

Emacs tutorial (2019.3.14)

You can always use the official emacs tutorial. Here is just a simplified version to speed up the learning procedure.

Emacs commands generally involve the CONTROL key (sometimes labeled CTRL or CTL) or the META key (sometimes labeled EDIT or ALT). Rather than write that in full each time, we'll use the following abbreviations:

C-`<chr>` means hold the CONTROL key while typing the character `<chr>`. Thus, C-f would be: hold the CONTROL key and type f.

M-`<chr>` means hold the META or EDIT or ALT key down while typing `<chr>`. If there is no META, EDIT or ALT key, instead press and release the

ESC key and then type `<chr>`. We write `<ESC>` for the ESC key.

1. Start Emacs

emacs

2. Exit Emacs

C-z

C-x C-c

3. Emacs tutorial

C-h t

4. quit partial input command

C-g

ESC ESC

5. Moving around

C-v Move forward one screenful

M-v Move backward one screenful

C-l Clear screen and redisplay all the text,
moving the text around the cursor
to the center of the screen.

C-f Move forward a character

C-b Move backward a character

M-f Move forward a word

M-b Move backward a word

C-n Move to next line

C-p Move to previous line

C-a Move to beginning of line

C-e Move to end of line

M-a Move back to beginning of sentence

M-e Move forward to end of sentence

6. repeat command many times

C-u # command

C-u 100 C-f

C-u 10 SPC

C-u 10 C-v

7. WINDOWS

C-x 1 One window (i.e., kill all other windows).

C-x 2

C-x 3

C-x 1

8. INSERTING AND DELETING

<Backspace>
C-u 10 *
C-d Delete the next character after the cursor
M-<Delback> Kill the word immediately before the cursor
M-d Kill the next word after the cursor
C-k Kill from the cursor position to end of line
M-k Kill to the end of the current sentence

9. Select a paragraph

>> C-SPC
Emacs should display a message "Mark set" at the bottom of the screen.
>> Type C-w. This will kill the text

10. Copy a paragraph

C-y

11. UNDO

C-x u

12. FILES, open, write, close

C-x C-f <file> Find a file/create a file named <file>
C-x C-s Save the current file
C-x C-w write to a file

13. MULTIPLE WINDOWS

C-x 2
C-x 3
C-x 1
C-x b

14. BUFFERS

>> Create a file named "foo" by typing C-x C-f foo <Return>.
Then insert some text, edit it, and save "foo" by typing C-x C-s.

C-x b go to another buffer
C-x C-b list all buffers
C-x C-1
C-x 2
C-x o

15. SEARCHING

C-s
C-r

16. Ask for help

C-h <command>
C-h k <command>

You can always use "emacs <RTN> C-h t " to open the official emacs tutorial