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Observation of Room-Temperature Magnetoresistance in Monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> by Ferromagnetic Gating

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# ABSTRACT

Room-temperature magnetoresistance (MR) effect is observed in wafer-scale  $MoS_2$  layers coupled with ferromagnetic dielectric CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (CFO). Through the ferromagnetic gating, MR ratio of -12.7% can be experimentally achieved in monolayer  $MoS_2$  under 90 kOe at room temperature. Such observed MR effect is attributed to the spin accumulation and injection from the  $MoS_2/CFO$  interface into the  $MoS_2$  layer by spin coupling effect. The injected spin may contribute to the spin current induced by the spin Hall effect and eventually change the resistance of  $MoS_2$  itself because of inverse spin Hall effect. The observed MR ratio is much higher than that in previously reported nonmagnetic metal coupled with magnetic insulator which generally exhibited MR ratio of less than 1%. The anisotropic MR effect enhances dramatically as the thickness of  $MoS_2$  decreasing down to monolayer, while the MR ratio becomes negligible in  $MoS_2$  with more than 10 layers. Our research provides an insight into exploring roomtemperature MR in monolayer materials, which should be helpful for developing a new generation of ultra-thin magnetic storage devices in the atomically-thin limit.

**KEYWORDS:** wafer –scale; monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub>; CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>; heterostructures; magnetoresistance

# **INTRODUCTION**

Magnetoresistance (MR) is the change in electrical resistance of materials induced by the external magnetic field, i.e., the response of electrical resistance to a magnetic field. Large MR, for example, giant MR (GMR) was discovered in multilayers of alternating ferromagnetic and nonmagnetic metalic thin films,<sup>1,2</sup>while colossal MR (CMR) generally occurs in manganesebased perovskite oxides.<sup>3,4</sup> Besides, extremely large MR was reported in several semimetals, such as Dirac semimetal of Cd<sub>3</sub>As<sub>2</sub> with linear band crossing at the Fermi level, resonant compensated semimetal of WTe<sub>2</sub> with perfect electron-hole symmetry and Weyl semimetal of LaSb due to the breaking of time reversal symmetry.<sup>5–7</sup> Among them, WTe<sub>2</sub>, a layered transition metal dichalcogenide (TMD), shows large non-saturating MR and shares the record of highest MR ratio with LaSb and NbP.<sup>8,9</sup> The first-principles calculations suggested that the extraordinary MR effect could be maintained in its two-dimensional (2D) form.<sup>10</sup> Very recently, the magnetic transport and spin-orbit coupling have been studied in atomically thin WTe<sub>2</sub> layers.<sup>11–14</sup> However, the MR measurements were generally performed at extremely low temperature, and the metalinsulator transition limited the feasibility of measuring MR in ultra-thin WTe<sub>2</sub> layers. Nevertheless, these earlier investigations have already brought MR phenomenon to the 2D layered form. Unfortunately, most studies on 2D materials remain constrained to studying electronic, photonic and optoelectronic properties,15-17 while much less experimental work has been reported on spintronics as well as MR behaviors.

It is noticeable that  $MoS_2$ , as a prototypical TMD material, was reported to exhibit a gateinduced superconducting state in monolayer form at a critical temperature of 2 K.<sup>18</sup> Previous studies also show that  $MoS_2$  possess strong spin-orbit coupling and potential large spin-orbit torques when coupling with magnetic alloy/metal.<sup>19–21</sup> However, the magnetic conductors could cause short circuit in the adjacent MoS<sub>2</sub> layers and subsequently restrict the electrical measurements of the MoS<sub>2</sub> layers. Thus, combing 2D materials with ferromagnetic dielectrics is highly desirable. In this work, wafer-scale monolayer (1L) and multilayer (ML) MoS<sub>2</sub> samples were integrated with ferromagnetic CoFe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (CFO) to explore the spin coupling effects. The electrical resistance of the prepared MoS<sub>2</sub> sample is found to be tuned by the magnetization existed in the adjacent CFO thin film at room temperature (RT). The results provide one opportunity to investigate the spin generation and modulation in monolayer sample by ferromagnetic gating.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

