

What is...?

Julia is an open-source, multi-platform, high-level, high-performance programming language for technical computing.

Julia has an LLVM-based JIT compiler that allows it to match the performance of languages such as C and FORTRAN without the hassle of low-level code. Because the code is compiled on the fly you can run (bits of) code in a shell or REPL, which is part of the recommended workflow.

Julia is dynamically typed, provides multiple dispatch, and is designed for parallelism and distributed computation.

Julia has a built-in package manager.

Julia has many built-in mathematical functions, including special functions (e.g. Gamma), and supports complex numbers right out of the box.

Julia allows you to generate code automagically thanks to Lisp-inspired macros.

Julia was born in 2012.

Basics	
Assignment	answer = 42 x, y, z = 1, [1:10;], "A string" x, y = y, x # swap x and y
Constant declaration	const DATE_OF_BIRTH = 2012
End-of-line comment	i = 1 # This is a comment
Delimited comment	#= This is another comment =#
Chaining	<pre>x = y = z = 1 # right-to-left 0 < x < 3</pre>
Function definition	function add_one(i) return i + 1 end
Insert LaTeX symbols	\delta + [Tab]

Operators	
Basic arithmetic	+, -,*,/
Exponentiation	2^3 == 8
Division	3/12 == 0.25
Inverse division	7\3 == 3/7
Remainder	x % yorrem(x,y)
Negation	!true == false
Equality	a == b
Inequality	a!=bora≠b
Less and larger than	< and >
Less than or equal to	<= 0Γ ≤
Greater than or equal to	>= OΓ ≥
Element-wise operation	[1, 2, 3] .+ [1, 2, 3] == [2, 4, 6] [1, 2, 3] .* [1, 2, 3] == [1, 4, 9]
Not a number	isnan(NaN) not(!) NaN == NaN
Ternary operator	a == b ? "Equal" : "Not equal"
Short-circuited AND and OR	a && banda b
Object equivalence	a === b

The shell a.k.a. REPL	
Recall last result	ans
Interrupt execution	[Ctrl] + [C]
Clear screen	[Ctrl] + [L]
Run program	include("filename.jl")
Get help for func is defined	?func
See all places where func is defined	apropos("func")
Command line mode	;
Package Manager mode] ([Ctrl] + [C] to exit)
Help mode	?
Exit special mode / Return to REPL	[Backspace] on empty line
Exit REPL	exit() or [Ctrl] + [D]

Standard libraries

To help Julia load faster, many core functionalities exist in standard libraries that come bundled with Julia. To make their functions available, use using PackageName. Here are some Standard Libraries and popular functions.

Random	rand, randn, randsubseq
Statistics	mean, std, cor, median, quantile
LinearAlgebra	I, eigvals, eigvecs, det, cholesky
SparseArrays	sparse, SparseVector, SparseMatrixCSC
Distributed	@distributed, pmap, addprocs
Dates	DateTime, Date

Package management

Packages must be registered before they are visible to the package manager. In Julia 1.0, there are two ways to work with the package manager: either with using Pkg and using Pkg functions, or by typing] in the REPL to enter the special interactive package management mode. (To return to regular REPL, just hit BACKSPACE on an empty line in package management mode). Note that new tools arrive in interactive mode first, then usually also become available in regular Julia sessions through Pkg module.

Using Pkg in Julia session

List installed packages (human-readable)	Pkg.status()
List installed packages (machine-readable)	Pkg.installed()
Update all packages	Pkg.update()
Install PackageName	Pkg.add("PackageName")
Rebuild PackageName	<pre>Pkg.build("PackageName")</pre>
Use PackageName (after install)	using PackageName
Remove PackageName	Pkg.rm("PackageName")

