

Introduction to Pluto

Week 01

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Tasks in week 1

- Everything in this course will be done using a **computer**
 - Theoretical questions
 - Practical exercises
 - Mock tests/exams
 - Formal evaluation moments: tests/exams

Tasks in week 1

- We have to install two programs on your computer:
 - **Julia** programming language
 - **Pluto.jl** (one package developed for Julia)
- Week 1 deals only with the introduction to **Pluto notebooks**
- No macroeconomics will be taught during this week
- Do not worry:
 - this is a macroeconomics course
 - not a computational one
 - you will learn macroeconomics in the following weeks

1. Installing Julia

The following slides are a short version of more detailed information available [here](#)

Installing Julia on Windows

- Download the correct executable for the Windows OS, by clicking [here](#): **Windows installer Julia v1.10.10**
- Save the downloaded executable somewhere on your computer, or keep it in the **Downloads** folder.
- Click on top of the executable to install Julia
- Allow the installation to be done in the default directory

- Click on: Add Julia to Path (if you forgot to click, start again)
- Click on: Finish
- Installation completed

Installing Julia on a Mac

1. Choose the correct Apple executable according to your processor:
 - *Intel/Rosetta* or *Apple Silicon*
2. If your Mac has an Intel or Rosetta processor, you can download the correct executable from here: **macOS x86 (Intel or Rosetta) Julia v1.10.10**
3. If your Mac has an Apple Silicon processor, you can download the correct executable from here: **macOS (Apple Silicon) Julia v1.10.10**
4. Check the **Downloads** folder and drag the executable to the **Applications** folder.
5. Installation completed.

Installing Julia on Linux

See detailed information available [here](#)

2. Running Julia

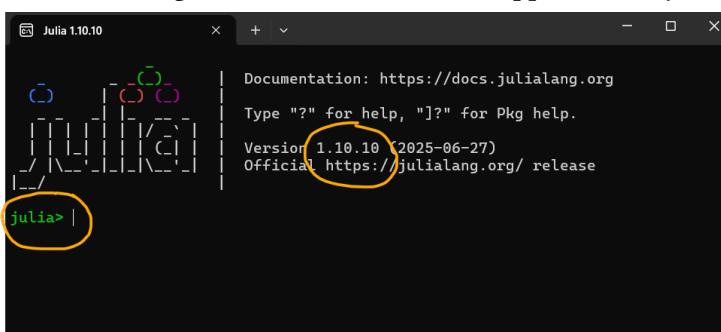
Starting Julia

- To start Julia, click on its icon on the desktop:



Julia window

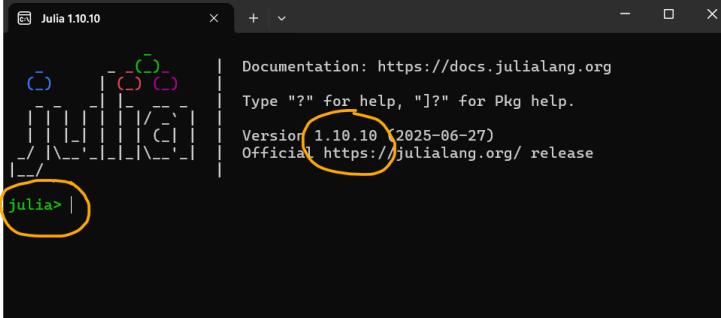
- The following black window will appear on your monitor:



- Julia runs in two modes: **Julia mode** and **Pkg mode**
- what are these modes for? Next slides

Julia mode

- When we start Julia, by default it runs in **Julia mode**.
- In the image below, `julia>` indicates that we are in this mode:

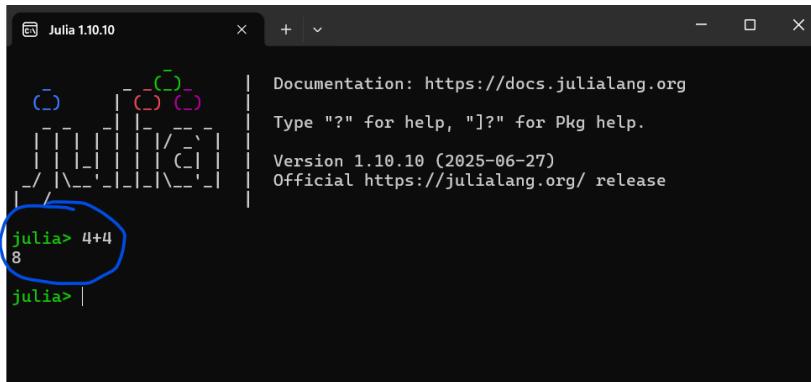


A screenshot of a terminal window titled "Julia 1.10.10". The window shows the Julia mode prompt "julia>" in green text at the bottom left. The right side of the window displays the Julia documentation and version information: "Documentation: https://docs.julialang.org", "Type "?" for help, "]?" for Pkg help.", "Version 1.10.10 (2025-06-27)", and "Official https://julialang.org/ release". A yellow circle highlights the "julia>" prompt.

- In Julia mode we do computation:
 - we write code
 - and the computer executes it and displays the output.

Julia mode: an example

- If you type `4+4` followed by  Enter after the prompt `julia>`
- You will get 8 as the output.



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "Julia 1.10.10". The window shows the Julia mode prompt "julia>" in green text at the bottom left. The user has typed "4+4" and pressed the Enter key. The output "8" is displayed in green text below the prompt. A blue circle highlights the "4+4" input and the "8" output.

Julia mode: an example

- If you type `4+4` followed by  Enter after the prompt `julia>`
- You will get 8 as the output.



- Julia is installed and running well.
- Julia window is ugly and not very handy

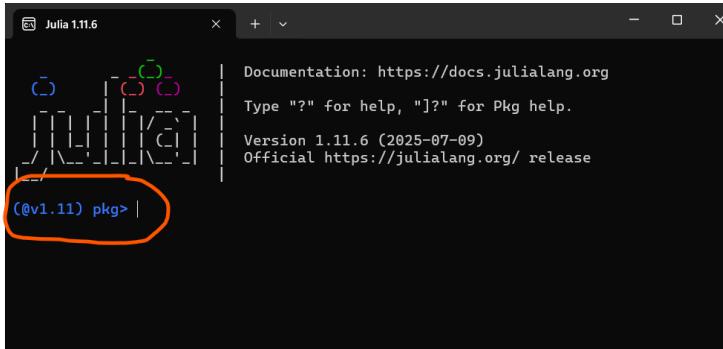
- That is the reason why we will use Pluto notebooks instead.

Pkg mode

- To move from Julia mode to Pkg mode, in mode `julia>` :
 - type the following character on your keyboard: `]`
- Different keyboards have different ways of typing `]`
 - click simultaneously on Alt Gr and 9 (usually do it on Windows)
 - click simultaneously on Option and 9 (usually do it on Mac)
 - click simultaneously on Alt Gr and 9 (usually do it on Linux)
- In **Pkg mode** we create projects and install packages

Pkg mode

- Now, (@v1.11) `pkg>` in the black window indicates that we are in Pkg mode:



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "Julia 1.11.6". The window contains the following text:

```
Documentation: https://docs.julialang.org
Type "?" for help, "]?" for Pkg help.

Version 1.11.6 (2025-07-09)
Official https://julialang.org/ release

(@v1.11) pkg> |
```

The line `(@v1.11) pkg>` is highlighted with a red oval.

