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► **To cite this version:**

Jonathan Henriques, Dyhia Tamsaout, Ludovic Largeau, Edmond Cambril, Lucie Valera, et al.. Selective Area Growth of GaN μ -Platelets on Graphene. *Crystal Growth & Design*, 2024, 24 (20), pp.8301-8309. 10.1021/acs.cgd.4c00708 . hal-04724885

HAL Id: hal-04724885

<https://hal.science/hal-04724885v1>

Submitted on 24 Oct 2024

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Selective area growth of GaN μ -platelets on graphene

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KEYWORDS

SAG, Graphene, GaN, Nucleation, MOVPE, PA-MBE, ELOG

1 ABSTRACT

2 We report the selective area growth of N-polar GaN μ -platelets on graphene by metalorganic vapor-
3 phase epitaxy. In a first step, GaN nanowires grown by selective molecular beam epitaxy on
4 patterned graphene arrays on SiO₂ are used as nucleation seeds. The initial radius of the graphene
5 patches results in different optical and crystalline quality of the GaN μ -platelets due to different
6 coalescence mechanisms. The use of large graphene patches (250 nm) with significant number of
7 nanowires seeds promotes the growth selectivity on patterned graphene at the expense of the
8 structural quality (presence of voids, stacking faults, dislocations, and inversion domains). On the
9 contrary, the use of smaller patches (65 nm) allows to grow μ -platelets from a very limited seed
10 number (< 3 nanowires) with a significantly reduced number of extended defects. These observations
11 have been directly related to optical measurements by cathodoluminescence and high-resolution
12 transmission electronic microscopy observations performed on the same μ -platelets for the different
13 graphene patch radii (65, 90, 250 nm). The formation of defects is discussed and supported by
14 nucleation, intra- and inter-coalescence mechanisms.

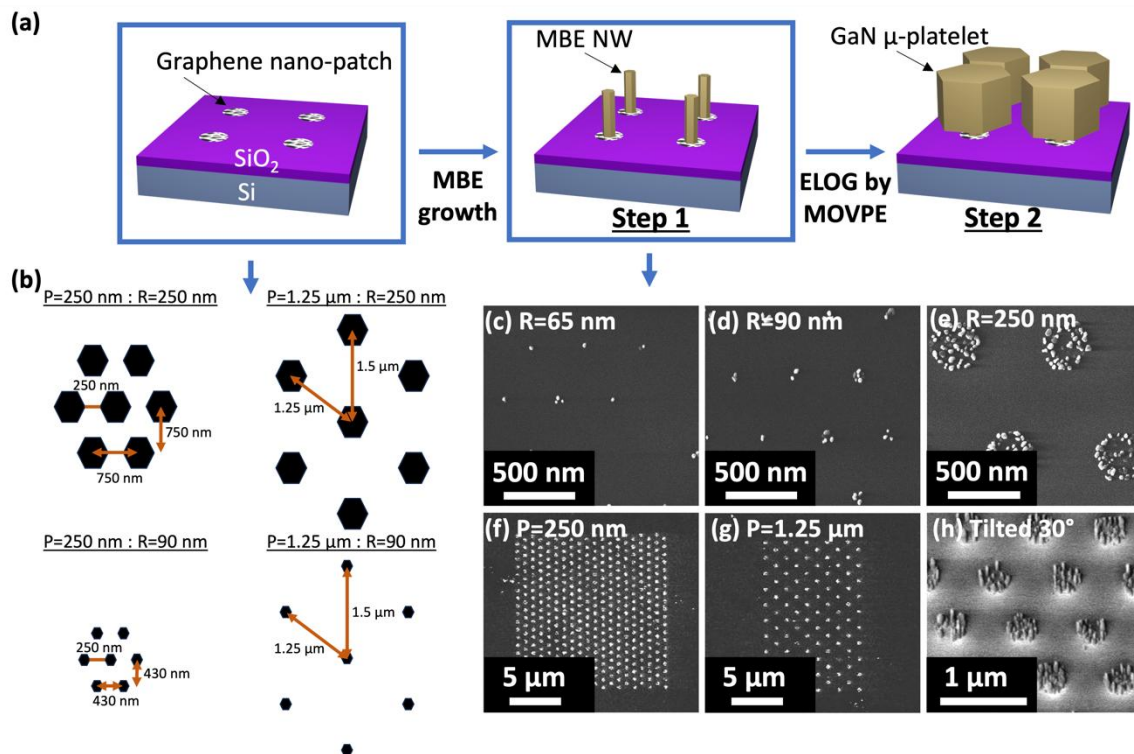
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1 INTRODUCTION

