

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.	<pre>from ibm_watsonx_ai.foundation_models import ModelInference from ibm_watson_machine_learning.foundation_models.extensions.langchain import WatsonxLLM model_id = 'mistralai/mixtral-8x7b-instruct-v01' parameters = { GenParams.MAX_NEW_TOKENS: 256, GenParams.TEMPERATURE: 0.2, } credentials = {"url": "https://us-south.ml.cloud.ibm.com"} project_id = "skills-network" model = ModelInference(model_id=model_id, params=parameters, credentials=credentials, project_id=project_id) mixtral_llm = WatsonxLLM(model=model) response = mixtral_llm.invoke("Who is man's best friend?")</pre>
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.	<pre>from langchain_core.messages import HumanMessage, SystemMessage, AIMessage msg = mixtral_llm.invoke([SystemMessage(content="You are a helpful AI bot that assists a user in choosing the perfect book") HumanMessage(content="I enjoy mystery novels, what should I read?")])</pre>
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.	<pre>from langchain_core.prompts import PromptTemplate prompt = PromptTemplate.from_template("Tell me one {adjective} joke about {topic}") input_ = {"adjective": "funny", "topic": "cats"} formatted_prompt = prompt.invoke(input_)</pre>
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	<pre>from langchain_core.prompts import ChatPromptTemplate</pre>

	message templates themselves.	<pre>prompt = ChatPromptTemplate.from_messages([("system", "You are a helpful assistant"), ("user", "Tell me a joke about {topic}")]) input_ = {"topic": "cats"} formatted_messages = prompt.invoke(input_)</pre>
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.	<pre>from langchain_core.prompts import MessagesPlaceholder from langchain_core.messages import HumanMessage prompt = ChatPromptTemplate.from_messages([("system", "You are a helpful assistant"), MessagesPlaceholder("msgs")]) input_ = {"msgs": [HumanMessage(content="What is the day after Tuesday?")]} formatted_messages = prompt.invoke(input_)</pre>
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.	<pre>from langchain_core.output_parsers import JsonOutputParser from langchain_core.pydantic_v1 import BaseModel, Field class Joke(BaseModel): setup: str = Field(description="question to set up a joke") punchline: str = Field(description="answer to resolve the joke") output_parser = JsonOutputParser(pydantic_object=Joke) format_instructions = output_parser.get_format_instructions() prompt = PromptTemplate(template="Answer the user query.\n{format_instructions}\n{query}\n", input_variables=["query"], partial_variables={"format_instructions": format_instructions},) chain = prompt mixtral_llm output_parser</pre>
CommaSeparatedListOutputParser	A parser used to return a list of comma-separated items. This parser converts the LLM's response into a Python list.	<pre>from langchain.output_parsers import CommaSeparatedListOutputParser output_parser = CommaSeparatedListOutputParser() format_instructions = output_parser.get_format_instructions() prompt = PromptTemplate(template="Answer the user query. {format_instructions}\nList five {subject}.", input_variables=["subject"], partial_variables={"format_instructions": format_instructions},)</pre>

		<pre>chain = prompt mixtral_llm output_parser result = chain.invoke({"subject": "ice cream flavors"})</pre>
Document	<p>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).</p>	<pre>from langchain_core.documents import Document doc = Document(page_content="""Python is an interpreted high-level general-purpose programming language. Python's design philosophy emphasizes code readability with its notable use of s metadata={ 'my_document_id' : 234234, 'my_document_source' : "About Python", 'my_document_create_time' : 1680013019 })</pre>
PyPDFLoader	<p>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.</p>	<pre>from langchain_community.document_loaders import PyPDFLoader loader = PyPDFLoader("path/to/document.pdf") documents = loader.load()</pre>
WebBaseLoader	<p>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.</p>	<pre>from langchain_community.document_loaders import WebBaseLoader loader = WebBaseLoader("https://python.langchain.com/v0.2/docs/introduction/") web_data = loader.load()</pre>
CharacterTextSplitter	<p>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.</p>	<pre>from langchain.text_splitter import CharacterTextSplitter text_splitter = CharacterTextSplitter(chunk_size=200, # Maximum size of each chunk chunk_overlap=20, # Number of characters to overlap between chunks separator="\n" # Character to split on) chunks = text_splitter.split_documents(documents)</pre>

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.	<pre> from langchain.text_splitter import RecursiveCharacterTextSplitter text_splitter = RecursiveCharacterTextSplitter(chunk_size=500, chunk_overlap=50, separators=["\n\n", "\n", ". ", " ", """]) chunks = text_splitter.split_documents(documents) </pre>
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.	<pre> from langchain_ibm import WatsonxEmbeddings from ibm_watsonx_ai.metanames import EmbedTextParamsMetaNames embed_params = { EmbedTextParamsMetaNames.TRUNCATE_INPUT_TOKENS: 3, EmbedTextParamsMetaNames.RETURN_OPTIONS: {"input_text": True}, } watsonx_embedding = WatsonxEmbeddings(model_id="ibm/slate-125m-english-rtrvr", url="https://us-south.ml.cloud.ibm.com", project_id="skills-network", params=embed_params,) </pre>
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.	<pre> from langchain.vectorstores import Chroma // Create a vector store from documents docsearch = Chroma.from_documents(chunks, watsonx_embedding) // Perform a similarity search query = "Langchain" docs = docsearch.similarity_search(query) </pre>
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.	<pre> # Convert a vector store to a retriever retriever = docsearch.as_retriever() // Retrieve documents docs = retriever.invoke("Langchain") </pre>

