Basics of Transaction Management

JUMP INTO THE EVOLVING WORLD
OF DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Principles of Database Management provides students with the comprehensive database management information to understand and apply the fundamental concepts of database design and modeling, database systems, data storage, and the evolving world of data warehousing, governance and more. Designed for those studying database management for information management or computer science, this illustrated textbook has a well-balanced theory–practice focus and covers the essential topics, from established database technologies up to recent trends like Big Data, NoSQL, and analytics. On-going case studies, drill-down boxes that reveal deeper insights on key topics, retention questions at the end of every section of a chapter, and connections boxes that show the relationship between concepts throughout the text are included to provide the practical tools to get started in database management.

KEY FEATURES INCLUDE:

• Full-color illustrations throughout the text.

• Extensive coverage of important trending topics, including data warehousing, business intelligence, data integration, data quality, data governance, Big Data and analytics.

• An online playground with diverse environments, including MySQL for querying; MongoDB; Neo4j Cypher; and a tree structure visualization environment.

• Hundreds of examples to illustrate and clarify the concepts discussed that can be reproduced on the book's companion online playground.

• Case studies, review questions, problems and exercises in every chapter.

• Additional cases, problems and exercises in the appendix.

Online Resources
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Instructor's resources
❱ Solutions manual
❱ Code and data for examples

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PRINCIPLES OF
DATABASE MANAGEMENT

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PRINCIPLES OF
DATABASE
MANAGEMENT

THE PRACTICAL GUIDE TO STORING, MANAGING
AND ANALYZING BIG AND SMALL DATA

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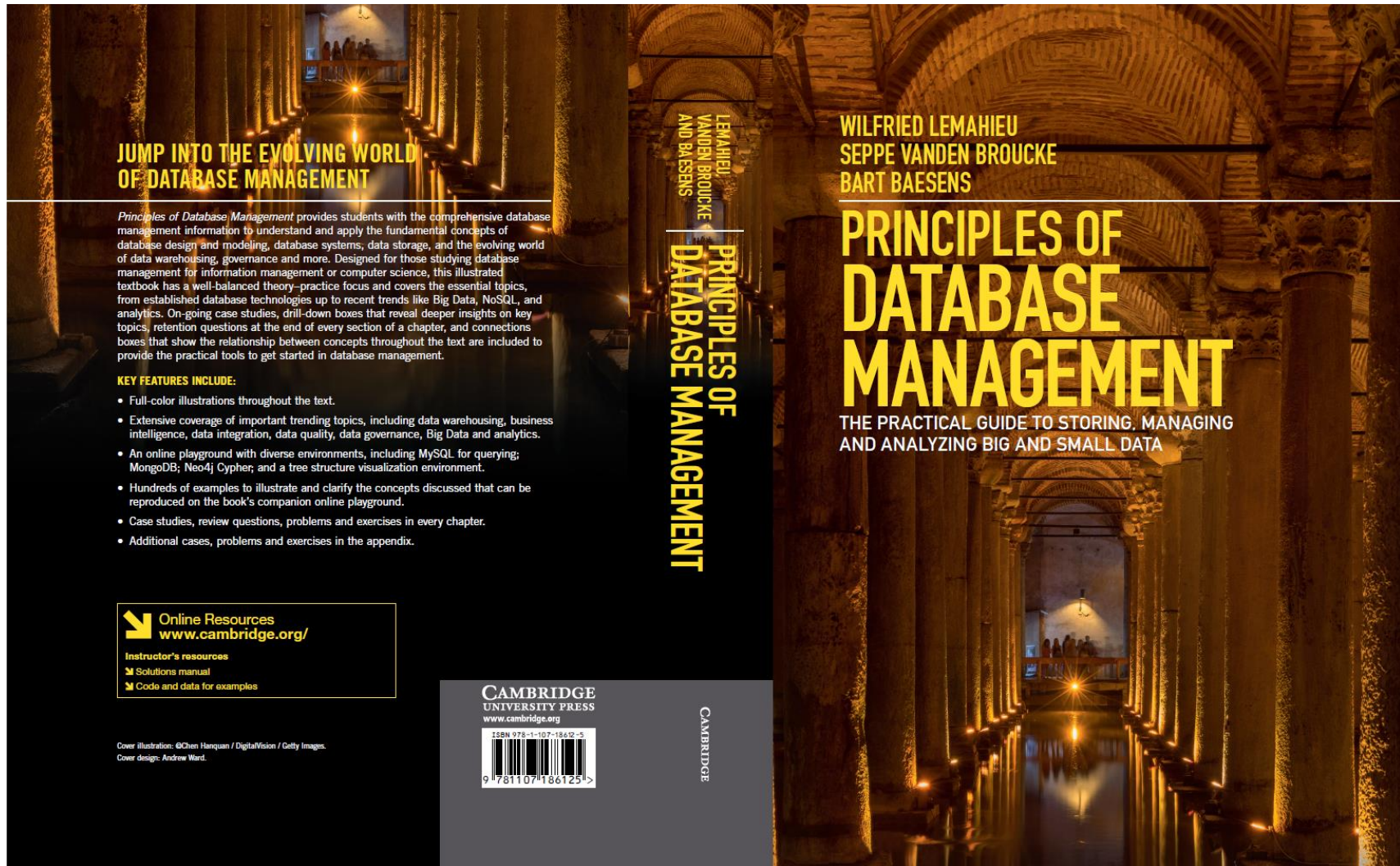www.cambridge.org

