



# RAG Library Search

Team 01

# Background

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Digital Repository

Log In

COLLECTIONS

ABOUT US

BLOG

CONTACT US

FAQ

AFFILIATED LIBRARY UNITS

STATISTICS

Home / Search

All of DSpace

What is an LLM?

Search

Filters

Author

+

Advisor

+

Date

+

Department

+

Subject

+

Keywords

+

Type

+

Search Results

Now showing 1 - 10 of 235

AgEval: A Benchmark for Zero-Shot and Few-Shot Plant Stress Phenotyping with Multimodal LLMs

Preprint (arXiv, 2024-07-29) Arshad, Muhammad Arbab ; Jubery, Talukder Zaki ; Roy, Tirtho ; Nassiri, Rim ; S. Plant stress phenotyping traditionally relies on expert assessments and specialized models, limiting scalability in agriculture. Recent advances in multimodal large language models (LLMs) offer potential solutions to this challenge. We present Ag... 26.02% to 58.03% across models, implying that subject matter expertise is needed ...

The Iowa Homemaker vol.3, no.11

Article (2017-03-31) Wilson, Ruth ; Roberts, Marcia ; Jacobsen, Amanda ; Vance, Thomas ; Murray, Gertrude

Table of Contents

Identity by Ruth Elaine Wilson, page 2

Weigh What You Wish...

Article (2017-05-09) Martin, Betty ; Iowa State University Digital Repository

Yes, we sit and laugh at the plight of a fleshy person running to catch a street care on a hot day. And the sight of a fat man toiling up the street with a large white handkerchief tucked around his collar, framing a moist ,bright red face, gives us a complacent, thankful feeling that we are not in the same condition.

## ISU Digital Repository

Find academic papers, projects, etc.

← keyword search flaw

# Modern Search Platform

The screenshot shows the Perplexity.ai search results for the query "what is an LLM?". The interface is dark-themed. At the top, the query is displayed. Below it, there are three source cards: "What are large language models (LLMs)? -...", "What is LLM? - Large Language Models...", and "What Are Large Language Models...". To the right of these cards is a "+5 sources" button. The main content area features a large video thumbnail titled "How Large Language Models Work" with a "Watch" button. Below the video are several smaller thumbnails, including one titled "What is LLM?" and another titled "What is a Large Language Model?". At the bottom of the interface, there is a search bar with the text "Ask follow-up" and a "Generate Image" button.

what is an LLM?

What are large language models (LLMs)? -...  
azure.microsoft

What is LLM? - Large Language Models...  
aws.amazon

What Are Large Language Models...  
ibm

+5 sources

Perplexity

A **Large Language Model (LLM)** is an advanced artificial intelligence system designed to understand and generate human-like text. These models are trained on vast amounts of data using deep learning techniques, particularly the transformer architecture, which allows them to process entire sequences of text in parallel. This enables LLMs to capture complex patterns in language and perform a wide range of tasks, such as:

- **Language Generation:** Creating coherent and contextually relevant text.
- **Translation:** Translating text from one language to another.
- **Summarization:** Summarizing long pieces of text into concise versions.
- **Question Answering:** Responding to queries in a conversational manner.
- **Content Creation:** Generating articles, emails, and social media posts.
- **Code Generation:** Assisting in writing and reviewing code.

LLMs are often referred to as foundation models because they are pre-trained on large datasets and can be fine-tuned for specific tasks. Examples of LLMs include OpenAI's GPT series, Meta's Llama models, and Google's BERT and PaLM models. Despite their

Search Videos

Generate Image

Perplexity.ai

AI search with sources +  
other relevant info.

