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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

Assignment  
answer = 42  
x, y, z = 1, [1:10; ], "A string"  
x, y = y, x # swap x and y  
const DATE\_OF\_BIRTH = 2012  
i = 1 # This is a comment  
#= This is another comment =#  
x = y = z = 1 # right-to-left  
0 < x < 3 # true  
5 < x != y < 5 # false  
function add\_one(i)  
 return i + 1  
end

Constant declaration  
End-of-line comment  
Delimited comment

Chaining

Function definition

Insert LaTeX symbols  
\delta + [Tab]

Operators

Basic arithmetic  
Exponentiation  
Division  
Inverse division  
Remainder  
Negation  
Equality  
Inequality  
Less and larger than  
Less than or equal to  
Greater than or equal to  
Element-wise operation  
Not a number  
Ternary operator  
Short-circuited AND and OR  
Object equivalence

```
+ , -, *, /  
2^3 == 8  
3/12 == 0.25  
7\3 == 3/7  
x % y or rem(x,y)  
!true == false  
a == b  
a != b or a # b  
< and >  
<= or ≤  
>= or ≥  
[1, 2, 3] .+ [1, 2, 3] == [2, 4, 6]  
[1, 2, 3] .* [1, 2, 3] == [1, 4, 9]  
isnan(NaN) not(!NaN == NaN)  
a == b ? "Equal" : "Not equal"  
a && b and a || b  
a === b
```

The shell a.k.a. REPL

Recall last result  
Interrupt execution  
Clear screen  
Run program  
Get help for func is defined  
See all places where func is defined  
Command line mode  
Package Manager mode  
Help mode  
Exit special mode / Return to REPL  
Exit REPL

```
ans  
[Ctrl] + [C]  
[Ctrl] + [L]  
include("filename.jl")  
?func  
apropos("func")  
;  
}  
?  
[Backspace] on empty line  
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  
Statistics  
LinearAlgebra  
SparseArrays  
Distributed  
Dates

rand, randn, randsubseq  
mean, std, cor, median, quantile  
I, eigvals, eigvecs, det, cholesky  
sparse, SparseVector, SparseMatrixCSC  
@distributed, pmap, addprocs  
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 `j` 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 (machine-readable)         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
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'
Any UTF character                           chr = '\uXXXX'      # 4-digit HEX
                                                chr = '\UXXXXXXX'   # 8-digit HEX
Loop through characters                     for c in str
                                                println(c)
end
Concatenation                               str = "Learn" * " " * "Julia"
                                                a = b = 2
String interpolation                         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"[aeiou]"
                                                str = "+1 234 567 890"
                                                pat = r"\+([0-9]) ([0-9]+)"
                                                m = match(pat, str)
                                                m.captures == ["1", "234"]
All occurrences                             [m.match for m = eachmatch(pat,
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 ∈ {8, 16, 32, 64, 128}, BigInt  
Floating-point types  
FloatN with N ∈ {16, 32, 64}  
BigFloat  
Minimum and maximum  
values by type  
Complex types  
Imaginary unit  
Machine precision  
Rounding  
Type conversions  
Global constants  
More constants  
Julia does not automatically check for numerical overflow. Use package  
SafeIntegers for ints with overflow checking.

Declaration  
Pre-allocation  
Access and assignment  
Comparison  
Copy elements (not address)  
Select subarray from m to n  
n-element array with 0.0s  
n-element array with 1.0s  
n-element array with #undefs  
n equally spaced numbers from start  
to stop  
Array with n random Int8 elements  
Fill array with val  
Pop last element  
Pop first element  
Push val as last element  
Push val as first element  
Remove element at index idx  
Sort  
Append a with b  
Check whether val is element  
Scalar product  
Change dimensions (if possible)  
To string (with delimiter del between  
elements)

