CONCURRENCY CONTROL APPROACHES

Two-Phase Locking (2PL)

→ Determine serializability order of conflicting operations at runtime while txns execute.

Timestamp Ordering

→ A serialization mechanism using timestamps.

Pessimistic

Optimistic Concurrency Control

→ Run then check for serialization violations.

Optimistic

T/O CONCURRENCY CONTROL

Use timestamps to determine the serializability order of txns.

If $TS(T_i) < TS(T_j)$, then the DBMS must ensure that the execution schedule is equivalent to the serial schedule where T_i appears before T_j.

TIMESTAMP ALLOCATION

Each txn T_i is assigned a unique fixed timestamp that is monotonically increasing.

→ Let $TS(T_i)$ be the timestamp allocated to txn T_i.

→ Different schemes assign timestamps at different times during the txn.

Multiple implementation strategies:

→ System/Wall Clock.

→ Logical Counter.

→ Hybrid.

TODAY'S AGENDA

Basic Timestamp Ordering (T/O) Protocol

Optimistic Concurrency Control

Isolation Levels

BASIC T/O

Txns read and write objects without locks.

Every object **X** is tagged with timestamp of the last txn that successfully did read/write:

→ **W-TS(X)** – Write timestamp on **X**

→ **R-TS(X)** – Read timestamp on **X**

Check timestamps for every operation:

→ If txn tries to access an object "from the future", it aborts and restarts.

BASIC T/O – READS

Don't read stuff from the "future."

Action: Transaction T_i wants to read object X.

If $TS(T_i) < W\text{-}TS(X)$, this violates the timestamp order of T_i with regard to the writer of **X**.

→ Abort T_i and restart it with a new TS.

Else:

→ Allow T_i to read **X**.

→ Update $R\text{-}TS(X)$ to $\max(R\text{-}TS(X), TS(T_i))$

→ Make a local copy of **X** to ensure repeatable reads for T_i.

BASIC T/O – WRITES

Can't write if a future transaction has read or written to the object.

Action: Transaction T_i wants to write object X.

If $TS(T_i) < R\text{-}TS(X)$ **or** $TS(T_i) < W\text{-}TS(X)$

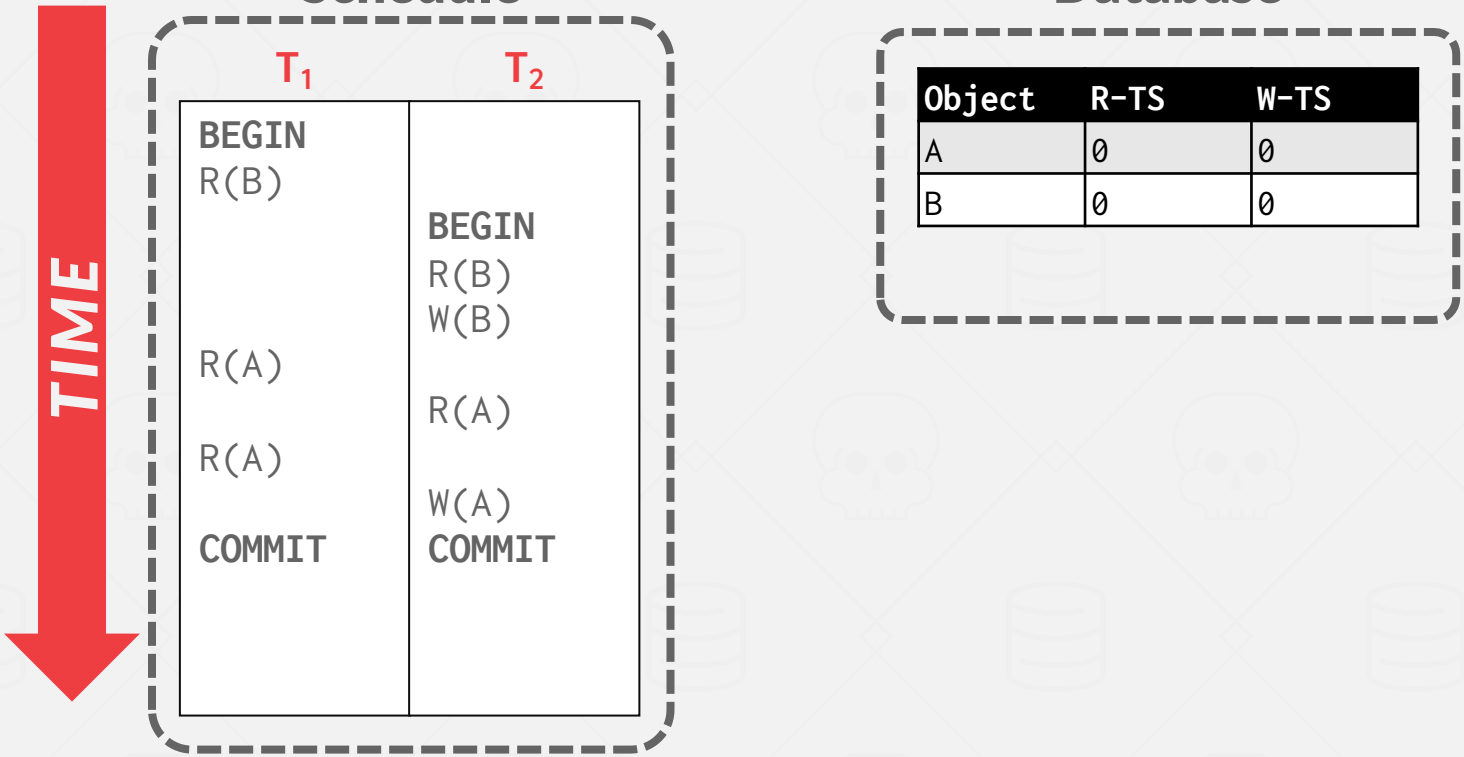
→ Abort and restart T_i.

Else:

→ Allow T_i to write X and update $W\text{-}TS(X)$

→ Also, make a local copy of X to ensure repeatable reads.

