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# Bulk-like dielectric and magnetic properties of sub 100 nm thick single crystal Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films on an epitaxial oxide electrode

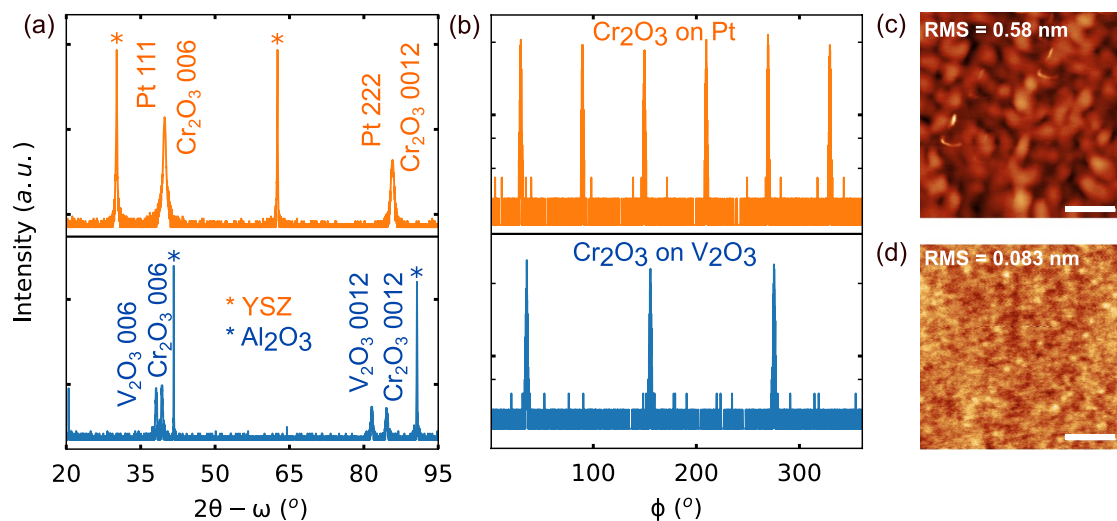
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The manipulation of antiferromagnetic order in magnetoelectric Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> using electric field has been of great interest due to its potential in low-power electronics. The substantial leakage and low dielectric breakdown observed in twinned Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin films, however, hinders its development in energy efficient spintronics. To compensate, large film thicknesses (250 nm or greater) have been employed at the expense of device scalability. Recently, epitaxial V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin film electrodes have been used to eliminate twin boundaries and significantly reduce the leakage of 300 nm thick single crystal films. Here we report the electrical endurance and magnetic properties of thin (less than 100 nm) single crystal Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films on epitaxial V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> buffered Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (0001) single crystal substrates. The growth of Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> on isostructural V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin film electrodes helps eliminate the existence of twin domains in Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films, therefore significantly reducing leakage current and increasing dielectric breakdown. 60 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films show bulk-like resistivity (~10<sup>12</sup> Ω cm) with a breakdown voltage in the range of 150–300 MV/m. Exchange bias measurements of 30 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> display a blocking temperature of ~285 K while room temperature optical second harmonic generation measurements possess the symmetry consistent with bulk magnetic order.

Magnetoelectric and multiferroic heterostructures have been of interest due to their potential for low-power, non-volatile spintronic devices utilizing the electric field control of magnetism<sup>1–7</sup>. Antiferromagnetic Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is a promising candidate for such applications. It is one of the few single-phase materials that demonstrates an uncompensated surface magnetization that is switchable by its intrinsic magnetoelectric effect at room-temperature<sup>3,8</sup>. This materials configuration opens a diverse set of ways to create energy efficient spintronic devices<sup>3–15</sup>.

One issue hindering electric field manipulation of magnetic order in thin film Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is the existence of twin domain boundaries that result from the growth on elemental metal electrodes, particularly in films below 250 nm<sup>12</sup> which are necessary for technological adoption. The relatively conductive twin boundaries lead to high leakage current and reduce dielectric breakdown voltage down below the critical magnetoelectric switching voltage. In previous reports, this issue has been circumvented by utilizing Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films of large thickness<sup>12,16</sup> but at proposed device scales this is not a viable solution. Using a V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> electrode layer, a metallic oxide isostructural with Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, has been shown to reduce or even eliminate twin domains and thereby reduce the leakage current of a 300 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> film in comparison with metal electrodes<sup>8,17</sup>. In this work, we investigate the DC dielectric and magnetic properties of very thin (30–60 nm) single crystalline Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films on V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin film electrodes at room temperature. Leakage data shows robust bulk like behavior for 60 nm thick samples with electrodes below 60 μm in diameter and 6–8 orders of magnitude lower leakage current than twinned Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films grown on (111)-oriented Pt electrodes. Finally, investigation of the magnetic properties of single crystal Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin films using an exchange coupled ferromagnetic layer and optical second harmonic generation indicates bulk like behavior around room temperature in films at 30 nm thickness.

