

LLM-powered Agents with Tool Learning

Yankai Lin

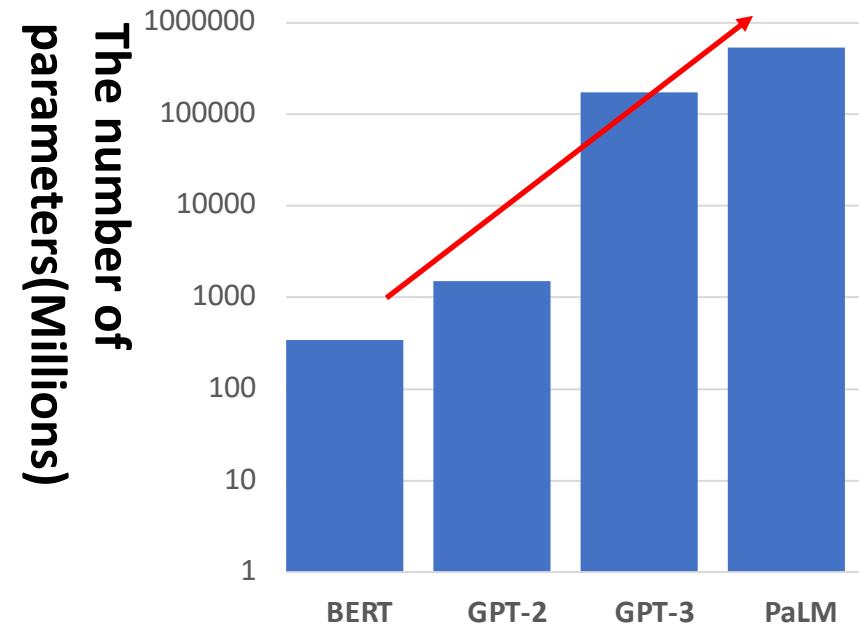
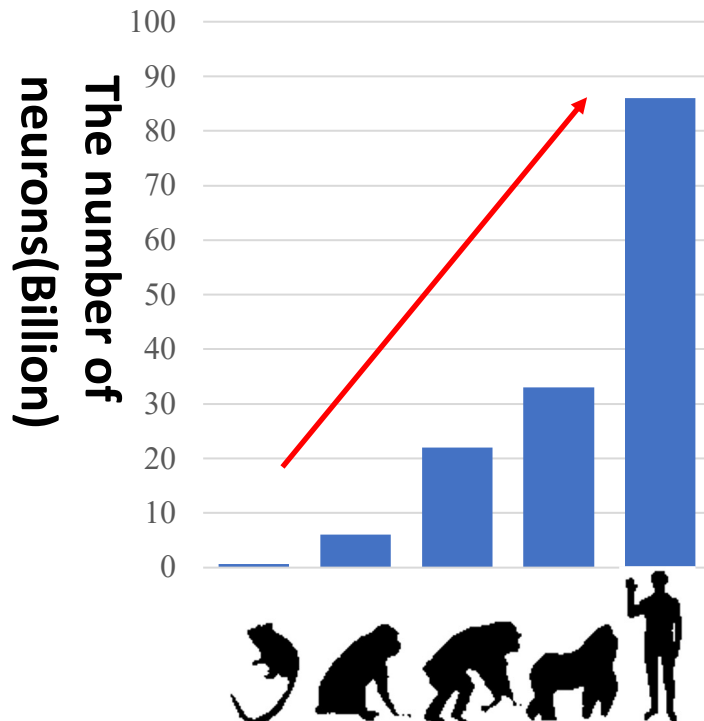
yankailin@ruc.edu.cn

GSAI






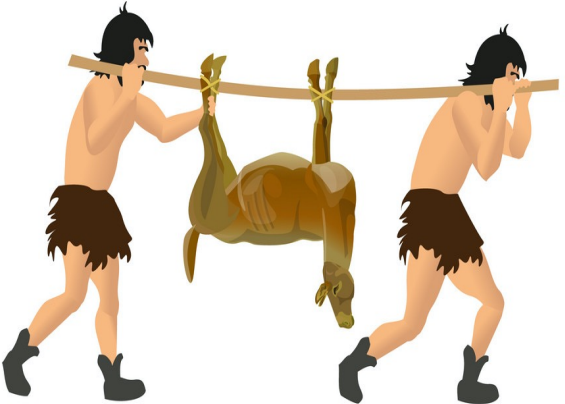
| Individual Intelligence Emergence

- Increasing the number of neurons leads to **the emergence of intelligence in biological individuals**
- Increasing the number of parameters leads to **the emergence of intelligence in large models**



| Human Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence

- Guess: Artificial intelligence is likely to follow the same developmental path as human intelligence

Development				
Human Intelligence	Small brain capacity	Big brain capacity	Tool Use	Collaborative labor
Arttificial Intelligence	Small model	Big model	Autonomous Agents	Multi-Agents

| Tool Intelligence

- Tools extend human capabilities in productivity, efficiency, and problem-solving
- Humans have been the **primary agents** in tool use throughout history
- Question: can **artificial intelligence** be as capable as humans in tool use?



