

# Chapter I

## Growth and first characterization of Cr-doped CdTe quantum dots

During this thesis, we studied two types of magnetic QDs: self-assembled QDs and strain-free QDs. The formers are formed by the partial relaxation of the strain of a CdTe layer on a ZnTe substrate (Stranski-Krastanov dots). Strain-free dots are formed by thickness variation of a CdTe /CdMgTe thin quantum well (QW) on a CdTe substrate. The growth of Cr-doped samples were done in Pr. Shinji Kuroda laboratory, in the University of Tsukuba. The Mn-doped samples were grown at Grenoble, in the CEA-CNRS joined team NPSC, by Dr. Hervé Boukari.

We will focus in this chapter on the growth done at Tsukuba by Molecular Beam Epitaxy (MBE). We begin with some general explanation on the MBE process and the different tools that are used in it. We then go to the growth of the self-assembled Cr-doped QDs, explaining the preparation of the substrate, the growth, and discussing the first characterization of the samples. In the last section, we present two other kinds of samples we grew: samples with the possibility of applying an electric field on them, and the strain-free dots. For each of them, we explain the growth process and present basic characterization.

### I.1 The Molecular Beam Expitaxy

The samples we used are grown using epitaxy. It consists on depositing atoms or molecules on the surface of the sample. Each elements are deposited on top of each other, and the lattice parameter of the substrate in the plane is kept as long as no defect appears in the material. The elements condensate on the surface, where they can diffuse before getting adsorbed, or re-evaporate in the gas. The substrate temperature is tuned in order to maximise the mobility of the elements, to get a flat surface, while minimizing the re-evaporation. To achieve such a growth, we

used a process called Molecular Beam Epitaxy (MBE), in which flux of elements are evaporated toward the sample, where each atom or molecule is deposited and crystallizes. This is done using cells of elements heated to control their evaporation or until they reach sublimation.

The MBE process was first devised at the end of the 1960s [1]. This method offers a good control on the growth, which makes it useful for the development of nanostructures. Depositing the materials layer by layer gives the possibility to grow really thin structure, and the transition between two materials can be made really abrupt, with the possibility to go from one material to another over a single monolayer (ML).

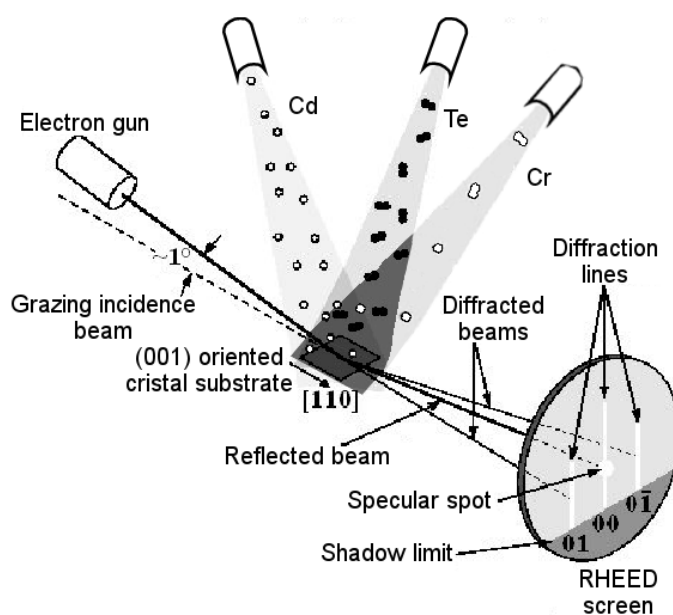


Figure I.1: Schema of MBE cells and substrate during a growth. An electron gun is attached to the chamber in order to probe the surface of the sample.

The elements are kept in Knudsen cells, which consist of a crucible of high-melting-point material wrapped in Tungsten filament acting as heater. A shutter is put in front of them to stop the element flux. During the growth, the shutter is opened to let the element travel to the substrate. The growth by MBE is a slow process: it can take more than a hour to get a layer  $1 \mu\text{m}$  thick. In order to avoid contamination, Ultra High Vacuum, in the order of  $10^{-8}$  Pa, is needed. Under this condition, the mean free path of the gas is long compared to the distance to the sample (km for the mean free path of gas, when the distance between the substrate and the cell is of the order of 50 cm). This process is illustrated in Fig. I.1.

Reaching the surface, the atoms diffuse before stopping, either having dissipated their kinetic energy through interaction with the surface, or (more commonly) being kept by steps created by previously deposited atoms. The growth occurs layer by layer, slowly (about 1 ML/s), giving a good control of the thickness of the grown material.

The growth can be monitored in-situ with RHEED (Reflexion High-Energy Electron Diffraction). An electron gun sends a beam of high energy electrons, extracted from a filament by a high bias voltage, at a low angle, between  $1^\circ$  and  $3^\circ$ , to the surface sample. This way, the electrons will only probe the surface of the sample, penetrating the material only on a few MLs. From the diffracted pattern, we can get information on the morphology of the surface. We can also use the variation of intensity of the specular spot, the spot at lowest angle reflected, to measure the growth rate of the deposited material, as illustrated on Fig. I.2.

