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#### 1 Introduction

The Purpose of this document is to introduce programmers to Julia programming by example. This is a simplified exposition of the language. <sup>1</sup>

It is best to execute these examples by copy-pasteing to Julia REPL or copying them to a file and next running them using include function. The difference is that copy-paste approach will echo output of each instruction to the terminal.

If some package is missing on your system switch to package manager mode by pressing ] in Julia REPL, and then write add [package name] to require installing it.<sup>2</sup>

Major stuff not covered (please see the documentation):

- 1) parametric types;
- 2) parallel and distributed processing;
- 3) advanced I/O operations;
- 4) advanced package management;
- 5) interaction with system shell; see run;
- 6) exception handling; see try;
- 7) creation of coroutines;
- 8) integration with C, Fortran, Python and R.

You can find latest Julia documentation at http://julia.readthedocs.org/en/latest/manual/.

Julia Express was tested using the following 64-bit Julia version:

```
versioninfo()
# Julia Version 1.0.0
# Commit 5d4eaca0c9 (2018-08-08 20:58 UTC)
# Platform Info:
# OS: Windows (x86_64-w64-mingw32)
# CPU: Intel(R) Core(TM) i5-5200U CPU @ 2.20GHz
# WORD_SIZE: 64
# LIBM: libopenlibm
# LLVM: libLLVM-6.0.0 (ORCJIT, broadwell)
```

All sugestions how this guide can be improved are welcomed. Please contact me at bkamins@sgh.waw.pl.

### 2 Getting around

Running julia invokes interactive (REPL) mode. In this mode some useful commands are:

- 1) ^D (exits Julia);
- 2) ^C (interrupts computations);
- 3) ? (enters help mode);
- 4); (enters system shell mode);
- 5) ] (enters package manager mode);
- 6) putting; after the expression will disable showing its value.

Examples of some essential functions in REPL (they can be also invoked in scripts):

```
@edit max(1,2)  # show the definition of max function when invoked with arguments 1 and 2
varinfo()  # list of global variables and their types
cd("D:/")  # change working directory to D:/ (on Windows)
pwd()  # get current working directory
include("file.jl")  # execute source file
exit(1)  # exit Julia with code 1 (exit code 0 by default)
clipboard([1,2])  # copy data to system clipboard
clipboard()  # load data from system clipboard as string
```

You can execute Julia script by running julia script.jl.

Try saving the following example script to a file and run it (more examples of all the constructs used are given in following sections):

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The rocket ship clip is free for download at http://www.clipartlord.com/free-cartoon-rocketship-clip-art-2/.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Sometimes a package might fail to load lates using using [package name]. The reason might be that Julia 1.0 was just released and not all packages have tagged therir latest versions. If you have this problem then installing the package using add [package name]#master on package that throws an error should solve the problem. All examples given in this documented were tested to work under Julia 1.0.

### 3 Basic literals and types

Basic scalar literals (x::Type is a literal x with type Type assertion):

```
1::Int # 64 bit integer on 64 bit machine, no overflow warnings

1.0::Float64 # 64 bit float, defines NaN, -Inf, Inf

true::Bool # boolean, allows "true" and "false"

'c'::Char # character, allows Unicode

"s"::AbstractString # strings, allows Unicode, see also Strings below
```

All basic types above are immutable. Specifying type assertion is optional (and usually it is not needed, but I give it to show how you the names of types). Type assertions for variables are made in the same way and they can be useful to catch bugs in your code.

An important feature of integers in Julia is that by default they are 64 bit on 64 bit machine and 32 bit on 32 bit machine. This means that 1::Int32 assertion will fail on 64-bit version. Notably Int is a constant whose value is either Int64 or Int32 depending on version (the same with unsigned integer UInt).

