

regular expressions

A regular expression is a sequence of characters that form a given search pattern. They can be used to check strings for a specific content. In Python, we use the `re` module.

```
import re
```

Functions:

- **search()**: returns a *"match"* object containing information about the match if it is found anywhere in the string
- **findall()**: returns a list containing all the finds of the pattern

To form patterns, we use the following quantifiers and special characters:

[]	a set of characters	\d	numeric digit
.	any character	\D	NOT numeric
^	starts with	\w	alphanumeric character
\$	ends with	\W	NOT alphanumeric
*	zero or more occurrences	\s	blank space
+	one or more occurrences	\S	NOT blank space
{ }	a specified number of occurrences		
?	zero or one occurrence		...among others!
	logical "OR" operator		

```
my_pattern = r'\w{4}\d{4}'  
check = re.search(my_pattern, "cont1234")
```