Regular Expression Syntax

- x* matches zero or more x's
 "a*" matches '', 'a', 'aa', etc.
- x+ matches one or more x's
 "a+" matches 'a', 'aa', 'aaa', etc.
- x? matches zero or one x's "a?" matches '' or 'a'
- x{m, n} matches i x's, where m≤i≤ n
 "a{2,3}" matches 'aa' or 'aaa'

Example: email addresses

How can we easily tell these two apart?

coletrap@uw.edu

spam@go.away