



LLamaIndex with RAG

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14 Oct 2025



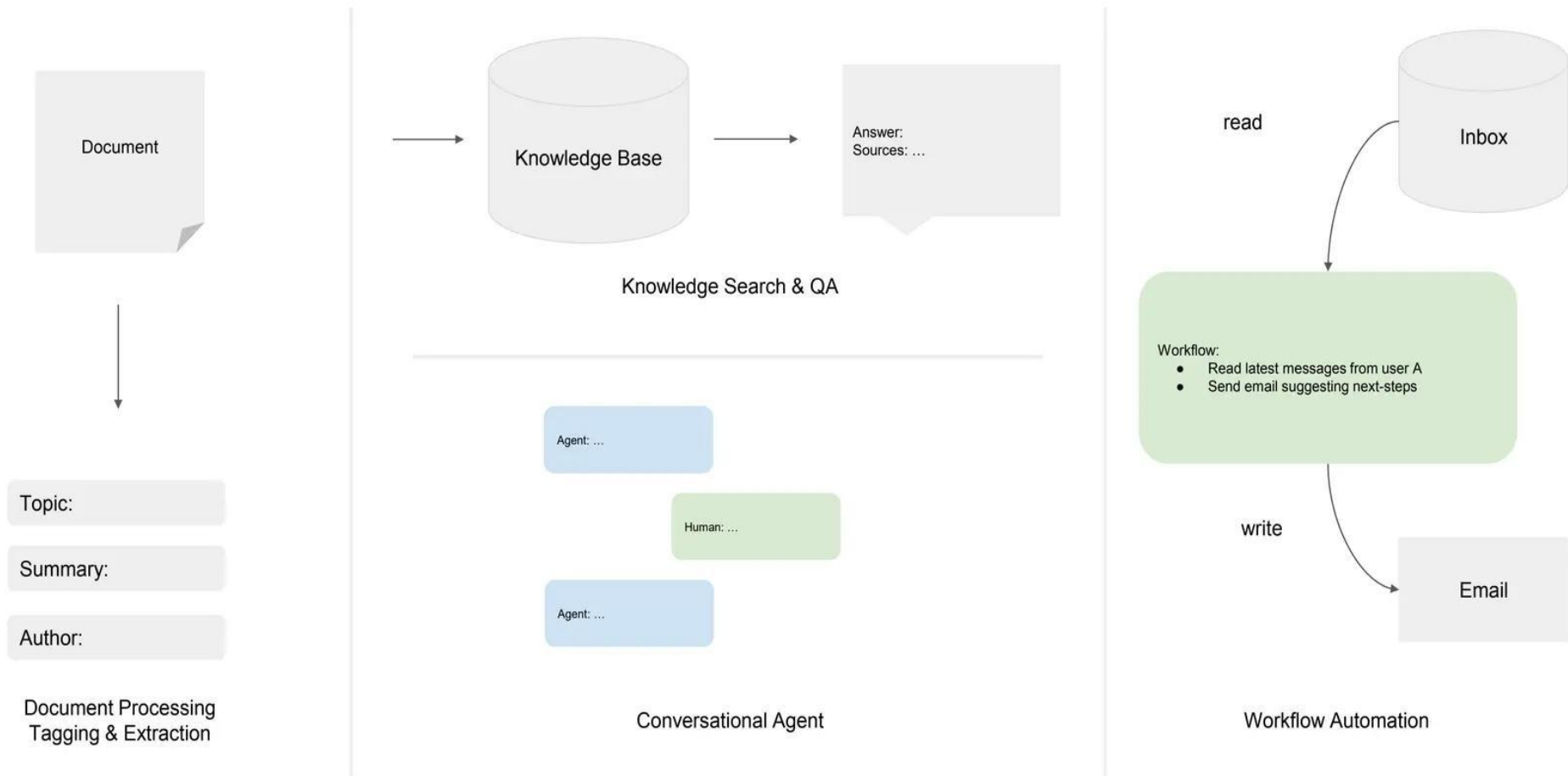
SPEAKER

JERRY LIU

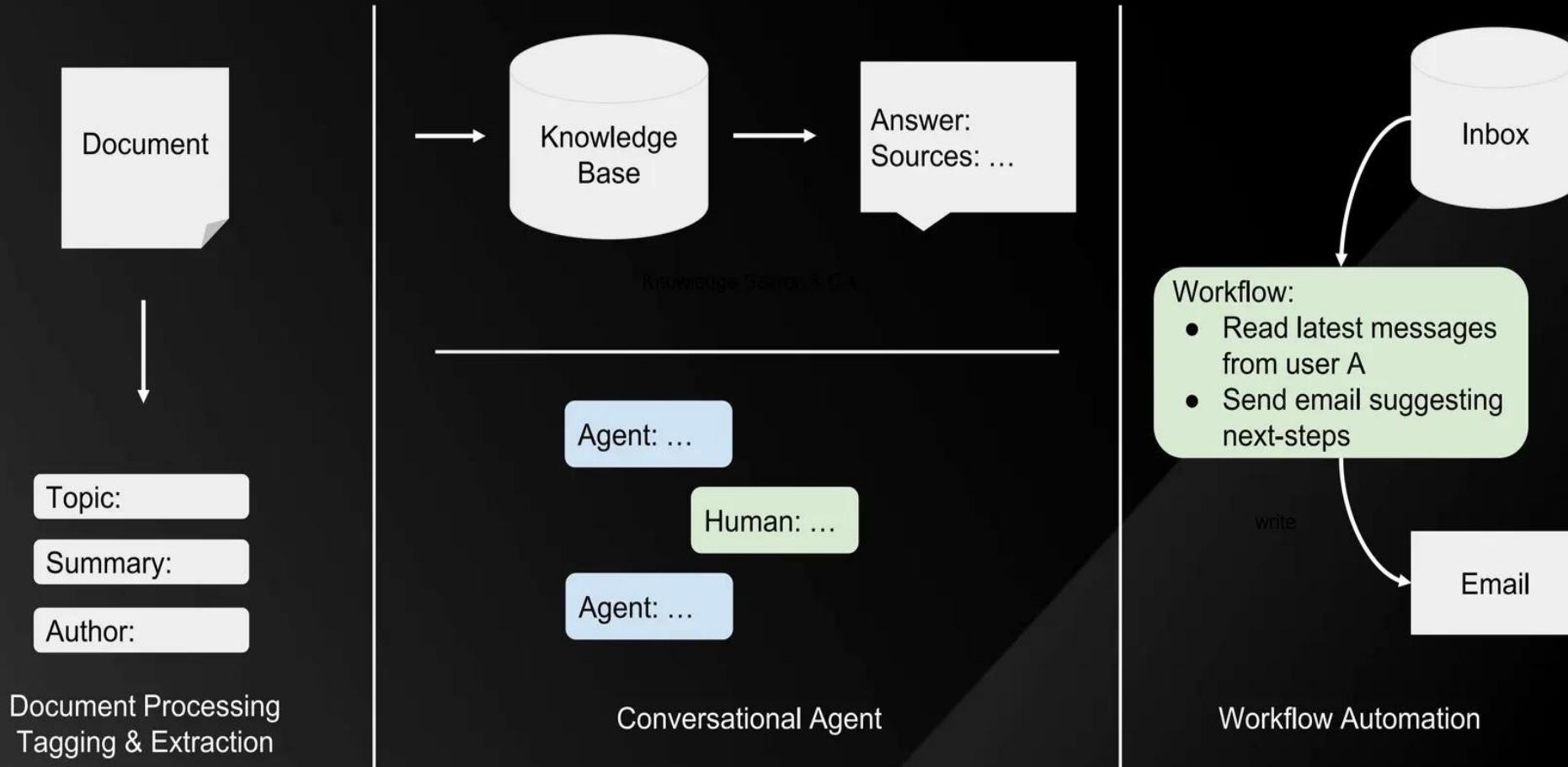
CEO, LlamaIndex



GenAI - Enterprise Use-cases

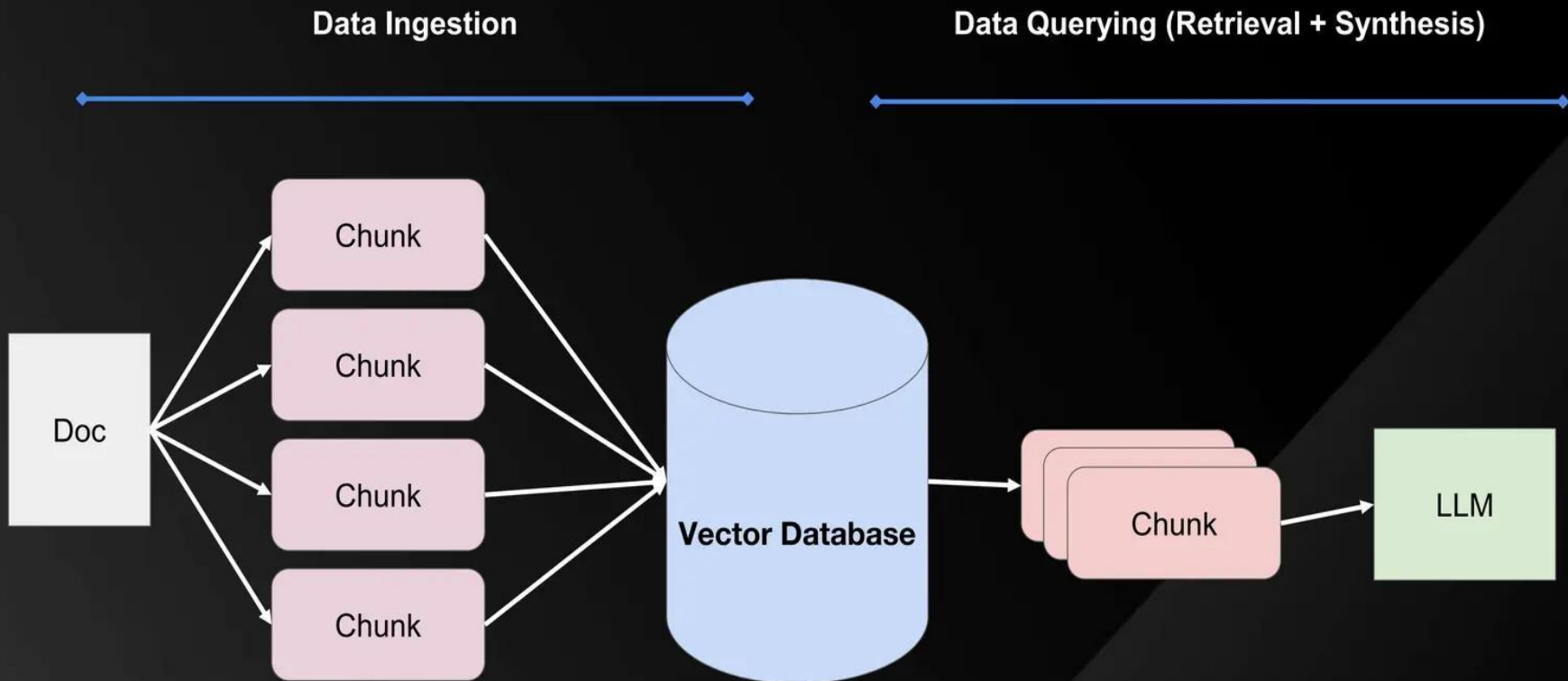


GenAI - Enterprise Use-cases



RAG Stack

Current RAG Stack for building a QA System



5 Lines of Code in LlamaIndex!

Challenges with “Naive” RAG

Challenges with Naive RAG (Response Quality)

- Bad Retrieval
 - **Low Precision:** Not all chunks in retrieved set are relevant
 - Hallucination + Lost in the Middle Problems
 - **Low Recall:** Now all relevant chunks are retrieved.
