Building Next-Generation Machine Learning Applications

Shreya Shankar April 2023 EFILE

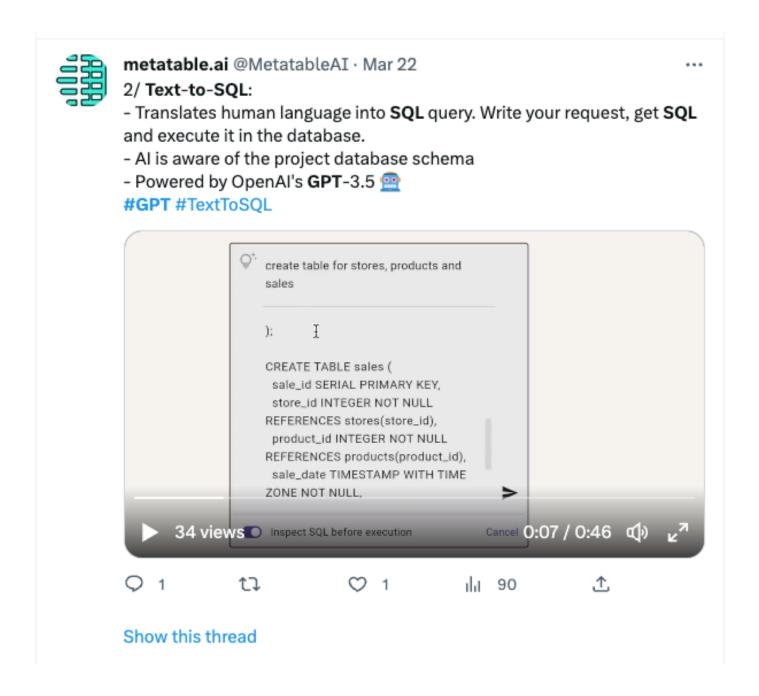
DATA

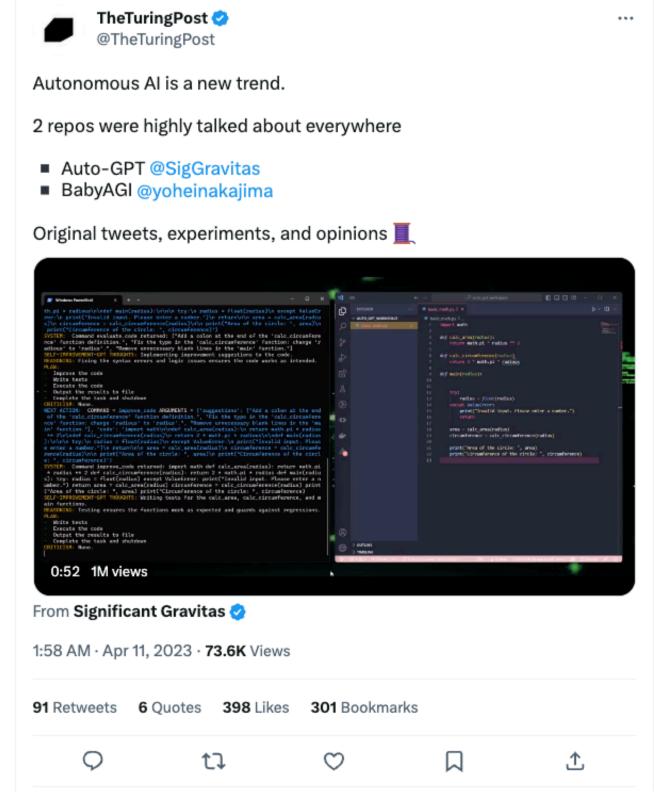
We're in a new era

10B parameters for everyone!

It's now feasible to use ML models in software without lots of data and ML expertise

