



# Data Management for Data Science

## **Transaction management in Database Management Systems**

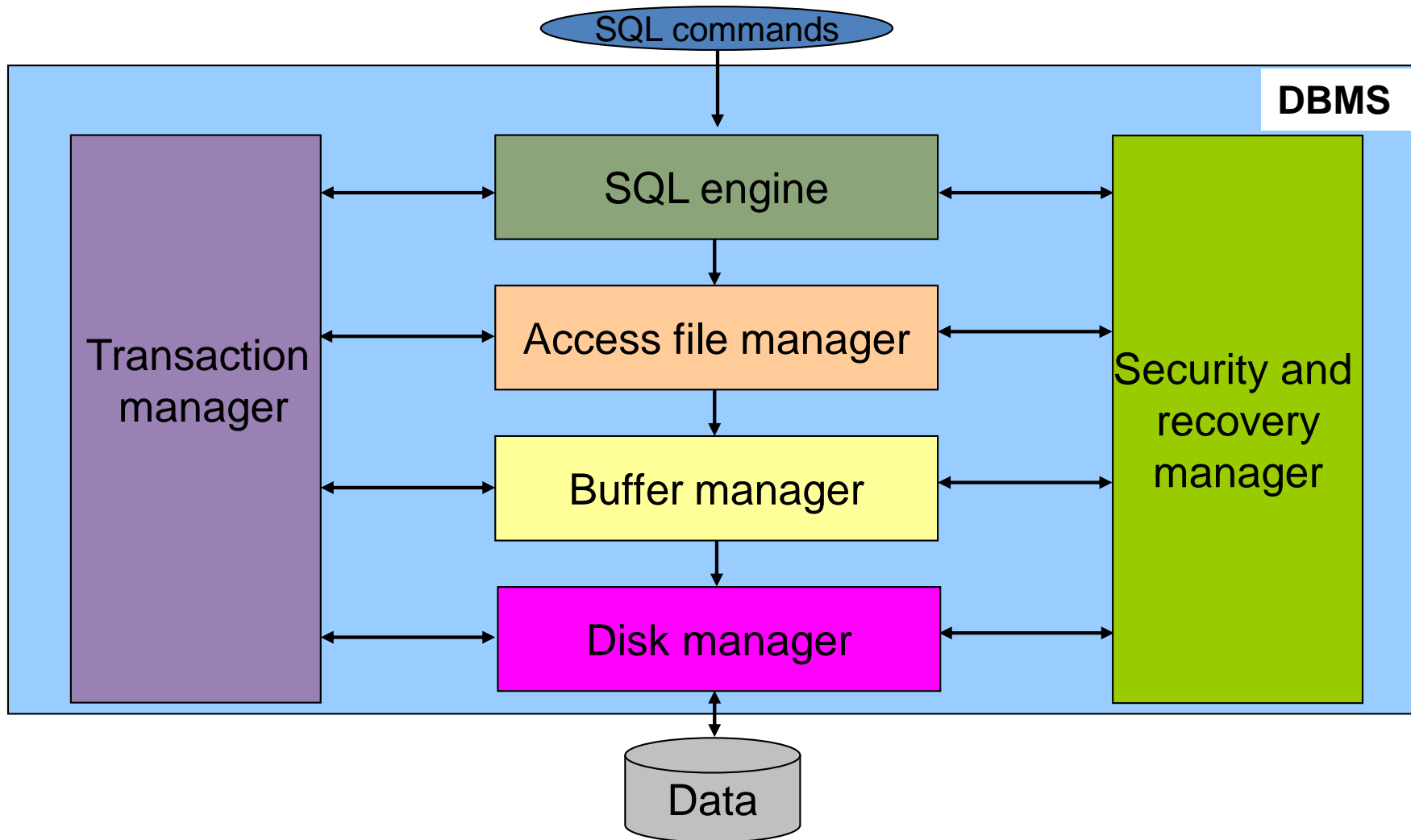
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# Architecture of a DBMS





# Transaction management

1. Transactions, concurrency, serializability
2. Recoverability
3. Concurrency control through locks
4. Concurrency control through timestamps
5. Transaction management in SQL



# Transaction management

- 1. Transactions, concurrency, serializability**
- 2. Recoverability**
- 3. Concurrency control through locks**
- 4. Concurrency control through timestamps**
- 5. Transaction management in SQL**



# Transactions

A **transaction** models the execution of a software procedure constituted by a set of instructions that may "read from" and "write on" a database, and that form a single logical unit.

Syntactically, we will assume that every transaction contains:

- one "begin" instruction
- one "end" instruction
- one among "commit" (confirm what you have done on the database so far) and "rollback" (undo what you have done on the database so far)

As we will see, each transaction should enjoy a set of properties (called ACID)



## Example of “real” transaction

```
begin
  writeln('Inserire importo, conto di partenza, conto di arrivo');
  read (Importo, contoPartenza, contoArrivo);
  EXEC SQL
    select Saldo into :saldoCorrente
    from ContiCorrenti
    where Numero = :contoPartenza
  if saldoCorrente < Importo
  then begin
    writeln('Saldo Insufficiente');
    ABORT;
  end;
  else begin
    EXEC SQL
      UPDATE ContiCorrenti
      set Saldo=:saldoCorrente - :Importo
      where Numero = :contoPartenza;
    writeln('Operazione eseguita con successo');
    COMMIT;
  end;
end;
```

Tabella ContiCorrenti

Numero	Saldo



# Effect of a transaction

Let DB be a database

Let T be a transaction on DB

**Effect** (or result) of T = state of DB after the execution of T

As we shall see, every transaction must enjoy a set of properties (called ACID properties) that deal with the effect of the transaction



# Concurrency

The **throughput** of a system is the number of transactions per second (tps) accepted by the system

In a DBMS, we want the throughput to be approximately **100-1000tps**

This means that the system should support a high degree of concurrency among the transactions that are executed

- **Example:** If each transaction needs 0.1 seconds in the average for its execution, then to get a throughput of 100tps, we must ensure that 10 transactions are executed concurrently in the average

Typical applications: banks, flight reservations, ...





## Concurrency: example

Suppose that the same program is executed concurrently by two applications aiming at reserving a seat in the same flight

The following temporal evolution is possible:

Application 1	Application 2	time
1. Find seat		
2.	Find seat	
3. Book seat		
4.	Book seat	

The result is that we have two reservations for the same seat!



# Isolation of transactions

The DBMS deals with this problem by ensuring the so-called “isolation” property for the transactions

This property for a transaction essentially means that it is executed like it was the only one in the system, i.e., without concurrent transactions

While isolation is essential, other properties are important as well



# Desirable properties of transactions

The desirable properties in transaction management are called the **ACID** properties. They are:

1. **Atomicity**: for each transaction execution, either all or none of its actions are executed
2. **Consistency**: each transaction execution brings the database to a correct state
3. **Isolation**: each transaction execution is independent of any other concurrent transaction executions
4. **Durability**: if a transaction execution succeeds, then its effects are registered permanently in the database



# Schedules and serial schedules

Given a set of transactions  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$ , a sequence  $S$  of executions of actions of such transactions respecting the order within each transaction (i.e., such that if action  $a$  is before action  $b$  in  $T_i$ , then  $a$  is before  $b$  also in  $S$ ) is called **schedule on  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$** , or simply **schedule**.

A schedule on  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$  that does not contain all the actions of all transactions  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$  is called **partial**

A schedule  $S$  is called **serial** if the actions of each transaction in  $S$  come before every action of a different transaction in  $S$ , i.e., if in  $S$  the actions of different transactions do not interleave.



# Serializability

## Example of serial schedules:

Given T1 ( $x = x + x$ ;  $x = x + 2$ ) and T2 ( $x = x^{**}2$ ;  $x = x + 2$ ), possible serial schedules on them are:

Sequence 1:  $x = x + x$ ;  $x = x + 2$ ;  $x = x^{**}2$ ;  $x = x + 2$

Sequence 2:  $x = x^{**}2$ ;  $x = x + 2$ ;  $x = x + x$ ;  $x = x + 2$

**Definition of serializable schedule:** A schedule S is **serializable** if the outcome of its execution is the same as the outcome of at least one serial schedule constituted by the same transactions of S, no matter what the initial state of the database is.



# Serializability

In other words, a schedule  $S$  on  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$  is serializable if there exists a serial schedule on  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$  that is “equivalent” to  $S$

*But what does “equivalent” mean?*

**Definition of equivalent schedules:** Two schedules  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are said to be **equivalent** if, for each database state  $D$ , the execution of  $S_1$  starting in the database state  $D$  produces the same outcome as the execution of  $S_2$  starting in the same database state  $D$



# Notation

A successful execution of transaction can be represented as a sequence of

- Commands of type **begin/commit**
- Actions that **read** and **write** an element (attribute, record, table) in the database
- Actions that **read** and **write** an element in the **local store**

$T_1$	$T_2$
begin	begin
READ(A,t)	READ(A,s)
$t := t+100$	$s := s*2$
WRITE(A,t)	WRITE(A,s)
READ(B,t)	READ(B,s)
$t := t+100$	$s := s*2$
WRITE(B,t)	WRITE(B,s)
commit	commit



## A serial schedule

$T_1$	$T_2$	A	B
		25	25
begin			
READ(A,t)			
$t := t + 100$			
WRITE(A,t)		125	
READ(B,t)			
$t := t + 100$			
WRITE(B,t)			125
commit			
	begin		
	READ(A,s)		
	$s := s * 2$		
	WRITE(A,s)	250	
	READ(B,s)		
	$s := s * 2$		
	WRITE(B,s)		250
	commit		





# A serializable schedule

T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>	A	B
		25	25
begin	begin		
READ(A,t)			
t := t+100			
WRITE(A,t)		125	
	READ(A,s)		
	s := s*2		
	WRITE(A,s)	250	
READ(B,t)			
t := t+100			
WRITE(B,t)			125
commit			
	READ(B,s)		
	s := s*2		
	WRITE(B,s)		250
	commit		

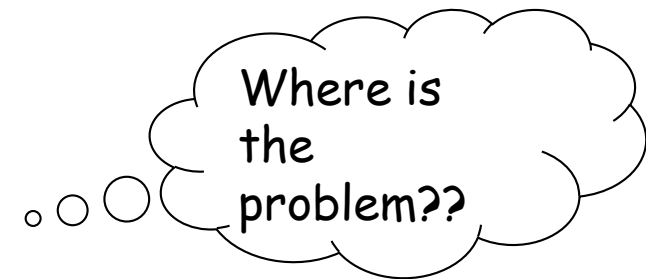
The final values of A and B are the same as the serial schedule T1, T2, no matter what the initial values of A and B.

