
caterva

Release 0.7.1

The Blosc Developers

Jan 19, 2022

CONTENTS

1	Getting Started	3
2	API Reference	9
3	Development	17
4	Release notes	19
	Index	23

Python-caterva is a Python wrapper of [Caterva](#), an open source C library specially designed to deal with large multidimensional, chunked, compressed datasets.

Getting Started

New to *python-caterva*? Check out the getting started guides. They contain an introduction to *python-caterva* main concepts and an installation tutorial.

[To the getting started guides](#)

API Reference

The reference guide contains a detailed description of the *python-caterva* API. The reference describes how the functions work and which parameters can be used.

[To the reference guide](#)

Development

Saw a typo in the documentation? Want to improve existing functionalities? The contributing guidelines will guide you through the process of improving *python-caterva*.

[To the development guide](#)

Release Notes

Want to see what's new in the latest release? Check out the release notes to find out!

[To the release notes](#)

GETTING STARTED

1.1 What is python-caterva?

Caterva is a container for multidimensional data that is specially designed to read, in a very efficient way, datasets slices. It uses the metalayer capabilities present in superchunks/frames in order to store the multidimensionality information. Python-caterva is the Python wrapper for [Caterva](#).

1.2 Installation

You can install Caterva wheels via PyPI using Pip or clone the GitHub repository.

1.2.1 Pip

```
python -m pip install caterva
```

1.2.2 Source code

```
git clone --recurse-submodules https://github.com/Blosc/python-caterva
cd python-caterva
python -m pip install .
```

1.3 Tutorial

Caterva functions let users to perform different operations with Caterva arrays like setting, copying or slicing them. In this section, we are going to see how to create and manipulate a Caterva array in a simple way.

```
import caterva as cat

cat.__version__
```

```
'0.7.1'
```

1.3.1 Creating an array

First, we create an array, with zero being used as the default value for uninitialized portions of the array.

```
c = cat.zeros((10000, 10000), itemsize=4, chunks=(1000, 1000), blocks=(100, 100))
```

```
c
```

```
<caterva.ndarray.NDArray at 0x7f61480fbe60>
```

1.3.2 Reading and writing data

We can access and edit Caterva arrays using NumPy.

```
import struct
import numpy as np
```

```
dtype = np.int32
```

```
c[0, :] = np.arange(10000, dtype=dtype)
```

```
c[:, 0] = np.arange(10000, dtype=dtype)
```

```
c[0, 0]
```

```
array(b'', dtype='<|S4')
```

```
np.array(c[0, 0]).view(dtype)
```

```
array(0, dtype=int32)
```

```
np.array(c[0, -1]).view(dtype)
```

```
array(9999, dtype=int32)
```

```
np.array(c[0, :]).view(dtype)
```

```
array([ 0, 1, 2, ..., 9997, 9998, 9999], dtype=int32)
```

```
np.array(c[:, 0]).view(dtype)
```

```
array([ 0, 1, 2, ..., 9997, 9998, 9999], dtype=int32)
```

```
np.array(c[:, :]).view(dtype)
```

```
array([[ 0, 1, 2, ..., 9997, 9998, 9999],
       [ 1, 0, 0, ..., 0, 0, 0],
       [ 2, 0, 0, ..., 0, 0, 0],
       ...,
       [ 9997, 0, 0, ..., 0, 0, 0],
       [ 9998, 0, 0, ..., 0, 0, 0],
       [ 9999, 0, 0, ..., 0, 0, 0]])
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
[9997, 0, 0, ..., 0, 0, 0],
[9998, 0, 0, ..., 0, 0, 0],
[9999, 0, 0, ..., 0, 0, 0]], dtype=int32)
```

1.3.3 Persistent data

When we create a Caterva array, we can specify where it will be stored. Then, we can access to this array whenever we want and it will still contain all the data as it is stored persistently.

```
c1 = cat.full((1000, 1000), fill_value=b"pepe", chunks=(100, 100), blocks=(50, 50),
             urlpath="cat_tutorial.caterva")
```

```
c2 = cat.open("cat_tutorial.caterva")
```

```
c2.info
```

```
Type          : NDArray
Itemsize       : 4
Shape          : (1000, 1000)
Chunks         : (100, 100)
Blocks         : (50, 50)
Comp. codec    : LZ4
Comp. level    : 5
Comp. filters  : [SHUFFLE]
Comp. ratio    : 588.24
```

```
np.array(c2[0, 20:30]).view("S4")
```

```
array([b'pepe', b'pepe', b'pepe', b'pepe', b'pepe', b'pepe', b'pepe',
       b'pepe', b'pepe', b'pepe'], dtype='<S4')
```

```
import os
if os.path.exists("cat_tutorial.caterva"):
    cat.remove("cat_tutorial.caterva")
```

