Introduction to Computer Programming

1.2 Variables

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Variables

- We need a way to store and use values, e.g. numbers, within a program
- We can *assign* a value to a variable.
- The `print` function displays whatever is between the parenthses `(...)`

In [37]:

```python
A = 1
print(A)
```

1

In [8]:

```python
A = 1.0
B = 4.0
```

True

In [4]:

```python
A, B = 1.0, 4.0
```

Data Types

Every variable has a type (`int` , `float` , `string` ....).

Basic Data Types (not exhaustive)

- `int` integer
- `float` floating point number (number with decimal point)
- `str` string: text data enclosed within quotation marks
  e.g. `'text'` or `"text"`
  (including number represented as text data)
- `bool` boolean: True or False

A type is automatically assigned when a variable is created.

Python's `type()` function returns the type of a variable within the parentheses `(...)` .

Example: Create some variables and display their type

In [39]:

```python
A = 1
print(A, type(A))

B = 1.0
print(B, type(B))

C = '1'
print(C, type(C))

D = True
print(D, type(D))
```

```
1 <class 'int'>
1.0 <class 'float'>
1 <class 'str'>
True <class 'bool'>
```

Casting

The data type of a variable can be converted by *casting* (`int(variable_name)` , `float(variable_name)` ....) **Example:** Convert from a floating point number to an integer

In [26]:

```python
B = 1.0
E = int(B)
print(E, type(E))
```

```
1 <class 'int'>
```

Arithmetic Operators

Python can be used like a calculator.

Arithmetic operators (+, -, /, * ....) are used with numeric values to perform common mathematical operations.

Operators are listed ib order of operator precedence

```
**        Exponent
*         Multiplication
/         Division
//        Floor division (round down to the next integer)
%         Modulo  a % b = a - b * (a // b)  (remainder)
+         Addition
-         Subtraction
```

Example: Find the area of a circle with diameter 2 metres
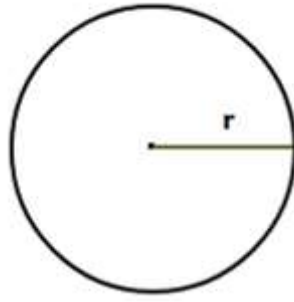
$$A = \pi r^2$$

In [3]:

```
pi = 3.142

r = 2

A = pi * r ** 2

print(A, 'm2')
```

12.568 m2

Arithmetic operators - a word of warning!

Question: What will the output of the following code be?

```
A = 2
B = '2'

print(A + A)

print(A + B)

print(B + B)
```

```
A = 2
B = '2'
```

Answer: Numbers represented as strings are not recognised as numerical values. Arithmetic Operators behave differently on numerical and non-numerical values.

```
print(A + A)
```

```
2
```

```
print(A + B)
```

> Error.
> Cannot add numerical and non-numerical value

```
print(A + A)
```

> 22
> Adding string (text) data connect the two strings

In [43]:

```python
A = 2

B = '2'

print (A + A)

# print (A + B) # generates an error

print (B + B) # strings are connected using +
```

```
4
22
```

Comments:
Comment are notes in the program that are not be run as code.
The hash # symbol is used to add a *comment* to a line of code.

When you complete the in-class exercises today you can choose to:

- save your answers to each exercise as separate .py (Python) files
- *comment out* some of your code to allow you to store it all in one file, but only run certain (*uncommented*) blocks of code

Strings

Strings behave differently from numerical data.

We can return the Nth character(s) of a string with string[N] :

```python
x = 'Hello'

print(x[0])    # first letter

print(x[4])    # last letter
print(x[-1])

print(x[0:3]) # first 3 letters
print(x[:3])

print(x[2:5])   # last three letters
print(x[2:])
print(x[-3:])
```
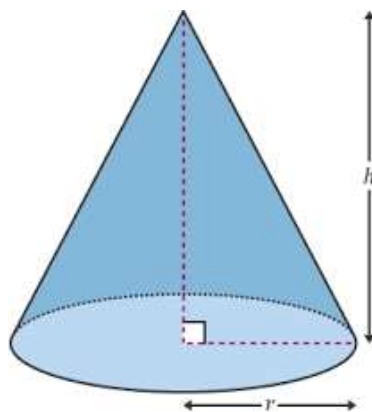
```
H
o
o
Hel
Hel
llo
llo
llo
```

In-class Demos

Example 1: Find the volume of a cone.

Base radius = 2 cm
Height = 10 cm

Volume of a cone: $V = \frac{Ah}{3}$
where $A = $ base area

```python
pi = 3.142
r = 2
h = 10

A = pi * r ** 2   # (cm2)

# A can now be used as a variable in other equations

V = A * h / 3     # (cm3)

print(V, 'cm3')
```

41.89333333333333 cm3

Example 2: Create a varibale `Name` and assign it a `string` value.
Use the variable to print the output: `My name is` followed by the value of `Name`. e.g.

```
My name is Hemma
```

```python
Name = 'Hemma'

print('My name is ' + Name)
```

My name is Hemma