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Master Cheat Sheet: Data Interpretation (DI)

Compiled by Elite Professor & LaTeX Wizard

1. Fundamental Formulas

Percentage Change

$$\text{Percentage Change} = \frac{\text{Final Value} - \text{Initial Value}}{\text{Initial Value}} \times 100$$

Percentage Point Difference

when comparing two percentages.

Example: If market share rises from 12% to 15%, —
the percentage point increase is $15 - 12 = 3\%$.

Growth Rate (CAGR)

$$\text{CAGR} = \left(\frac{\text{Ending Value}}{\text{Beginning Value}} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1$$

n is the number of time periods.

Averages and Weighted Averages

$$\text{Average} = \frac{\sum x_i}{n}$$

$$\text{Weighted Average} = \frac{\sum w_i x_i}{\sum w_i}$$

2. Common DI Chart Types

- **Tables:** Best for exact values, multi-variable comparisons. *Tip: Look for row/column totals first.*
- **Bar Graphs:** Ideal for discrete categorical comparisons over time or categories.

- **Pie Charts:** Show proportional distribution (100% or 360°). Note whether values are absolute or percentages.
- **Line Graphs:** Track trends over continuous time intervals. Focus on slopes for growth rates.
- **Radar / Spider Charts:** Multi-variate data across multiple axes. Check scale per axis.

Ratio and Proportion Tricks

$\frac{A}{B} = \frac{C}{D}$, then

$$\frac{A+B}{B} = \frac{C+D}{D} \quad (\text{Componendo})$$

$$\frac{A-B}{B} = \frac{C-D}{D} \quad (\text{Dividendo})$$

Data Sufficiency in DI

if statements provide *independent* quantitative values or if ratios alone are sufficient (remember: ratios do not give absolute values without a base).

3. Speed Calculation Hacks

Fractions to Percentages

Fraction	%	Fraction	%
1/2	50%	1/7	14.28%
1/3	33.33%	1/8	12.5%
1/4	25%	1/9	11.11%
1/5	20%	1/10	10%
1/6	16.67%	1/11	9.09%

Approximation Techniques

- **Rounding:** If options are far apart, round numbers to 2 significant digits.
- **Aliquot Fractions:** $A\%$ of $B = B\%$ of A .

4. Advanced Concepts

Index Numbers

$$\text{Index Value} = \frac{\text{Value in Given Year}}{\text{Value in Base Year}} \times 100$$