

5. Regular Expression



General Guideline



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Topics Covered



Day 1

5.1 GETTING FAMILIAR WITH REGULAR EXPRESSION

5.1.1 INTRODUCTION TO REGEX 5.1.2 REGULAR EXPRESSION IN PYTHON.

Day 2

5.2 HOW TO CREATE PATTERN

Day 3

5.3 REGEX ESSENTIAL METHODS

5.3.1 SEARCH ()

METHOD

5.3.2 MATCH ()

METHOD

5.3.3 FINDALL ()

METHOD

5.3.4 FLAG

ARGUMENT IN

REGEX METHOD

Session Plan - Day 1



- 5.1 GETTING FAMILIAR WITH REGULAR EXPRESSION
 - **5.1.1 INTRODUCTION TO REGEX**
 - **5.1.2 REGULAR EXPRESSION IN PYTHON.**

Introduction



Regular Expression RegEx

Without Regex



- > I want that each student password should:
 - Start with letter and end with a number
 - It should be of length 8 and
 - It should contain at least 1 special character.
- Solutions using what we have learnt:
 - Check each condition using string matching one by one.
 - Compare length of each password using len() function
 - Specifically check for first and last position using membership

Text from which pattern to be matched Pattern to match

What Options I
have using what
I know till now

String matching

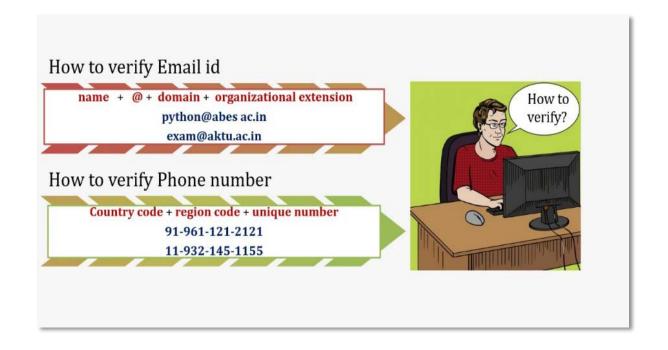
Compare Length

Using Membership

Introduction to Regex



- Regular expression is also known as regexes or regex.
- > A regex is a character series that specifies a pattern for string matching.
- > Text can be searched, edited, and manipulated using regex.



Raw Python strings



- ➤ Raw strings are raw string literals that treat backslash (\) as a literal character.
- ➤ It is useful when we want to have a string that contains backslash(\) and don't want it to be treated as an escape character.
- For example, if we try to print a string with a "\n" inside, it will add one line break.
- ➤ But if we mark it as a raw string, it will simply print out the "\n" as a normal character.
- Python raw strings are prefixed with 'r' or 'R'. Prefix a string with 'R' or 'r' and it will be treated as a raw string.

```
raw_s = r'Hi\nHello'
print(raw_s)
```

Raw Python strings



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- For example, if we try to print a string with a "\n" inside, it will add one line break.
- ➤ But if we mark it as a raw string, it will simply print out the "\n" as a normal character.
- > Python raw strings are prefixed with 'r' or 'R'. Prefix a string with 'R' or 'r' and it will be treated as a raw string.

Raw Python strings



```
text= "This is a \n normal string"
print(text)

raw_text = r"This is a \n raw string"
print(raw_text)

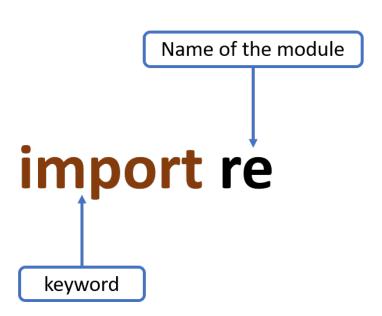
This is a normal string
This is a \n raw string
Output
Output
```

- > we can see that the first string text includes one new-line and the second raw string also include one new-line character.
- > But the new line was printed as '\n' for the second string.

Regular Expression in Python



- To use Regex in python program we need to import a module re
- ➤ The re module in Python contains the regex functions.
- Many useful functions and methods are available in the re module.



Can you answer these questions?



1. Which module in Python supports regular expressions?

A) re



- B) regex
- C) reregex
- D) piregex

Can you answer these questions?



