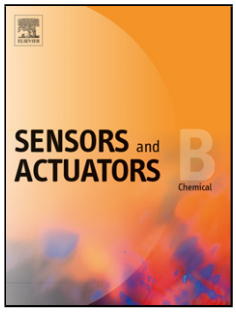

Title: Effect of Au nanoparticle size on the gas-sensing performance of *p*-CuO nanowires

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Au NPs-functionalized networked *p*-CuO nanowires were grown.

Au functionalization greatly enhanced the gas-sensing abilities of the CuO nanowires.

The CuO NWs showed the best response at an optimized Au size.

The size optimization of the metal nanoparticles is essential for superior sensing properties of nanowires.