
Subject: Re: Regular Expressions

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Fri, 16 Mar 2001 00:09:41 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Wayne Landsman wrote:

>
> The following is probably a simple question for anyone familiar with
> regular expressions, but I am still trying to learn the STREGEX
> function.
>
> Suppose I want to find the first occurrence in a string of an 'l' that
> is not part of a double 'll'. For
> example, in the string
>
> IDL> st = 'The rolling hills and lake'
>
> I want to return the character position of the 'l' in lake (=21).
>
> The following expression almost works -- it will search for any 'l'
> which is both preceded and followed by anything that is not "l"
>
> IDL> print, stregex(st, '[^l][^l]')
>
> but it won't work for the string 'The rolling hills and pool' because
> the final 'l' has no characters following it. Any suggestions?

IDL> print, stregex(st, '([^l]|^)([l])([^l]|\$)')

which means "a character that is not 'l', or the beginning of the string, followed by an 'l', followed by a character that is not 'l', or the end of the string". Aren't you glad Ken Thompson didn't decide originally to develop regexps in english?

This will also work on

IDL> st = "let's all go the the movies"

JD
