

A λ -term N is said to be a ***fixed point*** of another λ -term M just if $MN =_{\beta} N$.

Theorem (First Recursion Theorem)

Every λ -term possesses a fixed point.

CURRY'S PARADOXICAL COMBINATOR

$$\mathbf{Y} := \lambda f. (\lambda x. f(xx))(\lambda x. f(xx))$$

satisfies

$$\mathbf{Y} M =_{\beta} M (\mathbf{Y} M)$$

If you want an M such that (assuming $y \neq x_i$)...

$$M x_1 \cdots x_n =_{\beta} N[M/y]$$

...just choose $M := \mathbf{Y}(\lambda y. \lambda x_1 \dots x_n. N)$

