

1:W35: Regular expressions and spreadsheets

DESCRIPTION

Upload your answers/solutions to the problems below. Beware of making the submission legible and understandable to another reader:

1. What regular expressions do you use to extract all the dates in this blurb:
<http://bit.ly/regexercise2> and to put them into the following format
YYYY-MM-DD ?

a. <https://regex101.com/r/TcWSuo/1>

The screenshot shows the regex101.com interface. At the top, the 'REGULAR EXPRESSION' section displays the pattern `:(\d+)(.)(\d+)(.)(\d+)` with flags `/gm`. Below this, the 'TEST STRING' section contains a historical text about exploration in North America. The dates in the text are highlighted with colored boxes: '3.27.1513', '4.17.1524', '8/15/1590', '5/14,1607', '11.11.1614', and '3-4-1629'. At the bottom, the 'SUBSTITUTION' section shows the result of the regex: '\$5\$4\$1\$2\$3', indicating that the pattern successfully matched the dates in the text.

b.

2. Write a regular expression to convert the stopwordlist (list of most frequent Danish words) from Voyant in <http://bit.ly/regexercise3> into a neat stopword list for R (which comprises "words" separated by commas, such as <http://bit.ly/regexercise4>).

REGULAR EXPRESSION 587 matches (2 935 steps, 5.7ms)

`/(\S+)\n` / gm

TEST STRING

```
2
3
4
aaen
ad
ændr
af
agerschou
akdogan
```

SUBSTITUTION success (0.4ms)

`"$1",`

"2","3","4","aaen","ad","ændr","af","agerschou","akdogan","aldrig",
"alene","alexandrines","alfred","alle","allerede","alligevel","alt",
,"altid","ammitzbøll","amsterdamtraktaten","amtoft","anden","andet",
,"andre","annette","anni","antonsen","arbo","at","augustforlig","au
gustforliget","augustforligets","augustforligspartierne","augustfor
ligspartiernes","baagø","baastrup","baastrup","bæhr","bag","bare",
barfod","begge","beskæftigelsesminister","beskæftigelsesministeren",
."beskæftigelsesministerens"."beslutn"."biafra"."birgith"."bierrega

- a.
- b. <https://regex101.com/r/HmUFTX/1>

3. Then take the stopwordlist from R <http://bit.ly/regexexercise4> and convert it into a Voyant list (words on separate line without interpunction)
- a. /library/SBeco4

REGULAR EXPRESSION v1 ▾ 403 matches (4914 steps, 11.6ms)

`/ "(\\S+)", .` / gm 📄

TEST STRING

"højtærede", "rimstad", "mill", "beh", "weikop", "udskrivn",
"wetlesen", "gottschalck", "westerby", "magnussens", "asmussen",
"bækgaard", "dupont", "diderichsen", "moltke", "henry",
"sigsgaard", "haunstrup", "bundgård", "reintoft", "lysholt",
"grünbaum", "andresen", "fremskridtspartiet",
"fremskridtspartiets", "langkilde", "maigaard", "skovmand",
"bendix", "valbak", "brauer", "lütken", "amagerby", "flygaard",
"lindholt", "fp", "dkp", "ingomar", "glensgård", "erlendsson",
"nørlund", "lovf", "maisted", "honoré", "tyroll", "hjortlund",

SUBSTITUTION success (1.6ms)

`$1\\n`

højtærede
rimstad
mill
beh
weikop
udskrivn
wetlesen
gottschalck

b.

4. In 250 words, answer the following question: "What are the basic principles for using spreadsheets for good data organisation?"

- a. In order to obtain a neat and fine looking spreadsheet, a few pitfalls must be avoided. The following pitfalls need to be avoided; For instance it is important to name the columns something simple, short and indicative, using underscore instead of spaces if having more than one word. However, data within the rows containing multiple words, e.g. text strings, does not necessarily have to be separated by underscore, here normal spaces are fine. If any missing values are present in the spreadsheet, it's important to replace them with a consistent replacement, and here NA or NULL are the best replacements. Using anything other than NA and NULL, e.g., -999 or 0 is not a great idea, as these suddenly signify a meaningful value instead of a missing value. This can potentially harm a statistical analysis and create

falsely skewed results. Likewise, should each row just contain one data point and not multiple data points, of course dependent on the data type. To overcome this, it's often better just to make dummy variables and extra columns. Misspellings and consistent naming of observations should be avoided to maintain reasonable spreadsheets. Thus, good practice when organizing and constructing spreadsheets is to be consistent, precise, concise, and unambiguous.

5. **Challenge (OPTIONAL)!** Can you find all the instances of 'Dis Manibus' invocation in the EDH inscriptions in <https://bit.ly/regexexercise5>? Beware of the six possible canonical versions of the Dis Manibus formula (see day 1 slides)!