

# Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Zusammenfassung</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>List of Symbols</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>xxvii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Ultra-low-power gas sensors for air quality monitoring . . . . .	1
1.2 Carbon nanotubes for NO <sub>2</sub> sensing . . . . .	4
1.2.1 Challenges in carbon nanotube-based NO <sub>2</sub> sensing . . . . .	5
<b>2 State of the Art</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Nanostructure-based gas sensors . . . . .	8
2.1.1 Commercial gas sensors . . . . .	8
2.1.2 1D nanomaterials: nanowires . . . . .	9
2.1.3 1D nanomaterials: carbon nanotubes . . . . .	14
2.1.4 Self-heating of suspended 1D nanostructures . . . . .	21
2.1.5 Other nanostructures: nanoparticles and 2D materials . . . . .	24
2.1.6 Summary: nanostructure-based NO <sub>2</sub> sensors . . . . .	25
2.2 Nanomaterial integration methods . . . . .	28
2.2.1 Non-deterministic integration . . . . .	28
2.2.2 Deterministic integration . . . . .	34
2.2.3 Summary: robotic assembly of individual nanomaterials . . . . .	40
2.3 Objectives of this work . . . . .	40
<b>3 Contact Improvement for Nanotube Self-heating</b>	<b>43</b>
3.1 Carbon nanotube-electrode contact . . . . .	43
3.1.1 Contact in bottom-contacted devices . . . . .	44
3.1.2 Low contact resistance for nanotube self-heating . . . . .	45

3.2	Device fabrication and contact improvement methods . . . . .	46
3.2.1	Growth substrate . . . . .	48
3.2.2	Growth of suspended CNTs . . . . .	49
3.2.3	Device substrate . . . . .	51
3.2.4	Pre-transfer electrode etching with Ar-ion . . . . .	51
3.2.5	Dry transfer of CNTs . . . . .	51
3.2.6	Post-transfer thermal annealing . . . . .	53
3.3	Results and analysis . . . . .	53
3.3.1	Contact improvement results . . . . .	53
3.3.2	Electrode surface analysis with XPS and AFM . . . . .	58
3.3.3	Contact quality analysis with Raman spectroscopy . . . . .	65
3.3.4	Implications for nanotube self-heating . . . . .	67
3.3.5	Long-term stability . . . . .	69
3.3.6	Au electrodes . . . . .	71
3.4	Chapter summary . . . . .	73
<b>4</b>	<b>Robotic Assembly of Carbon Nanotubes</b>	<b>77</b>
4.1	Process overview . . . . .	78
4.2	Batch growth of suspended carbon nanotubes . . . . .	80
4.2.1	Literature review . . . . .	81
4.2.2	CNT growth parameter optimization . . . . .	82
4.2.3	Large-scale growth substrate . . . . .	89
4.2.4	Batch growth on large-scale substrates . . . . .	91
4.3	Automated robotic assembly of carbon nanotubes . . . . .	96
4.3.1	Automated nanoassembly machine . . . . .	96
4.3.2	Electrical characterization of assembled devices . . . . .	97
4.4	Chapter summary . . . . .	107
<b>5</b>	<b>Fast Sensor Operation at Ultra-low Power</b>	<b>109</b>
5.1	Sensor operation principles . . . . .	109
5.2	Experimental setup and methods . . . . .	111
5.3	Results and analysis . . . . .	113
5.3.1	Fast sensor recovery with optimized gate bias . . . . .	113
5.3.2	Fast sensor readout with nonlinear transient sensing . . . . .	117
5.3.3	Nanotube quality analysis with Raman spectroscopy . . . . .	127
5.3.4	Additional devices . . . . .	129
5.4	Chapter summary . . . . .	134
<b>6</b>	<b>Conclusions and Outlook</b>	<b>137</b>
6.1	Conclusions . . . . .	137
6.2	Outlook . . . . .	140
<b>A</b>	<b>Appendix A - Process Run Sheets</b>	<b>143</b>
A.1	Growth substrates . . . . .	143
A.2	Device substrates . . . . .	145

<b>B Appendix B - List of Devices</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>C Appendix C - Batch CVD Growth Runs</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>D Appendix D - Langmuir Adsorption Model</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Publications</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Curriculum Vitae</b>	<b>175</b>