 - Lacks enough context for LLM to synthesize an answer
 - **Outdated information:** The data is redundant or out of date.

Challenges with Naive RAG (Response Quality)

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 - **Low Recall:** Not all relevant chunks are retrieved.
 - Lacks enough context for LLM to synthesize an answer
 - **Outdated information:** The data is redundant or out of date.
- Bad Response Generation
 - **Hallucination:** Model makes up an answer that isn't in the context.
 - **Irrelevance:** Model makes up an answer that doesn't answer the question.
 - **Toxicity/Bias:** Model makes up an answer that's harmful/offensive.

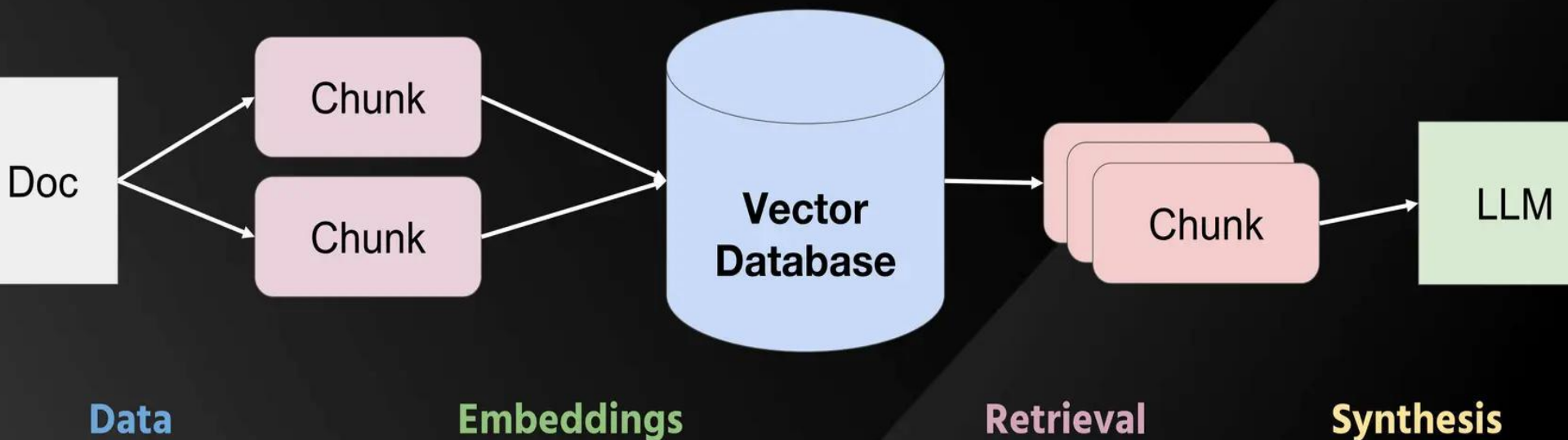
What do we do?

