Python - Regex

Palani Karthikeyan +91 9902084004

Regular expressions

- Regular expressions, also called regex is implemented in pretty much every computer language.
- Regex is used to find a pattern in specific pattern search.
- Globally regex supports two operations
 - 1. Match operation
 - 2. Substitute operation
- Regex patterns are generic text, numbers or specialcharacter, space etc.,

 It is widely used in natural language processing, web applications that require validating string input (like email address) and pretty much more data science projects that involve text mining.

import re

- In python, it is implemented in the standard module 're'.
- >>> import re
- To get information about regex use help()
- >>> help(re)
- Before going to discuss about the regex pattern,1st understand about following metacharacters.
- Here's a complete list of the metacharacters.
- . ^\$*+?{}[]\|()

- . (dot) Matches any single character except newline character.
- Matches the pattern at the beginning of line.
- \$ Matches the pattern at the end of the line.
- [...] Matches any single character in brackets.
- [^...] Matches any single character not in brackets
- * Matches 0 or more occurrences of preceding expression.
- + Matches 1 or more occurrence of preceding expression.
- ? Matches 0 or 1 occurrence of preceding expression
- **{n}** Matches exactly n number of occurrences of preceding expression.
- { n,} Matches n or more occurrences of preceding expression.
- { n, m} Matches at least n and at most m occurrences of preceding expression.

pattern1 | pattern2 | Matches either pattern1 or pattern2

(pattern) Groups regular expressions and remembers matched text.

Special Character Classes

```
\d Match a digit same as [0-9]
```

\D Match a nondigit same as [**^0-9**]

\s Match a whitespace character same as [\t\r\n\f]

\S Match nonwhitespace same as [^ \t\r\n\f]

\w Match a single word character [A-Za-z0-9_]

\W Match a nonword character [^A-Za-z0-9_]

\APattern Match "Pattern" at the start of a string

Pattern\Z Match "Pattern" at the end of a string

re module

• The **re** module provides an interface to the regular expression engine, allowing you to compile REs into objects and then perform matches with them.

Regex Functions

 The re module offers a set of functions that allows us to search a string for a match

•	Function	Description
	compile	Regular expressions are compiled into pattern objects
	search	Returns a Match object if there is a match anywhere in the string
	findall	Returns a list containing all matches
	split	Returns a list where the string has been split at each match
	sub	Replaces one or many matches with a string
	finditer	Find all substrings where the RE matches, and returns them as an iterator.
	group	Return the string matched by the RE
	start	Return the starting position of the match
	end	Return the ending position of the match
	span	Return a tuple containing the (start, end) positions of the match

Compiling Regular Expressions

- Regular expressions are compiled into pattern objects.
- Which have methods for various operations such as searching for pattern matches or performing string substitutions.

```
>>> import re
>>> pobj = re.compile('sales')
>>> pobj
<_sre.SRE_Pattern object at 0x...>
re.compile() also accepts an optional flags argument (re.I) re.IGNORECASE
>>> pobj=re.compile('sales',re.IGNORECASE)
```

raw string notation

- To use Python's raw string notation for regular expressions; backslashes are not handled.
- In any special way in a string literal prefixed with 'r', so r"\n" is a two-character string containing '\' and 'n'.
- while "\n" is a one-character string containing a newline.
- Regular expressions will often be written in Python code using this raw string notation.
- search() searches for the pattern in a given input string.
- returns a particular match object that contains the starting and ending positions of the first occurrence of the pattern.

```
>>> pobj=re.compile("sales")
>>> pobj.search("ram,sales,pune")
<re.Match object; span=(4, 9), match='sales'>
>>>
>>> pobj.search("ram,prod,bangalore")
                 # Pattern is not matched from input string
>>> # search() return will be None
. . .
>>> pobj.search("ram,prod,bangalore") == None
True
```

We can write it in another way

```
Syntax:-
re.search("pattern","inputstring",flag=re.l)
```

