

VT National
Security
Institute

-

Complex
Systems
Division

**GenGroves:
A Bridge Between Systems Engineers
and Domain Experts**

Paul Wach, PhD, Research Assistant Professor
18 Sep 2025

SERC Workshop on AI4SE



NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
VIRGINIA TECH

Some Upfront Thank You(s)!

General **Leslie Groves**

Director, Manhattan Project



[Image from: Wikipedia](#)

- The work has been realized thanks to several contributors and sponsors
- Collaborators include:
 - **The Remarkable Ms. Mary Nerayo!!!**
 - Peter Beling, Taylan Topcu, Rohan Anand, Brady Jugan, Caleb Anderson



NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
VIRGINIA TECH.

Setting the Stage

- Challenge:

From empirical evidence and individual experience, **our current approach is not sufficient**

- Example Solution(s):

- Digital engineering (DE):** connecting the right data right to enable effective and efficient decisions and communication
- Model-based systems engineering (MBSE):** the application of DE to enhance systems engineering (SE)

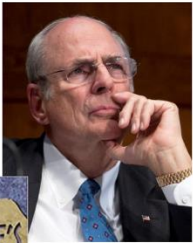
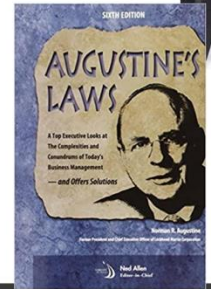
The Air Force admits the F-35 fighter jet costs too much. So it wants to spend even more.

Developing and procuring a brand-new nonstealth plane to save money makes sense only if the Pentagon can defy its entire history of defense spending.



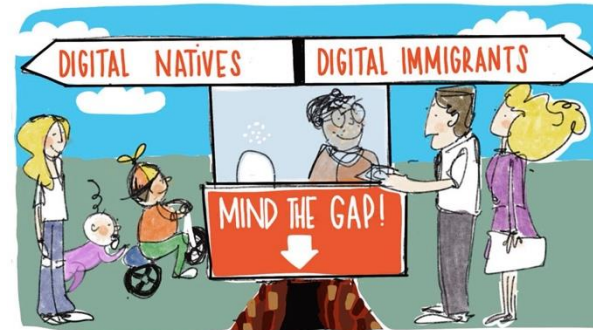
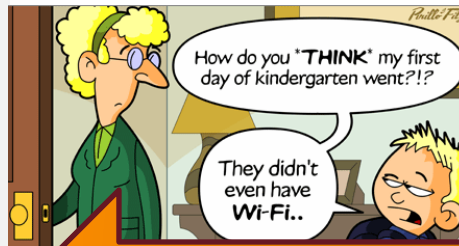
Augustine's Laws

Law Number XVI: In the year 2054, the entire defense budget will purchase just one aircraft. This aircraft will have to be shared by the Air Force and Navy 3-1/2 days each per week except for leap year, when it will be made available to the Marines for the extra day.



Credit:
Andy Ko

Ansys



Spectrum of workforce



NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
VIRGINIA TECH.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) & Digital Transformation

- Challenge:

- Adoption** of digital engineering has been **slower** than expected and the benefits have not yet been realized

- Goal:

- Expedite & reimagine** the digital transformation

- Large language models (**LLM**) and the systems modeling language version 2 (**SysMLv2**)

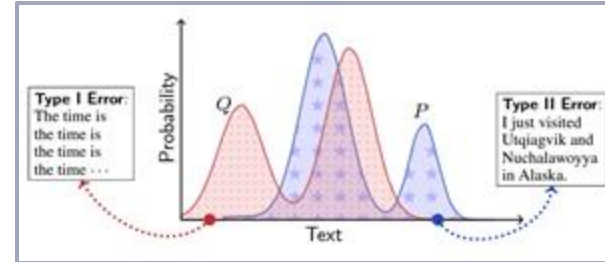
- Serve as a **workforce bridge** between seasoned generation and incoming digital natives, among other applications

