2003 Paper 5 Question 10

Foundations of Functional Programming

Suppose that lists are to be represented in a pure functional manner using a convention where, for instance, a list with three members a_1 , a_2 and a_3 is modelled by a lambda term

$$\lambda f.\lambda x.fa_1(fa_2(fa_3x))$$

- (a) Give the lambda term that corresponds to an empty list. [2 marks]
- (b) Explain how the normal list operations can be achieved on lists that are represented in this way. Specifically show how to create pure functional implementations of
 - (i) a test for an empty list, [2 marks]
 - (*ii*) adding a new item to the front of a list, and [4 marks]
 - (*iii*) finding the head and tail of a non-empty list. [9 marks]
- (c) Show how a map function can be implemented for use with these functional lists, so that

map f [a,b,c] -> [f a, f b, f c]

[3 marks]