



LLamaIndex with RAG

Sawradip Saha

Co-Founder, RunAgent

Co-founder & VP of ML, Intelsense AI

14 Oct 2025

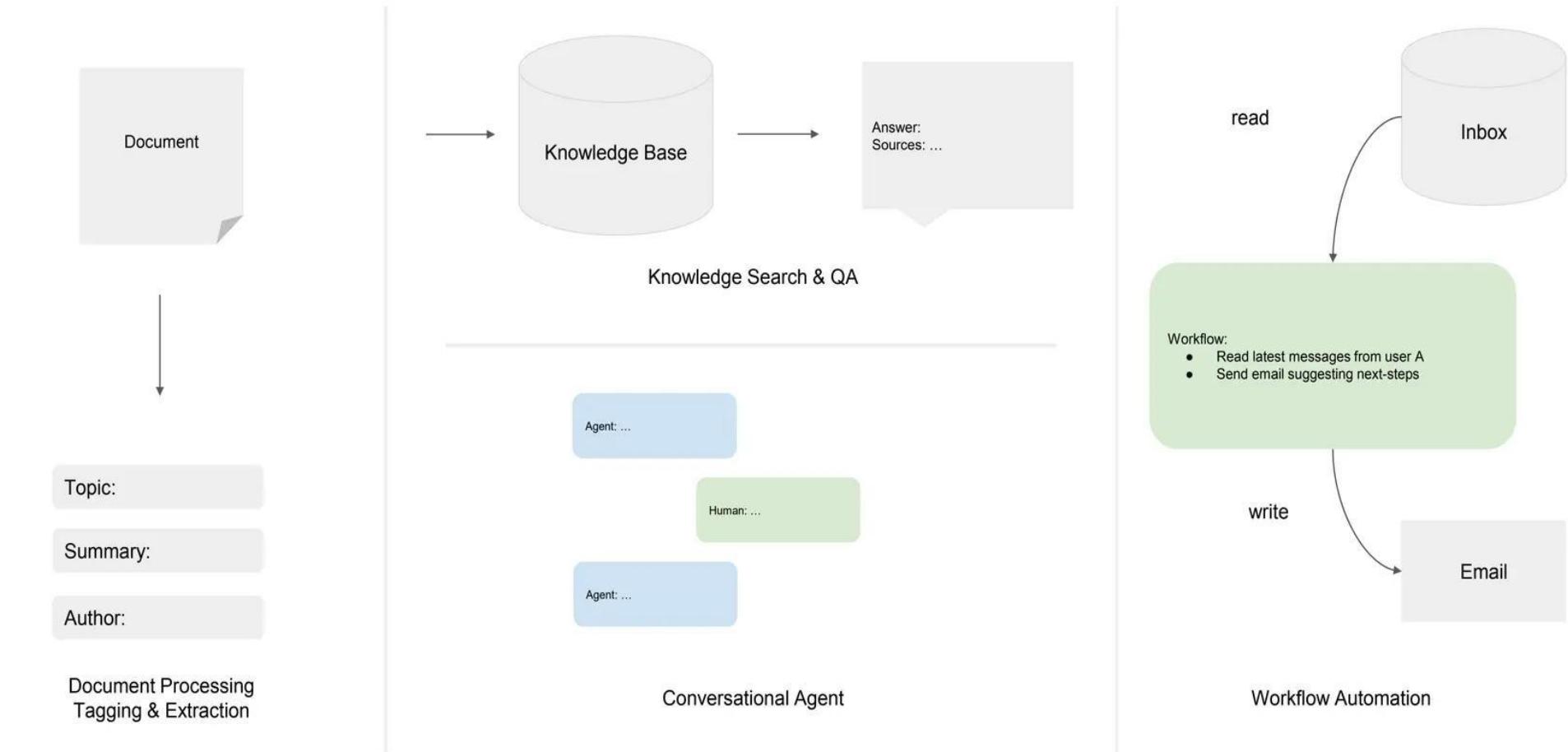


SPEAKER

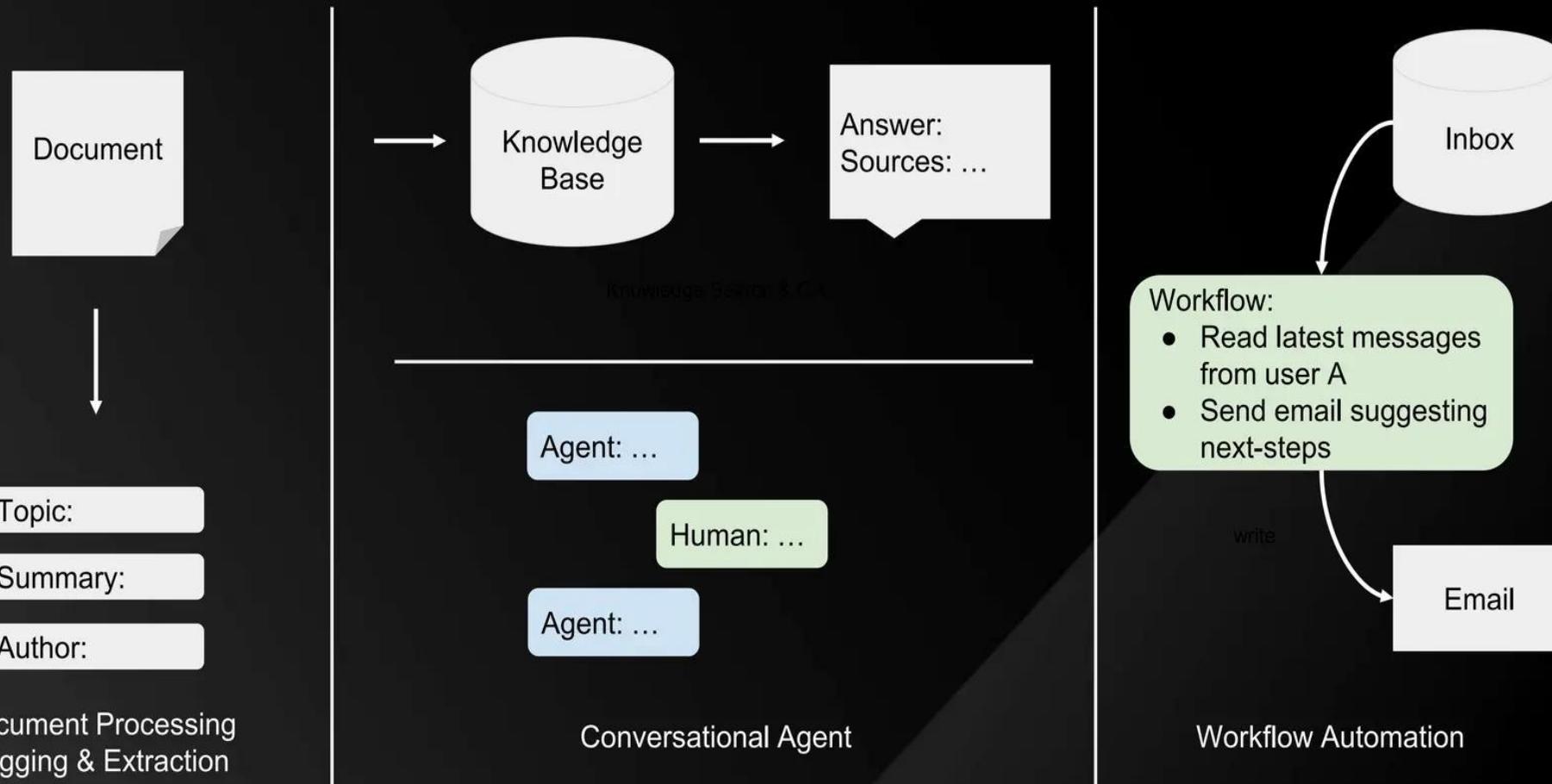
JERRY LIU

CEO, LlamaIndex

enAI - Enterprise Use-cases

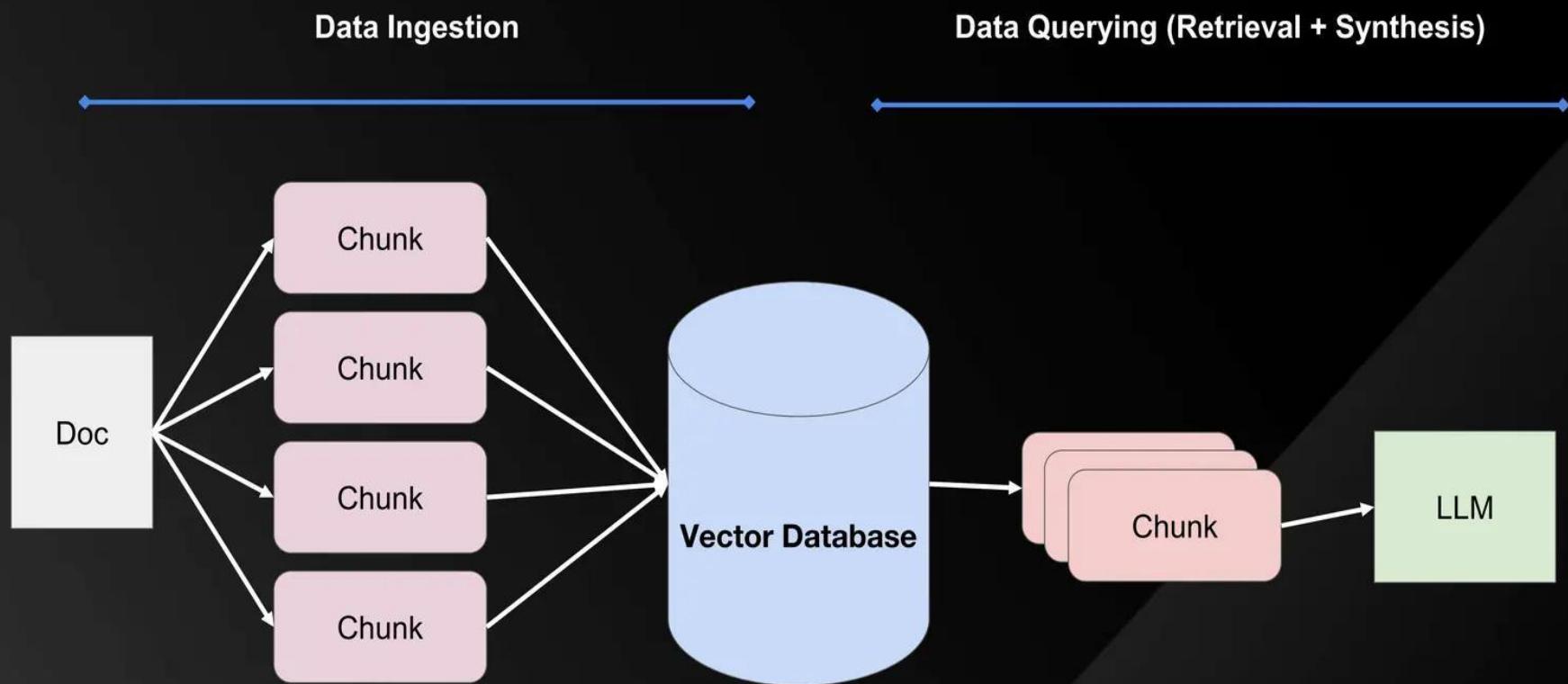


GenAI - Enterprise Use-cases



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:** 