

LEAN TACTICS: ONE PAGE CHEAT SHEET

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With examples at: <http://www.ma.rhul.ac.uk/~uvah099/Maths/TacticsCheatSheet.lean>

Tactics dealing with construction and deconstruction. Where multiple near equivalents are shown, the first in bold may be most convenient.

Value : Type or Type	in Hypothesis 'destructor'	in Goal 'constructor'
$h : x = y$ See also: rw		rfl
$h : \exists k, p k$	obtain $\langle k, h_k \rangle := h$ rcases h with $\langle k, h_k \rangle$ cases h with intro $k h_k$	use k exists k refine $\langle k, ?_ \rangle$ GOAL NOW $p k$ exact Exists.intro $k h_k$ NEED $h_k : p k$ IN SCOPE
$h : p \rightarrow q$ See also: rw	have $h_q : q := h h_p$ NEED $h_p : p$ IN SCOPE 'function application'	intro h_p GOAL NOW q , HYPOTHESIS $h_p : p$ ' λ abstraction'
$h : p \leftrightarrow q$	obtain $\langle h_{mp}, h_{mpr} \rangle := h$ rcases h with $\langle h_{mp}, h_{mpr} \rangle$ cases h with intro $h_{mp} h_{mpr} \implies$ $h.mp : p \rightarrow q, h.mpr : q \rightarrow p$	constructor · $h_{mp} : p \rightarrow q$ · $h_{mpr} : q \rightarrow p$ refine $\langle ?_ , ?_ \rangle \dots$ THEN AS constructor exact $\langle h_{mp}, h_{mpr} \rangle$ exact Iff.intro $h_{mp} h_{mpr}$ NEED $h_{mp} : p \rightarrow q, h_{mpr} : q \rightarrow p$ IN SCOPE
$h : \forall k, p k$	specialize $h \ell$ have $h_\ell := h \ell$ let $h_\ell := h \ell$ 'function application'	intro ℓ $\text{by fun } \ell \implies \text{by } \dots$ GOAL NOW $p l$ ' λ abstraction'
$h : \forall k, \exists \ell, p k \ell$	choose $f h'$ using h NOW $h' : \forall k, p k (f k)$ 'skolemisation'	
$h : p \wedge q$	obtain $\langle h_p, h_q \rangle := h$ rcases h with $\langle h_p, h_q \rangle$ cases h with intro $h_p h_q \implies$ $h.left : p, h.right : q$	constructor · $h_p : p$ · $h_q : q$ refine $\langle ?_ , ?_ \rangle$ · $h_p : p$ · $h_q : q$ GOALS NOW $h_p : p$ AND $h_q : q$ exact $\langle h_p, h_q \rangle$ exact And.intro $h_p h_q$ PROVIDED $h_p : p, h_q : q$ IN SCOPE
$p \wedge q \rightarrow$	rintro $\langle h_p, h_q \rangle$	
$h : p \vee q$	rcases h with $(h_p h_q)$ · $h_p : p$ NOW IN SCOPE · $h_q : q$ NOW IN SCOPE obtain $(h_p h_q) := h$ · $h_p : p$ NOW IN SCOPE · $h_q : q$ NOW IN SCOPE cases h with inl $h_p \implies$ inr $h_q \implies$	exact Or.inl $(h_p : p)$ exact Or.inr $(h_q : q)$
$p \vee q \rightarrow$	rintro $(h_p h_q)$ · $h_p : p$ NOW IN SCOPE · $h_q : q$ NOW IN SCOPE	
$h : \neg \forall, p x$ $\neg \exists, q x$	push_neg at h	push_neg

Remarks.

