



Interactive Classroom Model: GenAI' role in the Future of Education at Universities

05.03.2026
Spring Symposium –
Database Systems`26

Sylvia Melzer
University of Hamburg & University of Regensburg

Studying at Home

Reviewing Lecture Concepts with NotebookLM



Source: Illustration generated using ChatGPT (OpenAI) based on a prompt provided by Sylvia Melzer.

The Changing Classroom

Traditional Classroom

Pre-classroom Time



Preparations

University



Lectures

At Home



Homework/
Reworking

Flipped Classroom

Lectures/Preparations



Lectures/
Preparations

Classroom



Active learning
activities

At Home

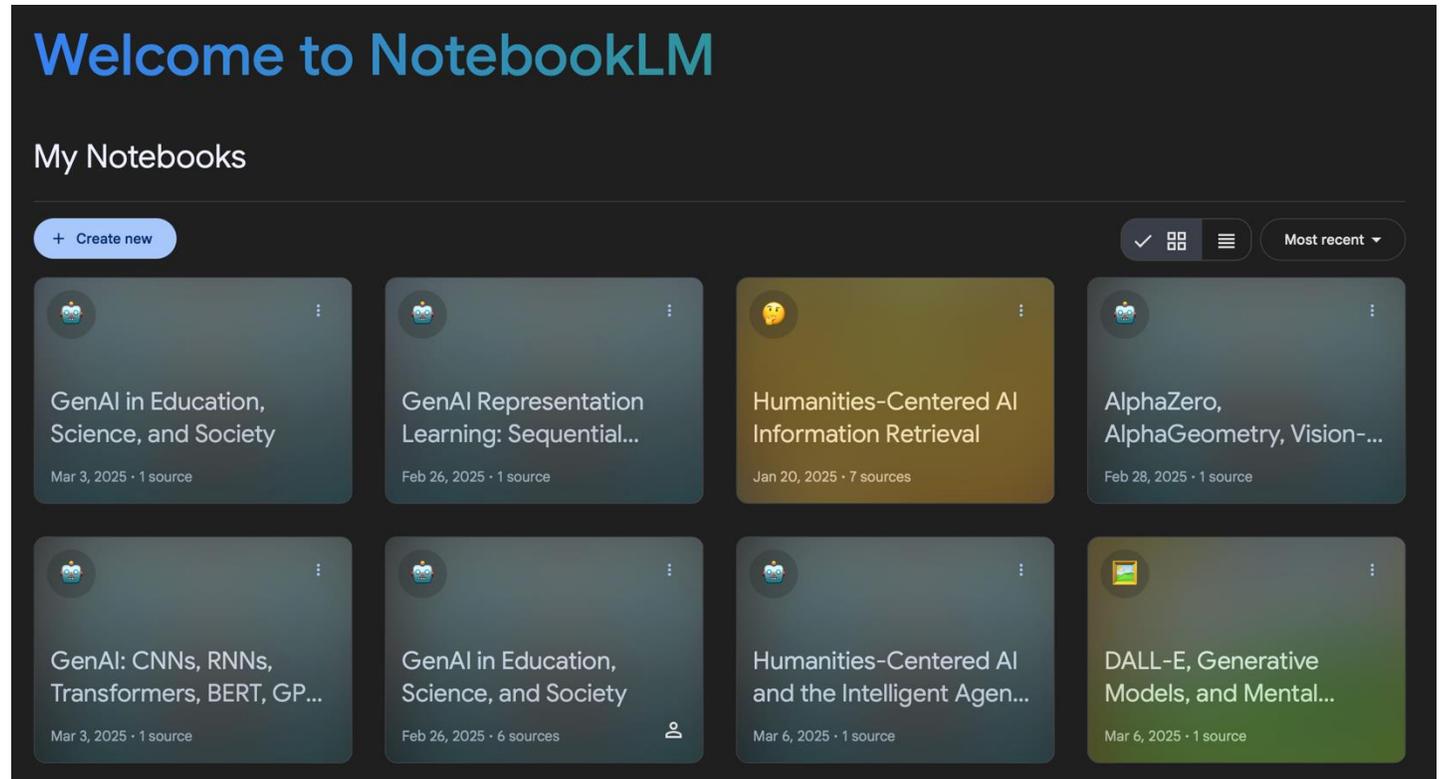


Reworking

Source: Illustration generated using ChatGPT (OpenAI) based on a prompt provided by Sylvia Melzer.

