

ABB - Session 4

Software 3.0, RAG, & Text Embeddings

Shaw Talebi

Today's Session

1. Housekeeping

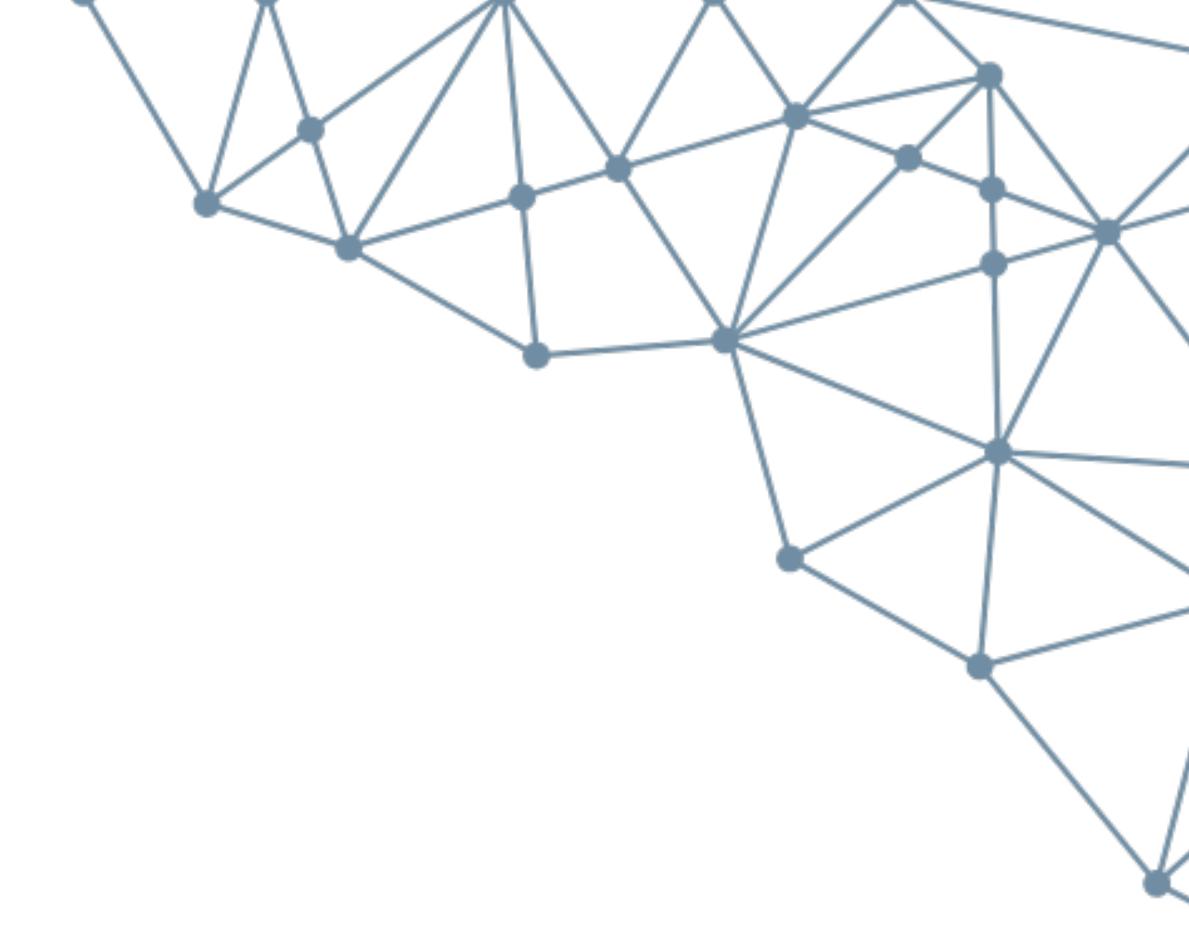
- 1.1. Announcements
- 1.2. Homework 3

2. RAG []

- 2.1. What is RAG?
- 2.2. RAG Implementation
- 2.3. Text Embeddings
- 2.4. Two Use Cases

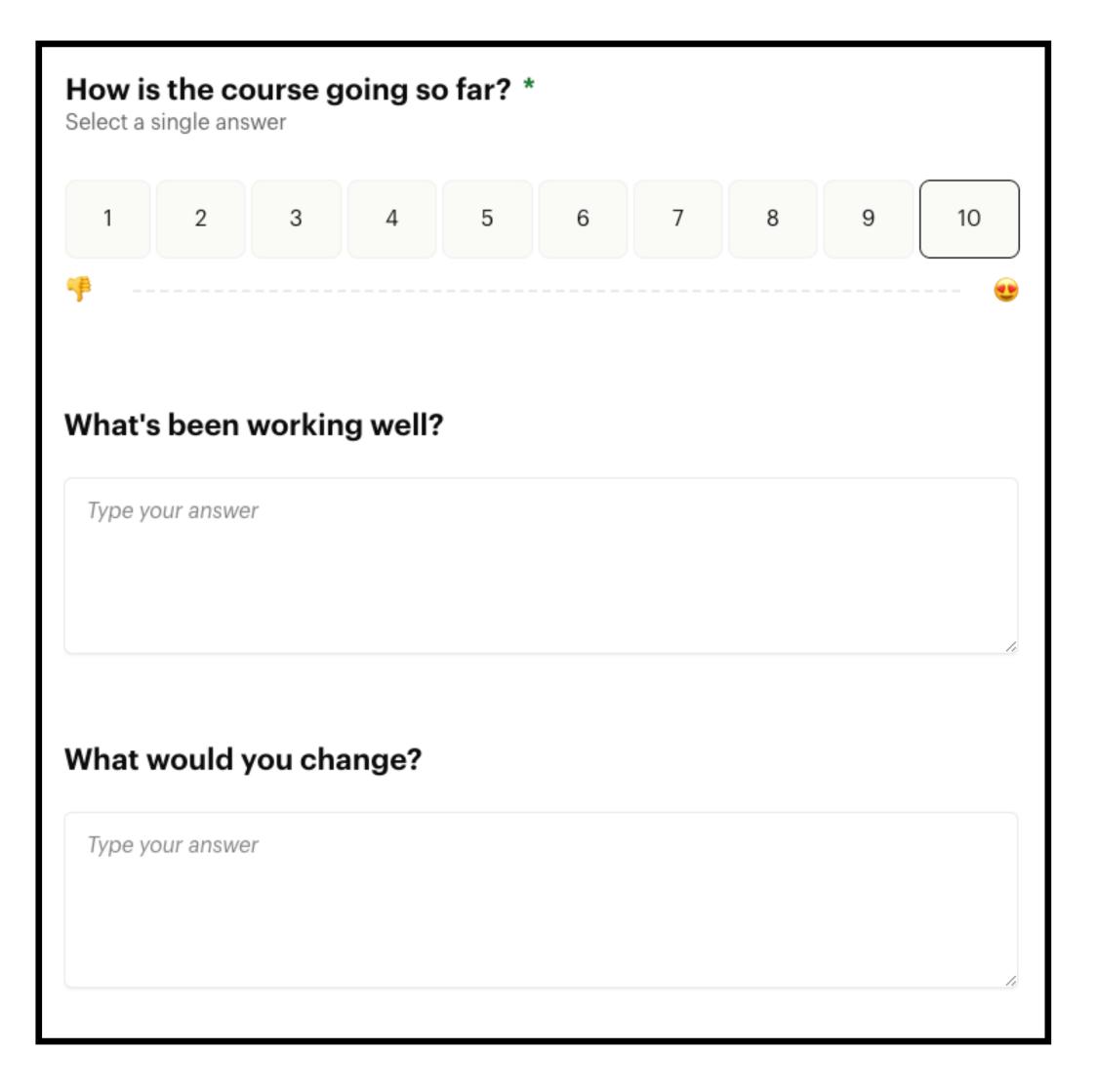
3. Examples []

- 3.1. Analyzing Survey Data with Embeddings
- 3.2. Semantic Search with Embeddings
- 3.3. Blog QA Assistant with RAG



Announcements

1) Mid-course Survey



Homework 3



AI Executive Coach

Andry Haryanto

LLM-powered Anomaly Detection

Shaji Ravindra Nathan

Travel Itinerary Planner

Kader Mula

Automated Al Newsletter

Ravindra Bharathi

2 Levels of LLM Development

How to get LLMs to do what you want...