In Interactive Package Mode

Add PackageName	add PackageName
Remove PackageName	rm PackageName
Update PackageName	update PackageName
Use development version	dev PackageName or dev GitRepoUrl
Stop using development version, revert to	free PackageName

```
Characters and strings
Character
                                    chr = 'C'
String
                                    str = "A string"
Character code
                                    Int('J') == 74
Character from code
                                    Char(74) == 'J'
                                    chr = '\uXXXX'
                                                        # 4-digit HEX
Any UTF character
                                    chr = '\UXXXXXXXXX' # 8-digit HEX
                                    for c in str
Loop through characters
                                        println(c)
                                    end
Concatenation
                                    str = "Learn" * " " * "Julia"
                                    a = b = 2
String interpolation
                                    println("a * b = \$(a*b)")
                                    findfirst(isequal('i'), "Julia")
First matching character or regular
expression
                                    replace("Julia", "a" => "us") ==
Replace substring or regular
                                    "Julius"
expression
Last index (of collection)
                                    lastindex("Hello") == 5
Number of characters
                                    length("Hello") == 5
Regular expression
                                    pattern = r"l[aeiou]"
                                    str = "+1 234 567 890"
                                    pat = r" + ([0-9]) ([0-9]+)"
Subexpressions
                                    m = match(pat, str)
                                    m.captures == ["1", "234"]
                                    [m.match for m = eachmatch(pat,
All occurrences
                                    str)]
All occurrences (as iterator)
                                    eachmatch(pat, str)
Beware of multi-byte Unicode encodings in UTF-8:
10 == lastindex("Ångström") != length("Ångström") == 8
Strings are immutable.
```

Numbers	
Integer types	IntN and UIntN, with N ∈ {8, 16, 32, 64, 128}, BigInt
Floating-point types	FloatN with N \in {16, 32, 64} BigFloat
Minimum and maximum values by type	<pre>typemin(Int8) typemax(Int64)</pre>
Complex types	Complex{T}
lmaginary unit	im
Machine precision	eps() # same as eps(Float64)
Rounding	<pre>round() # floating-point round(Int, x) # integer</pre>
Type conversions	<pre>convert(TypeName, val) # attempt/error typename(val) # calls convert</pre>
Global constants	рі # 3.1415 п # 3.1415 im # real(im * im) == -1
More constants	using Base.MathConstants
Julia does not automatically of SaferIntegers for ints with over	check for numerical overflow. Use package of the relationship of t

Random Numbers	
Many random number functions require usin	g Random.
Set seed	seed!(seed)
Random numbers	<pre>rand() # uniform [0,1) randn() # normal (-Inf, Inf)</pre>
Random from Other Distribution	<pre>using Distributions my_dist = Bernoulli(0.2) # For example rand(my_dist)</pre>
Random subsample elements from A with inclusion probability p	randsubseq(A, p)
Random permutation elements of A	shuffle(A)

Arrays Declaration arr = Float64[] Pre-allocation sizehint!(arr, 10^4) arr = Any[1,2]Access and assignment arr[1] = "Some text" a = [1:10;]b = a # b points to a Comparison a[1] = -99a == b # true b = copy(a)Copy elements (not address) b = deepcopy(a)Select subarray from m to n arr[m:n] n-element array with 0.0s zeros(n) n-element array with 1.0s ones(n) n-element array with #undefs Vector{Type}(undef,n) n equally spaced numbers from start range(start,stop=stop,length=n) to stop Array with n random Int8 elements rand(Int8, n) fill!(arr, val) Fill array with val Pop last element pop!(arr) Pop first element popfirst!(a) Push val as last element push!(arr, val) Push val as first element pushfirst!(arr, val) Remove element at index idx deleteat!(arr, idx) Sort sort!(arr) Append a with b append!(a,b) Check whether val is element in(val, arr) or val in arr Scalar product dot(a, b) == sum(a .* b)reshape(1:6, 3, 2)' == [1 2 3; Change dimensions (if possible) 4 5 6] To string (with delimiter del between join(arr, del) elements)

Linear Algebra

For most linear algebra tools, use using LinearAlgebra.

```
I # just use variable I. Will automatically
Identity matrix
                    conform to dimensions required.
Define matrix
                    M = [1 \ 0; \ 0 \ 1]
Matrix dimensions
                    size(M)
Select i th row
                    M[i, :]
Select i th column
                    M[:, i]
Concatenate
                    M = [a b] or M = hcat(a, b)
horizontally
Concatenate
                    M = [a ; b] or M = vcat(a, b)
vertically
Matrix
                    transpose(M)
transposition
Conjugate matrix
                    M' or adjoint(M)
transposition
Matrix trace
                     tr(M)
Matrix
                    det(M)
determinant
Matrix rank
                     rank(M)
                    eigvals(M)
Matrix eigenvalues
Matrix
                    eigvecs(M)
eigenvectors
Matrix inverse
                    inv(M)
Solve M*x == v
                    M\v is better than inv(M)*v
```

