

# Functions

- Functions are similar to subroutines in that they allow you to create your own procedures. (in most other languages, functions + subroutines are the same thing).
- Functions also:
  - 1) Are used differently from subroutines
  - 2) are constructed slightly differently
  - 3) have some "extra baggage" when using them

## - Motivation

- Functions are more flexible in certain cases.
  - The output of a function can be sent directly as the input to another function or dummy argument to a subroutine.  
( can be used in line ).
-

## Differences

### Subroutine

- can change none, some or all of the dummy arguments
- outputs can be any type and be scalars or arrays. Can have multiple outputs.
- invoked by the CALL statement

### Function

- can't change any of the dummy arguments (ie, they all have INTENT(IN))
- can only have a single scalar output
- invoked by an assignment (=)

## Subroutine

- Does not have a type
- Doesn't have to be declared
- any procedure can always be programmed as a subroutine

## Function

- must have a type (integer, double precision)
- must be declared by any routine that references it directly

These are responsible for the "extra baggage" in using a function

- ⊗ - only processes that return a single scalar can be programmed as a function

If your procedure satisfies ⊗ and does not change any dummy arguments, you can elect to program it as a function instead of a subroutine.

See factfun and binfun programs on website for more information on using (constructing functions).