Spacemacs (VIM Mode) Cheatsheet

For project searching, create an empty file named .projectile in your project root directory. For text searching, install AG (the silver searcher) and create an .agignore file to avoid searching certain directories. When searching for files or text in Spacemacs, you can use ctrl-j to go down, ctrl-k to go up, and page up/down.

This sheet assumes you're using the VIM mode of Spacemacs. When you open a file, you will be in the **command mode** of the editor. The command mode is not an edit mode; it's just for typing commands. **Insertion mode** is where you can type text normally (e.g. like in Microsoft Word).

To get into insertion mode, type i (abbreviation for insert) or a (insert after the cursor).
To get back into command mode, press the Esc key or rapidly press f d.

If you're ever not sure which mode you're in, just press the Esc key to get into command mode. The below commands are executed in command mode.

Editor

Quit   SPACE q q
Increase/decrease font size   SPACE z x

Files

Open a file   SPACE f f   (then ctrl h to go up a directory, TAB for completion)
Save a file   SPACE f s
Create a file   SPACE f f <type in the new file path, press enter, it will ask to create a file>
Find a file in your project   SPACE p f
Edit the .spacemacs config file   SPACE f e d
Switch to a file recently opened   SPACE b b

Find Text

Find text in buffer   /   (type the search text and press ENTER, followed by n (next) or N (previous))
Find next instance of a word that your cursor is over   *
Find previous instance of a word that your cursor is over   #
Turn off previous search highlighting   :nohl   (then press ENTER)
Find text in project   SPACE /
Find text under cursor in project (or selected with visual-mode)   SPACE *
Resume last search   SPACE s l
Find and replace text in buffer, from current line   :.,$s/<find text>/<replace text>/gc

Navigation

Go up   k
Go down   j
Go left   h
Go right   l
Go down a page   ctrl d
Go up a page   ctrl u
Go up to next paragraph (whitepace line)   {
Go down to next paragraph (whitepace line)   }
Go to previous function   [[
Go to next function   ]]
Go up to outer brace   [{
Go down to outer brace   ]}
Go right a word   w
Go to the end of a word   e
Go left a word   b

Go to beginning of file   gg
Go to end of file   G
Go 22 lines down   22j
Go to end of line $
Go to beginning of non-whitespace part of line   ^
Go right 5 words   5w
Jump to any word   SPACE SPACE <first letter of word>
Jump back   ctrl o   (press multiple times to keep going back)
Create/jump to a named bookmark   SPACE h b
Center the buffer around your cursor   z z
Go to the last place you edited   g ;
Go to the file path under your cursor   g f

Window Layouts

Split window vertically   SPACE w S
Switch to other window   SPACE <number of window>
Close a window   SPACE w c
Show layout help   SPACE l ?   (make sure to close the help before creating or saving layouts)
Create a named layout   SPACE l l
Save a layout by name   SPACE l S
Switch to layout   SPACE l <number of layout>

Highlight Text with Visual Mode

Press v. (To enter visual mode so you can highlight text).
Use the arrow keys (or h,j,k,l,w,b,$) to highlight.

Editing

Undo   u
Redo   ctrl-r
Comment out a line   g c c   (requires the evil-commentary layer)
Comment out highlighted text   g c
Copy highlighted text   Press y to yank, p to paste. (shift-p to open up a line above and paste)
Copy a word   yw
Copy a line   yy
Copy from cursor to end of line   y$
Copy & paste highlighted text from a register   Type "ay to yank into register a, and "ap to paste.
Delete highlighted text   d
Delete character x
Delete word   dw
Delete word and insert text   cw
Delete line   dd
Delete to end of line   d$
Delete until right paren   df)
Change everything between quotes   c i "   (this also works for parens, single quotes, etc.)
Show previous things you've copied (yanked)   SPACE r y
Indenting highlighted text   Type > or < to indent right or left.   (to indent more, type 2> or 3>)
Join lines separated by whitespace   J
Show whitespace   SPACE t w
Convert spaces to tabs   SPACE : (then type tabify and press ENTER)
Convert tabs to spaces   SPACE : (then type untabify and press ENTER)