Julia has built-in support for matrix decompositions.

pinv(M)

Julia tries to infer whether matrices are of a special type (symmetric, hermitian, etc.), but sometimes fails. To aid Julia in dispatching the optimal algorithms, special matrices can be declared to have a structure with functions like Symmetric, Hermitian, UpperTriangular, LowerTriangular, Diagonal, and more.

Control flow and loops

Moore-Penrose

pseudo-inverse

```
Conditional
                     if-elseif-else-end
                      for i in 1:10
Simple for loop
                          println(i)
                     end
                      for i in 1:10, j = 1:5
Unnested for loop
                          println(i*j)
                     end
                      for (idx, val) in enumerate(arr)
                          println("the $idx-th element is $val")
Enumeration
                     end
                     while bool expr
while loop
                          # do stuff
                     end
Exit loop
                     break
Exit iteration
                     continue
```

Functions

All arguments to functions are passed by reference.

Functions with! appended change at least one argument, typically the first: sort!(arr).

Required arguments are separated with a comma and use the positional notation.

Optional arguments need a default value in the signature, defined with =.

Keyword arguments use the named notation and are listed in the function's signature after the semicolon:

```
function func(req1, req2; key1=dflt1, key2=dflt2)
    # do stuff
```

The semicolon is *not* required in the call to a function that accepts keyword arguments.

The return statement is optional but highly recommended.

Multiple data structures can be returned as a tuple in a single return statement.

Command line arguments julia script.jl arg1 arg2... can be processed from global constant ARGS:

```
for arg in ARGS
    println(arg)
end
```

3×4 Array{Float64,2}:

julia> mean(B, dims=1) 1×1 Array[F] na+6/ 21.

0.0387438

-0.0395171

Anonymous functions can best be used in collection functions or list comprehensions: x -> x^2.

Functions can accept a variable number of arguments:

```
function func(a...)
     println(a)
 end
 func(1, 2, [3:5]) # tuple: (1, 2, UnitRange{Int64}[3:5])
Functions can be nested:
 function outerfunction()
     # do some outer stuff
     function innerfunction()
         # do inner stuff
         # can access prior outer definitions
     end
     # do more outer stuff
 end
Functions can have explicit return types
 # take any Number subtype and return it as a String
 function stringifynumber(num::T)::String where T <: Number</pre>
     return "$num"
Functions can be vectorized by using the Dot Syntax
 # here we broadcast the subtraction of each mean value
 # by using the dot operator
 julia> using Statistics
 julia> A = rand(3, 4);
 julia> B = A .- mean(A, dims=1)
```

0.112224 -0.0541478 0.455245

0.0401467 -0.165713

0.000773337 0.250006 0.0140011 -0.289532

-0.36223

```
-7.40149e-17 7.40149e-17 1.85037e-17 3.70074e-17
```

Julia generates specialized versions of functions based on data types. When a function is called with the same argument types again, Julia can look up the native machine code and skip the compilation process.

Since **Julia 0.5** the existence of potential ambiguities is still acceptable, but actually calling an ambiguous method is an **immediate error**.

Stack overflow is possible when recursive functions nest many levels deep. Trampolining can be used to do tail-call optimization, as Julia does not do that automatically yet. Alternatively, you can rewrite the tail recursion as an iteration.

```
Dictionaries
                             d = Dict(key1 => val1, key2 => val2,
                             ...)
Dictionary
                             d = Dict(:key1 => val1, :key2 => val2,
                             ...)
All keys (iterator)
                             keys(d)
All values (iterator)
                             values(d)
                             for (k,v) in d
Loop through key-value
                                  println("key: $k, value: $v")
pairs
                             end
Check for kev:k
                             haskey(d, :k)
                             arr = collect(kevs(d))
Copy keys (or values) to
                             arr = [k \text{ for } (k,v) \text{ in } d]
Dictionaries are mutable; when symbols are used as keys, the keys are
immutable.
```

```
Declaration s = Set([1, 2, 3, "Some text"])

Union s1 \cup s2 union(s1, s2)

Intersection s1 \cap s2 intersect(s1, s2)

Difference s1 \setminus s2 setdiff(s1, s2)

Difference s1 \triangle s2 symdiff(s1, s2)

Subset s1 \subseteq s2 is subset(s1, s2)

Checking whether an element is contained in a set is done in O(1).
```

