

# Normalization in LLMs

- Normalization in LLMs is typically applied between the attention and Feed forward layers (and vice versa) it's usually applied before or after each sub layer (depending on variants):

- post norm: normalization after Attention/MLP (used in original transformer paper)
- pre norm: normalization before Attention/MLP (used in modern LLMs as it stabilizes training in deep models)

Why?:
 

- prevents exploding/vanishing activations: means the numbers (output of layers) don't become too big or small as they pass through many layers - this keeps the model's computation stable

Makes optimizations smoother: means the model learns more steadily during training, the loss surface becomes less chaotic, so gradient descent can take more reliable steps towards better performance instead of bouncing around/getting stuck

Allows deeper, more stable transformer training: because norm keeps each layers well behaved (balanced and stable not too big or small, consistent across layers) you can stack more layers without the model's training becoming unstable or diverging, in short normalization makes it possible for very deep NN like LLMs to still learn effectively and converge smoothly, instead of breaking down as they grow in size

(for rays see 94, 93, 106) Vector Databases vs knowledge graph and usage in RAG  
(for vector DB see 95)

- knowledge graphs: are a structured representation of facts and relationships, it stores entities (nodes) and relationships (edges) → like a map Ex) (Elon) —[founded]→ (Tesla) or how concepts connect, each entity has attributes (Tesla) —[Matters]→ (EVs) and connections, allowing reasoning, querying and context linking

- Vector DB: store embeddings (numeric representations of text, imgs, etc) it allows semantic search by similarity (Cos, Euclidean). Ex: • you embed a document into a 1536-dim vector • you query "what made Tesla". DB finds most semantically similar chunks (even if words differ)

Feature	Knowledge graph	Vector Databases	
Structure	Explicit (nodes, edges, relations)	Implicit (numeric emb)	- IN RAG: you can use either or both, in classic RAG (vector DB)
Query type	Symbolic/logical (graph traversal)	Semantic/similarity search	you retrieve semantically similar chunks from embeddings and Prject them, in KG-RAG you retrieve related entities/facts via graph traversal and/or Augmented Emb (embeddings enhanced with additional context or metadata) with graph links
Strength	Precise reasoning and explainability	Flexible meaning based ret.	
Data type	structured facts	Unstructured media, text	
Ex	Neo4j, AWS Neptune	Pinecone, Weaviate, FAISS	

Ex) KG: structured brain of facts, used in search engines  
Vector DB: memory of meanings, used in RAG pipelines  
- They complement each other, not replacements