Antonio Franca Ibañez

https://antoniofrancaib.github.io/

EDUCATION

University of Cambridge

MPhil in Machine Learning and Machine Intelligence

Cambridge, England Oct 2024 – Present

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Mobile: $+34\ 671-449-737$

- Member of the Department of Engineering, Queens' College.
- Relevant courses @Cambridge: Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making, Deep learning & Structured Data, Probabilistic Machine Learning, Geometric Deep Learning, Computational Neuroscience

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, VU

BSc in Mathematics; Grade: Cum Laude (top < 2%)

Amsterdam, Netherlands Sept 2021 – June 2024

- Pursued the Honors Program with an additional 30 ECTS in advanced Computer Science courses.
- Relevant courses @VU: Bayesian Statistics, Dynamical Systems, Topology, Complex Analysis, Fourier Analysis, Multivariable Calculus, Group Theory.

Nanyang Technological University, NTU

Exchange Semester in Artificial Intelligence

Singapore, Singapore Aug 2023 – Dec 2023

- GLOBE scholar Merit-based scholarship.
- Coursework @NTU: Algorithm Design & Analysis, Machine Learning, Neural Network & Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing, Modelling & Control.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Centre de Recerca Matemàtica, CRM

Bachelor's Thesis research supervised by Dr. Alexander Roxin

Barcelona, Spain Feb 2024 – Aug 2024

- Researched how variability in synaptic connectivity can enhance the memory storage capabilities of recurrent neural networks (CA3 region of the hippocampus).
- Code available at github.com/antoniofrancaib and project available here.

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, VU

Independent Research project supervised by Prof. Daniele Avitabile.

Amsterdam, Netherlands Feb 2023 - June 2023

- Researched Amari's equations to simulate spatial firing patterns across neural fields, exploring their stability and dynamics in depicting cortical activity.
- Project report available here.

Artificial Neural Computing, ANC

Research Intern supervised by Dr. Vitaly Vanchurin

Miami, FL (remote) Jan 2022 – May 2022

- Took classes on advanced ML topics, including statistical modeling, thermodynamics, non-equilibrium dynamics, and physics- and bio-inspired algorithms.
- Attended the ANC Journal Club discussing analytical machine learning theory research papers.
- Experimental project on the boundary dynamics of neural networks.

Center for AI Safety, CAIS

Machine Learning Safety Scholar

San Francisco, CA (remote) Jun 2021 – Sept 2021

- Completed online courses from MIT and the University of Michigan, along with a new course on Introduction to ML Safety.
- Final project on the emergence of power-seeking AI and its potential existential threat, available here.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, VU

Teaching Assistant in Probability Theory

Teaching Assistant in Single Variable Calculus and Linear Algebra

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Feb. 2023 – Jun. 2023 Sept. 2022 – Jan. 2023

• Led weekly sessions for 20-40 students, reviewing lectures and assisting with problem sets.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Altan.ai

Barcelona, Spain Jan 2022–January 2023

 $Founding\ Engineer$

• Developed a multi-armed bandit algorithm for budget optimization for a marketing agency client and built a platform for easy chatbot integration on websites.

MACHINE LEARNING PROJECTS

Segmenting Glomeruli Functional Tissue Units

Final project for the Machine Learning class (CZ4041) at NTU Singapore

Fall 2023

- Developed and optimized a U-Net-based segmentation process for precise identification and analysis of Glomeruli Functional Tissue Units in kidney tissues.
- Code available at github.com/antoniofrancaib and project available here.

Cross-Domain Sentiment Classification with Domain-Adaptive Neural Networks

Project for the Deep Learning & Neural Networks class (CZ4042) at NTU Singapore

Fall 2023

- Implemented a novel Adversarial Domain Adaptation (ADA) approach for Cross-Domain Sentiment Classification (CDSC) that enhances model robustness across diverse domains.
- Project report available here.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Menú Por El Planeta (non-profit)

Co-Founder

Barcelona, Spain Sept 2019–Jun 2021

- Non-profit organization that assists Spanish universities in transitioning to a more sustainable food offer.
- Responsible for fund-raising, organisation, supervision of employees and strategic decisions.
- Supported by grants from VegFund, Animal Charity Evaluators, and ProVeg.

Estudiante Por Los Animales

Barcelona, Spain Jan 2019–Jun 2020

 $Co ext{-}Organizer$

• Organized talks, conferences, and group readings to promote the moral consideration of non-human animals.

SELECTED HONORS

• Cum Laude Distinction

2024

Graduated in the top 2% of my cohort in the BSc program in Mathematics.

• CRM Fellowship Award

2024

I was awarded a grant to conduct undergraduate research in computational neuroscience under the supervision of Dr. Alexander Roxin.

• GLOBE scholarship (top < 1%)

2023

This scholarship is intended for talented students who want to study at a partner institution. Awarded to 10 students (out of \sim 1000 applicants) within VU Amsterdam.

• Honorable Mention at AI Safety Public Materials Bounty.

2023

I received an award for my blog post "Power-Seeking AI and Existential Risk".

• Long-Term Future Fund, LTFF

2022

Personal Grant for projects relating to Machine Learning awarded by Open Philanthropy Project.

 \bullet Science Immersion Program in Mathematics

2018

Scholarship awarded by Spanish Science Ministry for outstanding academic achievements during high school.

SKILLS

Languages

- Spanish mother tongue
- English professional proficiency
- Italian professional proficiency
- Chinese beginner

Programming Languages

- Python, Javascript, C, C++, Scala, Spark, Kotlin, SQL, HTML, CUDA, VHDL, MIPS assembly
- ML libraries: Pytorch, JAX, TensorFlow, Pytorch Lightning, Weights and Biases
- Neural Network Simulation Tools: NEST, Brian, NEURON