

后摩尔时代二维范德华电子学器件专题

二维材料范德华器件中界面的透射电子显微表征

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摘要 二维材料范德华器件是以二维材料为基础组成单元, 依靠范德华相互作用构造的具有潜在颠覆性能的新器件, 是近年来量子材料体系、电子器件领域以及半导体产业界的研究热点。二维范德华器件的性能与其界面息息相关, 例如材料生长的质量受衬底表面的调控, 电子器件的性能受界面接触电阻的影响等。因此, 界面表征对于材料质量的检测和器件工艺的优化至关重要。由于二维材料仅具有原子级厚度, 必须用具有原子级及以上分辨能力的检测技术才能实现对其界面的直接表征。透射电子显微技术具有亚埃级空间分辨率、准确的元素分辨能力和原位探测技术等诸多优势, 非常适合于二维范德华器件的界面表征。本文将全面综述二维材料范德华器件制备中三种主要界面的透射电子显微表征, 包括二维材料生长过程中材料与衬底间界面的表征、异质结制造过程中平面界面和垂直界面的表征以及电子器件构造过程中金属电极与二维材料间接触界面的表征。通过梳理透射电子显微技术在这些界面处的原子级结构表征, 揭示出二维材料范德华器件界面处的微观作用机制。这些关键的界面信息为阐明材料的生长机理、解析异质结的界面结构以及优化电子器件的性能提供了方向, 同时为二维材料范德华器件在未来超大规模集成电路技术中的应用奠定了基础。

关键词 二维材料, 透射电子显微技术, 范德华器件, 界面表征

在后摩尔时代, 二维材料因其具有极限的原子级厚度, 有望克服短沟道效应所带来的低性能、高功耗等问题, 被领域内认为是取代硅基材料成为下一代半导体技术核心的关键材料^[1-6]。二维材料包含导体^[7](可作电极)、绝缘体^[8](可作栅极)以及半导体^[9,10]等不同电子结构材料, 天然满足半导体行业的要求。同时, 二维材料家族具有丰富的电学和光学性质, 有望在超大规模集成电路领域的快速发展中发挥重要作用^[11-13]。基于二维材料构筑的范德华器件, 具备较强的栅极调控能力^[14]、良好的硅基工艺兼容性和较少的表面悬挂键等性能优势, 目前正受到微电子器件领域的广泛关注。而二维范德华器件的实际大规模应用必须基于高质量二维材料的晶体生长、异质结构的可控设计以及范德华器件的良好接触。二维材料的质量及所制备的范德华器件的性能, 受到晶体生长过程中材料与衬底间的界面、异质结制造过程中不同材料间的范德华界面和电子器件构造过程中金属电极与二维材料之间的范德华接触界面等的直接影响。在这些界面中, 即使是亚纳米尺度的点缺陷、线缺陷^[16-18]或层错^[19,20]等局域的电磁环境, 也会极大地影响器件性能的精确调控。因此, 在器件构筑过程中, 实现不同材料间清晰、锋利且良好接触的范德华界面的原子级结构表征是器件成功的关键^[15]。

基于表面模式的原子力显微技术(atomic force microscopy, AFM)^[23]和扫描隧道显微技术(scanning tunneling microscopy, STM)^[21,22]虽然同样具有原子级的分辨率, 但它们只能探测表面信息, 无法实现界面间垂直方向的结构表征。而透射电子显微技术(transmission electron microscopy, TEM)利用电子成像, 其德布罗意波长(约0.002 nm)远远小于可见光波长(约400 nm), 可突破光学衍射极限达到极高的空间分辨率; 同时还可利用丰富的制样技术制备截面样品, 从而表征垂直方向的界面结构, 可作为研究二维范德华器件界面的有利技术,

并能同步研究二维范德华器件的表面形貌与内部结构。如今配备球差矫正器的透射电子显微镜^[24~28]，空间分辨率可高达40 pm，结合能量色散X射线谱仪(energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy, EDX)^[24]、电子能量损失谱(electron energy loss spectroscopy, EELS)^[29]，可以直接探测材料的结构信息和物理化学性质。因此，透射电子显微技术可为深入理解原子尺度的材料制备与器件构造过程提供直观的表征结论和针对性的指导意见。

综上所述，透射电子显微技术具有亚埃级的空间分辨率和准确的元素分辨能力，在二维范德华器件的界面表征中具有独特的优势。本文将综述以下三种二维范德华器件界面中的透射电子显微表征(图(1))：(1) 材料生长过程中的材料与衬底间界面；(2) 范德华异质结构制造过程中的平面界面、垂直界面；(3) 电子器件构造过程中金属电极与二维材料间的范德华接触界面。围绕二维材料范德华器件中三种界面的透射电镜表征，本文综述梳理了二维材料晶体制备的机理性研究，同时聚焦于范德华异质结及二维电子器件范德华接触的发展现状，期望为二维材料在超大规模集成电路领域的颠覆性技术变革提供参考。

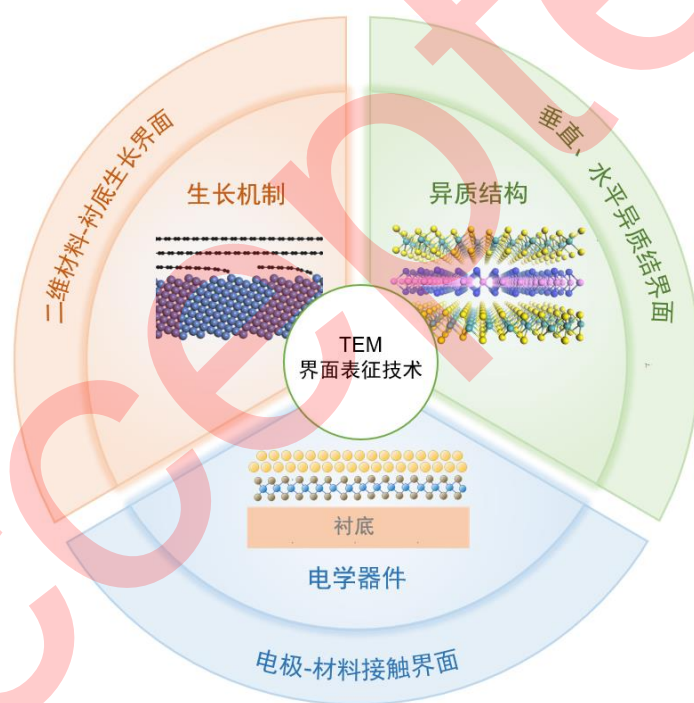


图1 二维材料范德华器件中的界面表征

Figure 1 Interfacial characterization in 2D van der Waals devices

1 截面样品制备与透射电子显微镜表征

二维材料范德华器件中的界面一般包括平面界面和垂直界面，利用TEM界面表征技术观察需要制备相应界面的样品。平面界面样品的制备通常可以采用常规的透射电子显微镜(简称透射电镜)制样方法，例如材料转移、机械减薄等^[30~32]；而垂直界面样品的制备则需要采用特殊的横截面样品制样技术。目前受到广泛应用的透射电镜截面样品制备方法是聚焦离子束(focused ion beam, FIB)方法。该方法快速、高效且定位精确，制备得到的截面样品厚度可小于100 nm，适合作为透射电镜样品观察^[33~38]。由于平面界面样品的制备方法较为通用，因此本节仅重点介绍截面样品的制备过程。

