

How to query your data using natural language Introduction to Al features in Oracle 23ai

Andrzej Nowicki

Voxxed Days, CERN, 2025



Andrzej Nowicki





12 years of Oracle DB experience Database Engineer @ CERN since 2020



andrzejnowicki



andrzej.nowicki@cern.ch



www.andrzejnowicki.pl





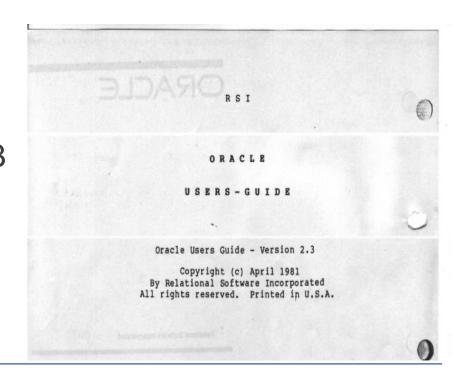
Databases at CERN

Oracle since 1982

- 105 Oracle databases, more than 11.800 Oracle accounts
- RAC, Active Data Guard, GoldenGate, OEM, RMAN, APEX, Cloud...
- Complex environment

Database on Demand (DBoD) since 2011

- ≈600 MySQL, ≈400 PostgreSQL, ≈200 InfluxDB
- Automated backup and recovery services, monitoring, clones, replicas
- HA MySQL clusters (Proxy + primary replica)





Size of the database environment

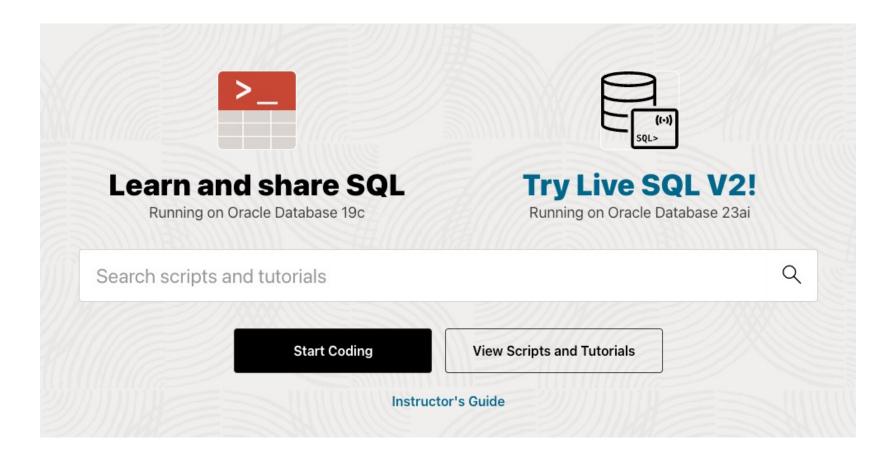
	Total size
Oracle	≈5 PB
DBoD (MySQL, PostgreSQL, InfluxDB)	≈150 TB
Backups	≈3 PB



Oracle 23ai



https://livesql.oracle.com?





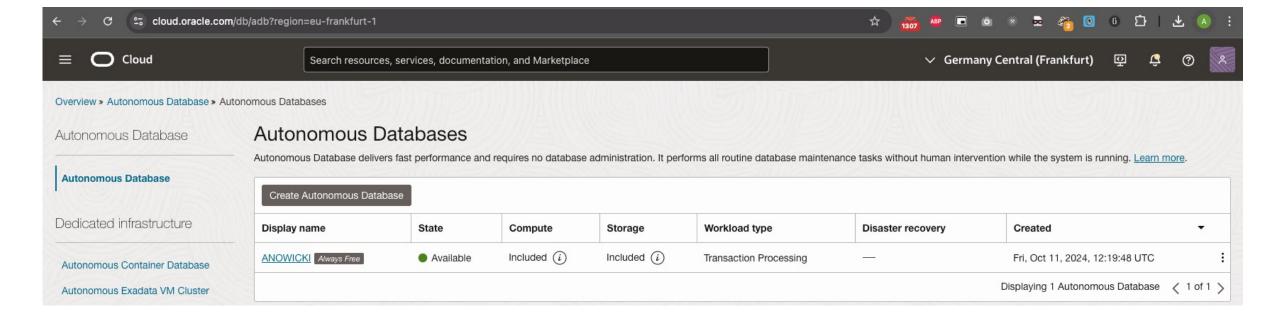
I'll spin up an Autonomous Database in the Oracle Cloud...

