Lecture 2

Steven Walton
PS 232 Computational Methods
Department of Physics
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Prescott, AZ 86301

September 2, 2014

Importing A Module

Now that we have talked about modules, let's use them. One command that we are going to have to know is Import. What this does is tells python that you care going to use the module specified. So for example, let's create a random array.

import numpy # We want to import the module numpy for the command random s = numpy.random.random(5) # Take special note to how this is called. Do you have to do it this way? print s

You will see here that we are outputting the value of s, which is an array of 5 random numbers between 0 and 1. Notice the tricky structure of how we called this this random command. We had to use all those periods. What this means is that we are using the module NumPy, then using the library of Random, and the command random in it. This can be tiresome to write over and over, especially if we only want to be calling random from NumPy and nothing else. We have a way to deal with this, and to take it one step further. See if you can understand the following code.

from numpy import random as ran s = ran.random(5) print s