

# Introduction to Pluto

## Week 01

Vivaldo Mendes  
Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL)  
vivaldo.mendes@iscte-iul.pt

2026-02-02

---

### 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

---

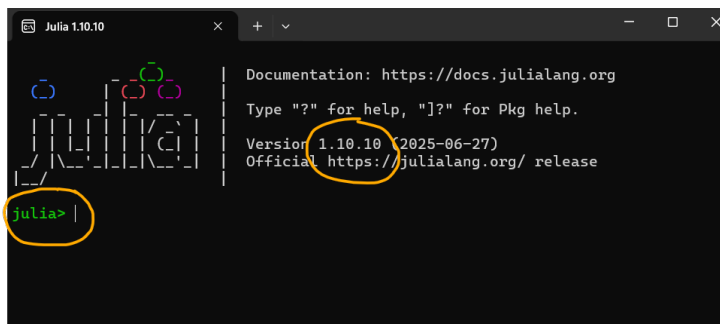
### Starting Julia

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



### Julia window

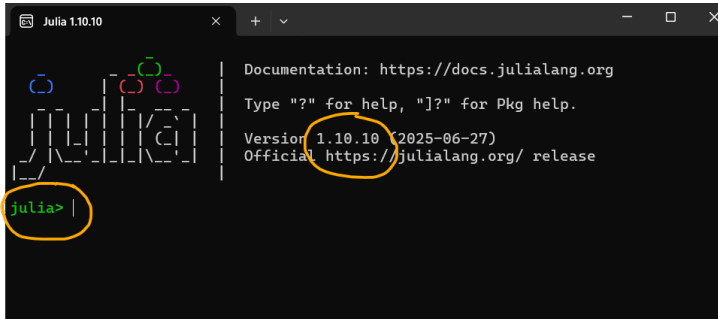
- The following black window will appear on your monitor:



- 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:

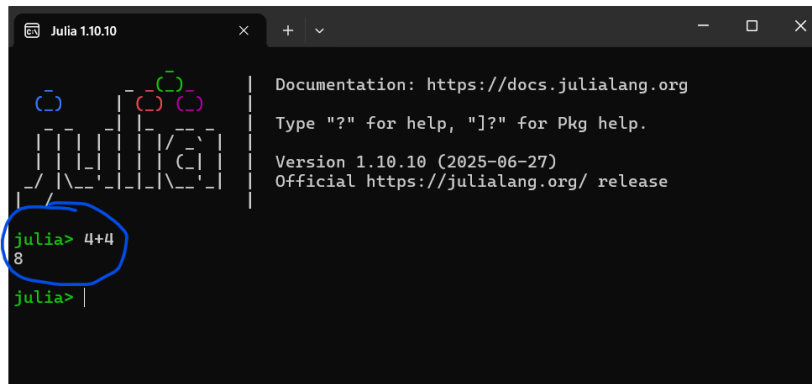


- In Julia mode we do computation:
  - we write code
  - and the computer executes it and displays the output.

---


## Julia mode: an example

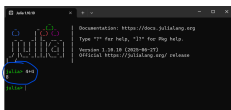
- If you type `4+4` followed by  Enter after the prompt `julia>`
- You will get 8 as the output.



---

## 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

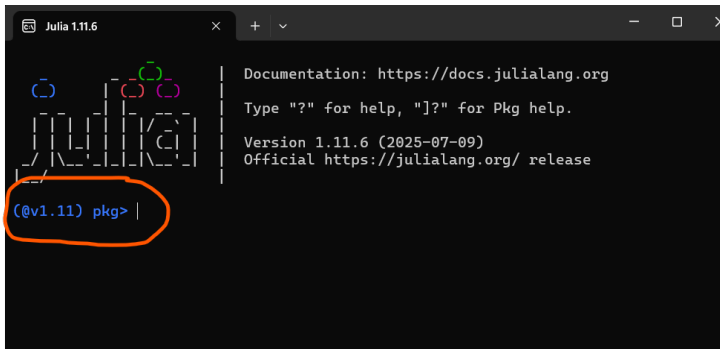
- That is the reason why we will use Pluto notebooks instead.
- 

## 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:




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

The screenshot shows the Pluto.jl web interface. At the top, it says "welcome to Pluto.jl" with a small logo. Below this, there are two main sections: "My work" and "Open a notebook". In the "My work" section, there is a button that says "+ Create a new notebook". In the "Open a notebook" section, there is a text input field with the placeholder "Enter path or URL..." and a button labeled "Open". Four blue arrows with numbers point to specific elements: 1. Points to the text input field. 2. Points to the backslash character "\". 3. Points to the text input field. 4. Points to the "Open" button.

1. Paste the Path of your notebook into this box

2. End the Path by adding a backslash: \

3. A list of files will appear here. Click on the file you want to run

4. Click on **Open**

## 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