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

Because function argument types are determined at run-time, the compiler can choose the implementation that is optimized for the provided arguments and the processor architecture.

(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 y

Constant declaration const DATE OF BIRTH = 2012 End-of-line comment i = 1 # This is a comment Delimited comment

#= This is another comment =#

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

Chaining 0 < x < 3 # true

5 < x != v < 5 # falsefunction add one(i)

Function definition return 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

Equality a == b

Inequality a != b or a ≠ b

Less and larger than < and >
Less than or equal to <= or ≤
Greater than or equal to >= or ≥

Element-wise operation $\begin{bmatrix} 1, 2, 3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1, 2, 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2, 4, 6 \end{bmatrix}$

[1, 2, 3] * [1, 2, 3] == [1, 4, 9]

Not a number [1 NaN] == [1 NaN] --> false 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]

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, 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

Use development version dev Page development

Stop using development version, revert to public release free

update PackageName dev PackageName or dev GitRepoUrl

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 $chr = ' \setminus UXXXX' \# 4$ -digit HEX

chr = '\UXXXXXXXX' # 8-digit HEX
for c in str

Loop through characters println(c)

Concatenation str = "Learn" * " " * "Julia"

String interpolation a = b = 2

First matching character or regular println("a * b = \$(a*b)")findfirst(isequal('i'), "Julia")

expression == 4
Replace substring or regular replace("Julia", "a" => "us") ==

expression "Julius"

Last index (of collection) lastindex("Hello") == 5

Number of characters length("Hello") == 5

Number of characters length("Hello") == 5

Regular expression pattern = r"l[aeiou]"

str = "+1 234 567 890"

Subexpressions $pat = r^{"} + ([\upsilon - \vartheta]) ([\upsilon - \vartheta] +)^{"}$

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

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

convert(TypeName, val) #

attempt/error

Type conversions typename(val) # calls

convert

pi # 3.1415...

Global constants n # 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,

Tof)

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)

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 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]
To string (with delimiter del between
                                       join(arr, del)
elements)
```

Linear Algebra

vertically

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

Matrix transpose(M)

Conjugate matrix M' or adjoint(M) transposition

Matrix trace tr(M)

.

Matrix 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 pseudo-inverse 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)

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
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
```

3×4 Array{Float64,2}:

julia> mean(B, dims=1)
1×4 Array{Float64,2}:

0.0387438

-0.0395171

0.000773337

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)
```

0.112224 -0.0541478

-7.40149e-17 7.40149e-17 1.85037e-17 3.70074e-17

0.250006

-0.36223

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.

0.0140011 -0.289532

0.0401467 -0.165713

0.455245

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)
                            kevs(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]
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 U 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).
```

```
Collection functions
```

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 struct Duck <: Bird

Subtype declaration struct buck <: 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 Point{Float64} <: Point{Real} is false, even though Float64 <: Real. covariant: other Tuple the hand, types, on are 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 Replace missings Check if missing Nota Number in Float NaN collect(skipmissing([1, 2, missing])) == [1,2] collect((df[:col], 1)) 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::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.

```
Definition

module PackageName

# add module definitions

# 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
                  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)
                  # include non-exports, deprecateds
                  # and compiler-generated names
Exports
                  names(ModuleName. all::Bool)
                  #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
                       # generate abstract syntax tree
dump(expr)
                       # evaluate Expr object: true
eval(expr) == 2
```

Macros

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

```
macro macroname(expr)
                    # do stuff
Definition
                @macroname(ex1, ex2, ...) or @macroname ex1 ex2 ...
Usage
                                # equal (exact)
                @test
                (atest x \approx y) \quad \# isapprox(x, y)
                @assert
                             # assert (unit test)
                @which
                              # types used
                               # time and memory statistics
                @time
                @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
                                 mvid()
Remove worker
                                 rmprocs(pid)
                                 r = remotecall(f, pid, args...)
                                 # or:
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 = 0spawn f(args) ... fetch(r)
any worker
Run f with arguments args on
                                 r = [@spawnat w f(args) for w in
                                 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.

```
I/ U
                   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)
```

DataFrames

Load HDF5

For dplyr-like tools, see DataFramesMeta.jl.

using HDF5

h5read(filename, "key")

```
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 Query

query = @from r in df begin

Owhere r.col1 > 40

Query @select {new name=r.col1, r.col2}

@collect DataFrame # Default:

iterator

end

Introspection and reflection

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

Learning

SciML (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

Super-used Packages Flux # Machine learning

ggplot2-likeplotting Gadfly 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.il (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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