

Package ‘automerge’

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Type Package

Title R Bindings for 'Automerge' 'CRDT' Library

Version 0.2.1

Description Provides R bindings to the 'Automerge' Conflict-free Replicated Data Type ('CRDT') library. 'Automerge' enables automatic merging of concurrent changes without conflicts, making it ideal for distributed systems, collaborative applications, and offline-first architectures. The approach of local-first software was proposed in Kleppmann, M., Wiggins, A., van Hardenberg, P., McGranaghan, M. (2019) <[doi:10.1145/3359591.3359737](https://doi.org/10.1145/3359591.3359737)>. This package supports all 'Automerge' data types (maps, lists, text, counters) and provides both low-level and high-level synchronization protocols for seamless interoperability with 'JavaScript' and other 'Automerge' implementations.

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URL <https://github.com/posit-dev/automerge-r>,
<https://posit-dev.github.io/automerge-r/>

BugReports <https://github.com/posit-dev/automerge-r/issues>

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rustc >= 1.84 and CMake >= 3.25 to build from package sources.

NeedsCompilation yes

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Contents

am_apply_changes	3
am_close	4
am_commit	5
am_counter	6
am_counter_increment	6
am_create	7
am_cursor	8
am_cursor_position	10
am_delete	10
am_delete_path	11
am_fork	12
am_get	13
am_get_actor	13
am_get_actor_hex	14
am_get_changes	15
am_get_changes_added	16
am_get_change_by_hash	17
am_get_heads	18
am_get_history	18
am_get_last_local_change	19
am_get_path	20
am_insert	21
am_keys	22
am_length	22
am_list	23
am_load	24
am_map	25
am_mark	25
am_marks	27
am_marks_at	28
am_merge	29
am_put	30
am_put_path	31
am_rollback	32
am_save	32
am_set_actor	33
am_sync	34
am_sync_decode	35
am_sync_encode	36
am_sync_state_new	37
am_text	37

<i>am_apply_changes</i>	3
-------------------------	---

am_text_content	38
am_text_splice	39
am_text_update	40
am_uint64	41
am_values	42
as.character.am_text	42
as.list.am_doc	43
as_automerge	44
automerge-constants	45
extract-am_doc	46
extract-am_object	47
from_automerge	48
length.am_doc	49
length.am_object	49
names.am_doc	50
names.am_map	50
replace-am_doc	51
replace-am_object	51
str.am_doc	52

Index	54
--------------	----

am_apply_changes	<i>Apply changes to a document</i>
-------------------------	------------------------------------

Description

Applies a list of changes (obtained from `am_get_changes()`) to a document. This is useful for manually syncing changes or for applying changes received over a custom network protocol.

Usage

```
am_apply_changes(doc, changes)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerger document
changes	A list of raw vectors (serialized changes) from <code>am_get_changes()</code>

Value

The document doc (invisibly, for chaining)

Examples

```
# Create two documents
doc1 <- am_create()
doc2 <- am_create()

# Make changes in doc1
am_put(doc1, AM_ROOT, "x", 1)
am_commit(doc1)

# Get changes and apply to doc2
changes <- am_get_changes(doc1, NULL)
am_apply_changes(doc2, changes)

# Now doc2 has the same data as doc1

am_close(doc1)
am_close(doc2)
```

am_close

Close an Automerge document

Description

Explicitly frees the resources associated with an Automerge document. After calling this function, the document becomes invalid and should not be used.

Usage

```
am_close(doc)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document (created with <code>am_create()</code> or <code>am_load()</code>)
-----	--

Details

This function is useful when you need deterministic cleanup rather than waiting for garbage collection. It is safe to call on a document that has already been closed.

Value

NULL (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "key", "value")

# Explicitly free resources
am_close(doc)

# Document is now invalid - do not use after closing
```

am_commit

Commit pending changes

Description

Commits all pending operations in the current transaction, creating a new change in the document's history. Commits can include an optional message (like a git commit message) and timestamp.

Usage

```
am_commit(doc, message = NULL, time = NULL)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
message	Optional commit message (character string)
time	Optional timestamp (POSIXct). If NULL, uses current time.

Value

The document doc (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "key", "value")
am_commit(doc, "Add initial data")

# Commit with specific timestamp
am_commit(doc, "Update", Sys.time())

am_close(doc)
```

`am_counter`*Create an Automerge counter***Description**

Creates a counter value for use with Automerge. Counters are CRDT types that support conflict-free increment and decrement operations.

Usage

```
am_counter(value = 0L)
```

Arguments

<code>value</code>	Initial counter value (default 0)
--------------------	-----------------------------------

Value

An `am_counter` object

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "score", am_counter(0))
am_close(doc)
```

`am_counter_increment` *Increment a counter value***Description**

Increments an Automerge counter by the specified delta. Counters are CRDT types that support concurrent increments from multiple actors. Unlike regular integers, counter increments are commutative and do not conflict when merged.

Usage

```
am_counter_increment(doc, obj, key, delta)
```

Arguments

<code>doc</code>	An Automerge document
<code>obj</code>	An Automerge object ID (map or list), or <code>AM_ROOT</code> for the document root
<code>key</code>	For maps: a character string key. For lists: an integer index (1-based)
<code>delta</code>	Integer value to add to the counter (can be negative)

Details

The delta can be negative to decrement the counter.

Value

The document (invisibly), allowing for chaining with pipes

Examples

```
# Counter in document root (map)
doc <- am_create()
doc$score <- am_counter(0)
am_counter_increment(doc, AM_ROOT, "score", 10)
doc$score # 10

am_counter_increment(doc, AM_ROOT, "score", 5)
doc$score # 15

# Decrement with negative delta
am_counter_increment(doc, AM_ROOT, "score", -3)
doc$score # 12

# Counter in a nested map
doc$stats <- am_map(views = am_counter(0))
stats_obj <- doc$stats
am_counter_increment(doc, stats_obj, "views", 100)

# Counter in a list (1-based indexing)
doc$counters <- list(am_counter(0), am_counter(5))
counters_obj <- doc$counters
am_counter_increment(doc, counters_obj, 1, 1) # Increment first counter
am_counter_increment(doc, counters_obj, 2, 2) # Increment second counter

am_close(doc)
```

am_create

Create a new Automerge document

Description

Creates a new Automerge document with an optional custom actor ID. If no actor ID is provided, a random one is generated.

