Epitaxy of quantum nanostructures Quantum dots and nanowires

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Outline

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Island growth on a bulk substrate Stranski-Krastanov quantum dots
- Free-standing nanowires (NWs) The homogeneous case
 Growth mechanisms, thermodynamics, kinetics
- 4. Heterostructures and quantum insertions in NWs

Compositional heterostructures, interface sharpness, strain relaxation

Polytypism, interface morphology and crystal phase heterostructures

5. Nucleation and growth statistics





Epitaxy of nanostructures is challenging

Epitaxy was developed to produce uniform planar (2D) structures

- Retain structural quality, epitaxial match, monolayer (ML) control
- Fight lateral uniformity



Self-organization via 3D growth



	E _g (eV)	Cohesive energy (kcal/mol)
InAs	0.36	-124
GaAs	1.42	-136
AlAs	3.01	-156



Yeu, Han, Park, Hwang, Choi, Sci. Rep. 9, 1127 (2019)

3D growth of B on A if

$$\Phi = \gamma_B - \gamma_A + \gamma_{AB} > 0 \qquad \text{Not likely}$$





Lattice-mismatched planar (2D) heterostructures







3D growth induced by strain relaxation

Coherent island on substrate







Early observations of SK growth in semiconductors

InAs islands on GaAs substrate Lateral and vertical self-organization **TEM - Top view TEM - Side view** ^w InAs GaAs 220 100 nm 50 nm TEM 220 Goldstein, Glas, Marzin, Charasse, **Grazing view** Le Roux, Appl. Phys. Lett. 47, 1099 (1985)

Glas, Guille, Hénoc, Houzay, IOP Conf. Ser. No 87 (1987)





Lateral and vertical self-organization











Issues with SK self-assembly

Random nucleation —

- □ Island location not controlled
- □ Size distribution
- □ Inhomogeneous strain





Glas, Guille, Hénoc, Houzay, IOP Conf. Ser. No 87 (1987)



- □ Alloying (2D layer, capping layer)
- □ Need strain, *i.e.* lattice mismatch







Droplet epitaxy – Island growth without lattice mismatch





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Free-standing epitaxial nanowires (NWs)



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VLS, VSS, self-catalyzed, catalyst-free...



- Vapor species transferred to Solid via Liquid
- New solid forms at the L-S interface
- Catalyst particle 'defines' NW diameter

Catalyzed growth Catalyst-free VLS, VSS VS







S Gan 50 nm

Oehler, Cattoni, Scaccabarozzi, Patriarche, Glas, Harmand, Nano Lett. 18, 701 (2018)

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A short history of NW growth







1D crystals with hexagonal cross-section





Popovitz-Biro, Kretinin, Von Huth, Shtrikman, Cryst. Growth Des. 11, 3858 (2011)

Often: axisymmetric models

Oriented single crystal





Growth in a TEM - The NanoMAX instrument

MBE, (MO)CVD...

NanoMAX "Seeing the nanostructures growing atom by atom"





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In situ NW growth

NanoMAX "Seeing the nanostructures growing atom by atom"



Courtesy J.-C. Harmand, G. Patriarche (C2N)

- Oriented single crystal
- Epitaxial growth
- Monolayer (ML) by ML growth
 - 1 ML = 2 atomic planes III+V, or Si+Si





The droplet as seed and catalyst

- initiates local growth
- conserved during growth
- promotes axial nanowire growth

NW competes with "non-activated" surface

CVD, MOVPE, CBE: constituents brought by gas molecules Catalyst may promote precursor decomposition *chemical catalyst*

 MBE: constituents brought as atoms or simple molecules Si, Ga, In ... As₂, As₄ ... No chemical reaction needed sticking coefficient of group-III atom = 1 on non-activated surface
 Transport of matter to the catalyst

Catalyst promotes **incorporation** of atoms in NW *physical catalyst*





substrate

The droplet as collector - Material pathways



Growth rate varies with time

Possible radial growth on the sidewalls







Length/radius dependence



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Vapor-Liquid-Solid (VLS) nanowire growth and nucleation

□ VLS growth proceeds layer by layer



Each ML starts growing on a bare flat facet

At least one new 2D nucleus is needed for each ML

If top facet is narrow enough, one nucleus is enough

1 ML \leftrightarrow **1 nucleation event**

Mononuclear regime





Experiments confirm 2D nucleation for each ML



Harmand, Patriarche, Glas, Panciera, Florea, Maurice, Travers, Ollivier, Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 166101 (2018)