2 Recently, two-dimensional (2D) materials used for layer transfer have attracted attention due to
3 their weak van der Waals bonds. Especially, the epitaxy of GaN on graphene has been the subject of
4 intensive research in two different approaches: the graphene is either transferred to standard
5 crystalline substrates to promote a so-called remote epitaxy¹⁻³ or transferred on host substrates
6 without epitaxial matching to induce direct van der Waals epitaxy.⁴ III-N semiconductor growth has
7 been demonstrated on hexagonal boron nitride (h-BN), allowing to perform remote epitaxy of nitride
8 devices, such as μ LED display easily detachable and transferable.⁵ However, the epitaxy of GaN on 2D
9 materials still remains an issue. Indeed, the presence of van der Waals bonds rules out dangling
10 bonds, making it challenging to directly grow GaN on graphene using metal organic vapor-phase
11 epitaxy (MOVPE) reactor. To address this challenge, several strategies have been explored. One
12 solution involves growing a AlGa⁶ or AlN⁷ interfacial layer ; the short diffusion length of Al adatoms
13 favors the nucleation process on 2D materials. Similarly, a seed layer of GaN grown at low
14 temperature (700 °C) has also been demonstrated.⁸ Another approach reported by K.Chung *et al.*^{4,9}
15 consists in the epitaxial lateral overgrowth (ELOG) of organized GaN microdisks, starting from zinc
16 oxide (ZnO) nanowires (NWs) nucleated on graphene. On the other hand, the direct selective growth
17 of GaN NWs on patterned graphene patches onto silicon dioxide (SiO₂) has been successfully
18 demonstrated through plasma-assisted molecular beam epitaxy (PA-MBE).^{10,11} This work opens the
19 possibility to use these GaN NWs (instead of ZnO NWs) as seeds to perform homo-ELOG of GaN μ -
20 platelets, acting as organized nano-templates for the fabrication of μ LED arrays with dimensions of
21 the range of 1-10 micrometers. This approach based on 2D materials is a promising technique in
22 comparison of various processes already reported in the literature to fabricate flexible μ LED arrays,¹²
23 such as laser lift-off,^{13,14} chemical lift-off^{15,16} and mechanical lift-off.¹⁷⁻²⁰ The success of the μ LED array
24 transferability can support the development of lightweight flexible GaN-based μ LEDs²¹ with various
25 applications from the next generation of displays^{22,23} to the biomedical field.²⁴

1 In this work, we propose a novel approach combining MBE and MOVPE to achieve the 2-step
 2 growth of organized GaN μ -platelets on patterned graphene, as depicted in the Fig. 1. The growth of
 3 organized GaN μ -platelets by MOVPE follows the selective MBE growth of GaN NWs on graphene.
 4 GaN NWs act as nucleation seeds as described in the schematic of Fig. 1(a). The influence of the
 5 graphene pattern geometry (radius and pitch) on the morphology and the structural properties of
 6 the GaN μ -platelets will be studied and correlated to the optical properties.



7
 8 **Figure 1.** (a) Schematics of the MOVPE growth of μ -platelet from GaN NW seeds on graphene
 9 patches. (b) Graphene nano-patch pattern designs. Top-view scanning electron microscopy (SEM) of
 10 the initial GaN MBE seeds on different patches of radius R: (c) 65 nm, (d) 90 nm, (e) 250 nm for a
 11 pitch $P=250$ nm, and for different pitches P: (f) 250 nm, (g) 1.25 μm for $R=250$ nm. (h) 30°-Tilted SEM
 12 image of the $R=250$ nm and $P=250$ nm pattern showing characteristic sizes of the seeds (100-200 nm
 13 length and 20-40 nm diameter).

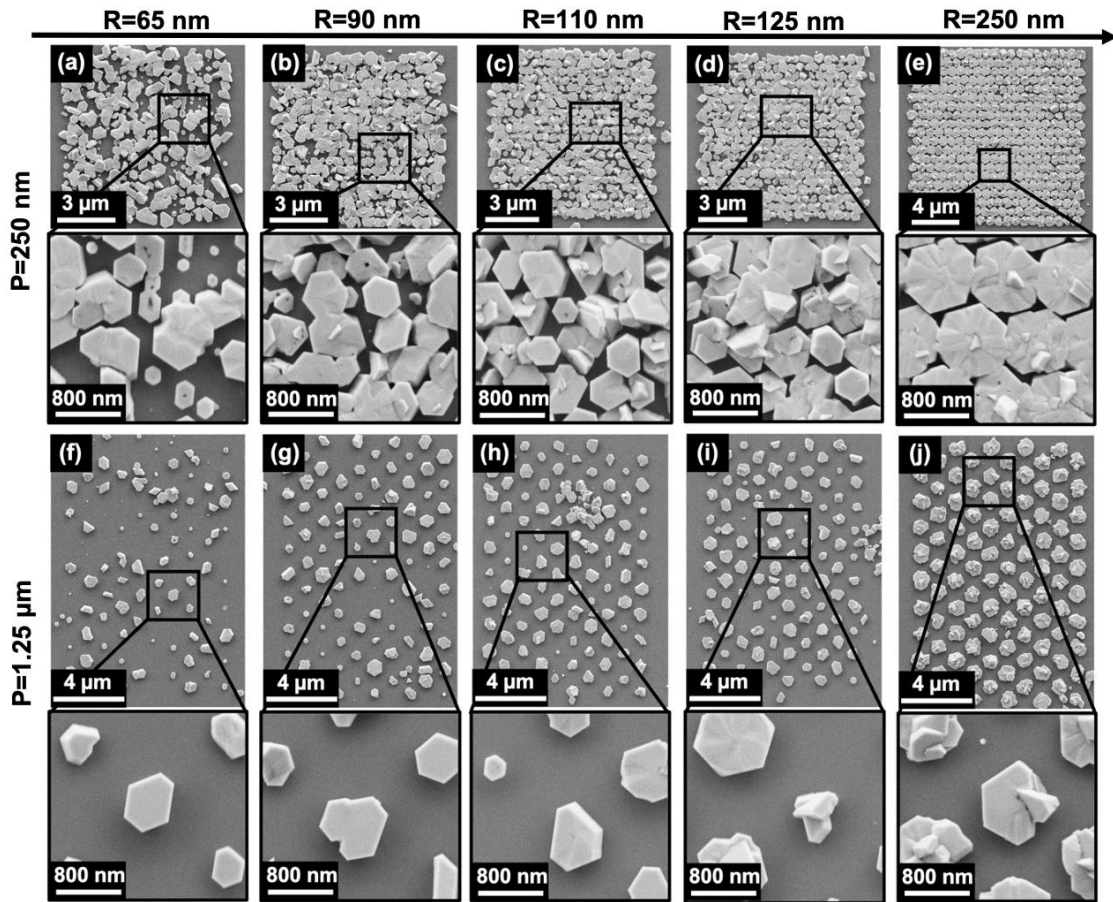
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15 EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

