Build Smarter AI Apps: Empower LLMs with LangChain

Module Cheat Sheet: Introduction to LangChain in GenAI

Package/Method	Description	Code Example

WatsonxLLM	A class from the ibm_watson_machine_learning.foundation_models.extensions.langchain module that creates a LangChain compatible wrapper around IBM's watsonx.ai models.	`from ibm_watsonx_ai.foundation_mode`
		`from ibm_watson_machine_learning.fo`
		
		`model_id = 'mistralai/mixtral-8x7b-`
		`parameters = {`
		`  GenParams.MAX_NEW_TOKENS: 256,`
		`  GenParams.TEMPERATURE: 0.2,`
		`}`
		`credentials = {"url": "https://us-s`
		`project_id = "skills-network"`
		
		`model = ModelInference(`
		`  model_id=model_id,`
		`  params=parameters,`
		`  credentials=credentials,`
		`  project_id=project_id`
		`)`
		
		`mixtral_llm = WatsonxLLM(model=mode`
		`response = mixtral_llm.invoke("Who`

Message Types	Different types of messages that chat models can use to provide context and control the conversation. The most common message types are SystemMessage, HumanMessage, and AIMessage.	`from langchain_core.messages import`
		
		`msg = mixtral_llm.invoke([`
		`  SystemMessage(content="You are`
		`  HumanMessage(content="I enjoy m`
		`])`

PromptTemplate	A class from the langchain_core.prompts module that helps format prompts with variables. These templates allow you to define a consistent format while leaving placeholders for variables that change with each use case.	`from langchain_core.prompts import`
		
		`prompt = PromptTemplate.from_templa`
		`input_ = {"adjective": "funny", "to`
		
		`formatted_prompt = prompt.invoke(in`

ChatPromptTemplate	A class from the langchain_core.prompts module that formats a list of chat messages with variables. These templates consist of a list of message templates themselves.	`from langchain_core.prompts import`
		
		`prompt = ChatPromptTemplate.from_me`
		`  ("system", "You are a helpful a`
		`  ("user", "Tell me a joke about`
		`])`
		
		`input_ = {"topic": "cats"}`
		`formatted_messages = prompt.invoke(`

MessagesPlaceholder	A placeholder that allows you to add a list of messages to a specific spot in a ChatPromptTemplate. This capability is useful when you want the user to pass in a list of messages you would slot into a particular spot.	`from langchain_core.prompts import`
		`from langchain_core.messages import`
		
		`prompt = ChatPromptTemplate.from_me`
		`  ("system", "You are a helpful a`

		`MessagesPlaceholder("msgs")`
		`])`
		
		`input_ = {"msgs": [HumanMessage(con`
		`formatted_messages = prompt.invoke(`

JsonOutputParser	A parser that allows users to specify an arbitrary JSON schema and query LLMs for outputs that conform to that schema. A parser is useful for obtaining structured data from LLMs.	`from langchain_core.output_parsers`
		`from langchain_core.pydantic_v1 imp`
		
		`class Joke(BaseModel):`
		`setup: str = Field(description=`
		`punchline: str = Field(descript`
		
		`output_parser = JsonOutputParser(py`
		
		`format_instructions = output_parser`
		`prompt = PromptTemplate(`
		`template="Answer the user query`
		`input_variables=["query"],`
		`partial_variables={"format_inst`
		`)`
		
		`chain = prompt | mixtral_llm | outp`

CommaSeparatedListOutputParser	A parser used to return a list of comma-separated items. This parser converts the LLM's response into a Python list.	`from langchain.output_parsers impor`
		
		`output_parser = CommaSeparatedListO`
		
		`format_instructions = output_parser`
		`prompt = PromptTemplate(`
		`template="Answer the user query`
		`input_variables=["subject"],`
		`partial_variables={"format_inst`
		`)`
		
		`chain = prompt | mixtral_llm | outp`
		`result = chain.invoke({"subject": "`

Document	A class from the langchain_core.documents module that contains information about some data. This class has the following two attributes: page_content (the content of the document) and metadata (arbitrary metadata associated with the document).	`from langchain_core.documents impor`
		
		`doc = Document(`
		`page_content="""Python is an in`
		`Python's design`
		`metadata={`
		`'my_document_id' : 234234,`
		`'my_document_source' : "Abo`
		`'my_document_create_time' :`
		`}`
		`)`

PyPDFLoader	A document loader from the langchain_community.document_loaders that loads PDFs into Document objects. You can use this document loader to extract text content from PDF files.	`from langchain_community.document_l`
		
