

# Package ‘ore’

March 14, 2025

**Version** 1.7.5.1

**Date** 2025-03-14

**Title** An R Interface to the Onigmo Regular Expression Library

**Suggests** crayon, rex, tnytest, covr

**Description** Provides an alternative to R's built-in functionality for handling regular expressions, based on the Onigmo library. Offers first-class compiled regex objects, partial matching and function-based substitutions, amongst other features.

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**Biarch** true

**License** BSD\_3\_clause + file LICENCE

**Collate** workspace.R file.R dict.R ore.R match.R es.R zzz.R

**URL** <https://github.com/jonclayden/ore>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/jonclayden/ore/issues>

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Author** Jon Clayden [cre, aut] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6608-0619>>),  
K Kosako [aut],  
K Takata [aut]

**Maintainer** Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-03-14 19:40:02 UTC

## Contents

es	2
glass	3
matches	3

ore . . . . .	5
ore_dict . . . . .	6
ore_escape . . . . .	7
ore_file . . . . .	8
ore_ismatch . . . . .	8
ore_lastmatch . . . . .	9
ore_search . . . . .	10
ore_split . . . . .	12
ore_subst . . . . .	13
ore_switch . . . . .	14

<b>Index</b>	<b>16</b>
--------------	-----------

---

es	<i>Expression substitution</i>
----	--------------------------------

---

## Description

Evaluate R expressions and substitute their values into one or more strings.

## Usage

```
es(text, round = NULL, signif = NULL, envir = parent.frame())
```

## Arguments

text	A vector of strings to substitute into.
round	NULL or a single integer, giving the number of decimal digits for rounding numeric expressions. This argument takes priority over signif.
signif	NULL or a single integer, giving the number of significant decimal digits to use for numeric expressions. The round argument takes priority over this one, and will be used if not NULL.
envir	The environment to evaluate expressions in.

## Details

Each part of the string surrounded by "#{}" is extracted, evaluated as R code in the specified environment, and then its value is substituted back into the string. The literal string "#{}" can be obtained by escaping the hash character, viz. "\\#{}". The block may contain multiple R expressions, separated by semicolons, but may not contain additional braces. Its value will be coerced to character mode, and if the result has multiple elements then the source string will be duplicated.

## Value

The final strings, with expression values substituted into them.

**See Also**[ore\\_subst](#)**Examples**

```
es("pi is #{pi}")
es("pi is \\#{pi}")
es("The square-root of pi is approximately #{sqrt(pi)}", signif=4)
es("1/(1+x) for x=3 is #{x <- 3; 1/(1+x)}")
```

---

`glass`*Multilingual sample text*

---

**Description**

This dataset contains translations into many languages of the esoteric sentence "I can eat glass and it doesn't hurt me", UTF-8 encoded. Since this dataset uses characters from a range of scripts, it provides a useful test set for text handling and character encodings.

**Usage**`glass`**Format**

A named character vector, whose elements are translations of the sentence, and are named for the appropriate language in each case.

**Source**

The translations were gathered by Frank da Cruz and written by a large group of contributors. Notes, commentary and a full list of credits are online at <https://kermitproject.org/utf8.html>.

---

`matches`*Extract matching substrings*

---

**Description**

These functions extract entire matches, or just subgroup matches, from objects of class "orematch". They can also be applied to lists of these objects, as returned by [ore\\_search](#) when more than one string is searched. For other objects they return NA.

## Usage

```
matches(object, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'orematches'  
matches(object, simplify = TRUE, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'orematch'  
matches(object, ...)  
  
## Default S3 method:  
matches(object, ...)  
  
groups(object, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'orematches'  
groups(object, simplify = TRUE, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'orematch'  
groups(object, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'orearg'  
groups(object, ...)  
  
## Default S3 method:  
groups(object, ...)
```

## Arguments

object	An R object. Methods are provided for generic lists and "orematch" objects. If no object is provided (i.e. the method is called with no arguments), the value of <a href="#">ore_lastmatch</a> will be used as a default.
...	Further arguments to methods.
simplify	For the list methods, should nonmatching elements be removed from the result?