1 The graphene patterns, also called nano-patches or dots in the literature, were fabricated using 1 cm^2
2 commercial polycrystalline graphene grown by chemical vapor deposition (CVD) on a copper foil.
3 The thickness is one monolayer and grain sizes about tens of μm .²⁵ The graphene is wet-transferred
4 onto 300 nm-thick SiO_2 deposited on Si (001) wafer. The SiO_2 is obtained by thermal oxidation of the
5 Si substrate. The patterning procedure of the nano-patches is obtained by e-beam lithography and
6 O_2 -plasma etching as described in ref ¹⁰. Hexagonal shape graphene nano-patches arrays are
7 designed with a radius (R) of 65 to 250 nm (Fig. 1(b-d)) and a pitch distance between the patches (P)
8 of 250 nm to 1.25 μm (Fig. 1(e-f)). The pitch is determined by measuring from the closest edge of the
9 patches for a radius of 250 nm, and center-to-center for 1.25 μm . Then, the sample is transferred into
10 a PA-MBE chamber. The temperature was measured by an optical pyrometer calibrated before each
11 run, by observing the (1×1) to (7×7) surface reconstruction transition on Si (111), which occurs at
12 860 °C. Prior to the growth, the substrate was first outgassed at 850°C for 15 min to remove residual
13 impurities from the surface. Afterwards, the substrate was exposed to a Ga flux equivalent to a planar
14 GaN growth rate of 0.62 monolayer/s and to an active N flux corresponding to a N/Ga ratio in the
15 vapor phase of 1.1 in order to grown nominally undoped GaN nanowires. The growth temperature was
16 set at 815°C for a duration of 90 minutes. As shown in Fig. 1(g), selective growth of 150-nm-long N-
17 polar GaN ²⁶ NWs is therefore obtained. According to ref ¹⁰, these nanowires are oriented with
18 respect to the underlying graphene layer. The radius determines the number of NWs on the patch.
19 We can get 1-3 NWs only for R=65 nm (Fig. 1(b)), 1-7 NWs for R=90 nm (Fig. 1(c)) and 39 ± 5 for
20 R=250 nm (Fig. 1(d)). It should be noted that these radius values are design parameters and will be
21 used throughout this study. The actual values can be estimated by measuring the radius after the
22 wires have grown. The measured deviations are probably due to the irradiation dose during e-beam
23 lithography and the dry etching during O_2 plasma. For R=250, 90 nm the actual radius is 170 and 50
24 nm (meaning a pitch of 410 and 330 nm instead of P=250 nm for R=250 and 90 nm). However, as the
25 radius is reduced, the number of NWs is smaller, making the estimate uncertain as the graphene is
26 not directly observable after the growth. This sample with MBE-grown GaN seeds is then transferred
27 into a close-coupled showerhead MOVPE reactor. The MOVPE process includes firstly an annealing at

1 950 °C for 10 minutes under nitrogen flow to clean the surface, especially the gallium oxide on the
2 MBE NW resulting from the transfer in air. Note that this treatment does not affect significantly the
3 graphene layer as shown in ref ²⁷. Then, the growth conditions were chosen to promote undoped
4 GaN ELOG on the NW sidewalls with moderate temperature (950 °C) and low pressure (150 mbar) to
5 be in a mass-transport growth regime. Ammonia (NH₃) and triethylgallium (TEGa) were used as
6 precursors to control easily the growth rate with respect to TEGa. The V/III ratio is fixed to 9200 by
7 injecting 50 sccm (7.28 μmol/min) and 1500 sccm (67 mmol/min) flux of TEGa and NH₃ respectively.
8 The growth time is set to 450 s to define the surface coverage by the μ-platelets.

1 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



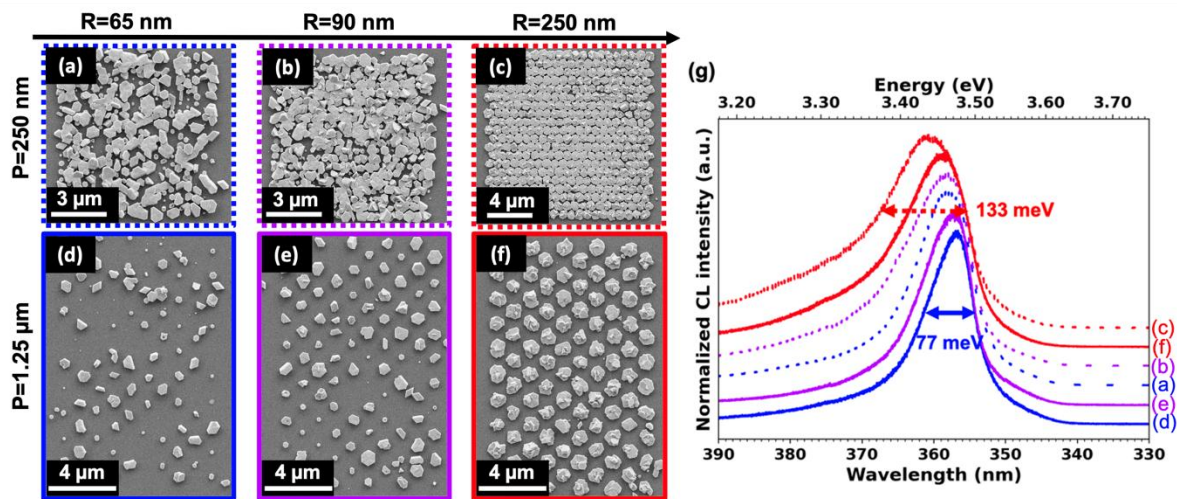
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3 **Figure 2.** Two magnifications top-view SEM image of the MOVPE lateral growth for P= 250 nm pitch
 4 and different R radius of (a) 65 nm, (b) 90 nm (c) 110 nm (d) 125 nm (e) 250 nm. Same view for
 5 P=1.25 μm pitch and R radius: (f) 65 nm, (g) 90 nm, (h) 110 nm (i) 125 nm (j) 250 nm.

