

Complete reference — Arithmetic · Number Theory · Algebra · Geometry · P&C · Probability · Clocks · Mensuration

ARITHMETIC	FORMULA	NOTE
Percentage Change	$\% \text{ Change} = (\text{New} - \text{Old}) / \text{Old} \times 100$	Multiply by 100 to convert ratio to percentage
Successive %	$\text{Net}\% = a + b + ab/100$	E.g. 10% then 20%: $10 + 20 + (10 \times 20)/100 = 32\%$
Simple Interest	$\text{SI} = \text{PRT}/100 \quad \quad \text{A} = \text{P}(1 + \text{RT}/100)$	$\text{P} = \text{Principal}$, $\text{R} = \text{Rate per annum}$, $\text{T} = \text{Time in year}$
Compound Interest	$\text{A} = \text{P}(1 + r/n)^{nt} \quad \quad \text{CI} = \text{A} - \text{P}$	$r = \text{annual rate}$, $n = \text{times compounded per year}$, $t =$
CI — Annual	$\text{A} = \text{P}(1 + \text{R}/100)^n$	Simplest form when compounded annually
CI — Half-yearly	$\text{A} = \text{P}(1 + \text{R}/200)^{2n}$	Rate halved, period doubled
CI — Quarterly	$\text{A} = \text{P}(1 + \text{R}/400)^{4n}$	Rate quartered, period quadrupled
Difference CI-SI	$\text{CI} - \text{SI} = \text{P}(\text{R}/100)^2 \text{ for } 2 \text{ years}$	Useful shortcut for 2-year problems
Time & Work	$1/\text{A} + 1/\text{B} = 1/\text{T} \quad \quad \text{Efficiency} \propto 1/\text{Time}$	$\text{A} \ \& \ \text{B}$ together finish in $\text{T} = \text{AB}/(\text{A}+\text{B})$
Work Done	$\text{Work} = \text{Efficiency} \times \text{Time}$	If A is twice as efficient as B , A takes half the time
Pipes — Fill	$\text{Net rate} = 1/\text{A} + 1/\text{B}$ (both filling)	Time to fill = $1/(1/\text{A} + 1/\text{B})$
Pipes — Drain	$\text{Net rate} = 1/\text{A} - 1/\text{B}$ (A fills, B drains)	Positive = filling, negative = draining
Speed-Distance-Time	$\text{D} = \text{S} \times \text{T} \quad \quad \text{S} = \text{D}/\text{T} \quad \quad \text{T} = \text{D}/\text{S}$	Units must be consistent (km/hr or m/s)
Unit Conversion	$1 \text{ km/hr} = 5/18 \text{ m/s} \quad \quad 1 \text{ m/s} = 18/5 \text{ km/hr}$	Multiply by 5/18 to convert kmph to mps
Average Speed	$\text{Avg Speed} = 2\text{S}_1 \cdot \text{S}_2 / (\text{S}_1 + \text{S}_2)$	Only when equal distances at S_1 and S_2
Relative Speed — Opp	$\text{Relative Speed} = \text{S}_1 + \text{S}_2$	Objects moving towards each other
Relative Speed — Same	$\text{Relative Speed} = \text{S}_1 - \text{S}_2 $	Objects moving in same direction
Trains — Cross object	$\text{Time} = (\text{L}_{\text{train}} + \text{L}_{\text{object}}) / \text{Relative Speed}$	$\text{L}_{\text{object}} = 0$ if it is a pole/person
Trains — Cross train	$\text{Time} = (\text{L}_1 + \text{L}_2) / (\text{S}_1 \pm \text{S}_2)$	+ for opposite, - for same direction
Boats — Downstream	$\text{Speed} = \text{U} + \text{V} \quad \quad \text{D} = (\text{U}+\text{V}) \times \text{T}$	$\text{U} = \text{speed in still water}$, $\text{V} = \text{stream speed}$