Allows conversation-style  
← searching



# Well-Defined Problem

ISU Digital Repository Search has:

1. Inefficient Document Retrieval
  - Keyword based
2. Overwhelming Information Volume
  - Difficult to sift through
3. Lack of Intelligent Assistance
  - No dynamic results

# Example

Vague results

User still needs to check each paper

User cannot be specific



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Digital Repository

Log In

COLLECTIONS

ABOUT US

BLOG

CONTACT US

FAQ

AFFILIATED LIBRARY UNITS

STATISTICS

Home / Search

All of DSpace

2024 paper about machine learning

Search

Filters

Author

+

Advisor

+

Date

+

Department

+

Subject

+

Keywords

+

Type

+

Document Type

+

Has files

+

Item Type

+

Reset filters

Search Results

Now showing 1 - 10 of 1033

Designing artifact representation and automated pipeline for **machine learning** based Software Engineering

Dissertation

(2024-05)

Phan, Hung Dang ; Jannesari, Ali ; Cohen, Myra ; Le, Wei ; Chang, Carl ; Quinn, Christi

to accurately reflect their characteristics as inputs for SE models. In the second direction, I enhance **machine learning** model pipelines by adapting them to our new artifact representations and incorporating classical **ma-**  
**chine** translation models to leverage... surpasses the traditional software estimation approach using the Res

Harnessing Citizen Science: Analyzing Bird Population Trends and Migration Patterns

Creative component

(2024-12)

Rawat, Karan S ; Townsend, Anthony ; Information Systems and Business Appl

This analytical study examines how data science principles and techniques, such as statistical analysis and **ma-**  
**chine learning**, can support bird conservation efforts by analyzing population trends, migration patterns, and  
external influencing factors... analysis and **machine learning** to help analyze if citizen science data can pro

Machine Learning Approaches Towards Cybersickness Prediction: An Updated Systematic Review

Article

(2024-08)

Javadpour, Nikoo ; Gilbert, Stephen B ; Dorneich, Michael ; Fleming, Cody ; Industrial and

Cybersickness, a form of motion sickness experienced in virtual reality (VR), poses a significant challenge to the  
widespread adoption of VR technologies. This systematic review explores advancements in **machine learning**  
(ML) techniques to detect... and predict cybersickness by analyzing physiological signals. This review spans

Field inversion **machine learning** augmented turbulence modeling for time-accurate unsteady flow

Article

(American Institute of Physics, 2024-05-07)

Fang, Lean ; He, Ping ; Department of Aerospace Engine

Field inversion **machine learning** (FIML) has the advantages of model consistency and low data dependency and  
has been used to augment imperfect turbulence models. However, the solver-intrusive field inversion has a high  
entry bar, and existing FIML... studies focused on improving only steady-state or time-averaged periodic flo

Helping Farmers with Transcriber: Applying **Machine Learning** Techniques to Extract Data from Scanned Documents

Creative component

(2024-08)

Ammari, Saad ; Aduri, Pavan ; Department of Computer Science ; Simanta, Mi

our collaboration with SoilSerdem, an AgTech R&D company specializing in agricultural analysis, and explore the



# Project Objectives

1. **Build an Intelligent Retrieval System:**
  - semantic search
2. **Integrate an AI Chatbot:**
  - conversation and follow-up questions
3. **Enhance User Experience:**
  - improve research access
4. **Evaluate AI Models:**
  - compare cost and performance
5. **Lay the Groundwork for Future Expansion:**
  - scalable system and more complex functionalities (images/diagrams)



## Solution - Core Features

- **Semantic Search** → meaning and context
- **AI Chatbot Interface** → answers user queries
- **Reference Tracking** → backed by references
- **Comparative Analysis of AI Models** → open-source models versus paid LLMs
- **Vision vs. Non-Vision Capabilities** → documents that contain images or diagrams.
- **Analytics and Metrics Collection** → tracks performance metrics
- **Research Topics discovery** → smart content mapping



# First steps

- Learn and understand the fundamentals
- LLM (Large Language Model)
- What is RAG?
- Experimenting with multiple LLM models
- Apps to run LLMs locally