Level 1

Adapting models via prompts and tools

Prompt Engineering





Tool-use



Level 2

Adapting models via additional training

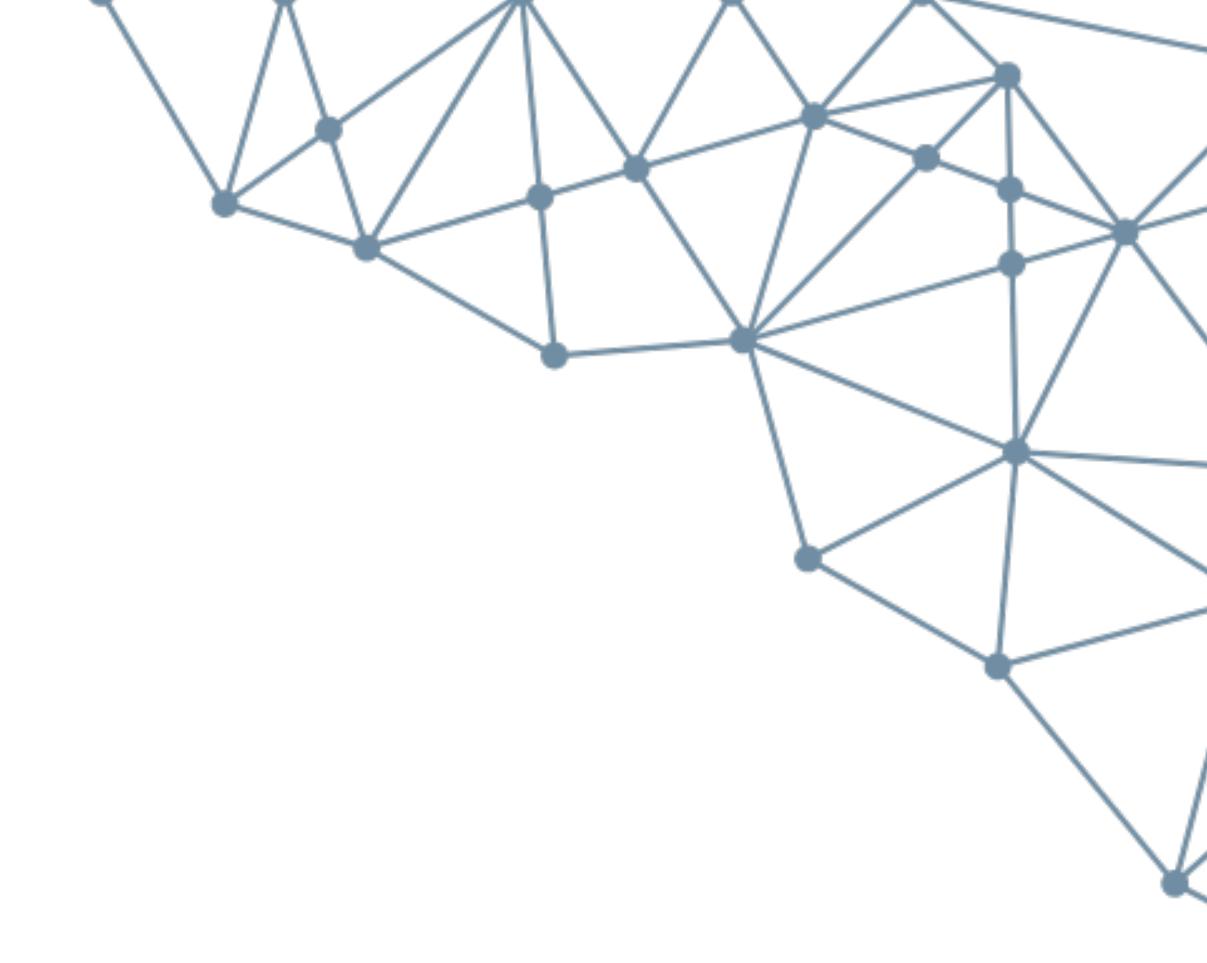
Fine-tuning



Post-training



RAG

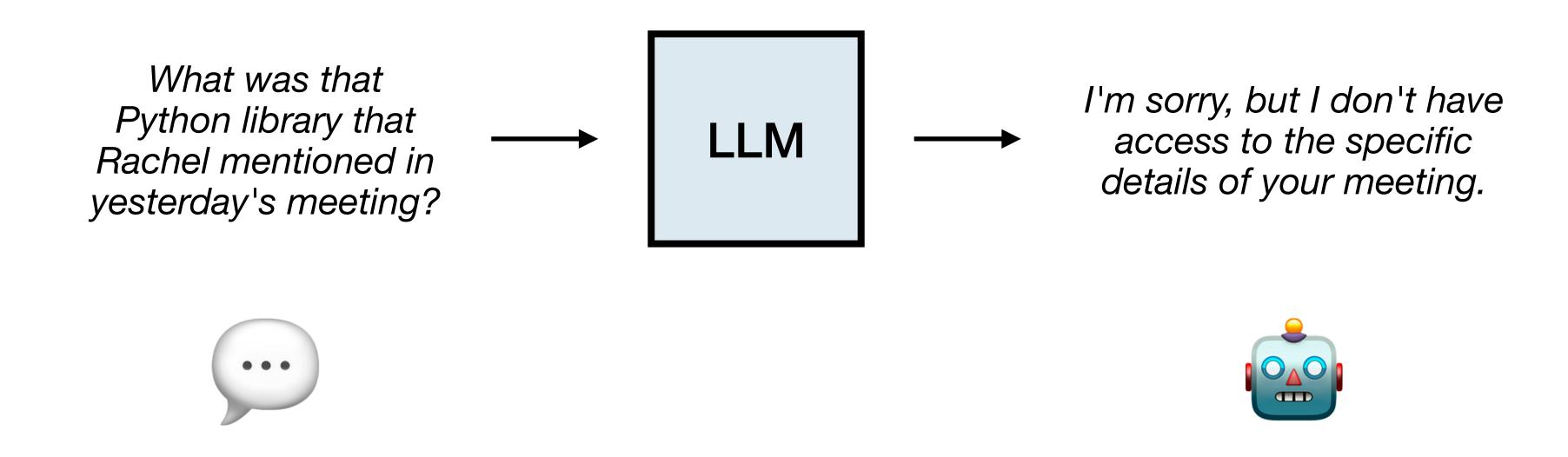




What is RAG?

Improving an LLM's responses by automatically providing it relevant context

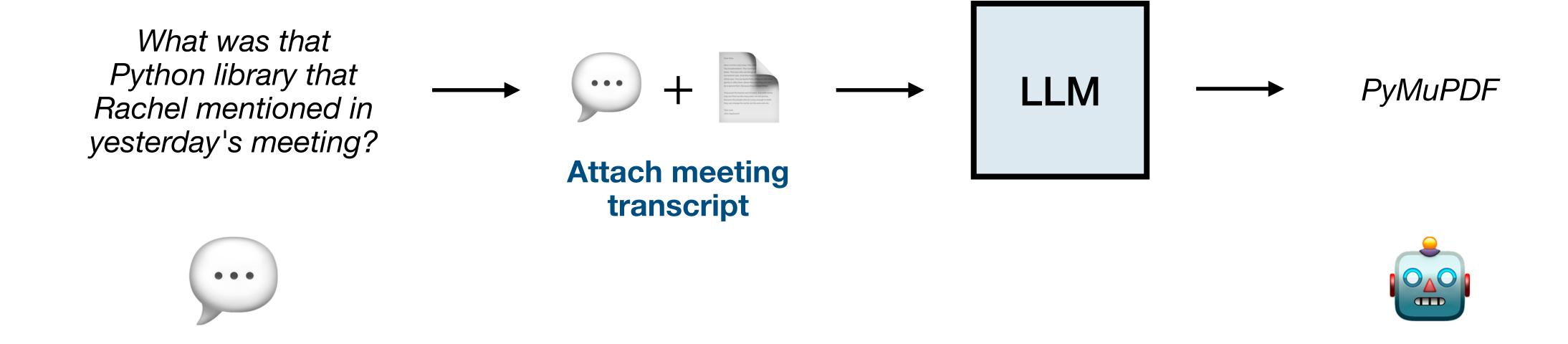
RAG = Retrieval Augmented Generation



[1-2] ABB #3 - Winter 2025

What is RAG?

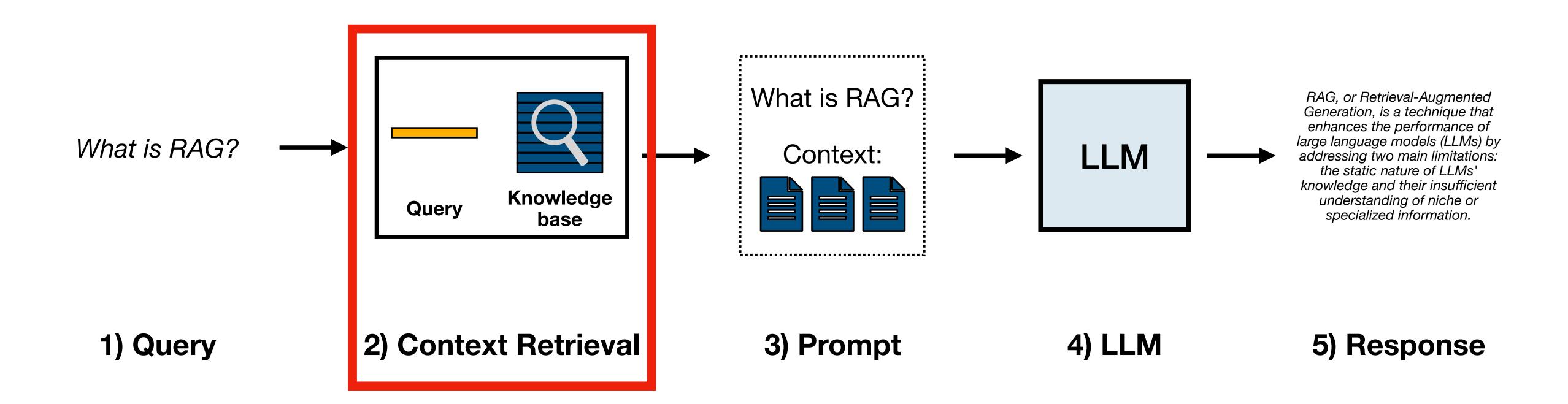
Improving an LLM's responses by automatically providing it relevant context



