DESY-USG/93/01
Version June 28, 1993

Reference Card for the *vi* editor on Falcos and X-terminals

To start an editing session with vi type: vi *filename*

The vi editor has 3 modes: command mode, input mode (commands i, I, o, O, a, A, R, cw, *n*cc, C, *n*s enter the input mode, the ESCAPE-key ends the input mode), ed-mode (commands starting with :). The ESCAPE-key will always bring you back to the command mode.

Below, the following key symbols are used:

^	CONTROL-key
ESC	ESCAPE-key (ESC on Falcos and Apollo-stations, F11(ESC) on X-terminals)
RETURN	RETURN-key

Move Around on the Screen:

$\leftarrow, \downarrow, \uparrow, \rightarrow$	move cursor left, down, up, right
h , j , k , l	move cursor left, down, up, right
^d , ^u	scroll half page down, up
^f , ^b	scroll one page down, up
*n*G	move cursor to line *n* (without *n* to last line)
:0 , :$	move cursor to beginning, end of text
RETURN, –	move to beginning of next, previous line
%	find corresponding bracket for: ( ), { }, [ ]
M	move cursor by unit of measure (see next page)

Adding or Changing Text:

i , I	insert text before cursor position, before first character in line (end with ESC)
a , A	insert text after cursor position, after end of line (end with ESC)
o , O	open a new line below, above current line (end with ESC)
r , R	replace current character (no ESC needed), replace from current character on until ESC
xp	exchange the next two characters
*n*s	change the next *n* characters (end with ESC)
cM	change next unit of measure (see next page) (end with ESC)
*n*cc	change *n* lines starting from the current line (end with ESC)
C	change up to end of line (end with ESC)
~	change from upper to lower case and vice versa
J	join current with following line

Deleting Text:

x , X	delete characters to right, left
dM	delete next unit of measure (see next page)
D	delete to end of line
dd	delete current line
d RETURN	delete next two lines

Copying Text:

The yank command copies text into a buffer which can be placed anywhere in the text with the put command. Any delete command will also fill the buffer. It is possible to use named buffers *a-z*, by preceding the following commands with a quotation mark and the buffer name, e.g.: "*a*3yy (yank 3 lines into buffer *a*)

Y	yank the current line
yM	yank next unit of measure (see next page)
*n*yy	yank *n* lines starting from the current line
p	put text after position or below current line
P	put text before position or above current line

Unit of Measure M:

The unit of measure can be used to move the cursor by typing the corresponding character. It can also be used as an argument for the copy (c), delete (d), and yank (y) command. The unit of measure can be preceded by a number, e.g. d3w will delete 3 words.

w, W	word, blank delimited word
b, B	beginning of word, of blank delimited word
e, E	end of word, of blank delimited word
(,)	beginning, end of sentence (a sentence ends with . or ? or ! plus two blanks)
{, }	beginning, end of paragraph (a paragraph ends with a blank line)
0, $	beginning, end of line
1G, G	beginning, end of file
H, M, L	top, middle, bottom of screen

Marker:

Named markers (names: *a*-*z*) can be used instead of line numbers or the unit of measure:

m*a*	set a marker *a* at the cursor position
'*a*	reference to marker *a*

Searching for Strings:

/string RETURN	search forward for string (regular expression)
?string RETURN	search backward for string (regular expression)
n , N	repeat search in same, reverse direction
/RETURN	repeat search in forward direction
?RETURN	repeat search in backward direction

Substituting Strings:

The general substitution command has the form:
:[address]s/search-string/replace-string/[g]
where address and g are optional. The substitution operates on the current line if no address is given.

address	line number or range (two line numbers separated by comma: 1,$ denotes total file)
search-string	string or regular expression
replace-string	replacement string
g	if given, more than one replacement per line

Leaving the Editor and Other Commands:

ZZ, :wq	save file and leave vi
:w *file*	write to file *file* (current file, if no file name is given)
:q	leave vi (after saving changes with :w)
:q!	leave vi, discard any changes
:f	display name of current file
:r *file*	read file *file* and copy after current position
:sh	create shell (return with ^d)
:!*command*	create shell and execute command *command*
!!*command*	create shell, execute command, and replace current line with output from command
:set number	switch on line numbering
:set nonumber	switch off line numbering
&	repeat last :s command
U	undo all changes on current line
u	undo last text changing command
.	repeat last text changing command