2. Using regex we can

- A) Search
- B) Edit
- C) Modify
- D) All of the above



Session Plan - Day 2



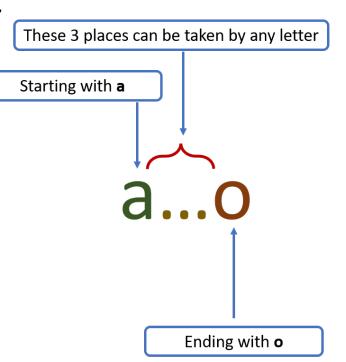
5.2 HOW TO CREATE PATTERN Meta Characters

How to create pattern



Let's understand suppose I want to search my text book for a word which start with letter a and ending with o and having length of 5.

Now, if we have understood that in this example, we have specified a pattern and words like 'aggro', 'amino', 'anglo' match our pattern.





Now real **question** is how we would define a pattern in a python program.

To answer this, we have



Meta characters are characters which contain a special meaning when they are read in regular expression environment



- Square Brackets ([])
- > Whatever character we would write inside square bracket, that character would be matched.

Pattern	String	Matched or Not
[abcd]	a b c d ab ab abd ab cd ef efgh i	1 match 1 match 1 match 1 match 2 match 3 match 4 match



- ➤ We can also define interval inside square bracket like [a-d] is same as [abcd], [0-9] is same as [0123456789].
- ➤ If we put ^ (caret symbol) as a prefix of pattern inside square bracket, then it reverses the meaning of pattern.
- For example:
 - > [^de] means any character except d and e.
 - > [^1-3] means any number except 1,2 and 3.



- Period or dot(.)
- ➤ Period matches single character in the string. In the given example there are two dots it means that it would match 2 consecutive characters.

Pattern	String	Matched or Not
	а	No match
	b	No match
	с	No match
	d	No match
••	ab	1 match
	abde	2 match



- ➤ Carot (^)
- > If we want to check whether string is starting with a mentioned character.
- For example, if I want to check if a string starting with letter Z, then pattern I would

create is "^Z".

Pattern	String	Matched or Not
^a	a b ab abc ab abde	1 match No match 1 match 1 match 1 match 1 match
^cd	c d cd ced	No match No match 1 match No match



- ➤ Dollar Sign (\$)
- > If we have to check the ending character of string then we use dollar.
- For example,

Pattern	String	Matched or Not
	b cab	1 match 1 match
b\$	ball	No match



- > Star(*)
- > Star check if string has 0 or more occurrence.
- For example,

Pattern	String	Matched or Not
	ab	1 match
a 100 * la	amb	1 match
am*b	ammb	1 match
	amin	No match



- ➤ Plus(+)
- > Plus check if string has 1 or more occurrence.
- For example,

Pattern	String	Matched or Not
a de	b ab	No match 1 match
a+b	aab	1 match



- Question Mark(?)
- Question mark check if string has 0 or 1 occurrence.
- For example,

Pattern	String	Matched or Not
	b	1 match
- 2 h	ab	1 match
a?b	aba	1 match

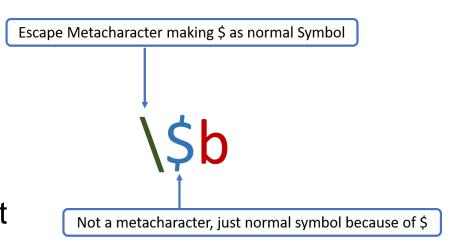


- > Braces({})
- > Braces are used when we want to specify at least and at most repetitions
- For example a{2,5} means at least 2 occurrences of a and maximum 5 occurrences of a.

Pattern	String	Matched or Not
a{2,5}	a aa abca aaaaabaa	No match 1 match No match 2 match

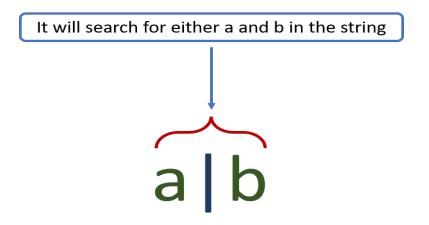


- Backslash(\)
- We can have some requirements where we want to use metacharacter symbol in their normal form,
- ➤ It means we want regular expression environment to treat them as a symbol not as a metacharacter.
- ➤ In this example \$ is dollar not metacharacter.





- Alternation(|)
- > It is used as OR operator for example,





- ➤ Group(())
- > If we want to join more than one patterns then group metacharacter can be used.
- For example, if I want my string should start with either a or m followed by numeric
 - 1. Pattern created is as shown in figure.

Pattern	String	Matched or Not
(a m)1	a1 b1 m1 am1	1 match No match 1 match 1 match

Can you answer these questions?



2. Which character stand for Starts with in regex?

- A) \$
- B) ^
- C) &
- D) #

Can you answer these questions?



2. Which character stand for Zero or more occurrences in regex?

- A) #
- B) @
- C) *
- D) |

Session Plan - Day 3



5.3 REGEX ESSENTIAL METHODS

- 5.3.1 SEARCH () METHOD
- 5.3.2 MATCH () METHOD
- 5.3.3 FINDALL () METHOD
- **5.3.4 FLAG ARGUMENT IN REGEX METHOD**

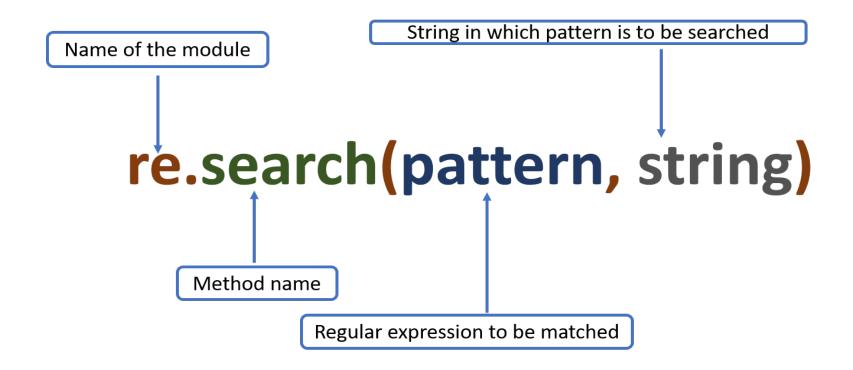
RegEx essential methods



- Now we understand how pattern can be created using metacharacters.
- Re module has many useful functions.
- These functions help us to search and match specified pattern.

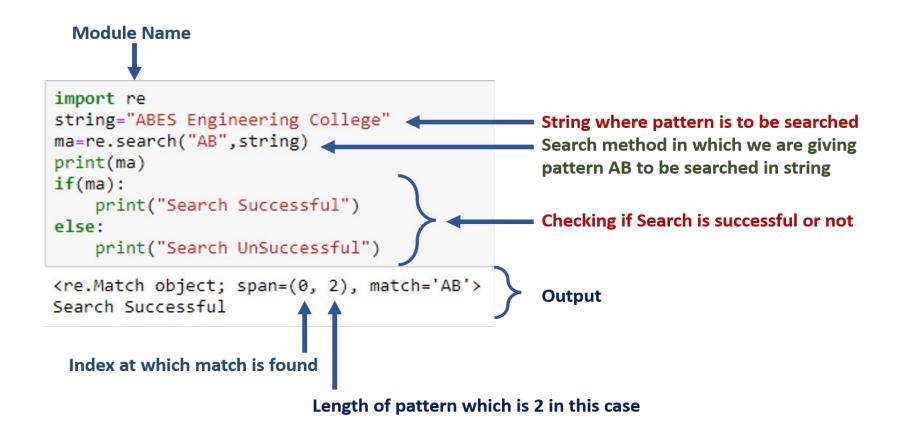
Search () method





Example

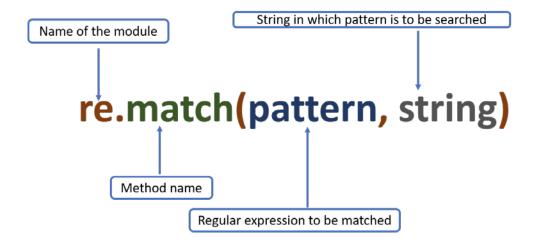




Match () method



- Match works same as search method
- ➤ But difference is match method only look for the pattern in the beginning while search scans complete string.





```
String in which pattern to be searched
String in which pattern to be searched
                                          Test is at the Beginning
Test is at the end
                                         import re
import re
                                         string="Test String sample"
string="String sample Test"
                                         ma=re.match("Test",string)
ma=re.match("Test", string)
                                                                                    Search
                                         print(ma)
print(ma)
                                                                                    Successful
                                         if(ma):
if(ma):
                                                                                    because
                                              print("Search Successful")
    print("Search Successful")
                                                                                    pattern is at
                                         else:
else:
                                                                                    the beginning
                                              print("Search UnSuccessful")
    print("Search UnSuccessful")
                                         <re.Match object; span=(0, 4), match='Test'>
None
Search UnSuccessful
                                         Search Successful
```

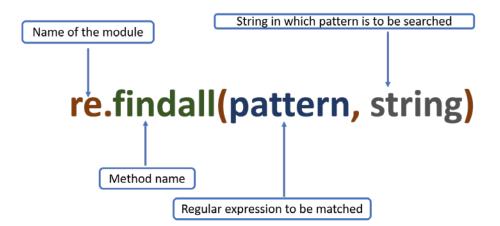
Findall () method



> We have seen that search and match method find single occurrence in the string.

The findall () method is used to find "all" instances of a given pattern in the

string.





String in which pattern to be searched **Test** is coming two times

```
import re
string="Test String sample Test"
ma=re.findall("Test", string)
print(ma)
if(ma):
    print("Search Successful")
else:
    print("Search UnSuccessful")

['Test', 'Test']
Search Successful
Output
```

Flag Argument in Regex Method



- Flag is the optional argument in regex methods like search, match and findall.
- Flag is used when we need to modify the standard behavior of regex patterns.

Flag Argument in Regex Method



For example, lets understand a scenario if I am looking for the occurrences of character "i" in the string and I don't want to consider the **upper** and **lower** case as a different character so small case i and capital case I both are same as per requirement then I can set this flag as ignore case.

```
import re
pattern="i"
string1="Information is immediate"
s1=re.findall(pattern, string1, flags=re.IGNORECASE)
s1

['I', 'i', 'i', 'i'] Contains small case i and capital case I
```

Flag Argument in Regex Method



> There are various options for flags as per following table.

Syntax	Long syntax	Meaning
re.l	re.IGNORECASE	Ignore case.
re.M	re.MULTILINE	Make begin/end {^, \$} consider each line.
re.S	re.DOTALL	Make . match newline too.
re.U	re.UNICODE	Make {\w, \W, \b, \B} follow Unicode rules.
re.L	re.LOCALE	Make {\w, \W, \b, \B} follow locale.
re.X	re.VERBOSE	Allow comment in regex.

Can you answer these questions?



2. The expression a{5} will match _____ characters with the previous regular expression.

- A) 5 or less
- B) exactly 5



- C) 5 or more
- D) exactly 4

Can you answer these questions?



- 2. In Regex, [a-n] stands for?
 - A) Returns a match for any digit between 0 and 9
 - B) Returns a match for any lower case character, alphabetically between a and n



- C) Returns a match for any two-digit numbers from 00 and 59
- D) Returns a match for any character EXCEPT a, r, and n

Session Plan - 4



5.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF CHARACTER CLASSES & SPECIAL SEQUENCES

5.4.1 CHARACTER CLASSES

5.4.2 SPECIAL SEQUENCES

Character Classes



The character classes are sets of characters or ranges of characters enclosed by square brackets [].

For example,

- □ [0-9] it means match any digit from 0 to 9.
- □ [4-8] it means match any digit from 4 to 8.
- □ [A-Z] it means match any letters from A to Z.

Character Classes



Let's see some of the most common character classes and Its Behavior-

Character Class	Meaning/Role/Behaviour	
[pqr]	[pqr]: Match the letter p or q or r	
[pqr][st]	[pqr][st]: Match the letter p or q or r followed by either s or t	
[^abc]	[^abc]: Match any letter except a,b,or c	
[0-9]	[0-9]: Match any digit from 0 to 9	
[a-z]	[a-z]: Match any lowercase letters from a to z	
[A-Z]	[A-Z]: Match any uppercase letters from A to Z	
[a-zA-Z]	[a-zA-Z]: Match any lowercase or uppercase letter	
[s-t1-9]	[s-t1-9]: Match the letter between s and t and digites from 1 to 9 but not t1	
[a-zA-Z0-9_]	[a-zA-Z0-9_] [a-zA-Z0-9_]: Match any alphanumeric character	

Character Classes - Example



Example – Using regular expression, check if email id is in correct format or not

Solution – Email - Id has been broken in three parts

XYZ @ abes.ac.in

before @ part, after @part and after dot(.) part

Character Classes - Example



```
import re
pattern="@"
string1="a@a.com"
string2="a.com"
s1=re.findall(pattern, string1)
print(s1)
```

['@'] — Output

Searching for @

```
import re
pattern="\w+@\w\.\w+"
string1="a@a.com"
s1=re.findall(pattern, string1)
print(s1)
```

['a@a.com']