1.1 截面样品制备流程

聚焦离子束系统通常由扫描电子显微镜(简称扫描电镜)和聚焦离子束配合使用的“双束系统”构成,其中电子束垂直于样品表面入射,主要用于二次电子成像,定位需要研究的样品表面,并且在制样过程中随时观察样品状态;而离子束与电子束形成 52° 夹角,主要用于成像、刻蚀和诱导沉积金属.聚焦离子束的工作原理是通过加热液态金属源,在外加电场的作用下产生离子束,通过光阑和聚焦系统的作用,使离子束聚焦至亚微米尺度,并控制离子束的偏转和扫描运动,从而直接对样品进行定点离子束轰击,实现样品的微纳结构加工.

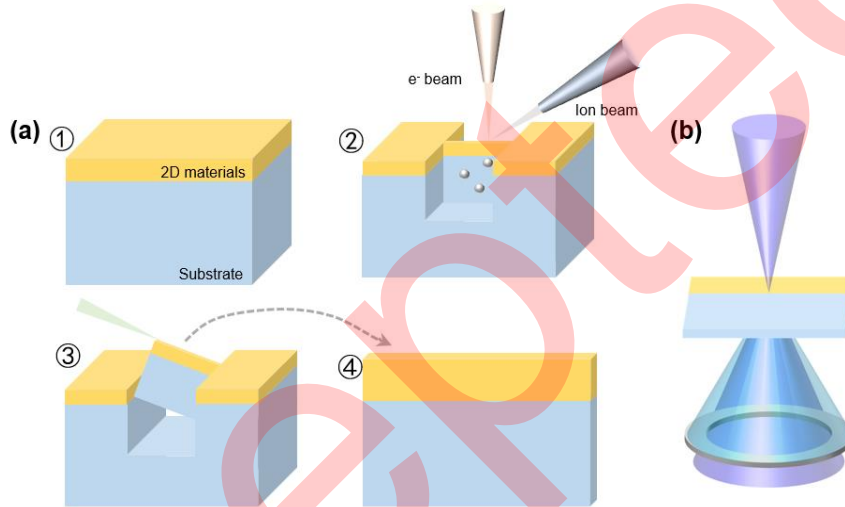


图2 截面样品制备与透射电镜表征. (a) FIB制样流程. (b) STEM示意图

Figure 2 Cross-section sample preparation and TEM characterization. (a) Schematic illustration of FIB. (b) Schematic illustration of STEM

利用聚焦离子束技术制备二维材料截面样品的流程如下: ①在目标样品区域上方沉积一层保护层(通常为C、Pt、Au). ②使用大束流离子束将目标区域前后两侧挖空,并进一步减薄目标区域,形成样品薄片,一般样品需薄至几百纳米,长高分别为 $20\ \mu\text{m}$ 和 $10\ \mu\text{m}$. ③将样品薄片固定至机械探针上,并切断与衬底间的连接,随后将样品薄片提出. ④将样品平放至TEM载网上,如果需要,可以通过调整倾转角度,改变离子束束流,进一步减薄样品,直至厚度满足测试要求(图2(a)).

1.2 扫描透射电子显微镜表征

扫描透射电子显微技术(scanning transmission electron microscopy, STEM)与传统的透射电镜不同,它通常采用会聚束电子“探针”在样品表面扫描,探测器通过逐个记录每个像素得到样品的结构信息(图2(b)). 根据收集信息的方式不同,STEM可以分为明场(bright field, BF)、环形明场(annular bright field, ABF)、环形暗场(annular dark field, ADF)和高角环形暗场(high-angle annular dark-field, HAADF)等不同收集模式. 其中,HAADF收集高角度的散射电子,得到的衬度与样品原子序数 Z 的1.7次方成正比,不受样品厚度、欠焦量的影响,因此获得的图像也称为“ Z 衬度像”,是使用频率最高的成像模式. 一般而言,加速电压越高,所得到的空间分辨率就越高;但是与块材相比,二维材料由于只有几层原子,极容易受到电子束辐照损伤,因此入射电子束能量不能过高. 受到分辨率与辐照损伤两个因素相互制约的影响,在二维材料的成像中,电子束加速电压采取 $30\ \text{kV}$ - $80\ \text{kV}$ 之间的居多^[41-43].

2 二维材料-衬底生长界面

二维材料高质量、大面积的制备,是制备高性能二维材料范德华器件的基础.而二维材料独特的表界面特性,使得其制备过程中衬底的调控作用格外重要.为了探究二维材料的本征生长机理,大量研究通过对二维材料-衬底的截面透射电子显微表征,来观察衬底表面周期性台阶调控、衬底对材料的诱导形核以及溶解-析出生长等过程,从而设计调整二维材料的生长策略.因此,透射电镜技术对于确认二维材料的生长机理、发展二维材料的通用制备方法和进一步实现范德华器件的高端应用至关重要.本节主要从表面生长(surface growth)和溶解-析出生长(dissolution-precipitation growth)两个方面,介绍透射电镜在二维材料生长过程中材料-衬底界面表征中的应用.

2.1 表面生长模式中的界面

表面生长模式通常利用衬底与二维材料的范德华作用促进并诱导形核,晶核经过外延生长拼接成为大尺寸二维材料,利用衬底表面结构的调控,可以实现高质量晶体制备^[44,45].透射电镜可通过直接观察衬底的表界面纳米结构,探究二维材料与衬底接触界面的相互作用,从而进一步确认生长机制^[46-48].