6 Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) is performed to study the growth mechanisms involved in this
 7 process. Fig. 2(a-j) shows top views of the surface morphology with two magnifications for several
 8 graphene patterns with R=65, 90, 110, 125, 250 nm and P =1.25, 0.25 μm. Lateral growth is
 9 evidenced by comparison with Figure 1. However, this ELOG is not uniform. Considering first the
 10 largest pitch P=1.25 μm in Fig. 2(f-j), the density of overgrowth sites is considerably impacted by the
 11 graphene patch radius R. Indeed, for the smaller patch radius (Fig. 2(f)), no overgrowth is observed at
 12 specific sites indicating that nucleation is not homogeneous. This is to be related to the fact that
 13 when R decreases from 250 to 65 nm, the initial number of MBE GaN NWs is significantly reduced,

1 from about 40 to only 1-2 NWs. It is difficult to conclude at this point if this is related to a stochastic
2 and therefore heterogeneous nucleation on the NW array (which also presents non-uniformity) or to
3 the lateral NW surface cleaning that has to be improved. The stochastic regime could be attributed to
4 a high growth temperature²⁸ and to the decreased area available for nucleation at the graphene
5 patches with a small number of seed NWs. Conversely, overgrowth is observed on all patches of 250
6 nm radius which contain initially a large number of NWs (Fig. 2(j)). This probably increases the
7 nucleation probability. In the case of the largest patch radius, the high probability of regrowth favors
8 a quasi-simultaneous growth leading to μ -platelets with approximately the same area. For the
9 smallest dot radius, the inhomogeneity of μ -platelet size and shape is explained by an asynchronous
10 start of regrowth due to the fewer MBE NWs. Even though the use of a large radius leads to a better
11 homogeneity of GaN overgrowth, the presence of multiple NWs can also lead to morphological
12 defects, since the NWs act as independent nucleation centers which, at some point, lead to a radial
13 coalescence of several GaN nanocrystals. This coalescence at each single graphene patch (referred to
14 as intra-coalescence in the following sections) can induce the formation of extended defects such as
15 stacking faults, dislocations, and grain boundaries.²⁹⁻³¹ Moreover, decreasing the pitch down to 250
16 nm (Fig. 2(a-d)) yields a noticeable effect on overgrowth. Especially for lower R values (e.g., R=65 nm
17 in Fig. 2(a)), the periodicity of the initial pattern is difficult to identify after overgrowth. This can be
18 explained by an asynchronous start of regrowth from one patch to another. Growth competition
19 between the large and small objects may follow, considering the two diffusion paths in MOVPE
20 (surface and gas phase) to feed the growth. This phenomenon can amplify the size dispersion of the
21 μ -platelets which relates initially to their asynchronous growth start. After a certain growth time, the
22 largest μ -platelets exceed the pitch distance. This effect results in μ -platelet merging from different
23 patches and will be called inter-coalescence. This is mostly observed for small radius and pitch. This
24 inter-coalescence will also induce local strains between the patches because their crystalline
25 orientations are not perfectly aligned (they follow the orientation of the MBE-grown NWs which is
26 determined by that of the transferred graphene). For the chosen growth time of 450s, well-arranged

1 hexagonal shaped μ -platelets are only observed for an array corresponding to $R=250$ nm and $P=250$ nm (Fig. 2(e)). In this case, some μ -platelet edges are just in contact with their neighbours. For this
 2 nm (Fig. 2(e)). In this case, some μ -platelet edges are just in contact with their neighbours. For this
 3 patch geometry, the μ -platelets show a quite regular hexagonal shape in comparison to other
 4 configurations, possibly due to a lower growth rate³² that favours the formation of m -plane facets.
 5 This section demonstrates the MOVPE regrowth on organized GaN NWs that are epitaxially grown on
 6 graphene by MBE. We have shown that the pattern design has a strong impact on the nucleation
 7 probability and on the lateral regrowth morphology due to intra- and inter-coalescence phenomena.
 8 To evaluate their respective impacts on the optical properties, cathodoluminescence (CL)
 9 measurements were performed.



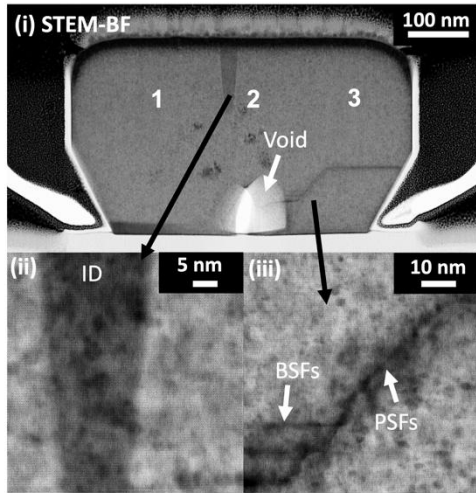
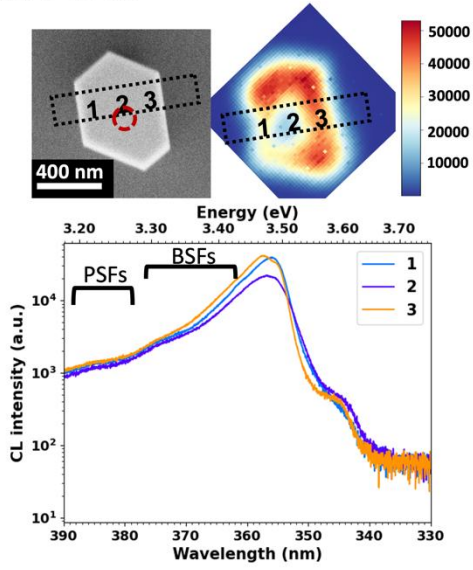
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 11 **Figure 3.** Top-view SEM image of the MOVPE GaN lateral growth on 250 nm graphene pitch for R: (a)
 12 65 nm, (b) 90 nm (c) 250 nm and on 1.25 μ m pitch for R: (d) 65 nm, (e) 90 nm, (f) 250 nm. Each SEM
 13 image is associated with its CL spectra (g) taken at 5 K.

