

Some selected in situ characterization tools for MBE growth and their complementarity

A. Arnoult, P. Gadoras, K. Ben Saddick, L. Bourdon
and G. Almuneau

LAAS-CNRS, Université de Toulouse, CNRS, Toulouse, France

Porquerolles – Ecole d'été du GDR MatEpi 2025

- > In-situ control of growth: a global approach
- > An example structure: the growth of VCSELs
- > Focus on some instruments
 - RHEED
 - Reflectivity
 - Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy for direct flux measurement
 - Band Edge Thermometry for reproducible wafer temperature evaluation
 - Wafer Curvature and stress management
- > Complementarity
 - For alloy concentration/growth rates
 - In time scales
- > Towards automation of MBE growth
 - Bragg mirror automatically grown thanks to spectral reflectivity
 - Automated lattice match control of alloys growth
 - Monitoring MBE substrate deoxidation and surface reconstruction change via RHEED image-sequence analysis by deep learning
- > Conclusions

Issues: growth of complex materials

Non-equilibrium growth dynamic processes

(atom mobility, growth rate,
involved energies, oblique
incidence, substrate
temperature....)

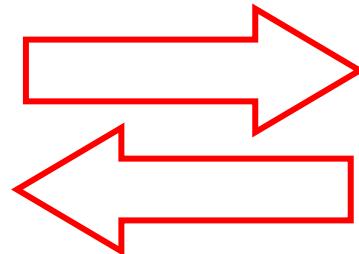
Ex-situ post-growth tools
(XRD, SEM, (HR)TEM, PL, ...)

Issues: growth of complex materials

Non-equilibrium growth dynamic processes

(atom mobility, growth rate,
involved energies, oblique
incidence, substrate
temperature....)

Probe, understand and tailor



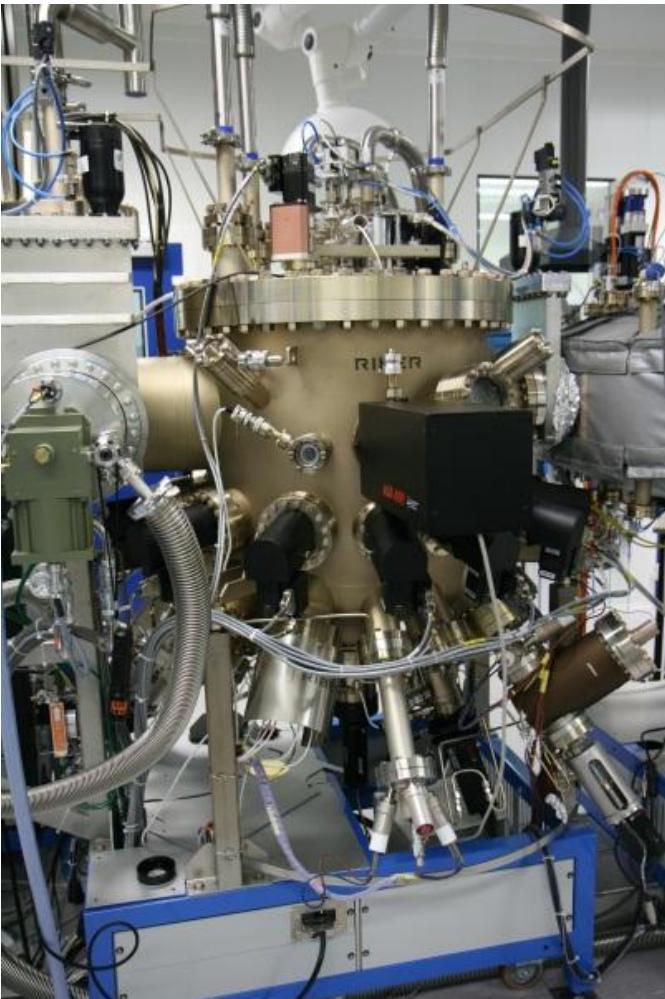
Coupled *In situ* and real-time diagnostics

(stress, reflectivity,
surface morphology,
flux monitoring...)

No diagnostic tool provide a complete picture of the growth process, but
coupling them in the same time base maximize their **complementarity**

In-situ measurements at LAAS

A global approach: complementary tools to get a clear picture of growth processes



MBE412 - 4" III-V chamber

> Spectral reflectivity

- White light source
- CCD sensors



> Temperature

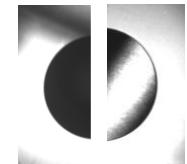
- Band-Edge Thermometry
- Pyrometry

> Fluxes (Atomic absorption Spectroscopy - OFM)

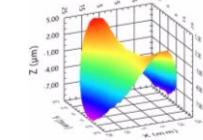
- Original tool (Patent FR1856743)

> RHEED: synchronised to rotation

- In-plane lattice parameter, streaks intensity



> Roughness (Diffuse Light Scattering)

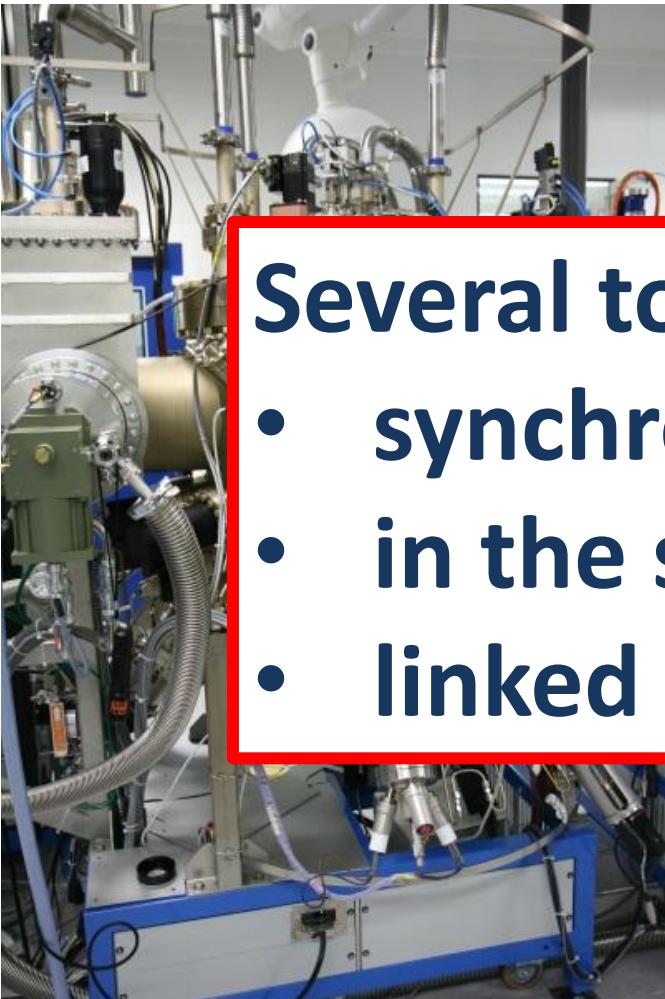


> Curvature

- MIC : original tool (Patent FR175461)

In-situ measurements at LAAS

A global approach: complementary tools to get a clear picture of growth processes



MBE412 - 4" III-V chamber

> Spectral reflectivity

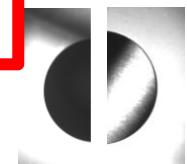
- White light source
- CCD sensors



Several tools

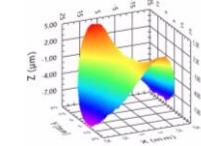
- synchronized to rotation
- in the same time base
- linked to MBE control software

> Roughness (Diffuse Light Scattering)

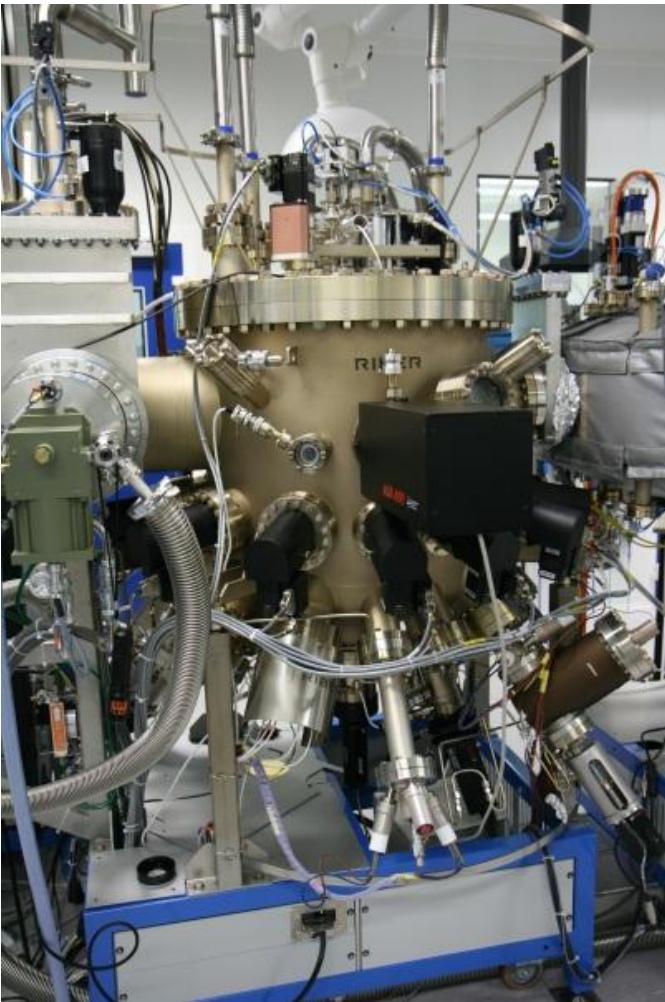


> Curvature

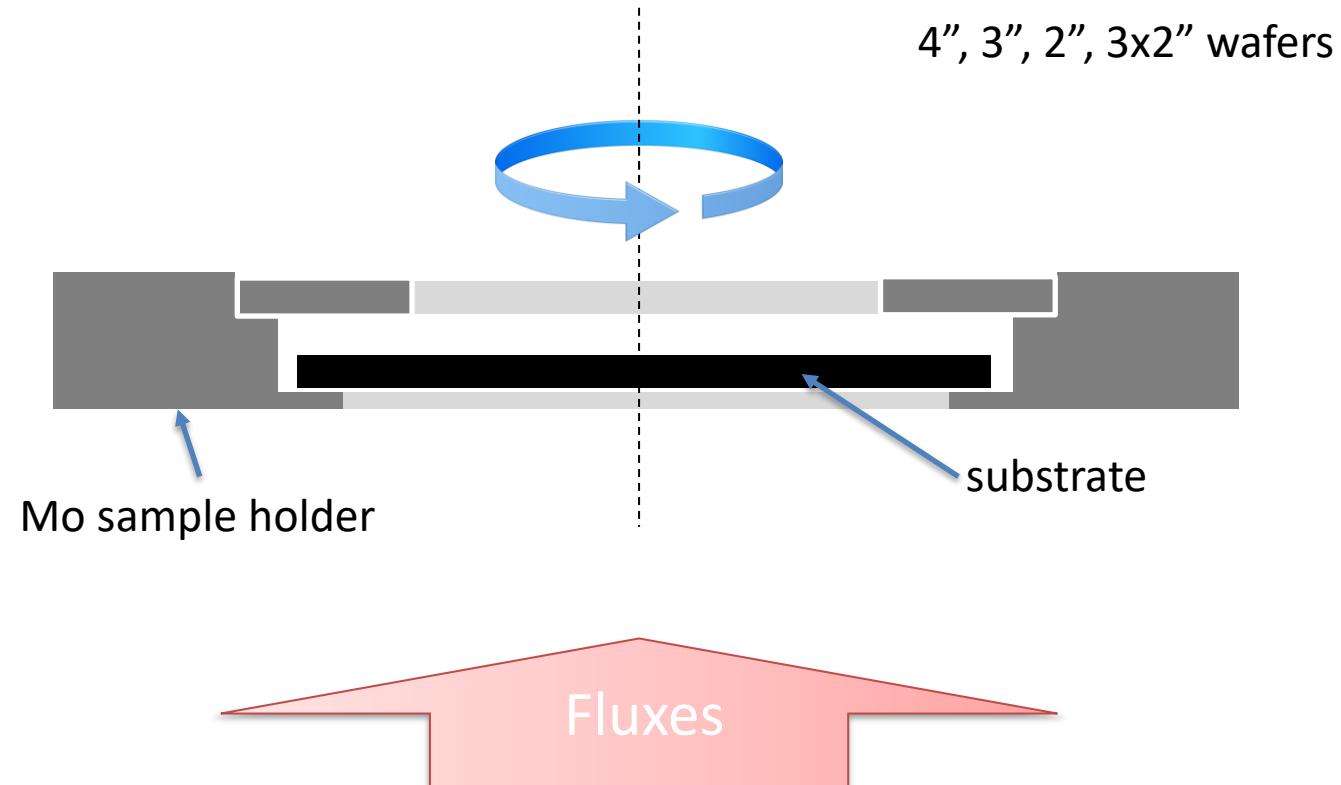
- MIC : original tool (Patent FR175461)



Geometric configuration



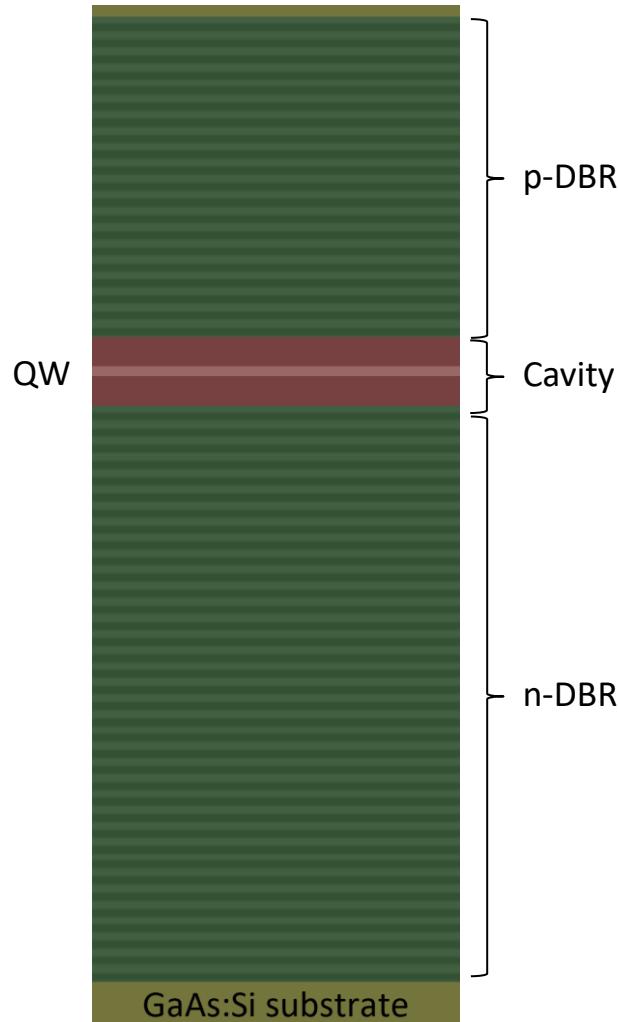
MBE412 - 4" III-V chamber



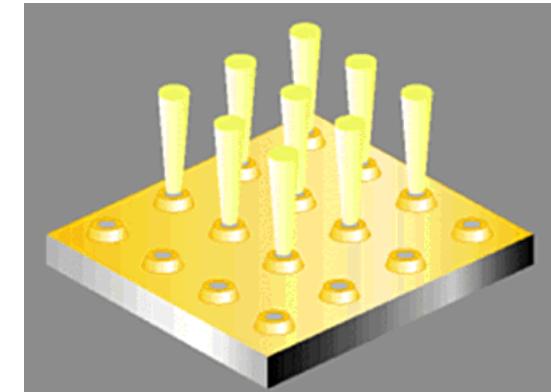
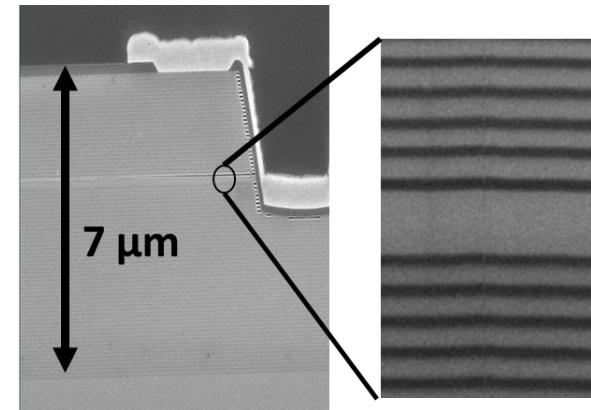
MBE growth of VCSELs

An example structure:
the growth of VCSEL

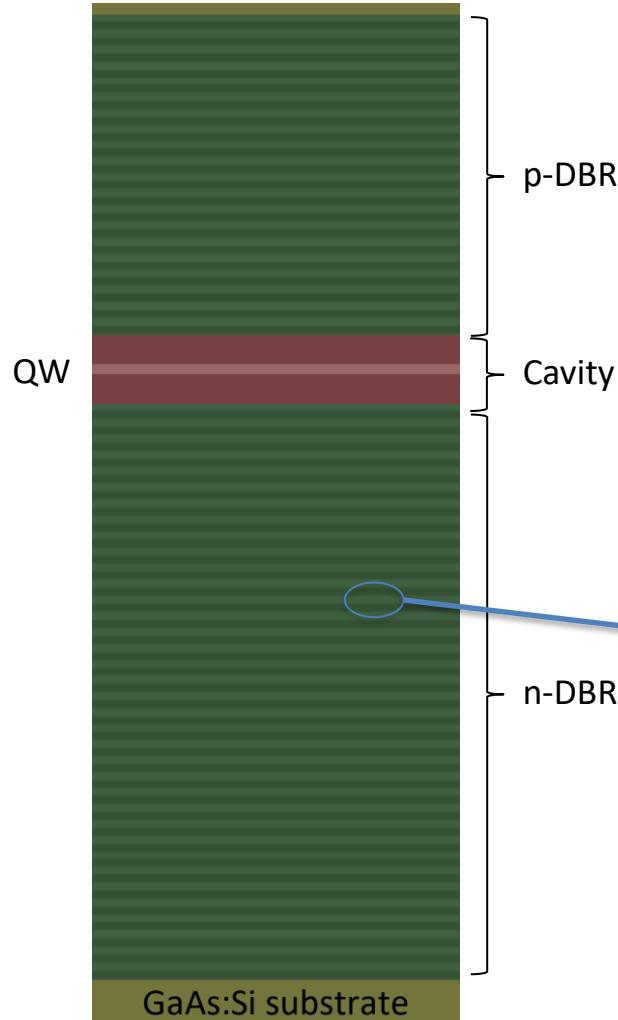
MBE growth of VCSELs



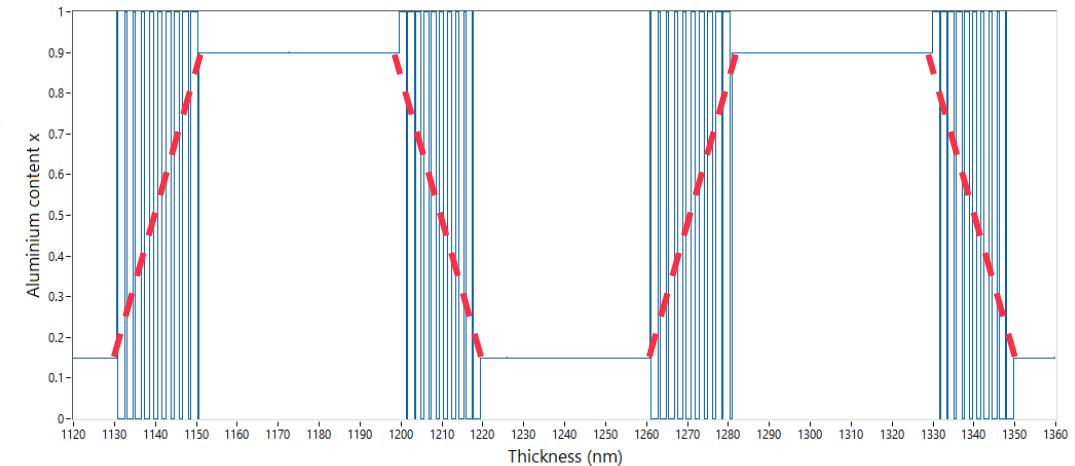
- Vertical Cavity Surface Emitting Lasers (VCSELs) are complex structures (>3000 layers, >17H growth)
- The vertical geometry permits the simultaneous processing of lasers, and the fabrication of laser matrices
- VCSELs are used in datacom, lidars, face recognition, etc...



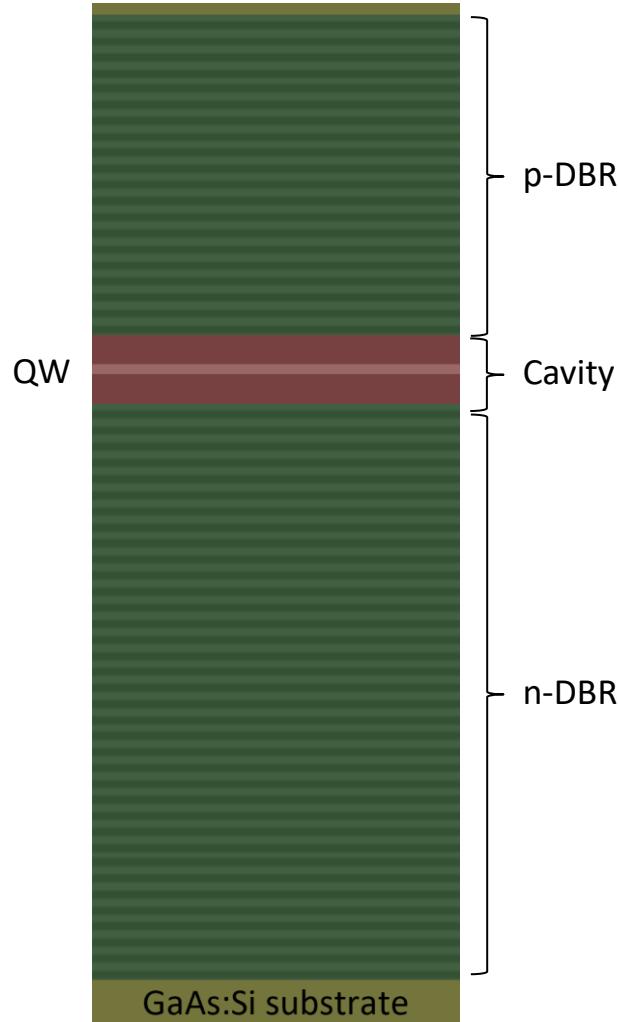
MBE growth of VCSELs



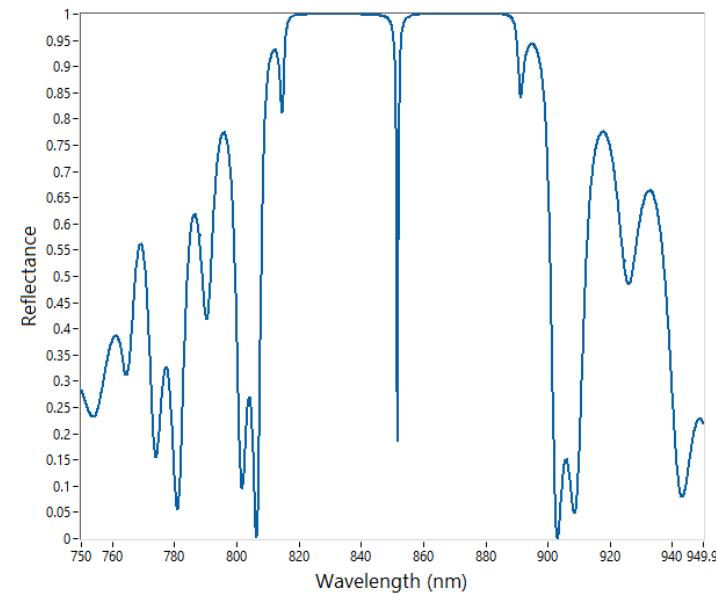
- Vertical Cavity Surface Emitting Lasers (VCSELs) are complex structures. (>3000 layers, >17H growth)
- The vertical geometry permits the simultaneous processing of lasers, and the fabrication of laser matrices.
- VCSELs are used in datacom, LiDARs, face recognition, etc...



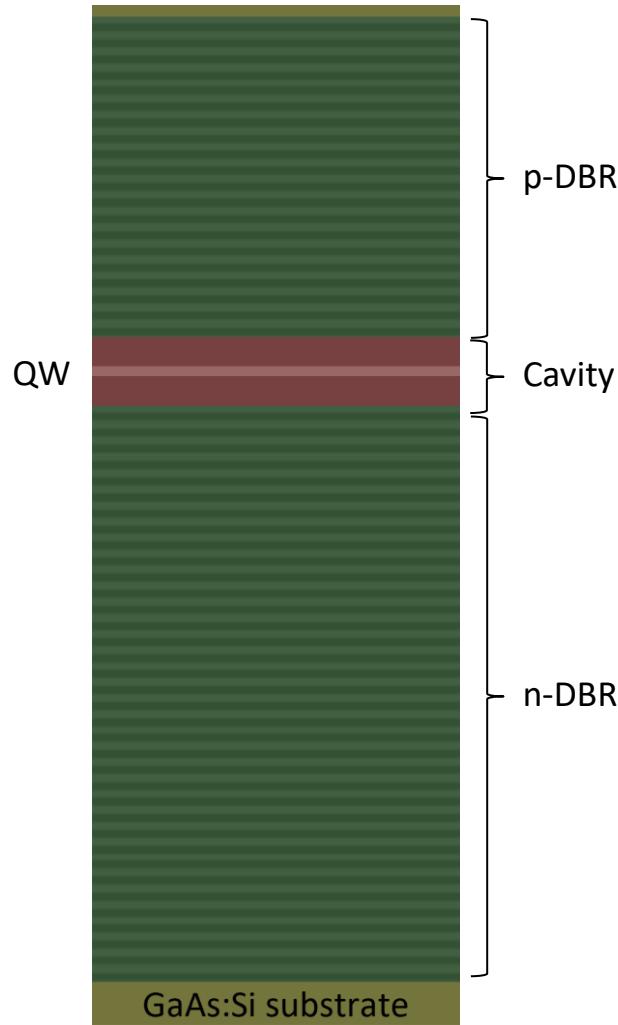
MBE growth of VCSELs



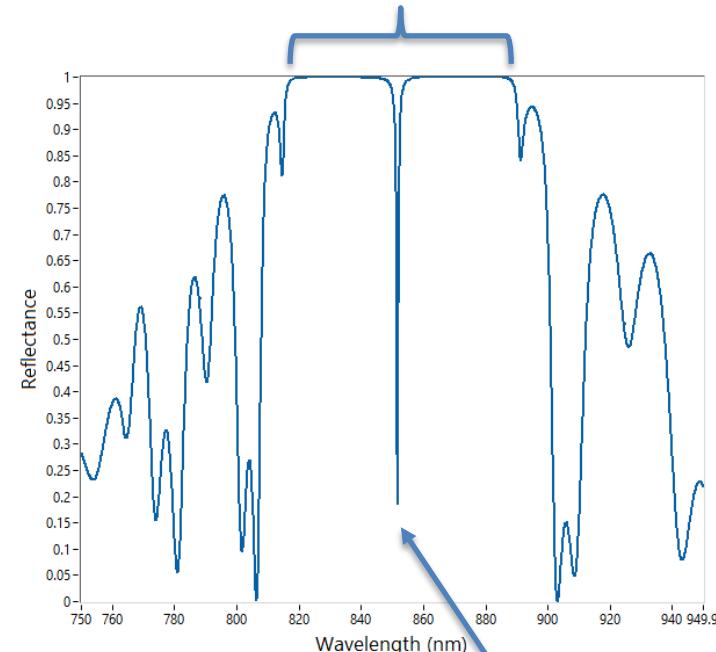
Reflectance spectrum of a VCSEL at RT



MBE growth of VCSELs

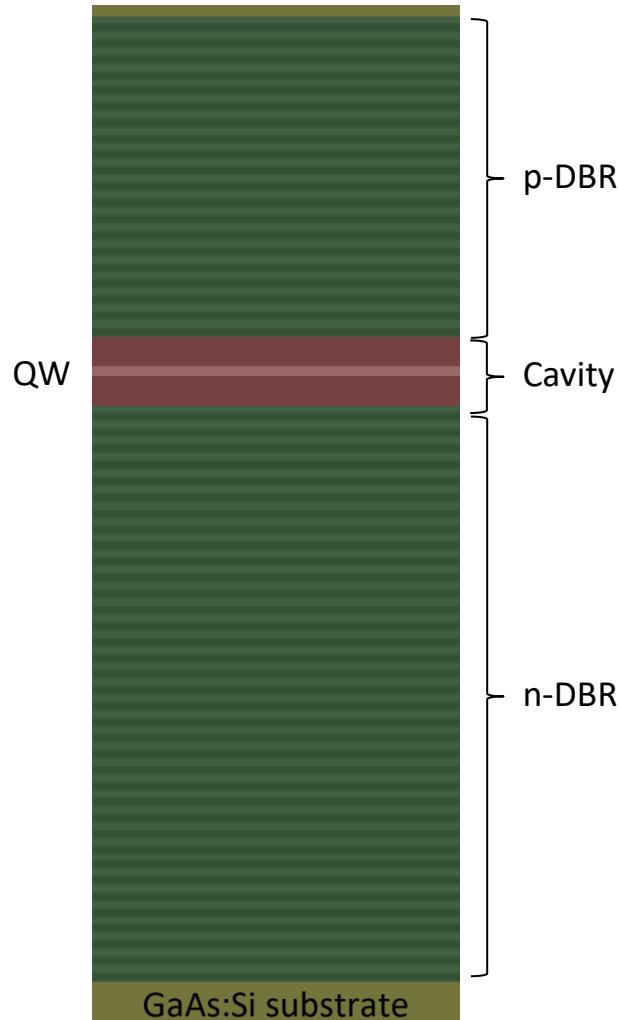


Reflectance spectrum of a VCSEL at RT
High reflectivity plateau

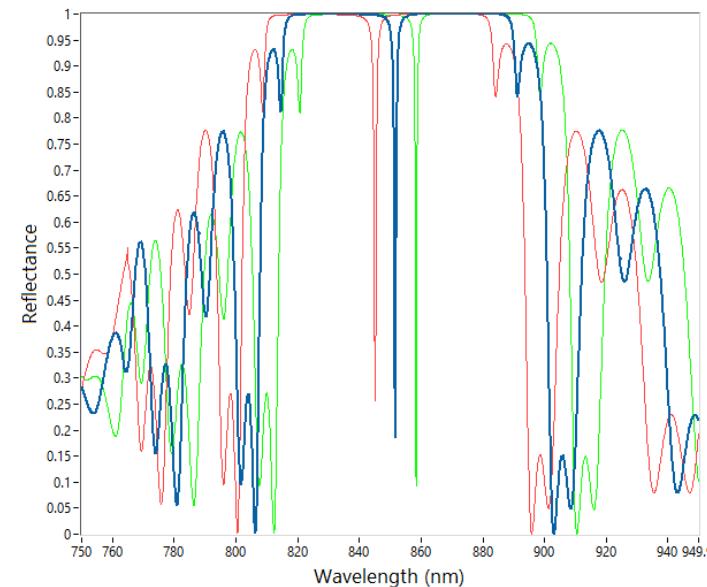


Fabry Perot dip

MBE growth of VCSELs



Reflectance spectrum of a VCSEL at RT

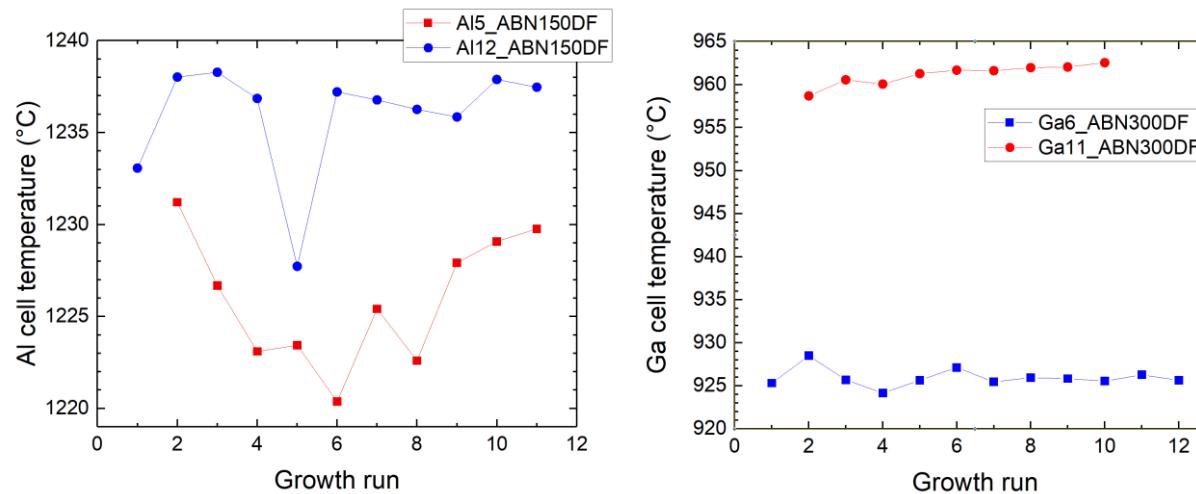


$\pm 1\%$ flux variation $\rightarrow \pm 6\text{nm}$ wavelength variation

MBE growth of VCSELs

> MBE solid-sources are not very stable

- Flux transients when cell opening can be >10% of the nominal flux
- Flux drifts due to effusion cells depletion
- ...



Cells equivalent temperature for 1 $\mu\text{m}/\text{h}$ growth rate over VCSEL run

In situ characterization tools in MBE

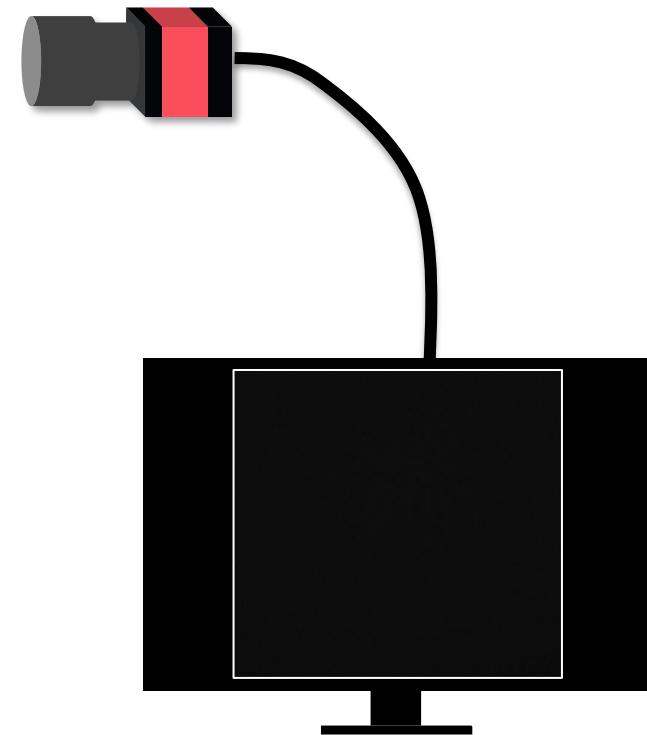
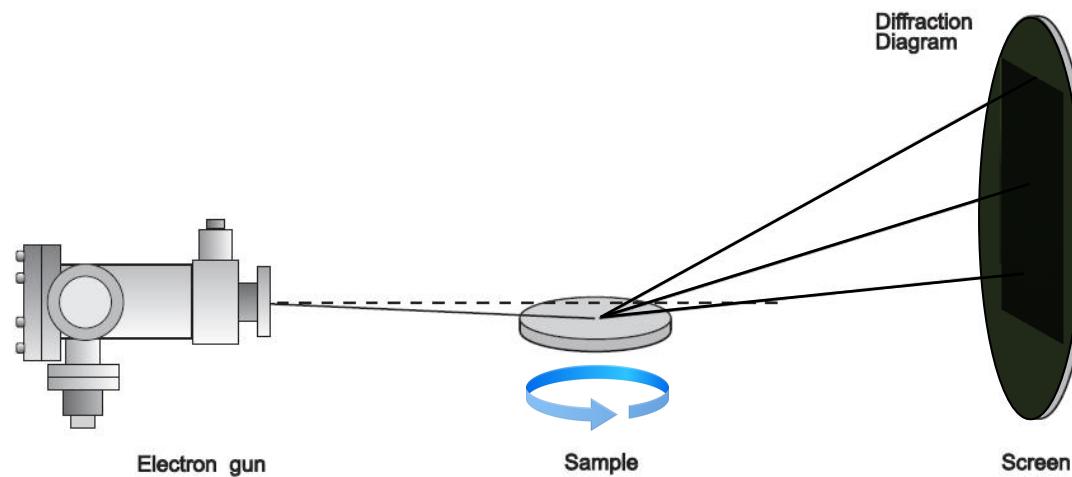
Focus on some instruments

In-situ characterization tools:

RHEED

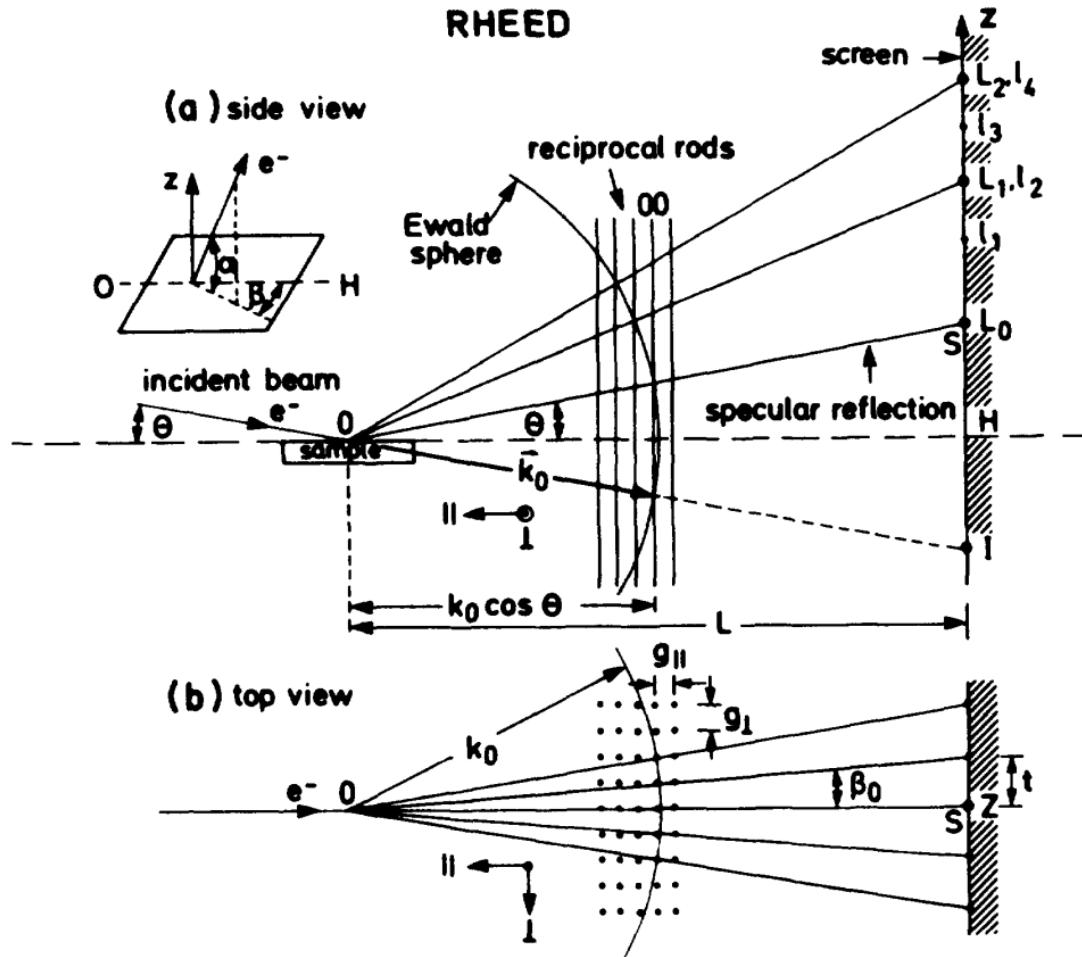
(Reflection High Energy Electron Diffraction)

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED



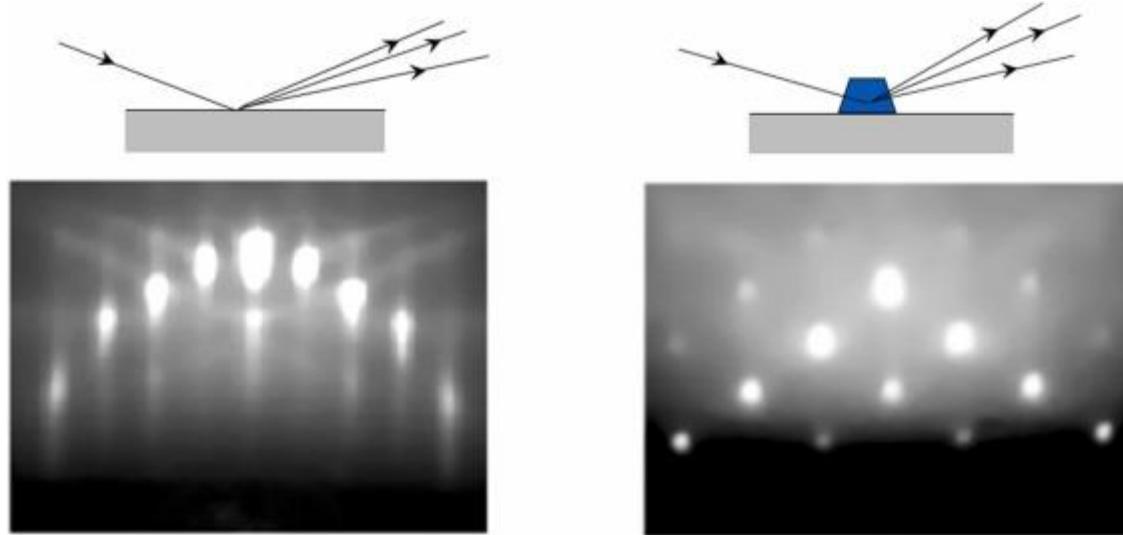
- Diffraction pattern
 - Surface morphology
 - Reconstruction (V/III ratio, temperature, ...)
 - Roughness (2D-3D growth, ...)
 - Growth rate

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED



I. Hernandez-Calderon, H. Höchst, Phys. Rev. B 27 (1983) 4961

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

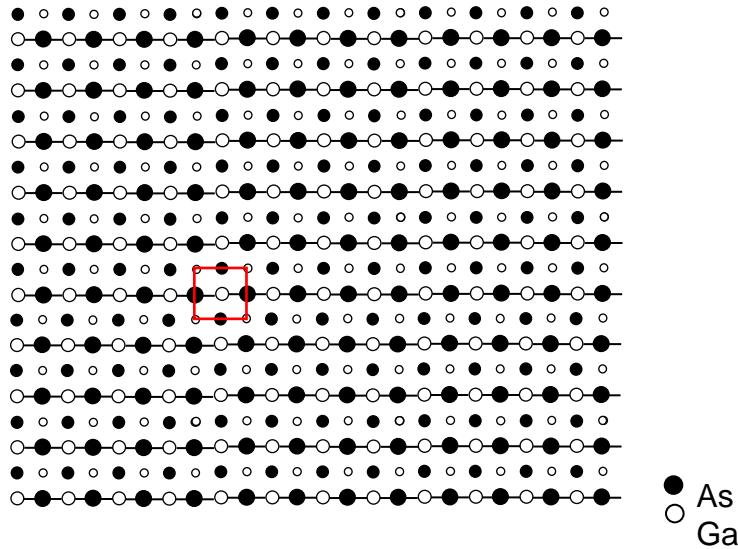


Roughness (2D-3D growth, ...)

