



University  
of Manitoba

## Course organisation and introduction to R and Julia

### MATH 8xyz – Lecture 01

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The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininew, Anisininew, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of Reconciliation and collaboration.

# Outline

**General information about the course**

**General remarks**

**Introduction to R**

**Introduction to julia**

# General information about the course

General remarks

Introduction to R

Introduction to julia

## Why this course?

- I may have sent you a link to this course because you just started an MSc or PhD with me. This course will serve as the base to a reading/topics course on mathematical epidemiology (*math epi*) that we will do together

(Hence the name: this will be an 8000 level course whose number will be decided when the course is calendared)

- I teach math epi in Summer Schools and short courses, for which I prepare slides (and sometimes videos). However, this is a more complete version, so that students in these events can dig into the topics more
- More generally, perhaps you want to learn about math epi

## Who is this course for?

- ▶ Students in mathematics, physics or engineering
- ▶ I am assuming some working knowledge of ordinary differential equations (ODE) and a few related topics. For instance, I am not going into details and will assume that you know the link between local asymptotic stability of an equilibrium of an ODE and the location of the eigenvalues of the Jacobian of the ODE at that equilibrium
- ▶ This could also be interesting to students in less mathematically heavy areas... but will need some ground work to understand some concepts. (I plan a course for non specialists, but it is not finalised yet)

## Getting in touch

Email me (email is on all lecture title pages)

Use a tag like [MathEpi8xyz] in your subject line, I get a lot of emails

If I don't reply, don't hesitate to try again... I am bad with emails

## GitHub repository for the course

Most course material is available from this GitHub repository:

<https://julien-arino.github.io/math-8xyz-math-epi>

This repo includes the slides, code and data samples

This **does not** include pdf of the bibliographic references, although there are links to articles and books and, where relevant, bibliographic information at the end of slide sets. As much as possible, I link to Open Access sources

One remark: I sometimes refer to Wikipedia. For the younger students here: this can be where you first look, not what you cite in proper work

## Code

I use R and (less often) julia –Python would be a good choice as well but I prefer R and julia

Instructions on setting up R and julia for the course can be found in the GitHub repo

Some code is in the repo

For the epi side of things, a very useful open reference: R for applied epidemiology and public health

## Slides

Slides are written in  $\text{\LaTeX}$  and Beamer and rendered using pdf $\text{\LaTeX}$  (for the pdf slides) or  $\text{\LaTeX}$  and knitr and rendered R (typically in RStudio)

See the SLIDES folder on GitHub for instructions on how to compile

As much as possible, I have indicated provenance (by linking the file on the original website); when not possible, the file is saved with the name of the source indicated, or the source tex or md files include the link commented

## Videos

Videos are being recorded for the course

They will be/are posted on YouTube

You can access the playlist here. Links to individual videos are also available on the webpage

# Course objectives

## Introduction to Mathematical Epidemiology

- ▶ Problems
- ▶ Methods

We will have these particular problems in mind:

1. Modelling techniques
2. Mathematical analysis of models
3. Computational analysis of models
4. Use of data

It is important to do the 4 interactively

I will try to give you two perspectives

- **As a modeller and mathematician** these are fun problems to look at. You need to know the theory in order to carry out relevant work
- **As someone working in public health** these are important problems to look at. As a modeller, you will be called on to provide guidance to public health authorities. Know what you can and cannot do. Know how to communicate with said authorities

(As a general rule, know your audience and adapt to it, don't expect it to adapt to you)

## Course project (if taking this course for credit)

If you are at the University of Manitoba and are taking this course for credit:

- ▶ The mark for the course will be decided based on a project you will have to return
- ▶ The project will be quite involved

## Content of the course – Lecture-oriented

The slides for the course are organised by lecture

Each lecture is intended to be roughly 1 hour and 15 minutes (as a course taught Tuesday and Thursday at UM)

There are 26 sets of slides, each corresponding to a lecture

Some content will continue across several slide sets; this will be explicit from the slide set title

Ultimately, there will also be 26 videos

## General information about the course

### General remarks

### Introduction to R

### Introduction to julia



## About modelling

- ▶ Do not neglect this *crucial* step
- ▶ Think outside the box
- ▶ Take the time
- ▶ Try to remain “as simple as possible without being too simple”
- ▶ Do not hesitate to modify your model, even when you have already done work on it: if something doesn’t “smell right”, your model might need fixing

## About mathematical analysis

- ▶ Used to be the sole purpose of most papers
- ▶ Important to carry out to understand the basic properties of models
- ▶ Judge your audience: global asymptotic stability is cool, but is it really required if you want to present work to a public health person?
- ▶ Do as much as possible (for instance, knowing the value of  $\mathcal{R}_0$  can be useful to set parameters), do not hesitate to move to an appendix