二维材料在金属表面实现单一取向生长的主要策略是依靠金属表面晶格对称性或在金属表面人工构造台阶结构.基于此,石墨烯^[49](graphene, Gr)、六方氮化硼^[50](hexagonal boron nitride, hBN)、过渡金属硫族化合物^[49](transition metal dichalcogenides, TMDs)均已实现单层单晶生长.由于硼(B)、碳(C)、氮(N)的原子序数与金属衬底相差较大,它们在STEM中衬度区别很大,因此很难实现氮化硼、石墨烯这类二维材料与衬底界面在STEM中的同时观测,而过渡金属硫族化合物则不存在这一问题.Choi等人^[52]在金(Au)衬底上构造周期性锯齿形台阶,通过外延生长法制备得到了厘米级WS₂单层单晶(图3(a)).从HAADF-STEM图像(图3(b))可以清楚观察到锯齿形Au原子台阶与WS₂的结合界面,台阶的存在使得WS₂晶畴的取向限制为单一方向,实现了单晶WS₂的制备.

与金属衬底相比,绝缘衬底和二维材料之间的耦合作用非常弱,因此在绝缘衬底上实现二维晶畴的取向控制异常困难.Li等人^[47]通过调整蓝宝石的切割倾角,构造出原子级台阶,打破了MoS₂反平行畴的晶核形成能简并,实现了晶圆级单层MoS₂的单一取向制备;通过STEM表征证实了MoS₂与蓝宝石之间的外延关系和取向关系.随后,Liu等人^[53]提出了双层成核机制,他们计算发现晶核双层边缘对齐时局部能量最低,通过构造更高的原子台阶,可以显著降低双层晶核的形成能.基于此,该团队成功制备了均匀、高取向的双层二硫化钼(图3(c)).其HAADF-STEM截面图像(图3(d))显示,在蓝宝石衬底上,人工构造的台阶高度高达1.48 nm,约为7个原子高度,而双层MoS₂晶核在台阶处形成,且边缘对齐,这与DFT计算相吻合.透射电子显微技术不仅证实了台阶诱导的单层、双层形核的生长机制,而且能够分辨出晶核边缘为Mo原子,呈Z字型排布,进而说明双层MoS₂相对于衬底有30°的转角,这在他们后续的其他表征中被同样证实.

除了双层形核机制以外,逐层生长法也是获得均匀少层TMDs材料的策略之一.Wang等人^[54]使用化学气相沉积(CVD)法,通过逐层外延生长机制在蓝宝石衬底上成功制备得到了多层(1-6层)4英寸大小的MoS₂.该方法首先通过异质形核-外延生长技术在衬底上沉积得到单层MoS₂,然后提高反应温度并使用氧增强CVD技术提高在前一层MoS₂上的形核密度,最终得到多层MoS₂材料,如图3(e)所示.利用HAADF-STEM成像可以清楚看到三层MoS₂原子结构,层与层之间界面原子干净清晰.从截面图中可以看出,衬底达到了原子级别的平整度,并且与MoS₂接触结合的异质界面平整干净,证实了MoS₂与蓝宝石具有良好的晶格匹配度,实现了4英寸多层TMDs材料的外延制备,如图3(f)所示.

在表面生长模式中,通过二维材料-衬底界面的透射电镜表征,衬底表面台阶的原子级结构、二维材料的单一取向性、衬底与二维材料的取向关系得到有利论证,充分揭示了二维材料受衬底表界面调控的生长机理,为少层二维材料的高质量、大规模生长奠定了基础.

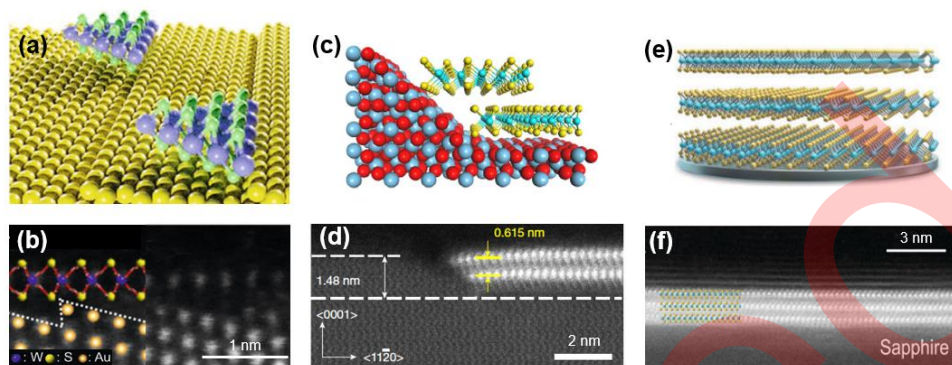


图 3 表面生长模式中二维材料-衬底界面表征. (a) WS_2 在 Au 表面生长示意图. (b) Au(533) 表面上生长的 WS_2 的截面 ADF-STEM 图像和相应的球棍模型^[52]. (c) 台阶诱导 MoS_2 在蓝宝石上双层形核示意图. (d) 蓝宝石台阶上双层 MoS_2 横截面的 HAADF-STEM 图像^[53]. (e) 逐层外延生长示意图. (f) 蓝宝石三层 MoS_2 横截面 HAADF-STEM 图像^[54].

Figure 3 Interfacial characterization of 2D materials-substrate in the surface growth mechanism. (a) Schematic illustration of WS_2 grown on Au surface. (b) Cross-sectional ADF-STEM image and the corresponding ball-and-stick model of as-grown WS_2 on Au (533) surface^[52]. (c) Schematic illustration of step-edge nucleation of bilayer MoS_2 on sapphire. (d) Cross-sectional HAADF-STEM images of step-induced bilayer MoS_2 nucleation on sapphire^[53]. (e) Schematic illustration of layer-by-layer epitaxy process. (f) Cross-sectional HAADF-STEM image of trilayer MoS_2 ^[54].

2.2 析出生长模式中的界面

相较于表面生长模式,析出生长模式一般需要先要将溶质原子溶解进入溶剂原子晶格中,利用各组元在不同温度下的溶解度差异,实现溶质原子与溶剂原子的分离,最终实现少层或者厚层二维材料的制备.析出生长模式的优势在于能够实现对二维材料厚度、结晶度以及均匀性的可控调制^[55-57].因此,厚度表征、界面观测及同时观察衬底与二维材料的取向关系,对于其生长机理的探究和生长条件的优化调控都极为重要.

