

Contents

Certificate	i
Acknowledgments	ii
Preface	iii
Abstract	vi
List of Figures	xii
List of Tables	xvi
Abbreviations	xvii
Chapter 1	1-34
Introduction	
1. 1 Solid-state gas sensors	2
1. 2 Nanostructured metal oxides	5
1. 3 Nanostructured metal oxides-based sensors	9
1. 3. 1 Resistive sensing	10
1. 3. 2 Capacitive sensing	12
1. 4 TiO ₂ nanostructures for sensing application	13
1. 5 Selectivity issue in nanostructured metal oxides-based sensors	15
1. 6 Objectives	19
References	20
Chapter 2	35-52
Equivalent electrical circuit of 1-D TiO₂ nanostructures-based sensor using impedance analysis	
2. 1 Introduction	35
2. 2 Fabrication of 1-D TiO ₂ nanostructure-based sensor	36
2. 3 Experimental setup for measuring impedance of the sensor	38
2. 4 Equivalent electrical circuit of the sensor	39
2. 5 Impedance analysis of TiO ₂ nanotubes-based sensor	44

2. 5. 1 Effect of temperature	45
2. 5. 2 Effect of vacuum	47
2. 5. 3 Effect of reducing ambient	48
2. 6 Conclusions	50
References	50

Chapter 3 **53-70**

Selective detection of organic vapors using TiO₂ nanotubes-based single sensor

3. 1 Introduction	53
3. 2 Experimental setup for VOC sensing	53
3. 3 Characterizations of TiO ₂ nanotubes	54
3. 4 Technique for selective detection of VOCs	59
3. 5 Blind test: Unknown VOC detection	63
3. 6 Sensing mechanism of TiO ₂ nanotubes-based sensor	64
3. 7 Conclusions	68
References	69

Chapter 4 **71-88**

Multi-layer TiO₂ nanotubes-based VOC sensors for high sensitivity and selectivity

4. 1 Introduction	71
4. 2 Synthesis of multi-layered TiO ₂ nanotubes	71
4. 3 Experimental setup for VOC sensing	73
4. 4 Characterizations of single and multi-layered TiO ₂ nanotubes	73
4. 5 Growth mechanism of multi-layered TiO ₂ nanotubes	77
4. 6 Comparative sensing study of single and multi-layered TiO ₂ nanotubes-based sensors	78
4. 6. 1 Resistive sensing performance	78
4. 6. 2 Capacitive sensing performance	80
4. 7 Sensing mechanism of multi-layered TiO ₂ nanotubes-based sensors	83
4. 8 Conclusions	86
References	87

Chapter 5	89-106
1-D TiO₂ nanorods array-based sensor for selective and stable detection of VOCs	
5. 1 Introduction	89
5. 2 Synthesis of TiO ₂ nanorods by hydrothermal method	90
5. 3 Fabrication of TiO ₂ nanorods-based sensor and experimental setup for VOC sensing	91
5. 4 Characterizations of TiO ₂ nanorods	93
5. 5 VOC sensing characteristics of TiO ₂ nanorods-based sensors	94
5. 6 Sensing mechanism of TiO ₂ nanorods-based sensors	102
5. 7 Conclusions	103
References	104
Chapter 6	107-123
Design and implementation of a capacitive sensor system based on TiO₂ nanotubes for real time detection of methanol contamination in alcoholic beverages	
6. 1 Introduction	107
6. 2 Experimental setup for VOC sensing	109
6. 3 Design of the sensor system	111
6. 4 Detection of methanol contamination using TiO ₂ nanotubes based-sensor	113
6. 5 Conclusions	121
References	122
Chapter 7	124-130
Summary, conclusions and scope of future work	
7. 1 Summary	124
7. 2 Conclusions	128
7. 3 Scope of future work	130
List of Publications	132
Brief Biography of the Candidate	134
Brief Biography of the Supervisor	135

