

# 98-172 : Great Practical Ideas for Computer Scientists

## EMACS cheat sheet

### Navigation

Amount	Operation			
	Move		Delete	
	forward	backward	forward	backward
Characters	C-f	C-b	C-d	DEL
Words	M-f	M-b	M-d	M-DEL or C-DEL
Lines	C-n	C-p	<i>No bindings</i>	
Line end/start	C-e	C-a	C-k	C-SPC C-a C-w
Sentences	M-a	M-e	M-k	C-x DEL
Expressions	C-M-f	C-M-b	C-M-k	
Paragraphs	M-}	M-{		
Buffer end/start	M-<	M->	<i>No bindings</i>	
Page down/up	C-v	M-v		

### Other navigation commands

M-g g n Jump to line n  
C-x C-x Swap mark and point (see "Terminology" section, below).

### Terminology

C-, *control* The control key.  
M-, *meta* The alt key on most PC keyboards; on Macs, usually the option key.  
*kill, yank ring* "cut" and "paste" respectively.  
A list of saved values which can be iterated through. Eg. the kill ring, which saves killed text for yanking.  
*point* The current cursor location.  
*mark* A saved location in a buffer, set with C-SPC.  
*region* The text between the point and mark.  
*prefix argument* A way to modify commands' behavior using a "prefix" key combination. Behavior depends on the command being modified. Most commonly, it repeats the command a specified number of times.  
*mode* A buffers' *modes* add special behavior to it; for example, Python-mode adds syntax highlighting and useful commands for Python code.  
SPC The space key.  
DEL The delete or backspace key.  
RET The enter or return key.

### Miscellanea

C-/ Undo. Also C-\_, C-x u, and M-x undo.  
C-u n Numeric prefix argument; usually, repeats a subsequent command n times.  
C-g Cancel or abort a command.  
C-x C-c Quit emacs.  
TAB Mode-dependent; usually auto-indent current line.  
M-x NAME Run the named command.  
M-: EXPR Evaluate a lisp expression (for advanced users).

### Files and buffers

C-x C-f Open file by name.  
C-x C-s Save file.  
C-x C-w Write file with new name.  
C-x b Switch buffer by name.  
C-x C-b List buffers. Hit enter on a buffer to switch to it.

### Killing (cutting) and yanking (pasting)

C-y Yank (paste) most recently killed (cut/copied) text.  
M-y After C-y, yank next-recently-killed. Repeat to continue.  
C-SPC Mark current location.  
C-w Kill current region.  
M-w Copy the current region without killing it.

### Search and replace

C-s Search forward. Repeat (or use after C-r) for next match.  
C-r Search backward. Repeat (or use after C-s) for previous match.  
C-M-s Search forward using regexp matching.  
C-M-r Search backward using regexp matching.  
M-x % Interactive string replacement. Also M-x query-replace. The regexp version is M-x query-replace-regexp.

### Help

C-h C-h Help about help.  
C-h c KEY Name of the function associated with a key combination.  
C-h k KEY Help for the function associated with a key combination.  
C-h f NAME Help for a particular function.  
C-h a WORD Help for all functions matching a particular word.  
C-h b Display key bindings.  
C-h m Help for the current modes.  
C-h r The emacs manual.

### Long commands

M-x iswitchb-mode Makes switching buffers a *lot* nicer.  
M-x ansi-term Opens an emulated terminal inside emacs.  
M-x compile Prompts for a command to run to compile code.  
M-x menu-bar-mode Toggles display of the menu bar. M-x scroll-bar-mode and M-x tool-bar-mode behave analogously.  
M-x customize A special mode that makes customizing emacs much easier. See also customize-group. One useful group is iswitchb.

### Resources (other than google.com)

<http://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/manual/emacs.html>  
The emacs manual, online.  
<http://www.stackoverflow.com/>  
Good general-purpose programming questions site.  
[#emacs on irc.freenode.org](#)  
An IRC channel for all things emacs.  
<http://www.emacswiki.org/>  
A wiki dedicated to emacs.