

Perl Dereferencing Cheat-sheet
Abrita Chakravarty

```
# an array
$arrayVariable = ("A", "T", "G", "C");

# a reference to the array
$arrayRef = \$arrayVariable;

# reference to an anonymous array
$arrayRef = [ "A", "T", "G", "C" ];

# access an element of the array
$arrayRef->[ 0 ]

# access the array
@$arrayRef

# use the reference as an array
pop(@$arrayRef);
push(@$arrayRef, "X");

# Dereferencing the array
@$arrayRef;           # entire array
@{$arrayRef};         # entire array
$arrayRef[0..2];     # slice of the array

# a hash
%hashVar = ( "one"=>1, "two"=>2, "three"=>3 );

# reference to a hash
$altHashRef = \%hashVar;

# reference to an anonymous hash
$hashRef = { "one"=>1, "two"=>2, "three"=>3 };

# access a value from the hash
$$hashRef{"one"};
$hashRef->{ "two" };

# use the reference as a hash
%$hashRef;
%{$hashRef};
```

```
# Hash of hashes and arrays
$ref = { "hash"=>{ "a"=>1, "b"=>2}, "array"=>[ 3,4 ]};

# Access the hash out of the hash
%{$ref->{ "hash" }};

# Access a value from the hash
$ref->{ "hash" }->{ "a" };

# Add an element to the hash within the hash
$ref->{ "hash" }->{ "c" } = 0;

# Access the array in the hash
@{$ref->{ "array" }};

# Access a value from the hash
$ref->{ "array" }->[ 1 ];

# Add an element to the array within the hash
push(@{$ref->{ "array" }}, 5);
```