Boats — Upstream	$\text{Speed} = \text{U} - \text{V} \quad \quad \text{T} = \text{D}/(\text{U}-\text{V})$	Going against current
Boats — Still water	$\text{U} = (\text{Down} + \text{Up})/2 \quad \quad \text{V} = (\text{Down} - \text{Up})/2$	Find U and V from downstream/upstream speeds
Alligation	$\text{Cheap} : \text{Dear} = (\text{Dear} - \text{Mean}) : (\text{Mean} - \text{Cheap})$	Ratio in which two qualities are mixed
Mixture Rule	$\text{C}_1/\text{C}_2 = (\text{A}_2 - \text{M})/(\text{M} - \text{A}_1)$	$\text{C}_1, \text{C}_2 = \text{quantities}$; $\text{A}_1, \text{A}_2 = \text{concentrations}$; $\text{M} = \text{m}$
Partnership — Simple	$\text{Profit ratio} = \text{Capital ratio}$	When time is equal
Partnership — Compou	$\text{Profit ratio} = \text{Capital} \times \text{Time}$	When time is different
Ratio & Proportion	$a:b = c:d \rightarrow ad = bc$ (product of extremes = means)	Cross multiplication rule
Componendo-Dividendo	$(a+b)/(a-b) = (c+d)/(c-d)$	Useful for simplifying ratio equations

NUMBER THEORY	FORMULA	NOTE
HCF × LCM	$HCF(a,b) \times LCM(a,b) = a \times b$	Only valid for exactly two numbers
HCF of fractions	HCF = HCF of numerators / LCM of denominators	
LCM of fractions	LCM = LCM of numerators / HCF of denominators	
No. of factors	$N = a^p \cdot b^q \cdot c^r \rightarrow \text{factors} = (p+1)(q+1)(r+1)$	First prime factorise N completely
Sum of factors	$\text{Sum} = [(a^{p+1}-1)/(a-1)] \times [(b^{q+1}-1)/(b-1)] \dots$	For $N = a^p \cdot b^q$
Product of factors	Product = $N^{(f/2)}$ where f = number of factors	
Trailing zeros in n!	Count = $\text{floor}(n/5) + \text{floor}(n/25) + \text{floor}(n/125) + \dots$	Each 5 paired with a 2 gives one trailing zero
Unit digit cycles	2,3,7,8 → cycle of 4 4,9 → cycle of 2	1,5,6 always end in 1,5,6 0 ends in 0
Unit digit of a^n	Find $n \bmod (\text{cycle length})$, then apply	E.g. $7^{53}: 53 \bmod 4 = 1$, so unit digit = $7^1 = 7$
Div by 2	Last digit even (0,2,4,6,8)	
Div by 3	Sum of digits divisible by 3	
Div by 4	Last 2 digits divisible by 4	
Div by 6	Divisible by both 2 and 3	
Div by 8	Last 3 digits divisible by 8	
Div by 9	Sum of digits divisible by 9	
Div by 11	Alternating digit sum (even pos - odd pos) div by	E.g. 121: $1-2+1=0$, divisible by 11
Fermat's Little Theorem	$a^{(p-1)} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ for prime p, $\gcd(a,p)=1$	Used to find remainders of large powers
Euler's Theorem	$a^{\phi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ when $\gcd(a,n)=1$	$\phi(n)$ = Euler's totient function
Wilson's Theorem	$(p-1)! \equiv -1 \pmod{p}$ for prime p	
Chinese Remainder	Solve simultaneous modular equations	$x \equiv a \pmod{m}, x \equiv b \pmod{n} \rightarrow \text{unique solution mod}$
Perfect squares	Last digits can only be: 0,1,4,5,6,9	Never 2,3,7,8
Sum 1..n	$n(n+1)/2$	
