Wed 11 Dec 11 a.m. PST — 2 p.m. PST
East Exhibit Hall A-C #4937

⭐https://github.com/YUCHEN005/STAR-Adapt

NEURAL INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEMS

Self-Taught Recognizer: Toward Unsupervised Adaptation for Speech Foundation Models




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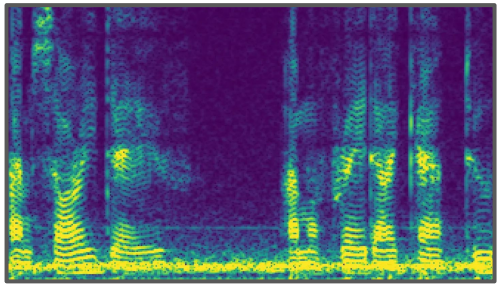
How much “self-taught” processes in recognition?



Pseudo labels

to-mo-r-ro-?

Self-Taught Recognizer?

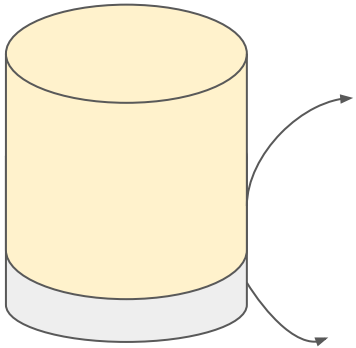
In this work …

- Could we model this **“Self-Taught”** process for voice understanding?
  - Robust Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR)
  - Speech Translation (ST)

- How little labeled data we need if we could indicate
  - Confidence scores
  - Attentive scores

Task: Unsupervised Adaptation for Speech-to-Text Decoding

- C: Confidence scores
- A: Attentive scores



Unlabeled transcription
(90%)

Labeled transcription

Iteratively “self-taught” label

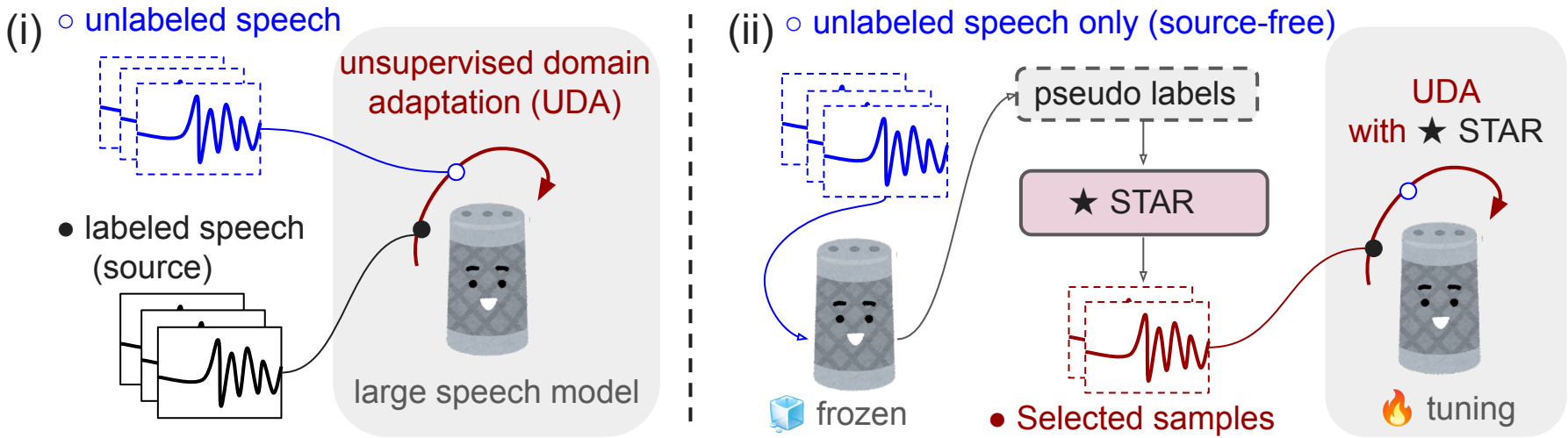
Our Contributions in this Work

1. We direct our focus on source-free UDA in **ASR** & **ST**, where only a pre-trained model and unlabeled speeches are required to adapt to specific target domains.