Data: Can we store additional information beyond raw text chunks?

Embeddings: Can we optimize our embedding representations?

Retrieval: Can we do better than top-k embedding lookup?

Synthesis: Can we use LLMs for more than generation?



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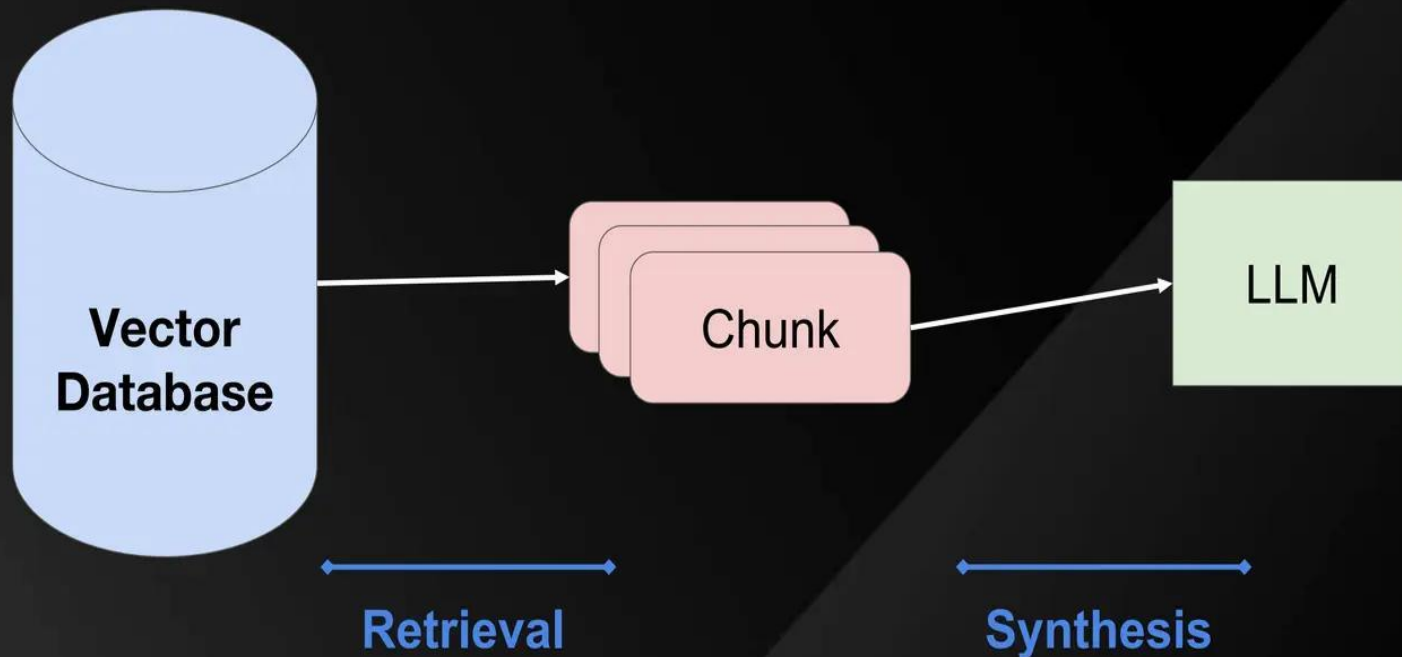
But before all this...

We need evals

Evaluation

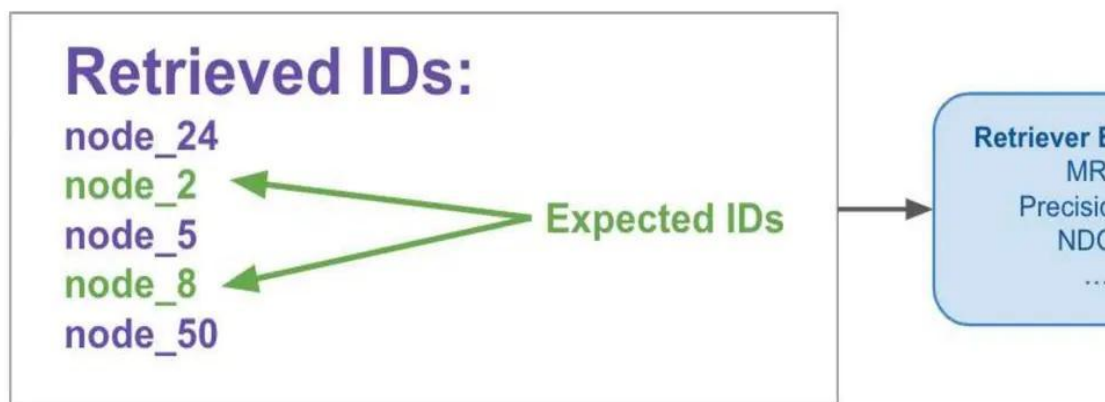
Evaluation

- How do we properly evaluate a RAG system?
 - Evaluate in isolation (retrieval, synthesis)
 - Evaluate e2e



