Numpy - multidimensional data arrays

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The latest version of this <u>IPython notebook (http://ipython.org/ipython-doc/dev/interactive/htmlnotebook.html)</u> lecture is available at <u>http://github.com/jrjohansson/scientific-python-lectures</u> (http://github.com/jrjohansson/scientific-python-lectures).

The other notebooks in this lecture series are indexed at http://jrjohansson.github.com (http://jrjohansson.github.com).

```
In [1]: # what is this line all about?!? Answer in lecture 4 %pylab inline
```

Welcome to pylab, a matplotlib-based Python environment [backend: module://IPython.zmq.pylab.bac For more information, type 'help(pylab)'.

Introduction

The numpy package (module) is used in almost all numerical computation using Python. It is a package that provide high-performance vector, matrix and higher-dimensional data structures for Python. It is implemented in C and Fortran so when calculations are vectorized (formulated with vectors and matrices), performance is very good.

To use numpy need to import the module it using of example:

```
In [2]: from numpy import *
```

In the numpy package the terminology used for vectors, matrices and higher-dimensional data sets is array.

Creating numpy arrays

There are a number of ways to initialize new numpy arrays, for example from

- a Python list or tuples
- using functions that are dedicated to generating numpy arrays, such as arange, linspace, etc.
- reading data from files

From lists

For example, to create new vector and matrix arrays from Python lists we can use the numpy.array function.

```
In [3]: # a vector: the argument to the array function is a Python list
v = array([1,2,3,4])
v
Out[3]: array([1, 2, 3, 4])
```

```
In [4]:

# a matrix: the argument to the array function is a nested Python list

M = array([[1, 2], [3, 4]])

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

The v and M objects are both of the type ndarray that the numpy module provides.

The difference between the v and M arrays is only their shapes. We can get information about the shape of an array by using the ndarray. shape property.

```
In [6]: v.shape
Out[6]: (4,)
In [7]: M.shape
Out[7]: (2, 2)
```

The number of elements in the array is available through the ndarray.size property:

```
In [8]: M.size
Out[8]: 4
```

Equivalently, we could use the function numpy.shape and numpy.size

```
In [9]: shape(M)
Out[9]: (2, 2)
In [10]: size(M)
Out[10]: 4
```

So far the numpy.ndarray looks awefully much like a Python list (or nested list). Why not simply use Python lists for computations instead of creating a new array type?

There are several reasons:

- Python lists are very general. They can contain any kind of object. They are dynamically typed. They do not support mathematical functions such as matrix and dot multiplications, etc. Implementating such functions for Python lists would not be very efficient because of the dynamic typing.
- Numpy arrays are **statically typed** and **homogeneous**. The type of the elements is determined when array is created.
- Numpy arrays are memory efficient.
- Because of the static typing, fast implementation of mathematical functions such as multiplication and addition of numpy arrays can be implemented in a compiled language (C and Fortran is used).

Using the dtype (data type) property of an ndarray, we can see what type the data of an array has:

```
Out[11]: dtype('int64')
```

M.dtype

In [11]:

We get an error if we try to assign a value of the wrong type to an element in a numpy array:

If we want, we can explicitly define the type of the array data when we create it, using the dtype keyword argument:

Common type that can be used with dtype are: int, float, complex, bool, object, etc.

We can also explicitly define the bit size of the data types, for example: int64, int16, float128, complex128.

Using array-generating functions

For larger arrays it is inpractical to initialize the data manually, using explicit pythons lists. Instead we can use one of the many functions in numpy that generates arrays of different forms. Some of the more common are:

arange

```
In [14]: # create a range
           = arange(0, 10, 1) # arguments: start, stop, step
Out[14]: array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])
In [15]: x = arange(-1, 1, 0.1)
Out[15]: array([ -1.00000000e+00, -9.0000000e-01, -8.00000000e-01,
                 -7.00000000e-01, -6.0000000e-01,
                                                   -5.00000000e-01,
                 -4.00000000e-01, -3.0000000e-01, -2.0000000e-01,
                 -1.00000000e-01, -2.22044605e-16,
                                                    1.0000000e-01,
                                   3.0000000e-01, 4.0000000e-01,
                 2.00000000e-01,
                 5.00000000e-01,
                                   6.00000000e-01,
                                                    7.00000000e-01,
                 8.00000000e-01,
                                   9.00000000e-01])
```

linspace and logspace

