

PHOTOCOPY

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**FY90 End of Fiscal Year Letter**  
(01 Oct 1989 - 30 Sep 1990)

**ONR CONTRACT INFORMATION**

**Contract Title:** "Plasma enhanced gas source molecular beam epitaxy deposition of high quality GaN"

**Performing Organization:** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Principal Investigator:** Hadis Morkoc

**Contract Number:** N00014-89-J-1780

**R & T Project Number:** 4145210---06

**ONR Scientific Officer:** Max Yoder

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Enclosure (1)

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## ONR YEAR END ANNUAL LETTER

### A. Scientific Research Goals

GaN is a III-V semiconductor with enormous optical device potential in the near ultraviolet region, a band which has been relatively inaccessible to semiconductor technology. High quality GaN, along with its AlN and InN alloys, would make feasible the production of optically active devices ranging from the visible out to the approximately 6 eV band gap of AlN. Along with its potential benefits come the challenges of this material system. Researchers in the past have been plagued by the inertness of nitrogen which causes GaN films to have a high n-type background carrier concentration resulting from nitrogen vacancies. It is the goal of our investigation to apply electron cyclotron resonance plasma and molecular beam epitaxy technology towards the GaN problem to obtain device quality semiconductor material.

With the growth of high quality cubic GaN this past year, our program has defined itself into two main objectives. Further optimization of the GaN deposition to obtain material of the highest optical and electronic quality will be necessary. Parallel efforts will be undertaken in the related AlN and InN systems. The ability to grow each material will allow these materials to be combined into heterostructure devices analogous to those common in other compound semiconductor systems. We can then investigate the performance of devices designed to operate at shorter wavelengths than are presently available.

A second avenue of activity which can be explored in parallel with the device work will be a cataloging of the properties of the entirely new cubic phases of GaN, InN and AlN. Cubic InN and AlN have never to our knowledge been produced in a laboratory. Comparison of the physical properties of these materials with the established properties of the wurtzite phases would yield interesting insights into the role of crystal structure and its influence on the solid state.

### B. Significant Results From FY 1990

Our approach has been to grow GaN on the (100) surface of GaAs. This approach was conceived for several reasons. Foremost, we wished to study the relatively unexplored properties of the cubic phase of GaN and for this we require a cubic substrate. The choice of GaAs was

dictated by the relatively high quality of the substrates and our hope to combine GaAs based devices with GaN surface coatings. GaAs substrates also allow us to grow a GaAs buffer layer and obtain a clean, well understood surface on which to grow GaN.

A great number of GaN/GaAs films were grown this past summer. We have reduced our number of variable growth parameters to a few and were able to grow high quality films. The best films were insulating, with the resistivity being too high for simple measurement on our Hall measurement apparatus. This result is encouraging since it suggests that our material is relatively free of the nitrogen vacancies which have plagued other researchers for as long as this material has been studied. Nomarski phase contrast microscopy revealed fairly smooth surface morphologies which were comparable in quality to GaAs/Si and other lattice mismatched systems. Layers were specular but varied in tint.

Figure 1 shows a sequence of photographs taken of high energy electron diffraction (HEED) patterns during one GaN growth. Figure 1 (a) shows the clean epitaxial (2x4) GaAs (100) surface before GaN growth. When GaN/GaAs growth is initiated this pattern becomes quite spotty indicating initial island formation which is not unusual in mismatched systems. However, the epitaxy becomes two dimensional fairly rapidly as seen in Figure 1 (b) which shows the HEED pattern after 100 Å of GaN deposition. Some roughness is apparent, yet at this point the cubic GaN lattice constant can clearly be discerned and the reconstruction is recognizable as (2x2). The pattern continues to improve until it is quite sharp (Figure 1 (c)) and remains as such. From the symmetry of the HEED patterns and their spacing it is possible to identify the crystal as cubic having a lattice constant of approximately 4.5 Å. These results were confirmed by x-ray diffraction analysis. The sharpness of the reconstruction indicates a surface which is quite smooth. Smooth surfaces will be necessary for the formation of sharp heterojunctions in GaN/AlGaIn optical devices.