# LLM (Large Language Model)

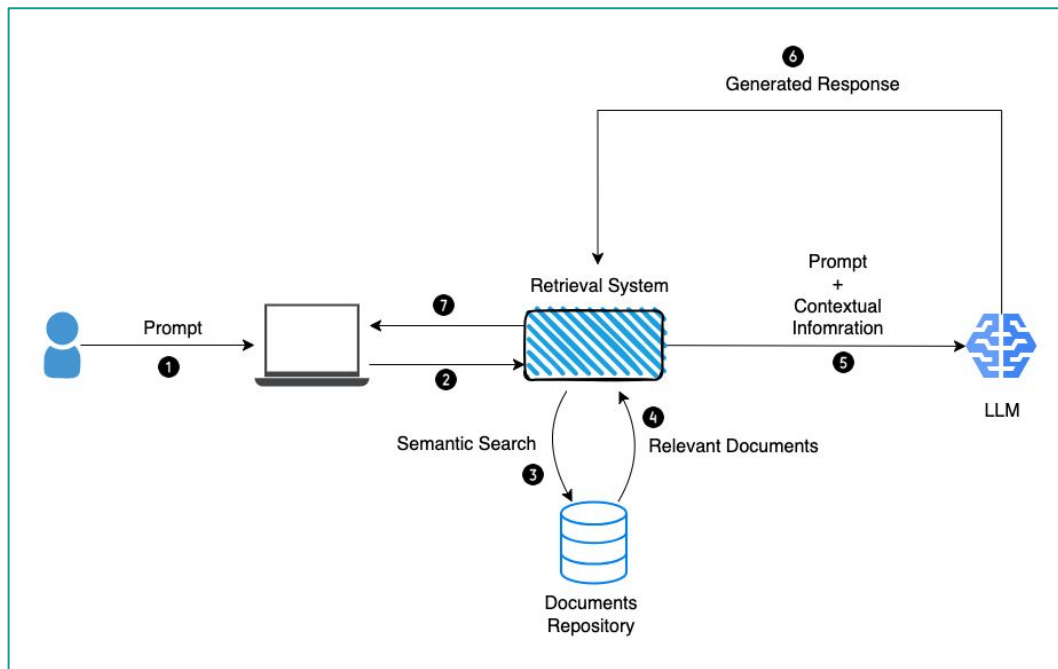
**Large:** extensive training data and modal size.

**Language:** focuses on natural language processing.

**Model:** makes responses based on learned data patterns

But, LLMs are **static...**

# RAG (Retrieval Augmented Generation)





# Why RAG?

- We need precision and credibility
- Research papers are published constantly
- User needs up-to-date answers



# The experiment

- Select multiple papers from ISU digital repository
- Upload papers to LLMs in groups of three
- Ask general and specific questions
- Ask follow up questions
- Record results
- Compare models
- Decide most suited model for our application



# Running LLMs locally vs cloud

**AnythingLLM:** provides a multi-user web interface, and supports document-based Q&A

**LM Studio:** models are easy to download, support many open-source models

**OpenWebUI:** open-source, could be hard to set up.

**Ollama**

[Chatgpt.com](https://chatgpt.com)

[Claude.ai](https://claude.ai)

[Google Studio](https://studio.google.com)

