

# OpenAI Assistant API - Core Concepts

Allows you to describe functions to the Assistants and have it intelligently return the functions that need to be called along with their arguments. The Assistants API will pause execution during a Run when it invokes functions, and you can supply the results of the function call back to continue the Run execution.

Allows the Assistants API to write and run **Python** code in a sandboxed execution environment. Can process files with diverse data and formatting, and generate files with data and images of graphs. Run code iteratively to solve **code** and **math problems**.

Retrieval augments the Assistant with knowledge from outside its model, such as proprietary product information or documents provided by your users. Once a file is uploaded and passed to the Assistant, OpenAI will automatically chunk your documents, index and store the embeddings, and implement vector search to retrieve relevant content to answer user queries.

