

PROJECT FINAL REPORT

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Project acronym: SimpleSkin

Project title: Cheap, textile based whole body sensor sensing system for interaction, physiological monitoring and activity recognition

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4.1 Final Publishable Summary Report

4.1.1 Executive Summary

The aim of the SimpleSkin project was to develop basic technological advances needed to move smart textiles and smart garments from the current status of a niche curiosity towards mass market applications. The basic idea was to separate textile production, garment manufacturing, electronics development, and the software implementation by well-defined abstractions and interfaces. Thus, instead of having to implement an expensive special purpose solution for every application, “generic” mass producible components should be available that can be flexibly put together to realize a variety of easily reconfigurable applications^[CLH2013,SHZ2015†].

Key advances towards this goal achieved in the project are:

1. Mass-producible, washable generic sensing fabric, which allows capacitive, resistive or impedance modes, to measure movement, electrical body signals, activities, and change in body capacity^[SEO2015, VT2014].
2. Connector technology enabling arbitrary electronic modules (with a simple adapter) to be connected to smart garment with tens of pins by merely being put into an elastic pocket^[MVG2015].
3. Techniques for producing various garments with flexible, application driven placement of various sensing modalities from the above components.
4. Resistive, capacitive and inductive sensors utilizing on the generic fabric (see 1 above). This includes detailed electrical and mechanical models, corresponding driving circuits, and detailed performance evaluation^[ZCS2014,HKC2014].
5. A signal processing and pattern recognition pathway for multiple modalities together with the corresponding reconfigurable, scalable digital processing circuits and dedicated hardware accelerators^[VMV2015,ALC2016].
6. A user friendly Garment OS was realized on top of the Android platform based on a general architecture and a self organizing application runtime environment with dynamic driver loader^[SHB2014].
7. The above developments were demonstrated and evaluated in a variety of systems and applications ranging from a smart soccer shoe^[ZWM2016], through various muscle activity monitoring applications^[ZSC2016, ZSCXXXX] to a multi-modal smart shirt focused on nutrition monitoring^[CZK2013,ZFA2016].

In particular, the textile resistive pressure sensors which can be produced cheaply as a pressure sensor matrix with up to 10,000 elements^[CSZ2016] has proven to be attractive for a broad range of applications far beyond wearable systems. This includes a smart table cloth^[ZCL2015, ZCS2015], smart exercise mat^[ZCS2014], and smart seat covers for cars. The fact that the very same smart textile driven by the same electronics with merely different software running on top can cover such a broad range of applications is a strong proof of the SimpleSkin vision. The system has generated significant industrial interest with the car seat demonstrators having been sponsored by Volkswagen, the smart shoe supported by Adidas and the general wearable sports application being among the winners of the German Telekom “Fashion Fusion” contest[‡].

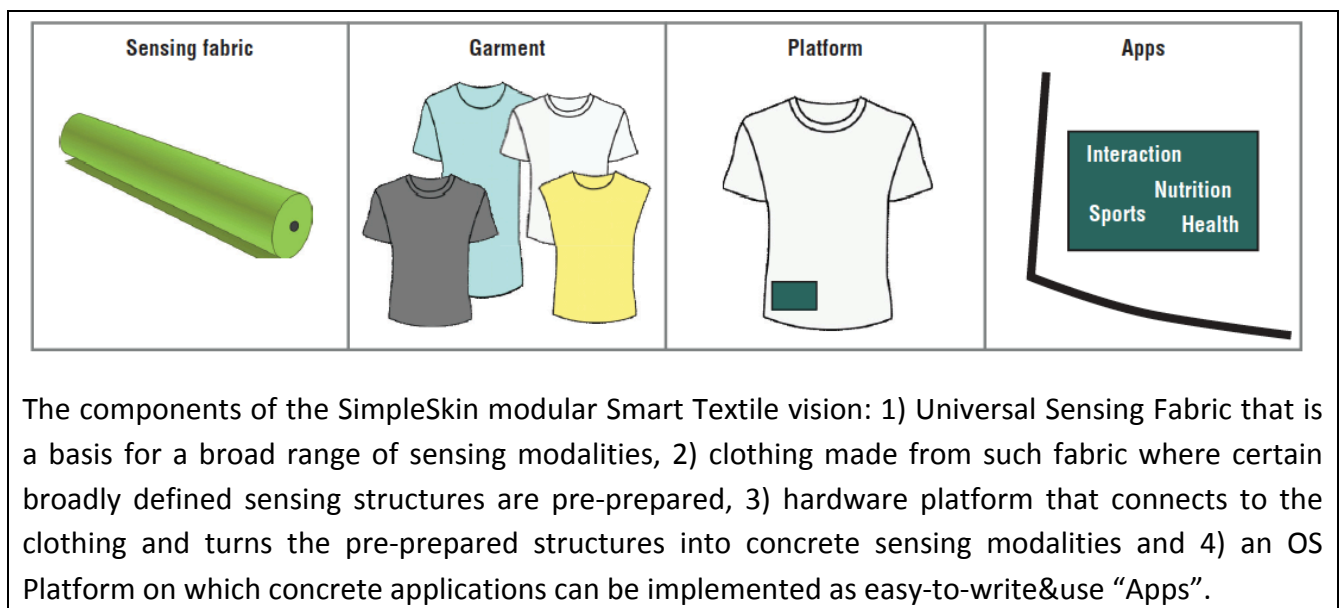
The project has resulted in 42 peer reviewed scientific publications including top conferences and journals in the field (ISWC, UbiComp, PerCom, IEEE Pervasive Computing, Elsevier Pervasive and Mobile Computing etc.)

[†] The papers are indexed as in *Appendix I: Publication and Internal Reports*, where the list and full text of all peer-reviewed publication are available.

[‡] <https://www.telekom.com/media/company/313834>

4.1.2 Summary Description of Project Context and Objectives

SimpleSkin project proposes a fundamentally new approach for creating smart textiles and functional garments. The fundamental idea is to separate sensing textile production, garment manufacturing, the hardware platform, and the software implementation by well-defined abstractions and interfaces. A major innovation is the development of a mass-producible generic sensing fabric, which will allow capacitive, resistive, bio-impedance modes, to measure movement, electrical body signals, activities, and change in body capacity. The sensor density and intelligent signal processing will compensate the simplicity of single sensors. Based on these fabrics “sensing-ready” garments can be produced, that are with respect to their properties, looks, production process and price virtually undistinguishable from today’s standard garments. We expect that in the long term this will lead to functional clothes becoming the default, much like today smart, sensor-enabled phones have become the mainstream. The “sensor-ready” garments become part of a wearable computing system, by adding hardware, that allows self-organizing, dynamic and adaptive processing of input signals converting the specific garment into a general wearable sensor with a dedicated high-level sensing interface. By these means we create an abstraction layer and platform on which application developers can create wearable sensing application, than are independent of the actual hardware they run on. For example, this will allow an application developer to create a sports monitoring application, that includes body posture, movement, and heard rate, which can be deployed to any available “sensing-ready” shirt. This will empower a larger number of potential developers to contribute their creativity. The approach taken in SimpleSkin has great potential to build up the foundation for a new era in smart clothing. It aims at moving personal wearable monitoring from a niche topic into major industry with the potential of revolutionizing what we wear.



The project aimed at breakthroughs on 4 layers:

Breakthrough 1: Sensing-ready garments as defaults, which enables the textile industry to move from the ability to put a few special purpose textile sensors on a specific garment to the ability to mass produce cheap, garment and application independent sensing fabrics. At the core of this question are the tradeoffs and compatibility issues between production technology concerns on hand and signal quality related physical requirements of the sensing on the other. This also includes the limitations on the number of IOs between the garment and the electronics as well as possible conflicting requirements of different sensing modalities, which need to be placed on different layers. The breakthrough will result from a combination of elaborate models of the sensing principles and an in-depth understanding of the textile and garment production process and will be verified through demonstrations and simulations.

Breakthrough 2: Reliable and reconfigurable body and activity sensing. We aim to develop methods and technologies for transforming the universal sensing fabric into a reliable and reconfigurable source of complex multimodal information about the users' bodies and their activities. The core breakthrough will be the ability to compensate the inherent signal quality and reliability limitations of the universal sensing fabrics through appropriate processing circuits and algorithms.

Breakthrough 3: Goal driven, adaptive, and self-organized sensing textiles. The control and coordination logic poses a major challenge, because it faces a system that operates under dynamic conditions with varying sensing requirements, varying information content of different sensor locations and sensing modalities and varying sources of noise. We will address this challenge through the development of a self-organized control methodology that uses principles of attention to focus on sensor modalities and garment areas that are most relevant in any given situation and can autonomously learn and evolve over time. The self-organization will be driven by a description of the sensing goals, constraints, and priorities (e.g. accuracy of certain information vs. power consumption) to be provided by the application.

Breakthrough 4: empowering developers and enabling a multitude of applications. The vision of “wearable sensing as an App” aims to allow a broad community of developers to build applications on top of garments made of the universal sensing fabric. The applications should be independent of the specific garment and sensor configuration (as long as the garment can provide the required information). Providing an abstraction layer for the creation of wearable sensing applications is essential to make the implementation of such software economically viable and attractive to a large number of developers. Much like the WWW enabled to creation of distributed information systems by people with minimal programming skills and like the app-store enabled a whole universe of phone applications, we aim at empowering a wide of developers to create smart clothing applications.

Breakthrough 5: Demonstrating effectiveness. Evaluating and demonstrating the utility and versatility of the sensing fabric allows a single specific garment to support vastly different sensing application. We will demonstrate the benefits of the proposed concept in three highly challenging and relevant application domains: activity recognition, nutrition monitoring, and body driven human computer interaction.

To achieve and validate the above breakthroughs the project was organized around the 5 groups of objectives and for each group a R&D work package was assigned.

Objective Group 1 related to textile technology and the universal sensing fabric (WP1 Textile Technologies). The goal was to create a cheap universal sensing fabric with the following properties:

- high spatial resolution
- facilitating different sensing modalities such as capacitive, resistive, and inductive concurrent multilayer integration of different sensing and communication structures designed for mass production of fabric
- providing means for connecting large numbers of textile I/O to external devices
- decoupling the creation of sensing fabric and garment production
- allowing the selection of specific sensing configuration from a generic and universal sensing fabric during garment production.

Objective Group 2 related to Sensing (WP2 Physical Sensing Layer). The goal was to transform the universal sensing fabric into a reliable and reconfigurable source of complex multimodal information about the users' bodies and their activities:

- developing models and simulations of the relationship between signals received from the sensing structure in the garment and the human body
- deriving sensing principles and sensor architectures for detecting and measuring specific parameters
- designing and developing analog electronic circuits for those sensing architectures

Objective Group 3 related to self configuration and data analysis (WP3 Goal Driven Adaptive Processing). The goal was to create goal driven adaptive and self-organizing processing and control architecture for universal fabric based sensing textiles.

- developing a set of goal oriented configuration, control and interpretation methods
- designing and implementing digital signal processing algorithms specifically adapted to the envisioned sensing principle and tailored to the boundary conditions to the universal sensing fabric.
- leveraging the understanding and models of the human body for efficient recognition of basic actions and phenomena
- designing and implementing the envisioned processing architecture in a low power circuit

Objective Group 4 related to Garment OS (WP4 Garment Operating System). The goal was to design and implement an operating system layer for garments that facilitates sensing as an app through an application programming interface (API).

- creating an abstraction layer that allows software configurable sensor system configuration
- proving an API that allows the development of sensing apps that are independent of a garment specific sensing configurations
- designing and implementing a self organizing application runtime environment that allows multiple apps to make use of the garment as a sensing resource
- providing a user friendly development environment for textile sensing apps that enables the development of such apps with programming knowledge only (no physics, signal processing, or hardware knowledge require) based on building block approach

Objective Group 5 related to evaluation, demonstration and applications (WP5 Application Development and Case Studies). The goal was to evaluate and demonstrate the utility and versatility of the sensing fabric allowing a single specific garment to support vastly different sensing application.

- Leverage the envisioned platform for novel forms of human activity recognition
- Extract, model and demonstrate new human computer interaction paradigms that are enabled through sensing garments
- Develop and demonstrate new approaches to long-term precise nutrition monitoring
- Demonstrate the developers ability to envision and implement new application concepts and specific sensing apps for sensing enabled garments
- Show in an integrated prototype applications of sensing garments that combines multiple sensing apps in a single garment

Besides these scientific objectives, the project also strives to disseminate its results and pro-actively monitor health risks and ethical issues as arising with the R&D tasks.

4.1.3 Main S&T Results/Foregrounds

The result of S&T development will be grouped under 5 topics, corresponding to the 5 Objective groups and 5 Work Packages.

4.1.3.1 WP1 Textile Technologies

The Objectives are realized within 3 sub-work packages: 1.1 Multilayer Textile Sensing Structures; 1.2 Communication and Connectivity; 1.3 From Textiles to Garments.

WP 1 Highlights:

- *Scaled-up production of multifunctional wash-stabile precision fabrics for all types of sensing modalities*
- *pocket connector enables easy connecting between fabric sensors and electronics, the concept is adaptable to different modalities*
- *Development, design and realization of demonstrator sensors and demonstrator garments using the above mentioned fabrics and connectors*

More Details: D1.1, D1.2, D1.3

. Universal fabric for multiple sensing modalities (supporting high spatial resolution)

Textile stands at the very beginning of the whole system. The development of universal fabric went through several revisions throughout the project.

I. Survey on mass textile production technologies

Bearing mass-production possibility and production cost in mind right from the beginning, we specially looked for technologies that already exist and with certain modifications can be used to produce the universal fabric. A survey was first performed by textile partners (SEFAR and iTV) and the result is shared with other partners, especially DFKI and ETHZ, which need to convert the fabrics into sensors and connectors later, thus need the understandings on the possibilities and limits.

