Control concurrency

The simultaneous execution of transactions over shared databases can create several data integrity and consistency problems.

For example, if too many people are logging in the ATM machines, serial updates and synchronization in the bank servers should happen whenever the transaction is done, if not it gives wrong information and wrong data in the database.

Main problems in using Concurrency

The problems which arise while using concurrency are as follows –

- **Updates will be lost** – One transaction does some changes and another transaction deletes that change. One transaction nullifies the updates of another transaction.
- **Uncommitted Dependency or dirty read problem** – On variable has updated in one transaction, at the same time another transaction has started and deleted the value of the variable there the variable is not getting updated or committed that has been done on the first transaction this gives us false values or the previous values of the variables this is a major problem.
- **Inconsistent retrievals** – One transaction is updating multiple different variables, another transaction is in a process to update those variables, and the problem occurs is inconsistency of the same variable in different instances.

Concurrency control techniques

The concurrency control techniques are as follows –

Locking

Lock guaranties exclusive use of data items to a current transaction. It first accesses the data items by acquiring a lock, after completion of the transaction it releases the lock.

Types of Locks

The types of locks are as follows –

- Shared Lock [Transaction can read only the data item values]
- Exclusive Lock [Used for both read and write data item values]

Time Stamping

Time stamp is a unique identifier created by DBMS that indicates relative starting time of a transaction. Whatever transaction we are doing it stores the starting time of the transaction and denotes a specific time.

This can be generated using a system clock or logical counter. This can be started whenever a transaction is started. Here, the logical counter is incremented after a new timestamp has been assigned.

Optimistic

It is based on the assumption that conflict is rare and it is more efficient to allow transactions to proceed without imposing delays to ensure serializability.

Lock-Based Protocol

In this type of protocol, any transaction cannot read or write data until it acquires an appropriate lock on it. There are two types of lock:

1. Shared lock:

- It is also known as a Read-only lock. In a shared lock, the data item can only read by the transaction.
- It can be shared between the transactions because when the transaction holds a lock, then it can't update the data on the data item.

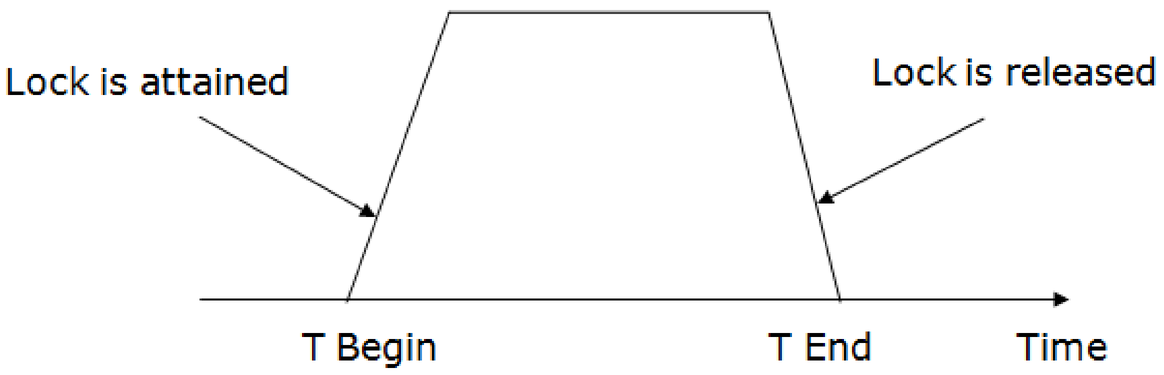
2. Exclusive lock:

- In the exclusive lock, the data item can be both reads as well as written by the transaction.
- This lock is exclusive, and in this lock, multiple transactions do not modify the same data simultaneously.

Two-phase locking (2PL)

- The two-phase locking protocol divides the execution phase of the transaction into three parts.
- In the first part, when the execution of the transaction starts, it seeks permission for the lock it requires.

- In the second part, the transaction acquires all the locks. The third phase is started as soon as the transaction releases its first lock.
- In the third phase, the transaction cannot demand any new locks. It only releases the acquired locks.



There are two phases of 2PL:

Growing phase: In the growing phase, a new lock on the data item may be acquired by the transaction, but none can be released.

Shrinking phase: In the shrinking phase, existing lock held by the transaction may be released, but no new locks can be acquired.

In the below example, if lock conversion is allowed then the following phase can happen:

1. Upgrading of lock (from S(a) to X (a)) is allowed in growing phase.
2. Downgrading of lock (from X(a) to S(a)) must be done in shrinking phase.

Example:

	T1	T2
0	LOCK-S(A)	
1		LOCK-S(A)
2	LOCK-X(B)	
3	——	——
4	UNLOCK(A)	
5		LOCK-X(C)
6	UNLOCK(B)	
7		UNLOCK(A)
8		UNLOCK(C)
9	——	——

The following way shows how unlocking and locking work with 2-PL.

Transaction T1:

- **Growing phase:** from step 1-3
- **Shrinking phase:** from step 5-7
- **Lock point:** at 3

Transaction T2:

- **Growing phase:** from step 2-6
- **Shrinking phase:** from step 8-9
- **Lock point:** at 6