

## tf.contrib.linalg.LinearOperator

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Class **LinearOperator**

Defined in `tensorflow/contrib/linalg/python/ops/linear_operator.py`.

See the guide: [Linear Algebra \(contrib\)](#) > **LinearOperator**

Base class defining a [batch of] linear operator[s].

Subclasses of **LinearOperator** provide a access to common methods on a (batch) matrix, without the need to materialize the matrix. This allows:

- Matrix free computations
- Operators that take advantage of special structure, while providing a consistent API to users.

## Subclassing

To enable a public method, subclasses should implement the leading-underscore version of the method. The argument signature should be identical except for the omission of `name="..."`. For example, to enable `matmul(x, adjoint=False, name="matmul")` a subclass should implement `_matmul(x, adjoint=False)`.

## Performance contract

Subclasses should only implement the assert methods (e.g. `assert_non_singular`) if they can be done in less than  $O(N^3)$  time.

Class docstrings should contain an explanation of computational complexity. Since this is a high-performance library, attention should be paid to detail, and explanations can include constants as well as Big-O notation.

## Shape compatibility

**LinearOperator** sub classes should operate on a [batch] matrix with compatible shape. Class docstrings should define what is meant by compatible shape. Some sub-classes may not support batching.

An example is:

`x` is a batch matrix with compatible shape for `matmul` if

```
operator.shape = [B1, ..., Bb] + [M, N],  b >= 0,  
x.shape =      [B1, ..., Bb] + [N, R]
```

`rhs` is a batch matrix with compatible shape for `solve` if

```
operator.shape = [B1,...,Bb] + [M, N],  b >= 0,  
rhs.shape =    [B1,...,Bb] + [M, R]
```

Example docstring for subclasses.

This operator acts like a (batch) matrix `A` with shape `[B1,...,Bb, M, N]` for some `b >= 0`. The first `b` indices index a batch member. For every batch index `(i1,...,ib)`, `A[i1,...,ib, : :]` is an `m x n` matrix. Again, this matrix `A` may not be materialized, but for purposes of identifying and working with compatible arguments the shape is relevant.

Examples:

```
some_tensor = ... shape = ????  
operator = MyLinOp(some_tensor)  
  
operator.shape()  
==> [2, 4, 4]  
  
operator.log_abs_determinant()  
==> Shape [2] Tensor  
  
x = ... Shape [2, 4, 5] Tensor  
  
operator.matmul(x)  
==> Shape [2, 4, 5] Tensor
```

Shape compatibility

This operator acts on batch matrices with compatible shape. FILL IN WHAT IS MEANT BY COMPATIBLE SHAPE

Performance

FILL THIS IN

Matrix property hints

This `LinearOperator` is initialized with boolean flags of the form `is_X`, for `X = non_singular, self_adjoint, positive_definite, square`. These have the following meaning:

- If `is_X == True`, callers should expect the operator to have the property `X`. This is a promise that should be fulfilled, but is *not* a runtime assert. For example, finite floating point precision may result in these promises being violated.
- If `is_X == False`, callers should expect the operator to not have `X`.
- If `is_X == None` (the default), callers should have no expectation either way.

## Properties

---

### batch\_shape

`TensorShape` of batch dimensions of this `LinearOperator`.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix `A` with `A.shape = [B1,...,Bb, M, N]`, then this returns `TensorShape([B1,...,Bb])`, equivalent to `A.get_shape()[:-2]`

Returns:

`TensorShape`, statically determined, may be undefined.

## **domain\_dimension**

Dimension (in the sense of vector spaces) of the domain of this operator.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix `A` with `A.shape = [B1, ..., Bb, M, N]`, then this returns `N`.

Returns:

`Dimension` object.

## **dtype**

The `DType` of `Tensor`s handled by this `LinearOperator`.

## **graph\_parents**

List of graph dependencies of this `LinearOperator`.

## **is\_non\_singular**

## **is\_positive\_definite**

## **is\_self\_adjoint**

## **is\_square**

Return `True/False` depending on if this operator is square.

## **name**

Name prepended to all ops created by this `LinearOperator`.

## **range\_dimension**

Dimension (in the sense of vector spaces) of the range of this operator.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix `A` with `A.shape = [B1, ..., Bb, M, N]`, then this returns `M`.

