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## Questions

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## Regular Expressions

1/1 point (graded)

Consider the following regular expression. Assume the regular expression syntax described in this reading, in which  $\wedge$  is not a special character unless it's inside square brackets.

`[a-g]+(_|\wedge)?`

Which of the following strings match this regular expression?

☒ a\_

☒ c $\wedge$

☐ abk\_

☐ a\_b

☒ gfe



### Explanation

Read the regular expression as follows: `a-g+` matches one or more occurrences of the letters a, b, c, d, e, f, or g. `(_| $\wedge$ )?` matches (optionally) either a single `_` or a single  `$\wedge$` . So:

`a_` matches because `a-g+` matches a, and `(_| $\wedge$ )?` matches `_`.

`c $\wedge$`  matches similarly.

`abk_` does not match because k is not in the range a-g.

`a_b` does not match because `_` is not at the end.

`gfe` matches because `a-g` matches gfe, and the `_` and  `$\wedge$`  are optional.

Note that in many regular expression libraries, including Java's,  `$\wedge$`  has special meaning outside of square brackets, too: it means "match the start of the string or the start of a line". If  `$\wedge$`  is a special character, than it would need to be escaped to be used as in this problem, i.e. `[a-g]+(_|\wedge)?`.

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