## About numerics

- ▶ Numerics should be used to **complement** the mathematical analysis
- ▶ If you have shown the global stability of some equilibrium point, **do not** show a simulation where solutions converge to this equilibrium
- ▶ In fact, it is rarely useful to show a solution (cases where it is okay: before going to zero the number of infectious does something really cool, you have a period doubling, etc.)
- ▶ Instead, use numerics to investigate scenarios or test the effect of varying parameters
- ▶ A good figure tells a story, it is worth spending time thinking about how to make good figures

## About data

- ▶ Acquiring data has become much easier than even 20 years ago
- ▶ As a modeller, it is not necessary that everything be data-driven, but it is necessary to be "context-aware" (this means getting a sense of the quantities involved in the process you want to model)
- ▶ Fred Brauer (1932-2021): "If your model and the data disagree, question the quality of your data"

# In Memoriam - Fred Brauer

Fred Brauer was a friend and mentor to many worldwide and an *éminence grise* of Mathematical Epidemiology in Canada

I was privileged to learn from him and teach math epi with him all over the place

Fred passed away 2021-10-17. He would have loved to teach you about about math epi and share pearls of wisdom from the *Eminent Modern Philosopher Yogi Berra!*

When you learn to use a hammer,  
everything looks like a nail [A. Maslow]



## Reading recommendations

- ▶ Waltman. Deterministic threshold models in the theory of epidemics (1974)
- ▶ Capasso. Mathematical structures of epidemic systems (1993)
- ▶ Daley & Gani. Epidemic modelling: An introduction (1999)
- ▶ Hethcote. The mathematics of infectious diseases. SIAM Review (2000)
- ▶ Brauer, PvdD & Wu. Mathematical Epidemiology (2008)
- ▶ Brauer & C<sup>3</sup>. Mathematical Models in Population Biology and Epidemiology (2012)
- ▶ Brauer, C<sup>3</sup> & Feng. Mathematical Models in Epidemiology (2019)

## Word of warning!

The references on the previous slide are **my** favourite references

This extends to the entire content of this course: the topics I treat and the way I treat them originate in **my** personal itinerary through math epi and as a consequence

- ▶ Some stuff might be understood (and therefore explained) differently by someone else
- ▶ I focus on some topics that I think are cool and omit others that I like less
- ▶ This doesn't mean these topics are less worthy of consideration

⇒ Don't trust me blindly and "shop around": other colleagues have courses that are also really worth your time

## Some common abbreviations

- EP: equilibrium point
- DFE: disease-free equilibrium
- EEP: endemic equilibrium point
- LAS: locally asymptotically stable / local asymptotic stability
- GAS: globally asymptotically stable / global asymptotic stability

