

## Supplementary Information

# Visualizing Nanoscale Charge Flows in Multi-Dimensional WSe<sub>2</sub>/GaAs Vertical Diodes

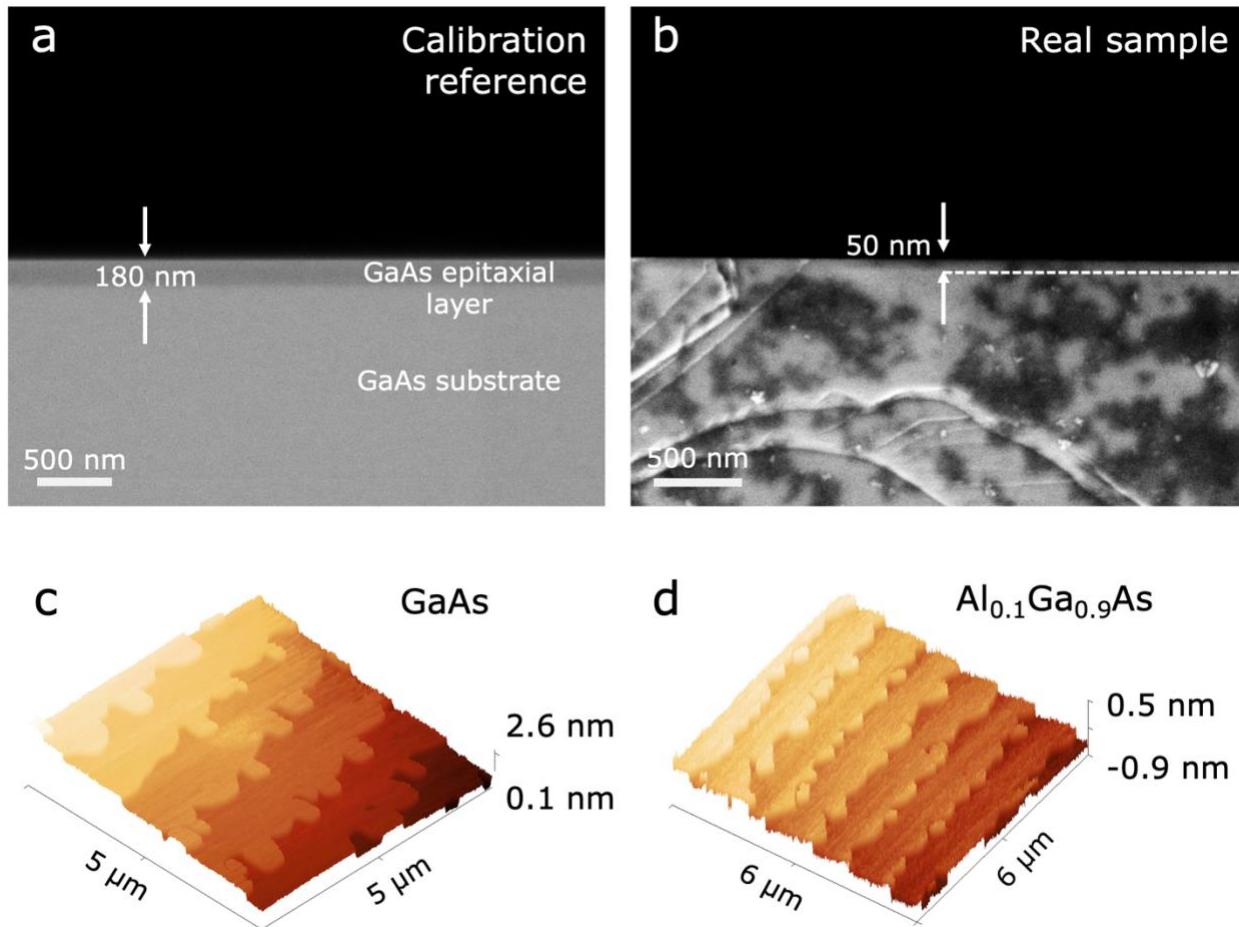
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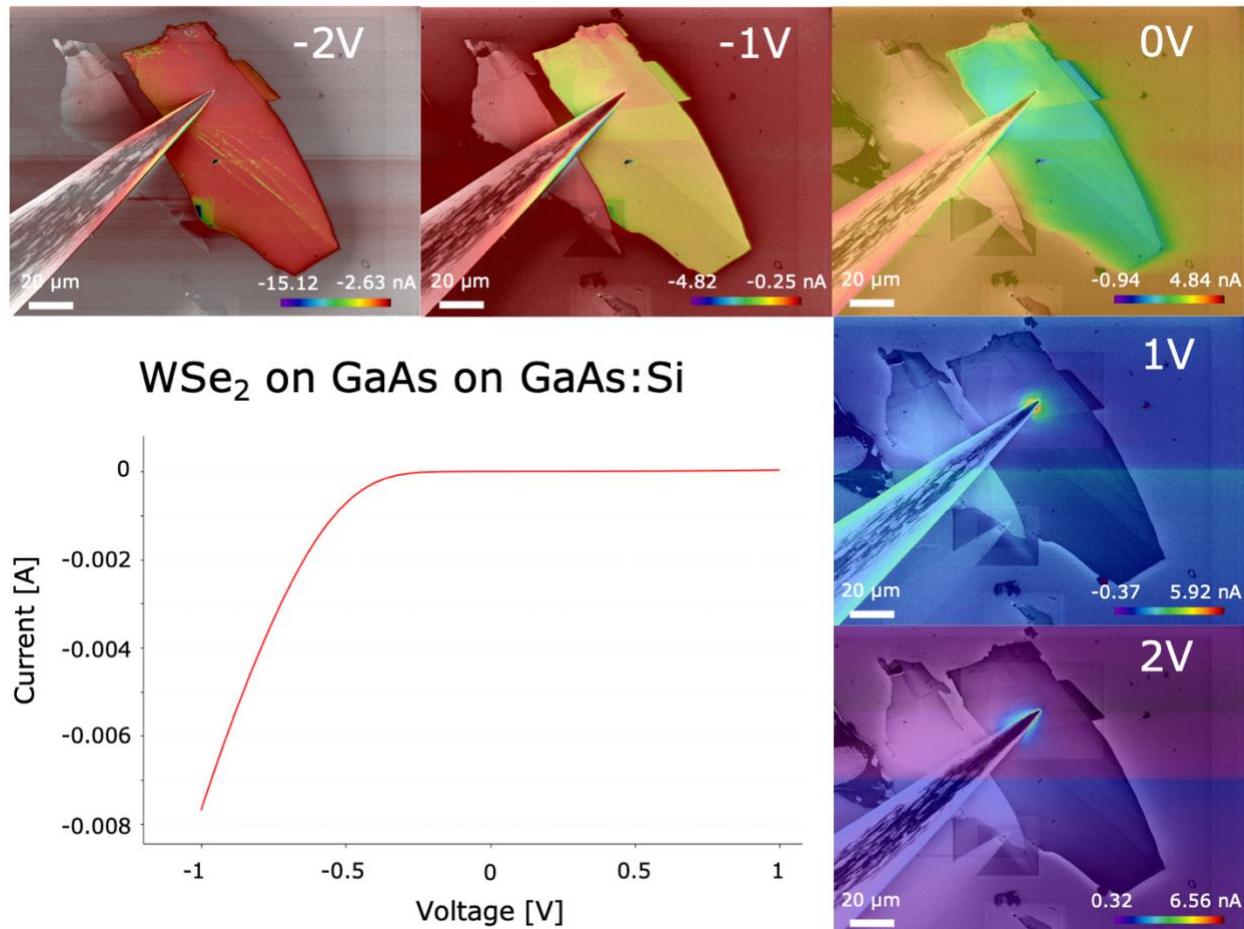
25 **Supplementary Figure 1:** (a) SEM cross section of the calibration growth for the epitaxial GaAs layer on Zn-doped  
 26 GaAs (100) substrates; (b) SEM cross section of the final epitaxial layer; 3D AFM maps of epitaxially grown GaAs  
 27 (c) and Al<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>As (d) layers, showing atomic terraces on the surface.

