

xkcd.com/353

Modules and packages

- `import` – `from` – `as`
- `__name__`, `"__main__"`

docs.python.org/3/tutorial/modules.html

Python modules and packages

- A Python **module** is a *module_name.py* file containing Python code
- A Python **package** is a collection of modules

Why do you need modules ?

- A way to structure code into **smaller logical units**
- **Encapsulation** of functionality
- **Reuse** of code in different programs
- You can write your **own modules and packages** or use any of the +100.000 existing packages from pypi.org
- **The Python Standard Library** consists of the modules listed on docs.python.org/3/library



Defining and importing a module

mymodule.py

```
""" This is a 'print something' module """

from random import randint

print("Running my module")

def print_something(n):
    W = ['Eat', 'Sleep', 'Rave', 'Repeat']
    words = (W[randint(0, len(W) - 1)] for _ in range(n))
    print(' '.join(words))

def the_name():
    print('__name__ = "' + __name__ + '"')
```

using_mymodule.py

```
import mymodule

mymodule.print_something(5)

from mymodule import print_something

print_something(5)
```

Python shell

```
| Running my module
| Eat Sleep Sleep Sleep Rave
| Eat Sleep Rave Repeat Sleep
```

- A module is only run once when imported several times

Some modules mentioned in the course

Module (example functions)	Description
math (pi sqrt ceil log sin)	<i>basic math</i>
random (random randint)	<i>random number generator</i>
numpy (array shape)	<i>multi-dimensional data</i>
pandas	<i>data tables</i>
SQLite	<i>SQL database</i>
scipy	<i>mathematical optimization</i>
scipy.optimize (minimize linprog)	
scipy.spatial (ConvexHull)	
matplotlib	
matplotlib.pyplot (plot show style)	<i>plotting data</i>
matplotlib.backends.backend_pdf (PdfPages)	<i>print plots to PDF</i>
mpl_toolkits.mplot3d (Axes3D)	<i>3D plot tools</i>
doctest (testmod)	<i>testing using doc strings</i>
unittest (assertEqual assertTrue)	<i>unit testing</i>
time (time)	<i>current time, conversion of time values</i>
datetime (date.today)	
timeit (timeit)	time execution of simple code

Module (example functions)	Description
functools (lru_cache total_ordering)	<i>higher order functions and decorators</i>
itertools (islice permutations)	<i>Iterator tools</i>
collections (Counter deque)	<i>data structures for collections</i>
builtins	<i>module containing the Python builtins</i>
os (path)	<i>operating system interface</i>
sys (argv path)	<i>system specific functions</i>
Tkinter	<i>graphic user interface</i>
PyQt	
xml	<i>xml files (eXtensible Markup Language)</i>
json	<i>JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) files</i>
csv	<i>comma separated files</i>
openpyxl	<i>EXCEL files</i>
re	<i>regular expression, string searching</i>
string (split join lower ascii_letters digits)	<i>string functions</i>

Ways of importing modules

import.py

```
# Import a module name in the current namespace
# All definitions in the module are available as <module>.<name>

import math
print(math.sqrt(2))

# Import only one or more specific definitions into current namespace

from math import sqrt, log, ceil
print(ceil(log(sqrt(100), 2)))

# Import specific modules/definitions from a module into current namespace under new names

from math import sqrt as kvadratrod, log as logaritme
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
print(logaritme(kvadratrod(100)))

# Import all definitions form a module in current namespace
# Deprecated, since unclear what happens to the namespace

from math import *
print(pi) # where did 'pi' come from?
```

Python shell

```
| 1.4142135623730951
| 4
| 2.302585092994046
| 3.141592653589793
```

Listing definitions in a module: `dir(module)`

Python shell

```
> import math
> import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
> dir(math)
|['__doc__', '__loader__', '__name__', '__package__', '__spec__', 'acos',
'acosh', 'asin', 'asinh', 'atan', 'atan2', 'atanh', 'ceil', 'copysign',
'cos', 'cosh', 'degrees', 'e', 'erf', 'erfc', 'exp', 'expm1', 'fabs',
'factorial', 'floor', 'fmod', 'frexp', 'fsum', 'gamma', 'gcd', 'hypot',
'inf', 'isclose', 'isfinite', 'isinf', 'isnan', 'ldexp', 'lgamma', 'log',
'log10', 'log1p', 'log2', 'modf', 'nan', 'pi', 'pow', 'radians', 'sin',
'sinh', 'sqrt', 'tan', 'tanh', 'tau', 'trunc']
> help(math)
| Help on built-in module math:
| NAME
|     math
| DESCRIPTION
| ...
|
```

module importlib

- Implements the `import` statement (Python internal implementation details)
- `importlib.reload(module)`
 - Reloads a previously imported *module*. Relevant if you have edited the code for the module and want to load the new version in the Python interpreter, without restarting the full program from scratch.