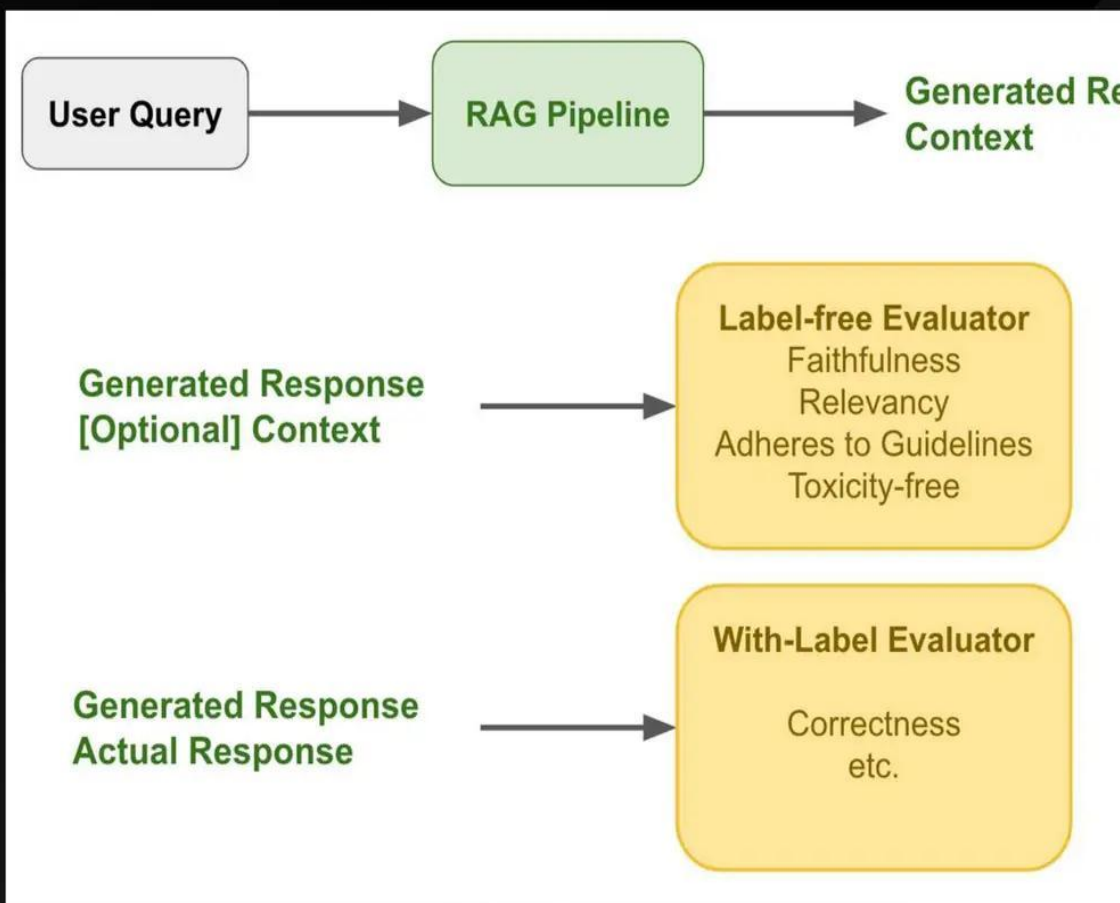
Evaluation in Isolation (Retrieval)

- Evaluate quality of retrieved chunks given user query
- **Create dataset**
 - Input: query
 - Output: the “ground-truth” documents relevant to the query
- Run retriever over dataset
- Measure **ranking metrics**
 - Success rate / hit-rate
 - MRR
 - Hit-rate



Evaluation E2E

- Evaluation of final generated response given input
- **Create Dataset**
 - Input: query
 - [Optional] Output: the “ground-truth” answer
- Run through full RAG pipeline
- Collect evaluation metrics:
 - **If no labels:** label-free evals
 - **If labels:** with-label evals



Optimizing RAG Systems

From Simple to Advanced

Table Stakes

Better Parsers
Chunk Sizes
Prompt Engineering
Customizing Models



Advanced Retrieval

Metadata Filtering
Recursive Retrieval
Embedded Tables
Small-to-big Retrieval



Fine-tuning

Embedding fine-tuning
LLM fine-tuning



Agentic Behavior

Routing
Query Planning
Multi-document Agents



Less Expressive
Easier to Implement
Lower Latency/Cost

More Expressive
Harder to Implement
Higher Latency/Cost

Table Stakes: Chunk Sizes

Tuning your chunk size can have outsized impacts on performance

Not obvious that more retrieved tokens == higher performance!

Note: Reranking (shuffling context order) isn't always beneficial.

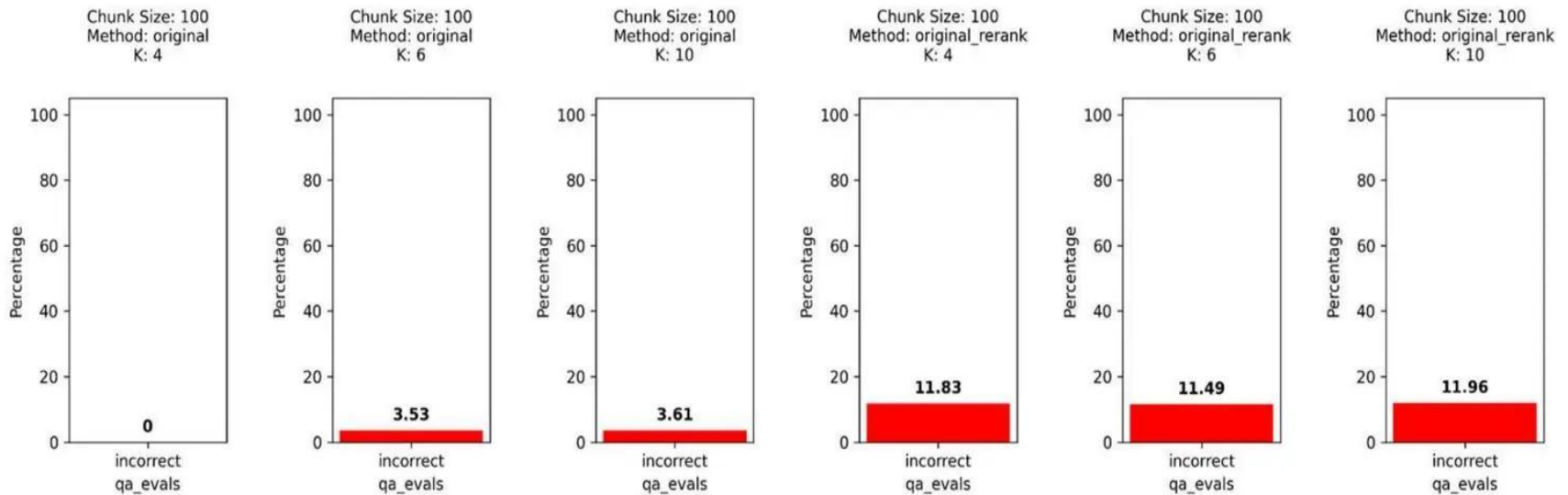


Table Stakes: Prompt Engineering

RAG uses core Question-Answering (QA) prompt templates

Ways you can customize:

- Adding few-shot examples
- Modifying template text
- Adding emotions

Accessing Prompts

Here we get the prompts from the query engine. Note that *all* prompts are returned, including ones used in sub-modules in the engine. This allows you to centralize a view of these prompts!

```
prompts_dict = query_engine.get_prompts()
```

```
display_prompt_dict(prompts_dict)
```

Prompt Key: response_synthesizer:summary_template

Text:

Context information from multiple sources is below.