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1

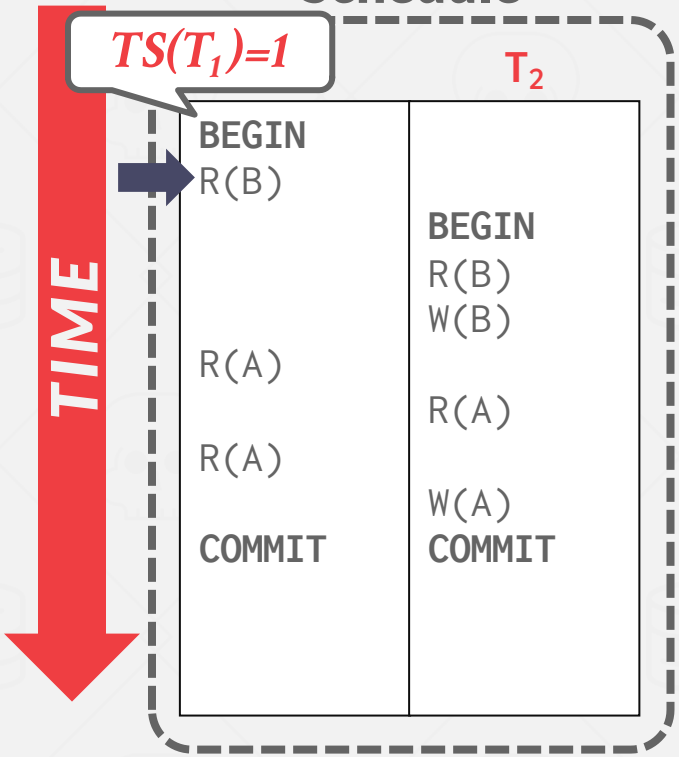


Database

Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	0	0
B	0	0

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1

Schedule

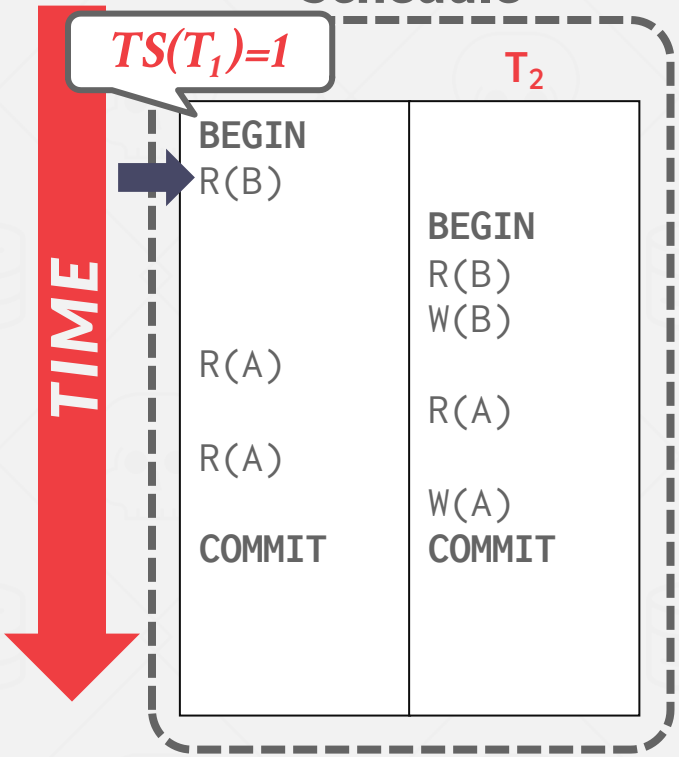


Database

Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	0	0
B	0	0

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1

Schedule

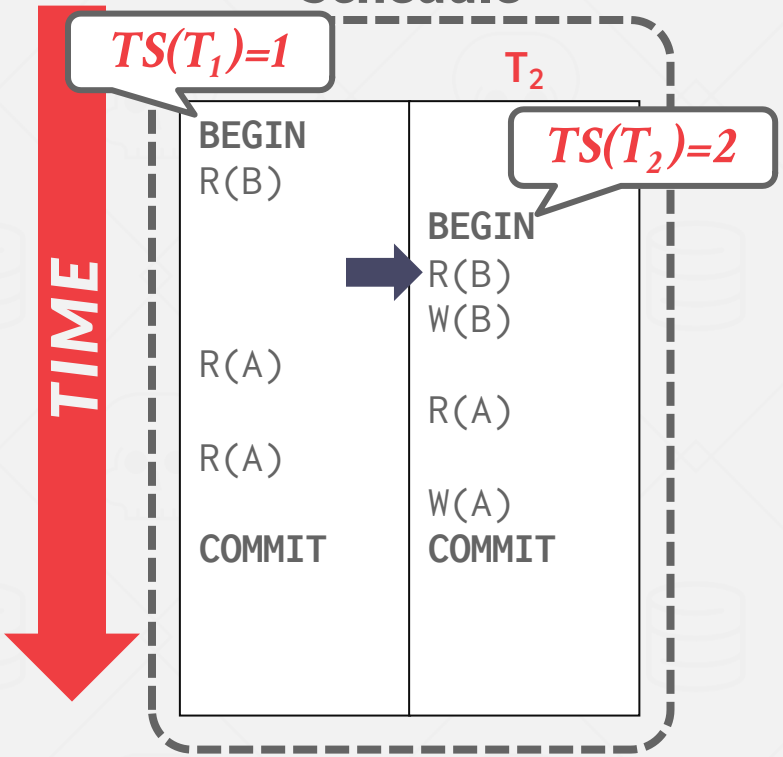


Database

Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	0	0
B	1	0

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1

Schedule

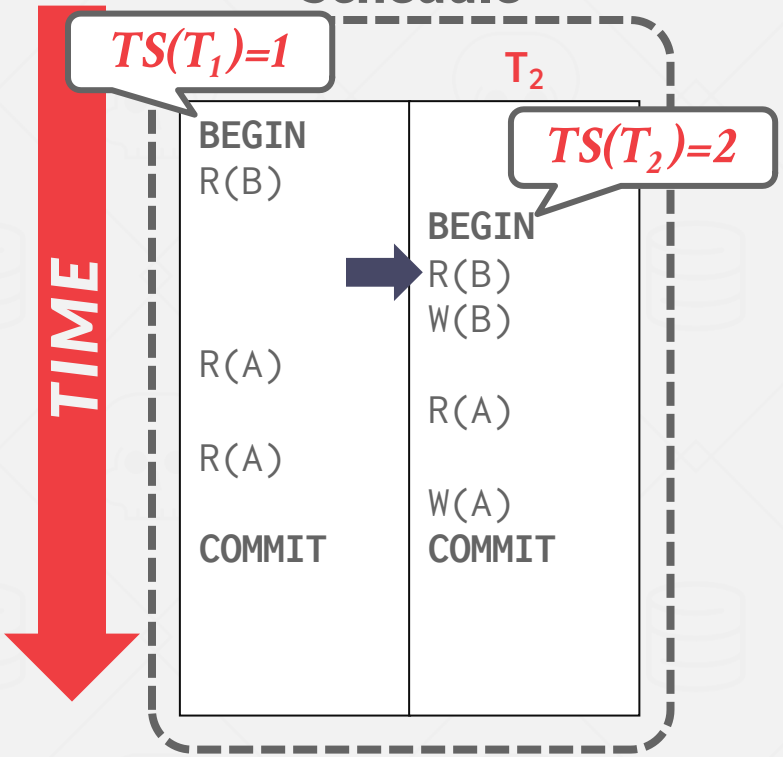


Database

Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	0	0
B	1	0

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1

Schedule

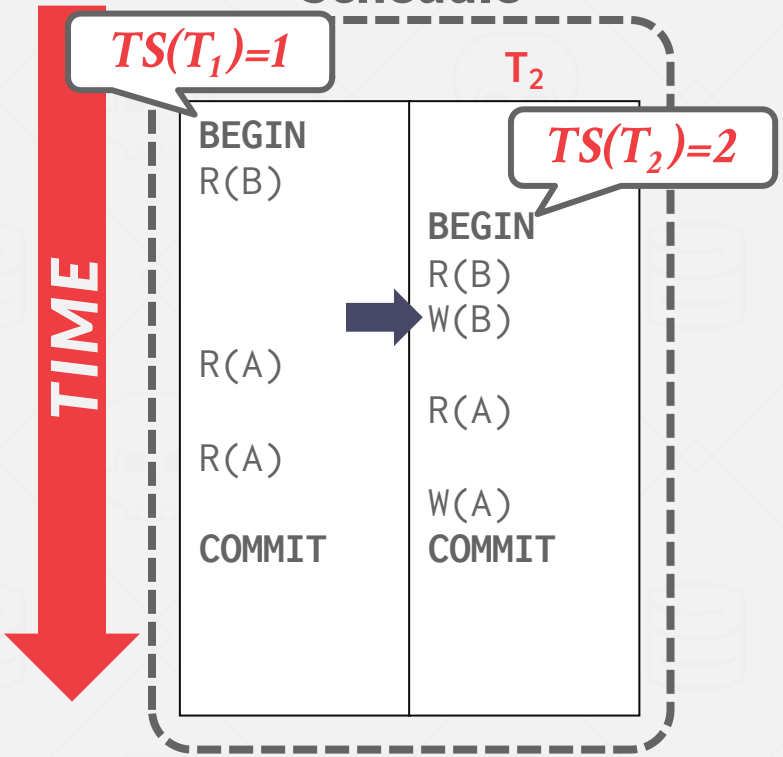


Database

Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	0	0
B	2	0

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1

Schedule

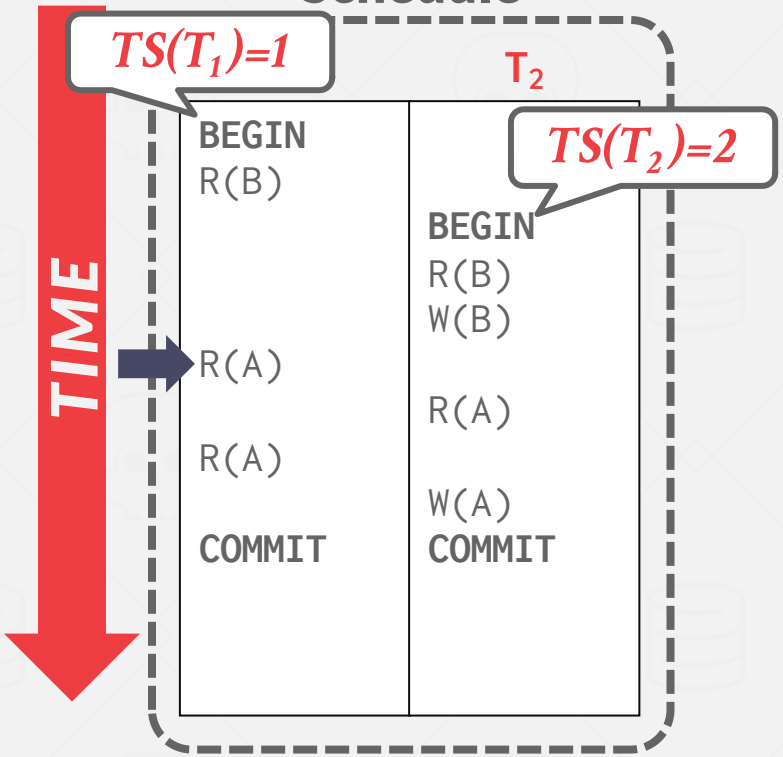


Database

Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	0	0
B	2	2

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1

Schedule

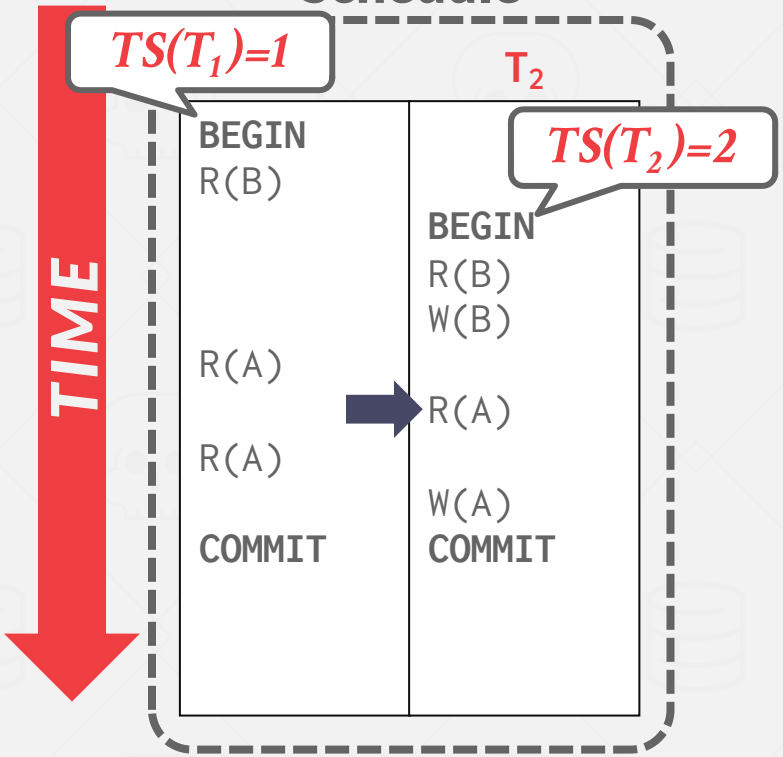


Database

Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	1	0
B	2	2

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1

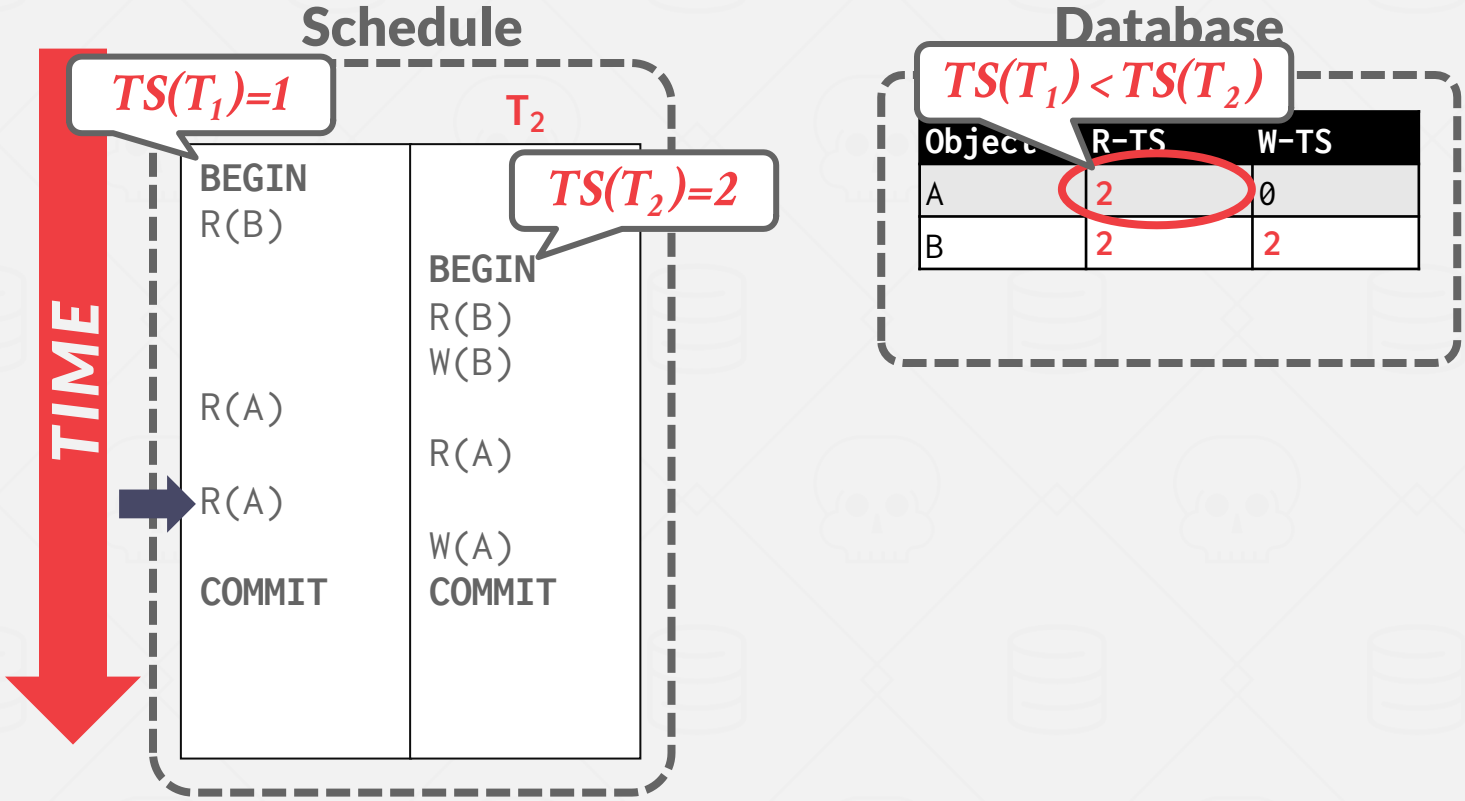
Schedule



Database

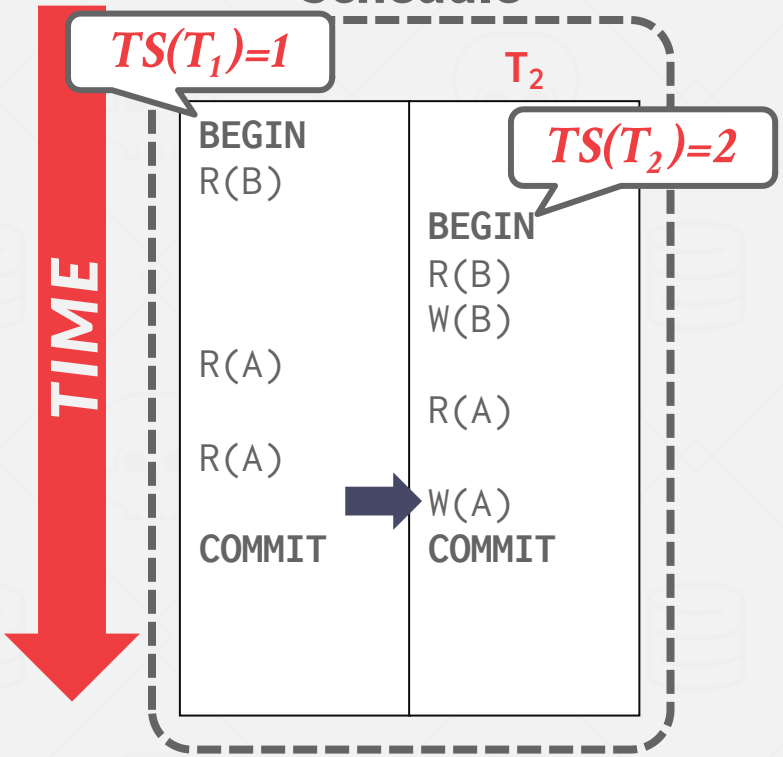
Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	2	0
B	2	2

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1



BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1

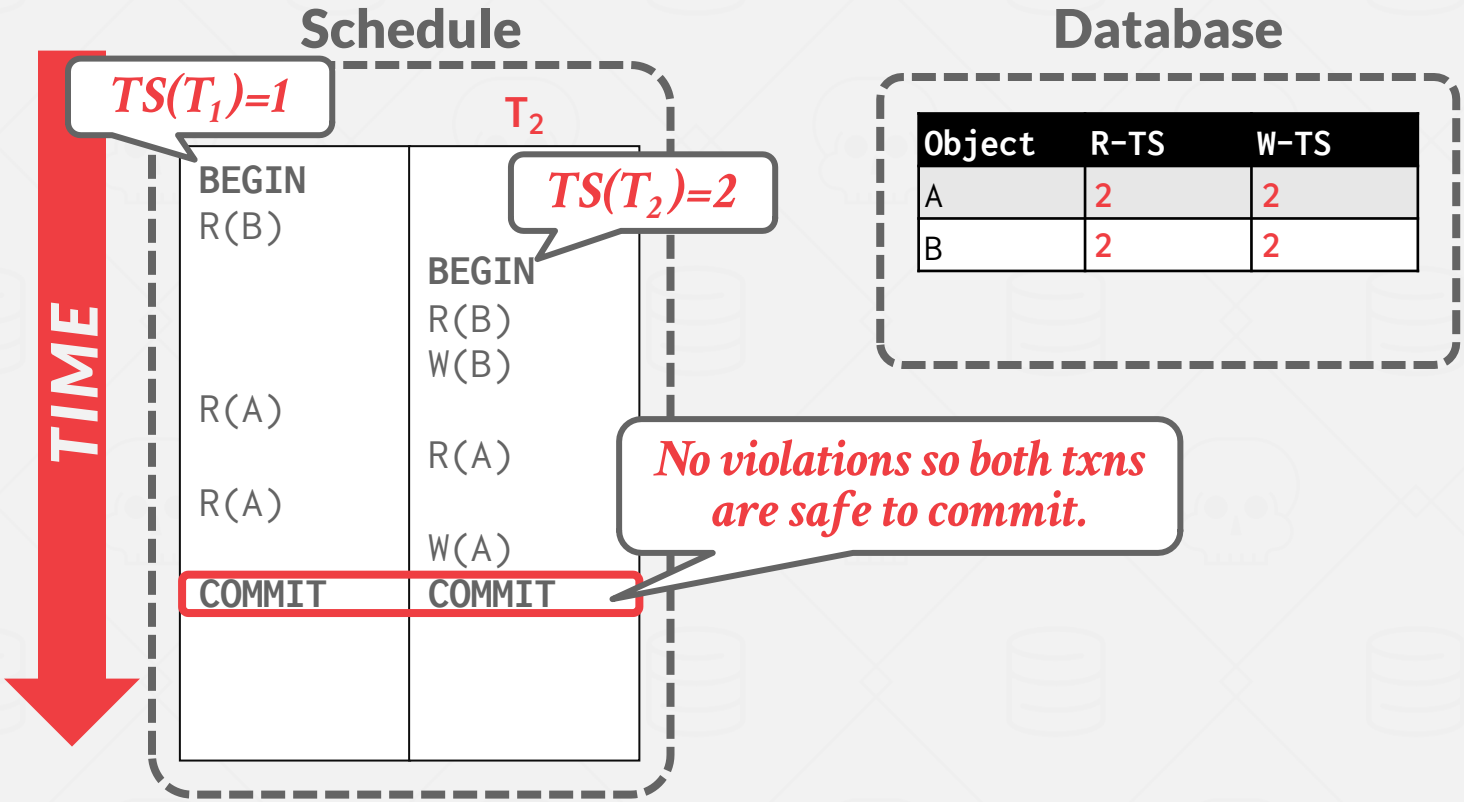
Schedule



Database

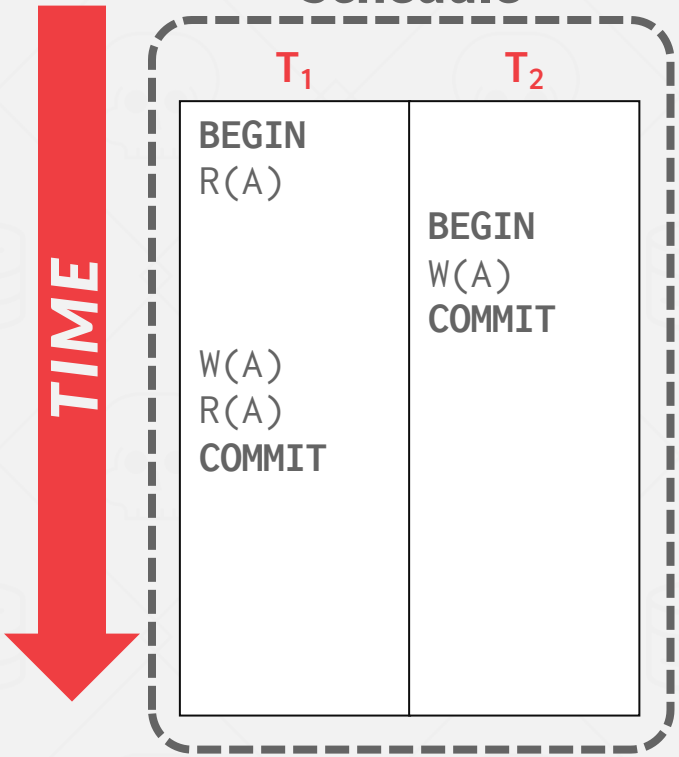
Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	2	2
B	2	2