Preliminary TEM results from Professor David Smith's lab at Arizona State University indicate that in some layers in which In incorporation was attempted, a slightly larger lattice constant is apparent. This is evidence that we have succeeded in growing cubic  $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ . Extrapolation

of the lattice constant of this new material should give a reasonable estimate of the cubic InN lattice constant.

The optical quality of the films were investigated through the complementary techniques of photoluminescence and cathodoluminescence. The cathodoluminescence measurements discussed below were performed at the University of Pittsburgh in the Laboratory of Professor Choyke. Cathodoluminescence taken at 77K revealed material of high optical quality (Figure 2). Exciton structure is apparent around the band gap of cubic GaN at roughly 3.26 eV. We have seen no report in the literature describing the observation of significant excitonic peaks in the optical spectra of GaN and we are very encouraged by this data. A broad midgap defect peak of high intensity is also apparent in the cathodoluminescence spectrum.

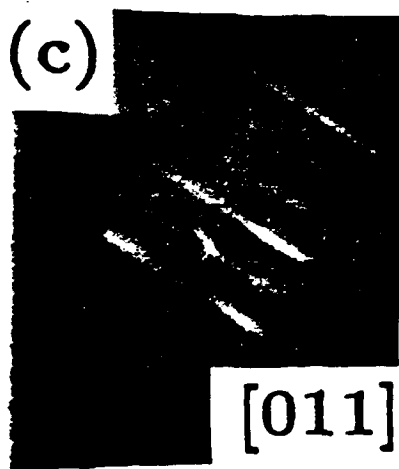
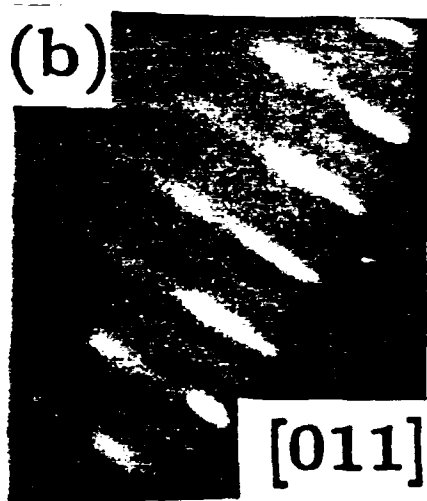
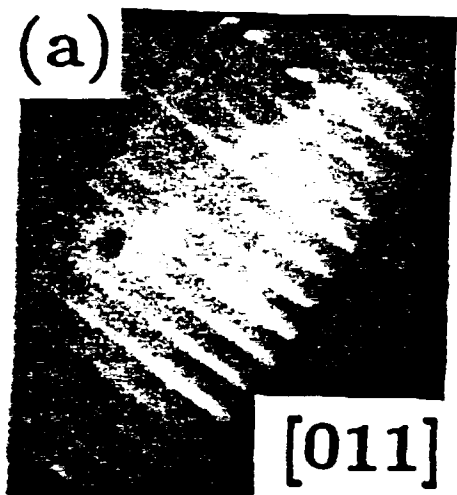
In order to investigate the electrical quality of GaAs/GaN/GaAs heterojunctions, SIS tunneling structures were grown using GaN as the barrier material. Figure 3 gives the layer structure of the devices as well as the temperature dependent current-voltage characteristics. A strong temperature dependence is observed which implies that the majority of current flow is thermionic emission of electrons over a barrier of approximately 0.40 eV. The actual conduction band discontinuity in the GaN/GaAs system is probably significantly larger since the difference in their absolute bandgaps is approximately 1.85 eV (GaN=3.25 eV, GaAs=1.4 eV). These measurements show that GaN provides a fairly large insulating barrier of reasonable quality to electron conduction in GaAs and forms a good interface despite the large inherent lattice mismatch. Such a result is an encouraging one for future investigations of the properties of GaN as a dielectric material for GaAs based devices.

### **C. Research Goals For FY 1991**

Fiscal year 1990 was spent doing the groundwork for growth of the GaN/GaAs heteroepitaxial system. A significant portion of the time was spent troubleshooting our experimental setup, specifically the microwave ion source used to activate the nitrogen. We have identified several problems which caused our experiment to fail and we are in a position to work around these in our future investigations.