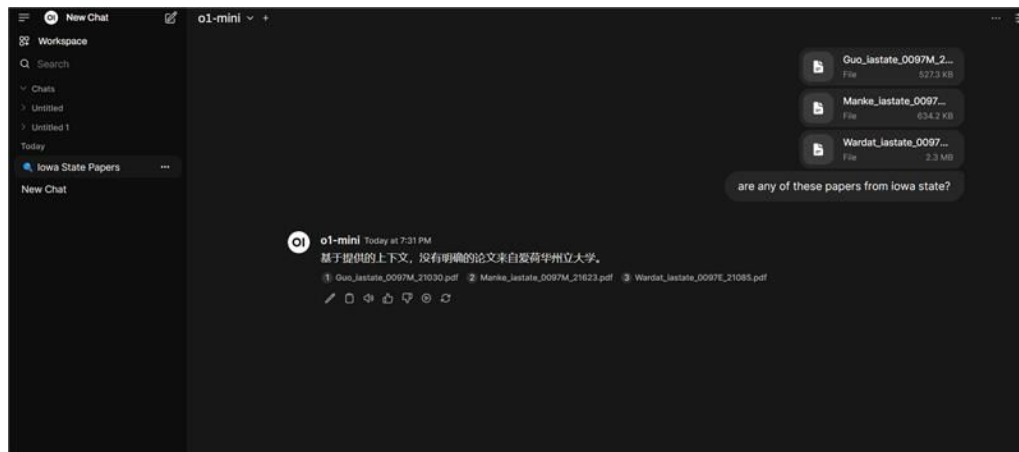
# Experimenting with LLMs

## ChatGPT

- GPT 4o
- o1
- o3 mini

Tested locally

Tested via cloud and API





# Claude 3.5 Sonnet

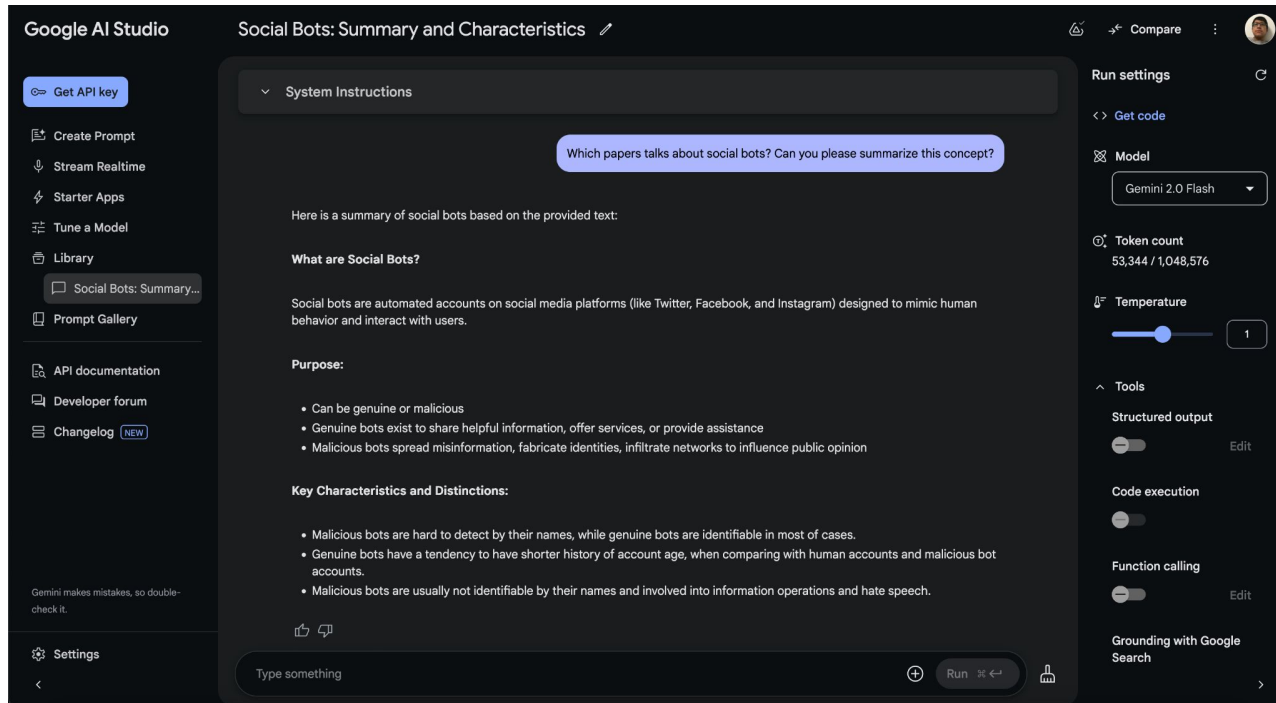
Long context but limited

Better at handling long documents

Could be expensive

Might get confused as documents become larger

# Google's Gemini



The screenshot displays the Google AI Studio web application. The interface is dark-themed. On the left is a sidebar with navigation options: 'Get API key', 'Create Prompt', 'Stream Realtime', 'Starter Apps', 'Tune a Model', 'Library' (with a selected item 'Social Bots: Summary...'), 'Prompt Gallery', 'API documentation', 'Developer forum', and 'Changelog'. The main area is titled 'Social Bots: Summary and Characteristics'. It features a 'System Instructions' section with a prompt: 'Which papers talks about social bots? Can you please summarize this concept?'. Below this, the AI's response is shown, starting with 'Here is a summary of social bots based on the provided text:'. The response includes sections for 'What are Social Bots?', 'Purpose:', and 'Key Characteristics and Distinctions:'. The 'Purpose:' section lists three bullet points: 'Can be genuine or malicious', 'Genuine bots exist to share helpful information, offer services, or provide assistance', and 'Malicious bots spread misinformation, fabricate identities, infiltrate networks to influence public opinion'. The 'Key Characteristics and Distinctions:' section lists three bullet points: 'Malicious bots are hard to detect by their names, while genuine bots are identifiable in most of cases.', 'Genuine bots have a tendency to have shorter history of account age, when comparing with human accounts and malicious bot accounts.', and 'Malicious bots are usually not identifiable by their names and involved into information operations and hate speech.' On the right side of the interface is a 'Run settings' panel with options for 'Model' (set to 'Gemini 2.0 Flash'), 'Token count' (53,344 / 1,048,576), 'Temperature' (set to 1), and 'Tools' (including 'Structured output', 'Code execution', 'Function calling', and 'Grounding with Google Search'). At the bottom of the main area is a text input field with the placeholder 'Type something' and a 'Run' button.