Usage

```
am_create(actor_id = NULL)
```

Arguments

<code>actor_id</code>	Optional actor ID. Can be:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NULL (default) - Generate random actor ID • Character string - Hex-encoded actor ID • Raw vector - Binary actor ID bytes

Value

An external pointer to the Automerge document with class `c("am_doc", "automerge")`.

Thread Safety

The automerge package is NOT thread-safe. Do not access the same document from multiple R threads concurrently. Each thread should create its own document with `am_create()` and synchronize changes via `am_sync_*`() functions after thread completion.

Examples

```
# Create document with random actor ID
doc1 <- am_create()

# Create with custom hex actor ID
doc2 <- am_create("0123456789abcdef0123456789abcdef")

# Create with raw bytes actor ID
actor_bytes <- as.raw(1:16)
doc3 <- am_create(actor_bytes)

am_close(doc1)
am_close(doc2)
am_close(doc3)
```

`am_cursor`

Create a cursor at a position in a text object

Description

Cursors provide stable references to positions within text objects that automatically adjust as the text is edited. This enables features like maintaining selection positions across concurrent edits in collaborative editing scenarios.

Usage

```
am_cursor(obj, position)
```

Arguments

obj	An Automerge object ID (must be a text object)
position	Integer position in the text (0-based inter-character position)

Value

An `am_cursor` object (external pointer) that can be used with `am_cursor_position()` to retrieve the current position

Indexing Convention

Cursor positions use 0-based indexing (unlike list indices which are 1-based). This is because positions specify locations **between** characters, not the characters themselves:

- Position 0 = before the first character
- Position 1 = between 1st and 2nd characters
- Position 5 = after the 5th character

For the text "Hello":

```
H e l l o  
0 1 2 3 4 5 <- positions (0-based, between characters)
```

This matches `am_text_splice()` behavior. Positions count Unicode code points (characters), not bytes.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()  
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "text", am_text("Hello World"))  
text_obj <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "text")  
  
# Create cursor at position 5 (after "Hello", before " ")  
cursor <- am_cursor(text_obj, 5)  
  
# Modify text before cursor  
am_text_splice(text_obj, 0, 0, "Hi ")  
  
# Cursor position automatically adjusts  
new_pos <- am_cursor_position(cursor)  
new_pos # 8 (cursor moved by 3 characters)  
  
am_close(doc)
```

am_cursor_position *Get the current position of a cursor*

Description

Retrieves the current position of a cursor within a text object. The position automatically adjusts as text is inserted or deleted before the cursor's original position. The cursor remembers which text object it was created for, so you only need to pass the cursor itself.

Usage

```
am_cursor_position(cursor)
```

Arguments

cursor	An <code>am_cursor</code> object created by am_cursor()
--------	---

Value

Integer position (0-based inter-character position) where the cursor currently points. See [am_cursor\(\)](#) for indexing details.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "text", am_text("Hello World"))
text_obj <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "text")

# Create cursor
cursor <- am_cursor(text_obj, 5)

# Get position
pos <- am_cursor_position(cursor)
pos # 5

am_close(doc)
```

am_delete *Delete a key from a map or element from a list*

Description

Removes a key-value pair from a map or an element from a list.

Usage

```
am_delete(doc, obj, key)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
obj	An Automerge object ID (from nested object), or AM_ROOT for the document root
key	For maps: character string key to delete. For lists: numeric index (1-based, like R vectors) to delete

Value

The document doc (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "temp", "value")
am_delete(doc, AM_ROOT, "temp")
am_close(doc)
```

am_delete_path

Delete value at path

Description

Delete a value from an Automerge document using a path vector.

Usage

```
am_delete_path(doc, path)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
path	Character vector, numeric vector, or list of mixed types specifying the path to the value to delete

Value

The document (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put_path(doc, c("user", "address", "city"), "NYC")
am_put_path(doc, c("user", "name"), "Alice")

# Delete nested key
am_delete_path(doc, c("user", "address"))
```

```
# Address should be gone
am_get_path(doc, c("user", "address")) # NULL

am_close(doc)
```

am_fork*Fork an Automerge document***Description**

Creates a fork of an Automerge document at the current heads or at a specific point in history. The forked document shares history with the original up to the fork point but can diverge afterwards.

Usage

```
am_fork(doc, heads = NULL)
```

Arguments

<code>doc</code>	An Automerge document
<code>heads</code>	Optional list of change hashes to fork at a specific point in the document's history. If <code>NULL</code> (default) or an empty list, forks at current heads. Each hash should be a raw vector (32 bytes).

Value

A new Automerge document (fork of the original)

Examples

```
doc1 <- am_create()
doc2 <- am_fork(doc1)

# Now doc1 and doc2 can diverge independently
am_close(doc1)
am_close(doc2)
```

am_get	<i>Get a value from an Automerge map or list</i>
--------	--

Description

Retrieves a value from an Automerge map or list. Returns NULL if the key or index doesn't exist.

Usage

```
am_get(doc, obj, key)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
obj	An Automerge object ID (from nested object), or AM_ROOT for the document root
key	For maps: character string key. For lists: numeric index (1-based). Returns NULL for indices <= 0 or beyond list length.

Value

The value at the specified key/position, or NULL if not found. Nested objects are returned as am_object instances.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "name", "Alice")

name <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "name")
name # "Alice"

am_close(doc)
```

am_get_actor	<i>Get the actor ID of a document</i>
--------------	---------------------------------------

Description

Returns the actor ID of an Automerge document as a raw vector. The actor ID uniquely identifies the editing session that created changes in the document.

Usage

```
am_get_actor(doc)
```

Arguments

`doc` An Automerge document

Details

For a hex string representation, use [am_get_actor_hex\(\)](#).