Returns:

`Dimension` object.

## **shape**

`TensorShape` of this `LinearOperator`.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix `A` with `A.shape = [B1, ..., Bb, M, N]`, then this returns `TensorShape([B1, ..., Bb, M, N])`, equivalent to `A.get_shape()`.

Returns:

`TensorShape` , statically determined, may be undefined.

## tensor\_rank

Rank (in the sense of tensors) of matrix corresponding to this operator.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix `A` with `A.shape = [B1, ..., Bb, M, N]` , then this returns `b + 2` .

Args:

- `name` : A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

Python integer, or None if the tensor rank is undefined.

## Methods

---

### `__init__`

```
__init__(
    dtype,
    graph_parents=None,
    is_non_singular=None,
    is_self_adjoint=None,
    is_positive_definite=None,
    is_square=None,
    name=None
)
```

Initialize the `LinearOperator` .

**This is a private method for subclass use. Subclasses should copy-paste this `__init__` documentation.**

Args:

- `dtype` : The type of the this `LinearOperator` . Arguments to `matmul` and `solve` will have to be this type.
- `graph_parents` : Python list of graph prerequisites of this `LinearOperator` Typically tensors that are passed during initialization.
- `is_non_singular` : Expect that this operator is non-singular.
- `is_self_adjoint` : Expect that this operator is equal to its hermitian transpose. If `dtype` is real, this is equivalent to being symmetric.
- `is_positive_definite` : Expect that this operator is positive definite, meaning the quadratic form  $\mathbf{x}^H \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$  has positive real part for all nonzero  $\mathbf{x}$  . Note that we do not require the operator to be self-adjoint to be positive-definite. See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Positive-definite\\_matrix\#Extension\\_for\\_non\\_symmetric\\_matrices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Positive-definite_matrix\#Extension_for_non_symmetric_matrices)
- `is_square` : Expect that this operator acts like square [batch] matrices.
- `name` : A name for this `LinearOperator` .

Raises:

- `ValueError` : If any member of `graph_parents` is `None` or not a `Tensor` .
- `ValueError` : If hints are set incorrectly.

## `add_to_tensor`

```
add_to_tensor(
    x,
    name='add_to_tensor'
)
```

Add matrix represented by this operator to `x` . Equivalent to `A + x` .

Args:

- `x` : `Tensor` with same `dtype` and shape broadcastable to `self.shape` .
- `name` : A name to give this `Op` .

Returns:

A `Tensor` with broadcast shape and same `dtype` as `self` .

## `assert_non_singular`

```
assert_non_singular(name='assert_non_singular')
```

Returns an `Op` that asserts this operator is non singular.

This operator is considered non-singular if

```
ConditionNumber < max{100, range_dimension, domain_dimension} * eps,
eps := np.finfo(self.dtype.as_numpy_dtype).eps
```

Args:

- `name` : A string name to prepend to created ops.

Returns:

An `Assert Op` , that, when run, will raise an `InvalidArgumentError` if the operator is singular.

## `assert_positive_definite`

```
assert_positive_definite(name='assert_positive_definite')
```

Returns an `Op` that asserts this operator is positive definite.

Here, positive definite means that the quadratic form `xH A x` has positive real part for all nonzero `x` . Note that we do not require the operator to be self-adjoint to be positive definite.

Args:

- `name` : A name to give this `Op` .

Returns:

An `Assert Op`, that, when run, will raise an `InvalidArgumentError` if the operator is not positive definite.

## `assert_self_adjoint`

```
assert_self_adjoint(name='assert_self_adjoint')
```

Returns an `Op` that asserts this operator is self-adjoint.

Here we check that this operator is *exactly* equal to its hermitian transpose.

Args:

- `name` : A string name to prepend to created ops.

Returns:

An `Assert Op`, that, when run, will raise an `InvalidArgumentError` if the operator is not self-adjoint.

## `batch_shape_tensor`

```
batch_shape_tensor(name='batch_shape_tensor')
```

Shape of batch dimensions of this operator, determined at runtime.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix `A` with `A.shape = [B1, ..., Bb, M, N]`, then this returns a `Tensor` holding `[B1, ..., Bb]` .

