PYTHON REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

Notebook

Keep this at hand!

This document contains additional concepts and examples for Python Regular Expressions

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THE 'RE' MODULE

First steps:

- >>> import re
- >>> help(re)
- >>> dir(re)

Documentation:

https://docs.python.org/3/library/re.html

https://docs.python.org/3/howto/regex.html

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RAW STRINGS

Syntax:

r"C:\Users\new\tenthfolder"

Escape sequences/characters:

Escape Sequence	Meaning	Notes
\newline	Backslash and newline ignored	
11	Backslash (\)	
\'	Single quote (')	
\"	Double quote (")	
\a	ASCII Bell (BEL)	
\b	ASCII Backspace (BS)	
\f	ASCII Formfeed (FF)	
\n	ASCII Linefeed (LF)	
\r	ASCII Carriage Return (CR)	
\t	ASCII Horizontal Tab (TAB)	
\v	ASCII Vertical Tab (VT)	
\000	Character with octal value ooo	(1,3)
\xhh	Character with hex value hh	(2,3)

Escape sequences only recognized in string literals are:

Escape Sequence	Meaning	Notes
\N{name}	Character named <i>name</i> in the Unicode database	(4)
\uxxxx	Character with 16-bit hex value xxxx	(5)
\Uxxxxxxxx	Character with 32-bit hex value xxxxxxxx	(6)

Source: https://docs.python.org/3/reference/lexical_analysis.html#string-and-bytes-literals

RE.COMPILE()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> s = r"\d{4}"
>>> t = re.compile(s)
>>> result = re.findall(t, string)
```

RE.SEARCH()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.search(r"\d{3}", string)
>>> result
<re.Match object; span=(15, 18), match='600'>
```

RE.MATCH()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.match(r"\w{3}", string)
>>> result
<re.Match object; span=(0, 3), match='The'>
```

RE.FULLMATCH()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.fullmatch(r".{285}", string)
>>> result
<re.Match object; span=(0, 285), match='The Euro
STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock >
```

RE.FINDALL()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d{3}", string)
>>> result
['600', '199', '600']
```

RE.SPLIT()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.split(r"\s", string)
>>> result
['The', 'Euro', 'STOXX', '600', 'index,',
'which', 'tracks', 'all', 'stock', 'markets',
'across', 'Europe', 'including', 'the', 'FTSE,',
'fell', 'by', '11.48%', '-', 'the', 'worst',
'day', 'since', 'it', 'launched', 'in', '1998.',
'The', 'panic', 'selling', 'prompted', 'by',
'the', 'coronavirus', 'has', 'wiped', '£2.7tn',
'off', 'the', 'value', 'of', 'STOXX', '600',
'shares', 'since', 'its', 'all-time', 'peak',
'on', '19', 'February.']
```

RE.SUB()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

Example:

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.sub(r"[A-Z]{2,}", "INDEX",
string)
>>> result
```

'The Euro INDEX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the INDEX, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of INDEX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February.'

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.sub(r"[A-Z]{2,}", "INDEX",
string, 2)
>>> result
```

'The Euro INDEX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the INDEX, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February.'

RE.SUBN()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

Example:

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.subn(r"[A-Z]{2,}", "INDEX",
string)
>>> result
```

('The Euro INDEX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the INDEX, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of INDEX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February.', 3)

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.subn(r"[A-Z]{2,}", "INDEX",
string, 2)
>>> result
```

('The Euro INDEX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the INDEX, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February.', 2)

GROUP() AND GROUPS()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result =
re.search(r".+\s(.+ex).+(\d\d\s.+).", string)
>>> result.groups()
('index', '19 February')
>>> result.group(1)
'index'
>>> result.group(2)
'19 February'
```

'groups'

