# python-sounddevice

Release 0.3.6

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This Python<sup>1</sup> module provides bindings for the PortAudio<sup>2</sup> library and a few convenience functions to play and record NumPy<sup>3</sup> arrays containing audio signals.

Documentation: http://python-sounddevice.readthedocs.io/

Source code repository and issue tracker: http://github.com/spatialaudio/python-sounddevice/

Python Package Index: http://pypi.python.org/pypi/sounddevice/

**License:** MIT – see the file LICENSE for details.

# 1 Requirements

**Python:** Of course, you'll need Python<sup>4</sup>. Any version where CFFI (see below) is supported should work. If you don't have Python installed yet, you should get one of the distributions which already include CFFI and

<sup>1</sup> http://www.python.org/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.portaudio.com/

<sup>3</sup> http://www.numpy.org/

<sup>4</sup> http://www.python.org/

NumPy (and many other useful things), e.g. Anaconda<sup>5</sup> or WinPython<sup>6</sup>.

**pip/setuptools:** Those are needed for the installation of the Python module and its dependencies. Most systems will have these installed already, but if not, you should install it with your package manager or you can download and install pip and setuptools as described on the pip installation<sup>7</sup> page. If you happen to have pip but not setuptools, use this command:

```
python3 -m pip install setuptools --user
```

**CFFI:** The C Foreign Function Interface for Python<sup>8</sup> is used to access the C-API of the PortAudio library from within Python. It supports CPython 2.6, 2.7, 3.x; and is distributed with PyPy<sup>9</sup>. If it's not installed already, you should install it with your package manager (the package might be called python3-cffi or similar), or you can get it with:

```
python3 -m pip install cffi --user
```

**PortAudio library:** The PortAudio<sup>10</sup> library must be installed on your system (and CFFI must be able to find it). Again, you should use your package manager to install it (the package might be called libportaudio2 or similar). If you prefer, you can of course also download the sources and compile the library yourself. If you are using Mac OS X or Windows, the library will be installed automagically with *pip* (see "Installation" below).

NumPy (optional): NumPy<sup>11</sup> is only needed if you want to play back and record NumPy arrays. The classes <code>sounddevice.RawStream</code>, <code>sounddevice.RawInputStream</code> and <code>sounddevice.RawOutputStream</code> use plain Python buffer objects and don't need NumPy at all. If you need NumPy, you should install it with your package manager or use a Python distribution that already includes NumPy (see above). Installing NumPy with pip requires a compiler and several additional libraries and is therefore not recommended for beginners.

# 2 Installation

Once you have installed the above-mentioned dependencies, you can use pip to download and install the latest release with a single command:

```
python3 -m pip install sounddevice --user
```

If you want to install it system-wide for all users (assuming you have the necessary rights), you can just drop the --user option.

To un-install, use:

```
python3 -m pip uninstall sounddevice
```

# 3 Usage

First, import the module:

import sounddevice as sd

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://docs.continuum.io/anaconda/

<sup>6</sup> http://winpython.github.io/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> http://www.pip-installer.org/en/latest/installing.html

<sup>8</sup> http://cffi.readthedocs.io/

<sup>9</sup> http://pypy.org/

<sup>10</sup> http://www.portaudio.com/

<sup>11</sup> http://www.numpy.org/

# 3.1 Playback

Assuming you have a NumPy array named myarray holding audio data with a sampling frequency of fs (in the most cases this will be 44100 or 48000 frames per second), you can play it back with <code>sounddevice.play()</code>:

```
sd.play(myarray, fs)
```

This function returns immediately but continues playing the audio signal in the background. You can stop playback with <code>sounddevice.stop()</code>:

```
sd.stop()
```

If you know that you will use the same sampling frequency for a while, you can set it as default using sounddevice.default.samplerate:

```
sd.default.samplerate = fs
```

After that, you can drop the samplerate argument:

```
sd.play(myarray)
```

# 3.2 Recording

To record audio data from your sound device into a NumPy array, use <code>sounddevice.rec()</code>:

```
duration = 10  # seconds
myrecording = sd.rec(duration * fs, samplerate=fs, channels=2)
```

Again, for repeated use you can set defaults using sounddevice.default:

```
sd.default.samplerate = fs
sd.default.channels = 2
```

After that, you can drop the additional arguments:

```
myrecording = sd.rec(duration * fs)
```

This function also returns immediately but continues recording in the background. In the meantime, you can run other commands. If you want to check if the recording is finished, you should use <code>sounddevice.wait()</code>:

```
sd.wait()
```

If the recording was already finished, this returns immediately; if not, it waits and returns as soon as the recording is finished.

Alternatively, you could have used the *blocking* argument in the first place:

```
myrecording = sd.rec(duration * fs, blocking=True)
```

By default, the recorded array has the data type 'float32' (see <code>sounddevice.default.dtype</code>), but this can be changed with the <code>dtype</code> argument:

```
myrecording = sd.rec(duration * fs, dtype='float64')
```

# 3.3 Simultaneous Playback and Recording

To play back an array and record at the same time, use <code>sounddevice.playrec()</code>:

```
myrecording = sd.playrec(myarray, fs, channels=2)
```

The number of output channels is obtained from myarray, but the number of input channels still has to be specified.

Again, default values can be used:

```
sd.default.samplerate = fs
sd.default.channels = 2
myrecording = sd.playrec(myarray)
```

In this case the number of output channels is still taken from myarray (which may or may not have 2 channels), but the number of input channels is taken from sounddevice.default.channels.

#### 3.4 Device Selection

In many cases, the default input/output device(s) will be the one(s) you want, but it is of course possible to choose a different device. Use <code>sounddevice.query\_devices()</code> to get a list of supported devices. The same list can be obtained from a terminal by typing the command

```
python3 -m sounddevice
```

You can use the corresponding device ID to select a desired device by assigning to sounddevice.default.device or by passing it as device argument to sounddevice.play(), sounddevice.Stream() etc.

