**2.3 Interactive Mode and Script Mode (File mode)**

Python can be used in two modes. Interactive mode and script mode. Interactive mode can be termed as calculator mode or shell mode due to its nature of the operation.

If we are opening Python without any arguments in the command prompt of the Operating System, the interpreter will be active with a display ‘>>>’. This is called ***Command Prompt***. Type a single python statement on this prompt and press the enter key. The system will show the answer if there is an answer to display. Otherwise, the prompt will appear again. This interaction can be continued. A complicated mathematical expression also will work. So, this method is called ***Interactive Mode***. This can be used as a calculator to view the result of simple or complicated calculations including complex numbers and even to view graph. We can type an arithmetic expression at the prompt to get the answer. The operators +, -, x and / will work like a calculator. So, this mode can be called as ***calculator mode.*** For example, type “x=10” on the command prompt and press enter key. Since nothing to display as the answer, the command prompt will appear again. Type “y=5” and press enter key. Again, the command prompt will appear. Type “print x\*y” and press enter key. Just below the prompt, the system will show the answer. The command prompt will appear again.

But this method cannot be used for large and complicated works involving loops, iterations, and conditional statements. ***Script Mode*** is the preferred way in such cases. In this mode, type the source code using any available text editor like notepad in Windows, or idle in Python Shell or gedit in Linux. The filename must be with an extension ‘.py’. This can be compiled and operated by Python. Details of installation and operational steps are included in the appendix.