HCI & Accessibility

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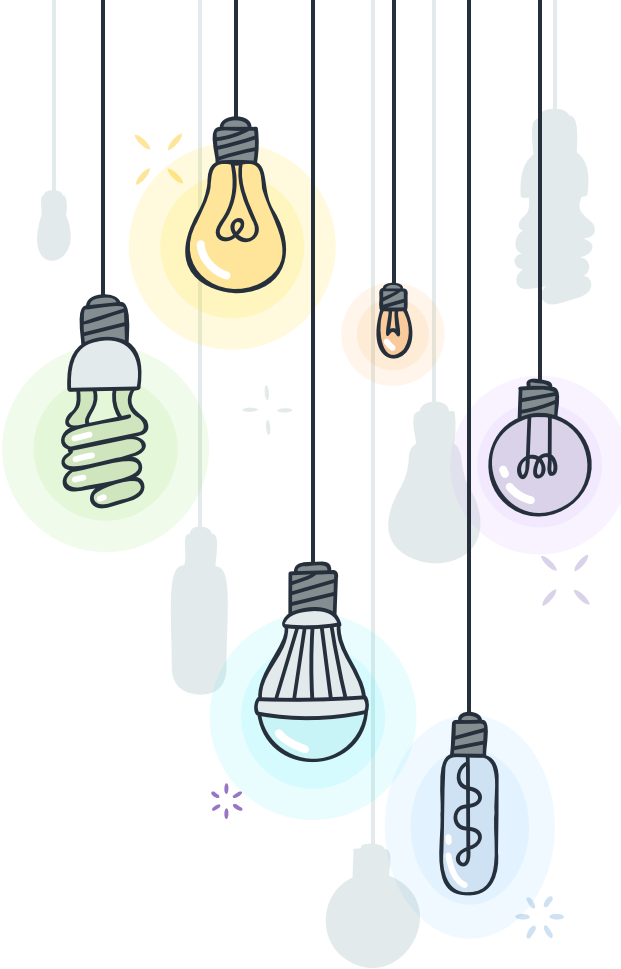
Hello!

I’m Lucy Jiang, a fourth year studying **computer science** and **entrepreneurship** at the University of Washington.

What We'll Cover Today

- **Introduction**
  - Who am I, and how did I get here?
- **Research Overview**
  - What is CS research like?
  - HCI and accessibility
- **Final Thoughts**
  - Computer science and our future



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Introduction

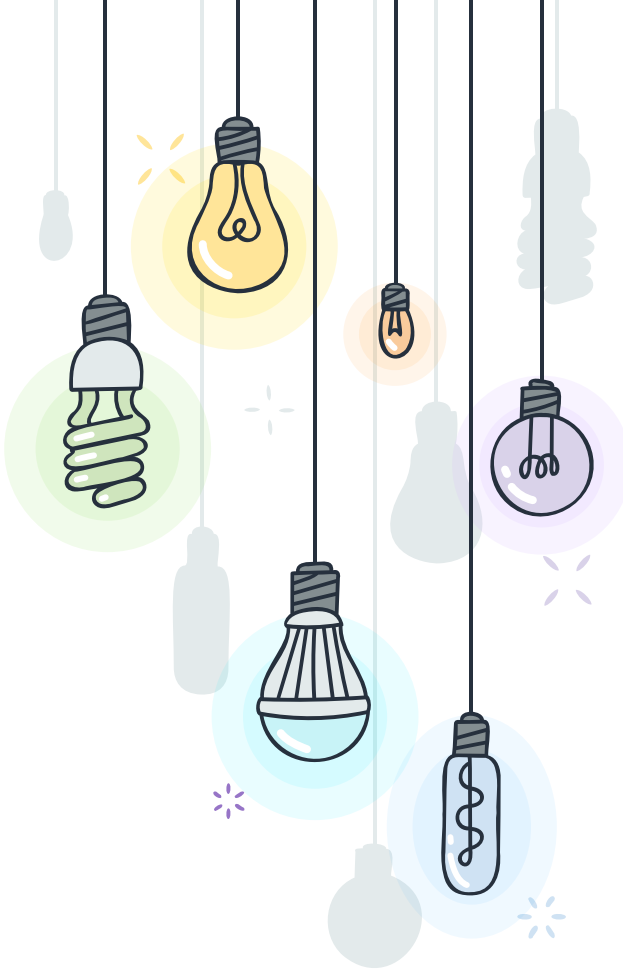
Who am I, and how did I get here?