To fabricate the wafer-scale MoS<sub>2</sub>/CFO heterostructures, pulse laser deposition (PLD) method was employed to grow 1L and ML MoS<sub>2</sub> samples as well as the CFO thin films. In our previous works, both epitaxial CFO thin films and 2D layered materials can be well deposited by PLD method. <sup>22–24</sup> High-quality CFO thin films were well deposited on single-crystal MgO substrates (see Supporting Information, Figure S1). Subsequently, MoS<sub>2</sub> layers were deposited on CFO/MgO simply by rotating targets from CFO to MoS<sub>2</sub> without breaking vacuum. It was reported that wafer-scale 2D MoS<sub>2</sub> samples could be deposited on various substrates through the Van der Waals epitaxy by PLD technique.<sup>25,26</sup> In this work, the prepared samples are analyzed by x-ray diffraction (XRD) technique, as shown in Figure 1a. (002) diffraction peak indicates the formation of *c*-axis oriented MoS<sub>2</sub> layers. Furthermore, the fabricated MoS<sub>2</sub> samples were etched off and transferred onto a copper gird for characterizations of transmission electron microscope (TEM). The selected area electron diffraction (SAED) pattern with incident zone axis (001) of the MoS<sub>2</sub> is shown in the inset of Figure 1a. The diffraction pattern clearly shows two circles with lattice spaces of 0.27 nm and 0.16 nm, corresponding the (100) and (110) planes of the

 $MoS_2$  in the circle patterns, respectively. The polycrystalline behaviors of the prepared  $MoS_2$  samples are evident by the circle patterns for both planes. The layer number of the fabricated  $MoS_2$  samples can be precisely determined by the cross-sectional high-resolution TEM (HR-TEM) image. Accordingly, the deposition rate of PLD-grown  $MoS_2$  is calculated to be about 55 laser pulses per layer. Figure 1b shows the cross-sectional view of 3-layer (3L), 2-layer (2L) and 1L  $MoS_2$  samples grown on CFO/MgO. A layered structure of the prepared  $MoS_2$  samples and the distinct interface between the PLD-grown CFO and  $MoS_2$  samples can be clearly seen from the HR-TEM cross-sectional images. Therefore, 2D layered  $MoS_2$  samples are *c*-axis oriented with random in-plane orientation.

Moreover, micro-Raman is a powerful method to characterize 2D materials. It is well known that the positions of  $E_{2g}$  and  $A_{1g}$  peaks as well as the distance between them can be used as criteria of determining the layer number of the MoS<sub>2</sub> layers.<sup>27</sup> As shown in Figure 1c, the frequency of  $E_{2g}$  peak decreases while the  $A_{1g}$  increases as increasing layer number, i.e., the two peaks shift close to each other from the distance of about 25 cm<sup>-1</sup> for 5-layer (5L) MoS<sub>2</sub> to 18 cm<sup>-1</sup> when the thickness decreasing to monolayer. Next, as shown in Figure 1d, three-dimensional Raman mapping image of 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> sample demonstrates feature peaks of  $E_{2g}$  and  $A_{1g}$  over an area of 10 µm × 10 µm. Both feature peaks appear in the overall image with a nearly uniform intensity and distance between them of about 18 cm<sup>-1</sup>, implying that a continuous monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> has been deposited on the CFO thin film. Furthermore, x-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was used to investigate the chemical states of Mo and S in monolayer samples, as shown in Figure 1e and f. The binding energies located at 161.7 and 162.8 eV are of S 2p<sub>3/2</sub> and S 2p<sub>1/2</sub>, for S<sup>2-</sup> in MoS<sub>2</sub>, respectively. The binding energies of Mo 3d<sub>3/2</sub> and Mo 3d<sub>5/2</sub> locate at 232.0 and 228.8 eV, respectively, corresponding to Mo<sup>4+</sup> in MoS<sub>2</sub>. The absence of the

peak at around 235.6 eV for  $3d_{5/2}$  suggests no  $Mo^{6+}$  resulted from  $MoO_3$ ,<sup>28,29</sup> ruling out the possible oxidation of the fabricated  $MoS_2$  layers in air and/or chemical reaction with the underling CFO thin film. Based on all aforementioned characterizations, we can conclude that the continuous, uniform 1L and ML MoS<sub>2</sub> layers can be well deposited on the CFO thin films. The detailed information of fabrication and characterizations is shown in the experimental section.