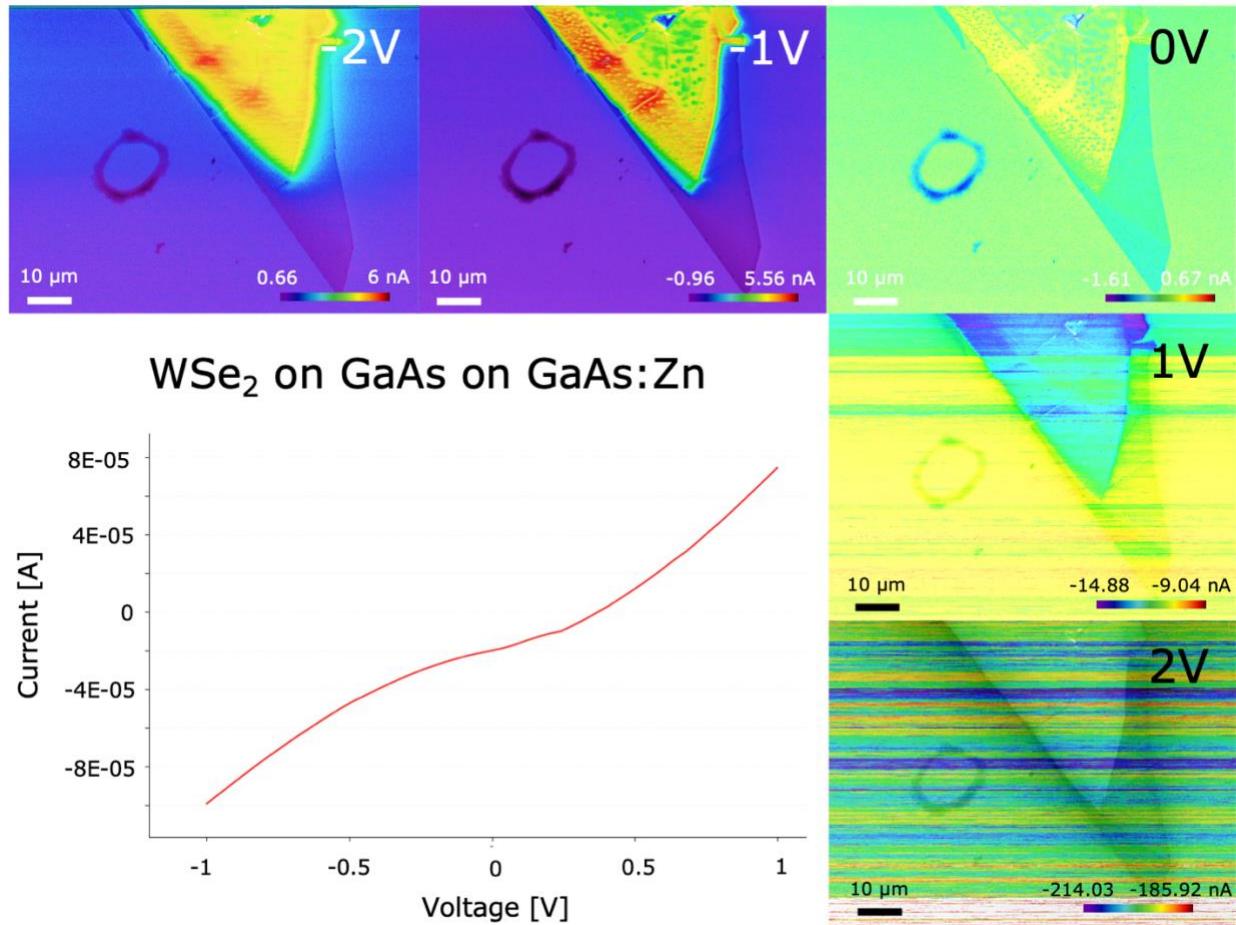
28 Planar epitaxial substrates for integration of WSe<sub>2</sub> flakes are grown by MOVPE as detailed in the Methods.

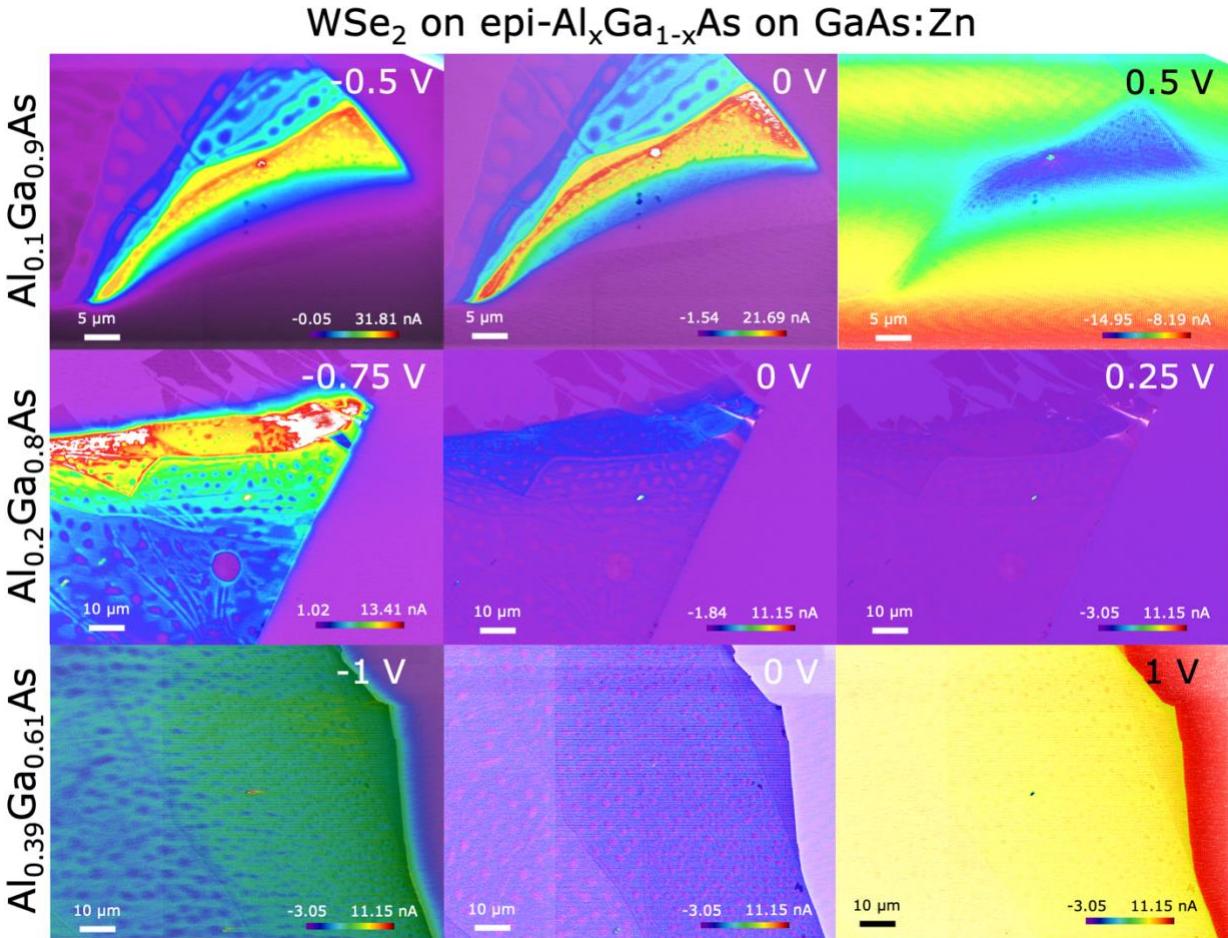
29 Supplementary Figure 1a shows a cross-section SEM image used for calibrating fluxes and growth time.  
 30 The SE contrast arising from the difference in doping from the substrate (Zn-doped GaAs) and the intrinsic  
 31 epitaxial layer allows to measure a thickness of the grown layer around 180 nm. Supplementary Figure 1b  
 32 shows the cross-section SEM of a thinner layer used for integration. The visible pale contrast allows to  
 33 measure a layer thickness close to 50 nm.

34 The surface morphology of the epitaxial layer needs to be atomically smooth to ensure a pristine interface  
 35 with the WSe<sub>2</sub> flakes. Supplementary Figure 1c shows the 3D AFM map of the epitaxially grown layer,  
 36 highlighting atomically flat terraces with sub-nm roughness. In a similar manner, Supplementary Figure 1d  
 37 shows the surface quality of Al<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>As layers described in the next sections of this Supporting Information  
 38 document. As for GaAs, Al<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>As epilayers grow with atomically flat surfaces.

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73 **Supplementary Figure 4:** EBIC maps of different heterojunctions between WSe<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>As epilayers at  
 74 different Al concentration (10%, 20%, 39%, on the rows) at different external biases.

75 The electrical behavior of the WSe<sub>2</sub>/Al<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>As heterojunctions is shown in Supplementary Figure 4. The  
 76 maps show a consistent trend with what has been described in the main manuscript for WSe<sub>2</sub>/GaAs:Zn  
 77 heterojunctions, where the presence of the built-in field is driving the current extraction. Equivalent  
 78 behaviors at different Al concentrations demonstrate how the built-in field is not significantly affected by  
 79 the band offsets at the junction.