NotebookLM

- an experimental offering from Google Labs to create interactive Podcasts
- <https://notebooklm.google.com>



Sources

+ Add source

Select all sources

01_GenAI_Organization+Intro.pdf

1) Uploading the lecture files

Chat

2) Automatically Generated Summarization



GenAI in Education, Science, and Society

1 source

The provided material outlines a lecture and seminar course titled "GenAI in Education, Science, and Society," detailing its organization, learning objectives, and a comprehensive schedule covering topics from foundational AI concepts to specific GenAI models and applications. It introduces key AI concepts like agents, perception, and action planning, further exploring the challenges of AI control with the "off-switch problem." The text then transitions to Generative AI, defining its capabilities and highlighting its current and potential impact across education, science, and society, concluding with suggested seminar topics for deeper exploration of these areas.

Save to note

Add note

Audio Overview

Mind Map

3) Chat with NotebookLM about your lecture content

Start typing... 1 source

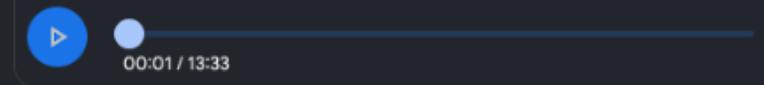
How does GenAI's functionality differentiate it from traditional AI within education, science, a

4) Create your own podcast

Studio

Audio Overview

GenAI in Education, Science, and Society



Interactive mode BETA

Notes

+ Add note

Study guide

Briefing doc

FAQ

Timeline

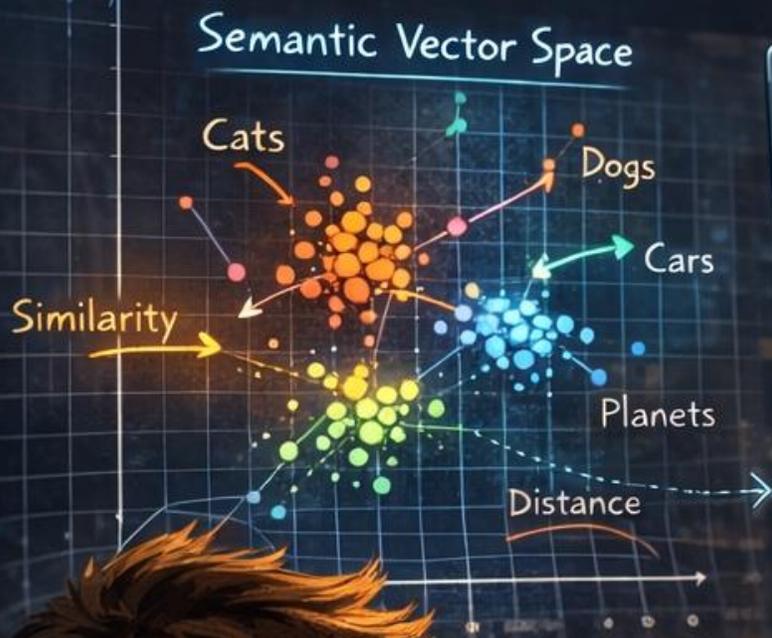
5) Be part of the podcast – be interactive!



Join

Teaching the Next Generation of Experts

Explaining Semantic Vector Spaces – with NotebookLM



NotebookLM

What is a semantic vector space?

NotebookLM:
It's a multi-dimensional space where words with similar meanings are placed close together...

Ask another question

NotebookLM, can you explain it using examples?

Sure! 'Cat' and 'Kitten' are close. 'Car' is closer to 'Truck' than to 'Planet'.

Great, show a visualization!

New Research!

