Lab 1

1. Moss is a commonly used tool for detecting similarity in programming assignments, primarily to identify possible plagiarism among students. It uses a couple of techniques to know what might be plagiarized or not. Moss converts source code into a sequence of tokens while removing unnecessary details such as whitespace and comments. It then uses sequences of tokens and extracts important information from them which helps it to match code with similar structure. It then uses the abstract syntax tree to detect cases where variable names are changed but the logic remains the same.
2. Moss supports many languages, it has an AST based analysis, it ignores minor changes like name changes, it can work with large code bases. Most of the other software similarity software's don't have all of these features thus making MOSS better than them.