# balanced-match

Match balanced string pairs, like { and } or <b> and </b>. Supports regular expressions as well!

[build status](http://travis-ci.org/juliangruber/balanced-match) [downloads](https://www.npmjs.org/package/balanced-match)

[](https://ci.testling.com/juliangruber/balanced-match)

## Example

Get the first matching pair of braces:

var balanced = require('balanced-match');

console.log(balanced('{', '}', 'pre{in{nested}}post'));

console.log(balanced('{', '}', 'pre{first}between{second}post'));

console.log(balanced(/\s+\{\s+/, /\s+\}\s+/, 'pre { in{nest} } post'));

The matches are:

$ node example.js

{ start: 3, end: 14, pre: 'pre', body: 'in{nested}', post: 'post' }

{ start: 3,

end: 9,

pre: 'pre',

body: 'first',

post: 'between{second}post' }

{ start: 3, end: 17, pre: 'pre', body: 'in{nest}', post: 'post' }

## API

### var m = balanced(a, b, str)

For the first non-nested matching pair of a and b in str, return an object with those keys:

* **start** the index of the first match of a
* **end** the index of the matching b
* **pre** the preamble, a and b not included
* **body** the match, a and b not included
* **post** the postscript, a and b not included

If there's no match, undefined will be returned.

If the str contains more a than b / there are unmatched pairs, the first match that was closed will be used. For example, {{a} will match ['{', 'a', ''] and {a}} will match ['', 'a', '}'].

### var r = balanced.range(a, b, str)

For the first non-nested matching pair of a and b in str, return an array with indexes: [ <a index>, <b index> ].

If there's no match, undefined will be returned.

If the str contains more a than b / there are unmatched pairs, the first match that was closed will be used. For example, {{a} will match [ 1, 3 ] and {a}} will match [0, 2].

## Installation

With [npm](https://npmjs.org) do:

npm install balanced-match

## Security contact information

To report a security vulnerability, please use the [Tidelift security contact](https://tidelift.com/security). Tidelift will coordinate the fix and disclosure.

## License

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