II. First textile prototype and further iterations

We selected weaving as the production technology because of its capability for high-throughput manufacturing and the proven ability of the textile manufacturing partner Sefar for producing high precision technical fabrics. Several different weaving patterns with conductive parallel strips were produced at the beginning of the project using standard plain weaving processes. The Cu-Ag yarns were woven into the fabric in order to obtain very dense conductive strips. The textile partners and sensor partners visited each other to enhance understanding from both side (for example, the conductive stripes shall lie on one side of the fabric) and the first prototypes were manufactured according to specification set and agreed by both sides.

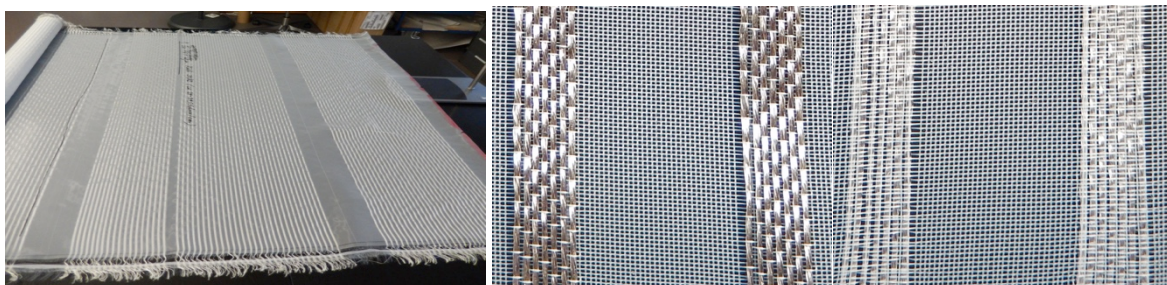


Figure 1 The second iterations of universal fabric: fabric weaving pattern I with even separations (left), and detailed view of the fabric showing the conductive stripes are located asymmetric (right)

III. Fabric sensor prototypes based on non-fabric prototype and further iterations

A sensing matrix was first built by DFKI manually using commercial available material that meets the electronic requirements. Several fabric based versions were then built taking this prototype as example. We finally chose the pure fabric solution because of the mechanic and electronic quality, stability during long-term usage and the high manufacturing speed. These two types of fabrics are both based on weaving technology and can be mass produced.

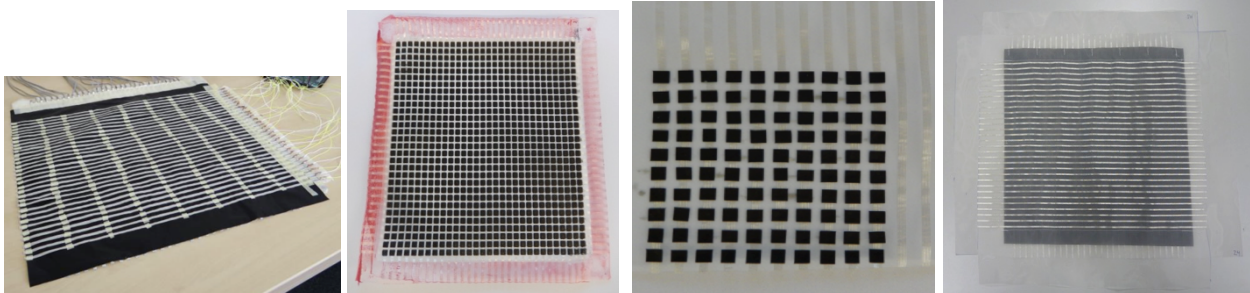


Figure 2 The hand-made non-fabric prototype(left) and the 3 machine-made fabric-based prototypes with printing techniques, conductive foil pieces and the pure fabric solution with “SEFAR Carbotex” (middle to right)

IV. Consideration on cost and washability

After we found the proper manufacturing methods and fixed the dimension specification, we tried to answer two key questions if the fabric were going to be used in product, namely the cost and the washability. We manufactured the fabric with two types of conductive material under the same dimension specification and explored the influence on cost, comfort, flexibility, twistability, electronic performance. We then made resistive sensing matrices out of both types of fabric and let them go through washability test, which demonstrates the change of material properties after maximum 40 washing and dry cycles using normal washing powder and light-stain washing program in normal washing machine.

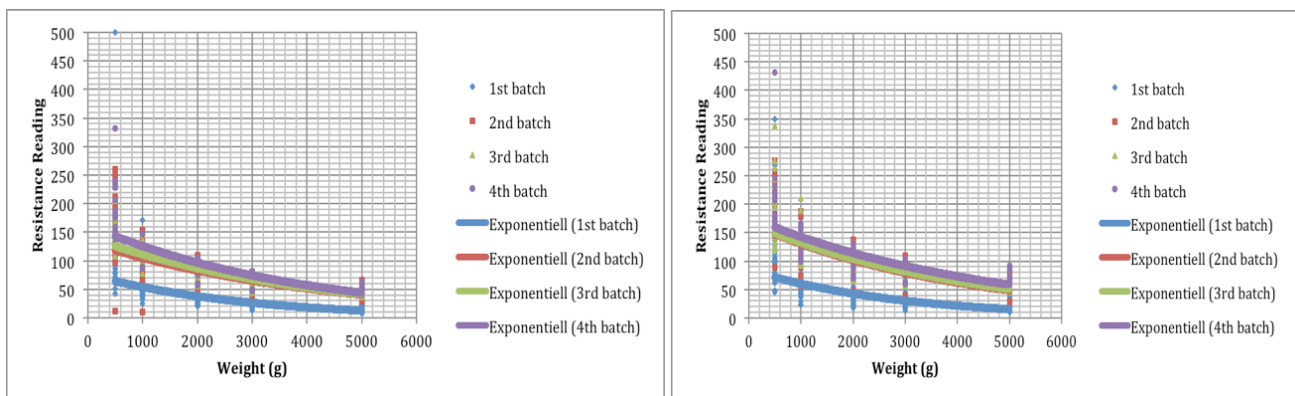


Figure 3 Washability test result: electronic performance of two types of material after multiple wash cycles

V. Supporting multiple sensing modalities

The fabric was initially designed for the resistive sensing and from the 2nd project year on, the capacitive sensing and bio-impedance sensing were also integrated using the same fabric. A capacitive wristband was created in the sensor shirt demonstrator in the 2nd project year. Bio-impedance sensors, which came into the project later, were also created using the universal fabric in the final demonstrator (details in WP5 progress).

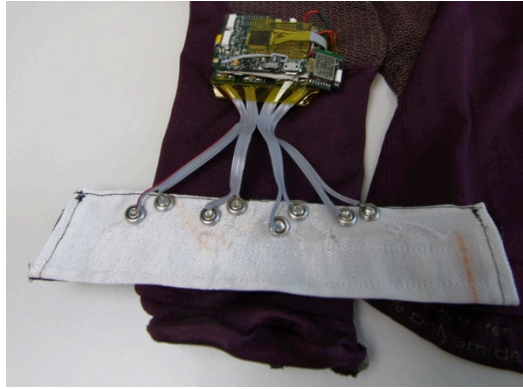


Figure 4 the capacitive wristband within the sensor shirt with universal fabrics as capacitive sensors

Outcome: Scaled-up production of multifunctional wash-stable precision fabrics for all types of sensing modalities

. Means of connecting large numbers of textile I/Os to external devices

The sensors created using the universal fabric need to be interconnected to the driving electronics to make them functional, here the challenge lies in how to route a large number of analog/digital IO to interconnecting with the electronics and meanwhile ensuring features such as easy attaching/detaching of electronics to/from the garment. A pocket connector is designed for such purpose. The idea is to have a stretchable chest pocket with conductive connecting pads on the inside. The electronic device is then slid into the pocket. Similar to a ball grid array chip, the device has small copper bumps in a matrix structure that make contact to the conductive pads of the pocket.

I. From sensors to pocket connector

The resistive sensing poses the highest requirement on I/O number, embroidery is applied with specific wiring scheme. The sensor nodes are wired by stitching the AWG36 wires on top of the demonstrator and connecting these to the conductive weft by carefully soldering them to the fabric. The connection between the pressure sensing pad and the pocket connector is also done by stitching the connecting wires on the fabric. Specially to be mentioned is that the textile side of pocket connector is made out of the universal fabric, too.

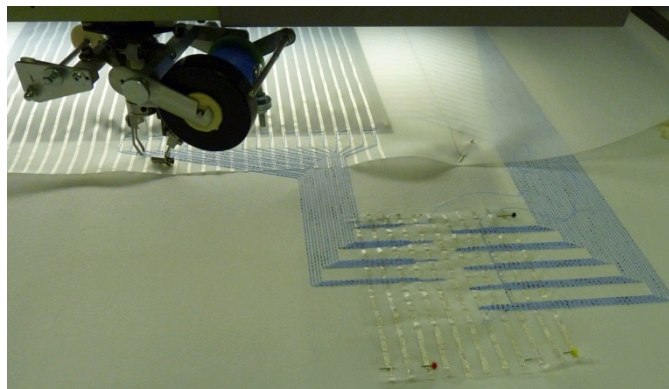


Figure 5 Stitching process of a sensor matrix

II. Pocket connector: from textile to electronics

The pocket connector consists of two parts. One part is the surface of an electronic device and the second part is a stretchable textile in the form a pocket. When sized correctly, the stretched pocket should keep the device in position and ensure also the electrical interconnection. The connecting surface of the electronic device should have a slight curvature in order to optimize contact pressure at all positions.

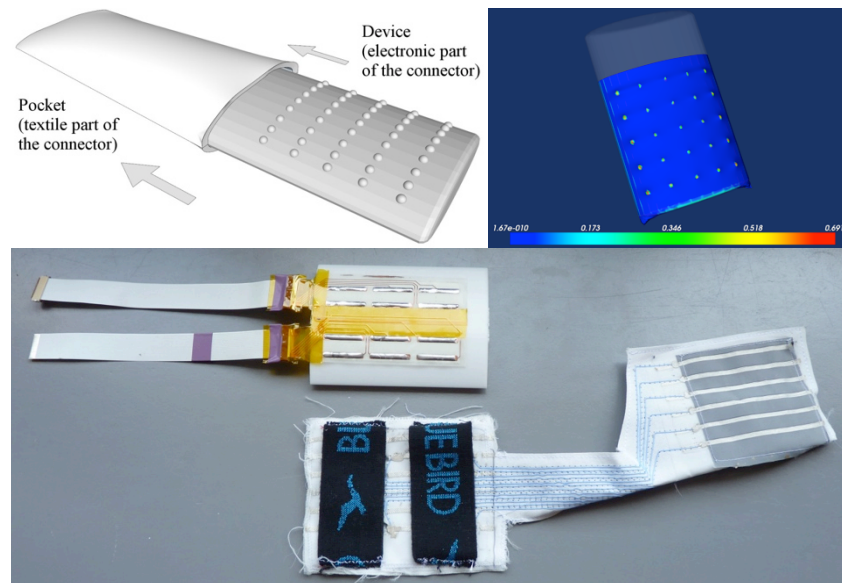


Figure 6 The Pocket connector: design concept (top left), simulated pressure distribution on casing with bumps (top right) and real implementation (bottom)

Outcome: Easy connecting between fabric sensors and electronics, the concept is adaptable to different modalities

. Selection of sensing configuration during garment production (with decoupled fabric/garment production)

Given the methods to make individual sensor/sensor array/sensor matrix out of the universal fabric, and the method to route large number of textile sensors to the electronics, the last step is to enable sensing configuration during garment production. This was first tried out with smaller prototypes, where single sensing modality was tested, and is best shown by the two demonstrator shirts we built in the 2nd and 3rd project year, both include all three sensing modalities.

I. The 1st sensor shirt

With this prototype we tried for the first time integration of all three sensing modalities into one garment. The resistive and capacitive sensors were manually cut out of the universal textile and the bio-impedance sensor pads were still made of Shieldex conductive fabrics material, manufactured by Statex GmbH. This shirt was then explored by USTUTT for various human computer interaction and activity recognition purposes for WP5.



Figure 7 The 1st sensor shirt, the sensors are put out of their pockets

II. The 2nd sensor shirt (as final demonstrator)

Based on the experience gathered from the 1st sensor shirt, the final demonstrator shirt was built, where we focused on the neck area and built all 3 types of sensors out of the universal fabric using a laser cutter.

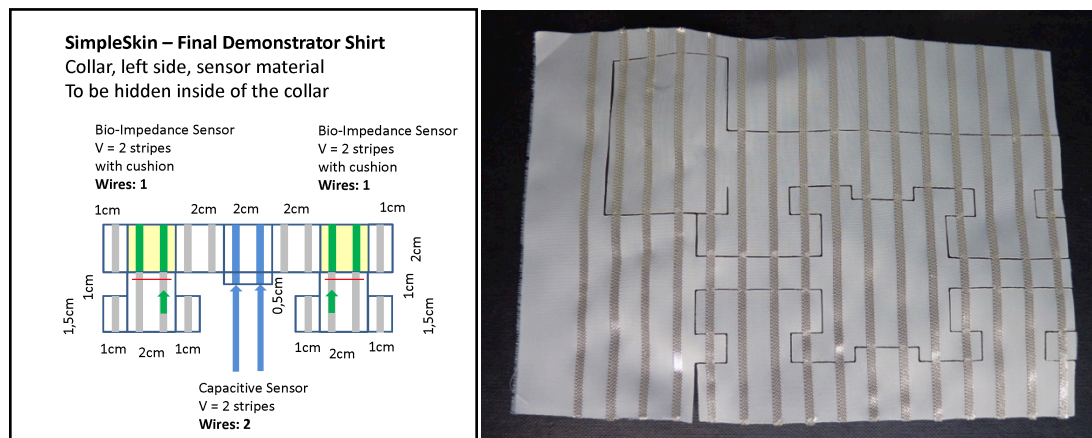


Figure 8 From universal fabric to 3 types of fabric sensors: design in the final demonstrator shirt



Figure 9 the 2nd sensor shirt: sensors and their conductive yarn wiring under the collar (left) and sensor outlook (right)

Outcome: Development, design and realization of demonstrator sensors and demonstrator garments using the universal fabrics and pocket connector

4.1.3.2 WP2 Physical Sensing Layer

The Objectives are realized within 3 sub-work packages: 2.1 Modelling and Simulation for Sensing Structure; 2.2 Sensing Principles; 2.3 Analog Processing.