{context_str}

Given the information from multiple sources and not prior knowledge, answer the query.

Query: {query_str}

Answer:

Table Stakes: Customizing LLMs

task performance on easy-
hard tasks (RAG, agents)
varies wildly among LLMs

Paid LLM APIs

| Model Name | Basic Query Engines | Router Query Engine | Sub Question Query Engine | Text2SQL | Pydantic Programs | Data Agents | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| gpt-3.5-turbo (openai) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| gpt-3.5-turbo-instruct (openai) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ⚠ | Tool usage is flakey. |
| gpt-4 (openai) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| claude-2 (anthropic) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ⚠ | Prone to hallucinations. |
| claude-instant-1.2 (anthropic) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ⚠ | Prone to hallucinations. |

Open Source LLMs

Since open source LLMs require large amounts of resources, the quantization is reported. Quantization is just a method for reducing the size of the model, but it can also reduce the accuracy of calculations within the model. Research has shown that up to 4Bit quantization can be achieved for large LLMs without impacting performance severely.

| Model Name | Basic Query Engines | Router Query Engine | Sub Question Query Engine | Text2SQL | Pydantic Programs | Data Agents | Notes |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| llama2-chat-7b 4bit (huggingface) | ✓ | ● | ● | ● | ● | ⚠ | Llama2 seems to be quite chatty, which makes structured outputs difficult. Fine-tuning and prompt engineering likely required for better structured outputs. |
| Mistral-7B-instruct-v0.1 4bit (huggingface) | ✓ | ● | ● | ⚠ | ⚠ | ⚠ | Mistral seems slightly more reliable than Llama2. Compared to Llama2, it may do better. |
| zephyr-7b-alpha (huggingface) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ⚠ | Overall, zephyr-7b appears to be the most reliable of the open-source models of this size. Although it still hallucinates a bit, especially as an agent. |

Table Stakes: Customizing Embeddings

Your embedding model + reranker affects retrieval quality

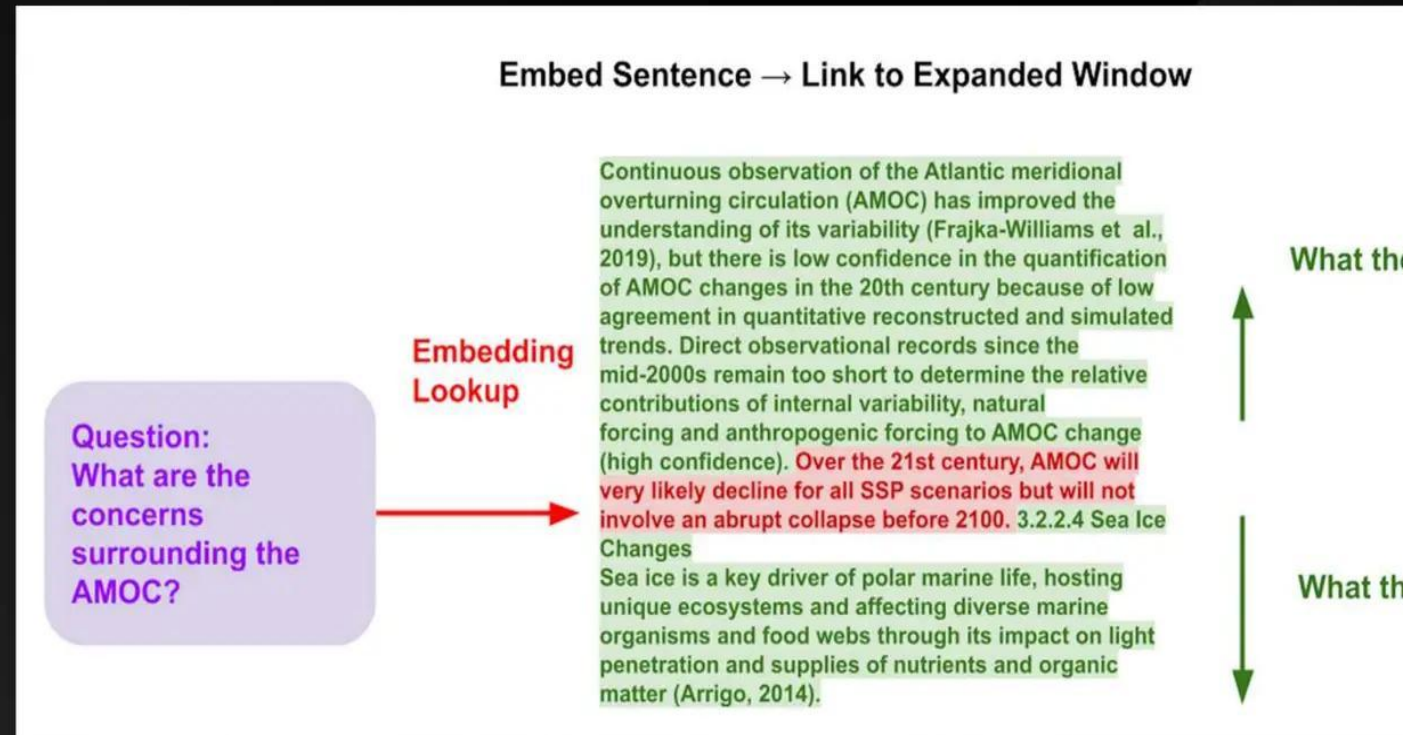
| Embedding | Without Reranker | | bge-reranker-base | | bge-reranker-large | | Cohere-Reranker | |
|-----------|------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| | Hit Rate | MRR | Hit Rate | MRR | Hit Rate | MRR | Hit Rate | MRR |
| OpenAI | 0.870787 | 0.718446 | 0.904494 | 0.832584 | 0.910112 | 0.853933 | 0.926966 | 0.853933 |
| Large | 0.747191 | 0.605056 | 0.842697 | 0.79588 | 0.853933 | 0.803371 | 0.865169 | 0.803371 |
| Bedder | 0.797753 | 0.570412 | 0.876404 | 0.81779 | 0.882022 | 0.829307 | 0.88764 | 0.829307 |
| e-v2 | 0.764045 | 0.540824 | 0.865169 | 0.792509 | 0.870787 | 0.806554 | 0.865169 | 0.806554 |
| e-v3 | 0.820225 | 0.637734 | 0.876404 | 0.811517 | 0.876404 | 0.829775 | 0.876404 | 0.829775 |
| age | 0.848315 | 0.665356 | 0.921966 | 0.845318 | 0.921348 | 0.856742 | 0.91573 | 0.856742 |
| AI | 0.460674 | 0.317041 | 0.601124 | 0.572566 | 0.601124 | 0.578652 | 0.58427 | 0.578652 |

Source: <https://blog.llamaindex.ai/boosting-rag-picking-the-best-embedding-reranker-models-42d079022e83>

Advanced Retrieval: Small-to-Big

Intuition: Embedding a big text chunk feels suboptimal.

Solution: Embed text at the sentence-level - then **expand** that window during LLM synthesis



Advanced Retrieval: Small-to-Big

Leads to more **precise** retrieval.

Avoids “lost in the middle” problems.

There is low confidence in the quantification of AMOC changes in the 21st century due to low agreement in quantitative reconstructed and simulated values. Additionally, direct observational records since the mid-2000s remain too short to determine the relative contributions of internal variability, natural forcing, and anthropogenic forcing to AMOC change. However, it is unlikely that AMOC will decline over the 21st century for all SSP scenarios, and there will not be an abrupt collapse before 2100.

Sentence Window Retrieval (k=2)

I'm sorry, but the concerns surrounding the AMOC (Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation) are not mentioned in the provided context.

Naive Retrieval (k=5)

Only one out of the 5 chunks is relevant
– “lost in the middle” problem

Advanced Retrieval: Small-to-Big

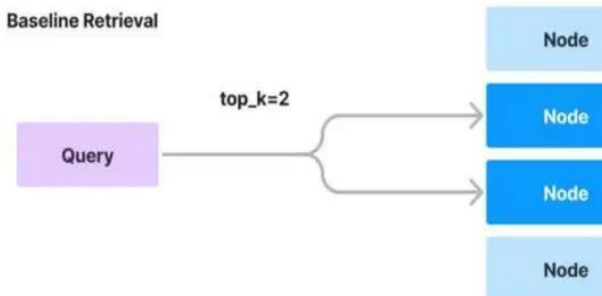
Intuition: Embedding a big text chunk feels suboptimal.

Solution: Embed a smaller **reference** to the parent chunk. Use parent chunk for synthesis

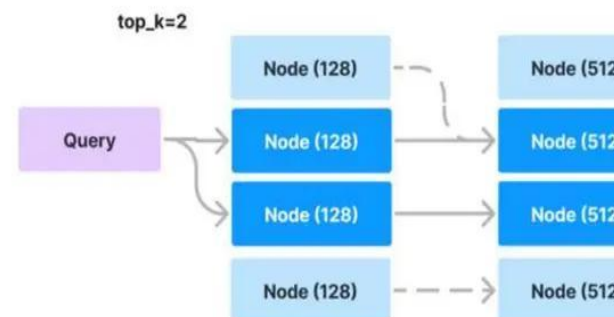
Examples: Smaller chunks, summaries, metadata

| | retrievers | hit_rate | mrr |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 0 | Base Retriever | 0.796407 | 0.605097 |
| 1 | Retriever (Chunk References) | 0.892216 | 0.739179 |
| 2 | Retriever (Metadata References) | 0.916168 | 0.746906 |

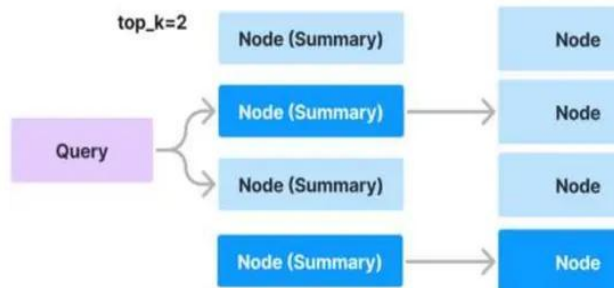
Baseline Retrieval



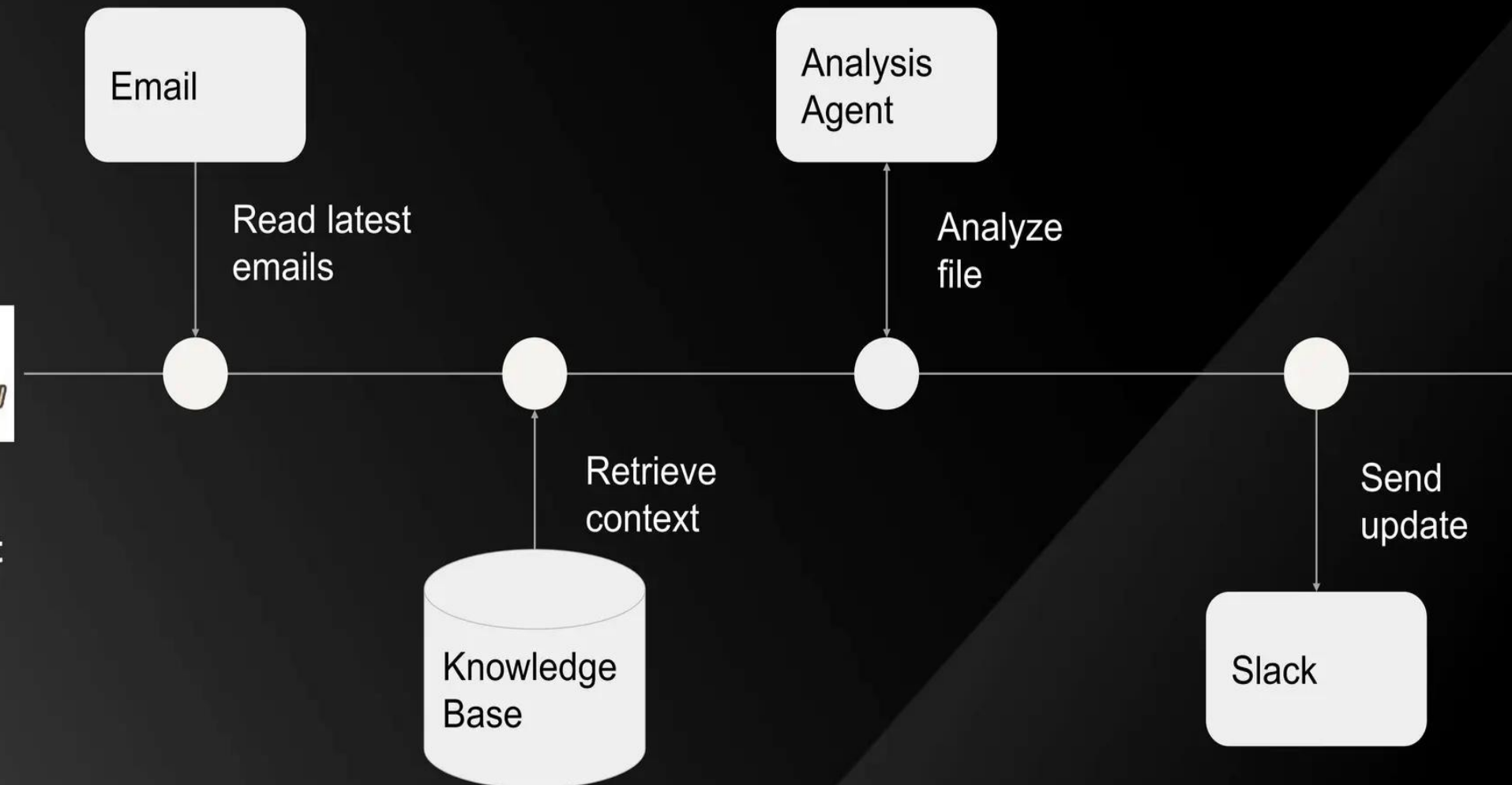
Recursive Retrieval (Chunk References)