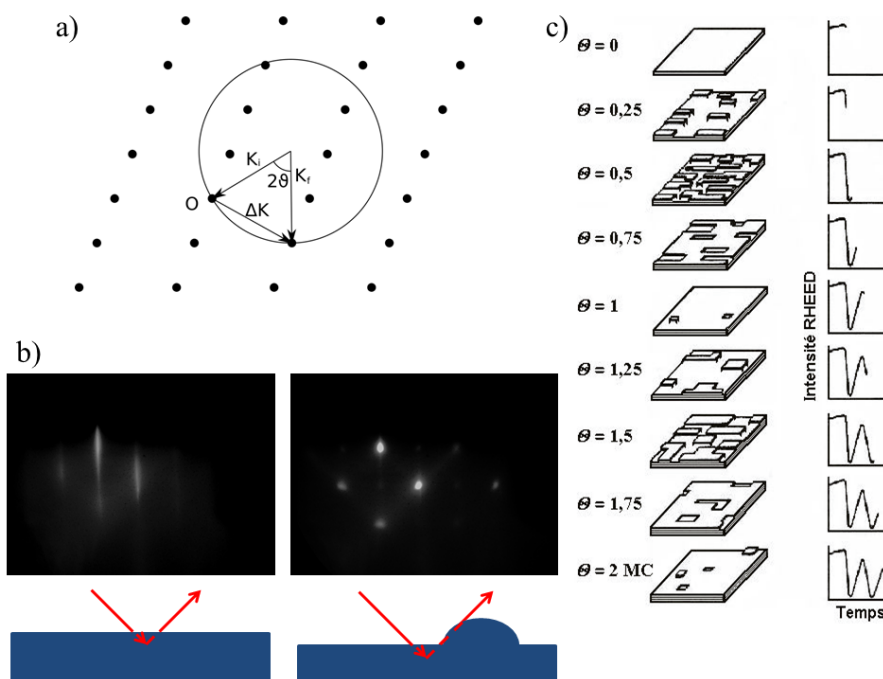


Figure I.2: (a) Construction of the Ewald sphere in the reciprocal space for an elastic scattering. For diffraction to occur, the reciprocal lattice must lie on the Ewald sphere. (b) Change of the RHEED pattern from a flat surface (left) to a rough one due to the formation of QDs (right). (c) Surface state during the growth of 2 MLs (left) and RHEED intensity for each step (right).

Incident electrons have a wave vector  $\mathbf{k}_i = 2\pi/\lambda_e$ , with  $\lambda_e$  the electron wavelength, typically 30 or 40 pm for an electron at 30-40 keV. Since only scattered

diffraction is considered, the diffracted wave vector  $\mathbf{k}_f$  as the same module as the incident one  $\mathbf{k}_i$ . The Ewald's sphere has then a radius equal to  $||\mathbf{k}_i||$ . If we had a perfect 2D crystal surface, the reciprocal lattice seen by the incident electrons would be infinite lines. Their intersection with the Ewald sphere would give points. However, the crystal may present some defects and neither the gun nor the detector are perfect, leading to a broadening of the Ewald's sphere surface. The intersection between the line and the sphere occurs on a given length, and therefore the diffraction pattern of the electrons presents lines instead of points.

The growth of QDs makes the surface rough at the scale of the length of coherence of the beam. The electrons can interact with more layers while passing through the dots. This can be seen on the diffraction pattern, where lines become points.

## I.2 Self-assembled CdTe/ZnTe quantum dots doped with single Cr atoms

### I.2.1 Substrate preparation

The self-assembled Cr-doped QDs were grown on ZnTe(100) substrates. Two cleaning methods were tested for the substrate:

- i) etching of the substrate in a Bromide solution ( $\text{Br}_2\text{-C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$ )
- ii) exposition of the substrate to a hydrogen radical plasma.

The etching process was done in four steps. All of them, except the etching in Bromide-ethanol, occurred in an ultrasonic cleaning device vibrating the sample at 43 kHz for 3 minutes. We began with a cleaning in acetone, followed by one in ethanol. The third step was etching in Bromide-ethanol, with 3% of Bromide, for 1 minute. We rinsed the sample in methanol. Once rinsed, we keep the sample in ethanol until mounting it on the sample holder. The transfer from the ethanol to the MBE chamber takes a few minutes, and some contamination might occur during this time.

In order to avoid contamination during the transfer, another type of cleaning of the surface was tried: using hydrogen radical ( $\text{H}^*$ ) to remove the impurity at the surface. The substrate was rinsed four times, first in acetone, then ethanol and then water, for a duration of 5 min with sonication at 43 kHz, and finally 5 more minutes in water with sonication at 23 kHz. Once the sample was clean, it was mounted on the sample holder and loaded in the MBE system. The hydrogen radicals were formed by a RF power source operating at 13.6 MHz and at a power of 300 W. The substrate is exposed to the plasma for 15 min at 400°C. The evolution of the surface was monitored with the RHEED: its pattern presented diffraction

lines after the exposition to  $H^*$  plasma.

Most of the samples were cleaned using the Br-ethanol etching. Cleaning by  $H^*$  radicals was tested later during my PhD, and only a few containing Cr-doped dots. Among the samples presented in this thesis, the only sample presented cleaned with the later technique is the charge control sample, dot390.

## I.2.2 Stranski-Krastanov quantum dots growth

The self-assembled dots are formed using Stranski-Krastanov growth. A material with a different lattice parameter than the substrate is deposited. This lattice parameter difference creates strains in the grown layer. Growing over the critical thickness, the layer may relax in different fashion, depending on the material. In Stranski-Krastanov growth, the relaxation occurs via the formation of island, the QDs, on the layer. QDs formed by this method are called Stranski-Krastanov dots (SK dots). For CdTe/ZnTe, the critical thickness is  $h_c = 6.5$  MLs [2]. However, the dots do not form naturally in CdTe/ZnTe: if left as is, dislocation will form in the layer to relax the strains. In order to form the dots, a layer of amorphous Tellurium has to be deposited on the surface of the sample, and then evaporated [3].

The CdTe QDs layer is grown by Atome Layer Epitaxy (ALE), or Migration-Enhanced Epitaxy (MEE). While in classical use of MBE, the elements of the material are co-deposited on the substrate, in ALE, each cell is open one after the other, in sequence. Between each opening, the sample is left under vacuum in order to relax the surface. Such a growth is auto-regulated: when only one element is open, only a given quantity of material will be deposited and then the growth will stop until the other element is also deposited. The deposited quantity of material before the growth stop depends only on the substrate temperature. This allows for a really fine control of the growth and of the thickness of the grown layer. A full cycle corresponds to opening each cell once.

