

Hyperpolyglot

Computer Algebra I: Mathematica, SymPy, Sage, Maxima

a side-by-side reference sheet

sheet one: [grammar and invocation](#) | [variables and expressions](#) | [arithmetic and logic](#) | [strings](#) | [arrays](#) | [sets](#) | [arithmetic sequences](#) | [dictionaries](#) | [functions](#) | [execution control](#) | [exceptions](#) | [streams](#) | [files](#) | [directories](#) | [libraries and namespaces](#) | [reflection](#)

sheet two: [symbolic expressions](#) | [calculus](#) | [equations and unknowns](#) | [optimization](#) | [vectors](#) | [matrices](#) | [combinatorics](#) | [number theory](#) | [polynomials](#) | [trigonometry](#) | [special functions](#) | [permutations](#) | [descriptive statistics](#) | [distributions](#) | [statistical tests](#)

[bar charts](#) | [scatter plots](#) | [line charts](#) | [surface charts](#) | [chart options](#)

	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
version used	10.0	Python 2.7; SymPy 0.7	6.10	5.37
show version	<i>select About Mathematica in Mathematica menu</i>	<code>sympy.__version__</code>	<code>\$ sage --version</code> <i>also displayed on worksheet</i>	<code>\$ maxima --version</code>
implicit prologue		<code>from sympy import *</code> <code># enable LaTeX rendering in Jupyter notebook:</code> <code>init_printing()</code> <code># unknown variables must be declared:</code> <code>x, y = symbols('x y')</code>	<code># unknowns other than x must be declared:</code> <code>y = var('y')</code>	
grammar and invocation				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
interpreter	<code>\$ cat > hello.m</code> <code>Print["Hello, World!"]</code> <code>\$ MathKernel -script hello.m</code>	<i>if foo.py imports sympy:</i> <code>\$ python foo.py</code>	<code>\$ cat > hello.sage</code> <code>print("Hello, World!")</code> <code>\$ sage hello.sage</code>	<code>\$ cat >> hello.max</code> <code>print("Hello, world!");</code> <code>\$ maxima -b hello.maxima</code>
repl	<code>\$ MathKernel</code>	<code>\$ python</code> <code>>>> from sympy import *</code>	<code>\$ sage</code>	<code>\$ maxima</code>
block delimiters	<code>(stmt; ...)</code>	<code>: and offside rule</code>	<code>: and offside rule</code>	<code>block([x: 3, y: 4], x + y);</code> <code>/* Multiple stmts are separated by commas; a list of assignments can be used to set variables local to the block. */</code>
statement separator	<code>; or sometimes newline</code> <i>A semicolon suppresses echoing value of previous expression.</i>	<i>newline or ;</i> <i>newlines not separators inside (), [], {}, triple quote literals, or after backslash: \</i>	<i>newline or ;</i> <i>newlines not separators inside (), [], {}, triple quote literals, or after backslash: \</i>	<code>; or \$</code> <i>The dollar sign \$ suppresses output.</i>
end-of-line comment	<i>none</i>	<code>1 + 1 # addition</code>	<code>1 + 1 # addition</code>	<i>none</i>
multiple line comment	<code>1 + (* addition *) 1</code>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	<code>1 + /* addition */ 1;</code>
variables and expressions				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
assignment	<code>a = 3</code> <code>Set[a, 3]</code> <i>(* rhs evaluated each time a is accessed: *)</i> <code>a := x + 3</code> <code>SetDelayed[a, x + 3]</code>	<code>a = 3</code>	<code>a = 3</code>	<code>a: 3;</code>
parallel assignment	<code>{a, b} = {3, 4}</code> <code>Set[{a, b}, {3, 4}]</code>	<code>a, b = 3, 4</code>	<code>a, b = 3, 4</code>	<code>[a, b]: [3, 4]</code>
compound assignment	<code>+= -= *= /=</code> <i>corresponding functions:</i> <code>AddTo SubtractFrom TimeBy DivideBy</code>	<code>+= -= *= /= //= % = ^= **=</code>	<code>+= -= *= /= //= % = **=</code>	<i>none</i>
increment and decrement	<code>++x --x</code> <code>PreIncrement[x] PreDecrement[x]</code> <code>x++ x--</code> <code>Increment[x] Decrement[x]</code>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>
non-referential identifier	<i>any unassigned identifier is non-referential</i>	<code>x, y, z, w = symbols('x y z w')</code>	<code>y, z, w = var('y z w')</code> <code># x is non-referential unless assigned a value</code>	<i>any unassigned identifier is non-referential</i>
identifier as value	<code>x = 3</code> <code>y = HoldForm[x]</code>			<code>x: 3;</code> <code>y: 'x;</code>

