# Luca Zhou

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### **Education**

Sapienza University of Rome & CUHK Shenzhen (Exchange)

2023 - 2025

MSc in Computer Science: AI-centered track

GPA: 4.0/4.0

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 Natural Languages: Mandarin Chinese (Native), Italian (Native), English (Advanced)

# Experience

#### Visiting Graduate Student Researcher

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, UCSD

Mar. 2025 - May 2025

- Leading a research project on Time Series Captioning via LLMs 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

# Iliadship Scholarship & Mentorship

2023

- Selected as one of 10 recipients nationwide for a prestigious merit-based scholarship and mentorship program by Iliad

# **Extracurricular Activities**

# Board of European Students of Technology (BEST) Fundraising Coordinator & Internal Relationships

Feb. 2021 - Jul. 2023