COMPUTER SCIENCE TRIPOS Part II – 2012 – Paper 8

14 Types (AMP)

- (a) Give the Mini-ML typing rules for variables, boolean values and conditional expressions, function abstraction and application, and for expressions of the form let $x = M_1$ in M_2 . [6 marks]
- (b) Midi-ML is obtained from Mini-ML by adding a unit type unit, reference types τ ref and associated expressions for the unit value (), reference creation ref M, dereferencing !M and assignment $M_1 := M_2$. Give the Midi-ML typing rules for these forms of expression. [4 marks]
- (c) What is meant by the *type soundness* property of a programming language and its type system? [1 mark]
- (d) Explain why combining the typing rules in part (a) with those in part (b) leads to an unsound type system and how Midi-ML modifies the typing rule for let-expressions in order to ensure the type soundness property. Illustrate your answer using the expression

let
$$r = \text{ref } \lambda x(x) \text{ in } (\lambda y(!r()))(r := \lambda x(\text{if } x \text{ then false else true})).$$

(You need not give a formal definition of the operational semantics of Midi-ML.)

[9 marks]