

Awkward 1.0

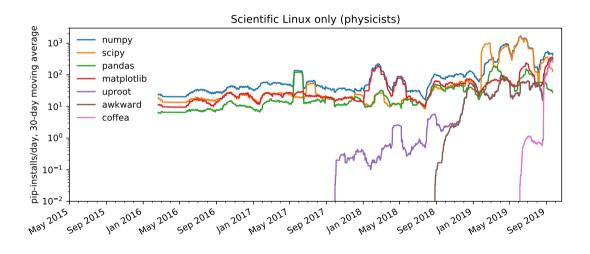
Jim Pivarski

 ${\sf Princeton\ University-IRIS-HEP}$

October 17, 2019

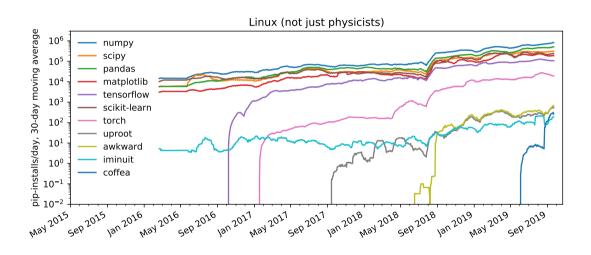
On Scientific Linux, uproot/awkward/coffea is mainstream





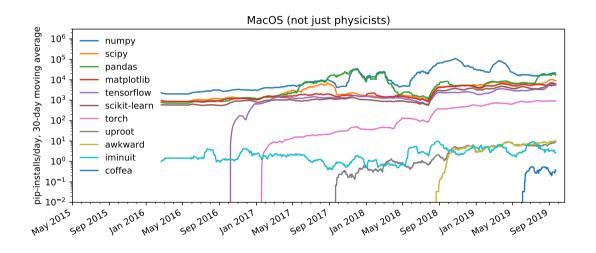
But not outside of particle physics, obviously





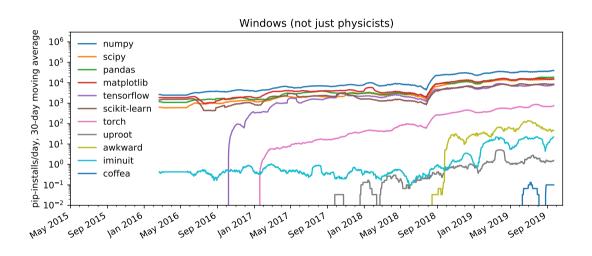
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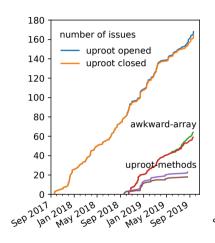
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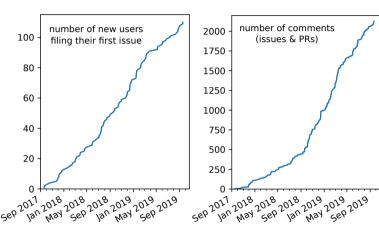




Uproot/Awkward maintainance is pretty much constant

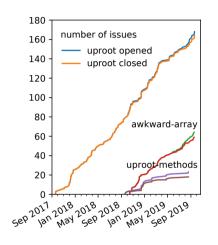


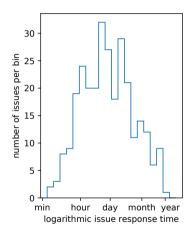


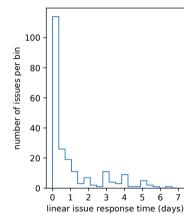


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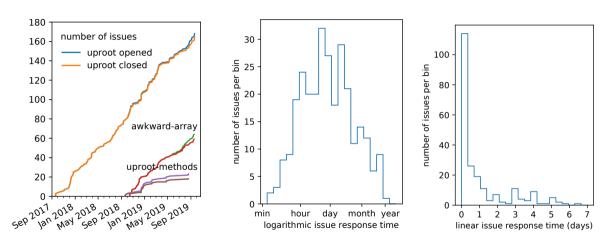






Uproot/Awkward maintainance is pretty much constant





The problem with GitHub issues is that once closed, they disappear.

Let's use StackOverflow (like most non-HEP software communities)



Questions

If you have a question about how to use uproot that is not answered in the document below, I recommend asking your question on StackOverflow with the [uproot] tag. (I get notified of questions with this tag.)



If you believe you have found a bug in uproot, post it on the $\mbox{\rm GitHub}$ issues tab.

