

# 15-814 Homework 3 Solutions

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**Task 1** Define the function  $f$  in the language **LNS** from Homework 2, without using well-founded recursion. You will want to make use of pairs.

**Solution:** We compute for each  $n$  the pair  $\langle f(n), f(n+1) \rangle$  and take the first projection. We assume that the usual  $+$  has been defined, e.g. see Homework 2's solution notes.

$$f = \lambda n:\mathbf{nat}.\pi_1 \mathbf{natrec}(n; \langle z, s(z) \rangle; x.y.\langle \pi_2 y, \pi_1 y + \pi_2 y \rangle)$$

**Task 2** Define the function  $f$  in System **T**, using well-founded recursion.

**Solution:** We first define the function  $F$  for which we want to perform a fixed-point computation. We again assume that  $\mathbf{ifz}, \leq, -, +$  have been defined following Homework 2.

$$F = \lambda f:\mathbf{nat} \rightarrow \mathbf{nat}.\lambda n:\mathbf{nat}.\mathbf{ifz} (n \leq s(z)) n (f(n - s(s(z)))) + f(n - s(z))$$

It is useful to note its type  $F : (\mathbf{nat} \rightarrow \mathbf{nat}) \rightarrow (\mathbf{nat} \rightarrow \mathbf{nat})$ . A fixed point of  $F$  would be an  $x : \mathbf{nat} \rightarrow \mathbf{nat}$  such that  $Fx = x$ . Next, we define the  $n$ -fold composition of a function with itself.

$$\mathbf{ncompose} = \lambda f:(\mathbf{nat} \rightarrow \mathbf{nat}) \rightarrow (\mathbf{nat} \rightarrow \mathbf{nat}).\lambda n:\mathbf{nat}.\mathbf{natrec}(n; \lambda m:\mathbf{nat}.m; x.y.f y)$$

Finally, we put the two together to define what we want.

$$f = \lambda n:\mathbf{nat}.\mathbf{ncompose} F n n$$

To get a better understanding of what is going on, let us manually unfold  $f$  3. (I write  $\equiv$  here because some of these steps are not in correct evaluation order). Notice that composing  $F$  with itself 3 times is sufficient, because we always decrease  $n$  by at least 1 in each recursive call.

$$\begin{aligned} f\ 3 &\equiv \mathbf{ncompose} F\ 3\ 3 \\ &\equiv \mathbf{natrec}(3; \lambda m:\mathbf{nat}.m; x.y.F\ y)\ 3 \\ &\equiv F\ (F\ (F\ \overbrace{\lambda m:\mathbf{nat}.m}^{\mathbf{id}}))\ 3 \\ &\equiv (F^3\ \mathbf{id})\ 3 \\ &\equiv \mathbf{ifz}\ (3 \leq 1)\ 2\ ((F^2\ \mathbf{id})\ (3 - 2)) + (F^2\ \mathbf{id})\ (3 - 1) \\ &\equiv (F^2\ \mathbf{id})\ 1 + (F^2\ \mathbf{id})\ 2 \\ &\equiv (F^2\ \mathbf{id})\ 1 + (F\ \mathbf{id})\ 0 + (F\ \mathbf{id})\ 1 \\ &\equiv 2 \end{aligned}$$

Essentially, the  $n$ -fold composition acts like a “clock” or “fuel” for  $F$  that is decremented on each recursive call. This ensures well-foundedness because we cannot decrement the clock forever.

**Task 3** For each of the following pairs of types  $\tau_1, \tau_2$ , define expressions  $f, g$  with types  $f : \tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2$  and  $g : \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_1$  respectively.

**Solution:** I write  $\lambda a : \tau, b : \tau'. e$  as shorthand for  $\lambda a : \tau. \lambda b : \tau'. e$ . Note that we can also understand these using the Curry-Howard isomorphism. For example, (Triple Negation) corresponds to the tautology  $\neg\neg\neg p \iff \neg p$  that was mentioned in class.

1. (Currying)  $\tau_1 \rightarrow (\tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_3), (\tau_1 \times \tau_2) \rightarrow \tau_3$

$$f = \lambda x : \tau_1 \rightarrow (\tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_3), p : \tau_1 \times \tau_2. x (\pi_1 p) (\pi_2 p)$$

$$g = \lambda x : \tau_1 \times \tau_2 \rightarrow \tau_3, \lambda p_1 : \tau_1, p_2 : \tau_2. x \langle p_1, p_2 \rangle$$

2. (Permutation)  $(\tau_1 + \tau_2) + \tau_3, (\tau_2 + \tau_3) + \tau_1$

$$f = \lambda x : (\tau_1 + \tau_2) + \tau_3. \text{case } x \{ y. \text{case } y \{ l. \text{inr}(l); r. \text{inl}(\text{inl}(r)) \}; y. \text{inl}(\text{inr}(y)) \}$$

Similarly for  $g$ .

