

Normalization in LLMs

• Normalization in LLMs is typically applied between the attention and Feed forward layers (and vice versa) its 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 models 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 models 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 rag 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) of how concepts connect, each entity has attributes (Tesla) → [Makes] → (EVs) and connections, allowing reasoning, querying and context linking → node → edge

- 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 "who made tesla" • DB finds most semantically similar chunks (even if words differ)

Feature	Knowledge graph	Vector Databases	- IN RAG: you can use either or
Structure	Explicit (nodes, edges, relations)	implicit (numeric emb)	Both, in classic RAG (Vector DB)
Query type	Symbolic/Logical (graph traversal)	Semantic/similarity search	you retrieve semantically similar chunks from embeddings and feed it to LLM, in KG-RAG you retrieve related entities/facts via graph traversal and/or Augmented Emb
Strength	Precise reasoning and explainability	Flexible meaning based ret	(embeddings enhanced with additional context or meta data) with graph links
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

Ex: use KG to find connected info ("founder of EV company") then vector DB to fetch text about them or use hybrid RAG: use Vector DB - semantic Recall, KG for logic, reasoning, structure