Need to Know

Pattern arguments in stringr are interpreted as regular expressions *after any special characters have been parsed.*

In R, you write regular expressions as *strings*, sequences of characters surrounded by quotes (**""**) or single quotes(**''**).

Some characters cannot be represented directly in an R string . These must be represented as **special characters**, sequences of characters that have a specific meaning., e.g.

Special Character	Represents
\\	\
\"	"
\n	new line

Run **?"'"** to see a complete list

Because of this, whenever a \ appears in a regular expression, you must write it as \\ in the string that represents the regular expression.

Use **writeLines**() to see how R views your string after all special characters have been parsed.

```
writeLines("\\.")
# \.

writeLines("\\ is a backslash")
# \ is a backslash
```

INTERPRETATION

Patterns in stringr are interpreted as regexs To change this default, wrap the pattern in one of:

regex(pattern, ignore_case = FALSE, multiline = FALSE, comments = FALSE, dotall = FALSE, ...) Modifies a regex to ignore cases, match end of lines as well of end of strings, allow R comments within regex's , and/or to have . match everything including \n.
str_detect("I", regex("i", TRUE))

fixed() Matches raw bytes but will miss some characters that can be represented in multiple ways (fast). *str_detect("\u0130", fixed("i"))*

coll() Matches raw bytes and will use locale specific collation rules to recognize characters that can be represented in multiple ways (slow). *str_detect("\u0130", coll("i", TRUE, locale = "tr"))*

boundary() Matches boundaries between characters, line_breaks, sentences, or words. *str_split(sentences, boundary("word"))*

Regular Expressions -

Regular expressions, or *regexps*, are a concise language for describing patterns in strings.

MATCH CHARACTERS

see <- function(rx) str_view_all("abc ABC 123\t.!?\\(){}\n", rx)

string (type this)	regexp (to mean this)	matches (which matches this)	example	
	a (etc.)	a (etc.)	see("a")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\.	\.	.	see("\\.")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\!	\!	!	see("\\!")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\?	\?	?	see("\\?")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\\\	\\	\	see("\\\\")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\(	\(	(	see("\\(")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\)	\)	)	see("\\)")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\{	\{	{	see("\\{")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\}	\}	}	see("\\}")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\n	\n	new line (return)	see("\\n")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\t	\t	tab	see("\\t")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\s	\s	any whitespace (*\S for non-whitespaces*)	see("\\s")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\d	\d	any digit (*\D for non-digits*)	see("\\d")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\w	\w	any word character (*\W for non-word chars*)	see("\\w")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
\\b	\b	word boundaries	see("\\b")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:digit:] [1]	digits	see("[:digit:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:alpha:] [1]	letters	see("[:alpha:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:lower:] [1]	lowercase letters	see("[:lower:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:upper:] [1]	uppercase letters	see("[:upper:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:alnum:] [1]	letters and numbers	see("[:alnum:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:punct:] [1]	punctuation	see("[:punct:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:graph:] [1]	letters, numbers, and punctuation	see("[:graph:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:space:] [1]	space characters (i.e. \s)	see("[:space:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	[:blank:] [1]	space and tab (but not new line)	see("[:blank:]")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}
	.	every character except a new line	see(".")	abc ABC 123 .!?\(){}

[1] Many base R functions require classes to be wrapped in a second set of **[ ]**, e.g. **[[:digit:]]**

[:space:]
↵ new line

[:blank:]
space
tab

.

[:graph:]

[:punct:]
. , : ; ? ! \ | / ` = * + - ^
_ ~ " ' [ ] { } ( ) < > @ # $

[:alnum:]

[:digit:]
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

[:alpha:]

[:lower:]
a b c d e f
g h i j k l
m n o p q r
s t u v w x
z

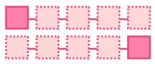
[:upper:]
A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q R
S T U V W X
Z

ALTERNATES

alt <- function(rx) str_view_all("abcde", rx)

regexp	matches	example	
ab|d	or	alt("ab|d")	abcde
[abe]	one of	alt("[abe]")	abcde
[^abe]	anything but	alt("[^abe]")	abcde
[a-c]	range	alt("[a-c]")	abcde

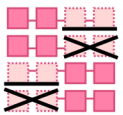
ANCHORS



anchor <- function(rx) str_view_all("aaa", rx)

regexp	matches	example	
^a	start of string	anchor("^a")	aaa
a$	end of string	anchor("a$")	aaa

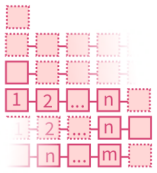
LOOK AROUNDS



look <- function(rx) str_view_all("bacad", rx)

regexp	matches	example	
a(?=c)	followed by	look("a(?=c)")	bacad
a(?!c)	not followed by	look("a(?!c)")	bacad
(?<=b)a	preceded by	look("(?<=b)a")	bacad
(?<!b)a	not preceded by	look("(?<!b)a")	bacad

QUANTIFIERS



quant <- function(rx) str_view_all(".a.aa.aaa", rx)

regexp	matches	example	
a?	zero or one	quant("a?")	.a.aa.aaa
a*	zero or more	quant("a*")	.a.aa.aaa
a+	one or more	quant("a+")	.a.aa.aaa
a{n}	exactly **n**	quant("a{2}")	.a.aa.aaa
a{n,}	**n** or more	quant("a{2,}")	.a.aa.aaa
a{n, m}	between **n** and **m**	quant("a{2,4}")	.a.aa.aaa

GROUPS

ref <- function(rx) str_view_all("abbaab", rx)

Use parentheses to set precedent (order of evaluation) and create groups

regexp	matches	example	
(ab|d)e	sets precedence	alt("(ab|d)e")	abcde

Use an escaped number to refer to and duplicate parentheses groups that occur earlier in a pattern. Refer to each group by its order of appearance

string (type this)	regexp (to mean this)	matches (which matches this)	example (the result is the same as ref("abba"))	
\\1	\1 (etc.)	first () group, etc.	ref("(a)(b)\\2\\1")	abbaab