There is no automatic type conversion, unless some function explicitly performs it. This is especially important in function calls. Examples of conversions:

```
# character to integer
Int64('a')
Int64(2.0)
              # float to integer
Int64(1.3)
              # inexact error
Int64("a")
              # error no conversion possible
Float64(1)
              # integer to float
Bool(1)
              # converts to boolean true
Bool(0)
              # converts to boolean false
Bool(2)
             # conversion error
Char(89)
              # integer to char
string(true) # cast bool to string (works with other types, note small caps)
string(1,true) # string can take more than one argument and concatenate them
zero(10.0)
              # zero of type of 10.0
one(Int64)
             # one of type Int64
```

General conversion can be done using convert (Type, x) (typically convert would fall back to a type constructor):

```
convert(Int64, 1.0) # convert float to integer
```

Parsing strings can be done using parse(Type, str):

```
parse(Int64, "1") # parse "1" string as Int64
```

Automatic promotion of many arguments to common type (if any) can be achieved using promote:

```
promote(true, BigInt(1)//3, 1.0) # tuple (see Tuples) of BigFloats, true promoted to 1.0
promote("a", 1) # promotion to common type not possible
```

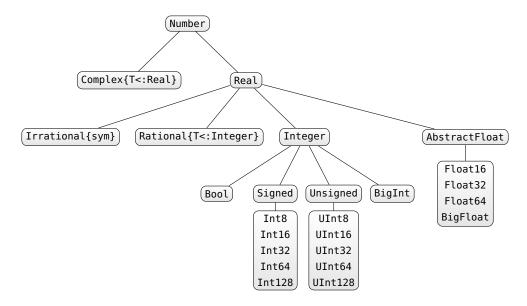


Figure 1: Hierarchy of numeric types

Many operations (arithmetic, assignment) are defined in a way that performs automatic type promotion (so this is a way to work around no automatic type conversion rule in Julia).

One can verify type of a value in the following way:

```
typeof("abc")  # String returned which is a AbstractString subtype
isa("abc", AbstractString) # true
isa(1, Float64)  # false, integer is not a float
isa(1.0, Float64)  # true
isa(1.0, Number)  # true, Number is abstract type
supertype(Int64)  # supertype of Int64
subtypes(Real)  # subtypes of bastract type Real
```

It is possible to perform calculations using arbitrary precision arithmetic, complex and rational numbers:

```
BigInt(10)^1000 # big integer

BigFloat(10)^1000 # big float, see documentation how to change default precision

1 + 1im # complex number

123//456 # rational numbers are created using // operator
```

Type hierarchy of all standard numeric types is given in Figure 1.

# 4 Special literals and types

Type beasts:

```
Any # all objects are of this type
Union{} # subtype of all types, no object can have this type
Nothing # type indicating nothing, subtype of Any
nothing # only instance of Nothing
Missing # type indicating missing value
missing # only instance of Missing
```

Additionally #undef indicates an incompletely initialized object element (see documentation for details).

#### 4.1 Tuples and NamedTuples

Tuples are immutable sequences indexed from 1:

```
() # empty tuple
(1,) # one element tuple
("a", 1) # two element tuple
('a', false)::Tuple{Char, Bool} # tuple type assertion
```

```
x = (1, 2, 3)
x[1]  # 1 (element)
x[1:2]  # (1, 2) (tuple)
x[4]  # bounds error
x[1] = 1  # error - tuple is not mutable
a, b = x  # tuple unpacking a==1, b==2
```

Additionally you can add names to tuple entries (via named tuples):

```
NamedTuple() # empty named tuple
(a=1,) # one element named tuple
(x="a", y=1) # two element named tuple
x = (p=1, q=2, r=3)
x.p # access to element p of a tuple
typeof(x) # NamedTuple{(:p, :q, :r), Tuple{Int64, Int64}}, field names are part of type
```