Table I.1: Targeted flux in Beam Equivalent Pressure (BEP) for each cell during the growth of the strained QDs.

Elements	Targeted BEP (Pa)	Targeted flux (atoms.cm <sup>-2</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> )
Zn	$9.1 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.3 \times 10^{14}$
Te	$6.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$5.8 \times 10^{13}$
Cd	$6.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.7 \times 10^{13}$

The targeted fluxes chosen for the growth of the CdTe/ZnTe QDs are presented in Tab. I.1 for each cell used during the growth. These fluxes were measured via a

Bayard-Alperd pressure gauge inside the MBE chamber, and are therefore given in Beam Equivalent Pressure (BEP). It was shown that the best quality of ZnTe was achieved for a growth in excess of Zn [4]. Otherwise, vacancies appear in the bulk, optically visible, and the surface is rougher. The ZnTe barriers were therefore grown in excess of Zn.

The relative flux of the elements has no influence on the ALE process. We only have to be careful to deposit enough of each element to saturate the surface at each opening. We therefore chose to use the same flux for both Cd and Te [5].

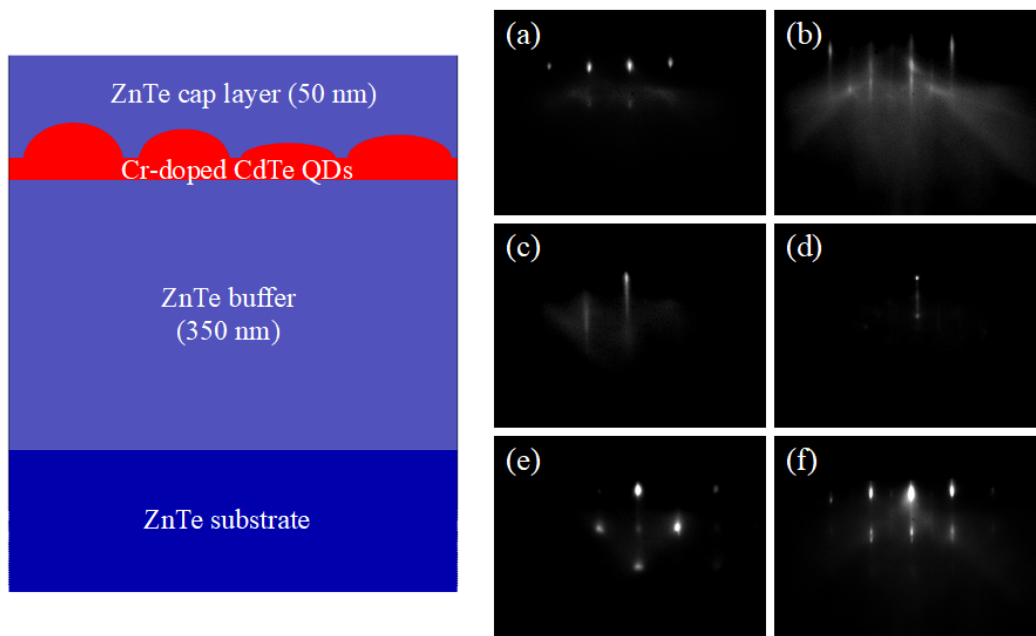


Figure I.3: Left: Layer structure of the strain Cr-doped CdTe QDs samples. Right: RHEED pattern taken along the Te reconstruction line at different key moment of the growth: (a) before the growth of the ZnTe buffer, (b) after the growth of the ZnTe buffer, (c) end of the (Cd,Cr)Te layer deposition, (d) after the Te deposition, (e) after the Te evaporation ( $T_{\text{substrate}} = 163^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and (f) after the growth of the ZnTe cap.

We begin the growth by opening the Zn cell shutter at a substrate temperature of  $355^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The substrate temperature was then raised to  $400^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a Zn atmosphere in order to flatten the surface for the growth. While it took several minutes to raise the substrate temperature, the growth was stopped by the auto-regulation of the ZnTe growth. When the substrate temperature reaches  $400^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the Te shutter was also opened, in order to grow the ZnTe buffer layer. This thick ZnTe layer keeps the dots far from the substrate surface, that can have some defects, and

gives us a flat surface [6]. The surface quality is checked by RHEED, presenting clear diffraction lines (Fig. I.3 (b)). The substrate temperature was then lowered to 295°C, the Zn cell being open until the temperature reach 355°C.

CdTe is grown by ALE, in which the choice of substrate temperature fixes the quantity of material deposited at each cycle. It was found that 0.5 ML of CdTe is deposited at each cycle for a substrate temperature between 260°C and 290°C [5]. Taking a temperature between those two limits allows for a small uncertainty on the substrate temperature while keeping a really good control on the growth of the sample.

The growth during ALE was monitored via the intensity of the specular spot. Focusing on the lowest angle reflected spot, called the specular spot, one can see small variations in the reflected intensity during the growth. This is the same mechanism as the one presented in Fig. I.2 for the RHEED oscillation during the construction of the surface. Fig. I.4 presents oscillations taken during an ALE. Low intensity moments correspond to Cd deposition, high intensity to Te deposition. One can see that the intensity varies in sequence of low intensity, high intensity, medium intensity and high intensity. Those corresponds to two ALE cycles, and therefore the growth of single CdTe monolayer [5]. We can also see the relaxation of a layer: the surface becomes then rougher, and the specular sport stays at low intensity.

