

SignWriting in an ASCII World!

```
      / / / / / / /
      o#'9MMHb' : '-,o,
      .oH":HH$' "' ' -*R&o,
      dMMM*" "' \ ' .oM"HM?.
      ,MMM' "HLbd< ?&H\
      .:MH ." \ ` MM MM&b
      ."*H - &MMMMMMMMMH:
      . dboo MMMMMMMMMMMM.
      . dMMMMMMb *MMMMMMMMMMP.
      . MMMMMMMMP *MMMMMP .
      `#MMMMM MM6P ,
      ' `MMMP" HM*` ,
      ' :MM .- ,
      ' . `#?... . ..'
      - . . -
      '-.oo,oo.-''
```

by Stephen E Slevinski Jr

It's an ASCII World!

A. Starting Point

1. ASCII
2. Regular Expressions
3. Token Patterns
4. Hexadecimal

B. Definition

1. Symbol Keys
2. Numbers
3. Formal SignWriting
4. Query Strings

Starting Point

American Standard Code for Information Interchange.

ASCII is the basis for text processing and standard definition.

Unicode is ASCII plus additional characters.

ASCII is UTF-8, character for character.

ASCII will outlive Unicode.

ASCII

Binary	Oct	Dec	Hex	Glyph	Binary	Oct	Dec	Hex	Glyph	Binary	Oct	Dec	Hex	Glyph
010 0000	040	32	20	(space)	100 0000	100	64	40	@	110 0000	140	96	60	`
010 0001	041	33	21	!	100 0001	101	65	41	A	110 0001	141	97	61	a
010 0010	042	34	22	"	100 0010	102	66	42	B	110 0010	142	98	62	b
010 0011	043	35	23	#	100 0011	103	67	43	C	110 0011	143	99	63	c
010 0100	044	36	24	\$	100 0100	104	68	44	D	110 0100	144	100	64	d
010 0101	045	37	25	%	100 0101	105	69	45	E	110 0101	145	101	65	e
010 0110	046	38	26	&	100 0110	106	70	46	F	110 0110	146	102	66	f
010 0111	047	39	27	'	100 0111	107	71	47	G	110 0111	147	103	67	g
010 1000	050	40	28	(	100 1000	110	72	48	H	110 1000	150	104	68	h
010 1001	051	41	29	)	100 1001	111	73	49	I	110 1001	151	105	69	i
010 1010	052	42	2A	*	100 1010	112	74	4A	J	110 1010	152	106	6A	j
010 1011	053	43	2B	+	100 1011	113	75	4B	K	110 1011	153	107	6B	k
010 1100	054	44	2C	,	100 1100	114	76	4C	L	110 1100	154	108	6C	l
010 1101	055	45	2D	-	100 1101	115	77	4D	M	110 1101	155	109	6D	m
010 1110	056	46	2E	.	100 1110	116	78	4E	N	110 1110	156	110	6E	n
010 1111	057	47	2F	/	100 1111	117	79	4F	O	110 1111	157	111	6F	o
011 0000	060	48	30	0	101 0000	120	80	50	P	111 0000	160	112	70	p
011 0001	061	49	31	1	101 0001	121	81	51	Q	111 0001	161	113	71	q
011 0010	062	50	32	2	101 0010	122	82	52	R	111 0010	162	114	72	r
011 0011	063	51	33	3	101 0011	123	83	53	S	111 0011	163	115	73	s
011 0100	064	52	34	4	101 0100	124	84	54	T	111 0100	164	116	74	t
011 0101	065	53	35	5	101 0101	125	85	55	U	111 0101	165	117	75	u
011 0110	066	54	36	6	101 0110	126	86	56	V	111 0110	166	118	76	v
011 0111	067	55	37	7	101 0111	127	87	57	W	111 0111	167	119	77	w
011 1000	070	56	38	8	101 1000	130	88	58	X	111 1000	170	120	78	x
011 1001	071	57	39	9	101 1001	131	89	59	Y	111 1001	171	121	79	y
011 1010	072	58	3A	:	101 1010	132	90	5A	Z	111 1010	172	122	7A	z
011 1011	073	59	3B	;	101 1011	133	91	5B	[	111 1011	173	123	7B	{
011 1100	074	60	3C	<	101 1100	134	92	5C	\	111 1100	174	124	7C	|
011 1101	075	61	3D	=	101 1101	135	93	5D	]	111 1101	175	125	7D	}
011 1110	076	62	3E	>	101 1110	136	94	5E	^	111 1110	176	126	7E	~
011 1111	077	63	3F	?	101 1111	137	95	5F	_					

