

How can I use the `numpy.digitize()` function in Python to bin variables?

Authored by
stats writer

April 17, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the `numpy.digitize()` function in Python to bin variables?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=136418>

The `numpy.digitize()` function is a useful tool in Python for binning numerical variables. It allows you to group data into categories or bins based on a specified set of cutoff values. This function takes in an array of values and an array of bins, and assigns each value to the corresponding bin based on its numerical value. This is particularly helpful in data analysis and visualization, as it allows for easier comparison and interpretation of data. By utilizing the `numpy.digitize()` function, you can efficiently organize and analyze large datasets with numerical variables in Python.

Bin Variables in Python Using `numpy.digitize()`

Often you may be interested in placing the values of a variable into "bins" in Python.

Fortunately this is easy to do using the function, which uses the following syntax:

```
numpy.digitize(x, bins, right=False)
```

where:

x: Array to be binned.
bins: Array of bins.
right: Indicating whether the intervals include the right or the left bin edge. Default is that the interval does not include the right edge.

This tutorial shows several examples of how to use this function in practice.

Example 1: Place All Values into Two Bins

The following code shows how to place the values of an array into two bins:

0 if $x < 20$ 1 if $x \geq 20$

```
import numpy as np
```

```
#create data
```

```
data =
```

```
#place values into bins
```

```
np.digitize(data, bins=)
```

```
array()
```

Example 2: Place All Values into Three Bins

The following code shows how to place the values of an array into three bins:

0 if $x < 10$ 1 if $10 \leq x < 20$ 2 if $x \geq 20$

```
import numpy as np
```

```
#create data
```

```
data =
```

```
#place values into bins  
np.digitize(data, bins=)
```

```
array()
```

Note that if we specify `right=True` then the values would be placed into the following bins:

0 if $x \leq 10$ 1 if $10 < x \leq 20$ 2 if $x > 20$

Each interval would include the right bin edge. Here's what that looks like:

```
import numpy as np
```

```
#create data
```

```
data =
```

```
#place values into bins
```

```
np.digitize(data, bins=, right=True)
```

```
array()
```

Example 3: Place All Values into Four Bins

The following code shows how to place the values of an

array into three bins:

0 if $x < 10$ 1 if $10 \leq x < 20$ 2 if $20 \leq x < 30$ 3 if $x \geq 30$

```
import numpy as np
```

```
#create data
```

```
data =
```

```
#place values into bins
```

```
np.digitize(data, bins=)
```

```
array()
```

Example 4: Count the Frequency of Each Bin

Another useful NumPy function that complements the `numpy.digitize()` function is the `numpy.histogram()` function, which counts the frequencies of each bin.

The following code shows how to place the values of an array into three bins and then count the frequency of each bin:

```
import numpy as np
```

```
#create data
```

```
data =
```

```
#place values into bins
```

```
bin_data = np.digitize(data, bins=)
```

```
#view binned data
```

```
bin_data
```

```
array()
```

```
#count frequency of each bin
```

```
np.bincount(bin_data)
```

```
array()
```

The output tells us that:

Bin "0" contains 4 data values. Bin "1" contains 2 data values. Bin "2" contains 5 data values.

Find more Python tutorials .