Glas, Panciera, Harmand, Phys. Status Solidi RRL 16, 2100647 (2022)



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Nucleation in Vapor-Liquid-Solid (VLS) nanowire growth





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Chemical potentials for VLS growth of elemental NWs







Chemical potentials for VLS growth of III-V compound NWs



 $\Delta \mu(x,T) \approx k_B T \ln(x/x_{eq})$

Very low group V (As, P) concentration in Liquid





Finite phases - Gibbs-Thomson effect (1)



 $\delta G = \mu^{L} - \mu^{V} \qquad \Omega = 4 \pi R^{3} / 3 \qquad d \Omega = 4 \pi R^{2} dR$ $A = 4 \pi R^{2} \qquad d A = 8 \pi R dR = 2 d \Omega / R$

Infinite liquid $\mu^{L} = \mu^{L\infty}$ $\delta G = \mu^{L\infty} - \mu^{V}$ Droplet $\delta G = \mu^{L\infty} - \mu^{V} + \gamma \delta A = \mu^{L} - \mu^{V} \longrightarrow \mu^{L} = \mu^{L\infty} + \gamma \delta A$ $\delta A = \frac{2\omega}{R} \longrightarrow \mu^{L} = \mu^{L\infty} + \frac{2\gamma\omega}{R}$ Gibbs-Thomson

 $\mu_{GT} = \frac{2\gamma\omega}{R}$



□ Lowering of the melting temperature of nanoparticles

$$\mu^{S} = \mu^{S\infty} + \frac{2\gamma_{S}\,\omega_{S}}{R}$$

$$\mu^{L} = \mu^{L\infty} + \frac{2\gamma_{L}\omega_{L}}{R}$$



GT effect relates to curvature, not size







GT effect and NW growth



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Quantum size insertions in NWs



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150 175

Axial hetrostructures - The reservoir effect in VLS growth



- Si \leftrightarrow Ge
- group III commutation in III-Vs: GaAs \leftrightarrow InAs, GaAs \leftrightarrow AIAs ...





Circumventing the reservoir effect

Commute elements with low solubility: group V elements







Sharp interfaces even when commuting group III!



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Strain relaxation in 1D axial heterostructures



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Critical thickness and critical radius

h plastic elastic $h_{\rm c}$ (nm) 00 **2***R* 1% 2% or 10 3% 4 **Critical radius** $-h_c 2D$ 4% 500 1 100 1000 10 400 R(nm)(uuu) 300 ≈^{° 200} Glas, Phys. Rev. B 74, 121302(R) (2006) 100 Glas, Chapter 2 in: Semiconductor nanowires I: Growth and theory, Academic Press, Burlington (2015) 0 3 0 1 2 5 6 Δ misfit $\mathcal{E}_{0}(\%)$





Polytypism in III-V NWs



G. Patriarche





Polytypism in NWs - Compounds vs elemental

intentional

60 V

WZ ZB

WZ ZB

WZ

Very common in III-V NWs

Very rare in Si,Ge...

unintentional





Koguchi, Kakibayashi, Yasawa, Hiruma, Katsuyama, Jpn. J. Appl Phys. 31, 2061 (1992)

Spirkoska, Arbiol, Gustafsson, Conesa-Boj, Glas, Zardo, Heigoldt, Gass, Bleloch, Estrade, Kaniber, Rossler, Peiro, Morante, Samuelson, Abstreiter, Fontcuberta i Morral, Phys. Rev. B 80, 245325 (2009)

Yu, Saidov, Erofeev, Hassebi, Wei, Renard, Vincent, Glas, Mirsaidov, Panciera Submitted (2025)

3C 2H (HD)

Tang, Maurice, Fossard, Florea, Chen, Johnson, Foldyna, Yu, Roca i Cabarrocas, Nanoscale 9, 8113 (2017)

Never found in III-V bulk, layers, guantum dots...





2D nucleation and kinetic competition

ML 'structure' is selected at nucleation



Work of formation of 2D cluster $\Delta G = -i \Delta \mu + a i^{1/2} \gamma$



Zinc blende (ZB) - Wurtzite (WZ) competition in III-V NWs

Glas, Harmand, Patriarche, Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 146101 (2007)



WZ nucleation at the TPL (corner) confirmed!