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**Figure 1.** Synthesis of single crystalline  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  thin films on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  electrodes. (a)  $2\theta - \omega$  X-ray diffraction scans illustrating phase purity and the (0001) orientation of 70 nm thick  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  films on (111)-oriented Pt (40 nm)/Ti (4 nm)/YSZ (red) and 30 nm thick  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  films on (0001)-oriented  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  (30 nm)/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (blue). (b)  $\phi$ -scans of the {014} peaks of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  reveal the in-plane twinning of the films on Pt/Ti buffered YSZ and single crystallinity on the  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  buffered  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . (c,d) AFM topographs of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ /Pt/Ti/YSZ and  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ / $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$ / $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ . Scale bar: 500 nm. The y-scale for X-ray diffraction data is logarithmic.

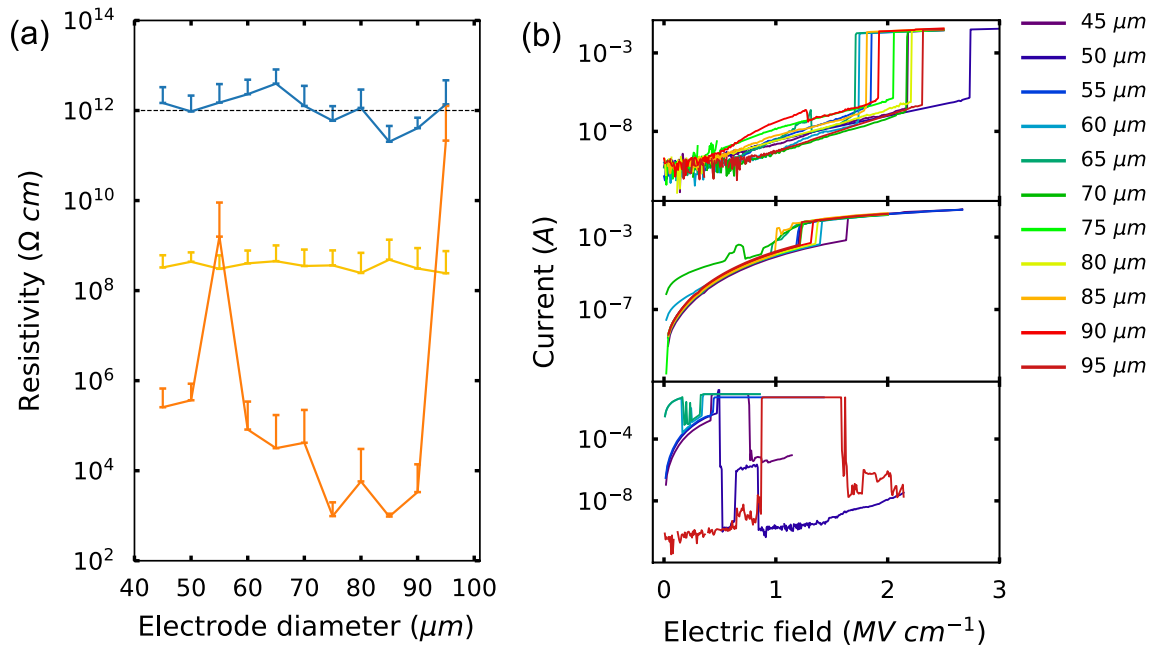
## Results and discussions

**Pulsed laser deposition.** Our samples consist of epitaxial  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (0001)/ $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  (30 nm)/ $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  (30 to 60 nm) and YSZ (111) ( $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$  stabilized  $\text{ZrO}_2$ , 8% mole  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$ )/Ti (4 nm)/Pt (40 nm)/ $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  (~70 nm) heterostructures. X-ray diffraction (XRD)  $2\theta - \omega$  scans (Fig. 1a) show phase purity over the scan range and reveal the orientation of the layers.  $\phi$ -scans of the  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ {014} planes were then performed to confirm the presence of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  on the Pt layer and the in-plane crystallinity. The  $\phi$ -scan of the {014} planes will possess three-fold rotational symmetry for single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ , thus could not only reveal in-plane film orientation but also identify the single crystal versus twinned nature. As shown in Fig. 1b, the  $\phi$ -scans present three peaks for  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  and six peaks for  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  on Pt, which illustrates a single crystalline  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  film and a twinned  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  film with  $60^\circ$  in-plane domain rotations, respectively. The surface topography of the films shows a smooth surface for  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  grown on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  (RMS=0.083 nm) and grainy features for  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  grown on Pt (RMS=0.58 nm) in Fig. 1c,d, respectively. It is important to have a single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  as the crystallographic twin domain boundaries lower the bandgap and results in a reduced breakdown voltage which hinders the electrical switching of the surface magnetization<sup>12,16</sup>. We then evaluate the electrical properties of twinned and single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  films with sub 100 nm thickness to illustrate this improvement.