```
arr = Float64[]  
sizehint!(arr, 10^4)  
arr = Any{1,2}  
arr[1] = "Some text"  
a = [1:10;]  
b = a      # b points to a  
a[1] = -99  
a == b     # true  
b = copy(a)  
b = deepcopy(a)  
arr[m:n]  
zeros(n)  
ones(n)  
Vector{Type}(undef,n)  
range(start,stop=length=n)  
rand{Int8, n}  
fill!(arr, val)  
pop!(arr)  
popfirst!(a)  
push!(arr, val)  
pushfirst!(arr, val)  
deleteat!(arr, idx)  
sort!(arr)  
append!(a,b)  
in(val, arr) or val in arr  
dot(a, b) == sum(a .* b)  
reshape(1:6, 3, 2)' == [1 2 3;  
4 5 6]  
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.  
M = [1 0; 0 1]  
Define matrix size(M)  
Matrix dimensions M[i, :]  
Select i th row M[:, i]  
Select i th column M = [a b] or M = hcat(a, b)  
Concatenate horizontally M = [a ; b] or M = vcat(a, b)  
Concatenate vertically transpose(M)  
Matrix M' or adjoint(M)  
transposition tr(M)  
Conjugate matrix det(M)  
transposition rank(M)  
Matrix trace eigvals(M)  
Matrix determinant eigvecs(M)  
Matrix rank inv(M)  
Matrix eigenvalues M\ v is better than inv(M)\*v  
Matrix eigenvectors Moore-Penrose  
Matrix inverse pinv(M)  
Solve M\*x == v  
pseudo-inverse

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  
println(i)  
end  
Simple for loop for i in 1:10, j = 1:5  
println(i\*j)  
end  
Unnested for loop for (idx, val) in enumerate(arr)  
println("the \$idx-th element is \$val")  
end  
Enumeration while bool\_expr  
# do stuff  
end  
while loop break  
Exit loop continue  
Exit iteration

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 ARGS:

```
for arg in ARGS
    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 "$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)
3x4 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)
1x4 Array{Float64,1}:
```

`using Pkg; Pkg.add("DataFrames");`  
`-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

Dictionary  
`d = Dict{key1 => val1, key2 => val2, ...}`  
`d = Dict{key1 => val1, :key2 => val2, ...}`  
All keys (iterator)  
All values (iterator)  
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 ∪ s2`  
Intersection `s1 ∩ s2`  
Difference `s1 \ s2`  
Difference `s1 ∖ s2`  
Difference `s1 △ s2`  
Subset `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  
Mutable type declaration  
Type alias  
`const Nerd = Programmer`  
Type constructors  
`methods(TypeName)`  
Type instantiation  
`me = Programmer("Ian", 1984, "Julia")`  
`me = Nerd("Ian", 1984, "Julia")`  
Subtype declaration  
abstract type Bird end  
`struct Duck <: Bird`  
`pond::String`  
end  
`struct Point{T <: Real}`  
`x::T`  
`y::T`  
end  
Parametric type  
`p = Point{Float64}(1,2)`  
`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 `code_typed()`. 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	ismissing(x) <b>not</b> x == missing

Exceptions	
Throw	throw(SomeExcep())
SomeExcep	
Rethrow current exception	rethrow()
	struct NewExcep <: Exception
	v::String
	end
Define NewExcep	Base.showerror(io::IO, e::NewExcep) = print(io, "A problem with \$(e.v)!")
	throw(NewExcep("x"))
Throw error with msg text	error(msg)
	try
	# do something potentially iffy
	catch ex
	if isa(ex, SomeExcep)
	# handle SomeExcep
	elseif isa(ex, AnotherExcep)
	# handle AnotherExcep
	else
	# handle all others
	end
	finally
	# do this in any case
	end

Handler	

Modules	
Modules are separate global variable workspaces that group together similar functionality.	
Definition	<pre>module PackageName # add module definitions # use export to make definitions accessible end</pre>
Include filename.jl	<pre>include("filename.jl")</pre>
Load	<pre>using ModuleName # all exported names using ModuleName: x, y # only x, y using ModuleName.x, ModuleName.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)</pre>
Exports	<pre># include non-exports, deprecateds # and compiler-generated names names(ModuleName, all::Bool)  #also show namesexplicitly imported from other modules names(ModuleName, all::Bool, imported::Bool)</pre>
There is only one difference between using and import : with using 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 columns in data frames. Symbols cannot be concatenated.	
Quoting :( ...) or quote ... end creates an expression, just like parse(str), and Expr(:call, ...).	
<pre>x = 1 line = "1 + \$x" # some code expr = parse(line) # make an Expr object typeof(expr) == Expr # true dump(expr) # generate abstract syntax tree eval(expr) == 2 # evaluate Expr object: true</pre>	

