

VisiData: Commands, Tips, and Tricks

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Contents

1	Installation	2
2	Help	2
3	Supported Filetypes	2
4	Opening and Quitting Files	2
5	Sheets	3
5.1	Adjusting Columns	3
5.2	Adding Columns and Rows	3
5.3	Navigation	3
5.4	Overview / Summary	3
5.5	Selecting and Deselecting Rows	3
5.6	Filtering	4
5.7	Deleting	4
5.8	Replace Values	4
5.9	Sorting	4
5.10	Plotting	5
5.11	Command Prompt	5
5.12	Mnemonics	5

List of Figures

List of Tables

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:

```
:!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