

Lesson 3

Querying AI Models Using APIs



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Systems Engineering

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Summary

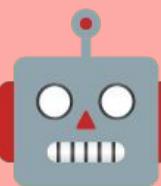
01

Discussion:
Your Labs



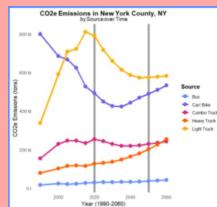
02

Recap: What
are LLMs?



03

Data
Reporting
with AI



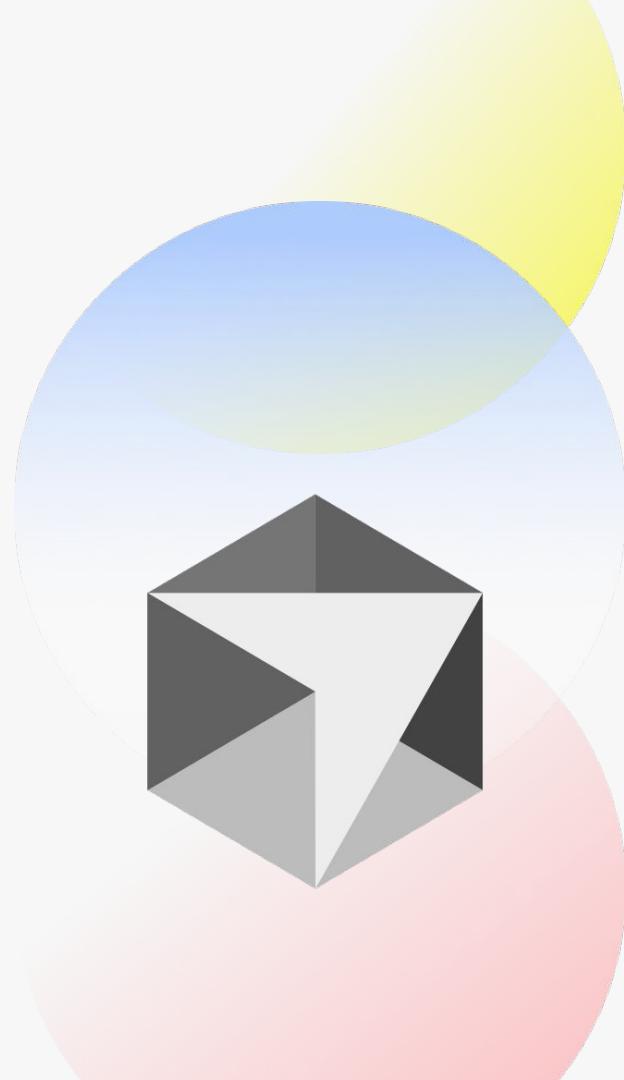
04

What is
Ollama?



Discussion

- How did your lab go last week?
- What worked when prompting the AI?
- What didn't work?
- Ideas for how you will use cursor next?