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #1



BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #2

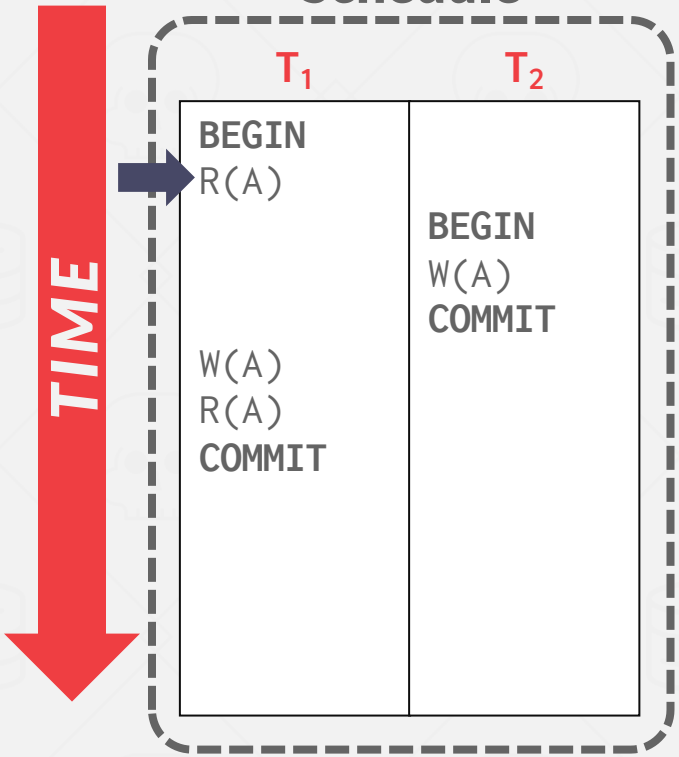
Schedule



Database

Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	0	0
B	0	0

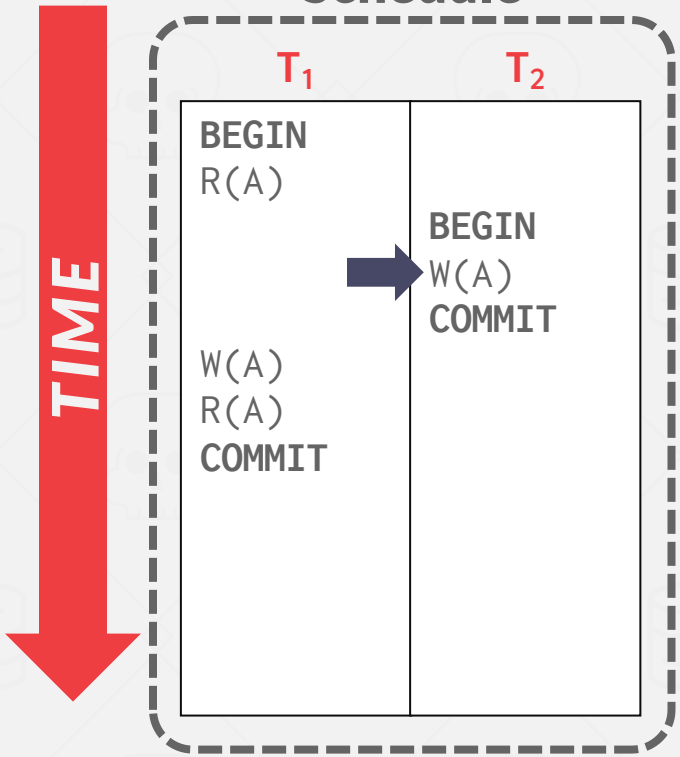
BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #2



Database

Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	1	0
B	0	0

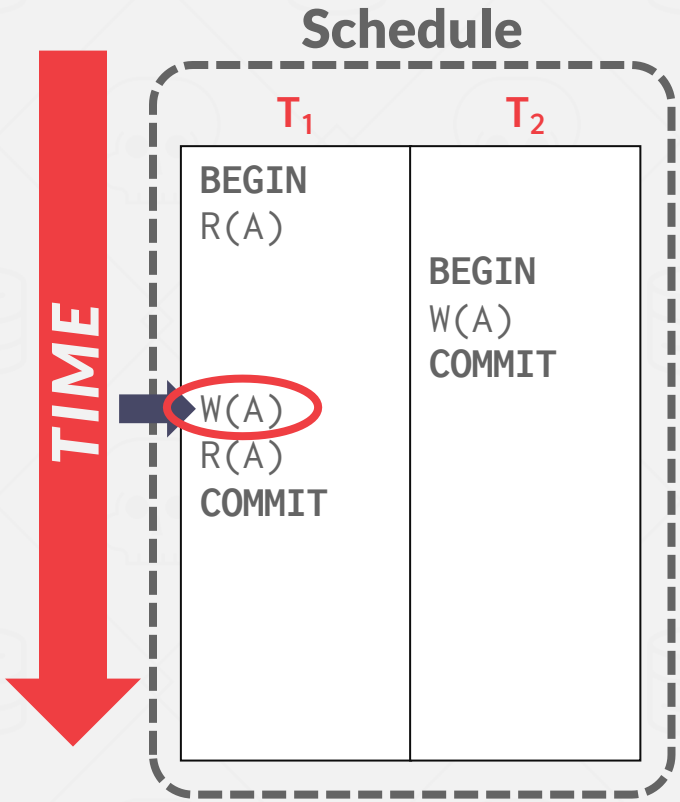
BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #2

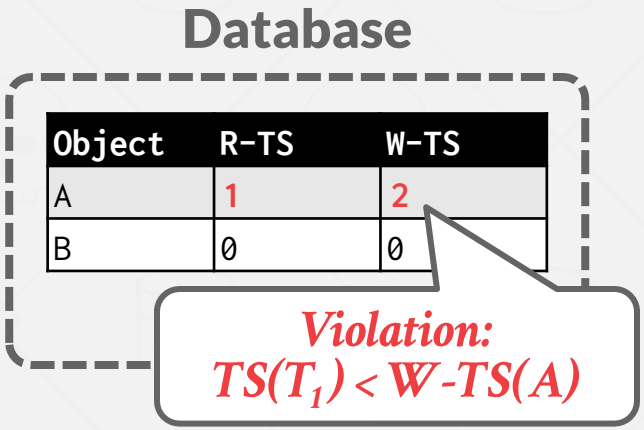


Database

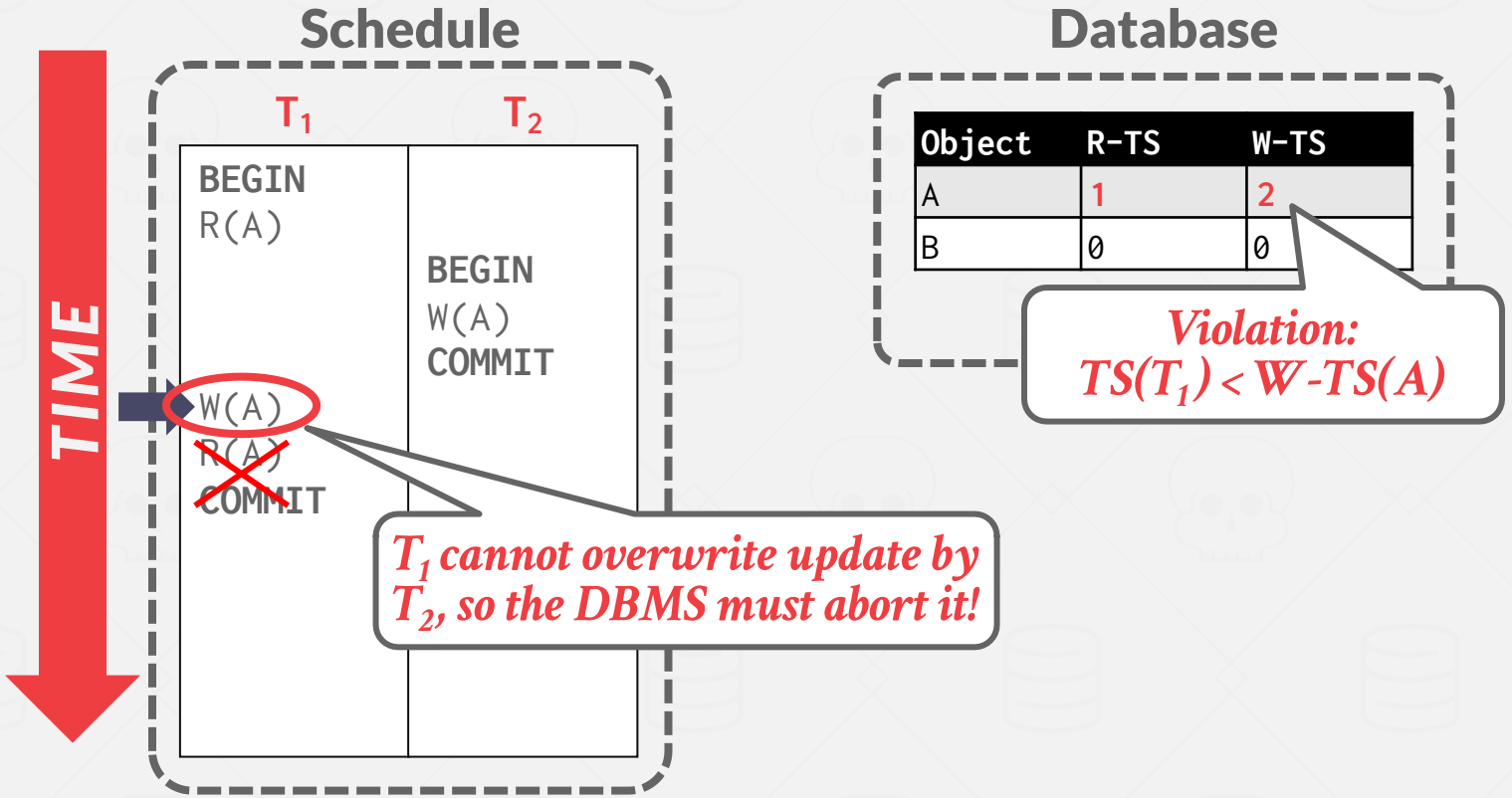
Object	R-TS	W-TS
A	1	2
B	0	0

BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #2





BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #2



THOMAS WRITE RULE

If $TS(T_i) < R\text{-}TS(X)$:

→ Abort and restart T_i.

If $TS(T_i) < W\text{-}TS(X)$:

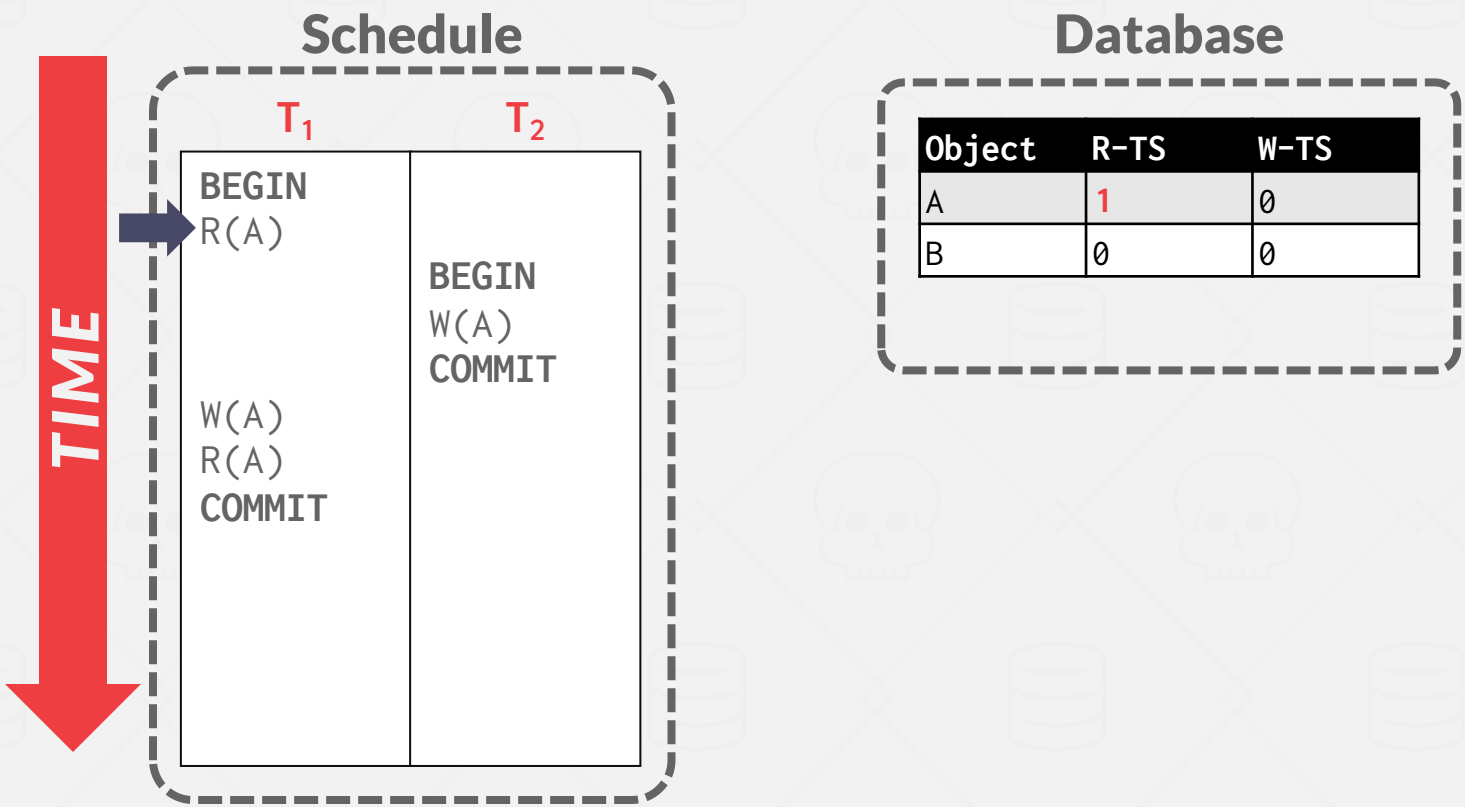
→ **Thomas Write Rule**: Ignore the write to allow the txn to continue executing without aborting.

