

# VI (Visual) Editor Command Summary

## Starting VI

vi edit a new file  
vi filename edit an existing file

## Inserting Text

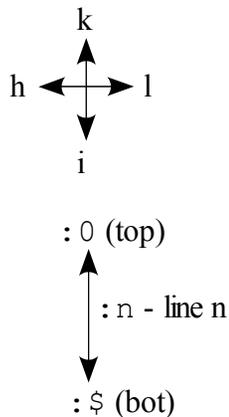
a add after cursor  
A add to end of line  
i insert before cursor  
I insert before first nonblank  
o open line below cursor  
O open line above cursor

## Deleting Text

dd delete line  
dw delete word  
x delete character under cursor  
X delete character to left of cursor  
D delete rest of line

## Undo

u undo last command  
U restore current line

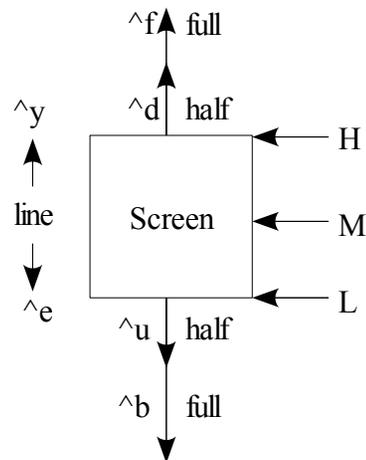


## Changing and Replacing Text

. repeat last change  
r replace character under cursor  
R write over text starting at cursor  
~ change case  
cw change word  
J join two lines  
:%s/X/Y/opt  
Global substitute X with Y  
opt can be any combination of:  
g - change all occurrences in line  
c - confirm each change  
p - print changed lines  
% can be % for the whole file or a pair of line numbers such as 5, 10 for a range of lines.  
X can be any search pattern  
Y can be any text - use & to repeat X

## Copying and Moving Text

Y yank into buffer  
p put buffer after cursor  
P put buffer before cursor



## Searching Text

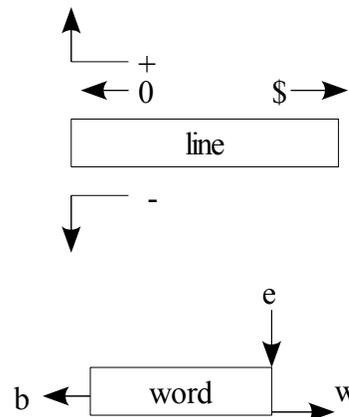
/X search forward for X  
?X search backward for X  
n repeat previous search in the specified direction  
N repeat previous search in the opposite direction  
:g/pattern/p print every line with pattern in it

## Search Patterns

(must use set magic option first)  
. any character  
\* any number of the preceding pattern  
[abc] a, or b, or c  
[^abc] any character but a, b, and c  
[a-c] any character between a and c  
^ start of line  
\$ end of line

## Screen

^I clear and redraw



## File Manipulation

:w name write to file name  
:q! quit without saving changes  
:wq write and quit  
ZZ write and quit  
:n edit next file  
:n! edit next file, discarding changes to current  
:r name read file name into buffer  
:e name edit another file, name  
:e! name edit another file, discarding changes to current

## Options

:set magic allow special search patterns  
:set ai enable autoindent  
:set noai disable autoindent (use before pasting)

If a command is preceded with a number it will be repeated that number of times.

5dd will delete five lines

**esc cancels any command or leaves insert mode**

**u undoes last command**

