Concurrency Control

Chapter 17

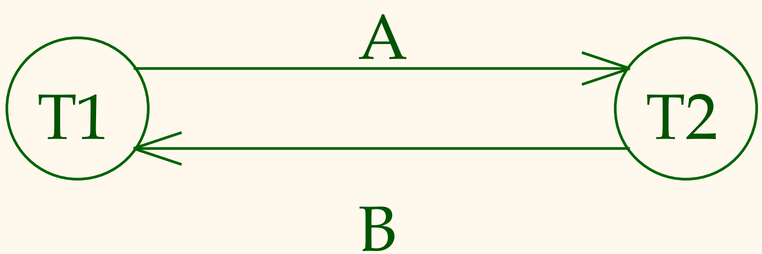
Conflict Serializable Schedules

- Two schedules are conflict equivalent if:
  - Involve the same actions of the same transactions
  - Every pair of conflicting actions is ordered the same way
- Schedule S is conflict serializable if S is conflict equivalent to some serial schedule
- Every conflict serializable schedule is serializable but the reverse is not true
- *Dependency graph*: One node per Xact; edge from *Ti* to *Tj* if *Tj* reads/writes an object last written by *Ti*.
- Theorem: Schedule is conflict serializable if and only if its dependency graph is acyclic

Example

- A schedule that is not conflict serializable:

T1:	R(A), W(A),		R(B), W(B)
T2:		R(A), W(A), R(B), W(B)	



Dependency graph

- The cycle in the graph reveals the problem. The output of T1 depends on T2, and vice-versa.

Review: Strict 2PL

- *Strict Two-phase Locking (Strict 2PL) Protocol*:
  - Each Xact must obtain a S (*shared*) lock on object before reading, and an X (*exclusive*) lock on object before writing.
  - All locks held by a transaction are released when the transaction completes
  - If an Xact holds an X lock on an object, no other Xact can get a lock (S or X) on that object.
- Strict 2PL allows only schedules whose precedence graph is acyclic

Two-Phase Locking (2PL)

- Two-Phase Locking Protocol
  - Each Xact must obtain a S (*shared*) lock on object before reading, and an X (*exclusive*) lock on object before writing.
  - A transaction can not request additional locks once it releases any locks.
  - If an Xact holds an X lock on an object, no other Xact can get a lock (S or X) on that object.

Lock Management

- Lock and unlock requests are handled by the lock manager
- Lock table entry:
  - Transactions currently holding a lock
  - Type of lock held (shared or exclusive)
  - Pointer to queue of lock requests
- Locking and unlocking have to be atomic operations
- Lock upgrade: transaction that holds a shared lock can be upgraded to hold an exclusive lock

Deadlocks

- Deadlock: Cycle of transactions waiting for locks to be released by each other.
- Two ways of dealing with deadlocks:
  - Deadlock prevention
  - Deadlock detection

Deadlock Prevention

- Assign priorities based on timestamps. Assume Ti wants a lock that Tj holds. Two policies are possible:
  - Wait-Die: It Ti has higher priority, Ti waits for Tj; otherwise Ti aborts
  - Wound-wait: If Ti has higher priority, Tj aborts; otherwise Ti waits
- If a transaction re-starts, make sure it has its original timestamp

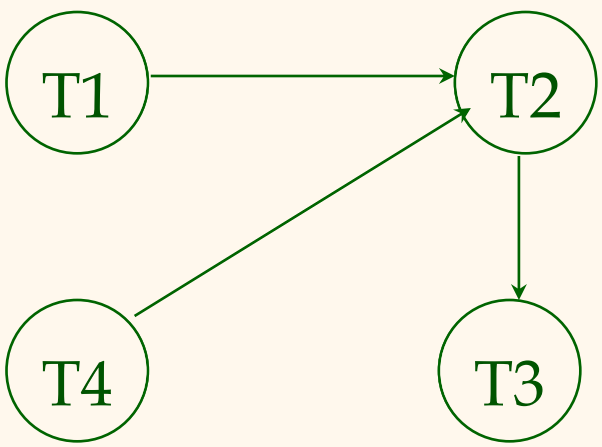
Deadlock Detection

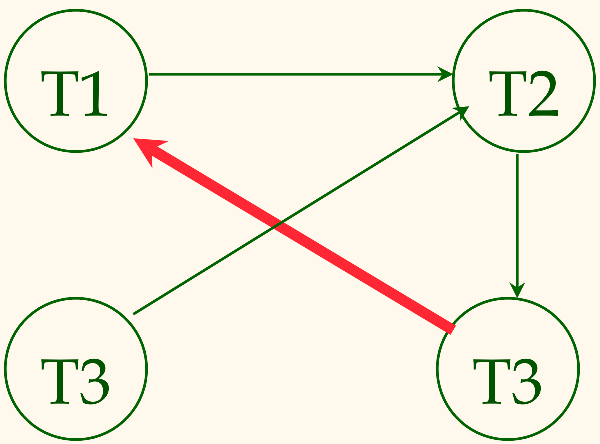
- Create a waits-for graph:
  - Nodes are transactions
  - There is an edge from Ti to Tj if Ti is waiting for Tj to release a lock
- Periodically check for cycles in the waits-for graph

