

Huygens College Reflection

Assignment 4, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015

In the exercises, $=$ should be read as $=_\beta$ and \equiv should be read as \equiv_α .

1. Write down for each item a term $F \in \Lambda$, with a minimal number of variables, satisfying:

- (i) $F x = x (x x)$
- (ii) $F x = x \mathbf{I}$
- (iii) $F x y = y x$
- (iv) $F x = y x$
- (v) $F x = x F \mathbf{I}$.

2. Let $W \equiv \lambda x y . x y y$. Draw $\mathcal{G}(W W W)$.
 [Hint. This graph consists of exactly four terms.]

3. (Exercise of [Jan Willem Klop])
 Let $Y = L$, where

$$L = \lambda a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q s t u v w x y z r . r \text{ (this is a fixed point combinator).}$$

Show that for all $F \in \Lambda$ one has $Y F = F (Y F)$. (So Y is a fixed point combinator.)

4. (a) Write down precisely a lambda term M such that

$$M x = x M x.$$

Can you make it satisfy $M x \rightarrow x M x$?

- (b) (Turing) Consider the term $\Theta := (\lambda x y . y (x x y)) (\lambda x y . y (x x y))$. Show that Θ is a *reducing fixed point combinator*, that is:

$$\Theta F \rightarrow F(\Theta F) \text{ for all } F.$$

Answer Info:

- i. We recall the fixed-point combinator $\mathbf{Y} := \lambda f . (\lambda x . f (x x)) (\lambda x . f (x x))$. We define $F \equiv \lambda m x . x m x$. By the fixed-point theorem we obtain the term $M := \mathbf{Y} F$ such that $F M = M$. Now we have

$$M x = F M x \equiv (\lambda m x . x m x) M x \rightarrow x M x.$$

It is not the case that $M x \rightarrow x M x$.

- ii. We have to show that $\Theta F \rightarrow F(\Theta F)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta F &\equiv (\lambda x y . y (x x y)) (\lambda x y . y (x x y)) F \\ &\rightarrow F ((\lambda x y . y (x x y)) (\lambda x y . y (x x y)) F) \\ &\equiv F(\Theta F) \end{aligned}$$

Taking Θ as fixed point combinator, we would have $M x \rightarrow x M x$ in the first part of this exercise.

End Answer Info