## **EE 382N**

## **Practice Questions**

- 1. Assume that you have implemented Mattern's vector clock algorithm. However some application needs Lamport's time stamps. Write a function *convert* () that takes as input Mattern's time stamp and outputs Lamport's time stamps.
- 2. Let s.v be the vector clock for the local state s. Given n vectors, one from each state, one can form a matrix to represent the cross product of the local states which can be viewed as the global state. A global state is defined to be consistent if every pair of the local states are concurrent. Give a suitable condition on the matrix for this global state to be consistent.
- 3. A vector clock designer has come up with the idea that instead of process  $P_i$  sending the entire vector to  $P_j$  every time, it should only send those components of the vector that are different from the last time it sent a message to  $P_j$ . What are the advantages and disadvantages of this scheme?
- 4. To totally order all the events in a distributed system (preserving happened-before relation), one can use Lamport's logical clock with process id. Two events e and f are then ordered as

$$e < f \equiv (e.c < f.c) \lor ((e.c = f.c) \land (e.p < f.p))$$

This ordering favors the small numbered processes when two events have the same value for Lamport's clock. Modify the scheme so that this unfairness is removed.

- 5. The mutual exclusion algorithm by Lamport requires that any request message be acknowledged. Under what conditions does a process not need to send an *acknowledgement* message for a *request* message?
- 6. Show how you will modify the centralized algorithm for mutual exclusion so that requests are granted in the order (happened-before order) they are made.
- 7. Prove or disprove that concurrent with is a transitive relation.