- To go back to mode `julia>`, click on the following keyboard's key:
 - ↲backspace (on Windows),
 - delete (on a Mac)
 - ↲backspace (on Linux)

3. Installing Pluto

Installing Pluto

- Start Julia, if it is not already running
- Go to Pkg mode: (@v1.11) `pkg>`
- Once in Pkg mode, type:
 - add Pluto followed by clicking on  Enter
- Let the computer do the installation: needs no intervention by you
- When the installation is finished, to go back to mode `julia>` click on:
 - ↲backspace (on Windows),
 - delete (on a Mac)
 - ↲backspace (on Linux)

- That is it: Pluto is installed on your computer.

4. Updating your installation

Updating Pluto

 Please do not update Pluto

- The instructions below **should not be used in our course** unless the teaching team explicitly tells you to do so.
- In Julia 1.10.10, the notebooks will load faster if we do not update our installation.

Updating Pluto

For general users

- From time to time, new versions of Pluto come out
- We recommend you to update your Pluto installation every two weeks
- It is very simple and takes around 1 minute

Updating Pluto

- Start Julia and go to mode: (@v1.11) pkg>
- Once in Pkg mode, type:
 - update followed by clicking on  Enter
- Let the computer update your system:
 - You do not need to intervene during this process
- When the updating is finished, go back to mode julia> by clicking on:
 - ⇄backspace (on Windows)
 - delete (on Mac)
 - ⇄backspace (on Linux)
- It is done.

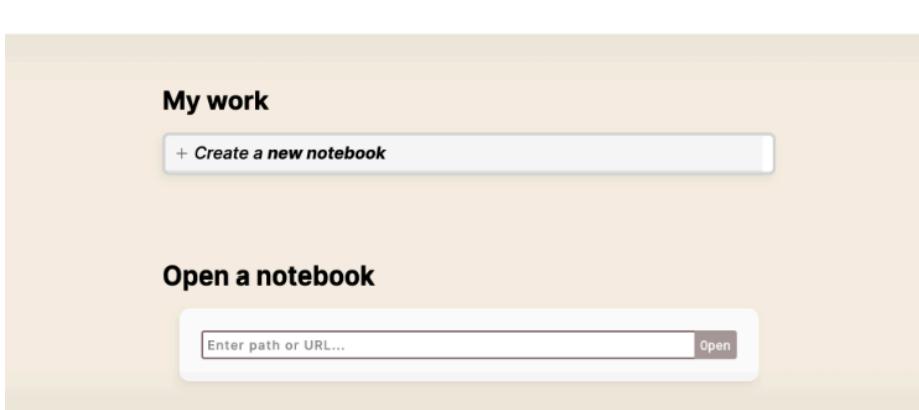
5. Using Pluto

See more detailed information available [here](#)

Starting Pluto

- Start Julia and keep it in mode julia>
- Type in its black window: import Pluto ; Pluto.run()
- Click on  Enter and Julia will open Pluto in your browser

- You will see a window like this:



Opening a Pluto notebook

- A Pluto notebook is an electronic file, like Excel or Power Point files.
- The extensions are different:
 - **.jl** (Pluto file), **.xls** (Excel file), **.ppt** (Power Point file)

⚠ Pluto notebooks are loaded differently

- To open a Pluto notebook, the double-click on top of the file **does not work**
- Neither do the usual drag-and-drop in Mac
 - Even if the drag-and-drop seems to work, do not do it ...
 - **...you will lose your work**
- You have to tell Pluto where your notebook **is located**.

Opening a Pluto notebook

To tell Pluto where your notebook is located, you have to:

- Put the Pluto notebook in a folder on your computer.
- So your notebook has an address (**Path**) on your computer
- You have to copy that address and paste it into Pluto's Open a notebook window
- How to get the address (**Path**) of your notebook?
- See next slide