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Introduction

- Transactions, Recovery and Concurrency Control
- Transactions and Transaction Management
- Recovery
- Concurrency Control
- The ACID Properties of Transactions

Transactions, Recovery and Concurrency control

- Majority of databases are multi user databases

- Concurrent access to the same data may induce different types of anomalies

- Errors may occur in the DBMS or its environment

- DBMS must support ACID (Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation, Durability) properties

Transactions, Recovery and Concurrency Control

- Transaction: set of database operations induced by a single user or application, that should be considered as one undividable unit of work
  - E.g., transfer between two bank accounts of the same customer
- Transaction always 'succeeds' or 'fails' in its entirety
- Transaction renders database from one consistent state into another consistent state

Transactions, Recovery and Concurrency Control

- Examples of problems: hard disk failure, application/DBMS crash, division by 0, …

- **Recovery**: activity of ensuring that, whichever of the problems occurred, the database is returned to a consistent state without any data loss afterwards

- **Concurrency control:** coordination of transactions that execute simultaneously on the same data so that they do not cause inconsistencies in the data because of mutual interference

Transactions and Transaction Management

- Delineating transactions and the transaction lifecycle
- DBMS components involved in transaction management
- Logfile

Delineating Transactions and the Transaction Lifecycle

- Transactions boundaries can be specified implicitly or explicitly
  - Explicitly: `begin_transaction` and `end_transaction`
  - Implicitly: first executable SQL statement
- Once the first operation is executed, the transaction is active
- If transaction completed successfully, it can be **committed.** If not, it needs to be **rolled back**.

Delineating Transactions and the Transaction Lifecycle

<begin_transaction>

UPDATE account
SET balance = balance - :amount
WHERE accountnumber = :account_to_debit

UPDATE account
SET balance = balance + :amount
WHERE accountnumber = :account_to_credit

<end_transaction>

DBMS Components Involved in Transaction Management

Logfile

- Logfile registers
  - a unique log sequence number
  - a unique transaction identifier
  - a marking to denote the start of a transaction, along with the transaction's start time and indication whether the transaction is read only or read/write
  - identifiers of the database records involved in the transaction, as well as the operation(s) they were subjected to
  - **before images** of all records that participated in the transaction
  - **after images** of all records that were changed by the transaction
  - the current state of the transaction (*active, committed* or *aborted*)

Logfile

- Logfile may also contain checkpoints
  - moments when buffered updates by active transactions, as present in the database buffer, are written to disk at once

- Write ahead log strategy
  - all updates are registered on the logfile before written to disk
  - before images are always recorded on the logfile prior to the actual values being overwritten in the physical database files

Recovery

- Types of Failures

- System Recovery

- Media Recovery

Types of Failures

- **Transaction failure** results from an error in the logic that drives the transaction's operations and/or in the application logic

