

Math in Markdown

Math is content, not a tile. Write a formula in a display block with the same TeX notation the sibling MarkdownPDF project uses, and TileDown typesets it at build time into a self-contained SVG: real glyph outlines, exact box-and-glue layout, no client-side JavaScript and no downloaded math font. The page that renders this sentence shipped the equation below as plain markup.

$$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$$

How it works

A `$. . . $` block is parsed to a typed math tree, laid out by a shared box-and-glue engine driven by the font's OpenType MATH table, and emitted as an `<svg>` of `<path>` glyph outlines and vector rules. The outlines are extracted from Latin Modern Math in pure Swift, so nothing is downloaded and the result is identical in every browser. The fill is `currentColor`, so the math is dark on a light page and light on a dark one, like the rest of the text. A visually hidden MathML copy travels with each formula for screen readers and copy-paste.

Because the engine is shared with MarkdownPDF, the same source typesets to the same shapes whether you target a web page or a PDF.

Why not the usual `latex + dvisvgm` pipeline?

Other build-time math-to-SVG tools shell out to a full TeX distribution plus `dvisvgm`, `pdftocairo`, and an SVG optimizer. That produces similar output, but it means every build host needs a multi-gigabyte LaTeX install and several external binaries. TileDown carries none of that. It parses the font itself — a CFF charstring interpreter written in Swift — and lays out the math with its own box-and-glue engine, so the only dependency is Swift. The build stays clean on macOS and Linux with no C libraries and no toolchain to provision.

Fractions, roots, and scripts

The quadratic formula nests a fraction over a radical whose sign scales to its radicand:

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Superscripts, subscripts, and the closed form of a sum lay out together:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

Big operators and limits

Operators grow in display style and carry their limits above and below:

$$\int\limits_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n = e$$

A bigger one

Nothing about the block is special-cased for size. A full matrix equation simply lays out wider and taller, grown delimiters and all, from the same `$$` source:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrices

Environments like `pmatrix` lay out rows and columns with grown delimiters:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

Every formula on this page is static SVG produced by the build. View source: there is no script tag, and there is no font request.