

Package ‘llm.api’

April 16, 2026

Title Minimal LLM Chat Interface

Version 0.1.1

Description A minimal-dependency client for Large Language Model chat APIs. Supports 'OpenAI' <<https://github.com/openai>>, 'Anthropic' 'Claude' <<https://claude.com/>>, 'Moonshot' 'Kimi' <<https://www.moonshot.ai/>>, 'Ollama' <<https://ollama.com/>>, and other 'OpenAI'-compatible endpoints. Includes an agent loop with tool use and a 'Model Context Protocol' client <<https://modelcontextprotocol.io/>>. API design is derived from the 'ellmer' package, reimplemented with only base R, 'curl', and 'jsonlite'.

License MIT + file LICENSE

URL <https://github.com/cornball-ai/llm.api>

BugReports <https://github.com/cornball-ai/llm.api/issues>

Encoding UTF-8

Imports curl, jsonlite

Suggests tinytest

NeedsCompilation no

Author Troy Hernandez [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-4248-604X>>),
ellmer team [cph] (API design derived from ellmer)

Maintainer Troy Hernandez <troy@cornball.ai>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-04-16 11:00:02 UTC

Contents

agent	2
chat	3
chat_claude	4
chat_ollama	5
chat_openai	6

chat_session	6
chat_session_anthropic	7
chat_session_ollama	8
chat_session_openai	9
create_agent	10
list_ollama_models	11
llm_base	11
llm_key	12
mcp_call	12
mcp_close	13
mcp_connect	13
mcp_start	14
mcp_tools	15
mcp_tools_for_api	15
mcp_tools_for_claude	16
print.mcp_connection	17

Index	18
--------------	-----------

agent	<i>Chat with tool use (agentic mode)</i>
-------	--

Description

Send a prompt to an LLM with tools. Automatically handles tool calls in a loop until the model responds with text only.

Usage

```
agent(prompt, tools = list(), tool_handler = NULL, system = NULL, model = NULL,
      provider = c("anthropic", "openai", "moonshot", "ollama"),
      max_turns = 20L, verbose = TRUE, history = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

prompt	Character. The user message.
tools	List. Tool definitions (from <code>mcp_tools_for_claude</code> or manual).
tool_handler	Function. Called with (name, args), returns result string.
system	Character. System prompt.
model	Character. Model name.
provider	Character. Provider: "anthropic", "openai", "moonshot", or "ollama".
max_turns	Integer. Maximum tool-use turns (default: 20).
verbose	Logical. Print tool calls and results.
history	List or NULL. Previous conversation history to continue from.
...	Additional parameters passed to the API.

Value

List with final response and conversation history.

Examples

```
## Not run:
# With MCP server
conn <- mcp_connect("r", "mcp_server.R")
tools <- mcp_tools_for_claude(conn)

result <- agent(
  "What files are in the current directory?",
  tools = tools,
  tool_handler = function(name, args) {
    mcp_call(conn, name, args)$text
  }
)

## End(Not run)
```

chat

Chat with an LLM

Description

Send a message to a Large Language Model and get a response.

Usage

```
chat(prompt, model = NULL, system = NULL, history = NULL, temperature = NULL,
     max_tokens = NULL,
     provider = c("auto", "openai", "anthropic", "moonshot", "ollama"),
     stream = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

prompt	Character. The user message to send.
model	Character. Model name (e.g., "gpt-4o", "claude-3-5-sonnet-latest", "llama3.2").
system	Character or NULL. System prompt to set context.
history	List or NULL. Previous conversation turns.
temperature	Numeric or NULL. Sampling temperature (0-2).
max_tokens	Integer or NULL. Maximum tokens in response.
provider	Character. Provider: "auto", "openai", "anthropic", "moonshot", or "ollama".
stream	Logical. Stream the response (prints as it arrives).
...	Additional parameters passed to the API.

Value

A list with:

content	The assistant's response text
model	Model used
usage	Token usage (if available)
history	Updated conversation history

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Simple chat
chat("What is 2+2?")

# With system prompt
chat("Explain R", system = "You are a helpful programming tutor.")

# Continue conversation
result <- chat("Hello")
chat("Tell me more", history = result$history)

## End(Not run)
```

chat_claude

Chat with Anthropic Claude

Description

Convenience wrapper for 'Anthropic' 'Claude' models.

Usage

```
chat_claude(prompt, model = "claude-3-5-sonnet-latest", ...)
```

Arguments

prompt	Character. The user message to send.
model	Character. Model name (e.g., "gpt-4o", "claude-3-5-sonnet-latest", "llama3.2").
...	Additional parameters passed to the API.

Value

The assistant's response as a character string, or a list when history is in use. See [chat](#) for details.

Examples

```
## Not run:
chat_claude("Explain the theory of relativity")
chat_claude("Write a poem", model = "claude-3-5-haiku-latest")

## End(Not run)
```

chat_ollama	<i>Chat with Ollama</i>
-------------	-------------------------

Description

Convenience wrapper for local 'Ollama' models.

Usage

```
chat_ollama(prompt, model = "llama3.2", ...)
```

Arguments

prompt	Character. The user message to send.
model	Character. Model name (e.g., "gpt-4o", "claude-3-5-sonnet-latest", "llama3.2").
...	Additional parameters passed to the API.

Value

The assistant's response as a character string, or a list when history is in use. See [chat](#) for details.

Examples

```
## Not run:
chat_ollama("What is machine learning?")
chat_ollama("Explain Docker", model = "mistral")

## End(Not run)
```

`chat_openai`*Chat with OpenAI*

Description

Convenience wrapper for 'OpenAI' models.

Usage

```
chat_openai(prompt, model = "gpt-4o-mini", ...)
```

Arguments

<code>prompt</code>	Character. The user message to send.
<code>model</code>	Character. Model name (e.g., "gpt-4o", "claude-3-5-sonnet-latest", "llama3.2").
<code>...</code>	Additional parameters passed to the API.

Value

The assistant's response as a character string, or a list when history is in use. See [chat](#) for details.

Examples

```
## Not run:  
chat_openai("Explain quantum computing")  
chat_openai("Write a haiku", model = "gpt-4o")  
  
## End(Not run)
```

`chat_session`*Create a stateful chat session*

Description

Creates a chat session that maintains conversation history internally. Returns a list of functions for interacting with the session.

Usage

```
chat_session(model = NULL, system_prompt = NULL,  
             provider = c("openai", "anthropic", "moonshot", "ollama"), ...)
```

Arguments

model	Character. Model name.
system_prompt	Character or NULL. System prompt.
provider	Character. Provider: "openai", "anthropic", "moonshot", or "ollama".
...	Additional parameters passed to chat().

Value

A list with functions:

chat(message)	Send a message, returns response text
stream(message)	Stream a response, returns response text
stream_async(message)	Async stream for shinychat (returns string)
last_turn()	Get the last response as list(role, text)
history()	Get full conversation history
clear()	Clear conversation history

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Create a session
session <- chat_session(model = "gpt-4o", system_prompt = "You are helpful.")

# Chat (history maintained automatically)
response <- session$chat("Hello")
response2 <- session$chat("Tell me more")

# Get last response
last <- session$last_turn()
last$text

# Clear and start over
session$clear()

## End(Not run)
```

chat_session_anthropic

Create Anthropic chat session

Description

Convenience wrapper for chat_session with Anthropic provider.

Usage

```
chat_session_anthropic(model = "claude-sonnet-4-20250514",
                      system_prompt = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

model	Character. Model name (default: "claude-sonnet-4-20250514").
system_prompt	Character or NULL. System prompt.
...	Additional parameters passed to chat_session().

Value

A chat session list.

Examples

```
# Construct a session (no network call yet)
session <- chat_session_anthropic(system_prompt = "You are helpful.")
## Not run:
session$chat("Hello")

## End(Not run)
```

chat_session_ollama *Create Ollama chat session*

Description

Convenience wrapper for chat_session with Ollama provider.

Usage

```
chat_session_ollama(model = "llama3.2", system_prompt = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

model	Character. Model name (default: "llama3.2").
system_prompt	Character or NULL. System prompt.
...	Additional parameters passed to chat_session().

