

CMU Agent Workshop 2024

Presenters: Frank Xu, Zora Wang, Graham Neubig



Carnegie Mellon University Language Technologies Institute



How can we make Al agents that work for all of us?

Talks, posters, hackathon, seminar!

Welcome to CMU Agent Workshop 2024



Schedule

<u>May 2</u>

- 9:00 9:50: Intro + Tutorial Frank Xu, Zora Wang, Graham Neubig
- 9:50 10:00: Break
- 10:00 10:50: Invited Talk <u>Yu Su</u> (OSU)
- 10:50 11:00: Break
- 11:00 11:50: Invited Talk <u>Alane Suhr</u> (Berkeley)
- 11:50 13:00: Lunch Break
- 13:00 13:50: Invited Talk Chris Paxton (Hello Robot)
- 13:50 14:40: Invited Talk Xinyun Chen (Google DeepMind)
- 14:40 15:10: Hackathon Description and Project Pitch Session
- 15:10 17:30: <u>Student Poster Session</u> / <u>Do Hackathon</u>

<u>May 3</u>

- 9:00 10:00: Tutorial Shuyan, Zora
- 10:00 12:00: Socially Intelligent Agent Seminar
- 12:00 13:00: Lunch
- 13:00 14:00: Invited Talk Maarten Sap (CMU)
- 14:00 16:00: Hackathon Showcase

Thank you to all the organizers!



Frank Xu, Zora Wang, So Yeon Tiffany Min, Xuhui Zhou, Karina Halevy,



Junhong Shen, Hao Zhu, Yiqing Xie, Shuyan Zhou, Maarten Sap, Graham Neubig

Thank you to our sponsor!

ardent.

Ardent Venture Partners

A Whirlwind Tour of Large Language Models

NLP Before Large Language Models (Train/Test)



Who is the president of the US?

Where is Carnegie Mellon located?

Joe Biden

Pittsburgh

What is the capital of Pennsylvania? Harrisburg

NLP With Large Language Models (Prompting)

Q: What is the capital of Pennsylvania?



It's for real this time. After months of legal drama, bad memes and will-they-or-won't-they-chaos to put your favorite rom-com to shame, Elon Musk has closed his \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter. Musk sealed the deal Thursday night, taking Twitter private and ousting a handful of top executives — CEO Parag Agrawal included — in the process.



 Mostly through APIs such as GPT, Claude, Gemini or local models like Llama, Mistral, DeepSeek, Qwen

From Zero to ChatGPT



Augmenting LLMs with Tools

LMs are powerful for text generation tasks. But ...

- Complex reasoning?
 Struggle
- Access real-world information?

Fundamentally unable



Tools benefit language models a lot

1U

• ToolFormer

The New England Journal of Medicine is a registered trademark of [QA("Who is the publisher of The New England Journal of Medicine?") \rightarrow Massachusetts Medical Society] the MMS.

Out of 1400 participants, 400 (or [Calculator(400 / 1400) \rightarrow 0.29] 29%) passed the test.

The name derives from "la tortuga", the Spanish word for $[MT("tortuga") \rightarrow turtle]$ turtle.

The Brown Act is California's law [WikiSearch("Brown Act") \rightarrow The Ralph M. Brown Act is an act of the California State Legislature that guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies.] that requires legislative bodies, like city councils, to hold their meetings open to the public. Bhargavi Paranjapa L MODELS TO MASTER 16000+ REAL-WORLD APIS

> On the Tool Manipulation Capability of Open-source Large Language Models

ART: Automatic multi-step reasoning and tool-use for

¹, Lan Yan¹, Yaxi Lu¹, Yankai Lin^{3†},

Gorilla: Large Language Model Connected with Massive APIs

HuggingGPT: Solving AI Tasks with ChatGPT and its

Frie VOYAGER: An Open-Ended Embodied Agent with Large Language Models

TROVE: Inducing Verifiable and Efficient Toolboxes for Solving Programmatic Tasks





An LM-used tool is a **function** interface to a computer **program** that runs **external** to the LM, where the LM generates the function calls and input arguments in order to use the tool.

