

An Vo

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Research Engineer @ Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)
Tidal Building 2.10, Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

BIOGRAPHY

An is a Research Engineer at MBZUAI, working with [Thamar Solorio](#). An obtained his MS from KAIST with [Daeyoung Kim](#) and [Anh Totti Nguyen](#). During that time, An also worked closely with [Mohammad Reza Taesiri](#). His M.S. program is fully funded by the [Hyundai CMK Global Scholarship](#), a prestigious fully-funded scholarship for top Southeast Asian students. Prior to joining KAIST, An obtained his B.S. degree as the *valedictorian* at the [Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City \(VNU-HCM\)](#) in 2023, where he worked with [Ngoc Hoang Luong](#). **An is broadly interested (but not limited to) in foundation models (e.g, LLMs, VLMs), especially in making them more trustworthy and explainable in rare/hard cases.** His work has been used by [Google DeepMind](#) and [ByteDance](#), and has been accepted at top venues: ICLR, ICML, AAI, GECCO, etc.

EDUCATION

- **Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST)**  Feb 2024 – Feb 2026
M.S. in Computer Science | Advisors: [Daeyoung Kim](#), [Anh Totti Nguyen](#) Daejeon, South Korea
 - Thesis: Detecting and Understanding Biases in Foundation Models
- **University of Information Technology (UIT), Vietnam National University HCMC**  Aug 2019 – Apr 2023
B.S. in Computer Science | Advisor: [Ngoc Hoang Luong](#) Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
 - GPA: 9.32/10 (**Valedictorian**, #1)
 - Thesis: Many-Objective Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with Performance Predictors (10/10, **Best Thesis**)
- **Phan Ngoc Hien High School for the Gifted**  Aug 2016 – Jul 2019
Specialized in Mathematics and Informatics Ca Mau, Vietnam

EXPERIENCE

- **Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)**  Jan 2026 – Present
Research Enginner Abu Dhabi, UAE
 - Working on Multimodal LLMs, NLP.
 - Supporting the different research projects in the lab, contributing to research discussions and writing papers.
 - Engaging with the larger NLP and MBZUAI community
 - Advisor: Prof. [Thamar Solorio](#)
- **Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST)**  Feb 2024 – Present
Graduate Research Assistant Daejeon, South Korea
 - Broadly interested (but not limited to) in foundation models (e.g, LLMs, VLMs), especially in making them more trustworthy and explainable in rare/hard cases.
- **Auburn University**  Mar 2024 – Present
Research Collaborator/Remote Visiting Student Remote
 - Remote collaboration with Prof. [Anh Totti Nguyen](#).
- **University of Information Technology (UIT), Vietnam National University HCMC**  Apr 2020 – Jan 2024
Undergraduate Research Assistant Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
 - Conducted research on Evolutionary Computation, Neural Architecture Search (NAS), Vehicle Routing Problem, and Multi-Objective Optimization.
 - Developed novel algorithms to enhance the efficiency of NAS using evolutionary and other optimization algorithms.
- **ZaloPay, VNG Corporation**  Jul 2023 – Sep 2023
Associate Data Scientist Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
 - Led development of a Customer Lifetime Value (CLV) prediction system for 5M ZaloPay users, leveraging XGBoost/LightGBM and advanced financial feature engineering.
 - Improved user segmentation and retention strategies by enabling more accurate value prediction and targeted engagement initiatives.
- **Eximbank**  May 2023 – Jul 2023
Software Engineer Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
 - Developed core banking modules to enhance system functionality and support business operations.
 - Engineered database-ready features enabling efficient data extraction and analytics for the business team.

* indicates equal contribution.

Conference papers

- [C.1] [An Vo*](#), Khai-Nguyen Nguyen*, Mohammad Reza Taesiri, Vy Tuong Dang, Anh Totti Nguyen†, Daeyoung Kim† (2025). Vision Language Models are Biased. The Fourteenth International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR 2026). [[paper](#) | [project website](#)]
- [C.2] [An Vo](#), Mohammad Reza Taesiri, Daeyoung Kim, Anh Totti Nguyen (2025). B-score: Detecting biases in large language models using response history. *Forty-Second International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2025)*. [[paper](#) | [project website](#)]
- [C.3] Thao Do, Dinh Phu Tran, [An Vo](#), Daeyoung Kim (2025). Reference-Based Post-OCR Processing with LLM for Precise Diacritic Text in Historical Document Recognition. *Annual AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI 2025)*. [[paper](#) | [code](#) | [dataset](#)]
- [C.4] [An Vo](#), Ngoc Hoang Luong (2024). Efficient Multi-Objective Neural Architecture Search via Pareto Dominance-based Novelty Search. *Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO 2024)*. [[paper](#) | [code](#)]
- [C.5] Nhat Minh Le*, [An Vo*](#), Ngoc Hoang Luong (2024). Zero-Cost Proxy-Based Hierarchical Initialization for Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search. *IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC 2024)*. [[paper](#)]
- [C.6] Khoa Huu Tran, Luc Truong, [An Vo](#), Ngoc Hoang Luong (2023). Accelerating Gene-pool Optimal Mixing Evolutionary Algorithm for Neural Architecture Search with Synaptic Flow. *Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Companion Conference (GECCO Companion 2023)*. [[paper](#) | [code](#)]
- [C.7] [An Vo](#), Tan Ngoc Pham, Van Bich Nguyen, Ngoc Hoang Luong (2022). Training-Free Multi-Objective and Many-Objective Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with Synaptic Flow. *International Symposium on Information and Communication Technology (SoICT 2022)*. **Best Paper Award**. [[paper](#) | [code](#)]

