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Winter 2015/16
Part VII

Concurrency Control
The “Hello World” of Transaction Management

- My bank issued me a debit card to access my account.
- Every once in a while, I’d use it at an ATM to draw some money from my account, causing the ATM to perform a transaction in the bank’s database.

1 \( \text{bal} \leftarrow \text{read_bal}(\text{acct_no}) \);
2 \( \text{bal} \leftarrow \text{bal} - 100 \text{ CHF} \);
3 \( \text{write_bal}(\text{acct_no}, \text{bal}) \);

- My account is properly updated to reflect the new balance.
The problem is: My wife has a card for the account, too.

- We might end up using our cards at different ATMs at the same time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>me</th>
<th>my wife</th>
<th>DB state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \text{bal} \leftarrow \text{read(\text{acct})} ); )</td>
<td>( \text{bal} \leftarrow \text{read(\text{acct})}; )</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( \text{bal} \leftarrow \text{bal} - 100; )</td>
<td>( \text{bal} \leftarrow \text{bal} - 200; )</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>\text{write(\text{acct, bal})}; )</td>
<td>\text{write(\text{acct, bal})}; )</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The first update was lost during this execution. Lucky me!
This time, I want to **transfer** money over to another account.

```c
// Subtract money from source (checking) account
1  chk_bal ← read_bal(chk_acct_no);
2  chk_bal ← chk_bal − 500 CHF;
3  write_bal(chk_acct_no, chk_bal);

// Credit money to the target (saving) account
4  sav_bal ← read_bal(sav_acct_no);
5  sav_bal ← sav_bal + 500 CHF;
6  write_bal(sav_acct_no, sav_bal);
```

Before the transaction gets to step 6, its execution is **interrupted/cancelled** (power outage, disk failure, software bug, ...). My money is **lost 😞**.
One of the key benefits of a database system are the transaction properties guaranteed to the user:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Atomicity</th>
<th>Either <strong>all</strong> or <strong>none</strong> of the updates in a database transaction are applied.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Consistency</td>
<td>Every transaction brings the database from one <strong>consistent</strong> state to another.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Isolation</td>
<td>A transaction must not see any effect from other transactions that run in parallel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Durability</td>
<td>The effects of a <strong>successful</strong> transaction maintain persistent and may not be undone for system reasons.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A challenge is to preserve these guarantees even with **multiple users** accessing the database **concurrently**.
Concurrency Control

Web Forms → Applications → SQL Commands
- Executor
- Operator Evaluator
- Parser
- Optimizer
- Files and Access Methods
- Buffer Manager
- Disk Space Manager
- Recovery Manager

Transaction Manager

Lock Manager

DBMS
- data files, indices, ...

Database
Anomalies: Lost Update

- We already saw a **lost update** example on slide 244.
- The effects of one transaction are lost, because of an uncontrolled overwriting by the second transaction.
Anomalies: Inconsistent Read

Consider the money transfer example (slide 245), expressed in SQL syntax:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transaction 1</th>
<th>Transaction 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UPDATE Accounts</td>
<td>SELECT SUM(balance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SET balance = balance - 500</td>
<td>FROM Accounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHERE customer = 4711</td>
<td>WHERE customer = 4711;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND account_type = 'C';</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPDATE Accounts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SET balance = balance + 500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHERE customer = 4711</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND account_type = 'S';</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Transaction 2 sees an **inconsistent** database state.
Anomalies: Dirty Read

At a different day, my wife and me again end up in front of an ATM at roughly the same time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>me</th>
<th>my wife</th>
<th>DB state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$bal \leftarrow \text{read}(acct)$;</td>
<td>$bal \leftarrow \text{read}(acct)$;</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$bal \leftarrow bal - 100$;</td>
<td>$bal \leftarrow bal - 200$;</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\text{write}(acct, bal)$;</td>
<td>$\text{write}(acct, bal)$;</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abort;</td>
<td>$bal \leftarrow bal - 200$;</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\text{write}(acct, bal)$;</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- My wife’s transaction has already read the modified account balance before my transaction was **rolled back**.
The **scheduler** decides the execution order of concurrent database accesses.
We now assume a slightly simplified model of database access:

1. A database consists of a number of named objects. In a given database state, each object has a value.
2. Transactions access an object \( o \) using the two operations \( \text{read } o \) and \( \text{write } o \).

In a relational DBMS we have that

\[ \text{object} \equiv \text{attribute} \]
Transactions

A **database transaction** $T$ is a (strictly ordered) sequence of **steps**. Each **step** is a pair of an **access operation** applied to an **object**.

- Transaction $T = \langle s_1, \ldots, s_n \rangle$
- Step $s_i = (a_i, e_i)$
- Access operation $a_i \in \{\text{read}, \text{write}\}$

The **length** of a transaction $T$ is its number of steps $|T| = n$.