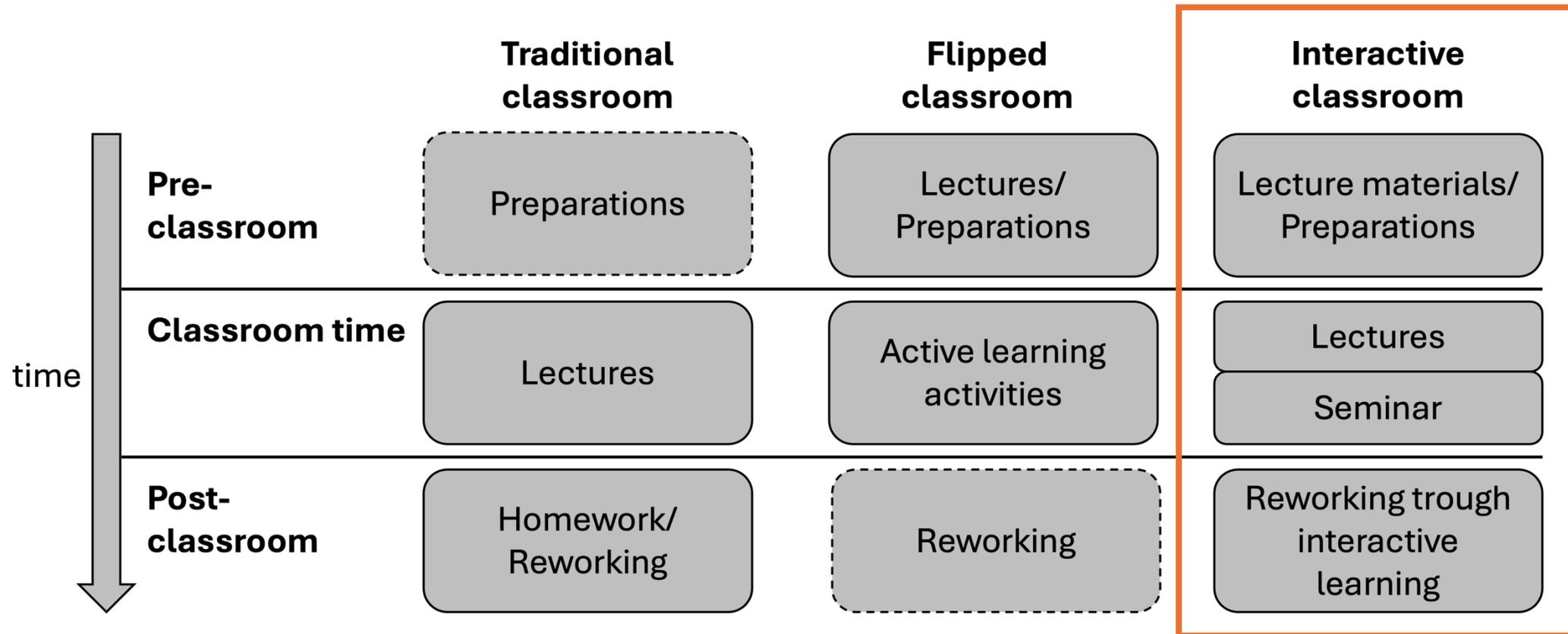
How do words relate?

- Cat → Kitten
- Dog → Wolf
- Car → Truck

Search:
"Animals vs Vehicles vs Space"

Source: Illustration generated using ChatGPT (OpenAI) based on a prompt provided by Sylvia Melzer.