Before Entering UW

- Attended Redmond High School
  - In the center of Microsoft-land
- Academic / career interests
  - Healthcare (specifically pediatrics)
  - Not computer science!
- Applied to summer internships
  - Was rejected from all of them 🙃

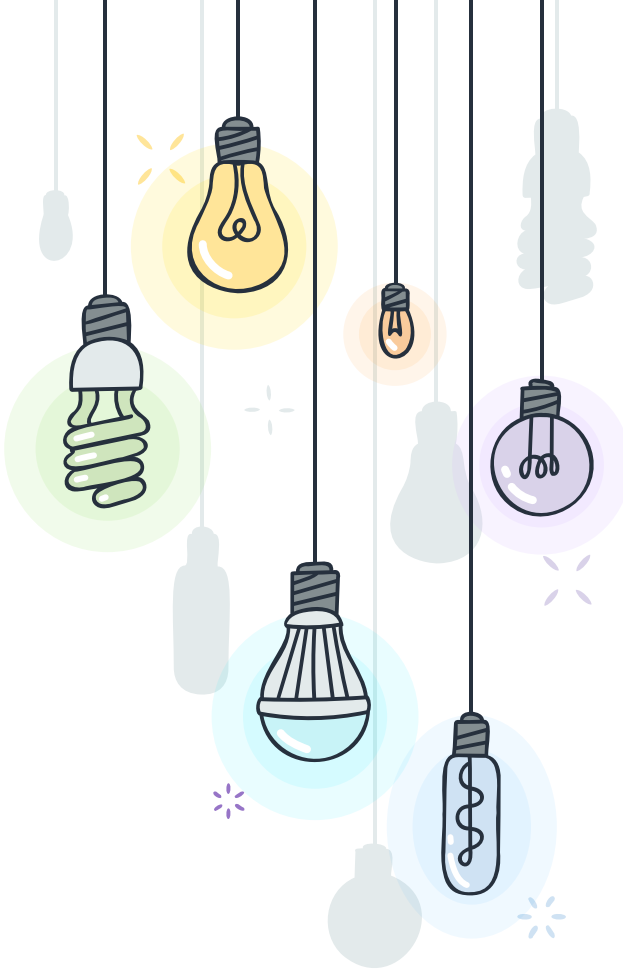
Getting Into UW

- Knew I wanted to do STEM
  - Took AP CS, but wasn't super excited about computer science yet
- Applied for UW CS just for fun
  - Had no serious intention of coming to UW and studying CS
- Accepted as a Direct Admit to CSE



Discovering Accessibility

- Attended an **accessible technology lecture** during Startup (EFS)
  - Began thinking about CS and how it could be applied to do social good
- Reached out to the professor
  - Signed up for a **research reading seminar** in my first quarter
  - It was overwhelming but fun!



Finding my Passion in CS

- Also did a couple of software engineering internships
  - While the pay was quite nice, I realized I wasn't **actually passionate** about the work I was doing
- Wanted to work on something that would **make the world a better place**
  - Similar to healthcare in some ways

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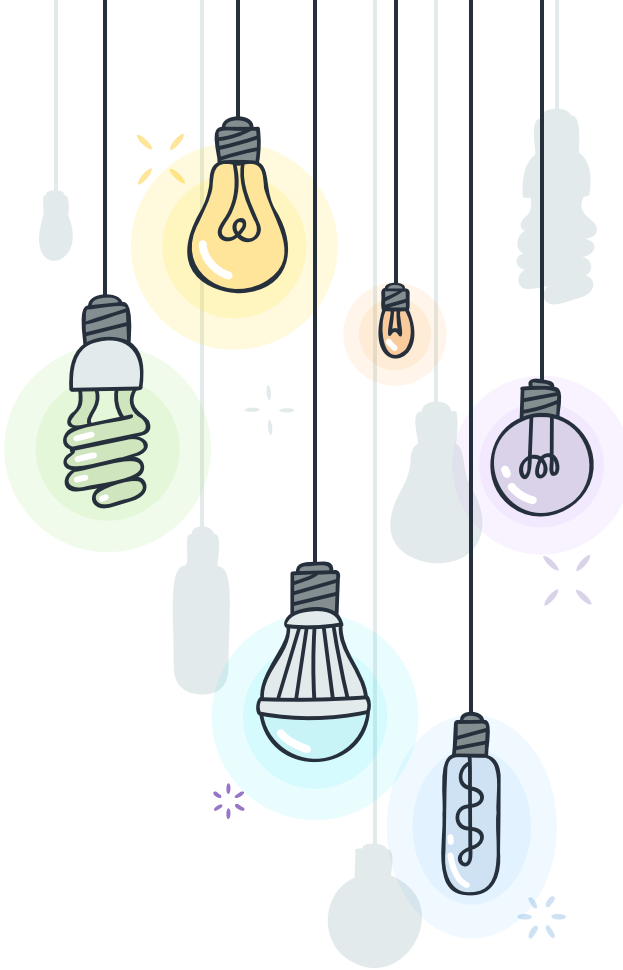
Research Overview