Autonomous Database with Oracle Database 23ai in the <u>Paid tier</u> is available in all commercial public cloud regions **except the following regions**: Colombia Central: Bogota (BOG), Saudi Arabia Central: Riyadh (RUH), Singapore West: Singapore (XSP), and Spain Central: Madrid (MAD).

Always Free Autonomous Database with Oracle Database 23ai is available in the regions: US West: Phoenix (PHX), US East: Ashburn (IAD), UK South: London (LHR), France Central: Paris (CDG), Australia East: Sydney (SYD), India West: Mumbai (BOM), Singapore (SIN), and Japan East: Tokyo (NRT).

https://docs.oracle.com/en-us/iaas/autonomous-database-serverless/doc/autonomous-always-free-23ai.html







Oracle Exadata Cloud@Customer
OCI Exadata Database Service
OCI Base Database Service

Oracle Database 23ai Free – https://www.oracle.com/database/free/get-started/

Available as: Docker image, VM VirtualBox, rpm for OEL & RHEL.

ARM version was released in November 2024:

https://blogs.oracle.com/database/post/announcing-oracle-database-23ai-free-container-images-for-armbased-apple-macbook-computers





SELECT AI

SQL> SELECT AI What are total sales of tom hanks movies 70,318.23

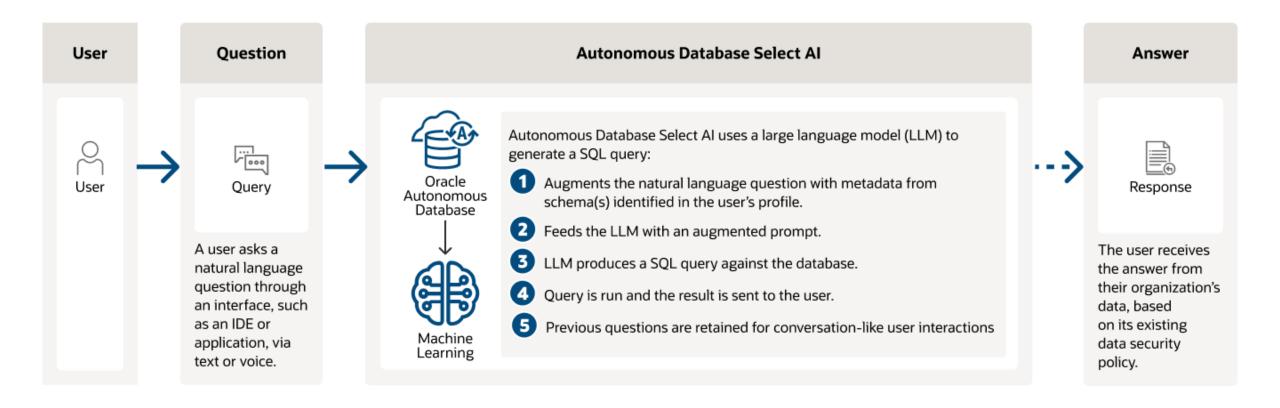
SQL> SELECT AI showsql What are total sales of tom hanks movies
SELECT SUM(sales_sample.list_price) AS total_sales
FROM moviestream.sales_sample
JOIN moviestream.movie ON sales_sample.movie_id = movie.movie_id
WHERE movie.cast LIKE '%Tom Hanks%'