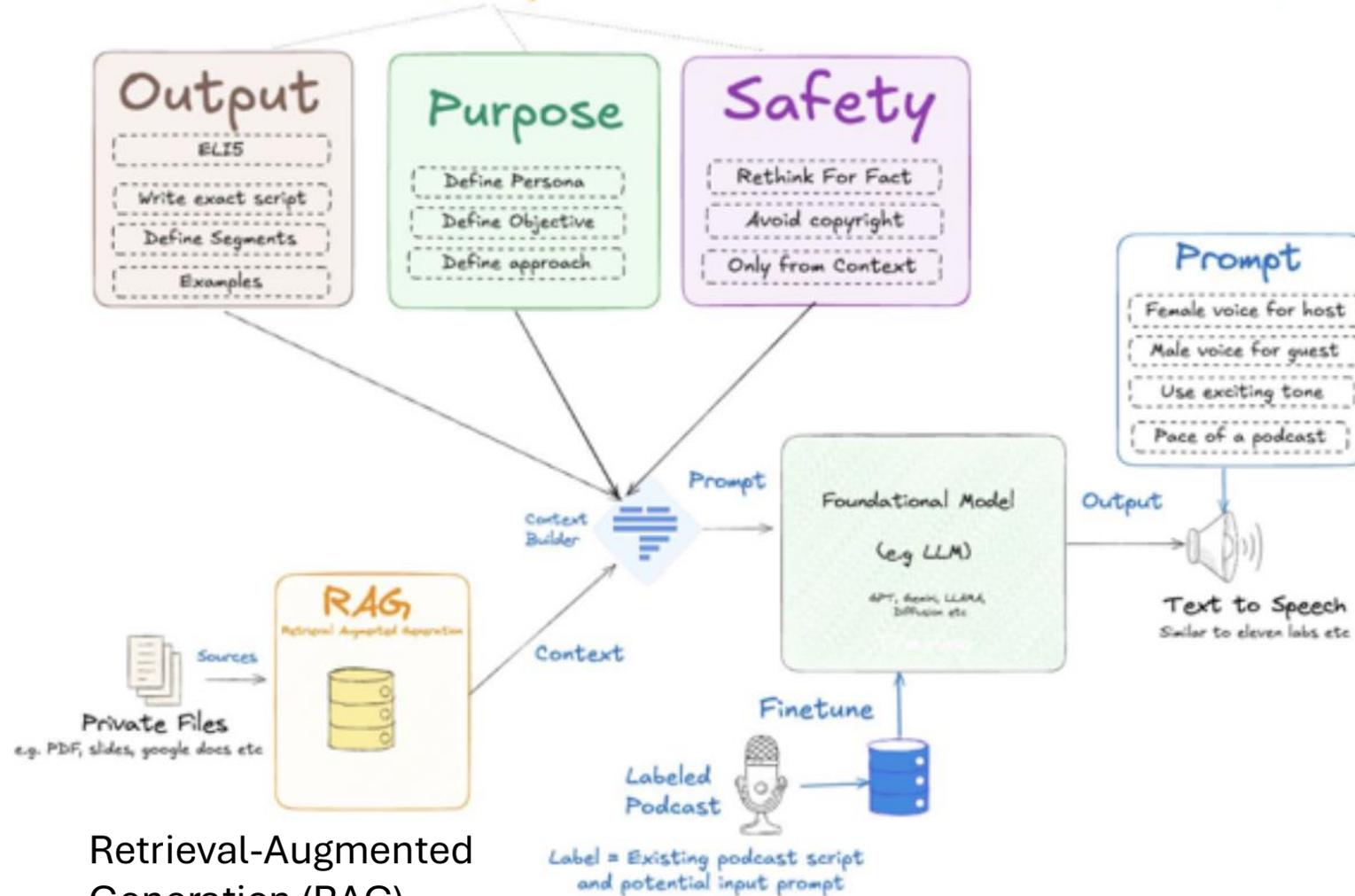
Interactive Classroom Model



NEW

Likely Architecture - NotebookLM "Audio Summary"/ Podcast

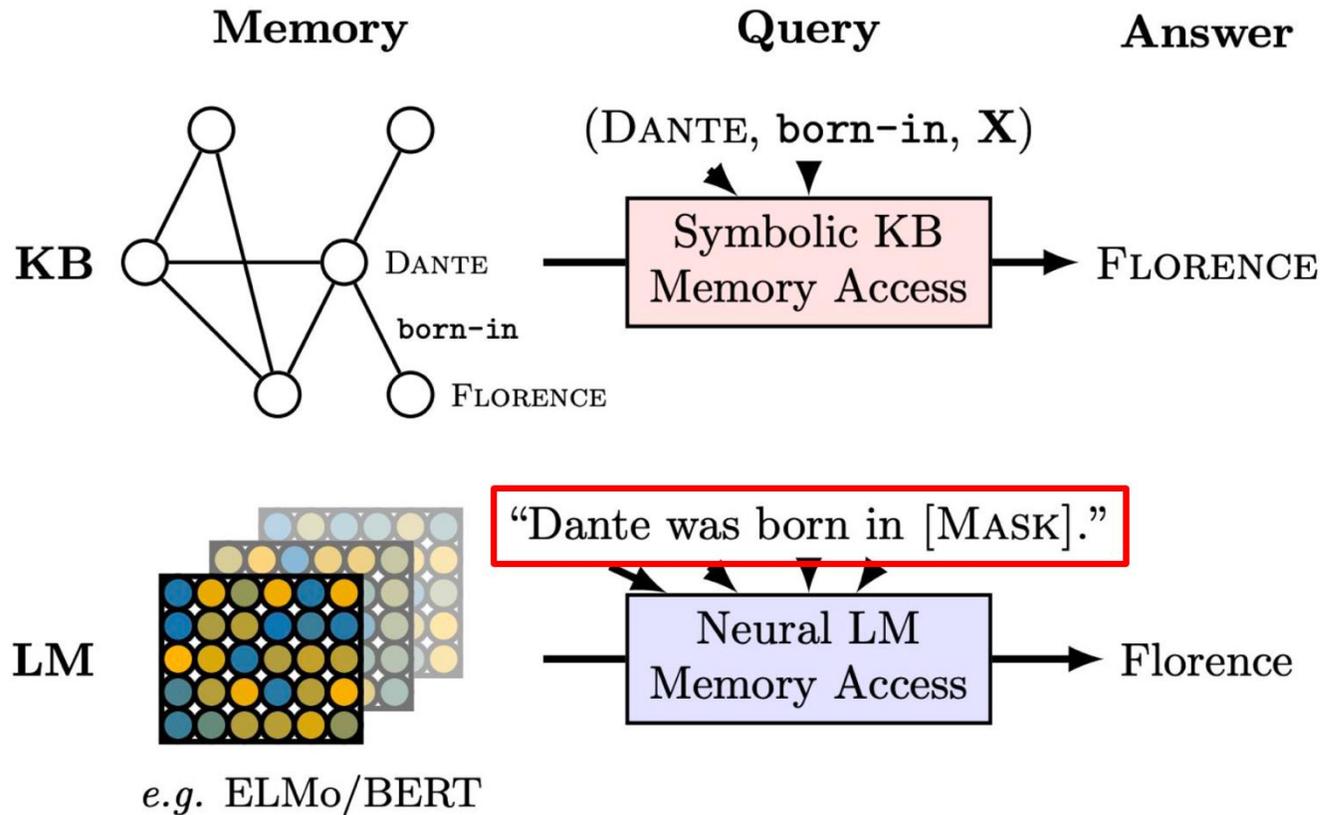
Prompt Segments @vrungta



Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/exploring-architecture-googles-notebooklm-podcast-feature-jariwala-xvypc/>

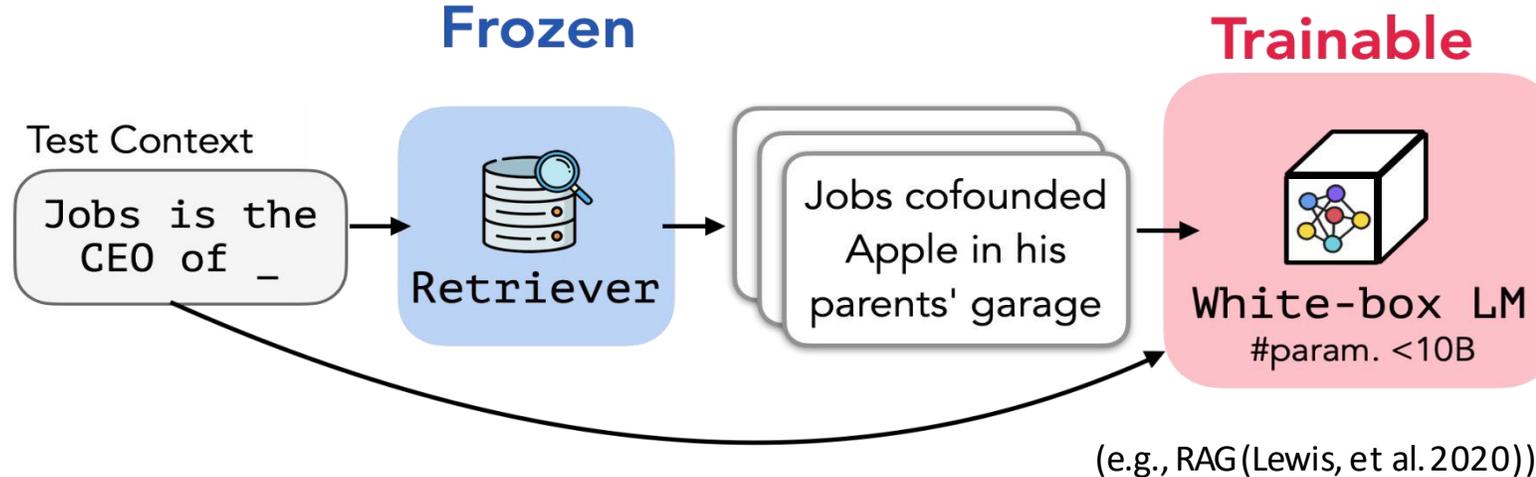
From Symbolic Memory to Neural Retrieval



