

Practical Session 1, 2019

1. Aims of the Session

In this session, you will learn how to use the Jupyter notebook and how to manipulate data in Python using Numpy. At the end of this session, you should know 1) how to open the Jupyter notebook and how to run Python code from it; 2) how to generate random arrays and access elements in array using Numpy; 3) how to plot data using Matplotlib.

2. Starting, Using and Leaving Python


In this module, you will use the syntax of Python 3. There are many options for development environments for Python. You will use the Jupyter notebook, which is a browser-based graphical interface to the IPython (*Interactive Python*) shell.

- Click the **window icon** on the bottom left corner:
- Search **Anaconda Navigator** by typing **Anaconda** from the search box under All Programs.
- Click on **Anaconda 3.6 Navigator**
- Click **Launch** under Jupyter from Anaconda Navigator
- Once the jupyter notebook is open, what you can see are files and/or folders under C:\Docs
- Click **New** from Jupyter, then select **Python 3** from the pop-up list. You should see a new page with a blank cell, where you can type in Python code.
- Click File and select Rename from the pop-up list, you may give the file a name you prefer, for example, practical1.

3. Help within IPython

IPython provides many useful tools for a user to quickly access information, such as, how to call a function? What arguments and options does a function have? What does the source code of a Python function look like? And so on.


In this session, you will use two such tools, namely the `?` character to explore documentation, and the `??` characters to explore source code.

- Accessing documentation with `?`
Python has a built-in **help()** function that can access the concise summary of each Python object. For example, to see the documentation of the built-in **len** function, you can type **help(len)** in an empty cell and then click the 'run' button :

```
help(len)
```

Help on built-in function len in module builtins:

```
len(obj, /)
    Return the number of items in a container.
```

Or type **len?** in an empty cell and then click the 'run' button  Run:

```
len?
```

```
Signature: len(obj, /)
Docstring: Return the number of items in a container.
Type:      builtin_function_or_method
```

One more example. First, create a function, which can compute the square of a number. Please not to worry if you do not know how to write a function yet. You will learn it in the next practical session. For now, you need to type the following code in a cell in your Jupyter notebook, and after typing you need to click the 'run' button

 Run

```
def square(x):
    """Return the square of x"""
    return x ** 2
```

Now type **square?** in a new cell. What information have you got?

- Accessing source code with ??

IPython provides a shortcut to the source code with the double question mark (??). For example, type **square??** to see what you get.

Sometimes the ?? suffix does not display any source code. For example, you may type **print??** to see what you get. This is because the object in question is not implemented in Python, but in C or some other compiled extension language.

Finally, if you are looking for a guide to the Python language itself, you may have a look at <https://github.com/jakevdp/WhirlwindTourOfPython>.

4. Introduction to NumPy

Numpy (<https://numpy.org/>), Numerical Python, provides an efficient interface to store and operate on dense data buffers. More detailed tutorial on NumPy can be found here: <https://numpy.org/devdocs/user/quickstart.html>.

You can import NumPy using np as an alias and check the version by typing the following (Note that it is a double underscore sign you need to type rather than one.):

```
import numpy as np
np.__version__
```

To display NumPy's built-in documentation, you can type: **np?** Further, to display all the contents of the numpy namespace, you can use the Tab button, that is, type **np** followed by a full-stop (.) character and the Tab key. A list should appear next to **np**. You may press the Down arrow from the keyboard to scroll down the list.

NumPy arrays contain values of a single type. These types include Boolean, Integer, Float and Complex number. Details can be viewed here:

<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/user/basics.types.html>

5.1 The basic of NumPy arrays

- To generate an array using Numpy, you may use **np.array**. For example,
`A = np.array([1, 3, 6, 10])`
- Attributes of arrays: Determining the size, shape, memory consumption and data types of arrays.
Type the following code to generate a one-dimensional and two-dimensional array in the Jupyter notebook:

```
import numpy as np
np.random.seed(421) # seed with a set value to ensure that the same random arrays are generated each time

a = np.random.randint(5, size=4) # One-dimensional array
b = np.random.randint(5, size=(2,3)) # Two-dimensional array
```

Task1:

- 1) Understand the meaning of value 5 in the above code by typing **np.random.randint?**
- 2) Use the built-in **print** function to print out **a** and **b** arrays. If you do not know how to use **print**, do not forget to type **help(print)** or **print?** to look for help.

Each array has attributes **ndim** (the number of dimensions), **shape** (the size of each dimension), **size** (the total size of the array), **dtype** (the data type of the array), **itemsize** (the size in bytes of each array element) and **nbytes** (the total size in bytes of the array). You may use **print** to check these attributes of each array. For example,

```
print("a.ndim: ", a.ndim)
```

Task2: Investigate these attributes of array **b** using the built-in function **print()**.

- Indexing of arrays: getting and setting the value of individual array elements.

Note that in Python, the index of an array counts from **zero**.

In a one-dimensional array, you can access the i^{th} value by specifying the desired index in **square brackets**. For example, the first element in **a**, that is **a[0]**. To index from the end of the array, you can use negative indices. For example, the last element in **a**, this is, **a[-1]**.

