Agent Types

This categorizes all the available agents along a few dimensions.

Intended Model Type

Whether this agent is intended for Chat Models (takes in messages, outputs message) or LLMs (takes in string, outputs string). The main thing this affects is the prompting strategy used. You can use an agent with a different type of model than it is intended for, but it likely won't produce results of the same quality.

Supports Chat History

Whether or not these agent types support chat history. If it does, that means it can be used as a chatbot. If it does not, then that means it's more suited for single tasks. Supporting chat history generally requires better models, so earlier agent types aimed at worse models may not support it.

Supports Multi-Input Tools

Whether or not these agent types support tools with multiple inputs. If a tool only requires a single input, it is generally easier for an LLM to know how to invoke it. Therefore, several earlier agent types aimed at worse models may not support them.

Supports Parallel Function Calling

Having an LLM call multiple tools at the same time can greatly speed up agents whether there are tasks that are assisted by doing so. However, it is much more challenging for LLMs to do this, so some agent types do not support this.

Required Model Params

Whether this agent requires the model to support any additional parameters. Some agent types take advantage of things like OpenAI function calling, which require other model parameters. If none are required, then that means that everything is done via prompting

When to Use

Our commentary on when you should consider using this agent type.

Agent Type	Intended Model Type	Supports Chat History	Supports Multi-Input Tools	Supports Parallel Function Calling
OpenAI Tools	Chat	✅	✅	✅
OpenAI Functions	Chat	✅	✅	

Agent Type	Intended Model Type	Supports Chat History	Supports Multi-Input Tools	Supports Parallel Function Calling
XML	LLM	✅		
Structured Chat	Chat	✅	✅	

Agent Type	Intended Model Type	Supports Chat History	Supports Multi-Input Tools	Supports Parallel Function Calling
JSON Chat	Chat	✅		
ReAct	LLM	✅		
Self Ask With Search	LLM			