[1] Shumaker et al. Animal tool behavior: the use and manufacture of tools by animals. JHU Press, 2011.



Agents: anything that can be viewed as **perceiving** its environment through sensors and **acting** upon that environment through actuators^[1].

[1] Russell, Stuart J., and Peter Norvig. Artificial intelligence: a modern approach. Pearson, 2016.

The Basic Tool Use Paradigm

Tool Use: switching between

- text-generation mode
- tool-execution mode

Tool Learning:

- inference-time prompting
- learning by training



Figure 2: The basic tool use paradigm. LM calls check_weather tool by generating text tokens. This call triggers the server to execute the call and return the output sunny, using which the LM replaces the API call tokens in the response to the user.

Scenarios of LM Tool Using

Category	Example Tools
🖽 Knowledge access	<pre>sql_executor(query: str) -> answer: any search_engine(query: str) -> document: str retriever(query: str) -> document: str</pre>
Computation activities	<pre>calculator(formula: str) -> value: int float python_interpreter(program: str) -> result: any worksheet.insert_row(row: list, index: int) -> None</pre>
Some Interaction w/ the world	<pre>get_weather(city_name: str) -> weather: str get_location(ip: str) -> location: str calendar.fetch_events(date: str) -> events: list email.verify(address: str) -> result: bool</pre>
Non-textual modalities	cat_image.delete(image_id: str) -> None spotify.play_music(name: str) -> None visual_qa(query: str, image: Image) -> answer: str
🗲 Special-skilled LMs	QA(question: str) -> answer: str translation(text: str, language: str) -> text: str

Table 1: Exemplar tools for each category.

How to evaluate tool use?

Benchmark	Tool Source	Example Curation	Domain (§ <mark>4.1</mark>)	Executable
ToolBench	existing dataset	adopted, human annotated	Ф, 🕸	1
ToolBench ₂	RapidAPI	model synthesized	Ф, 🏵	1
ToolQA	existing dataset	model synthesized	曲, 邸	1
ToolAlpaca	PublicAPIs	model synthesized	印, 由, 🚱, 🗄	×
API-Bank	PublicAPIs	human annotated	Ф, 🏵	1
MetaToo	OpenAI Plugins	model synthesized	曲, 🗞, 🖽	×
Gorilla	HF, Torch, TF	model synthesized	Œ	×
HuggingGPT	HF	human annotated	Œ	X *
Task Bench	HF, PublicAPIs	model synthesized	(€,⊞,⊗	×

- Lasks that necessitate tools
- Issues 😕

- Naturalness
- Executability

 \circ **keproducible testing**

• Safe usage

From Tool Use to Agents

What are agents?

Anything that can be viewed as **perceiving** its environment through sensors and **acting** upon that environment through actuators.



How to get started in LLM Agents

- Tasks and Applications
- Methods for Building Agents

Tasks and Applications For LLM Agents

Why do we want agents?

Imagine if things get done by just talking...

How Do People Interact with Computers?





- What about using natural language?
- Save time, natural, accessible, no need to browse, no programming learning curve, etc.



Tool Integrations into Chatbots

ChatGPT plugins

We've implemented initial support for plugins in

ChatGPT. Plugin language model help ChatGPT ac computations, o

ChatGPT plugins

R Expedia

Bring your trip plans to life-get there, stay there, find things to see and do.

K.

Klarna Shopping Search and compare prices from thousands of online shops.

...

FN

FiscalNote

information.

Milo Family Al

Giving parents superpowers to turn the manic to magic, 20 minutes each day. Ask: Hey Milo, what's magic today?

Provides and enables access to select

market-leading, real-time data sets for

legal, political, and regulatory data and

鏴

Wolfram

Access computation, math, curated knowledge & real-time data through Wolfram Alpha and Wolfram Language.