## Value

A vector, matrix, array, or list of the same, containing full matches or subgroups. If `simplify` is `TRUE`, the result may have a dropped attribute, giving the indices of nonmatching elements.

## See Also

[ore\\_search](#)

---

 ore *Oniguruma regular expressions*


---

**Description**

Create, test for, and print objects of class "ore", which represent Oniguruma regular expressions. These are unit-length character vectors with additional attributes, including a pointer to the compiled version.

**Usage**

```
ore(..., options = "", encoding = getOption("ore.encoding"),
     syntax = c("ruby", "fixed"))

is_ore(x)

## S3 method for class 'ore'
print(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

...	One or more strings or dictionary labels, constituting a valid regular expression after being concatenated together. Elements drawn from the dictionary will be surrounded by parentheses, turning them into groups. Note that backslashes should be doubled, to avoid them being interpreted as character escapes by R. The ... argument is ignored by the print method.
options	A string composed of characters indicating variations on the usual interpretation of the regex. These may currently include "i" for case-insensitive matching, and "m" for multiline matching (in which case "." matches the newline character).
encoding	A string specifying the encoding that matching will take place in. The default is given by the "ore.encoding" option, which is usually set automatically from the current locale when the package is loaded, but can be modified if needed.
syntax	The regular expression syntax being used. The default is "ruby", which reflects the syntax of the Ruby language, which is very similar to that of Perl. An alternative is "fixed", for literal matching without special treatment of characters.
x	An R object.

**Value**

The ore function returns the final pattern, with class "ore" and the following attributes:

**.compiled** A low-level pointer to the compiled version of the regular expression.  
**options** Options, copied from the argument of the same name.  
**encoding** The specified or detected encoding.  
**syntax** The specified syntax type.

**nGroups** The number of groups in the pattern.

**groupNames** Group names, if applicable.

The `is_ore` function returns a logical vector indicating whether its argument represents an "ore" object.

### See Also

For full details of supported syntax, please see <https://raw.githubusercontent.com/k-takata/Onigmo/master/doc/RE>. The [regex](#) page is also useful as a quick reference, since PCRE (used by base R) and Oniguruma (used by ore) have similar features. See [ore\\_dict](#) for details of the pattern dictionary.

### Examples

```
# This matches a positive or negative integer
ore("-?\d+")
```

```
# This matches words of exactly four characters
ore("\\b\\w{4}\\b")
```

---

ore\_dict

*Get or set entries in the pattern dictionary*

---

### Description

This function allows the user to get or set entries in the pattern dictionary, a library of regular expressions whose elements can be referred to by name in [ore](#), and therefore easily reused.

### Usage

```
ore_dict(..., enclos = parent.frame())
```

### Arguments

...	One or more strings or dictionary keys. Unnamed, literal strings will be returned unmodified, named strings will be added to the dictionary, and unquoted names will be resolved using the dictionary.
enclos	Enclosure for resolving names not present in the dictionary. Passed to <a href="#">eval</a> .

### Value

If no arguments are provided, the whole dictionary is returned. Otherwise the return value is a (possibly named) character vector of resolved strings.

### See Also

[ore](#), which passes its arguments through this function

## Examples

```
# Literal strings are returned as-is
ore_dict("protocol")

# Named arguments are added to the dictionary
ore_dict(protocol="\w+://")

# ... and can be retrieved by name
ore_dict(protocol)
```

---

ore_escape	<i>Escape regular expression special characters</i>
------------	---

---

## Description

Escape characters that would usually be interpreted specially in a regular expression, returning a modified version of the argument. This can be useful when incorporating a general-purpose string into a larger regex.

## Usage

```
ore_escape(text)
```

## Arguments

text	A character vector.
------	---------------------

## Value

A modified version of the argument, with special characters escaped by prefixing them with a backslash.

## See Also

[ore](#)

---

ore_file	<i>Use a file as a text source</i>
----------	------------------------------------

---

### Description

Identify a file path to be used as a text source for a subsequent call to [ore\\_search](#).

### Usage

```
ore_file(path, encoding = getOption("ore.encoding"), binary = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

path	A character string giving the file path.
encoding	A character string giving the encoding of the file. This should match the encoding of the regular expression used in a call to <a href="#">ore_search</a> .
binary	A logical value: if TRUE, the file will be search bitwise, and encoding will be fixed to be "ASCII".