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASCII/>

Starting Point

Regex

A regular expression is used to examine text and identify strings that match a stated pattern.

It is faster to recognize a string with regular expressions than to analyze a string with a routine.



Starting Point

Regex

Character	Description	Example
*	Match a character 0 or more times	ABC* matches <i>AB, ABC, ABCC, ...</i>
+	Match a character 1 or more times	ABC+ matches <i>ABC, ABCC, ABCCC, ...</i>
?	Match a character 0 or 1 times	ABC? matches <i>AB or ABC</i>
{#}	Match a character explicit number times	AB{2} matches <i>ABB</i>

Test Regex Online

<https://regex101.com/>

Starting Point

Regex

Character

Description

Example

[]

Match any character from a list

[ABC] matches *A, B, or C*

[-]

Match any character in a range

[A-C] matches *A, B, or C*

()

Create a group for matching

A(BC)+ matches *ABC, ABCBC, ABCBCBC, ...*

(|)

Match one of several alternatives

(AB|BC|CD) matches *AB, BC, or CD*

Test Regex Online

<https://regex101.com/>

Starting Point

Regex

Find a number between 122 and 455

Step 1) 10's don't match and the min 1's are not zero (last number to 9)

Step 2) Bring up the 10's if hundreds are different

Step 3) Bring up the 100's if different

Step 4) Bring up the 10's

Step 5) Bring up the 1's

Regex

Matches

12[2-9]

122 to 129

1[3-9][0-9]

130 to 199

[2-3][0-9][0-9]

200 to 399

4[0-4][0-9]

400 to 449

45[0-5]

450 to 455

Final Regex (12[1-9]|1[3-9][0-9]|[2-3][0-9][0-9]|4[0-4][0-9]|45[0-5])

Test Regex Online

<https://regex101.com/>

Starting Point

Token Patterns

A B L M R



Structural Markers

w s p



Symbol Bases

i o



Symbol Modifiers

n



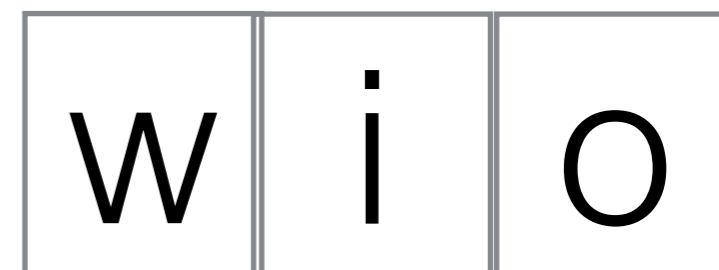
Numbers

Starting Point

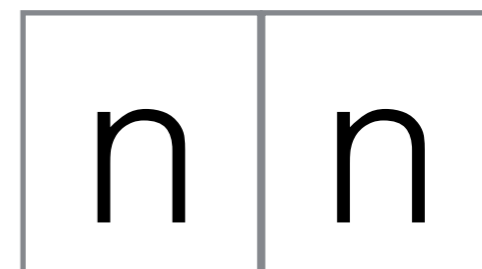
Token Patterns

A	Sequence Marker
B	SignBox Marker
L	Left Lane Marker
M	Middle Lane Marker
R	Right Lane Marker
w	Writing Base Symbol
s	Sequence Base Symbol
P	Punctuation Base Symbol
i	Fill Modifier
o	Rotation Modifier
n	Number

