

# Out-of-Boundary Query Mitigation

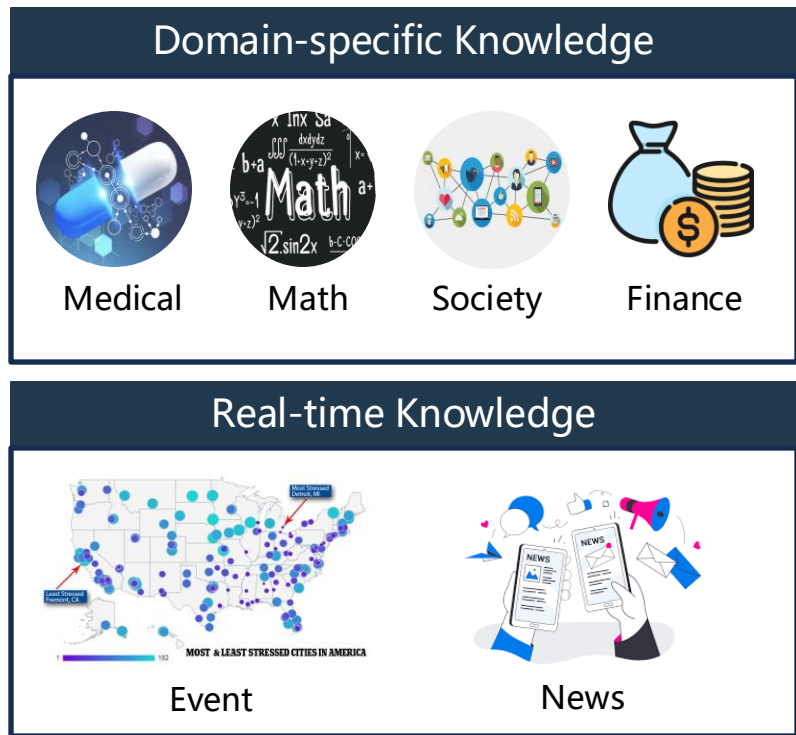
## Parametric Knowledge Boundary

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# What is Parametric Knowledge Boundary



Parametric Knowledge Boundary

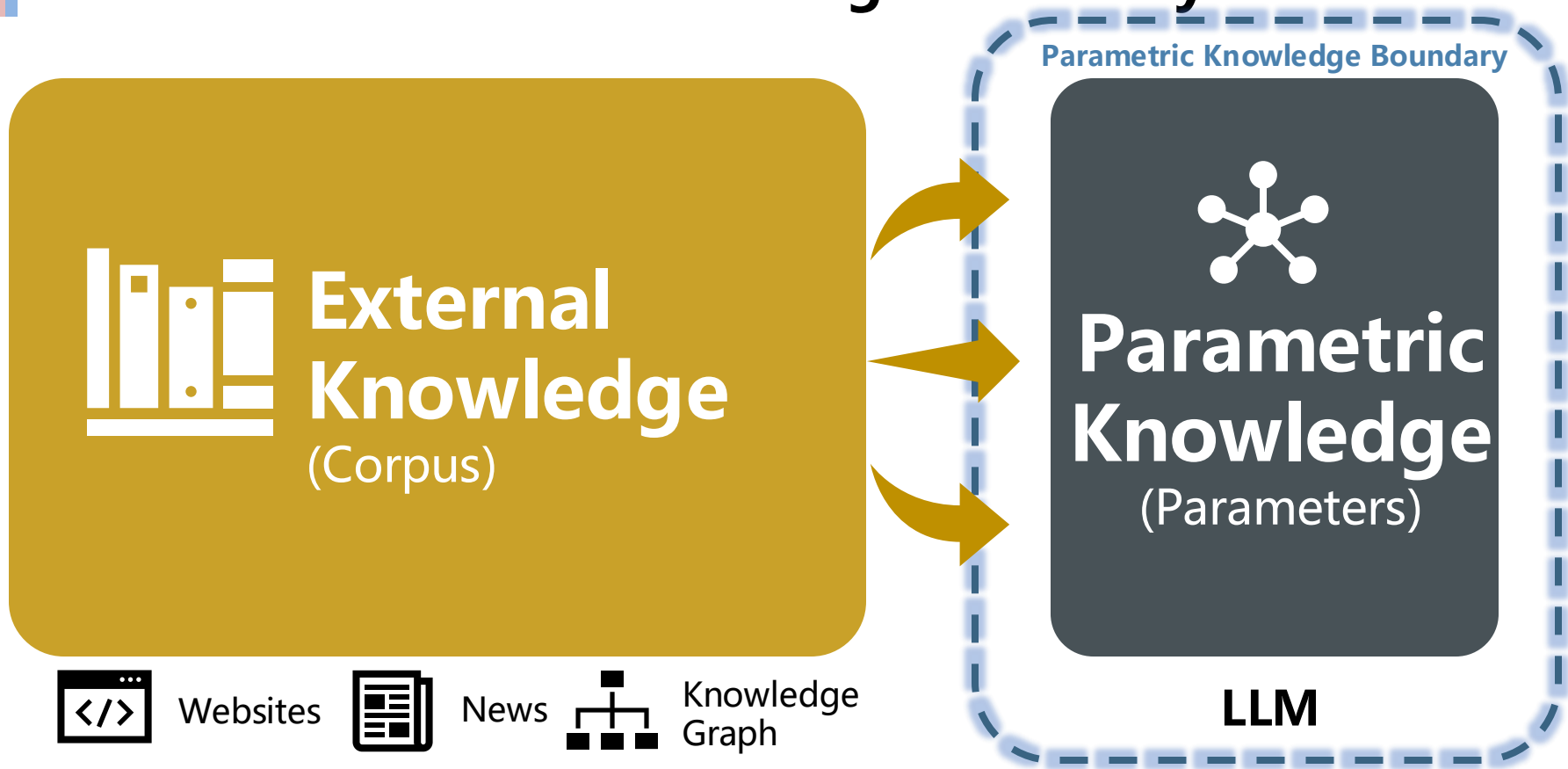


**Parametric  
Knowledge**  
(Parameters)

**LLM**

Unable to be answered by the specific LLM, but the query itself is answerable

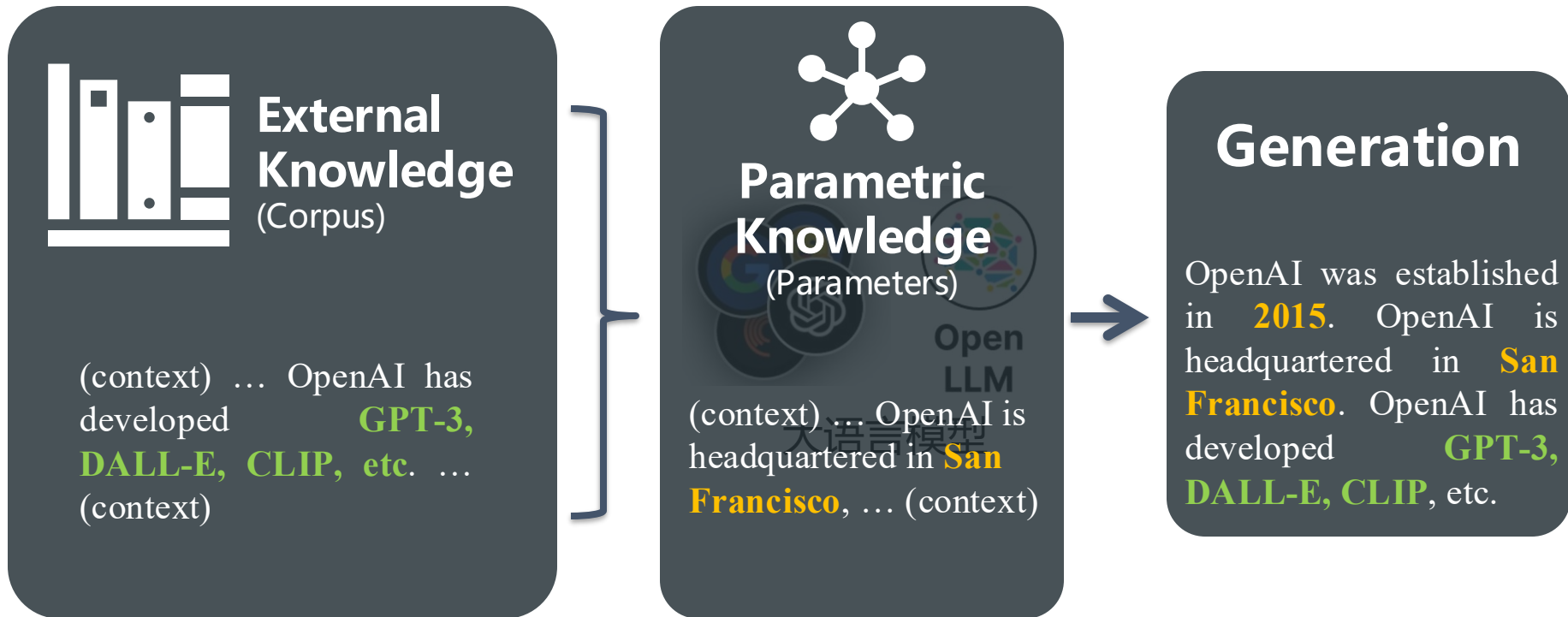
# What is Parametric Knowledge Boundary



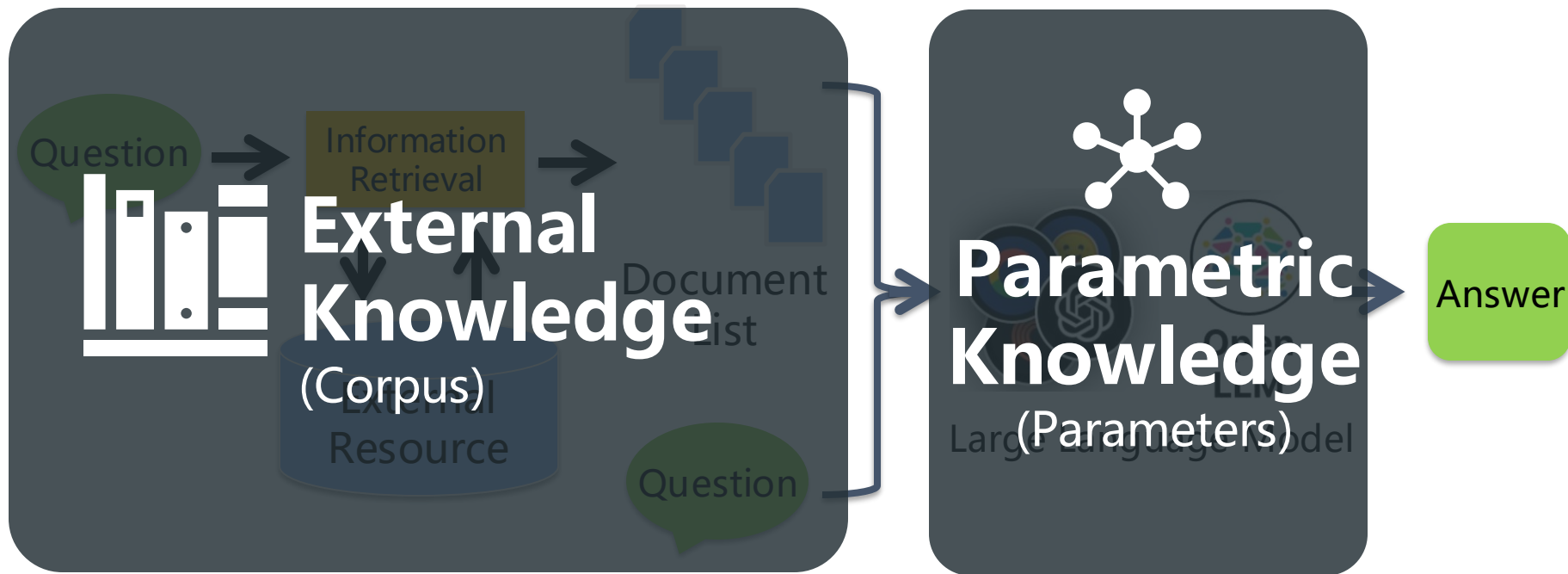
External knowledge can involved to help LLM extend its boundary

