

# Higher order functions

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*A first taste of functional programming*

A higher-order function is a function that

- takes other functions as arguments

and/or

- returns a function as result

## Function composition and piping

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Many times in scientific code it's required that functions are chained together.

This can be quite of eye sore

```
sqrt(abs(sum([1,2,3])))
```

Function composition `\circ`

```
(sqrt ∘ abs ∘ sum)([1,2,3])
```

and piping

```
sum([1,2,3]) |> abs |> sqrt
```

alleviate this problem for *unary* (single-argument) functions.

## Exercise: Becoming a pastry chef

(Re)create some syntatic sugar such as

- a function composition operator `∘` for *unary* functions

- a reverse pipe <|

Note: infix operators such as `◦` need to be wrapped around `()` in method definitions for parsing reasons.

## map

`map(f, [a1,a2,...]) = [f(a1), f(a2), ...]`

Map a function over the elements of a container and collect the results

```
map(x -> x + 1, [1, 2, 3]) == [2, 3, 4]
map((x, y) -> x * y, [1,2,3], [1, 10, 100]) == [1, 20, 300]
```

## foreach

`foreach(f, [a1,a2,...]) = f(a1); f(a2); ...; nothing`

Map a function over the elements of a container but without collecting the results

```
foreach(println, [1, 2, 3]) # prints
```

## foldl and foldr

`foldl(f, [a1, a2, a3, ...]) = f(f(f(a1, a2), a3), ...)`

`foldr(f, [a1, a2, a3, ...]) = f(a1, f(a2, f(a3, f(...))))`

Basically a left- and right- associative reduce.

```
foldl(=>, 1:4) == ((1 => 2) => 3) => 4
foldl(=>, 1:4; init=0) == (((0 => 1) => 2) => 3) => 4

foldr(=>, 1:4) == 1 => (2 => (3 => 4))
```

It doesn't end here: check also `filter`, `reduce`, `mapreduce` and possible multiple chains with `Transducers.jl`.

## Exercise: Folding left and right

- Use a folding operator to find the minimum element in a container
  - Define your own `min(a,b)` function or use Julia's
- Consider a finite 1D spin-chain Hamiltonian with  $N$  sites
 
$$H_N = - \sum_i^N T_i^{(N)} = - \sum_i^N \sigma_i^z \otimes \sigma_{i+1}^z \text{ with}$$

$$\sigma_i^z \otimes \sigma_{i+1}^z := \dots \otimes \mathbb{1}_{i-1} \otimes \sigma_i^z \otimes \sigma_{i+1}^z \otimes \mathbb{1}_{i+1} \otimes \dots$$
  - Define the identity  $\mathbb{1}_2$  and Pauli matrices.
  - Define `T(i,N)`. Suggestion:
    - Create a generator `T(i,N)` which returns the to-be-kroned matrices. This is simple because you definitely didn't forget about `if` (or ternary) clauses in generator / list comprehensions.
    - Redefine `T(i,N)` kroning away the generator using a `fold`
  - Define the Hamiltonian `H(N)` using `T(i,N)`

# Multi-dimensional Arrays

[\(read more\)](#)

There are a bunch of basic functions one has to know to effectively work with arrays.

## Constructing arrays

```
A = zeros(T, sizes...)
B = ones(T, sizes...)
C = rand(T, sizes...)
D = copy(A)
E = reshape(A, new_sizes...)
```

## Working with arrays

```
eltype(A)
length(A)
size(A)
eachindex(A) # iterator for visiting each position in A
```

## Concatenating arrays

Arrays can be concatenated with the `;` syntax

```
A = rand(3)
B = zeros(3)
C = [A; B]
```

or with the `cat` functions

```
C = cat(A,B,dims=1) # What would happens if 'dims=2'
```

## Linear indexing

When exactly one index `i` is provided, that index no longer represents a location in a particular dimension of the array but the `i`th element using the column-major order

```
A = [2 6; 4 7; 3 1]

A[5] == vec(A)[5] == 7
```

- Question: How to understand the matrix-creation notation `A` from the concatenation operator `;`?

## Array @views

**Slicing operations like `x[1:2]` create a copy by default in Julia**

A “view” is a data structure that acts like an array, but the underlying data is actually part of another array (reference!).

```
A = [1 2; 3 4]

b = view(A, :, 1)
b = @views A[:,1]

b[2] = 99
A
```

Note: Sometimes it's not faster to use `views`!

# Broadcasting and loop fusions

It is common to have "vectorized" versions of functions, which simply map a function  $f(x)$  to each element of an array  $a$ . Unlike some languages, in Julia this is **not required** for performance: it's just a convenient for-loop.