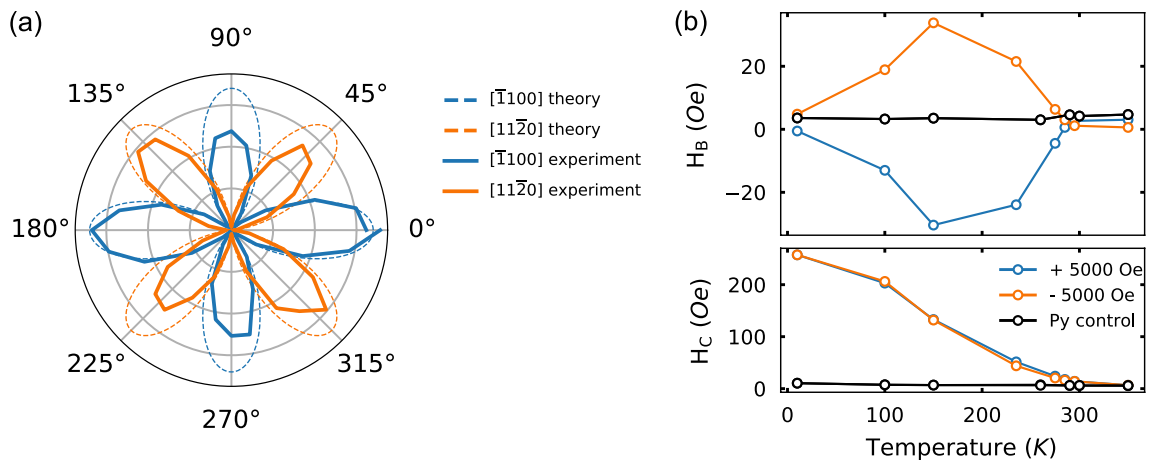
**Electrical characterizations.** Figure 2a plots the mean resistivity of 60 and 30 nm thick  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$ / $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  along with 70 nm thick  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  on Pt/Ti/YSZ. The mean resistivity at a given electrode size is determined from leakage current measurements of 24 to 25 different capacitors. Error bars represent one standard deviation. Supplementary Figure S1 shows all of the individual data points. The electrode diameters range from 45 to 95  $\mu\text{m}$ . The resistivity of 60 nm thick single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  is  $\sim 10^{12} \Omega \text{ cm}$  and comparable to the bulk value<sup>18</sup> (dashed black line  $10^{12} \Omega \text{ cm}$ ) and is significantly higher than that of the twinned  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ . When varying the thickness of single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ , the leakage current increases with decreasing thickness. Increasing the electrode area leads to an increase in the number of leaky capacitors which can be accounted for by the increase in probability of encountering a defect. Twinned  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  grown on Pt exhibits poor resistivity performance even compared to single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  at lower thickness (30 nm) demonstrating significant improvement of thin film performance when twin domain boundaries are absent.

To further test the dielectric quality of single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  thin films on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$ , electrical breakdown tests were performed with capacitors that have high resistivity at different electrode diameters (Fig. 2b). 60 nm thick  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  exhibits a high breakdown field ( $\sim 170$  to  $225 \text{ MV/m}$ —Fig. 2b), which is comparable to previously reported values (200 MV/m) for 500 nm thick  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  thin films with  $200 \times 200 \mu\text{m}$  electrodes<sup>12</sup>, which is  $\sim 20\%$  of the bulk breakdown field (1,000 MV/m)<sup>16</sup>. These values, however, are  $3 \times$  higher than the breakdown fields observed in the  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ /Pt heterostructures containing twin domains. Dielectric breakdown of 30 nm thick single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  happens at slightly lower values when compared to thicker films ( $\sim 90$  to  $160 \text{ MV/m}$ ) yet remains higher than that observed in the thicker and twinned  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ /Pt heterostructures.

