

Mathematicians Cheat Sheet

Version 3.0

Mathematicians are listed roughly chronologically.

Mathematician Nationality	Details
<u>Pythagoras</u> Greek	philosopher and numerologist who is credited with the Pythagorean theorem and several other discoveries, none of which were likely proven by him; according to legend, killed a follower for proving the existence of an irrational number
<u>Euclid</u> Greek	studied geometry and number theory in <i>Elements</i> , the most important ancient Greek math textbook; proved that there are infinitely many prime numbers
<u>Archimedes</u> Greek	previewed calculus by using the method of exhaustion on problems like the area under a parabola and approximations of pi; physics work included a " Eureka! " moment regarding the density of a gold crown
<u>Hypatia</u> Egyptian (c. Eastern Roman Empire)	wrote influential commentaries on Ptolemy's <i>Almagest</i> , Diophantus' <i>Arithmetica</i> , Apollonius' work on conic sections, and many others; was murdered by a Christian mob, possibly because she advocated paganism
Rene <u>Descartes</u> French	developed analytic geometry, the application of algebraic concepts in a coordinate system to geometry; did extensive work in philosophy
Blaise <u>Pascal</u> French	Names a triangular diagram of the binomial coefficients; on the advice of several gamblers, worked with Fermat on probability ; did extensive work in theology and physics
Pierre de <u>Fermat</u> French	suggested, without actually writing the proof, that $a^n + b^n = c^n$ is impossible if all four variables are positive integers and n is greater than 2, which became known as his " Last Theorem ;" stated his " Little Theorem ," that $(a^p - a)$ is divisible by a when p is prime and a is an integer
Isaac <u>Newton</u> English	discovered calculus simultaneously and independently of Leibniz; generalized the binomial theorem to any exponent; names a method of approximating roots of a function ; did extensive work in physics, optics, and astronomy
Gottfried <u>Leibniz</u> German	discovered calculus simultaneously and independently of Newton; developed the preferred modern notation for calculus; also a landmark optimistic Enlightenment philosopher
Leonhard <u>Euler</u> Swiss	invented graph theory via the Seven Bridges of Konigsberg problem; proved Fermat's Little Theorem; made so many discoveries that many are instead named for the second mathematician to discover them
Sophie <u>Germain</u> French	worked with Gauss, Legendre, and others under a pseudonym; made crucial steps in proving Fermat's Last Theorem; names a type of prime number p such that 2p+1 is also prime
Carl Friedrich <u>Gauss</u> German	proved fundamental theorem of algebra , quadratic reciprocity , the n=5 case of Fermat's Last Theorem, and countless other theorems; created modern notation for modular arithmetic; claimed an early discovery of non-Euclidean geometry; according to legend, summed the first 100 integers instantly as a schoolboy
Ada <u>Lovelace</u> English	wrote the first algorithm for Charles Babbage's analytical engine, making her arguably the first computer programmer
Bernhard <u>Riemann</u> German	rigorously defined the integral in terms of Riemann sums ; posed the Riemann hypothesis regarding the zeroes of the complex zeta function
Emmy <u>Noether</u> German	landmark figure in abstract algebra; taught at Gottingen from 1915 until the Nazi era before moving to the US shortly before her death; did extensive work in physics
David <u>Hilbert</u> German	proposed a highly influential series of 23 unsolved questions in mathematics in 1900
Alan <u>Turing</u> English	devised the " Turing machine ," a theoretical model to analyze computer algorithms; worked at Bletchley Park to crack the Nazi Enigma cipher machine; was convicted of indecency for his homosexuality
Andrew <u>Wiles</u> English	completed a proof of the Taniyama-Shimura conjecture in 1995, finishing the last step of the proof of Fermat's Last Theorem