• The demos are unbelievable







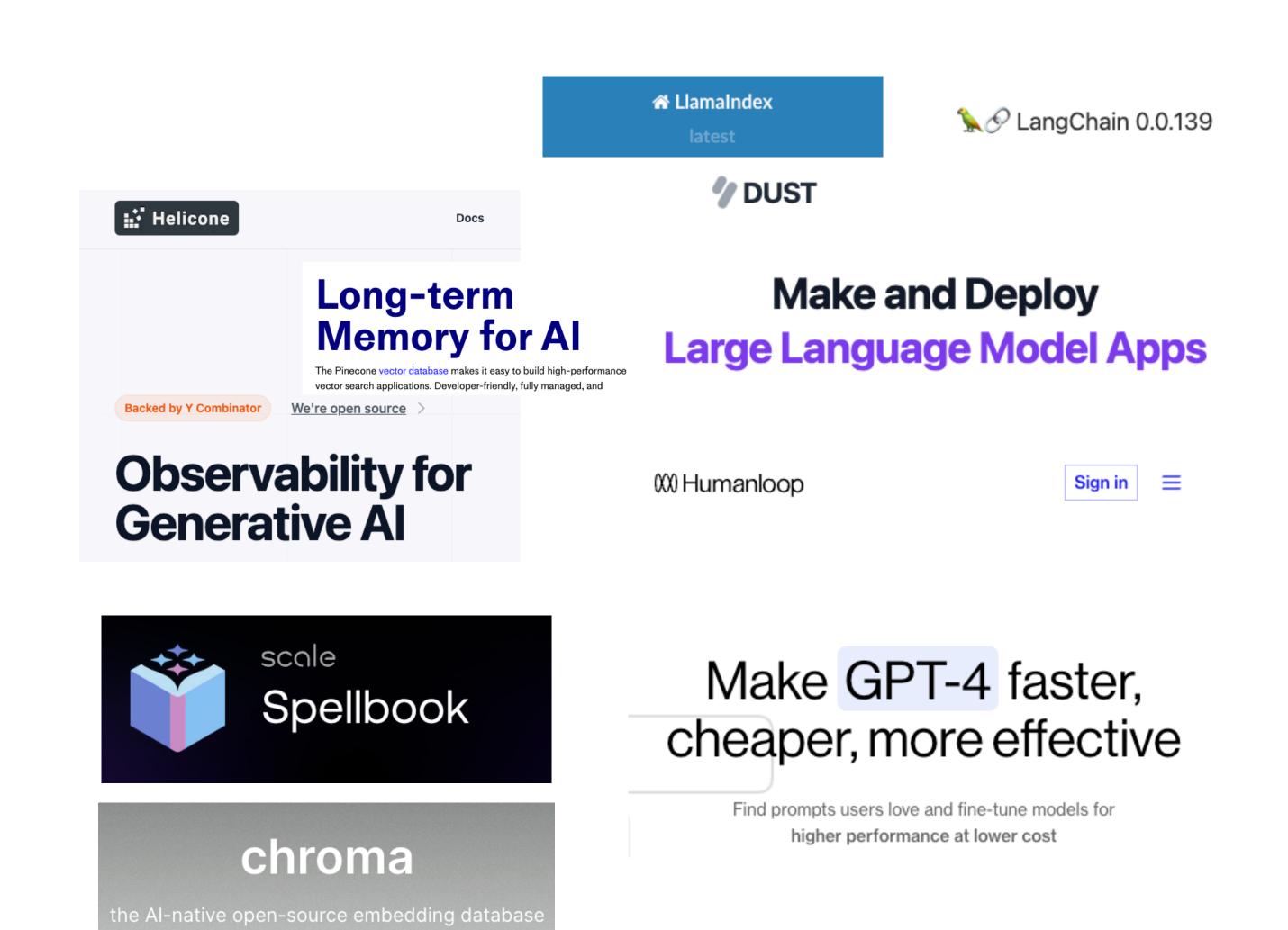




So many LLMOps tools out there

It's kinda overwhelming

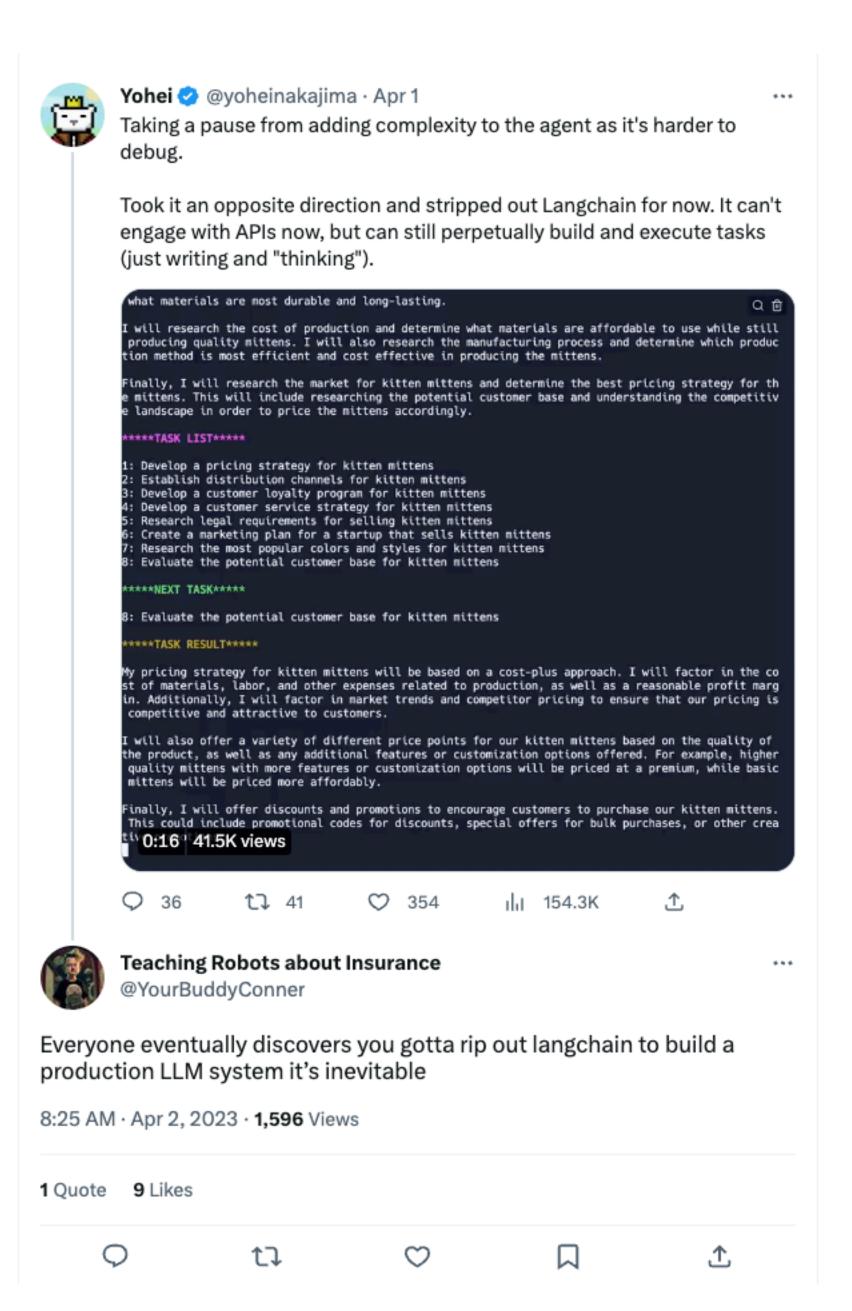
- LLM frameworks
- Vector databases
- Prompt templates
- Deployment tools



