

Homework 1

The instructions below are the typical instructions I give for homeworks in prior semesters. In the Fall 2025 semester, I decided to do away with homeworks and simply calculate the course grade based on quiz and exam performance. However, I am still releasing these homeworks so students may have some extra study materials. We **are not** collecting/grading homework assignments in the Fall 2025 semester.

Word of advice: before working on these homeworks ask yourself: “Can I do all the lab problems right now (without looking at the solutions)?” If the answer is no, that is where you need to spend your time. If the answer is yes, then feel free to proceed. But again, don’t be dumb and look at the solutions first. Lab/homework problems are opportunities to learn and you learn by struggling through them. Looking at a solution and telling yourself “Yeah, I get it” is the best way to do poorly in this course.

- **Every homework problem must be done *individually*.** Each problem needs to be submitted to Gradescope before 6AM of the due date which can be found on the course website: <https://ecealgo.com/homeworks.html>.
- For nearly every problem, **we have covered all the requisite knowledge required to complete a homework assignment prior to the “assigned” date.** This means that there is no reason *not* to begin a homework assignment as soon as it is assigned. Starting a problem the night before it is due a recipe for failure.

Policies to keep in mind

- **You may use any source at your disposal**—paper, electronic, or human—but you ***must*** cite ***every*** source that you use, and you ***must*** write everything yourself in your own words. See the academic integrity policies on the course web site for more details.
- **Being able to clearly and concisely explain your solution is a part of how you are graded in this course and elsewhere.** Before submitting a solution ask yourself, if you were reading the solution without having seen it before, would you be able to understand it within two minutes? If not, you need to edit. Images and flow-charts are very useful for concisely explain difficult concepts.

See the course web site (<https://ecealgo.com/>) for more information.

If you have any questions about these policies,
please don’t hesitate to ask in class, in office hours, or on Piazza.

1. **Random Trivia** Give a brief, concise answer for each of the following questions. If it asks for a proof, you don't have to do a formal research paper proof, but there should be a clear sequence logic.
 - (a) For what languages (L) is L^* finite?
 - (b) Describe two languages, A and B , where such that $|A \cdot B| < |A| \cdot |B|$
 - (c) Prove $(A \cup B)^* = (A^* \cdot B^*)^*$ for all languages A and B .

2. **Recursive definitions** Give the recursive definition for the following languages:
 - (a) $L_{2a} = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ has } 00 \text{ as a substring}\}$
 - (b) $L_{2b} = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ all strings with alternating } 0\text{'s and } 1\text{'s}\}$
 - (c) $L_{2c} = \{w \in \{0, 1\}^* \mid w \text{ has a equal number of } 0\text{'s and } 1\text{'s}\}$

3. **Total equivalence** Prove that each of the following regular expressions is equivalent to $(0 + 1)^*$. You don't have to do a formal research paper proof, but there should be a clear sequence logic.
 - (a) $\epsilon + 0(0 + 1)^* + 1(0 + 1)^*$
 - (b) $0^* + 0^*1(0 + 1)^*$
 - (c) $((\epsilon + 0)(\epsilon + 1))^*$
 - (d) $(1^*0)^*(0^*1)^*$

4. **regular expressions** for each of the following languages ($\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$), give the regular expression that represents that language. You must concisely justify why your regular expression is correct (do not use finite automata).
 - (a) L_{4a} = All strings except 010
 - (b) L_{4b} = Strings that contain the subsequence 010
 - (c) L_{4c} = Strings that **do not** contain the subsequence 010
 - (d) L_{4d} = Strings in which every occurrence of the substring 00 appears before every occurrence of the substring 11