[1-2] ABB #3 - Winter 2025

RAG Implementation

5-step process

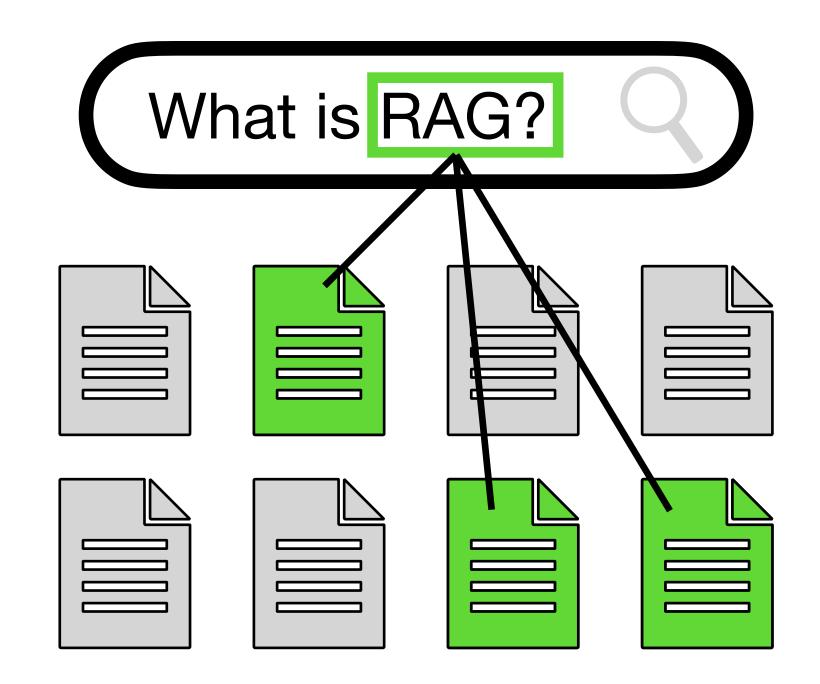


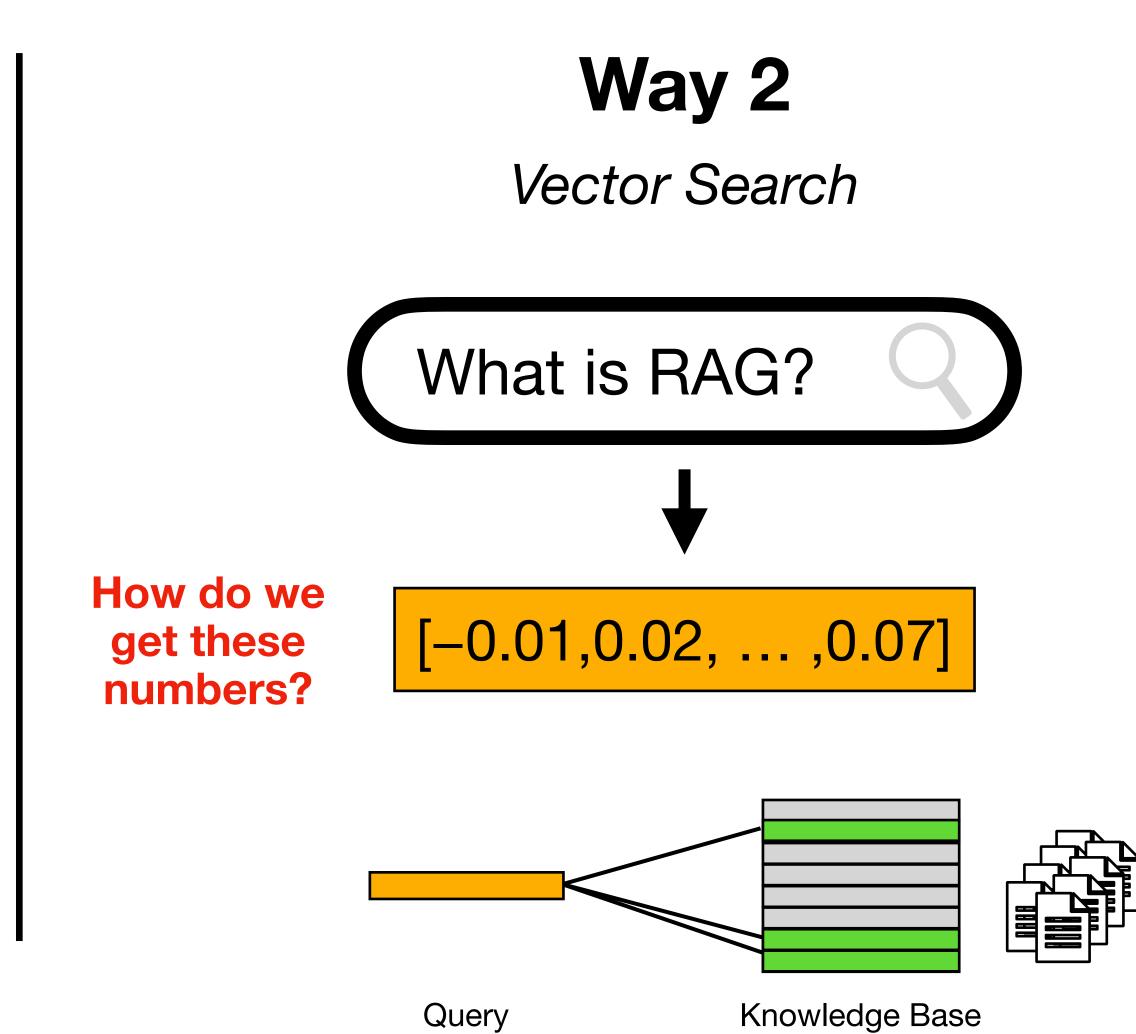
[1] ABB #3 - Winter 2025

2 Ways Retrieval Approaches

Way 1

Keyword-based Search





Text Embeddings

Translate words into numbers

Job Description		Text Embedding
Data Analyst in retail, 5 yrs	——	(3.4, 1.5)
ML Engineer in fintech, 3 yrs		(1.8, 3.1)
Data Scientist in healthcare, 10+ yrs.		(6.6, 2)
Database Admin for e-commerce, 7 yrs.		(4.2, 5)
BI Analyst in hospitality, early career.		(0.5, 1)
Data Architect, 15 yrs.		(6.5, 5)
Freelance Data Visualization Specialist, 4 yrs.		(2.6, 1.6)
Senior Data Engineer in automotive, 8 yrs.		(5, 5.5)

[4] ABB #3 - Winter 2025

Text Embeddings

Translate words into *meaningful* numbers



Data Analyst in retail, 5 yrs

ML Engineer in fintech, 3 yrs

Data Scientist in healthcare, 10+ yrs.

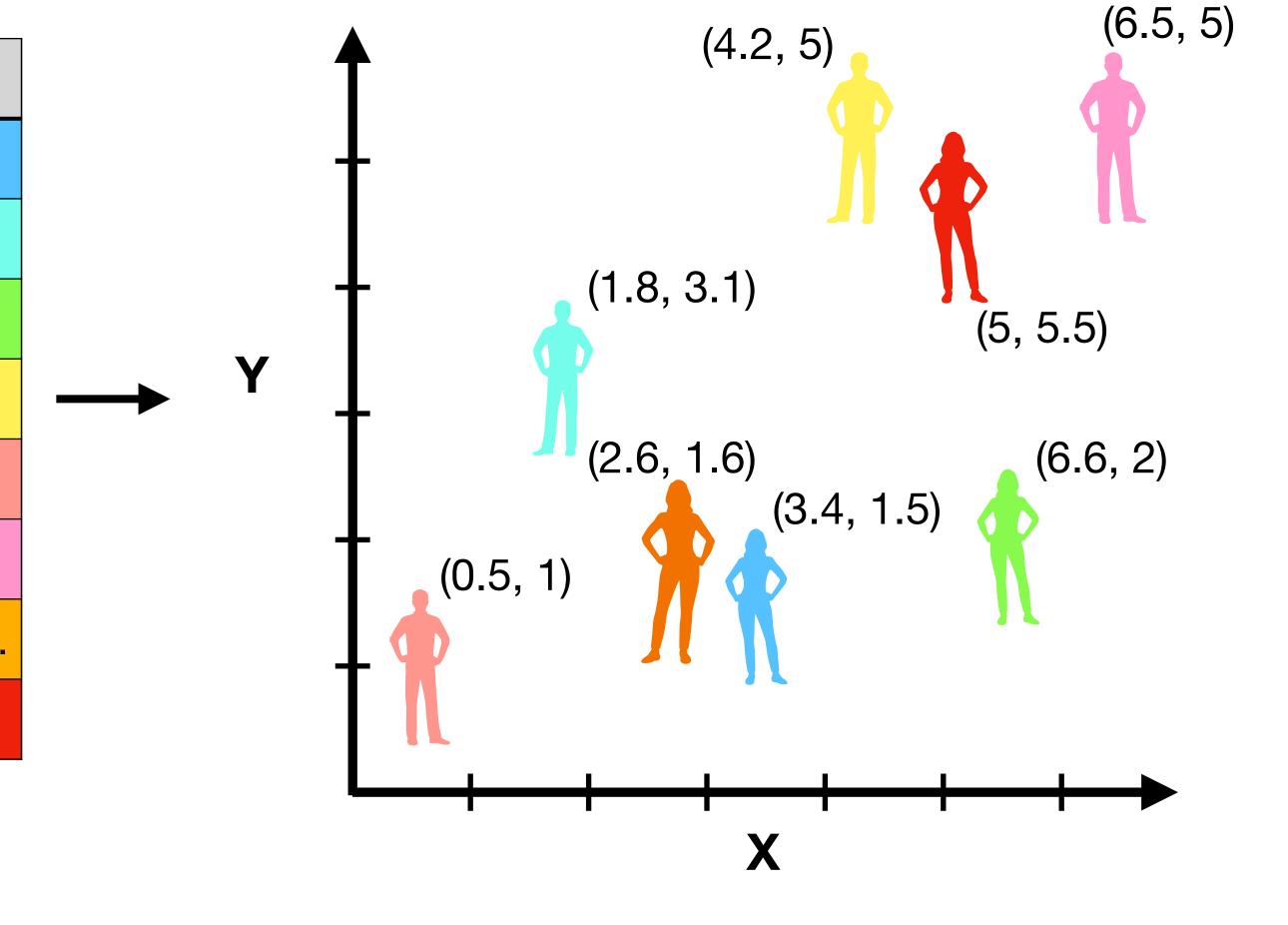
Database Admin for e-commerce, 7 yrs.

