I'll break down the code **step by step**, explain **each concept**, provide **theoretical background**, and include **an architectural diagram**.

Overview of the Code

The provided code implements **efficient document reranking** and **retrieval-augmented generation (RAG)** using **FlashRank**, **FAISS**, and **LangChain**.

It focuses on:

- FlashRanker-based Reranking: Reorders retrieved documents based on relevance.
- 2. **Embedding-based Retrieval with FAISS**: Uses vector search to fetch relevant documents.
- 3. **Contextual Compression with FlashRankRerank**: Compresses retrieved data before passing it to an LLM.
- 4. **Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)**: Uses retrieved documents to enhance LLM responses.

Step-by-Step Code Explanation

Step 1: Install Required Libraries

python
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!pip install flashrank langchain community langchain openai faiss-cpu

Installs necessary libraries:

- flashrank → Lightweight reranking model.
- langchain community → LangChain utilities.
- langchain openai → OpenAI integration for embeddings & chat models.
- faiss-cpu → Efficient vector database for retrieval.

Step 2: Helper Function to Print Documents

Formats retrieved documents for display.

Step 3: Define Query and Passages

- Defines **sample text passages** that describe different LLM speed-up techniques.
- **Each passage has metadata** for additional context.

Step 4: Define the FlashRanker Function

```
python
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from flashrank.Ranker import Ranker, RerankRequest
def get result(query, passages, choice):
 if choice == "Nano":
    ranker = Ranker()
 elif choice == "Small":
    ranker = Ranker(model_name="ms-marco-MiniLM-L-12-v2",
cache dir="/opt")
 elif choice == "Medium":
    ranker = Ranker(model_name="rank-T5-flan", cache_dir="/opt")
 elif choice == "Large":
    ranker = Ranker(model_name="ms-marco-MultiBERT-L-12",
cache dir="/opt")
  rerankrequest = RerankRequest(query=query, passages=passages)
  results = ranker.rerank(rerankrequest)
 print(results)
  return results
```

- Defines a function get_result() that uses **FlashRanker to reorder documents**.
- ✓ Chooses between different ranking models based on user selection:
 - Nano → Fastest (~4MB)
 - Small → More accurate (~34MB)
 - **Medium** → Best zero-shot ranking (~110MB)
 - Large → Supports 100+ languages (~150MB) Uses RerankRequest() to rank documents based on relevance to the query.

Step 5: Execute FlashRanker with Different Models

```
python
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%%time
get_result(query, passages, "Nano")

%%time
get_result(query, passages, "Small")

%%time
get_result(query, passages, "Medium")
```

Runs reranking for different models and measures execution time.

Step 6: Load Documents & Split for Processing

```
python
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from langchain_community.document_loaders import TextLoader
from langchain_text_splitters import RecursiveCharacterTextSplitter

documents = TextLoader("/content/state_of_the_union.txt").load()
text_splitter = RecursiveCharacterTextSplitter(chunk_size=500,
chunk_overlap=100)
texts = text_splitter.split_documents(documents)
```

✓ Loads a large document (state_of_the_union.txt) and splits it into smaller chunks (500 characters, with 100 overlapping characters) using RecursiveCharacterTextSplitter.

Step 7: Assign Metadata to Documents

python

```
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for id, text in enumerate(texts):
    text.metadata["id"] = id
```

Assigns unique IDs to each document chunk.

Step 8: Generate Embeddings & Store in FAISS

```
python
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from langchain_community.embeddings import OpenAIEmbeddings
from langchain_community.vectorstores import FAISS

embedding = OpenAIEmbeddings(model="text-embedding-ada-002")
retriever = FAISS.from_documents(texts,
embedding).as_retriever(search_kwargs={"k": 10})
```

- ✓ Creates embeddings for document chunks using OpenAl's text-embedding-ada-002 model.
- ✓ Stores embeddings in FAISS, enabling fast similarity search.
- Retrieves **top-10** relevant documents for a query.

Step 9: Retrieve Documents Based on Query

```
python
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query = "What did the president say about Ketanji Brown Jackson"
docs = retriever.invoke(query)
pretty_print_docs(docs)
```

- Searches FAISS for relevant State of the Union speech snippets.
- Prints retrieved results.