In the MR measurements, the van der Pauw geometry is fabricated, which is generally used for the MR characterizations of 2D materials.<sup>30</sup> As schematically shown in Figure 2a, the longitudinal resistance of 1L MoS<sub>2</sub>, named  $R_{xx}$  ( $R_{xx} = V_{xx}/I_{xx}$ .), is recorded by measuring the longitudinal voltage ( $V_{xx} = V_{out} - V_{in}$ ) when the current ( $I_{xx}$ ) flows along the longitudinal direction with or without the external magnetic field (H). The MR ratio  $(MR_{xx})$  is defined as the change of longitudinal resistance divided by resistance under 0 kOe, that is  $\Delta R_{xx}/R_{xx}$  (H = 0), where  $\Delta R_{xx} =$  $R_{xx}$  (H)–  $R_{xx}$  (H = 0).  $H_{//}$  and  $H_T$  stand for H is applied in the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane, parallel and perpendicular to  $I_{xx}$ , respectively, while  $H_{\perp}$  means the H is normal to the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane. Considering the MoS<sub>2</sub> layer possesses relatively good conductivity as well as the underlying CFO thin films are dielectric materials with high permittivity, the CFO thin films should not divert electric current away from MoS<sub>2</sub> layer (see Supporting Information, Figure S2). Herein, the changes of resistance originate from the response to H of MoS<sub>2</sub> samples. As an example for illustrating MR effect,  $R_{xx}$  of one 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> sample was measured by the physical property measurement system (PPMS) under an external H. Figure 2b shows the temperature-dependent  $R_{xx}$  of one 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> sample with and without H. As temperature decreasing, the resistance increases dramatically, suggesting the semiconducting behavior for PLD-grown 1L MoS<sub>2</sub>. The resistance becomes too large to be measurable by the PPMS when the temperature is below

about 20 K. A slight decrease of resistance can be observed when *H* is applied. To be more specific, as shown in Figure 2c and d, 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> shows an obvious resistance change under *H* at the temperature from 300 down to 100 K.  $R_{xx}$  decreases when increasing *H* in both positive and negative directions. Therefore, negative  $MR_{xx}$  is achieved, about -9.17% for  $H_T$  (top panel in Figure 2c) under 40 kOe at 300 K. Furthermore, a butterfly-shape hysteresis loop with the  $MR_{xx}$  of -7.57% is observed in the curve for  $H_1$  (top panel in Figure 2d). As temperature decreasing from 300 to 100 K, the MR gradually drops to -5.19% for  $H_T$  and -2.99% for  $H_1$ .

To further understand the physical mechanism, the magnetic properties of the CFO thin films as well as MoS<sub>2</sub>/CFO heterostructures were studied by the vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) measurement system on the PPMS. Figure 3a shows the H dependence of the in-plane and outof-plane magnetization (M) in CFO recorded at RT. It should be noted that no additional magnetization signals were detected in MoS<sub>2</sub>/CFO heterostructure compared to CFO thin film according to VSM results. The out-of-plane loop indicates a typical ferromagnetic behavior with a coercive field of about 2.3 kOe and a saturation field of about 12 kOe, while the in-plane magnetic measurement shows a very slim hysteresis loop with a small coercive field near to zero, suggesting the perpendicular anisotropy in the PLD-deposited CFO thin films. It is interesting to find the field range in which resistance shows butterfly-shape curve for 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> coincides with the saturated magnetization field of CFO thin film. Especially, when magnetic field is applied perpendicular to the  $MoS_2$  plane, the more visible butterfly-shape curve of  $MoS_2$  corresponds to the enhanced magnetization in CFO thin film. As the temperature decreasing, the butterfly-shape area is enlarged, which is consistent to the enhanced magnetization in the underlying CFO when the measured temperature decreases from 300 to 100 K (see Supporting Information Figure S3). The observation indicates the MR effects in MoS<sub>2</sub> layers may generate from the coupling effect

with the underlying magnetic CFO. For comparison, the resistance changes of 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> samples directly grown on nonmagnetic SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si or MgO substrates without CFO thin films between  $MoS_2$  samples and the substrates are measured, respectively. In fact, no MR behaviors can be observed in both cases at RT, as shown in Figure 3b. Thus, the MR effect observed in  $MoS_2/CFO$  heterostructure is expected to be attributed to the coupling effect deriving from the underling ferromagnetic CFO thin film, which is consistent with earlier studies about nonmagnetic metal integrated with ferromagnetic insulaor.<sup>31</sup>