M.A. Hafez, M.K. Zayed, H.E. Elsayed-Ali
Geometric interpretation of reflection and transmission RHEED patterns
Micron, 159 (2022), Article 103286

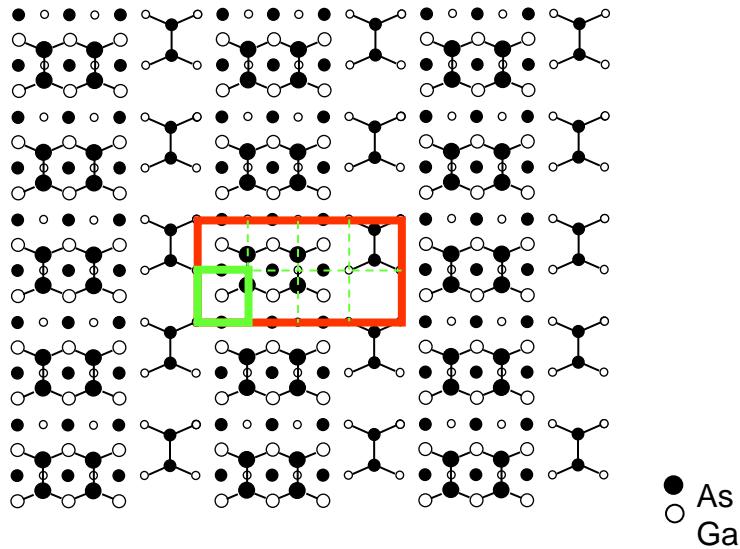
In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

GaAs (001)
Ideal surface

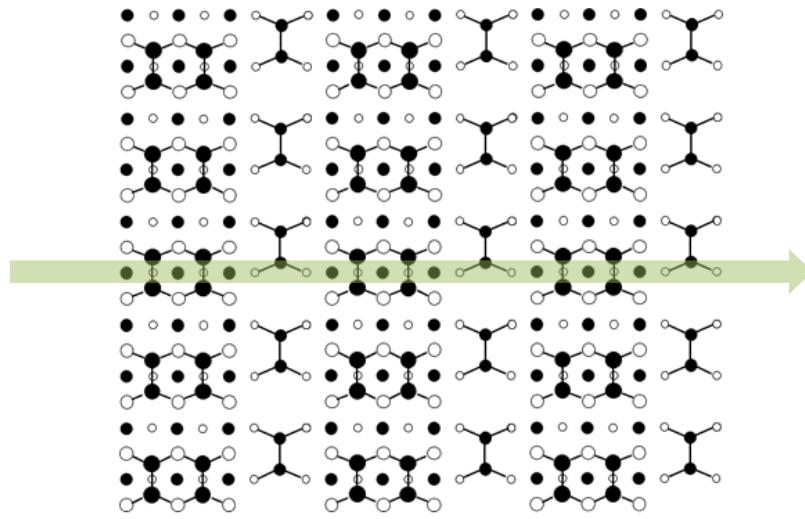


In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

GaAs (001)
 $\beta 2(2 \times 4)$ surface reconstruction



In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED



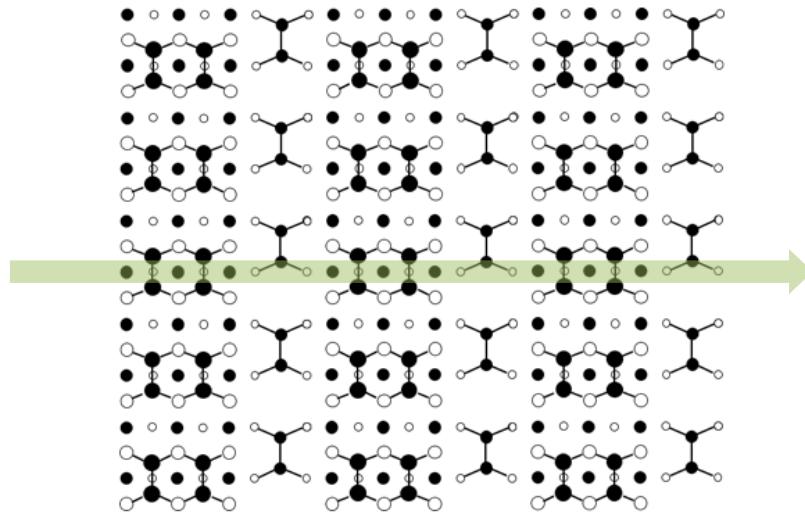
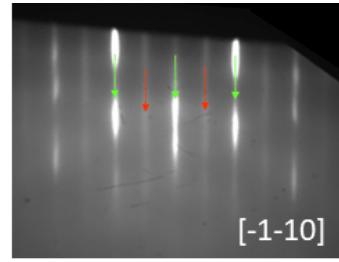
Live RHEED

GaAs (001) $\beta_2(2\times 4)$ surface reconstruction

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

Image capture
synchronized to
rotation

One image every
 $2\pi/n$ ($n=2, 4, \dots$)



GaAs (001) $\beta_2(2\times 4)$ surface reconstruction

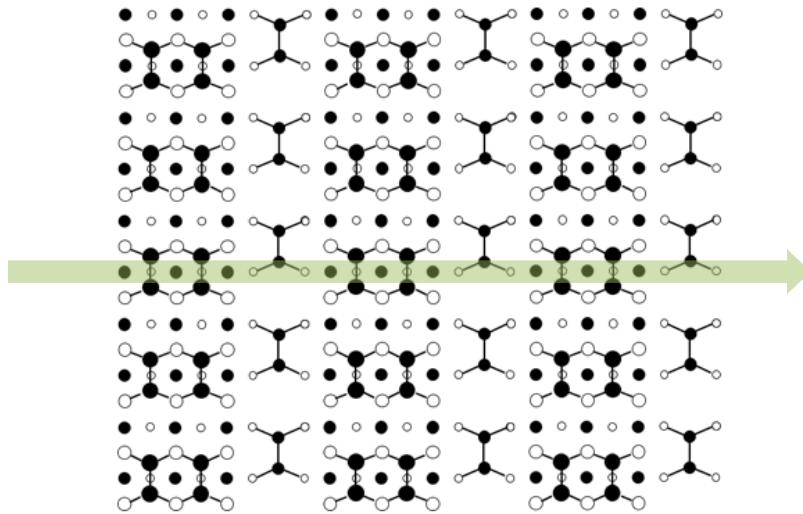
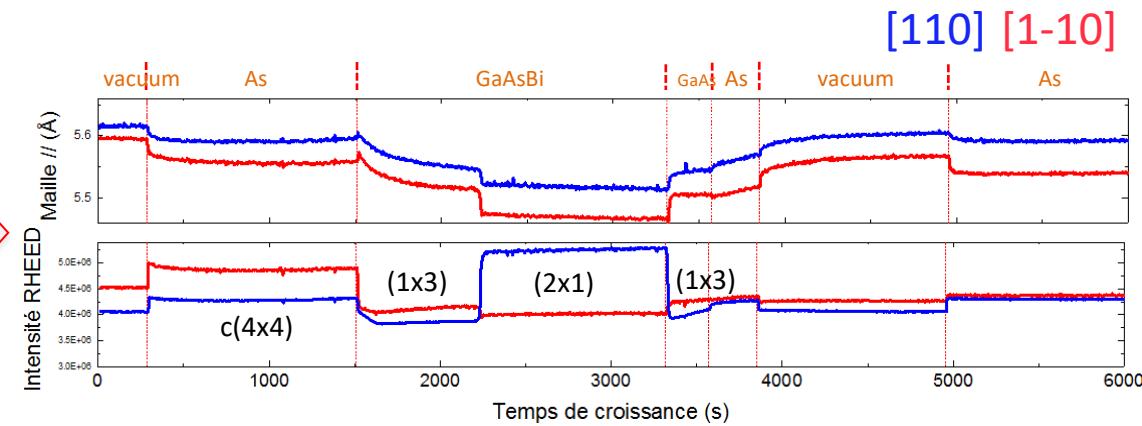
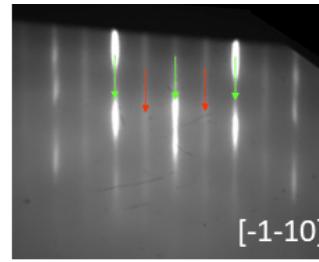


Live RHEED

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

Image capture
synchronized to
rotation

One image every
 $2\pi/n$ ($n=2, 4, \dots$)

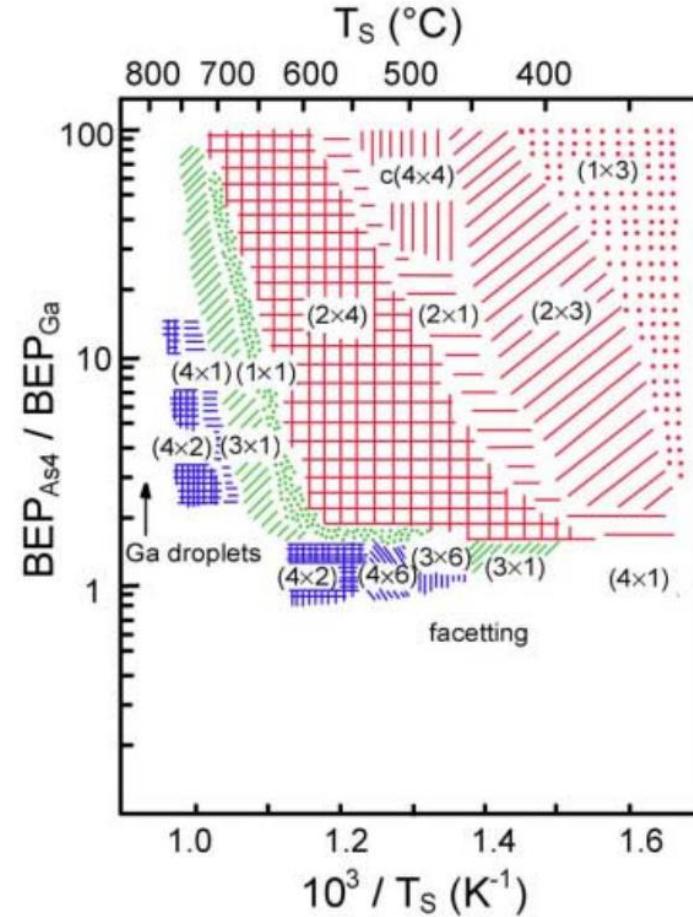


Live RHEED

GaAs (001) $\beta2(2\times4)$ surface reconstruction

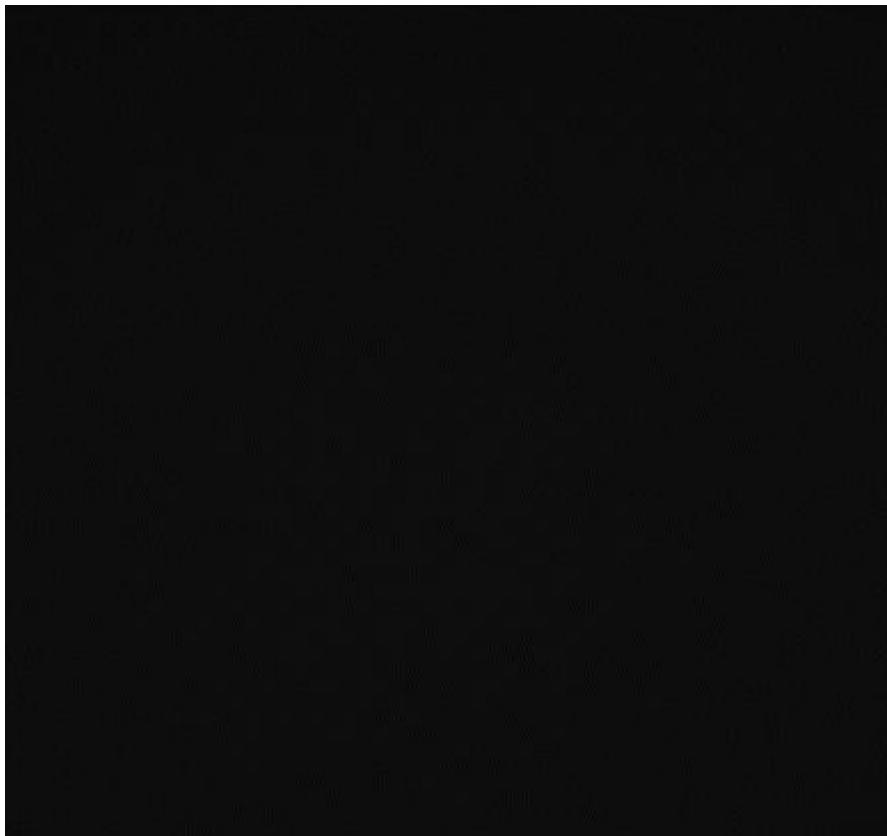
In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

Surface phase diagram for GaAs(001) growth from Ga and As₄



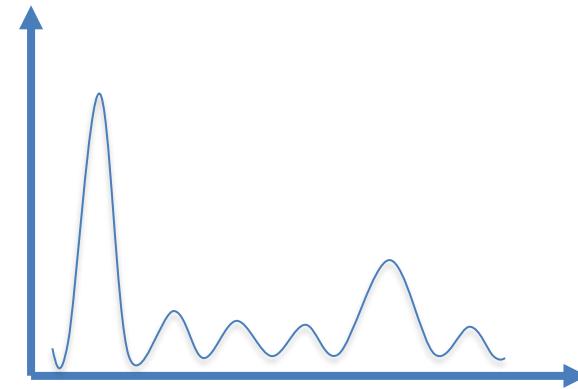
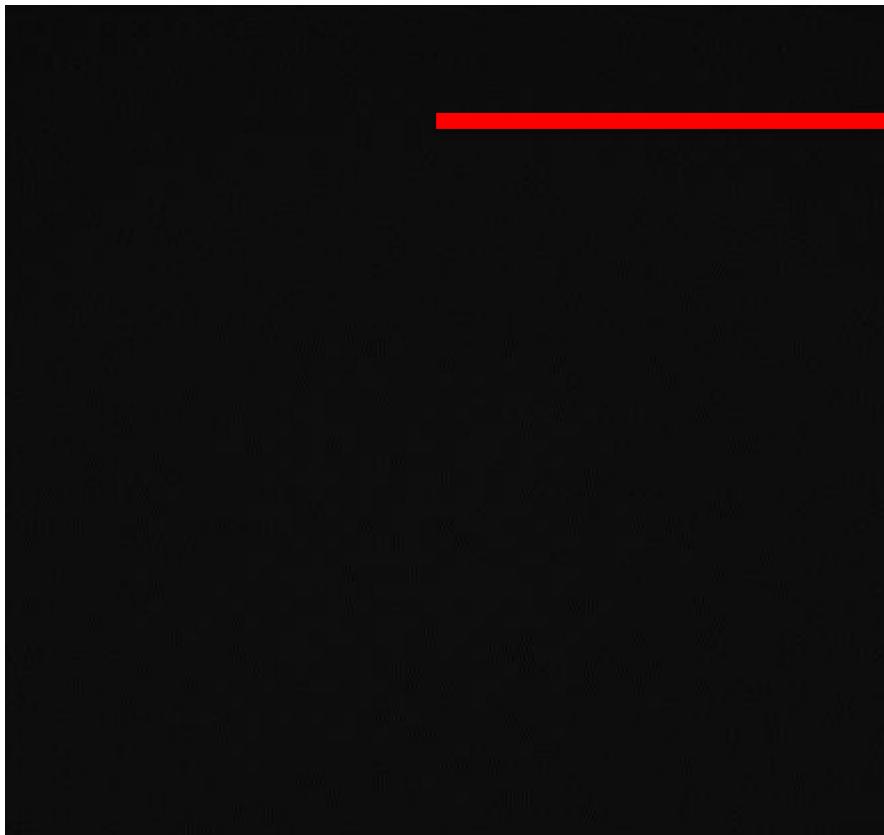
L. Däweritz, R. Hey Surf. Sci. 236, 15(1990)

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED



GaAs (001) - T = 580°C – 12 rpm
 $\beta_2(2\times 4)$ surface reconstruction

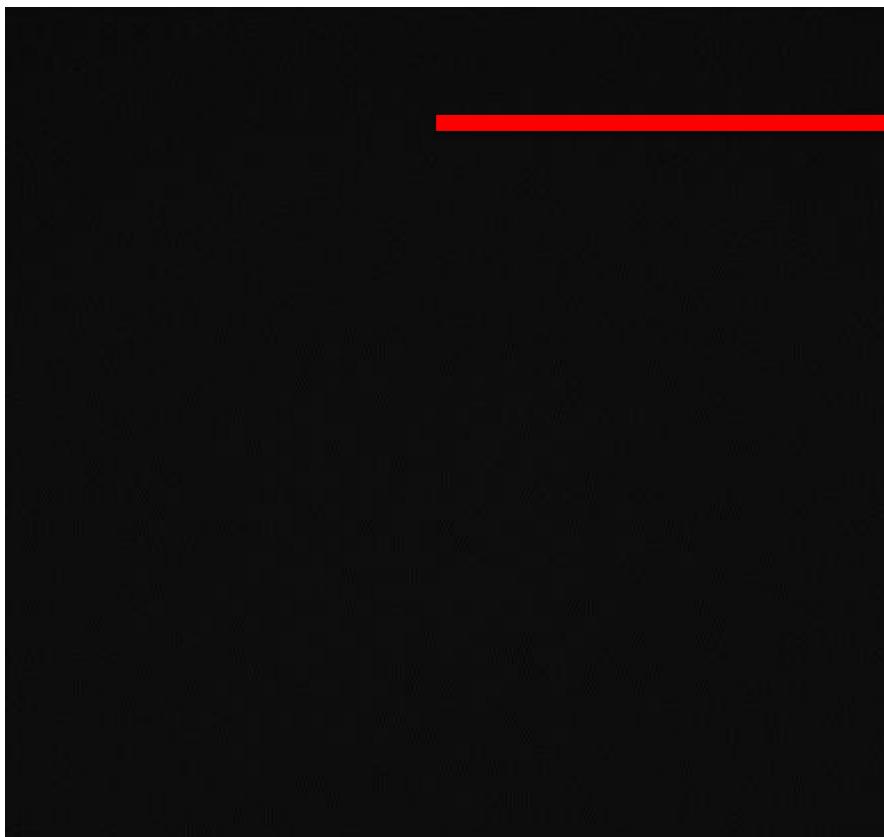
In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED



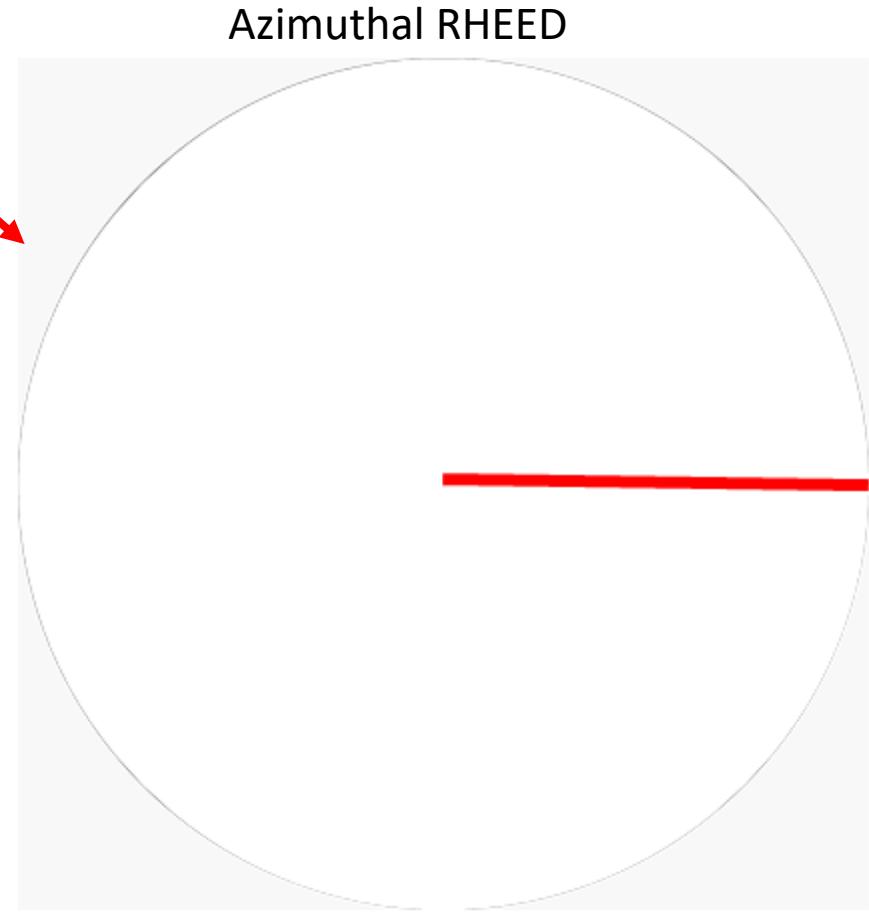
Get intensity profiles for each rotation angle

GaAs (001) - T = 580°C – 12 rpm
 $\beta_2(2\times 4)$ surface reconstruction

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED



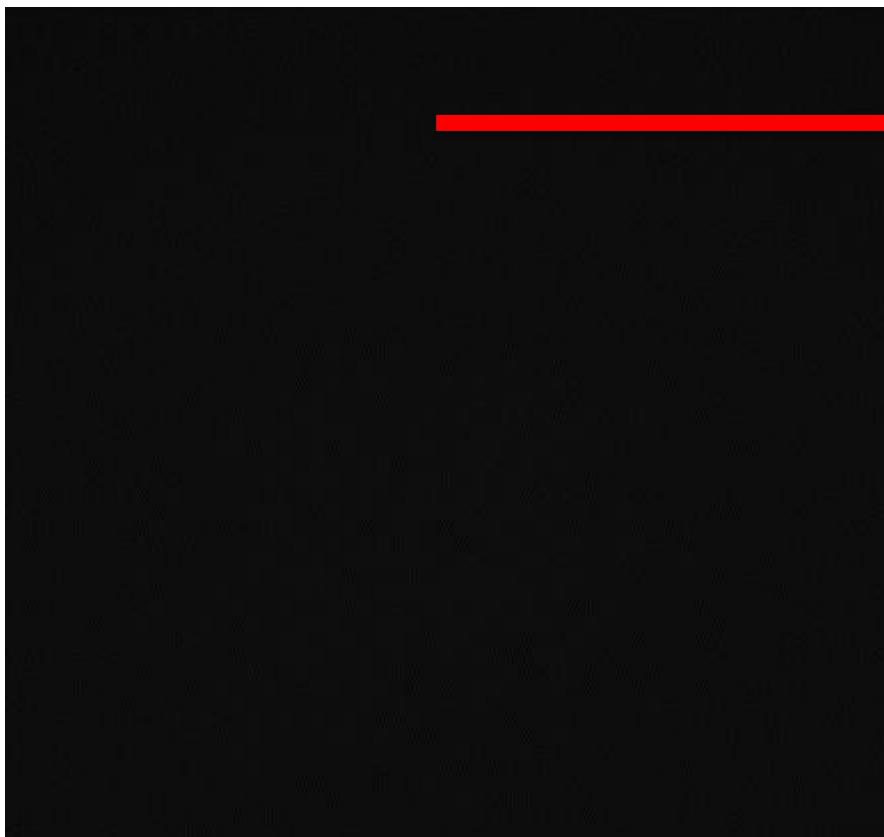
GaAs (001) - T = 580°C – 12 rpm
 $\beta_2(2\times 4)$ surface reconstruction



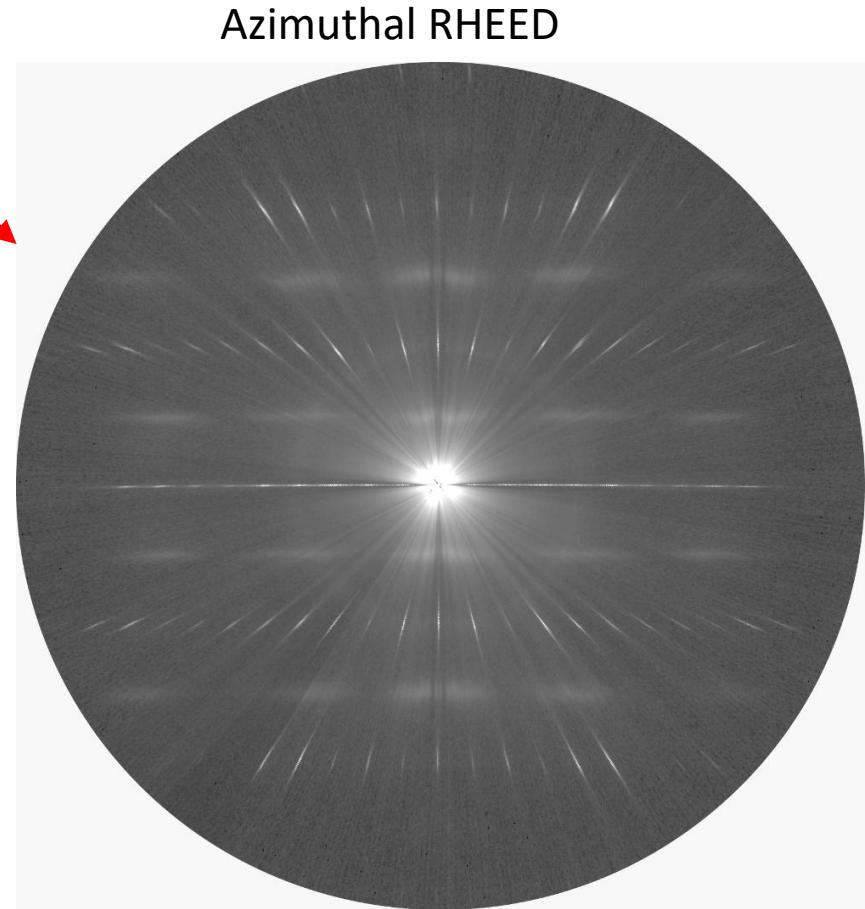
W. Braun, Applied RHEED, Springer (1999)
Paul Drude Institute Berlin / iRHEED website

→ Surface reconstruction / crystal phase

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED



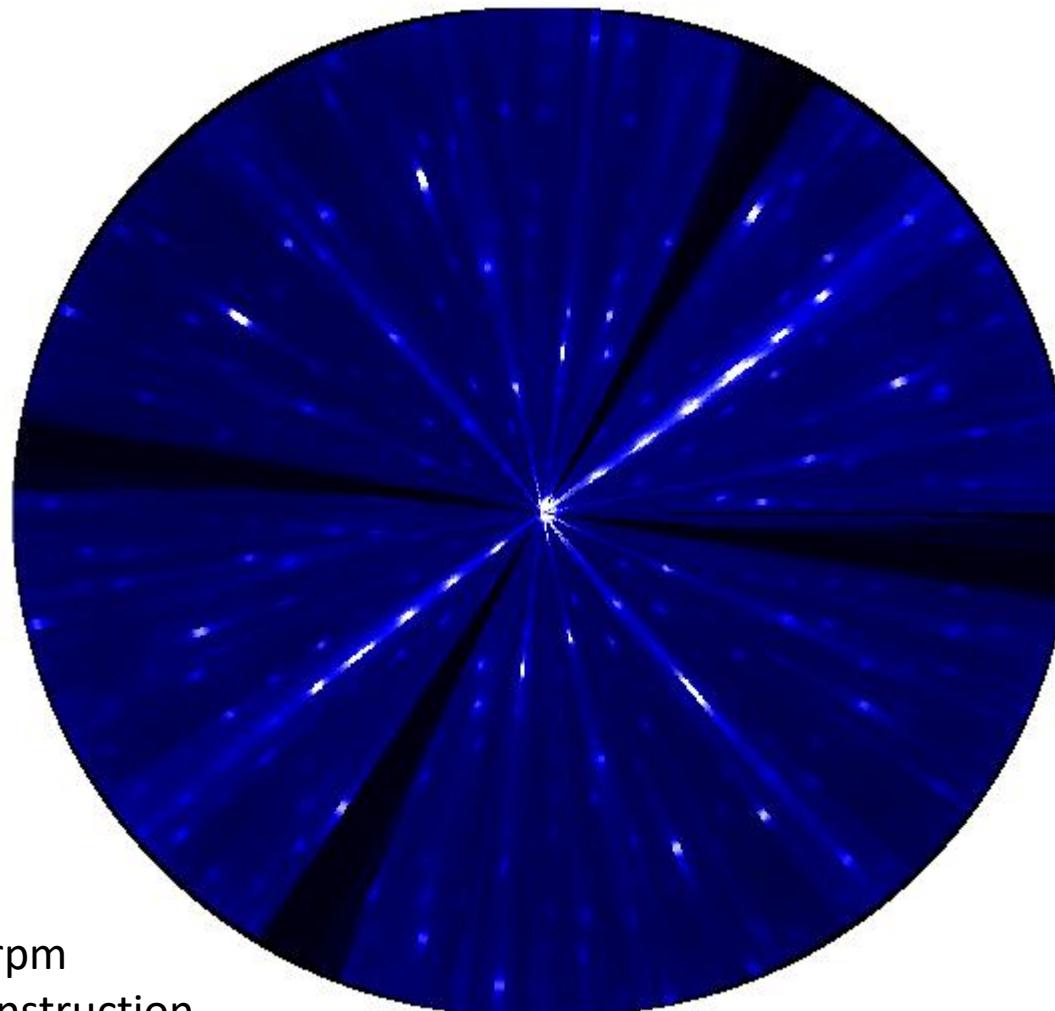
GaAs (001) - T = 580°C – 12 rpm
 $\beta_2(2\times 4)$ surface reconstruction



W. Braun, Applied RHEED, Springer (1999)
Paul Drude Institute Berlin / iRHEED website

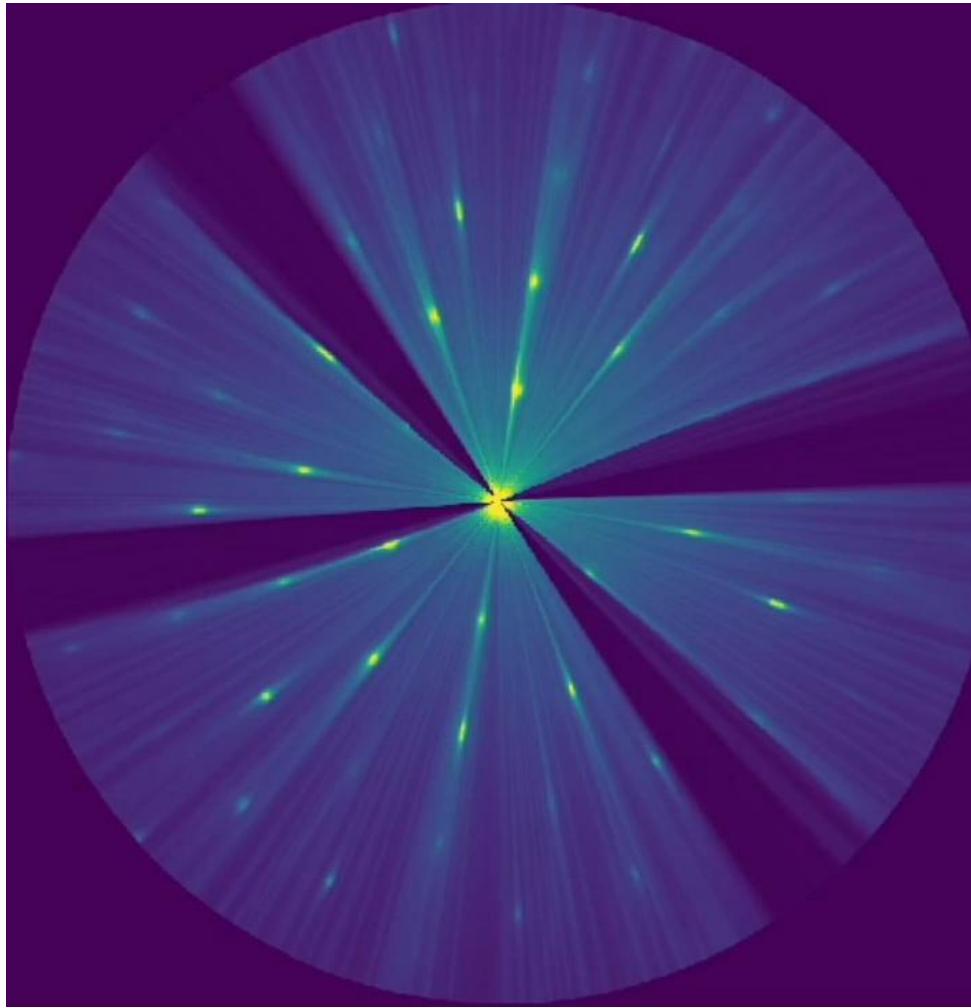
→ Surface reconstruction / crystal phase

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED



At LAAS – rotation at 4 rpm
GaAs (2x4) surface reconstruction

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED



BiSbTe on Si (111)
 $(\sqrt{3} \times \sqrt{3})$ surface

Courtesy S. P. Plissard – LAAS-CNRS

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

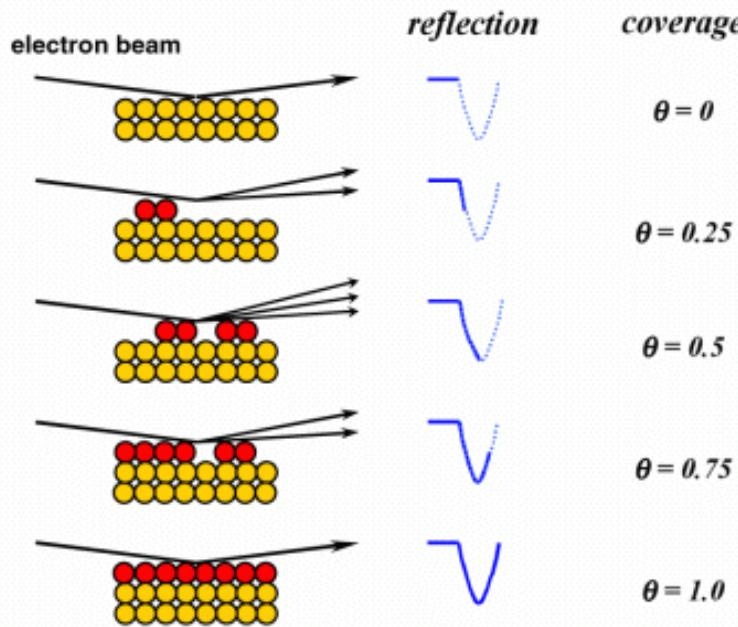
RHEED can also be used to calibrate growth rate, provided that

- No rotation (!)
- Substrate is small to reduce non homogeneity of growth rate along its surface ($\sim 1 \text{ cm}^2$)

In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

RHEED can also be used to calibrate growth rate, provided that

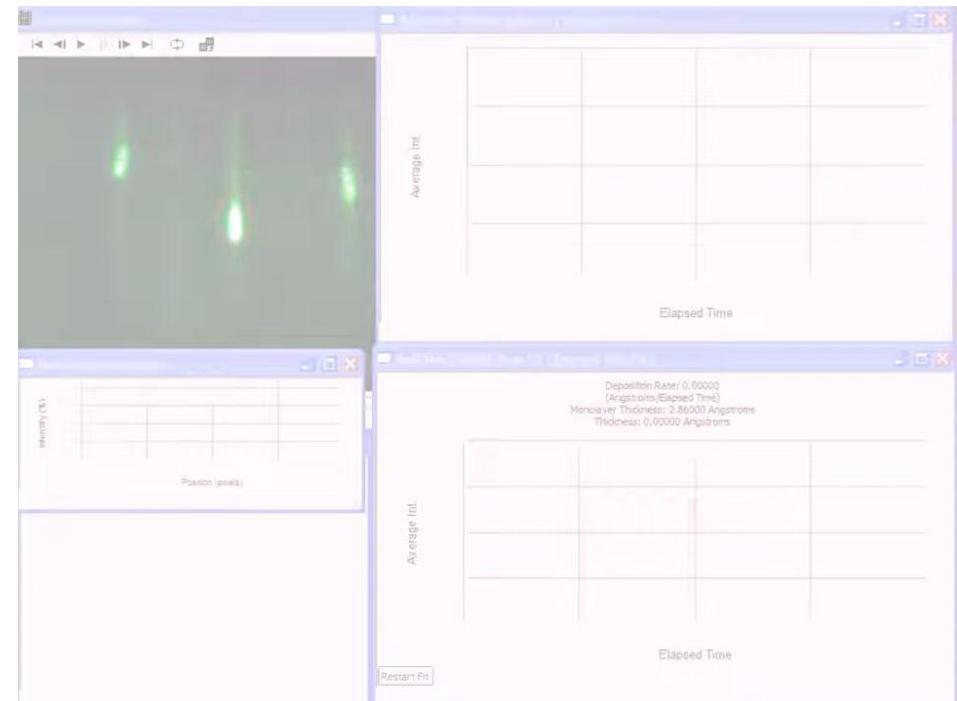
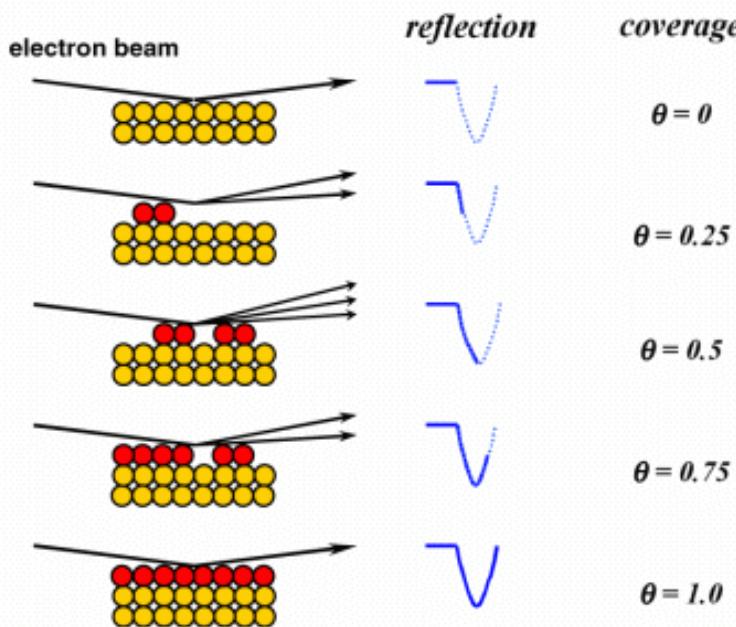
- No rotation (!)
- Substrate is small to reduce non homogeneity of growth rate along its surface ($\sim 1 \text{ cm}^2$)



In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

RHEED can also be used to calibrate growth rate, provided that

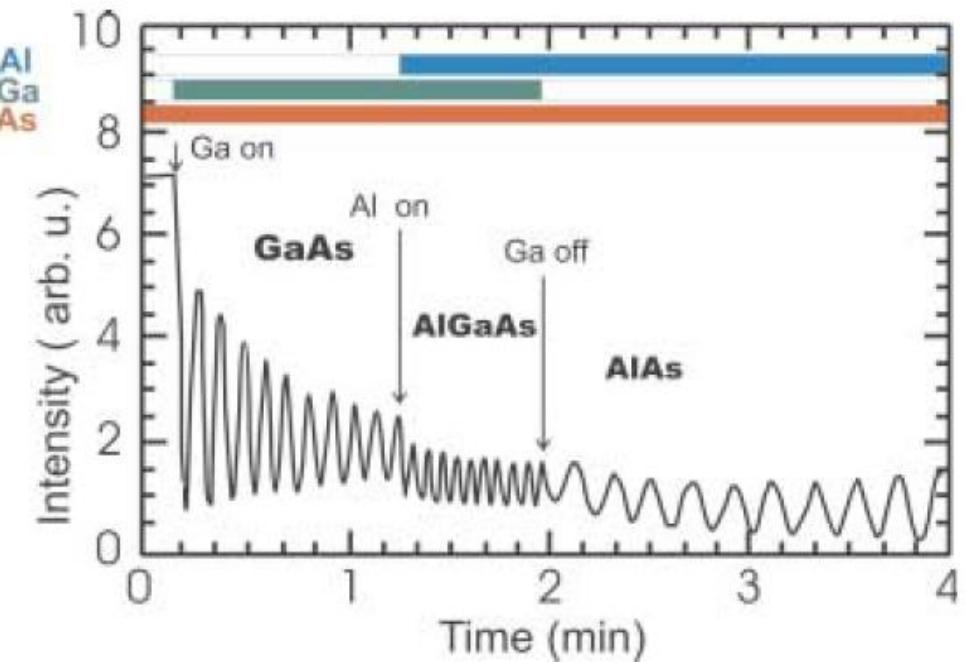
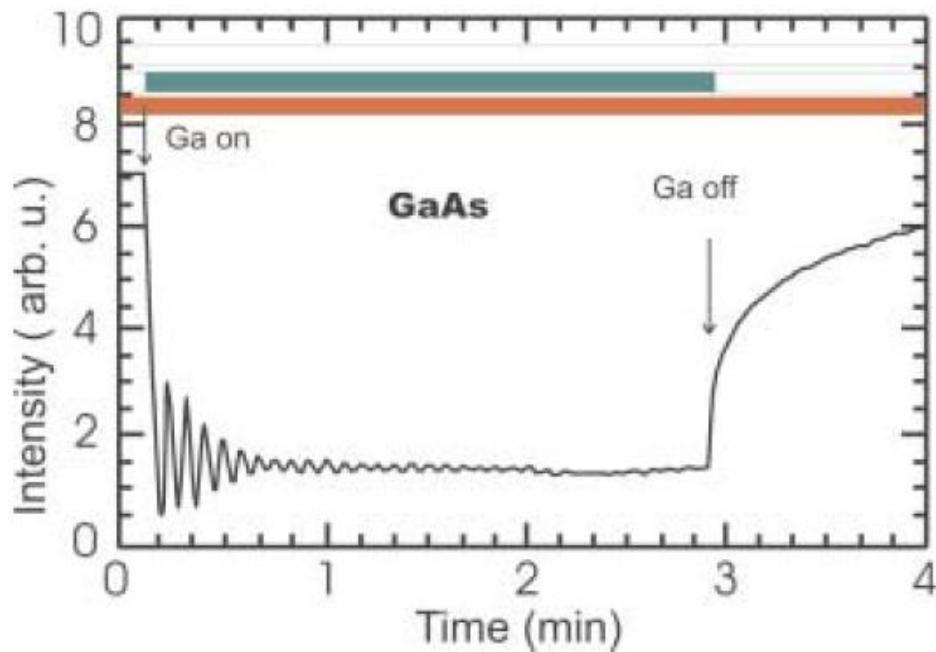
- No rotation (!)
- Substrate is small to reduce non homogeneity of growth rate along its surface ($\sim 1 \text{ cm}^2$)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMTsd9D8vAM>

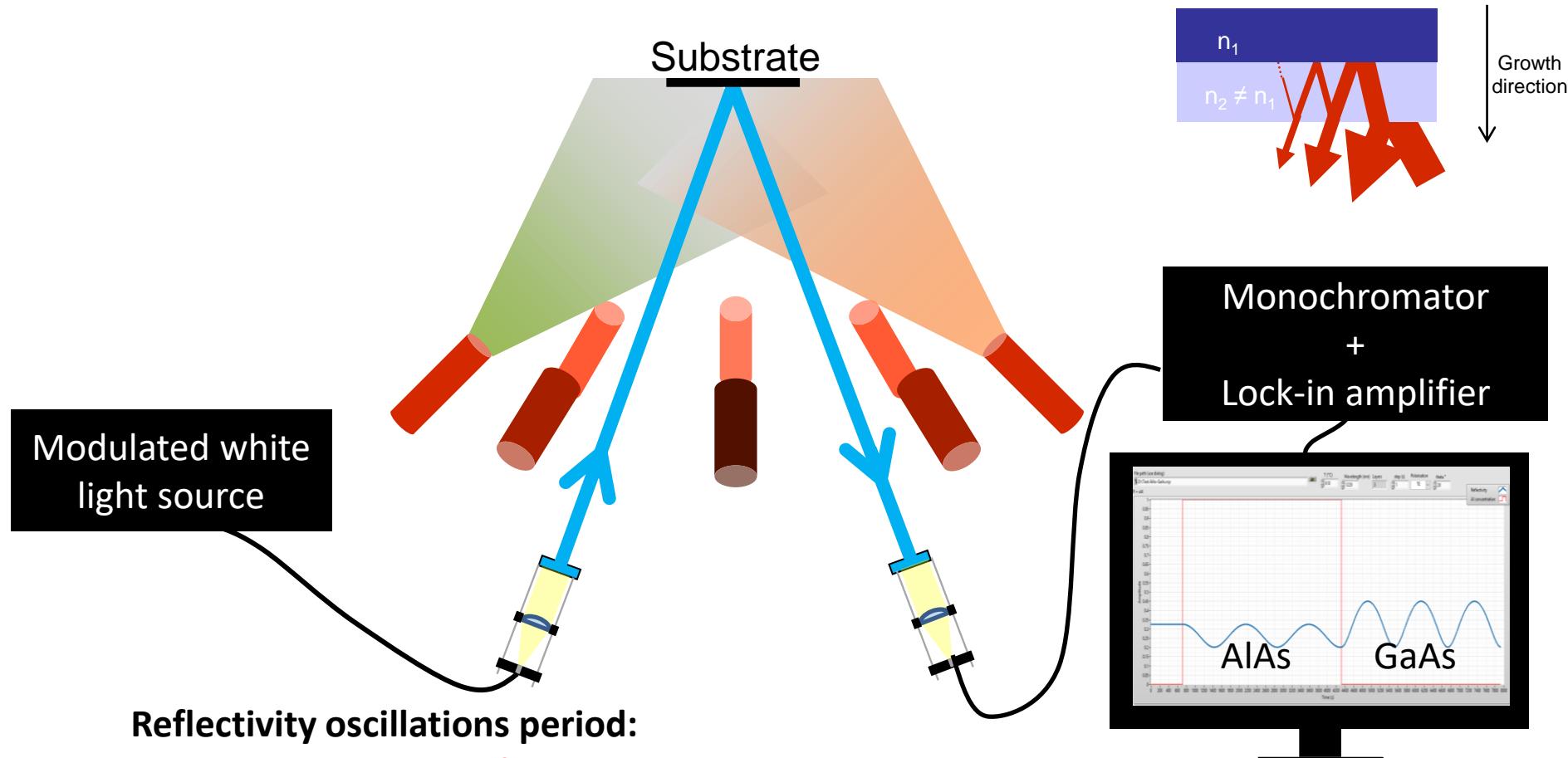
In situ characterization tools in MBE: RHEED