- >>> re.search("sales","ram,sales,pune")
- <re.Match object; span=(4, 9), match='sales'>

>>> re.search("sales","ram,HR,pune")

using conditional statement

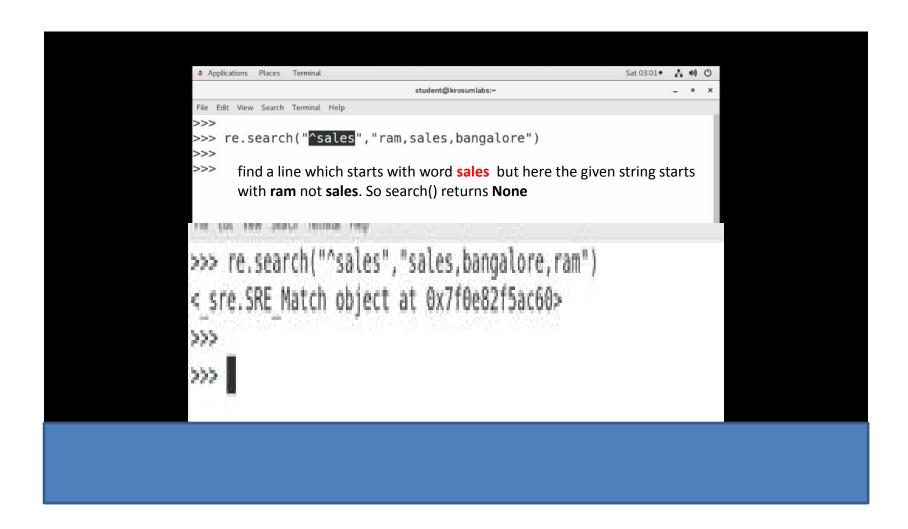
```
>>> if(re.search("sales","ram,sales,pune")):
... print("Pattern is matched")
... else:
... print("Pattern is NOT Matched")
```

Pattern is matched

Search a bash word from input string

```
4 Applications Places Terminal
                                                              Sat 03:00 • 👬 📢 🖰
                                student@krosumlabs:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
>>> import re
>>>
>>> pobj=re.compile("bash")
>>>
>>> pobj.search("root:x:bin:bash:tcsh")
< sre.SRE Match object at 0x7f0e82f5ac60>
>>>
>>> pobj.search("root:x:bin:tcsh") # bash keyword is not exists
>>>
>>> re.search("bash","root:x:bin:bash:tcsh")
< sre.SRE Match object at 0x7f0e82f5acc8>
>>>
>>> if(re.search("bash","root:x:bin:bash")):
        print("bash keyword is matched")
... else:
        print("bash keyword is not matched")
. . .
bash keyword is matched
>>>
```

Find a line starts with a pattern



Find a line that ends with a pattern

```
Applications Places Terminal
                                 student@krosumlabs:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
>>>
>>> # Line ends with sales keyword
>>> re.search("sales$","ram,pune,sales")
< sre.SRE Match object at 0x7f0e82f5ac60>
>>>
>>> # Line ends with any digit
>>> re.search("[0-9]$","paul,prod,12325")
< sre.SRE Match object at 0x7f0e82f5acc8>
>>>
```

Find a line that ends with a digit



```
Applications Places Terminal
                              student@krosumlabs:~
                                                                  _ = X
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
>>> # Matches pattern line starts with any uppercase chars followed
    # any lower case chars, ends with any digit.
>>> re.search("^[A-Z][a-z].*[0-9]$","Text123")
<_sre.SRE_Match object at 0x7f0e82f5acc8>
>>>
>>> re.search("^[A-Z][a-z].*[0-9]$","TEXT123")
                                       #there is no lowercase chars
>>>
>>> re.search("^[A-Z][a-z].*[0-9]$","abc123")
                                     # Line starts with lowerchars
>>>
>>> re.search("^[A-Z][a-z].*\d$","0RACLElINUX7")
                                    #Notmatched
>>>
```

```
Sat 04:27 🛔 📢 💍
Applications Places Terminal
                              student@krosumlabs:~
                                                                   _ 0 X
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
>>> # Linux Commandline
... # df -Th|grep "^/dev/sda[1-3]" <== Line starts with any storage
                                          devices
>>> # in python
>>> import os
>>> for v in os.popen("df -Th").readlines():
        v=v.strip()
        if(re.search("^/dev/sda[1-3]",v)):
                 print(v)
/dev/sda2
                          47G 3.8G
                                        43G 9% /
               xfs
/dev/sda3
               xfs
                          19G 474M
                                        19G 3% /home
/dev/sda1
                          485M 187M 298M 39% /boot
               xfs
>>>
```