Instead of the numerical device ID, you can also use a space-separated list of case-insensitive substrings of the device name (and the host API name, if needed). See <code>sounddevice.default.device</code> for details.

```
import sounddevice as sd
sd.default.samplerate = 44100
sd.default.device = 'digital output'
sd.play(myarray)
```

#### 3.5 Callback Streams

Callback "wire" with sounddevice. Stream:

```
import sounddevice as sd
duration = 5  # seconds

def callback(indata, outdata, frames, time, status):
    if status:
        print(status, flush=True)
    outdata[:] = indata

with sd.Stream(channels=2, callback=callback):
    sd.sleep(duration * 1000)
```

Same thing with sounddevice.RawStream:

```
import sounddevice as sd
duration = 5 # seconds

def callback(indata, outdata, frames, time, status):
    if status:
        print(status, flush=True)
    outdata[:] = indata

with sd.RawStream(channels=2, dtype='int24', callback=callback):
    sd.sleep(duration * 1000)
```

**Note:** We are using 24-bit samples here for no particular reason (just because we can).

# 3.6 Blocking Read/Write Streams

Instead of using a callback function, you can also use the blocking methods <code>sounddevice.Stream.read()</code> and <code>sounddevice.Stream.write()</code> (and of course the corresponding methods in <code>sounddevice.InputStream</code>, <code>sounddevice.OutputStream</code>, <code>sounddevice.RawStream</code>, <code>sounddevice.RawInputStream</code> and <code>sounddevice.RawOutputStream</code>).

# 4 Contributing

If you find bugs, errors, omissions or other things that need improvement, please create an issue or a pull request at http://github.com/spatialaudio/python-sounddevice/. Contributions are always welcome!

Instead of pip-installing the latest release from PyPI, you should get the newest development version from Github<sup>12</sup>:

```
git clone --recursive https://github.com/spatialaudio/python-sounddevice.git cd python-sounddevice python3 setup.py develop --user
```

This way, your installation always stays up-to-date, even if you pull new changes from the Github repository.

If you prefer, you can also replace the last command with:

```
python3 -m pip install --user -e .
```

```
... where -e stands for --editable.
```

If you used the --recursive option when cloning, the dynamic libraries for Mac OS X and Windows should be available. If not, you can get the submodule with:

```
git submodule update --init
```

If you make changes to the documentation, you can re-create the HTML pages using Sphinx<sup>13</sup>. You can install it and a few other necessary packages with:

```
python3 -m pip install -r doc/requirements.txt --user
```

To create the HTML pages, use:

```
python3 setup.py build_sphinx
```

The generated files will be available in the directory build/sphinx/html/.

# 5 API Documentation

Play and Record Sound with Python.

http://python-sounddevice.readthedocs.io/

Play back a NumPy array containing audio data.

#### **Parameters**

• data (array\_like) – Audio data to be played back. The columns of a two-dimensional array are interpreted as channels, one-dimensional arrays are treated as mono data. The data types float64, float32, int32, int16, int8 and uint8 can be used. float64 data is converted to float32 before passing it to PortAudio, because it's not supported natively.

<sup>12</sup> http://github.com/spatialaudio/python-sounddevice/

<sup>13</sup> http://sphinx-doc.org/

- mapping (array\_like, optional) List of channel numbers (starting with 1) where the columns of data shall be played back on. Must have the same length as number of channels in data (except if data is mono). Each channel may only appear once in mapping.
- **blocking** (*bool*, *optional*) If False (the default), return immediately (but playback continues in the background), if True, wait until playback is finished. A non-blocking invocation can be stopped with stop() or turned into a blocking one with wait().
- **loop** (bool, optional) Play data in a loop.

**Other Parameters samplerate,** \*\*kwargs - All parameters of OutputStream - except channels, dtype, callback and finished\_callback - can be used.

#### See also:

```
rec(), playrec()
```

sounddevice.rec (frames=None, samplerate=None, channels=None, dtype=None, out=None, map-ping=None, blocking=False, \*\*kwargs)

Record audio data into a NumPy array.

#### **Parameters**

- **frames** (*int*, *sometimes optional*) Number of frames to record. Not needed if *out* is given.
- **channels** (*int*, *optional*) Number of channels to record. Not needed if *mapping* or *out* is given. The default value can be changed with *default.channels*.
- **dtype** (*str or numpy.dtype*, *optional*) Data type of the recording. Not needed if *out* is given. The data types *float64*, *float32*, *int32*, *int16*, *int8* and *uint8* can be used. For dtype='float64', audio data is recorded in *float32* format and converted afterwards, because it's not natively supported by PortAudio. The default value can be changed with *default.dtype*.
- **mapping** (*array\_like*, *optional*) List of channel numbers (starting with 1) to record. If *mapping* is given, *channels* is silently ignored.
- **blocking** (*bool*, *optional*) If False (the default), return immediately (but recording continues in the background), if True, wait until recording is finished. A non-blocking invocation can be stopped with stop() or turned into a blocking one with wait().

#### Returns

numpy.ndarray or type(out) - The recorded data.

**Note:** By default (blocking=False), an array of data is returned which is still being written to while recording. The returned data is only valid once recording has stopped. Use wait () to make sure the recording is finished.

#### **Other Parameters**

- **out** (numpy.ndarray or subclass, optional) If out is specified, the recorded data is written into the given array instead of creating a new array. In this case, the arguments frames, channels and dtype are silently ignored! If mapping is given, its length must match the number of channels in out.
- samplerate, \*\*kwargs All parameters of InputStream except callback and finished\_callback can be used.

#### See also:

```
play(), playrec()
```

sounddevice.playrec(data, samplerate=None, channels=None, dtype=None, out=None, in-put\_mapping=None, output\_mapping=None, blocking=False, \*\*kwargs)
Simultaneous playback and recording of NumPy arrays.