We can indeed show that, if initially  $A=B=c$  (c is a constant), then at the end of the execution of the schedule we have:  $A=B=2(c+100)$



# A non-serializable schedule

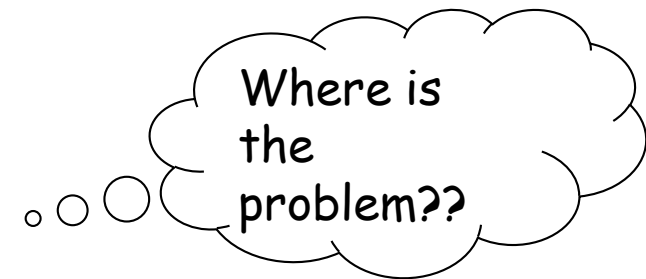
$T_1$	$T_2$	A	B
		25	25
begin	begin		
READ(A,t)			
$t := t + 100$			
WRITE(A,t)		125	
	READ(A,s)		
	$s := s * 2$		
	WRITE(A,s)	250	
	READ(B,s)		
	$s := s * 2$		
	WRITE(B,s)		50
	commit		
READ(B,t)			
$t := t + 100$			
WRITE(B,t)			150
commit			





## A non-serializable schedule

$T_1$	$T_2$	A	B
		25	25
begin	begin		
READ(A,t)			
$t := t + 100$			
WRITE(A,t)		125	
	READ(A,s)		
	$s := s * 2$		
	WRITE(A,s)	250	
	READ(B,s)		
	$s := s * 2$		
	WRITE(B,s)		50
READ(B,t)			
$t := t + 100$			
WRITE(B,t)			150
commit	commit		





# Anomaly 1: reading temporary data (WR anomaly)

$T_1$	$T_2$
begin	begin
READ(A,x)	
$x := x-1$	
WRITE(A,x)	
	READ(A,x)
	$x := x*2$
	WRITE(A,x)
	READ(B,x)
	$x := x*2$
	WRITE(B,x)
	commit
READ(B,x)	
$x:=x+1$	
WRITE(A,x)	
commit	

Note that the interleaved execution is different from any serial execution. The problem comes from the fact that the value of A written by T1 is read by T2 before T1 has completed all its changes.

This is a **WR (write-read) anomaly**



## Anomaly 2a: update loss (RW anomaly)

- Let  $T_1, T_2$  be two transactions, each of the form:  
 $\text{READ}(A, x), x := x + 1, \text{WRITE}(A, x)$
- The serial execution with initial value  $A=2$  produces  $A=4$ , which is the result of two subsequent updates
- Now, consider the following schedule:

$T_1$	$T_2$
begin	begin
READ(A,x)	
$x := x+1$	
	READ(A,x)
	$x := x+1$
WRITE(A,x)	
commit	
	WRITE(A,x)
	commit

The final result is  $A=3$ , and the first update is lost:  $T_2$  reads the initial value of  $A$ , and writes the final value. In this case, the update executed by  $T_1$  is lost!



## Anomaly 2a: update loss (RW anomaly)

- This kind of anomaly is called **RW anomaly** (read-write anomaly), because it shows up when a transaction reads an element, and another transaction writes the same element.
- Indeed, this anomaly comes from the fact that a transaction T2 could change the value of an object A that has been read by a transaction T1, while T1 is still in progress. The fact that T1 is still in progress means that the risk is that T1 works on A without taking into account the changes that T2 makes on A. Therefore, the update of T1 or T2 are lost.



## Anomaly 2b: unrepeateable read (RW anomaly)

$T_1$  executes two consecutive reads of the same data:

$T_1$	$T_2$
begin	begin
READ(A,x)	
	READ(A,x)
	$x := x+1$
	WRITE(A,x)
	commit
READ(A,x)	
commit	

However, due to the concurrent update of  $T_2$ ,  $T_1$  reads two different values.

This is another kind of **RW (read-write) anomaly**.



## Anomaly 3: ghost update (WW anomaly)

Assume the following integrity constraint  $A = B$

$T_1$	$T_2$
begin WRITE(A,1)	begin WRITE(B,2)
WRITE(B,1) commit	WRITE(A,2) commit

Note that  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  in isolation do not violate the integrity constraints. However, the interleaved execution is different from any serial execution. Transaction  $T_1$  will see the update of  $A$  to 2 as a surprise, and transaction  $T_2$  will see the update of  $B$  to 1 as a surprise.

This is a **WW (write-write) anomaly**





# Scheduler

The **scheduler** is part of the transaction manager, and works as follows:

- It deals with new transactions entered into the system, assigning them an identifier
- It instructs the buffer manager so as to read and write on the DB according to a particular sequence
- It is NOT concerned with specific operations on the local store of transactions, nor with constraints on the order of executions of transactions. The last conditions means that **every order by which transactions are entered into the system is acceptable to the schedule.**

It follows that we can simply characterize each transaction  $T_i$  (where  $i$  is a nonnegative integer identifying the transaction) in terms of its actions, where each action of transaction  $T_i$  is denoted by a letter (read, write, or commit) and the subscript  $i$

The transactions of the previous examples are written as:

$T_1: r_1(A) r_1(B) w_1(A) w_1(B) c_1$

$T_2: r_2(A) r_2(B) w_2(A) w_2(B) c_2$

An example of (complete) schedule on these transactions is:

$r_1(A) r_1(B) w_1(A) r_2(A) r_2(B) w_2(A) w_1(B) c_1 w_2(B) c_2$

T1 reads A

T2 writes A

T1 commit



# Serializability and equivalence of schedules

As we saw before, the definition of serializability relies on the notion of equivalence between schedules.

Depending on the level of abstraction used to characterize the effects of transactions, we get different notions of equivalence, which in turn suggest different definitions of serializability.

Given a certain definition of equivalence, we will be interested in

- two types of algorithms:
  - algorithms for checking equivalence: given two schedule, determine if they are equivalent
  - algorithms for checking serializability: given one schedule, check whether it is equivalent to any of the serial schedules on the same transactions
- rules that ensures serializability



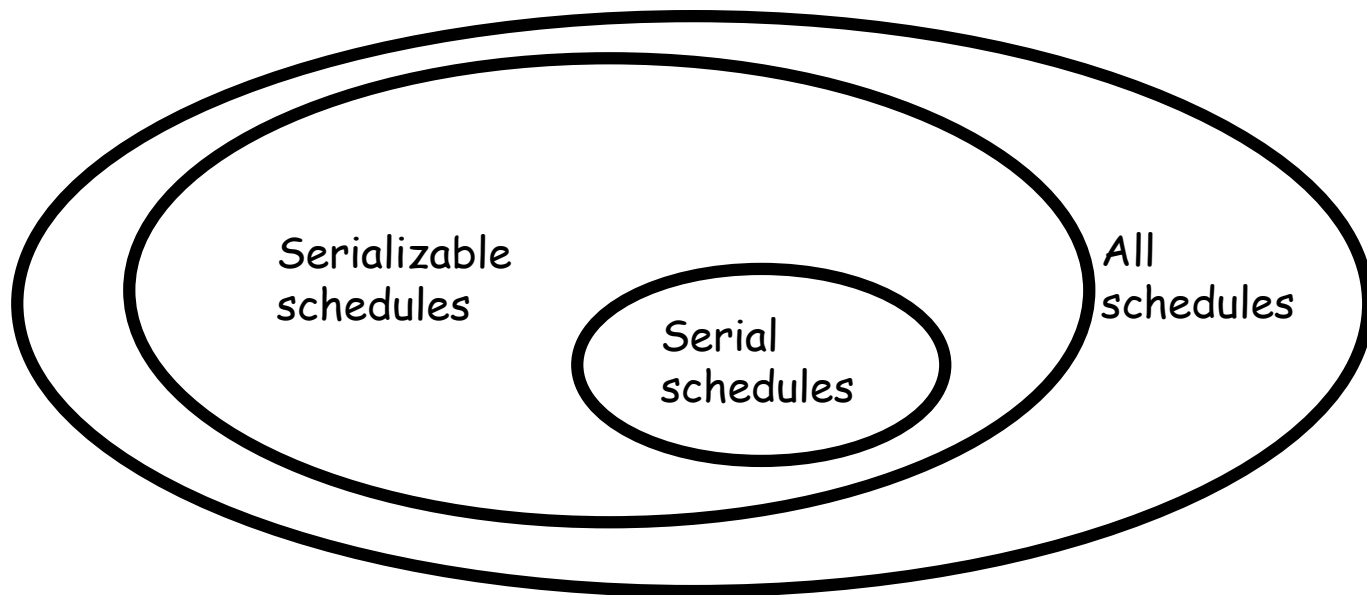
## Two important assumptions

1. No transaction reads or writes the same element twice
2. No transaction executes the “rollback” command (i.,e. all executions of transactions are successful)



# Classes of schedules

**Basic idea** of our investigation: single out classes of schedules that are serializable, and such that the serializability check can be done with reasonable computational complexity





# Conflict-serializability: the notion of conflict

**Definition of conflicting actions:** Two actions are **conflicting** in a schedule if they belong to different transactions, they operate on the same element, and at least one of them is a write.