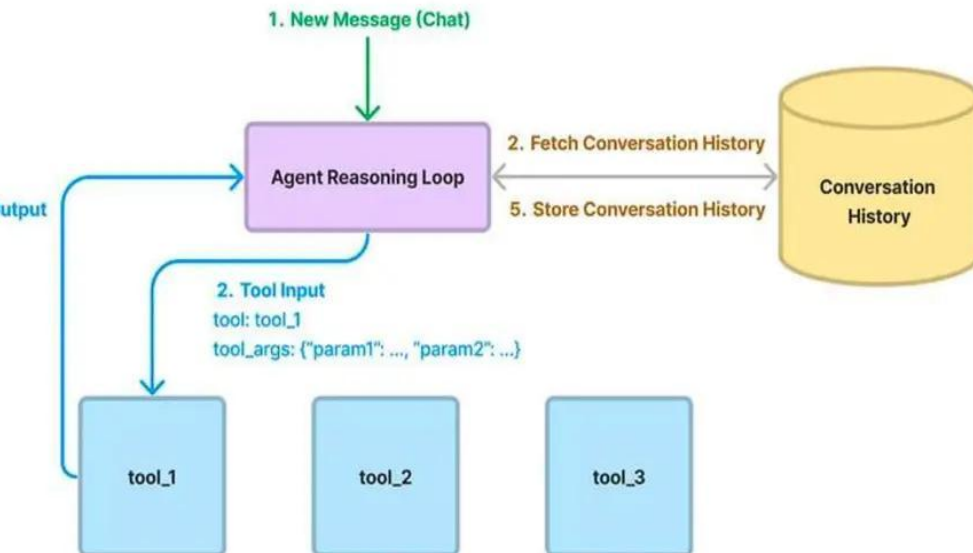
Recursive Retrieval (Metadata References)



Data Agents - LLM-powered knowledge workers



Data Agents - Core Components



Agent Reasoning Loop

- [ReAct Agent](#) (any LLM)
- [OpenAI Agent](#) (only OAI)

Tools via [LlamaHub](#)

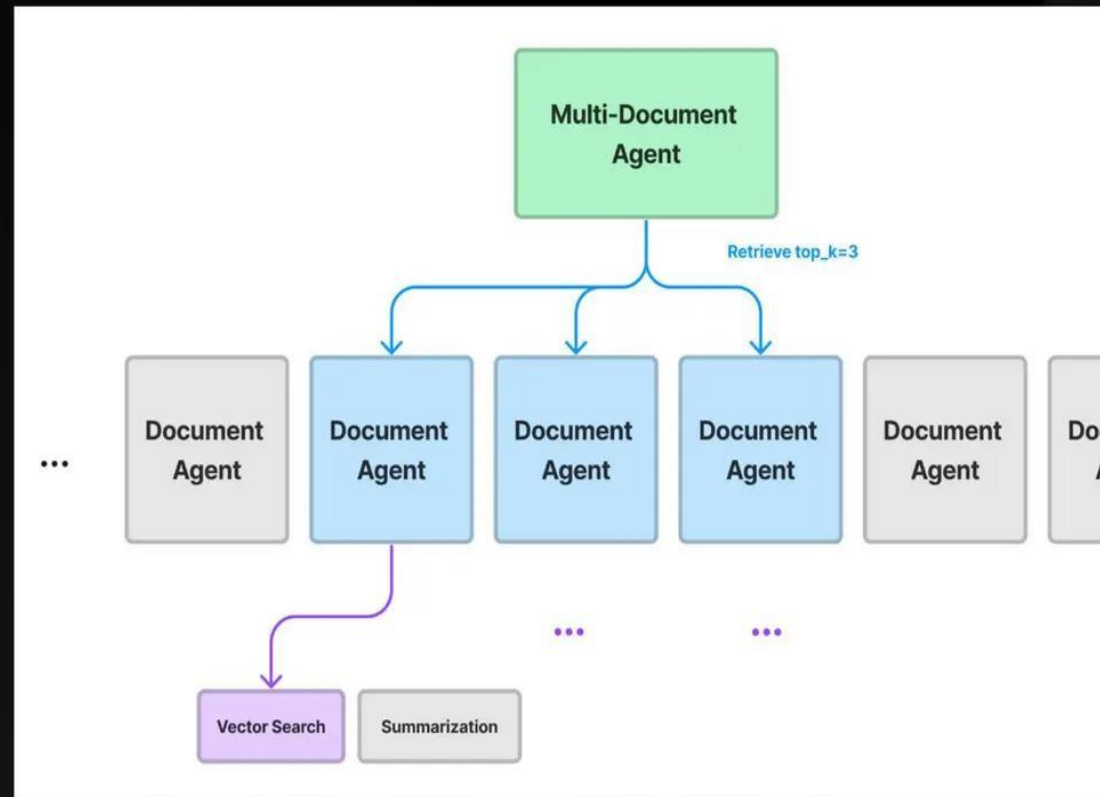
- [Code interpreter](#)
- [Slack](#)
- [Notion](#)
- [Zapier](#)
- ... (15+ tools, ~100 loaders)

Agentic Behavior: Multi-Document Agents

Intuition: There's certain questions that "top-k" RAG can't answer.

Solution: Multi-Document Agents

- Fact-based QA and Summarization over any subsets of documents
- Chain-of-thought and query planning.

