

Table of contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
ABSTRACT	7
ZUSAMMENFASSUNG.....	9
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	11
1. INTRODUCTION.....	13
2. THEORETICAL, EXPERIMENTAL BACKGROUND AND STATE OF THE ART.....	17
2.1 Silicon nanowire based biosensors	17
2.1.1 <i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>17</i>
2.1.2 <i>Ion-sensitive field effect transistors as biosensors.....</i>	<i>17</i>
2.1.3 <i>Silicon nanowire FET biosensors.....</i>	<i>21</i>
2.1.4 <i>Signal-to-noise ratio in silicon NW FETs</i>	<i>28</i>
2.2 Noise Spectroscopy	30
2.2.1 <i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>30</i>
2.2.2 <i>Spectral density.....</i>	<i>31</i>
2.2.3 <i>Main sources of noise in Si NW FET</i>	<i>32</i>
2.3 Electrogenic cells on FETs.....	42
2.3.1 <i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>42</i>
2.3.2 <i>Neuronal cells and the action potential</i>	<i>42</i>
2.3.3 <i>Extracellular recording from a neuronal cell</i>	<i>46</i>
2.4 Summary	49
3. MATERIALS AND METHODS	50
3.1 Introduction	50
3.2 Silicon nanowire FETs	50
3.2.1 <i>Chip layout.....</i>	<i>50</i>
3.2.2 <i>Fabrication technology.....</i>	<i>53</i>
3.2.3 <i>Encapsulation of the Si NW chips</i>	<i>60</i>
3.3 Si NW FET characterization	61
3.3.1 <i>I-V characterization</i>	<i>61</i>
3.3.2 <i>Noise spectra measurements</i>	<i>62</i>
3.3.3 <i>Transconductance measurements</i>	<i>64</i>

3.3.4	<i>Noise spectra fitting.....</i>	66
3.4	Neuronal cells on silicon nanowires.....	68
3.4.1	<i>Nanowire test pattern</i>	68
3.4.2	<i>Cell culture</i>	68
3.4.3	<i>Live/dead staining.....</i>	69
3.4.4	<i>Cell fixation</i>	70
3.5	Summary.....	71
4.	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	72
4.1	Silicon nanowire FETs based on single wire	72
4.1.1	<i>Introduction</i>	72
4.1.2	<i>Charge and voltage sensitivity of Si NWs.....</i>	72
4.1.3	<i>Influence of the liquid gate electrolyte on Si NW transport properties.....</i>	84
4.1.4	<i>Role of the NW parameters in the NW FET device characteristics.....</i>	91
4.1.5	<i>Spectra of transconductance of Si NW FET.</i>	99
4.1.6	<i>Summary</i>	103
4.2	Si NW array FET structures for neuronal cell interfacing.....	104
4.2.1	<i>Design considerations for Si NW array FET.....</i>	104
4.2.2	<i>Simulation of front-back gate coupling in Si NWs.....</i>	106
4.2.3	<i>Enhancing sensitivity of Si NW FET by liquid-back gate coupling.....</i>	111
4.2.4	<i>Patterning PLL on Si NW FET structures</i>	123
4.2.5	<i>Investigation of Si NWs / neuronal cell interface using FIB</i>	125
5.	CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK.....	130
	REFERENCES.....	133
	PERSONAL PUBLICATIONS LIST	151