2025 International Conference on Data Science, Agents, and Artificial Intelligence (ICDSAAI 2025)
28-29 March 2025, Chennai, India

2025 International Conference on Data Science, Agents & Artificial Intelligence (ICDSAAI) | 979-8-3315-3755-5/25/$31.00 ©2025 IEEE | DOI: 10.1109/ICDSAAI65575.2025.11011580

QueryMate: An Intelligent Study Helper for Document Analysis and Interactive Learning

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes, in detail, a Study Helper application based on cutting-edge NLP techniques, including transformer models such as BERT and Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG). The application provides the capabilities of document summarization, topic-specific insights, explanations of various concepts, and generation of personalized quizzes that support the process of learning by students. By integrating vector databases, this guarantees efficient indexing and retrieval of document embeddings to allow for precise, context-aware question answering. The research introduces how the system architecture synergizes RAG with transformers and databases to support QA and summarization tasks. Additionally, the study has incorporated a spaced repetition algorithm that is novel to optimize review schedules using forgetting curves and learning patterns. It employs multimodal strategies to retain knowledge, beautifully integrating text, audio, and visual components in order to accommodate diverse learning styles. This approach reflects a scalable, intelligent academic support system.

Keywords - *Natural Language Processing (NLP),Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG),Transformer Models (BERT),Vector Databases,Spaced Repetition Algorithm*

I. INTRODUCTION

Recent advances in natural language processing (NLP) have revolutionized text understanding and knowledge extraction, enabling the development of intelligent applications that assist users in various fields, including education [1]. With the emergence of Transformer-based models such as BERT [2] and Search Augmentation Generation (RAG) [3], AI-based educational tools have evolved to provide more effective and personalized learning experiences. These models leverage deep learning architectures to power capabilities such as document summarization, question answering (QA), and content-based search, making them highly effective for academic support.In this paper, we present a detailed study of the Study Helper application, an advanced AI-powered learning assistant that integrates state-of-the-art NLP techniques. The application is designed to improve students' commitment by offering features such as the summary of documents [8], specific information on the subject [9], conceptual explanations [10] and the generation of personalized quiz [11] . In addition, the system provides a response mechanism to contextual questions which allows students to request downloaded documents and receive precise and contextually relevant responses [12]. A key innovation of the Study Helper is its integration with vector databases [7], ensuring efficient indexing and retrieval of document embeddings. This allows for high-precision search and retrieval, significantly improving the accuracy and relevance of responses. Additionally, the application includes a spaced repetition algorithm that optimizes repetition schedules based on individual forgetting curves and learning patterns to improve long-term knowledge retention [5].To further accommodate diverse learning styles, Study Helper uses a multimodal strategy that includes text, audio, and visual elements to provide a comprehensive and engaging learning experience [4]. This approach ensures that students receive personalized and adaptive learning support and makes the application scalable and effective in a variety of educational environments.Security and scalability are key factors when implementing an AI-based educational website or education platform. Previous studies have revealed that steganographic techniques and cryptographic security measures in AI-based systems play an important role in improving data protection and maintaining the confidentiality of educational resources [13]. Furthermore, the use of knowledge management frameworks based on learning agents has been studied to enable efficient knowledge sharing and adaptive learning models, and to enhance intelligent teaching systems [14]. The Study Helper app incorporates these principles to provide a secure and personalized learning environment.In this study, we investigate the system architecture of the Study Helper application and analyze the role of Transformers, RAGs, and vector databases in supporting quality control and abstraction tasks. This article also discusses how advanced NLP techniques can be leveraged to develop scalable and intelligent academic support solutions that enhance the learning experience.