```
>>> result.group()
'The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock
markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by
11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998.
The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has
wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares
since its all-time peak on 19 February.'
>>> result.group(0)
'The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock
markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by
11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998.
The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has
wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares
since its all-time peak on 19 February.'
>>> result.group(1, 2)
('index', '19 February')
>>> result =
re.findall(r".+\s(.+ex).+(\d\d\s.+).", string)
>>> result
[('index', '19 February')]
>>> result.group()
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#130>", line 1, in <module>
    result.group()
AttributeError: 'list' object has no attribute
'group'
>>> result.groups()
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#131>", line 1, in <module>
    result.groups()
AttributeError: 'list' object has no attribute
```

START(), END(), SPAN()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result =
re.search(r''.+\s(.+ex).+(\d\d\s.+).'', string)
>>> result.group(1)
'index'
>>> result.group(2)
'19 February'
>>> result.start(1)
19
>>> result.start(2)
273
>>> result.end(1)
2.4
>>> result.end(2)
284
>>> result.span(1)
(19, 24)
>>> result.span(2)
(273, 284)
```

OPTIONAL FLAGS

Regex flags:

https://docs.python.org/3/howto/regex.html#compilation-flags

Flag	Meaning	
ASCII, A	Makes several escapes like \w , \b , \s and \d match only on ASCII characters with the respective property.	
DOTALL, S	Make . match any character, including newlines.	
IGNORECASE, I	Do case-insensitive matches.	
LOCALE, L	Do a locale-aware match.	
MULTILINE, M	Multi-line matching, affecting ^ and \$.	
VERBOSE, X (for 'extended')	Enable verbose REs, which can be organized more cleanly and understandably.	

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"the", string)
>>> result
['the', 'the', 'the']
```

```
>>> result = re.findall(r"the", string, re.I)
>>> result
['The', 'the', 'the', 'The', 'the']
>>> string2 = "Hello\nPython"
>>> result = re.search(r".+", string2)
>>> result
<re.Match object; span=(0, 5), match='Hello'>
>>> result = re.search(r".+", string2, re.S)
>>> result
<re.Match object; span=(0, 12),</pre>
match='Hello\nPython'>
>>> result = re.search(r""".+\s #Beginning of
the string
            (.+ex) #Searching for index
            .+ #Middle of the string
            (\d\d\s.+). #Date at the end""",
string, re.X)
>>> result.groups()
('index', '19 February')
```

ATTRIBUTEERROR: 'NONETYPE' OBJECT HAS NO ATTRIBUTE ...

Important!

Whenever you get the AttributeError: 'NoneType' object has no attribute 'group' or 'groups' exception, it means that your pattern syntax is incorrect, a match was not found and the value being returned is None, thus you must rethink your pattern or spot your mistakes. Nothing to freak out about, just another opportunity to learn and improve.

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result =
re.search(r".+\s(.+ex).+(\d\d\d\d\s.+).",
string)
>>> result.group(1)
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<pyshell#202>", line 1, in <module>
    result.group(1)
AttributeError: 'NoneType' object has no
attribute 'group'
```

```
>>> result.group(2)
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<pyshell#203>", line 1, in <module>
        result.group(2)
AttributeError: 'NoneType' object has no
attribute 'group'

>>> result.groups()
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<pyshell#204>", line 1, in <module>
        result.groups()
AttributeError: 'NoneType' object has no
attribute 'groups'
```

METACHARACTERS - THE DOT (.)

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

Example:

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.search(r"(.+)", string)
>>> result.group(1)
```

'The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February.'

METACHARACTERS - THE CARET (^)

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

Example:

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.search(r"^\w{3}", string)
>>> result
<re.Match object; span=(0, 3), match='The'>
```

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998.\nThe panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"^\w{3}", string, re.M)
>>> result
['The', 'The']
```

METACHARACTERS - THE DOLLAR SIGN (\$)

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998.\nThe panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\s(\w{2,})\W$",
string, re.M)
>>> result
['1998', 'February']
```

METACHARACTERS - THE ASTERISK (*)

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

Example:

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d\d\d*", string)
>>> result
['600', '11', '48', '1998', '600', '19']
>>> result = re.findall(r"E.* ", string)
>>> result
```

['Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 ']

```
>>> result
>>> result = re.findall(r"E\w*", string)
['Euro', 'Europe', 'E']
```

METACHARACTERS - THE PLUS SIGN (+)

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

Example:

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d\d\d+", string)
>>> result
['600', '1998', '600']
>>> result = re.findall(r"E.+ ", string)
>>> result
```

['Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 ']

```
>>> result = re.findall(r"E\w+", string)
>>> result
['Euro', 'Europe']
```

METACHARACTERS - THE QUESTION MARK (?)