NanoMAX

"Seeing the nanostructures growing atom by atom"



Harmand, Patriarche, Glas, Panciera, Florea, Maurice, Travers, Ollivier, Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 166101 (2018)

Confirmed (in writing) by Marnauza, Tornberg, Martensson, Jacobsson, Dick, Nanoscale Horiz. 8, 291 (2023)





Two interface morphologies, governed by contact angle



Origin of interface truncation



Oh, Chisholm, Kauffmann, Kaplan, Luo, Rühle, Scheu, Science 330, 489 (2010)





$$\Delta G^{T} = k \Delta \mu + b_1 k^{1/2} + b_2 k$$
volume interfaces



Wen, Tersoff, Hillerich, Reuter, Park, Kodambaka, Stach, Ross, Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 025503 (2011)



If $b_1 < 0$, planar interface is **unstable**

$$b_1 \propto \Delta \gamma = \frac{\gamma_T}{\sin \theta} - \gamma_{SL} \cot \theta - \gamma_V + \gamma_{LV} \sin \beta$$

'Equilibrium truncation' $k_T \leftrightarrow \Delta \mu$ No growthJacobsson, Panciera, Tersoff, Reuter, Lehmann,
Hofmann, Dick, Ross, Nature 531, 318 (2016)Dynamical truncation $\Delta \mu$ varies during ML cycleDubrovskii, Glas, Cryst. Growth Des. 24, 9660 (2024)





Interface geometry/crystal phase selection: An open question

Exp: Interface morphology and crystal structure change simultaneously at $\beta_c^{exp} \sim 125^{\circ}$

"Contact angle determines crystal structure"



Crystal phase quantum dots (CPQDs)



Structural control via contact angle



Ga on / Ga off

Relatively slow

Nam Hong's PhD (2023-2026)

Courtesy J.-C. Harmand, G. Patriarche, F. Panciera





Structural control using electric field







Why bother about the statistics of nucleation and growth?



□ Monolayer (ML) by ML growth

□ Each ML stems from a single 2D nucleation event

➡ intrinsic randomness







Planar solid-liquid interface - The 3 stages of ML formation



Harmand, Patriarche, Glas, Panciera, Florea, Maurice, Travers, Ollivier, Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 166101 (2018)

Glas, Panciera, Harmand, Phys. Status Solidi RRL 16, 2100647 (2022)



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The incomplete monolayer (IML) regime

Not enough As available in liquid at nucleation to build a complete ML



Glas, Panciera, Harmand, Phys. Status Solidi RRL 16, 2100647 (2022)



Deterministic growth in the IML regime at low temperature



Simulations and analytical calculations - In situ experiments



Naoki Fukata Riccardo Rurali *Editors*

Fundamental Properties of Semiconductor Nanowires

🖉 Springer

Vapor-Liquid-Solid Growth of Semiconductor Nanowires

Vladimir G. Dubrovskii and Frank Glas

Abstract We discuss the growth of semiconductor nanowires, with an emphasis on the vapor-liquid-solid growth of III-V nanowires. Special attention is paid to modeling of growth and the resulting morphology, crystal phase, composition, nanowire heterostructures, and statistical properties within the nanowire ensembles. We give a general overview of the vapor-liquid-solid growth of nanowires by different epitaxy techniques and the bases for nanowire growth modeling. We discuss the role of surface energetics in the formation of GaAs nanowires, which has an important impact on the nanowire morphology and crystal phase. A detailed description of the nanowire growth kinetics is presented, including the transport-limited growth, chemical potentials, nucleation and growth of two-dimensional islands, and self-consistent growth models combining the material transport equations with the nucleation rate. The nanowire length and diameter distributions are considered along with the methods for narrowing them to sub-Poissonian values. Ternary III-V nanowires and heterostructures based on such nanowires are discussed, including the relaxation of elastic stress at the free sidewalls and the sharpening of the heterointerfaces. We consider polytypism of III-V nanowires and possibilities to control their crystal phase by tuning the growth parameters.

Keywords III–V nanowires \cdot Vapor–liquid–solid growth \cdot Nucleation \cdot Growth modeling

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© Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. 2021 N. Fukata and R. Rurali (eds.), *Fundamental Properties of Semiconductor Nanowires*, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-9050-4_1



Frank Glas MatEpi school, Porquerolles, 24 June 2025

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