

# code

```
\lua {
    match = {} ;
    match.expression = "" ;
    match.string = "" ;
    match.result = {} ;
    match.start = 0 ;
    match.length = 0 ;
}

\def\matchstring#1#2{\lua {
    match.expression = "#1" ;
    match.string = "#2" ;
    match.result = {} ;
    match.start, match.length,
        match.result[1], match.result[2], match.result[3],
        match.result[4], match.result[5], match.result[6],
        match.result[7], match.result[8], match.result[9] =
        string.find(match.string,match.expression) ;
} }
```

```
\def\matchresult#1{\lua {
  tex.print(match.result[#1]) ;
} }
```

% or nicer

```
\lua {
  function match.find(expr, str)
    match.expression = expr ;
    match.string = str ;
    match.result = {} ;
    match.start, match.length,
      match.result[1], match.result[2], match.result[3],
      match.result[4], match.result[5], match.result[6],
      match.result[7], match.result[8], match.result[9] =
      string.find(match.string,match.expression) ;
  end
}
```

```
\def\matchstring#1#2{\lua {
  match.find("#1", "#2") ;
} }
```

```
\def\matchresult#1{\lua {
    tex.print(match.result[#1]) ;
} }
```

```
\matchstring
{(\letterpercent d+) (\letterpercent d+) (\letterpercent d+)}
{2005 08 08}
```

```
\starttabulate[|l|c|r|]
\NC year \NC \matchresult{1} \NC \number \matchresult{1} \NC \NR
\NC month \NC \matchresult{2} \NC \number \matchresult{2} \NC \NR
\NC day \NC \matchresult{3} \NC \number \matchresult{3} \NC \NR
\stoptabulate
```

```
\matchstring
{0*(\letterpercent d+) 0*(\letterpercent d+) 0*(\letterpercent d+)}
{2005 08 08}
```

```
\starttabulate[|l|c|]
\NC year \NC \matchresult{1} \NC \NR
\NC month \NC \matchresult{2} \NC \NR
\NC day \NC \matchresult{3} \NC \NR
\stoptabulate
```

# result

year	2005	2005
month	08	8
day	08	8

year	2005
month	8
day	8