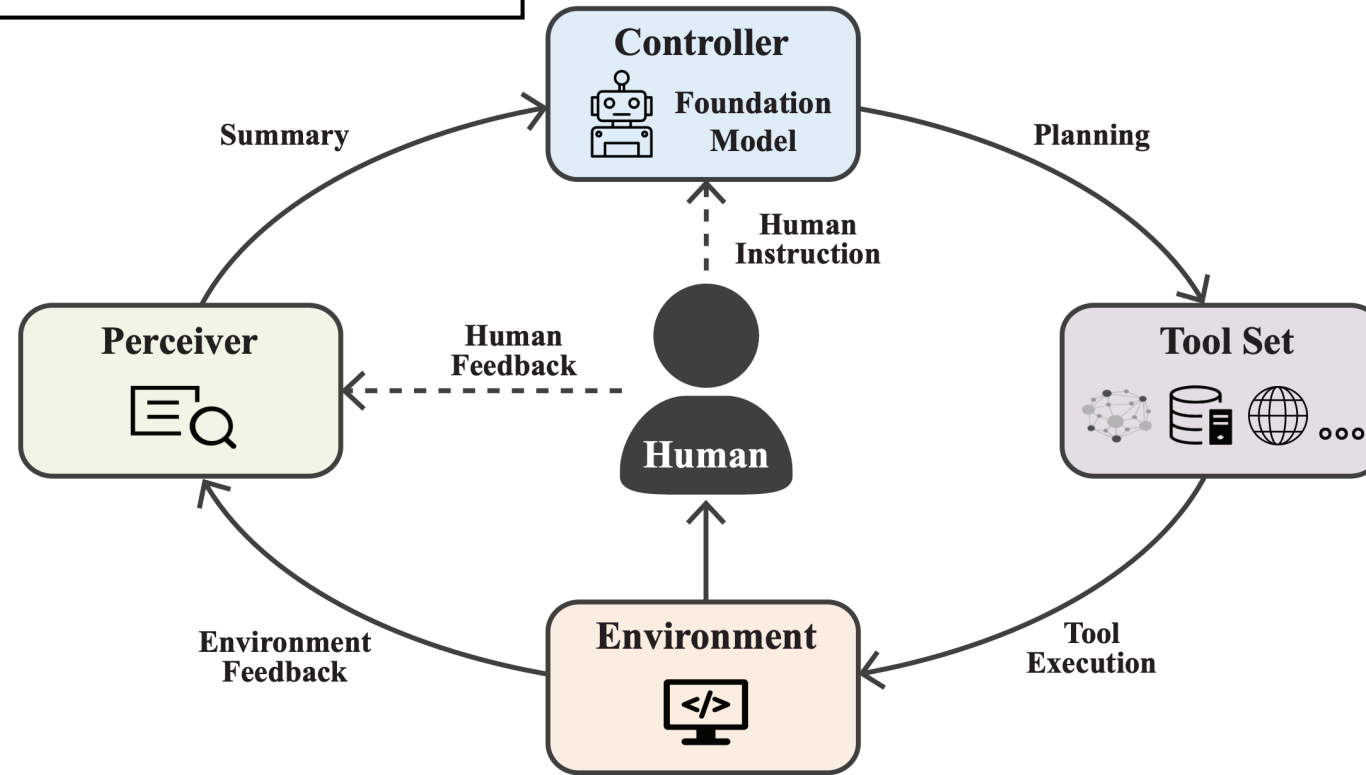
Framework

GSAI

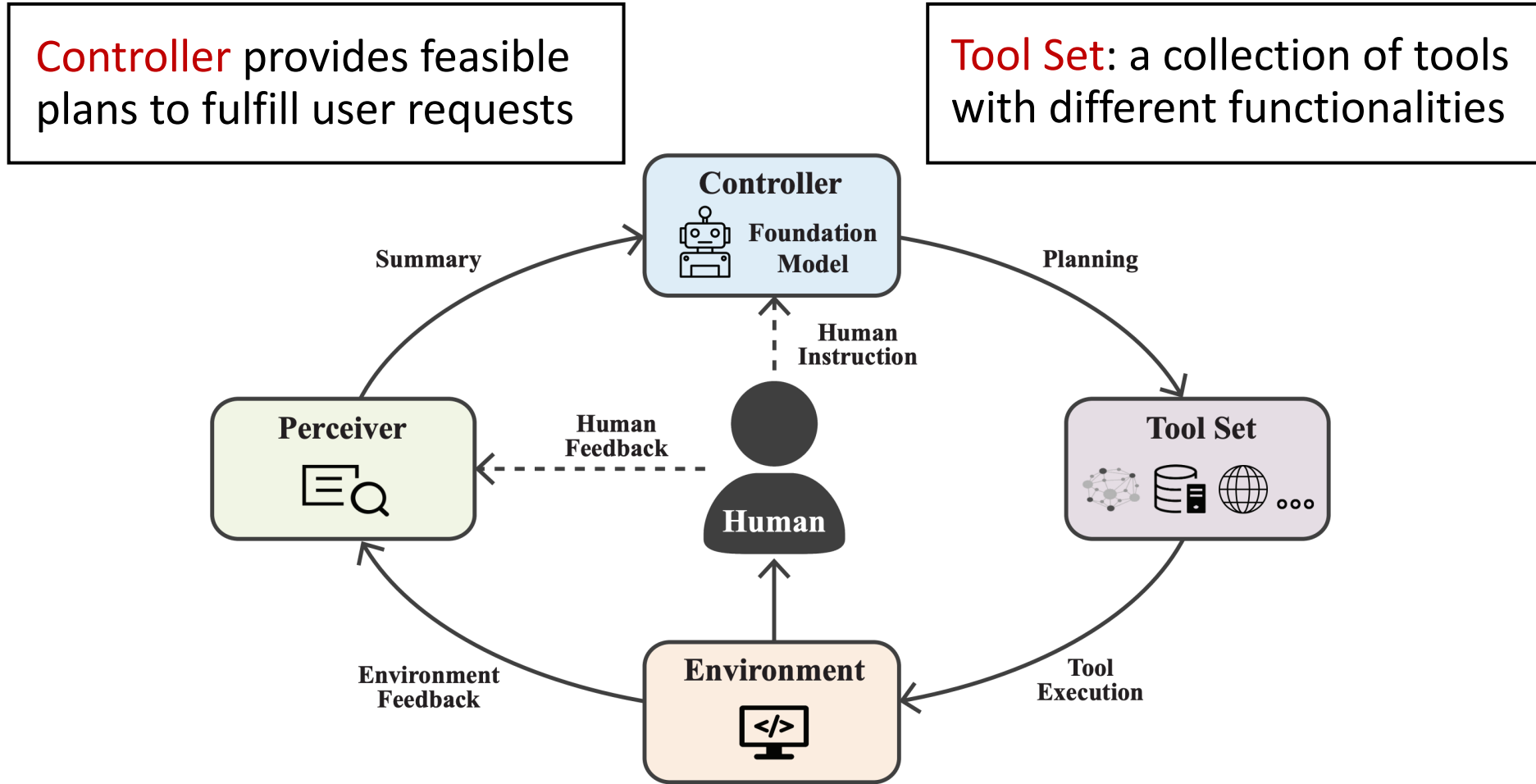


Framework

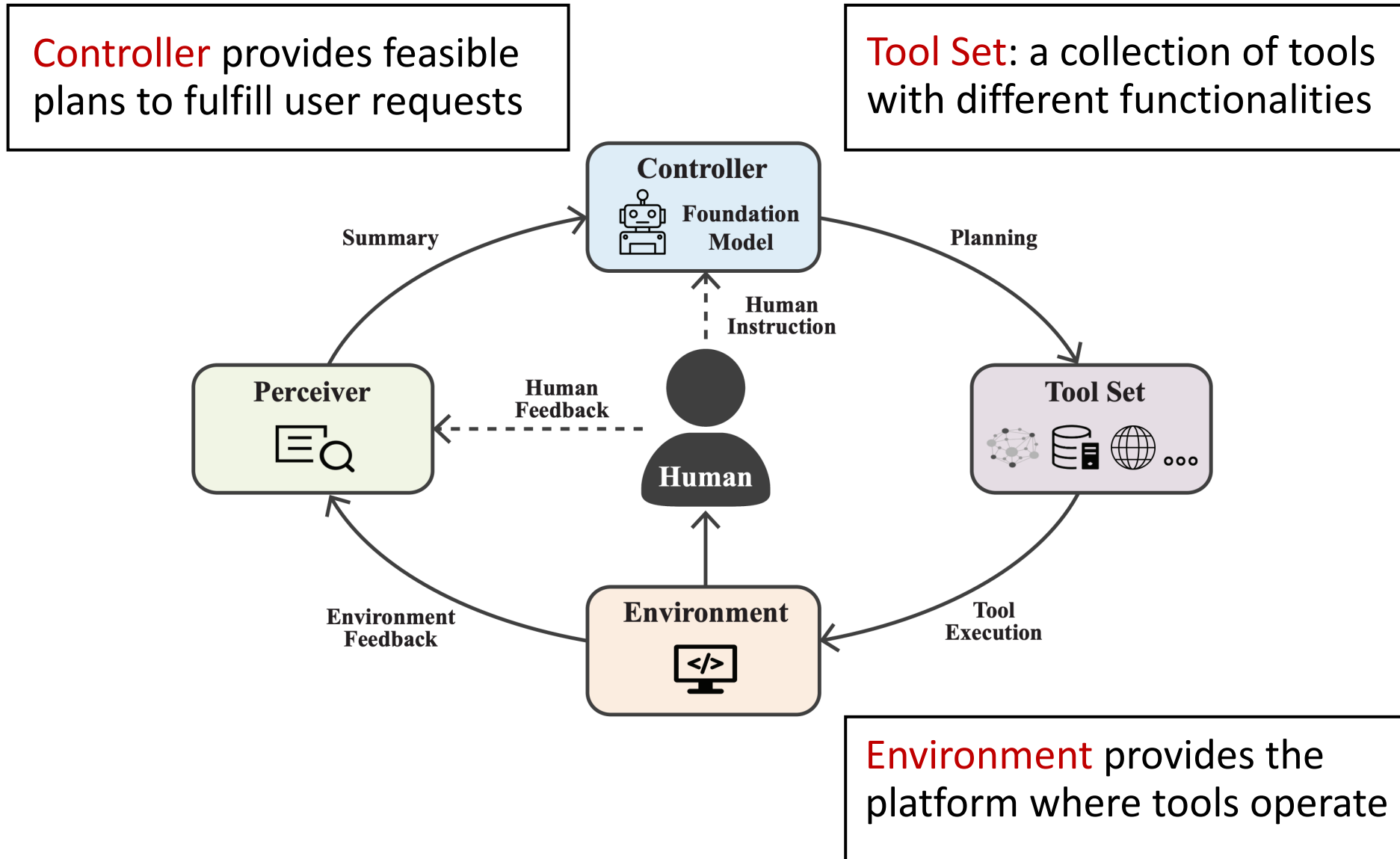
Controller provides feasible plans to fulfill user requests



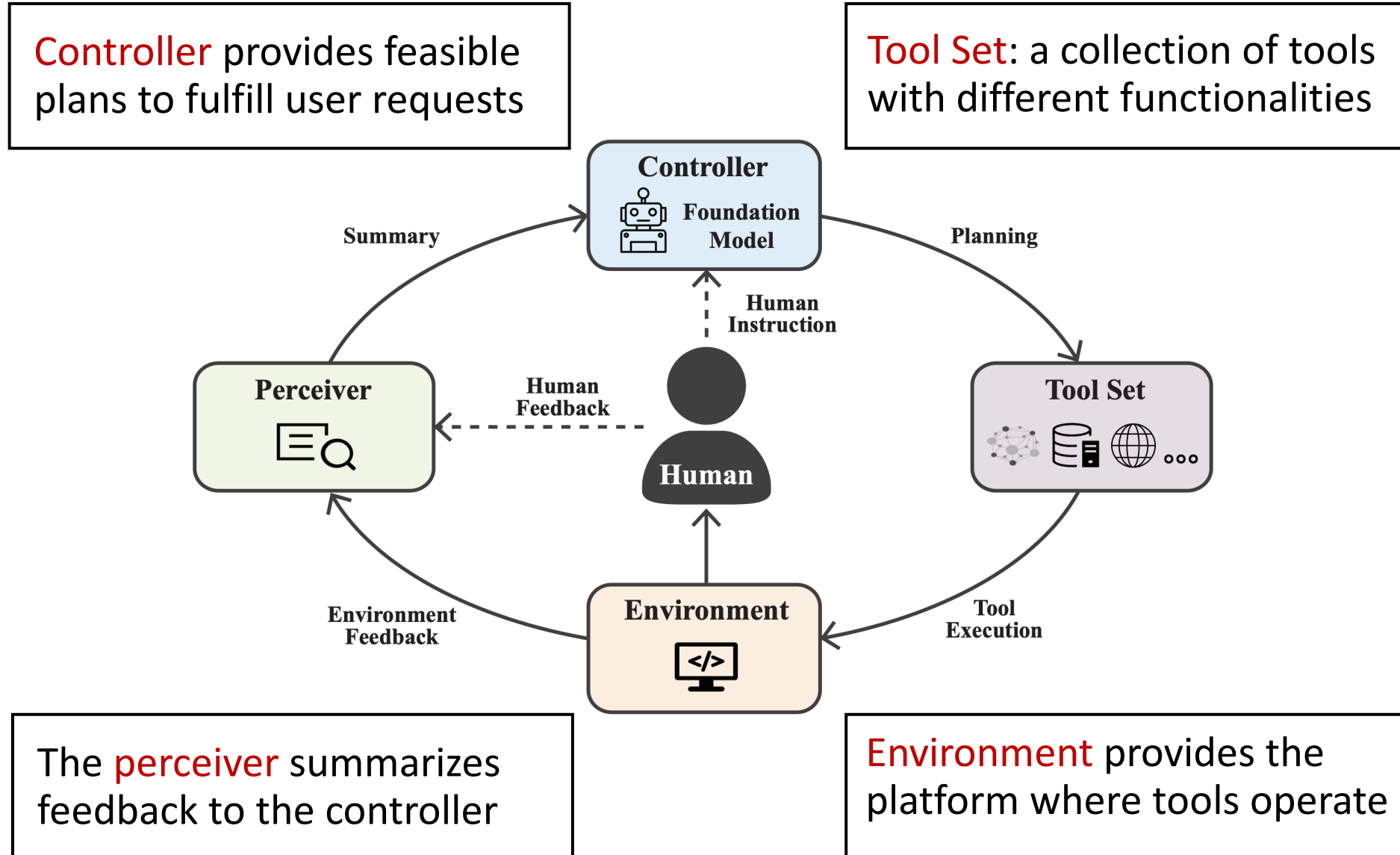
Framework



Framework



Framework



| Framework

- Controller \mathcal{C} generates a plan a_t

$$p_{\mathcal{C}}(a_t) = p_{\theta_{\mathcal{C}}}(a_t \mid \boxed{x_t}, \boxed{\mathcal{H}_t}, \boxed{q})$$

Feedback History Instruction

- Problem
 - Planning: divide the user query into sub-tasks
 - Tool Use: use the appropriate tool to solve sub-task
 - Memory: manage the working history
 - Profile: manage the user preference

