

# Broadcasting

## NumPy

## AI

# Broadcasting

Broadcasting is a feature in numpy that allows arrays of different shapes to be used in arithmetic operations.

```
a1 = np.array([5, 7, 9])
```

```
a2 = a1 + 5
```

```
print(a2)
```

$a_1$      $[1, 2, 3]$      $(3, 1)$      $1 \times 3$

$a_4$      $[ [1],$   
           $[2],$   
           $[3] ]$      $(3, 1)$      $3 \times 1$

---

$a_1$

$(3, 1)$

$[ [1, 2, 3],$   
       $[1, 2, 3],$   
       $[1, 2, 3] ]$

$a_3$

$(4, 1)$

$a_4$

$(3, 1)$

$[ [1, 1, 1],$   
       $[2, 2, 2],$   
       $[3, 3, 3] ]$

The smaller array is broadcast across the larger array so that they have compatible shapes

$$a2 = a1 + 5$$

$$a2 = [5, 7, 9] + 5$$

↙ broadcasting

$$a2 = [5, 7, 9] + [5, 5, 5]$$

$$a2 = [10, 12, 14]$$

# Broadcasting Rules

When operating on two arrays, Numpy compares their shapes element-wise.

It starts with the trailing (rightmost) dimension

2d are compatible when

1. they are equal, or
2. one of them is 1

$$[1, 2, 3] + [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]$$

Value Error (3,) and (5,) are not compatible

$$[1, 2, 3] + [4, 5, 6]$$

Correct  
(3,) & (3,)

$$\begin{bmatrix} [1, 2, 3], \\ [3, 4, 5] \end{bmatrix} + [4]$$

Correct  
(2,3) & (1,)

$$\begin{bmatrix} [1, 2, 3], \\ [3, 4, 5], \\ [6, 7, 8] \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} [1, 2], \\ [3, 4] \end{bmatrix}$$

Error  
(3,3) & (2,2)

$$\begin{bmatrix} [1, 2], \\ [2, 3], \\ [3, 4] \end{bmatrix} + [1, 2, 3] \quad (3, 2) \& (3,)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} [1, 2, 3], \\ [3, 4, 5] \end{bmatrix} + [1, 2, 3] \quad (2, 3) \& (3,)$$

(2, 3, 5) & (4, 1, 5)

[  
[ [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
[1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
[1, 1, 1, 1, 1] ],  
[ [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
[1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
[1, 1, 1, 1, 1] ] ]

[ [ [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
[ [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
[ [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
[ [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
[ [1, 1, 1, 1, 1] ] ] ] ]

Error

neither  
same nor  
equal

(2, 3, 5)

(4, 1, 5)

↑ ↑ both are same  
one of them is 1



$$\textcircled{1} \quad (10, 5, 4) \& (5, 1) \rightarrow (10, 5, 4)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad (4, 1, 3) \& (5, 4, 5, 1) \rightarrow (5, 4, 5, 3)$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad (2, 1, 4, 3) \& (6, 4, 1, 1) \quad \text{Error}$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad (10, 9, 8, 7) \& (1, 7) \rightarrow (10, 9, 8, 7)$$