BI Analyst in hospitality, early career.

Data Architect, 15 yrs.

Freelance Data Visualization Specialist, 4 yrs.

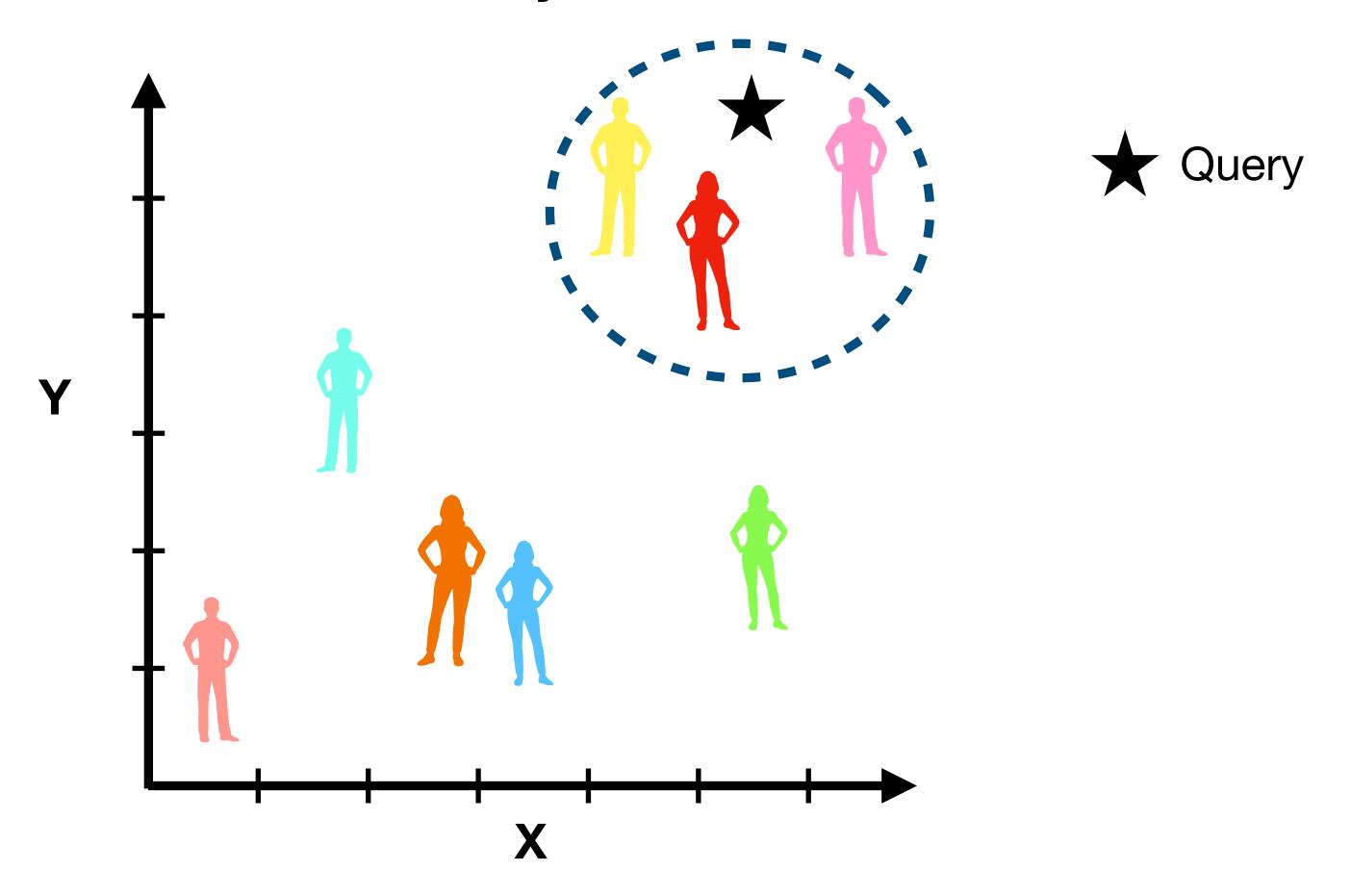
Senior Data Engineer in automotive, 8 yrs.



Semantic Search

Return results based on the meaning of user's query

"I need someone to build my data infrastructure"