We could write the money transfer transaction as

$$T = \langle (\text{read}, \text{Checking}), (\text{write}, \text{Checking}), (\text{read}, \text{Saving}), (\text{write}, \text{Saving}) \rangle$$  

or, more concisely,

$$T = \langle r(C), w(C), r(S), w(S) \rangle.$$
A **schedule** $S$ for a given set of transactions $T = \{T_1, \ldots, T_n\}$ is an arbitrary sequence of execution steps

$$S(k) = (T_j, a_i, e_i) \quad k = 1 \ldots m,$$

such that

1. $S$ contains all steps of all transactions and nothing else and
2. the order among steps in each transaction $T_j$ is preserved:

   $$(a_p, e_p) < (a_q, e_q) \text{ in } T_j \Rightarrow (T_j, a_p, e_p) < (T_j, a_q, e_q) \text{ in } S.$$ 

We sometimes write

$$S = \langle r_1(B), r_2(B), w_1(B), w_2(B) \rangle$$

to mean

$$S(1) = (T_1, \text{read, } B) \quad S(3) = (T_1, \text{write, } B)$$
$$S(2) = (T_2, \text{read, } B) \quad S(4) = (T_2, \text{write, } B)$$
One particular schedule is **serial execution**.

- A schedule $S$ is serial iff, for each contained transaction $T_j$, all its steps follow each other (no interleaving of transactions).

Consider again the ATM example from slide 244.

- $S = \langle r_1(B), r_2(B), w_1(B), w_2(B) \rangle$
- This schedule is **not** serial.

If my wife had gone to the bank one hour later, “our” schedule probably would have been serial.

- $S = \langle r_1(B), w_1(B), r_2(B), w_2(B) \rangle$
Correctness of Serial Execution

- Anomalies such as the “lost update” problem on slide 244 can only occur in multi-user mode.
- If all transactions were fully executed one after another (no concurrency), no anomalies would occur.
- **Any serial execution is correct.**
- Disallowing concurrent access, however, is not practical.
- Therefore, allow concurrent executions if they are equivalent to a serial execution.
Conflicts

What does it mean for a schedule $S$ to be equivalent to another schedule $S'$?

- Sometimes, we may be able to reorder steps in a schedule.
  - We must not change the order among steps of any transaction $T_j$ (↗ slide 254).
  - Rearranging operations must not lead to a different result.
- Two operations $(a, e)$ and $(a', e')$ are said to be in conflict $(a, e) \leftrightarrow (a', e')$ if their order of execution matters.
  - When reordering a schedule, we must not change the relative order of such operations.
- Any schedule $S'$ that can be obtained this way from $S$ is said to be conflict equivalent to $S$. 
Conflicts

Based on our read/write model, we can come up with a more machine-friendly definition of a conflict.

- Two operations \((T_i, a, e)\) and \((T_j, a', e')\) are in conflict in \(S\) if
  1. they belong to two different transactions \((T_i \neq T_j)\),
  2. they access the same database object, i.e., \(e = e'\), and
  3. at least one of them is a write operation.

- This inspires the following conflict matrix:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>read</th>
<th>write</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>read</td>
<td>\times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write</td>
<td>\times</td>
<td>\times</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conflict relation** \(\prec_S\):

\[
(T_i, a, e) \prec_S (T_j, a', e') \quad := \quad (a, e) \leftrightarrow (a', e') \land (T_i, a, e) \text{ occurs before } (T_j, a', e') \text{ in } S \land T_i \neq T_j
\]
A schedule $S$ is **conflict serializable** iff it is conflict equivalent to some serial schedule $S'$.

The execution of a conflict-serializable $S$ schedule is correct.

- $S$ does **not** have to be a serial schedule.

This allows us to **prove** the correctness of a schedule $S$ based on its **conflict graph** $G(S)$ (also: **serialization graph**).

- **Nodes** are all transactions $T_i$ in $S$.
- There is an **edge** $T_i \rightarrow T_j$ iff $S$ contains operations $(T_i, a, e)$ and $(T_j, a', e')$ such that $(T_i, a, e) \prec_S (T_j, a', e')$.

$S$ is conflict serializable if $G(S)$ is **acyclic**.\(^\text{18}\)

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\(^{18}\) A serial execution of $S$ could be obtained by sorting $G(S)$ **topologically**.
Example: ATM transactions (↗ slide 244)

- $S = \langle r_1(A), r_2(A), w_1(A), w_2(A) \rangle$
- Conflict relation:
  - $(T_1, r, A) \prec_S (T_2, w, A)$
  - $(T_2, r, A) \prec_S (T_1, w, A)$
  - $(T_1, w, A) \prec_S (T_2, w, A)$

Example: Two money transfers (↗ slide 245)

- $S = \langle r_1(C), w_1(C), r_2(C), w_2(C), r_1(S), w_1(S), r_2(S), w_2(S) \rangle$
- Conflict relation:
  - $(T_1, r, C) \prec_S (T_2, w, C)$
  - $(T_1, w, C) \prec_S (T_2, r, C)$
  - $(T_1, w, C) \prec_S (T_2, w, C)$
  - : 

\[ \rightarrow \text{not serializable} \]
Can we build a scheduler that always emits a serializable schedule?