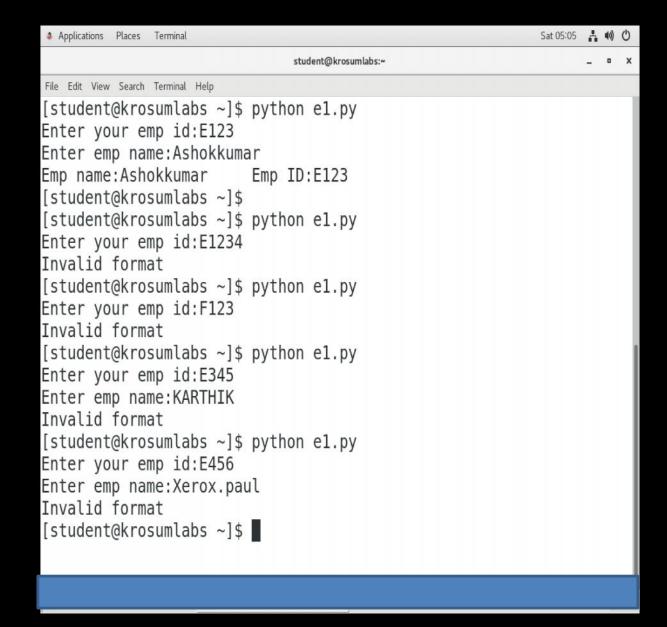
```
Applications Places Terminal
                                                               Sat 04:30 🛔 🕪 🖒
                                student@krosumlabs:~
                                                                     _ = X
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
>>> # Filter list of process name ends with character 'd'
... # ps -e|grep d$ <== Linux Commandline
>>> for v in os.popen("ps -e").readlines():
        v=v.strip()
. . .
        if(re.search("d$",v)):
                  print(v)
1 ?
            00:00:06 systemd
2 ?
            00:00:00 kthreadd
7 ?
            00:00:00 rcu sched
17 ?
             00:00:00 khungtaskd
19 ?
             00:00:00 ksmd
20 ?
             00:00:00 khugepaged
22 ?
             00:00:00 kintegrityd
24 ?
             00:00:00 kblockd
25 ?
             00:00:00 md
42 ?
             00:00:00 kthrotld
45 ?
             00:00:00 kmpath rdacd
46 ?
             00:00:00 kpsmoused
              00:00:00 kauditd
103 ?
```

