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
`0 gm` . . . . . beginning, middle of line
`^ $` . . . . . first, last character of line
n`G` *n*`gg` . . . . . 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`
n`H` *n*`L` . . . . . 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
`r`*c* . . . . . replace character under cursor with *c*
`gr`*c* . . . . . like `r`, but without affecting layout
`R` . . . . . replace characters starting at the cursor
`gR` . . . . . like `R`, but without affecting layout
`c`*m* . . . . . 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*
`gu`*m* `gU`*m* . . . 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
`d`*m* . . . . . 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
`:r d`↩ . . . . . delete range *r* lines
`:r d`*x*↩ . . . . . delete range *r* lines into register *x*

Insert mode

`^V`*c* . . . . . insert char *c* literally
`^V`*n* . . . . . insert decimal value of character
`^A` . . . . . insert previously inserted text
`^@` . . . . . same as `^A` and stop insert → command mode
`^R`*x* . . . . . insert content of register *x*
`^N ^P` . . . . . text completion before, after cursor
`^W` . . . . . delete word before cursor
`^U` . . . . . delete all inserted character in current line
`^D` . . . . . shift left one shift width
`^K` *c*$_1$ *c*$_2$ . . . . . enter digraph
⟨*esc*⟩ . . . . . 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*
`y`*m* . . . . . yank the text of movement command *m*
`yy` *or* `Y` . . . . . yank current line into register
`p P` . . . . . put register after, before cursor position
`]p [p` . . . . . like `p`, `P` with indent adjusted
`gp gP` . . . . . like `p`, `P` leaving cursor after new text

Advanced insertion

`g?`*m* . . . . . perform rot13 encoding on movement *m*
n`^A` *n*`^X` . . . . . +*n*, −*n* to number under cursor
`gq`*m* . . . . . format lines of movement *m* to fixed width
`:r ce` *w*↩ . . . . . center lines in range *r* to width *w*
`:r le` *i*↩ . . . . . left align lines in range *r* with indent *i*
`:r ri` *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 commands

`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*
`q`*c* `q`*C* . . . . 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
`:g/`*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` . . . . . beginning of *screen* line
`g^ g$` . . . . . first, last character of *screen* line
`gk gj` . . . . . *screen* line up, down
`f`*c* `F`*c* . . . . . next, previous occurence of character *c*
`t`*c* `T`*c* . . . . . before next, previous occurence 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, end 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
`:r s/`*f*`/`*t*`/`*x*↩ . . . . . substitute *f* by *t* in range *r*
⌊ *x* : `g`—all occurrences, `c`—confirm changes
`:r s` *x*↩ . . . . . repeat substitution with new *r* & *x*

Special characters in search patterns

`.` `^` ..... any single character, start of line
`\<` `\>` ..... start, end of word
`[`c_1`..`c_2`]` ..... a single character in range $c_1..c_2$
`[^`c_1`..`c_2`]` ..... a single character not in range
`\i` `\I` ..... an identifier, excluding digits
`\k` `\K` ..... a keyword, excluding digits
`\f` `\F` ..... a file name, excluding digits
`\p` `\P` ..... a printable character, excluding digits
`\s` `\S` ..... a white space, a non-white space
`\e` `\t` `\r` `\b` ..... ⟨*esc*⟩, ⟨*tab*⟩, ⟨↩⟩, ⟨←⟩
`\=` `*` `\+` .... match 0..1, 0..∞, 1..∞ of preceding atoms
`\|` ..... separate two branches (≡ *or*)
`\(` `\)` ..... group patterns into an atom

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

`m`c ..... 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`↩ ..... print the active marks list
`:jumps`↩ ..... print the jump list
n`^O` ..... go to n^{th} older position in jump list
n`^I` ..... go to n^{th} newer position in jump list

Key mapping & abbreviations

`:map` c e↩ ..... map $c \mapsto e$ in normal & visual mode
`:map!` c e↩ .... map $c \mapsto e$ in insert & cmd-line mode
`:unmap` c↩ `:unmap!` c↩ ..... remove mapping c
`:mk` f↩ ... write current mappings, settings... to file f
`:ab` c e↩ ..... add abbreviation for $c \mapsto e$
`:ab` c↩ ..... show abbreviations starting with c
`:una` c↩ ..... remove abbreviation c

Tags

`:ta` t↩ ..... jump to tag t
`:`n`ta`↩ ..... jump to n^{th} newer tag in list
`^]` `^T` ... jump to the tag under cursor, return from tag
`:ts` t↩ .... list matching tags and select one for jump
`:tj` t↩ .. jump to tag or select one if multiple matches
`:tags`↩ ..... print tag list
`:`n`^T`↩ ..... jump back to n^{th} older tag in tag list
`:`n`po`↩ ..... jump back from n^{th} older tag in tag list
`:tl`↩ ..... jump to last matching tag
`^W{ :pt` t↩ ..... preview tag under cursor, tag t
`^W]` ..... split window and show tag under cursor
`^Wz` *or* `:pc`↩ ..... 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`↩ ..... 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`↩ ..... split window in two
`^Wn` *or* `:new`↩ ..... create new empty window
`^Wo` *or* `:on`↩ ..... make current window one on screen
`^Wj` `^Wk` ..... move to window below, above
`^Ww` `^W^W` ..... move to window below, above (wrap)

Ex commands (↩)

`: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 & confirm, quit and discard changes
`:wq` *or* `:x` *or* `ZZ` ..... write to current file and exit
⟨*up*⟩ ⟨*down*⟩ .... recall commands starting with current
`:r` f ..... insert content of file f below cursor
`:r!` c ..... insert output of command c below cursor

Ex ranges

`,` `;` ..... separates two lines numbers, set to first line
n ..... an absolute line number n
`.` `$` ..... 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

Miscellaneous

`:sh`↩ `:!`c↩ ... start shell, execute command c in shell
`K` ..... lookup keyword under cursor with `man`
`:make`↩ ..... start `make`, read errors and jump to first
`:cn`↩ `:cp`↩ ..... display the next, previous error
`:cl`↩ `:cf`↩ ..... 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↩ ..... redirect output to file f