Step 10: Compress Retrieved Documents with FlashRank

```
python
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from langchain.retrievers import ContextualCompressionRetriever
from langchain.retrievers.document_compressors import FlashrankRerank
from langchain_openai import ChatOpenAI

llm = ChatOpenAI(temperature=0)
compressor = FlashrankRerank()
compression_retriever =
ContextualCompressionRetriever(base_compressor=compressor,
base_retriever=retriever)

compressed_docs = compression_retriever.invoke("What did the president
say about Ketanji Jackson Brown")
pretty_print_docs(compressed_docs)
```

- ✓ Uses FlashrankRerank() to further filter retrieved documents.
- Reduces hallucinations by ensuring only highly relevant documents are passed to the LLM.

Step 11: Generate Final Answer with Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)

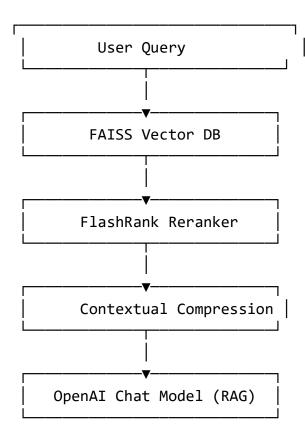
```
python
CopyEdit
from langchain.chains import RetrievalQA

chain = RetrievalQA.from_chain_type(llm=llm,
retriever=compression_retriever)
chain.invoke(query)
```

- ✓ Uses retrieved and compressed documents as context for LLM-generated responses.
- **☑** Ensures factual accuracy by limiting model output to retrieved context.

Architecture Diagram

graphql
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Missing Concepts (Improvements)

- Use Hybrid Retrieval (BM25 + Embeddings).
- **Experiment with Other Rerankers** (ColBERT, RankT5).
- ✓ Implement Query Expansion for better search results.

Solution Final Thoughts

This code **efficiently retrieves, ranks, and filters** documents before feeding them to an LLM, ensuring **speed, accuracy, and factual correctness**.

1. Line-by-Line Explanation

Installation & Setup

python Copy

!pip install flashrank

• Installs the flashrank library for lightweight re-ranking of search results.

Helper Function

- **Purpose**: Formats and prints documents with their metadata.
- Mechanics:
 - Iterates over a list of documents.
 - Separates documents with --- lines.
 - o Includes page content and metadata for each document.

Query & Passages

```
python
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query = "How to speedup LLMs?"
passages = [ ... ]
```

- **Query**: A question about speeding up large language models (LLMs).
- **Passages**: A list of 5 example documents (with id, text, and metadata) to be reranked.

FlashRank Initialization

```
python
Copy
from flashrank.Ranker import Ranker, RerankRequest

def get_result(query, passages, choice):
    if choice == "Nano":
```

```
ranker = Ranker() # Uses default model (ms-marco-TinyBERT-L-
2-v2)
    elif choice == "Small":
        ranker = Ranker(model_name="ms-marco-MiniLM-L-12-v2",
cache_dir="/opt")
    elif choice == "Medium":
        ranker = Ranker(model_name="rank-T5-flan", cache_dir="/opt")
    elif choice == "Large":
        ranker = Ranker(model_name="ms-marco-MultiBERT-L-12",
cache_dir="/opt")

    rerankrequest = RerankRequest(query=query, passages=passages)
    results = ranker.rerank(rerankrequest)
    print(results)
    return results
```

- Purpose: Reranks passages using a selected FlashRank model.
- Mechanics:
 - Initializes a Ranker with a model based on the choice (Nano/Small/Medium/Large).
 - Creates a RerankRequest object with the query and passages.
 - o Executes reranking and returns results.

Timing Execution

```
python
Copy
%%time
get_result(query, passages, "Nano")
```

• **Purpose**: Measures the execution time of reranking with the Nano model.

LangChain Integration

```
python
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!pip install langchain_community langchain_openai
from google.colab import userdata
```

```
OPENAI_API_KEY = userdata.get('OPENAI_API_KEY')
os.environ["OPENAI_API_KEY"] = OPENAI_API_KEY
```

Installs LangChain libraries and sets up OpenAI API key.