Writing Symbol



Cartesian Coordinate



Starting Point

Hexadecimal

Character	Value		String	Value
x0	0	Decimal Value Standard numbers that we use are base 10, using only the 0 thru 9.	x00	0
x1	1		x10	16
x2	2		x20	32
x3	3		x30	48
x4	4		x40	64
x5	5		x50	80
x6	6		x60	96
x7	7		x70	112
x8	8		x80	128
x9	9		x90	144
xA	10	Hexadecimal Prefixed with an 'x', hexadecimal characters and strings are base 16, using 0 thru 9 and A thru F.	xA0	160
xB	11		xB0	176
xC	12		xC0	192
xD	13		xD0	208
xE	14		xE0	244
xF	15		xFF	255

Definition

Symbol keys are used to identify each of the 37,811 symbols of the ISWA 2010.

Symbols keys are built using three tokens.

1. Symbol Base of “w”, “s”, or “P”
2. Fill Modifier of “i”
3. Rotation Modifier of “o”

Symbol Key

Writing symbol

w	i	o
---	---	---

Sequence symbol

s	i	o
---	---	---

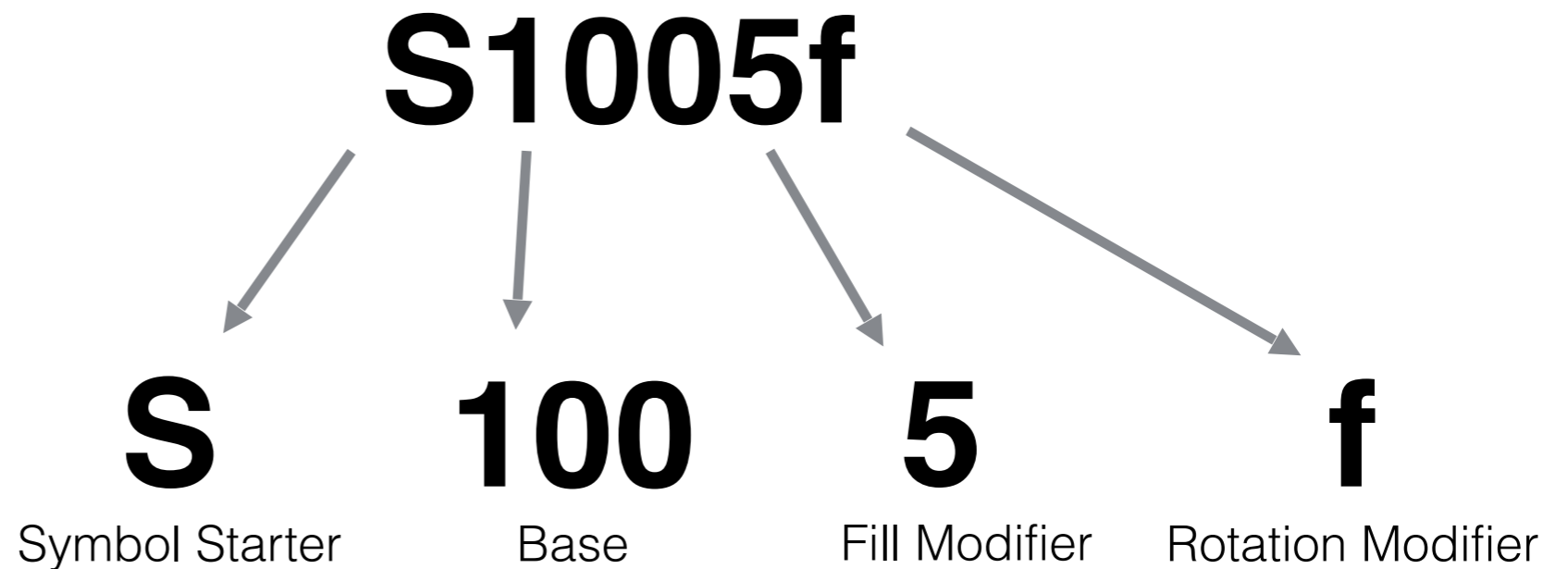
Punctuation symbol

P	i	o
---	---	---

Definition

Symbol keys are 6 characters long.

