Python Lookahead

Python look ahead explained.

Positive Lookahead

Python positive lookahead matches at a position where the pattern inside the lookahead can be matched. Matches only the position. It does not consume any characters or expand the match.

Example

Consider the following string:

`begin:learner1:scientific:learner2:scientific:learner3:end`

Positive lookahead assertion can help us to find all words followed by the word `scientific`.

```python
import re

string = "begin:learner1:scien
print re.findall(r"(\w+)(?=:sc
```
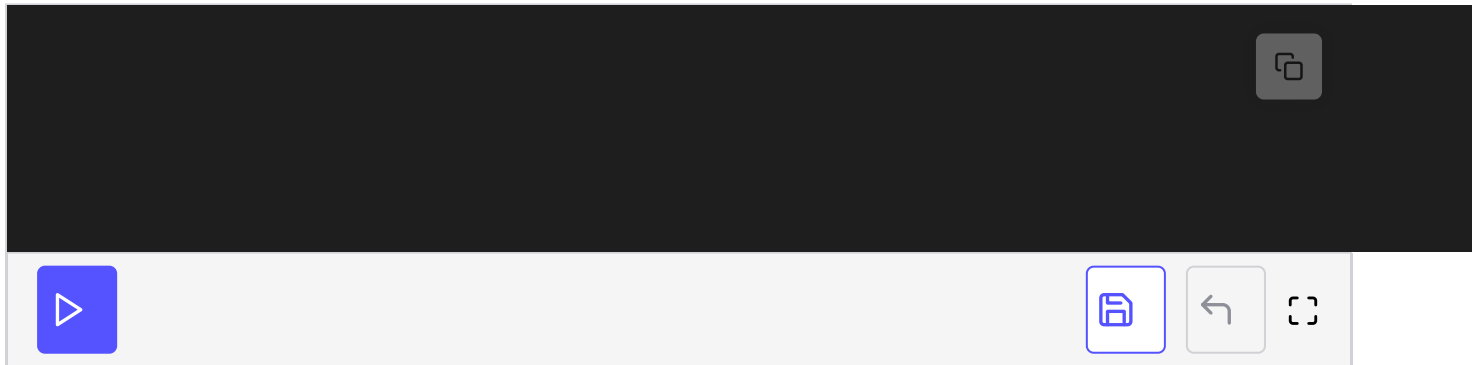
Note the output `learner1` and `learner2`, but not `learner3`, which is followed by the word `:end`.

Neagative Lookahead

Similar to positive lookahead, except that negative lookahead only succeeds if the regex inside the lookahead fails to match.

Example

Let's now proceed to an example, where we find the word (`learner3`) followed by `end` .

This matched all the words, not followed by the word `scientific` !