

# Introduction to Markdown

August 21, 2018

© Copyright 2016 Dr Mike Croucher and Dr Marta Milo

## 1 Using the Jupyter Notebook as a Word Processor

In this notebook we will list a set of basic formatting commands that helps when using markdown cells as Word processor. It will be useful when adding text to your data analysis and also for sharing the notebook in collaborative projects.

### 1.1 Markdown

It is possible to use the notebook as a wordprocessor by making use of **Markdown Cells**.

Markdown is a very simple language that allows you to format your text in your notebook. It is used in many research projects around the world and it represents an ideal tool for data sharing. As well as the Jupyter notebook, another very important project that uses Markdown to format text is the [github](#) code-sharing site. SageMathCloud is also making use of github for the code-sharing and file management. Markdown, being a language, has its own syntax to implement the formatting of the text. In this brief document we list some commonly used syntax for basic text formatting.

### 1.2 Bold and italics

Unlike word processors such as Microsoft Word, you do not highlight text and click on something to change its format. Instead, you use the Markdown syntax to tell the computer how to format your text.

If you want some text to appear in bold, you surround it with two asterisks like this:

```
**This will be bold**
```

the result format will be:

**This will be bold**

If you want the text to be in italics, you surround it in just one asterisk

```
*This will be in italics*
```

the result format will be: *This will be in italics*

### 1.3 Lists

We often create lists in our text, as bullet points or as numbered items.

If we want to create bullet point lists, we can do so in markdown by putting an asterisk and a space in front of each item like this:

```
* item1
* item2
* item3
```

the resulting format will be:

- item1
- item2
- item3

To create nested lists add 4 spaces to the beginning of each line to indent it by one level. Add 8 spaces to indent by two levels like in the example below:

```
* item1
  * item1a
  * item1b
    * This has 8 spaces before the *
* item2
```

the resulting format will be:

- item1
  - item1a - This has 4 spaces before the \*
  - item1b
    - \* This has 8 spaces before the \*
- item2

Finally to create a numbered list, you need to number the first entry and use asterisks for the other entries.

```
1. First
* Second
* Third
```

- ```
1. First
```
- Second
  - Third

Markdown does not support numbered nested lists. If you want to create nested indented lists, you can use the 4 spaces indentation and numbered list, like in the example below: