
Subject: Re: stregex question

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 21 Jul 2009 16:53:03 GMT

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wlandsman wrote:

> I'd like to find the first "e" in a string that is not next to
> another "e"
>
> The solution
> stregex(s,"e[^e]{\$") ;"e" followed by not "e" or at the end of the
> line
> doesn't work for the string st = 'see me' because it will find the
> second "e" in "see"
>
> The soluton
> stregex(s,"e{1}") ;Find one occurrence of "e"
> also finds the first "e" in "see" (Two occurrences is also one
> occurrence)
>
> In Perl it seems that one would use the "lookahead" option, but that
> doesn't seem to be available in stregex().
>
> (Actually I am looking for the first quote that is not part of a
> double quote, but I wanted to keep the example syntax simple.)
> Thanks, --Wayne

I would do something like:

```
IDL> pos = stregex(s, '([^\e][^\e])|(^e[^\e])|(^e$)|([^\e]e$)')
IDL> pos += strmid(s, pos, 1) ne 'e'
```

You have to add one to pos if either the `[^\e][^\e]` or `[^\e]e$` forms matched.

Mike

--

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