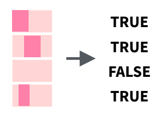
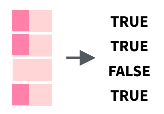
String manipulation with stringr : : **CHEATSHEET**

The **stringr** package provides a set of internally consistent tools for working with character strings, i.e. sequences of characters surrounded by quotation marks.

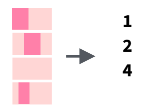
Detect Matches



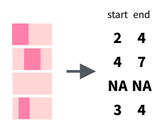
str_detect(string, **pattern**, negate = FALSE**)** Detect the presence of a pattern match in a string. Also **str_like()**. str_detect(fruit, "a")



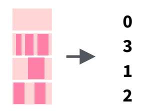
str_starts(string, **pattern**, negate = FALSE**)** Detect the presence of a pattern match at the beginning of a string. Also **str_ends()**. str_starts(fruit, "a")



str_which(string, **pattern**, negate = FALSE**)** Find the indexes of strings that contain a pattern match. str_which(fruit, "a")

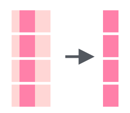


str_locate(string, **pattern)** Locate the positions of pattern matches in a string. Also **str_locate_all()**. str_locate(fruit, "a")

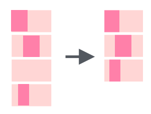


str_count(string, **pattern)** Count the number of matches in a string. str_count(fruit, "a")

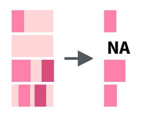
Subset Strings



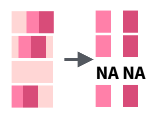
str_sub(string, start = 1L, end = -1L**)** Extract substrings from a character vector. str_sub(fruit, 1, 3); str_sub(fruit, -2)



str_subset(string, **pattern**, negate = FALSE**)** Return only the strings that contain a pattern match. str_subset(fruit, "p")

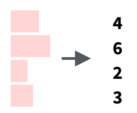


str_extract(string, **pattern)** Return the first pattern match found in each string, as a vector. Also **str_extract_all()** to return every pattern match. str_extract(fruit, "[aeiou]")

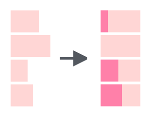


str_match(string, **pattern)** Return the first pattern match found in each string, as a matrix with a column for each ( ) group in pattern. Also **str_match_all()**. str_match(sentences, "(a|the) ([^ +])")

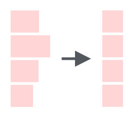
Manage Lengths



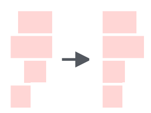
str_length(string**)** The width of strings (i.e. number of code points, which generally equals the number of characters). str_length(fruit)



str_pad(string, width, side = c("left", "right", "both"), pad = " "**)** Pad strings to constant width. str_pad(fruit, 17)



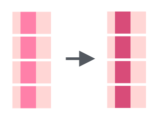
str_trunc(string, width, side = c("right", "left", "center"), ellipsis = "..."**)** Truncate the width of strings, replacing content with ellipsis. str_trunc(sentences, 6)



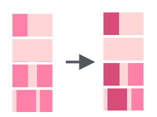
str_trim(string, side = c("both", "left", "right")**)** Trim whitespace from the start and/or end of a string. str_trim(str_pad(fruit, 17))

str_squish(string**)** Trim whitespace from each end and collapse multiple spaces into single spaces. str_squish(str_pad(fruit, 17, "both"))

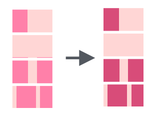
Mutate Strings



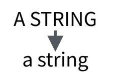
str_sub() <- value. Replace substrings by identifying the substrings with str_sub() and assigning into the results. str_sub(fruit, 1, 3) <- "str"



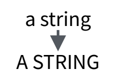
str_replace(string, **pattern**, replacement**)** Replace the first matched pattern in each string. Also **str_remove()**. str_replace(fruit, "p", "-")