Sum of first n odd numb	n^2	$1+3+5+\dots+(2n-1) = n^2$
Sum of first n even num	$n(n+1)$	$2+4+6+\dots+2n = n(n+1)$
Sum of squares 1..n	$n(n+1)(2n+1)/6$	
Sum of cubes 1..n	$[n(n+1)/2]^2$	Always equals (Sum of first n naturals) ²
Number of primes	Use Sieve of Eratosthenes for small ranges	Primes < 100: 2,3,5,7,11,13,17,19,23,29,31,37,41,4
Coprime pairs	$\gcd(a,b)=1 \rightarrow a$ and b are coprime	Count of numbers < n coprime to n = $n \cdot \prod (1-1/p)$

ALGEBRA	FORMULA	NOTE
$(a+b)^2$	$a^2 + 2ab + b^2$	
$(a-b)^2$	$a^2 - 2ab + b^2$	
$(a+b)^3$	$a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$	
$(a-b)^3$	$a^3 - 3a^2b + 3ab^2 - b^3$	
$a^3 + b^3$	$(a+b)(a^2 - ab + b^2)$	
$a^3 - b^3$	$(a-b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$	
$a^2 - b^2$	$(a+b)(a-b)$	Difference of squares
$(a+b+c)^2$	$a^2+b^2+c^2 + 2(ab+bc+ca)$	
$a^3+b^3+c^3 - 3abc$	$(a+b+c)(a^2+b^2+c^2-ab-bc-ca)$	If $a+b+c=0$, then $a^3+b^3+c^3=3abc$
Quadratic formula	$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2-4ac}}{2a}$	For $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$
Discriminant	$D = b^2 - 4ac$	$D > 0$: 2 real roots $D = 0$: 1 root $D < 0$: no real roots
Sum of roots	$\alpha + \beta = -b/a$	For quadratic $ax^2+bx+c=0$
Product of roots	$\alpha \times \beta = c/a$	
Form quadratic from root	$x^2 - (\text{sum})x + (\text{product}) = 0$	
AP: nth term	$a_n = a + (n-1)d$	a = first term, d = common difference
AP: Sum	$S_n = n/2 \times [2a + (n-1)d] = n/2 \times (a + l)$	l = last term
AP: 3 terms	Use: $a-d, a, a+d$ (sum = $3a$)	Simplifies equations
AP: 4 terms	Use: $a-3d, a-d, a+d, a+3d$ (sum = $4a$)	
GP: nth term	$a_n = a \times r^{(n-1)}$	r = common ratio
GP: Sum (finite)	$S_n = a(r^n - 1)/(r-1)$ for $r \neq 1$	
GP: Sum (infinite)	$S_\infty = a/(1-r)$ for $ r < 1$	Converges only when $ r < 1$
GP: 3 terms	Use: $a/r, a, ar$ (product = a^3)	Simplifies equations
Harmonic Mean	$HM = 2ab/(a+b)$	Reciprocals form an AP
AM-GM-HM inequality	$AM \geq GM \geq HM$ (equality when all equal)	
AM-GM	$(a+b)/2 \geq \sqrt{ab}$ equality iff $a=b$	Used to find min/max
Cauchy-Schwarz	$(a^2+b^2)(c^2+d^2) \geq (ac+bd)^2$	
Log: Product	$\log(mn) = \log m + \log n$	
Log: Quotient	$\log(m/n) = \log m - \log n$	
Log: Power	$\log(m^n) = n \cdot \log m$	
Log: Base change	$\log_a(b) = \log(b)/\log(a) = 1/\log_b(a)$	
Log: Special values	$\log 1 = 0$ $\log_a(a) = 1$ $a^{(\log_a x)} = x$	
Modulus inequality	$ x < a \rightarrow -a < x < a$	
Modulus equation	$ x-a = b \rightarrow x = a+b$ or $x = a-b$	
Inequalities	Flip sign when multiplying/dividing by negative	
Linear equations	$ax + by = c$ has infinite solutions unless system i	
Cramer's Rule	$x = Dx/D, y = Dy/D$ (for 2×2 system)	D = determinant of coefficient matrix

GEOMETRY	FORMULA	NOTE
Triangle — Area	Area = $\frac{1}{2} \times \text{base} \times \text{height}$	
