

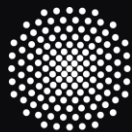
VisRing

A Display-Extended Smartring
for Nano Visualizations

Taiting Lu*, Christian Krauter*, Runze Liu, Mara Schulte, Alexander Achberger, Tanja Blascheck, Michael Sedlmair, Mahanth Gowda



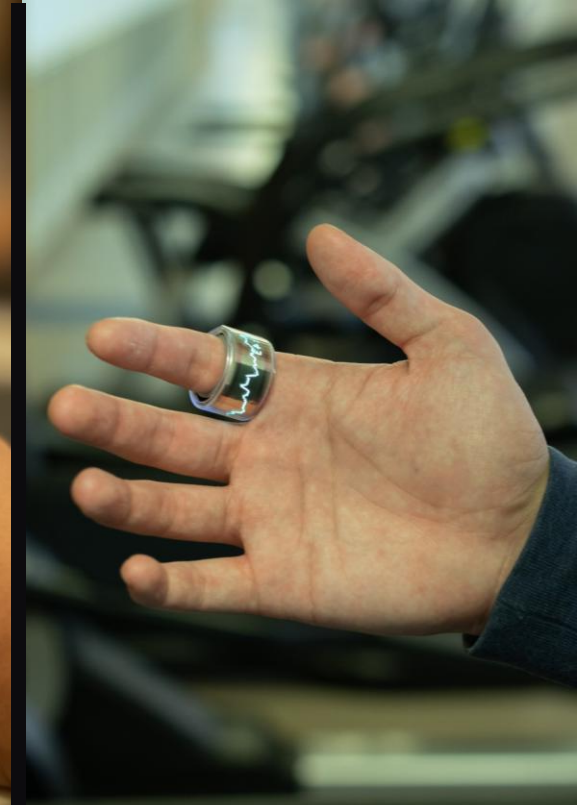
PennState




University of Stuttgart
Germany

SimTech

imprs-is



A close-up photograph of a person's hand wearing a transparent smart ring. The ring has a small, rectangular display embedded in it, which shows the time '10:24' in white digits on a green background. The ring is made of clear plastic or glass, revealing the internal electronic components. The background is blurred, showing another person's arm in a dark blue shirt.

Why integrate a display within the form factor of a smartring?

Always-visible
Glanceable
Private

Motivation & Background



Smartwatch



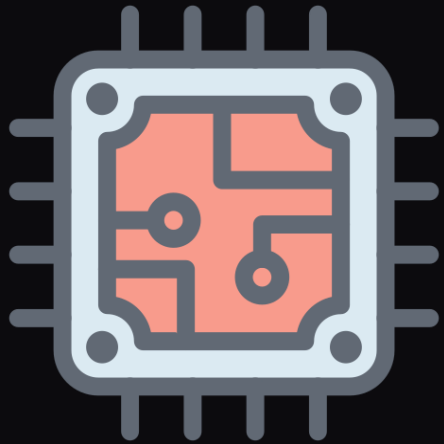
Wristband



Smartring

- Smartwatch & wristband
Rich visualization, large, mostly two-handed interaction
- Current smartrings
small, lightweight, only digits and icons