Shi 等人^[58]报道了一种用于制备厚层二维材料的气-液-固生长法(vapor-liquid-solid growth, VLSG).他们利用熔融的 $\text{Fe}_{82}\text{B}_{18}$ 合金和 N_2 作为反应源,实现了蓝宝石衬底上多层 hBN 的大面积均匀外延生长.图 4(a) 为采用气-液-固法生长多层 hBN 的示意图: $\text{Fe}_{82}\text{B}_{18}$ 合金提供硼源, N_2 在高温下分解出 N 原子并进入 $\text{Fe}_{82}\text{B}_{18}$ 合金,加热过程中形成的 B-N 缔合物扩散,最终冷却在熔融合金与蓝宝石的液固界面处,形成了 hBN 晶体结构.其中,蓝宝石和 hBN 之间的外延关系由截面透射电镜图像得到了证实.在 hBN 与蓝宝石之间的界面附近(图 4(b)),根据 hBN 和蓝宝石的快速傅里叶变换图像(fast Fourier transform, FFT)(图 4(b)插图),可以确认 hBN 与蓝宝石的晶格取向的一致性, hBN 的 $\langle 11\bar{2}0 \rangle$ 方向与蓝宝石的 $\langle 10\bar{1}0 \rangle$ 方向一致.在进一步放大的高分辨率透射电镜图像中(图 4(c) (d)),可以看到排列一致的原子晶格,再次印证了这种外延关系,从而为析出模式中生长机理的研究提供了证据.

在不具有流动性的全固相体系中,析出生长模式同样可以实现二维厚层材料的高效可控生长. Zhang 等人^[59]在单晶镍(Ni)箔上利用碳原子的恒温溶解-扩散-析出,实现了厚度高达 10 万层的高质量单晶石墨片的连续外延生长.生长过程的示意图如图 4(e) 所示:他们首先将固体碳源放置在金属箔的表面,利用高温下 Ni 的两个表面之间的化学势梯度差异,驱动碳原子在另一个表面的恒温溶解-扩散-析出,以此实现碳原子的连续供应.图 4(f) 是外延石墨薄膜与 Ni 之间界面的横截面 STEM 图像,进一步的原子分辨图像更加清楚地表征了纯石墨区域,可以看出相邻石墨烯层呈现出有序堆垛结构(图 4(g)).同时,在石墨薄膜的平面内 STEM 图像中,可以看到明显的具有原子明暗相间的图案,这也是 AB 堆垛结构的重要表现(图 4(h)).利用透射电镜表征技术,充分证明了制备得到的外延石墨薄膜的高单晶结晶度.

在溶解-析出生长模式中,二维材料与衬底的外延关系、二维材料的单晶性、层间堆垛等结构特征均可以

通过透射电子显微表征得到证实。这些表征充分验证了厚层二维材料的生长机理，同时证明了厚层材料的单晶性，为后续材料在电学器件上的大规模工业应用提供了保障。

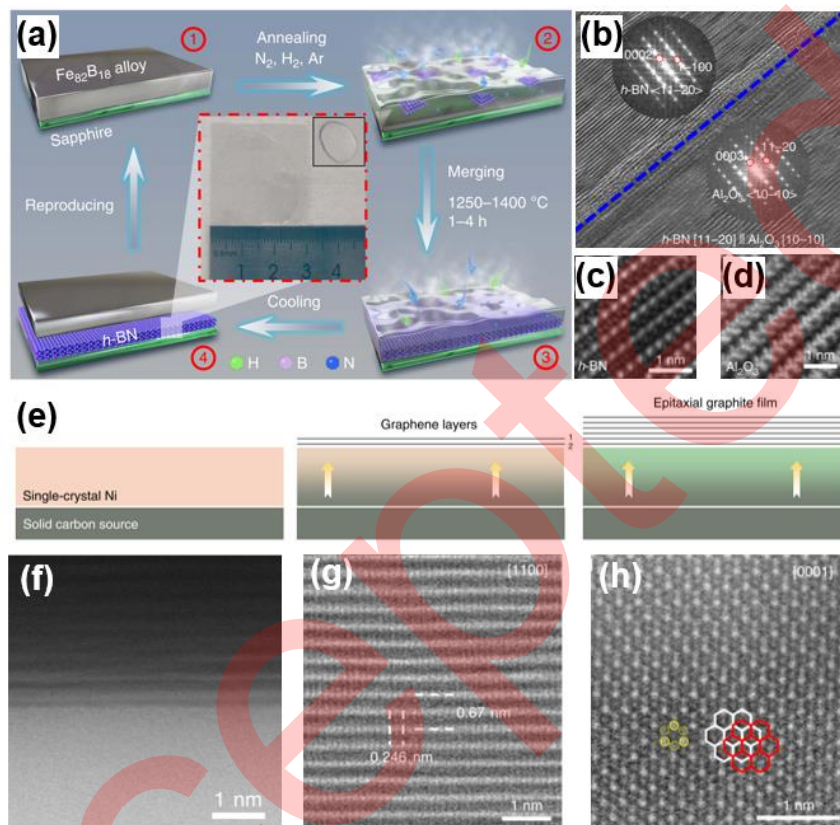


图 4 析出生长方法中二维材料-衬底界面表征. (a) 气-液-固方法在蓝宝石上生长多层hBN的示意图. (b) hBN-Al₂O₃ 界面的高分辨TEM图像. 插图分别是多层hBN和蓝宝石区域相应的FFT图案. 多层hBN(c)和蓝宝石(d)的原子分辨透射电镜图^[58]. (e) 石墨连续外生长的示意图. (f) 石墨-Ni界面的横截面STEM图像. (g) 石墨的横截面原子分辨STEM图像. (h) 平面内石墨的原子分辨STEM图像, 证明了石墨的AB堆垛结构^[59].
Figure 4 Interfacial characterization of 2D materials-substrate in the precipitation growth approach. (a) Schematic illustration of gas-liquid-solid growth of multilayer hBN on sapphire. (b) High-resolution TEM image of hBN multilayers on sapphire. The inset shows the corresponding FFT patterns from multilayer hBN and sapphire areas, respectively. Atomic-resolution TEM images of multilayer hBN (c) and sapphire (d)^[58]. (e) Schematic illustration for the continuous growth of epitaxial graphite. (f) Cross-sectional STEM image of the graphite-Ni interface. (g) Cross-sectional, atomically resolved STEM image of graphite. (h) Plane-view atomically resolved STEM image of graphite, demonstrating the AB-stacking structure of the graphite film^[59].