RHEED specular spot intensity oscillations over time  growth rate



In-situ characterization tools: *Reflectivity*

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity

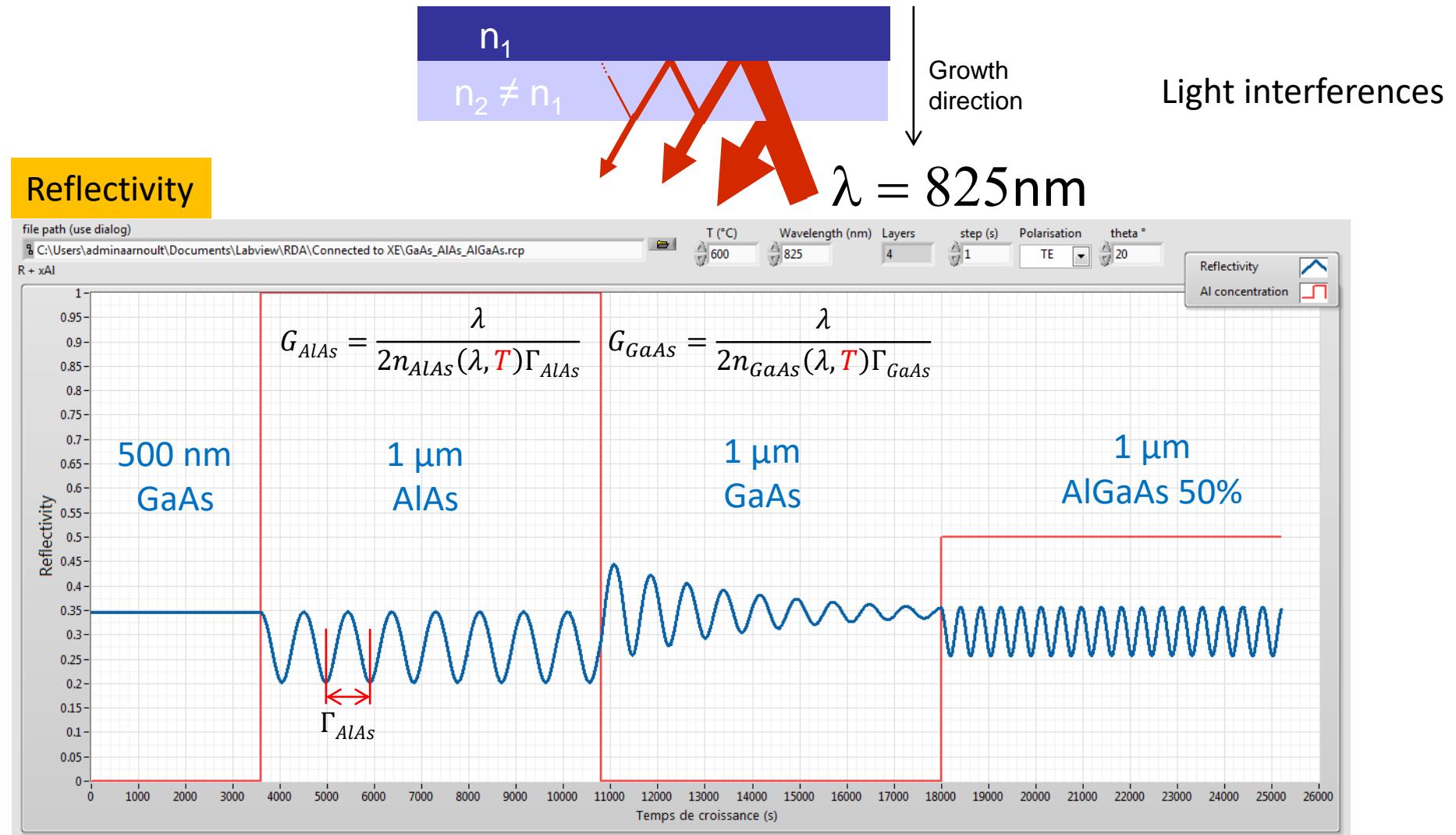


Reflectivity oscillations period:

- ⇒ Average growth rates
- ⇒ Average alloys concentrations
- ⇒ Optical indices (λ, T)

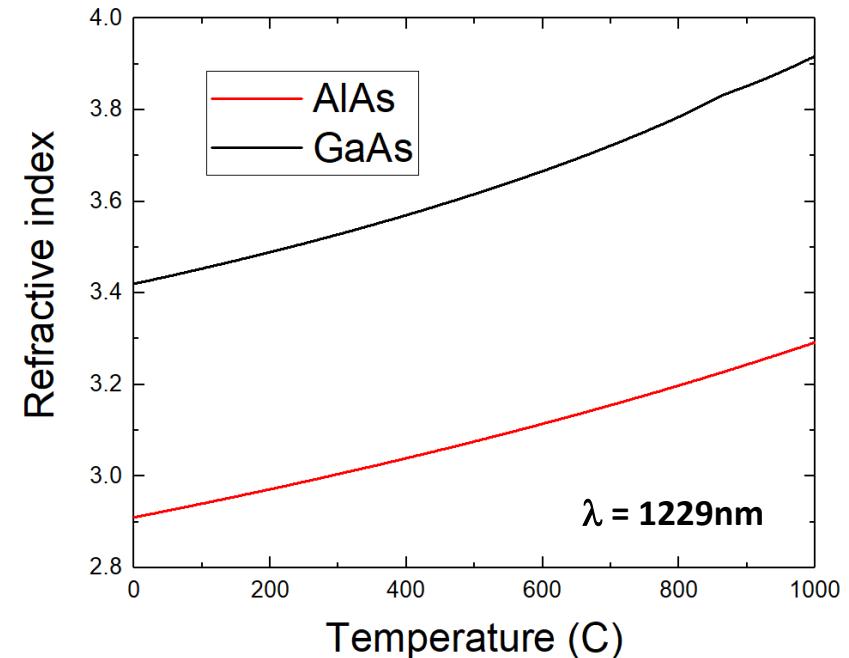
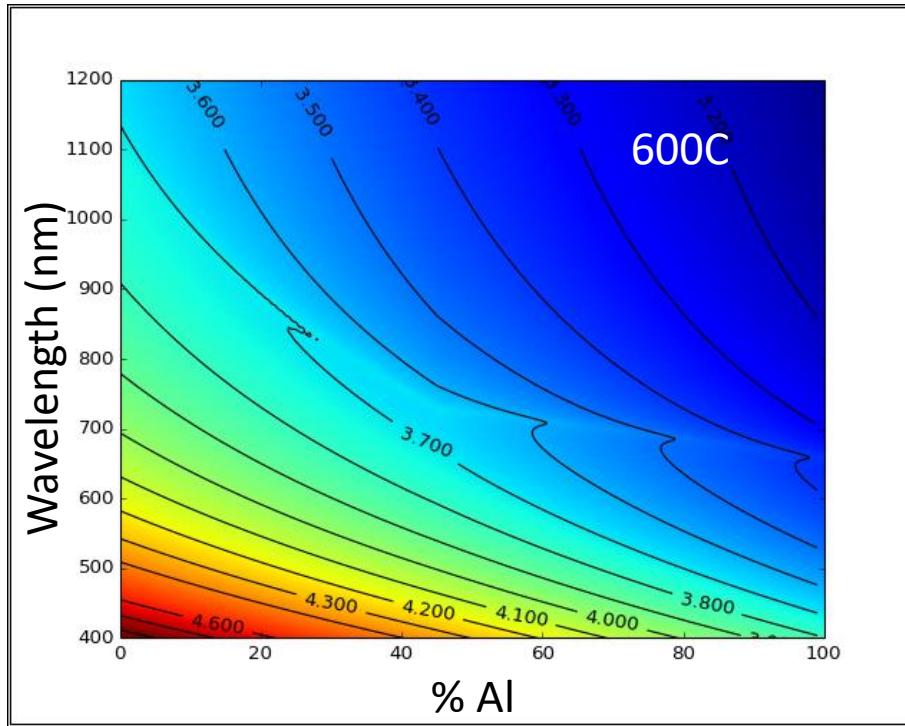
+ Real-time comparison with a model
(Abélès transfer matrices)

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity

- Optical index evolution with Al concentration and temperature

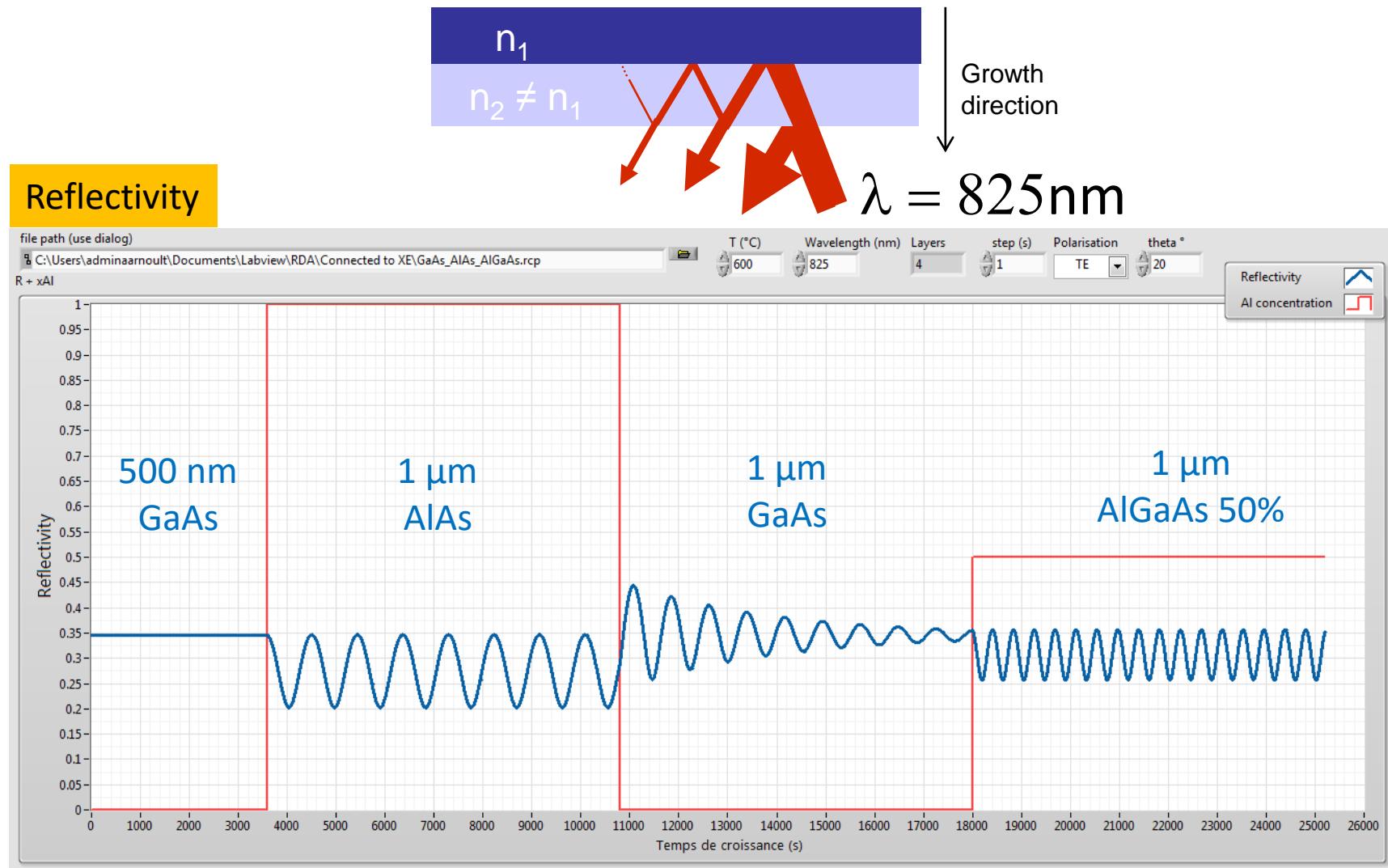


Data:

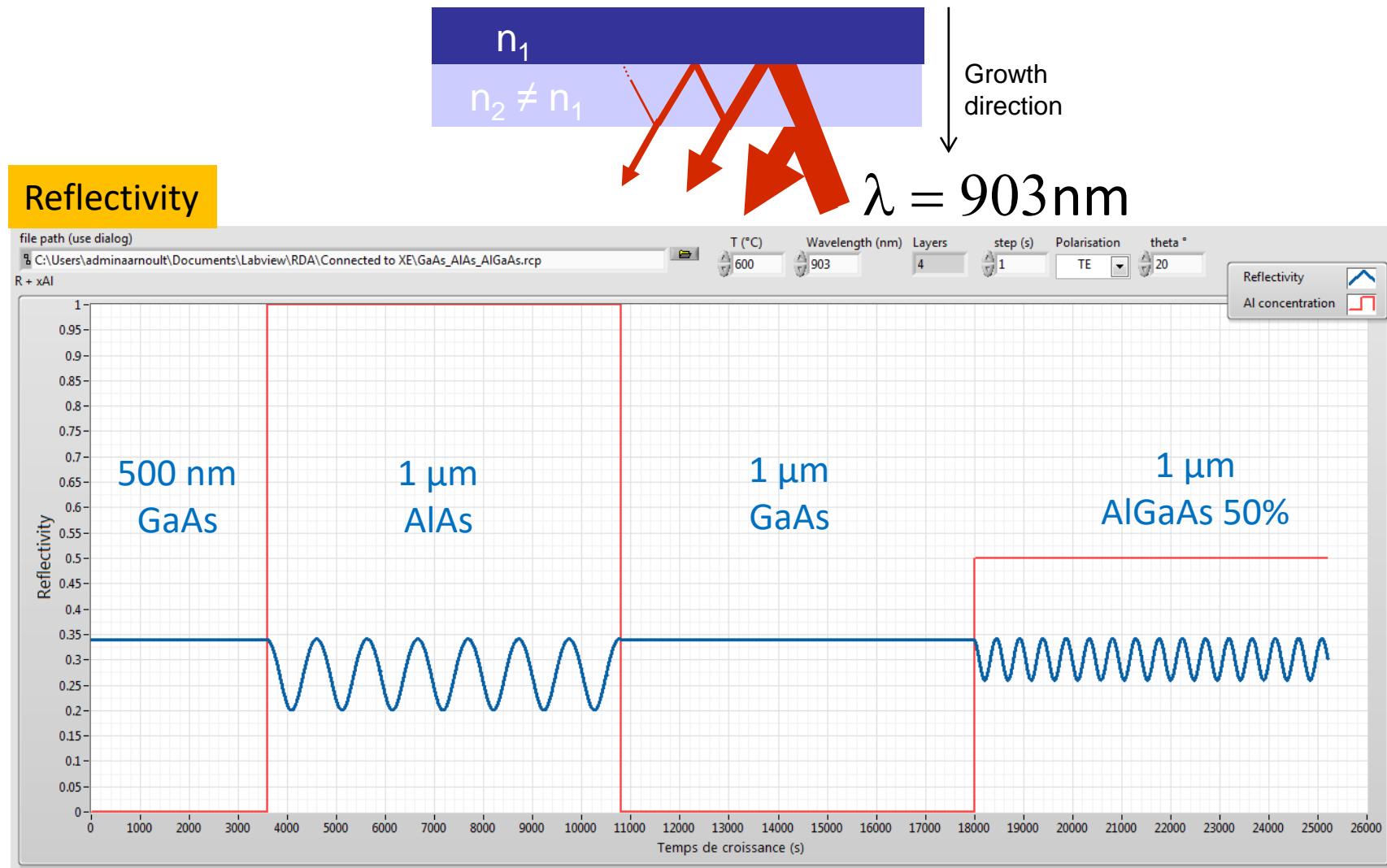
M.A.A. Afromovitz, *Solid State Commun. (USA)*, **15**, pp59-63 (1974)
K.P. O'Donnell, *Appl. Phys. Lett.* **58**, 2924 (1991)

→ **n evolves with T**
Need to know precisely T

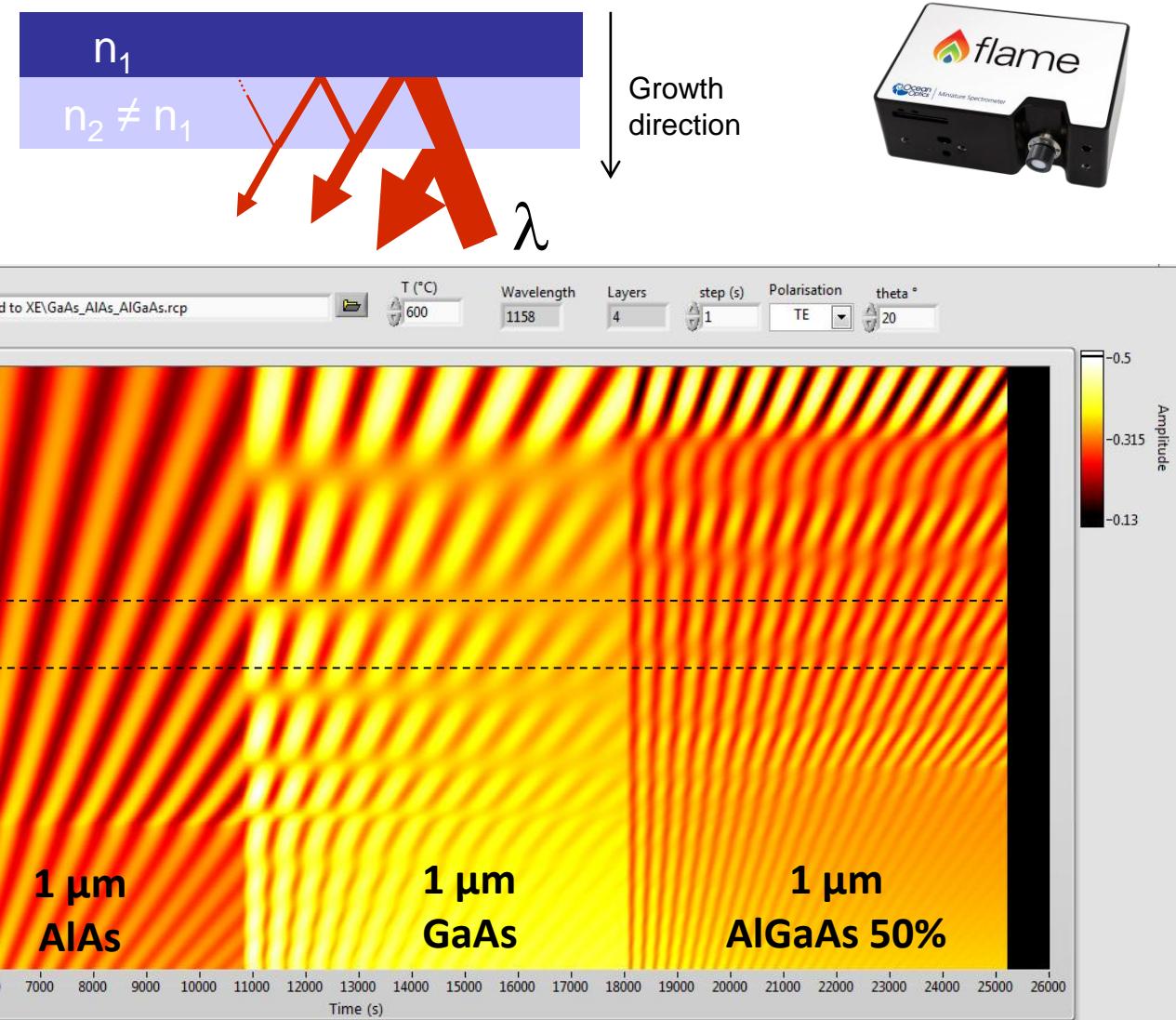
In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



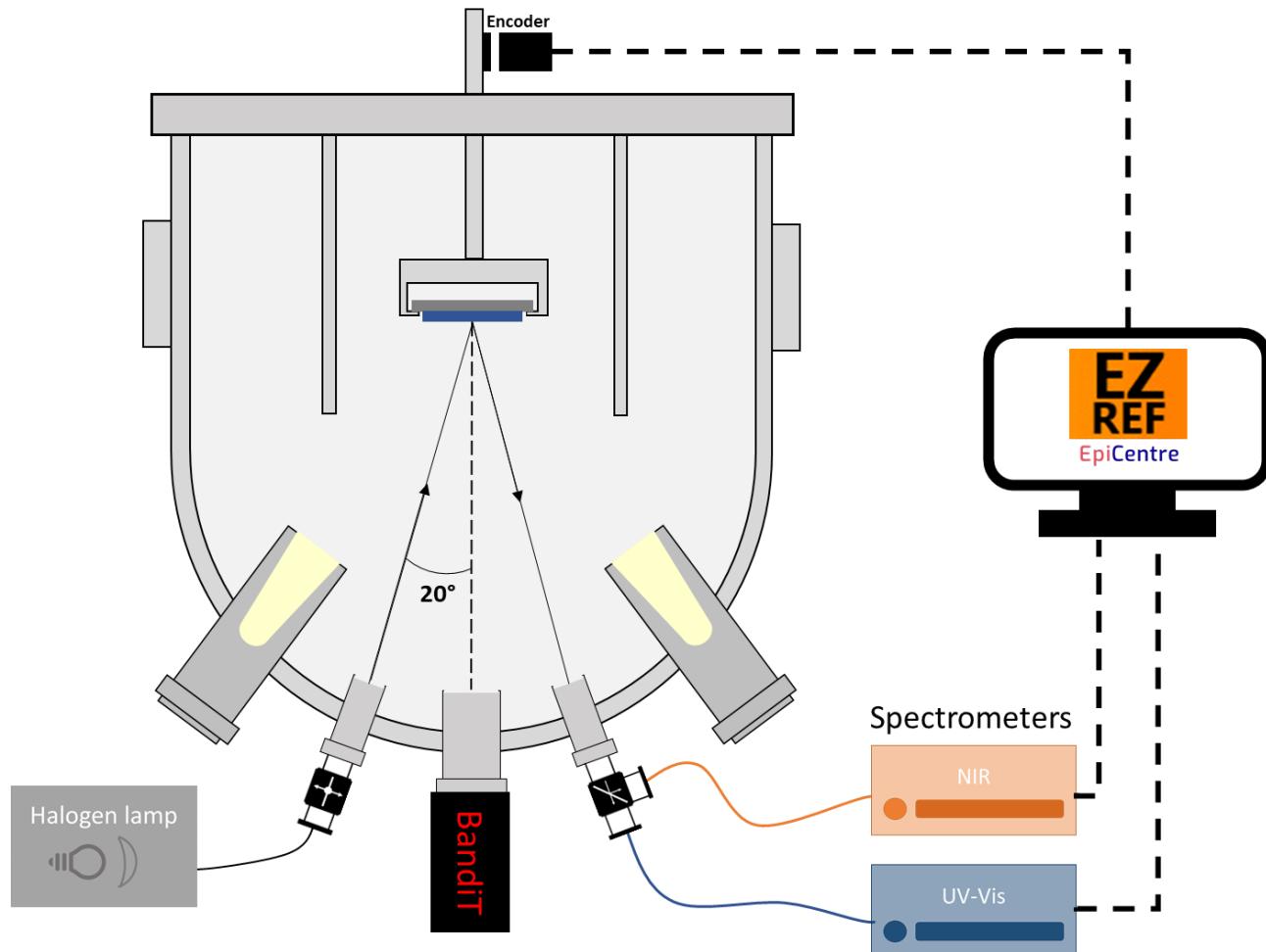
In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



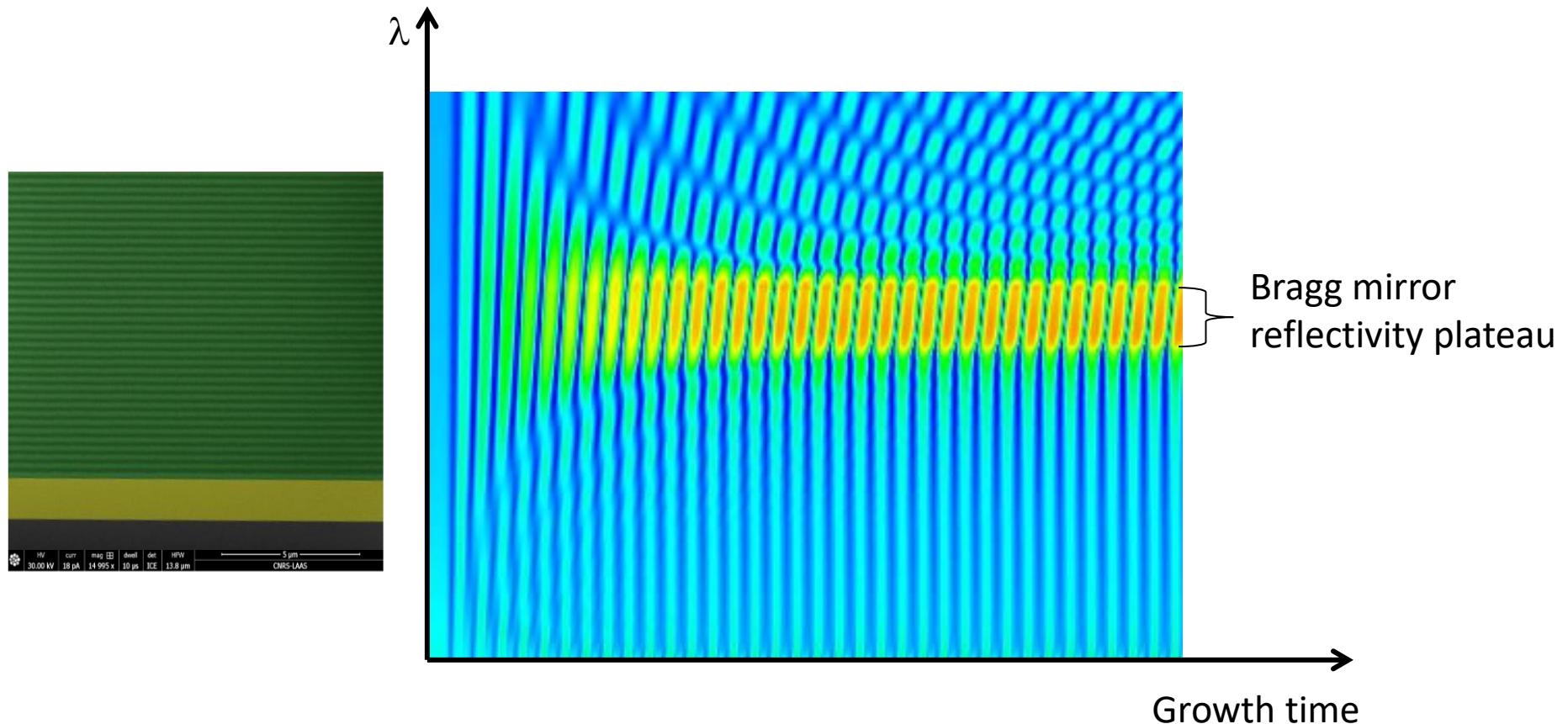
In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



Courtesy P. Gadras – LAAS-CNRS

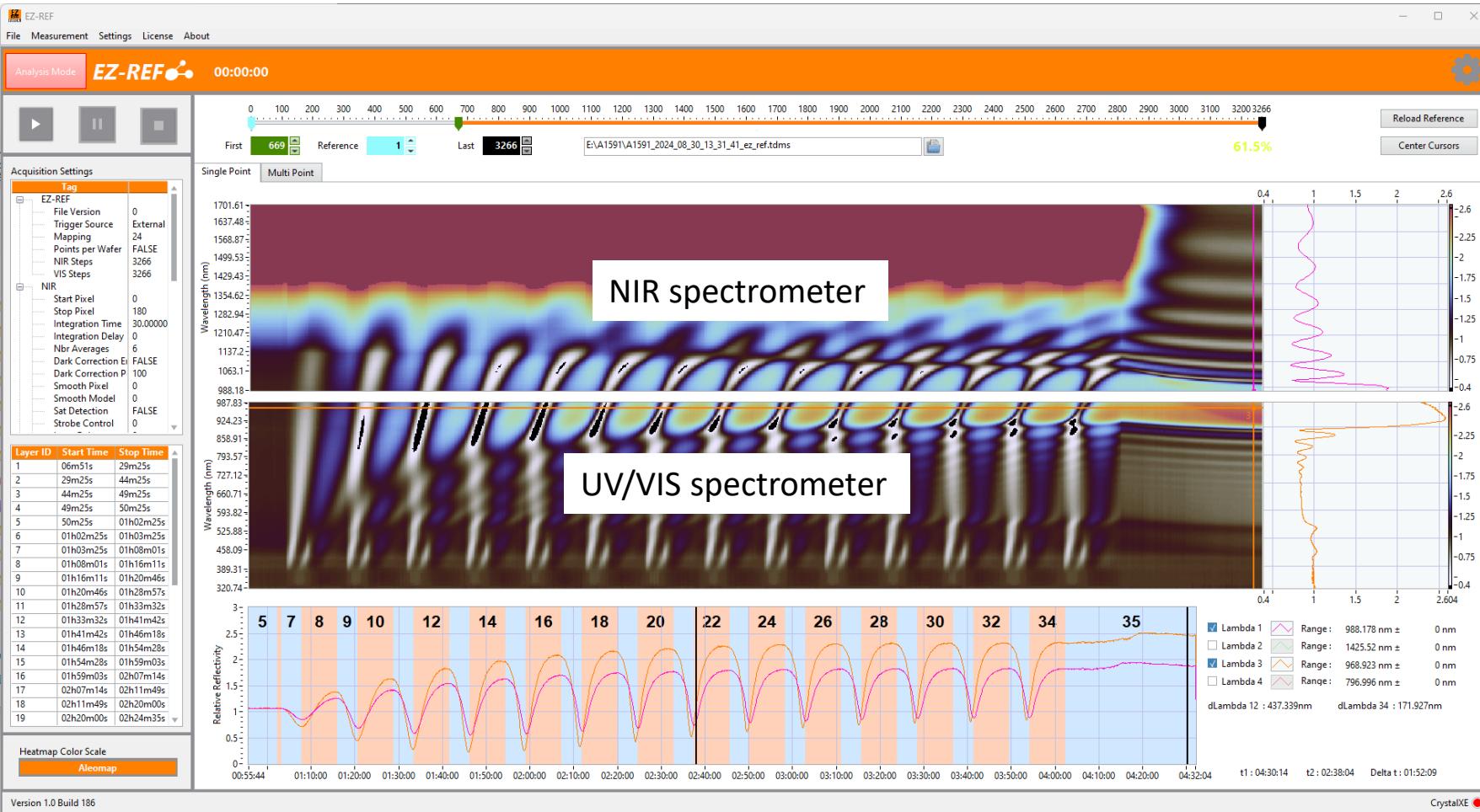
In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity

Spectral reflectivity during the growth of a Bragg mirror

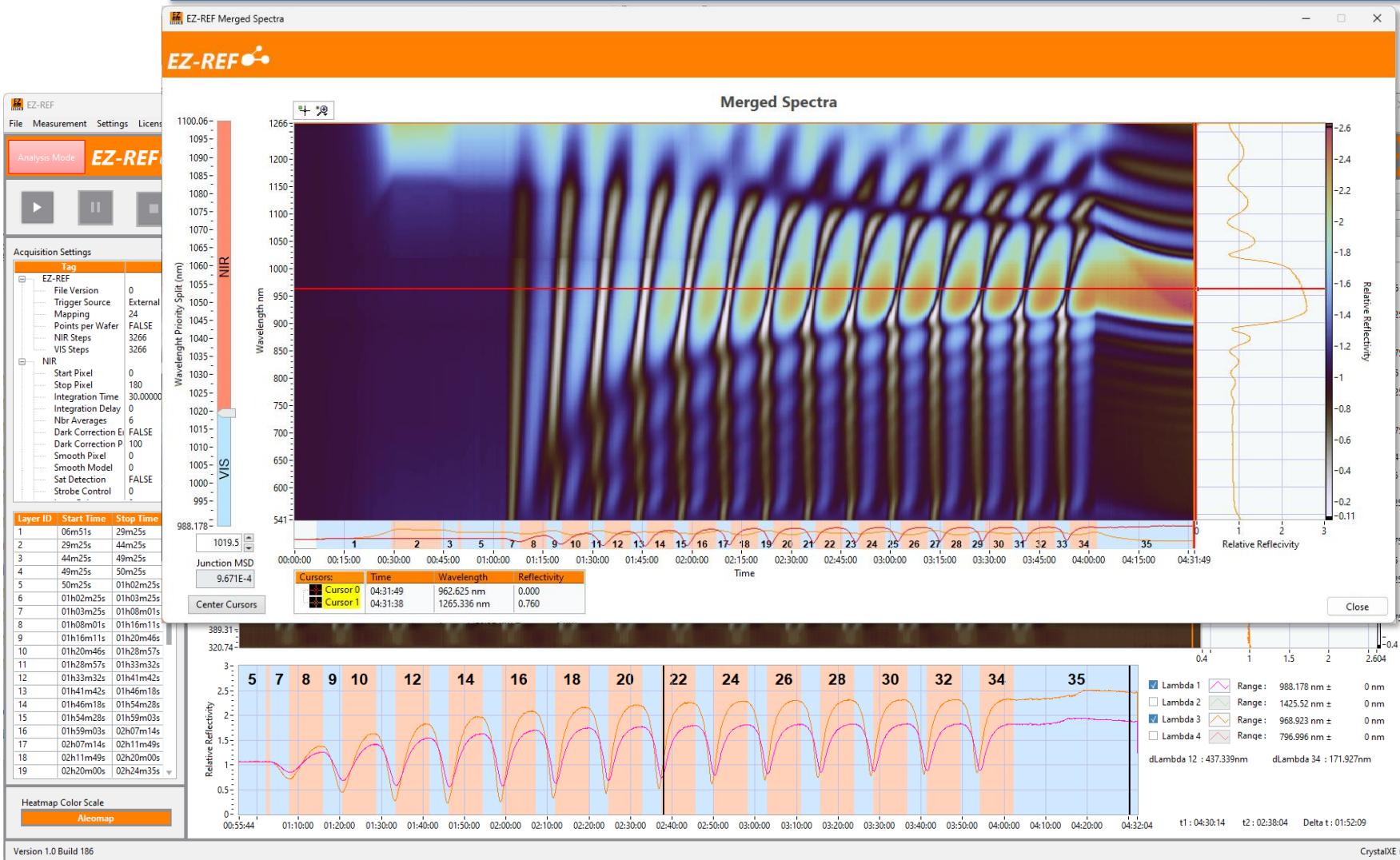


In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity

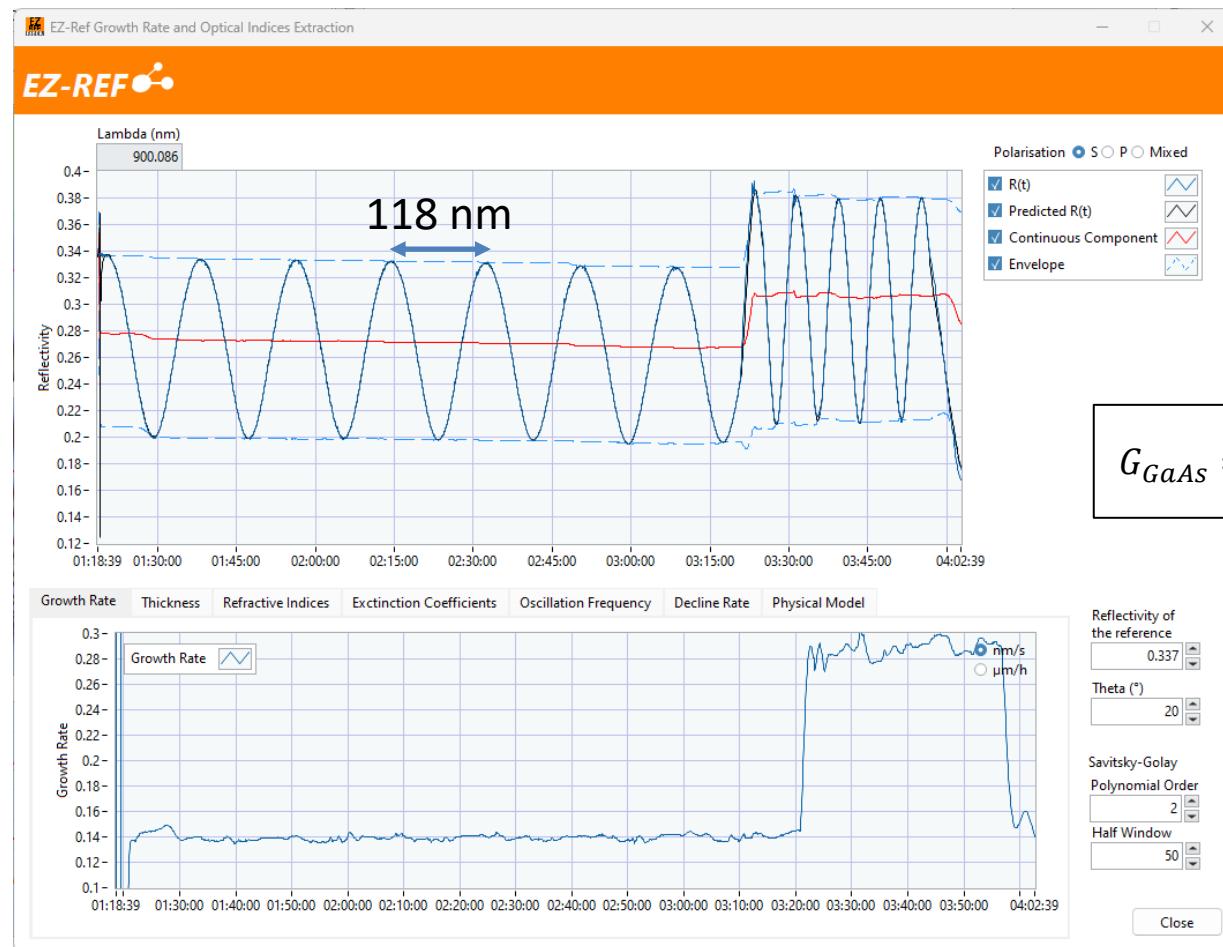
EZ-REF software developed within EpiCentre joint lab



In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



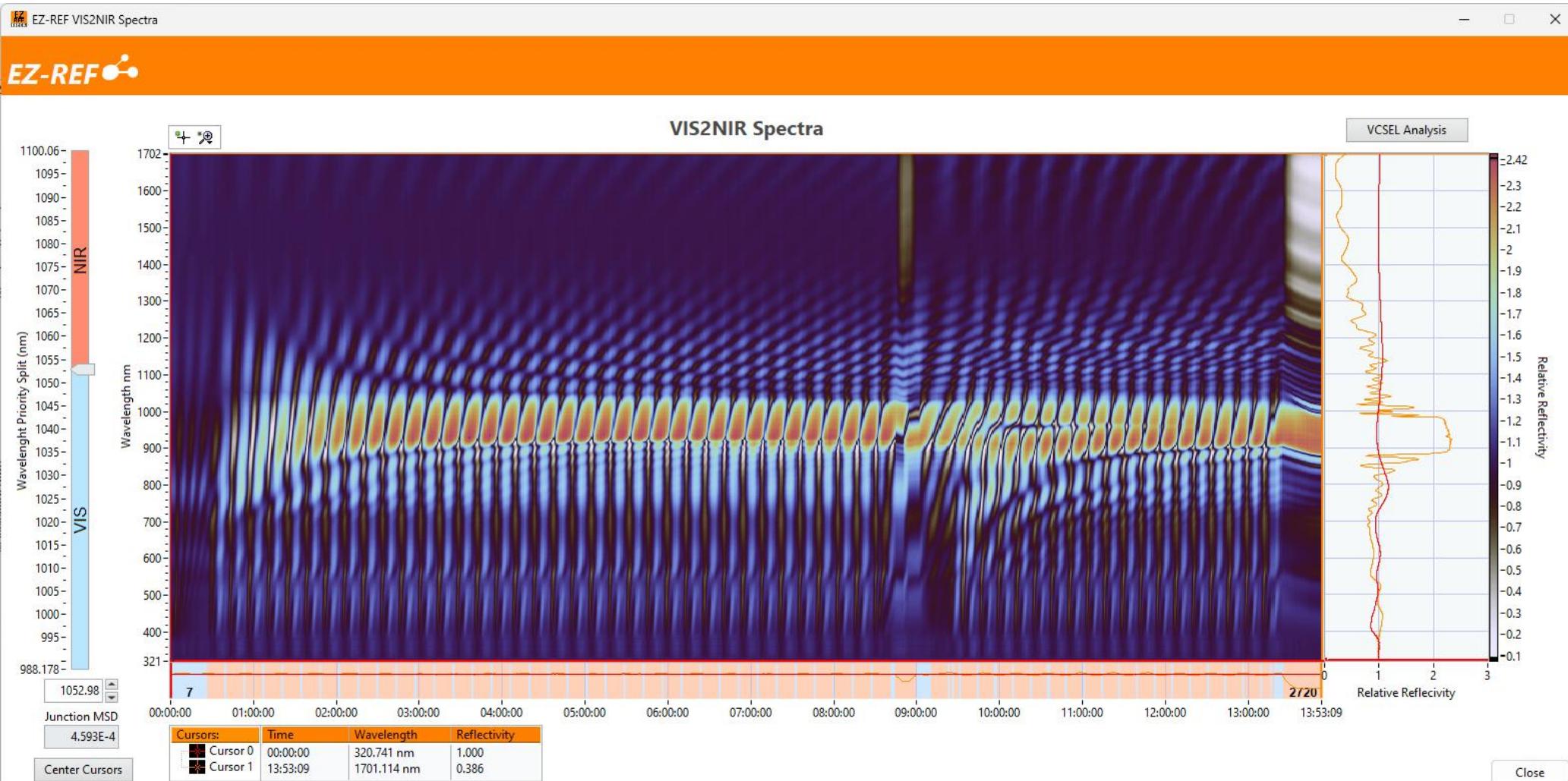
In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



$$G_{GaAs} = \frac{\lambda}{2n_{GaAs}\Gamma_{GaAs}}$$

Real-time growth rate and refractive index determination of multiple layers

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



Reflectivity spectra of a complete VCSEL structure

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



Real-time stop-band center determination of Bragg mirrors

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity



Real-time Fabry-Perot dip position determination (VCSELs)