Computing Similarities

Cosine similarity

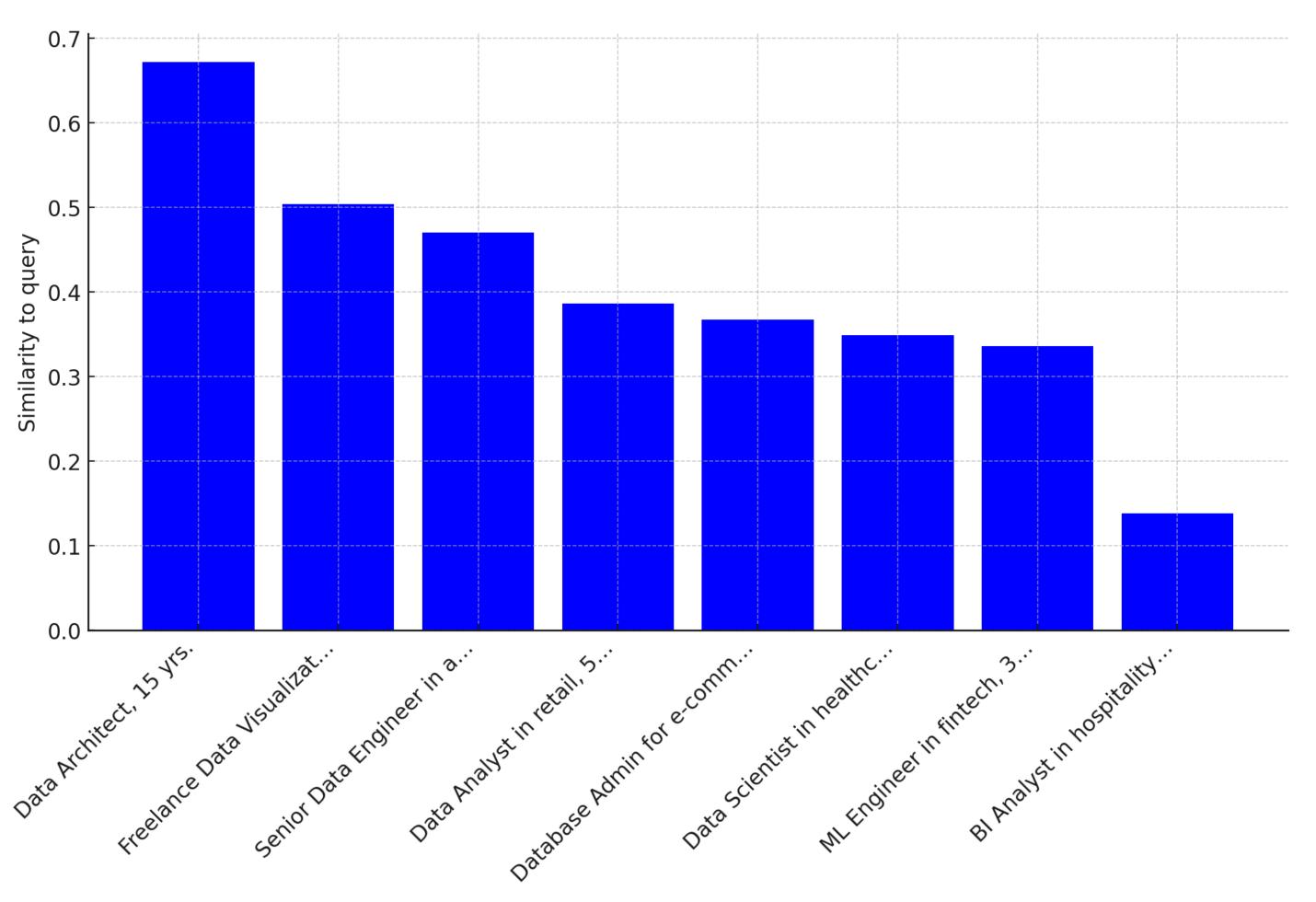
$$\vec{q}$$
 = Query embedding

$$\vec{d_i} = i^{th}$$
 JD embedding

Cosine Similarity

$$s_i = \frac{\vec{q} \cdot \vec{d}_i}{\|\vec{q}\| \|\vec{d}_i\|}$$

Cosine Similarities between \vec{q} and $\vec{d_i}$



Similarity Scores

Scaling cosine similarity with softmax

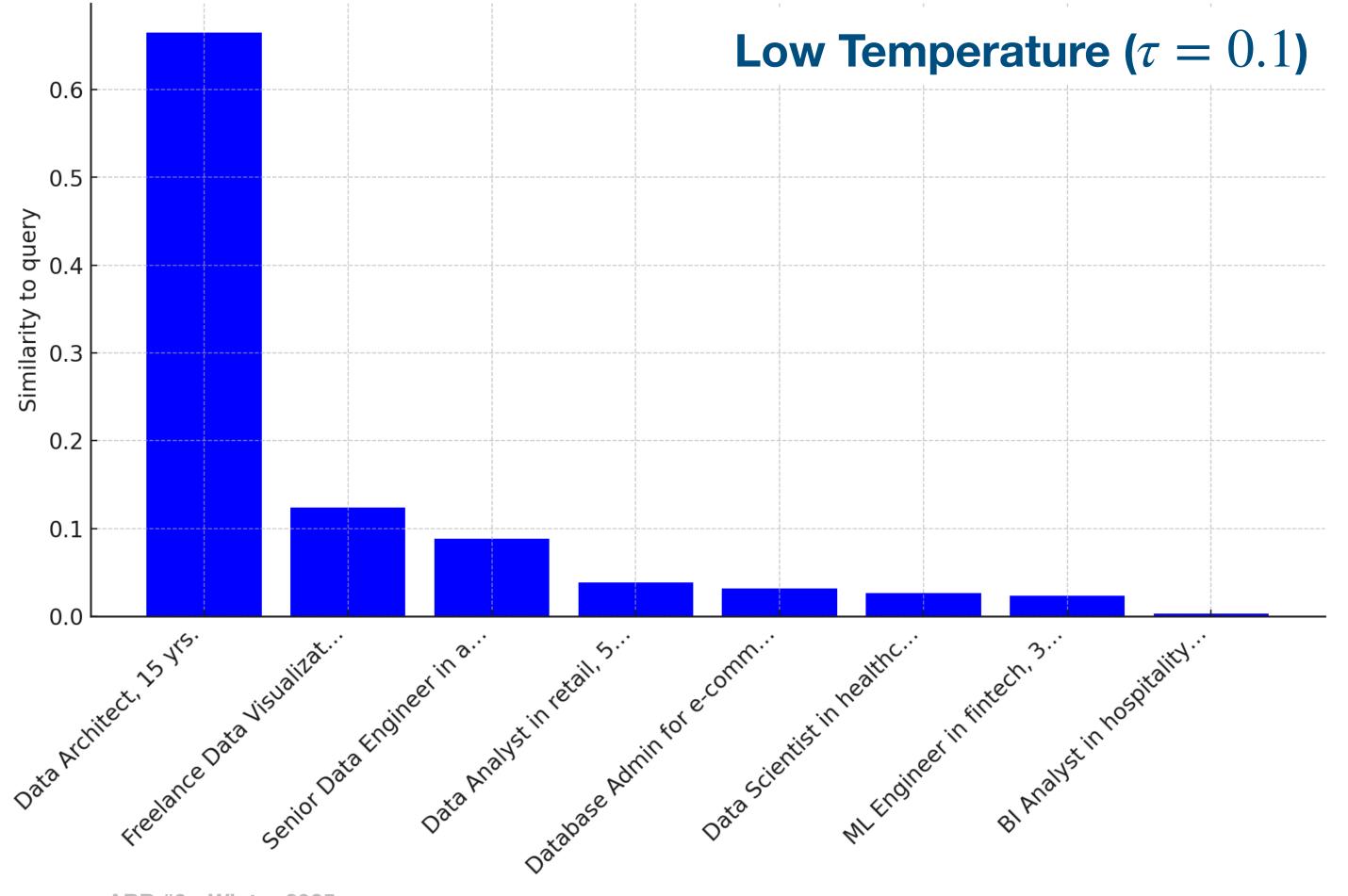
Softmax Function

$$\bar{s}_i = \frac{e^{\frac{s_i}{\tau}}}{\sum e^{\frac{s_i}{\tau}}}$$

 s_i = cosine similarity between \vec{q} and $\vec{d_i}$

$$\tau$$
 = Temperature $\sum \bar{s}_i = 1$

Probability-like score!



Similarity Scores

Scaling cosine similarity with softmax

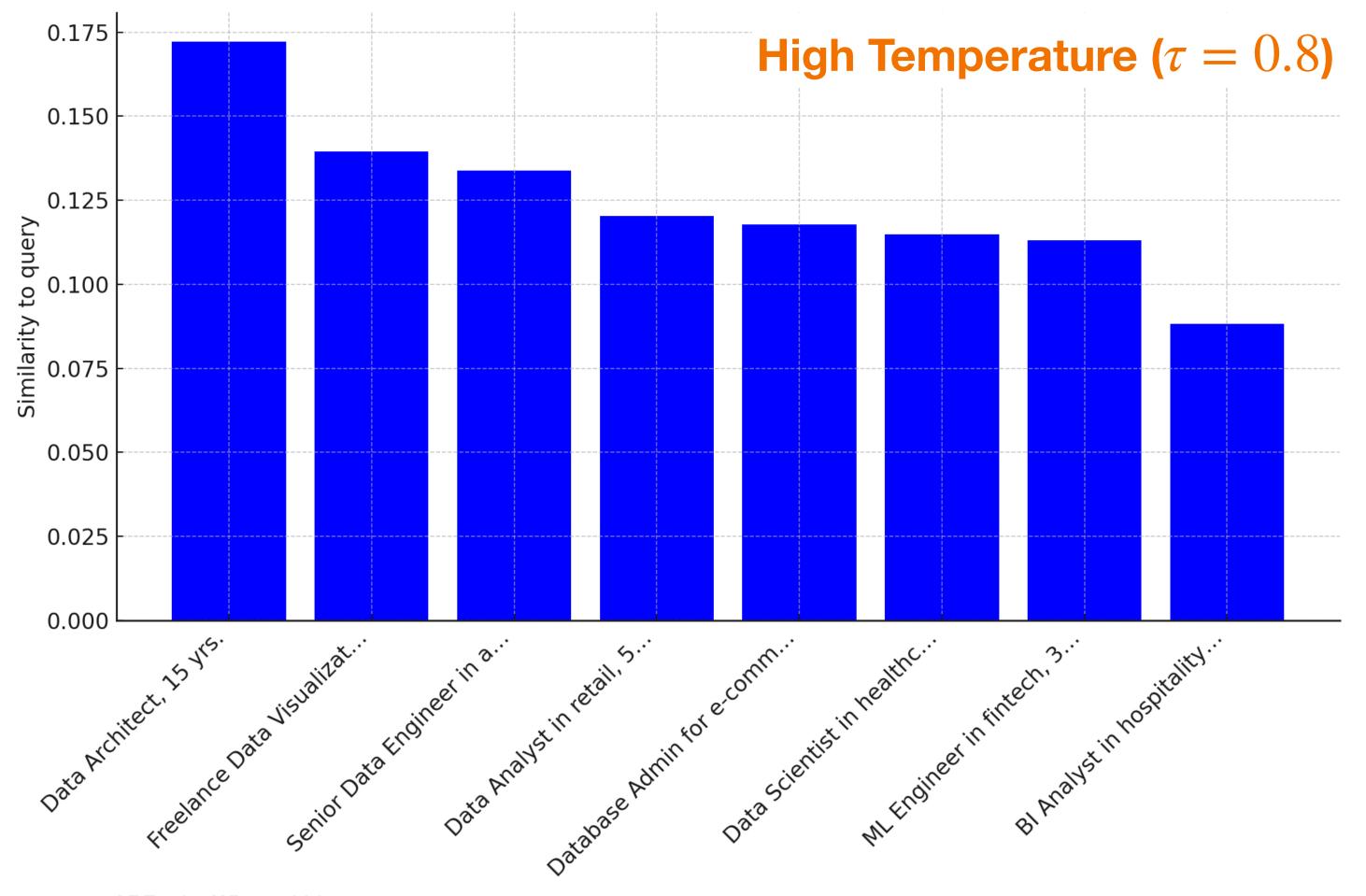
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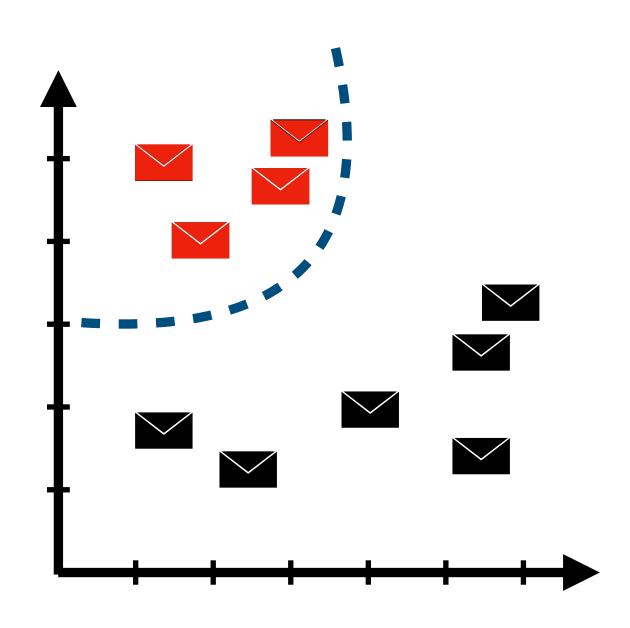
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Probability-like score!



