

Luís Leitão

MSc STUDENT IN ENGINEERING
PHYSICS

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About me

I'm an adventurous and open-minded person, constantly trying to challenge myself mentally and physically. I have a deep interest in applying mathematics, physics, and machine learning to uncover patterns behind the complexity of this world: from financial markets and economic behaviour to language and cultural evolution. Want to know more about me? Visit my website!

Technical skills

Programming: Python, SQL, LaTeX, Matlab
Tools: Git, VS Code, Linux, macOS, Windows

Languages

Portuguese - C2 (native)
English - C1
French - A2 (learning)

Interests

Reading, running, cycling, swimming, spearfishing, investing, music, surfing

Education

Master's degree in Engineering Physics Sep 2023 – Present
FCUL – University of Lisbon

- Currently pursuing the second year of the Master's degree with coursework spanning optics, nuclear physics, control theory, and complex systems (with a strong focus on stochastic calculus).

Erasmus+ Exchange Student Sep 2024 – Jan 2025
Sorbonne Université, Paris

- Specialization in machine learning integrated within the MSc in Physics

Bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics Sep 2019 – Aug 2022
FCT - NOVA

- Developed strong foundations in mathematics, classical and quantum physics, electronics, and programming.
- Active in the student association: organized workshops, lectures and interviews. As Treasurer, managed the budget and bank account, and prepared detailed financial reports.

Experience

Research Fellow Mar 2023 – Present
NUC-RIA, LIP

- Supported by an 18-month FCT research grant, calculated atomic parameters for heavy ions and performed collision-radiative modelling for kilonovae nucleosynthesis.
- Supervised two bachelor's students during a summer internship focused on developing a database and a corresponding website for data access.
- Publication on *Physical Review A*: R. F. Silva, A. Flörs, L. Leitão, "Systematic Bayesian Optimization for Atomic Structure Calculations of Heavy Elements".
- Presented 1 talk and 3 posters at conferences including: IBER2023, Russbach 2024, FÍSICA2024 and NIC2025.

Math and physics tutor Jan 2020 – Sep 2024

- Math and physics tutor for high school students, balancing 4 to 9 hours per week alongside academic and research commitments.

Intern Jan 2022 – Mar 2022
Instituto de Astrofísica e Ciências do Espaço

- Analyzed high-redshift galaxy spectra from the MOSDEF survey using Python and the FADO analysis tool, with the goal of predicting the contribution of nebulae to the global makeup of the galaxies.

Volunteering

School Assitant Sep 2022 – Oct 2022
Escola Humberto Braima Sambu, Guiné Bissau

- Took a gap year to volunteer at a local school in Bissau and travelling across the country. Taught mathematics and Portuguese, secured sponsorships in Portugal and conducted job interviews to recruit suitable teachers.

Scout Sep 2011 – Aug 2022
CNE

- Member for 11 years, I started working and leading teams from an early age, and participated in various volunteer initiatives.