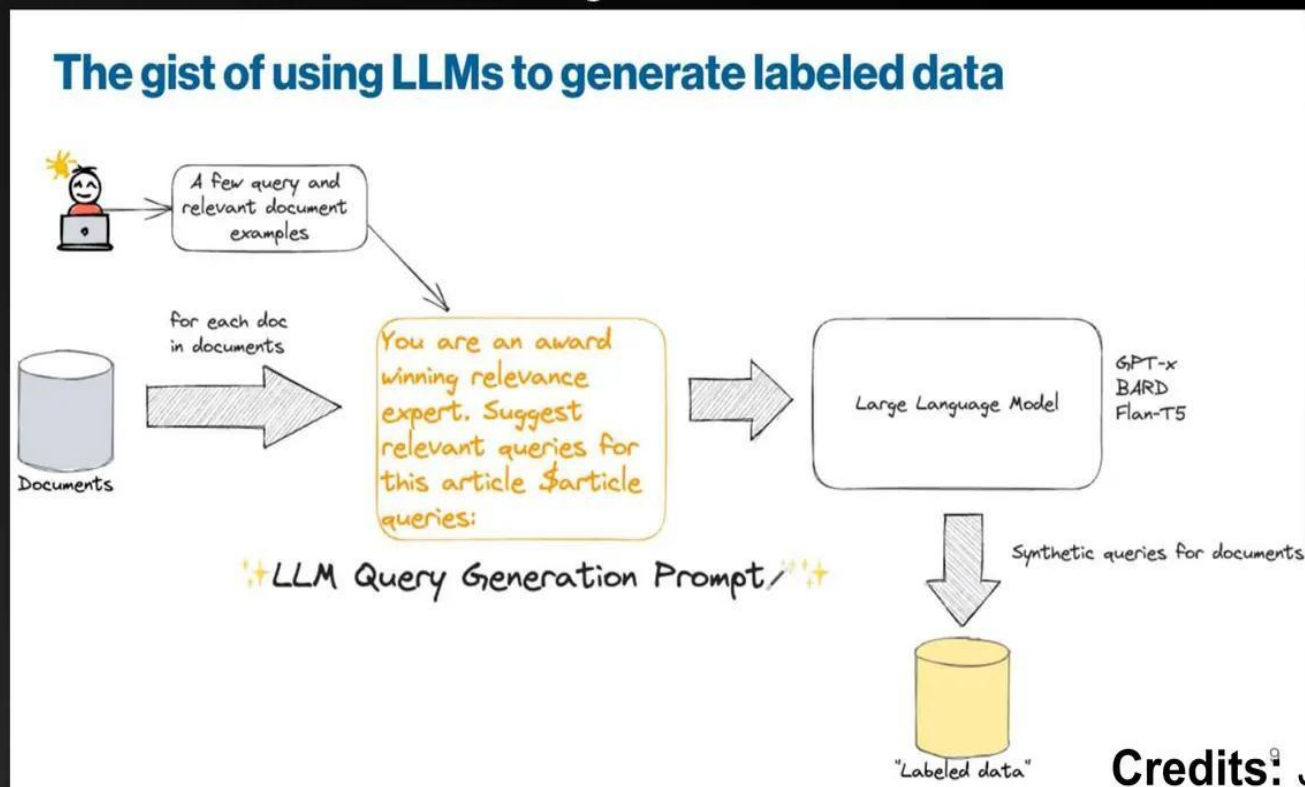


Fine-Tuning: Embeddings

Intuition: Embedding Representations are not optimized over your dataset

Solution: Generate a synthetic query dataset from raw text chunks using LLMs

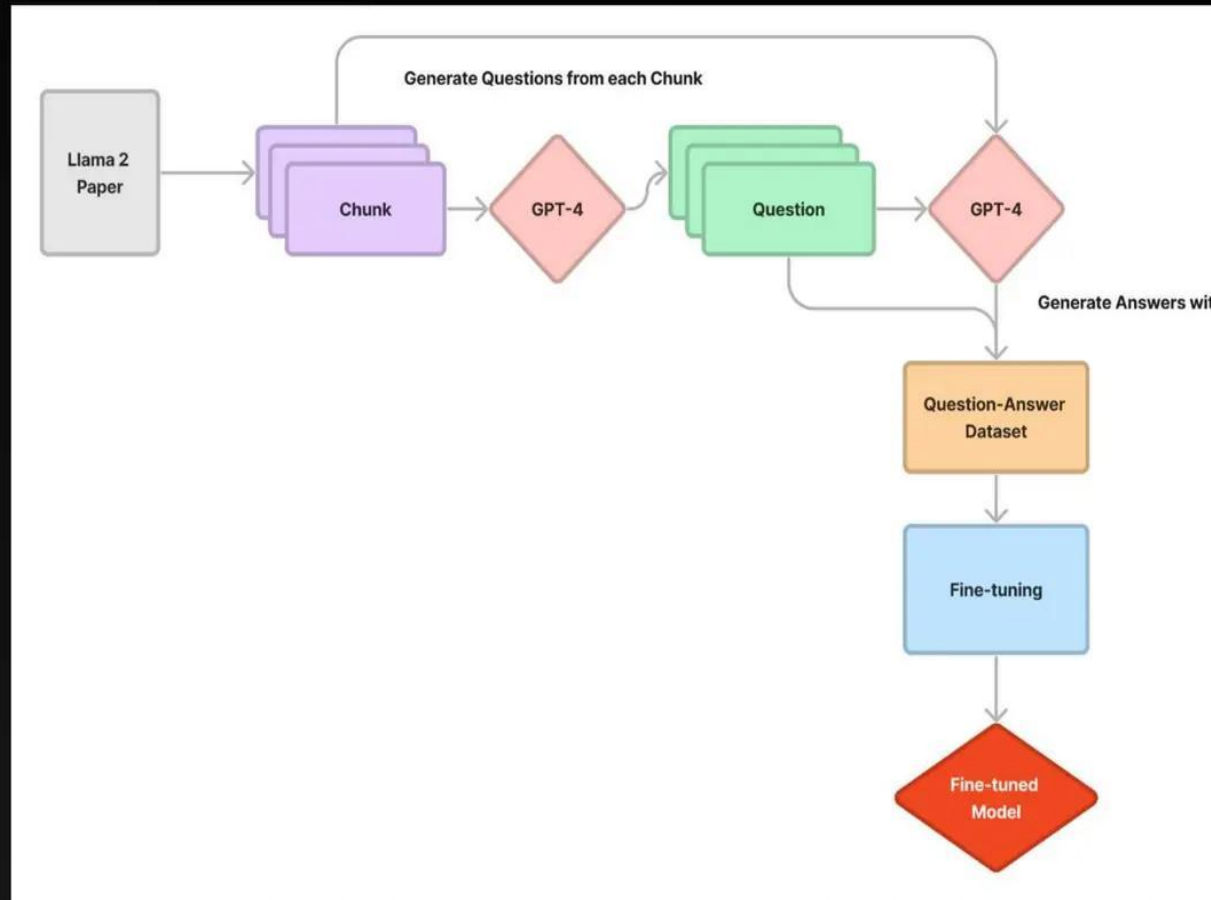
Use this synthetic dataset to finetune an embedding model.



Fine-Tuning: LLMs

Intuition: Weaker LLMs are not bad at response synthesis, reasoning, structured outputs, etc.

Solution: Generate a synthetic dataset from raw chunks (e.g. using GPT-4). Help fix all of the above!



Resources

Production RAG

https://docs.llamaindex.ai/en/stable/end_to_end_tutorials/dev_practices/production_rag.html



Fine-tuning

https://docs.llamaindex.ai/en/stable/end_to_end_tutorials/finetuning.html



Thanks!

