

# USER DEFINED FRUITFUL FUNCTIONS

COMP130 – INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING  
DICKINSON COLLEGE

## VOID (FRUITLESS?) VS FRUITFUL FUNCTIONS

- All functions *encapsulate a useful unit of work*:

- **Void (fruitless) functions** do something useful.
  - `print('John Von Neuman')`
  - `bob.forward(100)`
  - `sue.left(90)`
  - `print_horiz_bar(9)`
  - `print_I(9)`
- **Fruitful functions** compute a useful value.
  - `name_length = len("Ada Lovelace")`
  - `month_num = random.randint(1,12)`
  - `adj_len = hyp_len * math.cos(math.radians(angle_deg))`
  - `year = int(input("Enter the year"))`

## DEFINING A FRUITFUL FUNCTION

- Fruitful functions contain a **return statement** that indicates the **return value** of the function.

```
def cylinder_volume(radius, height):  
    area = math.pi * radius**2  
    volume = area * height  
    return volume
```

Return  
Statement

Return  
Value

```
def cylinder_volume(radius, height):  
    return math.pi * radius**2 * height
```

## BOOLEAN FUNCTIONS

- A **Boolean function** is a fruitful function that returns either True or False

```
def is_weekend(day_name):  
    if (day_name == 'Saturday' or day_name == 'Sunday'):  
        return True  
    else:  
        return False
```

Return  
Statement

Boolean  
Return  
Value

```
def is_weekend(day_name):  
    return day_name == 'Saturday' or day_name == 'Sunday'
```

## DEAD CODE

- Function execution stops as soon as a `return` statement is executed.
- This can result in **dead code**, or statements that can never be executed.

```
def is_weekend(day_name):  
    if (day_name == 'Saturday' or day_name == 'Sunday'):  
        return True  
        print("Dead code!")  
    else:  
        print("Not dead code!")  
        return False  
        print("Dead code!")  
    print("Dead code!")
```

Dead Code