global variable	<i>variables are global by default</i>	g1, g2 = 7, 8 def swap_globals(): global g1, g2 g1, g2 = g2, g1	g1, g2 = 7, 8 def swap_globals(): global g1, g2 g1, g2 = g2, g1	<i>variables are global by default</i>
local variable	Module[{x = 3, y = 4}, Print[x + y]] (* makes x and y read-only: *) With[{x = 3, y = 4}, Print[x + y]] (* Block[] declares dynamic scope *)	<i>assignments inside functions are to local variables by default</i>	<i>assignments inside functions are to local variables by default</i>	block([x: 3, y: 4], print(x + y));
null	Null	None	None	<i>no null value</i>
null test	x == Null	x is None	x is None	<i>no null value</i>
undefined variable access	<i>treated as an unknown number</i>	raises NameError	raises NameError	<i>treated as an unknown number</i>
remove variable binding	Clear[x] Remove[x]	del x	del x	kill(x);
conditional expression	If[x > 0, x, -x]	x if x > 0 else -x	x if x > 0 else -x	if x < 0 then -x else x;
arithmetic and logic				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
true and false	True False	True False	True False	true false
falsehoods	False	False 0 0.0	False None 0 0.0 '' [] {}	
logical operators	! True (True && False) Or[Not[True], And[True, False]]	Or(Not(True), And(True, False)) # when arguments are symbols: ~ x (y & z)		and or not
relational expression	1 < 2			is(1 < 2);
relational operators	== != > < >= <= <i>corresponding functions:</i> Equal Unequal Greater Less GreaterEqual LessEqual	Eq Ne Gt Lt Ge Le # when arguments are symbols: == != > < >= <=	== != > < >= <=	= # > < >= <=
arithmetic operators	+ - * / Quotient Mod <i>adjacent terms are multiplied, so * is not necessary. Quotient and Mod are functions, not binary infix operators. These functions are also available:</i> Plus Subtract Times Divide	+ - * / ?? % <i>if an expression contains a symbol, then the above operators are rewritten using the following classes:</i> Add Mul Pow Mod	+ - * / // %	+ - * / quotient() mod() <i>quotient and mod are functions, not binary infix operators.</i>
integer division	Quotient[a, b]		7 // 3	quotient(7, 3);
integer division by zero	<i>dividend is zero:</i> Indeterminate <i>otherwise:</i> ComplexInfinity		<i>raises ZeroDivisionError</i>	<i>error</i>
float division	<i>exact division:</i> a / b			a / b
float division by zero	<i>dividend is zero:</i> Indeterminate <i>otherwise:</i> ComplexInfinity			<i>error</i>
power	2 ^ 32 Power[2, 32]	2 ** 32 Pow(2, 32)	2 ^ 32 2 ** 32	2 ^ 32; 2 ** 32;
sqrt	<i>returns symbolic expression:</i> Sqrt[2]	sqrt(2)	sqrt(2)	sqrt(2);
sqrt-1	I	I	I	%i
transcendental functions	Exp Log Sin Cos Tan ArcSin ArcCos ArcTan ArcTan <i>ArcTan accepts 1 or 2 arguments</i>	exp log sin cos tan asin acos atan atan2	exp log sin cos tan asin acos atan atan2	exp log sin cos tan asin acos atan atan2
transcendental constants <i>π and Euler's number</i>	Pi E EulerGamma	pi E	pi e euler_gamma	%pi %e %gamma

float truncation round towards zero, round to nearest integer, round down, round up	IntegerPart Round Floor Ceiling	floor ceiling	int round floor ceil	truncate round floor ceiling
absolute value and signum	Abs Sign	Abs sign	abs sign	abs sign sign returns pos, neg, or zero
integer overflow	none, has arbitrary length integer type	none, has arbitrary length integer type	none, has arbitrary length integer type	none, has arbitrary length integer type
float overflow	none			none
rational construction	2 / 7	Mul(2, Pow(7, -1)) Rational(2, 7)	2 / 7	2 / 7
rational decomposition	Numerator[2 / 7] Denominator[2 / 7]	numer, denom = fraction(Rational(2, 7))	numerator(2 / 7) denominator(2 / 7)	num(2 / 7); denom(2 / 7);
decimal approximation	N[2 / 7] 2 / 7 + 0. 2 / 7 // N N[2 / 7, 100]	N(Rational(2, 7)) N(Rational(2, 7), 100)	n(2 / 7) n(2 / 7, 100) # synonyms for n: N(2 / 7) numerical_approx(2 / 7)	2 / 7, numer;
complex construction	1 + 3I	1 + 3 * I	1 + 3 * I	1 + 3 * %i;
complex decomposition real and imaginary part, argument and modulus, conjugate	Re Im Arg Abs Conjugate	re im Abs arg conjugate	(3 + I).real() (3 + I).imag() abs(3 + I) arg(3 + I) (3 + I).conjugate()	realpart imagpart cabs carg conjugate
random number uniform integer, uniform float	RandomInteger[{0, 99}] RandomReal[]			random(100); random(1.0);
random seed set, get	SeedRandom[17] ??			set_random_state(make_random_state(17)); ??
bit operators	BitAnd[5, 1] BitOr[5, 1] BitXor[5, 1] BitNot[5] BitShiftLeft[5, 1] BitShiftRight[5, 1]			none
binary, octal, and hex literals	2^^101010 8^^52 16^^2a			ibase: 2; 101010; ibase: 8; 52; /* If first hex digit is a letter, prefix a zero: */ ibase: 16; 2a;
radix	BaseForm[42, 7] BaseForm[7^^60, 10]			obase: 7; 42;
to array of digits	(* base 10: *) IntegerDigits[1234] (* base 2: *) IntegerDigits[1234, 2]			
strings				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
string literal	"don't say \"no\""	use Python strings	use Python strings	"don't say \"no\""
newline in literal	yes			Newlines are inserted into strings by continuing the string on the next line. However, if the last character on a line inside a string is a backslash, the backslash and the following newline are omitted.
literal escapes	\\ \" \b \f \n \r \t \ooo			\" \\
concatenate	"one " <> "two " <> "three"			concat("one ", "two ", "three");