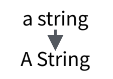
str_replace_all(string, **pattern**, replacement**)** Replace all matched patterns in each string. Also **str_remove_all()**. str_replace_all(fruit, "p", "-")



str_to_lower(string, locale = "en"**)**[1] Convert strings to lower case. str_to_lower(sentences)

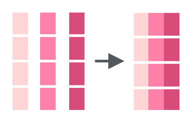


str_to_upper(string, locale = "en"**)**[1] Convert strings to upper case. str_to_upper(sentences)

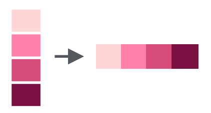


str_to_title(string, locale = "en"**)**[1] Convert strings to title case. Also **str_to_sentence()**. str_to_title(sentences)

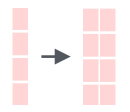
Join and Split



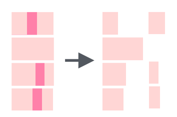
str_c(..., sep = "", collapse = NULL**)** Join multiple strings into a single string. str_c(letters, LETTERS)



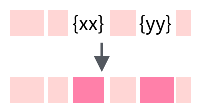
str_flatten(string, collapse = ""**)** Combines into a single string, separated by collapse. str_flatten(fruit, ", ")



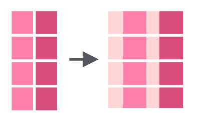
str_dup(string, times**)** Repeat strings times times. Also **str_unique()** to remove duplicates. str_dup(fruit, times = 2)



str_split_fixed(string, **pattern**, n**)** Split a vector of strings into a matrix of substrings (splitting at occurrences of a pattern match). Also **str_split()** to return a list of substrings and **str_split_n()** to return the nth substring. str_split_fixed(sentences, " ", n=3)

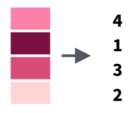


str_glue(..., .sep = "", .envir = parent.frame()**)** Create a string from strings and {expressions} to evaluate. str_glue("Pi is {pi}")

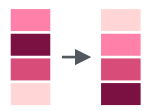


str_glue_data(.x, ..., .sep = "", .envir = parent.frame(), .na = "NA"**)** Use a data frame, list, or environment to create a string from strings and {expressions} to evaluate. str_glue_data(mtcars, "{rownames(mtcars)} has {hp} hp")

Order Strings



str_order(x, decreasing = FALSE, na_last = TRUE, locale = "en", numeric = FALSE, ...**)**[1] Return the vector of indexes that sorts a character vector. fruit[str_order(fruit)]

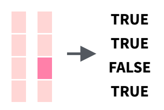


str_sort(x, decreasing = FALSE, na_last = TRUE, locale = "en", numeric = FALSE, ...**)**[1] Sort a character vector. str_sort(fruit)

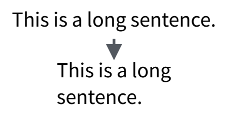
Helpers

str_conv(string, encoding**)** Override the encoding of a string. str_conv(fruit,"ISO-8859-1")

str_view(string, **pattern**, match = NA**)** View HTML rendering of all regex matches. str_view(sentences, "[aeiou]")



str_equal(x, y, locale = "en", ignore_case = FALSE, ...**)**[1] Determine if two strings are equivalent. str_equal(c("a", "b"), c("a", "c"))



str_wrap(string, width = 80, indent = 0, exdent = 0**)** Wrap strings into nicely formatted paragraphs. str_wrap(sentences, 20)

[1] See **bit.ly/ISO639-1** for a complete list of locales.

Need to Know

Pattern arguments in stringr are interpreted as regular expressions *after any special characters have been parsed.*

In R, you write regular expressions as *strings*, sequences of characters surrounded by quotes (**""**) or single quotes(**''**).

Some characters cannot be represented directly in an R string . These must be represented as **special characters**, sequences of characters that have a specific meaning., e.g.

