Julia Abbott

Final Writeup

This particular project has been a learning experience in many ways. I am certainly more comfortable with the javax.swing library, as it is used in the majority of classes defined in it In addition to this, I am also far more comfortable, and understand much better the ActionListener, and how it can be used. I also believe that I have a better understanding of Object Oriented Programing, and how the different classes interact with each other.

That being said, there were also some bumps in the road that I couldn’t quite solve in time. Part of the reason, I am ashamed to admit, was my own lack of foresight and planning. I did not allot enough time to finish the project, as I had believed it would take far less time to implement. In particular, building and linking each of the components of the individual windows was quite more time consuming that I had imagined there would be. I also could not get the ReadIn class to work quite the way I wanted it to (I.e. it could not find the file I was trying to read in despite copying it to almost every level of the file hierarchy). The areas where the user could interact with and change variables in the GUI were also surprisingly challenging to implement. I eventually managed to link the textFields to their respective variables, but I had no such luck with the radio buttons and the check boxes. I also ended up hardwiring the buttons into the window for the in class demo, although in the future I will work on creating an algorithm that will allow ActionListener to access them independently.

Despite this, I was also able to learn quite a bit about java. For example, as I have mentioned above, I am now *far* more comfortable with the java.swing library. I understand how the individual components work together a lot better, and I also understand how to get around some of the limitations of hardwiring certain information into the code. I am rather proud of my realization and subsequent implementation of passing the same InfoStorage object to all of the constructors so that they can access the ArrayLists easily. I do not believe that I would have come to this simple conclusion at the beginning of the semester, obvious as it seems now. I am also more comfortable with the java language as a whole. Indeed, I almost prefer it more to C++.

There are several ideas I want to implement in this app in the future. The first is cloud based storage, so that it is accessible from both the computer and one’s phone. I also want to introduce the ability to mark where one is in the pattern, and highlight areas of repeat within the patterns themselves so that it is easier to read. Finally, I would like to revamp my GUI design, as I do not think that it is the most effective and efficient solution.