translate case	ToUpperCase["foo"] ToLowerCase["F00"]			supcase("foo"); sdowncase("F00");
trim	StringTrim[" foo "]			strim(" ", " foo ");
number to string	"value: " <> ToString[8]			concat("value: ", 8);
string to number	7 + ToExpression["12"] 73.9 + ToExpression[".037"]			7 + parse_string("12"); 73.9 + parse_string(".037"); /* parse_string raises error if the string does not contain valid Maxima code. Use numberp predicate to verify that the return value is numeric. */
string.join	StringJoin[Riffle[{"foo", "bar", "baz"}, ","]]			simplode(["foo", "bar", "baz"], ",");
split	StringSplit["foo,bar,baz", ","]			split("foo,bar,baz", ",");
substitute <i>first occurrence, all occurrences</i>	s = "do re mi mi" re = RegularExpression["mi"] StringReplace[s, re -> "ma", 1] StringReplace[s, re -> "ma"]			ssubst("mi", "ma", "do re mi mi mi"); ssubstfirst("mi", "ma", "do re mi mi mi");
length	StringLength["hello"]			slength("hello");
index of substring	StringPosition["hello", "el"][[1]][[1]] (* The index of the first character is 1. *) (* StringPosition returns an array of pairs, one for each occurrence of the substring. Each pair contains the index of the first and last character of the occurrence. *)			sssearch("el", "hello"); /* 1 is index of first character; returns false if substring not found */ _
extract substring	(* "el": *) StringTake["hello", {2, 3}]			substring("hello", 2, 4);
character literal	<i>none</i>			<i>none</i>
character lookup	Characters["hello"][[1]]			
chr and ord	FromCharacterCode[{65}] ToCharacterCode["A"][[1]]			ascii(65); cint("A");
delete characters	rules = {"a" -> "", "e" -> "", "i" -> "", "o" -> "", "u" -> ""} StringReplace["disemvowel me", rules]			
arrays				
mathematica		sympy	sage	maxima
literal	{1, 2, 3} List[1, 2, 3]	use Python lists	use Python lists	[1, 2, 3];
size	Length[{1, 2, 3}]			length([1, 2, 3]);
lookup	(* access time is O(1) *) (* indices start at one: *) {1, 2, 3}[[1]] Part[{1, 2, 3}, 1]			a: [6, 7, 8]; a[1];
update	a[[1]] = 7			a[1]: 7;
out-of-bounds behavior	<i>left as unevaluated Part[] expression</i>			<i>Error for both lookup and update.</i>
element index	(* Position returns list of all positions: *) First /@ Position[{7, 8, 9, 9}, 9]			a: [7, 8, 9, 9]; first(sublist_indices(a, lambda([x], x = 9)));
slice	{1, 2, 3}[[1 ;; 2]]			
array of integers as index	(* evaluates to {7, 9, 9} *) {7, 8, 9}[[{1, 3, 3}]]			
manipulate back	a = {6,7,8} AppendTo[a, 9] elem = a[[Length[a]]] a = Delete[a, Length[a]] elem			
manipulate front	a = {6, 7, 8} PrependTo[a, 5]			a: [6, 7, 8]; push(5, a);