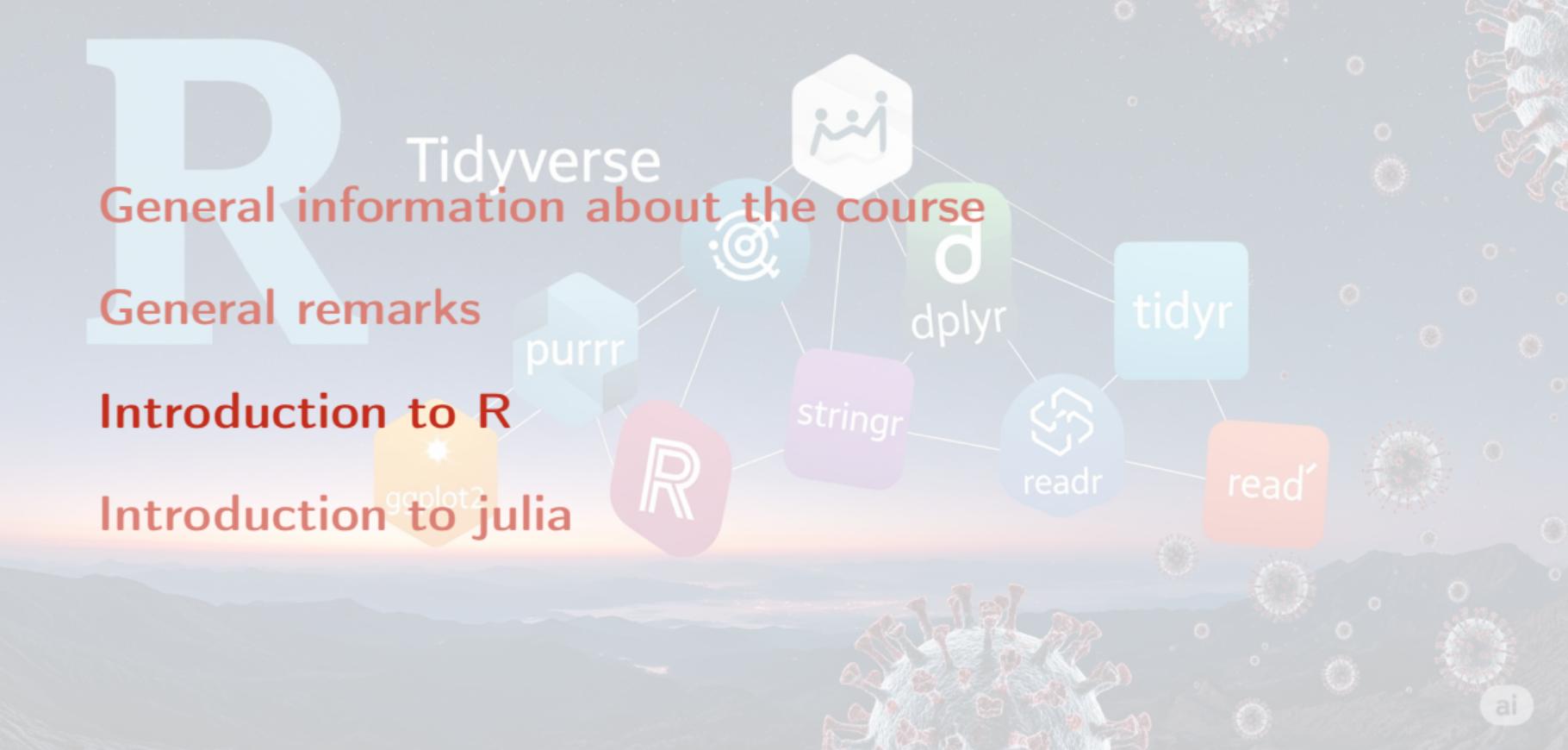
# R

## Tidyverse General information about the course

General remarks

Introduction to R

Introduction to julia



Most of the code in this course is in the R programming language

Code that you see in these slides is executable (and executed to create the slides)

Each slide set with code (most of them) also generates a corresponding R file in the CODE directory of the repo. This file strips all the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>Xformatting and just keeps the R code

## R was originally for stats but is now more

- ▶ Open source version of S
- ▶ Appeared in 1993
- ▶ Now version 4.2
- ▶ One major advantage in my view: uses a lot of C and Fortran code. E.g., deSolve:  
*The functions provide an interface to the FORTRAN functions lsoda, lsodar, lsode, lsodes of the ODEPACK collection, to the FORTRAN functions dvode, zvode and daspk and a C-implementation of solvers of the Runge-Kutta family with fixed or variable time steps*
- ▶ Very active community on the web, easy to find solutions (same true of Python, I just prefer R)

## Development environments

- ▶ Terminal version, not very friendly
- ▶ Nicer terminal: radian
- ▶ Execute R scripts by using 'Rscript name\_of\_script.R'. Useful to run code in 'cron', for instance
- ▶ Use IDEs:
  - ▶ RStudio has become the reference
  - ▶ RKWard is useful if you are for instance using an ARM processor (Raspberry Pi, some Chromebooks..)
- ▶ Integrate into jupyter notebooks

## Going further

- ▶ RStudio server: run RStudio on a Linux server and connect via a web interface
- ▶ Shiny: easily create an interactive web site running R code
- ▶ Shiny server: run Shiny apps on a Linux server
- ▶ Rmarkdown: markdown that incorporates R commands. Useful for generating reports in html or pdf, can make slides as well..
- ▶ RSweave: LaTeX incorporating R commands. Useful for generating reports. Not used as much as Rmarkdown these days

## R is a scripted language

- ▶ Interactive
- ▶ Allows you to work in real time
  - ▶ Be careful: what is in memory might involve steps not written down in a script
  - ▶ If you want to reproduce your steps, it is good to write all the steps down in a script and to test from time to time running using 'Rscript': this will ensure that all that is required to run is indeed loaded to memory when it needs to, i.e., that it is not already there..

R is similar to matlab..

