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# Comparative Analysis of Program Execution Time Required by <sup>3</sup> Python, R and Julia Compiler

Prof. Bhaveshbhai Rameshbhai Maheshwari

Assistant <sup>9</sup> Professor,

Department of Computer Science,

Narmada College of Science and Commerce, Bharuch - Gujarat, India

ncscbrm@gmail.com

**Abstract:** As the popularity of high-level programming languages such as Python, <sup>3</sup> R, and Julia continues to rise, the need for assessing their computational performance becomes paramount. This study aims to address the fundamental question: "Which programming language is best suited for faster program execution among Python, R, and Julia?" Through a series of trials, this paper investigates the execution time required by each language to solve five common programming problems: calculating the determinant of a large matrix, implementing Dijkstra's algorithm, conducting a Monte Carlo simulation, computing the Levenshtein distance between two strings, and simulating a Predator-Prey model. By comparing <sup>2</sup> the performance of Python, R, and Julia across these tasks, we seek to provide insights into the relative strengths and weaknesses of each language in terms of computational efficiency.

**Keyword:** Programming Language, Python, Julia, R, Performance Analysis, Model, Simulation.

## I. Introduction

Time is priceless & one of main responsibility of programmers & software developers is to writing programs which take less time for execution. It is often very complicated task for programmes <sup>20</sup> to decide which programming language usually takes less time to execute a program. To find out answer of this question in this paper three different trending programming languages are compared to measure execution time of same problem. Before starting with an experiment, a Brief introduction of these programming languages is stated below.

1. Python: - It is an interpreted, high-level, general-purpose programming language. <sup>1</sup> Created by Guido van Rossum and first released in 1991, Python's design philosophy emphasizes code readability with its notable use of significant whitespace. Its language constructs and object-oriented approach aim to help programmers write clear, logical code for small and large-scale projects [1]. In this

experiment Python 3.11 version is used.

2. R: - It is a **6** programming language and free software environment for statistical computing and graphics supported by the R Foundation for Statistical Computing. **7** The R language is widely used among statisticians and data miners for developing statistical software and data analysis [2]. In this experiment R 4.3.1 version is used.

3. Julia: - It is a high-level, high-performance, dynamic programming language. **5** While it is a general purpose language and can be used to write any application, many of its features are well-suited for numerical analysis and computational science [3] [4] [5] [6]. In this experiment Julia 1.10.1 version is used.

## II. Determination **3** of Execution Time

All these programming languages provide unique functions & features to measure program execution time. To find out the same, methods used different languages are stated below.

1. Python: In python there is a module called timeit. The timeit() method of timeit module is used to find out execution time require by set of code. It stores the starting & ending time of the actual program execution. **4** The difference between ending & starting time will be the execution time of the program.

The timeit() method accepts four arguments which are explained below.

- i. Setup: - It takes the code which runs before the execution of the main program.
- ii. Statement: - It contains list of statements which will be executed.
- iii. Timer: - is a timeit.Timer object. It's default argument.
- iv. Number: - It **12** is the number of times the statement will execute.

Syntax: `print(f"Execution time is: {timeit.timeit(setup = setup_code, stmt = statement_code, number = 100)}")`

2. R: In R to measure program execution time we need to **16** save the time before and after the execution of actual statements using system time. Starting and finishing **4** time of the executed statements will be stored in two data objects. After which computing the time difference between these

two time objects the runtime **difference between the** starting and finishing **time will be** execution time.

Syntax for determining execution time in R is stated below.

```
Start_time <- Sys.time()      # Save starting time
..... # Set of Statement
End_time <- Sys.time()        # Finishing time
Diff_time <- Start_time - End_time # Time difference between start & end.
```

3. Julia: In Julia @time macro is used to measuring **4 execution time. Using** this macro measuring **time taken by** number of statements to execute is straight forward than compare to other two languages stated above. Syntax for measuring **execution time in** Julia is stated below.

```
@time begin
    Statement 1
    Statement 2
    Statement N
end
```

After executing statements @time macro directly returns performance **time taken by** number of statements written between begin & end block.

### III. Experiment Problems

In the experiment, I aim to conduct **2 a comparative analysis of** the program execution time required by **Python, R, and Julia** compilers across a diverse set of computational tasks which are stated below.