WP 2 Highlights:

- Modeling for capacitive and resistive sensing modalities
- Mechanical and electronic design space of sensors and their physical realization under different application scenarios
- Mature hardware designs for multimodal sensing, that can be easily adapted to new application areas with only small changes
- develop technologies that are more relevant to consumers derived from scientific results

More Details: D2.1, D2.2, D2.3

. Deriving sensing principles and sensor architectures

The purpose of physical sensing layer is to convert the fabric into a media for information retrieval from the human body. Three sensing modalities are chosen and developed, based on the amount of information that can be retrieved, the complexity of sensor manufacturing, and the previous work from project partners.

I. Capacitive sensing

Using the user's body as dielectric of a capacitor, the change of the inner-structure of the body (such as joint movement, muscle contraction, etc.) will reflect in the change of the existing capacitance between the skin and the textile sensor. Therefore, such movements can easily be detected using capacitive sensing. The major advantage of capacitive sensing is its high sensitivity, no direct body contact and relatively low requirement of the sensing electrode. The challenge of the capacitive sensing includes the specific high frequency that is required for the electric-magnetic field to permeate into the human body, parasitic capacitance and shielding of the signal wire.

II. Resistive sensing

As most force-sensitive resistor (FSR) sensors, a sheet of flexible carbon-polymer material exhibits the property that its resistance changes with mechanical deformation, e.g. when pressure is applied. In SimpleSkin project, to implement a resistive-based force-mapping sensor, we use CarboTex from SEFAR as the sensitive material and the metallic stripes which are woven into a normal polymer fabric sheet to construct a matrix. We have focused on developing prototypes with a wide range of dimensions, from sport-mat sized to elbow patch, of high sampling speed and resolution to evaluate a variety of ambient and wearable applications.

III. Bio-impedance sensing

We introduced the measurement principles of biopotential and electrical bio-impedance. With 4-point sensing, we can directly measure the electrical property of the target body tissues. The main challenge of this sensing modality is particularly the impedance of the skin-electrode with dry textile electrodes.

Outcome: a selection of sensing principle suitable for large-scale textile implementation

. Models and simulations of the relationship between signals and the human body

Because bio-impedance sensing is already mature as the sensing principle, the models of the other two sensing modalities are studied in more details.

I. Modelling capacitive sensing

Capacitive sensing uses two parallel electrodes to measure the change of the tissues under the electrodes' coverage. Though capacitive sensing is a common solution in mobile, the relevant commercial touchscreen solutions cannot be used to measure body tissue, mainly because: 1) the analog precision is typically not enough for tissue activity measurement, 2) more importantly, the operating electro-magnetic field operates at a lower frequency that it permeates mainly only into the air, so conductive objects such as a fingertip can be registered; while for measuring body tissue movement, the field needs to permeate into the tissue. We carried out comprehensive study about the underlying principles. The result forms the guideline both for the mechanical design of fabric sensor and interconnection, and for the analog driving circuit.

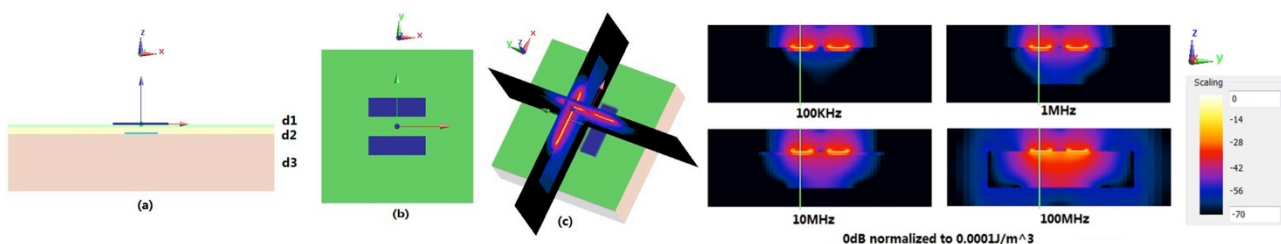


Figure 10 Capacitive sensing body model: energy distribution in human body

II. Modelling resistive sensing

Resistive-based force mapping measures the pressure force distribution on the sensing fabric itself. The measurement of resistance is simply through a voltage divider, which has the features of fast response and small physical component footprint. It therefore allows easy up-scaling of the matrix. However, when taking a matrix of resistors, which are idealized as local resistances of the CarboTex material under the crossings of electrodes, changing of a single resistor will influence the readings of the rest since it is an interconnected matrix. For example, an actively pressed point will lead its entire row to have an offset, which is then corrected on the software level. We have established a comprehensive study of the operation principles.

Simulation Result With Multiple Pressed Points(Cross-Channel Resistance, Ground Inactive, Voltage Unit in Volt)

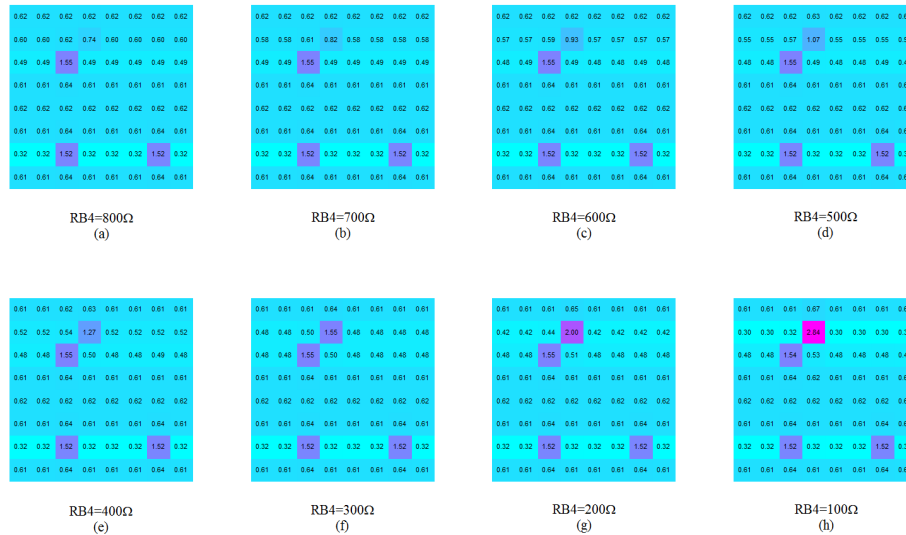


Figure 11 Resistive matrix simulation result with multiple points triggered, which enhances the understanding of channel crosstalk thus contributes to noise suppression on software level

Also along with the development of the prototypes, several practical problems have occurred and renewed our knowledge. For example, while powering up the active electrodes during the scanning, the not-powered active electrodes can either be connected to ground or high impedance. Connecting to ground offers a better mapping result; while in high impedance configuration, “ghosting” effect is more noticeable.

III. Modelling bio-impedance sensing

HB joined the project at project month 7 with already developed biopotential and bio-impedance hardware. The focus is therefore adapting textile electrodes instead of commonly used medical gel electrodes, and integrating the technology into wearable garments, that are linked to the work content in WP1, WP3 and WP4. We performed a comprehensive test and proved that the use of the universal sensing fabric produced by SEFAR, which is already used for resistive and capacitive sensing, is also feasible for bio-impedance measurements.

Outcome: Mechanical and electronic design space of sensors and their physical realization under different application scenarios.

. Analog electronic circuits for those sensing architectures

I. Capacitive sensing hardware

The detailed simulation demonstrated that a high operating frequency (near 20MHz), low noise level and high dynamic range analog circuitry is needed to both cover both the large body movements in human activities and also reveal movement details. We have developed several iterations of the sensing hardware. They all support 4 channels measurement. While the critical components at the analog front-end did not change much, the overall system evolved into a smaller, more energy efficient package.

Version	Month	Descriptions and Major Changes
1.0	M6	4 channel capacitive sensing, 2 staged amplifier; analog, digital control, wireless transmission (Bluetooth) on 3 separated boards
1.1	M18	1 staged amplifier, digital control and wireless transmission (Zigbee) on the same board
2.0	M30	Compact, power efficient final design, analog and digital part on the same board, supporting both BLE and WiFi communication

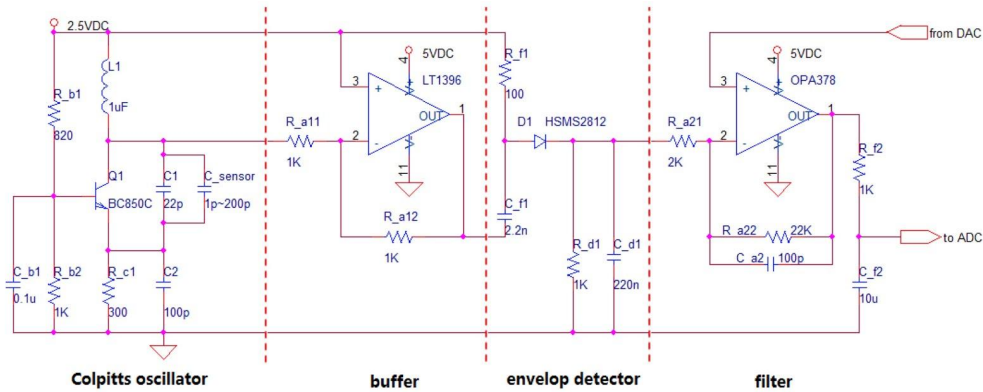


Figure 12 Analog circuitry of the wearable capacitive sensing

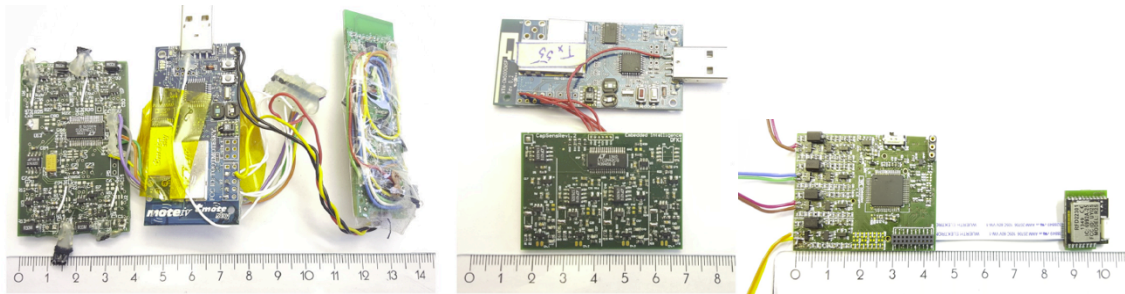


Figure 13 The evolution of capacitive sensing hardware into a smaller, more energy-efficient package

II. Resistive sensing hardware

For resistive sensing, two types of driving schemes are established for different applications, FPGA based for high IO numbers and microcontroller based for compact-size and low power consumption.

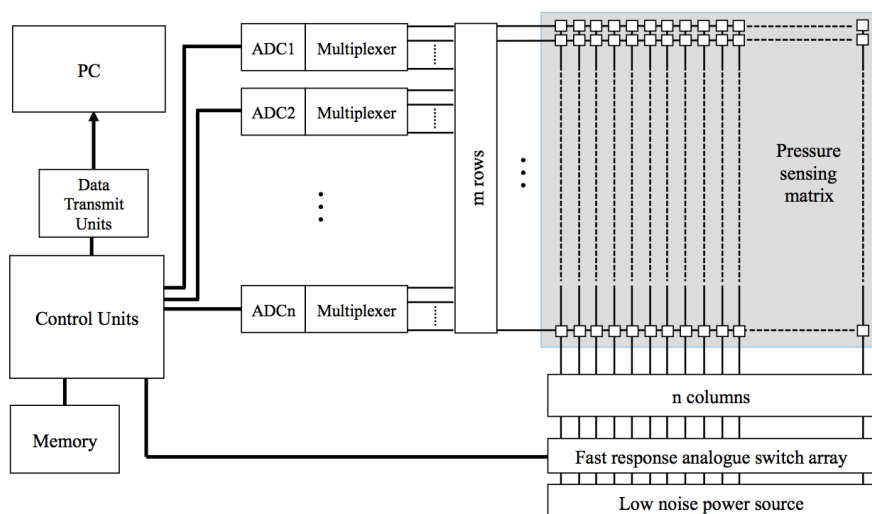


Figure 14 Driving circuitry and system architecture of resistive sensing

The resistive sensing hardware evolved from the 1st proof-of-concept version with developing boards, through 5 iterations to the self-designed, compact, energy-efficient end-designs.

Version	Month	Resolution	Descriptions and Major Changes
1.0	M6	128×128	First large-scale implementation; fast response analog switches to drive active electrodes; fast analog de-multiplexer for channel switching before high speed single channel ADCs
1.1	M12	120×60/120	Use smaller footprint connector (MiniDP), FPGA pins directly drive electrodes.
2.0	M15	32×32	First portable implementation; duo 16-channel high speed ADC; analog multiplexer to drive active electrodes - ghosting effect is obvious.
2.1	M16	32×32	Slim profile, FPGA directly drive active electrodes to rid of ghosting in 2.0; USB-OTG enabled for smartphone based applications
3.0	M24	32×32	Low power microcontroller with integrated ADC; Li-Po battery powered; Bluetooth Classic connection; very small footprint.

