optparse!

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15.5. optparse — Parser for command line options

New in version 2.3.

Deprecated since version 2.7: The optparse module is deprecated and will not be developed further; development will continue with the argparse module.

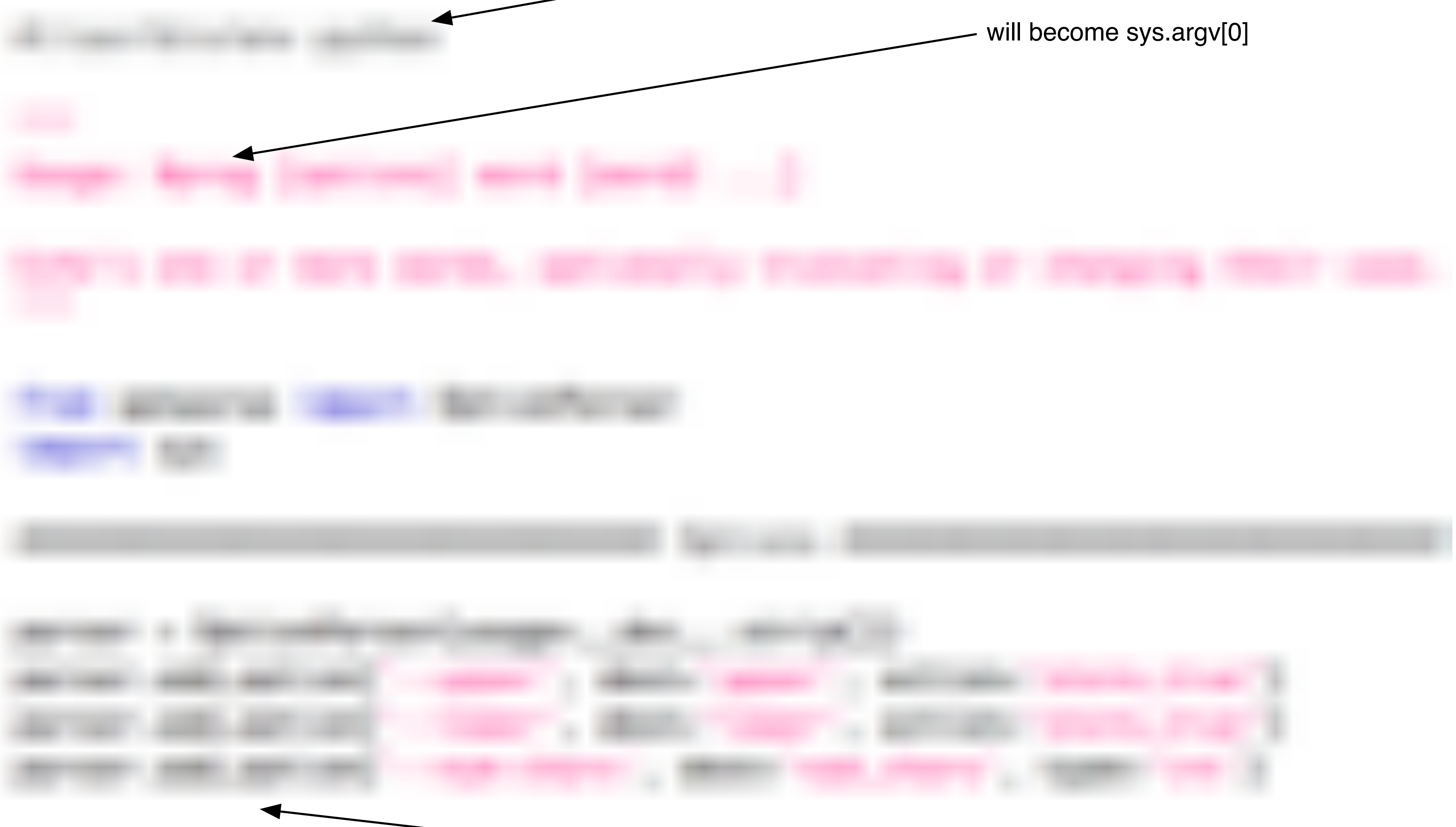
Source code: Lib/optparse.py

optparse is a more convenient, flexible, and powerful library for parsing command-line options than the old getopt module. optparse uses a more declarative style of command-line parsing: you create an instance of OptionParser, populate it with options, and parse the command line. optparse allows users to specify options in the conventional GNU/POSIX syntax, and additionally generates usage and help messages for you.