- **System failure** occurs if the operating system or the database system crashes

- **Media failure** occurs if the secondary storage is damaged or inaccessible

System Recovery

- In case of system failure, 2 types of transactions
  - already reached the committed state before failure
  - still in an active state

- Logfile is essential to take account of which updates were made by which transactions (and when) and to keep track of before images and after images needed for the UNDO and REDO

- Database buffer flushing strategy has impact on UNDO and REDO

System Recovery

T_1: nothing

T_2: REDO

T_3: UNDO

T_4: REDO

T_5: nothing

T_1

T_2

T_3

T_4

T_5

t_c

t_f

checkpoint

system fault

Note 1: checkpoint denotes moment the buffer manager last 'flushed' the database buffer to disk!

Note 2: similar reasoning can be applied in case of transaction failure (e.g. T_3, T_5)

Media Recovery

- Media recovery is invariably based on some type of data redundancy
  - Stored on offline (e.g., a tape vault) or online media (e.g., online backup hard disk drive)
- Tradeoff between cost to maintain the redundant data and time needed to restore the system
- Two types: disk mirroring and archiving

Media Recovery

- Disk mirroring
  - a (near) real time approach that writes the same data simultaneously to 2 or more physical disks
  - limited failover time but often costlier than archiving
  - (limited) negative impact on write performance but opportunities for parallel read access

- Archiving
  - database files are periodically copied to other storage media (e.g. tape, hard disk)
  - trade-off between cost of more frequent backups and cost of lost data
  - full versus incremental backup

Media Recovery

- Mixed approach: rollfoward recovery
  - Archive database files and mirror logfile such that the backup data can be complemented with (a redo of) the more recent transactions as recorded in the logfile

- Note: NoSQL databases allow for temporary inconsistency, in return for increased performance (**eventual consistency**)

Concurrency Control

- Typical Concurrency Problems
- Schedules and Serial Schedules
- Serializable Schedules
- Optimistic and Pessimistic Schedulers
- Locking and Locking Protocols

Typical Concurrency Problems

- Scheduler is responsible for planning the execution of transactions and their operations

- Simple serial execution would be very inefficient

- Scheduler will ensure that operations of the transactions can be executed in an interleaved way

- Interference problems could occur
  - lost update problem
  - uncommitted dependency problem
  - inconsistent analysis problem

Typical Concurrency Problems

- **Lost update** problem occurs if an otherwise successful update of a data item by a transaction is overwritten by another transaction that wasn't 'aware' of the first update

time	T_1	T_2	$amount_x$
t_1		begin transaction	100
t_2	begin transaction	read(amount$_x$)	100
t_3	read(amount$_x$)	amount$_x$ = amount$_x$ + 120	100
t_4	amount$_x$ = amount$_x$ - 50	write(amount$_x$)	220
t_5	write(amount$_x$)	commit	50
t_6	commit		50

Typical Concurrency Problems

- If a transaction reads one or more data items that are being updated by another, as yet uncommitted, transaction, we may run into the **uncommitted dependency** (a.k.a. **dirty read**) problem

time	T_1	T_2	$amount_x$
t_1		begin transaction	100
t_2		read($amount_x$)	100
t_3		$amount_x = amount_x + 120$	100
t_4	begin transaction	write($amount_x$)	220
t_5	read($amount_x$)		220
t_6	$amount_x = amount_x - 50$	rollback	100
t_7	write($amount_x$)		170
t_8	commit		170

Typical Concurrency Problems

- The **inconsistent analysis** problem denotes a situation where a transaction reads partial results of another transaction that simultaneously interacts with (and updates) the same data items.

time	T_1	T_2	$amount_x$	y	z	sum
t_1		begin transaction	100	75	60	
t_2	begin transaction	sum = 0	100	75	60	0
t_3	read(amount$_x$)	read(amount$_x$)	100	75	60	0
t_4	amount$_x$ = amount$_x$ – 50	sum = sum + amount$_x$	100	75	60	100
t_5	write(amount$_x$)	read(amount$_y$)	50	75	60	100
t_6	read(amount$_z$)	sum = sum + amount$_y$	50	75	60	175
t_7	amount$_z$ = amount$_z$ + 50		50	75	60	175
t_8	write(amount$_z$)		50	75	110	175
t_9	commit	read(amount$_z$)	50	75	110	175
t_{10}		sum = sum + amount$_z$	50	75	110	285
t_{11}		commit	50	75	110	285