→ This violates timestamp order of T_i.

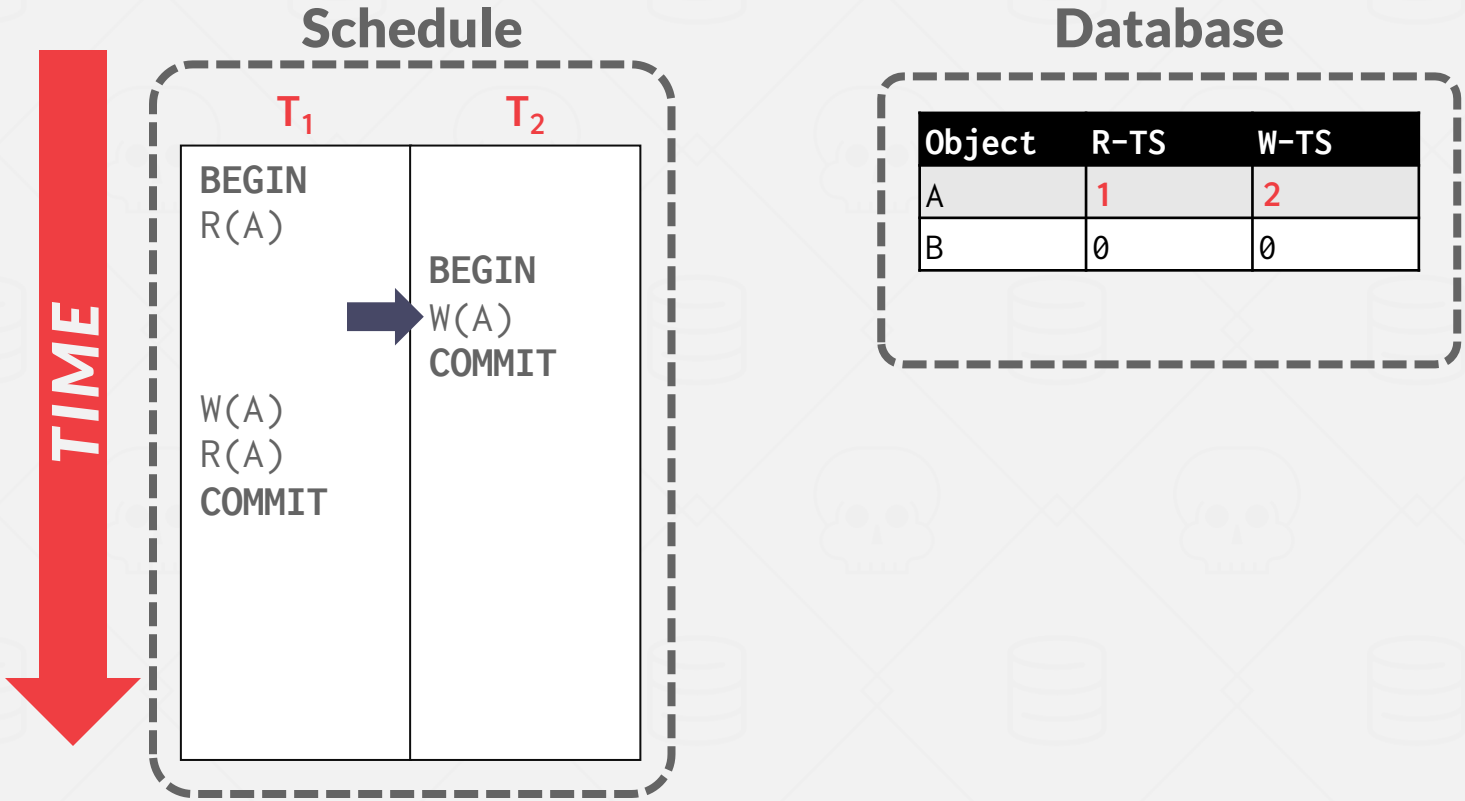
Else:

→ Allow T_i to write X and update $W\text{-}TS(X)$

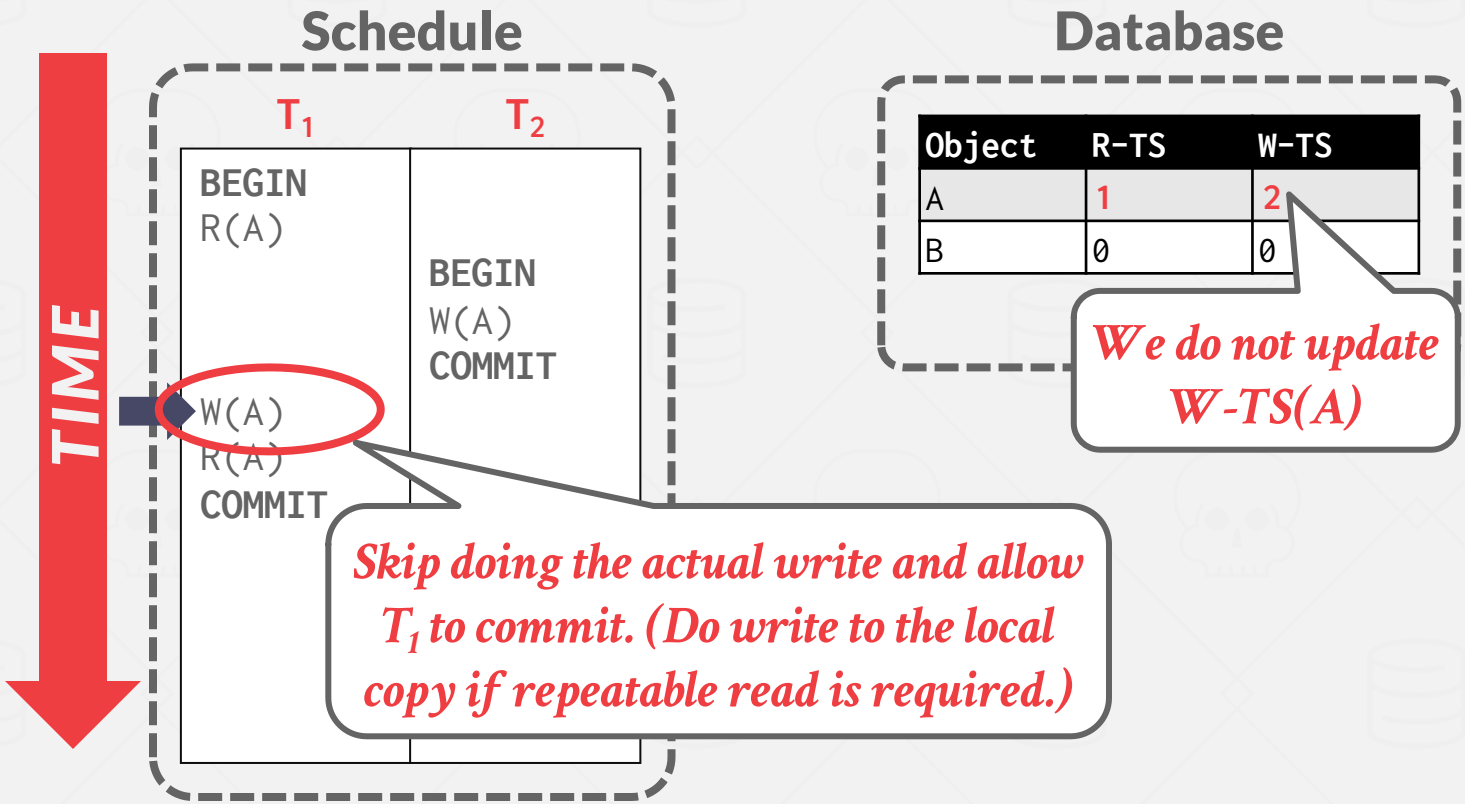
BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #2



BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #2



BASIC T/O – EXAMPLE #2



BASIC T/O

Generates a schedule that is conflict serializable if you do **not** use the Thomas Write Rule.

→ No deadlocks because no txn ever waits.

→ Possibility of starvation for long txns if short txns keep causing conflicts.

Not aware of any DBMS that uses the basic T/O protocol described here.

→ It provides the building blocks for OCC / MVCC.

BASIC T/O – PERFORMANCE ISSUES

High overhead from copying data to txn's workspace and from updating timestamps.

→ Every read requires the txn to write to the database.

Long running txns can get starved.

→ The likelihood that a txn will read something from a newer txn increases.

OBSERVATION

If you assume that conflicts between txns are **rare** and that most txns are **short-lived**, then forcing txns to acquire locks or update timestamps adds unnecessary overhead.

A better approach is to optimize for the no-conflict case.

OPTIMISTIC CONCURRENCY CONTROL

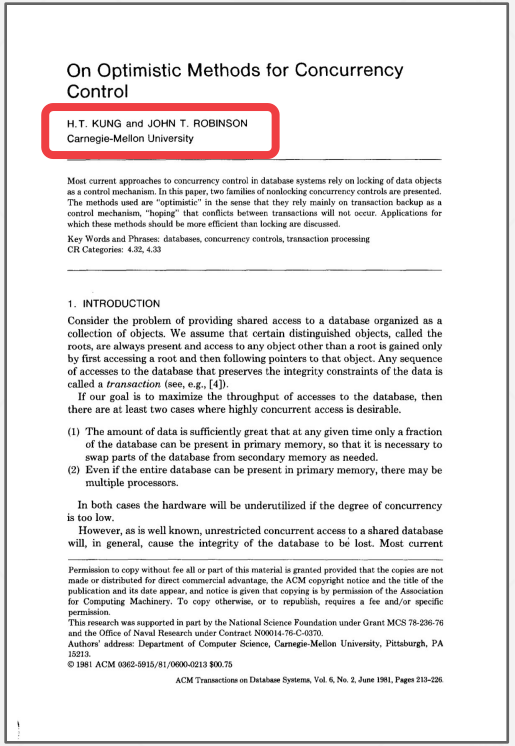
The DBMS creates a private workspace for each txn.

→ Any object read is copied into workspace.

→ Modifications are applied to workspace.

When a txn commits, the DBMS compares workspace write set to see whether it conflicts with other txns.

If there are no conflicts, the write set is installed into the "global" database.



On Optimistic Methods for Concurrency Control

H.T. KUNG and JOHN T. ROBINSON
Carnegie-Mellon University

Most current approaches to concurrency control in database systems rely on locking of data objects as a control mechanism. In this paper, two families of nonlocking concurrency controls are presented. The methods used are "optimistic" in the sense that they rely mainly on transaction backup as a control mechanism, "hoping" that conflicts between transactions will not occur. Applications for which these methods should be more efficient than locking are discussed.

Key Words and Phrases: databases, concurrency controls, transaction processing
CR Categories: 4.32, 4.33

1. INTRODUCTION

Consider the problem of providing shared access to a database organized as a collection of objects. We assume that certain distinguished objects, called the roots, are always present and access to any object other than a root is gained only by first accessing a root and then following pointers to that object. Any sequence of accesses to the database that preserves the integrity constraints of the data is called a *transaction* (see, e.g., [4]).

If our goal is to maximize the throughput of accesses to the database, then there are at least two cases where highly concurrent access is desirable.

(1) The amount of data is sufficiently great that at any given time only a fraction of the database can be present in primary memory, so that it is necessary to swap parts of the database from secondary memory as needed.
(2) Even if the entire database can be present in primary memory, there may be multiple processors.

In both cases the hardware will be underutilized if the degree of concurrency is too low.

However, as is well known, unrestricted concurrent access to a shared database will, in general, cause the integrity of the database to be lost. Most current

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Authors' address: Department of Computer Science, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

OCC PHASES

#1 – Read Phase:

→ Track the read/write sets of txns and store their writes in a private workspace.

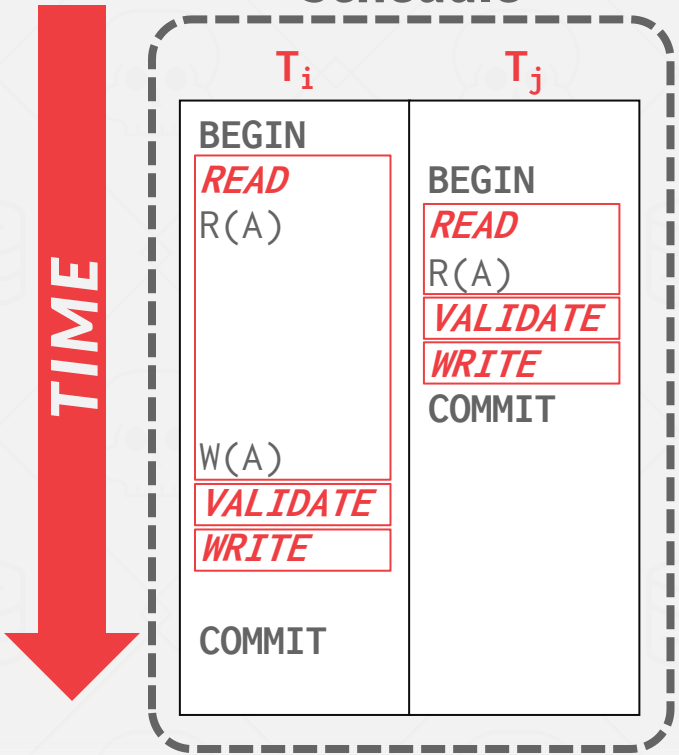
#2 – Validation Phase:

→ When a txn commits, check whether it conflicts with other txns.

#3 – Write Phase:

→ If validation succeeds, apply private changes to database. Otherwise abort and restart the txn.