There are two possible physical mechanisms to address the observed MR behaviors in the heterostructure. The first one is proposed that the MR effect is likely to originate from proximityinduced or/and the vacancy-induced magnetism in the MoS<sub>2</sub> layer. It was reported that local spin generation and modulation in graphene might be controlled by a nearby magnetic insulator of EuS.<sup>32</sup> And the ferromagnetism was theoretically and experimentally reported in graphene coupled with a magnetic insulator, for example, yttrium iron garnet (YIG) thin film, via magnetic proximity effect (MPE). <sup>33,34</sup> The MPE relies on the generated magnetic moments across the interface into the nonmagnetic materials (metals and graphene).<sup>33,35</sup> In the aforementioned VSM data, no additional magnetization signals is detected in MoS<sub>2</sub>/CFO heterostructure compared to CFO thin film, suggesting the fabricated MoS<sub>2</sub> layers cannot provide additional magnetic moments. Besides, it was reported that S vacancies could induce the transforming from semiconducting (2H) MoS<sub>2</sub> to semimetal (1T) MoS<sub>2</sub> with ferromagnetic properies.<sup>36</sup> Indeed, PLD-grown  $MoS_2$  layers are semiconducting, even when H is applied, according to the behaviors in temperature-dependent resistance. This measurement can rule out the possibility of phase transition from 2H to 1T. Thus, on the other hand, the MR behaviors detected in 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> samples may result from the spin Hall magnetoresistance (SMR). The ferromagnetic CFO is

likely to generate spin accumulated at the interface of MoS<sub>2</sub>/CFO, which could give contribution to the spin current in the 2D layer. The SMR is the resistance changes depending on H generated from the spin Hall effect and inverse spin Hall effect (SHE and ISHE).<sup>37</sup> The SHE refers to the generation of a pure spin current  $(J_s)$  transverse to the electron current  $(J_e)$  occurs in paramagnetic systems in the absence of H due to the spin-orbit interaction.<sup>38,39</sup> Then, the spin accumulation at the transverse two sides gives rise to the spin current in the opposite transversal direction, i.e. the ISHE. The inverse spin current gives contribution to the  $J_e$  along the longitudinal direction. As schematically shown in Figure 4a, when an electron current  $J_e$  is applied in the longitudinal direction (x),  $J_s$  can be generated in the transverse direction (y) in the 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> sample. The  $J_s$  is considered as a distribution of a current with spin-up electrons in one direction and a current with spin-down electrons in the opposite direction. On the contrary, the spin in the two opposite directions can combine to form  $J_{\text{sback}}$  with the opposite direction to the  $J_s$ , and consequently induce the electron current  $J_{se}$  with the same direction to the applied  $J_{e}$ . The induced  $J_{se}$  can inevitably contribute to the conductivity of the MoS<sub>2</sub> layer. However, the value of  $J_{se}$  is generally too small to be detected in experiments. When the MoS<sub>2</sub> layer is adjacent to the ferromagnetic CFO thin film and the external filed is applied, spin generation and accumulation can be formed at the interface. And the accumulated spin will be injected from the interface into the MoS<sub>2</sub> layer via the spin coupling and contribute to  $J_s$  as well as  $J_{se}$ , which eventually induces the MR effect in MoS<sub>2</sub> layer.

Furthermore, the  $R_{xx}$  as a function of the sweeping angle ( $\theta$ ) was measured when H is swept from  $H_{\perp}$  to  $H_T$  or from  $H_{\perp}$  to  $H_{//}$  in the range of 0 to 360 °, as exhibited in Figure 4b top and bottom panel, respectively. A nearly periodic change is exhibited with H from  $H_{\perp}$  to  $H_T$ , while the change becomes negligible when H is swept from  $H_{\perp}$  to  $H_{//}$ . Herein, the behaviors of H intensity- and direction-dependent resistance are evident for 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> sample combined with CFO thin film. For the direction sweeping, *H* is much larger than the magnetization saturation field. This means the magnetization is aligned with *H* over the whole sweeping period. When *H* is swept from  $H_{\perp}$  to  $H_{T}$ , the relationship between  $R_{xx}$  and  $\theta$  can be fitted to the following equation:

$$R_{xx} = R_{xxT} + \frac{1}{2} (R_{xx\perp} - R_{xxT}) \sin[\frac{\pi(\theta + 45)}{90}]$$
(1)

i.e., 
$$\Delta R_{xx} = (R_{xx\perp} - R_{xxT})\cos^2(\omega)$$
(2)