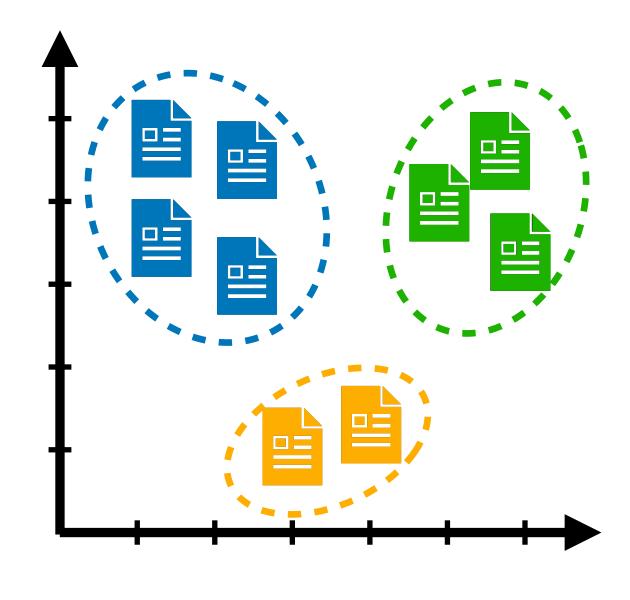
More Use Cases

Embeddings make text computable!



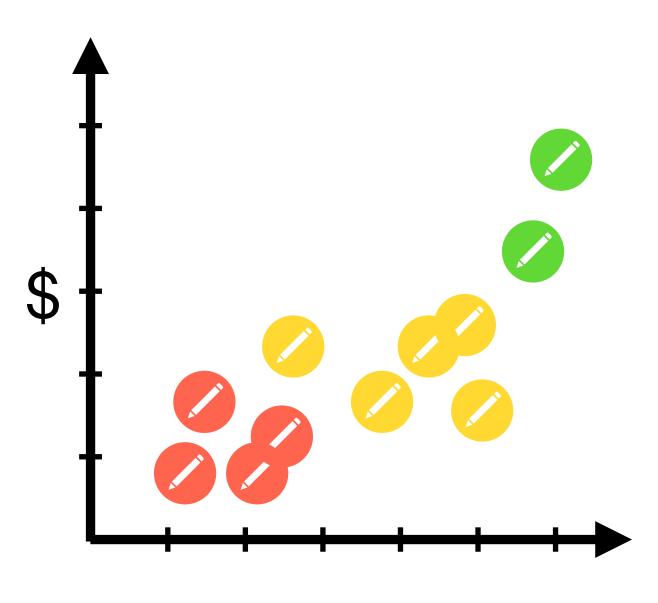
Text Classification

e.g. spam detection



Clustering

e.g. ICA analysis



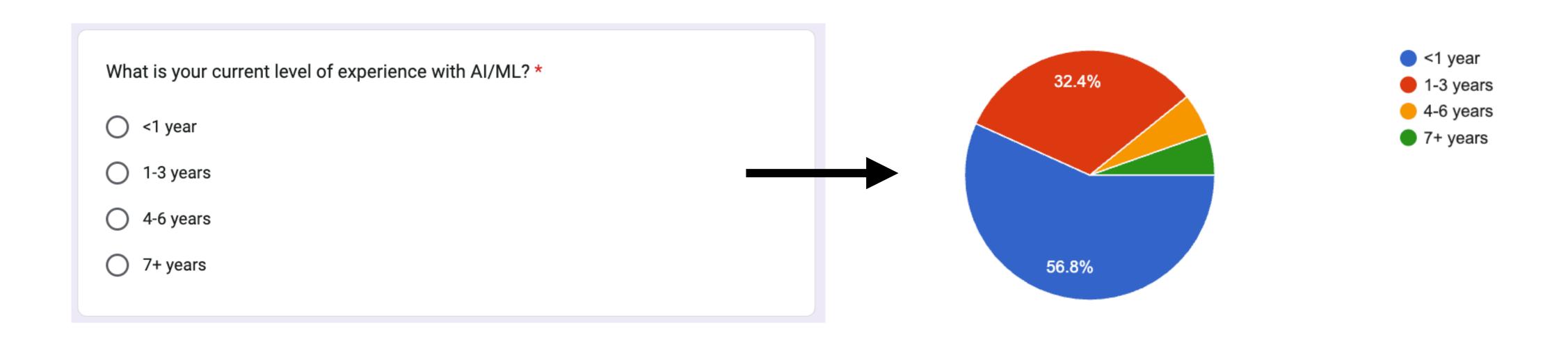
Regression

e.g. product sales forecasting





Analyzing Survey Data with Embeddings (Motivation)



Analyzing Survey Data with Embeddings (Motivation)

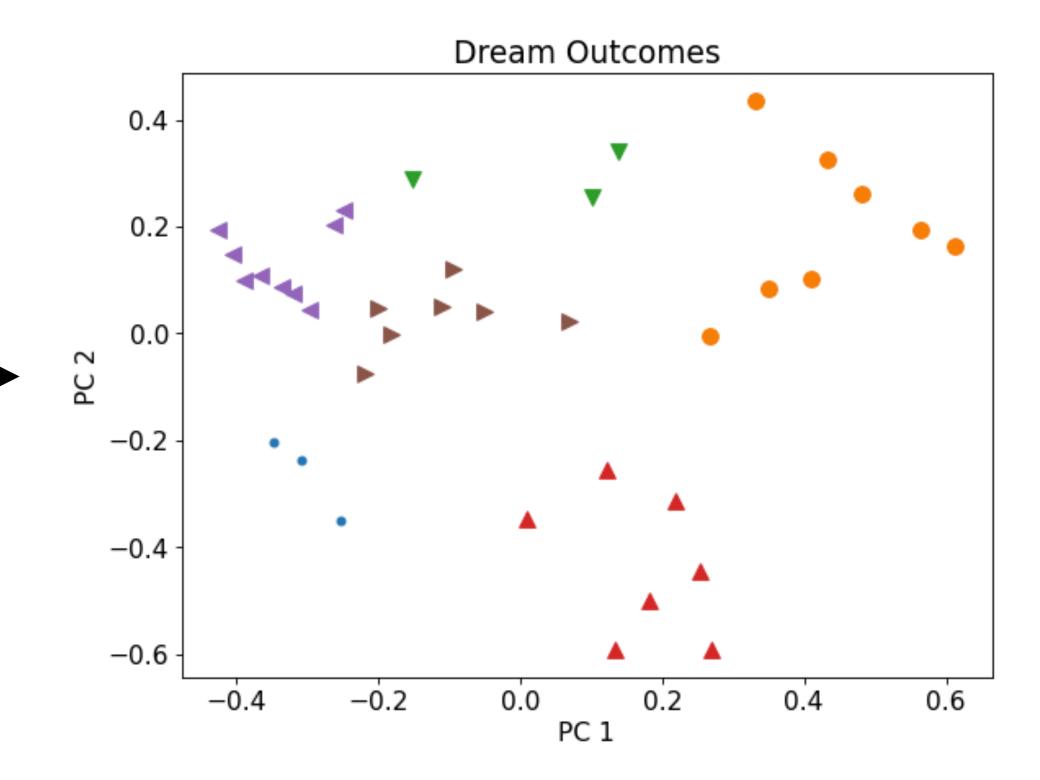
What is your dream outcome for this course? * Your answer

- Hands on projects, and switch to Data science career path from research
- Get to know Shaw better! Plus, have a clear path with resources to guide you on where to go and what to do for the future
- Fundamentals understanding, Hands on skills, small projects running in diff frameworks, create a small GH portfolio.
- Build multiple Al applications
- I would like to learn how to practically setup LLM application in a production environment so that I can start creating some AI web apps for internal and external use.
- Ability to train model based on a data set, and how to do predictive analysis.
- Develop a good foundation in Al/ML.
- I love to figure out good strategies to use in my software solutions using AI
- Learn to decide and advice between different data science archictures and options
- Implement practical AI cases
- Foundation in Al/ML
- Land a program manager job working with AI product/program
- Build an app
- able to create a LLM from scratch
- Get a new job
- At my former job I had a coworker who had the tedious task of making a weekly report summarizing local news for the boss. At the time I was completely sure that was something AI could do, but I didn't have the time nor the knowledge to develop such a thing. I constantly find myself having ideas like this, so a dream outcome would be finishing the course with at least a roadmap for making such an app.
- Build cool products
- Be able to be comfortable with GenAi
- A certificate to showcase my new skills, A jump start to do my own programing and be able to communicate with programmers
- Setup my own environment to compare Machine Learning statistics created by my companies Data Scientists against my own environment.
- Be able to create and deploy my own Ai powered apps
- Build and launch a product
- Getting skills to build AI technologies for many projects
- Being able to implement Ilms into projects
- Landing a new job
- to deepen my understanding of advanced AI techniques. And I also aim to expand my professional network and collaborate with likeminded individuals to explore new opportunities in the Al landscape.
- Be able to train a model and have some practical usage of llm.
- Learn to identify the ML solution and lead projects based on Al
- Able to put into practice AI/ML for real bunsiess solutions
- Master Al powered productivity tools to streamline regulatory compliance work
- Learn Python related to Al. Implement prototypes.
- 1) build GPT that accesses functions and APIs, 2) hands-on fine-tune a model using LoRA 3) write and debug Python code (with AI assistance) that accesses ChatGPT, Perplexity and Google search, 4) build working agent(s) that can output results in less than 10 seconds 5) possibly use a RAG efficiently for booklength PDF texts
- Fully understand AI and LLM, and how to build one using Python • Be able to comfortably add Al into daily or business use cases
- Build my own Al product with the Al services available these days
- I want to build my own MicroSaaS products
- I love to apply ai solution to existing and future back-end projects