Deadlock Detection (Continued)

Example:

T1: S(A), R(A), S(B)
T2: X(B),W(B) X(C)
T3: S(C), R(C) X(A)
T4: X(B)





Optimistic CC

- Locking is a conservative approach in which conflicts are prevented. Disadvantages:
  - Lock management overhead.
  - Deadlock detection/resolution.
  - Lock contention for heavily used objects.
- If conflicts are rare, we might be able to gain concurrency by not locking, and instead checking for conflicts before Xacts commit.

Optimistic CC Model

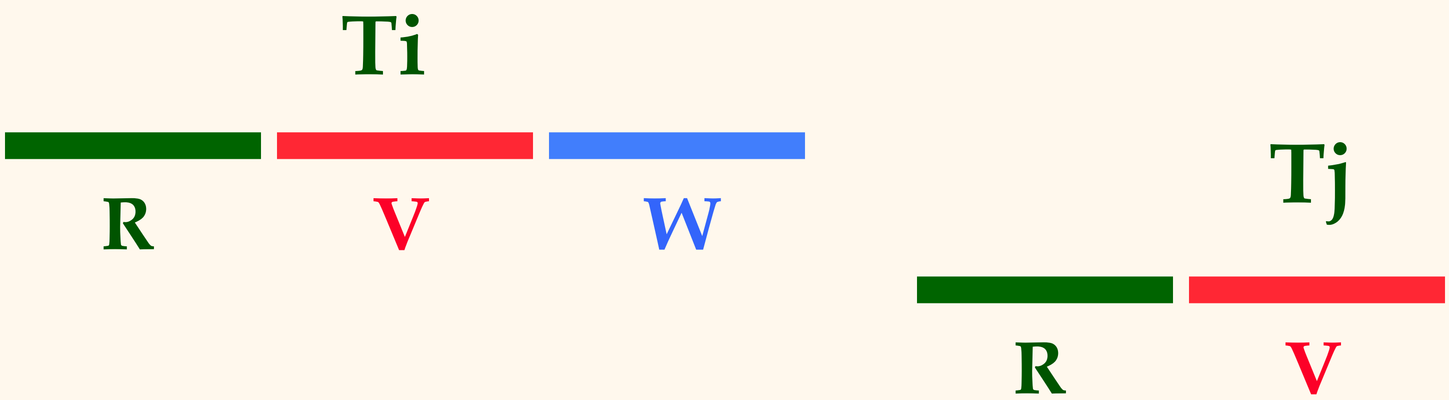
- Xacts have three phases:
  - READ: Xacts read from the database, but make changes to private copies of objects.
  - VALIDATE: Check for conflicts.
  - WRITE: Make local copies of changes public.

Validation

- Test conditions that are sufficient to ensure that no conflict occurred.
- Each Xact is assigned a numeric id.
  - Just use a **timestamp**.
- Xact ids assigned at end of READ phase, just before validation begins.
- ReadSet(Ti): Set of objects read by Xact Ti.
- WriteSet(Ti): Set of objects modified by Ti.

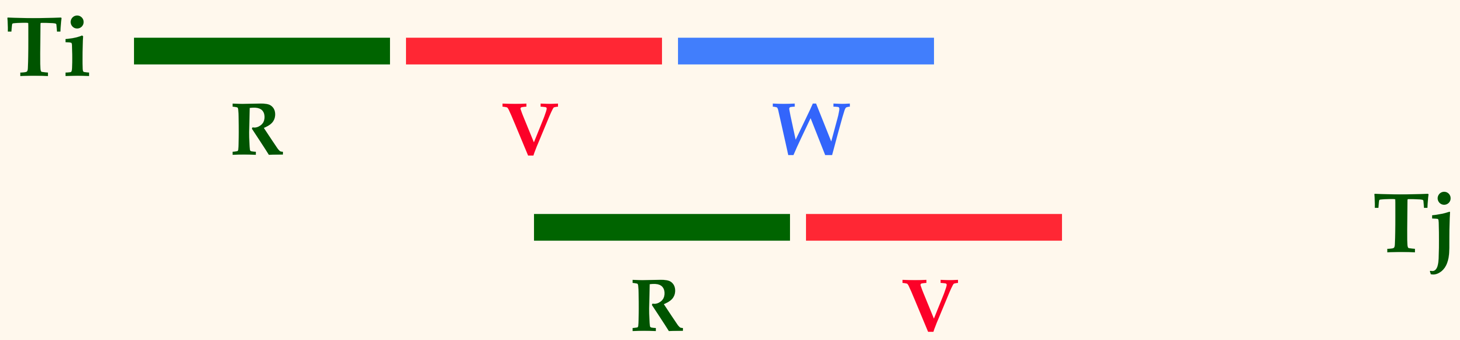
Test 1

- For all i and j such that Ti < Tj, check that Ti completes before Tj begins.