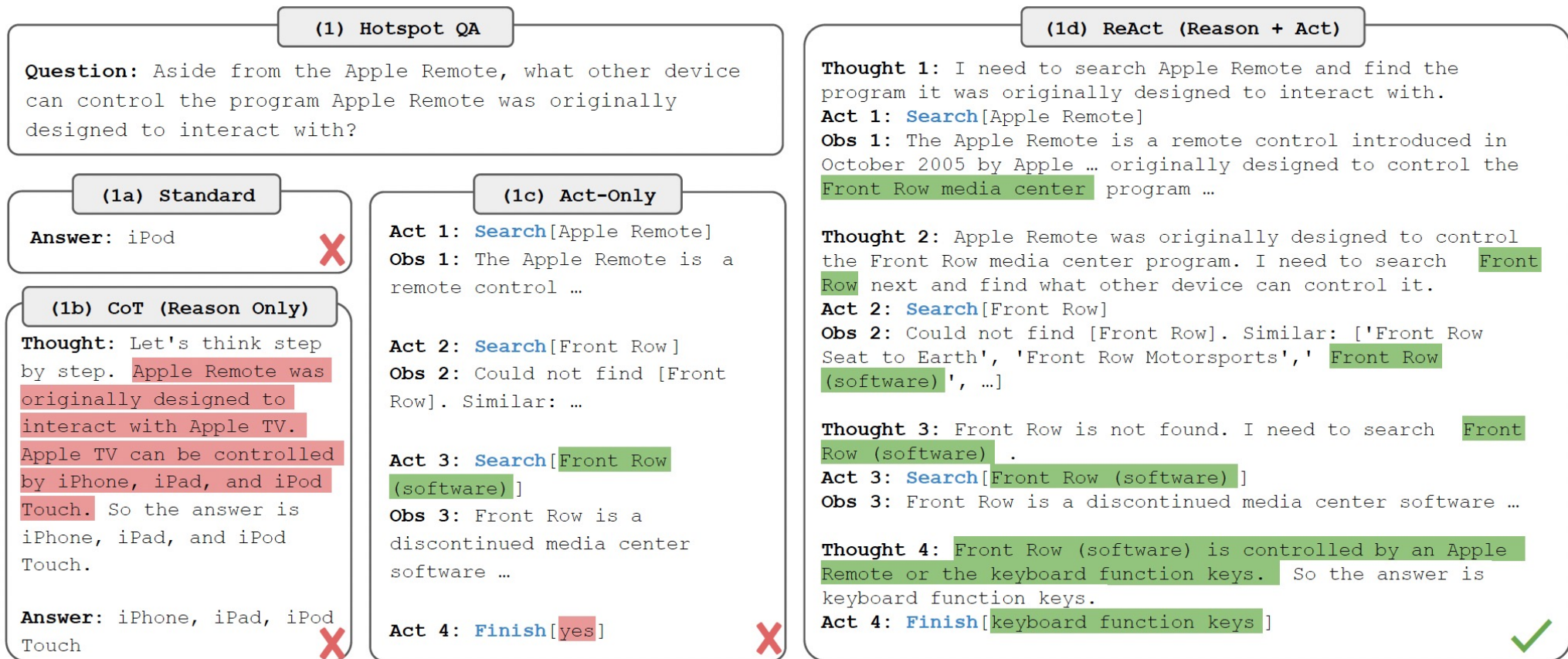
Planning

GSAI



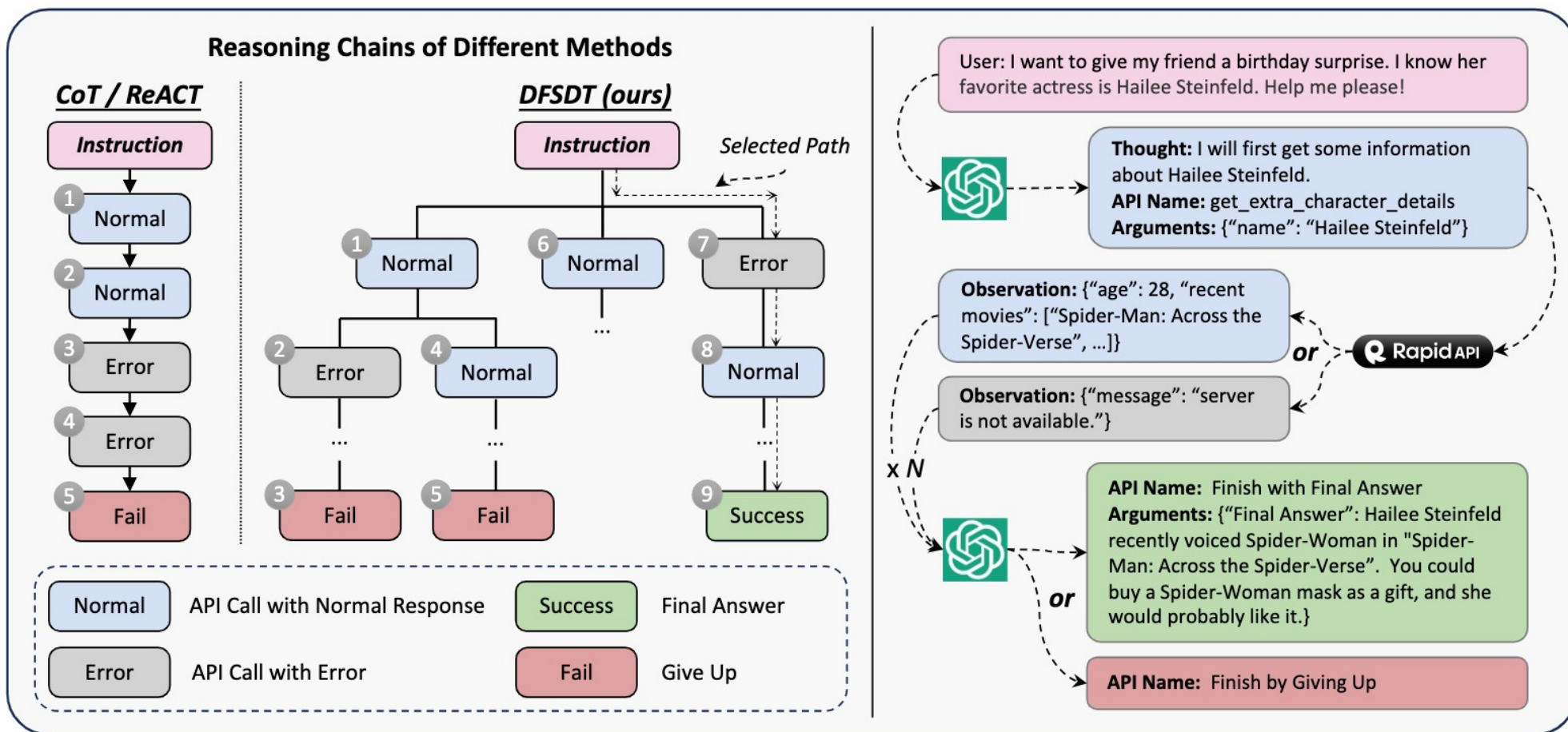
Planning with Feedback

- ReAct



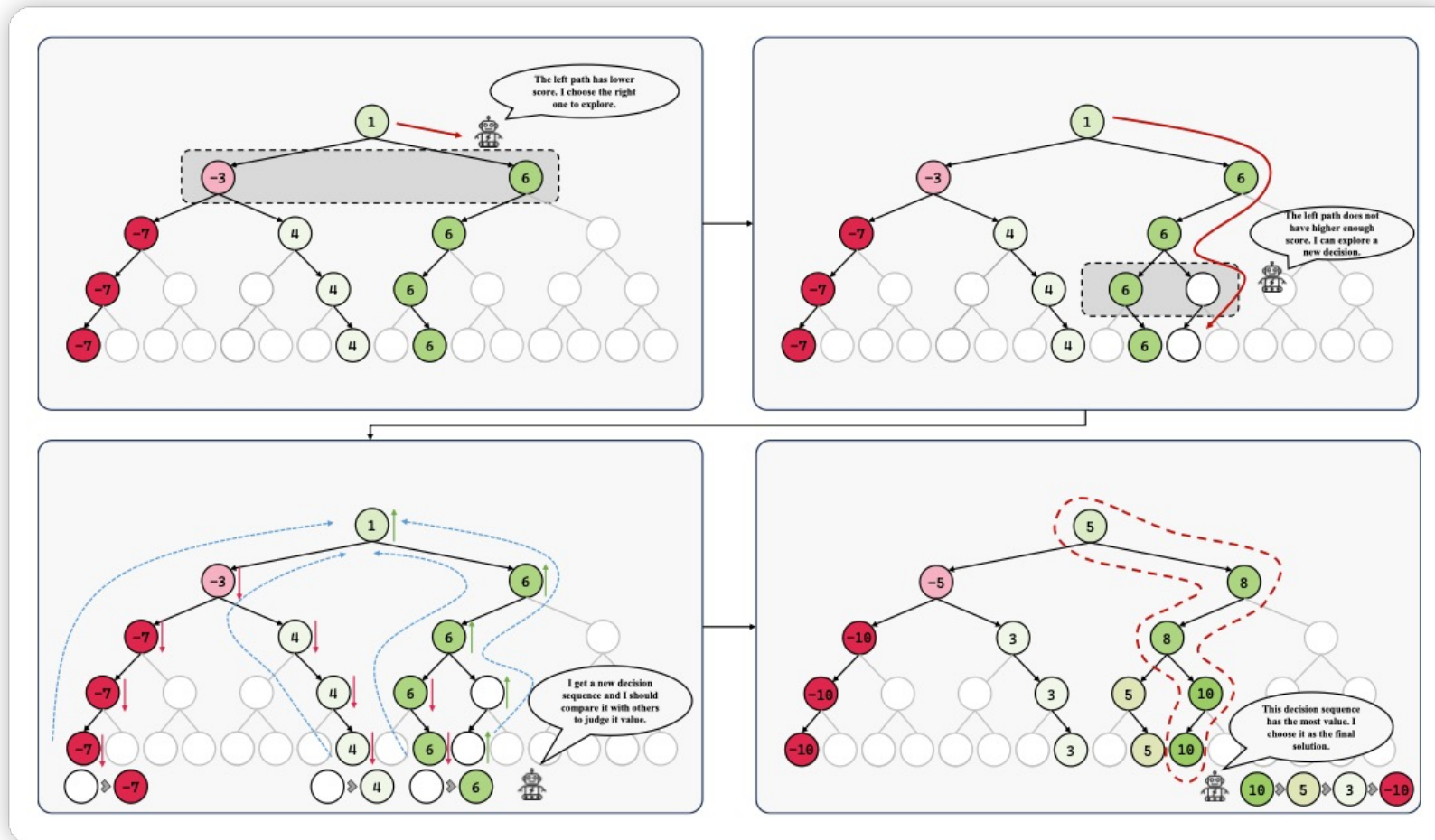
Planning with Feedback

- DFSDT



Planning with Feedback

- RADAgent



| Planning with Feedback

- RADAgent
 - ELO Tree Search
 - Forward: Explore based on node scores
 - Backward: Update node scores using the ELO rating system
- Elo Rating System
 - Assumes that each player's skill level follows a Gaussian distribution, and each game is a sample. The expected win rate between two players is:

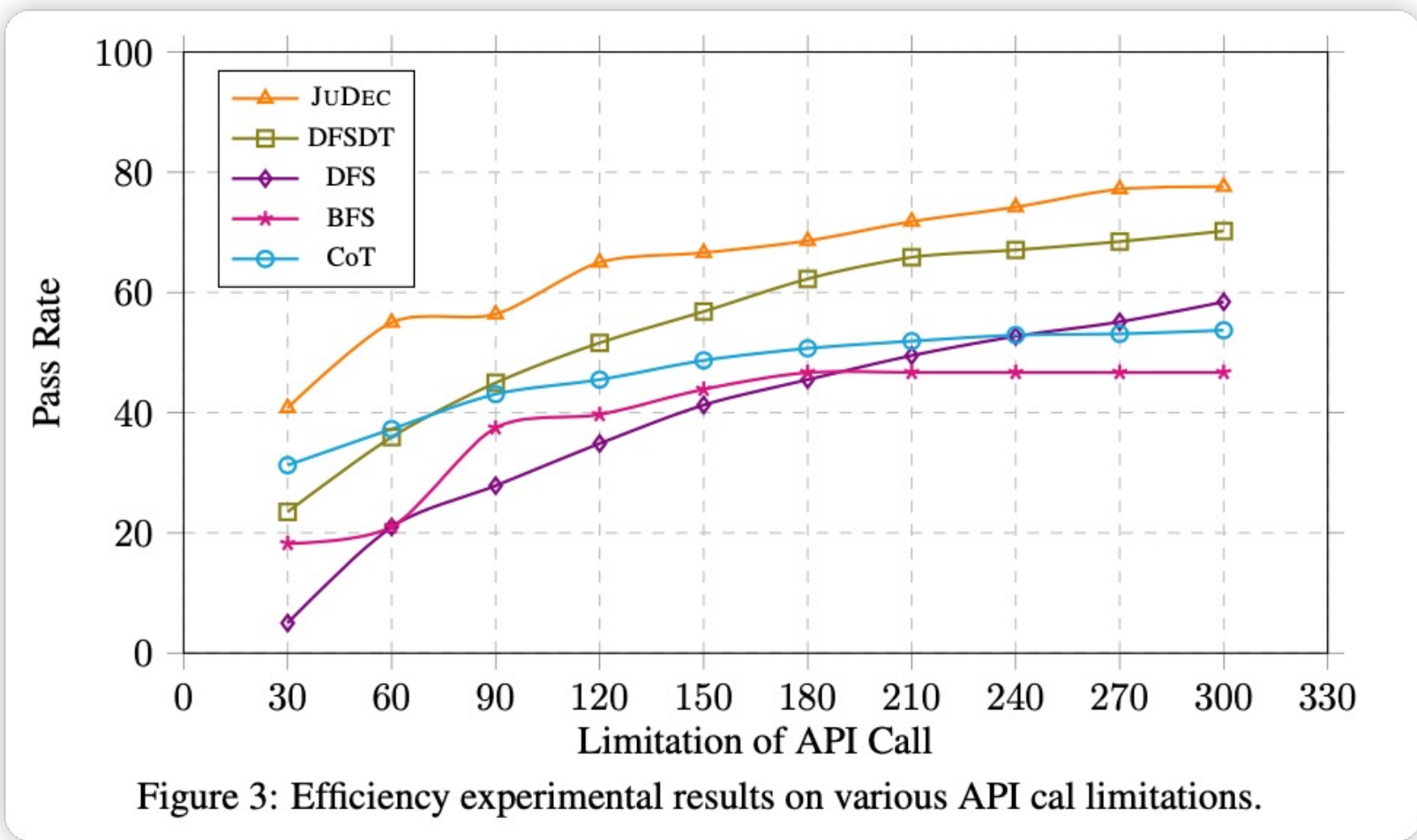
$$P(d_i) = \frac{\exp(\frac{v_i}{\tau})}{\sum_j \exp(\frac{v_j}{\tau})}, d_i \in \{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n\}$$

- The ELO scores are dynamically adjusted according to actual game outcomes:

$$\tau_d = \tau_0 * \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{\ln(M_d + 1)}}$$

| Planning with Feedback

- RADAgent



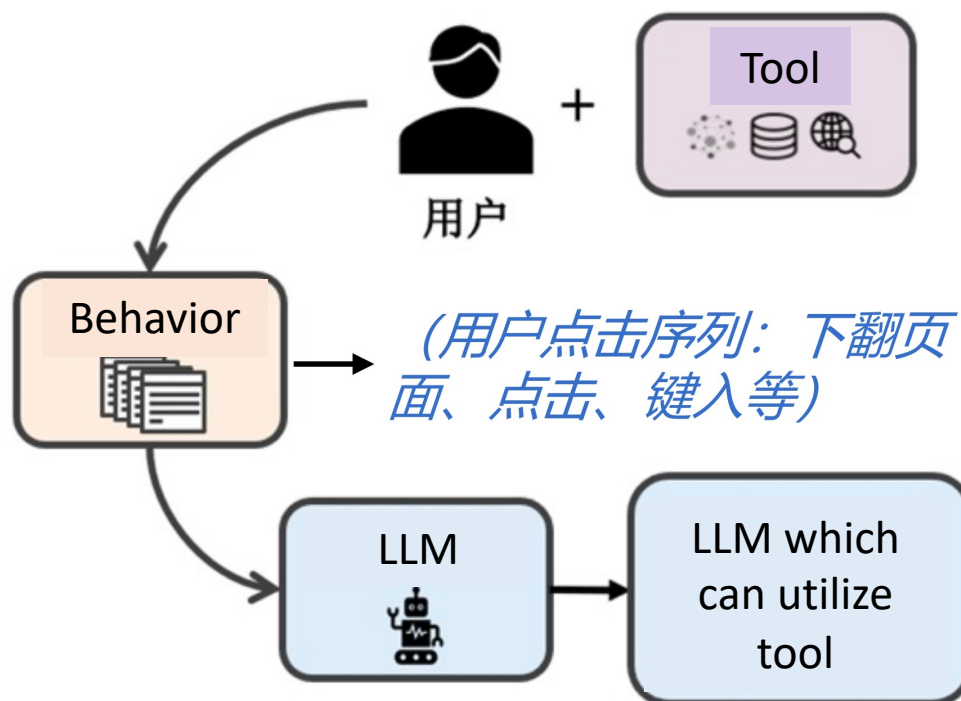
Tool Use

GSAI




| Learning to Use Tool


- Imitation Learning
 - By recording data on human tool usage behaviors, large models mimic human actions to learn about tools
- The simplest and most direct method of tool learning.



| WebGPT

- Supervised Learning  OpenAI
 - Clone human behavior to use search engines
 - Supervised fine-tuning + reinforcement learning
 - Only need 6,000 annotated data

How can I train the crows in my neighborhood to bring me gifts?

Search results for: how to train crows to bring you gifts Quotes 

[How to Make Friends With Crows - PetHelpful](#)

If you did this a few times, your crows would learn your new place, but as I said, I'm not sure if they will follow or visit you there since it's probably not in their territory. The other option is simply to make new crow friends with the crows that live in your new neighborhood.

[Gifts From Crows | Outside My Window](#)

The partial piece of apple may have been left behind when the crow was startled rather than as a gift. If the crows bring bright objects you'll know for sure that it's a gift because it's not something they eat. Brandi Williams says: May 28, 2020 at 7:19 am.

↑↑

↑

↓

[1] Gifts From Crows | Outside My Window
www.birdsoutsidemymwindow.org

Many animals give gifts to members of their own species but crows and other corvids are the only ones known to give gifts to humans.

Number of quote tokens left: 463

Number of actions left: 96

◆Question
How can I train the crows in my neighborhood to bring me gifts?

◆Quotes
From Gifts From Crows | Outside My Window (www.birdsoutsidemymwindow.org)
> Many animals give gifts to members of their own species but crows and other corvids are the only ones known to give gifts to humans.