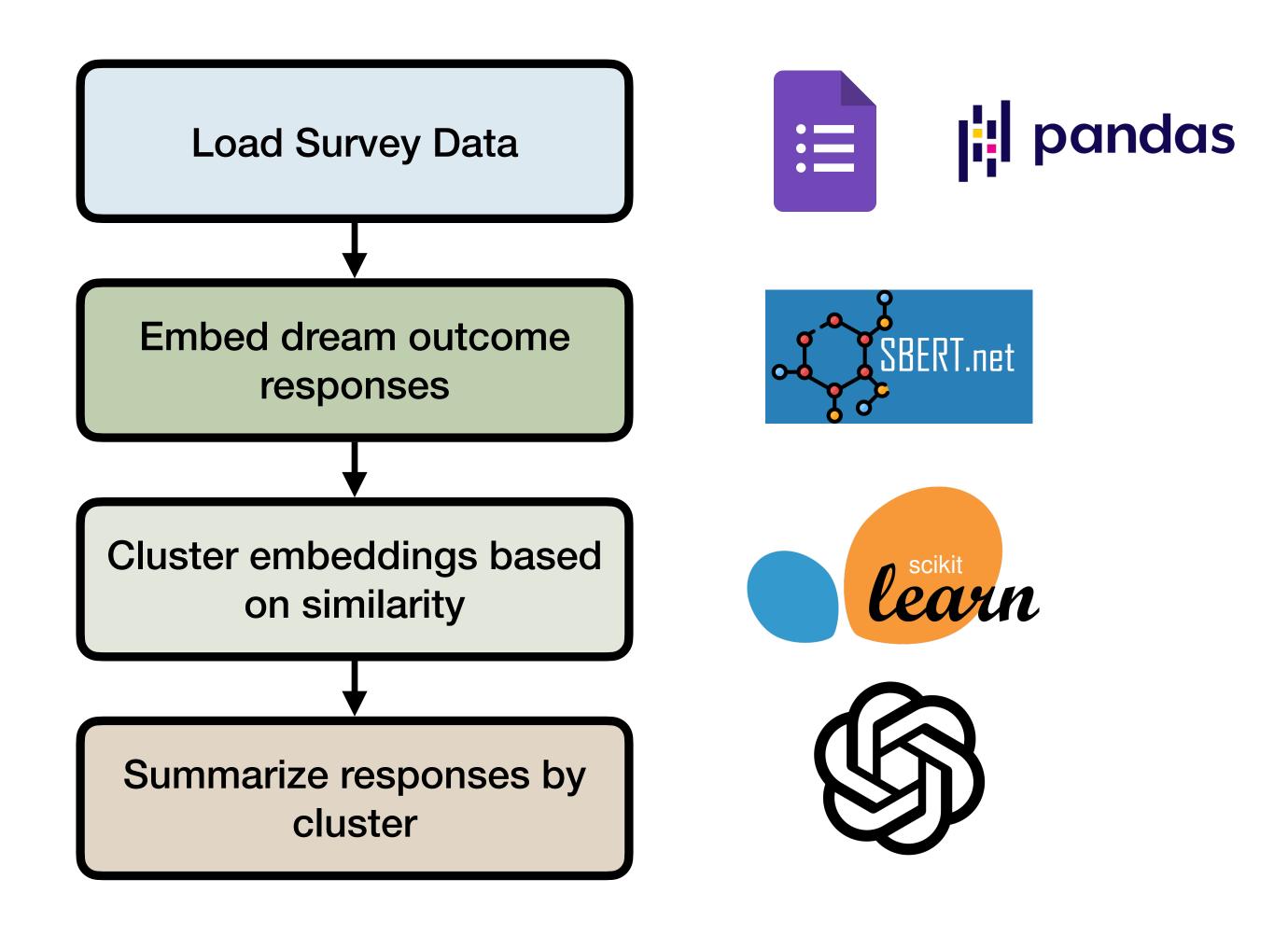
Objective, quantitative analysis is **challenging**.

Analyzing Survey Data with Embeddings (Overview)

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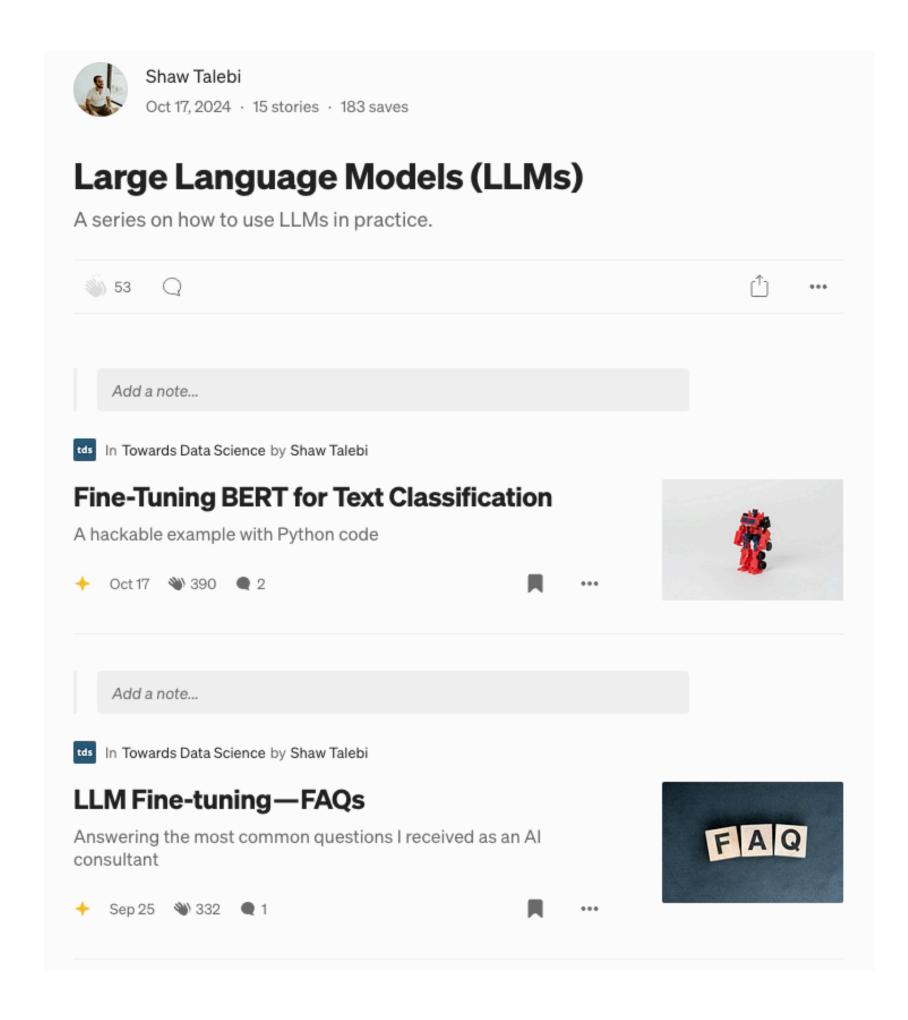
Analyzing Survey Data with Embeddings (Flowchart)



Analyzing Survey Data with Embeddings (Code)



Semantic Search with Embeddings (Motivation)



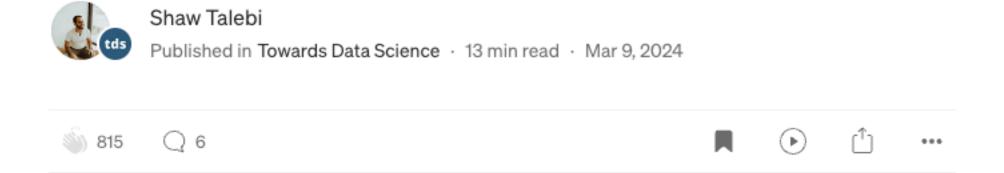
Finding specific information across several resources can be tedious

Semantic Search with Embeddings (Overview)



How to Improve LLMs with RAG

A beginner-friendly introduction w/ Python code



1. Article title: How to Improve LLMs with RAG

Section: What is RAG?

Snippet: RAG works by adding a step to this basic process. Namely, a retrieval step is performed where, based on the user's prompt, the relevant information is extracted from an external knowledge base and injected into the prompt before being passed to the LLM.

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Section: What is RAG?

