

# Tensor Attributes

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```
.. currentmodule:: torch
```

Each `torch.Tensor` has a `:class:`torch.dtype``, `:class:`torch.device``, and `:class:`torch.layout``.

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## torch.dtype

A `:class:`torch.dtype`` is an object that represents the data type of a `:class:`torch.Tensor``. PyTorch has twelve different data types:

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Data type	dtype	Legacy Constructors
32-bit floating point	<code>torch.float32</code> or <code>torch.float</code>	<code>torch.FloatTensor</code>
64-bit floating point	<code>torch.float64</code> or <code>torch.double</code>	<code>torch.DoubleTensor</code>
64-bit complex	<code>torch.complex64</code> or <code>torch.cfloat</code>	
128-bit complex	<code>torch.complex128</code> or <code>torch.cdouble</code>	
16-bit floating point [1]	<code>torch.float16</code> or <code>torch.half</code>	<code>torch.HalfTensor</code>
16-bit floating point [2]	<code>torch.bfloat16</code>	<code>torch.BFloat16Tensor</code>
8-bit integer (unsigned)	<code>torch.uint8</code>	<code>torch.ByteTensor</code>
8-bit integer (signed)	<code>torch.int8</code>	<code>torch.CharTensor</code>
16-bit integer (signed)	<code>torch.int16</code> or <code>torch.short</code>	<code>torch.ShortTensor</code>
32-bit integer (signed)	<code>torch.int32</code> or <code>torch.int</code>	<code>torch.IntTensor</code>
64-bit integer (signed)	<code>torch.int64</code> or <code>torch.long</code>	<code>torch.LongTensor</code>
Boolean	<code>torch.bool</code>	<code>torch.BoolTensor</code>

[1] Sometimes referred to as binary16: uses 1 sign, 5 exponent, and 10 significand bits. Useful when precision is important.

[2] Sometimes referred to as Brain Floating Point: use 1 sign, 8 exponent and 7 significand bits. Useful when range is important, since it has the same number of exponent bits as `float32`

To find out if a `:class:`torch.dtype`` is a floating point data type, the property `:attr:`is_floating_point`` can be used, which returns `True` if the data type is a floating point data type.

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To find out if a `:class:`torch.dtype`` is a complex data type, the property `attr:`is_complex`` can be used, which returns `True` if the data type is a complex data type.

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When the dtypes of inputs to an arithmetic operation (*add*, *sub*, *div*, *mul*) differ, we promote by finding the minimum dtype that satisfies the following rules:

- If the type of a scalar operand is of a higher category than tensor operands (where `complex > floating > integral > boolean`), we promote to a type with sufficient size to hold all scalar operands of that category.
- If a zero-dimension tensor operand has a higher category than dimensioned operands, we promote to a type with sufficient size and category to hold all zero-dim tensor operands of that category.
- If there are no higher-category zero-dim operands, we promote to a type with sufficient size and category to hold all dimensioned operands.

A floating point scalar operand has dtype `torch.get_default_dtype()` and an integral non-boolean scalar operand has dtype `torch.int64`. Unlike numpy, we do not inspect values when determining the minimum dtypes of an operand. Quantized and complex types are not yet supported.

Promotion Examples:

```
>>> float_tensor = torch.ones(1, dtype=torch.float)
>>> double_tensor = torch.ones(1, dtype=torch.double)
>>> complex_float_tensor = torch.ones(1, dtype=torch.complex64)
>>> complex_double_tensor = torch.ones(1, dtype=torch.complex128)
>>> int_tensor = torch.ones(1, dtype=torch.int)
>>> long_tensor = torch.ones(1, dtype=torch.long)
>>> uint_tensor = torch.ones(1, dtype=torch.uint8)
>>> double_tensor = torch.ones(1, dtype=torch.double)
>>> bool_tensor = torch.ones(1, dtype=torch.bool)
# zero-dim tensors
>>> long_zerodim = torch.tensor(1, dtype=torch.long)
>>> int_zerodim = torch.tensor(1, dtype=torch.int)

>>> torch.add(5, 5).dtype
torch.int64
# 5 is an int64, but does not have higher category than int_tensor so is not considered.
>>> (int_tensor + 5).dtype
torch.int32
>>> (int_tensor + long_zerodim).dtype
torch.int32
>>> (long_tensor + int_tensor).dtype
torch.int64
>>> (bool_tensor + long_tensor).dtype
torch.int64
>>> (bool_tensor + uint_tensor).dtype
torch.uint8
>>> (float_tensor + double_tensor).dtype
torch.float64
>>> (complex_float_tensor + complex_double_tensor).dtype
torch.complex128
>>> (bool_tensor + int_tensor).dtype
torch.int32
# Since long is a different kind than float, result dtype only needs to be large enough
# to hold the float.
>>> torch.add(long_tensor, float_tensor).dtype
torch.float32
```

When the output tensor of an arithmetic operation is specified, we allow casting to its *dtype* except that:

- An integral output tensor cannot accept a floating point tensor.
- A boolean output tensor cannot accept a non-boolean tensor.
- A non-complex output tensor cannot accept a complex tensor

Casting Examples:

```
# allowed:
>>> float_tensor *= float_tensor
>>> float_tensor *= int_tensor
>>> float_tensor *= uint_tensor
>>> float_tensor *= bool_tensor
>>> float_tensor *= double_tensor
>>> int_tensor *= long_tensor
>>> int_tensor *= uint_tensor
>>> uint_tensor *= int_tensor

# disallowed (RuntimeError: result type can't be cast to the desired output type):
>>> int_tensor *= float_tensor
>>> bool_tensor *= int_tensor
>>> bool_tensor *= uint_tensor
>>> float_tensor *= complex_float_tensor
```

## torch.device

A `:class:`torch.device`` is an object representing the device on which a `:class:`torch.Tensor`` is or will be allocated.

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The `:class:`torch.device`` contains a device type (`'cpu'` or `'cuda'`) and optional device ordinal for the device type. If the device ordinal is not present, this object will always represent the current device for the device type, even after `:func:`torch.cuda.set_device()`` is called; e.g., a `:class:`torch.Tensor`` constructed with device `'cuda'` is equivalent to `'cuda:X'` where X is the result of `:func:`torch.cuda.current_device()``.

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A `:class:`torch.Tensor``'s device can be accessed via the `:attr:`Tensor.device`` property.

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A `:class:`torch.device`` can be constructed via a string or via a string and device ordinal

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Via a string:

```
>>> torch.device('cuda:0')
device(type='cuda', index=0)

>>> torch.device('cpu')
device(type='cpu')

>>> torch.device('cuda') # current cuda device
device(type='cuda')
```

Via a string and device ordinal:

```
>>> torch.device('cuda', 0)
device(type='cuda', index=0)

>>> torch.device('cpu', 0)
device(type='cpu', index=0)
```

#### Note

The `:class:`torch.device`` argument in functions can generally be substituted with a string. This allows for fast prototyping of code.

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```
>>> # Example of a function that takes in a torch.device
>>> cuda1 = torch.device('cuda:1')
>>> torch.randn((2,3), device=cuda1)
```

```
>>> # You can substitute the torch.device with a string
>>> torch.randn((2,3), device='cuda:1')
```

#### Note

For legacy reasons, a device can be constructed via a single device ordinal, which is treated as a cuda device. This matches `meth:`Tensor.get_device``, which returns an ordinal for cuda tensors and is not supported for cpu tensors.

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```
>>> torch.device(1)
device(type='cuda', index=1)
```

#### Note

Methods which take a device will generally accept a (properly formatted) string or (legacy) integer device ordinal, i.e. the following are all equivalent:

```
>>> torch.randn((2,3), device=torch.device('cuda:1'))
>>> torch.randn((2,3), device='cuda:1')
```

```
>>> torch.randn((2,3), device=1) # legacy
```

## torch.layout

### Warning

The `torch.layout` class is in beta and subject to change.

A `:class:`torch.layout`` is an object that represents the memory layout of a `:class:`torch.Tensor``. Currently, we support `torch.strided` (dense Tensors) and have beta support for `torch.sparse_coo` (sparse COO Tensors).

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`torch.strided` represents dense Tensors and is the memory layout that is most commonly used. Each strided tensor has an associated `:class:`torch.Storage``, which holds its data. These tensors provide multi-dimensional, [strided](#) view of a storage. Strides are a list of integers: the k-th stride represents the jump in the memory necessary to go from one element to the next one in the k-th dimension of the Tensor. This concept makes it possible to perform many tensor operations efficiently.

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Example:

```
>>> x = torch.tensor([[1, 2, 3, 4, 5], [6, 7, 8, 9, 10]])
>>> x.stride()
(5, 1)

>>> x.t().stride()
(1, 5)
```

For more information on `torch.sparse_coo` tensors, see [:ref:`sparse-docs`](#).

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## torch.memory\_format

A `:class:`torch.memory_format`` is an object representing the memory format on which a `:class:`torch.Tensor`` is or will be allocated.

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Possible values are:

- `torch.contiguous_format`: Tensor is or will be allocated in dense non-overlapping memory. Strides represented by values in decreasing order.
- `torch.channels_last`: Tensor is or will be allocated in dense non-overlapping memory. Strides represented by values in

`strides[0] > strides[2] > strides[3] > strides[1] == 1` aka NHWC order.

- `torch.preserve_format`: Used in functions like *clone* to preserve the memory format of the input tensor. If input tensor is allocated in dense non-overlapping memory, the output tensor strides will be copied from the input. Otherwise output strides will follow `torch.contiguous_format`