

Semantics and Domain theory

Exercises 13

1. Prove that, for M a closed λ -term, if M has a head-normal-form, then there is a sequence of terms P_1, \dots, P_n such that $M P_1 \dots P_n =_{\beta} \mathbf{I}$.
 (For closed terms, the reverse implication also holds, so this criterion is equivalent to *having a hnf*. This is where the terminology *solvable* comes from.)

Answer:
 If M is a closed term that has a head-normal-form, then we know that $M =_{\beta} \lambda x_1, \dots, x_n. y Q_1 \dots Q_m$ for some $n \geq 0, m \geq 0$. As M is closed, we know that y is one of the x_i , so we have

$$M =_{\beta} \lambda x_1, \dots, x_n. x_i Q_1 \dots Q_m$$

with $n \geq 1$. We apply M to the sequence of terms P_1, \dots, P_n , where it doesn't matter which terms we choose, except for P_i for which we take $P_i := \lambda z_1, \dots, z_m. \mathbf{I}$. Then $M P_1 \dots P_n =_{\beta} \mathbf{I}$.

End answer

2. Define $T := \lambda x. x y (x x)$ and $M := T T$.

- (a) Draw the Böhm tree of M .

Answer:
 We compute the head-normal form of M : $M = T T = T y (T T) = y y (y y) (T T)$. From there we construct the Böhm tree that is depicted on the next page.

End answer

- (b) Describe the set of approximations of M , $\mathcal{A}(M)$.

Answer:
 We can give a grammar for $\mathcal{A}(M)$:

$$A ::= \perp \mid y \perp \perp A \mid y y \perp A \mid y \perp (y \perp) A \mid y y (y \perp) A \mid y \perp (y y) A \mid y y (y y) A$$

or alternatively we can give an inductive definition (which is actually just a different format for defining the same).

- $\perp \in \mathcal{A}(M)$.
- If $A \in \mathcal{A}(M)$, then $y \perp \perp A, y y \perp A, y \perp (y \perp) A, y y (y \perp) A, y \perp (y y) A$ and $y y (y y) A \in \mathcal{A}(M)$.

End answer

3. Remember that the **S** combinator is defined as $\lambda x y z. x z (y z)$.

- (a) Draw the Böhm tree of **SSS**.

Answer:
 We compute the normal form of **SSS**: $\lambda z. \mathbf{S} z (\mathbf{S} z) = \lambda z. \lambda z'. z z' (\mathbf{S} z z') = \lambda z. \lambda z'. z z' (\lambda z''. z z'' (z' z'')) = \lambda x y. x y (\lambda z. x z (y z))$. From there we construct the Böhm tree that is depicted on the next page.

End answer

- (b) Give the approximations of **SSS**, that is, describe $\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{SSS})$.

Answer:
 $\lambda x y. x y (\lambda z. x z (y z)), \lambda x y. x y (\lambda z. x z (y \perp)), \lambda x y. x \perp (\lambda z. x z (y z)), \lambda x y. x \perp (\lambda z. x z (y \perp)), \lambda x y. x y (\lambda z. x z \perp), \lambda x y. x \perp (\lambda z. x z (y z)), \lambda x y. x y (\lambda z. x \perp (y z)),$ etc.

End answer

4. Suppose that the term B satisfies $B = x B B$. Draw the Böhm tree of B .

Answer:
See the next page.

End answer

5. (a) Give a term P that has the Böhm tree given below.

Answer:
 P should satisfy $P = x(x P y)$, so we take $P := \mathbf{Y}(\lambda p.x(x p y))$ where \mathbf{Y} is the fixed-point combinator.

End answer

(b) (Hard) Give a term Q that has the Böhm tree given below.

Answer:
We define a family of terms Q_n where

$$\begin{aligned} Q = Q_0 &= x(x Q_1 y), \\ Q_1 &= x(x Q_2 (y y)), \\ Q_2 &= x(x Q_3 (y(y y))), \\ &\text{etcetera} \end{aligned}$$

$$Q_n = x(x Q_{n+1} (c_n y y))$$

where $c_n = \lambda f x.f^n(x)$ is the n -th Church numeral. Note that $c_n y y$ is exactly the term that we need at that place, and $c_0 y y = y$ is also correct. If we place the index n also as an argument, we are looking for a term Q satisfying