Typical Concurrency Problems

- Other concurrency related problems
  - **nonrepeatable read** (**unrepeatable read**) occurs when a transaction T_1 reads the same row multiple times, but obtains different subsequent values, because another transaction T_2 updated this row in the meantime
  - **phantom reads** can occur when a transaction T_2 is executing insert or delete operations on a set of rows that are being read by a transaction T_1

Schedules and Serial Schedules

- A *schedule* S is a set of n transactions, and a sequential ordering over the statements of these transactions, for which the following property holds:
"For each transaction T that participates in a schedule S and for all statements s_i and s_j that belong to the same transaction T: if statement s_i precedes statement s_j in T, then s_i is scheduled to be executed before s_j in S."

- Schedule preserves the ordering of the individual statements *within* each transaction but allows an arbitrary ordering of statements *between* transactions

Schedules and Serial Schedules

- Schedule S is *serial* if all statements s_i of the same transaction T are scheduled consecutively, without any interleave with statements from a different transaction

- Serial schedules prevent parallel transaction execution

- We need a non-serial, correct schedule!

Serializable Schedules

- A **serializable** schedule is a non-serial schedule which is equivalent to a serial schedule

- 2 schedules S_1 and S_2 (with the same transactions T_1, T_2, ..., T_n) are equivalent if

  - *For each operation $read_x$ of T_i in S_1 the following holds: if a value x that is read by this operation, was last written by an operation $write_x$ of a transaction T_j in S_1, then that same operation $read_x$ of T_i in S_2 should read the value of x, as written by the same operation $write_x$ of T_j in S_2*

  - *For each value x that is affected by a write operation in these schedules, the last write operation $write_x$ in schedule S_1, as executed as part of transaction T_i, should also be the last write operation on x in schedule S_2, again as part of transaction T_i.*

Serializable Schedules

time	schedule S_1 serial schedule		schedule S_2 non serial schedule	
	T_1	T_2	T_1	T_2
t_1	begin transaction		begin transaction	
t_2	read(amount$_x$)		read(amount$_x$)	
t_3	amount$_x$ = amount$_x$ + 50		amount$_x$ = amount$_x$ + 50	
t_4	write(amount$_x$)		write(amount$_x$)	
t_5	read(amount$_y$)			begin transaction
t_6	amount$_y$ = amount$_y$ − 50			read(amount$_x$)
t_7	write(amount$_y$)			amount$_x$ = amount$_x$ x 2
t_8	end transaction			write(amount$_x$)
t_9				read(amount$_y$)
t_{10}		begin transaction		amount$_y$ = amount$_y$ x 2
t_{11}		read(amount$_x$)	read(amount$_y$)	write(amount$_y$)
t_{12}		amount$_x$ = amount$_x$ x 2	amount$_y$ = amount$_y$ − 50	end transaction
t_{13}		write(amount$_x$)	write(amount$_y$)	
t_{14}		read(amount$_y$)	end transaction	
t_{15}		amount$_y$ = amount$_y$ x 2		
t_{16}		write(amount$_y$)		
t_{17}		end transaction		

Serializable Schedules

- A **precedence graph** can be drawn to test a schedule for serializability
  - create a node for each transaction T_i
  - create a directed edge $T_i \rightarrow T_j$ if T_j reads a value after it was written by T_i
  - create a directed edge $T_i \rightarrow T_j$ if T_j writes a value after it was read by T_i
  - create a directed edge $T_i \rightarrow T_j$ if T_j writes a value after it was written by T_i

- If precedence graph contains a cycle, the schedule is not serializable.
  - E.g., in the previous example, S_2 contains a cycle