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 - **Outdated information:** The data is redundant or out of date.

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:** 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 - **Outdated information:** The data is redundant or out of date.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.

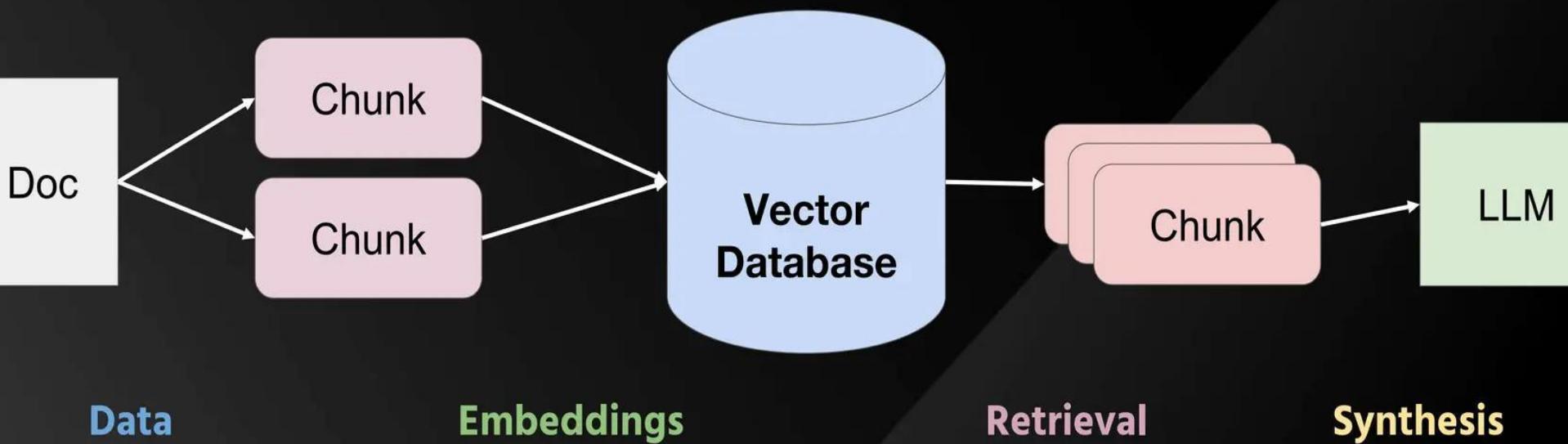
What do we do?

