10.5. String Pattern Matching

The re module provides regular expression tools for advanced string processing. For complex matching and manipulation, regular expressions offer succinct, optimized solutions:

>>>>>> import re

>>> re.findall(r'\bf[a-z]\*', 'which foot or hand fell fastest')

['foot', 'fell', 'fastest']

>>> re.sub(r'(\b[a-z]+) \1', r'\1', 'cat in the the hat')

'cat in the hat'

When only simple capabilities are needed, string methods are preferred because they are easier to read and debug:

>>>>>> 'tea for too'.replace('too', 'two')

'tea for two'