What is CS research like?

HCI and accessibility

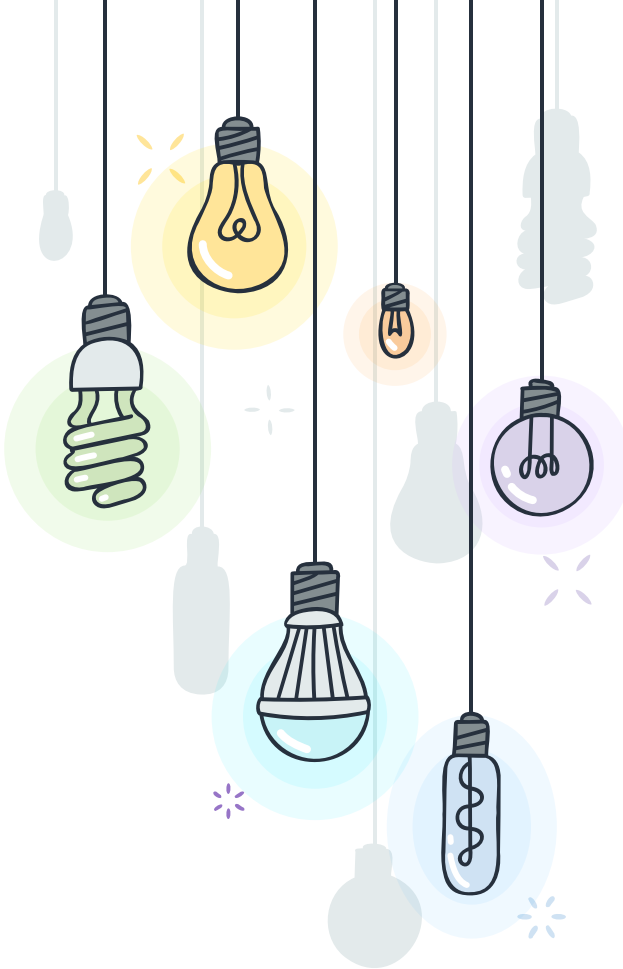
What is CS Research?

- Research **focused on computers**
  - Systems
  - Algorithms
  - Machine learning
- Research **with CS applications**
  - Human-computer interaction
  - Social computing
  - Any other field too!



