# CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION ........................................... 1

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND ................................ 12
   2.1. Preface ........................................... 12
   2.2. Assumptions and approximations ................... 13
   2.3. Equations of motion ................................ 14
   2.4. Solution of Wave equation ......................... 16
   2.5. Propagation properties of surface acoustic waves (SAW) ... 17
   2.6. Acoustoelectric current ........................... 19
      2.6.1. Preface ..................................... 19
      2.6.2. The formula of the acoustoelectric current ... 20

3. INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPERTIES OF SLOWLY EVAPORATED THIN METAL FILMS ................................ 23
   3.1 The experimental method ............................ 23
      3.1.1. Preface ...................................... 23
      3.1.2. Preliminary preparations ....................... 23
      3.1.2.1. The piezoelectric substrate ................. 23
      3.1.2.2. Transducer for surface acoustic waves excitation ...... 24
      3.1.2.3. Evaporation of the metal film on the piezoelectric substrate .... 24
   3.1.3. The experimental system ......................... 25
      3.1.3.1. Preface .................................... 25
      3.1.3.2. Surface acoustic wave oscillator (SAWO) ....... 27
      3.1.3.3. Theory of the (SAWO) ....................... 27
      3.1.3.4. Measurement of the attenuation of the SAW .... 29
      3.1.3.5. Measurement of the relative change in the phase velocity of the SAW ... 30
      3.1.3.6. Measurement of the resistivity per square of the metal film .......... 31
      3.1.3.7. Temperature corrections ..................... 32
      3.1.3.8. Experimental conditions ..................... 32
      3.1.3.9. Problems and troubles encountered during performance of the experiment ... 32
      3.1.3.10. Summary .................................. 34
      3.1.3.11. Preparations for repeating the experiment .... 34
   3.2. Analysis of results ................................ 34
      3.2.1. Preface .................................... 34
      3.2.2. Measurements ................................ 36
3.3. Results. ................................................. 38
  3.3.1. General .............................................. 38
  3.3.2. Results for gold films .......................... 39
  3.3.3. Results for silver films. ....................... 44
  3.3.4. Results for aluminium films. ................. 45

3.4. Summary. ............................................... 46

3.5. Discussion. ............................................. 47

4. INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPERTIES OF RAPIDLY EVAPORATED THIN METAL FILMS .......................... 52
  4.1. General. ................................................ 52
  4.2. Deficiencies of slow evaporation and its effects on the results. 52
  4.3. The extent of reliability of the parameter of resistivity of the film per square. 53
  4.4. The necessities of performing fast-evaporation experiments. 54
  4.5. Experimental arrangements and procedure. .......... 54
  4.6. Curves of attenuation as function of relative change in phase velocity ........................... 60
  4.7. Analysis of the results .............................. 61
  4.8. Discussion. ............................................. 62

5. MEASUREMENTS OF ACOUSTOELECTRIC CURRENT AND RELATIVE CHANGE IN THE VELOCITY OF SAW AS FUNCTION OF ATTENUATION IN ULTRA THIN METAL FILMS 66
  5.1. General. ................................................ 66
  5.2. Procedure .............................................. 67
  5.3. Measurement of acoustoelectric current .......... 68
  5.4. Measurement of radiation power of an interdigital transducer ................................. 70
  5.5. Measurement of radiation resistance of the transmitting transducer. ......................... 71
  5.6. Problems and disturbances during the experimentation. .............................................. 73
  5.7. Preparations for repetitive experiment ........... 76
  5.8. Analysis of the results for gold, silver and copper ................................................. 76
  5.9. Acoustoelectric measurements on ultrathin aluminium films ..................................... 79
    5.9.1. Modifications on the experimental system and procedure for the case of aluminium films 79
    5.9.2. Analysis of results for the case of aluminium ultra-thin films ............................ 79
  5.10. Summary and discussion. ................................ 81

6. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION .................................. 82
  6.1. General. ................................................ 82
  6.2. The basics of the new model ....................... 83
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.2.1</td>
<td>Film structure.</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.2</td>
<td>Mobility of charge carriers according to the model of Neugebauer and Webb (NaW)</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.3</td>
<td>Diffusion coefficeint and Einstein relation</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.4</td>
<td>Attenuation and change in the velocity of SAW according to the new model.</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.5</td>
<td>Study of the functions of attenuation and relative change in velocity of (SAW)</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2.6</td>
<td>The expected relation $\omega \tau(n)$ according to NaW model.</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Analysis of the results according to the new model</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.1</td>
<td>Analysis of the results.</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.1.1</td>
<td>Determination of $\omega \tau$ as function of $n$</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.1.2</td>
<td>Determination of the mobility $\mu_{dc}$ as function on $n_{dc}$</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.2</td>
<td>Results</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Discussion of the results according to the new model</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>Advantages and deficiencies of the new model.</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>APPENDIX</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>REFERENCES</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>