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Antonio Franca Ibañez

https://antoniofrancaib.github.io/

EDUCATION

University of Cambridge

MPhil in Machine Learning and Machine Intelligence

- 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%)

- 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

- 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

- 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.

- 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.

Center for AI Safety, CAIS

Machine Learning Safety Scholar

- 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.

Cambridge, England Oct 2024 – Present

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Sept 2021 – June 2024

Singapore, Singapore Aug 2023 – Dec 2023

Barcelona, Spain Feb 2024 – Aug 2024

San Francisco, CA (remote) Jun 2022 – Sept 2022

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Feb 2023 - June 2023

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Artificial Neural Computing, ANC

Research Intern supervised by Dr. Vitaly Vanchurin

- 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 modeling the geometry and evolution of decision boundaries in neural networks.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, VU

Teaching Assistant in Probability Theory Teaching Assistant in Single Variable Calculus and Linear Algebra

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

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

AltanLabs

Machine Learning Engineer

• Developing NLP and machine learning modules to build a flexible AI framework that enables the development of domain-specific software.

MACHINE LEARNING PROJECTS

Accelerating Molecular Simulation with Neural Networks

Master's thesis supervised by Dr. José Miguel Hernández-Lobato

• Investigating MCMC acceleration techniques for MD by developing diffusion models and energy-based samplers to generate equilibrium molecular configurations with improved sampling efficiency.

gRNAdeX: eXpressive, Biologically-eXtensible gRNAde

Research project for the Geometric Deep Learning class (L65) at Cambridge University Spring 2025

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

Segmenting Glomeruli Functional Tissue Units

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

• Developed and optimized a U-Net-based segmentation process for precise identification and analysis of Glomeruli Functional Tissue Units in kidney tissues. Code | Project.

Cross-Domain Sentiment Classification with Domain-Adaptive Neural Networks

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

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

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Amsterdam, Netherlands Feb. 2023 – Jun. 2023 Sept. 2022 – Jan. 2023

> Barcelona, Spain Jan 2024–Present

Spring 2025

Fall 2023

Fall 2023

OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Menú Por El Planeta (non-profit)

Co-Founder

- 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

Co-Organizer

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

SELECTED HONORS

| • Nova 111 Student List Recognized among the Top 10 students under 25 in Mathematics, Data Analytics and Physics as part of the Nova 111 Student List 2025. Details | 2025 in Spain |
|--|--------------------------|
| • Cum Laude Distinction Graduated in the top 2% of my cohort in the BSc program in Mathematics. | 2024 |
| • CRM Fellowship Award Awarded a grant to conduct undergraduate research in computational neuroscience under the sup of Dr. Alexander Roxin. €1k of total financial support. | 2024 pervision |
| GLOBE scholarship (top < 1%) This scholarship is intended for talented students who want to study at a partner institution. to 10 students (out of ~1000 applicants) within VU Amsterdam. €5k of funding for living exp | 2023 Awarded enses |
| • 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, ena tendance at university-level courses in physics and mathematics while still in high school. | 2018 bling at- |

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

Barcelona, Spain Sept 2019–Jun 2021

Barcelona, Spain

Jan 2019–Jun 2020