Triangle — Heron's	Area = $\sqrt{[s(s-a)(s-b)(s-c)]}$ where $s = (a+b+c)/2$	When all 3 sides known
Equilateral triangle	Area = $(\sqrt{3}/4)a^2$ Height = $(\sqrt{3}/2)a$	$a = \text{side length}$
Pythagoras	$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ ($c = \text{hypotenuse}$)	
Pythagorean triples	3-4-5 5-12-13 8-15-17 7-24-25	Multiples also valid: 6-8-10, 9-12-15
Angle bisector theorem	$BD/DC = AB/AC$	Bisector of angle A divides BC in ratio AB:AC
Similar triangles	Ratio of areas = (Ratio of sides) ²	
Midpoint theorem	Line joining midpoints of 2 sides is parallel to 3	
Basic Proportionality	If $DE \parallel BC$, then $AD/DB = AE/EC$	Thales' theorem
Circles — Area	Area = $\pi \cdot r^2$	
Circles — Circumferenc	$C = 2\pi \cdot r = \pi \cdot d$	
Circles — Arc length	$L = r \cdot \theta$ (θ in radians) $L = (\theta/360) \cdot 2\pi r$ (degr)	
Circles — Sector area	$A = \frac{1}{2}r^2 \cdot \theta$ (rad) $A = (\theta/360) \cdot \pi r^2$ (deg)	
Circles — Chord length	$L = 2r \cdot \sin(\theta/2)$	$\theta = \text{central angle}$
Tangent	$\text{Tangent}^2 = d^2 - r^2$ ($d = \text{distance from externa}$)	Tangent is perpendicular to radius at point of contact
Tangent-chord angle	Angle = half the intercepted arc	
Inscribed angle	Inscribed angle = half the central angle	Both subtended by same arc
Cyclic quadrilateral	Opposite angles sum to 180°	
Rectangle	Area = $l \times b$ Diagonal = $\sqrt{l^2 + b^2}$ Perim	
Square	Area = a^2 Diagonal = $a\sqrt{2}$ Perimeter =	
Parallelogram	Area = base \times height Diagonals bisect each o	
Trapezium	Area = $\frac{1}{2}(a+b) \times h$ ($a, b = \text{parallel sides}$)	
Rhombus	Area = $\frac{1}{2}d_1 \times d_2$ $d_1^2 + d_2^2 = 4 \times \text{side}^2$	Diagonals bisect each other at 90°
Regular hexagon	Area = $(3\sqrt{3}/2)a^2$ Perimeter = $6a$	$a = \text{side} = \text{radius of circumscribed circle}$
Cylinder	$V = \pi \cdot r^2 \cdot h$ $CSA = 2\pi \cdot r \cdot h$ $TSA = 2\pi \cdot r(h +$	
Cone	$V = \frac{1}{3}\pi \cdot r^2 \cdot h$ $l = \sqrt{r^2 + h^2}$ $CSA = \pi \cdot r \cdot$	$l = \text{slant height}$
Sphere	$V = (4/3)\pi \cdot r^3$ $SA = 4\pi \cdot r^2$	
Hemisphere	$V = (2/3)\pi \cdot r^3$ $CSA = 2\pi \cdot r^2$ $TSA = 3\pi \cdot r$	
Frustum of cone	$V = (\pi \cdot h/3)(R^2 + r^2 + Rr)$ $l = \sqrt{h^2 + (R-r)^2}$	$R = \text{large radius}, r = \text{small radius}$
Cube	$V = a^3$ $SA = 6a^2$ Diagonal = $a\sqrt{3}$	
Cuboid	$V = l \cdot b \cdot h$ $SA = 2(lb + bh + lh)$ $\text{Diag} = \sqrt{l^2 +$	
Coordinate — Distance	$D = \sqrt{[(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2]}$	
Coordinate — Midpoint	$((x_1 + x_2)/2, (y_1 + y_2)/2)$	
Coordinate — Section	$(m \cdot x_2 + n \cdot x_1)/(m+n), (m \cdot y_2 + n \cdot y_1)/(m+n)$	Divides line in ratio $m:n$ internally
Slope	$m = (y_2 - y_1)/(x_2 - x_1)$ $y = mx + c$	