14 CL measurements combining hyperspectral mapping and spectral measurements are carried out at
 15 5 K to investigate the optical properties of the μ -platelets, as a function of the pattern design and
 16 consequently of the coalescence defects. The acceleration voltage is set at 5 kV. At such voltage, the
 17 penetration depth of electrons is about 200 nm in GaN. The CL signal is then collected thanks to a
 18 parabolic mirror and analyzed by a spectrometer coupled to a charge-coupled device (CCD). Fig. 3(a-

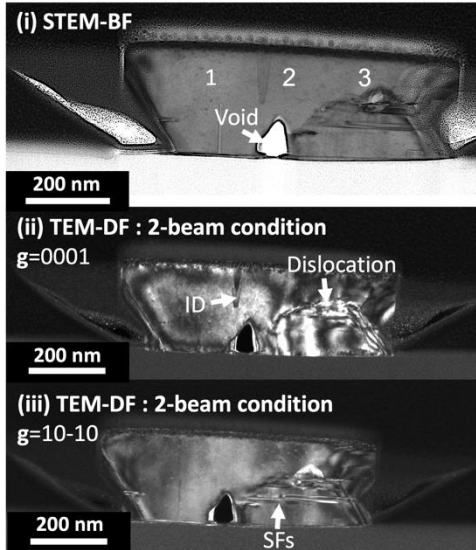
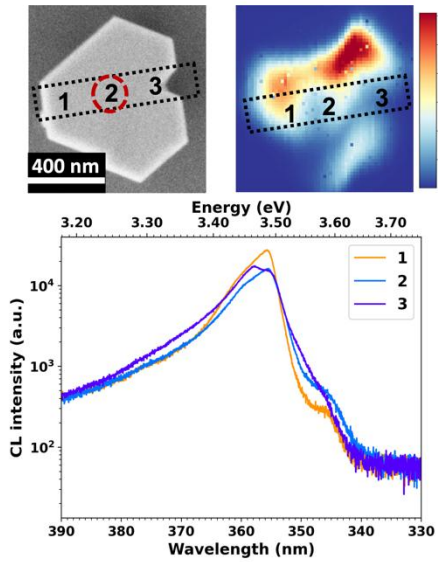
1 f) shows the SEM images of six different patterns and their corresponding normalized CL spectra
2 given in Fig. 3(g). Each CL signal reflects the integrated luminescence emitted by all the μ -platelets of
3 the SEM zones. We can note a dependence of both the luminescence peak positions and their full
4 widths at half maximum (FWHM) on the array geometry. In the case of R=250 nm and P=250 nm (Fig.
5 3(c)), the peak exhibits the largest FWHM with a value of 133 meV and also the largest red-shift
6 leading to an emission at 3.436 eV. Generally, the predominant peaks observed in GaN are the
7 excitons bound to neutral donor (D^0X_A) and the free exciton (X_A), positioned at 3.471 and 3.478 eV,
8 respectively³³. This variation of the emission wavelength may be explained by the presence of
9 strain³⁴ and/or additional contributions emitting at lower energy levels related to defects (such as
10 basal stacking faults (BSFs) I_1 , I_2 , E radiating at 3.41³⁵, 3.32³⁶ to 3.38³⁷ and 3.29³⁸ respectively). Here,
11 the degraded optical quality can be attributed to intra- and inter-coalescence defects caused by both
12 the high number of NWs in each graphene patch and the short spacing, resulting in overlapping
13 spectra of defective individual μ -platelets. As the pitch is increased to 1.25 μ m (Fig. 3(f)), we avoid
14 the inter-coalescence between μ -platelets and the FWHM is reduced to 112 meV with a slight
15 increase in emission energy at 3.457 eV. Considering that the only difference is the pitch value, this
16 increase in energy can then be directly linked to the absence of certain structural defects and strain
17 in this case. The optical emission is further improved when R is reduced to 90 nm (for P=250 nm), as
18 shown in Figure 3(b). We measure a FWHM of 108 meV with an emission taking place at 3.463 eV.
19 Significant improvement in optical properties is also reached by increasing the pitch (Figure 3(e)),
20 again because of elimination of any inter-platelet coalescence effects. In this case, the FWHM is
21 reduced to 82 meV, and the emission energy at 3.471 eV is achieved, which is close to the expected
22 value for bulk GaN. This result can be explained by the reduction of defects due to the limited
23 number of NWs in a nano-patch. Indeed, the best emission properties (FWHM down to 77 meV and
24 emission energy at 3.476 eV) are obtained for the pattern with R=65 nm and P=1.25 μ m (Figure 4(d)),
25 where only 1-2 NWs per patch were observed before regrowth. This result tends to demonstrate that
26 to benefit from the method proposed in this paper, each graphene patch must initially contain a

- 1 small number of NW seeds (ideally one per patch), and inter-patch coalescence must be avoided by
- 2 controlling the growth time. To better understand the origin of the large and shifted CL emission
- 3 peak of large patches, we then performed hyperspectral mappings to analyze the internal
- 4 inhomogeneity within the μ -platelets.