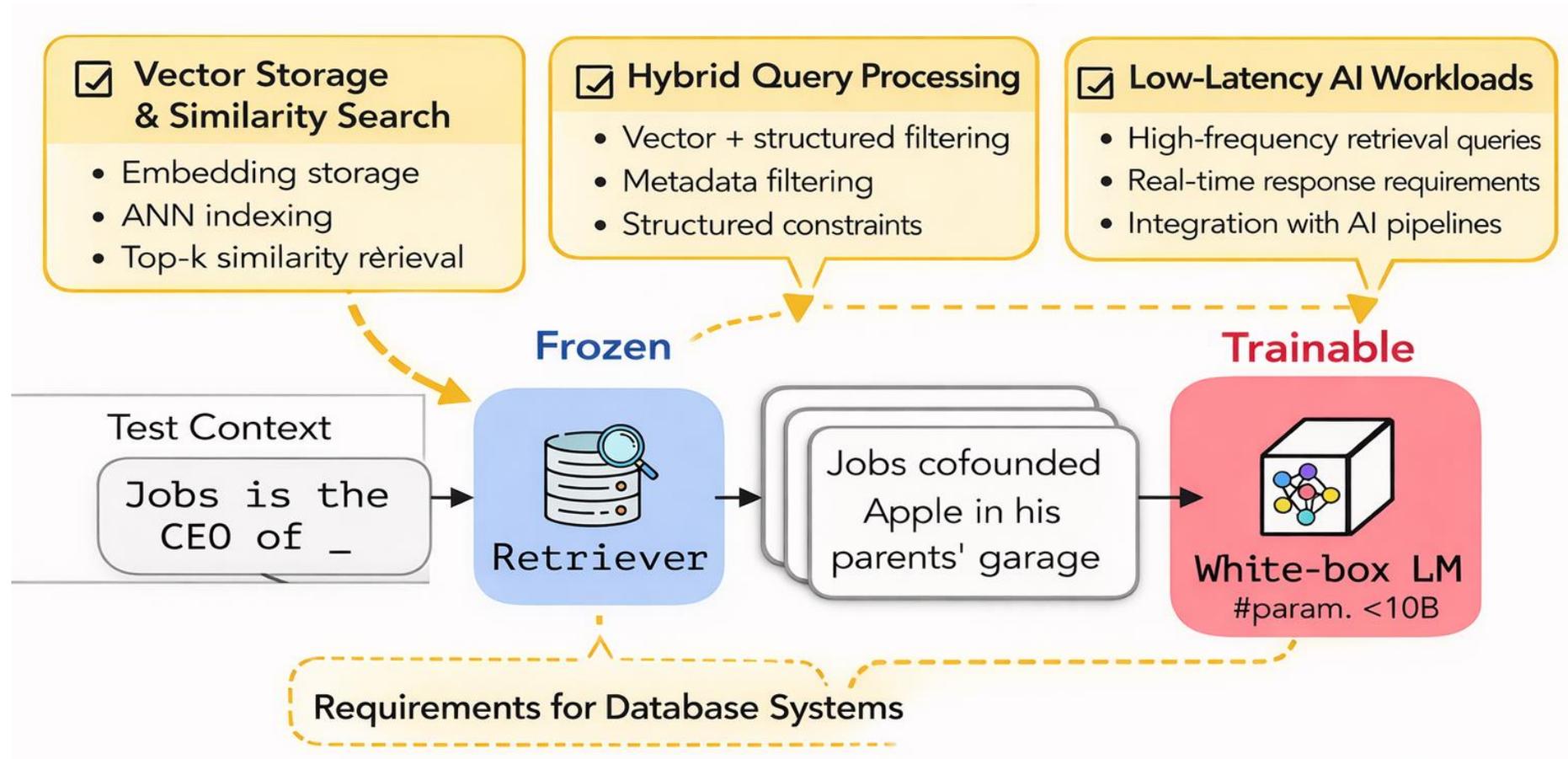
(figure from Petroni et al., 2019)

Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)

Previous

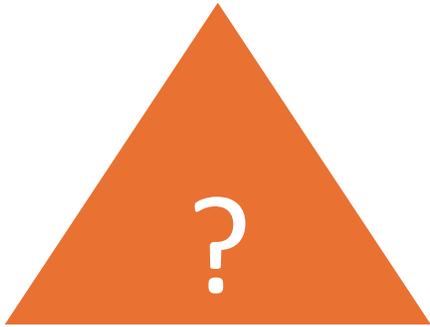


RAG and the Database Systems Needs



Source: Illustration generated using ChatGPT (OpenAI) based on a prompt provided by Sylvia Melzer.