### Value

A string of class "orefile", with the encoding and binary arguments stored as attributes.

### See Also

[ore\\_search](#) for actually searching through the file.

---

ore_ismatch	<i>Does text match a regex?</i>
-------------	---------------------------------

---

### Description

These functions test whether the elements of a character vector match a Oniguruma regular expression. The actual match can be retrieved using [ore\\_lastmatch](#).

### Usage

```
ore_ismatch(regex, text, keepNA = getOption("ore.keepNA", FALSE), ...)
```

```
X %~% Y
```

```
X %~~% Y
```

```
X %~|% Y
```



**Arguments**

regex	A single character string or object of class "ore".
text	A character vector of strings to search.
keepNA	If TRUE, NAs will be propagated from text into the return value. Otherwise, they evaluate FALSE.
...	Further arguments to <a href="#">ore_search</a> .
X	A character vector or "ore" object. See Details.
Y	A character vector. See Details.

**Details**

The %~% infix shorthand corresponds to `ore_ismatch(...,all=FALSE)`, while %~~% corresponds to `ore_ismatch(...,all=TRUE)`. Either way, the first argument can be an "ore" object, in which case the second is the text to search, or a character vector, in which case the second argument is assumed to contain the regex. The %~|% shorthand returns just those elements of the text vector which match the regular expression.

**Value**

A logical vector, indicating whether elements of text match regex, or not.

**See Also**

[ore\\_search](#)

**Examples**

```
# Test for the presence of a vowel
ore_ismatch("[aeiou]", c("sky","lake")) # => c(FALSE,TRUE)

# The same thing, in shorter form
c("sky","lake") %~% "[aeiou]"

# Same again: the first argument must be an "ore" object this way around
ore("[aeiou]") %~% c("sky","lake")
```

---

ore_lastmatch	<i>Retrieve the last match</i>
---------------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

This function can be used to obtain the "orematch" object, or list, corresponding to the last call to [ore\\_search](#). This can be useful after performing a search implicitly, for example with %~%.

**Usage**

```
ore_lastmatch(simplify = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

`simplify` If TRUE and the last match was against a single string, then the "orematch" object will be returned, instead of a list with one element.

**Value**

An "orematch" object or list. See [ore\\_search](#) for details.

---

<code>ore_search</code>	<i>Search for matches to a regular expression</i>
-------------------------	---

---

**Description**

Search a character vector, or the content of a file or connection, for one or more matches to an Oniguruma-compatible regular expression. Printing and indexing methods are available for the results. `ore_match` is an alias for `ore_search`.

**Usage**

```
ore_search(regex, text, all = FALSE, start = 1L, simplify = TRUE,
  incremental = !all)

is_orematch(x)

## S3 method for class 'orematch'
x[j, k, ...]

## S3 method for class 'orematches'
x[i, j, k, ...]

## S3 method for class 'orematch'
print(x, lines = getOption("ore.lines", 0L),
  context = getOption("ore.context", 30L), width = getOption("width", 80L),
  ...)

## S3 method for class 'orematches'
print(x, lines = getOption("ore.lines", 0L),
  simplify = TRUE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

`regex` A single character string or object of class "ore". In the former case, this will first be passed through [ore](#).

`text` A vector of strings to match against, or a connection, or the result of a call to [ore\\_file](#) to search in a file. In the latter case, match offsets will be relative to the file's encoding.

all	If TRUE, then all matches within each element of text will be found. Otherwise, the search will stop at the first match.
start	An optional vector of offsets (in characters) at which to start searching. Will be recycled to the length of text.
simplify	If TRUE, an object of class "orematch" will be returned if text is of length 1. Otherwise, a list of such objects, with class "orematches", will always be returned. When printing "orematches" objects, this controls whether or not to omit nonmatching elements from the output.
incremental	If TRUE and the text argument points to a file, the file is read in increasingly large blocks. This can reduce search time in large files.
x	An R object.
j	For indexing, the match number.
k	For indexing, the group number.
...	For print.orematches, additional arguments to be passed through to print.orematch.
i	For indexing into an "orematches" object only, the string number.
lines	The maximum number of lines to print. The default is zero, meaning no limit. For "orematches" objects this is split evenly between the elements printed.
context	The number of characters of context to include either side of each match.
width	The number of characters in each line of printed output.