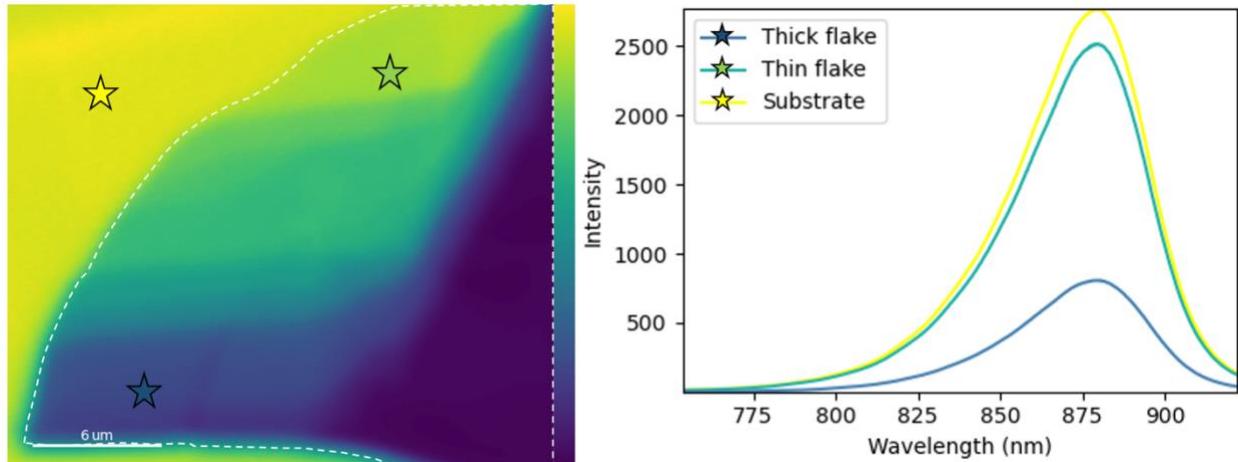
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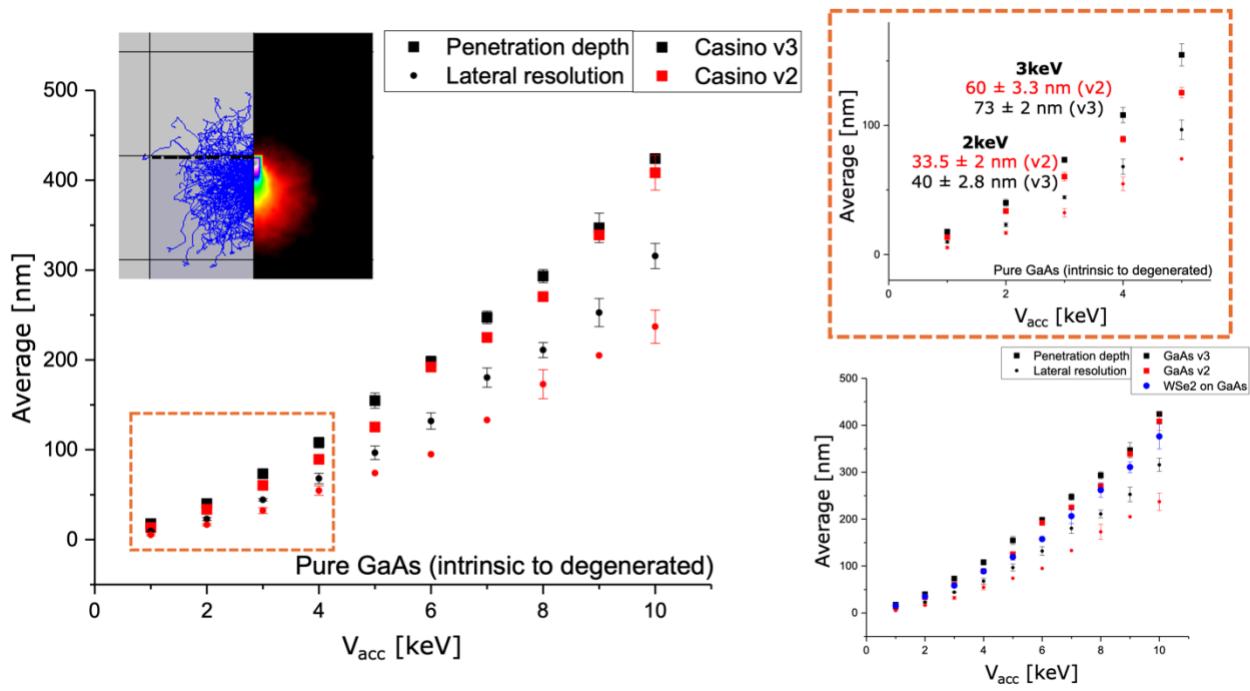
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87 **Supplementary Figure 5:** Photoluminescence (PL) panchromatic map (top left) of a multilayered WSe<sub>2</sub> flake (outlined  
 88 in dashed white line) on GaAs epilayer (integrated in the range 750 nm – 925 nm). Selected PL spectra (top right)  
 89 taken on the substrate, on the thin and thick parts of the WSe<sub>2</sub> flake. Decay of 532 nm laser intensity (bottom)  
 90 with penetration depth in bulk GaAs. Absorption coefficient taken from [1].

91 In the panchromatic PL map, WSe<sub>2</sub> emission, which would appear as bright areas, is not visible. This  
 92 indicates that the minimum flake thickness is over two layers (thicknesses at which WSe<sub>2</sub> signal would be  
 93 visible with the acquisition conditions used). The PL emission comes solely from the GaAs substrate and  
 94 is partially to totally quenched below the flake, as shown by the decrease in intensity of the PL emission  
 95 peaks taken beneath the flake. This is due to the latter's laser screening effect. Indeed, penetration in GaAs  
 96 of the 532 nm laser used for the measurements is well above the 80 nm maximum thickness of the flake.

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99 **Supplementary Figure 6:** MonteCarlo simulations of penetration depth of the interaction volume at different  
100 acceleration voltages in GaAs. Labels v2 and v3 refer to 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional modeling, showing  
101 comparable results with minor differences. Error bars refer to values obtained for different simulations at different  
102 doping of the substrate: intrinsic, n-doped at  $10^{17}$ , and n-doped at  $10^{19}$ . Orange inset plot shows zoomed-in version of  
103 the major plot with reported values of penetration depth for the acceleration voltages used in our experimental  
104 investigations. Bottom right plot overlaps additional simulation results for intrinsic GaAs with overlayer of WSe<sub>2</sub>,  
105 with error bars referring to different simulated thicknesses (from 5nm to 50 nm).

106 MonteCarlo simulations with Casino software on pure GaAs. The plot summarizes penetration depth and  
107 lateral resolution as a function of primary beam energy. The error bar refers to varying electron  
108 concentration (intrinsic,  $10^{17}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>,  $10^{19}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>). Labels v2 and v3 denotes 2D and 3D modeling. Values are  
109 extracted by applying a 5% energy cut. The inset in the dashed orange square highlights the relevant values  
110 for the experimental conditions of the maps reported in this work. The plot on the right includes values for  
111 WSe<sub>2</sub> on intrinsic GaAs (blue points). The error bar refers to WSe<sub>2</sub> thickness (from 5nm to 50 nm).

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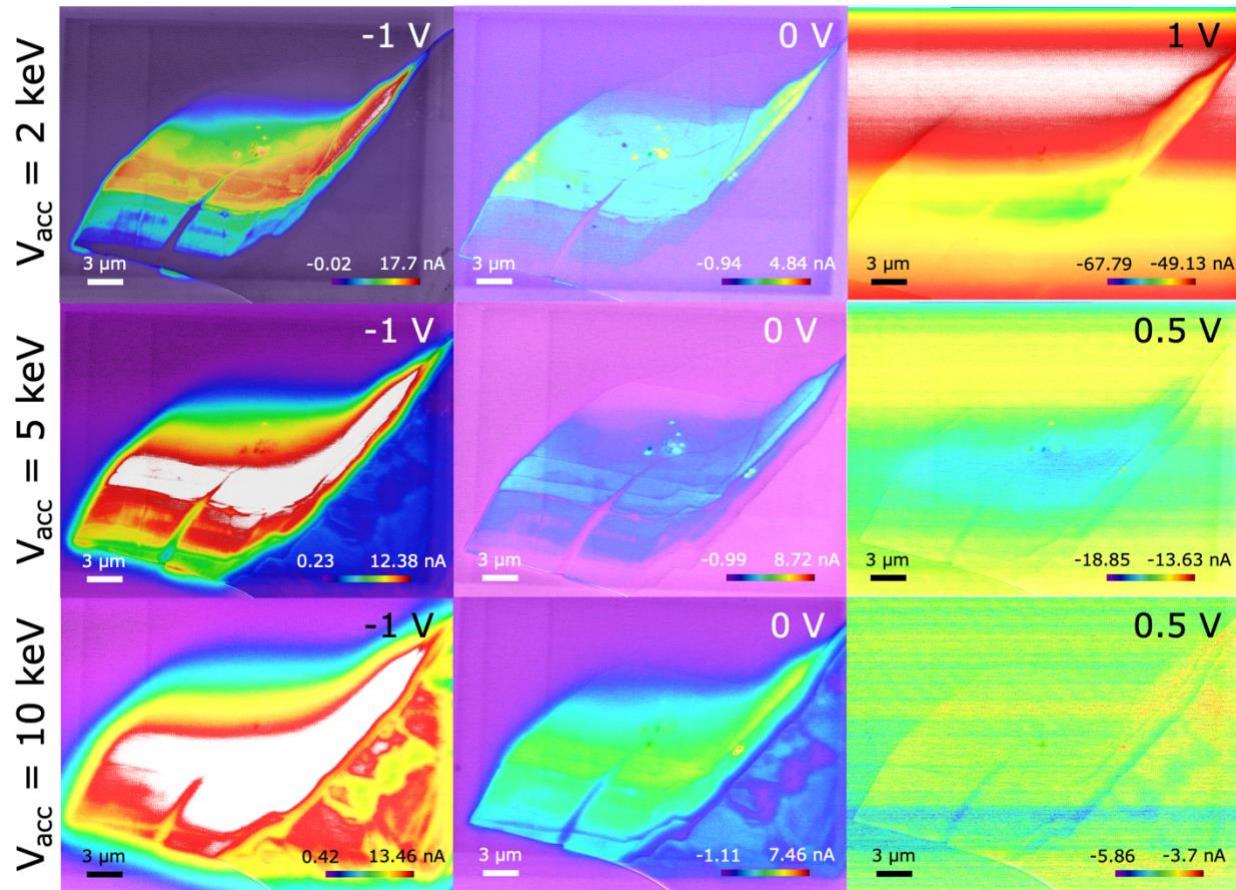
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### WSe<sub>2</sub> on epi-GaAs on GaAs:Zn



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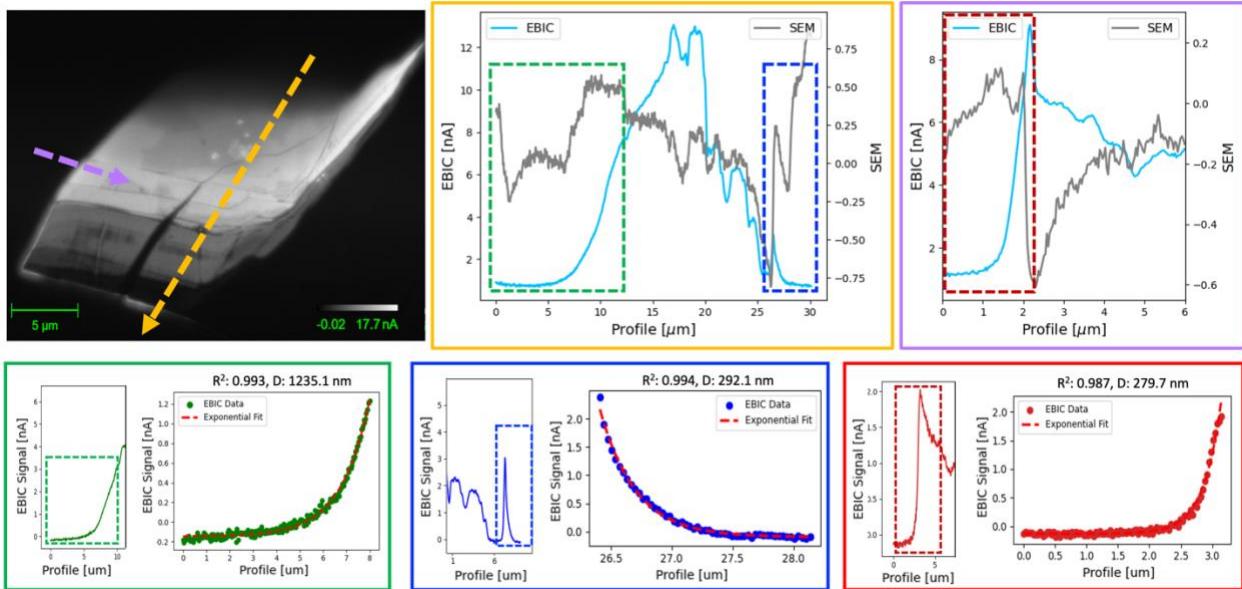
123 **Supplementary Figure 7:** EBIC maps of WSe<sub>2</sub>/GaAs:Zn heterojunction at different acceleration voltages (2, 5, and  
124 10 keV, on the rows) at different external biases.

125 Supplementary Figure 7 shows the EBIC maps obtained for the WSe<sub>2</sub>/GaAs:Zn heterojunction at different  
126 external biases for different acceleration voltages. The external bias evolution is not affected by the  
127 acceleration voltage, qualitatively remaining the same with morphological features reproduced by current  
128 profiles in reverse bias. With increasing  $V_{acc}$ , thus penetrating deeper in the substrate, the current collection  
129 is extended towards thicker regions (see left column evolution with increasing  $V_{acc}$ ). This observation is  
130 fully consistent with Casino simulations, discussed in the previous paragraph of this Supporting  
131 Information.

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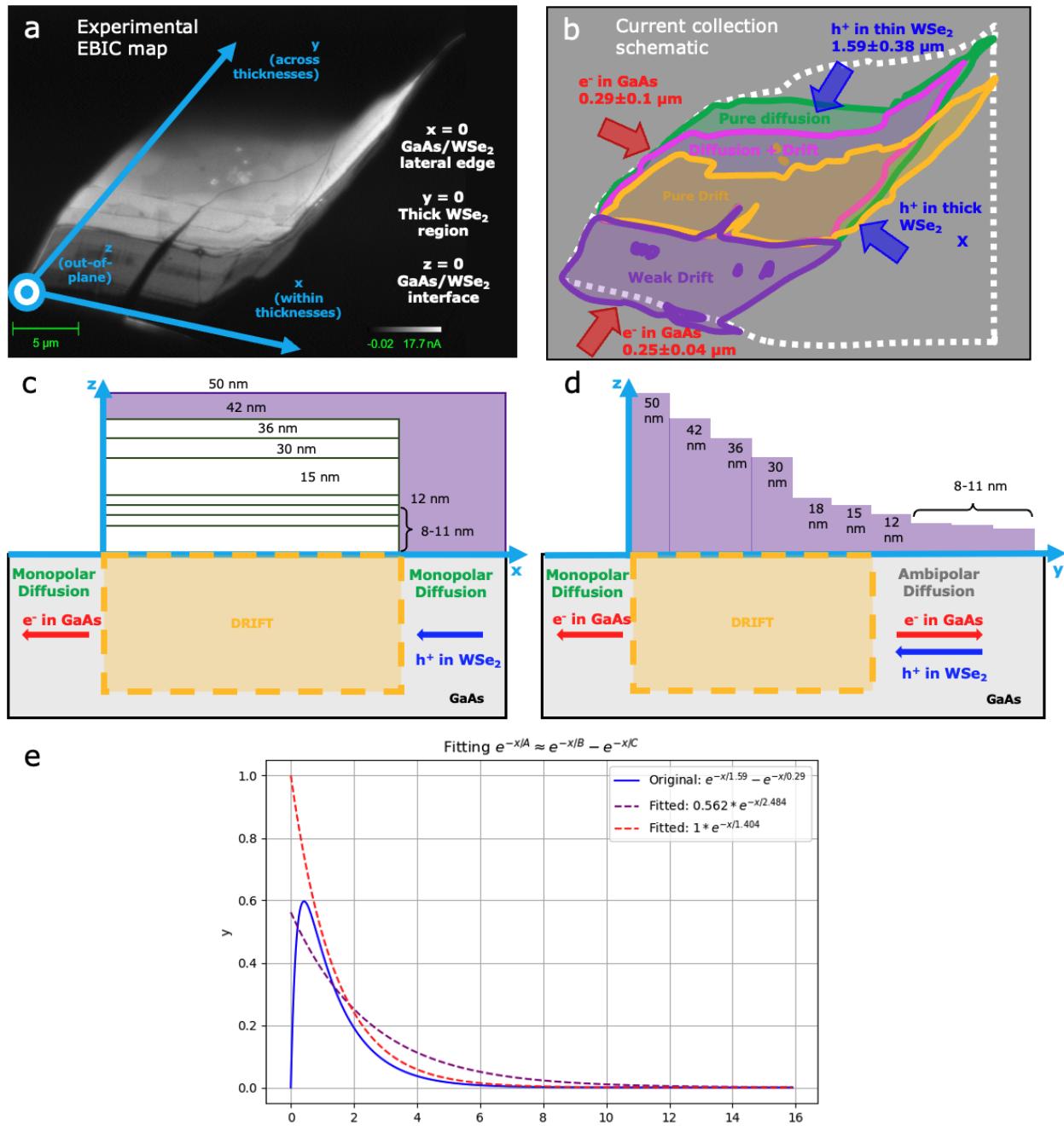


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136 **Supplementary Figure 8:** Diffusion length analysis for 2D/3D WSe<sub>2</sub> on III-V heterojunctions. At the top left, EBIC  
 137 map of a WSe<sub>2</sub>/epi-GaAs/GaAs:Zn heterostructure with colored arrows representing the two major directions of  
 138 current profiles extraction for diffusion length estimation: across terraces (yellow) and along terraces (purple). At the  
 139 top right, superimposed EBIC and SEM profiles extracted along yellow and violet lines, showing correspondence  
 140 between contrast (morphological) features and current trends. Dashed rectangles refer to fit regions for the curves  
 141 shown at the bottom, where examples of current profiles are shown, together with the extracted fit parameters.

142 The diffusion length data extraction and analysis on the 2D/3D WSe<sub>2</sub>/epi-GaAs/GaAs:Zn heterostructures  
 143 have been performed by manually tracing sets of current profiles on the EBIC maps. These sets are shown  
 144 in Supplementary Figure 8 with arrows of different colors, representing the heterojunction border at  
 145 different WSe<sub>2</sub> thicknesses (purple), and the heterojunction profile with varying WSe<sub>2</sub> thickness (yellow).  
 146 Extracted current profiles are shown in the plots on top, together with dashed insets representing the fitted  
 147 regions. Profiles as in the green inset provide insight on the hole diffusion length in WSe<sub>2</sub>, being the portion  
 148 of the flake where drift is not predominant. Profiles in blue provide equivalent information but on a single  
 149 thickness at the bottom of the flake to account for reliability of the data extraction. The current profiles at  
 150 the border of the 2D material (red bottom plot) allow for the extraction of GaAs diffusion lengths, from far  
 151 away from the flake towards the interface.

152 Diffusion lengths are obtained by selection of portions of the current profiles to be fitted. Cross-correlation  
 153 of SEM and EBIC signal defines fit boundaries. Data are fitted with exponential profiles, consistently with  
 154 theoretical expectations from diffusion regimes. R-squared values of the fits are reported here for the  
 155 examples, generally resulting larger than 0.98 and suggesting reliable match between experimental data and  
 156 extracted parameters.



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158 **Supplementary Figure 9:** (a) EBIC experimental map of  $\text{WSe}_2/\text{GaAs:Zn}$  heterojunction (b) Current collection  
 159 schematic for different  $\text{WSe}_2$  thickness regions; (c) Cross-sectional diagram along a cut on the  $x$ - $z$  plane, showing two  
 160 monopolar regimes for holes diffusion in  $\text{WSe}_2$  and electron diffusion in  $\text{GaAs}$ ; (d) Cross-sectional diagram along a  
 161 cut on the  $y$ - $z$  plane, showing ambipolar diffusion in thin regions of the  $\text{WSe}_2$  flake. (e) Plots of ambipolar diffusion  
 162 mechanism for the separate regime (blue line) and the fitted ones with estimated values of effective diffusion lengths  
 163 with (purple dashed) and without (red dashed) pre-exponential fitting.

164 Supplementary Figure 9 shows a series of diagrams for the diffusion analysis of the 2D/3D  $\text{WSe}_2/\text{GaAs:Zn}$   
 165 heterojunction. The set of coordinates on the EBIC experimental map in panel a are used as reference in  
 166 the schematics, while panel b shows an overlaid schematic on the equivalent thickness regions for the  
 167 current collection mechanisms, together with estimated diffusion length values for electrons in  $\text{GaAs}$  and

168 holes in WSe<sub>2</sub>. Panels c and d display two cross-sectional diagrams obtained from perpendicular cuts along  
169 the x and y directions of the heterojunction in our reference system.

