

EXPERTS IN HEALTHCARE DATA ANALYTICS



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Regex — To Match or Not to Match

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What is

Basic Syntax

Character	Behavior
/.../	Starting and ending regex delimiters
	Alternation
()	Grouping

Wildcards/Character Class Shorthands

Character	Behavior
.	Match any character
\w	Match a word character (alphanumeric plus "_")
\W	Match a non-word character
\s	Match a whitespace character
\S	Match a non-whitespace character
\d	Match a digit character
\D	Match a non-digit character

Character Classes

Character	Behavior
[...]	Match a character in the brackets
[^...]	Match a character not in the brackets
[a-z]	Match a character in the range a to z

Position Matching

Character	Behavior
^	Match beginning of line
\$	Match end of line
\b	Match word boundary
\B	Match non-word boundary

Repetition Factors

(greedy, match as many times as possible)

Character	Behavior
*	Match 0 or more times
+	Match 1 or more times
?	Match 1 or 0 times
{n}	Match exactly n times
{n,}	Match at least n times
{n,m}	Match at least n but not more than m times

Advanced Syntax

Character	Behavior
<i>non-meta character</i>	Match character
{ } [] () ^ \$. * + ? \	Metacharacters, to match these characters, override (escape) with \
\	Override (escape) next metacharacter
\n	Match capture buffer n
(?:...)	Non-capturing group

Lazy Repetition Factors

(match minimum number of times possible)

Character	Behavior
*?	Match 0 or more times
+?	Match 1 or more times
??	Match 0 or 1 time
{n}?	Match exactly n times
{n,}?	Match at least n times
{n,m}?	Match at least n but not more than m times

Look-Ahead and Look-Behind

Character	Behavior
(?=...)	Zero-width positive look-ahead assertion. E.g. <i>regex1 (=?regex2)</i> , a match is found if both <i>regex1</i> and <i>regex2</i> match. <i>regex2</i> is not included in the final match.
(?!...)	Zero-width negative look-ahead assertion. E.g. <i>regex1 (?!regex2)</i> , a match is found if <i>regex1</i> matches and <i>regex2</i> does not match. <i>regex2</i> is not included in the final match.
(?<=...)	Zero-width positive look-behind assertion. E.g. <i>(?<=regex1) regex2</i> , a match is found if both <i>regex1</i> and <i>regex2</i> match. <i>regex1</i> is not included in the final match.
(?<!...)	Zero-width negative look-behind assertion.

DATE OPERATIONS

Add hyphens between date parts

```
date='20181012';
```

```
date='2018';
```

```
date='201810';
```

```
date='2018-10';
```

```
if length(date) eq 8 then do;  
    newDate = substr(date,1,4) || '-' || substr(date,5,2) || '-' || substr(date,7,2);  
end;  
else if length(date) eq 6 then do;  
    newDate = substr(date,1,4) || '-' || substr(date,5,2);  
end;  
else do;  
    newDate=date;  
end;
```

```
newDate=prxchange('s/(\d{4})(\d{2})/$1-$2/',1,strip(date));
```

```
newDate=prxchange('s/(\d{4}-\d{2})(\d{2})/$1-$2/',1,strip(newDate));
```

ISO DATE

```
_isodt=prxparse('/^([0-9]{4})(-)(1[0-2]|0[1-9])(-)(3[01]|0[1-9]|12[0-9])$/');/  
ASTDT=(input(AESTDTC,B8601DA.))
```

```
_isodttm=prxparse('/^([0-9]{4})(-)(1[0-2]|0[1-9])(-)(3[01]|0[1-9]|12[0-9])(T)(2[0-3]|01[0-9])(:)([0-5][0-9])$/');  
ASTDTM=input(AESTDTC,E8601DT.);
```

DATE OPERATIONS

Fri OCT 12 04:56:33 2016

12OCT2016:04:56:33 (datetime18.)

```
Date=prxchange('s/([A-Za-z]{3})(\s)([A-Za-z]{3})(\s{1,2})(\d{1,2})(\s)(\d{2}:\d{2}:\d{2})(\s)(\d{4})/$5$3$9:$7/',1,longDate);
```

File 1.txt marcin.sosnowski Fri OCT 12 04:56:33 2016

```
newDate = input(Date,datetime18.);
```

