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[673] van Der Waals Epitaxy Of Co-Zn-Mn on Graphene for Skyrmionic Applications

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Skyrmions are topologically protected nanometer-sized magnetic vortices interesting for spintronics applications. Current challenges lie in the discovery and synthesis of materials with high critical temperatures (T_c) and their implementation in thin-film technology. Here we present an approach for strain-free epitaxial thin-film growth of near-room temperature skyrmion-hosting material $Co_{10-x}Zn_{10-y}Mn_{x+y}$. T_c can be systematically tuned beyond room temperature by adjusting Co:Zn:Mn composition. We use graphene grown on Si as an underlying substrate for molecular beam epitaxy. Graphene allows us to exploit van der Waals interaction for strain-free growth. We report on the structural, compositional and magnetic properties of $Co_{10-x}Zn_{10-y}Mn_{x+y}$ (1 < x, y < 3) thin films. This growth technique opens a new route for integrating skyrmionic device concepts with silicon electronics.

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