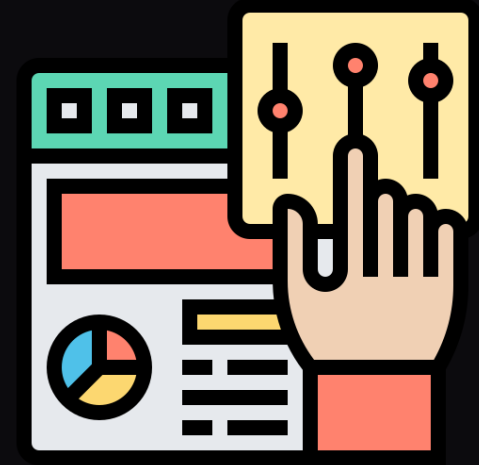
Challenges & Approach



- Multiple electronic components
- Multi-layer flexible Printed Circuit Board



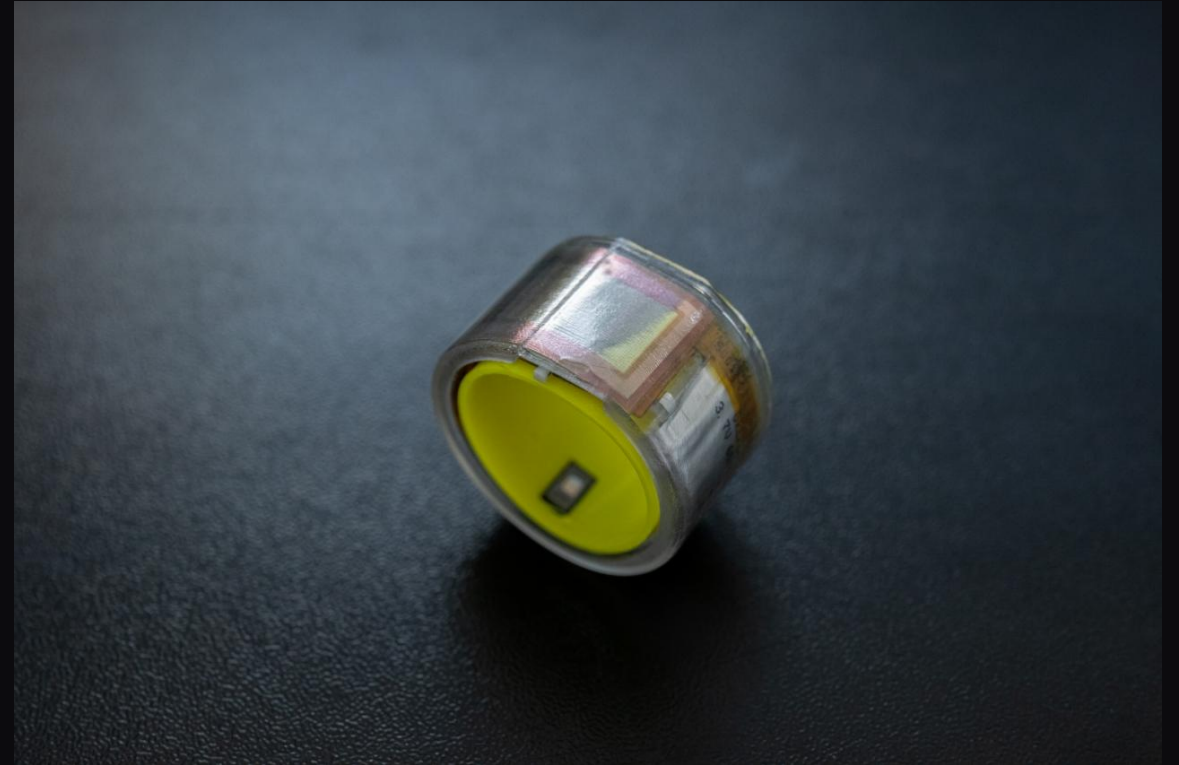
- Complex assembly process within limited space
- Systematic mechanical design and assembly process



- No visualization techniques on smartring
- Design Nano Visualizations on a smartring

VisRing

the first smartring that
incorporates a bendable
OLED display for nano
visualizations



