NumPy Visual Guide

Lab Objective: NumPy operations can be difficult to visualize, but the concepts are straightforward. This appendix provides visual demonstrations of how NumPy arrays are used with slicing syntax, stacking, broadcasting, and axis-specific operations. Though these visualizations are for 1- or 2dimensional arrays, the concepts can be extended to n-dimensional arrays.

Data Access

The entries of a 2-D array are the rows of the matrix (as 1-D arrays). To access a single entry, enter the row index, a comma, and the column index. Remember that indexing begins with 0.

Slicing

A lone colon extracts an entire row or column from a 2-D array. The syntax [a:b] can be read as "the ath entry up to (but not including) the bth entry." Similarly, [a:] means "the ath entry to the end" and [:b] means "everything up to (but not including) the bth entry."

Stacking

np.hstack() stacks sequence of arrays horizontally and np.vstack() stacks a sequence of arrays vertically.

Because 1-D arrays are flat, np.hstack() concatenates 1-D arrays and np.vstack() stacks them vertically. To make several 1-D arrays into the columns of a 2-D array, use np.column_stack().

 $x = [\times \times \times \times]$ y = [* * * *]

Broadcasting

NumPy automatically aligns arrays for component-wise operations whenever possible. See http://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/user/basics.broadcasting.html for more in-depth examples and broadcasting rules.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \qquad x = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 20 & 30 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \\ + \\ \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 20 & 30 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 22 & 33 \\ 11 & 22 & 33 \\ 11 & 22 & 33 \end{bmatrix}$$

A + x.reshape((1,-1)) =
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 20 \\ 30 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 11 & 12 & 13 \\ 21 & 22 & 23 \\ 31 & 32 & 33 \end{bmatrix}$$

Operations along an Axis

Most array methods have an axis argument that allows an operation to be done along a given axis. To compute the sum of each column, use axis=0; to compute the sum of each row, use axis=1.

$$A = \left[\begin{array}{rrrr} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

A.sum(axis=0) =
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 3 & 4 \\ 4 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 8 & 12 & 16 \end{bmatrix}$$

A.sum(axis=1) =
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 10 & 10 & 10 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$$