

# COMP(2041|9044) 26T1 — Python Modules

<https://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs2041/26T1/>

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## Importing Code

```
>>> import math
>>> math.log(math.e)
1.0
>>> dir(math) # a module is itself an object
['__doc__', '__loader__', '__name__', '__package__', '__spec__', 'acos',
↳ 'acosh', 'asin', 'asinh', 'atan', 'atan2', 'atanh', 'cbrt', 'ceil',
↳ 'comb', 'copysign', 'cos', 'cosh', 'degrees', 'dist', 'e', 'erf', 'erfc',
↳ 'exp', 'exp2', 'expm1', 'fabs', 'factorial', 'floor', 'fmod', 'frexp',
↳ 'fsum', 'gamma', 'gcd', 'hypot', 'inf', 'isclose', 'isfinite', 'isinf',
↳ 'isnan', 'isqrt', 'lcm', 'ldexp', 'lgamma', 'log', 'log10', 'log1p',
↳ 'log2', 'modf', 'nan', 'nextafter', 'perm', 'pi', 'pow', 'prod',
↳ 'radians', 'remainder', 'sin', 'sinh', 'sqrt', 'tan', 'tanh', 'tau',
↳ 'trunc', 'ulp']
>>> help(math) # generated from docstrings
NAME
    math
DESCRIPTION
    This module provides access to the mathematical functions
    defined by the C standard.
```

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## Importing Code

Python module - a file containing function definitions and other Python.

```
import math # access names from math as math.name, e.g
↳ math.sin
from math import sin # access math.sin as sin
from math import sin as sine # access math.sin as sine
from math import * # access all names from math without prefix
↳ (avoid)
import math as m # access names from math as m.name, e.g m.sin
```

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## Finding Modules

Python module - a file containing function definitions and other Python.

**import** searches the current directory and a series of standard directories and zip files for modules. **sys.path** contains the list (you can append directories you also want searched).

```
>>> import sys
>>> sys.path
['', '/usr/lib/python39.zip', '/usr/lib/python3.9',
 ↪ '/usr/lib/python3.9/lib-dynload',
 '/usr/local/lib/python3.9/dist-packages', '/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages',
 '/usr/lib/python3.9/dist-packages']
```

environment variable **PYTHONPATH** added to **sys.path**

```
$ PYTHONPATH=/home/z1234657/modules python3
...
>>> sys.path
['', '/home/z1234657/modules', '/usr/lib/python311.zip',
 ↪ '/usr/lib/python3.11', ...]
```

## Namespaces

Python modules prevent accidental name collision when using modules from many sources

Python modules can control what names are exported by default (\*)

Beware - Python does not prevent deliberate access or changes to any part of a module. Even internal names (not exported) can be changed.

```
>>> import circle
>>> circle.area(radius=2)
12.566370614359172
>>> import math
>>> math.pi = 4
>>> circle.area(radius=2)
16
```

## Standard Modules

Python has over 200 [standard modules](#) available via an import statement.

We have already used:

```
import os
import re
import sys
import subprocess
```

Before writing code, look for existing code.

There are [over 800,000 packages](#) available on PyPI.

PyPI is the [Py]thon [P]ackage [I]ndex

PyPI is a website that allows you to search for and register your own packages.

Any packages listed on the index can be installed via `pip`.

## Packages

A package is a collection of files.

These files contains the source code of, and installation instructions for, one (or more) modules.

The most common format for python packages is called a wheel.

A wheel is basically just a `.zip` file that contains files in a specially crafted format.

Most of the time you don't need to worry about wheels (or other package types) as they are automatically downloaded and installed.

## pip

`pip` is the standard package manager for Python.

`pip` stands for [P]ip [I]nstalls [P]ackages.

`pip` can install any package on PyPI (and be configured to also search other repositories)

```
# To install a package, you can use the following command:
$ pip3 install <package_name>
# or
$ python3 -m pip install <package_name>

# You can also install a package from a local directory
$ pip3 install <package>.whl
# or from git:
$ pip3 install git+<package_url>

# pip also updates packages
$ pip3 install --upgrade <package_name>

# and uninstalls packages
$ pip3 uninstall <package_name>
```

## venv

By default Python installs packages system-wide, which even on a single-user system can create conflicts: Project A needs version X of a package and project B needs version Y of a package.