LLM reality check

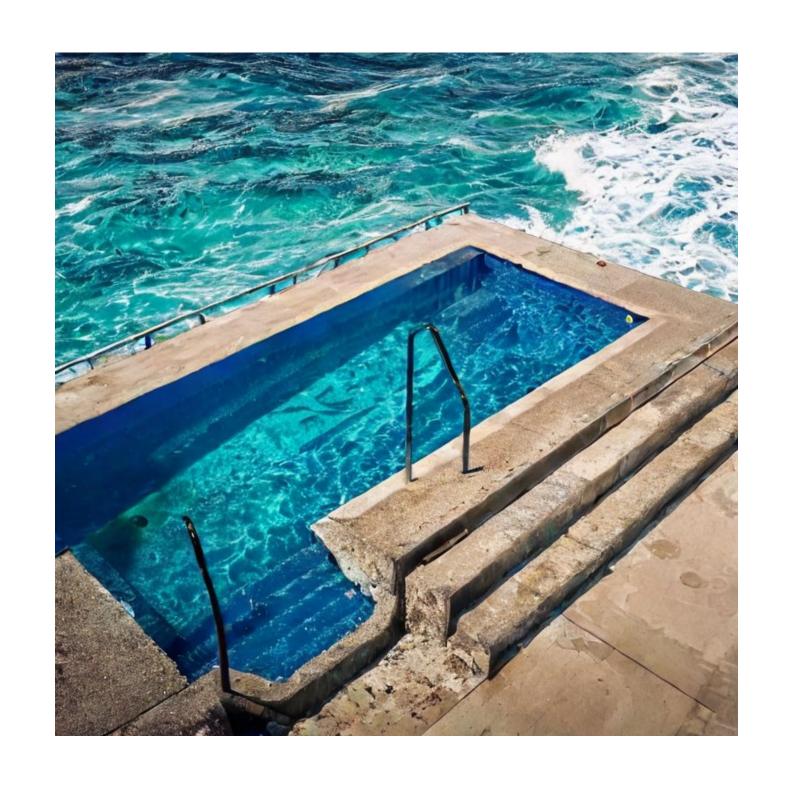
Demos aren't easily translating to production

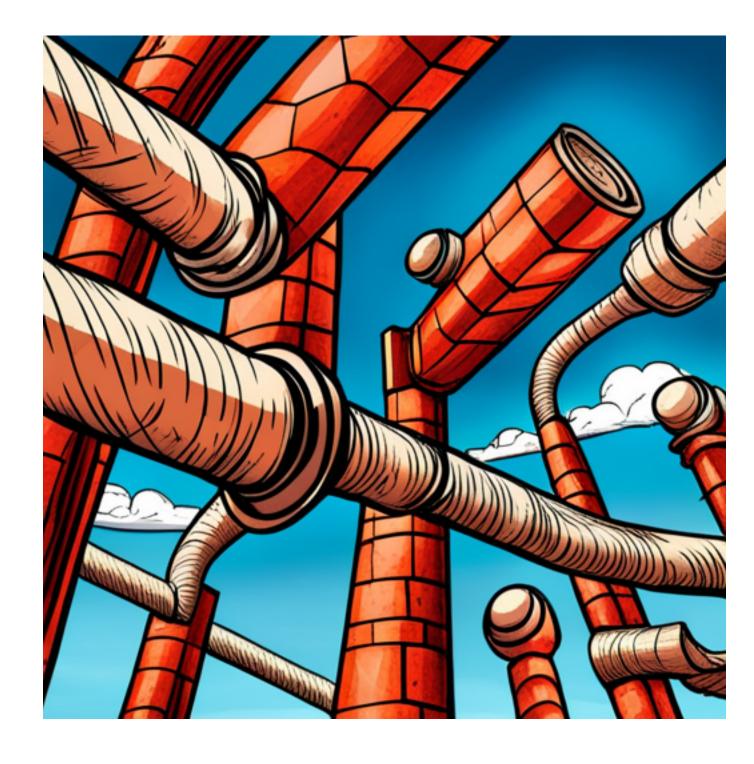
- From survey on LLMs in production
- We once used setfit for a production task but found that performance was really tricky to debug. The proof of concept was fine. Production was a complete mess. To this day I don't know why. Underlying hardware?
- We had a nice time selecting models, proving it would all work...then came some dreadful times making our vector lookup system work under load for long durations in a proper prod environment (where we couldn't touch it to do things like restart it or reload the index).

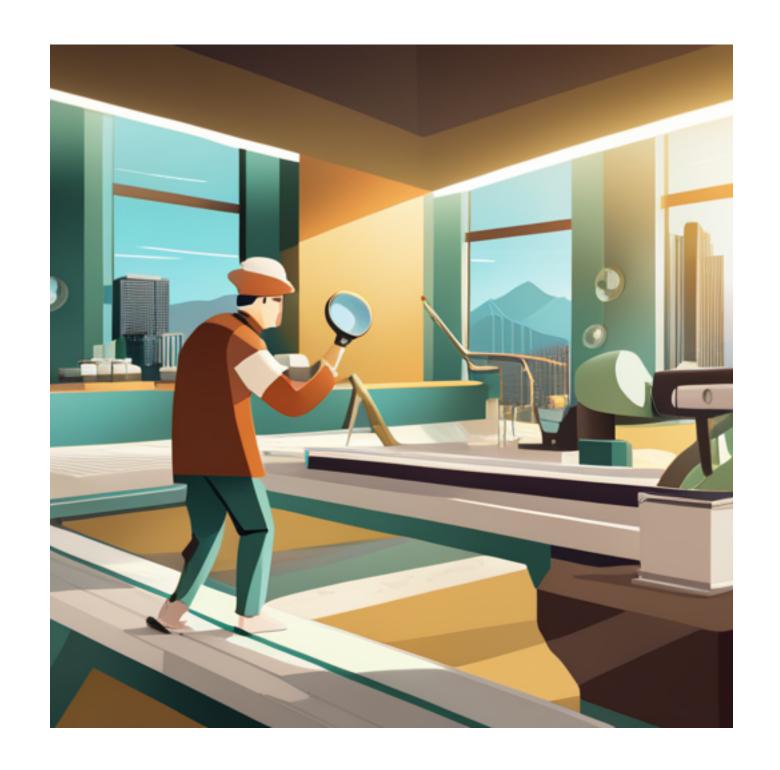


LLMs amplify existing MLOps challenges

Operationalizing Machine Learning: An Interview Study (Shankar and Garcia et al.)







