

# Luca Zhou

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## Education

**Sapienza University of Rome & CUHK Shenzhen (Exchange)** 2023 – 2025  
MSc in Computer Science: AI-centered track GPA: 30.3/31  
**University of Rome Tor Vergata** 2020 – 2023  
BSc in Computer Science Final Grade: 110 Summa Cum Laude

## Publications

**Zhou, L.**, Solombrino, D., Crisostomi, D., Bucarelli, M. S., Silvestri, F., & Rodolà, E. (2024). Atm: Improving model merging by alternating tuning and merging. arXiv preprint arXiv:2411.03055.

## Skills

**Programming Languages & Tools:** Python, PyTorch, Weights & Biases, Git, C/C++, Java, SQL  
**Spoken Languages:** Mandarin Chinese (Native), Italian (Native), English (Advanced)

## Experience

### Research Intern (Hybrid)

*Panasonic North America / Stanford University* Jun. 2025 – Nov. 2025 (expected)  
• Contributed to the development of a novel reinforcement learning framework and the curation of a specialized dataset to enhance LLM code generation.  
• Worked under the supervision of Prof. *Tatsunori Hashimoto* from Stanford University.

### Visiting Graduate Student Researcher

*Department of Computer Science and Engineering, UC San Diego* Mar. 2025 – May 2025  
• Led a research project on benchmarking VLMs for time series captioning and understanding, collaborating with *Rose STL Lab*, advised by Prof. *Rose Yu*.  
• Remote work started in Jan. 2025.

### Graduate Student Researcher

*GLADIA, Sapienza University of Rome* Jun. 2024 – Feb. 2025  
• Investigated novel approaches for model merging and task arithmetic.

### Workshop Reviewer

*UniReps, NeurIPS 2024* Oct. 2024

### Machine Learning Intern

*Reveal SRL, Rome* Aug. 2023 – Dec. 2023  
• Led a predictive analytics project in collaboration with the Italian Union of Chambers of Tourism.  
• Implemented and optimized the *Informer* transformer model to forecast Italian national tourism trends.

## Projects

### Transfer Learning of Mathematical Skills in Small LLMs

*The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen)* Dec. 2024  
• Investigated positive transfer learning among mathematical skills in small LLMs.

### A Survey of NLI Downstream Tasks and Universality

*Sapienza University of Rome* Jun. 2024  
• A comprehensive investigation of NLI's downstream applications, with additional benchmarks.

### A Contrastive Learning Framework for Closed-Set Finger Photo Identification

*Sapienza University of Rome* Jan. 2024  
• Developed a biometric recognition system for recognizing subjects based on finger-photos.

### LLM-based Explanations for Mitigating the Clever Hans Effect

*University of Rome Tor Vergata* Feb. 2023 – Jul. 2023

- Designed an explainable AI pipeline to detect and mitigate spurious correlations in datasets.
- Fine-tuned BERT on refined datasets, achieving a 40% accuracy improvement over the baseline model.

## Awards

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### Iliadship Scholarship & Mentorship

2023

- One of 10 yearly recipients nationwide for a merit-based scholarship and mentorship program by Iliad.

## Extracurricular Activities

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### Board of European Students of Technology (BEST)

*Fundraising Coordinator & Internal Relationships*

*Feb. 2021 – Jul. 2023*