

A Taste of Regular Expressions

An example

$(2 + (11)^*)0$

A regular expression (RE) describes a set of strings.

In the above:

+ means "OR"

* means "arbitrarily many repeats"

() used for grouping

So in English "Take a 2 or take 11 as many times as you like, and then append a 0".

So generates 20, 110, 11110 etc. Also generates 0 by itself by repeating 11 zero times.