Packages

- A package is a collection of modules (and subpackages) in a folder = package name
- Only folders having an `__init__.py` file are considered packages
- The `__init__.py` can be empty, or contain code that will be loaded when the package is imported, e.g. importing specific modules

`mypackage/__init__.py`

`mypackage/a.py`

```
print("Loading mypackage.a")
def f():
    print("mypackage.a.f")
```

`using_mypackage.py`

```
import mypackage.a
mypackage.a.f()
```

`Python shell`

```
| Loading mypackage.a
| mypackage.a.f
```

__pycache__ folder

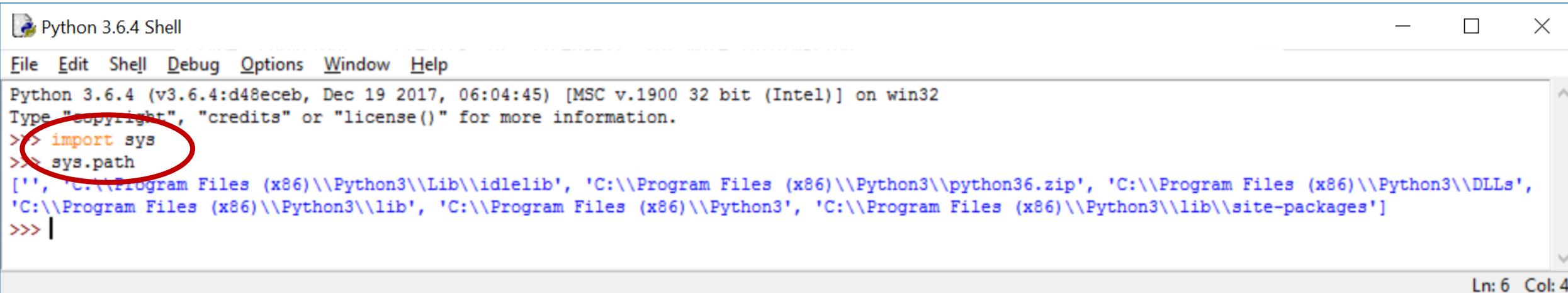
- When Python loads a module the first time it is *compiled* to some intermediate code, and stored as a `.pyc` file in the `__pycache__` folder.
- If a `.pyc` file exists for a module, and the `.pyc` file is newer than the `.py` file, then `import` loads `.pyc` – **saving time** to load the module (but does not make the program itself faster).
- It is safe to delete the `__pycache__` folder – but it will be created again next time a module is loaded.

Path to modules

Python searches the following folders for a module in the following order:

- 1) The directory containing the input script / current directory
- 2) *Environment variable* PYTHONPATH
- 3) Installation defaults

