# Gayathri Akkinapalli

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## Education

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| **University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMASS)** | MS in Computer Science | CGPA: 4.0/4.0 | Sep 2023 - May 2025 |
| **Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT)** | B.Tech in Computer Engineering | CGPA: 9.07/10.0 | Aug 2017 - May 2021 |

## Publications & Preprints

- LS-GAN: Human Motion Synthesis with Latent-space GANs — *IEEE WACVW '25*
- PerFine: Iterative Critique-Refine Framework for Enhancing LLM Personalization — *arXiv:2510.24469*
- Safe to Serve: Aligning Instruction-Tuned Models for Safety and Helpfulness — *arXiv:2412.00074*
- Automated Model Selection for Tabular Data — *arXiv:2401.00961*

## Technical Skills

**Programming Languages:** Python, R, C, HTML, SQL, MySQL, NoSQL | Familiar: Java, C++, PHP, CSS, JavaScript, C#
**Tools/Libraries:** LangChain, MCP, Unsloth, OpenAI, Wandb, Keras, PyTorch, TensorFlow, PySpark, SKLearn, NumPy, vLLM, Copilot
**Software/Frameworks:** Docker, Kubernetes, Kafka, Flask, FastAPI, gRPC, AWS, Splunk, MongoDB, Tableau, CI/CD, Snowflake, FAISS

## Professional Experience

**Gen AI Engineer Volunteer** | UMass | Github — Aug 2025 - Present
- Designed EduNotes, a multi-agent RAG study assistant, centralizing study materials into a queryable KB, using intelligent agents for multi-stage web search, content processing and adaptive summarization with Llama-70B/8B, LangChain, and ChromaDB.
- Implemented AI-generated flashcards, quizzes, notes, summaries via FastAPI & Streamlit, supporting 6+ input (pdf, url, text, topic, web search) and 3+ output formats with Research Mode for academic references and PDF figure, table analysis.

**Graduate Student Researcher** | Cisco — Jan 2025 - Jul 2025
- Developed PerFine, a training-free critique-refine framework for personalized long-text via iterative profile-grounded feedback using FAISS, MCP. Improving personalization by 13% and Meteor 10% over baselines with LLM-as-a-Judge (G-Eval) evaluation.

**Research Assistant** | UMass IESL Lab — Aug 2024 - Dec 2024
- Implemented an autoregressive model performing lookahead via superposition decoding with cross attention in 2 forward passes, improving BLEU score and generation quality of the MT5 model by 15% on machine translation tasks.

**Machine Learning Engineer** | Carelon Global Solutions — Jun 2021 - Jul 2023
- Built Recommendation Systems using NER, SpaCy & ML models like XGBoost in PySpark improving NDCG@5 by 75%.
- Integrated REST APIs via Flask for end-to-end model automation using Hive, MongoDB, Redis reducing careplan creation time by 2hrs through model-driven recommendations.
- Performed Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis on call transcripts with RoBERTa, SpaCy, achieved 85% accuracy & 0.81 F1-score.
- Developed Conversational AI bot using DistilBERT for intent classification and BERT QA for extractive question-answering with RAG from S3 on SageMaker, Kubeflow, resolving 65% of patient queries across 1000+ daily interactions.
- Integrated web-scraped healthcare articles into Elasticsearch with ranking optimization, reducing content retrieval time by 120ms.
- Deployed models into ENSO ML pipeline with RabbitMQ, Kubernetes, Kafka, cutting deployment time by ∼70% via CI/CD pipelines.
- Created Splunk Dashboard for user feedback KPIs, ran A/B testing with feedback-based model tuning on recommendations, driving 60% improvement in performance.

**AI Engineer Intern** | SensorDrops Networks (STEP at IIT Kharagpur) — Aug 2020 - Sep 2020
- Modeled real-time Social Distance Monitoring system leveraging YOLOv3 with live feed, bounding boxes, 90% detection accuracy.
- Deployed application on AWS EC2 and Docker, enabling real-time analytics with ∼200ms latency via socket-based data transfer.

**AI Engineer Intern** | Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) — May 2020 - Aug 2020
- Created a prototype of customized deep CNN model to identify COVID-infected chest X-rays with accuracy of around 92%.
- Trained model on High Performance Computing (HPC) for three chest X-ray classes, obtaining validation F1-score of 0.9.

## Academic & Research Projects

**Aligning LLMs towards safety and helpfulness** | UMass | Github
- Aligned LLaMa-2 toward safety using LoRA, QLoRA on PKU-SafeRLHF benchmark with SFT, RAFT, RLHF, DPO in TRL.
- Scored 93% safe on DPO (40% SFT) with Llama-Guard on I-CoNa. Employed LLM-as-a-judge to evaluate safety and helpfulness.

**Human Motion Synthesis with Latent-space GANs** | UMass | Github
- Generated text-to-motion sequences in latent space utilizing GANS, VAE, CLIP on HumanML3D with Distributed training in lightning.
- Secured FID of 0.48 for GAN in latent space with 91% FLOPs reduction compared to Latent Diffusion Model on HumanML.

**Real time Stock Analysis** | UMass | Github
- Devised a Kafka-PySpark pipeline for stock news analysis using LLaMA, achieving 84% GPT-4 alignment and 40% faster processing.
- Integrated a hybrid RAG retrieval system (dense + keyword search) for financial information, improving accuracy by an additional 5%.