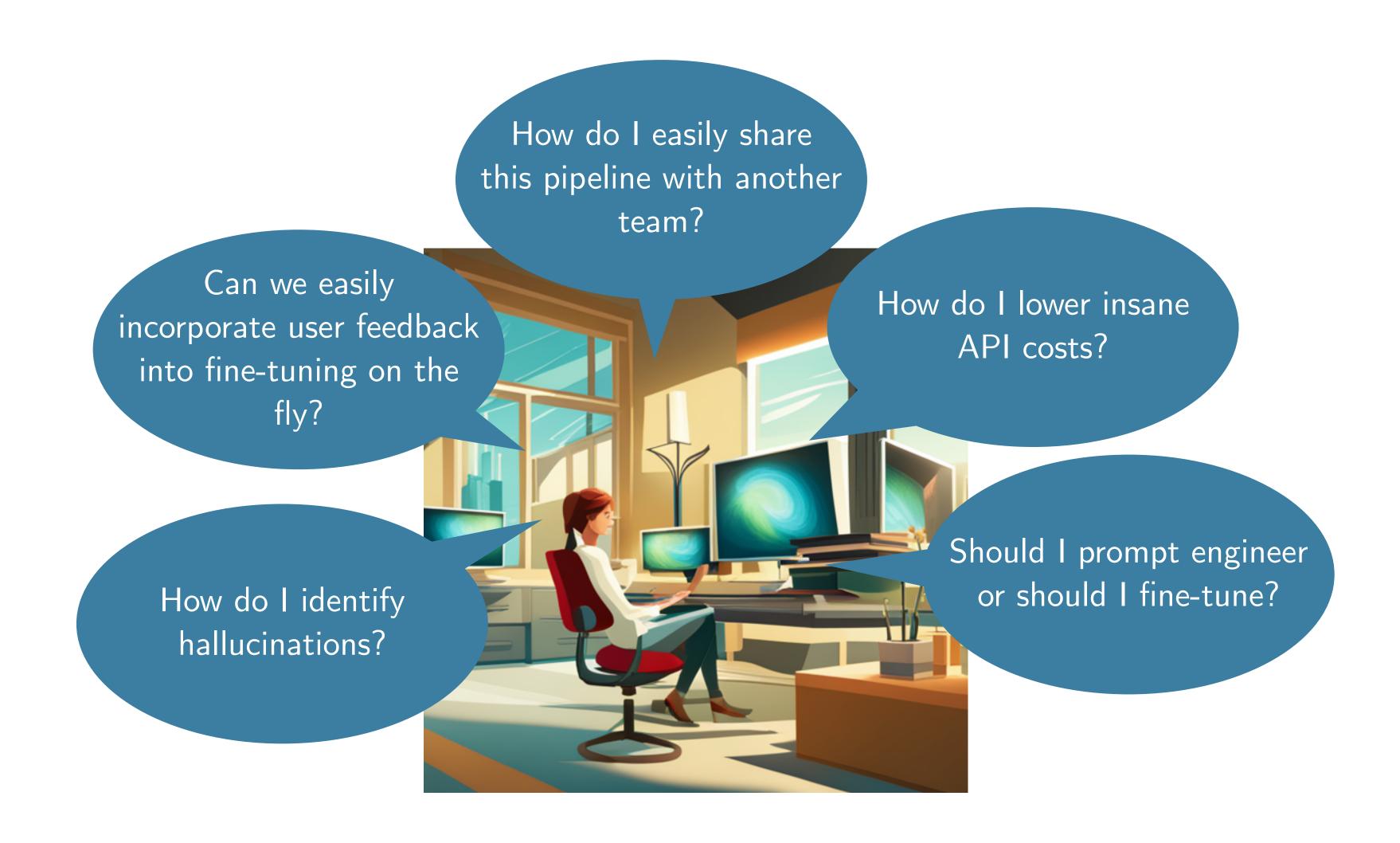
Development environments are not production environments!