...

Instacart

stores.

Provides restaurant recommendations. with a direct link to book.

Order from your favorite local grocery



Zapier

Interact with over 5,000+ apps like Google Sheets, Trello, Gmail, HubSpot, Salesforce, and more.



KAYAK

Search for flights, stays and rental cars. Get recommendations for all the places you can go within your budget.

0 Shop

Search for millions of products from the world's greatest brands.

...

Speak

Learn how to say anything in another language with Speak, your Al-powered language tutor.

OpenTable

Embodied and Robots



You are in the middle of a room. Looking quickly around you, you see a safe 1, a shelf 4, ... a garbage can 1.

Your task is to: examine an alarm clock

> go to desk 1

You arrive at loc 8. On the desk 1, you see a pen 1, a bowl 1, a alarm clock 2 ...

> take alarmclock 2 from desk 1

You pick up the alarm clock 2 from the desk 1.

Alfred and AlfWorld

Embodied and Robots

I spilled my drink, can you help?

Far counter dano Close Trash can counter Table Operator I'm sorry, I didn't "go to the trash can" **FLAN** "pick up the sponge" mean to spill it. "try using the vacuum"



I spilled my drink, can you help?





RGB image, 640 x 512



Frontal view,

Pre-manipulation pose

4. put down the sponge 5. done

SayCan, Google et al. 22'

Games



MineDojo, Fan et.al 22'

Games



SIMA, DeepMind SIMA Team 24'

Software Development

🔊 sympy/sympy (13647)

Workspace

• Matrix.col_insert() no longer seems to wor... #13643 opened 11/28/2017

To begin addressing the issue, we should first try to replicate the bug by running the code provided in the issue description. We'll create a new Python script, `reproduce_bug.py`, and insert the code snippet into it to confirm the behavior described in the issue.

Now let's paste in the example code from the issue into `reproduce_bug.py` to reproduce the bug.

SWE-Agent, Princeton NLP 24'

>__ Terminal

.

\$ edit 1:1 [Edit] end_of_edit

File updated. Please review the changes and make sure they are correct (correct indentation, no duplicate lines, etc). Edit the file again if necessary.

🖵 Editor



Check out OpenDevin in Hackathon!



UI Automation

Click the "Menu" button, and then find and click on the item with the icon.





"Play some synthwave songs"

Why Web Agents?

- Many productive tasks we perform today are done on the computer
 And many of these are on the web
- Many opportunities to automate menial tasks
- Augment human capabilities



Methods for Building Agents

Actions How to let LLM become an agent LM Env Observation Observations You are in the middle of a room. Looking guickly around you, you see a cabinet 6, a cabinet 1, a coffee machine 1, • Text input a countertop 3, a stove burner 1, and a toaster 1. BO . . IBCONMOV [V] ○ Visual Input ▼ HTML ▼ HEAD BODY • Audio Input #text ← The truth about elk. ← ▼ OL #text 4.... ▼ LI ○ Structured Input #text An elk is a smart #text 4.... #comment comment #text ↔ ▼LI #text ...and cunning animal Need for Multimodal LLMs #text 4... #text 444

How to let LLM become an agent



Ask LLM:

What should I do next? Let's think step by step:

First I need to find a pepper shaker ... more likely to appear in cabinets (1-6), countertops (1-3) ...

After I find pepper shaker 1, next I need to put it on drawer 1

How to let LLM become an agent

Tool-use ability

- Generate action calls
- Execute the actions in environment

LM

Actions

Env

Toolformer (Schick et al. 23')

ReAct (Yao et al. 23')

Observations • Put new observation back as new input You are in the middle of a room. Looking quickly around you, you see a cabinet 6, a cabinet 1, a coffee machine 1, a countertop 3, a stove burner 1, and a toaster 1. Your task is to: Put some pepper shaker on a drawer.

Reasoning

Traces

Ask LLM:

What should I do next? Let's think step by step:

First I need to find a pepper shaker ... more likely to appear in

cabinets (1-6), countertops (1-3) ...

Action: GOTO Cabinet 1

Observation: On cabinet 1, there is a vase 2

How to let LLM become an agent

• Generate code to perform the task Reasoning + planning + action unified PAL (Gao et al. 23')

Assuming you can use Python, you have installed all the common APIs and you h all the authentication steps, answer the following task.

Task 1: set up a meeting with Noah tomorrow at 10am.

S

I'm sorry, but as an AI language model, I don't have the capability to directly set t meeting or send invitations. However, I can guide you on how to use Python to in with calendar APIs to set up a meeting.

Here's a sample code to set up a meeting with Noah using the Google Calendar / Python:

```
Copy code
python
import datetime
import pytz
from google.oauth2.credentials import Credentials
from googleapiclient.discovery import build
# Set up the credentials
creds = Credentials.from_authorized_user_file('token.json', SCOPES)
# Set up the calendar service
service = build('calendar', 'v3', credentials=creds)
# Set up the meeting details
event = \{
    'summary': 'Meeting with Noah',
    'location': 'Virtual',
    'description': 'Discussing project updates',
    'start': {
        'dateTime': datetime.datetime(2023, 2, 22, 10, 0, 0, tzinfo=pytz.UTC
        'timeZone': 'UTC',
   },
    'end': {
        'dateTime': datetime.datetime(2023, 2, 22, 11, 0, 0, tzinfo=pytz.UTC
        'timeZone' 'UTC',
   },
    'reminders':
        'useDefault': True,
   },
}
# Create the event
event = service.events().insert(calendarId='primary', body=event).execute()
print(f'Event created: {event.get("htmlLink")}')
```

Learning of LLM Agents

• Supervised Finetuning – Learning From *Experts*

• Reinforcement Learning – Learning from *Environment*

Supervised Finetuning

Collect large amount of expert trajectories (e.g. from human demonstration)

task_intent, [(obs_1, action_1), ...,(obs_N, action_N)]

• Finetune the LLM

Supervised Finetuning



Supervised Finetuning

- Data hungry
- Need human trajectory?
 - \circ Data augmentation techniques

Create More Training Data

- Continue pretraining on large amount of data automatically mined
- Even noisy, provide domain adaptation.



MineDojo, Fan et al. 22' Don't Stop Pretraining, Gururangan et al., 20'

Recall RLHF: Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback:

A prompt and A new prompt is 0 several model sampled from Explain reinforcement Write a story outputs are the dataset. about otters. learning to a 6 year old. sampled. B (A) In reinforcement Explain rewards learning, the The PPO model is agent is initialized from the C D We give treats and punishments to In machine supervised policy. learning... teach. The policy generates A labeler ranks the Once upon a time... an output. outputs from best to worst. D>C>A>B The reward model calculates a reward for the output. RM This data is used to train our The reward is used reward model. to update the \mathbf{r}_k D > C > A > B policy using PPO.

RLHF, Ouyang, et al. 22'

Compared to RLHF:

Given environment, *reward function* (*trajectory, reward*) pairs without human

A prompt and several model outputs are sampled. Contractions of the end of the en

Real Environment w/ reward function: e.g. task completed successfully, game score





Trial and Error (Song et al. 24')

- Need good reward functions
 - o e.g. hand-crafted test cases
 - o Pre-designed game objectives and quests
- What if the task success/fail is not easy to assess?
 - o e.g., how to judge a trajectory for an new intent?
 - o Train a reward model (Join the poster session for more!)

- Closed loop, interactive environment
- Need good reward functions

• What if the task success/fail is not easy to automatically assess?

Need good initial policy

o Has decent basic knowledge ability, sparse rewards

Scalability

- The environment takes 10 seconds to env.step()
- The reward function takes 100 seconds to get a scalar reward

Some work at CMU

Stay till the Poster Session/Hackathon for more!

