ICS311 (Kazuo Sugihara)

A Summary of Emacs Commands

Notations and Definitions

DEL, **ESC**, **RET**, **SPC**, and **TAB** denote delete, escape, return, space, and tab keys, respectively.
C- is to type the character following **C-** while holding down the control key.
Buffer is an area where the file you edit is loaded. Changes made within a buffer are not permanent changes to the file until you save the buffer.
Point is the location of the cursor in a buffer.

Invoke Emacs

When you want to create a new file, type *emacs* and **RET**. When you edit an existing file, type *emacs*, **SPC**, the file name, and **RET**.

Helpful Commands

C-h	Help command. For a detailed help menu, type **C**-h 3 times.
C-h t	The emacs tutorial is invoked.
C-h c	A brief description of the following command is shown.
C-h k	A detail description of the following command is shown in another window.
C-h **C**-h a	A list of commands relevant to the following keyword is shown.
C-g	Stop execution of a command and allows continuation. If stuck and unable to continue, this can be helpful.
C-x u	Undo previous changes. Useful for correcting unwanted changes.
C-_	Same as **C**-x u.
C-u *i*	Repeat the following command *i* times.

Cursor Movement Commands

C-f	Move forward one character.
C-b	Move backward one character.
ESC f	Move to end of the current word.
ESC b	Move to beginning of the current word.
C-p	Move up to the previous line.
C-n	Move down to the next line.
C-a	Move to beginning of the current line.
C-e	Move to end of the current line.
ESC v	Move up to the previous screen.
C-v	Move down to the next screen.
ESC <	Move to beginning of the buffer.
ESC >	Move to end of the buffer.

File Commands

C-x **C**-s	Save the file without leaving emacs.
C-x **C**-c	End your editing session. Emacs will ask you whether you want to save changes before exiting.
C-x **C**-w	Save the current buffer into a new file. Emacs prompts you for the new name.
C-x s	Save all the files which have been edited.
C-x **C**-f	Edit another file. Emacs prompts you for the file name.
C-x i	Insert an external file at point. Emacs prompts you for the file name.

Mark Command

C-SPC	Set mark at point. A mark is used to specify a region for a delete, copy or move command. A region is an area between the mark and point.

Screen, Window and Buffer Commands

C-x 2	Split the current window into two windows, one above the other.
C-x o	Move to or select other window.
C-x 1	Remove the other window and fill the screen with the current window.
C-x 0	Remove the selected window.
C-x **C**-b	List all buffers for current emacs session.
C-x b	Select a buffer other than the current buffer.

Insert and Delete Commands

C-o	Insert a line break just after point.
C-d	Delete a single character after point.
DEL	Delete a single character before point.
ESC d	Delete a word or part of word after point.
ESC DEL	Delete a word or part of word before point.
C-k	Kill the rest of the current line, or kill newline if point is at end of line.
C-w	Kill a specified region. To specify the region, set mark on beginning of the region and then move point to end of the region.

Copying and Moving Text

C-y	Insert at point what has been most recently deleted or copied.
ESC w	Copy a specified region.

Conversion Commands

C-t	Interchange the two characters around point.
ESC t	Exchange the two words before and after point.
C-x **C**-t	Exchange the current line with the line preceding it.

Search Commands

C-s	Search forward incrementally in the current buffer for a specific character or string of characters. The search can be repeated by typing **C**-s.
C-r	Same as **C**-s except searching backward. The search can be repeated by typing **C**-r.
DEL	Cancel characters from end of search string.
ESC	Exit, leaving point at location found.
C-g	Cancel input back to what has been found successfully when search has failed, and aborts and moves point to starting point of search when search is successful.

Replace Commands

ESC %	Replace some occurrences of an old character string with a new string. Type the command, then the old string followed by **RET**, then type the new string followed by another **RET**. Emacs locates each occurrence of the old string and prompts you whether to replace it with the new string. The command begins at point and ends at end of buffer.
SPC	Replace the old string with the new string.
DEL	Do not replace.
C-x **ESC**	Repeat the previous replace command.

ESC x replace-string

Replace all occurrences of an old character string with a new string, like **ESC** %, but without asking any questions.

Spelling Check

ESC x spell-buffer

Check the current buffer for correct spelling. Prompt whatever word is not recognized. **RET** leaves the word unchanged. If you edit the word shown and type **RET**, you are asked to type y (yes) or n (no) in order to confirm the change.

Completion Commands

TAB	Fill out the part of an argument which can be uniquely determined. If you type **TAB** again immediately, a list of all possibilities for the remaining part is shown.
SPC	Quite similar to **TAB**, except no more than one word is filled out.

Mail Commands

C-x m	Begin composing a message to send an email.
C-c **C**-c	Send the message and switch to another buffer.
C-c **C**-s	Same as **C**-c **C**-c, except it leaves the buffer selected.
C-x 4 m	Same as **C**-x m, except the message is shown in another window.
ESC x rmail	Read emails.
SPC	Scroll forward
DEL	Scroll backward
n	Next message
p	Previous message
d	Delete message
u	Undelete message
C-x **C**-s	Save email.
r	Reply to message
m	Send email
g	Get new messages
q	Quit from Rmail

References

[1] Richard Stallman, *GNU Emacs Manual*, Free Software Foundation.

[2] Cameran and Rosenblatt, *Learning GNU EMACS.*

[3] *Introduction to GNU EMACS on the UNIX/VAX.*