



Python

Libraries



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Hierarchical organization

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A *library* does the same thing for related functions

Hierarchical organization

library
function
statement

Every Python file can be used as a library

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Use import to load it

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```
# halman.py  
def threshold(signal):  
    return 1.0 / sum(signal)
```

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Use import to load it

```
# halman.py
```

```
def threshold(signal):  
    return 1.0 / sum(signal)
```

```
# program.py
```

```
import halman  
readings = [0.1, 0.4, 0.2]  
print 'signal threshold is', halman.threshold(readings)
```

Every Python file can be used as a library

Use import to load it

```
# halman.py
def threshold(signal):
    return 1.0 / sum(signal)
```

```
# program.py
import halman
readings = [0.1, 0.4, 0.2]
print 'signal threshold is', halman.threshold(readings)
```

```
$ python program.py
signal threshold is 1.42857
```

When a module is imported, Python:

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2. Creates an object that stores references to the top-level items in that module

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# noisy.py  
print 'is this module being loaded?'  
NOISE_LEVEL = 1./3.
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# noisy.py  
print 'is this module being loaded?'  
NOISE_LEVEL = 1./3.
```

```
>>> import noisy  
is this module being loaded?
```

When a module is imported, Python:

1. Executes the statements it contains
2. Creates an object that stores references to the top-level items in that module

```
# noisy.py  
print 'is this module being loaded?'  
NOISE_LEVEL = 1./3.
```

```
>>> import noisy  
is this module being loaded?  
>>> print noisy.NOISE_LEVEL  
0.33333333
```

Each module is a *namespace*

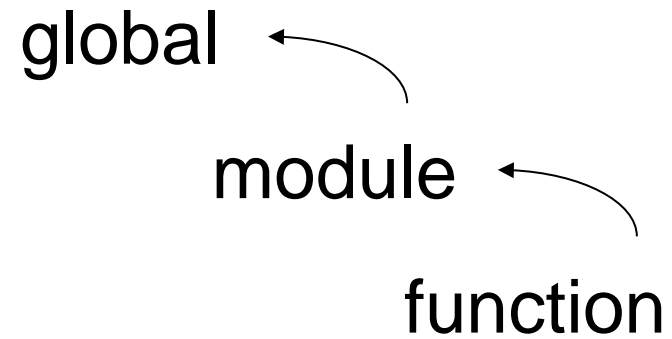
Each module is a *namespace*

function

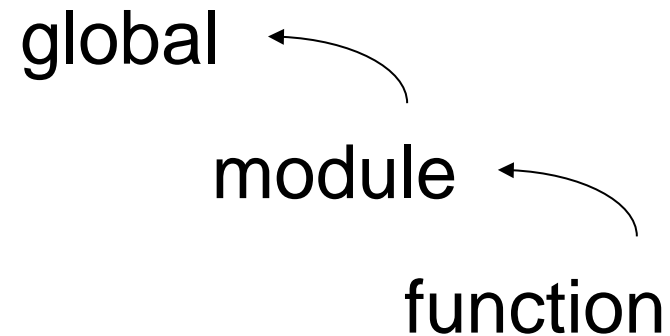
Each module is a *namespace*

module ←
function

Each module is a *namespace*

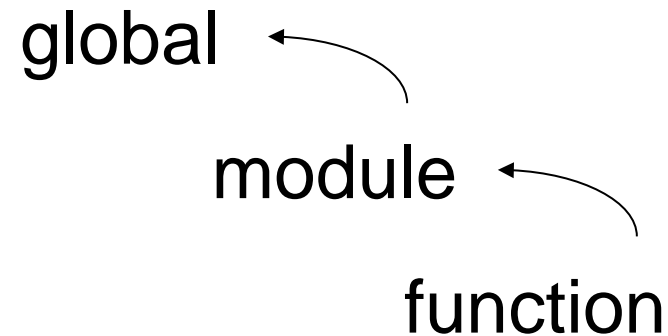


Each module is a *namespace*



```
# module.py  
NAME = 'Transylvania'  
  
def func(arg):  
    return NAME + ' ' + arg
```

Each module is a *namespace*

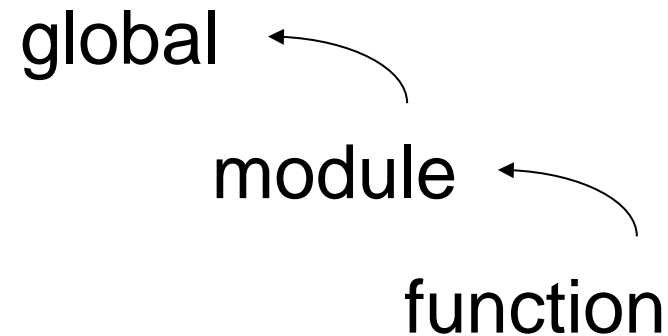


```
# module.py
NAME = 'Transylvania'

def func(arg):
    return NAME + ' ' + arg
```

```
>>> NAME = 'Hamunaptra'
```