In the coming year we plan to continue to improve the quality of our GaN films while attempting some heterostructure devices. Cathodoluminescence measurements suggest that extremely high quality material may be realized once the midgap defect can be greatly reduced or eliminated. This task will be the foremost on our agenda. On the device front, we have obtained some intriguing results in GaAs/GaN/GaAs SIS structures which suggest that GaN-GaAs heterointerfaces are of reasonable quality. We plan to look at the dielectric properties of GaN as a surface coating for GaAs. It will be interesting to study the passivation effects as well as the properties of GaN as an insulating dielectric for possible MOSFET applications.

Soon after we optimize our GaN growth techniques we will expand into AlN and InN as well as their alloys with GaN. These heterostructures will be the basis of any optical devices which we wish to attempt in the future. In the past, each of these materials has only been studied in its wurtzite form. Cubic AlN and InN may have novel properties and will be interesting topics of study in their own right. Along these lines we have already gained tantalizing clues as to the nature of cubic InN from our layers which successfully incorporated small amounts of InN into the GaN.



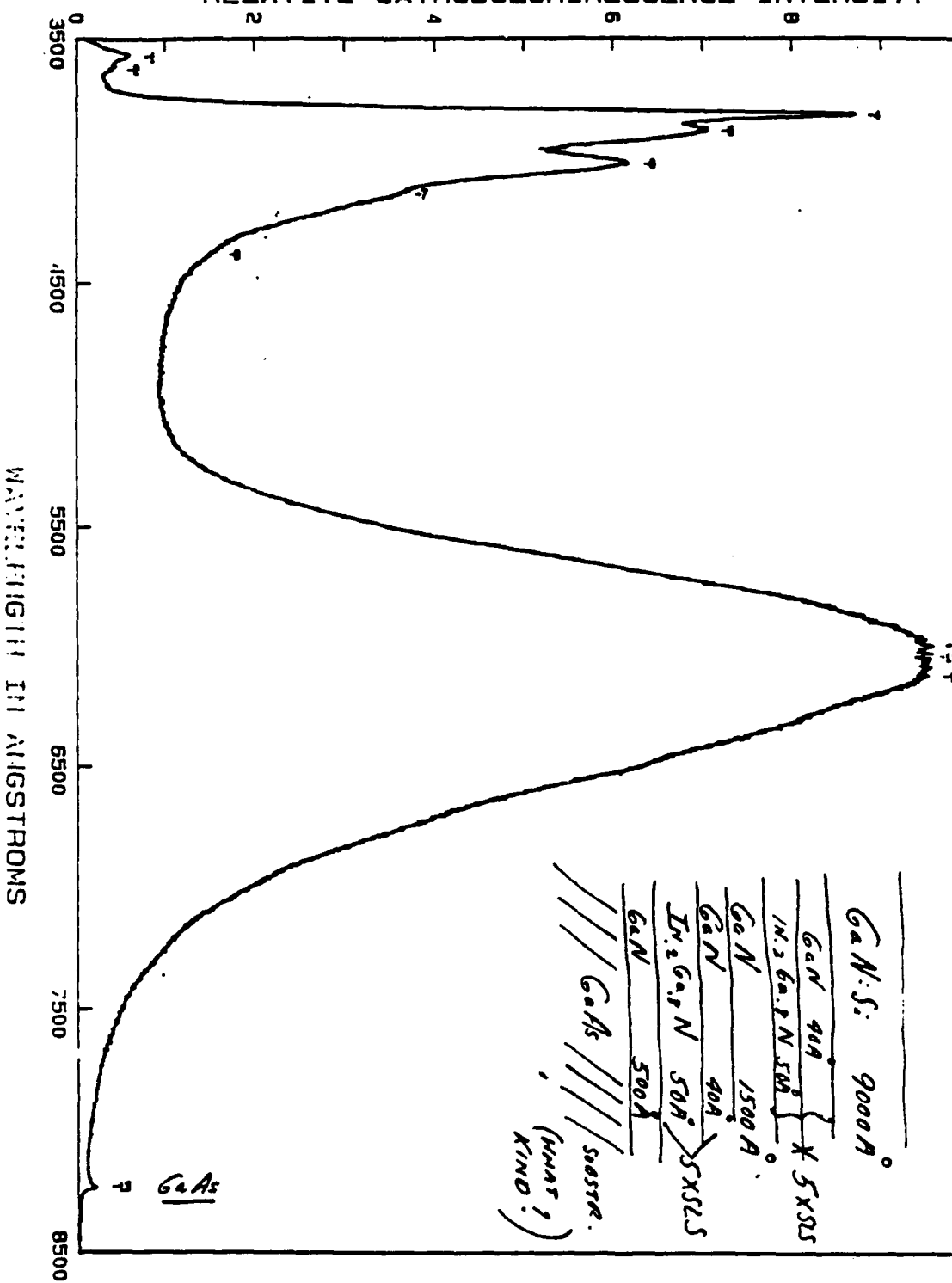
Cubic (100) GaN

JUN 5 - 1990

W. J. CHOYKE

LIQUID NITROGEN TEMPERATURE CATHODOLUMINESCENCE EXPERIMENT  
 SAMPLE: B171 GaN: Si 9000A 5XSL5 GaN 1500A 5XSL5 GaN 500A GaAs Substrate  
 PHOT: R955 LNI2 -850V ELECTRON: 20keV 10UA CALIBRATION: Hg Lamp

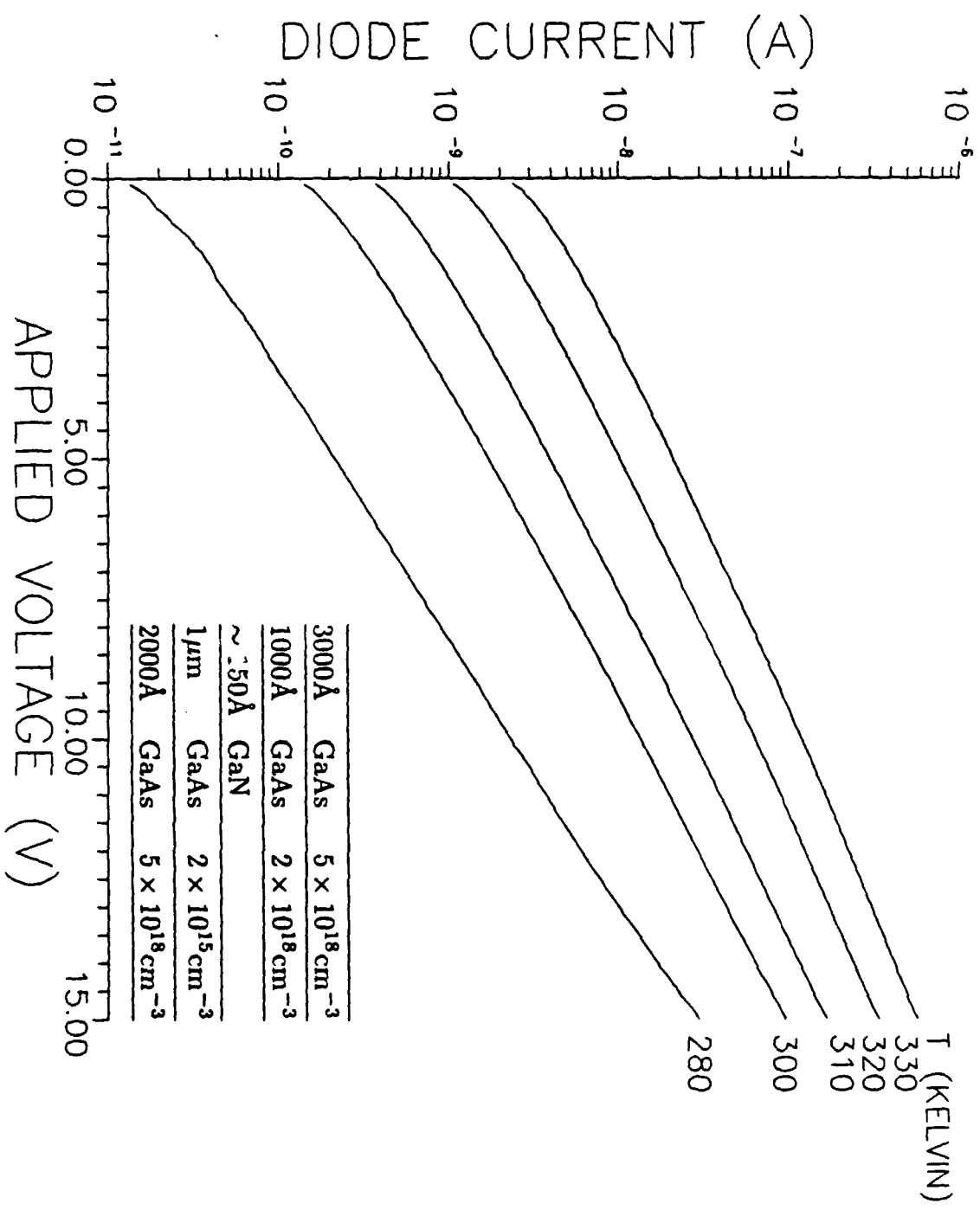
3.5 (ev) 3.1 (ev) 2.7 (ev) 2.3 (ev) 1.9 (ev) 1.5 (ev)



