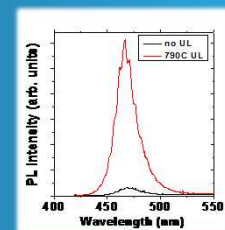
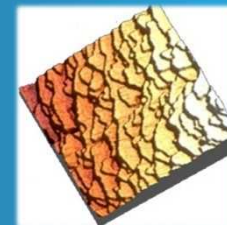


SSLS
EFRRC

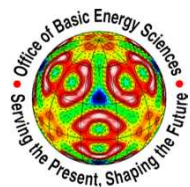
SOLID-STATE LIGHTING SCIENCE
ENERGY FRONTIER RESEARCH CENTER

Group III Nitride Growth for Solid State Lighting

Daniel D. Koleske
Sandia National Laboratories



Work supported by Sandia's Solid-State-Lighting Science Energy Frontier Research Center,
funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Basic Energy Sciences.



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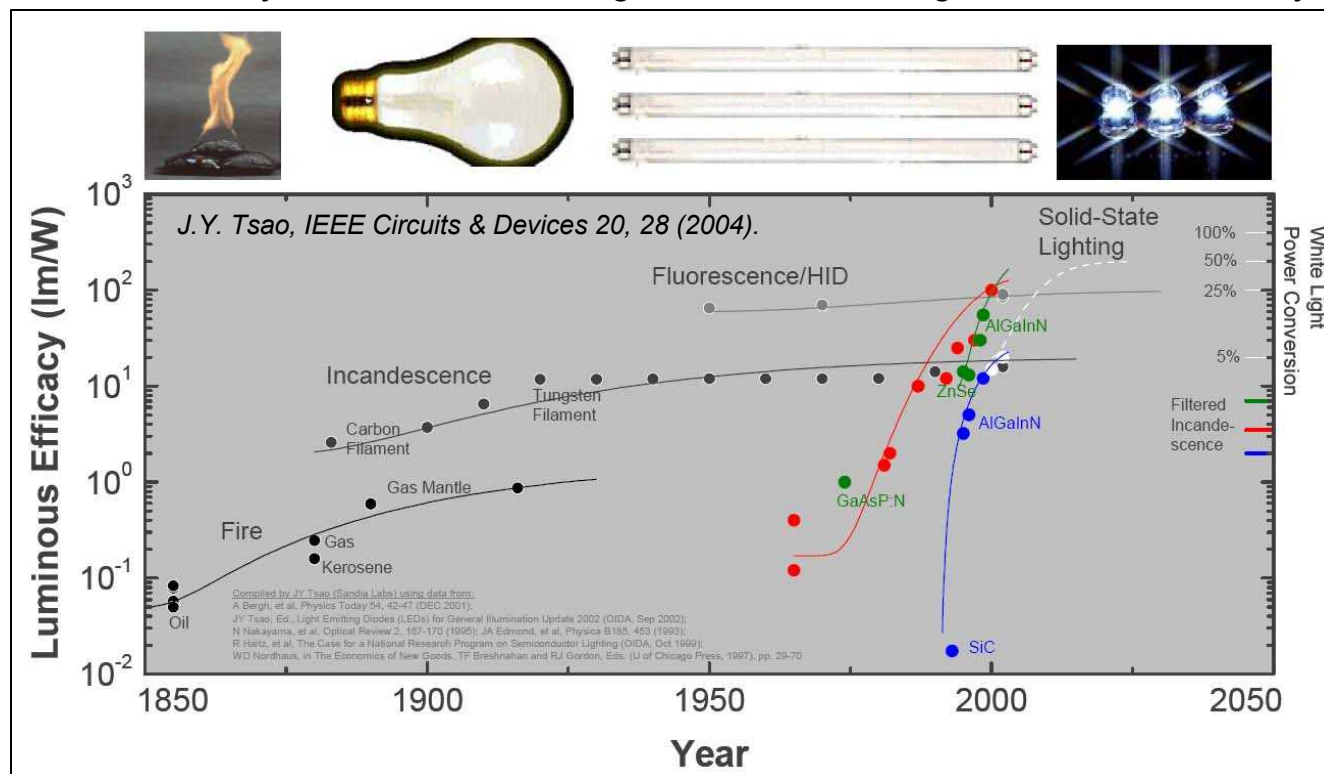
Covered in this Talk

- Current status of Solid State Lighting (SSL).
 - Remaining issues that need to be addressed.
- Growth of group III nitrides with a focus on InGaN.
 - Examples of GaN on sapphire and InGaN QWs on GaN.
 - Factors that limit indium incorporation of InGaN on GaN.
- How InGaN morphology impacts MQW brightness.
- Linking MQW IQE to non-radiative defect concentration.
- Summary and Conclusions.



Why Solid State Lighting?

Luminous efficacy from conventional light sources has stagnated for the last 50 years



Power Conversion Efficiency

Incandescent ~4%

Fluorescent ~18%

SSL Goal ~50%

LED package mid 1990's



Lumileds 5 W package, 2009

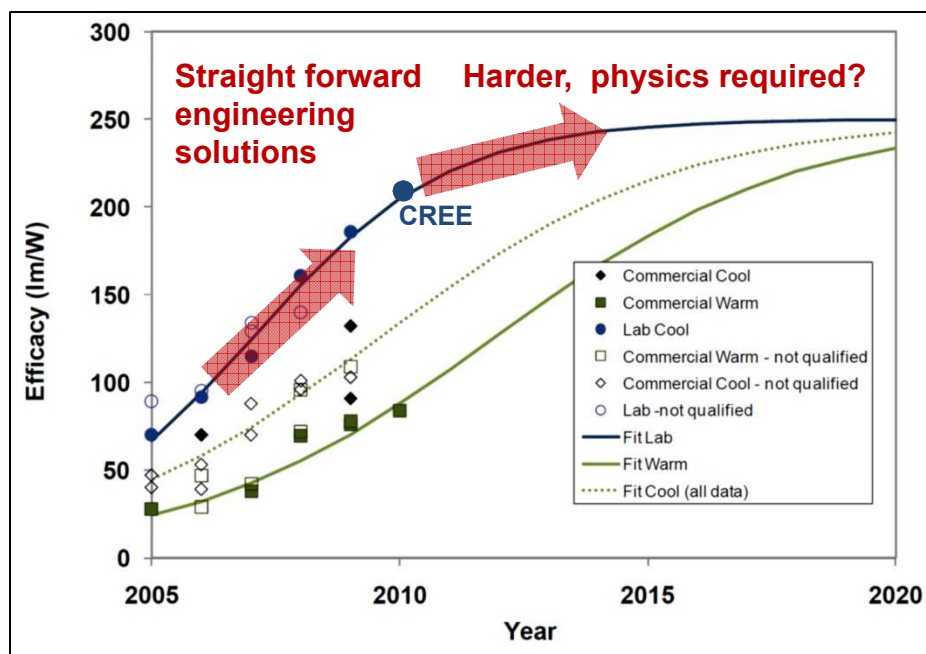


DOE has a stated goal of producing SSL with 50% wall-plug efficiency by 2025 (~230 lm/W)

In Feb. 2010, Cree reported a 208 lm/W cool white LED.

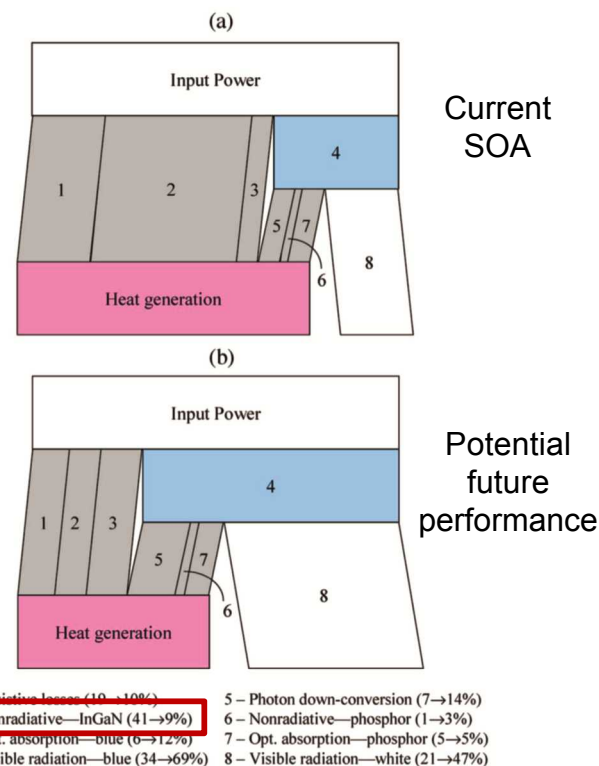
Despite huge success, LED progress is getting more difficult

From the DOE SSL 2010 Multi-Year Plan Technology R&D



Beyond 2010, improving LEDs may be limited by physical understanding.

From Krames, et al., *J. Display Tech.* 3, 160 (2007)

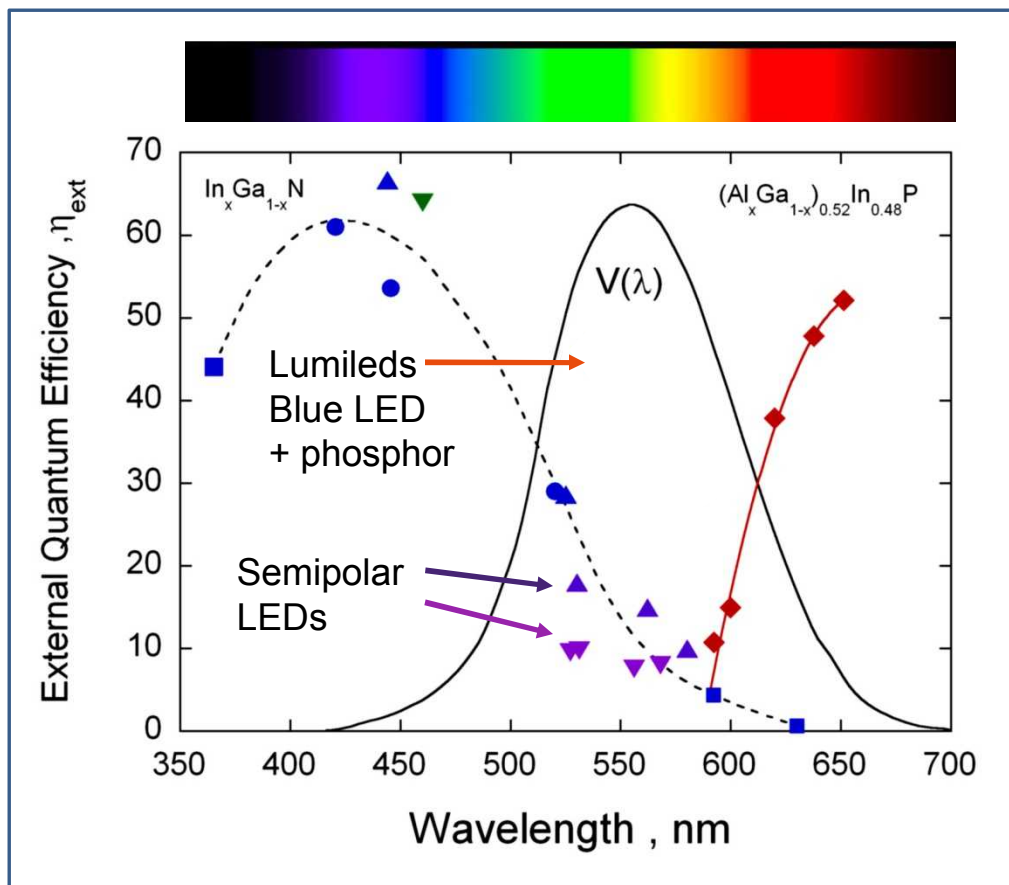


2 - Nonradiative – InGaN (41 → 9%)

What are the nonradiative defects and how do we remove them?

DOE Goal: Improve IQE of All Visible Emitters to 90%

Current EQE of SOA LEDs, $V(\lambda)$ = CIE standard eye response



InGaN for **blue** & **green** LEDs
AlGaInP for **red** LEDs

Green LEDs on semipolar GaN are showing promise.

white LEDs are obtained using **blue** + **yellow** phosphor (have ~30% Stokes loss).

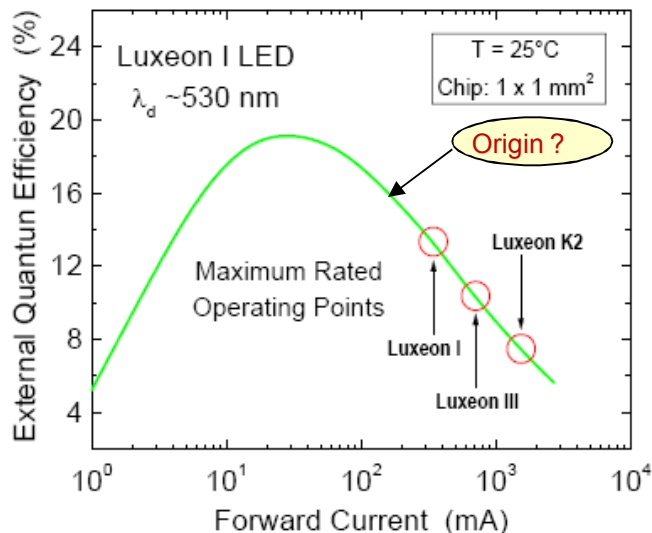
Most efficient **white** LEDs will be obtained using **red** + **green** + **blue** approach or a four color solution.

Monochromatic LEDs can be made using a **blue** LED pumping a longer wavelength phosphor.

Need brighter green and yellow LEDs!

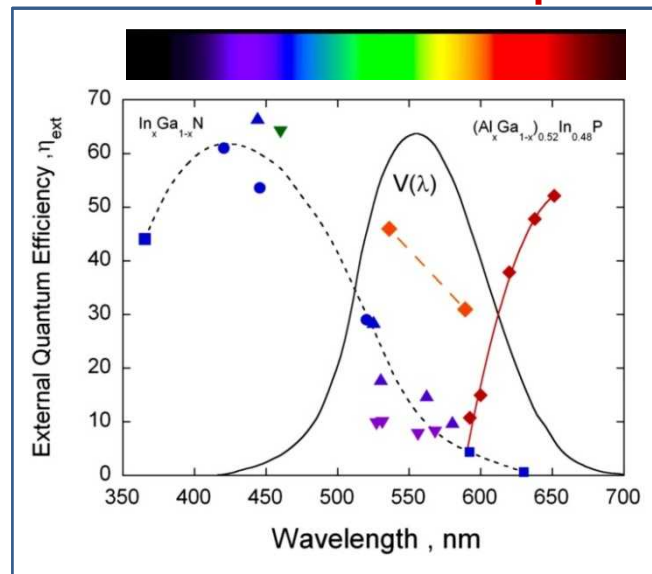
Four major issues of InGaN-based SSL

“Efficiency Droop”



Auger?
Phonon-assisted Auger?
Carrier leakage?

“Green-Yellow Gap”



Needed for RGB or RYGB LED combination

Not necessary for blue + phosphor

“Color Control”

Growth temperature influences indium concentration

Need better temperature control and uniformity.



Depending on the blue LED λ and the phosphor can get different color temperature.

Can be solved by matching LED and phosphor.

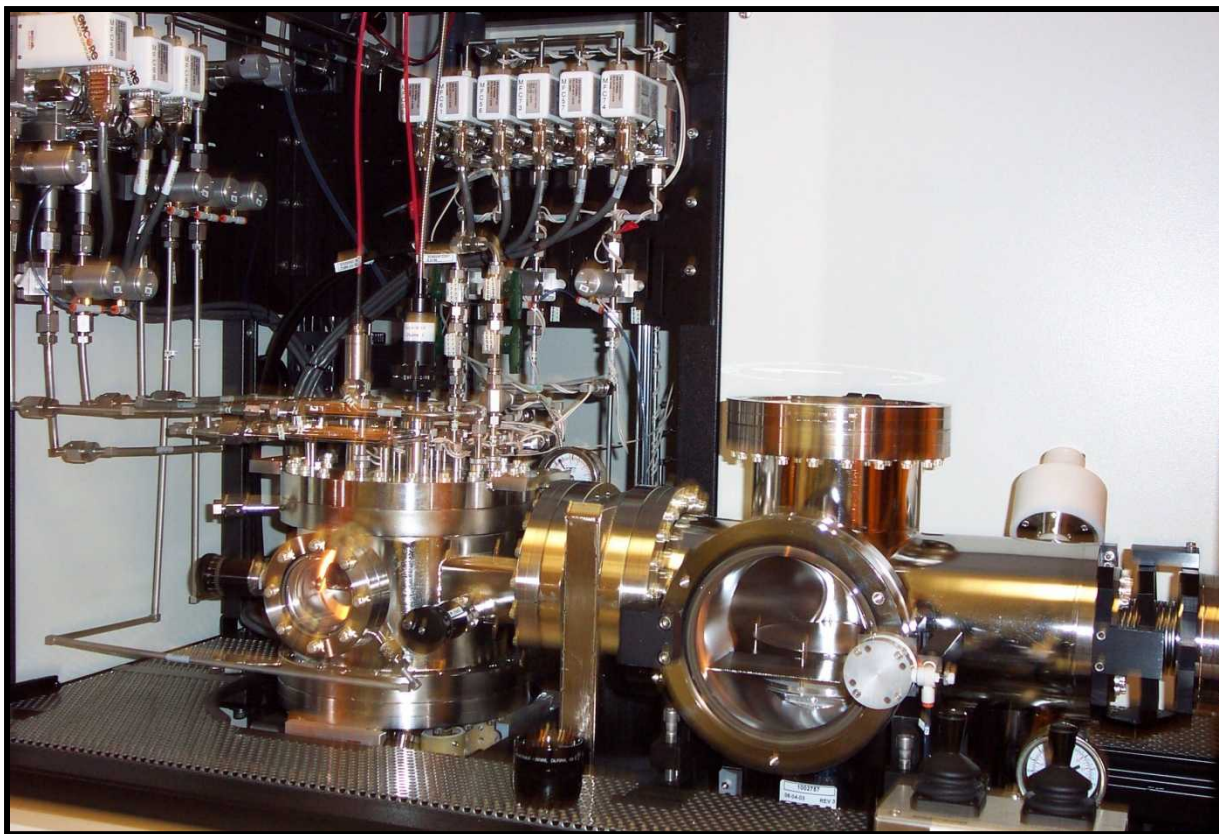
“COST”

Has to be reduced by ~20x

7 Watt LED Light Bulb –
60 Watt Replacement
Reg Price: \$49.00 Spring
Sale: \$39.89



Group III-N films grown using MOCVD

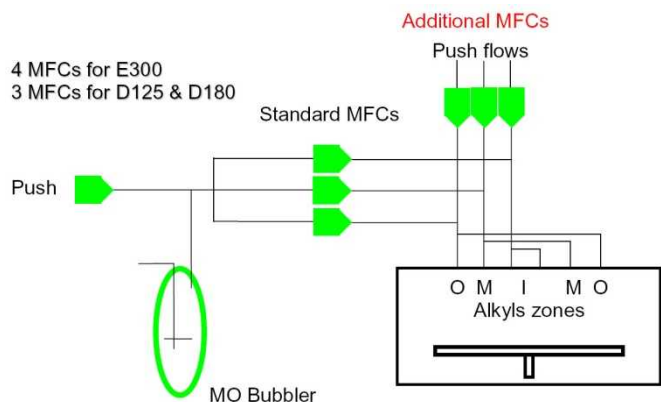


- **MOCVD reactor** – Veeco D125 short-jar - 3-2" wafers simultaneously.
- **Precursors** – trimethyl sources of In, Al, and Ga, and Me₂Cp₂Mg and SiH₄ for p- and n-type doping.
- **Gases** – NH₃, N₂, H₂ (no H₂ for InGaN)
- **Temperature** – GaN at 1050 °C, InGaN at 680 – 880 °C.
- **Pressure** – 75 to 500 torr.

