

1 Pattern Appendix

1.1 Pattern Variables

variable

signifies a static variable

‘variable’

signifies an unevaluated variable in a pattern

1.2 Pattern Operators

pattern1 && pattern2

pattern concatenation

pattern concatenation operator produces a new pattern containing the left operand followed the right operand.

pattern1 .| pattern2

pattern alteration

pattern alteration operator produces a pattern containing either the left operand or the right operand.

substring -> variable

conditional assignment

assigns the substring on the left to the variable on the right if the pattern match is successful.

result \$\$ variable

immediate assignment

assigns the immediate result on the left to a variable on the right within a pattern.

.\$ variable

cursor position assignment

assigns the cursor position of the string to a variable on the right within a pattern.

string ?? variable

comparison operator

compares the string on the left to see if there are any matches of the pattern on the right.

1.3 Pattern Built-In Functions

PAny(s)

match any

matches any of the subject characters in s.

PArb()

arbitrary pattern

matches any arbitrary pattern of any length.

PARbno(p)	repetitive arbitrary pattern
matches repetitive sequences of p in the subject string.	
PBal()	balanced parentheses
matches the shortest non-null string which parentheses are balanced.	
PBreak(s)	pattern break
matches any characters up to but not including any of the subject characters in s.	
PBreakx(s)	extended pattern break
matches any characters up to any of the subject characters in s, and will look beyond the break position for a possible larger match.	
PCancel()	pattern cancel
causes an immediate failure of the entire pattern match.	
PFail()	pattern failure
signals the failure of the current portion of the pattern match.	
PFence()	pattern fence
signals a failure in the current portion of the pattern match if it is trying to backing up to try other alternatives.	
PLen(I)	match fixed-length string
matches a string of a length of I characters.	
PNotAny(s)	match not any
matches any of the subject characters that are not in s.	
PPos(I)	cursor position
sets the cursor position of a string in a pattern measured from the left to the right. the first position precedes the first character in the string and has a value of 1.	
PRest()	rest of pattern
matches the remainder of the subject string.	
PRpos(I)	reverse cursor position
sets the cursor position of a string in a pattern measured from the right to the left. the first position follows the last character in the string and has a value of 0.	
PRtab(I)	pattern reverse tab
matches any characters from the current position up to the specified position to	

the right.

PSpan(s)	pattern span
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matches one or more subject characters for the set in s. It must match at least one character.

PSucceed()	pattern succeed
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(may be a frivolous function)
signals a success of the current portion of the pattern match.

PTab(I)	pattern tab
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matches any characters from the current position up to the specified position to the right.