

# Package ‘rematch2’

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**Title** Tidy Output from Regular Expression Matching

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**Description** Wrappers on 'regexr' and 'gregexpr' to return the match results in tidy data frames.

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**LazyData** true

**URL** <https://github.com/r-lib/rematch2#readme>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/r-lib/rematch2/issues>

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 rematch2

*Match Regular Expressions with a Nicer 'API'*


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### Description

A small wrapper on 'regexpr' to extract the matches and captured groups from the match of a regular expression to a character vector. See [re\\_match](#).

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 re\_exec

*Extract Data From First Regular Expression Match Into a Data Frame*


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### Description

Match a regular expression to a string, and return matches, match positions, and capture groups. This function is like its [match](#) counterpart, except it returns match/capture group start and end positions in addition to the matched values.

### Usage

```
re_exec(text, pattern, perl = TRUE, ...)

## S3 method for class 'rematch_records'
x$name

## S3 method for class 'rematch_allrecords'
x$name
```

### Arguments

text	Character vector.
pattern	A regular expression. See <a href="#">regex</a> for more about regular expressions.
perl	logical should perl compatible regular expressions be used? Defaults to TRUE, setting to FALSE will disable capture groups.
...	Additional arguments to pass to <a href="#">gregexpr</a> (or <a href="#">regexpr</a> if text is of length zero).
x	Object returned by re_exec or re_exec_all.
name	match, start or end.

### Value

A tidy data frame (see Section “Tidy Data”). Match record entries are one length vectors that are set to NA if there is no match.

## Tidy Data

The return value is a tidy data frame where each row corresponds to an element of the input character vector `text`. The values from `text` appear for reference in the `.text` character column. All other columns are list columns containing the match data. The `.match` column contains the match information for full regular expression matches while other columns correspond to capture groups if there are any, and PCRE matches are enabled with `perl = TRUE` (this is on by default). If capture groups are named the corresponding columns will bear those names.

Each match data column list contains match records, one for each element in `text`. A match record is a named list, with entries `match`, `start` and `end` that are respectively the matching (sub) string, the start, and the end positions (using one based indexing).

## Extracting Match Data

To make it easier to extract matching substrings or positions, a special `$` operator is defined on match columns, both for the `.match` column and the columns corresponding to the capture groups. See examples below.

## See Also

[regexr](#), which this function wraps

Other tidy regular expression matching: [re\\_exec\\_all](#), [re\\_match\\_all](#), [re\\_match](#)

## Examples

```
name_rex <- paste0(
  "(?<first>[[:upper:]]+[[:lower:]]+)",
  "(?<last>[[:upper:]]+[[:lower:]]+)"
)
notables <- c(
  " Ben Franklin and Jefferson Davis",
  "\tMillard Fillmore"
)
# Match first occurrence
pos <- re_exec(notables, name_rex)
pos

# Custom $ to extract matches and positions
pos$first$match
pos$first$start
pos$first$end
```

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re\_exec\_all

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*Extract Data From All Regular Expression Matches Into a Data Frame*


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## Description

Match a regular expression to a string, and return matches, match positions, and capture groups. This function is like its `match` counterpart, except it returns match/capture group start and end positions in addition to the matched values.

**Usage**

```
re_exec_all(text, pattern, perl = TRUE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

text	Character vector.
pattern	A regular expression. See <a href="#">regex</a> for more about regular expressions.
perl	logical should perl compatible regular expressions be used? Defaults to TRUE, setting to FALSE will disable capture groups.
...	Additional arguments to pass to <a href="#">gregexpr</a> (or <a href="#">regexpr</a> if text is of length zero).

**Value**

A tidy data frame (see Section “Tidy Data”). The entries within the match records within the list columns will be one vectors as long as there are matches for the corresponding text element.

**Tidy Data**

The return value is a tidy data frame where each row corresponds to an element of the input character vector `text`. The values from `text` appear for reference in the `.text` character column. All other columns are list columns containing the match data. The `.match` column contains the match information for full regular expression matches while other columns correspond to capture groups if there are any, and PCRE matches are enabled with `perl = TRUE` (this is on by default). If capture groups are named the corresponding columns will bear those names.

Each match data column list contains match records, one for each element in `text`. A match record is a named list, with entries `match`, `start` and `end` that are respectively the matching (sub) string, the start, and the end positions (using one based indexing).

**Extracting Match Data**

To make it easier to extract matching substrings or positions, a special `$` operator is defined on match columns, both for the `.match` column and the columns corresponding to the capture groups. See examples below.

**See Also**

[gregexpr](#), which this function wraps

Other tidy regular expression matching: [re\\_exec](#), [re\\_match\\_all](#), [re\\_match](#)

**Examples**

