Midterm Exam 1, Reflection Opportunity

This task will have you engage once again with the material from the first exam. We believe that one of the best ways to master a topic is to pay close attention to mistakes or things that might not have gone as well as we’d have liked them to, and think about what could be improved and how to generate a better solution. This task will assist you in this process.

You can choose up to two problems from the first midterm and, for each problem, submit a short reflection in which you outline what you believe is not quite right in the answer you submitted and how it could be improved. You can earn up to 50% of the points you lost for each problem. We outline the details for this task below.

In particular, for each problem, we ask that you do the following:

- Read the problem again, and analyze your original response.
- Read the feedback we left (some problems might have more detailed feedback, while others might have less).
- Using this material (as well as the book, your notes, your past assignments and solutions), think carefully and deeply about the following:
  - what went wrong,
  - what confusion about the material you have now identified (and corrected),
  - what is missing, and
  - what could be improved in your solution.
- Write a short reflection (2 paragraphs or so, double-spaced) outlining those thoughts carefully and concisely.

Grading:

- You will be graded on whether the reflection shows meaningful engagement with your mistake. You can earn up to 50% of the points you lost on each problem.
- For example, if you earned 11/15 for a problem and you decide to submit your reflection on it, you can earn up to 2 points (for a total of 13).
- There are no restrictions on which two problems you can pick for this task.
- Note: A reflection that includes something of the form, “My mistake in this DFA construction was forgetting an arrow” would not earn full credit (i.e. 50% of the points lost), as, in our view, it doesn’t show careful engagement with what went wrong, nor does it outline an actionable item to work on in the future.

Some rules of engagement and suggestions:

- You are not allowed to collaborate with anyone (this includes peers, instructors, TAs, or folks not related to our class) to answer this task. Try to think of this as a deep incursion into your own learning.
- You are also not allowed to access any online resources. If you are not sure whether you are allowed to use a resource or not, please make sure to double check with your instructor prior to using it.
- A lengthier response won’t necessarily earn more credit.
- Explaining your thoughts carefully and concisely might require writing multiple drafts.
- This task will be due on Gradescope, on the 23rd of October.