General Feedback for

CS3470 Assessed Coursework 1

How and when feedback was provided

Individual provisional feedback marks and copies of marked scripts were returned to students during the lecture on 26th October. Solutions were discussed in lectures as documented in the lecture diary which is on the course website.

General feedback

This assignment was carried out very well, and most students made a serious and competent attempt at all the questions. The average mark was 78% and there were 8 students who got a mark of over 85%.

Question 1. Most students succeeded well with this question except that the elements were not written as a set, and several students missed ϵ from 1(i). A few students wrote the same string down more than once, contrary to the definition of a pattern as a *set* of strings.

Question 2. Some students did not give a clear indication of how the lexeme matched the regular expression for 2(i) and many students failed to write down a correct justification for their answer to 2(ii).

Question 3. Most students did reasonably well on this question, the main errors were missing out some ϵ transitions, adding in extra ϵ tranisitions at the start and finish nodes, and failing to identify the start state. It is important to apply the algorithm exactly as it is specified. The purpose of the question was to understand and use Thompson's construction.

Question 4. This question was done well by most students. The most common error was not computing the move sets Ta correctly. It is helpful to practice lots of examples so that the method becomes familiar.

Question 5. This question was again done well by many students. Some students mistakenly recombined states which had previously been separated and some did not do all the possible state separations at each step. Some students did not group the columns of the table according to the sets to which they belonged, and this made errors more likely.

Mark Distribution

average 78%