

Lecture 3

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Modules

```
import sys

fname= sys.argv[1]
f1= open(fname,'r')
```

The **import** statement is used in order to tell Python to use a particular library while running the program (the **import** statement can also be used to use other Python programs too). The **import** statement is getting us the **sys** module, which is built-in. In order to access the functionalities in the **sys** module, we require **attributes**, (once you import a module, all the variables, tools, functions i.e. its *namespace* becomes available to the current program). The **argv** portion is the attribute.

The arguments listed on the system command line are served up by **sys.argv**. For example, the following short program will give us an output (note, the program is not running in interactive mode here).

```
#file: echo.py
import sys
print sys.argv

% python echo.py 23 4 k
['echo.py', '23', '4', 'k']
```

If we want the first argument of the command `python echo.py`, the slicing syntax `sys.argv[1]` will give us this output. In order to see the entire list of attributes for this module type

```
dir(sys)
```