Hence,  $\Delta R_{xx}$  displays  $\cos^2(\omega)$  (where  $\omega$  is equal to  $2\pi\theta$  /360) dependence which is expected for SMR, as shown by the red curve. This dependence is consistent with the previous reports on nonmagnetic metal by ferromagnetic insulating gating.<sup>40</sup> However, the SMR exhibits no directional dependence when *H* is swept from  $H_1$  to  $H_{//}$ , as shown in the bottom panel of Figure 4b. The SMR is tuned by the angle of the spin accumulation to *H*. Hence, when the *H* is swept from  $H_1$  to  $H_{//}$ , the resistance will remain unchanged. Therefore, the observed MR behaviors in 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> samples can be attributed to the coupling effects with the underlying CFO.

By considering the MR effect in MoS<sub>2</sub> is caused by spin contribution in the vicinity of the CFO thin film, MR should saturate along with the saturated magnetization of CFO. However, it should be noted that the MR of 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> shows no signature of saturation at RT under 40 kOe where CFO already saturates. Even when  $H_T$  reaches up to the maximum of 90 kOe, the 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> sample demonstrates no saturation behaviors with a MR value of -12.7%, as shown in top panel of Figure 4c. Besides, the relationship between  $R_{xx}$  and the sweeping angle of H when it is fixed at 90 kOe is shown in the bottom panel of Figure 4c. Similar to the aforementioned sweeping H of 40 kOe,  $R_{xx}$  exhibits  $\cos^2(\omega)$  relationship with sweeping angle, as shown by the

fitted red curve. Actually, the magnetization of the measuring configuration (CFO/MgO) exhibits a nearly linear curve under high field when taking large diamagnetic contribution from the underlying substrate into consideration (see Supporting Information Figure S4). The large diamagnetic response generally should be removed by subtracting the linear part under high magnetic field to obtain the magnetization data of CFO thin film. This process unavoidably eliminates the linear contribution from the CFO thin film under high field. Therefore, the presence of non-saturated behaviors of the SMR in 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> should be attributed to nonsaturated magnetization in the CFO thin film under high magnetic field. Such non-saturated MR combined with saturated magnetization was also reported in Pt/CFO heterostructure.<sup>37</sup> Importantly, this is a very high value particularly measured at RT, compared to the previously reported nonmagnetic metal thin films whose spin generated MR effect is very weak, generally the ratio is less than 1%.<sup>31,41,42</sup> Such an intense RT MR effect might be related to the unique 2D layered structure whose surface without dangling bonds or trap states.<sup>43</sup>

To further confirm the point, the transverse resistance ( $R_{xy}$ , the measured voltage,  $V_{xy}$ , is perpendicular to the  $I_{xx}$ ) is recorded in the monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> sample. When *H* is applied perpendicular to the sample plane, a hysteresis loop is demonstrated in the *H*-dependent  $R_{xy}$ curves, as shown in Figure 4d. This is due to the hysteresis magnetization of the underlying CFO, as shown in Figure 3a. The magnetic moments in CFO are arranged along the direction of *H* and keep almost constant when *H* is in excess of the coercive field of the CFO. As a consequence,  $R_{xy}$  keeps almost constant at this stage. Then, the dramatic change of magnetization in CFO can induce the resistance change in MoS<sub>2</sub> layer when the direction of *H* changes. In terms of the case for *H* sweeping from positive to negative, a sharp transition can be formed around H = 0 kOe and vice vista. The transition in  $R_{xy}$  corresponds to the magnetization switch in the CFO. Therefore, the *H*-dependent  $R_{xy}$  shows a hysteresis loop which is consistent to the *H*-dependent magnetization of CFO. This also can prove MR behaviors in MoS<sub>2</sub> layers are mainly generated from the coupling to the underlying CFO thin films.

