

VIM QUICK REFERENCE CARD

Frequently used VIM commands – Version v1.2 August 2014

Vim cheatsheet based on the version by Michael Goerz

Movements

:viusage show a summary of all commands

Basic Movements

refer to helpsection **:h motion.txt**

h l k j character left, right; line up, down
b w word *or* token left, right
ge e end of word *or* token left, right
{ } beginning of previous, next paragraph
() beginning of previous, next sentence
[[]] go to previous, next function
[{ }] beginning, end of current block
0 _ \$ beginning, first, last character of line
nG ngg line *n*, default the last, first
n| column *n* of current line
% match of next brace, bracket, comment, **#define**
- + line up, down on first non-blank character
B W space-separated word left, right
gE E end of space-separated word left, right
g0 gm beginning, middle of *screen* line
g^ g\$ first, last character of *screen* line
fc Fc next, previous occurrence of character *c*
tc Tc before next, previous occurrence of *c*

Insert, Command & Visual Mode

Insertion, Replace → insert mode

cm change text of movement command *m*
cc or S change current line

C change to the end of line
i a insert before, after cursor
o O open a new line below, above the current line
I A insert at beginning, end of line
gi gI insert text on last edited line, first column
rc grc replace character under cursor, without affecting layout
R gR replace characters starting at the cursor, without affecting layout
sc substitute character *c* under cursor → insert mode

Command Mode CTRL-Keys

^Vc ^Vn insert char *c* literally, decimal value *n*
^A ^@ insert previously inserted text, stop insert → command mode
^N ^P text completion before, after cursor
^W ^U delete word before cursor, to start of line
^D ^T shift left, right one shift width
^Oc execute *c* in temporary command mode
<esc> or ^] ... abandon edition → command mode

CTRL-R

^R^A content under cursor to command mode
^R = 5*5 insert 25 into text
^Rx ^R^Rx ... insert content of register *x*, literally

CTRL-X (Command Mode Completions)

^XL whole lines
^XN ^XI keywords in current file, plus included files
^XK ^XN keywords in dictionary, thesaurus
^X^] tags
^X^F file names
^X^D definitions or macros
^X^V vim command line
^X^U user defined completion

^X^O omni completion

Visual Mode

refer to **:h object-select**

v V ^V start *or* 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 { }
g^G Count words, character lines and bytes of selection

Delete, Copy to Registers

Deletion

refer to **:h und-tree**

x X delete character under, before cursor
dm delete text of movement command *m*
dd D delete current line, to the end of line
u U undo last command, restore last changed line

⇒ To revert the current buffer to the state before the very first change remembered by Vim in the undo list, use the command: **:u1|u**

. ^R repeat last *n* changes, redo last undo

Copying

"x use register *x* for next delete, yank, put
ym 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

Registers & Macros

show content of all registers: **:reg**

:@x execute register *x* as an *Ex* command

:register x show content of single register *x*

qx qX q..... record, append, stop recording typed characters as macro into register *x*

@x execute macro of register *x*

⇒ **execute *x* on each file of buffer list:**
:bufdo exe "%normal @x"

@@ repeat previous recorded macro

qxq..... empty register *x*

⇒ **delete lines with pattern *p* into Register *x* and copy to clipboard afterwards:**
:g/p/d x | let @+ = @x

q: @: list all, repeat macro

Search & Substitute

substitutions work like **:s/p/q/flag**, you may limit your search to an area between *ranges* (**Ex ranges**).

Search, Substitute Flags

- c** confirm each substitution
- e** do not issue error messages and continue as if no error occurred
- g** replace all occurrences in the line
- i I** ignore, mind case for the pattern (overwrites 'ignorecase' and 'smartcase' options)
- p # l** print the line containing the last substitute, like **:list**, prepend line number afterwards
- &** must be the first one: keep flags from the previous substitute
- n** report the number of matches, do not actually substitute. (the [c] flag is ignored.)

Forward & Backward Searches

refer to **:h search-commands**

/s↔ ?s↔ ... search forward, backward for *s*

/s/o↔ ?s?o↔
search fwd, bwd for *s* with offset *o*

Offsets

The offset gives the cursor position relative to the found match:

- n*, -*n*** lines down-, upwards, in col 1
- e+n*, *e-n*** characters to the right, left of the end of the match
- s+n*, *e-n*** characters to the right, left of the start of the match
- b+n*, *e-n*** identical to *s+*, -*n* above (mnemonic: begin)
- ;p** perform another search

