

AMS 595/691: Fundamentals of Computing: Part II

Lecture 6: Array Computation and Curve Plotting

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Outline

1 Array Computations with NumPy

2 Curve Plotting

3 File I/O for Arrays

Introduction to NumPy

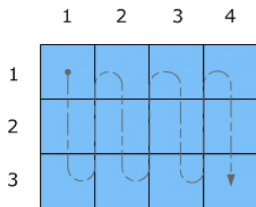
- NumPy provides multidimensional arrays
 - ▶ All elements must be the same data type
 - ▶ Many different data types supported
 - ▶ Size is fixed (memory is allocated for the size specified)
- Arithmetic operations work on arrays
- Provides MANY functions that operate on whole arrays
 - ▶ These operations are written in a compiled language, and run fast
 - ▶ Generally speaking, you want to avoid loops to get the best performance, although it may make code unreadable

Intro to NumPy: Array Operations

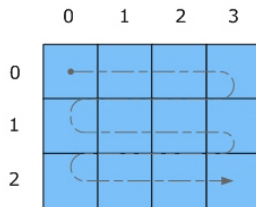
- Arithmetic operator (+, -, /, *) work element-wise
 - ▶ $A * B$ is not a matrix product, but is element-wise multiplication, similar to `.*` in MATLAB
 - ▶ instead multiplies the corresponding elements in each array together
 - ▶ `dot(A, B)` does a dot product
- Universal functions (sin, cos, exp, ...) work element-wise
- NumPy has a matrix class, which is a subclass of array
 - ▶ `*` are matrix-matrix multiplication
- See [Numpy for Matlab users](#) for mapping from MATLAB to NumPy
- Many linear-algebra functions are provided SciPy (next lecture)
- See [Jupyter notebook on NumPy](#)

Key Differences Between NumPy and MATLAB

- 1-based (MATLAB) vs. 0-based (Python) indexing
- Pass by value (MATLAB) vs. pass by reference (Python)
 - ▶ In Python, slicing creates a “view” into an array
- Column major vs. row major
 - ▶ MATLAB (like Fortran) uses *column major*
 - ▶ Python (like C) uses *row major*
 - ▶ This is important to understand for efficiency and for passing data between different languages



A: Column-major order (Fortran-style)



B: Row-major order (C-style)

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Plotting using Matplotlib

- [Matplotlib](#) is standard plotting library for scientific python
 - ▶ Mostly for 2-d data
 - ▶ Can use LaTeX commands for equations
 - ▶ Can produce “publication-quality” plots; see [gallery](#) for examples
- Importing Matplotlib
 - ▶ matplotlib is the entire package
 - ▶ matplotlib.pyplot is a module within matplotlib that provides easy access to the core plotting routines
 - ▶ pylab combines pyplot and numpy into a single namespace to provide MATLAB-like interface
- See [Jupyter notebook on Matplotlib](#) with [this sample data](#)

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Text and Binary File

- `numpy.loadtxt()` provides easy way to load rows of data from text file
- SciPy's `scipy.io` module provides methods to read and write MATLAB's MAT files, which are binary files