The function `path` in the module `sys` returns a list of the paths



Python 3.6.4 Shell

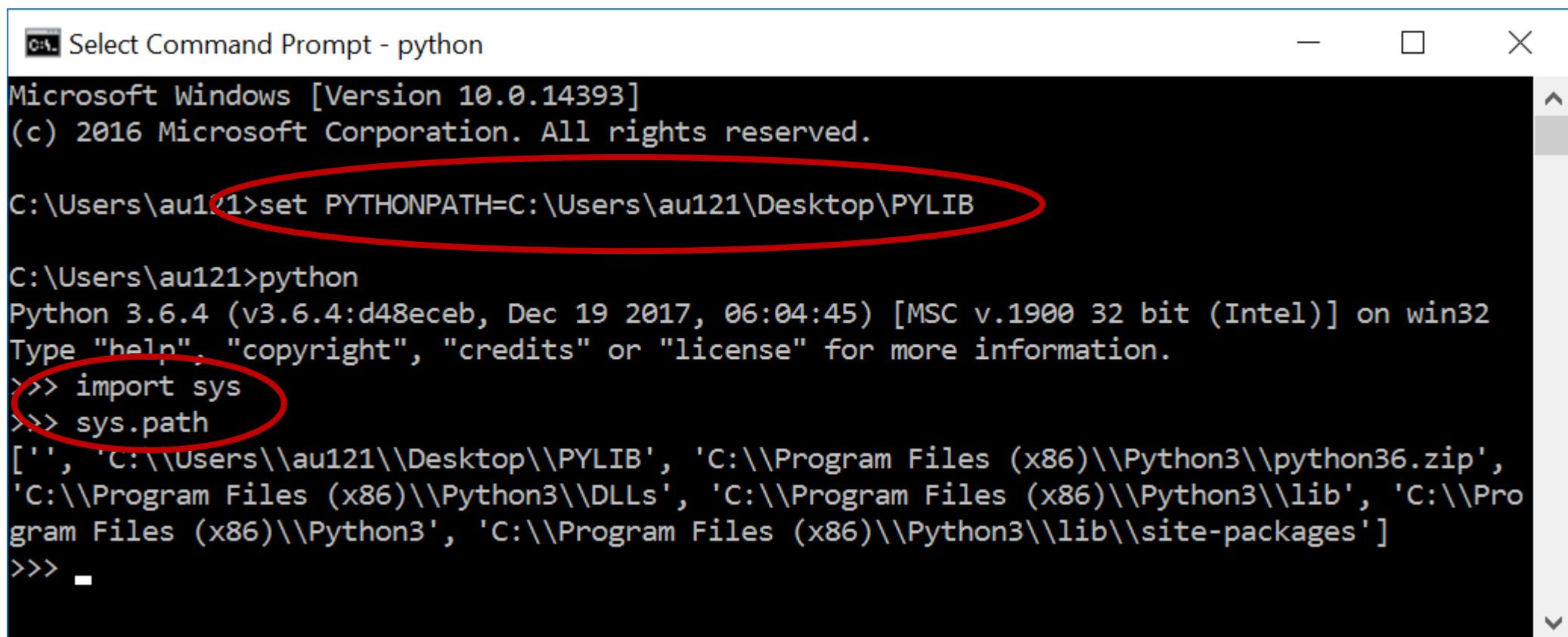
File Edit Shell Debug Options Window Help

```
Python 3.6.4 (v3.6.4:d48eceb, Dec 19 2017, 06:04:45) [MSC v.1900 32 bit (Intel)] on win32
Type "copyright", "credits" or "license()" for more information.
>>> import sys
>>> sys.path
['', 'C:\\Program Files (x86)\\Python3\\Lib\\idlelib', 'C:\\Program Files (x86)\\Python3\\python36.zip', 'C:\\Program Files (x86)\\Python3\\DLLs',
'C:\\Program Files (x86)\\Python3\\lib', 'C:\\Program Files (x86)\\Python3', 'C:\\Program Files (x86)\\Python3\\lib\\site-packages']
>>> |
```

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Setting PYTHONPATH from windows shell

- set PYTHONPATH=*paths separated by semicolon*



The screenshot shows a Windows Command Prompt window titled "Select Command Prompt - python". The window displays the following text:

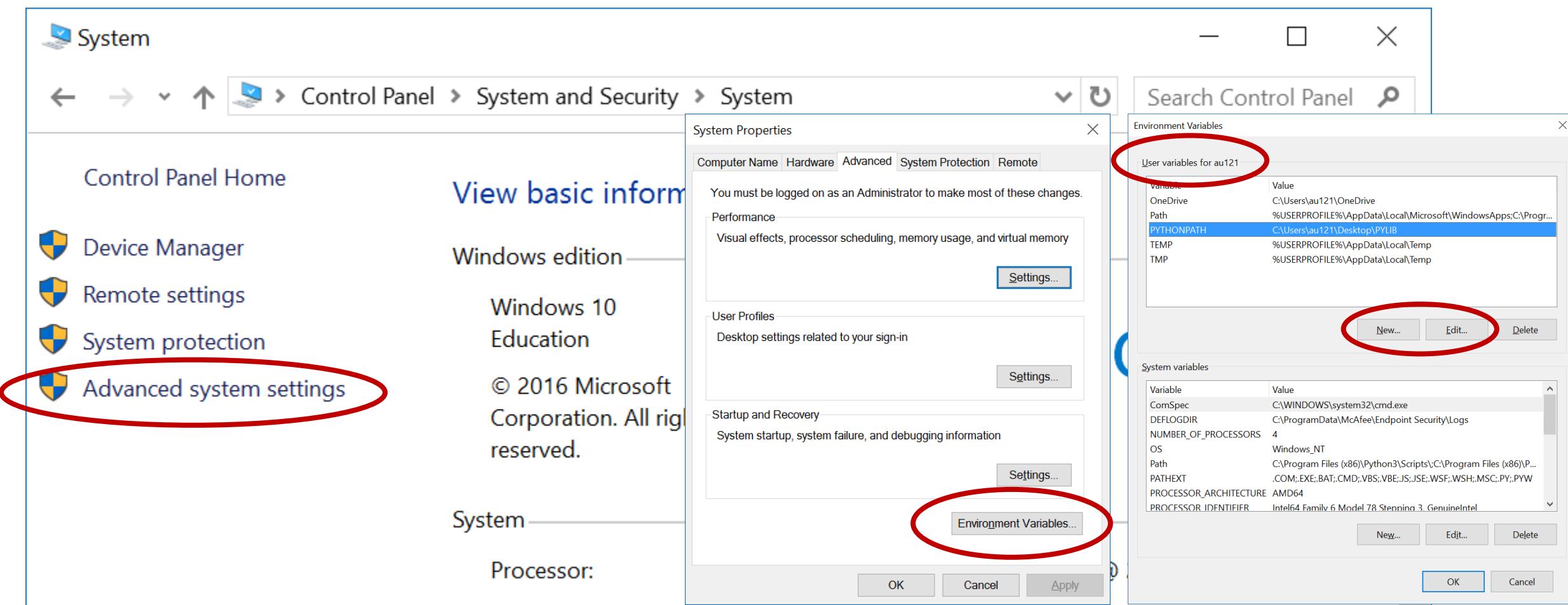
```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.14393]
(c) 2016 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\au121>set PYTHONPATH=C:\Users\au121\Desktop\PYLIB
C:\Users\au121>python
Python 3.6.4 (v3.6.4:d48ebeb, Dec 19 2017, 06:04:45) [MSC v.1900 32 bit (Intel)] on win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import sys
>>> sys.path
['', 'C:\Users\au121\Desktop\PYLIB', 'C:\Program Files (x86)\Python3\python36.zip',
'C:\Program Files (x86)\Python3\DLLs', 'C:\Program Files (x86)\Python3\lib', 'C:\Program Files (x86)\Python3', 'C:\Program Files (x86)\Python3\lib\site-packages']
>>>
```

