Scientific Programming in Julia

Statistics, Functional Programming, and Performance Computing

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DataFrames

- Dataframes are tabular data with named columns.
- They are supported using the `DataFrames` package.
- The names are given in symbols (`:xyz` which is a name, differing from the variable `xyz`).

Creating DataFrames

- To initalise a data frame use the `dataframe(colname1=data1, colname2=data2)`
- No recycling – columns must have matching lengths.
- An empty data frame is made from empty typed-vectors.

```
using DataFrames
println(DataFrame(x=[5, 6, 7],
                  y=[3, 5, 9]))
```

```
3×2 DataFrame
 Row │ x      y
     │ Int64  Int64
─────┼──────────────
   1 │     5      3
   2 │     6      5
   3 │     7      9
```

```
println(
DataFrame(x=Float64[],
          st=String[]))
```

```
0×2 DataFrame
```

Accessing DataFrames

- Data indexed as a matrix, by rows, cols and symbols.
- Entire rows can be indexed as normal with `:` or by `!`.

```julia
df = DataFrame(A=[5, 6, 7],
               B='a':'c',
               C=["cat", "dog",
println(df)
```

```
3×3 DataFrame
 Row │ A      B     C
     │ Int64  Char  String
─────┼─────────────────────
   1 │     5  a     cat
   2 │     6  b     dog
   3 │     7  c     eel
```

```julia
println(df[!, :A])
println(df[2,3])
println(df[:, [:C, :A]])
```

```
[5, 6, 7]
dog
3×2 DataFrame
 Row │ C       A
     │ String  Int64
─────┼───────────────
   1 │ cat         5
   2 │ dog         6
   3 │ eel         7
```

Modifying DataFrames

- The push! function is used to add more rows. The function accepts an ordered tuple.
- promote=true needed if symbol's datatype does not match the data.

```
df = DataFrame(S=String[], N=Float64[])
push!(df, ("A string", 4.4))
# println(push!(df, ('C', 4.4))) # WRONG - C is char
println(push!(df, ('C', 4.4), promote=true))
```

```
2×2 DataFrame
 Row │ S          N
     │ Any        Float64
─────┼────────────────────
   1 │ A string       4.4
   2 │ C              4.4
```

CSV Piping

- A common usecase for datascience is importing CSV data.
- The `DataFrame` function can be wrapped around a CSV file; or the file piped with ▷. (| >)
- A DataFrame may be written to CSV using `CSV.write`.

```
using CSV
df1 = DataFrame(CSV.File("example.csv"))
df2 = CSV.File("example.csv") ▷ DataFrame
df1 == df2
```

```
true
```

Random Number Generation

- The default random function is `rand(...)` and is highly extensible.
- `rand(distribution, n)` takes n samples from a distribution.
- The default distribution is $U([0,1])$ and default sample number is one. Distributions can be specified as a set.

```
using Random
rn = round( rand(), digits=6)
rsamp = round.( rand(3); digits=4)
rsampcustom = rand([1,4,"A"], 5)
display([rn, rsamp, rsampcustom])
```

```
3-element Vector{Any}:
 0.072919
  [0.8351, 0.9826, 0.7984]
  Any[4, 4, 1, 1, 1]
```

Seeding and Permutation

- A seed is specified with: `Random.seed!(seed_number)`.
- A random permutation is given by the `randperm` function.

```
using Random
Random.seed!(1)
println(randperm(5))
Random.seed!(1)
println(randperm(5))
```

```
[4, 3, 5, 2, 1]
[4, 3, 5, 2, 1]
```

Statistics

- Julia has first class support for statistics.
- The `StatsBase` package has the standard statistics functions: `mean`, `var`, `std`, `mode`, `zscore`, `quantile` et c.
- Weighted statistics are computed with an optional weights vectors; in R they are their own methods.

```julia
using StatsBase
x = [20, 0, 2, 4, 4]
w = Weights([1, 5, 5, 5, 5])
@show mean(x)
@show mean(x, w)
@show median(x);
```

```
mean(x) = 6.0
mean(x, w) = 3.3333333333333335
median(x) = 4.0
```

Distributions

- Julia supports distributions through Distributions package.
- Distribution fitting is provided through `fit(DistributionType, data)`; the result of which can then be sampled from.

```
using Distributions
data = 4*randn(1000) .+ 12
d = fit(Normal, data)
println(d)
rand(d, 4)  # draw 4 samples
```

```
Normal{Float64}(μ=12.042025684837661, σ=3.970852076846705)
```

```
4-element Vector{Float64}:
 11.52085194303134
  9.642800949617918
  3.267729793610716
 15.568757490372628
```