Journal papers

- [J.1] [An Vo](#), Nhat Minh Le, Ngoc Hoang Luong (2026). Lightweight Multi-Objective and Many-Objective Problem Formulations for Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with the Training-Free Performance Metric Synaptic Flow. *SN Computer Science*. [[paper](#) | [code](#)]
- [J.2] Ngoc Hoang Luong, Quan Minh Phan, [An Vo](#), Tan Ngoc Pham, Dzung Tri Bui (2024). Lightweight Multi-Objective Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with Low-Cost Proxy Metrics. *Information Sciences*. [[paper](#) | [code](#)]
- [J.3] [An Vo](#), Tan Ngoc Pham, Van Bich Nguyen, Ngoc Hoang Luong (2023). Efficient Multi-Objective Neural Architecture Search via Tree Search with Training-Free Metrics. *Informatica*. [[paper](#) | [code](#)]

Preprint/Under review

- [P.1] Vy Tuong Dang*, [An Vo*](#), Emilio Villa-Cueva, Quang Tau, Duc Dm, Thamar Solorio, Daeyoung Kim (2025). VMMU: A Vietnamese Multitask Multimodal Understanding and Reasoning Benchmark *Under review*. [[paper](#) | [project website](#)]
- [P.2] Thao Do, Dinh Phu Tran, [An Vo](#), Seon Kwon Kim, Daeyoung Kim (2025). LooComp: Leverage Leave-One-Out Strategy to Encoder-only Transformer for Efficient Query-aware Context Compression. *Under review*.
- [P.3] Gabriel Manalu, [An Vo](#), Duc Dm, Quang Tau, Nguyen Dinh Son, Minh Son Hoang, Hyeontaek Hwang, Jaesung Lee, Hyojin Choi, Tuan Phong Tran, Daeyoung Kim (2025). RADBench: Evaluating Foundation VLMs for Corner Case Description on A Comprehensive Dataset. *Under review*.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

In M.S. Program

- 2025: Hyundai CMK Global Scholarship of Excellence (for ICML 2025 paper acceptance) – \$2200
- 2025: Hyundai CMK International Symposium Scholarship (ICML 2025 travel grant) – \$1500
- 2025: Cohere Labs Research Grant (with Vy Tuong Dang) – \$2,000
- 2025: Together AI Research Grant – \$150
- 2024: OpenAI Research Grant – \$2,500
- 2024: Cohere For AI Research Grant – \$1,000
- 2024–2026: KAIST Fellowship – \$22,000 (estimated total value)
- 2024–2026: Hyundai Chung-Mong Koo Global Scholarship – \$45,000 (estimated total value)

In B.S. Program

- 2022–2023: Incentive for Scientific Publications – \$100
- 2019–2023: University of Information Technology, VNU-HCM Merit Scholarships – \$3,600 (estimated total value)

In High School

- 2016–2019: Incentive for Participation and Awards in High School Olympiads – \$1,000 (estimated total value)

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

In B.S. Program

- 2023: **Valedictorian** of the B.S. Program
- 2023: Excellent Graduate of the B.S. Program
- 2022: **Best Paper Award** at the International Symposium on Information and Communication Technology (SoICT)
- 2022: Ho Chi Minh City Outstanding Youth
- 2022: Award for Outstanding Scientific Research Publications
- 2019: Top 100 Student Leaders of Ho Chi Minh City
- 2019–2023: Recognized for Excellence in Academics and Personal Development

In High School

- 2019: Consolation Prize in the Provincial Science and Engineering Fair
- 2018: First Prize in the Provincial Youth Informatics Competition
- 2018: First Prize in the Provincial English-Language Science and Engineering Competition in Informatics
- 2018–2019: Competed in the National Olympiad in Informatics (VOI) x2
- 2017–2018: Second Prize in the Provincial Olympiad in Informatics x2
- 2017: Bronze Medal in the Summer Olympiad in the Mekong Delta in Informatics
- 2017: Bronze Medal in the April 30th Olympiad in Informatics
- 2017: Consolation Prize in the Provincial Physics Olympiad via Internet

SELECTED PRESS COVERAGE

In B.S. Program

- 2024: UIT News – [Recipient of Master’s Scholarship at Top Korean Research Institute: "Choosing UIT was my crucial and unforgettable turning point"](#)
- 2024: UIT Cafe – ["Is Studying Abroad the Ultimate Destination?"](#) (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **Tien Phong** – [Valedictorian Graduating with Excellence and Passion for Science](#) (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **Thanh Nien** – [The Valedictorian Who Persisted in Academia to ‘Gain Freedom in Will and Time’](#) (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: UIT News – [Meet the Computer Science Student with Outstanding Achievements](#) (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **Dan Tri** – [Meager Salary, Drowning in Debt – A Female Teacher Dreams of Earning Billions in Australia](#) (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **Tuoi Tre** – [Ho Chi Minh City Leaders Dialogue with Outstanding Students: Opening Space for Gen Z Officials](#) (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **VnExpress** – [Students Offer Solutions for Ho Chi Minh City to Attract Talent](#) (in Vietnamese)
- 2022: **Tien Phong** – [Two Students Receive ‘Best Paper Award’ at International Conference on ICT](#) (in Vietnamese)
- 2022: **Tuoi Tre** – [Applying AI to History Education](#) (in Vietnamese)

In High School

- 2018: Dat Mui – [108 Students Compete in the Provincial Youth Informatics Competition](#) (in Vietnamese)

MENTORING

Undergraduate Students at University of Information Technology, Vietnam National University–Ho Chi Minh City

- **Khoa Huu Tran** (Oct 2022 – Jan 2024) – [GECCO Late-Breaking Abstract Paper](#)
- **Luc Truong** (Oct 2022 – Jan 2024) – [GECCO Late-Breaking Abstract Paper](#)
- **Minh Le** (Oct 2022 – Feb 2023) – [IEEE CEC Paper](#)
- **Vy Tuong Dang** (Dec 2021 – Present) – [KAIST Scholarship for M.S. Program \(Full Tuition Fee & Stipend\)](#) & [ViExam](#)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Conference Reviewer/Program Committee:** [AAAI 2026](#), [BMVC 2025](#), [IEEE CEC 2024](#), [IEEE CEC 2025](#), [IJCNN 2025](#)
- **Journal Reviewer:** [IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation](#), [IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics](#), [IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man and Cybernetics: Systems](#)

TALKS

- 2024: **AutoID Labs Asia Workshop 2024** – Efficient Multi-Objective Neural Architecture Search via Pareto Dominance-based Novelty Search.
- 2022: **SoICT 2022** – Training-Free Multi-Objective and Many-Objective Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with Synaptic Flow.
- 2022: **Vietnam Youth Academy** – University Learning Methods in the Context of Digital Transformation
- 2022: **Ho Chi Minh City Youth Symposium Proud of Vietnamese History** – [Applying AI in History Education](#)

SELECTED CERTIFICATES

- 2025: IELTS 7.0 Overall (Exam date: 11 Oct 2025)
- 2023: TOEIC 880 (Exam date: 04 Mar 2023)
- 2021: Computational Thinking for Problem Solving – University of Pennsylvania, Coursera
- 2021: Linear Algebra for Machine Learning and Data Science – DeepLearning.AI, Coursera
- 2021: Python for Data Science and AI – IBM, Coursera
- 2021: Improving Deep Neural Networks: Hyperparameter Tuning, Regularization and Optimization – DeepLearning.AI, Coursera
- 2021: Neural Networks and Deep Learning – DeepLearning.AI, Coursera
- 2021: Fundamentals of Reinforcement Learning – University of Alberta, Coursera
- 2021: Sample-based Learning Methods – University of Alberta, Coursera
- 2020: How Google Does Machine Learning – Google Cloud, Coursera
- 2020: What is Data Science? – IBM, Coursera
- 2020: Basic Statistics – University of Amsterdam, Coursera
- 2020: Machine Learning – Andrew Ng, Stanford University, Coursera

REFERENCES

Dr. Anh Totti Nguyen
Associate Professor at Auburn University
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Dr. Mohammad Reza Taesiri
Research Scientist at EA SPORTS Vancouver
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Dr. Daeyoung Kim
Full Professor at KAIST
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Dr. Ngoc Hoang Luong
Lecturer & Head of AI Department of UIT,
Vietnam National University HCMC (VNU-HCM)
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