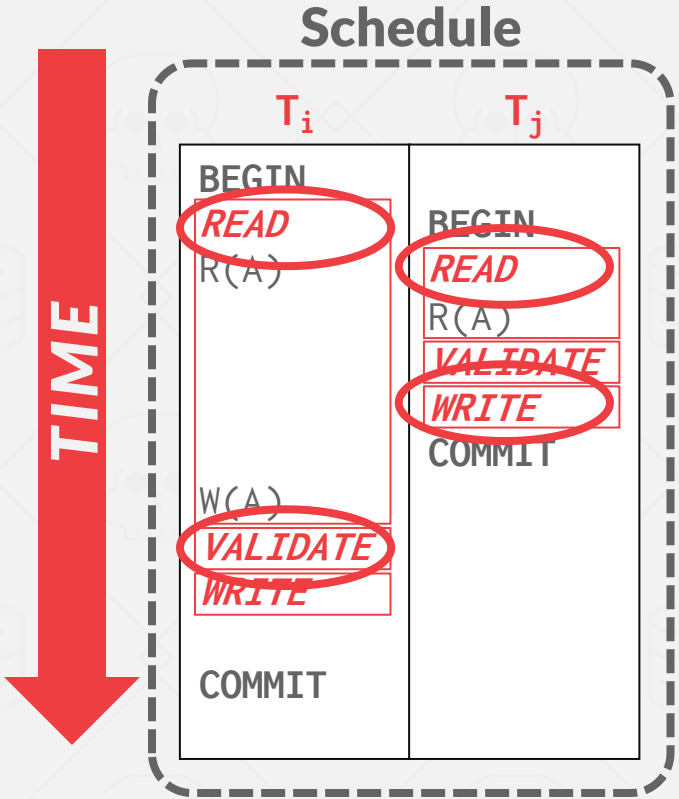
OCC – EXAMPLE



Database

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

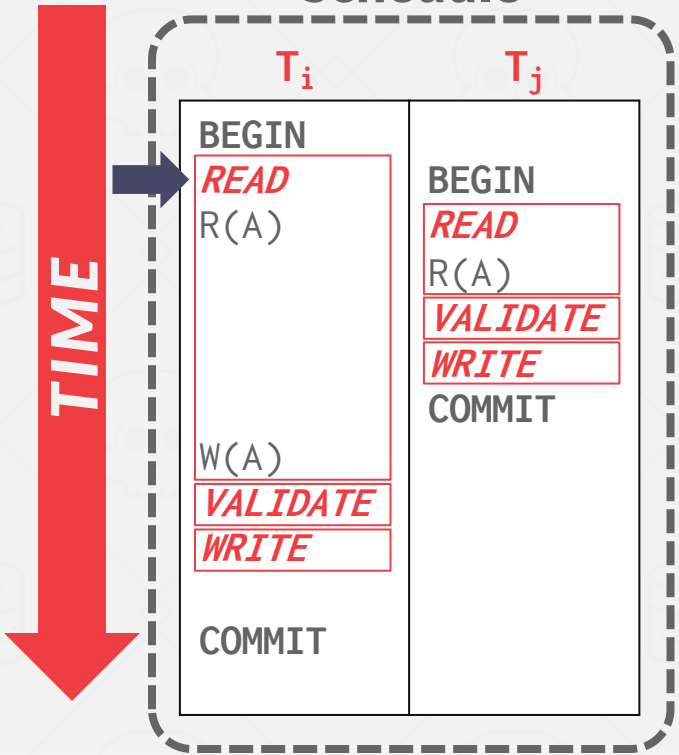
OCC – EXAMPLE



Database

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

OCC – EXAMPLE



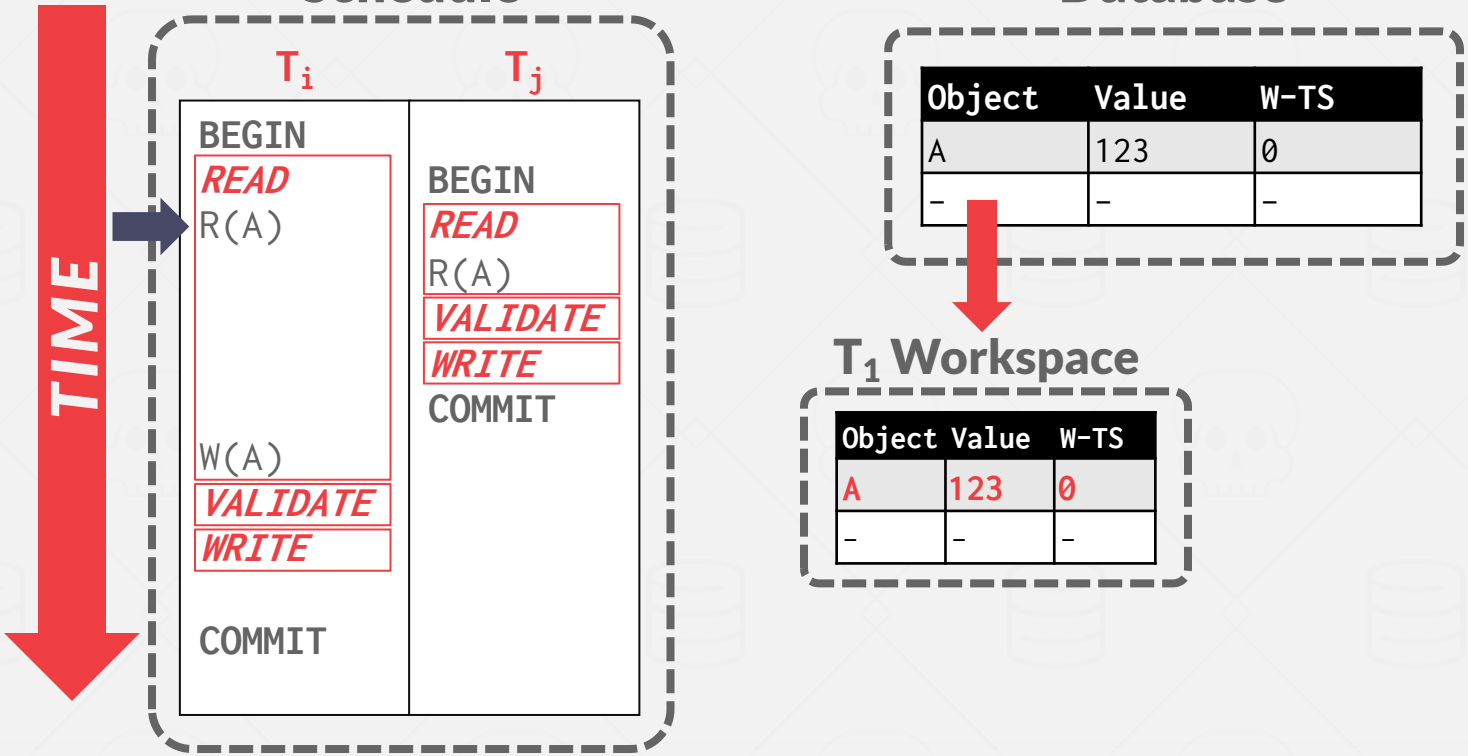
Database

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

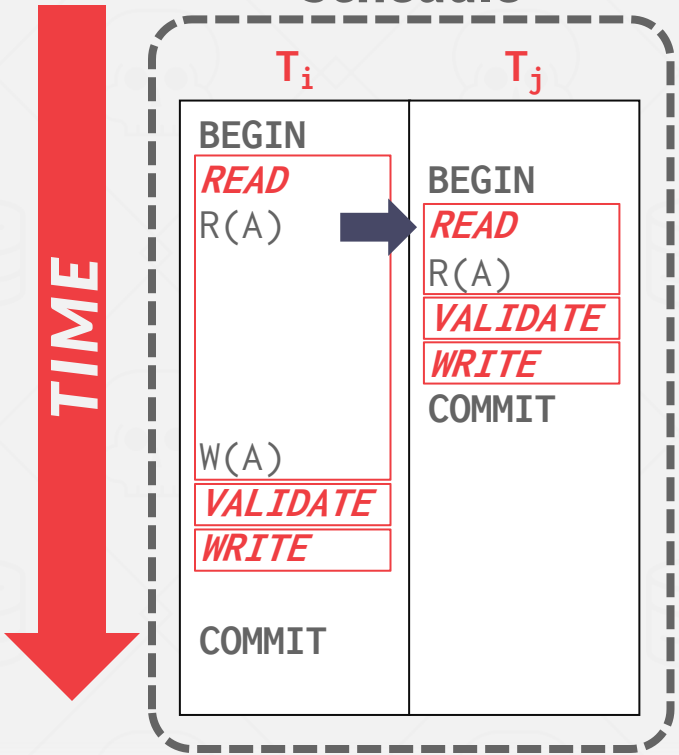
T_1 Workspace

Object	Value	W-TS
–	–	–
–	–	–

OCC – EXAMPLE


Schedule
Database
TIME
T_i
T_j
BEGIN
READ
R(A)
W(A)
VALIDATE
WRITE
COMMIT
BEGIN
READ
R(A)
VALIDATE
WRITE
COMMIT
Object
Value
W-TS
A
123
0
T_1 Workspace
Object
Value
W-TS
A
123
0

OCC – EXAMPLE



Database

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

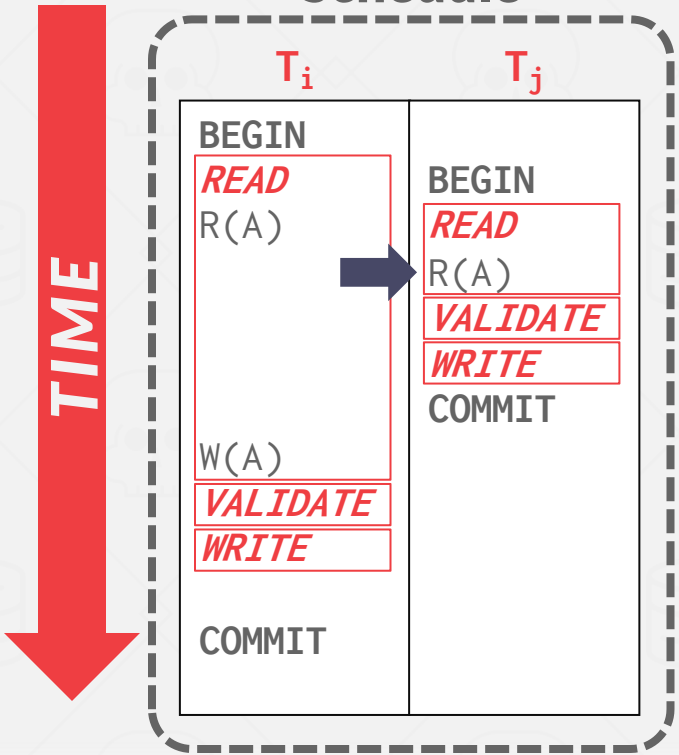
T_1 Workspace

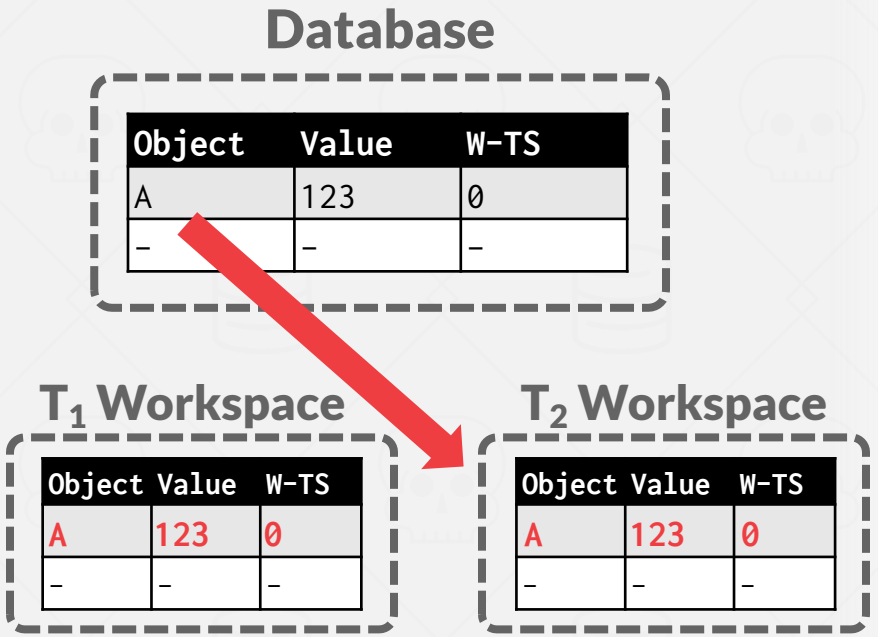
Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

T_2 Workspace

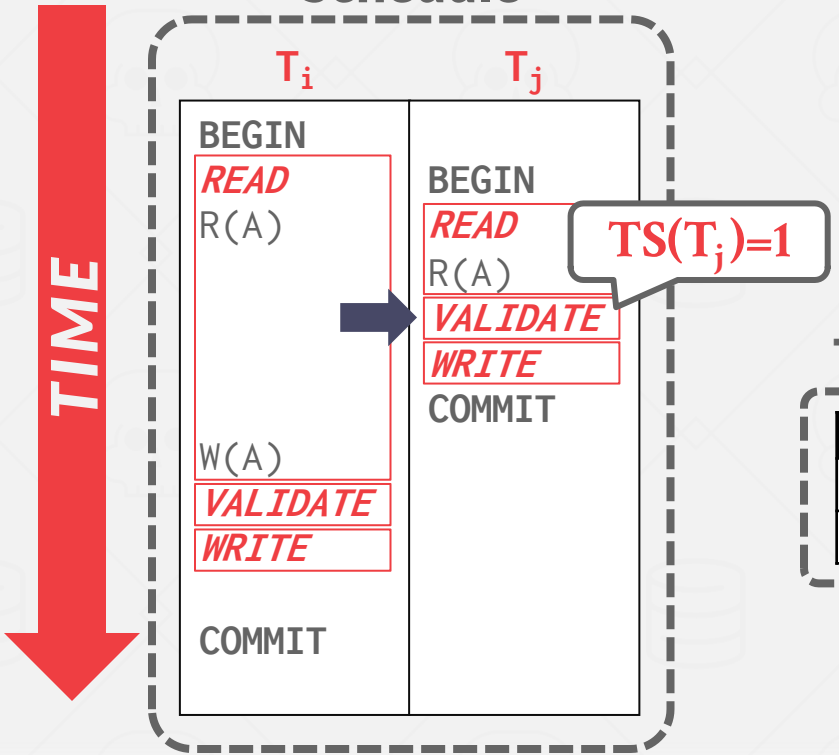
Object	Value	W-TS
–	–	–
–	–	–

OCC – EXAMPLE


Schedule
TIME
T_i
T_j
BEGIN
READ
R(A)
W(A)
VALIDATE
WRITE
COMMIT
BEGIN
READ
R(A)
VALIDATE
WRITE
COMMIT


Database
Object Value W-TS
A 123 0
– – –
T_1 Workspace
Object Value W-TS
A 123 0
– – –
T_2 Workspace
Object Value W-TS
A 123 0
– – –

