

Strain-Induced Band Gap Variation in InGaN/GaN Short Period Superlattices

Polyxeni Chatzopoulou ¹, Isaak G. Vasileiadis ¹, Philomela Komninou ¹, Vassilis Pontikis ²,
Theodoros Karakostas ¹ and George P. Dimitrakopoulos ^{1,*}

¹ School of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece

² DRF/IRAMIS, Centre d'Etudes de Saclay, Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives, Université Paris-Saclay, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette Cedex, France

* Correspondence: gdim@auth.gr

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

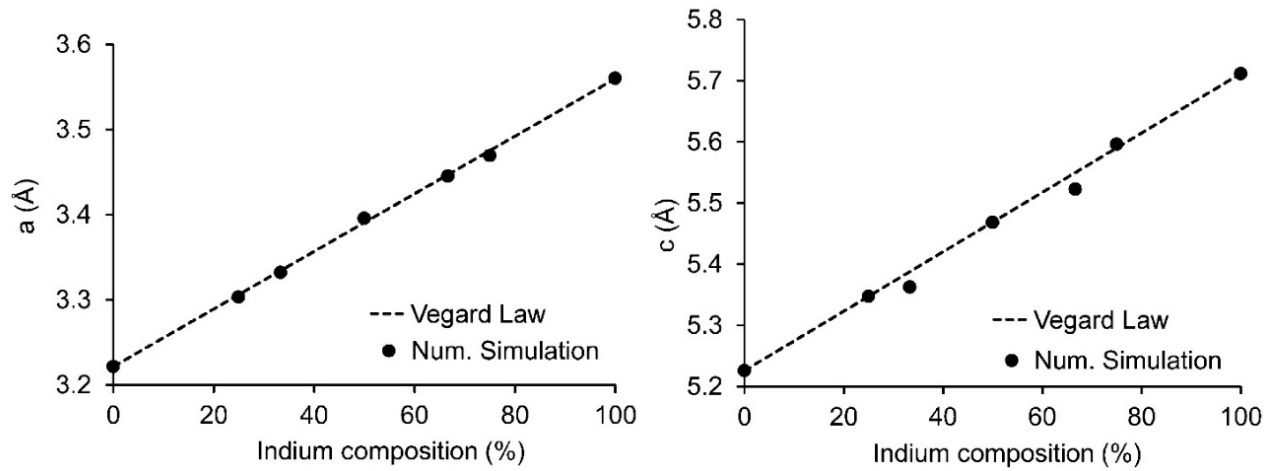


Figure S1. Calculated equilibrium lattice parameters of $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ bulk alloys, with respect to indium composition. A linear behavior is observed, in line with Vegard's law. There is a slight deviation in the c -parameter of $\text{In}_{33}\text{Ga}_{67}\text{N}$ and $\text{In}_{67}\text{Ga}_{33}\text{N}$ equal to ~ -0.03 Å.

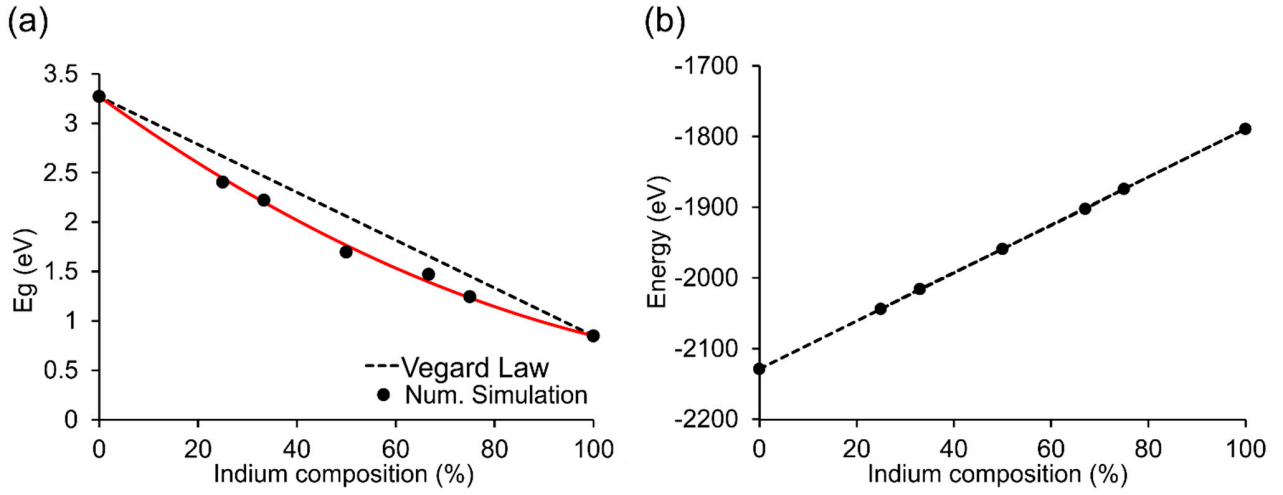


Figure S2. (a) Calculated band gap versus indium composition, of the $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ alloys showing bowing consistent with a bowing parameter of $b = 1.18 \pm 0.09$ eV. (b) Total energy of the $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ supercells per atomic column with respect to alloy composition.