Symbol Key



Regex

`S[123][0-9a-f]{2}[0-5][0-9a-f]`

http://signbank.org/SignWriting_Character_Viewer.html#?set=key

Definition

The number characters encode the ruler principle for 2-dimensions.

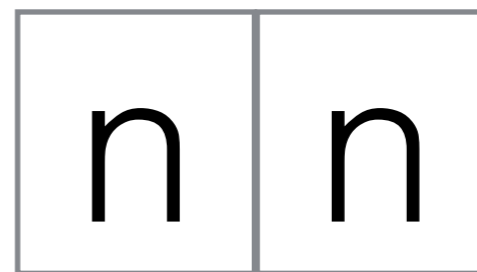
Numbers range from 250 to 749, with 500 being the center.

Cartesian Coordinates are built using two tokens.

1. Number of “n”
2. Number of “n”

Numbers

Cartesian Coordinate



250x749



250

X Coordinate



749

Y Coordinate

(250,749)

Top-Left Coordinate of symbol

Definition

Numbers

Description

Example

Regex

Numbers are 3 characters long.

500

`[0-9]{3}`

Coordinates are 7 characters long.

500x500

X Coordinate Y Coordinate

`[0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3}`

Regex for explicit number between 250 and 749

`(2[5-9][0-9]|[3-6][0-9]{2}|7[0-4][0-9])`

Definition Formal SignWriting

According to Wikipedia, "In mathematics, computer science, and linguistics, a formal language is a set of strings of symbols that may be constrained by rules that are specific to it."

Sign as Word

- Mathematical ASCII name
- Optional time for sorting
- Mandatory space for visual



<https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-slevinski-signwriting-text-05#section-2>

Definition Formal SignWriting

Spatial symbol

Identifies a specific symbol with coordinate information.

Spatial symbols are built using five tokens.

Regex

```
S[123][0-9a-f]{2}[0-5][0-9a-f][0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3}
```