### Value

For ore\_search, an "orematch" object, or a list of the same, each with elements

**text** A copy of the text element for the current match, if it was a character vector; otherwise a single string with the content retrieved from the file or connection. If the source was a binary file (from ore\_file(..., binary=TRUE)) then this element will be NULL.

**nMatches** The number of matches found.

**offsets** The offsets (in characters) of each match.

**byteOffsets** The offsets (in bytes) of each match.

**lengths** The lengths (in characters) of each match.

**byteLengths** The lengths (in bytes) of each match.

**matches** The matched substrings.

**groups** Equivalent metadata for each parenthesised subgroup in regex, in a series of matrices. If named groups are present in the regex then dimnames will be set appropriately.

For is\_orematch, a logical vector indicating whether the specified object has class "orematch". For extraction with one index, a vector of matched substrings. For extraction with two indices, a vector or matrix of substrings corresponding to captured groups.

### Note

Only named `*or*` unnamed groups will currently be captured, not both. If there are named groups in the pattern, then unnamed groups will be ignored.

By default the print method uses the crayon package (if it is available) to determine whether or not the R terminal supports colour. Alternatively, colour printing may be forced or disabled by setting the "ore.colour" (or "ore.color") option to a logical value.

**See Also**

[ore](#) for creating regex objects; [matches](#) and [groups](#) for an alternative to indexing for extracting matching substrings.

**Examples**

```
# Pick out pairs of consecutive word characters
match <- ore_search("(\\w)(\\w)", "This is a test", all=TRUE)

# Find the second matched substring ("is", from "This")
match[2]

# Find the content of the second group in the second match ("s")
match[2,2]
```

---

ore\_split

*Split strings using a regex*


---

**Description**

This function breaks up the strings provided at regions matching a regular expression, removing those regions from the result. It is analogous to the [strsplit](#) function in base R.

**Usage**

```
ore_split(regex, text, start = 1L, simplify = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

regex	A single character string or object of class "ore". In the former case, this will first be passed through <a href="#">ore</a> .
text	A vector of strings to match against.
start	An optional vector of offsets (in characters) at which to start searching. Will be recycled to the length of text.
simplify	If TRUE, a character vector containing the pieces will be returned if text is of length 1. Otherwise, a list of such objects will always be returned.

**Value**

A character vector or list of substrings.

**See Also**

[ore\\_search](#)

**Examples**

```
ore_split("-?\\d+", "I have 2 dogs, 3 cats and 4 hamsters")
```

---

ore_subst	<i>Replace matched substrings with new text</i>
-----------	---

---

### Description

These functions substitute new text into strings in regions that match a regular expression. The substitutions may be simple text, may include references to matched subgroups, or may be created by an R function.

### Usage

```
ore_subst(regex, replacement, text, ..., all = FALSE, start = 1L)
```

```
ore_repl(regex, replacement, text, ..., all = FALSE, start = 1L,
         simplify = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

regex	A single character string or object of class "ore". In the former case, this will first be passed through <a href="#">ore</a> .
replacement	A character vector, or a function to be applied to the matches.
text	A vector of strings to match against.
...	Further arguments to replacement, if it is a function.
all	If TRUE, then all matches within each element of text will be found. Otherwise, the search will stop at the first match.
start	An optional vector of offsets (in characters) at which to start searching. Will be recycled to the length of text.
simplify	For ore_repl, a character vector of modified strings will be returned if this is TRUE and text is of length 1. Otherwise, a list of such objects will always be returned.

### Details

These functions differ in how they are vectorised. ore\_subst vectorises over matches, and returns a vector of the same length as the text argument. If multiple replacements are given then they are applied to matches in turn. ore\_repl vectorises over replacements, replicating the elements of text as needed, and (in general) returns a list the same length as text, whose elements are character vectors each of the same length as replacement (or its return value, if a function). Each string combines the first replacement for each match, the second, and so on.