Value

A raw vector containing the actor ID bytes

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
actor <- am_get_actor(doc)

# Use am_get_actor_hex() for display
actor_hex <- am_get_actor_hex(doc)
cat("Actor ID:", actor_hex, "\n")

am_close(doc)
```

`am_get_actor_hex` *Get the actor ID as a hex string*

Description

Returns the actor ID of an Automerge document as a hex-encoded string. This is more efficient than converting the raw bytes returned by [am_get_actor\(\)](#) using R-level string operations.

Usage

```
am_get_actor_hex(doc)
```

Arguments

`doc` An Automerge document

Value

A character string containing the hex-encoded actor ID

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()  
actor_hex <- am_get_actor_hex(doc)  
cat("Actor ID:", actor_hex, "\n")  
  
am_close(doc)
```

am_get_changes	<i>Get changes since specified heads</i>
----------------	--

Description

Returns all changes that have been made to the document since the specified heads. If heads is NULL, returns all changes in the document's history.

Usage

```
am_get_changes(doc, heads = NULL)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|-------|---|
| doc | An Automerge document |
| heads | A list of raw vectors (change hashes) returned by <code>am_get_heads()</code> , or NULL to get all changes. |

Details

Changes are returned as serialized raw vectors that can be transmitted over the network and applied to other documents using `am_apply_changes()`.

Value

A list of raw vectors, each containing a serialized change.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()  
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "x", 1)  
am_commit(doc)  
  
# Get all changes  
all_changes <- am_get_changes(doc, NULL)  
cat("Document has", length(all_changes), "change(s)\n")  
  
am_close(doc)
```

am_get_changes_added *Get changes in one document that are not in another*

Description

Compares two documents and returns the changes that exist in doc2 but not in doc1. This is useful for determining what changes need to be applied to bring doc1 up to date with doc2, or for implementing custom synchronization logic.

Usage

```
am_get_changes_added(doc1, doc2)
```

Arguments

doc1	An Automerger document (base/reference document)
doc2	An Automerger document (comparison document)

Value

A list of raw vectors, where each vector is a serialized change that exists in doc2 but not in doc1. Returns an empty list if doc1 already contains all changes from doc2.

Examples

```
# Create two independent documents
doc1 <- am_create()
doc1$x <- 1
am_commit(doc1, "Add x")

doc2 <- am_create()
doc2$y <- 2
am_commit(doc2, "Add y")

# Find changes in doc2 that aren't in doc1
changes <- am_get_changes_added(doc1, doc2)
length(changes) # 1 change

# Apply those changes to doc1
am_apply_changes(doc1, changes)

# Now doc1 has both x and y
names(doc1) # "x" "y"

am_close(doc1)
am_close(doc2)
```

am_get_change_by_hash *Get a specific change by its hash*

Description

Retrieves a change from the document's history by its unique hash identifier. The hash is typically obtained from am_get_heads() or am_get_changes().

Usage

```
am_get_change_by_hash(doc, hash)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
hash	A raw vector containing the change hash (must be exactly 32 bytes)

Value

A raw vector containing the serialized change, or NULL if the change hash is not found in the document.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
doc$key <- "value"
am_commit(doc, "Add key")

# Get the current heads (change hashes)
heads <- am_get_heads(doc)
head_hash <- heads[[1]]

# Retrieve the change by its hash
change <- am_get_change_by_hash(doc, head_hash)
str(change) # Raw vector

am_close(doc)
```

am_get_heads*Get the current heads of a document***Description**

Returns the current "heads" of the document - the hashes of the most recent changes. These identify the current state of the document and can be used for history operations.

Usage

```
am_get_heads(doc)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
-----	-----------------------

Value

A list of raw vectors, each containing a change hash. Usually there is only one head, but after concurrent edits there may be multiple heads until they are merged by a subsequent commit.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "x", 1)
am_commit(doc)

heads <- am_get_heads(doc)
cat("Document has", length(heads), "head(s)\n")

am_close(doc)
```

am_get_history*Get document history***Description**

Returns the full change history of the document as a list of change metadata. This provides a simpler interface than `am_get_changes()` for examining document history without needing to work with serialized changes directly.

Usage

```
am_get_history(doc)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
-----	-----------------------

Details

Note: A future implementation will add detailed change introspection functions to extract metadata like commit messages, timestamps, actor IDs, etc.

Value

A list of raw vectors (serialized changes), one for each change in the document's history, in chronological order.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "x", 1)
am_commit(doc, "Initial")
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "x", 2)
am_commit(doc, "Update")

history <- am_get_history(doc)
cat("Document history contains", length(history), "change(s)\n")

am_close(doc)
```

am_get_last_local_change

Get the last change made by the local actor

Description

Returns the most recent change created by this document's actor. Useful for tracking local changes or implementing undo/redo functionality.

Usage

```
am_get_last_local_change(doc)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
-----	-----------------------

Value

A raw vector containing the serialized change, or NULL if no local changes have been made.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

# Initially, no local changes
am_get_last_local_change(doc) # NULL

# Make a change
doc$key <- "value"
am_commit(doc, "Add key")

# Now we have a local change
change <- am_get_last_local_change(doc)
str(change) # Raw vector

am_close(doc)
```

am_get_path

Navigate deep structures with path

Description

Get a value from an Automerge document using a path vector. The path can contain character keys (for maps), numeric indices (for lists, 1-based), or a mix of both.

Usage

```
am_get_path(doc, path)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
path	Character vector, numeric vector, or list of mixed types specifying the path to navigate

Value

The value at the path, or NULL if not found

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "user", list(
  name = "Alice",
  address = list(city = "NYC", zip = 10001L))
))

# Navigate to nested value
am_get_path(doc, c("user", "address", "city")) # "NYC"
```

```
# Mixed navigation (map key, then list index)
doc$users <- list(
  list(name = "Bob"),
  list(name = "Carol")
)
am_get_path(doc, list("users", 1, "name")) # "Bob"

am_close(doc)
```

am_insert*Insert a value into an Automerge list*

Description

This is an alias for `am_put()` with insert semantics for lists. For lists, `am_put()` with a numeric index replaces the element at that index, while `am_insert()` shifts elements to make room.