Google AI Studio

Social Bots: Summary and Characteristics

Get API key

Create Prompt

Stream Realtime

Starter Apps

Tune a Model

Library

Social Bots: Summary...

Prompt Gallery

API documentation

Developer forum

Changelog

Gemini makes mistakes, so double-check it.

Settings

System Instructions

Which papers talks about social bots? Can you please summarize this concept?

Here is a summary of social bots based on the provided text:

**What are Social Bots?**

Social bots are automated accounts on social media platforms (like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) designed to mimic human behavior and interact with users.

**Purpose:**

- Can be genuine or malicious
- Genuine bots exist to share helpful information, offer services, or provide assistance
- Malicious bots spread misinformation, fabricate identities, infiltrate networks to influence public opinion

**Key Characteristics and Distinctions:**

- Malicious bots are hard to detect by their names, while genuine bots are identifiable in most of cases.
- Genuine bots have a tendency to have shorter history of account age, when comparing with human accounts and malicious bot accounts.
- Malicious bots are usually not identifiable by their names and involved into information operations and hate speech.

Run settings

Get code

Model

Gemini 2.0 Flash

Token count

53,344 / 1,048,576

Temperature

1

Tools

Structured output

Edit

Code execution

Function calling

Edit

Grounding with Google Search

Type something

Run

Strong factual reasoning.

Supports RAG

Can interpret PDFs that involve images and charts.

Easy API integration





# Experimenting with LLMs

## Deepseek R1

- Strengths:
  - Shows how it thinks
- Problems:
  - Slow
  - Hard to escape context
  - Can give incorrect answers for the document is using



# Experimenting with LLMs

## Llama 3.2 Vision

- Strengths
  - Straight to the point
- Weaknesses
  - Not very accurate
  - Expensive



## Results

ChatGPT o1 provides most accurate answers; o3-mini can be used for reasoning.

Claude 3.5 Sonnet is fast, and accurate most of the time. Could lose context after multiple follow-up questions.