Too many services glued together

Hard to know when things go wrong without manually inspecting all outputs

Frequently asked questions

When making ML capabilities more accessible to non-ML people



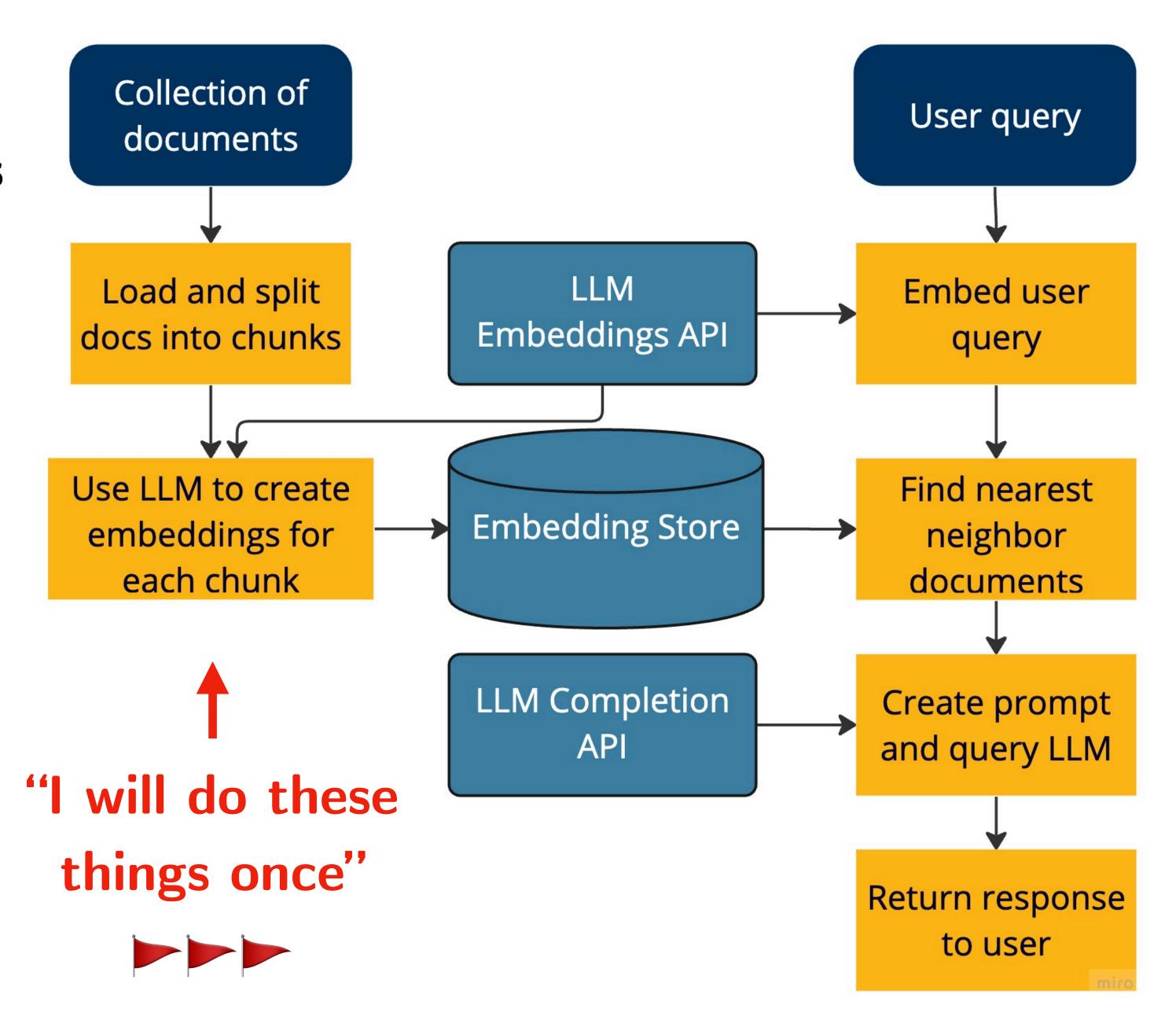
What Does Building an ML Application Look Like Now?

Making a demo

Question-answering on docs

• From LangChain post

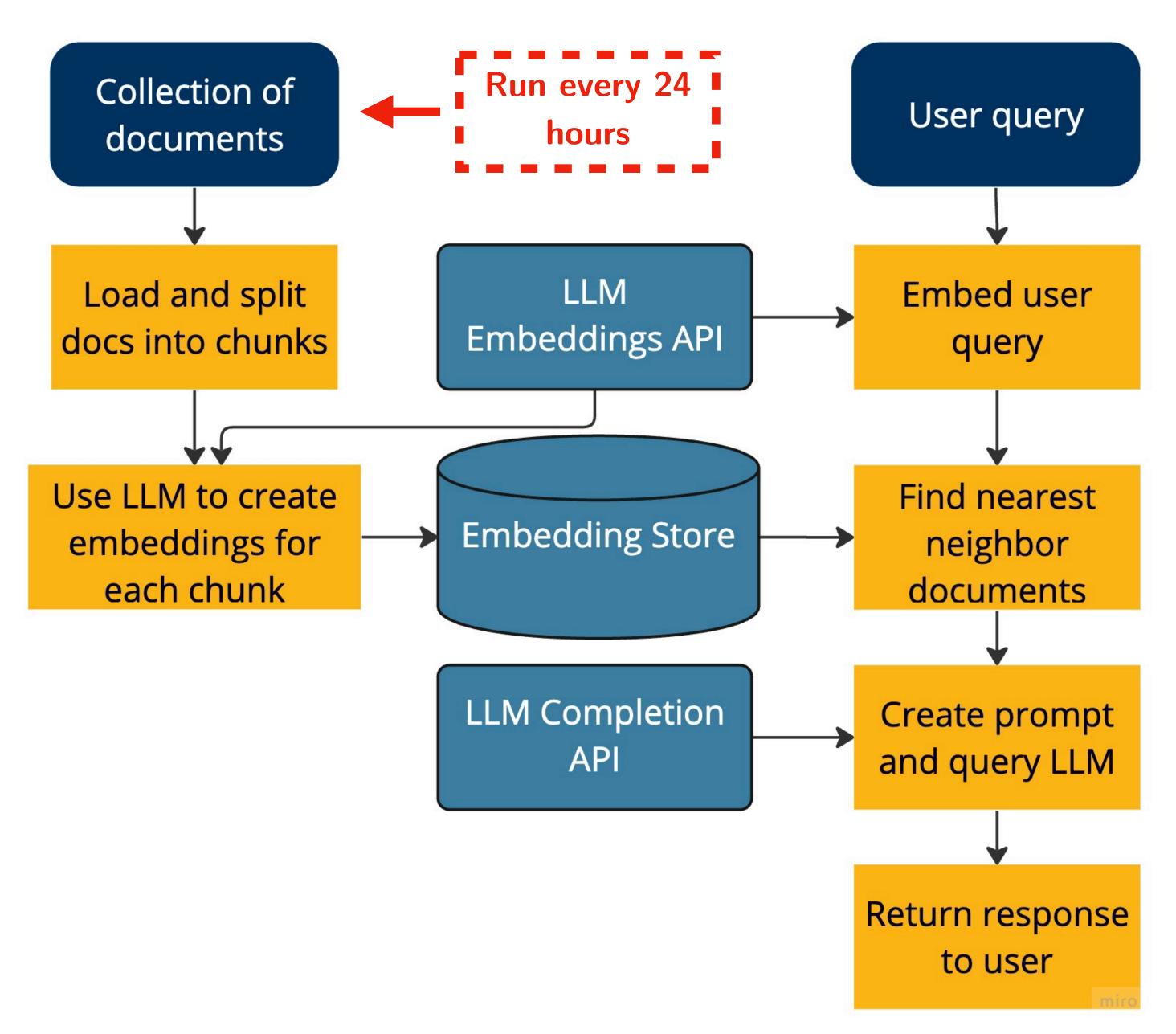




MLOps-ifying demos

Production isn't static!