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d\d\d?", string)
>>> result
['600', '11', '48', '199', '600', '19']
>>> result = re.findall(r"E.? ", string)
>>> result
['E, ']
>>> result = re.findall(r"E\w?", string)
>>> result
['Eu', 'Eu', 'E']
```

METACHARACTERS - GREEDY VS. NON-GREEDY (*?, +?, ??)

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d\d\d*", string)
>>> result
['600', '11', '48', '1998', '600', '19']
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d\d\d*?", string)
>>> result
['60', '11', '48', '19', '98', '60', '19']
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d\d\d+", string)
>>> result
['600', '1998', '600']
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d\d\d+?", string)
>>> result
['600', '1999', '600']
```

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```
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d\d\d?", string)
>>> result
['600', '11', '48', '199', '600', '19']
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d\d\d??", string)
>>> result
['60', '11', '48', '19', '98', '60', '19']
```

METACHARACTERS - THE BACKSLASH (\)

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d", string)
>>> result
['6', '0', '0', '1', '1', '4', '8', '1', '9',
'9', '8', '2', '7', '6', '0', '0', '1', '9']
>>> result = re.findall(r"\.", string)
>>> result
['.', '.', '.', '.']
```

METACHARACTERS - THE SQUARE BRACKETS ([])

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> result = re.findall(r"[0-5]", string)
>>> result
['0', '0', '1', '1', '4', '1', '2', '0', '0', '1']
>>> result = re.findall(r"[a-f][c-w]", string)
>>> result
['de', 'ch', 'ac', 'al', 'ck', 'ar', 'et', 'ac',
'cl', 'di', 'fe', 'ce', 'au', 'ch', 'ed', 'an',
'el', 'ed', 'co', 'av', 'as', 'ed', 'ff', 'al',
'ar', 'es', 'ce', 'al', 'ak', 'br', 'ar']
>>> result = re.findall(r''[0-5][7-9]'', string)
>>> result
['48', '19', '19']
>>> result = re.findall(r''[0-9][a-z]'', string)
>>> result
['7t']
>>> result = re.findall(r"[^X]", string)
>>> result
['T', 'h', 'e', ''', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', ''', 'S',
'T', 'O', ' ', '6', 'O', 'O', ' ', 'i', 'n', 'd',
'e', 'x', ',', ' ', 'w', 'h', 'i', 'c', 'h', '
't', 'r', 'a', 'c', 'k', 's', ' ', 'a', 'l', 'l',
'', 's', 't', 'o', 'c', 'k', '', 'm', 'a', 'r'
'k', 'e', 't', 's', ' ', 'a', 'c', 'r', 'o', 's'
's', ' ', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', 'p', 'e', ' ', 'i',
'n', 'c', 'l', 'u', 'd', 'i', 'n', 'g', ' ', 't'
'h', 'e', '', 'F', 'T', 'S', 'E', ',', '', 'f'
'e', 'l', 'l', ' ', 'b', 'y', ' ', 'l', 'l', '.'
'4', '8', '%', ' ', '-', ' ', 't', 'h', 'e', ' ',
'w', 'o', 'r', 's', 't', ' ', 'd', 'a', 'y', ' '
's', 'i', 'n', 'c', 'e', ' ', 'i', 't', ' ', 'l',
```

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```
'u', 'n', 'c',
                     'h', 'e',
                                T T,
'', '1', '9',
               191, 181,
                                      'T', 'h',
                          " C " ,
                                T T,
                     'i',
                                           'e',
4 4
     'p', 'a', 'n',
                                      's',
                                                ' ] '
'l', 'i', 'n', 'g', ' ', 'p',
                                      'o', 'm',
                                'r',
                                                 ' p '
't', 'e', 'd', ' ', 'b', 'y', ' ',
                                     't', 'h', 'e'
               rr,
                     , o
                                'a',
' ', 'C', 'O',
                          'n',
                                     'v', 'i', 'r'
'u', 's', ' ', 'h', 'a', 's', ' ', 'w', 'i', 'p'
'e', 'd', '', '£', '2', '.', '7',
                                     't', 'n', ' '
'o', 'f', 'f', '',
                     't', 'h', 'e', '', 'v', 'a'
               T T ,
'l', 'u', 'e',
                                T T
                     'o', 'f',
                                     'S', 'T'
                                                ' O '
'', '6', '0', '0', ''', 's', 'h', 'a', 'r', 'e'
's', ' ', 's', 'i', 'n', 'c', 'e', ' ', 'i', 't',
               'l', 'l', '-', 't', 'i', 'm', 'e',
's', '', 'a',
'', 'p', 'e', 'a', 'k', '', 'o', 'n', '',
                                                '1'
'9', '', 'F', 'e', 'b', 'r', 'u', 'a', 'r', 'y',
' . ' ]
>>> result = re.findall(r"[(.+?)]", string)
>>> result
['.', '.', '.', '.']
>>> result = re.findall(r''[^[0-5]]'', string)
>>> result
['T', 'h', 'e', '', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', ''', 'S',
'T', 'O', 'X', 'X', ' ', '6', ' ', 'i', 'n',
'e', 'x', ',', 'w', 'h', 'i', 'c', 'h', '
   , 'r', 'a', 'c', 'k', 's', ' ', 'a', 'l', 'l'
'', 's', 't', 'o', 'c', 'k', '', 'm', 'a', 'r'
'k', 'e', 't', 's', ' ', 'a', 'c',
                                     'r', 'o',
's', ' ', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', 'p', 'e', ' ', 'i'
                     "d",
                          'i',
                                'n',
'n', 'c', 'l', 'u',
                                     'g', '',
                                                ' t '
'h', 'e', '', 'F', 'T', 'S', 'E', ',', '', 'f'
'e', 'l', 'l', 'b', 'y', '', '.', '8', '%',
\begin{smallmatrix} \mathsf{T} & \mathsf{T} & \mathsf{T} & \mathsf{T} & \mathsf{T} & \mathsf{T} & \mathsf{T} \end{smallmatrix}
                't', 'h', 'e', '', 'w', 'o', 'r'
's', 't', ' ', 'd', 'a', 'y', ' ', 's', 'i', 'n',
```

