

A Primer for the vi Editor on Unix Computers

(note: all commands are case-sensitive)

There are three modes (active, passive, and command) in the vi editor. To invoke the vi editor, type `vi thefileyouwanttoedit` on the command line.

For entering or altering text, you do so by going to the active mode. If you are already in the active mode and need to go to the passive or command mode, then generally you will need to hit the escape key (Esc on your keyboard).

Active Mode Commands:

The active mode allows you to enter or alter text in the file.

- i** Insert text (Esc to exit)
- R** Replace or overwrite text (Esc to exit)
- r** Replace or overwrite one character (Esc to exit)
- x** Delete current character (no need to hit Esc key to exit)
- .** Repeat previous action (no need to hit Esc key to exit)
- u** Undo edit (no need to hit Esc key to exit)
- U** Undo all edits on this line (no need to hit Esc key to exit)
- cw** Change one word - current word from cursor position (Esc to exit)
- O** Open new line (above the current line) (Esc to exit)
- o** Open new line (below the current line) (Esc to exit)
- yy or Y** Yank current line (i.e. copy current line) (Esc to exit)
- P** Paste yanked or deleted line above the current line
- p** Paste yanked or deleted line below the current line
- dd** Delete current line
- D** Delete to the end of line starting from current cursor position
- J** Join current line with following line

Passive Mode Commands:

The passive mode simply allows you to view the file without making changes to the file.

- j** Move down one line (like down arrow)
- k** Move up one line (like up arrow)
- h** Move left one character (like left arrow)
- l** Move right one character (like right arrow)
- w** Move forward by one word to the beginning of word
- e** Move forward by one word to the end of word
- b** Move backward by one word to the beginning of word
- n** Search pattern forward (see below)
- N** Search pattern backward (see below)
- Ctrl-D** Move down by half a page
- Ctrl-U** Move up by half a page
- Ctrl-F** Move forward by a page
- Ctrl-B** Move backward by a page
- 1G** Move to first line of file (command typed **1** followed by **G**)
- nG** Move to nth line of file (command typed "number" followed by **G**)
- G** Move to last line of file

Command Mode:

In the command mode, you can search for patterns and make global changes to alter patterns to some other pattern in the file. You enter this mode by typing ":" or "/" and return to passive mode by hitting "Enter"

:%s/string1/string2	Replace all occurrences of string1 with string2
/string1	Search for the next occurrence of string1 (for next occurrence type n (see above))
:wq or ZZ	Write and quit (save changes)
:q!	Exit vi without saving changes

Tutorial:

The goal of this tutorial is to show you how to enter a title/sample details for the experiment you are about to perform on the Varian instrument. You should do this before typing **go**.

1. Type **textvi** to invoke the vi editor from inside **vnmr**.
2. A new window should come up mostly with the text "new experiment".
3. Use the **dd** command to delete the line with the text.
4. Use the **i** command to start inserting new text. Be sure to include details such as sample concentration, buffer constituents and concentration, pH, temperature, and any other information that might be helpful. Hit the Esc button when done. If you need to make any changes or correct typos, use appropriate commands from lists above.
5. Upon acquiring and processing the NMR data, when you print the spectrum using either of these commands **pl pap pscale page** (for 1D spectra) or **pcon(20,1.2) pap page** (for 2D spectra), notice where the text you entered above appears.