

Emacs configuration file

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1 About

This is a Emacs configuration file written in `org-mode`. There are a few reasons why I wanted to do this. My `.emacs.d/` was a mess, and needed a proper clean-up. Also I like keeping all my configurations in a single file, using `org-mode` I can keep this file *organized*. I aim to briefly explain all my configurations.

2 Configurations

2.1 Meta

Emacs can only load `.el`-files. We can use `C-c C-v t` to run `org-babel-tangle`, which extracts the code blocks from the current file into a source-specific file (in this case a `.el`-file).

To avoid doing this each time a change is made we can add a function to the `after-save-hook` ensuring to always tangle and byte-compile the `org`-document after changes.

```
(defun init-hook ()
  "If the current buffer is 'init.org' the code-blocks are
  tangled, and the tangled file is compiled."
  (when (equal (buffer-file-name)
               (expand-file-name (concat user-emacs-directory "init.org")))
    (org-babel-tangle)
    (byte-compile-file (concat user-emacs-directory "init.el"))))

(add-hook 'after-save-hook 'init-hook)
```

2.2 Package

Managing extensions for Emacs is simplified using `package` which is built in to Emacs 24 and newer. To load downloaded packages we need to initialize

package.

```
(require 'package)
(package-initialize)
```

Packages can be fetched from different mirrors, melpa is the largest archive and is well maintained.

```
(add-to-list 'package-archives
  '("MELPA" . "http://melpa.milkbox.net/packages/") t)
```

We can define a predicate that tells us whether or not the newest version of a package is installed.

```
(defun newest-package-installed-p (package)
  "Return true if the newest available PACKAGE is installed."
  (when (package-installed-p package)
    (let* ((local-pkg-desc (or (assq package package-alist)
                               (assq package package--builtins)))
          (newest-pkg-desc (assq package package-archive-contents)))
      (version-list=> (package-desc-vers (cdr local-pkg-desc))
                     (package-desc-vers (cdr newest-pkg-desc))))))
```

Let's write a function to install a package if it is not installed or upgrades it if a new version has been released. Here our predicate comes in handy.

```
(defun upgrade-or-install-package (package)
  "Unless the newest available version of PACKAGE is installed
PACKAGE is installed and the current version is deleted."
  (unless (newest-package-installed-p package)
    (let ((pkg-desc (assq package package-alist)))
      (when pkg-desc
        (package-delete (symbol-name package)
                        (package-version-join
                         (package-desc-vers (cdr pkg-desc)))))
      (package-install package))))
```

The `package-refresh-contents` function downloads archive descriptions, this is a major bottleneck in this configuration. To avoid this we can try to only check for updates once every day or so. Here are three variables. The first specifies how often we should check for updates. The second specifies whether one should update during the initialization. The third is a path to a file where a time-stamp is stored in order to check when packages were updated last.

```
(defvar days-between-updates 1)
(defvar do-package-update-on-init t)
(defvar package-last-update-file
  (expand-file-name (concat user-emacs-directory ".package-last-update")))
```

The tricky part is figuring out when the last time the Emacs was updated! Here is a hacky way of doing it, using time-stamps. By adding a time-stamp to the a file, we can determine wither or not to do an update. After that we must run the `time-stamp`-function to update the time-stamp.

```
(require 'time-stamp)
;; Open the package-last-update-file
(with-temp-file package-last-update-file
  (if (file-exists-p package-last-update-file)
      (progn
        ;; Insert it's original content's.
        (insert-file-contents package-last-update-file)
        (let ((start (re-search-forward time-stamp-start nil t))
              (end (re-search-forward time-stamp-end nil t)))
          (when (and start end)
            ;; Assuming we have found a time-stamp, we check determine if it's
            ;; time to update.
            (setq do-package-update-on-init
                  (<= days-between-updates
                     (days-between
                      (current-time-string)
                      (buffer-substring-no-properties start end))))
            ;; Remember to update the time-stamp.
            (when do-package-update-on-init
              (time-stamp))))))
  ;; If no such file exists it is created with a time-stamp.
  (insert "Time-stamp: <>")
  (time-stamp)))
```