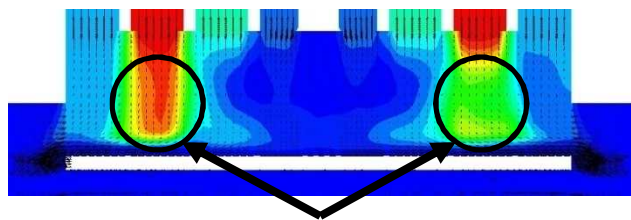
**Growth differences between InGaN and GaN are:
lower temperature, higher NH₃, no H₂, slower growth rate (less total MO).**

Injector design for Veeco D125 “mini GaNzilla” short jar

Use additional push flows for velocity matching
(L. Kadinski, J. Cryst. Growth 261 (2004) 175)



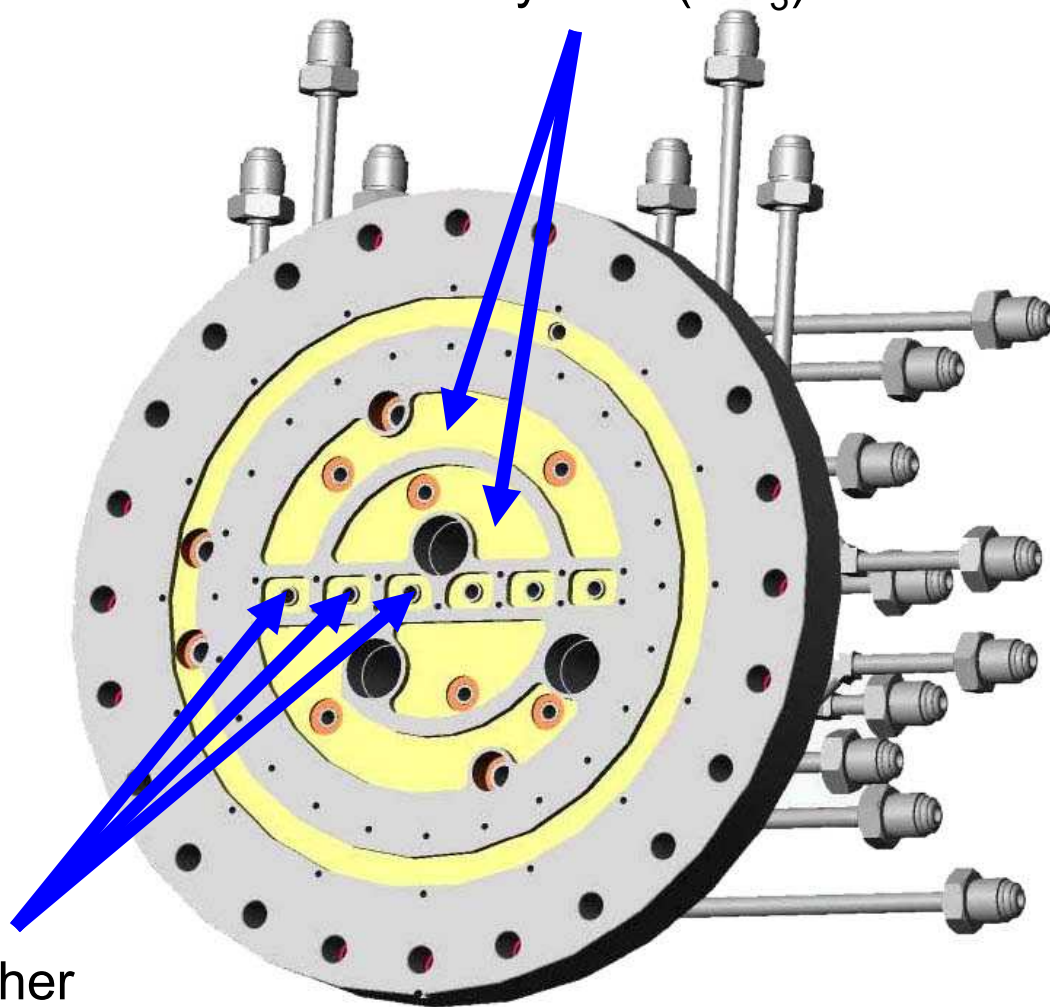
Simulated Flow in GaNzilla Reactor with
Addition of Alkyl Push Flow.



No recirculation observed in flow simulation.

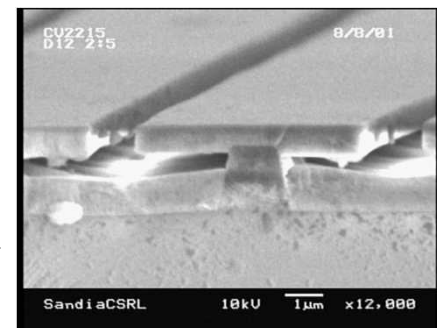
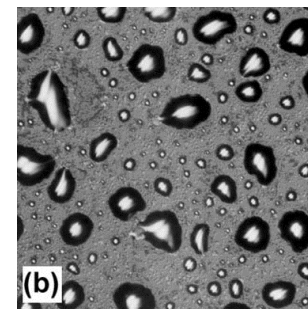
Three alkyl (MO) zones
Inner, middle, and outer tied together

Two hydride (NH_3) zones



What makes GaN growth so difficult?

- No substrate → grow on sapphire or SiC → dislocations.
 - Use GaN nucleation layers – enough of a dislocation reduction.
- Low growth temperature (1050 °C) compared to melting temperature (2520 °C).
 - Growth farther from Equilibrium than other III/V's
- GaN decomposes starting near 800 °C. →
 - More stable in N₂ than H₂, grow using V/III ratios > 1000.
- Low surface diffusion lengths.
 - One plus: Gas phase diffusion mechanism increases lateral diffusion length (ELO). →



Nitride-based SSL revolution started slowly

- 1932- 1986, GaN grown on sapphire. Material contains high ($> 10^{10}$ cm⁻²) dislocation density, rough morphology & high impurity levels.
- 1986, Amano¹ *et al.* used thin AlN “buffer layers” or nucleation layers (NLs) to improve GaN growth on sapphire – lower dislocation density!
- 1991, Nakamura² and Wickenden³ *et al.* develop **GaN NLs** for GaN growth on sapphire – better material quality $< 10^9$ cm⁻² dislocations.
- 1991, Nakamura reports 80 mcd blue LEDs x10 brighter than SiC-based LEDs.
- 1992, Nakamura also reports on **thermal annealing to activate p-GaN**.
- 1993, Nakamura reports a 125 μ W LED at 20 mA current.
- 2002, LumiLeds sells 20 lm/W LEDs
- 2010, Cree reports a 208 lumens/watt white LED.



Two key developments for InGaN-based LEDs – NLs and p-GaN annealing.

1) Amano *et al.* Appl. Phys. Lett. **48**, 353 (1986); 2) S. Nakamura, Jpn. J. Appl. Phys., Part 2 **30**, L1705 (1991); 3) D.K. Wickenden, *et al.*, Mater. Res. Soc. Symp. Proc. **221**, 167 (1991).

Typical “two step” heteroepitaxy of GaN on sapphire

K. Hiramatsu, et al., JCG 115, 628 (1991).

- 1) Sapphire heated to high temperature (1050 – 1100 °C) in H_2 to “clean” the surface; surface sometimes exposed to NH_3 at high temperature.
- 2) Grow 20 – 30 Å GaN NL at 500 – 600 °C; as grown NL contains “cubic” material with stacking faults.
- 3) Heat GaN NL to 1000 – 1080 °C in flowing H_2 , N_2 , and NH_3 . Wurtzite GaN nuclei form.

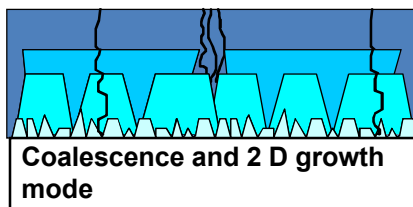
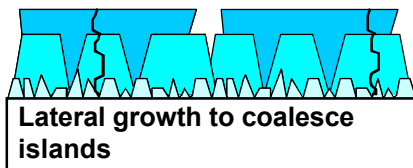
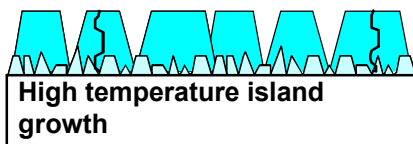
Sapphire high temperature
cleaning and nitriding

Low temperature GaN
nucleation layer

Ramp & anneal

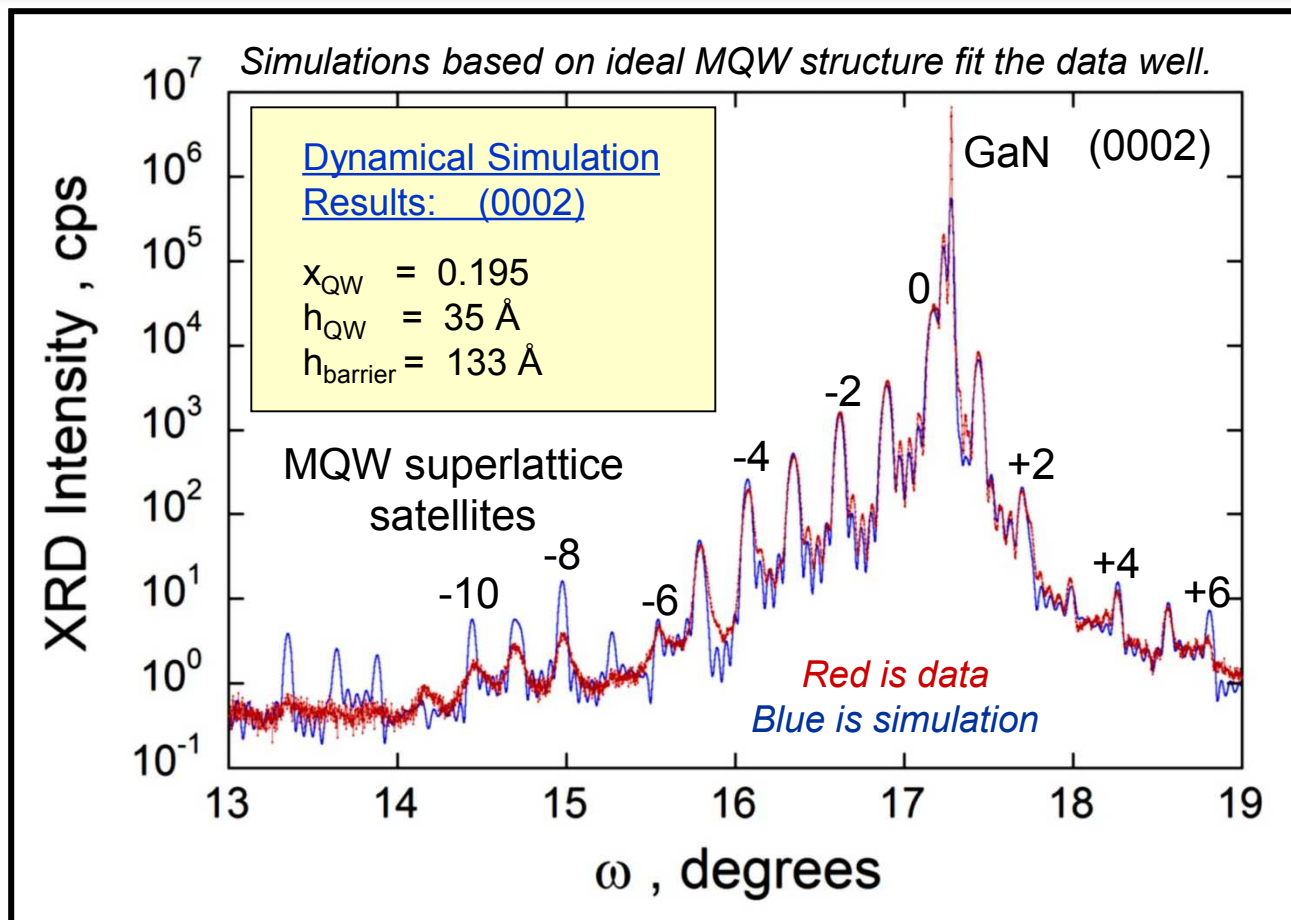
Step 1

Step 2

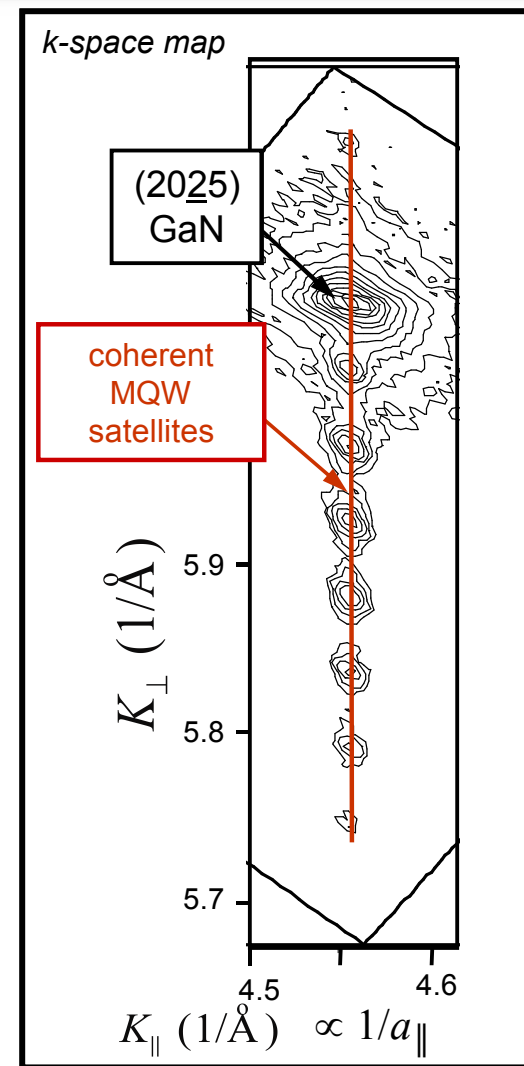


- 4) At high temperature, Ga source is turned on. Isolated GaN grains grow on the GaN nuclei. Some dislocations propagate up from the GaN grains.
- 5) Islands grow laterally / vertically; grains begin to coalesce. Growth conditions can be tuned to increase / decrease lateral growth rate.
- 6) When grains have coalesced, growth becomes 2-D. Dislocations are formed as GaN grains coalesce to accommodate grain twist / tilt.

X-ray diffraction is used extensively to determine InGaN MQW and thin film structural information

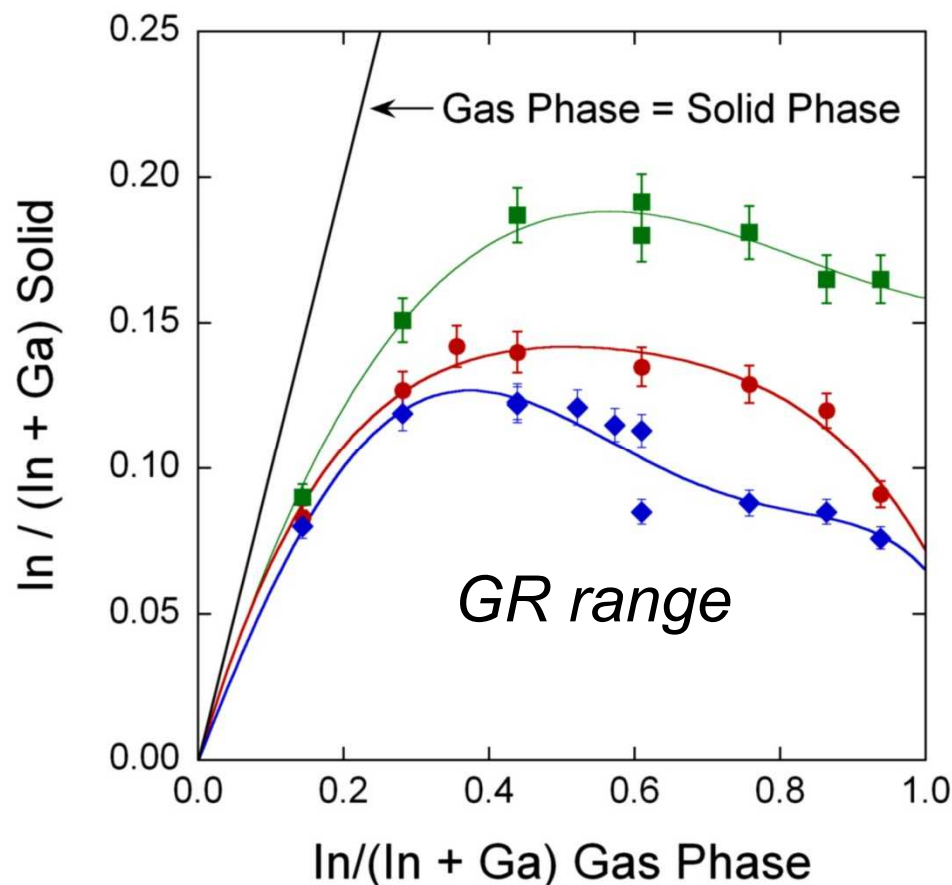


Both the dynamic diffraction fit and lack of change in K_{\parallel} in the k-space map indicate that the InGaN QW are coherently strained.



