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Enhanced ferromagnetism in WS₂ via defect engineering

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Abstract

Ferromagnetism in 2D materials have attracted extensive interest recently. Defects has been shown to play a pivotal role in the ferromagnetism based on theoretical calculations. However, there are few experimental results reported and mechanism of ferromagnetism associated with defects are not clear. In this paper, we employ WS₂ powders as an example to study the relationship between defects and magnetism by annealing the powders at reducing atmosphere. Magnetic measurements indicate that pristine WS₂ powders show weak ferromagnetism at room temperature. Compared to pristine WS₂ powder, annealed samples show significant enhancement of magnetization, which is strongly dependent on annealing temperature. The enhanced magnetization is attributed to defects induced by annealing, evidenced by X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy and electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Keywords: Transition metal dichalcogenides; Defects; Annealing; Ferromagnetism

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