

Supplementary Information for

Ferromagnetism emerged from non-ferromagnetic atomic crystals

Cheng Gong,^{1,2,&} Peiyao Zhang,^{1,3,&} Tenzin Norden,³ Quanwei Li,¹ Zhen Guo,¹ Apoorva Chaturvedi,⁴ Arman Najafi,³ Shoufeng Lan,¹ Xiaoze Liu,¹ Yuan Wang,¹ Shi-Jing Gong,⁵ Hao Zeng,³ Hua Zhang,^{6,7,8} Athos Petrou,³ Xiang Zhang^{1,9,*}

¹Nano-scale Science and Engineering Center (NSEC), 3112 Etcheverry Hall, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720, USA

²Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Quantum Technology Center, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742, USA

³Department of Physics, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, Buffalo, New York 14260, USA.

⁴Center for Programmable Materials, School of Materials Science and Engineering, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Singapore

⁵Engineering Research Center of Nanophotonics Advanced Instrument (Ministry of Education), Department of Physics, School of Physics and Electronic Science, East China Normal University, Shanghai 200241, China

⁶Department of Chemistry, City University of Hong Kong, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China

⁷Hong Kong Branch of National Precious Metals Material Engineering Research Center (NPMM), City University of Hong Kong, Kowloon, Hong Kong, China

⁸Shenzhen Research Institute, City University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen 518057, China

⁹Faculties of Science and Engineering, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China.

&These authors contributed equally.

*Email: xiang@berkeley.edu

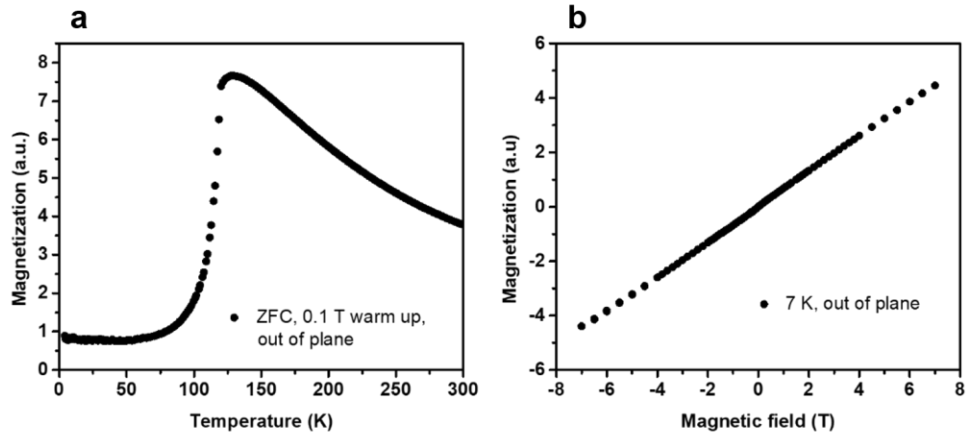


Fig. S1 | Magnetization characterization of a bulk FePS₃ crystal. **a**, Temperature dependent out of plane magnetization. The sample is a bulk FePS₃ crystal. It was cooled down under zero field, and the measurement was done during warming up process under 0.1 T. Temperature dependent magnetization clearly shows the Néel temperature at ~120 K. **b**, Magnetic field dependent magnetization. The same bulk FePS₃ crystal in (a) was measured at 7 K. The magnetization of the antiferromagnet shows a clear linear dependence on the applied magnetic field in all the range.

Polarization-resolved photoluminescence (PL) measurements. Systematic PL measurements are performed on monolayer WS₂-FePS₃ heterostructure in a magnetic field perpendicular to the sample plane. To extract the splitting between the K and K' valley, the PL is excited by linearly polarized 532 nm laser and analyzed in a single helicity of light (σ^+ / σ^-). Fig.S2, A, B and C, show PL spectra for monolayer WS₂-FePS₃ at selected values of the magnetic field B . The PL peak at ~2.0 eV is attributed to localized exciton (1, 2), whereas the reflectance feature at ~2.07 eV is from monolayer WS₂ neutral exciton as shown in Fig. 2b. At zero field, the PL spectrum from K valley (σ^+ , red) is identical to that from K' valley (σ^- , blue), which indicates zero energy splitting of the two valleys, as expected from time-reversal symmetry. At a high field, there is a clear splitting between the σ^+ and σ^- PL components. The σ^+ spectrum shifts to lower (higher) energy while the σ^- spectrum shifts to higher (lower) energy with an applied 7 T (-7 T) magnetic field. The Zeeman splitting is defined as $E(\sigma^+) - E(\sigma^-)$ and is summarized in Fig. S2d as function of magnetic field at 7 K. The Zeeman splitting of localized exciton is linearly dependent on applied magnetic field with a slope ~0.6 meV per Tesla, three times the slope for monolayer WS₂ neutral exciton feature extracted from reflectance spectra as shown in Fig. 2d. The mechanism of