```
In [16]: http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...
# using linspace, both end points ARE included
         linspace(0, 10, 25)
Out[16]: array([ 0.
                                0.41666667,
                                              0.83333333,
                                                            1.25
                  1.66666667,
                                2.08333333,
                                              2.5
                                                            2.91666667,
                  3.3333333,
                                3.75
                                                            4.58333333,
                                              4.16666667,
                                5.41666667,
                                              5.83333333,
                                                            6.25
                  6.6666667,
                                7.08333333,
                                              7.5
                                                            7.91666667,
                  8.33333333,
                                8.75
                                              9.16666667,
                                                            9.58333333, 10.
                                                                                    1)
In [17]: logspace(0, 10, 10, base=e)
Out[17]: array([ 1.00000000e+00,
                                    3.03773178e+00,
                                                     9.22781435e+00,
                  2.80316249e+01,
                                    8.51525577e+01, 2.58670631e+02,
                  7.85771994e+02,
                                    2.38696456e+03, 7.25095809e+03,
                  2.20264658e+04])
mgrid
In [18]:
         x, y = mgrid[0:5, 0:5] # similar to meshgrid in MATLAB
In [19]:
Out[19]: array([[0, 0, 0, 0, 0],
                [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],
                [2, 2, 2, 2, 2],
                [3, 3, 3, 3, 3],
                [4, 4, 4, 4, 4]])
In [20]:
Out[20]: array([[0, 1, 2, 3, 4],
                [0, 1, 2, 3, 4],
                [0, 1, 2, 3, 4],
                [0, 1, 2, 3, 4],
                [0, 1, 2, 3, 4]])
random data
In [21]: from numpy import random
In [22]: # uniform random numbers ini [0,1]
         random.rand(5,5)
Out[22]: array([[ 0.38514869, 0.65611855, 0.30951719, 0.90606323, 0.45323021],
                [0.4829053, 0.71078648, 0.27249177, 0.06156748, 0.49899315],
                [ 0.81852145, 0.65724548, 0.77194554, 0.29973648, 0.87633625],
                [ 0.37501764, 0.10998782, 0.5567457, 0.26298218, 0.97630491],
                [ 0.81460477, 0.8886327, 0.46886708, 0.29431937, 0.16157934]])
```

```
In [24]: # a diagonal matrix
```

zeros and ones

File I/O

Comma-separated values (CSV)

A very common file format for data files are the comma-separated values (CSV), or related format such as TSV (tab-separated values). To read data from such file into Numpy arrays we can use the numpy.genfromtxt function. For example,

```
http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...
In [28]:
          !head stockholm td adj.dat
                                 -6.1
                                         -6.1 1
         1800
                  1
                        -6.1
         1800
                       -15.4
                                -15.4
                                         -15.41
                       -15.0
         1800
                                -15.0
                                        -15.0 1
         1800
               1
                       -19.3
                                -19.3
                                         -19.3 1
                                         -16.8 1
         1800
                  5
                       -16.8
                                -16.8
               1
         1800
               1
                       -11.4
                                -11.4
                                        -11.4 1
         1800
               1
                        -7.6
                                 -7.6
                                         -7.6 1
         1800
                        -7.1
                                 -7.1
                                         -7.1 1
                                         -10.1 1
         1800
               1
                  9
                       -10.1
                                -10.1
         1800
               1 10
                        -9.5
                                 -9.5
                                          -9.5 1
In [29]:
          data = genfromtxt('stockholm_td_adj.dat')
In [30]:
          data.shape
Out[30]: (77431, 7)
In [31]:
          fig, ax = subplots(figsize=(14,4))
          ax.plot(data[:,0]+data[:,1]/12.0+data[:,2]/365, data[:,5])
          ax.axis('tight')
          ax.set_title('tempeatures in Stockholm')
          ax.set_xlabel('year')
          ax.set_ylabel('tempature (C)');
                                                           tempeatures in Stockholm
          tempature (C)
                                       1850
                                                                 1900
                                                                                           1950
```

Using the numpy.savetxt we can store a Numpy array to a file in CSV format:

 $4.517046464380731763e-01 \ \ 9.703222696663832414e-01 \ \ 3.162819794660202133e-01$

```
In [35]: http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...
| savetxt("random-matrix.csv", M, fmt='%.5f') # fmt specifies the format
| cat random-matrix.csv
| cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv | cat random-matrix.csv
```

Numpy's native file format

Useful when storing and reading back numpy array data. Use the functions numpy.save and numpy.load:

More properties of the numpy arrays

```
In [38]: M.itemsize # bytes per element
Out[38]: 8
In [39]: M.nbytes # number of bytes
Out[39]: 72
In [40]: M.ndim # number of dimensions
Out[40]: 2
```

Manipulating arrays

Indexing

We can index elements in an array using the square bracket and indices:

```
In [41]: # v is a vector, and has only one dimension, taking one index
v[0]
Out[41]: 1
```

```
http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...

