

# vi editor

## Scripting and Computer Environment - Lecture 2

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# Modes

- Normal
- Insert
- Visual



# Cut / Copy / Paste

Commands:

- Cut → d
- Copy → y
- Paste → p



# Cut / Copy / Paste

## Commands:

- Cut → d
- Copy → y
- Paste → p

## Scope:

- Line → Repeat (ex dd, yy, p)
- End of line → \$ (ex d\$, y\$, p)
- Word → w (ex dw, yw, p)



# Undo / Redo

- Undo → u
- Undo all changes to current line → U
- Redo → ctrl + R



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# Repeating

In vi editor most commands can be repeated by preceding them with number. For example to delete three lines when editor is in normal mode, '3dd' can be used instead of using 'dd' three times. Similarly the copied text can be pasted ten times using '10p'.





# Search and Replace

For search '/' can be used when editor is in normal mode. After '/' name of item to be searched should be typed. By default searches are case sensitive and item being searched will get highlighted. 'n' and 'N' shortcuts can be used to go to next and previous instances of searched item, respectively.

Knowledge of regular expressions is required to be able to use replace properly. '<range>s/<previous\_text>/<new\_text>/gc' command can be used for replacing text within specified range such that more than one match in single line can be replaced. Confirmation would be required before each replace. Here range can be specified with line numbers as a,b or with '%' which means entire document.



# Open, save and quit

- Open file for editing → `:e <file_name>`
- Open previous file being edited → `e#`
- Save and continue editing → `:w`
- Save and quit → `:wq`
- Quit without saving → `:q!`

To edit multiple files all the names can be specified on command line. For example `'vim a.txt b.txt'` and then command `':n'` and `':N'` can be used to move from one file to other. `':files'` can be used to see name of all files being edited.