Moreover, multilayer MoS<sub>2</sub> samples were prepared on CFO to form the heterostructures for investigation of the coupling effects between MoS<sub>2</sub> and CFO. As an example for illustrating MR effect in multilayer samples, MR behaviors of one 3L MoS<sub>2</sub> sample at RT under  $H_T$  and  $H_1$  are demonstrated in Figure 5. 3L MoS<sub>2</sub> shows an obvious resistance change, although the resistance shows relative weak dependence on *H*. Analogous to the behaviors in 1L samples,  $R_{xx}$  decreases under *H*. Herein, negative  $MR_{xx}$  is achieved for the 3L sample, about -0.5% for  $H_T$  (top panel in Figure 5) at RT under 40 kOe. Similarly, a butterfly-shape hysteresis loop is observed in the curve for  $H_1$  (bottom panel in Figure 5). In this work, there is no observable MR effect in thick (more than 10L) MoS<sub>2</sub> layers deposited on the CFO thin films. Therefore, it can be proposed that the anisotropic MR effect enhances dramatically as the thickness of MoS<sub>2</sub> decreasing down to 1L, while the MR ratio becomes negligible in MoS<sub>2</sub> with more than 10 layers. The absence of MR effect in thick MoS<sub>2</sub> layers also can rule out the possibilities of either electromagnetic artifacts, or the magnetized MoS<sub>2</sub> layer responsible for the observed MR behaviors.

#### CONCLUSIONS

In summary, MR effect is experimentally observed in 2D  $MoS_2$  ultra-thin layers coupled with ferromagnetic CFO thin films at RT. MR effect is negligible when the thickness beyond 10 layers for  $MoS_2$ , while enhanced dramatically as thickness decreasing to monolayer, where the MR ratio can reach up to the value of -12.7%. The MR ratio is much higher than that in previously reported nonmagnetic metal coupled with magnetic insulator which generally exhibited MR ratio of less than 1%. The observed MR effect is attributed to the spin accumulation and injection from the MoS<sub>2</sub>/CFO interface into the MoS<sub>2</sub> layers by the spin coupling. The injected spin can contribute to the spin current and eventually change the resistance of MoS<sub>2</sub> layers. The absence of MR in MoS2 prepared on SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si and MgO substrates, and the angle-independent  $R_{xx}$  with H sweeping from  $H_{\perp}$  to  $H_{//}$  as well as the hysteresis loop in  $R_{xy}$  can further support that the observed MR is generated from the coupling effects with the underlying CFO. Our results based on wafer-scale MoS<sub>2</sub>/CFO heterostructures pave the way for developing ultra-thin data storage devices in the 2D limit at RT.

# **METHODS**

*Fabrication of MoS*<sub>2</sub>/*CFO heterostructures:* Both CFO and MoS<sub>2</sub> thin films were prepared by PLD method with an operation pulse laser of KrF ( $\lambda$ =248 nm). The PLD method used here for making the heterostructure provides two main advantages for the heterostructure. Firstly, this method offers good contact between MoS<sub>2</sub> and CFO, which is better than conventional transferring method and subsequently beneficial to creating spin coupling. Secondly, MoS<sub>2</sub> samples can be *in-situ* grown on CFO thin films in vacuum without the exposure of CFO to air avoiding potential contaminations. In our experiments, high-quality CFO thin films were well deposited on single-crystal MgO substrates by PLD method by considering the very small lattice mismatch between them (see Supporting Information, Figure S1). The CFO thin films were deposited with a substrate temperature of 650 °C and a deposition vacuum of  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  Pa. During the deposition, laser energy was controlled to be 250 mJ and the pulse frequency of 1 Hz. Then, the subsequent *in situ* annealing was performed in an oxygen atmosphere at 500 °C for 30 min to minimize potential oxygen vacancies during the deposition process. Then the film was cooled down to RT and kept in vacuum up to  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  Pa for the subsequent MoS<sub>2</sub> ultra-thin layer deposition. MoS<sub>2</sub> layers were deposited on CFO/MgO simply by rotating targets from CFO to MoS<sub>2</sub> without breaking vacuum. For MoS<sub>2</sub> growth, the substrate was heated to 600 °C in a base vacuum of  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  Pa. Then MoS<sub>2</sub> thin film was deposited at a deposition vacuum of about  $3 \times 10^{-5}$  Pa and a growth temperature of 600 °C. The laser energy was controlled to be 100 mJ and the pulse frequency of 5 Hz.