.. with some differences, of course! Otherwise, where would the fun be? ;)

# Assignment

Two ways:

```
X <- 10  
X = 10
```

First version is preferred by R purists.. I don't really care (but be ready for an argument if you use = in a discussion with an R purist)

## Lists

A very useful data structure, quite flexible and versatile. Empty list: `L <- list()`. Convenient for things like parameters. For instance

```
L <- list()  
L$a <- 10  
L$b <- 3  
L[["another_name"]] <- "Plouf plouf"
```

Could also set some or all entries right away

```
L <- list(a = 10, b = 3, another_name = "Plouf plouf")
```

## Accessing list entries

```
L[1]
```

```
## $a  
## [1] 10
```

```
L[[2]]
```

```
## [1] 3
```

```
L$a
```

```
## [1] 10
```

```
L[["b"]]
```

```
## [1] 3
```

## Vectors

```
x = 1:10
y <- c(x, 12) # Append 12 to x
y
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 12

z = c("red", "blue")
z = c(z, 1) # Append 1 to z
z
## [1] "red"  "blue" "1"
```

In `z`, since the first two entries are characters, the added entry is also a character. Contrary to lists, vectors have all entries of the same type

## Matrices

```
A <- mat.or.vec(nr = 2, nc = 3)
B <- matrix(c(1,2,3,4), nr = 2, nc = 2)
B

##      [,1] [,2]
## [1,]    1    3
## [2,]    2    4

C <- matrix(c(1,2,3,4), nr = 2, nc = 2,
            byrow = TRUE)
C

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

Naming the arguments (e.g., `nr = 2`) allows to use arguments in any order

## Matrix operations – Be careful!

Probably the biggest annoyance in R compared to other languages

- ▶ The notation  $A * B$  is the *Hadamard product*  $A \circ B$  (what is denoted  $A . * B$  in most other languages), not the standard matrix multiplication
- ▶ Standard matrix multiplication is written  $A \%*\% B$

## Vector operations

Vector addition is also frustrating. Say you write `x=1:10`, i.e., make the vector

```
x  
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
```

Then `x+1` should give an error but instead gives

```
x+1  
## [1] 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
```

i.e., adds a vector of all ones to the vector

Beware of this in particular when addressing sets of indices in lists, vectors or matrices

## For the matlab-ers here

- ▶ R does not have the keyword `end` to access the last entry in a matrix/vector/list..
- ▶ Use `length` (lists or vectors), `nchar` (character chains), `dim` (matrices.. careful, of course returns 2 values), `nrow`, `ncol`...

## Data frames

- ▶ Specific to R, although they are now present in many other languages
- ▶ Like matrices under steroids
- ▶ Like lists, can contain entries of different types, e.g., a column with numbers and a column with characters

## Data frames

```
A = data.frame(column_1 = runif(9),  
              colour = ifelse(runif(9) < 0.5,  
                               "red", "green"))
```

A

```
##      column_1 colour  
## 1 0.59185548    red  
## 2 0.01930072    red  
## 3 0.98980386  green  
## 4 0.77778233  green  
## 5 0.37408907  green  
## 6 0.67855099    red  
## 7 0.05651715    red  
## 8 0.65390921  green  
## 9 0.83720149    red
```

## The summary function

```
summary(A)

##      column_1      colour
##  Min.   :0.0193  Length:9
##  1st Qu.:0.3741  Class  :character
##  Median :0.6539  Mode   :character
##  Mean   :0.5532
##  3rd Qu.:0.7778
##  Max.   :0.9898
```

Also works on other data types

## Naming positions/rows/columns/etc

Very useful: it is possible to name entries in a list but also positions in vectors, matrices, data frames

```
v = c(alpha = 2, beta = 3, gamma = 4, delta = 5)
v
## alpha   beta  gamma delta
##      2       3       4       5
```

is a vector and

```
v["beta"]
## beta
##     3
```

Sometimes you need to get rid of names

```
3 * v["beta"]

## beta
##     9

3 * as.numeric(v["beta"])

## [1] 9
```

## Assign a name *a posteriori*

```
v = c(1,2,3)
names(v) = c("alpha", "beta", "gamma")
v
## alpha  beta gamma
##      1      2      3
```

```
A = matrix(c(1,2,3,4), nrow = 2, byrow = TRUE)
rownames(A) = c("alpha","beta")
colnames(A) = c("thingama","doodle")
A

##          thingama  doodle
## alpha        1        2
## beta         3        4

A[1,2]

## [1] 2

A["alpha","doodle"]

## [1] 2
```

## Tibbles

- ▶ New data format part of the tidyverse (set of libraries facilitating data wrangling)
- ▶ Quite similar to data frame, with variations
- ▶ Will be the default output if you use tidyverse functions

## Flow control

```
if (condition is true) {  
  list of stuff to do  
}
```

Even if list of stuff to do is a single instruction, best to use curly braces

```
if (condition is true) {  
  list of stuff to do  
} else if (another condition) {  
  ...  
} else {  
  ...  
}
```

# For loops

for applies to lists or vectors

