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

Assignment	answer = 42 x, y, z = 1, [1:10;], "A string"
Constant declaration	x, y = y, x # swap x and y const DATE_OF_BIRTH = 2012
End-of-line comment Delimited comment	<pre>i = 1 # This is a comment #= This is another comment =#</pre>
Chaining	<pre>x = y = z = 1 # right-to-left 0 < x < 3</pre>
Function definition	<pre>function add_one(i) return i + 1 end</pre>
Function definition (Assignment form)	add_one(i) = i + 1
Insert LaTeX symbols	\delta + [Tab]

Operators

Basic arithmetic +, -,*,/ Exponentiation 2^3 == 8 Division 3/12 == 0.25Inverse division $7\3 == 3/7$ Remainder x % y or rem(x,y)Integer division $7 \div 3 == 2$ Negation !true == false a == bEquality Inequality a != bora \neq b Less and larger than < and > Less than or equal to <= 0Γ ≤ 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][1 NaN] == [1 NaN] --> false Not a number isequal(NaN, NaN) --> true

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

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

Object equivalence a === b

The shell a.k.a. REPL

Recall last result ans
Interrupt execution [Ctrl] + [C]

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

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

Exit REPL exit() or [Ctrl] + [D]

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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 sparse, SparseVector, SparseMatrixCSC SparseArrays

@distributed, pmap, addprocs Distributed

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 dev PackageName or

Use development version dev GitRepoUrl

Stop using development version, revert to

public release

free PackageName

Strings are immutable.

```
Characters and strings
Character
                                   chr = 'C'
String
                                   str = "A string"
Character code
                                   Int('J') == 74
                                   Char(74) == 'J'
Character from code
                                   chr = '\uXXXX'
                                                      # 4-digit HEX
Any UTF character
                                   chr = '\UXXXXXXXXX' # 8-digit HEX
                                   for c in str
Loop through characters
                                       println(c)
                                   end
Concatenation
                                   str = "Learn" * " " * "Julia"
                                   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("Ångström") != length("Ångström") == 8
```

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Numbers

Integer types IntN and UIntN, with

N ∈ {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)
round() # floating-point

Rounding round(Int, x) # integer

Type conversions convert(TypeName, val) # attempt/error

typename(val) # calls convert

рі # 3.1415... п # 3.1415...

Global constants π # 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

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

randsubseq(A, p)

Random permutation elements of A shuffle(A)

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 = a
                                               # b points to a
Comparison
                                   a[1] = -99
                                   a == 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
                                   range(start,stop=stop,length=n)
start to stop
Array with n random Int8
                                   rand(Int8, n)
elements
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; \ 4 \ 5]
Change dimensions (if possible)
                                   61
To string (with delimiter del
                                   join(arr, del)
```

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Linear Algebra

For most linear algebra tools, use using LinearAlgebra.

I # just use variable I. Will automatically Identity matrix conform to dimensions required. Define matrix $M = [1 \ 0; \ 0 \ 1]$ 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 Concatenate vertically M = [a ; b] or M = vcat(a, b)transpose(M) Matrix transposition Conjugate matrix M' or adjoint(M) transposition tr(M) Matrix trace Matrix determinant det(M) Matrix rank rank(M) eigvals(M) Matrix eigenvalues

Solve M*x == v $M \setminus v$ is better than inv(M)*v

eigvecs(M)

inv(M)

Moore-Penrose pinv(M)

Matrix eigenvectors

Matrix 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

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)

Enumeration println("the \$idx-th element is \$val")

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
```

The semicolon is *not* required in the call to a function that accepts keyword

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)
```

-0.0395171

julia> mean(B, dims=1)

-0.36223

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)
 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
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"
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
```

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0.0401467 -0.165713

```
1×4 Arrav{Float64.7}:
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
Check for key:k
                             haskey(d, :k)
                             arr = collect(keys(d))
Copy keys (or values) to
                             arr = [k \text{ for } (k,v) \text{ in } d]
array
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 issubset(s1, s2)
Checking whether an element is contained in a set is done in O(1).
```

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

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.

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.

```
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 SomeExcep
                    throw(SomeExcep())
Rethrow current
                    rethrow()
exception
                    struct NewExcep <: Exception</pre>
                        v::String
                    end
Define NewExcep
                    Base.showerror(io::I0, 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
                   import ModuleName
                                           # only ModuleName
Load
                   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
```

#also show names explicitly imported from other modules

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

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.

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...)
Run f with arguments args on
                                r = @spawnat pid f(args)
bia
                                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)
any worker
                                r = [0spawnat w f(args)] for w in
Run f with arguments args on
                                workers()] ... fetch(r)
all workers
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.

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```
I/O
                   stream = stdin
                   for line in eachline(stream)
Read stream
                       # do stuff
                   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")
```

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```
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.
Loop over Rows
                                   # r is Struct with fields of col
                              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 Query
                              query = @from r in df begin
                                   Qwhere r.col1 > 40
                                   @select {new name=r.col1, r.col2}
Query
                                   @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].

Statistics JuliaStats

Scientific Machine SciML (DifferentialEquations.jl)

Learning

Automatic differentiation

Numerical optimization

Plotting

Network (Graph) Analysis

JuliaDiff

JuliaOpt

JuliaPlots

JuliaGraph

Network (Graph) Analysis
Web
Geo-Spatial
Machine Learning
JuliaGeo
JuliaML

DataFrames # linear/logistic

regression

Distributions # Statistical distributions

Super-used Packages Flux # Machine learning

Gadfly # ggplot2-likeplotting
Graphs # 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, maintenance-only mode)
- 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 10th annual JuliaCon 2023
- The 10th annual JuliaCon 2023 Pre-recorded videos
- The 9th annual JuliaCon 2022
- The 8th annual JuliaCon 2021
- The 7th annual JuliaCon 2020
- The 6th annual JuliaCon 2019
- 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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