It is easy to see that:

- Two consecutive nonconflicting actions belonging to different transactions can be swapped without changing the effects of the schedule. Indeed,
  - Two consecutive reads of the same elements in different transactions can be swapped
  - One read of X in T1 and a consecutive read of Y in T2 (with  $Y \neq X$ ) can be swapped
- The swap of two consecutive actions of the same transaction can change the effect of the transaction
- Two conflicting consecutive actions cannot be swapped without changing the effects of the schedule, because:
  - Swapping two write operations **w1(A) w2(A)** on the same elements may result in a different final value for A
  - Swapping two consecutive operations such as **r1(A) w2(A)** may cause T1 read different values of A (before and after the write of T2, respectively)



# Conflict-equivalence

**Definition of conflict-equivalence:** Two schedules S1 and S2 on the same transactions are **conflict-equivalent** if S1 can be transformed into S2 through a sequence of swaps of consecutive non-conflicting actions

Example:

$S = r1(A) \ w1(A) \ r2(A) \ w2(A) \ r1(B) \ w1(B) \ r2(B) \ w2(B)$

is conflict-equivalent to:

$S' = r1(A) \ w1(A) \ r1(B) \ w1(B) \ r2(A) \ w2(A) \ r2(B) \ w2(B)$

because it can be transformed into S' through the following sequence of swaps:

$r1(A) \ w1(A) \ r2(A) \ \underline{w2(A)} \ \underline{r1(B)} \ w1(B) \ r2(B) \ w2(B)$

$r1(A) \ w1(A) \ \underline{r2(A)} \ \underline{r1(B)} \ w2(A) \ w1(B) \ r2(B) \ w2(B)$

$r1(A) \ w1(A) \ r1(B) \ r2(A) \ \underline{w2(A)} \ \underline{w1(B)} \ r2(B) \ w2(B)$

$r1(A) \ w1(A) \ r1(B) \ \underline{r2(A)} \ \underline{w1(B)} \ w2(A) \ r2(B) \ w2(B)$

$r1(A) \ w1(A) \ r1(B) \ w1(B) \ r2(A) \ w2(A) \ r2(B) \ w2(B)$



## Exercise

Prove the following property:

Two schedules  $S1$  and  $S2$  on the same transactions  $T1, \dots, Tn$  are **conflict-equivalent** **if and only if** there are no actions  $a_i$  of  $T_i$  and  $b_j$  of  $T_j$  (with  $T_i$  and  $T_j$  belonging to  $T1, \dots, Tn$ ) such that

- $a_i$  and  $b_j$  are conflicting, and
- the mutual position of the two actions in  $S1$  is different from their mutual position in  $S2$



# Conflict-serializability

**Definition of conflict-serializability:** A schedule  $S$  is **conflict-serializable** if there exists a serial schedule  $S'$  that is conflict-equivalent to  $S$

How can conflict-serializability be checked?

We can do it by analyzing the **precedence graph** associated to a schedule. Given a schedule  $S$  on  $T_1, \dots, T_n$ , the precedence graph  $P(S)$  associated to  $S$  is defined as follows:

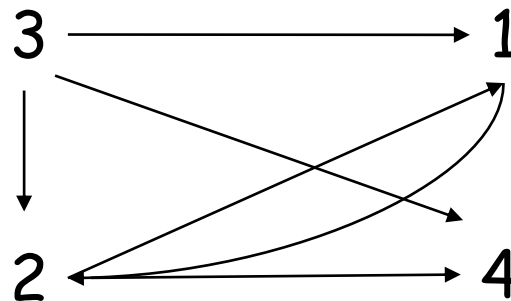
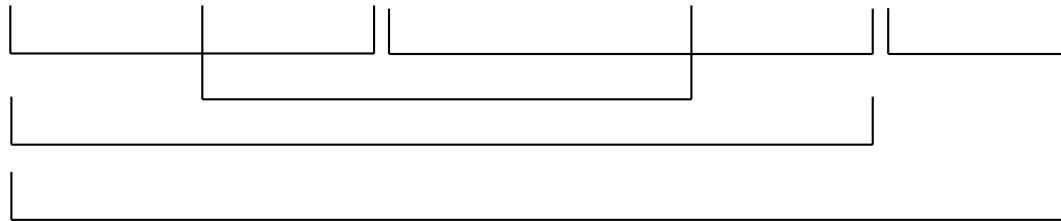
- the nodes of  $P(S)$  are the transactions  $\{T_1, \dots, T_n\}$  of  $S$
- the edges  $E$  of  $P(S)$  are as follows: the edge  $T_i \rightarrow T_j$  is in  $E$  if and only if there exists two actions  $P_i(A)$ ,  $Q_j(A)$  of different transactions  $T_i$  and  $T_j$  in  $S$  operating on the same object  $A$  such that:
  - $P_i(A) <_S Q_j(A)$  (i.e.,  $P_i(A)$  appears before  $Q_j(A)$  in  $S$ )
  - at least one between  $P_i(A)$  and  $Q_j(A)$  is a write operation





# Example of precedence graph

S: w<sub>3</sub>(A) w<sub>2</sub>(C) r<sub>1</sub>(A) w<sub>1</sub>(B) r<sub>1</sub>(C) w<sub>2</sub>(A) r<sub>4</sub>(A) w<sub>4</sub>(D)





# How the precedence graph is used

**Theorem** (conflict-serializability) A schedule  $S$  is conflict-serializable if and only if the precedence graph  $P(S)$  associated to  $S$  is acyclic.

**Exercise:** Prove that, if  $S$  is a serial schedule, then the precedence graph  $P(S)$  is acyclic.



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## The rollback problem

We now consider the problem of rollback.

The first observation is that, with rollbacks, the notion of serializability that we have considered up to now is not sufficient for achieving the ACID properties.

This fact is testified by the existence of a new anomaly, called “dirty read”.



## A new anomaly: dirty read (WR anomaly)

Consider two transactions T1 and T2, both with the commands:

READ(A,x), x:=x+1, WRITE(A,x)

Now consider the following schedule (where T1 executes the rollback):

T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>
begin	begin
READ(A,x)	
x := x+1	
WRITE(A,x)	
	READ(A,x)
	x := x+1
rollback	
	WRITE(A,x)
	commit

The problem is that T2 reads a value written by T1 before T1 commits or rollbacks.

Therefore, T2 reads a “dirty” value, that is shown to be incorrect when the rollback of T1 is executed. The behavior of T2 depends on an incorrect input value.

This is another form of **WR (write-read) anomaly**.



## Commit o rollback?

Recall that, at the end of transaction  $T_i$ :

- If  $T_i$  has executed the commit operation:
  - the system should ensure that the effects of the transactions are recorded permanently in the database
- If  $T_i$  has executed the rollback operation:
  - the system should ensure that the transaction has no effect on the database



# Cascading rollback

Note that the rollback of a transaction  $T_i$  can trigger the rollback of other transactions, in a cascading mode. In particular:

- If a transaction  $T_j$  different from  $T_i$  has read from  $T_i$ , we should kill  $T_j$  (or,  $T_j$  should rollback)
- If another transaction  $T_h$  has read from  $T_j$ ,  $T_h$  should in turn rollback
- and so on...

This is called **cascading rollback**, and the task of the system is to avoid it.



## Recoverable schedules

If in a schedule  $S$ , a transaction  $T_i$  that has read from  $T_j$  commits before  $T_j$ , the risk is that  $T_j$  then rollbacks, so that  $T_i$  leaves an effect on the database that depends on an operation (of  $T_j$ ) that never existed. To capture this concept, we say that  $T_i$  is not recoverable.

A schedule  $S$  is **recoverable** if no transaction in  $S$  commits before all other transactions it has “read from”, commit.

Example of recoverable schedule:

$S: w_1(A) w_1(B) w_2(A) r_2(B) c_1 c_2$

Example of non-recoverable schedule:

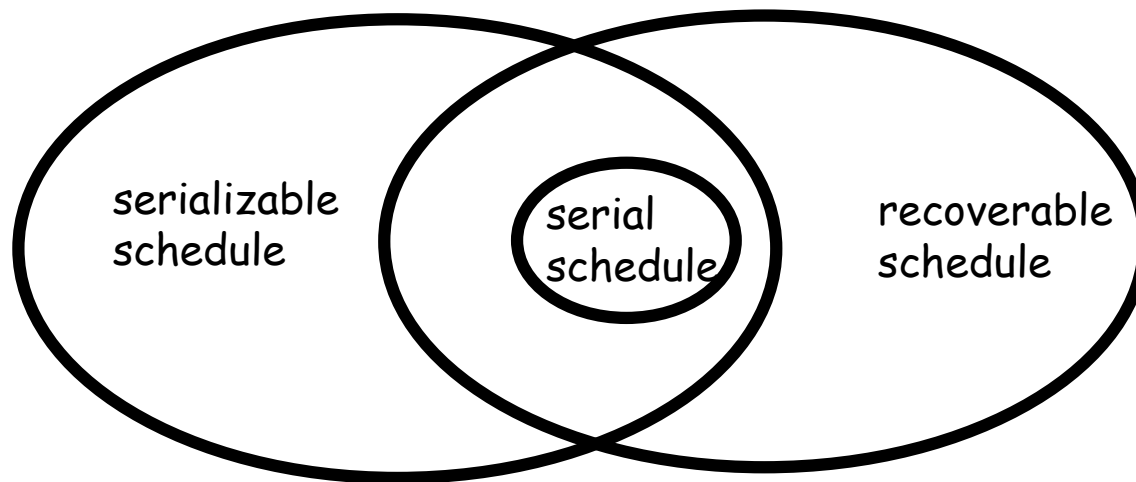
$S: w_1(A) w_1(B) w_2(A) r_2(B) r_3(A) c_1 c_3 c_2$





# Serializability and recoverability

Serializability and recoverability are two orthogonal concepts: there are recoverable schedules that are non-serializable, and serializable schedule that are not recoverable. Obviously, every serial schedule is recoverable.



For example, the schedule

S1: w2(A) w1(B) w1(A) r2(B) c1 c2

is recoverable, but not serializable (it is not conflict-serializable), whereas the schedule

S2: w1(A) w1(B) w2(A) r2(B) c2 c1

is serializable (in particular, conflict-serializable), but not recoverable



# Recoverability and cascading rollback

Recoverable schedules can still suffer from the cascading rollback problem.

For example, in this recoverable schedule

S: w2(A) w1(B) w1(A) r2(B)

if T1 rollbacks, T2 must be killed.

To avoid cascading rollback, we need a stronger condition wrt recoverability: a schedule S **avoids cascading rollback** (i.e., the schedule is ACR, Avoid Cascading Rollback) if every transaction in S reads values that are written by transactions that have already committed.

For example, this schedule is ACR

S: w2(A) w1(B) w1(A) **c1** r2(B) c2

In other words, an ACR schedule blocks the dirty data anomaly.



