

# **LLM Agents & Tool Use**

**CS 203: Software Tools and Techniques for AI**

Prof. Nipun Batra, IIT Gandhinagar

# From Chatbots to Agents

**Chatbot:** Passive. Responds to text with text.

- User: "What is the weather?"
- Bot: "I cannot browse the internet."

**Agent:** Active. Can "do" things using tools.

- User: "What is the weather?"
- Agent: *Calls Weather API -> Gets Data -> "It is 25°C in Gandhinagar."*

**Core Loop:**

1. **Reason:** What do I need to do?
2. **Act:** Call a function/tool.
3. **Observe:** Read the output.

# ReAct Pattern

**Reason + Act.**

Prompting strategy to force the LLM to think before acting.

Question: What is the elevation range of the area that the eastern sector of the Colorado orogeny extends into?

Thought 1: I need to search for Colorado orogeny, find the area that the eastern sector extends into, then find the elevation range of the area.

Action 1: Search[Colorado orogeny]

Observation 1: The Colorado orogeny was an episode of mountain building...

Thought 2: It does not mention the eastern sector. So I need to look up eastern sector.

...

# Function Calling (Tool Use)

Modern LLMs (GPT-4, Gemini, Claude) are trained to output structured JSON calls.

**Schema:**

```
{  
  "name": "get_weather",  
  "description": "Get current weather",  
  "parameters": {  
    "type": "object",  
    "properties": {  
      "location": {"type": "string"},  
      "unit": {"type": "string", "enum": ["celsius", "fahrenheit"]}  
    }  
  }  
}
```

**LLM Output:**

```
{"function": "get_weather", "args": {"location": "Ahmedabad", "unit":
```

# LangGraph: Graph-based Agents

LangChain's Agent library.

Define agents as nodes in a state graph.

Concepts:

- **State:** Shared memory (messages, variables).
- **Nodes:** Functions that modify state (e.g., "Agent", "Tool").
- **Edges:** Control flow (Conditional logic).

```
from langgraph.graph import StateGraph, END

workflow = StateGraph(AgentState)

workflow.add_node("agent", call_model)
workflow.add_node("tools", tool_executor)

workflow.set_entry_point("agent")
workflow.add_conditional_edges("agent", should_continue, {"continue": "tools", "end": END})
workflow.add_edge("tools", "agent")
```

# Multi-Agent Systems

**Single Agents** get confused with complex tasks.

**Multi-Agent:** Specialized roles.

Example: **Software Dev Team**

1. **Product Manager:** Breaks down requirements.
2. **Coder:** Writes python code.
3. **Reviewer:** Checks code for bugs.
4. **Tester:** Writes tests.

**Frameworks:**

- **AutoGen** (Microsoft): Conversational agents.
- **CrewAI**: Role-playing agents.

# AutoGen Example

```
from autogen import AssistantAgent, UserProxyAgent

assistant = AssistantAgent("assistant", llm_config=...)
user_proxy = UserProxyAgent("user_proxy", code_execution_config={"work_dir": "coding"})

# Start conversation
user_proxy.initiate_chat(
    assistant,
    message="Plot a chart of NVDA and TESLA stock price change YTD."
)
```

## What happens?

1. Assistant writes Python code to fetch data.
2. User Proxy executes code locally.
3. User Proxy shares errors/output.
4. Assistant fixes code.

# Lab: Build a Research Agent

**Objective:** Build an agent that can browse the web and summarize topics.

**Tools:**

- **Tavily API:** Search engine optimized for LLMs.
- **LangChain / LangGraph:** Orchestration.
- **Gemini / OpenAI:** Brain.

**Task:**

- User: "Research the latest breakthroughs in Solid State Batteries from 2024."
- Agent:
  - Search Query 1...
  - Read Page...
  - Search Query 2...

# Risks & Challenges

1. **Infinite Loops:** Agent keeps trying failing action.
2. **Cost:** Agents can burn tokens fast.
3. **Security:**
  - "Prompt Injection" can hijack agents.
  - Don't give agents `rm -rf /` capabilities!
  - Always have "Human in the loop" for critical actions.

# Resources

- **LangGraph Docs:** [python.langchain.com/docs/langgraph](https://python.langchain.com/docs/langgraph)
- **AutoGen:** [microsoft.github.io/autogen](https://microsoft.github.io/autogen)
- **DeepLearning.AI:** "AI Agents in LangGraph" short course.

# Questions?