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.	<pre> from langchain.retrievers import ParentDocumentRetriever from langchain.storage import InMemoryStore parent_splitter = CharacterTextSplitter(chunk_size=2000, chunk_overlap=20) child_splitter = CharacterTextSplitter(chunk_size=400, chunk_overlap=20) vectorstore = Chroma(collection_name="split_parents", embedding_function=watsonx_embedding) store = InMemoryStore() retriever = ParentDocumentRetriever(vectorstore=vectorstore, docstore=store, child_splitter=child_splitter, parent_splitter=parent_splitter,) retriever.add_documents(documents) retrieved_docs = retriever.invoke("Langchain") </pre>
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.	<pre> from langchain.chains import RetrievalQA qa = RetrievalQA.from_chain_type(llm=mixtral_llm, chain_type="stuff", retriever=docsearch.as_retriever(), return_source_documents=False) query = "what is this paper discussing?" answer = qa.invoke(query) </pre>
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.	<pre> from langchain.memory import ChatMessageHistory history = ChatMessageHistory() history.add_ai_message("hi!") history.add_user_message("what is the capital of France?") // Access the messages history.messages // Generate a response using the history ai_response = mixtral_llm.invoke(history.messages) </pre>

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.	<pre> from langchain.memory import ConversationBufferMemory from langchain.chains import ConversationChain conversation = ConversationChain(llm=mixtral_llm, verbose=True, memory=ConversationBufferMemory()) response = conversation.invoke(input="Hello, I am a little cat. Who are you?") </pre>
LLMChain	A basic chain from langchain.chains that combines a prompt template with an LLM. It's the simplest form of chain in LangChain.	<pre> from langchain.chains import LLMChain template = """Your job is to come up with a classic dish from the area that the users suggests. {location} YOUR RESPONSE: """ prompt_template = PromptTemplate(template=template, input_variables=['location']) location_chain = LLMChain(llm=mixtral_llm, prompt=prompt_template, output_key='meal') result = location_chain.invoke(input={'location': 'China'}) </pre>
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.	<pre> from langchain.chains import SequentialChain // First chain - gets a meal based on location location_chain = LLMChain(llm=mixtral_llm, prompt=location_prompt_template, output_key='meal') // Second chain - gets a recipe based on meal dish_chain = LLMChain(llm=mixtral_llm, prompt=dish_prompt_template, output_key='recipe') // Third chain - estimates cooking time recipe_chain = LLMChain(llm=mixtral_llm, prompt=recipe_prompt_template, output_key='time') </pre>

		<pre>// Combine into sequential chain overall_chain = SequentialChain(chains=[location_chain, dish_chain, recipe_chain], input_variables=['location'], output_variables=['meal', 'recipe', 'time'], verbose=True)</pre>
RunnablePassthrough	A component from langchain_core.runnables that allows function chaining to use the 'assign' method, enabling structured multi-step processing.	<pre>from langchain_core.runnables import RunnablePassthrough // Create each individual chain with the pipe operator location_chain_lcel = (PromptTemplate.from_template(location_template) mixtral_llm StrOutputParser()) dish_chain_lcel = (PromptTemplate.from_template(dish_template) mixtral_llm StrOutputParser()) time_chain_lcel = (PromptTemplate.from_template(time_template) mixtral_llm StrOutputParser()) overall_chain_lcel = (RunnablePassthrough.assign(meal=lambda x: location_chain_lcel.invoke({"location": x["location"]}) RunnablePassthrough.assign(recipe=lambda x: dish_chain_lcel.invoke({"meal": x["meal"]})) RunnablePassthrough.assign(time=lambda x: time_chain_lcel.invoke({"recipe": x["recipe"]}))) // Run the chain result = overall_chain_lcel.invoke({"location": "China"}) pprint(result)</pre>
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.	<pre>from langchain_core.tools import Tool from langchain_experimental.utilities import PythonREPL python_repl = PythonREPL() python_calculator = Tool(name="Python Calculator", func=python_repl.run, description="Useful for when you need to perform calculations or execute Python code. Input should be a valid Python expression.") result = python_calculator.invoke("a = 3; b = 1; print(a+b)")</pre>

@tool decorator	A decorator from langchain.tools that simplifies the creation of custom tools. This tool automatically converts a function into a Tool object.	<pre>from langchain.tools import tool @tool def search_weather(location: str): """Search for the current weather in the specified location.""" # In a real application, this function would call a weather API return f"The weather in {location} is currently sunny and 72°F."</pre>
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.	<pre>from langchain.agents import create_react_agent agent = create_react_agent(llm=mixtral_llm, tools=tools, prompt=prompt)</pre>
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.	<pre>from langchain.agents import AgentExecutor agent_executor = AgentExecutor(agent=agent, tools=tools, verbose=True, handle_parsing_errors=True) result = agent_executor.invoke({"input": "What is the square root of 256?"})</pre>

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Skills Network