Each module is a *namespace*



```
# module.py
```

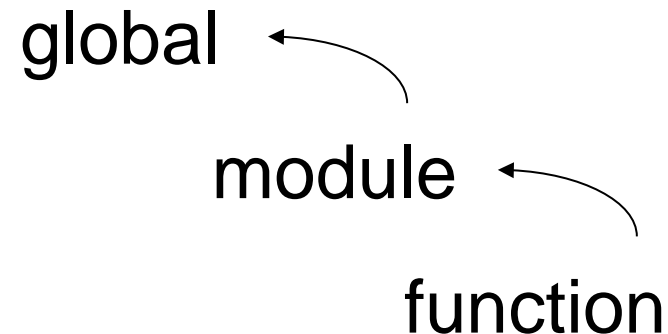
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NAME = 'Transylvania'
```

```
def func(arg):
    return NAME + ' ' + arg
```

```
>>> NAME = 'Hamunaptra'
```

```
>>> import module
```

Each module is a *namespace*



```
# module.py
NAME = 'Transylvania'

def func(arg):
    return NAME + ' ' + arg
```

```
>>> NAME = 'Hamunaptra'
>>> import module
>>> print module.func('!!!')
Transylvania !!!
```

Python comes with many standard libraries

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>>> import math
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>>> import math  
>>> print math.sqrt(2)  
1.4142135623730951
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>>> import math
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>>> print math.hypot(2, 3) # sqrt(x**2 + y**2)
3.6055512754639891
```

Python comes with many standard libraries

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>>> import math
>>> print math.sqrt(2)
1.4142135623730951
>>> print math.hypot(2, 3) # sqrt(x**2 + y**2)
3.6055512754639891
>>> print math.e, math.pi # as accurate as possible
2.7182818284590451 3.1415926535897931
```

Python also provides a help function

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```
>>> import math
```

```
>>> help(math)
```

Help on module math:

NAME

math

FILE

/usr/lib/python2.5/lib-dynload/math.so

MODULE DOCS

<http://www.python.org/doc/current/lib/module-math.html>

DESCRIPTION

This module is always available. It provides access to the mathematical functions defined by the C standard.

FUNCTIONS

acos(...)

acos(x)

Return the arc cosine (measured in radians) of x.

:

And some nicer ways to do imports

And some nicer ways to do imports

```
>>> from math import sqrt
```

```
>>> sqrt(3)
```

```
1.7320508075688772
```

And some nicer ways to do imports

```
>>> from math import sqrt
>>> sqrt(3)
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>>> from math import hypot as euclid
>>> euclid(3, 4)
5.0
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And some nicer ways to do imports

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>>> from math import sqrt
>>> sqrt(3)
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>>> from math import hypot as euclid
>>> euclid(3, 4)
5.0
>>> from math import *
>>> sin(pi)
1.2246063538223773e-16
>>>
```

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>>> from math import sqrt
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```

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1.7320508075688772
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```
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>>> from math import *
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← Generally a bad idea

```
>>> sin(pi)
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```
>>>
```

And some nicer ways to do imports

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>>> from math import *
```

```
>>> sin(pi)
```

```
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```

```
>>>
```

← Generally a bad idea

Someone could add to
the library after you
start using it

Almost every program uses the `sys` library

Almost every program uses the `sys` library

```
>>> import sys
```

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```
>>> import sys
>>> print sys.version
2.7 (r27:82525, Jul 4 2010, 09:01:59)
[MSC v.1500 32 bit (Intel)]
```

Almost every program uses the `sys` library

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>>> import sys
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>>> print sys.platform
win32
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Almost every program uses the `sys` library

```
>>> import sys
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2.7 (r27:82525, Jul 4 2010, 09:01:59)
[MSC v.1500 32 bit (Intel)]
>>> print sys.platform
win32
>>> print sys.maxint
2147483647
>>> print sys.path
['',
'C:\\WINDOWS\\system32\\python27.zip',
'C:\\Python27\\DLLs', 'C:\\Python27\\lib',
'C:\\Python27\\lib\\plat-win',
'C:\\Python27', 'C:\\Python27\\lib\\site-packages']
```

`sys.argv` holds command-line arguments

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Script name is `sys.argv[0]`

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```
# echo.py
import sys
for i in range(len(sys.argv)):
    print i, " " + sys.argv[i] + " "
```


