

# HUNTER R. MERRILL

DATA SCIENTIST | ML ENGINEER | PROGRAM LEAD

## CONTACT

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Full CV: [hrmerrill.github.io](https://github.com/hrmerrill)  
Location: Columbus, OH

## EDUCATION

**PhD, Engineering** / MAY 2014 - MAY 2018  
(Statistics concentration)

**MStat, Statistics** / AUGUST 2012 - MAY 2014  
**BS, Mathematics** / AUGUST 2008 - MAY 2012

## SKILLS

**Research & Methodology:**  
Research design, probabilistic forecasting, uncertainty quantification, deep learning, predictive modeling, Bayesian inference, generative modeling, causal inference

**People & Program Management:**  
Managing end-to-end research cycles, coordinating research analysts/assistants, stakeholder management, grant/project evaluation, remote team leadership

**Communication:**  
Technical report writing, academic publishing, translating complex statistical results for stakeholders, UI/UX for decision-support tools

**Tech Stack:**  
Python (PyTorch, TensorFlow, PyMC), Scikit-Learn, EconML), R, SQL, Node.js, Bash

## SERVICE

[Taimaka](#) (May 2025 - Present).

Reducing malnutrition in Nigerian children through predictive model development, deployment and automation.

UF ABE Advisory Board (3-year term, 2022-2025).

Advising on the UF Ag & Bio Engineering department's mission statement and strategy.

## BIOGRAPHY

I am a leader specializing in AI-driven forecasting to improve decision-making and risk mitigation with data-driven tools and software. With 9+ years of experience, including 4+ years leading cross-functional teams, I bridge the gap between methodological innovation and real-world impact. My work spans global health, environmental sustainability, and precision agriculture. I have extensive experience managing the full research cycle, from experimental design to the delivery of peer-reviewed findings and AI-based decision-support tools. I have authored multiple [peer-reviewed publications](#) and [patents](#).

## SELECT EXPERIENCE

Climate LLC / Monsanto / Bayer

**Principal Data Scientist**, Sustainability Modeling Team / SEPT 2024 - PRESENT  
**Lead Data Scientist**, Environment Modeling Team / NOV 2020 - SEPT 2024  
**Senior Data Scientist**, Environment Modeling Team / APR 2018 - NOV 2020  
**Geospatial Statistician**, Seeds & Placement Team / MAY 2017 - APR 2018

I manage end-to-end research cycles for precision agriculture.

- Led research teams to develop and deploy AI-based remote sensing models, image classification models and LLM frameworks supporting multiple regenerative agriculture business operations.
- Enabled granular risk assessment for farmers and breeders by developing deep learning models for multi-disease prediction and crop yield forecasts.
- Led the authoring of technical reports, presentations and dashboards that translate forecasts and complex uncertainty metrics into actionable insights for non-technical leadership.

## Taimaka

Program Improvement Fellow / SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2025

I improved pediatric patient outcomes and reduced malnutrition treatment costs in Gombe, Nigeria.

- [Built a facial recognition model](#) with 99% true acceptance and rejection rates and 97% top-3 accuracy.
- Forecasted the decay of facial recognition accuracy as malnourished children recover and grow.
- Forecasted anthropometric recovery trajectories for malnourished children to identify those most at-risk of nonresponse and death.
- Translated research findings into operational improvements, identifying key implications for malnourished patient protocols and improving long-term recovery metrics.