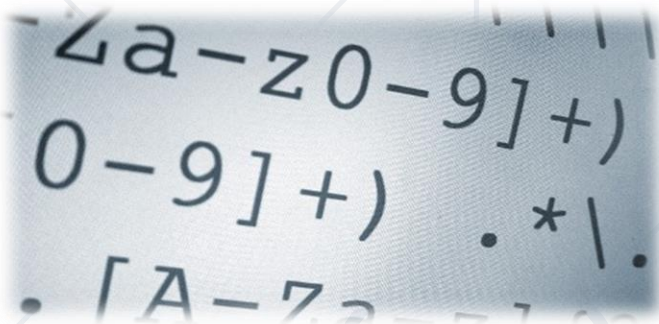


Regular Expressions (RegExp)

Regular Expressions Language Syntax



[a-z0-9]+
[0-9]+
[A-Z0-9]+

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1. Regular Expressions Syntax
 - Definition and Pattern
 - Predefined Character Classes
2. Quantifiers and Grouping
3. Backreferences
4. Regular Expressions in JavaScript



sli.do

#fund-js



[A-Z]

Regular Expressions

Definition and Classes

What Are Regular Expressions?

- Regular expressions (RegExp)
 - Match text by pattern
- Patterns are defined by special syntax, e.g.
 - `[0-9]+` matches non-empty sequence of digits
 - `[A-Z][a-z]*` matches a capital + small letters
- Play with regexp live at: regexr.com, regex101.com



regular expressions 101

@regex101 donate contact bug reports & feedback wiki

REGULAR EXPRESSION 17 matches, 1035 steps (~2ms)

/ [A-Z]\w+ /g

TEST STRING SWITCH TO UNIT TESTS

Edit the Expression & Text to see matches. Roll over matches or the expression for details. Undo mistakes with ctrl-z. Save Favorites & Share expressions with friends or the Community. Explore your results with Tools. A full Reference & Help is available in the Library, or watch the video Tutorial.

Sample text for testing:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

0123456789 _+-. ,!@#\$%^&*();\ / | < > " ' "

12345 -98.7 3.141 .6180 9,000 +42

555.123.4567 +1-(800)-555-2468

www.regex101.com

Live Demo

Regular Expression Pattern – Example

- Regular expressions (**RegExp**) describe a search pattern
- Used to find / extract / replace / split data from text by **pattern**

[A-Z][a-z]+ [A-Z][a-z]+

John Smith

Linda Davis

Contact: Alex Scott

Character Classes: Ranges

- **[nvj]+** matches any character that is either **n**, **v** or **j**

node.js v0.12.2

- **[^abc]** – matches any character that is **not** **a**, **b** or **c**

Abraham

- **[0-9]** – character range: matches any digit from **0** to **9**

John is 8 years old.

- `\w` – matches any **word character** (a-z, A-Z, 0-9, _)
- `\W` – matches any **non-word character** (the opposite of `\w`)
- `\s` – matches any **white-space** character
- `\S` – matches any **non-white-space** character (opposite of `\s`)
- `\d` – matches any **decimal digit** (0-9)
- `\D` – matches any **non-decimal character** (the opposite of `\d`)



(\w+)

Quantifiers

Grouping

- * – matches the previous element zero or more times

`\+\d*` → `+359885976002 a+b`

- + – matches the previous element one or more times

`\+\d+` → `+359885976002 a+b`

- ? – matches the previous element zero or one time

`\+\d?` → `+359885976002 a+b`

- {3} – matches the previous element exactly 3 times

`\+\d{3}` → `+359885976002 a+b`

- **(subexpression)** – captures the matched subexpression as numbered group

`\d{2}-(\w{3})-\d{4}` → `22-Jan-2015`

- **(?:subexpression)** – defines a non-capturing group

`^(?:Hi|hello),\s*(\w+)$` → `Hi, Peter`

- **(?<name>subexpression)** – defines a named capturing group

`(?<day>\d{2})-(?<month>\w{3})-(?<year>\d{4})` → `22-Jan-2015`

Problem: Match All Words

- Write a regular expression in www.regex101.com that extracts all word char sequences from given text

_ (Underscores) are
also word characters!



_|Underscores|are|also|
word|characters

Problem: Match Dates

- Write a regular expression that extracts **dates** from text
 - Valid date format: **dd-MMM-yyyy**
 - Examples: **12-Jun-1999**, **3-Nov-1999**

I am born on **30-Dec-1994**.
My father is born on the **9-Jul-1955**.
01-July-2000 is not a valid date.

Problem: Email Validation

- Write a regular expression that performs simple **email validation**
 - An email consists of: **username @ domain name**
 - **Usernames** are **alphanumeric**
 - **Domain names** consist of **two strings**, separated by a **period**
 - **Domain names** may contain only **English letters**

Valid:

`valid123@email.bg`

Invalid:

`invalid*name@email1.bg`



Backreferences

Numbered Capturing Group

Backreferences Match Previous Groups

- **\number** – matches the value of a numbered capture group

```
<(\w+)[^>]*>.*?<\/\1>
```