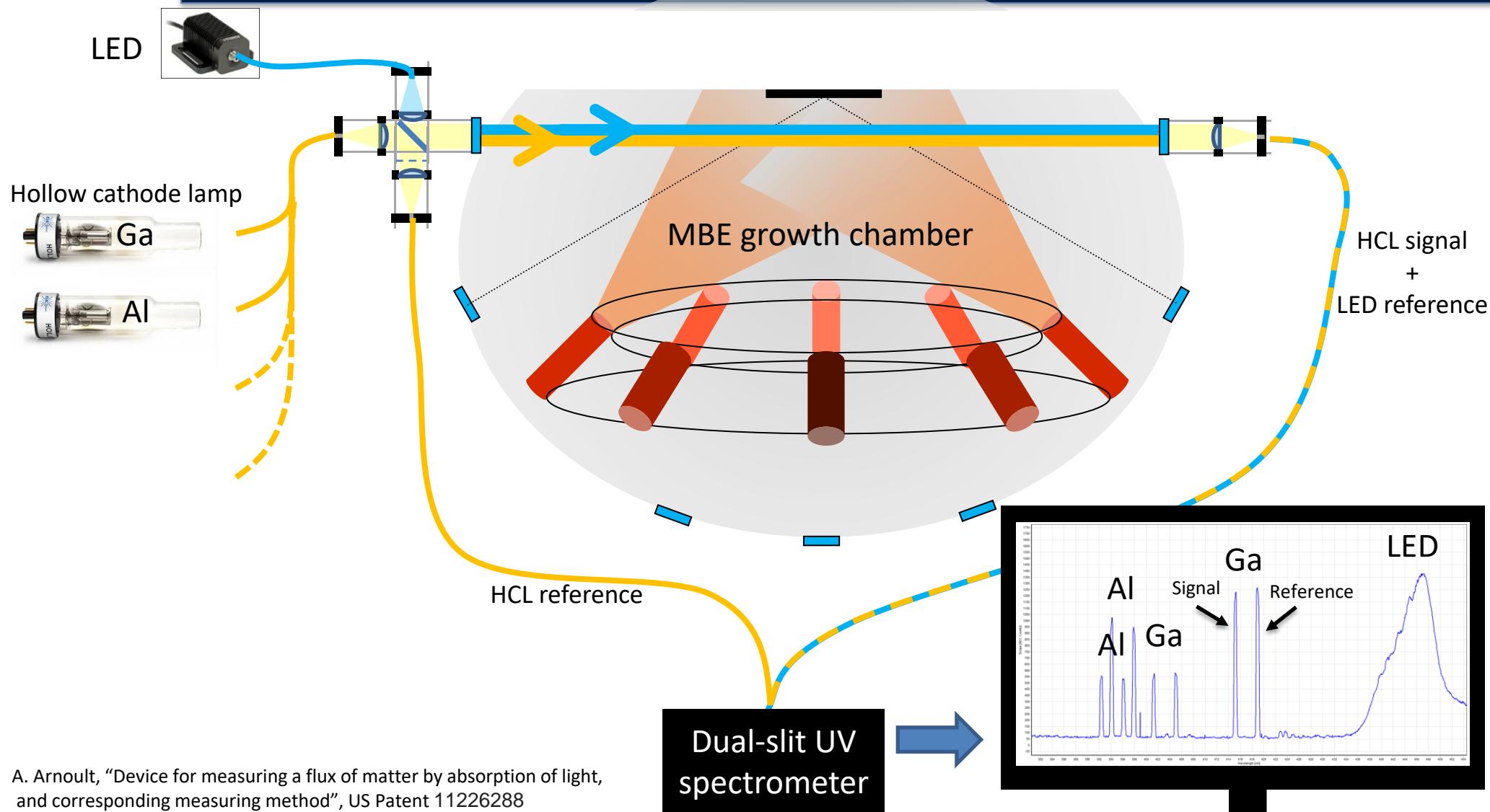
In situ characterization tools in MBE: Reflectivity

Spectral reflectivity is a powerful instrument able to

- Help calibrating growth rates
- Follow some optical features in real-time
- Check early in the growth that everything goes as expected

In-situ characterization tools: *Atomic Absorption*

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Atomic Absorption

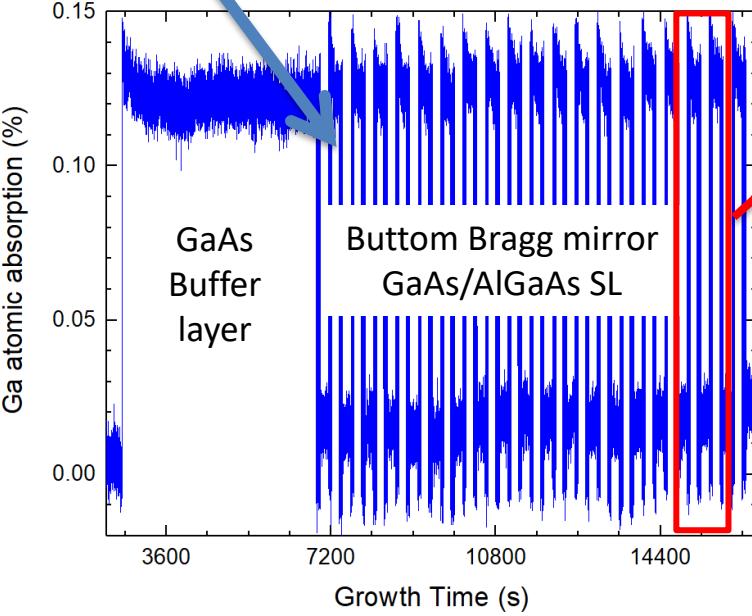


In situ characterization tools in MBE: Atomic Absorption

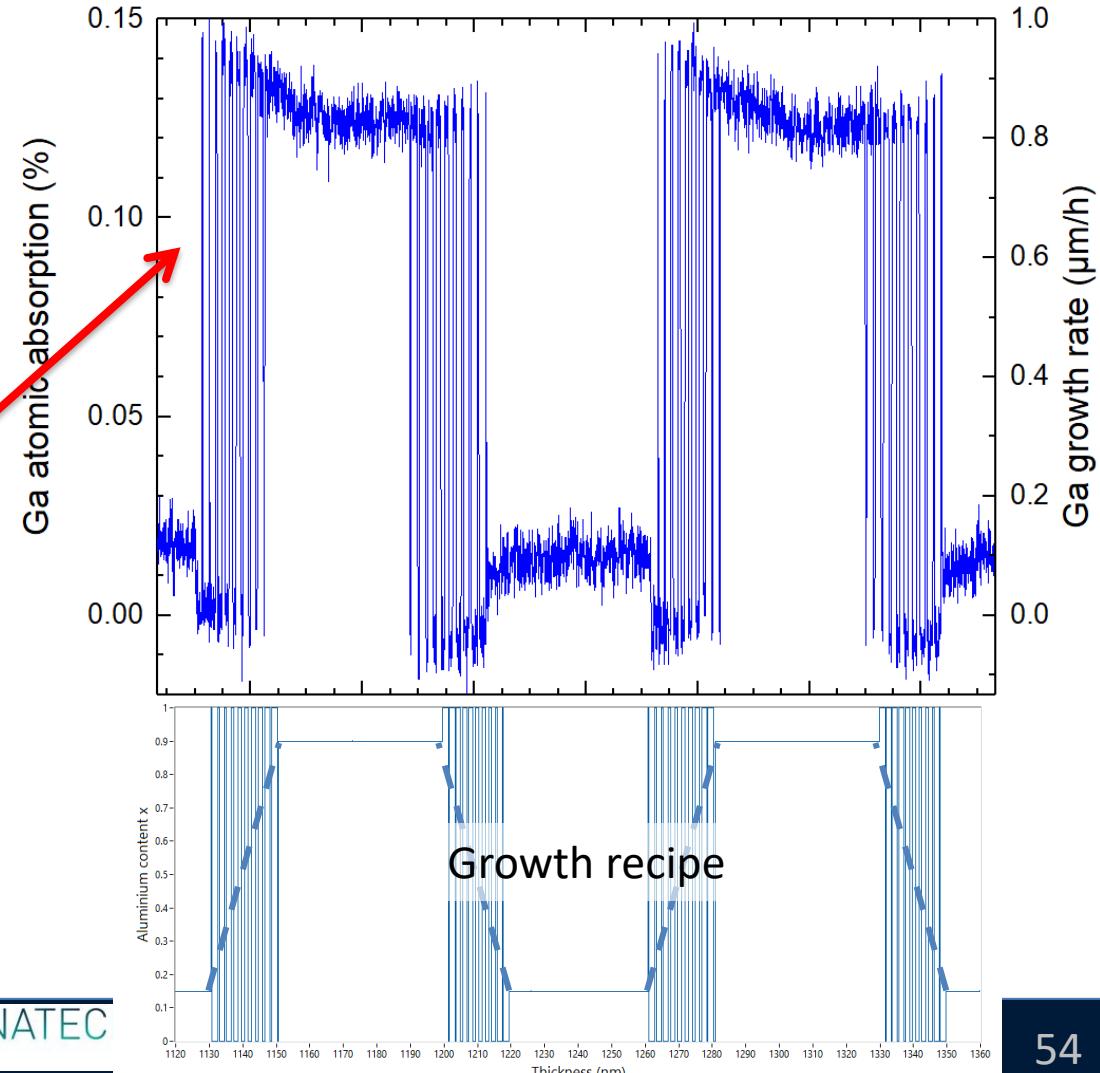
- SEM cross section



- In situ atomic absorption of Ga



- In situ atomic absorption of Ga

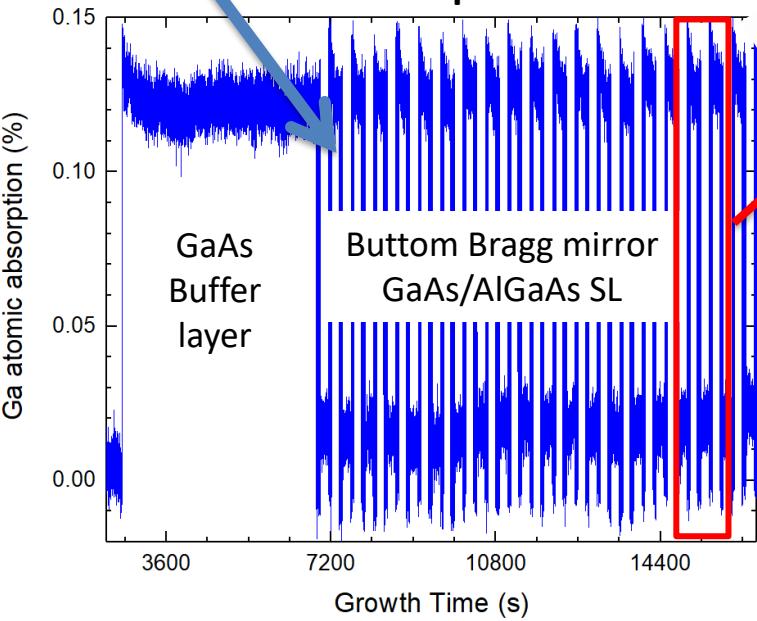


In situ characterization tools in MBE: Atomic Absorption

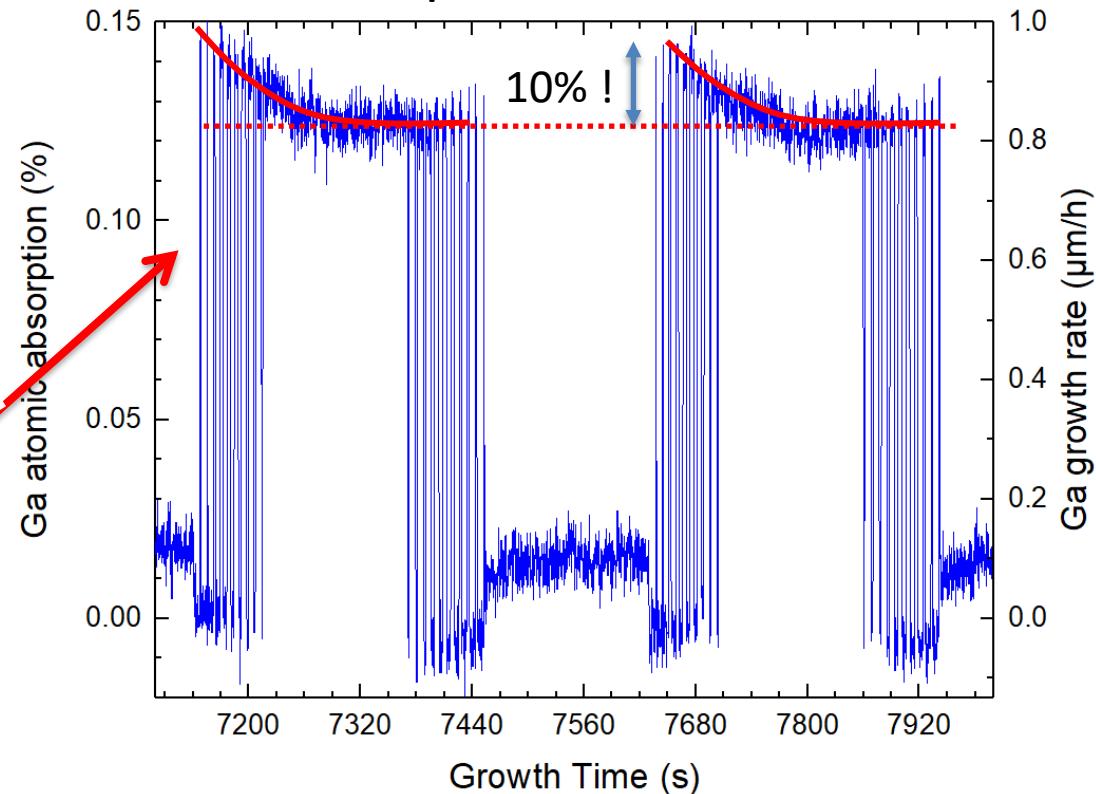
- SEM cross section



- In situ atomic absorption of Ga



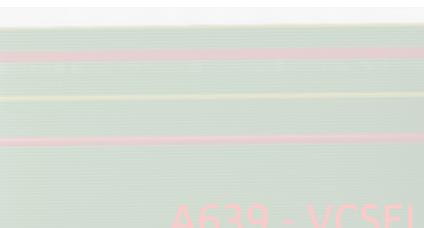
- In situ atomic absorption of Ga



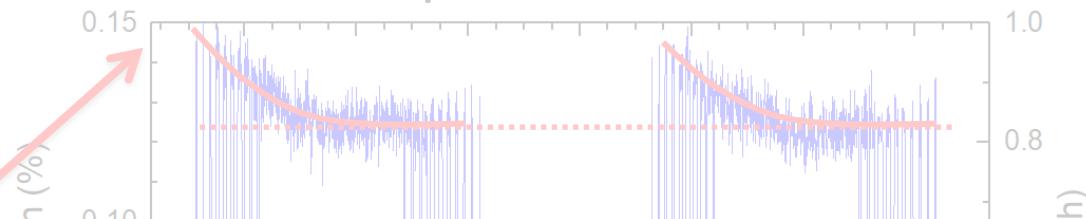
**Evidence of a systematic error:
flux transients of the Ga cell**

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Atomic Absorption

- SEM cross section



- In situ atomic absorption of Ga

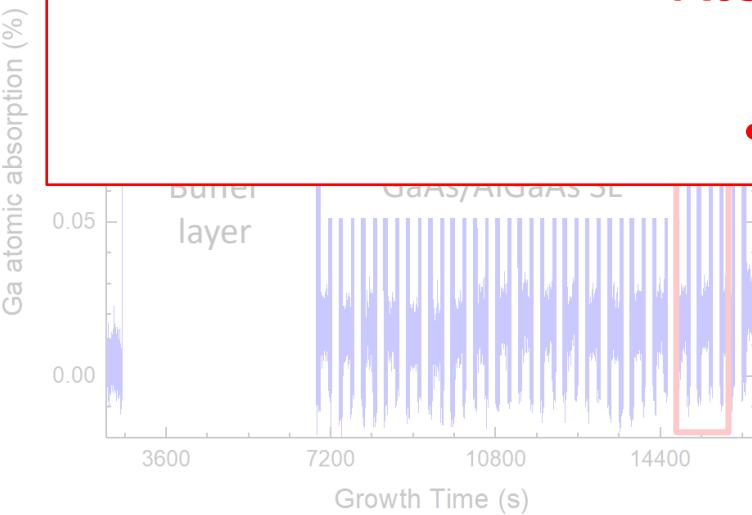


Result : 10% flux variations in some layers

Maximum tolerable error <1% on the whole wafer (100 mm diameter)

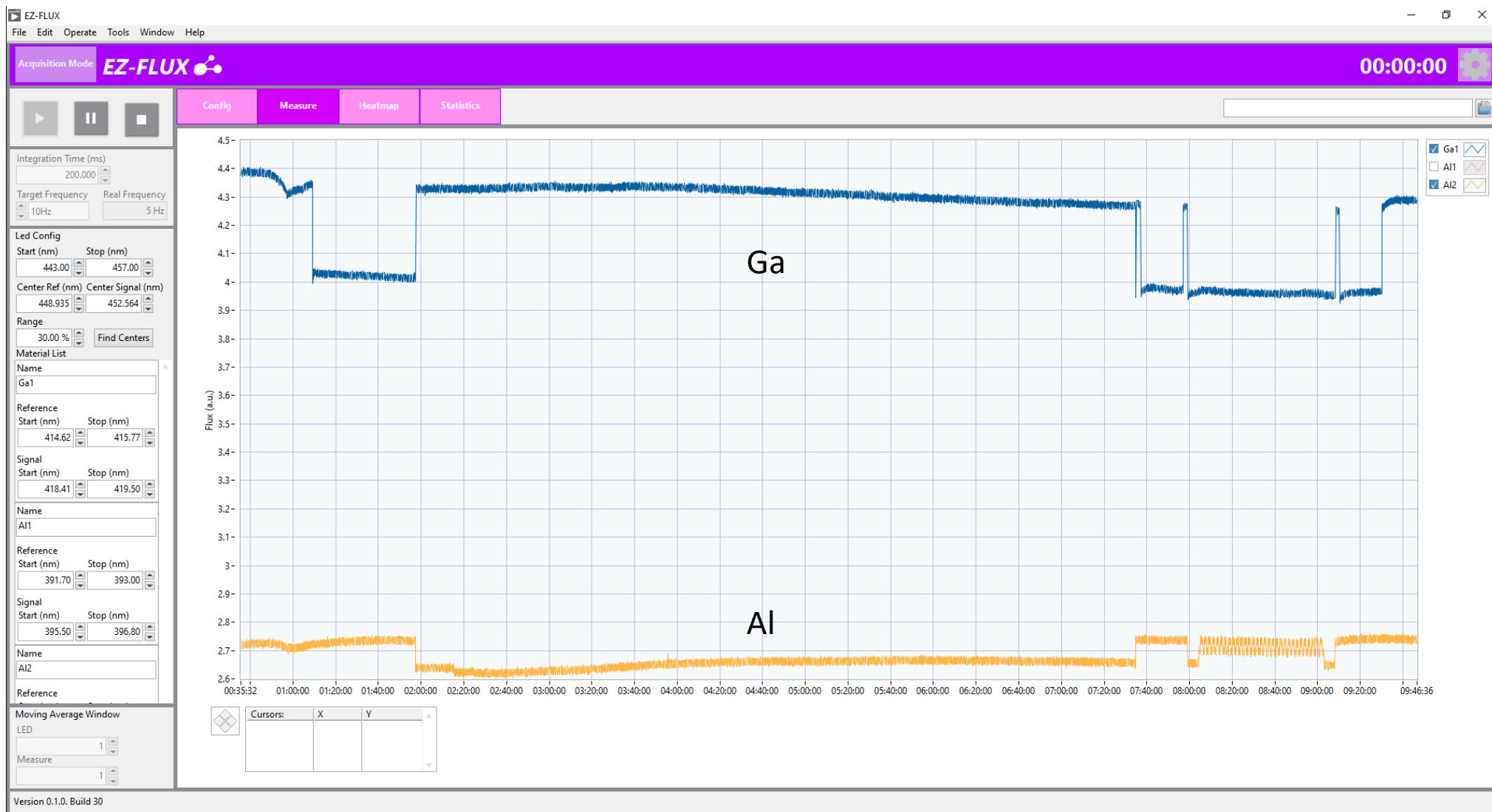
Atomic absorption allows for

- errors identification
- real-time corrections



**Evidence of a systematic error:
flux transients of the Ga cell**

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Atomic Absorption



In-situ characterization tools: *Band Edge Thermometry*

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Band Edge

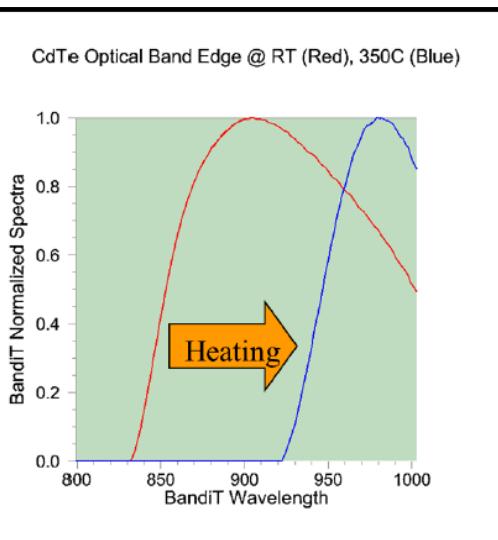
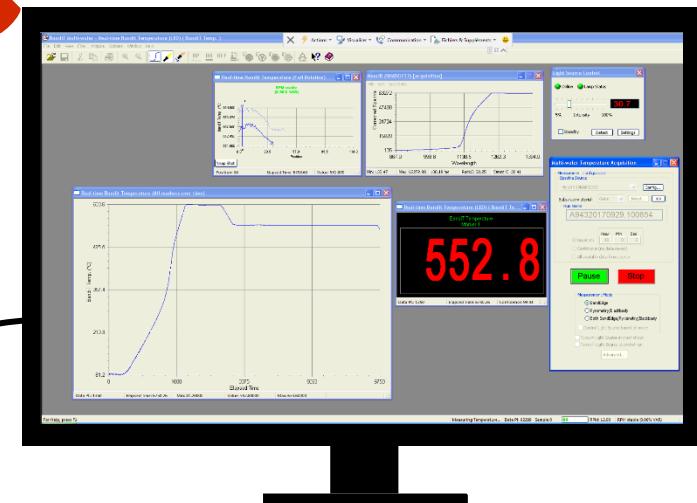
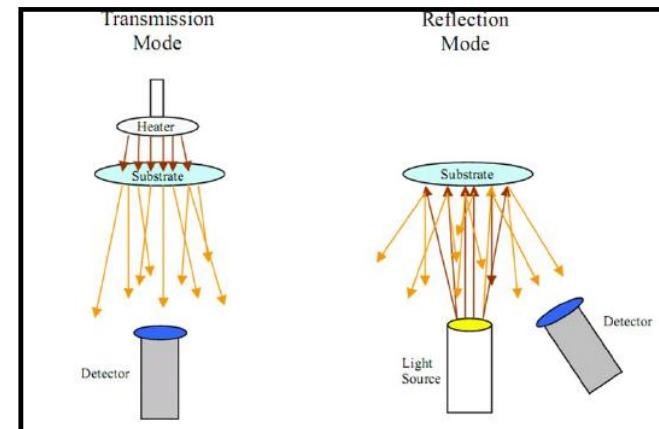
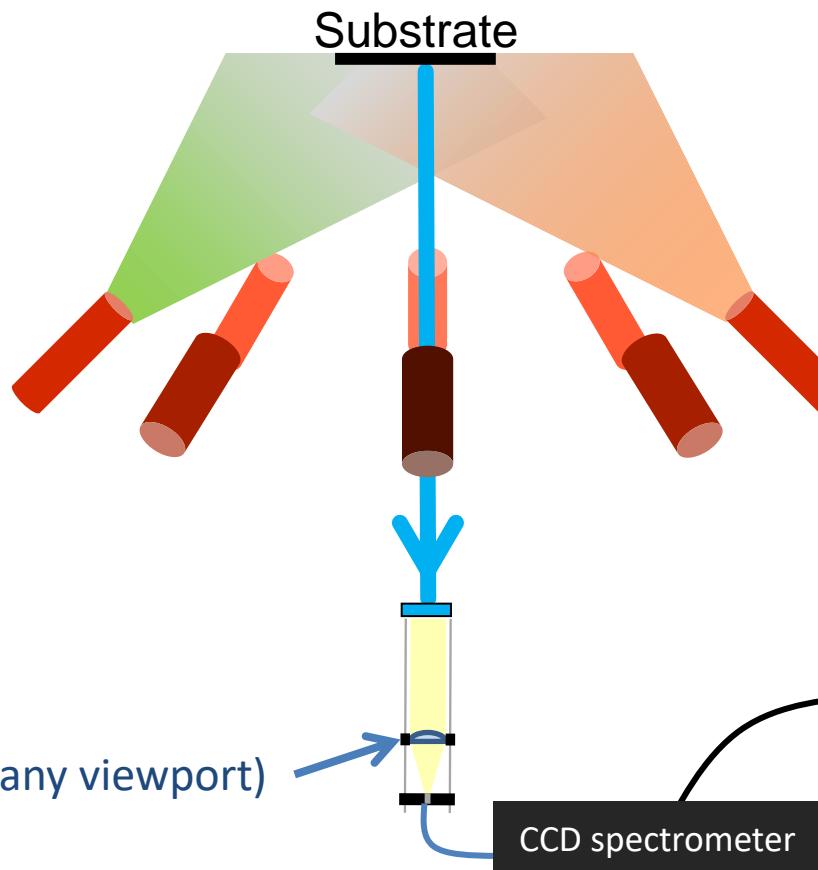


Figure 4: CdTe band edge moves to the right with increasing temperature

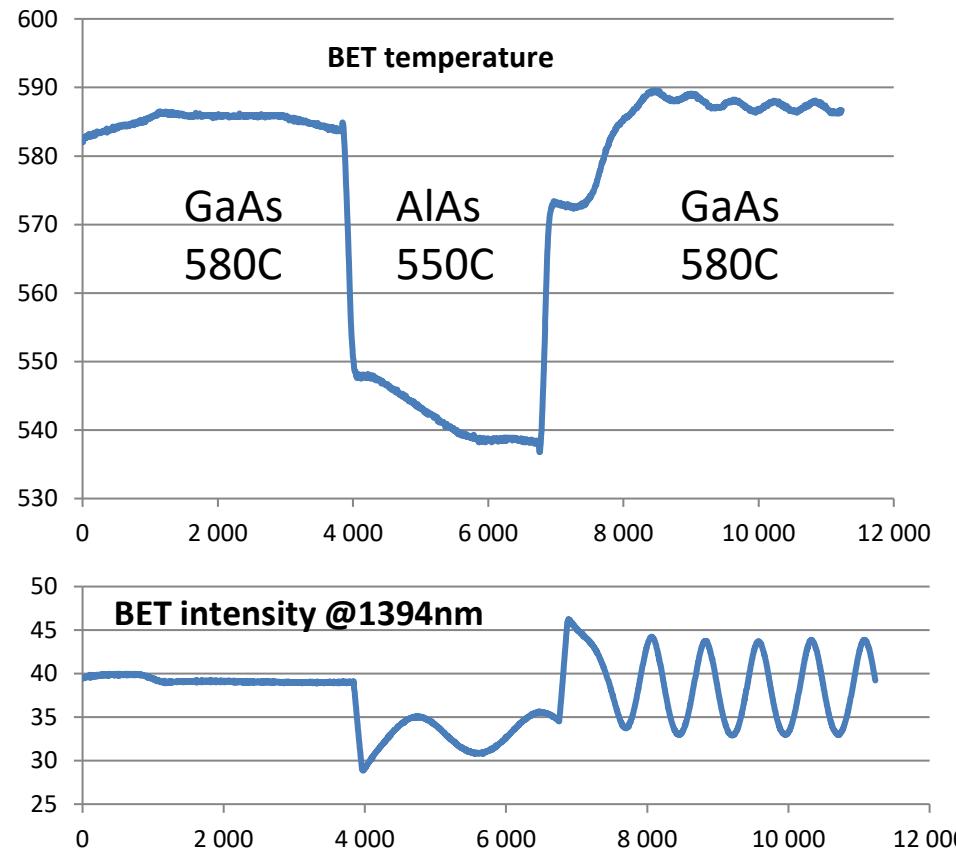


**Absolute temperature + transmission spectrum
Growth rates and alloys compositions**



In situ characterization tools in MBE: Band Edge

BET limits



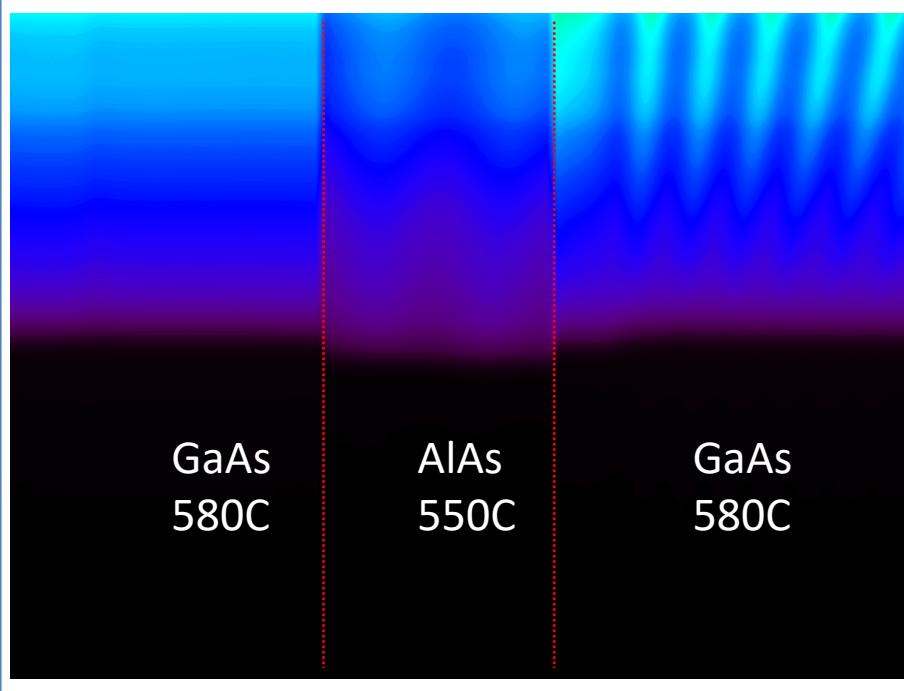
BET temperature oscillates when growing different materials

λ (nm)

A28 : 400nm AlAs + 1 μ m GaAs

1394

867

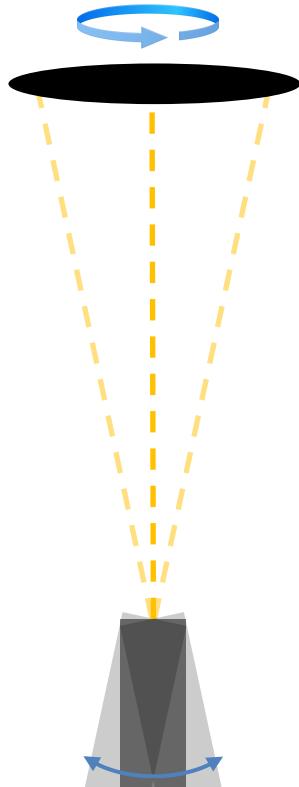


In situ characterization tools in MBE: Band Edge

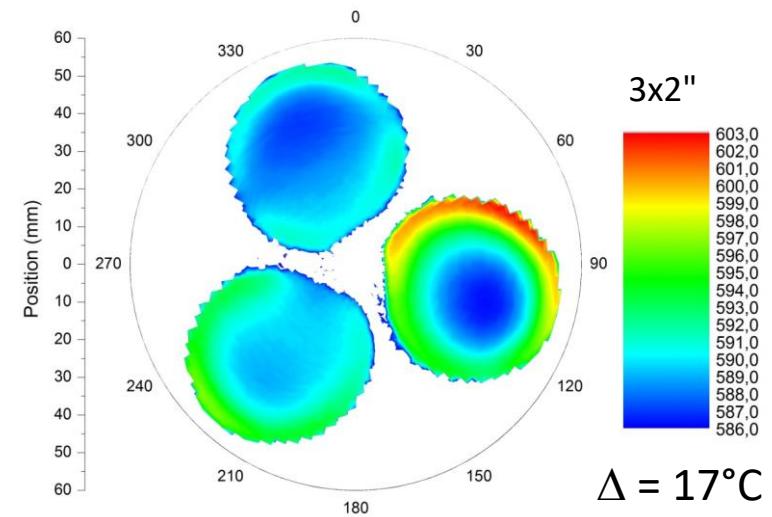
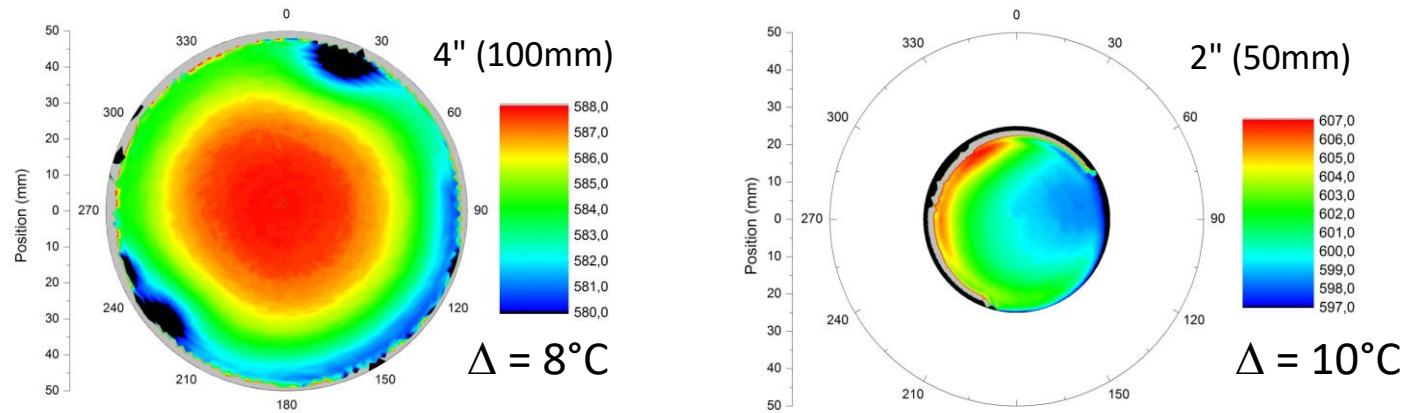
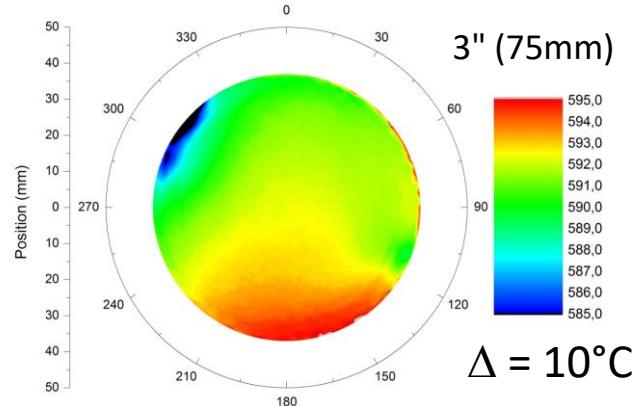
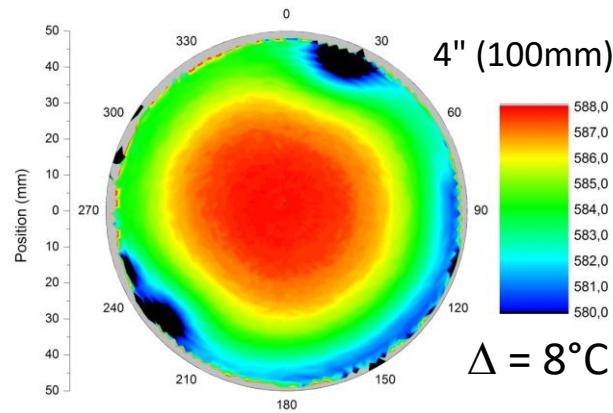


In situ characterization tools in MBE: Band Edge

Possibility to map wafer temperature



Motorized tilt of BET head



In situ characterization tools in MBE: Band Edge

- > Rather than an **absolute** temperature, BET provides a reproducible temperature independent of experimental conditions (same from MBE chamber to MBE chamber, stable over the long term, etc.)
- > The interest for materials whose growth is very sensitive to temperature (GaAsBi, CdHgTe, etc.) is obvious
- > What about complex GaAs/AlGaAs-based structures (VCSEL - QCL)?

In-situ characterization tools: *Curvature*

Stress measurement: how ?

> There are two mains ways to measure curvature in situ and in real-time:

- **Laser deflection**
 - kSA MOS
 - Laytec EpiCurve®TT



Stress measurement: how ?

> There are two mains ways to measure curvature in situ and in real-time:

- **Laser deflection**
 - kSA MOS
 - Laytec EpiCurve®TT



- **Magnification Inferred Curvature (MIC)**
 - Riber EZ-CURVE®



Curvature/stress measurement: how ?

> There are two mains ways to measure curvature in situ and in real-time:

- **Laser deflection**
 - kSA MOS
 - Laytec EpiCurve®TT
- **Magnification Inferred Curvature (MIC)**
 - Riber EZ-CURVE®

Robust and sensitive technique (thick wafers, rotation (=wobbling), MBE environment, ...)

Curvature/stress measurement: MIC

MIC (Magnification Inferred Curvature)



Curvature/stress measurement: MIC

MIC (Magnification Inferred Curvature)

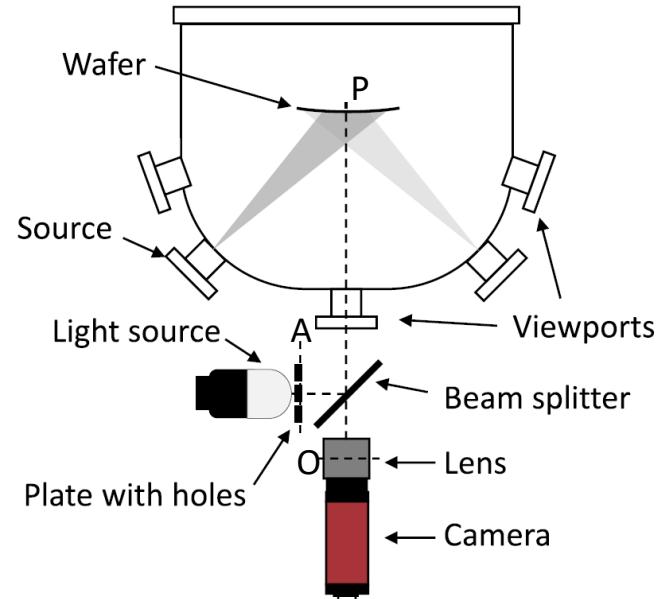


Spherical mirror:

$$\gamma = \frac{\overline{A'B'}}{\overline{AB}} = \frac{1}{1 - 2\frac{\overline{AP}}{\overline{R}}} \rightarrow \kappa_{\perp} = \frac{1}{2\overline{AP}} \frac{\gamma - 1}{\gamma}$$

γ_c (magnification seen by the camera) →

$$\kappa_{\perp} = \frac{1}{2\overline{AP}} \frac{\gamma_c - 1}{\gamma_c} \times \frac{\overline{AP} + \overline{OP}}{\overline{OP}}$$

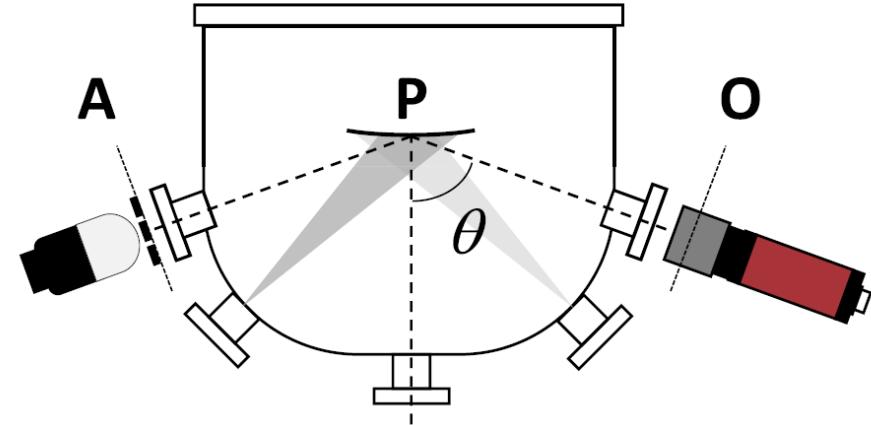
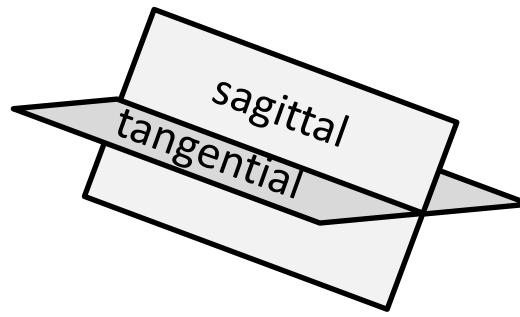


Magnification → Curvature

Arnoult, A., Colin, J. Magnification inferred curvature for real-time curvature monitoring. *Sci Rep* 11, 9393, 2021
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-88722-6>

Curvature: MIC theory

MIC (Magnification Inferred Curvature) analytical equations whatever the incidence angle:



$$\overline{\kappa}_\perp = \frac{1}{2\overline{AP}} \frac{\gamma_C - 1}{\gamma_C} \times \frac{\overline{AP} + \overline{OP}}{\overline{OP}}$$

Tilt angle θ

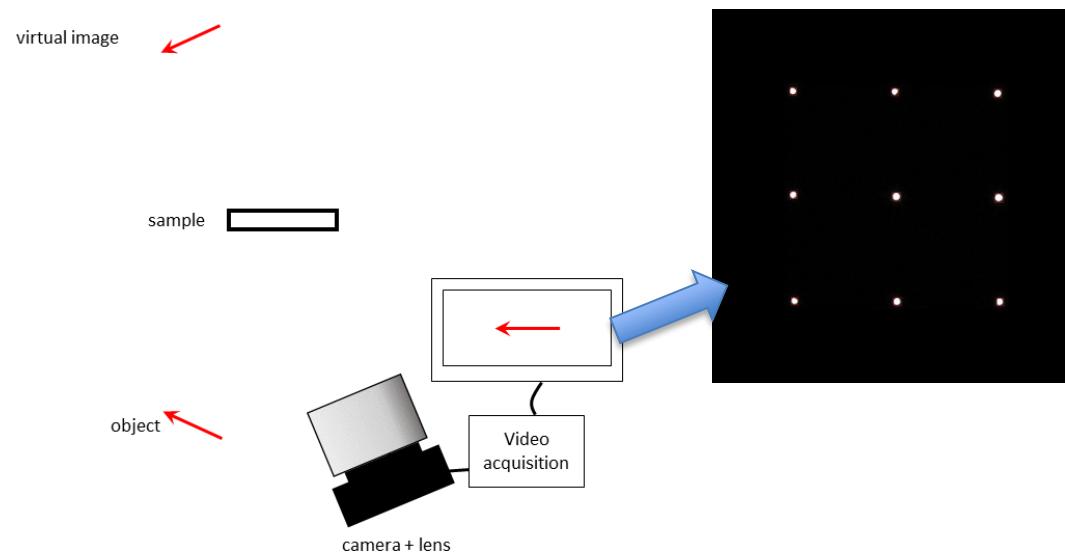
$$\overline{\kappa}_t(\theta) = \frac{1}{2\overline{AP}} \frac{\gamma_{Ct} - 1}{\gamma_{Ct}} \frac{\overline{OP} + \overline{AP}}{\overline{OP}} \frac{1}{\cos \theta}$$

$$\overline{\kappa}_s(\theta) = \frac{1}{2\overline{AP}} \frac{\gamma_{Cs} - 1}{\gamma_{Cs}} \frac{\overline{OP} + \overline{AP}}{\overline{OP}} \frac{\cos \theta}{\cos \theta}$$

Arnoult, A., Colin, J. Magnification inferred curvature for real-time curvature monitoring. *Sci Rep* **11**, 9393 2021)
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-88722-6>

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Curvature

Virtual image magnification analysis: **MIC** (Magnification Inferred Curvature) measures the magnification factor of a virtual image created by a surface (i.e. a wafer)

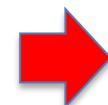


Curvature and stress are linked

- > Usually, **three stress components** are distinguished:

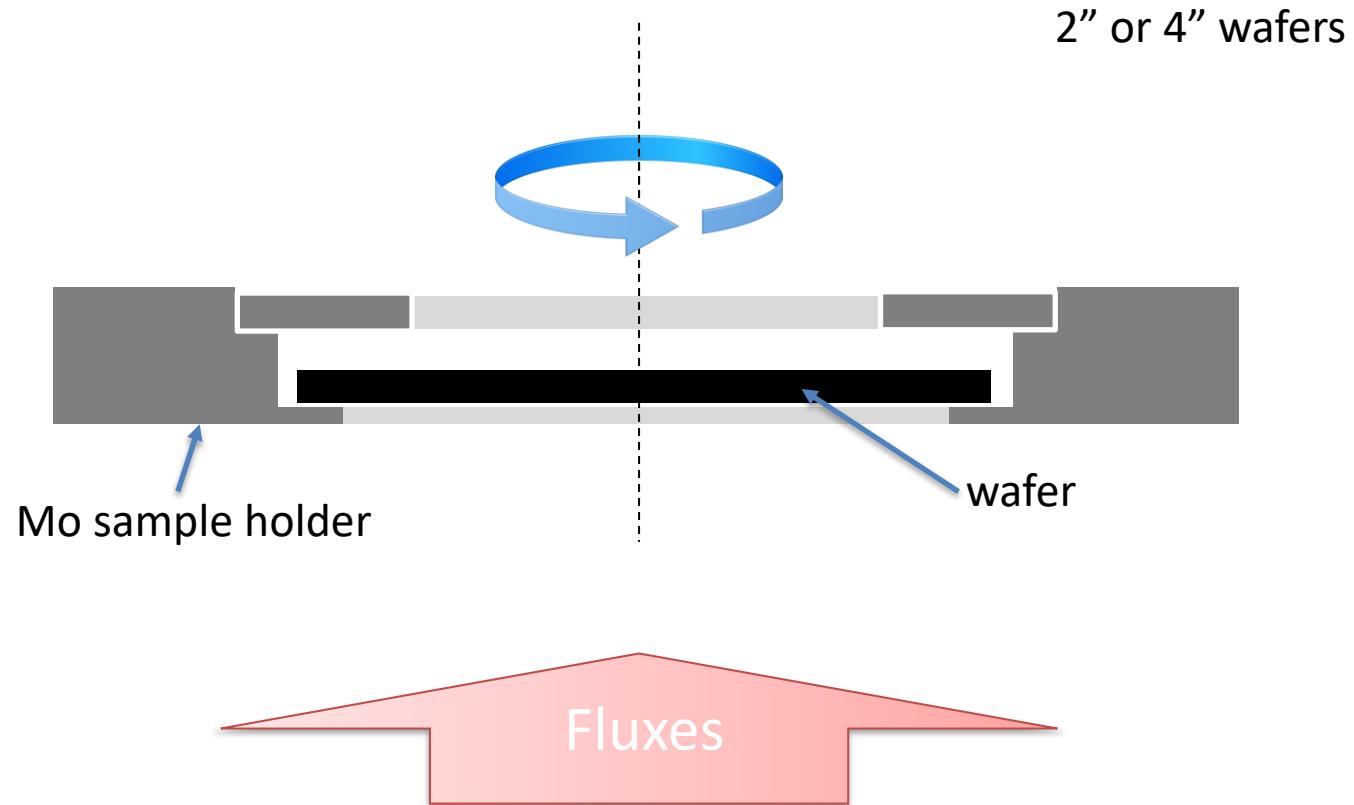
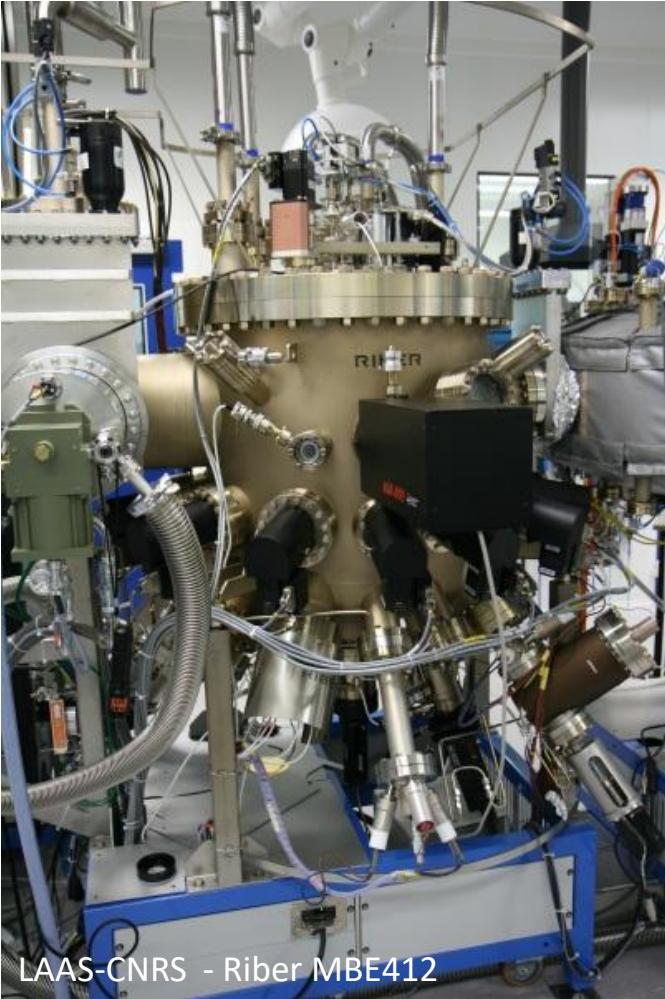
1. Extrinsic stress

- Induced by external factors: external loading, exposure to environment, ...



