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**Technology agnostic :**

**Main reason to choose wrong database :**

One of the major mistakes I see in the software industry is choosing the database based on the technology stack for example:

* If the developers team use .Net stack , the database will be automatically SQL Server.
* If the developers team use MEAN stack , the database will be automatically MongoDB.

**How to choose the best database for your system ?**

1. Different businesses need different databases , banking system needs database that different than social media app needs , you must choose the database that best suitable for your business domain.
2. Non-functional requirements is a very another important factor to choose your database , system of 1000 users needs database that different than system with 10,000,000 users.  
   we will discuss all non-functional requirements on details later.

**SQL Databases**

SQL databases also known as Relational Databases.

**What is SQL Database ?**

Database that store data on a tabular format   
( rows and columns )

**A close-up of a table

Description automatically generated**

**Is Excel sheets can be SQL Database because it store data on tables ( rows – columns ) ?**

A screenshot of a computer

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Excel sheets is just a program to store data , **Not** any program or data store use tables, rows and columns will be SQL Database.

SQL Database has a set of standard conditions or properties that must be implemented and here list of the most important ( not all ) of them :

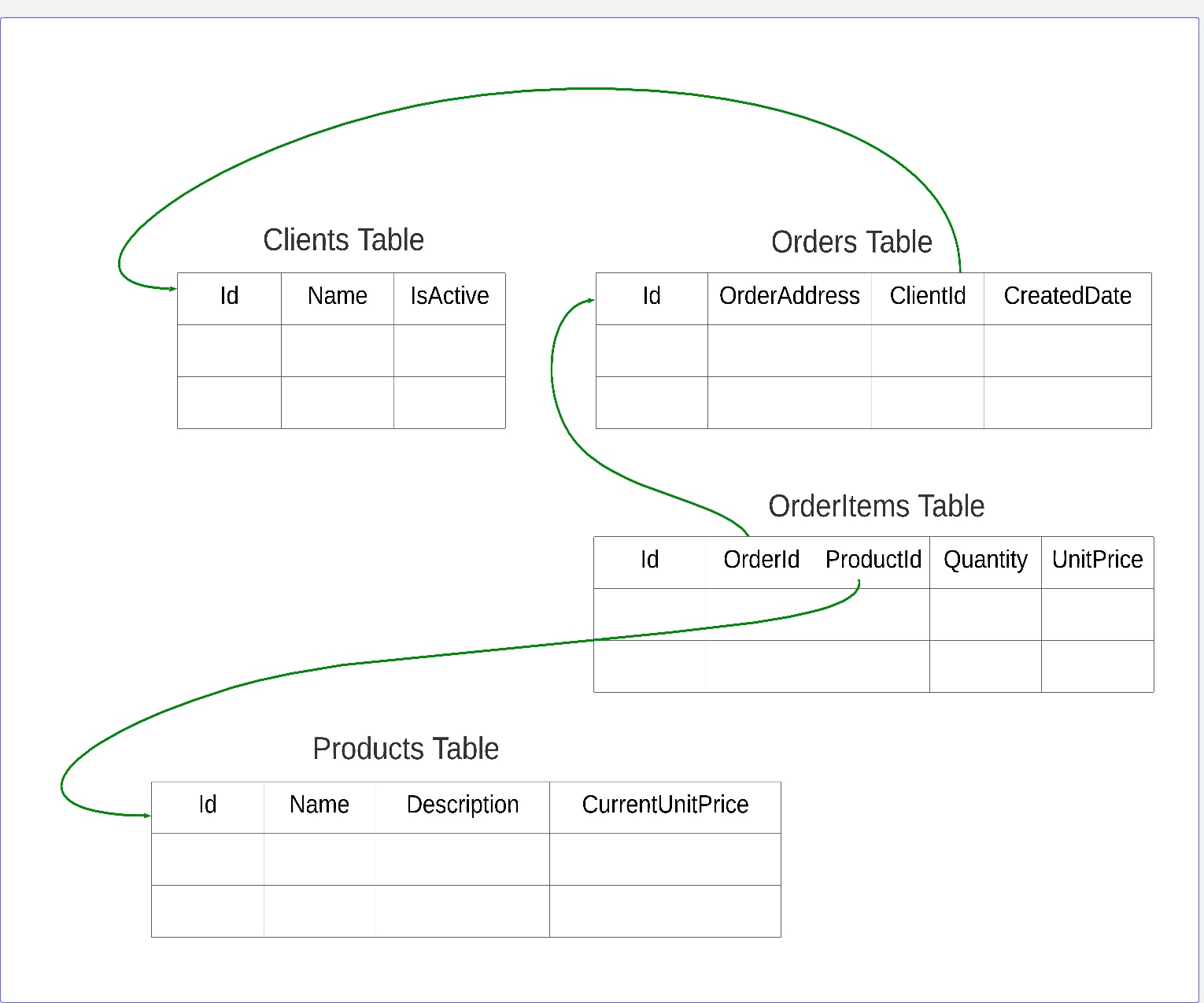
1. Relations.
2. Normalization.
3. ACID.

We will discuss them in more details in next section.

**SQL Database Properties :**

**1.Relations :**

The tables have relations between each other using foreign keys.



**The importance of relations for write operations :**

Relations achieve **data integrity** for write operations ( insert – update – delete ) :   
example 1 : you can not delete client from banking system who took a loan and did not repay it, or performed some financial transactions .  
example 2 : client has orders and there reference to this client id in order table.

A close-up of a receipt

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**The importance of relations for read operations :**

Join query is one of the main properties on SQL databases.

using Join query : SQL Database can read and display data from different tables in single query.

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**2.Normalization :**

**What is a normalization ?**

Normalization in SQL Databases is a techniques that aims to prevent data duplications and eliminates undesirable characteristics like Insertion, Update and Deletion Anomalies.

Normalization has a lot of forms , but we will discuss only the general concept.  
Normalization as general concept is try to divide the database to small tables as possible and then this table will be logically communicate with each other through the relations or foreign keys.

In the previous section ( Relations ) we see our database consist of a set of different tables that have relations between each other , if we need data from more than one table , we join this tables.

**The importance of normalization for read operations :**   
Different queries need different data.

Example Query 1 : Get Order Details Of Id 8906

A screenshot of a computer

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Example Query 2 : Get All Orders Of Client 5468

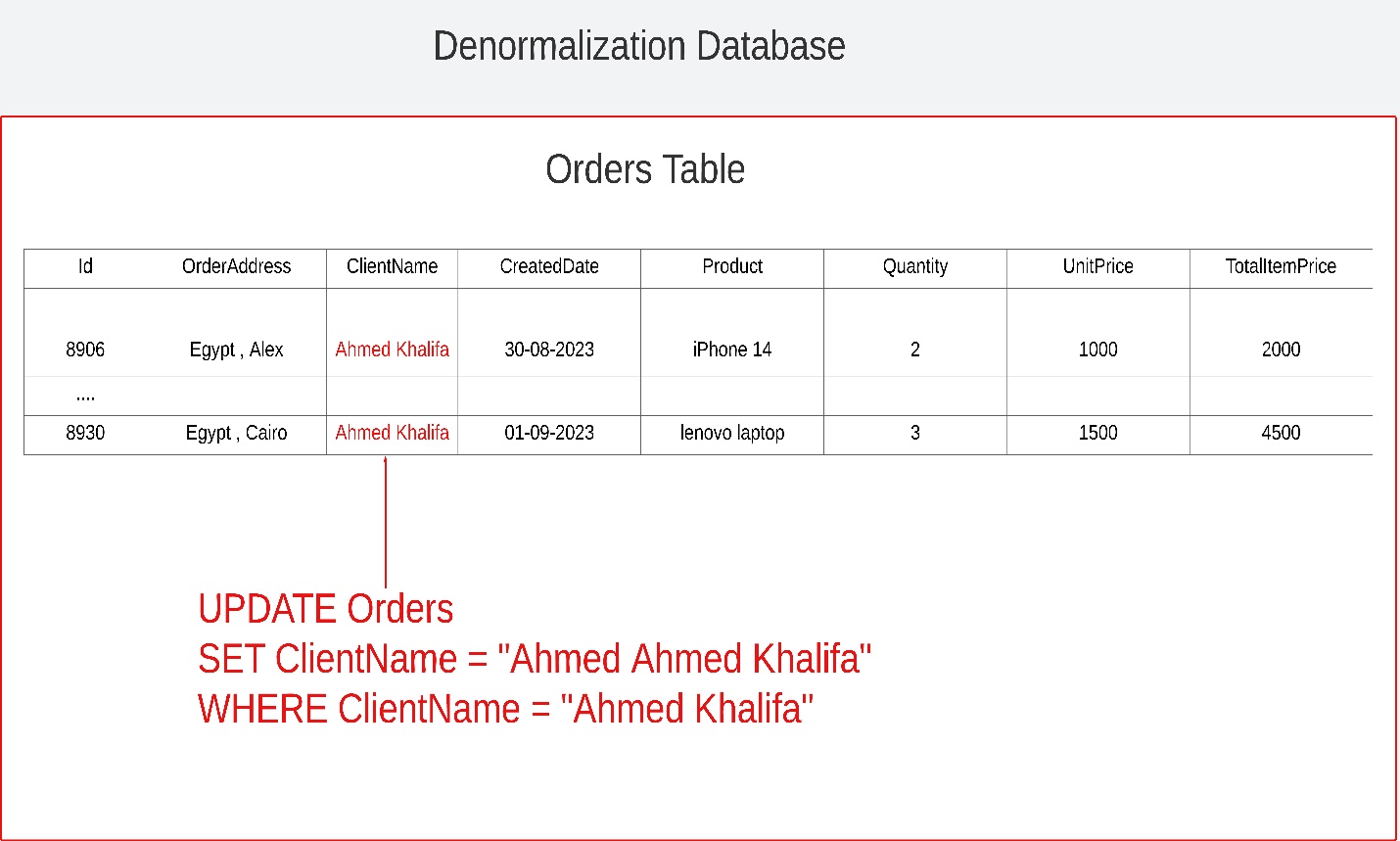
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**The importance of normalization for write operations :**   
Prevent data duplication using normalization that can cause a lot of conflicts , performance issues , extra storge space for unnecessary data.

For example :   
imagine our e-commerce database consist of only single table called orders table contain every thing.

Our client want to update or change his name , in denormalization database , the update command need to loop on all rows to update our client name.



But when database apply normalization , we need only to update single row , and any join query with this table or row will reflect the new updated value immediately.

A close-up of a document

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**Is normalization responsibility for database or developers ?**

Most of SQL Databases properties like ACID , Join query , data integrity are responsibility of database or RDBMS.

But normalization is responsibility o developers and their design.

**Is denormalization always bad ?**

In some cases denormalization can be good but developers must take care of the effect sides of it.

**Denormalization can good for :**  
some business cases for historical data :  
if you note in our database design Products table has column called CurrentUnitPrice and OrderItems Table has column called UnitPrice , this because product price can change on the future , the old orders with this product must keep the old price.

**3.ACID Principles :  
What is ACID ?**

4 Properties that define the behavior of the database transaction.  
They are **Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation, Durability.**

**A** 🡪 **( Atomicity )**

**What is** **Atomicity ?**

transaction work as a unit of work.  
**Atomicity two cases :**   
Transaction has only two cases :   
**Case 1 if no failure :**All instructions or statements executed successfully.

A close-up of a document

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**Case 2 If there are failure at any instruction :**- all instructions or statements not executed.  
- database should abort or rollback any instruction executed before this failure.  
- then return errors to the client.

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**The importance of atomicity**

To understand the importance of the atomicity we will discuss a very famous example :   
**transfer money between two bank accounts**

If the database does not support the atomicity :  
case 1 :

The transaction reduce the money from the client 1 account , and not sending it to the client 2 account , so client 1 loss his money.

A screenshot of a computer

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case 2 :  
the transaction does not reduce the money from client 1 account , but send it to client 2 account ,   
so the bank will lose its money on this case.

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**C** 🡪 **( Consistency )**

Consistency in ACID Theorem has a different definition than Consistency on CAP Theorem or distributed systems , we will discuss consistency in CAP Theorem later in details.

**What is Consistency ?**

Transaction must move the database from valid state to another valid state.

In simplicity consistency mean all write operations or instructions in our transaction must apply all defined rules like : constraints , cascades , triggers , referential integrity and .. etc.  
**The importance of Consistency with example :**

**Negative balance bank account after transfer money**

we have a defined rule or constraint on balance column in accounts table :

**CREATE TABLE Accounts (**

**Col 1 ,**

**Col 2 ,**

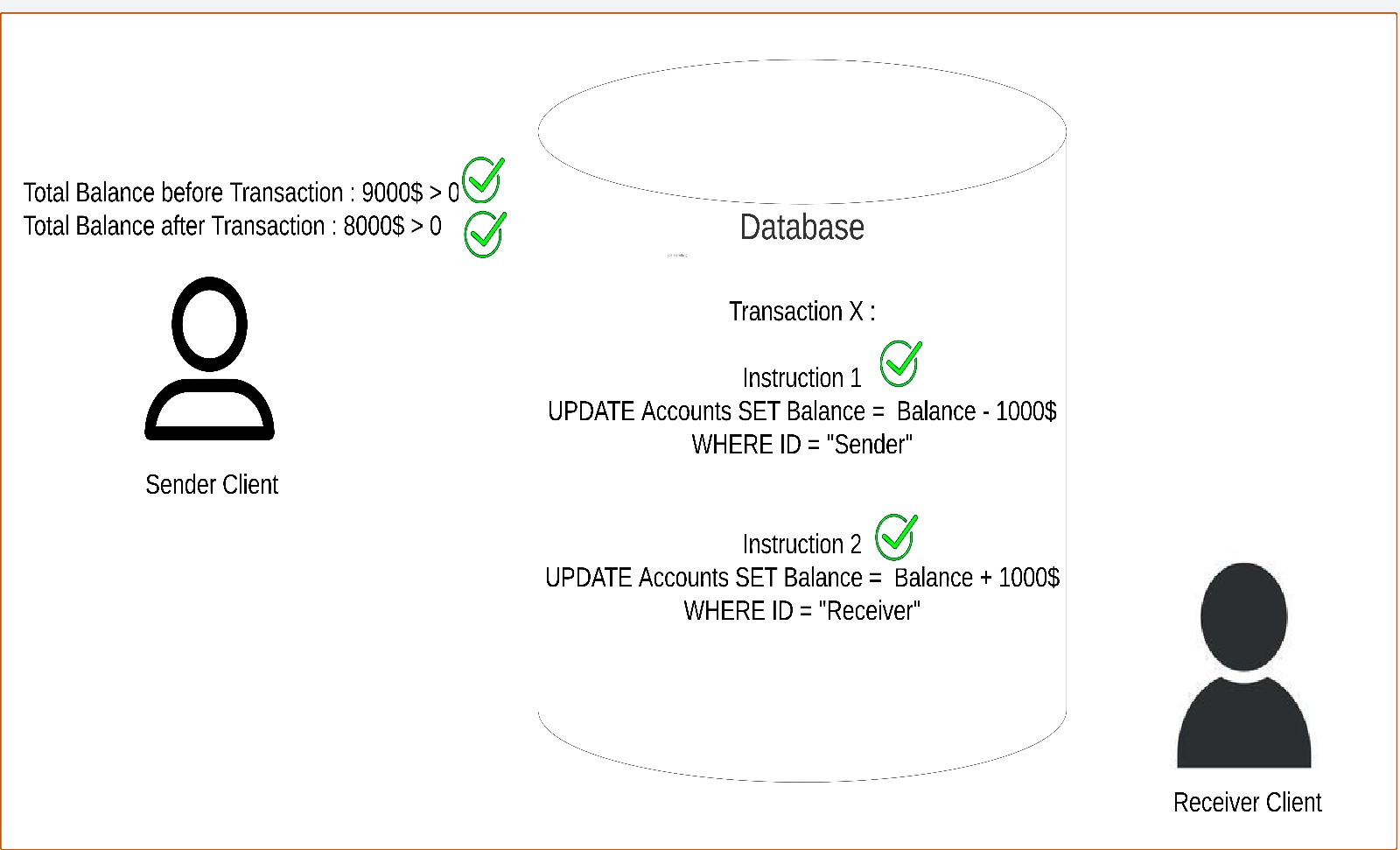
**Balance Decimal ,   
 CONSTRAINT Balance\_Positive CHECK (Balance >= 0)**

**);**

Case 1 :  
when the client try to send money that greater than his total balance this transaction must be failure.  
for example client has total balance 700$ and try to send 1000$ to other client so this transaction must be failure because it will be move the database from valid consistency state to other invalid consistency state.A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Case 2 :  
when the client try to send money that less than or equal than his total balance this transaction must be success.  
for example client has total balance 9000$ and try to send 1000$ to other client so this transaction must be success because it will be move the database from valid consistency state to other valid consistency state.