#### **Parameters**

- data (array\_like) Audio data to be played back. See play().
- **channels** (*int*, *sometimes optional*) Number of input channels, see rec(). The number of output channels is obtained from *data.shape*.
- **dtype** (*str or numpy.dtype*, *optional*) Input data type, see rec(). If *dtype* is not specified, it is taken from *data.dtype* (i.e. *default.dtype* is ignored). The output data type is obtained from *data.dtype* anyway.
- **input\_mapping, output\_mapping** (*array\_like, optional*) See the parameter *mapping* of rec() and play(), respectively.
- **blocking** (*bool*, *optional*) If False (the default), return immediately (but continue playback/recording in the background), if True, wait until playback/recording is finished. A non-blocking invocation can be stopped with stop() or turned into a blocking one with wait().

**Returns** numpy.ndarray or type(out) – The recorded data. See rec().

#### **Other Parameters**

- **out** (numpy.ndarray or subclass, optional) See rec().
- **samplerate**, \*\*kwargs All parameters of Stream except channels, dtype, callback and finished callback can be used.

#### See also:

```
play(), rec()
sounddevice.wait()
Wait for play()/rec()/playrec() to be finished.
```

Playback/recording can be stopped with a KeyboardInterrupt <sup>14</sup>.

**Returns** *CallbackFlags or None* – If at least one buffer over-/underrun happened during the last playback/recording, a *CallbackFlags* object is returned.

#### See also:

```
get_status()
sounddevice.stop(ignore_errors=True)
Stop playback/recording.
```

This only stops play(), rec() and playrec(), but has no influence on streams created with Stream, InputStream, OutputStream, RawInputStream, RawOutputStream.

```
sounddevice.get_status()
```

Get info about over-/underflows in play()/rec()/playrec().

**Returns** CallbackFlags – A CallbackFlags object that holds information about the last invocation of play(), rec() or playrec().

#### See also:

```
wait()
```

```
\verb|sounddevice.query_devices| (\textit{device=None}, \textit{kind=None})|
```

Return information about available devices.

Information and capabilities of PortAudio devices. Devices may support input, output or both input and output.

To find the default input/output device(s), use default.device.

#### **Parameters**

 $<sup>^{14}\</sup> https://docs.python.org/3/library/exceptions.html \# Keyboard Interrupt$ 

- **device** (*int or str, optional*) Numeric device ID or device name substring(s). If specified, information about only the given *device* is returned in a single dictionary.
- **kind** (*{'input'*, *'output'}*, *optional*) If *device* is not specified and *kind* is *'input'* or *'output'*, a single dictionary is returned with information about the default input or output device, respectively.

#### Returns

dict or DeviceList – A dictionary with information about the given device or – if no device was specified – a DeviceList containing one dictionary for each available device. The dictionaries have the following keys:

- 'name' The name of the device.
- 'hostapi' The ID of the corresponding host API. Use <code>query\_hostapis()</code> to get information about a host API.
- 'max\_input\_channels', 'max\_output\_channels' The maximum number of input/output channels supported by the device. See <code>default.channels</code>.
- 'default\_low\_input\_latency', 'default\_low\_output\_latency'

  Default latency values for interactive performance. This is used if 
  default.latency (or the latency argument of playrec(), Stream etc.) 
  is set to 'low'.
- 'default\_high\_input\_latency', 'default\_high\_output\_latency'

  Default latency values for robust non-interactive applications (e.g. playing sound files). This is used if default.latency (or the latency argument of playrec(), Stream etc.) is set to 'high'.
- 'default\_samplerate' The default sampling frequency of the device. This is used if default.samplerate is not set.

#### **Notes**

The list of devices can also be displayed in a terminal:

```
python3 -m sounddevice
```

#### **Examples**

The returned <code>DeviceList</code> can be indexed and iterated over like any sequence type (yielding the above-mentioned dictionaries), but it also has a special string representation which is shown when used in an interactive Python session.

Each available device is listed on one line together with the corresponding device ID, which can be assigned to default.device or used as *device* argument in play(), Stream etc.

The first character of a line is > for the default input device, < for the default output device and \* for the default input/output device. After the device ID and the device name, the corresponding host API name is displayed. In the end of each line, the maximum number of input and output channels is shown.

On a GNU/Linux computer it might look somewhat like this:

```
>>> import sounddevice as sd
>>> sd.query_devices()
    0 HDA Intel: ALC662 rev1 Analog (hw:0,0), ALSA (2 in, 2 out)
    1 HDA Intel: ALC662 rev1 Digital (hw:0,1), ALSA (0 in, 2 out)
    2 HDA Intel: HDMI 0 (hw:0,3), ALSA (0 in, 8 out)
    3 sysdefault, ALSA (128 in, 128 out)
    4 front, ALSA (0 in, 2 out)
    5 surround40, ALSA (0 in, 2 out)
```

```
6 surround51, ALSA (0 in, 2 out)
7 surround71, ALSA (0 in, 2 out)
8 iec958, ALSA (0 in, 2 out)
9 spdif, ALSA (0 in, 2 out)
10 hdmi, ALSA (0 in, 8 out)
* 11 default, ALSA (128 in, 128 out)
12 dmix, ALSA (0 in, 2 out)
13 /dev/dsp, OSS (16 in, 16 out)
```

Note that ALSA provides access to some "real" and some "virtual" devices. The latter sometimes have a ridiculously high number of (virtual) inputs and outputs.

On Mac OS X, you might get something similar to this:

```
>>> sd.query_devices()
    0 Built-in Line Input, Core Audio (2 in, 0 out)
> 1 Built-in Digital Input, Core Audio (2 in, 0 out)
< 2 Built-in Output, Core Audio (0 in, 2 out)
3 Built-in Line Output, Core Audio (0 in, 2 out)
4 Built-in Digital Output, Core Audio (0 in, 2 out)</pre>
```

#### sounddevice.query\_hostapis(index=None)

Return information about available host APIs.

**Parameters index** (*int*, *optional*) – If specified, information about only the given host API *index* is returned in a single dictionary.