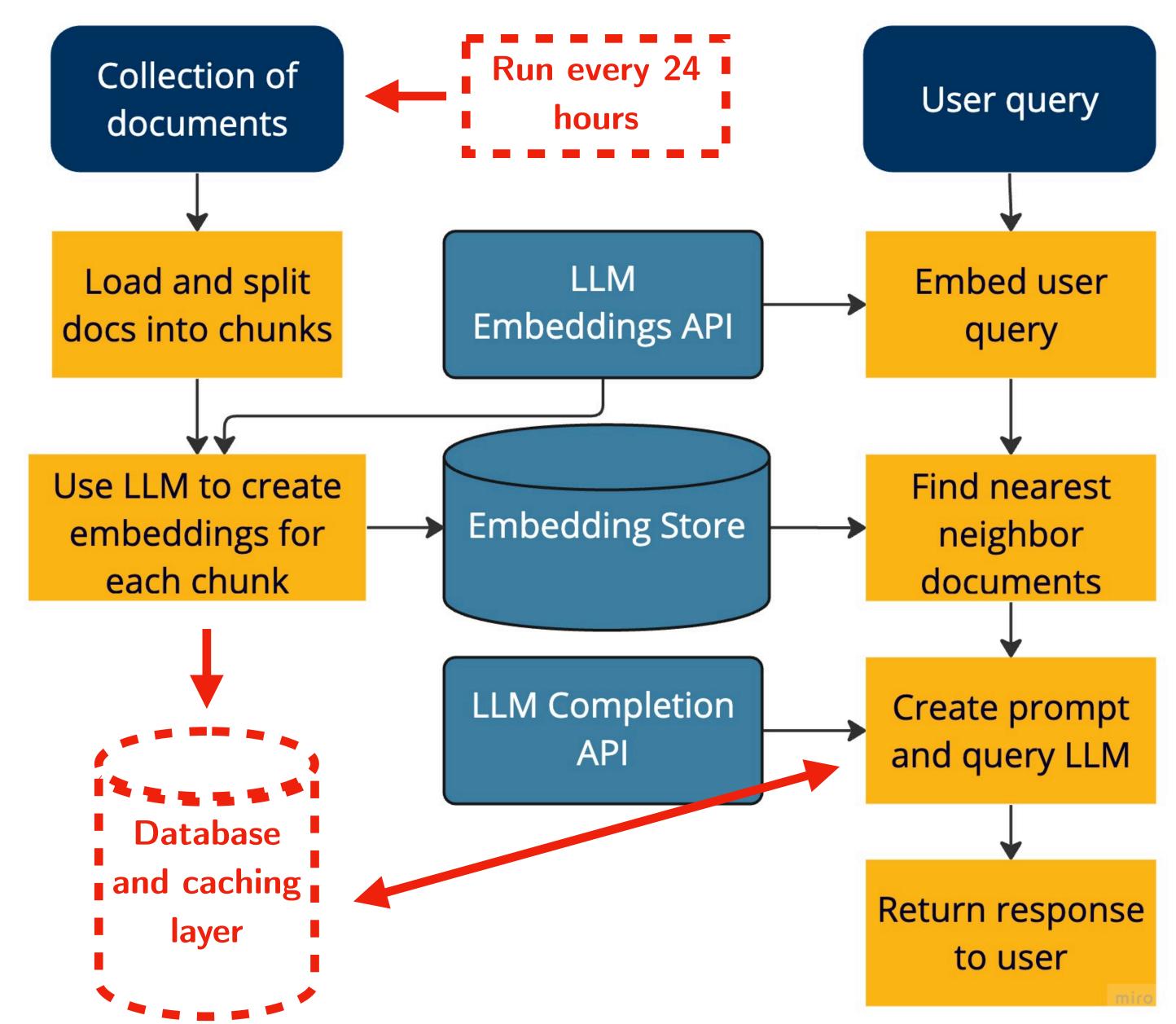
- What happens when there's a new document or wrong document?
- Maybe let's run the pipeline every day?
- Gotta set up a new machine or background job for this...



MLOps-ifying demos

Production isn't static!

