

# Nick Kunz

## *Data Scientist*

Location: Seattle, WA  
Mobile: +1 (602) 710-8608  
Email: [nick.kunz@me.com](mailto:nick.kunz@me.com)  
Website: [nickkunz.com](http://nickkunz.com)

## Education

---

**Columbia University** — New York, NY 2019  
Master of Science, Urban Planning, Urban Analytics  
*Advisors: Lance Freeman, Kazuki Sakamoto*

**Harvard University** — Cambridge, MA 2012  
Non-Degree, Urban Planning  
*Advisor: Nick Hornig*

**Arizona State University** — Tempe, AZ 2012  
Bachelor of Science in Design (Hons.), *summa cum laude*, Housing & Urban Development  
*Advisors: Kevin Kellog, Michael Underhill, Trevor Barger*

## Research

---

### Theses

N. Kunz, "Unsupervised Learning for Submarket Modeling: A Proxy for Neighborhood Change," M.S. Thesis, Grad. Sch. of Arch., Plan., and Pres. (GSAPP), Columbia Univ., New York, NY, 2019. [Online]. Available: Columbia Academic Commons. [\[Link\]](#)

N. Kunz, "Realizing Interactive Architecture: A Driver of the Knowledge Economy," B.S.D. (Hons.) Thesis, Barrett, The Hons. Col., Arizona State Univ., Tempe, AZ, 2012. [Online]. Available: Barrett, The Honors College Thesis/Creative Project Collection. [\[Link\]](#)

### Industry

N. Kunz, "n-Dimensional Mapping by Normalized Value Approximation: Squad Immersive Virtual Trainer (SiVT) Safety Performance Metrics," Squad Performance Metrics (SPM), Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS), Microsoft, Redmond, WA, 2021. Protected from public disclosure pursuant to: Trade Secrets Act 18 USC § 1905, 5 USC § 552(b)(4), and C3.2.1.4. of US Dept. of Defense Regulation 5400.7-R. DISTRIBUTION F.

N. Kunz, "Normalized n-Dimensional Inverse Euclidean Distance: Combining Independent Performance Metrics," Squad Performance Metrics (SPM), Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS), Microsoft, Redmond, WA, 2021. Protected from public disclosure pursuant to: Trade Secrets Act 18 USC § 1905, 5 USC § 552(b)(4), and C3.2.1.4. of US Dept. of Defense Regulation 5400.7-R. DISTRIBUTION F.

N. Kunz, "Minimum-Weighted Mean Variability: Within Group Performance Metrics," Squad Performance Metrics (SPM), Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS), Microsoft, Redmond, WA, 2020. Protected from public disclosure pursuant to: Trade Secrets Act 18 USC § 1905, 5 USC § 552(b)(4), and C3.2.1.4. of US Dept. of Defense Regulation 5400.7-R. DISTRIBUTION F.

N. Kunz, "An Exploratory Data Analysis of the Gavin Cup: Brining Readiness & Performance Metrics Into Focus," Squad Performance Metrics (SPM), Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS), Microsoft, Redmond, WA, 2020. Protected from public disclosure pursuant to: Trade Secrets Act 18 USC § 1905, 5 USC § 552(b)(4), and C3.2.1.4. of US Dept. of Defense Regulation 5400.7-R. DISTRIBUTION F.


## Industry Experience

---

<b>Microsoft</b> — Redmond, WA Data Scientist <i>Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS)</i> <a href="#">[Link]</a>	2020 - 2021
<b>Pacific Prospecting Group</b> — Seattle, WA Data Scientist <i>Computational Finance &amp; Engineering</i> <a href="#">[Link]</a>	2017 - 2019
<b>Brawner &amp; Company</b> — Snoqualmie, WA Development Analyst <i>Real Estate Development &amp; Finance</i> <a href="#">[Link]</a>	2016 - 2017
<b>bcWORKSHOP</b> — Dallas, TX Design Fellow <i>Architecture, Planning &amp; Policy</i> <a href="#">[Link]</a>	2013 - 2014
<b>n Creative Studios</b> — Phoenix, AZ Design Consultant <i>Real Estate Development</i>	2011 - 2012

## Software Packages

---

<b>PUPHL: Proximal Policy Optimization Utilizing Pseudo-Huber Loss</b>  Github <a href="#">[Link]</a>	2021
---	------

A modified Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO), Actor-Critic (A2C) algorithm. Applies Pseudo-Huber Loss to the critic loss function in place of traditional Mean Squared Error (MSE). Adds additional critic loss function constraint  $\delta$  in an effort to further reduce variance to PPO and future A2C policy gradient methods. *Currently in development.*

<b>SMOGL: Synthetic Minority Over-Sampling Technique for Regression with Gaussian Noise</b>  Github <a href="#">[Link]</a>  PyPI <a href="#">[Link]</a>  Kaggle <a href="#">[Link]</a>  Stack Exchange <a href="#">[Link]</a>  Stack Overflow <a href="#">[Link]</a>	2020
--	------



A novel pre-processing algorithm designed to address imbalanced data for regression problems. Conducts over-sampling with traditional interpolation, as well as with the introduction of Gaussian noise. Selects between the two over-sampling techniques by the KNN distances underlying a given observation.

<b>NestedHyperBoost: Nested Cross-Validation for Bayesian Optimized Gradient Boosting</b>  Github <a href="#">[Link]</a>  PyPI <a href="#">[Link]</a>	2020
--	------

Unifies Nested K-Fold Cross-Validation, Bayesian Hyperparameter Optimization, and Gradient Boosting. Designed for rapid prototyping on small to mid-sized data sets. Quickly obtains high quality prediction results by abstracting away tedious hyperparameter tuning and implementation details in favor of usability and implementation speed.

<b>NestedHyperLine: Nested Cross-Validation for Bayesian Optimized Linear Regularization</b>  Github <a href="#">[Link]</a>  PyPI <a href="#">[Link]</a>	2020
---	------

Unifies Nested K-Fold Cross-Validation, Bayesian Hyperparameter Optimization, and Linear Regularization. Designed for rapid prototyping on small to mid-sized data sets. Quickly obtains high quality prediction results by abstracting away tedious hyperparameter tuning and implementation details in favor of usability and implementation speed.

<b>CRASSMAT: Conditional Random Sampling Sparse Matrices</b>  Github <a href="#">[Link]</a>  CRAN <a href="#">[Link]</a>	2019
---	------

A novel matrix sampling algorithm designed to conditionally random sample sparse matrices. Useful for training and test set splitting prior to model fitting in cross-validation procedures and for estimating the predictive accuracy of data imputation methods, such as matrix factorization or singular value decomposition.

## Selected Projects

---

**N. Kunz**, S. Huang, and S. Osakata, "Cloudy Night: Activating Park Space by Illuminated Interactivity," Grad. Sch. of Arch., Plan., and Pres. (GSAPP), Columbia Univ., New York, NY, 2019. [Online]. Available:

 GSAPP [ [Link](#) ]  Github [ [Link](#) ]  Youtube [ [Link](#) ]  Faculty [ [Link](#) ]

**N. Kunz** and S. Bhele, "Signal or Noise? Qualified Opportunity Zone Affect on Development Activity in Queens," Grad. Sch. of Arch., Plan., and Pres. (GSAPP), Columbia Univ., New York, NY, 2019. [Online]. Available:

 GSAPP [ [Link](#) ]  Github [ [Link](#) ]  Issuu [ [Link](#) ]  Faculty [ [Link](#) ]

E. Hudgins and **N. Kunz**, "Planning for Extreme Settlements, McMurdo Station, Antarctica," Grad. Sch. of Arch., Plan., and Pres. (GSAPP), Columbia Univ., New York, NY, 2018. [Online]. Available:

 GSAPP [ [Link](#) ]  Issuu [ [Link](#) ]

J. Karasik, S. Lee, **N. Kunz**, et. al. "Negotiating Fragments (Restructuring Quarto Workshop), Genoa, Italy," Grad. Sch. of Arch., Plan., and Pres. (GSAPP), Columbia Univ., New York, NY, 2018. [Online]. Available:

 GSAPP [ [Link](#) ]  Youtube [ [Link](#) ]  Issuu [ [Link](#) ]  Issuu [ [Link](#) ]  Press [ [Link](#) ]


N. Kunz, "Proportionalities: A Decade of Housing Markets to Subway Stations in Manhattan from 2006 to 2016," Grad. Sch. of Arch., Plan., and Pres. (GSAPP), Columbia Univ., New York, NY, 2017. [Online]. Available:

 GSAPP [ [Link](#) ]  GSAPP [ [Link](#) ]  Issuu [ [Link](#) ]  Faculty [ [Link](#) ]


G. S. Coch, S. Nelsen, **N. Kunz**, "Seeking Refuge: The Geography of Migrant Deaths Along the US-MX Border," Grad. Sch. of Arch., Plan., and Pres. (GSAPP), Columbia Univ., New York, NY, 2017. [Online]. Available:

 GSAPP [ [Link](#) ]  Medium [ [Link](#) ]

N. Kunz, "Traditional Theory and the Historic Preservation of Singapore in the Period of the 1980's," Grad. Sch. of Arch., Plan., and Pres. (GSAPP), Columbia Univ., New York, NY, 2017. [Online]. Available:

 Issuu [ [Link](#) ]


N. Kunz, "Health & Wellness Alliance for Children: Children's Asthma, Healthy Physical Environments, Dallas County, Texas," bcWORKSHOP, Dallas, TX, 2014. [Online]. Available:

 Issuu [ [Link](#) ]


N. Kunz, "The Bexar Street Corridor: A Century in Development, Dallas, Texas," bcWORKSHOP, Dallas, TX, 2013. [Online]. Available:

 Issuu [ [Link](#) ]  Issuu [ [Link](#) ]  bc [ [Link](#) ]  Vimeo [ [Link](#) ]


N. Kunz, "Fenway-Kenmore Square: Comprehensive Planning & Finance, Cambridge, Massachusetts," Grad. Sch. of Design (GSD), Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA, 2012. [Online]. Available:

 Issuu [ [Link](#) ]


N. Kunz, "Danelle Plaza: Complete Street Mobility, Tempe, Arizona," Herberger Inst. for Des. and the Art., Arizona State Univ., Tempe, AZ, 2012. [Online]. Available:

 Issuu [ [Link](#) ]

N. Kunz, "Ascension: Multifamily Mixed-Use Real Estate Development Proposal, Tempe, Arizona," n Creative Studios, Phoenix, AZ, 2012. [Online]. Available:

 Issuu [ [Link](#) ]

N. Kunz, "Sui Residence: Second Story Development Proposal, Paradise Valley, Arizona," n Creative Studios, Phoenix, AZ, 2011. [Online]. Available:

 Issuu [ [Link](#) ]

## Honors & Awards

---

<b>Distinguished Alumni Award</b> , Arizona State University — Tempe, AZ	2016
<b>Eli Segal AmeriCorps Education Award</b> , AmeriCorps — Dallas, TX	2014
<b>Dingwall Foundation Scholarship</b> , William Orr Dingwall Foundation — Washington, DC	2011 - 2012
<b>Barrett, The Honors College Scholarship</b> , Arizona State University — Tempe, AZ	2010 - 2012
<b>AIERF Undergraduate Scholarship</b> , Appraisal Institute — Chicago, IL	2010 - 2011
<b>Herberger Institute for Design &amp; the Arts Scholarship</b> , Arizona State University — Tempe, AZ	2010
<b>Study.net Foundation Scholarship</b> , Study.net — Fort Lauderdale, FL	2010
<b>Dean's List</b> ( <i>4.00/4.00 GPA</i> ), Arizona State University — Tempe, AZ	2009 - 2012

## Talks, Exhibits & Presentations

---

<b>Urban Planners in Technology</b> , Alumni Panel, Columbia University — New York, NY	2021
<b>Urban Planning Showcase</b> , End of Year Show, Columbia University — New York, NY	2019
<b>The Bexar Street Corridor</b> , US Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's Office — Dallas, TX	2014
<b>The Bexar Street Corridor</b> , TR Hoover Community Development Corporation — Dallas, TX	2014
<b>The Bexar Street Corridor</b> , bcSHOPFRONT Series, bcWORKSHOP — Dallas, TX	2013
<b>Realizing Interactive Architecture</b> , Honors Symposium, Arizona State University — Tempe, AZ	2012

## Mentorship Activities

---

<b>Chawner Hurd</b> , MBA, Business, Columbia University — New York, NY <i>Military service transition from US Army, 5th Special Forces Group to graduate school.</i>	2020 - 2021
<b>Michael Bollinger</b> , BA, Computer Science, Columbia University — New York, NY <i>Military service transition from US Army, 75th Ranger Regiment to undergraduate school.</i>	2019 - 2021
<b>Daniel Hineline</b> , BA, Political Science, Columbia University — New York, NY <i>Military service transition from US Army, 82nd Airborne Division to undergraduate school.</i>	2018 - 2021

## Military Service

---

### Assignments

<b>US Army, 75th Ranger Regiment</b> — Fort Lewis, WA <i>Infantry</i>	2015 - 2016
<b>US Army, Ranger Training Detachment</b> — Fort Benning, GA <i>Ranger Assessment &amp; Selection Program</i>	2015
<b>US Army, 1st Special Warfare Training Group</b> — Fort Bragg, NC <i>Special Forces Assessment &amp; Selection</i>	2014
<b>US Army, 1st Special Warfare Training Group</b> — Fort Bragg, NC <i>Special Forces Preparation &amp; Conditioning</i>	2014
<b>US Army, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment</b> — Fort Benning, GA <i>Airborne School</i>	2014
<b>US Army, 19th Infantry Regiment</b> — Fort Benning, GA <i>Infantry School</i>	2014

