



Semantics, WS 2003: Solutions for assignment 1

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Exercise 1.1: Church numerals – Power The most compact term looks like this:

$\text{power} = \lambda m. \lambda n. n^m$

Let us introduce some notation: $s^n z$ means applying s n times to z : $s(s(s(\dots(sz)\dots)))$. To disambiguate this from ordinary exponentiation, n to the power of m will be written like this: $[n^m]$.

We prove by induction that the term given above really computes the factorial:

- Case 1: $n = 0$
 $(\lambda s z. z)(\lambda s z. s^m z) \rightarrow \lambda z. z$ (equivalent to 1 through η -expansion)
- Case 2: $n = 1$
 $(\lambda s z. s z)(\lambda s z. s^m z) \rightarrow \lambda z. (\lambda s z. s^m z) z$ (equivalent to m through η -reduction)
- Case 3: $n > 1$
 $(\lambda s z. s^n z)(\lambda s z. s^m z)$
 $\rightarrow \lambda z'. (\lambda s z. s^m z)^n z'$
 $\rightarrow \lambda z'. (\lambda s z. s^m z)^{n-1} ((\lambda s z. s^m z) z')$
 $\rightarrow \lambda z'. (\lambda s z. s^m z)^{n-1} (\lambda z. z'^m z)$
with the induction hypothesis it follows that
 $\rightarrow \lambda z'. (\lambda s z. s^{[m^{n-1}]} z)(\lambda z. z'^m z)$
 $\rightarrow \lambda z'. \lambda z. (z'^m)^{[m^{n-1}]} z$ (η -reduction)
 $\rightarrow \lambda z'. \lambda z. z'^{[m^n]} z$

Exercise 1.2: Church numerals – Subtraction TAPL, 5.2.5

Exercise 1.3: Church numerals – Equality TAPL, 5.2.7

Exercise 1.4: Church numerals - Factorial Define fac as follows:

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zz = pair c1 c1
ss = λ p.pair (times (fst p) (snd p)) (scc (snd p))
fac = λ n.fst (n ss zz)
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This function works by building $n + 1$ pairs, and pair number i has the form $(i!, i + 1)$.

Illustration:

$$\begin{aligned} (c_{(n-1)!} \times c_n, \text{scc } c_n) &= (n!, n + 1) \\ &\vdots \\ (c6 \times c4, \text{scc } c4) &= (24, 5) \\ (c2 \times c3, \text{scc } c3) &= (6, 4) \\ (c1 \times c2, \text{scc } c2) &= (2, 3) \\ (c1 \times c1, \text{scc } c1) &= (1, 2) \\ (c1, c1) &= (1, 1) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 1.5: Church numerals - Lists TAPL, 5.2.8

Exercise 1.6: Church numerals - Sum of list TAPL, 5.2.11