Apply f to all elements of collection coll Apply f to all elements of collection map(coll) do elem # do stuff with elem # must contain return end Filter coll for true values of f filter(f, coll) List comprehension arr = [f(elem) for elem in coll]

Types

Julia has no classes and thus no class-specific methods.

Types are like classes without methods.

Abstract types can be subtyped but not instantiated.

Concrete types cannot be subtyped.

By default, struct s are immutable.

Immutable types enhance performance and are thread safe, as they can be shared among threads without the need for synchronization.

Objects that may be one of a set of types are called Union types.

```
Type annotation
                           var::TypeName
                           struct Programmer
                               name::String
                               birth_year::UInt16
Type declaration
                               fave language::AbstractString
                           end
Mutable type declaration
                           replace struct with mutable struct
Type alias
                           const Nerd = Programmer
Type constructors
                           methods(TypeName)
                           me = Programmer("Ian", 1984, "Julia")
Type instantiation
                           me = Nerd("Ian", 1984, "Julia")
                           abstract type Bird end
                           struct Duck <: Bird
Subtype declaration
                               pond::String
                           end
                           struct Point{T <: Real}</pre>
                               x::T
                               y::T
Parametric type
                           end
                           p =Point{Float64}(1,2)
Union types
                           Union{Int, String}
Traverse type hierarchy
                           supertype(TypeName) and subtypes(TypeName)
Default supertype
                           Any
All fields
                           fieldnames(TypeName)
All field types
                           TypeName.types
```

When a type is defined with an *inner* constructor, the default *outer* constructors are not available and have to be defined manually if need be. An inner constructor is best used to check whether the parameters conform to certain (invariance) conditions. Obviously, these invariants can be violated by accessing and modifying the fields directly, unless the type is defined as immutable. The new keyword may be used to create an object of the same type.

parameters invariant, which that are means Point{Float64} <: Point{Real} is false, even though Float64 <: Real. other Tuple types, on the hand, аге covariant: Tuple{Float64} <: Tuple{Real}.</pre>

The type-inferred form of Julia's internal representation can be found with code_typed(). This is useful to identify where Any rather than type-specific native code is generated.

Missing and Nothing		
Programmers Null	nothing	
Missing Data	missing	
Not a Number in Float	NaN	
Filter missings	<pre>collect(skipmissing([1, 2, missing])) == [1,2]</pre>	
Replace missings	<pre>collect((df[:col], 1))</pre>	
Check if missing	<pre>ismissing(x) not x == missing</pre>	

```
Exceptions
Throw
                  throw(SomeExcep())
SomeExcep
Rethrow current
                  rethrow()
exception
                  struct NewExcep <: Exception</pre>
                      v::String
                  end
Define NewExcep
                  Base.showerror(io::I0, e::NewExcep) = print(io,
                  "A problem with $(e.v)!")
                  throw(NewExcep("x"))
Throw error with
                  error(msg)
msg text
                  try
                      # do something potentially iffy
                  catch ex
                      if isa(ex, SomeExcep)
                          # handle SomeExcep
                      elseif isa(ex, AnotherExcep)
Handler
                          # handle AnotherExcep
                      else
                          # handle all others
                      end
                  finally
                      # do this in any case
                  end
```

Modules

Modules are separate global variable workspaces that group together similar functionality.

```
module PackageName
                  # add module definitions
Definition
                  # use export to make definitions accessible
                  end
Include
                  include("filename.jl")
filename.jl
                  using ModuleName
                                          # all exported names
                  using ModuleName: x, y
                                                      # only x, y
Load
                  import ModuleName
                                          # only ModuleName
                  import ModuleName: x, y
                                                      # only x, y
                  import ModuleName.x, ModuleName.y
                                                      # only x, y
                  # Get an array of names exported by Module
                  names(ModuleName)
                  # include non-exports, deprecateds
                  # and compiler-generated names
Exports
                  names(ModuleName, all::Bool)
                  #also show names explicitly imported from other
                  modules
                  names(ModuleName, all::Bool, imported::Bool)
With using Foo you need to say function Foo.bar(... to extend module
```

Expressions

function bar.

