



## 11.E: REGULAR EXPRESSIONS (EXERCISES)



Contributed by Chuck Severance Clinical Associate Professor (School of Information) at University of Michigan

**Exercise 1:** Write a simple program to simulate the operation of the grep command on Unix. Ask the user to enter a regular expression and count the number of lines that matched the regular expression:

```
$ python grep.py
Enter a regular expression: ^Author
mbox.txt had 1798 lines that matched ^Author

$ python grep.py
Enter a regular expression: ^X-
mbox.txt had 14368 lines that matched ^X-

$ python grep.py
Enter a regular expression: java$
mbox.txt had 4218 lines that matched java$
```

## Exercise 2: Write a program to look for lines of the form

```
`New Revision: 39772`
```

and extract the number from each of the lines using a regular expression and the findall() method. Compute the average of the numbers and print out the average.

```
Enter file:mbox.txt
38549.7949721

Enter file:mbox-short.txt
39756.9259259
```