

In []: Sometimes when you are importing **from** a module, you would like to know whether a module's function **is** being used **as** an import, **or if** you are using the original **.py** file of that module. In this case we can use the:

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
```

line to determine this. For example:

When your script **is** run by passing it **as** a command to the Python interpreter:

```
python myscript.py
```

all of the code that **is** at indentation level **0** gets executed. Functions **and** classes that are defined are, well, defined, but none of their code gets ran. Unlike other languages, there's **no main() function that gets run automatically** - the **main()** function **is** implicitly all the code at the top level.

In this case, the top-level code **is** an **if** block. **__name__** **is** a built-in variable which evaluates to the name of the current module. However, **if** a module **is** being run directly (**as in** **myscript.py** above), then **__name__** instead **is** set to the string **"__main__"**. Thus, you can test whether your script **is** being run directly **or** being imported by something **else** by testing

```
if __name__ == "__main__":  
    ...
```

If that code **is** being imported into another module, the various function **and** **class** definitions will be imported, but the **main()** code won't get run. As a basic example, consider the following two scripts:

```
# file one.py  
def func():  
    print("func() in one.py")  
  
print("top-level in one.py")  
  
if __name__ == "__main__":  
    print("one.py is being run directly")  
else:  
    print("one.py is being imported into another module")
```

and then:

```
# file two.py  
import one  
  
print("top-level in two.py")  
one.func()  
  
if __name__ == "__main__":  
    print("two.py is being run directly")  
else:  
    print("two.py is being imported into another module")
```

Now, **if** you invoke the interpreter **as**

```
python one.py
```

The output will be

```
top-level in one.py
```

one.py **is** being run directly

If you run two.py instead:

```
python two.py
```

You get

top-level **in** one.py

one.py **is** being imported into another module

top-level **in** two.py

func() **in** one.py

two.py **is** being run directly

Thus, when module one gets loaded, its `__name__` equals `"one"` instead of `__main__`.