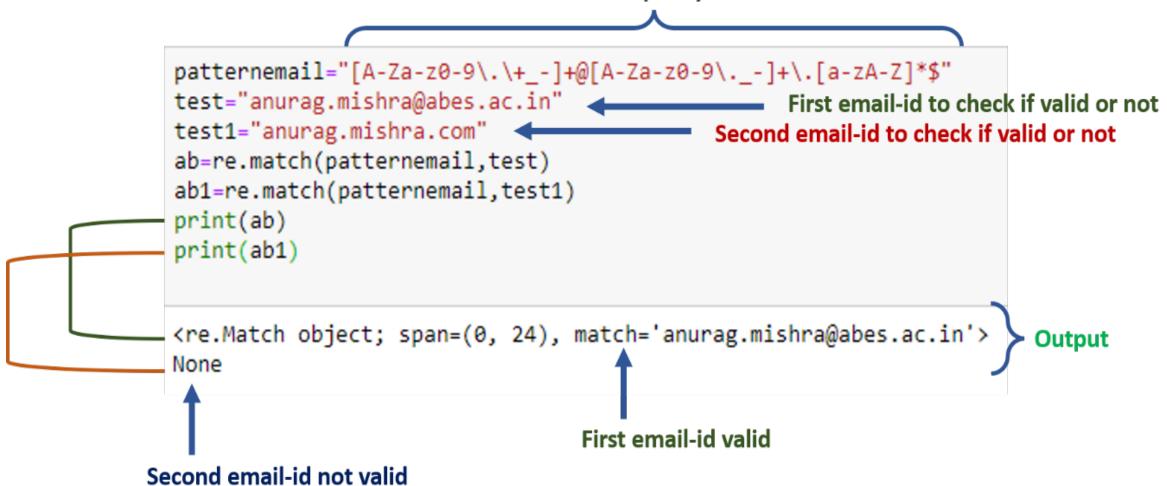
Searching for @ followed by any character or digit and dot(.)

Searching for any character before @, after @ and after dot(.)

Character Classes - Example



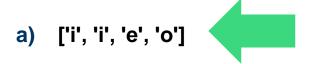
Pattern to specify email-id



Can you answer these questions?



What will be the output of the given code?



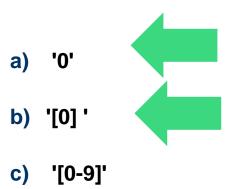
- b) ['i', 'e', 'o']
- c) 4
- d) None

```
import re
re.findall('[aeiou]','i like python')
```

Can you answer these questions?



Complete the given program to check if a string has at least 1 zero.



None

```
import re
pattern = '____'
if re.search(pattern,'192 Patel nagar'):
    print("string has at least 1 zero")
else:
    print("string has No zero")
```

Special Sequences



The **special sequence** represents the basic predefined character classes, which have a unique meaning.

They are written as a backslash \ followed by any character and it has a special meaning.

For example,

- □ \d sequence is similar to character class [0-9], which means match any digit from 0 to 9.
- □ \w sequence is similar to [a-zA-Z0-9_], which means match any lowercase, uppercase, digit and underscore.

Special Sequences



Some of the special sequences are given in the figure below

Special Sequences	Meaning/Role/Behaviour	
VA	VA: Matches the specified characters at the beginning of the string	
١Z	VZ: Matches the specified characters are at the end of the string	
\d	\d: Matches the string contains digits	
\D	\D: Matches the string does not contain digits	
\s	\s: Matches the string contains a white space character	
\S	\S: Matches the string doen not contains a white space character	
\w	\w: Matches any characters from a to Z, digits from 0-9, and the"_"	
\W	\W: Matches the any characters not from [a to Z, digits from 0-9, and the "_"]	
\b	\b: Matches the specified characters are at the beginning or at the end	
\B	\B: Matches the specified characters are present, but NOT at the start or at the end	

Special Sequence \A



The \A sequences only match the beginning of the string. It works the same as the carrot (^) metacharacter.

Note: If we do have a multi-line string, then **\(\A** will still match only at the beginning of the string, while the carrot (^) will match at the beginning of each new line of the string.

Special Sequence A



Example -

```
import re
txt = "The ABESEC in Ghaziabad"
#Check if the string starts with "The":
                                          Pattern
x = re.findall("\AThe", txt)
                                        without Space
y = re.findall("\A_ABESEC", txt)
print(x)
                  Pattern
print(y)
                 with Space
['The']
```

Special Sequence \Z



Backslash Z (\Z) sequences only match the end of the string.

