Table of Contents

Acknowledgements ii
Table of Contents iii
List of Figures v
List of Tables viii
Summary ix

Chapter 1: Introduction 1

Chapter 2: History of the Chemical Sensing Problem 5

2.1 History of the Individual Chemical Sensor 6

2.2 The Introduction of the Chemical Sensor Array 11

2.3 Thin-Film and MOSFET based Sensor Technologies 14

2.3.1 Thin-Film Chemical Sensor Technologies 14

2.3.2 MOSFET-based Chemical Sensor Technologies 16

Chapter 3: Hybrid Array Architectures 19

3.1 Homogeneous Arrays 19

3.2 Heterogeneous Arrays 22

3.2.1 Temperature as a Heterogeneous Parameter 22

3.2.2 Evaluating the Robustness of the Heterogeneous Array 24

3.3 Optimizing the Hybrid Array Architecture 35

Chapter 4: Homogeneous Array Processing 39

4.1 Circuit Descriptions 40

4.1.1 The Mean Detection Circuit 40

4.1.2 Mean Detection with Outlier Elimination 43

4.2 Circuit Characterization: Experimental Results 48

4.2.1 Typical Circuit Behavior 48

4.2.2 Accuracy of Mean Calculation 55

4.2.3 Resolution in the Mean Detection Circuits 58

4.2.4 Accuracy of Outlier Removal 61

4.3 System Testing 63

4.3.1 Experimental Setup 63
4.3.2 Experimental Results 65
Chapter 5: Heterogeneous Array Processing 68
5.1 The Temperature Array 69
5.2 Circuit Descriptions 71
5.2.1 Adaptive Thresholding of an Array of Analog Inputs 72
5.2.2 Rank-order Filtering of a Sensory Input Array 77
5.3 Circuit Characterization: Experimental Results 87
5.3.1 Sources of Error in the Rank-Order Filtering Circuits 88
5.3.2 Adaptive Thresholding: Experimental Results 89
5.3.3 Rank-Order Filtering: Experimental Results 94
5.4 System Testing 101
5.4.1 Experimental Set-Up 101
5.4.2 Adaptive Thresholding System Testing 104
5.4.3 System Testing: Rank-Order Filtering 108
5.5 Applications 109
5.6 Comparison to Existing Systems 111
Chapter 6: Transient Chemical Signal Processing 113
6.1 The Transient Characteristic of Chemical Sensors 114
6.2 System Description 115
6.3 System Testing 118
6.3.1 Experimental Set-Up 118
6.3.2 Wavefront Analysis over a Wide Temperature Range 122
6.3.3 Wavefront Analysis across a Narrow Temperature Range 123
6.4 Comparison of Wavefront Analysis to Existing Systems 125
Chapter 7: Integration and Packaging 127
7.1 Integration of Thin-Film Sensors with aVLSI Circuits 128
7.2 Integration of ChemFET Sensors with aVLSI Circuits 133
7.3 Packaging of Integrated Chemical Microsystems 134
Chapter 8: Concluding Remarks 139
8.1 Contributions of Research 140
8.2 Future Work 140

References 142