Gas phase \neq solid phase indium incorporation

XRD used to determine MQW indium concentration



InGaN growth in N_2 and NH_3
 Use 15 SLM NH_3 for InGaN
 compared to 7 SLM for GaN

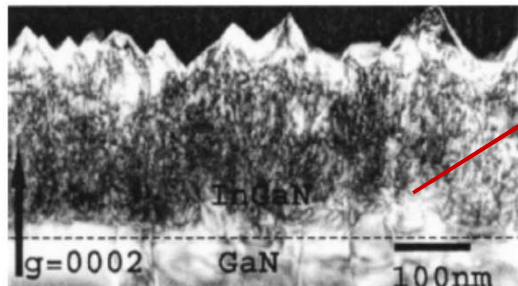
Reasons that InGaN growth is non-ideal

- 1). Indium desorption (T)
- 2). Gas-phase indium/Ga clustering.
- 3). Indium incorporation depends on growth rate.
- 4). Strain limit

Indium incorporation depends heavily on temperature.

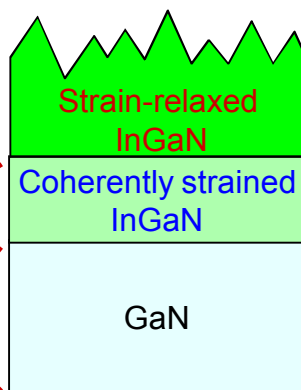
Coherency strain limits the indium composition to 20-25%

When InGaN strain relaxes on GaN, many defects are formed.



M. Rao, et al., APL 85, 1961 (2004).

~100-nm-thick InGaN on GaN at 760 C:

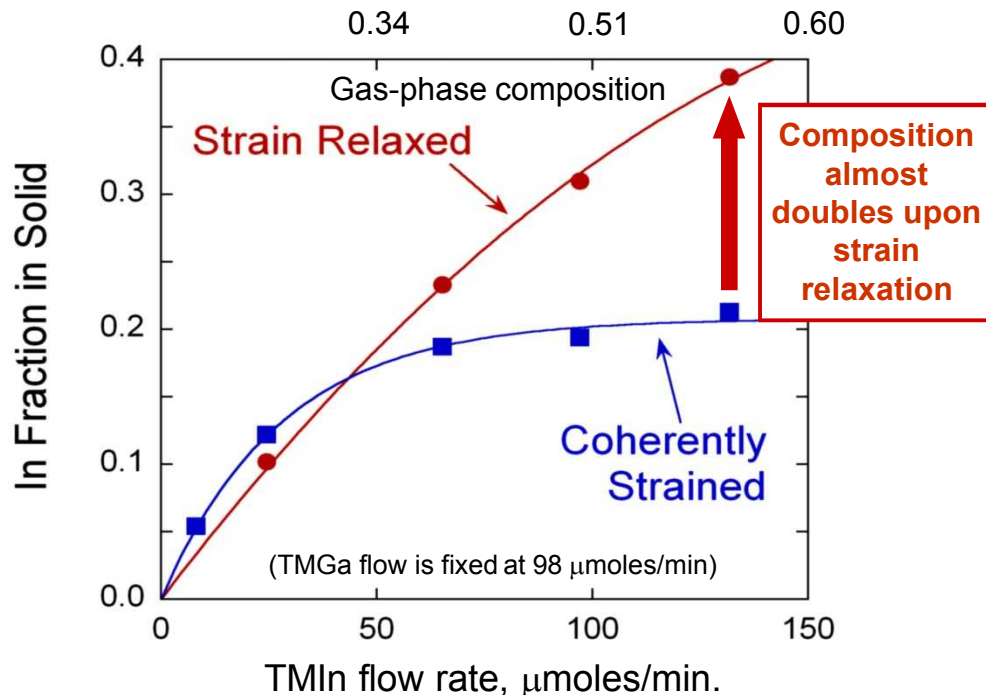


Related observations:

Z. Liliental-Weber, et al., J. Electron. Mat. **30** (2001) 439.

S. Pereira, et al., APL **80** (2002) 3913.

Shimizu, et al., JJAP **36** (1997) 3381.



Strain state measurements by Steve Lee

While strain relaxed InGaN films can be grown on GaN with indium concentrations higher than 20%, their emission efficiency is low due to the high defect density.

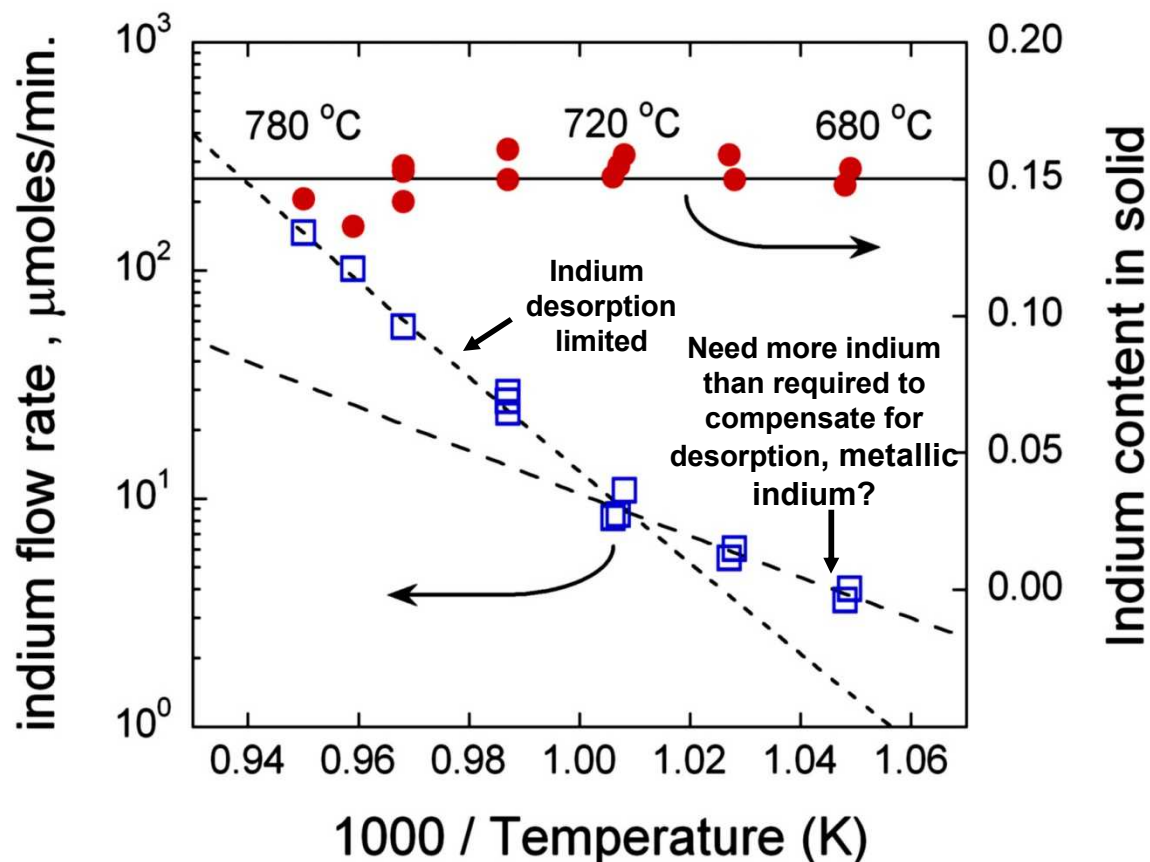
Growths to achieve similar QW structure and indium content at different growth temperatures

Goal: achieve the same structure at different QW growth temperatures

GaN cap layer
InGaN QW
GaN barrier layer
InGaN QW
GaN barrier layer
InGaN QW
GaN barrier layer
InGaN QW
GaN barrier layer
Dilute InGaN UL
GaN on sapphire

Each of the MQW structures has:

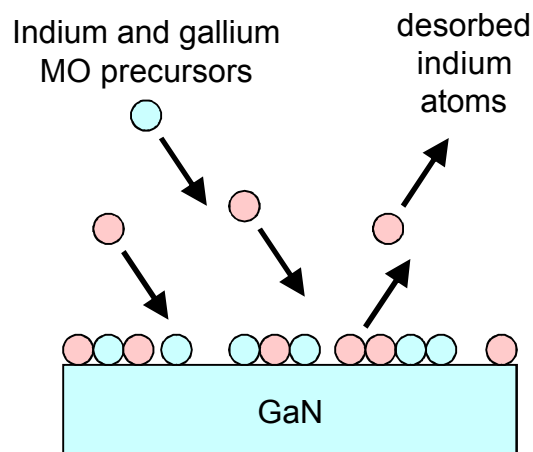
Indium content = $15.1 \pm 0.7 \%$
 QW thickness = $26.3 \pm 3.4 \text{ \AA}$
 Barrier thickness = $94.6 \pm 6.2 \text{ \AA}$
 PL wavelength = $457 \pm 6 \text{ nm}$



Need less indium as the QW growth temperature is decreased

Summary of factors that limit indium incorporation

Indium desorption



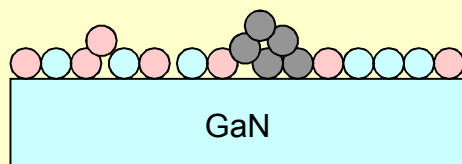
$$k_{\text{In}} \sim \exp(-E_{\text{A,des}}/kT)$$

Increases as the QW growth temperature increases. Can be compensated by higher indium fluxes.

Indium metal formation

Indium metal precipitates form on surface.

Lower NH_3 catalytic dissociation decreases at lower temperature.

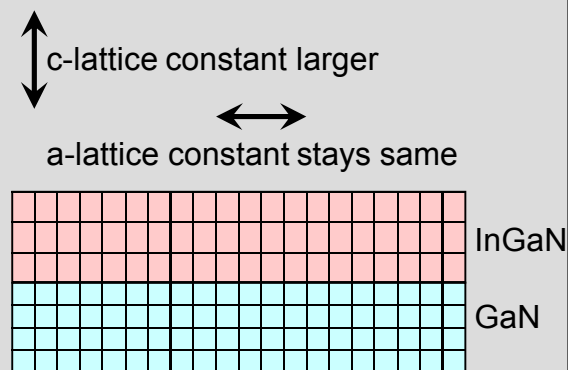


Lattice constant for metallic indium same as $\text{In}_{0.2}\text{Ga}_{0.8}\text{N}$.

Occurs at low growth temperature and high indium surface coverage.

Coherency strain

InGaN is coherently strained on GaN



To strain relax the a-lattice constant defects need to form.

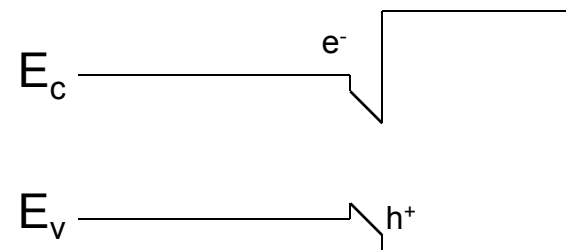
Occurs when InGaN film thickness is below critical thickness for strain relaxation.

Possible importance of InGaN/GaN step morphology in controlling localization

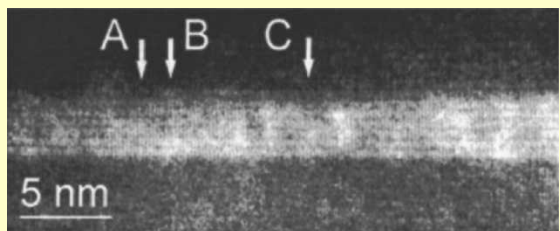
If indium is homogeneously distributed in the InGaN QW, how is localization created?

One possibility that has been suggested...

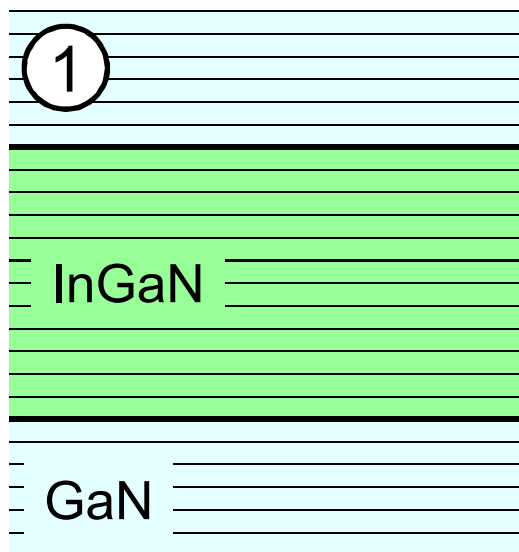
Fluctuations in the QW thickness \oplus Strong piezoelectric fields \rightarrow Electron-hole pair localization



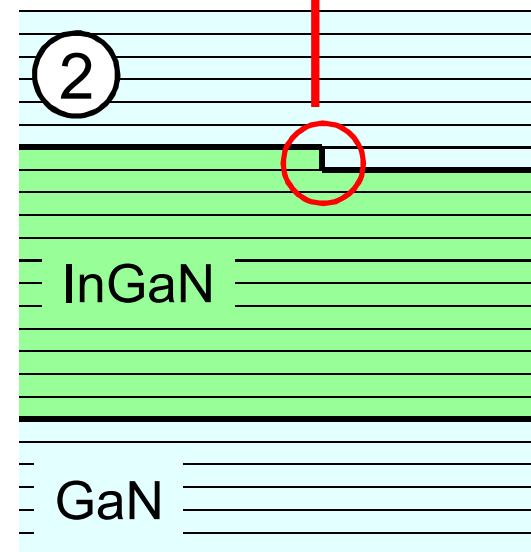
D. M. Graham, et al., - JAP 97, 103508 (2005).



Monolayer thickness fluctuations on top InGaN/GaN interface

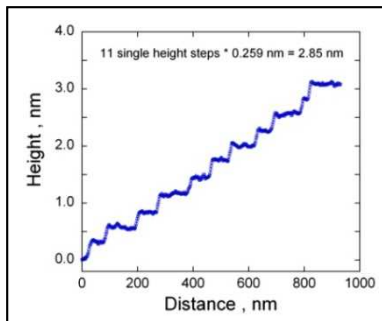
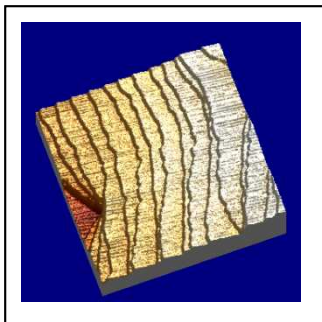


No thickness fluctuation results in no localization.



Some thickness fluctuation yields some localization.

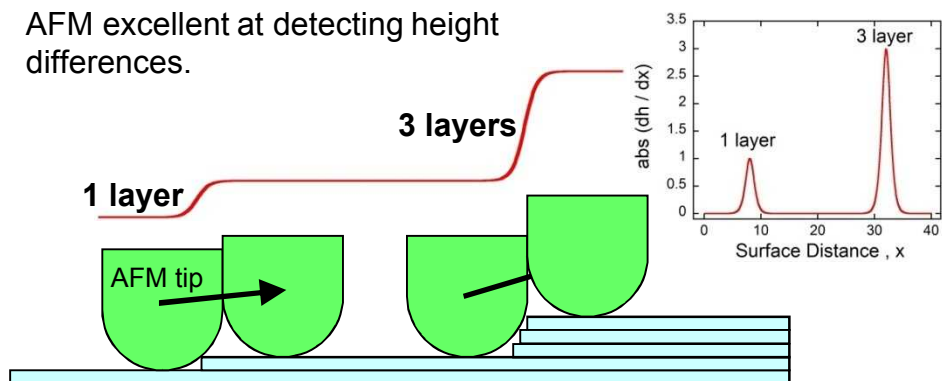
Counting step height distributions



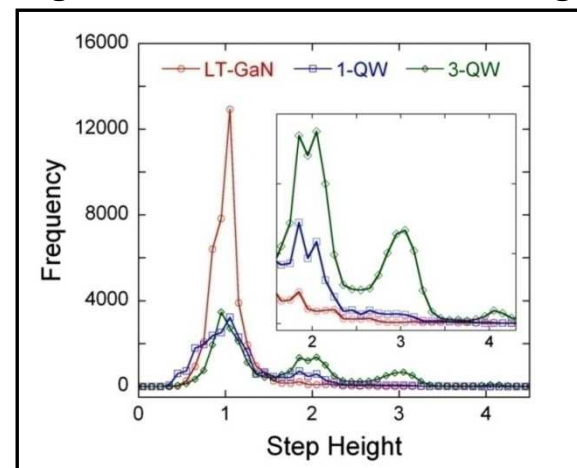
Can use AFM image to quantify the step heights, single layer steps, double layer steps, triple layer steps, etc...

- 1). Calculate the first and second derivative.
- 2). Magnitude of 1st derivative gives number of layer steps.
- 3). Second derivative = 0 gives step location.

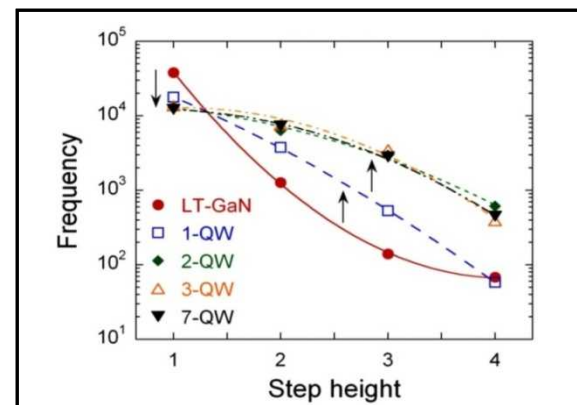
AFM excellent at detecting height differences.



Histogram of the 1st derivative heights



Binned distribution of step heights



Quantifying step heights: GaN template

AFM images show predominantly single layer step heights. Some hints of double layer steps near dislocations.

