
Subject: stregex question

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Tue, 21 Jul 2009 16:37:44 GMT

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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

Subject: Re: stregex question

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Tue, 21 Jul 2009 19:06:48 GMT

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On Jul 21, 12:58 pm, wlandsman <wlands...@gmail.com> wrote:

> 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

Ouch! my head hurts...
