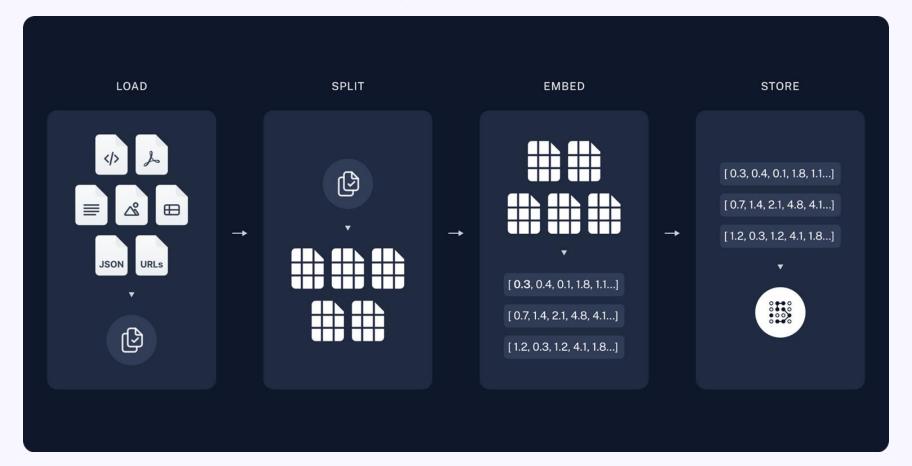
When Simple RAG Fails (and how to fix it)

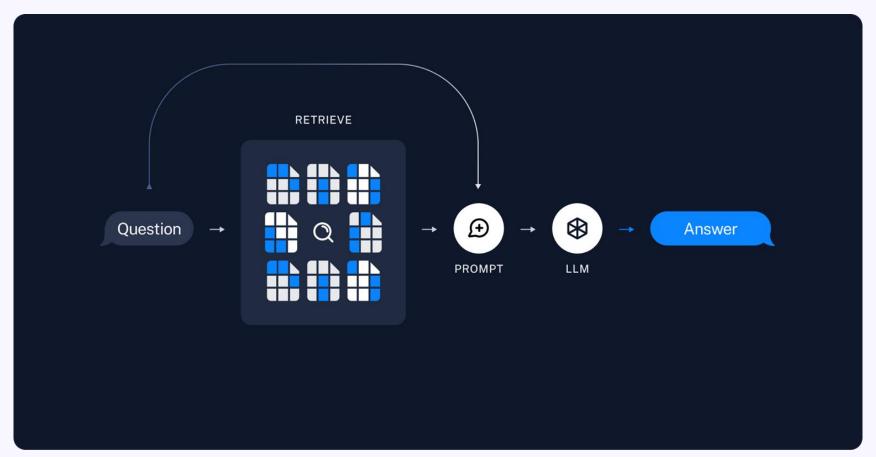


The platform developers and enterprises choose to build Al apps from prototype to production.

Typical RAG Pipeline: Indexing



Typical RAG Pipeline: Querying



When does this fail?

Failure Modes

- Questions are not relevant to corpus
- Questions are vague
- Questions are not about fact retrieval
- Questions contain multiple sub questions
- Questions require multi-hop logic
- Questions include some non-semantic components
- Conflicting information

Questions are not relevant to corpus

Example:

- Asking ChatLangChain about classical music

- Prompting to make sure LLM stays on topic
- Some classification step/check before doing retrieval

Questions are vague

Example:

- "How do I build this?"

- Prompting to ask follow up questions
- Some classification step/check before doing retrieval

Questions are not about fact retrieval

Example:

- Asking for a summary of a PDF

- Precalculate summaries during indexing and route queries there
- "Just-in-time" summaries

Questions contain multiple sub questions

Example:

- "How do I use Pinecone to build a RAG Agent" is really "How do I use Pinecone" and "How do I build a RAG Agent"

Potential Fixes

Generate multiple queries and look up all

Questions require multi-hop logic

Example:

- "Who won the 2023 super bowl and where was their head coach from?"

- Query planning
- Iterative retrieval

Questions include some non-semantic components

Example:

- "What are movies about aliens in 1980" - should filter by year=1980

Potential Fixes

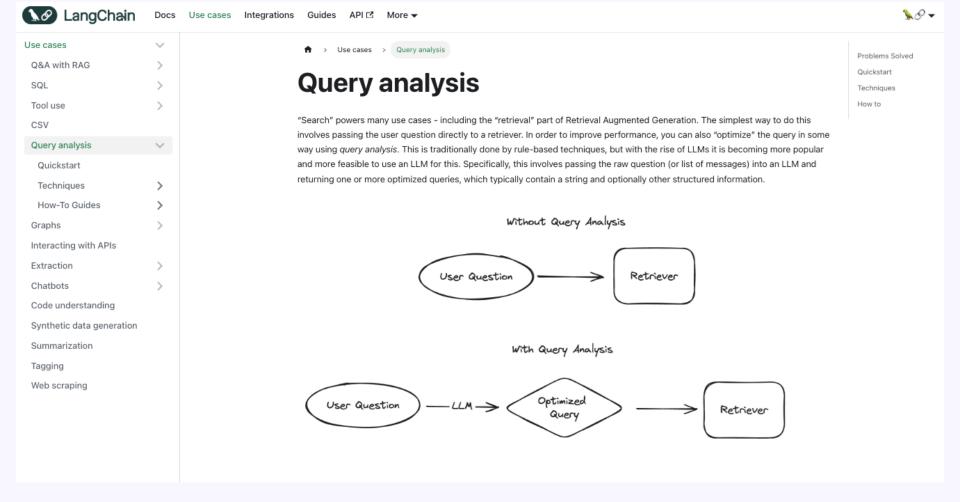
 Index metadata along with the documents, and then use LLM to generate metadata filters

Conflicting information

Examples:

- Same information in two different Notion pages
- Things changing over time

- Assign an importance score to sources, retrieve based on importance, and include in the prompt
- Assign a timestamp to sources, retrieve based on timestamp, and include in the prompt
- Filter based on time



https://python.langchain.com/docs/use_cases/query_analysis/

Which technique should I use?

Look at your data!

How to decide what data points to look for?

Explicit Feedback

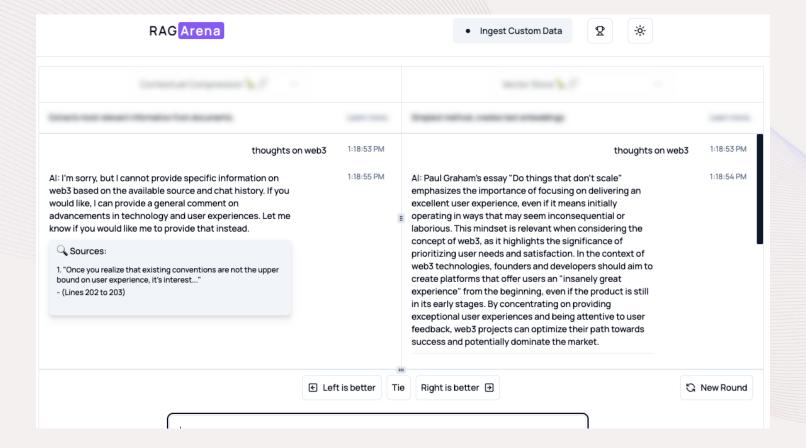
- Thumbs up/down from users

Implicit Feedback

Did they click on a link?

LLM Eval

 Did the user say anything in the conversation to suggest if it was a good or bad response?



https://www.ragarena.com/