List of Figures

Fig. 1.1 Images of gas sensors: (a) SnO ₂ nanoparticles-based gas sensor for detecting ethylene [30], (b) A micro hot plate sensor with interdigitated electrodes layered over heater leads [31], (c) Single-layer MoSe ₂ based NH ₃ sensor [32], and (d) Packed chip of the sensor based on nanocrystalline SnO ₂ [33].....	3
Fig. 1.2 A schematic showing the effect of dimensions on surface area, volume, and surface to volume ratio of the material [53].	6
Fig. 1.3 A schematic showing classification of nanomaterials based on their dimensionality [54].	7
Fig. 1.4 FESEM images of various reported metal oxide nanostructures: (a) ZnO nanorods [70], (b) SnO ₂ /SnS ₂ nanotubes [77], (c) SnO ₂ nanoflowers [79], (d) SnO ₂ nanofibers [83], (e) WO ₃ nanorods [86], (f) WO ₃ nanotubes [88], (g) WO ₃ nanorods [89], and (h) In ₂ O ₃ nanoribbons [96].....	9
Fig. 2.1 Electrochemical anodization setup for the synthesis of TiO ₂ nanotubes.....	36
Fig. 2.2 A schematic showing sensing set-up via injection method.	39
Fig. 2.3 (a) A schematic of TiO ₂ nanotubes-based sandwich-type sensor device, (b) Top view of the sensor device, (c) Simplified device structure: Au/TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti, (d) Corresponding circuit model of the device, and (e) Simplified representation in Randle's circuit model. (Dimensions are not to scale)	40
Fig. 2.4 Device modeling of TiO ₂ nanotubes for deriving the resistive and capacitive components; (a) FESEM (side view) of nanotubes array. Top view is fitted in hexagonal grid geometry in inset, (b) A schematic of single TiO ₂ nanotube showing morphological parameters, (c) majority carrier distribution in nanotubes wall in different ambient i.e. vacuum, air and reducing vapor, and (d) A schematic of the cross-sectional view of TiO ₂ nanotubes for showing free space (pore and void region).....	41
Fig. 2.5 Equivalent electrical circuit of fabricated Au/TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti sensor.	44
Fig. 2.6 Impedance variation (or Nyquist plot) of Au/TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti device at variable temperature (45 °C to 105 °C) in air ambient.....	45
Fig. 2.7 Effect of temperature on various device components like (a) contact resistance (R _C), (b) device resistance (R _X), and (c) device capacitance (C _X).....	45
Fig. 2.8 Impedance variation of Au/TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti device in air ambient to vacuum condition reached after 20 min to 90 min at 30 °C.....	47
Fig. 2.9 Effect of vacuum on various device components like (a) contact resistance (R _C), (b) device resistance (R _X), and (c) device capacitance (C _X).....	47
Fig. 2.10 Cole-Cole plots of Au/TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti device in (a) methanol ambient, and (b) acetone ambient.	48
Fig. 3.1 FESEM images of TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti sample showing (a) top view and (b) side view.	