**Idea:**

- Require each transaction to obtain a lock before it accesses a data object $o$:
  
  1. lock $o$;
  2. ...access $o$ ...;
  3. unlock $o$;

- This prevents **concurrent** access to $o$. 

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If a lock cannot be granted (e.g., because another transaction \( T' \) already holds a **conflicting** lock) the requesting transaction \( T_i \) gets **blocked**.

The scheduler **suspects** execution of the blocked transaction \( T \).

Once \( T' \) **releases** its lock, it may be granted to \( T \), whose execution is then **resumed**.

Since other transactions can continue execution while \( T \) is blocked, locks can be used to **control the relative order of operations**.
Does locking guarantee serializable schedules, yet?

1. lock (acct);
2. bal ← read bal (acct);
3. unlock (acct);
4. bal ← bal − 100 CHF;
5. lock (acct);
6. write bal (acct, bal);
7. unlock (acct);
## ATM Transaction with Locking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transaction 1</th>
<th>Transaction 2</th>
<th>DB state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>lock (acct);</code></td>
<td><code>lock (acct);</code></td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>read (acct);</code></td>
<td><code>read (acct);</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>unlock (acct);</code></td>
<td><code>unlock (acct);</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>lock (acct);</code></td>
<td><code>lock (acct);</code></td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>write (acct);</code></td>
<td><code>write (acct);</code></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>unlock (acct);</code></td>
<td><code>unlock (acct);</code></td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The **two-phase locking protocol** poses an additional restriction:

- Once a transaction has **released** any lock, it must **not** acquire any new lock.

Two-phase locking is **the** concurrency control protocol used in database systems today.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transaction 1</th>
<th>Transaction 2</th>
<th>DB state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lock (acct) ;</td>
<td>lock (acct) ;</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>read (acct) ;</td>
<td>read (acct) ;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unlock (acct) ;</td>
<td>unlock (acct) ;</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lock (acct) ;</td>
<td>lock (acct) ;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write (acct) ;</td>
<td>write (acct) ;</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unlock (acct) ;</td>
<td>unlock (acct) ;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To comply with the two-phase locking protocol, the ATM transaction must not acquire any new locks after a first lock has been released.

1. \texttt{lock} \((acct)\); \hfill \{ lock phase \}
2. \( bal \leftarrow \texttt{read\_bal} (acct) \);
3. \( bal \leftarrow bal - 100 \text{ CHF} \);
4. \texttt{write\_bal} \((acct, bal)\);
5. \texttt{unlock} \((acct)\); \hfill \{ unlock phase \}
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transaction 1</th>
<th>Transaction 2</th>
<th>DB state</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lock (acct) ;</td>
<td>lock (acct) ;</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>read (acct) ;</td>
<td>Transaction blocked</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write (acct) ;</td>
<td>read (acct) ;</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unlock (acct) ;</td>
<td>write (acct) ;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>unlock (acct) ;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The use of locking lead to a correct (and serializable) schedule.
Lock Modes

- We saw earlier that two read operations do not conflict with each other.
- Systems typically use different types of locks ("lock modes") to allow read operations to run concurrently.
  - read locks or shared locks: mode S
  - write locks or exclusive locks: mode X
- Locks are only in conflict if at least one of them is an X lock:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>shared</td>
<td>exclusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- It is a safe operation in two-phase locking to convert a shared lock into an exclusive lock during the lock phase.
Like many lock-based protocols, two-phase locking has the risk of **deadlock** situations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transaction 1</th>
<th>Transaction 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>lock (A);</code></td>
<td><code>lock (B)</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:</td>
<td>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>do something</code></td>
<td><code>do something</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:</td>
<td>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>lock (B)</code></td>
<td><code>lock (A)</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[wait for $T_2$ to release lock]</td>
<td>[wait for $T_1$ to release lock]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both transactions would wait for each other **indefinitely**.
A typical approach to deal with deadlocks is **deadlock detection**:

- The system maintains a **waits-for graph**, where an edge $T_1 \rightarrow T_2$ indicates that $T_1$ is blocked by a lock held by $T_2$.
- Periodically, the system tests for **cycles** in the graph.
- If a cycle is detected, the deadlock is **resolved** by **aborting** one or more transactions.
- Selecting the **victim** is a challenge:
  - Blocking **young** transactions may lead to **starvation**: the same transaction is cancelled again and again.
  - Blocking an **old** transaction may cause a lot of investment to be thrown away.
Deadlock Handling

Other common techniques:

- **Deadlock prevention**: e.g., by treating handling lock requests in an asymmetric way:
  - **wait-die**: A transaction is never blocked by an *older* transaction.
  - **wound-wait**: A transaction is never blocked by a *younger* transaction.

