

Umberto Cappellazzo

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EDUCATION

University of Trento

Trento, Italy

Ph.D. in Information Engineering and Computer Science

Nov. 2021–15/01/2025

- Title: *Efficient Knowledge Transfer and Adaptation for Speech and Beyond*
- Advisors: Daniele Falavigna, Alessio Brutti
- Research interests: continual learning for audio and speech processing; multi-modal (i.e., audio-language) continual learning; parameter-efficient transfer learning of audio/speech (e.g., Adapters, Mixture of Adapters, LoRA); Multi-modal LLMs for audio-visual speech recognition.

University of Padua

Padua, Italy

MSc in Telecommunication Engineering

2016–2019

- Advisors: Michele Rossi, Matteo Gadaleta
- Thesis Title: A Deep Learning-Based ECG Delineator: Evaluation and Comparison on Standard Databases

University of Padua

Padua, Italy

BSc in Information Engineering

2013–2016

- Advisor: Nicola Laurenti
- Thesis Title: Message Authentication over an Ideal or Noisy Channel

WORK EXPERIENCE

Imperial College London

London, UK

Research Associate in the iBUG group (leader: Maja Pantic)

03/2025-ongoing

- My research focuses on the parameter-efficient massive scaling of audio-visual models using Mixture of Experts and Large Language Models.
- Supervisor: Stavros Petridis

Imperial College London

London, UK

Research Intern, *Audio-visual speech recognition meets LLMs*

February 2024 –November 2024

Supervisor: Stavros Petridis (ICL/Meta AI)

- Proposed Llama-AVSR, a multimodal LLM with strong audio-visual speech recognition abilities. This work has been accepted at *ICASSP* 2025. More details [here](#).

Jelinek Summer Workshop on Speech and Language Technology (JSALT)

Le Mans, France

Junior researcher in the FST group

June 2023 –August 2023

- Junior researcher for the “*Finite state methods with modern neural Architectures for speech applications and beyond*” group at JSALT2023 in Le Mans, France. I worked on the integration of early-exit techniques to make the training and inference of CTC/MMI systems dynamical. Our group included people from Google, JHU, Telecom Paris to name a few. More information available [here](#).

MENTORSHIP & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- **Reviewer:** *Conferences:* ACMMM 2025, ICASSP 2024-2025, Interspeech 2024-2025, IJCNN 2025, ANNPR 2024. *Journals:* IEEE Signal Processing Letters, Neurocomputing, International Journal of Computer Vision (IJCV)
- **Co-supervision:** *While at Imperial College London:* I supervised two undergraduate students from the University of British Columbia and MIT who were interning in my group. *While at the University of Trento:* I co-supervised an MSc student from the University of Bologna (thesis title: “*On the use of Prompting for Fine-Tuning Neural Models for Speech Processing*”).

TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

- “Parameter-Efficient Fine-tuning for Audio and Speech Processing.” *Invited talk at the CUED Speech Group Seminars at the University of Cambridge* (April 2024).

SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python (advanced), Java (basic), HTML (basic), Matlab (basic)
- **ML/DL Toolkits/Libraries:** PyTorch (advanced), HF Transformers (advanced), Pytorch Lightning, NumPy, Matplotlib. Good experience with CL libraries like Continuum and Avalanche
- **Distributed Systems:** Hands-on experience with large scale training of models using distributed systems
- **ASR Frameworks:** good experience with SpeechBrain and K2/icefall
- **Other:** Git, Docker

LANGUAGES

- **Italian:** mother tongue
- **English:** C1
- **TOEFL:** 100/120

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Anand, U. **Cappellazzo**, S. Petridis, and M. Pantic, “Mitigating attention sinks and massive activations in audio-visual speech recognition with llms”, *Under review*, 2025.
- [2] U. **Cappellazzo**, M. Kim, H. Chen, P. Ma, S. Petridis, D. Falavigna, A. Brutti, and M. Pantic, “[Large Language Models are Strong Audio-Visual Speech Recognition Learners](#)”, *ICASSP*, 2025.
- [3] U. **Cappellazzo**, M. Kim, P. Ma, H. Chen, X. Liu, S. Petridis, and M. Pantic, “[MoME: Mixture of Matryoshka Experts for Audio-Visual Speech Recognition](#)”, *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2025.
- [4] U. **Cappellazzo**, M. Kim, and S. Petridis, “[Adaptive Audio-Visual Speech Recognition via Matryoshka-Based Multimodal LLMs](#)”, *IEEE ASRU*, 2025.
- [5] U. **Cappellazzo**, M. Kim, S. Petridis, D. Falavigna, and A. Brutti, “[Scaling and Enhancing LLM-based AVSR: A Sparse Mixture of Projectors Approach](#)”, *Interspeech*, 2025.
- [6] U. **Cappellazzo**, X. Liu, P. Ma, S. Petridis, and M. Pantic, “Omni-avsr: Towards unified multimodal speech recognition with large language models”, *Under review*, 2025.
- [7] U. **Cappellazzo**, D. Falavigna, and A. Brutti, “[Efficient Fine-tuning of Audio Spectrogram Transformers via Soft Mixture of Adapters](#)”, *Interspeech*, 2024.
- [8] U. **Cappellazzo**, D. Falavigna, A. Brutti, and M. Ravanelli, “[Parameter-Efficient Transfer Learning of Audio Spectrogram Transformers](#)”, *IEEE MLSP Workshop*, 2024.
- [9] U. **Cappellazzo**, E. Fini, M. Yang, D. Falavigna, A. Brutti, and B. Raj, “[Continual Contrastive Spoken Language Understanding](#)”, *ACL Findings*, 2024.

- [10] G. A. Wright, U. **Cappellazzo**, S. Zaiem, D. Raj, L. Ondel Yang, D. Falavigna, and A. Brutti, “[Training dynamic models using early exits for automatic speech recognition on resource-constrained devices](#)”, *Self-supervision in Audio, Speech and Beyond (SASB) Workshop, ICASSP*, 2024.
- [11] M. Yang, U. **Cappellazzo**, X. Li, S. Watanabe, and B. Raj, “[Improving continual learning of acoustic scene classification via mutual information optimization](#)”, *ICASSP*, 2024.
- [12] M. Yang, X. Li, U. **Cappellazzo**, S. Watanabe, and B. Raj, “[Towards Unified Evaluation of Continual Learning in Spoken Language Understanding](#)”, *Interspeech*, 2024.
- [13] U. **Cappellazzo**, D. Falavigna, and A. Brutti, “[An Investigation of the Combination of Rehearsal and Knowledge Distillation in Continual Learning for Spoken Language Understanding](#)”, *Interspeech*, 2023.
- [14] U. **Cappellazzo**, M. Yang, D. Falavigna, and A. Brutti, “[Sequence-Level Knowledge Distillation for Class-Incremental End-to-End Spoken Language Understanding](#)”, *Interspeech*, 2023.

See [Google Scholar](#) for my Google Scholar profile.