1.3.4 Compression params

Here we can see how when we make a copy of a Caterva array we can change its compression parameters in an easy way.

```
b = np.arange(10000000).tobytes()

c1 = cat.from_buffer(b, shape=(1000, 1000), itemsize=8, chunks=(500, 10), blocks=(50, 10))

c1.info
```

```
Type      : NDArray
Itemsize  : 8
Shape     : (1000, 1000)
Chunks    : (500, 10)
Blocks    : (50, 10)
Comp. codec : LZ4
Comp. level : 5
Comp. filters : [SHUFFLE]
Comp. ratio : 6.64
```

```
c2 = c1.copy(chunks=(500, 10), blocks=(50, 10),
             codec=cat.Codec.ZSTD, clevel=9, filters=[cat.Filter.BITSHUFFLE])
```

```
c2.info
```

```
Type      : NDArray
Itemsize  : 8
Shape     : (1000, 1000)
Chunks    : (500, 10)
Blocks    : (50, 10)
Comp. codec : ZSTD
Comp. level : 9
Comp. filters : [BITSHUFFLE]
Comp. ratio : 20.83
```

1.3.5 Metalayers

Metalayers are small metadata for informing about the properties of data that is stored on a container. The metalayers of a Caterva array are also easy to access and edit by users.

```
from msgpack import packb, unpackb
```

```
meta = {
    "dtype": packb("i8"),
    "coords": packb([5.14, 23.])
}
```

```
c = cat.zeros((1000, 1000), 5, chunks=(100, 100), blocks=(50, 50), meta=meta)
```

```
len(c.meta)
```

```
3
```

```
c.meta.keys()
```

```
['caterva', 'dtype', 'coords']
```

```
for key in c.meta:
    print(f"{key} -> {unpackb(c.meta[key])}")
```

```
caterva -> [0, 2, [1000, 1000], [100, 100], [50, 50]]
dtype -> i8
coords -> [5.14, 23.0]
```

```
c.meta["coords"] = packb([0., 23.])
```

```
for key in c.meta:
    print(f"{key} -> {unpackb(c.meta[key])}")
```

```
caterva -> [0, 2, [1000, 1000], [100, 100], [50, 50]]
dtype -> i8
coords -> [0.0, 23.0]
```

1.3.6 Small tutorial

In this example it is shown how easy is to create a Caterva array from an image and how users can manipulate it using Caterva and Image functions.

```
from PIL import Image
```

```
im = Image.open("../_static/blosc-logo_128.png")
im
```



```
meta = {"dtype": b"|u1"}

c = cat.asarray(np.array(im), chunks=(50, 50, 4), blocks=(10, 10, 4), meta=meta)

c.info
```

```
Type           : NDArray
Itemsize       : 1
Shape          : (70, 128, 4)
Chunks         : (50, 50, 4)
Blocks         : (10, 10, 4)
Comp. codec    : LZ4
Comp. level    : 5
Comp. filters  : [SHUFFLE]
Comp. ratio    : 2.68
```

```
im2 = c[15:55, 10:35] # Letter B

Image.fromarray(np.array(im2).view(c.meta["dtype"]))
```



API REFERENCE

2.1 Global variables

There are some global variables in Caterva that can be used anytime and make code more clear during compression and decompression processes.

`caterva.__version__`

The version of the caterva package.

class `caterva.Codec(value)`

Available codecs.

`BLOSC LZ = 0`

`LZ4 = 1`

`LZ4HC = 2`

`ZLIB = 4`

`ZSTD = 5`

class `caterva.Filter(value)`

Available filters.

`BITSHUFFLE = 2`

`DELTA = 3`

`NOFILTER = 0`

`SHUFFLE = 1`

`TRUNC_PREC = 4`

2.2 Constructors

These functions let users to create Caterva arrays either from scratch or from a dataset in another format.

2.2.1 Basics

<code>empty(shape, itemsize, **kwargs)</code>	Create an empty array.
<code>copy(array, **kwargs)</code>	Create a copy of an array.
<code>from_buffer(buffer, shape, itemsize, **kwargs)</code>	Create an array out of a buffer.
<code>open(urlpath)</code>	Open a new container from <i>urlpath</i> .
<code>asarray(ndarray, **kwargs)</code>	Convert the input to an array.

caterva.empty

`caterva.empty(shape, itemsize, **kwargs)`

Create an empty array.