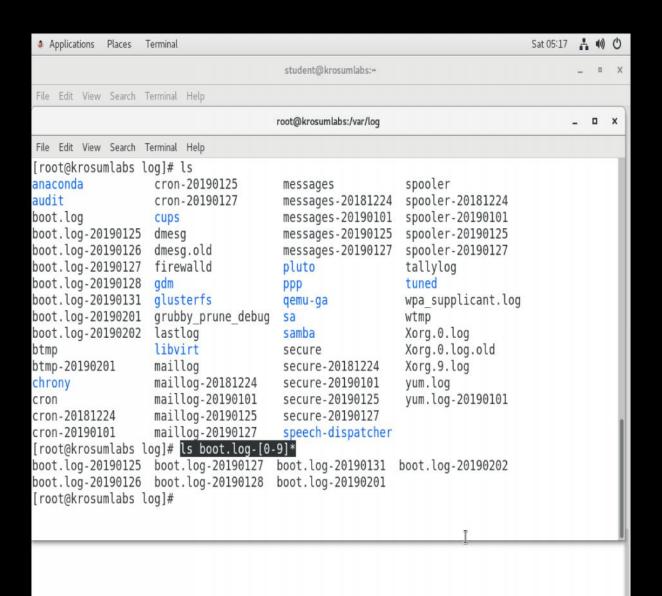
```
Sat 04:32 🗼 🕪 🖰
Applications Places Terminal
                                student@krosumlabs:~
                                                                      _ n x
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> daemon_process=os.popen("ps -e|grep d$").read()
>>>
>>> print(daemon process)
    1 ?
                00:00:06 systemd
                00:00:00 kthreadd
                00:00:00 rcu sched
   17 ?
                00:00:00 khungtaskd
   19 ?
                00:00:00 ksmd
   20 ?
                00:00:00 khugepaged
   22 ?
                00:00:00 kintegrityd
   24 ?
                00:00:00 kblockd
   25 ?
                00:00:00 md
   42 ?
                00:00:00 kthrotld
   45 ?
                00:00:00 kmpath rdacd
   46 ?
                00:00:00 kpsmoused
  103 ?
                00:00:00 kauditd
  381 ?
                00:00:00 rpciod
  382 ?
                00:00:00 lvmetad
                NA.00.00 systemd-udevd
  303 ?
```

```
Sat 04:38 🛔 📢 🖰
Applications Places Terminal
                                 student@krosumlabs:~
                                                                        _ = X
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
data1
data2
data3
data4
data5
data6
data7
data8
>>> # Filters the line which ends with space(char)
    # Linux commandline --> cat IP.txt|grep "[[:space:]]$"
>>> with open("IP.txt") as fobj:
         for v in fobj.readlines():
                  v=v.strip()
                  if(re.search("\s$",v)):
                           print(v)
. . .
>>>
>>>
```

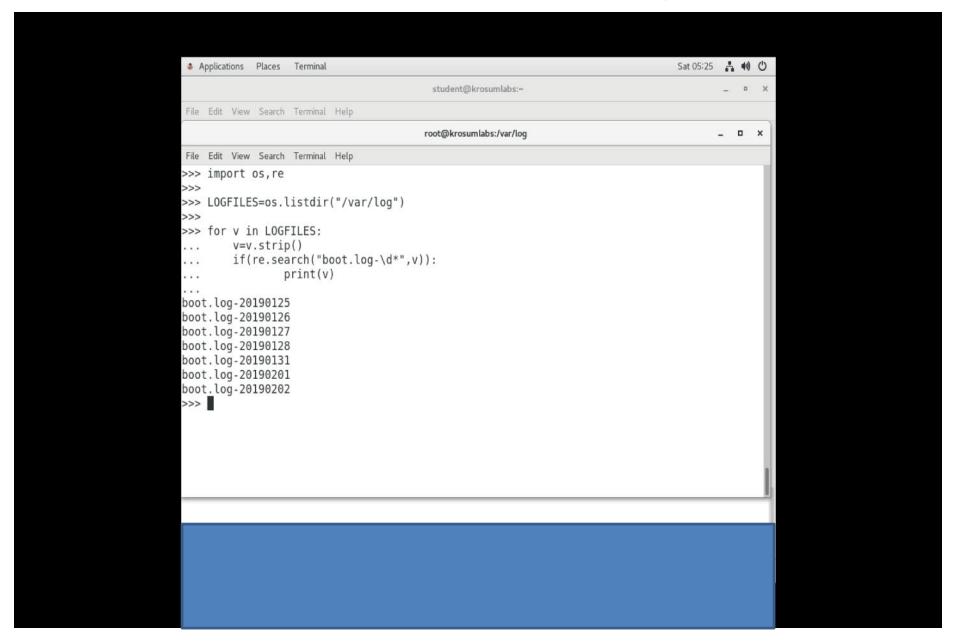
```
_ = X
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
>>> # write a python program:
... # read a emp ID and emp name from STDIN
... # emp ID should begin with uppercase chars between A to E,
    # followed by any 3 digits.
...#
... # emp name should begin with any uppercase char followed by
    # any number of lowercase chars.
... # Example:-
    # ArunKumar ARUN arun V.Arun Arun<space> Arun5 - invalidformat
... # Arunkumar Vishnusaravana Johnpaul Arun Varun -Validformat
>>>
```

```
Sat 05:05 🛔 📢 Ů
Applications Places Terminal
                                student@krosumlabs:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[student@krosumlabs ~]$ cat -n e1.py
        import re, sys
        eid=raw_input("Enter your emp id:")
        if(not re.search("^[A-E]\d{3}, eid)):
     6
                 print("Invalid format")
                 sys.exit(1)
     9
        ename=raw input("Enter emp name:")
    11
        if(not re.search("^[A-Z][a-z]+$",ename)):
    13
                 print("Invalid format")
    14
                 sys.exit(1)
    15
       print("Emp name:{}\tEmp ID:{}".format(ename,eid))
[student@krosumlabs ~]$
```