Now we can use the function above to make sure packages are installed and up to date. Here are some packages I find useful (some of these configurations are also dependent on them).

```
(when do-package-update-on-init
  (package-refresh-contents))

(dolist (package
```

```

' (ac-geiser          ; Auto-complete backend for geiser
  ac-slime           ; An auto-complete source using slime completions
  ace-jump-mode       ; quick cursor location minor mode
  auto-compile        ; automatically compile Emacs Lisp libraries
  auto-complete       ; auto completion
  elscreen            ; window session manager
  expand-region       ; Increase selected region by semantic units
  flx-ido             ; flx integration for ido
  ido-vertical-mode   ; Makes ido-mode display vertically.
  geiser              ; GNU Emacs and Scheme talk to each other
  haskell-mode        ; A Haskell editing mode
  jedi                ; Python auto-completion for Emacs
  magit               ; control Git from Emacs
  markdown-mode       ; Emacs Major mode for Markdown-formatted files.
  monokai-theme       ; A fruity color theme for Emacs.
  move-text           ; Move current line or region with M-up or M-down
  multiple-cursors    ; Multiple cursors for Emacs.
  org                 ; Outline-based notes management and organizer
  paredit             ; minor mode for editing parentheses
  pretty-lambdada     ; the word 'lambda' as the Greek letter.
  smex                ; M-x interface with Ido-style fuzzy matching.
)
(when do-package-update-on-init
  (upgrade-or-install-package package)))

```

2.3 Require

Some features are not loaded by default to minimize initialization time, so they have to be required (or loaded, if you will).

```

(dolist (feature
  ' (auto-compile          ; auto-compile .el files
    auto-complete-config  ; a configuration for auto-complete-mode
    jedi                  ; auto-completion for python
    pretty-lambdada       ; show 'lambda' as the greek letter.
    ox-latex              ; the latex-exporter (from org)
    recentf               ; recently opened files
    tex-mode              ; TeX, LaTeX, and SliTeX mode commands
  ))

```

```
(require feature))
```

2.4 Sane defaults

These are what *I* consider to be saner defaults.

We can set variables to whatever value we'd like using `setq`.

```
(setq initial-scratch-message nil      ; Clean scratch buffer.
      inhibit-startup-message t       ; No splash screen please.
      default-input-method "TeX"      ; Use TeX when toggling input method.
      ring-bell-function 'ignore      ; Quite as a mouse.
      doc-view-continuous t          ; At page edge goto next/previous.
      echo-keystrokes 0.1             ; Show keystrokes asap.
      )
```

```
;; Some mac-bindings interfere with Emacs bindings.
(when (boundp 'mac-pass-command-to-system)
  (setq mac-pass-command-to-system nil))
```

Some variables are buffer-local, so changing them using `setq` will only change them in a single buffer. Using `setq-default` we change the buffer-local variable's default value.

```
(setq-default fill-column 76           ; Maximum line width.
              indent-tabs-mode nil     ; Use spaces instead of tabs.
              split-width-threshold 100 ; Split verticly by default.
              auto-fill-function 'do-auto-fill ; Auto-fill-mode everywhere.
              )
```

The `load-path` specifies where Emacs should look for `.el`-files (or Emacs lisp files). I have a directory called `site-lisp` where I keep all extensions that have been installed manually (these are mostly my own projects).

```
(let ((default-directory (concat user-emacs-directory "site-lisp/")))
  (when (file-exists-p default-directory)
    (normal-top-level-add-to-load-path '("."))
    (normal-top-level-add-subdirs-to-load-path)))
```

Answering *yes* and *no* to each question from Emacs can be tedious, a single *y* or *n* will suffice.

```
(fset 'yes-or-no-p 'y-or-n-p)
```

To avoid file system clutter we put all auto saved files in a single directory.

```
(defvar emacs-autosave-directory
  (concat user-emacs-directory "autosaves/")
  "This variable dictates where to put auto saves. It is set to a
  directory called autosaves located wherever your .emacs.d/ is
  located.")

;; Sets all files to be backed up and auto saved in a single directory.
(setq backup-directory-alist
  `((".*" . ,emacs-autosave-directory))
  auto-save-file-name-transforms
  `((".*" ,emacs-autosave-directory t)))
```

Set utf-8 as preferred coding system.

```
(set-language-environment "UTF-8")
```

By default the `narrow-to-region` command is disabled and issues a warning, because it might confuse new users. I find it useful sometimes, and don't want to be warned.

```
(put 'narrow-to-region 'disabled nil)
```