OCC – EXAMPLE



Database

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

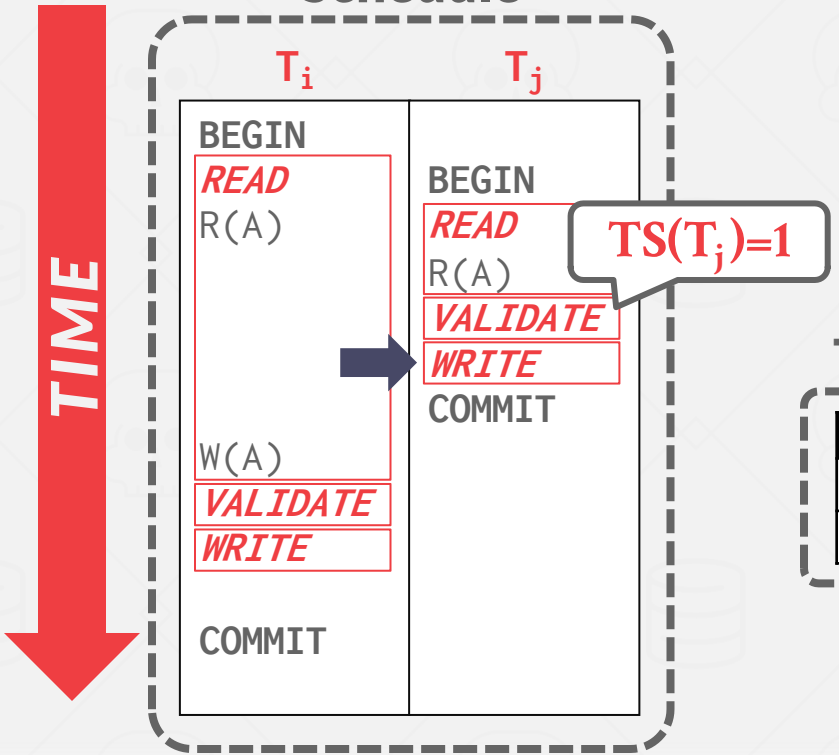
T_1 Workspace

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

T_2 Workspace

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

OCC – EXAMPLE



Database

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

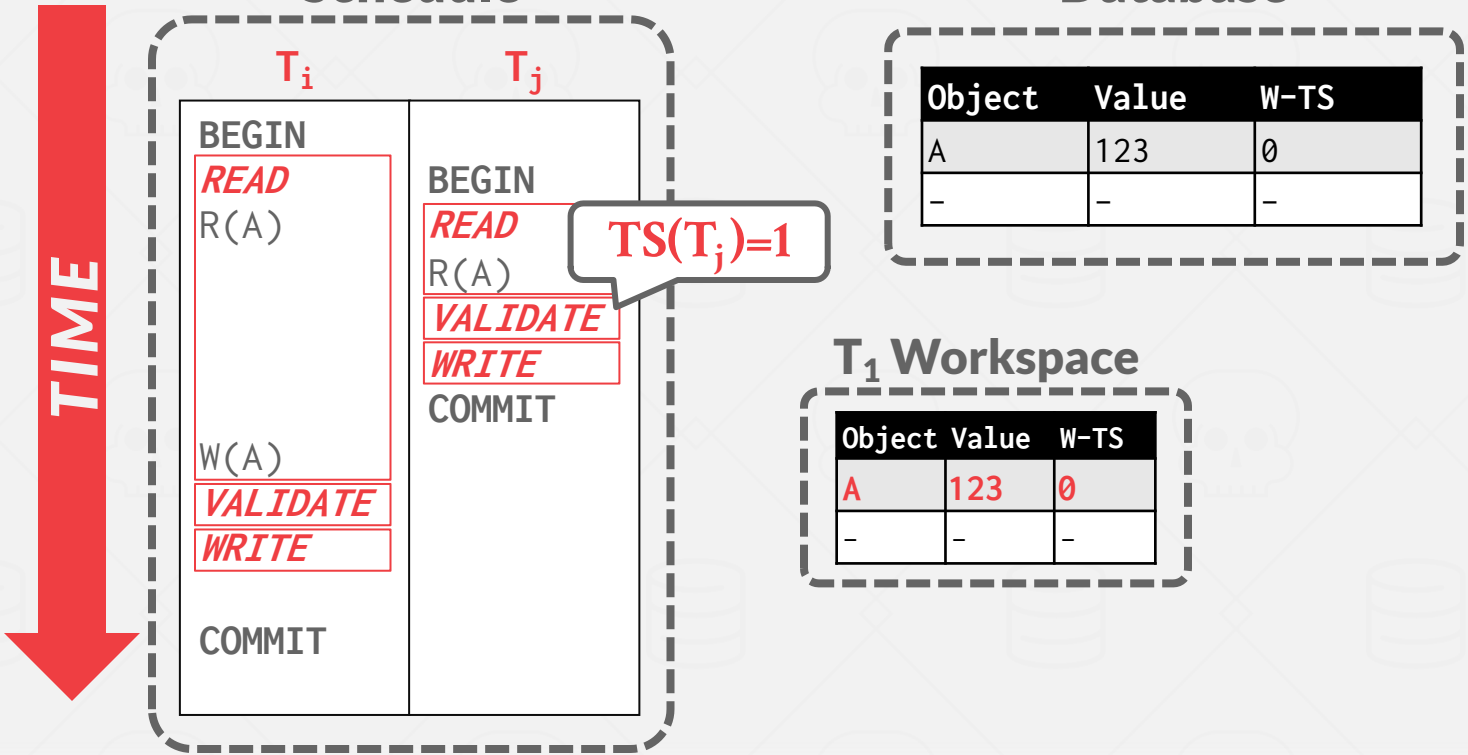
T_1 Workspace

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

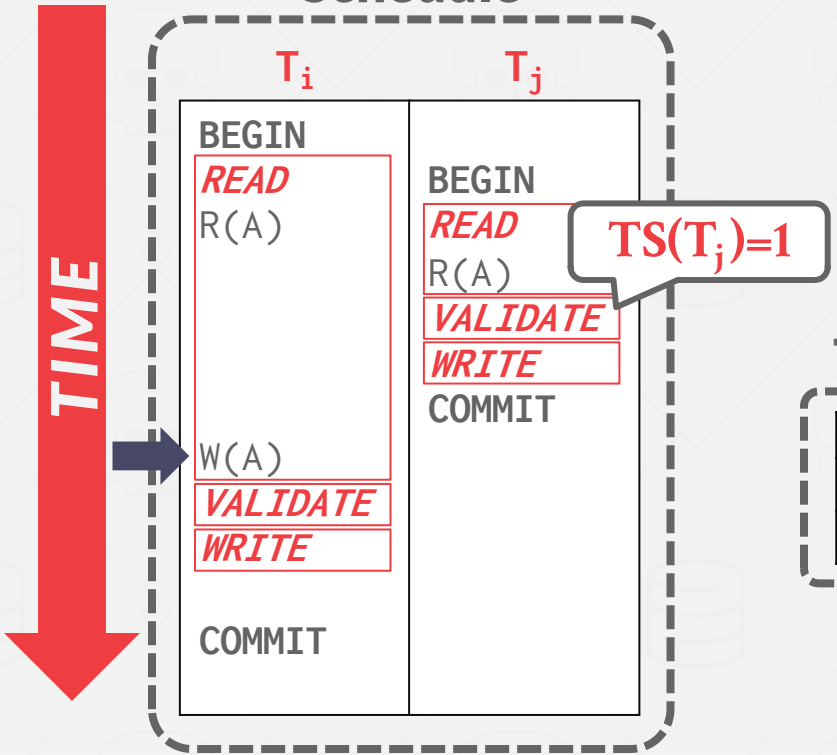
T_2 Workspace

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

OCC – EXAMPLE


Schedule
Database
TIME
T_i
T_j
BEGIN
READ
R(A)
W(A)
VALIDATE
WRITE
COMMIT
BEGIN
READ
R(A)
VALIDATE
WRITE
COMMIT
$TS(T_j)=1$
Object Value W-TS
A 123 0
– – –
T_1 Workspace
Object Value W-TS
A 123 0
– – –

OCC – EXAMPLE



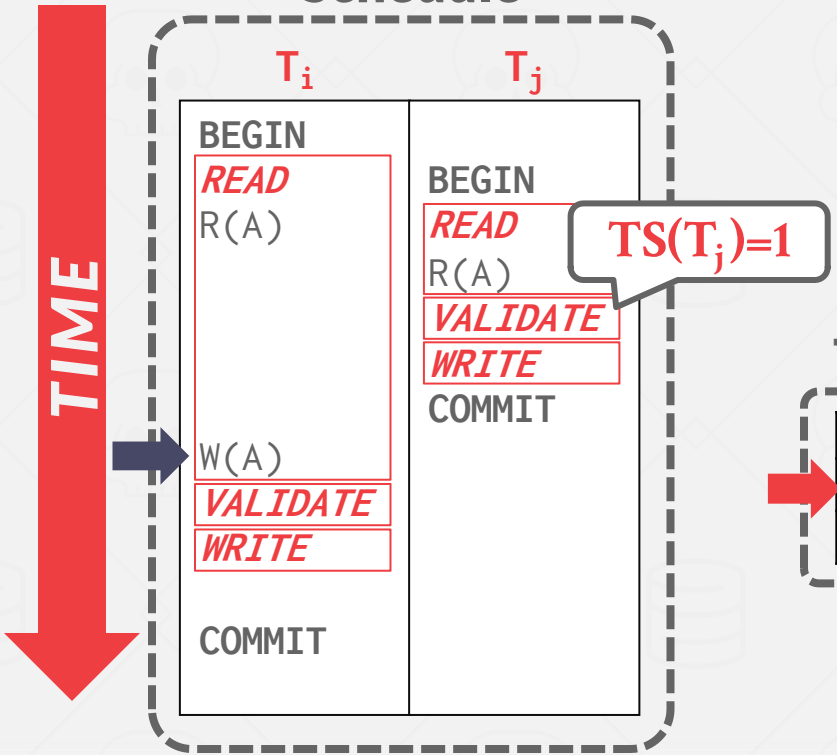
Database

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

T_1 Workspace

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

OCC – EXAMPLE



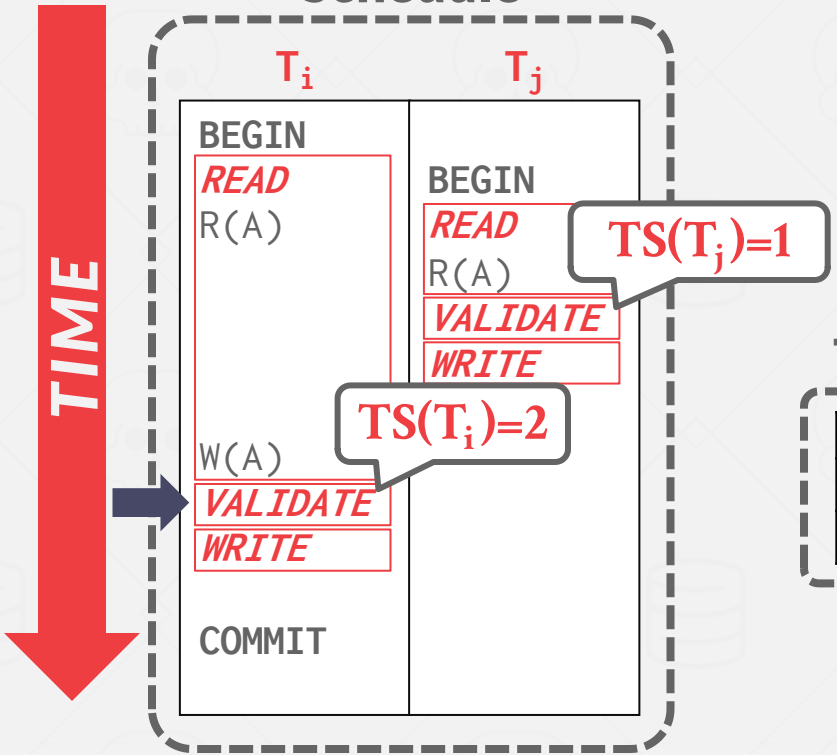
Database

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

T_1 Workspace

Object	Value	W-TS
A	456	∞
–	–	–

OCC – EXAMPLE



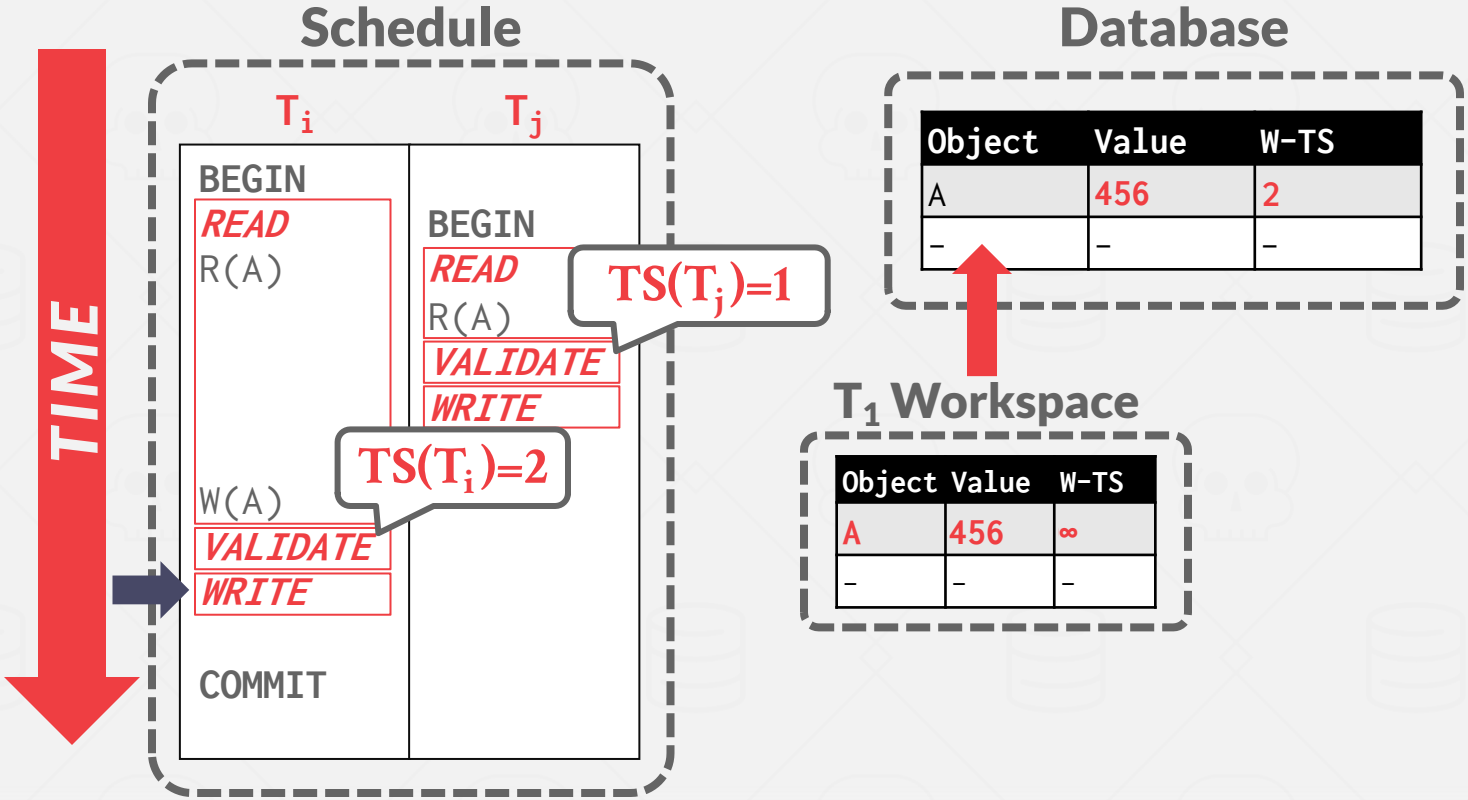
Database

Object	Value	W-TS
A	123	0
–	–	–

T_1 Workspace

Object	Value	W-TS
A	456	∞
–	–	–

OCC – EXAMPLE


Schedule
Database
TIME
T_i
T_j
BEGIN
READ
R(A)
W(A)
VALIDATE
WRITE
COMMIT
BEGIN
READ
R(A)
VALIDATE
WRITE
$TS(T_j)=1$
$TS(T_i)=2$
Object Value W-TS
A 456 2
– – –
T_1 Workspace
Object Value W-TS
A 456 ∞
– – –