SELECT Al is only available in the cloud

forget what I said about docker

Select Al





Al features – credentials

```
SQL> BEGIN
    DBMS_CLOUD.CREATE_CREDENTIAL (
        credential_name => 'OCI_CRED',
        user_ocid => 'ocid1.user.oc1...',
        tenancy_ocid => 'ocid1.tenancy.oc1....',
        private_key => 'MII.....=',
        fingerprint => '44:....');
END;
/
```



Al features – profile

```
SQL> BEGIN
     DBMS_CLOUD_AI.create_profile(
      'OCI',
      '{"provider": "oci",
        "credential_name": "OCI_CRED",
        "oci_compartment_id": "ocid1.compartment.oc1.....",
        "region": "eu-frankfurt-1",
        "object_list": [{"owner": "ADMIN", "name": "employees"}]
END;
                                                       SQL> select * from employees;
                                                                ID NAME
                                                                                   SALARY
                                                                21 Christi
                                                                                       100
                    The object's data is not shared to the LLM.
                    Only metadata (column definitions, etc.)
                                                                22 Andrzej
                                                                                       101
                                                                23 Anna
                                                                                       999
```



Al features – examples

```
SQL> EXEC DBMS_CLOUD_AI.set_profile('OCI');
SQL> select ai chat how many people live in Poland;
RESPONSE
As of 2021, the estimated population of Poland is approximately 38.6 million people
SQL> select ai how many employees do we have;
EmployeeCount
```



Al features – examples

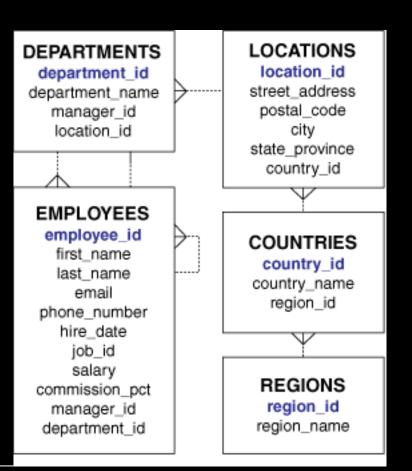
```
SQL> select ai showsql how many employees do we have;
RESPONSE
SELECT COUNT(c."ID") AS "EmployeeCount"
FROM "ADMIN". "EMPLOYEES" e
SQL> select ai narrate how many employees do we have;
RESPONSE
We have 3 employees.
```



DEMO



In which regions do we have departments?





```
SQL> EXEC DBMS_CLOUD_AI.set_profile('OCI_HR_DEFAULT');
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
SQL> select ai showsql in which regions do we have departments?;
RESPONSE
SELECT DISTINCT T2. "REGION_NAME" FROM "HR". "DEPARTMENTS" T1 INNER JOIN "HR". "REGIONS" T2 ON T1. "LOCATION_ID" = T2. "REGION_ID"
                                                                                                                            LOCATIONS
                                                                                                  DEPARTMENTS
                                                                                                                             location id
                                                                                                   department id
SQL> EXEC DBMS_CLOUD_AI.set_profile('OCI_HR_COHERE');
                                                                                                                            street address
                                                                                                  department_name
                                                                                                                             postal_code
                                                                                                     manager id
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
                                                                                                     location_id
                                                                                                                                 city
                                                                                                                            state_province
SQL> select ai showsql in which regions do we have departments?;
                                                                                                                              country_id
RESPONSE
                                                                                                   EMPLOYEES
                                                                                                    employee id
                                                                                                                            COUNTRIES
SELECT r. "REGION_NAME" AS "Region", COUNT(DISTINCT d. "DEPARTMENT_ID") AS "Number of Departments"
                                                                                                     first name
                                                                                                                             country_id
FROM "HR". "REGIONS" r
                                                                                                      last name
                                                                                                                            country_name
LEFT JOIN "HR". "DEPARTMENTS" d ON r. "REGION_ID" = d. "MANAGER_ID"
                                                                                                       email
                                                                                                                              region_id
GROUP BY r. "REGION_NAME"
                                                                                                    phone number
                                                                                                      hire date
                                                                                                       job_id
                                                                                                       salary
                                                                                                                             REGIONS
                                                                                                   commission_pct
                                                                                                                              region id
                                                                                                     manager_id
                                                                                                                             region_name
                                                                                                    department_id
```