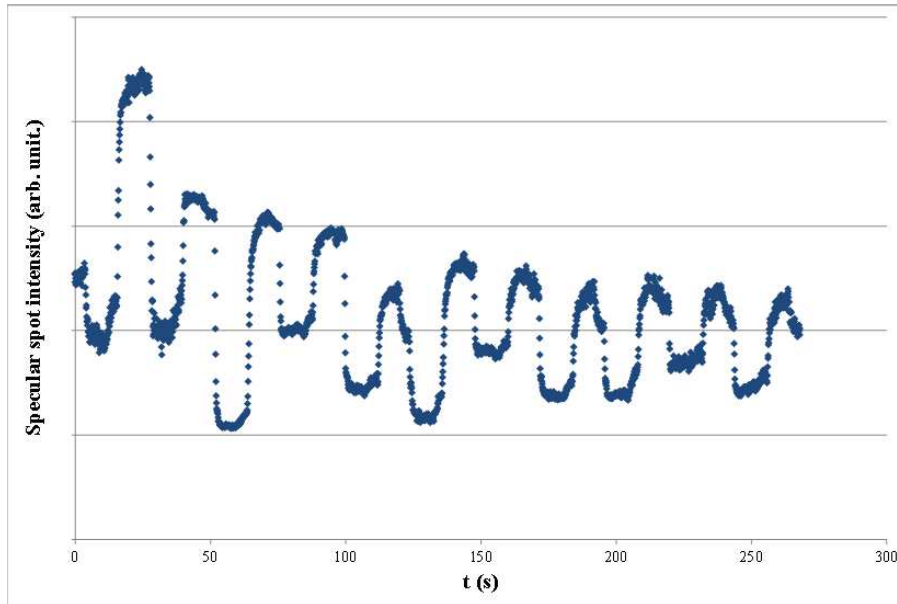


Figure I.4: RHEED oscillation for the ALE of the strained dots.

One of the main goal of this work was to calibrate the Cr flux in order to

optimize the probability of having a single Cr atom in most of the QDs of the sample. A first guess is that the Cr density must be of the same order as the QDs density at the surface of the sample. Supposing that all the Cr atoms get adsorbed on the sample, the quantity of deposited atoms is given by the flux of Cr times the time during which the cell stays open (exposure time). Due to the opening and closing time of the shutter, the exposure time cannot be shorter than a few seconds. Therefore a really small flux has to be chosen, with a BEP of the magnitude of  $10^{-9}$  Pa, which is of the same order of magnitude as the main chamber pressure. It cannot therefore be reliably measured using the gauge pressure. In order to find the cell temperature needed to reach such a small flux, we used Arrhenius law, stating that the log of the flux of a cell varies linearly with the inverse of its temperature. From flux measured at higher temperature, we calculated the coefficients and deduced the aimed temperature of the Cr cell. The resulting curve is presented on Fig. I.5, with the fit. The optimisation was done starting with the know how acquired in Grenoble on the growth of CdTe/ZnTe QD doped with single Mn and trying to optimise it for the Tsukuba machine, through a feedback with the micro-PL characterization in Grenoble.

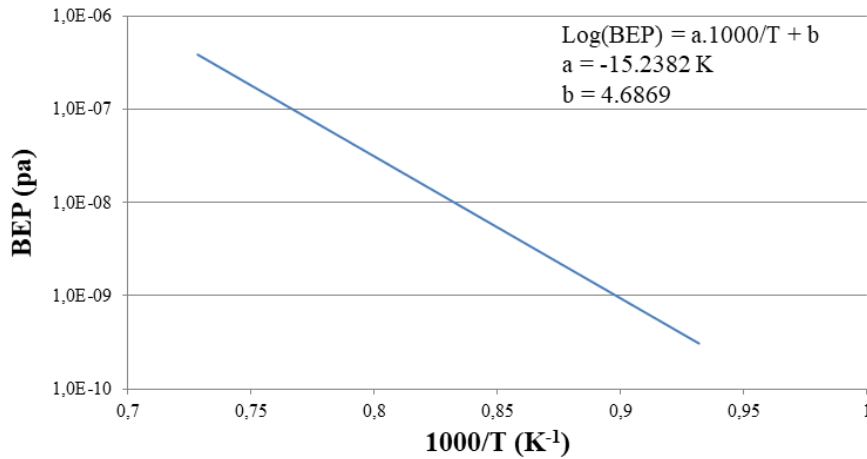


Figure I.5: Cr BEP as a function of  $1000/T$ . Parameters of the Arrhenius law are given in the top right.

This really small flux was achieved by heating the Cr cell around  $1000^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and opening the cell only once during the deposition of the CdTe layer. In order to have QD emitting in the right range of wavelength for our optical setup (around  $\lambda = 600$  nm), the optical CdTe thickness is 6.5 MLs. However, this is close to the critical thickness. Therefore, to diminish the risk of dislocation in the CdTe layer, some samples were grown with 5.5 MLs of CdTe. The Cr cell was opened when half of the CdTe layer was grown (7th cycle for the 6.5 MLs samples, 5th cycle for



the 5.5 MLs samples). The ALE sequences used to grow the CdTe layer is shown in Fig. I.6.