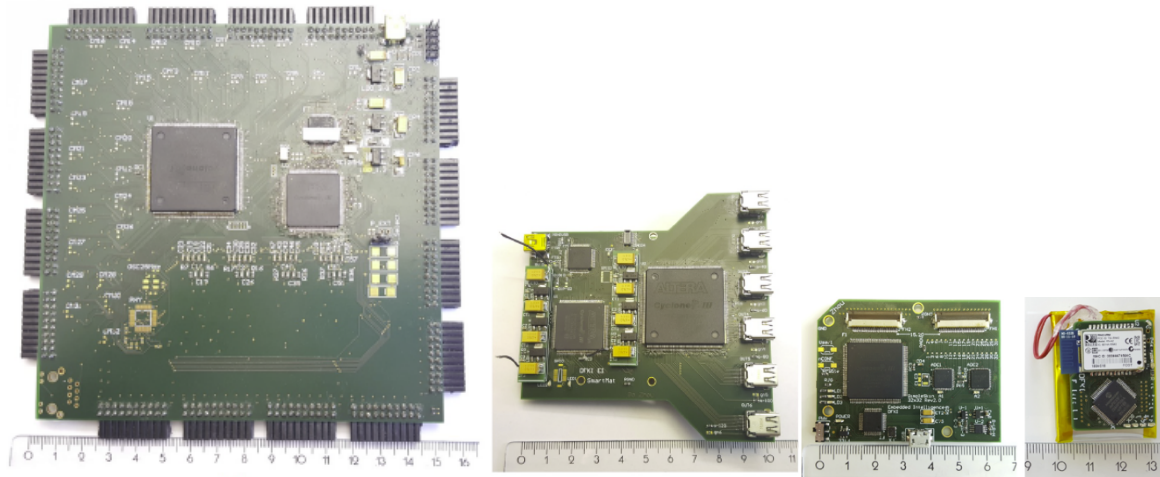


Figure 15 The evolution of resistive sensing hardware into a smaller, more energy efficient package

III. Bio-Impedance and biopotential sensing hardware

Biopotential measurement instrumentation uses a instrumentation amplifier with very high input impedance. The electrical coupling between the skin surface and the measurement electronics is done through the textile electrodes. For electrical bio-impedance measurement, an electrical stimulus needs to be injected into the tissue. Because of the stimulus injection, the interface between the dry electrodes and the skin needs to have small impedance itself. Since the electrode polarization impedance is included in the actual measurement result when, 2 pairs of electrode are used, the 4-electrode measurement technique is required for characterizing the tissue impedance properly. Either a single frequency, or a combination of frequencies can be used, enabling different applications.

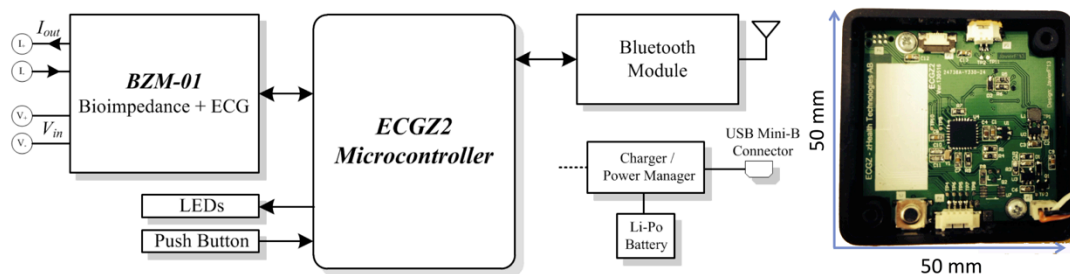


Figure 16 Biopotential and Bio-Impedance Sensing Hardware and Schematics

In addition to the bio-impedance sensing front-end, a 1-channel biopotential amplifier is available for implementing a 1-lead ECG recording.

Outcome: Mature hardware designs for multimodal sensing, that can be easily adapted to new application areas with only small changes

4.1.3.3 WP3 Goal Driven Adaptive Processing

The objectives are realized within 4 sub-work packages: 3.1 Adaptation and Self Organization; 3.2 Digital Signal Processing; 3.3 Model Driven Pattern Analysis; 3.4 Low Power Implementation.

WP 3 Highlights:

- *Configurable hardware structure supporting multiple sensing modalities*
- *General processing chain and pattern analysis combining different sensor modalities*
- *Low-level signal processing algorithm for each sensing modalities*
- *Result demonstrated through various of applications both as ambient and wearable systems*
- *Hardware acceleration allowing scalability to bigger sensing matrices*
- *Selectable low power implementations and high-performance implementations*

More Details: D3.1, D3.2, D3.3

Given textile sensors and analog front-end circuitry that provides raw signals, the next question is how to reveal useful information directly related to basic body action through proper signal processing and organize the hardware in a way that can be flexible configured.

. Set of goal oriented configuration, control and interpretation methods

we developed two reconfiguration and control schemes, to enable reconfiguration on physical layer and on electronic layer.

I. Towards reconfigurable hardware: Building textile circuits using e-textile composites

We first considered the general configurability for embedding tiny component directly into textile. Due to the desirable mechanical properties (e.g. bendability) of flexible electronics and sensors, there has been an increased effort to bring them in the fields of smart textiles. We developed and demonstrated a novel integration approach that creates a composite of flexible electronics and woven textile with conductive fibres. The goal is to develop a programmable textile that can be used to configure a flexible system, e.g. turn on/off sensors or dynamically route signals. The main components of the programmable textile (SRAM cells and multiplexers) are fabricated on a 50 μ m thick freestanding polyimide foil using amorphous-Indium-Gallium-Zinc-Oxide as a semiconductor and packaged in 7mmx7mm encapsulated electronic components. These components are then interconnected using two layers of fabrics that form a grid of orthogonal 280 μ m thick Ag-Cu fibres with a pitch of 750 μ m. This method can be expanded to also other small analog or digital components and serve as a software configurable connection/bus structure for large-scale sensing matrix.

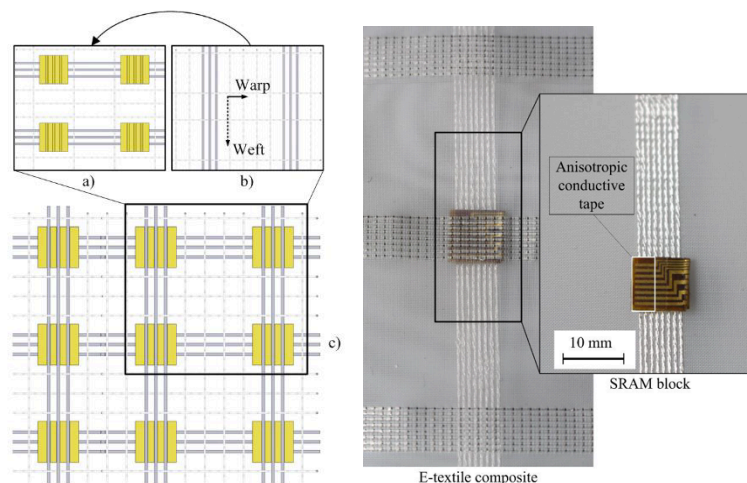


Figure 17 E-Textile Composite: concept and realization with flexible PCB and the universal fabric from WP1

II. Reconfigurable acquisition system for multimodal sensors

We have shown that different sensing modalities - the demonstrator used resistive and capacitive sensing - can be combined into a single textile and signals can be separated using appropriate frequency filtering. However, it was decided by the project partners to keep the sensing hardware separate, since for the applications under investigation, different sensor modalities needed to be employed in different locations on the body. The different modalities are then combined in software to enhance pattern analysis.

Outcome: Configurable hardware structure supporting multiple sensing modalities.

. Digital signal processing algorithms specifically adapted to the sensing principle and the boundary conditions of the universal sensing fabric

I. General data processing chain

A general data processing chain for activity recognition using the raw digital data was established.

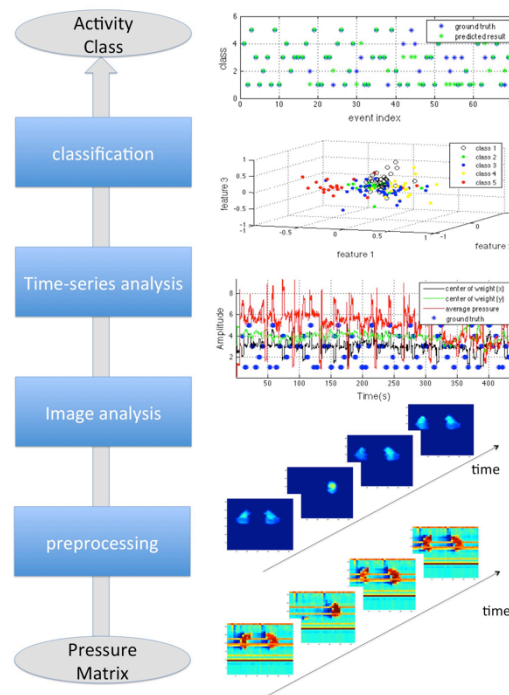


Figure 18 the data processing chain for resistive sensing represents the general data processing procedure

The chain contains 4 steps of processing, namely:

- pre-processing*: which shall move the DC/low-frequency drift component from signal, suppress noise and artifacts specific for the sensing modality (e.g. channel crosstalk, ghosting effect).
- Image analyse*: this is for resistive sensing (one matrix per sample) only, which retrieves abstract, shift and rotation invariant structural characteristics of the pressure distribution over the exact shape of individual objects visible in the pressure distribution frame (e.g. overall weight, centre of weight, contact area, number of contacts, Hu's 7 moments). The output is a vector for each frame, similar to the output of capacitive and bio-impedance sensing (several channel per sample).
- Time-series analysis*: temporal analysis is applied to multivariate time series, in a way similar to what is usually done with IMU signals. Both time domain features (e.g. signal mean, standard deviation and zero cross rate) and frequency domain features (e.g. main frequency, frequency centroid and energy) can be used. When a specific action generates a distinguishable and repeatable pattern, template matching becomes feasible. To handle actions at different speeds, dynamic time warping (DTW) is used.
- Classification*: the final classification is performed on a combination of spatial and temporal features. Both the selection of the features and the specific classification algorithm are application dependent. In

most cases we have found that normalisation of the features using mean and standard deviation from the training dataset can significantly improve the results.

II. Specific processing algorithms

Within the processing chain, proper algorithms for each step are carefully selected and/or developed, for example: contact area extracting algorithm for feet detection and nutrition monitoring application, weighted Dynamic Time Wrapping for sport detection, Differential Dynamic Time Wrapping for head gesture recognition, ConfAdaBoost.M1 algorithm for busting fusion result using multiple classifiers.

III. Motion artifact compensation

We developed on the top of the processing chain an algorithm specifically taking motion artifacts into consideration, which is very prevalent in smart textile application. Classical filtering approaches are often inefficient when dealing with motion artifacts. Considering adaptive filtering, using an additional sensor as artifact reference is often unfeasible in garments, e.g. placing an accelerometer in a neckband. Therefore, an alternative approach is required for reducing motion artifacts in smart garments. We propose a hierarchical concept: the type of artifact (current state) is first detected, which is then used in the information extraction step. This concept is suitable for different artifact sources affecting smart garments, e.g. heart rate as physiological artifact, a certain way of garment displacement, or a certain degree of loosening of the garment. This method is validated with capacitive sensing neckband and the result demonstrates an enhanced recognition rate from the same dataset.

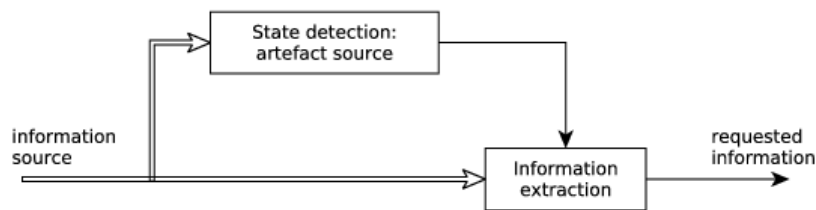


Figure 19 Concept of hierarchical artefact compensation

Outcome: General processing chain and pattern analysis combining different sensor modalities; Low-level signal processing algorithm for each sensing modalities

. Efficient recognition of basic actions and phenomena of human body

Combining the above named technologies, we explored various application scenarios, both as ambient and wearable system. Under most of the scenarios, we achieved efficient recognition rate of above 80%. The applications explored the following areas:

- *Capacitive*: bio-parameters (breathing, pulse) monitoring, nutrition monitoring, head and wrist gesture recognition
- *Resistive*: sport, daily activity recognition, group activity recognition, nutrition monitoring, user identification, gesture recognition.
- *Bio-impedance*: bio-signal recording, nutrition monitoring

We also applied sensor fusion technics to get higher recognition rate in the nutrition monitoring based on the final demonstration prototype (reported in WP1) using all 3 sensing modalities. More details will be reported under WP5.

Outcome: Result demonstrated through various of applications both as ambient and wearable systems

. Low power design and implementation

We investigate into the low-power design on three levels:

I. Choose of hardware

This has been one of the major concerns while designing the ultraportable DAQ platforms. To address power efficiency, we carefully examined the power consumption and selected low power consumption components. Taking the capacitive sensing board V2.0 as example, we carried out the following measures:

- a. MSP430-FR5739 as the microcontroller. It is of a popular ultralow-power microcontroller family. The active mode (all clocks are enabled) consumes $<1\text{mA}$ at 3.0V , and based on different applications, it has several ultralow-power modes that gate off the subsystem that is not in use, which consumes $<10\mu\text{A}$;
- b. The 24-bit high performance ADC supports both high-resolution mode (8.8mW , 2.9mA) and low power mode (6.0mW , 2.0mA);
- c. We dedicate power supply chips with digital enable on/off control to power the analog frontend, therefore when the device goes to standby mode, the stimulus that is required by capacitive/bioimpedance sensing can be turned off;
- d. The overall current consumed by the data acquisition system is 7mA with ECG signal;
- e. Bluetooth Low Energy as the data transmission solution, which consumes up to 15mA . The BLE protocol can transmit 500 sample per second or 62sps when 8 ADC channels are all used. This is sufficient for limited channel numbers as in capacitive and bio-impedance real-time measurement; however, for the resistive matrix structure the bandwidth supports very limited area. To address this, we are currently developing alternative module, which uses Bluetooth Classic protocol or operates in duo-mode.
- f. High capacity Li-Po batteries (560mAh or 1300mAh) which can be found in most modern mobile devices (smartphones and smartwatches) are used to provide power. Therefore, the device supports $>25\text{hr}$ battery life under continuous operation with the smaller battery.

II. Modulated design for switching between performance and power consumption

Wireless transmission is the part that consumes most energy in compact wearable platforms. We thus separate the transmission module out from the data acquisition part. User can easily select between performance and power consumption by physically plugging in the corresponding communication module and selecting the software driver.

