Surface compositional gradients of InAs/GaAs quantum dots

S. Heun, G. Biasiol, V. Grillo, E. Carlino, and L. Sorba Laboratorio Nazionale TASC INFM-CNR, Basovizza, I-34012 Trieste, Italy

G. B. Golinelli

Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, I-41100 Modena, Italy

A. Locatelli and T. O. Mentes Sincrotrone Trieste S.c.p.a., I-34012 Trieste, Italy

F. Z. Guo

JASRI/SPring-8, 1-1-1, Kouto, Mikazuki, Sayo, Hyogo 679-5198, Japan

With laterally resolved photoemission spectroscopy, we obtained In and Ga surface concentration maps of InAs/GaAs quantum dots. Our data demonstrate that the dot composition is neither pure InAs nor homogeneous $In_xGa_{1-x}As$, but presents an In concentration increasing from the borders to the center of the dots. Besides, our observations suggest strong In segregation (x ~0.9) on the surface of the dots and of the surrounding wetting layer. Such segregation, well known for two-dimensional InAs/GaAs growth, had not been directly observed so far on the dots, and should be taken into account to model size and composition of GaAs-overgrown structures. Furthermore, the morphological properties of the dots such as size and density have been measured with plan-view transmission electron and low energy electron microscopy.