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.

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

MODES & FILES (cont.)

`:q!`
Quit and discard changes

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

`:`
Open the command prompt

`<space>`
Enter user mode (custom mappings)

MOVEMENT

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

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

`<a-w>` / `<a-b>` / `<a-e>`
Same, for WORDs

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

`<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

MOVEMENT (cont.)

`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

SELECTIONS (cont.)

`;`
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

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)

EDITING (cont.)

`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)

`<a-/>` Search backward

`n` / `N`
Next match / add next match

`*`
Use selection as search pattern (word-bounded)

INSERT & PROMPT

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