STiDC'07: Exercise 5

November 26, 2007

Write an algorithm that implements a *fetch-and-increment* object using atomic registers and compare-and-swap objects.

Reminder: Fetch-and-increment is a shared object that maintains a single variable c, initialized to 0, and provides a single operation *fetch&inc* with the following sequential specification:

```
operation fetch&inc()
  c' := c
  c := c + 1
  return c'
end
```

A compare-and-swap object is a shared object that maintains a single variable v, initialized to $\perp$, and provides a single operation *CAS* with the following sequential specification:

```
operation CAS(oldVal, newVal)
  v' := v
  if v = oldVal then v := newVal
  return v'
end
```

Solution. Here is an example algorithm that implements a fetch-and-increment object using: (1) a single compare-and-swap object C (initialized to $\langle -1, \ldots, -1 \rangle$), and (2) array R of N atomic registers (each initialized to -2). The local variable (array) $last_i$ is initialized to $\langle -1, \ldots, -1 \rangle$ at every process p_i.

```
upon fetch&inc()_i do
    R[i] ← last_i[i]
    repeat
        for k ← 1 to N do r[k] ← R[k]
        m ← max_k(r[k]) + 1
        new ← last_i
        for k ← 1 to N do
            if r[k] = last_i[k] then new[k] ← m
            m ← m + 1
        v ← C.CAS(last_i, new)
        if v = last_i then last_i ← new
        else last_i ← v
    until last_i[i] > R[i]
    return last_i[i]
```