

# Sean Hendryx

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<https://github.com/SMHendryx>

*Machine learning researcher with a love for useful models  
of complex problems*

## Experience

- Jan 2019–Present **Machine Learning Engineer**, *Standard Cognition, Corp.*, San Francisco, CA.  
I build deep learning systems for multi-camera, machine vision problems. Specifically, I have developed transfer learning and domain adaptation systems for reducing generalization error in production. I have also built systems for quantifying generalization error of deployed models.
- Dec 2017–Dec 2018 **Software Engineer - Machine Learning**, *Explorer.ai*, San Francisco, CA.  
Designed, experimented, built, rapidly iterated, and launched to production machine learning and computer vision systems in the self-driving car space. Played pivotal role in the acquisition of Explorer.ai by Standard Cognition Inc. At Explorer.ai, I accomplished:
- Developed and deployed image segmentation systems.
  - Developed, tested, and deployed algorithms in Python for chunking massive datasets enabling efficient storage and parallelized processing.
  - Built data pipelines to generate high-definition maps for hundreds of linear miles of roads. This work included:
    - Ground-classification of point clouds, intelligent rasterization systems, and 2-D to 3-D projection of semantic features.
  - Built 3-D visualization tools for fast inspection of large 3-D datasets.
  - Trained deep neural network models and experimented with different architectures and training methodologies for image classification.
  - Developed and deployed object detection models and necessary training infrastructure including novel augmentation approaches that significantly increased accuracy.
  - Ported trained models from desktops to deployment in the cloud at scale. This work included:
    - Dependency isolation, code refactoring and optimizations, low level debug of TensorFlow model deployment, and building the pipelines to deploy the production services
  - Converted heavy, expensive ROS-based inference system to a mobile device data inference module for cloud deployment, enabling  $10\times$  scale at the same hardware cost.
  - Built API for transferring massive (multi-terabyte scale) datasets from compute instances to S3 storage.
- Aug 2017–May 2018 **Graduate Research Assistant (Computer Vision)**, *University of Arizona*, Tucson, AZ.  
Researcher and software developer of computer vision systems in the Interdisciplinary Visual Intelligence Lab. I validated and compared software for facial recognition against multiple large, annotated datasets. Specifically, this work included building C++ software, running cross-validation experiments in R and Bash and implementing equations and algorithms from the literature. I lead a group of undergraduate computer science researchers on testing and developing software for extracting information (such as pain, blink rate, and other emotions) from videos and images.

May-Aug 2017 **Graduate Research Assistant (Natural Language Processing)**, *University of Arizona*, Tucson, AZ.

Contributed development to natural language processing software in Scala and Python to identify cancer signaling pathways as part of the Big Mechanism, DARPA project. This technology reads research papers and hypothesizes explanatory models of cancer development. Specifically, I worked on feature engineering, implementing machine learning classifiers, and comparing their accuracy using cross-validation.

Aug 2015-Apr 2017 **Graduate Research Assistant (Statistics)**, *University of Arizona*, Tucson, AZ.  
Applied computation to solving natural resource problems. Developed and deployed machine learning models to quantify natural resources from large-scale computer vision-derived datasets. Investigated natural resource dynamics using time-series analysis, data visualization, and other quantitative techniques as part of a National Science Foundation project.

May-Aug 2015 **Graduate Research Technician**, *University of Arizona*, Tucson, AZ.  
Data analysis, research design, and experimental installation to determine ecosystem dynamics in response to climatic forcings. Produced regression and time series analyses. Visualized large datasets to accelerate comprehension and produce actionable knowledge.

Jul 2011-Apr 2015 **Energy Analyst**, *Hammer & Hand*, Portland, OR.  
Energy, resource, and financial modeling for the construction industry. Project and team management. Translated quantitative, analytical insight into actionable recommendations.