Usage

```
am_insert(doc, obj, pos, value)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
obj	An Automerge object ID (must be a list)
pos	Numeric index (1-based, like R vectors) where to insert, or "end" to append
value	The value to insert

Value

The document doc (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

# Create a list and get it
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "items", AM_OBJ_TYPE_LIST)
items <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "items")

# Insert items
am_insert(doc, items, "end", "first")
am_insert(doc, items, "end", "second")

am_close(doc)
```

am_keys*Get all keys from an Automerge map***Description**

Returns a character vector of all keys in a map.

Usage

```
am_keys(doc, obj)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
obj	An Automerge object ID (must be a map), or AM_ROOT for the document root

Value

Character vector of keys (empty if map is empty)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "a", 1)
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "b", 2)

keys <- am_keys(doc, AM_ROOT)
keys # c("a", "b")

am_close(doc)
```

am_length*Get the length of an Automerge map or list***Description**

Returns the number of key-value pairs in a map or elements in a list.

Usage

```
am_length(doc, obj)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
obj	An Automerge object ID, or AM_ROOT for the document root

Value

Integer length/size

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "a", 1)
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "b", 2)

len <- am_length(doc, AM_ROOT)
len # 2

am_close(doc)
```

am_list

Create an Automerge list

Description

Creates an R list with explicit Automerge list type. Use this when you need to create an empty list or force list type interpretation.

Usage

```
am_list(...)
```

Arguments

...	Elements to include in the list
-----	---------------------------------

Value

A list with class `am_list_type`

Examples

```
# Empty list (avoids ambiguity)
am_list()

# Populated list
am_list("a", "b", "c")
```

am_load*Load an Automerge document from binary format*

Description

Deserializes an Automerge document from the standard binary format. The binary format is compatible across all Automerge implementations (JavaScript, Rust, etc.).

Usage

```
am_load(data)
```

Arguments

data	A raw vector containing a serialized Automerge document
------	---

Value

An external pointer to the Automerge document with class `c("am_doc", "automerge")`.

Examples

```
# Create, save, and reload
doc1 <- am_create()
bytes <- am_save(doc1)
doc2 <- am_load(bytes)

# Save to and load from file
doc3 <- am_create()
file <- tempfile()
writeBin(am_save(doc3), file)

doc4 <- am_load(readBin(file, "raw", 1e5))

unlink(file)
am_close(doc1)
am_close(doc2)
am_close(doc3)
am_close(doc4)
```

am_map*Create an Automerge map*

Description

Creates an R list with explicit Automerge map type. Use this when you need to create an empty map or force map type interpretation.

Usage

```
am_map(...)
```

Arguments

...	Named elements to include in the map
-----	--------------------------------------

Value

A named list with class `am_map_type`

Examples

```
# Empty map (avoids ambiguity)
am_map()

# Populated map
am_map(key1 = "value1", key2 = "value2")
```

am_mark*Create a mark on a text range*

Description

Marks attach metadata or formatting information to a range of text. Unlike simple annotations, marks are CRDT-aware and merge correctly across concurrent edits.

Usage

```
am_mark(obj, start, end, name, value, expand = AM_MARK_EXPAND_NONE)
```

Arguments

<code>obj</code>	An Automerge object ID (must be a text object)
<code>start</code>	Integer start position (0-based inter-character position, inclusive)
<code>end</code>	Integer end position (0-based inter-character position, exclusive)
<code>name</code>	Character string identifying the mark (e.g., "bold", "comment")
<code>value</code>	The mark's value (any Automerge-compatible type: NULL, logical, integer, numeric, character, raw, POSIXct, or <code>am_counter</code>)
<code>expand</code>	Character string controlling mark expansion behavior when text is inserted at boundaries. Options: • "none" Mark does not expand (default) • "before" Mark expands to include text inserted before start • "after" Mark expands to include text inserted after end • "both" Mark expands in both directions Use the constants AM_MARK_EXPAND_NONE , AM_MARK_EXPAND_BEFORE , AM_MARK_EXPAND_AFTER , or AM_MARK_EXPAND_BOTH .

Value

The text object `obj` (invisibly)

Indexing Convention

Mark positions use 0-based indexing (unlike list indices which are 1-based). Positions specify locations **between** characters. The range `[start, end)` includes `start` but excludes `end`.

For the text "Hello":

```
H e l l o
0 1 2 3 4 5 <- positions (0-based, between characters)
```

Marking positions 0 to 5 marks all 5 characters. Marking 0 to 3 marks "Hel". Positions count Unicode code points (characters), not bytes.

Expand Behavior

The `expand` parameter controls what happens when text is inserted exactly at the mark boundaries:

- **"none"**: New text is never included in the mark
- **"before"**: Text inserted at `start` is included
- **"after"**: Text inserted at `end` is included
- **"both"**: Text inserted at either boundary is included

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "text", am_text("Hello World"))
text_obj <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "text")

# Mark "Hello" as bold (positions 0-4, characters 0-4)
am_mark(text_obj, 0, 5, "bold", TRUE)

# Mark "World" as italic with expansion
am_mark(text_obj, 6, 11, "italic", TRUE,
        expand = AM_MARK_EXPAND_BOTH)

# Get all marks
marks <- am_marks(text_obj)
marks

am_close(doc)
```

am_marks

Get all marks in a text object

Description

Retrieves all marks (formatting/metadata annotations) present in a text object at a specific document state.

Usage

```
am_marks(obj)
```

Arguments

obj	An Automerge object ID (must be a text object)
-----	--

Value

A list of marks, where each mark is a list with fields:

name Character string identifying the mark
value The mark's value (various types supported)
start Integer start position (0-based inter-character position, inclusive)
end Integer end position (0-based inter-character position, exclusive)

Returns an empty list if no marks are present. See [am_mark\(\)](#) for indexing details.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "text", am_text("Hello World"))
text_obj <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "text")

am_mark(text_obj, 0, 5, "bold", TRUE)
am_mark(text_obj, 6, 11, "italic", TRUE)

marks <- am_marks(text_obj)
marks
# List of 2 marks with name, value, start, end

am_close(doc)
```

am_marks_at

Get marks at a specific position

Description

Retrieves marks that include a specific position in a text object. This function efficiently filters marks at the C level, avoiding the overhead of converting all marks to R objects.