## Summing up

- S is **recoverable** if no transaction in S commits before the commit of all the transactions it has “read from” Example:

w1(A) w1(B) w2(A) r2(B) c1 c2

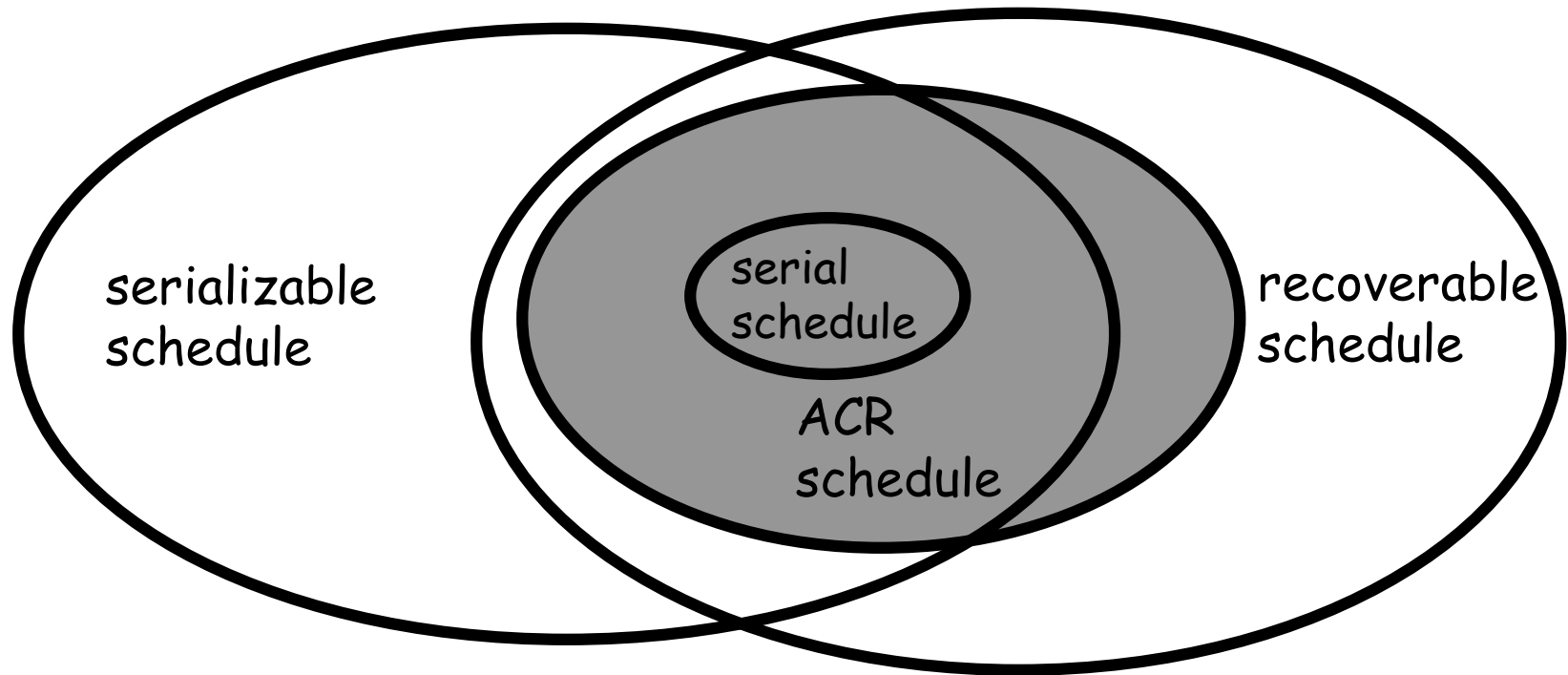
- S is ACID, i.e., **avoids cascading rollback**, if no transaction “reads from” a transaction that has not committed yet

Example:

w1(A) w1(B) w2(A) c1 r2(B) c2



## Recoverability and ACR



Analogously to recoverable schedules, not all ACR schedules are serializable. Obviously, every ACR schedule is recoverable, and every serial schedule is ACR.

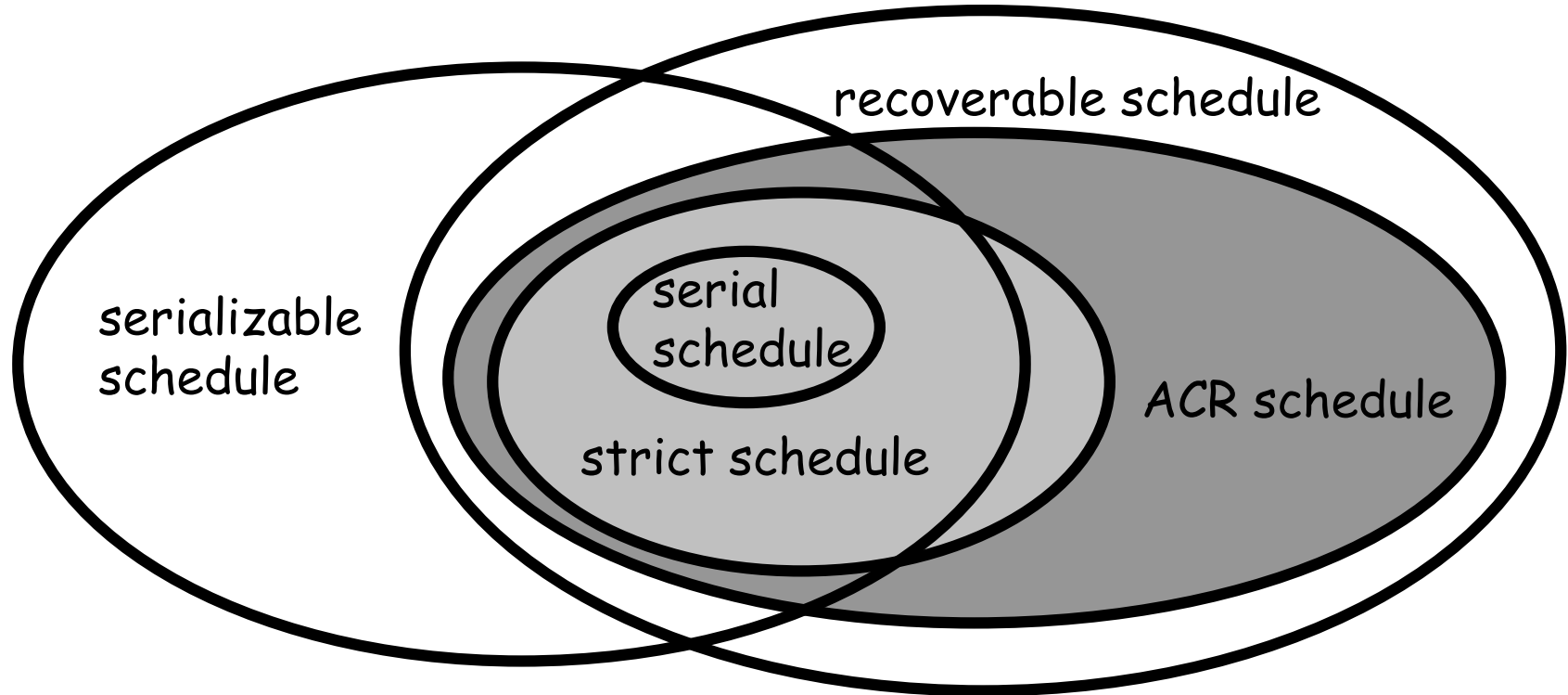


# Strict schedules

- We say that, in a schedule  $S$ , a transaction  $T_i$  **writes on**  $T_j$  if there is a  $w_j(A)$  in  $S$  followed by  $w_i(A)$ , and there is no write action on  $A$  in  $S$  between these two actions
- We say that a schedule  $S$  is **strict** if every transaction *reads* only values written by transactions that have already committed, and *writes* only on transactions that have already committed
- It is easy to verify that every strict schedule is ACR, and therefore recoverable
- Note that, for a strict schedule, when a transaction  $T_i$  rolls back, it is immediate to determine which are the values that have to be stored back in the database to reflect the rollback of  $T_i$ , because no transaction may have written on this values after  $T_i$



## Strict schedules and ACR



Obviously, every serial schedule is strict, and every strict schedule is ACR, and therefore recoverable. However, not all ACR schedules are strict.



# Transaction management

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# Concurrency control through locks

- Conflict-serializability is not used in commercial systems
- We will now study a method for concurrency control that is used in commercial systems. Such method is based on the use of lock
- In the methods based on locks, a transaction must ask and get a permission in order to operate on an element of the database. The lock is a mechanism for a transaction to ask and get such a permission





# Primitives for exclusive lock

- For the moment, we will consider exclusive locks. Later on, we will take into account more general types of locks
- We introduce two new operations (besides read and write) that can appear in transactions. Such operations are used to request and release the exclusive use of a resource (element A in the database):
  - Lock (exclusive):  $l_i(A)$
  - Unlock:  $u_i(A)$
- The lock operation  $l_i(A)$  means that transaction  $T_i$  requests the exclusive use of element A of the database
- The unlock operation  $u_i(A)$  means that transaction  $T_i$  releases the lock on A, i.e., it renounces the use of A



# Well-formed transactions and legal schedules

When using exclusive locks, transactions and schedules should obey two rules:

- **Rule 1:** Every transaction is well-formed. A **transaction  $T_i$  is well-formed** if every action  $p_i(A)$  (a read or a write on  $A$ ) of  $T_i$  is contained in a “critical section”, i.e., in a sequence of actions delimited by a pair of lock-unlock on  $A$ :