# Example

**Question:** What was OpenAI founded, where is its headquarters located, and what models has it developed?

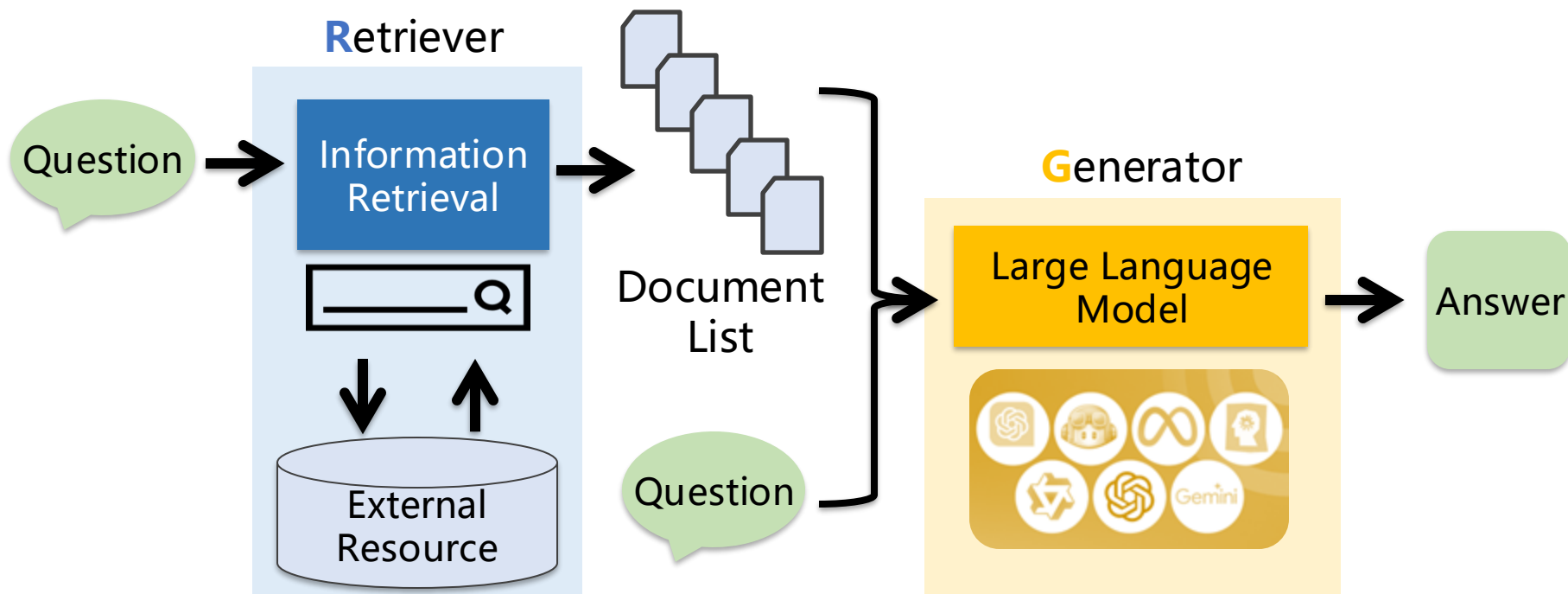


# Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)



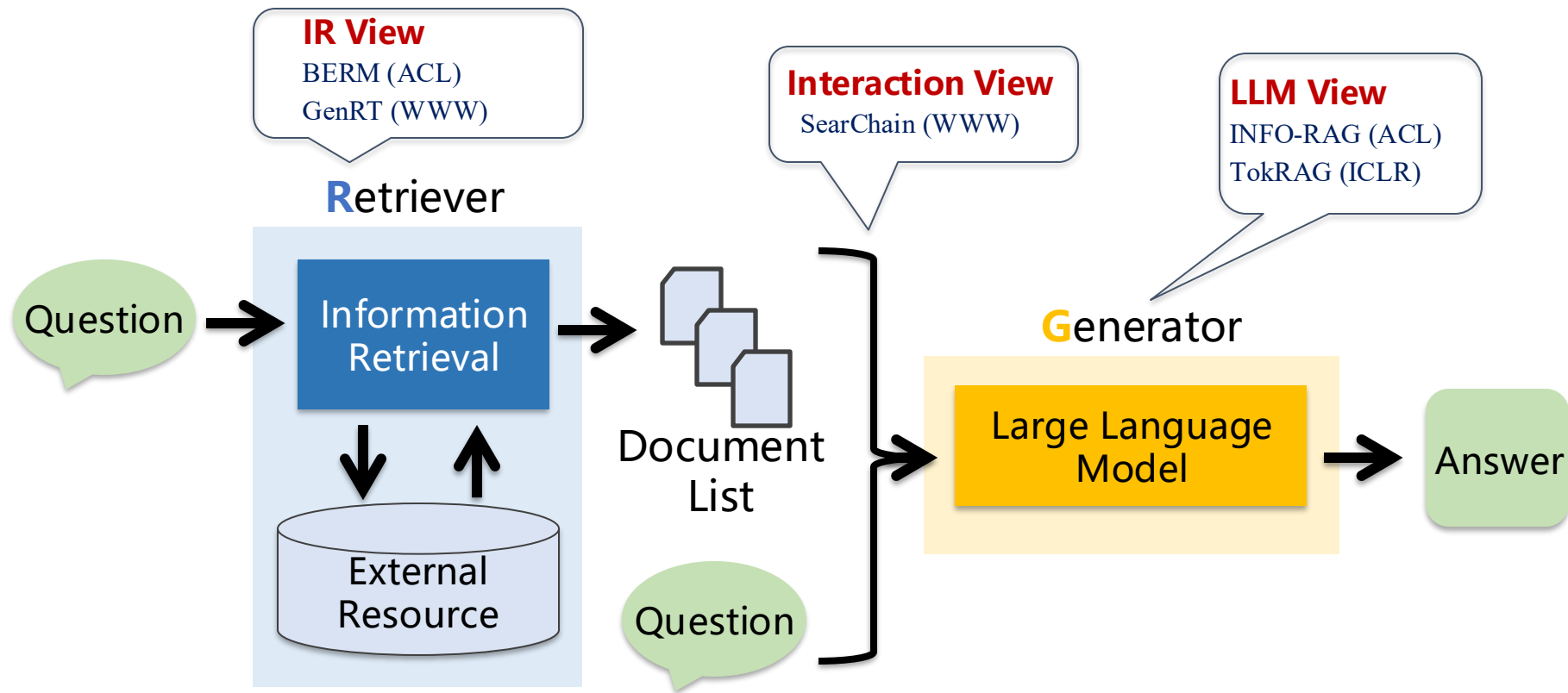
RAG can combine external knowledge and internal knowledge

# Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)



The traditional pipeline of Retrieval-augmented Generation

# Research Map of RAG



Three views of RAG approaches



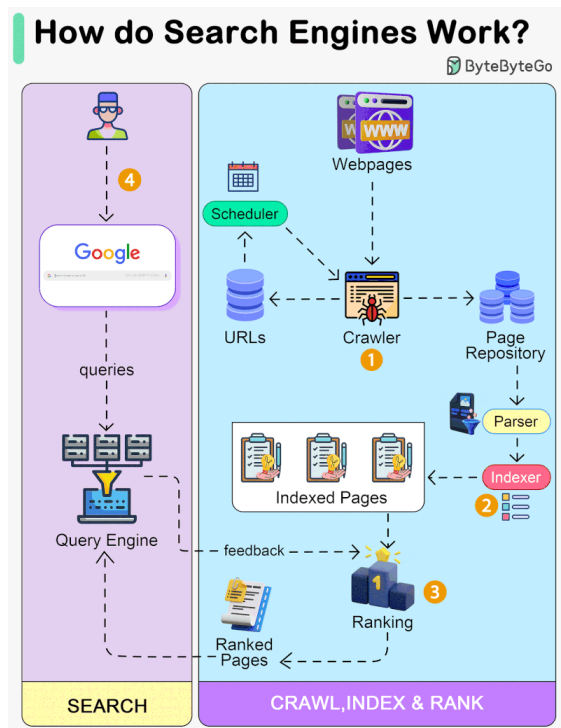
**01**

# **Information Retrieval View @ RAG**



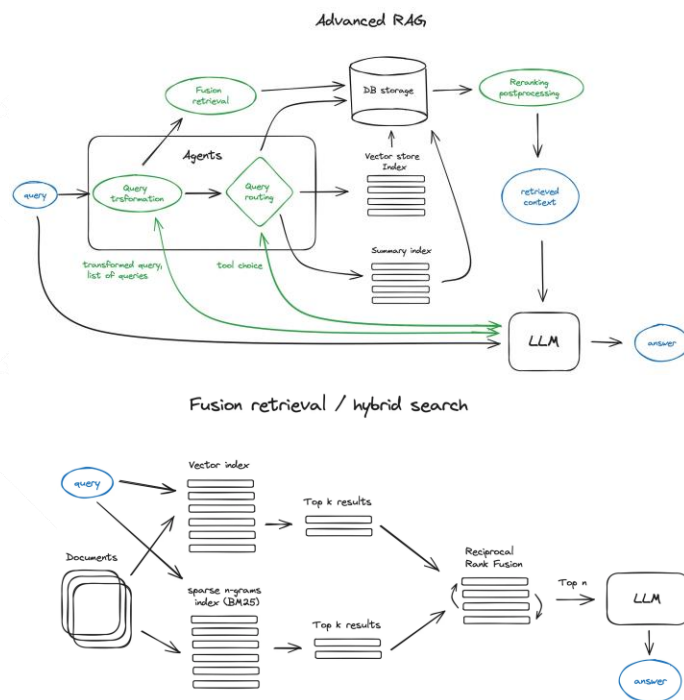
# Motivation: Target Users of Search Engines are Changed

## Past: Design for Human



VS

## Now: Design for LLMs

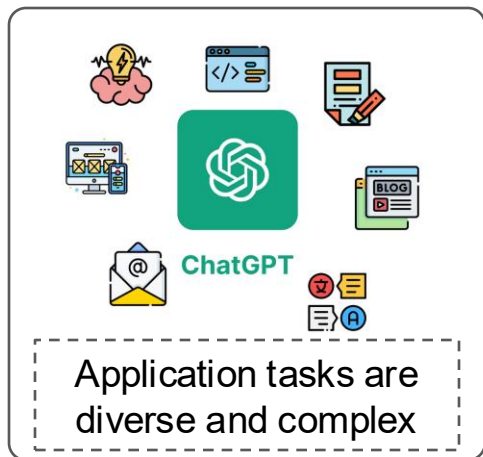


In the era of LLMs, IR needs designed for LLMs not human

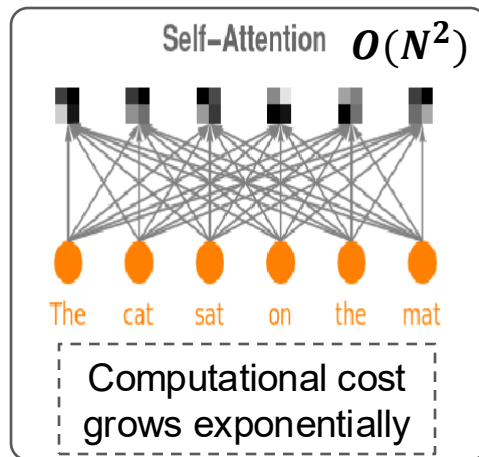
# Motivation: Target Users of Search Engines are Changed

Traditional IR models are optimized for **human users**  
So, what kind of retrieval models suit **LLMs**?

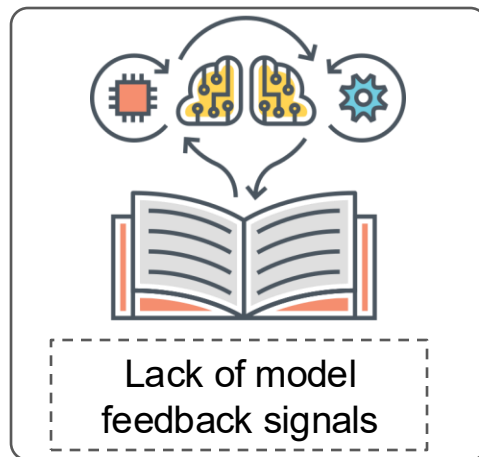
## Requirement ①: Task Generalization



## Requirement ②: Information Density



## Requirement ③: Optimizable Objectives



# Requirement ①: Task Generalization in Retrieval Stage

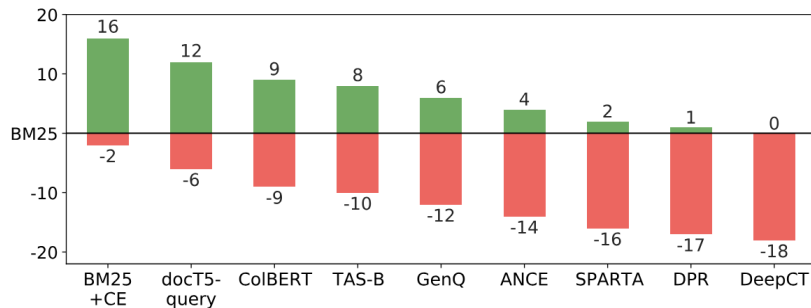
For dense retrieval, what makes a good dense representation?

**Text representations have an infinite solution space — more constraints are needed to distinguish them!**

In zero-shot setting:

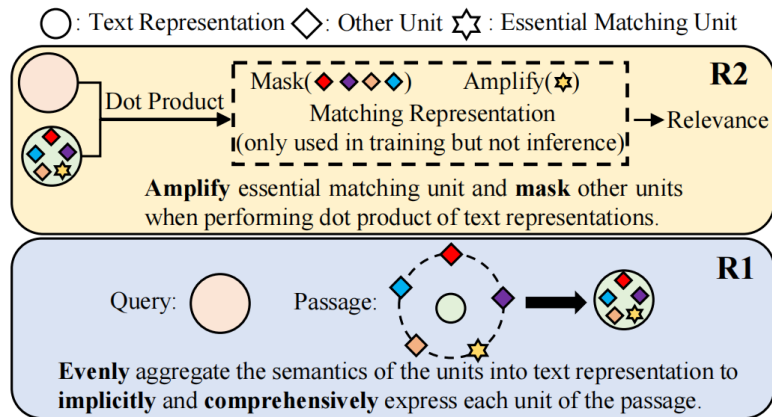
Dense retrieval models are worse than BM25.

