Retrieval Augmented Generation

Duarte Santos - 124376

What is RAG?

RAG structure

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What is Retrieval Augmented Generation?

RAG is a framework, proposed by Patrick Lewis in 2020, that combines retrieval-based systems with generative AI models to improve the relevance and accuracy of generated content.

This approach leverages both explicit knowledge from retrieved documents and the implicit knowledge encoded in language models, resulting in more accurate and context-sensitive responses.

RAG Components



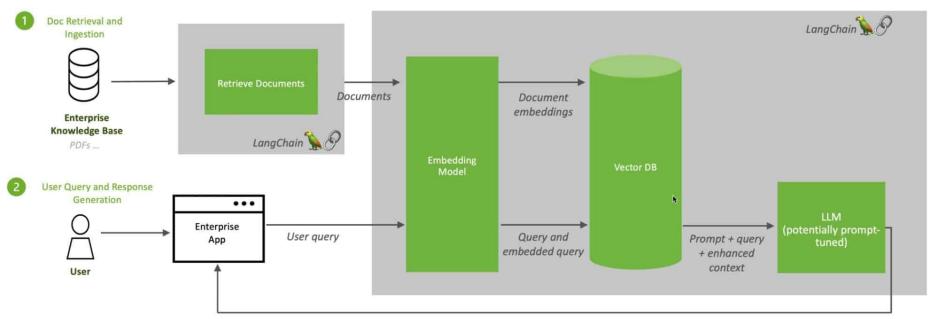
Retrieval: The system queries a knowledge base or external data source (e.g., databases, documents, or APIs) to fetch relevant context or information based on the input prompt



Generation: A generative model, such as GPT, uses the retrieved information to produce a coherent and contextually accurate response or output

How RAG works?

Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) Sequence Diagram



Streamed text response (generative)

https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/what-is-retrieval-augmented-generation/

RAG Example

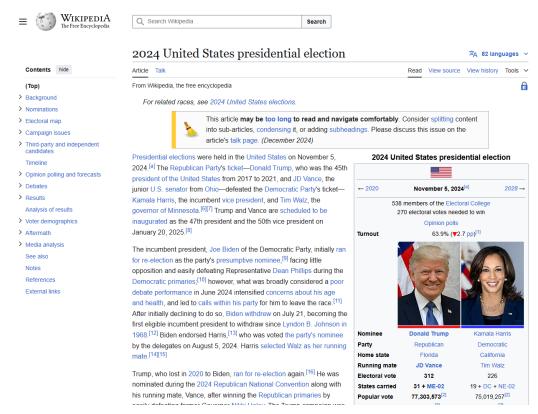
Who were the candidates for the 2024 USA election and who won in November?

I might not have the latest updates. For the most complete and up-to-date information about the U.S. Election, please visit news sources like The Associated Press and Reuters or check with your state or local election authority.

What is the last year this GPT model was trained on?

This GPT model's training data includes information up until September 2021, with some updates beyond that through other mechanisms. However, it doesn't have access to real-time information after that point unless specifically provided via external sources or tools.

RAG Example



him the first Republican to do so since George W. Bush in 2004 but with what was the third smallest margin of victory since 1888.[42][43] Relative to the 2020 election, he improved his vote share among working class voters, particularly among young men, those without college degrees, and Hispanic voters.[44] Trump became the first president since Grover Cleveland in 1892 to be elected to non-consecutive terms.[45]

Question: Who were the candidates for the 2024 USA election and who won in November?

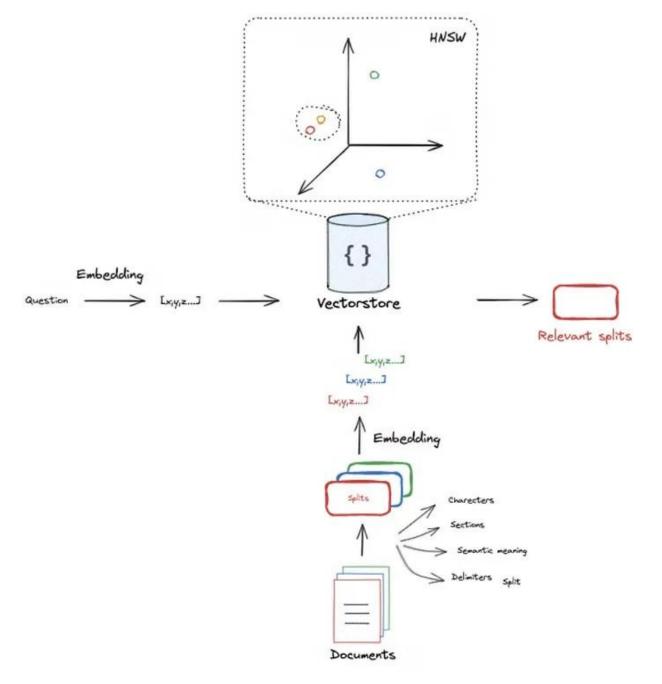
- The candidates for the 2024 United States presidential election were:
 - 1. Republican Party:
 - Donald Trump (former president from 2017 to 2021)
 - J.D. Vance (junior U.S. senator from Ohio)
 - 2. Democratic Party:
 - Kamala Harris (incumbent vice president)
 - Tim Walz (governor of Minnesota)

Winner: Donald Trump and his running mate J.D. Vance won the election. They received 312 Electoral College votes to Kamala Harris' 226 and also won the national popular vote with 49.9%. Trump is scheduled to be inaugurated as the 47th president on January 20, 2025, making him the first president since Grover Cleveland to serve non-consecutive terms.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_United_States_presidential_election

Embeddings improvements

Split the documents into smaller chunks to enable faster searching and more specific retrieval.



Advantages and Limitations of RAG

- Improved Accuracy
- Reduced LLMs Hallucinations
- Modularity
- Dynamic Knowledge Update
- Domain Adaptability

- Complex Architecture
- Latency
- Potential for Irrelevant Context
- Scalability of Retrieval

RAG Use Cases







SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



LEGAL ASSISTANCE



ENTERPRISE DOCUMENT SEARCH

Future of RAG



Integration with Real-Time and Dynamic Knowledge



Multilingual retrieving and synthesizing evidence from diverse multilingual sources



Multimodal data (images, vídeo, sound etc...) support



Smaller Models with External Knowledge

Conclusions

Retrieval Augmented Generation offers flexibility, adaptability, and efficiency, making it ideal for a wide range of use cases.

As research and technology progress, RAG systems will become more sophisticated, real-time, and domain-specific, opening new frontiers for AI applications

Questions?