Perpendicular slopes	$m_1 \times m_2 = -1$	Product of slopes of perpendicular lines = -1
Parallel slopes	$m_1 = m_2$	Parallel lines have equal slopes
Distance point-to-line	$d = ax_1 + by_1 + c / \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$	For line $ax + by + c = 0$ and point (x_1, y_1)
Centroid of triangle	$((x_1 + x_2 + x_3)/3, (y_1 + y_2 + y_3)/3)$	
Area of triangle (coord)	$\frac{1}{2} x_1(y_2 - y_3) + x_2(y_3 - y_1) + x_3(y_1 - y_2) $	

PERMUTATION & COMBINATION		NOTE
Factorial	$n! = n \times (n-1) \times \dots \times 2 \times 1$ $0! = 1$ $1! = 1$	
nPr — Permutation	$nPr = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!} = n \times (n-1) \times \dots \times (n-r+1)$	Ordered arrangement of r from n
nCr — Combination	$nCr = \frac{n!}{[r!(n-r)!]}$ $nCr = nC(n-r)$	Unordered selection of r from n
Pascal's identity	$nCr = (n-1)C(r-1) + (n-1)Cr$	
$nC0 = nCn = 1$	$nC1 = nC(n-1) = n$	
Sum of all nCr	$nC0 + nC1 + \dots + nCn = 2^n$	
Circular arrangement	$(n-1)!$ ways	Fix one element to remove rotational symmetry
Necklace/bracelet	$(n-1)!/2$	Further divide by 2 for flip symmetry
Identical objects	n objects with p identical: $n!/p!$	Divide by factorials of repeated counts
Multinomial	$\frac{n!}{(p! \cdot q! \cdot r!)}$ for $n=p+q+r$	
Distribution (distinct)	n objects into r distinct boxes = r^n	Each object has r choices
Derangement	$D(n) = n! [1 - 1/1! + 1/2! - 1/3! + \dots + (-1)^n/n!]$	No object in its original position
Stars & Bars	n identical into r distinct boxes = $C(n+r-1, r-1)$	Non-negative integer solutions to $x_1+x_2+\dots+x_r=n$
Binomial theorem	$(a+b)^n = \sum C(n,r) \cdot a^{n-r} \cdot b^r$ $r=0$ to n	
General term	$T(r+1) = C(n,r) \cdot a^{n-r} \cdot b^r$	In binomial expansion of $(a+b)^n$
Middle term	If n even: $T(n/2+1)$ is middle term	If n odd: $T((n+1)/2)$ and $T((n+3)/2)$ are middle terms
Selecting from groups	m from group A, n from group B = $C(a,m) \times C(b,n)$	
Atleast/Atmost	Use complementary counting: total - opposite	

PROBABILITY	FORMULA	NOTE
Basic	$P(A) = \frac{\text{Favourable outcomes}}{\text{Total outcomes}}$	
Complement	$P(A') = 1 - P(A)$ $P(A) + P(A') = 1$	
Addition rule	$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$	
Mutually exclusive	$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$ [if $A \cap B = \emptyset$]	
Exhaustive events	$P(A) + P(B) + \dots = 1$	
Independent events	$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \times P(B)$	Events do not affect each other
Conditional probability	$P(A B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$	Probability of A given B has occurred
Multiplication rule	$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \times P(B A) = P(B) \times P(A B)$	
Bayes' theorem	$P(A B) = \frac{P(B A) \cdot P(A)}{P(B)}$	For updating probabilities with new evidence
Total probability	$P(B) = \sum P(B A_i) \cdot P(A_i)$	Sum over all mutually exclusive, exhaustive A_i