LB data imputaion

```
LBSTRESC='1.1';    LBSTRESN=input(LBSTRESC,best.);    LBSTRESC='1,1';  
LBSTRESC='.1';      tranwrd(LBSTRESC, ",", ".");  
LBSTRESC='-1.1' ;  
LBSTRESC='-.1';  
LBSTRESC='00.1';  
LBSTRESC='1.';  
LBSTRESC='1';  
  
LBSTRESC='1..1';  
tranwrd(LBSTRESC, ". .", ".");  
  
LBSTRESN= input(prxchange('s/(-?\d*)([.]{1,})(\d*)/$1.$3/',1,LBSTRESC),best.);  
  
LBSTRESC='>1.1';  
LBSTRESC='>=1.1';  
LBSTRESC='>=1..1'  
  
LBSTRESN= input(prxchange('s/(?:[>=<=]*)(-?\d*)([.]{1,})(\d*)/$1.$3/',1,LBSTRESC),best.);
```

Sometimes regular expression are more programmer friendly

```
LBSTRESN=prxchange('s(.*)(-)(.*)/$3/',1, LBSTRESC);
```

```
Dir=prxchange('s/(WOV)(\w+)/$2/',1,DTYPE);
```

```
AETOXGR = prxchange('s/GR(ADE)? *(\d)/$2/i',1,AETOXGR);
```

„Dynamic” expressions

```
if not missing(LSLOCD) then prx='s#^\Q' || strip(LSLOCD) || '\E$##';  
else prx='s###';  
ZILOC = upcase(catx(' - ',ZILOC,catx(' ',LSLOCD,prxchange(prx,1,strip(LSLOCOS)) )));
```

Output's

Remove special characters

AETERM=prxchange('s/[^\x20-\x7F]/ /',-1,AETERM);

Dec	Hx	Oct	Char	Dec	Hx	Oct	Html	Chr	Dec	Hx	Oct	Html	Chr	Dec	Hx	Oct	Html	Chr
0	0	000	NUL	(null)	32	20	040	 Space	64	40	100	@ @		96	60	140	` `	
1	1	001	SOH	(start of heading)	33	21	041	! !	65	41	101	A A		97	61	141	a a	
2	2	002	STX	(start of text)	34	22	042	" "	66	42	102	B B		98	62	142	b b	
3	3	003	ETX	(end of text)	35	23	043	# #	67	43	103	C C		99	63	143	c c	
4	4	004	EOT	(end of transmission)	36	24	044	$ \$	68	44	104	D D		100	64	144	d d	
5	5	005	ENQ	(enquiry)	37	25	045	% %	69	45	105	E E		101	65	145	e e	
6	6	006	ACK	(acknowledge)	38	26	046	& &	70	46	106	F F		102	66	146	f f	
7	7	007	BEL	(bell)	39	27	047	' '	71	47	107	G G		103	67	147	g g	
8	8	010	BS	(backspace)	40	28	050	((	72	48	110	H H		104	68	150	h h	
9	9	011	TAB	(horizontal tab)	41	29	051	))	73	49	111	I I		105	69	151	i i	
10	A	012	LF	(NL line feed, new line)	42	2A	052	* *	74	4A	112	J J		106	6A	152	j j	
11	B	013	VT	(vertical tab)	43	2B	053	+ +	75	4B	113	K K		107	6B	153	k k	
12	C	014	FF	(NP form feed, new page)	44	2C	054	, ,	76	4C	114	L L		108	6C	154	l l	
13	D	015	CR	(carriage return)	45	2D	055	- -	77	4D	115	M M		109	6D	155	m m	
14	E	016	SO	(shift out)	46	2E	056	. .	78	4E	116	N N		110	6E	156	n n	
15	F	017	SI	(shift in)	47	2F	057	/ /	79	4F	117	O O		111	6F	157	o o	
16	10	020	DLE	(data link escape)	48	30	060	0 0	80	50	120	P P		112	70	160	p p	
17	11	021	DC1	(device control 1)	49	31	061	1 1	81	51	121	Q Q		113	71	161	q q	
18	12	022	DC2	(device control 2)	50	32	062	2 2	82	52	122	R R		114	72	162	r r	
19	13	023	DC3	(device control 3)	51	33	063	3 3	83	53	123	S S		115	73	163	s s	
20	14	024	DC4	(device control 4)	52	34	064	4 4	84	54	124	T T		116	74	164	t t	
21	15	025	NAK	(negative acknowledge)	53	35	065	5 5	85	55	125	U U		117	75	165	u u	
22	16	026	SYN	(synchronous idle)	54	36	066	6 6	86	56	126	V V		118	76	166	v v	
23	17	027	ETB	(end of trans. block)	55	37	067	7 7	87	57	127	W W		119	77	167	w w	
24	18	030	CAN	(cancel)	56	38	070	8 8	88	58	130	X X		120	78	170	x x	
25	19	031	EM	(end of medium)	57	39	071	9 9	89	59	131	Y Y		121	79	171	y y	
26	1A	032	SUB	(substitute)	58	3A	072	: :	90	5A	132	Z Z		122	7A	172	z z	
27	1B	033	ESC	(escape)	59	3B	073	; ;	91	5B	133	[[		123	7B	173	{ {	
28	1C	034	FS	(file separator)	60	3C	074	< <	92	5C	134	\ \		124	7C	174	|	
29	1D	035	GS	(group separator)	61	3D	075	= =	93	5D	135	]]		125	7D	175	} }	
30	1E	036	RS	(record separator)	62	3E	076	> >	94	5E	136	^ ^		126	7E	176	~ ~	
31	1F	037	US	(unit separator)	63	3F	077	? ?	95	5F	137	_ _		127	7F	177	 DEL	

