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Metal to insulator transition in ultrathin $SrIrO_3$ films¹ WEI GUO, DIANXIANG JI, ZHANGWEN MAO, ZHENGBIN GU, YUEFENG NIE^{*}, XIAO-QING PAN, National Laboratory of Solid State Microstructures, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Nanjing University, Nanjing 210093, China — The 5*d* iridates host a variety of intriguing novel phenomena, such as the spin-orbit Mott insulating state in Sr_2IrO_4 , the potential superconductivity in doped Sr_2IrO_4 , and the semi-metallic ground state in $SrIrO_3$. Here, using a combination of reactive molecular beam epitaxy and *in situ* transport measurements, we grew a series ultrathin films of $SrIrO_3$ and observed a metal to insulator transition when the film thickness is below a critical value.

$^{1}\mathrm{We}$

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Wei Guo Nanjing Univ

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