Julia is homoiconic: programs are represented as data structures of the language itself. In fact, everything is an expression Expr.

Foo's function bar with a new method, but with import Foo.bar, you only need to say function bar(... and it automatically extends module Foo's

Symbols are interned strings prefixed with a colon. Symbols are more efficient and they are typically used as identifiers, keys (in dictionaries), or columns in data frames. Symbols cannot be concatenated.

```
Quoting :( ... ) or quote ... end creates an expression, just like Meta.parse(str), and Expr(:call, ...).

x = 1
line = "1 + $x" # some code
```

```
expr = Meta.parse(line) # make an Expr object
typeof(expr) == Expr # true
dump(expr) # generate abstract syntax tree
eval(expr) == 2 # evaluate Expr object: true
```

Macros

Macros allow generated code (i.e. expressions) to be included in a program.

```
macro macroname(expr)
Definition
                  # do stuff
Usage
              macroname(ex1, ex2, ...) or @macroname ex1, ex2, ...
                           # equal (exact)
              # assert (unit test)
              @assert
              @which
                           # types used
              @time
                            # time and memory statistics
              @elapsed
                            # time elapsed
Built-in macros
                           # memory allocated
              @allocated
              @profile
                           # profile
              @spawn
                           # run at some worker
              @spawnat # run at specified worker
@async # asynchronous task
              @distributed # parallel for loop
              @everywhere
                            # make available to workers
```

Rules for creating *hygienic* macros:

- Declare variables inside macro with local.
- Do not call eval inside macro.
- Escape interpolated expressions to avoid expansion: \$(esc(expr))

Parallel Computing

Parallel computing tools are available in the Distributed standard library.

```
Launch REPL with N workers
                                 julia -p N
Number of available workers
                                 nprocs()
Add N workers
                                 addprocs(N)
                                 for pid in workers()
See all worker ids
                                     println(pid)
                                 end
Get id of executing worker
                                 myid()
Remove worker
                                 rmprocs(pid)
                                 r = remotecall(f, pid, args...)
Run f with arguments args on
                                 r = @spawnat pid f(args)
pid
                                 fetch(r)
Run f with arguments args on
                                 remotecall fetch(f, pid, args...)
pid (more efficient)
Run f with arguments args on
                                 r = @spawn f(args) ... fetch(r)
anv worker
Run f with arguments args on
                                 r = [@spawnat w f(args) for w in
all workers
                                 workers()] ... fetch(r)
Make expr available to all
                                 @everywhere expr
workers
                                 sum = @distributed (red) for i in
                                 1:10^6
Parallel for loop with reducer
                                     # do parallelstuff
function red
                                 end
Apply f to all elements in
                                 pmap(f, coll)
collection coll
```

Workers are also known as concurrent/parallel processes.

Modules with parallel processing capabilities are best split into a functions file that contains all the functions and variables needed by all workers, and a driver file that handles the processing of data. The driver file obviously has to import the functions file.

A non-trivial (word count) example of a reducer function is provided by Adam DeConinck.

```
I/0
                   stream = stdin
                   for line in eachline(stream)
Read stream
                       # do stuff
                   open(filename) do file
                       for line in eachline(file)
Read file
                           # do stuff
                       end
                   end
                   using CSV
Read CSV file
                   data = CSV.read(filename)
                   using CSV
Write CSV file
                   CSV.write(filename, data)
                   using JLD
Save Julia Object
                   save(filename, "object_key", object, ...)
                   using JLD
Load Julia Object
                   d = load(filename) # Returns a dict of objects
                   using HDF5
Save HDF5
                   h5write(filename, "key", object)
                   using HDF5
Load HDF5
                   h5read(filename, "key")
```