Value

A chat session list.

Examples

```
# Construct a session (no network call yet)
session <- chat_session_ollama(system_prompt = "You are helpful.")
## Not run:
session$chat("Hello")

## End(Not run)
```

chat_session_openai *Create OpenAI chat session*

Description

Convenience wrapper for chat_session with OpenAI provider.

Usage

```
chat_session_openai(model = "gpt-4o", system_prompt = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

model	Character. Model name (default: "gpt-4o").
system_prompt	Character or NULL. System prompt.
...	Additional parameters passed to chat_session().

Value

A chat session list.

Examples

```
# Construct a session (no network call yet)
session <- chat_session_openai(system_prompt = "You are helpful.")
## Not run:
session$chat("Hello")

## End(Not run)
```

create_agent	<i>Create an agent with MCP servers</i>
--------------	---

Description

Convenience function that sets up MCP connections and returns a function for chatting with tools.

Usage

```
create_agent(servers = list(), system = NULL, model = NULL,  
            provider = c("anthropic", "openai", "moonshot", "ollama"),  
            verbose = TRUE)
```

Arguments

servers	Named list of server configs. Each can be: - 'list(port = 7850)' for already-running servers - 'list(command = "r", args = "server.R", port = 7850)' to start and connect
system	Character. Default system prompt.
model	Character. Default model.
provider	Character. Provider: "anthropic", "openai", "moonshot", or "ollama".
verbose	Logical. Print tool calls.

Value

A function that takes a prompt and returns a response.

Examples

```
## Not run:  
# Connect to already-running server  
chat_fn <- create_agent(  
  servers = list(codeR = list(port = 7850)),  
  system = "You are a helpful coding assistant."  
)  
  
# Or start server automatically  
chat_fn <- create_agent(  
  servers = list(  
    codeR = list(command = "r", args = "mcp_server.R", port = 7850)  
  )  
)  
  
result <- chat_fn("List files in current directory")  
  
## End(Not run)
```

list_ollama_models	<i>List Ollama models</i>
--------------------	---------------------------

Description

List all models downloaded in Ollama.

Usage

```
list_ollama_models(base_url = "http://localhost:11434")
```

Arguments

base_url Character. Ollama server URL (default: http://localhost:11434).

Value

A data frame with model information (name, size, modified).

Examples

```
## Not run:  
list_ollama_models()  
  
## End(Not run)
```

llm_base	<i>Set LLM API Base URL</i>
----------	-----------------------------

Description

Stores a base URL in the `llm.api.api_base` option, which `chat` uses as the default endpoint.

Usage

```
llm_base(url)
```

Arguments

url Character. Base URL for the API endpoint.

Value

The previous value of the option, invisibly.

Examples

```
old <- llm_base("http://localhost:11434") # 'Ollama'  
llm_base(old) # restore
```

llm_key	<i>Set LLM API Key</i>
---------	------------------------

Description

Stores an API key in the `llm.api.api_key` option, which `chat` prefers over environment variables.

Usage

```
llm_key(key)
```

Arguments

key	Character. API key for authentication.
-----	--

Value

The previous value of the option, invisibly.

Examples

```
old <- llm_key("sk-not-a-real-key")
llm_key(old) # restore
```

mcp_call	<i>Call a tool on an MCP server</i>
----------	-------------------------------------

Description

Call a tool on an MCP server

Usage

```
mcp_call(conn, name, arguments = list())
```

Arguments

conn	An MCP connection object.
name	Character. Tool name.
arguments	List. Tool arguments.

Value

Tool result (list with content and text).

Examples

```
## Not run:
conn <- mcp_connect(port = 7850)
result <- mcp_call(conn, "read_file", list(path = "README.md"))
mcp_close(conn)

## End(Not run)
```

`mcp_close`*Close an MCP connection*

Description

Close an MCP connection

Usage

```
mcp_close(conn)
```

Arguments

`conn` An MCP connection object.

Value

NULL, invisibly. Called for its side effect of closing the underlying socket.

Examples

