
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$)|([^\^e]e$)')
```

```
IDL> pos += strmid(s, pos, 1) ne 'e'
```

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

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com

Associate Research Scientist

Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: stregex question

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Tue, 21 Jul 2009 17:58:39 GMT

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Mike,

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

Thanks for the quick reply. For my own reference when I go back to google this answer, the above code is testing 4 possibilities

[^\^e]e[^\^e] - "e" surrounded by non-"e"
(^e[^\^e]) - "e" at beginning of string followed by non-"e"
(^e\$) - Single character string with value "e"
([^\^e]e\$) - "e" at the end of the string preceded by a non-"e"

In the first and last case (testing a preceding character) one needs to add 1 to the position found. --Wayne

Subject: Re: stregex question
Posted by [JDS](#) on Wed, 22 Jul 2009 00:19:58 GMT
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On Jul 21, 12:53 pm, mgalloy <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:

```
> 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]{$") ;"e" followed by not "e" or at the end of the
>> line
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>> double quote, but I wanted to keep the example syntax simple.)
>> Thanks, --Wayne
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> I would do something like:
>
> IDL> pos = stregex(s, '([^\^e]e[^\^e])|(^e[^\^e])|(^e$)|([^\^e]e$)')
> IDL> pos += strmid(s, pos, 1) ne 'e'
>
> You have to add one to pos if either the [^\^e]e[^\^e] or [^\^e]e$ forms matched.
```

Or, somewhat simpler, and a little easier to maintain:

```
IDL> pos =(stregex('see me','([^e]|^)(e)([^e]|$)',/SUB))[2]
```