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?



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?

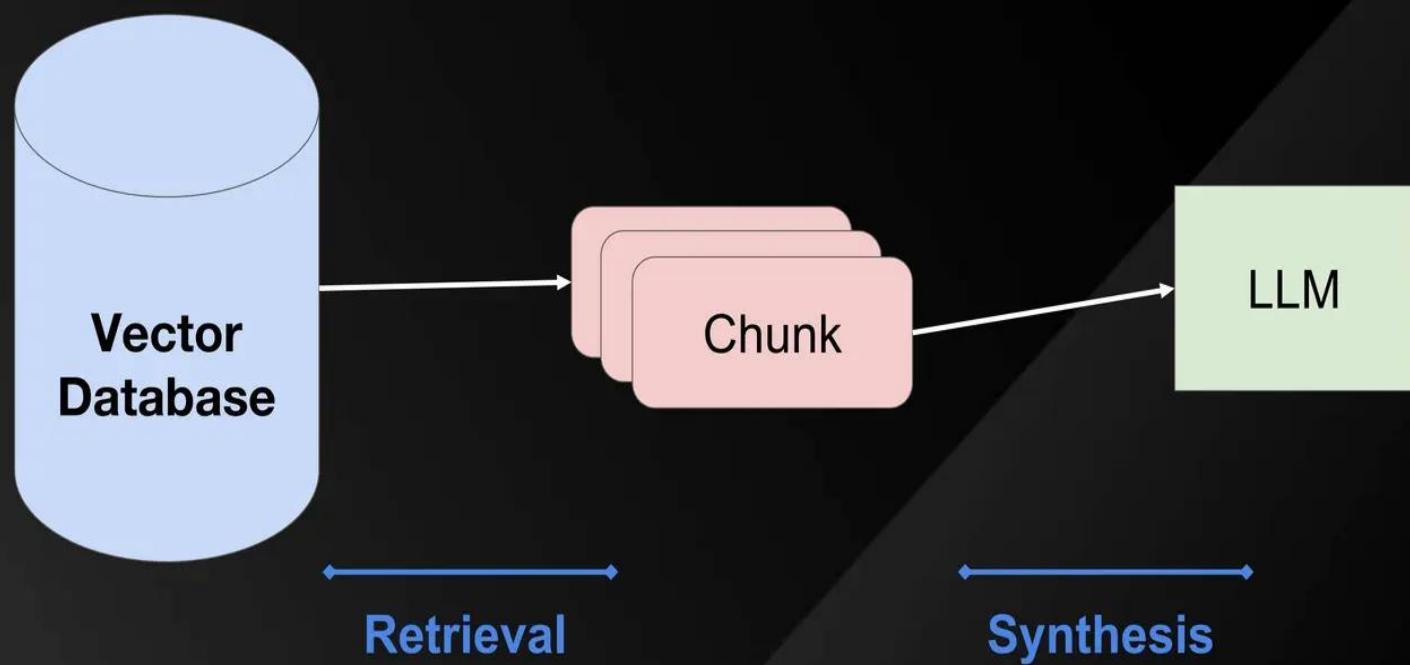
But before all this...

