

NRAO Science Helpdesk

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Why can't I import Python modules from my current directory into CASA 5.1?

Paul Fisher - 2020-09-17 - CASA

Due to changes in the new version of IPython, CASA 5.1 no longer includes the current directory in the PYTHONPATH. In the previous versions of CASA, to import a file named "xxx.py" from the current directory, one would merely type in CASA:

```
import xxx
```

That no longer works because the current directory is not searched as a possible location for Python files. So, you must now add the current directory to the PYTHONPATH. This may be done by including in your `.casa/init.py` file a line calling the `sys.path.append()` function with **two single quote characters** (*not* a double quotation mark) as the argument:
`sys.path.append('')`

Alternatively, after starting CASA, one could simply issue a command to update the path by typing

```
import sys
sys.path = [''] + sys.path
```

where the characters within the brackets are again two single quotes representing the empty string, which means "current directory" to Python.