

## Hybrid Search: Combining Text and Vectors

Hybrid search integrates keyword-based (lexical) and semantic (vector) search to achieve higher recall and precision. It combines BM25-style scoring with vector similarity scores, balancing exact term matches with conceptual similarity.

This technique is crucial when working with mixed data—structured metadata plus unstructured text. Systems like Elasticsearch, Qdrant, and pgvector now provide built-in hybrid search capabilities.

When used with embeddings, hybrid search can enhance RAG pipelines by retrieving relevant passages that may not contain exact keyword matches but share contextual meaning.