Special Character	Represents
\\	\
\"	"
\n	new line

Run **?"'"** to see a complete list

Because of this, whenever a \ appears in a regular expression, you must write it as \\ in the string that represents the regular expression.

Use **writeLines()** to see how R views your string after all special characters have been parsed.

writeLines("\\.")
# \.

writeLines("\\ is a backslash")
# \ is a backslash

INTERPRETATION

Patterns in stringr are interpreted as regexs. To change this default, wrap the pattern in one of:

regex(pattern, ignore_case = FALSE, multiline = FALSE, comments = FALSE, dotall = FALSE, ...**)** Modifies a regex to ignore cases, match end of lines as well of end of strings, allow R comments within regex's , and/or to have . match everything including \n.
str_detect("I", regex("i", TRUE))

fixed() Matches raw bytes but will miss some characters that can be represented in multiple ways (fast). str_detect("\u0130", fixed("i"))

coll() Matches raw bytes and will use locale specific collation rules to recognize characters that can be represented in multiple ways (slow).
str_detect("\u0130", coll("i", TRUE, locale = "tr"))

boundary() Matches boundaries between characters, line_breaks, sentences, or words.
str_split(sentences, boundary("word"))

Regular Expressions -

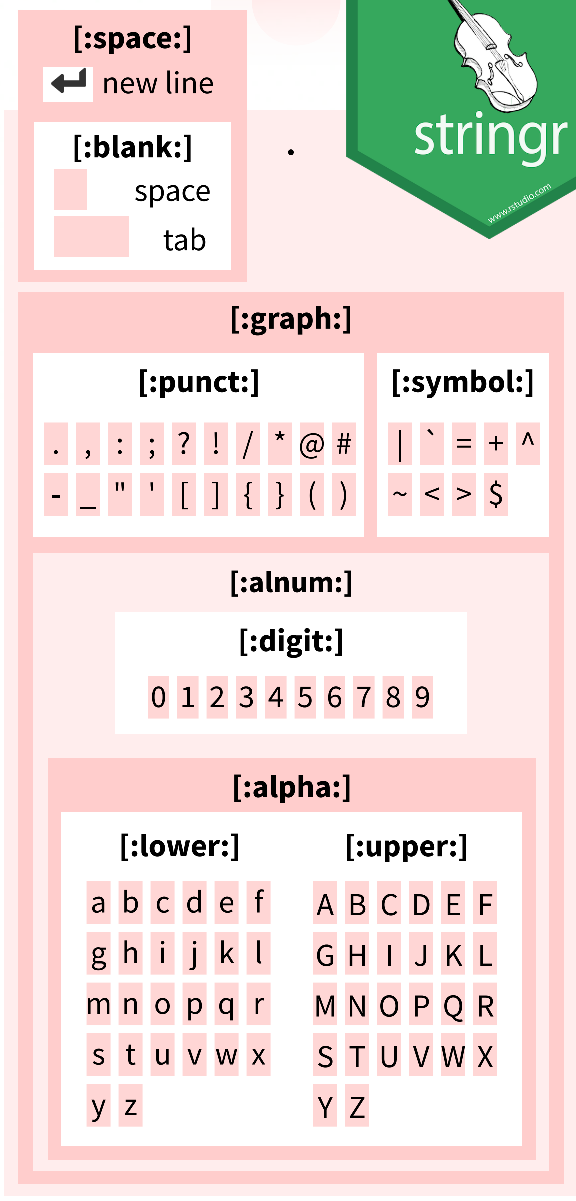
Regular expressions, or *regexps*, are a concise language for describing patterns in strings.