		`loader = PyPDFLoader("path/to/docum`
		`documents = loader.load()`

WebBaseLoader	A document loader from the langchain_community.document_loaders that loads content from websites into Document objects. You can use this document loader to extract text content from web pages.	`from langchain_community.document_l`
		
		`loader = WebBaseLoader("https://pytl`
		`web_data = loader.load()`

CharacterTextSplitter	A text splitter from langchain.text_splitter that splits text into chunks based on characters. This splitter is useful for breaking long documents into smaller, more manageable chunks for processing with LLMs.	`from langchain.text_splitter import`
		
		`text_splitter = CharacterTextSplitt`
		`  chunk_size=200,  # Maximum size`
		`  chunk_overlap=20,  # Number of`
		`  separator="\n"  # Character to`
		`)`
		`chunks = text_splitter.split_docume`

RecursiveCharacterTextSplitter	A text splitter from langchain.text_splitter that splits text recursively based on a list of separators. This splitter tries to split on the first separator, then the second separator, and any subsequent separators, until the chunks of text attain the specified size.	`from langchain.text_splitter import`
		
		`text_splitter = RecursiveCharacterT`
		`  chunk_size=500,`
		`  chunk_overlap=50,`
		`  separators=["\n\n", "\n", ". ",`
		`)`
		`chunks = text_splitter.split_docume`

WatsonxEmbeddings	A class from langchain_ibm that creates embeddings (vector representations) of text using IBM's watsonx.ai embedding models. You can use these embeddings for semantic search and other vector-based operations.	`from langchain_ibm import WatsonxEm`
		`from ibm_watsonx_ai.metanames impor`
		
		`embed_params = {`
		`  EmbedTextParamsMetaNames.TRUNCA`
		`  EmbedTextParamsMetaNames.RETURN_`
		`}`
		
		`watsonx_embedding = WatsonxEmbeddin`
		`  model_id="ibm/slate-125m-englis`
		`  url="https://us-south.ml.cloud.`
		`  project_id="skills-network",`
		`  params=embed_params,`
		`)`

Chroma	A vector store from langchain.vectorstores that stores embeddings and provides methods for similarity search. You can use Chroma for storing and retrieving documents based on semantic similarity.	`from langchain.vectorstores import`
		
		`// Create a vector store from docum`
		`docsearch = Chroma.from_documents(cl`
		
		`// Perform a similarity search`
		`query = "Langchain"`
		`docs = docsearch.similarity_search(`

Retrievers	Interfaces that return documents given an unstructured query. Retrievers accept a string query as input and return a list of Document objects as output. You can use vector stores as the backbone of a retriever.	`# Convert a vector store to a retri`
		`retriever = docsearch.as_retriever(`
		
		`// Retrieve documents`
		`docs = retriever.invoke("Langchain"`

ParentDocumentRetriever	A retriever from langchain.retrievers that splits documents into small chunks for embedding but returns the parent documents during retrieval. This retriever balances accurate embeddings with context preservation.	`from langchain.retrievers import Pa`
		`from langchain.storage import InMem`
		
		`parent_splitter = CharacterTextSpli`
		`child_splitter = CharacterTextSplit`
		
		`vectorstore = Chroma(`
		`  collection_name="split_parents"`
		`  embedding_function=watsonx_embe`
		`)`
		
		`store = InMemoryStore()`
		
		`retriever = ParentDocumentRetriever`
		`  vectorstore=vectorstore,`
		`  docstore=store,`
		`  child_splitter=child_splitter,`
		`  parent_splitter=parent_splitter`
		`)`
		
		`retriever.add_documents(documents)`
		`retrieved_docs = retriever.invoke("`

RetrievalQA	A chain from langchain.chains that answers questions based on retrieved documents. The RetrievalQA chain combines a retriever with an LLM to generate answers based on the retrieved context.	`from langchain.chains import Retrie`
		
		`qa = RetrievalQA.from_chain_type(`
		`  llm=mixtral_llm,`
		`  chain_type="stuff",`
		`  retriever=docsearch.as_retrieve`
		`  return_source_documents=False`
		`)`
		
		`query = "what is this paper discuss`
		`answer = qa.invoke(query)`

ChatMessageHistory	A lightweight wrapper from langchain.memory that provides convenient methods for saving HumanMessages, AIMessages, and then fetching them all. You can use the ChatMessageHistory wrapper to maintain conversation history.	`from langchain.memory import ChatMe`
		