#### Returns

dict or tuple of dict – A dictionary with information about the given host API index or – if no index was specified – a tuple containing one dictionary for each available host API. The dictionaries have the following keys:

- 'name' The name of the host API.
- 'devices' A list of device IDs belonging to the host API. Use *query\_devices()* to get information about a device.
- 'default\_input\_device', 'default\_output\_device' The device ID of the default input/output device of the host API. If no default input/output device exists for the given host API, this is -1.

**Note:** The overall default device(s) – which can be overwritten by assigning to default.device – take(s) precedence over default.hostapi and the information in the abovementioned dictionaries.

#### See also:

```
query_devices()
```

 $sounddevice. \textbf{check\_input\_settings} (\textit{device=None}, & \textit{channels=None}, & \textit{dtype=None}, & \textit{extra\_settings=None}, & \textit{samplerate=None})$ 

Check if given input device settings are supported.

All parameters are optional, default settings are used for any unspecified parameters. If the settings are supported, the function does nothing; if not, an exception is raised.

#### **Parameters**

- **device** (*int or str, optional*) Device ID or device name substring, see default.device.
- channels (int, optional) Number of input channels, see default.channels.
- **dtype** (*str or numpy.dtype*, *optional*) Data type for input samples, see *default.dtype*.

- extra\_settings (settings object, optional) This can be used for host-API-specific input settings. See default.extra\_settings.
- samplerate (float, optional) Sampling frequency, see default.samplerate.

```
sounddevice.check_output_settings(device=None, channels=None, dtype=None, ex-
tra_settings=None, samplerate=None)
```

Check if given output device settings are supported.

Same as check\_input\_settings(), just for output device settings.

```
sounddevice.sleep(msec)
```

Put the caller to sleep for at least *msec* milliseconds.

The function may sleep longer than requested so don't rely on this for accurate musical timing.

```
sounddevice.get_portaudio_version()
```

Get version information for the PortAudio library.

Returns the release number and a textual description of the current PortAudio build, e.g.

```
(1899, 'PortAudio V19-devel (built Feb 15 2014 23:28:00)')
```

#### class sounddevice.default

Get/set defaults for the sounddevice module.

The attributes device, channels, dtype, latency and extra\_settings accept single values which specify the given property for both input and output. However, if the property differs between input and output, pairs of values can be used, where the first value specifies the input and the second value specifies the output. All other attributes are always single values.

## **Examples**

```
>>> import sounddevice as sd
>>> sd.default.samplerate = 48000
>>> sd.default.dtype
['float32', 'float32']
```

Different values for input and output:

```
>>> sd.default.channels = 1, 2
```

A single value sets both input and output at the same time:

```
>>> sd.default.device = 5
>>> sd.default.device
[5, 5]
```

An attribute can be set to the "factory default" by assigning None:

```
>>> sd.default.samplerate = None
>>> sd.default.device = None, 4
```

Use reset () to reset all attributes:

```
>>> sd.default.reset()
```

### device = (None, None)

Index or query string of default input/output device.

If not overwritten, this is queried from PortAudio.

If a string is given, the device is selected which contains all space-separated parts in the right order. Each device string contains the name of the corresponding host API in the end. The string comparison is case-insensitive.

#### See also:

```
query_devices()
```

#### channels = (None, None)

Number of input/output channels.

The maximum number of channels for a given device can be found out with query\_devices().

# dtype = ('float32', 'float32')

Data type used for input/output samples.

The types 'float32', 'int32', 'int16', 'int8' and 'uint8' can be used for all streams and functions. Additionally, play(), rec() and playrec() support 'float64' (for convenience, data is merely converted from/to 'float32') and RawInputStream, RawOutputStream and RawStream support 'int24' (packed 24 bit format, which is not supported in NumPy!).

If NumPy is available, the corresponding numpy.dtype<sup>15</sup> objects can be used as well.

The floating point representations 'float32' and 'float64' use +1.0 and -1.0 as the maximum and minimum values, respectively. 'uint8' is an unsigned 8 bit format where 128 is considered "ground".

#### latency = ('high', 'high')

Suggested input/output latency in seconds.

The special values 'low' and 'high' can be used to select the default low/high latency of the chosen device. 'high' is typically more robust (i.e. buffer under-/overflows are less likely), but the latency may be too large for interactive applications.

#### See also:

```
query devices()
```

#### extra\_settings = (None, None)

Host-API-specific input/output settings.

#### See also:

AsioSettings, WasapiSettings

#### samplerate = None

Sampling frequency in Hertz (= frames per second).

#### See also:

```
query_devices()
```

#### blocksize = 0

See the *blocksize* argument of *Stream*.

#### clip\_off = False

Disable clipping.

Set to True to disable default clipping of out of range samples.

### dither off = False

Disable dithering.

Set to True to disable default dithering.

#### never\_drop\_input = False

Set behavior for input overflow of full-duplex streams.

Set to True to request that where possible a full duplex stream will not discard overflowed input samples without calling the stream callback. This flag is only valid for full-duplex callback streams (i.e. only <code>Stream</code> and <code>RawStream</code> and only if <code>callback</code> was specified; this includes <code>playrec()</code> and only when used in combination with <code>blocksize=0</code> (the default). Using this flag incorrectly results in an error being raised.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.dtype.html#numpy.dtype

#### prime\_output\_buffers\_using\_stream\_callback = False

How to fill initial output buffers.

Set to True to call the stream callback to fill initial output buffers, rather than the default behavior of priming the buffers with zeros (silence). This flag has no effect for input-only (InputStream and RawInputStream) and blocking read/write streams (i.e. if callback wasn't specified).

#### hostapi

Index of the default host API (read-only).

#### reset()

Reset all attributes to their "factory default".

Open a stream for input and output.

To open an input-only or output-only stream use InputStream or OutputStream, respectively. If you want to handle audio data as buffer objects instead of NumPy arrays, use RawStream, RawInputStream or RawOutputStream.

