

Markdown

Markdown Notes 2025

Phil Molyneux

24 December 2025

Mardown

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



Text	Other	Comment
Italic	_Italic_	
Bold	__Bold__	
* <u>itemA</u>	- <u>itemA</u>	
* <u>itemB</u>	- <u>itemB</u>	Unordered list
1. <u>itemA</u>	1) <u>itemA</u>	
2. <u>itemB</u>	2) <u>itemB</u>	Ordered list
---	***	Horizontal rule
# <u>Heading 1</u>	Heading 1	=====
## <u>Heading 2</u>	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 ** Bold ** not **Bold**

Markdown

Summary (2)

- ▶ **Maths** uses \LaTeX notation
- ▶ See Word settings → AutoCorrect → Maths AutoCorrect
- ▶ $\$\\Theta(n^2)$ gets $\Theta(n^2)$ but $\$\\theta(n \\log n)$ gets $\theta(n \log n)$
- ▶ See [MultiMarkdown: Maths Guide](#)

Text	Other	Comment
$\$\\Theta(n^2)$		$\Theta(n^2)$
$\$\\Theta(n \\log n)$		$\Theta(n \log n)$
$\$e^{i\\pi} + 1 = 0\$$		$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$

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

Overview

Summary

Maths, Specials

Code

Tables

Links, Images

Web Links & References

Additional Markdown

Markdown

Summary (3)

- ▶ **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

[Overview](#)[Summary](#)[Maths, Specials](#)[Code](#)[Tables](#)[Links, Images](#)[Web Links & References](#)[Additional Markdown](#)

► 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

Overview

Summary

Maths, Specials

Code

Tables

Links, Images

Web Links & References

Additional Markdown

Markdown

Summary (5)

- ▶ **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 '\ '	

Markdown

Summary (6)

- ▶ **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*

Markdown

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 Documentation](#): 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

Markdown

Additional Markdown

- ▶ **Nested Lists**
- ▶ See

commonmark.org/help/tutorial/10-nestedLists.html