```
## Not run:
conn <- mcp_connect(port = 7850)
mcp_close(conn)

## End(Not run)
```

`mcp_connect`*Connect to an MCP server*

Description

Connects to an MCP server via TCP socket.

Usage

```
mcp_connect(host = "localhost", port, name = NULL, timeout = 30)
```

Arguments

host	Character. Server hostname (default: "localhost").
port	Integer. Server port.
name	Character. Friendly name for this server.
timeout	Numeric. Connection timeout in seconds (default: 30).

Value

An MCP connection object (list with socket and tools).

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Start server first: r mcp_server.R --port 7850
conn <- mcp_connect(port = 7850, name = "codeR")
tools <- mcp_tools(conn)
result <- mcp_call(conn, "read_file", list(path = "README.md"))
mcp_close(conn)

## End(Not run)
```

mcp_start

Start and connect to an MCP server

Description

Spawns an MCP server process and connects to it. Requires the server script to support `-port` argument.

Usage

```
mcp_start(command, args = character(), port = NULL, name = NULL,
          startup_wait = 2)
```

Arguments

command	Character. Command to run the server (e.g., "r", "Rscript").
args	Character vector. Arguments (path to server script).
port	Integer. Port for the server (default: random 7850-7899).
name	Character. Friendly name.
startup_wait	Numeric. Seconds to wait for server startup.

Value

An MCP connection object.

Examples

```
## Not run:
conn <- mcp_start("Rscript", args = "mcp_server.R", port = 7850)
mcp_close(conn)

## End(Not run)
```

mcp_tools	<i>List tools from an MCP connection</i>
-----------	--

Description

List tools from an MCP connection

Usage

```
mcp_tools(conn)
```

Arguments

conn An MCP connection object.

Value

List of tool definitions.

Examples

```
## Not run:
conn <- mcp_connect(port = 7850)
tools <- mcp_tools(conn)
mcp_close(conn)

## End(Not run)
```

mcp_tools_for_api	<i>Format MCP tools for LLM APIs</i>
-------------------	--------------------------------------

Description

Converts MCP tool definitions to the format used by Claude/OpenAI.

Usage

```
mcp_tools_for_api(conn)
```

Arguments

conn An MCP connection, or list of connections.

Value

List of tools in API format.

Examples

```
## Not run:
conn <- mcp_connect(port = 7850)
tools <- mcp_tools_for_api(conn)
mcp_close(conn)

## End(Not run)
```

mcp_tools_for_claude *Format MCP tools for Claude API*

Description

Wrapper for [mcp_tools_for_api](#), retained for backwards compatibility.

Usage

```
mcp_tools_for_claude(conn)
```

Arguments

conn An MCP connection, or list of connections.

Value

List of tools in API format.

Examples

```
## Not run:
conn <- mcp_connect(host = "localhost", port = 7850)
tools <- mcp_tools_for_claude(conn)
mcp_close(conn)

## End(Not run)
```

print.mcp_connection *Print an MCP Connection*

Description

S3 print method for MCP connection objects.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'mcp_connection'  
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An MCP connection object.
...	Unused.

Value

x, invisibly. Called for the side effect of printing a summary of the connection state and available tools.

Examples

```
## Not run:  
conn <- mcp_connect(port = 7850)  
print(conn)  
mcp_close(conn)  
  
## End(Not run)
```

Index

agent, [2](#)

chat, [3](#), [4–6](#), [11](#), [12](#)

chat_claude, [4](#)

chat_ollama, [5](#)

chat_openai, [6](#)

chat_session, [6](#)

chat_session_anthropic, [7](#)

chat_session_ollama, [8](#)

chat_session_openai, [9](#)

create_agent, [10](#)

list_ollama_models, [11](#)

llm_base, [11](#)

llm_key, [12](#)

mcp_call, [12](#)

mcp_close, [13](#)

mcp_connect, [13](#)

mcp_start, [14](#)

mcp_tools, [15](#)

mcp_tools_for_api, [15](#), [16](#)

mcp_tools_for_claude, [16](#)

print.mcp_connection, [17](#)