Used in the
Spatial Signbox

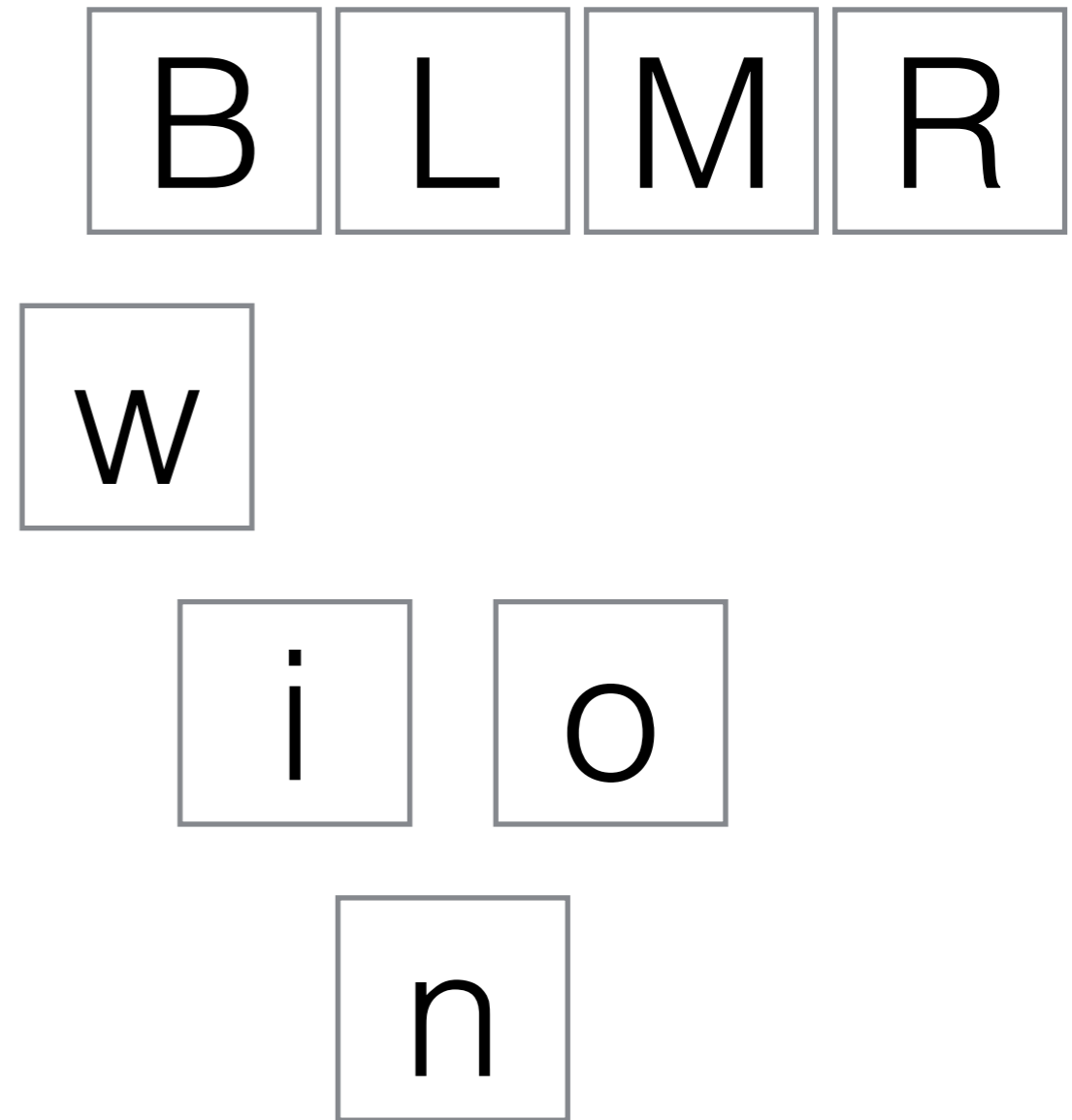
w	i	o	n	n
---	---	---	---	---

1. Symbol Base of “w”
2. Fill Modifier of “i”
3. Rotation Modifier of “o”
4. Number of “n”
5. Number of “n”

Definition Formal SignWriting

Spatial SignBox

A cluster of symbols used in 2-dimensions



Regex for Token Description

`[BLMR]nn(wionn)*`

Regex for Formal SignWriting

`[BLMR]([0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})(S[123][0-9a-f]{2}[0-5][0-9a-f][0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})*`

Definition Formal SignWriting

Temporal Prefix

An optional ordered list of symbols used for sorting.

A

w

s

i

o

Regex for Token Description

$(A([ws]io)^+)?$

Regex for Formal SignWriting

$(A(S[123][0-9a-f]\{2\}[0-5][0-9a-f])^+)?$

Definition Formal SignWriting

AS18711S20500M514x517S18711490x483S20500486x506

Time

Space

AS18711S20500

M514x517S18711490x483S20500486x506

A S18711 S20500

M514x517

S18711490x483

S20500486x506



M 514x517

S18711 490x483

S20500 486x506

(514,517)



(490,483)



(486,506)

Sequence
Marker

Symbol

Middle Lane
SignBox

Max
Coord

Spatial
Symbol



Definition

Query String

The query string is a lite ASCII markup similar to Formal SignWriting.

Query strings are used to search Formal SignWriting.

Formal SignWriting can be converted into several different query string, depending on the search parameters.

**Query String
for all signs**

Q

**Query String for
sortable signs**

QT

Definition

Query String

Query Strings



Q



15 to 50 times expansion

Regular Expressions

process million of characters per second

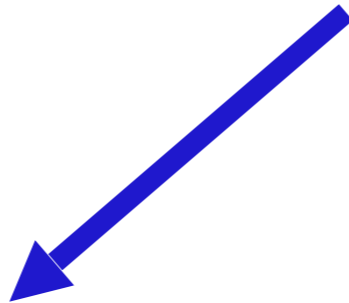


Formal SignWriting

search results



(A(S[123][0-9a-f]{2}[0-5][0-9a-f])+)?
[BLMR]([0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})(S[123][0-9a-f]
{2}[0-5][0-9a-f][0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})*



Definition

Query String

The query string is a concise representation for a much larger and detailed set of regular expressions.