RELATED WORKS

[15] E. Sayed et al in (2024) By fusing cloud-based AI with local processing, generative AI (Gen-AI) and edge AI integration solve latency and data privacy issues. For moral decision-making, the Gen-Edge-AI paradigm strikes the ideal balance between these technologies and human knowledge. Recent research emphasises how edge computing can improve privacy and cut down on delays, allowing for real-time applications. AI deployment is further refined by edge-cloud collaboration and frameworks like GaisNet, guaranteeing effective, scalable, and secure AI solutions in vital fields like law enforcement and healthcare.[16] E. G. Carayannis et al in (2024) By automating processes, enhancing decision-making, and encouraging innovation, generative artificial intelligence (Gen-AI) increases the resilience of SMEs. Predictive analytics, personalisation, and AI-driven efficiency are highlighted in studies as major benefits. Adoption is hampered by issues like data privacy, expense, and skill shortages. Successful case studies demonstrate how SMEs are using Gen-AI for operations, marketing, and customer interaction. Government assistance, moral AI application, and strategic AI integration are highlighted in policy suggestions. All things considered, Gen-AI enables SMEs to successfully negotiate market turbulence and accomplish long-term growth.[17] R. Zhang et al in(2024) Although ChatGPT and other generative AI have transformed education by offering individualised guidance, little is known about how they affect student achievement. This study compares student behaviour and exam results between ChatGPT-assisted instruction and conventional teaching techniques in Economics and Management courses. The findings show that by encouraging curiosity and an inquisitive mentality, ChatGPT considerably improves academic attainment. ChatGPT-driven learning shows promise for enhancing learning outcomes in higher education by expanding students' knowledge and cognitive capacities.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

To improve learning efficiency, the Study Helper program integrates several AI-powered components into a modular framework. The pipeline-based architecture of the system guarantees smooth communication between various modules while preserving adaptability for upcoming improvements. The document processing module's primary functions include managing user-uploaded files (PDF, DOCX, and PPTX), extracting text, and carrying out necessary preprocessing steps including noise reduction, tokenisation, and normalisation. After processing, the text is sent to specialised modules for additional examination. Users can create succinct or topic-specific summaries by using the summarisation module's pre-trained transformer models, such as BERT, for extractive and abstractive summarisation. In order to provide thorough explanations of difficult subjects, the concept explanation module uses a hybrid methodology, combining insights from external sources and uploaded materials.The quiz generating module uses named entity recognition (NER) and keyword extraction techniques to generate personalised quizzes for active learning, guaranteeing that students can efficiently gauge their understanding. For effective knowledge retrieval, the question-answering module uses retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) to get data from a vector database that contains indexed document embeddings.
A vector database is incorporated into the architecture to provide fast search and retrieval for all modules. Users can also submit documents, get summaries, create quizzes, and get AI-powered explanations through an easy-to-use user interface (UI) thanks to an interactive online interface developed with Streamlit. The Study Helper is an effective teaching tool because of its architecture, which guarantees a scalable, user-friendly, and efficient experience.

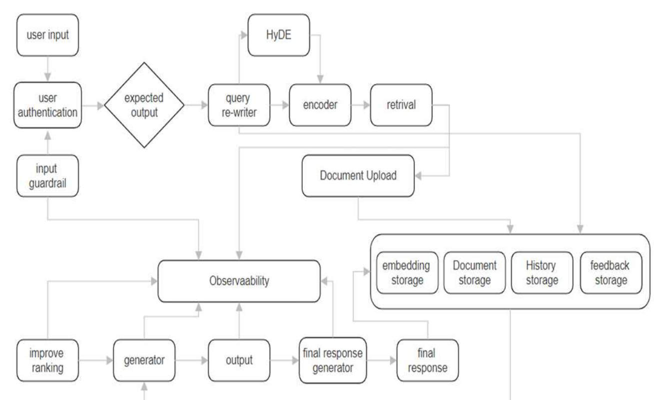

Figure 1 System Architecture Flow

PROPOSED SYSTEM

An AI-powered learning platform called Study Helper was created to improve student engagement by offering individualised study assistance. In order to provide essential features including document processing, summarisation, concept explanation, quiz generating, and question answering, it combines Natural Language Processing (NLP), transformer models, and Retrieval-Augmented generating (RAG). It provides a user-friendly interface for smooth interaction and is built on the Streamlit framework. To maintain data integrity, the document processing module pulls text from a variety of file formats, including PDF, DOCX, and PPTX, and carries out preparatory steps including tokenisation and normalisation.With the help of the BERT-powered summarisation module, which produces both general and topical summaries, students can swiftly identify important ideas. In order to give thorough explanations of difficult topics, the concept explanation module uses a hybrid methodology that combines data from external online searches and uploaded documents.