Sampling

- `sample` can be used as alternative to `rand`.
- `sample` needs a distribution (can be a categorical vector). Can be weighted.
- An optional keyword `replace=false` (default: true) can specify sampling without replacement.

```julia
using StatsBase
catdist = [1,4,5,10]
@show sample(catdist, 7)
@show sample(catdist, 3, replace=false);
# println(sample(catdist, 7, replace=false))  # WRONG!
```

```
sample(catdist, 7) = [1, 4, 4, 10, 10, 10, 1]
sample(catdist, 3, replace = false) = [4, 10, 1]
```

Interlude – special values

- `missing` is like `NA` in R: https://docs.julialang.org/en/v1/manual/missing/
- `Inf` and `-Inf` available.
- `NaN` is available as part of IEEE standard, e.g. `var([1])`
- Constants like `π` and `ℯ` available.

```
@show ℯ^(im)π ≈ -1
@show 1//10 + 2//10 == 3//10;
```

```
ℯ ^ (im * π) ≈ -1 = true
1 // 10 + 2 // 10 == 3 // 10 = true
```

Statistics Ecosystem

- The statistics ecosytem is large and well-supported. R is still number 1 for statistics though.
- Useful packages: `StatsBase`, `Statistics`, `Distributions`, `DataFrames`, `HypothesisTests`.
- Useful resource: https://juliastats.org/

Functional Programming

- Functional programming is a style where functions and data are cleanly separated.
- Object oriented programming is where data and functions/methods are attached to objects.
- Julia lends itself towards functional programming.

Map

- `map()` takes a function and applies it to an iterable: vector, range, etc.
- The function can be a function name, or an anonymous function.
- Multiple iterables can be passed for functions of multiple variables.

```julia
v = [0, π/6, π/4]
sin1 = map(sin, v)
autod_cos = map(x -> (cos(x), -sin(x)), v)
mask = [0 1 0]
bad_sin = map((x,y)->(y==1 ? sin(x) : missing), v, mask)
display(autod_cos)
println(bad_sin)
```

```
3-element Vector{Tuple{Float64, Float64}}:
 (1.0, -0.0)
 (0.8660254037844387, -0.49999999999999994)
 (0.7071067811865476, -0.7071067811865475)

Union{Missing, Float64}[missing, 0.49999999999999994, missing]
```

Filter

- `filter` evaluates a logical condition over an iterable.
- `filter!` is an in-place operation; `filter` creates a new copy.

```julia
a = collect(1:10)
@show a

b = filter(iseven, a)
@show b

filter!(isodd, a)
@show a;
```

```
a = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]
b = [2, 4, 6, 8, 10]
a = [1, 3, 5, 7, 9]
```

Sum

- The `sum` function supports functions as the first argument; these are applied before summing.
- The dimension/s which the sum is performed along is given by the `dims=(dim1,...)` keyword. Default is all.

```julia
m = hcat(collect(1:4), collect(5:8))
display(m)
sum(x -> x^2, m, dims=2)
```

```
4×2 Matrix{Int64}:
 1  5
 2  6
 3  7
 4  8

4×1 Matrix{Int64}:
 26
 40
 58
 80
```

Reduce

- The `reduce` function behaves exactly the same way as in R.
- Can support a generic binary operation that can be distributed over an iterable.

```
v = [7, 9, 4, 8]
println( reduce( (x,y) -> x < y ? x : y, v))
println( reduce( (x,y) -> x < y ? x : y, v, init=2))
```

```
4
2
```

Mapreduce

- Common paradigm: `map` function f onto items, and then `reduce` items using binary operator.
- Saves on memory allocation compared to do both operations.

```
a = reshape(collect(1:12), (3,4))
display(a)
println( mapreduce(isodd, +, a, dims=1) )
println( mapreduce(isodd, +, a, dims=2) )
println( mapreduce(isodd, +, a) )
```

```
3×4 Matrix{Int64}:
 1  4  7  10
 2  5  8  11
 3  6  9  12
```

```
[2 1 2 1]
[2; 2; 2;;]
6
```

Inner and Outer product

- Inner product calculated with `dot(x, y)` or `x ⋅ y`
- Unlike R's `outer()`, Julia has no *specific* method; but broadcasting a column vector to a row vector creates a matrix.

```
using LinearAlgebra
v = [1, 4, 2]
@show v ⋅ v
f(x, y) = x+y
@show f(v, v)
f.(v, v')
```

```
v ⋅ v = 21
f(v, v) =

[2, 8, 4]

3×3 Matrix{Int64}:
 2  5  3
 5  8  6
 3  6  4
```

Summary

1. Data frames
2. Random number generators
3. Statistics
4. Functional programming