If replacement is a character vector, its component strings may include back-references to captured substrings. "\\0" corresponds to the whole matching substring, "\\1" is the first captured group, and so on. Named groups may be referenced as "\\k<name>".

If replacement is a function, then it will be passed as its first argument an object of class "orearg". This is a character vector containing as its elements the matched substrings, and with an attribute containing the matches for parenthesised subgroups, if there are any. A [groups](#) method is available

for this class, so the groups attribute can be easily obtained that way. The substitution function will be called once per element of text by ore\_subst, and once per match by ore\_repl.

### Value

Versions of text with the substitutions made.

### See Also

[ore\\_search](#)

### Examples

```
# Simple text substitution (produces "no dogs")
ore_subst("\\d+", "no", "2 dogs")

# Back-referenced substitution (produces "22 dogs")
ore_subst("(\\d+)", "\\1\\1", "2 dogs")

# Function-based substitution (produces "4 dogs")
ore_subst("\\d+", function(i) as.numeric(i)^2, "2 dogs")
```

---

ore\_switch

*String multiplexing*

---

### Description

This function maps one character vector to another, based on sequential matching to a series of regular expressions. The return value corresponding to each element in the source text is chosen based on the first matching regex: once matched, later options are ignored.

### Usage

```
ore_switch(text, ..., options = "", encoding = getOption("ore.encoding"))
```

### Arguments

text	A vector of strings to match against.
...	One or more string arguments specifying a possible return value. These are generally named with a regex, and the string is only used for a given text element if the regex matches (and no previous one matched). These strings may reference captured groups. Unnamed arguments match unconditionally, and will always be taken literally.
options	A string composed of characters indicating variations on the usual interpretation of the regex. These may currently include "i" for case-insensitive matching, and "m" for multiline matching (in which case "." matches the newline character).
encoding	A string specifying the encoding that matching will take place in. The default is given by the "ore.encoding" option, which is usually set automatically from the current locale when the package is loaded, but can be modified if needed.

**Value**

A character vector of the same length as `text`, containing the multiplexed strings. If none of the regexes matched, the corresponding element will be NA.

**See Also**

[ore\\_subst](#) for details of back-reference syntax.

**Examples**

```
# Extract digits where present; otherwise return zero
ore_switch(c("2 dogs", "no dogs"), "\\d+" = "\\0", "0")
```

# Index

## \* datasets

- glass, 3
- [.orematch (ore\_search), 10
- [.orematches (ore\_search), 10
- %~% (ore\_ismatch), 8
- %~~% (ore\_ismatch), 8
  
- es, 2
- eval, 6
  
- glass, 3
- groups, 12, 13
- groups (matches), 3
  
- is.ore (ore), 5
- is.orematch (ore\_search), 10
- is\_ore (ore), 5
- is\_orematch (ore\_search), 10
  
- matches, 3, 12
  
- ore, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13
- ore.dict (ore\_dict), 6
- ore.escape (ore\_escape), 7
- ore.file (ore\_file), 8
- ore.ismatch (ore\_ismatch), 8
- ore.lastmatch (ore\_lastmatch), 9
- ore.match (ore\_search), 10
- ore.repl (ore\_subst), 13
- ore.search (ore\_search), 10
- ore.split (ore\_split), 12
- ore.subst (ore\_subst), 13
- ore.switch (ore\_switch), 14
- ore\_dict, 6, 6
- ore\_escape, 7
- ore\_file, 8, 10
- ore\_ismatch, 8
- ore\_lastmatch, 4, 8, 9
- ore\_match (ore\_search), 10
- ore\_repl (ore\_subst), 13
- ore\_search, 3, 4, 8–10, 10, 12, 14

- ore\_split, 12
- ore\_subst, 3, 13, 15
- ore\_switch, 14
- orefile (ore\_file), 8
- orematch (ore\_search), 10
- orematches (ore\_search), 10
  
- print.ore (ore), 5
- print.orematch (ore\_search), 10
- print.orematches (ore\_search), 10
  
- regex, 6
  
- strsplit, 12