`sys.argv` holds command-line arguments

Script name is `sys.argv[0]`

```
# echo.py
import sys
for i in range(len(sys.argv)):
    print i, " " + sys.argv[i] + " "
```

```
$ python echo.py
0 echo.py
$
```

`sys.argv` holds command-line arguments

Script name is `sys.argv[0]`

```
# echo.py
import sys
for i in range(len(sys.argv)):
    print i, " " + sys.argv[i] + " "
```

```
$ python echo.py
0 echo.py
$ python echo.py first second
0 echo.py
1 first
2 second
$
```

`sys.stdin` is *standard input* (e.g., the keyboard)

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See the Unix shell lecture for more information

Picking up changes in external libraries ("reload")

In some scenarios you will want to keep a python session running whilst modifying an external module.

Picking up changes in external libraries ("reload")

In some scenarios you will want to keep a python session running whilst modifying an external module.

E.g...

```
>>> import mylib
```

```
>>> print mylib.x
```

33.8

```
>>> # change "mylib.py" now and get new x
```


Let's look in detail

```
>>> import mylib
```

```
>>> print mylib.x
```

33.8

Let's look in detail

```
>>> import mylib  
>>> print mylib.x
```

33.8

Change "mylib.py" so that `x` is set to "hello" - and save the module.

```
>>> import mylib  
>>> print mylib.x
```

33.8

Let's look in detail

```
>>> import mylib  
>>> print mylib.x
```

33.8

Change "mylib.py" so that `x` is set to "hello" - and save the module.

```
>>> import mylib  
>>> print mylib.x
```

33.8

Oh No! Python has ignored my changes.

We need to "reload"!!!

```
>>> import mylib  
>>> print mylib.x
```

33.8

Change "mylib.py" so that x is set to "hello" - and save the module.

```
>>> reload(mylib)  
>>> print mylib.x
```

'hello'

It worked!



Free stuff - the Python Standard Library

Python » 2.7.13 » Documentation »

The Python Standard Library

While The Python Language Reference describes the exact syntax and semantics of the Python language, this reference manual describes the standard library that is distributed with Python. It also describes components that are commonly included in Python distributions.

Python's standard library is very extensive, offering a wide range of facilities as indicated below. The library contains built-in modules (written in C) that provide access to system facilities that would otherwise be inaccessible to Python programmers, as well as modules written in Python that provide solutions for many problems that occur in everyday programming. Some of these modules are designed to encourage and enhance the portability of Python programs by abstracting away platform-specific details.

The Python installers for the Windows platform usually include the entire standard library and some additional components. For Unix-like operating systems Python is normally provided as a core system, and it is necessary to use the packaging tools provided with the operating system to obtain some of the additional components.

In addition to the standard library, there is a growing collection of several thousand components (ranging from modules to packages and entire application development frameworks), available from the Python Package Index (PyPI).

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Built-in Functions
- 3. Built-in Modules
- 4. Built-in Constants
- 5. Built-in Types

Previous topic

9. Full Grammar specification

Next topic

1. Introduction

This Page

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Quick search

Enter search terms or a module, class or function name.

<https://docs.python.org/2/library/>

More examples from the **Python Standard Library**

datetime:

```
>>> from datetime import date, timedelta
```

```
>>> today = date.today()
```

```
>>> print today
```

```
2017-02-25
```

```
>>> print today - timedelta(days=365)
```

```
2016-02-26
```

random:

random.random() # Random float x, $0 \leq x < 1$

0.37444887175646646

random.uniform(1, 10) # Random float x, $1 \leq x < 10$

1.1800146073117523

random.randint(1, 10) # Integer from 1 to 10, endpoints included

7

<https://docs.python.org/2/library/>

urllib:

```
>>> import urllib2
```

```
>>> response = urllib2.urlopen('http://python.org/')
```

```
>>> print response.readlines()[:3]
```

```
['<!doctype html>\n', '<!--[if lt IE 7]> <html class="no-  
js ie6 lt-ie7 lt-ie8 lt-ie9"> <![endif]-->\n', '<!--[if IE 7]>  
<html class="no-js ie7 lt-ie8 lt-ie9"> <![endif]--  
>\n']
```