large g -factor from localized exciton remains to be understood, as already reported in Refs. 3 and 4. The linear dependence on magnetic field shows no enhanced Zeeman effect from antiferromagnetic FePS₃ substrate.

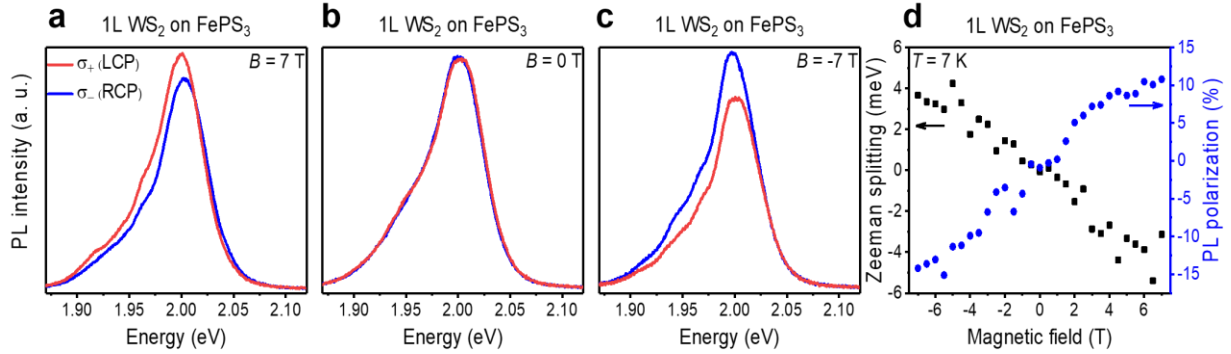


Fig. S2 | Polarization-resolved photoluminescence spectra and spin splittings of monolayer WS₂ on FePS₃. **a,b,c**, Polarization-resolved photoluminescence spectra of monolayer WS₂ on FePS₃ at selected magnetic fields: 7 T (**a**), 0 T (**b**), and -7 T (**c**). Red and blue curves represent PL analyzed in its left (σ_+) and right (σ_-) circular polarized components. **d**, Spin splitting and PL polarization for the localized excitons from monolayer WS₂ on FePS₃. The linear dependence of Zeeman splitting on magnetic field with a slightly larger slope than neutral excitons is consistent with other reports elsewhere for defects states, indicating no enhanced Zeeman effect from antiferromagnetic FePS₃ substrate.

Reflectance dip extraction algorithm. As shown in Fig. S3, the reflectance spectrum for the exciton was calculated using on flake/off flake reflectance ratio and fitted using a combination of absorptive and dispersive lineshapes in addition to a linear background. The dip energy was extracted using the local minimum of the fitted curve.

The fitting function (Breit-Wigner-Fano function):

$$f(x) = A \frac{(q\sigma/2 + x - \mu)^2}{(\sigma/2)^2 + (x - \mu)^2}$$

Where A is amplitude, q is Fano parameter which represents the ratio of resonant scattering to the background scattering, σ is width of the lineshape, μ is center of the lineshape.