# M is a matrix, or a 2 dimensional array, taking two indices
In [42]:
          M[1,1]
Out[42]: 0.64968622218996941
If we omit an index of a multidimensional array it returns the whole row (or, in general, a N-1 dimensional array)
In [43]:
Out[43]: array([[ 0.43893135, 0.46635226, 0.4070475 ],
                  [ 0.53910705, 0.64968622, 0.85079048],
                  [ 0.45170465, 0.97032227, 0.31628198]])
In [44]: M[1]
Out[44]: array([ 0.53910705, 0.64968622, 0.85079048])
The same thing can be achieved with using: instead of an index:
In [45]: | M[1,:] # row 1
Out[45]: array([ 0.53910705, 0.64968622, 0.85079048])
In [46]: M[:,1] # column 1
Out[46]: array([ 0.46635226,  0.64968622,  0.97032227])
We can assign new values to elements in an array using indexing:
In [47]: M[0,0] = 1
In [48]:
Out[48]: array([[ 1.
                              , 0.46635226, 0.4070475 ],
                  [ 0.53910705, 0.64968622, 0.85079048],
                  [ 0.45170465, 0.97032227, 0.31628198]])
In [49]:
          # also works for rows and columns
          M[1,:] = 0
          M[:,2] = -1
In [50]:
Out[50]: array([[ 1.
                                 0.46635226, -1.
                                                           1,
                                                           ],
                  [ 0.45170465, 0.97032227, -1.
                                                           ]])
```

Index slicing

Index slicing is the technical name for the syntax M[lower:upper:step] to extract part of an array:

```
In [51]: A = array([1,2,3,4,5])
A
```

```
http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...
In [52]: A[1:3]
Out[52]: array([2, 3])
Array slices are mutable: if they are assigned a new value the original array from which the slice was extracted is modified:
In [53]: A[1:3] = [-2, -3]
Out[53]: array([ 1, -2, -3, 4, 5])
We can omit any of the three parameters in M[lower:upper:step]:
In [54]: A[::] # lower, upper, step all take the default values
Out[54]: array([ 1, -2, -3, 4, 5])
In [55]: A[::2] # step is 2, lower and upper defaults to the beginning and end of the
Out[55]: array([ 1, -3, 5])
In [56]: A[:3] # first three elements
Out[56]: array([ 1, -2, -3])
In [57]: A[3:] # elements from index 3
Out[57]: array([4, 5])
Negative indices counts from the end of the array (positive index from the begining):
In [58]: A = array([1,2,3,4,5])
In [59]: A[-1] # the last element in the array
Out[59]: 5
In [60]: A[-3:] # the last three elements
Out[60]: array([3, 4, 5])
Index slicing works exactly the same way for multidimensional arrays:
In [61]: A = array([[n+m*10 \text{ for } n \text{ in } range(5)]) for m in range(5)])
Out[61]: array([[ 0, 1, 2, 3,
                  [10, 11, 12, 13, 14],
                  [20, 21, 22, 23, 24],
                  [30, 31, 32, 33, 34],
                  [40, 41, 42, 43, 44]])
```

Fancy indexing

Fancy indexing is the name for when an array or list is used in-place of an index:

We can also index masks: If the index mask is an Numpy array of with data type boo1, then an element is selected (True) or not (False) depending on the value of the index mask at the position each element:

This feature is very useful to conditionally select elements from an array, using for example comparison operators:

```
In [69]: x = arange(0, 10, 0.5)
x
```

```
Out[69]: array([ 0. , 0.5, 1. , 1.5, 2. , 2.5, 3. , 3.5, 4. , 4.5, 5. , 5.5, 6. , 6.5, 7. , 7.5, 8. , 8.5, 9. , 9.5])
```