The Risks of Synthetic Knowledge



Hallucinations

Inaccurate or misleading content that mimics authoritative tone.



Data Privacy

Challenges in maintaining security and confidentiality of student data.



Bias

Risk of perpetuating social prejudices contained in the training data.

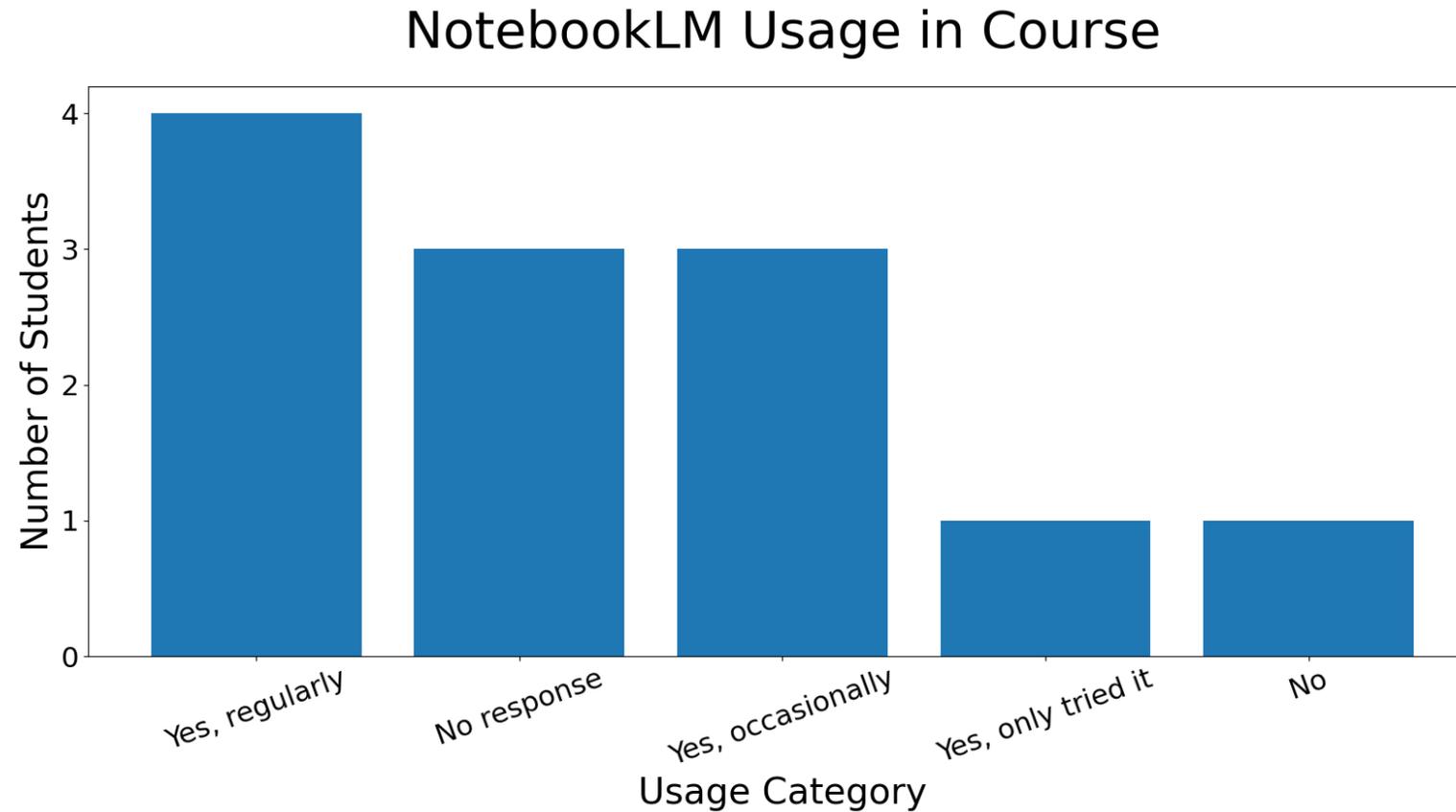
Integration of GenAI demands a shift from passive consumption to critical digital literacy.

