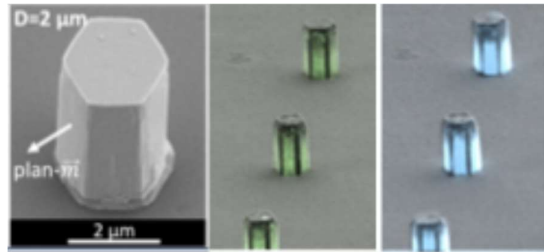




Development of red and RGB μ LEDs for microdisplays and high-speed communication

Background: MicroLEDs (μ LEDs) are a promising technology for the development of high-brightness mini-displays (such as augmented reality glasses or smartwatches). Measuring less than $20\ \mu\text{m}$ in size, these μ LEDs are produced by etching a planar structure on sapphire that incorporates $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{N}$ quantum wells. The emitted wavelength is directly tuned by the indium content x of the quantum wells ($x \approx 15\%$ for blue, 25% for green, $35\text{--}40\%$ for red). While nitride semiconductors offer excellent performance in the blue spectrum, efficiency drops sharply as the size of the μ LEDs decreases. To overcome this issue, an innovative approach involves microwire technology with a core-shell geometry. This architecture preserves emission efficiency regardless of size and enables data transmission at GHz speeds (technology developed by the Grenoble-based startup Aledia). Despite their strong potential, core-shell microwire LEDs still face a major scientific challenge: achieving red emission. Indium incorporation remains limited to 25% , a threshold insufficient to reach red. This technological bottleneck is currently hindering the emergence of RGB trichromatic μ LEDs. Our team has achieved pioneering results in this field, where we created the first InGaN core-shell quantum well at 15% for blue emission and 25% for green emission. Despite these advances, the challenge of achieving red emission remains.



Objectives: A new idea has emerged to go beyond 25% of In-content for core-shell microwire technology and thus aim for the first demonstration of red emission, which led to a patent application in 2025. Preliminary results have proven very promising results, and we wish to continue this work through a thesis with the three main objectives:

- Demonstrate red emission by varying the geometric parameters of the microwires (diameter, etc.)
- Produce red μ LEDs
- Produce trichromatic RGB μ LEDs in a single growth run

Collaborations: This project relies on close collaboration with the LTM (Laboratory of Microelectronics Technology) for the fabrication of GaN microwire arrays *via* plasma etching process. Epitaxial studies of core/shell LEDs will be conducted at CEA's PHELIQS facility using the MOCVD epitaxial setup, incorporating structural and optical analyses. The final step aims to fabricate microwire-based μ LED devices using the expertise developed at the Néel Institute *via* the NanoFab cleanroom.

Why join this project? To gain expertise in epitaxy, semiconductor physics, plasma etching, nanofabrication and optoelectronics. To work in a dynamic and collaborative environment closely linked to the industrial sector. To contribute to the development of next-generation μ LEDs for microdisplays and GHz communications.

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