- Compare destructors (for hypothesis) and constructors (for goal) in Haskell and its kin.
- Some tactics change the environment, for example specialize h l replaces a hypothesis h of type $\forall k, p k$ with its specialization of type $p \ell$; use ‘have’ to duplicate a hypothesis.
- There are subtle differences between ‘use’, ‘refine’ and ‘exists’. There are cases where the follow up work done by ‘use’ will close a goal that is left open by ‘refine’, for instance


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example (n : Nat) (h : n = 4) :  $\exists k, n = 2*k :=$  by ...
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 can be completed by either `use 2` or `refine <2, ?_>; rw [h]`.
- ‘have’ records only that the type is inhabited whereas ‘let’ remembers the definition. For propositions, by proof-irrelevance, the fact that the type is inhabited is all that can be said, and ‘have’ is idiomatic. For data values, such as $5 : \text{Nat}$, ‘let’ should be used.
- `push_neg` is more general, for instance $\neg\neg p$ transforms to p .

Further tactics. When type signatures are optional they are given here using parentheses. Types can be refined to control where `rw` matches. Note `rw?`, `apply?` and `exact?` which will suggest lemmas from `Mathlib`. Bold tactics may be most useful.

Tactic	Use
<code>apply</code>	<code>apply (h : p → q)</code> : transform goal q to goal p
<code>assumption</code>	close goal of type p if value of type p is in scope
<code>by_contra</code>	<code>by_contra h</code> : change goal to <code>False</code> and introduce $h : \neg p$ as new hypothesis
<code>by_cases</code>	<code>by_cases h : p</code> · <code>WHERE h : p</code> · <code>WHERE h : $\neg p$</code>
<code>calc</code>	<code>calc x = y := by exact h : x = y</code> <code>_ = z := by simp [(h' : y = z)]</code> constructing a value of type $x = z$
<code>change</code>	change q : change goal to q when q is definitionally equivalent to current goal
<code>congr</code> <code>gcongr</code>	use congruence rules for equality (<code>congr</code>) inequality (<code>gcongr</code>): <code>gcongr</code> will replace goal $x + y \leq a + b$ with subgoals $x \leq a$ and $y \leq b$
<code>contradiction</code>	close goal of any type if <code>False</code> is in scope, or any pair of $h : p$ and $h' : \neg p$ values are in scope; compare <code>False.elim (h : False) : \star</code>
<code>convert</code>	souped up <code>refine</code> ; matches goal on given pattern leaving subgoals
<code>exact</code>	<code>exact (h : p)</code> : close a goal of type p
<code>have</code>	<code>have h_p : p := by ...</code> : new hypothesis of type p , do <i>not</i> parenthesise ($h_p : p$)
<code>induction</code>	<code>induction n</code> with <code>zero</code> \implies <code>by ...</code> <code>succ n h_{ind}</code> \implies <code>by ...</code>
<code>rw</code>	<code>rw [(h : p \longleftrightarrow q)]</code> : rewrite p in goal with q (once) <code>rw [(h : p \longleftrightarrow q), (h' : p' \longleftrightarrow q')]</code> : same as <code>rw [h]</code> ; <code>rw [h']</code> <code>rw [\leftarrow (h : p \longleftrightarrow q)]</code> : rewrite q in goal with p (once) <code>rw [(h : x = y)]</code> : rewrite x in goal as y (once) <code>rw [\leftarrow (h : x = y)]</code> : rewrite y in goal as x (once) <code>rw ... at k</code> : as above, rewriting hypothesis k (once) <code>rw ... at *</code> : as above, rewriting all hypotheses and goal (but still once each)
<code>set/let</code>	<code>set x : Nat := 3</code> : for local bindings
<code>show</code>	<code>show p</code> : state that current goal has type p for clarity in longer proofs
<code>simp</code>	<code>simp</code> : simplify goal using <code>simp</code> lemmas <code>simp [h, h']</code> : simplify goal <i>also</i> using specified propositions <code>simp at k</code> : simplify hypothesis k using <code>simp</code> lemmas <code>simp [h, h'] at k</code> : simplify k <i>also</i> using specified propositions <code>simp only [h, h'] at k</code> : simplify k <i>only</i> using specified propositions
<code>unfold</code>	<code>unfold h</code> : replace h with its definition; it may help to define using ‘abbrev’

`rwa` and `simp` mimic `rw` and `simp` but fail unless the goal is then closed by applying `assumption`

Sledgehammer tactics. Try `grind`, `linarith` (inequalities), `nlinarith` (more general inequalities), `omega` and `tauto` (tautologies).