1999 Paper 6 Question 12

Foundations of Functional Programming

(a) Give λ -terms Y, K, T and I satisfying the following equalities for all terms M and N:

$$YM = M(YM)$$

$$KMN = M$$

$$TMN = NM$$

$$IM = M$$
[4 marks]

(b) A λ -term is *defined* if it has a head normal form. For each of the following terms, state whether or not it is defined, giving justification for your answer.

$$Y \quad YK \quad YT \quad YI$$
 [8 marks]

(c) A λ -term M is solvable if there exist variables x_1, \ldots, x_m and terms N_1, \ldots, N_n such that

$$(\lambda x_1,\ldots,x_m.M)N_1\ldots N_n = I$$

For those terms in (b) that are solvable, exhibit the variables and terms that establish this. For those that are not, explain why they are not solvable.

[8 marks]