Optimistic and Pessimistic Schedulers

- Scheduler applies scheduling protocol
- Optimistic protocol
  - conflicts between simultaneous transactions are exceptional
  - transaction's operations are scheduled without delay
  - when transaction is ready to commit, it is verified for conflicts
  - if no conflicts, transaction is committed. Otherwise, rolled back.
- Pessimistic protocol
  - it is likely that transactions will interfere and cause conflicts
  - execution of transaction's operations delayed until scheduler can schedule them in such a way that chance of conflicts is minimized
  - will reduce the throughput to some extent
  - E.g., a serial scheduler

Optimistic and Pessimistic Schedulers

- Locking can be used for optimistic and pessimistic scheduling
  - Pessimistic scheduling: locking used to limit the simultaneity of transaction execution
  - Optimistic scheduling: locks used to detect conflicts during transaction execution
- Timestamping
  - Read and write timestamps are attributes associated with a database object
  - Timestamps are used to enforce that a set of transactions' operations is executed in the appropriate order

Locking and Locking Protocols

- Purposes of Locking
- Two-Phase Locking Protocol (2PL)
- Cascading Rollbacks
- Dealing with Deadlocks
- Isolation Levels
- Lock Granularity

Purposes of Locking

- Purpose of *locking* is to ensure that, in situations where different concurrent transactions attempt to access the same database object, access is only granted in such a way that no conflicts can occur

- A lock is a variable that is associated with a database object, where the variable's value constrains the types of operations that are allowed to be executed on the object at that time

- Lock manager is responsible for granting locks (*locking*) and releasing locks (*unlocking*) by applying a locking protocol

Purposes of Locking

- An **exclusive lock** (x-lock or write lock) means that a single transaction acquires the sole privilege to interact with that specific database object at that time

  – no other transactions are allowed to read or write it

- A **shared lock** (s-lock or read lock) guarantees that no other transactions will update that same object for as long as the lock is held

  – other transactions may hold a shared lock on that same object as well, however they are only allowed to read it

Purposes of Locking

- If a transaction wants to update an object, an exclusive lock is required
  - only acquired if no other transactions hold any lock on the object

- Compatibility matrix

Type of lock(s) currently held on object

	unlocked	shared	exclusive
unlock	-	yes	yes
shared	yes	yes	no
exclusive	yes	no	no

Type of lock requested

Purposes of Locking

- Lock manager implements locking protocol
  - set of rules to determine what locks can be granted in what situation (based on e.g. compatibility matrix)

- Lock manager also uses a lock table
  - which locks are currently held by which transaction, which transactions are waiting to acquire certain locks, etc.

- Lock manager needs to ensure 'fairness' of transaction scheduling to, e.g., avoid starvation
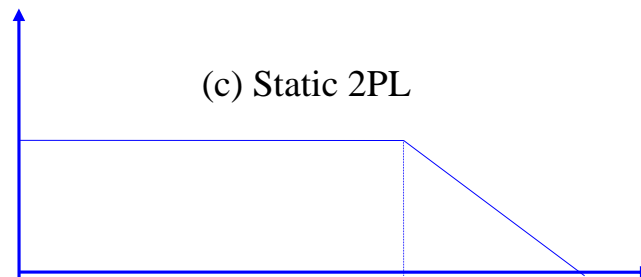
Two-Phase Locking Protocol (2PL)

- 2PL locking protocol works as follows:
    1. Before a transaction can read (update) a database object, it should acquire a shared (exclusive) lock on that object
    2. Lock manager determines if requested locks can be granted, based on compatibility matri
    3. Acquiring and releasing locks occurs in 2 phases
        - growth phase: locks can be acquired but no locks can be released
        - shrink phase: locks are gradually released, and no additional locks can be acquired

Two-Phase Locking Protocol (2PL)

- Variants
  - Rigorous 2PL: transaction holds all its locks until it is committed
  - Static 2PL (Conservative 2PL): transaction acquires all its locks right at the start of the transaction

Two-Phase Locking Protocol (2PL)

Two-Phase Locking Protocol (2PL)

