

1.1 Evaluate the lambda-expression

$$\left(\left((\lambda f. \lambda x. f(f(f(x)))) (\lambda g. \lambda y. g(g(y))) \right) (\lambda z. z + 1) \right) (0).$$

Given any function f (with codomain equal to the domain, or at least contained in the domain, or at least at least equipped with a map to the domain), let f^n be the n -fold composite of f with itself. For example, $f^2(x) = f(f(x))$, so $\lambda x. f(f(x)) = f^2$ (that is $f \circ f$).

Then $\lambda x. f(f(f(x))) = f^3$, and $\lambda y. g(g(y)) = g^2$. So, $\lambda g. \lambda y. g(g(y))$ is the operation that maps g to g^2 , while $\lambda f. \lambda x. f(f(f(x)))$ is the operation that maps f to f^3 . Applying the latter operation to the former operation, I get the operation that maps g to $\left((g^2)^2 \right)^2 = g^8$. (To generalise this, note that $8 = 2^3$.)

Applying this operation $\lambda g. g^8$ to $\lambda z. z + 1$, I get $\lambda z. z + 8$, so the final result is $0 + 8 = 8$.

1.2 Let $\omega = \lambda x. x(x)$. What is $\omega(\omega)$?

In general, $\omega(f) = f(f)$ (for any function f that belongs to its domain, or at least is equipped with an element of its domain). Therefore, $\omega(\omega) = \omega(\omega)$. The expression cannot be further evaluated.

Perhaps more interesting would be to consider $\eta = \lambda x. x(x(x))$. Then $\eta(\eta) = \eta(\eta(\eta))$; evaluating the expression just makes it more complicated!