Emacs Tutorial

Victoria Stodden

October 2, 2001

1 Running Emacs

From the unix prompt you need only type `tree1:> emacs` to begin `emacs`. If you using X-Windows emulation then please see the X-Windows emulation handout.

2 Simple Commands

`Emacs` uses the control key and the escape key (sometimes referred to at the `meta-` key) to understand commands. I will use `ctrl-` to indicate that you should hold the control key down with the next letter or number, and the `esc-` for the escape key.

Within `emacs` you will need to know how to load files for editing and how to save files.

To load files type `ctrl-x ctrl-v`. Emacs will then prompt you for the file you wish to load in the mini-buffer at the base of the page. You can type in the path and then page will load.

When you want to save your work, simply type `ctrl-x ctrl-s`. If you have not yet named your file, you will need to type `ctrl-x ctrl-w` in order to write a new file name. From then on you can use `ctrl-x -s` to save your file.

To quit `emacs`, type `ctrl-x ctrl-c`.

3 Loading Splus

To use `Splus` within your `emacs` window, type `esc-x` then S. `Emacs` will then ask you for your "S starting directory". Here, you need to type in the `.Data` directory you usually use. This will probably be $\tilde{\ }$`.Data`, ie. the `.Data` directory in your home directory. Then you are ready to use Splus! Please see my handout on using `Splus` for `Splus` specific help.

4 More Details on Emacs

There are lots of good emacs references on the web. A simple web search will turn up many. I can suggest `http:/mistl.org/notgnu/docs/documentation/node5.html` for example.

1