	elem = a[[1]] a = Delete[a, 1] elem			elem: pop(a);
head	First[{1, 2, 3}]			first([1, 2, 3]);
tail	Rest[{1, 2, 3}]			rest([1, 2, 3]);
cons	(* first arg must be an array *) Prepend[{2, 3}, 1]			cons(1, [2, 3]);
concatenate	Join[{1, 2, 3}, {4, 5, 6}]			append([1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 6]);
replicate	tenZeros = Table[0, {i, 0, 9}]			ten_zeros: makelist(0, 10);
copy	a2 = a			a2: copylist(a);
iterate	Do[Print[i], {i, {1, 2, 3}}]			for i in [1, 2, 3] do print(i);
reverse	Reverse[{1, 2, 3}]			reverse([1, 2, 3]);
sort	(* original list not modified: *) a = Sort[{3, 1, 4, 2}]			sort([3, 1, 4, 2]);
dedupe	DeleteDuplicates[{1, 2, 2, 3}]			unique([1, 2, 2, 3]);
membership	MemberQ[{1, 2, 3}, 2]			member(7, {1, 2, 3}); evalb(7 in {1, 2, 3});
map	Map[Function[x, x x], {1, 2, 3}] Function[x, x x] /@ {1, 2, 3} (* if function has Listable attribute, Map is unnecessary: *) sqr[x_] := x * x SetAttributes[sqr, Listable] sqr[{1, 2, 3, 4}]			map(lambda([x], x * x), [1, 2, 3]);
filter	Select[{1, 2, 3}, # > 2 &]			sublist([1, 2, 3], lambda([x], x > 2));
reduce	Fold[Plus, 0, {1, 2, 3}]			
universal and existential tests	none			
min and max element	Min[{6, 7, 8}] Max[{6, 7, 8}]			apply(min, [6, 7, 8]); apply(max, [6, 7, 8]);
shuffle and sample	x = {3, 7, 5, 12, 19, 8, 4} RandomSample[x] RandomSample[x, 3]			
flatten one level, completely	Flatten[{1, {2, {3, 4}}}, 1] Flatten[{1, {2, {3, 4}}}]			/* completely: */ flatten([1, [2, [3, 4]]]);
zip	(* list of six elements: *) Riffle[{1, 2, 3}, {"a", "b", "c"}] (* list of lists with two elements: *) Inner[List, {1, 2, 3}, {"a", "b", "c"}, List] (* same as Dot[{1, 2, 3}, {2, 3, 4}]: *) Inner[Times, {1, 2, 3}, {2, 3, 4}, Plus]			/* list of six elements: */ join([1, 2, 3], ["a", "b", "c"]);
cartesian product	Outer[List, {1, 2, 3}, {"a", "b", "c"}]			
sets				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
literal	(* same as arrays: *) {1, 2, 3}	{1, 2, 3}	{1, 2, 3}	{1, 2, 3}
size	Length[{1, 2, 3}]	len([1, 2, 3])	len([1, 2, 3])	cardinality([1, 2, 3]);
array to set	DeleteDuplicates[{1, 2, 2, 3}]	set([1, 2, 3])	set([1, 2, 3])	setify([1, 2, 3]);
set to array	none; sets are arrays	list([1, 2, 3])	list([1, 2, 3])	listify([1, 2, 3]);
membership test	MemberQ[{1, 2, 3}, 7]	7 in {1, 2, 3}	7 in {1, 2, 3}	elementp(7, {1, 2, 3});
subset test	SubsetQ[{1, 2, 3}, {1, 2}]	{1, 2} <= {1, 2, 3} {1, 2}.issubset([1, 2, 3])	{1, 2} <= {1, 2, 3} {1, 2}.issubset([1, 2, 3])	subsetq([1, 2], {1, 2, 3});

