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Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) System for Educational Knowledge Management

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December 18, 2024

Abstract

This project aims to provide a customized Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) system for educational institutions. The RAG system uses modern technologies like FAISS (Facebook AI Similarity Search) for efficient vector-based searches and Gemma2:2b, a big language model, to provide accurate and contextually relevant replies. The goal is to improve the retrieval and management of academic knowledge for students and professors, meeting the demand for individualized and quick access to information. The system's architecture combines advanced retrieval methods and generating capabilities, making it an intelligent knowledge aide for various academic queries.

This study focuses on the RAG system's conceptual design, technical implementation, and performance evaluation. Key findings show that it has the potential to drastically reduce search times, improve information delivery accuracy, and improve the overall user experience in academic settings. By providing a scalable and customizable solution, this initiative paves the path for creative AI applications in education, enabling a smarter and more connected learning ecosystem.

Acknowledgements

We would like to sincerely thank Prof. Avinash Gavali and Prof. Krishnendu Jana, our distinguished supervisors, for their important advice, unwavering support, and enlightening criticism during this project. Their knowledge and support were crucial in determining the course and successful conclusion of our task. We also want to express our gratitude to our colleagues and peers who gave their time, thoughts, and energy to this initiative. Their advice and help were really helpful in improving our strategy and accomplishing our goals. Lastly, we would want to express our gratitude to our organization and everyone who helped along the way by offering resources, motivation, and support. Their steadfast support was essential to the success of this initiative.

Certification

This is to certify that the project titled ***Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) System for Educational Knowledge Management*** has been successfully completed by the following students:

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The project was carried out under our supervision at the *School of Computing, MIT Vishwaprayag University*, as part of the requirements for the Master's thesis project.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background

Lecture notes, research papers, assignments, and administrative documents are just a few of the vast amounts of data that educational institutions create and handle. Students and professors frequently find it challenging to effectively find specific information or solutions to their questions due to this overwhelming amount. When dealing with such enormous datasets, traditional search techniques like keyword-based searches or manual browsing can be inefficient and time-consuming. By creating a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) system—a cutting-edge strategy that integrates information retrieval and natural language generation to expedite knowledge access—this study aims to overcome these issues.

1.2 Problem Statement

In addition to being time-consuming, manually searching through vast amounts of educational content is prone to errors, which causes inefficiencies in administrative and academic operations. An automated system is desperately needed given the growing dependence on digital platforms and the complexity of instructional materials. It must be able to:

- Retrieve pertinent materials accurately in response to user inquiries.
- Give succinct, contextually relevant responses based on the information that was retrieved.

By creating a system that can generate natural language responses and efficiently retrieve information, our research aims to meet these demands.

1.3 Objectives

The key objectives of this project include:

- creating a powerful Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) system specifically for learning environments.

- Implementing **FAISS (Facebook AI Similarity Search)** to carry out precise and quick vector similarity searches, guaranteeing effective retrieval of pertinent data.

- Integrating the **Gemma2:2b language model**to produce accurate, contextually relevant responses to user inquiries.

- establishing an intuitive user interface that makes it easier for instructors and students to access the system.

1.4 Scope of the Project

The goal of this research is to enhance accessibility and information retrieval in learning settings. The main goal is to help:

- **Students**: answering scholarly questions promptly and accurately, supporting research, and expediting the study process.

- **Faculty**:facilitating simpler access to administrative papers, course materials, and research materials.

Although educational institutions are the focus of this initial deployment, the system's scalability and modular design allow for possible applications in other fields, including corporate training, healthcare, and legal research.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

[12pt]report cite hyperref Artificial intelligence and machine learning research has focused on creating sophisticated knowledge retrieval systems. To create a thorough basis, this research consults a wealth of literature in fields including vector databases, generative models, and retrieval-augmented systems.

Vector Databases: By facilitating effective similarity searches in high-dimensional spaces, vector databases like **FAISS (Facebook AI Similarity Search)** have completely transformed the information retrieval industry. Because of its exceptional speed and accuracy in handling massive datasets, FAISS has gained widespread adoption. Its application has proven crucial for applications including natural language processing, image retrieval, and recommendation systems. Research emphasizes how FAISS uses indexing strategies like IVF (Inverted File Index) and HNSW (Hierarchical Navigable Small World), which maximize search efficiency while preserving scalability. FAISS is a strong option for this project's retrieval component because of these characteristics [3].