Characterizations: High resolution x-ray diffractometer (XRD, Rigaku, SmartLab, 9 kW) and atomic force microscope (AFM, DI Nanocope 8) were employed to characterize the orientation and the surface morphology of both the CFO thin films and MoS<sub>2</sub> layers, respectively. The interface characterizations of CFO/MgO as well as CFO/MoS<sub>2</sub> were performed by high resolution transmission electron microscope (TEM, Bruker Nano). Besides, the prepared MoS<sub>2</sub> layers were characterized using Raman spectroscopy (HORIBA JOBIN YVON, HR800) with the excitation wavelength of 488 nm. The prepared samples were also detected by XPS measurements equipped with a Twin anode (Al/Mg) X-ray sources. And the measurements were performed by a SKL-12 spectrometer modified with VG CLAM 4 multichannel hemispherical analyzer. All binding energies were calibrated with the C 1s peak located at 284.8 eV in this work. In a physical property measurement system (PPMS, Model 6000 by Quantum Design), the resistance signals were achieved by recording the measured voltage divided by the applied current when an in-plane or out-of-plane magnetic field up to 90 kOe was applied to the heterostructure. Besides, the magnetic properties of the CFO thin films were studied by the vibrating sample magnetometer (VSM) measurement system in the PPMS.

### ASSOCIATED CONTENT

XRD, AFM, and TEM images of the CFO thin films; The current-voltage curves of the MoS<sub>2</sub>; Magnetic hysteresis loops of CFO thin film at 300, 150, and 100 K; Magnetic hysteresis loops of the CFO thin film by considering the contribution from substrate of MgO. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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**Figure 1**. Characterizations of PLD-grown  $MoS_2$  samples. (a) XRD 2 $\theta$  scanning pattern of  $MoS_2$  sample. The inset shows the SAED pattern of the  $MoS_2$  sample. (b) Cross-sectional TEM images of  $MoS_2/CFO$  heterostructures with  $MoS_2$  samples of 3L, 2L and 1L. (c) Layer-dependent Raman spectra of layered  $MoS_2$  thin films with layer number of 1, 3, and 5. (d) Three-dimensional Raman mapping image of monolayer PLD-grown  $MoS_2$  onto CFO over an area of

 $10~\mu m \times 10~\mu m.$  XPS spectra of Mo 3d and S 2s (e) as well as S 2p (f) for monolayer MoS\_2 layer onto CFO/MgO.



**Figure 2.** MR measurements of monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub>. (a) Schematics of the the MoS<sub>2</sub>/CFO heterostructure and the van der Pauw geometry. (b) Temperature-dependent resistance without H as well as the H is applied transverse to the electron current in the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane and perpendicular to the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane both with the value of 40 kOe. (c) The MR behaviors of 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> sample when the H is applied in the direction of transverse to the electric current in the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane at 300, 150 and 100 K, respectively. (d) The MR behaviors of 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> when the H is applied perpendicular to the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane at 300, 150 and 100 K, respectively.



**Figure 3.** (a) Magnetic hysteresis loops of the CFO sample grown on single-crystal MgO substrate when the magnetic field is applied in the CFO plane transverse to the electric current (black loop) or perpendicular to the CFO plane (blue loop). (b) The resistance of monolayer  $MoS_2$  directly grown on MgO and SiO<sub>2</sub>/Si substrates as a function of *H* when it is applied perpendicular to the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane.



**Figure 4.** (a) Schematics of the mechanism of SMR in the  $MoS_2/CFO$  heterostructure. (b) The *H*-direction-dependent resistance of 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> when *H* is fixed at 40 kOe. Top: the *H* is swept from *z*-direction (that is the normal to the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane) to *y*-direction (i.e., transverse to the current direction). Bottom: the *H* is swept from the *z*-direction to the *x*-direction (i.e., the current direction). (c) Top: The *H*-dependent resistance of monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> when *H* is applied transverse to the electron current direction. Bottom: the angle-dependent resistance when *H* is fixed at 90 kOe and swept from *z*- to *y*-direction. (d) The transverse resistance of 1L MoS<sub>2</sub> as a function of *H* when it is applied perpendicular to the sample plane.



Figure 5. MR measurements for 3L MoS<sub>2</sub>. The *H*-dependent MR ratio of 3L MoS<sub>2</sub> when the *H* is applied transverse to the electric current in the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane or perpendicular to the MoS<sub>2</sub> plane.

# TABLE OF CONTENT (TOC) GRAPHICS:

