# Python Workshop Series Session 6: *NumPy & Efficient Programming in Python*

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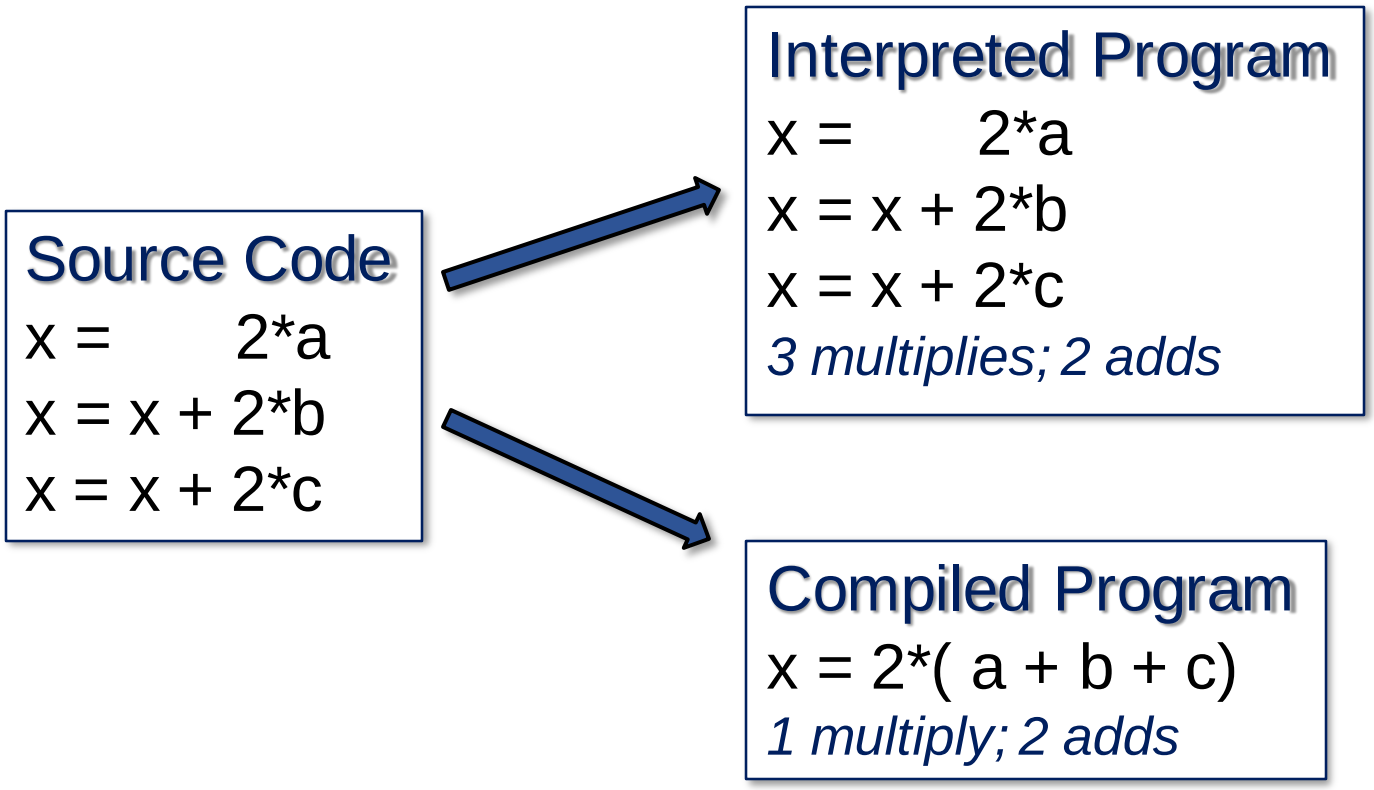
Slides: https://github.com/ResearchComputing/Python_Fall_2021

# Recall that:

- Python is an *interpreted* language
- Separate program (the interpreter) runs Python code.
- Interpreters execute code “naively.” (line by line)
- Compilers take holistic approach. Interpreters do not.
- Efficiency losses when compared to compiled code.

# Compilation vs. Interpretation



# Python with Numpy

NumPy provides benefits of compiled language within Python's interpreted framework.