Tutorial

Run this tutorial on Binder.

Tutorial contents:

- Introduction
- What is uproot?
- Exploring a file
 - Compressed objects in ROOT files
 - Exploring a TTree
 - Some terminology
- Reading arrays from a TTree

No, seriously, do it now.



Log in



Products

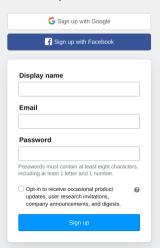
Customers

Use cases





and only takes a minute.





Future of Uproot and Awkward



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(Apart from TTree-writing, uproot has been in maintenance mode for a year already.)



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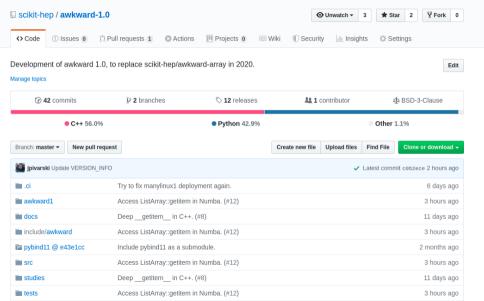
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 - ▶ a.cross(b) versus awkward.cross(a, b)
 - ► User-visible JaggedArray versus ChunkedArray (JaggedArray)



Awkward 1.0

Awkward 1.0 is a rewrite, improving structure and interface





Layered architecture

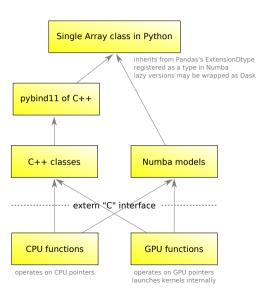


Layer 1: Python user interface: a single awkward. Array class.

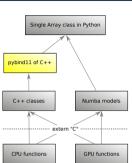
Layer 2: Structure classes, "layout"
(e.g. ListArray/RecordArray).

Layer 3: Memory management, array allocation and ownership; reference counting.

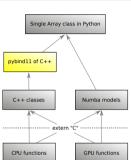
Layer 4: Implementations, where we write **for** loops. The only layer that needs to be optimized for speed.





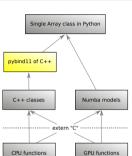








```
import numpy
import awkward1
content = awkward1.layout.NumpyArray(numpy.arange(10)*1.1)
        = awkward1.layout.ListOffsetArray32(
listA
            awkward1.layout.Index32(numpy.array([0, 3, 3, 5, 6, 10])),
            content)
        = awkward1.lavout.ListOffsetArrav32(
listB
            awkward1.layout.Index32(numpy.array([0, 3, 4, 4, 5])),
            listA)
print(awkward1.tolist(listA))
[[0.0, 1.1, 2.2], [], [3.3, 4.4], [5.5], [6.6, 7.7, 8.8, 9.9]]
print (awkward1.tolist(listB))
[[0.0, 1.1, 2.2], [], [3.3, 4.4]], [[5.5]], [], [[6.6, 7.7, 8.8, 9.9]]]
```





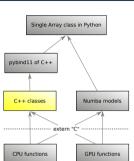
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                                                                                  Single Array class in Python
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                                                                              pybind11 of C++
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listB
                                                                               C++ classes
                                                                                           Numba models
             awkward1.layout.Index32(numpy.array([0, 3, 4, 4, 5])),
             listA)
                                                                              evtern "C"
print(awkward1.tolist(listA))
                                                                               CPI I functions
                                                                                            GPLI functions
[[0.0, 1.1, 2.2], [], [3.3, 4.4], [5.5], [6.6, 7.7, 8.8, 9.9]]
print (awkward1.tolist(listB))
[[0.0, 1.1, 2.2], [], [3.3, 4.4]], [[5.5]], [], [[6.6, 7.7, 8.8, 9.9]]]
print(awkward1.tolist(listB[:, ::-1, ::2]))
[[[3.3], [], [0.0, 2.2]], [[5.5]], [], [[6.6, 8.8]]] (old awkward-array can't do this)
```



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import numpy
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                                                                                  Single Array class in Python
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print(awkward1.tolist(listB[:, ::-1, ::2]))
[[[3.3], [], [0.0, 2.2]], [[5.5]], [], [[6.6, 8.8]]] (old awkward-array can't do this)
print(awkward1.tolist(listB[[0, 0, -1, -1], [0, -1, 0, -1], 1:-1]))
                                                            (mixing fancy and basic indexing)
[[1.1], [], [7.7, 8.8], [7.7, 8.8]]
```