When a query string returns more than one regular expression, a filter and repeat step is required.

QS 10000S20500



(A(S[123][0-9a-f]{2}[0-5][0-9a-f])+)?
[BLMR]([0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})(S[123][0-9a-f]
{2}[0-5][0-9a-f][0-9]{3}x[0-9]
{3})***S10000**[0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3}(S[123][0-9a-
f]{2}[0-5][0-9a-f][0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})*



(A(S[123][0-9a-f]{2}[0-5][0-9a-f])+)?
[BLMR]([0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})(S[123][0-9a-f]
{2}[0-5][0-9a-f][0-9]{3}x[0-9]
{3})***S20500**[0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3}(S[123][0-9a-
f]{2}[0-5][0-9a-f][0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})*

Definition

Query String

Two main sections of a query string

Temporal Sequence Searching

1-Dimensional order

Spatial SignBox Searching

2-Dimensional order

Both sections use the same definition for a symbol or a range.

Search Symbol

S[123][0-9a-f]{2}[0-5u][0-9a-fu]

Search Range

R[123][0-9a-f]{2}t[123][0-9a-f]{2}

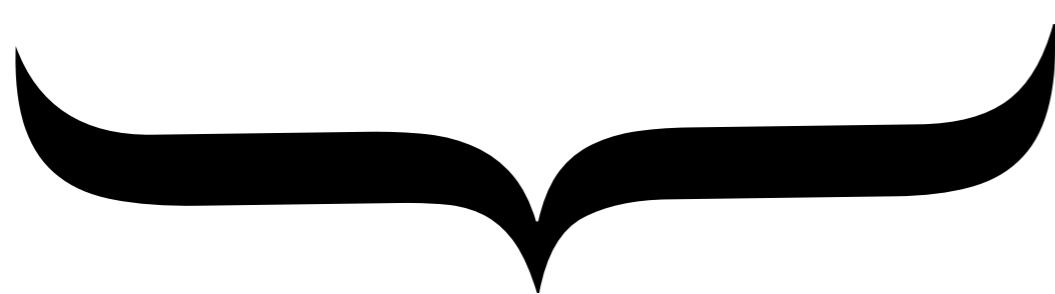
Definition

Query String

Temporal Sequence Searching

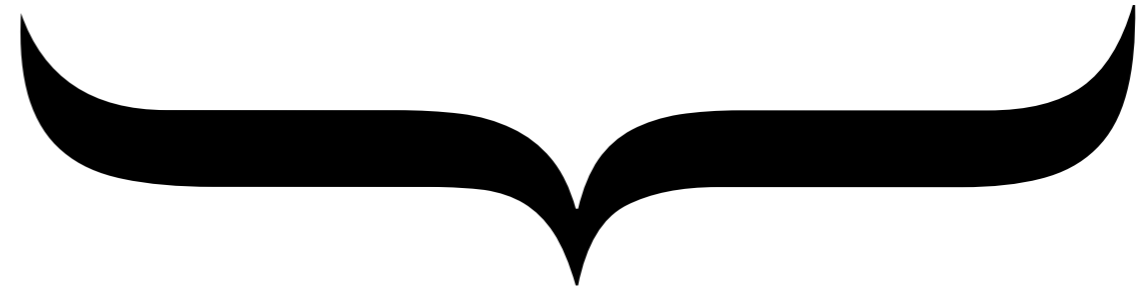
It is possible to specify the start order of the temporal sequence by identifying a series of symbols and/or ranges.

Q((A(S[123][0-9a-f]{2}[0-5u][0-9a-fu]|R[123][0-9a-f]{2}t[123][0-9a-f]{2}))+)?T)?



Symbol Search

Fill and Rotation values of 'u' represent unknown and allow all possible values.



Range Search

Finds all symbols between two specified symbol bases



Definition

Query String

Spatial SignBox Searching

Allowable distance from specified coordinates

It is possible to specify one or more symbols (or ranges of symbols) that must be included in the spatial SignBox with optional coordinates for each symbol or range.

