

English The Fast Track to A quick and dirty overview of

This page's source is located here. Pull requests are welcome!

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 created in 2012.

```
Basics
```

answer = 42

Assignment x, y, z = 1, [1:10;], "A string"

x, y = y, x # swap x and yConstant declaration const DATE OF BIRTH = 2012

End-of-line comment i = 1 # This is a comment

Delimited comment #= This is another comment =#

x = v = z = 1 # right-to-left

0 < x < 3Chaining # true

5 < x != y < 5 # false

function add_one(i)

Function definition return i + 1

end

Insert LaTeX symbols \delta + [Tab]

Operators

Basic arithmetic +, -,*,/ Exponentiation 2^3 == 8 3/12 == 0.25Division Inverse division $7\3 == 3/7$ Remainder x % y OF rem(x,y)Negation !true == false Equality a == bInequality a != bora \neq b Less and larger than < and > Less than or equal to <= Or < Greater than or equal to >= 0 ≥ [1, 2, 3] + [1, 2, 3] == [2, 4, 6]Element-wise operation [1, 2, 3] .* [1, 2, 3] == [1, 4, 9]Not a number isnan(NaN) not(!) NaN == NaN

a == b ? "Equal" : "Not equal" Ternary operator

Short-circuited AND and OR a && banda || b

Object equivalence a === b

The shell a.k.a. REPL

Recall last result ans [Ctrl] + [C] Interrupt execution 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 ; on empty line Package Manager mode] on empty line Help mode ? on empty line

[Backspace] on empty line Exit special mode / Return to REPL

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()
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 or dev PackageName or

Use development version dev PackageName or dev GitRepoUrl

Stop using development version, revert to public release 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 = '\UXXXXXXXX' # 8-digit HEX
                                     for c in str
Loop through characters
                                         println(c)
                                     end
                                     str = "Learn" * " " * "Julia"
Concatenation
                                     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("Angström") != length("Angström") == 8
Strings are immutable.
```

Numbers

Integer types IntN and UIntN, with

 $N \in \{8, 16, 32, 64, 128\}$, BigInt

FloatN with $N \in \{16, 32, 64\}$

Floating-point types

BigFloat

Minimum and maximum typemin(Int8) values by type typemax(Int64) Complex types Complex{T}

Imaginary unit im

Machine precision eps() # same as eps(Float64)

Rounding round() # floating-point

round(Int, x) # integer
convert(TypeName, val) #

attempt/error

Type conversions typename(val) # calls

convert

рі # 3.1415... п # 3.1415...

п # 3.1415... im # real(im * im) == -1

More constants using Base.MathConstants

Julia does not automatically check for numerical overflow. Use package SaferIntegers for ints with overflow checking.

Random Numbers

Global constants

Many random number functions require using Random.

Set seed seed! (seed)

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

Inf)

using Distributions

Random from Other Distribution my_dist = Bernoulli(0.2) #

For example
rand(my dist)

Random subsample elements from A with

inclusion probability p

Random permutation elements of A

randsubseq(A, p)

shuffle(A)

To string (with delimiter del between

elements)

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 points to a b = aComparison 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 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)reshape(1:6, 3, 2)' == $[1 \ 2 \ 3;$ Change dimensions (if possible) 4 5 6]

join(arr, del)

Linear Algebra

For most linear algebra tools, use using LinearAlgebra.

I # just use variable I. Will automatically

conform to dimensions required.

Define matrix $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

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 M = La B

Concatenate wertically M = [a ; b] or M = vcat(a, b)

Matrix

transpose(M)

Conjugate matrix

transposition M' 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 $M\setminus v$ is better than inv(M)*v

Moore-Penrose 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
                     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
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 ARGS:

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

Anonymous functions can best be used in collection functions or list comprehensions: $x \rightarrow x^2$.

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"
 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)
 3×4 Array{Float64,2}:
   0.0387438
                 0.112224 -0.0541478
                                         0.455245
   0.000773337
                 0.250006 0.0140011 -0.289532
  -0.0395171
                -0.36223
                             0.0401467 -0.165713
 julia> mean(B, dims=1)
 1×4 Array{Float64,2}:
  -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 key:k
                            haskey(d, :k)
Copy keys (or values) to
                            arr = collect(keys(d))
                            arr = [k for (k,v) in d]
аггау
Dictionaries are mutable; when symbols are used as keys, the keys are
immutable.
```

```
Sets

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

Filter coll for true values of f

List comprehension

map(f, coll) or map(coll) do elem
# do stuff with elem
# must contain return
end
filter(f, coll)
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

by derault, struct s are illillidiable.

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

Type declaration birth year::UInt16

fave language::AbstractString

end

Mutable type declaration replace struct with mutable struct

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

Subtype declaration struct Duck <: Bird 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 means that аге Point{Float64} <: Point{Real} is false, even though Float64 <: Real. Tuple the other hand. covariant: types. on аге 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.

```
Programmers Null nothing

Missing Data missing

Not a Number in Float

Filter missings collect(skipmissing([1, 2, missing])) == [1,2]

Replace missings collect((df[:col], 1))

Check if missing ismissing(x) not x == missing
```

```
Exceptions
Throw
                  throw(SomeExcep())
SomeExcep
Rethrow current
                  rethrow()
exception
                  struct NewExcep <: Exception</pre>
                       v::String
                  end
Define NewExcep
                  Base.showerror(io::IO, 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
                                          # only ModuleName
                  import 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
```

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.

names(ModuleName, all::Bool, imported::Bool)

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 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

end

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

@test # equal (exact)
@test x ≈ y # isapprox(x, y)
@assert # assert (unit test)

@which # types used

@time # time and memory statistics

@elapsed # time elapsed

Built-in macros @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)
                                 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...)
                                 # or:
Run f with arguments args on
                                 r =  @spawnat pid f(args)
bid
                                 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
                                 r = [@spawnat w f(args) for w in
Run f with arguments args on
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
function red
                                     # do parallelstuff
                                 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
                   end
                   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.
                              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, :]
                              stack(df, [1:n; ])
Reshape from wide to long
                               stack(df, [:col1, :col2, ...])
format
                              melt(df, [:col1, :col2])
Reshape from long to wide
                              unstack(df, :id, :val)
format
                              allowmissing!(df) or
Make Nullable
                              allowmissing!(df, :col)
                              for r in eachrow(df)
                                   # do stuff.
                                   # r is Struct with fields of col
Loop over Rows
                              names.
                              end
                               for c in eachcol(df)
                                   # do stuff.
Loop over Columns
                                   # c is tuple with name, then
                              vector
                               end
Apply func to groups
                              by(df, :group col, func)
                              using Ouerv
                              query = @from r in df begin
                                   Qwhere r.col1 > 40
Query
                                   @select {new_name=r.col1, r.col2}
                                   @collect DataFrame # Default:
                               iterator
                               end
```

```
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 Julia[Topic].

JuliaStats Statistics

Scientific Machine SciML (DifferentialEquations.jl)

Learning

Automatic differentiation JuliaDiff Numerical optimization JuliaOpt JuliaPlots Plottina Network (Graph) Analysis JuliaGraphs Web JuliaWeb Geo-Spatial JuliaGeo Machine Learning JuliaML

> # linear/logistic DataFrames

regression

Distributions # Statistical distributions

Super-used Packages # Machine learning Flux

> Gadfly # ggplot2-likeplotting 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.
- 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)
- Jupyter (online IJulia notebook)
- Emacs Julia mode (editor)
- Pluto.jl (online IJulia notebook)
- 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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