**SUYASH EKRE**
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**A UX Designer and an accessibility advocate with 3 years of experience with a focus on Inclusive design and Design Systems.**

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**User Experience Designer II (Design Systems)**  *June 2023 – Nov. 2023*

*Honeywell (Honeywell Connected Enterprise) | Atlanta, GA*

* Spearheaded ideation sessions with 6 designers resulting in the development of **WCAG 2.2 compliant** horizontal labels for dropdown and form components. Enhancing accessibility and **streamlining designs** between 4 SaaS products.
* As a member of the **design systems** team, implemented new WCAG 2.2 compliant focus states, worked on **documentation, conducted audits, and resolved responsive component issues**, improving component usability for designers.
* Fostered inclusive design culture by developing an Accessibility checklist and conducting **workshops** to facilitate an accessible design handoff. Introduced an Annotated A11y Handoff kit, effectively reducing development errors and ensuring seamless collaboration between design and development teams.
* Organized studio-wide **design reviews** on the Data table component to identify usability issues. Generated a prioritized list of design enhancements, aligning designs across diverse product use cases and fostering a consistent user experience.

**User Experience Design Intern (Design Systems)** *May 2022 – Nov. 2022*

*Honeywell (Honeywell Connected Enterprise) | Atlanta, GA*

* Spearheaded the revamp of the data visualization library through agile audits and collaboration with key stakeholders. Developed a **prioritization matrix** informed by discussions with **3 Product owners and 2 Software architects**, aligning design efforts with business and technical objectives.
* Pioneered accessibility initiatives by creating a WCAG AA-compliant, color-blind friendly color palette. Established **color tokens** library ensuring 3:1 contrast ratio and visual accessibility for the data visualization library.
* Crafted accessible data viz. charts using participatory design, **collaborating and iterating** closely with a low-vision user. Validated designs through 10 unmoderated **user testing**, ensuring usability for individuals with varied visual abilities.
* Conducted comprehensive research on accessible data viz. Established an **accessible framework** of 12+ nested components and 6 chart components (bar patterns, plot types, element states, etc.), setting a strong foundation for the DS library.

**Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant**  *Jan. 2022 - May 2023*

*The University of Texas at Austin | Austin, TX*

* *Graduate research assistant:* Conducted a focus group study on sustainable clothing behaviors by creating screener, moderator script, and surveys. Synthesized data to design low fidelity wireframes and prototypes for user testing.
* *Graduate teaching assistant:*Led various in-class workshops and **hands-on activities** for students explaining UX concepts for courses – Advanced Usability and Human AI Interaction.

**User Experience Designer** *Aug. 2020 – Aug. 2021*

*Godi | Hyderabad, India*

* Organized user research studies with a cross functional team of 30+ Ph.D. Scientists, Product Managers, Engineers to illustrate information architecture, **user flow** and journey mapping.
* Managed a team of 5 designers and implemented a design system, which sped up the design and development process and ensured **consistency** across the cloud-based application.

**User Experience Designer**  *Sep. 2020 – Aug. 2020*

*E3IQ | Hyderabad, India*

* Conducted contextual interviews with 10 code inspectors to observe user needs and problems. Analyzed insights to ideate user stories, sketches and produced concepts for Virtual Reality based training.
* Communicated with 6 front-end & back-end engineers to get feedback and performed multiple design iterations to create functional user experience solutions for complex technical problems.

**EDUCATION**

**MS in Human Computer Interaction, University of Texas at Austin** *| Austin, TX.*  *2021 - 2023*
*Courses: Design Thinking, Accessible and Inclusive design,* *Social construct of Disability*

**B.Tech. in Information Technology, SRM** **Institute of Technology** *| Chennai, India.* *2015 - 2019*

*Courses: Web programming, Virtual Reality, Human computer Interaction*

**RELATED INVOLVEMENTS**

**Web Designer**|**Knowbility***, Austin, TX. Jan. 2023 - Present*

* Conducted Heuristic evaluation and used **Jobs to Be Done** framework to create information architecture. Currently building designs using Kirby CMS website builder.
* Organizing member for the John Slatin’s AccessU conference on accessible digital design.

**UX Advisor** | **Microsoft-UT Austin Initiative,** Austin, TX *Mar. 2021 - May 2023*

* For the University wide initiative on Accessible education, conducted UX reviews and provided best practices for accessible classroom, study content and guidelines for students.

**SKILLS**

**Design:** Information Architecture, Interactive Prototyping, Journey Mapping, Storyboarding, Design Strategy, Interaction Design, Design Systems, UI Design, Heuristic Evaluation, Usability Testing, A/B Testing, UX Audit, Design Thinking.
**Tools:** JIRA, Adobe Creative Suite, Figma, FigJam, Sketch, Adobe XD, UserTesting, Miro, Unity, Tableau, CSS, HTML, JSON, Javascript.
**Accessibility:** WCAG 2.2 Guidelines, Stark, WAVE, ARIA, AXE, ANDI, Assistive Technologies.