Usage

```
am_marks_at(obj, position)
```

Arguments

obj	An Automerger object ID (must be a text object)
position	Integer position (0-based inter-character position) to query. See am_mark() for indexing details.

Value

A list of marks that include the specified position. Returns an empty list if no marks cover that position.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "text", am_text("Hello World"))
text_obj <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "text")

am_mark(text_obj, 0, 5, "bold", TRUE)
am_mark(text_obj, 2, 7, "underline", TRUE)

# Get marks at position 3 (inside "Hello")
marks_at_3 <- am_marks_at(text_obj, 3)
```

```
marks_at_3
# List of 2 marks (both "bold" and "underline" include position 3)

am_close(doc)
```

am_merge*Merge changes from another document*

Description

Merges all changes from another Automerge document into this one. This is a one-way merge: changes flow from other into doc, but other is not modified. For bidirectional synchronization, use [am_sync\(\)](#).

Usage

```
am_merge(doc, other)
```

Arguments

doc	Target document (will receive changes)
other	Source document (provides changes)

Value

The target document doc (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc1 <- am_create()
doc2 <- am_create()

# Make changes in each document
am_put(doc1, AM_ROOT, "x", 1)
am_put(doc2, AM_ROOT, "y", 2)

# Merge doc2's changes into doc1
am_merge(doc1, doc2)

# Now doc1 has both x and y
am_close(doc1)
am_close(doc2)
```

am_put*Put a value into an Automerge map or list***Description**

Inserts or updates a value in an Automerge map or list. The function automatically dispatches to the appropriate operation based on the object type and key/position type.

Usage

```
am_put(doc, obj, key, value)
```

Arguments

<code>doc</code>	An Automerge document
<code>obj</code>	An Automerge object ID (from nested object), or <code>AM_ROOT</code> for the document root
<code>key</code>	For maps: character string key. For lists: numeric index (1-based) or "end" to append
<code>value</code>	The value to store. Supported types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>NULL</code> - stores null • <code>Logical</code> - stores boolean (must be scalar) • <code>Integer</code> - stores integer (must be scalar) • <code>Numeric</code> - stores double (must be scalar) • <code>Character</code> - stores string (must be scalar) • <code>Raw</code> - stores bytes • <code>AM_OBJ_TYPE_LIST/MAP/TEXT</code> - creates nested object

Value

The document `doc` (invisibly).

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

# Put values in root map (returns doc invisibly)
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "name", "Alice")
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "age", 30L)
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "active", TRUE)

# Create nested list and retrieve it
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "items", AM_OBJ_TYPE_LIST)
items <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "items")

am_close(doc)
```

am_put_path*Set value at path*

Description

Set a value in an Automerge document using a path vector. Can optionally create intermediate objects automatically.

Usage

```
am_put_path(doc, path, value, create_intermediate = TRUE)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
path	Character vector, numeric vector, or list of mixed types specifying the path to the value
value	Value to set at the path
create_intermediate	Logical. If TRUE, creates intermediate maps as needed. Default TRUE.

Value

The document (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

# Create nested structure with automatic intermediate objects
am_put_path(doc, c("user", "address", "city"), "Boston")
am_put_path(doc, c("user", "address", "zip"), 02101L)
am_put_path(doc, c("user", "name"), "Alice")

# Verify
am_get_path(doc, c("user", "address", "city")) # "Boston"

am_close(doc)
```

<code>am_rollback</code>	<i>Roll back pending operations</i>
--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Description

Cancels all pending operations in the current transaction without committing them. This allows you to discard changes since the last commit.

Usage

```
am_rollback(doc)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerger document
-----	------------------------

Value

The document doc (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "key", "value")
# Changed my mind, discard the put
am_rollback(doc)

am_close(doc)
```

<code>am_save</code>	<i>Save an Automerger document to binary format</i>
----------------------	---

Description

Serializes an Automerger document to the standard binary format, which can be saved to disk or transmitted over a network. The binary format is compatible across all Automerger implementations (JavaScript, Rust, etc.).

Usage

```
am_save(doc)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerger document (created with <code>am_create()</code> or <code>am_load()</code>)
-----	---

Value

A raw vector containing the serialized document

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
bytes <- am_save(doc)

# Save to file
file <- tempfile()
writeBin(am_save(doc), file)

unlink(file)
am_close(doc)
```

am_set_actor

Set the actor ID of a document

Description

Sets the actor ID for an Automerge document. This should typically be done before making any changes. Changing the actor ID mid-session is not recommended as it can complicate change attribution.

Usage

```
am_set_actor(doc, actor_id)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
actor_id	The new actor ID. Can be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NULL - Generate new random actor ID• Character string - Hex-encoded actor ID• Raw vector - Binary actor ID bytes

Value

The document doc (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

# Set custom actor ID from hex string
am_set_actor(doc, "0123456789abcdef0123456789abcdef")

# Generate new random actor ID
am_set_actor(doc, NULL)

am_close(doc)
```

am_sync

Bidirectional synchronization

Description

Automatically synchronizes two documents by exchanging messages until they converge to the same state. This is a high-level convenience function that handles the entire sync protocol automatically.

Usage

```
am_sync(doc1, doc2)
```

Arguments

doc1	First Automerge document
doc2	Second Automerge document

Details

The function exchanges sync messages back and forth between the two documents until both sides report no more messages to send (*am_sync_encode()* returns `NULL`). The Automerge sync protocol is mathematically guaranteed to converge.

Value

An integer indicating the number of sync rounds completed (invisibly). Both documents are modified in place to include each other's changes.

Examples

```
# Create two documents with different changes
doc1 <- am_create()
doc2 <- am_create()

# Make changes in each document
```

```
am_put(doc1, AM_ROOT, "x", 1)
am_put(doc2, AM_ROOT, "y", 2)