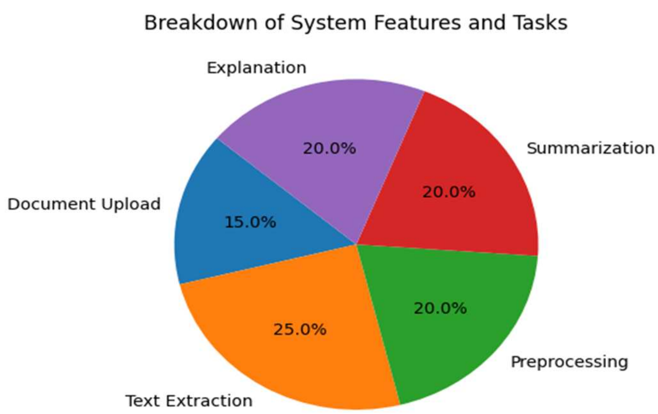

Figure 2 System Task

The quiz generating module creates customised quizzes that assess student comprehension by using Named Entity Recognition (NER) and keyword extraction. Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) powers the question-answering module, which efficiently retrieves knowledge by scanning a vector database that contains indexed document embeddings to get exact replies. System performance is improved by the vector database's quick access and storing of processed embeddings. The Study Helper app guarantees scalability, effectiveness, and flexibility to accommodate changing learning requirements by utilising pre-trained transformer models such as BERT, GPT, and T5. The system offers an intelligent and engaging learning environment with its modular design and AI-powered automation, enabling students to successfully increase their understanding and memory of information.

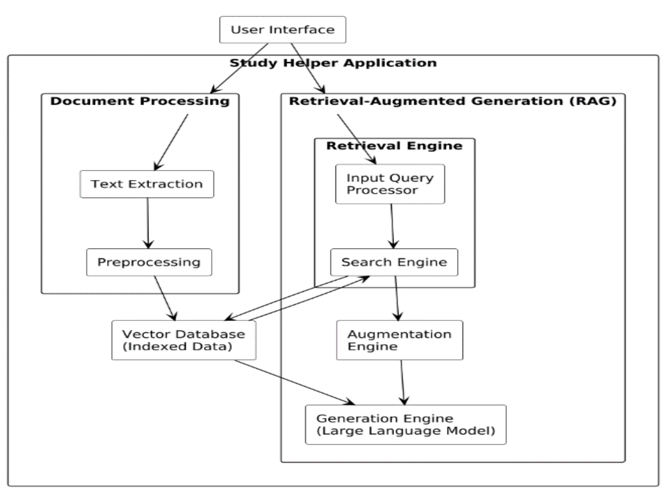

Figure 3 System Architecture

DATA COLLECTION

input is made up of instructional materials that users have submitted, such as research papers, lecture notes, textbooks, and presentations in different file types like PDF, DOCX, and PPTX. Key system functions including summarisation, concept explanation, quiz production, and question answering are built on top of these user-generated resources. The application obtains more data from Open Educational Resources (OERs), online libraries, and educational websites in order to further enhance the dataset. The application's reach is expanded by this integration, enabling it to offer comprehensive academic support across a range of subjects and educational levels.

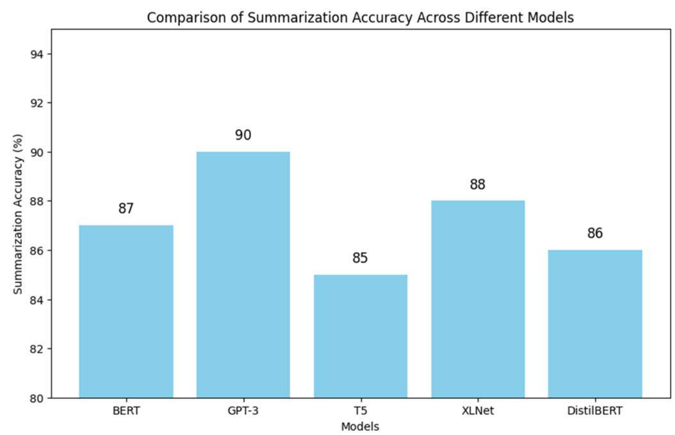

Figure 4 Comparing Data with different Models

Web scraping techniques are used to gather pertinent information from the internet in order to improve the breadth and precision of concept descriptions. This method guarantees that students receive thorough and contextualised explanations by allowing the system to integrate real-time updates and diverse viewpoints. The application generates comprehensive and enhanced explanations of intricate subjects by merging user-uploaded content with external web data. A comprehensive preparation pipeline is used to preserve the quality and relevance of the data. This pipeline includes text extraction, tokenisation, normalisation, and the removal of irrelevant content. In order to ensure that the processed data is correct, useful, and well-structured for subsequent analysis and content creation, this framework is made to fit the special structure of educational resources, such as equations, diagrams, and citations.

