COMMON EDITING TASKS AND THEIR EMACS KEYSTROKE COUNTERPARTS

REAL GEEKS:

1. Don’t use mice unless they have to; they work faster with keystrokes. Below we supply the most common keystroke commands, which work for Unix, Linux, Emacs, and our configuration of IDL.

2. Interchange the "Caps Lock" and "Ctrl" keys, because the Ctrl key is used for many keystrokes and it needs easy access to forstall carpal tunnel problems. To do this, type "swapcaps" in any terminal; to change back, type "swapcaps" again.

3. Often don’t want Emacs to open up a new window, but instead to use the current window. To accomplish this, type "emacs -nw filename". Or, we’ve defined an alias: "mem filename". If you use this option on a Sun machine, the Alt key doesn’t work; instead you need to use the Esc key.

---------------------- Keystroke Commands ------------------------

The following are the most common editing tasks and their keystroke counterparts:

IMPORTANT:
ctrl-g: Returns to basic editing; escapes any Emacs questions or loops.

CURSOR LOCATION CONTROL:
arrow keys, "Page Up/Down", "Home", and "End" work as expected
ctrl-e: move cursor to the end of the line
ctrl-a: move cursor to the beginning of the line
ctrl-x g: move cursor o line number XX; XX is prompted for.

DELETING LINE-BY-LINE (CUTTING)
ctrl-k (twice per line: once for text, once for carriage return)

RESTORING THE DELETED LINES (PASTING)
move the cursor to where you want to restore the line(s) and type
ctrl-y

MOVING OR DELETING BLOCKS OF TEXT: Three steps:

First you need to mark (HIGHLIGHT) the block of text. Set the beginning (or ending) mark with
ctrl-space
Use the arrows to highlight the block.

Second you delete the text (CUT it)
ctrl-w

Third you move the cursor to where you want to insert the text (PASTE it)
ctrl-y

If you screwed up and want to stop:
ctrl-g

UNDO:
ctrl-x: undoes what you did. You can keep undoing by repeating ctrl-x.

CHANGING CASE: alt-u or esc-u: Change to upper case. You can hold the alt key down and keep punching U and it will keep going.

alt-l or esc-l: change to lower case.

alt-c or esc-c: capitalize first letter in the next or current word

the esc key works like the alt key above, but you cannnot continue by holding it down as you can with the alt key. On Sun machines, the alt key doesn’t work.

FILL:
You’ve modified the text, the text looks awful, you want it nicely formatted. Works only on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis:

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esc-q or alt-q

SEARCHING:
Generally, ctrl-s searches forwards and ctrl-r searches backwards

ctrl-s ctrl-w: word search. Forward searches for the exact match to what you
type. Can be repeated simply by typing ctrl-s (replace ctrl-s by ctrl-r
to search backwards)

ctrl-s: incremental search (searches character-by-character as you type).
Can be repeated simply by typing ctrl-s.

ctrl-s enter: simple search. Cannot be repeated.
ctrl-s enter ctrl-w: simple word search. Cannot be repeated.

if you screwed up and want to stop:
ctrl-g

SEARCH AND REPLACE WITH QUERY:
F9. Asks for the search string on the bottom line of the screen. Hit
enter after the string. For each find, type 'y' to replace, 'n' to not
replace. To terminage, type ctrl-g.

if you screwed up and want to stop:
ctrl-g

WRITE THE FILE TO DISK (We suggest that you do this frequently!):
ctrl-s

EXITING EMACS
ctrl-x ctrl-c

CHANGE FONT SIZE: shift - left mouse button

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DEFINE A KEYBOARD MACRO:
You can dedfine a macro: a combination of sequential keystrokes that you
want to execute repeatedly. To define the macro:

ctrl-x (: defines the beginning of a macro. After typing this, type the
sequential keystrokes you want to execute. Aafter the last keystroke,
type

ctrl-x ) to end.

To execute the macro once, type
ctrl-x e

To execute the macro N types:
Esc N
ctrl-x e

ISPELL:A MARKED REGION
ctrl-x $

COUNT NR OF WORDS IN A MARKED REGION
ctrl-x w

DO EMACS WITHOUT IN CURRENT TERMINAL--NO NEW X WINDOW
emacs -nw filename  ...or...  mem filename

--------------------------------------------------------------------
To use Carl's emacs setup you need to replace your .emacs file with his:

1.      from the UNIX prompt in your home directory, rename your.emacs
file so you can retrieve it again if necessary:
        mv .emacs .emacs_original

2.      then copy Carl's file to yours:
        cp ~heiles/.emacs .
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