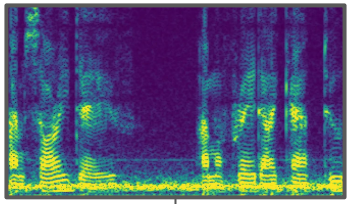
2. We introduce a self-training approach called STAR that includes a new **indicator** to evaluate the **pseudo-label quality** and achieve informed fine-tuning,

3. STAR effectively avoids the common **catastrophic forgetting problem** in adaptation.

I. Introduce Self-Taught Recognizer (STAR)



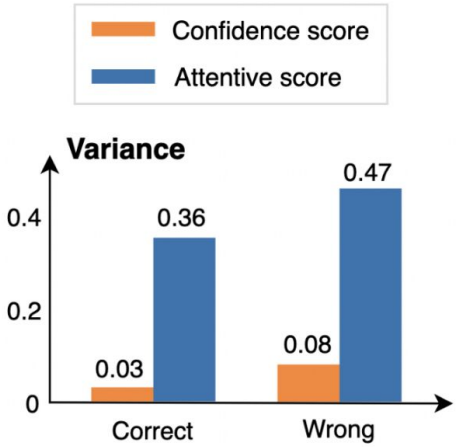
II. Confidence & Attentive Scores in Speech-to-Text Decoding (1/2)

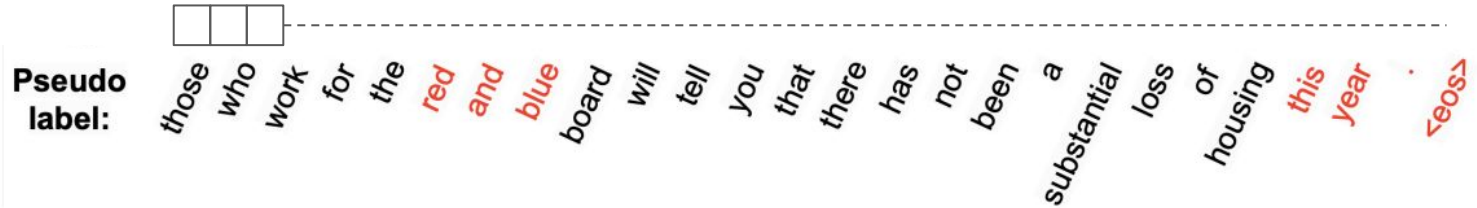


Transformer-Based Speech Model

"⟨|en|⟩⟨|transcribe|⟩⟨|notimestamps|⟩"