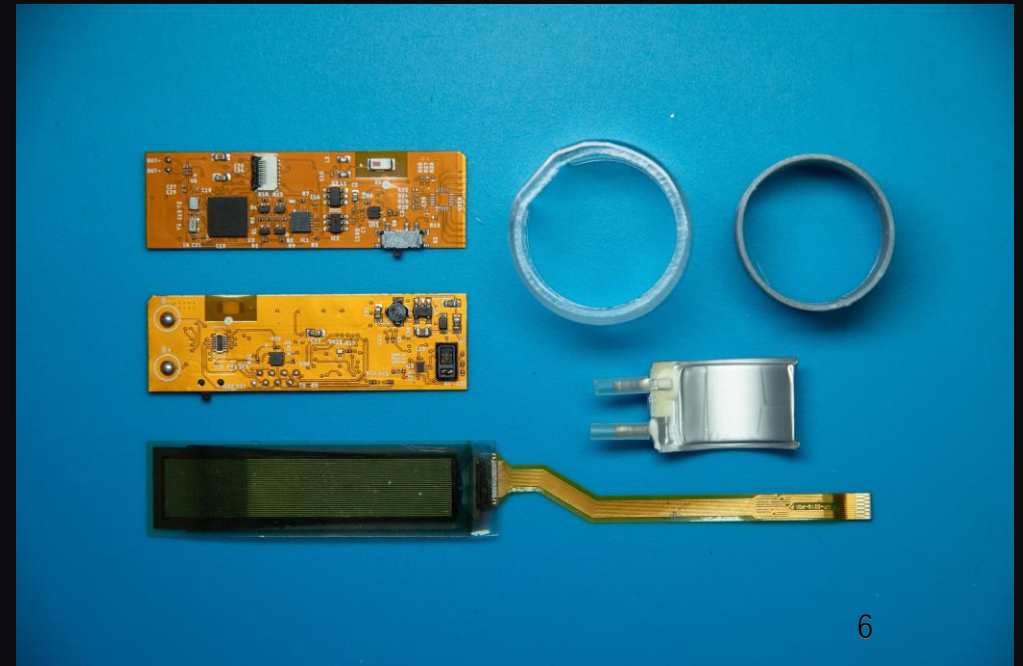
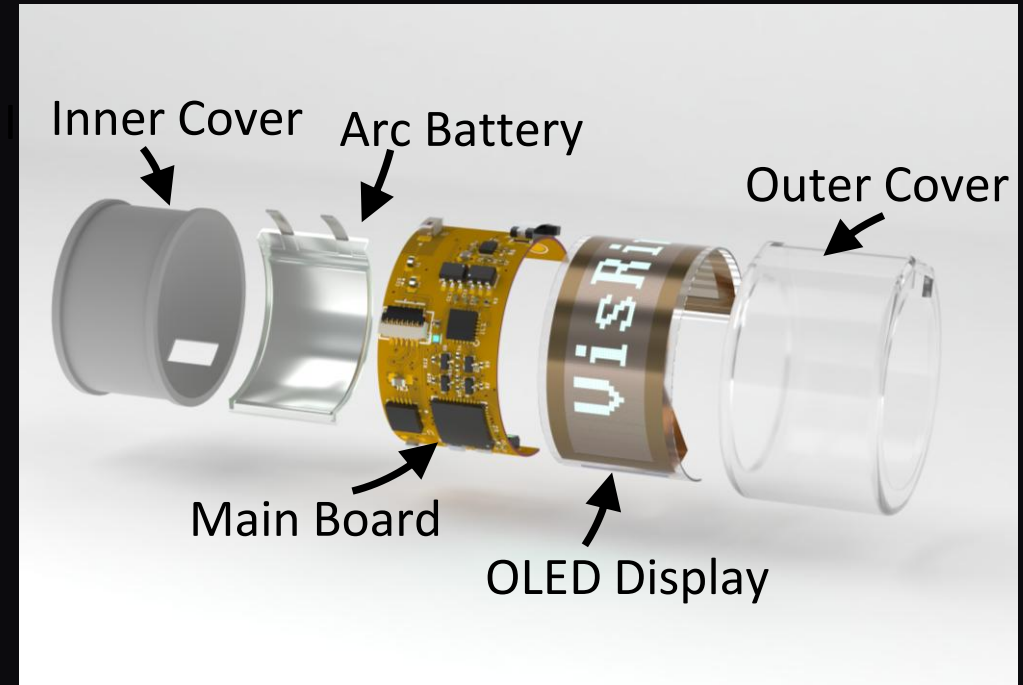
Feature List