It works the same as the dollar (\$) meta-character.

```
import re
txt = "ABESEC in Ghaziabad"
#Check if the string ends with "Ghaziabad":
                                                      Pattern
                                                   without Space
x = re.findall("Ghaziabad\Z", txt)
                                                 Different Pattern
y = re.findall("ABESEC\Z", txt)
                                                     With \Z
z = re.findall("Ghaziabad \Z", txt)
print(x)
                         Pattern
print(y)
                        with Space
print(z)
['Ghaziabad']
                   Output
```

Special Sequence \d



Backslash d or \d matches any digits from 0 to 9 inside the target string.

This special sequence is to character class [0-9].

```
import re
txt = "ABES 19th KM Stone, NH 24, Ghaziabad"
#Check if the string contains any digits (from 0-9):
                                          Special
x = re.findall("\d", txt)
                                         Sequence
print(x)
['1', '9', '2', '4']
                          Output
```

Special Sequence \D



Backslash D or \D is the exact opposite of \d. Any character in the target string that is not a digit would be the equivalent of the \D.

Also, we can write \D using character class [^0-9].

```
import re
txt = "ABES NH 24"
#Return a match at every no-digit character:
                                          Special
x = re.findall("\D", txt)
                                         Sequence
print(x)
['A', 'B', 'E', 'S', ' ', 'N', 'H', ' ']
                                                Output
```

Special Sequence \w



Backslash w or \w matches any alphanumeric character, also called a word character. This includes lowercase and uppercase letters, the digits 0 to 9, and the underscore character which is Equivalent to character class [a-zA-z0-9_].

```
import re

txt = "ABESEC NH_24"

#Return characters from a to Z, digits from 0-9 and _

x = re.findall("\w", txt)

y = re.findall("[a-zA-z0-9_]", txt)

print(x)
print(y)

['A', 'B', 'E', 'S', 'E', 'C', 'N', 'H', '_', '2', '4']

['A', 'B', 'E', 'S', 'E', 'C', 'N', 'H', '_', '2', '4']

Output
```

Special Sequence \W



Backslash W or \W is the exact opposite of \w, i.e., It matches any NON-alphanumeric character. \W same as character class [^a-zA-z0-9_].

```
import re
txt = "ABESEC NH_24!"
#Returns the string which DOES NOT contain any word characters
                                           Special
x = re.findall("\W", txt)
                                         Sequence
                                                  Character
y = re.findall("[^a-zA-z0-9_]", txt)
                                                    Class
print(x)
print(y)
               Output
```

Special Sequence \s



Backslash s or \s matches any whitespace characters (Spaces, tab character (\t), newline character (\n) etc) inside the target string.

```
import re
txt = "ABESEC NH_24 "
#Return a match at every white-space character
                                          Special
x = re.findall("\s", txt)
                                         Sequence
                                                  Character
y = re.findall("[ \t\n\x0b\r\f]", txt)
                                                   Class
print(x)
print(y)
              Output
```

Special Sequence \S



Backslash S or \S is the exact opposite of \s, and it matches any character which is not a whitespace character.

```
import re
txt = "ABESEC NH_24 "
#Returns the string DOES NOT contain a white space character
                                                  Special
x = re.findall("\S", txt)
                                                 Sequence
                                                           Character
y = re.findall("[^ \t\n\x0b\r\f]", txt)
                                                             Class
print(x)
print(y)
['A', 'B', 'E', 'S', 'E', 'C', 'N', 'H', '_', '2', '4']
['A', 'B', 'E', 'S', 'E', 'C', 'N', 'H', '_', '2', '4']
```

Special Sequence \b



Backslash b or \b matches the empty string, but only at the beginning or end

of a word.

```
import re
txt = "ABESEC NH_24 or ABESEC Ghzb "
#Check if "ABESEC" is present at the beginning of a WORD
#Check if "EC" is present at the end of a WORD
                                           Special Sequence
x = re.findall(r"\bABESEC", txt)
                                              for start
                                            Space with Special
y = re.findall(r"\b ABESEC", txt)
                                               Sequence
                                             Special Sequence
z = re.findall(r"EC\b", txt)
                                                 for end
print(x)
print(y)
print(z)
['ABESEC', 'ABESEC']
[' ABESEC']
                          Output
['EC', 'EC']
```

Special Sequence \B



Backslash B or \B is the exact opposite of \b, it matches the empty string, but

only when it is not at the beginning or end of a word.

```
import re
txt = "TheABESEC NH_24 is an Engineering College"
#Check if "ABESEC" is present, but NOT at the beginning of a word
#Check if "Engineer" is present, but NOT at the end of a word
#Check if "ring" is present, but NOT at the end of a word
                                            Special Sequence
x = re.findall(r"\BABESEC", txt)
                                                for start
y = re.findall(r"Engineer\B", txt)
                                                 Special Sequence
z = re.findall(r"ring\B", txt)
                                                    for end
print(x)
print(y)
print(z)
['ABESEC']
                 Output
['Engineer']
```