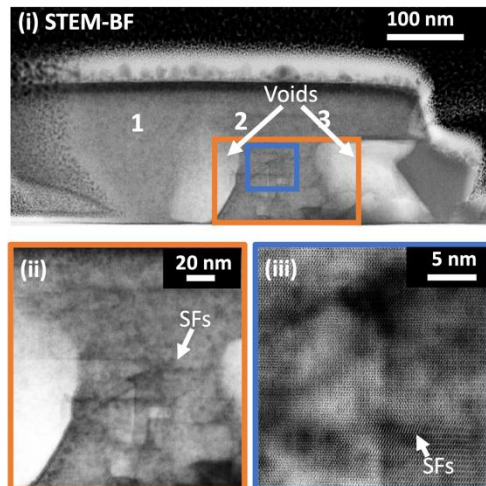
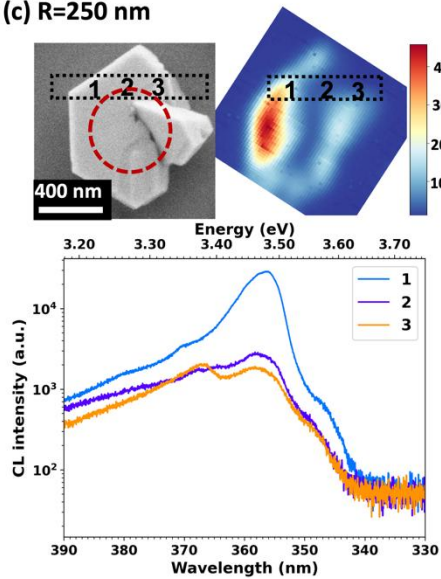
(a) R=65 nm



(b) R=90 nm



(c) R=250 nm



1 **Figure 4.** GaN μ -platelet of $P=1.25\ \mu\text{m}$ pitch and $R=$: (a) 65 nm, (b) 90 nm, and (c) 250 nm. Each
2 panel includes: top-view SEM images with their respective CL spectra associated to the number
3 displaying on the hyperspectral mapping. Each μ -platelets is associated with its cross-section STEM
4 images taken along the a-axis zone in bright field mode ((a-i)(b-i)(c-i)). TEM dark field mode is also
5 reported in (b) along the c-axis (b-ii) and a-axis (b-iii). The voids, dislocations, prismatic (PSFs) and
6 basal (BSFS) stacking faults (SFs) are highlighted in the TEM and STEM images.

7 Correlation between optical emission properties and structural defects can be obtained by
8 performing cathodoluminescence measurements, high-resolution transmission electron microscopy
9 (HRTEM) and high-resolution scanning transmission electron microscopy (HRSTEM) observations on
10 the same single GaN μ -platelet. We selected non-overlapping μ -platelets from arrays with $P=1.25\ \mu\text{m}$
11 and collected hyperspectral CL map on μ -platelets with $R=65, 90, 250\ \text{nm}$ (figure 4). Following CL
12 measurements, these platelets were thinned by focused ion beam (FIB) for HRTEM observation. The
13 exact location of the TEM lamellae prepared by FIB is indicated by the dotted rectangles drawn on
14 SEM top views (figure 4). The thickness of TEM lamellae was about 100 nm. The TEM observations
15 have been obtained using a ThermoFisher 200 Titan probe aberration corrected TEM/STEM. Two
16 types of TEM imaging conditions have been used. Bright Field Scanning Transmission Electron
17 Microscopy (BF-STEM) allows to collect images down to the atomic scale while maintaining a contrast
18 sensitive to strains induced by extended defects. Dark field (DF) TEM images collected in a 2-beam
19 condition allows to image extended defects with lattice shift parallel to the reciprocal space vector \mathbf{g} .

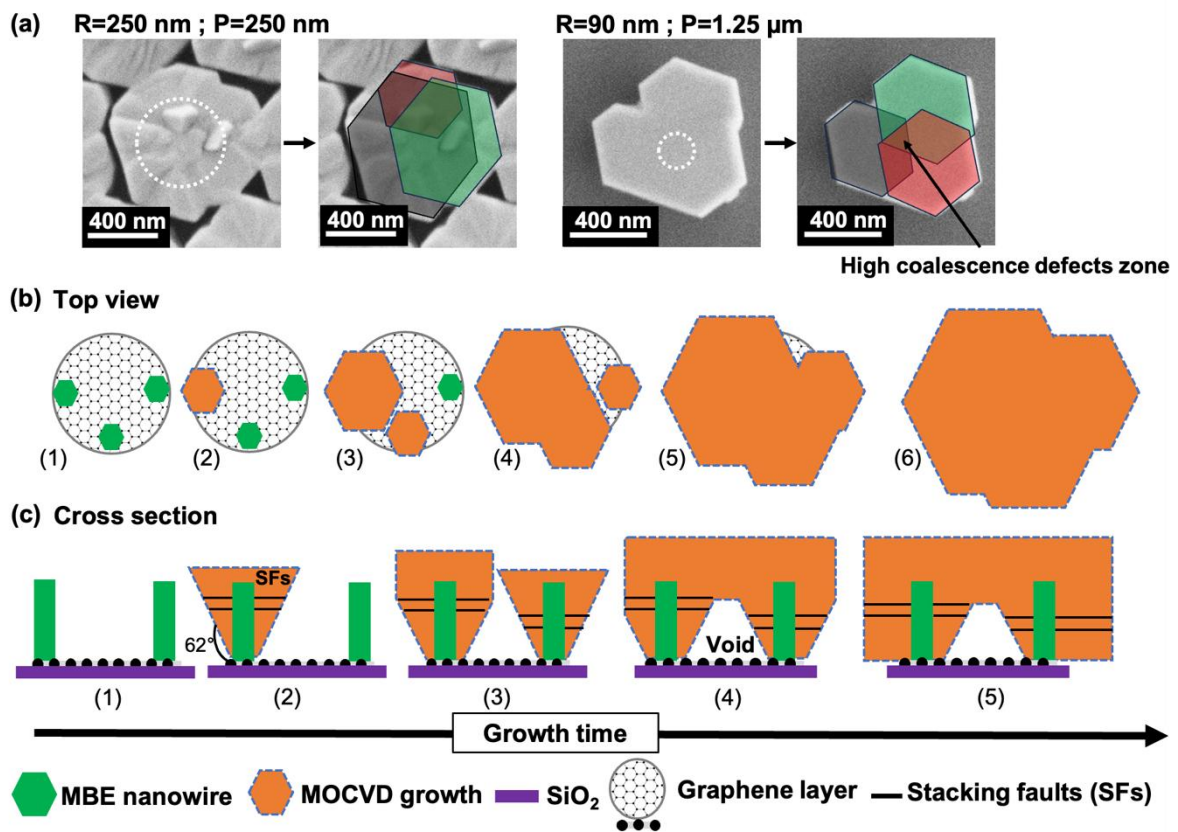
20 An inverted pyramidal morphology is observed for $R=65$ and 90 nm. The edges correspond to r -
21 planes which form an angle of 62° with the c -plane. This surface is relatively stable and is commonly
22 observed in nitride growth.³⁹ This is consistent with ELOG on N-polar NWs which tends to develop
23 the N-polarity, leading to upside-down pyramids combining inclined r -facets and vertical m -facets.⁴⁰
24 Figure 4(a) shows that the CL spectra recorded from three zones along the platelet diameter are
25 similar in the case of a small 65 nm-patch. The emission is dominated by a broad signal around 3.48
26 eV related to the GaN near band edge (NBE) emission, but additional contributions are also visible at