- Flexible display spanning 270° to 360°
- Nano Visualizations
- Wireless communication (BLE)
- Multiple sensors (motion, biometric)
- Average weight: 6.6g
- Overall cost: ~\$35

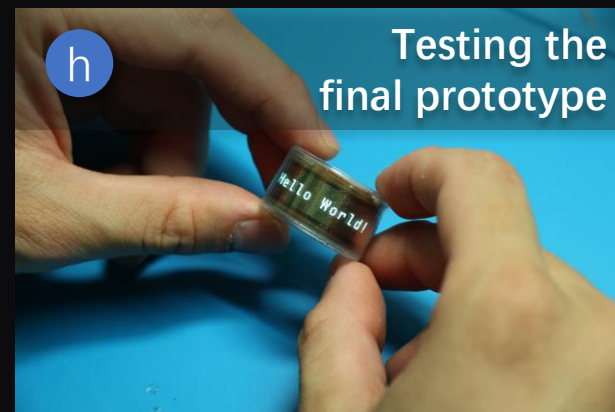
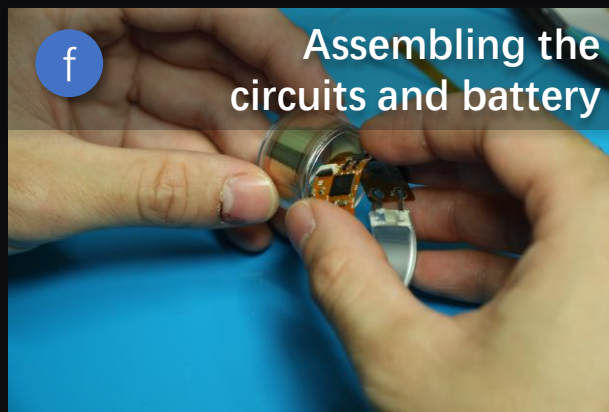
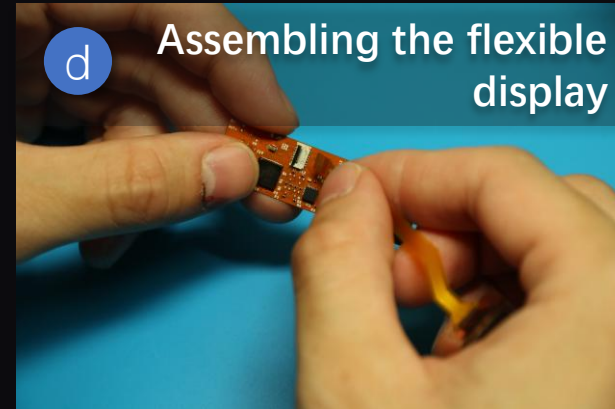
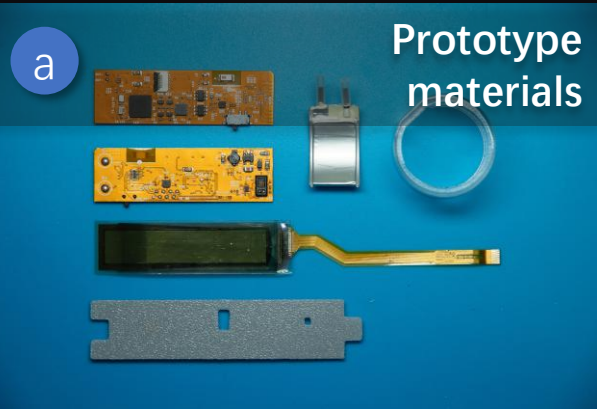
VisRing Overview