- C: Confidence scores
- A: Attentive scores

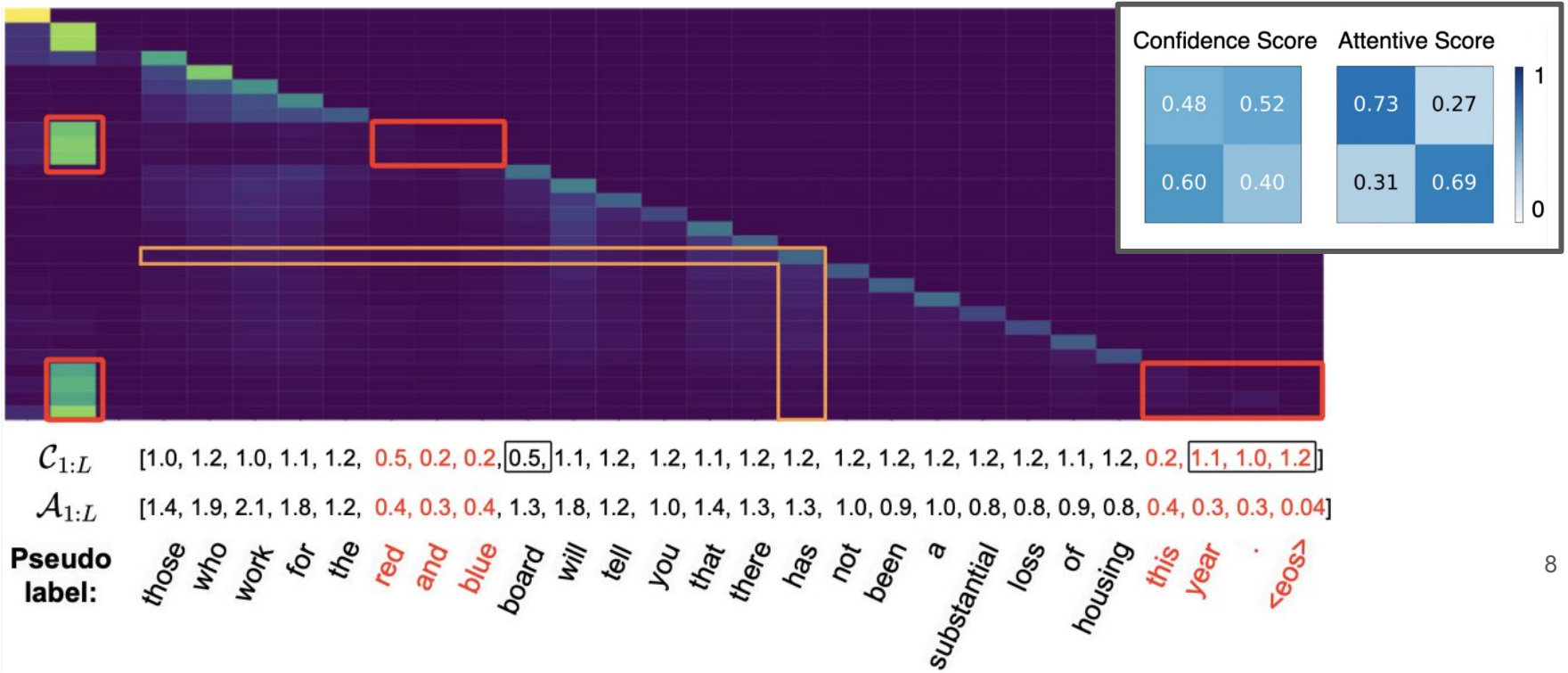




II. Confidence & Attentive Scores in Speech-to-Text Decoding (2/2)

- C: Confidence scores
- A: Attentive scores

“⟨|en|⟩⟨|transcribe|⟩⟨|notimestamps|⟩”



II. STAR Indicator: Reliable and Stable (1/2)

meta-thresholds

$$\mathcal{S}_l^{\text{conf}} = [\sigma(\mathcal{A}_l^2/\mathcal{C}_l - \lambda) + \sigma(\mathcal{C}_l^2/\mathcal{A}_l - \lambda)] * \mathcal{A}_l,$$

activation functions

focal loss style smooth

$$\mathcal{S}_l^{\text{cons}} = [\sigma(\lambda - \mathcal{A}_l^2/\mathcal{C}_l) * \sigma(\lambda - \mathcal{C}_l^2/\mathcal{A}_l)] * \mathcal{A}_l * e^{(\mathcal{C}_l - \mathcal{A}_l)/\tau}.$$

- C: Confidence scores
- A: Attentive scores

II. STAR Indicator: Reliable and Stable (2/2)

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{ASR}}(x,\hat{y}) = \sum_{l=1}^{L} -\log \mathcal{P}_\theta(\hat{y}_l|\hat{y}_{l-1:1},x) * \mathcal{S}_l; \quad \text{where } \mathcal{S}_l = \mathcal{S}_l^{\text{conf}} + \mathcal{S}_l^{\text{cons}}.$$

or LST

- C: Confidence scores
- A: Attentive scores

*Monte Carlo Sampling

III. STAR Case Study

Normalized cross-entropy (NCE)

Metric	Content	Variance	NCE Score
Ground-truth	they are organised by scientific themes.	-	-
Pseudo label	they are organised by scientific teams.	-	-
$\mathcal{C}_{1:L}$	[0.81, 0.88, 0.98, 1.21, 1.13, 1.17, 0.82]	0.023	−0.671
$\mathcal{A}_{1:L}$	[1.47, 1.49, 0.95, 1.20, 0.79, 0.43, 0.67]	0.101	0.146
$\mathcal{S}_{1:L}$ (ours)	[1.39, 1.40, 0.91, 1.14, 1.03, 0.41, 0.73]	0.058	0.322

Common voice hindi accent English
ID: “en_19795319”