In general, the power consumption grows with data rate. We achieved in most cases a continuous running time of above 8 hours for low data rate applications (capacitive/bio-impedance) and above 2 hours for high data rate applications (resistive sensing), which is enough for working a whole day or for a session then leaving the device for charging or switching battery.

Communication	Data rate	Power consumption	Power through
Wireless, BLE	Very low	Very low	battery
Wireless, Bluetooth	low	low	battery
Wireless, WiFi	High	High	battery
Wired, USB	High	High	either directly through USB wire or separately

III. hardware based data process acceleration

To enable data processing on consumer devices (e.g. smart phone) and to consume as little energy and processing resource on such devices as possible, we investigated into hardware-accelerated data processing. We propose a FPGA based processing methodology, which not only accelerates sensing data processing but also reduces the raw data size. The development time for FPGA designs is greatly reduced thanks to the usage of an abstracted high-level synthesis approach. This system is validated using data from the resistive sensing matrix but this strategy can be easily applied to other sensing arrays and grids.

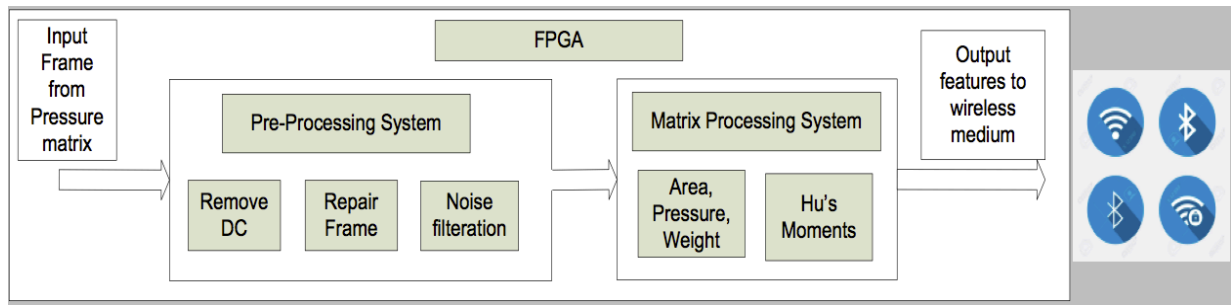


Figure 20 Hardware acceleration scheme: moving pre-processing and image analyse into FPGA

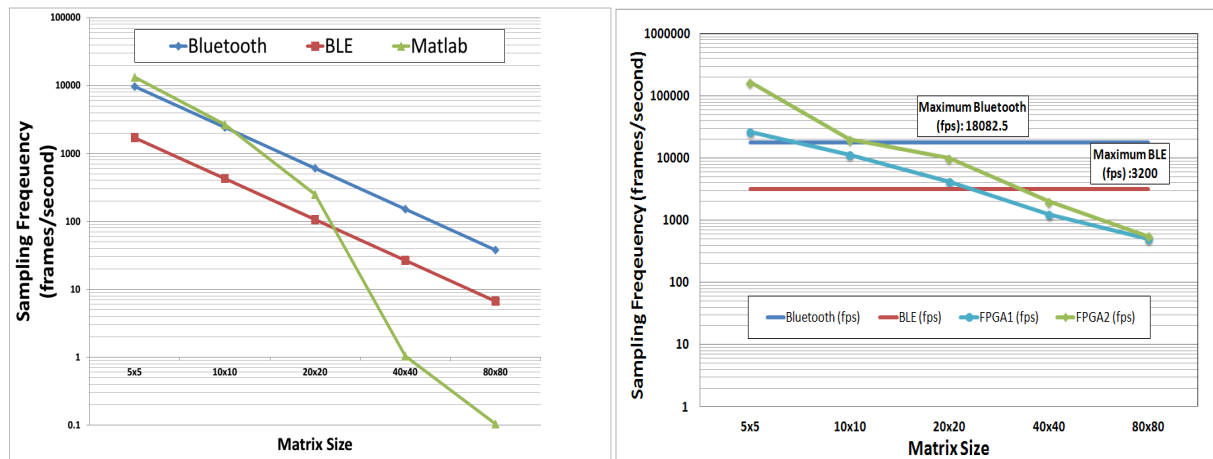


Figure 21 Data processing speed without (left) and with(right) FPGA acceleration demonstrates clearly the advantage in the number of frames that can be processed real-timely per second

Outcome: Hardware acceleration allowing scalability to bigger sensing matrices and energy efficient real-time processing on wearable devices; Selectable low power implementations and high-performance implementations

4.1.3.4 WP4 Garment Operating System

The Objectives are realized within 3 sub-work packages: 4.1 Drivers and Abstractions; 4.2 Application Programmer Interface and Templates; 4.3 Application Development Support.

WP 4 Highlights:

- Comprehensive understanding of the requirements on Garment OS as a middle layer between the hardware platforms and the APP developers
- A general architecture allowing software configurable sensor system
- Self organizing application runtime environment with dynamic driver loader and easy interface
- A user friendly Garment OS based on the Android platform was realized, thus enabling application developers to reuse various existing features
- Evaluations performed in a multitude of applications as well as user tests
- Understandings on openness and privacy concerns of end users

More Details: D4.1, D4.2, D4.3, D5.2

Once hardware and customized data processing algorithms are ready, the next question is how to push the technology developed in the project to a broader community, to free APP developers with programming

knowledge only (no physics, signal processing, or hardware knowledge required). The Garment OS serves here as the middle layer.

. Abstraction layer allowing software configurable sensor system

I. Requirements exploration

In the 1st project year, we worked towards the understanding on the Garment OS and made the first steps towards it. The partners discussed how the different viewpoints can be unified to create a common abstraction. Here we focused on the one hand on understanding the core requirements of the overall SimpleSkin system and, on the other hand, on possible architectures for the overall system as well as possible ways for utilizing specific parts such as the output channel. We organize a workshop on Smart Garments at ISWC, the leading scientific conference on wearable computing. This event aims at bringing together researchers and practitioners discussing different challenges and opportunities for integrating sensors and actuators into garments as well as to identify application scenarios and explore different ways of interacting with smart garments. We see this workshop and the prior engagement with the community as an effective way of understanding the state of the art and the current research topics. Additionally, the workshop contributed to a comprehensive understanding of the requirements for a generic API.

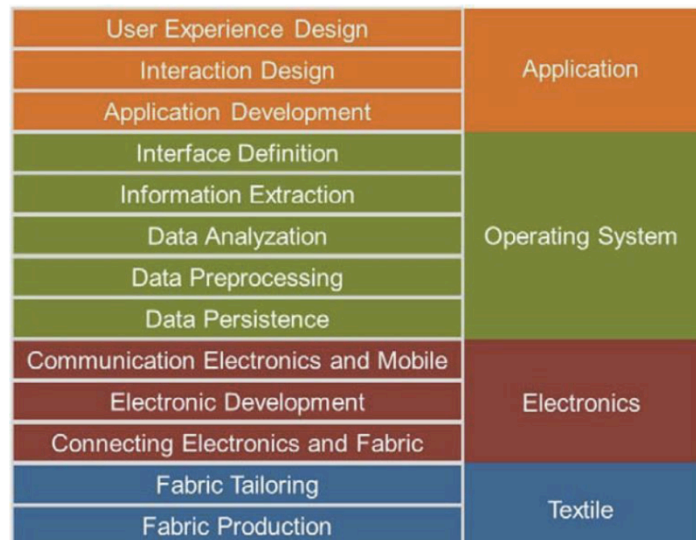


Figure 22 The main expertise necessary for developing a mobile system utilizing smart textile

II. Garment OS Architecture

Based on the knowledge gathered, we built the Garment OS final structure, mainly divided into three parts: 1) the Garment OS Service, 2) the Settings Application, and 3) the Garment OS SDK. The kernel part is the Garment OS service. It handles the connection of sensors and actuators via Bluetooth and BLE, persists the incoming sensor data, and allows sending data to actuators. The main user interaction takes place in the Settings Application in which the user can connect sensors and actuators. The Settings Application connects to the Garment OS SDK similar to applications developed by application developers via an API.

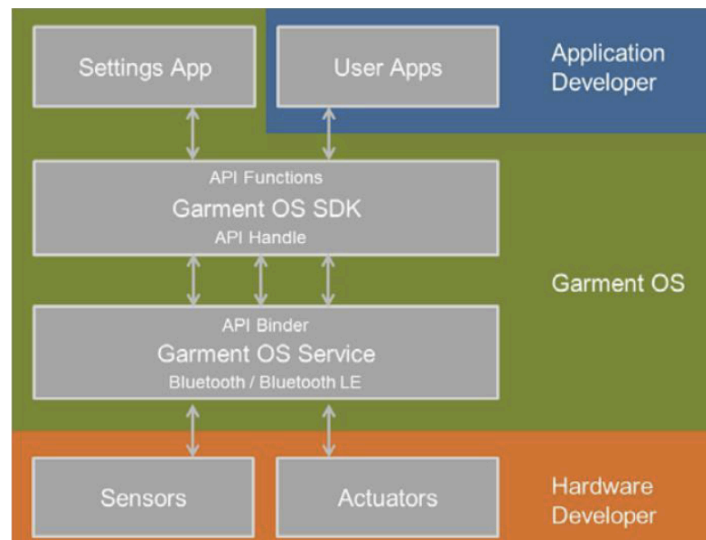


Figure 23 Conceptual architecture of the Garment OS

Outcome: comprehensive understanding of the requirements on Garment OS as a middle layer between the hardware platforms and the APP developers; A general architecture allowing software configurable sensor system

. Self organizing application runtime environment that allows multiple apps to make use of the garment as a sensing resource

I. Service layer for hardware managing

The main part of the Garment OS Service runs as a service in the background and handles the sensors, persistence, communication and visualization. The output of this Service layer is packed and made available to the user Apps.

- a) **Connectivity:** communication between the Garment OS and the external sensors and actuators. Current mobile phones offer a variety of different communication methods, most prominently Near Field Communication (NFC), Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth. Each of these methods has its own specific advantages and disadvantages. We have mainly focused on Bluetooth (using the Serial Port Profile) and BLE connections as the default way of communication.
- b) **Persistence:** The amount of data created using garment-based wearable sensors is huge. Thus, persisting the data for long-term use as well as for analysis using larger time windows is mandatory. We store all data generated by sensors first on the user's mobile phone via text files. We implemented also three cloud services, namely for Dropbox, OneDrive, and Google Drive. Before uploading the files to the cloud service, they are packed and encrypted to ensure that the data is secure and the privacy of the user is preserved.
- c) **Driver:** Different garment-based sensors have different data formats. Thus, we developed a driver for each sensor that interprets the received data stream and extracts the values. Further, each driver implements a number of specific interfaces. These interfaces define which information can be extracted from a sensor. In general, drivers are dynamically loaded at runtime. When the driver is successfully loaded, the method is immediately invoked to potentially set up sensor properties. Then, the method is loaded and passed to the thread that executes the method as soon as new data is received. The method encodes the received data and extracts information. The drivers used for the actuators send strings to the actuators. These strings can be simple strings (e.g., "heart rate 90") or serialized matrices of vectors (e.g., for LED matrix). The simple strings are pre-defined within the Garment OS.

```

private boolean initializeDriver() {
    try {
        mDriver = Class.forName("de.ustutt.vis.wearable.os.sensorDriver."
                                + mSensor.getDriverName());
        mReceiver = mDriver.newInstance();
        Method sendInitData = mDriver.getMethod("sendInitData",
                                                  OutputStream.class);
        sendInitData.invoke(mReceiver, mOutputStream);
        mEncodeData = mDriver.getMethod("encodeData", String.class);
    } catch (Exception e) {
        Log.e(TAG, "Failed to initialize driver: " + e.getLocalizedMessage());
        return false;
    }
    Log.i(TAG, "Driver " + mSensor.getDriverName() + " for sensor "
           + mSensor.getSensorName() + " initialized");
    return true;
}

```

Figure 24 Drivers are dynamically loaded at runtime

II. Settings App enables easy hardware configuration

In order to enable the end user to easily control the Garment OS, we developed an Android application. The user can manage preferences such as privacy, persistence, or the used sensors and actuators. The Settings Application uses a specific API that has additional functionality compared to the regular application API such as management functions for the sensors and actuators.

- Manage Sensors and Actuators:** The view presents a list of available devices. The user can add new devices, enable existing devices, remove existing devices, or view device details. The device detail view presents information about the device and visualizes the current sensor values.
- Manage Privacy:** the user can select which application is allowed to access certain devices. The user chooses the device based on the information level requested by an application. This also makes sure that the user has all necessary sensors and actuators for an application.
- Manage Storage:** the user can upload the measured sensor data to cloud services (with encryption enabled or disabled) or save them to the local file system.

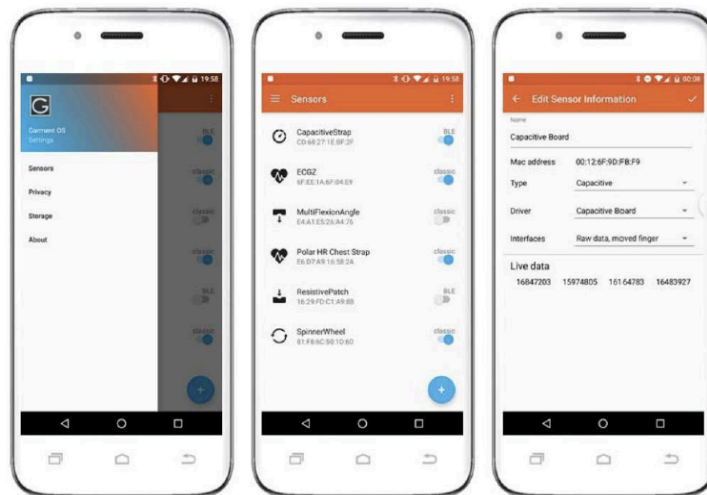


Figure 25 Different views of the settings application of the Garment OS:
The main menu (left), sensors view (middle) and the sensor information view (right)

Outcome: Self organizing application runtime environment with dynamic driver loader and easy interface for that

. API allowing the development of sensing apps independent of a garment specific sensing configurations

The SDK provides an API to connect applications to events (i.e., using call-backs), to get the current value of sensors (i.e., polling), or to send data to actuators. Further, it includes a developer module to support novice developers. We developed an API that can be used by the application developer to create applications for

the garment OS. While these functions cover a large set of typical sensors and actuators, specific sensors might need different functions and, thus, the API could need to be extended in future. In general, the API is divided into two parts: one consisting of calls that return the sensor and actuator objects themselves, this way developers can use the sensor objects to access their values and the actuator objects to send information to them; the other has predefined functions for returning popular information such as heart rate and step count.

