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HW 1

0) I asked a friend who is also taking the class this semester on how to make certain parts of the diagram on JFLAP, as I'm still learning how to use the software and didn't know what some of the tools were. I realized that I usually have to ask questions often on how to use new software and struggle a bit at first figuring out how the GUI works, but eventually learn and get better at it.

1) A new perspective from class this week that made me think about something differently was learning the definition of optimization problems, and reconsidering what that actually means. I've always considered optimization as doing something in the best way possible, but I never considered that the problems had the same structure, and that there are familiar patterns that can be used for solving all of them.

I think that designing the deterministic finite automata made a lot of sense for me because I previously took COEN classes that had diagrams that were very similar in logic to it, so it clicked more easily for me.

I think something that I still find unclear are simply the some of the concepts that we are going to learn, and some of the definitions of what we are learning. For example, I still don't clearly understand the concepts of finite automata vs. pushdown automata vs. turing machines.

I actually have not finished reading section 1.1 of the book yet, but I'll be sure to after I have submitted this assignment.