<https://docs.python.org/2/library/>


```
# count.py
import sys
if len(sys.argv) == 1:
    count_lines(sys.stdin)
else:
    rd = open(sys.argv[1], 'r')
    count_lines(rd)
    rd.close()
```

```
# count.py
import sys
if len(sys.argv) == 1:
    count_lines(sys.stdin)
else:
    rd = open(sys.argv[1], 'r')
    count_lines(rd)
    rd.close()
```

```
# count.py
import sys
if len(sys.argv) == 1:
    count_lines(sys.stdin)
else:
    rd = open(sys.argv[1], 'r')
    count_lines(rd)
    rd.close()
```



```
# count.py
import sys
if len(sys.argv) == 1:
    count_lines(sys.stdin)
else:
    rd = open(sys.argv[1], 'r')
    count_lines(rd)
    rd.close()
```

```
$ python count.py < a.txt
48
$
```

```
# count.py
import sys
if len(sys.argv) == 1:
    count_lines(sys.stdin)
else:
    rd = open(sys.argv[1], 'r')
    count_lines(rd)
    rd.close()
```

```
$ python count.py < a.txt
48
$ python count.py b.txt
227
$
```

The more polite way

"""Count lines in files. If no filename arguments given,
read from standard input."""

```
import sys
```

```
def count_lines(reader):  
    """Return number of lines in text read from reader."""  
    return len(reader.readlines())
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':  
    ...as before...
```

The more polite way

"Count lines in files. If no filename arguments given, read from standard input."

```
import sys
```

```
def count_lines(reader):
```

```
    "Return number of lines in text read from reader."
```

```
    return len(reader.readlines())
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
```

```
    ...as before...
```

The more polite way

"Count lines in files. If no filename arguments given, read from standard input."

```
import sys
```

```
def count_lines(reader):  
    "Return number of lines in text read from reader."  
    return len(reader.readlines())
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':  
    ...as before...
```

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Used for online (and offline) help

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```
# adder.py
"Addition utilities."

def add(a, b):
    "Add arguments."
    return a+b
```


If the first statement in a module or function is a string, it is saved as a *docstring*

Used for online (and offline) help

```
# adder.py
"Addition utilities."

def add(a, b):
    "Add arguments."
    return a+b
```

```
>>> import adder
>>> help(adder)
NAME
    adder - Addition utilities.
FUNCTIONS
    add(a, b)
        Add arguments.
>>>
```

If the first statement in a module or function is a string, it is saved as a *docstring*

Used for online (and offline) help

```
# adder.py
"Addition utilities."

def add(a, b):
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```

```
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NAME
    adder - Addition utilities.
FUNCTIONS
    add(a, b)
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>>> help(adder.add)
add(a, b)
    Add arguments.
>>>
```

When Python loads a module, it assigns a value to the module-level variable `__name__`

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main program

`'__main__'`

When Python loads a module, it assigns a value to the module-level variable `__name__`

main program	loaded as library
'__main__'	module name

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main program	loaded as library
<code>'__main__'</code>	module name

...module definitions...

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
    ...run as main program...
```

When Python loads a module, it assigns a value to the module-level variable `__name__`

main program	loaded as library
<code>'__main__'</code>	module name

...module definitions...

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
    ...run as main program...
```

← Always executed

When Python loads a module, it assigns a value to the module-level variable `__name__`

main program	loaded as library
<code>'__main__'</code>	module name

...module definitions...

if `__name__ == '__main__':`
 ...run as main program...

← Always executed

← Only executed when
 file run directly


```
# stats.py
```

```
"""Useful statistical tools."""
```

```
def average(values):
```

```
    """Return average of values or None if no data."""
```

```
    if values:
```

```
        return sum(values) / len(values)
```

```
    else:
```

```
        return None
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
```

```
    print 'test 1 should be None:', average([])
```

```
    print 'test 2 should be 1:', average([1])
```

```
    print 'test 3 should be 2:', average([1, 2, 3])
```

```
# test-stats.py  
from stats import average  
print 'test 4 should be None:', average(set())  
print 'test 5 should be -1:', average({0, -1, -2})
```

```
# test-stats.py
from stats import average
print 'test 4 should be None:', average(set())
print 'test 5 should be -1:', average({0, -1, -2})
```

```
$ python stats.py
test 1 should be None: None
test 2 should be 1: 1
test 3 should be 2: 2
$
```

```
# test-stats.py
from stats import average
print 'test 4 should be None:', average(set())
print 'test 5 should be -1:', average({0, -1, -2})
```

```
$ python stats.py
test 1 should be None: None
test 2 should be 1: 1
test 3 should be 2: 2
$ python test-stats.py
test 4 should be None: None
test 5 should be -1: -1
$
```



created by

Greg Wilson

October 2010



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