Source: www.LookupTables.com

128	Ç	144	É	160	á	176	ð	192	Ł	208	Ш	224	α	240	≡
129	ü	145	æ	161	í	177	ñ	193	ł	209	Щ	225	β	241	±
130	é	146	Æ	162	ó	178	ï	194	Ł	210	Щ	226	Γ	242	≥
131	â	147	ô	163	ú	179	í	195	ł	211	Ш	227	π	243	≤
132	ä	148	ö	164	ñ	180	ı	196	—	212	Ъ	228	Σ	244	∫
133	à	149	ò	165	Ñ	181	ı	197	+	213	Ф	229	σ	245	∫
134	â	150	û	166	°	182	ı	198	ı	214	Г	230	μ	246	+
135	ç	151	ù	167	°	183	ı	199	ı	215	Г	231	τ	247	≈
136	ê	152	ÿ	168	ı	184	ı	200	ı	216	ı	232	Φ	248	°
137	ë	153	Ö	169	ı	185	ı	201	ı	217	ı	233	Θ	249	.
138	è	154	Ü	170	ı	186	ı	202	ı	218	ı	234	Ω	250	.
139	ı	155	÷	171	½	187	ı	203	ı	219	ı	235	δ	251	√
140	ı	156	£	172	¾	188	ı	204	ı	220	ı	236	∞	252	∞
141	ı	157	¥	173	ı	189	ı	205	=	221	ı	237	φ	253	²
142	Ä	158	£	174	«	190	ı	206	ı	222	ı	238	ε	254	■
143	Å	159	f	175	»	191	ı	207	ı	223	ı	239	∩	255	

Source: www.LookupTables.com

Output's

```
newAETERM = prxchange('s/({1,22})(\b)/$1@$2/',-1,strip(AETERM));
```

```
ID . Adverse . Event . . . . .
-----
01 . Abdominal . discomfort
02 . Abdominal . hernia
03 . Adjustment . disorder . wi
    . . . . . th . depressed . mood
04 . Aspartate . aminotransfe
    . . . . . rase . increased
    .
05 . Blood . thyroid . stimulat
    . . . . . ing . hormone . increased
    . . . . .
06 . Viral . upper . respirator
    . . . . . y . tract . infection
```

```
ID . Adverse . Event . . . . .
-----
01 . Abdominal . discomfort
02 . Abdominal . hernia
03 . Adjustment . disorder .
    . . . . . with . depressed . mood
04 . Aspartate .
    . . . . . aminotransferase .
    . . . . . increased
    .
05 . Blood . thyroid .
    . . . . . stimulating . hormone .
    . . . . . increased
    . . . . .
06 . Viral . upper .
    . . . . . respiratory . tract .
    . . . . . infection
```

Some fun with numbers

```
col='1(1.1)'
```

```
col='65(100)'
```

```
col='0'
```

```
col='9 (99.9)'
```