Four components

- (1) Flexible PCB
- (2) Flexible 160x32 Grayscale OLED
- (3) Curved Battery
- (4) 3D-printed Housing



Assembly Process





Micro

- Smartwatch
- Small
- Glanceable



F. Grioui, T. Blascheck, L. Yao and P. Isenberg, "Micro Visualizations on a Smartwatch: Assessing Reading Performance While Walking," 2024 IEEE VIS, pp. 46-50, doi: 10.1109/VIS55277.2024.00017

→ Nano Visualization

- Even smaller (e.g., 32x160 px)
- High aspect ratio
- Curved
- Partially hidden
- Private and public



Nano Visualization Library

bar charts

line chart

radial
progress
chart



notifications

text

heart rate

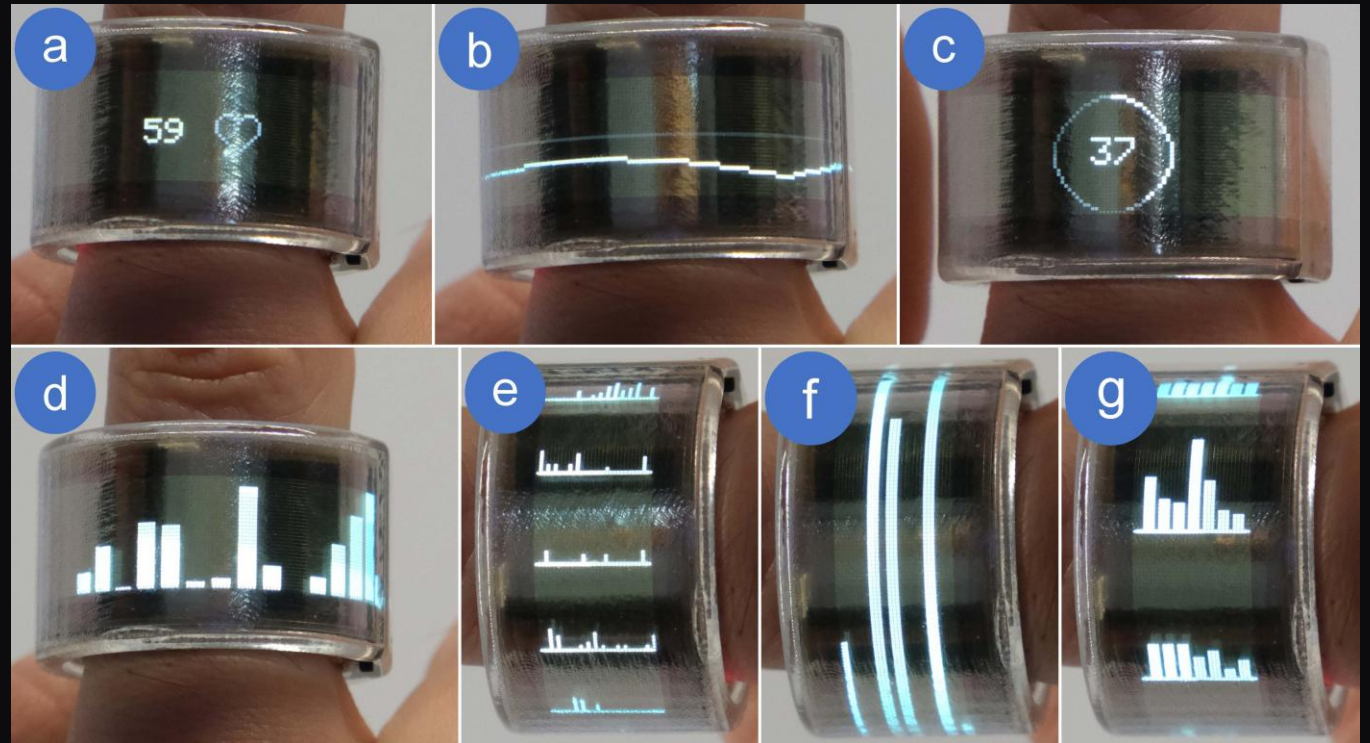
decorative
patterns

Qualitative Evaluation

User study

- 12 participants
- Walking indoors
- Experiencing hardware and visualizations

Gender	#	Age Range	#
Woman/Female	6	18-24	4
Man/Male	6	25-34	8

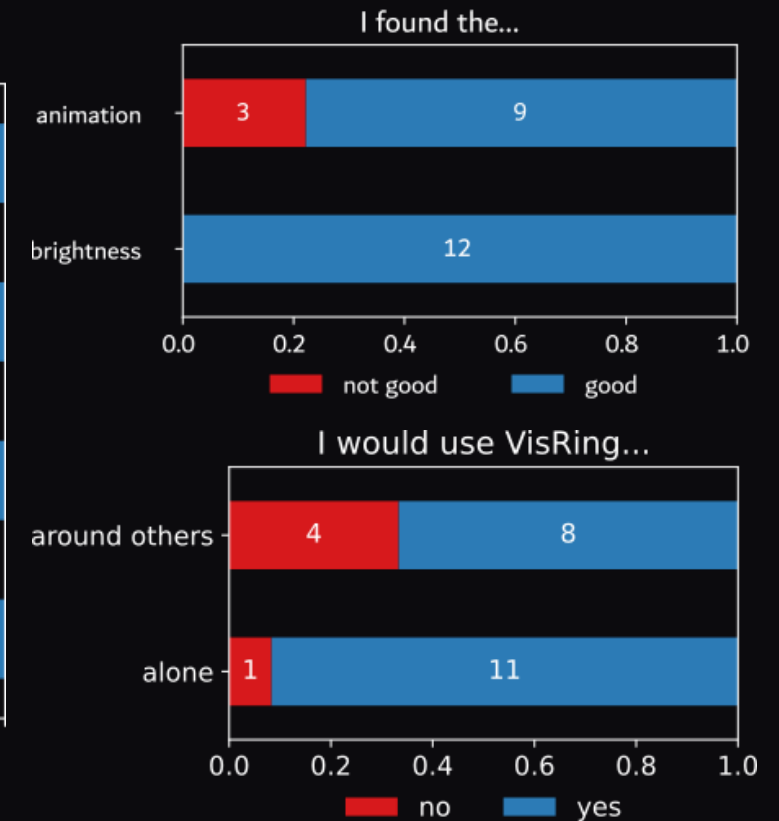
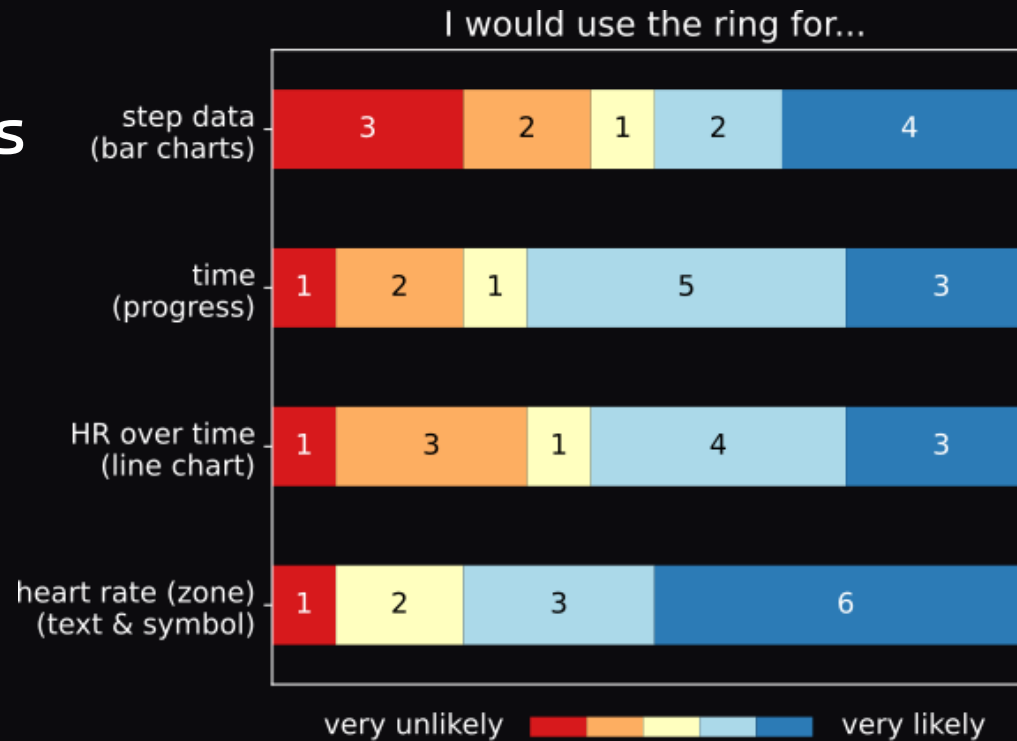