- Thrusts

- Text to text
- Text/image to SysMLv2 code
- SysML image/code to text

Text to text

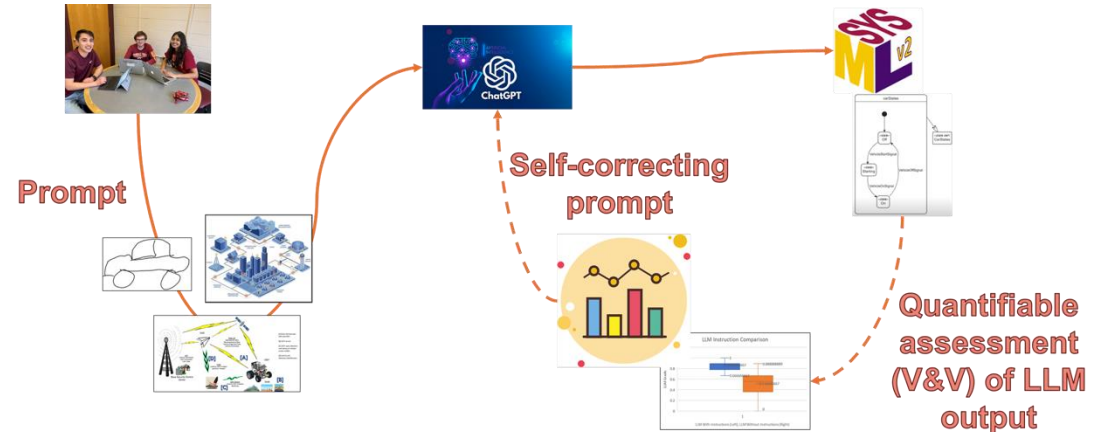
Human expert
VS
LLM



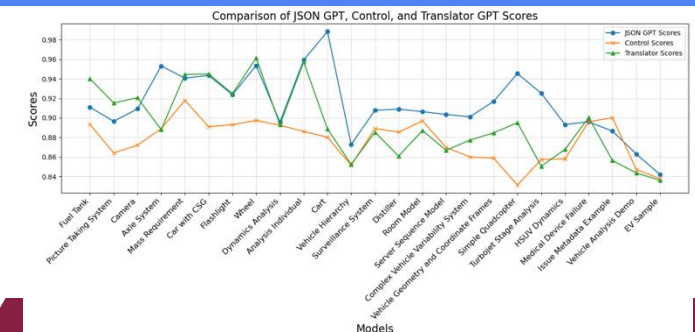
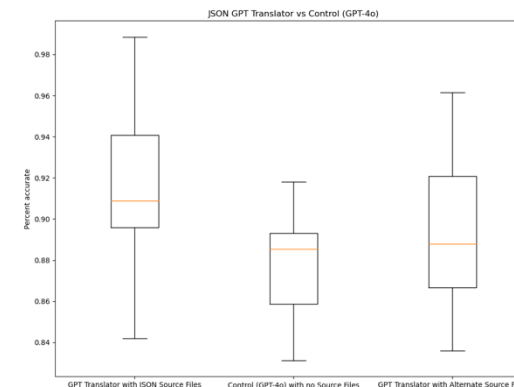
Model	MAUVE Scores		
	Prompt 1	Prompt 2	Prompt 3
GPT-4 (OpenAI)	0.0000	0.0000	0.9137
GPT-3.5 Turbo (OpenAI)	0.0000	0.0001	0.9749
Claude (Anthropic)	0.0000	0.0003	0.9932

