

Workshop for Economic Modeling in Julia

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Arithmetical operations

- Turn on VS code

- Terminal -> New Terminal
- Ctrl + shift + p -> Julia: Start REPL (Read Evaluate Print Loop)

- Order of operations

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|------|
| • 1 st | things inside the parenthesis | () |
| • 2 nd | exponentiation | ^ |
| • 3 rd | multiplication and division, from left to right | *, / |
| • 4 th | addition and subtraction, from left to right | +, - |

Logical expressions

- Logical operators

- ! NOT
- && AND
- || OR

create logical expressions, e.g.,

true&&true	->	true
true&&false	->	?
true false	->	?
!true	->	?

- Comparison operators

- < less than
- == equal to
- > greater than
- <= less than or equal to
- >= greater than or equal to

-2 > 1	->	false
3 <= 0	->	?
-2 == -2	->	?

Common data types

- Scalar types

• Int64	Standard 64-bit integer	26
• Float64	Standard 64-bit floating point	2.08
• Bool	Boolean values	true / false
• String	UTF-8 encoded text	"Hey Julia"
• Char	A single character	'B'
• Symbol	Colon + String or Char used as an identifier	:label_a

Common data types

- Scalar types

- In VS code, under **julia >**, make assignments, such as `a = 3`, `b = "Hi"`, etc.
- To see the type of `a` and `b`, use **typeof()**, e.g., `typeof(a)`, `typeof(b)`, etc.
- Do `2` and `2.0` have the same data type?
- For a variable named `D`, is it the same as `d`?

Common data types

- Collection types

- Arrays (Vector, Matrix)
- Tuples
- Dictionaries
- NamedTuples

One can access an element by its position



Ordered collections of a specific type [0, -1, 3]

Ordered, fixed-size, immutable (2, 3, -8)

Key-value pairs d = Dict("cat" => 3, "dog" => 2)

~ tuples, each element has a name nt = (name= "John", age=25)

Common data types

- Collection types

- Using **VS code**, let's make some assignments like x1, x2, y1, y2, z, w below:
- `x1 = [0, -1, 3] ; x2 = [1, 2, 5]` `x1[1] = ?` `x1+x2 = ?` `X1[1:2] = ?`
- `y1 = (2, 3, -8) ; y2 = (-3, 0, -1)` `y1[2] = ?` Can we do `y1+y2 = ?`
- `z = Dict("cat" => 3, "dog" => 2)` `z["dog"] = ?`
- `w = (name="John", age=25)` `w[1] = ?`

Common data types

- Collection types

- Using **VS code**, suppose we want to:
- Add an element 7 to $x1 = [0, -1, 3]$, we can do **`push!(x1, 7)`**. Now $x1$ is $[0, -1, 3, 7]$
- Remove the 1st and 3rd element of $x1$, which is $[0, -1, 3, 7]$, we can do: **`deleteat!(x1, [1, 3])`**
- $z = \text{Dict}(\text{"cat"} \Rightarrow 3, \text{"dog"} \Rightarrow 2)$

Sum over “cat” and “dog” to get the total: **`sum(z[k] for k in [“cat”, “dog”])`**

Check data types

- `typeof()`
 - Check the data type of an object
 - `z = Dict("cat" => 3, "dog" => 2)`, e.g., `typeof(z) = ?`
 - `A = [0, -1, 3]`
 - `b = (2, 3, -8)`
 - `r = "Good morning"`

Check methods of a function

- `methods()`
 - Present all implementations of a function
 - For instance, `+` is a function, when you type **`methods(+)`**, you will see something like this:

223 methods for generic function "+" from Base:

```
...  
[62] +(a::Integer, b::Integer)  
[161] +(c::Union{Int16, Int32, Int8}, x::BigFloat)  
[8] +(x::Bool, y::Bool)  
[48] +(A::Array, Bs::Array...)  
[52] +(z::Complex, x::Real)  
...
```

REPL modes

- `julia>`

- Julian mode (default)
- Run Julia code

- `pkg>`

- Package manager
- Manage packages and environments
- In `julia>`, press `]` to enter, press `Backspace` to go back to `>Julia`

- `shell>`

- To execute the command prompt without leaving Julia
- `cmd /c dir; cmd /c mkdir test; cmd /c rmdir test ...`
- Press `;` to enter, press `Backspace` to go back to `>Julia`

- `help?>`

- View documentations for types or functions
- In `julia>`, press `?`, and then enter the types or functions you would like to check

Using VS code

- Open a new file and save it
 - Step 1: **File => New File => Julia File**
 - Step 2: **File => Save As => Enter file name**

Using VS code

- Edits

- Undo Ctrl + z
- Redo Ctrl + y
- Find Ctrl + f
- Replace Ctrl + h
- Copy Ctrl + c
- Paste Ctrl + v

Using VS code

- Select a rectangular area in the middle of the screen
 - Ctrl + shift + p -> **Toggle Column Selection Mode** -> shift + arrows -> Ctrl + c
 - > Ctrl + shift + p -> **Toggle Column Selection Mode**
- Leave that mode
- Paste block A in block B
 - Step 1: *Copy block A:* Ctrl + shift + p => **Toggle Column Selection Mode** => shift + ↓; shift + →
=> Ctrl + c
 - Step 2: *Paste in block B:* Ctrl + v

Using VS code

- Compare two files

- Step 1: **File => Open Folder** => select the folder / working directory
- Step 2: In Explorer on the left, right click the 1st file => **Select for Compare**
- Step 3: In Explorer on the left, right click the 2nd file => **Compare with Selected**

Using VS code

- Split the window
 - Ctrl + \ -> split the window vertically
 - Ctrl + \ and then Ctrl + k followed by ⬇ -> split the window horizontally
 - Ctrl + w -> eliminate the split window

Bibliography

- Bezanson, J., Edelman, A., Karpinski, S., & Shah, V. B. (2017). Julia: A fresh approach to numerical computing. *SIAM Review*, 59(1), 65-98. <https://doi.org/10.1137/141000671>
- Klopper, J. and H. Laurie (2025). *Julia Scientific Programming*. University of Cape Town.