At least one	$P(\text{at least one}) = 1 - P(\text{none})$	Complement is often easier
Coins	$P(r \text{ heads in } n \text{ tosses}) = C(n,r) \times (1/2)^n$	
Dice	$P(\text{sum}=s)$ varies Use systematic counting	Total outcomes = 6^n for n dice

SEQUENCES, SERIES & SPECIAL	FORMULA	NOTE
Sum of natural numbers	$S_n = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$	$1+2+3+\dots+n$
Sum of squares	$S_n = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$	$1^2+2^2+\dots+n^2$
Sum of cubes	$S_n = [\frac{n(n+1)}{2}]^2$	$1^3+2^3+\dots+n^3 = (S_n \text{ of naturals})^2$
Infinite GP sum	$S = \frac{a}{1-r}$ for $ r < 1$	
Special products	$\frac{n(n+1)(n+2)}{6} = C(n+2, 3)$	
Fibonacci	$1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, \dots$ $F(n) = F(n-1) + F(n-2)$	Golden ratio $\phi = \frac{(1+\sqrt{5})}{2} \approx 1.618$
AP-GP combined	Sum of AGP: use formula or differentiation trick	

CLOCKS & CALENDARS	FORMULA	NOTE
Clock angle	Angle = $ 30H - 5.5M $ degrees	$H = \text{hours}, M = \text{minutes}$
Hands coincide	Every $65 \frac{5}{11}$ minutes 11 times in 12 hours	Not at 12-hr mark exactly
Hands opposite (180°)	Every $65 \frac{5}{11}$ minutes 11 times in 12 hours	Offset by half cycle from coincide times
Hands at 90°	22 times in 12 hours	
Leap year rule	Div by 4, except centuries need div by 400	2000 = leap, 1900 = not leap
Odd days	Ordinary year = 1 odd day Leap year = 2 odd	
Century odd days	100 yrs = 5 200 yrs = 3 300 yrs = 1	
Month odd days	Jan=3, Feb=0(28)/1(29), Mar=3, Apr=2, May=3, Jun=1	
Month odd days (2)	Jul=3, Aug=3, Sep=2, Oct=3, Nov=2, Dec=3	
Day code	0=Sun, 1=Mon, 2=Tue, 3=Wed, 4=Thu, 5=Fri, 6=Sat	

MENSURATION — QUICK REFERENCE	FORMULA	NOTE
2D: Square	Area= a^2 Perimeter= $4a$ Diagonal= $a\sqrt{2}$	
2D: Rectangle	Area= lb Perimeter= $2(l+b)$ Diagonal= $\sqrt{l^2+b^2}$	
2D: Triangle	Area= $\frac{1}{2}bh$ Perimeter= $a+b+c$	
2D: Equilateral ■	Area= $(\sqrt{3}/4)a^2$ Height= $(\sqrt{3}/2)a$	
2D: Circle	Area= πr^2 Circumference= $2\pi r$	
2D: Semicircle	Area= $\pi r^2/2$ Perimeter= $\pi r+2r$	
2D: Sector	Area= $\theta r^2/2$ (rad) Arc= $r\theta$	
2D: Rhombus	Area= $\frac{1}{2}d_1d_2$ Perimeter= $4a$	$a = \sqrt{((d_1/2)^2 + (d_2/2)^2)}$
2D: Trapezium	Area= $\frac{1}{2}(a+b)h$ Perimeter= $a+b+c+d$	
2D: Parallelogram	Area= bh Perimeter= $2(a+b)$	
3D: Cube	$V=a^3$ TSA= $6a^2$ Diagonal= $a\sqrt{3}$	
3D: Cuboid	$V=lbh$ TSA= $2(lb+bh+lh)$ Diag= $\sqrt{l^2+b^2+h^2}$	
3D: Cylinder	$V=\pi r^2h$ CSA= $2\pi rh$ TSA= $2\pi r(h+r)$	
3D: Cone	$V=\frac{1}{3}\pi r^2h$ CSA= πrl TSA= $\pi r(l+r)$ $l=\sqrt{r^2+h^2}$	
3D: Sphere	$V=\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ SA= $4\pi r^2$	
3D: Hemisphere	$V=\frac{2}{3}\pi r^3$ CSA= $2\pi r^2$ TSA= $3\pi r^2$	
3D: Frustum	$V=\frac{\pi h}{3}(R^2+r^2+Rr)$ CSA= $\pi(R+r)l$ $l=\sqrt{h^2+(R-r)^2}$	