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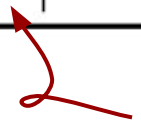
III. STAR Indicator is Effective cross Noisy Datasets

Testing Scenario		Whisper (frozen)	Whisper (self-train.)	$\text{UTT}_{\text{filter}}$	$\text{TOK}_{\text{reweight}}$ $\mathcal{C}_l$	$\mathcal{A}_l$	**STAR (ours)**	Whisper (real label)
Background Noise								
CHiME-4	*test-real*	6.8	6.9	6.4	6.5	6.2	**6.0**$_{-11.8\%}$	5.2
	test-simu	9.9	10.1	9.7	9.8	9.5	**9.4**$_{-5.1\%}$	8.7
	dev-real	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.1	**3.9**$_{-15.2\%}$	3.2
	dev-simu	7.0	7.0	6.6	6.7	6.6	**6.4**$_{-8.6\%}$	5.9
LS-FreeSound	*babble*	40.2	37.6	35.0	33.5	31.3	**30.2**$_{-24.9\%}$	27.2
	airport	15.6	15.5	15.2	15.3	15.0	**14.8**$_{-5.1\%}$	14.5
	car	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.6	**2.5**$_{-13.8\%}$	2.4
RATS	*radio*	46.9	47.2	46.0	45.5	44.9	**44.6**$_{-4.9\%}$	38.6
Speaker Accents								
CommonVoice	*African*	6.0	5.8	5.5	5.4	5.0	**4.8**$_{-20.0\%}$	4.6
	Australian	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.2	**5.1**$_{-12.1\%}$	4.3
	Indian	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.1	**6.0**$_{-9.1\%}$	5.7
	Singaporean	6.5	6.2	5.8	5.8	5.4	**5.1**$_{-21.5\%}$	4.9
Specific Scenarios								
TED-LIUM 3	*TED talks*	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.3	**4.1**$_{-21.2\%}$	3.6
SwitchBoard	*telephone*	13.3	13.0	12.7	12.3	11.9	**11.7**$_{-12.0\%}$	9.9
LRS2	*BBC talks*	8.5	8.3	7.6	7.9	7.4	**7.0**$_{-17.6\%}$	5.6
ATIS	*airline info.*	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2	**2.9**$_{-19.4\%}$	2.0
CORAAL	*interview*	21.5	21.3	20.8	20.7	20.4	**20.1**$_{-6.5\%}$	17.9

III. STAR Indicator works for both Whisper & RNN-T

Model	Baseline	Self-train.	STAR	Real
Whisper-V3-1.5B	6.8	6.9	$6.0_{-11.8\%}$	5.2
Whisper-Med-0.8B	8.9	8.8	$8.0_{-10.1\%}$	7.1
OWSM-V3.1-1.0B	8.4	8.1	$7.5_{-10.7\%}$	6.5
Canary-1.0B	8.2	8.0	$7.2_{-12.2\%}$	6.4
Parakeet-TDT-1.1B	8.0	7.8	$7.0_{-12.5\%}$	6.2



Conformer RNN-T

III. STAR Indicator is Sample-Efficient

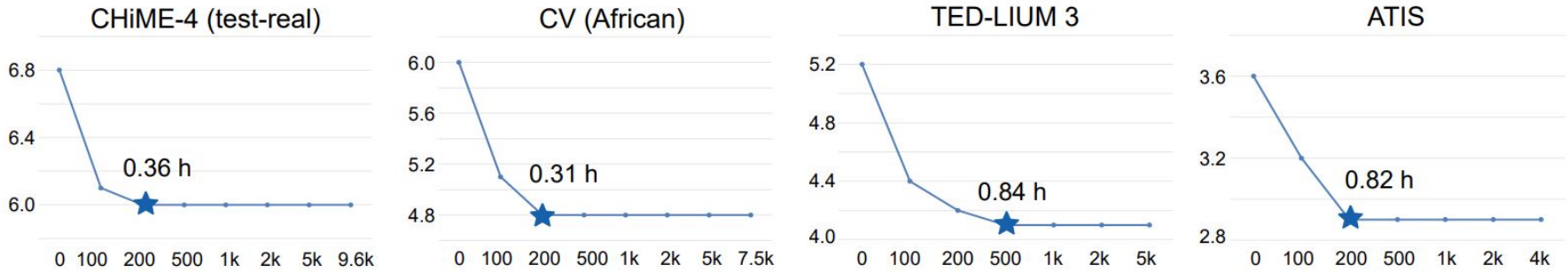


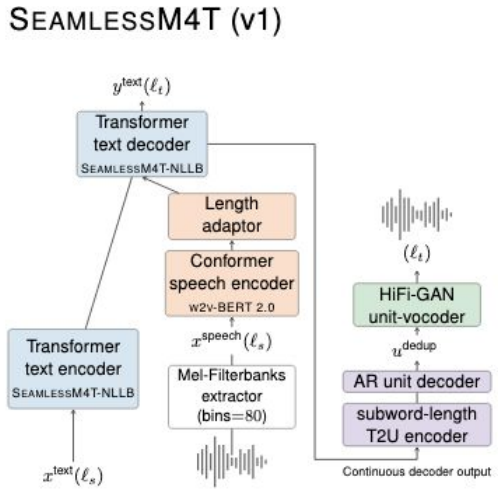
Figure 3: WER (%) results with different numbers of unlabeled training samples. The minimum required data amount (in hours) to obtain the best performance is highlighted in the star mark.

III. STAR works for Multilingual Speech Translation Tasks

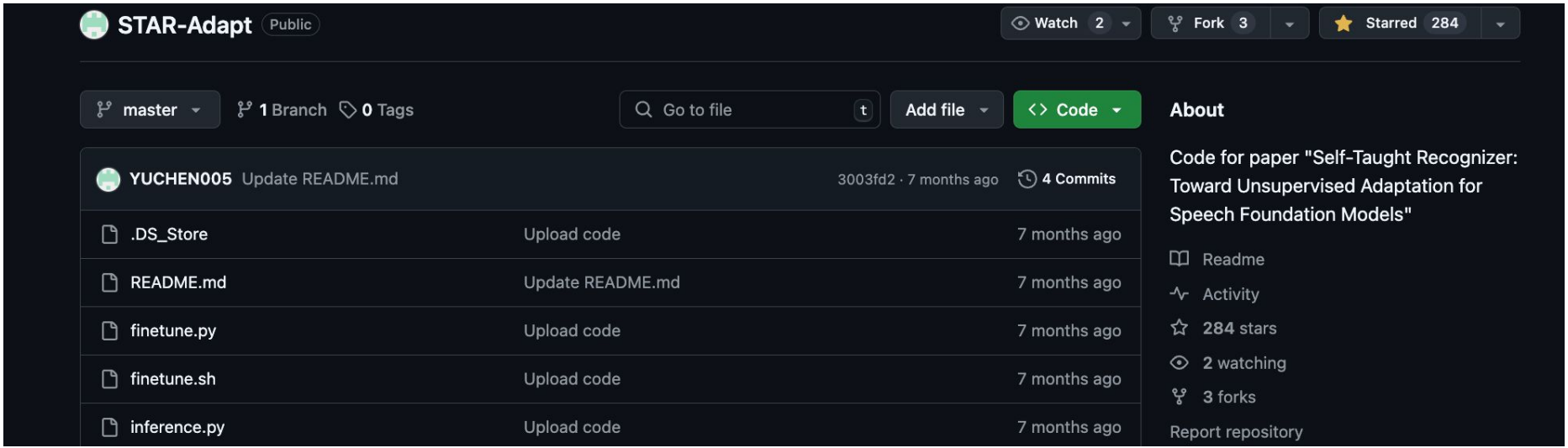
Backbone 2.3B Model - SeamlessM4T (Meta)

translation task with FLEURS [13] test sets.

X → En	Baseline	Self-train.	STAR	Real
Ar	21.9	22.1	$23.3_{+1.4}$	24.5
De	33.7	34.0	$35.9_{+2.2}$	36.5
Es	23.9	24.1	$24.8_{+0.9}$	26.4
Fa	16.6	16.3	$17.6_{+1.0}$	19.0
Hi	22.4	22.5	$23.4_{+1.0}$	24.4
Zh	16.3	16.3	$17.1_{+0.8}$	17.9



Acknowledgement



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