Parameters

shape: tuple or list The shape for the final array.

itemsize: int The size, in bytes, of each element.

Returns

out: NDArray A *NDArray* is returned.

Other Parameters

kwargs: dict, optional Keyword arguments supported:

chunks: iterable object or None The chunk shape. If *None*, the array is stored using a non-compressed buffer. (Default *None*)

blocks: iterable object or None The block shape. If *None*, the array is stored using a non-compressed buffer. (Default *None*)

urlpath: str or None The name of the file to store data. If *None*, data is stored in-memory. (Default *None*)

sequential: bool or None Whether the data is stored sequentially or sparsely (one chunk per file). If *None*, data is stored sparsely.

memframe: bool If True, the array is backed by a frame in-memory. Else, by a super-chunk. (Default: *False*)

meta: dict or None A dictionary with different metalayers. One entry per metalayer:

key: bytes or str The name of the metalayer.

value: object The metalayer object that will be (de-)serialized using msgpack.

codec: Codec The name for the compressor codec. (Default: *Codec.LZ4*)

clevel: int (0 to 9) The compression level. 0 means no compression, and 9 maximum compression. (Default: 5)

filters: list The filter pipeline. (Default: [*Filter.SHUFFLE*])

filtersmeta: list The meta info for each filter in pipeline. (Default: [0])

nthreads: int The number of threads. (Default: 1)

usedict: bool If a dictionary should be used during compression. (Default: *False*)

caterva.copy

`caterva.copy(array, **kwargs)`

Create a copy of an array.

Parameters

array: NDArray The array to be copied.

Returns

out: NDArray A *NDArray* with a copy of the data.

Other Parameters

kwargs: dict, optional Keyword arguments that are supported by the `caterva.empty()` constructor.

caterva.from_buffer

`caterva.from_buffer(buffer, shape, itemsize, **kwargs)`

Create an array out of a buffer.

Parameters

buffer: bytes The buffer of the data to populate the container.

shape: tuple or list The shape for the final container.

itemsize: int The size, in bytes, of each element.

Returns

out: NDArray A *NDArray* is returned.

Other Parameters

kwargs: dict, optional Keyword arguments that are supported by the `caterva.empty()` constructor.

caterva.open

`caterva.open(urlpath)`

Open a new container from *urlpath*.

Warning: Only one handler is supported per file.

Parameters

urlpath: str The file having a Blosc2 frame format with a Caterva metalayer on it.

Returns

out: NDArray A *NDArray* is returned.

caterva.asarray

`caterva.asarray(ndarray, **kwargs)`

Convert the input to an array.

Parameters

array: array_like An array supporting the python buffer protocol and the numpy array interface.

Returns

out: NDArray A Caterva array interpretation of *ndarray*.

Other Parameters

kwargs: dict, optional Keyword arguments that are supported by the `caterva.empty()` constructor.

2.2.2 Utils

<code>remove(urlpath)</code>	Remove a caterva file.
------------------------------	------------------------

caterva.remove

`caterva.remove(urlpath)`

Remove a caterva file.

Parameters

urlpath: String The array urlpath.

2.3 NDArray

The multidimensional data array class. This class consists of a set of useful parameters and methods that allow not only to define an array correctly, but also to handle it in a simple way, being able to extract multidimensional slices from it.

2.3.1 Attributes

<code>itemsizes</code>	The itemsize of this container.
<code>ndim</code>	The number of dimensions of this container.
<code>shape</code>	The shape of this container.
<code>chunks</code>	The chunk shape of this container.
<code>blocks</code>	The block shape of this container.
<code>meta</code>	

caterva.NDArray.itemsize**NDArray.itemsize**

The itemsize of this container.

caterva.NDArray.ndim**NDArray.ndim**

The number of dimensions of this container.

caterva.NDArray.shape**NDArray.shape**

The shape of this container.

caterva.NDArray.chunks**NDArray.chunks**

The chunk shape of this container.

caterva.NDArray.blocks**NDArray.blocks**

The block shape of this container.

caterva.NDArray.meta

property **NDArray.meta**

2.3.2 Methods**Slicing**

<code>__getitem__</code>	Get a (multidimensional) slice as specified in key.
<code>__setitem__</code>	
<code>slice</code>	Get a (multidimensional) slice as specified in key.

caterva.NDArray.__getitem__**NDArray.__getitem__(key)**

Get a (multidimensional) slice as specified in key.