3 异质结界面

基于二维材料的范德华异质结(van der Waals heterostructures, vdWhs)^[60-62]具有超越单独组元的新颖物理性质, 被认为是延续摩尔定律的关键. 范德华异质结一般包括平面和垂直两种异质结构, 其中平面异质结(lateral heterostructures)是指两种二维材料在水平面内形成异质结, 其锋利的界面边缘是平面异质结制备的关键. 垂直异质结(vertical heterostructures)是指两种二维材料在垂直方向上互相堆叠, 层与层间由范德华相互作用维系形成异质结, 其层与层间的晶格匹配、堆垛方式以及扭转角度都可以产生新的自由度, 为异质结带来新颖物性. 透射电镜既可以利用EDX、EELS分析元素, 又可以从原子尺度观测异质结界面的结构及物理性质, 实现全二维材料电子器件的可视化, 从而指导二维范德华器件的自由调控策略.

3.1 平面异质结

平面内异质结制备的范德华器件性能受界面是否原子级无缝连接、连接边界的类型是锯齿型还是扶手椅型等结构影响。普通光学表征如拉曼光谱(Raman spectroscopy)、光致发光谱(photoluminescence spectroscopy)等由于空间分辨率较低,不足以表征异质结界面的过渡区域宽度、合金化程度等结构性质,而具有亚埃级分辨率的透射电镜可以清楚地表征这些信息。

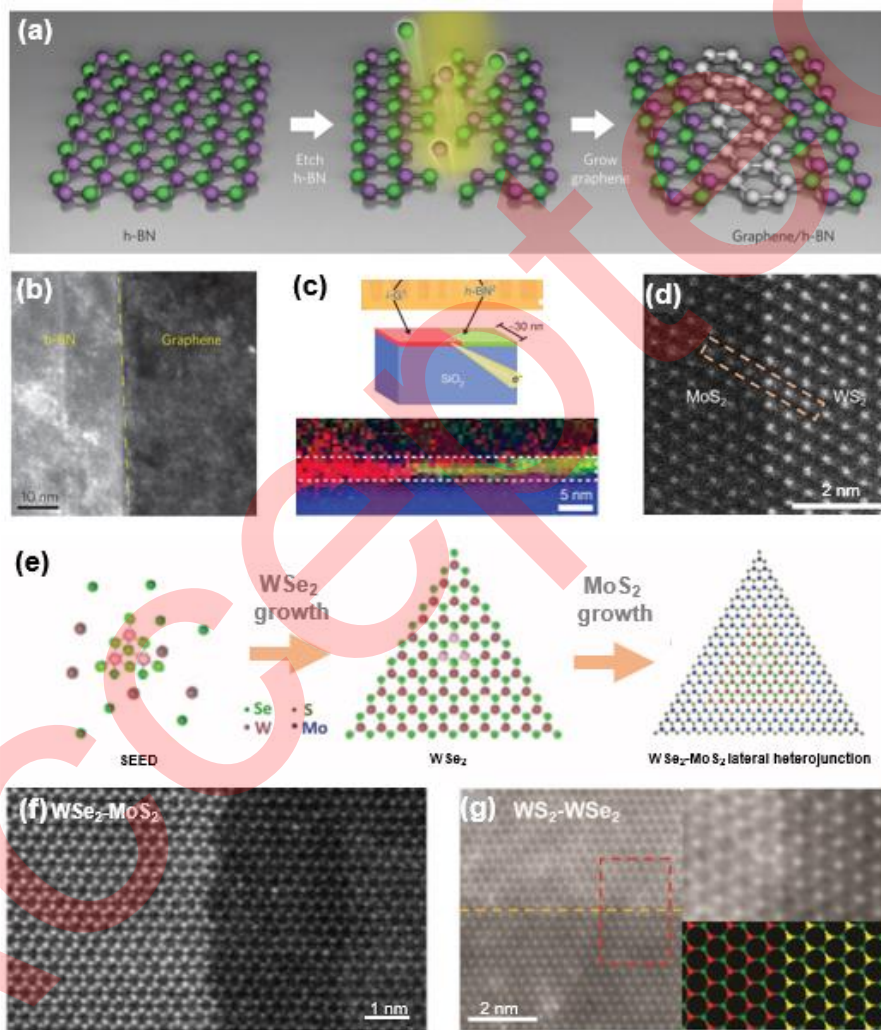


图5 平面异质结的TEM表征. (a) 图案化再生长的示意图. (b) hBN-Gr平面异质结界面的STEM图像^[63]. (c) hBN-Gr平面异质结的截面EELS分析^[64]. (d) MoS₂-WS₂平面异质结界面的原子分辨STEM图像^[65]. (e) 横向外延的生长过程示意图. (f) WSe₂-MoS₂平面异质结界面的STEM图像^[66]. (g) WS₂-WSe₂平面异质结界面的STEM图像^[67].

Figure 5 TEM characterization of lateral heterostructures. (a) Schematic diagram of patterned regrowth. (b) STEM image of the hBN-Gr lateral heterojunction interface^[63]. (c) Cross-sectional EELS analysis of the hBN-Gr lateral heterojunction^[64]. (d) Atomically resolved STEM image of the MoS₂-WS₂ lateral heterojunction interface^[65]. (e) Schematic diagram of lateral epitaxial growth. (f) STEM image of the WSe₂-MoS₂ lateral heterojunction interface^[66]. (g) STEM image of the WS₂-WSe₂ lateral heterojunction interface^[67].

平面异质结的制备方法可以分为两大类:一种是将二维材料经过光刻、激光刻蚀等方法图案化^[68],再进行二次生长;另一种方法是直接进行横向外延两步生长^[69~75].图5(a)是Liu等人^[63]利用激光切割部分少层

hBN, 然后在刻蚀区域生长少层石墨烯的生长过程示意图. 由于晶格常数接近, 传统透射电子显微镜难以区分hBN和石墨烯的差异, 但是HAADF-STEM(图5(b))可以利用原子序数导致的衬度不同, 清晰地分辨这两种材料. 可以看出, hBN-Gr的界面宽度在1 nm以内. 也有研究者对hBN-Gr样品的水平界面使用EELS^[64]进行截面的化学元素分析(图5(c)), 可以看出相邻区域之间原子浓度均匀, 成分过渡区域宽度小于10 nm. 利用类似的方法, 除了hBN-Gr面内异质结, 也可以制备过渡金属硫族化合物的平面异质结^[65]. 利用HAADF-STEM可以清晰表征出异质结界面具有的原子级的锋利程度(图5(d)).

