High Performance Computing

Text editor

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Available text editors

On the terminal there are three established choices of text editors: neovim (and vim), emacs, and nano.

If you have no prior experience with the terminal, use Nano, since it is the easiest. If you have prior experience, you probably have made up your mind already, which one is the best for you.

Opening files

You can open a file by providing it as an argument to the command nano.

Navigating in Nano

You can navigate a text file in Nano with the arrow keys. Insert text by typing as usual; remove it by backspace.

You can also use CTRL—p and CTRL—n to change to the previous and next line. These are the same key combinations that you can use in the terminal to navigate the command history.

Saving files

In Nano, you can save a file by pressing CTRL—o. Nano will ask for a filename, filling in the current one as a default. Provide a new name or directly confirm with enter.

Closing Nano

You can close Nano by pressing CTRL—x.

If the file you are editing was changed since last saved, Nano will query whether you wish to save it before exit.

Help bar in Nano

At the bottom, Nano displays a list of most important commands. Here ${^\smallfrown}$ and M— translate as CTRL and ALT.