MATCH CHARACTERS

see <- function(rx) str_view("abc ABC 123\t.!?\\(){}\n", rx)

string (type this)	regexp (to mean this)	matches (which matches this)	example	
	a (etc.)	a (etc.)	see("a")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\.	**\.**	.	see("\\.")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\!	**\!**	!	see("\\!")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\?	**\?**	?	see("\\?")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\\\	\	\	see("\\\\")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\(	**\(**	(	see("\\(")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\)	**\)**	)	see("\\)")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\{	**\{**	{	see("\\{")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\}	**\}**	}	see("\\}")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\n	**\n**	new line (return)	see("\\n")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\t	**\t**	tab	see("\\t")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\s	**\s**	any whitespace *(**\S** for non-whitespaces)*	see("\\s")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\d	**\d**	any digit *(**\D** for non-digits)*	see("\\d")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\w	**\w**	any word character *(**\W** for non-word chars)*	see("\\w")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\b	**\b**	word boundaries	see("\\b")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:digit:][1]	digits	see("[:digit:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:alpha:][1]	letters	see("[:alpha:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:lower:][1]	lowercase letters	see("[:lower:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:upper:][1]	uppercase letters	see("[:upper:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:alnum:][1]	letters and numbers	see("[:alnum:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:punct:][1]	punctuation	see("[:punct:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:graph:][1]	letters, numbers, and punctuation	see("[:graph:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:space:][1]	space characters (i.e. \s)	see("[:space:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:blank:][1]	space and tab (but not new line)	see("[:blank:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	.	every character except a new line	see(".")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}

[1] Many base R functions require classes to be wrapped in a second set of **[ ]**, e.g. **[[:digit:]]**



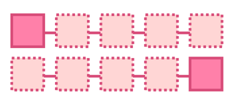
ALTERNATES

alt <- function(rx) str_view("abcde", rx)

regexp	matches	example	
ab|d	or	alt("ab|d")	abcde
[abe]	one of	alt("[abe]")	abcde
[^abe]	anything but	alt("[^abe]")	abcde
[a-c]	range	alt("[a-c]")	abcde

ANCHORS

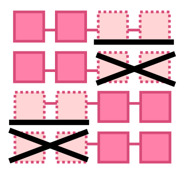
anchor <- function(rx) str_view("aaa", rx)



regexp	matches	example	
^a	start of string	anchor("^a")	aaa
a$	end of string	anchor("a$")	aaa

LOOK AROUNDS

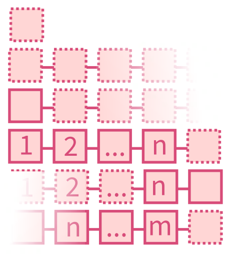
look <- function(rx) str_view("bacad", rx)



regexp	matches	example	
a(?=c)	followed by	look("a(?=c)")	bacad
a(?!c)	not followed by	look("a(?!c)")	bacad
(?<=b)a	preceded by	look("(?<=b)a")	bacad
(?<!b)a	not preceded by	look("(?<!b)a")	bacad

QUANTIFIERS

quant <- function(rx) str_view(".a.aa.aaa", rx)



regexp	matches	example	
a?	zero or one	quant("a?")	.a.aa.aaa
a*	zero or more	quant("a*")	.a.aa.aaa
a+	one or more	quant("a+")	.a.aa.aaa
a{n}	exactly **n**	quant("a{2}")	.a.aa.aaa
a{n, }	**n** or more	quant("a{2,}")	.a.aa.aaa
a{n, m}	between **n** and **m**	quant("a{2,4}")	.a.aa.aaa

GROUPS

ref <- function(rx) str_view("abbaab", rx)

Use parentheses to set precedent (order of evaluation) and create groups

regexp	matches	example	
(ab|d)e	sets precedence	alt("(ab|d)e")	abcde

Use an escaped number to refer to and duplicate parentheses groups that occur earlier in a pattern. Refer to each group by its order of appearance

string (type this)	regexp (to mean this)	matches (which matches this)	example (the result is the same as ref("abba"))	
\\1	**\1** (etc.)	first () group, etc.	ref("(a)(b)\\2\\1")	abbaab