$T_i: \dots l_i(A) \dots p_i(A) \dots u_i(A) \dots$

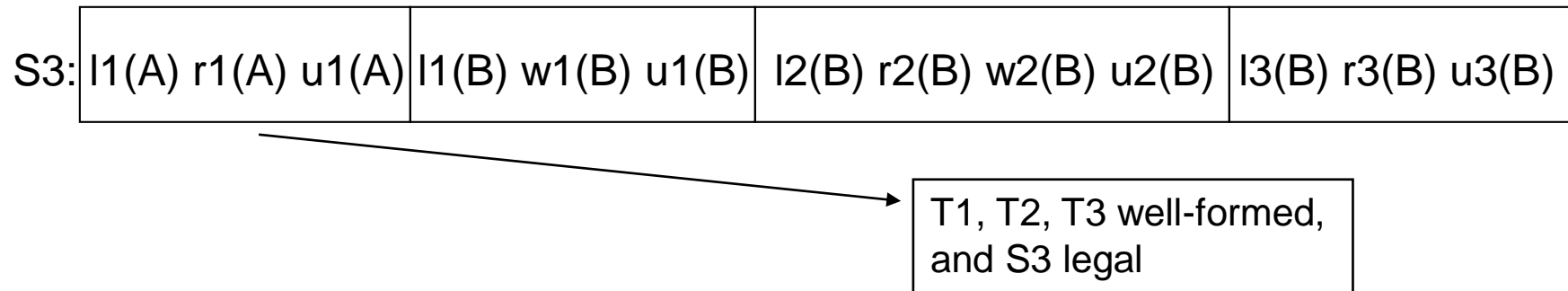
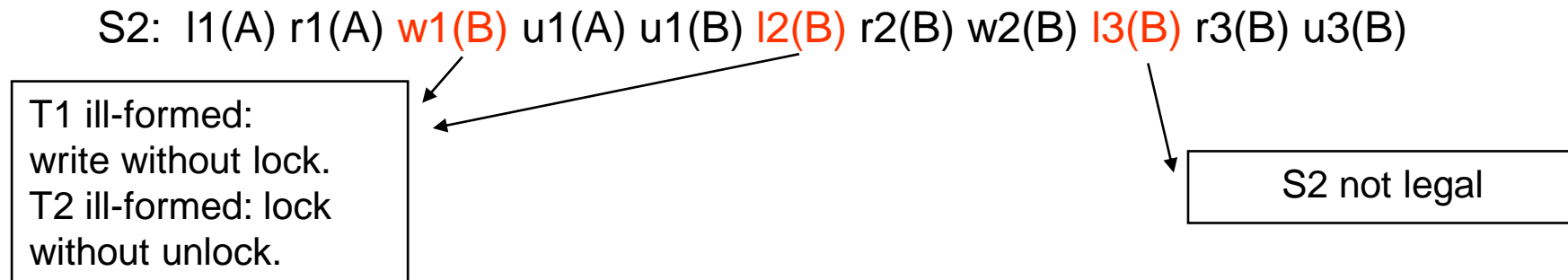
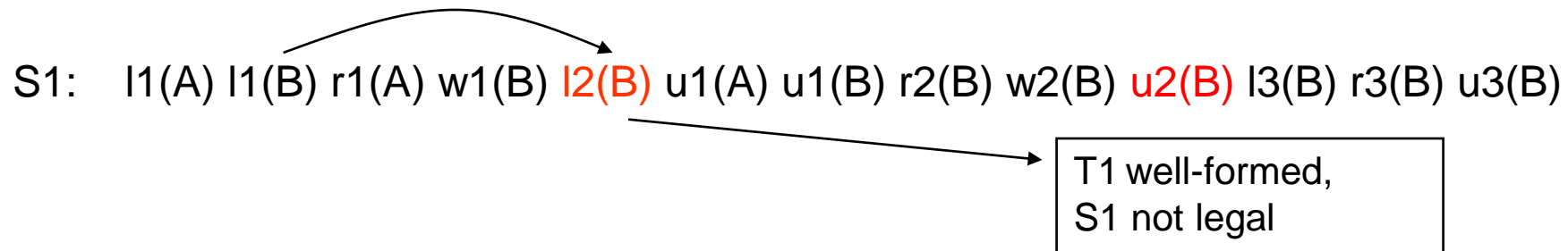
- **Rule 2:** The schedule is legal. A **schedule  $S$  with locks is legal** if no transaction in it locks an element  $A$  when a different transaction has granted the lock on  $A$  and has not yet unlocked  $A$

$S: \dots l_i(A) \dots u_i(A) \dots$

←→  
no  $l_j(A)$



# Schedule with exclusive locks: examples





# Scheduler based on exclusive locks

A scheduler based on exclusive locks behaves as follows:

1. When an action request is issued by a transaction, the scheduler checks whether this request makes the transaction ill-formed, in which case the transaction is aborted by the scheduler.
2. When a lock request on A is issued by transaction  $T_i$ , while another transaction  $T_j$  has a lock on A, the scheduler does not grant the request (otherwise the schedule would become illegal), and  $T_i$  is blocked until  $T_j$  releases the lock on A.
3. To trace all the locks granted, the scheduler manages a table of locks, called **lock table**

In other words, the scheduler ensures that the current schedule is **legal** and all its transactions are **well-formed**.



## Example of scheduler behaviour

T1	T2
$l1(A); r1(A)$	
$A := A + 100; w1(A);$	$l2(A)$ - blocked!
$l1(B); r1(B); u1(A);$	$l2(A)$ - re-started!
	$r2(A)$
	$A := A \times 2; w2(A); u2(A)$
$B := B + 100; w1(B); u1(B)$	
	$l2(B); r2(B)$
	$B := B \times 2; w2(B); u2(B)$



## Is this sufficient for serializability?

T1	T2	A 25	B 25
l1(A); r1(A)			
A:=A+100; w1(A); u1(A)		125	
	l2(A); r2(A)		
	A:=A×2; w2(A); u2(A)	250	
	l2(B); r2(B)		
	B:=B×2; w2(B); u2(B)		50
l1(B); r1(B)			
B:=B+100; w1(B); u1(B)			150
		250	150

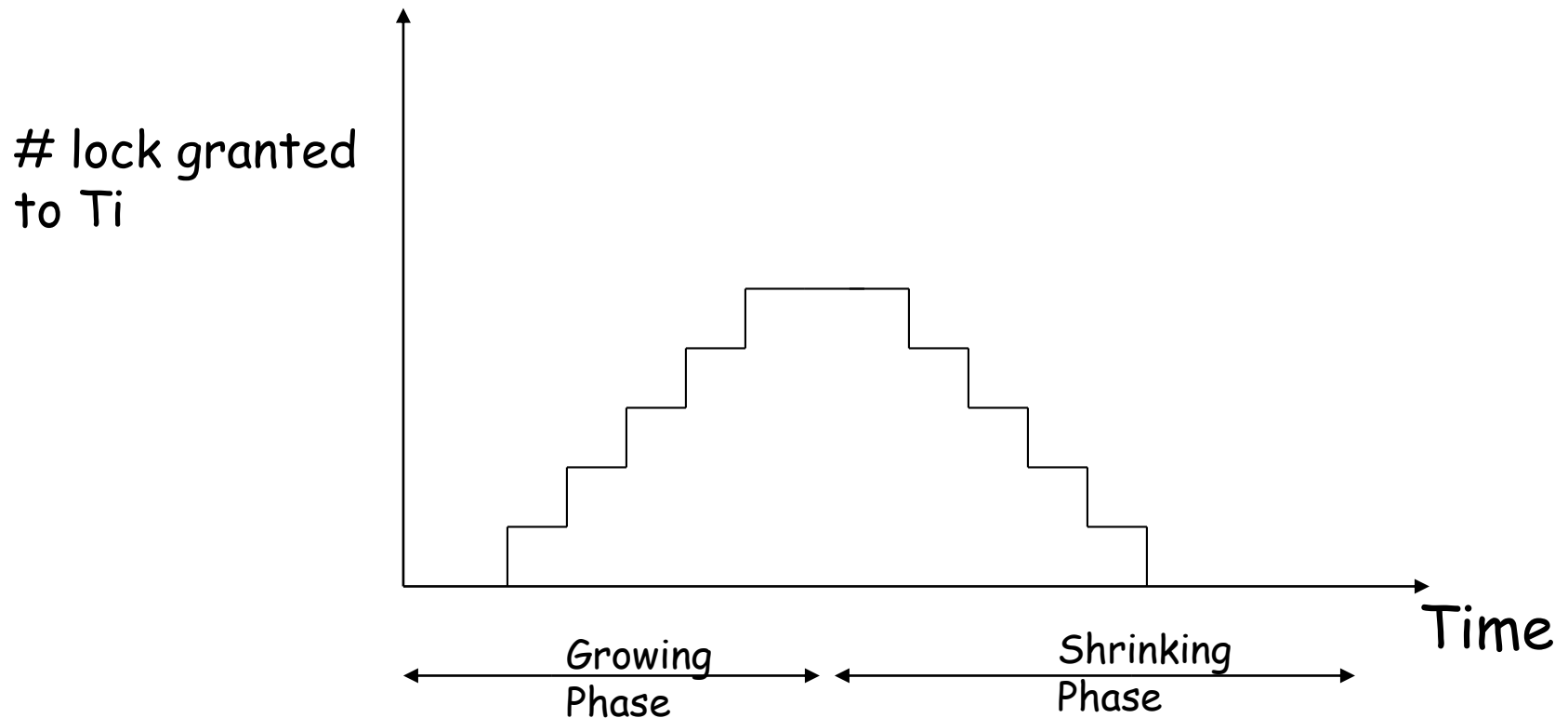
Ghost update: isolation is not ensured by the use of locks





