

2007 Paper 5 Question 11

Semantics of Programming Languages

- (a) Consider the types given by the grammar below.

$$T ::= \text{unit} \mid T_1 \rightarrow T_2$$

Define the syntax and type system for a pure functional language over these types: a syntax of expressions e for variables, skip, functions, and function application, and typing rules defining a judgement $\Gamma \vdash e:T$. State clearly what mathematical objects Γ ranges over, and what the binding is in your language. [5 marks]

- (b) For each of the following, state whether it is true or false. For the true statements, give examples (instantiations for the existentially quantified variables); for the false statements, give proofs of their negations. For any inductive proofs, include statements of the kind of induction used and the induction hypothesis.

(i) $\exists \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, e, T_1, T_2. (\Gamma_1 \vdash e:T_1) \wedge (\Gamma_2 \vdash e:T_2) \wedge (T_1 \neq T_2)$

(ii) $\exists \Gamma, e, T_1, T_2. (\Gamma \vdash e:T_1) \wedge (\Gamma \vdash e:T_2) \wedge (T_1 \neq T_2)$

(iii) $\exists \Gamma, e, T. \Gamma \vdash e e:T$

- (iv) $\exists \Gamma, e, T. \Gamma \vdash e:T$ such that $\Gamma \not\vdash e:T$ if the syntax and rules were interpreted concretely, instead of up to alpha equivalence.

[14 marks]

- (c) Discuss briefly whether alpha equivalence is needed to define type systems for ML-like and Java-like languages. [1 mark]