- **Timeout**: Only wait for a lock until a timeout expires. Otherwise assume that a deadlock has occurred and **abort**.

*E.g.*, IBM DB2 UDB:

```sql
db2 => GET DATABASE CONFIGURATION;

Interval for checking deadlock (ms) (DLCHKTIME) = 10000
Lock timeout (sec) (LOCKTIMEOUT) = -1
```
Variants of Two-Phase Locking

- The two-phase locking protocol does not prescribe exactly when locks have to acquired and released.
- Possible variants:

  - **preclaiming 2PL**
  - **strict 2PL**

  ![Graph of preclaiming 2PL and strict 2PL](image)

  - **What could motivate either variant?**
Cascading Rollbacks

Consider three transactions:

When transaction $T_1$ aborts, transactions $T_2$ and $T_3$ have already read data written by $T_1$ (dirty read, slide 250).

- $T_2$ and $T_3$ need to be rolled back, too.
- $T_2$ and $T_3$ cannot commit until the fate of $T_1$ is known.
- Two-phase locking vs. strict two-phase locking
Implementing a Lock Manager

We’d like the Lock Manager to do three tasks very efficiently:

1. Check which locks are currently held for a given resource (in order to decide whether another lock request can be granted).
2. When a lock is released, transactions that requested locks on the same resource have to be identified and granted the lock.
3. When a transaction terminates, all held locks must be released.

What is a good data structure to accommodate these needs?
Bookkeeping

hash table, indexed by resource ID

Resource Control Block (RCB)

Transaction Control Block (TCB)

Lock Control Blocks (LCBs)
Implementing Lock Manager Tasks

1. The locks held for a given resource can be found using a hash lookup.
   - Linked list of Lock Control Blocks via ‘First In Queue’/‘Next in Queue’
   - The list contains all lock requests, granted or not.
   - The transaction(s) at the head of the list are the ones that currently hold a lock on the resource.

2. When a lock is released (i.e., its LCB removed from the list), the next transaction(s) in the list are considered for granting the lock.

3. All locks held by a single transaction can be identified via the linked list ‘LCB Chain’ (and easily released upon transaction termination).
Granularity of Locking

The **granularity** of locking is a trade-off:

- **database level**
  - **tablespace level**
  - **table level**
  - **page level**
  - **row-level**

- **low concurrency**
  - **low overhead**
  - **high concurrency**
  - **high overhead**

**Idea:** **multi-granularity** locking
Decide the granularity of locks held for each transaction (depending on the characteristics of the transaction).

- A row lock, e.g., for

```sql
SELECT * FROM CUSTOMERS
WHERE C_CUSTKEY = 42
```

and a table lock for

```sql
SELECT * FROM CUSTOMERS
```

How do such transactions know about each others’ locks?

- Note that locking is performance-critical. $Q_2$ doesn’t want to do an extensive search for row-level conflicts.
Intention Locks

Databases use an additional type of locks: **intention locks**.

- Lock mode **intention share**: IS
- Lock mode **intention exclusive**: IX
- Conflict matrix:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>S</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>IS</th>
<th>IX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>×</td>
<td></td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS</td>
<td></td>
<td>×</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX</td>
<td>×</td>
<td>×</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A lock I□ on a coarser level means that there’s some □ lock on a lower level.
Intention Locks

Protocol for multi-granularity locking:

1. A transaction can lock any granule $g$ in $\Box \in \{S, X\}$ mode.
2. Before a granule $g$ can be locked in $\Box$ mode, it has to obtain an $I\Box$ lock on all coarser granularities than contain $g$.

Query $Q_1$ would, e.g.,
- obtain an IS lock on table CUSTOMERS
  (also on on tablespace and database) and
- obtain an S lock on the tuple(s) with $C\_CUSTKEY = 42$.

Query $Q_2$ would place an
- S lock on table CUSTOMERS
  (and an IS lock on tablespace and database).
Detecting Conflicts

Now suppose a write query comes in:

```
UPDATE CUSTOMERS
    SET NAME = 'John Doe'
    WHERE C_CUSTKEY = 17
```

It’ll want to place

- an IX lock on table CUSTOMER (and ...) and
- an X lock on the row holding customer 17.

As such it is

- compatible with \( Q_1 \)
  (there’s no conflict between IX and IS on the table level),
- but incompatible with \( Q_2 \)
  (the S lock held by \( Q_2 \) is in conflict with \( Q_3 \)’s IX lock).
Sometimes, some degree of inconsistency may be acceptable for specific applications:

- "Mistakes" in few data sets, e.g., will not considerably affect the outcome of an aggregate over a huge table.
  - Inconsistent read anomaly

- SQL 92 specifies different isolation levels.
- E.g.,
  
  ```sql
  SET ISOLATION SERIALIZABLE;
  ```

- Obviously, less strict consistency guarantees should lead to increased throughput.
SQL 92 Isolation Levels

read uncommitted (also: ‘dirty read’ or ‘browse’)
  Only write locks are acquired (according to strict 2PL).

read committed (also: ‘cursor stability’)
  Read locks are only held for as long as a cursor sits on the particular row. Write locks acquired according to strict 2PL.

repeatable read (also: ‘read stability’)
  Acquires read and write locks according to strict 2PL.

serializable
  Additionally obtains locks to avoid phantom reads.
The graphs show the performance of DB2 under different concurrency levels.

