MATTHEW BREHMER

INFORMATION VISUALIZATION RESEARCH • DESIGN • DEVELOPMENT

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EDUCATION

PhD, Computer Science
UNIV. BRITISH COLUMBIA
2011 - 2016

MSc, Human-Computer Interaction
UNIV. BRITISH COLUMBIA
2009 - 2011

BComp, Cognitive Science
QUEEN'S UNIV. AT KINGSTON
2004 - 2009

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Postdoctoral Researcher
MICROSOFT RESEARCH
2016 - 2019

Research Assistant
UNIV. BRITISH COLUMBIA
2009 - 2016

Research Intern
MICROSOFT RESEARCH
2015

Research Intern
PULSE ENERGY / ENERNOC
2013 - 2014

Research Assistant
QUEEN'S UNIV. AT KINGSTON
2009

User Experience Design / Front-End Dev. Intern
EMC DOCUMENTUM
2007 - 2008

REFERENCES

Tamara Munzner
PROFESSOR,
UNIV. BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Ken Hinckley
PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER,
MICROSOFT RESEARCH
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Bongshin Lee
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I am an expert in **information visualization**, a practice that brings together data analysis, software development, user experience research, and design. I have spoken about my work at venues such as IEEE VIS, ACM CHI, and OpenVisConf, and I have published papers about my work in IEEE TVCG, the top visualization journal. I have been a program committee member for events including IEEE VIS, Information+, and Computation + Journalism. In 2018, I was a co-organizer of the VisInPractice event at IEEE VIS, the PacificVis Visual Data Storytelling Contest, and the MobileVis Workshop at ACM CHI. My work can be seen and used online and in Microsoft's Power BI.

APPLICATION AREAS

I have applied my expertise in visualization and human-computer interaction in the domains of journalism, personal health, and resource conservation.

CURRENT ROLE

As a postdoctoral researcher at **Microsoft Research**, I focus on expressive information design tools for data-driven storytelling and journalism, as well as visualization for mobile devices. I design prototypes, develop applications, conduct experiments, analyze data, write research papers, and consult with teams at Microsoft.

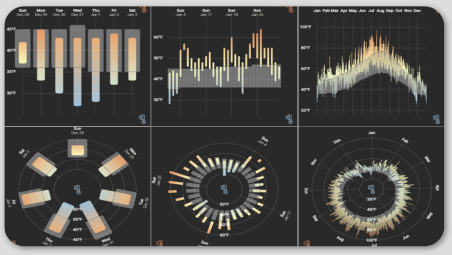
SELECTED PROJECTS

A complete list of projects along with links to interactive applications are available at mattbrehmer.github.io. The projects below are among those that I led.

TIMELINE STORYTELLER

An authoring tool for producing expressive visual narratives about timeline data; a web application and extension for Microsoft Power BI; exports images or iFrame presentations (with Lee, Henry Riche, Tittsworth, Lytvynets, Edge, White).

timelinestoryteller.com



VISUALIZING RANGES ON MOBILE PHONES

Alternative visual representations of ranges designed for mobile phones, motivated by the increasing prevalence of apps and online news reporting on data relating to personal health, climate, and finance (with Lee, Isenberg, Choe).

aka.ms/ranges-tvcg

VISUALIZATION FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION

An iterative human-centred design process resulted in a series of prototype visual analysis tools for monitoring the energy consumption of large building portfolios (with Ng, Tate, Munzner).

aka.ms/matches_mismatches

TECHNOLOGIES: CURRENT

At Microsoft, I develop and deploy AZURE web applications using NODE.JS and EXPRESS. I use NPM and YARN for package management, WEBPACK as a build tool, and GIT for version control. I use D3.JS for visualizing data. My current editor of choice is VSCODE for WINDOWS. Much of my work is open source and can be found on GITHUB (username: mattbrehmer).

For creating and managing content on websites, I use JEKYLL or WORDPRESS.

For analyzing data and generating static charts, I use R and particularly the GGPLOT package. I also use POWER BI and TABLEAU.

OTHER TECHNOLOGIES

During grad school, I used the SHINY, GGPLOT2, and DATA.TABLE R packages to create analytical applications; I visualized data using D3.JS, PROCESSING, and P5.JS; and before the advent of D3, I used FLARE (the ACTIONSCRIPT port of PREFUSE), as well as the FLEX web application framework.

I produced diagrams and mockups with OMNIGRAFFLE.

Before switching to R, I analyzed data and generated charts using SPSS, NUMBERS, and EXCEL.

Prior to grad school, I developed a toolkit for active video games using C# and the XNA environment.

As a user interface design intern at EMC, I developed interfaces using FLEX (ACTIONSCRIPT) and produced wireframes and mockups using VISIO and PHOTOSHOP.

Finally, I used a variety of programming languages in undergraduate projects and assignments, including: JAVA, C++, C, HASKELL, PROLOG, LISP, and MATLAB.

SELECTED TALKS / VIDEOS

A complete list of talks with links to slides are available at mattbrehmer.github.io/#talks.

Visualizing Ranges over Time on Mobile Phones — 2018 / 10 / 24
IEEE VIS 2018
vimeo.com/299859980

The Timeline Storyteller Custom Visual for Power BI — 2017 / 09 / 15
Microsoft Power BI YouTube Channel
youtu.be/bwiMfwBVsSQ

What Story Does Your Timeline Tell? — 2017 / 04 / 24
OpenVisConf 2017
youtu.be/gQKUl_1ryo4

Why Visualization? Task Abstraction for Analysis and Design — 2016 / 02 / 01
Presentation at Microsoft Research
youtu.be/Gg9UGHu4Qao

Matches, Mismatches, & Methods: Workflows for Energy Portfolio Analysis — 2015 / 10 / 28
IEEE VIS 2015
vimeo.com/236169723

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

A complete list of publications with links to PDFs are available at mattbrehmer.github.io/#pubs.

Timeline Storyteller: The Design & Deployment of an Interactive Authoring Tool for Expressive Timeline Narratives — 2019
Matthew Brehmer, Bongshin Lee, Nathalie Henry Riche, David Tittsworth, Kate Lytvynets, Darren Edge, and Christopher White. In *Proceedings of the Computation + Journalism Symposium*.

Visualizing Ranges over Time on Mobile Phones — 2018
Matthew Brehmer, Bongshin Lee, Petra Isenberg, and Eun Kyoung Choe. In *IEEE Trans. Visualization & Computer Graphics* (25-1).

Charticulator: Interactive Construction of Bespoke Chart Layouts — 2018
Donghao Ren, Bongshin Lee, and Matthew Brehmer. In *IEEE Trans. Visualization & Computer Graphics* (25-1).
BEST PAPER HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

Overview: The Design, Adoption, and Analysis of a Visual Document Mining Tool For Investigative Journalists — 2014
Matthew Brehmer, Stephen Ingram, Jonathan Stray, and Tamara Munzner. In *IEEE Trans. Visualization & Computer Graphics* (20-12).

A Multi-Level Typology of Abstract Visualization Tasks — 2013
Matthew Brehmer and Tamara Munzner. In *IEEE Trans. Visualization & Computer Graphics* (19-12)
NOTE: THE MOST CITED IEEE INFOVIS PAPER SINCE 2013.

Investigating Interruptions in the Context of Computerized Cognitive Testing for Older Adults — 2012
Matthew Brehmer, Joanna McGrenere, Charlotte Tang, and Claudia Jacova. In *Proc. ACM Conf. Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI).*