Call `auto-complete` default configuration, which enables `auto-complete` globally.

```
(ac-config-default)
```

Automatically revert `doc-view`-buffers when the file changes on disk.

```
(add-hook 'doc-view-mode-hook 'auto-revert-mode)
```

2.5 Modes

There are some modes that are enabled by default that I don't find particularly useful. We create a list of these modes, and disable all of these.

```
(dolist (mode
  '(tool-bar-mode           ; No toolbars, more room for text.
    scroll-bar-mode         ; No scroll bars either.
    blink-cursor-mode       ; The blinking cursor gets old.
  ))
  (funcall mode 0))
```

Let's apply the same technique for enabling modes that are disabled by default.

```
(dolist (mode
  '(abbrev-mode           ; E.g. sopl -> System.out.println.
    auto-compile-on-load-mode ; Compile .el files on load ...
    auto-compile-on-save-mode ; ... and save.
    column-number-mode      ; Show column number in mode line.
    delete-selection-mode   ; Replace selected text.
    recentf-mode            ; Recently opened files.
    show-paren-mode         ; Highlight matching parentheses.
  ))
  (funcall mode 1))
```

This makes .md-files open in markdown-mode.

```
(add-to-list 'auto-mode-alist '("\\.md\\'" . markdown-mode))
```

2.6 Visual

Change the color-theme to monokai (downloaded using package).

```
(load-theme 'monokai t)
```

Use the Inconsolata font if it's installed on the system.

```
(when (member "Inconsolata" (font-family-list))
  (set-face-attribute 'default nil :font "Inconsolata-13"))
```

2.7 Ido

Interactive do (or ido-mode) changes the way you switch buffers and open files/directories. Instead of writing complete file paths and buffer names you can write a part of it and select one from a list of possibilities. Using ido-vertical-mode changes the way possibilities are displayed, and flx-ido-mode enables fuzzy matching.

```
(dolist (mode
  '(ido-mode           ; Interactively do.
    ido-everywhere     ; Use Ido for all buffer/file reading.
    ido-vertical-mode   ; Makes ido-mode display vertically.
    flx-ido-mode        ; Toggle flx ido mode.
  ))
  (funcall mode 1))
```



```

    ))
  (funcall mode 1))

```

We can set the order of file selections in `ido`. I prioritize source files along with `org`- and `tex`-files.

```

(setq ido-file-extensions-order
  '(".el" ".scm" ".lisp" ".java" ".c" ".h" ".org" ".tex"))

```

Sometimes when using `ido-switch-buffer` the `*Messages*` buffer get in the way, so we set it to be ignored (it can be accessed using `C-h e`, so there is really no need for it in the buffer list).

```

(add-to-list 'ido-ignore-buffers "*Messages*")

```

To make `M-x` behave more like `ido-mode` we can use the `smex` package. It needs to be initialized, and we can replace the binding to the standard `execute-extended-command` with `smex`.

```

(smex-initialize)
(global-set-key (kbd "M-x") 'smex)

```

2.8 Calendar

Define a function to display week numbers in `calender-mode`. The snippet is from EmacsWiki.

```

(defun calendar-show-week (arg)
  "Displaying week number in calendar-mode."
  (interactive "P")
  (copy-face font-lock-constant-face 'calendar-iso-week-face)
  (set-face-attribute
    'calendar-iso-week-face nil :height 0.7)
  (setq calendar-intermonth-text
    (and arg
      '(propertize
        (format
          "%2d"
          (car (calendar-iso-from-absolute
                (calendar-absolute-from-gregorian
                  (list month day year))))))
        'font-lock-face 'calendar-iso-week-face))))

```

Evaluate the `toggle-calendar-show-week` function.

```
(calendar-show-week t)
```

Set Monday as the first day of the week, and set my location.

```
(setq calendar-week-start-day 1
      calendar-latitude 60.0
      calendar-longitude 10.7
      calendar-location-name "Oslo, Norway")
```