#### 4.2 Arrays

Arrays are mutable and passed by reference. Array creation:

```
Array{Char}(undef, 2, 3, 4) # uninitialized 2x3x4 array of Chars
Array{Int64}(undef, 0, 0) # degenerate 0x0 array of Int64
zeros(5)
                    # vector of Float64 zeros
                    # vector of Float64 ones
ones(5)
ones(Int64, 2, 1) # 2x1 array of Int64 ones
trues(3), falses(3) # tuple of vector of trues and of falses
Matrix(I, 3, 3)
                     # 3x3 Bool identity matrix, requires to run first: using LinearAlgebra
x = range(0, stop=1, length=11) # iterator having 11 equally spaced elements
collect(x)
                   # converts iterator to vector
1:10
                     # iterable from 1 to 10
1:2:10
                    # iterable from 1 to 9 with 2 skip
reshape(1:12, 3, 4) # 3x4 array filled with 1:12 values
fill("a", 2, 2) # 2x2 array filled with "a"
repeat(rand(2,2), 3, 2) # 2x2 random matrix repeated 3x2 times
x = [1, 2]
                     # two element vector
resize!(x, 5)
                     # resize x in place to hold 5 values (filled with garbage)
                     # vector with one element (not a scalar)
[x * y \text{ for } x \text{ in } 1:2, y \text{ in } 1:3] # comprehension generating 2x3 array
Float64[x^2 for x in 1:4] # casting comprehension result element type to Float64
                    # 1x2 matrix (hcat function)
[1 2]
                    # 2x1 Adjoint matrix (reuses memory)
permutedims([1 2]) # 2x1 matrix (permuted dimensions, new memory)
[1, 2]
                    # vector (concatenation)
[1; 2]
                   # vector (vcat function)
[1 2 3; 1 2 3]
                   # 2x3 matrix (hvcat function)
[1; 2] == [1 2]' # false, different array dimensions
[(1, 2)]
                    # 1-element vector
                   # 2-element vector by tuple unpacking
collect((1, 2))
[[1 2] 3]
                    # concatenate along rows (hcat)
             # concatenate along columns (vcat)
[[1; 2]; 3]
```

Vectors (1D arrays) are treated as column vectors.

Most of the functionality for working with matrices are in LinearAlgebra package. Additionally Julia offers sparse and distributed matrices (see documentation for details).

Commonly needed array utility functions:

```
a = [x * y for x in 1:2, y in 1, z in 1:3] # 2x3 array of Int64; singelton dimension is dropped
a = [x * y for x in 1:2, y in 1:1, z in 1:3] # 2x1x3 array of Int64; singelton dimension is not dropped
ndims(a) # number of dimensions in a
eltype(a) # type of elements in a
length(a) # number of elements in a
size(a) # tuple containing dimension sizes of a
```

Access functions:

```
a = 0:0.01:1  # range with step 0.01
a[1]  # get scalar 0.0
a[end]  # get scalar 1.0 (last position)
a[1:2:end]  # every second element from range
view(a, 1:2:101)  # a view into a subarray of a
a[[1, 3, 6]]  # 1st, 3rd and 6th element of a, Array{Float64,1}
lastindex(a)  # last index of the collection a; similarly firstindex
```

Observe the treatment of trailing singleton dimensions:

```
a = reshape(1:12, 3, 4)
a[:, 1:2]  # 3x2 matrix
a[:, 1]  # 3 element vector
a[1, :]  # 4 element vector
a[1:1, :]  # 1x4 matrix
a[:, :, 1, 1]  # works 3x4 matrix
a[:, :, :, [true]] # wroks 3x4x1x1 matrix
a[1, 1, [false]]  # works 0-element Array{Int64,1}
```

Array assignment:

```
x = collect(reshape(1:8, 2, 4))
x[:,2:3] = [1 2]  # error; size mismatch
x[:,2:3] .= [1 2]  # OK, broadcasting with .
x[:,2:3] = repeat([1 2], 2) # OK
x[:,2:3] .= 3  # OK, need to use broadcast with .
```

Arrays are assigned and passed by reference. Therefore copying is provided:

```
x = Array{Any}(undef, 2)
x[1] = ones(2)
x[2] = trues(3)
a = x
b = copy(x)  # shallow copy
c = deepcopy(x) # deep copy
x[1] = "Bang"
x[2][1] = false
a  # identical as x
b  # only x[2][1] changed from original x
c  # contents of original x
```

Array types syntax examples:

```
[1 2]::Array{Int64, 2}  # 2 dimensional array of Int64
[true; false]::Vector{Bool} # vector of Bool
[1 2; 3 4]::Matrix{Int64}  # matrix of Int64
```

#### 4.3 Composite types

You can define and access composite types:

```
mutable struct Point
x::Int64
y::Float64
meta
```

```
end
p = Point(0, 0.0, "Origin")
p.x  # access field
p.meta = 2  # change field value
p.x = 1.5  # error, wrong data type
p.z = 1  # error - no such field
fieldnames(Point) # get names of type fields
```

You can define type to be immutable by removing mutable. There are also union types (see documentation for details).

