Ex vs. Teco

Brandon Moore and John Markiewicz

Neo-Vim vs Spacemacs

Brandon Moore and John Markiewicz

Vim vs. Emacs

Brandon Moore and John Markiewicz

C-x M-c M-butterfly

Emacs is a great operating system, lacking only a decent editor

–Anonymous

vi vi vi

Using a free version of vi is not a sin but a penance.

–Richard Stallman, head of the Church of Emacs

vi vi vi

Using a free version of vi is not a sin but a penance.

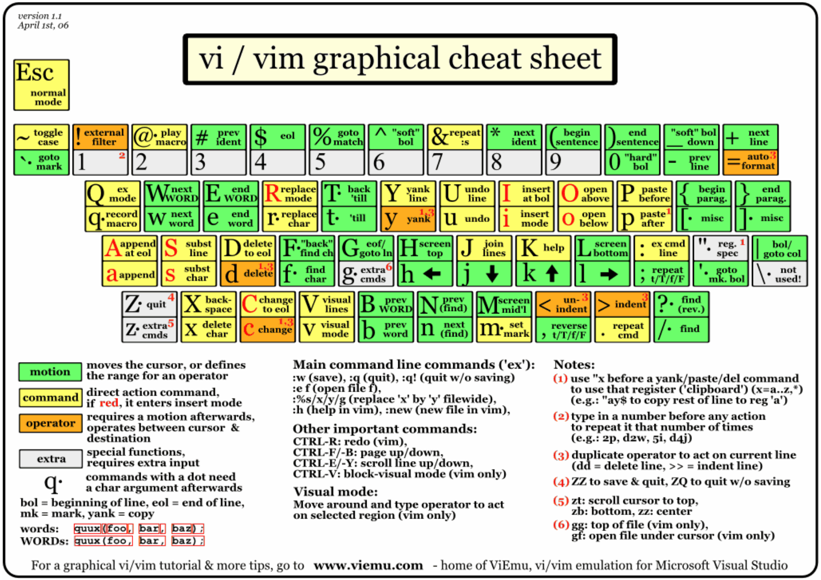
~~–Richard Stallman, head of the Church of Emacs~~
–Saint IGNUcious, head of the Church of Emacs

A historic holy war
Emacs vs. Vi(m)

$$\begin{tikzcd}
 & \text{Teco(1962)} \arrow[r] & \text{Emacs(1976)} \arrow[r] & \text{GNU Emacs(1985)} \arrow[r] & \text{Spacemacs} \\
\text{Ed(1971)} \arrow[ur] \arrow[dr] & & & & \\
 & \text{Ex(1976)} \arrow[r] & \text{Vi(1976)} \arrow[r] & \text{Vim(1991)} \arrow[r] & \text{NeoVim}
\end{tikzcd}$$

Vim Emacs

Let's look at Vim



motion moves the cursor, or defines the range for an operator

command direct action command, if red, it enters insert mode

operator requires a motion afterwards, operates between cursor & destination

extra special functions, requires extra input

q· commands with a dot need a char argument afterwards

bol = beginning of line, eol = end of line, mk = mark, yank = copy

words: quux(foo, bar, baz);
WORDs: quux(foo, bar, baz);

Main command line commands ('ex'):
:w (save), :q (quit), :q! (quit w/o saving)
:e f (open file f),
:%s/x/y/g (replace 'x' by 'y' filewide),
:h (help in vim), :new (new file in vim),

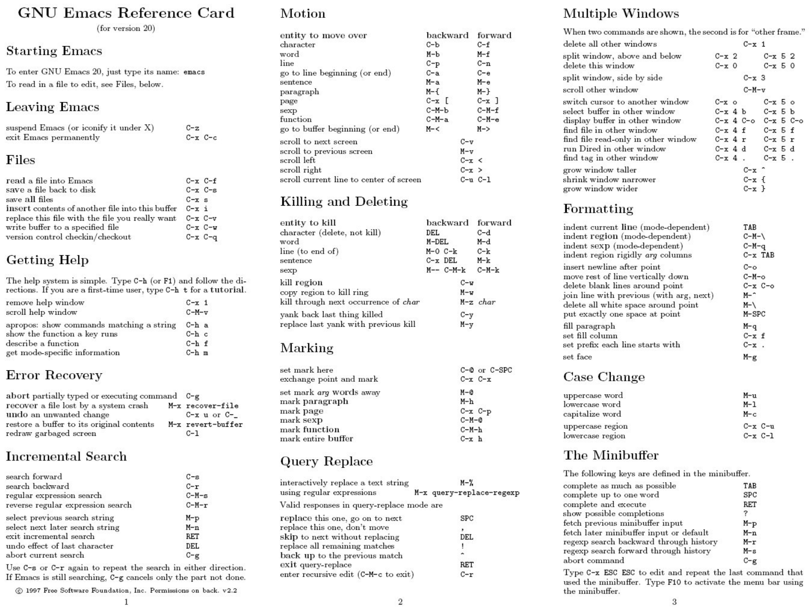
Other important commands:
CTRL-R: redo (vim),
CTRL-F/-B: page up/down,
CTRL-E/-Y: scroll line up/down,
CTRL-V: block-visual mode (vim only)

