

Broadcasting Rules

This is a clarification with more worked out examples. Pulled out from https://github.com/doug333/Colab-Notebooks/blob/main/broadcast_1.ipynb

Numpy Broadcasting; vector scalar right aligned, matrix batch aligned

- Elements are broadcast or replicated with stride 0 trick. Use stride 0 to make it match the broadcast dimension. When computing the loop iteration pytorch and GPU replace the stride element with stride[0] which means keep on reading the current element. It doesn't allocate new memory for broadcast.
- **Numpy warning. np.dot() doesn't support broadcasting, *, @ do.**
- both pytorch and numpy broadcasting don't allocate memory
- They use a stride trick; instead of a stride of 1 they keep on reading the same element which is a stride of 0.

Element wise Broadcast Rules

1. first left pad the smaller shape then compare each dim
2. either dim ==1 or both equal, (3,1), (1,1) then dimension passes
3. Broadcast fails if neither dim ==1 and they aren't equal to each other.

Example

- $a=(2,5), b=(3,)$. Can we broadcast these?
 - (2,5)
- > Process the template iterate through the 1-3 rules above
- 1) (1,3) left pad the smaller one to right align
 - Iterate through the dims
 - 2) Compare $2 \leftrightarrow 1$, this ok bc one of the dims is a 1
 - 3) Compare $5 \leftrightarrow 3$, this fails because the dims not equal and neither one is 1.

Example

- $a=(2,10), b=(10,)$.

Can we broadcast these?

- 1) left pad means adding 1 to the second tuple! $(2,10), (1,10)$
- Iterate through the dims of the padded tuples, $(2,10), (1,10)$
- 2) compare dim 1: $2 \leftrightarrow 1$, ok one dim ==1
- 3) compare dim2: $10 \leftrightarrow 10$ ok, both equal

Example

- $a=(4,3,2), b=(2,)$
- left pad $(4,3,2), (1,1,2)$
- Iterate through the dims
- $4 \leftrightarrow 1$; ok
- $3 \leftrightarrow 1$; ok
- $2 \leftrightarrow 2$; ok
- all tests pass

Example

- $a=(6,1,5), b=(3,5)$

Use algo first the dims aren't equal so we need left pad a 1 into the smaller none first.

- left pad b; $a=(6,1,5), b=(1,3,5)$
- Iterate through the dims
- $6 \leftrightarrow 1$; ok, second dim is 1
- $1 \leftrightarrow 3$; ok, first dim is 1
- $5 \leftrightarrow 5$; ok, equal dims

Example

- $a = (4,3,2), b = (4,2)$

Use the algo, the len(dims) not equal, left pad b since it is smaller.

- left pad b: $a = (4,3,2), b = (1, 4,2)$
- Iterate through the dims
- $4 \leftrightarrow 1$; ok
- $3 \leftrightarrow 4$; fails
- $2 \leftrightarrow 2$; ok

Rules modification for matmul

1. pytorch and numpy same. Do not reverse the order. $A=(2,3,4,5)$, $B=(5,6)$, this is not the same as $A=(5,6)$ and $B=(2,3,4,5)$
2. last 2 dims do not broadcast. Left pad smaller first and write 2 dimensions on top of each other.
3. Verify matmul rules $(a,b) \times (b,c)$; the b has to match.
 $(1,1,3,5)$
 $(2,3,5,3)$ match $(3,5)=(a,b)$ and $(b,c)=(5,3)$
 $(1,1,3,4)$
 $(2,3,5,3)$. $(a,b)=(3,4)$ and $(b,c)=(5,3)$. NO match!
4. Follow earlier element broadcasting

Matmul broadcast Example

- A: (3, 4), B: (2, 5, 4, 6)
- Left pad smaller A first, then match matrix dims A(1,1,3,4) and B:(2, 5, 4, 6) and alignment; $(a,b)(b,c)=axc$. Verify $(3,4)(4,6)$, $b=4$. Matrix multiplication rules match.

Write 2 matrix aligned vertically

- (1, 1, 3, 4)
- (2, 5, 4, 6) $(a,b) \times (b,c)$ where b is 4.
- Iterate through the dims
- $2 \leftrightarrow 1$; ok
- $5 \leftrightarrow 1$; ok
- $3 \leftrightarrow 4$; dont align, bc last 2 rows. The element rules don't apply to last 2 columns. verify matrix rules; ok
- $4 \leftrightarrow 6$; dont align, is ok, the element matching rules don't apply to the last 2 rows. verify matrix rules; ok, repeat matrix rules not necessary
- OK

Matmul broadcast Example

- A: (4, 3, 5, 3, 8) B: (8, 6)
- left pad B for right alignment. $A=((4, 3, 5, 3, 8), B=(1,1,1,8, 6)$. Match $(a,b)(b,c) = (axc)$, $(3,8)(8,6)$; $b=8$. MM rules match.

Write dims on top of each other.

- (4, 3, 5, 3, 8)
- (1, 1, 1, 8, 6)
- Iterate through the dims
- $4 \leftrightarrow 1$; ok
- $3 \leftrightarrow 1$; ok
- $5 \leftrightarrow 1$; ok
- $3 \leftrightarrow 8$; dont align, last 2 columns don't apply element matching rules.
Can verify matrix rules as an error check; ok
- $8 \leftrightarrow 6$; dont align, last 2 columns don't apply element matching rules.
verify matrix rules; ok

Matmul broadcast Example

- A: (4,2,3,5) B: (3,2,5,6)
- Len dims match, no left pad needed
- match matrix dims, $(a \times b)(b \times c) = (a \times c)$; $(3,5)(5,6) = (3,6)$. MM rules match.
- (4, 2, 3, 5)
- (3, 2, 5, 6)
- Iterate through the dims
- $4 \leftrightarrow 3$; fails. Both have to be equal or one has to be a 1. Neither are a 1 and they aren't the same so this fails.
- $2 \leftrightarrow 2$; ok
- $3 \leftrightarrow 5$; dont align, element rules don't apply to last 2 dims. verify matrix rules; ok
- $5 \leftrightarrow 6$; dont align, element rules don't apply to the last 2 dims. verify matrix rules; ok