Text/Image to SysMLv2

Notional
Prompt with
self-correcting
V&V of
output



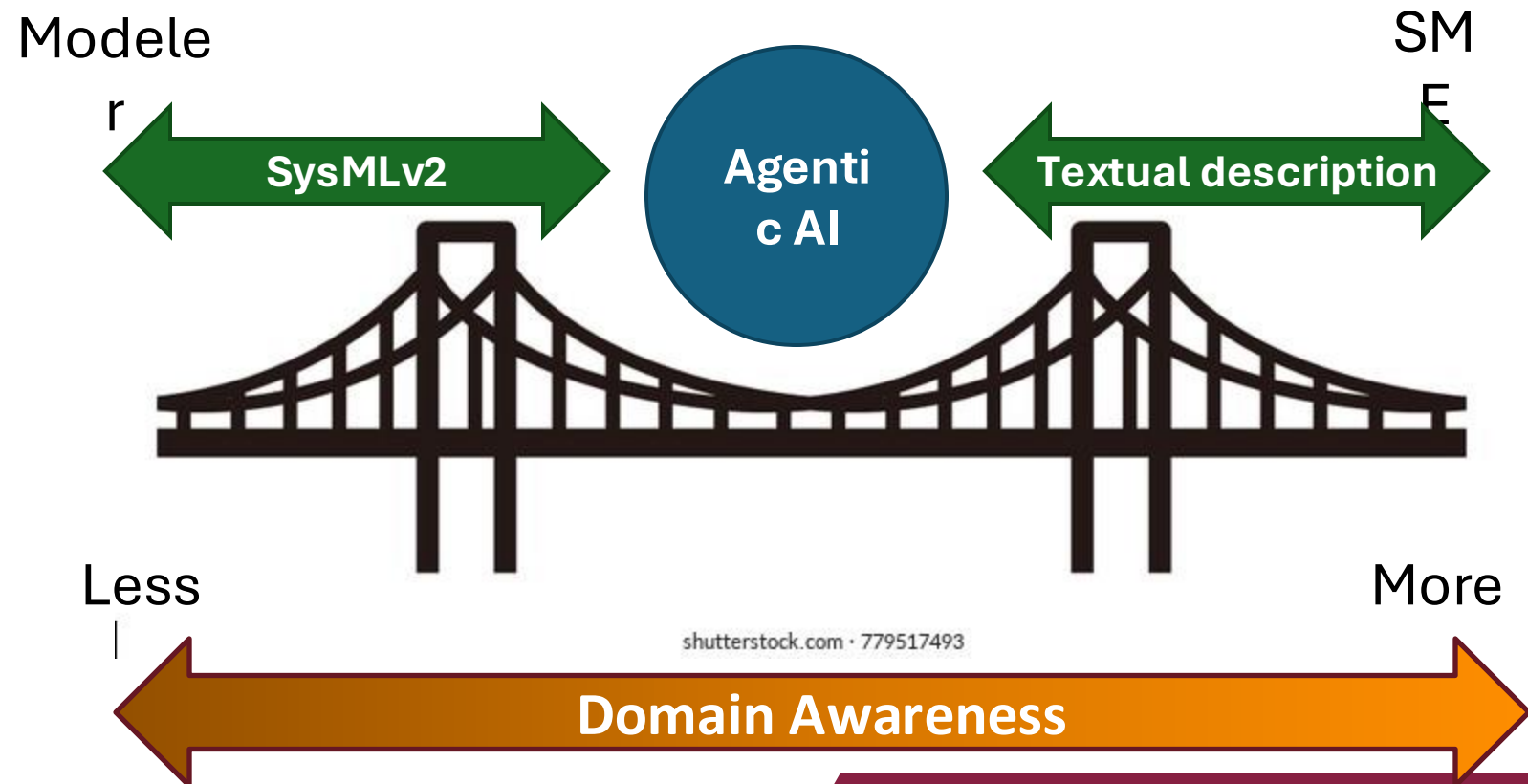
SysMLv2 image to text



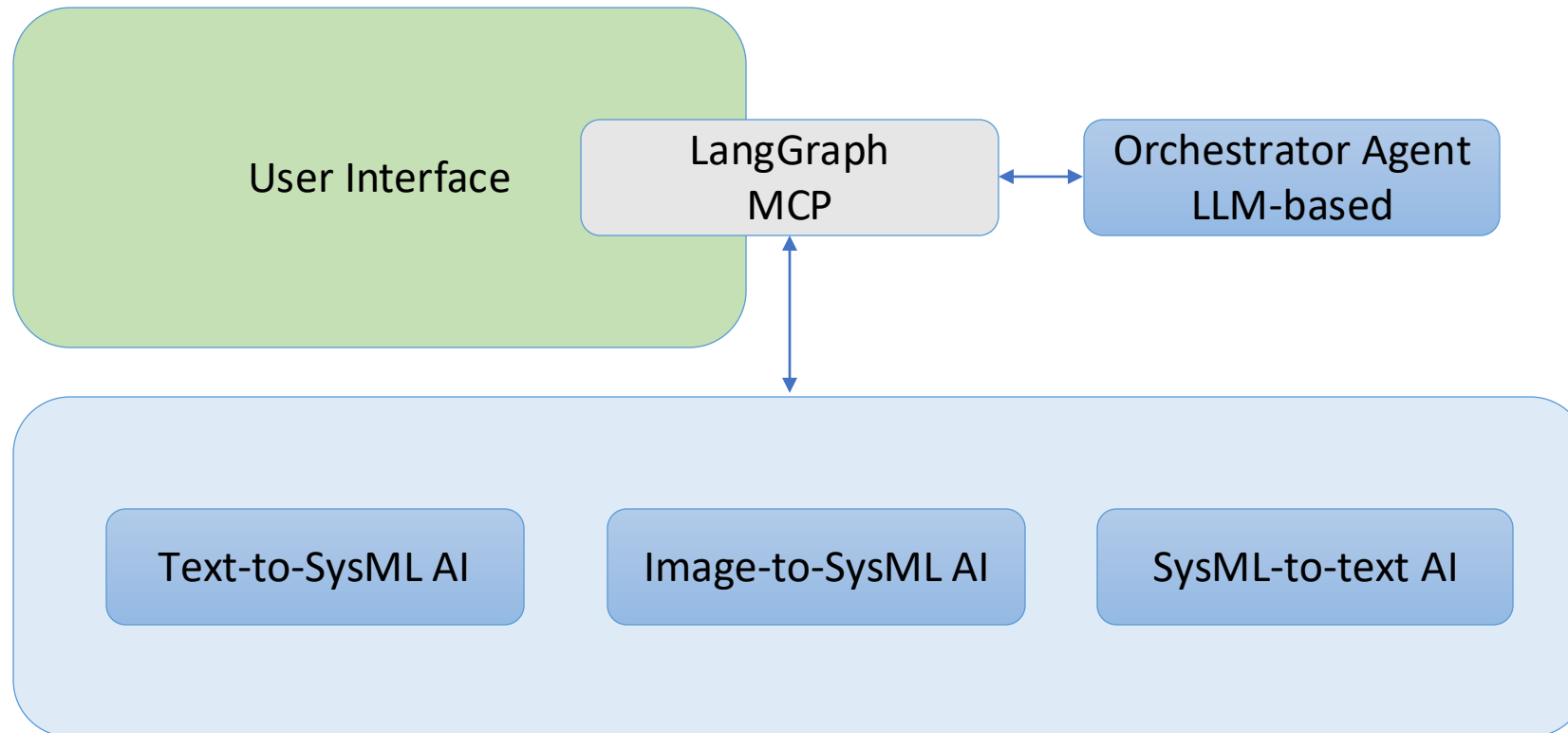
NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
VIRGINIA TECH.