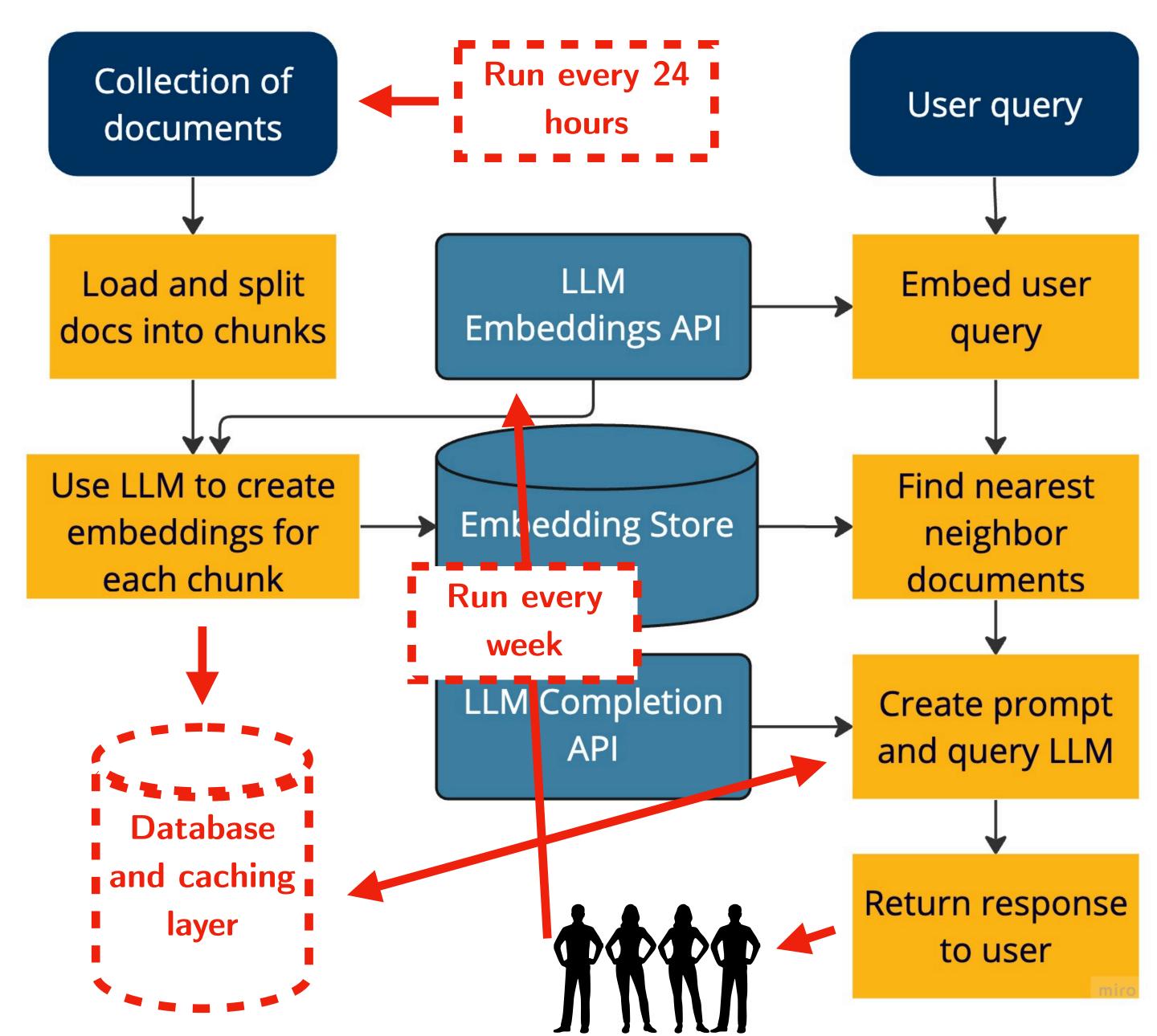
- What happens with a duplicate query?
- Maybe let's add a database to store all queries and responses
- Setting up and integrating a database



MLOps-ifying demos

Production isn't static!

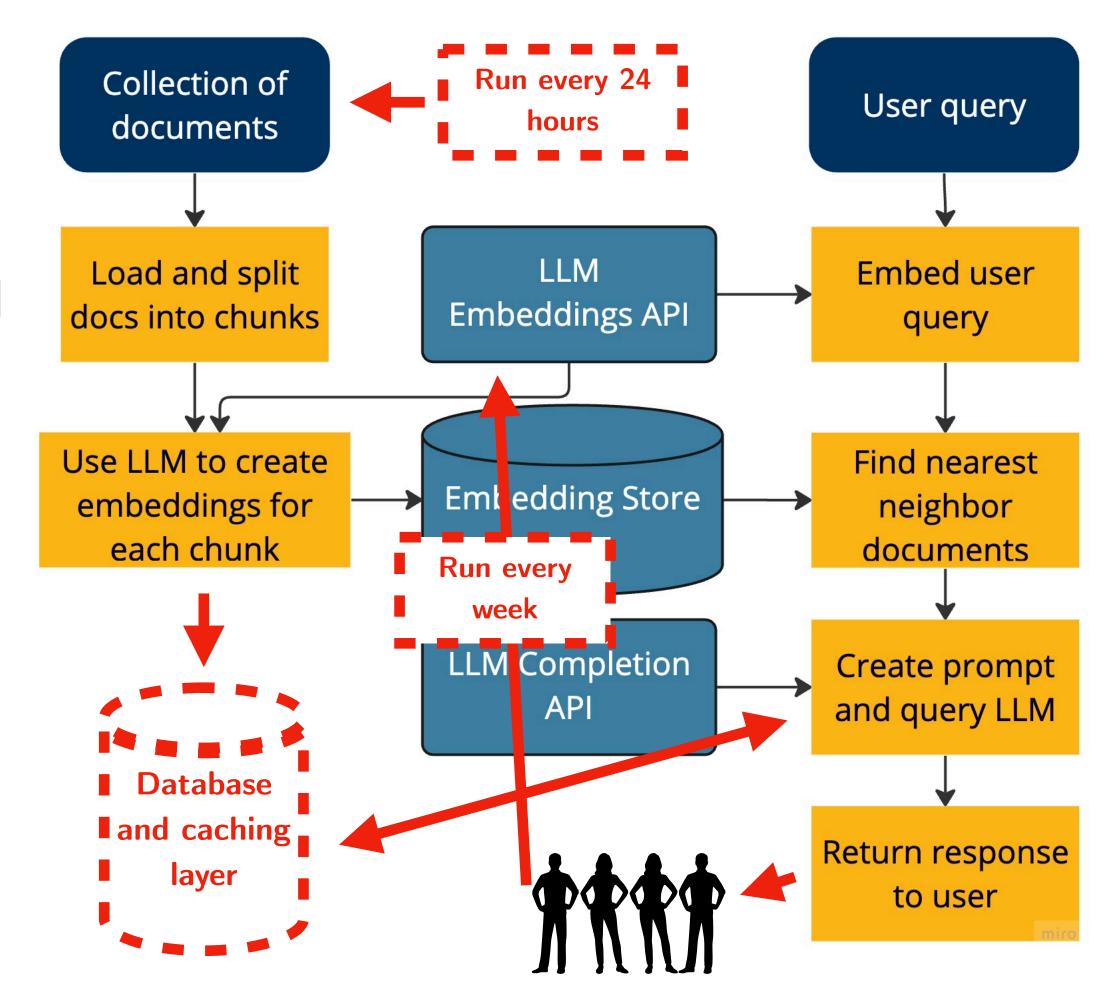
- How to incorporate user feedback (e.g., whether an answer is good)?
- Maybe let's have a team monitoring prompts and responses to select data to fine-tune on
- And then let's fine-tune the model every week!



