# **Abhraneel Sarma**

abhsarma@umich.edu • (734)-881-0597 • abhraneelsarma.com

#### Education

University of Michigan School of Information

MS in Information | HCI & Data Science Specialization

Ann Arbor, MI 2016 - 2018

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

Bachelor of Design | Minor in Mechanical Engineering

Guwahati, India 2012 - 2016

## **Experience**

#### **Research Assistant**

University of Michigan School of Information, Ann Arbor

Oct 2016 -

- Designed and implemented a survey to study the effects of different visual representations of statistical data on interpretation of uncertainty.
- Analysed the responses using bayesian mixed-effects and item-response theory models to compare the effects of different visual representations.

#### **User Experience Intern**

Academic Innovation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

May - Aug 2017

- Designed new features for a tool to explore of U-M course data. Conducted 7
  usability tests to evaluate the new designs, and identified several UI changes.
- Developed an interview protocol to explore user attitudes towards the current features, and identify design requirements for future.

# **Projects**

## Analysis of the effectiveness of storytelling and interactivity in InfoVis

Master's Thesis Project

Jun - Apr 2017

- Designed and conducted a study on MTurk to compare effectiveness of narrative and interactivity as visualization strategies on recall and comprehension.
- Designed a survey using principles of learning theory to test interpretation of visualization, and analysed the results using a bayesian mixed-effects model.

#### Elevate - Ensuring access to food for food-insecure populations

UX Research | Finalist, CHI SDC 2017

Nov 2016 - Jan 2017

- Created interview protocol and conducted 13 user interviews to assess the needs, motivation, and problems faced by food-insecure population.
- Analysed findings into actionalble insights. Conceptualised an accessible solution to provide access to information for places which serve free food.

# Pheme - Designing an alternate paradigm for news consumption

UX Research, UX Design

Jan - Apr 2017

- Created research design to understand daily news consumption behavior of college students. Conducted week long photo diary study with 6 participants.
- Analysed findings and identified design guidelines for a concept mobile-based app based on research findings.

#### **About Me**

I am a UX researcher with strong qualitative and quantitative skills, and knowledge of statistics. I am passionate about using data-driven methods for understanding user behavior and creating better user experience.

#### **Skills**

#### Qualitative

Contextual Inquiry
Usability Studies
Affinity Analysis
Photo / Diary Studies
Heuristic Evaluation
User Journeys
Personas
Card Sorting
Wireframing
Design & Prototyping

#### Quantitative

Survey Design & Analysis
Python, Pandas, R
SQL
Data Analysis
Data Manipulation
Data Visualization

### **Achievements**

Runners-up, Football, Inter IIT Sports Meet 2014

Semi-Finalist, Annual Intra-University Tennis Tournament (2014, 2016)

Semi-Finalist, Annual Intra-University Football Tournament (2016)