We implemented a cross-platform software stack that applications written for different SimpleSkin devices can run on. The engine provides several key features:

- Command line interface
- Live plotting / animation of incoming sensor data
- Raw data recording and reprocessing (playback)
- Data recording as CSV for export/offline processing
- Streaming data via TCP to a network connected device for online/offline processing
- Cross-platform interoperability

```
interface IGarmentAPI {
    void registerApp(String app);
    void registerCallback(String app, IGarmentCallback cb, int ID);
    void unregisterCallback(String app, IGarmentCallback cb, int ID);
    PSensor[] API_getAllSensors(String app);
    PSensor[] API_getAllSensorsByType(String app, int sensorType);
    PSensor API_getSensorById(String app, int id);

    // Functions for the App to get the default Sensor
    PSensor API_getECGSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getHeartRateSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getTemperatureSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getBioImpedanceSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getBioPotentialSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getPressureSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getPressureMatrixSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getCapacitiveSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getTwoDSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getAccelerometerSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getGPSSensor(String app);
    PSensor API_getDefaultSensorByType(String app, int sensortype);

    // Functions for the apps to get the sensor values from their default
    sensors
    PSensorData API_getECG(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getHeartRate(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getTemperature(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getBioImpedance(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getBioPotential(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getMaxPressurePoint(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getCapacitiveValues(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_get2DPoint(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getLastGesture(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getSkeleton(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getAccelerometer(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getPressure(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getGPS(String app, int numValues);
    PSensorData API_getDefaultValues(String app, int numValues, int
        sensortype);

    // Function calls forward to Sensor object
    boolean SENSORS_SENSOR_isEnabled(String app, int sid);
    boolean SENSORS_SENSOR_isConnected(String app, int sid);
    boolean SENSORS_SENSOR_connectSensor(String btMac, String driverName,
        boolean on);
    String SENSORS_SENSOR_getDisplayedSensorName(String app, int sid);
    String SENSORS_SENSOR_getDriverName(String app, int sid);
    int SENSORS_SENSOR_getSampleRate(String app, int sid);
    int SENSORS_SENSOR_getSensorType(String app, int sid);
    PSensorData SENSORS_SENSOR_getRawData(String app, int sid);
}
```

Figure 26 Excerpt of the API from the Android AIDL

Outcome: A Garment OS based on the Android platform was realized, thus enabling application developers to reuse various existing features

. User friendly development environment for textile sensing apps based on building block approach

We have always kept user friendliness in mind when developing and implementing the above methods.

In the first 2 years, we proposed and evaluated an initial set of methods of Garment OS on simple prototypes with one sensing modalities. In the last year, we extended the set of applicable algorithms not only for single sensing modality application, but with all 3 sensing modalities. For example, we used the final demonstration shirt with all 3 sensing modalities and validated the development of nutrition monitoring APPs based on the Garment OS.

On the top of validation on SimpleSkin hardware prototypes, we dressed also the necessity of exploring the user's knowledge of what can be actually inferred by sharing personal data. We performed first a literature review on wearable sensors and the information that can be derived from them, then carried out an online survey to assess users' willingness to share information from their wearables. Our survey was completed by 249 participants (127 male, 115 female, 7 did not specify). We looked into three aspects: willingness to share, sharing raw sensor data vs. Derived information, to whom the information can be shared.

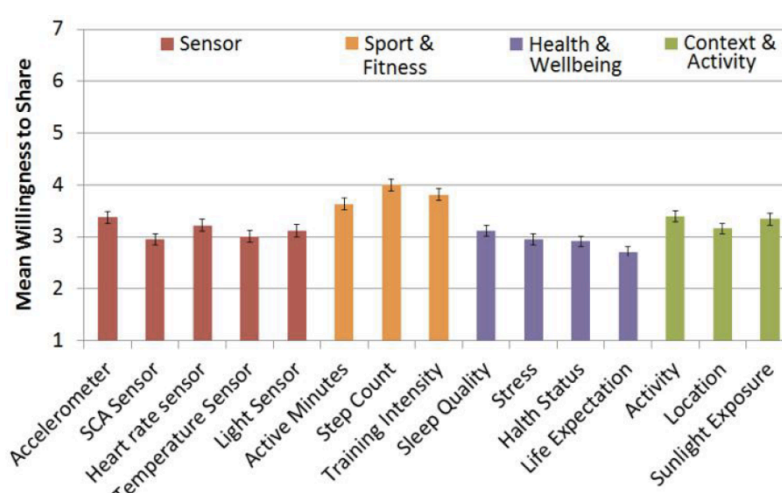


Figure 27 One of the results from the on-line survey demonstrates to what degree users would like to share different types of data and information

Outcome: user friendly Garment OS validated by two applications and enhanced by understandings on openness and privacy concerns

4.1.3.5 WP5 Application Development and Case Studies

The Objectives are realized within 4 sub-workpackages: 5.1 Case Study - Adaptive Activity Recognition; 5.2 Case Study – Long-term precise nutrition Monitoring; 5.3 Case Study - Versatile Generic Human Computer Interface; 5.4 Open Application Challenge.

WP 5 Highlights:

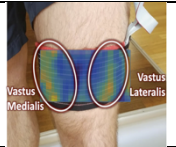

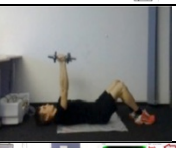



- Adaptive activity recognition using the resistive pressure matrix
- Realization of nutrition monitoring using multiple SimpleSkin sensors
- Different interaction techniques for capacitive and resistive sensors realizing various application scenarios
- Integrated prototypes with multiple sensing apps in a single garment
- Workshops with hand-on sessions to realize certain applications
- Seminar developed for students with ready-to-use hardware and data mining library

More Details: D5.1, D5.2

With the universal fabrics (WP1), the sensing platforms (WP2), the data processing technologies (WP3) and the Garment OS (WP4) as a middleware, in WP5 we demonstrated with a large variation of applications our proposed smart textile system in activity recognition, in nutrition monitoring, in human computer interaction. We also validated the open application challenges through workshops with researchers and prepared seminar for students who will be the future researchers and work forces on smart textile.

. Leverage the envisioned platform for novel forms of human activity recognition

Though the project years we validated the following human activity recognition with the smart garment, an overview of explored applications are list below.

Sensing Technology	Physical principle	Context recognized	Potential domain	
<i>Wearable muscle activity monitoring in gym exercise</i>				
Resistive matrix	Surface pressure changes between the skin and an elastic sport support band	Muscle behaviour: Type and repeat of exercises, workout quality (force pattern variation and consistency)	Sport, healthcare	
<i>SmartShoe for football kicking monitoring</i>				
Resistive matrix	Surface pressure changes on the shoe when shooting the ball	Type and direction of kicking, the pressure change on fabric	Sport, sport shoes manufacturer	
<i>Smart-Mat for gym exercises evaluation</i>				
Resistive matrix	Surface pressure changes between the body and sport mat	Type and repeat of exercises, workout quality (balance, speed, consistency)	Sport, healthcare	
<i>Smart-CarSeat for monitoring the driver's activity</i>				
Resistive matrix	Surface pressure changes between the body and the seat	Driver body posture and activity, identity, active level	Car industry, security	
<i>Smart-Floor for in-door localization</i>				
Resistive matrix	Surface pressure changes between the feet and the ground	People's identity and location, furniture's location	Location-based service, security	
<i>Smart-Floor for upper body activity recognition</i>				
Resistive matrix	Surface pressure changes between the feet and the ground	Interaction of a person's upper body with furniture	Work support, security	

Outcome: Adaptive activity recognition using the resistive pressure matrix

. Develop and demonstrate new approaches to long-term precise nutrition monitoring

We started nutrition monitoring with capacitive sensing and expanded step by step to the final demonstrator, where all 3 sensing modalities are used.

I. Nutrition monitoring with capacitive neckband

Capacitive neckband was developed with 4 channels to detect the structural change of the neck, that is directly related to swallow. We demonstrated first in a controlled lab environment, how head and neck related events (e.g. swallowing, head motion) can be detected. We then moved to data recording during every day activities and demonstrated that while the detection of individual swallows and head motion may work poorly in real life data streams, a statistical distribution of swallow frequency, time between swallows and head motion can be detected reliably enough to be a good indication of certain activities. In a data set of 138 hours recorded from 3 participants we are able to detect 24 out of 25 big (breakfast, lunch, dinner) meals with just 3 false positives. When smaller meals (e.g. eat a banana) are included, we detect 46 out of 64

with 136 false positives. Beyond eating, the next interesting result is the ability to distinguish between just being absolutely quiet (no motion) and actually sleeping, as periodic “empty swallows” occur more seldom when a person is sleeping.

II. Nutrition monitoring with resistive table-cloth

We investigated the pressure distribution on the surface underneath the plate from which the food is eaten. The core idea is that such pressure information can also be used to distinguish various cutlery related activities such as cutting, poking, stirring or scooping. We showed how to spot such individual actions in a continuous data stream, assign them to specific containers (main plate, salad bowl), count them (e.g. how many bites were taken), and relate them to different abstract categories of food. We presented the results of a comprehensive study with 10 participants, each having consumed a total of 8 meals chosen from 17 possible main dishes (divided into four categories according to the predominant cutlery action involved) combined with 6 possible side dishes (divided into 2 categories).

III. Nutrition monitoring with the final demonstrator shirt with all 3 sensing modalities

As the final demonstrator, which shall combine and present progresses of all WPs, we integrated low-profile collars on upper-body shirts with three types of sensors: capacitance sensor, bio-impedance sensor, and resistance based pressure sensor, and used this shirt for nutrition monitoring.

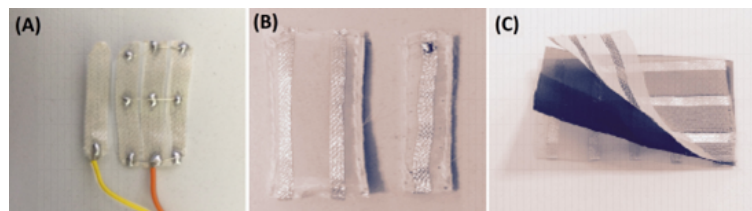


Figure 28 Three sensors made of the same textile:

A) capacitance sensor plate, B) bio-impedance electrodes, C) resistance sensor patch.

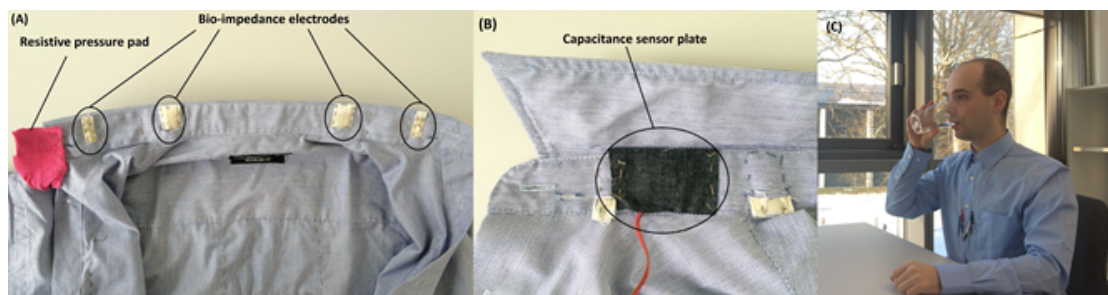


Figure 29 The shirt collar with 3 sensing modalities used for nutrition monitoring:

A) inner surface of the collar, B) outer surface of the collar, C) measurement scenario with the shirt

We used the bio-impedance data and the resistance data recorded from 3 out of the 10 participants under laboratory condition in a pilot study to detect swallows. Afterwards, we extended the study to all the 10 participants and merged data of the three sensor types for swallow detection. Averagely 93% of the swallows were detected and with a precision of 85%. Further analysis of the full 10 participant dataset in laboratory and free-living conditions are on-going. In particular, promising results for the fusion of the three sensor sources were obtained and shall be extended in further work.

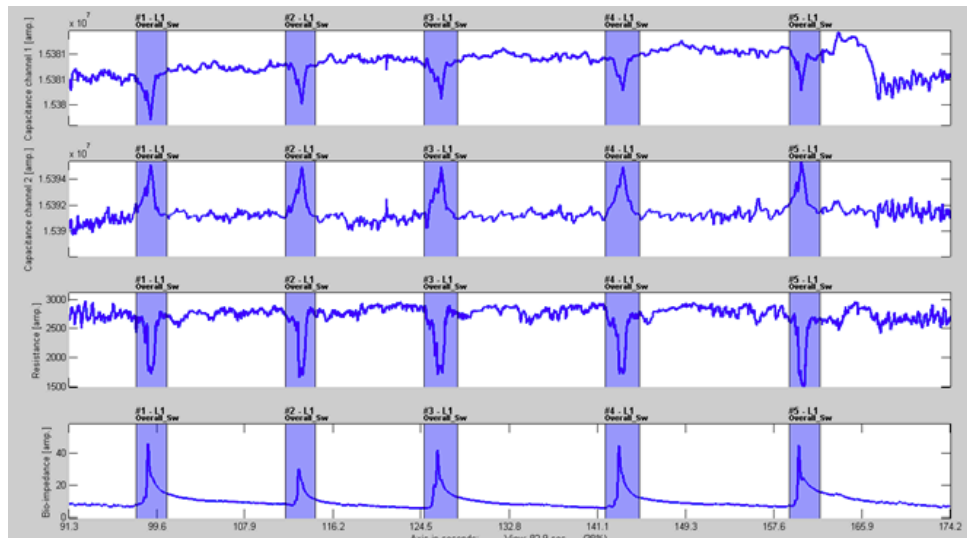



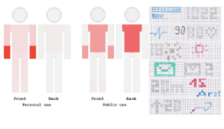
Figure 30 Example swallowing signals: from top to bottom, capacitance channel 1, capacitance channel 2, resistance, and bio-impedance. The swallows are labelled out with purple segments

Outcome: Realization of nutrition monitoring using multiple SimpleSkin sensors

. Extract, model and demonstrate new human computer interaction paradigms enabled through sensing garments

Though the project years we validated the following human computer interaction paradigms with the smart garment, the overview of explored applications is given below.