A single stream can provide multiple channels of real-time streaming audio input and output to a client application. A stream provides access to audio hardware represented by one or more devices. Depending on the underlying Host API, it may be possible to open multiple streams using the same device, however this behavior is implementation defined. Portable applications should assume that a device may be simultaneously used by at most one stream.

The arguments *device*, *channels*, *dtype* and *latency* can be either single values (which will be used for both input and output parameters) or pairs of values (where the first one is the value for the input and the second one for the output).

All arguments are optional, the values for unspecified parameters are taken from the <code>default</code> object. If one of the values of a parameter pair is <code>None</code>, the corresponding value from <code>default</code> will be used instead.

The created stream is inactive (see active, stopped). It can be started with start ().

Every stream object is also a context manager<sup>16</sup>, i.e. it can be used in a with statement<sup>17</sup> to automatically call start() in the beginning of the statement and stop() and close() on exit.

#### **Parameters**

- **samplerate** (*float*, *optional*) The desired sampling frequency (for both input and output). The default value can be changed with *default.samplerate*.
- **blocksize** (*int*, *optional*) The number of frames passed to the stream callback function, or the preferred block granularity for a blocking read/write stream. The special value blocksize=0 (which is the default) may be used to request that the stream callback will receive an optimal (and possibly varying) number of frames based on host requirements and the requested latency settings. The default value can be changed with default.blocksize.

**Note:** With some host APIs, the use of non-zero *blocksize* for a callback stream may introduce an additional layer of buffering which could introduce additional latency. PortAudio guarantees that the additional latency will be kept to the theoretical minimum however, it is strongly recommended that a non-zero *blocksize* value only be used when your algorithm requires a fixed number of frames per stream callback.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://docs.python.org/3/reference/datamodel.html#context-managers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://docs.python.org/3/reference/compound\_stmts.html#with

- **device** (int or str or pair thereof, optional) Device index(es) or query string(s) specifying the device(s) to be used. The default value(s) can be changed with default.device.
- **channels** (*int or pair of int, optional*) The number of channels of sound to be delivered to the stream callback or accessed by <code>read()</code> or <code>write()</code>. It can range from 1 to the value of 'max\_input\_channels' or 'max\_output\_channels' in the dict returned by <code>query\_devices()</code>. By default, the maximum possible number of channels for the selected device is used (which may not be what you want; see <code>query\_devices()</code>). The default value(s) can be changed with <code>default.channels</code>.
- **dtype** (str or numpy.dtype or pair thereof, optional) The sample format of the numpy.ndarray<sup>18</sup> provided to the stream callback, read() or write(). It may be any of float32, int32, int16, int8, uint8. See numpy.dtype<sup>19</sup>. The float64 data type is not supported, this is only supported for convenience in play()/rec()/playrec(). The packed 24 bit format 'int24' is only supported in the "raw" stream classes, see RawStream. The default value(s) can be changed with default.dtype.
- latency (float or {'low', 'high'} or pair thereof, optional) The desired latency in seconds. The special values 'low' and 'high' (latter being the default) select the default low and high latency, respectively (see <a href="query\_devices">query\_devices</a>()). The default value(s) can be changed with <a href="query\_devices">default.latency</a>. Where practical, implementations should configure their latency based on this parameter, otherwise they may choose the closest viable latency instead. Unless the suggested latency is greater than the absolute upper limit for the device, implementations should round the <a href="query latency">latency</a> up to the next practical value i.e. to provide an equal or higher latency wherever possible. Actual latency values for an open stream may be retrieved using the <a href="query latency">latency</a> attribute.
- extra\_settings (settings object or pair thereof, optional) This can be used for host-API-specific input/output settings. See default.extra\_settings.
- callback (callable, optional) User-supplied function to consume, process or generate audio data in response to requests from an active stream. When a stream is running, PortAudio calls the stream callback periodically. The callback function is responsible for processing and filling input and output buffers, respectively.

If no *callback* is given, the stream will be opened in "blocking read/write" mode. In blocking mode, the client can receive sample data using read() and write sample data using write(), the number of frames that may be read or written without blocking is returned by  $read_available$  and  $write_available$ , respectively.

The callback must have this signature:

The first and second argument are the input and output buffer, respectively, as two-dimensional numpy.ndarray $^{20}$  with one column per channel (i.e. with a shape of (frames, channels)) and with a data type specified by dtype. The output buffer contains uninitialized data and the callback is supposed to fill it with proper audio data. If no data is available, the buffer should be filled with zeros (e.g. by using outdata.fill(0)).

**Note:** In Python, assigning to an identifier merely re-binds the identifier to another object, so this *will not work* as expected:

 $<sup>^{18}\</sup> https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.ndarray.html\#numpy.ndarray$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.dtype.html#numpy.dtype

<sup>20</sup> https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.ndarray.html#numpy.ndarray

```
outdata = my_data # Don't do this!
```

To actually assign data to the buffer itself, you can use indexing, e.g.:

```
outdata[:] = my_data
```

... which fills the whole buffer, or:

```
outdata[:, 1] = my_channel_data
```

... which only fills one channel.

The third argument holds the number of frames to be processed by the stream callback. This is the same as the length of the input and output buffers.

The forth argument provides a CFFI structure with timestamps indicating the ADC capture time of the first sample in the input buffer (time.inputBufferAdcTime), the DAC output time of the first sample in the output buffer (time.outputBufferDacTime) and the time the callback was invoked (time.currentTime). These time values are expressed in seconds and are synchronised with the time base used by time for the associated stream.

The fifth argument is a CallbackFlags instance indicating whether input and/or output buffers have been inserted or will be dropped to overcome underflow or overflow conditions.

If an exception is raised in the *callback*, it will not be called again. If *CallbackAbort* is raised, the stream will finish as soon as possible. If *CallbackStop* is raised, the stream will continue until all buffers generated by the callback have been played. This may be useful in applications such as soundfile players where a specific duration of output is required. If another exception is raised, its traceback is printed to sys.stderr<sup>21</sup>. Exceptions are *not* propagated to the main thread, i.e. the main Python program keeps running as if nothing had happened.

