Subject: HW #5: more about emacs
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Date: 6/6/24, 10:56 AM
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One of the things I would like you to do this summer is to learn the basics of a text editor we call emacs. To run emacs on ece-000, you will type the command "isip_e". This is a wrapper for emacs and configures emacs with a bunch of useful settings.

I previously pointed you to a very useful web page about emacs:

 https://www.emacswiki.org/emacs/LearningEmacs

A nice historical overview can be found here:

 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emacs

Some useful videos demonstrating some of the key features of emacs can be found here:

https://isip.piconepress.com/courses/temple/ece_1111/resources/tutorials/tips_emacs/

These will only make sense once you know the basics. To learn the basics, type "isip_e" and then type:

 Esc x help-with-tutorial

"Esc" refers to your escape key. This tutorial covers basic cursor movements, screen management and user interface.

Once you know how to create macros in emacs, and know a little about command line programming in Linux, you will be able to do all sorts of automated processing in emacs. For example, I have been known to write a script in emacs that renames 100,000 files, or automatically refactor 1,000 files of source code.

The emacs vs. vi debate in Unix has been going on since the dawn of mankind:

 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Editor_war

I try to stay out of these religious battles, and focus more on getting my work done quickly. I use emacs extensively in my research and have been doing so since 1980. It is one of the best examples of how a well-written piece of software can evolve over time to stay relevant.

In ECE 1111, we will change how you interact with your computer, transitioning you from mouse-centric movements to command line-driven tools.

-Joe