DataFrames		
For dplyr-like tools, see DataFramesMeta.jl.		
Read Stata, SPSS, etc. Describe data frame	StatFiles Package describe(df)	
Make vector of column col	v = df[:col]	
Sort by col	sort!(df, [:col])	
Categorical col	<pre>categorical!(df, [:col])</pre>	
List col levels	levels(df[:col])	
All observations with col==val	df[df[:col] .== val, :]	
Reshape from wide to long format	stack(df, [1:n;]) stack(df, [:col1, :col2,]) melt(df, [:col1, :col2])	
Reshape from long to wide format	unstack(df, :id, :val)	
Make Nullable	allowmissing!(df) or allowmissing!(df, :col)	
Loop over Rows	<pre>for r in eachrow(df) # do stuff. # r is Struct with fields of col names. end</pre>	
Loop over Columns	<pre>for c in eachcol(df) # do stuff. # c is tuple with name, then vector end</pre>	
Apply func to groups	<pre>by(df, :group_col, func)</pre>	
Query	<pre>using Query query = @from r in df begin @where r.col1 > 40 @select {new_name=r.col1, r.col2} @collect DataFrame # Default: iterator end</pre>	

Introspection and reflection		
Туре	typeof(name)	
Type check	isa(name, TypeName)	
List subtypes	subtypes(TypeName)	
List supertype	supertype(TypeName)	
Function methods	methods(func)	
JIT bytecode	code_llvm(expr)	
Assembly code	code_native(expr)	

Noteworthy packages and projects

Many core packages are managed by communities with names of the form Julia[Topic].

Statistics JuliaStats JuliaDiffEq (DifferentialEquations.jl) Differential Equations Automatic differentiation JuliaDiff Numerical optimization JuliaOpt JuliaPlots Plotting Network (Graph) Analysis JuliaGraphs Web JuliaWeb Geo-Spatial JuliaGeo Machine Learning JuliaML DataFrames # linear/logistic regression Distributions # Statistical distributions Flux # Machine learning
Gadfly # ggplot2-likeplotting Super-used Packages LightGraphs # Network analysis

Naming Conventions

The main convention in Julia is to avoid underscores unless they are required for legibility.

TextAnalysis # NLP

Variable names are in lower (or snake) case: somevariable.

Constants are in upper case: SOMECONSTANT.

Functions are in lower (or snake) case: somefunction.

Macros are in lower (or snake) case: @somemacro.

Type names are in initial-capital camel case: SomeType.

Julia files have the jl extension.

For more information on Julia code style visit the manual: style guide.

Performance tips

- Avoid global variables.
- Write type-stable code.
- Use immutable types where possible.
- Use sizehint! for large arrays.
- Free up memory for large arrays with arr = nothing.
- Access arrays along columns, because multi-dimensional arrays are stored in column-major order.
- Pre-allocate resultant data structures.
- Disable the garbage collector in real-time applications: disable gc().
- Avoid the splat (...) operator for keyword arguments.
- Use mutating APIs (i.e. functions with ! to avoid copying data structures.
- Use array (element-wise) operations instead of list comprehensions.
- Avoid try-catch in (computation-intensive) loops.
- Avoid Any in collections.
- Avoid abstract types in collections.
- Avoid string interpolation in I/O.
- Vectorizing does not improve speed (unlike R, MATLAB or Python).
- Avoid eval at run-time.

IDEs, Editors and Plug-ins

- Juno (editor)
- JuliaBox (online IJulia notebook)
- Jupyter (online IJulia notebook)
- Emacs Julia mode (editor)
- vim Julia mode (editor)
- VS Code extension (editor)

Resources

- Official documentation .
- Learning Julia page.
- Month of Julia
- Community standards.
- Julia: A fresh approach to numerical computing (pdf)
- Julia: A Fast Dynamic Language for Technical Computing (pdf)

Videos

- The 5th annual JuliaCon 2018
- The 4th annual JuliaCon 2017 (Berkeley)
- The 3rd annual JuliaCon 2016
- Getting Started with Julia by Leah Hanson
- Intro to Julia by Huda Nassar
- Introduction to Julia for Pythonistas by John Pearson

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