Sensing Technology	Taxonomy	Description	Picture
<i>Navigation: cruise control for pedestrians</i>			
Electric muscle stimulation (EMS)	Contextual input @ external system → physical output @ lower body legs	As a new kind of pedestrian navigation paradigm that primarily addresses the human motor system rather than cognition, we propose the concept of actuated navigation. Instead of delivering navigation information, we provide an actuation signal using EMS that is processed directly by the human locomotion system and affects a change of direction.	
<i>Controlling smart watches using fabric-based sensors</i>			
Capacitive wristband	Physical input @ upper body hands → visual output @ upper body arms	We propose using capacitive sensors integrated into the watchstrap to enable single hand and hand-free interaction. We elicited gestures to control the watch by conducting a user-defined gesture study.	
<i>Hands-free gesture control with a capacitive textile neckband</i>			
Capacitive neckband	Physical input @ neck → visual output @ external system	We present the neckband for hands-free gesture controlled user interfaces allowing continuous unobtrusive head movement monitoring. We explore the capability of the proposed system for recognising head gestures and postures.	
<i>Automotive domain applications</i>			
Bio-impedance sensors	Physiological input @ upper body torso → contextual output @ external system	We propose detecting the physiological state of the driver via bio-impedance sensors using signals such as heart and breathing rate. These vitals can be continuously monitored and the driver can be alerted to stop or take a break when there are any problems or a high workload.	
<i>Implicit engagement detection for interactive museums using brain-computer interfaces</i>			

EEG Felt-based sensors	Physiological input @ head → visual output @ systems	We provide a rich and more personalized museum experience using implicit input from Brain Computer Interfaces (BCI). EEG signals are used to detect visitor engagement in exhibits, which is then used to build a recommender system that suggests similar exhibits or routes that the visitor could take for a personalized and more engaging experience.	
<i>Fabric-based touch input</i>			
Resistive matrix	Touch input on-body or ambient → control information for external system	Touch sensitive fabrics allow making each piece of clothing to be fully touch enabled similar to the displays of these devices. Thus, the input that is currently performed on the mobile device can also be performed on clothing.	
<i>Visual Output</i>			
On-body display prototype	Visual output	We explore at which location potential users prefer on-body displays for either personal or public usage. In addition, we explore different visualizations for each of the application scenarios.	
<i>Interaction with public displays using smart garments</i>			
Resistive sensors, Bend sensors	Physical input @ upper body torso → visual output @ external system	We mimic the input that is nowadays sensed by depth cameras by using sensor patches at the user's joints. We first compare both sensors with baselines such as the Microsoft Kinect then explore different interaction techniques including gesture input and pointing input.	
<i>Secure authentication utilizing EMS</i>			
Soft fabric Electric Muscle Stimulation (EMS) electrodes	Contextual input @ external system → physical output @ upper body arms	We propose utilizing EMS as a mean to send cues between the user and the system that only the user perceives without producing acoustic or visual feedback. We use EMS to stimulate the user's muscles in certain patterns, which indicate a number that can be added to the current PIN input.	
<i>Textile-based brain computer interface for mobile interactions</i>			
Conductive textile electrodes	Input @ upper body head → visual output @ external system	we propose using Brain Computer Interfaces (BCI) in everyday life for mobile interaction, using textile electrodes developed within SimpleSkin to design a head cap (winter cap/sport cap) that can detect EEG from the brain as well as EMG and EOG from the facial muscles and the eyes.	

Outcome: Different interaction techniques for capacitive and resistive sensors realizing various application scenarios

. Show in an integrated prototype applications combining multiple sensing apps in a single garment

The integration is best shown by the two sensor shirts we developed in the 2nd and 3rd project year. Both combine all 3 sensing modalities (the 1st shirt used partially the universal fabric, while the 2nd makes full usage of the universal fabric for all 3 sensing modalities). Based on these two shirts multiple sensing applications were explored. Most of the above named applications in human activity recognition, nutrition monitoring and human computer interaction, have been validated using these two shirts or using technologies that can be easily integrated onto the shirts.

Outcome: integrated prototypes with multiple sensing apps in a single garment

. Demonstrate the developers ability to envision and implement new application concepts and specific sensing apps for sensing enabled garments

The developers ability to envision and implement new application is greatly shown by the large number of applications we explored within only 3 years (as listed above). These were majored done by researchers and

the students working for the project. The work were carried out by people on all level, not only by Ph.D. candidates who fully engaged themselves onto the topic, but also by master students who dug into one specific application within only 6 months. At the latest stage of the project, master students (student assistants working on 10 hours/week base) were also able to develop SimpleSkin systems utilizing ready hardware design and software algorithms, developed by the experience researchers, and create their own design and applications.

Beyond project members, we aim at enabling more generic community to easily develop smart textile application.

For that purpose we started in 2015 investing into the application challenge, which shall provide a lot of insights and help for the system development. This first version of the application challenge will help us to: 1) increase the usability, 2) find bugs and missing parts, and 3) get insights into how to conduct application challenge events. Therefore, we conducted a workshop at Mobile HCI conference 2015 that focuses on creating applications for wearable devices (<http://blog.hcilab.org/frommobiletowearable>). We chose this venue because of the wide focus of mobile interaction since we hope to get new ideas that can be realized with the SimpleSkin system. The main part of this workshop was a hands-on session in which participants developed application based on the garment OS developed in WP4. We provided a number of garment-based sensors and actuators mostly developed within this project. However, we do not want to limit the participants to garment based sensors and actuators and also provided other such as accelerometer, displays, or simple buttons.

Heading the end of the project, we worked towards an open-access developer kit. A screenshot for the library is given below and more detail can be found in section 4.2, part B2, “General textile sensing platform for research community”.

Resistive Sensing Documentation

Search this site

Navigation

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Definition list
- 3. Reading Data
 - loadConfig
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- 4. Preprocessing
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 - Video labelling tool
- 6. Feature Calculation
 - calcFrameFeatures
 - calcHuMoment
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- 7. Training / Test split
- 8. Classifier / Model generation
- 9. Evaluation
 - Gesture recognition : Use case
 - Sitemap

1. Introduction

This document describes the structural details of the framework which can be used to perform classification experiments with resistive sensing matrix. This document describes details of various aspects of framework. It gives a step by step approach to conduct an experiment using this framework. The entire process of performing a classification experiment can be broken down to the following steps. For the ease of use each of the steps have been broken down to basic data operation tasks. Each steps have been described as what operation is taking place at certain step and its syntax. Steps until Feature calculation are run separately for each text file. Once features have been calculated for all instances further steps training and test set split, model generation and evaluation are done.

```

graph LR
    A[Reading Data] --> B[Preprocessing]
    B --> C[Ground truth generation]
    C --> D[Feature calculation]
    D --> E[Training / Test set split]
    E --> F[Classifier / Model generation]
    F --> G[Evaluation]
  
```

Fig1 "Flow diagram of a classification experiment"

Figure 31 On-line documentation on application workflow and help files for a ready-to-use library

Outcome: Workshop with hand-on sessions to realize certain applications; Seminar developed for students with ready-to-use hardware and data mining library

4.1.4 The potential impact

Highlights:

- 42 scientific publications
- 1 Ph. D. thesis, 17 bachelor/master theses
- 2 industry projects utilizing SimpleSkin results
- 1 long-term partnership with Volkswagen DataLab
- 1 start-up in plan, with knowledge gathered in Lean Launchpad Pilot program and plan for proposal to FET Innovation Launchpad
- demos to general public at Cebit'15,16, Girl's day and etc.
- news coverage from Bayerischer Rundfunk, Rhein-Zeitung, DW.de and many more

More Details: D6.1, D6.2, D6.3

4.1.4.1 Socio-Economic Impact

. Industrial Cooperation:

Within the 3 project years, the partners have successfully attracted attention from industry and realized technology-transfer through 4 industry projects. These projects demonstrate the initial application of SimpleSkin project in a broader area. 3 of these projects are with car industry, 1 project is with measurement instruments manufacturer. All 3 cooperation between DFKI with industry were realized in the format of technology-transfer, where one prototype with SimpleSkin sensing modalities for a concrete application was developed for the industry partner. The 1st industry project begins already in the first project year and locates mainly in the 2nd and 3rd project years.

- Project 1: Smart Car Seat (Term I)

Industry partner: Volkswagen DataLab

Period: 05-12.2014

Format: technology transfer

Content: DFKI takes the general pressure sensitive fabric technology developed in SimpleSkin to develop the prototype of a smart car seat, which is able to detect driver's body posture and activity level. The system shall help the smart car react more properly according to the driver's status (e.g. slow down when the driver turns around to car the baby).

Result: the prototype and the program was successfully delivered. Following project and long-term cooperation merged based on this cooperation.

- Project 2: Smart Car Seat (Term II)

Industry partner: Volkswagen DataLab

Period: 11-12.2015

Format: technology transfer

Content: DFKI continues the work on car seat with pressure sensitive fabric, and develop the algorithm and user interface to detect the user identity (who is sitting on the car seat). The system shall provide an unobtrusive method for 1) personalized service in car; 2) additional security check on the driver.

Result: the prototype and the program was successfully delivered.

- Project 3: Demonstrator Future Truck Seat with Smart Textile

Industry partner: Johnson Control Components GmbH & Co. KG

Period: 04.2015-03.2016

Format: technology transfer

Content: DFKI implement a ready-to-use prototype with textile resistive sensing for body pressure distribution and as control panel, textile capacitive sensing for respiration detection, textile display for information feedback. The prototype shall be demonstrated on a workshop or at the company and pictures and videos shall be provided to the company for future use.

Result: the prototype was successfully demonstrated.

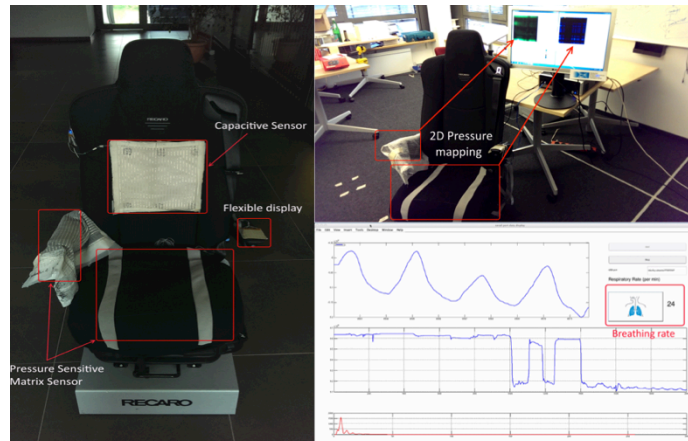


Figure 32 System Setup for Project 3 Demonstrator Future Truck Seat

- Project 4: Sensor analysis

Industry partner: Thyracont Instruments

Content: Sensor analysis project sponsored by company was implemented and concluded.

Result: further project under planned.

- Long-term partnership with DataLab Volkswagen

The cooperation between DFKI and DataLab Volkswagen starts from the Smart Car Seat project, which is a direct result from SimpleSkin project. The long-term partnership was fixed in Jan. 2015. The innovation IT-solutions of “Big Data” and “Internet of Things” are to be developed with this close cooperative partnership. Details can be found on DFKI website: <http://goo.gl/adbfCr>

. Ethical Impact:

On one hand, the involvement of human subjects in SimpleSkin project is prevalent, on the other hand, most of the involvements stay on a small scale and the experiments are designed as close to natural life as possible, because it is also the interest of researchers in the field of Human Computer Interaction and Ubiquitous Computing to have the data recording scenario as similar as possible (if not directly from) to natural life and to project as little burden as possible to the subjects. The worst feedback reported by the subjects are like: the experiment was tiring (in sport monitoring), or, I ate a little bit too much (in nutrition monitoring).

We have followed the practical framework for Ethics of project pd-net (<http://pd-net.org/ethics/>), a FP7 project where Uni. Stuttgart participated, as discussed and decided in the project meetings of the 1st year. The following templates were created and made accessible to general public on SimpleSkin website (<http://simpleskin.org/?ethics>). The full content can be found in Appendix II to the deliverables.

- Procedures for Volunteer Studies
- Procedures for Public Trials
- SimpleSkin Ethics Primer
- SimpleSkin Ethical Worksheet
- SimpleSkin Project Overview (to be handed out to experiment volunteers)
- Informed Consent
- Guide to Secure Data Storage

4.1.4.2 Dissemination Activities and Exploitation Results

Scientific publications

SimpleSkin has achieved outstanding publication success and has far exceeded the dissemination targets initially set. In total we published **42 peer-reviewed papers** including top. We actively participated create community of researchers by organizing workshops and promoting research on smart textile at high ranked conferences. The full publication list and the full content can be found in Appendix I to the deliverables.

