state minimization

- Many different FSMs (DFAs) for the same problem
- Take a given FSM and try to reduce its state set by combining states
  - Algorithm will always produce the unique minimal equivalent machine (up to renaming of states) but we won’t prove this

state minimization algorithm

1. Put states into groups based on their outputs (or whether they are final states or not)
2. Repeat the following until no change happens
   a. If there is a symbol $s$ so that not all states in a group $G$ agree on which group $s$ leads to, split $G$ into smaller groups based on which group the states go to on $s$

state minimization example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>present state</th>
<th>next state 0</th>
<th>next state 1</th>
<th>next state 2</th>
<th>next state 3</th>
<th>output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S0</td>
<td>S0 S1 S2</td>
<td>S3 S4 S5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>S0 S3 S1</td>
<td>S2 S4 S5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>S1 S3 S2</td>
<td>S4 S5 S1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3</td>
<td>S1 S0 S4</td>
<td>S5 S2 S3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S4</td>
<td>S0 S1 S2</td>
<td>S5 S3 S4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S5</td>
<td>S1 S4 S0</td>
<td>S5 S3 S2</td>
<td>0</td>
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state minimization example

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Can combine states S0-S4 and S3-S5. In table replace all S4 with S0 and all S5 with S3.
another way to look at DFAs

Definition: The label of a path in a DFA is the concatenation of all the labels on its edges in order

Lemma: x is in the language recognized by a DFA iff x labels a path from the start state to some final state

nondeterministic finite automaton (NFA)

- Graph with start state, final states, edges labeled by symbols (like DFA) but
  - Not required to have exactly 1 edge out of each state labeled by each symbol—can have 0 or >1
  - Also can have edges labeled by empty string $\epsilon$

- Definition: x is in the language recognized by an NFA if and only if x labels a path from the start state to some final state

goal: NFA to recognize...

binary strings that have even # of 1's or contain the substring 111