Qualitative Results

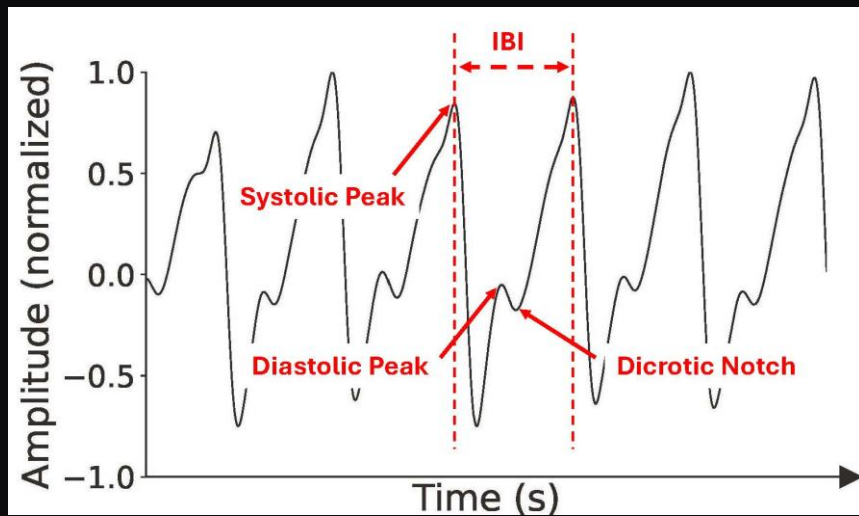
- + Hardware, visualizations, brightness, animation
- Size and fit, use in public

Applications

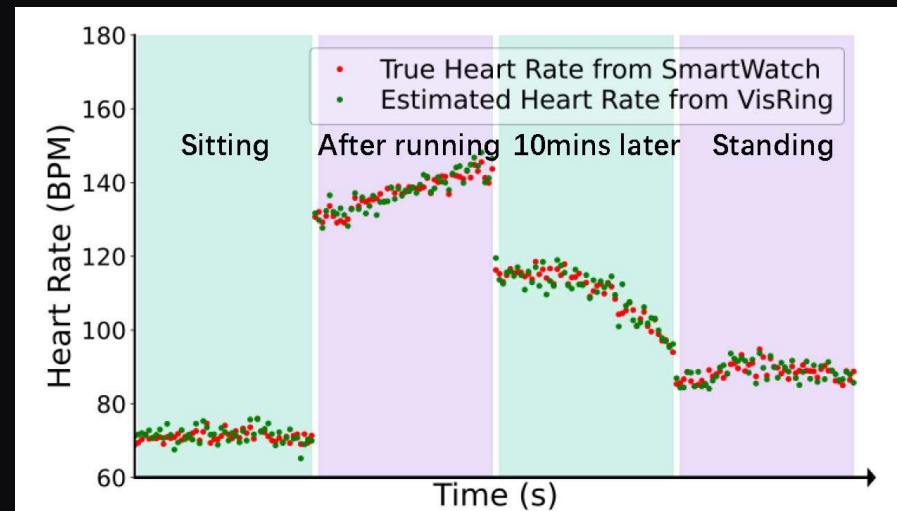
- Health/ fitness
- Outdoor
- Notifications
- Psychology
- Fashion
- Timers