PYTHON REGULAR EXPRESSIONS – NOTEBOOK Copyright @ Mihai Catalin Teodosiu

```
'a', 'u', 'n',
               'd', '', 'i',
                                    1 1, 191,
                               'n'
181, 1.1, 1.1,
                         ^{\intercal} \in ^{\intercal} ,
               'T'
                    'h',
                                    'p', 'a',
                                               'n',
                               'l', 'i', 'n',
'i', 'c', ' ', 's', 'e', 'l',
                                               ' g '
' ', 'p', 'r', 'o', 'm', 'p', 't', 'e', 'd', ' '
               't',
                    'h',
                         'e', '',
'b', 'y', '',
                                    'c', 'o', 'r'
'o', 'n', 'a',
              'v', 'i', 'r', 'u', 's', ' ', 'h'
               'w', 'i', 'p', 'e',
'a', 's', ''',
'.', '7', 't',
               'n', '', 'o', 'f', 'f', '',
'h', 'e', '',
               'v', 'a', 'l',
                               'u', 'e', '',
                                               101,
'f', '', 'S', 'T', 'O', 'X', 'X', '', '6', ''
's', 'h', 'a', 'r', 'e', 's', ' ', 's', 'i', 'n',
               'i', 't', 's', ' ', 'a', 'l', 'l'
'c', 'e', ''',
   , 't', 'i', 'm', 'e', ' ', 'p', 'e', 'a', 'k'
'', 'o', 'n', '', '9', '', 'F', 'e', 'b', 'r',
'u', 'a', 'r', 'y', '.']
```

METACHARACTERS - CHARACTER CLASSES

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"[0-9]", string)
>>> result
['6', '0', '0', '1', '1', '4', '8', '1', '9', '9', '8', '2', '7', '6', '0', '0', '1', '9']