OCC – READ PHASE

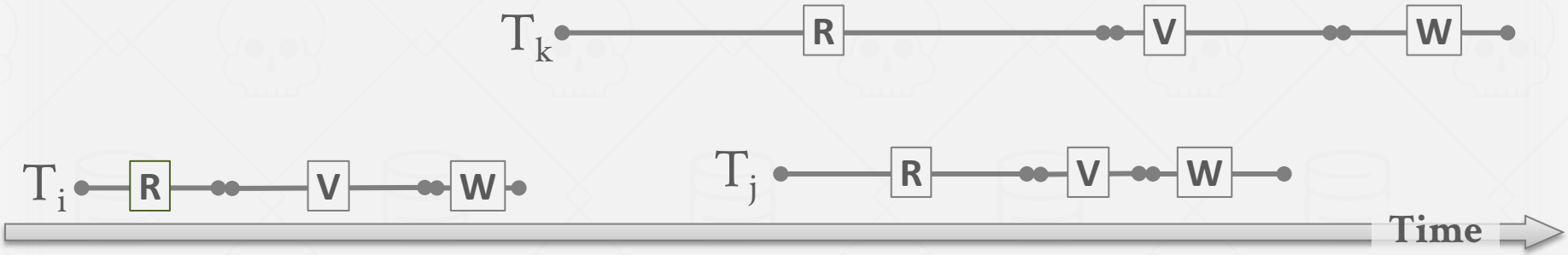
Track the read/write sets of txns and store their writes in a private workspace.

The DBMS copies every tuple that the txn accesses from the shared database to its workspace ensure repeatable reads.

→ We can ignore for now what happens if a txn reads/writes tuples via indexes.

OCC: THREE PHASES

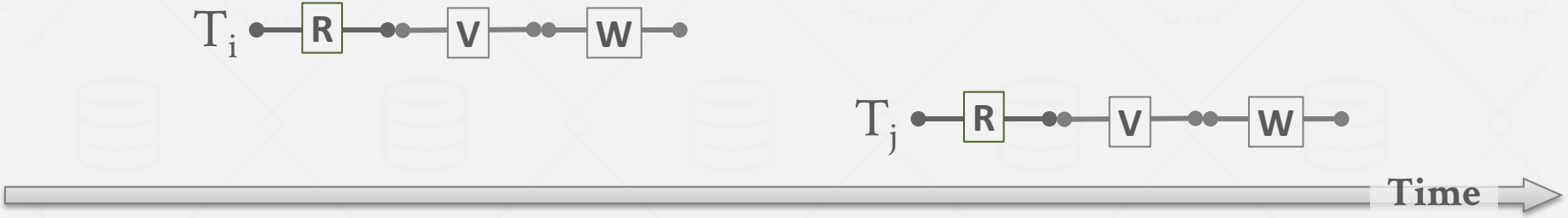
When to assign the transaction number? At the end of the read phase.



1. **READ** phase: Read and write objects, making local copies.
2. **VALIDATION** Phase: Check for serializable schedule-related anomalies.
3. **WRITE** Phase: It is safe. Write the local objects, making them permanent.

OCC: VALIDATION (T_i < T_j)

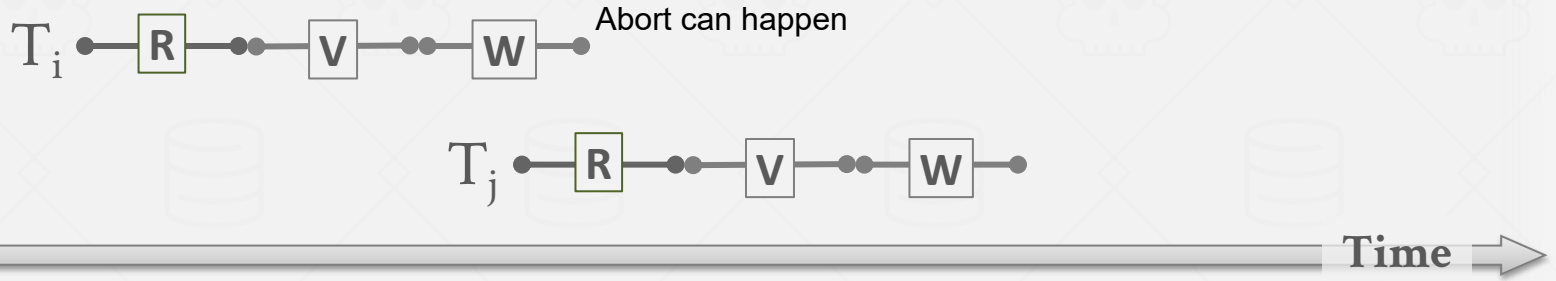
Case 1: T_i completes its write phase before T_j starts its read phase.



No conflict as all of T_i's actions happen before T_j's.

OCC: VALIDATION (T_i < T_j)

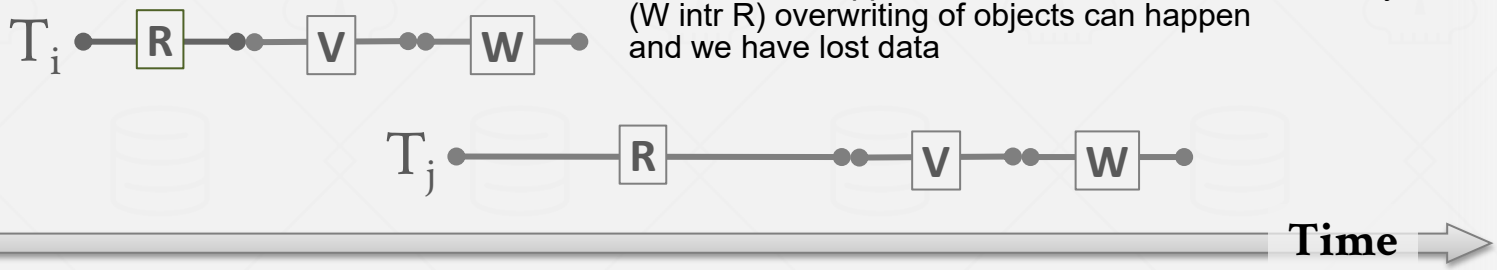
Case 2: T_i completes its write phase before T_j starts its write phase.



Check that the write set of T_i does not intersect the read set of T_j, namely: **WriteSet(T_i)** ∩ **ReadSet(T_j)** = ∅

OCC: VALIDATION (T_i < T_j)

Case 3: T_i completes its **read** phase before T_j completes its **read** phase.

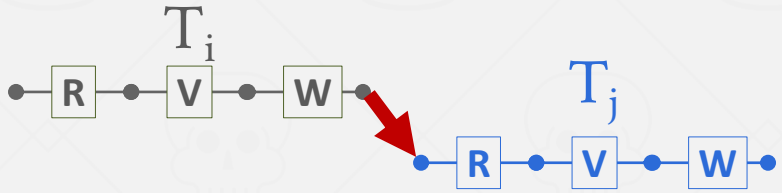
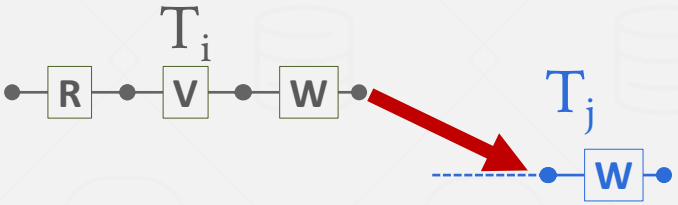
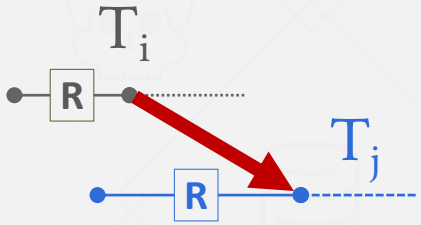


Write should happen in serial fashion. If we check only (W intr R) overwriting of objects can happen and we have lost data

Check that the write set of T_i does not intersect the read or write sets of T_j, namely: $\mathtt{WriteSet}(T_i) \cap \mathtt{ReadSet}(T_j) = \emptyset$ **AND** $\mathtt{WriteSet}(T_i) \cap \mathtt{WriteSet}(T_j) = \emptyset$

Lost Update: either an object by a transaction should have been read by other transaction or that transaction should have been the last one to write that object.`

OCC: VALIDATION (T_i < T_j)

	R → W	W → R	W → W
Case 1 	✓	✓	✓
Case 2 	✓	$WriteSet(T_i) \cap ReadSet(T_j) = \emptyset$	✓
Case 3 	✓	$WriteSet(T_i) \cap ReadSet(T_j) = \emptyset$	$WriteSet(T_i) \cap WriteSet(T_j) = \emptyset$

OCC – WRITE PHASE

Propagate changes in the txn's write set to database to make them visible to other txns.

Serial Commits:

→ Use a global latch to limit a single txn to be in the **Validation/Write** phases at a time.

Parallel Commits:

→ Use fine-grained write latches to support parallel **Validation/Write** phases.

→ Txns acquire latches in primary key order to avoid deadlocks.

OCC – OBSERVATIONS

OCC works well when the # of conflicts is low:

→ All txns are read-only (ideal).

→ Txns access disjoint subsets of data.

If the database is large and the workload is not skewed, then there is a low probability of conflict, so again locking is wasteful.

OCC – PERFORMANCE ISSUES

High overhead for copying data locally.

Validation/Write phase bottlenecks.

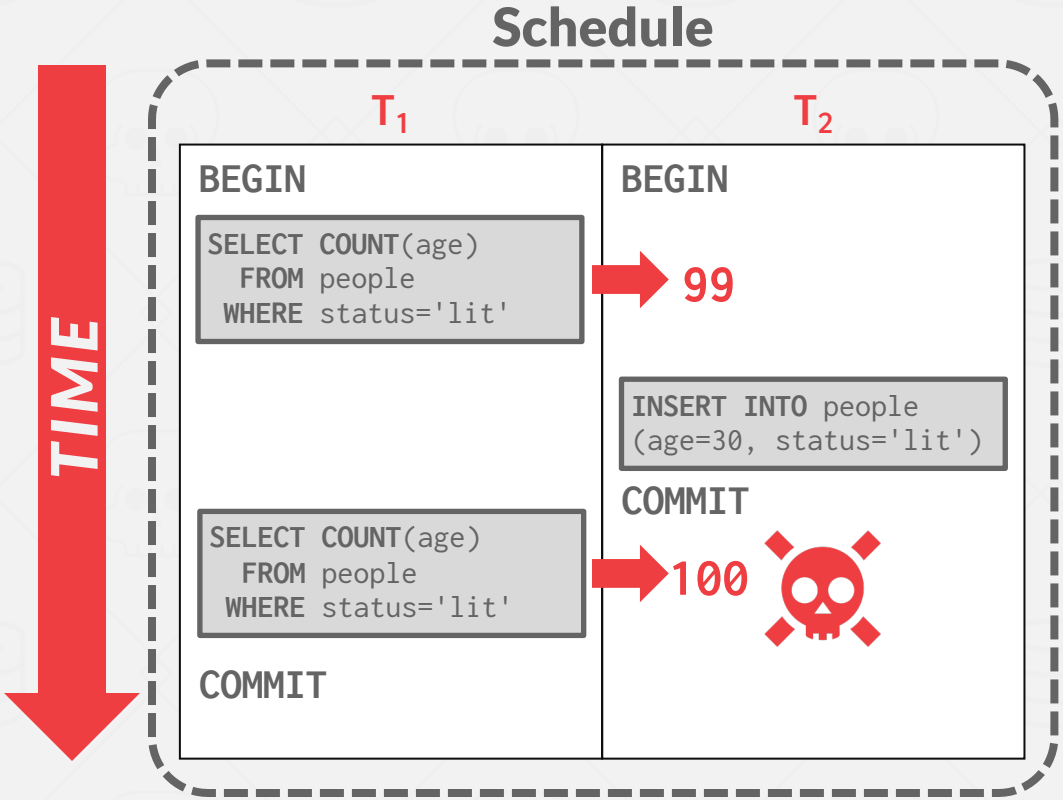
Aborts are more wasteful than in 2PL because they only occur after a txn has already executed.

DYNAMIC DATABASES

Recall that so far, we have only dealt with transactions that read and update existing objects in the database.

But now if txns perform insertions, updates, and deletions, we have new problems…

THE PHANTOM PROBLEM




```
CREATE TABLE people (
  id SERIAL,
  name VARCHAR,
  age INT,
  status VARCHAR
);
```

What if we have finer level locks?

OOPS?

How did this happen?

→ Because T_1 locked only existing records and not ones under way!

Conflict serializability on reads and writes of individual items guarantees serializability **only** if the set of objects is fixed.

THE PHANTOM PROBLEM

Approach #1: Re-Execute Scans

→ Run queries again at commit to see whether they produce a different result to identify missed changes.