Al features – flexibility

```
SQL> BEGIN
                                           SQL> BEGIN
 DBMS_CLOUD_AI.create_profile(
                                             DBMS_CLOUD_AI.create_profile(
   'OCI_HR_COHERE',
                                               'OCI_HR_LLAMA',
   '{"provider": "oci",
                                               '{"provider": "oci",
     "model": "cohe___.command-r-08-2024",
                                                 "model": "meta.llama-3.1-70b-instruct",
     "crodential____ "OCI_CRED_",
                                                 "credential_name": "OCI_CRED_",
           ompartme t_td": "...",
                                                 "oci_compartment_id": "...",
      re ion" :"eu- rankfurt-1",
                                                 "region": "eu-frankfurt-1",
     "co versation" "true",
                                                 "conversation": "true",
     "ob ect_list": [{"owner": "HR"}]
                                                 "object_list": [{"owner": "HR"}]
    }');
                                                }');
END;
                                           END;
                      Multiple providers supported:
                      OpenAl, Cohere, Azure OpenAl, OCI GenAl, Google, Anthropic, Hugging Face
          Multiple models supported:
          Llama, GPT, Cohere Command, Gemini, Claude
```



Al features – flexibility

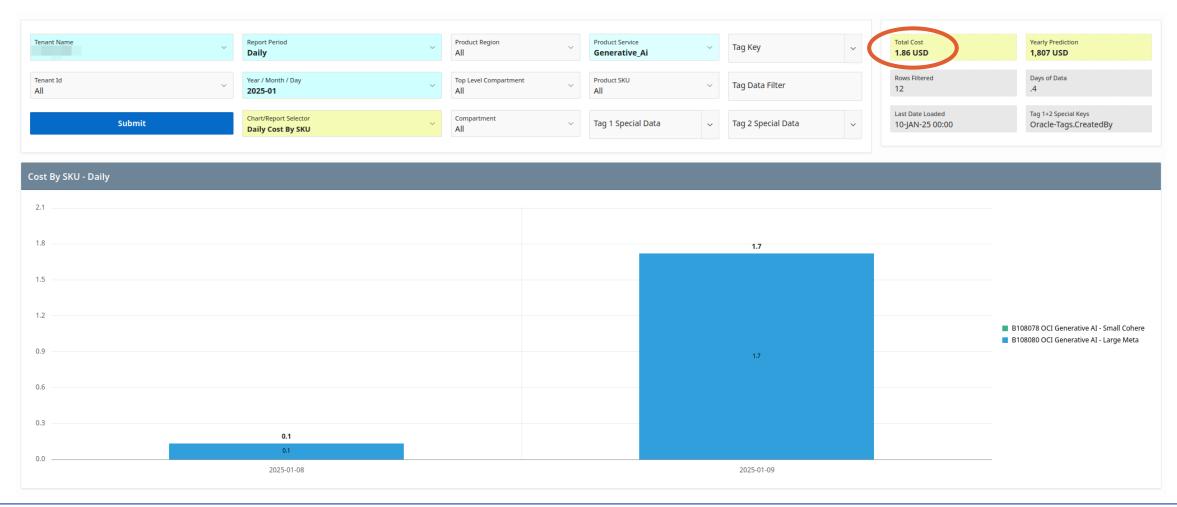
```
SQL> BEGIN
  DBMS_CLOUD_AI.create_profile(
  'OCI_HR',
   '{"provider": "oci",
      "credential_name": "OCI_CRED_",
      "oci_compartment_id": "...",
      "region" :"eu-frankfurt-1",
      "conversation": "true",
      "object_list": [{"owner": "HR"}]
   }');
END;
/
```

Up to 10 past prompts can be included in your prompt

```
> select ai in which regions do we have departments?;
no rows selected
> select ai in which regions, countriedo we have departments?;
REGION_NAME
                        COUNTRY_NAME
Europe
                        Germany
Americas
                        Canada
> select ai in which regions, do we have departments?;
REGION_NAME
Europe
Americas
```



Select Al – costs?