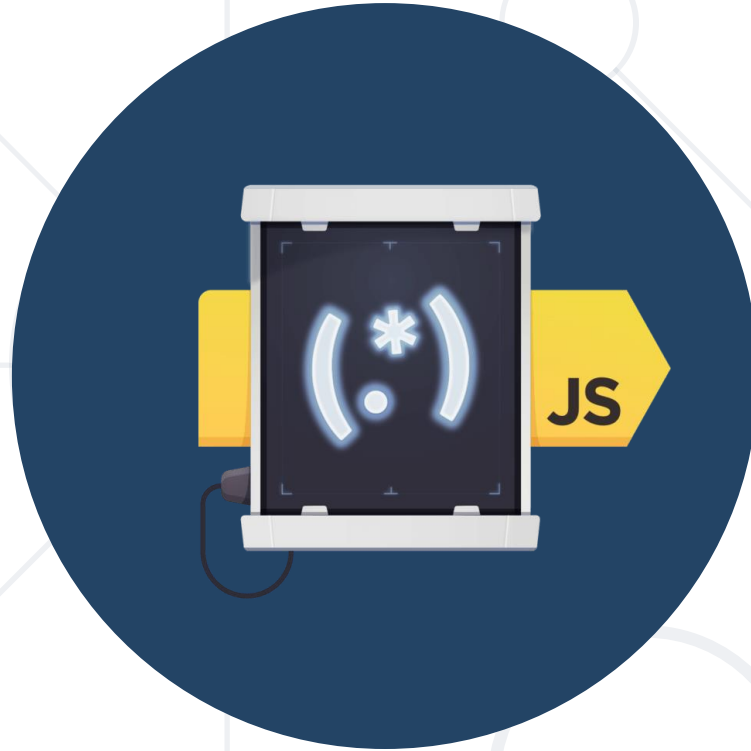
```
<b>Regular Expressions</b> are cool!
```

```
<p>I am a paragraph</p> ... some text after
```

```
Hello, <div>I am a<code>DIV</code></div>!
```

```
<span>Hello, I am Span</span>
```

```
<a href="https://softuni.bg/">SoftUni</a>
```



Regular Expressions in JS

- In JS you construct a regular expression in one of two ways:
 - Regular Expression Literal
 - The constructor function **RegExp**

// Provides compilation when the script is loaded

```
let regLiteral = /[A-Za-z]+/g
```

// Provides runtime compilation

// Used when the pattern is from another source

```
let regExp = new RegExp('[A-Za-z]+', 'g');
```

- The method **test(string)**
 - Determines whether there is a match

```
let text = 'Today is 2015-05-11';  
let regexp = /\d{4}-\d{2}-\d{2}/g;  
  
let containsValidDate = regexp.test(text);  
console.log(containsValidDate); // true
```

- The method **match(regex)**
 - Returns an **array** of all matches (strings)

```
let text = 'Peter: 123 Mark: 456';  
let regexp = /([A-Z][a-z]+): (\d+)/g;  
let matches = text.match(regexp);  
  
console.log(matches.length); // 2  
console.log(matches[0]); // Peter: 123  
console.log(matches[1]); // Mark: 456
```

Using the Exec() Method

- The method **exec(string, text)**
 - Works with a pointer & returns the **groups**

```
let text = 'Peter: 123 Mark: 456';  
let regexp = /([A-Z][a-z]+): (\d+)/g;  
let firstMatch = regexp.exec(text);  
let secondMatch = regexp.exec(text);  
console.log(firstMatch[0]) // Peter: 123  
console.log(firstMatch[1]); // Peter  
console.log(firstMatch[2]); // 123
```

- The method **replace(regex, stringReplacement)**
 - Replaces all strings that **match the pattern** with the provided replacement

```
let text = 'Peter: 123 Mark: 456';  
let replacement = '999';  
let regexp = /\d{3}/g;  
let result = text.replace(regexp, replacement);  
// Peter: 999 Mark: 999
```

- The method **matchAll(regex)**
 - returns an iterator of all results matching a string against a **regular expression**, including **capturing groups**

```
const regexp = /t(e)(st(\d?))/g;  
const str = 'test1test2';  
const array = [...str.matchAll(regexp)];  
console.log(array[0]);  
// ['test1', 'e', 'st1', '1', index: 0, input: 'test1test2', length: 4]
```


- The method **split(regex)**
 - Splits the text by the pattern
 - Returns an array of strings

```
let text = '1 2 3 4';  
let regexp = /\s+/g;  
let result = text.split(regexp);  
console.log(result) // ['1', '2', '3', '4'];
```



Live Exercises

Problem: Match Full Name

- You are given a list of names
 - Match all full names

Ivan Ivanov, Ivan ivanov, ivan Ivanov, IVan Ivanov, Test
Testov, Ivan Ivanov



Ivan Ivanov Test Testov

Solution: Match Full Name

```
function solve(input) {  
  let pattern = /\b[A-Z][a-z]+[ ]+[A-Z][a-z]+\b/g;  
  let validNames = [];  
  let validName = null;  
  while((validName = pattern.exec(input)) !== null){  
    validNames.push(validName[0]);  
  }  
  console.log(validNames.join(' '));  
}
```

Problem: Match Phone Number

- Match a **valid phone number** from **Sofia**. After you find all **valid phones**, **print** them on the console, separated by **", "**
- A valid number has the following characteristics:
 - Starts with **" +359"**
 - Followed by the area code (always **2**)
 - Followed by the **number** itself, which consists of **7 digits** (separated into **two groups** of **3** and **4 digits** respectively)
 - The different **parts** are **separated** by either a **space** or a **hyphen** ('-')

Solution: Match Phone Number

```
function regExPhones(input) {  
  let validNames = [];  
  let pattern = /(?<!\d)[+]359([ -])2\1\d{3}\1\d{4}\b/g;  
  while ((validName = pattern.exec(input)) !== null) {  
    validNames.push(validName[0]);  
  }  
  console.log(validNames.join(', '));  
}
```

- **Regular expressions** describe **patterns** for searching through text.
- Define **special characters, operators** and **constructs** for building complex pattern.
- Can utilize **character classes, groups, quantifiers** and more.



Questions?



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