Pipelines Galore

What could possibly go wrong?

- Each pipeline is being updated **independently** and in an **ad-hoc** way
- Wasteful redundancy and cost
- ML pipelines don't share state
 - No developer wants to get in on an existing complicated pipeline
- Experimentation almost never accounts for this wild setup
 - People are surprised to find performance drops in production!



Motion: Our ML Framework Under Development

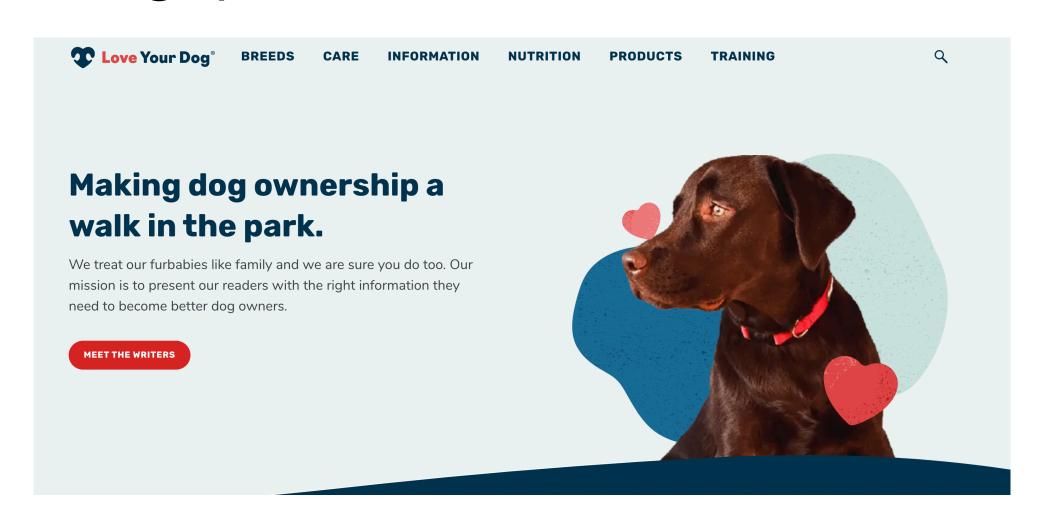
Motion

Yet another ML framework?

- A framework for building ML applications in Python with continually-updating state
 - Trigger stateful operations when adding data to a store
- Philosophical principles
 - State (e.g., models, vector indexes, prompt templates) changes whenever there is new data, often incrementally
 - Experimentation should consider these incremental updates
 - Multiple pipelines can benefit from shared state

Building with Motion

- We are getting a puppy this weekend!
- I would like a chatbot to ask my dog questions to...





https://dm4ml.github.io/motion/

Motion

A departure from the traditional workflow

Traditional Workflow	Motion Workflow
 Write script to load posts from disk, chunk and embed them, and save them to vector store Write script to load model, connect to embedding store, run a query, and return a response Deploy script 3 to some machine to run whenever there's a new query Change scripts 1 and 2 to use cloud storage Deploy scripts 1 and 2 to some other machine to run on schedule Change script 3 to log queries/responses to a DB Write and deploy a script to another machine to fine-tune on a schedule Change script 3 to read the latest model 	 Define data relations with schemas Define triggers to run when data changes in a relation. Triggers have setUp, infer (foreground, state read-only), and fit (background, state writes-allowed) methods. Deploy! Add routes in triggers with fit methods to fine-tune on user feedback





Motion Demo

Building with Motion

A departure from the traditional workflow

	Traditional Workflow	Motion Workflow
Pre-Deployment	 Low upfront effort ✓ Flexibility to look at and operate on full batches of data No need to specify data and dependencies No need to think about fine-tuning 	 Higher upfront effort Must define schema Must separate logic into state read-only and write-allowed (infer vs fit)
Post-Deployment	 High ops effort Need to rewrite existing pipelines when adding new functionality (e.g., ingesting new documents, fine-tuning) Need to validate data and monitor for shift Need to coordinate different jobs 	 Low ops effort Can add new functionality without modifying existing pipeline code Data is type-checked, validated, and monitored All jobs done on one machine (unless explicitly outsourced in infer or fit methods)

https://dm4ml.github.io/motion/

Work in Progress

Improving Experimentation Support

- Inject parameters into the config and log runs with experiment trackers
- To prompt engineer or to fine tune?
 - Probably different for every task
 - Goal: allow users to easily answer this question in Motion (swap out code in *fit* methods)

Auto-refit based on data drift

- Some state only requires recomputation when data drifts (e.g., seasonally)
- Profile data within relations to check for drift
 - Compute summaries on daily or weekly partitions
 - Run anomaly detection on partition summaries
 - Moving Fast with Broken Data (Shankar) et al.)



https://dm4ml.github.io/motion/

Looking ahead

- Field is moving lightning fast
- ML is becoming mature enough to have reusable triggers
 - Reach goal: build continual ML applications with natural language
- Still many task-specific challenges to solve
 - "What guardrails do I put on model outputs?"
 - "Should I put multimodal data in prompts? How?"

Thank you! shreyashankar@berkeley.edu