

RegEx algebra

Igor Engel

1. Algebra exploration

1.1. Primitive regex

\perp - unmatchable

ε - empty string

σ_x - symbol x

$\sigma.$ - wildcard

\top - universal match

1.2. Basic combinators

1.2.1. Concatenation

$a \diamond b$ - concatenation

$$a \diamond (b \diamond c) = (a \diamond b) \diamond c$$

$$\perp \diamond b = a \diamond \perp = \perp$$

$$\top \diamond \top = \top$$

$$\varepsilon \diamond b = b$$

$$a \diamond \varepsilon = a$$

1.2.2. Alternation

$a \mid b$ - alternation

$$a \mid (b \mid c) = (a \mid b) \mid c$$

$$a \mid b = b \mid a$$

$$a \mid a = a$$

$$\{a_1, \dots, a_n\} = \{b_1, \dots, b_m\} \implies a_1 \mid \dots \mid a_n = b_1 \mid \dots \mid b_m$$

$$a \diamond (b \mid c) = (a \diamond b) \mid (a \diamond c)$$

$$(a \mid b) \diamond c = (a \diamond c) \mid (b \diamond c)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\perp \mid b &= b \\
a \mid \perp &= a \\
\top \mid b &= a \mid \top = \top \\
\top \diamond (\varepsilon \mid c) &= (\varepsilon \mid b) \diamond \top = \top
\end{aligned}$$

1.2.3. Kleene star

a^* - Kleene star

$$\begin{aligned}
\varepsilon \mid a^* &= a^* \mid \varepsilon = a^* \\
a^* &= \varepsilon \mid (a \diamond a^*) \\
a^* \diamond a^* &= a^* \\
a \mid a^* &= a^* \\
(a^*)^* &= a^* \\
\perp^* &= \varepsilon \\
\varepsilon^* &= \varepsilon \\
\sigma^* &= \top \\
\top^* &= \top
\end{aligned}$$

1.3. Advanced combinators

1.3.1. n -to- m

$a_{n,k}$ - from n to $n+k$ copies of a , $n \in \mathbb{N}, k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$

$$\begin{aligned}
a_{n,} &= a_{n,\infty} = a_{n,0} \diamond a^* \\
a_{,k} &= a_{0,k} \\
a_{1,0} &= a \\
a_{0,0} &= \varepsilon \\
\varepsilon_{n,k} &= \varepsilon \\
\perp_{0,k} &= \varepsilon \\
n > 0 &\implies \perp_{n,k} = \perp \\
n+k > 0 &\implies \top_{n,k} = \top \\
(a_{0,k})_{n',k'} &= a_{0,k(n'+k')} \\
(a_{1,k})_{n',k'} &= a_{n',(1+k)(n'+k')} \\
(a_{0,k})^* &= (a^*)_{0,k} = (a_{1,k})^* = (a^*)_{1,k} = a_{0,} = a^*
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(\sigma.)_0 &= \top \\
(\sigma_*)_{n,} &= (\sigma_*)_{n,0} \diamond \top \\
a^+ &= a_1, = a \diamond a^* \\
a^? &= a_{0,1} = \varepsilon \mid a \\
\left(a^?\right)_{n,k} &= a_{0,n+k} \\
(a^*)^+ &= (a^+)^* = (a^*)^? = \left(a^?\right)^* = a^* \\
(a^+)^? &= \left(a^?\right)^+ = a^* \\
a_{0,k+1} &= \varepsilon \mid a_{1,k} \\
a_{n,k} \diamond a_{n',k'} &= a_{n+n',k+k'} \\
a_{n,k+1} &= a_{n,k} \diamond \left(a^?\right) \\
a_{n+1,k} &= a \diamond a_{n,k} = a_{n,k} \diamond a
\end{aligned}$$

1.3.2. Character group

$$\begin{aligned}
[x_1, \dots, x_n] &\text{ - any of } x_1, \dots, x_n \\
[] &= \varepsilon \\
[x_1, \dots, x_n] &= \sigma_{x_1} \mid \dots \mid \sigma_{x_n} \\
[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid \sigma_y &= \sigma_y \mid [x_1, \dots, x_n] = [y, x_1, \dots, x_n] \\
[y, y, x_1, \dots, x_n] &= [y, x_1, \dots, x_n] \\
s \in S_n &\implies [x_1, \dots, x_n] = [x_{s_1}, \dots, x_{s_n}] \\
\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} = \{y_1, \dots, y_m\} &\iff [x_1, \dots, x_n] = [y_1, \dots, y_m]
\end{aligned}$$

1.3.3. String

$$\begin{aligned}
\overline{\sigma_s} &\text{ - string } s \\
\overline{\sigma_\varepsilon} &= \varepsilon \\
\sigma_x &= \overline{\sigma_x} \\
\overline{\sigma_s} &= \sigma_{s_1} \diamond \dots \diamond \sigma_{s_n} \\
\overline{\sigma_s} \diamond \sigma_x &= \sigma_{sx} \\
\sigma_x \diamond \overline{\sigma_s} &= \sigma_{xs} \\
\overline{\sigma_{sn,0}} &= \overline{\sigma_{s^n}} \\
\overline{\sigma_{sn,k}} &= \overline{\sigma_{s^n}} \diamond \overline{\sigma_{s0,k}}
\end{aligned}$$