Linux Is /var/boot/boot.log-[0-9]*



Extract **year,month** and **date** from given url string.

```
>>> import re
>>>
>>> url="https://www.krosum.com/news/latest-beckhams/2018/02/09/ode
ll-fame-author"
>>>
>>> # Extract year, month and date from an URL
>>> re.findall("\d{4}/\d{2}/\d{2}",url)
['2018/02/09']
>>>
```

re.split()

```
20/20/20
>>> import re
ンンン
>>> "root:x:bin:bash:tcsh".split(":")
['root', 'x', 'bin', 'bash', 'tcsh']
2020
>>> "root-x:bin,bash-tcsh".split(":")
['root-x', 'bin,bash-tcsh']
39-39-39
>>> "root-x:bin,bash-tcsh".split("-")
['root', 'x:bin.bash-tcsh']
35336
>>> "root-x:bin,bash~tcsh".split("~")
['root-x:bin,bash', 'tcsh']
2022
>>> # re.split("[:,~-]","root-x:bin,bash-tcsh")
# #
. . . #
              character class
40.00
29-29-29-
>>> re.split("[:,~-]","root-x:bin.bash-tcsh")
['root', 'x', 'bin', 'bash', 'tcsh']
3636
3535
```

Split the text around 1 or more space chars

```
>>> Given="""
... This is sample
... text line
... multiple line text
... data from line by line""
シンン
>>> # re.split("regx", Inputstring) <== Syntax
>>> # split the text around 1 or more space characters
600
3/3/3
>>> re.split("\St",Given)
['', 'This', 'is', 'sample', 'text', 'line', 'multiple', 'line', 'text', 'dat
a', 'from', 'line', 'by', 'line']
>>>
```

re.match()

```
>>> re.search("Aroot", "root:x:bin:bash")
<re.Match object; span=(0, 4), match='root'>
>>> help(re.match)
Help on function match in module re:
match(pattern, string, flags=0)

Try to apply the pattern at the start of the string, returning a Match object, or None if no match was found.
        re.match(pattern,inputstring)
                          l_pattern matches at the beginning of the inputstring
      # re.search("^pattern",input) same as re.match("pattern",input)
>>> re.match("root","root:x:bin:bash")
<re.Match object; span=(0, 4), match='root'>
>>>
```

group() vs groups()

```
OL7.4 [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
                          Applications Places
                                           Terminal
                                                                                                      Sat 06:40 🛔 🐠 🖰
                                                                student@krosumlabs:~
                          File Edit View Search Terminal Help
                         >>> import re
                         >>>
                         >>> re.search("(\w\d+).*(\w\d+)","Sample log file size:54KB and 65MB")
                         < sre.SRE Match object at 0x7f5f5e24f2d8>
                         >>>
                         >>> obj=re.search("(\w\d+).*(\w\d+)","Sample log file size:54KB and 65MB")
                         >>>
                         >>> obj.group()
                         '54KB and 65'
                         >>>
                         >>> obj.groups()
                         ('54', '65')
                         >>>
                         >>>
```

re.sub()

