

CS 35L Fall 19 Section 3 Notes W2 Wed
Zhaowei Tan

Regex:

Refer to the cheat sheet at:

<http://www.regexlib.com/CheatSheet.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

Play around with this online tool:

<https://www.regexpal.com/>

Some highlights:

1. (Anchors) `^` start of a line, `$` end of a line
2. (Character classes) `.` means any character except newline
`[abc]` any of a, b, or c (only matches one occurrence)
Or we can use `[a-c]`, `[a-g1-9]` to represent a range of char/number
We also have `\w`, `\d`, ... for word, digit, ...
3. (Quantification) After an expression (a single character class or a group), we can use `*`, `+` or `?` to represent multiple occurrence of the expression
`*` zero or multiple occurrence
`+` one or more occurrence
`?` zero or one occurrence
E.g. `a*b` will match `b` ; `a+b` will not match `b`
4. `{}` used to specify certain times of the occurrence (compared to `*` and `+`, which allows arbitrary many)
E.g. `[abc]{3}` will match `aaa` but not `bb`
`[abc]{1,3}` matches a string with 1-3 occurrence of `[abc]`.
5. `\` escape to escape special characters
6. (Grouping) `()` parenthesis used to capture group
E.g. `(abc){2}` will match `abcabc`
7. Lazy vs. greedy, lookahead, back-reference: see slides
8. sed command:
Substituting text:
`sed 's/regex/replacement/flags' file`
E.g. `sed 's/^a/b/' file.txt`
`sed 's/a$/b/g' file.txt` (`-g` flag: substitute all the occurrence)
The delimiter for sed can be another sign, e.g: `sed 's_a_b_g'`
9. To re-use the searched regex pattern use `&` sign. E.g. if you want to wrap every matching substring with a pair of parenthesis, do this: `sed 's/ab+/(&)/g'`
10. To delete with sed, use `sed '/pattern to match/d'`
11. Awk basics: <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/awk-command-unixlinux-examples/>
12. Extended vs. basic regular expression. Some special signs need escape to have special meaning:
https://www.gnu.org/software/sed/manual/html_node/BRE-vs-ERE.html