• single
■ double

Map of step heights

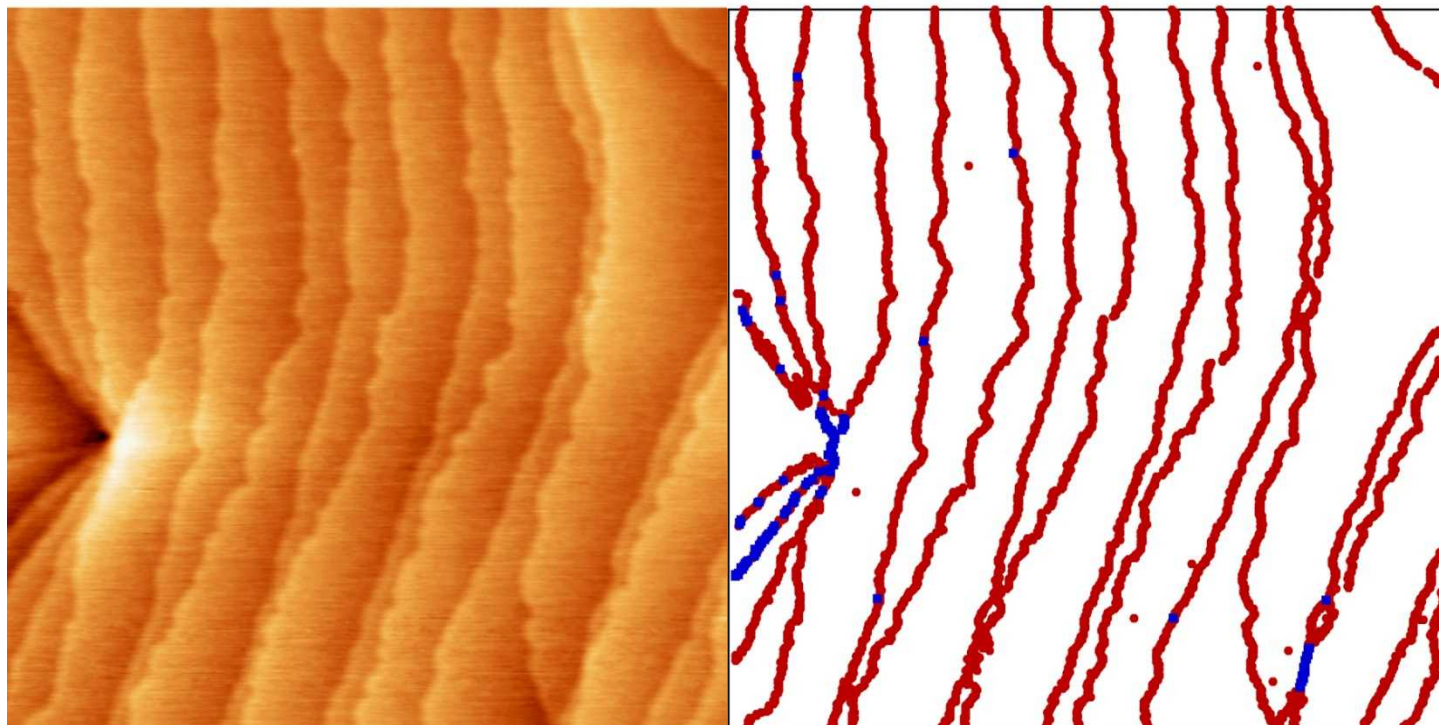
Film Structure

10 nm thick LT GaN barrier layer has the same step structure as the underlying HT GaN.

GaN barrier layer

GaN n-type

c-plane sapphire



AFM images before and after low temperature ($\sim 800^\circ\text{C}$) GaN barrier growth are similar in step structure.

Quantifying step heights: InGaN underlayers on GaN

Increased frequency of double and triple layer step heights. Decreased step edge roughness.

- single
- double
- triple+

InGaN MQWs on underlayers show increased PL emission!

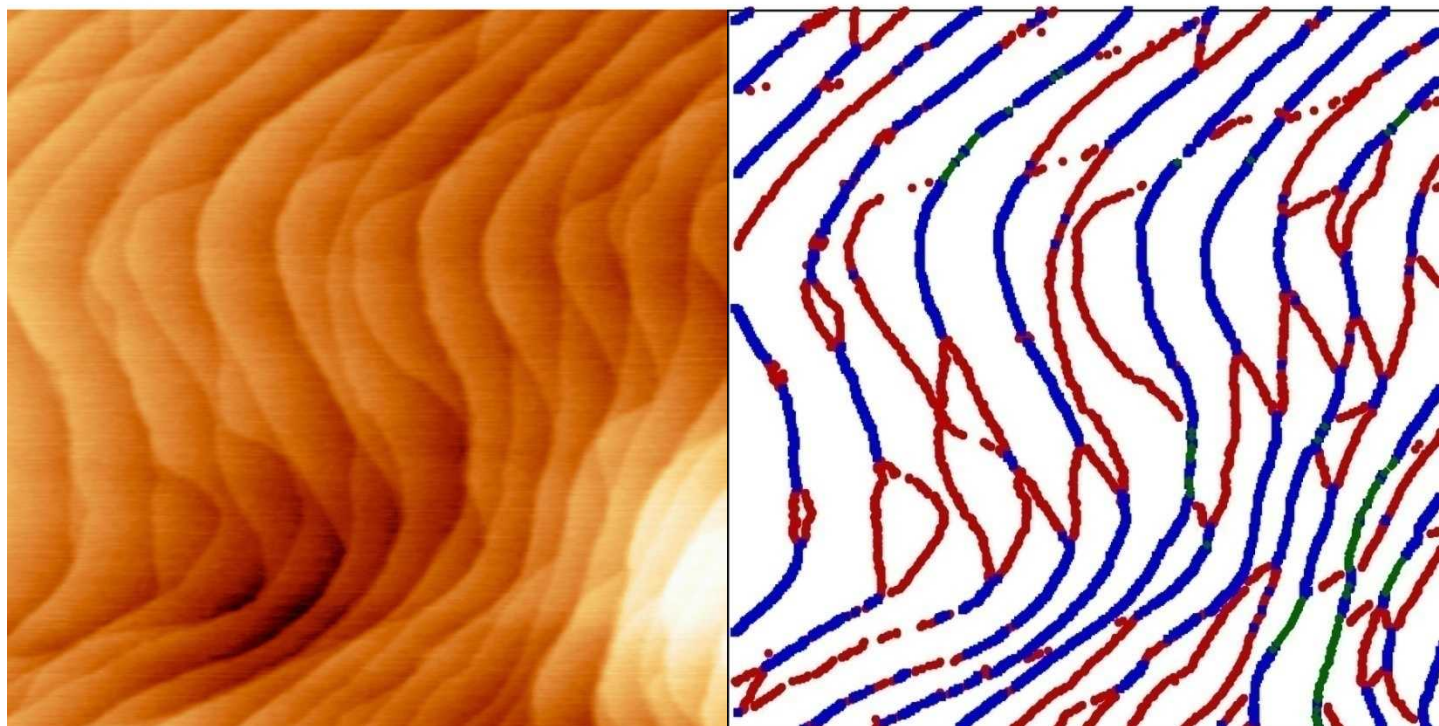
Film Structure

10 nm thick LT GaN barrier layer has the same step structure as the underlying HT GaN.

2% InGaN UL

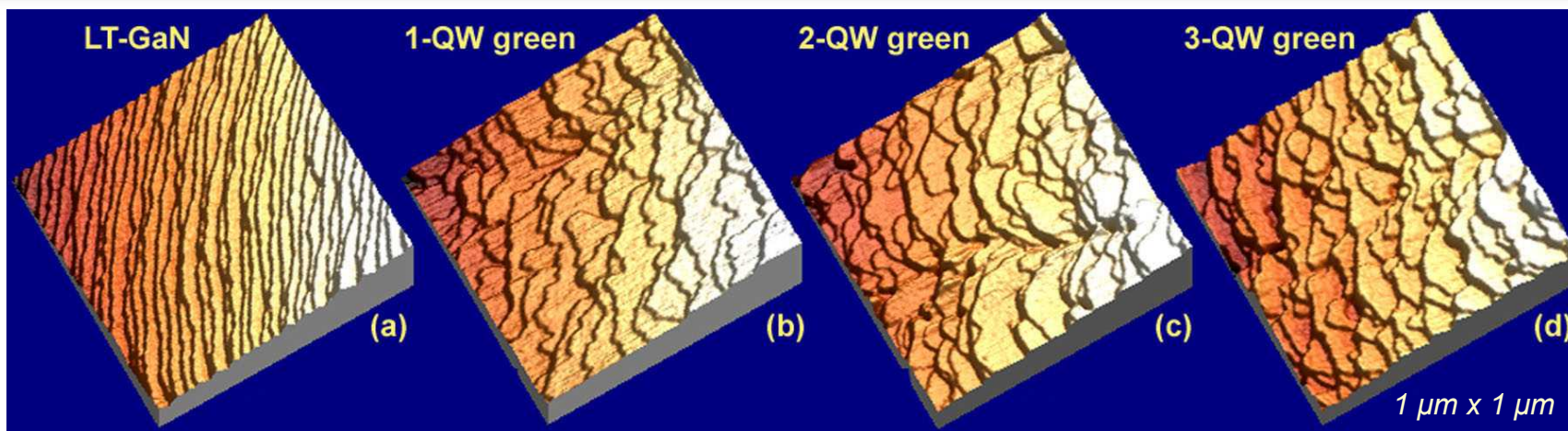
GaN n-type

c-plane sapphire

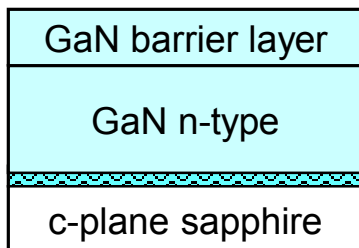


Change in InGaN step structure is due to the addition of indium to the growth rather than temperature – film strain restructuring.

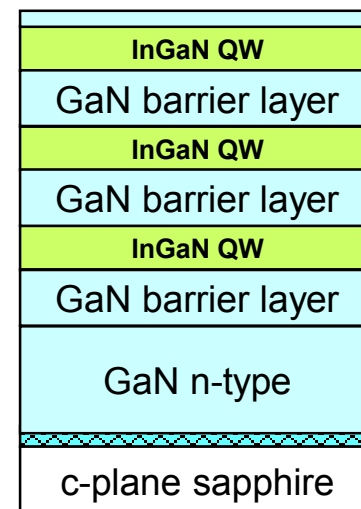
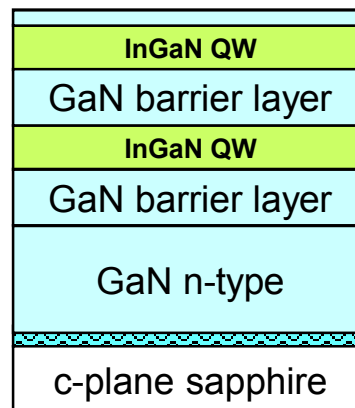
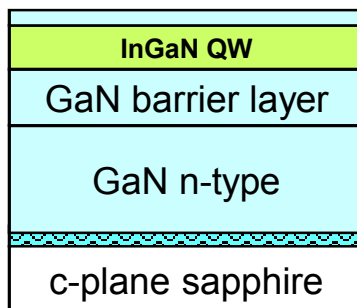
Step morphology change for green QWs



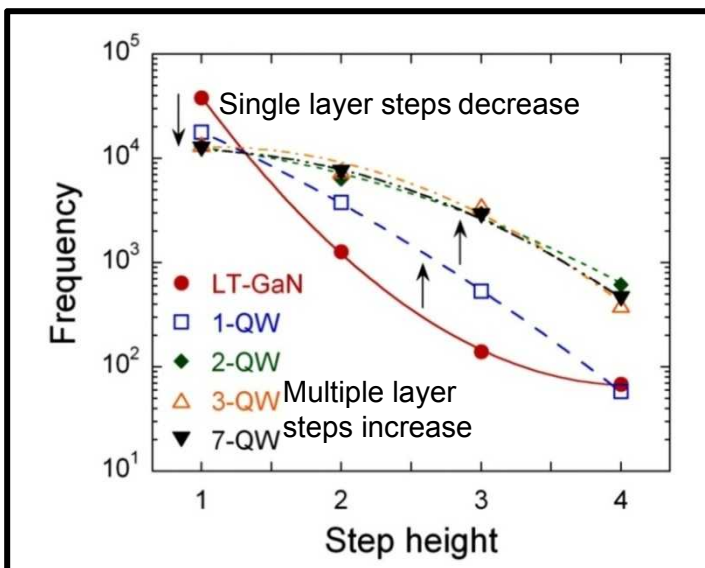
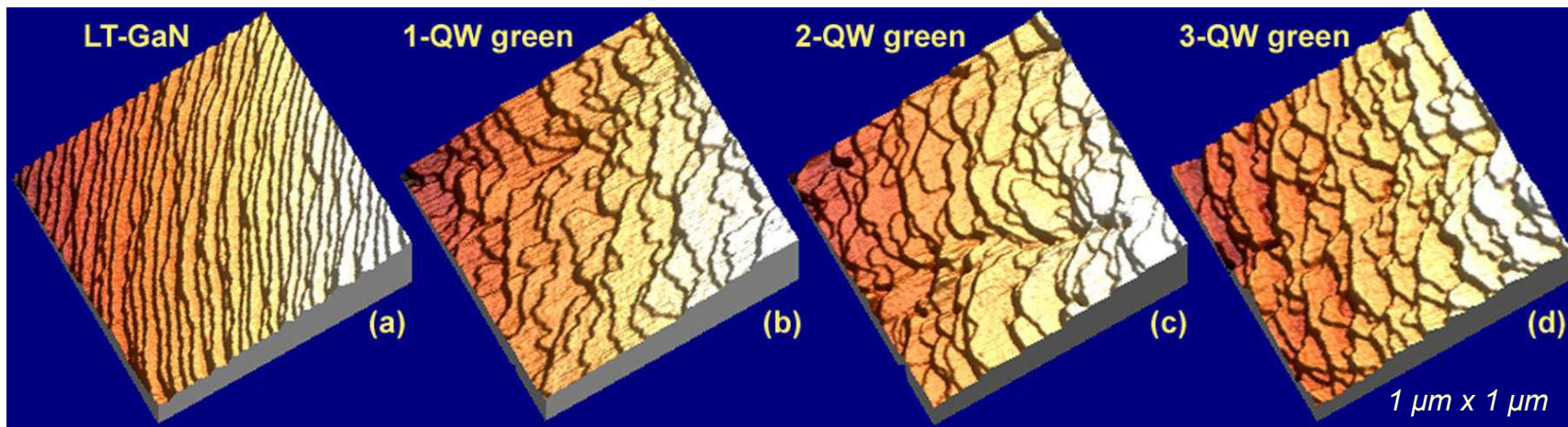
10 nm thick LT GaN barrier layer has the same step structure as the underlying HT GaN.



Addition of single 3 nm InGaN QW capped with 1.5 GaN barrier layer



Observation of increased multi-layer steps in green MQWs



As the number of QWs increases, the number of multiple layer steps increases, but reaches a steady configuration after the 2nd QW.

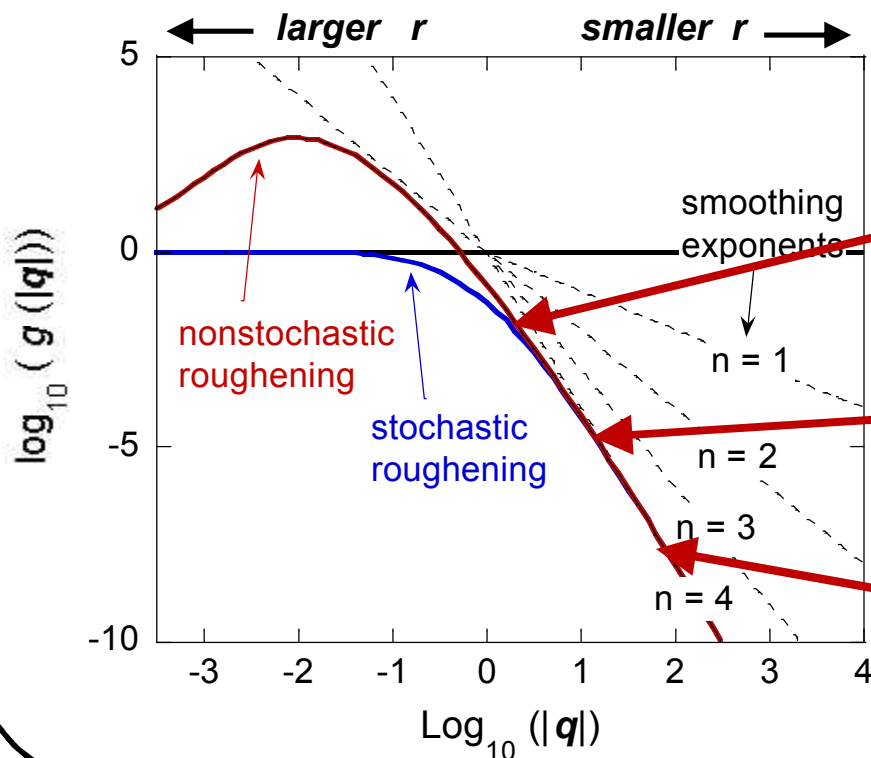
Suggests that while the InGaN QWs roughen the surface, the GaN barrier layer smooths the surface.

What are the smoothing mechanisms?

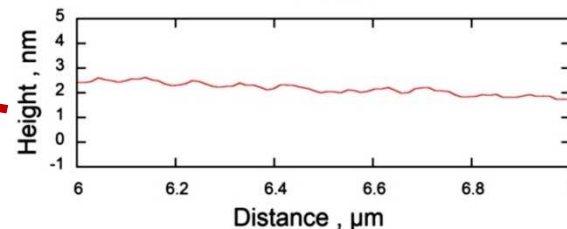
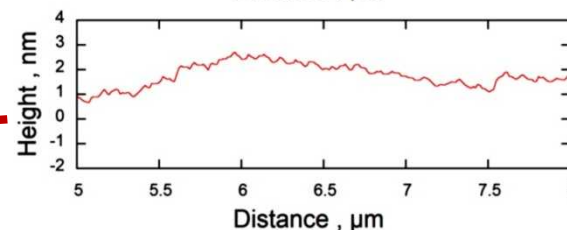
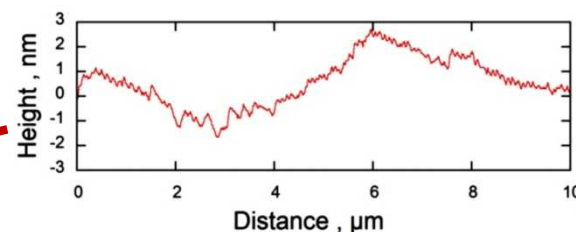
Smoothing mechanisms can be obtained from PSD analysis of AFM images

Power spectral density (PSD) is the height-height correlation function from AFM PSD or g can be calculated from $h(x,y)$ as a function of q , where $q = 1/r$.