**Note:** The *callback* must always fill the entire output buffer, no matter if or which exceptions are raised.

If no exception is raised in the *callback*, it automatically continues to be called until stop(), abort() or close() are used to stop the stream.

The PortAudio stream callback runs at very high or real-time priority. It is required to consistently meet its time deadlines. Do not allocate memory, access the file system, call library functions or call other functions from the stream callback that may block or take an unpredictable amount of time to complete. With the exception of <code>cpu\_load</code> it is not permissible to call PortAudio API functions from within the stream callback.

In order for a stream to maintain glitch-free operation the callback must consume and return audio data faster than it is recorded and/or played. PortAudio anticipates that each callback invocation may execute for a duration approaching the duration of *frames* audio frames at the stream's sampling frequency. It is reasonable to expect to be able to utilise 70% or more of the available CPU time in the PortAudio callback. However, due to buffer size adaption and other factors, not all host APIs are able to guarantee audio stability under heavy CPU load with arbitrary fixed callback buffer sizes. When high callback CPU utilisation is required the most robust behavior can be achieved by using blocksize=0.

<sup>21</sup> https://docs.python.org/3/library/sys.html#sys.stderr

• **finished\_callback** (*callable*, *optional*) – User-supplied function which will be called when the stream becomes inactive (i.e. once a call to stop()) will not block).

A stream will become inactive after the stream callback raises an exception or when stop() or abort() is called. For a stream providing audio output, if the stream callback raises CallbackStop, or stop() is called, the stream finished callback will not be called until all generated sample data has been played. The callback must have this signature:

```
finished_callback() -> None
```

- clip\_off (bool, optional) See default.clip\_off.
- dither\_off (bool, optional) See default.dither\_off.
- never\_drop\_input (bool, optional) See default.never\_drop\_input.
- prime\_output\_buffers\_using\_stream\_callback (bool, optional) See default.prime\_output\_buffers\_using\_stream\_callback.

#### abort()

Terminate audio processing immediately.

This does not wait for pending buffers to complete.

#### See also:

```
start(), stop()
```

#### active

True when the stream is active, False otherwise.

A stream is active after a successful call to start(), until it becomes inactive either as a result of a call to stop() or abort(), or as a result of an exception raised in the stream callback. In the latter case, the stream is considered inactive after the last buffer has finished playing.

#### See also:

stopped

#### blocksize

Number of frames per block.

The special value 0 means that the blocksize can change between blocks. See the *blocksize* argument of *Stream*.

#### channels

The number of input/output channels.

```
close (ignore_errors=True)
```

Close the stream.

If the audio stream is active any pending buffers are discarded as if abort () had been called.

#### cpu\_load

CPU usage information for the stream.

The "CPU Load" is a fraction of total CPU time consumed by a callback stream's audio processing routines including, but not limited to the client supplied stream callback. This function does not work with blocking read/write streams.

This may be used in the stream callback function or in the application. It provides a floating point value, typically between 0.0 and 1.0, where 1.0 indicates that the stream callback is consuming the maximum number of CPU cycles possible to maintain real-time operation. A value of 0.5 would imply that PortAudio and the stream callback was consuming roughly 50% of the available CPU time. The value may exceed 1.0. A value of 0.0 will always be returned for a blocking read/write stream, or if an error occurs.

#### device

IDs of the input/output device.

#### dtype

Data type of the audio samples.

#### See also:

```
default.dtype, samplesize
```

### latency

The input/output latency of the stream in seconds.

This value provides the most accurate estimate of input/output latency available to the implementation. It may differ significantly from the *latency* value(s) passed to *Stream()*.

#### read (frames)

Read samples from the stream into a NumPy array.

The function doesn't return until all requested *frames* have been read – this may involve waiting for the operating system to supply the data (except if no more than <code>read\_available</code> frames were requested).

This is the same as RawStream.read(), except that it returns a NumPy array instead of a plain Python buffer object.

**Parameters frames** (*int*) – The number of frames to be read. This parameter is not constrained to a specific range, however high performance applications will want to match this parameter to the *blocksize* parameter used when opening the stream.

#### Returns

- data (numpy.ndarray) A two-dimensional numpy.ndarray<sup>22</sup> with one column per channel (i.e. with a shape of (frames, channels)) and with a data type specified by dtype.
- **overflowed** (*bool*) True if input data was discarded by PortAudio after the previous call and before this call.

#### read available

The number of frames that can be read without waiting.

Returns a value representing the maximum number of frames that can be read from the stream without blocking or busy waiting.

# samplerate

The sampling frequency in Hertz (= frames per second).

In cases where the hardware sampling frequency is inaccurate and PortAudio is aware of it, the value of this field may be different from the *samplerate* parameter passed to Stream(). If information about the actual hardware sampling frequency is not available, this field will have the same value as the *samplerate* parameter passed to Stream().

### samplesize

The size in bytes of a single sample.

# See also:

dtype

### start()

Commence audio processing.

# See also:

```
stop(), abort()
```

 $<sup>^{22}\</sup> https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.ndarray.html \#numpy.ndarray.html$ 

#### stop()

Terminate audio processing.

This waits until all pending audio buffers have been played before it returns.

#### See also:

```
start(), abort()
```

#### stopped

True when the stream is stopped, False otherwise.

A stream is considered to be stopped prior to a successful call to start() and after a successful call to stop() or abort(). If a stream callback is cancelled (by raising an exception) the stream is *not* considered to be stopped.

#### See also:

active

#### time

The current stream time in seconds.

This is according to the same clock used to generate the timestamps passed with the *time* argument to the stream callback (see the *callback* argument of *Stream*). The time values are monotonically increasing and have unspecified origin.

This provides valid time values for the entire life of the stream, from when the stream is opened until it is closed. Starting and stopping the stream does not affect the passage of time as provided here.

This time may be used for synchronizing other events to the audio stream, for example synchronizing audio to MIDI.

