



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI  
FEDERICO II

itee<sup>PhD</sup>  
information technology  
electrical engineering



# Franca Rocco di Torrepadula

AI-Based Systems for Smart Cities:  
From Cloud down to Edge Systems

Tutor: Prof. Mazzocca

Cycle: XXXVII

co-Tutor: Prof. Di Martino

Year: Second

# My background

- MSc degree in Computer Engineering (October 2021)
- Research group: SECLAB
- PhD start date: 01/11/2021
- Scholarship type: UNINA

# Summary of study activities

- **Ad hoc PhD courses / schools:**
  - IoT Data Analysis
  - Semantic artifacts and multimedia knowledge graphs for bio-data integration
  - 2023 Spring School in Transferable Skills
- **Conferences / events attended:**
  - International Symposium on Web and Wireless Geographical Information Systems (W2GIS2023). **Winner of the Best Presentation Award** for the presentation of the paper *Bus Journey Time Prediction with Machine Learning: An Empirical Experience in Two Cities*.

# Research field of interest

- My research activity concerns the definition and the application of **AI-based systems to smart cities**.
- During this second year, I investigated how to deploy such intelligent systems at the edge, falling into the research field of **EdgeAI**.



# From Cloud down to Edge Systems

- **Problem:** when Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) are deployed on cloud resources data must be moved from source locations to the cloud, introducing several challenges:



Latency



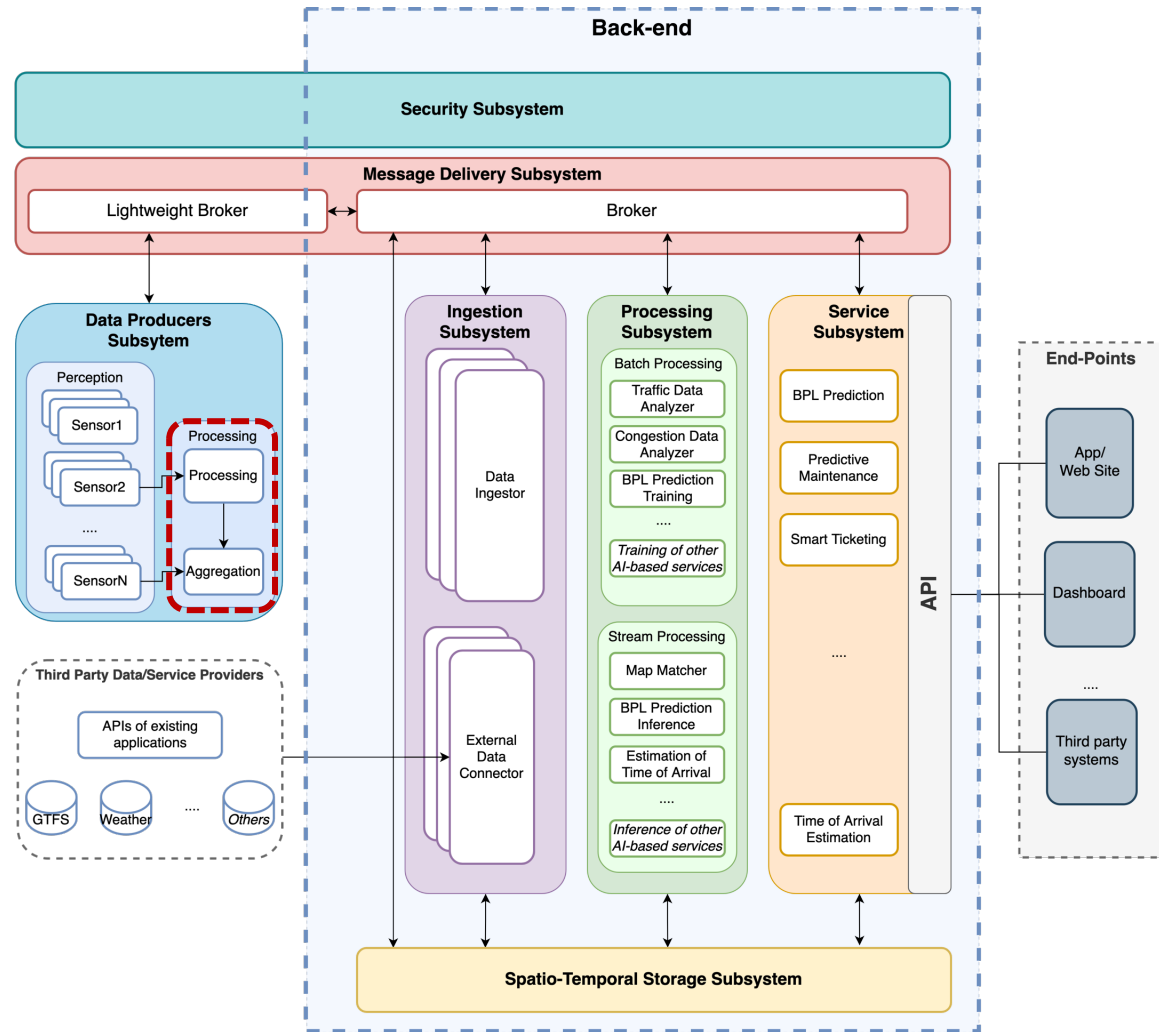
Scalability



Privacy

# From Cloud down to Edge Systems

- **Objective:** move DNNs inference tasks down to edge systems
- **Challenge:** Edge devices are characterized by limited capabilities.

