

# VisiData: Commands, Tips, and Tricks

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## 1 Installation

```
pip3 install visidata  
vd --version
```

## 2 Help

- Ctrl+h: Show help
- z+Ctrl+h: Show all commands

## 3 Supported Filetypes

- CSV and other delimiter-separated formats
- Excel spreadsheets (*requires pip3 install xlrd openpyxl*)
- Fixed-width files
- SQLite databases
- PostgreSQL (*requires pip3 install psycopg2*)
- MySQL (*requires pip3 install mysqlclient*)
- HDF5 (*requires pip3 install h5py*)
- .sas7bdat (*requires pip3 install sas7bdat*)
- .xpt (*requires pip3 install xport*)
- .sav (*requires pip3 install savReaderWriter*)
- .dta (*requires pip3 install pandas*)

## 4 Opening and Quitting Files

- Open a file: `vd file.csv`
- Quit: `q` or `gq` (quit all)
- Specify delimiter:

```
vd --csv-delimiter "|" filename.csv
```

Or in **yazi** or **vifm**, navigate to the file and run:

```
# yazi  
fish -c "vd --csv-delimiter ';;' $0"  
# vifm
```

```
:!vd --csv-delimiter ";" %f
```

## 5 Sheets

VisiData opens each file or operation in a new **sheet**.

- **gS**: View all sheets
- Select sheets (**s**), then join (**&**) them: append, inner, outer, or diff join

### 5.1 Adjusting Columns

- Hide a column: **-**
- Show all hidden columns: **gv**
- Auto-adjust column width: **\_**

### 5.2 Adding Columns and Rows

- **za**: Append a blank column
- **i**: Insert new column
- **^**: Rename column
- **a**: Add a new row (not editable in frequency table)
- Delete a column: **Shift+C**, then **d**
- Edit a cell: **e**

### 5.3 Navigation

- Go to beginning of column: **gh**
- Go to end of column: **gl**

### 5.4 Overview / Summary

- **Shift+I**: Overview (“bird’s eye view”) of the data

## 5.5 Selecting and Deselecting Rows

- `,`: Select rows matching the current cell in the current column
- `s`: Select row
- `gs`: Select all
- `u`: Deselect current row
- `gu`: Deselect all
- `gd`: Delete all selected rows
- Select by pattern:
  - Use `/` to search column
  - Use `g/` to search all columns
  - Use regex with `\...` to deselect (e.g., rows longer than 3 chars)
- From frequency table:
  - Select rows (`s`), press `g+Enter` to go back
  - Use `"` to copy
  - Alternative: `Shift+F` → select rows → `q` to go back

## 5.6 Filtering

- `z|`: Filter rows using expressions
- Examples:
  - `OPERATOR == "BUSINESS"`
  - `STATE != "FL"`
  - `Height > 170`

## 5.7 Deleting

- Delete row: `d`
- Delete column: `Shift+C` → `d`
- Delete all selections: `gd`

## 5.8 Replace Values

- Select matching rows with `,`
- `ge`: Globally edit selected cells in a column

## 5.9 Sorting

- Sort ascending: [
- Sort descending: ]

## 5.10 Plotting

1. Select x-axis column: !
2. Select y-axis column: !
3. Optional: select color column
4. Ensure cursor is on y-axis (numeric)
5. Plot: .
6. Adjust aspect ratio: z\_ (plot width / height)
7. Convert to numeric: % or #

## 5.11 Command Prompt

- Space: Launch command prompt

## 5.12 Mnemonics

- g = “global” or “all”:
- / = search in column
- g/ = search in all columns
- z = “zoom in” or “narrow”:
- y = copy column
- zy = copy cell