

# How do I access command line arguments in Python?

I use python to create my project settings setup, but I need help getting the command line arguments.

I tried this on the terminal:

```
$python myfile.py var1 var2 var3
```

In my Python file, I want to use all variables that are input.

```
import sys
```

```
print(sys.argv)
```

More specifically, if you run `python example.py one two three`:

```
>>> import sys
```

```
>>> print(sys.argv)
```

```
['example.py', 'one', 'two', 'three']
```

```
import sys
```

```
sys.argv[1:]
```

will give you a list of arguments (not including the name of the python file)

You can use `sys.argv` to get the arguments as a list.

If you need to access individual elements, you can use

```
sys.argv[i]
```

where `i` is index, `0` will give you the python filename being executed. Any index after that are the arguments passed.

Python code:

```
import sys
```

```
# main
```

```
param_1= sys.argv[1]
```

```
param_2= sys.argv[2]
```

```
param_3= sys.argv[3]
```

```
print 'Params=', param_1, param_2, param_3
```

Invocation:

```
$python myfile.py var1 var2 var3
```

Output:

```
Params= var1 var2 var3
```

If you call it like this: `$ python myfile.py var1 var2 var3`

```
import sys
```

```
var1 = sys.argv[1]  
var2 = sys.argv[2]  
var3 = sys.argv[3]
```

Similar to arrays you also have `sys.argv[0]` which is always the current working directory.

Some additional things that I can think of.

As @allsyed said `sys.argv` gives a list of components (including program name), so if you want to know the number of elements passed through command line you can use `len()` to determine it. Based on this, you can design exception/error messages if user didn't pass specific number of parameters.

Also if you looking for a better way to handle command line arguments, I would suggest you look at <https://docs.python.org/2/howto/argparse.html>