Introduction to vim

Peleg Sapir

exocad GmbH

August 26, 2021

Vim Modes

Vim has three **modes**:

Name	**Function**	**Key(s)**
Normal	navigation and text editing	Default/Esc
Insert	inserting text	i
Normal	highlighting text/rows/blocks	v/V/Ctrl+v

Vim Grammer

Generaly speaking, vim commands can be structure in different forms (here refered to as "rules" (CITE)).

The most simple rule is

command = operator motion(s)

Example

Command	Syntax		Keys
Delete word	del	word	d w
Copy until 'A'	copy	until 'A'	y f A

Vim Grammer

Operators and motions can be preceded by repetitions, i.e.

Example

Command	Syntax	Keys
3× delete word	3 del word	3 d w
Delete 3 words	del 3 word	d 3 w

List of Operators

Main vim operator keys:

Key	Func.	Key	Func.
y	copy	c	change (delete + insert)
d	delete	x	delete single
p	paste	P	paste before
u	undo	Ctrl + r	redo
.	repeat action	;	repat motion

List of Motions

Main vim motion (navigation) keys:

Key	**Func.**	**Key**	**Func.**
w	next word	b	beginning of word
e / g e	end of word / prev	n	next find
n	next find	N	prev find
f α	next α	F α	prev α
t α	before next α	T α	after prev α

List of Motions

Some motions aren't actually relevant to operators and repetitions:

Key	Func.	Key	Func.
h / ←	left	j / ↓	down
k / ↑	up	l / →	right
0	start of line	$	end of line
^	start of line (text)	%	matched paranthesis
H	top of view	L	bottom of view
M	middle of view	L	bottom of view
Ctrl + y	scroll screen up	Ctrl + e	scroll screen down

Modifiers

The following two keys are **Modifiers**:

Key	Meaning
i	Inside an object
a	Around an object

Example

Command	Keys
Copy around '[]'	y a [
Delete inside '{}'	d i {

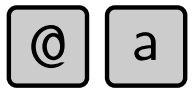
Marks

Macros

A **macro** is a recording of a set of operations, which can be repeated as many times as needed.

A macro *a* is recorded by typing

A macro *a* is called by



Find, Search & Replace, Regex

Splits