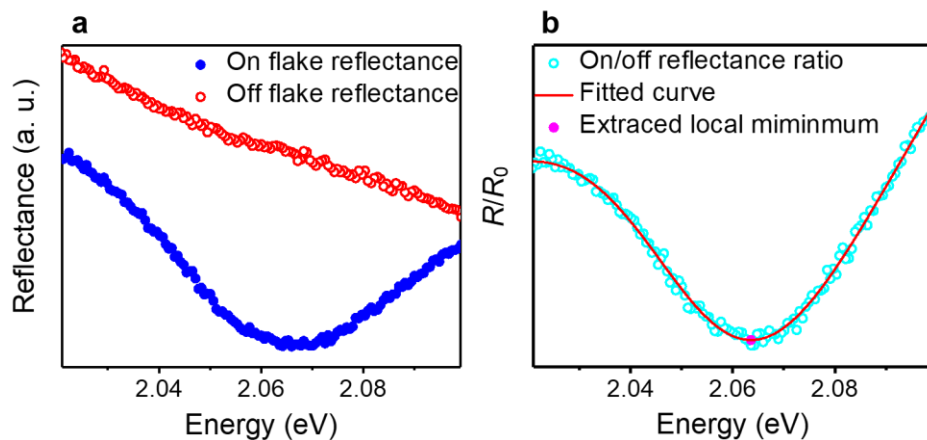


Fig. S3 | An example of background removal and dip energy extraction. **a**, Blue circles/red open circles show the on flake/off flake reflectance signal from a WS₂ sample. **b**, The cyan open circles indicate the on/off reflectance ratio. The fitted curve is shown in the red line and extracted dip position (local minimum) is represented as the magenta dot.

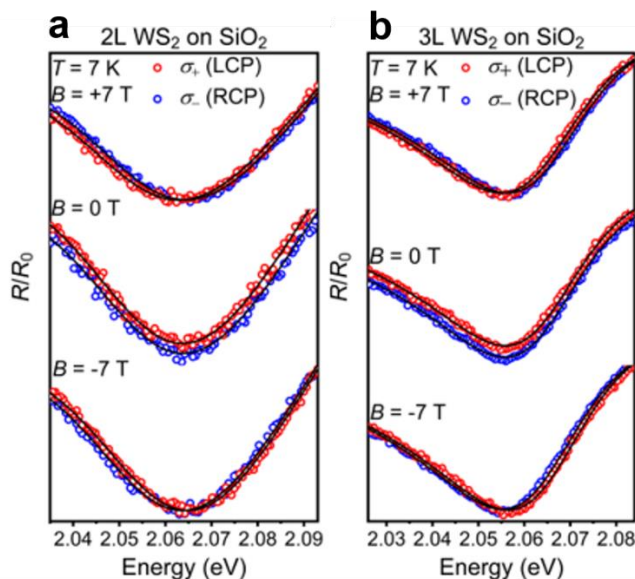


Fig. S4 | Magnetorefectance spectra of (a) 2L- and (b) 3L-WS₂ on SiO₂ at 7 K. Red and blue dots represent reflectance spectra of left and right circularly polarized photons. Solid lines were fitted curves using a complex (absorptive plus dispersive) Fano line shape. Magnetorefectance spectra of 1L-WS₂ on SiO₂ is presented in Fig. 2.

