

TEXT MANIPULATIONS



String manipulations

RegEx is a language for describing **patterns** in strings

- **grep** finds lines containing a pattern, and outputs them
- **sed** (stream editor) applies transformation rules to each line of text based on a pattern
- **awk** powerful text processing language

Regular expressions

.	Matches any single character a.c matches abc , acc , etc.
[]	Matches a set. [abc] matches a , b , or c . [a-zA-Z] matches any letter. [0-9] matches any number. “^” negates a set, [^abc] matches d , e , f , etc.
^	Starting position anchor. ^abc finds lines starting with abc
\$	Ending position anchor. xyz\$ finds lines ending with xyz
\	Escape symbol, to find special characters. * will find “*”. \n matches new line character, \t – tab character
*	Match the preceding element zero or more times. a*b matches ab , aab , aaab , etc.

Extended regular expressions

?	Matches the preceding element zero or one time. a*b matches b , ab , but not aab
+	Matches the preceding element one or more times. a+b matches ab , aab , etc.
	OR operator. “ abc def ” matches abc or def

grep usage

Basic syntax: `grep "pattern" <filename>`

- `cat README.md | grep "use"`
outputs lines containing the pattern "use",
non-case-sensitive, prints line numbers
- `ls | grep "^[w|b]"`
lists files/directories starting with "w" or "b"



Fine-tuning your grep

- v** inverts the match
- i** matches case insensitively
- H** prints the matched filename
- n** prints the line number
- f <filename>** gets patterns from a file, each pattern on a new line
- w** forces the pattern to match an entire word
- x** forces patterns to match the whole line



*Text Processing
with Regular Expressions*

2nd Edition



sed & awk

Pocket Reference

O'REILLY®

Arnold Robbins

sed - stream editor

Most common usage – **substitute** a pattern with replacement. Basic syntax:

```
sed `s/pattern/replacement/`
```

- `echo "The Internet is made of dogs" | sed `s/dogs/cats/``
replaces "dogs" with cats, so the final output is "The Internet is made of cats"
- `echo "dogs, dogs, dogs" | sed `s/dogs/cats/g``
global substitution with "g" modifier. The final output is "cats, cats, cats"



sed - stream editor

- Special characters – escape with “\”

```
echo "1*2*3" | sed 's/\*/-/g' outputs "1-2-3"
```

- Regular expressions – use as in **grep**, with “-E” argument for extended regex

```
echo "tic-tac-toe" | sed 's/[ia]/o/g' | sed 's/e  
$/c/' - outputs "toc-toc-toc"
```

- Delete line(s) – **sed 'X[,Y]d'** deletes line X through Y

```
cat <filename> | sed '1d' - deletes first line (e.g.,  
header)
```

```
cat <filename> | sed '10,37d' - deletes lines from 10  
through 37
```



awk

A more traditional programming language for text processing than sed. Awk stands for the names of its authors “Alfred **A**ho, Peter **W**einberger, and Brian **K**ernighan”

- Operates on “pieces” of a line = columns. A piece is defined as separated by space, tab, or pre-specified symbol (e.g., comma)
- Columns are enumerated, and can be addressed as **\$1**, **\$2**, **\$3** ...
\$0 represents the whole line

Conditional output with awk

Basic syntax: `cat <filename> | awk 'expression
{ action }'`

- `if (expression) {action} [else {action}]`
- Boolean operators `==, !=, >, >=, <, <=, &&, ||`

- Print a line if the first column is “chr1”

```
awk '{if ($1 == "chr1") print $0}'
```

```
awk '$1 == "chr1" {print $0}'
```

- Print columns 2 and 3, switched, if the 1st column is > 100

```
awk '{OFS="\t"} $1 > 100 {print $3, $2}'
```

OFS – output field separator, “space” by default



awk goodies

- Arithmetics

`awk '{print $1, $2+100, $3-100}'` prints first 3 columns, the 2nd numerical column is increased by 100, the 3rd is decreased by 100

- Number of columns

`head <filename> | awk '{FS="\t"} {print NF}'`
using tab as a field separator, prints number of fields