So, Who is the Bridge Really for?!

- Just systems engineering?
- Just domain experts?
- OR
 - Systems engineering modelers (e.g., those that model in MBSE tools)
 - + Subject matter experts
 - Senior systems engineers
 - Mechanical engineers
 - Electrical engineers
 - Aerospace engineers
 - Physicist!!!
 - Business managers



Overview of Agentic AI Framework for GenGroves



Selecting the Right Parts: Experimentation

Prompt 1 -

- The drone system must perform regular patrols. It should cover a 5 km² area and complete each patrol within 30 minutes.
- The drone must ensure operational safety. Specifically, it should return to base when the battery level falls below 20%, and it must avoid entering pre-specified no-fly zones based on GPS coordinates.
- The communication system must report the drone's status every 2 minutes and issue alerts if it detects anomalies such as intrusion or GPS jamming.
- Using the description above for a drone system, provide the requirements of this system in a simple list format

Criteria	Rank 1 (Best)	Rank 2	Rank 3
Clarity & Organization	Mistral	Gemma	LLama
Depth of Explanation	Gemma	Mistral	LLama
Tone	Mistral	Gemma	LLama
User-Friendliness	Gemma	Mistral	LLama
Use of Examples/Scenarios	Gemma	Mistral	LLama
Scalability & Reusability	Mistral	Gemma	LLama

*Kudos to Rohan Anand



Selecting the Right Parts: Experimentation

Prompt 2 -

- Provide the requirements for a drone system that does surveillance in a small area.

Criteria	Rank 1 (Best)	Rank 2	Rank 3
Clarity & Organization	Gemma	Mistral	Llama
Depth of Explanation	Gemma	Llama	Mistral
Tone	Gemma	Mistral	Llama
User-Friendliness	Mistral	Gemma	Llama
Use of Examples/Scenarios	Gemma	Llama	Mistral
Scalability & Reusability	Gemma	Mistral	Llama

*Kudos to Rohan Anand



NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
VIRGINIA TECH.

Selecting the Right Parts: Experimentation

Prompt 3 -

```
• package 'Requirement Hierarchy Example' {
•   import ScalarValues::*;
•
•   // Top-level requirement definition
•   requirement def SystemPerformance {
•     attribute id : String;
•     attribute description : String;
•   }
•
•   // Sub-requirements
•   requirement def HighSpeed :> SystemPerformance {
•     attribute id : String;
•     attribute description : String;
•   }
•
•   requirement def LowPower :> SystemPerformance {
•     attribute id : String;
•     attribute description : String;
•   }
•
•   // Usage of the top-level requirement
•   requirement sysPerfReq : SystemPerformance {
•     attribute >> id = "REQ-000";
•     attribute >> description = "The system shall optimize performance characteristics."
•   }
•
•   // Usage of sub-requirements
•   requirement speedReq : HighSpeed {
•     attribute >> id = "REQ-001";
•     attribute >> description = "The system shall operate at speeds greater than 100
units/sec.";
•   }
•
•   requirement powerReq : LowPower {
•     attribute >> id = "REQ-002";
•     attribute >> description = "The system shall consume less than 50 watts under normal
load.";
•   }
• }
•
•
• Using the above SysMLv2 diagram explain the system the
diagram describes.
```

