
Subject: stregex with multiple matches

Posted by [PMan](#) on Thu, 29 May 2014 18:31:11 GMT

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Hello,

Can stregex match an expression multiple times? It seems not, but I get the feeling there ought to be a way to do so. For example:

```
IDL> time_regex = '([01][0-9]|2[0-3]):([0-5][0-9]):([0-5][0-9])'
```

```
IDL> timeStr = '10:21:41'
```

```
IDL> print, stregex(timeStr, time_regex)
0
```

Ok, that is what expected

```
IDL> timeStr = '10:21:41 - 11:32:00'
```

```
IDL> print, stregex(timeStr, time_regex)
0
```

But in the second example, why aren't there two matches? can I change my regex in some way to get multiple matches?

Thanks

Subject: Re: stregex with multiple matches

Posted by [PMan](#) on Thu, 29 May 2014 18:41:25 GMT

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On Thursday, May 29, 2014 2:31:11 PM UTC-4, Paul Mallas wrote:

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I just noticed the quote/double quote mis-match, but the result is the some

Subject: Re: stregex with multiple matches
Posted by [PMan](#) on Thu, 29 May 2014 18:42:38 GMT
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On Thursday, May 29, 2014 2:31:11 PM UTC-4, Paul Mallas wrote:

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I just noticed my quote/double quote mis-match, but the result is the same.

Subject: Re: stregex with multiple matches
Posted by [Matthew Argall](#) on Thu, 29 May 2014 23:59:16 GMT
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>> Can stregex match an expression multiple times?

Not that I am aware of. You have to repeat the search string twice (note I added "[^0-9]*" to the end of the regex).

```
nRepeats = 2
time_regex1 = '([01][0-9]|2[0-3]):([0-5][0-9]):([0-5][0-9])[^0-9]*'
time_regex = strjoin(replicate(time_regex1, nRepeats))
```

```
timeStr = '10:21:41 - 11:32:00'
print, stregex(timeStr, time_regex, /SUBEXP, /EXTRACT)
```

If you have no way of knowing how many times you will have, you can make the whole expression optional.

```
nRepeats = 5
time_regex1 = '(([01][0-9]|2[0-3]):([0-5][0-9]):([0-5][0-9])[^0-9]*)?'
time_regex = strjoin(replicate(time_regex1, nRepeats))
```

```
timeStr = '10:21:41 - 11:32:00'
result = stregex(timeStr, time_regex, /SUBEXP, /EXTRACT)
for i = 0, 12 do print, result[i]
```

```
10:21:41 - 11:32:00
10:21:41 -
10
21
41
11:32:00
11
32
00
```