1 3.22 eV and 3.33 eV. These low-energy peaks have been identified in the literature as the signature
2 of GaN prismatic (PSFs) and basal stacking faults (BSFs), respectively.⁴¹ The PSFs are assigned to the
3 intersection of BSFs and a partial dislocation.⁴² The HR BF-STEM images confirm the presence of BSFs
4 attached with a PSFs in Fig. 4(a-iii), which subsequently evolve into BSFs to reach the *r*-plane surface.
5 Furthermore, the μ -platelet exhibits in Fig. 4(a-ii) a change of contrast just above the void that can be
6 attributed to an inversion domain (ID).⁴³ This Ga-polar phase is probably contributing to the
7 broadening of the NBE emission at 3.45 eV.⁴⁴ This ID feature also appears for R=90 nm. The
8 associated shift in lattice lying along the *c*-direction is clearly visible in a 2-beam DFTEM images using
9 $\mathbf{g}=0001$. It has been demonstrated that the Ga-polarity NBE emits less than the N-polarity due to
10 preferential dopant and impurity incorporation. Therefore, this ID may play a role in reducing the
11 intensity at the center of the μ -platelets hyperspectral mapping in Fig 4(a-b).^{45,46} Additionally, the
12 top-view SEM image reveals the merging of multiple hexagons, suggesting the coalescence of
13 inverted pyramids. The TEM image (Fig. 4(b-ii)) shows an inter-grain dislocation at the right side of
14 the void, likely resulting from intra-coalescence among these crystals. The hyperspectral map and the
15 spectrum at this specific zone (zone 3) reveal a clear decrease in intensity associated to non-radiative
16 defects, whereas a slight increase is observed in the region near 3.3 eV, consistent with the presence
17 of numerous BSFs, as revealed by the 2-beam DFTEM image using $\mathbf{g}=10-10$ (see Fig. 4(b-iii)). In the
18 case of the larger diameter R=250 nm, the intra-coalescence phenomenon is enhanced due to the
19 initial presence of multiple GaN NWs. They promote the formation of larger voids and a higher
20 density of extended defects (such as SFs). A decrease in CL intensity of the hyperspectral mapping is
21 measured at the center for R=250 nm sample. The lateral extent of this decrease correlates with the
22 presence of large voids observed inside the platelet and close to their center. These voids not only
23 correspond to a reduced volume of GaN but also introduce internal surfaces. Both are very likely to
24 contribute to the decrease of luminescence intensity. As shown in the zone 2 of Fig. 4(c-ii), the
25 central region between the two voids exhibits numerous defects, primarily basal stacking faults
26 (BSFs) and the CL peak associated with BSFs (3.38 eV) dominates the GaN NBE emission. The defects

1 summarized as a function of the graphene patch radius are presented in Table 1. In addition, a peak
 2 around 3.58 eV is observed in most of the spectra. This peak results from strain, since its emission is
 3 located at a higher energy than the NBE of GaN. The origin of this strain is unclear and could come
 4 from multiple sources, such as dislocations, cubic inclusions and grain boundaries.
 5

Graphene radius (R)	Initial Number of NWs	Defects observed on μ -platelets
65 nm	1-2	One small void ID Few PSFs and BSFs
90 nm	1-7	One small void Dislocations Many BSFs ID
250 nm	39 ± 5	Two large voids Many PSFs and BSFs

6 **Table 1.** Summary of the defects observed in μ -platelets by STEM and TEM as a function of the
 7 graphene patch radius.



1

2 **Figure 5.** (a) Top-view SEM images of R=250 nm/P=250 nm and R=90 nm/P=1.25 μm graphene
 3 patterns having multiple hexagonal crystals embedded in a μ-platelet. Schematic proces of the
 4 growth of μ-platelets in (b) top-view and (c) cross-section.