Let's build a simple beer recommendation system

VECTORS

VECTORS

In AI, a vector is an ordered list of numbers (scalars) that can represent a point in a multidimensional space. Mathematically, a vector is often written as:

$$\mathbf{v}=(v_1,v_2,\ldots,v_{n-1},v_n)$$

n is the dimensionality of the vector.



EMBEDDINGS

Embeddings are numerical representations of real-world objects that machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) systems use to understand complex knowledge domains like humans do.

For example, a bird-nest and a lion-den are analogous pairs, while day-night are opposite terms. Embeddings convert real-world objects into complex mathematical representations that capture inherent properties and relationships between real-world data.

EMBEDDING MODEL

An embedding model is a type of machine learning model designed to map high-dimensional or complex data (such as text, images, or categorical data) into lower-dimensional continuous vector spaces, known as embeddings. These embeddings capture the essential information or meaning of the data while preserving relationships between different data points in the original space.



How to put it all together?







Input

(movie, picture, text, etc.)

Embedding model



That's a simplification.

Normally you would cut the text in chunks and embed each chunk separately



Embedding

Vector

"Citrusy, sweet aroma"

[0.329, 0.911, 0.21, 0.37, ...]



How to put it all together?

"Citrusy, sweet aroma" [0.329, 0.911, 0.21, 0.37, ...]

"Grapefruity taste, sweet aroma" [0.317, 0.818, 0.11, 0.36, ...]

"Harsh, spicy, roasted" [0.11, 0.01, 0.91, 0.87, ...]

Similar input should result in similar embedding (vector) values.

We can calculate distance between vectors to find similarity.

Our recommendation system will be based solely on similarity.



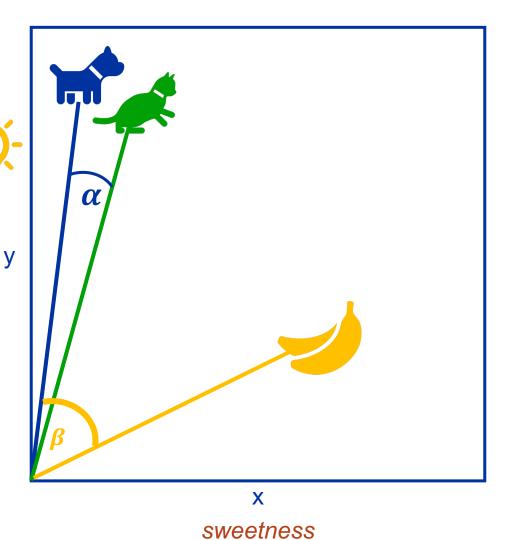
How to calculate similarity?

Cosine distance!

 $\beta > \alpha$

A dog is more similar to a cat then it is similar to a banana.

legs y



Same thing hapens in the similarity search.

But we have 384 dimensions.



There are some limitations of the similarity

higher number = more similar

"healthy" vs "unhealthy"	0.6788
"healthy" vs "not healthy"	0.8208
"dog" vs "banana"	0.2532
"I like beer" vs "Table partitioning is an amazing feature of RDBMS"	0.0311
"I like beer" vs "I like indexes in databases"	0.2238
"I like to index my data" vs "I like indexes"	0.7497

Healthy vs Unhealthy are similar because both are adjectives, related to the health status