We need evals

Evaluation

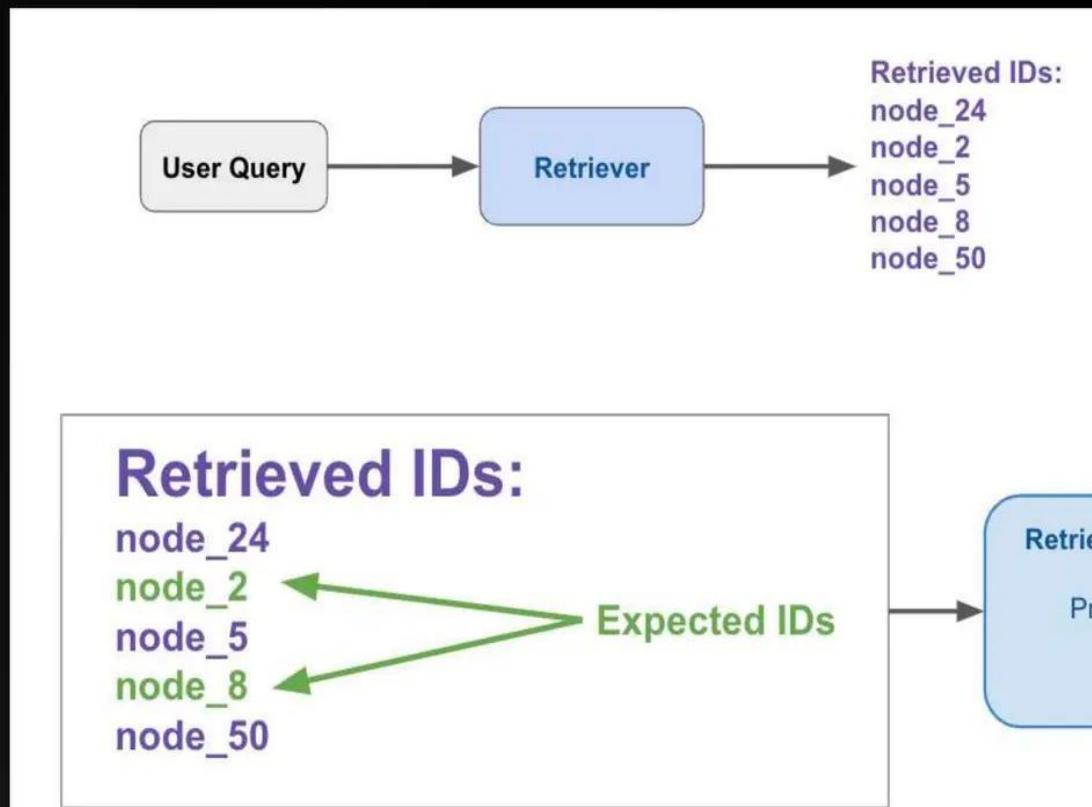
Evaluation

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



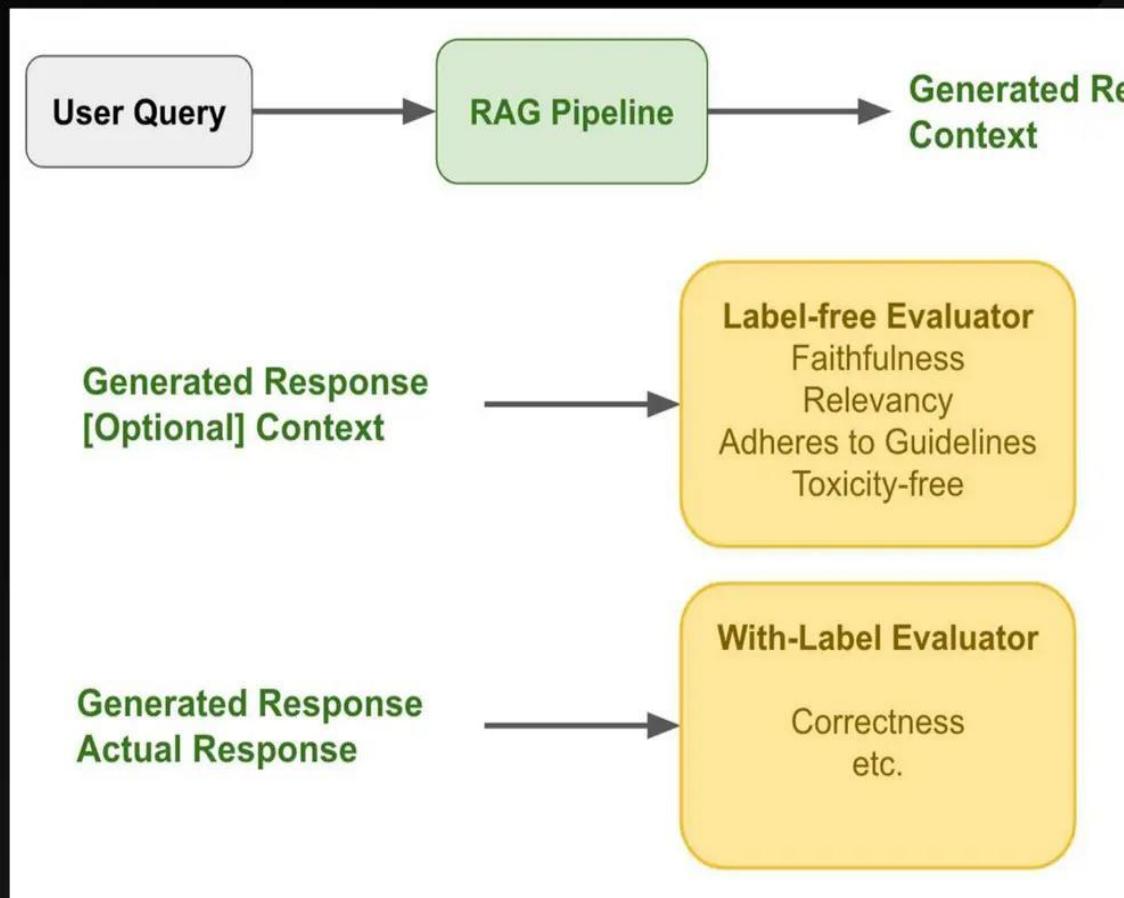
Evaluation in Isolation (Retrieval)

- 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



Agentic Behavior

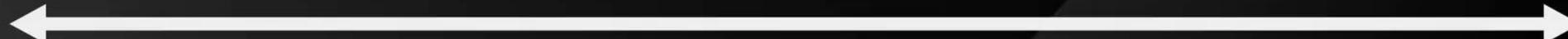
Routing

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.

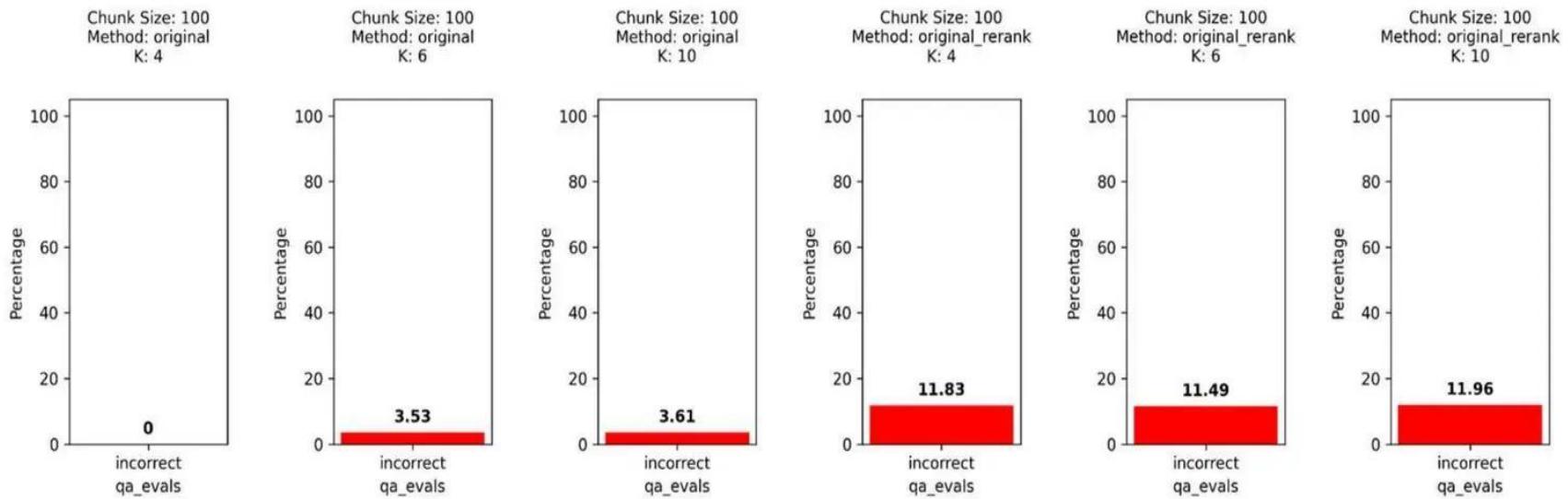


Table Stakes: Prompt Engineering

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

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

```
display_prompt_dict(prompts_dict)
```

Prompt Key: response_synthetizer: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 in flakey.
gpt-4 (openai)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
claude-2 (anthropic)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	△	Prone to hallucination
claude-instant-1.2 (anthropic)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	△	Prone to hallucination

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 without impacting the accuracy of calculations within the model. Research has shown that up to 4Bit quantization can be achieved for large LLMs without impacting accuracy severely.