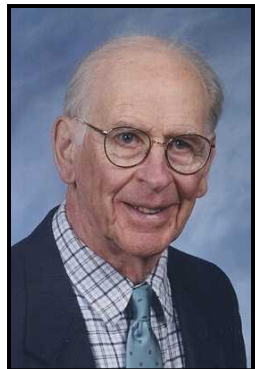
Discussed by Tong and Williams in Ann. Rev. Phys. Chem. 45, 401 (1994).



$$\sigma_{\text{RMS}} = (\sum g(q))^{1/2}$$



Various smoothing mechanisms calculated by Herring



Conyers Herring
1914 - 2009

J. Appl. Phys. 21, 301 (1950).

The PSD can be smoothed by various mechanisms that decrease $g(q)$ at large q ,

$$g(|q|, t) \propto \frac{\Omega}{c_n |q|^n}$$

Smoothing mechanisms

$n = 1$ - plastic flow driven by surface tension

$n = 2$ - evaporation and recondensation

$n = 3$ - volume diffusion

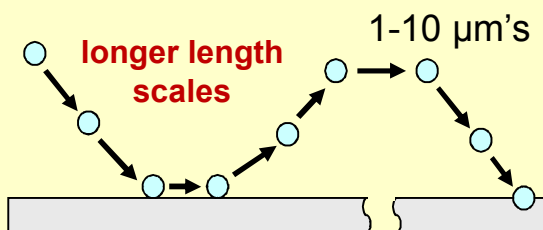
$n = 4$ - surface diffusion

Geometric details of mechanisms could influence the values of n by as much as 0.5.

Mechanism influences length scale over which the smoothing occurs.

$n = 2$

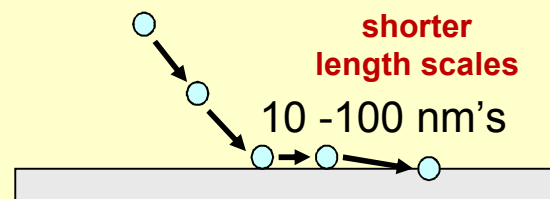
evaporation and recondensation
(GaN for $T > 900^\circ\text{C}$)



See Mitchell et al., JCG 222, 144 (2001).

$n = 4$

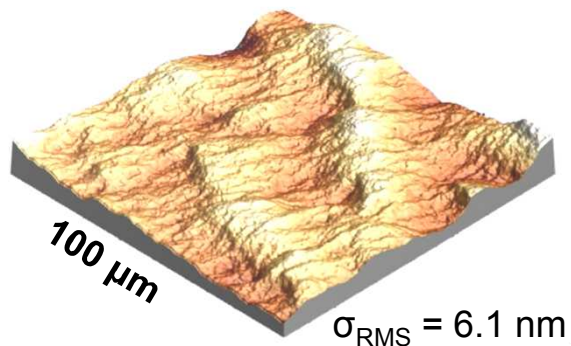
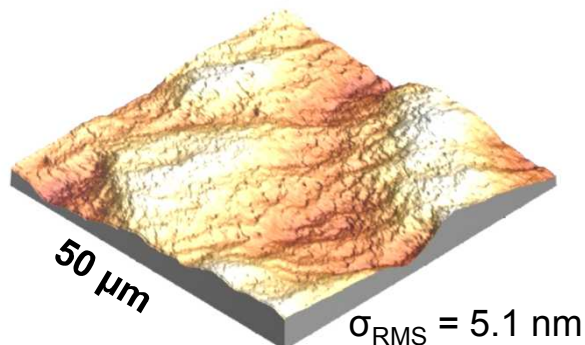
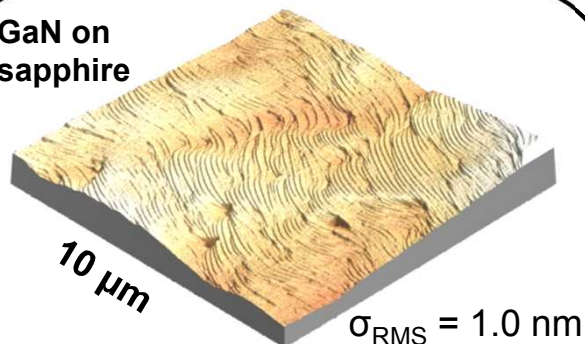
surface diffusion
(InGaN and GaN $T < 900^\circ\text{C}$)



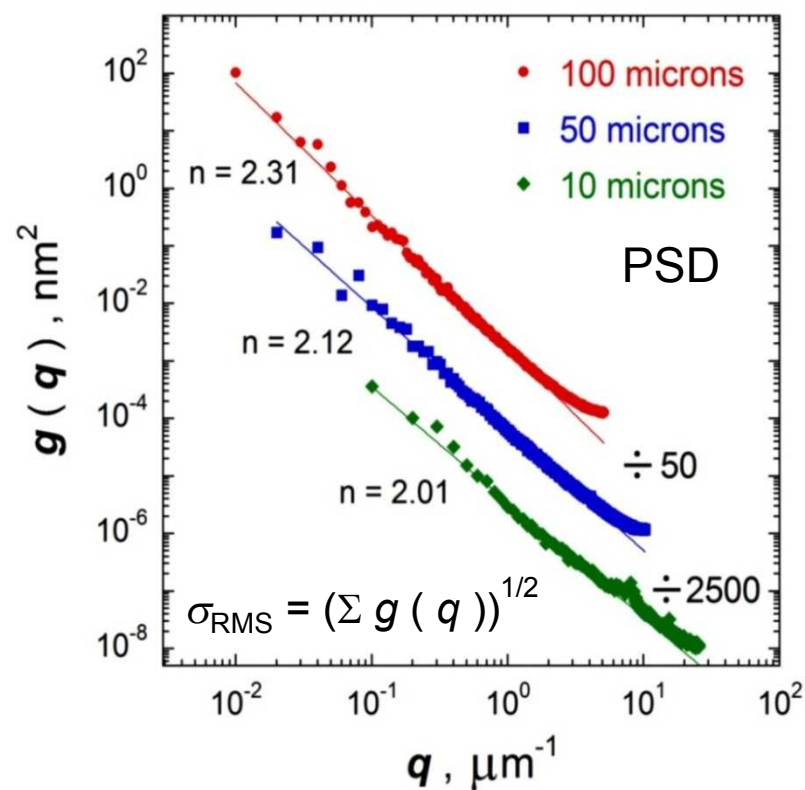
See Koleske et al., JAP 84, 1998 (1998).

PSD analysis of GaN films on sapphire

GaN on sapphire



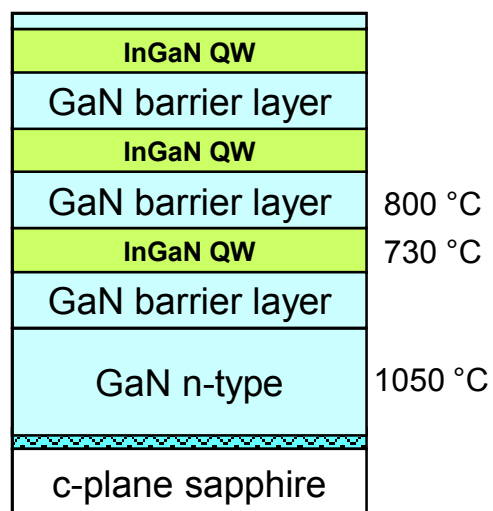
σ_{RMS} typically depends on scan size



$n \sim 2$ - implies the smoothing mechanism is evaporation and recondensation of Ga atoms

PSD analysis of green MQWs as number of QWs increases

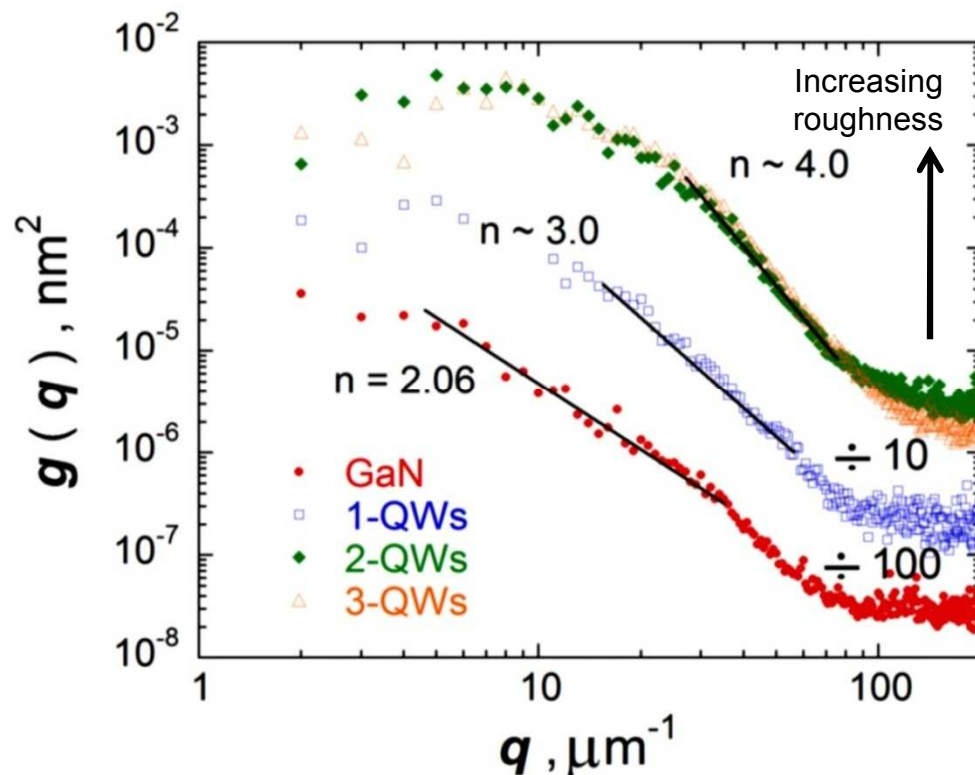
Green MQW structure



$n = 2$ = evaporation /
recondensation

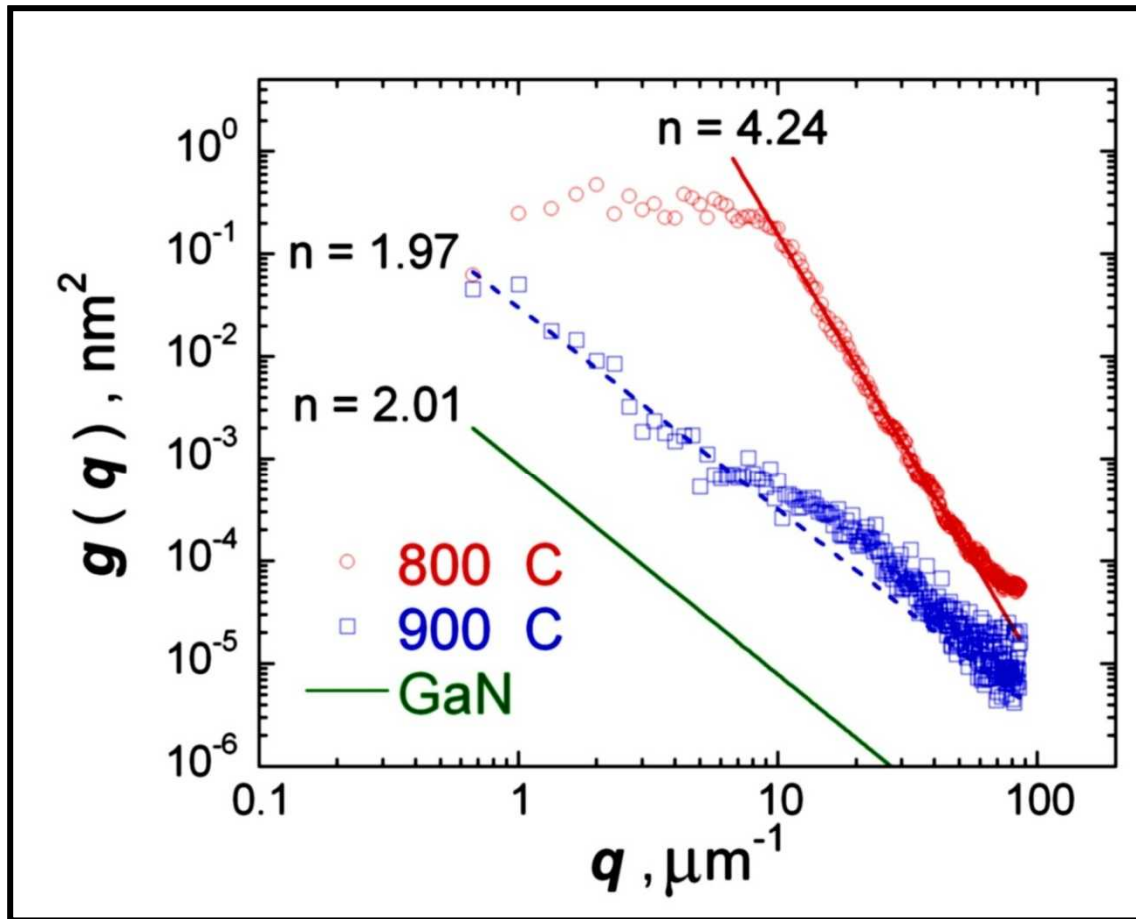
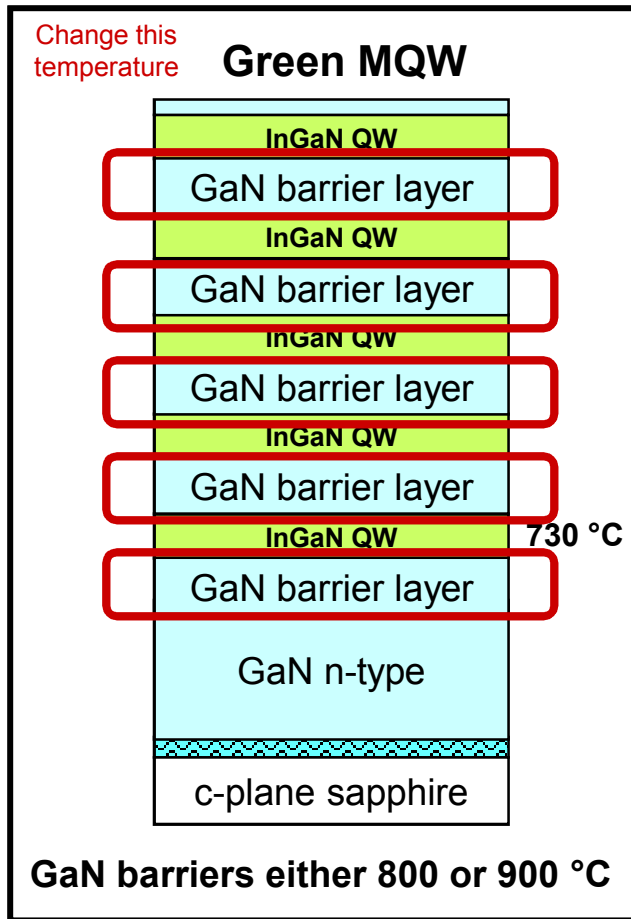
$n = 4$ = surface diffusion

$n = 3$ = average 2 & 4?



Smoothing exponent increases from 2 to 4 as the number of QWs increases.

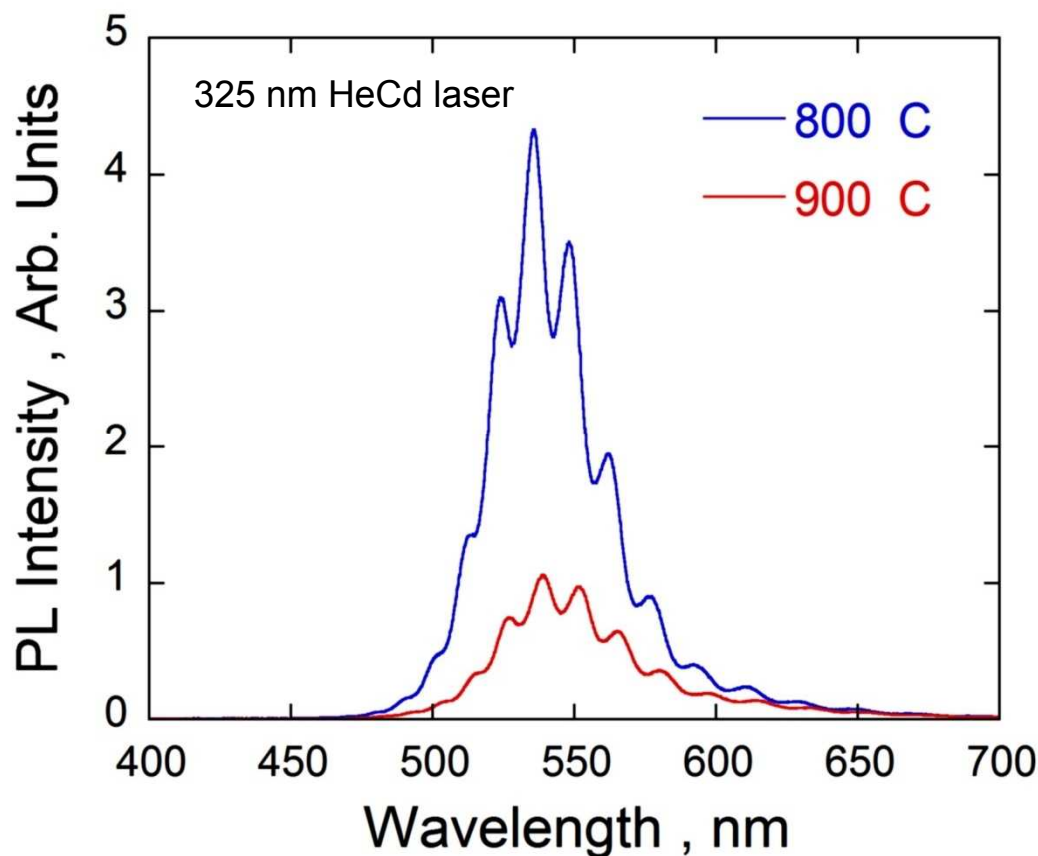
PSD analysis of the green MQWs with 800 and 900 °C GaN barrier growth temperature



**GaN barriers at 900 °C smoother than GaN barriers at 800 °C
Suggests a way to control the InGaN/GaN interface roughness.**

PL analysis of the green MQWs with different GaN barrier growth temperature

Higher PL intensity for GaN barriers at 800 °C



Same intensity and wavelength trends are observed for resonant optical pumping at 407 nm.

