

Snowflake REGEXP_INSTR Demo

REGEXP_INSTR in Snowflake

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Purpose:

Returns the position (starting index) of a substring that matches a regular expression pattern within a string.

Syntax:

REGEXP_INSTR(subject, pattern [, position [, occurrence [, return_option [, parameters]]]])

Parameters:

- subject: The input string
 - pattern: The regular expression pattern
 - position: Starting position for search (default 1)
 - occurrence: Which match to return (default 1)
 - return_option: 0 = start position (default), 1 = end position
 - parameters: Optional flags (e.g., 'i' for case-insensitive)
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Example 1: Find the first occurrence

```
SELECT REGEXP_INSTR('abc123xyz', '[0-9]+') AS position;
```

Result: 4

Example 2: Find the second occurrence

```
SELECT REGEXP_INSTR('cat dog cat dog', 'dog', 1, 2) AS second_dog;
```

Result: 13

Example 3: Return end position of match

```
SELECT REGEXP_INSTR('abc123xyz', '[0-9]+', 1, 1, 1) AS end_pos;
```

Result: 6

Example 4: Case-insensitive search

```
SELECT REGEXP_INSTR('Hello World', 'world', 1, 1, 0, 'i') AS pos_case_insensitive;
```

Result: 7

Example 5: Using REGEXP_INSTR in a table

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TEMP TABLE demo (text STRING);
```

```
INSERT INTO demo VALUES ('abc123xyz'), ('no numbers here');
```

```
SELECT text, REGEXP_INSTR(text, '[0-9]+') AS first_number_pos FROM demo;
```

Result:

text	first_number_pos
abc123xyz	4
no numbers here	0

Note: Returns 0 if no match is found.