2.9 Mail

I use `mu4e` (which is a part of `mu`) along with `offlineimap` on one of my computers. Because the mail-setup won't work without these programs installed we bind `load-mail-setup` to `nil`. If the value is changed to a non-`nil` value mail is setup.

```
(defvar load-mail-setup nil)
```

```
(when load-mail-setup
```

```
  ;; We need mu4e
```

```
  (require 'mu4e)
```

```
  ;; Some basic mu4e settings.
```

```
(setq mu4e-maildir           "~/ifimail"      ; top-level Maildir
      mu4e-sent-folder       "/INBOX.Sent"     ; folder for sent messages
      mu4e-drafts-folder     "/INBOX.Drafts"   ; unfinished messages
      mu4e-trash-folder      "/INBOX.Trash"    ; trashed messages
      mu4e-refile-folder     "/INBOX.Archive"  ; saved messages
      mu4e-get-mail-command  "offlineimap"    ; offlineimap to fetch mail
      mu4e-compose-signature "- Lars"         ; Sign my name
      mu4e-update-interval   (* 5 60)         ; update every 5 min
      mu4e-confirm-quit      nil               ; just quit
      mu4e-view-show-images  t                ; view images
      mu4e-html2text-command "html2text -utf8" ; use utf-8
      )
```

```
;; Setup for sending mail.
```

```
(setq user-full-name
```

```

    "Lars Tveito"                ; Your full name
    user-mail-address
    "larstvei@ifi.uio.no"        ; And email-address
    smtpmail-smtp-server
    "smtp.uio.no"                ; Host to mail-server
    smtpmail-smtp-service 465    ; Port to mail-server
    smtpmail-stream-type 'ssl    ; Protocol used for sending
    send-mail-function 'smtpmail-send-it ; Use smtp to send
    mail-user-agent 'mu4e-user-agent ; Use mu4e!
  )

;; Register file types that can be handled by ImageMagick.
(when (fboundp 'imagemagick-register-types)
  (imagemagick-register-types))

;; A wrapper function to start (if necessary), fetch mail and delete other
;; windows.
(defun show-mu4e ()
  (interactive)
  (mu4e)
  (mu4e-update-mail-and-index t)
  (delete-other-windows))

;; Overwrite the native 'compose-mail' binding to 'show-mu4e'.
(global-set-key (kbd "C-x m") 'show-mu4e))

```

2.10 Flyspell

Flyspell offers on-the-fly spell checking. We can enable flyspell for all text-modes with this snippet.

```
(add-hook 'text-mode-hook 'turn-on-flyspell)
```

To use flyspell for programming there is `flyspell-prog-mode`, that only enables spell checking for comments and strings. We can enable it for all programming modes using the `prog-mode-hook`. Flyspell interferes with auto-complete mode, but there is a workaround provided by auto complete.

```
(add-hook 'prog-mode-hook 'flyspell-prog-mode)
(ac-flyspell-workaround)
```

2.11 Org

I use org-agenda for appointments and such.

```
(setq org-agenda-start-on-weekday nil           ; Show agenda from today.
      org-agenda-files '("~/Dropbox/life.org")   ; A list of agenda files.
      org-agenda-default-appointment-duration 120 ; 2 hours appointments.
      )
```

When editing org-files with source-blocks, we want the source blocks to be themed as they would in their native mode.

```
(setq org-src-fontify-natively t)
```

2.12 Interactive functions

To search recent files using ido-mode we add this snippet from EmacsWiki.

```
(defun recentf-ido-find-file ()
  "Find a recent file using Ido."
  (interactive)
  (let ((f (ido-completing-read "Choose recent file: " recentf-list nil t)))
    (when f
      (find-file f))))
```

just-one-space removes all whitespace around a point - giving it a negative argument it removes newlines as well. We wrap a interactive function around it to be able to bind it to a key.

```
(defun remove-whitespace-inbetween ()
  "Removes whitespace before and after the point."
  (interactive)
  (just-one-space -1))
```

This interactive function switches you to a shell, and if triggered in the shell it switches back to the previous buffer.

```
(defun switch-to-shell ()
  "Jumps to eshell or back."
  (interactive)
  (if (string= (buffer-name) "*shell*")
      (switch-to-prev-buffer)
      (shell)))
```

To duplicate either selected text or a line we define this interactive function.

```
(defun duplicate-thing ()
  "Ethier duplicates the line or the region"
  (interactive)
  (save-excursion
    (let ((start (if (region-active-p) (region-beginning) (point-at-bol)))
          (end (if (region-active-p) (region-end) (point-at-eol))))
      (goto-char end)
      (unless (region-active-p)
        (newline))
      (insert (buffer-substring start end)))))
```