Gemini 1.8 Flash provides fast token processing



# Vectorization & Contextualization - Methodology

## Technical Implementation:

- API Integration: **Google Gemini 1.5 Pro** LLM
- Vector Database: **ChromaDB** for document embedding and semantic retrieval
- Document Processing: PDF extraction via **pdfplumber** with hierarchical chunking
- Answers recorded in **JSON** files
- Error Handling: Exponential backoff for API calls (2-5-10s) with max\_retries=3

## Design Choices:

- ChromaDB for vector database for lightweight architecture and strong search capabilities
- pdfplumber allows for chunking at document and paragraph levels



# Vectorization & Contextualization - Basic Approach

## Working:

- Direct document-to-query processing
- Full document context with no fragmentation
- Single-pass analysis without semantic indexing
- Implementation: direct API prompting

## Technical Challenges:

- Context window limitations
- Inability to make connections between different ideas

```
26 def analyze_single_paper(paper_path):
27     """Analyze a single paper with basic questions."""
28     print(f"\nAnalyzing {os.path.basename(paper_path)}")
29     text = extract_text_from_pdf(paper_path)
30     results = []
31
32     model = genai.GenerativeModel('gemini-1.5-pro')
33
34     for q_id, question in BASIC_QUESTIONS.items():
35         print(f"Processing question: {q_id}")
36         prompt = f"Based on this paper, please answer: {question}\n\nPaper content: {text}"
37
38         try:
39             response = model.generate_content(prompt)
40             results.append({
41                 'question_id': q_id,
42                 'question': question,
43                 'response': response.text,
44                 'timestamp': datetime.now().isoformat()
45             })
46         except Exception as e:
47             print(f"Error with question {q_id}: {e}")
48             results.append({
49                 'question_id': q_id,
50                 'question': question,
51                 'response': None,
52                 'error': str(e),
53                 'timestamp': datetime.now().isoformat()
54             })
55
56     return results
57
```



# Vectorization & Contextualization - Vectorized Approach

## Working:

- Document-level dense vector representations
- Semantic similarity search with `n_results=1`
- ChromaDB collection with document-level indexing

## Problems & Challenges:

- Loss of document structure
- Finding optimality between comprehension and response accuracy is tricky
- Loss of broader context

```
for i in range(1, 4):
    paper_path = os.path.join(papers_dir, f'paper-{i}.pdf')
    if os.path.exists(paper_path):
        print(f"Loading {paper_path}")
        text = extract_text_from_pdf(paper_path)
        if text:
            collection.add(
                documents=[text],
                ids=[f"paper-{i}"],
                metadatas=[{"source": f"paper-{i}"}]
            )

print(f"\nNumber of documents in collection: {collection.count()}")

# Process each paper
for i in range(1, 4):
    paper_id = f"paper-{i}"
    print(f"\nAnalyzing {paper_id}")
    paper_results = []

    for q_id, question in VECTOR_QUESTIONS.items():
        print(f"Processing question: {q_id}")
        try:
            # Get relevant sections
            query_results = collection.query(
                query_texts=[question],
                n_results=1,
                where={"source": paper_id}
            )

            if query_results['documents'] and query_results['documents'][0]:
                context = query_results['documents'][0][0]
                prompt = f"Based on this paper section, please answer: {question}\n\nContent: {context}"

                response = get_response_with_retry(model, prompt)
```



# Vectorization & Contextualization - Context QA

## Working:

- Multi-document aggregation with boundary markers
- Cross-document thematic analysis
- Category-based question hierarchy (comparative, thematic, synthesis)
- Combined context with explicit document demarcation

## Challenges:

- Context window limitations for larger applications
- Combined context window might exceed token limits for models
- Processing entire documents leads to processing overhead
- Treats all documents with equal importance

```
papers_dir = '../data/papers'
papers_text = []

# Load papers
for i in range(1, 4):
    paper_path = os.path.join(papers_dir, f'paper-{i}.pdf')
    if os.path.exists(paper_path):
        text = extract_text_from_pdf(paper_path)
        papers_text.append(f"=== Paper {i} ===\n{text}")

# Combine all papers
combined_text = "\n\n".join(papers_text)
results = []
model = genai.GenerativeModel('gemini-1.5-pro')

# Process each category of questions
for category, questions in CONTEXT_QUESTIONS.items():
    print(f"\nProcessing {category} questions...")
    for question in questions:
        print(f"Analyzing: {question}")

        prompt = f"""Analyze these research papers together and answer:
        {question}

        Please consider all papers in your analysis and provide specific examples.

        Papers content:
        {combined_text}"""
```