Task3:

- 1) Print array **a**
- 2) Access the second value in **a**
- 3) Access the last second value in **a** using the negative index.

In a multidimensional array, you access items using a comma-separated tuple of indices. For example, **b[0,0]**, or **b[1,-1]**.

Task4:

- 4) Print array **b**.
- 5) Access the last second value in the first row of **b**.
- 6) Access the second value in the second row of **b** using the negative indices.

- Slicing of arrays: getting and setting smaller subarrays within a larger array.

To access a slice of an array **x**, you can use **x[start:stop:step]**. The default values are **start=0**, **stop = size of dimension**, **step=1**.

Task5:

- 1) Generate an array **c** including 12 elements by typing
c = np.arange(12).
- 2) Use the help function to find out more about **np.arange**.
- 3) Investigate on how to get subarrays by typing the following code (do not forget to press the run button to see the results):
 - a. **c[:4]**
 - b. **c[0:4:2]**
 - c. **c[::3]**
 - d. **c[1::2]**
 - e. **c[5::-1]**

Multidimensional slices work in the same way, with multiple slices separated by commas. For example,

```
x = np.random.randint(12, size=(4,3))
```

x

```
array([[ 7,  3,  8],
       [ 7,  6,  8],
       [ 0,  4, 10],
       [ 0, 10,  7]])
```

```
x[1:2:, 0:2]
```

```
array([[7, 6]])
```

- Reshaping of arrays: changing the shape of a given array

You can change the shape of a given array by using the **reshape()** method. For example,

```
d = c.reshape((3,4))
```

d

```
array([[ 0,  1,  2,  3],
       [ 4,  5,  6,  7],
       [ 8,  9, 10, 11]])
```

Task6: change the shape of array **b** from 2 by 3 to 3 by 2.

- Joining and splitting of arrays: Combining multiple arrays into one and splitting one array into many.

You can use **np.concatenate**, **np.vstack** and **np.hstack** to concatenate or join two arrays. The opposite of concatenation is splitting, which can be done by the functions **np.split**, **np.hsplit** and **np.vsplit**.

Task7:

- 1) Use the help function to find out more about **np.concatenate**, **np.vstack**, **np.hstack**, **np.split**, **np.hsplit** and **np.vsplit**.
- 2) Generate a two-dimensional array by typing

```
M = np.array([[10, 9, 8],[0, 1, 2]])
```

Use **np.concatenate** to get new arrays as shown as follows:

```
Q = np.concatenate([M, M], axis=1)
Q
array([[10,  9,  8, 10,  9,  8],
       [ 0,  1,  2,  0,  1,  2]])
```

How to get an array like the following one using **np.concatenate**?

```
array([[10,  9,  8],
       [ 0,  1,  2],
       [10,  9,  8],
       [ 0,  1,  2]])
```

- 3) How to split array `x1=[1, 2, 3, 41, 52, 8, 9, 10]` into three subarrays, which are `[1, 2, 3]`, `[41, 52]` and `[8, 9, 10]` using **np.split**?

4.2 Universal functions (UFuncs)

- Arithmetic operators implemented in NumPy

Operator	Equivalent ufunc	Description
+	np.add	Addition
-	np.subtract	Subtraction
-	np.negative	Unary negation (e.g. -10)
*	np.multiply	Multiplication
/	np.divide	Division
//	np.floor_divide	Floor division (e.g. 6//5=1)
**	np.power	Exponentiation
%	np.mod	Modulus/remainder (e.g. 7%3=1)

- Absolute value: use **np.abs** or **np.absolute**

Task8: exploring NumPy's UFuncs. Generate an array `x2 = [-10, 2, 3, -5]`

Do the following:

- `np.abs(x2)`
- `x2+4`
- `x2-3`
- `-x2`
- `x2 % 2`

- Comparison operators as ufuncs

Task9: Your task is to understand the function of each operator listed in the following table by working on some your own examples, and then fill in the last column with the corresponding result. You may use `x2` generated previously as the input of each operator. For example, you may type `x2 > 2` in the column of **Typing command** to obtain the result.

Operator	Equivalent ufunc	Typing command	Result
<code>==</code>	<code>np.equal</code>		
<code>!=</code>	<code>np.not_equal</code>		
<code><</code>	<code>np.less</code>		
<code><=</code>	<code>np.less_equal</code>		
<code>></code>	<code>np.greater</code>	For example: <code>x2 > 2</code>	
<code>>=</code>	<code>np.greater_equal</code>		

4.3 Aggregations: Summing, Minimum and Maximum

NumPy provides many aggregation functions. You can see some of them in the following table. Quite often, you can see some missing values (may be denoted to NaN) in a given data file. Most aggregates have a NaN-safe counterpart that computes the result while ignoring missing values.

Task10: Your task is to understand the meaning of each function listed in the following table by working on some examples you want to try, and then fill in the last column with the corresponding result. You may use `x2` again as the input of each function you will practice. For example, you may type `np.sum(x2)` or you may type `x2.sum()` to obtain the result of the sum of `x2`.

