bonds,
230 leading to a low density of surface trap sites. If conventional high- ϵ dielectrics are used, an abrupt
231 heterojunction is affordable by patterning with state-of-the-art microfabrication technology. Another scalable
232 approach also includes using CVD-grown 2D lateral heterojunction as the substrate if the material
233 combination has a significant dielectric contrast^{51,52}. We also believe that the influence from interface
234 trapping and substrate doping for non-optimized surface can be minimized if the heterojunction is operated at
235 high carrier density as defined by the electrostatic gating, where the difference in the work functions between
236 low- and high- ϵ channel segments are primarily due to the bandgap renormalization.
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238
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241
242

243 Methods

244 **Device fabrication.** Cytop (CYTOP CTL-809M, Asahi Glass Co.) is mixed into CTL180 (Asahi Glass Co.)
245 in 2:7 v/v and spincoated at 1000 rpm for 1 min to a uniform thickness of ~70 nm on highly doped Si
246 substrates with 285 nm SiO₂. The Cytop-coated substrate is then heated at a hotplate for 5 min at 100°C and
247 then 5 min at 150°C. Crystal of hBN is then exfoliated on the Cytop surface. The hBN flakes with thickness
248 of 5-15 nm that have a flat side edge are identified from optical microscopy and confirmed with AFM
249 imaging. Monolayers of MoS₂ are exfoliated onto a PDMS stamp and dry-transferred^{53,54} to the flat edge of
250 such hBN flake (Supplementary Fig. 4a,b). For all devices, 100 nm Au film is deposited for the electrode of
251 MoS₂ using a standard electron beam lithography (EBL) process with two layers of EBL resist (495PMMA
252 A4 and 950PMMA A4, MicroChem). We found that exposing the Cytop film to a short, low power N₂
253 plasma (10 sccm, 5 W for 1 s) before the hBN exfoliation can help to produce better spincoating of the
254 resists on Cytop.
255

256 **KPFM.** KPFM were performed using a Multimode AFM with grounded tip and biased sample. A blunted Si
257 cantilever with ~50 nm Au film coating was used for the imaging. The measurement was performed in
258 surface potential mode with a lift-height of 30 nm and a drive amplitude of 2 V. The high lift-height was
259 chosen to avoid interaction between the metal tip and the monolayer MoS₂ that can introduce additional
260 screening effect. The AFM instrument is housed inside a home-made enclosure that is flushed with a
261 constant flow of dry nitrogen to provide an inert atmosphere.

262

263 **Data availability**

264 The data that support the plots within this paper and other findings of this study are available from the corre-
265 sponding author upon reasonable request

266

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369

370 Acknowledgements

371 We thank M. Asta, J. Yao, and S. Kahn for helpful discussions. This work was primarily supported by the
372 Center for Computational Study of Excited State Phenomena in Energy Materials, which is funded by the
373 U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Basic Energy Sciences, Materials Sciences and Engineering
374 Division under Contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231, as part of the Computational Materials Sciences Pro-

375 gram. The device fabrication is supported by National Science Foundation EFRI program (EFMA-1542741).
376 This research used resources of the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC), a
377 DOE Office of Science User Facility supported by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy
378 under Contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231, and the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environ-
379 ment (XSEDE), which is supported by National Science Foundation grant number ACI-1548562. H.K. was
380 supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (KL 2961/1-1). C.S.O. acknowledges support from the
381 Singapore National Research Foundation (Clean Energy) PhD Scholarship. R.K. was supported by the JSPS
382 Overseas Research Fellowship Program. S.T. acknowledges the support from NSF DMR 1552220 NSF CA-
383 REER award. Growth of hexagonal boron nitride crystals was supported by the Elemental Strategy Initiative
384 conducted by the MEXT, Japan and a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas ‘Science of
385 Atomic Layers’ from JSPS.

386

387 **Author contribution**

388 F.W., M.I.B.U., H.K. conceived the project and designed the experiments. M.I.B.U. and H.K. performed
389 sample preparation, device fabrication, electrical transport measurements, and data analysis. W.Z., M.I.B.U.,
390 and S.W. performed KPFM measurement. M.I.B.U. conducted optical spectroscopy. R.K., S.Z., and A.Z.
391 contributed in the device fabrication process. F.W., M.I.B.U., H.K. simulated the energy band diagram of the
392 heterojunction. C.S.O., F.H.d.J., and D.Y.Q. performed GW calculations on and together with S.G.L. did the
393 analyses of the quasiparticle band structures. H.C., H.L., and S.T. grown the MoS₂ single crystal. K.W. and
394 T.T. grew the hBN single crystal. F.W., S.G.L., and A.Z. supervised the project.