Model Name	Basic Query Engines	Router Query Engine	SubQuestion 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 engineering likely required for better structured outputs.
Mistral-7B-instruct-v0.1.4bit (huggingface)	✓	●	●	△	△	△	Mistral seems slightly more reliable than Llama2 compared to Llama2. Likely with some tuning it may do better.
zephyr-7b-alpha (huggingface)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	△	Overall, zephyr-7b appears to be one of the best open-source models of this size. Although it hallucinates a bit, especially as an agent.

Table Stakes: Customizing Embeddings

Your embedding model + reranker affects retrieval quality

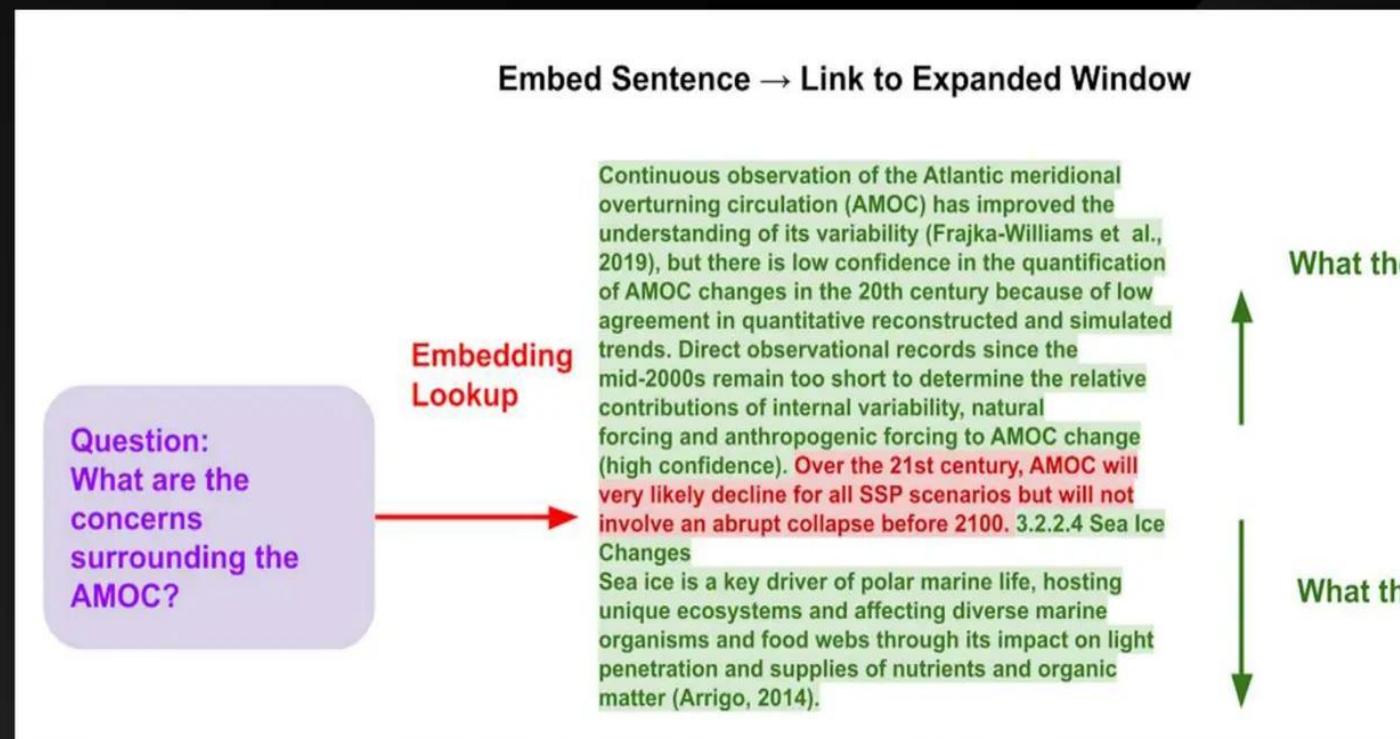
embedding	WithoutReranker		bge-reranker-base		bge-reranker-large		Cohere-Rera	
	Hit Rate	MRR	Hit Rate	MRR	Hit Rate	MRR	Hit Rate	MRR
nAI	0.870787	0.718446	0.904494	0.832584	0.910112	0.853933	0.926966	0.930000
large	0.747191	0.605056	0.842697	0.79588	0.853933	0.803371	0.865169	0.870000
pedder	0.797753	0.570412	0.876404	0.81779	0.882022	0.829307	0.88764	0.890000
re-v2	0.764045	0.540824	0.865169	0.792509	0.870787	0.806554	0.865169	0.870000
re-v3	0.820225	0.637734	0.876404	0.811517	0.876404	0.829775	0.876404	0.880000
age	0.848315	0.665356	0.921966	0.845318	0.921348	0.856742	0.91573	0.920000
AI	0.460674	0.317041	0.601124	0.572566	0.601124	0.578652	0.58427	0.590000

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 AMOCs. 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 very likely 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