Function Name	NaN-safe Version	Description	Result
<code>np.sum</code>	<code>np.nansum</code>	Compute sum of elements	
<code>np.prod</code>	<code>np.nanprod</code>	Compute product of elements	
<code>np.mean</code>	<code>np.nanmean</code>	Compute median of elements	
<code>np.std</code>	<code>np.nanstd</code>	Compute standard deviation	
<code>np.var</code>	<code>np.nanvar</code>	Compute variance	
<code>np.min</code>	<code>np.nanmin</code>	Find minimum value	
<code>np.max</code>	<code>np.nanmax</code>	Find maximum value	
<code>np.argmin</code>	<code>np.nanargmin</code>	Find index of minimum value	
<code>np.argmax</code>	<code>np.nanargmax</code>	Find index of maximum value	
<code>np.median</code>	<code>np.nanmedian</code>	Compute median of elements	
<code>np.any</code>	N/A	Evaluate whether any elements are true	
<code>np.all</code>	N/A	Evaluate whether all elements are true	

If you have an array with more than one dimension, you can use *axis* as an additional argument specifying along which dimension the aggregate is computed. **axis=0** specifies

the aggregate is computed along column; **axis=1** is along each row. By default, each NumPy aggregation function will return the aggregate over the entire array.

4.4 Comparisons and Boolean logic

The following table summarizes the Boolean (true/false statements) operators and their equivalent ufuncs:

Operator	Equivalent ufunc	Typing command	Result
&	np.bitwise_and		
	np.bitwise_or		
^	np.bitwise_xor		
~	np.bitwise_not		

Using these tools, you can manipulate values in an array based on some criterion. For example, generate a new array **x3** by typing **x3 = np.arange(15)** first. To get the sum of elements whose value is either greater than 10 or less than 3, you can type the following:

```
sx3= np.sum(x3[(x3>10) | (x3<3)])
```

Task11:

Compute the product of elements in **x3** whose value is in between 3 and 10 inclusive using the proper equivalent ufuncs from NumPy.

4.5 Selecting random points: sometimes you need to randomly select a number of data points from a dataset.

For example, generate an array as follows:

```
rand=np.random.RandomState(421)
rx = rand.randint(50, size=10)
print(rx)
```

```
[23 44 19 17 15 30 38 17 47 32]
```

Suppose we want to randomly select 5 data points from this array. You can type the following code:

```
indices = np.random.choice(rx.shape[0], 5, replace=False)
indices
```

```
array([5, 2, 8, 4, 7])
```

```
selected = rx[indices]
print(selected)
```

```
[30 19 47 15 17]
```

Task12:

Can you modify the value of those 5 selected elements to zero?

4.6 Sorting arrays

Although Python has built-in **sort** and **sorted** functions to work with lists, NumPy provide **np.sort** and **np.argsort**, which are much more efficient and useful due to using a *quick-sort* algorithm.

np.sort: return a sorted version of the array

np.argsort: return the indices of the sorted elements.

Task13: investigate how to use these two functions by using the help function first. Then apply these two functions on `x4=[10, 9, -1, 3]`. Further, can you sort `x4` in descending order?

5. Visualisation with Matplotlib

Matplotlib (<http://matplotlib.org>) is a multiplatform data visualisation library built on NumPy arrays. You can import what you need for your visualisation purposes with the following command:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

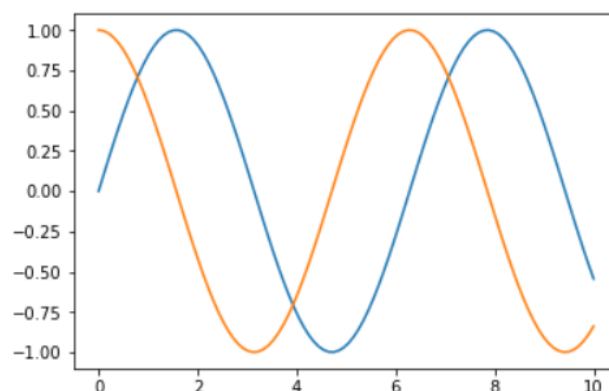
The following shows a simple example, where `np.sin()` and `np.cos()` are trigonometric functions, which you will see again in Practical 3 :

```
: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
: import numpy as np
```

```
: x = np.linspace(0, 10, 100)
```

```
: plt.plot(x, np.sin(x))
: plt.plot(x, np.cos(x))

plt.show()
```



6. More Practice:

- Exercise 1:

- 1) Generate an array (MyFirstDataSet) including 100 rows and 2 columns and each element is an integer ranging from -50 to 100.
 - 2) Produce a scatter plot of the dataset: the first column against the second column.
- Exercise 2: Normalisation MyFirstDataSet so that the minimum value in each column is -1 and the maximum value is 1.

References

1. J. VanderPlas: Python Data Science Handbook, 2016, O'Reilly Media, Inc.