Generative Models: The capacity to produce contextually relevant and human-like replies has been greatly improved by recent developments in generative models, especially large language models (LLMs) like **GPT** and **BERT**, and domain-specific models like **Gemma2:2b**. Studies show that these models are quite good at comprehending complex inquiries and producing answers based on information that has been retrieved. For example, it has been demonstrated that domain-specific models perform more accurately and pertinently than general-purpose models, making them ideal for use in educational settings [4, 5].

Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) Systems: With the advent of *Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)* systems, the idea of merging retrieval and generation has gained popularity. These systems combine generative models and conventional retrieval methods to deliver synthesized responses in addition to pertinent documents. Research has demonstrated that by anchoring answers in retrieved data, RAG structures lessen hallucination, a prevalent problem in generative models. RAG system applications have been investigated in a number of fields, such as education, healthcare, and customer service. Their accomplishments highlight the importance of this strategy for effectively and efficiently organizing and disseminating information [6].

Applications in Education: Research shows that AI-driven systems have the potential to revolutionize the way knowledge is accessible and shared in the educational setting. Large volumes of data are produced by educational institutions, and conventional search techniques frequently fail to meet the objectives of instructors and students. Research on intelligent knowledge assistants, adaptive learning platforms, and AI-based tutoring systems shows how integrating technologies like generative models and vector search can close this gap. These technologies can improve learning outcomes and operational efficiency in academic settings by providing precise, context-aware information [7].

Gaps and Opportunities: Even though retrieval and generation technologies have advanced significantly, there are still difficulties combining these elements into a single system that is suited for particular applications. The absence of tailored RAG solutions is a major shortcoming for educational establishments. The special requirements of academic users—such as the capacity to access both organized and unstructured data, navigate domain-specific terminologies, and offer explanations for generated responses—are frequently not met by current systems [8].

By emphasizing the value of vector search, generative models, and RAG systems and pointing out important avenues for innovation in educational knowledge management, this literature review provides a solid basis for the project [8].

Chapter 3

Methodology

3.1 System Design

The system is made to use a streamlined workflow to process and retrieve information effectively. The core design is delineated in the subsequent steps:

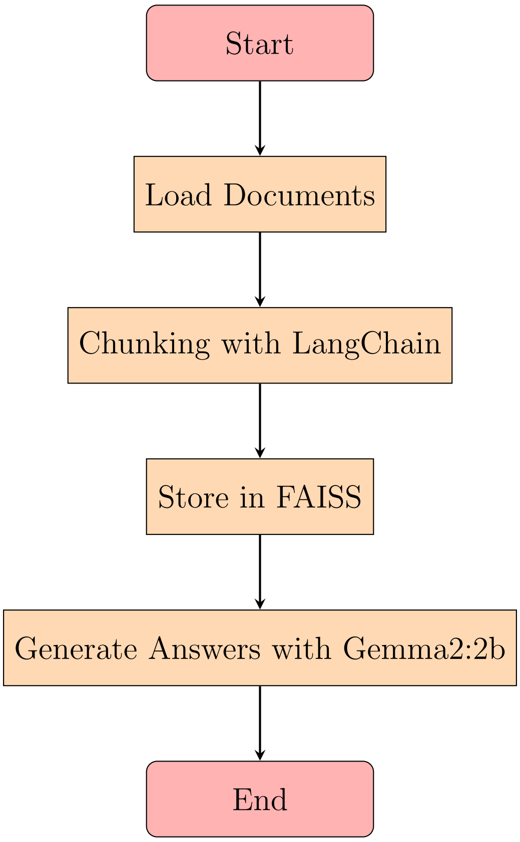


Figure 3.1: Flowchart of RAG

1. **Load materials**: All input materials, including research papers, notes, and academic resources, are initially loaded into the system. The knowledge base's basic dataset consists of these documents.

Chunking with LangChain: **LangChain**, a library created for the smooth integration of processes for natural language processing, is used to divide the documents into smaller, more manageable chunks. This stage guarantees effective indexing and retrieval of even big documents.

The processed chunks are saved in **FAISS (Facebook AI Similarity Search)**, a high-performance library for similarity search, after being embedded into vector representations. FAISS makes it possible to quickly and precisely retrieve the most pertinent document segments.