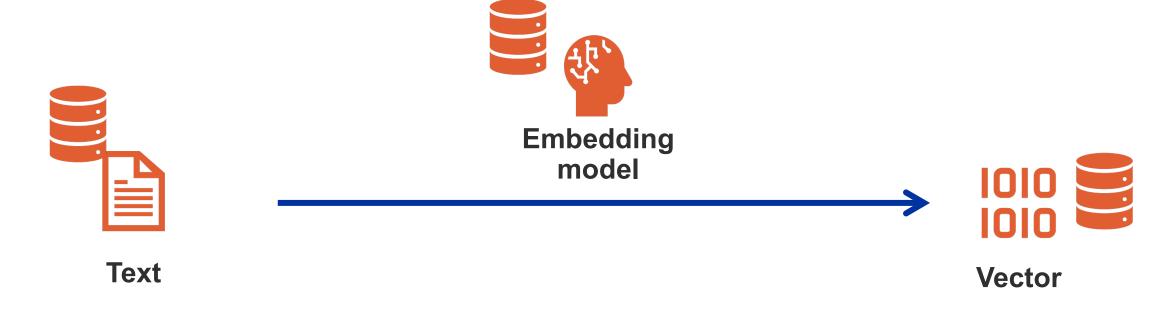
The "opposite" is not well defined. What is the opposite of "king"? Queen? Prince? Poor man? \begin{align*} ?



Enough theory



Oracle 23ai – everything can be stored in the db



"Citrusy, sweet aroma"

[0.329, 0.911, 0.21, 0.37, ...]



Let's design a simple beer recommendation system

dataset

SQL> select beer_name, info from beers sample (1);

BEER_NAME	INFO
Dreadnaught IPA	An Imperial India Pale Ale with an intense citrus hop aroma, a huge malt body and a crisp finish.100 IBU
Ubu Ale	Our famous English-style Strong Ale, deep garnet red in color, with a smooth, hardy taste and a nice warm feeling to follow.
Jose Pimiento Outdoor	Barrel-aged Blonde w/ dried chiles. A hoppy pilsner hopped with Saaz, Fieldwork Dank Blend.

This amazing dataset is available on Kaggle under creative commons license CC BY 4.0:



VECTOR data type

```
SQL> desc beers
                   Null? Type
Name
                    NOT NULL NUMBER(38)
ID
                             VARCHAR2(128)
BEER_NAME
                             VARCHAR2(4000)
INFO
SQL> alter table beers add vector_l12_v2 vector;
SQL> desc beers
Name
                   Null?
                           Type
                             NUMBER(38)
ID
BEER_NAME
                             VARCHAR2(128)
                             VARCHAR2(4000)
INFO
                             CLOB VALUE
 VECTOR_L12_V2
```



EMBEDDING (the most popular way)

```
#!/bin/env python3
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer
embedding_model = "sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L12-v2"
model = SentenceTransformer(embedding_model)
data = "rich blend of roasted barley"
embedding = list(model.encode(data))
print(embedding)
              [-0.006417383, -0.022299055, -0.07196472, -0.038730085, 0.015408011,
              0.011460664, 0.031957585, -0.14295837, -0.06265083, 0.047036696, 0.05393924,
              -0.017266361, -0.060880985, -0.090641975, -0.018470088, 0.043274913,
              0.10671821, -0.01918215, -0.017627805, 0.007417538, -0.094217524,
              0.048147723, 0.007045083, -0.0059344354, 0.031551342, 0.0060908115, ...
```



Configuring EMBEDDING MODEL in a local db



Configuring EMBEDDING MODEL in the cloud

```
DECLARE
       ONNX_MOD_FILE VARCHAR2(100) := 'all_MiniLM_L12_v2.onnx';
       MODNAME VARCHAR2(500) := 'ALL_MINILM_L12_V2';
       LOCATION_URI VARCHAR2(200) := https://adwc4pm.objectstorage.us-ashburn-1.oci.customer-oci.com/p/eLddQappg8J7jNi6Guz9m9LOtYe2u8LWY19GfgU8flFK4N9YgP4kTlrE9Px3pE12/n/adwc4pm/b/OML-Resources/o/
BEGIN
       DBMS_CLOUD.GET_OBJECT(
            credential_name => 'MY_CLOUD_CRED',
            directory_name => 'DATA_PUMP_DIR',
            object_uri => LOCATION_URI||ONNX_MOD_FILE);
       DBMS_VECTOR.LOAD_ONNX_MODEL(
            directory => 'DATA_PUMP_DIR',
            file_name => ONNX_MOD_FILE,
            model_name => MODNAME);
END;
```



