Ethan Villalovoz



Research Interests

Advancing human-AI collaboration through the development of interactive, socially adaptive robots. Focusing on robot learning via multimodal systems, reinforcement learning, and human feedback.

Education

2021–2025 Washington State University, Honors College, Pullman, Washington USA

GPA 3.96 B.S. in Computer Science, Minor in Mathematics

Thesis: Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) using Knowledge Graphs and Vector Search

Honors & Awards

2023 CS Research Mentorship Program Scholar, Google Research

Accepted to a three-month program that matches students with Google mentors and peers to support their pursuit of computer science research pathways.

2023 Generation Google Scholarship

Awarded based on the strength of each candidate's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, demonstrated leadership, and academic performance.

National Institute of Health Fellowship - MARC

NIH-funded opportunity for undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds to embark on a two-year scientific research program, leadership development, and graduate-school preparation.

2021 National Institute of Health Fellowship - ESTEEMED MIRA

NIH-funded unique opportunity for undergraduate students from underrepresented groups planning to major in biomedical science and engineering fields.

Conference Publications

C2 Test-Driven Code Generation using LLMs via Bayesian Optimization

S. Tomar, A. Deshwal, E. Villalovoz, M. Fazzini, H. Cai, J. R. Doppa

(in submission) ACM SIGSOFT International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis (ISSTA), 2025

C1 Social Triangles and Aggressive Lines: Multi-Robot Formations Impact Navigation and Approach

A. Bacula, E. Villalovoz, D. Flynn, A. Mehta, H. Knight

IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2023

Professional Experiences

2023-Present Washington State University, Pullman, Washington USA

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Advised by Janardhan Rao Doppa, Haipeng Cai

Analyzed security vulnerabilities in LLM-generated code and applied Bayesian optimization to enhance prompt accuracy for secure and functionally correct code generation.

Summer 2024 Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA

Robotics Institute Summer Scholars, Advised by Henny Admoni

Developed hierarchical reward learning systems leveraging Bayesian inference and human feedback to align autonomous systems with human preferences and improve adaptability in dynamic settings.

Summer 2023 Google, Sunnyvale, California USA

STEP Intern, Advised by Arun Tej Chennadi, Paul Valdez

Optimized internal database processes with C++ and SQL, reducing runtime by 66% and enhancing data visualization through real-time dashboards and dynamic graphs.

Summer 2022 Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon USA

Robots in the Real World, Advised by Heather Knight

Developed geometric features for multi-robot expressive motion, integrating performing arts techniques to enhance robot character and intelligence.

Teaching

Spring 2025 CPT_S 315: Introduction to Data Mining

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Washington State University

Fall 2024 CPT_S 350: Design and Analysis of Algorithms

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Washington State University

Fall 2023 CPT_S 355: Programming Language Design

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Washington State University

Fall 2022 CPT_S 121: Program Design and Development C/C++

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Washington State University

Outreach

2022-Present WSU VCEA, Voiland College Ambassador

Represented and connected Voiland College with industry, alumni, and prospective students, sharing unique experiences and perspectives to promote the college's mission and transformative impact.

Summer 2024 CMU RISS RoboLaunch, Website Coordinator

An initiative to explore the world of robotics through a series of talks and interactive workshops. Responsible for updating the website to ensure accessibility and provide up-to-date information.

2021–2023 WSU Responsibility Opportunity Advocacy Respect (ROAR), Peer Ally

Collaborated with ROAR students by providing support in attending classes, facilitating social integration, participating in university events, and fostering inclusive experiences.

Technical Skills

Programming Languages

C/C++, Python, HTML/CSS, Haskell, MATLAB, LATEX, C#, SQL, R

Developer Tools

VS Code, VS Community, Xcode, CLion, PyCharm, RStudio, Google Colab

Technologies/Frameworks

Robot Operating System, PyTorch, Scikit-learn, TensorFlow, CUDA