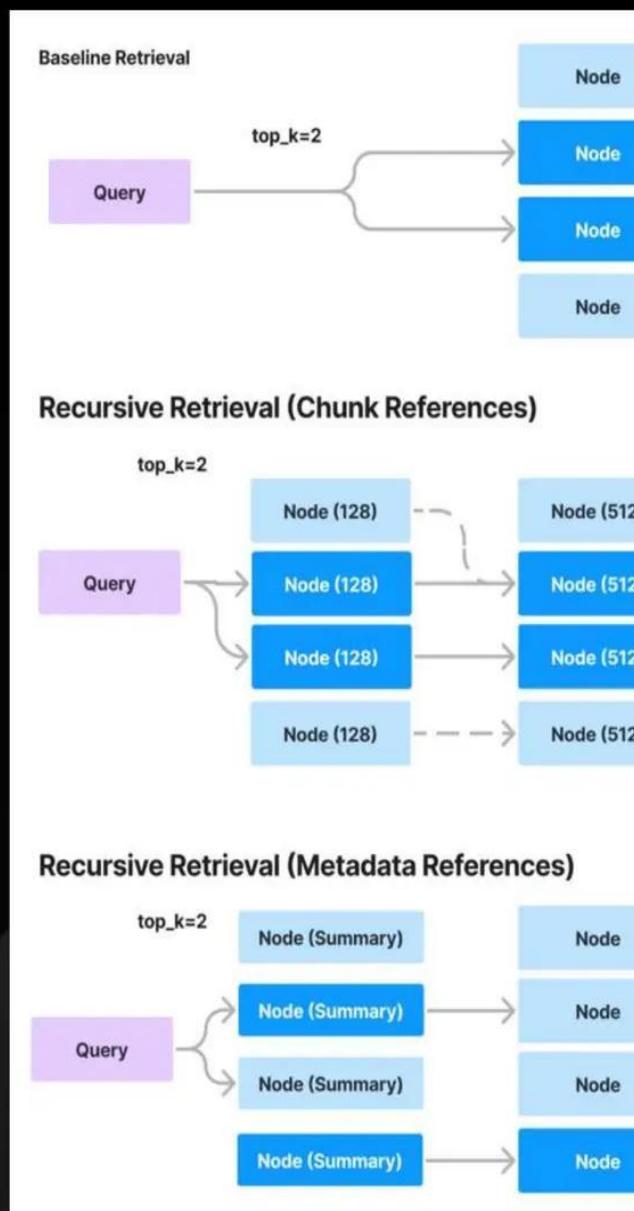
Advanced Retrieval: Small-to-Big

Intuition: Embedding a big text chunk feels suboptimal.

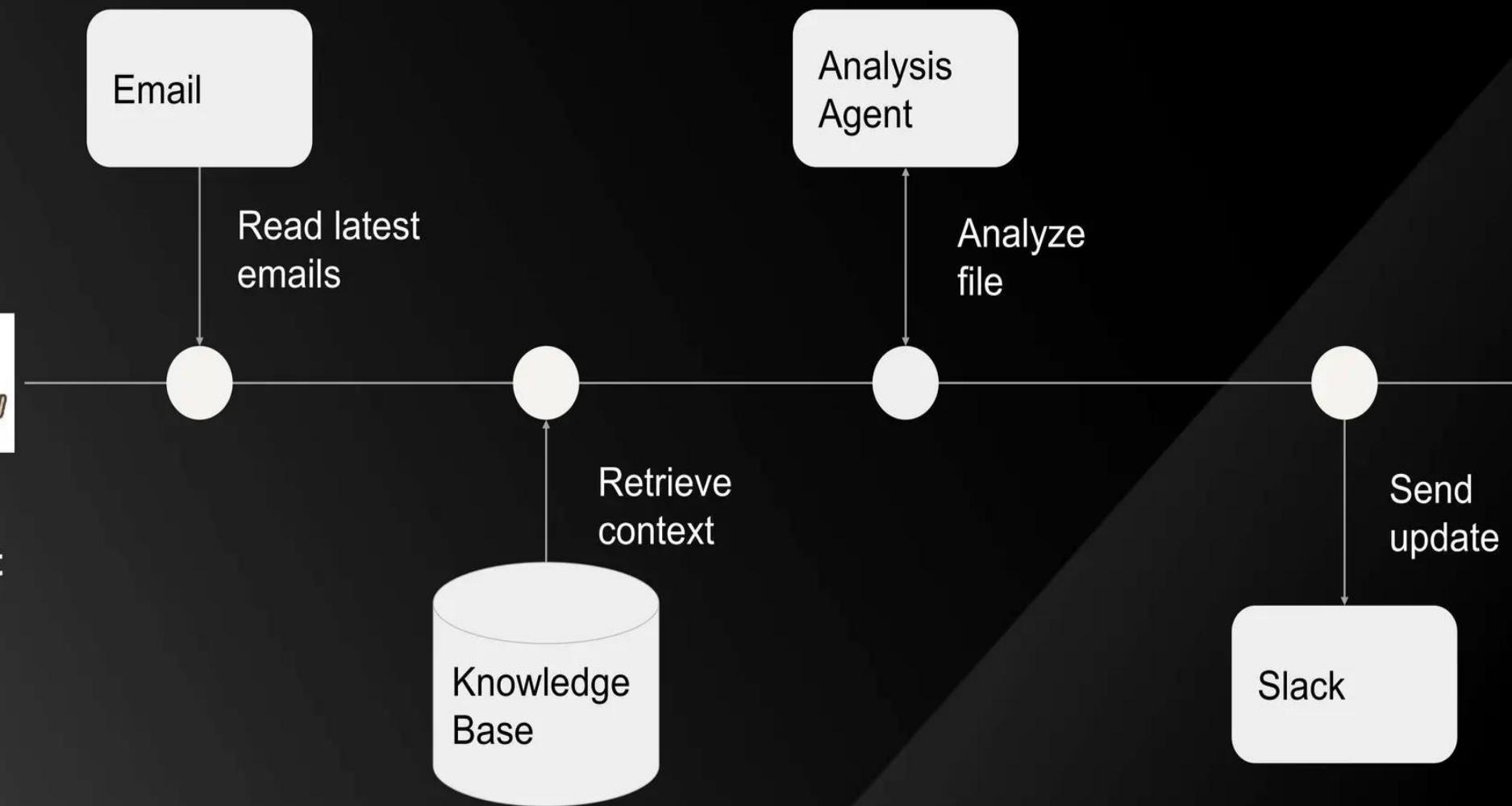
Solution: Embed a smaller **reference** to the parent chunk. Use parent chunk for synthesis