- Lost update problem with locking

time	T_1	T_2	$amount_x$
t_1		begin transaction	100
t_2	begin transaction	x-lock($amount_x$)	100
t_3	x-lock($amount_x$)	read($amount_x$)	100
t_4	wait	$amount_x = amount_x + 120$	100
t_5	wait	write($amount_x$)	220
t_6	wait	commit	220
t_7	wait	unlock($amount_x$)	220
t_8	read($amount_x$)		220
t_9	$amount_x = amount_x - 50$		220
t_{10}	write($amount_x$)		170
t_{11}	commit		170
t_{12}	unlock($amount_x$)		170

Two-Phase Locking Protocol (2PL)

- Uncommitted dependency problem with locking

time	T_1	T_2	$amount_x$
t_1		begin transaction	100
t_2		x-lock($amount_x$)	100
t_3		read($amount_x$)	100
t_4	begin transaction	$amount_x = amount_x + 120$	100
t_5	x-lock($amount_x$)	write($amount_x$)	220
t_6	wait	rollback	100
t_7	wait	unlock($amount_x$)	100
t_8	read($amount_x$)		100
t_9	$amount_x = amount_x - 50$		100
t_{10}	write($amount_x$)		50
t_{11}	commit		50
t_{12}	unlock($amount_x$)		50

Cascading Rollback

- Revisit the uncommitted dependency problem
  - problem is resolved if T_2 holds all its locks until it is rolled back
  - with 2PL protocol, locks can already be released before the transaction commits or aborts (shrink phase)

time	T_1	T_2	$amount_x$
t_1		begin transaction	100
t_2		x-lock($amount_x$)	100
t_3		read($amount_x$)	100
t_4	begin transaction	$amount_x$ = $amount_x$ + 120	100
t_5	x-lock($amount_x$)	write($amount_x$)	220
t_6	wait	unlock($amount_x$)	220
t_7	read($amount_x$)		220
t_8	$amount_x$ = $amount_x$ - 50	rollback	220
t_9	write($amount_x$)		170
t_{10}	commit		170
t_{11}	unlock($amount_x$)		170
t_{12}			

Cascading Rollback

- Before transaction T_1 can be committed, the DBMS should ensure that all transactions that made changes to data items that were subsequently read by T_1 are committed first

- If transaction T_2 is rolled back, all uncommitted transactions T_u that have read values written by T_2 need to be rolled back

- All transactions that have in their turn read values written by the transactions T_u need to be rolled back as well, and so forth

- Cascading rollbacks should be applied recursively
  - can be time-consuming
  - best way to avoid this, is for all transactions to hold their locks until they have reached the 'committed' state (e.g., rigorous 2PL)

Dealing with Deadlocks

- A deadlock occurs if 2 or more transactions are waiting for one another's' locks to be released

- Example

time	T_1	T_2
t_1	begin transaction	
t_2	x-lock($amount_x$)	begin transaction
t_3	read($amount_x$)	x-lock($amount_y$)
t_4	$amount_x$ = $amount_x$ - 50	read($amount_y$)
t_5	write($amount_x$)	$amount_y$ = $amount_y$ - 30
t_6	x-lock($amount_y$)	write($amount_y$)
t_7	wait	x-lock($amount_x$)
t_8	wait	wait

Dealing with Deadlocks

- Deadlock prevention can be achieved by static 2PL
  - transaction must acquire all its locks upon the start
- Detection and resolution
  - **wait for graph** consisting of nodes representing active transactions and directed edges $T_i \rightarrow T_j$ for each transaction T_i that is waiting to acquire a lock currently held by transaction T_j
  - deadlock exists if the wait for graph contains a cycle
  - victim selection

Isolation Levels

- Level of transaction isolation offered by 2PL may be too stringent

- Limited amount of interference may be acceptable for better throughput

- Long-term lock is granted and released according to a protocol, and is held for a longer time, until the transaction is committed

- A short-term lock is only held during the time interval needed to complete the associated operation
  - use of short-term locks violates rule 3 of the 2PL protocol
  - can be used to improve throughput!

Isolation Levels

- Isolation levels
  - **Read uncommitted** is the lowest isolation level. Long-term locks are not taken into account; it is assumed that concurrency conflicts do not occur or simply that their impact on the transactions with this isolation level are not problematic. This isolation level is typically only allowed for read-only transactions, which do not perform updates anyway.
  - **Read committed** uses long-term write locks, but short-term read locks. In this way, a transaction is guaranteed not to read any data that are still being updated by a yet uncommitted transaction. This resolves the lost update as well as the uncommitted dependency problem. However, the inconsistent analysis problem may still occur with this isolation level, as well as nonrepeatable reads and phantom reads.