**Top Graph:**
- **Y-axis:** Ratio of correct answers
- **Legend:**
  - • Read committed
  - □ Serializable
- **X-axis:** Concurrent update threads

**Bottom Graph:**
- **Y-axis:** Throughput (trans/sec)
- **Legend:**
  - • Read committed
  - □ Serializable
- **X-axis:** Concurrent update threads
SQL Server

Ratio of correct answers

Concurrent update threads

Read committed
Serializable

SQL Server

Throughput (trans/sec)

Concurrent update threads

Read committed
Serializable

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Oracle

Concurrent update threads

Ratio of correct answers

Oracle

Concurrent update threads

Throughput (trans/sec)

### Resulting Consistency Guarantees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>isolation level</th>
<th>dirty read</th>
<th>non-repeat. rd</th>
<th>phantom rd</th>
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- Some implementations support more, less, or different levels of isolation.
- Few applications really need serializability.
Transaction 1

SELECT COUNT(*)
FROM Customers
WHERE Name = 'Sam'

SELECT COUNT(*)
FROM Customers
WHERE Name = 'Sam'

Transaction 2

INSERT INTO Customers
VALUES (...,'Sam',...)

Result

2

ok

3

Transaction 1 “sees” the concurrent insert done by Transaction 2.

→ **Isolation property violated.**

This is an instance of the **phantom problem.**
Avoiding Phantoms

Locking only tuples cannot avoid the phantom problem.

- The tuple added by $T_2$ is new; $T_1$ could never have locked it before.
- To avoid the phantom problem, we also have to lock absent tuples.

Phantoms can be avoided with:

- **Predicate Locking**: For each query, lock the predicates that it uses.
  
  Representing, finding, and comparing predicates can be difficult and inefficient.

- **Key-Range Locking**: Lock index entries that match the predicate.
  
  *E.g.*, in the previous example, lock the index key $Sam$. 
Key-Range Locking

- Use B-trees to lock **key values, not tuples**!
  - This is somewhat orthogonal to regular data locking.
- In general, we want to lock **ranges** of key values.
  - Including **absence** of key values.
  - Lock existing **key values** and **gaps**.

→ The current index content determines which ranges can be locked.
Typically:

- Acquire **one lock** to mean a key value **and** its neighboring gap:

  
  
  \[
  \begin{array}{c}
  4123 \\
  4222 \\
  4450 \\
  \end{array}
  \]

  

  

  → **Previous key locking:**  ↦
  
  Lock covers key value \( x \) and the gap that **follows** \( x \).

  

  → **Next key locking:** ↦
  
  Lock covers key value \( x \) and the gap that **precedes** \( x \).

This way, existing key values can be used as lookup keys in the system’s **lock manager** (which is typically organized as a hash table).
Idea:
- Queries acquire S locks for all key ranges that intersect with ranges in query predicates.

E.g., scan range \([4200, 5000]\):

\[
\begin{align*}
4104 & \quad 4123 & \quad 4222 & \quad 4450 & \quad 4528 & \quad 5012 & \quad 6330 & \quad 6423
\end{align*}
\]

→ Ranges \([4123, 4200]\) and \([5000, 5012]\) locked “too much”!
Inserts

- Inserts need to acquire a lock on the gap into which they want to insert.
- Thus, with next key locking: acquire lock on next-largest key.

*E.g.*, insert 4500:

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccc}
4104 & 4123 & 4222 & 4450 & 4500 & 4528 & 5012 & 6330 & 6423 \\
\end{array}
\]

→ Acquire X lock on 4528 (which covers range \([4450, 4528]\)).
→ If the reading transaction from the previous slide still holds its locks, a conflict on 4528 will be detected (and the insert will have to wait).
→ Insert new key and X lock it immediately.
Lock Duration

Readers:

- Keep the range locked until the transaction commits. This is to make sure the range can be re-read at any time without seeing phantoms.

Inserts:

- Keep newly inserted entry \( x \) locked until commit time.
  - This prevents others from reading un-committed data.
- The lock on the next key (4528 here), however, can be released immediately.
  - Acquiring the lock with “instant duration” ensures there is no co-running reader for that range.
  - Once the new key is inserted, readers (or writers) are free to lock the next key (4528), since its associated range \([4500, 4528]\) now only covers the gap without the newly inserted key.
This ability to lock with instant duration is very relevant in practice.