Layer 3: C++ classes





Laver 3: C++ classes



Numba models

GPII functions

```
Index32 offsets(6):
offsets.ptr().qet()[0] = 0; offsets.ptr().qet()[3] = 5;
                                                                               Single Array class in Python
offsets.ptr().qet()[1] = 3; offsets.ptr().qet()[4] = 6;
offsets.ptr().get()[2] = 3; offsets.ptr().get()[5] = 10;
                                                                           pybind11 of C++
auto raw = new RawArrayOf<double>(Identity::none(), 10);
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
  *raw->borrow(i) = 1.1*i:
                                                                            C++ classes
std::shared ptr<Content> content(raw);
                                                                           evtern "C"
std::shared ptr<Content> list(new ListOffsetArray32(Identity::none(),
                                                      offsets, content)):
                                                                            CPLI functions
tostring(list);
"[[0, 1.1, 2.2], [], [3.3, 4.4], [5.5], [6.6, 7.7, 8.8, 9.9]]"
tostring(list.get()->getitem_range(1, -1));
"[[], [3.3, 4.4], [5.5]]"
tostring(list.get()->getitem(slice(new SliceRange(2, Slice::none(), Slice::none()),
                                    new SliceRange(Slice::none(), Slice::none(), -1)));
"[[4.4. 3.3], [5.5], [9.9. 8.8. 7.7. 6.6]]"
```

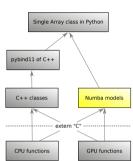
Layer 3: Numba models



import numba

```
@numba.jit(nopython=True)
def iterate(array):
    out = 0.0
    for subarray in array:
        for subsubarray in subarray: # compiled function are
           for item in subsubarray:
               out += item
    return out
print(iterate(listB))
49.5
```

```
# for loops in a Numba-
# just as fast as C or C++
```



Layer 3: Numba models



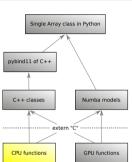
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```
Single Array class in Python
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                                                                              pybind11 of C++
    for subarray in array:
                                            # for loops in a Numba-
        for subsubarray in subarray: # compiled function are
             for item in subsubarray:
                                            # just as fast as C or C++
                                                                               C++ classes
                                                                                           Numba models
                 out += item
    return out
                                                                             evtern "C"
print(iterate(listB))
                                                                               CPU functions
                                                                                           GPII functions
49.5
@numba.jit(nopython=True)
def slices(array):
                                            # same slicing works in the compiled environment
    return (array[:, ::-1, ::2],
            arrav[[0, 0, -1, -1], [0, -1, 0, -1], 1:-1])
one, two = slices(listB)
print(awkward1.tolist(one), awkward1.tolist(two))
[[[3.3], [], [0.0, 2.2]], [[5.5]], [], [[6.6, 8.8]]] (same results as before)
[[1.1], [], [7.7, 8.8], [7.7, 8.8]]
```

Layer 4: CPU functions



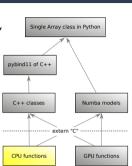
```
for (int64 t i = 0; i < lenstarts; i++) {
  int64 t length = fromstops[stopsoffset + i] -
                   fromstarts(startsoffset + il:
  int64_t regular_at = at;
  if (regular at < 0) {</pre>
    regular_at += length;
  if (!(0 <= regular_at && regular_at < length)) {</pre>
    return failure("index out of range", i, at);
  tocarry[i] = fromstarts[startsoffset + i] + regular_at;
return success();
```



Layer 4: CPU functions



