

Effective Programming Practices for Economists

Scientific Computing

Creating arrays

Janoš Gabler and Hans-Martin von Gaudecker

Creating arrays from lists

Flat list

```
>>> np.array([1, 2, 3, 4])  
array([1, 2, 3, 4])
```

Nested list

```
>>> np.array([[1, 2], [3, 4]])  
array([[1, 2],  
       [3, 4]])
```

Mixed dtypes in list

```
>>> np.array([[1, 2], [3.1, 4]])  
array([[1. , 2. ],  
       [3.1, 4. ]])
```

- Can use flat or (deeply) nested lists
- Lists length cannot be rugged
- List might have mixed dtypes, arrays will not!

Constructors

```
>>> np.ones(3)
array([1., 1., 1.])
```

```
>>> np.ones((2, 2))
array([[1., 1.],
       [1., 1.]])
```

```
>>> np.arange(3)
array([0, 1, 2])
```

```
>>> np.eye(2)
array([[1., 0.],
       [0., 1.]])
```

- `np.ones_like`
- `np.zeros` **and** `np.zeros_like`
- `np.empty`
- `np.linspace`
- `np.full`
- **More in the (documentation)**
- **Learn them like vocabulary!**

Reshaping

```
>>> a = np.array([1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6])
>>> b = a.reshape((2, 3))
>>> b
array([[1, 2, 3],
       [4, 5, 6]])
```

```
>>> b.shape
(2, 3)
```

- Reshape can transform arrays from one shape to another
- Shapes are denoted as in matrices, i.e. (n_rows, n_cols)
- Number of elements must not change
- Elements arranged in row-major order

Repeating arrays

```
>>> a = np.array([1, 2, 3])  
>>> a.repeat(2)
```

```
array([1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3])
```

```
>>> b = np.array([[1, 2], [3, 4]])  
>>> b.repeat(2)
```

```
array([1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4])
```

```
>>> b.repeat(2, axis=1)
```

```
array([[1, 1, 2, 2],  
       [3, 3, 4, 4]])
```

```
>>> a.reshape(-1, 1).repeat(2, axis=1)
```

```
array([[1, 1],
```

- `repeat` duplicates elements n times
- Without axis, result is flattened
- Versatile together with reshaping
- Tip for complex cases:
 - First introduce new dimensions via reshaping
 - Then repeat along these axes
- Always prefer broadcasting over repetition!