#### 4.4 Dictionaries

Associative collections (key-value dictionaries):

```
x = Dict{Float64, Int64}()
                                # empty dictionary mapping floats to integers
y = Dict("a"=>1, "b"=>2)
                                # filled dictionary
y["a"]
                                # element retrieval
y["c"]
                                # error
y["c"] = 3
                                # added element
haskey(y, "b")
                                # check if y contains key "b"
keys(y), values(y)
                                # tuple of collections returning keys and values in y
delete!(y, "b")
                                # delete key from a collection, see also: pop!
                     # return y["c"] or "default" if not haskey(y,"c")
get(y,"c","default")
```

Julia also supports operations on sets and dequeues, priority queues and heaps (please refer to documentation).

## 5 Strings

String operations:

```
"Hi " * "there!"  # string concatenation

"Ho " ^ 3  # repeat string

string("a = ", 123.3)  # create using print function

repr(123.3)  # fetch value of show function to a string

occursin("CD", "ABCD")  # check if first string contains second

"\"\n\t\$"  # C-like escaping in strings, new \$ escape

x = 123

"$x + 3 = $(x+3)"  # unescaped $ is used for interpolation

"\$199"  # to get a $ symbol you must escape it
```

PCRE regular expressions handling:

```
r = r"A|B"  # create new regexp
occursin(r, "CD")  # false, no match found
m = match(r, "ACBD")  # find first regexp match, see documentation for details
```

There is a vast number of string functions — please refer to documentation.

# 6 Programming constructs

The simplest way to create new variable is by assignment:

```
x = 1.0  # x is bound to Float64 value

x = 1  # now x is bound to value Int32 on 32 bit machine and Int64 on 64 bit machine
```

Expressions can be compound using; or begin end block:

```
x = (a = 1; 2 * a) # after: x = 2; a = 1
y = begin
b = 3
3 * b
end # after: y = 9; b = 3
```

There are standard programming constructs:

```
if false
           # if clause requires Bool test
   z = 1
elseif 1 == 2
   z = 2
else
   a = 3
           # after this a = 3 and z is undefined
end
1==2 ? "A" : "B" # standard ternary operator
i = 1
while true
   global i += 1 # global would not be needed if the loop were inside a function
   if i > 10
     break
    end
end
for x in 1:10
                # x in collection, can also use = here instead of in
   if 3 < x < 6
       continue # skip one iteration
   end
    println(x)
                 # x is defined in the inner scope of the loop
```

You can define your own functions:

```
f(x, y = 10) = x + y
                               # new function f with y defaulting to 10
                               # last expression result returned
f(3, 2)
                               # simple call, 5 returned
f(3)
                               # 13 returned
                              # type restriction
function g(x::Int, y::Int)
 return y, x
                               # explicit return of a tuple
end
g(x::Int, y::Bool) = x * y # add multiple dispatch
g(2, true)
                               # second definition is invoked
methods(g)
                               # list all methods defined for g
(x -> x^2)(3)
                               # anonymous function with a call example
                               # anonymous function with no arguments
() -> 0
h(x...) = sum(x)/length(x) - mean(x) # vararg function; x is a tuple
h(1, 2, 3)
                               # result is 0
x = (2, 3)
                               # tuple
f(x)
                               # error
                               # OK - tuple unpacking
f(x...)
s(x; a = 1, b = 1) = x * a / b # function with keyword arguments a and b
s(3, b = 2)
                               # call with keyword argument
t(; x::Int64 = 2) = x
                              # a single keyword argument
                               # 2 returned
t()
t(; x::Bool = true) = x
                              # no multiple dispatch for keyword arguments; function overwritten
t()
                               # true; old function was overwritten
q(f::Function, x) = 2 * f(x) # function can be passed around
                               # 40 returned, no need to use * in 2x (means 2*x)
q(x -> 2x, 10)
q(10) do x
                               # creation of anonymous function by do construct, useful eg. in IO
 2 * x
end
m = reshape(1:12, 3, 4)
map(x \rightarrow x ^2, m)
                               # 3x4 array returned with transformed data
filter(x -> bitstring(x)[end] == '0', 1:12) # a fancy way to choose even integers from the range
                               # returns a function that test for equality
==(1)
findall(==(1), 1:10)
                               # find indices of all elements equal to 1, similar: findfirst, findlast
```

As a convention functions with name ending with! change their arguments in-place. See for example resize! in this

#### document.

Default function arguments are evaluated left to right:

```
y = 10

f1(x=y) = x; f1()  # 10

f2(x=y,y=1) = x; f2() # 10

f3(y=1,x=y) = x; f3() # 1

f4(;x=y) = x; f4() # 10

f5(;x=y,y=1) = x; f5() # 10

f6(;y=1,x=y) = x; f6() # 1
```

### 7 Variable scoping

The following constructs introduce new variable scope: function, while, for, try/catch, let, struct, mutable struct. You can define variables as:

- global: use variable from global scope;
- local: define a new variable in current scope;
- const: ensure variable type is constant (global only).