```
for (i in 1:10) {  
  something using integer i  
}  
for (j in c(1,3,4)) {  
  something using integer j  
}  
for (n in c("truc", "muche", "chose")) {  
  something using string n  
}  
for (m in list("truc", "muche", "chose", 1, 2)) {  
  something using string n or integer n, depending  
}
```

## lapply

Very useful function (a few others in the same spirit: sapply, vapply, mapply)

Applies a function to each entry in a list (/vector/matrix for sapply and vapply)

There are parallel versions (future\_lapply & parLapply)  $\implies$  worth learning

## lapply – Setup an example list

```
L = list()
for (i in 1:3) {
    L[[i]] = runif(i) # i=1 has 1 entry, i=2 has 2 entries, etc.
}
L

## [[1]]
## [1] 0.7065657
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 0.1362469 0.6905204
##
## [[3]]
## [1] 0.22233446 0.90632848 0.02808007
```

## lapply

```
lapply(X = L, FUN = mean)

## [[1]]
## [1] 0.7065657
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 0.4133837
##
## [[3]]
## [1] 0.385581
```

## To make a vector from lapply

To make a vector

```
unlist(lapply(X = L, FUN = mean))  
## [1] 0.7065657 0.4133837 0.3855810
```

or

```
sapply(X = L, FUN = mean)  
## [1] 0.7065657 0.4133837 0.3855810
```

## “Advanced” lapply

Can “pick up” nontrivial list entries

```
L = list()
for (i in 1:10) {
    L[[i]] = list()
    L[[i]]$a = runif(i)
    L[[i]]$b = runif(2*i)
}
sapply(X = L, FUN = function(x) length(x$b))
## [1]  2  4  6  8 10 12 14 16 18 20
```

The argument to the function you define is a list entry ( $L[[1]]$ ,  $L[[2]]$ , etc., here)

## Avoid parameter variation loops with expand.grid