#### write(data)

Write samples to the stream.

This function doesn't return until the entire buffer has been consumed – this may involve waiting for the operating system to consume the data (except if *data* contains no more than *write\_available* frames).

This is the same as RawStream.write(), except that it expects a NumPy array instead of a plain Python buffer object.

**Parameters data** (array\_like) – A two-dimensional array-like object with one column per channel (i.e. with a shape of (frames, channels)) and with a data type specified by dtype. A one-dimensional array can be used for mono data. The array layout must be C-contiguous (see numpy.ascontiguousarray()<sup>23</sup>).

The length of the buffer is not constrained to a specific range, however high performance applications will want to match this parameter to the *blocksize* parameter used when opening the stream.

**Returns underflowed** (*bool*) – True if additional output data was inserted after the previous call and before this call.

#### write available

The number of frames that can be written without waiting.

Returns a value representing the maximum number of frames that can be written to the stream without blocking or busy waiting.

 $<sup>^{23}\</sup> https://docs.scipy.org/doc/numpy/reference/generated/numpy.ascontiguous array.html \#numpy.ascontiguous array.html #numpy.ascontiguous array.html #$ 

This has the same methods and attributes as *Stream*, except *write()* and *write\_available*. Furthermore, the stream callback is expected to have a different signature (see below).

**Parameters callback** (*callable*) – User-supplied function to consume audio in response to requests from an active stream. The callback must have this signature:

The arguments are the same as in the *callback* parameter of *Stream*, except that *outdata* is missing.

#### See also:

Stream, RawInputStream

```
class sounddevice.OutputStream (samplerate=None, blocksize=None, device=None, channels=None, dtype=None, latency=None, ex-
tra_settings=None, callback=None, finished_callback=None, clip_off=None, dither_off=None, never_drop_input=None, prime output buffers using stream callback=None)
```

Open an output stream.

This has the same methods and attributes as Stream, except read() and read\_available. Furthermore, the stream callback is expected to have a different signature (see below).

**Parameters callback** (*callable*) – User-supplied function to generate audio data in response to requests from an active stream. The callback must have this signature:

The arguments are the same as in the *callback* parameter of *Stream*, except that *indata* is missing.

#### See also:

Stream, RawOutputStream

Open a "raw" input/output stream.

This is the same as Stream, except that the callback function and read()/write() work on plain Python buffer objects instead of on NumPy arrays. NumPy is not necessary to use this.

To open "raw" input-only or output-only stream use RawInputStream or RawOutputStream, respectively. If you want to handle audio data as NumPy arrays instead of buffer objects, use Stream, InputStream or OutputStream.

# **Parameters**

- dtype (str or pair of str) The sample format of the buffers provided to the stream callback, read() or write(). In addition to the formats supported by Stream('float32', 'int32', 'int16', 'int8', 'uint8'), this also supports 'int24', i.e. packed 24 bit format. The default value can be changed with default.dtype. See also samplesize.
- **callback** (*callable*) User-supplied function to consume, process or generate audio data in response to requests from an active stream. The callback must have this signature:

The arguments are the same as in the *callback* parameter of *Stream*, except that *indata* and *outdata* are plain Python buffer objects instead of NumPy arrays.

#### See also:

RawInputStream, RawOutputStream, Stream

#### read (frames)

Read samples from the stream into a buffer.

This is the same as Stream.read(), except that it returns a plain Python buffer object instead of a NumPy array. NumPy is not necessary to use this.

**Parameters frames** (int) – The number of frames to be read. See Stream.read().

#### Returns

- **data** (*buffer*) A buffer of interleaved samples. The buffer contains samples in the format specified by the *dtype* parameter used to open the stream, and the number of channels specified by *channels*. See also <code>samplesize</code>.
- **overflowed** (*bool*) See Stream.read().

#### write (data)

Write samples to the stream.

This is the same as Stream.write(), except that it expects a plain Python buffer object instead of a NumPy array. NumPy is not necessary to use this.

**Parameters data** (buffer or bytes or iterable of int) – A buffer of interleaved samples. The buffer contains samples in the format specified by the dtype argument used to open the stream, and the number of channels specified by channels. The length of the buffer is not constrained to a specific range, however high performance applications will want to match this parameter to the blocksize parameter used when opening the stream. See also samplesize.

Returns underflowed (bool) - See Stream.write().

Open a "raw" input stream.

This is the same as InputStream, except that the callback function and read() work on plain Python buffer objects instead of on NumPy arrays. NumPy is not necessary to use this.

#### **Parameters**

- **dtype** (*str*) **See** *RawStream*.
- callback (callable) User-supplied function to consume audio data in response to requests from an active stream. The callback must have this signature:

The arguments are the same as in the *callback* parameter of *RawStream*, except that *outdata* is missing.

#### See also:

RawStream, Stream

Open a "raw" output stream.

This is the same as <code>OutputStream</code>, except that the <code>callback</code> function and <code>write()</code> work on plain Python buffer objects instead of on NumPy arrays. NumPy is not necessary to use this.

#### **Parameters**

- **dtype** (*str*) See *RawStream*.
- **callback** (*callable*) User-supplied function to generate audio data in response to requests from an active stream. The callback must have this signature:

```
callback(outdata: buffer, frames: int,
time: CData, status: CallbackFlags) -> None
```

The arguments are the same as in the *callback* parameter of *RawStream*, except that *indata* is missing.

#### See also:

RawStream, Stream

#### class sounddevice. DeviceList

A list with information about all available audio devices.

This class is not meant to be instantiated by the user. Instead, it is returned by *query\_devices()*. It contains a dictionary for each available device, holding the keys described in *query\_devices()*.

This class has a special string representation that is shown as return value of  $query\_devices()$  if used in an interactive Python session. It will also be shown when using the print()<sup>24</sup> function. Furthermore, it can be obtained with repr()<sup>25</sup> and str()<sup>26</sup>.