- Inserts at the **right end** of a B-tree are a very common pattern.
  - Next key locking requires an extra $+\infty$ index entry, by the way.
  - All append queries will lock this $+\infty$ entry.
  - When the lock on $+\infty$ is an instant lock, other inserts can proceed immediately.

- Note how this also favors next key locking over previous key locking.
To **delete** an entry $x$, the transaction has to obtain
- an $X$ lock on the to-be-deleted entry $x$,
  - Make sure no other transaction still depends on $x$.
  - The lock is effectively instant, since the transaction is about to remove $x$ anyway.
- an $X$ lock on $x$’s **next key** until **commit time**.
  - Why?
IBM DB2 does not lock index entries explicitly.
  - Instead, DB2 performs **data-only locking**.
  - A locked tuple **implies** a key-range lock in **all** indexes on the table.
  - When checking for lock compatibility, DB2 looks for already held locks, but also considers the **isolation level** of the lock holder.

Data-only locking may lead to unexpected **side effects**:
  - *E.g.*, a scan criterion on one column may lead to locks in scattered regions of other attributes.

On the positive side, deriving key-range locks from row locks reduces the number of locks to maintain (and thus the complexity of the lock manager).
Support for **ghost records** may ease key-range locking considerably.

- **Deletes** will not actually remove the index entry, but only turn the record into a ghost.
- The ghost still represents a valid range boundary (locks can be acquired on ghosts just as on normal records).
- Flipping the ghost bit is merely a form of **value update** of the record.
  - Value updates do not need range locks as long as they do not modify the key value.
The same advantages also hold for \textit{inserts} if a ghost with the right key value already exists.

\begin{itemize}
  \item Need to lock only the key value itself (neighboring range is often implicit, but not strictly required).
\end{itemize}

Existence of a matching ghost need \textbf{not} be a coincidence.

\textbf{Trick:}

\begin{itemize}
  \item Invoke a short, \textit{separate transaction} that creates the ghost for us.
  \item The transaction will have to acquire range locks. But it will commit immediately (and release its locks).
\end{itemize}
### Locking in Practice—SQL Server

#### SQL Server Lock Compatibility Chart

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<th>NL</th>
<th>SCH-S</th>
<th>SCH-M</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>U</th>
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Compatible | Incompatible | Illegal

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READPAST & Furious: Locking Blocking and Isolation · Mark Broadbent · sqlcloud.co.uk
Multi-User and Multi-Thread Support

So far we looked at ill effects between user transactions.

→ **Locks on data objects** helped to isolate transactions.

**Parallel threads** might cause additional problems:

→ Two writers, different data objects, same page → **corrupted data**.
→ Locks will not isolate threads that belong to the same transaction.
→ How do we protect **internal data structures** (lock table, buffer pool, etc.)?
  - Lock manager can only lock user data objects!

This calls for a mechanism to **isolate threads** (not transactions).

→ Short-lived, in-memory “locks” or **latches**.
  (The term “lock” is reserved for transaction-level locking.)
Latches protect data at a page granularity.  
→ This has also been called storage-layer concurrency.

To achieve high concurrency:

- Hold latches as short as possible.
- Hold few latches only (and/or latch at fine granularities).

In addition:

- Choose a fast implementation for latches.
  → no frills like deadlock checking
  → instead: avoid deadlocks by coding discipline
Page Latches (Data Pages)

Example:

- Latches on data pages make page modifications appear as an **atomic operation**.
  - Protect from, e.g., observing a corrupt page.

- Latching is **in-memory only**.
  - No I/O while holding a page latch.
  - Latches are not flushed to disk.

- Only hold **one latch at a time**.
  - Why?
Order for latch acquisition/release during a B-tree search?

1. \( n \leftarrow \text{root page} \)
2. \( \text{read-latch} \ n \)
3. while \( n \) is not a leaf
do
4. \( \text{locate child} \ n' \) of \( n \)
5. \( \text{read-latch} \ n' \) obtain new latch first!
6. \( \text{un-latch} \ n \)
7. \( n \leftarrow n' \)
8. return matching records (if any)
9. \( \text{un-latch} \ n \)

This is also known as latch coupling (or lock coupling).
With latch coupling, a thread may hold more than one latch at a time.

→ A **deadlock** still cannot occur:

- Every thread will navigate/acquire latches top-down.
- All threads acquire latches in same order → no deadlock.
Updates to B-trees operate **bottom-up**.

**Possible strategy:**

- Acquire read latches as during search, but **keep** all latches.
  - Ensure that the parent (grandparent, ... ) is still the parent during bottom-up processing.

- Acquire **write latches bottom-up**.
  - Latch conversion: read latch $\rightsquigarrow$ write latch.
  - Write-latch parent before splitting a child.

- Release write latches when all necessary changes to the page are applied; release ancestor read latches when no more splits are necessary.

If the B-tree implementation uses **sibling pointers**, additional locks may have to be acquired on **sibling nodes**.
The strategy on the previous slide guarantees correctness.

