

Luca Zhou

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Education

Sapienza University of Rome 2025 –
PhD in Computer Science
Research Focus: *Modular Deep Learning, Model Merging*

Sapienza University of Rome & CUHK Shenzhen (Exchange) 2023 – 2025
MSc in Computer Science: AI-centered track Grade: 110/110 with Honors

University of Rome Tor Vergata 2020 – 2023
BSc in Computer Science Grade: 110/110 with Honors

Publications

Zhou, L., Yashwante, P., Fisher, M., Sampieri, A., Zhou, Z., Galasso, F., & Yu, R. (2025). Can Language Models Describe Numeric Time Series?. Under Review.

Zhou, L., Solombrino, D., Crisostomi, D., Bucarelli, M. S., D’Inverno, G. A., Silvestri, F., & Rodolà, E. (2025). On task vectors and gradients. arXiv preprint arXiv:2508.16082.

Zhou, L., Solombrino, D., Crisostomi, D., Bucarelli, M. S., Silvestri, F., & Rodolà, E. (2024). Atm: Improving model merging by alternating tuning and merging. Breaking the monolith - ICIAP 2025.

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) *Jun. 2025 – Dec. 2025 (expected)*
Panasonic North America

- Contributing to the development of a novel reinforcement learning framework for LLM code generation.
- Working in collaboration with *Stanford University* and *ItaAI*.

Visiting Graduate Student Researcher *Mar. 2025 – May 2025*
Department of Computer Science and Engineering, UC San Diego

- Led a research project on benchmarking VLMs for time series captioning and understanding, collaborating with *Rose STL Lab*, advised by Prof. *Rose Yu*.

Graduate Student Researcher *Jun. 2024 – Feb. 2025*
GLADIA, Sapienza University of Rome

- Investigated novel approaches for model merging and task arithmetic.

Workshop Reviewer *Oct. 2024*
UniReps, NeurIPS 2024

Machine Learning Intern *Aug. 2023 – Dec. 2023*
Reveal SRL, Rome

- 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 *Dec. 2024*
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen)

- 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

Iliad

2023

- One of ten yearly recipients nationwide for a merit-based scholarship and mentorship program.

Extracurricular Activities

Board of European Students of Technology (BEST)

Fundraising Coordinator & Internal Relationships

Feb. 2021 – Jul. 2023