# Vectorization & Contextualization - Vectorized Context Window

## Working

- Hybrid chunking strategy with full-document and paragraph-level embeddings
- `n_results=5` with cross-document relevance ranking
- Metadata-based retrieval with source tracking
- ChromaDB query with contextual recombination of top chunks

## Problem:

- Rate Limiting implementation is required
- Potential vector database costs
- Data scraping

```
if text:
    # Add full document
    collection.add(
        documents=[text],
        metadatas=[{"paper_id": f"paper-{i}", "type": "full"}],
        ids=[f"paper-{i}-full"]
    )

    # Split and add chunks
    chunks = text.split('\n\n')
    chunk_count = 0
    for j, chunk in enumerate(chunks):
        if chunk.strip():
            collection.add(
                documents=[chunk],
                metadatas=[{"paper_id": f"paper-{i}", "chunk_id": j, "type": "chunk"}],
                ids=[f"paper-{i}-chunk-{j}"]
            )
            chunk_count += 1
    print(f"Added {chunk_count} chunks for paper-{i}")
```





# Vectorization & Contextualization - Results

## Basic Question and Answer

### *Depth of Understanding*

Identifies main findings, results, limitations, etc.

Answers are mostly surface level.

### *Contextual Understanding*

Connects ideas across different section.

Understands relationships between methods, results, and their significance

### *Quality of Response*

Organizes information logically in it's response & presents information in a coherent hierarchy. Sometimes lacks depth.



# Vectorization & Contextualization - Results

## Vectorized Question and Answer

### **Depth of Understanding**

Much more detailed  
technical explanations.

### **Contextual Understanding**

Stronger linkage between  
the different sections of  
the paper. Clearer  
relationships between  
methods & their purpose.

### **Quality of Response**

More precise and  
technically accurate.  
Better organized  
responses with a clearer  
structure.



# Vectorization & Contextualization - Results

## Contextualized Question and Answer

### **Depth of Understanding**

Very deep understanding when comparing the different papers. Stronger grasp of theory and practical implications of these papers.

### **Contextual Understanding**

Exceptional ability to draw inferences across the 3 papers. Understands how first paper theory lays the framework for the second and third papers.

### **Quality of Response**

Clear use of examples to support points. Strong analytical answers - maintains balance between all 3 papers and individual concepts.



# Vectorization & Contextualization - Results

## Vectorized Contextual Question and Answer

### **Depth of Understanding**

Shows significantly enhanced understanding of how papers interconnect and build upon each other.

### **Contextual Understanding**

Superior ability to trace progression across papers. Better at explaining relationships between theory and practical notions.

### **Quality of Response**

Better organization with clear hierarchical presentation. Stronger supporting examples and evidence

Vectorized Contextual Q&A provides the most sophisticated and nuanced understanding of relationships between papers.