# Synchronize them (documents modified in place)
rounds <- am_sync(doc1, doc2)
cat("Synced in", rounds, "rounds\n")

# Now both documents have both x and y

am_close(doc1)
am_close(doc2)
```

am_sync_decode	<i>Receive and apply a sync message</i>
----------------	---

Description

Receives a synchronization message from a peer and applies the changes to the local document. This updates both the document and the sync state to reflect the received changes.

Usage

```
am_sync_decode(doc, sync_state, message)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
sync_state	A sync state object (created with <code>am_sync_state_new()</code>)
message	A raw vector containing an encoded sync message

Value

The document doc (invisibly, for chaining)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
sync_state <- am_sync_state_new()

# Receive message from peer
# message <- ... (received from network)
# am_sync_decode(doc, sync_state, message)

am_close(doc)
```

am_sync_encode	<i>Generate a sync message</i>
----------------	--------------------------------

Description

Generates a synchronization message to send to a peer. This message contains the changes that the peer needs to bring their document up to date with yours.

Usage

```
am_sync_encode(doc, sync_state)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
sync_state	A sync state object (created with <code>am_sync_state_new()</code>)

Details

If the function returns NULL, it means there are no more messages to send (synchronization is complete from this side).

Value

A raw vector containing the encoded sync message, or NULL if no message needs to be sent.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
sync_state <- am_sync_state_new()

# Generate first sync message
msg <- am_sync_encode(doc, sync_state)
if (!is.null(msg)) {
  # Send msg to peer...
}

am_close(doc)
```

am_sync_state_new	<i>Create a new sync state</i>
-------------------	--------------------------------

Description

Creates a new synchronization state for managing communication with a peer. The sync state tracks what changes have been sent and received, enabling efficient incremental synchronization.

Usage

```
am_sync_state_new()
```

Details

IMPORTANT: Sync state is document-independent. The same sync state is used across multiple sync message exchanges with a specific peer. The document is passed separately to `am_sync_encode()` and `am_sync_decode()`.

Value

An external pointer to the sync state with class "am_syncstate".

Examples

```
# Create two documents
doc1 <- am_create()
doc2 <- am_create()

# Create sync states for each peer
sync1 <- am_sync_state_new()
sync2 <- am_sync_state_new()

# Use with am_sync_encode() and am_sync_decode()

am_close(doc1)
am_close(doc2)
```

am_text	<i>Create an Automerge text object</i>
---------	--

Description

Creates a text object for collaborative character-level editing. Unlike regular strings (which use last-write-wins semantics), text objects support character-level CRDT merging of concurrent edits, cursor stability, and marks/formatting.

Usage

```
am_text(initial = "")
```

Arguments

initial	Initial text content (default "")
---------	-----------------------------------

Details

Use text objects for collaborative document editing. Use regular strings for metadata, labels, and IDs (99\

Value

A character vector with class `am_text_type`

Examples

```
# Empty text object
am_text()

# Text with initial content
am_text("Hello, World!")
```

<code>am_text_content</code>	<i>Get text content from a text object</i>
------------------------------	--

Description

Retrieve the full text content from a text object as a string.

Usage

```
am_text_content(text_obj)
```

Arguments

text_obj	An Automerge text object ID
----------	-----------------------------

Value

Character string with the full text

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "doc", am_text("Hello"))
text_obj <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "doc")

text <- am_text_content(text_obj)
text # "Hello"

am_close(doc)
```

`am_text_splice` *Splice text in a text object*

Description

Insert or delete characters in a text object. This is the primary way to edit text CRDT objects.

Usage

```
am_text_splice(text_obj, pos, del_count, text)
```

Arguments

<code>text_obj</code>	An Automerge text object ID
<code>pos</code>	Character position to start splice (0-based inter-character position)
<code>del_count</code>	Number of characters to delete (counts Unicode code points)
<code>text</code>	Text to insert

Value

The text object `text_obj` (invisibly)

Indexing Convention

Text positions use 0-based indexing (unlike list indices which are 1-based). This is because positions specify locations **between** characters, not the characters themselves:

- Position 0 = before the first character
- Position 1 = between 1st and 2nd characters
- Position 5 = after the 5th character

For the text "Hello":

```
H e l l o
0 1 2 3 4 5  <- positions (0-based, between characters)
```

Positions count Unicode code points (characters), not bytes. The word "Français" counts as 8 characters, matching R's `nchar()` behavior.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "doc", am_text("Hello"))
text_obj <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "doc")

# Insert "World" at position 5 (after "Hello")
am_text_splice(text_obj, 5, 0, "World")

# Get the full text
am_text_content(text_obj) # "Hello World"

# Works naturally with multibyte characters
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "greet", am_text(""))
text_obj2 <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "greet")
am_text_splice(text_obj2, 0, 0, "Column café")
# Position 11 is after "café" (character index, not bytes)
am_text_splice(text_obj2, 11, 0, "!")
am_text_content(text_obj2) # "Column café!"
```

am_close(doc)

am_text_update

Update text content

Description

An optimized function for collaborative editing that computes the minimal diff between old and new text and applies it directly to the text object. This avoids intermediate R object allocation, making it more efficient than separate diff computation and splice operations.

Usage

```
am_text_update(text_obj, old_text, new_text)
```

Arguments

<code>text_obj</code>	An Automerger text object ID
<code>old_text</code>	The previous text content (single string)
<code>new_text</code>	The new text content (single string)

Details

Positions use Unicode code points (matching R's `nchar()` behavior), not bytes. This means multi-byte characters like emoji count as single characters.

Value

Invisible NULL (called for side effect)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "content", am_text("Hello"))
text_obj <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "content")

# Efficiently update text by computing and applying diff in one step
am_text_update(text_obj, "Hello", "Hello World")
am_text_content(text_obj) # "Hello World"

# Works with Unicode
am_text_update(text_obj, "Hello World", "Hello World!")
am_text_content(text_obj) # "Hello World!"

am_close(doc)
```

am_uint64

Create an unsigned 64-bit integer value

Description

Creates an `am_uint64` object for storing unsigned 64-bit integers in Automerger documents. This preserves type fidelity when syncing with other language bindings (JavaScript BigInt, Python int, etc.).

