

VIM QUICK REFERENCE CARD

Basic movement

h l k j character left, right; line up, down
b w word/token left, right
ge e end of word/token left, right
{ } beginning of previous, next paragraph
() beginning of previous, next sentence
O ^ \$ beginning, first, last character of line
nG ngg line *n*, default the last, first
n% percentage *n* of the file (*n must be provided*)
n| column *n* of current line
% match of next brace, bracket, comment, **#define**
nH nL line *n* from start, bottom of window
M middle line of window

Insertion & replace → insert mode

i a insert before, after cursor
I A insert at beginning, end of line
gI insert text in first column
o O open a new line below, above the current line
rc replace character under cursor with *c*
grc like **r**, but without affecting layout
R replace characters starting at the cursor
gR like **R**, but without affecting layout
cm change text of movement command *m*
cc or S change current line
C change to the end of line
s change one character and insert
~ switch case and advance cursor
g~m switch case of movement command *m*
gum gUm ... lowercase, uppercase text of movement *m*
<*m* >*m* shift left, right text of movement *m*
n<< n>> shift *n* lines left, right

Deletion

x X delete character under, before cursor
dm delete text of movement command *m*
dd D delete current line, to the end of line
J gJ join current line with next, without space
:rd↵ delete range *r* lines
:rdx↵ delete range *r* lines into register *x*

Insert mode

^Vc ^Vn insert char *c* literally, decimal value *n*
^A insert previously inserted text
^@ same as ^A and stop insert → command mode
^Rx ^R^Rx insert content of register *x*, literally
^N ^P text completion before, after cursor
^W delete word before cursor
^U delete all inserted character in current line
^D ^T shift left, right one shift width
^Kc₁c₂ or c₁↵c₂ enter digraph {*c*₁, *c*₂}
^Oc execute *c* in temporary command mode
^X^E ^X^Y scroll up, down
<esc> or ^[..... abandon edition → command mode

Copying

"x use register *x* for next delete, yank, put
:reg↵ show the content of all registers
:reg x↵ show the content of registers *x*
ym yank the text of movement command *m*
yy or Y yank current line into register
p P put register after, before cursor position
lp [p like **p**, **P** with indent adjusted
gp gP like **p**, **P** leaving cursor after new text

Advanced insertion/formatting

n^A n^X +*n*, −*n* to number under cursor
gqm format lines of movement *m* to fixed width
:rce w↵ center lines in range *r* to width *w*
:rle i↵ left align lines in range *r* with indent *i*
:rri w↵ right align lines in range *r* to width *w*
!mc↵ . filter lines of movement *m* through command *c*
n!!c↵ filter *n* lines through command *c*
:r!c↵ filter range *r* lines through command *c*

Visual mode

v V ^V .. start/stop highlighting characters, lines, block
o ... exchange cursor position with start of highlighting
gv start highlighting on previous visual area
aw as ap select a word, a sentence, a paragraph
ab aB select a block (), a block { }

Undoing, repeating & registers

u U undo last command, restore last changed line
. ^R repeat last changes, redo last undo
n. repeat last changes with count replaced by *n*
qc qC ... record, append typed characters in register *c*
q stop recording
@c execute the content of register *c*
@@ repeat previous @ command
:@c↵ execute register *c* as an *Ex* command
:rg/p/c↵ execute *Ex* command *c* on range *r*
[where pattern *p* matches

Complex movement

- + line up, down on first non-blank character
B W space-separated word left, right
gE E end of space-separated word left, right
n_ down *n* − 1 line on first non-blank character
g0 gm beginning, middle of *screen* line
g^ g\$ first, last character of *screen* line
gk gj *screen* line up, down
fc Fc next, previous occurrence of character *c*
tc Tc before next, previous occurrence of *c*
; , repeat last fFtT, in opposite direction
[[]] start of section backward, forward
[]][..... end of section backward, forward
[()] unclosed (,) backward, forward
[{]} unclosed { , } backward, forward
[m]m start of backward, forward *Java* method
[#]#.unclosed #if, #else, #endif backward, forward
[*]* start, end of /* */ backward, forward

Search & substitution

/s↵ ?s↵ search forward, backward for *s*
/s/o↵ ?s?o↵ search fwd, bwd for *s* with offset *o*
n or /↵ repeat forward last search
N or ?↵ repeat backward last search
* ... search backward, forward for word under cursor
g# g* same, but also find partial matches
gd gD ... local, global definition of symbol under cursor
:rs/f/t/x↵ substitute *f* by *t* in range *r*
[*x* : g—all occurrences, c—confirm changes
:rs x↵ repeat substitution with new *r* & *x*

