

**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 automatically thanks to Lisp-inspired macros.

Julia was born in 2012.

**Basics**

```

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
! = ! This is a comment

Delimited comment
#= This is another comment =#

Chaining
x = y = z = 1 # right-to-left
0 < x < 3    # true
5 < x != y < 5 # false

Function definition
function add_one(l)
    return l + 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 % y or rem(x,y)
Negation              !true == false
Equality              a == b
Inequality             a != b or a ≠ b
Less and larger than  < and >
Less than or equal to <= or ≤
Greater than or equal to >= or ≥

Element-wise operation
[1, 2, 3] .+ [1, 2, 3] == [2, 4, 6]
[1, 2, 3] .* [1, 2, 3] == [1, 4, 9]
isnan(NaN) not(!) NaN == NaN
Ternary operator      a == b ? "Equal" : "Not equal"
Short-circuited AND and OR
a && b and a || 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() or [Ctrl] + [D]
```

**Standard libraries**

```

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                       Pkg.build("PackageName")
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
                        public release
```

**Characters and strings**

```

Character                chr = 'C'
String                  str = "A string"
Character code           Int('J') == 74
Character from code      Char(74) == 'J'
Any UTF character        chr = '\uXXXX' # 4-digit HEX
                        chr = '\UXXXXXXX' # 8-digit HEX
                        for c in str
                            println(c)
                        end
Concatenation            str = "Learn" * " " * "Julia"
String interpolation      a = b = 2
                        println("a * b = $(a*b)")
First matching character or regular
expression               findfirst(isequal('i'), "Julia")
                        == 4
Replace substring or regular
expression               replace("Julia", "a" => "us") ==
                        "Julius"
Last index (of collection)
                        lastindex("Hello") == 5
Number of characters      length("Hello") == 5
Regular expression       pattern = r"l[aetou]"
                        str = "i 234 567 890"
                        pat = r"[\d+]" ([0-9]+)
                        m = match(pat, str)
                        m.captures == ["1", "234"]
                        [m.match for m = eachmatch(pat, str)]

All occurrences           eachmatch(pat, 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 ∈ {16, 32, 64}
                        BigFloat
Minimum and maximum
values by type          typemin(Int8)
                        typemax(Int64)
Complex types          Complex{I}
Imaginary unit         im
Machine precision       eps() # same as eps(Float64)
Rounding               round() # floating-point
                        round(Int, x) # nearest
Type conversions        convert{TypeName, Val} #
                        attempt/error
                        typename(val) # calls
                        convert
Global constants        pi 3.1415...
                        n 3.1415...
                        in # real(in * im) == -1
More constants          using Base.MathConstants
Julia does not automatically check for numerical overflow. Use package
SafeIntegers for ints with overflow checking.
```

**Random Numbers**

```

Many random number functions require using Random.

Set seed                seed!(seed)

Random numbers          rand() # uniform [0,1)
                        randn() # normal (-Inf, Inf)

Random from Other Distribution
                        using Distributions
                        my_dist = Bernoulli(0.2)
                        # For example
                        rand(my_dist)

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)
Access and assignment    arr = Any{1,2}
                        arr[1] = "Some text"
                        a = [1;10];
                        b = a # b points to a
                        a[1] = -99
                        a == b # true
                        b = deepcopy(a)
Copy elements (not address)
                        b = copy(a)
Select array 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 rundefs
                        Vector{Type}(undef, n)
n equally spaced numbers from start to stop
                        range(start, stop=stop, length=n)
Array with n random Int8 elements
                        rand{Int8, n}
Fill array with val      fill!(arr, 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)
Change dimensions (if possible)
                        reshape{1:6, 3, 2'} == [1 2 3;
                        4 5 6]
To string (with delimiter del between
elements)                join(arr, del)
```

**Linear Algebra**

```

For most linear algebra tools, use using LinearAlgebra.

Identity matrix          I # just use variable I. Will automatically
                        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)
Concatenate horizontally
                        M = [a ; b] or M = vcat(a, b)
Concatenate vertically
Matrix transposition     transpose(M)
Conjugate matrix transposition
                        H' or adjoint(M)
Matrix trace             tr(M)
Matrix determinant       det(M)
Matrix rank              rank(M)
Matrix eigenvalues       eigvals(M)
Matrix eigenvectors      eigvecs(M)
Matrix inverse           inv(M)
Solve M*x == v           M\v is better than inv(M)*v
Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse
                        pinv(M)
Julia has built-in support for matrix decompositions.

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**

```

Conditional              if-elseif-else-end
Simple for loop          for i in 1:10
                        println(i)
                        end
Unnested for loop        for i in 1:10, j = 1:5
                        println(i*j)
                        end
Enumeration             for (idx, val) in enumerate(arr)
                        println("the $idx-th element is $val")
                        end
while loop               while bool_expr
                        end
Exit iteration           break
                        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=df1t1, key2=df1t2)
    # do stuff
end
```

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 ARGVS:

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

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
    return "Sum"
end
```

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)
3x4 Array{Float64, 2}:
 0.0387438  0.122224 -0.0541478  0.455245
 0.00877337 0.250006  0.0148011 -0.289532
-0.0395171 -0.36223  0.0481467 -0.165713
julia> mean(B, dims=1)
1x4 Array{Float64, 2}:
-1.40149e-17  7.40149e-17  1.85037e-17  3.70874e-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**

```

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

**Sets**

