

UTS #18 regex ad hoc: \p vs \m for properties of strings

Markus Scherer, 2020-jan-16

Regarding [PRI #404](#) and the Proposed Update of UTS #18, [version 20](#) dated 2019-11-08, review note about whether to recommend \p or \m syntax for properties of strings:

Based on the existing UTS #18 recommendation to support strings in character classes, and some related implementation experience with ICU class UnicodeSet, we have arrived at the following consensus:

1. Use \p syntax in UTS #18 for properties of strings, such as \p{Basic_Emoji}.
2. Add a section discussing implementations that are constrained in that they do not support strings in character classes, recommending they use \m for properties of strings, such as \m{Basic_Emoji}.
 - a. Note that even implementations that are not so constrained, could also support \m in addition to \p.
 - b. Add to that section a note that, if the recommendation adopts \m for properties of strings, and then later starts support for strings in character classes, that it should then also start supporting \p as alternate syntax for properties of strings.