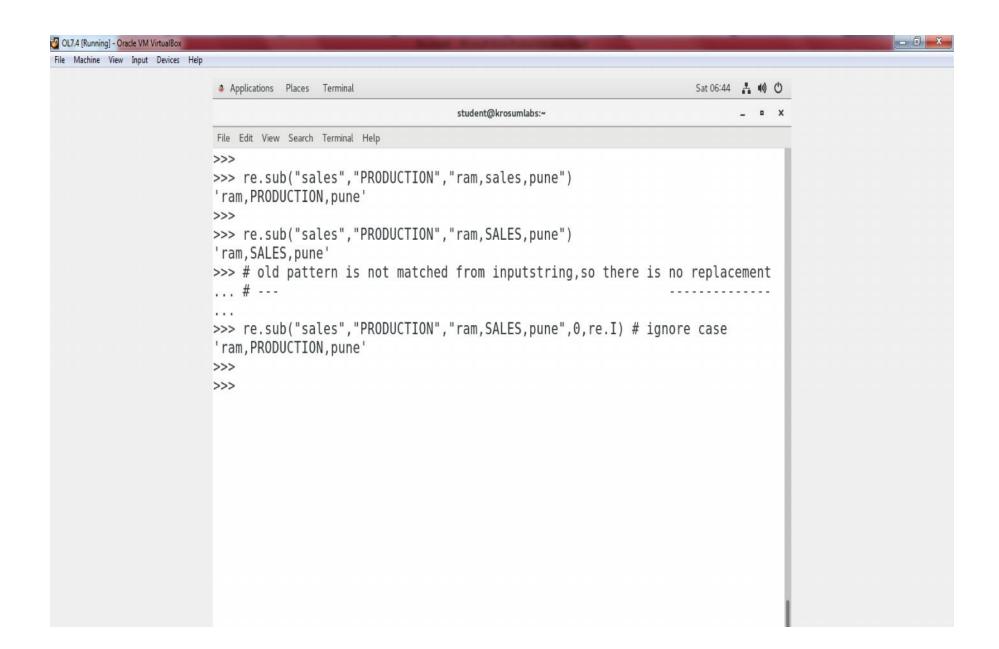
re.sub() - replace old pattern with a new pattern in the given string.

>>> help(re.sub)

Help on function sub in module re:

sub(pattern, repl, string, count=0, flags=0)

Return the string obtained by replacing the leftmost non-overlapping occurrences of the pattern in string by the replacement repl. repl can be either a string or a callable; if a string, backslash escapes in it are processed. If it is a callable, it's passed the Match object and must return a replacement string to be used.



```
# substitute all the digits with *
# -------
>>> re.sub("\d+","*","DATE:6th-March-2013 file INFO details:459KB")

'DATE:*th-March-* file INFO details:*KB'

>>> # delete all the digits[0-9]
... # --------
>>> re.sub("\d+","","DATE:6th-March-2013 file INFO details:459KB")

'DATE:th-March- file INFO details:KB'
```

>>> re.sub("sales","PROD","data1,sales,sales,sales,SALES,Sales") 'data1,PROD,PROD,PROD,SALES,Sales'