Two parts of the command history are circled with red ovals: the command `set PYTHONPATH=C:\Users\au121\Desktop\PYLIB` and the command `import sys`. This visual cue highlights the sequence of events: first, the environment variable is set, and then the Python interpreter is run, which in turn imports the `sys` module and prints its path.

Setting PYTHONPATH from control panel

- Control panel > System > Advanced system settings > Environment Variables > User variables > Edit or New PYTHONPATH



name

double.py

```
""" Module double """

def f(x):
    """
    Some doc test code:

    >>> f(21)
    42
    >>> f(7)
    14
    """

    return 2*x

print('__name__ = ', __name__)
if __name__ == "__main__":
    import doctest
    doctest.testmod(verbose=True)
```

Python shell

```
| __name__ = __main__
...
2 passed and 0 failed.
Test passed.
```

using_double.py

```
import double
print(double.f(5))
```

Python shell

```
| __name__ = double
10
```

- The variable `__name__` contains the name of the module, or '`__main__`' if the file is run as the main file by the interpreter
- Can e.g. be used to test a module if the module is run independently

module `heapq` (Priority Queue)

- Implements a binary **heap** (Williams 1964).
- Stores a set of elements in a standard list, where arbitrary elements can be inserted efficiently and the smallest element can be extracted efficiently

`heapq.heappush`
`heapq.heappop`

heap.py

```
import heapq
from random import random

H = [] # a heap is just a list

for _ in range(10):
    heapq.heappush(H, random())

while True:
    x = heapq.heappop(H)
    print(x)
    heapq.heappush(H, x + random())
```

Python shell

```
| 0.20569933892764458
| 0.27057819339616174
| 0.31115615362876237
| 0.4841062272152259
| 0.5054280956005357
| 0.509387117524076
| 0.598647195480462
| 0.7035150735555027
| 0.7073929685826221
| 0.7091224012815325
| 0.714213496127318
| 0.727868481291271
| 0.8051275413759873
| 0.8279523767282903
| 0.8626022363202895
| 0.9376631236263869
```

```
> import this
```

```
| The Zen of Python, by Tim Peters
```

```
| Beautiful is better than ugly.
```

```
| Explicit is better than implicit.
```

```
| Simple is better than complex.
```

```
| Complex is better than complicated.
```

```
| Flat is better than nested.
```

```
| Sparse is better than dense.
```

```
| Readability counts.
```

```
| Special cases aren't special enough to break the rules.
```

```
| Although practicality beats purity.
```

```
| Errors should never pass silently.
```

```
| Unless explicitly silenced.
```

```
| In the face of ambiguity, refuse the temptation to guess.
```

```
| There should be one-- and preferably only one --obvious way to do it.
```

```
| Although that way may not be obvious at first unless you're Dutch.
```

```
| Now is better than never.
```

```
| Although never is often better than *right* now.
```

```
| If the implementation is hard to explain, it's a bad idea.
```

```
| If the implementation is easy to explain, it may be a good idea.
```

```
| Namespaces are one honking great idea -- let's do more of those!
```