**Magnetic properties.** We next consider the magnetic properties of the single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  films. To probe the intrinsic magnetic and magnetoelectric order of the 30 nm single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  thin film on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  at room temperature, we employed transmission optical second harmonic generation (SHG) measurements (Fig. 3a).



**Figure 2.** Electrical properties of Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin films on V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> electrodes. (a) Mean resistivity of 60 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (blue), 30 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (yellow) on (0001)-oriented V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and 70 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> on (111)-oriented Pt/Ti/YSZ (orange). 60 nm thick single crystal Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> reaches the bulk resistivity values (dashed black line). Error bars represent the standard deviation. (b) Electrical breakdown of low leakage devices in 60 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (top panel), 30 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> on V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (middle panel), and 70 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> on Pt/Ti/YSZ (bottom panel) at different electrode diameters.



**Figure 3.** Magnetic characterization of Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin films on V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> electrodes. (a) Optical second harmonic generation intensity from 30 nm thick Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> on V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> electrode at room temperature (orange: analyzer along the x-direction ([1120]), blue: analyzer along y-direction ([1100])) and theoretical plot of electric dipole signal (Eq. (1b)) when analyzer is fixed along x-direction (dash-orange) and y-direction (dash-blue) showing the agreement between experimental result and theory. (b) Exchange bias field (top panel) and coercive field (bottom panel) as a function of temperature from Pt (5 nm)/Permalloy (Py) (4 nm)/Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (30 nm)/V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt (5 nm)/Py (4 nm)/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (labeled Py control) heterostructures. The Py control data shows both ± 5,000 Oe field cool scans.

Below the Néel temperature, bulk Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> possesses the magnetic point group  $\bar{3}m'$  that allows the existence of both magnetic ( $\chi_m$ ) and electric ( $\chi_e$ ) dipole susceptibility tensors<sup>19–21</sup>. The magnetic and electric contributions to SHG signals can be expressed as:

$$I_{MD} \propto \left| -\chi_m E_i^2 (\cos 2 \phi_i \sin \phi_s + \sin 2 \phi_i \cos \phi_s) \right|^2 \tag{1a}$$

$$I_{ED} \propto \left| -\chi_e E_i^2 (\sin 2 \phi_i \sin \phi_s - \cos 2 \phi_i \cos \phi_s) \right|^2 \tag{1b}$$

where  $E_i$  is the electric field of the incident beam. When fixing the analyzer along the  $y$ -direction ( $(\bar{1}100)$ ) (or  $x$ - ( $(11\bar{2}0)$ )),  $\sin \phi_s$  (or  $\cos \phi_s$ ) goes to 0, and therefore the SHG intensity signal coming from the magnetic ( $I_{MD}$ ) and electric ( $I_{ED}$ ) dipole contributions will follow  $\sin^2(2\phi)$  (or  $\cos^2(2\phi)$ ) and  $\cos^2(2\phi)$  (or  $\sin^2(2\phi)$ ), respectively. The existence of the magnetic dipole signal is attributed to centrosymmetric point group  $\bar{3}m$  and is expected in single crystal bulk  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ . The electric dipole signal, however, is a proof of the existence of non-centrosymmetric magnetic order and only exists below the Néel temperature. The rotational-anisotropy data presented in Fig. 3b, following the  $\cos^2(2\phi)$  ( $\sin^2(2\phi)$ ) dependence on the incident polarization  $\phi$  when the SHG analyzer is fixed along the  $y$ -axis ( $x$ -axis), proves the presence of the electric dipole contribution to the SHG signal and confirms that 30 nm thick single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  films on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  electrodes possess the magnetic symmetry consistent with the magnetic order in bulk  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  at room temperature.