Visual mode:
Move around and type operator to act on selected region (vim only)

Notes:
(1) use "x before a yank/paste/del command to use that register ('clipboard') (x=a..z,*) (e.g.: "ay$ to copy rest of line to reg 'a')
(2) type in a number before any action to repeat it that number of times (e.g.: 2p, d2w, 5i, d4j)
(3) duplicate operator to act on current line (dd = delete line, >> = indent line)
(4) ZZ to save & quit, ZQ to quit w/o saving
(5) zt: scroll cursor to top, zb: bottom, zz: center
(6) gg: top of file (vim only), gf: open file under cursor (vim only)

For a graphical vi/vim tutorial & more tips, go to **www.viemu.com** - home of ViEmu, vi/vim emulation for Microsoft Visual Studio

Let’s look at Emacs



GNU Emacs Reference Card

(for version 20)

Starting Emacs

To enter GNU Emacs 20, just type its name: `emacs`

To read in a file to edit, see Files, below.

Leaving Emacs

suspend Emacs (or iconify it under X)	`C-z`
exit Emacs permanently	`C-x C-c`

Files

read a file into Emacs	`C-x C-f`
save a file back to disk	`C-x C-s`
save all files	`C-x s`
insert contents of another file into this buffer	`C-x i`
replace this file with the file you really want	`C-x C-v`
write buffer to a specified file	`C-x C-w`
version control checkin/checkout	`C-x C-q`

Getting Help

The help system is simple. Type `C-h` (or `F1`) and follow the directions. If you are a first-time user, type `C-h t` for a tutorial.

remove help window	`C-x 1`
scroll help window	`C-M-v`
apropos: show commands matching a string	`C-h a`
show the function a key runs	`C-h c`
describe a function	`C-h f`
get mode-specific information	`C-h m`

Error Recovery

abort partially typed or executing command	`C-g`
recover a file lost by a system crash	`M-x recover-file`
undo an unwanted change	`C-x u` or `C-_`
restore a buffer to its original contents	`M-x revert-buffer`
redraw garbaged screen	`C-l`

Incremental Search

search forward	`C-s`
search backward	`C-r`
regular expression search	`C-M-s`
reverse regular expression search	`C-M-r`
select previous search string	`M-p`
select next later search string	`M-n`
exit incremental search	`RET`
undo effect of last character	`DEL`
abort current search	`C-g`

Use `C-s` or `C-r` again to repeat the search in either direction. If Emacs is still searching, `C-g` cancels only the part not done.

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Motion

entity to move over	backward	forward
character	`C-b`	`C-f`
word	`M-b`	`M-f`
line	`C-p`	`C-n`
go to line beginning (or end)	`C-a`	`C-e`
sentence	`M-a`	`M-e`
paragraph	`M-{`	`M-}`
page	`C-x [`	`C-x ]`
sexp	`C-M-b`	`C-M-f`
function	`C-M-a`	`C-M-e`
go to buffer beginning (or end)	`M-<`	`M->`

scroll to next screen	`C-v`
scroll to previous screen	`M-v`
scroll left	`C-x <`
scroll right	`C-x >`
scroll current line to center of screen	`C-u C-l`

Killing and Deleting

entity to kill	backward	forward
character (delete, not kill)	`DEL`	`C-d`
word	`M-DEL`	`M-d`
line (to end of)	`M-0 C-k`	`C-k`
sentence	`C-x DEL`	`M-k`
sexp	`M-- C-M-k`	`C-M-k`

kill region	`C-w`
copy region to kill ring	`M-w`
kill through next occurrence of *char*	`M-z` *char*
yank back last thing killed	`C-y`
replace last yank with previous kill	`M-y`

