

Markdown

Markdown Notes 2025

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1 Markdown Overview Notes

- [Markdown](#) is a lightweight markup language for creating formatted text using a text editor
- Invented by John Gruber in 2004 — there are now lots of alternative Markdown extensions (see the references section)
- You do not need to read all of the references — you only need a small number of markup constructs to do most things — listed on the notes below
- It is the curse of the IT world that we have proliferating and competing standards — you have to read enough of the documentation to work out what is going on



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2 Markdown Summary

Text	Other	Comment
<i>*Italic*</i>	<u>_Italic_</u>	
Bold	<u>__Bold__</u>	
*_itemA *_itemB	~_itemA ~_itemB	Unordered list
1._itemA 2._itemB	1)_itemA 2)_itemB	Ordered list
---	***	Horizontal rule
#_Heading 1	Heading 1 =====	
##_Heading 2	Heading 2 -----	
\		Escape character
Inline 'code'		Inline code
![Image](url)		

- **Notes** The symbol `_` Unicode U+2423 (Open Box) indicates a required space (the color is [Teal #008080](#))
- Beware spaces `**_Bold_**` gets `**_Bo1d_**` not **Bold**

2.1 Maths, Line Breaks, Paragraphs and Special Characters

- **Maths** uses $\text{\LaTeX}$ notation
- See [Word settings](#) > [AutoCorrect](#) > [Maths AutoCorrect](#)
- `$_\Theta$` gets Θ but `$_\theta$` gets θ
- See [MultiMarkdown: Maths Guide](#)

Text	Other	Comment
<code>\$_\Theta(n^2)\$</code>		$\Theta(n^2)$
<code>\$_\Theta(n\log n)\$</code>		$\Theta(n \log n)$
<code>\$_e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0\$</code>		$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$

- **Line Breaks, Paragraphs and Special Characters**
- `\` is the *escape character*
- `\` followed by a new line gets a line break
- A *blank line* is a paragraph break
- `\&` gets $\&$
- `\\` gets `\`
- Beware trailing spaces — `\_` may not get a line break

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2.2 Code

- **Code** should be in a monospaced font and preserve some syntax highlighting

- **Inline Code**

- Inline code: 'def inOrderBT(t) :' example

gets: Inline code `def inOrderBT(t) :` example

- Note that the syntax highlighting will depend on the local configuration
- The symbol that denotes the range of the inline code is (') Grave Accent, Unicode U+0060

- **Code Block**

```
1  """python
2  def inOrderBT(t) :
3      if isEmptyBT(t) :
4          return []
5      else :
6          return (inOrderBT(getLeftBT(t)) + [getDataBT(t)]
7                  + inOrderBT(getRightBT(t)))
8  """
```

```
def inOrderBT(t) :
    if isEmptyBT(t) :
        return []
    else :
        return (inOrderBT(getLeftBT(t)) + [getDataBT(t)]
                + inOrderBT(getRightBT(t)))
```

- The three characters denoting the range of the code block (""" are three Grave Accents, Unicode U+0060
- The language specifier python is optional (and Python is probably the default)
- The syntax highlighting will depend on local configuration

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2.3 Tables

- **Tables**

- The example below is based on the example in [MultiMarkdown: Tables](#)
- Some parts in the original example do not appear to work: (a) Spanning cells; (b) Caption; (c) Empty lines
- Colons are used to indicate left and right alignment, with a colon at either end to indicate centering
- See also [GFM: 4.10 Tables \(extension\)](#)

```
1 | First Header | Second Header | Third Header |
2 | ----- | :-----: | -----: |
3 Content | *Long Cell* | |
4 Content | **Cell** | Cell |
5 New section | More | Data |
6 And more | With an escaped '|' | |
```

First Header	Second Header	Third Header
Content	<i>Long Cell</i>	
Content	Cell	Cell
New section	More	Data
And more	With an escaped ' '	

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2.4 Links, Images

- **Links and Images**
- [GFM: 6.6 Links](#)
- `[LinkText](url "title ")`
- [LinkText](#) is the Link text; [title](#) is optional
- [GFM: 6.7 Images](#)
- `![ImageDesc](url "title")`
- [ImageDesc](#) is image description; [title](#) is optional
- [url](#) should be a local file name in the same folder as the Notebook
- See [Jupyter: Markdown Cells](#) see the section *Security of local files*

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3 Web Links & References

- [Wikipedia: Markdown](#) a good overview and history
- **Markdown** daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/ John Gruber *Daring Fireball* from 2004
- **MultiMarkdown** fletcherpenney.net/multimarkdown/ Fletcher Penney extension of *Markdown* from 2007
- **GitHub Flavored Markdown (GFM)** github.github.com/gfm/ extends the previous two and is a superset of *CommonMark*
- **CommonMark** spec.commonmark.org/ from 2014 one spec to rule them all (almost)
- **Jupyter Markdown** [Jupyter Documentstion: Markdown Cells](#) follows GFM (mainly)
- **HTML** developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML
- **CSS** developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS
- **JavaScript** developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript

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