Python Review

CS224N - 1/19/18

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Topics

1. **Why Python?**
2. Language Basics
3. Introduction to Numpy
4. Practical Python Tips
5. Other Great References

Why Python?

+ Python is a **widely used, general purpose** programming language.
+ **Easy to start** working with.
+ **Scientific computation** functionality similar to Matlab and Octave.
+ Used by major **deep learning frameworks** such as PyTorch and TensorFlow.

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Note: `Code is in Courier New.` Console output is prefixed with `'>>'`

Language Basics

Does anyone want to guess what this function[1] (or any line of code) does?

```
def someGreatFunction(arr):
    if len(arr) <= 1:
        return arr
    pivot = arr[len(arr) // 2]
    left = [x for x in arr if x < pivot]
    middle = [x for x in arr if x == pivot]
    right = [x for x in arr if x > pivot]
    return someGreatFunction(left) + middle + someGreatFunction(right)

print(someGreatFunction([3,6,8,10,1,2,1]))
```

[1] Example code from Andrej Karpathy's tutorial: http://cs231n.github.io/python-numpy-tutorial/

Language Basics

Does anyone want to guess what this function[1] (or any line of code) does?

```
def QuickSort(arr):
    if len(arr) <= 1:
        return arr
    pivot = arr[len(arr) // 2]
    left = [x for x in arr if x < pivot]
    middle = [x for x in arr if x == pivot]
    right = [x for x in arr if x > pivot]
    return QuickSort(left) + middle + QuickSort(right)

print(someGreatFunction([3,6,8,10,1,2,1]))
```

[1] Example code from Andrej Karpathy's tutorial: http://cs231n.github.io/python-numpy-tutorial/

Common Operations

```
x = 10
y = 3

x + y
x - y
x ** y
x / y
x / float(y)

str(x) + " + " + str(y)
```

Common Operations

```
x = 10                          # Declaring two integer variables
y = 3                           # Comments start with the hash symbol

x + y          >> 13            # Addition
x - y          >> 7             # Subtraction
x ** y         >> 1000          # Exponentiation
x / y          >> 3             # Dividing two integers
x / float(y)   >> 3.333..       # Type casting for float division

str(x)+ " + " + str(y)
               >> "10 + 3"      # Casting and string concatenation
```

Built-in Values

```
True, False          # Usual true/false values
None                 # Represents the absence of something
                     # A valid object -- can be used like one

x = None             # Variables can be None
array = [1,2,None]   # Lists can contain None

def func():
  return None        # Functions can return None

if [1,2] != [3,4]:   # Can check for equality
  print 'Error!'
```

Brackets → Indents

- Code blocks are created using indents.
- Indents can be 2 or 4 spaces, but should be consistent throughout the file.
- If using Vim, set this value to be consistent in your `.vimrc`

```
def fib(n):
  # Indent level 1: function body
  if n <= 1:
    # Indent level 2: if statement body
    return 1
  else:
    # Indent level 2: else statement body
    return fib(n-1)+fib(n-2)
```

Language Basics

Python is a strongly-typed and dynamically-typed language.

Strongly-typed: Interpreter always “respects” the types of each variable.[1]

Dynamically-typed: “A variable is simply a value bound to a name.” [1]

Execution: Python is first interpreted into bytecode (.pyc) and then compiled by a VM implementation into machine instructions. (Most commonly using C.)

[1] https://wiki.python.org/moin/Why%20is%20Python%20a%20dynamic%20language%20and%20also%20a%20strongly%20typed%20language

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What does this mean for me?

[1] https://wiki.python.org/moin/Why%20is%20Python%20a%20dynamic%20language%20and%20also%20a%20strongly%20typed%20language

Language Basics

Python is a strongly-typed and dynamically-typed language.

Strongly-typed: Types will not be coerced silently like in JavaScript.

Dynamically-typed: Variables are names for values or object references. Variables can be reassigned to values of a different type.

Execution: Python is “slower”, but it can run highly optimized C/C++ subroutines which make scientific computing (e.g. matrix multiplication) really fast.

[1] https://wiki.python.org/moin/Why%20is%20Python%20a%20dynamic%20language%20and%20also%20a%20strongly%20typed%20language

Language Basics

Python is a strongly-typed and dynamically-typed language.

Strongly-typed: `1 + '1'` → **`Error!`**

Dynamically-typed: `foo = [1,2,3] ...later... foo = 'hello!'`

Execution: `np.dot(x, W) + b` → **`Fast!`**

[1] https://wiki.python.org/moin/Why%20is%20Python%20a%20dynamic%20language%20and%20also%20a%20strongly%20typed%20language

Collections: List

Lists are **mutable arrays** (think `std::vector`)

```
names = ['Zach', 'Jay']
names[0] == 'Zach'
names.append('Richard')
len(names) == 3
print names  >> ['Zach', 'Jay', 'Richard']
names.extend(['Abi', 'Kevin'])
print names  >> ['Zach', 'Jay', 'Richard', 'Abi', 'Kevin']
names = []      # Creates an empty list
names = list() # Also creates an empty list
stuff = [1, ['hi','bye'], -0.12, None]  # Can mix types
```

List Slicing

List elements can be accessed in convenient ways.

Basic format: **`some_list[start_index:end_index]`**

```
numbers = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
numbers[0:3] == numbers[:3] == [0, 1, 2]
numbers[5:] == numbers[5:7] == [5, 6]
numbers[:] == numbers = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

numbers[-1] == 6              # Negative index wraps around
numbers[-3:] == [4, 5, 6]
numbers[3:-2] == [3, 4]       # Can mix and match
```

Collections: Tuple

Tuples are **immutable arrays**

```
names = ('Zach', 'Jay')  # Note the parentheses
names[0] == 'Zach'
len(names) == 2
print names >> ('Zach', 'Jay')
names[0] = 'Richard'
>> TypeError: 'tuple' object does not support item assignment

empty = tuple()    # Empty tuple
single = (10,)     # Single-element tuple. Comma matters!
```

Collections: Dictionary

Dictionaries are **hash maps**

```
phonebook = dict()                  # Empty dictionary
phonebook = {'Zach': '12-37'}       # Dictionary with one item
phonebook['Jay'] = '34-23'          # Add another item
print('Zach' in phonebook)         >> True
print('Kevin' in phonebook)        >> False
print(phonebook['Jay'])            >> `34-23`
del phonebook['Zach']               # Delete an item
print(phonebook)                   >> {'Jay' : '34-23'}
for name, number in phonebook.iteritems():
  print name, number               >> Jay 34-23
```

Loops

```
for name in [‘Zack’, ‘Jay’, ‘Richard’]:
  print ‘Hi ‘ + name + ‘!’
>> Hi Zack!
   Hi Jay!
   Hi Richard!

while True:
  print ‘We’re stuck in a loop...’
  break # Break out of the while loop
>> We’re stuck in a loop...
```

Loops (cont'd)

What about `for (i=0; i<10; i++)`? Use `range()`:

```
for i in range(10):                    #  Want an index also?
  print 'Line ' + str(i)               #  Look at enumerate()!
```

Looping over a list, unpacking tuples:

```
for x, y in [(1,10), (2,20), (3,30)]:
  print x, y
>> 1 10
   2 20
   3 30
```

Classes

```
class Animal(object):
    def __init__(self, species, age):  # Constructor `a = Animal('bird', 10)`
        self.species = species         # Refer to instance with `self`
        self.age = age                 # All instance variables are public

    def isPerson(self):                # Invoked with `a.isPerson()`
        return self.species == "Homo Sapiens"

    def ageOneYear(self):
        self.age += 1

class Dog(Animal):                     # Inherits Animal's methods
    def ageOneYear(self):              # Override for dog years
        self.age += 7
```

Importing Modules

Install packages in terminal using `pip install [package_name]`

```
# Import 'os' and 'time' modules
import os, time

# Import under an alias
import numpy as np
np.dot(x, y)     # Access components with pkg.fn

# Import specific submodules/functions
from numpy import linalg as la, dot as matrix_multiply

# Not really recommended b/c namespace collisions...
```

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Numpy

Optimized library for matrix and vector computation.

Makes use of C/C++ subroutines and memory-efficient data structures.

(Lots of computation can be efficiently represented as vectors.)

Main data type: `np.ndarray`

This is the data type that you will use to represent matrix/vector computations.

Note: constructor function is `np.array()`

np.ndarray

```
x = np.array([1,2,3])

y = np.array([[3,4,5]])

z = np.array([[6,7],[8,9]])

print x,y,z

print x.shape

print y.shape

print z.shape
```

np.ndarray

```
x = np.array([1,2,3])

y = np.array([[3,4,5]])

z = np.array([[6,7],[8,9]])

print x,y,z

print x.shape

print y.shape

print z.shape
```

```
>> [1  2  3]

>> [[3  4  5]]

>> [[6  7]
    [8  9]]

>> (3,)          A list of scalars!

>> (1,3)         A (row) vector!

>> (2,2)         A matrix!
```

np.ndarray Operations

Reductions: `np.max`, `np.min`, `np.argmax`, `np.sum`, `np.mean`, …

Always reduces along an axis! (Or will reduce along all axes if not specified.)

(You can think of this as “collapsing” this axis into the function’s output.)

```
x = np.array([[1,2],[3,4]])

print(np.max(x, axis = 1))

print(np.max(x, axis = 1, keepdims = True))
```

np.ndarray Operations

Reductions: `np.max, np.min, np.amax, np.sum, np.mean, …`

Always reduces along an axis! (Or will reduce along all axes if not specified.)

(You can think of this as “collapsing” this axis into the function’s output.)

```
x = np.array([[1,2],[3,4]])

print(np.max(x, axis = 1))                    >> [2  4]

print(np.max(x, axis = 1, keepdims = True))   >> [[2]
                                                  [4]]
```

np.ndarray Operations

Matrix Operations: `np.dot, np.linalg.norm, .T, +, -, *, ...`

Infix operators (i.e. `+, -, *, **, /`) are **element-wise.**

Matrix multiplication is done with `np.dot(x, W)` or `x.dot(W)`

Transpose with `x.T`

Note: `Shapes (N,) != (1, N)`

```
print(np.array([1,2,3]).T)            >> [1  2  3]

np.sum(np.array([1,2,3]), axis = 1)   >> Error!
```

np.ndarray Operations

Matrix Operations: `np.dot, np.linalg.norm, .T, +, -, *, ...`

Infix operators (i.e. `+, -, *, **, /`) are **element-wise.**

Matrix multiplication is done with `np.dot(x, W)` or `x.dot(W)`

Transpose with `x.T`

Note: `Shapes (N,) != (N, 1)`

```
print(np.array([1,2,3]).T)            >> [1  2  3]

np.sum(np.array([1,2,3]), axis = 1)   >> Error!
```

Note: Scipy and np.linalg have many, many other advanced functions that are very useful!

Indexing

```
x = np.random.random((3, 4))  # Random (3,4) matrix


x[:]                          # Selects everything in x

x[np.array([0, 2]), :]        # Selects the 0th and 2nd rows

x[1, 1:3]                     # Selects 1st row as 1-D vector

                              # and 1st through 2nd elements

x[x > 0.5]                    # Boolean indexing
```

Indexing

```
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x[:]                          # Selects everything in x

x[np.array([0, 2]), :]        # Selects the 0th and 2nd rows

x[1, 1:3]                     # Selects 1st row as 1-D vector

                              # and 1st through 2nd elements

x[x > 0.5]                    # Boolean indexing
```

Note: Selecting with an ndarray or range will preserve the dimensions of the selection.

Broadcasting

```
x = np.random.random((3, 4))  # Random (3, 4) matrix

y = np.random.random((3, 1))  # Random (3, 1) matrix

z = np.random.random((1, 4))      # Random (3,) vector

x + y      # Adds y to each column of x

x * z      # Multiplies z element-wise with each row of x

print((y + y.T).shape) # Can give unexpected results!
```

Broadcasting

```
x = np.random.random((3, 4))  # Random (3, 4) matrix

y = np.random.random((3, 1))  # Random (3, 1) matrix

z = np.random.random((1, 4))      # Random (3,) vector

x + y      # Adds y to each column of x

x * z      # Multiplies z element-wise with each row of x

print((y + y.T).shape) # Can give unexpected results!
```

Note: If you're getting an error, print the shapes of the matrices and investigate from there.

Efficient Numpy Code

Avoid explicit for-loops over indices/axes at all costs.