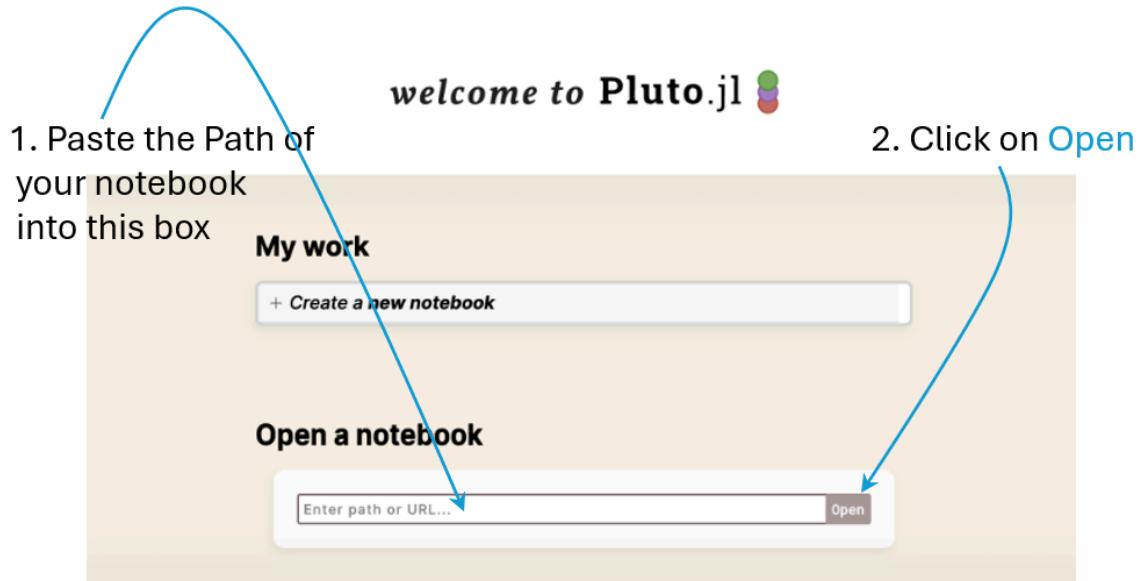
Copy your notebook's path: Windows 11

- Put the cursor on top of your file
- Mouse right-click on your file
- You will get a pop-up menu with a lot of options
- Choose: Copy as path
- Go to the Pluto window you have opened before
- Paste the copied path into the Open a notebook box in the Pluto window
-



See next figure (click on any key)

