Intro to VIM

By Jun Ren | P2P Backend


TO-DOLIST
• Introduction to VIM
• VIM Basics
• Customizing VIM
• Resources

What is VIM

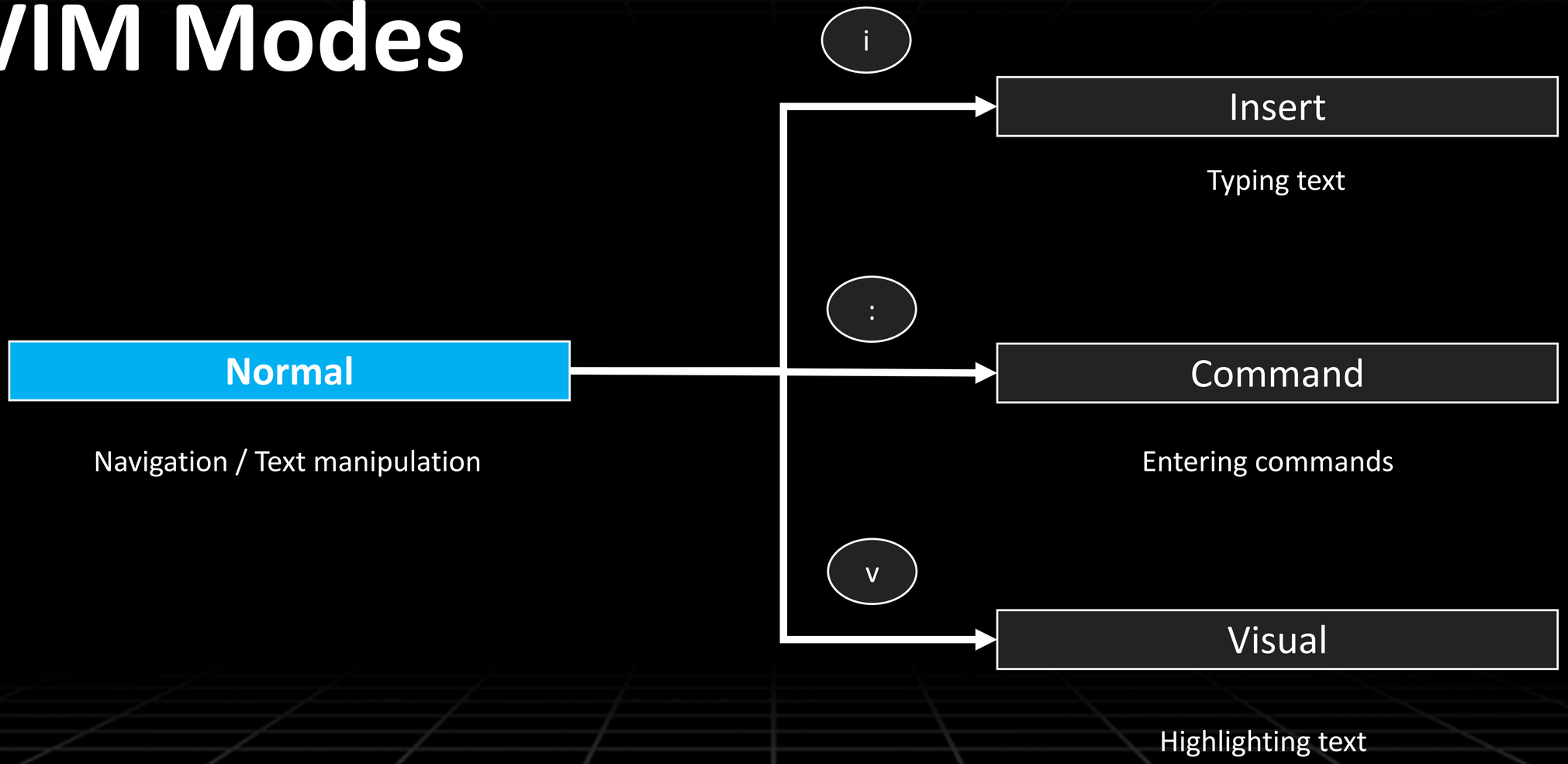
- Highly customizable text editor
- Designed for effective text manipulation

Why learn VIM

- Extensibility and customizability
- Transferrable skill
- Improves your productivity