Marking

set mark here	`C-@` or `C-SPC`
exchange point and mark	`C-x C-x`
set mark *arg* words away	`M-@`
mark paragraph	`M-h`
mark page	`C-x C-p`
mark sexp	`C-M-@`
mark function	`C-M-h`
mark entire buffer	`C-x h`

Query Replace

interactively replace a text string	`M-%`
using regular expressions	`M-x query-replace-regexp`

Valid responses in query-replace mode are

replace this one, go on to next	`SPC`
replace this one, don’t move	`,`
skip to next without replacing	`DEL`
replace all remaining matches	`!`
back up to the previous match	`^`
exit query-replace	`RET`
enter recursive edit (`C-M-c` to exit)	`C-r`

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Multiple Windows

When two commands are shown, the second is for “other frame.”

delete all other windows	`C-x 1`	
split window, above and below	`C-x 2`	`C-x 5 2`
delete this window	`C-x 0`	`C-x 5 0`
split window, side by side	`C-x 3`	
scroll other window	`C-M-v`	
switch cursor to another window	`C-x o`	`C-x 5 o`
select buffer in other window	`C-x 4 b`	`C-x 5 b`
display buffer in other window	`C-x 4 C-o`	`C-x 5 C-o`
find file in other window	`C-x 4 f`	`C-x 5 f`
find file read-only in other window	`C-x 4 r`	`C-x 5 r`
run Dired in other window	`C-x 4 d`	`C-x 5 d`
find tag in other window	`C-x 4 .`	`C-x 5 .`
grow window taller	`C-x ^`	
shrink window narrower	`C-x {`	
grow window wider	`C-x }`	

Formatting

indent current line (mode-dependent)	`TAB`
indent region (mode-dependent)	`C-M-\`
indent sexp (mode-dependent)	`C-M-q`
indent region rigidly *arg* columns	`C-x TAB`
insert newline after point	`C-o`
move rest of line vertically down	`C-M-o`
delete blank lines around point	`C-x C-o`
join line with previous (with arg, next)	`M-^`
delete all white space around point	`M-\`
put exactly one space at point	`M-SPC`
fill paragraph	`M-q`
set fill column	`C-x f`
set prefix each line starts with	`C-x .`
set face	`M-g`

Case Change

uppercase word	`M-u`
lowercase word	`M-l`
capitalize word	`M-c`
uppercase region	`C-x C-u`
lowercase region	`C-x C-l`

The Minibuffer

The following keys are defined in the minibuffer.

complete as much as possible	`TAB`
complete up to one word	`SPC`
complete and execute	`RET`
show possible completions	`?`
fetch previous minibuffer input	`M-p`
fetch later minibuffer input or default	`M-n`
regexp search backward through history	`M-r`
regexp search forward through history	`M-s`
abort command	`C-g`

Type `C-x ESC ESC` to edit and repeat the last command that used the minibuffer. Type `F10` to activate the menu bar using the minibuffer.

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Why use Vim?

Pros of Vim

- Customizable
- Rich library of extensions
- Constantly improving
- Portable
- ...in multiple ways

Cons of Emacs

- Reliant on customization
- Comes with bloat
- Hello Carpal Tunnel
- Tries to do too much

Why use Emacs?

Pros of Emacs

- Flexible, powerful, pleasant to use language for adding features (elisp).
- Features.
- Compatibility with the past few decades' worth of software
- Org-mode
- Evil-mode for those used to vim keybindings

Cons of Vim

- Community fragmentation (Neovim vs Vim 8.0) and incompatibility between versions.
- Fewer features.
- Vimscript.
- Inconsistent async methods between Vim 8 and Neovim.
- Performance issues with syntax highlighting/line numbers/large files.

stdlinux (and problems with old systems)

- stdlinux is old and out of date. vim and emacs don't work well
- a basic .vimrc is needed to use vim on stdlinux
- It should be updated soon!

How to learn

Vim

- vim help pages (via :help <topic>)
- $vimtutor
- http://www.openvim.com/

Emacs

- Emacs help features (internal documentation accessible via C-h C-a)
- Emacs wiki
- Worg (for org-mode)

https://moore3071.github.io/vim_vs_emacs