EMBEDDING using SQL



EMBEDDING PROCESS

Embedding 3361 beer descriptions

Using a model in the database in Autonomous DB in Cloud (2 threads)	~73s
Embedding locally on Macbook M3 Pro (single threaded python code)	~43s
Embedding locally on Macbook M3 Pro (4 threads python code)	~20s

I used ChatGPT to parallelize my code



VECTOR INDEX (optional)

```
SQL> create vector index vector_index on beers(vector_l12_v2)
ORGANIZATION INMEMORY NEIGHBOR GRAPH
distance cosine
with target accuracy 95;
```

```
SQL> show parameter vector_index_neighbor_graph_reload

NAME

TYPE VALUE

vector_index_neighbor_graph_reload string OFF
```



VECTOR SEARCH

```
SQL>
      select beer_name, info
       from beers
      order by vector_distance()
                     VECTOR_L12_V2,
                     :vector_calculated_outside_db,
                     cosine)
       fetch <u>approximate</u> first 5 rows only;
      select beer_name, info
SQL>
       from beers
      order by vector_distance(
                     VECTOR_L12_V2,
                     VECTOR_EMBEDDING(ALL_MINILM_L12_V2 USING
                                      '&prompt' as data),
                     cosine)
      fetch approximate first 5 rows only;
```



VECTOR SEARCH

Prompt: 'lemon'

Sun Drift

Summon some sunshine with bright notes of citrus and black tea. A Brett-fermented ale with lemon zest and tea

<u>Lemon Lager</u>

Refreshingly cool taste produced with freshly squeezed lemon juice from Japanese Hiroshima Lemons, fermented and bottled as the perfect thirst-quencher, no matter what season.

Tocobaga Red Ale

Pours amber in color with notes of citrus and caramel. Citrus hop bitterness upfront with notes of caramel and an Amish bread sweetness. Citrus hop bitterness returns at the end for a long dry finish.75 IBU

Sorachi Ace

This is a saison featuring the rare Japanese-developed hop Sorachi Ace. The Sorachi Ace hop varietal is noted for its unique lemon zest/lemongrass aroma.

Femme Fatale Sudachi

A new version of Evil Twin?s classic brett fermented I.P.A. feauring Sudachi, an Asian citrus, for a nice citrusy note.





DEMO



What about real life usage?

How to put it all together?



Two households, both alike in dignity (In fair Verona, where we lay our scene), From ancient grudge break to new mutiny, Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean

..

Two households, both alike in dignity	[0.329,	0.917,	0.211,	0.307,]
(In fair Verona, where we lay our scene),	[0.129,	0.101,	0.561,	0.487,]
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,	[0.989,	0.091,	0.231,	0.962,]
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean	[0.439,	0.053,	0.513,	0.321,]



How to put it all together?