Macros

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

Definition

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

Usage

```
macroname(ex1, ex2, ...) or @macroname ex1, ex2, ...
@test # equal (exact)
@test_approx_eq # equal (modulo numerical errors)
@test x ≈ y # isapprox(x, y)
@assert # assert (unit test)
@which # types used
@time # 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
```

Built-in macros

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  
Number of available workers  
Add N workers

```
julia -p N
nprocs()
addprocs(N)
for pid in workers()
    println(pid)
end
```

See all worker ids  
Get id of executing worker  
Remove worker

```
myid()
rmprocs(pid)
```

Run f with arguments args on pid  
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

```
r = remotecall(f, pid, args...)
# or:
r = @spawnat pid f(args)
...
fetch(r)
remotecall_fetch(f, pid, args...)
r = @spawn f(args) ... fetch(r)
r = [@spawnat w f(args) for w in workers()] ... fetch(r)
@everywhere expr
```

Parallel for loop with reducer  
Function red

```
sum = @distributed (red) for i in 1:10^6
    # do parallelstuff
end
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	<pre>stream = stdin for line in eachline(stream)     # do stuff end open(filename) do file     for line in eachline(file)         # do stuff     end end</pre>
Read CSV file	<pre>using CSV data = CSV.read(filename)</pre>
Write CSV file	<pre>using CSV CSV.write(filename, data)</pre>
Save Julia Object	<pre>using JLD save(filename, "object_key", object, ...)</pre>
Load Julia Object	<pre>using JLD d = load(filename) # Returns a dict of objects</pre>
Save HDF5	<pre>using HDF5 h5write(filename, "key", object)</pre>
Load HDF5	<pre>using HDF5 h5read(filename, "key")</pre>

DataFrames	
For <code>dplyr</code> -like tools, see <code>DataFramesMeta.jl</code> .	
Read Stata, SPSS, etc.	<code>StatFiles Package</code>
Describe data frame	<code>describe(df)</code>
Make vector of column col	<code>v = df[:col]</code>
Sort by col	<code>sort!(df, [:col])</code>
Categorical col	<code>categorical!(df, [:col])</code>
List col levels	<code>levels(df[:col])</code>
All observations with <code>col==val</code>	<code>df[df[:col] .== val, :]</code>
Reshape from wide to long format	<code>stack(df, [1:n; ])</code> <code>stack(df, [:col1, :col2, ...])</code>
Reshape from long to wide format	<code>melt(df, [:col1, :col2]) [</code> <code>unstack(df, :id, :val)</code>
Make <code>Nullable</code>	<code>allowmissing!(df) or</code> <code>allowmissing!(df, :col)</code> for <code>r</code> in <code>eachrow(df)</code> <code># do stuff.</code> <code># r is Struct with fields of col</code> <code>names.</code> end for <code>c</code> in <code>eachcol(df)</code> <code># do stuff.</code> <code># c is tuple with name, then</code> <code>vector</code> end
Loop over Rows	<code>by(df, :group_col, func)</code> using <code>Query</code> <code>query = @from r in df begin</code> <code>@where r.col1 &gt; 40</code> <code>@select {new_name=r.col1, r.col2}</code> <code>@collect DataFrame # Default:</code> <code>iterator</code> <code>end</code>
Loop over Columns	
Apply func to groups	
Query	

Introspection and reflection	
Type	<code>typeof(name)</code>
Type check	<code>isa(name, TypeName)</code>
List subtypes	<code>subtypes(TypeName)</code>
List supertype	<code>supertype(TypeName)</code>
Function methods	<code>methods(func)</code>
JIT bytecode	<code>code_llvm(expr)</code>
Assembly code	<code>code_native(expr)</code>



### Noteworthy packages and projects

Many core packages are managed by communities with names of the form `Julia[Topic]`.

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
	DataFrames # linear/logistic regression
	Distributions # Statistical distributions
	Flux # Machine learning
	Gadfly # ggplot2-likeplotting
	LightGraphs # Network analysis
	TextAnalysis # NLP
Super-used Packages	

### 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)
- JuliaBox (online Julia notebook)
- Jupyter (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 Pearson

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