Antonio Franca Ibañez

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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge

MPhil in Machine Learning; Grade: Distinction (\sim top 3 of cohort)

Cambridge, England Oct 2024 – Aug 2025

- Dissertation: Transferable Neural Transports for Parallel Tempering
- Relevant courses @Cambridge: Reinforcement Learning, Deep learning and Structured Data, Probabilistic Machine Learning, Geometric Deep Learning, Computational Statistics.

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, VU

BSc in Mathematics; Grade: Cum Laude

Amsterdam, Netherlands Sept 2021 – June 2024

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

Nanyang Technological University, NTU

Exchange Semester in Machine Learning; Grade: A/A+

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

Transferable Neural Transports for Parallel Tempering

Master's Dissertation supervised by Prof. José Miguel Hernández-Lobato

Cambridge, United Kingdom Apr 2024 – Aug 2025

• Accelerating parallel tempering (PT) with generative models that morph coordinates between adjacent temperatures to increase swap acceptance rates and improve mixing. Code | Project.

gRNAdeX: eXpressive, Biologically-eXtensible gRNAde

Research Project supervised by Prof. Pietro Liò

Cambridge, United Kingdom Nov 2024 – Mar 2025

• Proposed gRNAdeX, an improved version of gRNAde, incorporating better geometric expressivity, universal representation, and sampling robustness. Code | Project.

Centre de Recerca Matemàtica, CRM

Undergraduate Research supervised by Dr. Alexander Roxin

Barcelona, Spain Jan 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 | Project.

Various Research & Open Source Projects

2022 - 2024

- Reinforcement Learning: Model-free RL algorithms across classic grid-world scenarios. Code.
- Humanity's Last Exam: Domain-specific questions to expert-level AI reasoning benchmark. Paper.
- Bayesian Inference: Scalable variational methods and dimensionality reduction in high dimensions.
- Speech Recognition: Built end-to-end ASR system using CTC on TIMIT dataset.
- Medical Image Segmentation: U-Net-based segmentation of glomeruli in kidney tissues Code.
- Domain Adaptation: Adversarial domain adaptation for cross-domain sentiment classification Project.
- Mathematical Neuroscience: Simulated spatial firing patterns across neural fields Project.
- AI Safety: ML Safety Scholar at CAIS; studied power-seeking AI and existential risks. Blog.
- Neural Network Theory: Research internship at ANC; geometry of decision boundaries in NNs.

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.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Altan

Barcelona, Spain Jan 2024-Oct 2025

• Led technical development from inception through early product deployment; architected and implemented core ML infrastructure including evaluation pipelines. Helped raise €2.5M in seed funding.

Outlier AI (Scale AI)

Founding AI Engineer

Remote

Subject Matter Expert Contributor

Jan 2025 – Present

• Contributing to AI training datasets across mathematics, physics, and coding domains.

Freelance ML Engineering Consultant

Remote

Independent Consultant

2021-Present

• Developed multi-armed bandit algorithms for marketing campaign optimization, among other ML consulting projects for startups and SMEs.

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Menú Por El Planeta (non-profit)

Barcelona, Spain

 $Co ext{-}Founder$

Sept 2019-Jun 2021

- Non-profit organization that assists Spanish universities in transitioning to a more sustainable food offer.
- Responsible for fund-raising, organisation, and strategic decisions. Organized talks, conferences, and group readings to promote the moral consideration of non-human animals.

SELECTED HONORS

• MPhil Distinction Graduated with Distinction from the MPhil in Machine Learning program at the University of Can	2025 nbridge.
• Y Combinator AI Startup School Selected to attend the YC AI Startup School in SF with speakers from OpenAI, DeepMind, and	2025 l Tesla.
• Nova 111 Student List Recognized among the Top 10 students under 25 in Mathematics, Data Analytics and Physics i as part of the Nova 111 Student List 2025. Details	2025 in Spain
• BSc Cum Laude Graduated Cum Laude, ranking 2nd out of 113 students in the BSc program in Mathematics.	2024
• CRM Fellowship Award Awarded a grant to conduct Undergraduate Research in Computational Neuroscience.	2024
• GLOBE Scholarship This scholarship is intended for talented students who want to study at a partner institution. A to 10 students (out of ~1000 applicants) within VU Amsterdam. €5k of funding for living exper	
• Honorable Mention at AI Safety Public Materials Bounty. \$1K award for my blog post Power-Seeking AI and Existential Risk, published on LessWrong.	2023
• Long-Term Future Fund, LTFF \$2K scholarship for pursuing projects related to ML awarded by Open Philanthropy Project.	2022
• Machine Learning Safety Scholarship \$5K stipend to complete ML courses from MIT and the University of Michigan	2022
• Science Immersion Program in Mathematics Scholarship awarded by Spanish Science Ministry for outstanding academic achievements, enabled tendance at university-level courses in physics and mathematics while still in high school.	2018 oling at-
KILLS	

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Languages

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

Programming Languages

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