Special cases:

```
# error, variable does not exist
f() = global t = 1
                   # after the call t is defined globally
f()
function f1(n)
  x = 0
  for i = 1:n
    x = i
  end
end
f1(10)
                  # 10; inside loop we use outer local variable
function f2(n)
  x = 0
  for i = 1:n
    local x
   x = i
  end
  Х
end
f2(10)
                  # 0; inside loop we use new local variable
function f3(n)
  for i = 1:n
    x = i
  end
  Х
end
f3(10)
                  # error; x not defined in outer scope
const x = 2
x = 3 \# warning, value changed
x = 3.0 \# error, wrong type
```

Global constants speed up execution.

Loops and comprehensions rebind variables on each iteration, so they are safe to use then creating closures in iteration:

```
Fs = Array{Any}(undef, 2)
for i in 1:2
  Fs[i] = () -> i
end
Fs[1](), Fs[2]() # (1, 2)
```

#### 8 Modules

Modules encapsulate code and each module has its own global name space (module name of Julia REPL is Main).

```
module M # module name
export x # what module exposes for the world
x = 1
y = 2 # hidden variable
end

varinfo(M) # list exported variables
x  # not found in global scope
M.y # direct variable access possible

# import all exported variables
# also load standard packages this way, but without . prefix
using .M

#import variable y to global scope (even if not exported)
import .M.y
```

Rebinding variables defined in other modules is not allowed.

### 9 Operators

Julia follows standard operators with the following quirks:

```
true || false
                 \# binary or operator (singeltons only), || and \&\& use short-circut evaluation
[1 2] .& [2 1] # bitwise and operator (vectorized by .)
                # chaining conditions is OK (singeltons only without .)
1 < 2 < 3
[1 2] .< [2 1] # for vectorized operators need to add '.' in front
x = [1 \ 2 \ 3]
2x + 2(x + 1)
                    # multiplication can be omitted between a literal and a variable or a left parenthesis
y = [1, 2, 3]
x + y # error
x .+ y # 3x3 matrix, dimension broadcasting
x + y' # 1x3 matrix
x * y # array multiplication, 1-element vector (not scalar)
x .* y # element-wise multiplication, 3x3 array
x == [1 \ 2 \ 3] # true, object looks the same
x === [1 2 3] # false, objects not identical
z = reshape(1:9, 3, 3)
z + x # error
z .+ x # x broadcasted vertically
z .+ y # y broadcasted horizontally
# explicit broadcast of singelton dimensions
# function + is called for each array element
broadcast(+, [1 2], [1; 2])
# broadcasting using . operator
using Random
length([randstring(10) for i in 1:5]) # 5 - length of an array
length.([randstring(10) for i in 1:5]) \# 5-element array of 10s - lengths of strings
```

Many typical matrix transformation functions are available (see documentation).