From A Thorough Examination on Zero-shot Dense Retrieval



From BEIR: A Heterogeneous Benchmark for Zero-shot Evaluation of Information Retrieval Models

## Constraint in Text Rep. for Dense Retrieval



- **Constraint 1: Semantic Unit Balance**
- **Constraint 2: Essential Matching Unit Extractability**

# BERM - Experiments

Datasets	Jaccard Sim Unigrams	Vanilla		Knowledge Distillation		Hard Negatives	
		DPR	DPR+BERM	KD	KD+BERM	ANCE	ANCE+BERM
SciFact	22.16	0.478	<b>0.495<sup>†</sup></b>	0.481	<b>0.504<sup>†</sup></b>	0.507	<b>0.511<sup>†</sup></b>
NFCorpus	23.45	0.208	<b>0.234<sup>†</sup></b>	0.205	<b>0.242<sup>†</sup></b>	0.237	<b>0.248<sup>†</sup></b>
TREC-COVID	26.80	0.561	<b>0.600<sup>†</sup></b>	0.490	<b>0.505<sup>†</sup></b>	0.654	<b>0.661<sup>†</sup></b>
SCIDOCS	27.92	0.108	<b>0.120<sup>†</sup></b>	0.111	<b>0.115<sup>†</sup></b>	0.122	<b>0.130<sup>†</sup></b>
DBPedia	30.16	0.236	<b>0.256<sup>†</sup></b>	0.245	<b>0.264<sup>†</sup></b>	0.281	<b>0.293<sup>†</sup></b>
CQADupStack	30.64	<b>0.281</b>	0.279	<b>0.290</b>	0.281	<b>0.296</b>	0.290
HotpotQA	30.87	0.371	<b>0.386<sup>†</sup></b>	0.427	<b>0.438<sup>†</sup></b>	0.456	<b>0.463<sup>†</sup></b>
ArguAna	32.92	0.414	<b>0.435<sup>†</sup></b>	0.435	<b>0.437<sup>†</sup></b>	0.415	<b>0.428<sup>†</sup></b>
Climate-FEVER	34.79	0.176	<b>0.187<sup>†</sup></b>	0.189	<b>0.195<sup>†</sup></b>	0.198	<b>0.201<sup>†</sup></b>
FEVER	34.79	<b>0.589</b>	0.585	0.633	<b>0.664<sup>†</sup></b>	0.669	<b>0.674<sup>†</sup></b>
FiQA-2018	35.95	<b>0.275</b>	0.272	<b>0.286</b>	0.285	<b>0.295</b>	0.287
Tóuche-2020	37.02	0.208	<b>0.210<sup>†</sup></b>	0.215	<b>0.216<sup>†</sup></b>	0.240	<b>0.248<sup>†</sup></b>
Quora	39.75	0.842	<b>0.853<sup>†</sup></b>	0.832	<b>0.836<sup>†</sup></b>	0.852	<b>0.854<sup>†</sup></b>
NQ	47.27	<b>0.398</b>	0.394	<b>0.420</b>	0.419	0.446	<b>0.450<sup>†</sup></b>
Avg	-	0.368	<b>0.379</b>	0.376	<b>0.386</b>	0.405	<b>0.410</b>

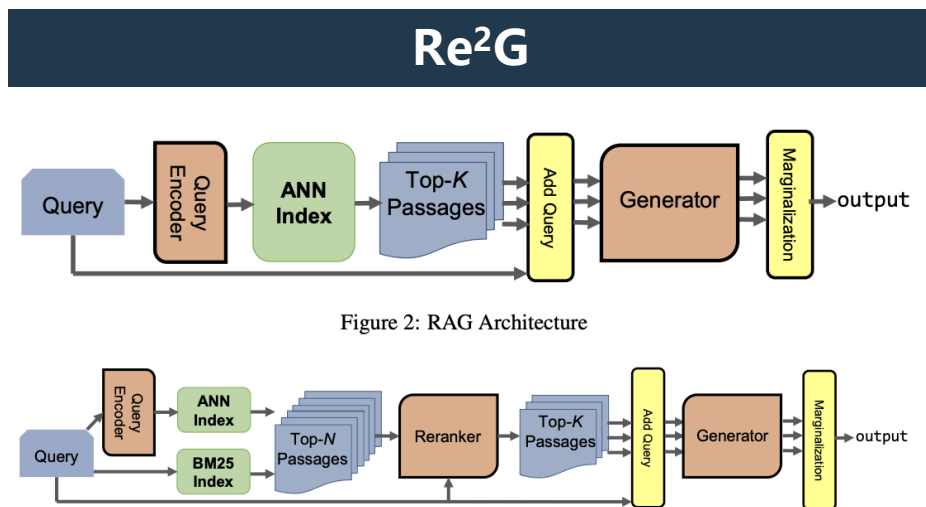
2.9%      2.7%      1.23%

BERM can be combined with various dense retrieval training methods to improve its generalization.

# Requirement ②: Info. Aggregation in Reranking Stage

Rerank after retrieval encourage the information aggregation

Rerank methods also allow merging retrieval results from sources with incomparable scores, enabling integration of BM25 and neural network initial retrieval



	T-REx				(Slot Filling)	
	R-Prec	Recall@5	Accuracy	F1	KILT-AC	KILT-F1
Re <sup>2</sup> G (ours)	<b>80.70</b>	<b>89.00</b>	<b>87.68</b>	<b>89.93</b>	<b>75.84</b>	<b>77.05</b>
KGI <sub>1</sub> [Glass et al., 2021]	74.36	83.14	<u>84.36</u>	<u>87.24</u>	<u>69.14</u>	<u>70.58</u>
KILT-WEB 2 [Piktus et al., 2021]	75.64	87.57	81.34	84.46	64.64	66.64
SEAL [Bevilacqua et al., 2022]	67.80	81.52	83.72	86.53	60.08	61.72
KGI <sub>0</sub> [Glass et al., 2021]	59.70	70.38	77.90	81.31	55.54	56.79

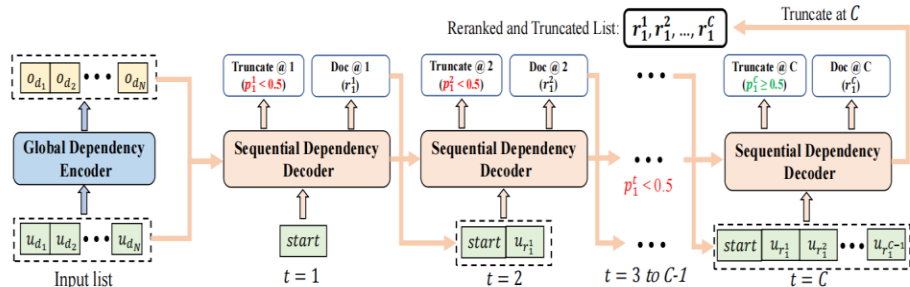
  

	Natural Questions				(Question Answering)	
	R-Prec	Recall@5	Accuracy	F1	KILT-AC	KILT-F1
Re <sup>2</sup> G (ours)	<b>70.78</b>	<b>76.63</b>	<u>51.73</u>	<u>60.97</u>	<b>43.56</b>	<b>49.80</b>
SEAL [Bevilacqua et al., 2022]	63.16	68.19	<b>53.74</b>	<b>62.24</b>	<u>38.78</u>	<u>44.40</u>
KGI <sub>0</sub> [Glass et al., 2021]	<u>63.71</u>	70.17	45.22	53.38	36.36	41.83
KILT-WEB 2 [Piktus et al., 2021]	59.83	<u>71.17</u>	51.59	60.83	35.32	40.73
RAG [Petrone et al., 2021]	59.49	67.06	44.39	52.35	32.69	37.91

# Requirement ②: Info. Aggregation in Reranking Stage

Jointly optimize reranking and truncation in one model, yield a dynamic document list for different queries

## GenRT



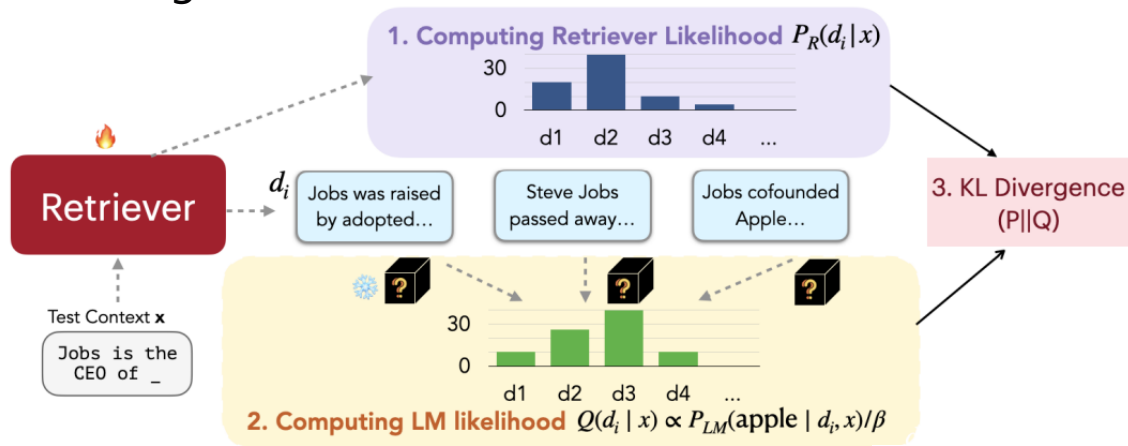
- Compared with Fixed-40, GenRT achieves comparable accuracy with shorter length
- Compared with Fixed-20, GenRT achieves better performance with shorter length

Truncation	NQ			TriviaQA		
	TDCG $\uparrow$	Length $\downarrow$	Acc. $\uparrow$	TDCG $\uparrow$	Length $\downarrow$	Acc. $\uparrow$
Fixed-x (x=5)	-0.78	5.00	54.80	0.23	5.00	60.03
Fixed-x (x=10)	-0.95	10.00	55.72	-0.17	10.00	61.19
Fixed-x (x=20)	-1.67	20.00	56.98	-1.10	20.00	62.35
Fixed-x (x=30)	-4.78	30.00	56.05	-2.34	30.00	62.30
Fixed-x (x=40)	-5.05	40.00	58.20	-3.46	40.00	63.17
BiCut	-0.35	22.75	56.79	0.38	25.83	62.30
Choppy	-0.20	25.43	57.01	0.40	29.72	62.42
AttnCut	-0.21	17.70	56.95	0.42	21.96	62.40
LeCut+JOTR	-0.15	20.21	57.84	0.55	22.50	62.89
GenRT	<b>-0.06<sup>†</sup></b>	17.25	58.15	<b>0.74<sup>†</sup></b>	22.19	63.25

# Requirement ③: Optimizable Objectives

## --- Remote Supervision Signals

Use LLM logits distribution as supervision to train the retriever, with the objective of minimizing KL divergence



Compute the retriever's scoring distribution over the document list: 
$$P_R(d | x) = \frac{e^{s(d,x)/\gamma}}{\sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}'} e^{s(d,x)/\gamma}}$$

Compute the logits of the ground truth tokens for each document used in RAG 
$$Q(d | x, y) = \frac{e^{P_{LM}(y|d,x)/\beta}}{\sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}'} e^{P_{LM}(y|d,x)/\beta}}$$

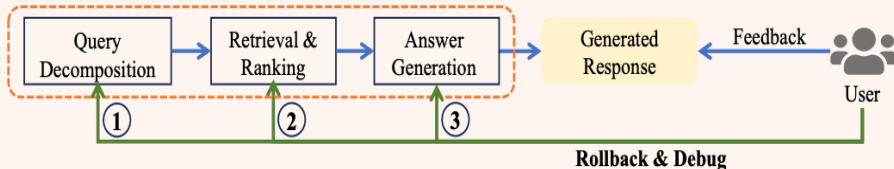
# Requirement ③: Optimizable Objectives

## --- Build Feedback Loops

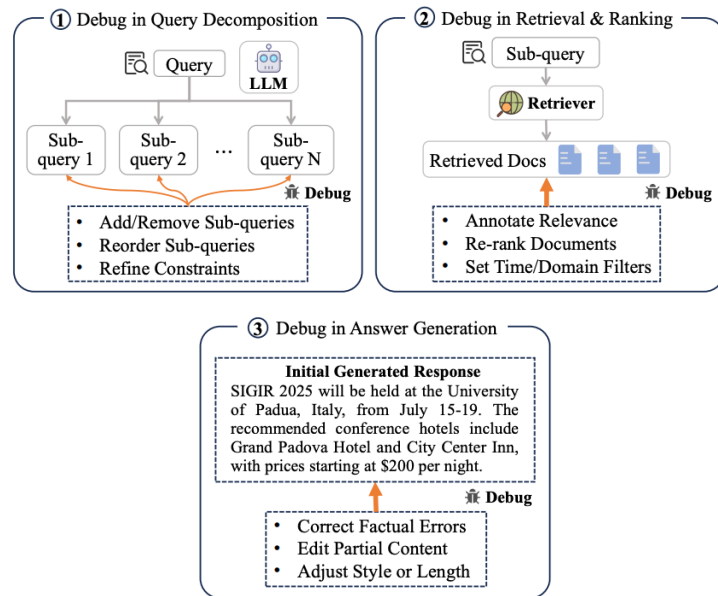
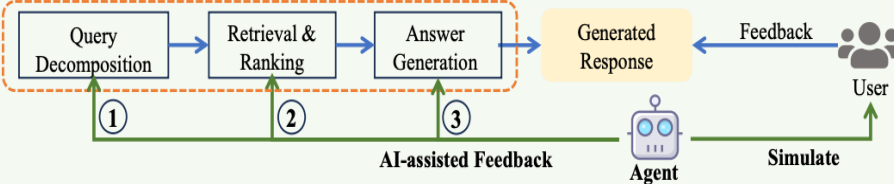
**User Debug Mode** allows engaged users to intervene at key stages, e.g. refining query decomposition, rating retrieved documents, and editing initial generated responses