Write a Python program to find all four characters long word in a string.

```
import re
text = 'ABES EC Campus:1, NH24, GHaziabad,UP'
print(re.findall(r"\b\w{4}\b", text))

['ABES', 'NH24'] Output
```



Write a Python program to find all three, four, five and six characters long words in a string.

```
import re
text = 'ABES EC Campus:1, NH24, GHaziabad,UP'
print(re.findall(r"\b\w{3,6}\b", text))

['ABES', 'Campus', 'NH24'] Output
```



Write a Python program to find all words which are at least 5 characters long in a string.

```
import re
text = 'ABES EC Campus:1, NH24, GHaziabad,UP'
print(re.findall(r"\b\w{5,}\b", text))

['Campus', 'GHaziabad'] Output
```

Session Plan - Day 5



```
5.2 Group(),
groups(),
sub(),
split(),
compile().
```

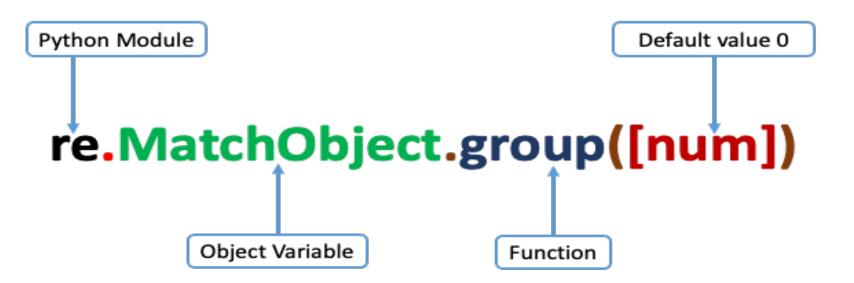
More Regex methods



Group () or Groups() -

We would use group(num)or groups() function of match object to get matched expression.

Syntax -



Cont..



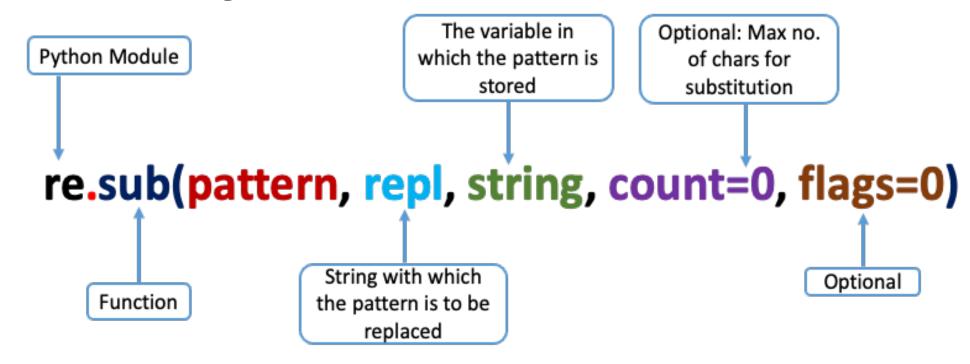
Example 1: Write a program to print the username, org_name and domain from a emailID.

```
'()' parenthesis are used to define a specific group
import re
test='pythongroup@abes.ac.in'
match\_object = re.match(r'(\w+)@(\w+)\.(\w+)', test)
print(match_object.group())
                                   for entire match
print(match object.group(0))
                                           for the first
print(match_object.group(1))
                                            subgroup
                                                        for the second
print(match_object.group(2))
                                                          subgroup
                                           for the third
print(match_object.group(3))
                                            subgroup
print(match_object.groups())
                                            for a tuple of all
print(match_object.group(1, 2, 3))
                                          matched subgroups
pythongroup@abes.ac
pythongroup@abes.ac
pythongroup
abes
                                             Output
ac
('pythongroup', 'abes', 'ac')
('pythongroup', 'abes', 'ac')
```

re.sub() method



The re.sub() method replaces instances of a certain sub-string with another sub-string.