Usage

```
am_uint64(value = 0)
```

Arguments

value	Numeric value (default 0). Values beyond 2^{53} may lose precision.
-------	---

Value

An `am_uint64` object

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "id", am_uint64(12345))
am_close(doc)
```

`am_values` *Get all values from a map or list*

Description

Returns all values from an Automerge map or list as an R list.

Usage

```
am_values(doc, obj)
```

Arguments

<code>doc</code>	An Automerge document
<code>obj</code>	An Automerge object ID, or AM_ROOT for the document root

Value

R list of values

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "a", 1)
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "b", 2)
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "c", 3)

values <- am_values(doc, AM_ROOT)
values # list(1, 2, 3)

am_close(doc)
```

`as.character.am_text` *Convert text object to character string*

Description

Extracts the full text content from an Automerge text object as a standard character string.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'am_text'
as.character(x, ...)
```

Arguments

- x An Automerge text object
- ... Additional arguments (unused)

Value

Character string with the full text content

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "notes", am_text("Hello World"))
text_obj <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "notes")

text_string <- as.character(text_obj)
text_string # "Hello World"

identical(as.character(text_obj), am_text_content(text_obj)) # TRUE

am_close(doc)
```

as.list.am_doc

*Convert document root to R list***Description**

Recursively converts the root of an Automerge document to a standard R list. Maps become named lists, lists become unnamed lists, and nested objects are recursively converted.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'am_doc'
as.list(x, ...)
```

Arguments

- x An Automerge document
- ... Additional arguments (unused)

Value

Named list with document contents

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
doc$name <- "Alice"
doc$age <- 30L

as.list(doc) # list(name = "Alice", age = 30L)

am_close(doc)
```

as_automerge

Convert R list to Automerge document

Description

Converts an R list to an Automerge document. This leverages the recursive conversion built into `am_put()` from Phase 3, allowing nested structures to be created in a single call.

Usage

```
as_automerge(x, doc = NULL, actor_id = NULL)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	R list, vector, or scalar value to convert
<code>doc</code>	Optional existing Automerge document. If <code>NULL</code> , creates a new one.
<code>actor_id</code>	Optional actor ID for new documents (raw bytes or hex string)

Value

An Automerge document

Examples

```
# Convert nested list to Automerge
data <- list(
  name = "Alice",
  age = 30L,
  scores = list(85, 90, 95),
  metadata = list(
    created = Sys.time(),
    tags = list("user", "active")
  )
)

doc <- as_automerge(data)
doc[["name"]] # "Alice"
doc[["age"]] # 30L
```

```
am_close(doc)
```

automerge-constants *Automerge Constants*

Description

Constants used throughout the automerge package for object types, root references, and mark expansion modes.

Usage

```
AM_ROOT  
AM_OBJ_TYPE_LIST  
AM_OBJ_TYPE_MAP  
AM_OBJ_TYPE_TEXT  
AM_MARK_EXPAND_NONE  
AM_MARK_EXPAND_BEFORE  
AM_MARK_EXPAND_AFTER  
AM_MARK_EXPAND_BOTH
```

Format

An object of class `NULL` of length 0.
An object of class `am_obj_type` of length 1.
An object of class `am_obj_type` of length 1.
An object of class `am_obj_type` of length 1.
An object of class `character` of length 1.

Root Object

AM_ROOT Reference to the root object of an Automerge document. Use this as the `obj` parameter when operating on the top-level map. Value is `NULL` which maps to the C API's `AM_ROOT`.

Object Types

String constants for creating Automerge objects:

AM_OBJ_TYPE_LIST Create a list (array) object. Lists are ordered sequences accessed by numeric index (1-based in R).

AM_OBJ_TYPE_MAP Create a map (object) object. Maps are unordered key-value collections accessed by string keys.

AM_OBJ_TYPE_TEXT Create a text object for collaborative editing. Text objects support character-level CRDT operations, cursor stability, and formatting marks. Use text objects for collaborative document editing rather than regular strings (which use last-write-wins semantics).

Mark Expansion Modes

Constants for controlling how text marks expand when text is inserted at their boundaries (used with am_mark):

AM_MARK_EXPAND_NONE Mark does not expand when text is inserted at either boundary.

AM_MARK_EXPAND_BEFORE Mark expands to include text inserted immediately before its start position.

AM_MARK_EXPAND_AFTER Mark expands to include text inserted immediately after its end position.

AM_MARK_EXPAND_BOTH Mark expands to include text inserted at either boundary (before start or after end).

extract-am_doc

Extract from Automerge document root

Description

Extract values from the root of an Automerge document using [[or \$. These operators provide R-idiomatic access to document data.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'am_doc'
x[[i]]

## S3 method for class 'am_doc'
x$name
```

Arguments

x	An Automerge document
i	Key name (character)
name	Key name (for \$ operator)

Value

The value at the specified key

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "name", "Alice")
am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "age", 30L)

doc[["name"]] # "Alice"
doc$age       # 30L

am_close(doc)
```

extract-am_object *Extract from Automerge object*

Description

Extract values from an Automerge object (map or list) using [[or \$.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'am_object'
x[[i]]

## S3 method for class 'am_object'
x$name
```

Arguments

x	An Automerge object
i	Key name (character) for maps, or position (integer) for lists
name	Key name (for \$ operator, maps only)

Value

The value at the specified key/position

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "user", list(name = "Bob", age = 25L))
user <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "user")

user[["name"]] # "Bob"
user$age       # 25L

am_close(doc)
```

from_automerge

Convert Automerge document to R list

Description

Converts an Automerge document to a standard R list. This is equivalent to `as.list.am_doc()`.

Usage

```
from_automerge(doc)
```

Arguments

doc	An Automerge document
-----	-----------------------

Value

Named list with document contents

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
doc$name <- "Alice"
doc$age <- 30L

from_automerge(doc) # list(name = "Alice", age = 30L)

am_close(doc)
```

length.am_doc	<i>Get length of document root</i>
---------------	------------------------------------