```
variations = list(  
    p1 = seq(1, 10, length.out = 10),  
    p2 = seq(0, 1, length.out = 10),  
    p3 = seq(-1, 1, length.out = 10)  
)  
# Create the list  
tmp = expand.grid(variations)  
PARAMS = list()  
for (i in 1:dim(tmp)[1]) {  
    PARAMS[[i]] = list()  
    for (k in 1:length(variations)) {  
        PARAMS[[i]][[names(variations)[k]]] = tmp[i, k]  
    }  
}
```

You can split this list, use it on different machines, use `future_lapply`, etc.

## It is important to be “data aware”

See, e.g., JA. Mathematical epidemiology in a data-rich world. *Infectious Disease Modelling* 5:161-188 (2020) and the GitHub repo for that paper

Using R, it is really easy to grab data from the web, e.g., from Open Data sources

- ▶ More and more locations have an open data policy
- ▶ As a modeller, you do not need to use data everywhere, but you should be *acutely* aware of the context in which your model operates
- ▶ If you want your work to have an impact, for instance in public health, you cannot be completely disconnected from reality

# Data is everywhere

## Closed data

- ▶ Often generated by companies, governments or research labs
- ▶ When available, come with multiple restrictions

## Open data

- ▶ Often generated by the same entities but “liberated” after a certain period
- ▶ More and more frequent with governments/public entities
- ▶ Wide variety of licenses, so beware
- ▶ Wide variety of qualities, so beware

## Open Data initiatives

Recent movement (5-10 years): governments (local or higher) create portals where data are centralised and published

- ▶ Winnipeg
- ▶ Alberta, B.C., Ontario
- ▶ Canada
- ▶ Europe
- ▶ UN
- ▶ World Bank
- ▶ WHO

## Example: population of Canada

(using libraries wbstats, ggplot2 and scales)

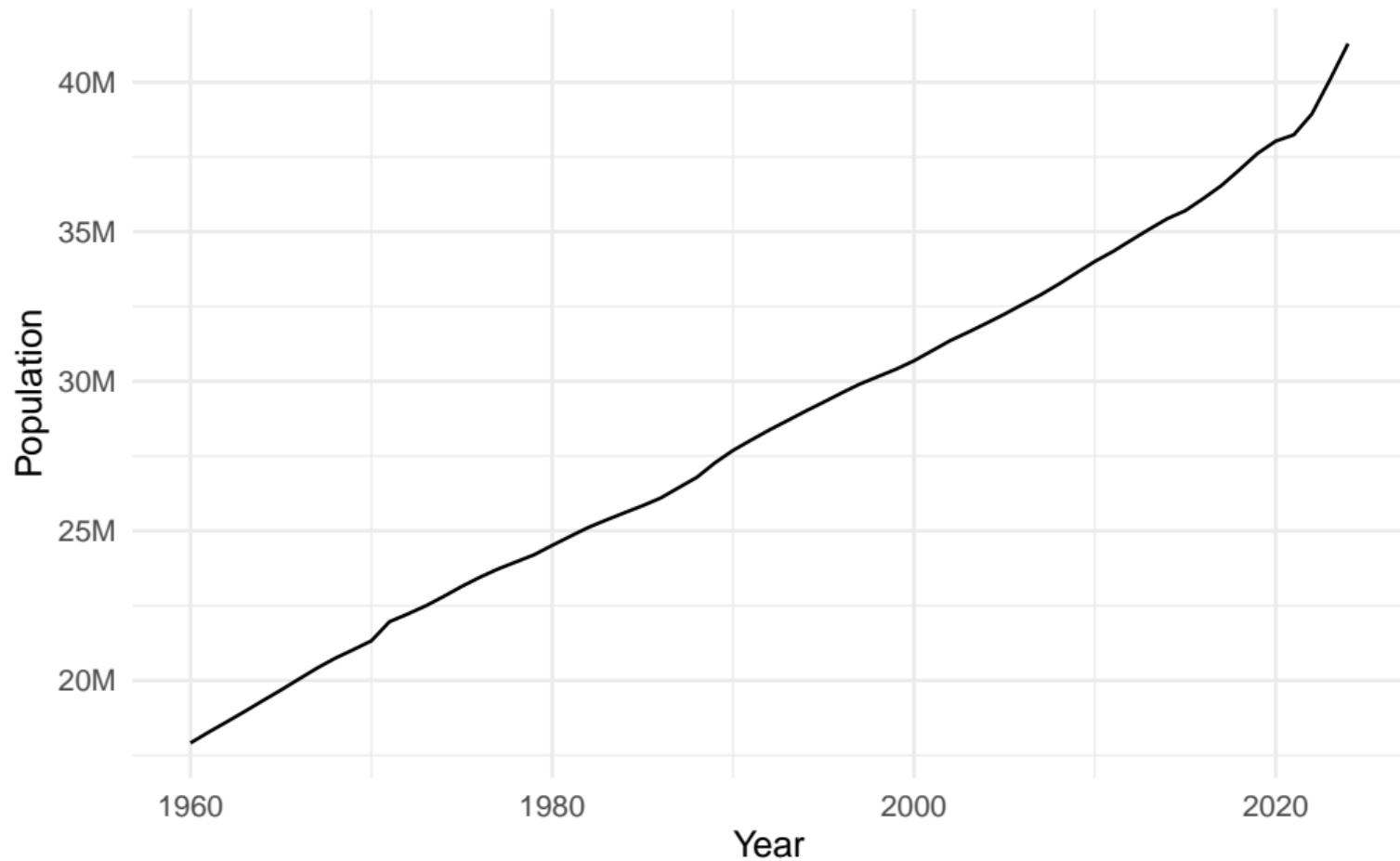
```
pop_data_CTRY <- wb_data(country = "CAN", indicator = "SP.POP.TOTL",
                           mrv = 100, return_wide = FALSE)

## Error in wb_data(country = "CAN", indicator = "SP.POP.TOTL", mrv =
100, :  could not find function "wb_data"

ggplot(pop_data_CTRY, aes(x = date, y = value)) +
  geom_line() +
  labs(title = "Population of Canada", x = "Year", y = "Population") +
  scale_y_continuous(
    labels = label_number(scale = 1e-6, suffix = "M")) +
  theme_minimal()

## Error:  object 'pop_data_CTRY' not found
```

# Population of Canada



## The deSolve library

As I have already pointed out, deSolve:

*The functions provide an interface to the FORTRAN functions 'lsoda', 'lsodar', 'lsode', 'lsodes' of the 'ODEPACK' collection, to the FORTRAN functions 'dvode', 'zvode' and 'daspk' and a C-implementation of solvers of the 'Runge-Kutta' family with fixed or variable time steps*

- ▶ You are benefiting from years of experience: ODEPACK is a set of Fortran (originally 77!) solvers developed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) starting in the late 70s
- ▶ Other good solvers are also included, those written in C
- ▶ Refer to the package help for details

## Using deSolve for simple ODEs

As with more numerical solvers, you need to write a function returning the value of the right hand side of your equation (the vector field) at a given point in phase space, then call this function from the solver

```
library(deSolve)
rhs_logistic <- function(t, x, p) {
  with(as.list(x), {
    dN <- p$r * N * (1-N/p$K)
    return(list(dN))
  })
}
params = list(r = 0.1, K = 100)
IC = c(N = 50)
times = seq(0, 100, 1)
sol <- ode(IC, times, rhs_logistic, params)
```

This also works: add p to arguments of as.list and thus use without p\$ prefix

