A Quick Tour of Emacs

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What is emacs?

- *Emacs is the extensible, customizable, self-documenting real-time display editor.*

- Emacs stands for Editor MACroS

- Latest Stable Release is 22.1

- Runs on everything

Control and Meta keys

In the following slides, **C-x** and **M-x** refers to the following:

- '**C-x**': press the <x> key while holding down the <Control> key

- '**M-x**': press the <x> key while holding down the <Meta> key (typically the <Alt> key, but <ESC> always works)

In a nutshell …

- In Emacs, there are **three** very important commands to remember, and **one** even more important command to remember:

1. To delete a char   **C-[backspace]**
2. To save a file   **C-x C-s**
3. To quit emacs   **C-x C-c**

In a nutshell …

The one even more important command is:

1. To get out of any situation
    where you are stuck   **C-g**
    and don't know what to do

The rest of the usage (open a file, insert text, etc.)
are intuitive and are just like other text editors.

Starting and Quitting

- To start editing a file:
  - **emacs [file]** or **emacs -nw [file]**
  - nw stands for 'no window', useful when you **don't** want to run XEmacs
- To quit from emacs:
  - **C-x C-c**
  - **C-x C-z** (equivalent, probably easier to use because of the position of the z key).

Working with Files

- Emacs has 'modes' associated with filetypes and actions (e.g. compilation, debugging) etc.
  - Major mode vs. minor mode
- Common file commands
  - **C-x C-f** open file
  - **C-x C-s** save current buffer
  - **C-x s** save all open files

Cursor movements

- These are important because they make you fast
- Common movement commands
  - **C-d d**elete char
  - **C-f f**orward one char
  - **C-b b**ack on char
  - **C-n n**ext line
  - **C-p p**revious line
  - **C-a** beginning of line
  - **C-e e**nd of line
  - **C-o** new line (enter)

Even more cursor movements

- **M->** end of file
- **M-<** beginning of file
- **M-d d**elete word
- **M-f f**orward one word
- **M-b b**ack one word
- **M-}** forward one paragraph
- **M-{** back one paragraph
- … and many others (see references)

Searching\Replacing

- **C-s** find word forward
- **C-r** find word in reverse
- Use **C-s** and **C-r** to jump forward\back
  - Press [enter] to stop the cursor on the current match
- **M-%** replace with prompt
- **M-x 'replace-string'** replace without prompting

Cut and Paste

- **C-[space]** set a mark (start of region)
- **C-x C-x** jump to
- **C-w** cut the region from mark to current cursor location
- **M-w** copy region
- **C-y** paste region
- **C-k** cut to end of line, use multiple times to add to cut buffer (kill buff)

Working with buffers

- Buffers -- where editing takes place, but they may also contain program output

- Common commands:
  - **C-x b** select another buffer
  - **C-x C-b** list all buffers
  - **C-x k** kill current buffer

Multiple Windows

- Useful for having multiple buffers on the screen. Make use of all that screen space!

- Common commands
  - **C-x 2** split window horiz
  - **C-x 3** split window vert
  - **C-x 1** delete all other windows
  - **C-x 0** delete this window
  - **C-x o** jump to 'other' window (use to cycle through windows).

Macros

- Macros are useful for repeatable key sequences that may be include commands.
- Common macro commands
  - **C-x (** begin macro definition (after this, type whatever actions you'd like repeated\stored)
  - **C-x)** end macro definition
  - **C-e** execute stored macro
  - **C-u 5 C-e** execute stored macro 5 times (Note: **C-u 5** can prefix **any** emacs cmd, even a non-cmd)

Extras

- **M-x 'shell'** start a shell in a new buffer!
- **M-x 'dired'** start a directory editor/browser
- **M-x 'tetris'** start tetris
- **M-x 'w3m'** web browser (see refs)
- **M-x 'gnus'** start reading gnu news
- **M-x 'compile'** compile cmd, also 'recompile' cmd
- **M-x 'vi-mode'** vi mode for emacs!

One cmd to always remember

C-g

Quits whatever in the world emacs is doing right now. Often you have to use it multiple times.

References

- Reference card with most commands you'll ever need
  - http://www.clip.dia.fi.upm.es/~logalg/doc/emacsreference.pdf
- Official GNU emacs site
  - http://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/
- An emacs HowTo
  - http://jeremy.zawodny.com/emacs/emacs.html
- w3m web browser for emacs
  - http://emacs-w3m.namazu.org/index-en.html