```
template <typename C, typename T>
Error awkward_listarray_getitem_next_at(T* tocarry, const C* fromstarts,
          const C* fromstops, int64 t lenstarts, int64 t startsoffset,
          int64 t stopsoffset, int64 t at)
  for (int64 t i = 0; i < lenstarts; i++) {
    int64 t length = fromstops[stopsoffset + i] -
                     fromstarts(startsoffset + il:
    int64_t regular_at = at;
    if (regular at < 0) {
      regular at += length:
    if (!(0 <= regular at && regular at < length)) {</pre>
      return failure ("index out of range", i, at);
    tocarrv[i] = fromstarts[startsoffset + i] + regular at;
  return success():
```



Layer 4: CPU functions

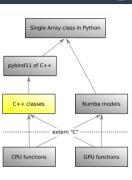


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template <typename C, typename T>
Error awkward_listarray_getitem_next_at(T* tocarry, const C* fromstarts,
                                                                                  Single Array class in Python
          const C* fromstops, int64 t lenstarts, int64 t startsoffset,
          int64_t stopsoffset, int64_t at)
                                                                              pybind11 of C++
  for (int64 t i = 0; i < lenstarts; i++) {
    int64 t length = fromstops[stopsoffset + i] -
                      fromstarts(startsoffset + il:
                                                                               C++ classes
                                                                                           Numba models
    int64_t regular_at = at;
    if (regular at < 0) {
                                                                             evtern "C"
      regular_at += length;
                                                                               CPLI functions
                                                                                           GPLI functions
    if (!(0 <= regular at && regular at < length)) {</pre>
      return failure ("index out of range", i, at);
    tocarrv[i] = fromstarts[startsoffset + i] + regular at;
  return success():
extern "C" {
  Error awkward_listarray32_getitem_next_at_64(int64_t* tocarry, const int32_t* fromstarts,
             const int32 t* fromstops, int64 t lenstarts, int64 t startsoffset,
             int64_t stopsoffset, int64_t at);
```

Layer 3: C++ classes



```
if (head.get() == nullptr) {
  return shallow_copy();
else if (SliceAt* at = dynamic cast<SliceAt*>(head.get())) {
  std::shared_ptr<SliceItem> nexthead = tail.head();
  Slice nexttail = tail.tail():
  Index64 nextcarry(lenstarts);
  Error err = awkward_listarray32_getitem_next_at_64(
    nextcarry.ptr().get().
    starts .ptr().get(),
    stops_.ptr().get(),
    lenstarts.
    starts .offset(),
    stops_.offset(),
    at->at());
  util::handle_error(err, classname(), id .get());
  std::shared_ptr<Content> nextcontent = content_.get()->carry(nextcarry);
  return nextcontent.get()->getitem_next(nexthead, nexttail, advanced);
else if (SliceRange* range = dynamic_cast<SliceRange*>(head.get())) {
```



Layer 3: Numba models



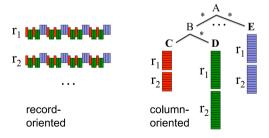
```
if isinstance(headtpe, numba.types.Integer):
  if arraytpe.bitwidth == 64:
                                                                                  Single Array class in Python
    kernel = cpu.kernels.awkward listarray64 getitem next at 64
  elif arraytpe.bitwidth == 32:
    kernel = cpu.kernels.awkward listarray32 getitem next at 64
                                                                              pybind11 of C++
  nextcarry = util.newindex64(context, builder, numba.int64, lenstarts)
  util.call(context, builder, kernel,
                                                                              C++ classes
                                                                                          Numba models
    (util.arrayptr(context, builder, util.index64tpe, nextcarry),
     util.arravptr(context, builder, arraytpe.startstpe, proxyin.starts).....extem 'C'
     util.arrayptr(context, builder, arraytpe.stopstpe, proxyin.stops),
     lenstarts.
                                                                              CPU functions
                                                                                           GPLI functions
     context.get constant(numba.int64, 0),
     context.get constant(numba.int64, 0),
     util.cast(context, builder, headtpe, numba.int64, headval)),
    "in {}, indexing error".format(arraytpe.shortname))
  nextcontenttpe = arraytpe.contenttpe.carry()
  nextcontentval = arraytpe.contenttpe.lower_carry(context, builder, arraytpe.contenttpe,
                                              util.index64tpe, proxyin.content, nextcarry)
  return next content tpe. lower get item next (context, builder, next content tpe, tail tpe,
                                              nextcontentval, tailval, advanced)
elif isinstance (headtpe, numba.types.SliceType):
```

Still following the array-at-a-time approach



Slow Python has been replaced by slow C++ (dynamic dispatch, runtime type-checks).

But only $\mathcal{O}(\text{depth of type})$ operations are performed in C++; $\mathcal{O}(\text{number of events})$ operations are performed in single-pass cpu-functions.



Deliverables



Compilable by CMake (for pure C++) or python setup.py install.

cpu-kernels.so suite of Layer 4 functions with an **extern** "C" interface, which can be accessed by any language (notably C++ and Numba).

libawkward.so library of Layer 3 classes that can be used in any C++ project.

awkward1 Python library: Layer 1 (user interface), Layer 2 (extension module), and Layer 3 (Numba extensions, if Numba is installed).

https://pypi.org/project/awkward1/#files hosts 29 binary wheels and 1 source package; most users will pip install without compiling.