395

396 **Financial and non-financial competing interests**

397 The authors declare no competing interests.

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399 **Additional information**

400 **Supplementary information** is available for this paper at <https://doi.org/10.1038/xxxx>.

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409 **Figure 1 | Engineering 2D heterojunction through dielectric-dependent bandgap renormalization. a,**
410 Schematic illustration of the heterostructure. Two substrates with different dielectric constant ($\epsilon_{\text{low}} < \epsilon_{\text{high}}$)
411 are used to locally vary the MoS₂ electronic bandgap. **b,** The expected band alignment of isolated monolayer
412 MoS₂ situated on ϵ_{low} substrate (Cytop) and on ϵ_{high} substrate (hBN), respectively. The segment of MoS₂
413 monolayer on Cytop and that on hBN are assumed to have the same electron doping density from the
414 electrostatic gating. **c,** The band alignment from **(b)** if the MoS₂ segments at the two substrates are in contact
415 and reach equilibrium following Anderson's rule. A type-I lateral heterojunction forms with an energy barrier
416 for electron transport in the conduction band.

417
418 **Figure 2 | Current-voltage characteristics of MoS₂ heterojunction device. a,** Optical micrograph of an
419 MoS₂ monolayer that is partially situated on Cytop and on hBN substrates. The white dashed line denotes the
420 location of the monolayer that acts as the device channel. The MoS₂ segment on hBN received the high bias
421 potential (drain). Scale bar: 2 μm . **b,** The output characteristics of the device with various back gating at the
422 temperature of 200 K. **c,** The output characteristics of a reference MoS₂ monolayer device on a uniform
423 Cytop substrate measured at 200 K. Inset: The micrograph of the reference device. Scale bar: 2 μm . **d,** The
424 output characteristics of the heterojunction device at 17 K in log-log scale. The forward bias current is fitted
425 with a straight line that extrapolates to a turn-on voltage of 90 mV. Inset: the same data in linear scale.

426
427 **Figure 3 | KPFM characterization of the MoS₂ heterojunction formation from differences in the degree**
428 **of local dielectric screening. a,** Schematic of the KPFM setup with V_{bias} applied to the sample. For the
429 measurements herein, the device is back gated to $V_{gs} = 50$ V and the lift height of the tip is set to $h = 30$ nm.
430 **b,** The topography image recorded in tapping mode AFM. **c,** The height profile, averaged from the area
431 inside the white-dashed rectangle in **(b)**. **d,** The spatially mapped V_{bias} from the same area as in **(b)**. **e,** The
432 V_{bias} profile from **(d)**, also averaged similarly from the same area as in **(c)**. Given that $\Delta E_c = -e\Delta V_{\text{bias}}$ in the
433 measurement configuration, the KPFM result demonstrates that the conduction band edge of MoS₂ on Cytop
434 substrate is higher by 90 meV than that of MoS₂ on hBN. **f,** Results from GW calculations of the bandgap
435 and band alignment of monolayer MoS₂ that is freestanding without substrate screening effect (left), that is
436 placed on a surface of a fluoropolymer (middle), and that is placed on a hBN substrate (Scale bars in **(b)** and
437 **(d)** corresponds to 500 nm).

438
439 **Figure 4 | Simulation results of the energy band bending at the 2D heterojunction. a,b,c** The conduction
440 band edges and Fermi levels are calculated at **(a)** zero bias, **(b)** forward biased (current: 80 nA/ μm), and **(c)**
441 reverse biased condition (current: -6 nA/ μm). In the three cases, the MoS₂ segment on Cytop is assigned to
442 be electrically grounded. Under small forward bias ($V_{ch} = V_1 + V_2$), an electron traversing the heterojunction
443 from the segment on Cytop to that on hBN experiences an energy barrier due to the built-in voltage.
444 However, for large enough bias beyond the turn-on voltage ($V_{ch} > V_t$), electrons traversing the heterojunction
445 (blue circle) do not experience significant energy barrier and the current-voltage characteristic is determined
446 by the resistance of the channel instead of the junction. Inset in **(b)**: a schematic of the diode modelling
447 according to piecewise linear model. **d,** Carrier density distribution across the junction under different bias
448 condition. **e,** Simulated current-voltage characteristics with a carrier density-dependent mobility. All
449 calculations are performed using carrier density of $2.0 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ at 140 K.

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