

The **Loh**-Down on Emacs

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In our first-week classes on Athena (6/25) and LaTeX (6/26), Andy Kositsky and I mentioned some important information that either wasn't included in the lecture slides or could have been emphasized more. Here's a short summary of the **essential** commands you ought to have at your fingertips when working with the computers this summer, regardless of whether or not you're planning to use Linux or LaTeX in the future.

1 Emacs

Emacs is the program that you will use to edit `tex` files. In order to open Emacs, type "`emacs &`" in your terminal. (If you forget the `&`, close the Emacs window and retype the command.) If you want to open a particular file, say `file.tex`, you can either open it from inside Emacs or type "`emacs file.tex &`" in the terminal. (Again, don't forget the `&`!)

You can save and open files in Emacs using the menu at the top of the Emacs window, and you can also quit Emacs through the menubar. However, here are a few good commands to remember:

- `C-x C-f`: Opens a file. If you open a nonexisting file, you will create a file with that name.
- `C-x C-s`: Saves the current file. If the file was modified since the last time you saved it, you will see two asterisks (`**`) to the left of the filename in the gray bar at the bottom of the Emacs window. If the file has been saved, these asterisks will not be present.
- `C-x C-c`: This quits Emacs. If your file has not been saved, you will be asked whether you want to save your file.
- `C-g`: If you find that Emacs has gone crazy and you can't type anything, or the computer beeps every time you hit a key, try this keystroke. It will "quit the MiniBuffer" (the command line at the bottom of the Emacs window).