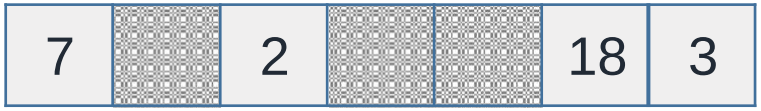
It offers

- Arrays
  (efficient memory access)

- Array methods
  (vectorized loop operations)

A = [ 7, 2, 18, 3 ]

memory layout: lists

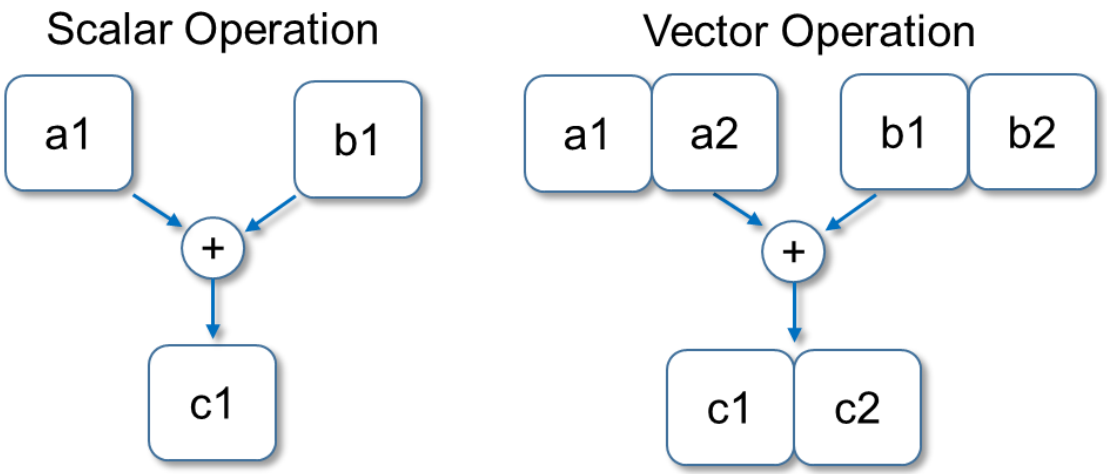



*non-contiguous*

memory layout: arrays


*contiguous*

# Vectorization?




- Modern processors can perform arithmetic operations on multiple data concurrently
- Think “data parallelism”
- Compiler-enabled

SIMD: Single-Instruction, Multiple Data

-- single instruction (e.g., add, multiply) executed concurrently, by a single process core on multiple pieces of data (e.g., array elements)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# The Big Picture

## ...if you remember nothing else...

Whenever Possible:

- Use NumPy arrays instead of lists
- Use in-place operations
- Use array syntax instead of explicit loops

# Getting started with NumPy

- Open **initialization.py**
- Must import the NumPy module first

*Common import patterns*

```
import numpy

OR

import numpy as np
```

*We use this one*

NumPy Documentation:

https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/user/index.html

# NumPy Array Initialization

```
import numpy as np
my_array = np.init_type (dims, dtype='data type' )
```

**my_array** : Numy ndarray object (N-dimensional array)

**init_type** : initialization function

**zeros** : initialize array with zero values

**empty** : do not initialize array values

**dims** : tuple indicating dimensions of the array

e.g., (10) , (10 , 2) , (2 , 8 ,10)

**dtype** : string variable describing numeric data type

e.g., 'int16', 'int32', 'float16', 'float32', 'float64', 'complex64'

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

# Initializing Arrays with Values

*Initialize using values from list*

```
list = [ 0, 2, 1, 3]
my_array = np.array (list, dtype='int32' )
```

*Initialize using values in [a,b) with integer spacing n*

```
my_array = np.arange (a, b, n, dtype='float64' )
```

*Initialize using n evenly spaced values in [a, b]*

```
my_array = np.linspace (a, b, n, dtype='data type' )
```

# Quick Exercises

- Create a 1-D NumPy array with three 16-bit integer elements, initialized to 0.
- Create a 1-D NumPy array with four 64-bit floating-point values initialized to [ 0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3] using ***linspace***
- Create a 1-D NumPy array with four 64-bit floating-point values initialized to [ 1.0 , 0.1 , 9.5 , 11.0] using ***array***

# Simple Timing

- In order to talk "efficiency," we need to time our code.
- Use the **time** function from the **time** module

```
import time
t1 = time.time( )
Test code
t2 = time.time( )
seconds = t2-t1
print('Elapsed time: ', seconds)
```

# Advanced Timing

- Use the cProfile module to profile your code
- https://docs.python.org/3/library/profile.html
- Examine:
  - my_code.py
  - time_my_code.py
- Run **python time_my_code.py**

# Use Arrays Instead of Lists

A calculation using NumPy arrays, in conjunction with array syntax, will often complete sooner than one using lists.