Here's an example of using optparse in a simple script:

```
from optparse import OptionParser
[...]
parser = OptionParser()
parser.add_option("-f", "--file", dest="filename",
                  help="write report to FILE", metavar="FILE")
parser.add_option("-q", "--quiet",
                  action="store_false", dest="verbose", default=True,
                  help="don't print status messages to stdout")

(options, args) = parser.parse_args()
```

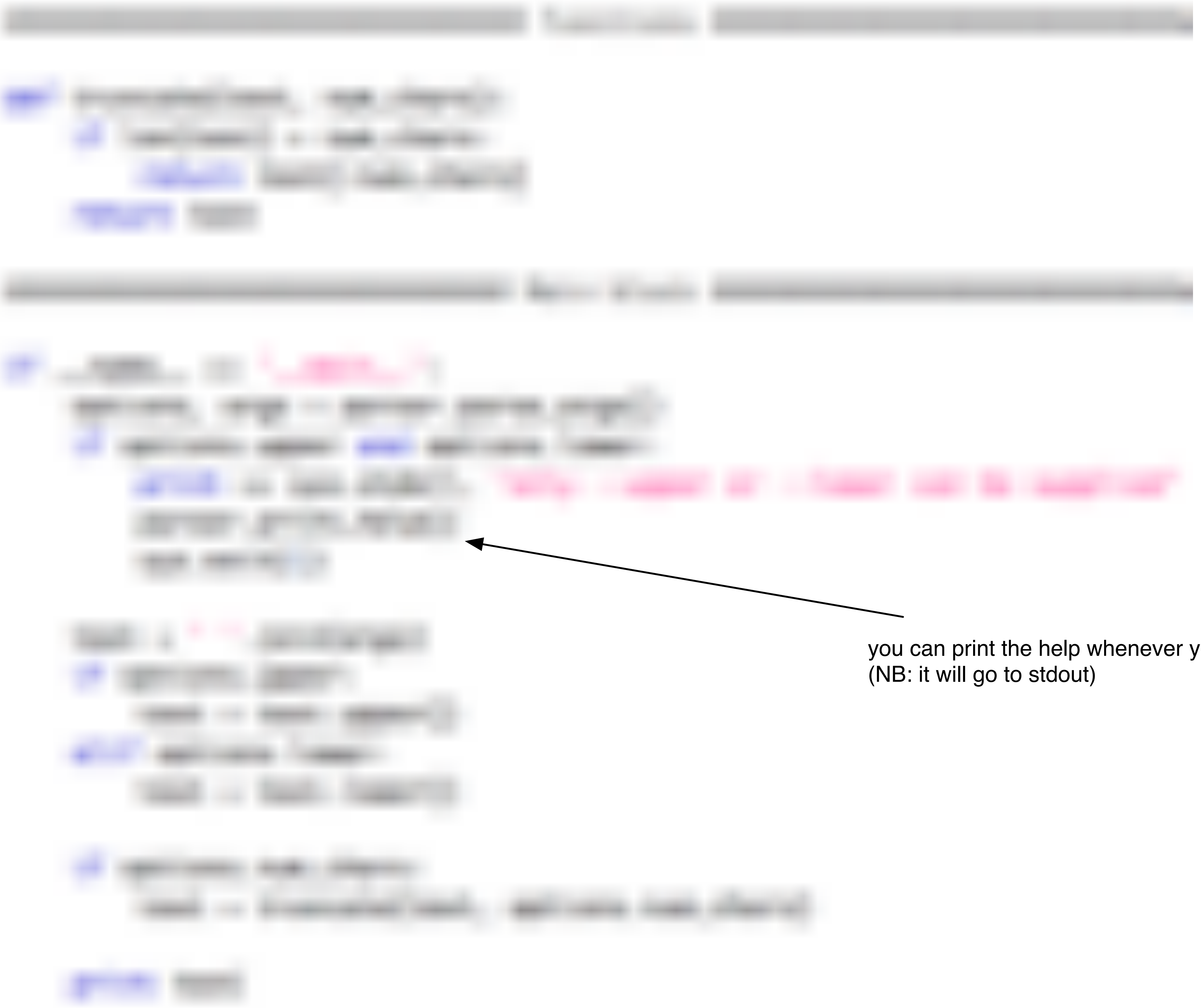
```
#!/usr/bin/env python

"""
Usage: fixcap [options] word [word ...]

Prints one or more words, optionally truncating or changing their case.
"""

from optparse import OptionParser
import sys

# ---------------------------------- Options ----------------------------------

parser = OptionParser(usage=__doc__.strip())
parser.add_option('--upper', dest='upper', action='store_true')
parser.add_option('--lower', dest='lower', action='store_true')
parser.add_option('--max-chars', dest='max_chars', type='int')
```