- Sort files by the number of lines

`wc -l *.bed | awk '{OFS="\t"} {print $2, $1}' |
sort -k2n`



Statistical command line goodies

- **data_hacks**, https://github.com/bitly/data_hacks
 - Command line tools for data analysis
 - `histogram.py`
 - `bar_chart.py`
 - `sample.py`
- **datamash**, <https://www.gnu.org/software/datamash/>
 - summary statistics
 - transposing matrixes

KNOW YOUR TEXT EDITOR

Know your text editor

nano – default text editor of GNU operating systems

```
GNU nano 2.0.6      File: /Users/mikhail/.bash_profile

#####
# Aliases
#####

export LC_CTYPE=C
export LANG=C

alias lah='ls -lah'
alias ..='cd ..'
alias ...='cd ../../..'
alias ....='cd ../../../../..'
alias .....='cd ../../../../../../..'
alias .4='cd ../../../../..'
alias .5='cd ../../../../../../..'

## get top process eating memory
alias psmem='ps auxf | sort -nr -k 4'
alias psmem10='ps auxf | sort -nr -k 4 | head -10'

## get top process eating cpu ##
alias pscpu='ps auxf | sort -nr -k 3'
alias pscpu10='ps auxf | sort -nr -k 3 | head -10'

# Find space hogs in the current directory

[ Read 36 lines ]
[?] Get Help      [?] WriteOut     [?] Read File    [?] Prev Page    [?] Cut Text     [?] Cur Pos
[?] Exit          [?] Justify      [?] Where Is    [?] Next Page    [?] UnCut Text  [?] To Spell
```

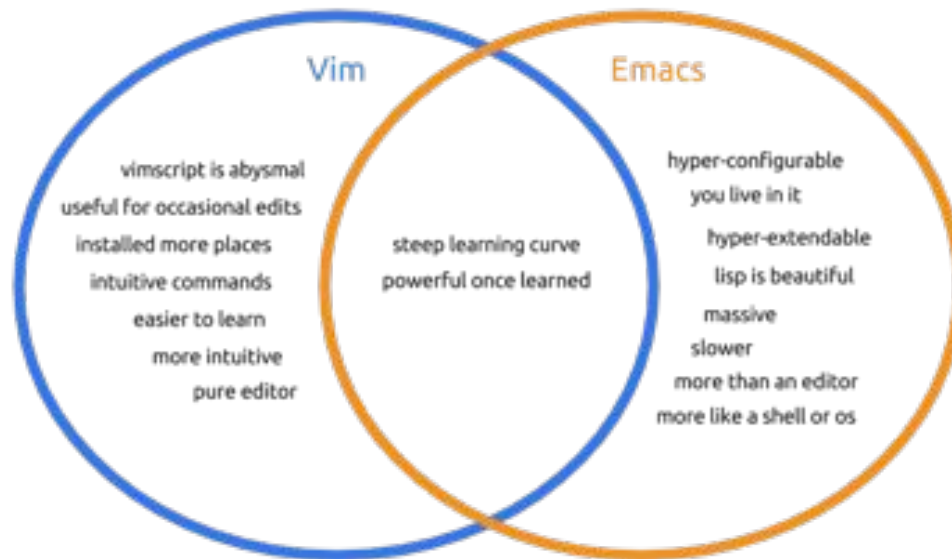
Vi, Vim, Emacs

Vi(m) Basics

- Created by Bill Joy, 1976
- **Advantages:** Supremely intuitive once basics are learned

Emacs basics

- Created by Richard Stallman, 1976
- **Advantages:** Unparalleled power and configuration



vim basics

Start vim on a file: **vim <filename>**

Two modes:

- **i** editor mode, to type
- **Esc** command mode. Press “:” and enter a command

Commands:

- **:w** write changes
- **:wq** write changes and quit
- **:q!** force quit and ignore changes



Basic vim commands

k, j, l, h, or arrows navigation

v (visually) select characters

V (shift-v) (visually) select whole lines

d cut (delete) into clipboard

dd cut the whole line

y copy (yank) into clipboard

P (shift-p) paste from clipboard

u undo



Find and replace in vim

In command mode:

- **/pattern** search for pattern, “**n**” – next instance
- **:s/pattern/replacement/g** search and replace
- **:help tutor** learn more vim