```

Declaration              s = Set{[1, 2, 3, "Some text"]}
Union s1 U s2            union(s1, s2)
Intersection s1 ∩ s2      intersect(s1, s2)
Difference s1 \ s2        setdiff(s1, s2)
Difference s1 Δ s2        symdiff(s1, s2)
Subset s1 ⊆ s2            issubset(s1, s2)
Checking whether an element is contained in a set is done in O(1).
```

**Collection functions**

```

Apply f to all elements of collection
coll                    map(f, coll) or
                        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
    fave_language::AbstractString
end
```

Type declaration

```
mutable struct MutableStruct
    const Nerd = Programmer
    methods{TypeName}
end
```

Mutable type declaration

```
end
```

Type alias

```
const Nerd = Programmer
```

Type constructors

```
methods{TypeName}
```

Type instantiation

```
me = Programmer("Ian", 1984, "Julia")
me = Nerd("Ian", 1984, "Julia")
abstract type Bird end
struct Duck <: Bird
    pond::String
end
```

Subtype declaration

```
end
struct Point{T <: Real}
    x::T
    y::T
end
```

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.

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

The type-inferred form of Julia's internal representation can be found with `typeof(expr)`. 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         collect(skipmissing([1, 2, missing])) ==
                        [1,2]
Replace missings        collect(df[:,col], 1)
Check if missing        !missing(x) not x == missing
```

**Exceptions**

```

Throw SomeException     throw{SomeException}()
Rethrow current exception
                        rethrow()

Define NewException      Base.showerror(io::IO, e::NewException) = print(io,
                        "A problem with $(e.v)!")

Throw error with msg text
msg text                error(msg)

Handler                 try
                        # do something potentially iffy
                        catch ex
                            if isa(ex, SomeException)
                                # handle SomeException
                            elseif isa(ex, AnotherException)
                                # handle AnotherException
                            else
                                # handle all others
                            end
                        finally
                            # do this in any case
                        end
```

**Modules**

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

Definition

```
# module definitions
# use export to make definitions accessible
end
```

Include filename.jl

```
include("filename.jl")
```

Load

```
using ModuleName # all exported names
using ModuleName x, y # only x, y
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}
```

Exports

```
# include non-exports, deprecateds
# and compiler-generated names
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 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 function bar.

**Expressions**

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

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

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

```
x = 1 # some code
line = "1 + 5x" # make an Expr object
expr = Meta.parse(line) # true
typeof(expr) == Expr # generate abstract syntax tree
dump(expr) # evaluate Expr object: true
eval{expr} == 2
```

**Macros**

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

```
macro macroname(expr)
    # do stuff
end

Usage
macroname(ex1, ex2, ...) or @macroname ex1, ex2, ...

# equal (exact)
@test x == y # isapprox(x, y)
@assert # assert (unit test)
@which # types used
@tline # time and memory statistics
@elapsed # time elapsed
@allocated # memory 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)
See all worker ids            for pid in workers()
                                println(pid)
Get id of executing worker    myid()
Remove worker                 rmprocs(pid)
                                r = remotecall(f, pid, args...)
                                # or:
                                r = @spawnat pid f(args)
                                ...
                                fetch(r)

Run f with arguments args on pid (more efficient)
Run f with arguments args on any worker
Run f with arguments args on all workers
Make expr available to all workers
                                sum = @distributed (red) for i in 1:10^6
                                # do parallelstuff
                                end

Apply f to all elements in collection coll
                                pmap(f, 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/O**

```

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

**DataFrames**

For dplyr-like tools, see [DataFramesMeta.jl](#).

```

Read Stata, SPSS, etc.   StatFiles Package
Describe data frame      describe(df)
Make vector of column col
                        v = df[col]
Sort by col              sort!(df, [col])
Categorical col          categorical!(df, [col])
List col levels          levels(df::col)
All observations with col==val
                        df[df[:col] .== val, :]
Reshape from wide to long
format                  stack(df, [in; ])
                        melt(df, [col1, :col2, ...])
                        met!(df, [col1, :col2])
Reshape from long to wide
format                  unstack(df, :id, :val)
Make Nullable           allowmissing!(df) or
                        allowmissing!(df, :col)
                        # r is Struct with fields of col
                        # r is Struct with fields of col
                        names
                        end
                        for c in eachcol(df)
                            # do stuff
                        end
                        # c is tuple with name, then
                        vector

Apply func to groups     by(df, :group_col, func)
                        using Query
                        query = @from r in df begin
                        @where r.col1 > 48
                        @select (new_name=:col1, r.col2)
                        @collect DataFrame # Default:
                        iterator
                        end
```

**Introspection and reflection**

```

Type                    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 JuliaTopic.jl.

Statistics	JuliaStats
Differential Equations	JuliaDiffEq (DifferentialEquations.jl)
Automatic differentiation	JuliaDiff
Numerical optimization	JuliaOpt
Plotting	JuliaPlots
Network (Graph) Analysis	JuliaGraphs
Web	JuliaWeb
Geo-Spatial	JuliaGeo
Machine Learning	JuliaML
	JuliaBox (online Julia notebook)
	Emacs Julia mode (editor)
	vim Julia mode (editor)
	VS Code extension (editor)

Super-used Packages

Flux	# Machine learning
GGGly	# ggplot-like plotting
LightGraphs	# Network analysis
TextAnalysis	# NLP

**Naming Conventions**

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

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`.
- Store arrays along columns, because multi-dimensional arrays are accessed 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 Julia 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 Petcher