

CE0825a: Object Oriented Programming II

9: Regular Expressions, Databases

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Regular Expressions

- Invented 1956
- Stephen Cole Kleene (pronounced Clay-knee)
- Widely used now: PostgreSQL, MySQL, Apache, Java, JavaScript, PHP, ...
- Also Linux/Unix command line tools: awk, vi, egrep

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- Perl: officially not an acronym ...
- ...or Practical Extraction and Reporting Language
- ...or the Pathologically Eclectic Rubbish Lister!
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Delimiters

- Minor variations in each language
- Widely used so plenty of examples
- Commonly shown wrapped in //
- Paired for replacement: `s/old/new/`
- Modifiers on the end: `s/old/new/gi`
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Basic Language

- String of characters: 'grey'
- Vertical bar for or: 'grey|gray'
- Grouping brackets: 'gr(a|e)y'
- ? for optional: 'colou?r'
- * for zero or more: 'gre*n'
- + for one or more: 'Kha+n'
- {n}: exactly n: 'gre{2}n'
- {n,}: n or more: 'Kha{3,}n'
- {n,m}: between n and m: 'Kha{3,7}n'

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Character Groups

- `.`: Any single character
- `[abc]`: One of a list of characters
- `[^abc]`: Anything except that list
- `^`: Start of a line or this string
- `$`: End of a line or this string
- `()`: Grouping (see previous)

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- `\d`: Any digit [0 – 9]
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- `\s`: Whitespace [\t\n\r\f]
- `\S`: Any non-whitespace [^\s]
- `\w`: Any word character [a-zA-Z_0-9]
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- `\\`: Backslash - \escapes next character
- Remember `\` has meaning in Java Strings too, so double them all up! `\\\\` to match `\`.

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- `.match("regex")` Return true if this string matches "regex"
- `.split("regex")` Chop the String into an array of Strings at each regex
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- Refer to each capture group with `\1` (or 2 etc)
- Either in matching, or replacement
- So, `([0-9]{4})\1` would match 12341234 but not 12345678

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Mode Prefixes

At start of string:

- `(?i)` Case insensitive
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- Present in almost every language you use
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- MySQL Connector

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Java SQL Example

```
Connection con;
try {
    String url =
        "jdbc:mysql://lochnagar.abertay.ac.uk"
        + ":3306/sql12345678";
    con = DriverManager.getConnection(url ,
        "sql12345678", "a6b5c4d3");
    Statement st=con.createStatement();
    ResultSet rs=st.executeQuery("SELECT
        VERSION()");
    while(rs.next()) {
        System.out.println(rs.getString(1)); }
} catch (SQLException e) {
    System.err.println(e);
}
```

Lab Task Week 9

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- 2 Retrieve some table data from lochnagar with SQL in Java

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