Suggests that the rougher step morphology produces QW with increased PL intensity.

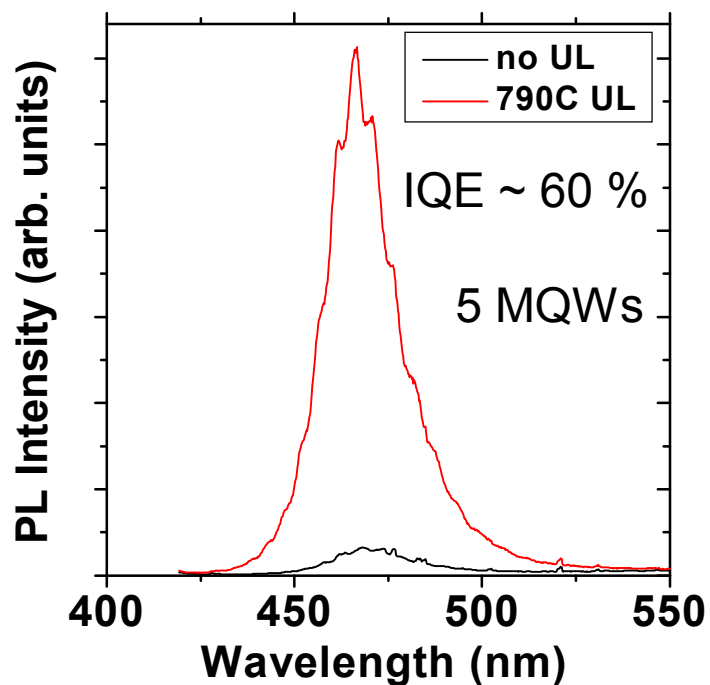
The morphology could produce QW thickness fluctuations coupled to the strong piezo-electric fields to produce electron/hole localization. Graham et al., JAP 97, 103508 (2005).

InGaN underlayers increase IQE of MQWs

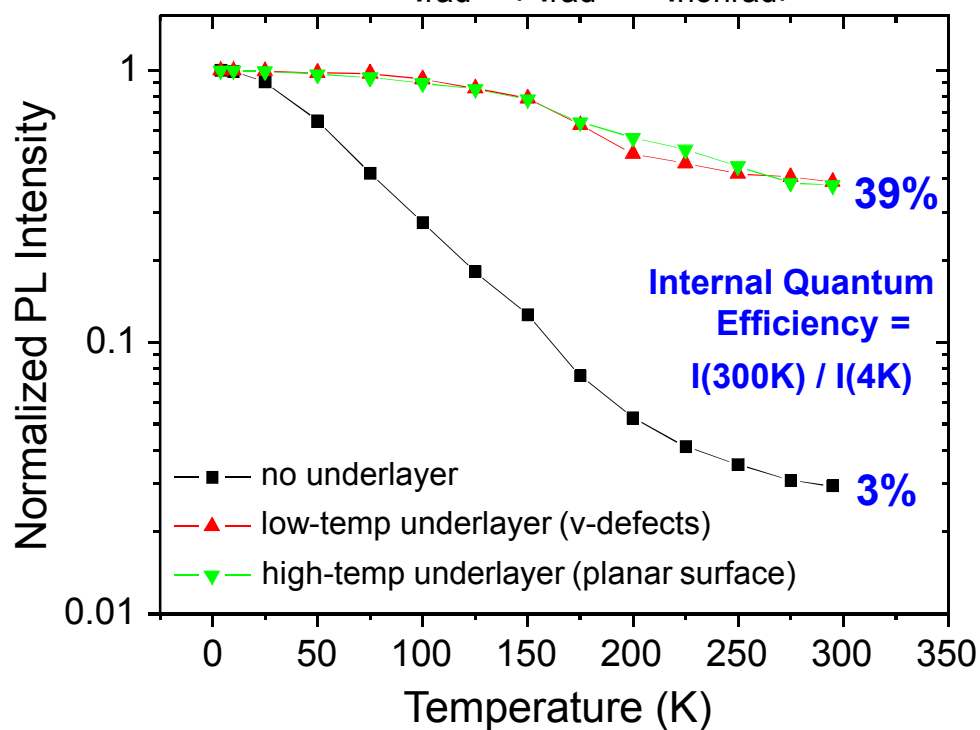
Especially help emission of single QWs

Temperature dependent PL studies by Mary Crawford

15X increase in integrated PL emission with InGaN UL



$$IQE = \eta_{rad} / (\eta_{rad} + \eta_{nonrad})$$



InGaN underlayers have multiple layer step heights similar to MQWs.

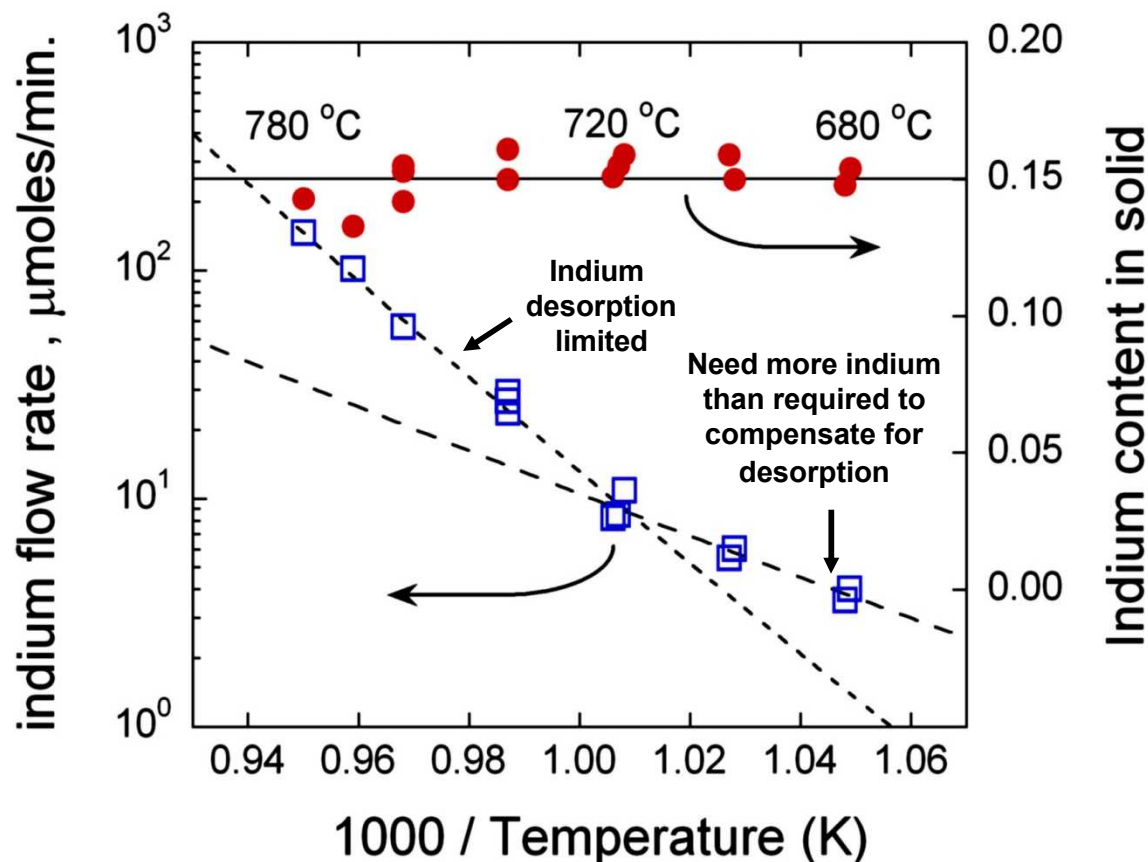
Growths to achieve similar QW structure and indium content at different growth temperatures

Goal: achieve the same structure at different QW growth temperatures

GaN cap layer
InGaN QW
GaN barrier layer
InGaN QW
GaN barrier layer
InGaN QW
GaN barrier layer
InGaN QW
GaN barrier layer
Dilute InGaN UL
GaN on sapphire

Each of the MQW structures has:

Indium content = $15.1 \pm 0.7 \%$
 QW thickness = $26.3 \pm 3.4 \text{ \AA}$
 Barrier thickness = $94.6 \pm 6.2 \text{ \AA}$
 PL wavelength = $457 \pm 6 \text{ nm}$



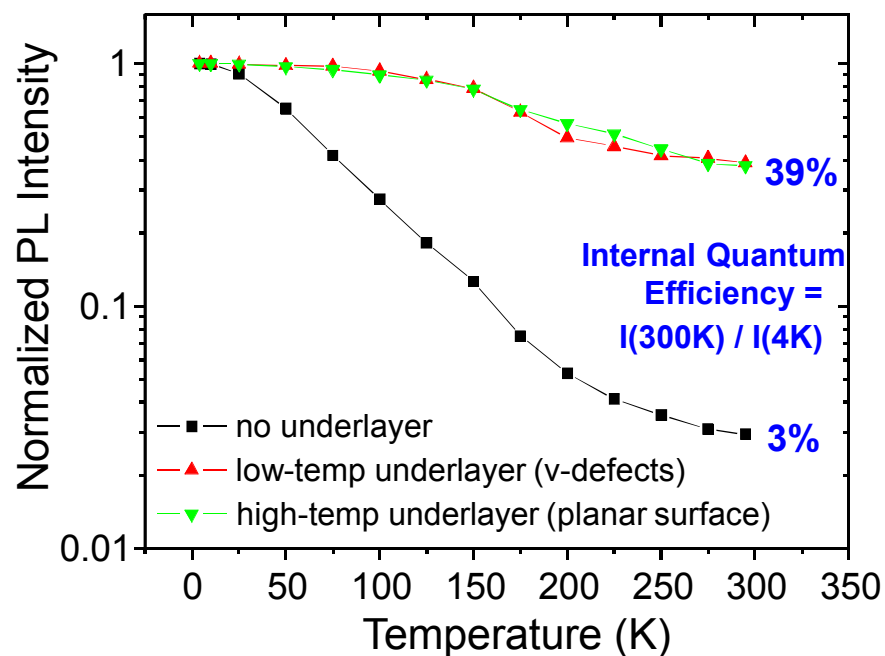
Need less indium as the QW growth temperature is decreased

Measuring internal quantum efficiency (IQE) using variable temperature PL

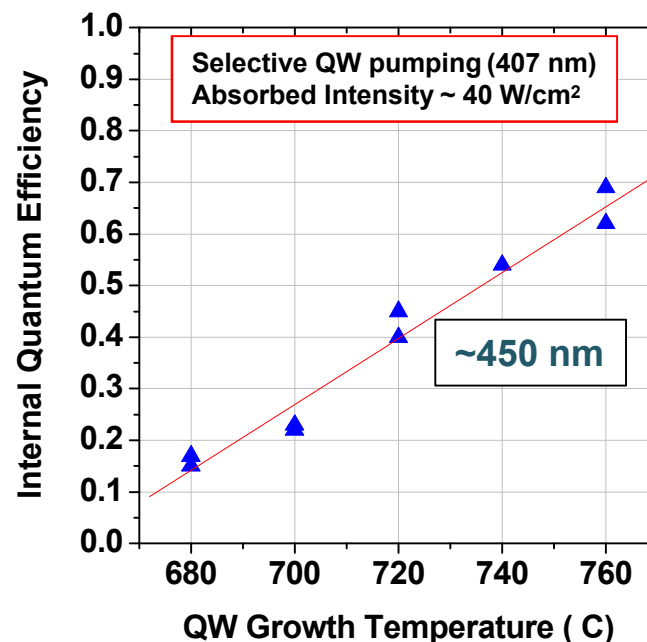
Temperature dependent PL studies by Mary Crawford

Measure PL intensity at room
and liquid He temperatures

$$IQE = \eta_{\text{rad}} / (\eta_{\text{rad}} + \eta_{\text{nonrad}})$$



**IQE for blue QWs grown at
different temperatures**

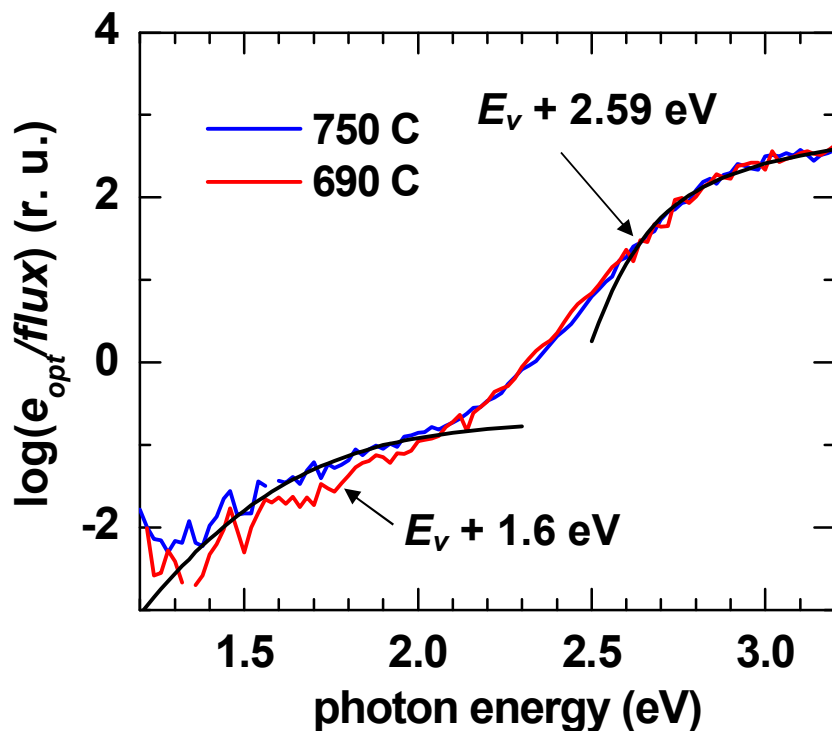


- Decreasing IQE with decreasing T_{QW}
- Fix MQW structure, [V-defect], TDD, UL
- Point defects are likely cause

InGaN growth temperature influences defect concentration

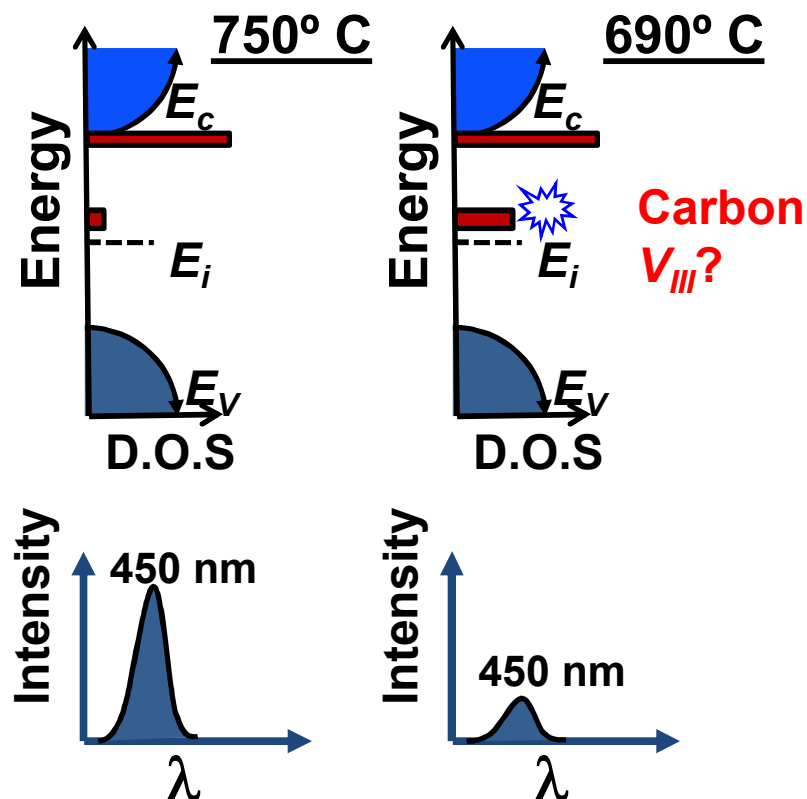
DLOS studies by Andy Armstrong

“Deep Level Optical spectroscopy” of InGaN at two different temperatures. Photo-capacitance is used to determine concentration.