>>> result = re.findall(r"[a-zA-Z]", string)
>>> result
['T', 'h', 'e', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', 'S', 'T', '0', 'X', 'X', 'i', 'n', 'd', 'e', 'x', 'w', 'h', 'i', 'c', 'h', 't', 'r', 'a', 'c', 'k', 's', 'a', 'l', 'l', 's', 't', 'o', 'c', 'k', 'm', 'a', 'r', 'k', 'e', 't', 's', 'a', 'c', 'r', 'o', 's', 's', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', 'p', 'e', 'i', 'n', 'c', 'l', 'u', 'd', 'i', 'n', 'g', 't', 'h', 'e', 'F', 'T', 'S', 'd', 'i', 'n', 'g', 't', 'h', 'e', 'F', 'T', 'S',
```

```
'f', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'b', 'y',
                                    't', 'h', 'e',
'w', 'o', 'r',
               's', 't',
                          'd', 'a', 'y', 's', 'i'
               'i',
    'c', 'e',
                    't',
                          'l',
                               'a',
                                     'u', 'n',
'n',
                                                ^{\prime} C ^{\prime}
'h', 'e', 'd', 'i', 'n', 'T', 'h', 'e', 'p', 'a'
'n', 'i', 'c', 's', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'i', 'n', 'g',
                    'p',
                          't',
                               "e",
               "m",
'p', 'r', 'o',
                                     'd', 'b', 'y'
1 + 1
   , 'h', 'e', 'c', 'o', 'r', 'o', 'n', 'a', 'v'
'i', 'r', 'u', 's', 'h', 'a', 's',
                                     'w', 'i', 'p',
'e', 'd', 't', 'n', 'o', 'f', 'f'
                                     't', 'h', 'e'
'v', 'a', 'l',
               'u', 'e', 'o',
                               'f',
                                     'S', 'T'
                                              , ' 0 '
'X', 'X', 's', 'h', 'a', 'r', 'e', 's', 's', 'i'
'n', 'c', 'e', 'i', 't', 's', 'a', 'l', 'l', 't',
7 j 7
   , 'm', 'e', 'p', 'e', 'a', 'k', 'o', 'n', 'F',
'e', 'b', 'r', 'u', 'a', 'r', 'y']
>>> result = re.findall(r"[^0-9]", string)
>>> result
['T', 'h', 'e', '', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', '', 'S',
'T', 'O', 'X', 'X', ' ', ' ', 'i', 'n', 'd', 'e',
               " W ",
                               " C " ,
                    'h', 'i'
   , , , , , , ,
                                     'h', '',
^{\prime} \times ^{\prime}
                   , 'S', '',
   , 'a', 'c'
              , 'k'
                                   , 'l', 'l', '
rr
                               'a'
                    'k', '',
's', 't', 'o', 'c',
                                     'a', 'r',
                               'm',
                    'a', 'c',
'e', 't', 's', '',
                                     'o', 's', 's'
                               rr
                    , o
                               "e",
'', 'E', 'u',
               r,
                          'p',
                                     ''', 'i',
                                               'n'
'c', 'l', 'u', 'd', 'i', 'n', 'g', ' ', 't',
                                                'h"
                                          'f',
'e', '', 'F',
               'T', 'S', 'E',
                                                'e'
                          T T,
   , '1'
          1 1,
                                          1 1
               'b',
                    'y',
                               1.1,101,
V 7 V
'', 't', 'h', 'e', ''', 'w',
                               'o', 'r', 's',
                                               ' t '
                          's',
                               'i',
               " y " ,
     'd', 'a',
                                     'n', 'c',
                                               "e",
'', 'i', 't', ''',
                     'l', 'a',
                               'u', 'n', 'c', 'h'
                          T T
                                     T T
'e', 'd', ''',
               'i',
                    'n',
                                          ' T '
                                                'h'
'e', '', 'p', 'a', 'n', 'i', 'c', '', 's',
                                                ^{\intercal} e ^{\intercal}
'l', 'l', 'i', 'n', 'g', ' ', 'p',
                                    'r', 'o', 'm',
               "d",
'p', 't', 'e',
                                              , 'h'
                    '', 'b', 'y', '', 't'
'e', '', 'c', 'o', 'r', 'o', 'n', 'a', 'v', 'i',
```