Copy your notebook's path: Windows 11



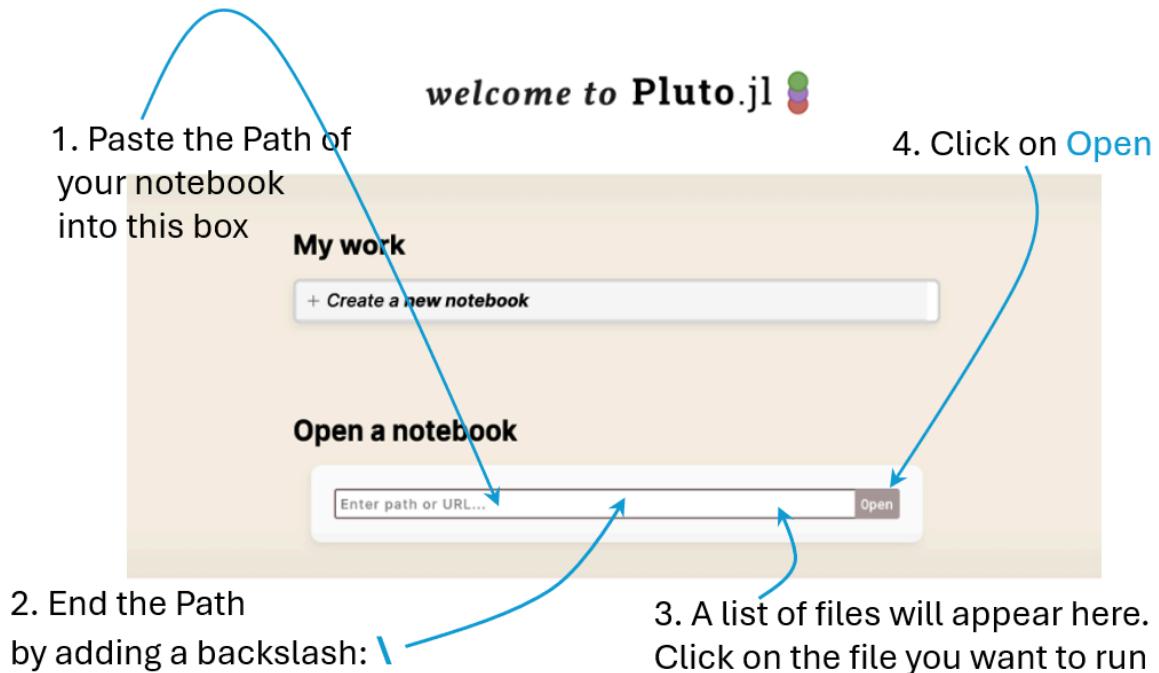
Copy your notebook's path: Windows 10

- Put the cursor on top of your file
- Mouse right-click on your file
- Choose: Properties
- Copy the path in Location
- The Path will look like this: G:\Macro\Week01
- Paste the copied path into the Open a notebook box in the Pluto window
-



See next figure (click on any key)

Copy your notebook's path: Windows 10



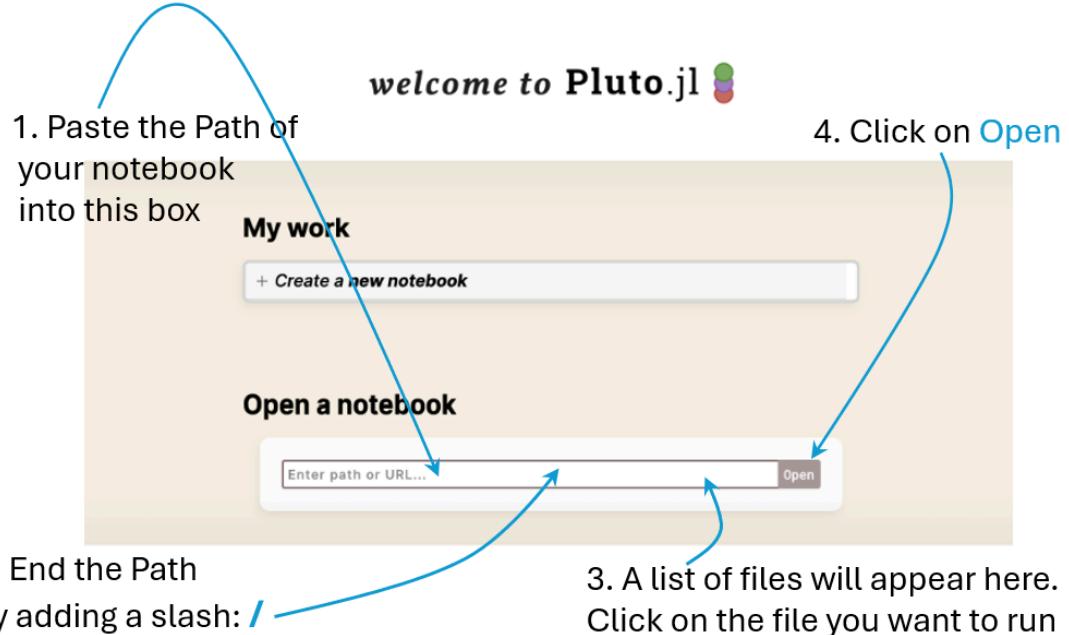
Copy your notebook's path: Mac

- Put the cursor on top of your file
- Mouse right-click on your file
- Choose: Get info
- Copy the path in Where
- The Path will look like this: G:/Macro/Week01
- Paste the copied path into the Open a notebook box in the Pluto window
-

See next figure (click on any key)



Copy your notebook's path: Mac



Run the notebook

- By now, you will see the notebook visible on your browser
- To run all cells, click on Run notebook code that you see in next image:



End

Bibliography