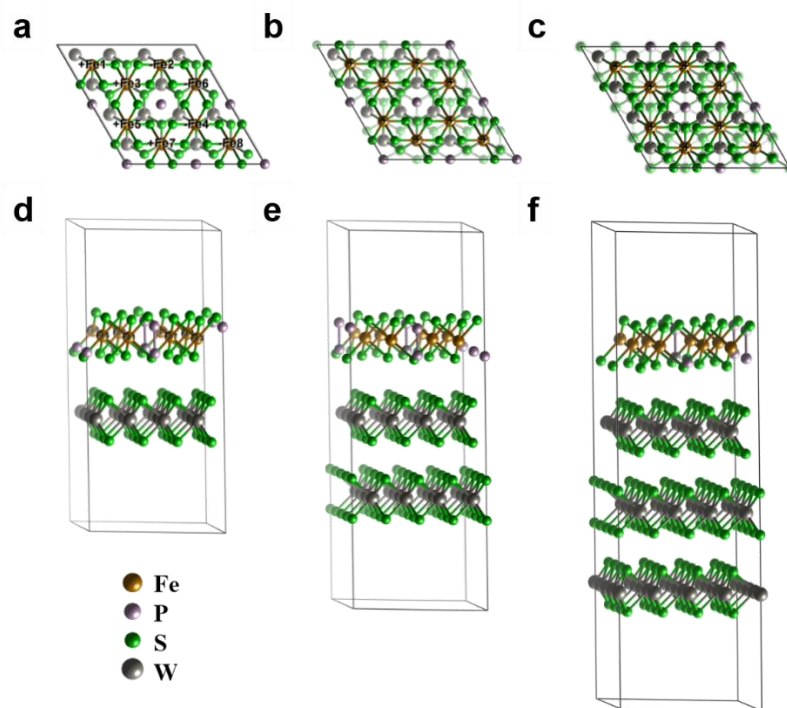


Fig. S5 | Crystal structures of 1L-, 2L-, and 3L-WS₂/FePS₃. a,b,c, top views. d,e,f, side views. (a, d), (b, e), and (c, f) are for 1L-, 2L-, and 3L-WS₂/FePS₃, respectively.

Fig. S5 shows the crystal structures of 1L-, 2L-, and 3L-WS₂/FePS₃. In Fig. S5a, the labels with '+' and '-' on Fe atoms represent the antiferromagnetic order of Fe atoms in 1L-WS₂/FePS₃. In figs. S5(b, c), for 2L- and 3L-WS₂/FePS₃, all the Fe atoms are labeled as '+' to represent ferromagnetic order.

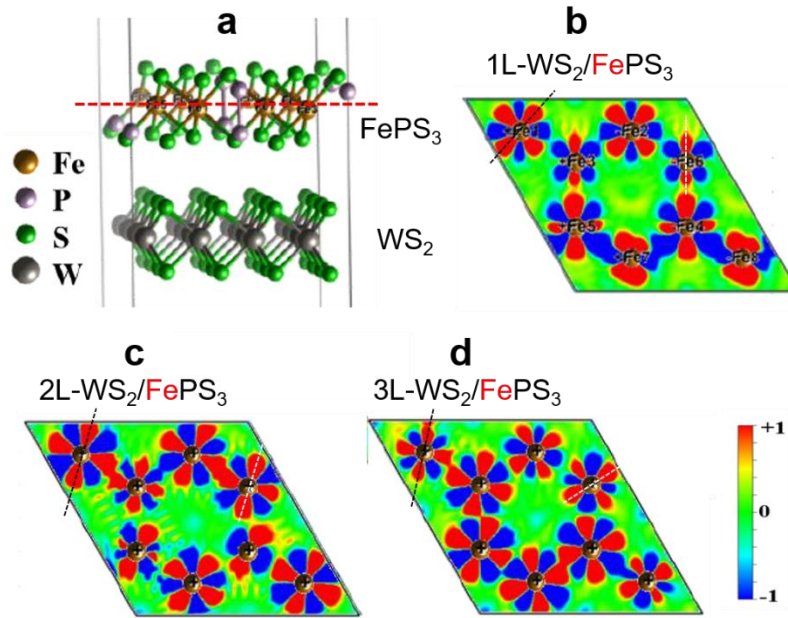


Fig. S6 | Atomic structure (a) of interfacial layers of nL -WS₂/FePS₃ heterostructures, and the charge density difference plots (b, c, d) at the interfacial Fe layer (indicated by the red dashed line in (a)) of nL -WS₂/FePS₃ heterostructures ($n = 1, 2,$ and $3,$ respectively). Blue and red colors in (b, c, d) indicate the charge depletion and accumulation, and are normalized. The charge density difference is defined as $\Delta\rho = \rho_{(\text{FePS}_3\text{-WS}_2)} - \rho_{(\text{FePS}_3)} - \rho_{(\text{WS}_2)}$, where $\rho_{(\text{FePS}_3\text{-WS}_2)}$ is the charge density of the heterostructure, and $\rho_{(\text{FePS}_3)}$ and $\rho_{(\text{WS}_2)}$ are charge densities of FePS₃ only and WS₂ only, respectively. Thus, the plots here mean: while WS₂ comes to contact FePS₃, the electrons in FePS₃ surface layer redistribute (i.e., some orbitals lose electrons, whereas some orbitals gain electrons). Of particular interest is, if we zoom in the details in (b, c, d) and look at Fe1 atoms (black dashed lines serve as eye guide), the charge redistribution profiles differ among the three heterostructures. Likewise, if we zoom in the details on Fe6 atoms (white dashed lines serve as eye guide), the charge redistribution profiles also evolve among the three heterostructures. This shows that the interface wave function overlaps differently in the three heterostructures, leading to the different inter-orbital charge redistribution within FePS₃. Such inter-orbital charge redistribution will affect the resultant magnetic properties of FePS₃.