```
library(deSolve)
rhs_logistic <- function(t, x, p) {
  with(as.list(c(x, p)), {
    dN <- r * N * (1-N/K)
    return(list(dN))
  })
}
params = list(r = 0.1, K = 100)
IC = c(N = 50)
times = seq(0, 100, 1)
sol <- ode(IC, times, rhs_logistic, params)
```

In this case, beware of not having a variable and a parameter with the same name..

## Default method: lsoda

lsoda switches automatically between stiff and nonstiff methods

You can also specify other methods: "lsode", "lsodes", "lsodar", "vode", "daspk", "euler", "rk4", "ode23", "ode45", "radau", "bdf", "bdf\_d", "adams", "impAdams" or "impAdams\_d", "iteration" (the latter for discrete-time systems)

```
ode(y, times, func, parms, method = "ode45")
```

You can even implement your own integration method

**General information about the course**

**General remarks**

**Introduction to R**

**Introduction to julia**

Plots.jl

DataFrames.jl

Flux.jl

ai

## What is Julia?

- ▶ High-level, high-performance, dynamic programming language
- ▶ Designed for scientific computing, machine learning, data science and large-scale linear algebra
- ▶ First appeared in 2012, with version 1.0 released in 2018
- ▶ Aims to solve the “two-language problem”

# The “two-language problem”

## Prototyping

- ▶ Languages like Python, R, MATLAB
- ▶ Easy to write, flexible
- ▶ Often too slow for production/large-scale computations

## Production

- ▶ Languages like C++, Fortran
- ▶ Very fast
- ▶ Steeper learning curve, more verbose, slower development time

## The Solution: Julia

Julia provides the speed of C/C++ with a syntax as friendly as Python’s. Write readable code that is also fast

## Key Features of Julia

- ▶ **Fast:** Just-In-Time (JIT) compiled using LLVM, approaching speeds of statically-compiled languages like C
- ▶ **Dynamic:** Dynamically typed, interactive
- ▶ **Composable:** The core design principle is *multiple dispatch*, allowing functions to be extended with new methods
- ▶ **Parallelism:** Designed from the ground up for parallel and distributed computing
- ▶ **Metaprogramming:** Code can generate other code, leading to powerful abstractions (macros)
- ▶ **Great Package Manager:** Easy to manage dependencies and create reproducible environments

## Basic Syntax: Variables and Types

Variables are assigned with '='. Types are inferred automatically

```
# Numbers
x = 10          # Integer (Int64)
y = 3.14        # Floating point (Float64)
z = 1 + 2im     # Complex number

# Strings and Characters
greeting = "Hello, Julia!" # String
initial = 'J'             # Char

# Booleans
is_fast = true            # Bool
```

You can also explicitly annotate types using '::'.

```
radius::Float64 = 5.0
```

# Arrays: Vectors and Matrices

Arrays are fundamental for numerical computing. Indexing is **1-based**

```
# A 1D array (Vector)
A = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
println(A[1])  # Prints 1
println(A[end]) # Prints 5

# A 2D array (Matrix)
M = [1 2 3; 4 5 6]
# 1 2 3
# 4 5 6

println(M[2, 3]) # Prints 6 (row 2, column 3)
```

# Control Flow: Loops and Conditionals

Syntax requires an 'end' keyword

## For Loop

```
for i in 1:5  
    println(i)  
end
```

## While Loop

```
n = 3  
while n > 0  
    println(n)  
    n -= 1  
end
```

## If-Else

```
x = 10  
if x > 0  
    println("Positive")  
elseif x < 0  
    println("Negative")  
else  
    println("Zero")  
end
```

# Defining Functions

Two common ways to define functions

**Standard long-form definition:**

```
function cylinder_volume(r, h)
    return pi * r^2 * h
end
```

**Compact one-line definition:**

```
cylinder_volume(r, h) = pi * r^2 * h
```

Calling the function:

```
volume = cylinder_volume(2, 10) # 125.66
```

The ‘return’ keyword is optional for the last expression

## Multiple dispatch

- ▶ In most languages (like Python/Java), methods belong to objects (single dispatch). `obj.method()` depends on the type of `obj`
- ▶ In Julia, functions are defined on combinations of argument types
- ▶ The specific function *method* that is called depends on the **types of all arguments**
- ▶ This allows for writing generic code that is automatically specialized and fast. It's a natural way to express many mathematical and scientific problems

### Core Idea

Instead of `data.process()`, you write `process(data)`. You can then create a new `process` method for a new data type without touching the original code

## Multiple dispatch: example

Define a generic function `combine` and add methods for it