Li等人^[66]利用横向外延法生长WSe₂-MoS₂平面异质结的方法如图5(e)所示, 他们首先通过范德华外延在衬底上生长WSe₂, 然后沿生长边缘的W原子外延生长MoS₂. 这种两步生长法提供了精确的原子控制. 界面处的STEM结果如图5(f)所示, 锋利的原子边缘证明他们实现了异质结界面处成分的原子级急剧转变. 在此基础上, Zhang等人^[67]在化学气相沉积过程中加以反向气流, 实现了高度稳定的逐块外延生长(block-by-block epitaxial growth). 这种方法可以精确调控元素制备多异质结(如WS₂-WSe₂-MoS₂), 其STEM结果(图5(g))证明WS₂和WSe₂在界面处无缝拼接成单个六方单层晶格, 并共享相同的晶格取向.

使用TEM对平面异质结界面进行原子级结构表征, 直观比较了不同制备过程中过渡区域的宽度和界面锋利程度, 从而分析得到了不同生长方法的优势与劣势, 这为后续直接大规模生长二维电子器件提供了基础.

3.2 垂直异质结

垂直异质结的制备包括干法转移^[76,77]和直接生长. 由于干法转移^[78,79]存在界面污染等问题, 因此越来越多的研究者将目光投向了直接生长法^[71,80,81].

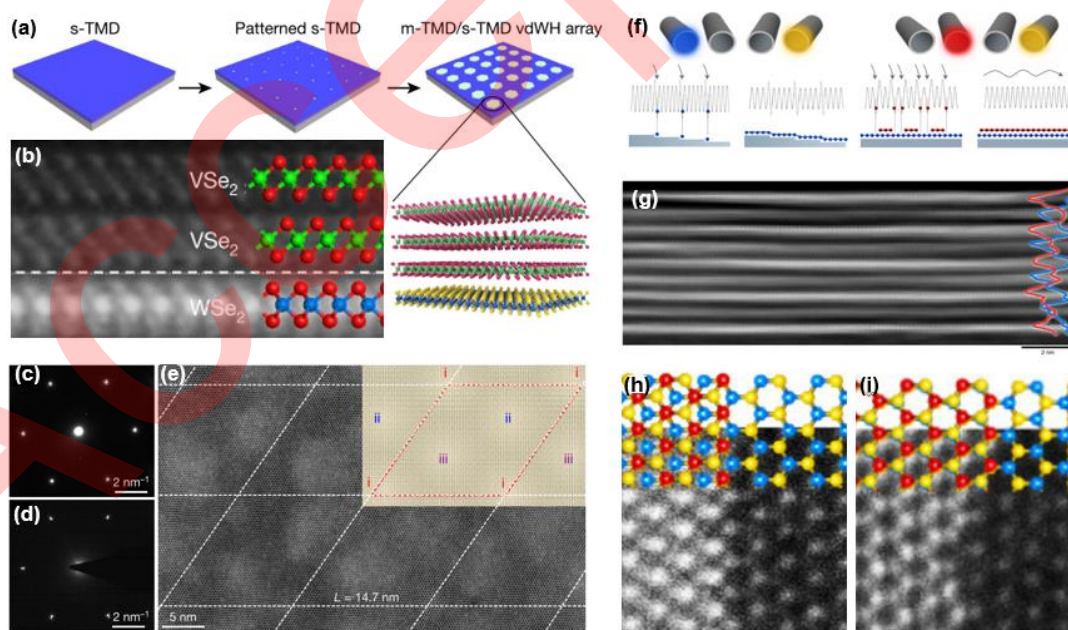


图 6 垂直异质结的TEM表征. (a) vdWhs阵列的图案化-再生长示意图. (b) VSe₂-WSe₂垂直异质结截面STEM图像. (c) 纯WSe₂的选区电子衍射. (d) VSe₂-WSe₂异质结的选区电子衍射. (e) VSe₂-WSe₂摩尔超晶格^[82]. (f) MOCVD法逐层生长TMDs异质结示意图. (g) MoS₂-WS₂截面HAADF-STEM图像及EDX谱(右), 红色代表W的Lα边, 蓝色代表Mo的Kα边. WS₂-MoS₂ AC堆垛(h)和AA'堆垛(i)STEM图片^[83]

Figure 6 TEM characterization of vertical heterostructures. (a) Schematic diagram of patterned regrowth. (b) Cross sectional STEM image of the VSe₂-WSe₂ heterojunction. (c) SAED image of pure WSe₂. (d) SAED image of the VSe₂-WSe₂ heterojunction. (e) VSe₂-WSe₂ Moiré superlattices^[82]. (f) Schematic diagram of MOCVD layer-by-layer growth of TMDs superlattices. (g) Cross-sectional HAADF-STEM images of MoS₂-WS₂ SLs with the EDX spectra (right) for the W Lα (red) and Mo Kα (blue) edges. HAADF-STEM images obtained from WS₂-MoS₂ bilayer at the regions of the AC stack (h) and AA' stack (i)^[83].

Li等人^[82]利用激光刻蚀在二维半导体材料(semiconducting TMDs, s-TMDs)上定点制造缺陷阵列,形成选择性形核位点,然后金属型TMDs(metallic TMDs, m-TMDs)在这些位点上形核长大,形成周期性范德华异质结(图6(a)).从截面STEM(图6(b))可以看出,上层金属TMDs和下层半导体型TMDs,即1T-VSe₂和2H-WSe₂之间晶格取向完全一致,证实层间存在范德华晶格外延关系.同时,平面的STEM图也可以在相对更大面积的范围表征vdWhs.从平面内的选区电子衍射(selected area electron diffraction, SAED)可以看出,在纯WSe₂区域,只有一组衍射点(图6(c));而在异质结区域,有两组距离相近的衍射点(图6(d)),分别代表了上下两种TMDs材料,内圈衍射点代表晶格常数较大的VSe₂晶体(3.36 Å),外圈衍射点代表晶格常数较小的WSe₂晶体(3.29 Å).这两组衍射点之间角度一致,进一步证实了在垂直方向上的范德华外延关系.原子分辨STEM图像(图6(e))展现了清晰的、与理论模型一致的莫尔条纹(Moiré patterns),同样证实了上下层间晶格取向完全一致.