Examine:

**arrays_vs_lists.py**

# Avoid Loops When Possible

```
a = np.linspace(…)
b = np.linspace(…)
c = np.zeros(…)
```

***Examine:***

**noloops.py**

explicit loop

```
for i in range(n):
    c[i] = a[i]*b[i]
```

*not* vectorized

Equivalent

array syntax

```
c = a*b
```

*vectorized*

# Exercise

Rewrite **exercise1.py** using

- NumPy arrays instead of lists
- array syntax instead of loops

# In-Place Operations

When possible, use in-place operations to avoid unnecessary copies

- a = a + 2 → a += 2
- a = a - 2 → a -= 2
- a = a * 2 → a *= 2
- a = a / 2 → a /= 2

***Examine***

**inplace.py**

# Array Ordering

- N-D arrays reside in 1-D Memory
- Two different ways of storing arrays

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{00} & a_{01} \\ a_{10} & a_{11} \end{bmatrix}$$

Row-major: stripe row-by-row (C/C++; PYTHON DEFAULT)

Last index is “fastest”

| $a_{00}$ | $a_{01}$ | $a_{10}$ | $a_{11}$ |
|---|---|---|---|

Column-major: stripe column-by-column (Fortran; IDL)

First index is “fastest”

| $a_{00}$ | $a_{10}$ | $a_{01}$ | $a_{11}$ |
|---|---|---|---|

# Array Ordering

- We can control the ordering if desired

***Examine:***
**ordering.py**

Row-major: stripe row-by-row (C/C++; PYTHON DEFAULT)

Last index is “fastest”

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $a_{00}$ | $a_{01}$ | $a_{10}$ | $a_{11}$ |

Column-major: stripe column-by-column (Fortran; IDL)

First index is “fastest”

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $a_{00}$ | $a_{10}$ | $a_{01}$ | $a_{11}$ |

# Array Ordering: Why Care?

- Sometimes, you REALLY need a loop.
- The innermost loop should correspond to the fastest array index.

***Examine:***

**access_patterns.py**

**Row-Major**

```
for j in range(m)
        for k in range(n):
                a+=b[ j ][ k ]
```

**Column-Major**

```
for k in range(n)
        for j in range(m):
                a+=b[ j ][ k ]
```

# I/O with Numpy Arrays

- Writing/reading numpy arrays to/from a file is easy…

  **Examine:**

  **numpy_io.py**

- Arrays are ALWAYS written in Row-Major Order
- Not portable (Endianness is machine-specific)
- Intel processors are little-endian
- Better to use standard like HDF5

# Recall: Binary

- Base 2 numbering system
- Each digit referred to as a bit
- Your computer does math in binary
- Modern computers work in bytes: groups of 8 bits

Examples:

$000 = 0x2^2 + 0x2^1 + 0x2^0 = 0$

$001 = 0x2^2 + 0x2^1 + 1x2^0 = 1$

$110 = 1x2^2 + 1x2^1 + 0x2^0 = 6$

$101 = 1x2^2 + 0x2^1 + 1x2^0 = 5$

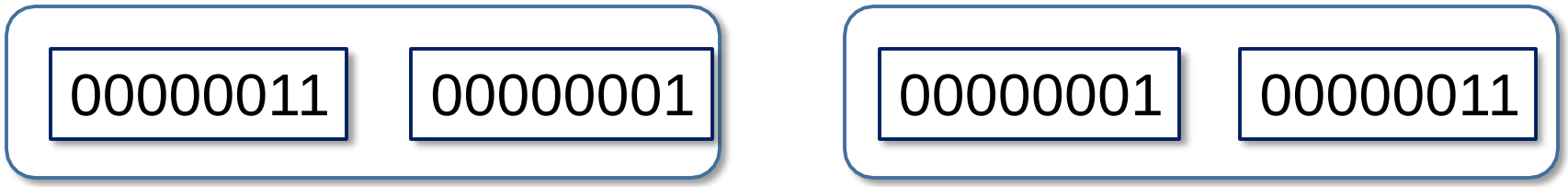
# Endianness

- Computers store numbers in bytes (8 bits)

- Most computers store their bytes in one of two different ways:
  - Most significant (i.e., largest $2^n$'s) byte first (Big Endian)
  - Least significant (i.e., smallest $2^n$'s) byte first (Little Endian)

# Example: 16-bit Binary

769 = 0000001100000001




Big Endian Ordering

Little Endian Ordering

What is your machine? Run endian_check.py.
Command line: xxd -b 769.dat