vi

CIS 218
vi basics

• Why vi(m)?
  Universal editor in LINUX/UNIX. Compatible with UNIX system files.

• Other packages: pico, emacs, nano - not available on certain UNIX systems.

• vi somefile
  copies somefile into memory buffer, does not edit disk copy

• Three modes determines how keystrokes are interpreted by vi –
  command mode,
  text mode
  operator line(: / or ?)

  Command mode is default when you enter vi.
The command you enter determines the next mode.

• You hit Esc to return to command mode from either text or operator mode.
Navigation

- Arrow keys
  OR
- H(up)J(down)K(left)L(right)

- Determines cursor location by record #, column # on the operator line

- Use set -o or set -o vi to normalize terminal command line usage to vi standards.
Locate text

• /text – locate text (down)

• / - repeat last find

• ?text  Search backward (up) for text
Change text

- i – insert text
- x – delete a character
- r – replace a character
- R – replace text until Esc
- yy p – copy a line
- dd – delete a line
- <Enter> or <Return> - ends a line or record
- Many others
Text Substitution

- See also Stream Editor or sed

- :n1,n2s/old/new/gc .... where

  - : operator line command
  - n1 is the beginning line. “.” for current line, line#, 1 or ^ is first line, % for all
  - n2 is the ending line number. “.” for current line, line# or "$" for EOF
  - s means to substitute text matching the (old) pattern with (new) pattern
  - g (global) optional. Substitute all occurrences on the indicated lines.
    Otherwise substitutes only the first occurrence on the indicated lines.
  - c (confirm) is optional. It indicates you want to confirm each substitution
    before vi completes it

Examples
- :%s/old/new/g - Substitutes old with new throughout the file
- :..,$s/old/new/g - Substitutes old with new from the current cursor position to the end
  of the file
- :^,.s/old/new/g - Substitutes old with new from the beginning of the file to the current
  cursor position
- &: - Repeats the last substitute (:s) command
Saving results

• :w - write file
  • :w filename - write as different filename
  • :w>>filename - append to filename
  • :w! - force overwrite of file
  • :wq – save results and quit
    on some systems also :ZZ
  • :wq! – force overwrite of file and quit
  • :q - quit (no save) only if no changes
  • :q! - quit (no save)
Spell check

- Spell check a document: `spell < file`

- This will output misspelled words to STDOUT in ordinary English, not a syntax checker for shell