Given exchange interaction in magnetic materials is a Coulombic interaction in nature, the magnetic properties of the antiferromagnets can be synergistically affected by multiple factors while interfacing with other materials (e.g., modified dielectric environment, unintentional strain,

charge transfer, spin orbit coupling proximity, etc.), as summarized in Ref. 5. Our DFT calculations based on the heterostructures consisting of FePS₃ and 1L-, 2L-, and 3L-WS₂, respectively, show the amounts of electron transfer from FePS₃ to WS₂ are $\sim 3 \times 10^{12}$ per cm² in all cases. That is, FePS₃ is hole doped by $\sim 3 \times 10^{12}$ per cm² by WS₂. If charge doping is the only driver for FePS₃ magnetic phase change, the hole doping should surpass 2×10^{14} per cm² (6) to trigger the magnetic phase transition. This is evidence that charge transfer does not play a major role in our observed interfacial ferromagnetism. But given many factors should entangle at interface and the role of charge transfer cannot be completely excluded.

Evidence of interfacial hybridization can be seen in charge redistribution analysis. We plotted the calculated charge redistribution of heterostructures at DFT level, as shown in Fig. S6. The red and blue colors map out the regions on FePS₃ side where electrons are gained and lost, respectively, when WS₂ comes to contact FePS₃. Although the net interfacial charge transfer is that FePS₃ loses electrons to WS₂, FePS₃ does not lose electrons everywhere, and actually some orbitals of FePS₃ lose electrons (blue color) and some gain electrons (red color). This means, regardless of the overall interfacial charge transfer across the two dissimilar materials, there are always charge redistribution within FePS₃. Such a charge redistribution is driven by the interfacial wavefunction overlap, and exists in all heterosystems universally (e.g., Xe on Cu (7), graphene-metal complex (8), and MoS₂-metal complex (9)). As the layer number of WS₂ increases from 1L, 2L, to 3L, the orbital profiles of the charge redistribution in the interfacial FePS₃ layer evolve, as seen from the patterns in Fig. S6 (red and white dashed lines serve as eye guides for different Fe atoms). The redistributed electrons among different orbitals can effectively affect the exchange interaction and spin-orbit coupling, changing the magnetic properties of FePS₃.