		<code>{1, 2, 3} >= {1, 2}</code> <code>{1, 2, 3}.issuperset({1, 2})</code>	<code>{1, 2, 3} >= {1, 2}</code> <code>{1, 2, 3}.issuperset({1, 2})</code>	
universal and existential tests				<code>every(lambda([x], x > 2), [1, 2, 3]);</code> <code>some(lambda([x], x > 2), [1, 2, 3]);</code>
union	<code>Union[{1, 2}, {2, 3, 4}]</code>	<code>{1, 2, 3} {2, 3, 4}</code> <code>{1, 2, 3}.union({2, 3, 4})</code>	<code>{1, 2, 3} {2, 3, 4}</code> <code>{1, 2, 3}.union({2, 3, 4})</code>	<code>union({1, 2, 3}, {2, 3, 4});</code>
intersection	<code>Intersect[{1, 2}, {2, 3, 4}]</code>	<code>{1, 2, 3} & {2, 3, 4}</code> <code>{1, 2, 3}.intersection({2, 3, 4})</code>	<code>{1, 2, 3} & {2, 3, 4}</code> <code>{1, 2, 3}.intersection({2, 3, 4})</code>	<code>intersection({1, 2, 3}, {2, 3, 4});</code>
relative complement	<code>Complement[{1, 2, 3}, {2}]</code>	<code>{1, 2, 3} - {2, 3, 4}</code> <code>{1, 2, 3}.difference({2, 3, 4})</code>	<code>{1, 2, 3} - {2, 3, 4}</code> <code>{1, 2, 3}.difference({2, 3, 4})</code>	<code>setdifference({1, 2, 3}, {2, 3, 4});</code>
powerset			<code>set(Set({1, 2, 3}).subsets())</code>	<code>powerset({1, 2, 3});</code>
cartesian product	<code>Outer[List, {1, 2, 3}, {"a", "b", "c"}]</code>			<code>cartesian_product({1, 2, 3}, {"a", "b", "c"});</code>
arithmetic sequences				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
unit difference	<code>Range[1, 100]</code>	<code>range(1, 101)</code>	<code>range(1, 101)</code>	<code>makelist(i, i, 1, 100);</code>
difference of 10	<code>Range[1, 100, 10]</code>	<code>range(1, 100, 10)</code>	<code>range(1, 100, 10)</code>	<code>makelist(i, i, 1, 100, 10);</code>
difference of 1/10	<code>Range[1, 100, 1/10]</code>	<code>[1 + Rational(1,10)*i for i in range(0, 991)]</code>	<code>[1 + (1/10)*i for i in range(0, 991)]</code>	<code>makelist(i, i, 1, 100, 1/10);</code>
dictionaries				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
literal	<code>d = < "t" -> 1, "f" -> 0 ></code> <code>(* or convert list of rules: *)</code> <code>d = Association[{"t" -> 1, "f" -> 0}]</code> <code>(* and back to list of rules: *)</code> <code>Normal[d]</code>	<code>use Python dictionaries</code>	<code>use Python dictionaries</code>	<code>d: [{"t", 1}, {"f", 0}];</code>
size	<code>Length[Keys[d]]</code>			<code>length(d);</code>
lookup	<code>d["t"]</code>			<code>assoc("t", d);</code>
update	<code>d["f"] = -1</code>			<code>d2: cons(["f", -1], sublist(d, lambda([p], p[1] # "f")));</code>
missing key behavior	<i>Returns a symbolic expression with head "Missing". If the lookup key was "x", the expression is:</i> <code>Missing["KeyAbsent", "x"]</code>			<code>assoc returns false</code>
is key present	<code>KeyExistsQ[d, "t"]</code>			
iterate				
keys and values as arrays	<code>Keys[d]</code> <code>Values[d]</code>			<code>map(lambda([p], p[1]), d);</code> <code>map(lambda([p], p[2]), d);</code>
sort by values	<code>Sort[d]</code>			
functions				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
define function	<code>Add[a_, b_] := a + b</code> <code>(* alternate syntax: *)</code> <code>Add = Function[{a, b}, a + b]</code>			<code>add(a, b) := a + b;</code> <code>define(add(a, b), a + b);</code> <code>/* block body: */</code> <code>add(a, b) := block(print("adding", a, "and", b),</code> <code>a + b);</code> <code>/* square bracket syntax: */</code> <code>I[row, col] := if row = col then 1 else 0;</code> <code>I[10, 10];</code>
invoke function	<code>Add[3, 7]</code> <code>Add @@ {3, 7}</code> <code>(* syntax for unary functions: *)</code> <code>2 // Log</code>			<code>add(3, 7);</code>
boolean function attributes <i>list, set, clear</i>	<code>Attributes[add]</code> <code>SetAttributes[add, {Orderless, Flat, Listable}]</code> <code>ClearAttributes[add, Listable]</code>			

undefine function	Clear[Add]			remfunction(add);
redefine function	Add[a_, b_] := b + a			add(a, b) := b + a;
missing function behavior	<i>The expression is left unevaluated. The head is the function name as a symbol, and the parts are the arguments.</i>			<i>The expression is left unevaluated.</i>
missing argument behavior	<i>The expression is left unevaluated. The head is the function name as a symbol, and the parts are the arguments.</i>			<i>Too few arguments error.</i>
extra argument behavior	<i>The expression is left unevaluated. The head is the function name as a symbol, and the parts are the arguments.</i>			<i>Too many arguments error.</i>
default argument	Options[myLog] = {base -> 10} myLog[x_, OptionsPattern[]] := N[Log[x]/Log[OptionValue[base]]] (* call using default: *) myLog[100] (* override default: *) myLog[100, base -> E]			
return value	<i>last expression evaluated, or argument of Return[]</i>			<i>last expression evaluated</i> <i>Inside a block(), the last expression evaluated or the argument of return()</i>
anonymous function	Function[{a, b}, a + b] (#1 + #2) &			f: lambda([x, y], x + y); f(3, 7);
variable number of arguments	(* one or more arguments: *) add[a_] := Plus[a] (* zero or more arguments: *) add[a___] := Plus[a]			add([a]) := sum(a[i], i, 1, length(a));
pass array elements as separate arguments	Apply[f, {a, b, c}] f @@ {x, y, z}	a = {x, y, z} f(*a)		add(a, b) := a + b; apply(add, [3, 7]);
execution control				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
if	If[x > 0, Print["positive"], If[x < 0, Print["negative"], Print["zero"]]]	use Python execution control	use Python execution control	if x > 0 then print("positive") else if x < 0 then print("negative") else print("zero");
while	i = 0 While[i < 10, Print[i]; i++]			for i: 0 step 1 while i < 10 do print(i);
for	For[i = 0, i < 10, i++, Print[i]]			for i: 1 step 1 thru 10 do print(i);
break	Break[]			
continue	Continue[]			
exceptions				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
raise exception	Throw["failed"]	use Python exceptions	use Python exceptions	error("failed");
handle exception	Print[Catch[Throw["failed"]]]			errcatch(error("failed"));
streams				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
standard file handles	Streams["stdout"] Streams["stderr"] (* all open file handles: *) Streams[]			
write line to stdout	Print["hello"]			
open file for reading	f = OpenRead["/etc/hosts"]			
open file for writing	f = OpenWrite["/tmp/test"]			
open file for appending	f = OpenAppend["/tmp/test"]			
close file	Close[f]			