```
'r', 'u', 's', ' ', 'h', 'a', 's', ' ', 'w', 'i',
'p', 'e', 'd', ' ', '£', '.', 't', 'n', ' ', 'o',
   , 'f', ' ', 't', 'h', 'e', ' ',
                               'v', 'a', 'l'
1 f 1
'u', 'e', ' ', 'o', 'f', ' ', 'S', 'T', 'O', 'X'
'X', '', 's', 'h', 'a', 'r', 'e', 's', ''
                  "e",
                      ''', 'i',
's', 'i', 'n', 'c',
                               't', 's', ''',
'a', 'l', 'l', '-', 't', 'i', 'm', 'e', ' ', 'p'
'e', 'a', 'k', ' ', 'o', 'n', ' ', ' ', 'F', 'e',
'b', 'r', 'u', 'a', 'r', 'y', '.']
>>> result = re.findall(r"[ \n\t\r\f\v]",
string)
>>> result
 ' ]
>>> result = re.findall(r"[^ \n\t\r\f\v]",
string)
>>> result
['T', 'h', 'e', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', 'S', 'T', 'O',
'X', 'X', '6', '0', '0', 'i', 'n', 'd', 'e', 'x'
',', 'w', 'h', 'i', 'c', 'h', 't', 'r', 'a', 'c',
'k', 's', 'a', 'l', 'l', 's', 't', 'o', 'c', 'k'
'm', 'a', 'r', 'k', 'e', 't', 's', 'a', 'c', 'r'
'o', 's', 's', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', 'p', 'e', 'i',
'n', 'c', 'l', 'u', 'd', 'i', 'n', 'g', 't', 'h',
'e', 'F', 'T', 'S', 'E', ',', 'f',
                               'e', 'l', 'l'
'b', 'y', '1', '1', '.', '4', '8', '%', '-', 't'
'h', 'e', 'w', 'o', 'r', 's', 't', 'd', 'a', 'y',
's', 'i', 'n', 'c', 'e', 'i', 't', 'l', 'a', 'u'
'n', 'c', 'h', 'e', 'd', 'i', 'n', '1', '9', '9',
```