Stress/Curvature and crystal growth

Extrinsic stress



Wafer free to expand in holder \Rightarrow no extrinsic stress here

Curvature and stress are linked

- > Usually, **three stress components** are distinguished:

1. Extrinsic stress

- Induced by external factors : external loading, exposure to environment, ...

2. Intrinsic stress

- Stress source introduced during the MBE process : lattice mismatch, growth mode, relaxation, surface and/or interface stress, incorporation or desorption of impurities, phase transformations...

Curvature and stress are linked

- > Usually, **three stress components** are distinguished:
 1. Extrinsic stress
 - Induced by external factors : temperature, pressure, mechanical loading, exposure to environment, ...
 2. Intrinsic stress
 - Stress source introduced during the MBE process : lattice mismatch, growth mode, relaxation, surface and/or interface stress, incorporation or desorption of impurities, phase transformations...



Curvature and stress are linked

- > Usually, **three stress components** are distinguished:

1. Extrinsic stress

- Induced by external factors: temperature, pressure, mechanical loading, exposure to environment, ...

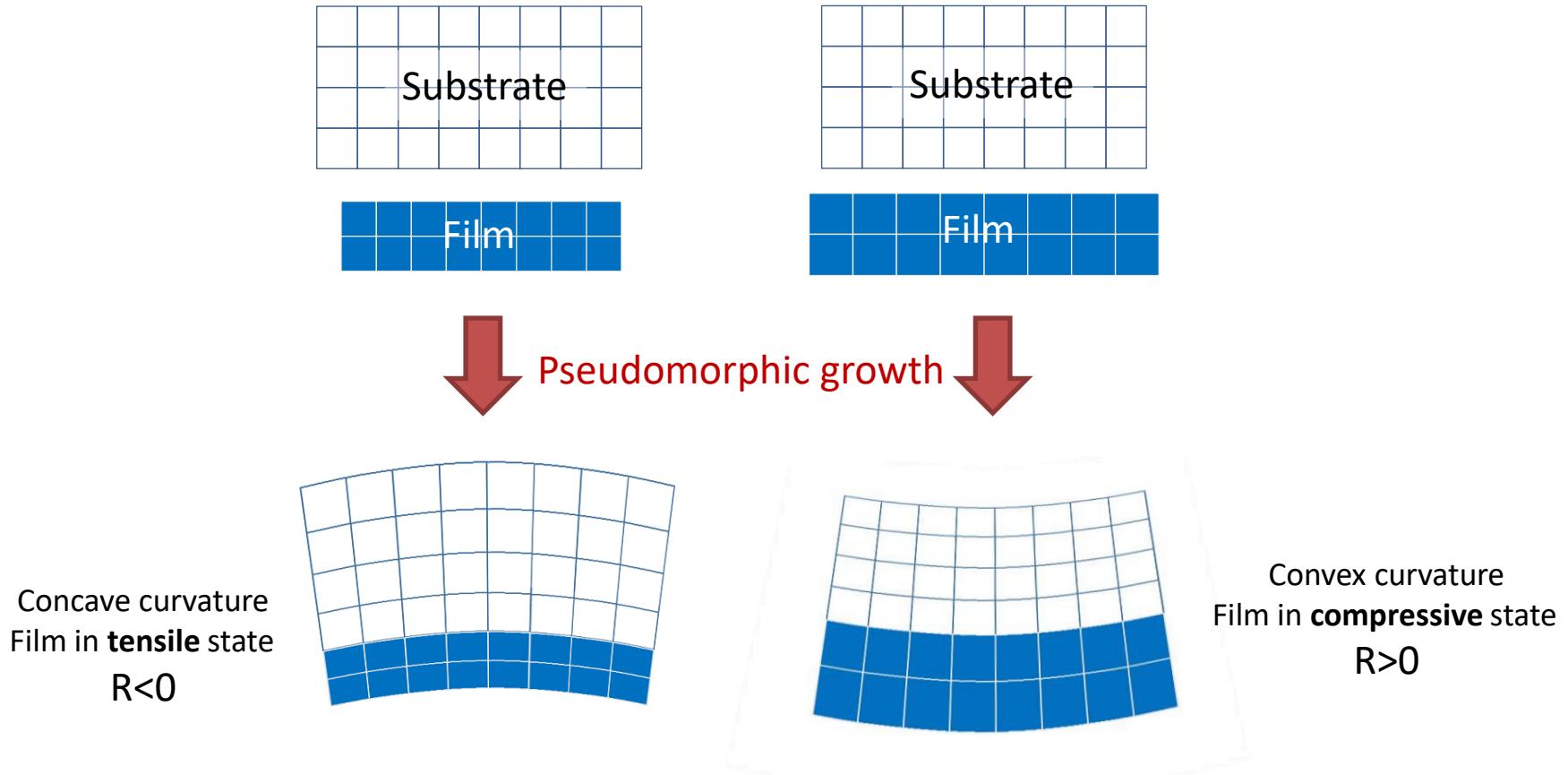


2. Intrinsic stress

- Stress source introduced during the MBE process : **lattice mismatch**, growth mode, relaxation, surface and/or interface stress, incorporation or desorption of impurities, phase transformations...

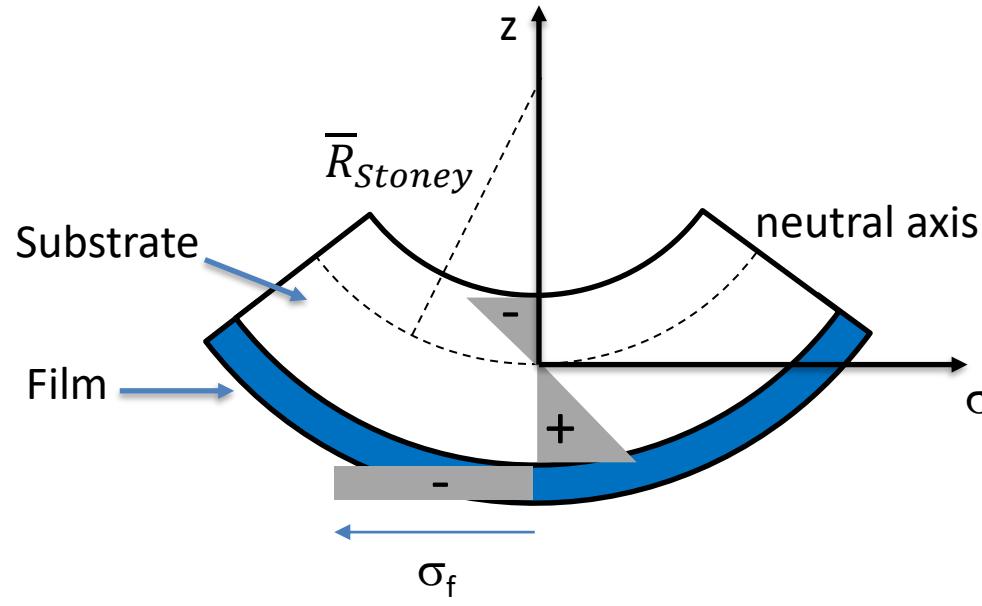
In situ characterization tools in MBE: Curvature

Why thin films are usually in a stressed state?



The stress in the film leads to a bending of the system “film+substrate”

In situ characterization tools in MBE: Curvature



h_f = film thickness
 M_s = substrate biaxial modulus
 h_s = substrate thickness
 σ_f = stress in the film

- Satisfying equilibrium conditions ($\Sigma F = 0$ and $\Sigma M = 0$) leads to the **Stoney equation**

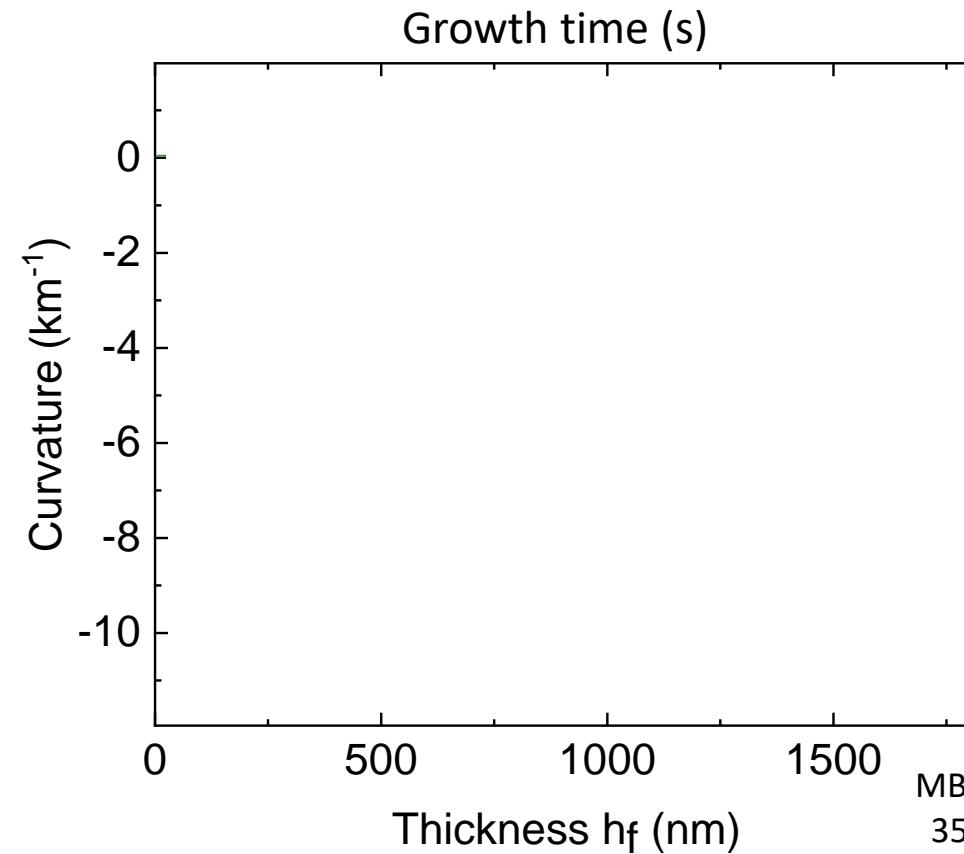
$$\kappa = \frac{1}{\bar{R}_{\text{Stoney}}} \approx \frac{6\bar{\sigma}_f h_f}{M_s h_s^2}$$

with $M_s = \frac{E}{1 - \nu}$

G.G. Stoney, The tensions of metallic films deposited by electrolysis, Proc. R. Soc. Land. A82 (1909) 172-175

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

Intrinsic stress

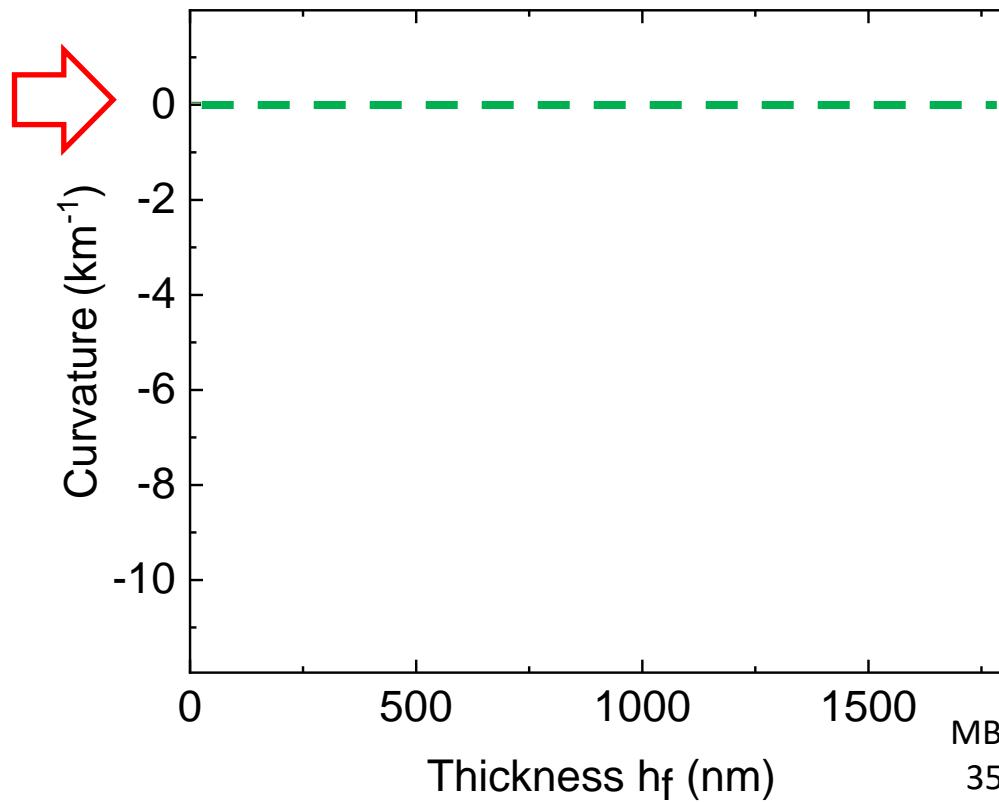


MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating
350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

Intrinsic stress

Zero curvature = initial state
(relative curvature changes)

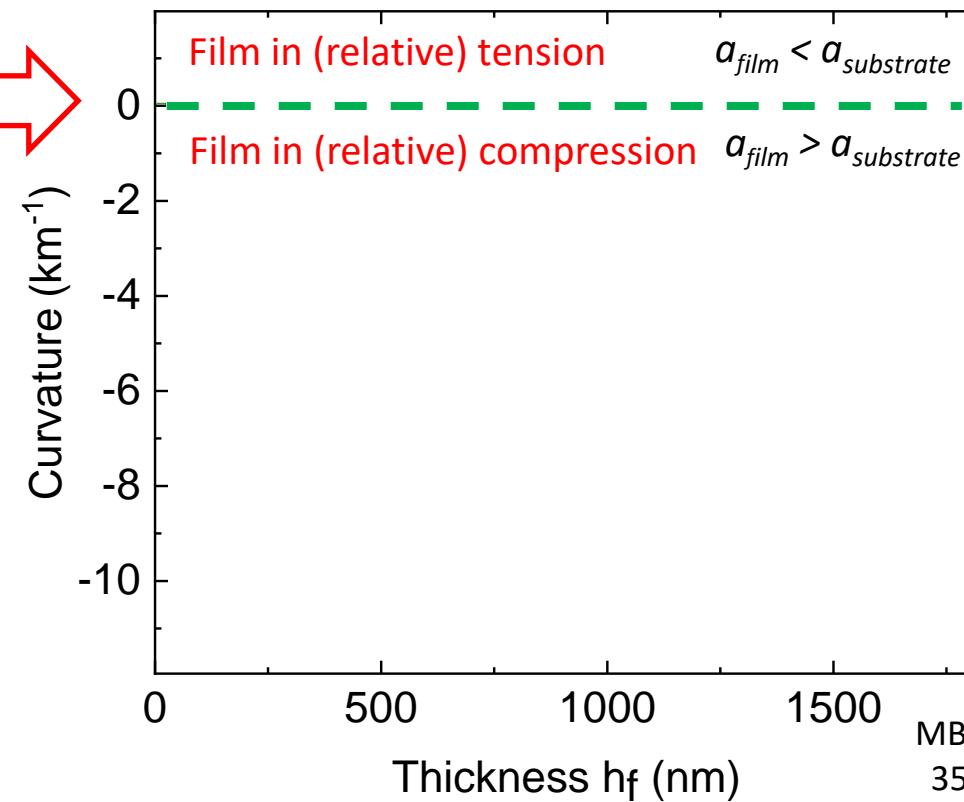
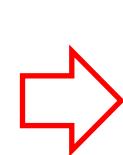


MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating
350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

Intrinsic stress

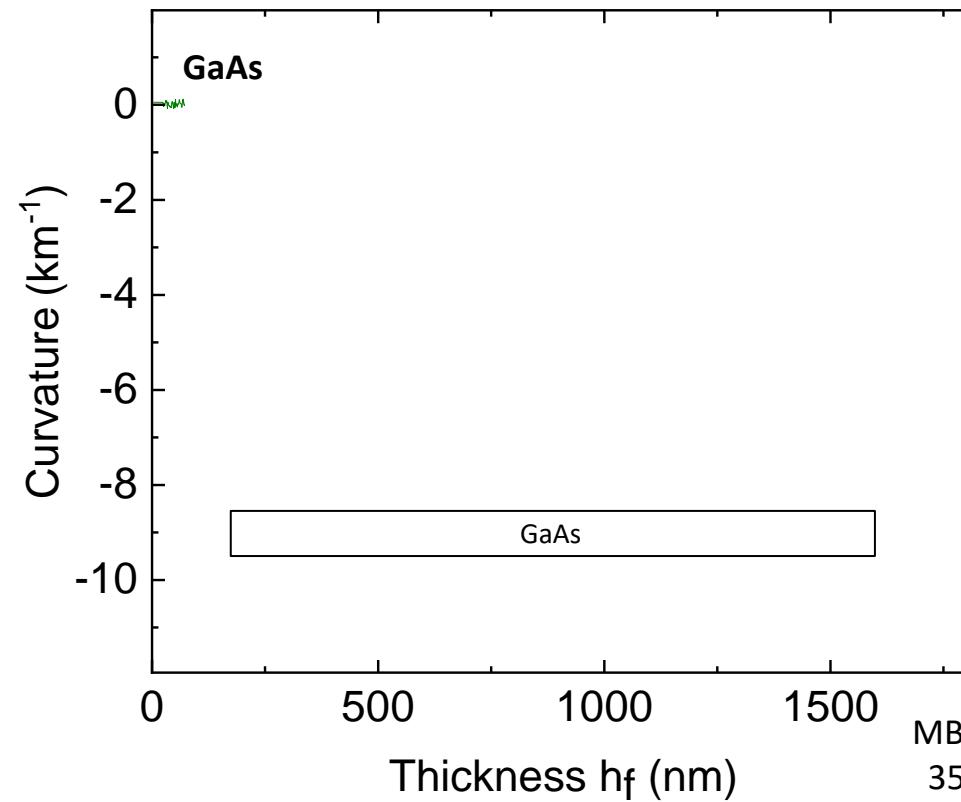
Zero curvature = initial state
(relative curvature changes)



MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating
350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

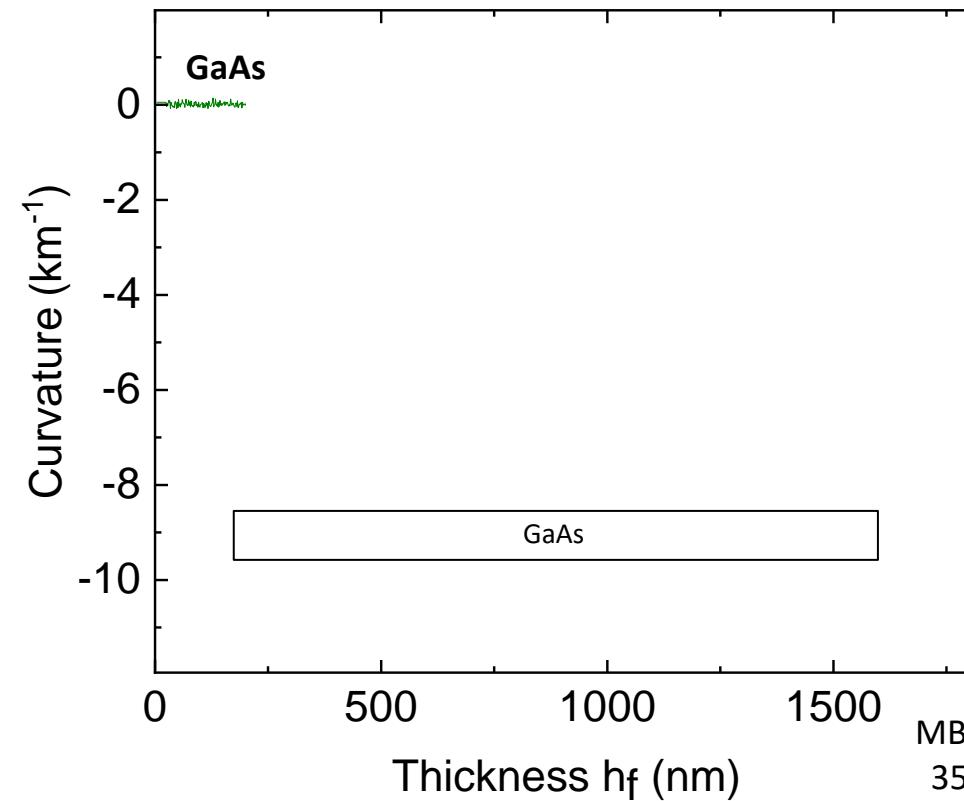
Intrinsic stress



MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating
350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

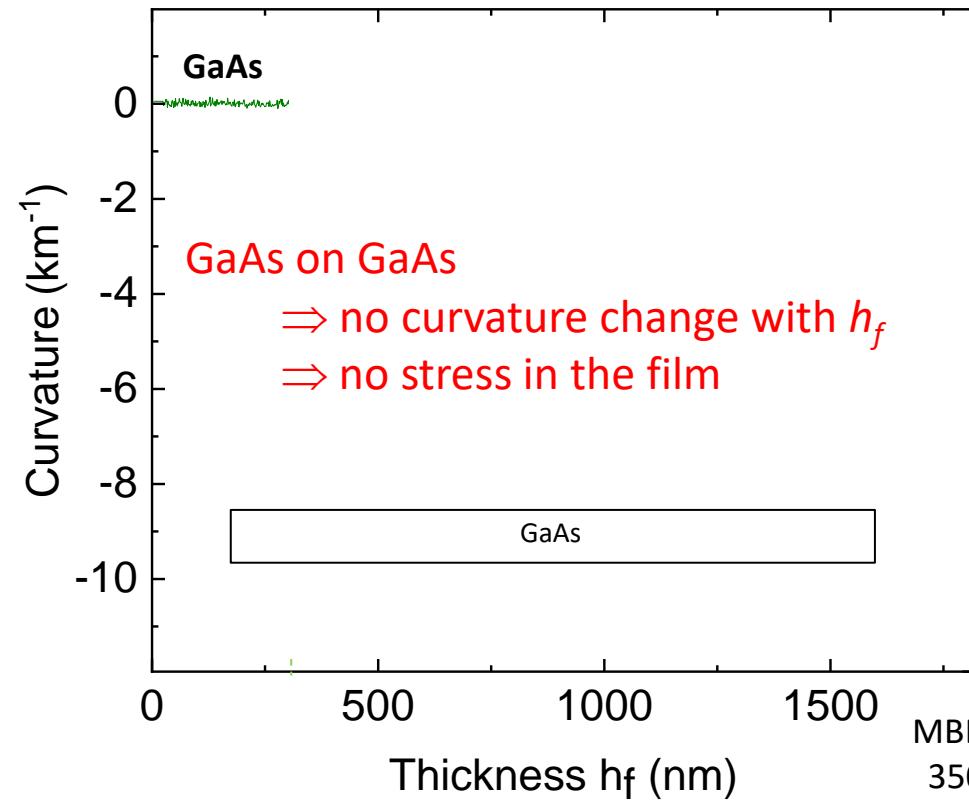
Intrinsic stress



MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating
350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

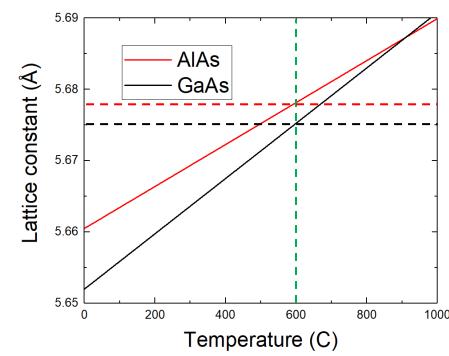
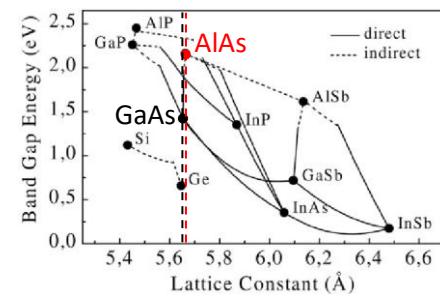
Intrinsic stress



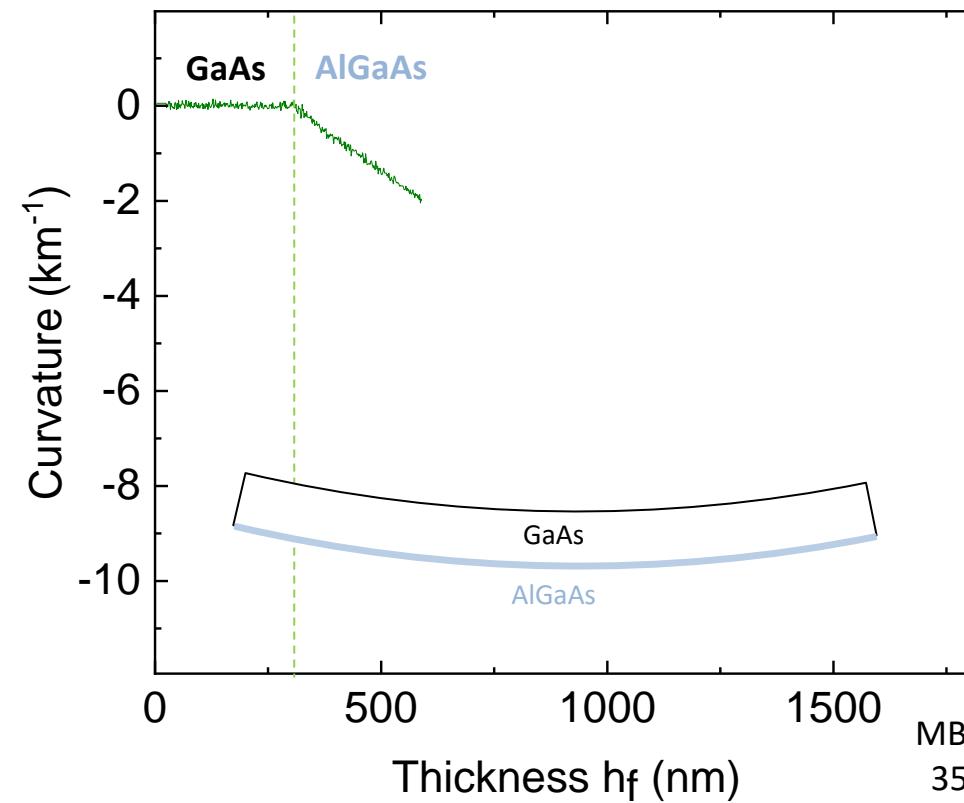
MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating
350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

Intrinsic stress



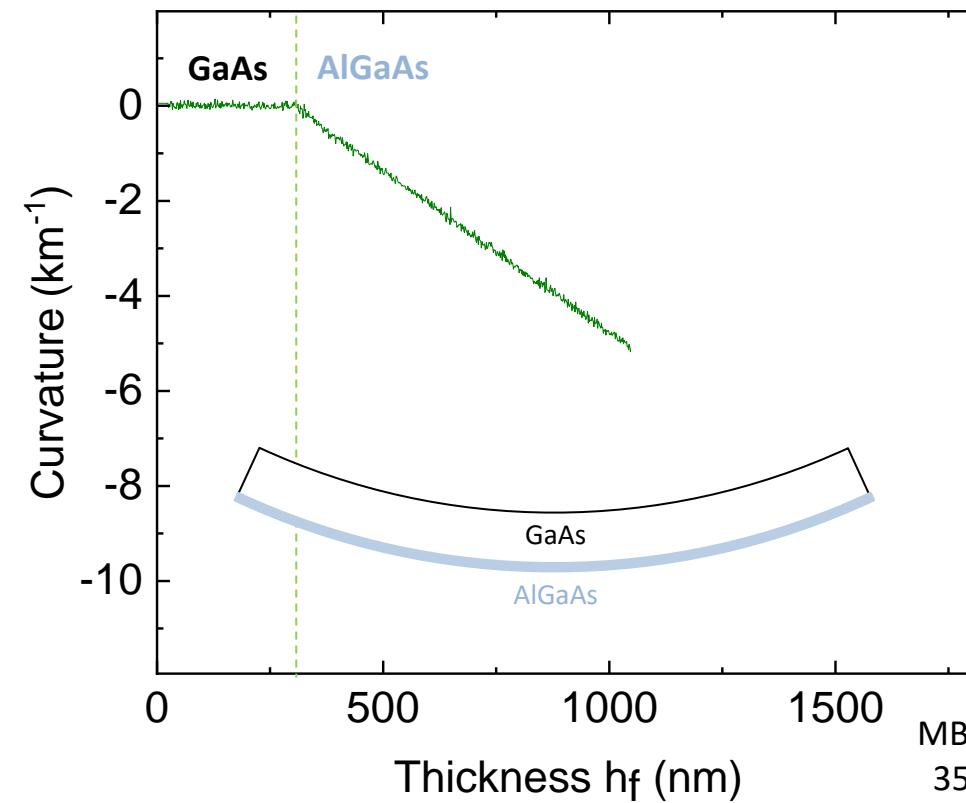
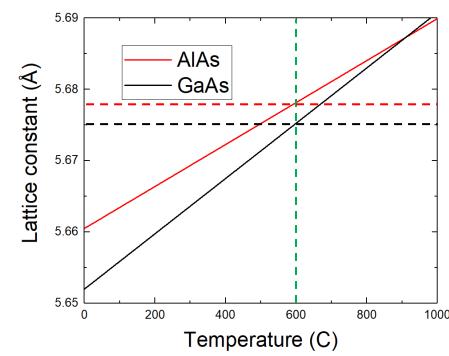
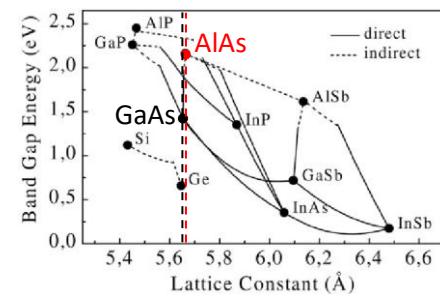
M. Ettenberg, R. J. Paff, *J. Appl. Phys.*, **41**, no.10, pp.3926-3927 (1970)



MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating 350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

Intrinsic stress

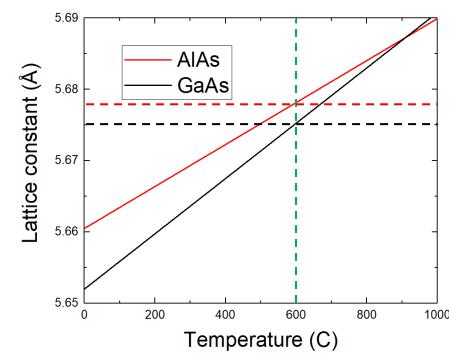
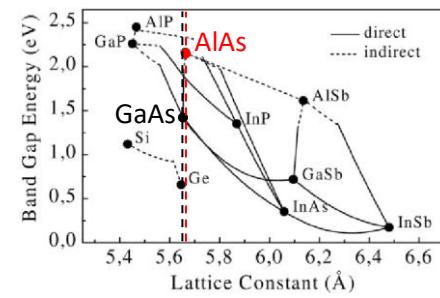


MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating 350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

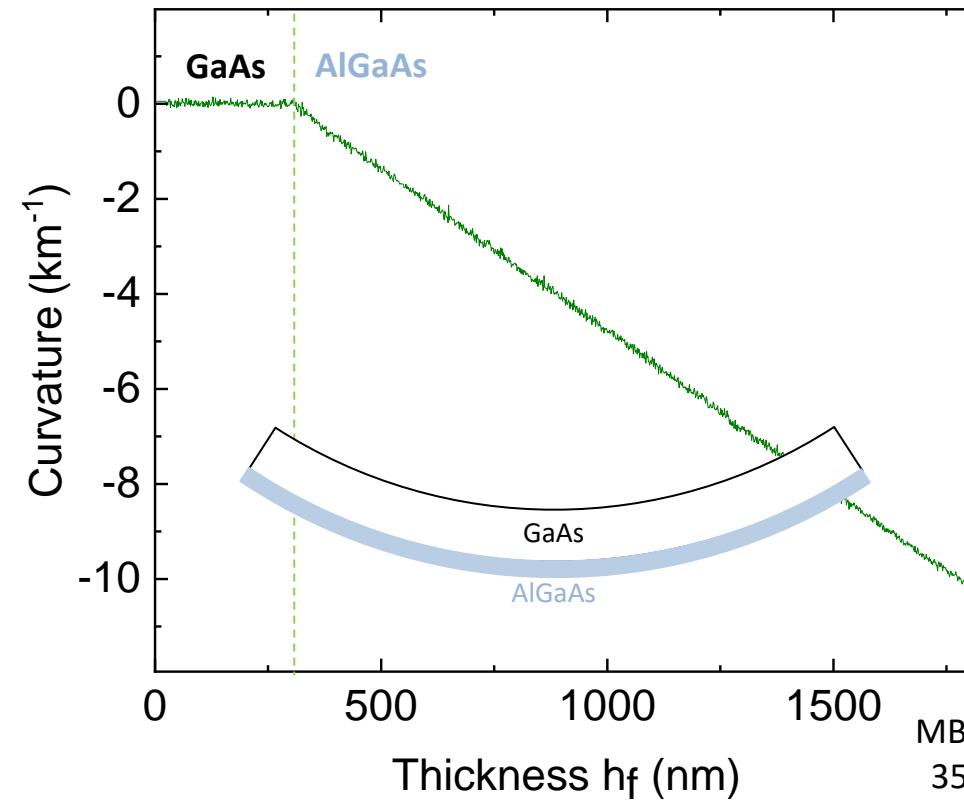
M. Ettenberg, R. J. Paff, *J. Appl. Phys.*, **41**, no.10, pp.3926-3927 (1970)

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

Intrinsic stress



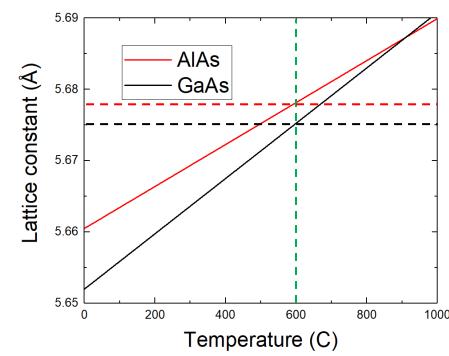
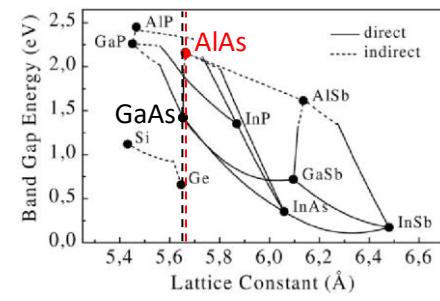
M. Ettenberg, R. J. Paff, *J. Appl. Phys.*, **41**, no.10, pp.3926-3927 (1970)



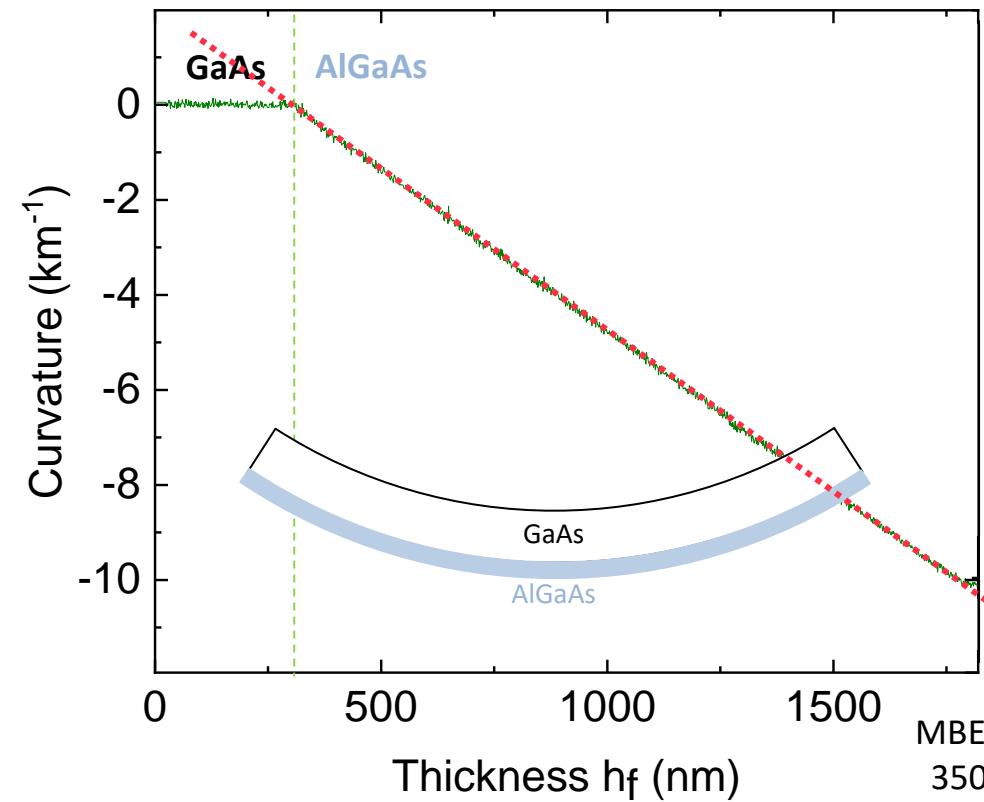
MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating 350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

Intrinsic stress



M. Ettenberg, R. J. Paff, *J. Appl. Phys.*, **41**, no.10, pp.3926-3927 (1970)



MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating 350 μm -thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

Intrinsic stress

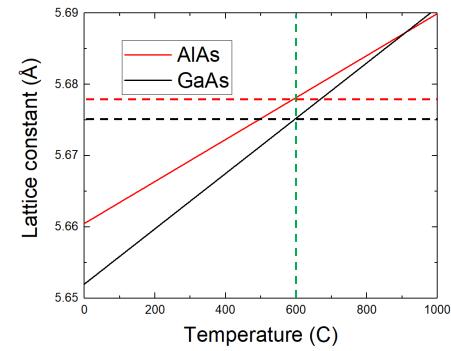
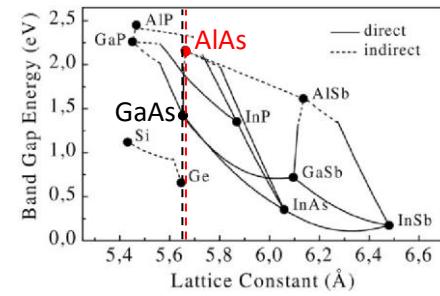
Curvature

(m⁻¹)

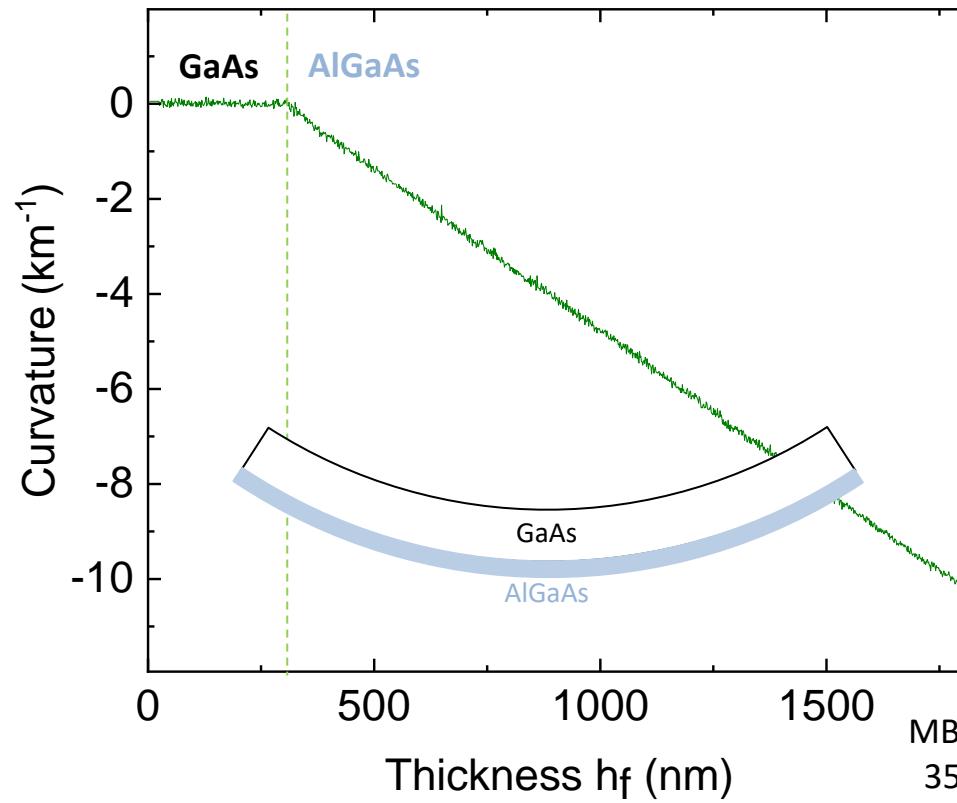
$$\kappa \approx \frac{6\sigma_f}{M_s h_s^2} h_f$$

Constant for a given film on a given substrate

h_f = film thickness
 M_s = substrate biaxial modulus
 h_s = substrate thickness
 σ_f = stress in the film



