

OBJECT ORIENTED PROGRAMMING USING



Java

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Java - Regular Expressions

Java provides the `java.util.regex` package for pattern matching with regular expressions.

A regular expression is a special sequence of characters that help you match or find other strings or set of strings using a specialized syntax held in a pattern.

A regular expression is sequence of characters that forms a search pattern. When you search for data in a text, you can use this search pattern to describe what you are searching for.

A regular expression can be

→ a single character

→ more complicated pattern

They can be used to $\begin{cases} \text{search} \\ \text{edit} \\ \text{manipulate} \end{cases}$ text and data

Regular expressions can be used to perform all types of text search and text replacement operations.

Java doesn't have a built-in Regular Expression class, but we can import `java.util.regex` package to work with regular expressions.

- 1) Pattern Class
- 2) Matcher Class
- 3) PatternSyntaxException Class

Pattern Class:

Defines a pattern (to be used in a search).
The class is compilation of regular expressions that can be used to define various types of patterns. providing no public constructors.

A Pattern object is compiled representation of a regular expression.

The Pattern class provides no public constructors. To create a pattern, you must first invoke one of its public static compile() methods, which will return a Pattern object.

These methods accept a regular expression as first argument.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class RegexExample {
    public static void main (String [] args)
    { String regex = "ab";
```

```
    Pattern p = Pattern.compile(regex);
```

```
    String input = "The word ab is present in text";
```

```
    Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
```

```
    while (m.find()) {
```

```
        System.out.println("Found at index  
a match: " + m.start()
```


Example: Find out if there are any occurrences of word "w3schools" in a sentence.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class Main {
    public static void main (String [] args)
    {
        Pattern p = Pattern.compile ("w3schools",
                                      p.CASE_INSENSITIVE);

        Matcher m = p.matcher ("Visit W3schools!");

        boolean found = m.find();

        if (found) {
            System.out.println ("Match found");
        }
        else
        {
            System.out.println ("Match not found");
        }
    }
}
```

Match found

First the pattern is created using the method `Pattern.compile()`. The first parameter indicate which pattern is being searched for ("w3schools"), the second parameter has a flag to indicates that search should be case-insensitive. The second parameter is optional.

=> The `matcher()` method is used to search for the pattern in a string. It returns a `Matcher` object which contains info. about search that was performed.

=> The `find()` method returns `true` if the pattern was found in the string and `false` if it was not found.

Matcher Class:

Used to search for pattern.

Used for performing match operations on text using patterns.

A `matcher` object is the engine that interprets the pattern and perform match operations against an input string.

Like `Pattern` class, `Matcher` class has no public constructor.

You obtain `matcher` object by invoking the `matcher()` method on `pattern` object.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class MatcherExample {
    public static void main (String [] args)
    {
        String regex = "apple";

        Pattern p = Pattern.compile(regex);

        String input = "I hava an apple";
```



```

Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
while (m.find());
{
    System.out.println("Found 'apple' at
                        index: " + m.start());
}
}
}

```

Flags:

Flags in the compile() method change how the search is performed.

Pattern.CASE_INSENSITIVE :

The case of letters will be ignored when performing a search.

```

import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;

public class Main {
    public static void main (String[] args)
    {
        String input = "Hello, HeLLo, hELLo, hello!";
        Pattern p = Pattern.compile("hello", Pattern.
                                     CASE_INSENSITIVE);
        Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
        while (m.find())
        {
            System.out.println("Matcher found at: " + m.start()
                               + " : " + m.group());
        }
    }
}

```


Match found at index 0: Hello
Match found at index 7: HeLLo
Match found at index 14: hELLO
Match found at index 21: hello

- `m.start()`: This method returns the start index of the last match. It indicates the position in the input string where the matched substring begins.

- `m.group()`: This method returns the actual substring that matches the pattern during the last call to `find()`. It represents the text of last matched group.

2) Pattern. LITERAL - Special characters in the pattern will not have any special meaning and will be treated as ordinary characters when performing a search.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;  
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
```

```
public class Main {  
    public static void main (String[] args)  
    {  
        String input = "A $100 bonus for 2  
                        items (limited offer)";
```



```
String literalPattern = "A $100 bonus for  
2 times (limited offer);
```

```
Pattern p = Pattern.compile (literalPattern,  
Pattern.LITERAL);
```

```
Matcher m = p.matcher (input);
```

```
if (m.find())
```

```
{ System.out.println ("Match found: " +  
m.group());
```

```
}
```

```
else
```

```
{ System.out.println ("No match found");
```

```
}
```

```
} Match found: A $100 bonus for 2 items  
(limited offer).
```

