

REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

BASIC IDEA

- regular expression: defines a set of one or more strings of characters
- simple string of characters -> represents itself
- special/metacharacters -> characters that do not represent themselves
- add in special characters -> match a pattern which can represent many strings

SPECIAL CHARACTERS

- We'll focus on ERE (extended regular expression syntax)
- delimiter:
 - marks beginning/end of expression,
 - often /
 - some utilities let you use other delimiters

Char	Use	Example
\	escape special character	a\+b matches "a+b"
.	wildcard - match any character	.ord mathces "word", "cord"
[]	character class	[bB] ob matches "bob", "Bob"
^	beginning of line	^B matches "B" at start of line
\$	end of line	!\$ matches "!" ending line

Char	Use	Example
*	match 0 or more occurrences	<code>bo*</code> matches "b", "booooo"
?	match 0 or 1 occurrences	<code>bo?</code> matches "b", "bo"
+	match 1 or more occurrences	<code>bo+</code> matches "bo", "boooo"
{ n }	match exactly n occurrences	<code>bo{ 2 }</code> matches "boo"
{ n , m }	match between n and m occurrences	<code>bo{ 1 , 2 }</code> matches "bo", "boo"

Char	Use	Example
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()	group characters	(da) * matches "da", "dada"
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	match previous or next	hi bye match "hi", "bye"
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