3. (Distributivity)  $\tau \times (\tau_1 + \tau_2), (\tau \times \tau_1) + (\tau \times \tau_2)$

$$f = \lambda x : \tau \times (\tau_1 + \tau_2). \text{case } \pi_2 x \{ y. \text{inl}(\langle \pi_1 x, y \rangle); y. \text{inr}(\langle \pi_1 x, y \rangle) \}$$

$$g = \lambda x : (\tau \times \tau_1) + (\tau \times \tau_2). \text{case } x \{ y. \langle \pi_1 y, \text{inl}(\pi_2 y) \rangle; y. \langle \pi_1 y, \text{inr}(\pi_2 y) \rangle \}$$

4. (De Morgan)  $(\tau_1 + \tau_2) \rightarrow \text{void}, (\tau_1 \rightarrow \text{void}) \times (\tau_2 \rightarrow \text{void})$

$$f = \lambda x : (\tau_1 + \tau_2) \rightarrow \text{void}. \langle \lambda y : \tau_1. x \text{ inl}(y), \lambda y : \tau_2. x \text{ inr}(y) \rangle$$

$$g = \lambda x : (\tau_1 \rightarrow \text{void}) \times (\tau_2 \rightarrow \text{void}). \lambda y : \tau_1 + \tau_2. \text{case } y \{ z. \pi_1 x z; z. \pi_2 x z \}$$

5. (Soundness)  $\tau \times (\tau \rightarrow \text{void}), \text{void}$

$$f = \lambda x : \tau \times (\tau \rightarrow \text{void}). (\pi_2 x) (\pi_1 x)$$

$$g = \lambda x : \text{void}. \text{abort}[\tau \times (\tau \rightarrow \text{void})](x)$$

6. (Triple Negation)  $((\tau \rightarrow \text{void}) \rightarrow \text{void}) \rightarrow \text{void}, \tau \rightarrow \text{void}$

$$f = \lambda x : ((\tau \rightarrow \text{void}) \rightarrow \text{void}) \rightarrow \text{void}, y : \tau. x (\lambda v : \tau \rightarrow \text{void}. v y)$$

$$g = \lambda x : \tau \rightarrow \text{void}. \lambda y : ((\tau \rightarrow \text{void}) \rightarrow \text{void}). y x$$

**Task 4** Lists can either be Nil or Cons of an element and a list. In ML-style, we write

$$\tau \text{ list} \triangleq \text{Nil} \mid \text{Cons of } \tau \times \tau \text{ list}$$

Define the following types and functions in System **F**. As usual, briefly explain (in 1-2 lines) the intuition behind your answer.

1. Define  $\tau \text{ list}$  in System **F**.
2. Define  $\text{nil}_\tau : \tau \text{ list}$ , the empty list.
3. Give the representation of the list  $[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n]$  where  $a_i : \tau$ .
4. Define  $\text{cons}_\tau : \tau \rightarrow \tau \text{ list} \rightarrow \tau \text{ list}$ .

5. Define  $\text{listrec}(l, e_0, x.y.e_1) : \rho$  (analogous to  $\text{natrec}$  in System  $\mathbf{T}$ ). Its static and dynamic semantics are given below. Here,  $x$  is bound to the head of the list, and  $y$  is bound to the result of the computation on the tail of the list.

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash l : \tau \text{ list} \quad \Gamma \vdash e_0 : \rho \quad \Gamma, x : \tau, y : \rho \vdash e_1 : \rho}{\Gamma \vdash \text{listrec}(l, e_0, x.y.e_1) : \rho} \text{ (LISTREC)}$$

$$\frac{}{\text{listrec}(\text{nil}, e_0, x.y.e_1) \mapsto e_0} \text{ (LISTREC-NIL)}$$

$$\frac{}{\text{listrec}(\text{cons}(h, t), e_0, x.y.e_1) \mapsto [h, \text{listrec}(t, e_0, x.y.e_1)/x, y]e_1} \text{ (LISTREC-S)}$$

6. Define the function  $\text{append} : \tau \text{ list} \rightarrow \tau \text{ list} \rightarrow \tau \text{ list}$ , which takes two lists and appends the second list at the end of the first. (You can define this by working it out with  $\text{listrec}$ , but there is a cleaner, more elegant solution.)

**Solution:**

1. Note the similarity between this and natural numbers (what if  $\tau = \text{unit}$ ?)

$$\tau \text{ list} = \forall \alpha. \alpha \rightarrow (\tau \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha) \rightarrow \alpha$$

- 2.

$$\text{nil}_\tau : \tau \text{ list} = \Lambda \alpha. \lambda m : \alpha. \lambda c : \tau \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha. m$$

- 3.

$$[a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n] = \Lambda \alpha. \lambda m : \alpha. \lambda c : \tau \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha. c a_1 (c a_2 (\dots (c a_n m)))$$

- 4.

$$\text{cons}_\tau : \tau \rightarrow \tau \text{ list} \rightarrow \tau \text{ list} = \lambda h : \tau. \lambda t : \tau \text{ list}. \Lambda \alpha. \lambda m : \alpha. \lambda c : \tau \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha. c h (t[\alpha] m c)$$

- 5.

$$\text{listrec}(l : \tau \text{ list}, e_0, x.y.e_1) : \rho = l[\rho] e_0 (\lambda x : \tau. \lambda y : \rho. e_1)$$

- 6.

$$\text{append} : \tau \text{ list} \rightarrow \tau \text{ list} \rightarrow \tau \text{ list} = \lambda x : \tau \text{ list}. \lambda y : \tau \text{ list}. \Lambda \alpha. \lambda m : \alpha. \lambda c : \tau \rightarrow \alpha \rightarrow \alpha. x[\alpha] (y[\alpha] m c) c$$