

PyTorch Tensors vs NumPy ndarrays — Cheat Sheet

1. Overview

Feature	PyTorch Tensor	NumPy ndarray
Library	torch	numpy
Purpose	Deep learning, GPU computing	General scientific computing
GPU Support	Yes (.to('cuda'))	No
Autograd	Yes (requires_grad=True)	No
Backend	C++ / CUDA	C
Core Concept	Multi-dimensional array	Multi-dimensional array

2. Creation

Task	PyTorch	NumPy
From list	torch.tensor([[1,2],[3,4]])	np.array([[1,2],[3,4]])
Zeros	torch.zeros((2,3))	np.zeros((2,3))
Ones	torch.ones((2,3))	np.ones((2,3))
Random	torch.rand((2,3))	np.random.rand(2,3)
Identity	torch.eye(3)	np.eye(3)
Range	torch.arange(0,10,2)	np.arange(0,10,2)
Linspace	torch.linspace(0,1,5)	np.linspace(0,1,5)

3. Shape & Reshaping

Task	PyTorch	NumPy
Shape	t.shape	a.shape
Reshape	t.reshape(2,3) or t.view(2,3)	a.reshape(2,3)
Transpose	t.T or t.transpose(0,1)	a.T
Expand dims	t.unsqueeze(0)	np.expand_dims(a,0)
Remove dims	t.squeeze()	np.squeeze(a)

4. Indexing & Slicing

Operation	PyTorch	NumPy
Single element	t[0,1]	a[0,1]
Slice rows	t[1:]	a[1:]

Slice columns	<code>t[:, 0]</code>	<code>a[:, 0]</code>
Boolean mask	<code>t[t > 0.5]</code>	<code>a[a > 0.5]</code>

5. Math Operations

Operation	PyTorch	NumPy
Add	<code>t1 + t2</code>	<code>a1 + a2</code>
Subtract	<code>t1 - t2</code>	<code>a1 - a2</code>
Multiply	<code>t1 * t2</code>	<code>a1 * a2</code>
Dot product	<code>torch.matmul(t1, t2)</code>	<code>np.dot(a1, a2)</code>
Mean	<code>t.mean()</code>	<code>a.mean()</code>
Sum	<code>t.sum()</code>	<code>a.sum()</code>
Max/Min	<code>t.max()</code> , <code>t.min()</code>	<code>a.max()</code> , <code>a.min()</code>

6. Conversion Between Tensor & ndarray

Example Code	PyTorch	NumPy
NumPy → Tensor	<code>torch.from_numpy(a)</code>	<code>np.array([1,2,3])</code>
Tensor → NumPy	<code>t.numpy()</code>	—
Note	Shared memory if on CPU	—

7. GPU & Autograd (Tensor-only features)

Task	PyTorch	NumPy
Move to GPU	<code>t.to('cuda')</code>	Not supported
Enable gradients	<code>t.requires_grad_()</code>	Not supported
Compute gradients	<code>t.backward()</code>	Not supported

8. Summary Formula

Tensor = ndarray + GPU support + Autograd

Quick Takeaways

- Both support same shape, indexing, and math operations.
- Tensors are drop-in replacements for ndarrays in deep learning code.
- Use Tensors for PyTorch models, NumPy for data preprocessing.