# The two phases of Two-Phase Locking

Locking and unlocking scheme in a transaction following the 2PL protocol





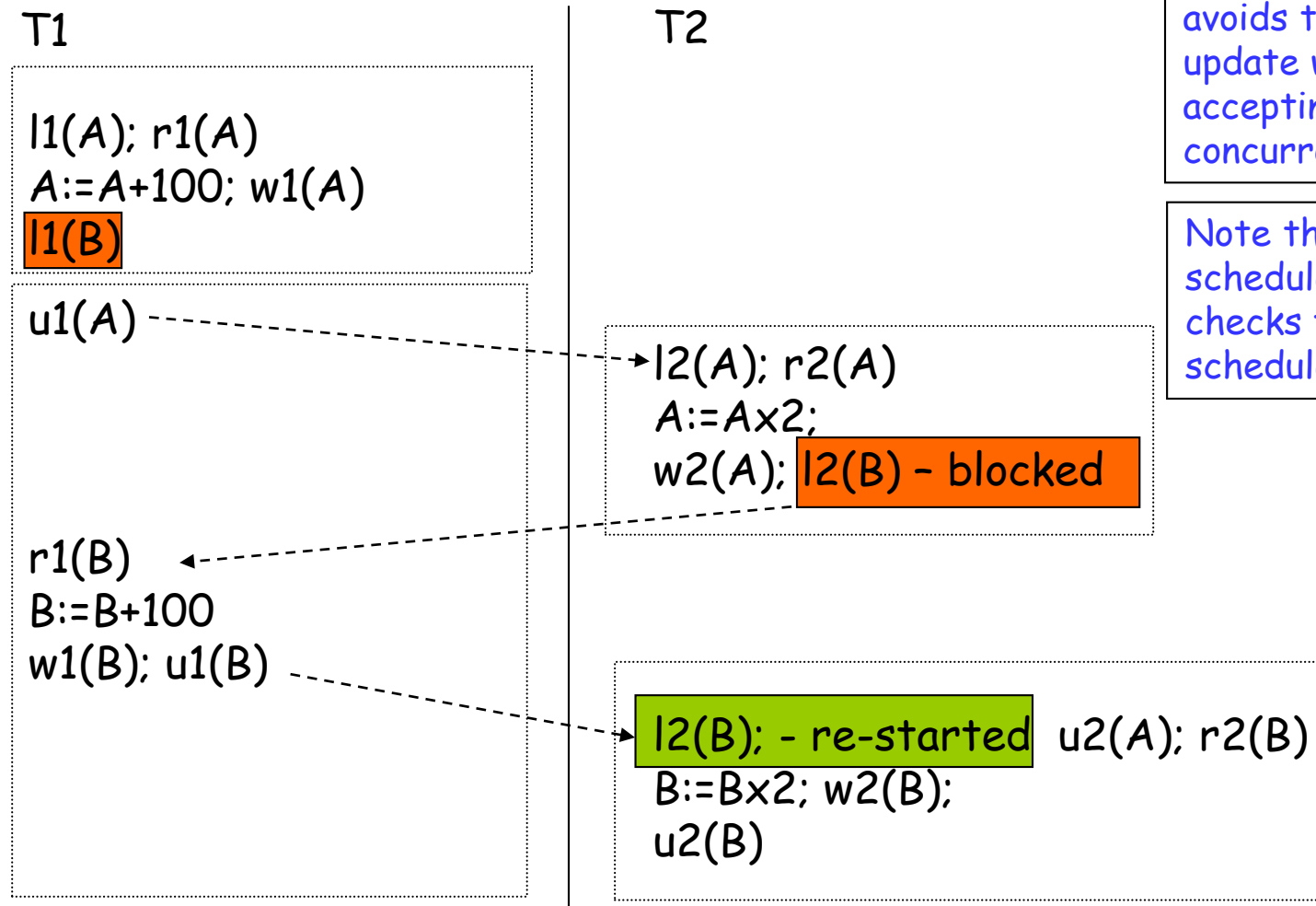


## Example of a 2PL schedule

T1	T2	A 25	B 25
$l_1(A); r_1(A)$ $A := A + 100; w_1(A); u_1(A)$	$l_2(A); r_2(A)$ $A := A \times 2; w_2(A); u_2(A)$	125	
	$l_2(B); r_2(B)$ $B := B \times 2; w_2(B); u_2(B)$	250	50
$l_1(B); r_1(B)$ $B := B + 100; w_1(B); u_1(B)$			150
		250	150



## How the scheduler works in the 2PL protocol





# The risk of deadlock

T1	T2
$l1(A); r1(A)$	
$A := A + 100;$	$l2(B); r2(B)$
	$B := B \times 2$
$w1(A)$	$w2(B)$
$l1(B)$ - blocked	$l2(A)$ - blocked

S:  $l1(A) \ r1(A) \ l2(B) \ r2(B) \ w1(A) \ w2(B) \ l1(B) \ l2(A)$

To ensure that the schedule is legal, the scheduler blocks both T1 and T2, and none of the two transactions can proceed. This is a **deadlock** (we will come back to the methods for deadlock management).



# Who issues the lock/unlock commands?

So far, we have assumed that transactions issue the lock/unlock commands. However, this is not necessary.

Indeed, we can design a scheduler in such a way that **it inserts the lock/unlock commands** while respecting the following conditions:

- Every transaction is well-formed
- The schedule is legal (if at all possible)
- Each transaction, extended with the inserted lock/unlock commands, follows the 2PL protocol

For this reason, even in the presence of locks, we will continue to denote a schedule by means of a sequence of read/write/commit commands. For example, the schedule

$l1(A) \ r1(A) \ l1(B) \ u1(A) \ l2(A) \ w2(A) \ r1(B) \ w1(B) \ u1(B) \ l2(B) \ u2(A) \ r2(B) \ w2(B) \ u2(B)$

can be denoted as:

$r1(A) \ w2(A) \ r1(B) \ w1(B) \ r2(B) \ w2(B)$



# Scheduler based on exclusive locks and 2PL

We study how a scheduler based on exclusive locks and 2PL behaves during the analysis of the current schedule (obviously, not necessarily complete):

1. If a request by transaction  $T_i$  shows that  $T_i$  is not well-formed, then  $T_i$  is aborted by the scheduler
2. If a lock request by transaction  $T_i$  shows that  $T_i$  does not follow the 2PL protocol, then  $T_i$  is aborted by the scheduler
3. If a lock is requested for  $A$  by transaction  $T_i$  while  $A$  is used by a different transaction  $T_j$ , then the scheduler blocks  $T_i$ , until  $T_j$  releases the lock on  $A$ . If the scheduler figures out that a deadlock has occurred (or will occur), then the scheduler adopts a method for deadlock management
4. To trace all the locks granted, the scheduler manages a table of locks, called **lock table**

Note that (1) and (2) do not occur if the lock/unlock commands are automatically insterted by the scheduler.

Simply put, the above behaviour means that the scheduler ensures that

1. the current schedule is **legal**
2. all its transactions are **well-formed**
3. all its transactions follow the **2PL protocol**



## 2PL and conflict-serializability

To compare 2PL and conflict-serializability, we make use of the above observation, and note that every schedule that includes lock/unlock operations can be seen as a “traditional” schedule (by simply ignoring such operations)

**Theorem** Every legal schedule constituted by well-formed transactions following the 2PL protocol (with exclusive locks) is conflict-serializable.



## 2PL and conflict-serializability

**Theorem** There exists a conflict-serializable schedule that does not follow the 2PL protocol (with exclusive locks).

**Proof** It is sufficient to consider the following schedule S:

$r_1(x) \ w_1(x) \ r_2(x) \ w_2(x) \ r_3(y) \ w_1(y)$

S is obviously conflict-serializable (the serial schedule  $T_3, T_1, T_2$  is conflict-equivalent to S), but it is easy to show that we cannot insert in S the lock/unlock commands in such a way that all transactions are well-formed and follow the 2PL protocol, and the resulting schedule is legal. Indeed, it suffices to notice that we should insert in S the command  $u_1(x)$  before  $r_2(x)$ , because in order for  $T_2$  to read  $x$  it must hold the exclusive lock on  $x$ , and we should insert in S the command  $l_1(y)$  after  $r_3(y)$ , because in order for  $T_3$  to read  $y$  it must hold the exclusive lock on  $y$ , and therefore, the command  $l_1(y)$ , which is necessary for executing  $w_3(y)$ , cannot be issued before  $r_3(y)$ . It follows that we cannot insert into S the lock/unlock commands in such a way that the 2PL protocol is respected.



# Shared locks

With exclusive locks, a transaction reading A must unlock A before another transaction can read the same element A:

S: ... l1(A) r1(A) u1(A) ... l2(A) r2(A) u2(A) ...

Actually, this looks too restrictive, because the two read operations do not create any conflict. To remedy this situation, we introduce a new type of lock: the **shared lock**. We denote by sli(A) the command for the transaction Ti to ask for a shared lock on A.

With the use of shared locks, the above example changes as follows:

S: ... s1(A) r1(A) s2(A) r2(A) ... u1(A) u2(A)

The primitive for locks are now as follows:

xli(A): exclusive lock (also called write lock)

sli(A): shared lock (also called read lock)

ui(A): unlock





## Well-formed transactions with shared locks

With shared and exclusive locks, the following rule must be respected.

**Rule 1:** We say that a **transaction  $T_i$  is well-formed** if

- every read  $r_i(A)$  is preceded either by  $sli(A)$  or by  $xli(A)$ , with no  $ui(A)$  in between,
- every write  $w_i(A)$  is preceded by  $xli(A)$  with no  $ui(A)$  in between,
- every lock (sl or xl) on  $A$  by  $T_i$  is followed by an unlock on  $A$  by  $T_i$ .

Note that we allow  $T_i$  to first execute  $sli(A)$ , probably for reading  $A$ , and then to execute  $xli(A)$ , probably for writing  $A$  without the unlock of  $A$  by means of  $T_i$ . The transition from a shared lock on  $A$  by  $T_i$  to an exclusive lock on the same element  $A$  by  $T_i$  (without an unlock on  $A$  by  $T_i$ ) is called “**lock upgrade**”.



## Legal schedule with shared locks

With shared and exclusive locks, the following rule must also be respected.

**Rule 2:** We say that a **schedule S is legal** if

- an  $xli(A)$  is not followed by any  $xlj(A)$  or by any  $slj(A)$  (with  $j$  different from  $i$ ) without an  $ui(A)$  in between
- an  $sli(A)$  is not followed by any  $xlj(A)$  (with  $j$  different from  $i$ ) without an  $ui(A)$  in between



## Two-phase locking (with shared locks)

With shared locks, the two-phase locking rule becomes:

**Definition of two-phase locking (with exclusive and shared locks):** A schedule  $S$  (with shared and exclusive locks) follows the **2PL protocol** if in every transaction  $T_i$  of  $S$ , all lock operations (either for exclusive or for shared locks) precede all unlocking operations of  $T_i$ .

In other words, no action  $sli(X)$  or  $xli(X)$  can be preceded by an operation of type  $ui(Y)$  in the schedule.



## How locks are managed

- The scheduler uses the so-called “compatibility matrix” (see below) for deciding whether a lock request should be granted or not.
- In the matrix, “S” stands for shared lock, “X” stands for exclusive lock, “yes” stands for “requested granted” and “no” stands for “requested not granted”

		New lock requested by $T_j \neq T_i$ on A	
		S	X
Lock already granted to $T_i$ on A	S	yes	no
	X	no	no



## How locks are managed

- The problem for the scheduler of automatically inserting the lock/unlock commands becomes more complex in the presence of shared locks.
- Also, the execution of the unlock commands requires more work. Indeed, when an unlock command on A is issued by  $T_i$ , there may be several transactions waiting for a lock (either shared or exclusive) on A, and the scheduler must decide to which transaction to grant the lock. Several methods are possible:
  - First-come-first-served
  - Give priorities to the transactions asking for a shared lock
  - Give priorities to the transactions asking for a lock upgrade

The first method is the most used one, because it avoids “**starvation**”, i.e., the situation where a request of a transaction is never granted.