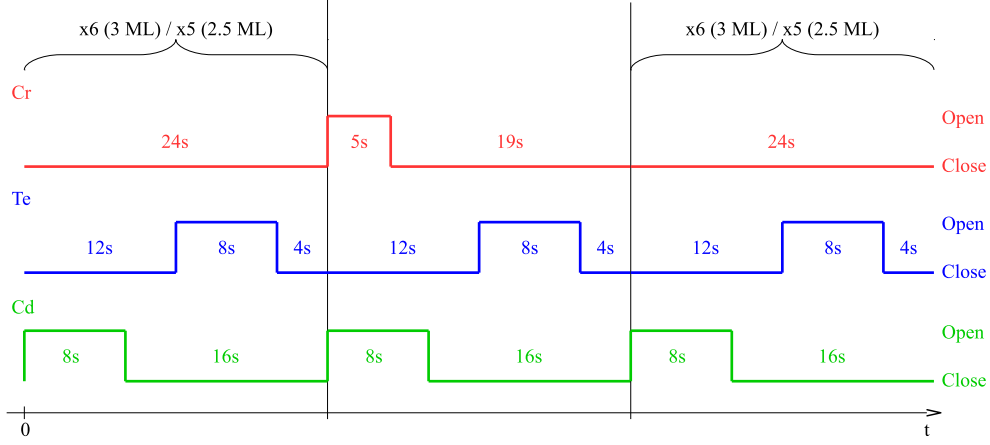


Figure I.6: Opening and closing cycles of each cells used to grow either 6.5 MLs or 5.5 MLs of (Cd,Cr)Te for the formation of Cr-doped SK dots.

After the growth of the CdTe layer, we lowered the substrate temperature to 220°C to deposit an amorphous Te layer. It was deposited during 5 minutes. We then heated up the substrate again to 320°C, where we stayed for 20s in order to evaporate all the deposited Te [7]. The formation of dots was confirmed by a spotty diffraction pattern like the one presented on Fig. I.3 (f). The Zn and Te cells were then opened, while the substrate temperature was raised to 350°C in order to grow a protective layer of about 50 nm of ZnTe above the QDs.

### I.2.3 Optical characterization

The samples were studied in Grenoble, at the Néel Institute. The characterization of the samples was done in two steps. First, we took macro-photoluminescence spectra, on a large energy range, typically between 1.8 and 2.3 eV, with a laser set at 2.9 eV. This allows us to test the PL of the sample. As described in Sec. I.3.2, if the Cr concentration is too high, it may kill the PL of the dot layer, and thus it will not be seen in the macro-PL.

If luminescence from the sample is seen in macro-PL, the sample is studied by micro-photoluminescence ( $\mu$ -PL), on a much narrower energy band (about 10 meV), to study dots individually. A high refractive index ( $n \approx 2.5$ ) hemi-spherical Solid Immersion Lens (SIL) was mounted on the sample before their study, to improve the spatial resolution and enhance the collection efficiency of a single dot photoluminescence (PL) in a low temperature optical microscope. The sample is

scanned randomly. We judge the quality of the sample by the number of actual dots we found with single Cr embedded inside, and by the proportion of sharp emission peaks (a few tens of  $\mu\text{eV}$ ) versus broad ones (in the meV range): if we saw mainly broad peaks, it suggests that the Cr concentration is too high.

Table I.2: List of samples where single dots with single Cr was found.

Sample name	Cleaning process	# CdTe MLs	Targeted Cr concentration (%)	# Cr-doped dots found
dot334	Br etching	6.5	0.09	3
dot338	Br etching	6.5	0.05	2
dot359	Br etching	6.5	0.11	1
dot363	Br etching	6.5	0.21	2

The samples where QDs doped with a single Cr atom were found are listed in Tab. I.2. The Cr concentration in the sample was estimated using the Cr flux. The Cr composition is given as percentage of the cation site occupancy ( $\text{Cd}_{1-x}\text{Cr}_x\text{Te}$ ). We see that optimal samples were found for a large range of concentration. The probability to find good Cr-doped dots in dot338 and dot363 is about the same. However, dot363, with the higher Cr targeted concentration, presents a lot of broad peaks. All samples grown with a Cr concentration higher than 0.20% had a luminescence too weak to be studied properly. We can estimate that the good range of concentration is between 0.05% and 0.20%. Some more test have to be done in order to fine tune the Cr composition.

## I.3 Charge tunable samples and strain-free samples

### I.3.1 Charge tunable samples

Samples with contact on the back and on the surface were grown in order to control the charge of the studied QD via the application of an electric field. The growth was done on a p-doped ZnTe substrate to have a conductive back contact on the sample. The growth of the SK dots was done with the procedure described in the previous section. The substrates of the charge tunable samples were cleaned using  $\text{H}^*$  plasma. Thinner buffer and cap layers were necessary in order to be able to apply a stronger electric field on the dot layer. We chose thicknesses between 150 nm and 200 nm for the buffer, and of 110 nm for the cap.

The conductive surface contact was formed by a thin, semi-transparent gold layer, forming a Schottky junction with the sample cap layer. It was deposited

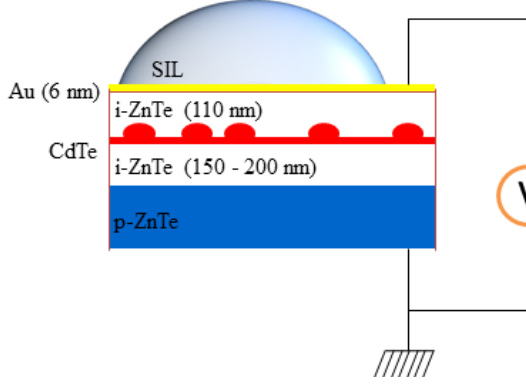


Figure I.7: Schema of the charge control structure, on a p-doped ZnTe substrate and with a thin, semi-transparent gold layer deposited on the surface.

by sputtering just after the MBE growth in order to keep a clean surface. The samples were kept in nitrogen atmosphere during the transport between the MBE and the sputtering machine. A deposition time of 35 s was chosen. Fig. I.7 shows a schema of the sample as it was studied.

Only one Cr-doped charge tunable sample was grown and studied during this PhD, named dot390. It was decided to make the CdTe layer 5.5 MLs thick in order to have no dislocation in the QD layer. The targeted Cr concentration was 0.16%.

