VI/VIM Essential Command Reference

https://github.com/hbc/NGS_Data_Analysis_Course/blob/master/VI_CommandReference.pdf

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Basic Controls & Commands

Esc - Basic command mode (Default mode)

i - Insert mode (for inserting text)

gg/G - Move to top/bottom of file

0/$ - Move to begin/end of line

w/b - Move to next/previous word

dw/dd - Delete word/line

u/Ctrl + r - Undo/Redo

:set number/set nonumber - add/remove line #s

:w *file* - Write *file*

:wq - Write and quit (:wq! to enforce)

:q! - Quit without saving

Navigation and Searching

:n - Move cursor to line n

Ctrl + u/d - Move down/up half page

Ctrl + f/b - Move down/up a full page

e - Move to end of word

h/j/k/l - Move cursor left/down/up/right

H/M/L - Jump to top/middle/bottom of page

:n - Move cursor to line *n*

f*n* - Search forward for next *n*

/*pattern* ?*pattern* - Search *pattern* forward/back

n/N - Next/previous occurrence of search pattern

- Search for word under cursor

:help *topic* - Show documentation for *topic*

Buffers & Windows

:ls or **:files** - Display list of opened files

:b *n* - Open file n in current window

:bd*n* - Delete file #*n* from buffer

:next/previous - Move to next/previous file

:first/last - Switch to first/last file

:e! - Reload current file

Ctrl + wn or **:new** - New empty window

Ctrl + ws or **:sp** - Split window horizontally

Ctrl + wv or **:vsp** - Split window vertically

Ctrl + wc or **:close** - Close window

Ctrl + wo or **:only** - Close all but current window

Ctrl + ww - Jump to next window

Ctrl + w[hjkl] - Move window focus

Ctrl + w[HJKL] - Move window

:resize/vertical resize +n - Resize window (Hor/ver)

Editing and Saving Files

:e *filename* - Edit a new file (add to buffer)

:enew - New empty file

:read !*command* - Insert *command* output

:x or **ZZ** - Save and quit if file was changed

:w >> *file2* - Append contents of file to *file2*

. - Repeat last command

V/v - Visual mode for selecting lines/char

:%s/*search*/*replace*/gc - Search and replace

:f *newname* - Change file name to *newname*

i/a - Insert text before/after char

I/A - Insert text at start/end of line

O/o - Insert new line above/below cursor

r - Replace char

cw/cc - Replace word/line

R - Replace text (typeover)

s/S - Delete char/line and insert text

~/g~~ - Reverse case of char/line

Deleting and Copying Text

x/X - Delete current/previous char

n*d - Delete line #*n*

D or **d$** - Delete rest of line

d0 - Delete from here to beginning of line

Y or **yy** - Copy to register

y0/y$ - Copy to beginning/end of line

p/P - Paste register after/before cursor

Other Useful Commands

view *file* - Open *file* in read-only mode

:sh - open shell (exit to re-enter vi)

: !*command* - Run system *command* in VI

:e . - Browse a directory and display file explorer

:*command* - Execute *command* in vi

:cd *path/to/dir* - Change directory

:noh - Disable search highlighting

:Sex - Split window and show file explorer (Hor)

:Sex! - Split window and show file explorer (Ver)

vimdiff *file1 file2* - Compare two files

n*l - Move cursor to column *n*

* - Go to next occurrence of word under cursor

n*G - Go to line *n*