PROGRAMMING IN PYTHON I

Fast Numerical Computations in Python



Andreas Schörgenhumer Institute for Machine Learning





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FAST NUMERICAL COMPUTATIONS IN PYTHON



Motivation

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- We can use modules in Python that allow us to write fast code in Python
 - ☐ By providing optimized functions (e.g., NumPy, ...)
 - □ By providing tools for optimizing Python-like code (e.g., Numba, PyTorch, Tensorflow, ...)

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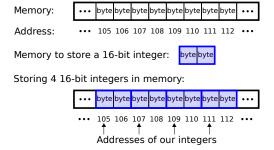
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- NumPy mainly deals with (multidimensional) array data based on the numpy.ndarray object
- Documentation/Tutorials:

https://numpy.org/doc/stable/index.html

- Elements are stored as one block with contiguous addresses in memory
- Elements are fast to access since we can quickly compute their addresses



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- We want to store a 2D array with 3 rows and 5 columns
 - □ 5 elements per row, 3 per column, 15 in total

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This is automatically done in the background for you, you do not have to worry about the correct index calculation

Indexing in NumPy

- Accessing NumPy arrays is similar to Python lists
 - □ Index via integers:

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my_array[i]
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- NumPy offers many more fancy indexing options
 - Indexing multi-dimensional arrays directly:

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my_array[row, col]
my_array[2, 4, 8, 5]
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- More examples in the accompanying code file

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Many NumPy methods in the provided library require to specify the axis on which to perform some operation