## **Supplementary Information for**

## Enhanced Interactions of Excitonic Complexes in Free-standing WS<sub>2</sub>

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Supplementary Figure S1 | Measured PL spectra from 1L SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported and suspended monolayer WS<sub>2</sub> sample 2 (a) and sample 3 (b), monolayer WSe<sub>2</sub> sample (c) and monolayer MoS<sub>2</sub> sample (d) at room temperature.



Supplementary Figure S2 | Measured Raman spectra from 1L SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported and suspended monolayer  $WS_2$  at room temperature (a) and 83K (b).



**Supplementary Figure S3** | **a**, Measured PL spectra from the SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported (top panel) and suspended (bottom panel) monolayer WS<sub>2</sub> at room temperature. The spectrum was fitted with trion (green curve) and exciton (red curve) peaks. Black and dark yellow curves are experimental data and accumulative fitting curve, respectively. **b**, The extracted intensity ratio of trion (X<sup>-</sup>) to exciton (X) for SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported and suspended monolayer samples, indicating the value of around  $0.083 \pm 0.003$  and  $0.084 \pm 0.004$ , respectively.



Supplementary Figure S4 | Measured temperature-dependent PL spectra from a SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported WS<sub>2</sub> monolayer, under an excitation power of 0.3  $\mu$ W with a 532 nm CW laser.



Supplementary Figure S5 | Excitation power-dependent PL spectra from the SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported WS<sub>2</sub> monolayer at 83K a, Measured excitation power dependent PL spectra from the SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported WS<sub>2</sub> monolayer with pumping power ranging from 0.3  $\mu$ W to 11.09  $\mu$ W. b, Extracted peak energy of exciton peaks as a function of excitation power. c, Extracted integrated PL intensity of the exciton peaks as a function of excitation power. The fitting curves give rise to a slope of 0.67, 0.70, 1.15 and 1.08 for Peak 1 to peak 4, respectively. The error bars in (b) and (c) represent the fitting uncertainty obtained from multiple fitting analysis (>3).



**Supplementary Figure S6** Extracted PL intensity ratio ( $\eta$ ) of additional emission peaks from samples with different dielectric screening, suspended and SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported structures, using the measured PL spectra displayed in Figure 3a and S5a at the same excitation power of 2.71  $\mu$ W.



**Supplementary Figure S7** | Time-resolved PL emission (normalized) obtained from different emission peaks from freestanding  $WS_2$  monolayer at 83K. The decay curve was fitted by deconvoluting the data from the instrument response function (IRF), yielding a lifetime of 377 ps, 368 ps, 476 ps, 524 ps and 552 ps, for exciton (red), trion (blue), biexciton quasiparticles (green, black and purple), respectively.



Supplementary Figure S8 | Electrical modulation of the exciton dynamics for SiO<sub>2</sub>supported WS<sub>2</sub> monolayer at 83K a, Schematic plot of a 1L WS<sub>2</sub> device structure, showing the sample used for modulating the doping in both freestanding and SiO<sub>2</sub>-supported monolayer using back gate voltage. The gold electrode was grounded, covering both supported and freestanding samples, and a doped Si substrate was employed as the back gate to provide uniform electrostatic doping. **b**, Measured gate dependent PL spectra from a SiO<sub>2</sub>supported WS<sub>2</sub> monolayer at 83 K with gate tuning changing from from 70 to -70V. **c**, Extracted peak energy of exciton peaks as a function of back gate voltages. **d**, Extracted integrated PL intensity of the exciton peaks as a function of back gate voltages. The error bars in (**c**) and (**d**) represent the fitting uncertainty obtained from multiple fitting analysis (>3).