A virtual environment allows a package to be installed just for the project using them.

In Python a virtual environment is a directory that contains a copy of the Python interpreter.

It can be used to isolate your project from the rest of the system.

```
# create a virtual environment:
$ python3 -m venv <new_directory_name>
# then activate it
$ . <new_directory_name>/bin/activate
# or on Windows:
$ <new_directory_name>/Scripts/activate
```

Once activated, the python, python3, pip, etc commands will be run from within the virtual environment.

## versioning

Python packages should be versioned using [PEP440](#).

The full syntax for a PEP440 version is:

```
[N!]N(.N)*[a|b|rc]N[.postN][.devN]
```

most commonly only the  $N(.N)^*$  part is used.

This defines a version of format  $X.Y.Z$

Eg:

```
1.0.0
2.0
3.9.2
4.2
7.4.67.3.32
```

This is called a `final` release

It is most common to use three numbers `major.minor.micro` where

- the `major` version is incremented when there is a forward incompatible change
  - e.g removing a builtin function
- the `minor` version is incremented when there is a backward incompatible change
  - e.g adding a builtin function
- the `micro` version is incremented when there is a non-breaking change
  - e.g. fixing a bug

If any number isn't specified, it is assumed to be 0.

Eg, all the following are the same:

```
5.7
5.7.0
5.7.0.0
5.7.0.0.0
# etc
```

## version specifiers

version specifiers determine which version of a package to use.  
without a version specifier, any version (usually the latest) is used.

An exact version is specified by using the `==` operator.

A minimum version is specified by using the `>=` operator (or exclusively `>`).

A maximum version is specified by using the `<=` operator (or exclusively `<`).

A excluded version is specified by using the `!=` operator.

A strict version is specified by using the `===` operator.

A compatible version is specified by using the `~=` operator.

## version specifiers `==` vs `===`

`==` is used to specify an exact version.

`===` is used to specify a strict version.

`===` is essentially a string comparison.

where as `==` takes into account semantic information.

```
1.0 == 1.0.0 # True
1.0 === 1.0.0 # False
```

~= is used to specify a compatible version.

a compatible version of X.Y is  $\geq X.Y$ ,  $= X.*$

That is: the minor version is greater than or equal, and the major version is the same.

## version specifiers

multiple version specifiers can be used to restrict the version of a package.

```
~= 3.1.0, < 3.1.7, != 3.1.3
```

```
3.1.0
3.1.1
3.1.2
3.1.4
3.1.5
3.1.6
```

## version specifiers

version specifiers can be used with pip.

```
$ python3 -m pip install 'regex~=2022.7.0,>2022.7.23,!=2022.7.24'
```

by default, pip will install the latest version of a package.

It can be very annoying to keep track of all the packages you need to install.

So instead, we can put them in a file, conventionally called `requirements.txt`.

The `requirements.txt` file is a simple text file that contains a list of package to install.

These can either not have a version specifier.

ie. just a list of package.

Or they can have a version specifiers.

ie. when you want to replicate an environment.

## requirements.txt

```
requests
beautifulsoup4
regex
```

```
requests ~= 2.0.0, <= 2.25, != 2.26.0, != 2.27.1
beautifulsoup4 >= 5.4, < 5.10
regex ~= 2022.7.0, > 2022.7.23, != 2022.7.24
```

## requirements.txt

```
# `pip` can install package from a `requirements.txt` file directly.
$ pip3 install -r requirements.txt

# `pip` can generate a `requirements.txt` file with version specifiers.
$ pip3 freeze > requirements.txt
```

`pip freeze` gives you a list of *all* packages and their versions.

Even those that were not directly installed (indirect requirements).

This can clutter up your `requirements.txt` file.

So `pip` also supports a `constraints` file.

constraints.txt works exactly like requirements.txt  
except that a package in constraints.txt will only be installed if they are also in requirements.txt.

```
$ pip3 install -r requirements.txt -c constraints.txt
$ cat requirements.txt
requests
beautifulsoup4
regex
$ cat constraints.txt
beautifulsoup4==4.11.1
certifi==2022.6.15
charset-normalizer==2.1.0
idna==3.3
regex==2022.7.25
requests==2.28.1
soupsieve==2.3.2.post1
urllib3==1.26.11
```