Examples: Smaller chunks, summaries, metadata

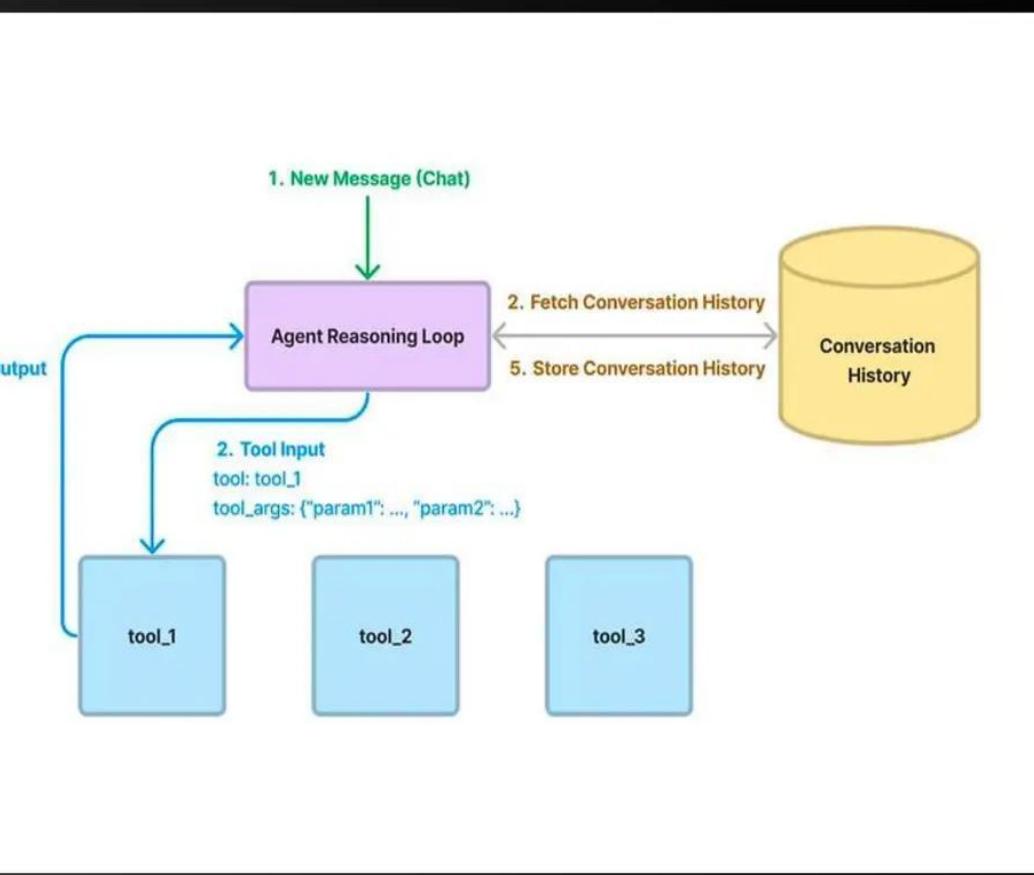
	retrievers	hit_rate	mrr
0	Base Retriever	0.796407	0.605097
1	Retriever (Chunk References)	0.892216	0.739179
2	Retriever (Metadata References)	0.916168	0.746906



Data Agents - LLM-powered knowledge workers



Data Agents - Core Components



Agent Reasoning Loop

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

Tools via [LlamaHub](#)

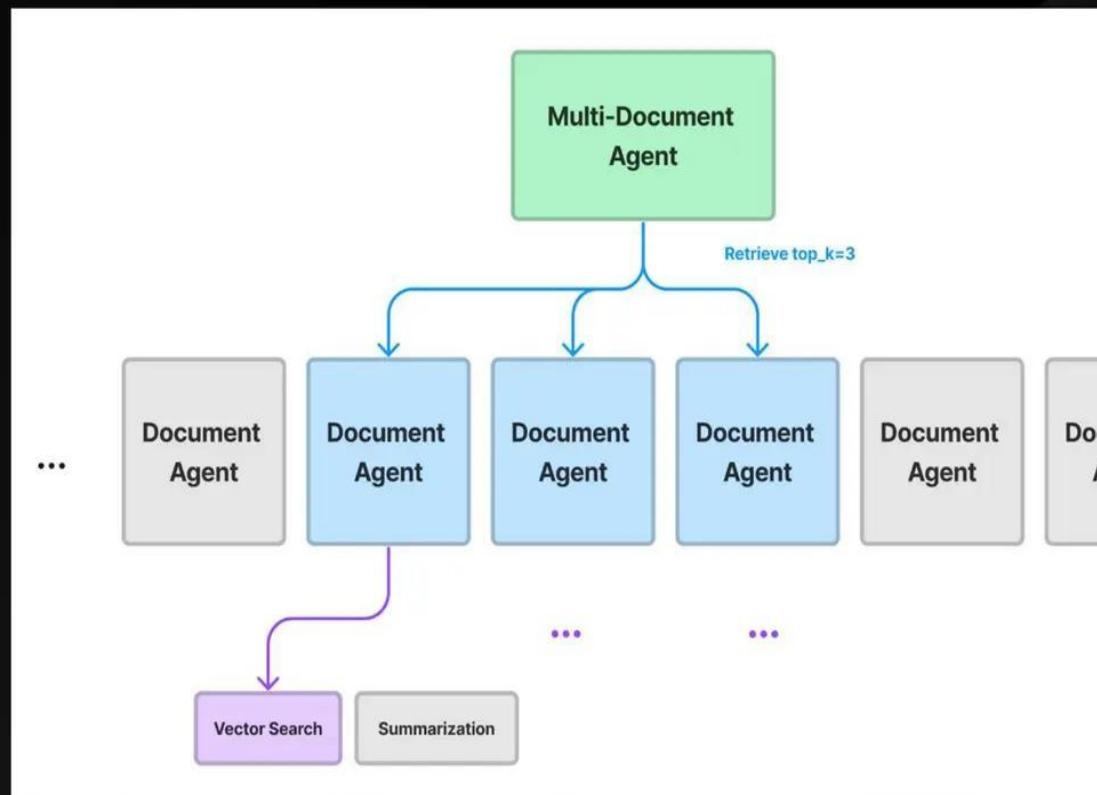
- [Code interpreter](#)
- [Slack](#)
- [Notion](#)
- [Zapier](#)
- ... (15+ tools, ~100 loaders)

Agentic Behavior: Multi-Document Agent

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.