◆Past actions
Search how to train crows to bring you gifts
Click Gifts From Crows | Outside My Window www.birdsoutsidemymwindow.org
Quote
Back

◆Title
Search results for: how to train crows to bring you gifts

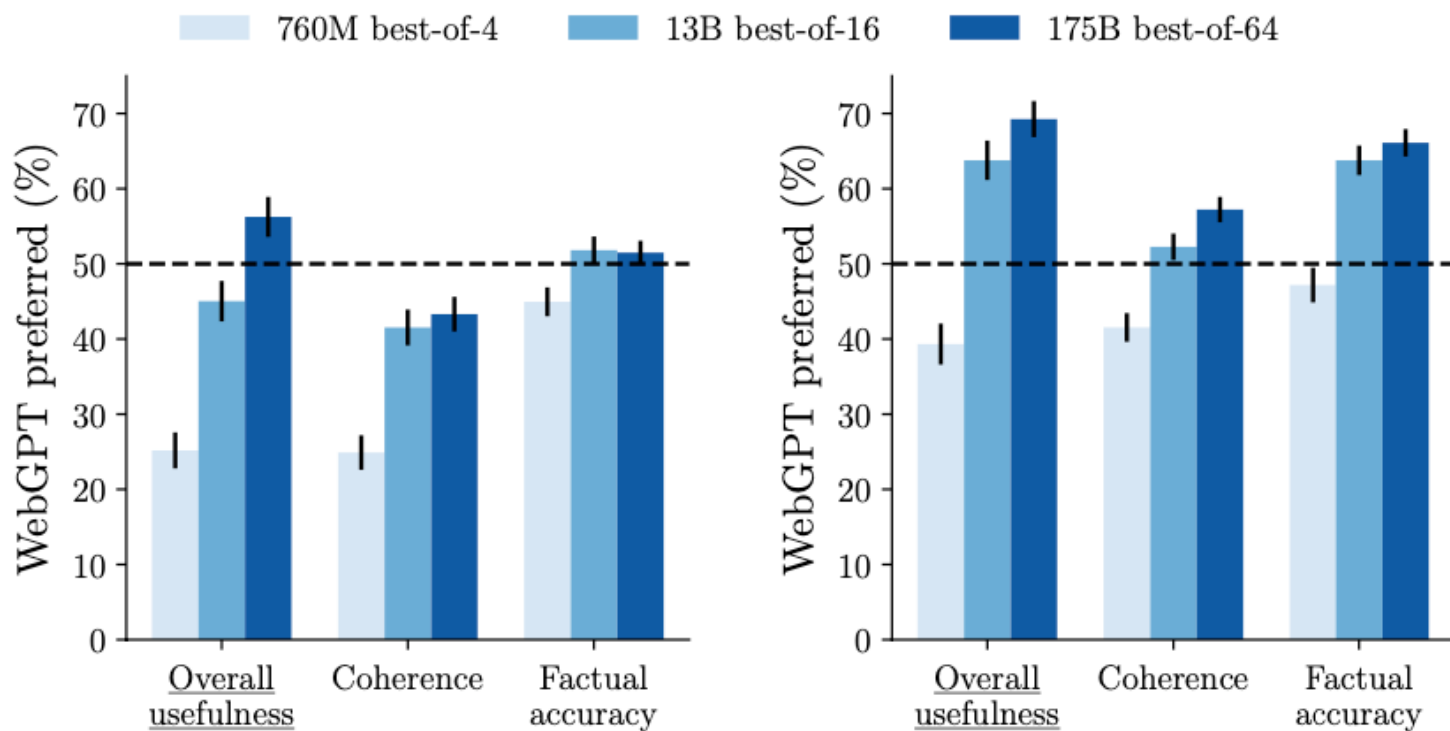
◆Scrollbar: 0 - 11
◆Text
{0}How to Make Friends With Crows - PetHelpful{pethelpful.com}
If you did this a few times, your crows would learn your new place, but as I said, I'm not sure if they will follow or visit you there since it's probably not in their territory. The other option is simply to make new crow friends with the crows that live in your new neighborhood.

{1}Gifts From Crows | Outside My Window{www.birdsoutsidemymwindow.org}
The partial piece of apple may have been left behind when the crow was startled rather than as a gift. If the crows bring bright objects you'll know for sure that it's a gift because it's not something they eat. Brandi Williams says: May 28, 2020 at 7:19 am.

◆Actions left: 96
◆Next action

| WebGPT

- Supervised Learning  OpenAI
 - Excellent performance in long-form QA, even surpassing human experts



(a) WebGPT vs. human demonstrations.

(b) WebGPT vs. ELI5 reference answers.

| WebCPM: Chinese WebGPT

- A case study in Chinese

Question | 麦田怪圈是什么? 它们是如何形成的? *What are crop circles? How are they made?*

Query | 麦田怪圈如何形成? *How do crop circles form?*

Window (search mode) ↑ ↓ 2/9

难解谜团: 麦田怪圈究竟是如何形成的? 👉 Page <1>
Unsolved mysteries: How did crop circles form?

麦田怪圈出现最多的季节是在春天和夏天, 有人认为, 夏季天气变化无常, 龙卷风是造成怪圈的主要原因...
The crop circles appear most often in spring and summer. Some people think that the weather in summer is erratic, and tornadoes are the main cause of the strange circles...

Title of page <2> 👉 Page <2>
A snapshot of the page content

Title of page <3> 👉 Page <3>
A snapshot of the page content

Quote ↕ Merge

Fact #1 2023-01-21 19:59:00
麦田圈是指通过压扁农作物产生的几何图案...
Crop circle refers to a geometric pattern produced by flattening crops ...

Fact #2 2023-01-21 20:05:12
Content of Fact #2

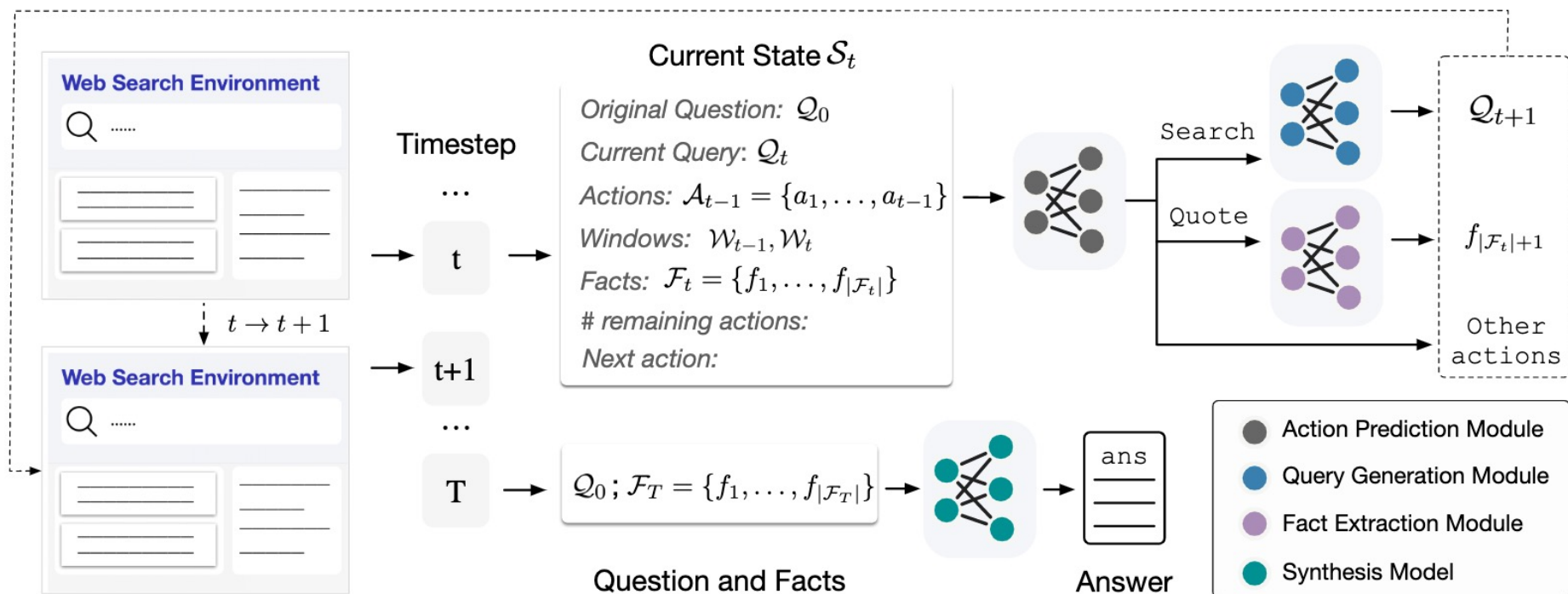
...

← Go Back Number of remaining actions (86/100) 🔴 Finish

Action Name	Functionality
🔍 Search <query>	Call Bing search with <query>
← Go Back	Return to the previous window
👉 Load Page <1>	Load the details of page <1>
👉 Load Page <2>	Load the details of page <2>
👉 Load Page <3>	Load the details of page <3>
↑ Scroll Up	Scroll up for a pre-set stride
↓ Scroll Down	Scroll down for a pre-set stride
🗉 Quote <content>	Extract <content> from the current page as a supporting fact
↕ Merge	Merge two facts into a single fact
🔴 Finish	End the search process

WebCPM: Chinese WebGPT

- At each step, the **search model** executes actions to collect supporting facts, which are sent to the **synthesis model** for answer generation

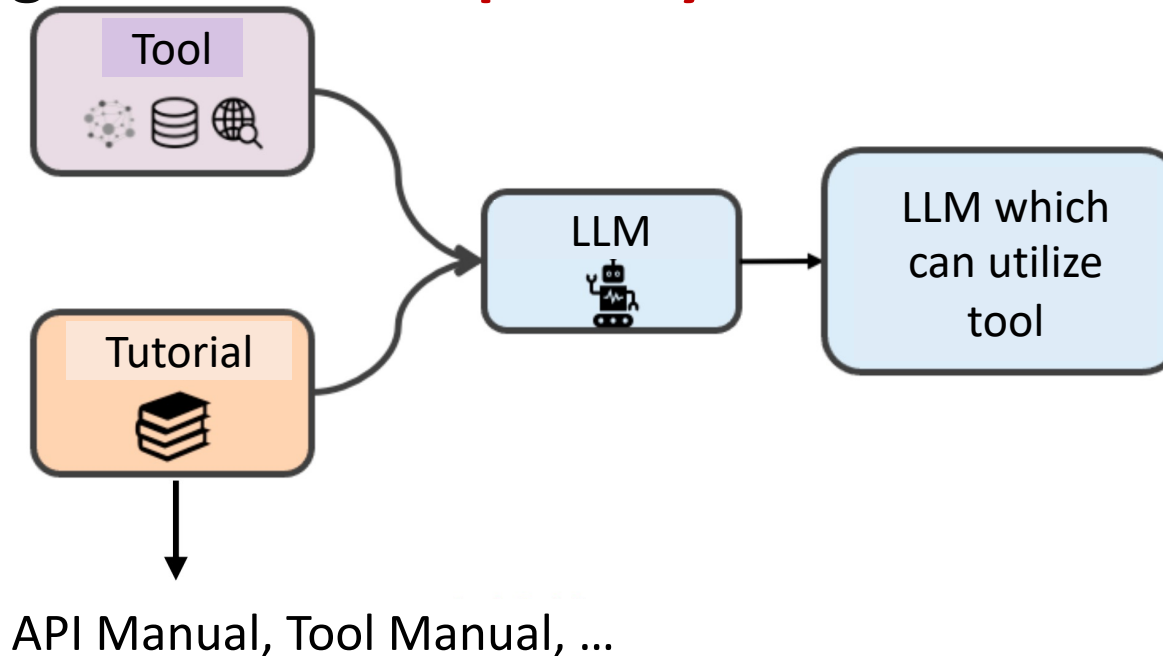


- Learning to perform online shopping



| Learning to Use Tool

- Tutorial Learning
 - By having the model read tool manuals (tutorials), it understands the functions of the tools and how to invoke them
- Almost exclusively, large models from the OpenAI series (such as ChatGPT, GPT-4) possess a high **zero-shot capability** to understand tool manuals.



| Learning to Use Tool

- Describe the functionality; In-context with example(s).

Zero-shot Prompting: Here we provide a tool (API) "forecast_weather(city:str, N:int)", which could forecast the weather about a city on a specific date (after N days from today). The returned information covers "temperature", "wind", and "precipitation".

Please write codes using this tool to answer the following question: "What's the average temperature in Beijing next week?"

Few-shot Prompting: We provide some examples for using a tool. Here is a tool for you to answer question:

Question: "What's the temperature in Shanghai tomorrow?"

```
return forecast_weather("Shanghai", 1) ["temperature"]
```

Question: "Will it rain in London in next two days?"

```
for i in range(2):  
    if forecast_weather("London", i+1) ["precipitation"] > 0:  
        return True  
return False
```

Question: "What's the average temperature in San Francisco next week?"

