

Cuong Pham

(or Phạm Anh Cường)

Abu Dhabi, UAE

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Education

Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)

Master of Science in Machine Learning

Abu Dhabi, UAE

08/2024–06/2026 (expected)

- GPA: 3.72/4.0 (~ 94%, all courses over 90%) [[Transcript](#)].
- Selected courses: Mathematics for AI, Advanced Machine Learning, Optimization, Probabilistic and Statistical Inference.
- Research topics: Optimization for Machine Learning, Federated Learning, Federated Optimization.
- Supervised by [Prof. Samuel Horváth](#).

VNU University of Engineering and Technology (UET-VNU)

Bachelor in Information Technology (Honors Program)

Hanoi, Vietnam

08/2019–06/2023

- GPA: 3.71/4.0 (or 8.77/10) (High Distinction, top 5% of CS department) [[Transcript](#)].
- Thesis: "Building a Vietnamese image captioning dataset and developing a visual-text transformation model for generating image captions" (9.5/10).
- Supervised by [Assoc. Prof. Quang-Thuy Ha](#), [Dr. Van-Quang Nguyen](#) (RIKEN AIP), [MSc. Thi-Hong Vuong](#).

Phan Boi Chau High School for the Gifted

High school diploma (Specialized in Mathematics)

Nghe An, Vietnam

08/2016–05/2019

- Attended Vietnam Mathematical Olympiad (VMO) for high school students (2019).

Publications

(Denote: P = preprint, W = workshop, C = conference, J = journal, R = project reports)

[P3] Slavomir Hanzely, Farshed Abdulkhakimov, **Cuong Anh Pham**, Samuel Horváth, Martin Takáč. [Polyak Stepsize: Estimating Optimal Functional Values Without Parameters or Prior Knowledge](#) (preprint '25, under review).

[P2] Quang P.M. Pham, Khoi T. N. Nguyen, Nhi H. Doan, **Cuong A. Pham**, Kentaro Inui, Dezhen Song. [SmallPlan: Leverage Small Language Models for Sequential Path Planning with Simulation-Powered, LLM-Guided Distillation](#) (preprint '25, under review).

[P1] **Anh-Cuong Pham**, Van-Quang Nguyen, Thi-Hong Vuong, Quang-Thuy Ha. [KTVIC: A Vietnamese Image Captioning Dataset on the Life Domain](#) (preprint '24, short version of Bachelor's thesis).

[C1] Quynh-Trang Pham Thi, **Anh-Cuong Pham**, Ngoc-Huyen Ngo and Duc-Trong Le. [Memory-Based Method using Prototype Augmentation for Continual Relation Extraction](#) (IEEE RIVF '22).

[R3] [Decoder-only Foundation Model applications on Time Series Forecasting with Air Quality Datasets](#)

Solo Project for ML703 course - Probabilistic and Statistical Inference (Spring '25) at MBZUAI.

[R2] [Kernel Two-Sample Tests](#)

Group Project (3 persons) for ML702 course - Advanced Machine Learning (Spring '25) at MBZUAI.

[R1] [ThinkPlan: Towards Multimodal for Low-resource Long-Horizontal Semantic Path-planning in Robotics](#)

Group Project (3 persons) for AI701 course - Foundations of AI (Fall '24) at MBZUAI.

Experience

Research Experience

MBZUAI

Graduate Research Assistant

Abu Dhabi, UAE

10/2024–

- Participating in a project use adaptive stepsize for SGD, aims to reduce the effect of hyperparameters during the training process (joint project with group of [Prof. Martin Takáč](#) at MBZUAI), the project paper is currently under review.
- Participating in a group project for the AI701 course at MBZUAI, utilizing LLMs to enable efficient and adaptive real-time inference on edge devices for autonomous robotics path-planning tasks, the follow-up paper is currently under review.
- Summer work on Federated Learning with [Prof. Praneeth Vepakomma](#) (MBZUAI & MIT) (to fulfill mandatory internship '25).

DSKT Laboratory at UET-VNU

Student Research Intern

Hanoi, Vietnam

09/2021–09/2023

- Studied about Multi-view Time Series Forecasting.
- Participated in a project about **Continual Learning in NLP**. This project applied a prototype augmentation mechanism to consistent representation learning to reduce saving data for the next phase of continual learning but still alleviate the forgetting problem [[Paper](#)].
- Thesis Project topic about **Image Captioning**. This project created a new image-caption dataset in Vietnamese and developed a tiny Image Captioning model based on the Transformer framework. The proposed dataset and tiny model were evaluated with variants of Deep Learning-based models (including CNN, LSTM, and variants of Transformer). [[Paper](#)].

Industrial Experience

Viettel Networks

Data Scientist

Hanoi, Vietnam

10/2023–07/2024

- Researched and applied **Computer Vision** (image processing, segmentation, classification) for tasks with telecommunication images to automate processes instead of using manual works.
- Solved **Big Data** problems: using Machine Learning with GPUs with large-scale telecommunication data (100M to 10B records) for optimizing and automating processes to improve network users' experience.

GHTK Joint Stock Company

R&D Engineer

Hanoi, Vietnam

09/2022–08/2023

- Researched and developed a mail spam filtering based on **Deep Learning** models, and **Natural Language Processing** frameworks (BERT, DeBERTa, PhoBERT), achieving the f1-score of 90% after training with 50k emails, it was then deployed to the company's internal email system.
- Participated in building an internal chatbot using rule-based techniques.

GHTK Joint Stock Company

R&D Engineer Intern

Hanoi, Vietnam

05/2022–08/2022

- MasterDev Season 4 Internship Program in Research and Development domain. Training about Probability & Statistics, Natural Language Processing, some Big Data frameworks such as Hadoop and Spark.
- Worked on a project about building a text classification for Vietnamese documents using doc2vec.

Honors and Awards

2024: Full scholarship for 2 years of the Master of Science program at MBZUAI

2023: Third Prize (5th place) in Linear Algebra, UET-VNU Mathematical Olympiad

2022: Third Prize (6th place) in Linear Algebra, UET-VNU Mathematical Olympiad

2022: Yamada Scholarship

2021: Third Prize (5th place) in Linear Algebra, UET-VNU Mathematical Olympiad

2021: Excellent Scholarship for top highest GPA from UET-VNU

2019: Attended Vietnam Mathematical Olympiad for high school students (9th place in provincial selection test).

Skills

Programming: Python, Java, C, C++, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, MySQL.

Technologies: PyTorch, Scikit-learn, Linux, Docker, Hadoop, Spark, Laravel.

Additional: Microsoft Office, LaTeX, Git.

Language: English (with TOEIC LR 855, IELTS 7.0), Vietnamese (native).

References

Dr. Samuel Horvath, Assistant Professor at MBZUAI (UAE)

✉ samuel.horvath@mbzuai.ac.ae 🌐 Website

Dr. Nguyen Van Quang, Researcher at RIKEN AIP and Tohoku University (Japan)

✉ quang@vision.is.tohoku.ac.jp 🌐 Google Scholar

Dr. Ha Quang Thuy, Associate Professor at VNU-UET (Vietnam)

✉ thuyhq@vnu.edu.vn 🌐 Website

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