- Atomic register specification -

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The application model



Sequential execution



Sequential execution



Concurrent execution



Execution with failures



Safety

- An atomic register provides strong guarantees even when there is concurrency and failures
- The execution is equivalent to a sequential and failure-free execution (*linearization*)

Atomic register

 Every failed (write) operation appears to be either complete or not to have been invoked at all

And

 Every complete operation appears to be executed at some instant between its invocation and reply time events















Correctness

- Execution 1: non-regular (safe)
- Executions 2 and 7: non-atomic (regular)
- Executions 3; 4, 5 and 6: atomic

Regular vs Atomic

- With one writer and no failed *Write()*, for a regular register to be atomic, two successive *Read()* must not overlap a *Write()*
- The regular register might in this case allow the first *Read()* to obtain the new value and the second *Read()* to obtain the old value