

Aim: How can we run python programs directly from the shell?

2. Tell the file where to find python.

Earlier, we ran a python program from the shell with a command like this:

```
$ python hello.py
```

When we do this, the file didn't need execute permissions because you were running it through python, which *is* executable.

If a python file is executable, it still needs to know where to find python, since python is required to interpret our source code. We will have to put this information *in our python file*.

First, we need to know the actual location of python. This is what the `which` command does. On moe, we should see this:

```
dw@moe:~$ which python
/usr/bin/python
```

This means that the full path to python is `/usr/bin/python`. In order to put this directly into our program, we have to add the following as **THE FIRST LINE OF OUR PROGRAM:**

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

Fun fact: this is sometimes called the sh-bang line, which is short for hash-bang, fun names for the `#` and `!` symbols, respectively.

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