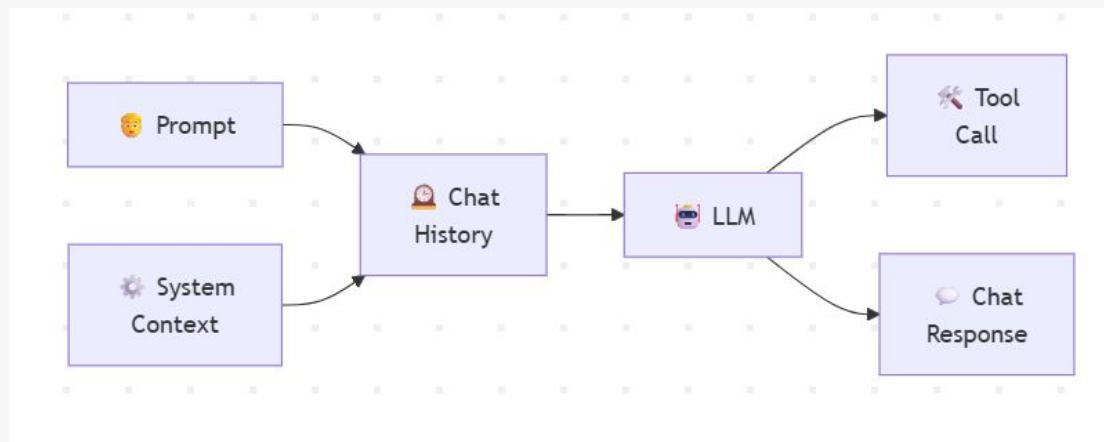




Recap: What are LLMs?

⚙️ How do LLMs work?

- **.System prompt:** sets rules, behavior, and constraints (usually hidden from users)
- **User prompt:** what you explicitly ask for
- **Chat history:** prior turns that shape context and continuity
- **Model** combines all three → predicts next tokens until a stop condition

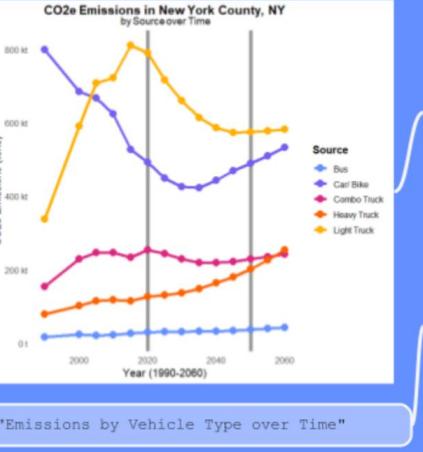


🌐 Example LLM Providers

- OpenAI's GPT series
- Google's Gemini
- Cursor's Composer

Data Reporting with AI

- Your job
- Internal structure
- Syntax
- Output format
- Summarize Stats!



CO2e Emissions in New York County, NY
by Source over Time

Source: Bus, Car/Bike, Combo Truck, Heavy Truck, Light Truck

CO2e Emissions (tons)

Year (1990-2060)

"Emissions by Vehicle Type over Time"

Your job is to summarize raw emissions data in plain English to assist decision-making to policymakers. Formal language only. No hyperbole (e.g. 'crucial') Report numbers and percentages. Max 250 words and max 25 words per sentence. Don't belittle the reader, e.g. "it is clear that". Provide very concise answers. Avoid abbreviations and academic wording. Provide at least 3 findings. Return a json with the following format: { "Findings": ["point 1", "point 2", ...], "Recommendations": ["One paragraph without any bullet points. Just a paragraph with solutions on how to lower the emission level, directly connected to the numbers previously stated."], } [Automated Statistics Here]

Prompt for AI

\$Findings

[1] "The emissions from buses have decreased by 45.09% from 2010 to 2030."

[2] "Emissions from Light Trucks have decreased by 29.18% in the same period."

[3] "Car/Bike emissions have decreased by 74.08% during 2010-2030."

AI-written text

\$Recommendations

[1] "To further reduce emissions, policymakers could incentivize the adoption of electric buses and trucks, thus accelerating the decline in emissions. Implementing stricter emissions standards for cars and bikes can aid in sustaining the decreasing trend. Encouraging the use of public transportation and shared mobility options could significantly reduce individual vehicle emissions."

