

Al assistant for information retrieval

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April 24, 2025

Al in Science: Reflection, Opportunity & The Road Ahead

- Dispersed collaboration documents makes it hard to have a comprehensive overview
- Manual search is not comprehensive, correlation between distinct documents
- Plots search, debugging and code snippets
- Data preservation tool
- The chatbot enables:
 - Quick access to relevant papers, code, and documentation.
 - Faster **onboarding** for new collaborators.
 - Most of the data is private (no google/chatgpt)
 - Coding assistance



Al-Powered Research Assistant

Why LLMs in Science?

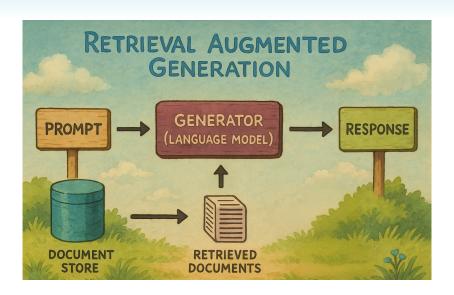
- LLMs "read" many documents in seconds.
- They contextualize results (with retrieval)
- Biggest asset is written knowledge papers, logs, chats, codes

Isn't AI Enough? Why Still Use RAG?

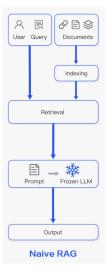
- LLaMA4 (Apr 25) has 1M context.
- But: big experiments have diverse, noisy, evolving data.
- Different techniques in Al fine-tuning, RLHF, etc. - are expensive and time-consuming.
- RAG ensures precision, traceability, and trust by grounding LLMs in curated, real sources.



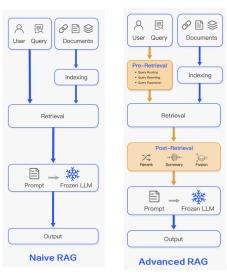
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RAG paradigms

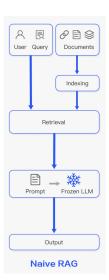


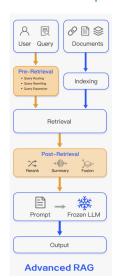
RAG paradigms

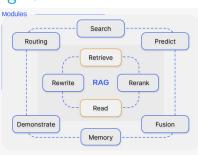


arxiv.org/pdf/2312.10997

RAG paradigms









Modular RAG

arxiv.org/pdf/2312.10997

Techologies

- Embeddings SentenceTransformer



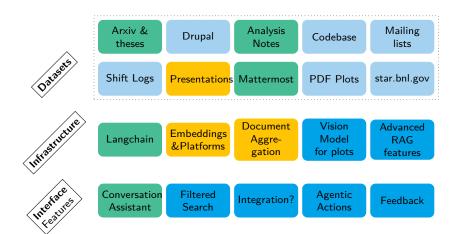
- Database chroma & Pinecone
- Interface streamlit will be changed later to sophisticated
- Data extraction



Web Scrappers



Current Plans for STAR experiment as example



Usage

- ePIC rags4eic
- Searching BNL / SDCC Web pages
- Assists users in trivial issues (if public, information could be correlated)
- Global search like a library search of all publications not only a single experiment

AG Data Plans Examples
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From Prototype to Collaboration-Wide Tool

• Already integrated:

- Arxiv, theses, starnotes, Mattermost.
- Modular architecture for expanding to new data.
- First fully local version (inc. database and LLM) at BNL

Planned expansion:

- Meeting records, mailing lists, shift logs, codebase.
- Specialized agents for targeted search (papers, plots, comments connections).
- Advanced RAG
 - Real-time search and retrieval
 - Reranking retrieved sources
 - Iterative retrieval
- Fine-tuning local LLM

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Real-life example



- O How do I connect to the SDCC?
- Here are the main steps to connect to the SDCC (Scientific Data and Computing Center):
 - Initiate a connection: Start by connecting to the SDCC using the SSH protocol. Use the
 command ssh -x your_username@ssh.sdcc.bnl.gov , where "your_username" is your
 SDCC account name¹.
 - Agent start-up: Before connecting, ensure you have started an agent where you are working².
 - Terminal access: After connecting, use the command rterm to open a terminal from one
 of the interactive nodes³.
 - Authentication: You will need your SDCC password, and if you have Multi-Factor
 Authentication (MFA) enabled, a valid code from your MFA application will be required at
 each login⁴.
 - Help and troubleshooting: If experiencing difficulties, you can file a ticket with SDCC support for assistance⁵.