### Optical characterization

In order to test the application of bias voltage in the sample, we glued two electrodes with silver lacquer. A SIL was mounted on top of the sample. We looked at the PL of single dots and see their evolution under the application of a bias voltage. Fig. I.8 (a) presents the results of such an experiment for a dot with no Cr embedded.

The main result of the experiment is the appearance of different excitonic species depending on the applied electric field. The spectrum is dominated by the neutral state of the quantum dot for an applied electric field of  $V = -1.5$  V (Fig. I.8 (c)). At this voltage, the neutral excitonic species  $X$  and  $X^2$  are the strongest. Charged excitons still appear because of charge variations occurring close to the QD, injecting electrons or holes inside it. Further lowering the bias voltage, the probability of the dot to be negatively charged increases. Neutral excitonic species disappear and the peaks of the negatively charged species ( $X^-$ ,  $X^{--}$  and  $X_2^-$ ) become dominant. A spectrum taken at  $V = -8$  V is presented on Fig. I.8 (d). One can notice that,  $X^{--}$  is split into two group of two peaks, around 1917.5 meV and 1933 meV on Fig. I.8 (d). This structure is dominated by the electron-electron exchange interaction and has already been observed in InAs QDs [9]. On

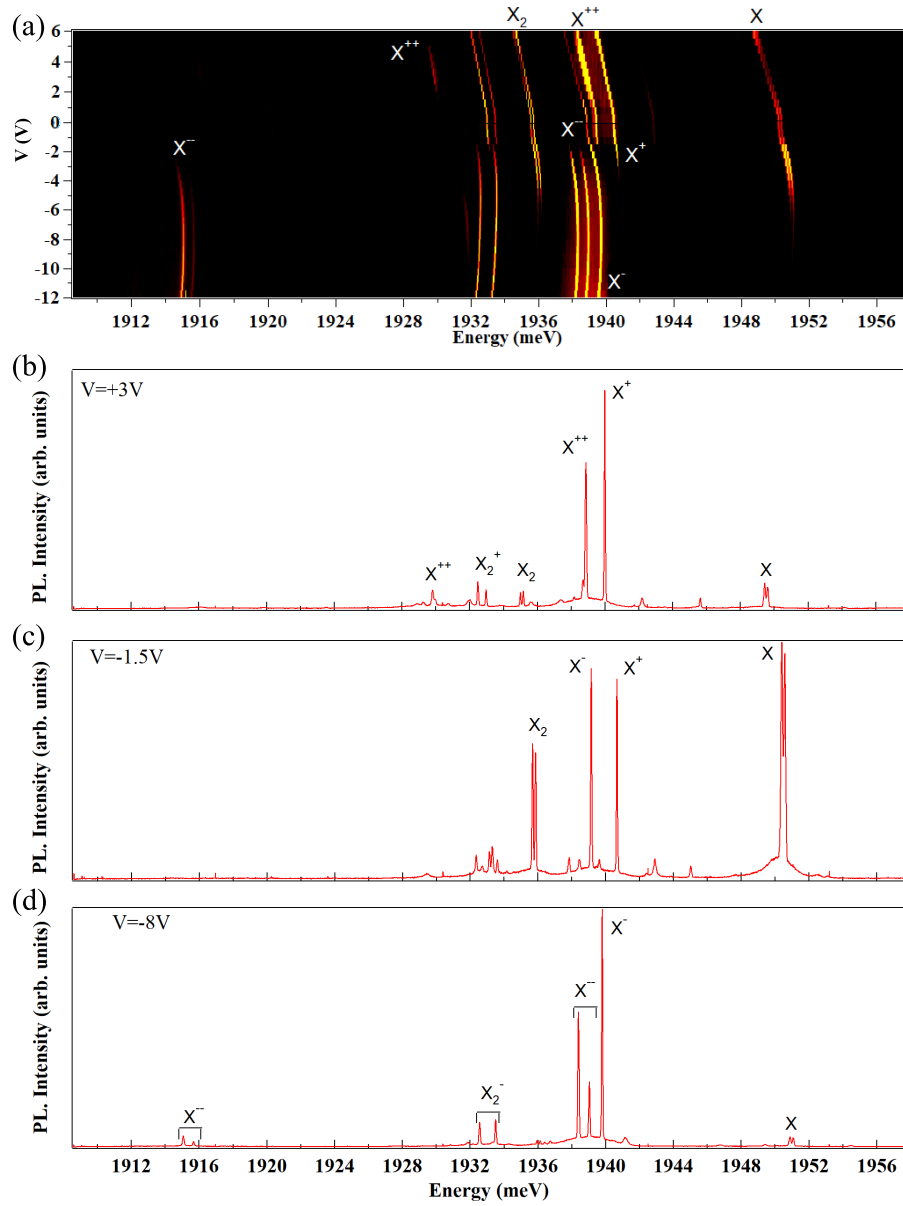


Figure I.8: (a) Evolution of the PL of a single dot under application of a bias voltage  $V$ . Below are presented spectra of the dot taken under three different values of bias voltages: (b)  $V = +3$  V (positively charged), (c)  $V = -1.5$  V (neutral) and (d)  $V = -8$  V (negatively charged). Identification of the different species was done following ref. [8].

the contrary, applying a positive bias voltage increases the probability to detect positively charged exciton complexes, maximizing  $X^+$  and  $X^{++}$  intensity. This is

shown on Fig. I.8 (b) for a bias voltage of  $V = +3$  V. A structure of two doublet is also observed for  $X^{++}$ . This shows that we can select efficiently the charge of a quantum dot applying a bias voltage across the sample.

No Cr-doped quantum dots were found in dot390. Some dots looking like dots doped with a single Cr atom were observed, but detailed investigation shows no sign of magnetic atom in them. The properties of such QDs are discussed in more details in Sec. ??.

