Book-Based Q&A System with Hybrid RAG and Prompt Engineering

This project builds an intelligent question-answering system that takes in a PDF book, processes its contents, and allows users to a

Features

- Upload and process any PDF book
- Extracts and chunks text for efficient retrieval
- Hybrid Retrieval using FAISS (Dense) + BM25 (Sparse)
- Advanced prompt templates for different question types:
- What
- Explain
- Summarize
- Types/List
- Steps/Process
- Real-time Q&A using Hugging Face t5-base pipeline
- Gradio web interface with sharing enabled

Technologies Used

- Model: t5-base (text2text-generation)
- Embeddings: sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L6-v2
- Sparse Retrieval: rank_bm25
- Dense Retrieval: FAISS (Flat L2 Index)
- PDF Parsing: pypdf
- Web Interface: gradio
- Hugging Face Hub: huggingface_hub

Installation

pip install torch transformers gradio pypdf huggingface_hub faiss-cpu rank_bm25 sentence-transformers

Hugging Face Authentication from huggingface_hub import notebook_login notebook_login()

Uploading and Processing PDFs

- 1. Upload your PDF file.
- 2. The file is processed by:
 - Extracting text with pypdf
 - Chunking text into 512-character passages
 - Creating embeddings for dense retrieval (FAISS)
 - Tokenizing for BM25 ranking

Asking Questions

The system detects the type of question and uses different prompts:

- "What is..." -> Returns a precise definition
- "Explain..." -> Returns a detailed explanation
- "Summarize..." -> Returns a concise summary
- "Types of..." / "List..." -> Returns categorized items
- "Steps..." / "Process..." -> Returns procedural steps

- Other -> Uses a general-purpose Q&A prompt

Running the Interface

iface.launch(share=True)

Example Questions

- What is Reinforcement Learning?
- Explain how backpropagation works.
- Summarize the key ideas in Chapter 2.
- List the types of neural networks.
- What are the steps in training a model?

File Structure

book_qa/

■■■ app.ipynb / main.py # Main notebook or script

README.md # Documentation

requirements.txt # (Optional) Dependencies

Acknowledgements

- Hugging Face Transformers
- FAISS: Facebook AI Similarity Search
- Sentence Transformers
- Gradio

License

This project is open-source under the MIT License.