

Akash Chaudhary

🌐 akash-1992.github.io | portfolio

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I am a computer scientist and UX designer interested in understanding user impediments to digital well being on online platforms and in designing novel and creative systems to promote effective use of communicative language expressions among people. I also love music, and one of my most recent project explores the use of neural networks that can be used to facilitate sound design. I am currently seeking internship opportunities as a UX designer and/or UX researcher.

EDUCATION

University of California

Master of Science, Computational Media

Advisor : Dr. Angus Forbes

M.S. Project : Applications of Generative Adversarial

Methods in Sound Synthesis

CGPA : 3.8

Santa Cruz, USA

Sep 2021 - present

Indian Institute of Technology

Bachelor of Technology, Production and Industrial Engineering

Advisor : Dr. Apurbba Kumar Sharma

B.Tech Project : Processing of Materials with Microwaves
for Joining Application

Roorkee, India

Aug 2011 - May 2015

RESEARCH

“Are You Still Watching?”: Exploring Unintended User Behaviors and Dark Patterns on Video Streaming Platforms

Designed user interface elements that could potentially reduce digital addiction

Chaudhary, A., Saroha, J., Monteiro, K.

Advisor : Dr. Angus Forbes, Dr. Aman Parnami

ACM Designing Interactive Systems '22
(Accepted, in press)

Verbose : Designing a Context-based Educational System for Improving Communicative Expressions

Developed a voice-input smartphone app in four design iterations

Chaudhary, A., Belani, M., Maheshwari, N.

Advisor : Dr. Aman Parnami

ACM Mobile HCI '21

Applications of Generative Adversarial Methods in Sound Synthesis for Films and Games

Deployed and finetuned PyTorch versions of WaveGan and HifiGan for sound synthesis.

Hansen, B., **Chaudhary, A.**

Advisor : Dr. Angus Forbes

GUI Enabled Data Sonification

Devised a python toolbox for enabling MIDI, OSC transfers across various media platforms

Chaudhary, A., Joshi, B., Adhikary, A., Sharma, P.

Advisor : Dr. Timothy Scott Moyers Jr.

Exploring Design for an Embodied Tool to Regulate Separation Anxiety in Dogs

Conducted interview study for formulating design of a non-anthropomorphic emotion regulation tool

Chaudhary, A.

Advisor : Dr. Katherine Isbister

WORK EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant | University of California Santa Cruz

Jan 2022 - Present

- Appointed Teaching assistants under Dr. Brian Hansen for two courses - 'Algorithmic Music' in Winter session, and 'Musical Data' in Spring session.
- Responsible for conducting demos, holding discussions and grading assignments.

Member | Creative Coding Lab

Sep 2021 - Present

- Member of the Creative Coding Lab at University of California, Santa Cruz.
- Responsible for giving weekly presentations on project updates in group meetings at the Creative Coding Lab, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Research Associate | Weave Lab

Jan 2018 - July 2021

- Member of Weave Lab, led by Dr. Aman Parnami at Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi.
- Developed novel ideas and led two teams towards full paper conference publications - ACM designing Interactive Systems (accepted, in press) and ACM Mobile HCI (2021).
- Responsible for giving weekly project tasks and providing guidance on established HCI practices to visiting interns.
- Formulated literature survey of state of the art computational para-linguistics, psychology, emotions, UI dark patterns, voice-input feedback and digital well-being systems.

Member | ILIAD Lab

Jan 2019 - Dec 2020

- Member of the Interdisciplinary Lab for Interactive AV Development (ILIAD), led by Prof. Timothy Scott Moyers Jr. at IIT Delhi.
- Built a python-based GUI for data sonification of various media files like image, csv and video, and transfer to audio softwares, like Reaper and SuperCollider.

Research Intern | Verisk

May 2019 - Sep 2019

- Performed data analysis on the Q/A model of BERT in NLP.
- Found out parameter accuracy on domain-specific datasets.
- Responsible for processing and cleaning the deployment-ready code of the model in python.
- Presented research insights from proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL).

Growth and Marketing Chief | Derbii

Nov 2015 - Dec 2017

- First employee at Derbii, a cab aggregation startup.
- Directly involved in all verticals with the co-founders, especially responsible for managing investor relations.
- Brought three prominent investors on the table for a pre-series A funding round.
- Handled product management and ensured end to end quality within customer experience.
- Involved directly in formulating strategies for business growth and marketing, while also developing models for financial projections.

Operations Manager | Grofers

Jul 2015 - Nov 2015

- Responsible for managing pan-Delhi operations of Grofers, a unicorn hyper-local delivery startup in India.
- Led a team of 150 people in handling effective operations of delivery logistics.
- Provided detailed statistic reports for monthly operations, while also providing design insights for delivery official's mobile application.

SKILLS

Hands-on coding

- Proficient in Python, C, HTML, CSS, JavaScript. Certified through Harvard course - CS50: CS50's Introduction to Computer Science (edX).
- Proficient in Paraview, Tableau.
- Knowledgeable in data structures and algorithms. Certified through Stanford courses - Divide and Conquer, Sorting and Searching, and Randomized Algorithms (Coursera), Graph Search, Shortest Paths, and Data Structures (Coursera), Greedy Algorithms, Minimum Spanning Trees, and Dynamic Programming (Coursera), Shortest Paths Revisited, NP-Complete Problems and What To Do About Them (Coursera).
- Informed in Digital Signal Processing, through a non-degree course from EPFL (Coursera).

Soft skills

- Reading - First author at two A* conference submissions.
- Communication and leadership - Led two teams towards two conference submissions with effective collaborations.

EXTRA-CURRICULARS

Sports

- Gold medal in basketball at undergraduate level in 4th year for Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee at Inter-IIT sports fest.
- Silver medal in basketball at undergraduate level in 2nd year for Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee at Inter-IIT sports fest.
- Runners up in football in inter-year sports competition at undergraduate level in 3rd and 4th year.