3) Pattern.UNICODE_CASE :

Use it together with the CASE_INSENSITIVE flag to also ignore the case of letters outside of the English alphabet.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;  
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
```

```
public class Main {
```



```
public static void main(String[] args)
{
    String input = "Café and café are the  
same";

```

```
    Pattern p = Pattern.compile("café", Pattern.  
                                CASE_INSENSITIVE |  
                                Pattern.UNICODE_CASE);

```

```
    Matcher m = p.matcher(input);

```

```
    while (m.find())

```

```
    {
        System.out.println("Match found at  
index: " + m.start() + ":"  
+ m.group());
    }
}
}
```


Regular Expression Patterns

The "first parameter" of the `Pattern.compile()` method is the pattern.

It describes what is "being searched for".

- `[abc]` : Find one character from the options between the brackets.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class Main {
    public static void main (String [] args)
```

```
{ String input = "a1b2c3";
```

// Define the pattern with characters in square bracket

```
Pattern p = Pattern.compile("[abc]");
```

```
Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
```

```
while (m.find());
```

```
{ System.out.println("Found: " + m.group());
```

```
} Found : a
```

```
Found : b
```

```
Found : c
```

- `[^abc]` : Find one character NOT between the brackets.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
```



```
public class Main {
    public static void main (String[] args)
    {
        String input = "a1b2c3xyz";
```

```
        Pattern p = Pattern.compile("[^abc]");
```

```
        Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
```

```
        while (m.find())
        {
            System.out.println ("Match found: " +
                                m.group());
        }
    }
}
```

Match found: 1

Match found: 2

Match found: 3

Match found: x

Match found: y

Match found: z

- [0-9] : Find one character from the range 0 to '9'.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;
```

```
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
```

```
public class Main {
```

```
    public static void main (String[] args)
```

```
    {
        String input = "The numbers are 1,5 and 9";
```

```
        Pattern p = Pattern.compile("[0-9]");
```

```
        Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
```



```

System.out.println ("Matches:");
while (m.find())
{
    System.out.println (m.group() + " ");
}
}
}

```

- abc : Exact abc occurs then true otherwise false.

```

import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class Main {
    public static void main (String [] args)
    {
        String input = "The sequence is abcdef";
        String regex = "abc";
        Pattern p = Pattern.compile(regex);
        Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
        if (m.find())
        {
            System.out.println ("matches: " + m.group());
        }
        else
        {
            System.out.println ("Match not found");
        }
    }
}

```

matches: abc

Metacharacters:

Metacharacters are the characters with a special meaning:

| : Find a match for any one of the patterns separated by | as :

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class Main {
    public static void main (String[] args)
    {
        String input = "I have a dog and a cat,
                        but I don't have a fish";
```

```
        Pattern p = Pattern.compile ("cat|dog|fish");
```

```
        Matcher m = p.matcher (input);
```

```
        while (m.find())
```

```
        {
            System.out.println ("Found match: "+m.group());
```

```
        }
    }
    Found match : dog
    Found match : cat
    Found match : fish
```

• : Find just one instance of any character.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class main
{
    public static void main (String[] args)
```



```

{ String input = "Hello @ World";
  String regex = ".@";
  Pattern p = Pattern.compile(regex);
  Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
  if (m.find())
  { System.out.println("Found a match: " + m.group());
    }
  else
  { System.out.println("No match found");
    }
  }
}

```

^ : Finds a match as the beginning of a string as in : "Hello."

```

import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class Main {
  public static void main (String [] args)
  { String input = "Hello World";
    String regex = "Hello";
    Pattern p = Pattern.compile(regex);
    Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
  }
}

```



```

if (m.find())
{
    System.out.println("Match found at
                        the beginning: " + m.group())
}
else
{
    System.out.println("No match found");
}
}
} Match found at the beginning: Hello

```

\$: Finds a match at the end of string
as in World\$.

```

import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class Main {
    public static void main (String[] args)
    {
        String input = "Hello World";
        String regex = "World$";
        Pattern p = Pattern.compile(regex);
        Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
        if (m.find())
        {
            System.out.println("Match found at the
                                end: " + m.group());
        }
        else
        {
            System.out.println("No match found");
        }
    }
}

```


Quantifiers: Quantifiers define quantities.

n^+ : Matches any string that contains at least one or more string.

```
import java.util.*;
class QuantifierExample {
    public static void main (String[] args)
    {
        String input = "Quantifier";

        Pattern p = Pattern.compile ("n+");

        Matcher m = p.matcher (input);

        if (m.find())
        {
            System.out.println ("Match found: "+input);
        }
        else
        {
            System.out.println ("Match not found");
        }

        input = "Hello ";
        m = p.matcher (input);

        if (m.find())
        {
            System.out.println ("Match found: "+input);
        }
        else
        {
            System.out.println ("Match not found");
        }
    }
}
```

