

Basic Emacs Tutorial

Statistics Orientation

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Introduction

On a very basic level, Emacs is a text editor. However it is much more versatile than other less sophisticated editors in the UNIX environment, such as for example *pico*. More specifically, Emacs can work together with other applications, such as T_EX, L^AT_EX, and S-Plus, to provide a sort of graphical user interface. We will get an example of this when we begin to use ESS (Emacs Speaks Statistics) and L^AT_EX.

Dot Emacs Files

These files make your life a lot easier. By color coding the syntax (for example in T_EXfiles), it is easy to see if you've made a syntax error, because it "won't look right". In your **Tutorial** folder, there is a beginners `.emacs` file. Copy this to your home directory before proceeding- it will make things a lot easier (it is intended for use on the stat network with ESS and includes keybindings- see the ESS reference sheet, <http://www.stat.rice.edu/~helpdesk/FAQ/ess.ps>).

The Emacs Tutorial

While there was no `tutorial` command in `tcshell`, there is a tutorial included with Emacs, and can be accessed after starting Emacs with `ctrl-h, t`. There are a few things that will be helpful here, if you ever want to cancel

the command you're working on, just type `ctrl g` once or twice. To exit, it's `ctrl-x`, `ctrl-c`. Now you should be ready to start the emacs tutorial. Don't worry about getting all the way through it. Just get comfortable with the first quarter or so of it. Then try to open a file, like the `README` file in the `Tutorial` directory. The tutorial should look like this:

```
Copyright (c) 1985 Free Software Foundation, Inc; See end for conditions.
You are looking at the Emacs tutorial.
```

Emacs commands generally involve the CONTROL key (sometimes labeled CTRL or CTL) or the META key (sometimes labeled EDIT or ALT). Rather than write that in full each time, we'll use the following abbreviations:

```
C-<chr> means hold the CONTROL key while typing the character <chr>
Thus, C-f would be: hold the CONTROL key and type f.
M-<chr> means hold the META or EDIT or ALT key down while typing <chr>.
If there is no META, EDIT or ALT key, instead press and release the
ESC key and then type <chr>. We write <ESC> for the ESC key.
```

Important note: to end the Emacs session, type `C-x C-c`. (Two characters.) The characters `">>"` at the left margin indicate directions for you to try using a command. For instance:

Special Keys, Tricks

If you want to change the font in emacs, you can hold down shift and then hold down the left mouse button. (When you're at a terminal, hold down control and press the right mouse button to change the font size)

Here are some keys that can save you time (in emacs as well as at the `tcsh` command line (character movement/delete options only)). Remember that the meta key is the same as escape on a windows keyboard.

ctrl-g	cancel current command	ctrl-x, ctrl-c	quit
ctrl-x, ctrl-f	open file	ctrl-x, ctrl-s	save file
ctrl-x, ctrl-w	save file with a different name	ctrl-x k	close file
ctrl-b	switch buffer	ctrl-x 1	make 1 window
ctrl-x 2	make 2 windows	ctrl-o	switch to other window
ctrl-s	incremental search	ctrl-h ?	help menu
ctrl-d	delete forwards	meta-d	delete words forward
ctrl-w	kill previous word	backspace	deletes backwards
ctrl-k	cuts current line of text	ctrl-y	pastes the line of text
ctrl-a	go to beginning of line	ctrl-e	go to end of line
meta-f	move forward one word	meta-b	move backwards one word
ctrl-h t	Emacs tutorial	ctrl- -	undo (control-underscore)

Note that you can change these key bindings in several ways (like using cua) to get windows-style key bindings or other key bindings.