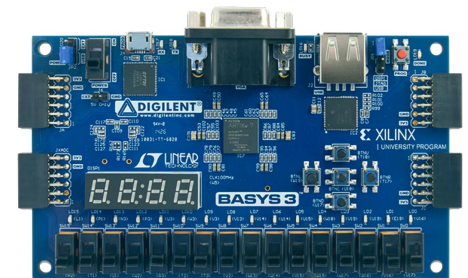
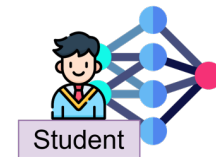
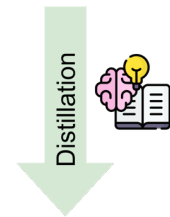
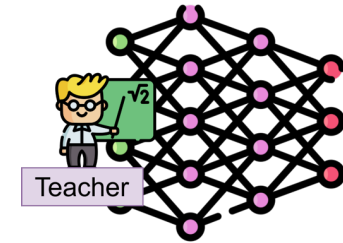


# Hardware-Software Codesign

- Software side:
  - Techniques for compressing DNNs or defining novel network, efficient by design.
  - Trade-off between network accuracy and computational/storage costs.
- Hardware side:
  - Avoiding GPUs and designing ad hoc neural network accelerators (*e.g.* RISC-V based, FPGA-based, etc).
  - Trade-off between flexibility w.r.t network structure and performances.

# Knowledge Distillation

- **Knowledge Distillation** as a model compression technique, to obtain a good **trade-off** between the accuracy of the results and the performance at the edge.
  - A deep model (the **teacher**) is trained without strict requirements.
  - A smaller model (the **student**) is designed to be more suitable for the deployment at the edge.
  - The student is trained by exploiting (**distilling**) the knowledge acquired from the teacher.

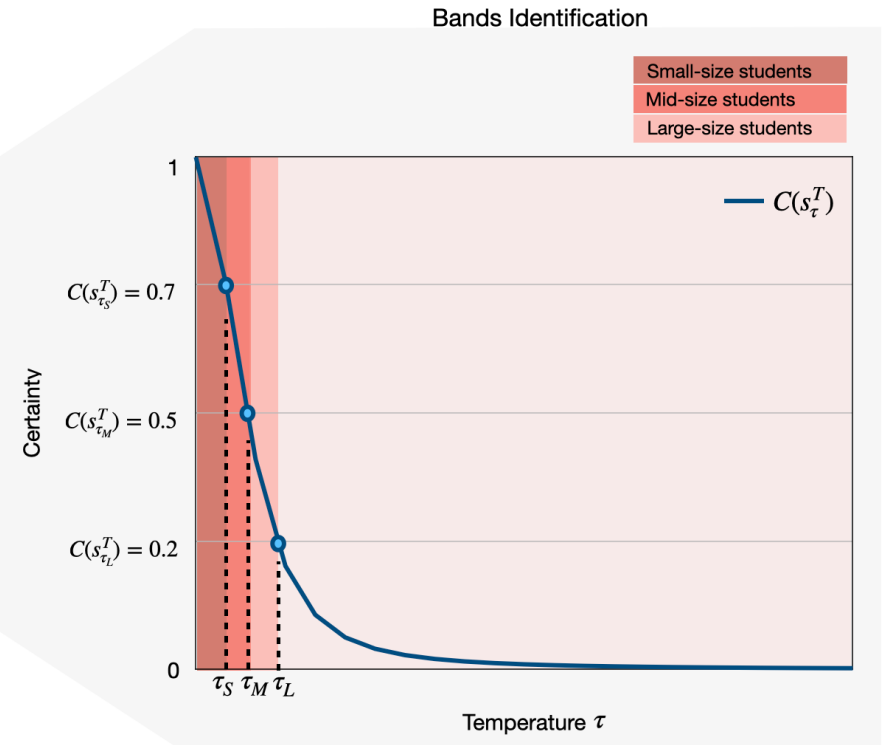
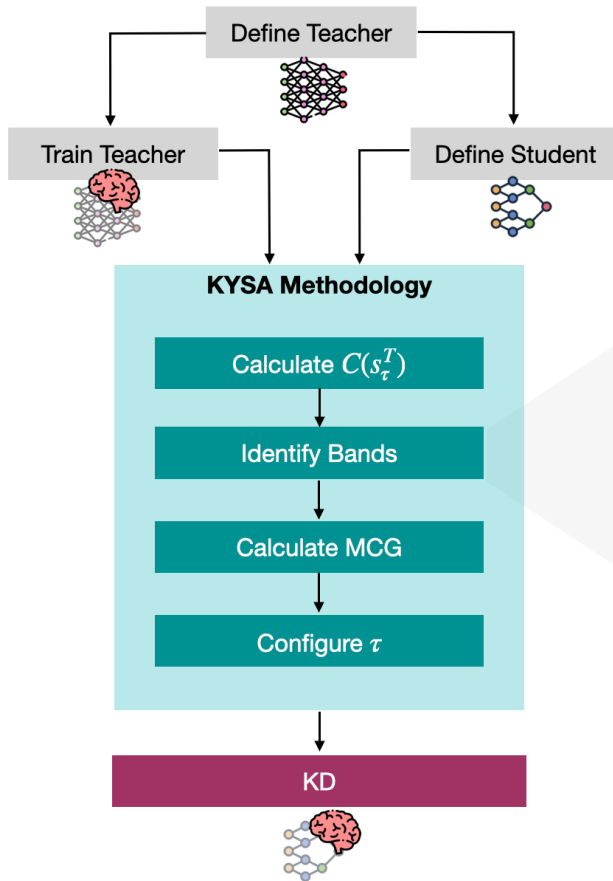