Chunks

<u>R</u>

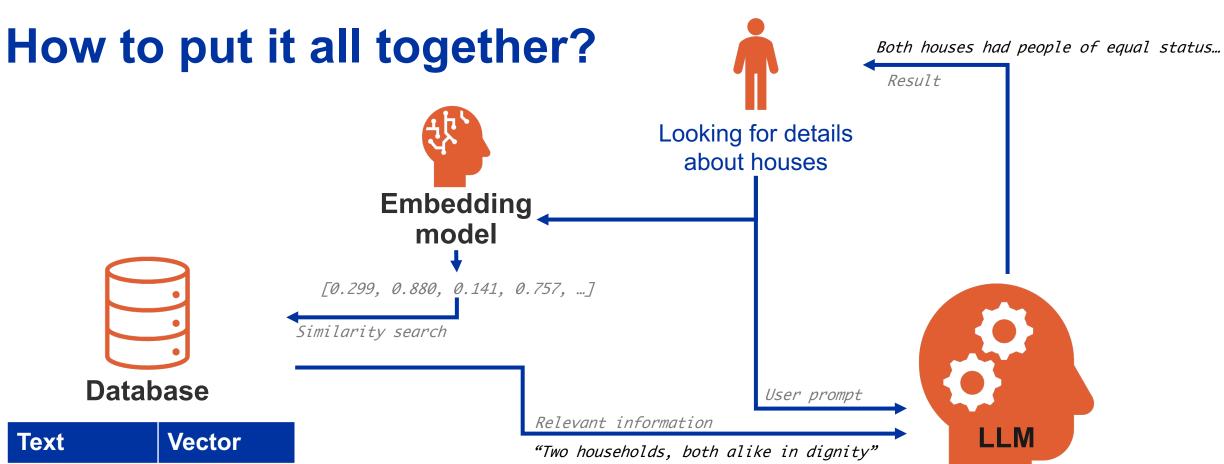
Vector



Two households, both alike in dignity	[0.329, 0.917, 0.211, 0.307,]
(In fair Verona, where we lay our scene),	[0.129, 0.101, 0.561, 0.487,]
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,	[0.989, 0.091, 0.231, 0.962,]
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean	[0.439, 0.053, 0.513, 0.321,]

Text	Vector
Two households	[0.329, 0.917
(In fair Verona	[0.129, 0.101
From ancient	[0.989, 0.091
Where civil…	[0.439, 0.053

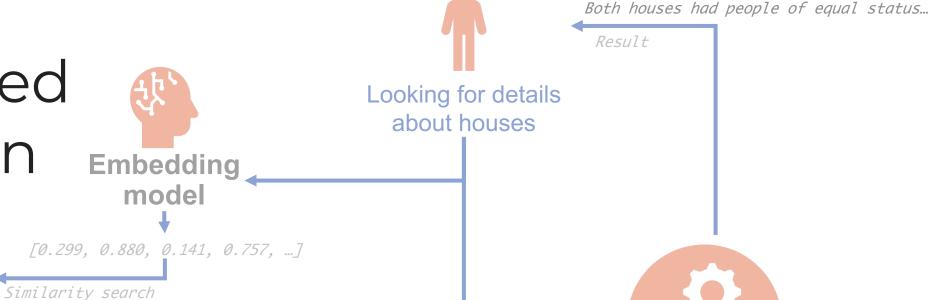




Text	Vector
Two households	[0.329, 0.917
(In fair Verona	[0.129, 0.101
From ancient	[0.989, 0.091
Where civil…	[0.439, 0.053



Retrieval Augmented Generation



formation

User prompt

lds, both alike in dignity"

LLM

Text	Vector
Two households	[0.329, 0.917
(In fair Verona	[0.129, 0.101
From ancient	[0.989, 0.091
Where civil…	[0.439, 0.053

Database

We would add a ReRank operation here
We can query from DB more information
Rank our information on relevance
Be selective in what we feed into the LLM

Relev

"Two



References

Oracle Docs https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracle-database/index.html

Oracle Blogs https://blogs.oracle.com/database/

LiveLabs https://apexapps.oracle.com/pls/apex/r/dbpm/livelabs/run-workshop?p210 wid=3831

Beer dataset https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/ruthgn/beer-profile-and-ratings-data-set

Romeo and Juliet by W. Shakespeare





Thank you!

And remember... a dog is more similar to a cat then it is similar to a banana.







andrzejnowicki



andrzej.nowicki@cern.ch



www.andrzejnowicki.pl