Case Study

GenAI in Education, Science, and Society: a Lecture at University of Hamburg

(SS2025, WS2025-2026, SS2026)

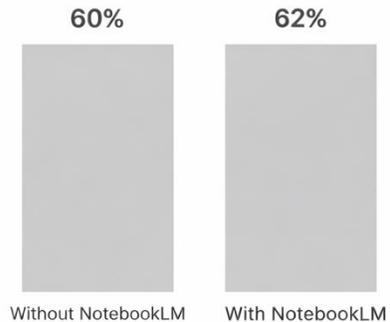
NotebookLM Usage in Course (SS2026)



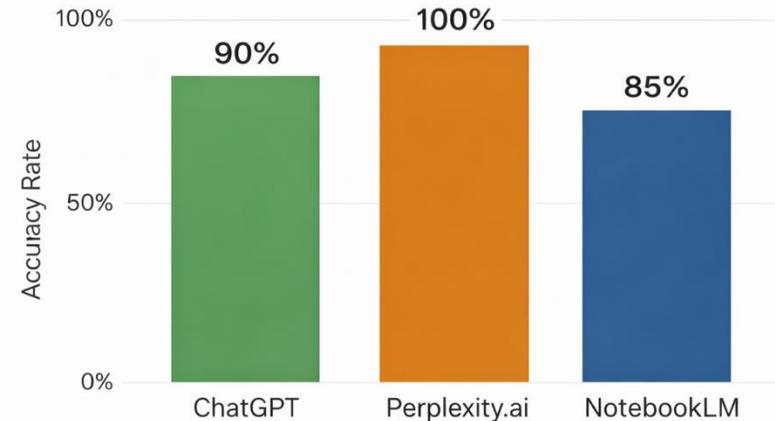
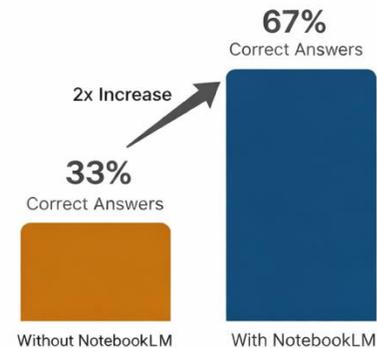
Interactive Classroom Model - Evaluation

Can we trust the results of chatbots?

A vs B



C vs D



Source: Illustration generated using ChatGPT (OpenAI) based on a prompt provided by Sylvia Melzer.

New Requirements for Database Experts

Designing databases in future, consider that we have

- a scaling shift
 - From millions → to billions of high-dimensional vectors,
 - From offline indexing → to continuous updates
 - Native Support for High-Dimensional Vectors required, e.g., PostgreSQL + pgvector
- a workload shift
 - From deterministic SQL queries → to probabilistic similarity retrieval
 - From exact-match predicates → to top-k nearest neighbor search

New Requirements for Database Experts

- and an architectural integration shift
 - Hybrid queries (SQL + vector + metadata)

Takeaways

Trust comes from systems, not the model alone:

- The concepts are not new. What is new is that database systems must now operate at hyperscale, serve AI workloads, and be deeply integrated into core database architectures. Trust in LLMs therefore comes from robust data and system architecture, not from the model alone.

Therefore we should focus on meaningful applications:

- Rather than replacing learning, LLMs can support it. Tools like NotebookLM enable students to interactively explore and revisit lecture material at home, extending the learning process beyond the classroom.

Thank you! 18

Acknowledgements

The research for this article was funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) under Germany's Excellence Strategy – EXC 2176 'Understanding Written Artefacts: Material, Interaction and Transmission in Manuscript Cultures', project no. 390893796. The research was conducted within the scope of the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC) at Universität Hamburg.

Contact



Sylvia Melzer

Head of the Data Linking Lab

Universität Hamburg

Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)

Humanities-Centered Artificial Intelligence (CHAI)

Warburgstraße 28

20354 Hamburg

+49 40 2395-29376

sylvia.melzer@uni-hamburg.de