```
In [70]: mask = (5 < x) * (x < 7.5)

mask

Out[70]: array([False, False, False,
```

Functions for extracting data from arrays and creating arrays

where

The index mask can be converted to position index using the where function

```
In [72]: indices = where(mask)
    indices
Out[72]: (array([11, 12, 13, 14]),)
In [73]: x[indices] # this indexing is equivalent to the fancy indexing x[mask]
Out[73]: array([ 5.5,  6. ,  6.5,  7. ])
```

diag

With the diag function we can also extract the diagonal and subdiagonals of an array:

```
In [74]: diag(A)
Out[74]: array([ 0, 11, 22, 33, 44])
In [75]: diag(A, -1)
Out[75]: array([10, 21, 32, 43])
```

take

The take function is similar to fancy indexing described above:

```
In [76]: v2 = arange(-3,3)
v2

Out[76]: array([-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2])

In [77]: row_indices = [1, 3, 5]
v2[row_indices] # fancy indexing

Out[77]: array([-2, 0, 2])
```

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```
In [78]: v2.take(row_indices) http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...

Out[78]: array([-2, 0, 2])
```

But take also works on lists and other objects:

```
In [79]: take([-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2], row_indices)
Out[79]: array([-2, 0, 2])
```

choose

Constructs and array by picking elements form several arrays:

Linear algebra

Vectorizing code is the key to writing efficient numerical calculation with Python/Numpy. That means that as much as possible of a program should be formulated in terms of matrix and vector operations, like matrix-matrix multiplication.

Scalar-array operations

We can use the usual arithmetic operators to multiply, add, subtract, and divide arrays with scalar numbers.

```
In [81]: v_1 = arange(0, 5)
In [82]: | v1 * 2
Out[82]: array([0, 2, 4, 6, 8])
In [83]: | v1 + 2
Out[83]: array([2, 3, 4, 5, 6])
In [84]:
         A * 2, A + 2
Out[84]: (array([[ 0, 2, 4, 6, 8],
                [20, 22, 24, 26, 28],
                [40, 42, 44, 46, 48],
                [60, 62, 64, 66, 68],
                [80, 82, 84, 86, 88]]),
          array([[ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6],
                [12, 13, 14, 15, 16],
                [22, 23, 24, 25, 26],
                [32, 33, 34, 35, 36],
                [42, 43, 44, 45, 46]]))
```

When we add, subtract, multiply and divide arrays with each other, the plant behaviour is element wise operations in jrjohansson/scie...

```
In [85]:
         A * A # element-wise multiplication
Out[85]: array([[
                     Ο,
                           1,
                                  4,
                                        9,
                                             16],
                 [ 100,
                         121, 144,
                                      169,
                                            196],
                         441, 484,
                                      529,
                 [ 400,
                                            576],
                 [ 900, 961, 1024, 1089, 1156],
                 [1600, 1681, 1764, 1849, 1936]])
In [86]: | v1 * v1
Out[86]: array([ 0, 1, 4, 9, 16])
If we multiply arrays with compatible shapes, we get an element-wise multiplication of each row:
In [87]: A.shape, v1.shape
Out[87]: ((5, 5), (5,))
In [88]: A * v1
Out[88]: array([[ 0,
                         1,
                               4,
                                        16],
                    0, 11,
                             24,
                                   39,
                                        56],
                   0, 21,
                            44,
                                   69, 96],
                 [ 0, 31, 64, 99, 136],
```

Matrix algebra

What about matrix mutiplication? There are two ways. We can either use the dot functions, which applies a matrix-matrix, matrix-vector, or inner vector multiplication to its two arguments:

[0, 41, 84, 129, 176]])

