Lean 4 Cheatsheet

In the following table, name always refers to a name already known to Lean while new name refers to a new name provided by the user; expr designates an expression, for example the name of an object in the context, an arithmetic expression that is a function of such objects, a hypothesis in the context, or a lemma applied to any of these. When one of these words appears twice in the same line, the appearances do not designate the same name or the same expression. For tactics not in the Lean 4 core, the necessary import is written in gray.

Logical symbol	Appears in goal	Appears in hypothesis
\forall (for all)	intro new_name	apply expr or specialize name expr
\exists (there exists)	${\tt use}\ expr$ ${\tt import}\ {\tt Mathlib.Tactic.Use}$	cases $expr$ with $ $ intro a b =>
\rightarrow (implies)	$\verb"intro" new_name"$	apply $expr$ or specialize $name\ expr$
\leftrightarrow (if and only if)	constructor	rw [$expr$] or rw [$\leftarrow expr$]
\wedge (and)	constructor	<pre>cases expr with intro a b =></pre>
∨ (or)	<pre>left or right import Mathlib.Tactic.LeftRight</pre>	<pre>cases expr with in1 a => inr b =></pre>
$\neg \text{ (not)}$	$\verb"intro" new_name"$	apply $expr$ or specialize $name\ expr$

In the left-hand column of the following table, the parts in brackets are optional. The effect of these parts is also in brackets in the right-hand column. It is almost always a matter of specifying that a manipulation, which acts by default on the goal, must be performed rather on a certain hypothesis named hyp.

Tactic	Effect	
exact expr	assert that the goal can be satisfied by $expr$	
$\begin{array}{l} \textbf{convert} \ name \\ \textbf{import Mathlib.Tactic.Convert} \end{array}$	prove the goal by transforming it to an existing proposition $name$ and create goals for propositions used in the transformation that were not proved automatically	
$\begin{array}{l} {\tt convert_to} \ expr \\ {\tt import Mathlib.Tactic.Convert} \end{array}$	transform the goal into the expression $expr$ and create additional goals for propositions used in the transformation that were not proved automatically	
have $new_name: fact$ import Mathlib.Tactic.Have	introduce a name new_name asserting that $fact$ is provable	
$\verb"unfold" name (\verb"at" hyp")$	unfold the definition of $name$ in the goal (or in the hypothesis hyp)	
$\texttt{rw} \ \texttt{[}\ (\leftarrow)\ expr\ \texttt{]}\ (\texttt{at}\ hyp)$	in the goal (or in the hypothesis hyp), replace the left-hand side (or the right-hand side, if \leftarrow is present) of the equality or equivalence $expr$ by the other side	
$\verb"rw" [\mathit{expr} \ , \mathit{expr} \ , \mathit{expr} \] \ (\verb"at" \mathit{hyp})$	do more rewrites (in the given order)	
$\verb by_cases new_name : expr $	split the proof into two cases depending on whether $expr$ is true or false, using new_name as name for this hypothesis	
<pre>by_contra new_ name import Mathlib.Tactic.ByContra</pre>	start a proof by contradiction, using new_name as name for the hypothesis that is the negation of the goal	
<pre>contrapose import Mathlib.Tactic.Contrapose</pre>	transform a goal of the form $expr o expr$ into its contrapositive	
<pre>push_neg (at hyp) import Mathlib.Tactic.PushNeg</pre>	push negations in the goal (or in the hypothesis hyp)	
exfalso import Std.Tactic.Basic	apply the rule $ex\ falso\ quod\ libet$ (replaces the current goal by False)	
linarith import Mathlib.Tactic.Linarith	prove the goal by a linear combination of hypotheses	
ring import Mathlib.Tactic.Ring	prove the goal by combining the axioms of a commutative (semi)ring	
<pre>library_search import Mathlib.Tactic.LibrarySearch</pre>	search for a single existing lemma which closes the goal, also using local hypotheses $$	