```
'8', '.', 'T', 'h', 'e', 'p', 'a', 'n', 'i', 'c',
's', 'e', 'l',
               'l', 'i', 'n', 'g',
                                    'p', 'r', 'o',
                         'b',
                              " y " ,
'm', 'p', 't',
                    "d",
                                   't', 'h',
               'e',
                                              'e'
'c', 'o', 'r', 'o', 'n', 'a', 'v', 'i', 'r', 'u'
's', 'h', 'a',
              's', 'w', 'i', 'p', 'e', 'd', '£',
         77,
               't',
   , , ,
                    'n', 'o',
                              'f'
                                   'f', 't',
                                              'h'
121
'e', 'v', 'a', 'l', 'u', 'e', 'o', 'f', 'S', 'T'
                                   'h', 'a', 'r'
'O', 'X', 'X', '6', '0', '0', 's',
'e', 's', 's', 'i', 'n', 'c', 'e', 'i', 't', 's'
'a', 'l', 'l', '-', 't', 'i', 'm',
                                   'e', 'p', 'e'
'a', 'k', 'o', 'n', '1', '9', 'F', 'e', 'b', 'r'
'u', 'a', 'r', 'y', '.']
>>> result = re.findall(r"[a-zA-Z0-9]", string)
>>> result
                                        'T',
['T', 'h', 'e', 'E', 'u', 'r', 'o', 'S',
                                              " O " ,
                              'n',
'X', 'X', '6', '0', '0', 'i',
                                    'd', 'e',
                                              "X",
'w', 'h', 'i', 'c', 'h', 't', 'r', 'a', 'c',
                                              ' k '
's', 'a', 'l', 'l', 's', 't', 'o', 'c', 'k', 'm',
'a', 'r', 'k',
               'e',
                              'a',
                                            , '0'
                    't', 's',
                                   'c', 'r'
's', 's', 'E', 'u'
                   , 'r', 'o', 'p', 'e', 'i', 'n'
'c', 'l', 'u', 'd', 'i', 'n', 'g',
                                   't', 'h', 'e',
              "E",
'F', 'T', 'S',
                    'f', 'e', 'l',
                                   'l', 'b', 'y'
               '8', 't', 'h',
                                   'W', 'O',
11
   , '1', '4',
                              'e',
                                              ľrľ
's', 't', 'd', 'a', 'y', 's', 'i'
                                    'n', 'c', 'e'
                              " C " ,
'i', 't', 'l',
               'a', 'u', 'n',
                                    'h', 'e', 'd',
               191,
   , 'n', '1',
                    191, 181,
                              ' T '
                                    'h', 'e', 'p'
7 - 7
                                   'l', 'i', 'n'
'a', 'n', 'i', 'c'
                   , 's', 'e',
                              ' ] '
'g', 'p', 'r', 'o', 'm', 'p', 't',
                                   'e', 'd', 'b',
'y', 't', 'h', 'e', 'c', 'o', 'r', 'o', 'n', 'a'
              'u',
                         'h',
                              'a',
'v', 'i', 'r',
                                   's', 'w',
                    's',
                                              'i'
'p', 'e', 'd', '2', '7', 't', 'n'
                                  , 'o', 'f', 'f'
't', 'h', 'e', 'v', 'a', 'l', 'u', 'e', 'o', 'f',
   , 'T', 'O',
               'X', 'X', '6', '0'
                                  , '0', 's', 'h'
1 S 1
'a', 'r', 'e', 's', 's', 'i', 'n', 'c', 'e', 'i'
```

METACHARACTERS - THE CURLY BRACES ({})

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\b\w{4}\b", string)
>>> result
['Euro', 'FTSE', 'fell', '1998', 'time', 'peak']
>>> result = re.findall(r"\b\w{3,5}\b", string)
>>> result
['The', 'Euro', 'STOXX', '600', 'index', 'which', 'all', 'stock', 'the', 'FTSE', 'fell', 'the', 'worst', 'day', 'since', '1998', 'The', 'panic', 'the', 'has', 'wiped', '7tn', 'off', 'the', 'value', 'STOXX', '600', 'since', 'its', 'all', 'time', 'peak']
```

```
>>> result = re.findall(r"\b\w{3,}\b", string)
>>> result
['The', 'Euro', 'STOXX', '600', 'index', 'which',
'tracks', 'all', 'stock', 'markets', 'across',
'Europe', 'including', 'the', 'FTSE', 'fell'
'the', 'worst', 'day', 'since', 'launched'
'1998', 'The', 'panic', 'selling', 'prompted',
'the', 'coronavirus', 'has', 'wiped', '7tn',
'off', 'the', 'value', 'STOXX', '600', 'shares',
'since', 'its', 'all', 'time', 'peak',
'February']
>>> number = "12391827172820919011001911"
>>> result = re.search(r'' \d{3,6}'', number)
>>> result
\langle re.Match object; span=(0, 6), match='123918' \rangle
>>> result = re.search(r'' \d{3,6}?'', number)
>>> result
<re.Match object; span=(0, 3), match='123'>
```

METACHARACTERS - THE PIPE (|)

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.search(r"\d{3}|\d{4}|\b[A-Z]{4}\b", string)
>>> result
<re.Match object; span=(15, 18), match='600'>
>>> result = re.search(r"\d{8}|\d{4}|\b[A-Z]{4}\b", string)
>>> result
<re.Match object; span=(85, 89), match='FTSE'>
```

SPECIAL SEQUENCES - \A AND \Z

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998.\nThe panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\A([A-Z].*?)\s",
string, re.M)
>>> result
['The']
>>> result = re.findall(r"^([A-Z].*?)\s",
string, re.M)
>>> result
['The', 'The']
>>> result = re.findall(r"\W\Z", string, re.M)
>>> result
['.']
>>> result = re.findall(r"\W$", string, re.M)
>>> result
['.']
>>> result = re.findall(r"\W$", string, re.M)
>>> result
['.', '.']
```