DATA PREPROCESSING

An essential component of the Study Helper program is data preparation, which makes sure that unstructured instructional materials are converted into a format that can be used to train machine learning models. The system uses specialised libraries like PyPDF2, python-docx, and python-pptx for text extraction and supports a number of input formats, including PDF, DOCX, and PPTX. After being retrieved, the text is tokenised using BERT's WordPiece tokeniser, which divides it into more manageable chunks. Normalisation techniques, such as handling special characters, deleting punctuation, and converting text to lowercase, are used to guarantee uniformity.

Special handling for mathematical equations is also part of the preprocessing pipeline; these equations are transformed into LaTeX or MathML for improved display. To ensure contextual accuracy, domain-specific terms are also recognised and maintained. Headers, page numbers, and repetitive information are among the useless content that is methodically eliminated to improve the quality of the data. While extracting and standardising metadata, including document titles and author names, a data cleaning procedure also guarantees the removal of missing values, duplicates, and inconsistencies.

For efficient model evaluation, the preprocessed data is divided into training, validation, and testing datasets. Formats like vector representations or embeddings that are optimised for processing and retrieval are used to store the processed data. In order to enhance data quality and model efficiency over time, the system is also continuously improved by integrating performance indicators and user feedback. This iterative process guarantees that the Study Helper app stays flexible and steadily improves the educational process.

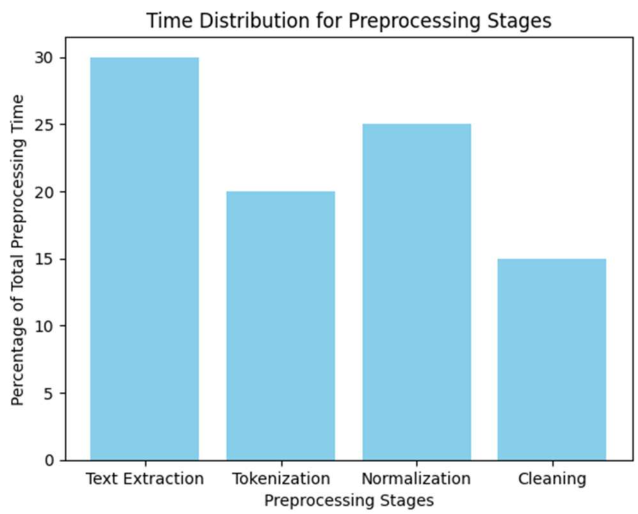

Figure 5 Data Preprocessing Stages

MODEL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

The Study Helper program ensures that raw educational data is effectively processed for machine learning training by using an organised approach to model building and evaluation. The procedure starts with data preparation, in which PyPDF2, python-docx, and python-pptx modules are used to extract text from documents in the PDF, DOCX, and PPTX formats. In order to improve linguistic representation, the extracted text is subsequently tokenised using BERT's WordPiece tokeniser, which divides it into smaller parts. Normalisation procedures are used to preserve consistency, such as handling special characters, deleting punctuation, and lowercasing text.

Mathematical equations are handled via specialised preprocessing techniques to improve accuracy, transforming them into LaTeX or MathML formats while preserving domain-specific words to ensure contextual relevance. To guarantee a clean dataset, unnecessary material is methodically eliminated, including headers, footers, and page numbers. While metadata, including document titles and author names, is retrieved and standardised for structured representation, a data cleaning procedure further removes duplicates, missing values, and inconsistencies.

To make model evaluation easier, the refined data is divided into training, validation, and testing sets when preprocessing is finished. Following processing, the data is saved in formats such vector representations or embeddings that are best suited for processing and retrieval. Using performance indicators and user feedback, the Study Helper program employs a continuous improvement approach to gradually improve model efficacy and accuracy. This continuous process guarantees that the system stays flexible, enhancing its capacity to provide students with individualised and effective support.