Args:

- `name` : A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

`int32 Tensor`

## `determinant`

```
determinant(name='det')
```

Determinant for every batch member.

Args:

- `name` : A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

**Tensor** with shape `self.batch_shape` and same `dtype` as `self`.

Raises:

- `NotImplementedError`: If `self.is_square` is `False`.

## `diag_part`

```
diag_part(name='diag_part')
```

Efficiently get the [batch] diagonal part of this operator.

If this operator has shape `[B1, ..., Bb, M, N]`, this returns a **Tensor** `diagonal`, of shape `[B1, ..., Bb, min(M, N)]`, where `diagonal[b1, ..., bb, i] = self.to_dense()[b1, ..., bb, i, i]`.

```
my_operator = LinearOperatorDiag([1., 2.])

# Efficiently get the diagonal
my_operator.diag_part()
==> [1., 2.]

# Equivalent, but inefficient method
tf.matrix_diag_part(my_operator.to_dense())
==> [1., 2.]
```

Args:

- `name`: A name for this **Op**.

Returns:

- `diag_part`: A **Tensor** of same `dtype` as `self`.

## `domain_dimension_tensor`

```
domain_dimension_tensor(name='domain_dimension_tensor')
```

Dimension (in the sense of vector spaces) of the domain of this operator.

Determined at runtime.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix **A** with `A.shape = [B1, ..., Bb, M, N]`, then this returns **N**.

Args:

- `name`: A name for this **Op**.

Returns:

**int32 Tensor**

## `log_abs_determinant`

```
log_abs_determinant(name='log_abs_det')
```

Log absolute value of determinant for every batch member.

Args:

- `name`: A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

`Tensor` with shape `self.batch_shape` and same `dtype` as `self`.

Raises:

- `NotImplementedError`: If `self.is_square` is `False`.

## matmul

```
matmul(  
    x,  
    adjoint=False,  
    adjoint_arg=False,  
    name='matmul'  
)
```

Transform [batch] matrix `x` with left multiplication: `x --> Ax`.

```
# Make an operator acting like batch matrix A. Assume A.shape = [..., M, N]  
operator = LinearOperator(...)  
operator.shape = [..., M, N]  
  
X = ... # shape [..., N, R], batch matrix, R > 0.  
  
Y = operator.matmul(X)  
Y.shape  
==> [..., M, R]  
  
Y[..., :, r] = sum_j A[..., :, j] X[j, r]
```

Args:

- `x`: `Tensor` with compatible shape and same `dtype` as `self`. See class docstring for definition of compatibility.
- `adjoint`: Python `bool`. If `True`, left multiply by the adjoint:  $A^H x$ .
- `adjoint_arg`: Python `bool`. If `True`, compute  $A x^H$  where  $x^H$  is the hermitian transpose (transposition and complex conjugation).
- `name`: A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

A `Tensor` with shape `[..., M, R]` and same `dtype` as `self`.

## matvec



```
matvec(
    x,
    adjoint=False,
    name='matvec'
)
```

Transform [batch] vector `x` with left multiplication: `x --> Ax`.

```
# Make an operator acting like batch matrix A. Assume A.shape = [..., M, N]
operator = LinearOperator(...)

X = ... # shape [..., N], batch vector

Y = operator.matvec(X)
Y.shape
==> [..., M]

Y[..., :] = sum_j A[..., :, j] X[..., j]
```

Args:

- `x`: **Tensor** with compatible shape and same **dtype** as `self`. `x` is treated as a [batch] vector meaning for every set of leading dimensions, the last dimension defines a vector. See class docstring for definition of compatibility.
- `adjoint`: Python **bool**. If **True**, left multiply by the adjoint:  $A^H x$ .
- `name`: A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

A **Tensor** with shape `[..., M]` and same **dtype** as `self`.

## range\_dimension\_tensor

```
range_dimension_tensor(name='range_dimension_tensor')
```

Dimension (in the sense of vector spaces) of the range of this operator.

Determined at runtime.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix `A` with `A.shape = [B1, ..., Bb, M, N]`, then this returns `M`.