Feel free to reach out for more specific questions!

Footnotes

- https://chat.sdcc.bnl.gov/star/pl/n668sggsbfgxz8o158x3t7mzar ←
- 2. https://chat.sdcc.bnl.gov/star/pl/unnz9yxkifra38sbxn5j9qnrbh €
- 3. https://chat.sdcc.bnl.gov/star/pl/o67dunfj17rcxrwmziotdx9pcw €
- https://chat.sdcc.bnl.gov/star/pl/efhrtmdnepy3bczcotha5u9cnc €
- https://chat.sdcc.bnl.gov/star/pl/akqpi8bogbbojpuinqegeq16wh €

Current Drupal



pAu centrality

... Yanfang Liu a) Presented latest Jpsi RpAu in different centrality bins, where the central events are seen to be ... attempts to obtain the true multiplicity through unfolding have not been successfully so far due to unstable results ... Blog entry - marr - 2022-03-02 12:02 - 0 comments - 7 attachments - 1 group

500 GeV Fragmentation Function Analysis Plan

... for underlying event contributions Correct pion-in-jet spectrum for underlying event contributions Correct full ... to a pionin-jet at the particle-jet level Step 2: Unfolding Unfold full jet p T spectrum, regardless of pions ...

Blog entry - drach09 - 2019-07-01 13:18 - 0 comments - 1 attachment - 0 groups

Update 07.09.2018 -- Run 9 data: 1st stab at unfolding R = 0.3 charged pi0 recoil jets

... corrected reconstruction efficiency and response matrix (in the link below), I tried unfolding the R = 0.3 charged recoil let (pi0 trigger) data.... Also, the labels are incorrect; these are R = 0.3 jets. While the results are definitely smoother than the last ...

Blog entry - dmawxc - 2019-02-19 10:49 - 0 comments - 0 attachments - 1 group

Weekly Jet Discussion Meeting ... 2020-06-01 Zilong Chang, combining triggers for unfolding Nick Lukow, run15 dijet A. LL update Dmitry Kalinkin, Jet QA. with respect to sector 20 in run12pp200 2020-04-20 Maria Zurek, Embedding OA - ...

Book page - zchang - 2020-10-04 11:56 - 0 comments - 5 attachments - 1 group

STAR PWGC meeting ... Measurement of Josi production within charged tets in p+p collisions at sort(s) = 500 GeV with the STAR experiment -Brief ... finer bins? If not, can you use finer bins at least in the unfolding? They can be combined later. There may be certain difference in the ...

Meeting - marr - 2021-01-22 12:28 - 1 comment - 0 attachments - 0 groups

Update 09.17.2018 -- Run 9 pp: Unfolding Systematics, Pi0 (R = 0.2, 9 - 11 and 11 - 15 GeV) ... indicate the different systematic variations and the unfolding method, regularization parameter, and prior used in

unfolding each variation. Note that the Pythia6 prior is triggered on ... Blog entry - dmawxc - 2019-02-13 15:53 - 0 comments - 1 attachment - 1 group

Update [01.09.2020] -- Unfolding Run 9 pp Data Using Response Matrices Made With Different DCA Cuts ... feed-down by comparing the track pT distributions in the Run 9 dijet embedding sample using different DCA cuts (1 cm vs. 3 ... efficiencies: one where the reconstructed (detector-level) jets were made from tracks with DCA < 1 cm, and another what is unfolding in jets?

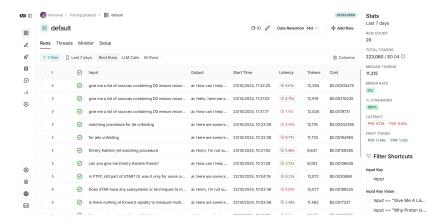


- Unfolding in jets refers to a set of statistical techniques aimed at correcting for detector effects that alter the measured distributions of iet observables.
 - The main purpose is to recover the true underlying distributions that would be observed if no detector effects were present, which are essential for accurate physics measurements1.
- · It involves inverting the convolution of spectra and resolution, making it a non-trivial mathematical problem²
- · Common methods used in unfolding include Bayesian unfolding, which employs response matrices constructed from Monte Carlo (MC) simulations to rectify the measured jet spectrum by applying probability theory3.
- Regularized unfolding is often employed to handle finite momentum resolution and reconstruction efficiency, allowing corrections to jet spectra measured at the detector laval^4
- · The quality of the unfolding can be tested through methods like MC closure and refold tests, comparing unfolded results against known distributions5.

