Matches Operator

Description

Compares a string value to a pre-defined pattern. Evaluates to 1 (true) or 0 (false).

Syntax

string Match | Matches pattern

Remarks

Match is a comparison operator. It compares the string value of string to the defined pattern specified by pattern. If the patterns match, the evaluation is 1 (true); if they do not match, the evaluation will be 0 (false). The values that are compared are the number and types of characters.

For example, if the string value of InputNumber in the expression:

```
InputNumber Matches "5N"
```

consists of five numbers, it will evaluate to 1 (true).

Parameters

The Matches operator has the following parameters.

| Parameter | Description Must be enclosed in quotation marks, or it must be a variable identifier. Pattern specifications are evaluated from left to right. The maximum length permitted for the string is 254 characters; the pattern specification expression may not exceed 254 characters. | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| Pattern | | | |
| | Pattern | Meaning | |
| | NA | An integer followed by A tests for that number of alphabetic characters. | |
| | NN | An integer followed by N tests for that number of numeric characters. | |
| | NX | An integer followed by X tests for that number of any characters. | |
| | NZ | An integer followed by Z tests for up to that number of characters. | |
| | "string" | A literal string enclosed in quotes tests for that exact text. | |

If n is zero, the match is interpreted to mean any number of that pattern. For example, the pattern 0A indicates any number of alphabetic characters.

Example

```
phone = "(203)555-1212"

flag = phone Matches "'('3N')'3N'-'4N"

/* Expression will evaluate to 0 (false) because the phone number has no spaces around the dash or the parentheses. */

CN = "B1234WA"

flag = CN Matches "1A4N2A"

* Expression will evaluate to 1 (true).
```