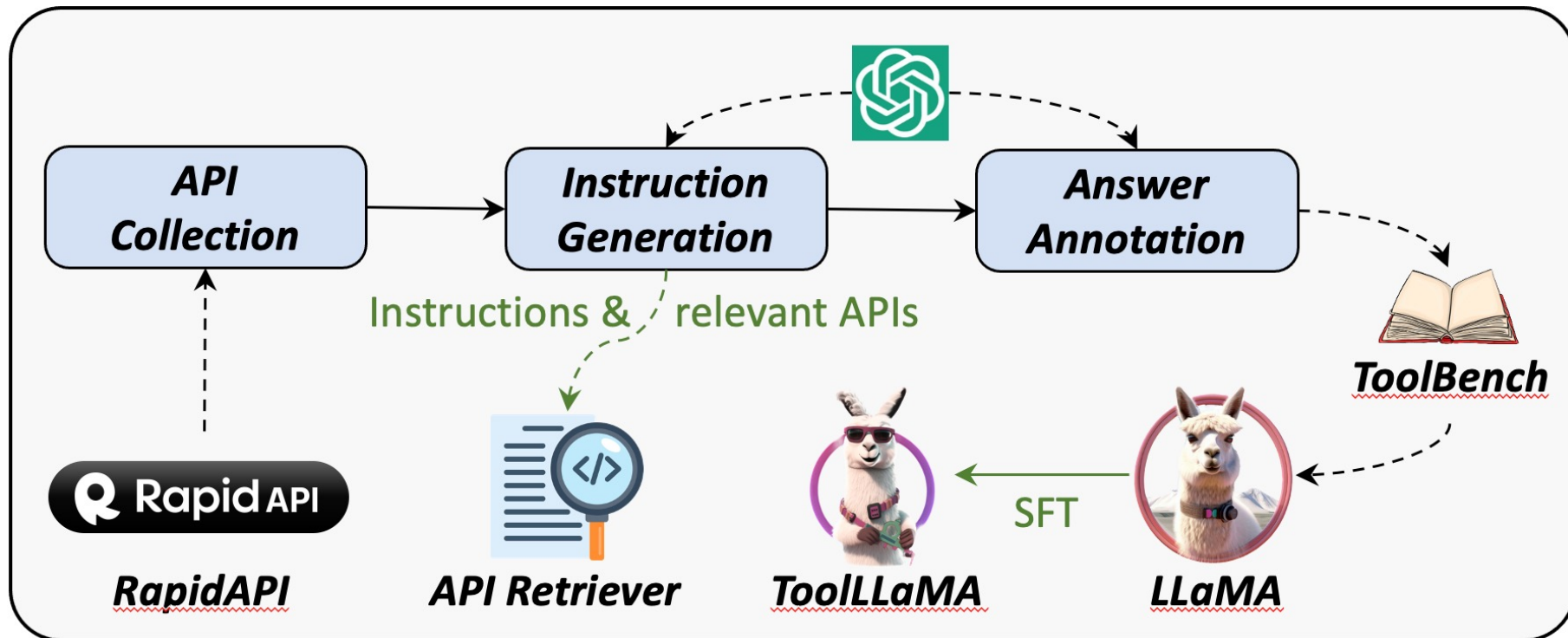
| ToolBench

- Highlights:
 - Over 16,000 real APIs (collected from RapidAPI)
 - Supports single and multi-tool invocation
 - Complex multi-step reasoning tasks

Resource	ToolBench (this work)	APIBench (Patil et al., 2023)	API-Bank (Li et al., 2023a)	ToolAlpaca (Tang et al., 2023)	T-Bench (Xu et al., 2023b)
Real-world API?	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Real API Response?	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Multi-tool Scenario?	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
API Retrieval?	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Multi-step Reasoning?	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Number of tools	3451	3	53	400	8
Number of APIs	16464	1645	53	400	232
Number of Instances	12657	17002	274	3938	2746
Number of Real API Calls	37204	0	568	0	0
Avg. Reasoning Traces	4.1	1.0	2.1	1.0	5.9

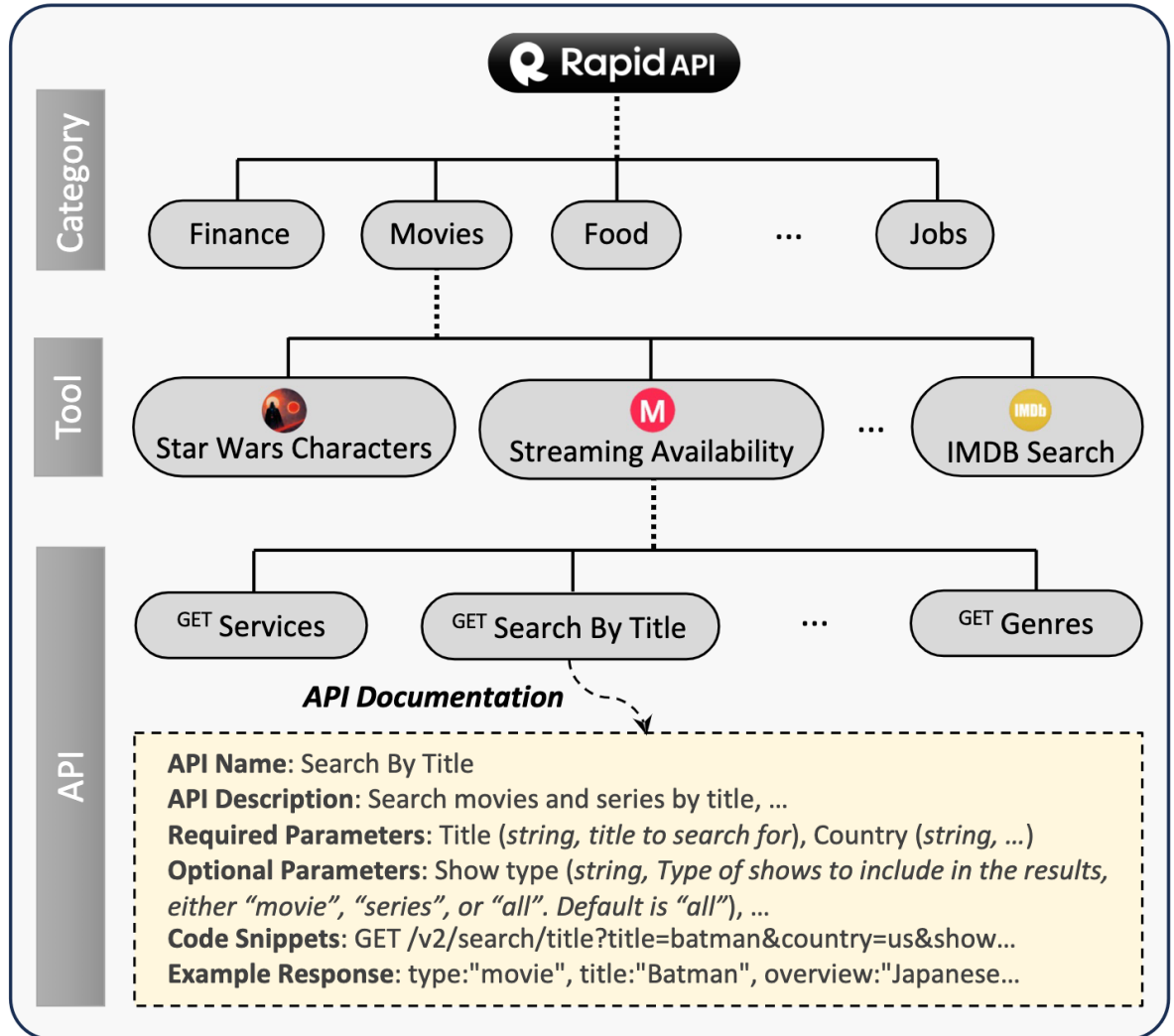
| ToolBench Construction

- API Collection
- Instruction Generation
- Answer Annotation



ToolBench Construction

- API Collection
 - RapidAPI Hub:
<https://rapidapi.com/hub>
 - Filter over 16,000 high-quality APIs from more than 50,000 APIs
 - Include 49 categories



ToolBench Construction

- Instruction Generation

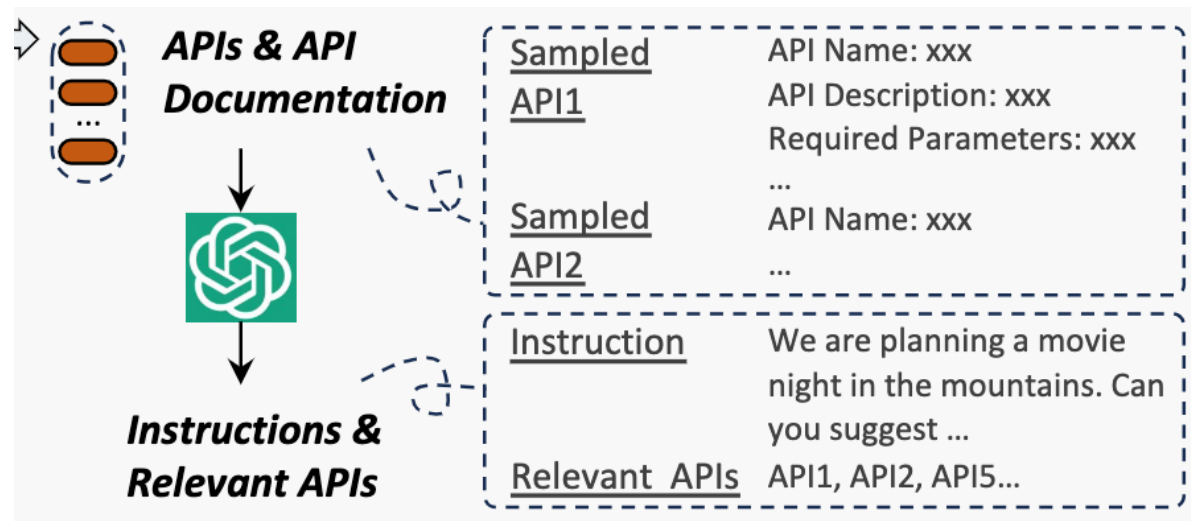
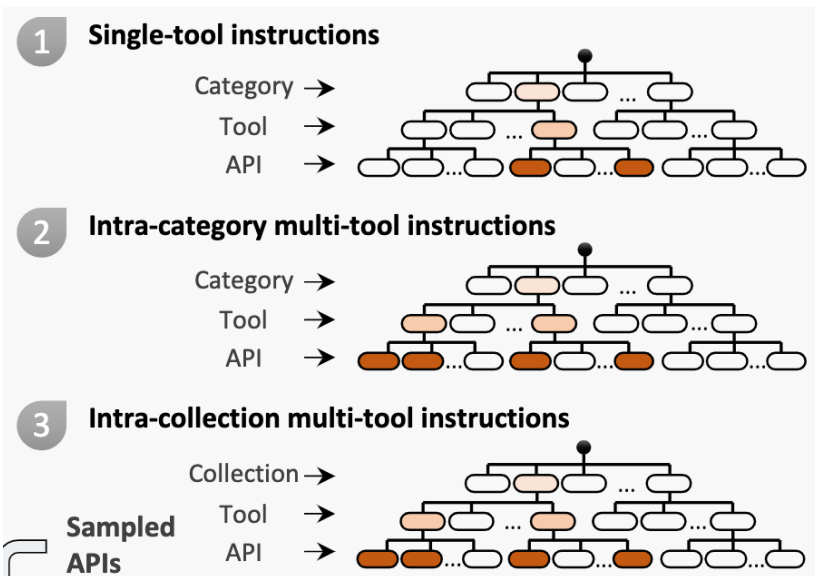
- Single Tool + Multi-Tool

- (1) Sample a collection of APIs: $\mathbb{S}_N^{\text{sub}} = \{\text{API}_1, \dots, \text{API}_N\}$

- (2) ChatGPT automatically generate instructions that may require calling one or more APIs in the collection:
$$\text{ChatGPT} \left(\{[\mathbb{S}_1^{\text{rel}}, \text{Inst}_1], \dots, [\mathbb{S}_{N'}^{\text{rel}}, \text{Inst}_{N'}]\} \mid \text{API}_1, \dots, \text{API}_N, \text{seed}_1, \dots, \text{seed}_3 \right).$$

$$\{\text{API}_1, \dots, \text{API}_N\} \in \mathbb{S}_{\text{API}},$$

$$\{\text{seed}_1, \dots, \text{seed}_3\} \in \mathbb{S}_{\text{seed}}$$



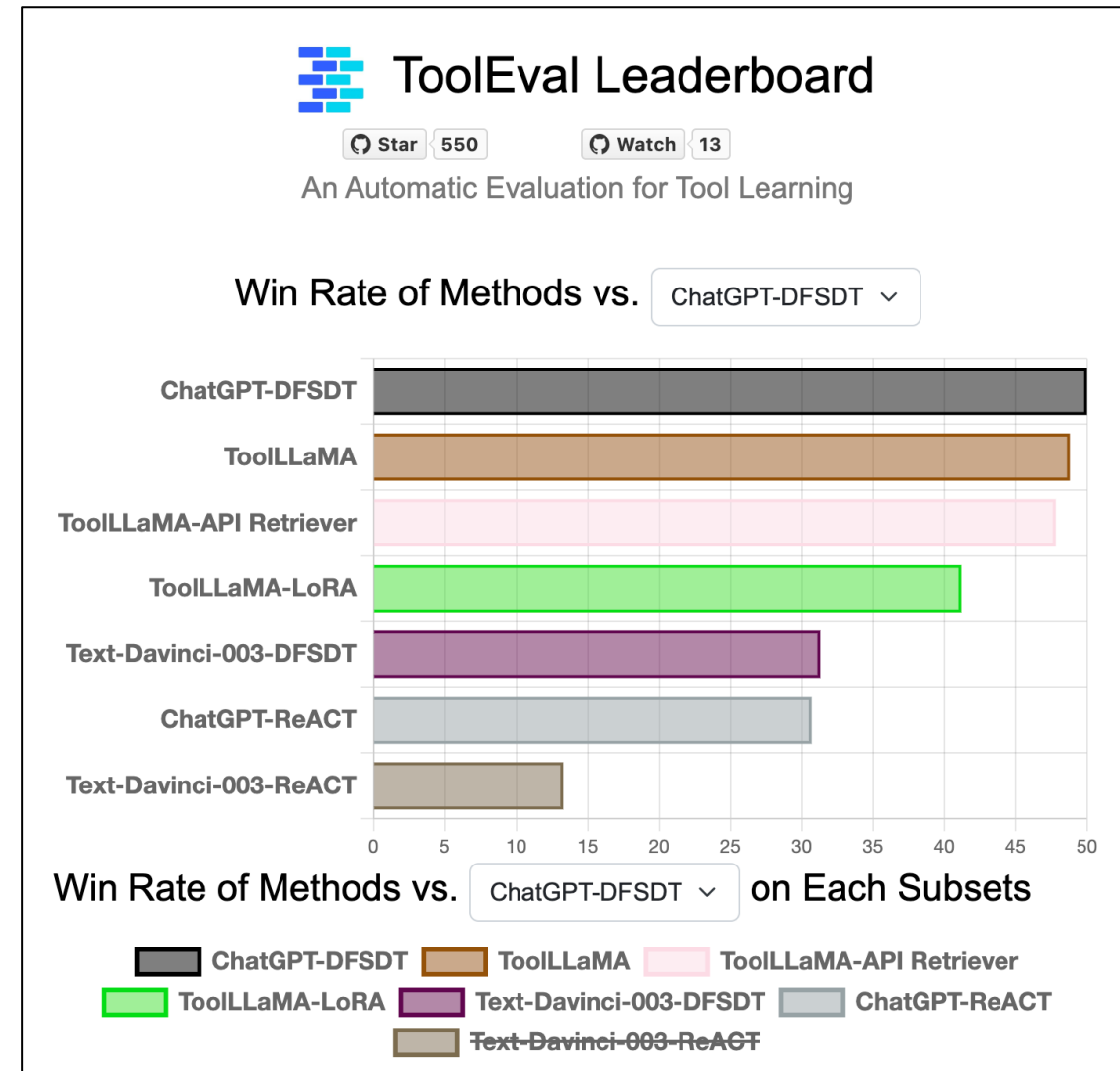
| ToolBench Construction

- Answer Annotation
 - gpt-3.5-turbo-16k: feature of function call
- Issues with ReACT
 - Error Propagation: An error in a single step annotation can render the entire action sequence unusable
 - Limited Exploration: ReACT can only sample one sequence from the infinite action sequence space based on the LM's probabilities
- DFSDT: Dynamically extends the TOT to the tool learning scenario

Method	Single-tool (I1)	Category (I2)	Collection (I3)	Average
ReACT	43.98	23.62	20.42	29.34
ReACT@N	50.80	36.14	32.87	39.94
DFSDT	54.10	47.35	44.80	48.75

| ToolEval

- Automatic Evaluation Framework Based on ChatGPT
- Two metrics:
 - Success rate: The proportion of commands successfully completed within a limited number of API calls
 - Preference: Comparison of quality/usefulness between two answers, i.e., which one is better?
- Highly consistent with human experts (~80%).



| ToolLLaMA

- Demonstrate exceptionally high generalizability to OOD commands and APIs, significantly outperforming ChatGPT+ReACT

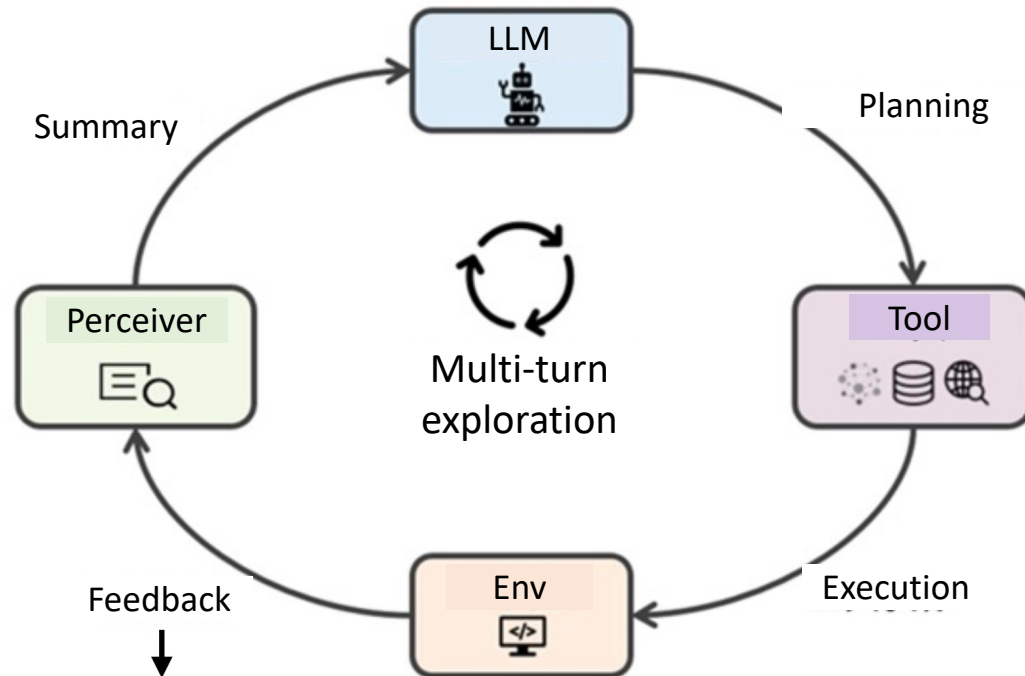
Model	I1-Inst.		I1-Tool		I1-Cat.		I2-Inst.		I2-Cat.		I3-Inst.		Average	
	Pass	Win	Pass	Win	Pass	Win	Pass	Win	Pass	Win	Pass	Win	Pass	Win
ChatGPT-ReACT	56.0	-	62.0	-	66.0	-	28.0	-	22.0	-	30.0	-	44.0	-
Vicuna (ReACT & DFSDT)	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-
Alpaca (ReACT & DFSDT)	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-
Text-Davinci-003-DFSDT	53.0	46.0	58.0	38.0	61.0	39.0	38.0	46.0	38.0	45.0	39.0	48.0	47.8	43.7
ChatGPT-DFSDT	78.0	68.0	84.0	59.0	89.0	57.0	51.0	78.0	58.0	<u>77.0</u>	57.0	77.0	69.6	69.3
ToolLLaMA-DFSDT	<u>68.0</u>	68.0	<u>80.0</u>	59.0	<u>75.0</u>	<u>56.0</u>	<u>47.0</u>	<u>75.0</u>	<u>56.0</u>	80.0	<u>40.0</u>	<u>72.0</u>	<u>61.0</u>	<u>68.3</u>

- DFSDT >> ReACT

Method	Single-tool (I1)	Category (I2)	Collection (I3)	Average
ReACT	43.98	23.62	20.42	29.34
ReACT@N	50.80	36.14	32.87	39.94
DFSDT	54.10	47.35	44.80	48.75

| Learning to Use Tool

- Reinforcement Learning
 - Capable of autonomous exploration and corrects errors based on environmental feedback through reinforcement learning
- There is limited existing research on this topic.



API Calling Success Rate, User Feedback ...

| Learning to Use Tool

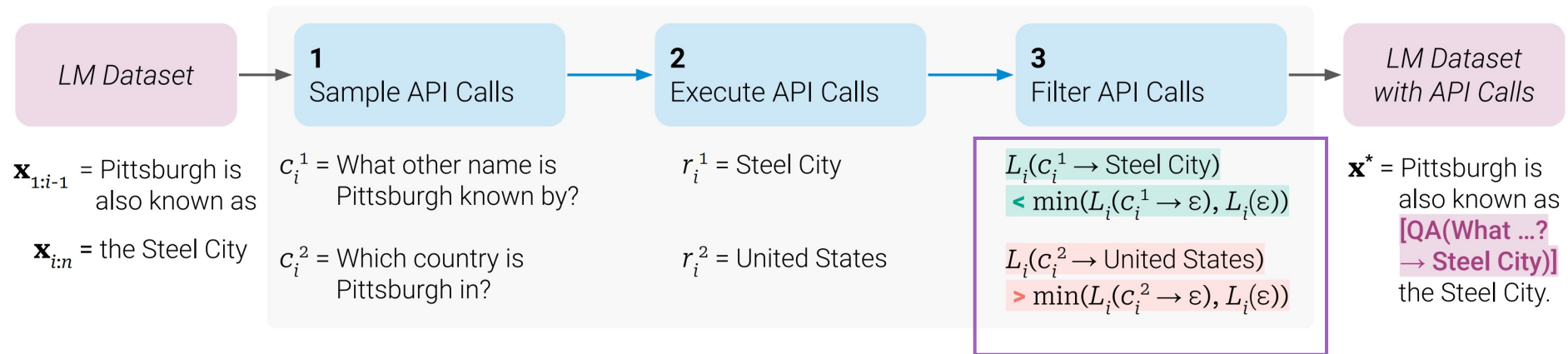
- Learning from feedback: often involves reinforcement learning

$$\theta_C^* = \arg \max_{\theta_C} \mathbb{E}_{q_i \in Q} \mathbb{E}_{\{a_{i,t}\}_{t=0}^{T_i} \in p_{\theta_C}} \left[R(\{a_{i,t}\}_{t=0}^{T_i}) \right],$$

- Reinforcement Learning (RL) for Tool Use
 - Action space is defined based on tools
 - Agent learns to select the appropriate tool
 - Perform the correct actions that maximize the reward signal

| Toolformer

- Self-supervised Tool Learning
 - Pre-defined tool APIs
 - Encourage models to call and execute tool APIs
 - Design self-supervised loss to see if the tool execution can help language modeling



If the tool execution reduces LM loss,
save the instances as training data

Application

GSAI



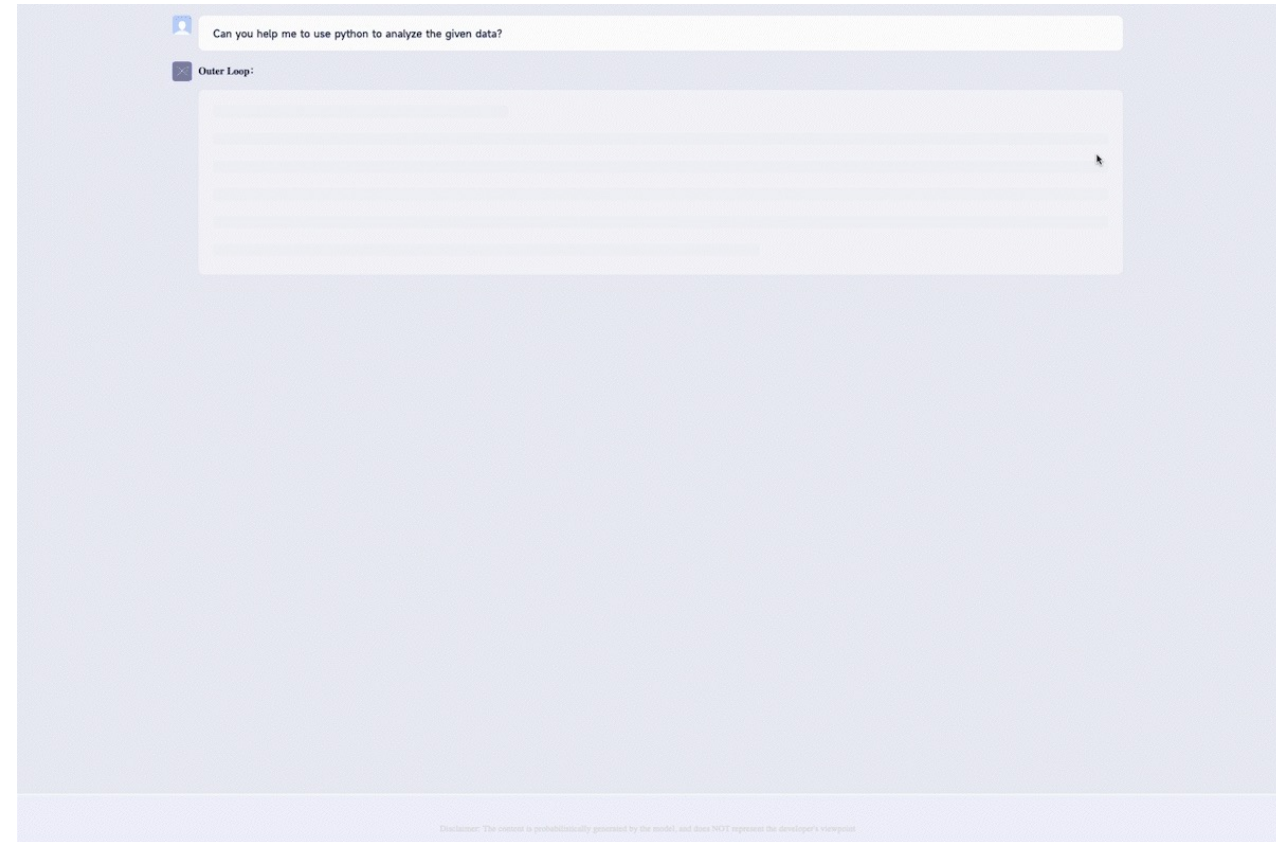
| XAgent

- Dual-loop Mechanism for Planning and Execution
- ToolServer: Tool Execution Docker
- The Universal Language: Function Calling:



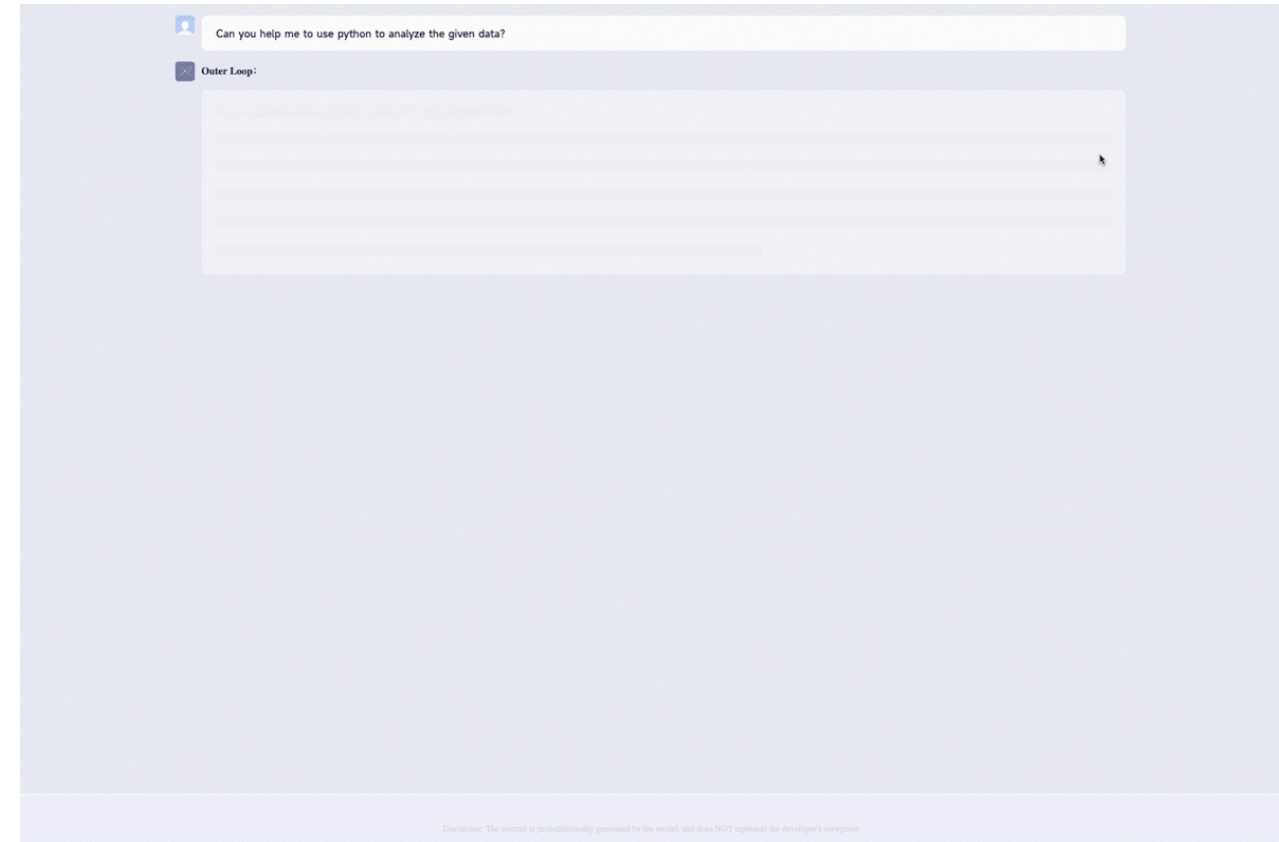
| Example: Data Analysis

- Outer-loop splits the task into four sub-tasks
 - Data inspection and comprehension
 - Verification of the system's Python environment for relevant data analysis libraries
 - Crafting data analysis code for data processing and analysis
 - Compiling an analytical report based on the Python code's execution results.

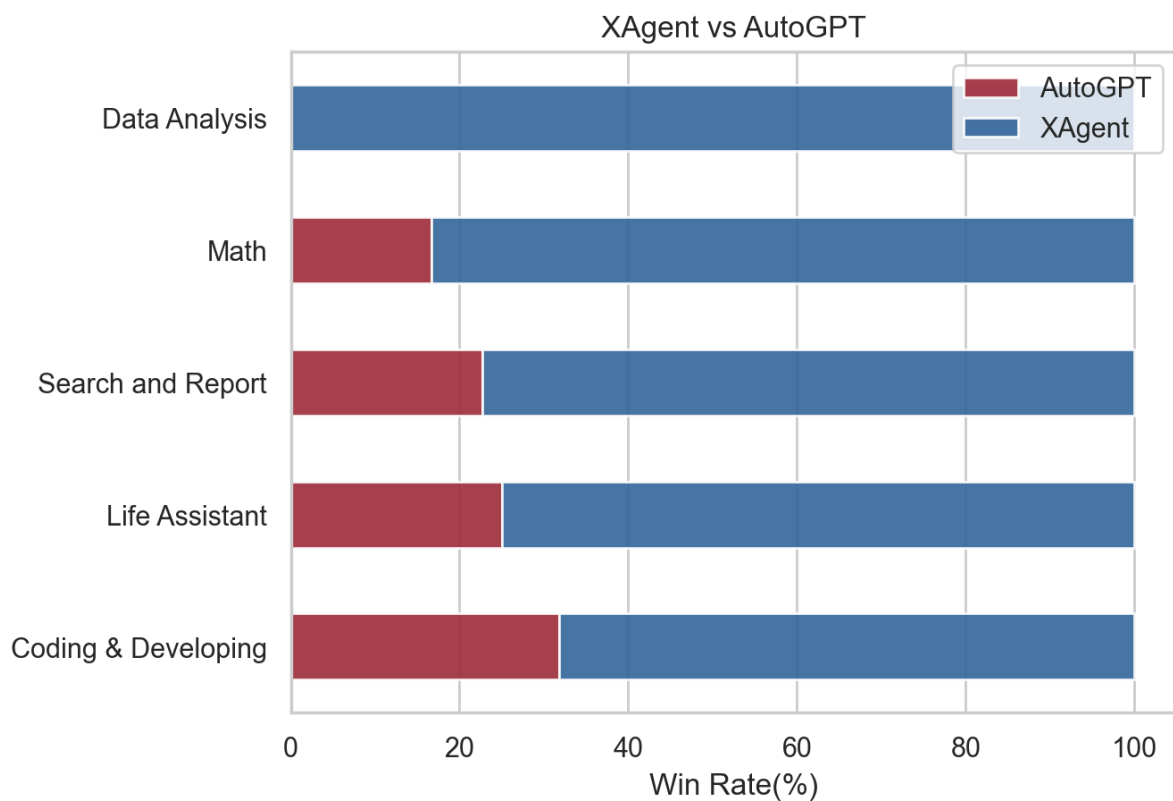


| Case Study: Data Analysis

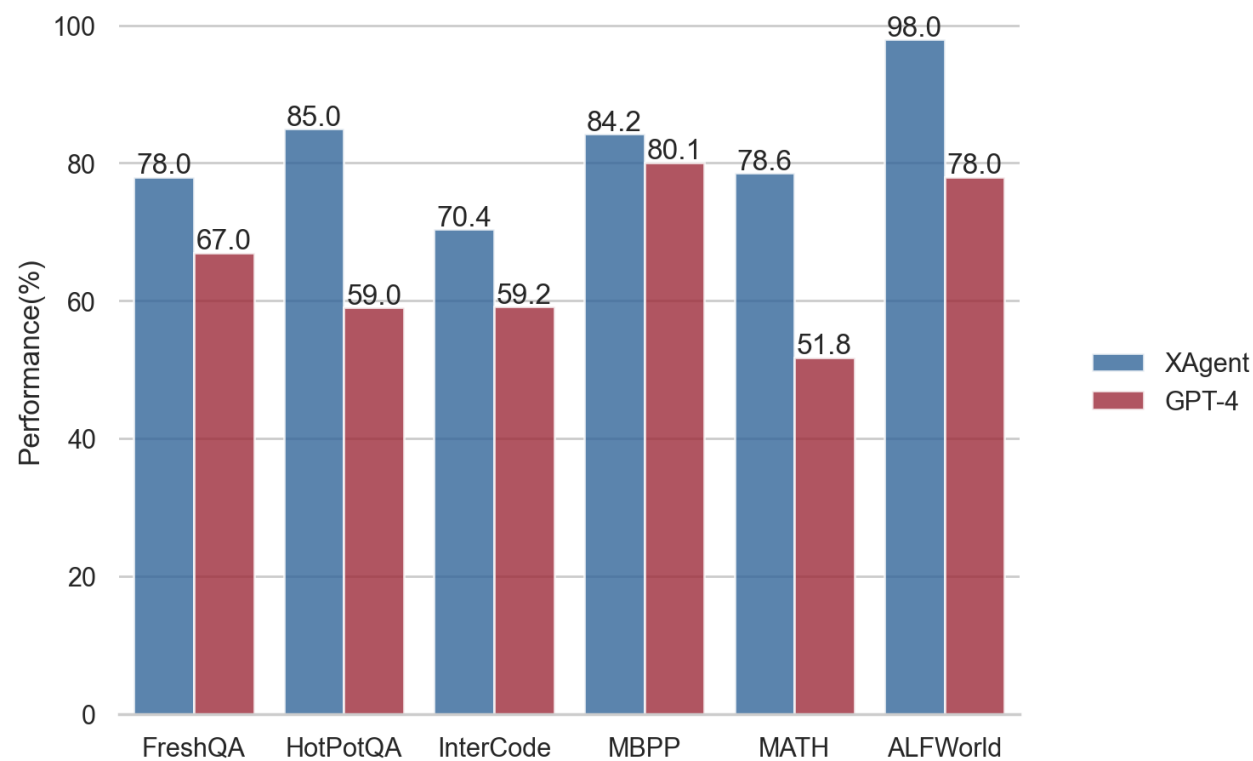
- Inter-loop
 - Employ various data analysis libraries such as pandas, sci-kit learn, seaborn, matplotlib, alongside skills in file handling, shell commands, and Python notebooks



| Performance



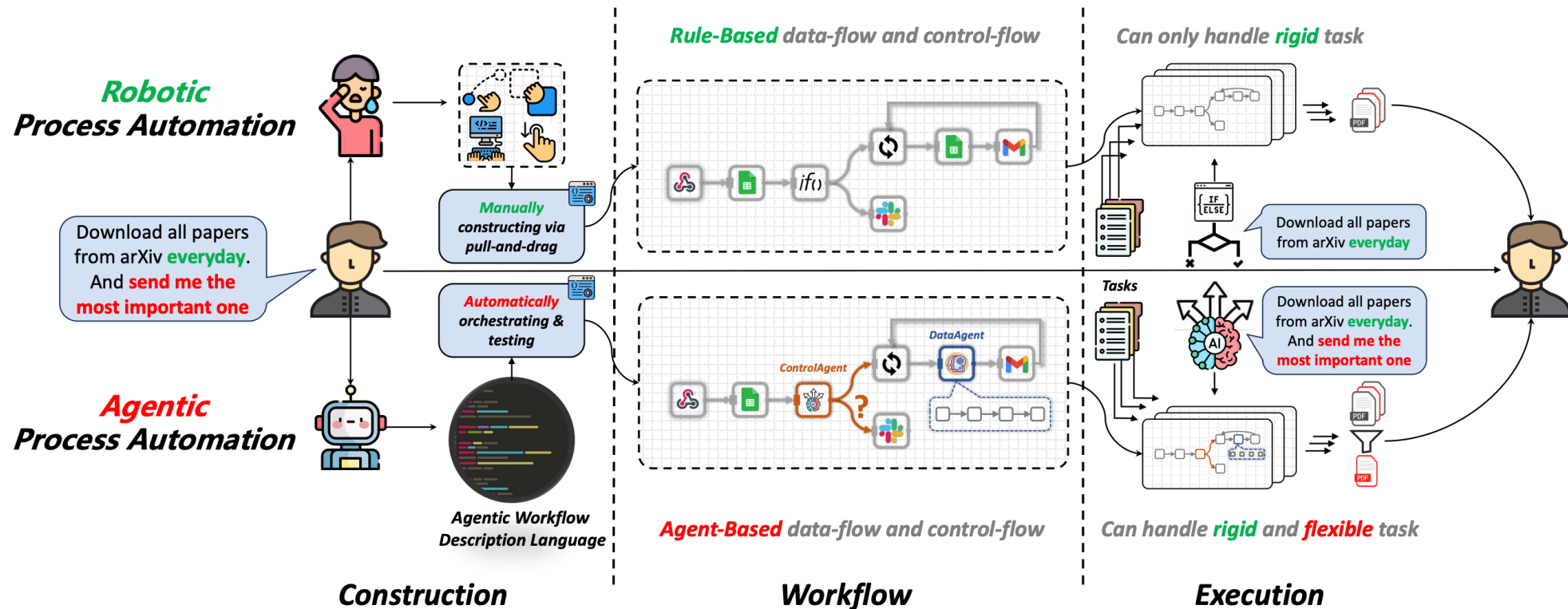
XAgent v.s. AutoGPT on our curated instructions



XAgent v.s. GPT-4 on existing AI benchmarks

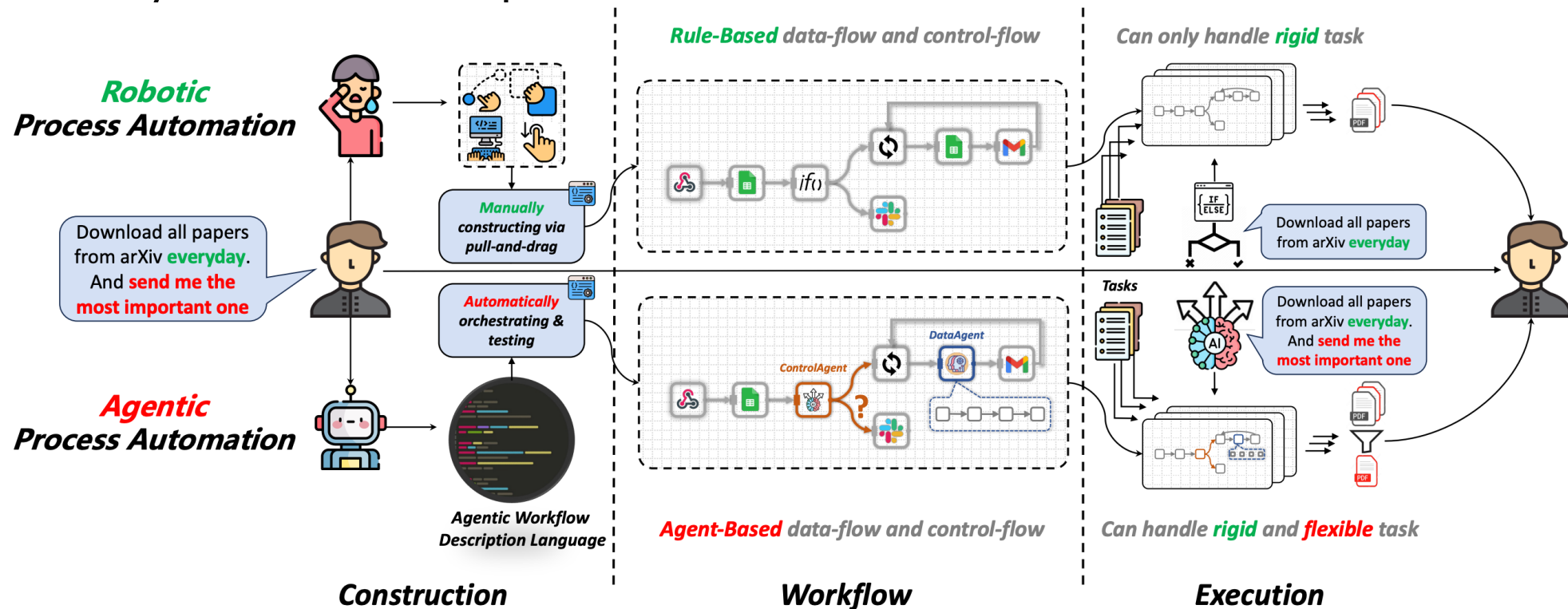
ProAgent

- Robotic Process Automation (RPA)
 - Involve manually programming rules to coordinate multiple software applications into a solidified workflow. It achieves efficient execution by interacting with software in a manner that simulates human interaction.



