

Coexistence of ferromagnetism and *d*-wave superconductivity in YBa₂Cu₃O_{7-x}/ La_{0.7}Ca_{0.3}MnO₃ bilayer

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Ferromagnetism and *d*-wave superconductivity are often regarded as incompatible to each other. With no crystalline materials showing the coexistence of these two orders, studying their mutual interactions remains restrictive to date. However, such studies can be performed on cuprate/manganite heterostructures where these two orders are brought into proximity. Here we show the coexistence of ferromagnetism and *d*-wave superconductivity in bulk superconducting YBa₂Cu₃O_{7-x} (YBCO) grown on top of ferromagnetic La_{0.7}Ca_{0.3}MnO₃ (LCMO). The coexistence is present with MnO₂ interfacial termination, but absent with La_{0.7}Ca_{0.3}O interfacial termination. The difference originates from distinct energetics of CuO chain and CuO₂ plane next to LCMO layer at these two interfaces such that the spin-polarized electrons transferred from manganites to cuprates are influenced differently. As such, the ferromagnetic coupling inside YBCO layer can be sustained by the enhanced double-exchange interaction. Our findings demonstrate the far-reaching impacts of interfacial interactions to bulk physical properties, and open up a new paradigm of using nanoscale heterogeneity to study the competing quantum orders in correlated electron systems.

Keywords: heterostructures, ferromagnetism, superconductivity