Remove percentages

```
newCol=prxchange('s/(\d+)(.*)/$1/',1,strip(col));
```

Keep only percentages

```
newCol = prxchange('s/(\d+)((\()(.*)(\)))?/$4/',1,strip(col))
```

Proc format(9.3)

```
proc format;  
  invalue xxx (default=20)  
    '/(\d+):(\d\d)(?:\.(?!\d\d+))?/' (REGEXP) = [time8.]  
  ;  
run;
```

Editors

The image shows a 'Find and Replace' dialog box with three tabs: 'Find', 'Replace', and 'Go To'. The 'Replace' tab is active. The 'Find what:' field contains the regular expression `(\d{4})(\d{2})`. The 'Replace with:' field contains `$1-$2`. The 'Options' section is set to 'Use Wildcards'. The 'Search Options' section includes checkboxes for 'Match case', 'Find whole words only', 'Use wildcards' (checked), 'Sounds like (English)', 'Find all word forms (English)', 'Match prefix', 'Match suffix', 'Ignore punctuation characters', and 'Ignore white-space characters'. The 'Replace' section has buttons for 'Format', 'Special', and 'No Formatting'. A list of escape sequences is shown on the right side of the dialog box.

Find and Replace

Find what:

Options: Use Wildcards

Replace with:

<< Less Replace Replace All Find Next Cancel

Search Options

Search: All

☐ Match case ☐ Match prefix

☐ Find whole words only ☐ Match suffix

☒ Use wildcards ☐ Ignore punctuation characters

☐ Sounds like (English) ☐ Ignore white-space characters

☐ Find all word forms (English)

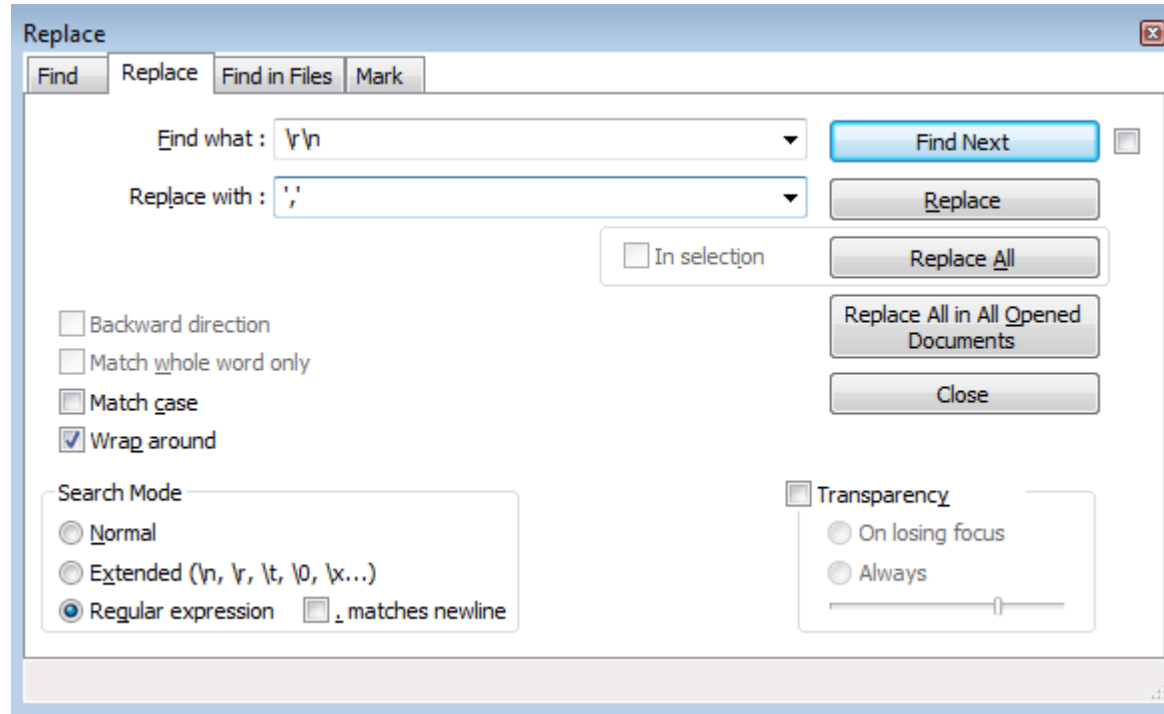
Replace

Format Special No Formatting

- \w Word character
- \s Whitespace character
- \d Decimal digit
- . Any character except carriage return
- \n Carriage return
- \ Escape character
- ^ Start of line
- \$ End of line
- \b Word boundary
- [] Set of characters
- () Subexpression
- | Alternation
- * Zero or more
- + One or more
- ? Zero or one

