

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
6.01—Introduction to EECS I
Spring Semester, 2008

PS 5 Addendum to Question 20

The short story Where PS 5 says to use `SystemFunctionSkeleton.py` as the starting point for Question 20, instead use `SystemFunctionHomework.py`. Do not rename this file, download it from the course Calendar web page and put it in your `lab5` directory. You can edit the `SystemFunctionHomework.py` file; you should also place your test cases in this file. Do `Run Module` from Idle on this file each time you change your code and want to test it.

The long story We gave you a completed version of the `SystemFunction` class as a Python “compiled” binary file, called `SystemFunction.pyc`. The `pyc` file extension indicates that it is compiled (and unreadable). When you did:

```
from SystemFunction import *
```

during lab, you were getting the class definitions from that file.

One problem is that if you create your own `SystemFunction.py` file, then next time you import it into Python, Python will create a new `SystemFunction.pyc` file, overwriting the one we gave you. So, please **don't** rename the `SystemFunctionHomework.py` file or you run the risk of overwriting the file we gave you.

You may also be wondering why we asked you to during lab create a short file with a single import in it and to do `Run Module` on that file? The issue is that Python imports files from the folder that it is “connected” to, usually the one that you started it from. However, on PCs if you double click some icon to start Idle (or even if you double click a file), then Python might not know what directory it's supposed to be connected to.

In most labs, you are editing the source file for a function or class and you simply `Run Module` when you change your code and want to test it. However, in this lab, we wanted you to use the class methods in `SystemFunction.pyc` when you didn't have the source file. The empty file with the import at the top, placed in the correct directory, will make sure that the right files get loaded when you do `Run Module` on it.

Hope this helps...