Document Loading & Splitting

```
python
Copy
from langchain_community.document_loaders import TextLoader
from langchain_text_splitters import RecursiveCharacterTextSplitter

documents = TextLoader("/content/state_of_the_union.txt").load()
text_splitter = RecursiveCharacterTextSplitter(chunk_size=500,
chunk_overlap=100)
texts = text_splitter.split_documents(documents)
for id, text in enumerate(texts):
    text.metadata["id"] = id
```

- **Purpose**: Loads a text file and splits it into chunks for processing.
- Mechanics:
 - Uses TextLoader to load a document.
 - Splits text into 500-token chunks with 100-token overlap.
 - Adds an id to each chunk's metadata.

Vector Store & Retriever

```
python
Copy
from langchain_community.embeddings import OpenAIEmbeddings
from langchain_community.vectorstores import FAISS

embedding = OpenAIEmbeddings(model="text-embedding-ada-002")
retriever = FAISS.from_documents(texts,
embedding).as_retriever(search_kwargs={"k": 10})
```

- **Purpose**: Creates a vector store for semantic search.
- Mechanics:

- Uses OpenAI embeddings (text-embedding-ada-002) to convert text to vectors.
- o Builds a FAISS index for efficient similarity search.
- o Retriever fetches the top 10 documents for a query.

Re-Ranking with FlashRank

```
python
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from langchain.retrievers import ContextualCompressionRetriever
from langchain.retrievers.document_compressors import FlashrankRerank

compressor = FlashrankRerank()
compression_retriever = ContextualCompressionRetriever(
    base_compressor=compressor, base_retriever=retriever
)
compressed_docs = compression_retriever.invoke("What did the president say about Ketanji Jackson Brown")
```

- **Purpose**: Combines retrieval and re-ranking to improve result quality.
- Mechanics:
 - o FlashrankRerank reorders documents based on relevance.
 - o ContextualCompressionRetriever wraps the retriever and compressor.

Question Answering

```
python
Copy
from langchain.chains import RetrievalQA

chain = RetrievalQA.from_chain_type(llm=llm,
retriever=compression_retriever)
chain.invoke(query)
```

- **Purpose**: Answers questions using the compressed/reranked documents.
- Mechanics:
 - Uses ChatOpenAI (LLM) to generate answers.
 - o Combines retrieval, re-ranking, and LLM inference.

2. Key Concepts

Re-Ranking

- What: Reordering search results to prioritize relevance.
- **Why**: Initial retrievers (e.g., FAISS) use vector similarity, which may miss contextual relevance.
- FlashRank: Uses lightweight cross-encoder models to score query-passage pairs.

Cross-Encoders

- **Mechanism**: Process the query and document together (unlike bi-encoders).
- Advantage: Higher accuracy but slower than bi-encoders.
- Models:
 - o Nano: TinyBERT (4MB, fastest).
 - o **Small**: MiniLM (34MB, best accuracy).
 - o **Medium**: T5-FLAN (110MB, zero-shot).
 - o Large: MultiBERT (150MB, multilingual).

LangChain Components

- **Retriever**: Fetches documents (FAISS here).
- **Compressor**: Improves results (FlashrankRerank here).
- **Chain**: Combines retrieval, compression, and LLM (RetrievalQA).

3. Architecture Diagram

4. Missing Points

1. Model Details:

- a. FlashRank models are based on **cross-encoders**, which are slower but more accurate than bi-encoders.
- b. rank-T5-flan (Medium) is a text-to-text model, while others are BERT-based.

2. Use Case:

a. Designed for serverless deployments (AWS Lambda, Vercel) due to low memory usage.

3. Performance Tradeoffs:

a. Nano is 4MB but less accurate; Small is 34MB with best accuracy.

4. Alternatives:

a. Compare with other rerankers (Cohere, SentenceTransformers).

5. Quantitative Results:

a. Missing benchmarks (e.g., latency vs. accuracy for each model).

6. Error Handling:

a. No code for handling API failures or model loading errors.

7. Cache Directory:

a. cache_dir="/opt" is specific to deployment environments (e.g., Docker/cloud VMs).