**Emacs Command Cheat Sheet**

* “C-x” means “press and hold the control key and then press and release the ‘x’ key”
* “M-x” means “press and then release the Meta key and then press the ‘x’ key.”

The “Meta key” on a PC is the one marked ESC (Escape); on a Mac, it’s the one that looks like this: ; on a Unix machine, it’s the one with a solid diamond on it.

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| Emacs basic commands |  |
| Command | **Keystroke** |
| Open a file | C-x C-f |
| Insert another file at the current cursor position | C-x i |
| Save current file | C-x C-s |
| Save current file with another name (similar to “Save as”) | C-x C-w |
| Open an additional file | C-x C-f |

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| Moving around an Emacs buffer |  |
| Command | **Keystroke** |
| Move to the beginning of a buffer | M-< |
| Move to the end of a buffer | M-> |
| Move forward one character | C-f |
| Move backward one character | C-b |
| Move down one line | C-n |
| Move up one line | C-p |
| Move forward one word | M-f |
| Move backward one word | M-b |
| Move to the end of a line | C-e |
| Move to the beginning of a line | C-a |
| Move forward one screen | C-v |
| Move backward one screen | M-v |

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| Cutting (deleting) text |  |
| Command | **Keystroke** |
| Delete character | C-d |
| Delete previous character | DEL (or BACKSPACE on some keyboards) |
| Delete word | M-d |
| Delete previous word | M-DEL (or M-BACKSPACE on some keyboards) |
| Delete the entire line | C-k |

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| Marking text to delete, move, or copy |  |
| Command | **Keystroke** |
| Mark the beginning of a selection | C-@ or C-SPACEBAR |
| Delete the marked region | C-w |
| Copy a marked region | M-w or C-INSERT |
| Paste (Yank) a cut or copied region | C-y |

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| Searching & replacing text |  |
| Command | **Keystroke** |
| Incremental search forward | C-s |
| Incremental search backward | C-r |
| Exit incremental search | <ENTER> or <RETURN> |
| Cancel incremental search (or just about any other command) | C-g |
| Delete incorrect character in search string of incremental search | DEL (or M-BACKSPACE on some keyboards) |
| Non-incremental search forward | C-s RETURN (or ENTER on some keyboards) |
| Non-incremental search backward | C-r RETURN (or ENTER on some keyboards) |
| Start query replace | M-% |
| Replace current instance and continue on to next instance | SPACEBAR or y |
| Don’t replace current instance, but move on to next instance | DEL (or M-BACKSPACE on some keyboards)  **or** n |
| Replace the current instance and then quit | . (period key) |
| Replace the current instance and then pause | , (comma key) |
| Resume after pausing | SPACEBAR or y |
| Replace remaining instances without asking | ! |
| Back up to previous instance | ^ |
| Exit query replace | RETURN (or ENTER on some keyboards) **or** q |
| Search for a group of sequential characters forward | M C-s RETURN (ENTER on some keyboards) FOLLOWED by thisIsMySearchExpressio\* |
| Search for a group of sequential characters backward | M C-r RETURN (ENTER on some keyboards) FOLLOWED by thisIsMySearchExpressio\* |
| Search for a group of sequential characters forward and incrementally | M C-s |
| Search for a group of sequential characters backward and incrementally | M C-r |

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| Moving among buffers |  |
| Command | **Keystroke** |
| Move to the previous buffer | C-x b |
| Display buffer list | C-x C-b |
| Delete current buffer | C-x k |
| Create two windows | C-x 2 |
| Move to the other window | C-x o |
| Delete the current window | C-x O |
| Delete all other windows except the current one | C-x 1 |

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| Various other commands |  |
| Command | **Keystroke** |
| Undoing recent changes | C-x u |
| Undo all changes since the last save | M-x revert-buffer |
| Go back to an earlier version of the current file (the file as it appeared when you first opened it) | C-x C-f filename~ RETURN (RETURN ON SOME keyboards) FOLLOWED BY C-x C-w filename |
| Pop out to your Unix prompt | C-z |
| Cancel current command | C-g |
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This document was adapted from a larger document that can be found at <http://cs.iupui.edu/~kweimer/EmacsCheatSheet.pdf>. Unfortunately, I’ve been unable to figure out who produced the original document.