Densities of Deep Levels

	$T_g = 690^\circ\text{C}$	$T_g = 750^\circ\text{C}$
$E_v + 1.6 \text{ eV}$	$20 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	$7 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}$
$E_v + 2.59 \text{ eV}$	$2 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	$2 \times 10^{12} \text{ cm}^{-2}$

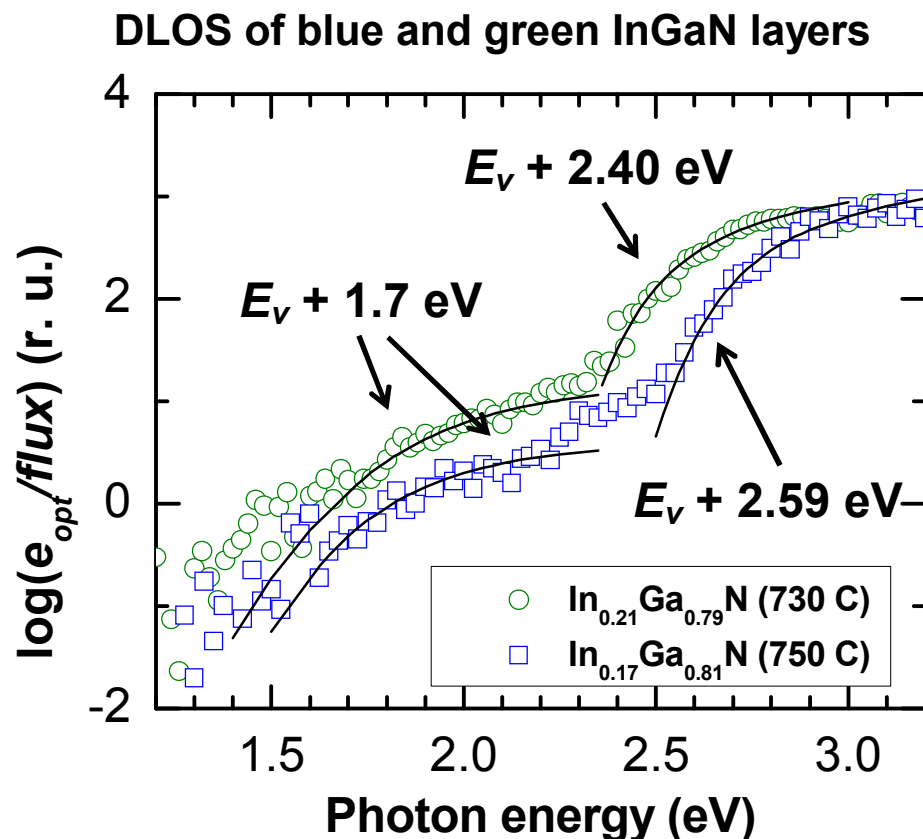


Similar defect levels, different concentrations

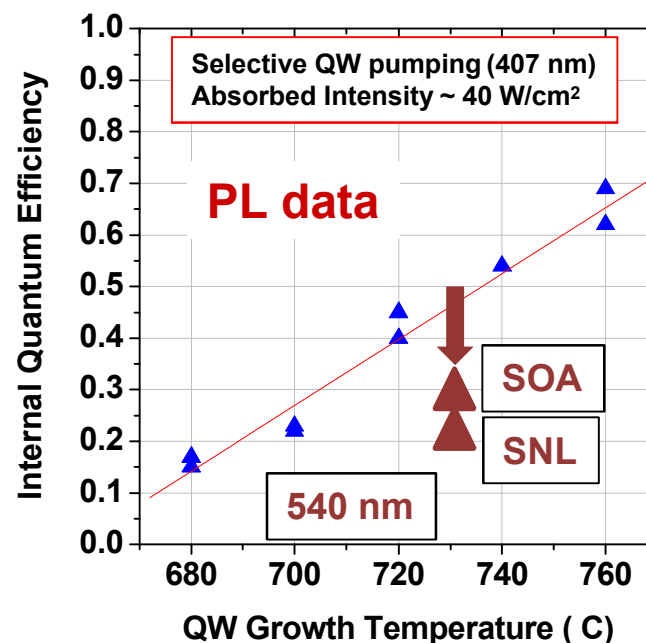
Higher indium concentrations needed for green MQWs further increases the defect concentration

Densities of Deep Levels

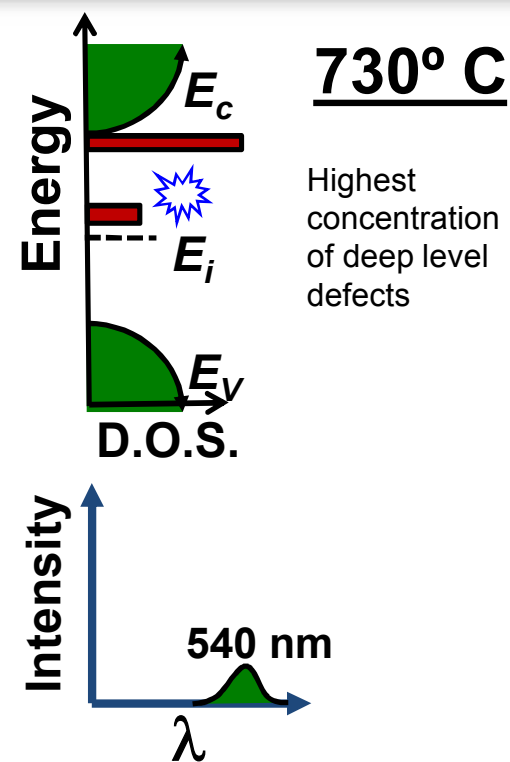
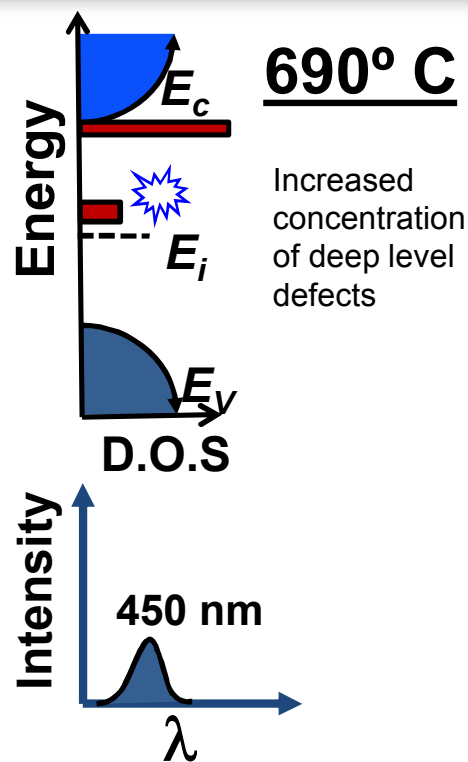
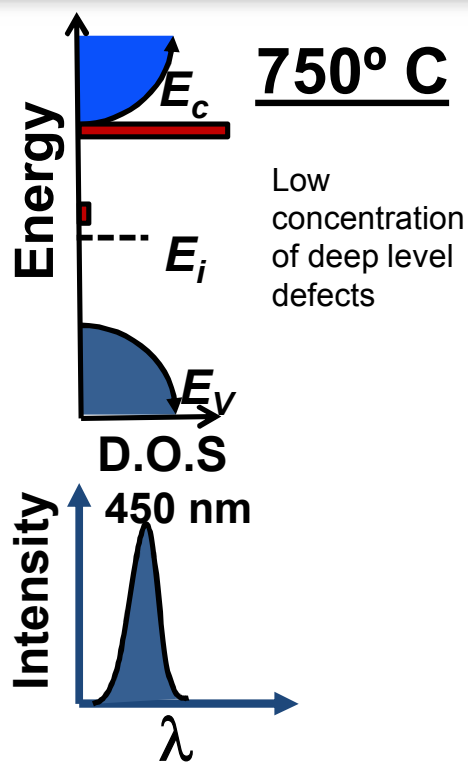
	Blue InGaN	Green InGaN
$E_v + 1.7$ eV	$7 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	$28 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2}$
$E_v + 2.40$ eV	--	$5 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$
$E_v + 2.59$ eV	$5 \times 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	--



4x increase in [$E_v + 1.7$ eV] can contribute to “green gap”



Summary of DLOS and photoconductance studies

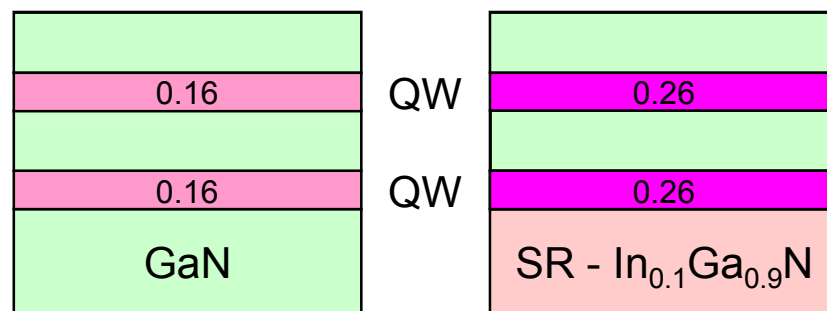
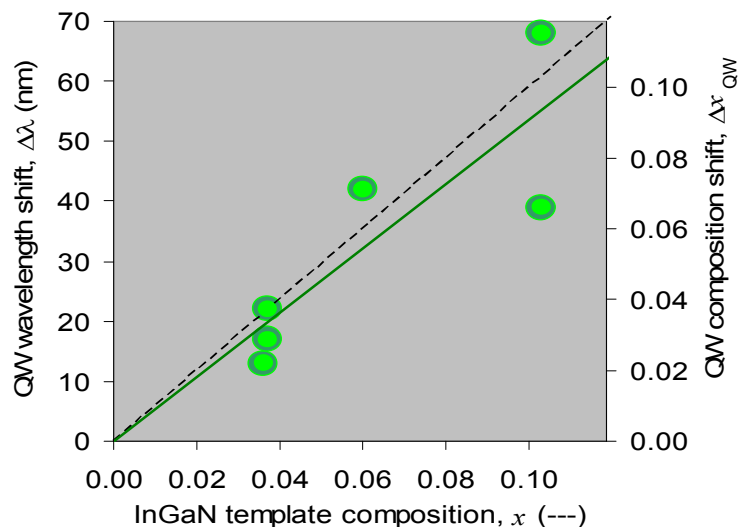


- **First demonstration of quantitative** defect spectroscopy for coherently-strained $\text{In}_{0.2}\text{Ga}_{0.8}\text{N}$ epilayers
- Correlated T_g , defects and IQE
- Suggest 1.7 eV InGaN defect contributes to the “green gap”

Strain Relaxed InGaN buffer layers for Green Light Emission

growth run #	GaN template, l_{QW} (nm)	InGaN template, l_{QW} (nm)	Δl_{QW} (nm)	InGaN template, x (---)	InGaN QWs, Δx_{QW} (---)
dnz01166	431	444	13	0.036	0.022
dnz01254	---	479	42	0.060	0.071
dnz01299	442	466	22	0.037	0.037
dnz01376	463	531	68	0.103	0.115
dnz01439	429	446	17	0.037	0.029
dnz01439	429	468	39	0.103	0.066

- QW emission shifts to longer wavelength on strain-relaxed InGaN templates
- Nominal QW compositions on standard GaN templates were $x_{QW} \sim 0.16$
- Compositions of similarly grown QWs on relaxed $In_{0.10}Ga_{0.90}N$ approach $x_{QW} \sim 0.26$
- **Able to get increased indium into the QW above the GaN coherency strain limit!**

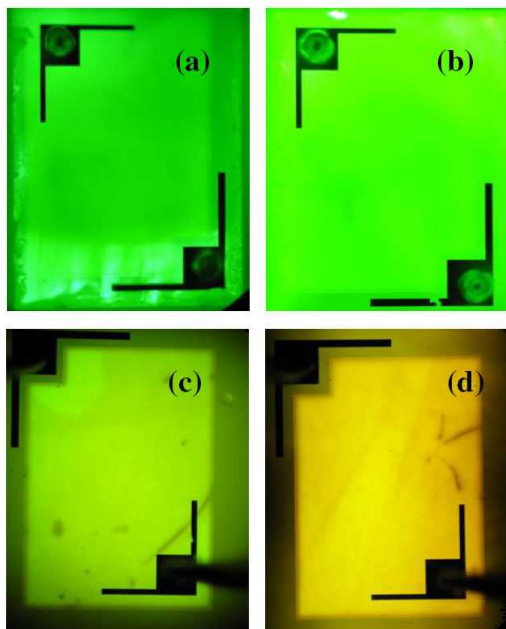


Same growth run

Strain relaxed InGaN developed with Steve Lee

Higher indium incorporation on semipolar GaN

Fellows et al., JJAP 47, 7854 (2008).



(1122)

$\lambda = 568 \text{ nm}$
EQE = 8.0%

LEDs shown at 1 mA forward bias

Since there is minimal QCSE, there has to be $\sim 40\%$ indium concentration in the QW to reach these wavelengths.

On c-plane GaN, indium is limited to $\sim 20\text{-}25\%$.

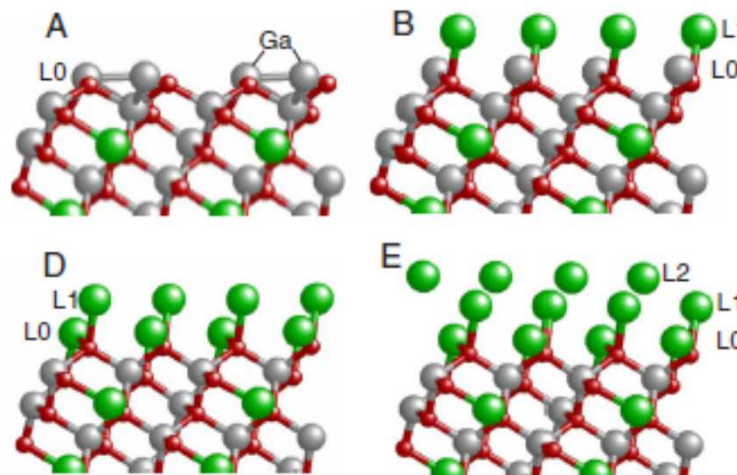


FIG. 3. (Color online) InGaN(1122) surfaces. A, B, D, and E contain successively more In atoms in layers L0, L1, and L2. Indium atoms are large green spheres, Ga atoms are gray, and N atoms are small red spheres.

J. E. Northrup, Appl. Phys. Lett. 95, 133107 (2009).

Recent DFT calculations predict greater indium incorporation on GaN (11-22) compared to GaN (10-11) due to reduced strain between the surface incorporated indium atoms.

Implies that higher indium concentrations can be achieved above the coherency strain limit.

Conclusions

- SSL is expected to replace incandescent and fluorescent light sources in the next 10-20 years.
- Understanding of the science of SSL lags behind the Edisonian advances – this will likely continue.
- Suspected correlation between InGaN QW morphology and luminescence efficiency – quantification underway.
- Consequences of strain in the InGaN films include; surface structure rearrangements, vacancy formation, and reduced indium incorporation.
- Deep level defects (~ 1.7 eV) may be non-radiative recombination centers decreasing IQE of blue and green MQWs. May be responsible for the “green-yellow gap.”



Thanks to:

Sandia Colleagues:

Steve R. Lee – XRD analysis, strain relaxed InGaN

Mary H. Crawford – PL, LED studies

Andy Armstrong – DLOS and photocapacitance work

Mike Coltrin – GaN NL evolution studies

Karen Cross – AFM images.

Jerry Thaler – MOCVD growth now at Lasertec.

J. J. Figiel – MOCVD tech.

J. M. Kempisty – MOCVD tech.

R. M. Biefeld – Manager



Supplementary slides

Summary of InGaN step morphology

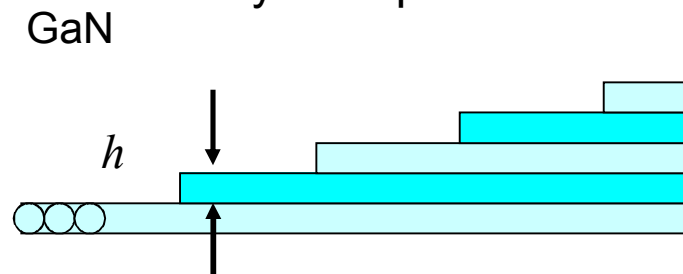
- Frequency of multiple-layer steps increase...
 - As the amount of indium increases (**V** → **B** → **G**).
 - As the number of QWs increases (up to 2).
 - In thin InGaN underlayers with only 2% indium.
 - As the GaN barrier temperature is lowered.
- Two influences on InGaN step structure.
 - Strain relief by forming a multiple-layer step edge.
Not sufficient for bulk InGaN strain relief (XRD).

InGaN compressive strain will increase as the indium concentration increases and/or the film thickness increases. Strain relief by point defect generation is also possible.

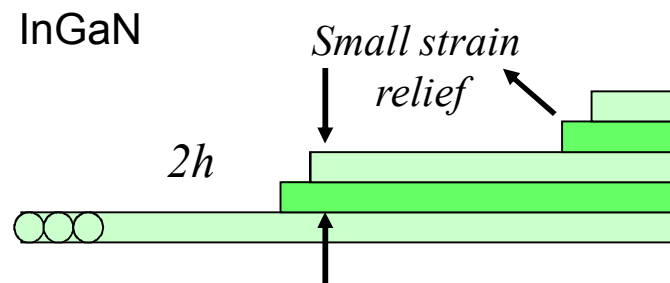
Explore possible changes in growth mechanism in comparing GaN to InGaN growth.

Measure the different smoothing mechanisms responsible for changes in growth morphology.

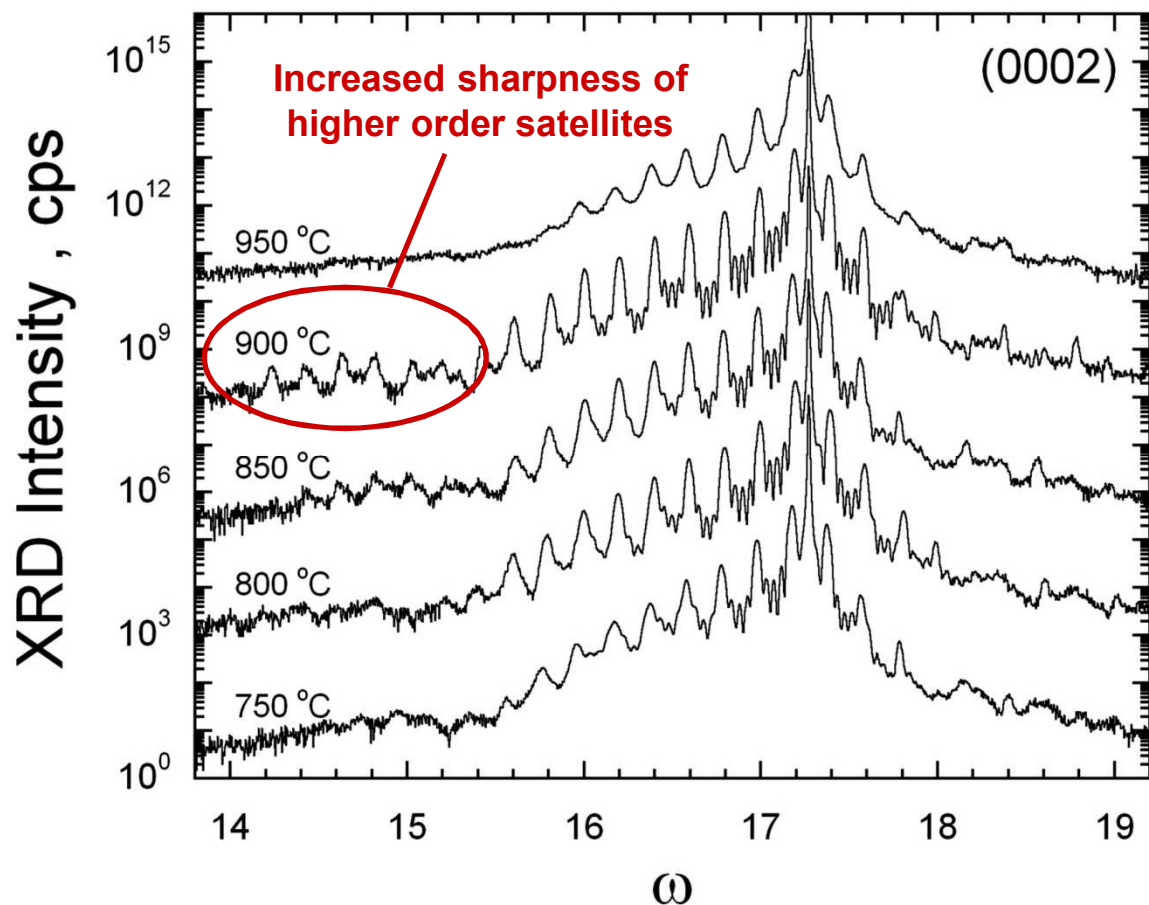
As-grown, GaN has single-layer steps.