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**i** 🡪 **( isolation ) :**

**What is isolation ?**

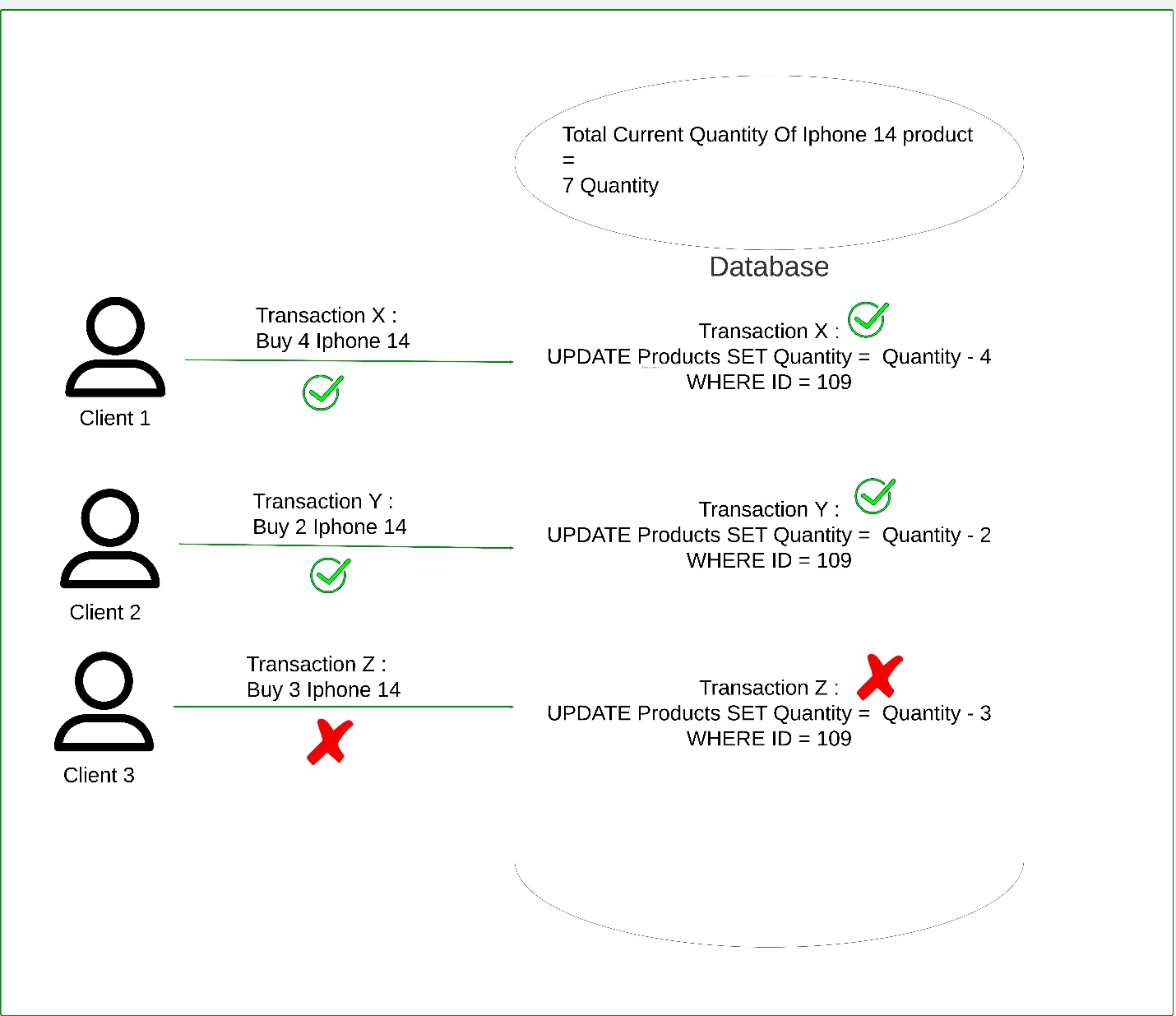
Isolation mean the ability of database to execute concurrent or parallel transactions on the same data as they executed serially without any conflicts.

There are different isolations levels where every level solve some concurrency issues , developers can choose the best one that suitable for their business needs.

We will not discuss the isolation levels here but we will just discuss the general idea of the isolation.

**Isolation example :**

**Three clients try to buy the same product from the stock at the same time.**

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**D** 🡪 **( Durability ) :  
  
What is Durability ?**

Durability mean the database must be store the transactions and data on non-volatile storge like disk before it mark it as success or return success message to client .  
  
**What is the importance of durability ?**

if the system or database crash due to power failures or other reason and then restart to working again , so the effects of the transactions will never lose and database continue to work from latest consistency state.