New York County, NY | CO2e | Emissions | tons | Source | year_range=2010-2030

yearset_type	value	diff_with_2050
2010 Bus	21.6 k	14787.7
2015 Bus	25.9 k	10428.9
2020 Bus	29.7 k	6695.7
2025 Bus	30.4 k	5993.8
2030 Bus	30.7 k	5686.6
2010 Car/ Bike	1624.8 k	-134852.3
2015 Car/ Bike	1527.3 k	-37344.1
2020 Car/ Bike	1492.0 k	-2086.8
2025 Car/ Bike	1449.2 k	40716.2
2030 Car/ Bike	1425.6 k	64336.9
2010 Combo Truck	1246.1 k	-17581.7
2015 Combo Truck	1233.6 k	-5069.2
2020 Combo Truck	1254.0 k	-25496.5
2025 Combo Truck	1243.2 k	-14709.4
2030 Combo Truck	1228.3 k	197.1
2010 Heavy Truck	1118.0 k	83581.6
2015 Heavy Truck	1114.7 k	86839.6
2020 Heavy Truck	1126.0 k	75523.1
2025 Heavy Truck	1130.7 k	70851.1
2030 Heavy Truck	1136.6 k	64951.1
2010 Light Truck	722.5 k	-148014.8
2015 Light Truck	811.6 k	-237064.6
2020 Light Truck	790.9 k	-216435.1
2025 Light Truck	717.0 k	-142482.5
2030 Light Truck	661.1 k	-86651.3

Automation

Automated Visual

Automated Statistics

Automated Title

Figure 3. Components for a Block of Content with Generative AI, NY



What is Ollama?

- An open-source software for serving many different large-language models.
- Primary solution if you want to choose your model or protect your data.
- 1 consistent API for serving and querying models
- Cloud models also available, giving faster responses.
- Cloud model usage limits:
 - **Free:** Light usage—chat, quick questions, trying out models
 - **Pro:** Day-to-day work—RAG, document analysis, and coding tasks
 - **Max:** Heavy, sustained usage—coding agents, batch processing, and data automation



[Learn more about
Ollama Cloud pricing](#)



What is Ollama?

>100s of models to choose from,
some with extra functions!

User process:

- Search for models
- Download model
- Serve Model
- Query Model

Search models

Cloud

Embedding

Vision

Tools

Thinking

Popular

qwen3-coder-next

Qwen3-Coder-Next is a coding-focused language model from Alibaba's Qwen team, optimized for agentic coding workflows and local development.

tools cloud

35.7K Pulls 4 Tags Updated 2 days ago

glm-ocr

GLM-OCR is a multimodal OCR model for complex document understanding, built on the GLM-V encoder-decoder architecture.

vision tools

16.8K Pulls 3 Tags Updated 5 days ago

translategemma

A new collection of open translation models built on Gemma 3, helping people communicate across 55 languages.

vision 4b 12b 27b

237.5K Pulls 13 Tags Updated 3 weeks ago

glm-4.7-flash

As the strongest model in the 30B class, GLM-4.7-Flash offers a new option for lightweight deployment that balances performance and efficiency.

tools thinking

168.9K Pulls 4 Tags Updated 2 weeks ago



Why use Ollama?

- Ollama does not record, log or train on any prompt or response data.
- Can run as many models as your hardware supports.
- Cloud models have concurrency limits by plan.
- All cloud requests are encrypted in transit.
- Made for offline use → cloud features optional.



[Learn more about
Ollama Cloud pricing](#)

Install Ollama



Please go ahead and install Ollama from this link.

ollama.com/download

You will need to add Ollama to **PATH**. Cursor can help - OR, for an imperfect solution, use your **.bashrc** file.

See mine here:

<https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/.bashrc>

Download Ollama



macOS



Linux



Windows

Download for Windows

Requires Windows 10 or later

Install Ollama

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<https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/.bashrc>

How to customize your **.bashrc** file

```
export PATH="$PATH:/c/Users/tmf77/AppData/Local/Programs/Ollama"  
alias ollama='/c/Users/tmf77/AppData/Local/Programs/Ollama/ollama.exe'
```