Using interface exchange coupling with a thin (4 nm) Permalloy (Py) layer, we probe the blocking temperature of the exchange bias heterostructure to approximate the Néel temperature. Figure 3b shows exchange bias and coercive fields as a function of temperature after cooling from 350 to 10 K in a  $\pm 5,000$  Oe in-plane training field. As the SHG of our thin films is consistent with the  $c$ -axis antiferromagnetic anisotropy of bulk  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  thin films, the applied in-plane magnetic field while cooling the sample through the Néel temperature is expected to induce a slight canting of the Cr moments in-plane, consistent with the observed in-plane exchange coupling with Py (Supplementary Figure S2). The exchange bias and coercivity enhancement extracted from  $M(H)$  curves disappear at  $\sim 285$  K and  $\sim 295$  K, respectively. These data reveal a blocking temperature that is lower than the bulk Néel temperature (307 K), however, this measured blocking temperature is significantly higher than the blocking temperature of films with comparable and greater thickness reported in the literature<sup>22,23</sup>. The blocking temperature can be qualitatively explained using Meiklejohn-Bean model with the competition between interface exchange coupling ( $fJ_{eb}$ —where  $f$  is a factor between 0 and 1 and represents the degree of interface spin disorder and often assumed to be 1), and the product of magnetic anisotropy energy ( $K_{AF}$ ) and thickness ( $t_{AF}$ ) of the antiferromagnetic layer<sup>22,24</sup>. Thus the increase in blocking temperature might be a result of a change in the magnetic anisotropy energy due to the reduced epitaxial strain from the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  substrate<sup>22</sup>, however, the measured blocking temperature maybe lower than the Néel temperature of the thin film. Regarding the low temperature behavior, the exchange bias is  $\sim 0$  and begins to increase up to  $\sim 35$  Oe at 150 K where afterward it begins to decrease with increasing temperature up to the blocking temperature. Meanwhile, the coercivity monotonically decreases with increasing temperature. It is reported that there is a change in the  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  crystal structure at low temperature that is thought to lead to an in-plane tilting of the magnetic order<sup>9</sup> or a structural rearrangement at the (0001) surface of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ <sup>25,26</sup> which then affects both its antiferromagnetic structure and surface magnetism. In the Meiklejohn-Bean model, the ratio ( $R \equiv \frac{K_{AF}t_{AF}}{fJ_{eb}}$ ) determines the exchange bias and coercive field behavior<sup>24</sup>. The competition between the change in spin structure (affects  $K_{AF}$ ,  $J_{eb}$ ) and the surface reconstruction (affects  $J_{eb}$ ,  $f$ ) will directly impact the low temperature behavior of the exchange bias field. In order to clarify the situation, future work focusing on isolating these factors is needed.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, by using  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  as an epitaxial buffer layer, crystallographic twinning of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  thin films can be eliminated leading to near bulk dielectric and magnetic behavior in  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  films with thickness well below 100 nm. Leakage measurements performed on very thin single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  films, along with electric breakdown tests, as a function of capacitor area suggest the need to further improve film quality or develop additional dielectric layers to mitigate the dielectric parasitics observed at larger capacitor size and enable magnetoelectric characterization with transport methods. Our investigation of magnetic properties in 30 nm thick films indicate bulk magnetic and magnetoelectric order at room temperature and indicate that the magnetoelectric switching of very thin single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  films on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  electrodes may be possible at room temperature.

## Methods

**Pulsed laser deposition.** Samples are fabricated using pulsed laser deposition (PLD) with a 248 nm KrF Excimer laser with a pulse duration of  $\sim 25$  ns using commercially available targets from ( $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  99.9%,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  99.9%).  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  is deposited onto a  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (0001) single crystal substrate at 400 °C from an  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  target with a fluence  $\sim 2.8$  J/cm<sup>2</sup> and  $\sim 10$  mTorr Ar background pressure.  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  is then deposited directly on the  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  film at 500 °C from a  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  target with a fluence  $\sim 2.2$  J/cm<sup>2</sup> under 30 mTorr Ar background pressure. Pt is grown on a (111)-oriented YSZ substrate with a buffer layer of Ti for the purpose of adhesion<sup>27</sup>. Both Pt and Ti are deposited using metallic targets at 550 °C with a fluence  $\sim 3.6$  J/cm<sup>2</sup> under 20 mTorr Ar gas.  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  is then also deposited directly on Pt at 700 °C with a fluence  $\sim 2.2$  J/cm<sup>2</sup> under 30 mTorr O<sub>2</sub> background pressure. For testing the magnetic properties of our single crystal thin film, a 4 nm Permalloy (Py) film was then deposited on single crystal  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  grown on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  and was capped with 5 nm of Pt for preventing oxidation. The Py and Pt metal layers are deposited at room temperature with a fluence  $\sim 3$  J/cm<sup>2</sup> under 20 mTorr Ar gas.