.....	55
Fig. 3.2 XRD spectra of TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti sample.....	55
Fig. 3.3 TEM image of TiO ₂ nanotubes.....	55
Fig. 3.4 PL spectra of TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti sample.	57
Fig. 3.5 (a) XPS survey spectra of TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti sample; High resolution XPS spectra with fitted peaks of (b) Ti(2p), and (c) O(1s).....	57
Fig. 3.6 (a) Transient resistive change and, (b) transient capacitive change of the sensor upon exposure to methanol, ethanol, acetone, and 2-propanol; (c) Magnified version of Fig. 3.6 (a) for showing resistive response details and, (d) magnified version of Fig. 3.6 (b) for showing capacitive response details; (e) ln(R) of the sensor vs different VOCs concentration, and (f) ln(C) of the sensor vs different VOCs concentration when concentration of VOCs was increased from 100 ppm to 300 ppm with a step size of 50 ppm.	60
Fig. 3.7 Identification of an unknown VOC; (a) resistive response and (b) capacitive response of the sensor upon exposure to an unknown VOC and concentration. (c) Graphical method to measure the concentration of target VOC after calculating “S” value.	63
Fig. 3.8 (a) A schematic of ‘Au/TiO ₂ nanotubes/Ti’ sandwich-structured sensor; FESEM images of TiO ₂ nanotubes: (b) top view, and (c) side view; (d) Cross-sectional view of the sensor (at XX’ line) with structural dimensions; Device cross-section and R-C circuit model (e) in air ambient, and (f) in reducing vapour ambient.	65
Fig. 4.1 Anodization voltage and current density (J) profile for (a) single layer TiO ₂ nanotubes, (b) double layer TiO ₂ nanotubes, and (c) triple layer TiO ₂ nanotubes.....	72
Fig. 4.2 FESEM images of single and multi-layered nanotubes. SL-NTs: (a) side view, and (b) top view. DL-NTs: (c) side view, (d) top view of first layer, and (e) top view of second layer. TL-NTs: (f) side view, (g) top view of first layer, (h) top view of second layer, and (i) top view of third layer.....	74
Fig. 4.3 XRD patterns of TiO ₂ nanotubes having (a) single layer TiO ₂ nanotubes, (b) double layer TiO ₂ nanotubes, and (c) triple layer TiO ₂ nanotubes.....	76
Fig. 4.4 A schematic of the steps involved in the growth of multi-layered TiO ₂ nanotubes...	77
Fig. 4.5 Resistive response magnitude as a function of ethanol concentration for three different sensors tested at room temperature (27 °C).....	78
Fig. 4.6 Transient behavior of (a) single, (b) double, and (c) triple layered nanotubes-based sensors in presence of 80 ppm of ethanol at 27 °C.	79
Fig. 4.7 Baseline resistance stability test of (a) single, (b) double, and (c) triple layered nanotubes-based sensors operating at 27 °C in air ambient over a span of seven days.....	79
Fig. 4.8 Comparative resistive response magnitude (RRM) of SL, DL, TL-NTs based sensors towards 160 ppm of methanol, ethanol, acetone, 2-propanol, and benzene at 27 °C.	80
Fig 4.9 Capacitive response magnitude (CRM) as a function of ethanol concentration for three different sensors tested at room temperature (27 °C).	81
Fig. 4.10 Transient behavior of capacitive response for (a) single, (b) double, and (c) triple	

layered nanotubes-based sensors in presence of 80 ppm of ethanol at 27 °C.	82
Fig. 4.11 Baseline capacitance stability test of (a) single, (b) double, and (c) triple layered nanotubes- based sensors operating at 27 °C in air ambient over a span of seven days.....	82
Fig. 4.12 Comparative capacitive response magnitude (CRM) of SL, DL, TL-NTs based sensors towards 160 ppm of methanol, ethanol, acetone, 2-propanol, and benzene at 27 °C.	82
Fig. 4.13 Schematics showing sensing mechanism. (a) SL-NTs, (b) DL-NTs with one interlayer junction, and (c) TL-NTs with two interlayer junctions. Energy band diagrams of Schottky barrier at inter layer junction (d) in air, and (e) in reducing ambient (ethanol).....	84
Fig. 5.1 Schematics showing sequence of the steps involved in fabricating Au/TiO ₂ nanorods/Ti type sensor.....	90
Fig. 5.2 (a) FESEM images of the annealed TiO ₂ nanorods with top view, (b) side view; (c) TEM image of a single TiO ₂ nanorods.	93
Fig. 5.3 XRD pattern of hydrothermally grown TiO ₂ nanorods over Ti substrate.....	94
Fig. 5.4 I-V characteristics of Au/ TiO ₂ nanorods/ Ti based sensor operated at 50 °C in air and different methanol concentrations.....	95
Fig. 5.5 Transient behavior of (a) the resistive change and (b) the capacitive change of the sensor when methanol concentration was increased from 50 ppm to 300 ppm.	96
Fig. 5.6 (a) Resistive response magnitude (RRM) and (b) Capacitive response magnitude (CRM) of the sensor operating at 50 °C for 100, 200 and 300 ppm concentration of methanol, ethanol, acetone, 2-propanol and benzene.....	97
Fig. 5.7 Resistive selectivity coefficient (RSC) of the sensor for (a) methanol, (b) ethanol (c) acetone, and (d) 2-propanol.....	98
Fig. 5.8 Capacitive selectivity coefficient (CSC) of the sensor for (a) methanol, (b) ethanol (c) acetone, and (d) 2-propanol.....	98
Fig. 5.9 Stability test of (a) resistance and (b) capacitance of TiO ₂ nanorods sensor in air and 300 ppm methanol ambient.....	101
Fig. 5.10 A schematic of TiO ₂ nanorods sensor with surface reactions related to the sensing mechanism (a) in air ambient and (b) in methanol ambient.....	102
Fig. 6.1 Block diagram of the sensor system.....	111
Fig. 6.2 Sensor system having sensor mounted inside a glass bottle and signal generator and processing circuit on bread board.	112
Fig. 6.3 Resistive response of the sensor upon exposure to 200 ppm of (a) ethanol, (b) 10% methanol contaminated ethanol, (c) 25% methanol contaminated ethanol, and (d) pure methanol. Capacitive response of the sensor upon exposure to 200 ppm of (e) ethanol, (f) 10% methanol contaminated ethanol, (g) 25% methanol contaminated ethanol, and (h) pure methanol.	114
Fig. 6.4 Real environment capacitive response of the sensor placed in a 250 ml bottle having 10 ml of (a) ethanol, (b) 10% methanol in ethanol, (c) 25% methanol in ethanol, and (d) pure methanol.	116