Isolation Levels

- Isolation levels (contd.)
  - **Repeatable read** uses both long-term read locks and write locks. Thus, a transaction can read the same row repeatedly, without interference from insert, update or delete operations by other transactions. Still, the problem of phantom reads remains unresolved with this isolation level.

  - **Serializable** is the strongest isolation level and corresponds roughly to an implementation of 2PL. Now, phantom reads are also avoided. Note that in practice, the definition of serializability in the context of isolation levels merely comes down to the absence of concurrency problems, such as nonrepeatable reads and phantom reads.

Isolation Levels

Isolation level	Lost update	Uncommitted dependency	Inconsistent analysis	Nonrepeatable read	Phantom read
Read uncommitted	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Read committed	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Repeatable read	No	No	No	No	Yes
Serializable	No	No	No	No	No

Lock Granularity

- Database object for locking can be a tuple, a column, a table, a tablespace, a disk block, etc.

- Trade-off between locking overhead and transaction throughput

- Many DBMSs provide the option to have the optimal granularity level determined by the database system

- Multiple Granularity Locking (MGL) Protocol ensures that the respective transactions that acquired locks on database objects that are interrelated hierarchically cannot conflict with one another

Lock Granularity

- MGL protocol introduces additional locks
  - intention shared lock (is-lock): only conflicts with x-locks
  - intention exclusive lock (ix-lock): conflicts with both x-locks and s-locks
  - shared and intention exclusive lock (six-lock): conflicts with all other lock types, except for an is-lock

Lock Granularity

Type of lock(s) currently held on object

	unlocked	is-lock	ix-lock	s-lock	six-lock	x-lock
unlocked	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
is-lock	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
ix-lock	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no
s-lock	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no
six-lock	yes	yes	no	no	no	no
x-lock	yes	no	no	no	no	no

Type of
lock
requested

Lock Granularity

- Before a lock on object x can be granted, an intention lock is placed on all coarser grained objects encompassing x
  - E.g., if a transaction requests an s-lock (x-lock) on a particular tuple, an is-lock (ix-lock) will be placed on the corresponding tablespace, table and disk block

Lock Granularity

- According to MGL, transaction T_i can lock an object that is part of a hierarchical structure, if :

  1. all compatibilities in the compatibility matrix are respected

  2. initial lock should be placed on the root of the hierarchy

  3. before T_i can acquire an s-lock or an is-lock on an object x, it should acquire an is-lock or an ix-lock on the parent of x

  4. before T_i can acquire an x-lock, six-lock or an ix-lock on an object x, it should acquire an ix-lock or a six-lock on the parent of x

  5. T_i can only acquire additional locks if it hasn't released any locks yet

  6. Before T_i can release a lock on x, it should have released all locks on all children of x

- In the MGL-Protocol, locks are acquired top-down, but released bottom-up

ACID Properties of Transactions

- ACID stands for Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation and Durability
- Atomicity guarantees that multiple database operations that alter the database state can be treated as one indivisible unit of work
  - recovery manager can induce rollbacks where necessary, by means of UNDO operations
- Consistency refers to the fact that a transaction, if executed in isolation, renders the database from one consistent state into another consistent state
  - developer is primary responsible
  - also an overarching responsibility of the DBMS's transaction management system

ACID Properties of Transactions

- Isolation denotes that, in situations where multiple transactions are executed concurrently, the outcome should be the same as if every transaction were executed in isolation
  - responsibility of the concurrency control mechanisms of the DBMS, as coordinated by the scheduler
- Durability refers to the fact that the effects of a committed transaction should always be persisted into the database
  - Responsibility of recovery manager (e.g. by REDO operations or data redundancy)

Conclusions

- Transactions, Recovery and Concurrency Control
- Transactions and Transaction Management
- Recovery
- Concurrency Control
- The ACID Properties of Transactions

More information?

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