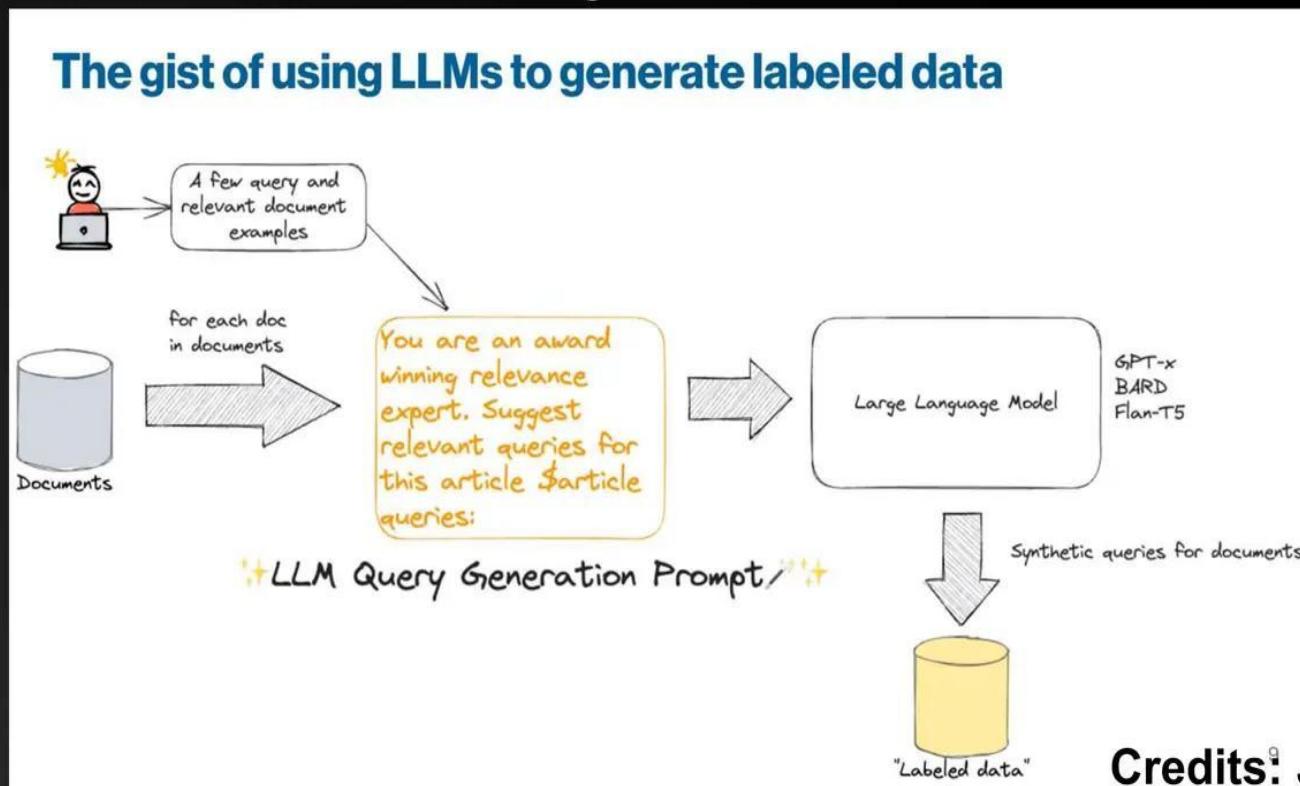


Fine-Tuning: Embeddings

Intuition: Embedding Representations are not optimized over your dataset

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

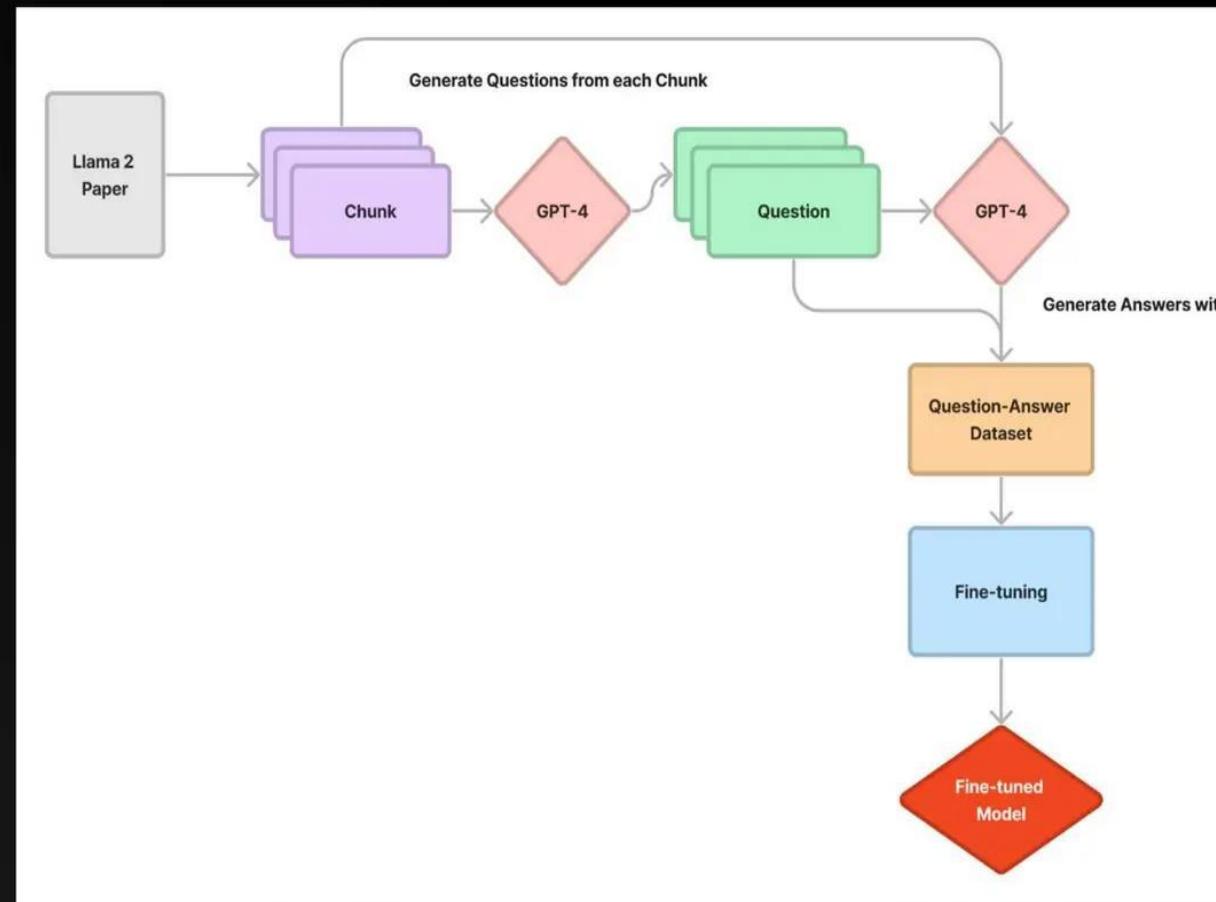
Use this synthetic dataset to finetune an embedding model.



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!