### I.3.2 Strain-free quantum dots

In SK dots, large strains remain in the QD layer, and we have no control on them. As will be discussed later, remaining strains may prevent the observation of all the spin states of the Cr atom and limit the life-time of the Cr spin. We decided therefore to grow strain-free dot to get rid of those limits. They are formed by the thickness fluctuations of a CdTe quantum well in  $\text{Cd}_{0.7}\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Te}$  barriers, grown on a CdTe substrate. These fluctuations form steps localizing the carriers, acting as QDs. We chose to use  $\text{Cd}_{0.7}\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Te}$  to keep a lattice parameter close enough to CdTe to grow thick enough barriers, and keeping enough gap difference to localize the carriers. The needed flux for this growth are shown in Tab. I.3.

Table I.3: Aimed flux for each cell during the growth of the strain-free samples.

Elements	Targeted BEP (Pa)	Targeted flux (atoms.cm <sup>-2</sup> .s <sup>-1</sup> )
Cd	$6.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.7 \times 10^{13}$
Mg	$2.1 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.7 \times 10^{12}$
Te	$7.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$5.8 \times 10^{13}$

The critical thickness of  $\text{Cd}_{0.7}\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Te}$  on CdTe is not exactly known. Systematic studies were done on CdTe/CdZnTe, and give an empirical law to calculate the critical thickness [10]. This law was used for different II-VI material and gives a good approximation of the different critical thicknesses, overestimating slightly the effects of strain. For CdTe/ $\text{Cd}_{0.7}\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Te}$ , we found a critical thickness  $h_c = 130$  nm. We chose to grow 40 nm below the quantum well (QW), and 90 nm above it, to keep the surface far from the quantum well.

The strain-free samples were grown on a hybrid substrate formed by a thick CdTe layer grown on GaAs. It was done on a fourth of a 2 inches GaAs substrate and protected by Te. The GaAs substrate was cleaned using  $\text{H}^*$  plasma. A thin layer (about 7 nm) of ZnTe was first grown at 415°C in order to get the right crystal orientation when growing the CdTe layer. We then grew a CdTe layer of about 3  $\mu\text{m}$  at 360°C, to recover a good crystallinity of the CdTe layer [11].

The RHEED taken after the growth of the CdTe layer (Fig. 1.9 (d)) shows sharp straight line, showing the recovery of a flat surface.

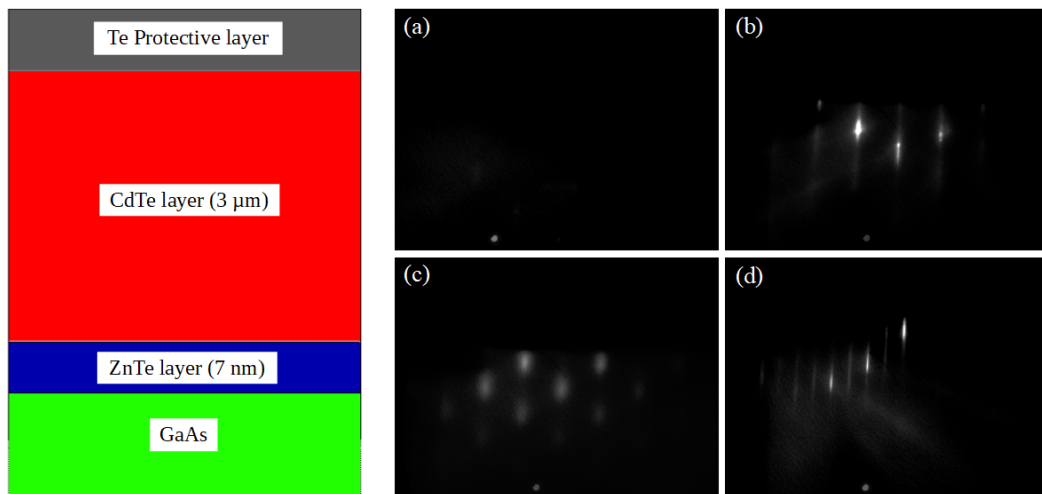


Figure 1.9: Left: Layer structure of the hybrid substrate with its protective Te cap. Right: RHEED pattern taken at different key moments of the growth: (a) before  $H^*$  cleaning of GaAs, (b) after  $H^*$  cleaning of GaAs, (c) after the growth of the ZnTe layer, (d) after the growth of the CdTe layer.

For the growth of strain-free samples, we began to raise the substrate temperature to  $300^\circ\text{C}$  and waited for a few seconds to remove all the deposited Te. We then heated the sample to  $360^\circ\text{C}$ . Starting at  $320^\circ\text{C}$ , we opened the Te cells in order to stabilize the surface. When the substrate temperature reached  $360^\circ\text{C}$ , we opened the Cd cell and grew a  $2.35\ \mu\text{m}$  of CdTe on top of the  $3\ \mu\text{m}$  grown on the hybrid substrate, in order to have a QW structure far from the surface that might have been slightly damaged during the conservation or the Te evaporation.

We grew the  $40\ \text{nm}$   $\text{Cd}_{0.7}\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Te}$  barrier on this buffer layer. Once the growth was done, we lowered the substrate temperature under Te flux, in order to smoothen the sample surface. Once the substrate temperature reached  $295^\circ\text{C}$ , we began the ALE of the QW. Two QW thicknesses were tested: 4 ML and 2 ML. The Cd and Te cycles were the same as for the SK dots. The Cr, however, was open for only 3 s, but once every two cycles, for a total of 4 opening in the 4 ML case, and 2 opening for the 2 ML case. The whole recipe is described in Fig. 1.10.

