

Richie Mendelsohn

richiem.github.io

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LANGUAGES AND TECHNOLOGIES

- Excellent: **Python, PyTorch, Spark, SQL, p5.js** Prior: **Scala, Ruby, Java, C++**

WORK

Senior Machine Learning Engineer 2024 – 2025

Hinge NYC

- Designed tiered input/output safety pipeline for LLM-powered conversational feature: content filtering, LLM-as-a-judge classifiers, synthetic evaluation data to stress-test safety coverage
- Advocated for and built automated content safety checks adopted company-wide
- Worked on core matching algorithm (two-tower model, feature engineering, offline/online evaluation), evaluating new features for bias and popularity bias across demographic segments
- Tools: PyTorch, Databricks, Ray, Kubernetes, Arize

Machine Learning Engineer (Independent Consultant) 2022 - 2024

Self-Employed

- Fine-tuned LLMs and trained custom embedding models
- Architected and launched educational lecture summary tool for university level courses
- Built recommendation systems and ML infrastructure: model-serving APIs, data pipelines, evaluation harnesses

Senior Machine Learning Engineer 2017 – 2021

Apple San Francisco, CA

- Built podcast search and recommendation systems serving millions of users, using listening data and content signals
- Launched topic-based semantic search and content classification across millions of podcasts
- Built toxic content classifiers using BERT text embeddings
- Trained seq2seq models for punctuation prediction on ASR output; built audio classification and embedding pipelines

Founding ML Researcher 2016 – 2017

Audiosear.ch / PopUpArchive Oakland, CA

- Led ML at a podcast discovery startup acquired by Apple
- Clustering and organizing podcasts based on unsupervised LDA topic modeling of podcast transcripts – extracting 80+ topics from 100k podcasts
- Unsupervised keyword and named entity extraction from podcast transcripts
- Built recommendations engine to better surface the long-tail of great podcast content
 - Content-based recommendations from topics data / Collaborative filtering from play data

Software Engineer, Engineering Productivity 2013 – 2015

Google Mountain View, CA

- Google AI Products team: built evaluation frameworks for ML-generated ad headlines and automated extraction of product reviews
- YouTube: designed integration testing infrastructure for ~300 engineers, including intelligent test-runner that automatically identifies and runs relevant tests based on code changes

Software Engineer in Test 2011 – 2013

Spectra Logic Boulder, CO

- Architected and built extensible automation framework across SCSI/Selenium/XML protocols

EDUCATION

BlueDot Impact — Technical AI Safety Program 2025

Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering 2009

Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ

- Concentrations: Software Engineering, Digital Signal Processing