- All tree modifications are write-latched, and released latches always leave behind a consistent B-tree.

But:

⚠️ The strategy entails a danger of deadlocks.

- Searches acquire their latches top-down.
- Updates acquire their (write) latches bottom-up.

Remember: We want latches to be lightweight → no deadlock checking.
Deadlocks can be **avoided** when **all** operations acquire latches either top-down or bottom-up.

**Thus:**
- Let insert operations acquire write latches right away.

监督管理 What do you think of this strategy?
Chances that a write latch on a parent is actually needed are really low.

→ E.g., B-tree with up to 100 entries/node → chance of a split: 2%

Idea: (Try to) keep write latch only when really necessary.

■ During tree descent, observe space utilization in visited nodes.
■ When a node $n$ has enough space to hold another entry, $n$ definitely won’t have to be split.
■ For such nodes $n$, the parent node $p$ will not have to be updated. → $p$ is then called split safe.
■ The latch on that parent $p$ can be released safely.
Lock Coupling Protocol (Variant 1)

1. place $S$ lock on root;
2. $current \leftarrow root$;
3. while $current$ is not a leaf node do
   4. place $S$ lock on appropriate son of $current$;
   5. release $S$ lock on $current$;
   6. $current \leftarrow$ son of $current$;

readers

place $X$ lock on root;
$current \leftarrow root$;
while $current$ is not a leaf node do
   place $X$ lock on appropriate son of $current$;
   $current \leftarrow$ son of $current$;
   if $current$ is safe then
     release all locks held on ancestors of $current$;

writers
Increasing Concurrency for Common Scenarios

- Even with lock coupling there’s a considerable amount of locks on inner tree nodes (reducing concurrency).
- Chances that inner nodes are actually affected by updates are very small.
  - Back-of-the-envelope calculation:
    \[ d = 50 \Rightarrow \text{every 50th insert causes a split (2\% chance).} \]
- An insert transaction could thus optimistically assume that no leaf split is going to happen.
  - On inner nodes, only read locks acquired during tree navigation (plus a write lock on the affected leaf).
  - If assumption is wrong, re-traverse the tree and obtain write locks.
Modified protocol for **writers**:\(^{19}\)

1. place $S$ lock on *root* ;
2. $current \leftarrow root$ ;
3. **while** $current$ is not a leaf node **do**
   4. $son \leftarrow$ appropriate son of $current$ ;
   5. **if** $son$ is a leaf **then**
      6. place $X$ lock on $son$ ;
   **else**
   7. place $S$ lock on $son$ ;
   8. release lock on $current$ ;
   9. $current \leftarrow son$ ;
10. **if** $current$ is unsafe **then**
    11. release all locks and repeat with protocol Variant 1 ;

\(^{19}\)Reader protocol remains unchanged.
Deciding **split safety** can be difficult for **variable-length keys**.

The strategy on the previous slide thus has to be **very conservative**.

Effectively, many latches are still held **unnecessarily**.

Ways to improve concurrency (by holding fewer latches):

- **split proactively**: When a node is not split safe, split it right away. At least the system then suffers the unnecessary latch only once.

- **repeated root-to-leaf passes**: Descend with only read latches first. Re-traverse the tree with full write latches when a split is necessary.

- **giveup technique**: hold only single-node read latches (and risk inconsistencies); detect conflicts and re-traverse in case of a conflict.

- **B\textsuperscript{link}-trees**: slightly relax some B-tree rules.
Giveup Technique

A deadlock can only arise when a thread acquires (or tries to) a new latch before releasing an old one.

→ A thread that always only holds a single latch at a time can never deadlock.

Search routine with only a single latch held at any time:

1. $n \leftarrow \text{root page}$;
2. while $n$ is not a leaf do
3. \hspace{1em} read-latch $n$;
4. \hspace{1em} determine child $n'$ of $n$;
5. \hspace{1em} un-latch $n$;
6. \hspace{1em} $n \leftarrow n'$;
7. \hspace{1em} read-latch $n$;
8. return matching records (if any);
9. un-latch $n$;
Giveup Technique

There is a **risk of inconsistencies** when only a single latch is held.

- Between determining the child page $n'$ and latching it, a **concurrent update** might have split $n'$.
- The search might **miss** an entry that is now on a new page.

**Thus:** **Detect** when a conflicting update has happened.

- When descending, remember the two **separator keys** $k_{min}$ and $k_{max}$ in $n$ that guided to $n'$.
- When looking at $n'$, first check whether $k_{min}$ and $k_{max}$ are still the correct separator keys for that page.
  - Keep copies of parent’s separator keys in each node.
  - Such copies are also called **fence keys**.
- If a conflict is detected, **abort and re-try** a moment later.
Lehman and Yao\textsuperscript{20} proposed a B-tree variant, usually referred to as \textbf{Blink-tree}, where writes must latch at most two nodes at a time.