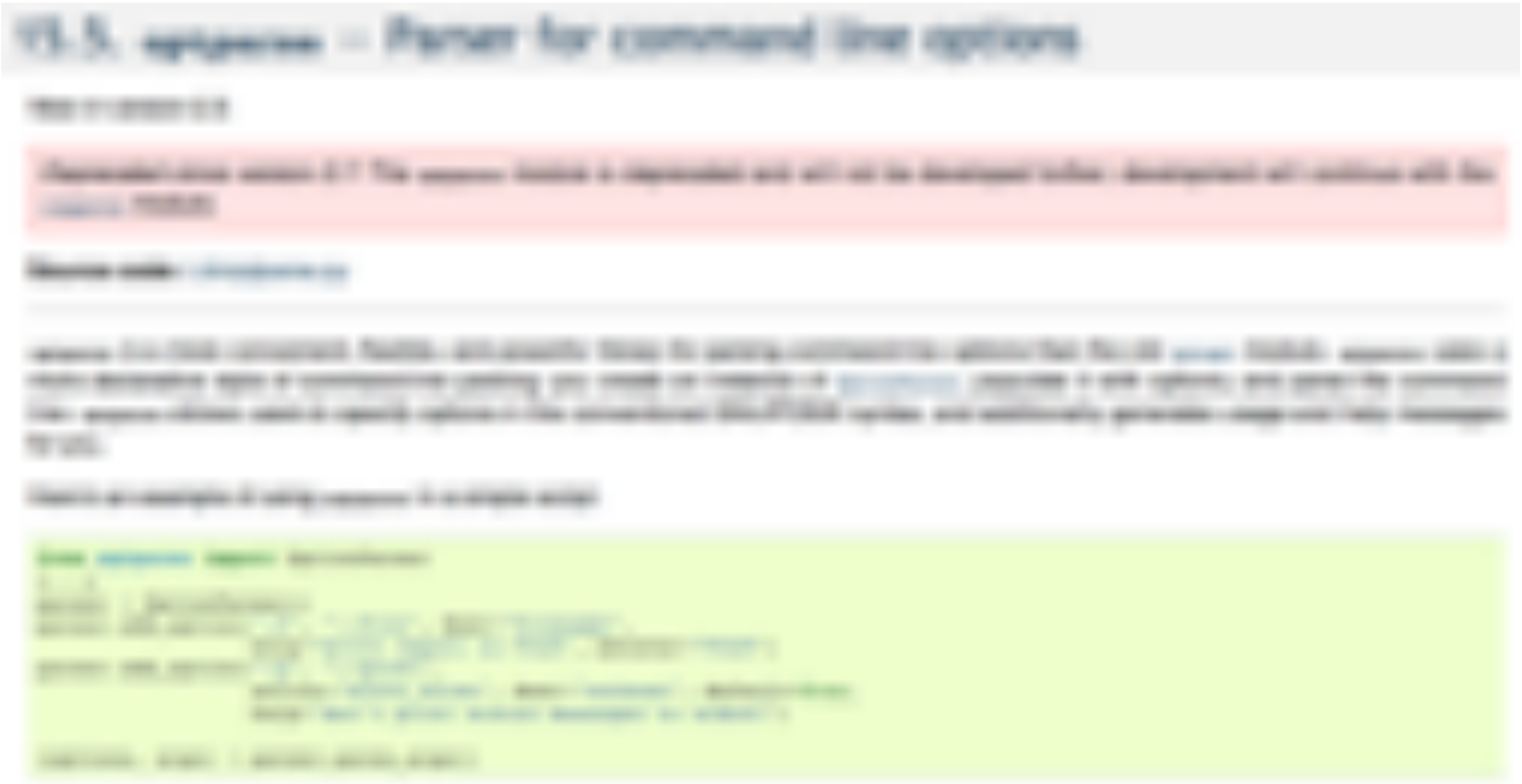
your python version, full path may be warranted

will become sys.argv[0]

takes lots of arguments



you can print the help whenever you want
(NB: it will go to stdout)



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