

Easily Making CheatSheets with Org-mode

—Reference Sheet for “What I’m Currently Learning”—

Hello, World!

Pretty PDF Enter `M-x compile` to produce a nice looking PDF of your reference sheet.

- ◊ I’ve bound this command to `C-c C-m` in my Emacs setup ;-)
- My Emacs configuration also documents how I utilise ‘minted’ to obtain colourful source code blocks.

Section Headers A usual Org header, say `* my section`, results in the boxed headers used in this cheat sheet.

Parallel Environments The \LaTeX matter here supports an org-environment named `parallel` for producing text side-by-side.

The column break is automatic, but as this is sugar for a `minipage` containing a `multicolumn` we can force a column separation with `\columnbreak`: This command, in Org, necessities newlines between the items being separated.

To learn more, manipulating this source is the way to go!

Also, opening this file produces a `README.md` ;-)

Which can then be regenerated on-demand with `f11`.

CheatSheet Examples

Reference sheets created from this project include,

ElispCheatSheet Quick reference to the core language of Emacs —Editor MACroS.

Islam Important figures in the faith.

PrologCheatSheet Program where everything is a relation —i.e., a database table.

CatsCheatSheet Listing of common theorems in elementary category theory.

LatticesCheatSheet Reference sheet for definitions and results in Lattice Theory.

OCamlCheatSheet Basics of OCaml, “the best imperative language”.

CoqCheatSheet Reference sheet for the Coq language.

GojuRyuCheatSheet A quick cheat sheet for common terms in Goju Ryu Karate —the hard-soft style of karate.

If you use this org-setup to produce a neat cheat sheet, please let me know!

Why Learn & Relearn?

The world of ideas is not revealed to us in one stroke; we must both permanently and unceasingly recreate it in our consciousness. —Rene Thom

Getting Started

The steps to utilising this git project for your own cheat sheet may be:

1. Go to the repo where you want to make a cheat sheet.
2. Add this project as a submodule then copy its core to where you’re working:

```
git submodule add https://github.com/alhassy/CheatSheet.git
; cp CheatSheet/CheatSheet.org .
; cp CheatSheet/README.org .
```

3. Open `CheatSheet.org` and locate `#+INCLUDE: CheatSheetSetup.org` then rewrite `CheatSheetSetup.org` → `CheatSheet/CheatSheetSetup.org`.

I don’t think this is difficult to automate, so I will likely get to doing it. Indeed, just copy-paste the following into, say the `*scratch*` buffer then `C-x C-e` after the final closing parenthesis.

```
(let ((your-repo "~/example") ;; Alter this location!
      (enable-local-variables :all))
  ;; Look at my “local variables” below; ensure nothing malicious.
  ;; So no need to be queried about loading them.

  ;; Obtain the submodule then make a /copy/ of this cheatsheet.
  (eshell-command (concat
    " cd " your-repo
    "; git submodule add https://github.com/alhassy/CheatSheet.git"
    "; cp CheatSheet/CheatSheet.org ."
  ))

  ;; Make your cheat sheet refer to the submodule’s setup file.
  (find-file-other-window (concat your-repo "/CheatSheet.org"))
  (beginning-of-buffer)
  (re-search-forward "INCLUDE: CheatSheetSetup.org" nil t)
  (replace-match "INCLUDE: CheatSheet/CheatSheetSetup.org")
  (beginning-of-buffer)
)
```

```
;; To remove a submodule:
;; git submodule deinit path_to_submodule ; git rm path_to_submodule
```

For the `README.md` to be generated as desired, fill in the macros `URL` and `blurb` at the top of this org file to point to your repository and provide a description of what the cheatsheet serves to accomplish.

What if it’s not good enough?

“The person who thinks of doing something, is usually passed by the person doing it.”

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go. —Dr. Seuss

Org-mode Basics

- Read [Org-mode for beginners](#) for a refresher!
◊ For more see [The Compact Org-mode Guide](#).

Reloading To reload a file with updated org settings, press `C-c C-c` on a settings line –i.e., one beginning with a `#+`, to reset the temporary file cache.

Inclusion During export, you can include the content of another file.