5 To summarize our experimental observations, we demonstrated that the μ-platelets exhibit
 6 significantly different morphological, optical and structural characteristics depending on the pattern
 7 geometry. Fig. 5(a) shows top-view SEM images of two different patches. Their morphologies can be
 8 described by several interconnected non regular hexagonal crystals with *m*-plane sidewall facets
 9 (commonly observed in GaN islands and nanostructures).⁴⁷ The general orientation of these
 10 hexagons is determined by the epitaxy on graphene and will follow the disorientations introduced by
 11 the grains of polycrystalline graphene¹⁰. To explain the experimental observations, we propose in
 12 Figure 5(b-c) a schematic of the MOVPE regrowth process on the MBE NWs for the top- and cross-
 13 section views. Note first that MBE NWs grow preferentially at the edge of the graphene patch, as
 14 depicted in Figure 1 and Figure 5(b-c). During the initial stages of MOVPE growth, two effects

1 increase the size distribution of the objects: re-growth on different sites may not start at the same
2 time and growth rate may vary from site to site due to diffusion at the surface and in the gas phase
3 which is sensitive to the presence of already formed crystals. In the literature, it has been proposed
4 to force simultaneous nucleation on different sites using a two-step growth process, initiating the
5 growth at low temperature to decrease the diffusion length (for example 950°C/1040°C).⁴⁰ With
6 growth time, multiple crystallites of different sizes form and then coalesce leading to a morphology
7 that corresponds to the SEM image shown in Figure 5(a). The top views are complemented by cross-
8 section observations. We observe that the μ -platelets have an inverted pyramidal shape with r - and
9 m -planes facets as schematized in step (2) and (3) of the Fig 5(c). It has been demonstrated in the
10 literature that GaN pyramidal shape induce BSFs that can extend laterally into the crystal to end at r -
11 plane facets as already observed in Ref⁴². In an intermediate stage and when two nucleation centers
12 are close to each other, the coalescence of these 3D-objects (Fig. 5(c): step (3) and (4)) results in the
13 formation of a triangular void, as observed in TEM. This void could promote the formation of an ID
14 linked to interfacial defects and the possibility of having inter-grain dislocations that can be mixed
15 with BSFs. Note that these defects are buried under the surface, and therefore they do not degrade
16 too much the crystalline quality of the top of the μ -platelets. Focusing on the overall morphology of
17 the μ -platelet, the rapid growth along the r -plane promotes the gradual development of m -plane
18 facets over time. This was observed after a growth period of 450 seconds. Finally, the r -plane
19 gradually disappears to the benefit of the m -plane area, facilitating full lateral expansion without the
20 occurrence of additional defects.

21

22 CONCLUSIONS

23 In summary, we use GaN NWs selectively grown by MBE on patterned graphene to perform the
24 overgrowth of organized GaN μ -platelets by MOVPE. It has been demonstrated that the pattern
25 geometry of graphene and the density of NW seeds strongly influences the optical and crystalline

1 quality of the μ -platelets due to intra- and inter-coalescence of the different nucleation NW sites.
2 The use of a large number of NWs efficiently promotes the selective MOVPE growth of μ -platelets for
3 a temperature of 950°C. Nevertheless, intra-coalescence results in the formation of voids and various
4 extended defects, including stacking faults, dislocations, and domain inversions. These defects
5 significantly impact optical emission properties, either by diminishing intensity due to reduced
6 volume of material and carrier recombination on non-radiative centers or by adding additional
7 emission peaks between 3.2 and 3.4 eV due to the presence of stacking faults. The growth on a very
8 limited number of NWs (ideally a single GaN NW) is the better solution to reduce significantly the
9 defect density.

10

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15 **Author Contributions**

16 J.H performed the MOVPE growths, CL measurements, SEM observations, the analyses and took an
17 active part in the writing of this manuscript with support from supervisors C.D. and J.E.; D.T. and E.C.
18 performed the preparation of the patterned substrates; D.T. performed the MBE growths; L.L.
19 performed the FIB preparations and TEM analyses. L.V. and G.J. took part in the CL measurements.
20 C.D., M.T. and J-C. H involved in the project management and fundings. All authors have participated
21 to the correction of the manuscript and have given approval to the final version of the manuscript.

22 **Funding Sources**

1 This research was funded by the French National Research Agency in the framework of the project
2 FLAGG ANR-21-CE24-0017-01. This work was partly supported by the French RENATECH network
3 (MBE growth, FIB preparation, TEM observations).

4 **Notes**

5 The authors declare no competing financial interest.
6

7 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

8 The authors thank J. Dussaud for his work on the MOVPE setup, Fabrice Donatini (from Néel
9 institute) for his help with cathodoluminescence measurements and the PFNC of CEA Grenoble (SEM
10 observations).

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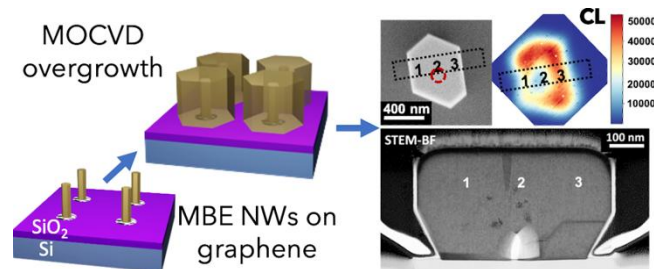
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1 **For Table of Contents Only**

2 **Selective area growth of GaN μ -platelets on**
3 **graphene**

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9 **Synopsis**

10
11 N-polar GaN μ -platelets selectively grown on graphene using GaN nanowire seeds on patterned
12 arrays. Optical and structural qualities are analysed by cathodoluminescence and transmission electron
13 microscopy, highlighting varied coalescence mechanisms and defect formation in μ -platelet growth.