Criteria	Rank 1 (Best)	Rank 2	Rank 3
Clarity & Organization	Gemma	Llama	Mistral
Depth of Explanation	Gemma	Llama	Mistral
Tone	Llama	Gemma	Mistral
User-Friendliness	Gemma	Llama	Mistral
Use of Examples/Scenarios	Gemma	Llama	Mistral
Scalability & Reusability	Gemma	Llama	Mistral

*Kudos to Rohan Anand



Selecting the Right Parts: Experimentation

Prompt 4 -

```
package 'Requirement Hierarchy Example' {
  import Scalar/Values::;

  // Top-level requirement definition
  requirement def SystemPerformance {
    attribute id : String;
    attribute description : String;
  }

  // Sub-requirements
  requirement def HighSpeed :> SystemPerformance {
    attribute id : String;
    attribute description : String;
  }

  requirement def LowPower :> SystemPerformance {
    attribute id : String;
    attribute description : String;
  }

  // Usage of the top-level requirement
  requirement sysPerReq : SystemPerformance {
    attribute :> id = "REQ-000";
    attribute :> description = "The system shall optimize performance characteristics."
  }

  // Usage of sub-requirements
  requirement speedReq : HighSpeed {
    attribute :> id = "REQ-001";
    attribute :> description = "The system shall operate at speeds greater than 100 units/sec.";
  }

  requirement powerReq : LowPower {
    attribute :> id = "REQ-002";
    attribute :> description = "The system shall consume less than 50 watts under normal load.";
  }
}
```

- Above is an example of SysMLv2 requirements diagrams. Using the description of a system below create the entire SysMLv2 requirements diagram.
- The drone system must perform regular patrols. It should cover a 5 km² area and complete each patrol within 30 minutes.
- The drone must ensure operational safety. Specifically, it should return to base when the battery level falls below 20%, and it must avoid entering pre-specified no-fly zones based on GPS coordinates.
- The communication system must report the drone's status every 2 minutes and issue alerts if it detects anomalies such as intrusion or GPS jamming.

Criteria	Rank 1 (Best)	Rank 2	Rank 3
Clarity & Organization	Gemma	Mistral	Llama
Depth of Explanation	Gemma	Mistral	Llama
Tone	Gemma	Mistral	Llama
User-Friendliness	Gemma	Llama	Mistral
Use of Examples/Scenarios	Gemma	Mistral	Llama
Scalability & Reusability	Gemma	Mistral	Llama

*Kudos to Rohan Anand



Demo of Current Version of GenGroves



Artifact

Download

Artifact content...

Hello! I'm here to assist you. As we collaborate, I'll update the artifact on the left in real time. Feel free to provide an artifact for editing or ask me to create a new one for you.

[Artifact used: Artifact](#)

Editing SysMLv2

Submit

Introducing...

An Agentic AI Agent
that leverages LLMs.

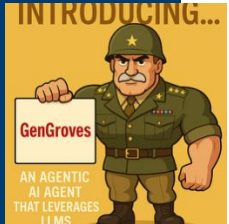


Questions?

Contact:

Paul Wach, paulw86@vt.edu

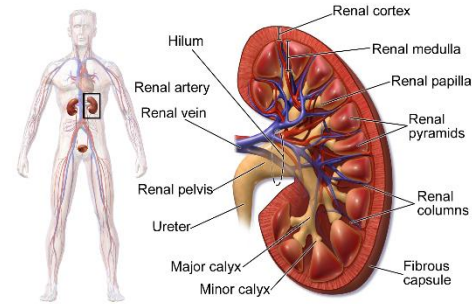
*A year of iterating on the image for GenGroves



NATIONAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
VIRGINIA TECH.

Who is Paul? (or Professor Paul or Doc Wach)

BS in Biomedical Engineering 2009



Kidney Anatomy



MS in Mechanical Engineering 2013



PhD in Industrial and Systems Engineering 2022



Research Faculty in Intelligent Systems
Division 2023-present



Virginia Tech – National Security Institute (NSI)

OUR MISSION

We meet the pressing needs of the defense and intelligence communities by developing their future workforce and advancing interdisciplinary research, technology, and policy.