Vi Reference Card

Starting Vi

edit an empty buffer	vi
edit a file	vi filename

Leaving Vi

write buffer to file	:w
write buffer to file **filename**	:w filename
quit	:q
quit discarding changes	:q!
write changes and quit	:wq
write changes and quit	ZZ

Special Notes

Use the escape key, <esc>, to leave insert mode or to cancel an incomplete command.

If a command doesn't work, try hitting <esc> and entering the command again.

Motion commands

move up one line	k
move down one line	j
move left one character	h
move right one character	l
scroll up one line	<ctrl>y
scroll down one line	<ctrl>e
scroll up (default is a half page)	<ctrl>u
scroll down (default is a half page)	<ctrl>d
show next page page	<ctrl>f
show previous page page	<ctrl>b
move to beginning of next line	+
move to beginning of previous line	-
move to beginning of first screen line	H
move to middle line of screen	M
move to last line of screen	L
move to the **n**th line	nG
move to the **n**th line	:n
move to the next occurrence of **c** on the current line	fc
move to the character in front of the next occurrence of **c** on the current line	tc
move forward to the next word	w
move forward to the end of the next word	e
move backward to the previous word	b

All commands except M, nG, and :n can be preceeded by an integer to indicate the distance to move.

Text entering commands

append text at end of line	A
append text after cursor	a
insert text at beginning of line	I
insert text before cursor	i
open a new line above cursor	O
open a new line below cursor	o

All commands must be terminated with an <esc> after the text has been entered.

Text deletion commands

delete character left of cursor	X
delete character under cursor	x
delete rest of word	dw
delete rest of sentence	d)
delete rest of paragraph	d}
delete to beginning of current line	d^
delete to end of current line	d$
delete line containing cursor	dd
delete the current line upto and including **c**	dfc
delete the current line upto **c**	dtc

All commands can be preceeded by and integer to indicate the number of characters, words, lines etc. to be deleted.

Text alteration commands

replace text	R
replace character with **c**	rc
transpose two characters	xp
join the next line to the end of the current line	J
undo last change	u
undo last change to current line	U
change rest of word	cw
change rest of sentence	c)
change rest of paragraph	c}

The commands R, cw, c) and c} must terminated with an <esc> after the new text has been entered. All commands, except xp, u, and U, can be preceeded by an integer to indicate the amount of alteration to perform.

Text moving commands

yank a copy of the current line and place it in a buffer	yy
put the last item yanked or deleted before the cursor	P
put the last item yanked or deleted after the cursor	p
yank a copy of the current line and place it in buffer **c**	"cY
put contents of buffer **c** on a new line above the cursor	"cP
put contents of buffer **c** on a new line below the cursor	"cp

The commands Y and "cY can be preceeded by and integer to indicate the number of lines to copy.

Search Commands

search forward for **pattern**	:/pattern/
search forward for **pattern**	/pattern/
search backward for **pattern**	:?pattern?
search backward for **pattern**	?pattern?
delete the next line containing **pat1**	:/pat1/d
substitute the next occurance of **pat1** with **pat2**	:/pat1/s/pat1/pat2
repeat the last search	n
repeat the last search in opposite direction	N

Global parameter

substitute **pat2** for **pat1**	:g/pat1/s/pat1/pat2
delete all occurrences of **pat1**	:g/pat1/d
print all occurrences of **pat1**	:g/pat1/p

Addresses

the **n**th line	n
lines **n** through **k**	n,k
the current line	.
the last line	$
n lines after the current line	+n
n lines before the current line	-n
the last **n**+1 lines	$-n,$

Instructions

delete lines **n** through **k**	:n,k d
copy lines **n** through **k** after line **j**	:n,k co j
move lines **n** through **k** after line **j**	:n,k mo j
substitute first occurance of **pat1** with **pat2** on the last 8 lines	:$-8,$ s/pat1/pat2/

Miscellaneous

read file **filename** into the buffer after the current line	:r filename
read the output of command **cmd** into the buffer after the current line	:r !cmd
write the buffer to file **filename** replacing its previous contents	:w! filename
write the buffer to the end of file **filename**	:w >> filename
turn on line numbering	:set number
turn off line numbering	:set nonumber
turn on auto indenting	:set autoindent
turn off auto indenting	:set noautoindent

Department of Mathematics, Statistics, & Computing Science
Dalhousie University
January 1994 v1.1