We then raised the substrate temperature up to  $360^\circ\text{C}$ , under a Te flux, in order to proceed to the growth of the upper barrier, acting also as a protective layer. The opening time was there calculated to grow  $90\ \text{nm}$  of  $\text{Cd}_{0.7}\text{Mg}_{0.3}\text{Te}$ .

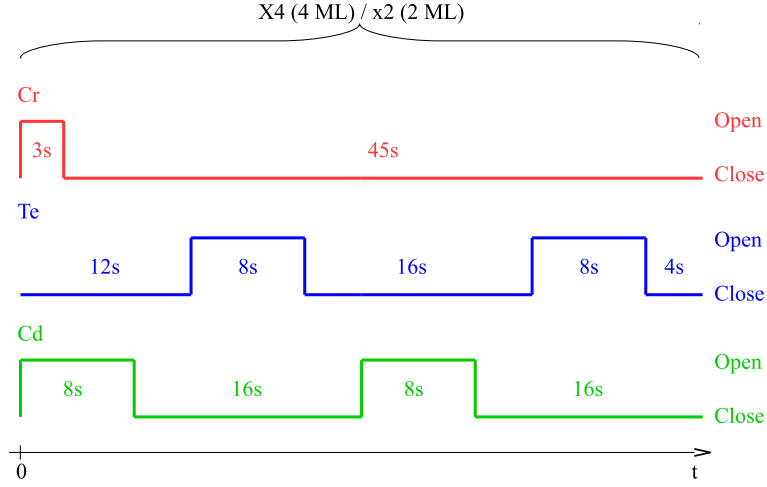


Figure I.10: Opening and closing cycles of each cell for the ALE of strain-free (Cd,Cr)Te samples.

### Optical characterization

Four samples of strain-free dots doped with Cr were produced (see Tab. I.4). The tested Cr concentrations were taken high because it was observed in the strain-free dots grown in Grenoble that a higher concentration of Mn was needed in strain-free dots than in SK dots. It was supposed to be the same with Cr. The Cr concentration was later raised after no dot doped with a single Cr was found.

Table I.4: Strain-free QDs doped with Cr.

Sample	# CdTe MLs	Cr aimed concentration (%)	Probability of Cr-doped QD
SFD4	4	0.35	None found
SFD5	2	0.15	None found
SFD6	2	0.54	None found
SFD7	2	0.35	None found
SFD8	2	0.75	None found

The sample presented sharp and intense peaks, as shown in Fig. I.11. It hints at a better confinement of the carriers in the QDs than the similar strain-free dots grown in Grenoble. This may be caused by higher steps than expected at the CdTe/Cd<sub>0.7</sub>Mg<sub>0.3</sub>Te interface.

As discussed in Sec. ??, the presence of a magnetic atom splits the emission of the exciton into several peaks, the number depending on the spin of the magnetic

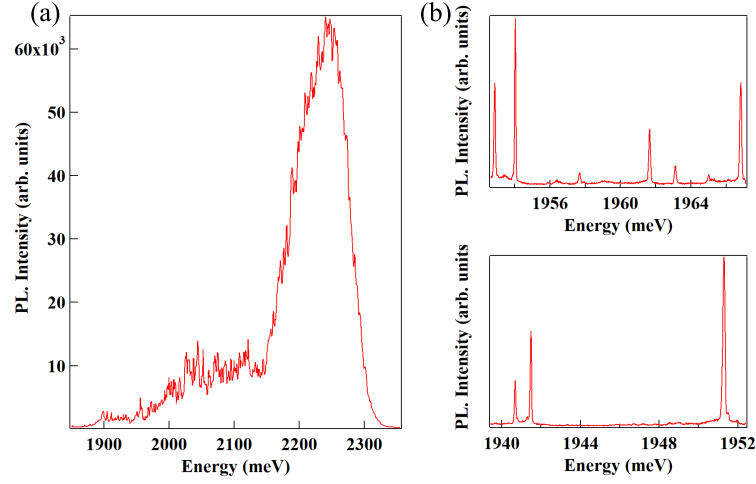


Figure I.11: (a) Macro-PL of a SFD5. (b) Examples of spectra taken under  $\mu$ -PL in SFD5.

atom. Such complex was not found in the strain-free samples. This may be caused by a problem in the Cr incorporation. The Cr is possibly not well embedded in the QW layer. More tests have to be done, depositing the Cr at different moment of the growth.

Another possible cause of this absence could lie in the absence of strain. In SK dots, the presence of in-plane biaxial strains increases the probability of the Jahn-Teller deformation to occur along the  $z$  axis. In strain-free dots, all directions are equivalent, and we expect two thirds of the Cr-doped dots to be undetectable because they are quantized in the plane, creating no splitting visible in our setup.

In order to increase the probability for the Cr to be quantized along the  $z$  axis, it is proposed to slightly strain the quantum well. This might be done by growing the sample on  $\text{Cd}_{0.96}\text{Zn}_{0.04}\text{Te}$  instead of  $\text{CdTe}$ .  $\text{CdTe}$  and  $\text{Cd}_{0.96}\text{Zn}_{0.04}\text{Te}$  have a lattice mismatch of only 0.3%, so the strain created in the lattice should remain weak. They should however be enough to increase the probability of a deformation along the  $z$  axis, making more dots visible in our experiments.

## Conclusion

We saw in this chapter how we grew the samples studied in the next chapters. The samples were characterized in Grenoble. SK dots with single Cr atom embedded were found and studied. New Cr concentrations were tested in Tsukuba after the feedbacks from Grenoble. More tests have to be done to increase the probability of finding dots doped with a single Cr atom.



First steps toward new kind of samples were also done: strain-free QD with single Cr, and SK dots with single Cr embedded in a field effect structure. Localized carrier emission was detected in the former, and we successfully applied bias voltage on the later. However, for both, no Cr-doped dots were found. More tests have to be done to optimize their growth.

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