# 10 Essential general usage functions

```
show(collect(1:100)) # show text representation of an object
eps() # distance from 1.0 to next representable Float64
nextfloat(2.0) # next float representable, similarly provided prevfloat
```

```
isequal(NaN, NaN) # true
NaN == NaN
              # false
NaN === NaN
                 # true
isequal(1, 1.0) # true
1 == 1.0
                 # true
1 === 1.0
                 # false
0.0 == -0.0
                # true
0.0 === -0.0
                 # false
              # false, similarly provided: isinf, isnan
isfinite(Inf)
fld(-5, 3), mod(-5, 3) \# (-2, 1), division towards minus infinity
div(-5, 3), rem(-5, 3) # (-1, -2), division towards zero
findall(x \rightarrow mod(x, 2) == 0, 1:8) # find indices for which function returns true
x = [1 \ 2]; identity(x) === x # true, identity function
@info "Info"
                 # print information, similarly @warn and @error (see Logging module)
ntuple(x->2x, 3) # create tuple by calling x->2x with values 1, 2 and 3
@isdefined x
                 # if variable x is defined
y = Array{Any}(undef,2); isassigned(y, 3) # if position 3 in array is assigned (not out of bounds or #undef)
fieldtype(typeof(1:2),:start) # get type of the field in composite type (passed as symbol)
fieldnames(typeof(1:2)) # get field names of a type
zip(1:3, 1:3) |> collect # convert iterables to iterable tuple and pass it to collect
enumerate("abc") # create iterator of tuples (index, collection element)
collect(enumerate("abc"))
                 # check if collection is empty; strings are treated as collections of characters
isempty("abc")
'b' in "abc"
                 # check if element is in a collection
indexin(collect("abc"), collect("abrakadabra")) # [1, 2, nothing] ('c' not found), needs arrays
findall(in("abrakadabra"), "abc") # [1, 2] ('c' was not found)
unique("abrakadabra") # return unique elements
issubset("abc", "abcd") # check if every element in fist collection is in the second
argmax("abrakadabra") # index of maximal element (3 - 'r' in this case)
findmax("abrakadabra") # tuple: maximal element and its index
filter(x-mod(x,2)==0, 1:10) # retain elements of collection that meet predicate
dump(1:2:5)
                 # show all user-visible structure of an object
sort(rand(10)) # sort 10 uniform random values, sort! for in-place operation
```

### 11 Reading and writing data

For I/O details refer documentation. There are numerous packages providing this functionality. Basic operations from DelimitedFiles package:

- readdlm, readcsv: read from file
- writedlm, writecsv: write to a file

Warning! Trailing spaces are not discarded if delim=' 'in file reading.

#### 12 Random numbers

Basic random numbers:

```
Random.seed!(1) # set random number generator seed to 1; needs calling first: using Random rand() # generate random number from U[0,1)
rand(3, 4) # generate 3x4 matrix of random numbers from U[0,1]
rand(2:5, 10) # generate vector of 10 random integer numbers in range form 2 to 5
randn(10) # generate vector of 10 random numbers from standard normal distribution
```

Advanced randomness form Distributions package TODO: FIXME:

```
using Distributions # load package
sample(1:10, 10) # single bootstrap sample from set 1-10
b = Beta(0.4, 0.8) # Beta distribution with parameters 0.4 and 0.8
# see documentation for supported distributions
mean(b) # expected value of distribution b
```

```
# see documentation for other supported statistics
rand(b, 100) # 100 independent random samples from distribution b
```

### 13 Statistics and machine learning

Visit http://juliastats.github.io/ for the details (in particular R-like data frames).

Starting with Julia version 1.0 there is a core language construct Missing that allows to represent missing value.

```
missing # Missing value
ismissing(missing) # true
coalesce(missing, 1, 2) # return first non-missing value, or missing if all are missing
```

#### 14 Macros

You can define macros (see documentation for details). Useful standard macros.

Assertions:

```
@assert 1 == 2 "ERROR"  # 2 macro arguments; error raised
using Test  # load Test package
@test 1 == 2  # similar to assert; error
@test_throws DomainError sqrt(-1) # passed, sqrt(-1) is not possible
```

Function broadcasting:

```
t(x::Float64, y::Float64 = 1.0) = x * y

t(1.0, 2.0)  # OK

t([1.0 2.0])  # error

t.([1.0 2.0], 2.0)  # error

t.([1.0 2.0], 2.0)  # OK

t.([1.0 2.0], 2.0)  # OK

t.([1.0 2.0], [1.0 2.0])  # OK

t.([1.0 2.0], [1.0 2.0])  # OK
```

Benchmarking:

```
@time [x for x in 1:10^6]; # print time and memory
@timed [x for x in 1:10^6]; # return value, time and memory
@elapsed [x for x in 1:10^6] # return time
@allocated [x for x in 1:10^6] # return memory
```

Use BenchmarkTools package for a more powerful functionality.

# 15 Plotting

There are several plotting packages for Julia: Plots, Gadfly and PyPlot. Here we show how to use on PyPlot.

```
using PyPlot
using Random
Random.seed!(1) # make the plot reproducible
x, y = randn(100), randn(100)
scatter(x, y)
```

A simple example adapting

https://matplotlib.org/1.2.1/examples/pylab\_examples/histogram\_demo.html:

```
using Distributions
using PyPlot

mu, sigma = 100, 15
x = mu .+ sigma * randn(10000)
```

#### producing:

