

Andre Niyongabo Rubungo

770 Broadway
New York City
NY 10003, U.S.A

Email: rn3004 at princeton dot edu
Homepage: <https://andrews2017.github.io/>
Github: <https://github.com/Andrews2017>
Twitter: https://twitter.com/andre_niyongabo

Education

Ph.D. in Computer Science, Princeton University Sep 2022 – Present
Advisor: Adji Bousso Dieng

MS in Computer Science, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) Sep 2019 – Jul 2021
Advisor: Hong Qu
Thesis title: Text Classification for African Low-resource Languages: A case study of Kinyarwanda and Kirundi.

Bachelor in Computer Science, UESTC Sep 2015 – Jul 2019
Thesis title: Deep Learning and Its Application in Text Classification
Thesis advisor: Hong Qu

Chinese language, UESTC Sep 2014 – Jul 2015

Employment

AI Research Intern May 2022 – Aug 2022
Meta AI, New York, U.S.A
Supervisor: Angela Fan

Research Assistant Oct 2021 – Aug 2022
Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain
Research group: MT@UPC

AI Research & Development Intern Jul 2021 – Sep 2021
Huawei, Chengdu, China
Supervisor: Wei Chen

AI Engineer Intern Jan 2021 – Apr 2021
Whalecloud (Alibaba owned company), Guangzhou, China
Supervisor: Chi Ma

Publications

D. I. Adelani, J. O. Alabi, A. fan, et al. including **A. Niyongabo Rubungo**. *A Few Thousand Translations Go a Long Way! Leveraging Pre-trained Models for African News Translation*. Accepted at the Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL), 2022.

Link: <https://openreview.net/pdf/ae270022e1f7523978bb7c46ec1706689f38ea38.pdf>

A. Nzeyimana and **A. Niyongabo Rubungo**. *KinyaBERT: A Morphology-aware Kinyarwanda Language Model*. Accepted at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2022.

Link: <https://aclanthology.org/2022.acl-long.367> — [Best Linguistic Insight Paper Award](#)

I. Caswell, J. Kreutzer, et al. including **R. A. Niyongabo**. *Quality at a Glance: An Audit of Web-Crawled Multilingual Datasets*. Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL), 2022.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1162/tacl.a.00447>

S. Gehrmann, T. Adewumi, et al. including **R. A. Niyongabo**. *The GEM Benchmark: Natural Language Generation, its Evaluation and Metrics*. In the Proceedings of the 1st Workshop on Natural Language Generation, Evaluation, and Metrics (GEM), 2021.

Link: <https://aclanthology.org/2021.gem-1.10>

D. Moges, **R. A. Niyongabo**, and H. Qu. *Multi-Perspective Reasoning Transformers*. International Conference on Machine Learning and Computing (ICMLC), 2021.

Link: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3457682.3457759>

D. I. Adelani, J. Abbott, et al. including **R. A. Niyongabo**. *MasakhaNER: Named Entity Recognition for African Languages*. Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics (TACL), 2021.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1162/tacl.a.00416> — [Best Paper Award at AfricaNLP Workshop, ACL 2021](#)

R. A. Niyongabo, H. Qu, J. Kreutzer, and H. Li. *KINNEWS and KIRNEWS: Benchmarking Cross-Lingual Text Classification for Kinyarwanda and Kirundi*. The 28th International Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING 2020).

W. Nekoto, V. Marivate et al. including **R. A. Niyongabo**. *Participatory Research for Low-resourced Machine Translation: A Case Study in African Languages*. (EMNLP-Findings 2020. :Equal contribution), 2020.

Link: <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/2020.findings-emnlp.195> — [Wikimedia Foundation Research Award of the Year 2020](#)

Y. Liu, W. Chen, **R. A. Niyongabo**, H. Qu, and K. Miao. *Weakly-supervised Character-level Convolutional Neural Networks for Text Classification*. the 14th International FLINS Conference (FLINS), 2020.

Link: <https://doi.org/10.1142/9789811223334.0084>

F. A. Acheampong, H. Nunoo-Mensah, W. Chen, and **R. A. Niyongabo**. *Recognizing Emotions from Texts using a BERT-based Approach*. In International Computer Conference on Wavelet Active Media Technology and Information Processing (ICCWAMTIP), 2020.

Link: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/9317523>

Awards & Honors

Best Linguistic Insight Paper Award at ACL	2022
Best Paper Award at AfricaNLP, ACL Workshop	2021
Chinese Government Outstanding International Masters Student Award	2021
Wikimedia Foundation Research Award of the Year	2020
UESTC Outstanding Masters Student Award	2020
1st prize of Academic Achievement Award	2020
UESTC Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award	2018

1st prize of Academic Achievement and Excellent Performance Awards	2017
Winner of the UESTC Innovation and Creativity Coding Competition	2017
1st prize of Academic Achievement Award	2016
1st prize of Chinese Language Studies Award	2015

Professional Service & Leadership

Conference Reviewing

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)	2022
International Conference of the European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT)	2022

Workshop Reviewing

Workshop on Natural Language Generation, Evaluation, and Metrics (GEM), ACL	2021
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Workshop Organization

Natural Language Generation, Evaluation, and Metrics (GEM) – ACL https://gem-benchmark.com/team	2021
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Coding Experience

Front-end developer, School of Computer Science Innovation Center, UESTC	2016 – 2019
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Leadership experience

Academic Committee Member of International Student Union (ISU)	Sep 2020 – Jul 2021
Country Representative of Rwandan students at UESTC	Sep 2020 – Jul 2021
Academic Officer in charge of Undergraduate Students for ISU	Sep 2017 – Jul 2018
Representative of International Students in Chinese and Overseas Stud. Association (COSA)	Sep 2015 – Jul 2017

Professional Membership

Masakhane	Jan 2020 – Aug 2022
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Teaching

Teaching Assistant, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) Comprehensive Chinese Course	Fall 2020
Teaching Assistant and co-organizer, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) The 1st and 2nd UESTC Deep Learning Workshops	Fall 2018 and Spring 2019
Tutor, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China (UESTC) UESTC CS Web Development Tutorial	Fall 2017 and Spring 2018

Other Skills

Communication Skills

Languages: Kinyarwanda(Native), Chinese(Fluent), English(Fluent), Kirundi(Moderate), French(Moderate), Spanish(Beginner).

Technical Skills

Programming Languages: C/C++, Python, Linux Shell, Java.

Frameworks: Pytorch, Fairseq, HuggingFace, Numpy, Scipy, Sklearn, Pandas, BeautifulSoup, Selenium, Neo4J.

Web dev.: JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Bootstrap, PHP, SQL, XML/XSL.

Version Control: Git.

Last updated: June 11, 2022