MANIPULATION: EBMT  
 PWTube: R955 LNI2 -850V  
 GUNTYPE: 120V 11/um at 7500 UJ  
 DATE: 6-4-1990 CALIBRATION SOURCE  
 FILE: B17102.srp Hg Lamp  
 TEMP: 80 W  
 SLIT 1: 500 um  
 SLIT 2: 500 um  
 SLIT 3: 500 um  
 SENSITIVITY: 1  
 MULTIPLE: 10  
 LOCKIN TIME: 1 um

NO	WAVELENGTH (um)	ENERGY (eV)	REL. INT.
1	3500	3.478	5.00
2	3610	3.429	4.00
3	3803	3.264	10.00
4	3902	3.180	60.00
5	3908	3.204	70.00
6	4004	3.085	61.00
7	4128	2.984	30.00
8	4378	2.833	50.00
9	5401	2.279	50.00
10	5903	2.072	60.00
11	6033	2.055	64.00
12	6117	2.025	50.00
13	8225	1.507	2.00

WAVELENGTH IN ANGSTROMS



**D. List of Publications/Reports/Presentations**

**1. Papers Published in Refereed Journals**

None.

**2. Non-Refereed Publications and Published Technical Reports**

None.

**3. Presentations**

**a. Invited** None.

**b. Contributed** None.

**4. Books (and sections thereof)**

None.

Enclosure (2)

E. LIST OF HONORS/AWARDS

Name of Person  
Receiving Award

Recipient's  
Institution

Name, Sponsor and  
Purpose of Award

Samuel C. Strite III

University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign

United States Air Force  
Laboratory Graduate Fellowship

Enclosure (3)

**H. SUMMARY OF FY90  
PUBLICATIONS/PATENTS/PRESENTATIONS/HONORS/PARTICIPANTS  
(Number Only)**

		<u>ONR</u>	<u>non ONR</u>
a.	Number of Papers Submitted to Referred Journal but not yet published:	This Project 0   5	Other ONR _____
b.	Number of Papers Published in Refereed Journals:	0   13	_____
c.	Number of Books or Chapters Submitted but not yet Published:	0   4	_____
d.	Number of Books or Chapters Published:	0   0	_____
e.	Number of Printed Technical Reports & Non-Referred Papers:	0   2	_____
f.	Number of Patents Filed:	0   0	_____
g.	Number of Patents Granted:	0   0	_____
h.	Number of Invited Presentations at Workshops or Prof. Society Meetings:	0   3	_____
i.	Number of Contributed Presentations at Workshops or Prof. Society Meetings:	0   4	_____
j.	Honors/Awards/Prizes for Contract/Grant Employees: (selected list attached)	0   4	_____
k.	Number of Graduate Students and Post-Docs Supported at least 25% this year on contract grant:	3   10	_____
	Grad Students: TOTAL	3   10	_____
	Female	1   0	_____
	Minority	0   0	_____
	Post Doc: TOTAL	0   1	_____
	Female	0   0	_____
	Minority	0   0	_____
l.	Number of Female or Minority PIs or CO-PIs		
	New Female	0   0	_____
	Continuing Female	0   0	_____
	New Minority	0   0	_____
	Continuing Minority	0   0	_____

Enclosure (4)

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