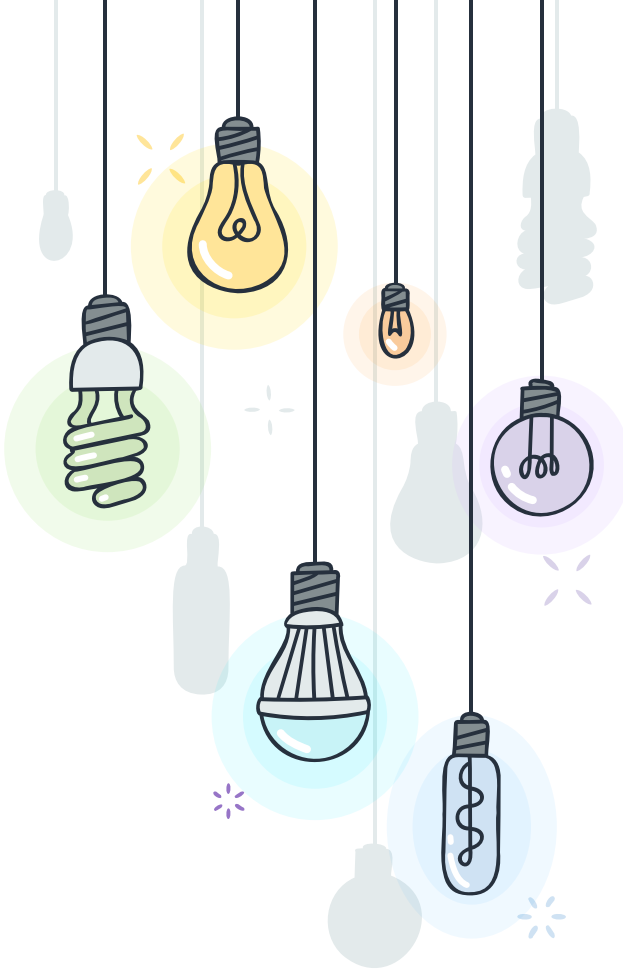
Research Logistics

- Structure
  - Usually undergrads work closely with grad students
  - Meetings with the whole lab / professors on a weekly basis
- Resources to get involved
  - CSE 390R (new research seminar)
  - Undergraduate Research Program



Personal Pathway

- Became involved in the **Inclusive Design Lab** with Dr. Leah Findlater
  - Initially started as one of three undergrads in a **HCDE Directed Research Group (DRG)**
  - Focused on accessibility, specifically for blind and low vision folks
  - Worked on existing unfinished projects



Lab Projects

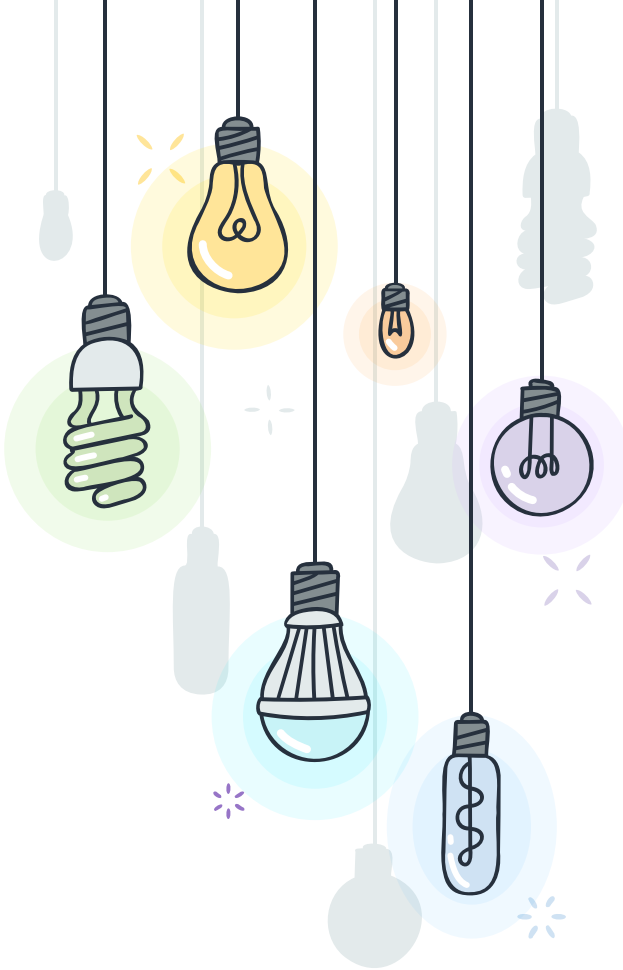
Interactive Sound Design for Auditory Websites (existing)

Understanding how sound designers would redesign websites to convey information solely through audio

Social Media through Voice (new)