Mathematical aspects



Arrays are functions:

$$\operatorname{array}: [0, n) \to \operatorname{dtype}$$

such that array[i] for integer i is a function call.



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Indexing by an integer array is functional composition:

$$ext{ints}: [0, m) o [0, n) \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad ext{array[ints]}: [0, m) o ext{dtype}$$



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```
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```

So if f and g are $\mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0} \to \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$ functions and we sample them as F and G,

then G[F] = GoF.



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```

So if f and g are $\mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0} \to \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 0}$ functions and we sample them as F and G,

then G[F] = GoF.

Functional composition is associative: if H is any array, H[G][F] = H[G[F]].

Associativity of integer-array indexing is a very useful feature





https://github.com/scikit-hep/
awkward-1.0/blob/master/docs/
theory/arrays-are-functions.pdf

Used throughout getitem_next to "carry" information from one level of recursion to the next, in analogy with carrying digits in longhand addition.



Pandas-style indexing

Indexing distinguishes Numpy from Pandas and xarray





VS.





Awkward 1.0 operations will optionally pass around an Identity, an extra array that attaches permanent coordinates to each number, list, and record in the data.

Indexing distinguishes Numpy from Pandas and xarray





VS.





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Good for error messages...

Indexing distinguishes Numpy from Pandas and xarray





VS.





Awkward 1.0 operations will optionally pass around an Identity, an extra array that attaches permanent coordinates to each number, list, and record in the data.

Good for error messages...

... but it was motivated by investigations into set-based languages



https://github.com/jpivarski/PartiQL

```
# For events with at least three leptons (electrons or muons) and a same-flavor
# opposite-sign lepton pair, find the same-flavor opposite-sign lepton pair with a
# mass closest to 91.2 GeV; make a histogram of the pT of the leading other lepton.
leptons = electrons union muons
cut count(leptons) >= 3 named "three leptons" {
    Z = electrons as (lep1, lep2) union muons as (lep1, lep2)
             where lep1.charge != lep2.charge
             min by abs (mass(lep1, lep2) - 91.2)
    third = leptons except [Z.lep1, Z.lep2] max by pt
    hist third.pt by regular (100, 0, 250) named "third pt"
```

An Identity (surrogate-key index) is needed to define set operations like join, cross, union, and except such that particles are never duplicated.





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Awkward 1.0 is intended as a solid foundation for that future.

When can I try it?



Nowish: it is in a testable state (for Coffea and thrill-seekers).

Will be minimally usable for physics analysis in "early 2020."

Start an import $awkward \rightarrow import \ awkward0$ import $awkward1 \rightarrow import \ awkward \ transition$ by spring.

Roadmap

The rough estimate for development time to a minimally usable library for physics was six months, starting in late August (i.e. finishing in late February). **Progress is currently on track.**

Approximate order of implementation

Completed items are **✓**check-marked. See closed PRs for more details.

- Cross-platform, cross-Python version build and deploy process. Regularly deploying 30 wheels after closing each PR.
- Basic NumpyArray, ListArray, and ListOffsetArray with __getitem__ for int/slice and __iter__ in C++/pybind11 to establish structure and ensure proper reference counting.
- Introduce Identity as a Pandas-style index to pass through __getitem__.
- Reproduce all of the above as Numba extensions (make NumpyArray, ListArray, and ListOffsetArray usable in Numba-compiled functions).
- Fully implement __getitem__ for int/slice/intarray/boolarray/tuple (placeholders for newaxis/ellipsis), with perfect agreement with Numpy basic/advanced indexing, to all levels of depth.
- Appendable arrays (a distinct phase from readable arrays, when the type is still in flux) to implement awkward.fromiter in C++.
- □ JSON → Awkward via header-only simdison and awkward.fromiter.

RecordArray: the new Table without lazy-slicing.

- Explicit broadcasting functions for jagged and non-jagged arrays and scalars.
- Extend __getitem_ to take jagged arrays of integers and booleans (same behavior as old).
- Full suite of array types:
 - RawArray : flat. 1-dimensional array type for pure C++ (header-only).
 - NumpyArray: rectilinear, N-dimensional array type without Python/pybind11 dependencies, but intended for Numpy.
 - ListArray: the new JaggedArray, based on starts and stops (i.e. fully general).
 - ✓ ListOffsetArray: the JaggedArray case with no unreachable data between reachable data (gaps).

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Use cases