To tidy up a buffer we define this function borrowed from simenheg.

```
(defun tidy ()
  "Ident, untabify and unwhitespacefy current buffer, or region if active."
  (interactive)
  (let ((beg (if (region-active-p) (region-beginning) (point-min)))
        (end (if (region-active-p) (region-end) (point-max))))
    (indent-region beg end)
    (whitespace-cleanup)
    (untabify beg (if (< end (point-max)) end (point-max)))))
```

2.13 Key bindings

Bindings for expand-region.

```
(global-set-key (kbd "C-'") 'er/expand-region)
(global-set-key (kbd "C-;") 'er/contract-region)
```

Bindings for multiple-cursors.

```
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c e") 'mc/edit-lines)
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c a") 'mc/mark-all-like-this)
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c n") 'mc/mark-next-like-this)
```

Bindings for Magit.

```
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c m") 'magit-status)
```

Bindings for ace-jump-mode.

```
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c SPC") 'ace-jump-mode)
```

Bindings for move-text.

```
(global-set-key (kbd "<M-S-up>") 'move-text-up)
(global-set-key (kbd "<M-S-down>") 'move-text-down)
```

Bind some native Emacs functions.

```
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c s") 'ispell-word)
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c t") 'org-agenda-list)
(global-set-key (kbd "C-x k") 'kill-this-buffer)
(global-set-key (kbd "C-x C-r") 'recentf-ido-find-file)
```

Bind the functions defined above.

```
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c j") 'remove-whitespace-inbetween)
(global-set-key (kbd "C-x t") 'switch-to-shell)
(global-set-key (kbd "C-c d") 'duplicate-thing)
(global-set-key (kbd "<C-tab>") 'tidy)
```

2.14 Advice

An advice can be given to a function to make it behave differently. This advice makes `eval-last-sexp` (bound to `C-x C-e`) replace the sexp with the value.

```
(defadvice eval-last-sexp (around replace-sexp (arg) activate)
  "Replace sexp when called with a prefix argument."
  (if arg
      (let ((pos (point)))
        ad-do-it
        (goto-char pos)
        (backward-kill-sexp)
        (forward-sexp))
      ad-do-it))
```

Flyspell signals an error if there is no spell-checking tool is installed. We can advice `turn-on-flyspell` and `flyspell-prog-mode` to only try to enable flyspell if a spell-checking tool is available.

```
(defadvice turn-on-flyspell (around check nil activate)
  "Turns on flyspell only if a spell-checking tool is installed."
  (when (executable-find ispell-program-name)
    ad-do-it))
```

```
(defadvice flyspell-prog-mode (around check nil activate)
  "Turns on flyspell only if a spell-checking tool is installed."
  (when (executable-find ispell-program-name)
    ad-do-it))
```

3 Language mode specific

3.1 Lisp

Pretty-lambda provides a customizable variable `pretty-lambda-auto-modes` that is a list of common lisp modes. Here we can add some extra lisp-modes. We run the `pretty-lambda-for-modes` function to activate `pretty-lambda-mode` in lisp modes.

```
(dolist (mode '(slime-repl-mode inferior-lisp-mode inferior-scheme-mode))
  (add-to-list 'pretty-lambda-auto-modes mode))
```

```
(pretty-lambda-for-modes)
```

I use Paredit when editing lisp code, we enable this for all lisp-modes in the `pretty-lambda-auto-modes` list.

```
(dolist (mode pretty-lambda-auto-modes)
  ;; add paredit-mode to all mode-hooks
  (add-hook (intern (concat (symbol-name mode) "-hook")) 'paredit-mode))
```

3.1.1 Emacs Lisp

In `emacs-lisp-mode` we can enable `eldoc-mode` to display information about a function or a variable in the echo area.

```
(add-hook 'emacs-lisp-mode-hook 'turn-on-eldoc-mode)
(add-hook 'lisp-interaction-mode-hook 'turn-on-eldoc-mode)
```