Optional Variance

Q(S[123][0-9a-f]{2}[0-5u][0-9a-fu]([0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})?|R[123][0-9a-f]{2}t[123][0-9a-f]{2}([0-9]{3}x[0-9]{3})?)*(V[0-9]+)?



Symbol Search



Fill and Rotation values of 'u' represent unknown and allow all possible values.

Range Search



Finds all symbols between two specified symbol bases

Optional Coordinates

Specified coordinates will limit the search results for the previous symbol.



Optional Coordinates

Specified coordinates will limit the search results for the previous range.



Examples

Query String

Query

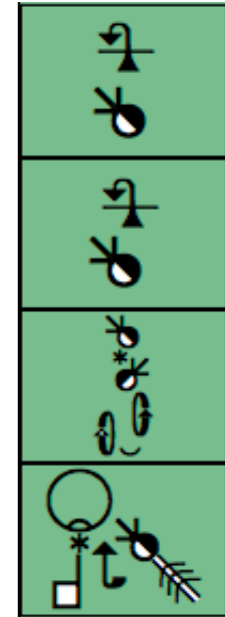
QS18711

Description

Finds signs that use an exact symbol in the SignBox

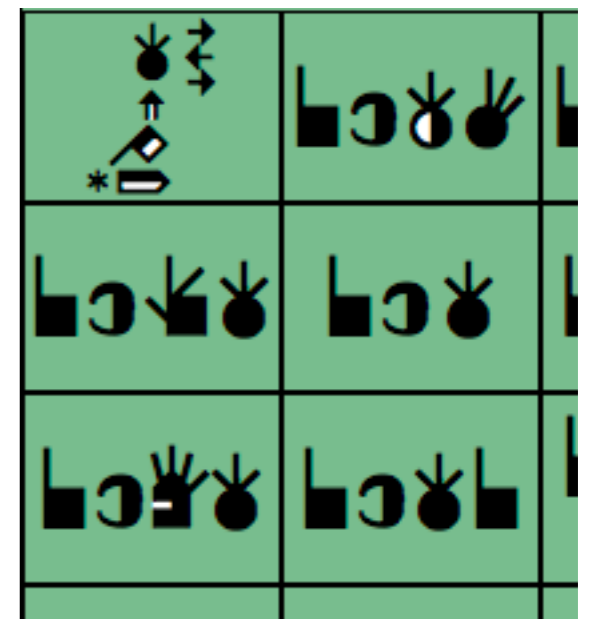
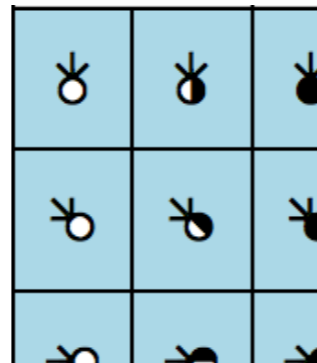


Results



QS187uu

Finds signs that use a general base symbol in the SignBox with any fill or rotation.