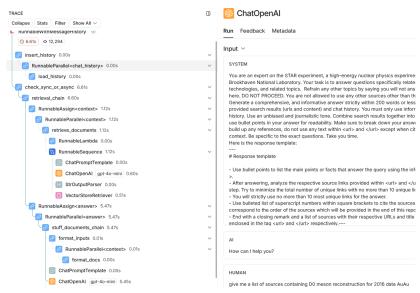
Footnotes

- https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/private/psn0804-0 ↔
- https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/private/psn0718 ←
- https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/private/psn0772 €
- https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/private/psn0804-0 €
- https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/private/psn0718 €

What is under the carpet?



What is under the carpet?



Future Vision

- Build a science where every decision, insight, and discovery is searchable and preserved.
- Al becomes not just a tool, but a collaborator.
- Fully open-source solutions

Tentative Timeline

- Proof of principle and comprehensive search to STAR, summer 2025
- Extend to other experiment by providing indexing tools, end of 2025
- Finetuning of local LLM, first half 2026
- Unified open-source tool for other science facilities, 2027

Links for CERN and EIC projects:

- Chatlas Overview Nov. 2023
 chATLAS IML Meeting Apr. 2024
- EIC RAG Meeting Jul. 2024



Challenges

Data Collection

- Extract source code from web domains and other specific tools.
- Time-intensive: The scraper must be tailored for each webpage domain.
 - Maintenance: The database requires periodic updates.

Advantage:

 Knowledge is disentangled from the LLM, eliminating the need for model retraining during database updates.

Data Quality

- Ensure documentation is detailed and up-to-date.
- Avoid duplicates to prevent model inefficiencies.
- Consider privacy



Garbage in - garbage out

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Hardware Requirements

Current setup:

- Current LLM: LLaMA v3.3 70 B Inference on one multiple Nvidia GPUs
- or use of OpenAl API gpt4o-mini
- RAM: 64GB
- Inference time: 4-10 s, depending on input and output text length (<1s for embedding retrieval)
- Database: ChromaDB 5 GB maximum
- or Pinecone API

1. Convert to text

- 2. Split into K-word chunks
- Embed each chunk with SentenceTransformer model into 384-dimensional vector space
- 4. Embed prompt P in this space
- 5. Nearest neighbour search
- Append all matching sections to prompt and query GPT-4



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arXiv:1801.3347v1 (mycl-ex] 19 Jan 2018 Production and energy Joss of strange and heavy quarks Ligium Raum (for the STAE Collaboration) Physics Department, Brookhaven Mational Laboratory, Upton, New York, NY 11973, USA F-mail: ruanifer; fmith.cbi.gr.

Data lakes over the last several years have descenteded that BOC has created a bet, desire modisstill particle (speece of freedom. Jentifical particle speece in ship tressureme seconds (or) and extended the properties of the second of the second of the second of the second of the properties of the modium. We present or distributions of particle rottes in ppe collisions from 1800 second or the second of the second of

The physics goal at RGC is to study and identify the properties of matter with partonic degrees of freedom [1]. Hear protes such as identified particles at high pr heavy flamow and jets are thought to be well collibrated probes since they are calculable in the persivative Quantum Chromodymastic (QCCO) framework (2). The single inclusive hadron production in psy collisions at pro 2 GMV/c is described by the convolution of parton distribution functions, parton-perton interaction cross

Data takes over the last several years have demonstrated that HICL has created a hot, dense demonstrated that HICL has created a hot, dense medium with partonic degrees of freedom. Electified particle spectra a thigh transverse essentium (pr) and heavy flavor are thought to be well calibrated probes thus serve as ideal tools to study the proporties of the medium, we present pr distributions of particle ratios in age collisions from STAB experiment to understand the particle production mechanisms.

These measurements will also constrain fregmentation functions in hadron-hardon collisions. In heavy ion collisions, we highlight: 1) recent measurements of strange hadrons and heavy flavor decay electrons up to high pr to study yel interaction with the medium and employe partnatic averagy loss and explore partnatic averagy loss to the property of the property of the proscreening and other possible production mechanisms.

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cf051293-d8e... -0.0104965866, 0.00714074029, -0.0402951948, 0.0390709899, 0.0462308...

METADATA
arativ id: "0812.4157v1"

published: "2008-12-22"
start_index: 3634
text: "with the system size. Even the p+p data yields reasonable fit with the thermal model with a Temperature equi

ID VALUES

d8f83b88-21f... 0.0152690168, -0.117546648, -0.0296285804, 0.0185704585, 0.0439337045,...