Approach #2: Predicate Locking

→ Logically determine the overlap of predicates before queries start running.

Approach #3: Index Locking

→ Use keys in indexes to protect ranges.

RE-EXECUTE SCANS

The DBMS tracks the **WHERE** clause for all queries that the txn executes.

→ Retain the scan set for every range query in a txn.

Upon commit, re-execute just the scan portion of each query and check whether it generates the same result.

→ Example: Run the scan for an **UPDATE** query but do not modify matching tuples.

PREDICATE LOCKING

Proposed locking scheme from System R.

→ Shared lock on the predicate in a **WHERE** clause of a **SELECT** query.

→ Exclusive lock on the predicate in a **WHERE** clause of any **UPDATE**, **INSERT**, or **DELETE** query.

It is rarely implemented in systems; an example of a system that uses it is HyPer (precision locking).

PREDICATE LOCKING

```
SELECT COUNT(age)
  FROM people
 WHERE status='lit'
```

```
INSERT INTO people VALUES
(age=30, status='lit')
```

Records in Table "people"

status='lit'

age=30 ∧
status='lit'

INDEX LOCKING SCHEMES

Key-Value Locks

Gap Locks

Key-Range Locks

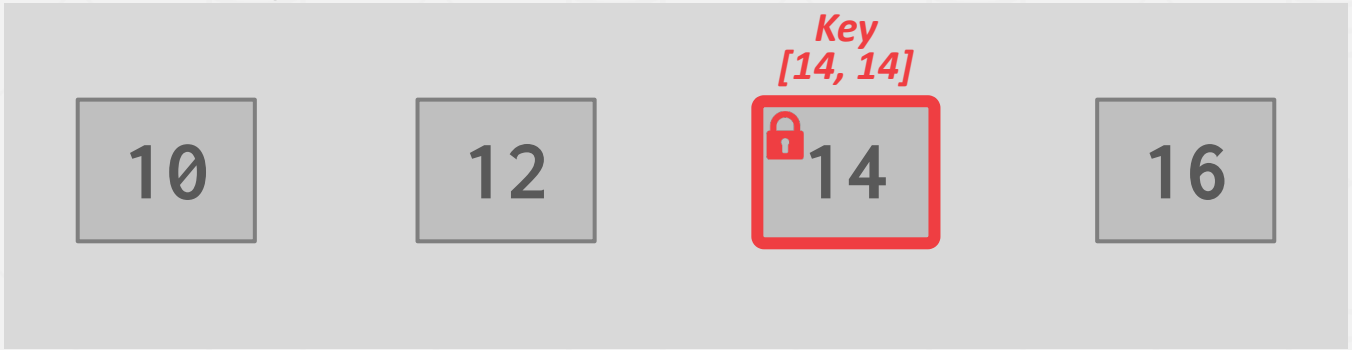
Hierarchical Locking

Assume we have Indexing structure for the above schemes

KEY-VALUE LOCKS

Locks that cover a single key-value in an index.

Need "virtual keys" for non-existent values.



GAP LOCKS

Each txn acquires a key-value lock on the single key that it wants to access. Then get a gap lock on the next key gap.

KEY-RANGE LOCKS

A txn takes locks on ranges in the key space.

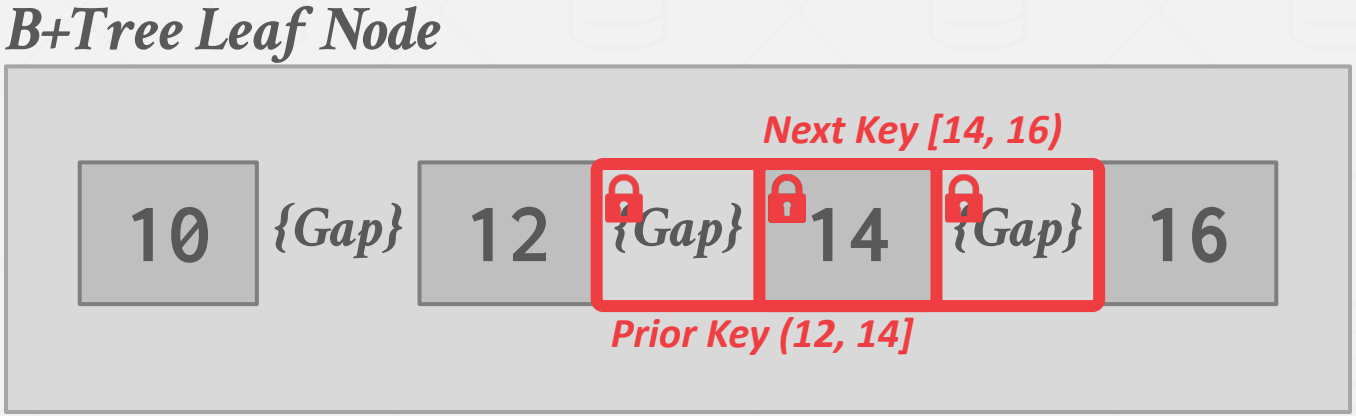
→ Each range is from one key that appears in the relation, to the next that appears.

→ Define lock modes so conflict table will capture commutativity of the operations available.

KEY-RANGE LOCKS

Locks that cover a key value and the gap to the next key value in a single index.

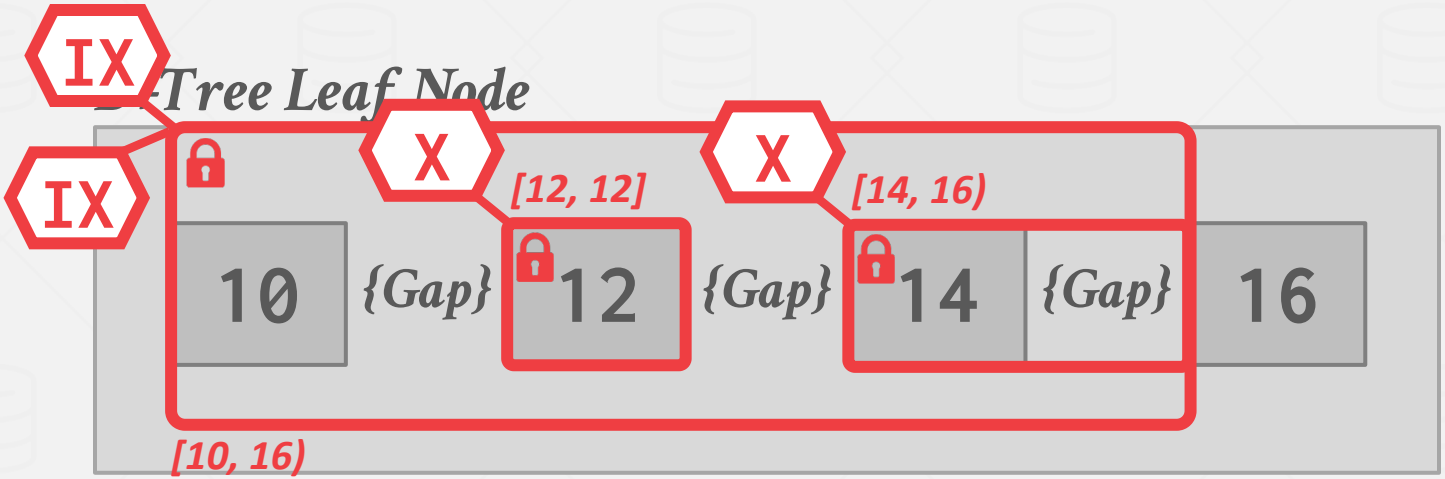
→ Need "virtual keys" for artificial values (infinity)



HIERARCHICAL LOCKING

Allow for a txn to hold wider key-range locks with different locking modes.

→ Reduces the number of visits to lock manager.



LOCKING WITHOUT AN INDEX

If there is no suitable index, then to avoid phantoms the txn must obtain:

→ A lock on every page in the table to prevent a record's `status='lit'` from being changed to `lit`.

→ The lock for the table itself to prevent records with `status='lit'` from being added or deleted.

WEAKER LEVELS OF ISOLATION

Serializability is useful because it allows programmers to ignore concurrency issues.

But enforcing it may allow too little concurrency and limit performance.

We may want to use a weaker level of consistency to improve scalability.

ISOLATION LEVELS

Controls the extent that a txn is exposed to the actions of other concurrent txns.

Provides for greater concurrency at the cost of exposing txns to uncommitted changes:

→ Dirty Reads
→ Unrepeatable Reads
→ Phantom Reads

ISOLATION LEVELS

SERIALIZABLE: No phantoms, all reads repeatable, no dirty reads.

REPEATABLE READS: Phantoms may happen.

READ COMMITTED: Phantoms and unrepeatable reads may happen.

READ UNCOMMITTED: All of them may happen.

ISOLATION LEVELS

	Dirty Read	*Unrepeatable Read*	*Phantom*
SERIALIZABLE	No	No	No
REPEATABLE READ	No	No	Maybe
READ COMMITTED	No	Maybe	Maybe
READ UNCOMMITTED	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe

ISOLATION LEVELS

SERIALIZABLE: Obtain all locks first; plus index locks, plus strong strict 2PL.

REPEATABLE READS: Same as above, but no index locks.

READ COMMITTED: Same as above, but **S** locks are released immediately.

READ UNCOMMITTED: Same as above but allows dirty reads (no **S** locks).

SQL-92 ISOLATION LEVELS

You set a txn's isolation level before you execute any queries in that txn.

```
SET TRANSACTION ISOLATION LEVEL
  <isolation-level>;
```

Not all DBMS support all isolation levels in all execution scenarios

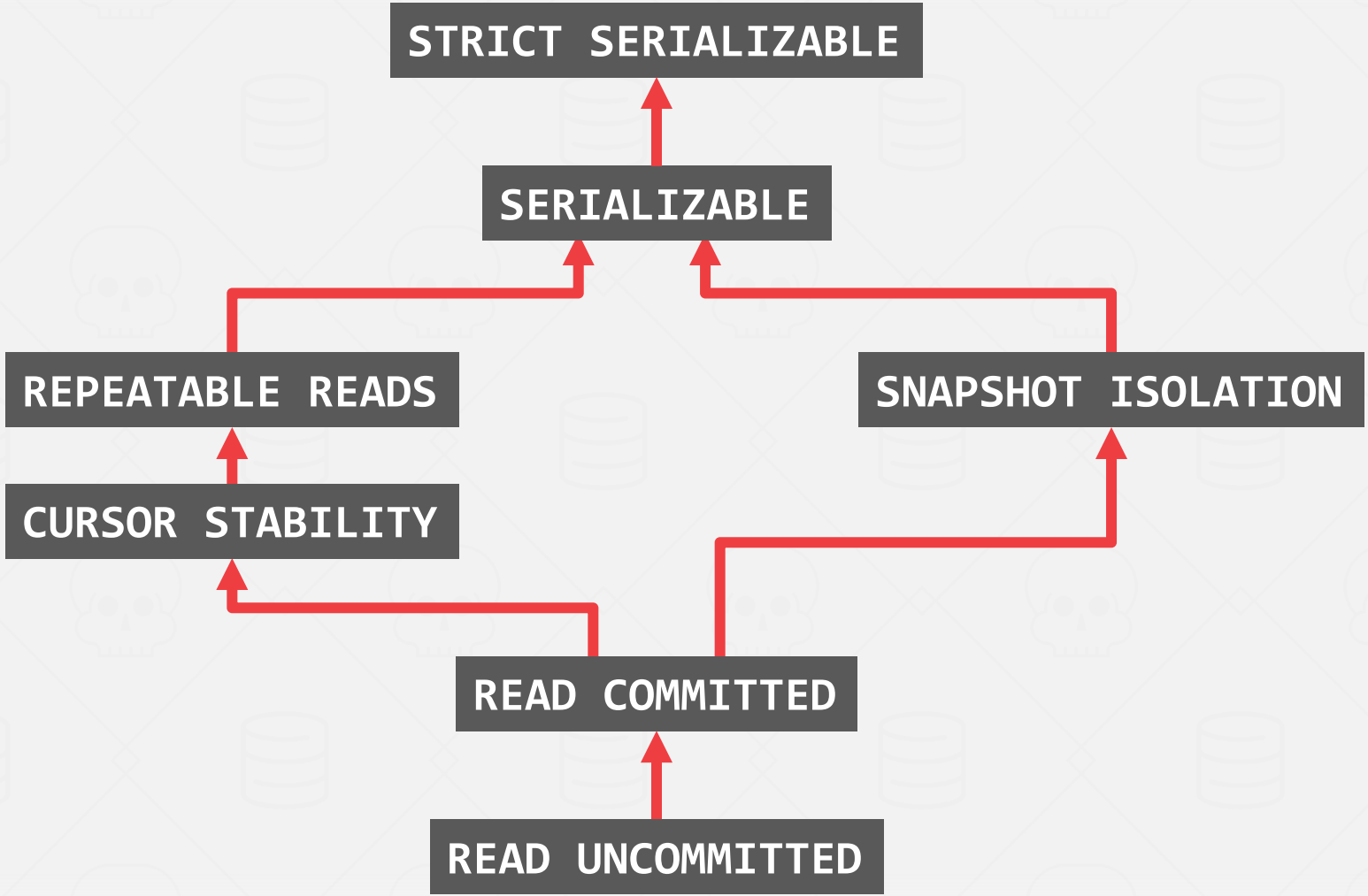
→ Replicated Environments

```
BEGIN TRANSACTION ISOLATION LEVEL
  <isolation-level>;
```

The default depends on implementation…

ISOLATION LEVELS

	Default	*Maximum*
Actian Ingres	SERIALIZABLE	SERIALIZABLE
IBM DB2	CURSOR STABILITY	SERIALIZABLE
CockroachDB	SERIALIZABLE	SERIALIZABLE
Google Spanner	STRICT SERIALIZABLE	STRICT SERIALIZABLE
MSFT SQL Server	READ COMMITTED	SERIALIZABLE
MySQL	REPEATABLE READS	SERIALIZABLE
Oracle	READ COMMITTED	SNAPSHOT ISOLATION
PostgreSQL	READ COMMITTED	SERIALIZABLE
SAP HANA	READ COMMITTED	SERIALIZABLE
VoltDB	SERIALIZABLE	SERIALIZABLE
YugaByte	SNAPSHOT ISOLATION	SERIALIZABLE


STRICT SERIALIZABLE
SERIALIZABLE
REPEATABLE READS
SNAPSHOT ISOLATION
CURSOR STABILITY
READ COMMITTED
READ UNCOMMITTED

DATABASE ADMIN SURVEY

What isolation level do transactions execute at on this DBMS?

CONCLUSION

Every concurrency control can be broken down into the basic concepts that have been described in the last two lectures.

Every protocol has pros and cons.

NEXT CLASS

Multi-Version Concurrency Control