Quick Search Commands

- 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

Substitutions

refer to **:h :sub**

- :rs/p/q/g** ... substitute all *p* by *q* in range *r*
- :rs q** repeat substitution with new *r* & *q*
- :rg/x/e :rv/x/e**
execute *e* on range *r* where *x* matches, not matches
- ⇒ **join any line containing the string *x* with previous line, if it lies between the *a* and *b* marks: :'*a*, 'bg/x/-1j**
- :rg/x/s/p/q/g**
for every line in *r* containing *x*, substitute *p* with *q*
- :r&& :r&.....** repeat last search or substitution on range *r* with, without flags

Ex Ranges

refer to **:h cmdline-ranges**

- ,** cursor position interpreted from current line
- ;** the cursor position will be set to line of last search or substitution
- n*** an absolute line number *n*
- . \$** the current, last line in file
- % *** entire file, visual area
- 't** position of mark *t*
- /p/ ?p?** the next, previous line where *p* matches
- n +n** preceding, appending line *n*

Patterns (differences to Perl)

refer to **:h pattern** and **:h /zero-width**

- \< \>** start, end of word
- \i \k \I \K** an identifier, keyword; excludigits
- \f \p \F \P** a file name, printable char.; excludigits
- \e \t \r \b** <esc>, <tab>, <↔>, <←>
- \= * \+** match 0..1, 0..∞, 1..∞ of preceding atoms
- \{*n,m*>** match *n* to *m* occurrences
- \{->** non-greedy match
- \|** separate two branches (≡ *or*)
- \(\)** group patterns into an atom
- & \1** the whole matched pattern, 1st () group
- \&** a *branch*: matches last concat, but only if all preceding concats also match at the same position
- ⇒ **the following pattern finds all lines that contain both "red" and "blue", in any order: /. *red\&. *blue**
- \u \l** upper, lowercase character
- \U \L** id., whole pattern
- \c \C** ignore, match case on pattern
- \@= \@!** *char*(?=pattern) *char*(?!pattern)
- ⇒ **matches pattern, only when line is not ending in 'foo': pattern\ (foo\)\ \@!\$**

`\@<= \@<!` `(?=pattern)char` `(?!pattern)char`
 \Rightarrow everything before the comment '#' is excluded from pattern: `/\(#.*\)\@<=pattern`
`\@>` `(?>pattern)`
`_ ^ _ $` start-of-line, end-of-line, anywhere in pattern
`_ .` any single char, including end-of-line
 \Rightarrow find any pattern *foo bar*, even when divided by linebreak: `foo_ \s*bar`
`\zs \ze` set start, end of pattern
`\% ^ \% $` match start, end of file
`\% nl \% nc \% nv` matches specific line, column, virtual column *n*
`\% x` match hex character
`\% V` match inside visual area
`\ ' m` match with position of mark *m*
`\% (\)` unnamed grouping
`\ []` collection with end-of-line included
`\% []` sequence of optionally matched atoms
`\ v` very magic: patterns almost like perl

Advanced Operations

Special Text Operations

`cgn dgn` change, delete the next search pattern match (repeat change, deletion with `\.`)
`J gJ` join current line with next, without space
`~ g~m` switch case and advance cursor, on movement *m*
`gum gUm` ... switch case, lc, uc on movement *m*
`guu gUU` lower-/uppercase line

Advanced Scrolling

`n^Y n^E` scroll window *n* lines up, downwards
`^D ^U` scroll half a page up, down

`^F ^B` scroll page up, down
`zt zz zb` ... current line to top, center, bottom of win.
`zh zl` scroll one character to the right, left
`zH zL` scroll half a screen to the right, left

Marks and Tags

`:tags` print tag list, `:marks` print the active marks list
`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

Jumps

print the jump list with `:jumps`
`n^O n^I` go to *n*th older, newer position in jump list
`] ^T` jump to the tag under cursor, return from tag
`^O ^I` jump to older, newer location btw buffers
`ng; ng,` go to *n* older, newer position in change list
`'.` jump back on last edited line
`''` toggle back, forward to previous, next position

Ex Commands (\leftarrow)

refer to `:help holy-grail` for list of all commands

Tags

`:tselect t` . list matching tags and select one for jump
`:tjump t` jump to tag or select one if multiple matches
`:tag ^[` jump to tag (under cursor)

Reading from & writing to files

`:edit f` edit file *f*, reload current file if no *f*
`:args f1..fn` load *n* files to buffer in background
`:rwrite f` .. write range *r* to file *f* (this file if no *f*)
`:rwrite >> f` append range *r* to file *f*
`:quit :quit!` quit and confirm, discard changes
`:wq` or `:x` or `:ZZ`
 write to current file and exit
`:rdelete :rdelete x`
 delete range *r* lines, into register *x*

Filter Lines

`!mc \leftarrow` filter lines of movement *m* through command *c*
`n!!c \leftarrow` filter *n* lines through command *c*
`:r!c` filter range *r* lines through command *c*