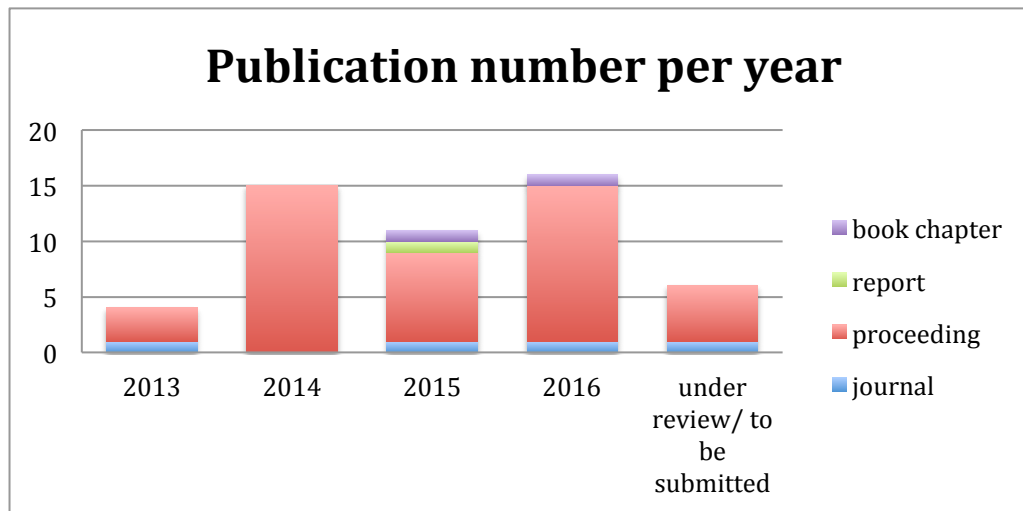


Figure 33 Publication amount overview

On average 2.2 publications per partner per year is achieved.

The majority of publications were published in conference proceedings, which is common in the field of Computer Science and for some of conferences where we published, the acceptance rates are as low as 10%-25% (UbiComp, CHI, ISWC, PerCom). The number of publications is stable through the 3 year, with a burst of accepted and to be submitted papers at the end of the project (4 in the 6 months of 2013, 15 in 2014, 11 in 2015, 16 in the 6 months of 2016, and 6 under review or to be submitted).

The electronic copies of all these publications can be found both in Appendix I and on the SimpleSkin Website. The papers accepted at conferences were or are going to be presented to the research communities as talks and/or posters, demos.



Figure 34 Full publication list and open access to all papers (<http://simpleskin.org/?publications>)

At the beginning of SimpleSkin, all partners cooperated on an outline paper, which was published on IEEE Pervasive Computing and aiming at disseminate the project and its methods to the community. At the end of the project, Uni. PASSAU(Oliver Amft) and USTUTT(Stefan Schneegass) co-organized ***one book on Smart Textile and Textile Electronics***, aiming at providing a holistic view on the design and development of smart textiles and textile electronics.

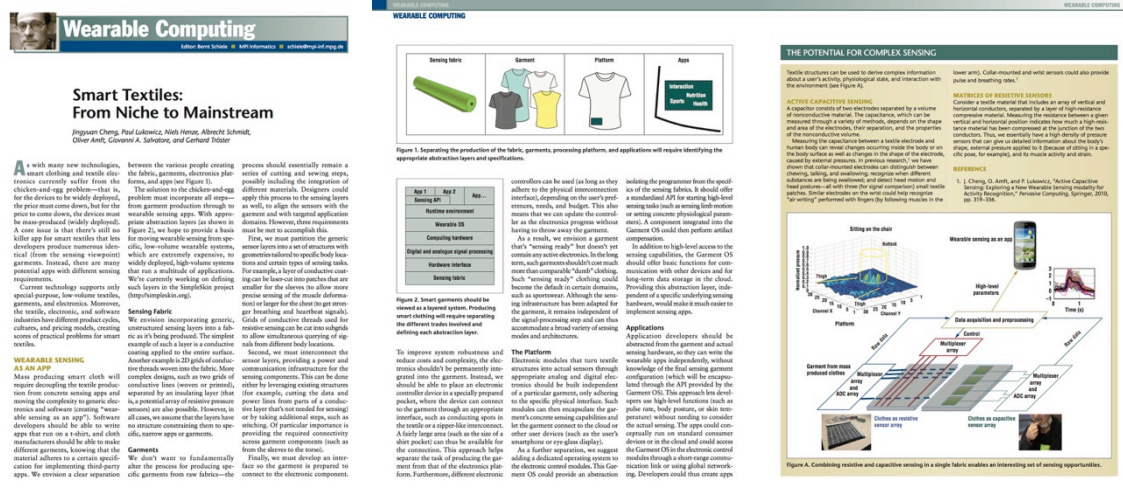


Figure 35 Co-publication at IEEE Pervasive Computing
Handbook on Smart Textiles and Textile Electronics

Publisher: Springer, HCI Series

Appear: End of 2016

Key topics: Holistic view on Smart Textiles including textile production, sensor/actuator design, interaction design, application scenarios, and more.

SimpleSkin partners' contribution: Introduction on Smart Textiles (USTUTT, Uni. PASSAU), Textile Production (iTU, SEFA), Pressure Force Mapping (DFKI), Reversible Contacting for Smart Textiles (ETH), Textile Antennas (ETH), Electronics integration (ETH), SimpleSkin Approach: Decoupling Textiles, Sensing, and Applications (all)

External contribution: Keio University, University of Pisa, Department of Textile Engineering Namik Kemal University, UdK, University of Hannover, Bauhaus University Weimar, University of Bremen, University of Lapland, University Nürnberg-Erlangen

Summary: The Handbook of Smart Textiles and Textiles Electronics provides a holistic view on the design and development of smart textiles and textile electronics. Currently, researchers and developers mainly focus on a single aspect in the production process of smart textiles without taking requirements posed by other disciplines into account. With leading experts in different domains from textile production, electrical engineering, interaction design, and human-computer interaction, this handbook focuses on the whole production process. It discusses the most important aspects ranging from textile manufacturing, sensor and actuator development for textiles, and integration of electronics into textiles to interaction with textiles and different application scenarios realizable with smart textiles. The handbook is ideal for researchers, designers, and academics who are interested in understanding the overall production process of smart textiles. It is particularly well suited to get an introduction to the different fields involved in creating smart textiles and it lays a basic understanding of the steps necessary to produce a successful smart textile.

Creating Community

We not only strived to push our research to existing research community (in for example human computer communication, wearable computing, ubiquitous computing), but also worked hard to create and enhance sub-community especially for smart textile.

- Uni. Passau co-organized with ETHZ the conference BSN 2014 and served as technical program chair, this event provided a platform to present on-body textile technology and applications.
- Uni. Passau organized the International Workshop on Sensor-based Activity Recognition and Interaction (iWOAR 2016, Program Co-chair) and International Conference on Wearable and Implantable Body Sensor Networks (BSN' 16, Steering committee member)
- USTUTT organized a workshop on enriching mobile input with wearable devices in August 2015. In this workshop we strive to generate further use cases and discuss with experts for mobile interaction the possibilities to use smart garments and other wearable devices on a daily basis. The workshop will be held at the MobileHCI conference that is the main event for researchers working on new interaction methods for mobile devices.
- USTUTT, DFKI and Uni. Passau organized workshop on Smart Garments at the International Symposium on Wearable Computing 2014 (held within the 2nd project year but reported already in D4.1 and D6.1).
- DFKI organized with University of Science and Technology of China the 1st Sino-German Symposium on Social Interactive Computing, funded by German DFG and Chinese NSFC, hosted at DFKI, April. 2014, where the result of SimpleSkin is presented to 30 German and Chinese group leaders (professors and post-docs).
- DFKI will organize and host UbiComp/ISWC'16, one of the highest ranked conferences in the ubiquitous computing community (co-chair, demo-chair, local organizing chair etc.), USTUTT and Uni. Passau are also involved both as organizers and publication contributors.



Figure 36 Workshop on Smart Garments at ISWC 2014 (<http://www.simpleskin.org/smartgarments/>)

The percentage of co-publication kept growing through the project year, especially cooperation with external partners. As the basic technologies becoming mature in the late project years, the consortium is able to not only cooperate more between internal partners, but also attract more external cooperation. The percentage of single partner publication drops from 75% in 2013 to 44% in 2016, with the external cooperation of 0% in 2013 to 38% in 2016.

In total we published with 11 external partners 10 peer-reviewed papers, not only with universities and research institutes within and beyond Europe, but also with industry partners. (6 Germany: Univ. Hannover, Univ. Saarland, Univ. Freiburg, LMU Munich, FAU Erlangen, Max Planck Institute for Informatics; 1 Finland: Univ. Tampere; 1 China: University of Science and Technology of China; 1 Japan: Osaka Prefecture University; 2 industry: Yahoo Research, Adidas AG).

. Promoting Researchers

Within SimpleSkin project, the promotion of researchers happened on all levels, which created research groups and researchers, that work with a considerable percentage on smart textile and will continue contributing to both research and possible industrial applications with smart textile after the end of SimpleSkin project.

- Prof. Oliver Amft moved from TU/e (Holland) to Uni Passau, Germany and promoted to a full professor, where he created and holds the chair of Sensor Technology.

- Prof. Fernando Seoane, at the University of Borås, moved during the project from the School of Engineering to the Faculty of Care Science, Working Life and Social Welfare, where he has been recently promoted from Associate rank to full rank professor.
- Prof. Paul Lukowicz, the original coordinator, shifted the task to Dr. Jingyuan Cheng (female). The latter is still young and SimpleSkin is the first EU project she is coordinating. Due to the fact they are working in the same group at DFKI, Prof. Lukowicz supports her all the time with coordinating tasks. Prof. Georg Kampis from DFKI, Prof. Oliver Amft from Uni Passau and Prof. Albrecht Schmidt, who are involved in multiple EU projects, also provided their expertise and support. Dr. Jingyuan Cheng moved later to TU Braunschweig and promoted to a junior professor, where she created and holds the Wearable Computing Lab.
- Stefan Schneegass from USTUTT, finished his Ph.D. within the scope of SimpleSkin. The dissertation is entitled: “Enriching Mobile Interaction with Garment-Based Wearable Computing Devices”, was defended on July 15, 2016 at the University of Stuttgart. The Thesis was supervised by Albrecht Schmidt (USTUTT) and members of the examination committee included Paul Lukowicz (DFKI). Its abstract and the first chapter is attached to WP5.
- 17 students finished their final bachelor/master work within the scope of SimpleSkin.
 - 1) Bo Zhou, Resistive Pressure Force Sensor Matrix for Wearable and Ubiquitous Computing (master thesis), supervised by DFKI
 - 2) Mathias Sundholm, Activity Recognition Using Floor Based Pressure Sensors (master thesis), supervised by DFKI
 - 3) Bing Wang, Presentation Evaluation based on Pressure Sensitive Smart Chairs(master thesis), supervised by DFKI
 - 4) Marco Hirsch, Head Movement Detection and Classification with a Capacitive Textile Neckband (master thesis), supervised by DFKI
 - 5) Orkhan Amiraslanov, Electroluminescent Based Flexible Screen (master thesis), supervised by DFKI
 - 6) Linn, Tobias “Input Finger Identification using Wearable Devices” (bachelor thesis), supervised by USTUTT
 - 7) Röhrle, Lucas “Privacy of Wearable Devices” (bachelor thesis), supervised by USTUTT
 - 8) Ogando, Sophie “Enhancing the Visual Output of Smart Watches using Garment-Based Displays” (bachelor thesis), supervised by USTUTT
 - 9) Müller, Tamara “Implicit and Explicit Authentication using Electronic Muscle Stimulation” (bachelor thesis), supervised by USTUTT
 - 10) Bulut, Velihan “Communicating Activity Tracking Data to User” (bachelor thesis), supervised by USTUTT
 - 11) Alkis, Onur “Die Körperhaltung als implizite Eingabe für Sport- und Rehabilitationsaktivitäten” (diploma thesis), supervised by USTUTT
 - 12) Voit, Alexandra “Using Touch Sensitive Fabric for Interaction with Smart Devices” (diploma thesis), supervised by USTUTT
 - 13) Birmili, Tobias “Entwicklung einer Architektur für das Betriebssystem von intelligenter Kleidung” (diploma thesis), supervised by USTUTT
 - 14) Mayer, Sven André “Modeling distant pointing for compensating systematic displacements” (diploma thesis), supervised by USTUTT
 - 15) Severin Bernhart, Integrating Electromyography (EMG) Sensors into Smart Glasses for Chewing Detection(bachelor thesis), supervised by Uni. Passau
 - 16) Irmandy Wicaksono, Analog Front-end Design for Simultaneous Signal Acquisition of Multi-modal Textile-sensors (ETHZ)
 - 17) Seminar and practical course dedicated to SimpleSkin (StuPro, USTUTT)

. Lectures to Students

The Univ. partners, namely Uni. Passau, Uni. Stuttgart, Uni. Boras, ETHZ and DFKI, are all holding bachelor and master courses, demos are shown in the lectures and students are invited to the labs.

Uni. Passau created two bachelor and master student seminars on information extraction from fabric materials. A new master-level course on wearable and implantable computing is under preparation for the Mobile and Embedded Systems curriculum and the Intelligent Technical Systems specialization of the Computer Science curriculum.

USTUTT created seminar and practical course dedicated to SimpleSkin (StuPro). Also a 90 minutes lecture on Wearable Computing including the presentation of different SimpleSkin technologies to the students was given.

DFKI created some general resistive sensing platforms and a general data recording and processing library for resistive sensing. One practical lecture based on these platforms and library is under development and will be held first at TU Braunschweig in Winter semester 2016/17, then by DFKI at Summer semester.

. Demos to general public

DFKI has demonstrated smart textile developed within SimpleSkin continuously at Cebit, the world's largest and most international computer expo, including:

- 2014: Smart table cloth (details in D6.1)
- 2015: SmartMat for sport (details in D6.2)
- 2016: Smart leg-band for muscle monitoring and Smart wristband for Human-Computer Interaction as part of the Wearable Competition Center AI.

These demonstrations have constantly drawn interests from visitors and media.



Figure 37 Smart TableCloth, SmartMat, Wearable Competition Center AI by DFKI at Cebit 2014,15,16

The SimpleSkin project was also presented by DFKI at 14th/19th Wearable Technologies Conference on Feb. 2-3, 2015 and Jan. 26-27, 2016 in Munich, Germany and to the school girls on 20.05.2015 in Kaiserslautern, Germany, within the framework of Girl's Day, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, aiming at opening positive future prospects for girls (<http://www.girls-day.de/english>).

4.1.5 Project Website and Contact Details

www.simpleskin.eu or www.simpleskin.org

Partners	Contact person	Contact
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