

**UNRAVELING MN INTERCALATION AND DIFFUSION IN NBSE₂ BILAYERS
THROUGH DFTB SIMULATIONS**

Bruno Bueno Ipaves Nascimento (ipaves@unicamp.br)

Raphael Benjamim De Oliveira (benjamim.oliveira.017@ufrn.edu.br)

Guilherme Da Silva Lopes Fabris (guilherme.fabris@unesp.br)

Matthias Batzill (mbatzill@cas.usf.edu)

D. S. Galvao (Or); Unicamp (galvao@ifi.unicamp.br)

The groundbreaking discovery of graphene in 2004 opened up a new era in two-dimensional (2D) materials, unveiling a rich spectrum of novel properties. Recently, a new method for synthesizing van der Waals heterolayers was introduced by reacting Bi₂Se₃ with transition metals, such as Mn or Cr, yielding XBi₂Se₄ (with X = Mn or Cr) layers on a Bi₂Se₃ substrate. The insertion of metal layers between TMDs enables the formation of new pseudo-2D materials that can exhibit a range of intriguing effects, including the quantum anomalous Hall (QAH) effect, quantized magnetoelectric response, and Majorana fermions [1]. Here, our study focuses on investigating the atomic-scale mechanisms of Mn intercalation and diffusion in NbSe₂ bilayers through density functional tight-binding (DFTB) simulations [2]. Our work is directly motivated by recent experimental reports on Mn intercalation in NbSe₂ [3], and we provide a theoretical view that helps interpret these findings. Our results present the energetics, diffusion pathways, and concentration-dependent behavior of Mn

atoms, offering a detailed understanding of the intercalation process and its influence on the material's properties.

Acknowledgments:

B. I. and R.B.O. thank CNPq process numbers \#153733/2024-1 and \#151043/2024-8, respectively. B.I. and G. S. L. F. thank FAPESP process numbers \#2024/11016-0 and \#2024/03413-9, respectively. D. S. G. acknowledges the Center for Computing in Engineering and Sciences at Unicamp (FAPESP-CEPID grant #2013/08293-7) and INEO (FAPESP grant #2025/27044-5 and CNPq grant #408449/2024-1).

References:

- [1] Khatun, S., Alanwoko, O., Pathirage, V., de Oliveira, C. C., Tromer, R. M., Autreto, P. A., ... & Batzill, M. (2024). Solid State Reaction Epitaxy, A New Approach for Synthesizing Van der Waals heterolayers: The Case of Mn and Cr on Bi₂Se₃. *Advanced Functional Materials*, 34(28), 2315112.
- [2] Ipaves, B., de Oliveira, R. B., Fabris, G. D. S. L., Batzill, M., & Galvão, D. S. (2025). Unraveling Mn intercalation and diffusion in NbSe₂ bilayers through DFTB simulations. *Physica E: Low-dimensional Systems and Nanostructures*, 116355.
- [3] Pathirage, V., Khatun, S., & Batzill, M. (2025). Intercalation of Mn in a few layers of NbSe₂ by molecular beam epitaxy. *Surface Science*, 754, 122695.

Palavras-chave: dftb; molecular dynamics; tmds; 2d materials.