Insert, Send Content

`:r f` insert content of file *f* below cursor
`:r! c` insert output of command *c* below cursor
`:rcopy` or `:rt a`
 copy range *r* below line *a*
 \Rightarrow copy all lines containing *foobar* to EOF:
 `:g/foobar/t$`
`:rmov a` id. but move
`:rhardcopy > file.ps`
 print range to ps file
`:rha rw!lp` . sending *r* to printer (printout)

Compile

`:clist :cfile`
 list all errors, read errors from file
`:cnext :cprevious`
 display the next, previous error
`:compiler c` set, show compiler plugins
`:copen` navigate errors from make
`:make` run `makeprg`, jump to first error

Standard Mode Formatting, Filtering

leave out *m* for visual mode commands

Indentation

set indent-foldmethod by `:set fdm=indent`

`< m > m ..` shift left, right text of movement *m*
`n> n< = ...` indent, unindent *n* levels, reindent
`n << n >> ..` shift *n* lines left, right

Alignment

`gqm gqgq ...` format movement *m*, current line
`:rce w` center lines in range *r* to width *w*
`:rri w` rightalign lines in range *r* to width *w*
`:rle i` left align lines in range with indent *i*

Folds

`zfm` create fold of movement *m*
`:rfold` create fold for range *r*
`zd zE` delete fold at cursor, all in window
`zo zc zO 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
`zm zM` fold more, close all folds
`zr zR` fold less, open all folds
`zn zN zi ...` fold non, fold normal, invert folding
`:set fdc=n .` show foldcolumn to level *n*

Multiple Files, Buffers, Tabs (↔)

Generic Buffer Commands

`:tab ball ..` show buffers as tablist
`:buffers ...` show list of buffers
`:on` make current window one on screen
`:new :vnew .` create new empty window (vert.)
`:bn` switch to buffer *n*

`:bn :bp :bf :bl`
buffer movement next, prev, first, last
`:bdn` delete buffer *n* (also with filename)
⇒ Delete all Buffers with Extension ‘ext’:
`:bd *.ext ^A`
`:badd f.txt` load file into new buffer
`:bufdo cmd..` execute *cmd* in each buffer in the buffer list.
`:sbn` Split window and edit buffer *n* from the buflist

Buffer Shortcuts

refer to `:h ctrl-w`

`^^` toggle between the current and the last window
`^Wf gf` open file under cursor in new, current window
`^Ww ^W^W` move to window below, above (wrap)
`^Wj ^Wk` move to window below, above
`^Wt ^Wb` move to top, bottom window
`^Wc ^Wo` close current, all other window(s)
`^Ws ^Wv` split window in two (vert.)
`^Wx or ^W^R...` swap open buffer windows
`^Wn+ ^Wn- ...` increase, decrease window size by *n* lines
`^Wn > ^Wn <` increase, decrease window width
`^W =` Make all windows equally high and wide
`^W n_` set window height to *n* (default: very high)
`^W n|` set current window width to *n*

Tab Management

`:tabs` list all tabs including their displayed windows
`:tabfirst ..` go to first tab
`:tablast ...` go to last tab
`:tabnew` open a new empty tab page
`:tabclose ..` close current tab page
`:qall :wqall` quit, and save all tabs
`:tabonly ...` close all other tabs

`gt gT` go to next, previous Tab
`ngt` goto tab in position *n*

Miscellaneous

Spell Check

activate spellcheck: `:set spell spellang=en_us`

`]s [s` next, previous misspelled word
`zg zG` add good word (to internal word list)
`zug zuG.....` undo the addition of a word to the dictionary
`zw zW` mark bad word (to internal word list)
`z=` suggest corrections

Invocation

`vimdiff f1 f2`
diff *file*₁ + *file*₂ using synchronized split windows
`vim -o/-O f1 f2..fn`
open *files* in horiz, vert split mode
`vim +n file .` open *file* at *n*th line (eof if *n* omitted)
`vim +/s file` open *file* and search for *string*
`vim -S name` reload vim-session *name*

Special operations

Usefull (and not so usefull) operations which don’t fit to any other section :-)

`K` run **keywordprg** (manpage) on word under cursor
`^A ^X.....` increment, decrement number under cursor
`^L` redraw screen
`ga` show ASCII value of character under cursor
`gf` open filename under cursor
`g^G.....` count words, characters, bytes (in selection or buffer)
`^Kc1c2 or c1←c2`
enter digraph {*c*₁, *c*₂}

⇒ for a complete list of all digraphs enter: `:digraphs` *or* `:h digraph-table`

Helpsections

`:h /zero-width`

matches with ‘zero-width’ $\langle @! \rangle$ patterns

github.com/emzap79/QRCS

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This TeXfile is based on Gabriel B. Burcas \copyright git-qrc.tex and has then been modified to my own requirements, with permission!