re.sub() method



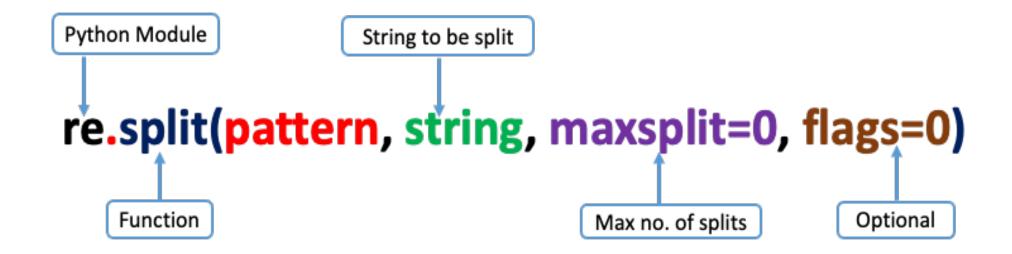
Example - Write a program to demonstrate sub() method in regular expression.

```
import re
text = "ABESEC Campus 1, NH 24, GZB, UP"
output1 = re.sub("\s", "-", text)←
                                             Replace space by -
print(output1)
                                                Replace the first 2
output2 = re.sub("\s", ":", text, 2)
                                                 occurrences of
print(output2)
                                                   space by:
ABESEC-Campus-1,-NH-24,-GZB,-UP
                                     Output
ABESEC: Campus: 1, NH 24, GZB, UP
```

re.split() method



The re.split() method split the string by the occurrences of the regex pattern, returning a list containing the resulting substrings.



re.split() method



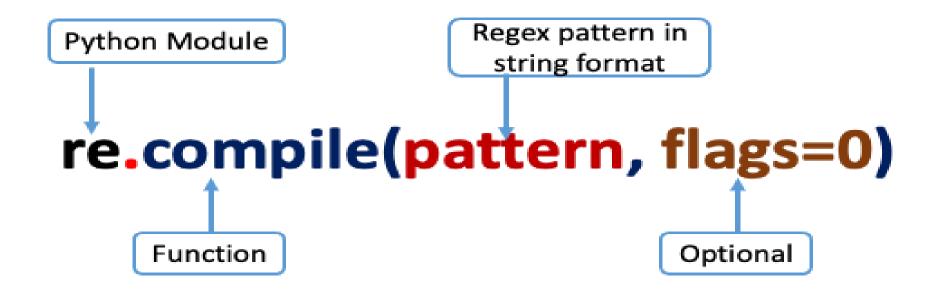
Example 1: Write a program to demonstrate split() method in regular expression.

```
import re
text = "ABESEC: NH24, GZB, UP"
x = re.split("\s", text)
y = re.split("\s", text, maxsplit=2) <</pre>
                                                 Most two splits
print(x)
print(y)
['ABESEC:', 'NH24,', 'GZB,', 'UP']
                                        Output
['ABESEC:', 'NH24,', 'GZB, UP']
```

re.compile() method



The re.compile() method is to compile the regex pattern into pattern object (re.Pattern), which can be used for matching later.



re.compile() method



Example: Write a program to demonstrate compile() method in regular

expression.

```
import re
# Target String
text = "ABESEC: Campus1, NH 24, GZB"
pattern = r'' \backslash d''
pattern_object = re.compile(pattern) re.pattern object
print(type(pattern_object))
                                                     Use Pattern object returned
result = pattern_object.findall(text) <
                                                     by the compile() method to
print(result)
                                                     match a regex pattern.
<class 're.Pattern'>
['1', '2', '4']
```



Complete the given program to check if a string has at least 1 zero.

a) ['Python']



- **b**) []
- c) ['I Python']
- d) Error

```
import re
txt = 'You Like Python'
s = re.findall("(\AI | Python\Z)",txt)
print(s)
```



Complete the given program to check if a string has at least 1 zero.

- a) ['Python']
- b) ['I']
- c) ['I Python']
- d) Error

```
import re
txt = 'I Love Python but I Like C'
s = re.findall("(\AI|Python\Z)",txt)
print(s)
```



Which of the following creates a pattern object?

- a) re.create(str)
- b) re.regex(str)
- c) re.compile(str)



d) re.assemble(str)



What will be the output of the following Python code?

a) ['I Love Python', 'but I Like C']



- b) ['I', 'Love', 'Python', 'but', 'I', 'Like', 'C']
- c) ['I', 'Love', 'Python']
- d) Error

Summary



References



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- 3. Head First Python, 2nd Edition, by Paul Barry
- 4. Python Basics: A Practical Introduction to Python, by David Amos, Dan Bader, Joanna Jablonski, Fletcher Heisler
- 5. https://fresh2refresh.com/python-tutorial/python-jump-statements/
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Thank You