read file into string	s = ReadString[f]			
write string	WriteString[f, "lorem ipsum"]			
read file into array of strings	s = Import["/etc/hosts"] a = StringSplit[s, "\n"]			
file handle position <i>get, set</i>	f = StringToStream["foo bar baz"] StreamPosition[f] (* beginning of stream: *) SetStreamPosition[f, 0] (* end of stream: *) SetStreamPosition[f, Infinity]			
open temporary file	f = OpenWrite[] path = Part[f, 1]			
files				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
file exists test	FileExistsQ["/etc/hosts"]			
regular file test	FileType["/etc/hosts"] == File			
file size	FileByteCount["/etc/hosts"]			
is file readable, writable, executable				
last modification time	FileDate["/etc/hosts"]			
copy file, remove file, rename file	CopyFile["/tmp/foo", "/tmp/bar"] DeleteFile["/tmp/foo"] RenameFile["/tmp/bar", "/tmp/foo"]			
directories				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
working directory	dir = Directory[] SetDirectory["/tmp"]			
build pathname	FileNameJoin[{"etc", "hosts"}]			
dirname and basename	DirectoryName["/etc/hosts"] FileBaseName["/etc/hosts"]			
absolute pathname	(* file must exist; symbolic links are resolved: *) AbsoluteFileName["foo"] AbsoluteFileName["/foo"] AbsoluteFileName["../foo"] AbsoluteFileName["../foo"] AbsoluteFileName["~/foo"]			
glob paths	Function[x, Print[x]] /@ FileNames["/tmp/*"]			
make directory	CreateDirectory["/tmp/foo.d"]			
recursive copy	CopyDirectory["/tmp/foo.d", "/tmp/baz.d"]			
remove empty directory	DeleteDirectory["/tmp/foo.d"]			
remove directory and contents	DeleteDirectory["/tmp/foo.d", DeleteContents -> True]			
directory test	DirectoryQ["/etc"]			
libraries and namespaces				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
load library	Get["foo.m"]			load(grobner);
reflection				
	mathematica	sympy	sage	maxima
get function documentation	?Tan Information[Tan]	print(solve.__doc__) # in IJupyter: solve? help(solve)	solve?	describe(solve); ? solve;
function options	Options[Solve] Options[Plot]			
function source		import inspect inspect.getsourcelines(integrate)		

query data type	Head[x]		type(x)	symbolp(x); numberp(7); stringp("seven"); listp([1, 2, 3]);
list variables in scope	Names[\$Context <> ""]			/* user defined variables: */ values; /* user defined functions: */ functions;

[sheet two: symbolic expressions](#) | [calculus](#) | [equations and unknowns](#) | [optimization](#) | [vectors](#) | [matrices](#) | [combinatorics](#) | [number theory](#) | [polynomials](#) | [trigonometry](#) | [special functions](#) | [permutations](#) | [descriptive statistics](#) | [distributions](#) | [statistical tests](#)

[bar charts](#) | [scatter plots](#) | [line charts](#) | [surface charts](#) | [chart options](#)

[version used](#)

The version of software used to check the examples in the reference sheet.

[show version](#)

How to determine the version of an installation.

[implicit prologue](#)

Code assumed to have been executed by the examples in the sheet.

Grammar and Invocation

[interpreter](#)

How to execute a script.

mathematica:

The full path to MathKernel on Mac OS X:

```
/Applications/Mathematica.app/Contents/MacOS/MathKernel
```

[repl](#)

How to launch a command line read-eval-print loop for the language.

[block delimiters](#)

How blocks are delimited.

[statement separator](#)

How statements are separated.

[end-of-line comment](#)

Character used to start a comment that goes to the end of the line.

[multiple line comment](#)

The syntax for a delimited comment which can span lines.

Variables and Expressions

[assignment](#)

How to perform assignment.

Mathematica, Sympy, and Pari/GP support the chaining of assignments. For example, in Mathematica one can assign the value 3 to `x` and `y` with:

```
x = y = 3
```

In Mathematica and Pari/GP, assignments are expressions. In Mathematica, the following code is legal and evaluates to 7:

```
(x = 3) + 4
```

In Mathematica, the `Set` function behaves identically to assignment and can be nested:

```
Set[a, Set[b, 3]]
```

[delayed assignment](#)

How to assign an expression to a variable name. The expression is re-evaluated each time the variable is used.

mathematica:

GNU make also supports assignment and delayed assignment, but `=` is used for delayed assignment and `:=` is used for immediate assignment. This is the opposite of how Mathematica uses the symbols.

The POSIX standard for make only has `=` for delayed assignment.

[parallel assignment](#)

How to assign values in parallel.

Parallel assignment can be used to swap the values held in two variables.

[compound assignment](#)

The compound assignment operators.

[increment and decrement](#)

Increment and decrement operators which can be used in expressions.