Match found: Quantifier
Match not found.

n^* : Matches any string that contains zero or more occurrences of n .

```
import java.util.*;
class QuantifierExample {
    public static void main (String[] args)
    {
        String input = "Quantifier";

        Pattern p = Pattern.compile ("n*");
        Matcher m = p.matcher (input);

        if (m.find())
        {
            System.out.println ("Match found:" + input);
        }
        else
        {
            System.out.println ("Match not found");
        }
    }
}
```

```
input = "Hello";
m = p.matcher (input);
```

```
if (m.find())
{
    System.out.println ("Match found:" + input);
}
else
{
    System.out.println ("Match not found");
}
}
```

Match found: Quantifier
~~Match not found:~~
Match found: Hello

$n \{x\}$: Matches any String that contains a sequence of x 'n's.

```
import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class QuantifierExample {
    public static void main (String [] args)
```

```
{ String input1 = "nnn"; // should match as
                             there're exactly 3 'n'
  String input2 = "nnnn"; // shouldn't match as
                             there are more than 3 'n'
  String input3 = "Hello"; // shouldn't match as
                             there are no 'n's.
```

```
    int x = 3;
```

```
    Pattern p = Pattern.compile ("n[" + x + "]");
```

```
    Matcher m1 = p.matcher (input1);
```

```
    Matcher m2 = p.matcher (input2);
```

```
    Matcher m3 = p.matcher (input3);
```

```
    if (m1.find())
```

```
    { System.out.println ("Input1 : Match found")
    }
```

```
    else
```

```
    { System.out.println ("Match not found");
    }
```

```
    if (m2.find())
```

```
    { System.out.println ("Input 2: Match found")
    }
```

```
    else
```

```
    { System.out.println ("Match not found");
    }
```



```

    if ( m3.find() )
    { System.out.println ("Input 3: Matchfound");
    }
    else
    { System.out.println ("Input 3: Match not
        found");
    }
}
}
}

```

Input 1 : Match found
 Input 2 : Match not found
 Input 3 : Match not found

$n\{x,y\}$: Matches any string that
 contains a sequence of x to y 's.

```

import java.util.regex.Matcher;
import java.util.regex.Pattern;
public class Main {
    public static void main (String[] args)
    {
        String input1 = "nnnnn";
        String input2 = "nnnnnnn";
        String input3 = "nn";
        String input4 = "nnnnnnnnnn";
    }
}

```

```

int min = 4;
int max = 8;

```

```

String patternString = "n[" + min + "," + max + "]*";
Pattern p = Pattern.compile (patternString);

```



```
Matcher m1 = p.matcher(input1);  
Matcher m2 = p.matcher(input2);  
Matcher m3 = p.matcher(input3);  
Matcher m4 = p.matcher(input4);
```

```
    if (m1.find())  
    { System.out.println("Input 1: Match found");  
    }  
    else  
    { System.out.println("Input 2: Match not  
        found");  
    }
```

```
    if (m2.find())  
    { System.out.println("Input 2: Match found");  
    }  
    else  
    { System.out.println("Input 2: Match not  
        found");  
    }
```

```
    if (m3.find())  
    { System.out.println("Input 3: Match found");  
    }  
    else  
    { System.out.println("Input 3: Match not  
        found");  
    }
```

```
    }  
}
```

Input1 : Match found
Input2 : Match found
Input3 : Match not found
Input4 : Match not found

$n\{x,\}$: Matches any string that contains a sequence of at least x n's.

```
import java.util.regex.*;
```

```
class Main {
```

```
    public static void main (String[] args)
```

```
{    String regex = "n{3,}";
```

```
        Pattern p = Pattern.compile(regex);
```

```
        String input1 = "nnn";
```

```
        String input2 = "nn";
```

```
        String input3 = "nnnnn";
```

```
        String input4 = "n";
```

```
        testMatch (pattern, test input1);
```

```
        testMatch (pattern, input2);
```

```
        testMatch (pattern, input3);
```

```
        testMatch (pattern, input4);
```

```
public static void testMatch (Pattern p,  
                               String input)
```

```
{    Matcher m = p.matcher(input);
```

```
    System.out.println ("Testing String:" + input);
```

```
        if (m.find())
```

```
        {    System.out.println ("Match found:"  
                                + m.group());
```

```
        }
```

```
        else
```

```
        {    System.out.println ("No match found");
```

```
        }
```

```
}
```

Match found

No match found

Match found

No match found