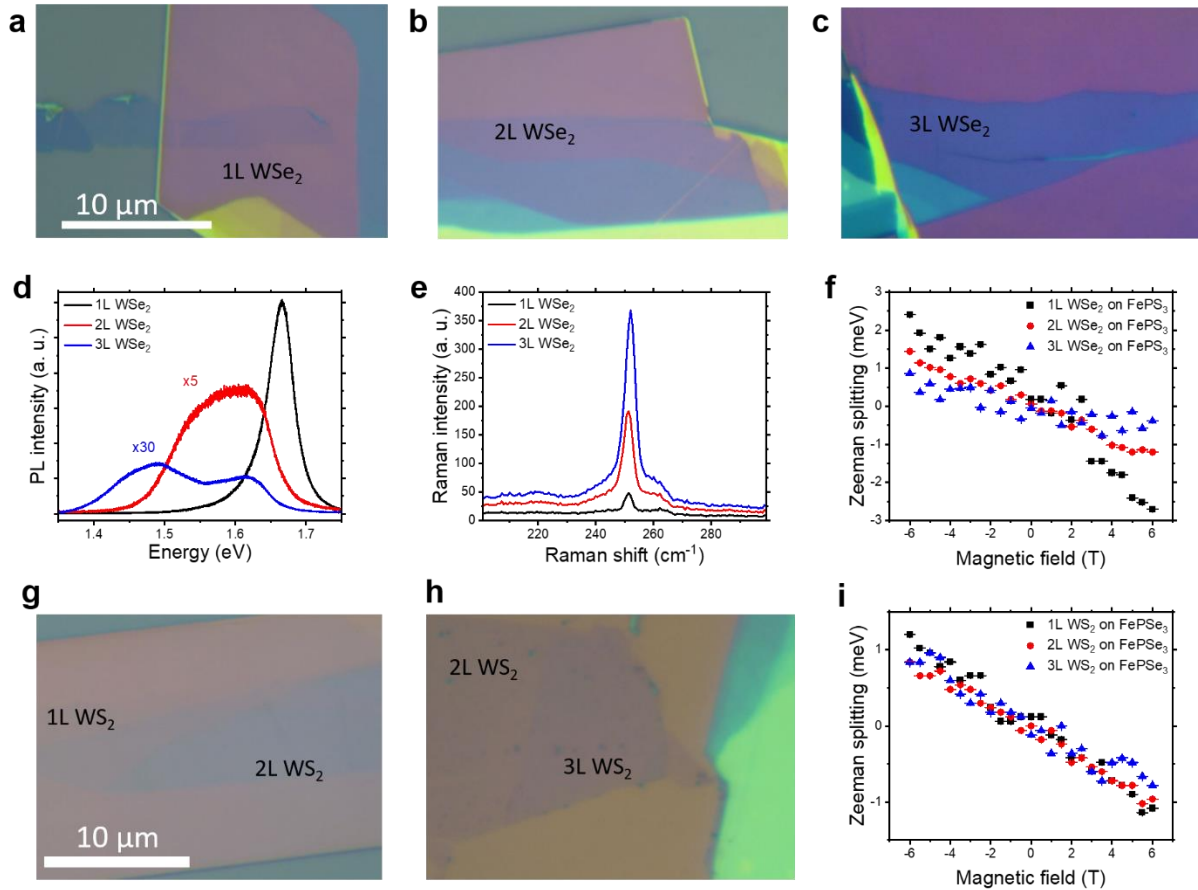


Fig. S7 | Studies of nL -WSe₂/FePS₃ and nL -WS₂/FePSe₃ heterostructures ($n = 1, 2,$ and $3,$ respectively). Optical images of 1L-(a), 2L-(b), and 3L-(c)-WSe₂/FePS₃, respectively. PL spectra of 1L-, 2L-, and 3L-WSe₂ on PDMS substrates (d). Raman spectra of 1L-, 2L-, and 3L-WSe₂ on PDMS substrates (e). Summarized magnetic-field-dependent Zeeman splitting of 1L-, 2L-, and 3L-WSe₂/FePS₃ (f). Optical images of 1L-, 2L-, and 3L-WS₂/FePSe₃ (g, h). Summarized magnetic-field-dependent Zeeman splitting of 1L-, 2L-, and 3L-WS₂/FePSe₃ (i). Note that both (g) and (h) show 2L-WS₂/FePSe₃ samples, and the result of the 2L-WS₂/FePSe₃ sample in (i) is from the sample in (g). The absence of interfacial ferromagnetism in all the studied WSe₂/FePS₃ and WS₂/FePSe₃ samples delivers strong evidence of the role of interfacial hybridization (mediated by the same interfacial chalcogen species) in the resultant interfacial ferromagnetism in our WS₂/FePS₃ samples.

References:

1. G. Plechinger *et al.*, *Nat. Commun.* **7**, 12715 (2016).
2. G. Plechinger *et al.*, *Phys. Status Solidi (RRL)-Rapid Res. Lett.* **9**, 457-461 (2015).
3. A. Srivastava *et al.*, *Nat. Nanotechnol.* **10**, 491-496 (2015).
4. M. Koperski *et al.*, *Nat. Nanotechnol.* **10**, 503-506 (2015).
5. C. Gong, X. Zhang, *Science* **363**, eaav4450 (2019).
6. B. L. Chittari *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. B* **94**, 184428 (2016).
7. P. S. Bagus, V. Staemmler, C. Wöll, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **89**, 096104 (2002).
8. C. Gong *et al.*, *J. Appl. Phys.* **108**, 123711 (2010).
9. C. Gong, L. Colombo, R. M. Wallace, K. Cho, *Nano Lett.* **14**, 1714-1720 (2014).