### Decorations

<b>Global War on Terrorism Service Medal</b> , US Army, 75th Ranger Regiment — Fort Lewis, WA	2016
<b>Expert Badge, Rifle Component Bar</b> , US Army, 75th Ranger Regiment — Fort Lewis, WA	2016
<b>Driver Badge, Wheeled Vehicle Component Bar</b> , US Army, 75th Ranger Regiment — Fort Lewis, WA	2015
<b>Parachutist Badge, Unit Trimming</b> , US Army, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment — Fort Benning, GA	2014
<b>Infantry Blue Chord Fourragère</b> , US Army, 19th Infantry Regiment — Fort Benning, GA	2014
<b>National Defense Service Medal</b> , US Army, 19th Infantry Regiment — Fort Benning, GA	2014
<b>Army Service Ribbon</b> , US Army, 19th Infantry Regiment — Fort Benning, GA	2014

## Civil Service

---

<b>Smithsonian Institute</b> — Washington, DC <i>Digital Transcription</i>	2020 - 2021
<b>AmeriCorps</b> — Dallas, TX <i>Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA)</i>	2013 - 2014
<b>Open Architecture Collaborative</b> — Dallas, TX <i>Non-Profit Architecture &amp; Planning</i>	2013 - 2014
<b>Trinity Park Conservancy</b> — Dallas, TX <i>Public Park Conservation</i>	2013 - 2014

## Technical Skills

---

### Languages

**Scripting:** Python, Bash  
**Statistical:** R, Stata  
**Compiled:** C/C++, Fortran  
**Database:** SQL, NoSQL  
**Typesetting:** L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Markdown

### Frameworks

**Data Science:** NumPy, SciPy, Pandas, Featuretools, Tidyverse, Dplyr  
**Visualization:** Matplotlib, Seaborn, Plotly, Processing, Shiny, ggplot  
**Statistical Learning:** Scikit-Learn, XGBoost, LightGBM, CatBoost  
**Reinforcement Learning:** OpenAI Baselines, Stable Baselines  
**Deep Learning:** Pytorch, TensorFlow, ONNX

### Deployment

**DevOps:** Git, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD Pipelines, Pickle  
**Databases:** SQL Server, PostgreSQL, SQLite, CosmosDB, Blobs  
**Web Services:** Flask, Gunicorn, Nginx  
**Web Automation:** Selenium, Puppeteer  
**Cloud Platforms:** Azure, Azure Gov, AWS  
**Security:** OWASP ZAP, STIGs

### Software

**Development Environments:** VS, VS Code, RStudio, Jupyter, Spyder  
**Geographic Information Systems:** ArcGIS, QGIS, OSM, Leaflet, Mapbox  
**3D Modeling & Optimization:** Rhino, Grasshopper, SketchUp, AutoCAD, Unity  
**Design & Illustration:** Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign  
**Financial Modeling:** Excel, Macros, CoStar  
**Studio & Live Audio:** Logic, Protools

### Prototyping

**Sensors & Hardware:** Arduino, Raspberry Pi, GPU, FPGA  
**Project Management:** Agile, Scrum, Critical Path  
**Electrical:** Soldering, Wiring, Safety  
**Ideation:** Drawing & Sketching, Storyboarding  
**Analogs:** Hand Drafting, Physical Modeling, Photography

## Personal Activities

---

### Music & Live Audio

**Atlas North American Tour** — US & Canada 2013  
Co-Tour Manager, The Word Alive (*Fearless Records*)  
Guitar Tech, The Word Alive (*Fearless Records*)

**Fight the Silence Tour** — US 2013  
Guitar Tech, The Word Alive (*Fearless Records*)  
Guitar Tech, For Today (*Razor & Tie Records*)

**All Stars Tour** — US 2012  
Guitar Tech, The Word Alive (*Fearless Records*)  
Guitar Tech, A Skylit Drive (*Fearless Records*)

**Van's Warped Tour** — US & Canada 2011  
Co-Tour Manager, The Word Alive (*Fearless Records*)  
Guitar Tech, Of Mice & Men (*Rise Records*)

**Regional Performances** — US 2011  
Guitarist, The Rendering (*Authentik Artists*)

### Outdoors & Endurance

Running (*Half Marathon, 13.1mi, Marathon, 26.2mi*)  
Cycling (*Century Ride, 100mi*)  
Hiking (*Mt. Denali, Mt. Rainier*)  
Overlanding (*Rubicon Trail, Alaskan Arctic Circle, All 50 States*)  
Snowboarding (*Cascades, Colorado Plateau, Sierra Nevadas, Mississippi River Valley*)