**Shadow User Mode** a personalized user agent simulates user preferences and provides AI-assisted feedback for less interactive users

User Debug Mode



Shadow User Mode





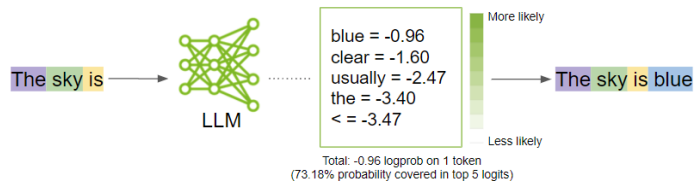


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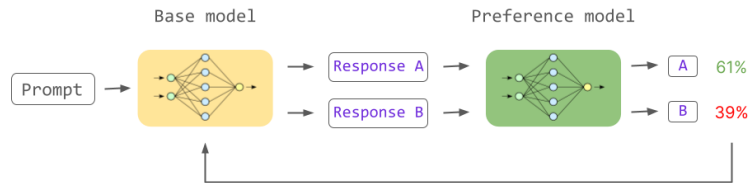
# **Large Language Model View @ RAG**

# Motivation: LLMs do not Learn RAG

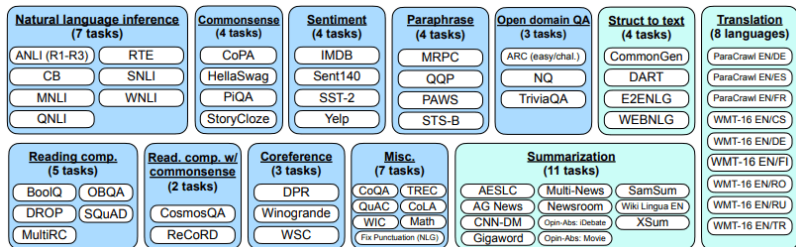
## ① Pretraining Phase – Next Token Prediction



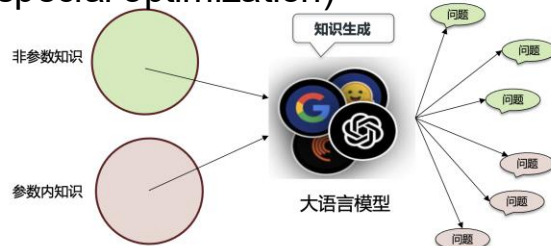
## ③ RLHF Phase – Alignment



## ② Instruction Tuning Phase – Multi-task Learning



How to use retrieved information?  
(no special optimization)



How can LLMs robustly handle noisy input knowledge and choose between internal and external knowledge?

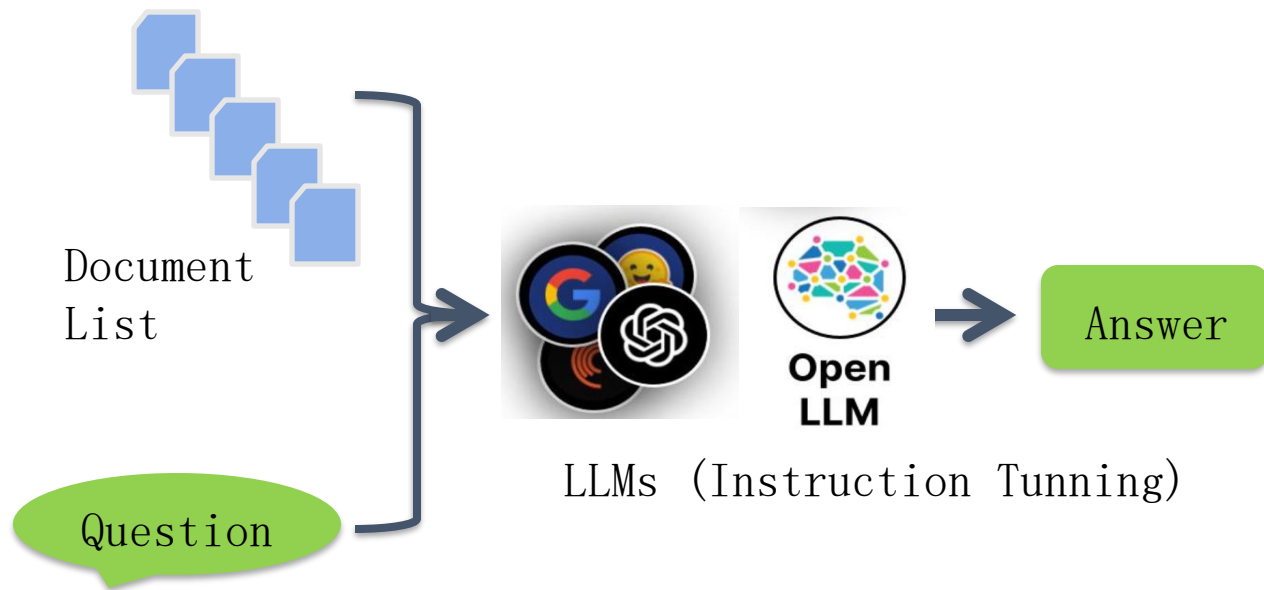
# Motivation: LLMs do not Learn RAG

## Aligning LLMs capabilities in RAG through fine-tuning

- ◆ ① **Supervised Instruction Tuning:** Construct retrieval-question-answer triplets on domain-specific datasets and use them to fine-tune instructions, teaching the large model how to utilize retrieved documents. Examples include FID and RetRobust.
- ◆ ② **Dynamic Retrieval-Augmented Generation Fine-Tuning:** Fine-tune large language models to actively make dynamic decisions on whether to perform retrieval-augmented generation. Examples include Active-RAG and Self-RAG.

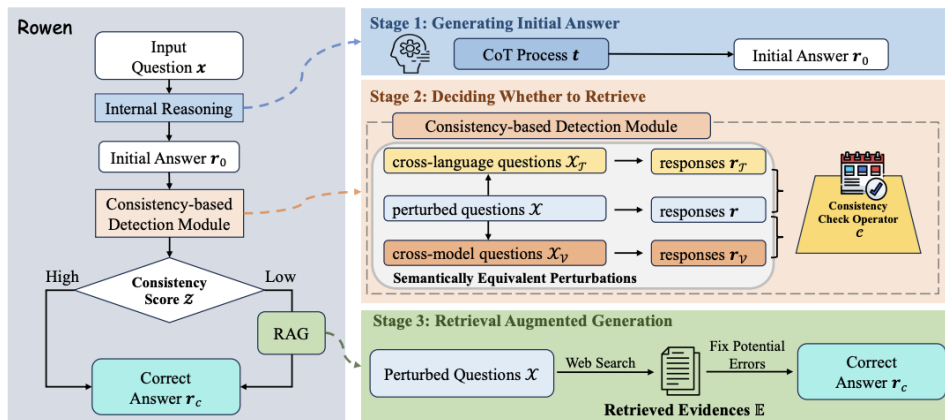
# ① Supervised Instruction Tuning

Given a question and a retrieved passage list  $R$ , use both as input for instruction fine-tuning



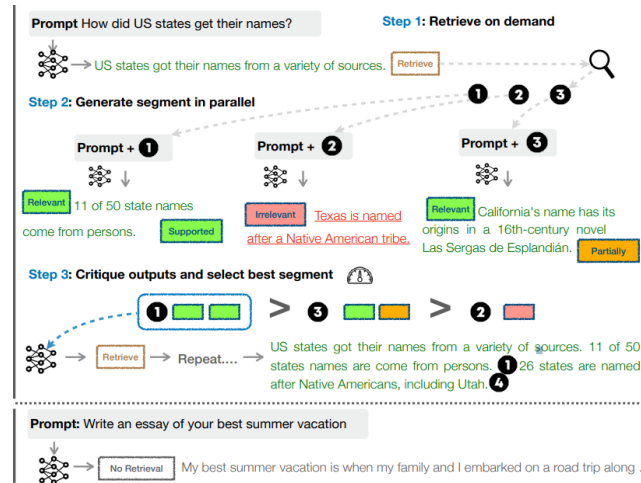
## ② Dynamic RAG Fine-tuning

Rowen: Retrieve Only When It Needs



Train an external discriminator to decide whether to use retrieved content, based on multi-dimensional consistency features (cross-language, noise addition, cross-model, etc.)

SELF-RAG



Fine-tune LLMs to dynamically generate retrieval tokens when needed during generation, critically evaluate retrieved documents, and use them selectively, enabling dynamic RAG

# Motivation: LLMs do not Learn RAG

**Aligning LLMs capabilities in RAG through fine-tuning**

- ◆ ① Supervised Instruction Tuning
- ◆ ② Dynamic Retrieval-Augmented Generation Fine-Tuning

All require supervised data



**Is supervised data essential?**

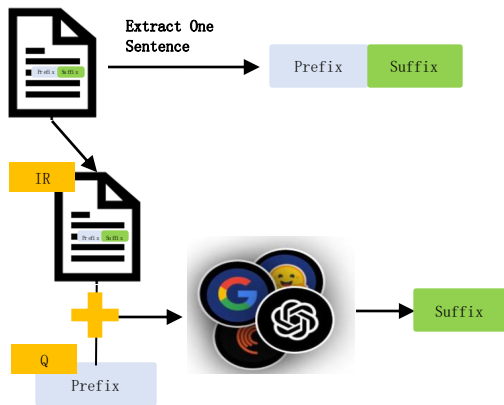
# INFO-RAG: Unsupervised RAG Training

Design unsupervised training tasks according to three scenarios, so that LLM can play the role of "knowledge refiner"