## Exercise 7

Consider the following schedule S:

r1(A) r2(A) r2(B) w1(A) w2(D) r3(C) r1(C) w3(B) c2  
r4(A) c1 c4 c3

and tell whether S is in the class of 2PL schedules  
with shared and exclusive locks



## Exercise 7: solution

The schedule S:

r1(A) r2(A) r2(B) w1(A) w2(D) r3(C) r1(C) w3(B) c2 r4(A) c1 c4  
c3

is in the class of 2PL schedules with shared and exclusive locks. This can be shown as follows:

sl1(A) r1(A) sl2(A) r2(A) sl2(B) r2(B) xl2(D) u2(A) xl1(A) w1(A)  
w2(D)

sl3(C) r3(C) sl1(C) r1(C) u1(C) u1(A) u2(B) u2(D) xl3(B) w3(B)  
u3(B) u3(C) c2 sl4(A) r4(A) u4(A) c1 c4 c3



## Properties of two-phase locking (with shared locks)

The properties of two-phase locking with shared and exclusive locks are similar to the case of exclusive locks only:

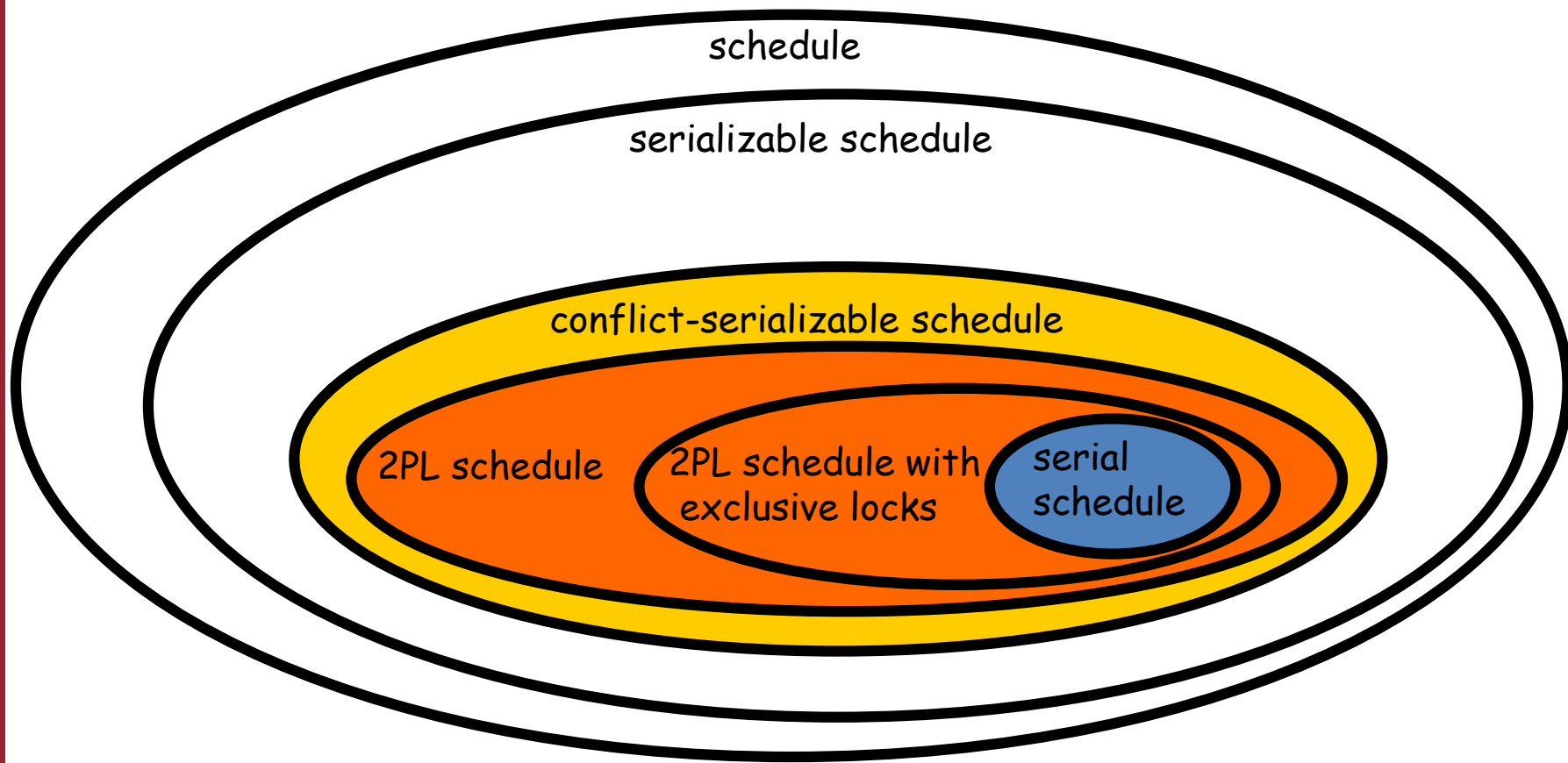
- **Theorem** Every legal schedule with well-formed transactions following the two-phase locking protocol (with exclusive and shared locks) is conflict-serializable.
- **Theorem** There exists a conflict-serializable schedule that does not follow the 2PL protocol (with exclusive and shared locks).
- With shared locks, the risk of deadlock is still present, like in:  
$$sl1(A) \quad sl2(A) \quad xl1(A) \quad xl2(A)$$





## 2PL and conflict-serializability

We denote by “2PL schedule” the class of legal schedules with shared and exclusive locks constituted by well-formed transactions following the 2PL protocol.





## Recoverability and 2PL

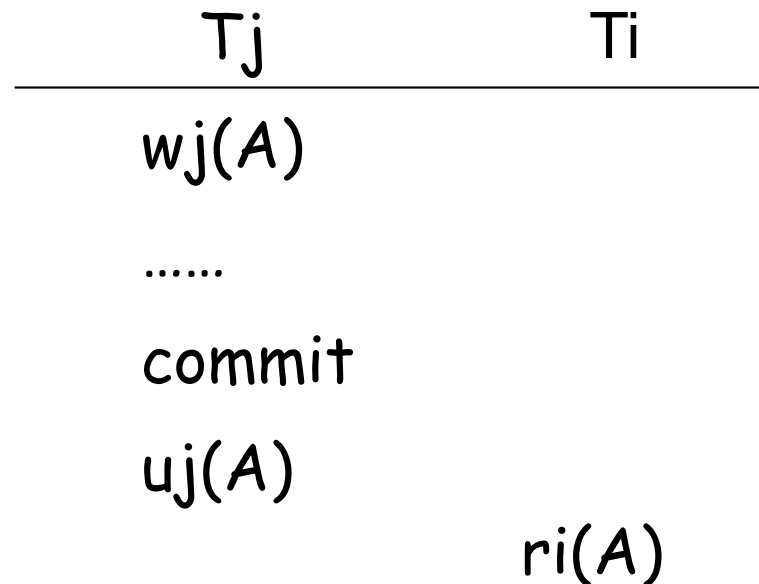
- So far, when discussing about recoverability, ACR, strictness and rigorousness we focused on:
  - read, write
  - rollback
  - commit
- We still have to study the impact of these notions on the locking mechanisms and the 2PL protocol



## Strict two-phase locking (strict 2PL)

A schedule  $S$  is said to be in the **strict 2PL** class if

- $S$  is in 2PL, and
- $S$  is strict.





## Strict two-phase locking (strict 2PL)

With the goal of capturing the class of strict 2PL the following protocol has been defined: A schedule  $S$  follows the **strict 2PL protocol** if it follows the 2PL protocol, and all exclusive locks of every transaction  $T$  are kept by  $T$  until either  $T$  commits or rollbacks.

$T_j$	$T_i$
$w_j(A)$	
$r_j(B)$	
.....	
$u_j(B)$	
commit	
$u_j(A)$	
	$ri(A)$



## Properties of strict 2PL

- Every schedule following the strict 2PL protocol is strict:  
(See exercise 7)
- Every schedule following the strict 2PL protocol is serializable:  
it can be shown that every strict 2PL schedule  $S$  is conflict-equivalent to the serial schedule  $S'$  obtained from  $S$  by ignoring the transactions that have rolled back, and by choosing the order of transactions determined by the order of commit (the first transaction in  $S'$  is the first that has committed, the second transaction in  $S'$  is the second that has committed, and so on)



## Exercise 8

- Prove or disprove the following statement:

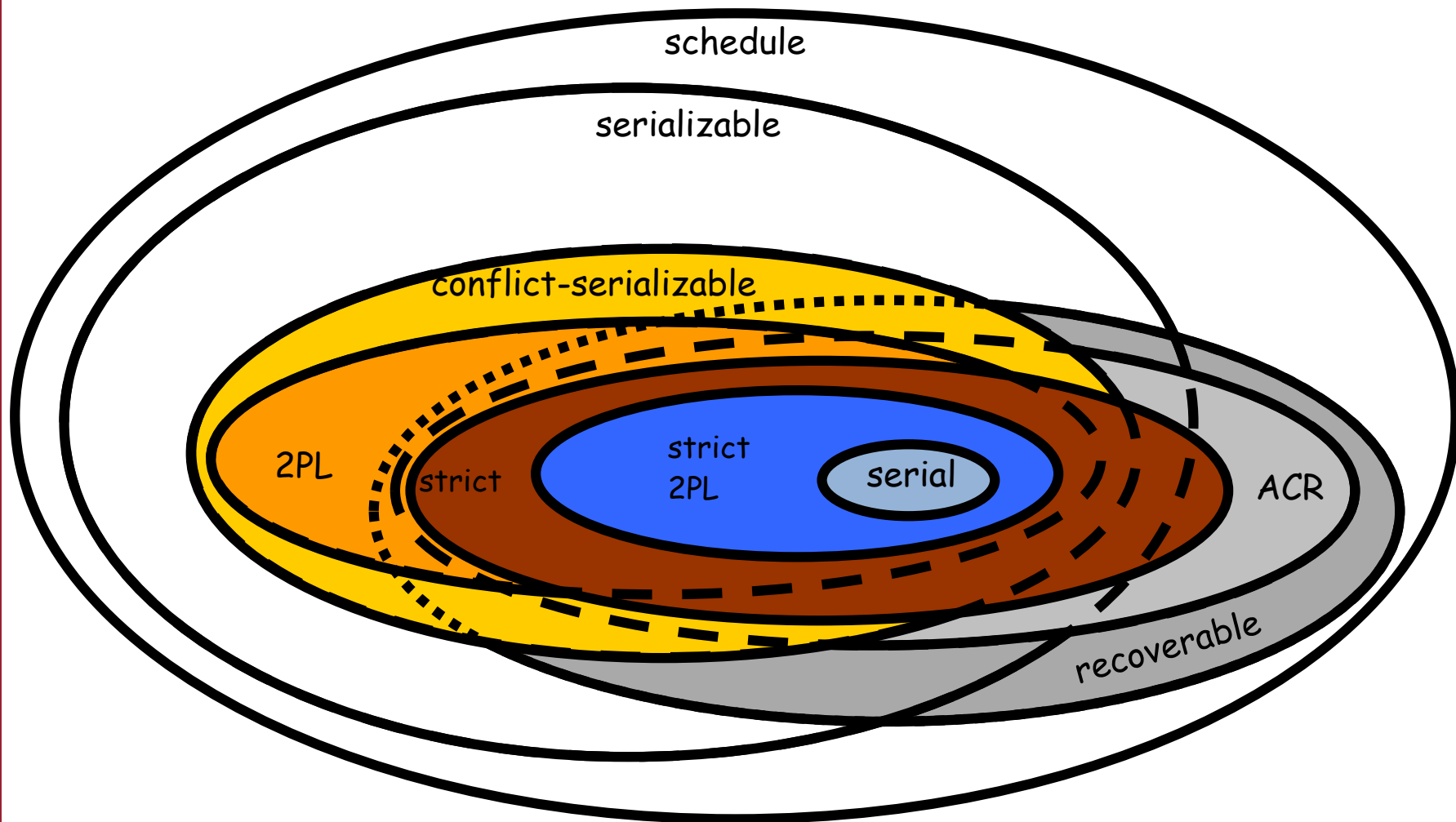
Every schedule following the strict 2PL protocol is strict.