SPECIAL SEQUENCES - \B AND \B

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\b\w{10,}\b", string)
>>> result
['coronavirus']

>>> result = re.findall(r"\bEuro\b", string)
>>> result
['Euro']

>>> result = re.findall(r"\Bcross", string)
>>> result
['cross']

>>> result = re.findall(r"cross\B", string)
>>> result
['cross']
```

```
>>> result = re.findall(r"\Bcross\B", string)
>>> result
[]
```

SPECIAL SEQUENCES - \D AND \D

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"(\d)[a-z]", string)
>>> result
['7']

>>> result = re.findall(r"\W\D\W", string)
>>> result
['% -']

>>> result = re.findall(r"\W(\D)\W", string)
>>> result
[' ']
```

SPECIAL SEQUENCES - \S AND \S

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998.\nThe panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

SPECIAL SEQUENCES - \W AND \W

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

EXTENSION NOTATIONS AND NON-CAPTURING GROUPS

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.search(r".+(\b.+ex\b).+(\b[A-
Z]{4}\b).+(\d\d\s.+)\.", string)
>>> result.groups()
('index', 'FTSE', '19 February')
>>> result.group(1)
'index'
>>> result.group(2)
'FTSE'
>>> result.group(3)
'19 February'
>>> result = re.search(r".+(?:\b.+ex\b).+(\b[A-
Z]{4}\b).+(\d\d\s.+)\.", string)
>>> result.groups()
```

```
('FTSE', '19 February')
>>> result.group(1)
'FTSE'
>>> result.group(2)
'19 February'
>>> result.group(3)
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<pyshell#92>", line 1, in <module>
        result.group(3)
IndexError: no such group
```

NAMED GROUPS AND GROUPDICT()

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result =
re.search(r".+(?P<wordex>\b.+ex\b).+(?P<uppercas
e>\b[A-Z]{4}\b).+(?P<date>\d\d\s.+)\.", string)
>>> result.groups()
('index', 'FTSE', '19 February')
>>> result.group("wordex")
'index'
>>> result.group("uppercase")
'FTSE'
>>> result.group("date")
'19 February'
>>> result.group(1)
'index'
```

```
>>> result.group(2)
'FTSE'
>>> result.group(3)
'19 February'
>>> result.groupdict()
{'wordex': 'index', 'uppercase': 'FTSE', 'date':
'19 February'}
```

POSITIVE LOOKAHEAD ASSERTIONS

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"[A-Z]{5}\s(?=[0-
9]{3})", string)
>>> result
['STOXX ', 'STOXX ']
>>> result = re.findall(r"([A-Z]{5})\s(?=[0-
9]{3})", string)
>>> result
['STOXX', 'STOXX']

>>> result
['STOXX', 'STOXX']

>>> result = re.findall(r"Euro(?=[a-z]+)",
string)
>>> result
['Euro']
```

NEGATIVE LOOKAHEAD ASSERTIONS

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"\d(?![5-9]|\D)",
string)
>>> result
['6', '0', '1', '6', '0']

>>> result = re.findall(r"\b\w+\b(?!\s)",
string)
>>> result
['index', 'FTSE', '11', '48', '1998', '2',
'all', 'February']
```

POSITIVE LOOKBEHIND ASSERTIONS

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"(?<=\s)\d{1,}",
string)
>>> result
['600', '11', '1998', '600', '19']
>>> result = re.findall(r"(?<=,\s)\b\w+\b",
string)
>>> result
['which', 'fell']
```

NEGATIVE LOOKBEHIND ASSERTIONS

Initial target string:

string = "The Euro STOXX 600 index, which tracks all stock markets across Europe including the FTSE, fell by 11.48% - the worst day since it launched in 1998. The panic selling prompted by the coronavirus has wiped £2.7tn off the value of STOXX 600 shares since its all-time peak on 19 February."

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/

Example:

```
>>> import re
>>> result = re.findall(r"(?<!\s)\d{1,}",
string)
>>> result
['00', '1', '48', '998', '2', '7', '00', '9']
>>> result = re.findall(r"(?<!x)x(?!x)", string,
re.I)
>>> result
['x']
```

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