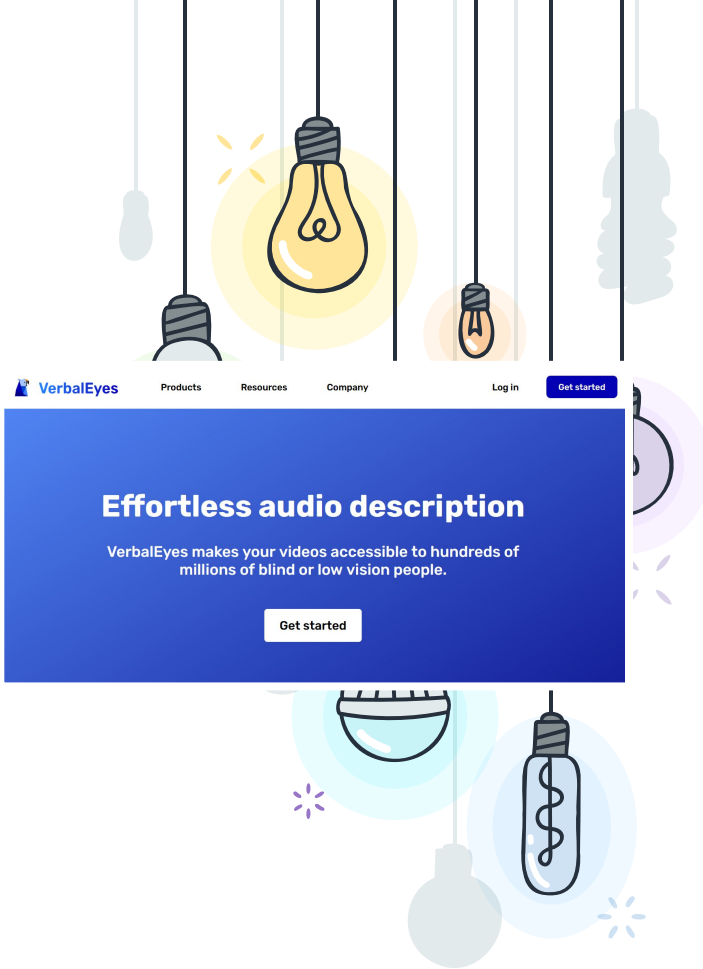
A question that I proposed myself!

Understanding how people prefer to represent themselves via voice on social media



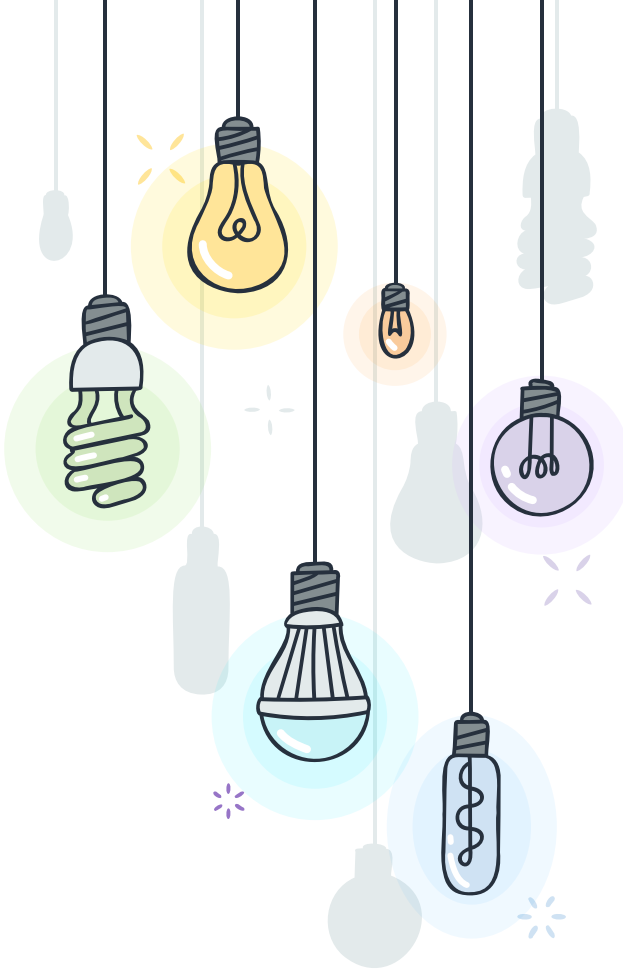
Further Exploration

- Worked with peers to build an **accessibility-focused product**
  - Creating a Company course sequence (Winter / Spring 2021)
  - Drew on my research skills to do user and customer research
  - Prioritized my interest in research rather than software engineering



Senior Thesis

- Currently finishing up my senior thesis, focusing on **audio description access**
  - Specifically, understanding how to support blind and low vision writers in writing audio descriptions
  - Advised by Dr. Richard Ladner
  - A continuation of the work that we are doing for our company, VerbalEyes