- ◊ Syntax: `#+INCLUDE: "<fileName>" [(markup) [(language)]]`
 - `markup ::= src | example`
 - `language ::= C | haskell | emacs-lisp | ...`
 - If the markup is not given, the text will be assumed to be in Org mode format and will be processed normally; c.f., [Setup files](#).
- ◊ To visit the file, `C-c '` while the cursor is on the line with the file name.
- ◊ Include only portions of a file by appending with `:lines "x-y"` where `x` is the first line and `y` is the second-to-last line. Also `"-y"` for upto but not including line `y`, and `"x-"` for taking line `x` until the end of the file.

Basic Equational Support

Basic name-formula equational support. `\eqn{name}{formula}` yields a displayed equation with `formula` left aligned and `name` right aligned:

$$\text{formula} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{NAME}$$
$$F(f_0 \circ \dots \circ f_{n-1}) = F f_0 \circ \dots \circ F f_{n-1} \qquad \text{FUNCTORIALITY}$$

Moreover, we can refer to such a formula by invoking `\ref{name}` –e.g., `FUNCTORIALITY` and `NAME`. However, if `name` involves unicode symbols, then this may cause problems.

See the [CatsCheatSheet](#) for examples of this kind.

What if I want 3 columns?

At the top, say after the `#+INCLUDE: CheatSheet/CheatSheetSetup.org` line, add a new section:

```
* begin multicols :ignore:
#+latex: \begin{multicols}{3}
```

Then at the very bottom, add a section to close this multicol:

```
* end multicols :ignore:
#+latex: \end{multicols}
```

Having three narrow columns is useful for term-heavy or formula heavy sheets.

Parallel Environment

Cheat sheets should not waste space, so the setup provides a `parallel` L^AT_EX enviornment that takes an optional parameter indicating how many columns are desired —two by default. Importantly, we use this environment as if it were any normal org-block:

```
.,#
#+begin_parallel org
???content here???
#+end_parallel
```

The initial new line is important, otherwise the parallel environment occurs inline, which may not be the intended behaviour.

Below we demonstrate that [loops implement finite quantifications](#) by showing how the specification of a loop is implemented, unsurprisingly, using a loop. I tend to use a lot of unicode.

A finite quantification can be defined axiomatically by the empty-range rule and split-off term rules. Together these form a recursive definition which can be phrased as a loop.

```
// For ⊕_ : T → T → T,
// fold(A,a,b) ≈ (⊕ x : a..b-1 • A[x])
/*@ axiomatic Fold {
  @
  @ logic T
  @ fold{L}(T *A, ℤ a, ℤ b)
  @ reads a,b,A, A[..] ;
  @
  @ axiom foldEmptyRange{L} :
  @   ∀ T *A, ℤ a, b; a ≥ b
  @   ⇒ fold(A,a,b) == identity(⊕);
  @
  @ axiom foldSplitOffTerm{L} :
  @   ∀ T *A, ℤ a, b; a ≤ b
  @   ⇒ fold(A, a, b+1)
  @     == fold(A, a, b ) ⊕ A[b];
  @ }
  @*/
/* requires \valid(A+(0..N-1));
   @ assigns \nothing;
   @ ensures \result == fold(A,0,N);
   @*/
T fold(int N, T* A) {
  T total = identity(⊕);

  /* loop invariant 0 ≤ n ≤ N;
   @ loop invariant total == fold(A,0,n);
   @ loop assigns n, total;
   @ loop variant N-n;
   */
  for(int n = 0; n != N; n++)
    total = total ⊕ A[n];
  return total;
}
```

This pseudo-code is reified by giving concrete values for $(T, \oplus, \text{identity})$ such as $(\text{int}, +, 0)$ or $(\text{bool}, ||, \text{false})$. Any monoid will do.

`parallelNB` produces a side-by-side rendition with ‘N’o ‘B’ar:

left		right
left		right
left		right

Here is an example with four columns:

left	middle	middle	right
left	middle	middle	right
left	middle	middle	right

Here is an example with three columns and ‘n’o ‘b’ar:

left	middle	right
left	middle	right
left	middle	right