

How to Use Downloaded Python Modules

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Save the modules

To use Python® modules downloaded from this site, you must save them where Python can find them, and you must import them into your program. For users with SPSS Statistics 17 or higher, you can save Python modules in the *extensions* directory under the SPSS Statistics installation directory. For example, on Windows and for version 19 this will typically be:

C:\Program Files\IBM\SPSS\Statistics\19\extensions

For instance, for the *paretochart* module, you would save *paretochart.py* as:

C:\Program Files\IBM\SPSS\Statistics\19\extensions\paretochart.py

Note for Mac users: For Mac, the installation directory refers to the *Contents* directory in the SPSS Statistics application bundle. For version 18 on Mac, however, we recommend to save Python modules to */Library/Application Support/SPSSInc/PASWStatistics/18/extensions*. And for version 19 and higher on Mac, we recommend to save Python modules to */Library/Application Support/IBM/SPSS/Statistics/<version>/extensions*, where *<version>* is the two digit IBM® SPSS® Statistics version—for example, 19.

As an alternative to the above locations, you can always save downloaded Python modules to a location on the Python search path, such as the Python *site-packages* directory. For example, on Windows and for Python 2.6, this will typically be:

C:\python26\Lib\site-packages

For instance, for the *paretochart* module, you would save *paretochart.py* as:

C:\python26\Lib\site-packages\paretochart.py

If you prefer to keep modules elsewhere, Python offers a number of options. A good description of the available options can be found in the section titled “A Proposal for Installing Packages” in the article [Built-in Package Support in Python](#).

Accessing module functions

To access the functions and methods in a module, you use the Python `import` statement in an SPSS Statistics `BEGIN PROGRAM` block. For example, to have access to the functions in the `paretochart` module, use:

```
BEGIN PROGRAM.  
import paretochart  
...  
END PROGRAM.
```

You only need to import a module once in an SPSS Statistics session, although it is harmless to import it again.

Getting help

To get help on the contents of a module (once it has been imported), enter a Python `help` statement in an SPSS Statistics `BEGIN PROGRAM` block. For example, to get help on the contents of the `paretochart` module, use:

```
BEGIN PROGRAM.  
help(paretochart)  
END PROGRAM.
```

You can also get help on a specific function or method in a module. For example, to get help on the `chart` function in the `paretochart` module, use:

```
BEGIN PROGRAM.  
help(paretochart.chart)  
END PROGRAM.
```

The help is displayed in the SPSS Statistics Viewer in Log items when you run the command syntax containing the Python help statement.

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