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Database Transactions – Part 2

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ACID Properties

- DBMSs ensure the following properties of transactions.

Atomicity:

- The execution of each transaction is atomic, i.e., **either all**

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Isolation:

- Execution results of each transaction are not affected by other concurrent executing transactions.

Durability:

- Once a transaction has been successfully completed, **its effects should persist in the database.**

Note: These properties are not independent from one another, but **atomicity is the central property.**



Atomicity

- **Atomicity** requires that we execute a transaction to completion with only two possibilities:

- **ALL**: all the operations are executed;



- If a transaction

Example: The money can only be taken from Steve if the money has been transferred into Bob's account.

Operations	Steve	Bob
before 1	\$1000	\$200
after 1	\$1000	\$200
after 2	\$500	\$200
after 3	\$500	\$200
after 4	\$500	\$700

All are executed.



Atomicity

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Consistency

Consistency requires that, each transaction should preserve the consistency of the database.

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Steve's account balance + Bob's account balance = \$1200,

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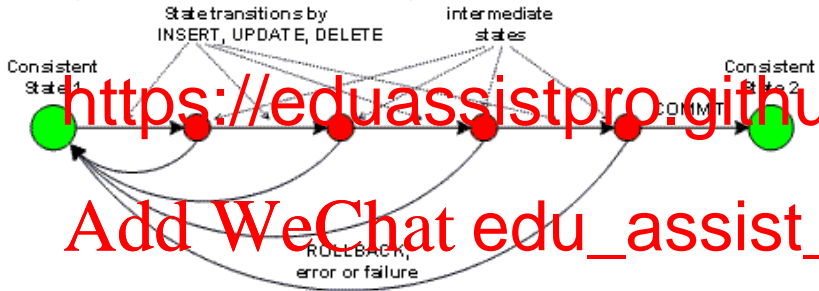
Operations	Steve	Bob
before 1	\$1000	\$200
after 1	\$1000	\$200
after 2	\$500	\$200
after 3	\$500	\$200
after 4	\$500	\$700

Not required to be consistent.

$\$500 + \$700 = \$1200$

Consistency¹

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- The database is in a consistent state before and after executing the transaction, but is not necessarily consistent in intermediate states.

¹ The figure is taken from <http://maxdb.sap.com>



Isolation

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- Isolation requires that transactions are isolated from one another.

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T_1
read(A)
write(A) (A:=A+500)
read(B)
write(B) (B:=B+500)
commit

commit



Isolation ²

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² The figure is taken from <http://michaeljswart.com/>



Durability

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- **Durability** requires that once the transaction is successfully completed, its ch

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to

- **Example:** Once Steve received the notification:
"\$500 has been successfully transfer

the money can't go back to Steve's account and must appear in Bob's account.



Durability³

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³ The figure is taken from <http://toyhouse.cc/profiles/blogs/the-acid-properties-of-transactions>