Alternatively, we can cast the array objects to the type matrix. This changes the behavior of the standard arithmetic operators +, -, * to use matrix algebra.

```
http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...
In [93]:
Out[93]: matrix([[0],
                  [1],
                  [2],
                  [3],
                  [4]])
In [94]: M*M
Out[94]: matrix([[ 300, 310, 320, 330, 340],
                  [1300, 1360, 1420, 1480, 1540],
                  [2300, 2410, 2520, 2630, 2740],
                  [3300, 3460, 3620, 3780, 3940],
                  [4300, 4510, 4720, 4930, 5140]])
In [95]: M*v
Out[95]: matrix([[ 30],
                  [130],
                  [230],
                  [330],
                  [430]])
In [96]:
          # inner product
Out[96]: matrix([[30]])
In [97]: #
            with matrix objects, standard matrix algebra applies
Out[97]: matrix([[ 30],
                  [131],
                  [232],
                  [333],
                  [434]])
If we try to add, subtract or multiply objects with incomplatible shapes we get an error:
In [98]:
            = matrix([1,2,3,4,5,6]).T
In [99]:
          shape(M), shape(v)
Out[99]: ((5, 5), (6, 1))
```

```
http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...
In [100]:
        ValueError
                                                    Traceback (most recent call last)
        <ipython-input-100-995fb48ad0cc> in <module>()
        ---> 1 M * v
        /usr/lib/python2.7/dist-packages/numpy/matrixlib/defmatrix.pyc in __mul__(self, other)
             328
                         if isinstance(other,(N.ndarray, list, tuple)) :
             329
                             # This promotes 1-D vectors to row vectors
        --> 330
                             return N.dot(self, asmatrix(other))
             331
                         if isscalar(other) or not hasattr(other, '__rmul__') :
             332
                             return N.dot(self, other)
```

ValueError: objects are not aligned

See also the related functions: inner, outer, cross, kron, tensordot. Try for example help(kron).

Array/Matrix transformations

Above we have used the .T to transpose the matrix object v. We could also have used the transpose function to accomplish the same thing.

Other mathematical functions that transforms matrix objects are:

We can extract the real and imaginary parts of complex-valued arrays using real and imag:

```
In [106]: http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...
Out[106]: array([[ 0.78539816, 1.10714872],
               [ 1.24904577, 1.32581766]])
In [107]:
         abs(C)
Out[107]: matrix([[ 1., 2.],
                [ 3., 4.]])
```

Matrix computations

Inverse

```
In [108]:
          inv(C) # equivalent to C.I
Out[108]: matrix([[ 0.+2.j , 0.-1.j ],
                  [ 0.-1.5j, 0.+0.5j]])
In [109]:
          C.I * C
Out[109]: matrix([[ 1.00000000e+00+0.j,
                                           4.44089210e-16+0.j],
                  [ 0.00000000e+00+0.j,
                                           1.00000000e+00+0.jll)
```

Determinant

```
In [110]:
          det(C)
Out[110]: (2.0000000000000004+0j)
In [111]:
          det(C.I)
Out[111]: (0.50000000000000011+0j)
```

Data computations

Often it is useful to store datasets in Numpy arrays. Numpy provides a number of functions to calculate statistics of datasets in arrays.

For example, let's calculate some properties data from the Stockholm temperature dataset used above.

```
In [112]: # reminder, the tempeature dataset is stored in the data variable:
          shape(data)
Out[112]: (77431, 7)
```

mean

```
In [113]:
          # the temperature data is in column 3
          mean(data[:,3])
```

standard deviations and variance

Out[122]: 110

```
In [114]:
          std(data[:,3]), var(data[:,3])
Out[114]: (8.2822716213405663, 68.596023209663286)
min and max
In [115]: # lowest daily average temperature
          data[:,3].min()
Out[115]: -25.800000000000001
In [116]:
          # highest daily average temperature
          data[:,3].max()
Out[116]: 28.300000000000001
sum, prod, and trace
In [117]: d = arange(0, 10)
Out[117]: array([0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9])
In [118]:
          # sum up all elements
          sum(d)
Out[118]: 45
In [119]:
          # product of all elements
          prod(d+1)
Out[119]: 3628800
In [120]: \# cummulative sum
          cumsum(d)
Out[120]: array([ 0, 1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21, 28, 36, 45])
In [121]:
          # commulative product
          cumprod(d+1)
Out[121]: array([
                       1,
                                 2,
                                                  24,
                                                          120,
                                                                   720,
                                                                           5040,
                   40320, 362880, 3628800])
In [122]: # same as: diag(A).sum()
          trace(A)
```

Computations on subsets of arrays

We can compute with subsets of the data in an array using indexing, fancy indexing, and the other methods of extracting data from an array (described above).

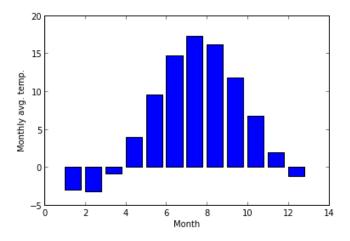
For example, let's go back to the temperature dataset:

```
In [123]:
           !head -n 3 stockholm_td_adj.dat
         1800
                        -6.1
                                -6.1
                                         -6.1 1
               1
                  1
         1800
                       -15.4
                               -15.4
               1
                  2
                                        -15.4 1
         1800
                       -15.0
                               -15.0
                                        -15.0 1
```

The dataformat is: year, month, day, daily average temperature, low, high, location.