170 Along x (panel c), monopolar diffusion on both sides can be described, as the interaction volume remains  
171 fully in GaAs on the left part (outside the heterojunction) and fully in WSe<sub>2</sub> on the right part where the flake  
172 is thick enough. These two regimes allow for the electron diffusion length extraction in GaAs, reading 290  
173  $\pm 101$  nm (as discussed in the main manuscript). On the other side, holes diffusion length in thick WSe<sub>2</sub> was  
174 not quantitatively estimated due to insufficient data to extract profiles.

175 In a similar manner, along y (panel d), monopolar diffusion on the bottom edge can be described with  
176 interaction volume fully in GaAs. In this case, electron diffusion length in GaAs extracted from profiles  
177 results equal to  $250 \pm 40$  nm. An ambipolar diffusion regimes is found on the top edge of the flakes, where  
178 the interaction volume partially lies into thin WSe<sub>2</sub> and partially in GaAs. The effective diffusion length  
179 extracted from profiles as discussed in the main manuscript results equal to  $1590 \pm 380$  nm. The ambipolar  
180 diffusion regime can be described by the following Equation as in Supplementary Figure 9e:

$$181 \quad J = A * \exp\left(-\frac{x}{L_{diff}^{eff}}\right) = B * \exp\left(-\frac{x}{L_{diff}^{GaAs}}\right) + C * \exp\left(-\frac{x}{L_{diff}^{WSe2}}\right)$$

182 If  $A \approx B \approx C$ , one can rewrite:

$$183 \quad \exp\left(-\frac{x}{L_{diff}^{WSe2}}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{x}{L_{diff}^{eff}}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{x}{L_{diff}^{GaAs}}\right)$$

184 where  $L_{diff}^{eff}$  is defined by the fitting and  $L_{diff}^{GaAs}$  can be deduced by the previous analysis. By using  $L_{diff}^{eff} =$   
185  $1.59 \pm 0.38$   $\mu\text{m}$  and  $L_{diff}^{GaAs} = 0.29 \pm 0.1$   $\mu\text{m}$ , we find  $L_{diff}^{WSe2} = \sim 1.5$   $\mu\text{m}$ , (dashed red curve).

186 If one assumes  $B \approx C$  instead:

$$187 \quad \frac{A}{B} * \exp\left(-\frac{x}{L_{diff}^{WSe2}}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{x}{L_{diff}^{eff}}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{x}{L_{diff}^{GaAs}}\right)$$

188 A double parameter fitting returns  $L_{diff}^{WSe2} = \sim 2.5$   $\mu\text{m}$  (purple dashed curve).

189 Although the first assumption offers a better fit, we conservatively indicate a rough value of  $L_{diff}^{WSe2} \sim 2$   
190  $\mu\text{m}$  in the main text.

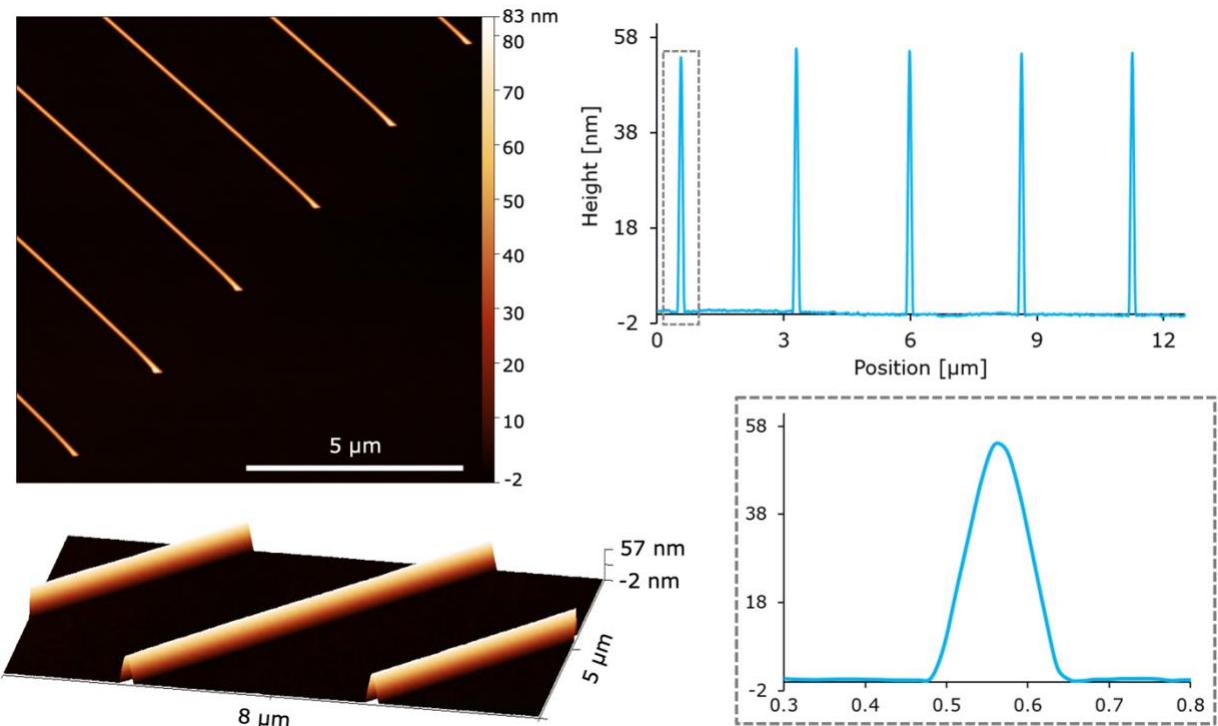
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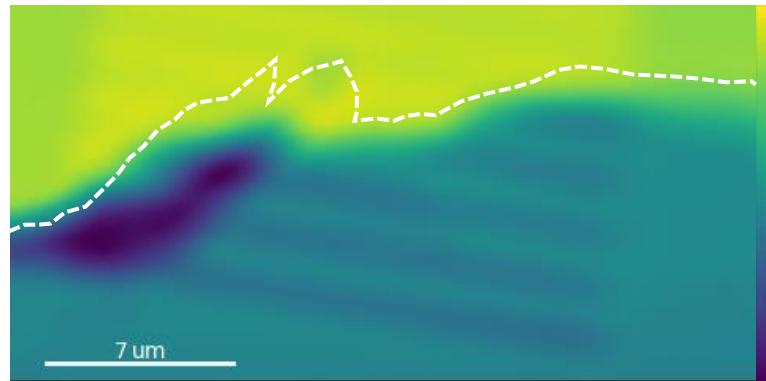


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197 **Supplementary Figure 10:** Morphological characterization of GaAs (100) NMs. On the left, 2D and 3D AFM maps  
 198 of 1D horizontal NMs, showing perfect selectivity on the SiO<sub>2</sub> mask and reproducible uniformity over the array. On  
 199 the right, line profiles from the AFM data traced perpendicularly to NMs, highlighting clear homogeneity in height  
 200 for different structures (55 nm on average). Width of NMs is nominally patterned at 60 nm, but after growth they  
 201 laterally expand up to 230 nm on average.

202 Nanostructured substrates are carefully characterized by SEM and AFM to evaluate the nanostructures' quality and dimensions. Supplementary Figure 10 shows the AFM analysis that is generally performed on the substrates prior to integration. The 2D AFM map confirms the absolute selectivity of the epitaxial growth on the specific array for integration, with flawless NMs and no trace of parasitic growth. This aspect is also generally assessed and verified by SEM on larger scale on the whole growth sample. The 3D AFM outline shows the morphology of NMs growing on GaAs (100) substrates. As demonstrated in detail in previous studies [2,3], NMs evolve outside the SiO<sub>2</sub> mask with a pyramidal cross-section, truncated at medium growth stages, towards completion at final ones, as in Supplementary Figure 10 and in general in the substrates we used for integrations. The AFM profiles highlight the ideal reproducibility of the NMs within a single array, with height deviations of  $\pm 1$  nm for heights of tens of nanometers. Finally, the inset profile at the bottom shows once again the cross-sectional profile of the NMs more in detail, evidencing the lateral size of the structures being as large as 200 nm. The nominally patterned width of the NMs, equal to 60 nm in our case, enlarges not only due to slight electron beam overexposure, but also because of natural growth mode of these nanostructures. Lateral overgrowth over the mask happens at first growth stages, while progressive cross-sectional expansion occurs upon completion of the pyramid [2].

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219 **Supplementary Figure 11:** PL map of the WSe<sub>2</sub> flake (outlined in dashed white line) transferred on GaAs NMs,  
 220 integrated in the GaAs emission range 850 nm – 900 nm.

221 Supplementary Figure 11 shows the map of the GaAs PL intensity of a sample consisting of a WSe<sub>2</sub> flake  
 222 on GaAs NMs. The flake is outlined in a dashed white line. It can be seen that the GaAs emission intensity  
 223 is reduced by the presence of the flake (area under the white line), with thicker regions of the flake appearing  
 224 darker. This is due to the WSe<sub>2</sub> flake screening the laser intensity and thus lowering the excitation power  
 225 on the substrate below. Furthermore, outside of the flake region (above the white line), it can be observed  
 226 that the bare NMs have a stronger emission than the surrounding substrate. However, the NMs covered by  
 227 the WSe<sub>2</sub> show lower emission compared to the surrounding substrate under the flake. This indicates a  
 228 change in the recombination process of the photogenerated charge carriers confined to the areas where the  
 229 GaAs NMs are in contact with the WSe<sub>2</sub>. In these 1D heterojunction regions, the presence of a built-in-field  
 230 leads to charge separation of the photogenerated carriers and therefore, partial quenching of the  
 231 photoluminescence. This phenomenon is absent in the surroundings of the NMs due to the presence of the  
 232 SiO<sub>2</sub> mask.