This is achieved through the `dot` syntax

```
a = [0 π/2; -π/2 π/6]
sin.(a)
```

Due to historical (and parsing) reasons, the `dot` syntax for infix operators is on the left

```
a = [1.0, 2.0, 3.0]
a .^ 3 # NOT the power of a vector
```

On complicated expression with several `dot` calls, the operation is fused together (there will be a single loop)

```
b = 2 .* a.^2 .+ sin.(a)
```

The `@.` macro can be used to convert all function / operator calls in an expression to a `dot`-call

```
b = @. 2 * a^2 + sin(a)
```

and a `$` inserted to bypass the `dot`

```
@. sqrt(abs($sort(x))) # equivalent to sqrt.(abs.(sort(x)))
```

Naturally calls like

```
sin.(sort(cos.(X)))
```

can't be completely fused together.

**Singleton (size=1) and missing dimensions are expanded to match the extents of the other arguments by virtually repeating the value.**

```

a = rand(2,2)
b = zeros(2,2,3)
a .+ b

```

Dot calls are just syntactic sugar for `broadcast(f, As...)` so you can extend *broadcasting* for custom types.

## Map vs Broadcasting

No winner, each has things they can do that the other cannot

- Broadcast only handles containers with the "shapes"  $M \times N \times \dots$  (i.e., a size and dimensionality) while map is more general (unknown length iterator)
- Map requires all arguments to have the same length (and hence cannot combine arrays and scalars)

## Exercise:

- Convince yourself that the loop is indeed fused by @timing a complex dot ed expression vs the expression terms separately computed. Run the code once beforehand to avoid timing the compilation time!
- Compute the spin-chain Hamiltonian for  $N = [2, 4, 6, 7, 8]$

## using LinearAlgebra

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"High-level" mathematical functions to operate on (multi-)dimensional Arrays.

Assume that when you call methods from LinearAlgebra that libraries like OpenBLAS (default) will be called for standard types such as `Float64`.

If your life depends on OpenBLAS-like operations it's worth to check other implementations such as Intel's MKL or even pure Julia's like `Octavian.jl` (especially if your matrices are more interesting than dense ones).

## LinearAlgebra vs GenericLinearAlgebra

Generic programming allied with multiple dispatch allows one to share types with generic

algorithms. An example of this is `GenericLinearAlgebra`, which implements some of `LinearAlgebra` functions in pure Julia.

## Exercise: Ising & Wilson chains

- (Re) Consider a finite 1D spin-chain Hamiltonian with  $N$  sites coupled to a magnetic field  $H_N = -\sum_i^N \sigma_i^z \otimes \sigma_{i+1}^z - h \sum_i^N \sigma_i^x$ 
  - Construct this Hamiltonian
  - Diagonalise the Hamiltonian using `LinearAlgebra`'s eigen function
    - Which states (columns of the eigenvectors matrix) have the lowest energy for  $h = 0$  and  $h \gg 1$ ?
- Consider a finite 1D spin-chain Hamiltonian with  $N$  sites  $H_N = -\sum_i^N \alpha^{-i} \sigma_i^z \otimes \sigma_{i+1}^z$  for  $\alpha \geq 1$ 
  - Diagonalise  $H_N =: U_N D_N U_N^\dagger$  using `LinearAlgebra`'s eigen function
  - Consider the  $\frac{2^N}{2}$  lowest-energy eigenvalue matrix  $D_N \rightarrow \tilde{D}_N$  and couple it to a next chain site  $H_{N+1} = \tilde{D}_N \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 - \alpha^{-(N+1)} \tilde{\sigma}_N \otimes \sigma_{N+1}^z$  where  $\tilde{\sigma}_N = \tilde{U} \sigma_N \tilde{U}^\dagger$
  - Iterate the last step

# Performance

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## Profiling

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## Hardware

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## Threading

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# Iteration Utilities

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For more examples see [here](#)

## zip

Run multiple iterators at the same time, until any of them is exhausted

```
a = [1,2,3]
b = (10,20,30)

for z in zip(a,b)
    println(z) # (1,10) ... (2, 20) ... (3, 30)
end
```

Question: What is the mathematical operation equivalent of zipping?

## enumerate

An iterator that yields  $(i, x)$  where  $i$  is a counter starting at 1, and  $x$  is the  $i$ -th value from the given iterator

```
a = [10, 20, 30]

for (i, a_i) in enumerate(a)
    println("The $i-th entry of a is $a_i")
end
```