		`history = ChatMessageHistory()`
		
		`history.add_ai_message("hi!")`
		`history.add_user_message("what is t`
		
		`// Access the messages`
		`history.messages`
		
		`// Generate a response using the hi`
		`ai_response = mixtral_llm.invoke(hi`

ConversationBufferMemory	A memory module from langchain.memory that allows for the storage of messages and conversation history. You can use this memory module conversation chains to maintain context across multiple interactions.	`from langchain.memory import Conver`
		`from langchain.chains import Conver`
		
		`conversation = ConversationChain(`
		`  llm=mixtral_llm,`

		verbose=True, memory=ConversationBufferMemory) response = conversation.invoke(inpu
LLMChain	A basic chain from langchain.chains that combines a prompt template with an LLM. It's the simplest form of chain in LangChain.	from langchain.chains import LLMCha template = “””Your job is to come u {location} YOUR RESPONSE: “”” prompt_template = PromptTemplate(te location_chain = LLMChain(llm=mixtral_llm, prompt=prompt_template, output_key=’meal’) result = location_chain.invoke(inpu

SequentialChain	A chain from langchain.chains that combines multiple chains in sequence, where the output of one chain becomes the input for the next chain. SequentialChain is useful for multi-step processing.	from langchain.chains import Sequen
		
		// First chain - gets a meal based
		location_chain = LLMChain(
		llm=mixtral_llm,
		prompt=location_prompt_template
		output_key=’meal’
		)
		
		// Second chain - gets a recipe bas
		dish_chain = LLMChain(
		llm=mixtral_llm,
		prompt=dish_prompt_template,
		output_key=’recipe’
		)
		
		// Third chain - estimates cooking
		recipe_chain = LLMChain(
		llm=mixtral_llm,
		prompt=recipe_prompt_template,
		output_key=’time’
		)
		
		// Combine into sequential chain
		overall_chain = SequentialChain(
		chains=[location_chain, dish_ch
		input_variables=[‘location’],
		output_variables=[‘meal’, ‘reci
		verbose=True
		)

RunnablePassthrough	A component from langchain_core.runnables that allows function chaining to use the 'assign' method, enabling structured multi-step processing.	from langchain_core.runnables impor
		
		// Create each individual chain wit
		location_chain_lcel = (
		PromptTemplate.from_template(lo
		| mixtral_llm
		| StrOutputParser()
		)
		
		dish_chain_lcel = (
		PromptTemplate.from_template(di
		| mixtral_llm
		| StrOutputParser()
		)
		
		time_chain_lcel = (
		PromptTemplate.from_template(ti
		| mixtral_llm

		`    | StrOutputParser()`
		`)`
		
		`overall_chain_lcel = (`
		`    RunnablePassthrough.assign(meal`
		`    | RunnablePassthrough.assign(re`
		`    | RunnablePassthrough.assign(ti`
		`)`
		
		`// Run the chain`
		`result = overall_chain_lcel.invoke(`
		`pprint(result)`

Tool	A class from langchain_core.tools that represents an interface that an agent, chain, or LLM can use to interact with the world. Tools perform specific tasks like calculations and data retrieval.	`from langchain_core.tools import To`
		`from langchain_experimental.utiliti`
		
		`python_repl = PythonREPL()`
		
		`python_calculator = Tool(`
		`    name="Python Calculator",`
		`    func=python_repl.run,`
		`    description="Useful for when yo`
		`)`
		
		`result = python_calculator.invoke("`

@tool decorator	A decorator from langchain.tools that simplifies the creation of custom tools. This tool automatically converts a function into a Tool object.	`from langchain.tools import tool`
		
		`@tool`
		`def search_weather(location: str):`
		`    """Search for the current weath`
		`    # In a real application, this f`
		`    return f"The weather in {locati`

create_react_agent	A function from langchain.agents that creates an agent following the ReAct (Reasoning + Acting) framework. This function takes an LLM, a list of tools, and a prompt template as input and returns an agent that can reason and select tools to accomplish tasks.	`from langchain.agents import create_`
		
		`agent = create_react_agent(`
		`    llm=mixtral_llm,`
		`    tools=tools,`
		`    prompt=prompt`
		`)`

AgentExecutor	A class from langchain.agents that manages the execution flow of an agent. This class handles the orchestration between the agent's reasoning and the actual tool execution.	`from langchain.agents import AgentE`
		
		`agent_executor = AgentExecutor(`
		`    agent=agent,`
		`    tools=tools,`
		`    verbose=True,`
		`    handle_parsing_errors=True`
		`)`
		
		`result = agent_executor.invoke({"in`

Author

Hailey Quach