## Information Extraction



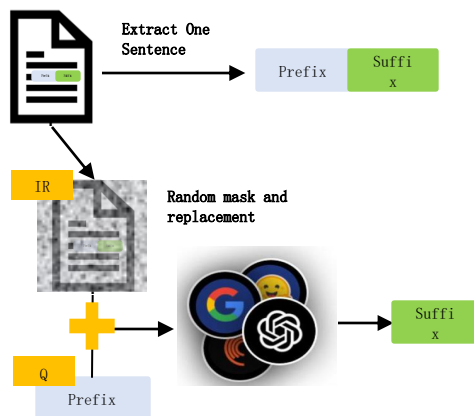
No Internal Knowledge



## Information Correction



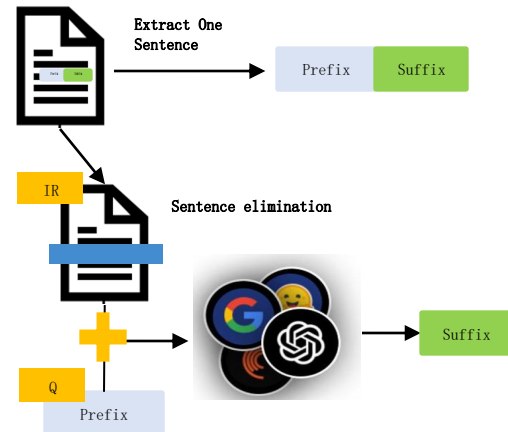
Partial Internal Knowledge



## Information Provision

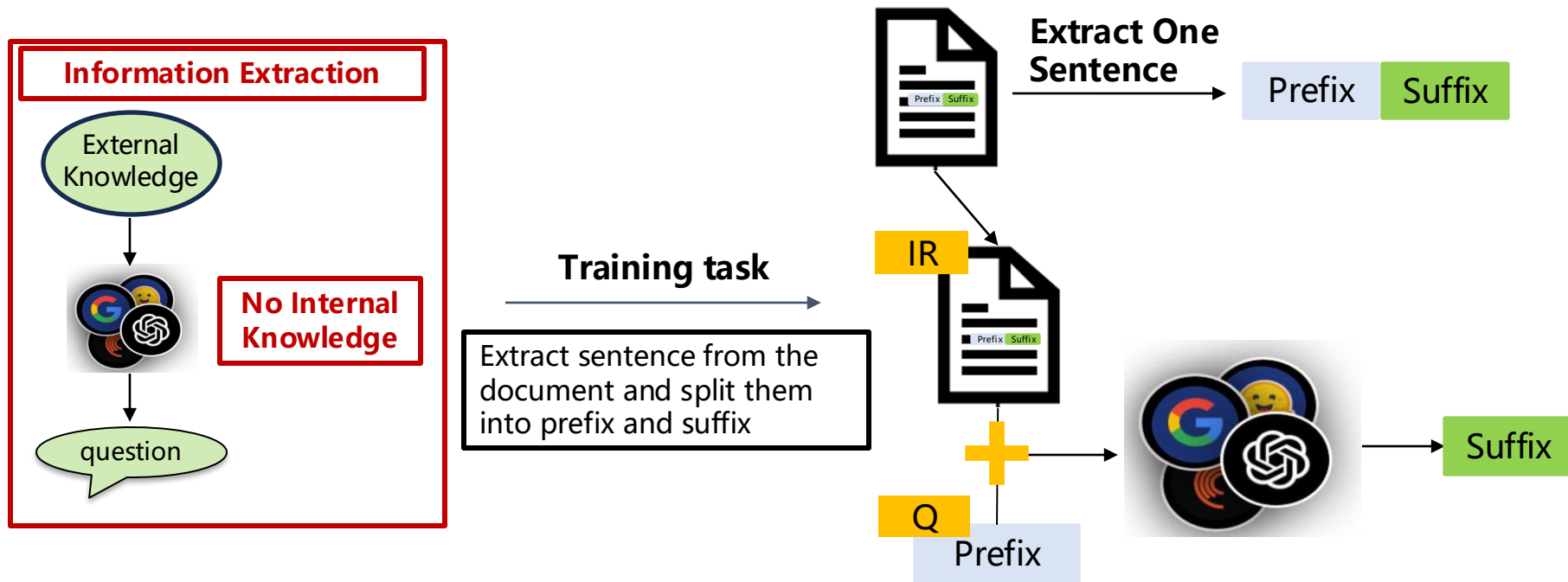


Exist Internal Knowledge



# INFO-RAG: Method

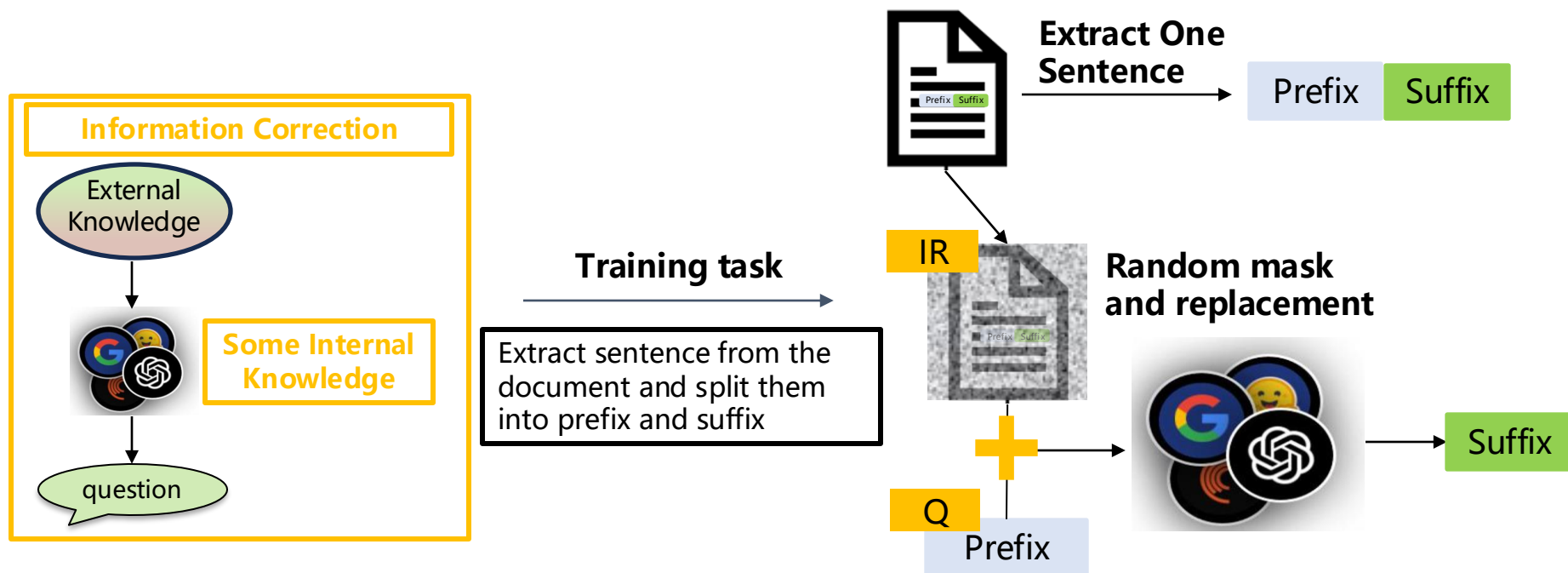
All correct answers are in the retrieved texts and **LLMs just need to extract them**





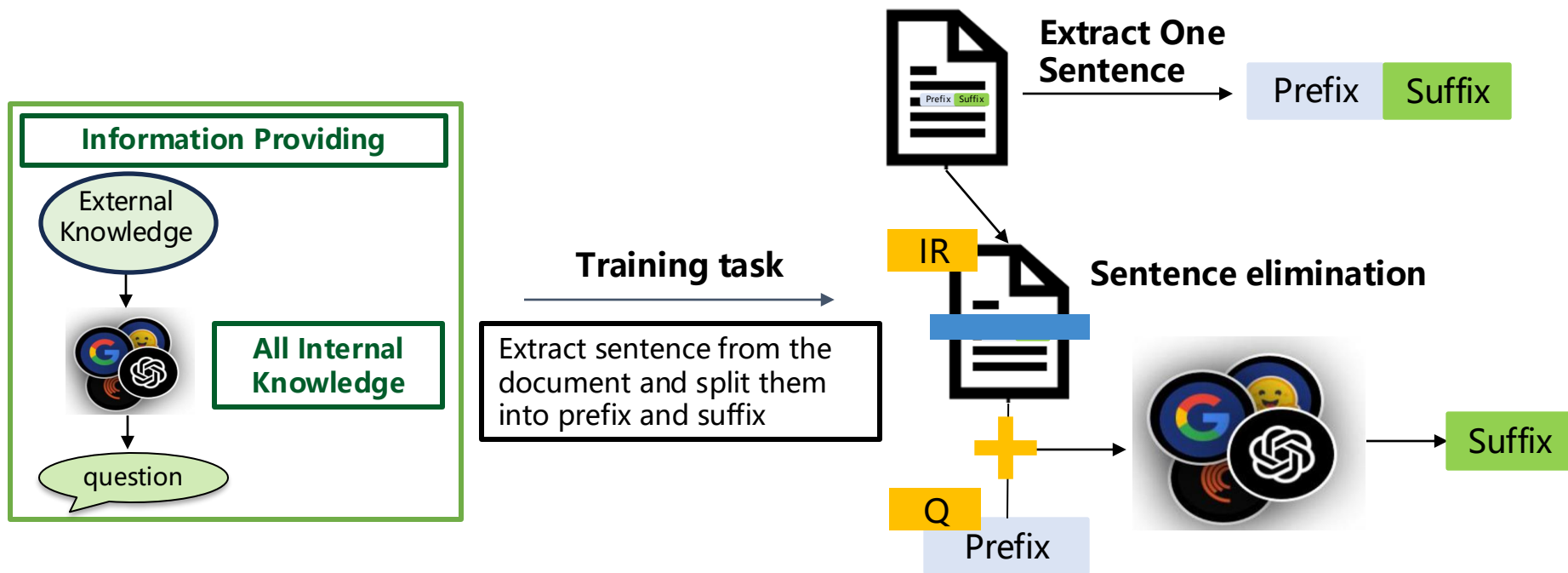
# INFO-RAG: Method

The retrieved texts only contain partial answers, and even some wrong answers, which require **correction and completion** by LLM



# INFO-RAG: Method

The retrieved texts are only semantically related to the question but useless, and LLM needs to use this to **stimulate knowledge within parameters**



# INFO-RAG: Experiments

	Soft-Filling		ODQA		Multi-Hop QA		LFQA	Dialog	LM	Code Gen		Overall
	Accuracy		Accuracy		Accuracy		ROUGE	F1	ROUGE	CodeBLEU		
	T-REx	ZS	NQ	WebQ	Hotpot	Musique	Ell5	Wow	WikiText	Python	Java	
LLaMA-2-7B	55.60	54.08	<b>46.82</b>	43.52	39.40	25.95	15.18	7.85	60.77	21.44	22.99	35.78
+ INFO-RAG	<b>65.91</b>	<b>57.01</b>	45.74	<b>44.68</b>	<b>46.56</b>	<b>30.19</b>	<b>17.18</b>	<b>9.09</b>	<b>62.91</b>	<b>26.75</b>	<b>32.06</b>	<b>39.83</b>
LLaMA-2-7B-chat	60.63	55.03	49.42	46.72	50.03	42.69	27.81	10.21	60.26	22.46	23.90	40.83
+ INFO-RAG	<b>65.77</b>	<b>58.32</b>	<b>53.93</b>	<b>49.13</b>	<b>52.01</b>	<b>44.45</b>	<b>28.15</b>	<b>10.49</b>	<b>63.24</b>	<b>27.25</b>	<b>28.79</b>	<b>43.78</b>
LLaMA-2-13B	60.08	50.77	47.40	44.62	42.12	25.78	14.80	7.04	62.20	21.52	29.16	36.86
+ INFO-RAG	<b>62.80</b>	<b>55.63</b>	<b>47.82</b>	<b>45.42</b>	<b>51.48</b>	<b>35.02</b>	<b>17.48</b>	<b>7.20</b>	<b>64.14</b>	<b>29.00</b>	<b>35.50</b>	<b>41.04</b>
LLaMA-2-13B-chat	62.53	56.81	50.36	45.47	61.23	47.06	27.07	11.19	60.52	22.34	30.96	43.23
+ INFO-RAG	<b>65.39</b>	<b>59.05</b>	<b>54.04</b>	<b>51.07</b>	<b>61.91</b>	<b>47.93</b>	<b>27.24</b>	<b>11.38</b>	<b>63.92</b>	<b>31.98</b>	<b>38.12</b>	<b>46.55</b>

As an unsupervised training method, INFO-RAG can be applied to existing large models and further improve its ability to retrieve enhancements on various tasks

# Motivation: LLM maybe Already Know How to RAG

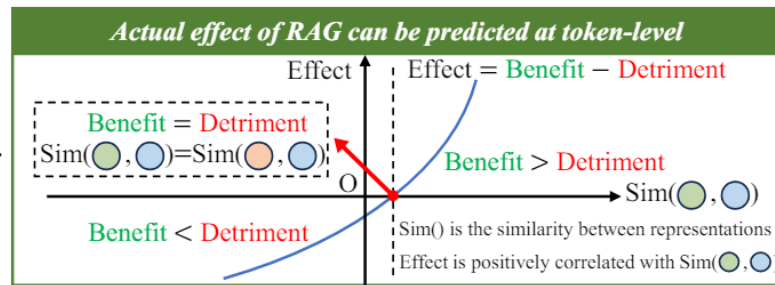
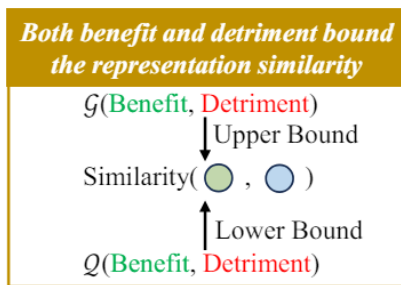
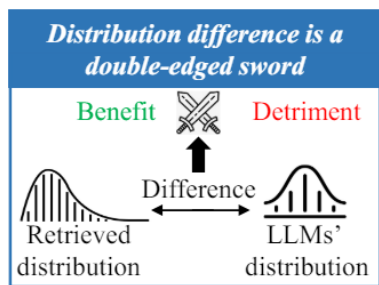
Most works on RAG are heuristically inspired and lack theoretical analysis explaining how RAG actually works

(a) **Our Theoretical Results:** Unveil benefit and detriment in RAG

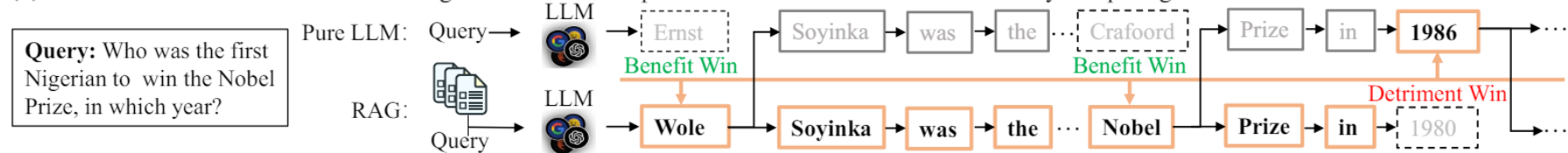
Retrieved Representation

LLM Representation

RAG Representation



(b) **Our Practical Method:** Collaborative generation between pure LLM and RAG at the token-level by comparing benefit and detriment.

