



Mahbod Tajdini

Master of Science in Data Science
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EDUCATION

Degree	Institute	CGPA	Year
MSc in Data Science	Universität Zürich (UZH)	N/A (Ongoing)	2025 - Present
	ETH Zürich (Special Student)		
BSc in Artificial Intelligence	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam)	8.5/10 (=4.0 GPA)	2022 - 2025

Bachelor's Thesis: Exploring Ball Recovery Times in Professional Football: Insights and Patterns

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **VU Amsterdam - Sports Intelligence Lab [🌐]** Jun 2025 – Present
Research Assistant Remote
 - Conducting data-driven research on ball recovery in professional football and exploring machine learning applications in the sport under the supervision of Dr. Mauricio Verano Merino
 - Analyzed large-scale educational data to evaluate the effects of Generative AI tools on student outcomes in programming courses, contributing to a paper accepted at *ICSE 2026*
- **Forward Football [🌐]** Sep 2024 – Jun 2025
AI Research Intern Amsterdam, Netherlands
 - Researched machine learning and computer vision models for football intelligence and tactical optimization
 - Analyzed large-scale spatiotemporal datasets to model player interactions, quantify team performance, and derive data-driven tactical insights

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- Capitalising on Football Data with Machine Learning: A Literature Review** *Under Review - ACM Computing Surveys (ACM CSUR) 2026*
Dionysios Kyriazopoulos, Mauricio Verano Merino, Mahbod Tajdini
- The Clash of Codes: From Peer-to-Peer Duplication to AI-Generation in Introductory Programming Assignments** *To Appear - ICSE 2026 SEET Track*
Mahbod Tajdini, Jose Maria Zuzarte Reis Claver, Mauricio Verano Merino
- Programming Lego MINDSTORMS Robots using NI LabVIEW®** *eBook - April 2022*
Pooyan Nayyeri, Mahbod Tajdini
[\[open-access eBook\]](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Forward.Inc [🌐]** Jan 2026 – Present
Student Consultant Amsterdam, Netherlands
 - Providing research, analysis, and practical recommendations for a mission-driven organization. Review programs, analyze data, and support strategic planning efforts. Collaborate with team members to improve operations, strengthen services, and support organizational goals
- **ETH Zürich - D-USYS [🌐]** Jan 2026 – Present
Teaching Assistant Zürich, Switzerland
 - Serving as a Teaching Assistant for Environmental Systems Data Science: Machine Learning (701-3003-00L) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Loïc Pellissier and Dr. Camille Pierre Albouy
- **Universität Zürich - IFI [🌐]** Sep 2025 – Dec 2025
Head Teaching Assistant Zürich, Switzerland
 - Served as Head Teaching Assistant (TA) for Informatics I (22AINF02) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Harald Gall and Dr. Carol Alexandru, leading the TA team and managing teaching operations, exercise design, and assessment processes to ensure high-quality student learning support and effective course delivery

• VU Amsterdam - Faculty of Science [🌐]

Apr 2023 - Jun 2025

Amsterdam, Netherlands

- Mentored new TAs through workshops, training sessions, and personalized feedback as a TA Mentor, enhancing instructional quality across the Faculty of Science
- Taught and supported Machine Learning-focused courses and labs across 10+ undergraduate and Honors-level courses
- Coordinated TA activities, contributed to course design, and facilitated communication between instructors and students as Head TA for the course: Computational Thinking (X_400475)

• Baridsoft [🌐]

Jun 2021 - Aug 2021

Information Technology Intern

Tehran, Iran

- Worked on computer systems, network infrastructure, and IT support, with hands-on experience in troubleshooting, device configuration, and maintaining internal systems

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- **Generation Robotics Executive Staff**, ETH Robotics Club Nov 2025 - Present
- **Hack4Good Organizing Staff**, Analytics Club at ETH Zürich Nov 2025 - Present
- **Voting member of the Program Committee for AI**, VU Amsterdam Oct 2022 - Jun 2025
- **Year Representative for BSc AI**, VU Amsterdam Oct 2022 - Jun 2025
- **International Student Ambassador**, VU Amsterdam Oct 2022 - Jun 2025
- **Robotics Competition Judge**, WRO Netherlands Jun 2023 - Jul 2023
- **Captain of the Student Robotics Team**, University of Tehran Jun 2017 - Nov 2019

PROJECTS

- **ETH Zürich: ML in Finance [🌐][⌚]** Aug 2025 - Oct 2025
 - Evaluated the predictive efficacy of machine learning and deep learning architectures for Solvency II ratios under synthetic economic and stress scenarios
 - Implemented a reproducible SHAP-based interpretability framework to align algorithmic methodologies with actuarial principles, facilitating expert validation
- **Exploring Ball Recovery Times in Professional Football [⌚]** Jan 2025 - Jun 2025
 - Analyzed how key match events affect ball recovery times in elite football using open-access event data, and created game-timeline visualizations to reveal patterns around goals, substitutions, cards, and tactical shifts
 - Developed a reproducible Python pipeline to compute recovery metrics, perform statistical tests (normality, group differences, effect sizes), and present insights through interactive dashboards

ACHIEVEMENTS

Academic Distinctions

- BSc in AI, VU Amsterdam – Graduated *cum laude* (Top 8% of cohort) Jul 2025
- IB Diploma Programme – Top 3% Worldwide May 2022

University of Waterloo - CEMC (Canadian Computing Competition)

- Awarded Certificate of Distinction as a *Top 25%* contestant worldwide Dec 2020
- Achieved *1st rank* in Iran Dec 2020

World Robot Olympiad (WRO)

- *1st place*, Football Category, Iran National Selection Competition Oct 2019
- *1st place*, Football Category, Iran National Selection Competition Oct 2018
- *16th place*, Football Category, Costa Rica International Finals Dec 2017
- *2nd place*, Football Category, Iran National Selection Competition Oct 2017

SKILLS

- **Programming Languages**: Python, R, Prolog, C++, SQL
- **Tools and Frameworks**: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Scikit-Learn, HuggingFace, Jupyter, NumPy, Pandas, SciPy, Statsmodels, OpenCV, Roboflow, Git, Docker, MySQL
- **Languages**: English (fluent), Persian (fluent), French (conversational), German (basic), Dutch (basic)

CERTIFICATIONS

- **Google:** Advanced Data Analytics; The Power of Statistics; Regression Analysis: Simplify Complex Data Relationships *Oct 2025*
- **DeepLearning.AI:** Generative Deep Learning with TensorFlow; Advanced Computer Vision with TensorFlow; Machine Learning *Sep 2025*
- **Stanford Online:** Advanced Learning Algorithms; Supervised Machine Learning: Regression and Classification; Unsupervised Learning, Recommenders, Reinforcement Learning *Aug 2025*
- **Anthropic:** AI Fluency Framework & Foundations; Model Context Protocol: Advanced Topics *Aug 2025*
- **IBM:** Tools for Data Science *Aug 2025*