VIM BASICS

VIM Modes

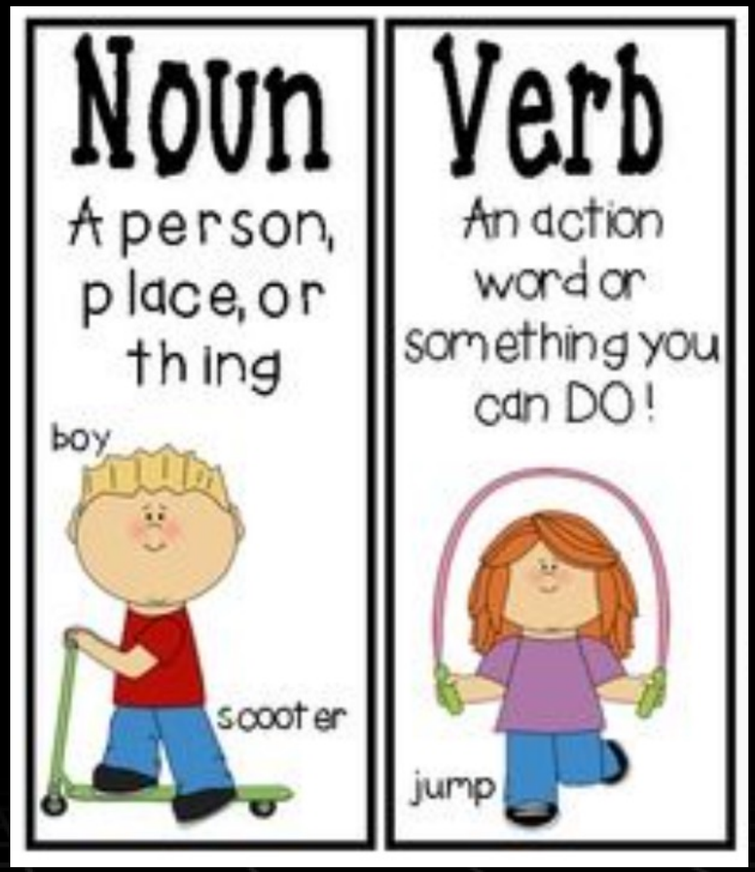

i
Insert
Typing text
:
Normal
Command
Navigation / Text manipulation
Entering commands
v
Visual
Highlighting text

VIM Commands

Syntax: Operator (Verb) + Motion (Noun)

- Operators define the *action* to take
- Motions define the *scope* of the action

Example:
‘d’ for delete + ‘w’ for word
$\Rightarrow$ ‘dw’ = delete word
$\Rightarrow$ ‘3dw’ = delete 3 words



VIM Operators (Verbs)

d	Delete
c	Change (delete and go into insert mode)
v	Visually select
> / <	Indent
y	Yank

VIM Motions (Nouns)

h, j, k, l	Move the cursor left, down, up, or right by one character
w, b, e	Move the cursor to the next word, previous word, or end of the current word
0, $	Move the cursor to the beginning or end of the current line
gg, G	Move the cursor to the beginning or end of the file
{ , }	Moves the cursor forward to the beginning of the previous, next paragraph
%	Moves the cursor to the matching parenthesis, brace, or bracket
f/t	Moves the cursor to (f) or just before (t) the next occurrence of a specified character in the current line

Undo / Redo / Repeat

u	Undo last command
CTRL + R	Redoing last command
.	Repeating last command

Insert mode

i	Enters insert mode before the current cursor position
O	Enters insert mode one live above
o	Enters insert mode one line below
a	Enters insert mode after moving 1 character to the right
A	Enters insert mode at the end of the current line
R	Enters replace mode

Navigating (Screen)

zt, zz, zb	Scrolls the screen so that the current line is at the top, center, or bottom, respectively
CTRL-f or CTRL-b	Scrolls the screen forward or backward by a full page.
CTRL-d or CTRL-u	Scrolls the screen forward or backward by half a page

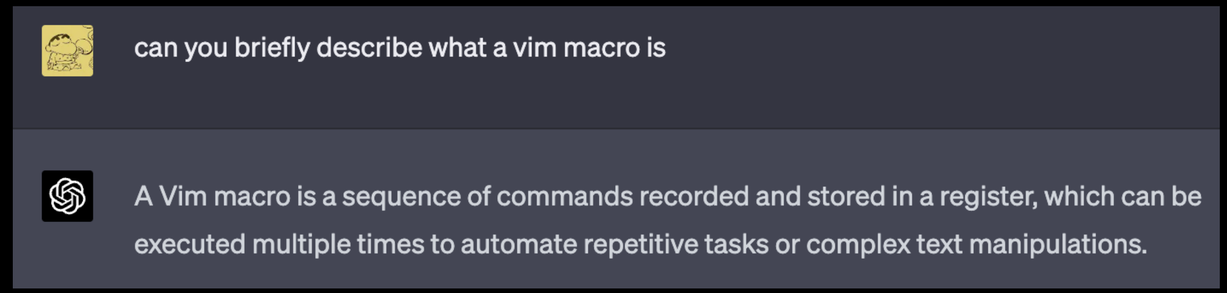
Navigating (Jumplist / Marks)

Ctrl + o / i	Go to [o]lder / newer position in jump list
m + {lower_case_register} / {UPPER_CASE_REGISTER}	(‘m’ + ‘a’) Mark current position in a (local) (‘m’ + ‘A’) Mark current position in A (global)
' + {mark}	Jump to mark

Macros

1. Begin recording with ‘q’
2. Choose a register
3. Edit however you want
4. End recording with q
5. Apply macro to lines (there are many ways)

   e.g.
   :5,$norm! @a (Apply macro on line 5 till end of file)



Customizing VIM

- Configuration file
  - /.ideavimrc
- Key bindings / mappings
- Plugins

Resources

- YouTube (Primagen, DevOps Toolbox etc.)
- VIM plugins https://github.com/akrawchyk/awesome-vim
- VIM cheat sheet https://vim.rtorr.com/
- Partly adapted from https://ctoomey.com/mastering-the-vim-language-slides.pdf
- @Evan Tan 陈俊融

Summary

- VIM Modes
- Text manipulation commands
- Navigation commands
- Configuring VIM plugins / key mappings

Thank you for listening