# My Contribution

- Among not fully explored aspects, the proper configuration of the temperature hyper-parameter is a crucial point, referred to as the ***temperature dilemma***.
- We demonstrate that the temperature depends on two main factors:
  - The ability of the teacher w.r.t the task at hand
  - The model capacity gap between the teacher and the student, related to the capability of the student in following the teacher.

# The KYSA Methodology



# Next Year

- ***Toward Online Learning:***
  - KD and Online Learning (with *ETH Zürich* and *Università di Bologna*)
  - Federated Learning (with *Leibniz Universität*)

# Products

[J1]	Di Martino, S., Landolfi, E., Mazzocca, N., <b>Rocco di Torrepadula, F.</b> , & Starace, L. L. L. (2023). <i>A visual-based toolkit to support mobility data analytics</i> . Published on <i>Expert Systems with Applications (ESWA)</i> .
[J2]	Cilardo, A., Maisto, V., Mazzocca, N., <b>Rocco Di Torrepadula, F.</b> (2023). An approach to the systematic characterization of multitask accelerated CNN inference in edge MPSoCs. Published on <i>ACM Transactions on Embedded Computing Systems (ACM TECS)</i> .
[J3]	<b>Rocco Di Torrepadula, F.</b> , Napolitano E. V., Di Martino S., Mazzocca N., <i>Data-Driven Public Transportation Demand Prediction: A Systematic Mapping Study</i> . Submitted to the <i>IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems (T-ITS)</i> . Under the second round of review.
[J4]	<b>Rocco Di Torrepadula, F.</b> , Cilardo, A., Mazzocca N. <i>Keep Your Student's Attention: A Methodological Approach for Configuring the Temperature in Knowledge Distillation</i> . Submitted to the <i>IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (T-PAMI)</i> .

# Products

[J5]	<b>Rocco Di Torrepadula, F.</b> , Maisto, V., Cilardo, A., Mazzocca. <i>Energy-Efficient DNNs via Knowledge Distillation and FPGA technologies</i> . Submitted to the <i>IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Computing (T-SUSC)</i>
[C1]	Dunne, L., <b>Rocco Di Torrepadula, F.</b> , Di Martino, S., McArdle, G., & Nardone, D. (2023, June). <i>Bus Journey Time Prediction with Machine Learning: An Empirical Experience in Two Cities</i> . In <i>International Symposium on Web and Wireless Geographical Information Systems (W2GIS2023)</i> . <b>Best Presentation Award</b> .
[C2]	Di Martino, S., Mazzocca, N., <b>Rocco Di Torrepadula, F.</b> , & Starace, L. L. L. (2023, June). <i>Mobility Data Analytics with KNOT: The KNime mObility Toolkit</i> . In <i>International Symposium on Web and Wireless Geographical Information Systems (W2GIS2023)</i>
[C3]	<b>Rocco Di Torrepadula, F.</b> , Russo, D., Di Martino S., Mazzocca N., Sannino, P. <i>Using SUMO towards Proactive Public Mobility: Some Lessons Learned</i> . Accepted for the <i>1st ACM SIGSPATIAL Workshop on Sustainable Mobility (SuMob 2023)</i>

# Tutorship

- **Computer System Design** course: support and tutorship on:
  - Motorola 6800 programming and simulation on ASIM/ASIM Tool 10/03/23 (3 hours) and 17/03/23 (3 hours);
  - Intel 82C59A Priority Interrupt Controller programming;
  - Intel 8237A DMA controller programming 28/04/23 (2 hours)
- **Architettura dei Sistemi Digitali** course: support and tutorship on:
  - Design of the Robertson's Multiplier on FPGA-based boards 13/12/22 (1 hour)
- **Risk Assessment** course: support and tutorship on:
  - Fault Tree Analysis 19/04/23 (2 hours) and 20/04/23 (2 hours).

# Thank you for your attention

**Contact:**

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