除了刻蚀后外延生长外,还有一些研究探索直接连续生长方法制备垂直异质结. Jin等人^[83]使用金属有机化学气相沉积方法(metal-organic chemical vapour deposition, MOCVD),在近平衡条件下缓慢生长二维材料超晶格,实现了可精确设计的二维材料的逐层堆叠(图6(f)).他们首先使用透射电镜进行元素分辨,由于HAADF-STEM图像中衬度反映原子序数大小,因此较明亮(灰暗)的一层原子代表原子序数更大(小)的W(Mo)层,也印证了右侧的EDX结果,证实了MoS₂-WS₂超晶格逐层堆叠的生长模式(图6(g)).其次,通过部分覆盖的WS₂-MoS₂双层的平面内STEM可以看出,晶体取向存在AC堆垛(图6(h))或AA'(图6(i))堆垛,即相干堆垛(coherent stacks),统计衍射数据发现大于90%的区域呈相干堆垛,这与第一性原理计算的结果相吻合,再次印证了逐层生长的生长机制.

在垂直范德华异质结中,STEM图像表征了层间的堆垛关系,验证了无掺杂的层间原子结构,进一步证实了界面结构的锋利程度,充分证明了所制备的垂直异质结层内缺陷少、层间堆叠可控,为后续制备范德华器件提供了基础,有望在未来大规模集成芯片领域做出贡献.

4 范德华器件接触界面

在以二维材料为基础电学器件的制备过程中,由于范德华器件中界面无序和费米钉扎效应的存在,二维半导体材料晶体管的接触电阻很大^[84-86],极大地阻碍了其进一步的高端应用.通过原子分辨的透射电子显微技术,可以直接观察器件界面处材料表面悬挂键、接触界面的连续性、界面附近的晶格匹配等,从而优化器件的制备工艺.许多研究工作致力于降低金属电极与二维材料间的接触电阻,从而提升器件的电学性能,实现方法主要包括导体二维材料作电极(包括石墨烯电极和金属相TMDs材料)、直接转移电极、金电极与二维材料间实现“软接触”以及预蒸镀“软金属”缓冲层等.由于第一种方法构筑的异质界面类似于垂直异质结,本节主要梳理和总结后三者.

将金属电极直接蒸镀在二维材料(MoS₂)是二维材料电学器件的常用构造手段,但这种方法所制备的器件在范德华界面处存在大量的缺陷、掺杂、应力和层间破坏等,MoS₂的晶格完整性遭到严重破坏;而直接转移金属电极方法可以解决这一问题^[87],其主要步骤是首先将金属电极预制在硅片上,然后通过干法转移工艺将预制电极转移至二维材料上.如图7(b)(c)所示,通过透射电镜表征结果可以看出,利用这种方法转移的金属电极,原子排布规则,得到了干净整洁的范德华界面.同时,图7(d)中红色数据代表转移金属电极得到的肖特基势垒高度,其费米钉扎因子高达0.96,接近肖特基极限,这说明基于直接转移工艺制备的器件性能优于直接蒸镀法.

“软接触”方法则是在二维半导体材料(WSe₂)上预蒸镀一层金属缓冲牺牲层,从而有效缓冲蒸镀金电极时对二维材料所带来的碰撞损伤,并且实现蒸镀金属与二维材料间的范德华接触^[88].从HAADF-STEM图像可以看出,“软接触”蒸镀的金属(金原子)与最上层TMDs(W原子)之间的距离为5.3Å(图7(f)),这个结果与计算得到的理想范德华接触时Au与W之间的距离(5.25Å)几乎一致,说明蒸镀金属与WSe₂之间形成了几乎完美的范

德华接触. 除了原子间距, 利用STEM图像也可以看出在直接接触的情况下, Au原子晶格内部存在大量应变, 这在范德华接触的界面是不存在的(图7(g)).

Wang等人^[15]利用直接在单层MoS₂上先后蒸镀10nm In和100nm Au的方法形成In/Au合金作电极, 实现电极与二维半导体材料之间的超洁净范德华接触. 从HAADF-STEM图像(图7(j))可以看出, In/Au-MoS₂界面是原子级平整的, 且无化学相互作用, 因此可以认为这种制备方法可以带来锋利的范德华界面. 通过快速傅里叶变换图案(图7(k))可以看出, In/Au形成了面心立方合金(纯铜应该是体心立方金属), 说明In金属的柔性使其与金原子可以轻松形成稳定的合金. 利用该特性形成的合金可以调整电极的功函数, 以促进电子或空穴注入, 同时保持超净界面.