Special characters in search patterns

. ^ \$ any single character, start, end of line
< > start, end of word
[c_1 - c_2] a single character in range $c_1..c_2$
[$\sim c_1$ - c_2] a single character not in range
\i \k \I \K an identifier, keyword; excl. digits
\f \p \F \P .. a file name, printable char.; excl. digits
\s \S a white space, a non-white space
\e \t \r \b $\langle esc \rangle$, $\langle tab \rangle$, $\langle \leftarrow \rangle$, $\langle \leftarrow \rangle$
\= * \+ match 0..1, 0.. ∞ , 1.. ∞ of preceding atoms
\| separate two branches ($\equiv or$)
\(\) group patterns into an atom
\& \n the whole matched pattern, n^{th} () group
\u \l next character made upper, lowercase
\c \C ignore, match case on next pattern

Offsets in search commands

$n_{or}+n$ n line downward in column 1
 $-n$ n line upward in column 1
 $e+n$ $e-n$ n characters right, left to end of match
 $s+n$ $s-n$ n characters right, left to start of match
;sc execute search command sc next

Marks and motions

mc mark current position with mark $c \in [a..Z]$
'c 'C go to mark c in current, C in any file
'0..9 go to last exit position
' ' " go to position before jump, at last edit
'[']' go to start, end of previously operated text
:marks \leftarrow print the active marks list
:jumps \leftarrow print the jump list
 n^0 go to n^{th} older position in jump list
 n^I go to n^{th} newer position in jump list

Tags

:ta $t \leftarrow$ jump to tag t
:nta \leftarrow jump to n^{th} newer tag in list
^] ^T ... jump to the tag under cursor, return from tag
:ts $t \leftarrow$... list matching tags and select one for jump
:tj $t \leftarrow$. jump to tag or select one if multiple matches
:tags \leftarrow print tag list
:npo \leftarrow :n T \leftarrow jump back from, to n^{th} older tag
:tl \leftarrow jump to last matching tag

^W} :pt $t \leftarrow$ preview tag under cursor, tag t
^W] split window and show tag under cursor
^Wz or :pc \leftarrow close tag preview window

Scrolling & multi-windowing

^E ^Y scroll line up, down
^D ^U scroll half a page up, down
^F ^B scroll page up, down
zt or z \leftarrow set current line at top of window
zz or z. set current line at center of window
zb or z- set current line at bottom of window
zh zl scroll one character to the right, left
zH zL scroll half a screen to the right, left
^Ws or :split \leftarrow split window in two
^Wn or :new \leftarrow create new empty window
^Wo or :on \leftarrow make current window one on screen
^Wj ^Wk move to window below, above
^Ww ^W^W move to window below, above (wrap)

Ex commands (\leftarrow)

:e f edit file f , unless changes have been made
:e! f edit file f always (by default reload current)
:wn :wN write file and edit next, previous one
:n :N edit next, previous file in list
:rw write range r to current file
:rw f write range r to file f
:rw>> f append range r to file f
:q :q! quit and confirm, quit and discard changes
:wq or :x or ZZ write to current file and exit
 $\langle up \rangle$ $\langle down \rangle$ recall commands starting with current
:r f insert content of file f below cursor
:r! c insert output of command c below cursor
:args display the argument list
:rc a :rm a copy, move range r below line a

Ex ranges

, ; separates two lines numbers, set to first line
 n an absolute line number
. $\$$ the current line, the last line in file
% * entire file, visual area
' t position of mark t
/p/ ?p? the next, previous line where p matches
+ n - n + n , - n to the preceding line number

Folding

zfm create fold of movement m
:rfo create fold for range r
zd zE delete fold at cursor, all in window
zo zc z0 zC open, close one fold; recursively
[z]z move to start, end of current open fold
zj zk move down, up to start, end of next fold

Spell checking

:setlocal spell spelllang=en_us \leftarrow ... activate spc.
]s next misspelled word
zg add good word
zw mark bad word
z= suggest corrections

Miscellaneous

:sh \leftarrow :!c \leftarrow ... start shell, execute command c in shell
K lookup keyword under cursor with **man**
:make \leftarrow start **make**, read errors and jump to first
:cn \leftarrow :cp \leftarrow display the next, previous error
:cl \leftarrow :cf \leftarrow list all errors, read errors from file
^L ^G redraw screen, show filename and position
g^G show cursor column, line, and character position
ga show ASCII value of character under cursor
gf open file which filename is under cursor
:redir> $f \leftarrow$ redirect output to file f
:mkview [f] save view configuration [to file f]
:loadview [f] load view configuration [from file f]