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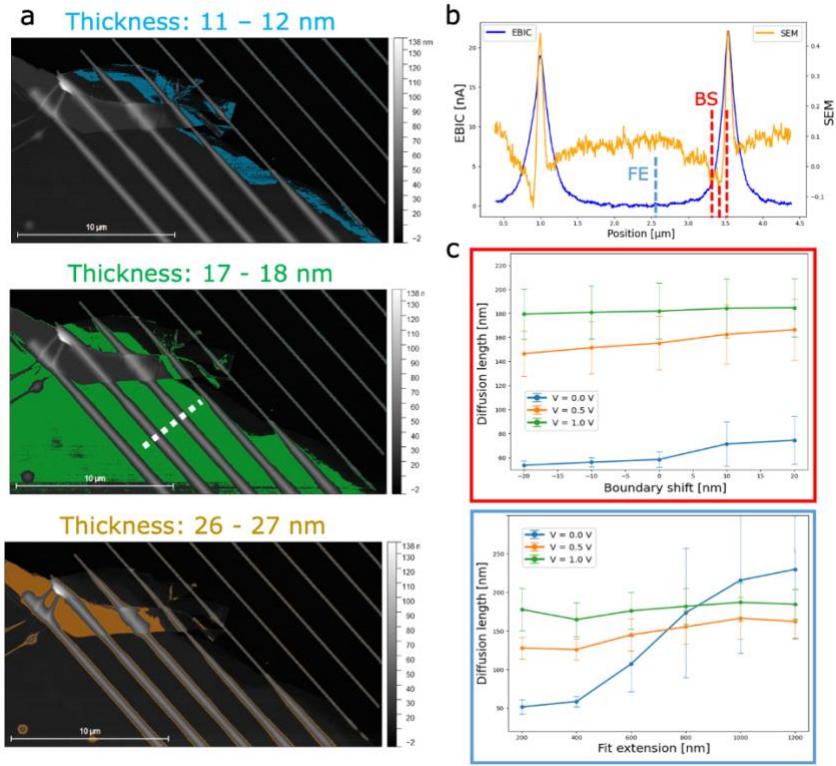
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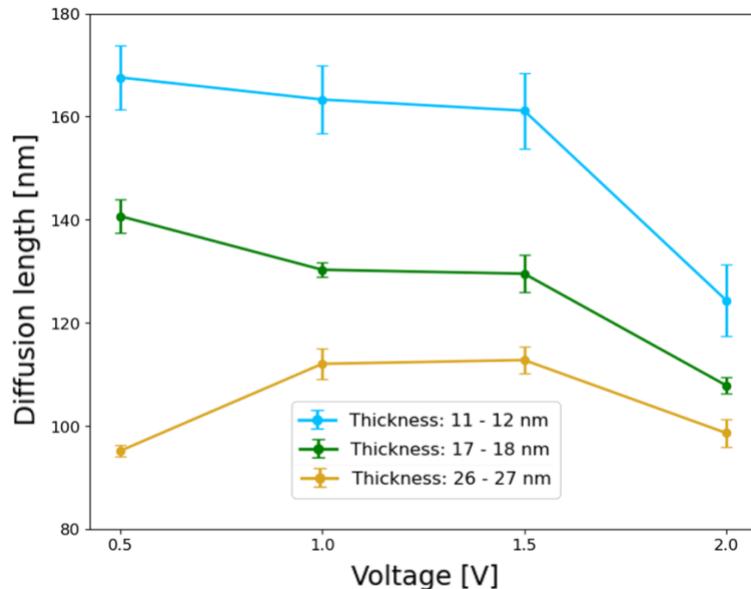


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247 **Supplementary Figure 12:** Diffusion length analysis for 2D/1D TMDs/III-V heterojunctions. (a) AFM maps with  
 248 different height mask for flake thicknesses identification; (b) Current (EBIC) and contrast (SEM) superimposed  
 249 profiles taken along the white line in panel (a), showing clear match between electrical and morphological features,  
 250 together with a schematic of the fundamental fit parameters, namely boundary shift (BS) and fit extension (FE);  
 251 (c) Diffusion length data extracted from the same fitted profile at different voltages and different boundary shifts (in red  
 252 contour) and fit extensions (in blue contour), highlighting marked reproducibility at different choice of boundary  
 253 parameters. Error bars are standard deviations referred to the different profiles at different positions.

254 AFM data of WSe<sub>2</sub> on GaAs nanomembranes are masked at different height levels to define flake single-  
 255 thickness regions (Supplementary Figure 12a). WSe<sub>2</sub> diffusion lengths for different thicknesses are  
 256 estimated through current profiles thanks to well-defined interfaces between NMs and each WSe<sub>2</sub> thickness  
 257 Supplementary Figure 12b shows the superimposed profiles of SEM contrast and EBIC signal along the  
 258 white line on the central map of the panel a. Morphological-electrical correspondence evidences electrical  
 259 signal only coming from regions where the 2D/1D interface is present. A Python script is hence developed  
 260 to analyze the superimposition of the morphological and current profiles and define boundaries for fitting  
 261 regions. Lateral borders of the NMs are identified (first two neighboring minima to the morphological  
 262 maxima), defining theoretical onsets of diffusion regimes. However, pixelization and slight misalignment  
 263 of the two different signals can cause mismatch of the morphological minimum with respect to the real  
 264 interface borders. For this reason, a boundary shift (BS) parameter is assigned to discrete displacements of  
 265 the fitting border. Similarly, a fit extension (FE) parameter is defined to account for possible variabilities  
 266 when expanding or compressing the fit region. An upper limit for this parameter is set at half the pitch to  
 267 avoid contributions from neighboring NMs. Supplementary Figure 12c shows the results for BS (red) and  
 268 FE (blue), showing hole diffusion lengths in 17-18 nm thick WSe<sub>2</sub> at different voltages. The slight variation  
 269 of diffusion length with BS reveals little impact of this parameter in the considered range. FE only has a  
 270 significant influence at low/absent external bias (e.g. blue curve), due to reduced fit accuracy in wide data

271 ranges when decreasing signal-to-noise ratio. This discrepancy was also accompanied by a marked decrease  
272 in the fit quality parameter.



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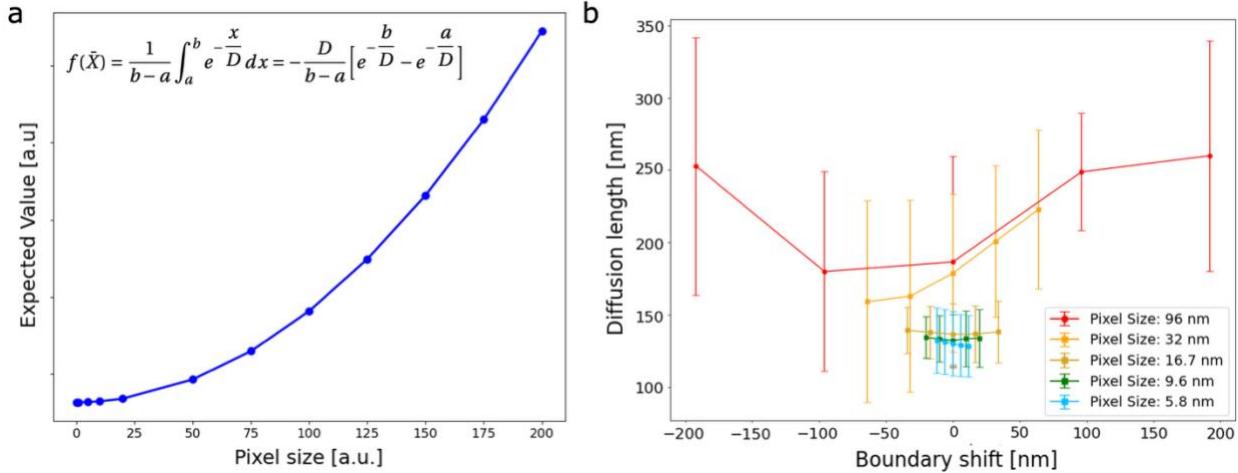
274 **Supplementary Figure 13:** Diffusion length extracted values for different thicknesses at different voltages, showing  
275 clear thickness dependence and weak voltage dependence.

276 Supplementary Figure 13 presents an example of diffusion lengths extracted for the different thicknesses  
277 under various applied voltages, for the specific integrations whose AFM maps are presented in  
278 Supplementary Figure 12. The fitting approach allowed to extract a statistically reliable set of data,  
279 considering that for each thickness several profiles are extracted, where geometrically possible thanks to  
280 the heterostructure shape. Each profile enclosed the maximum number of nanostructures covered by the 2D  
281 material at that thickness. For each covered NM in the profile, the two branches of the current profiles at  
282 the sides of the nanostructure are fitted to extract diffusion values. Diffusion length values are calculated  
283 for 5 different boundary shifts, in the range of  $\pm 2$  pixels from the identified minimum. A fit extension equal  
284 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$  is chosen to include as many data as possible, apart from low voltage cases where it is reduced to  
285 600-800 nm to increase the fit quality. All these values are averaged together to obtain one single diffusion  
286 length for each profile. All the values from different profiles at a certain thickness are averaged to obtain a  
287 single diffusion length, representative to one thickness under one specific applied bias. Error bars refer to  
288 the variability among profiles for each thickness. This analysis is repeated for each applied voltage. The  
289 same approach is consistently applied to other integrations of WSe<sub>2</sub> flakes on GaAs NMs to obtain the full  
290 set of comparable data. Discussion of these trends is presented in the main manuscript.

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295 **Supplementary Figure 14:** Magnification effect on diffusion length estimation. (a) Trend of the expected value of an  
 296 exponential function with increasing discretization (e.g. pixel size), as described by mean value theorem in the inset  
 297 equation; (b) Estimated values of diffusion length for a magnification series on a heterojunction of WSe<sub>2</sub> on GaAs  
 298 NMs at a fixed voltage and flake thickness, showing how the same profile gives pixel size dependent diffusion length  
 299 values, saturating when pixel size becomes small enough.

300 When extracting current profiles, the pixel size of the experimental map plays a role in determining the  
 301 curve resolution, translating into possible artifacts when trying to fit the curves. The reason for this  
 302 behaviour is presented in Supplementary Figure 14a: increasing the pixel size is equivalent to averaging  
 303 the real current profile on larger discretized intervals of the trend. For an exponential function, this turns  
 304 into larger expected values in the measured profiles than what it should be if the resolution was higher, as  
 305 analytically described by the mean integral value theorem. When this happens, the characteristic length  
 306 scale of fitting exponentials hence increases, as presented in Supplementary Figure 14b. Extracted diffusion  
 307 lengths are plotted for acquisitions at different magnifications of the same WSe<sub>2</sub>/GaAs-NMs heterojunction.  
 308 Even if the external bias is fixed, the injection conditions are the same, and the profiles are extracted at the  
 309 same location in different acquisitions, the extracted diffusion length markedly decreases when reducing  
 310 the pixel size. The diffusion length values saturate around a certain final value (in this case around 130 nm)  
 311 when the pixel size is small enough. The diffusion length is a material parameter that should not be  
 312 influenced at all by the scale of investigation. As shown by the graph, and more in general for other cases  
 313 that we cross-checked, extracted values from the fits resulted overall constant once the pixel size was  
 314 roughly 10 times smaller than the diffusion lengths themselves.

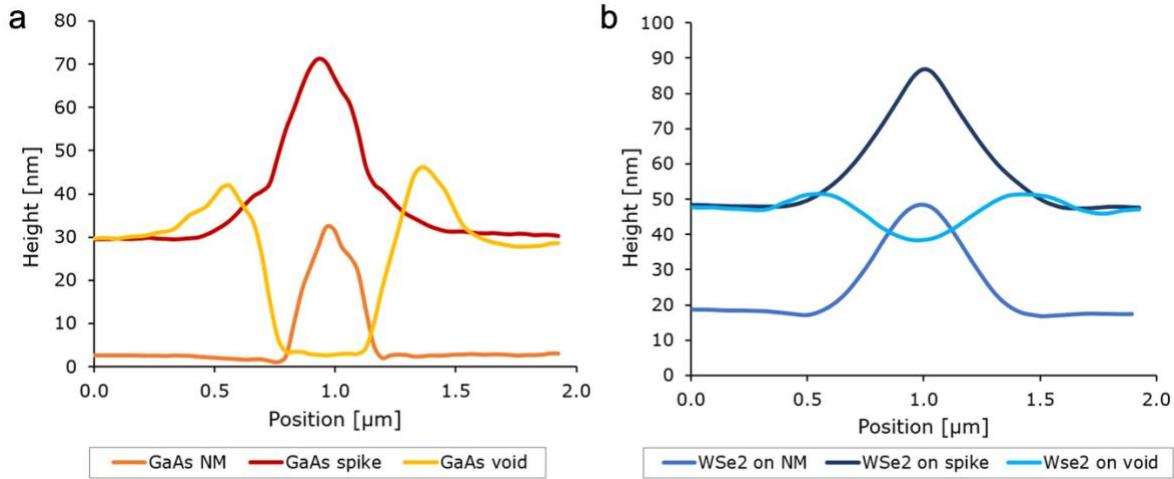
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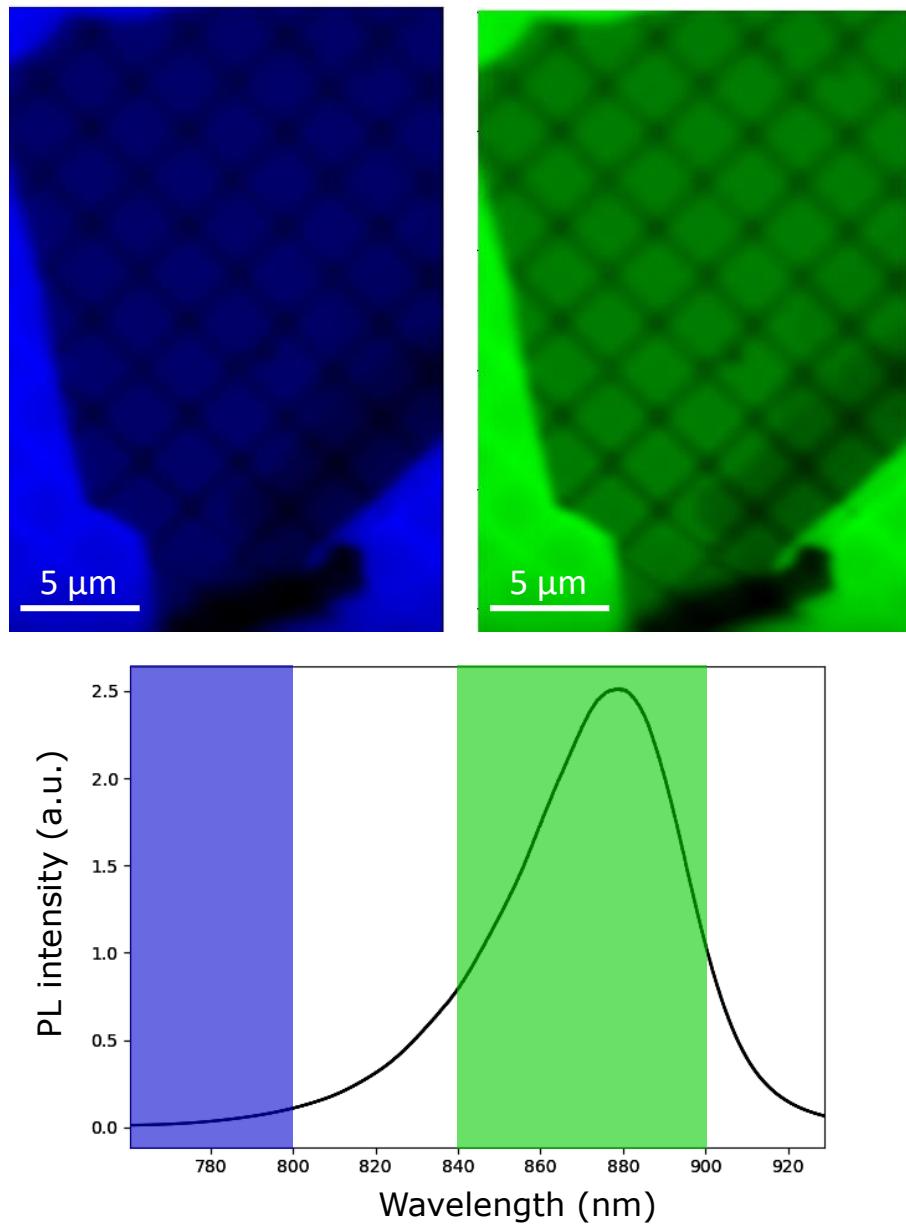
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321 **Supplementary Figure 15:** Morphological characterization of NXs and  $\text{WSe}_2$  on NXs. (a) AFM height profiles of the  
 322 NM constituting the branch of a NX, of the spike at the center of the NX, and of the void between different NXs; (b)  
 323 AFM height profiles of the  $\text{WSe}_2$  flake in its central region of constant thickness on top of the NM, on top of the spike  
 324 at the center of the NXs, and floating on top of the central void between NXs.

325 The NXs network consists of parallel and perpendicular linear nanostructures partially intersected.  
 326 Intersections result in the growth of localized spikes with average base diameter of 850 nm (red curve)  
 327 while disconnected areas appear as 530 nm wide voids reaching down the  $\text{SiO}_2$  mask (yellow curve), as  
 328 shown by the profiles in Supplementary Figure 15a. Similar profiles for the flake on top of NXs are  
 329 presented in Supplementary Figure 15b, highlighting conformality of the 2D material on top of the spikes  
 330 (dark blue curve) and evident suspension at disconnected regions in between NXs (light blue curve).  
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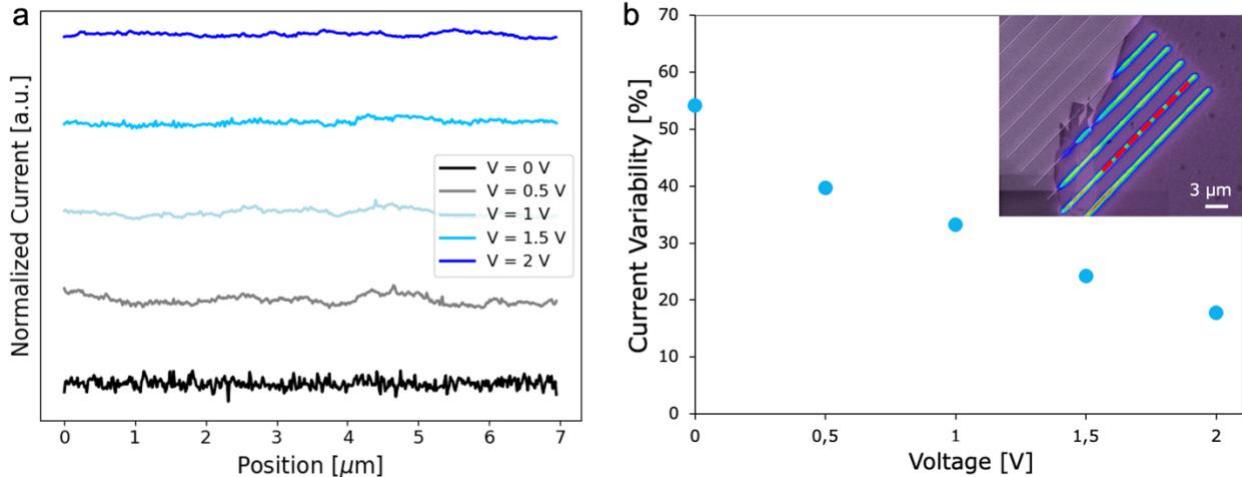
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333 **Supplementary Figure 16:** Hyperspectral maps of a WSe<sub>2</sub> flake on GaAs NXs integrated in the WSe<sub>2</sub> range, between  
 334 760 nm and 800 nm (left) and the GaAs range, between 840 nm and 900 nm (right), as shown in the spectrum  
 335 cumulated over all pixels of the map, shown below.