As a Metal-Insulator-Transition material, the growth of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  has been intensively discussed elsewhere<sup>28–30</sup>. The challenge, however, lies in finding compatible conditions for the growth of  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$ . We found that the presence of oxygen (10 mTorr) as the background gas causes the formation of  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ . The  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  was found to melt even at a substrate temperature (650 °C) lower than its melting point (690 °C). Reduction of the substrate temperature in oxygen, however, favors the formation of the  $\text{VO}_2$  phase. By switching to argon gas at the same temperature (400 °C), we achieved  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  thin films with desired topography, x-ray diffraction pattern, and resistivity. The substrate temperature for the growth of the  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  layer was chosen to achieve high crystallinity and low surface roughness while mitigating the oxidation of the underlying  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  layer from the oxygen in the ablation plume of the  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  target. We optimized our conditions for  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  growth on  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$  starting from the conditions for high quality  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  growth on a bare  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  substrate. At our deposition energy,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  requires high temperature

(700 °C) to achieve good crystallinity. However, at that temperature, we speculate that there is a reaction happening at the interface between  $V_2O_3$  and  $Cr_2O_3$ , since  $V_2O_3$  is easy to be oxidized in the presence of oxygen, especially at elevated temperature. The growth temperature was therefore systematically reduced. These above conditions were selected after tuning deposition conditions using surface roughness from AFM and XRD measurements (Peak position, intensity, and oscillation fringes) were used to assess conditions and feedback the growth. From the presence of oscillation fringes around  $V_2O_3$  peak, the quality is considered as comparable to previous report of a good crystallinity in thin film<sup>30</sup>.

Circular Ti (6 nm)/Pt (120 nm) top electrode capacitors of diameter from 10 to 150  $\mu\text{m}$  were defined using a standard liftoff process and PLD deposition.

**X-ray diffraction.**  $2\theta - \omega$  and  $\phi$  scans were performed using a Rigaku Smart Lab diffractometer (Cu  $K_\alpha$  radiation and equipped with a Ge (220)  $\times 2$  monochromator on the incident) side to assess the orientation and crystallinity of the films.

**Atomic force microscopy.** The surface topography of the films is observed using an NT-MDT NTEGRA atomic force microscope (AFM).

**Magnetometry.** Vibrating sample magnetometry was performed using a QuantumDesign Dynacool Physical Property Measurement System (PPMS).

**Electrical measurements.** Leakage currents through thin film  $Cr_2O_3$  are investigated using a Radiant Technologies Precision Multiferroic II with minimum current detection of 1 pA for a 2 s integration period. An electric field of approximately 1.4 to 1.7 MV/m is applied to detect leakage current. Breakdown tests are performed using a Keithley 2420 with a detection limit of 500 pA. These measurements are performed at ambient conditions in a probe station using W tips with a tip diameter of 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Second harmonic generation measurement.** A rotational-anisotropy SHG measurement was performed with the beam at normal incidence. The transmitted SHG intensity is collected with a single photon count detector as a function of the azimuthal angle  $\phi_i$  between the incident electric polarization and the in-plane crystalline axis  $[11\bar{2}0]$  and the analyzer angle  $\phi_s$  between the selected SHG electric polarization and the in-plane crystalline axis  $[\bar{1}100]$ . The incident ultrafast light source was of 800 nm wavelength, 40 fs pulse duration and 200 kHz repetition rate, and focused onto a 20  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter spot on the sample with a fluence of  $\sim 0.25$  mJ/cm<sup>2</sup>.

## Data availability

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Received: 25 March 2020; Accepted: 18 August 2020

Published online: 07 September 2020

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## Acknowledgements

This work was funded in part by IMRA America. This work was performed in part at the University of Michigan Lurie Nanofabrication Facility. This work was supported in part by the Semiconductor Research Corporation (SRC) as the NEWLIMITS Center and NIST through award number 70NANB17H041. L. Zhao acknowledges support by NSF CAREER Grant No. DMR-1749774. P.B.M and J.T.H. acknowledge support by NSF CAREER Grant No. DMR-1847847.

## Author contributions

N.V. fabricated the films, performed electrical measurements and magnetometry. S.N. performed lithography processes. X.L., W.J., J.N., P.M. performed the SHG measurements. J.H., L.Z., M.T. planned the research. N.V. and J.H. wrote the manuscript.

## Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

## Additional information

**Supplementary information** is available for this paper at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-71619-1>.

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