M. Ettenberg, R. J. Paff, J. Appl. Phys., 41, no.10, pp.3926-3927 (1970)



MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating 350 µm-thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

Curvature/Stress and MBE growth

Intrinsic stress

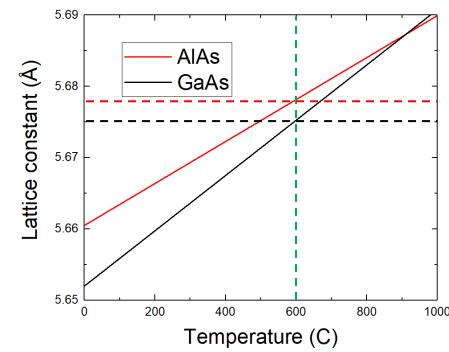
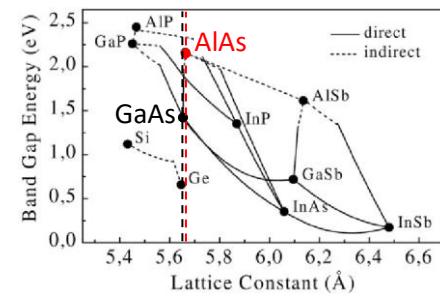
Curvature

(m⁻¹)

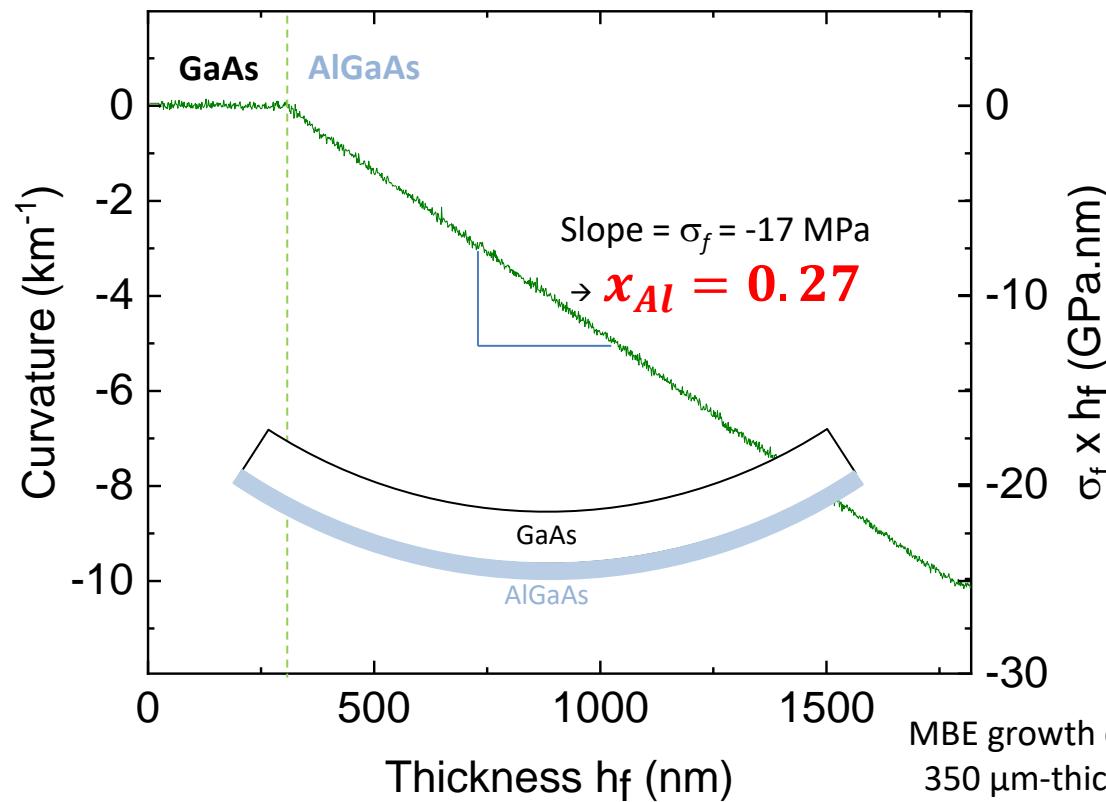
$$\kappa \approx \frac{6\bar{\sigma}_f}{M_s h_s^2} h_f$$

Constant for a given film on a given substrate

h_f = film thickness
 M_s = substrate biaxial modulus
 h_s = substrate thickness
 σ_f = stress in the film



M. Ettenberg, R. J. Paff, J. Appl. Phys., 41, no.10, pp.3926-3927 (1970)



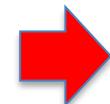
MBE growth of GaAs/AlGaAs on a rotating 350 µm-thick (001) GaAs wafer at 600°C

$$\bar{\sigma}_f h_f \approx \frac{M_s h_s^2}{6} \kappa$$

Stress/Curvature and crystal growth

Curvature and stress are linked

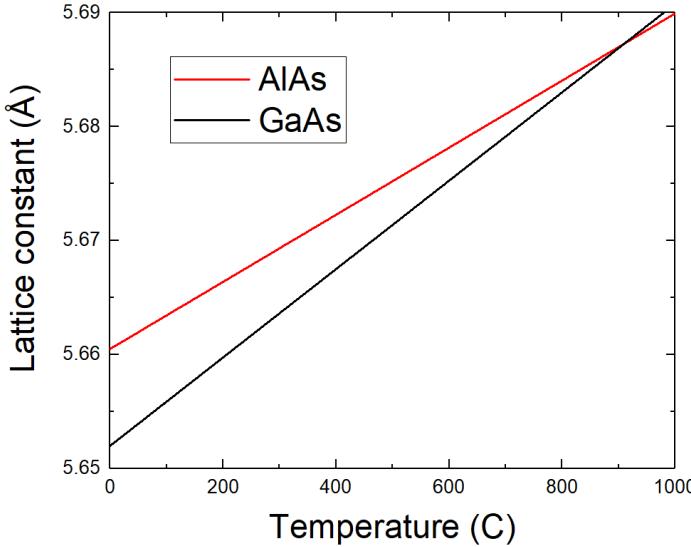
- > Usually, **three stress components** are distinguished:
 1. **Extrinsic stress**
 - Induced by external factors : temperature, pressure, mechanical loading, exposure to environment, ...
 2. **Intrinsic stress**
 - Stress source introduced during the MBE process : **lattice mismatch**, growth mode, relaxation, surface and/or interface stress, incorporation or desorption of impurities, phase transformations...
 3. **Thermal stress**
 - Difference in **thermal expansion coefficients** between film and substrate



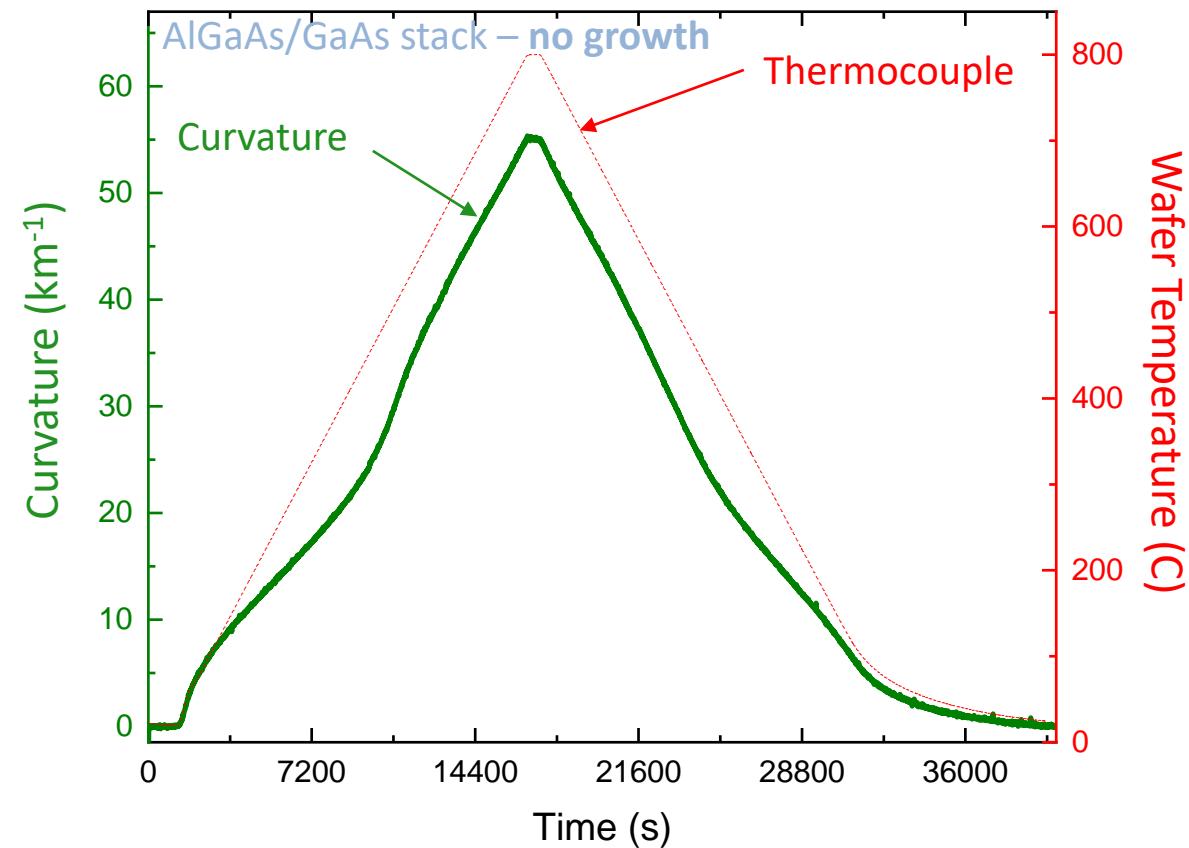
Stress/Curvature and crystal growth

Thermal stress

- > Because thermal expansion coefficient is material dependent, any change in temperature induces a change in stress/curvature of an heteroepitaxial stack.



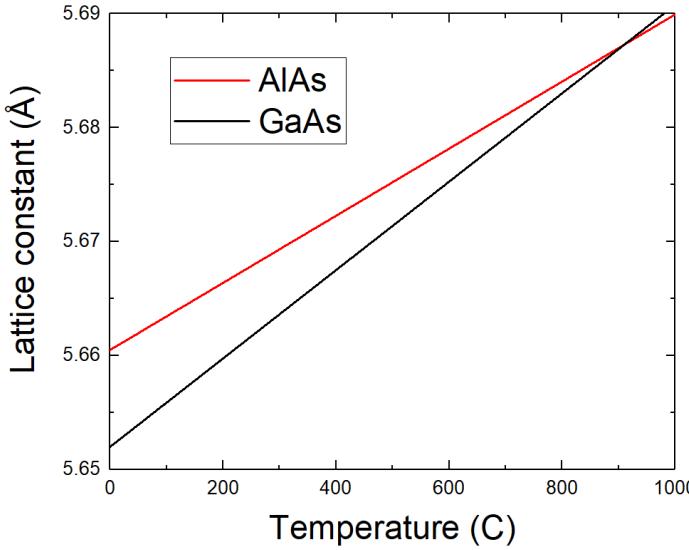
M. Ettenberg, R. J. Paff, *J. Appl. Phys.*, **41**, no.10,
pp.3926-3927 (1970)



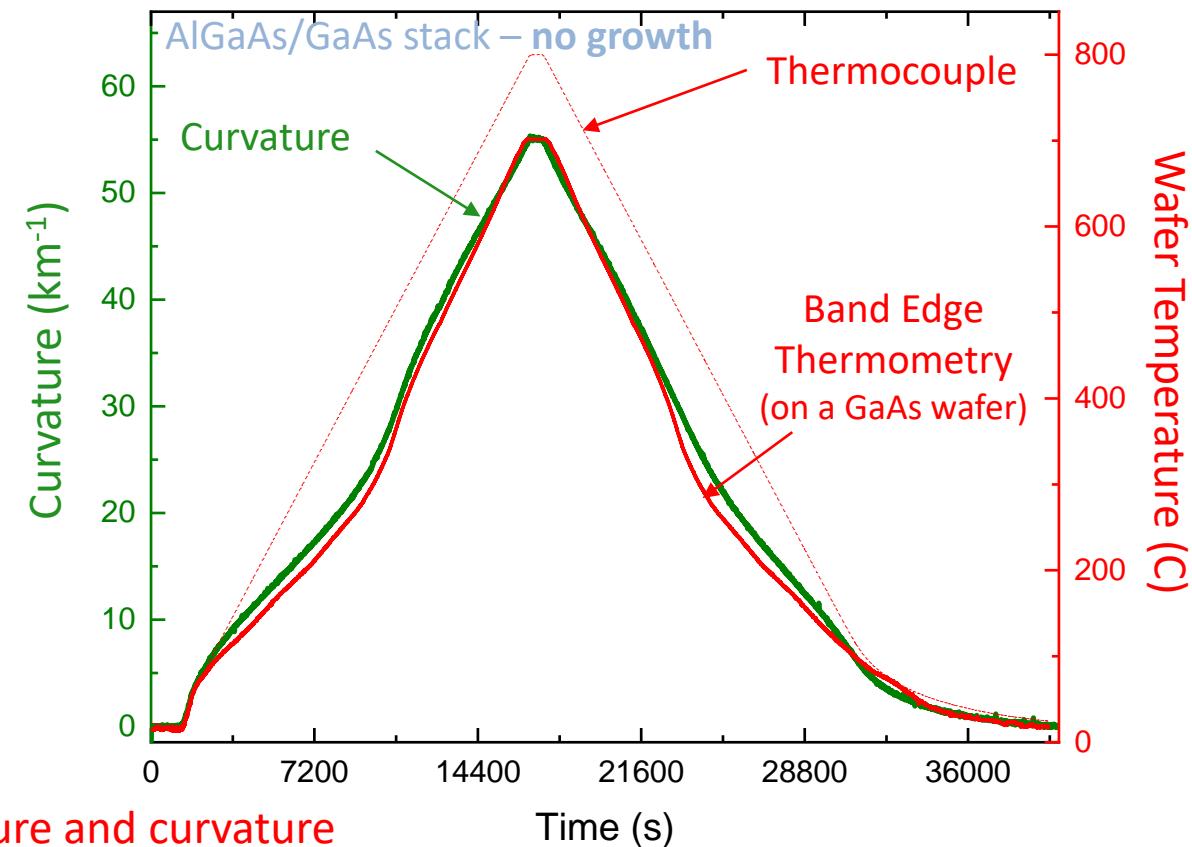
Stress/Curvature and crystal growth

Thermal stress

- > Because thermal expansion coefficient is material dependent, any change in temperature induces a change in stress/curvature of an heteroepitaxial stack.

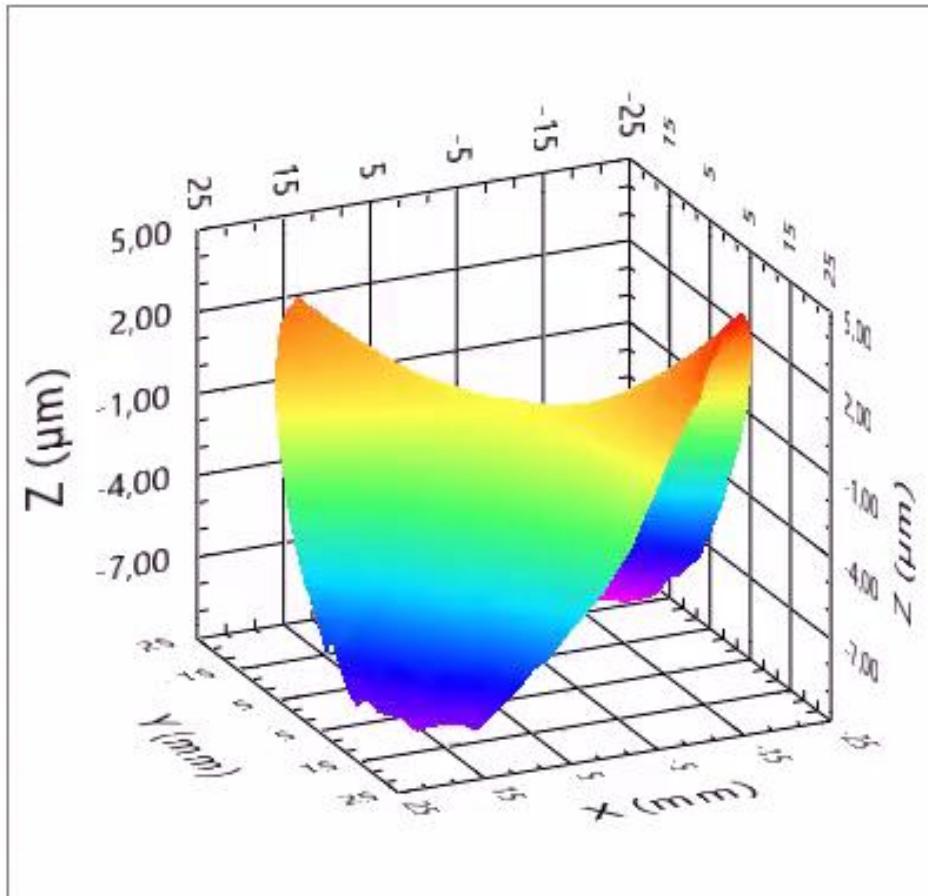


M. Ettenberg, R. J. Paff, *J. Appl. Phys.*, **41**, no.10,
pp.3926-3927 (1970)



→ Nice correlation between temperature and curvature

MIC Robustness to substrate rotation: anisotropy



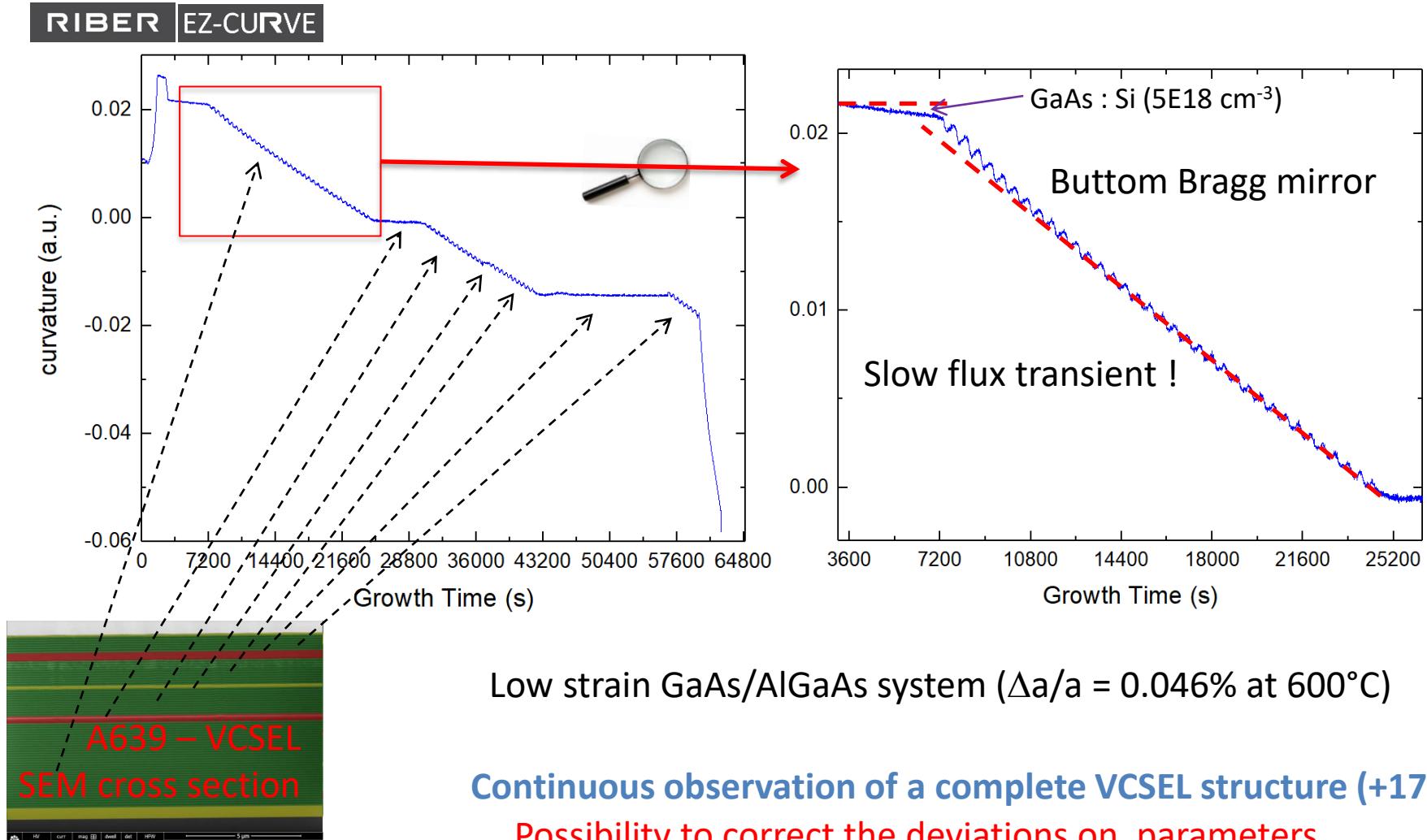
Wafer :
Single-side polished
GaAs NID AXT (001)
50mm diameter
350 μ m thick
Measured at 580C
Rotation : 12RPM

Because **substrate is rotating**, it is possible to measure the curvature in any direction, and to get a clear view of its shape in live

Note : It is also possible to measure this complete shape on non-rotating substrates at normal incidence

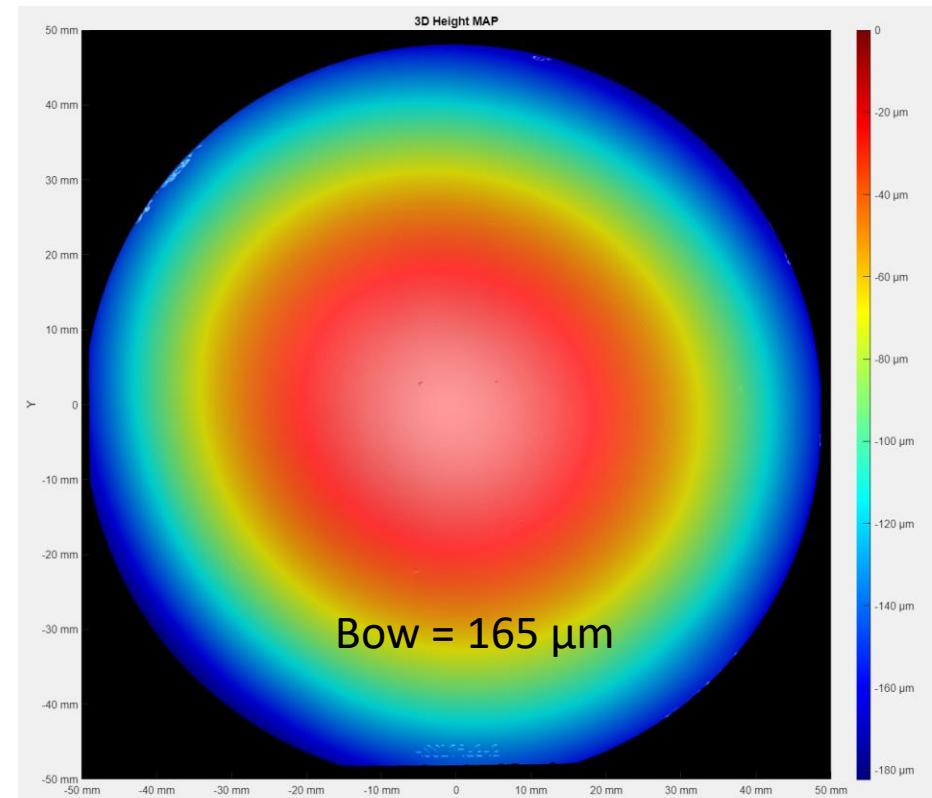
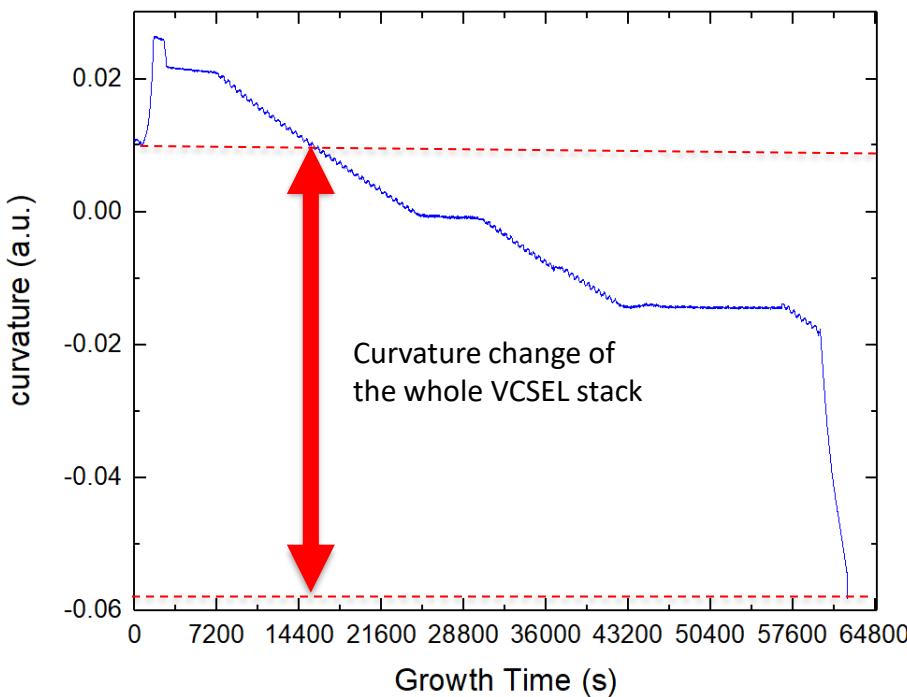
In situ characterization tools in MBE: Curvature

MIC : some experimental results



Ex-situ characterization of full wafer shape

In-situ curvature variation measurement



100mm GaAs wafer + VCSEL growth

See www.dip-view.com

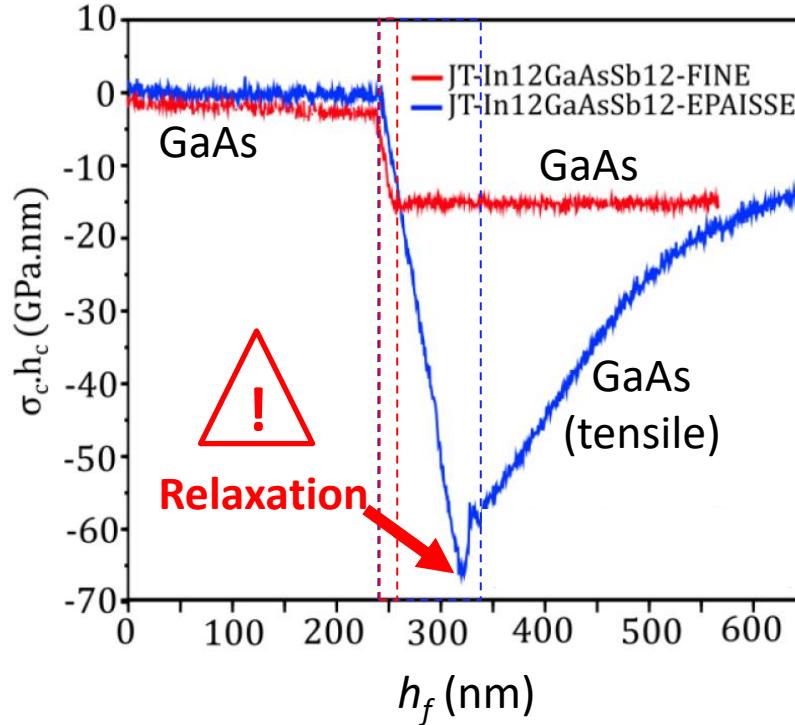
In situ characterization tools in MBE: Curvature

MIC : some experimental results

RIBER | EZ-CURVE

Tunnel junctions for solar cells

b- JT avec 12% Sb et In



→ Real-time observation of relaxation

In situ characterization tools in MBE

**Complementarity for
alloy concentration / growth rate
measurement**

Growth rate: Curvature

> Stoney equation:

$$\kappa \approx \frac{6\bar{\sigma}_f h_f}{M_s h_s^2} = 6 \frac{h_f M_f}{h_s^2 M_s} \varepsilon = -6 \frac{h_f M_f}{h_s^2 M_s} \frac{a_f - a_s}{a_s}$$

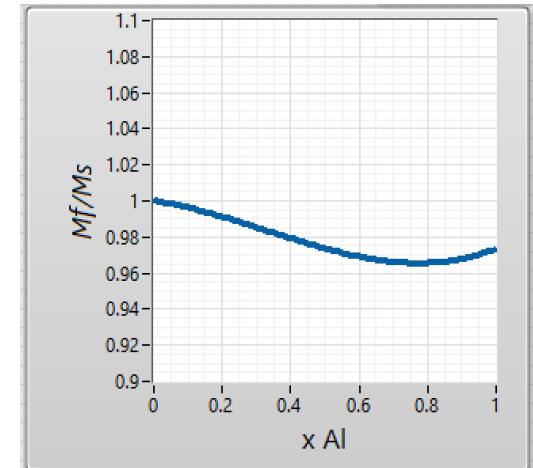
Young Modulus E
 Poisson coefficient ν

Avec $M = \frac{E}{1 - \nu}$

For $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{(1-x)}\text{As}$:

$$a_f = a_{\text{AlGaAs}} = x a_{\text{AlAs}} + (1 - x) a_{\text{GaAs}}$$

$$\kappa \approx - \frac{6h_{\text{AlGaAs}}}{h_s^2} \times x \times \frac{a_{\text{AlAs}}(\textcolor{red}{T}) - a_{\text{GaAs}}(\textcolor{red}{T})}{a_{\text{GaAs}}(\textcolor{red}{T})}$$



Compositional dependence of the elastic constants and the lattice parameter of AlGaAs
 Gehristz et al.
 PRB 60 (16), 1999

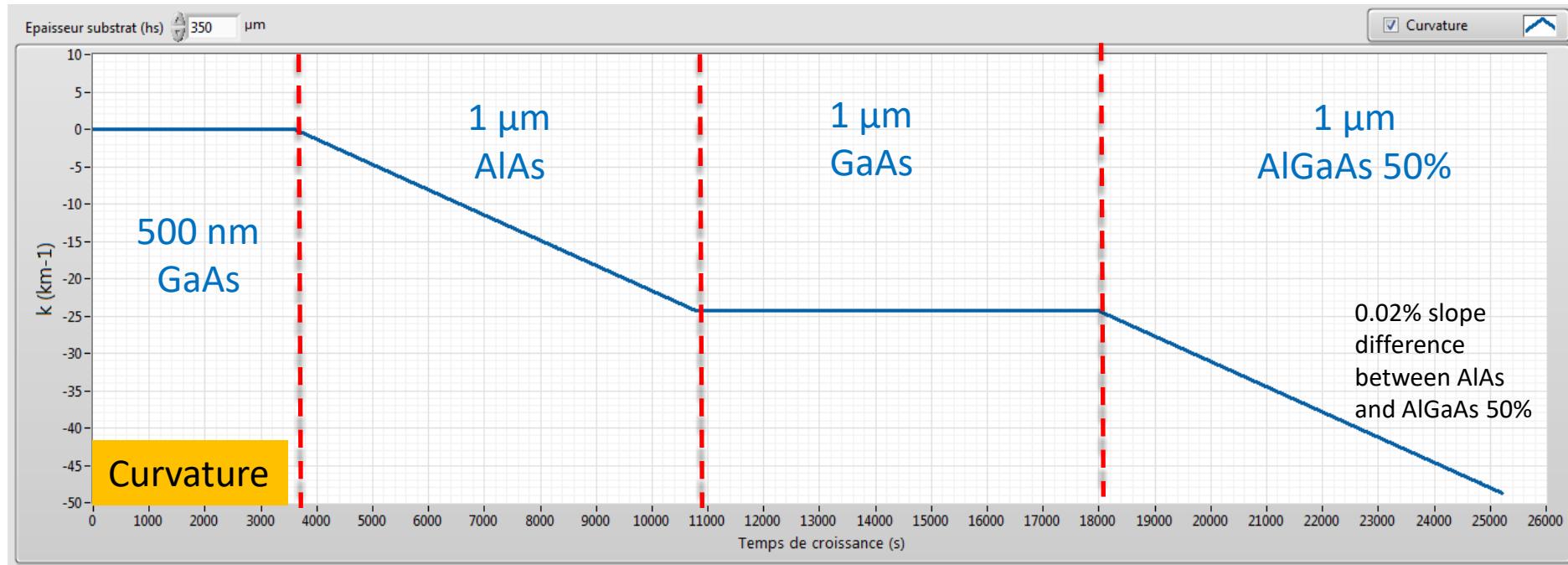
Growth rate: Curvature

$$k \approx -\frac{6h_{AlGaAs}}{h_s^2} \times x \times \frac{a_{AlAs}(T) - a_{GaAs}(T)}{a_{GaAs}(T)}$$

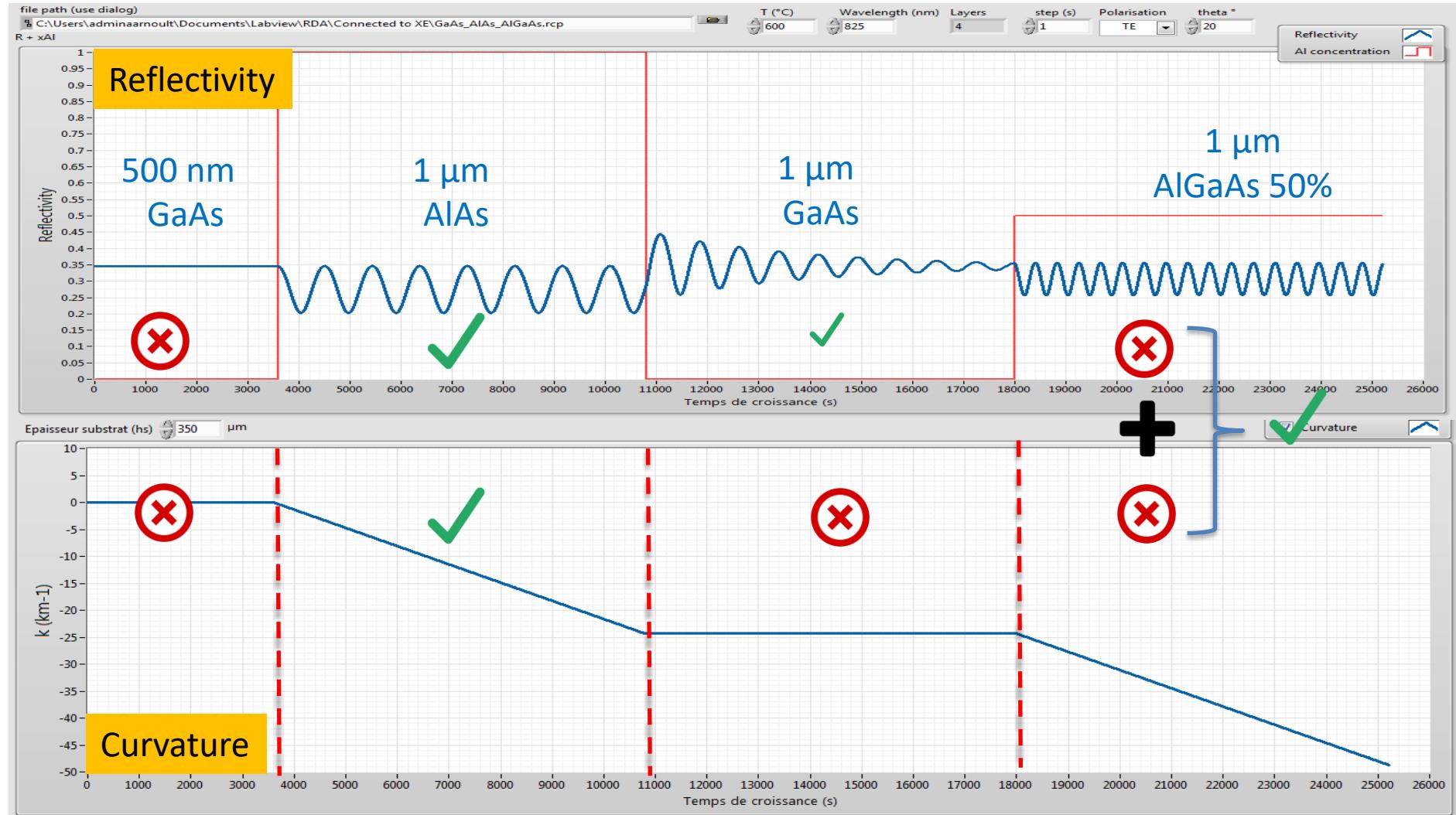
$$\frac{\Delta \kappa}{\Delta t} \approx -\frac{6 \times G_{AlAs}}{h_s^2} \times \frac{a_{AlAs}(T) - a_{GaAs}(T)}{a_{GaAs}(T)}$$