Test 2

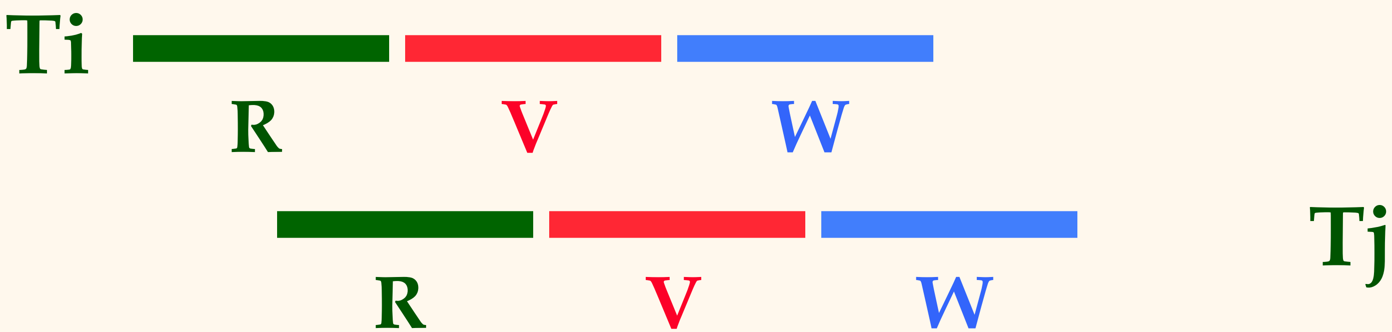
- For all i and j such that Ti < Tj, check that:
  - Ti completes before Tj begins its Write phase +
  - WriteSet(Ti) $\cap$ ReadSet(Tj) is empty.



Does Tj read dirty data? Does Ti overwrite Tj's writes?

Test 3

- For all i and j such that Ti < Tj, check that:
  - Ti completes Read phase before Tj does **+**
  - WriteSet(Ti) $\cap$ ReadSet(Tj) is empty **+**
  - WriteSet(Ti) $\cap$ WriteSet(Tj) is empty.



Does Tj read dirty data? Does Ti overwrite Tj's writes?

Timestamp CC

- **Idea:**
  - Give each Xact a timestamp (TS) when it begins
  - Give each object a read-timestamp (RTS) and a write-timestamp (WTS) as the timestamp of the youngest transaction that reads/writes the object:
    - If action ai of Xact Ti conflicts with action aj of Xact Tj, and TS(Ti) < TS(Tj), then ai must occur before aj. Otherwise, restart violating Xact.

When Xact T wants to read Object O

- If TS(T) < WTS(O), this violates timestamp order of T w.r.t. writer of O.
  - So, abort T and restart it with a new, larger TS. (If restarted with same TS, T will fail again!
- If TS(T) > WTS(O):
  - Allow T to read O.
  - Reset RTS(O) to max(RTS(O), TS(T))
- Change to RTS(O) on reads must be written to disk! This and restarts represent overheads.

When Xact T wants to Write Object O

- If TS(T) < RTS(O), this violates timestamp order of T w.r.t. writer of O; abort and restart T.
- If TS(T) < WTS(O), violates timestamp order of T w.r.t. writer of O.
  - **Thomas Write Rule: We can safely ignore such outdated writes; need not restart T! (T's write is effectively followed by another write, with no intervening reads.) Allows some serializable but non conflict serializable schedules:**
- Else, allow T to write O, set WTS(O).

T1	**T2**
R(A)	
	W(A)
	Commit
W(A)	
Commit	

Summary

- There are several lock-based concurrency control schemes (Strict 2PL, 2PL). Conflicts between transactions can be detected in the dependency graph
- The lock manager keeps track of the locks issued. Deadlocks can either be prevented or detected.

Summary (Contd.)

- Multiple granularity locking reduces the overhead involved in setting locks for nested collections of objects (e.g., a file of pages); should not be confused with tree index locking!
- Optimistic CC aims to minimize CC overheads in an ``optimistic’’ environment where reads are common and writes are rare.
- Optimistic CC has its own overheads however; most real systems use locking.
- SQL-92 provides different isolation levels that control the degree of concurrency

Summary (Contd.)

- Timestamp CC is another alternative to 2PL; allows some serializable schedules that 2PL does not (although converse is also true).
- Ensuring recoverability with Timestamp CC requires ability to block Xacts, which is similar to locking.
- Multiversion Timestamp CC is a variant which ensures that read-only Xacts are never restarted; they can always read a suitable older version. Additional overhead of version maintenance.