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## Education

2015-2018 **MS, Information**, *University of Arizona*, Tucson, AZ.

focus: Machine Learning

gpa: 4.0/4.0

2015-2017 **MS, Natural Resources**, *University of Arizona*, Tucson, AZ.

focus: Remote Sensing & Statistics

gpa: 4.0/4.0

2014 **Postbaccalaureate, Computer Science**, *Portland Community College*, Portland, OR.

focus: C++, SQL, and Databases

2007-2011 **BS, Applied Environmental Science**, *Western Washington University*, Bellingham, WA.

focus: Modeling

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## Skills

### General

Research, develop, deploy, and scale solutions; object-oriented programming; functional programming; agile software development; minimum viable product; critical path method; version control; software testing; project and team management; effective communication; clairvoyant prioritization

ML, Computer Vision, & AI Methods

Implemented from scratch	Neural networks, least squares regression (homogenous and nonhomogenous), RANSAC, k-nearest neighbors, k-means, cross-validation, edge-detection, affine transformations, outlier/noise handling, search & pathfinding algorithms (such as A*), probabilistic graphical models (Bayes nets), Expectation Maximization of Gaussian mixture models
Applied	Random forests, Support Vector Machines, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Scale Invariant Feature Transform (SIFT), Structure from Motion, Iterative Closest Point, morphological filters, kernel density estimation, t-tests, time-series forecasting (with and without exogenous regressors)
<b>Technologies</b>	
Proficient	Python, TensorFlow, Keras, NumPy, scikit-learn, pandas, matplotlib, R, ggplot, data.table, lidR, Matlab, PDAL, Bash, git, Linux, OSX
Experienced	Amazon Web Services, Boto, Spark, Docker, multiprocessing, C, C++, OpenCV, PCL, Scala, $\LaTeX$ , Markdown, snowfall for cluster computing in R, GNU Parallel, svn, Geographic Information Systems (geojson, OpenStreetMaps, Google Earth, ArcGIS, QGIS, Potree, etc.), JavaScript
Knowledge Of	ROS, SQL

## Relevant Coursework

Artificial Intelligence; Machine Learning; Neural Networks; Computer Vision; Bayesian Modeling & Inference; Information Research Methods; Foundations of Information; Organization of Information; Remote Sensing of Environment; Geographic Applications of Remote Sensing; Geographic Information Systems; Applied Biostatistics; Biomedical Informatics; Intro to Statistics; Calculus; Fundamentals of Computer Science & C++; C, C++, & Software Development Bootcamp through the Interdisciplinary Visual Intelligence Lab; Databases & SQL; Critical Issues in Design

## Awards

- 2017-2018 Alma L. Wilson Scholarship
- 2015-2017 Research Assistantship funded by the National Science Foundation
- 2016 University of Arizona Graduate & Professional Student Council Research Grant

## Publications

Hendryx SM, Leach A, Hein P, Morrison CT. (Under review as a conference paper at ICLR 2020). Meta-Learning Initializations for Image Segmentation.

Noriega-Atala E, Hein PD, Thumsi SS, Wong Z, Wang X, Hendryx SM, Morrison CT. 2019. Extracting Inter-sentence Relations for Associating Biological Context with Events in Biomedical Texts. IEEE Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

Hendryx SM, Swetnam T, Barron-Gafford GA. 2018. Assign Points To Existing Clusters: An algorithm for labeling clustered point cloud datasets for predicting physical variables. AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts.

Hendryx SM. 2017. Quantifying biomass from point clouds by connecting representations of ecosystem structure. MS Thesis. University of Arizona.

Lee E, Kumar P, Barron-Gafford GA, Scott RL, Hendryx SM, Sanchez-Cañete EP, Minor RL, Colella T. 2018. Impact of hydraulic redistribution on multispecies vegetation water use in a semiarid savanna ecosystem: An experimental and modeling synthesis. *Water Resources Research*.

Barron-Gafford GA, Sanchez-Canete EP, Minor RL, Hendryx SM, Lee E, Sutter LF, Tran N, Parra E, Murphy P, Hamerlynck E, Kumar P, Scott RL. 2017. Impacts of hydraulic redistribution on grass-tree competition vs facilitation in a semi-arid savanna. *New phytologist*.