# class sounddevice.CallbackFlags(flags=0)

Flag bits for the status argument to a stream callback.

### See also:

Stream

# **Examples**

This can be used to collect the errors of multiple *status* objects:

```
>>> import sounddevice as sd
>>> errors = sd.CallbackFlags()
>>> errors |= status1
>>> errors |= status2
>>> errors |= status3
>>> # and so on ...
>>> errors.input_overflow
True
```

# input\_underflow

Input underflow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> https://docs.python.org/3/library/functions.html#print

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> https://docs.python.org/3/library/functions.html#repr

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#str

In a stream opened with blocksize=0, indicates that input data is all silence (zeros) because no real data is available. In a stream opened with a non-zero *blocksize*, it indicates that one or more zero samples have been inserted into the input buffer to compensate for an input underflow.

#### input overflow

Input overflow.

In a stream opened with blocksize=0, indicates that data prior to the first sample of the input buffer was discarded due to an overflow, possibly because the stream callback is using too much CPU time. Otherwise indicates that data prior to one or more samples in the input buffer was discarded.

### output\_underflow

Output underflow.

Indicates that output data (or a gap) was inserted, possibly because the stream callback is using too much CPU time.

#### output\_overflow

Output overflow.

Indicates that output data will be discarded because no room is available.

# priming\_output

Priming output.

Some of all of the output data will be used to prime the stream, input data may be zero.

#### class sounddevice. CallbackStop

Exception to be raised by the user to stop callback processing.

If this is raised in the stream callback, the callback will not be invoked anymore (but all pending audio buffers will be played).

#### See also:

```
CallbackAbort, Stream.stop(), Stream
```

# class sounddevice.CallbackAbort

Exception to be raised by the user to abort callback processing.

If this is raised in the stream callback, all pending buffers are discarded and the callback will not be invoked anymore.

# See also:

```
CallbackStop, Stream.abort(), Stream
```

#### class sounddevice.PortAudioError

This exception will be raised on PortAudio errors.

#### class sounddevice.AsioSettings(channel\_selectors)

ASIO-specific input/output settings.

Objects of this class can be used as  $extra\_settings$  argument to Stream() (and variants) or as  $default.extra\_settings$ .

**Parameters channel\_selectors** (*list of int*) – Support for opening only specific channels of an ASIO device. *channel\_selectors* is a list of integers specifying the (zero-based) channel numbers to use. The length of *channel\_selectors* must match the corresponding *channels* parameter of <code>Stream()</code> (or variants), otherwise a crash may result. The values in the selectors array must specify channels within the range of supported channels.

#### **Examples**

Setting output channels when calling play():

```
>>> import sounddevice as sd
>>> asio_out = sd.AsioSettings(channel_selectors=[12, 13])
>>> sd.play(..., extra_settings=asio_out)
```

Setting default output channels:

```
>>> sd.default.extra_settings = asio_out
>>> sd.play(...)
```

Setting input channels as well:

```
>>> asio_in = sd.AsioSettings(channel_selectors=[8])
>>> sd.default.extra_settings = asio_in, asio_out
>>> sd.playrec(..., channels=1, ...)
```

class sounddevice.WasapiSettings(exclusive=False)

WASAPI-specific input/output settings.

Objects of this class can be used as *extra\_settings* argument to *Stream()* (and variants) or as *default.extra\_settings*. They can also be used in *check\_input\_settings()* and *check\_output\_settings()*.

**Parameters exclusive** (*bool*) – Exclusive mode allows to deliver audio data directly to hardware bypassing software mixing.

# **Examples**

Setting exclusive mode when calling play ():

```
>>> import sounddevice as sd
>>> wasapi_exclusive = sd.WasapiSettings(exclusive=True)
>>> sd.play(..., extra_settings=wasapi_exclusive)
```

Setting exclusive mode as default:

```
>>> sd.default.extra_settings = wasapi_exclusive
>>> sd.play(...)
```

# **6 Version History**

# 0.3.6 (2016-12-19):

• Example application play\_long\_file.py

# 0.3.5 (2016-09-12):

- Add extra\_settings option for host-API-specific stream settings
- Add sounddevice. Asio Settings and sounddevice. Wasapi Settings

#### 0.3.4 (2016-08-05):

• Example application rec\_unlimited.py

# 0.3.3 (2016-04-11):

• Add loop argument to sounddevice.play()

#### 0.3.2 (2016-03-16):

- mapping=[1] works now on all host APIs
- Example application plot\_input.py showing the live microphone signal(s)
- Device substrings are now allowed in sounddevice. guery devices ()

#### 0.3.1 (2016-01-04):

- Add sounddevice.check\_input\_settings() and sounddevice.check\_output\_settings()
- Send PortAudio output to /dev/null (on Linux and OSX)

#### 0.3.0 (2015-10-28):

• Remove sounddevice.print\_devices(), sounddevice.query\_devices() can be used instead, since it now returns a sounddevice.DeviceList object.

## 0.2.2 (2015-10-21):

• Devices can now be selected by substrings of device name and host API name

#### 0.2.1 (2015-10-08):

• Example applications wire.py (based on PortAudio's patest\_wire.c) and spectrogram.py (based on code by Mauris Van Hauwe)

# 0.2.0 (2015-07-03):

- Support for wheels including a dylib for Mac OS X and DLLs for Windows. The code for creating the wheels is largely taken from PySoundFile<sup>27</sup>.
- Remove logging (this seemed too intrusive)
- Return callback status from sounddevice.wait() and add the new function sounddevice.get\_status()
- sounddevice.playrec(): Rename the arguments input\_channels and input\_dtype to channels and dtype, respectively
- **0.1.0** (2015-06-20): Initial release. Some ideas are taken from PySoundCard<sup>28</sup>. Thanks to Bastian Bechtold for many fruitful discussions during the development of several features which *python-sounddevice* inherited from there.

<sup>27</sup> https://github.com/bastibe/PySoundFile/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> https://github.com/bastibe/PySoundCard/