[non-referential identifier](#)

An identifier which does not refer to a value.

A non-referential identifier will usually print as a string containing its name.

Expressions containing non-referential identifiers will not be evaluated, though they may be simplified.

Non-referential identifiers represent "unknowns" or "parameters" when performing algebraic derivations.

[identifier as value](#)

How to get a value referring to an identifier.

The identifier may be the name of a variable containing a value. But the value referring to the identifier is distinct from the value in the variable.

One may manipulate a value referring to an identifier even if it is not the name of a variable.

[global variable](#)

How to declare a global variable.

[local variable](#)

How to declare a local variable.

pari/gp:

There is `my` for declaring a local variable with lexical scope and `local` for declaring a variable with dynamic scope.

`local` can be used to change the value of a global as seen by any functions which are called while the local scope is in effect.

[null](#)

The null literal.

[null test](#)

How to test if a value is null.

[undefined variable access](#)

What happens when an undefined variable is used in an expression.

[remove variable binding](#)

How to remove a variable. Subsequent references to the variable will be treated as if the variable were undefined.

[conditional expression](#)

A conditional expression.

Arithmetic and Logic

[true and false](#)

The boolean literals.

[falsehoods](#)

Values which evaluate to false in a conditional test.

sympy:

Note that the logical operators `Not`, `And` and `Or` do not treat empty collections or `None` as false. This is different from the Python logical operators `not`, `and`, and `or`.

pari/gp:

A vector or matrix evaluates to false if all components evaluate to false.

[logical operators](#)

The Boolean operators.

sympy:

In Python, `&`, `|`, and `&` are bit operators. SymPy has defined `__and__`, `__or__`, and `__invert__` methods to make them Boolean operators for symbols, however.

[relational operators](#)

The relational operators.

sympy:

The full SymPy names for the relational operators are:

<code>sympy.Equality</code>	<code># ==</code>
<code>sympy.Unequality</code>	<code># !=</code>
<code>sympy.GreaterThan</code>	<code># >=</code>
<code>sympy.LessThan</code>	<code># <=</code>
<code>sympy.StrictGreaterThan</code>	<code># ></code>
<code>sympy.StrictLessThan</code>	<code># <</code>

The SymPy functions are attached to the relational operators `==`, `!=`, for symbols ... using the methods `__eq__`, `__ne__`, `__ge__`, `__le__`, `__gt__`, `__lt__`. The behavior they provide is similar to the default Python behavior, but when one of the arguments is a SymPy expression, a simplification will be attempted before the comparison is made.

[arithmetic operators](#)

The arithmetic operators.

[integer division](#)

How to compute the quotient of two integers.

[integer division by zero](#)

The result of dividing an integer by zero.

[float division](#)

How to perform float division, even if the arguments are integers.

[float division by zero](#)

The result of dividing a float by zero.

[power](#)

How to compute exponentiation.

Note that zero to a negative power is equivalent to division by zero, and negative numbers to a fractional power may have multiple complex solutions.

[sqrt](#)

The square root function.

For positive arguments the positive square root is returned.

[sqrt -1](#)

How the square root function handles negative arguments.

mathematica:

An uppercase `I` is used to enter the imaginary unit, but Mathematica displays it as a lowercase `i`.

[transcendental functions](#)

The standard transcendental functions such as one might find on a scientific calculator.

The functions are the exponential (not to be confused with exponentiation), natural logarithm, sine, cosine, tangent, arcsine, arccosine, arctangent, and the two argument arctangent.

[transcendental constants](#)

The transcendental constants π and e .

The transcendental functions can used to computed to compute the transcendental constants:

```
pi = acos(-1)
pi = 4 * atan(1)
e = exp(1)
```

[float truncation](#)

Ways to convert a float to a nearby integer.

[absolute value](#)

How to get the absolute value and signum of a number.

[integer overflow](#)

What happens when the value of an integer expression cannot be stored in an integer.

The languages in this sheet all support arbitrary length integers so the situation does not happen.

[float overflow](#)

What happens when the value of a floating point expression cannot be stored in a float.

[rational construction](#)

How to construct a rational number.

[rational decomposition](#)

How to extract the numerator and denominator from a rational number.

[decimal approximation](#)

How to get a decimal approximation of an irrational number or repeating decimal rational.

[complex construction](#)

How to construct a complex number.

[complex decomposition](#)

How to extract the real and imaginary part from a complex number; how to extract the argument and modulus; how to get the complex conjugate.

[random number](#)

How to generate a random integer or a random float.

pari/gp:

When the argument of `random()` is an integer n , it generates an integer in the range $\{0, \dots, n - 1\}$.

When the argument is an arbitrary precision float, it generates a value in the range $[0.0, 1.0]$. The precision of the argument determines the precision of the random number.

[random seed](#)

How to set or get the random seed.

mathematica:

The seed is not set to the same value at start up.

[bit operators](#)

[binary, octal, and hex literals](#)

Binary, octal, and hex integer literals.

mathematica:

The notation works for any base from 2 to 36.