Args:

- `name`: A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

**int32 Tensor**

## shape\_tensor

```
shape_tensor(name='shape_tensor')
```

Shape of this **LinearOperator**, determined at runtime.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix **A** with **A.shape = [B1, ..., Bb, M, N]**, then this returns a **Tensor** holding **[B1, ..., Bb, M, N]**, equivalent to **tf.shape(A)**.

Args:

- **name**: A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

**int32 Tensor**

## **solve**

```
solve(
    rhs,
    adjoint=False,
    adjoint_arg=False,
    name='solve'
)
```

Solve (exact or approx) **R** (batch) systems of equations: **A X = rhs**.

The returned **Tensor** will be close to an exact solution if **A** is well conditioned. Otherwise closeness will vary. See class docstring for details.

Examples:

```
# Make an operator acting like batch matrix A. Assume A.shape = [..., M, N]
operator = LinearOperator(...)
operator.shape = [..., M, N]

# Solve R > 0 linear systems for every member of the batch.
RHS = ... # shape [..., M, R]

X = operator.solve(RHS)
# X[..., :, r] is the solution to the r'th linear system
# sum_j A[..., :, j] X[..., j, r] = RHS[..., :, r]

operator.matmul(X)
==> RHS
```

Args:

- **rhs**: **Tensor** with same **dtype** as this operator and compatible shape. **rhs** is treated like a [batch] matrix meaning for every set of leading dimensions, the last two dimensions defines a matrix. See class docstring for definition of compatibility.
- **adjoint**: Python **bool**. If **True**, solve the system involving the adjoint of this **LinearOperator**: **A<sup>H</sup> X = rhs**.
- **adjoint\_arg**: Python **bool**. If **True**, solve **A X = rhs<sup>H</sup>** where **rhs<sup>H</sup>** is the hermitian transpose (transposition and complex conjugation).
- **name**: A name scope to use for ops added by this method.

Returns:

**Tensor** with shape **[..., N, R]** and same **dtype** as **rhs**.

Raises:

- `NotImplementedError`: If `self.is_non_singular` or `is_square` is False.

## `solvevec`

```
solvevec(  
    rhs,  
    adjoint=False,  
    name='solve'  
)
```

Solve single equation with best effort:  $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{rhs}$ .

The returned `Tensor` will be close to an exact solution if  $\mathbf{A}$  is well conditioned. Otherwise closeness will vary. See class docstring for details.

Examples:

```
# Make an operator acting like batch matrix A. Assume A.shape = [..., M, N]  
operator = LinearOperator(...)  
operator.shape = [..., M, N]  
  
# Solve one linear system for every member of the batch.  
RHS = ... # shape [..., M]  
  
X = operator.solvevec(RHS)  
# X is the solution to the linear system  
# sum_j A[..., :, j] X[..., j] = RHS[..., :]  
  
operator.matvec(X)  
==> RHS
```

Args:

- `rhs`: `Tensor` with same `dtype` as this operator. `rhs` is treated like a [batch] vector meaning for every set of leading dimensions, the last dimension defines a vector. See class docstring for definition of compatibility regarding batch dimensions.
- `adjoint`: Python `bool`. If `True`, solve the system involving the adjoint of this `LinearOperator`:  $\mathbf{A}^H \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{rhs}$ .
- `name`: A name scope to use for ops added by this method.

Returns:

`Tensor` with shape `[...,N]` and same `dtype` as `rhs`.

Raises:

- `NotImplementedError`: If `self.is_non_singular` or `is_square` is False.

## `tensor_rank_tensor`

```
tensor_rank_tensor(name='tensor_rank_tensor')
```

Rank (in the sense of tensors) of matrix corresponding to this operator.

If this operator acts like the batch matrix `A` with `A.shape = [B1, ..., Bb, M, N]`, then this returns `b + 2`.

Args:

- `name`: A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

`int32 Tensor`, determined at runtime.

## to\_dense

```
to_dense(name='to_dense')
```

Return a dense (batch) matrix representing this operator.

## trace

```
trace(name='trace')
```

Trace of the linear operator, equal to sum of `self.diag_part()`.

If the operator is square, this is also the sum of the eigenvalues.

Args:

- `name`: A name for this `Op`.

Returns:

Shape `[B1, ..., Bb]` `Tensor` of same `dtype` as `self`.

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