Fig. 6.5 Scattered plot showing various repetitive capacitance values of the sensor when placed in 250 ml of bottle having air, 10 ml of ethanol, 10 ml of 10% methanol contaminated ethanol, 10 ml of 25% methanol contaminated ethanol, and 10 ml of pure methanol.....117

Fig. 6.6 GC-MS spectra of (a) pure whiskey, (b) 10% methanol contaminated whiskey, and (c) 25% methanol contaminated whiskey.....118

Fig. 6.7 Capacitive response of the sensor when placed in 250 ml of bottle containing 10 ml of (a) pure whiskey, (b) 10% methanol contaminated whiskey, and (c) 25% methanol contaminated whiskey.....119

Fig. 6.8 Schematics of the Au/TiO₂ nanotubes/Ti based sensor showing (a) equilibrium state in air ambient, (b) sensor response in alcohol ambient, and (c) sensor recovery in air ambient.120

List of Tables

Table 1.1 Various metal oxide nanostructures-based gas sensors working in resistive mode.	11
Table 1.2 Summary of various sensors reported for detecting VOCs with high selectivity....	17
Table 3.1 Details of de-convoluted XPS spectra of TiO ₂ nanotubes.....	57
Table 3.2 Sensor characteristics towards 200 ppm of methanol at different RH levels.....	61
Table 3.3 Values of resistive slope, capacitive slope, and selectivity constant for different VOCs.....	63
Table 4.1 Morphological parameters of TiO ₂ nanotubes from FESEM study.....	75
Table 4.2 Resistance of the sensor upon exposure to 40-160 ppm of ethanol at room temperature.....	78
Table 4.3 Capacitance of the sensor upon exposure to 40-160 ppm of ethanol at room temperature.....	80
Table 6.1 Contents of the test samples.....	110
Table 6.2 Resistive and capacitive sensing performance of the sensor in static mode.....	113

Abbreviations

0-D	Zero Dimension
1-D	One Dimension
2-D	Two Dimension
3-D	Three Dimension
AFM	Atomic Force Microscopy
CMOS	Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor
CRM	Capacitive Response Magnitude
DI	Deionized
DL-NTs	Double Layer Nanotubes
FET	Field Effect Transistor
FESEM	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy
FTO	Fluorine-doped Tin Oxide
GC-HS	Gas Chromatography Headspace
IC	Integrated Circuit
ITO	Indium Tin Oxide
LED	Light Emission Diode
MFC	Mass Flow Controller
PL	Photo Luminescence
PPM	Parts Per Million
Q-V	Charge to Voltage
RH	Relative Humidity
RRM	Resistive Response Magnitude
SL-NTs	Single Layer Nanotubes
SVR	Surface to Volume Ratio
TBOT	Titanium Butoxide
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscopy
TL-NTs	Triple Layer Nanotubes
VLS	Vapor Liquid Solid
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WHO	World Health Organization
XPS	X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy
XRD	X-ray Diffraction