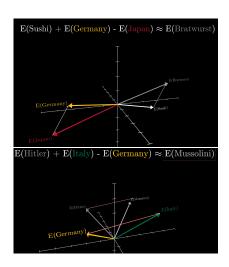
METADATA arxiv_id: "nucl-ex/0412015v1" published: "2004-12-08"

start_index: 735

VALUES

text: "saturation factor, \$\\gamma_(s)\$. Another important issue is that statistical models generally utilize Grand Ca title: "Volume Effects on Strangeness Production"

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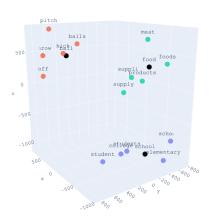


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What is STAR TPC efficiency?



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Input ~

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The uncertainty in the TPC tracking efficiency is estimated in the same way as in the \$\mu^{+}\\

Embeddings and retrieval

Using: sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L6-v2

Model Name	↑ Performance Sentence Embeddings (14 Datasets) ①	Performance Semantic Search (6 Datasets) (3	Avg. Performance	Speed	Model Size ①
sentence-t5-xxl 🕕	70.88	54.40	62.64	50	9230 ME
gtr-t5-xxl 📵	70.73	55.76	63.25	50	9230 ME
all-roberta-large-v1	70.23	53.05	61.64	800	1360 ME
all-mpnet-base-v1	69.98	54.69	62.34	2800	420 MB
gtr-t5-large 📵	69.90	54.85	62.38	800	640 MB
gtr-t5-xl 📵	69.88	55.88	62.88	230	2370 ME
all-mpnet-base-v2	69.57	57.02	63.30	2800	420 MB
sentence-t5-xl 🕕	69.23	51.19	60.21	230	2370 ME
all-MiniLM-L12-v1	68.83	50.78	59.80	7500	120 MB
sentence-t5-large 🕕	68.74	49.05	58.89	800	640 MB
all-distilroberta-v1	68.73	50.94	59.84	4000	290 MB
all-MiniLM-L12-v2	68.70	50.82	59.76	7500	120 MB
all-MiniLM-L6-v2	68.06	49.54	58.80	14200	80 MB

Embeddings and retrieval

Using: sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L6-v2

- Compact (384-dimensional), free, runs on a local CPU
- Different models on the market
- Multiple "chunks" from one document
- Insert a chunk into database, with metadata of file URL, name, etc.

Search Implemented a child-parent structure for local Chroma database:

- Parent is full doc. Children: Chunks of 200 tokens
- Search children, parent to LLM

Contextualize (with history) user query for efficient retrieval 'history_aware_retriever'

Example of ChatGPT query

Instructions

You are an expert on the STAR experiment ...

Here "s a template on how to respond \dots Use only information given in the context \dots

Retrieved Context (from database)

<context>

. . .

Title:Observation of D^0 and D^0 directed flow in AuAu collisions $s_{NN}=200 \text{GeV}$ **type**:starnotes

<url>drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/private/psn0715<url/>

Text:presents comparison of p_T - differential D^0v_2 in 0-10% and 10-40% central Au+Au collisions. The $v_2(p_T)$ for D^0 mesons in Run-2014 and Run-2016 are consistent

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```
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```

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What is under the carpet?

Title:Erratum: Observation of D0 meson nuclear modifications in Au+Au collisions at √sNN = 200 GeV

type:starnotes <url>https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/private/psn0694-0<url/>

Text: We have identified two errors in the estimation of the particle identification efficiency. Considering the high combinate background in (D^{0}) meson reconstruction in Au+Au collisions, a hybrid

Title:STAR Collaboration Beam Use Request for run 18 and run 19

type:starnotes <url>https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/public/sn0670<url/>

Text:With the Run 14 data, STAR has obtained the first result on (\Lambda_{c}) baryon production and significantly improve measurement of (D_{s}) meson production in Au+Au collisions, shown in Fig.

Title:Results from Large Scale STAR Raw Data Reconstruction on NERSC HPC

type:starnotes <url>https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/public/sn0688<url/>

Text:Computing (HTC) workloads. The allocation was successfully applied to reconstruction of the entire 2016 STAR raw d

d+Au collisions at 200 GeV. This report presents the results and

Title:Observation of \$D^{0}\$ and \$\overline{D^{0}}\$ directed flow in Au+Au collisions at √ 2 sNN = 200 GeV type:starnotes <url>https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/private/psn0715<url/>

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