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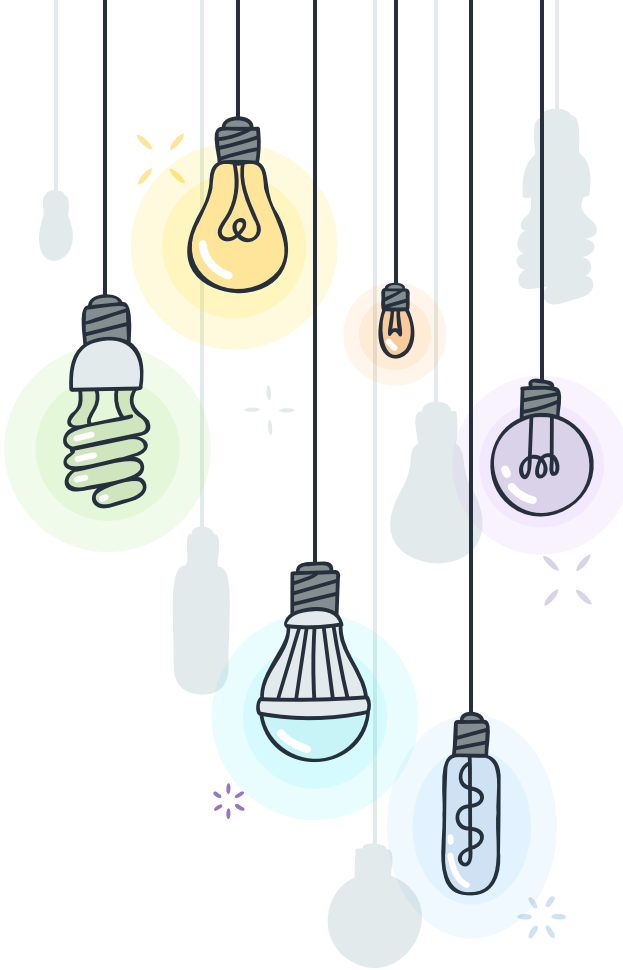
Conclusion

Computer science and our ✨ future ✨

Social Impacts of CS, at Scale

- CS can be used to
  - Empower and enable people
  - Democratize information
  - Optimize healthcare
  - Support our environment
- But it can also be used to
  - Harm and abuse people
  - Spread misinformation

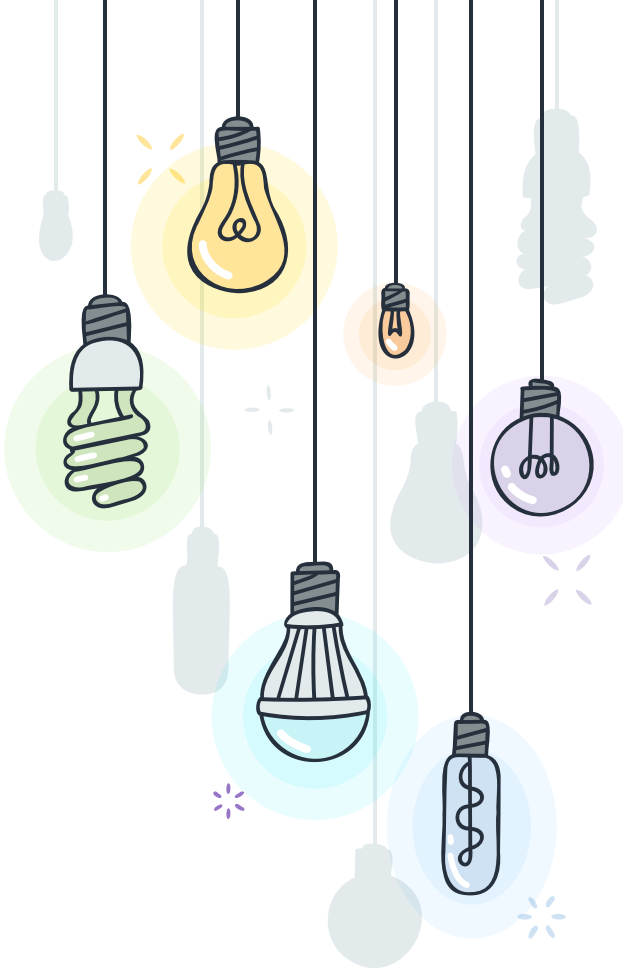


Reflection

- I started out thinking that I would change majors
  - But once I saw how CS could change lives, I became interested in studying innovative applications of technology
- Society needs **diverse computer scientists** to create technology that serves diverse users

So... what now?

- Find ways to get involved!
  - Work on passion projects
  - Take CS courses if they're offered (but don't worry if they're not)
  - But also, enjoy high school!
- Consider applying for UW CS!
  - It was one of the best "mistakes" that I have ever made 😊



Thank you!

Feel free to reach out to me, either to ask any questions or just to chat! 🤗

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