InGaN growth increases the frequency multiple-layer steps



XRD analysis of the green MQWs with different GaN barrier growth temperature



Using dynamic diffraction fits

Indium content = 0.21 ± 0.01

QW thickness = 3.5 ± 0.1 nm

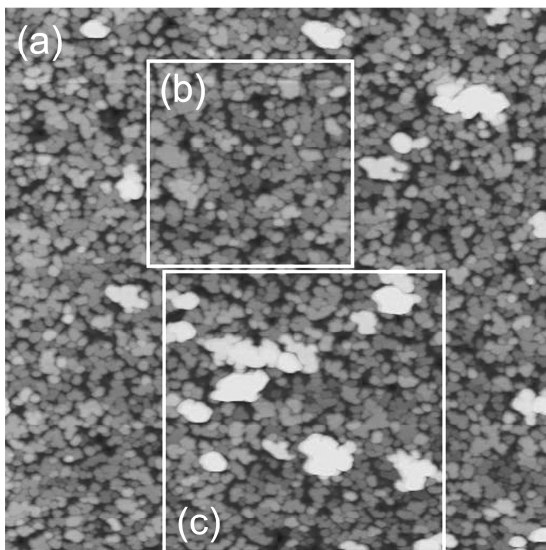
GaN barrier = 19.6 ± 0.5 nm

The sharpness of the higher order satellites indicates better interface alignment for GaN barrier layers grown at 900 °C compared to those grown at 800 °C.

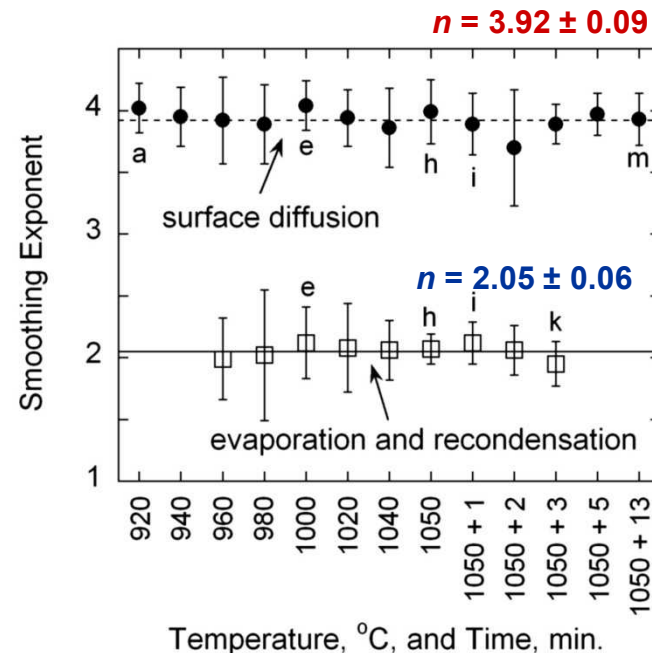
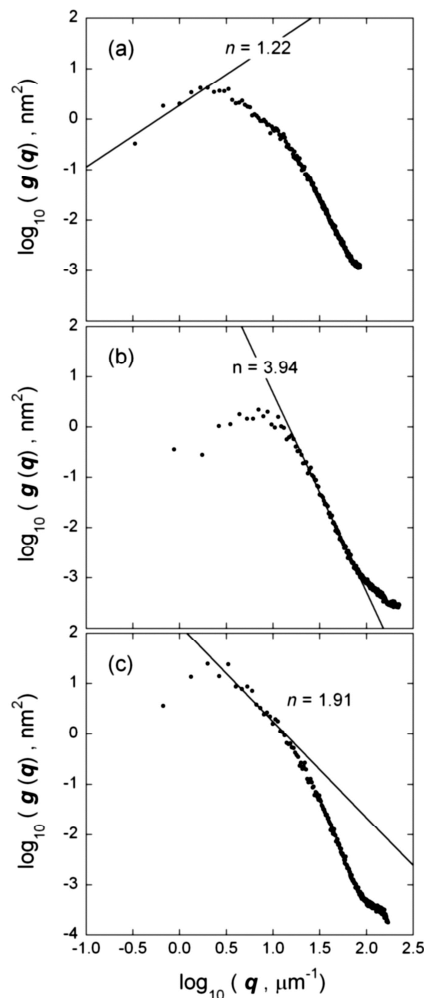
PSD analysis of GaN nucleation layer evolution

AFM scan of NL at 1000 °C

Low temperature deposited GaN NL is smoothed via surface diffusion, $n = 4$.



GaN nuclei form out of deposited GaN NL via evaporation and recondensation mechanism, $n = 2$.

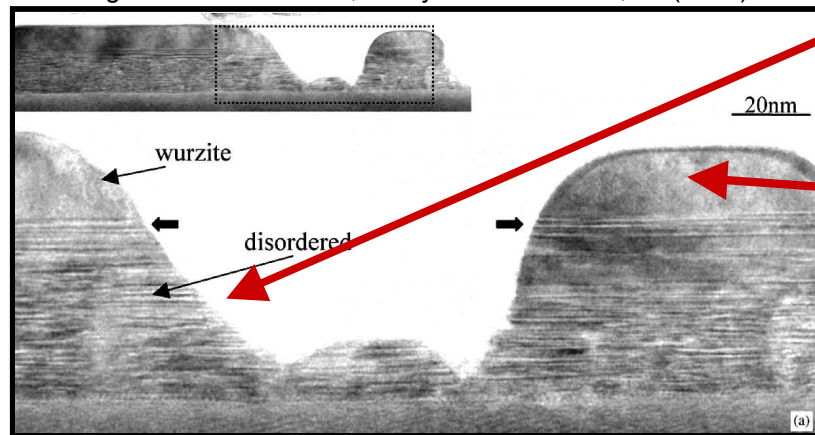


Consistent with gas phase transport model of Mitchell, *et al.*, J. Crystal Growth 222, 144 (2001).

Koleske *et al.*, J. Crystal Growth 273, 86 (2004).

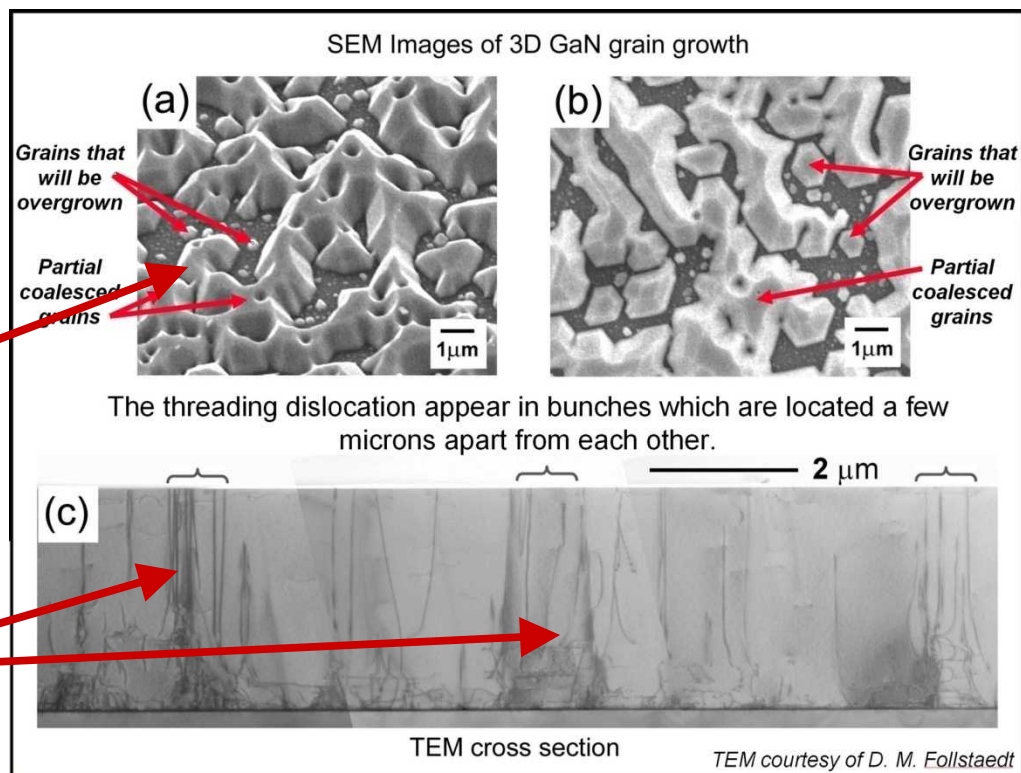
GaN morphology evolution on sapphire

Figure from Lada et al., J. Crystal Growth 258, 89 (2003).

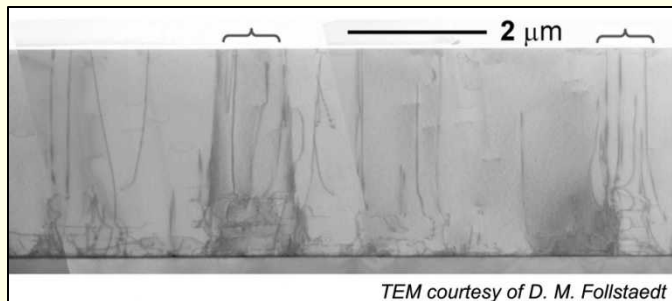


- High temperature growth on the GaN nuclei produces GaN grains.
- Growth conditions can be varied to enhance the pyramidal growth mode or lateral coalescence. Dislocations are bent laterally on pyramidal facets.
- Dislocations are concentrated in bunches located microns apart.

- As grown GaN nucleation layers contain disordered GaN with many stacking faults.
- Once annealed, wurtzite GaN forms on top of disordered GaN NL, forming nano-sized GaN nuclei.



With high dislocation density, how can InGaN LEDs be so bright?

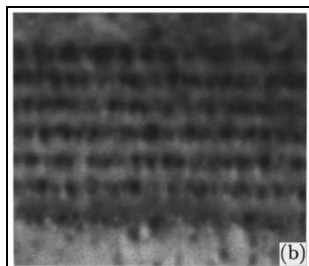


- High brightness LEDs are typically grown on high dislocation density GaN (10^9 cm^{-2}).
- With this large dislocation density LEDs in the other III-V materials would not work.

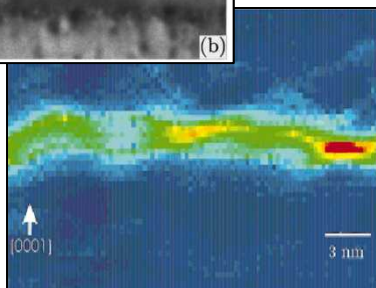
Are dislocations nonradiative recombination sites?

High efficiency suggests some type of carrier localization; the exact nature of which is unknown!

Narukawa, APL 70, 981 (1997)

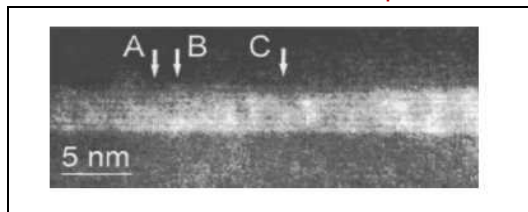


Quantum dot
formation or
compositional
modulation

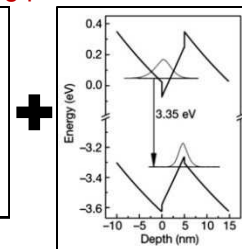


Gerthsen, Phys. Stat. A Sol. 177, 145 (2000).

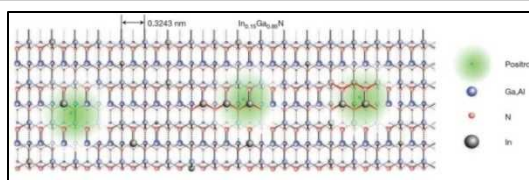
QW thickness fluctuations coupled to strong piezoelectric fields



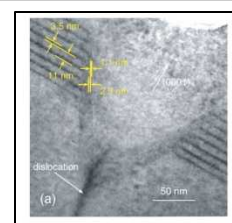
Graham, JAP 97, 103508 (2005)



Holes localized
at In-N valence
states, followed
by exciton
formation and
light emission.

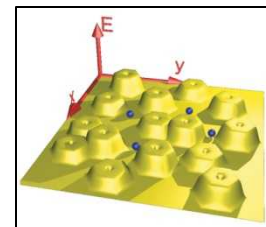


Chichibu, Nat. Mat. 5, 810 (2006)



Thinner
QWs
around
v-defects

Energetic screening
around dislocations



Hangleiter, PRL 95, 127402 (2005).



The composition and strain of thick InGaN epilayers were measured by x-ray diffraction.

Scanning procedures:

- Measured 2θ using radial " $2\theta/\omega$ " scans
- Used skew sample geometry

Reflections:

- (0004)
- (10-12) or (20-25)

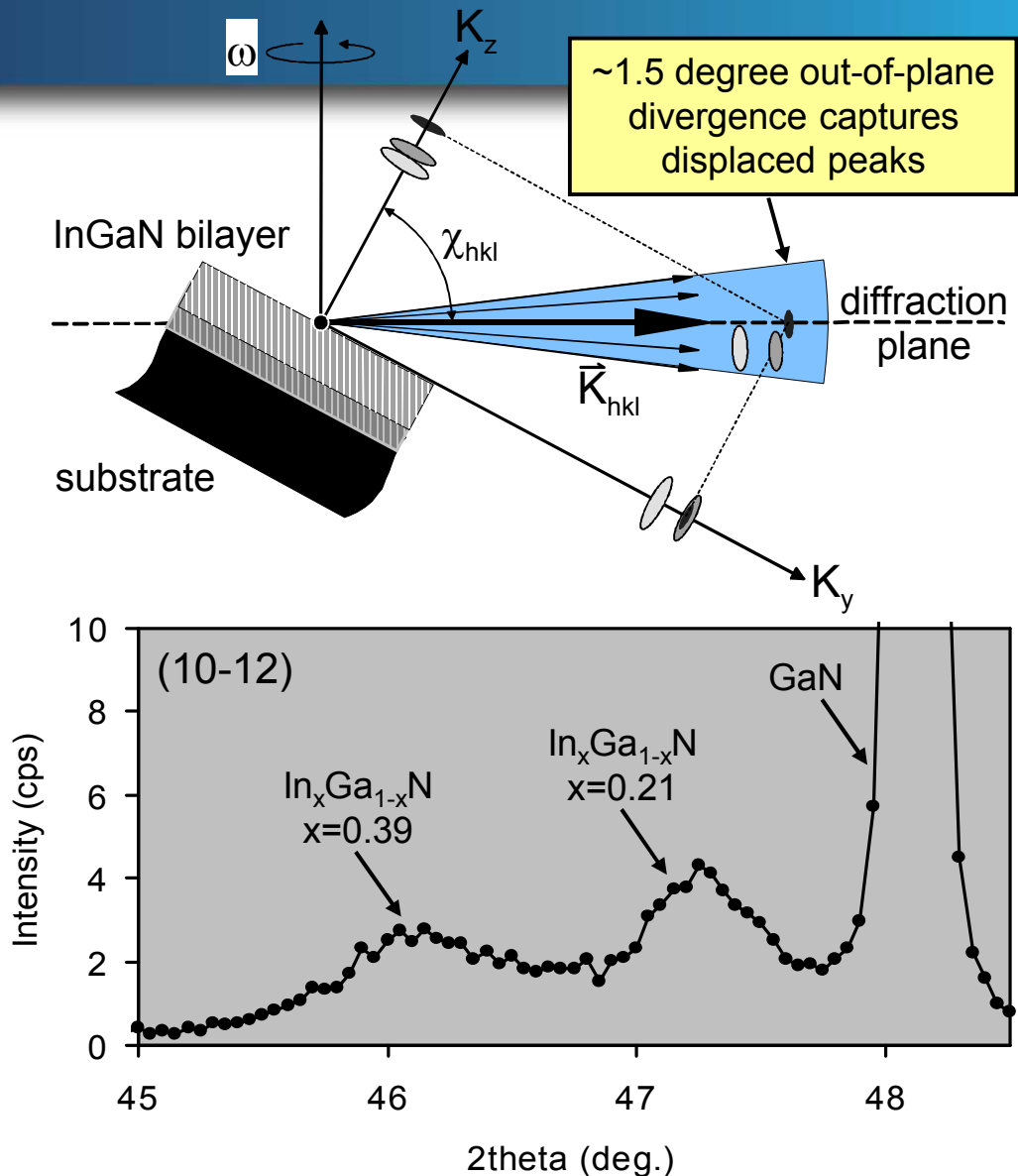
Key Equations:

- Bragg's Law gives d-spacings
- Lattice geometry gives a and c
- Vegard's Law gives $a_0(x)$, $c_0(x)$
- Strain couples a to a_0 and c to c_0 :

$$\epsilon_{xx} = (a - a_0)/a_0, \quad \epsilon_{zz} = (c - c_0)/c_0$$
- Biaxial stress: $\epsilon_{zz} = -2(c_{13}/c_{33})\epsilon_{xx}$

Instrumentation:

- Cu K- α_1 radiation
- Parabolic mirror
- 4-bounce (220) Ge monochromator
- 4-circle goniometer
- 3-bounce (220) Ge beam analyzer



MQWs development work suggests that
green emission is possible at $x = 0.20$