ignore the case

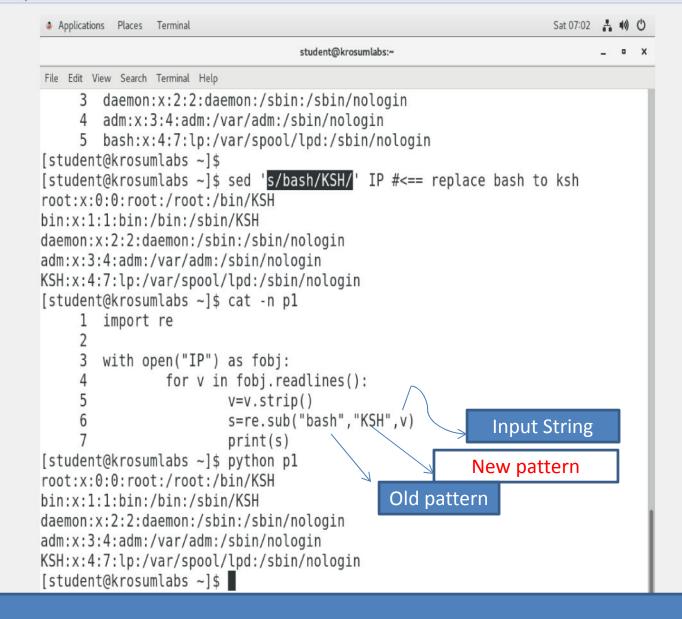
>>> re.sub("sales","PROD","data1,sales,sales,sales,SALES,Sales",0,re.l) # ignore case case 'data1,PROD,PROD,PROD,PROD,PROD'

>>> re.sub("sales","PROD","data1,sales,sales,sales,SALES,Sales",1,re.I) 'data1,PROD,sales,sales,SALES,Sales'

replace 1st matched occurrence

```
Sat 07:01 🛔 📢 🖰
Applications Places Terminal
                                   student@krosumlabs:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[student@krosumlabs ~]$ cat -n IP # <=== this is sample inputfile
     1 root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
     2 bin:x:1:1:bin:/bin:/sbin/bash
     3 daemon:x:2:2:daemon:/sbin:/sbin/nologin
     4 adm:x:3:4:adm:/var/adm:/sbin/nologin
     5 bash:x:4:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/sbin/nologin
[student@krosumlabs ~]$
[student@krosumlabs ~]$ sed 's/bash/KSH/' IP #<== replace bash to ksh
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/KSH
bin:x:1:1:bin:/bin:/sbin/KSH
daemon:x:2:2:daemon:/sbin:/sbin/nologin
adm:x:3:4:adm:/var/adm:/sbin/nologin
KSH:x:4:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/sbin/nologin
[student@krosumlabs ~]$ cat -n p1
     1 import re
       with open("IP") as fobj:
                for v in fobj.readlines():
                         v=v.strip()
                         s=re.sub("bash", "KSH", v)
                         print(s)
[student@krosumlabs ~]$
```