WebArena

Diverse **functionality**

Interactive

Easily extendable

Reproducible

Rich and realistic **content**

A sandbox Internet

- Open source, production-ready implementation of the websites
- Data copied from real-world counterparts
- Execution based



8

WebArena Task Demo

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One Stop Market			Search er Advanced Se	ntire store here ۹. 🦌 🦉 💈
Beauty & Personal Care Spor	ts & Outdoors Clothing, Shoes 8	& Jewelry - Home & Kitchen -	Office Products - Tools & Home	Improvement -
Health & Household Patio, L	wn & Garden Electronics	Cell Phones & Accessories - Vide	o Games - Grocery & Gourmet F	- boo
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One Stop Ma	rket			
Product Showcases				
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Pre-baked Gingerbread House Kit Value Pack, 17 oz., Pack of 2, Total 34 oz.	V8 +Energy, Healthy Energy Drink, Steady Energy from Black and Green Tea, Pomegranate Blueberry, 8 Ounce Can ,Pack of 24	Elmwood Inn Fine Teas, Orange Vanilla Caffeine-free Fruit Infusion, 16-Ounce Pouch	Belle Of The Ball Princess Sprinkle Mix Wedding Colorful Sprinkles Cake Cupcake Cookie Sprinkles Ice cream Candy Sprinkles Yellow	So Delicious Dairy Free CocoWhip Light, Vegan, Non-GMO Project Verified, 9 oz. Tub
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OpenDevin

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https://github.com/OpenDevin/OpenDevin











Thank You!

Network: CMU-GUEST WIFI: XUN9LB7W

A realistic environment for web agents WebArena

Shuyan Zhou, Frank F. Xu**, Hao Zhu, Xuhui Zhou, Robert Lo, Abishek Sridhar, Xianyi Cheng, Tianyue Ou, Yonatan Bisk, Daniel Fried, Uri Alon, Graham Neubig (ICLR 2024)



Example Task in WebArena



"Create a plan to visit Pittsburgh's art museums with minimal driving distance starting from Schenley Park. Log the order in my "awesome-northeast-us-travel" repository

webarena.wikipedia.con
1

🟠 Wikipedia 🎲

Pittsburgh museums

List of museums in Pittsburgh

This **list of museums in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania** encompasses museums defined for this context as institutions (including nonprofit organizations, government entities, and private businesses) that collect and care for objects of cultural, artistic, scientific, or historical interest and make their collections or related exhibits available for public viewing. Also included are university and non-profit art galleries. Museums that exist only in cyberspace (i.e., virtual museums) are not included.

Wikimedia Commons has media related to Museums in Pittsburgh &.

See also: List of museums in Pennsylvania

▼ Museums



Search for museums in Pittsburgh







"

Outcome/Execution-based Evaluation

Goal: directly validate the correctness of the execution



"When was the last time I bought shampoo?"

Directly compare with the annotated answer

Answer is "Dec 15th, 2022"

Site navigation

"Checkout merge requests assigned to me"

Verify the post-execution state

A post in nyc subreddit with content "is car necessary in NYC"

Observation & Action Space



Universal Action Space



e.g., type



e.g., click



Browser-specific

e.g., new tab

WebArena is Challenging



- Chain-of-thought prompting provides *limited* benefits.
- GPT-4 remains *significantly behind* human performance.
- Prompt engineering underscores LLMs' *sensitivity* to subtle instruction changes that typically don't affect humans.

Latest: BrowserGym **25%** More prompt engineering More observation/action interface engineering

"Trivial" Errors



Assign this issue to myself

SOTOPIA

Interactive Evaluation for Social Intelligence in Language Agents

Xuhui Zhou*, Hao Zhu*, Leena Mathur, Ruohong Zhang, Haofei Yu, Zhengyang Qi, Louis-Philippe Morency, Yonatan Bisk, Daniel Fried, Graham Neubig, Maarten Sap

Language Technologies Institute@ CMU



Highway to the purple future Credit: Xuhui and Dalle3