How to load your **.bashrc** file

```
source ./bashrc
```



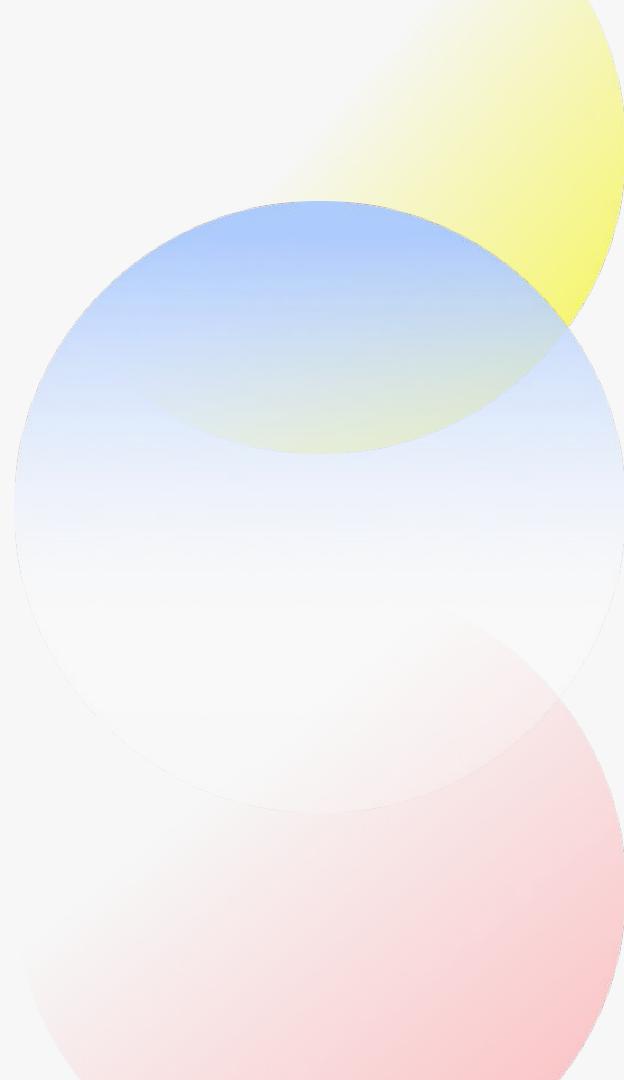
How to serve Ollama!

Customize and run this shell script in git bash!

[https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/03 query ai/01 ollama.sh](https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/03%20query%20ai/01%20ollama.sh)

```
1  #!/bin/bash
2
3  # 00_ollama.sh - Ollama Startup Script
4  # Serves Ollama on a specific port, pulls a small model, runs it, and provides stop controls
5  # 🌐🤖💡🚀
6  # Load your local paths and variables
7  source .bashrc
8
9  # Configuration
10 PORT=11434 # Default Ollama port (change as needed)
11 # Set environment variable for port
12 export OLLAMA_HOST="0.0.0.0:$PORT"
13 MODEL="smollm2:1.7b" # Small, reputable model (3.3GB)
14 SERVER_PID=""
15 MODEL_PID=""
16
17 # Start server in background, and assign the process ID to the SERVER_PID variable
18 ollama serve > /dev/null 2>&1 & SERVER_PID=$!
19 # View the process ID of ollama
20 echo $SERVER_PID
```

ACTIVITIES



🌐 ACTIVITY



📌 ACTIVITY

Run Ollama Locally

⌚ *Estimated Time: 10 minutes*

✓ Your Task

Install and run Ollama locally on your machine, then test it using the example scripts.

[https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/03_query ai/
ACTIVITY ollama_local.md](https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/03_query ai/ACTIVITY ollama_local.md)



ACTIVITY

More coming on
Wednesday!
See Github!

[https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/03_query ai/
README.md](https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/03_query%20ai/README.md)



Build an AI-Powered Data Reporter

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

Lab Overview

Create a script that queries your API from [LAB_your_good_api_query.md](#), processes the data, and uses AI (Ollama local/cloud or OpenAI) to generate a useful reporting summary. Iterate on your prompts to refine the output format and quality.



[https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/03_query_ai/
LAB_ai_reporter.md](https://github.com/timothyfraser/dsai/blob/main/03_query_ai/LAB_ai_reporter.md)

Happy coding!