```
name_rex <- paste0(
  "(?<first>[[:upper:]]+[[:lower:]]+)",
  "(?<last>[[:upper:]]+[[:lower:]]+)"
)
notables <- c(
  " Ben Franklin and Jefferson Davis",
  "\tMillard Fillmore"
```

```

)
# All occurrences
allpos <- re_exec_all(notables, name_rex)
allpos

# Custom $ to extract matches and positions
allpos$first$match
allpos$first$start
allpos$first$end

```

---

re\_match

*Extract Regular Expression Matches Into a Data Frame*


---

### Description

re\_match wraps [regexpr](#) and returns the match results in a convenient data frame. The data frame has one column for each capture group if `perl=TRUE`, and one final column called `.match` for the matching (sub)string. The columns of the capture groups are named if the groups themselves are named.

### Usage

```
re_match(text, pattern, perl = TRUE, ...)
```

### Arguments

text	Character vector.
pattern	A regular expression. See <a href="#">regex</a> for more about regular expressions.
perl	logical should perl compatible regular expressions be used? Defaults to TRUE, setting to FALSE will disable capture groups.
...	Additional arguments to pass to <a href="#">regexpr</a> .

### Value

A data frame of character vectors: one column per capture group, named if the group was named, and additional columns for the input text and the first matching (sub)string. Each row corresponds to an element in the text vector.

### Note

re\_match uses PCRE compatible regular expressions by default (i.e. `perl = TRUE` in [regexpr](#)). You can switch this off but if you do so capture groups will no longer be reported as they are only supported by PCRE.

### See Also

Other tidy regular expression matching: [re\\_exec\\_all](#), [re\\_exec](#), [re\\_match\\_all](#)

## Examples

```

dates <- c("2016-04-20", "1977-08-08", "not a date", "2016",
          "76-03-02", "2012-06-30", "2015-01-21 19:58")
isodate <- "[0-9]{4}-([0-1][0-9])-([0-3][0-9])"
re_match(text = dates, pattern = isodate)

# The same with named groups
isodaten <- "(?<year>[0-9]{4})-(?<month>[0-1][0-9])-(?<day>[0-3][0-9])"
re_match(text = dates, pattern = isodaten)

```

---

re\_match\_all

*Extract All Regular Expression Matches Into a Data Frame*


---

## Description

This function is a thin wrapper on the [gregexpr](#) base R function, to extract the matching (sub)strings as a data frame. It extracts all matches, and potentially their capture groups as well.

## Usage

```
re_match_all(text, pattern, perl = TRUE, ...)
```

## Arguments

text	Character vector.
pattern	A regular expression. See <a href="#">regex</a> for more about regular expressions.
perl	logical should perl compatible regular expressions be used? Defaults to TRUE, setting to FALSE will disable capture groups.
...	Additional arguments to pass to <a href="#">gregexpr</a> (or <a href="#">regexpr</a> if text is of length zero).

## Value

A tidy data frame (see Section “Tidy Data”). The list columns contain character vectors with as many entries as there are matches for each input element.

## Tidy Data

The return value is a tidy data frame where each row corresponds to an element of the input character vector `text`. The values from `text` appear for reference in the `.text` character column. All other columns are list columns containing the match data. The `.match` column contains the match information for full regular expression matches while other columns correspond to capture groups if there are any, and PCRE matches are enabled with `perl = TRUE` (this is on by default). If capture groups are named the corresponding columns will bear those names.

Each match data column list contains match records, one for each element in `text`. A match record is a named list, with entries `match`, `start` and `end` that are respectively the matching (sub) string, the start, and the end positions (using one based indexing).

**Note**

If the input text character vector has length zero, [regexr](#) is called instead of [gregexpr](#), because the latter cannot extract the number and names of the capture groups in this case.

**See Also**

Other tidy regular expression matching: [re\\_exec\\_all](#), [re\\_exec](#), [re\\_match](#)

**Examples**

```
name_rex <- paste0(
  "(?<first>[[:upper:]][[:lower:]]+)",
  "(?<last>[[:upper:]][[:lower:]]+)"
)
notables <- c(
  " Ben Franklin and Jefferson Davis",
  "\tMillard Fillmore"
)
re_match_all(notables, name_rex)
```

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