VisiData Terminal data spreadsheet

START HERE

`vd <file>`
Open CSV, JSON, Excel

`U`
Undo last change

`Arrows` / `h` › `j` › `k` › `l`
Move around

`q`
Close sheet, quit at last

`Shift` + `F`
Frequency table of column

`[` / `]`
Sort column up / down

`|`
Select rows by regex

`Ctrl` + `S`
Save sheet to a file

Source file vd data.csv → `load` → **Sheet** rows x columns → `Shift+F, Shift+W, "` → **Derived sheet** freq, pivot, subset → `Ctrl+S` → **Saved file** csv, tsv, json...

CONCEPTS

VisiData is a spreadsheet for the terminal: every view (columns, frequencies, pivots) is a new sheet on a stack.

Commands apply to the current column or row. A g prefix usually means all (gs, gd), z a variant.

Typing a key inside a prompt edits text; Enter accepts, Ctrl+C or Esc cancels.

NAVIGATION

`Arrows` / `h` › `j` › `k` › `l`
Move cell by cell

`g` › `h` / `g` › `j` / `g` › `k` / `g` › `l`
Jump to left, bottom, top, right edge

`PgUp` / `PgDn` Scroll a page

`/` / `?`
Regex search column, down / up

`n` / `Shift` + `N`
Next / previous match

`g` › `/`
Regex search all columns

`c` Go to column by name

`z` › `r` Go to row number

`<` / `>`
Previous / next differing value

NAVIGATION (cont.)

`{` / `}`
Previous / next selected row

`z` › `/`
Search with a Python expression
Column names work as variables.

ROWS AND SELECTION

`s` / `t` / `u`
Select, toggle, unselect row

`g` › `s` / `g` › `t` / `g` › `u`
Same for all rows

`|` / `\`
Select / unselect by regex in column

`g` › `|`
Select by regex in any column

`z` › `|`
Select by Python expression

`,`
Select rows equal to this cell

`"`
Open sheet of selected rows only
Edits flow back to the source sheet; z " makes an independent copy.

`g` › `d` Delete selected rows

`d` Delete current row

`a` Add an empty row

ROWS AND SELECTION (cont.)

`y` / `p` Copy row, paste after

`[` / `]`
Sort by column up / down

`z` › `[` / `z` › `]`
Add column to sort criteria

`g` › `[` / `g` › `]`
Sort by all key columns

COLUMNS

`#` / `%`
Type column int / float
Needed before numeric sort or sums.

`@` / `~`
Type column date / string

`-` Hide column

`g` › `v` Unhide all columns

`!` Make key column (pins left)

`H` / `L`
Move column left / right

`^` Rename column

`=`
Add column from Python expression
*Example: price*qty; name=expr names the column.*

`:` Split column by regex

`*`
Regex replace into new column

COLUMNS (cont.)

`(` / `)`
Expand / contract nested column
For JSON: g (expands every visible column.

`Shift` + `=`
Add aggregator (the + key) to column

EDIT AND UNDO

`e` Edit current cell

`g` › `e`
Set column for selected rows

`U` / `R`
Undo / redo last change

`Ctrl` + `R`
Reload sheet from source

`Ctrl` + `C`
Cancel running command

SUMMARIES AND PIVOTS

`Shift` + `F`
Frequency table of column
Enter on a row opens the matching source rows.

`Shift` + `I`
Describe sheet: stats per column

`Shift` + `W`
Pivot table on current column
Mark group-by columns with ! first.

SUMMARIES AND PIVOTS (cont.)

`Enter`
Open source rows of group or cell

SHEETS, FILES, HELP

`q` Close current sheet

`g` › `q` Quit everything

`Ctrl` + `S`
Save sheet; name sets the format
Extension picks the format: .csv, .tsv, .json, .xlsx.

`o` Open another file

`Shift` + `S`
Sheets stack: jump between sheets

`g` › `Shift` + `S`
All sheets of session

`Ctrl` + `^` Previous sheet

`Shift` + `C`
Columns sheet: edit types, widths

`&`
Join sheets on key columns

`Shift` + `D`
Command log of this session

`Ctrl` + `H` Help menu

`z` › `Ctrl` + `H`
List all commands and keys

COMMAND LINE

`vd <file> ...`
Open files, last on top

`<cmd> | vd`
Read from stdin

`vd -f <type> <file>`
Force a loader

`vd -b <in> -o <out>`
Convert in batch mode

`vd -p <log.vdj>`
Replay a command log

`vd -d ';' <file>`
Set field delimiter

`vd --skip <n> <file>`
Skip leading lines

`vd .`
Browse a directory

RECIPES

Convert without the UI

```
vd -b data.csv -o data.json
vd -b data.json -o data.xlsx
```

Count values of a column

```
vd data.csv
# move to column, Shift+F
# Enter on a row lists its rows
# Ctrl+S saves the table
```

Explore command output

```
ps aux | vd
# Shift+F on USER, # on a
number
# ] sorts descending
```

Record and replay cleanup

```
# Ctrl+D saves clean.vdj
vd -b -p clean.vdj new.csv -o
out.csv
```