Parameters**key:** **int, slice or sequence of slices** The index for the slices to be updated. Note that step parameter is not honored yet in slices.**Returns****out:** **NDArray** An array, stored in a non-compressed buffer, with the requested data.**caterva.NDArray.__setitem__****NDArray.__setitem__(key, value)****caterva.NDArray.slice****NDArray.slice(key, **kwargs)**Get a (multidimensional) slice as specified in key. Generalizes `__getitem__()`.**Parameters****key:** **int, slice or sequence of slices** The index for the slices to be updated. Note that step parameter is not honored yet in slices.**Returns****out:** **NDArray** An array with the requested data.**Other Parameters****kwargs:** **dict, optional** Keyword arguments that are supported by the `caterva.empty()` constructor.

2.4 Metalayers

Metalayers are small metadata for informing about the properties of data that is stored on a container. Caterva implements its own metalayer on top of C-Blosc2 for storing multidimensional information.

class `caterva.meta.Meta(ndarray)`Class providing access to user meta on a **NDArray**. It will be available via the `.meta` property of an array.

2.4.1 Methods

<code>__getitem__</code>	Return the <i>item</i> metalayer.
<code>__setitem__</code>	Update the <i>key</i> metalayer with <i>value</i> .
<code>get</code>	Return the value for <i>key</i> if <i>key</i> is in the dictionary, else <i>default</i> .
<code>keys</code>	Return the metalayers keys.
<code>__iter__</code>	Iter over the keys of the metalayers.
<code>__contains__</code>	Check if the <i>key</i> metalayer exists or not.

caterva.meta.Meta.__getitem__**Meta.__getitem__**(*item*)Return the *item* metalayer.**Parameters****item: str** The name of the metalayer to return.**Returns****bytes** The buffer containing the metalayer info (typically in msgpack format).**caterva.meta.Meta.__setitem__****Meta.__setitem__**(*key, value*)Update the *key* metalayer with *value*.**Parameters****key: str** The name of the metalayer to update.**value: bytes** The buffer containing the new content for the metalayer.

..warning: Note that the *length* of the metalayer cannot not change, else an exception will be raised.

caterva.meta.Meta.get**Meta.get**(*key, default=None*)Return the value for *key* if *key* is in the dictionary, else *default*. If *default* is not given, it defaults to *None*.**caterva.meta.Meta.keys****Meta.keys**()

Return the metalayers keys.

caterva.meta.Meta.__iter__**Meta.__iter__**()

Iter over the keys of the metalayers.

caterva.meta.Meta.__contains__**Meta.__contains__**(*key*)Check if the *key* metalayer exists or not.

DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Contributing to python-caterva

python-caterva is a community maintained project. We want to make contributing to this project as easy and transparent as possible.

3.1.1 Asking for help

If you have a question about how to use python-caterva, please post your question on StackOverflow using the “[caterva](#)” tag.

3.1.2 Bug reports

We use [GitHub issues](#) to track public bugs. Please ensure your description is clear and has sufficient instructions to be able to reproduce the issue. The ideal report should contain the following:

1. Summarize the problem: Include details about your goal, describe expected and actual results and include any error messages.
2. Describe what you’ve tried: Show what you’ve tried, tell us what you found and why it didn’t meet your needs.
3. Minimum reproducible example: Share the minimum amount of code needed to reproduce your issue. You can format the code nicely using markdown:

```
```python
import caterva as cat

...
```
```

4. Determine the environment: Indicates the python-caterva version and the operating system the code is running on.

3.1.3 Contributing to code

We actively welcome your code contributions. By contributing to python-caterva, you agree that your contributions will be licensed under the [LICENSE](#) file of the project.

Fork the repo

Make a fork of the python-caterva repository and clone it:

```
git clone https://github.com/<your-github-username>/python-caterva
```

Create your branch

Before you do any new work or submit a pull request, please open an [issue on GitHub](#) to report the bug or propose the feature you'd like to add.

Then create a new, separate branch for each piece of work you want to do.

Update docstrings

If you've changed APIs, update the involved docstrings using the [doxygen format](#).

Run the test suite

If you have added code that needs to be tested, add the necessary tests and verify that all tests pass successfully.

3.2 Roadmap

This document lists the main goals for the upcoming python-caterva releases.

3.2.1 Features

- *Support for variable-length metalayers.* This would provide users a lot of flexibility to define their own metadata
- *Resize array dimensions.* This feature would allow Caterva to increase or decrease in size any dimension of the arrays.

3.2.2 Interoperability

- *Third-party integration.* Caterva need better integration with libraries like:
 - xarray (labeled arrays)
 - dask (computation)
 - napari (visualization)

RELEASE NOTES

4.1 Changes from 0.7.0 to 0.7.1

- Fix to apply filtersmeta from kwargs.
- Fix metalayer creation in the ext file.
- Update the docstrings.

4.2 Changes from 0.6.0 to 0.7.0

- Remove plainbuffer support.
- Improve documentation.

4.3 Changes from 0.5.3 to 0.6.0

- Provide wheels in PyPi.
- Update caterva submodule to 0.5.0.

4.4 Changes from 0.5.1 to 0.5.3

- Fix dependencies installation issue.

4.5 Changes from 0.5.0 to 0.5.1

- Update *setup.py* and add *pyproject.toml*.

4.6 Changes from 0.4.2 to 0.5.0

- Big c-core refactoring improving the slicing performance.
- Implement `__setitem__` method for arrays to allow to update the values of the arrays.
- Use Blosc special-constructors to initialize the arrays.
- Improve the buffer and array protocols.
- Remove the data type support in order to simplify the library.

4.7 Changes from 0.4.1 to 0.4.2

- Add files in *MANIFEST.in*.

4.8 Changes from 0.4.0 to 0.4.1

- Fix invalid values for classifiers defined in *setup.py*.

4.9 Changes from 0.3.0 to 0.4.0

- Compile the package using scikit-build.
- Introduce a second level of multidimensional chunking.
- Complete API renaming.
- Support the buffer protocol and the numpy array protocol.
- Generalize the slicing.
- Make python-caterva independent of numpy.

4.10 Changes from 0.2.3 to 0.3.0

- Set the development status to alpha.
- Add instructions about installing python-caterva from pip.
- *getitem* and *setitem* are now special methods in *ext.Container*.
- Add new class from numpy arrays *NArray*.
- Support for serializing/deserializing Containers to/from serialized frames (bytes).
- The *pshape* is calculated automatically if is *None*.
- Add a *.sframe* attribute for the serialized frame.
- Big refactor for more consistent inheritance among classes.
- The *from_numpy()* function always return a *NArray* now.

4.11 Changes from 0.2.2 to 0.2.3

- Rename *MANIFEST.in* for *MANIFEST.in*.
- Fix the list of available cnames.

4.12 Changes from 0.2.1 to 0.2.2

- Added a *MANIFEST.in* for including all C-Blosc2 and Caterva sources in package.

4.13 Changes from 0.1.1 to 0.2.1

- Docstrings has been added. In addition, the documentation can be found at: <https://python-caterva.readthedocs.io/>
- Add a *copy* parameter to *from_file()*.
- *complib* has been renamed to *cname* for compatibility with blosc-powered packages.
- The use of an itemsize different than a 2 power is allowed now.

Symbols

`__contains__()` (*caterva.meta.Meta* method), 15
`__getitem__()` (*caterva.NDArray* method), 14
`__getitem__()` (*caterva.meta.Meta* method), 15
`__iter__()` (*caterva.meta.Meta* method), 15
`__setitem__()` (*caterva.NDArray* method), 14
`__setitem__()` (*caterva.meta.Meta* method), 15
`__version__` (*caterva* attribute), 9

A

`asarray()` (*in module caterva*), 12

B

`BITSHUFFLE` (*caterva.Filter* attribute), 9
`blocks` (*caterva.NDArray* attribute), 13
`BLOSCCLZ` (*caterva.Codec* attribute), 9

C

`chunks` (*caterva.NDArray* attribute), 13
`Codec` (*class in caterva*), 9
`copy()` (*in module caterva*), 11

D

`DELTA` (*caterva.Filter* attribute), 9

E

`empty()` (*in module caterva*), 10

F

`Filter` (*class in caterva*), 9
`from_buffer()` (*in module caterva*), 11

G

`get()` (*caterva.meta.Meta* method), 15

I

`itemsize` (*caterva.NDArray* attribute), 13

K

`keys()` (*caterva.meta.Meta* method), 15

L

`LZ4` (*caterva.Codec* attribute), 9
`LZ4HC` (*caterva.Codec* attribute), 9

M

`meta` (*caterva.NDArray* property), 13
`Meta` (*class in caterva.meta*), 14

N

`ndim` (*caterva.NDArray* attribute), 13
`NOFILTER` (*caterva.Filter* attribute), 9

O

`open()` (*in module caterva*), 11

R

`remove()` (*in module caterva*), 12

S

`shape` (*caterva.NDArray* attribute), 13
`SHUFFLE` (*caterva.Filter* attribute), 9
`slice()` (*caterva.NDArray* method), 14

T

`TRUNC_PREC` (*caterva.Filter* attribute), 9

Z

`ZLIB` (*caterva.Codec* attribute), 9
`ZSTD` (*caterva.Codec* attribute), 9