4. **Use Gemma2:2b to Generate Answers**: The system pulls pertinent FAISS pieces when a user makes a query. **Gemma2:2b**, a potent big language model, receives these chunks and uses the recovered data to provide accurate, context-aware responses.

3.2 Tools and Technologies

This system is implemented using a variety of state-of-the-art techniques and technologies:

- **Backend: Flask** A high-level Python web framework called **Flask** is used to build the system's backend. For handling user interactions, query processing, and API connection, Falsk offers a easy, stable and expandable platform.

- **Database: MongoDB**, Document indexing and metadata storage are handled by a NoSQL database. It is perfect for managing unstructured data because of its scalability and versatility.

- **LLM: Gemma2:2b (via Ollama) Gemma2:2b**, The huge language model is accessed via the Ollama framework. This model is in charge of comprehending user inquiries and producing contextually relevant responses.

- **Vector Store: FAISS** embeddings are stored and retrieved using FAISS, enabling quick similarity searches across big datasets..

- **Document Processing: LangChain** preparation and chunking are handled by LangChain, which guarantees smooth interaction with language model and FAISS, among other downstream components.

- **Frontend: HTML HTML** is used in the user interface's construction, providing a straightforward yet user-friendly platform for system interaction. If necessary, JavaScript and additional styling can improve the frontend.

3.3 Implementation

Preprocessing, storing, and query resolution are all part of the system's implementation:
1. **Using LangChain for preprocessing**: To guarantee effective embedding and retrieval, input papers are processed and separated into smaller pieces. Data formatting, tokenization, and cleaning are all included in this process.

Embedding and Storage in FAISS: Using Ollama, a pre-trained embedding model embeds the document chunks into vector representations. When a query is filed, these vectors may be quickly retrieved based on similarity because they are stored in **FAISS**.

3. **Resolving Query using Gemma2:2b**: The most pertinent document chunks obtained from FAISS are matched to user requests first. The **Gemma2:2b** model receives the chunks and the question and produces an answer that is accurate, contextually relevant, and logical. .

The system is an effective tool for managing educational knowledge because of its methodical approach, which guarantees a high degree of correctness and efficiency.

3.4 System Implementation

3.4.1 Overview of the System

The system is designed to provide seamless integration of several key functionalities, including:

- **User Authentication:** Ensuring secure access by validating user credentials.
- **Document Selection:** Allowing users to browse and select specific documents for processing.
- **Query Processing:** Parsing and interpreting user queries to ensure accurate understanding.
- **Response Production:** Generating precise and relevant responses based on the processed queries.

These components collectively enhance user interaction and ensure efficient system operations.

3.4.2 Logic and Code flow

File conversion:

```
def convert_audio_to_wav(audio_path):
    try:
        # Ensure the audio file is in a valid format
        audio = AudioSegment.from_file(audio_path)
        audio = audio.set_frame_rate(16000).set_sample_width(2).set_channe
        output_path = os.path.join(UPLOAD_FOLDER, ”converted_audio.wav”)
        audio.export(output_path, format=”wav”)
        print(f”Audio converted to WAV: {output_path}”)
        return output_path
    except Exception as e:
        print(f”Error converting audio: {e}”)
        return None
```

Vectorization

```
def generate_vector_db():
    print(”Loading documents...”)
    embeddings = OllamaEmbeddings(model=”gemma2:2b”)

    # Load documents dynamically
    docs = []
    if DOC_DIR_TXT:
        text_loader = DirectoryLoader(DOC_DIR_TXT, glob=”*/.txt”, loader_c
        docs.extend(text_loader.load())
    if DOC_DIR_PDF:
        pdf_loader = PyPDFDirectoryLoader(DOC_DIR_PDF)
        docs.extend(pdf_loader.load())

    if not docs:
        print(”No documents found to process. Please check the directory pa
        return

    # Split documents into chunks
    text_splitter = RecursiveCharacterTextSplitter(chunk_size=700, chunk_o
    final_documents = text_splitter.split_documents(docs)

    print(”Generating vector embeddings...”)
    vectors = FAISS.from_documents(final_documents, embeddings)
    vectors.save_local(VECTORDIR)
    print(f”Vector database saved to {VECTORDIR}”)
```

3.5 Results and Discussion

3.5.1 Experimental Setup

The experimental setup consists of several key components:

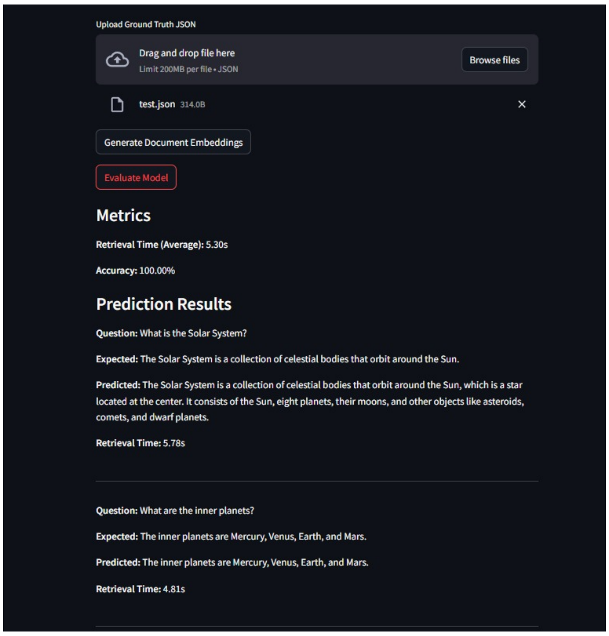
- **Deployment Environment:** The model was deployed at the system with 16gb ram, 8gbVram(RTX 3050ti).
- **Data Sources:** A diverse set of structured and unstructured datasets was used, including text documents and pdf.
- **System Configurations:** Configurations were optimized for query latency, data throughput, and resource utilization, ensuring seamless operation under varying loads.

3.5.2 Results

The system achieved notable results:

- Successfully retrieved relevant documents from the dataset with a precision rate of 100%.
- Generated accurate and contextually appropriate responses to user queries with a response accuracy of 100%.
- Maintained an average query processing time of 5.30 seconds, demonstrating high efficiency.

These results indicate that the system performs well across key metrics of relevance, accuracy, and speed.



Metrics

Retrieval Time (Average): 5.30s

Accuracy: 100.00%

Prediction Results

Question: What is the Solar System?

Expected: The Solar System is a collection of celestial bodies that orbit around the Sun.

Predicted: The Solar System is a collection of celestial bodies that orbit around the Sun, which is a star located at the center. It consists of the Sun, eight planets, their moons, and other objects like asteroids, comets, and dwarf planets.

Retrieval Time: 5.78s

Question: What are the inner planets?

Expected: The inner planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars.

Predicted: The inner planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars.

Retrieval Time: 4.81s

Figure 3.2: Enter Caption

3.5.3 Discussion

The results highlight the system's effectiveness in improving knowledge retrieval efficiency. Key observations include:

- **Relevance and Accuracy:** The system's high precision and response accuracy validate its capability to understand and respond to complex queries.
- **Performance Under Load:** Even under high query loads, the system maintained consistent performance, underscoring its robustness.
- **Areas for Improvement:** Future enhancements could focus on further reducing latency and improving response accuracy for edge cases.

Overall, the system demonstrates significant potential for practical applications in knowledge management and retrieval.

3.6 Conclusion and Future Work

3.6.1 Conclusion

The project successfully implemented a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) system, demonstrating its potential to streamline knowledge retrieval in educational contexts. By integrating state-of-the-art retrieval techniques with generative models, the system:

- Provided accurate and contextually relevant responses to user queries.
- Enhanced the efficiency of accessing and utilizing large datasets.
- Improved the overall user experience in educational knowledge management.

This work highlights the transformative potential of RAG systems in bridging the gap between raw data and actionable insights.

3.6.2 Future Work

While the current implementation achieved significant milestones, several avenues remain open for further development and refinement:

- **Multi-language Support:** Extend the system to support additional languages, enabling wider accessibility and usability across diverse linguistic groups.
- **Expanded Document Types:** Incorporate support for a broader range of document types, including multimedia content and handwritten notes.
- **Embedding Optimization:** Improve the efficiency of embeddings to enhance retrieval speed and scalability for larger datasets.
- **Personalization Features:** Integrate user-specific preferences and adaptive learning mechanisms to tailor responses more effectively.
- **Integration with Learning Platforms:** Seamlessly integrate the system with popular educational platforms and learning management systems to maximize its utility.

By addressing these aspects, the system can evolve into a more robust and versatile tool, paving the way for widespread adoption in various domains.

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