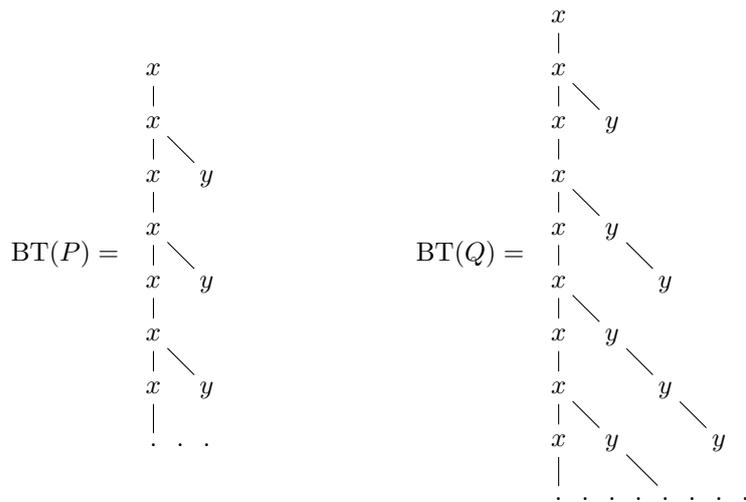
$$Q c_n = x(x(Q c_{n+1})(c_n y y)).$$

So we can take

$$Q := \mathbf{Y}(\lambda q.\lambda n.x(x(Q(\mathbf{succ} n))(n y y)))$$

where **succ** is the successor function on Church numerals. The term we need, that has the Böhm tree given in the exercise is then $Q c_0$.

End answer



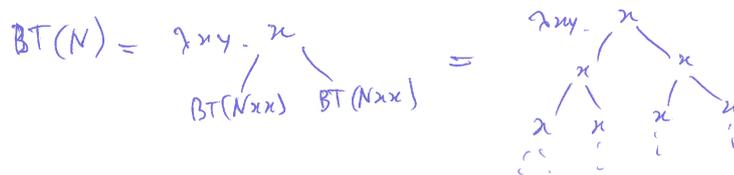
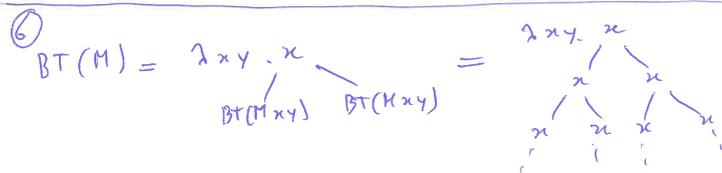
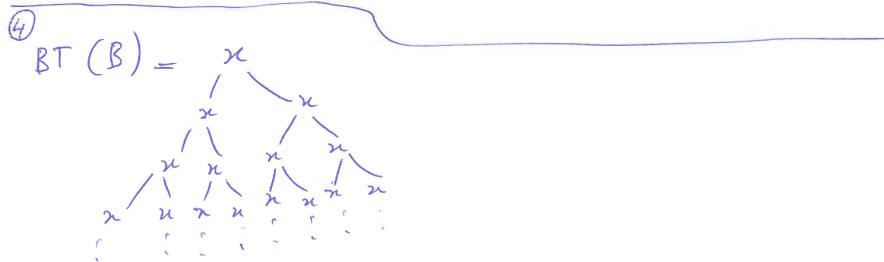
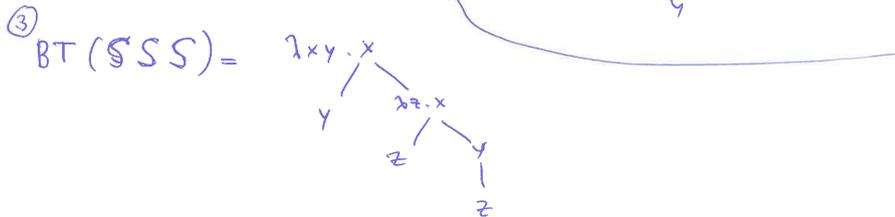
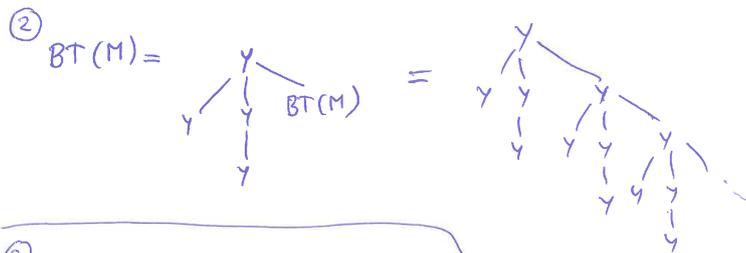
6. Let M and N be λ -terms that satisfy the following equations

$$\begin{aligned} M &= \lambda xy.x(M x y)(M x y) \\ N &= \lambda xy.x(N x x)(N x x) \end{aligned}$$

Prove that $M = N$ in D_A .

Answer:
 We compute the Böhm trees of M and of N . This results in the Böhm trees that are depicted on the next page. We observe that $BT(M) = BT(N)$ and so $M = N$ in D_A .
End answer

Answer:



End answer