For-loops will *dramatically* slow down your code *(~10-100x)*.

```
for i in range(x.shape[0]):
    for j in range(x.shape[1]):
        x[i,j] **= 2
```

```
x **= 2
```

```
for i in range(100, 1000):
    for j in range(x.shape[1]):
        x[i, j] += 5
```

```
x[np.arange(100,1000), :] += 5
```

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List Comprehension

- Similar to `map()` from functional programming languages.
- Can improve readability & make the code succinct.
- Format: `[func(x) for x in some_list]`
- Following are equivalent:
  - ```
    squares = []
    for i in range(10):
      squares.append(i**2)
    ```
  - `squares = [i**2 for i in range(10)]`
- Can be conditional:
  - `odds = [i**2 for i in range(10) if i%2 == 1]`
    ```

Convenient Syntax

- Multiple assignment / unpacking iterables
  - `x, y, z = ['Tensorflow', 'PyTorch', 'Chainer']`
  - `age, name, pets = 20, 'Joy', ['cat']`
- Returning multiple items from a function
  - ```
    def some_func():
        return 10, 1
    ten, one = some_func()
    ```
- Joining list of strings with a delimiter
  - `", ".join([1, 2, 3]) == '1, 2, 3'`
- String literals with both single and double quotes
  - `message = 'I like "single" quotes.'`
  - `reply = "I prefer 'double' quotes."`
    ```

Debugging Tips

- Python has an **interactive shell** where you can execute arbitrary code
  - Great replacement for TI-84 (no integer overflow!)
  - Confused by syntax? Just try it in the shell!
    -
```
$ python
Python 2.7.10 (default, Jul 15 2017, 17:16:57)
>>> 2 ** 5 / 2
16
>>> 2 ** (5 / 2)
4
```
  - Can import any module (even custom ones in the current directory)
  - Try small test cases in the shell

Debugging Tips (cont'd)

- Unsure of what you can do with an object? Use **`type()`** and **`dir()`**!!

```
>>> class Duck(object):
...     def quack(self): pass
...
>>> bird = Duck()
>>> type(bird)
<class '__main__.Duck'>
>>> dir(bird)
['__class__', '__delattr__', '__dict__', '__doc__', '__format__',
'__getattribute__', '__hash__', '__init__', '__module__', '__new__',
'__reduce__', '__reduce_ex__', '__repr__', '__setattr__', '__sizeof__',
'__str__', '__subclasshook__', '__weakref__', 'quack']
>>>
```

Numpy Debugging

- Print shapes to see if they match what you expect: `print x.shape`
- Print shapes!! Make sure broadcasting is done properly.
- Print types and values.
- Checking if two float arrays are approximately equal (element-wise)
  - `np.allclose(x, y)  # Can also specify tolerance`
- Checking if an array is close to zero (e.g. gradient)
  - `np.allclose(x, 0)  # Broadcasting`
- Selecting all elements less than 0 from an array
  - `x[x < 0]  # Returns 1-dim array`

Environment Management

- Problem:
  - Python 3 is not backward-compatible with Python 2
  - Countless Python packages and their dependencies
  - Different projects require different packages
    - Even worse, different versions of the same package!
- Solution:
  - Keep multiple Python **environments** that are isolated from each other
  - Each environment…
    - can use different Python versions
    - keeps its own set of packages
    - can be easily replicated (e.g. on a VM, friend’s laptop, etc.)

Anaconda

- Anaconda is a popular Python environment/package manager
  - Install from https://www.anaconda.com/download/
  - Supports Windows, Linux, macOS
  - Basic workflow

```
$ source activate <environment_name>
<... do stuff ...>
$ deactivate
```

  - Other environments won’t be affected by anything you do
  - Allows you to run a different version of Python for each environment

Virtualenv

- Virtualenv is another popular Python environment manager
  - Only specifies different packages per environment
  - Doesn’t help run different Python version
  - Installation from https://virtualenv.pypa.io/en/stable/installation/
  - Basic workflow

```
$ mkdir <environment_directory>
$ virtualenv <environment_directory>
$ source <env_dir>/bin/activate
$ pip install <package>
```

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Other Great References

1. Official Python 2 documentation: https://docs.python.org/2/
2. Official Python 2 tutorial: https://docs.python.org/2.7/tutorial/index.html
3. Numpy Quickstart: https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy-dev/user/quickstart.html
4. Python Tutorial from CS231N: http://cs231n.github.io/python-numpy-tutorial/
5. Stanford Python course (CS41): http://stanfordpython.com/

END OF PRESENTATION

Iterables (cont'd)

Abstraction for *anything you can iterate over*

Sets: similar to lists, but without ordering and duplicates

```
names = set(['Zack', 'Jay'])
names[0] >> TypeError: 'set' object does not support indexing
len(names) == 2
print names >> set(['Zack', 'Jay'])
names.insert('Jay')
print names >> set(['Zack', 'Jay'])  # Ignored duplicate

empty = set()   # Empty set
```