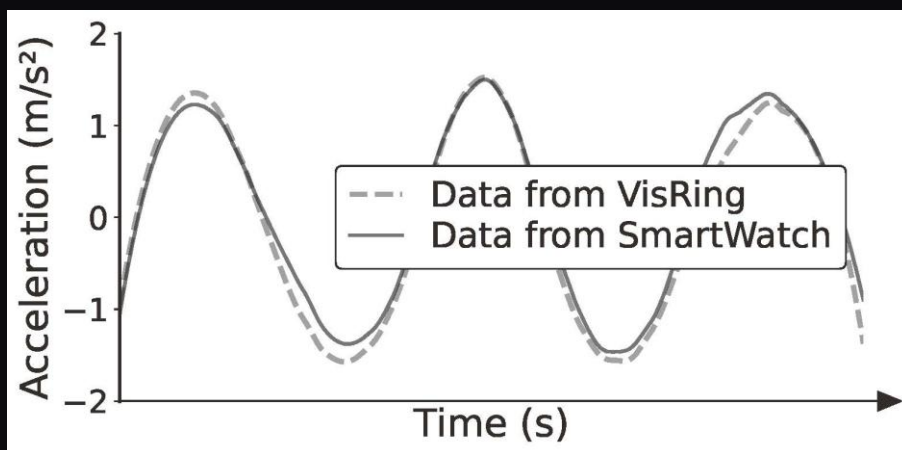
Hardware Evaluation



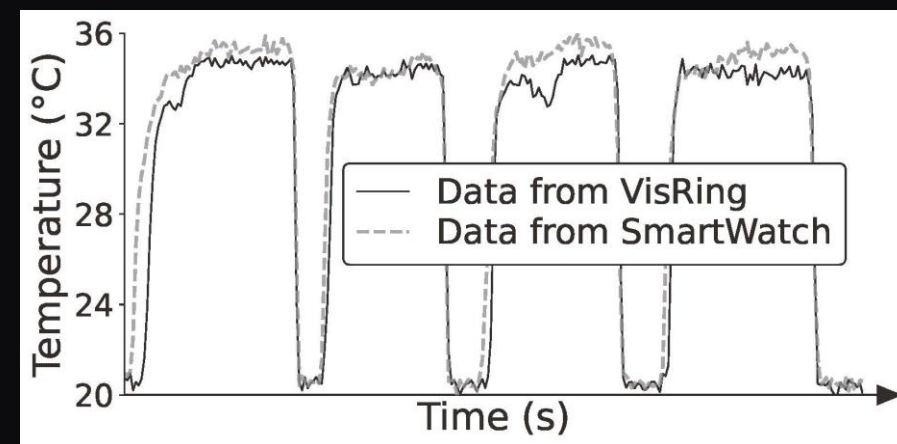
PPG data



Heart rate comparison
with a smartwatch



acceleration data



temperature data



Future Work

- One-handed interaction
- Adaptive privacy
- Real-world evaluation
- Materials
- Power efficiency
- ...

VisRing: A Display-Extended Smartring for Nano Visualizations

- First smartring with a bendable OLED display
- Nano visualizations definition and library
- Quantitative & qualitative evaluation



details



Currently on the job market: txl5518@psu.edu

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