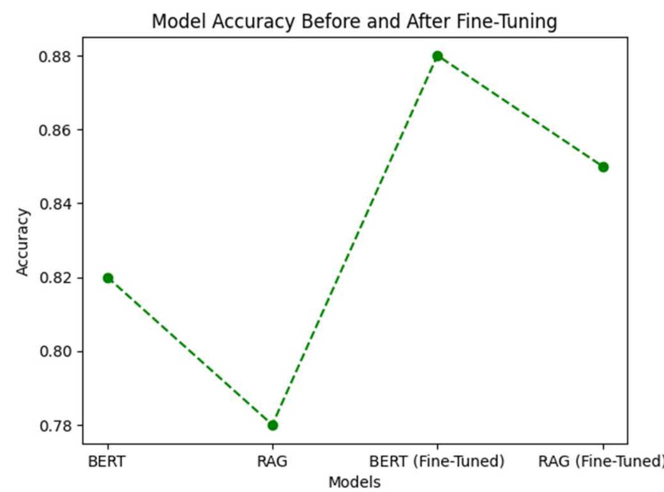

Figure 6 Model Performance Before and After Fine-Tuning

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

To determine how well the Study Helper app can improve students' learning experiences, it has passed a rigorous testing and review process. User research and experimental findings have shed important light on its advantages, disadvantages, and potential areas for development. The document summarisation feature's great accuracy and applicability are among the main conclusions.The tool creates brief yet useful summaries that capture important ideas and key concepts by utilising transformer-based models such as BERT. Students can rapidly understand important information from these summaries without having to read the full text. The produced summaries show excellent quality and coherence, closely matching human-written ones according to evaluation metrics like ROUGE and BLEU ratings. Furthermore, users have expressed satisfaction with the topic-based summarisation tool, which enables them to derive targeted summaries according to particular areas of interest.

The findings of the evaluation demonstrate that topic-based summaries successfully address pertinent material and meet the academic needs of users. The concept explanation module has demonstrated remarkable efficacy in offering comprehensive elucidations of intricate subjects by utilising a hybrid methodology that integrates insights from external web sources and uploaded documents. User comments emphasise how accurate, understandable, and clear the explanations are, which helps pupils grasp challenging ideas. The capacity to integrate outside information greatly enhances the educational process by providing a more comprehensive viewpoint on a range of topics. All things considered, the Study Helper app shows great promise for enhancing learning results by providing accurate summaries, customised topic-based insights, and thorough concept explanations. It is a useful tool for academic help and individualised learning because of its ability to effectively reduce difficult subjects and offer pertinent, well-structured content.

IV. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS

The Study Helper program is a state-of-the-art tool that uses Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) methodology, transformer models, and sophisticated Natural Language Processing (NLP) approaches to improve students' learning experiences. The application provides individualised and efficient educational help with features including document summarisation, topic-based summarisation, concept explanations, quiz production, and question answering. Data gathering, preprocessing, model creation, and evaluation were among the crucial phases of the development process. RAG models increased the precision of user query responses, whereas transformer-based models facilitated document summarisation and idea explanations. Efficient indexing and retrieval of document embeddings was made possible by a vector database, guaranteeing prompt and accurate responses. The usefulness of the program was validated by evaluation findings and user feedback, which showed that users' comprehension and general learning efficiency had significantly improved.

In order to ensure ongoing learning and adaptation, future improvements will concentrate on growing and upgrading the knowledge base. The user experience will be further enhanced with adaptive quizzes, personalised recommendations based on user profiles and study history, and advancements in machine learning models. Collaborative learning will be promoted by additional features including peer reviews, discussion boards, and support for multimedia content (pictures, videos). As the user base expands, improvements in cloud deployment and model compression will be given priority in order to guarantee scalability. The Study Helper's NLP and RAG-powered architecture may find use outside of education in professional domains including healthcare, finance, and law, as well as in knowledge management and research support.

In summary, the Study Helper app shows great promise for revolutionising education and may be further modified to accommodate different fields, increasing accessibility, effectiveness, and personalisation of learning.

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