Kakoune

Selection-first modal editor

CONCEPTS

Selection first, then verb: w selects a word, d deletes it. There is no operator-pending state like in Vim.

Uppercase movement extends the selection: w picks a word, W adds the next.

Notation as in the docs: <c-x> is Ctrl+x, <a-x> is Alt+x.

Select w, x, f, s, <a-i>
Refine S, <a-k>, ;, ,
↓ narrow
Act d, c, y, p, |
↓ edit

Commands act on all selections at once: s then c is a multi-cursor rename.

MODES & FILES

<esc>
Back to normal mode; drop extra selections

i / a
Insert before / after selection

I / A Insert at line start / end

o / O
Open line below / above

:w Write the buffer

:q Quit (fails if unsaved)

:wq Write and quit

:q! Quit and discard changes

:e › <file>
Open a file in a new buffer

:b › <buffer>
Switch to a buffer by name

: Open the command prompt

MOVEMENT

h / j / k / l
Left / down / up / right

w / b / e
Next word start / previous start / end

f › <char> / t › <char>
Select to / until character

MOVEMENT (cont.)

<a-h> / <a-l>
To line start / end

g › h / g › l
Go to line start / end

g › g / g › j First / last line

<n> › G Go to line <n>

<c-d> / <c-u>
Half page down / up

m / M
Select / extend to matching pair

<c-i> / <c-o>
Jump list forward / back

SELECTIONS

x
Select line, again extends down

% Select whole buffer

s
Select regex matches inside selection

S Split selection on a regex

<a-s>
Split selection into one per line

<a-k> / <a-K>
Keep / drop selections matching a regex

C / <a-C>
Add cursor on the next / previous line

, Keep only the main selection

(/)
Rotate which selection is main

;
Collapse selections to cursors

<a-;> Flip selection direction

OBJECTS

<a-i> › <type>
Select inside an object

<a-a> › <type>
Select an object with its delimiters

[› <type> /] › <type>
Select to object start / end

OBJECTS (cont.)

Object types

Key	Object
b ( )	parentheses
B { }	braces
r [ ]	brackets
a < >	angle brackets
Q "	double quotes
q '	single quotes
g `	backticks
w / <a-w>	word / WORD
s	sentence
p	paragraph
i	indent block
n	number
u	argument

EDITING

d Delete selection (yanked)

c
Change selection (delete + insert)

y Yank (copy)

p / P Paste after / before

R
Replace selection with the register

r › <char>
Replace every character with <char>

u / U Undo / redo

> / < Indent / unindent

<a-j> Join lines

. Repeat last insert or change

| › <cmd>
Pipe selections through a command

SEARCH

/ Search forward (regex)

n / N
Next match / add next match

*
Use selection as search pattern (word-bounded)

INSERT & PROMPT

<c-n> / <c-p>
Next / previous completion candidate