# Progress & Challenges

- Experimenting with tools and technologies



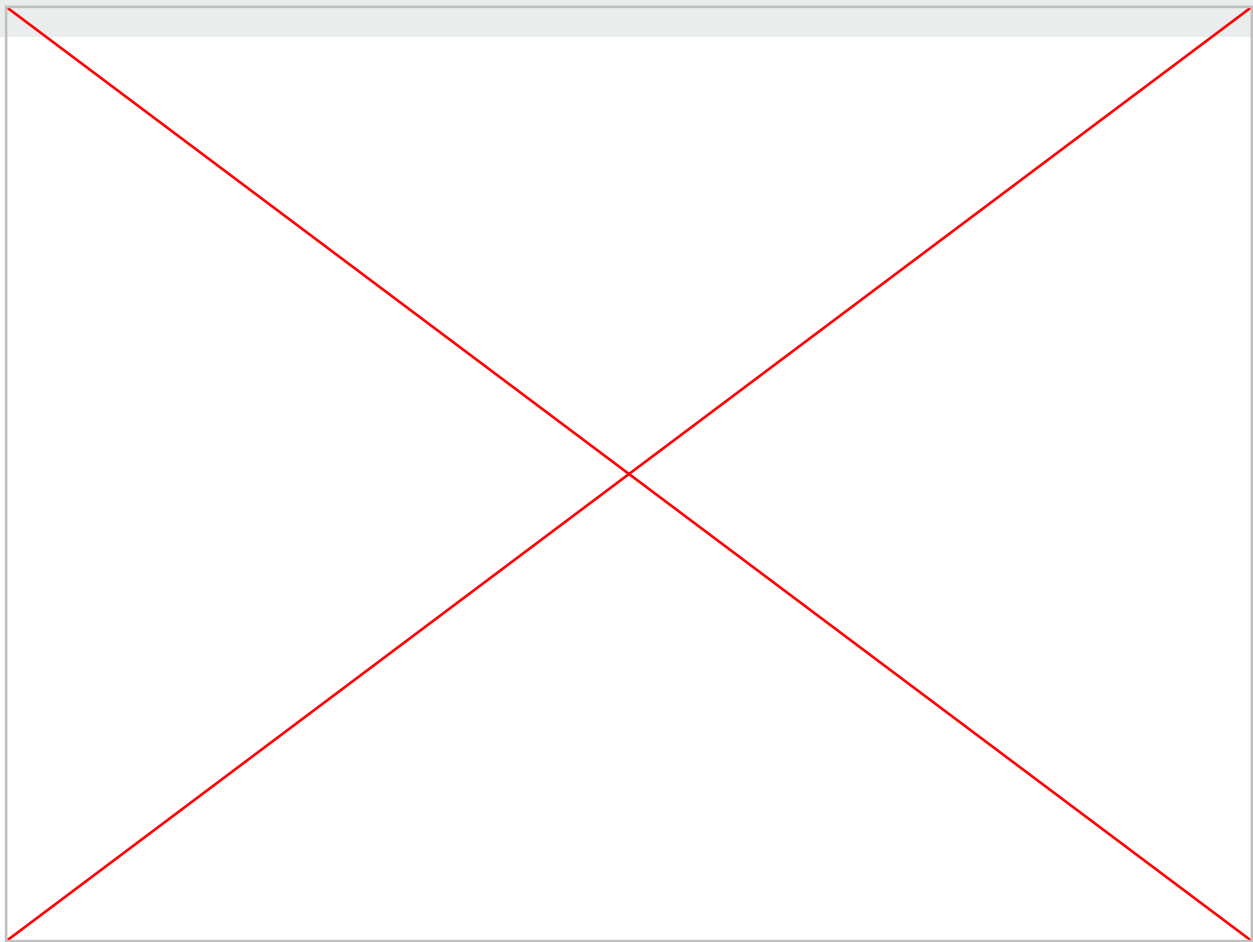
# Remaining Work

1. **Unit 1 (Weeks 3–6):**
  - Requirements gathering, initial design, and early demos.
2. **Unit 2 (Weeks 7–11):**
  - Development of data ingestion, embedding integration, and LLM-based chatbot features.
3. **Unit 3 (Weeks 12–13):**
  - Final integration, advanced features, and performance analytics.
4. **Weeks 14–15:**
  - Final system polishing, comprehensive testing, and preparation for the final presentation.



# Demo

- Semantic Search
  - Embeddings: text-embedding-ada-002
  - Vector DB: FAISS
- Retrieval Augmented Generation
  - Gpt-4o api







## Next Steps

- Implement ChromaDB, Google Gemini 1.5 Pro LLM
- Create Web Based UI
  - Chatbot
  - Image and Diagram Capabilities