1. Calculating **13 the determinant of a large matrix:** this method can be computationally intensive, especially for matrices with many rows and columns. There are several methods to compute the determinant, but the most common ones are Gaussian elimination and LU decomposition. For large matrices, numerical methods like LU decomposition are generally more efficient. Libraries like NumPy in Python used to calculate the determinant efficiently.[7]
2. Dijkstra's algorithm: It is a popular method for finding the shortest path between nodes in a graph with non-negative edge weights. For this study implementation of Dijkstra's algorithm in Python used

a priority queue structure.[8]

3. **3 Monte Carlo simulation:** It is a technique for approximating the value of mathematical expressions or solving problems through random sampling. Estimating  $\pi$  **17 using Monte Carlo simulation** involves randomly generating points within a square and counting the proportion of points that fall within a quarter of the unit circle.[9]

4. The Levenshtein distance: Also known as the edit distance, measures the minimum number of single-character edits (insertions, deletions, or substitutions) required to change one string into another. Here's a Python implementation of the Levenshtein distance calculation using dynamic programming.[10]

5. Predator-Prey model: **14 Also known as** Lotka-Volterra model which is used to to simulate a predator-prey model, is a mathematical framework used to describe the dynamics of biological systems involving two interacting species, typically predators and prey. The model was independently developed **15 by Alfred J. Lotka and Vito Volterra in the early 20th century.**[11]

#### IV. Comparative Analysis **3 of Execution Time**

Below table shows comparative analysis of execution time required by the compiler to solve our experiment problems

Table 4.1. Program Execution Time Required by **Python, R and Julia in terms of** milliseconds

Problem Name

Sample/Node Size

**Python**

**R**

**Julia**

Calculating the determinant of a large matrix

1000

4455.73

95.16

284.83

Dijkstra's algorithm

100

71.79

136.62

83.64

Monte Carlo simulation

1000000

937.12

4773.32

17.09

19 The Levenshtein distance

2

4.04

34.25

39.65

Predator-Prey model

4

1.57

35.27

35.98

Average Time

-

1094.05

1014.92

92.23

V. Results

Based on the data provided in Table 4.1, we can draw the following conclusions:

1. **13 Determinant of a Large Matrix:** Julia exhibited the lowest execution time (284.83 milliseconds), followed by R (95.16 milliseconds), and Python had the highest execution time (4455.73 milliseconds). Julia's performance was significantly better **2 compared to Python**, indicating its efficiency in handling matrix computations.
2. Dijkstra's Algorithm: Julia again demonstrated the lowest execution time (83.64 milliseconds), followed by Python (71.79 milliseconds), and R had the highest execution time (136.62 milliseconds). Julia's performance was superior, likely **1 due to its** efficient handling of loops and array operations.
3. **3 Monte Carlo Simulation:** Julia showcased exceptional performance with the lowest execution time (17.09 milliseconds), while R and Python had significantly higher execution times (4773.32 milliseconds and 937.12 milliseconds, respectively).
4. Julia's speed in executing mathematical computations was evident, making **2 it a preferred choice for simulations and numerical computations.**
5. Levenshtein Distance: Python exhibited the lowest execution time (4.04 milliseconds), followed by R (34.25 milliseconds), **3 and Julia had** the highest execution time (39.65 milliseconds). Python's efficiency in string manipulation and optimization contributed to its faster performance in this specific task.
6. Predator-Prey Model: Python had the lowest execution time (1.57 milliseconds), followed by R (35.27 milliseconds), and Julia exhibited slightly higher execution time (35.98 milliseconds). Python's performance advantage **12 in this case** could be attributed to its simplicity in handling the model's computations efficiently.

## VI. Limitations

The limitations of the implemented programs include:

1. Lack of optimization in Python may lead to slower execution times **2 for computationally intensive tasks.**
2. R's performance can be hindered by its inherent memory management issues, impacting execution time.
3. Julia's ecosystem may lack **extensive libraries and** mature packages **2 compared to Python** and R,

limiting its applicability in certain domains.

4. Implementation complexity in Julia may pose a learning curve for users familiarized to Python or R.

5. The accuracy of simulations, such as the Monte Carlo method, may be affected by the chosen sample size, potentially influencing execution time comparisons.

6. Variability in hardware configurations and environmental factors may influence execution time measurements, affecting the generalizability of results. For this experiment, the Acer Aspire 5 RTX 2050 configuration includes a 12th Gen Intel Core i5 Processor, complemented by 8GB of DDR4 RAM, and a 512GB PCIe NVMe Gen 4 SSD.

## VII. Conclusion

Overall, Julia showcased impressive performance across various computational tasks, particularly in numerical computations and simulations. Python and R exhibited competitive performance in certain tasks, highlighting their strengths in specific domains. Depending on the nature of the problem and specific requirements, each language offers distinct advantages, allowing users to choose the most suitable tool for their needs.

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