If we are interested in the average temperature only in a particular month, say February, then we can create a index mask and use the select out only the data for that month using:

With these tools we have very powerful data processing capabilities at our disposal. For example, to extract the average monthly average temperatures for each month of the year only takes a few lines of code:



When functions such as min, max, etc., is applied to a multidimpnional way spythion sometimes and sometimes only on a row or column basis. Using the axis argument we can specify how these functions should behave:

Many other functions and methods in the array and matrix classes accept the same (optional) axis keyword argument.

Reshaping, resizing and stacking arrays

The shape of an Numpy array can be modified without copying the underlaying data, which makes it a fast operation even for large arrays.

We can also use the function flatten to make a higher-dimensional array into a vector. But this function create a copy of the data.

Adding a new dimension: newaxis

With newaxis, we can insert new dimensions in an array, for example converting a vector to a column or row matrix:

```
In [144]: # row matrix v[newaxis,:].shape

http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...

Out[144]: (1, 3)
```

Stacking and repeating arrays

Using function repeat, tile, vstack, hstack, and concatenate we can create larger vectors and matrices from smaller ones:

tile and repeat

concatenate

hstack and vstack

[3, 4, 6]])

Copy and "deep copy"

To achieve high performance, assignments in Python usually do not copy the underlaying objects. This is important for example when objects are passed between functions, to avoid an excessive amount of memory copying when it is not necessary (techincal term: pass by reference).

If we want to avoid this behavior, so that when we get a new completely independent object B copied from A, then we need to do a so-called "deep copy" using the function copy:

Iterating over array elements

Generally, we want to avoid iterating over the elements of arrays whenever we can (at all costs). The reason is that in a interpreted language like Python (or MATLAB), iterations are really slow compared to vectorized operations.

However, sometimes iterations are unavoidable. For such cases, the Python for loop is the most convenient way to iterate over an array: $5/28/13\ 12:14\ AM$

When we need to iterate over each element of an array and modify its elements, it is convenient to use the enumerate function to obtain both the element and its index in the for loop:

Vectorizing functions

As mentioned several times by now, to get good performance we should try to avoid looping over elements in our vectors and matrices, and instead use vectorized algorithms. The first step in converting a scalar algorithm to a vectorized algorithm is to make sure that the functions we write work with vector inputs.

```
http://nbviewer.ipython.org/urls/raw.github.com/jrjohansson/scie...
In [164]: | \mathbf{def}  Theta(x):
                Scalar implemenation of the Heaviside step function.
               if x >= 0:
                    return 1
                else:
                    return 0
In [165]:
           Theta(array([-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3]))
                                                      Traceback (most recent call last)
         <ipython-input-165-6658efdd2f22> in <module>()
         ---> 1 Theta(array([-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3]))
         <ipython-input-164-9a0cb13d93d4> in Theta(x)
                      Scalar implemenation of the Heaviside step function.
               4
         ____> 5
                      if x >= 0:
               6
                          return 1
               7
                      else:
```

ValueError: The truth value of an array with more than one element is ambiguous. Use a.any() or

OK, that didn't work because we didn't write the Theta function so that it can handle with vector input...

To get a vectorized version of Theta we can use the Numpy function vectorize. In many cases it can automatically vectorize a function:

```
In [166]: Theta_vec = vectorize(Theta)
In [167]: Theta_vec(array([-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3]))
Out[167]: array([0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1])
```

We can also implement the function to accept vector input from the beginning (requires more effort but might give better performance):

When using arrays in conditions in for example if statements and hether/hooleaners for the statements and hether/hooleaners for the statements and hether/hooleaners for the statements and hether for the statements an

Type casting

Since Numpy arrays are *statically typed*, the type of an array does not change once created. But we can explicitly cast an array of some type to another using the astype functions (see also the similar asarray function). This always create a new array of new type:

Further reading

- http://numpy.scipy.org
- http://scipy.org/Tentative_NumPy_Tutorial
- http://scipy.org/NumPy_for_Matlab_Users A Numpy guide for MATLAB users.

More info on IPython website (http://ipython.org)

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