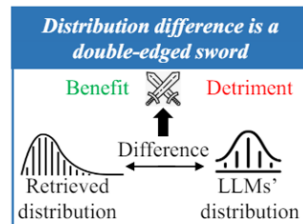


# TokRAG: Open the Blackbox of RAG

## 1. Distribution difference brings benefits and detriments in RAG

**Benefit:** The large model gives an incorrect answer, while RAG gives a correct one.

**Detriment:** The large model gives a correct answer, while RAG gives an incorrect one.



## 2. Theoretical basis: The text generation process of LLMs is an implicit latent variable inference (use to explain ICL (in-context learning))

$$p(x_i|R, x_{1:i-1}) = \int_{\mathcal{Z}} p(x_i|R, x_{1:i-1}, z)p(z|R, x_{1:i-1}) dz$$

## 3. RAG can be treated as an unsupervised version of ICL

$z^*$  is Retrieved Concept

$$= \int_{\mathcal{Z} - \{z^*\}} p(x_i|R, x_{1:i-1}, z)p(z|R, x_{1:i-1}) dz + p(x_i|R, x_{1:i-1}, z^*)p(z^*|R, x_{1:i-1}).$$

# TokRAG - Effect of RAG can be Predicted

1. The target can be decomposed into **benefit** and **detriment**

$$\underbrace{\text{KL}(p_R(r) \| p(r|z))}_{\text{benefit}} - \underbrace{\text{KL}(p_R(r) \| p(r|z^*))}_{\text{detriment}}$$

Diff. between retrieved texts and  
LLM generated retrieved texts

Diff. between retrieved texts and  
LLM generated texts condition on Retrieved Concept

2. Diff. between **benefit** and **detriment** is positively correlated with  
the similarity of representation

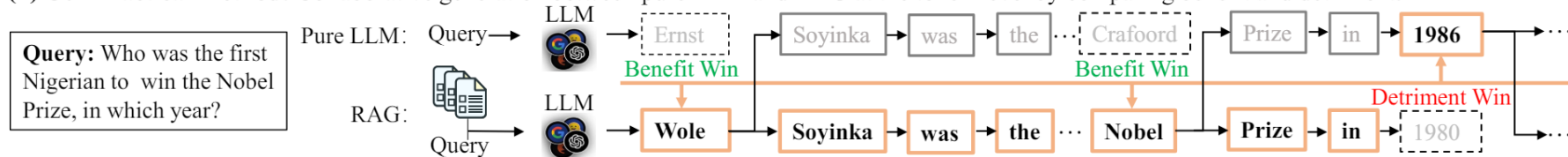
$$\underbrace{\text{KL}(p_R(r) \| p(r|z))}_{\text{benefit}} - \underbrace{\text{KL}(p_R(r) \| p(r|z^*))}_{\text{detriment}} \propto \frac{1}{\mathcal{D}}. \quad \mathcal{D} = \|p(x_i|R, x_{1:i-1}) - p_R(x_i|x_{1:i-1})\|_1$$

# TokRAG - Collaborative Generation

## Principle to compare benefit and detriment in actual application

$$s = \begin{cases} \text{benefit win} & \text{if } \cos(\mathbf{w}_{RAG}, \mathbf{w}_{IR}) \geq \cos(\mathbf{w}_{RAG}, \mathbf{w}_{LLM}), \\ \text{detriment win} & \text{if } \cos(\mathbf{w}_{RAG}, \mathbf{w}_{IR}) < \cos(\mathbf{w}_{RAG}, \mathbf{w}_{LLM}), \end{cases}$$

**(b) Our Practical Method:** Collaborative generation between pure LLM and RAG at the token-level by comparing benefit and detriment.



We can judge the actual effect of RAG at the token level. In this way, the collaborative generation of LLM and RAG can be realized, so as to maximize benefits and avoid detriments as much as possible

# TokRAG - Experiments

Methods	Train LLM	Add Module	TriviaQA							WebQ							Squad						
			Ratio of Hard Negative Passages							Ratio of Hard Negative Passages							Ratio of Hard Negative Passages						
			100%	80%	60%	40%	20%	0%		100%	80%	60%	40%	20%	0%		100%	80%	60%	40%	20%	0%	
Standard RAG	no ✓	no ✓	43.8	67.0	71.3	76.2	78.2	81.9		23.9	35.8	40.6	43.4	48.4	53.1		8.6	31.0	43.2	53.0	58.8	67.2	
NLI+RAG	no ✓	need ✗	50.8	61.2	68.2	73.0	76.4	79.1		30.7	40.3	44.5	47.5	50.9	52.8		9.9	21.1	33.7	43.4	51.7	60.5	
CRAG	no ✓	need ✗	48.2	68.3	72.5	76.7	81.5	82.2		25.6	37.4	41.9	46.2	51.5	54.9		7.4	28.7	39.6	50.7	53.2	61.1	
RetRobust	need ✗	no ✓	49.2	67.3	72.9	77.5	79.4	82.3		30.0	38.9	42.5	48.2	49.8	54.3		10.5	30.8	43.3	52.5	58.4	66.0	
Self-RAG	need ✗	no ✓	43.0	68.7	73.5	76.4	80.8	82.2		18.3	34.8	42.2	47.2	51.3	57.0		5.5	27.8	38.9	46.4	52.5	58.3	
INFO-RAG	need ✗	no ✓	49.7	68.4	73.2	77.9	80.0	82.5		29.7	38.0	43.9	48.1	49.4	54.8		10.7	30.1	43.5	53.7	59.2	67.5	
X-RAG (Ours)	no ✓	no ✓	<b>53.5</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>85.7</b>		<b>32.9</b>	<b>43.8</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>57.3</b>		<b>12.8</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>68.1</b>	

In RAG of actual open-domain QA tasks, X-RAG can surpass mainstream robust RAG frameworks and training methods, such as RetRobust, Self-RAG, etc., without the need for additional modules or training LLM.





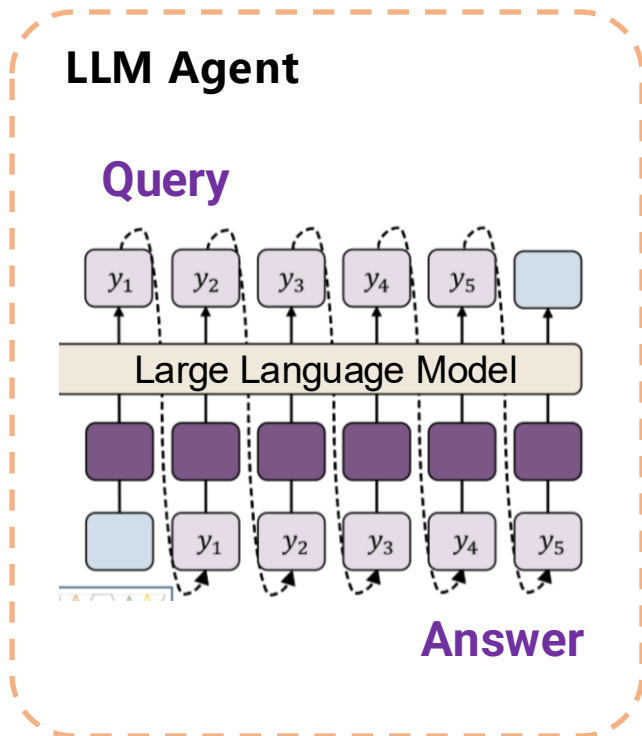
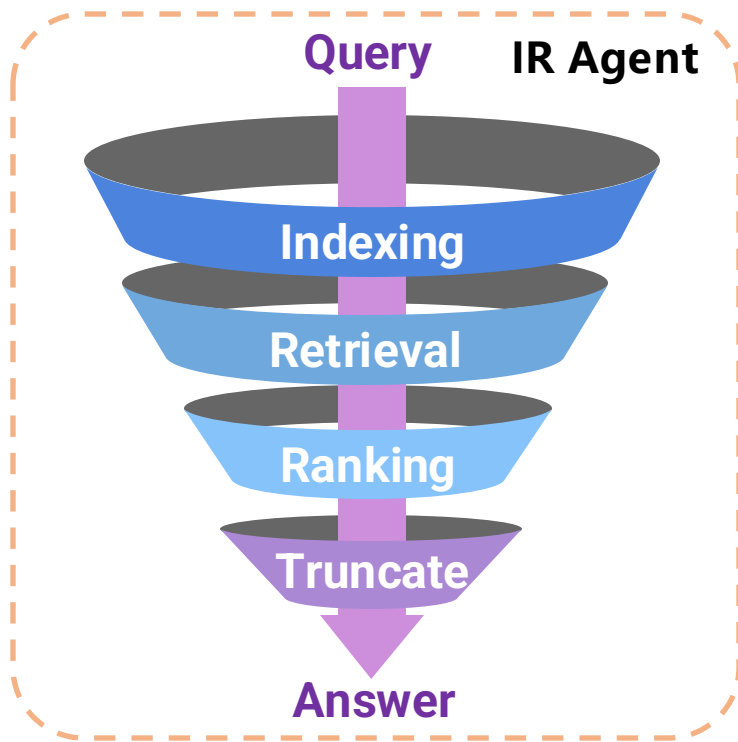
**03**

**Interaction View**

**@RAG**

# Motivation: Treat IR and LLM Equally

How can large models and information retrieval interact efficiently to robustly solve complex problems?



# Motivation: Make IR and LLM Interactively

## Interaction Framework between IR and LLM:

- ① Tool Calling,  
e.g., ToolFormer
- ② Complex Problem Decomposition,  
e.g., Self-Ask, DSP
- ③ Agent-Based Planning,  
e.g., ReAct
- ④ Information Correction,  
e.g., Verify-and-Edit

### Self-Ask

GPT-3

Question: Who lived longer, Theodor Haecker or Harry Vaughan Watkins?  
Are follow up questions needed here: Yes.  
Follow up: How old was Theodor Haecker when he died?  
Intermediate answer: Theodor Haecker was 65 years old when he died.  
Follow up: How old was Harry Vaughan Watkins when he died?  
Intermediate answer: Harry Vaughan Watkins was 69 years he died.  
So the final answer is: Harry Vaughan Watkins

Question: Who was president of the U.S. when supercondu was discovered?  
Are follow up questions needed here: Yes.  
Follow up: When was superconductivity discovered?  
Intermediate answer: Superconductivity was discovered in .  
Follow up: Who was president of the U.S. in 1911?  
Intermediate answer: William Howard Taft.  
So the final answer is: William Howard Taft.

The New England Journal of Medicine is a registered trademark of [QA("Who is the publisher of The New England Journal of Medicine?") → Massachusetts Medical Society] the MMS.

Out of 1400 participants, 400 (or [Calculator(400 / 1400) → 0.29] 29%) passed the test.

The name derives from "la tortuga", the Spanish word for [MT("tortuga") → turtle] turtle.

The Brown Act is California's law [WikiSearch("Brown Act") → The Ralph M. Brown Act is an act of the California State Legislature that guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies.] that requires legislative bodies, like city councils, to hold their meetings open to the public.

(1d) ReAct (Reason + Act)

Thought 1: I need to search Apple Remote and find program it was originally designed to interact with  
Act 1: Search[Apple Remote]  
Obs 1: The Apple Remote is a remote control introduced October 2005 by Apple ... originally designed to control Front Row media center program ...

Thought 2: Apple Remote was originally designed to the Front Row media center program. I need to search Row next and find what other device can control it  
Act 2: Search[Front Row]  
Obs 2: Could not find [Front Row]. Similar: ['Front Seat to Earth', 'Front Row Motorsports', 'Front Row (software)', ...]

Thought 3: Front Row is not found. I need to search Front Row (software) .  
Act 3: Search[Front Row (software)]  
Obs 3: Front Row is a discontinued media center software ...

Thought 4: Front Row (software) is controlled by an Apple Remote or the keyboard function keys. So the answer is keyboard function keys.  
Act 4: Finish[keyboard function keys]

# ① Interaction Based on Tool Calling

## ToolFormer

Interaction  
Process

The New Engla

Tool Types

What other name is  
Pittsburgh known by?



The Steel City

War memorial  
Flodden



[...] was created in memory  
of the Battle of Flodden.

3435\*235/9



89691.67



Thursday, March  
10, 2019

Os Melhores  
Escolas em Jersey



The Best Schools  
in Jersey

## Advantages:

- ① Diverse tool types
- ② Easy to synthesize training data

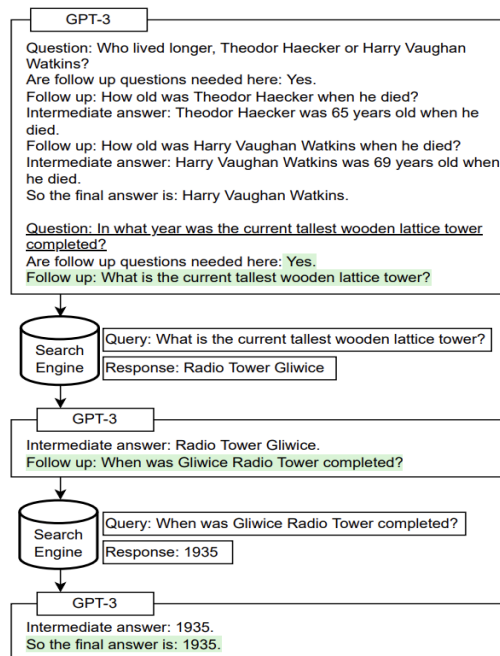
## Disadvantages:

- ① Local Planning (interrupt the decoding process when "→" token)
- ② Predefined tool types
- ③ Without document content

# ② Interaction Based on Complex Problem Decomposition

## Self-Ask

Break the question into follow-up questions, which are easier to answer with LLM



## Advantages:

- ① Break a hard problem to some easy problems
- ② Easy to identify where to use IR

## Disadvantages:

- ① Local Planning (end of follow up question)
- ② Every sub-questions can be answered (**strong assumption**)
- ③ Without document content

# ③ Interaction Based on Agent-Based Planning

## ReAct

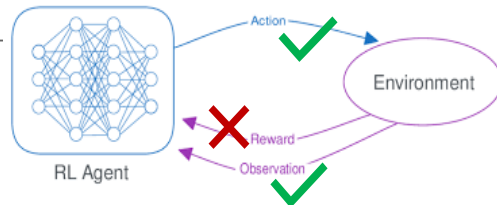
(1d) ReAct (Reason + Act)

**Thought 1:** I need to search Apple Remote and find the program it was originally designed to interact with.  
**Act 1:** `Search[Apple Remote]`  
**Obs 1:** The Apple Remote is a remote control introduced in October 2005 by Apple ... originally designed to control the `Front Row media center` program ...

**Thought 2:** Apple Remote was originally designed to control the Front Row media center program. I need to search `Front Row` next and find what other device can control it.  
**Act 2:** `Search[Front Row]`  
**Obs 2:** Could not find [Front Row]. Similar: ['Front Row Seat to Earth', 'Front Row Motorsports', 'Front Row (software)', ...]

**Thought 3:** Front Row is not found. I need to search `Front Row (software)` .  
**Act 3:** `Search[Front Row (software)]`  
**Obs 3:** Front Row is a discontinued media center software ...

**Thought 4:** `Front Row (software) is controlled by an Apple Remote or the keyboard function keys.` So the answer is keyboard function keys.  
**Act 4:** `Finish[keyboard function keys]`



## Advantages:

- ① The prototype of an agent, including elements: thought, action, and observation (document)

## Disadvantages:

- ① Local Planning (end of obs.)
- ② No reward signals

# ④ Interaction Based on Information Correction

## Verify-and-Edit

### Question

Of all the teams John Nyskohus played for, which team was known as "the Black and Whites?"

### Standard

Newcastle United. ❌

### Chain-of-thought

First, John Nyskohus played for the Norwegian football team Odd Grenland. Second, Odd Grenland is known as "the Black and Whites." The answer is Odd Grenland. ❌

Self-Consistency:  
less than majority agree

### Verify

What team did John Nyskohus play for?  
What team is known as "the Black and Whites?"

### External Knowledge Retrieval

John Nyskohus ... is an Australian former soccer player who played club football for USC Lion ... and Adelaide City in the National Soccer League ...  
Adelaide City Football Club is an Australian football (soccer) club based in Adelaide, South Australia. They are also known as "The Zebras" and "the Black and Whites".

### Edit Rationales

First, John Nyskohus played for Adelaide City in the National Soccer League. Second, Adelaide City Football Club is known as "the Black and Whites".

### New Prediction

The answer is Adelaide City Football Club. ✅

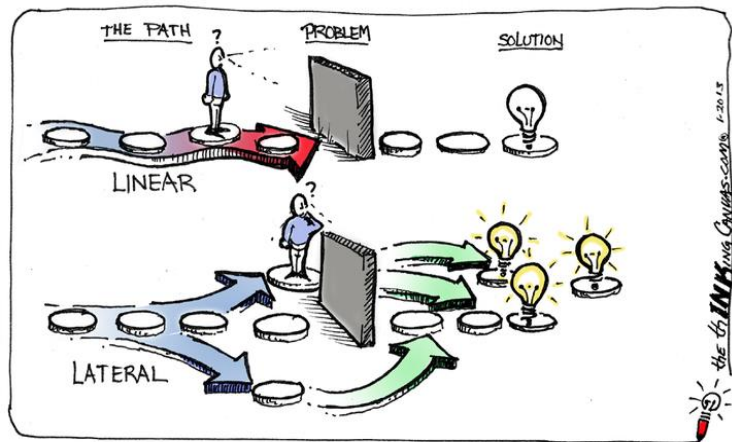
## Advantages:

- ① Global Planning (generate all reasoning in one round)
- ② Self consistency verify (reward)

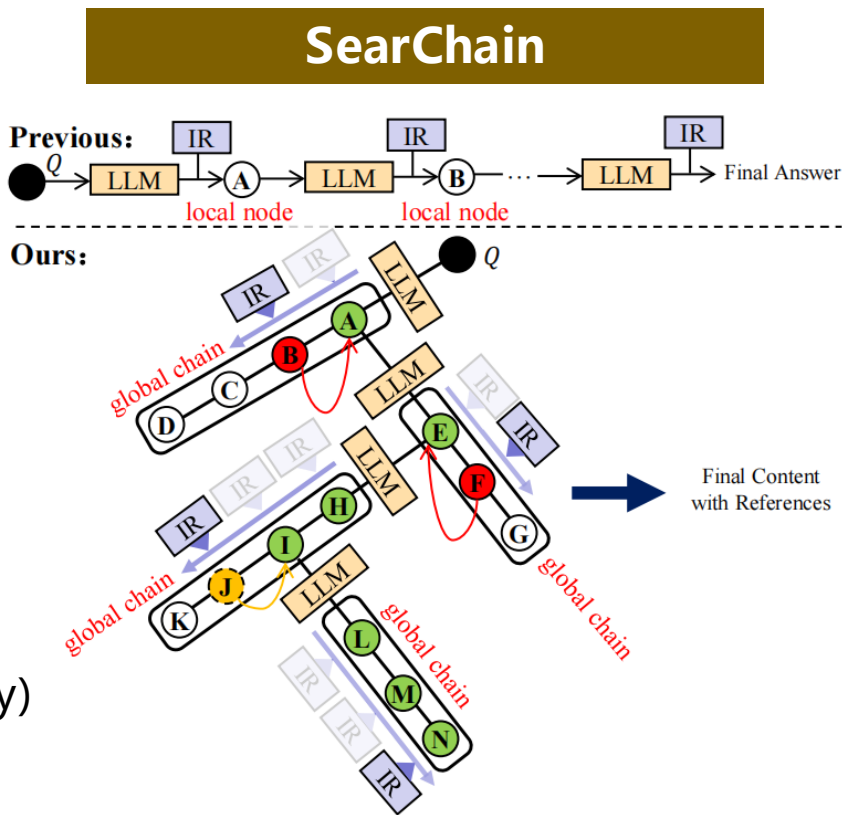
## Disadvantages:

- ① Not fit agentic framework
- ② Process hard to trace (boundary of sub-question and reasoning block are blurred)

# SearChain: Tree-Structured Interaction Framework



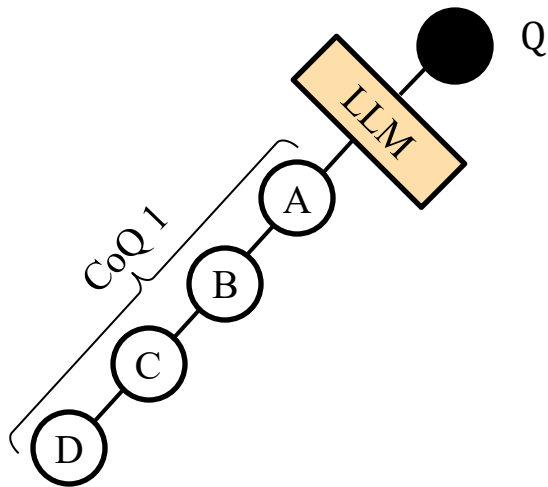
- **CoT vs. Agentic Framework**  
IR and LLM as two interacting agents
- **Local vs. Global Decomposition**  
Complete reasoning chain (chain-of-query)
- **Linear vs. Tree Reasoning**  
IR verify and correct reasoning direction





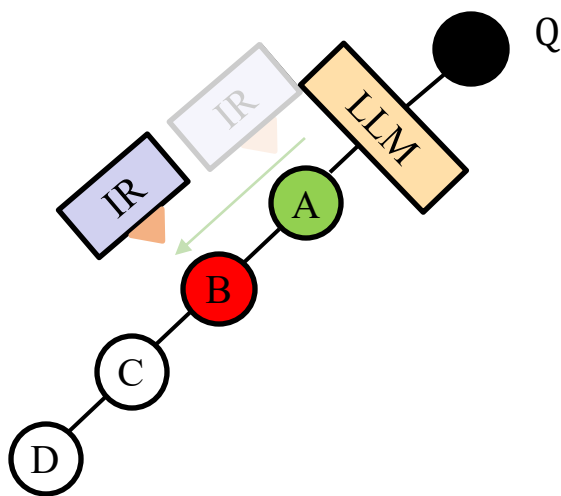
# SearChain - Method

## Step1: Generation Chain-of-Query (Global Decomposition)



# SearChain - Method

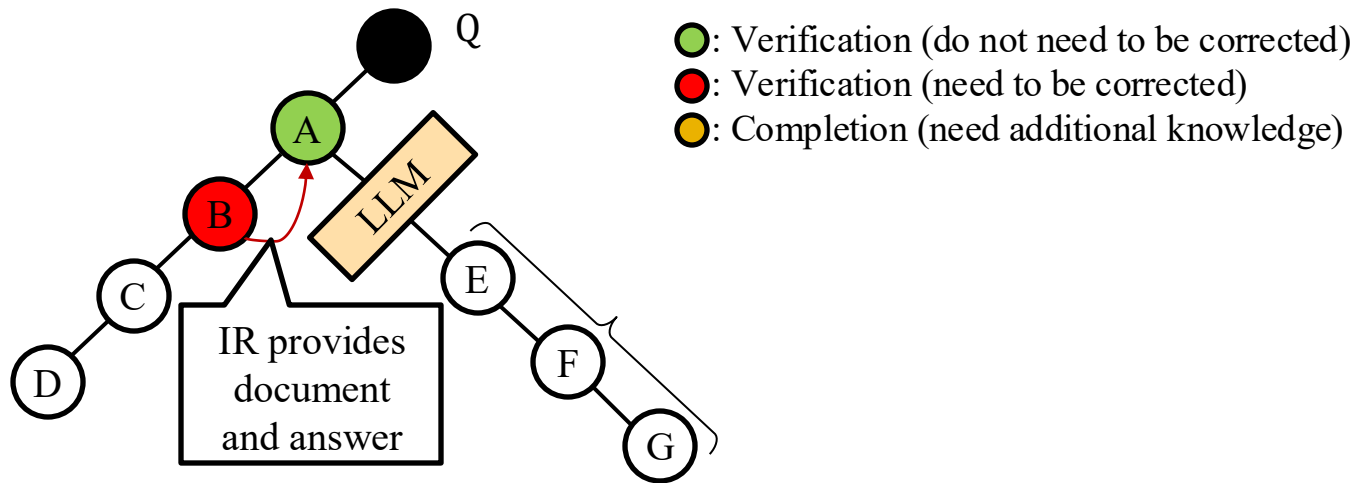
**Step2: IR module go though each sub-question node, verify or complete**



- : Verification (do not need to be corrected)
- : Verification (need to be corrected)
- : Completion (need additional knowledge)