with $h_{AlGaAs} = G_{AlGaAs} \times t$
 $= (G_{GaAs} + G_{AlAs}) \times t$

$$x = \frac{G_{AlAs}}{G_{GaAs} + G_{AlAs}}$$



Reflectivity – Curvature complementarity

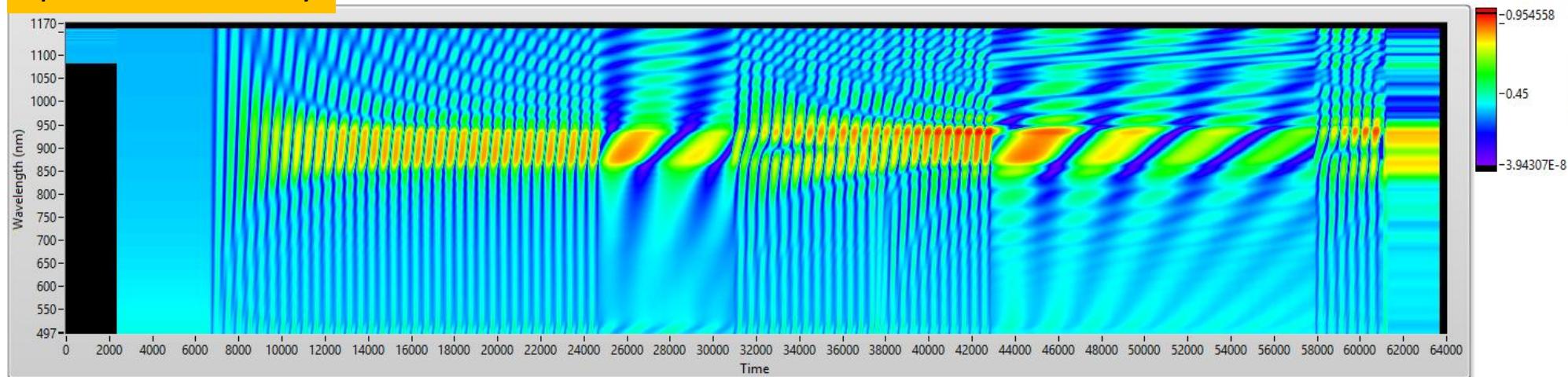


In situ characterization tools in MBE

Complementarity and time scales

Complementarity and time scales

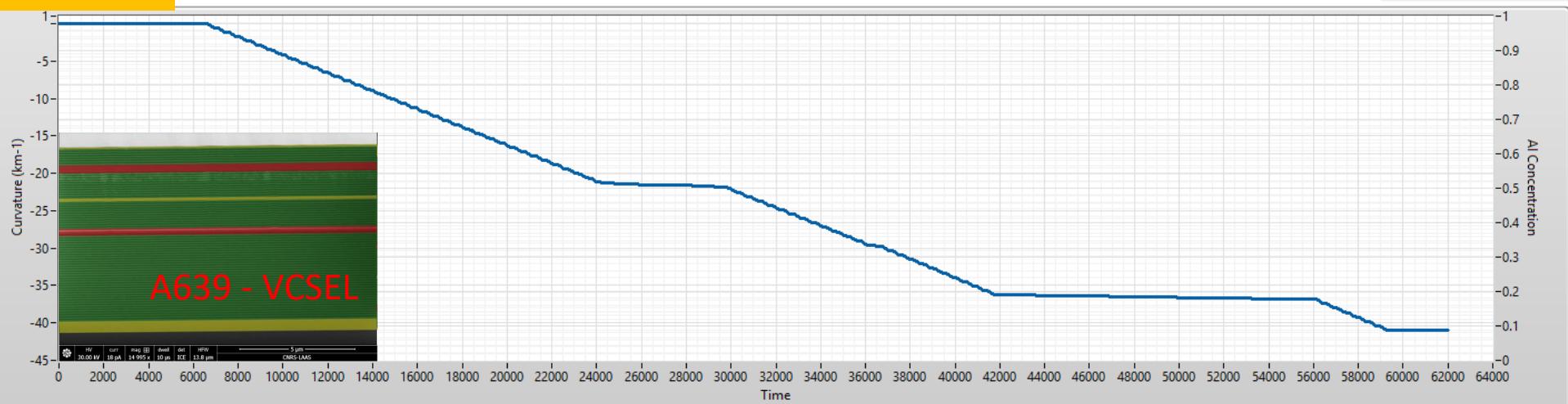
Spectral reflectivity



Curvature

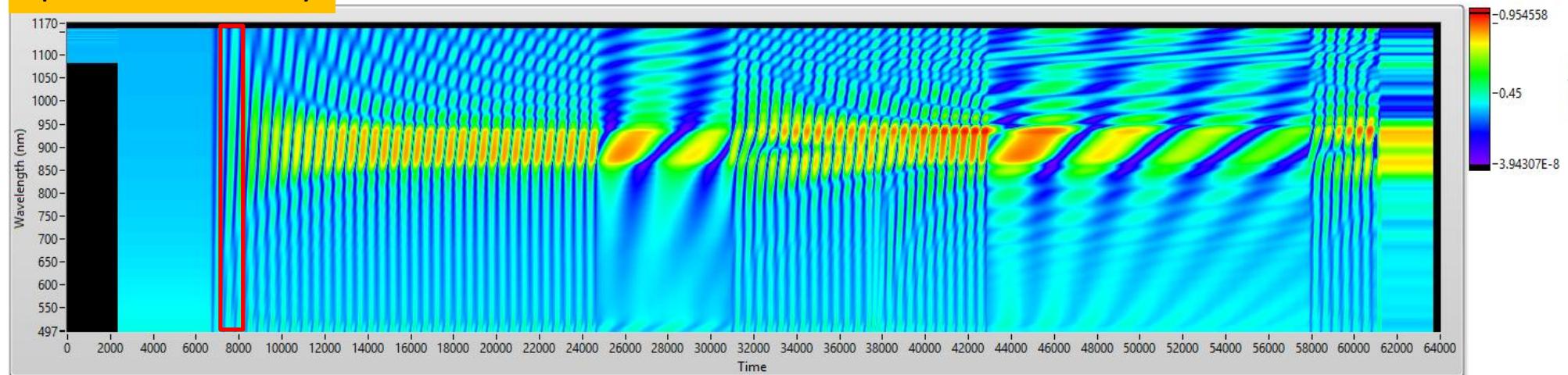
20H

- Curvature
- Al Concentration



Complementarity and time scales

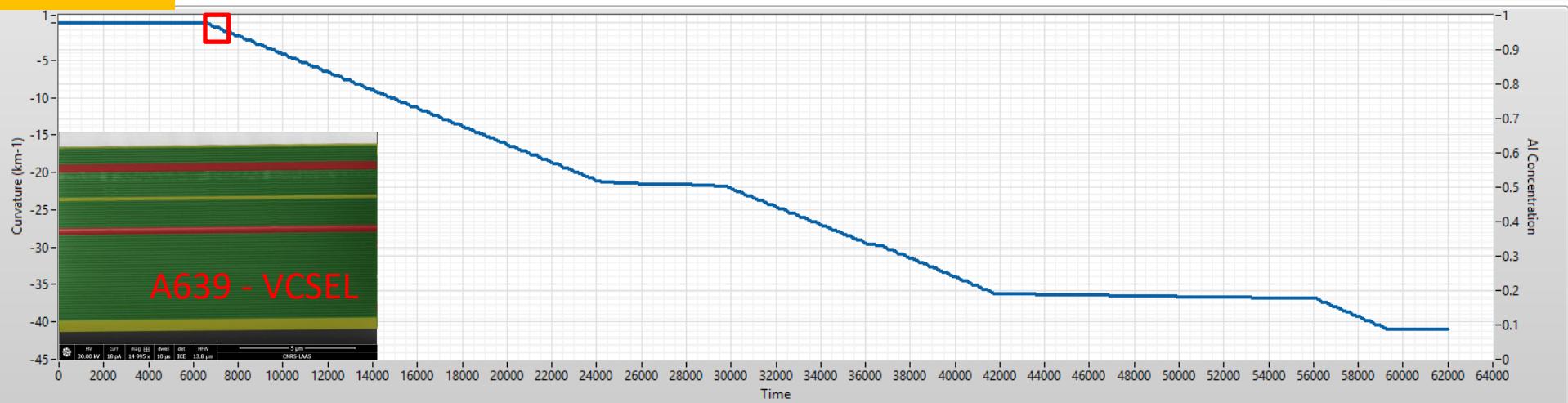
Spectral reflectivity



Curvature

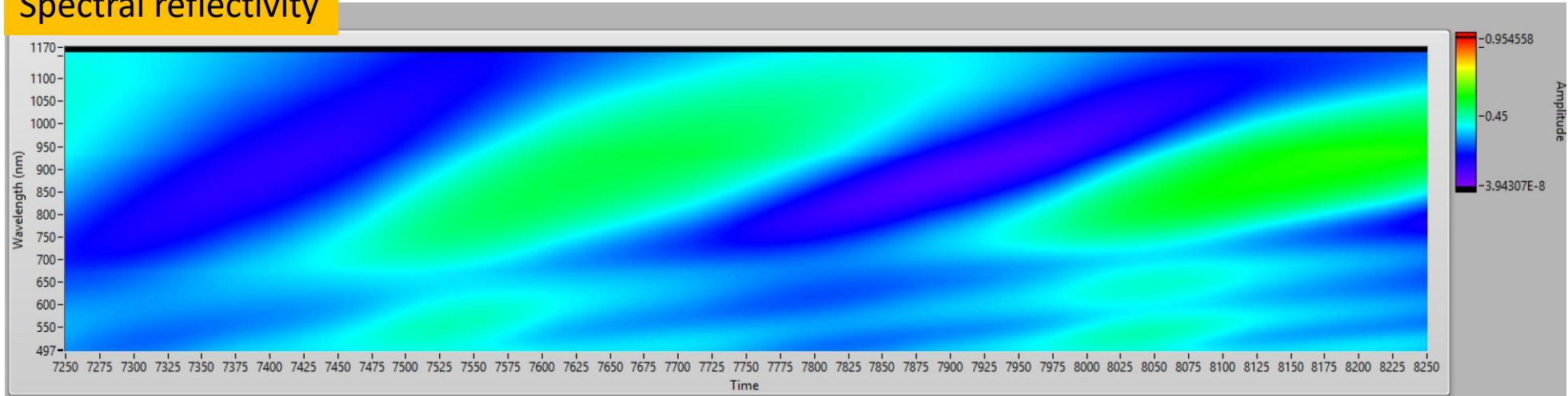
20H

- Curvature
- Al Concentration



Complementarity and time scales

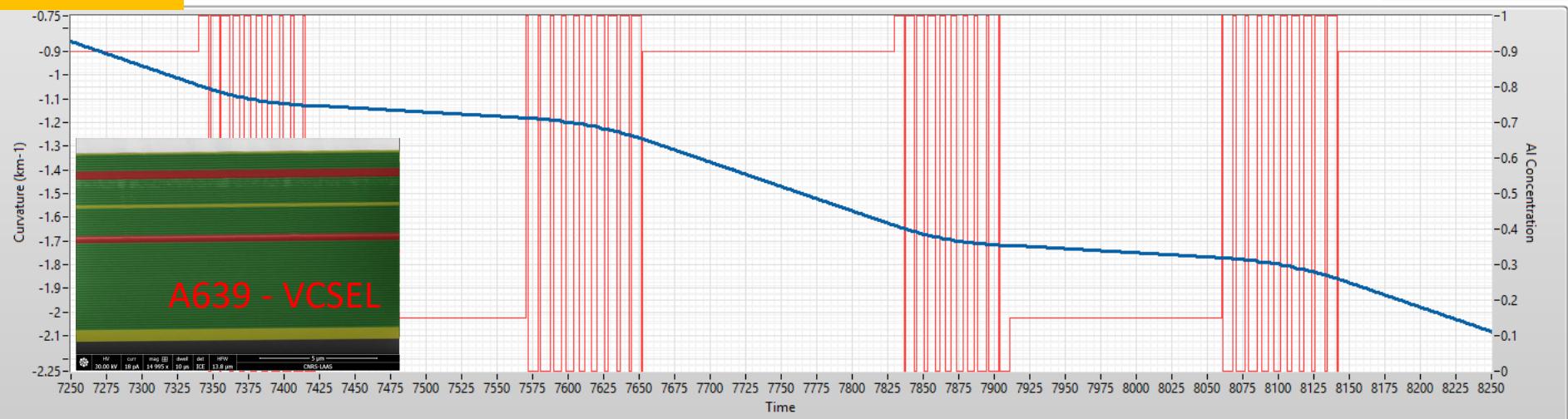
Spectral reflectivity



Curvature

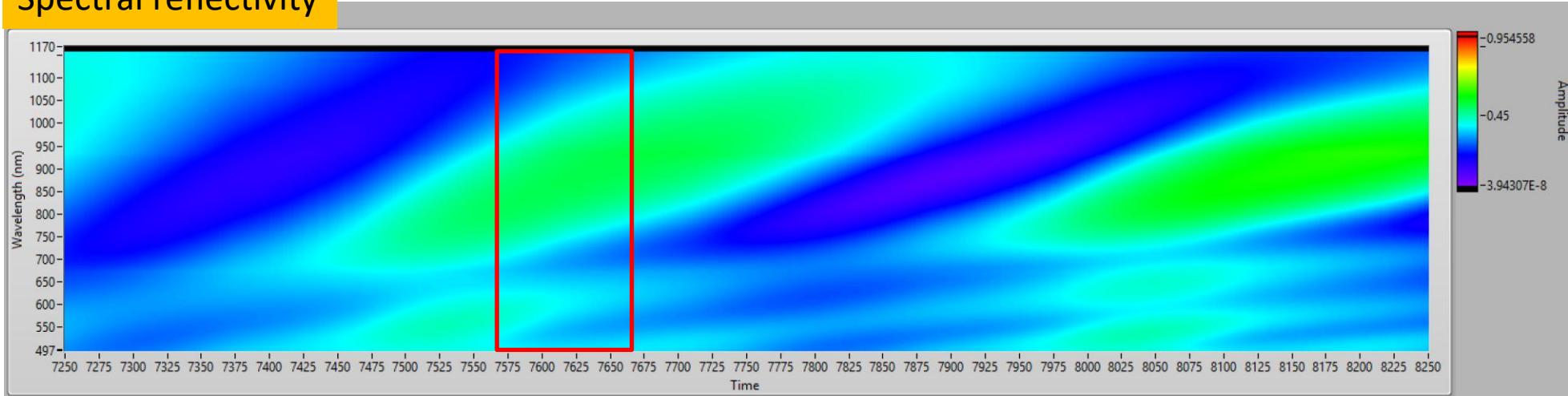
16:40

- Curvature
- Al Concentration



Complementarity and time scales

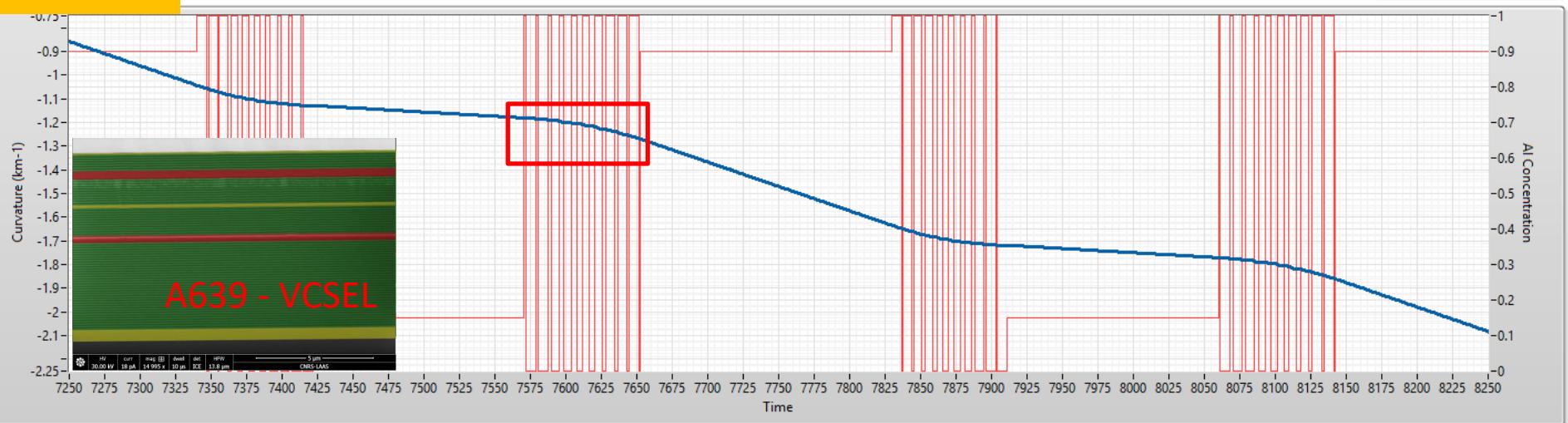
Spectral reflectivity



Curvature

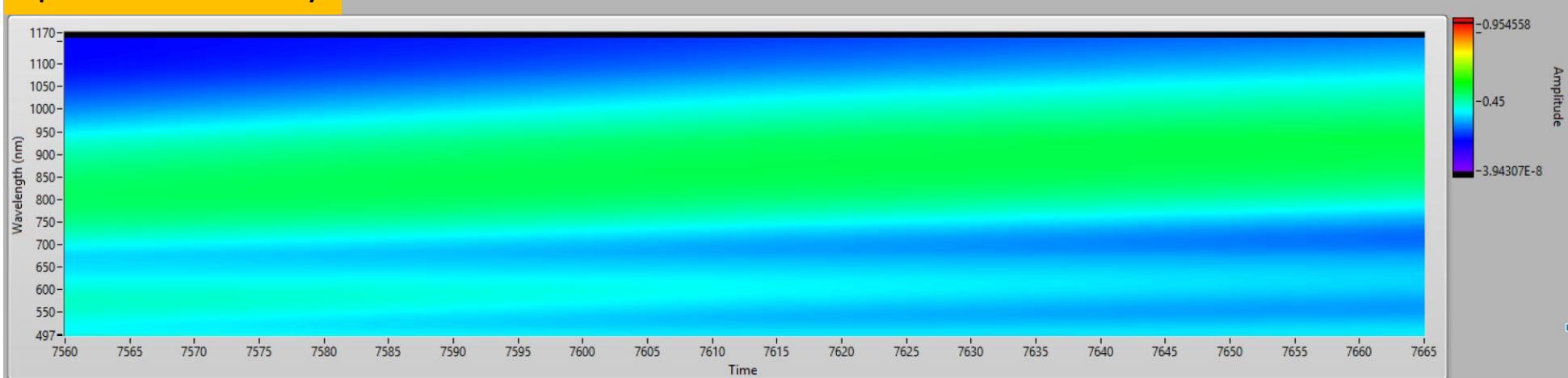
16:40

- Curvature
- Al Concentration



Complementarity and time scales

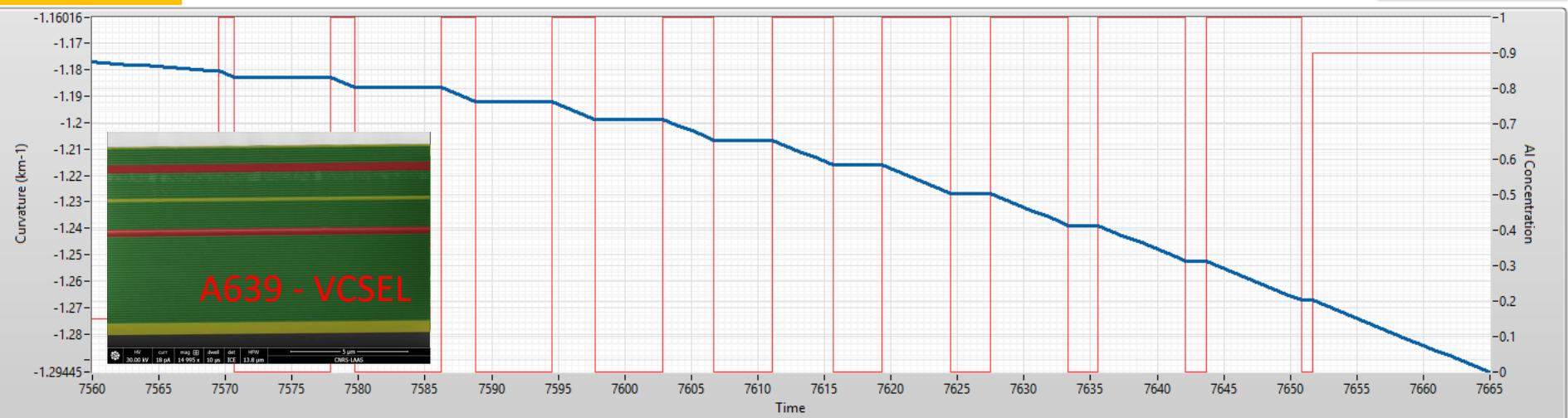
Spectral reflectivity



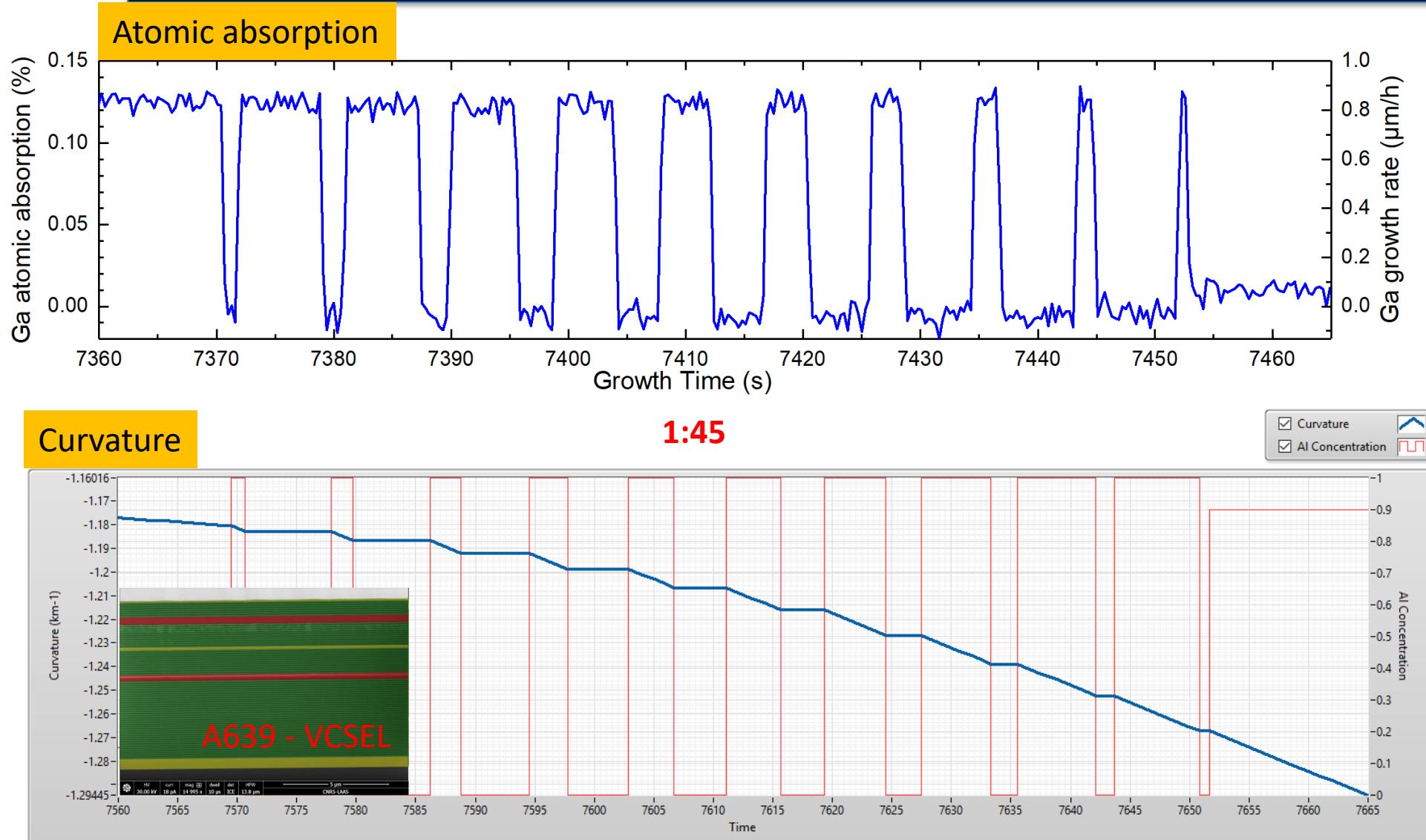
Curvature

1:45

- Curvature
- Al Concentration



Complementarity and time scales



Complementarity and time scales

> Reflectivity, Atomic Absorption and Curvature address different time scales / thicknesses

	Reflectivity	Curvature	Atomic Abs.
10H / 10µm	+++	+++	+
1H / 1µm	++	+++	+
Minutes / 10 th nm	-	++	++
Seconds / ml	X	+	+++

Towards automation of MBE growth

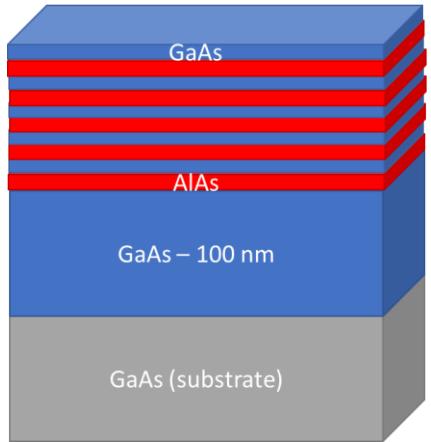
Towards automation of MBE growth

Towards automation of MBE growth

Bragg mirrors
automatically grown thanks
to spectral reflectivity

Bragg mirrors automatically grown

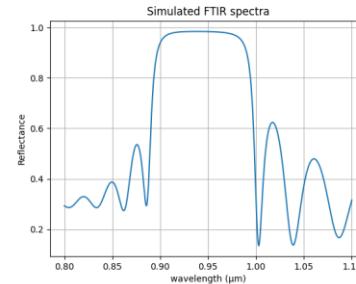
Perfect DBR for λ_{laser} :



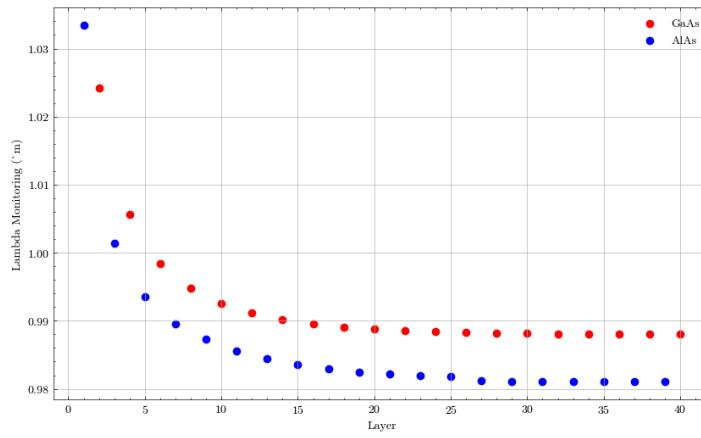
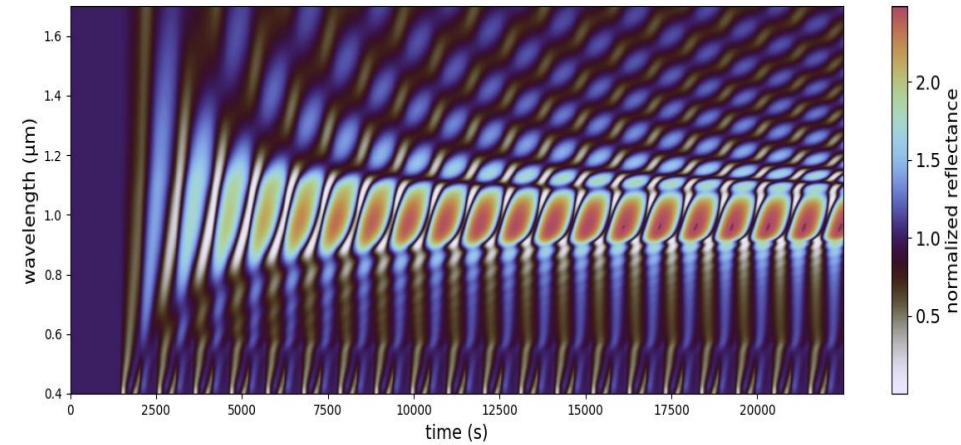
$$t_{GaAs} = \frac{\lambda_{laser}}{4 * n(GaAs)}$$

$$t_{AlAs} = \frac{\lambda_{laser}}{4 * n(AlAs)}$$

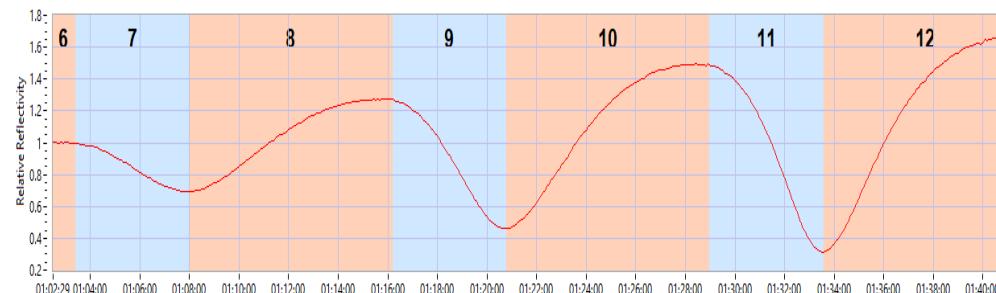
x20



Simulation of in-situ reflectance with measured optical indices at 600°C

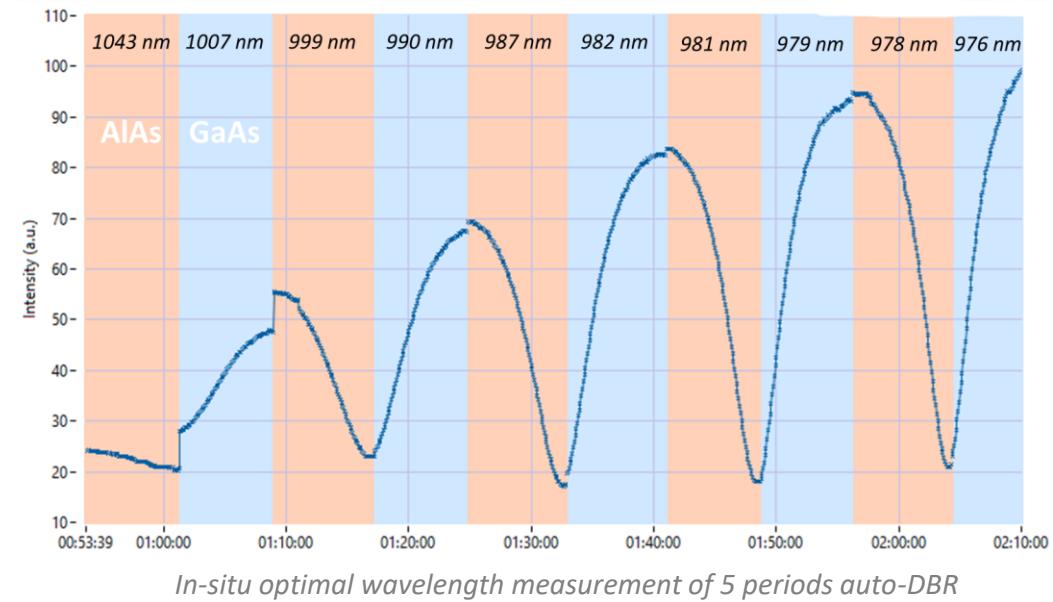
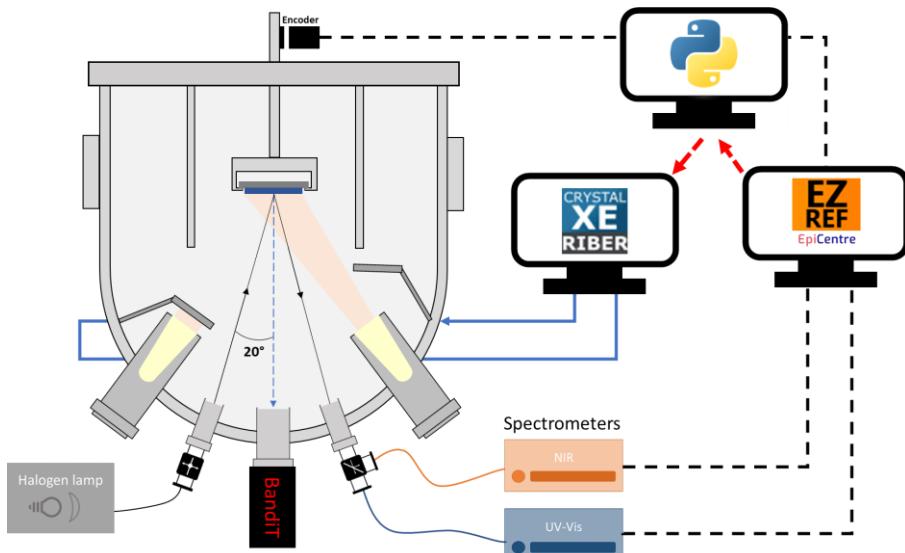


Calculated optimal monitoring wavelengths

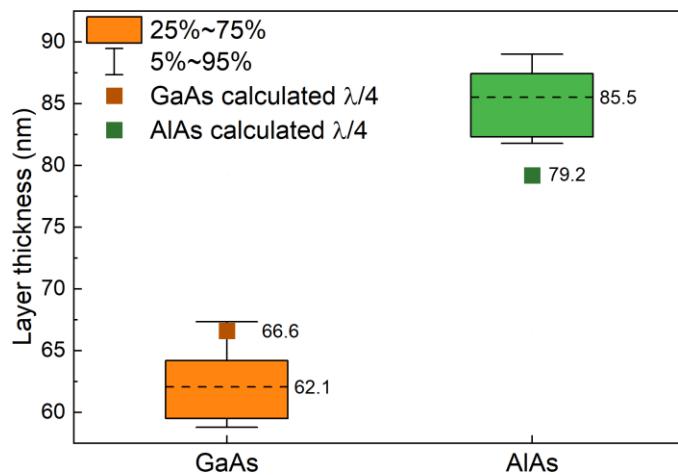


Get wavelength when reflectivity reach a maxima at the end of layer

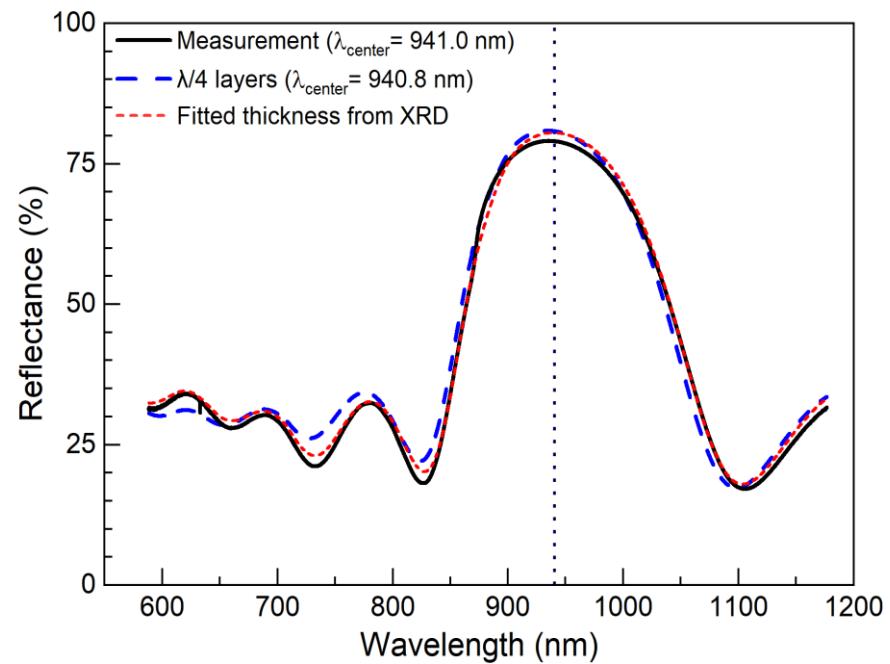
Auto-DBR growth: Experiment



Auto-DBR growth: Primary Results



XRD results of 5 periods auto-DBR and comparison with expected



FTIR measurement of 5 periods auto-DBR and comparison with expected

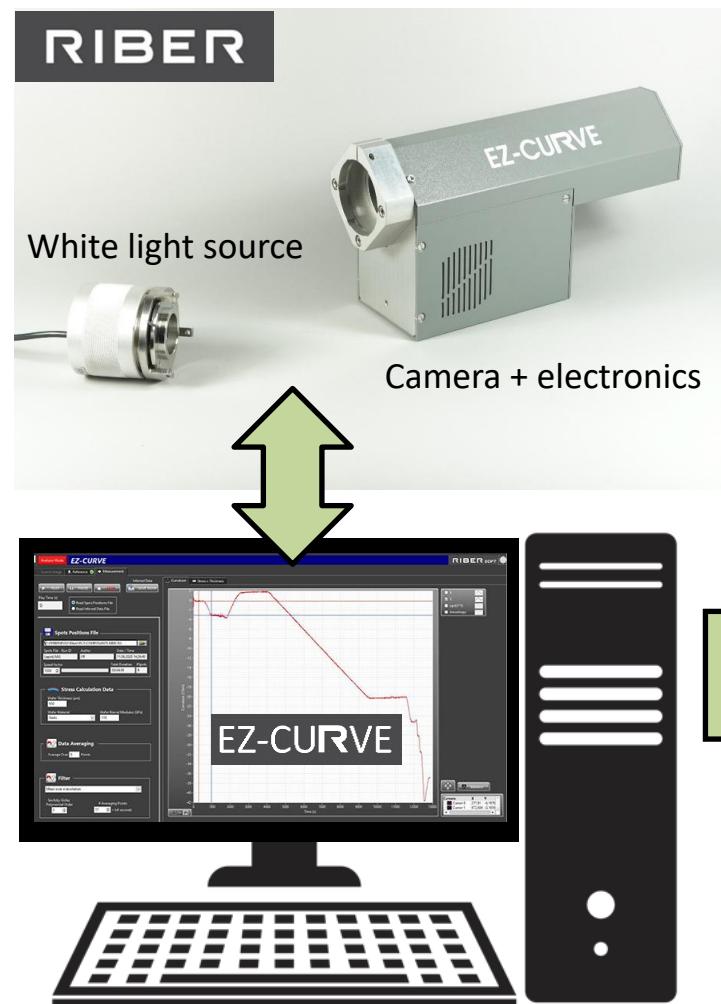
- Phase compensation effect
- Good control of the centering wavelength

Towards automation of MBE growth

Automated lattice match
control of alloys growth

MIC (Riber EZ-CURVE) and Crystal XE

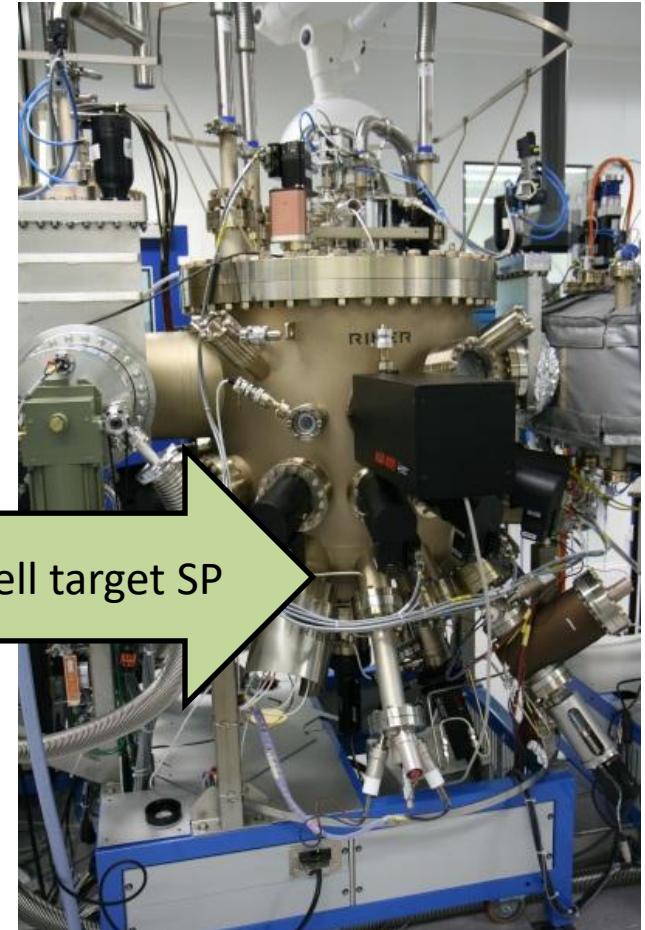
RIBER



```

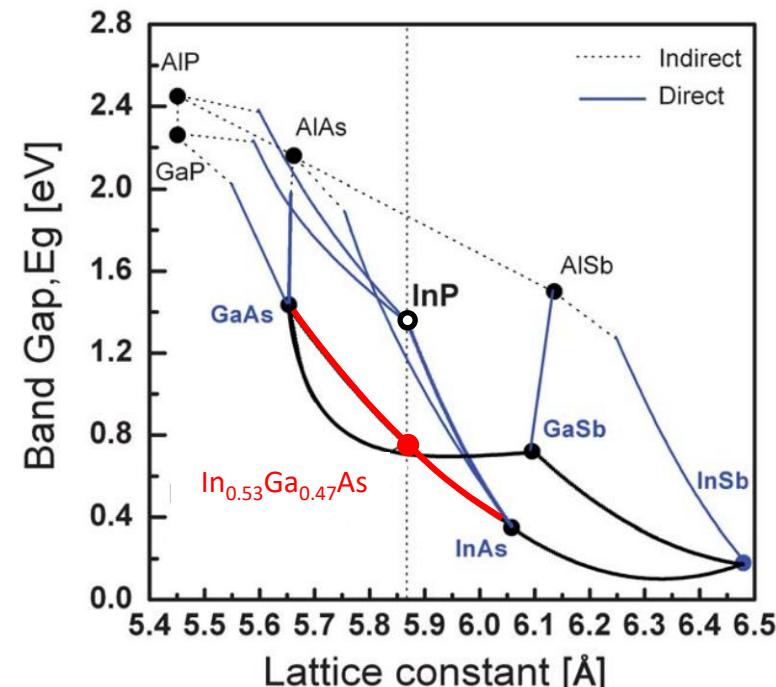
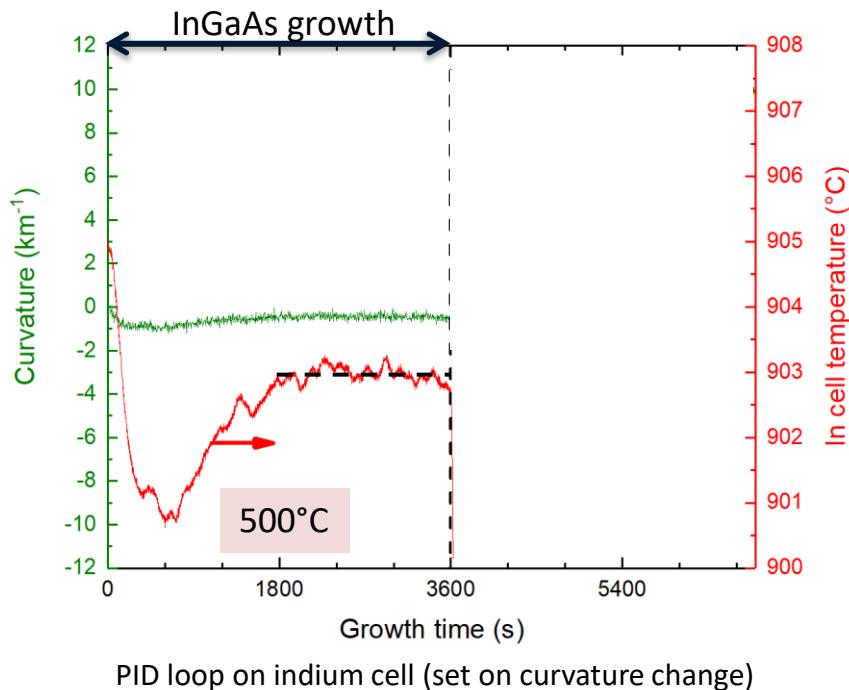
Var
    Integral : real ;
    Deriv : real ;
    Correction : real ;
    Kp : real ;
    Ki : real ;
    Kd : real ;
    THes : real ;
    DeltaBaseTop : real ;
    MovingAverage : real ;
    PrevModuleErreur : real ;
    Gen : real ;
    TargetCurvP : real ;
    TargetCurvI : real ;
    TargetCurvD : real ;
    PreviousErreur : real ;
Begin
    Integral := 0;
    Deriv:=0;
    Correction:=0;
    Kp := 20; //user setting
    Ki := 0.5; //user setting
    Kd := 0.5; //user setting
    THes := 935; //user setting Temperature max de la base
    THesMin := 930; //user setting Temperature min de la base
    DeltaBaseTop := 0.5; //user setting Difference de température entre la base et le plateau calculée sur le par
    MovingAverage := 10; //user setting Nombre d'images dans la moyenne mobile
    PrevModuleErreur :=0;
    Gen := 0;
    PreviousErreur:=0;
    //Algorithm
    Erreur := Growth.EZ_CURVE.EZ_CURVE.CurvPPrime - TargetCurvP;
    ModuleErreur := (PrevModuleErreur+(MovingAverage-1)*Erreur)/MovingAverage;
    Integral := Integral + Erreur;
    Deriv := Deriv + Erreur;
    Correction := Kp*Erreur + Ki*Integral + Kd*Deriv;
    If ((Growth.In.P7.Filament.MW + Correction) < Min) Then Growth.In.P7.Filament.TP := Min;
    If ((Growth.In.P7.Filament.MW + Correction) > Max) Then Growth.In.P7.Filament.TP := Max;
    If ((Growth.In.P7.Filament.MW + Correction) < Min) And ((Growth.In.P7.Filament.MW + Correction) > Max) Then Growth.In.P7.Filament.TP := (Min+Max)/2;
    PrevModuleErreur := Erreur;
    Gen := Gen + Correction;
    PrevModuleErreur := ModuleErreur;
    Sleep (2000);
End;

```


<https://www.ez-curve.com/>

MIC in action: Automatic lattice match

Automatic lattice match control of a 730 nm-thick InGaAs on InP

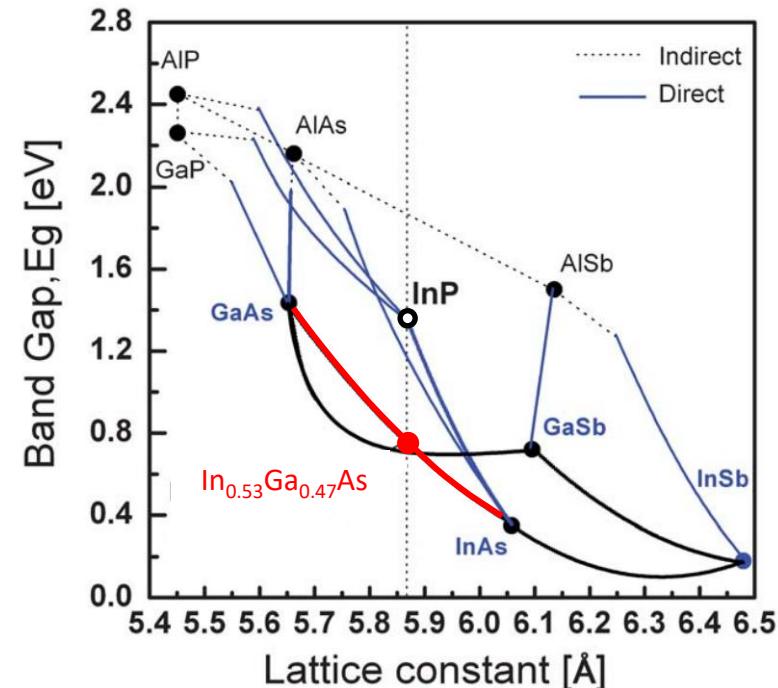
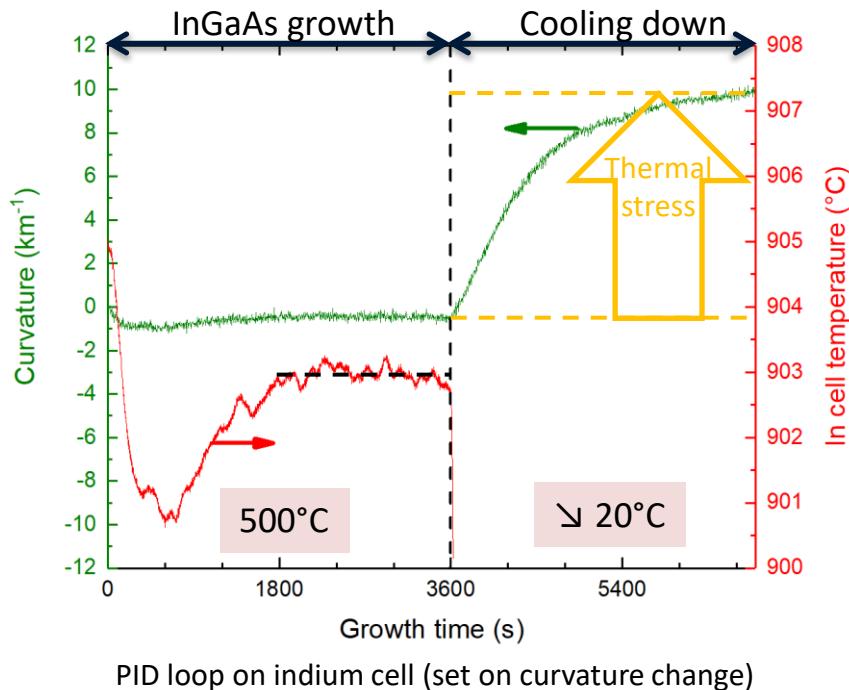


Rotating substrate:

- (001) InP
- 50 mm dia.
- 400 μm thick

MIC in action: Automatic lattice match

Automatic lattice match control of a 730 nm-thick InGaAs on InP



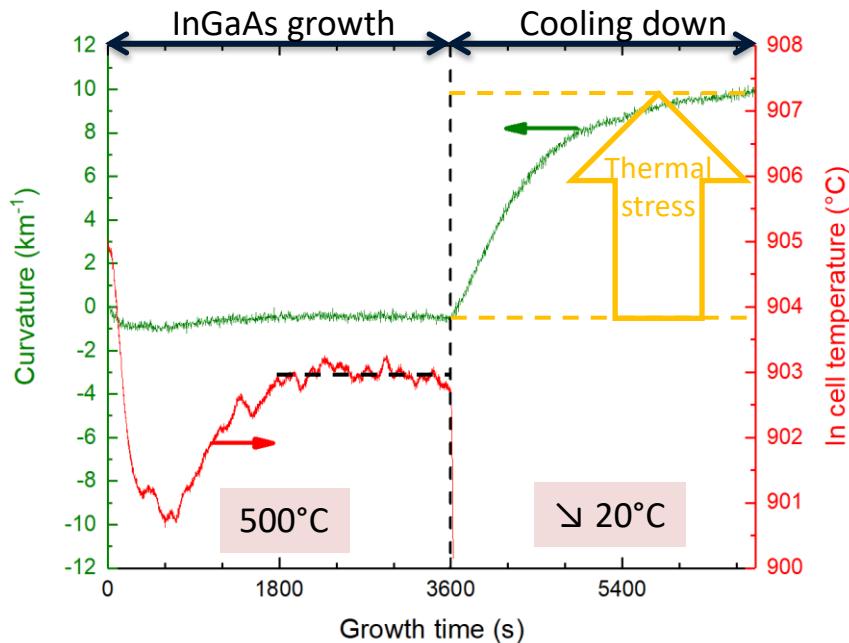
Rotating substrate:

- (001) InP
- 50 mm dia.
- 400 μm thick

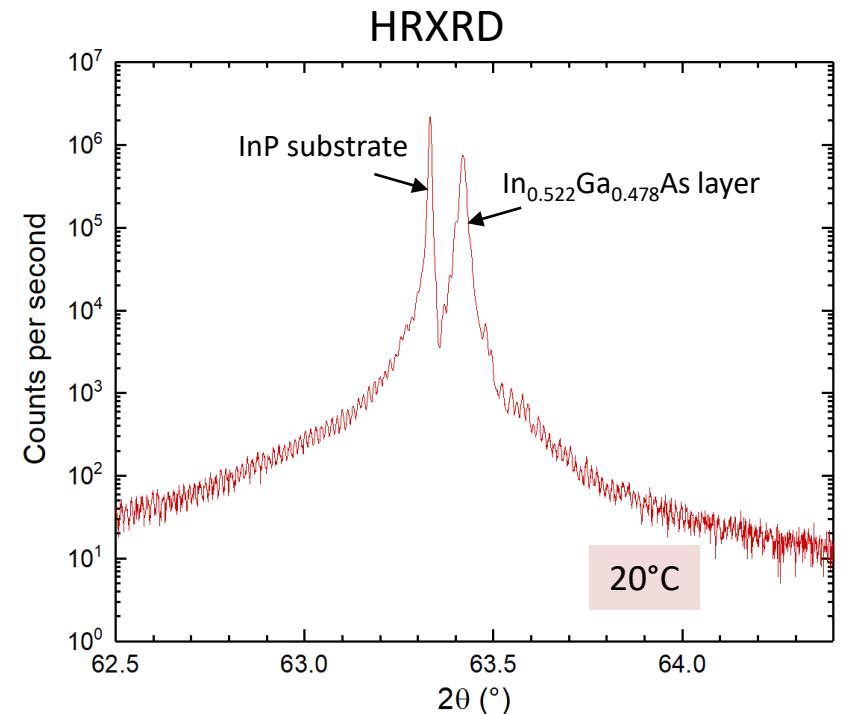
MIC in action: Automatic lattice match

Automatic lattice match control of a 730 nm-thick InGaAs on InP

0.73 μm InGaAs on InP



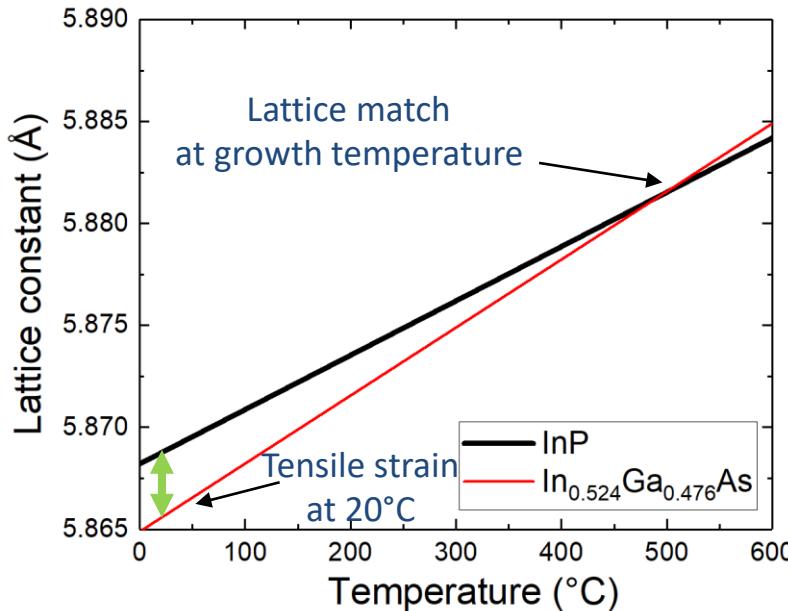
- Rotating substrate:
- (001) InP
 - 50 mm dia.
 - 400 μm thick



Thermal expansion coefficients mismatch
→ thermal stress

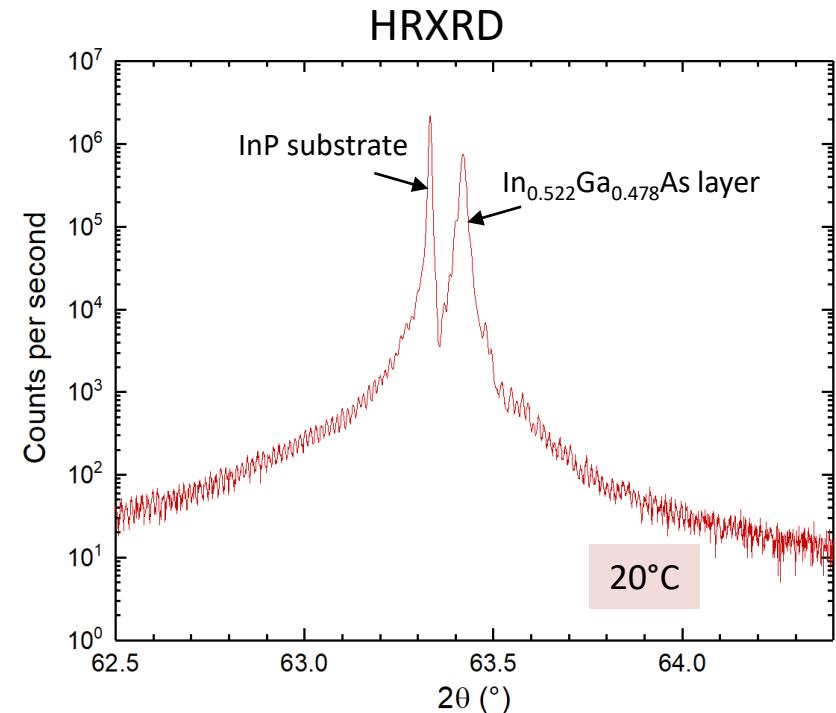
MIC in action: Automatic lattice match

Automatic lattice match control of a 730 nm-thick $\text{In}_{0.524}\text{Ga}_{0.476}\text{As}$ on InP



Bisaro et al, Appl. Phys. Lett. **34**(1), 100 (1979)

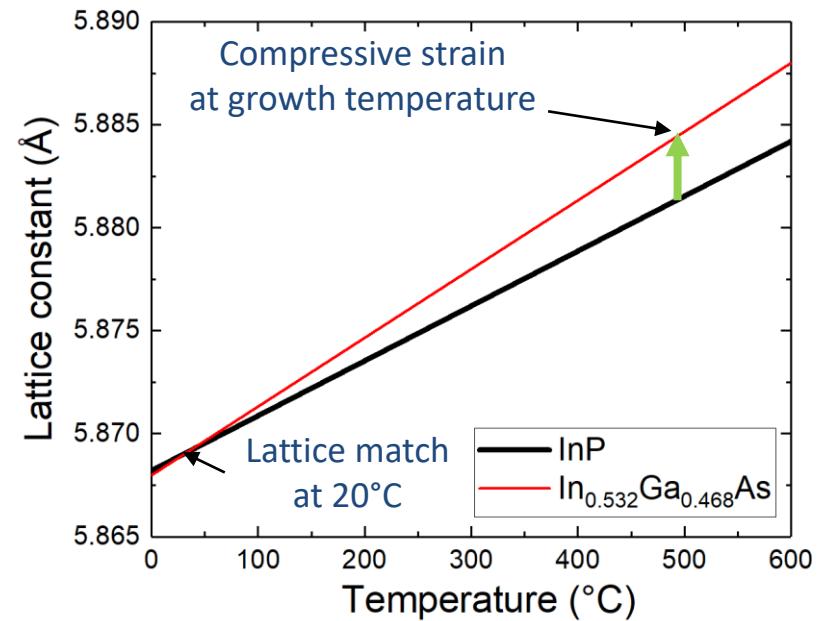
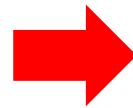
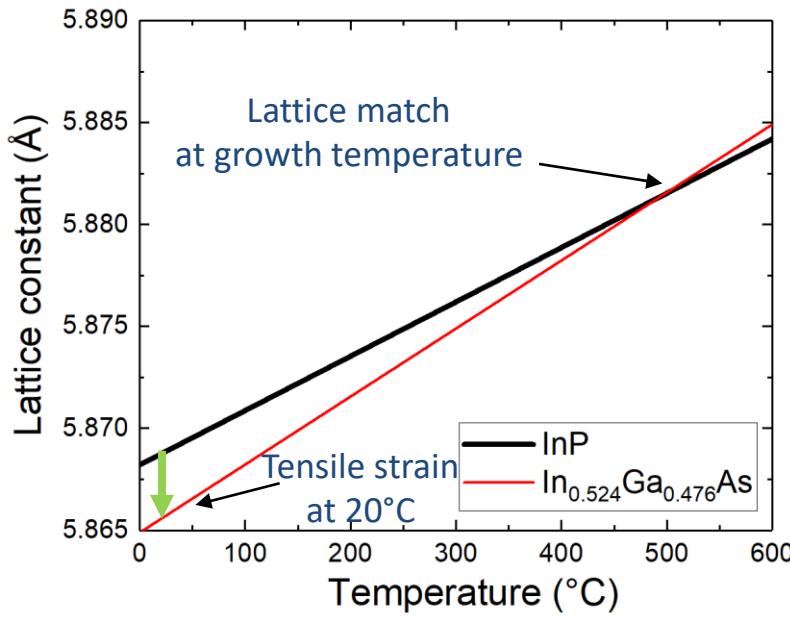
- $\alpha_{\text{In}_{0.53}\text{Ga}_{0.47}\text{As}} = (5.55 \pm 0.10) \times 10^{-6} / ^\circ\text{C}$
- $\alpha_{\text{InP}} = (4.56 \pm 0.10) \times 10^{-6} / ^\circ\text{C}$



Thermal expansion coefficients mismatch
→ thermal stress

MIC in action: Automatic lattice match

Automatic lattice match control of a 730 nm-thick InGaAs on InP



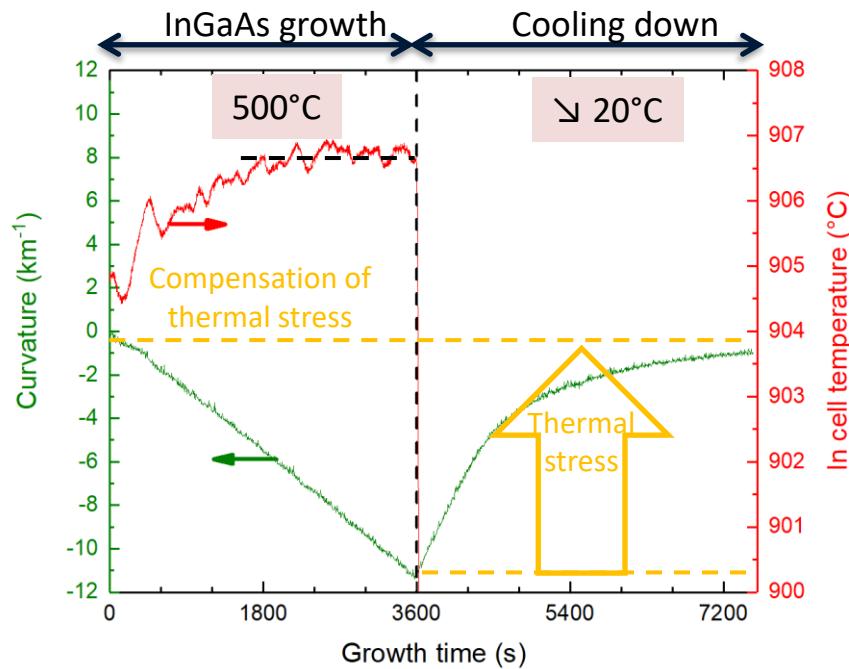
Bisaro et al, Appl. Phys. Lett. **34**(1), 100 (1979)

- $\alpha_{\text{In}_{0.53}\text{Ga}_{0.47}\text{As}} = (5.55 \pm 0.10) \times 10^{-6} / ^{\circ}\text{C}$
- $\alpha_{\text{InP}} = (4.56 \pm 0.10) \times 10^{-6} / ^{\circ}\text{C}$

MIC in action: Automatic lattice match

Automatic lattice match control of a 730 nm-thick InGaAs on InP

Rotating substrate:
• (001) InP
• 50 mm dia.
• 400 µm thick



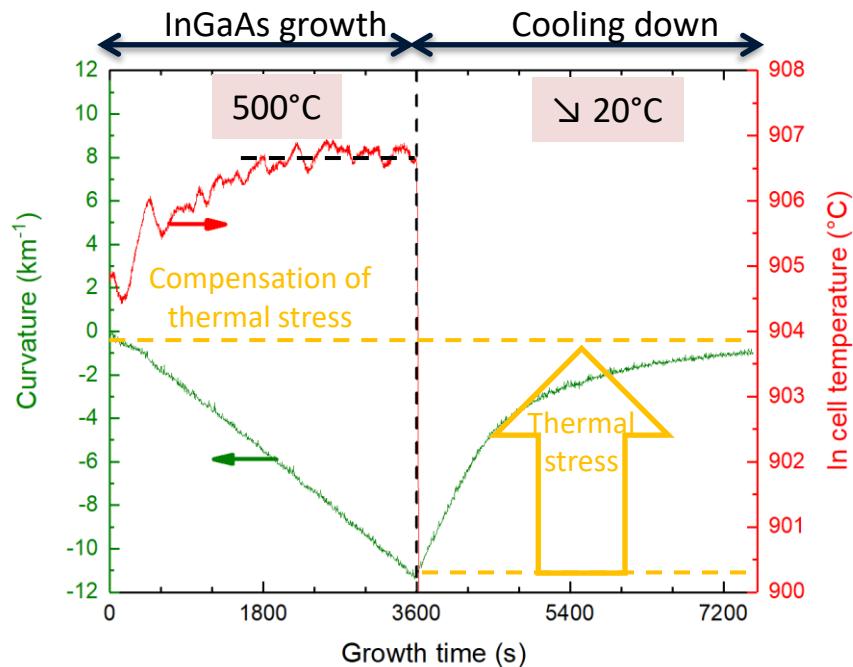
PID loop on indium cell (set on curvature change)

MIC in action: Automatic lattice match

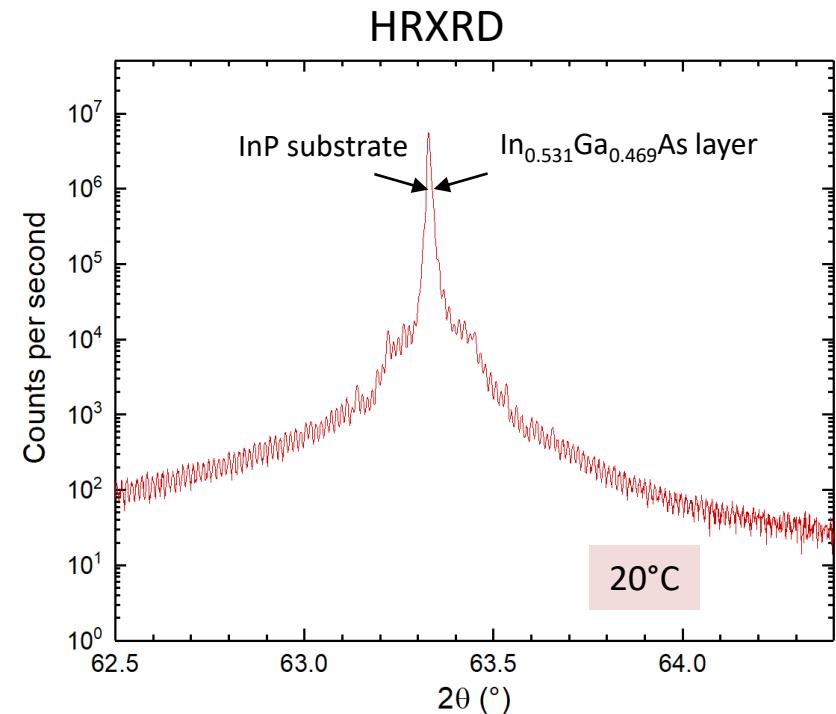
Automatic lattice match control of a 730 nm-thick InGaAs on InP

Rotating substrate:

- (001) InP
- 50 mm dia.
- 400 μm thick



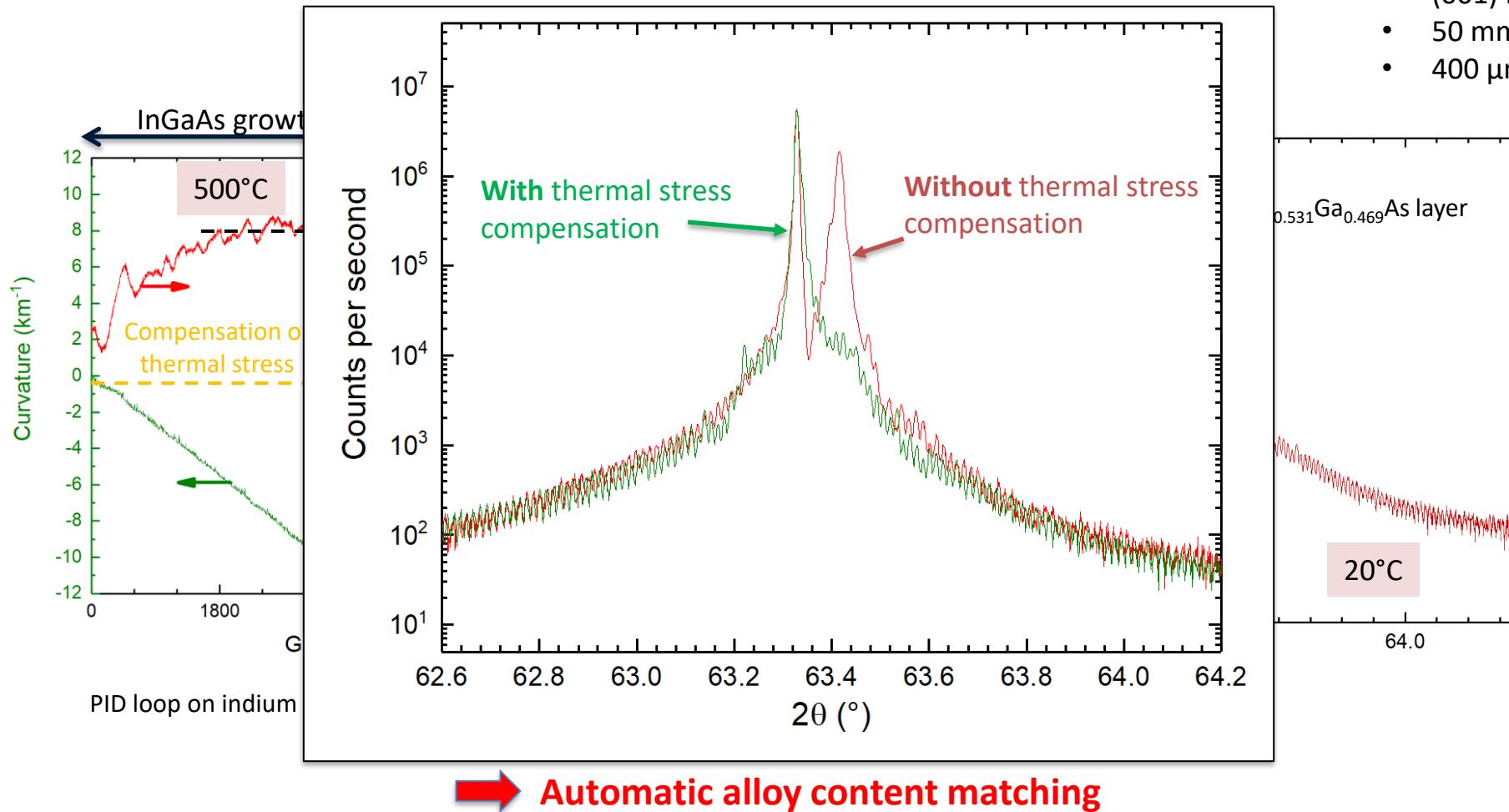
PID loop on indium cell (set on curvature change)



→ **Automatic alloy content matching**

MIC in action: Automatic lattice match

Automatic lattice match control of a 730 nm-thick InGaAs on InP



Conclusions

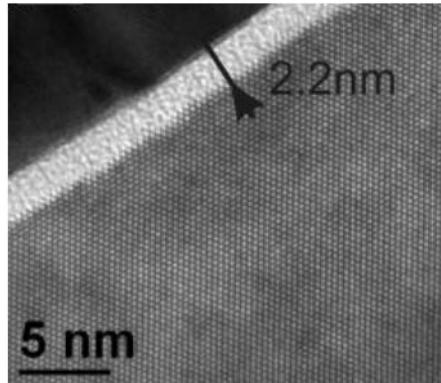
- > Magnification Inferred Curvature (MIC) makes it possible to control automatically the lattice parameter of the growing layer in MBE
- > Thermal expansion needs to be considered in order to reach a perfect after-growth lattice match
- > “Automatch” algorithm is now fully integrated in RIBER Crystal XE software

Towards automation of MBE growth

Monitoring MBE substrate deoxidation
and surface reconstruction change
via RHEED image-sequence analysis
by deep learning

Surface deoxidation and AI

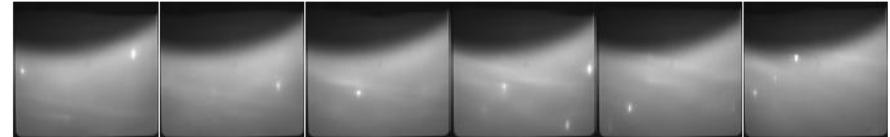
Native oxide removal



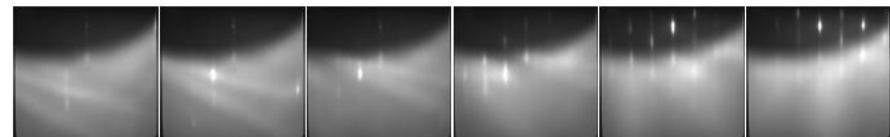
Plach et al, Journal of Applied Physics 2013, 113

- Slowly heating the substrate
- Detect deoxydation moment
- Stop heating to avoid damaging the crystal

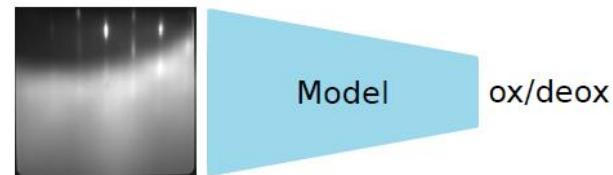
oxidized surface



deoxidized surface



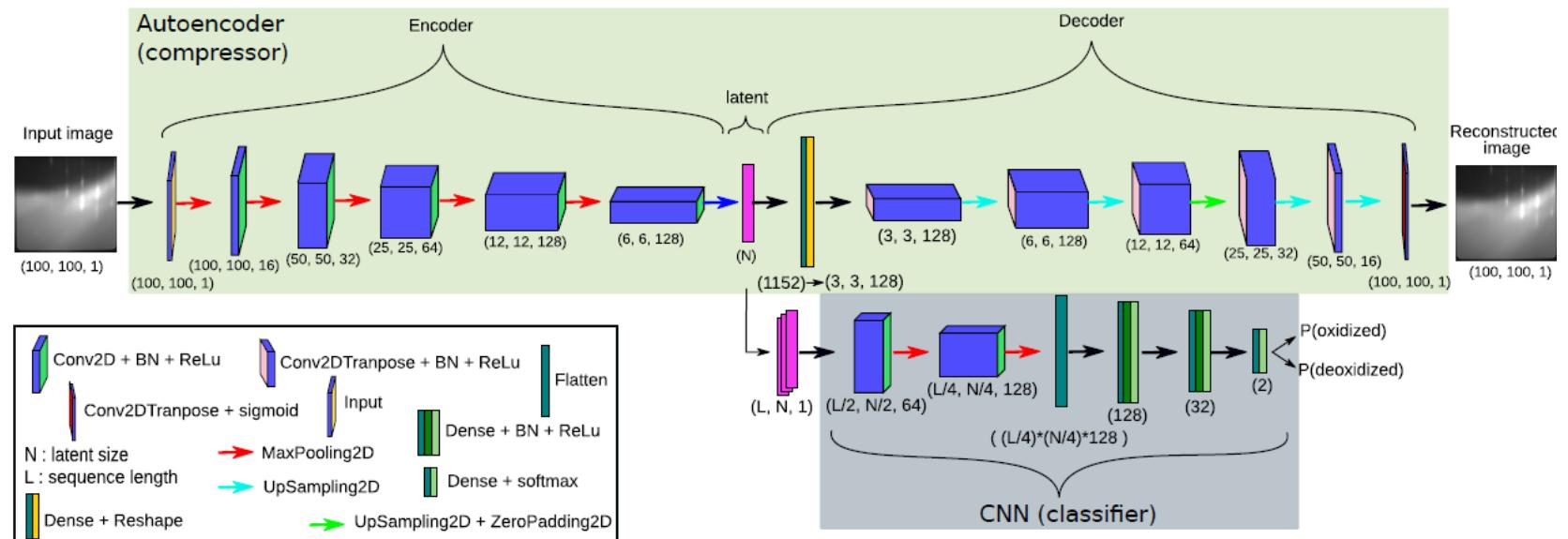
model overview



Courtesy A Khaireh Walieh – LAAS-CNRS

Surface deoxidation and AI

Neural network architecture



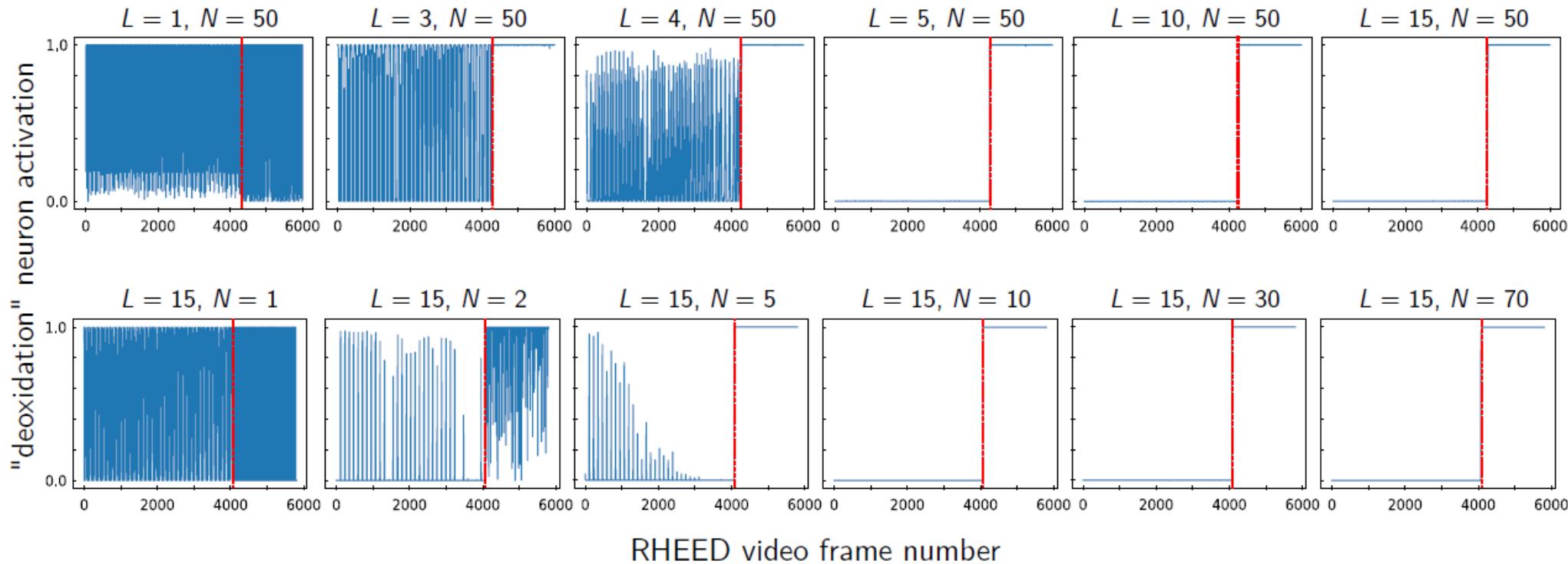
Khaireh-Walieh et al, Crystal Growth & Design 2023, 23, 2, 892-898

dataset of 7644 images { 80% for training
20% for validation

Courtesy A Khaireh Walieh – LAAS-CNRS

Surface deoxidation and AI

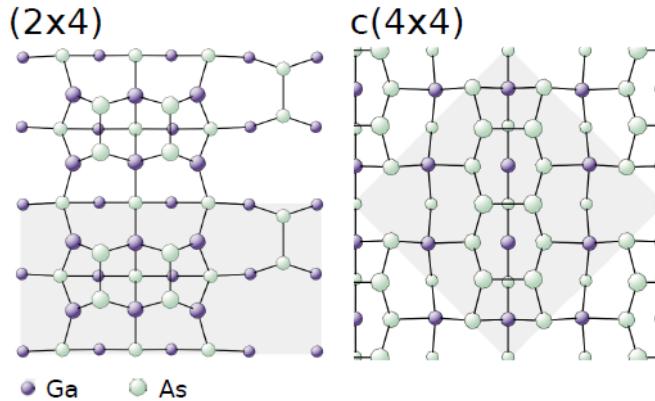
Test with a set of images captured during the entire deoxidation procedure and varying the sequence length as well as the latent space size.



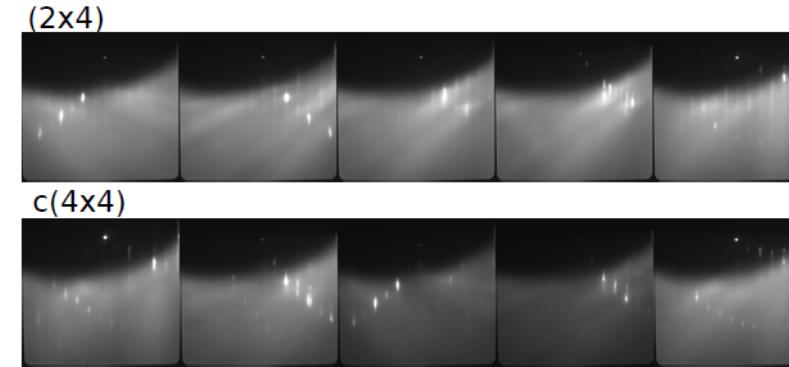
Khaireh-Walieh et al, Crystal Growth & Design 2023, 23, 2, 892-898

Surface reconstruction and AI

Surface reconstruction: (2×4) and $c(4 \times 4)$



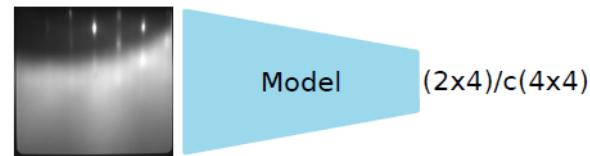
Penev et al, Physical review letters 2004, 93, 14, 146102



RHEED patterns

- Rearrangement of surface atoms
- Depending on the growing conditions
- Inter-atomic forces only from the bulk side

model overview

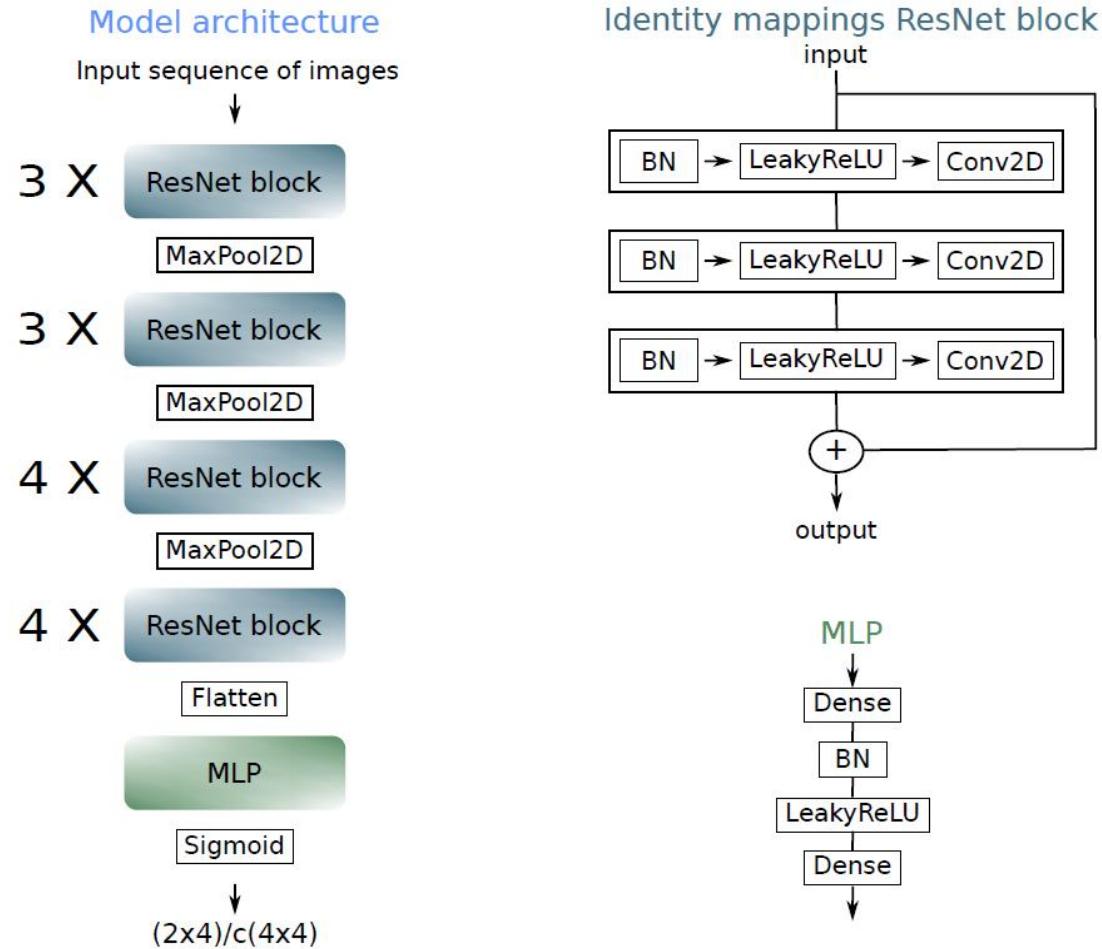


3150 images { 85% for training
15% for validation

Courtesy A Khaireh Walieh – LAAS-CNRS

Surface reconstruction and AI

Neural network architecture

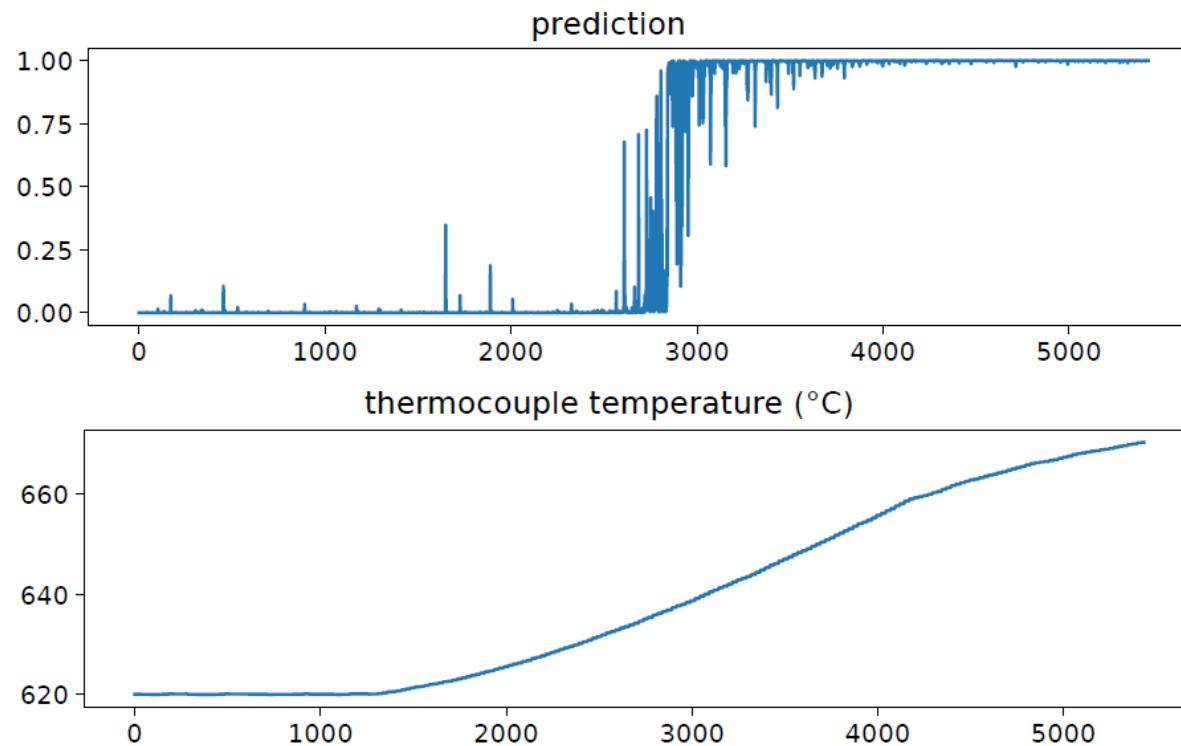


Courtesy A Khaireh Walieh – LAAS-CNRS

Surface reconstruction and AI

Model test

Test with images captured during surface transition: c(4 × 4) to (2 × 4)

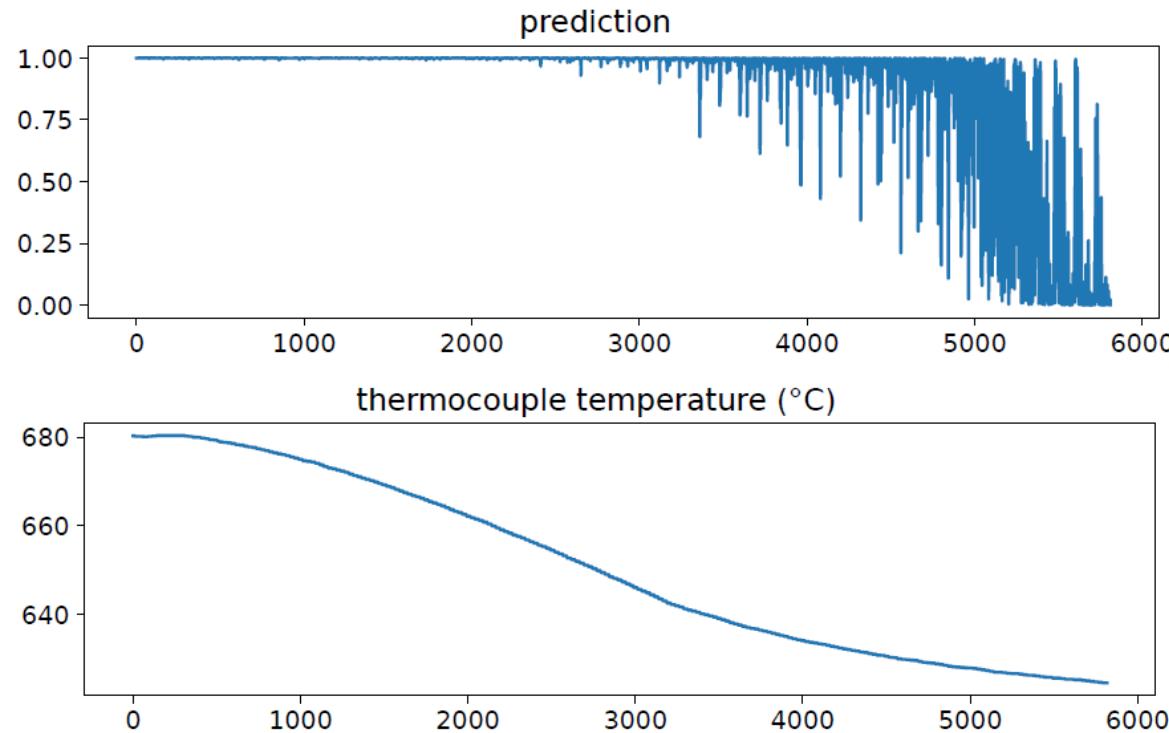


Courtesy A Khaireh Walieh – LAAS-CNRS

Surface reconstruction and AI

Model test

Test with images captured during surface transition: (2×4) to $c(4 \times 4)$



Courtesy A Khaireh Walieh – LAAS-CNRS

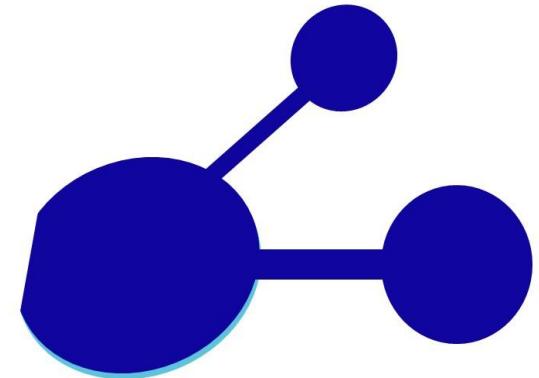
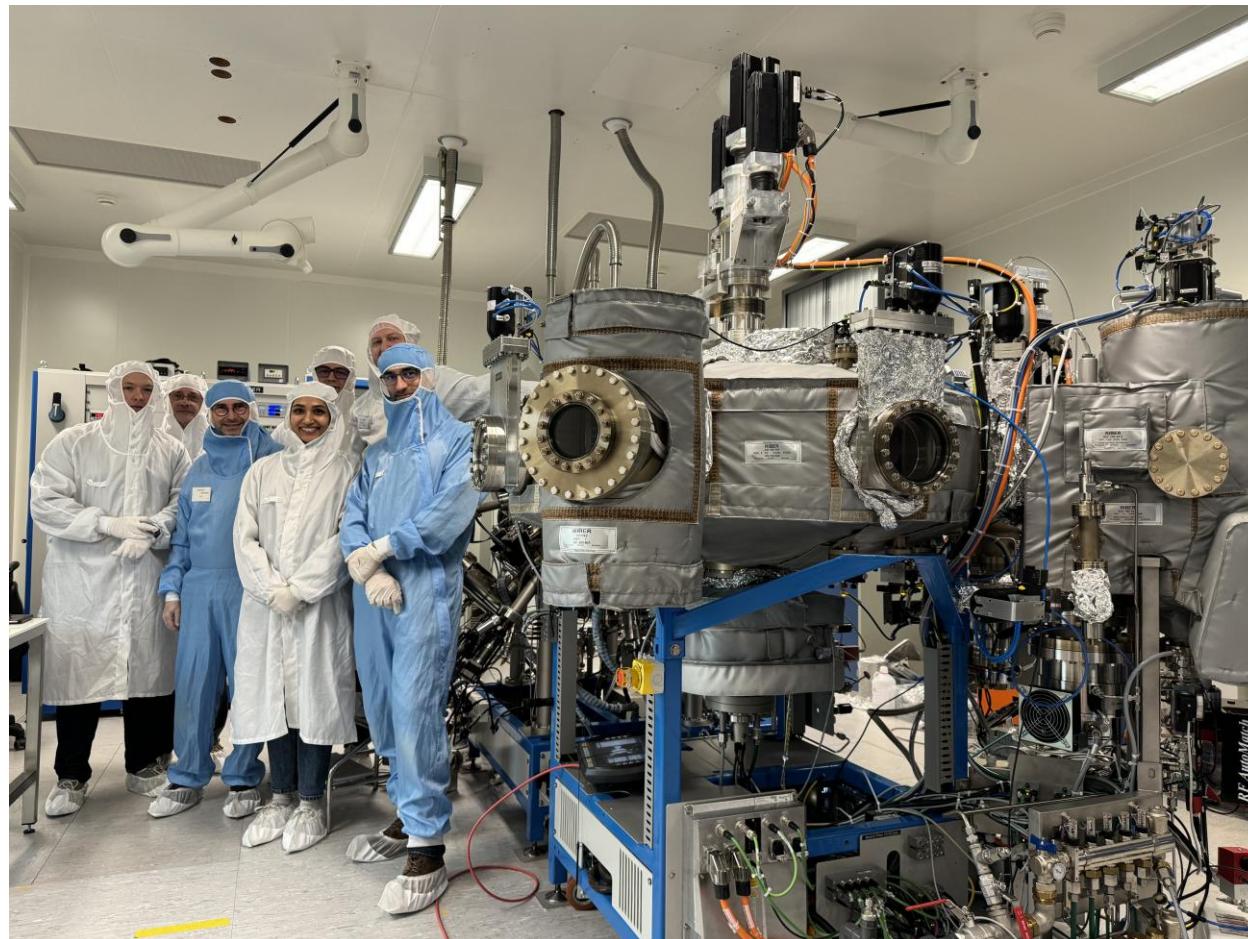
Conclusions

- > AI make it possible to monitor automatically complex processes that only trained users can detect
- > Work in progress

Conclusions

- ✓ In situ and real-time instruments address complementary information
 - ✓ Substrate temperature, growth rates, growth modes, surface geometry, ... can be analyzed in real time
 - ✓ Different time scales can be monitored
- ✓ Coupling in-situ tools
 - Further understanding of the growth mechanisms
 - Control of growth and properties of epitaxial materials and device structures

Thank you!



EpiCentre
LAAS CNRS - RIBER

The authors acknowledge the joint laboratory EPICENTRE between LAAS-CNRS and RIBER. This work was supported by the LAAS-CNRS micro and nanotechnologies platform, a member of the French RENATECH network.