Description

Returns the number of keys in the root map of an Automerge document.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'am_doc'  
length(x)
```

Arguments

x	An Automerge document
---	-----------------------

Value

Integer length

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()  
doc$a <- 1  
doc$b <- 2  
length(doc) # 2  
am_close(doc)
```

length.am_object	<i>Get length of Automerge object</i>
------------------	---------------------------------------

Description

Returns the number of elements/keys in an Automerge object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'am_object'  
length(x)
```

Arguments

x	An Automerge object
---	---------------------

Value

Integer length

`names.am_doc` *Get names from document root*

Description

Returns the keys from the root map of an Automerge document.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'am_doc'
names(x)
```

Arguments

`x` An Automerge document

Value

Character vector of key names

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
doc$name <- "Alice"
doc$age <- 30L
names(doc) # c("name", "age")
am_close(doc)
```

`names.am_map` *Get names from Automerge map object*

Description

Returns the keys from a map object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'am_map'
names(x)
```

Arguments

`x` An Automerge map object

Value

Character vector of key names

replace-am_doc	<i>Replace in Automerge document root</i>
----------------	---

Description

Replace or insert values at the root of an Automerge document using `[[<-` or `$<-`. These operators provide R-idiomatic modification.

Usage

```
## S3 replacement method for class 'am_doc'  
x[[i]] <- value  
  
## S3 replacement method for class 'am_doc'  
x$name <- value
```

Arguments

x	An Automerge document
i	Key name (character)
value	Value to store
name	Key name (for <code>\$<-</code> operator)

Value

The document (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()  
doc[["name"]] <- "Bob"  
doc$age <- 25L  
am_close(doc)
```

replace-am_object	<i>Replace in Automerge object</i>
-------------------	------------------------------------

Description

Replace or insert values in an Automerge object using `[[<-` or `$<-`.

Usage

```
## S3 replacement method for class 'am_object'
x[[i]] <- value

## S3 replacement method for class 'am_object'
x$name <- value
```

Arguments

x	An Automerge object
i	Key name (character) for maps, or position (integer) for lists
value	Value to store
name	Key name (for \$<- operator, maps only)

Value

The object (invisibly)

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()

am_put(doc, AM_ROOT, "user", list(name = "Bob", age = 25L))
user <- am_get(doc, AM_ROOT, "user")

user[["name"]] <- "Alice"
user$age <- 30L

am_close(doc)
```

str.am_doc

Display the structure of an Automerge document

Description

S3 method for [utils::str\(\)](#) that displays the structure of an Automerge document in a human-readable format.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'am_doc'
str(object, max.level = 2, ...)
```

Arguments

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| object | An automerge document object. |
| max.level | Maximum depth to recurse into nested structures. Default 2. |
| ... | Additional arguments (ignored). |

Value

Invisibly returns NULL.

Examples

```
doc <- am_create()
doc$name <- "Alice"
doc$data <- list(x = 1L, y = 2L)
str(doc)
str(doc, max.level = 1)
am_close(doc)
```

Index

* datasets
 automerge-constants, 45
 [[.am_doc (extract-am_doc), 46
 [[.am_object (extract-am_object), 47
 [[<-.am_doc (replace-am_doc), 51
 [[<-.am_object (replace-am_object), 51
 \$.am_doc (extract-am_doc), 46
 \$.am_object (extract-am_object), 47
 \$<-.am_doc (replace-am_doc), 51
 \$<-.am_object (replace-am_object), 51

 am_apply_changes, 3
 am_close, 4
 am_commit, 5
 am_counter, 6
 am_counter_increment, 6
 am_create, 7
 am_cursor, 8
 am_cursor(), 10
 am_cursor_position, 10
 am_cursor_position(), 9
 am_delete, 10
 am_delete_path, 11
 am_fork, 12
 am_get, 13
 am_get_actor, 13
 am_get_actor(), 14
 am_get_actor_hex, 14
 am_get_actor_hex(), 14
 am_get_change_by_hash, 17
 am_get_changes, 15
 am_get_changes_added, 16
 am_get_heads, 18
 am_get_history, 18
 am_get_last_local_change, 19
 am_get_path, 20
 am_insert, 21
 am_keys, 22
 am_length, 22
 am_list, 23

 am_load, 24
 am_map, 25
 am_mark, 25
 am_mark(), 27, 28
 AM_MARK_EXPAND_AFTER, 26
 AM_MARK_EXPAND_AFTER
 (automerge-constants), 45
 AM_MARK_EXPAND_BEFORE, 26
 AM_MARK_EXPAND_BEFORE
 (automerge-constants), 45
 AM_MARK_EXPAND_BOTH, 26
 AM_MARK_EXPAND_BOTH
 (automerge-constants), 45
 AM_MARK_EXPAND_NONE, 26
 AM_MARK_EXPAND_NONE
 (automerge-constants), 45
 am_marks, 27
 am_marks_at, 28
 am_merge, 29
 AM_OBJ_TYPE_LIST (automerge-constants),
 45
 AM_OBJ_TYPE_MAP (automerge-constants),
 45
 AM_OBJ_TYPE_TEXT (automerge-constants),
 45
 am_put, 30
 am_put_path, 31
 am_rollback, 32
 AM_ROOT (automerge-constants), 45
 am_save, 32
 am_set_actor, 33
 am_sync, 34
 am_sync(), 29
 am_sync_decode, 35
 am_sync_encode, 36
 am_sync_state_new, 37
 am_text, 37
 am_text_content, 38
 am_text_splice, 39

am_text_update, 40
am_uint64, 41
am_values, 42
as.character.am_text, 42
as.list.am_doc, 43
as_automerge, 44
automerge-constants, 45

extract-am_doc, 46
extract-am_object, 47

from_automerge, 48

length.am_doc, 49
length.am_object, 49

names.am_doc, 50
names.am_map, 50

replace-am_doc, 51
replace-am_object, 51

str.am_doc, 52

utils::str(), 52