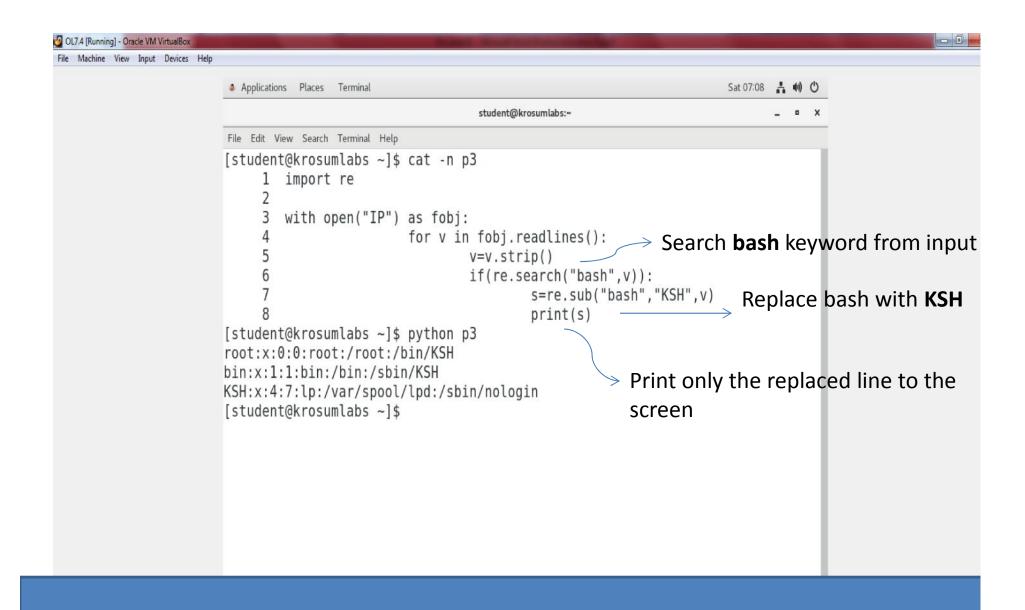
File Machine View Input Devices Help



student@krosumlabs:~

0 X

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[student@krosumlabs ~]$ sed 's/bash/KSH/' IP >NEWFILE # writing to new file
[student@krosumlabs ~]$
[student@krosumlabs ~]$ cat -n p2
     1 import re
                                                         Input string
       with open("IP") as fobj:
               with open("NEWFILE", "w") as wobj
                        for v in fobj.readlines()
                                v=v.strip()
                                s=re.sub("bash","KSH",v)
                                wobj.write(s+"\n") # writing to new file
[student@krosumlabs ~]$
[student@krosumlabs ~]$ python p2
[student@krosumlabs ~]$ cat -n NEWFILE
    1 root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/KSH
    2 bin:x:1:1:bin:/bin:/sbin/KSH
    3 daemon:x:2:2:daemon:/sbin:/sbin/nologin
    4 adm:x:3:4:adm:/var/adm:/sbin/nologin
     5 KSH:x:4:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/sbin/nologin
[student@krosumlabs ~]$
```



File Machine View Input Devices Help

```
Sat 07:12 🛔 📢 Ů
Applications Places Terminal
                                  student@krosumlabs:~
                                                                          _ = X
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
>>> import re
>>>
>>> # delete all the space from given string
... #
>>> import os
>>>
>>> var=os.popen("uptime").read()
>>> var
' 07:10:26 up 12:04, 2 users, load average: 0.17, 0.19, 0.31\n'
>>>
>>> re.sub("\s+","",var)
'07:10:26up12:04,2users,loadaverage:0.17,0.19,0.31'
>>>
>>>
>>> re.sub("\s+","",os.popen("ls -l /etc/passwd").read())
'-rw-r--r-.1rootroot2074Jan2521:23/etc/passwd'
>>>
>>> re.sub("\s+","\t",os.popen("ls -l /etc/passwd").read())
'-rw-r--r-.\t1\troot\troot\t2074\tJan\t25\t21:23\t/etc/passwd\t'
>>>
>>> print(re.sub("\s+","\t",os.popen("ls -l /etc/passwd").read()))
                                         2074
                                                                  21:23
                                                 Jan
-rw-r--r-. 1 root root
                                                                          /etc/
passwd
>>>
```

File Machine View Input Devices Help

```
Sat 07:17 🛔 🐠 🖰
Applications Places Terminal
                                   student@krosumlabs:~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
>>> os.system("ls -l /etc/passwd")
-rw-r--r. 1 root root 2074 Jan 25 21:23 /etc/passwd
>>> # display single line into multiple lines
... #
                                 -----//based on space split \n
>>> re.sub("\s+","\n",os.popen("ls -l /etc/passwd").read())
'-rw-r--r-.\n1\nroot\nroot\n2074\nJan\n25\n21:23\n/etc/passwd\n'
>>>
>>> print(re.sub("\s+","\n",os.popen("ls -l /etc/passwd").read()))
-rw-r--r-.
root
root
2074
Jan
25
21:23
/etc/passwd
>>>
```

>>> re.sub("bash.","","root:x:bash:/usr/bin/tcsh")

'root:x:/usr/bin/tcsh'

>>>

```
>>> process="""
... python
... sh
... oracle
... bash"""
>>>
>>> re.findall("^\w",process)
>>>
>>> re.findall("^\w",process,re.MULTILINE)
['p', 's', 'o', 'b']
```

MULTILINE the code will check each line in the string for object