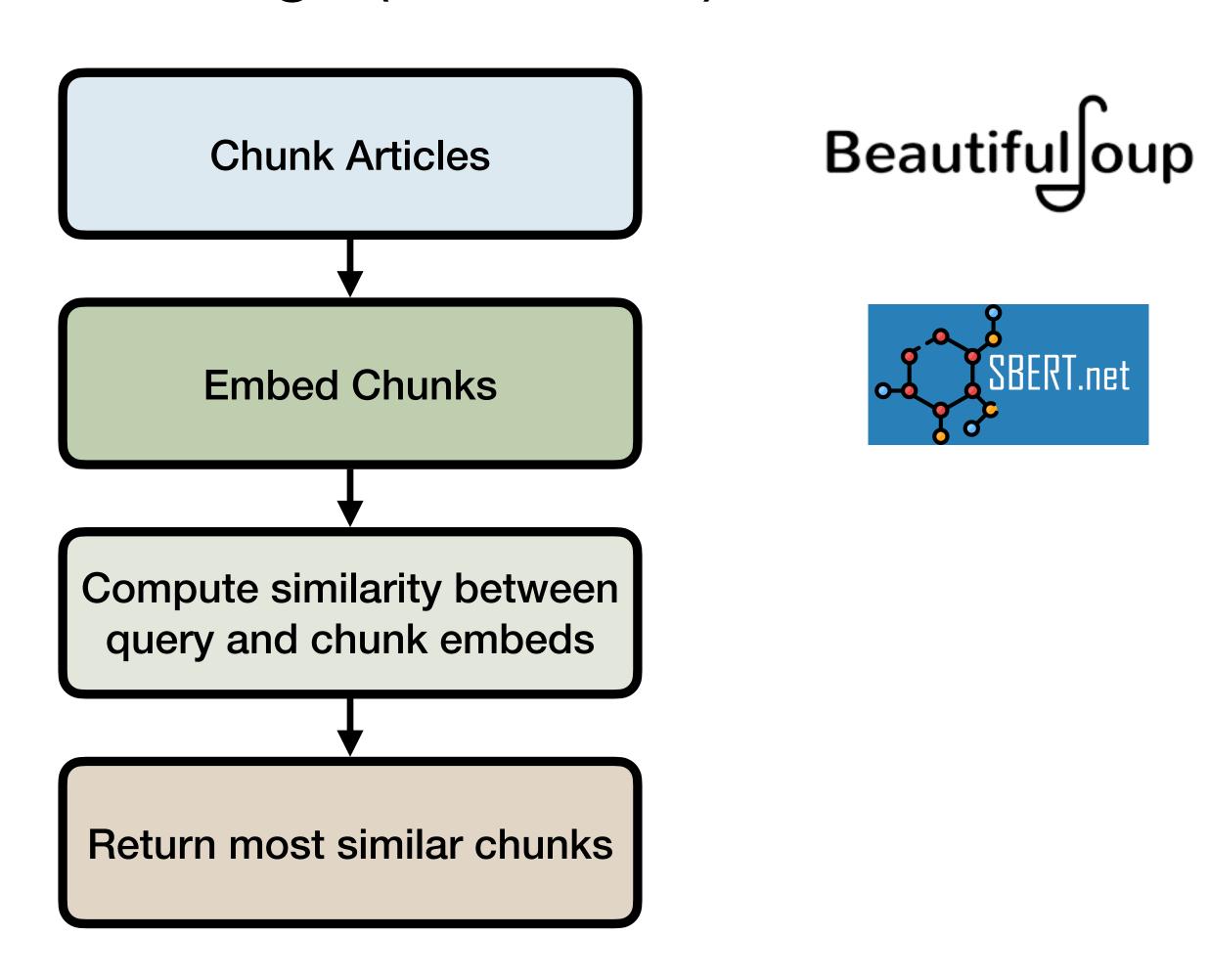
Snippet: The basic usage of an LLM consists of giving it a prompt and getting back a response.

3. Article title: How to Improve LLMs with RAG

Section: How it works

Snippet: There are 2 key elements of a RAG system: a retriever and a knowledge base.

Semantic Search with Embeddings (Flowchart)



Semantic Search with Embeddings (Code)

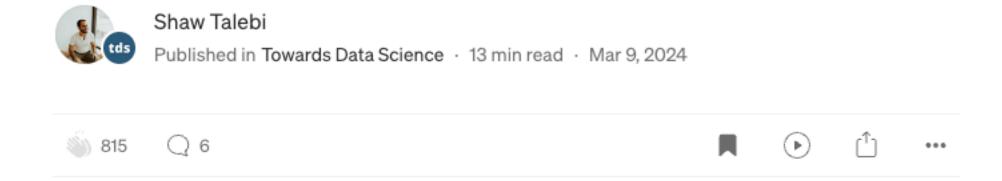


Blog QA Assistant with RAG (Motivation)

What is RAG?

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Requires digging to answer question

Blog QA Assistant with RAG (Overview)

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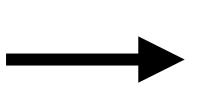
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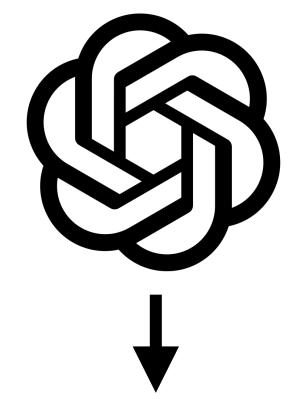
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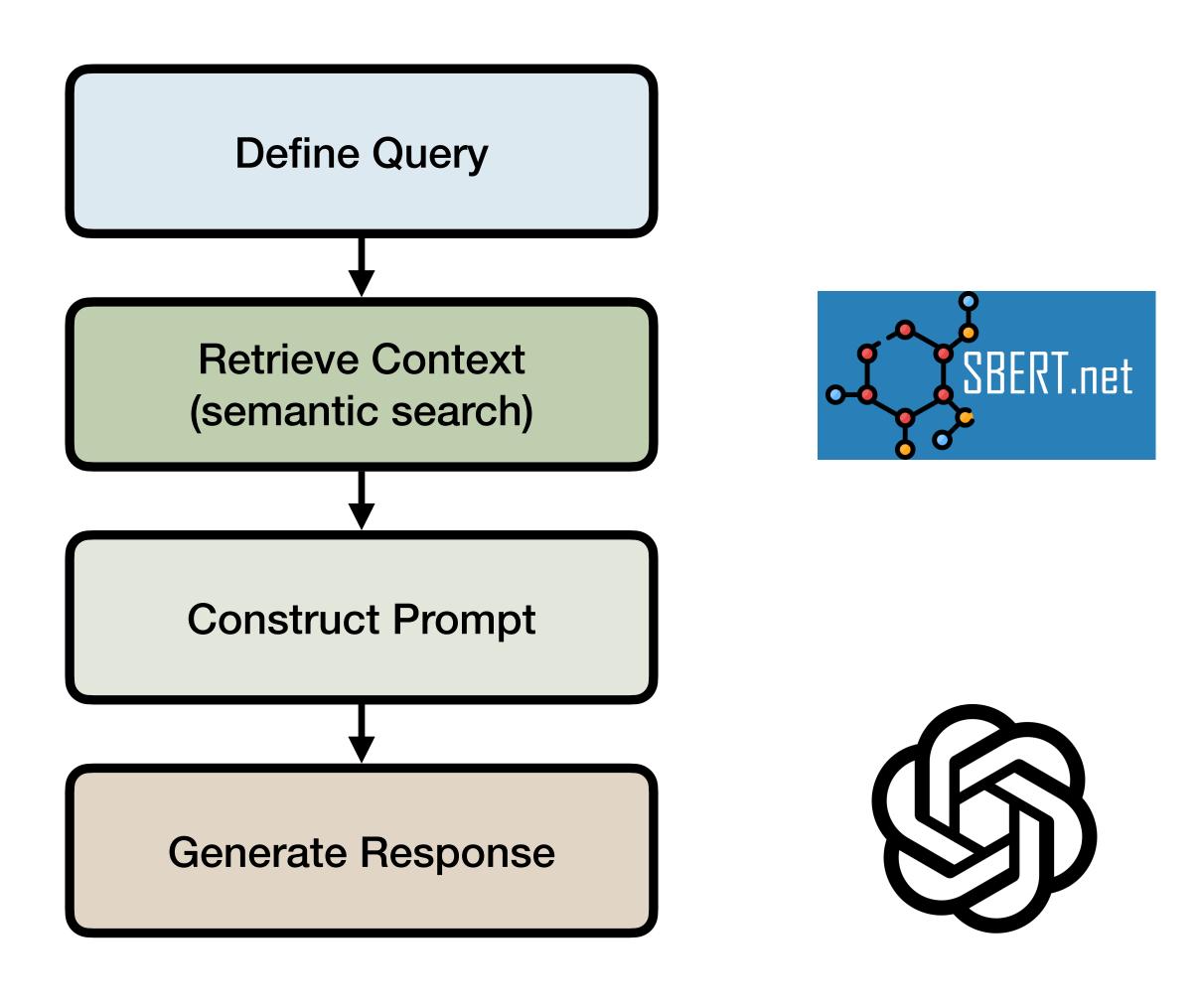




RAG, or Retrieval Augmented Generation, is an approach that enhances the functionality of large language models (LLMs) by incorporating a retrieval step. This process involves extracting relevant information from an external knowledge base based on the user's prompt and injecting it into the prompt before passing it to the LLM. Essentially, while the basic operation of an LLM remains the same—receiving a prompt and generating a response—RAG augments this process by utilizing additional information to improve the quality and relevance of the output (Snippets 1, 2, 9).

A RAG system consists of two key components: a retriever, which fetches relevant information, and a knowledge base, which stores the information that can be accessed by the LLM (Snippets 3, 7). The effectiveness of a RAG system is influenced by how well the source documents are prepared, as poorly formatted documents can complicate the extraction of useful information (Snippet 5).

Blog QA Assistant with RAG (Flowchart)



Blog QA Assistant with RAG (Code)



Homework 4

Project -

Solve a Problem with Text Embeddings

Pre-work 🚣

Session 5: Fine-tuning LLMs

References

- [1] Multimodal RAG: Process Any File Type with Al
- [2] How to Improve LLMs with RAG
- [3] Text Embeddings, Classification, and Semantic Search
- [4] Text Embeddings, Classification, and Semantic Search (w/ Python Code)