

Marko Medved, Sebastijan Trojer, and Matej Vrečar

[illegible]

Keyword1, Keyword2, Keyword3 ...

Evaluating RAG systems remains complex due to the nuanced nature of retrieval and generation quality. Chen et al. [6] introduced the Retrieval-Augmented Generation Benchmark (RGB) to measure RAG performance across four key dimensions: noise robustness, negative rejection, information integration, and counterfactual robustness. Their findings show that while RAG improves LLM accuracy, it still struggles with integrating long-distance information and handling noisy or uncertain evidence. Common evaluation methods

for RAG systems include retrieval-focused metrics like MRR (Mean Reciprocal Rank) and nDCG (Normalized Discounted Cumulative Gain), as well as generation-focused metrics like BLEU and ROUGE to measure the quality and relevance of generated responses [7].

In our project, we aim to address these issues by developing a RAG-based chatbot for academic research in automatic re-identification—the task of matching individuals across different cameras or settings, a complex problem in computer vision and machine learning. By focusing on recent research papers from arXiv, we seek to enhance the chatbot’s ability to retrieve and generate accurate responses about the latest developments in automatic re-identification

Methods

Baseline

Our baseline method for retrieving and responding to academic queries begins with collecting relevant scientific content using the Python arxiv module. This allows us to retrieve titles, abstracts, and author information for a large number of recent papers from arXiv. To enable semantic matching between user queries and the retrieved documents, we employ the allenai-specter model, a transformer-based embedding model specifically trained for scientific papers. Both the user query and the paper abstracts are embedded into a shared vector space, and cosine similarity is computed to identify the top five most relevant papers. These selected paper summaries form the context for response generation. We use the langchain module to pass this context to our base conversational agent, which is powered by the Mistral-7B-Instruct-v0.2 model, quantized to 4 bits to ensure efficient inference. This pipeline provides a lightweight retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) setup tailored to scientific literature.

Results

Preliminary results

To evaluate the effectiveness of our RAG-enhanced approach, we tested it on scientific questions related to papers published after December 2023. The goal was to determine whether the system could incorporate recent research not seen during the original model’s training.

Across a range of prompts, results showed that while the system often failed to retrieve the exact target paper with top- $k = 5$, it still produced more informative and current responses by leveraging similar recent articles. Increasing k to 10 improved retrieval in several cases—for example, retrieving a nearly identical sentiment analysis paper by the same authors.

Refined queries also led to improved results. For a fast and robust covariance estimator, adding terms like “low contamination regime” and “near-linear sample complexity” helped surface the correct article. In contrast, generic queries often led the model to irrelevant domains, such as quantum mechanics.

For topics like NP-complete problems and object detection, specificity again proved critical. While exact matches were rare, the RAG system offered responses more reflective of recent research trends than the baseline. However, it occasionally exhibited erratic behavior, such as generating its own sub-questions, which significantly increased inference time.

Overall, these preliminary findings, detailed further in `testing_the_model.docx`, suggest that RAG enhances response relevance and currency, particularly with higher k and well-formed queries. However, retrieval control and relevance filtering remain areas for future improvement.

Discussion

Use the Discussion section to objectively evaluate your work, do not just put praise on everything you did, be critical and exposes flaws and weaknesses of your solution. You can also explain what you would do differently if you would be able to start again and what upgrades could be done on the project in the future.

Acknowledgments

Here you can thank other persons (advisors, colleagues ...) that contributed to the successful completion of your project.

References

- [1] Nimit Kandpal, Myle Ott, Xuezhi Li, Mike Lewis, Luke Zettlemoyer, and Dani Yogatama. Large language models struggle to learn long-tail knowledge. In *International Conference on Machine Learning*, 2023.
- [2] Yuan Gao, Zihan Zhang, Xiaodong Liu, Furu Wei, and Jianfeng Gao. Retrieval-augmented generation for large language models: A survey. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2312.10997*, 2024.
- [3] Maryamah Maryamah, Muhammad Maula Irfani, Edric Boby Tri Raharjo, Netri Alia Rahmi, Mohammad Ghani, and Indra Kharisma Raharjana. Chatbots in academia: A retrieval-augmented generation approach for improved efficient information access. In *2024 16th International Conference on Knowledge and Smart Technology (KST)*, pages 259–264, 2024.
- [4] Anum Afzal, Juraj Vladika, Gentrit Fazlija, Andrei Staradubets, and Florian Matthes. Towards optimizing a retrieval augmented generation using large language model on academic data. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2411.08438*, 2024.
- [5] Ahmet Yasin Aytar, Kemal Kilic, and Kamer Kaya. A retrieval-augmented generation framework for academic literature navigation in data science. *arXiv e-prints*, pages arXiv–2412, 2024.
- [6] Jiawei Chen, Hongyu Lin, Xianpei Han, and Le Sun. Benchmarking large language models in retrieval-augmented generation. In *Proceedings of the Thirty-*

Eighth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-24), Beijing, China, 2024. {jiawei2020, hongyu, xianpei, sunle}@iscas.ac.cn.

[7] Patrick Lewis, Ethan Perez, Aleksandra Piktus, Fabio Petroni, Vladimir Karpukhin, Naman Goyal, Heinrich

Küttler, Mike Lewis, Wen-tau Yih, Tim Rocktäschel, et al. Retrieval-augmented generation for knowledge-intensive nlp tasks. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2020.