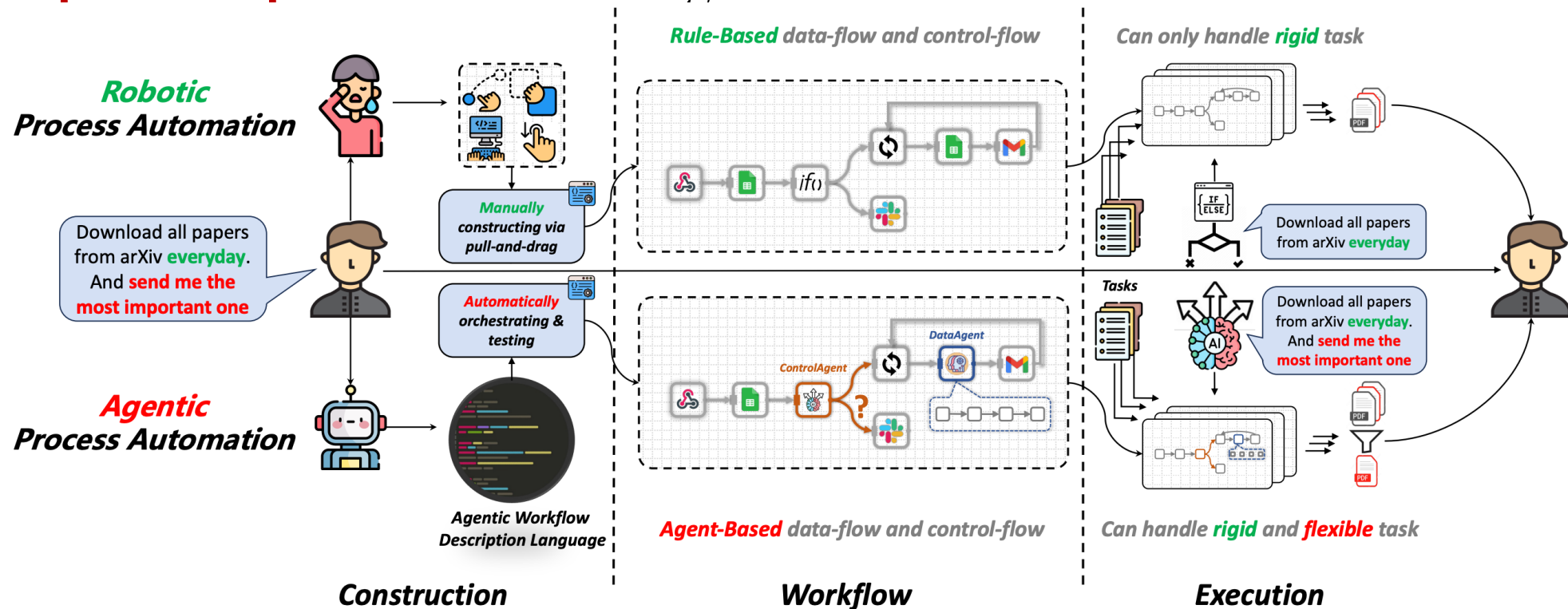
ProAgent

- Limitation of RPA
 - Constructing RPA workflows requires **substantial human labor**
 - Complex tasks are very flexible, involving **dynamic decision-making**, and are difficult to solidify into rules for representation



ProAgent

- Agentic Process Automation based on LLM-based Agent
 - The agent **autonomously completes the construction of workflows** with human needs
 - **Dynamically recognizing decision-making** during the build and **actively taking over to complete complex decisions** during execution.



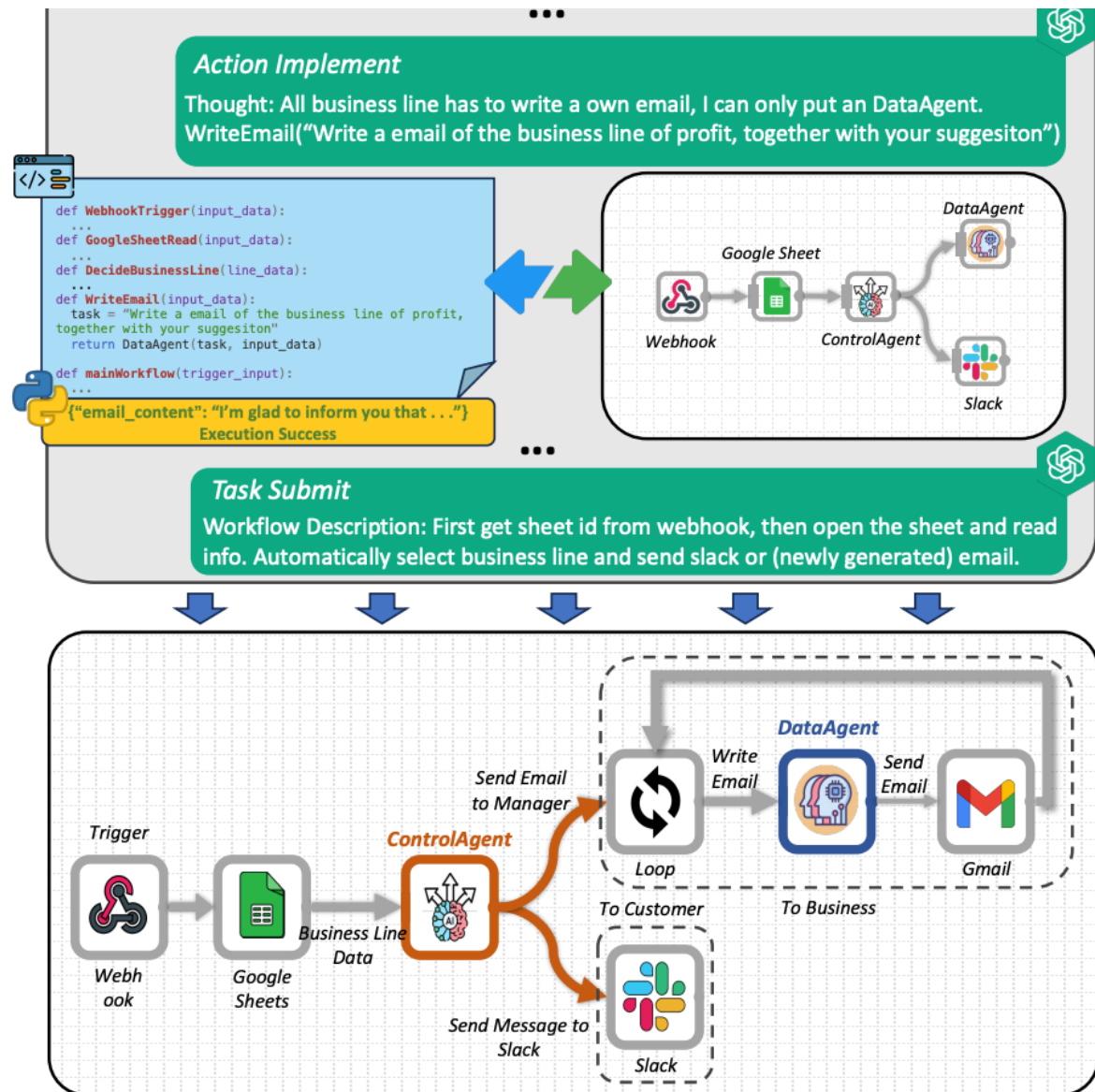
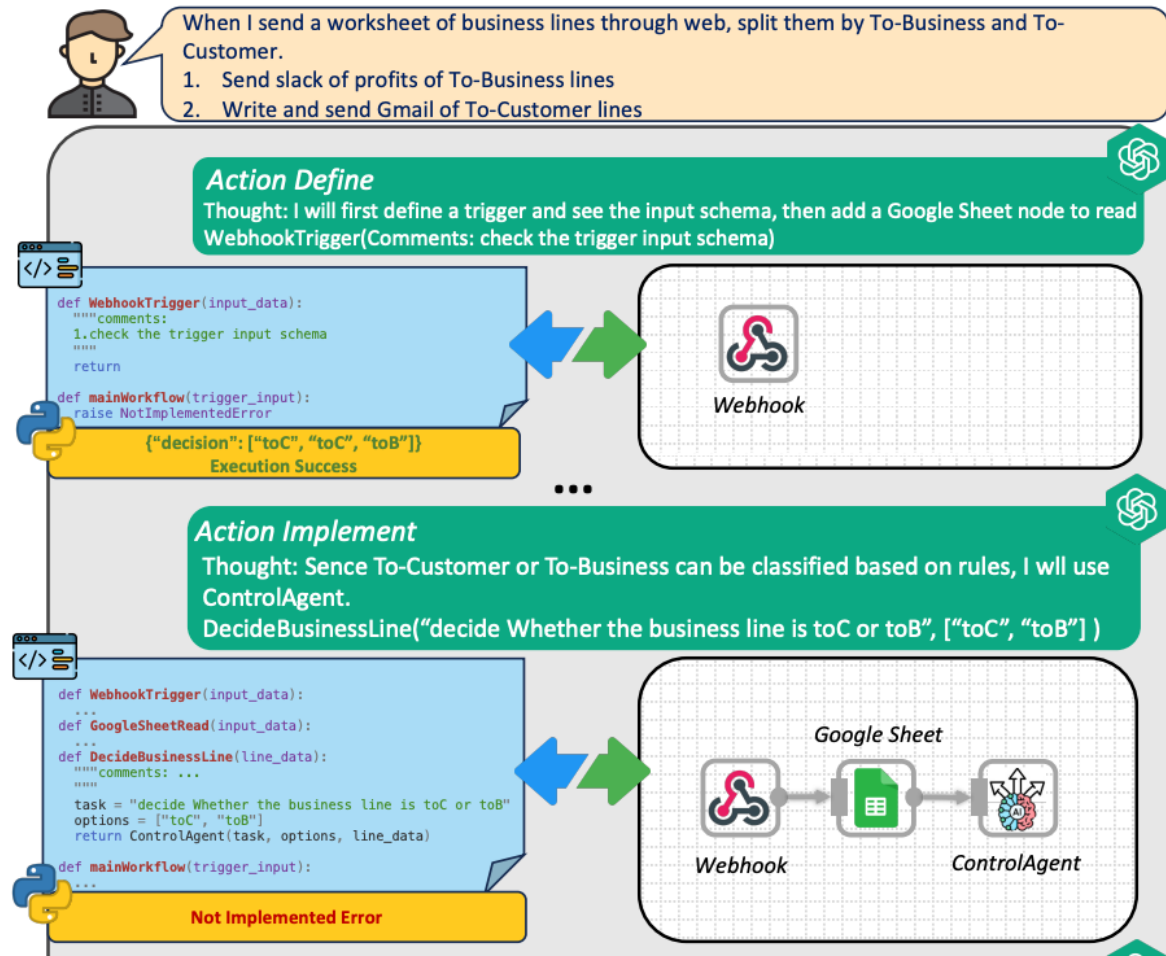
| Example

Task

When I send a worksheet of business lines through Web, deal with them according to which type of each business line belong to.

1. To-Customer: Send a message to Slack to report the profits of business lines.
2. To-Business: Write a report which should analyze the data to give some suggestions and then send it to the Gmail of the corresponding managers.

Example



| Reading Material

Tool Learning

- Must-read Papers

- Tool Learning with Foundation Models. [\[link\]](#)
- Augmented Language Models: a Survey. [\[link\]](#)
- Foundation Models for Decision Making: Problems, Methods, and Opportunities. [\[link\]](#)

- Further Reading

- Toolformer: Language Models Can Teach Themselves to Use Tools. [\[link\]](#)
- WebGPT: Browser-assisted question-answering with human feedback. [\[link\]](#)
- ReAct: Synergizing Reasoning and Acting in Language Models. [\[link\]](#)
- Do As I Can, Not As I Say: Grounding Language in Robotic Affordances. [\[link\]](#)
- Inner Monologue: Embodied Reasoning through Planning with Language Models. [\[link\]](#)

Q&A

GSAI

