Gauri Bahuguna | Final Project Description and Reflection

As an international student I am constantly reminded that upon graduation I will be among scores of hopeful individuals in search of jobs that will eventually sponsor us for the coveted H1-B visa. H1-B is a work visa for foreign individuals that are given out annually in a lottery system. However, before the lottery there is an application process- where the initial vetting of applicants is done. When I discovered the dataset for H1-B applications I thought the final project could be an interesting learning experience for me about the employment profiles of the applicants. While my initial hypothesis (STEM applicants are an overwhelming majority) was corroborated by my eventual findings, I think the nuanced understanding of geographic distribution of both applicants and employers, the types of companies sponsoring the most visas (Indian companies with offices in the United States), and even preliminary information about architecture's prospects. My approach to this overwhelmingly large dataset was to preprocess most of it in excel and then keep the data visualization itself very simple and clear- something that could immediately communicate my information and within my limited coding skill set. I also wanted to make sure to include a variety of visualization styles- so it could be compelling graphically.