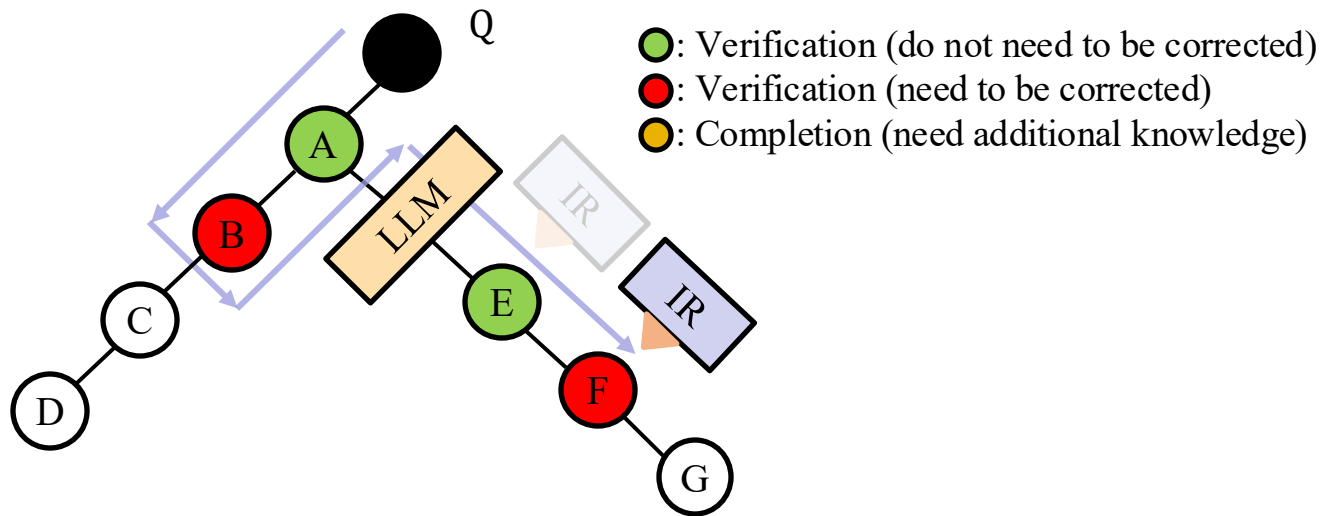
# SearChain - Method

**Step3: If Error occurs, go back to the previous node and generate CoQ again**



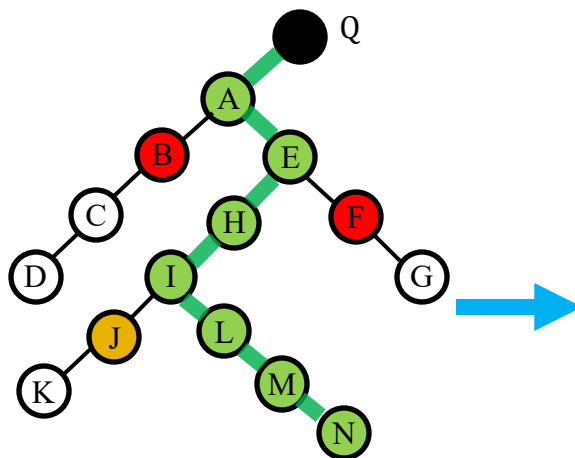
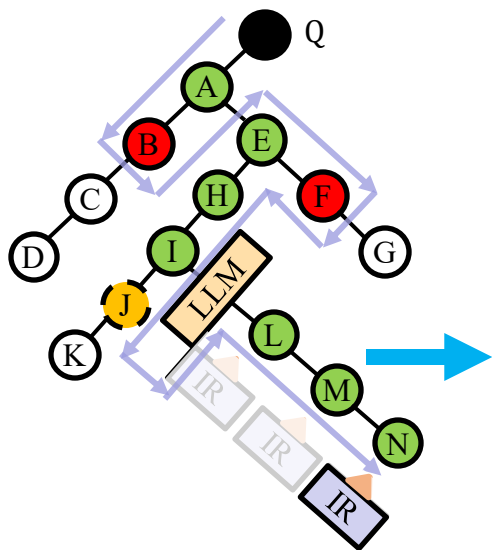
# SearChain - Method

**Step4: Repeat using IR module to go through the remained nodes**



# SearChain - Method

## Step5: Track back to get evidence-cited answer



- : Verification (do not need to be corrected)
- : Verification (need to be corrected)
- : Completion (need additional knowledge)

The performer of Spirit If... is Kevin Drew [1]. Kevin Drew was born in Toronto [2]. Greyhound buses in Toronto leave from Toronto Coach Terminal [3]. So the final answer is **Toronto Coach Terminal**. ✓

[1] Spirit If... is the debut solo album by **Kevin Drew**. It was released on September 18, 2007 ...

[2] Kevin Drew (born September 9, 1976 in **Toronto**) ..

[3] The **Toronto Coach Terminal** is the central bus station for inter-city services in Toronto, Ontario, Canada ... when it was leased out in its entirety to bus lines Coach Canada and Greyhound Canada ...

# SearChain - Experiment







## Performance on knowledge-intensive tasks

	HoPo	Multi-Hop QA			Slot Filling		FC	LFQA
		MQ	WQA	SQA	zsRE	T-REx	FEV.	ELI5
Without Information Retrieval								
Direct Prompting	31.95	5.91	25.82	66.25	22.75	43.85	73.45	21.90
Auto-CoT	33.53	10.55	29.15	65.40	21.30	43.98	76.61	21.55
CoT	35.04	9.46	30.41	65.83	22.36	44.51	76.98	21.79
CoT-SC	36.85	10.02	32.68	70.84	24.74	46.06	77.15	22.05
Recite-and-answer	36.49	10.97	32.53	70.47	24.98	46.14	<b>77.35</b>	22.10
Self-Ask w/o IR	33.95	11.10	35.65	65.45	20.16	44.71	75.31	21.73
Least-to-Most	34.05	11.45	32.88	65.78	21.86	44.98	75.98	21.95
Plan-and-Solve	36.33	12.95	35.68	73.21	25.15	47.58	77.08	22.23
SearChain w/o IR	<b>38.36</b>	<b>13.61</b>	<b>40.49</b>	<b>75.62</b>	<b>30.14</b>	<b>52.69</b>	77.06	<b>22.54</b>
Interaction with Information Retrieval								
Direct Retrieval	34.09	10.22	30.01	66.78	52.29	59.28	78.25	23.40
ToolFormer	36.75	12.98	35.49	67.02	51.35	59.17	80.79	23.05
Self-Ask	40.05	14.28	39.58	67.65	50.51	59.12	79.41	23.25
Plan-and-Solve w/ IR	41.65	15.07	42.05	74.58	52.15	60.03	81.04	24.56
React → CoT-SC	43.15	15.49	40.36	70.43	53.27	60.42	80.59	24.05
Verify-and-Edit	44.03	15.57	40.83	71.09	53.95	61.10	80.67	23.80
Tree-of-Thought w/ IR	50.65	15.61	42.49	72.55	54.88	62.40	81.03	24.20
DSP	51.97	15.83	43.52	72.41	54.35	61.32	80.65	23.46
SearChain	<b>56.91</b>	<b>17.07</b>	<b>46.27</b>	<b>76.95</b>	<b>57.29</b>	<b>65.07</b>	<b>81.15</b>	<b>25.57</b>
- w/o Verification	46.11	14.70	42.67	75.98	43.58	55.46	78.79	22.98
- w/o Completion	53.05	15.86	43.64	76.53	45.78	56.03	80.03	25.02

1. In reasoning, outperforms CoT, Self-consistency and Plan-and-Solve
2. In the interaction with IR, outperforms React, Self-Ask and Tree-of-Thought

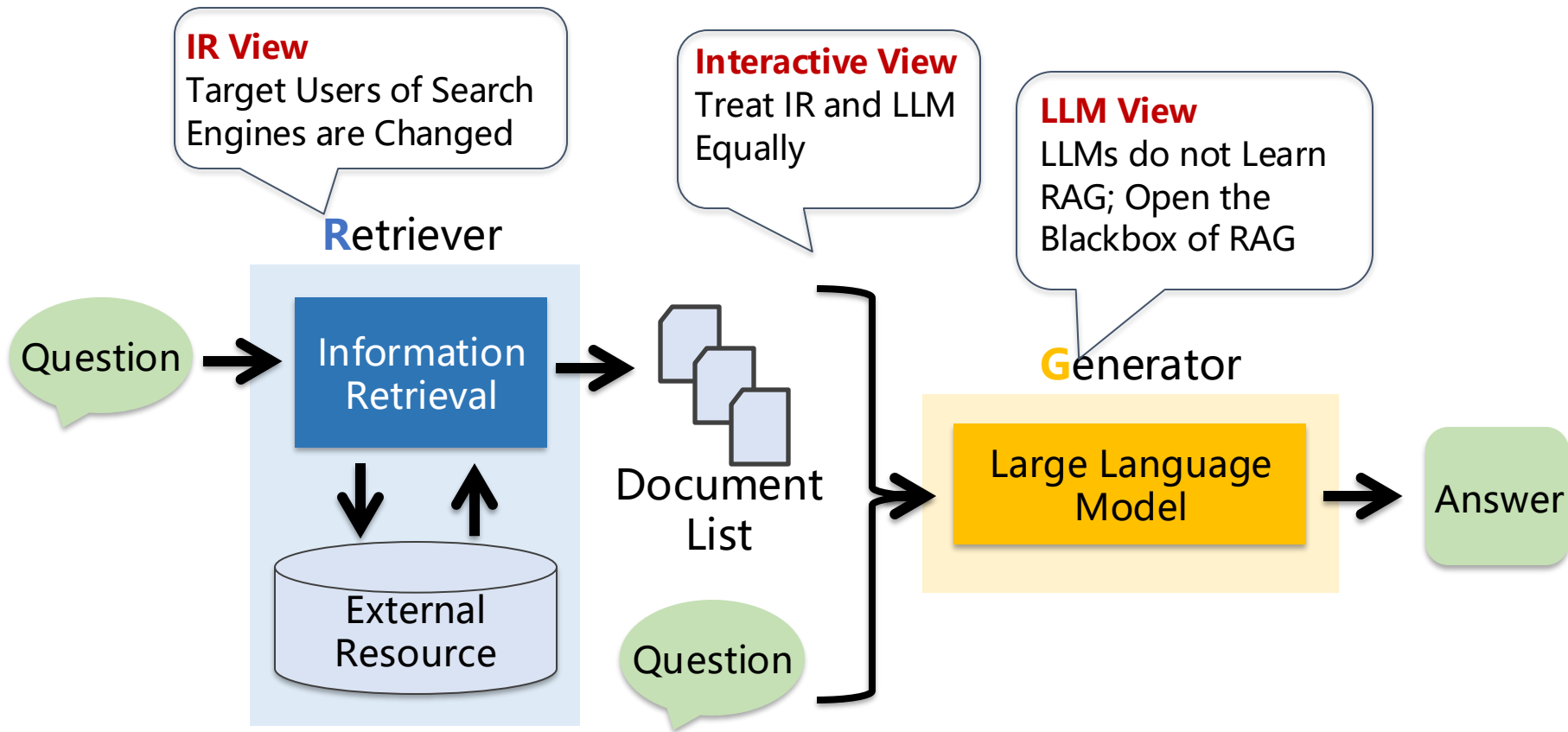
# SearChain - Experiment

## Better Tracing

What team did the recipient of the 2007 Brownlow Medal play for?		What kind of dinosaur does Raymond Ochoa voice in the Pixar film "The Good Dinosaur"?		In what London botanical garden can you find the fungus described by Elise Maud Wakefield as "Lepiota"?	
 <b>SearChain</b> Jimmy Bartel was the recipient of the 2007 Brownlow Medal [1] and played Australian rules football professionally [2]. He played for the Geelong Football Club in the Australian Football League [2]. So the final answer is Geelong Football Club.  [1]: ... Jimmy Bartel won the medal during the 2007 AFL season ... [2]: ... Jimmy Bartel is a former Australian rules footballer plays for the Geelong Football Club ...	 <b>New Bing</b> The recipient of the 2007 Brownlow Medal was Jimmy Bartel who played for the Geelong Football Club. He won the medal by polling twenty-nine votes during the 2007 AFL season [1]. Is there anything else you would like to know about this topic?  [1]: ... Jimmy Bartel won the medal by polling twenty-nine votes during the 2007 AFL season...	 <b>SearChain</b> Raymond Ochoa is an American child actor and voice actor [1]. He has played various roles in movies including Arlo in "The Good Dinosaur" [2]. Arlo is an Apatosaurus [3]. So the final answer is Apatosaurus.  [1]: Raymond Ochoa is an American child actor and voice actor ... [2]: Raymond Ochoa ... played, Arlo, in the Pixar film "The Good Dinosaur" ... [3]: ... timid Apatosaurus named Arlo (Ochoa) ...	 <b>New Bing</b> Raymond Ochoa voices the character of Arlo, an Apatosaurus in the Pixar film "The Good Dinosaur" [1]  [1]: (Amazon.com: The Good Dinosaur : Raymond Ochoa)	 <b>SearChain</b> Elise Maud Wakefield was an English mycologist and plant pathologist [1]. "Lepiota" is a genus of fungi [2]. Kew Gardens is known for its fungi collection [3], such as "Lepiota viridigleba" [4]. So the final answer is Kew Gardens.  [1]: ... Elsie Maud Wakefield, was an English mycologist and plant pathologist... [2]: ... Lepiota viridigleba is a species of sequestrate fungus in the family Agaricaceae ... [3]: ... Kew Gardens is a botanical garden in southwest London that houses the "largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world". ... [4]: ... The collection of fungi at Kew Gardens includes species such as ... "Lepiota viridigleba" ...	 <b>New Bing</b> I'm sorry, but I couldn't find any information about a fungus described by Elsie Maud Wakefield as "Lepiota" in a London botanical garden. I did find that Elsie Maud Wakefield was a mycologist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from 1910 to 1951 and was a specialist in Basidiomycetes and an international authority on Aphyllphorales [1,2].  [1]: ... Elsie Maud Wakefield, was an English mycologist and plant pathologist... [2]: ... Elsie Wakefield was a specialist in Basidiomycetes and an international authority on Aphyllphorales. ...

Compared with New Bing, SearChain can trace the source of more fine-grained knowledge, and the traceable marking position is more accurate

# Conclusion



Three views of RAG approaches