
Subject: Re: Regular expression

Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Fri, 04 May 2007 15:56:00 GMT

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Lasse,

Either:

```
regex='[a-zA-Z0-9]+\[[0-9]+\]
```

or:

```
regex='[a-zA-Z0-9]{2}\[[0-9]{2}\]
```

depending on whether your 'bb' and '23' need to be exactly two characters long or not.

Note also you may want to check whether you're matching a substring inside your search string or the complete string. I'm not sure what you want to do.

Thanks,

Allan

Lasse Clausen wrote:

> On 4 May, 16:21, Füzü LDY Lajos <f...@rmki.kfki.hu> wrote:

>

>> On Fri, 4 May 2007, Lasse Clausen wrote:

>>

>>> Hi there,

>>

>>> why does

>>

>>> print, stregex('[', '[\'])

>>

>>> work, i.e. produce 0, whereas

>>

>> You are searching for \ or [==> found.

>>

>>

>>> print, stregex('[', '[\'])

>>

>>> prints -1?

>>

>> You are searching for \ followed by] ==> not found.

>>

>>

```
>>> print, stregex(']', '\]')
>>
>>> works (i.e. prints 0).
>>
>> You are searching for ] ==> found.
>>
>> \ loses its 'escape char' meaning in a bracket expression, and becomes an
>> ordinary character.
>>
>> regards,
>> lajos
>
>
>  mmmm, don't understand. Ok, here we go: I have a string like this
>
>  bb[23]
>
>  where bb can be any combination of alphanumerics and the number can be
>  anything. I am looking for the regular expression that will match the
>  whole thing. My first idea was (at the moment I am not bothered about
>  the order of the different parts):
>
>  regex = '[a-zA-Z0-9\[\\]]+'
>
>  but alas!
>
>  print, stregex('bb[23]', regex)
>      4
>
>  What?! And any combination of omitting or changing the \ character
>  will result in either IDL complainign about non-balanced brackets, a
>  match at position 4 or it won't match.
>
>  Help?
>
>  Cheers
>  Lasse
>
```