336 The absence of bright emission areas from the PL hyperspectral map integrated in the WSe<sub>2</sub> wavelength  
 337 range (760 nm to 800 nm) on Supplementary Figure 16 (top left), as well as the similarity with the map  
 338 integrated in the GaAs range (840 nm to 900 nm) on Supplementary Figure 16 (top right) confirms the  
 339 absence of a WSe<sub>2</sub> monolayer. The PL contribution in the WSe<sub>2</sub> wavelength range comes entirely from the  
 340 tale of the GaAs emission.

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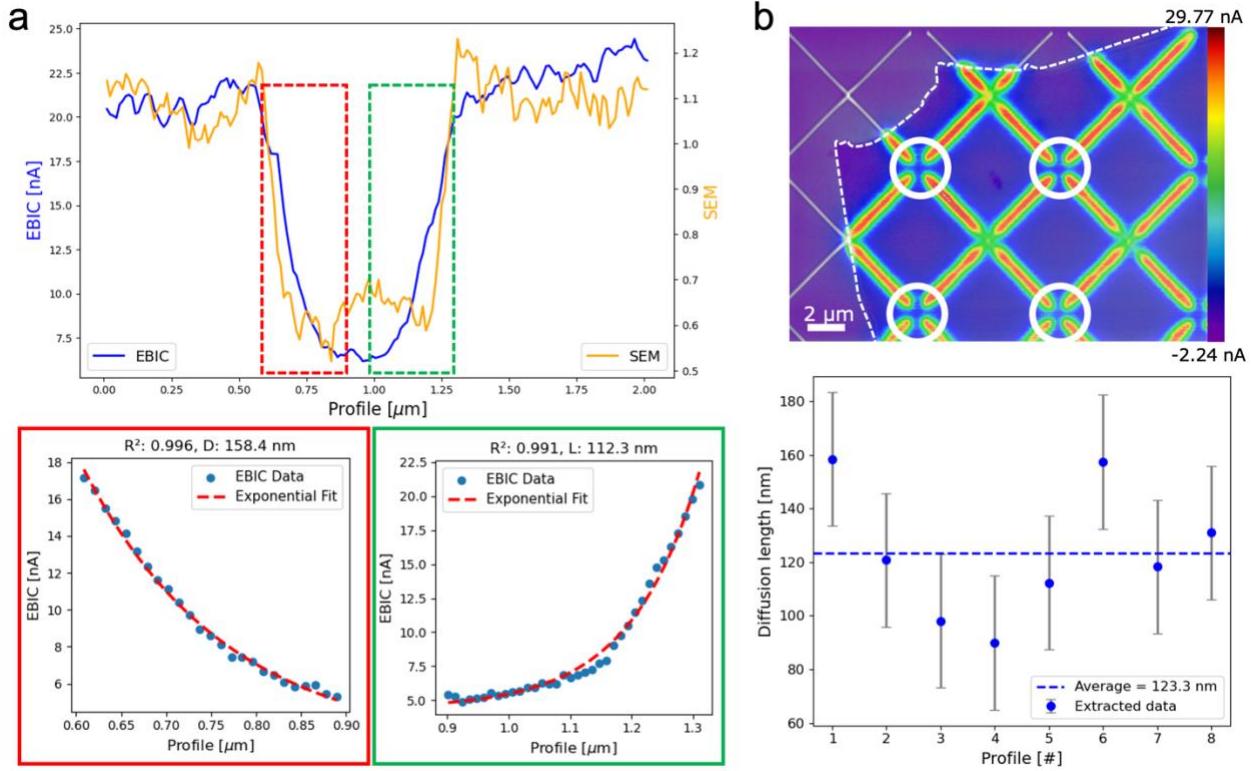
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344 **Supplementary Figure 17:** Current variability at different bias. (a) Normalized current profiles along the interface  
 345 between  $WSe_2$  and GaAs NMs at different biases, showing increased reproducibility when increasing external voltage;  
 346 (b) Percentage current variability decreasing with external bias at the  $WSe_2$ /GaAs NMs interface, proving signal  
 347 stabilization with increasing external voltage. Top right inset shows the experimental EBIC map from which profiles  
 348 are extracted along the red dashed curve at different voltages.

349 Current values differ under various applied voltage, increasing significantly at larger bias. This trend is  
 350 shown in Supplementary Figure 17a, for current profiles extracted longitudinally on top of the 2D/1D  
 351 heterojunction, as the red dashed curve of the inset of Supplementary Figure 17b. At low voltages, EBIC  
 352 signal-to-noise ratio decreases, causing current fluctuations that drop from more than 50% at 0.0V to less  
 353 than 20% at 2.0V, as presented by the plot in Supplementary Figure 17b.

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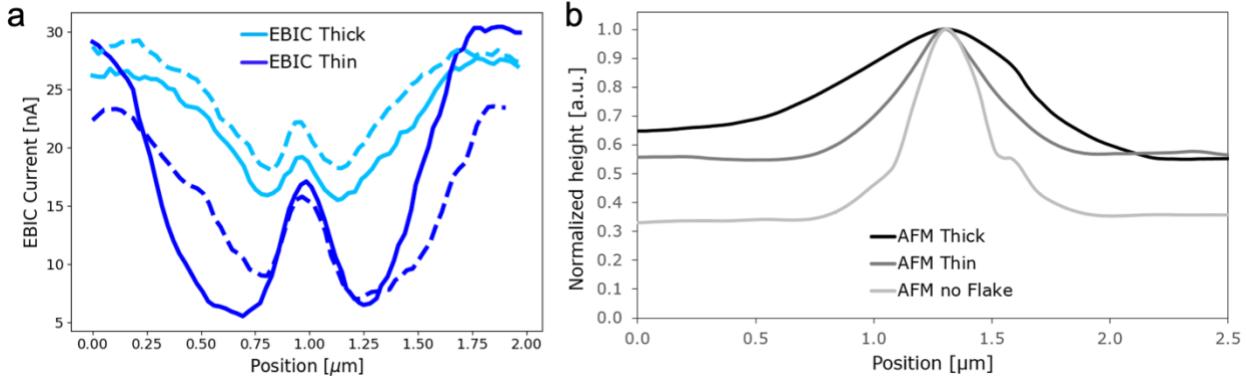


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358 **Supplementary Figure 18:** Diffusion length analysis for NXs. (a) Superimposed SEM and EBIC signal in  
 359 correspondence of the void between NXs. Overlaid dashed rectangles highlight regions for the fitted portions of the  
 360 EBIC signal, as shown in the respective insets below the plot. (b) Extracted diffusion length values (in the bottom plot)  
 361 for different profiles traced at the locations indicated by white circles in the EBIC map on top.

362 The diffusion length analysis for WSe<sub>2</sub> on GaAs NXs is performed analogously to the previous integrations.  
 363 Here, void regions in between NXs where no WSe<sub>2</sub>/GaAs interface is present allow for hole diffusion length  
 364 estimation in WSe<sub>2</sub>. Supplementary Figure 18a shows superimposed SEM and EBIC signals where fitting  
 365 regions are highlighted by dashed curves in red and green. Consistently, the two subplots at the bottom  
 366 show the fitted exponentials with highly reliable fit quality. Diffusion length values for this  
 367 heterointegration are averaged among various profiles obtained from multiple void locations, when  
 368 possible. Supplementary Figure 18b shows the magnified EBIC map where such locations are highlighted  
 369 by white circles. The plot at the bottom shows extracted diffusion length values from different profiles,  
 370 where the dashed line the average value and the error bars represent the standard deviation. Discrepancies  
 371 in extracted diffusion length values could be ascribed to different morphological relaxations of the flake in  
 372 the void regions.

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374

375 **Supplementary Figure 19:** Current and morphological behavior at the spikes. (a) EBIC current profiles on the thin  
 376 (19 nm) and thick (37 nm) homogeneous portions of the WSe<sub>2</sub> flake on top of the central spike in the NXs. Solid curves  
 377 refer to the <001> direction, while dashed ones to the perpendicular <010> one. (b) AFM normalized heights of the  
 378 bare spike, thin flake and thick flake on top, showing different conformality depending on the thickness.

379 The presence of a central area of contact is expected to lead to localized current collection, as indeed shown  
 380 in Supplementary Figure 19a. EBIC profiles at the spike location reveal the presence of current peaks at the  
 381 central position as expected. The current profiles extracted along perpendicular directions (filled and dashed  
 382 curves of same color) on both flake thicknesses show marked reproducibility. Taller structures could  
 383 improve the in-plane confinement but would also impact the strain distribution and could increase the  
 384 chance of destructive events such as piercing [4]. Thicker regions instead appear to result in stronger  
 385 confinement (blue curve of Supplementary Figure 19a), most likely due to a reduced lateral adhesion of  
 386 stiffer flakes. AFM profiles in Supplementary Figure 19b indeed show different conformality at different  
 387 thicknesses.

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389 **References**

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