```
# Method for two numbers
combine(x::Number, y::Number) = x + y

# Method for two strings
combine(x::String, y::String) = x * " " * y

# Method for a number and a string
combine(x::Number, y::String) = y^x # Repeat string x times
```

Julia chooses the correct method at runtime:

```
combine(2, 3)          # Returns 5
combine("Hello", "World") # Returns "Hello World"
combine(3, "Ha")        # Returns "HaHaHa"
```

# A growing scientific ecosystem

Rich ecosystem of packages for various domains

- ▶ **DataFrames.jl**: For working with tabular data (like data frames in R)
- ▶ **Plots.jl**: A powerful and flexible plotting library
- ▶ **Flux.jl & Lux.jl**: For machine learning and deep learning
- ▶ **JuMP.jl**: For mathematical optimization and modeling
- ▶ **DifferentialEquations.jl**: State-of-the-art suite for solving differential equations

# Plotting example with Plots.jl

Creating plots is straightforward

```
# First, add the package and load it
# Pkg.add("Plots")
using Plots

# Generate data
x = 0:0.1:2*pi
y1 = sin.(x)
y2 = cos.(x)

# Create a plot
plot(x, y1, label="sin(x)", lw=2)
plot!(x, y2, label="cos(x)", linestyle=:dash)
title!("Trigonometric Functions")
xlabel!("x-axis")
```

The `.` in `sin.(x)` is Julia's syntax for broadcasting a function over an array

## Metaprogramming: macros

- ▶ Julia's code is represented as a data structure (an Abstract Syntax Tree) that is accessible from the language itself
- ▶ This allows you to write **macros** - functions that run at parse time and transform code
- ▶ Macros are denoted with an @ symbol

A very common built-in macro is @time

```
@time begin
    sleep(1)
    A = rand(1000, 1000)
    B = A * A'
end
```

Executes the code block and prints the execution time, memory allocation and GC time

## Solving differential equations

- ▶ Use the **DifferentialEquations.jl** suite
- ▶ Feature-rich ecosystem that is often faster than traditional Fortran/C++ solvers
- ▶ Supports a wide variety of problems:
  - ▶ Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs)
  - ▶ Stochastic Differential Equations (SDEs)
  - ▶ Delay Differential Equations (DDEs)
  - ▶ Differential-Algebraic Equations (DAEs)
- ▶ High-level syntax composable with the rest of the Julia ecosystem (e.g., automatic differentiation, machine learning)

## ODE example

```
# 1. Load packages
using DifferentialEquations, Plots

# 2. Define the ODE function
# Note the argument order: u (state), p (params), t (time)
function logistic_growth(u, p, t)
    r, K = p.r, p.K
    return r * u * (1 - u/K)
end

# 3. Set up the problem
u0 = 50.0                      # Initial condition
tspan = (0.0, 100.0)             # Time span
p = (r=0.1, K=100.0)            # Parameters (as a NamedTuple)
prob = ODEProblem(logistic_growth, u0, tspan, p)

# 4. Solve and plot
sol = solve(prob)
plot(sol, label="N(t)", lw=2)
```

## Advanced control: ODE callbacks

- ▶ Callbacks allow to intervene during the ODE solution process to perform actions or modify the state. Useful for event handling, data logging, or enforcing constraints
- ▶ For example, we can ensure a population model never becomes negative

```
# A condition: trigger when state is negative
condition(u, t, integrator) = u < 0.0

# An affect function: what to do when triggered
function affect!(integrator)
    integrator.u = 0.0 # Reset state to zero
end

# Create the callback
cb = DiscreteCallback(condition, affect!)

# Solve the problem with the callback
sol = solve(prob, callback = cb)
plot(sol, label="N(t) with callback", lw=2)
```

## Getting started

- ▶ Download Julia at <https://julialang.org/downloads/>
- ▶ See the official documentation at <https://docs.julialang.org>
- ▶ The julia forum at <https://discourse.julialang.org> is very reactive (and useful)
- ▶ For an IDE/Editor, I recommend using VS Code and the julia extension. Julia also runs really well in jupyter notebooks
- ▶ To start the REPL (interactive Read-Eval-Print Loop), open your terminal and type `julia`

## Can I have this wrapped up to go?

For each slide set including R code, we generate an R file in the CODE directory with all the code chunks in this Rnw file and no L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

Source the file (if you are reading filename.pdf, then you want filename.R) to reproduce all results in the slide set without generating a pdf

Some small changes are required; for instance, when sourcing (instead of knitting or interactively), some figures are created but not printed, so in the R file, you need to print them “manually” (set the output to some variable and print them)

```
pp = ggplot(...) print(pp)
```

# Bibliography I