

# GNANESWAR VILLURI

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## SUMMARY

AI researcher with experience at **Amazon AWS** and **Nokia Bell Labs**, focused on building and deploying agentic, tool-augmented LLM systems that deliver measurable impact across production and research settings.

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Computer Engineering**, Stony Brook University, **GPA:** 4.0 08/2024 - 05/2027 (Expected)

- **Research Focus:** *Neuro-symbolic and tool-augmented large language models for reliable reasoning, with an emphasis on verification-aware prompting, reinforcement learning for tool-use policies, and agentic collaboration in open-ended coding and problem-solving tasks.*

**MS in Computer Engineering**, Stony Brook University, **GPA:** 3.8 08/2022 - 05/2024

## SKILLS

<b>Programming</b>	Python, C++, JavaScript, SQL
<b>LLMs &amp; Reasoning</b>	Tool-Augmented & Agentic Systems, Prompt Optimization (APO), Function Calling Reinforcement Learning, Chain-of-Thought, Verification-Aware Reasoning
<b>Model Training &amp; Adaptation</b>	Fine-tuning (LoRA, QLoRA), Instruction Tuning, Evaluation & Benchmarking
<b>Frameworks &amp; Libraries</b>	PyTorch, TensorFlow, Hugging Face, LangChain, NNSight, SpaCy, NLTK
<b>Multimodal &amp; Speech</b>	Automatic Speech Recognition (Whisper), Multimodal Pipelines (Text–Audio–Code)
<b>MLOps &amp; Deployment</b>	Git, Docker, Linux, MLflow, DVC, CML, SageMaker, Bedrock
<b>Data &amp; Knowledge Systems</b>	Vector Databases (Qdrant, Pinecone), Knowledge Graphs, Neo4j, GraphRAG

## PUBLICATIONS

- Shaik,H., Villuri,G., & Doboli,A.(2025). An Overview of LLMs and a Novel, LLM-Based Cognitive Architecture for Solving Open-Ended Problems. In *Machine Learning and Knowledge Extraction*, 7(4), 134. ([MAKE 2025](#))
- Shaik,H., Villuri,G., & Doboli,A.(2025). Concept Combinations with Generator and Validator Agents Prompted Using Insights from Concept Networks. In *International Conference on Complex Networks*. ([Complex Networks 2025](#))
- Villuri,G., & Doboli,A.(2025). An Experimental Study on the Interpretability of Transformer Models for Dialog Understanding. In 2025 IEEE Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Santa Clara, CA, May 05-07, 2025. ([CAI 2025](#))
- Villuri,G., Shaik,H., & Doboli,A.(2025). A Stacked Multi-Layered Perceptron - LLM Model for Extracting the Relations in Textual Descriptions. In 2025 IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence , Trondheim, Norway, March 17-20, 2025. ([SSCI 2025](#))
- Villuri,G., & Doboli,A.(2024). Towards Semantic Classification of Dialog using Contextual Prediction Networks. In Proceedings of the 7th Annual Conference on Cognitive Computational Neuroscience. Cambridge, USA. ([CCN 2024](#)).

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Research Assistant** – Stony Brook University 01/2023 – 05/2027

- Built LLM-based validation agents for collaborative coding, reducing reasoning and implementation errors by **31%**.
- Implemented verification-aware generator–validator pipelines enabling static and real-time multi-agent evaluation.
- Designed neuro-symbolic dialogue and code representations grounded in operational and axiomatic semantics.
- Developed tool-augmented LLM systems integrating knowledge graphs, reducing hallucination rates by **22%**.
- Applied reinforcement learning and multi-agent methods to learn tool-use and communication policies, improving team performance by **22%**.
- Led research on reliable LLM reasoning via validation, symbolic structure, and agentic workflows, resulting in peer-reviewed publications.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Applied Scientist Intern** – Amazon AWS (Mountain View, CA) 09/2025 – 12/2025

- Conducted extensive empirical evaluation of the "GEPA" Automatic Prompt Optimization (APO) framework, assessing its efficacy in replacing hand-crafted prompts with automated optimization strategies.
- Validated improvements in structured reasoning accuracy of up to 12%, demonstrating that algorithmic search over instruction space significantly outperforms naive prompting on complex tasks.
- Benchmarked optimization performance across 10 production LLMs (1B–405B), identifying a critical "sweet spot" where mid-sized models yielded the highest relative gains.
- Investigated cross-model transferability, discovering an asymmetric pattern where prompts optimized for mid-sized models generalize effectively to larger architectures, enabling efficient prompt reuse.

**ML Research Intern** – Nokia Bell Labs (Murray Hill, NJ) 06/2025 - 08/2025

- Developed a multi-agent LLM pipeline using OPC UA to extract insights from industrial telemetry data.
- Designed hierarchical agents for high-level question generation and low-level insight extraction.
- Integrated knowledge graphs and function calling to correlate multi-layered industrial events.
- Investigated prompting strategies to enhance LLM accuracy in complex industrial NLP tasks.

**Software Developer Intern** - Zippi Delivery (Stony Brook, NY) 05/2024 - 08/2024

- Built AI-driven restaurant management platform using GoHighLevel MCP and LLMs for unified business operations.
- Developed multi-agent "Zippi" system with CrewAI achieving 95% task routing accuracy.
- Designed a hybrid LLM setup (Gemini + DeepSeek) cutting costs by 40% and manual oversight by 65%.
- Created webhook automation handling 10K+ social interactions daily, improving response times by 50%.

PROJECTS

**SmartTutor: GraphRAG-based Learning Assistant**

- Developed an AI-powered tutor leveraging GraphRAG, replacing traditional RAG with a knowledge graph for improved accuracy of 34% and enhanced interpretability.
- Processed 300 pages on Stereo Vision, generating a structured knowledge graph instead of word embeddings.
- Achieved a 2-second response time and cut user study time by 25%, simplifying complex concepts.
- Enabled real-time cache visualization, offering a transparent and explainable retrieval mechanism.
- Overcame hardware constraints by strategic model selection, deploying a functional prototype using distilGPT2 with an optimized graph-based retriever.

**Agent Performance Platform**

- Led platform development using text classification to analyze agent conversations, processing 1,000+ daily interactions.
- Fine-tuned model to attain 85% accuracy in identifying and scoring 15 distinct soft skill traits.
- Executed MLOps practices, accelerating model update time by 70% and enhancing overall accuracy by 10%.
- Revolutionized agent performance evaluation, boosting efficiency by 50% and trimming manual review time by 75%.

OPEN-SOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS

**GEPA – Automatic Prompt Optimization Framework**

- Contributed upstream improvements to GEPA Automatic Prompt Optimization (APO) framework, enhancing prompt search robustness, evaluation consistency, and reproducibility across multi-model benchmarks (merged PR [#147](#)).
- Ongoing contributor focused on advancing automated prompt optimization, cross-model generalization, and agentic reasoning workflows.