[radix](#)

Convert a number to a representation using a given radix.

[to array of digits](#)

Convert a number to an array of digits representing the number.

Strings

[string literal](#)

The syntax for a string literal.

[newline in literal](#)

Are newlines permitted in string literals.

[literal escapes](#)

Escape sequences for putting unusual characters in string literals.

[concatenate](#)

How to concatenate strings.

[translate case](#)

How to convert a string to all lower case letters or all upper case letters.

[trim](#)

How to remove whitespace from the beginning or the end of string.

[number to string](#)

How to convert a number to a string.

[string to number](#)

How to parse a number from a string.

[string.join](#)

How to join an array of strings into a single string, possibly separated by a delimiter.

[split](#)

How to split a string in to an array of strings. How to specify the delimiter.

[substitute](#)

How to substitute one or all occurrences of substring with another.

[length](#)

How to get the length of a string in characters.

[index of substring](#)

How to get the index of the first occurrence of a substring.

[extract substring](#)

How to get a substring from a string using character indices.

[character literal](#)

The syntax for a character literal.

[character lookup](#)

How to get a character from a string by index.

[chr and ord](#)

Convert a character code point to a character or a single character string.

Get the character code point for a character or single character string.

[delete characters](#)

Delete all occurrences of a set of characters from a string.

Arrays

section	mathematica	maple	maxima	sympy
arrays	List	list	list	list
multidimensional arrays	List	Array	array	<i>none</i>
vectors	List	Vector	list	Matrix
matrices	List	Matrix	matrix	Matrix

[literal](#)

The notation for an array literal.

[size](#)

The number of elements in the array.

[lookup](#)

How to access an array element by its index.

[update](#)

How to change the value stored at an array index.

[out-of-bounds behavior](#)

What happens when an attempt is made to access an element at an out-of-bounds index.

[element index](#)

How to get the index of an element in an array.

[slice](#)

How to extract a subset of the elements. The indices for the elements must be contiguous.

[array of integers as index](#)

[manipulate back](#)

[manipulate front](#)

[head](#)

[tail](#)

[cons](#)

[concatenate](#)

[replicate](#)

[copy](#).

How to copy an array. Updating the copy will not alter the original.

[iterate](#)

[reverse](#)

[sort](#)

[dedupe](#)

[membership](#)

How to test whether a value is an element of a list.

[intersection](#)

How to find the intersection of two lists.

[union](#)

How to find the union of two lists.

[relative complement, symmetric difference](#)

How to find all elements in one list which are not in another; how to find all elements which are in one of two lists but not both.

[map](#)

[filter](#)

[reduce](#)

[universal and existential tests](#)

[min and max element](#)

[shuffle and sample](#)

How to shuffle an array. How to extract a random sample from an array without replacement.

[flatten](#)

[zip](#)

How to interleave two arrays.

[cartesian product](#)

Sets

Arithmetic Sequences

Dictionaries

record literal

record member access

Functions

definition

invocation

function value

Execution Control

if

How to write a branch statement.

mathematica:

The 3rd argument (the else clause) of an *If* expression is optional.

while

How to write a conditional loop.

mathematica:

Do can be used for a finite unconditional loop:

```
Do[Print[foo], {10}]
```

for

How to write a C-style for statement.

break/continue

How to break out of a loop. How to jump to the next iteration of a loop.

Exceptions

[raise exception](#)

How to raise an exception.

[handle exception](#)

How to handle an exception.

[uncaught exception behavior](#)

gap:

Calling `Error()` invokes the GAP debugger, which is similar to a Lisp debugger. In particular, all the commands available in the GAP REPL are still available. Variables can be inspected and modified while in the debugger but any changes will be lost when the debugger is quitted.

One uses `quit;` or `^D` to exit the debugger. These commands also cause the top-level GAP REPL exit if used while not in a debugger.

If `Error()` is invoked while in the GAP debugger, the debugger will be invoked recursively. One must use `quit;` for each level of debugger recursion to return to the top -level GAP REPL.

Use

```
brk> Where(4);
```

to print the top four functions on the stack when the error occurred. Use `DownEnv()` and `UpEnv()` to move down the stack—i.e. from callee to caller—and `UpEnv()` to move up the stack. The commands take the number of levels to move down or up:

```
brk> DownEnv(2);  
brk> UpEnv(2);
```

When the debugger is invoked, it will print a message. It may give the user the option of providing a value with the `return` statement so that a computation can be continued:

```
brk> return 17;
```

finally block

How to write code that executes even if an exception is raised.

Streams

Files

Directories

Libraries and Namespaces

Reflection

function documentation

How to get the documentation for a function.

Mathematica

[Mathematica Documentation Center](#)
[WolframAlpha](#)
[Mathics](#)

Maple

<http://www.maplesoft.com/support/help/>

Maxima

<http://maxima.sourceforge.net/docs/manual/maxima.html>

Sage

<http://doc.sagemath.org/html/en/index.html>

SymPy

[Welcome to SymPy's documentation!](#)