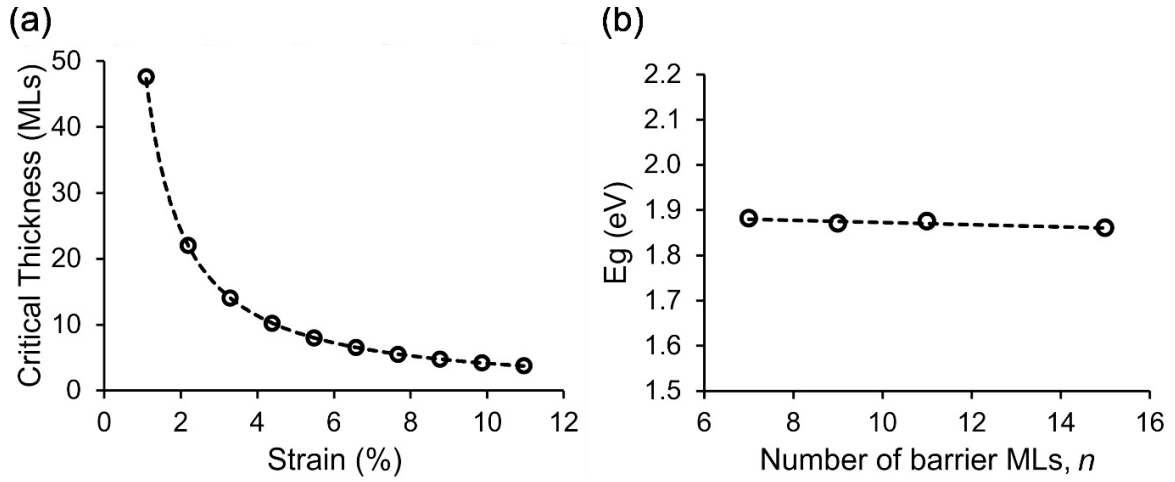


Figure S3. (a) Critical thickness of GaN with respect to the in-plane strain obtained using the model of Fischer et al. [1]. The formation of elastically strained GaN barriers with thickness at least 10 MLs is permitted for in-plane strain values up to $\sim 4\%$. (b) Band gap variation of $1\text{InN}/n\text{GaN}$ short-period superlattices as a function of GaN barrier thickness n (unstrained barrier). The dependence of the band gap energy on the barrier thickness is negligible for GaN barriers thicker than 7 MLs.

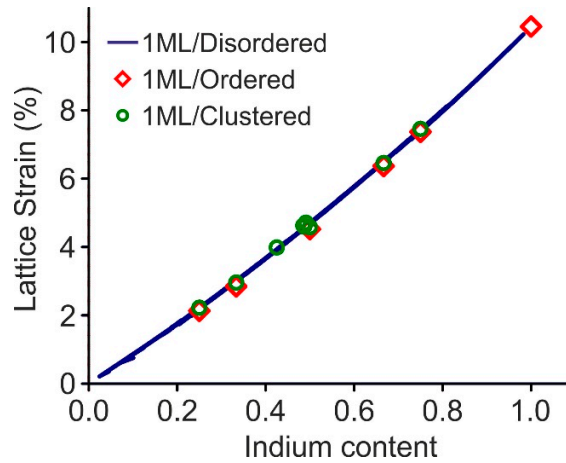


Figure S4. Calculated lattice strain with respect to the indium content for ordered, disordered and clustered $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}/\text{GaN}$ quantum wells of one monolayer thickness. The plotted lattice strain is the reduced relative variation of the c -lattice constant along [0001] having as reference the c -lattice constant of GaN. The disordered quantum wells were obtained from empirical potential calculations as described elsewhere [2]. The ordered and the clustered quantum wells were obtained by both empirical potential calculations and DFT calculations.

References

1. Fischer, A.; Kühne, H.; Richter, H. New Approach in Equilibrium Theory for Strained Layer Relaxation. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1994**, *73*, 2712–2715, <https://doi.org/10.1103/physrevlett.73.2712>.
2. Vasileiadis, I.G.; Lymperakis, L.; Adikimenakis, A.; Gkotinakos, A.; Devulapalli, V.; Liebscher, C.H.; Androulidaki, M.; Hübner, R.; Karakostas, T.; Georgakilas, A.; et al. Substitutional synthesis of sub-nanometer InGa_xN/GaN quantum wells with high indium content. *Sci. Rep.* **2021**, *11*, 1–13, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-99989-0>.