Optoelectronic and Tunneling Probe of Moiré Magnetism in Twisted CrI₃

T. Patel^{1,2}, B. Yang^{1,2}, M. Chen^{1,3}, K. Pichugin³, L. Tian^{1,4}, N. Sherlekar^{1,2}, S. Yan⁵, Y. Fu⁵, S. Tian^{5,6}, H. Lei⁵, M. E. Reimer^{1,4}, J. Okamoto^{7,8} and A. W. Tsen^{1,3}

¹Institute for Quantum Computing, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, Canada.

²Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, Canada.

³Department of Chemistry, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1, Canada.

⁴Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, N2L 3G1, Canada.

⁵Department of Physics and Beijing Key Laboratory of Optoelectronic Functional Materials Micro-nano Devices, Renmin University of China, 100872 Beijing, China.

⁶School of Materials Science and Engineering, Anhui University, 230601 Hefei, China

⁷Institute of Physics, University of Freiburg, Hermann-Herder-Str. 3, 79104 Freiburg, Germany.

⁸ EUCOR Centre for Quantum Science and Quantum Computing, University of Freiburg, Hermann-Herder-Str. 3,

79104 Freiburg, Germany.

t24patel@uwaterloo.ca

Moiré stacking in twisted two-dimensional CrI_3 has been predicted to host various non-collinear spin textures and magnetic phases arising due to competing ferromagnetic (FM) and anti-ferromagnetic (AFM) interlayer exchange interactions[1]. Recent results have shown evidence of co-existing FM and AFM interlayer interactions in small-twist angle CrI_3 bilayers and double-bilayers[2][3].

I will discuss magnetoresistance and magnetic circular dichroism of the photocurrent response from twisted double-bilayer CrI_3 vertical tunnel junction devices(Fig. 1). Our results reveal new hysteric and anisotropic field evolution, which are modeled using detailed micromagnetic simulations. Notably, we identify two distinct non-volatile spin textures at ~1° twist angle, each exhibiting different global tunneling resistance that can be switched by an applied magnetic field. This opens the possibility of control and electrical detection of moiré magnetic textures.



Fig. 1. Vertical tunnelling device geometry for probing magnetoresistance and photocurrent response from twisted CrI_3

References

- [1] Sivadas, N. et al. Stacking-Dependent Magnetism in Bilayer CrI₃ Nano Lett. 18, 7658–7664 (2018).
- [2] Xu, Y. et al. Coexisting ferromagnetic–antiferromagnetic state in twisted bilayer CrI₃. *Nat. Nanotechnol.* 17, 143–147 (2022).
- [3] Xie, H. et al. Evidence of non-collinear spin texture in magnetic moiré superlattices. *Nat. Phys.* 19, 1150–1155 (2023).