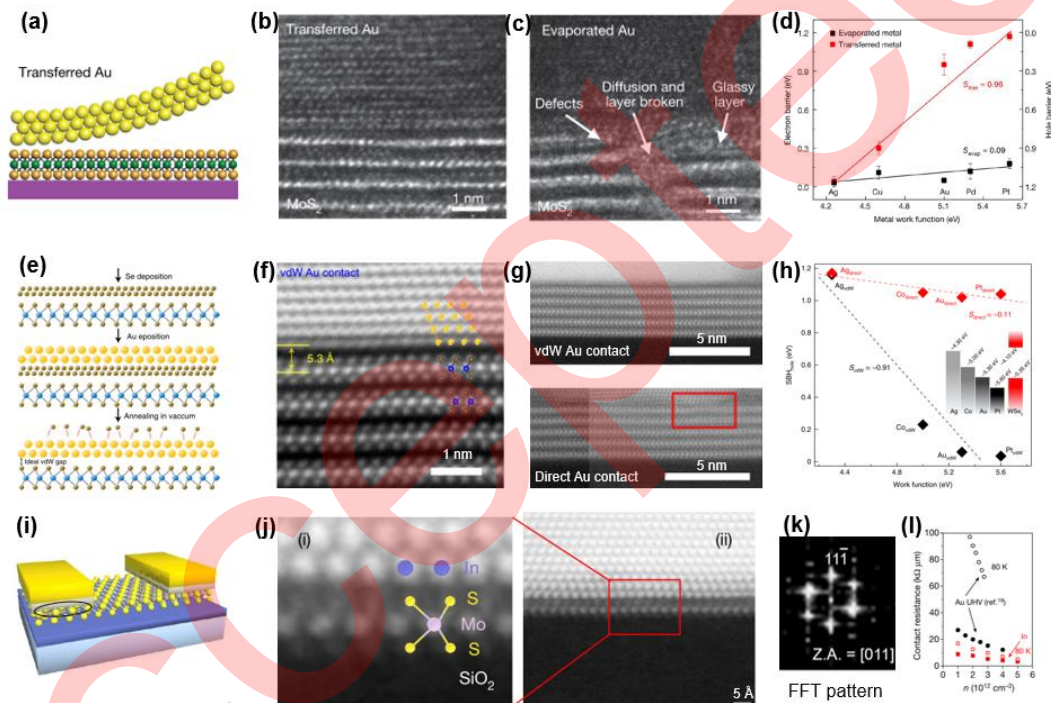


图7 金属-二维材料范德华接触的截面表征. (a), (b) 在MoS₂顶部转移的Au电极的示意图和截面TEM图像. (c) MoS₂顶部蒸镀的Au电极的截面TEM图像. (d) 实验确定不同转移金属和蒸镀金属的肖特基势垒高度^[78]. (e) 在WSe₂上制备vdW接触的金电极的示意图. (f) vdW接触的Au-WSe₂的横截面STEM图像. (g) vdW接触(上)和直接接触(下)的Au-WSe₂的STEM图像(红色方框内是缺陷区域). (h) vdW接触和直接接触的WSe₂与各种金属的肖特基势垒高度^[79]. (i) In/Au在单层MoS₂上的器件结构. 原子分辨STEM图像(j)及其快速傅里叶变换图案(k), 其中电极由10 nm厚的In和100 nm厚的Au组成. (l) 接触电阻与载流子浓度n的关系^[14].

Figure 7 Cross-sectional characterization of metal-2D materials van der Waals contact. (a), (b) Schematics and cross-sectional TEM images of the transferred Au electrode on top of MoS₂. (c) Cross-sectional TEM images of conventional electron-beam-deposited Au electrodes on top of MoS₂. (d) Experimentally determined Schottky barrier height (SBH) for different transferred metals and evaporated metals^[78]. (e) Schematic of fabrication of vdW Au contact on WSe₂. (f) Cross-sectional STEM images of WSe₂ with vdW Au contact. (g) STEM images of WSe₂ with vdW (up) and direct (down) Au contact. (h) SBH between WSe₂ and various vdW and direct metal contacts^[79]. (i) Schematics of device structure. Atomic-resolution STEM images (j) and corresponding fast Fourier transform pattern (k) of In/Au on monolayer MoS₂, where The electrodes consist of 10-nm-thick In capped with 100-nm-thick Au. (l) The relationship of contact resistance and carrier concentration n ^[14].

总之, 针对二维范德华器件界面, 透射电镜主要可以表征以下几点: (1) 表征原子间距, 检测界面是否为范德华界面(金属电极与二维材料间是否成键). (2) 金电极或二维材料晶格是否受到破坏, 包括缺陷、应力等. (3) 范德华界面是否良好匹配, 主要表征界面的连续性、晶格的匹配性.

5 总结与展望

二维材料范德华器件中材料的高质量生长、范德华异质结的可控制备和器件的稳定构造都会影响范德华器件的性能。本文从微观层面梳理并总结了透射电镜在三种界面原子级表征中的应用：(1) 探究了高质量材料制备过程中，表面生长和析出生长模式中衬底对材料生长的表界面调控机制；(2) 总结了范德华异质结界面的新颖结构与物性；(3) 综述了电子器件制造过程中实现范德华接触的工艺路线。未来，预期可通过探索高质量单晶二维材料的大规模低成本制备工艺，结合其良好的硅基工艺兼容性，发展高效率、高质量与高集成度的器件工艺流程，以实现二维范德华器件在未来超大规模集成电路领域的全面应用。

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Interfacial characterization of two-dimensional van der Waals devices by transmission electron microscopy

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In the post-Moore era, due to their extreme atomic-level thickness, two-dimensional (2D) materials are expected to overcome the challenges of low performance and high power consumption caused by short channel effects, and are considered to replace the silicon-based materials in the next generation of semiconductor technology. 2D materials include conductors (which can be used as electrodes), insulators (which can be used as gates), and semiconductors with different electronic structures, which naturally meet the requirements of the semiconductor industry. They play an important role in the rapid development of integrated circuits. van der Waals (vdW) devices based on 2D materials have strong gate control capabilities, good silicon-based process compatibility, and fewer surface dangling bonds and they are receiving extensive attention in the field of microelectronic devices. The actual large-scale application of 2D vdW devices must be based on the crystal growth of high-quality 2D materials, the controllable design of heterostructures, and the good contacts of vdW devices. The performance of the devices is greatly influenced by the interfaces. For example, the quality of the material is regulated by the substrate surface, and the performance of electrical devices is affected by the contact resistance of the interface. Therefore, the interfacial characterization is crucial for the monitoring of material quality and the further optimization of device fabrication.

Considering the atomic thickness of 2D materials, the interfacial characterization technology should have higher spatial resolution than atomic scale. Although atomic force microscopy and scanning tunneling microscopy based on surface modes also have atomic-level resolution, they can only detect surface information and cannot achieve structural characterization in the vertical direction. Using electron beams to obtain images, whose De Broglie wavelength (about 0.002 nm) is much smaller than the wavelength of visible light (about 400 nm), the transmission electron microscopy (TEM) can break through the optical diffraction limit to achieve extremely high spatial resolution; at the same time, it can also use diverse sample preparation techniques to prepare cross-sectional samples. In order to characterize the interface structure in the vertical direction, it can be used as a favorable technique for studying the interface of two-dimensional van der Waals devices, and can simultaneously study the surface morphology and internal structure of two-dimensional van der Waals devices. Nowadays, the transmission electron microscope equipped with a spherical aberration corrector has a spatial resolution as high as 40 pm, combined with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) and electron energy loss spectroscopy (EELS), it can directly detect the structural information and physical and chemical properties of materials. Therefore, TEM can provide intuitive characterization conclusions and targeted guidance for in-depth understanding of atomic-scale material preparation and device construction processes. Combining the sub-Angstrom resolution, the accurate element resolution and the *in-situ* detection capability, TEM shows its advantage in characterizing the 2D vdW devices at interfaces.

In this review, we comprehensively overview the TEM characterization of three main interfaces in the fabrication of 2D vdW devices, including the interface between 2D materials and substrates, the lateral interface and the vertical interface in the heterostructures, and the contact interface between metal electrodes and 2D materials. Focusing on the TEM characterization of the three interfaces in 2D material van der Waals devices, this review summarizes the research on the mechanism of crystal preparation, focusing on the development status of van der Waals heterojunction and van der Waals contact in two-dimensional electronic devices, hoping to provide reference for the disruptive technological change of two-dimensional materials in the field of very large scale integration circuit.

关键词 two-dimensional materials, transmission electron microscopy, van der Waals devices, interfacial characterization