3.1.2 Common lisp

I use Slime along with `lisp-mode` to edit Common Lisp code. Slime provides code evaluation and other great features, a must have for a Common Lisp

developer. Quicklisp is a library manager for Common Lisp, and you can install Slime following the instructions from the site along with this snippet.

```
(when (file-exists-p "~/quicklisp/slime-helper.elc")
  (load (expand-file-name "~/quicklisp/slime-helper.elc")))
```

We can specify what Common Lisp program Slime should use (I use SBCL).

```
(setq inferior-lisp-program "sbcl")
```

To improve auto completion for Common Lisp editing we can use `ac-slime` which uses slime completions as a source.

```
(add-hook 'slime-mode-hook 'set-up-slime-ac)
(add-hook 'slime-repl-mode-hook 'set-up-slime-ac)

(eval-after-load "auto-complete"
  '(add-to-list 'ac-modes 'slime-repl-mode))
```

3.1.3 Scheme

Geiser provides features similar to Slime for Scheme editing. Everything works pretty much out of the box, the only thing we need to add is the auto completion.

```
(add-hook 'geiser-mode-hook 'ac-geiser-setup)
(add-hook 'geiser-repl-mode-hook 'ac-geiser-setup)
(eval-after-load "auto-complete"
  '(add-to-list 'ac-modes 'geiser-repl-mode))
```

3.2 Java and C

The `c-mode-common-hook` is a general hook that work on all C-like languages (C, C++, Java, etc...). I like being able to quickly compile using `C-c C-c` (instead of `M-x compile`), a habit from `latex-mode`.

```
(defun c-setup ()
  (local-set-key (kbd "C-c C-c") 'compile))

(add-hook 'c-mode-common-hook 'c-setup)
```


Some statements in Java appear often, and become tedious to write out. We can use abbrevs to speed this up.

```
(define-abbrev-table 'java-mode-abbrev-table
  '(("psv" "public static void main(String[] args) {" nil 0)
    ("sopl" "System.out.println" nil 0)
    ("sop" "System.out.printf" nil 0)))
```

To be able to use the abbrev table defined above, `abbrev-mode` must be activated.

```
(defun java-setup ()
  (abbrev-mode t)
  (setq-local compile-command (concat "javac " (buffer-name))))

(add-hook 'java-mode-hook 'java-setup)
```

3.3 Assembler

When writing assembler code I use `#` for comments. By defining `comment-start` we can add comments using `M-;` like in other programming modes. Also in assembler should one be able to compile using `C-c C-c`.

```
(defun asm-setup ()
  (setq comment-start "#")
  (local-set-key (kbd "C-c C-c") 'compile))

(add-hook 'asm-mode-hook 'asm-setup)
```

3.4 L^AT_EX

`.tex`-files should be associated with `latex-mode` instead of `tex-mode`.

```
(add-to-list 'auto-mode-alist '("\\.tex\\$" . latex-mode))
```

I like using the `Minted` package for source blocks in L^AT_EX. To make org use this we add the following snippet.

```
(add-to-list 'org-latex-packages-alist '("" "minted"))
(setq org-latex-listings 'minted)
```

Because Minted uses Pygments (an external process), we must add the `-shell-escape` option to the `org-latex-pdf-process` commands.

```
(setq org-latex-pdf-process
  (mapcar
    (lambda (str)
      (concat "pdflatex -shell-escape "
              (substring str (string-match "-" str))))
    org-latex-pdf-process))
```

3.5 Python

Jedi offers very nice auto completion for `python-mode`. Mind that it is dependent on some python programs as well, so make sure you follow the instructions from the site.

```
(setq jedi:server-command
  (cons "python3" (cdr jedi:server-command))
  python-shell-interpreter "python3")
(add-hook 'python-mode-hook 'jedi:setup)
(setq jedi:complete-on-dot t)
(add-hook 'python-mode-hook 'jedi:ac-setup)
```

3.6 Haskell

`haskell-doc-mode` is similar to `eldoc`, it displays documentation in the echo area. Haskell has several indentation modes - I prefer using `haskell-indent`.

```
(add-hook 'haskell-mode-hook 'turn-on-haskell-doc-mode)
(add-hook 'haskell-mode-hook 'turn-on-haskell-indent)
```

3.7 Matlab

Matlab is very similar to Octave, which is supported by Emacs. We just need to let `.m`-files be associated with `octave-mode`.

```
(add-to-list 'auto-mode-alist '("\\.m$" . octave-mode))
```