Other

ID01
ID02
ID03
ID04
ID05
ID06
ID07
ID08
ID09



ID01', 'ID02', 'ID03', 'ID04', 'ID05', 'ID06', 'ID07', 'ID08', 'ID09

Other

Egrep -I „(sdtmLib\.)(SUPP)?(\w{2})” *.sas

Pinnacle21

3.3 Regular Expression Rule

The Regular Expression, or Regex, Rule allows a variable's value to be validated against a pre-defined pattern. For example, you are able to enforce the length of a variable's value, and specify that it must be alpha-numeric, etc. Regular expressions can be quite complex, however, and how to define them is beyond the scope of this document. However, there are many online resources available that can help explain how regular expressions should be written. The Regular Expression Rule introduces the Test attribute, which contains the regular expression string used to validate the data. If the data does not match the regular expression, then the record will fail that Validation Rule. The structure of the Regex Rule:

```
<val:Regex ID="id" Variable="variable" Test="regular expression"
  Message="message"
  Description="description"
  Type="type" Severity="severity" Warn="warn"/>
```

```
<val:Regex ID="SD0017" PublisherID="FDAC057" Message="Invalid value for %Domain%TEST variable"
Description="The value of Name of Measurement, Test or Examination (--TEST) should be no more than 40 characters in length."
Category="Format,,
Type="Error"
Variable="%Domain%TEST,,
Test=".{0,40}"/>
```

<https://regex101.com/>

REGULAR EXPRESSION

1 match, 151 steps (~1ms)

/ [A-Za-z]{3}(\s)[A-Za-z]{3}(\s{1,2})(\d{1,2})(\s)(\d{2}:\d{2}:\d{2})(\s)(\d{4}) / gm

TEST STRING

File 1.txt marcin.sosnowski Fri OCT 12 04:56:33 2016

SUBSTITUTION

\$5\$3\$9:\$7

File 1.txt marcin.sosnowski 12OCT2016:04:56:33

EXPLANATION

▼ / [A-Za-z]{3}(\s)[A-Za-z]{3}(\s{1,2})(\d{1,2})(\s)(\d{2}:\d{2}:\d{2})(\s)(\d{4}) / gm

▼ 1st Capturing Group ([A-Za-z]{3})

▼ Match a single character present in the list below [A-Za-z]{3}Quantifier — Matches exactly 3 times

A-Z a single character in the range between A (index 65) and Z (index 90) (case sensitive)

a-z a single character in the range between a (index 97) and z (index 122) (case sensitive)

▼ 2nd Capturing Group (\s)

\s matches any whitespace character (equal to [\r\n\t\f\v])

▼ 3rd Capturing Group ([A-Za-z]{3})

▼ Match a single character present in the list below [A-Za-z]{3}

MATCH INFORMATION

Match 1

Full match	28-53	`Fri OCT 12 04:56:33 2016`
Group 1.	28-31	`Fri`
Group 2.	31-32	` `
Group 3.	32-35	`OCT`
Group 4.	35-36	` `
Group 5.	36-38	`12`
Group 6.	38-39	` `
Group 7.	39-47	`04:56:33`
Group 8.	47-48	` `

https://www.debuggex.com/

Untitled Regex No description [Embed on StackOverflow](#)

PCRE [View Cheatsheet](#) [Flags](#)

```
1 ([A-Za-z]{3}) (\s) ([A-Za-z]{3}) (\s{1,2}) (\d{1,2}) (\s) (\d{2}:\d{2}:\d{2}) (\s) (\d{4})
```

Result: **Does not match** starting at the black triangle slider

```
1 File 1.txt marcin.sosnowski Fri OCT 12 04:56:33 2016
```

START POSITION

<https://regexcrossword.com/>

[^AB]
[ABC]

« 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 »

Questions?



Thank you!

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