\textbf{Idea:}

\begin{itemize}
    \item Assume a B-tree with \textbf{forward sibling pointers}.
    \item \textbf{Relax B-tree structure:} Allow parent $\rightarrow$ child to be missing when the child is reachable via the sibling pointer of its predecessor.
\end{itemize}

With the relaxation, node splitting and parent updates can be separated.

1. latch & read page $B$;
2. create new page $D$ and latch it;
3. populate page $D$;
4. set next pointer $D \rightarrow C$;
5. un-latch $D$;
6. set next pointer $B \rightarrow D$;
7. adjust content of $B$;
8. un-latch $B$;
9. latch & read $A$;
10. adjust content of $A$;
11. un-latch $A$;

→ Lines 9–11 can be deferred to a later time.
With the relaxation stated before, lines 1–8 already represent a correct B\textsuperscript{link}-tree.

- Lines 9–11 are, in a sense, only applied for performance reasons.

The parent could be updated also at a later time:

- As a “clean-up process” triggered when the update has completed.
- When the next search traverses the tree.
- During database maintenance.

In fact, even the page latches can be avoided when pointer updates and record deletions can be done atomically.

PostgreSQL, e.g., uses B\textsuperscript{link}-Trees.
So far we’ve been rather **pessimistic**: we’ve assumed the worst and prevented that from happening.

In practice, conflict situations are not that frequent.

**Optimistic concurrency control**: Hope for the best and only act in case of conflicts.
Handle transactions in **three phases**: 

1. **Read Phase.** Execute transaction, but do not write data back to disk immediately. Instead, collect updates in a *private workspace*.

2. **Validation Phase.** When the transaction wants to *commit*, test whether its execution was correct. If it is not, *abort* the transaction.

3. **Write Phase.** Transfer data from private workspace into database.
Validating Transactions

Validation is typically implemented by looking at transactions’

- **Read Sets** $RS(T_i)$: (attributes read by transaction $T_i$) and
- **Write Sets** $WS(T_i)$: (attributes written by transaction $T_i$).

**backward-oriented optimistic concurrency control (BOCC):**
Comparing $T$ against all committed transactions $T_c$.
Check **succeeds** if

$$T_c \text{ committed before } T \text{ started} \quad \text{or} \quad RS(T) \cap WS(T_c) = \emptyset .$$

**forward-oriented optimistic concurrency control (FOCC):**
Comparing $T$ against all running transactions $T_r$.
Check **succeeds** if

$$WS(T) \cap RS(T_r) = \emptyset .$$
Consider the schedule

\[ r_1(x), w_1(x), r_2(x), w_2(y), r_1(y), w_1(z) \]

Is this schedule serializable?

Now suppose when \( T_1 \) wants to read \( y \), we’d still have the “old” value of \( y \), valid at time \( t \), around.

We could then create a history equivalent to

\[ r_1(x), w_1(x), r_2(x), r_1(y), w_2(y), w_1(z) \]

which is **serializable**.
A simple form of MVCC is the **Read-Only MVCC**:

- **Read/write transactions** use concurrency control as before (e.g., 2PL)

- **Read-only transactions** do not acquire any locks. For each read operation \( r(x) \) of a read-only transaction \( T_{RO} \), read the version of \( x \) that existed when \( T_{RO} \) started.

That is, read-only transactions see a **snapshot** of the database as of the time when they started.

**Problem:**

- Must mark each data object with **commit time** of transaction.
Oracle implements “read committed” (↗ slide 284) using the “Read-Consistency” protocol:

- **read-only transactions** are treated as in the Read-Only protocol.
- **writes in read/write transactions** acquire long-duration write locks.
- **reads in read/write transactions** do not acquire read locks; they read the most recent version of any data object.

→ Reads only return committed values (↝ read committed).
→ Read-only transactions see consistent state (unlike in read committed).
→ Readers never block writers and vice versa.
Snapshot Isolation

A modification of the same idea yields snapshot isolation.

- All reads of any transaction $T$ see the version that was current when $T$ started.
- All writes must satisfy the “first committer wins” property. A transaction $T$ is allowed to commit only if there is no other transaction $T'$ such that
  (a) $T'$ committed between the start and commit time of $T$ and
  (b) $T'$ updated a data object that $T$ also updated.

Otherwise, $T$ aborts.

To test “first committer wins,” compare write sets of $T$ and $T'$.

Snapshot isolation is implemented, e.g., in Oracle, SQL Server, PostgreSQL.
ACID and Serializability
To prevent from different types of anomalies, DBMSs guarantee ACID properties. Serializability is a sufficient criterion to guarantee isolation.

Two-Phase Locking
Two-phase locking is a practicable technique to guarantee serializability. Most systems implement strict 2PL. SQL 92 allows explicit relaxation of the ACID isolation constraints in the interest of performance.

Concurrency in B-trees
Specialized protocols exist for concurrency control in B-trees (the root would be a locking bottleneck otherwise).