Examples

Query String

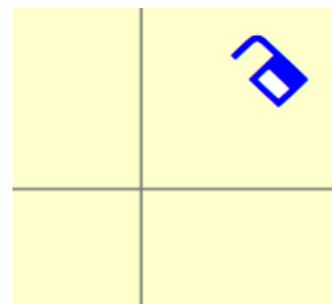
Query

Description

Results

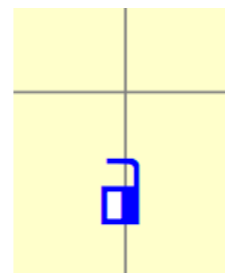
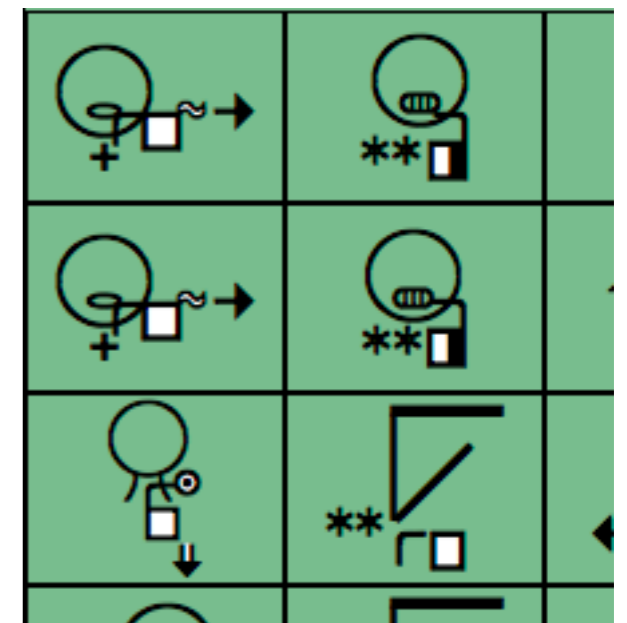
QS10a11532x445

Finds signs that use an exact symbol near a specific coordinate in the sign box



QS10auu491x526

Finds signs that use a general base symbol near a specific coordinate in the SignBox with any fill or rotation.



Examples

Query String

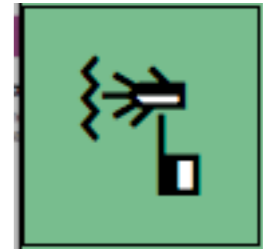
Query

QAS14c12S10018T

Description

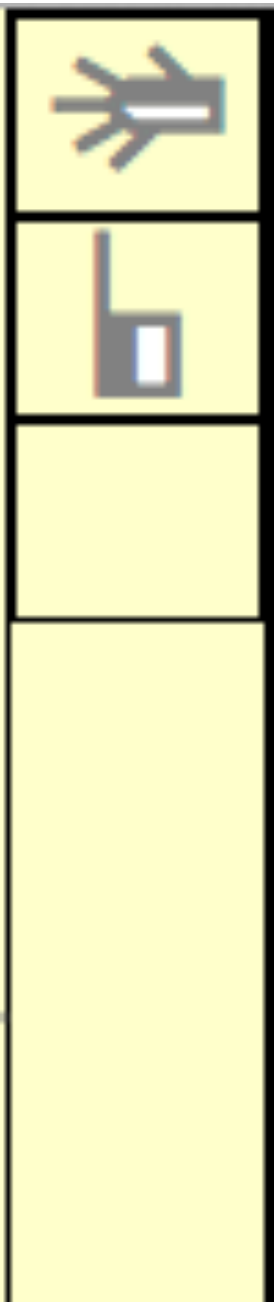
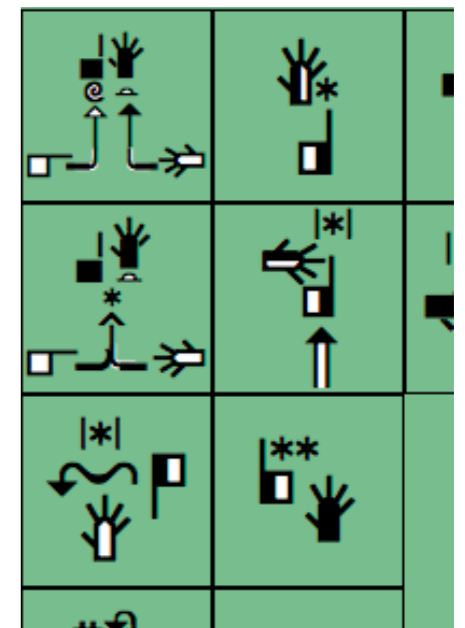
Finds signs with a temporal sequence that starts with specified symbols

Results



QAS14cuuS100uuT

Finds signs with a temporal sequence that starts with the ordered base symbols and any fills or rotations



Examples

Query String

For mixed searching, the Temporal Sequence searching is defined first.

QAS100uuS100uuTS20500470x470

Temporal Sequence Searching

Temporal Sequence starts with any two index hand shapes

Spatial SignBox Searching

Contact star is used near coordinate (470,470)