

Module 1: Functions and Organization

Topic 2.2: Guidelines for Functions

Function Naming

- Give functions a good name
 - Behavior can be understood at a glance
 - Parameter naming counts too

```
func ProcessArray (a []int)
    float {}
func ComputeRMS (samples
    []float) float {}
```

- RMS = Root Mean Square
- `samples` is a slice of samples of a time-varying signal

Functional Cohesion

- Function should perform **only one “operation”**
- An “operation” depends on the context
- Example: Geometry application
- Good functions:
 - `PointDist()`, `DrawCircle()`, `TriangleArea()`
- Merging behaviors makes code complicated
 - `DrawCircle()` + `TriangleArea()`

Few Parameters

- Debugging requires tracing function input data
- More difficult with a large number of parameters
- Function may have bad functional cohesion
 - `DrawCircle()` and `TriangleArea()` require different arguments

Reducing Parameter Number

- May need to group related arguments into structures
 - `TriangleArea()`, bad solution
 - 3 points needed to define triangle
 - Each point has 3 floats (in 3D)
 - Total, 9 arguments
 - `TriangleArea()`, good solution
- ```
type Point struct{x, y, z float}
```
- Total, 3 arguments