- Prove or disprove the following statement:

Every schedule that is strict and follows the 2PL protocol also follows the strict 2PL protocol.



# The complete picture





# Transaction management

1. Transactions, concurrency, serializability
2. Recoverability
3. Concurrency control through locks
4. Concurrency control through timestamps
5. Transaction management in SQL





## Concurrency based on timestamps

- Each transaction  $T$  has an associated **timestamp  $ts(T)$**  that is unique among the active transactions, and is such that  $ts(T_j) < ts(T_h)$  whenever transaction  $T_i$  arrives at the scheduler before transaction  $T_h$ . In what follows, we assume that the timestamp of transaction  $T_i$  is simply  $i$ :  $ts(T_i) = i$ .
- Note that the timestamps actually define a total order on transactions, in the sense that they can be considered ordered according to the order in which they arrive at the scheduler.
- **Note also that every schedule respecting the timestamp order is conflict-serializable, because it is conflict-equivalent to the serial schedule corresponding to the timestamp order.**
- Obviously, the use of timestamp avoids the use of locks. Note, however, that deadlock may still occur.



# The use of timestamps

- Transactions execute without any need of protocols.
- The basic idea is that, at each action execution, the scheduler checks whether the involved timestamps violates the serializability condition according to the order induced by the timestamps.
- In particular, we maintain the following data for each element X:
  - $rts(X)$ : the highest timestamp among the active transactions that have read X
  - $wts(X)$ : the highest timestamp among the active transactions that have written X (this coincides with the timestamp of the last transaction that wrote X)
  - $wts-c(X)$ : the timestamp of the last committed transaction that has written X
  - $cb(X)$ : a bit (called commit-bit), that is false if the last transaction that wrote X has not committed yet, and true otherwise.

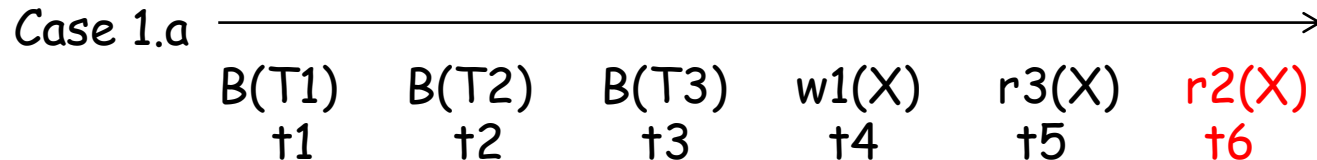


# The rules for timestamps

- Basic idea:
  - the actions of transaction  $T$  in a schedule  $S$  must be considered as being logically executed in one spot
  - the logical time of an action of  $T$  is the timestamp of  $T$ , i.e.,  $ts(T)$
  - the commit-bit is used to avoid the dirty read anomaly
- The system manages two “temporal axes”, corresponding to the “physical” and to the “logical” time. The values  $rts(X)$  and  $wts(X)$  indicate the timestamp of the transaction that was the last to read and write  $X$  according to the logical time.
- An action of transaction  $T$  executed at the physical time  $t$  is accepted if its ordering according to the physical temporal order is compatible with respect to the logical time  $ts(T)$
- This “compatibility principle” is checked by the scheduler.
- As we said before, we assume that the timestamp of each transaction  $T_i$  coincide with the subscript  $i$ :  $ts(T_i)=i$ . In what follows,  $t_1, \dots, t_n$  will denote physical times.



## Rules – case 1a (read ok)



Consider  $r2(X)$  with respect to the last write on  $X$ , namely  $w1(X)$ :

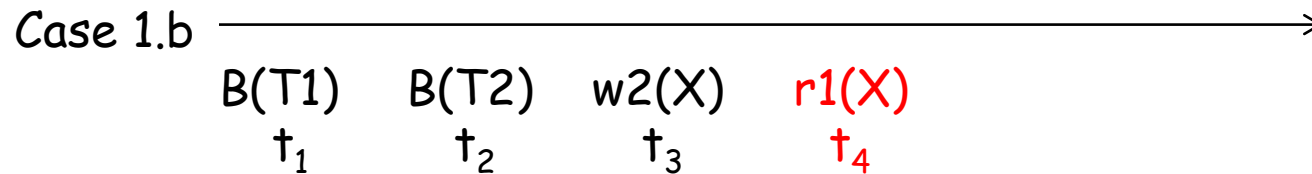
- the physical time of  $r2(X)$  is  $t6$ , that is greater than the physical time of  $w1$  ( $t4$ )
- the logical time of  $r2(X)$  is  $ts(T2)$ , that is greater than the logical time of  $w1(X)$ , which is  $wt_s(X) = ts(T1)$

We conclude that there is no incompatibility between the physical and the logical time, and therefore we proceed as follows:

1. if  $cb(X)$  is true, then
  - generally speaking, after a read on  $X$  of  $T$ ,  $rts(X)$  should be set to the maximum between  $rts(X)$  and  $ts(T)$  – in the example, although, according to the physical time,  $r2(X)$  appears after the last read  $r3(X)$  on  $X$ , it logically precedes  $r3(X)$ , and therefore, if  $cb(X)$  was true,  $rts(X)$  would remain equal to  $ts(T3)$
  - $r2(X)$  is executed, and the schedule goes on
2. if  $cb(X)$  is false (as in the example), then  $T2$  is put in a state waiting for the commit or the rollback of the transaction  $T'$  that was the last to write  $X$  (i.e., a state waiting for  $cb(X)$  equal true -- indeed,  $cb(X)$  is set to true both when  $T'$  commits, and when  $T'$  rollbacks, because the transactions  $T''$  that was the last to write  $X$  before  $T'$  obviously committed, otherwise  $T'$  would be still blocked)



## Rules – case 1b (read too late)



Consider  $r1(X)$  with respect to the last write on  $X$ , namely  $w2(X)$ :

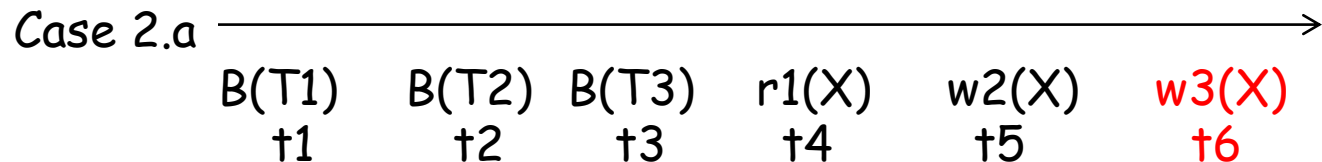
- the physical time of  $r1(X)$  is  $t_4$ , that is greater than the physical time of  $w2(X)$ , that is  $t_3$
- the logical time of  $r1(X)$  is  $ts(T1)$ , that is less than the logical time of  $w2(X)$ , i.e.,  $wts(X) = ts(T2)$

We conclude that  $r1(X)$  and  $w2(X)$  are incompatible.

Action  $r1(X)$  of  $T1$  cannot be executed,  $T1$  rollbacks, and a new execution of  $T1$  starts, with a new timestamp.



## Rules – case 2a (write ok)



Consider w3(X) with respect to the last read on X (r1(X)) and the last write on X (w2(X)):

- the physical time of w3(X) is greater than that of r1(X) and w2(X)
- the logical time of w3(X) is greater than that of r1(X) and w2(X)

We can conclude that there is no incompatibility. Therefore:

1. if cb(X) is true or no active transaction wrote X, then

- we set wts(X) to ts(T3)
- we set cb(X) to false
- action w3(X) of T3 is executed, and the schedule goes on

2. else T3 is put in a state waiting for the commit or the rollback of the transaction T' that was the last to write X (i.e., a state waiting for cb(X) equal true -- indeed, cb(X) is set to true both when T' commits, and when T' rolls back, because the transactions T'' that was the last to write X before T' obviously committed, otherwise T' would be still blocked)



## Rules – case 2b (Thomas rule)

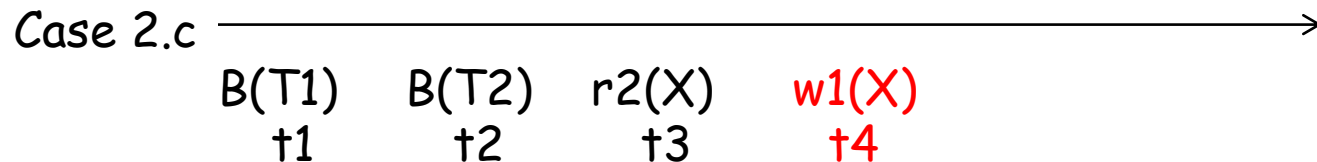
Case 2.b

B(T1)	B(T2)	B(T3)	r1(X)	w2(X)	.....	w1(X)
t1	t2	t3	t4	t5	.....	t6

- Consider w1(X) with respect to the last read r1(X) on X: the physical time of w1(X) is greater than the physical time of r1(X), and, since w1(X) and r1(X) belong to the same transaction, there is no incompatibility with respect to the logical time.
- However, on the logical time dimension, w2(X) comes after the write w1(X), and therefore, the execution of w1(X) would correspond to an update loss. Therefore:
  - If cb(X) is true, we simply **ignore** w1(X) (i.e., w1(X) is not executed). In this way, the effect is to correctly overwrite the value written by T1 on X with the value written by T2 on X (it is like pretending that w1(X) came before w2(X))
  - if cb(X) is false, we let T1 waiting either for the commit or for the rollback of the transaction that was the last to write X (i.e., a state waiting for cb(X) equal true -- indeed, cb(X) is set to true both when T' commits, and when T' rolls back, because the transactions T'' that was the last to write X before T' obviously committed, otherwise T' would be still blocked)



## Rules – case 2c (write too late)



Consider  $w1(X)$  with respect to the last read  $r2(X)$  on  $X$ :

- the physical time of  $w1(X)$  is  $t4$ , that is greater than the physical time of  $r2(X)$ , i.e.,  $t3$
- the logical time of  $w1(X)$  is  $ts(T1)$ , that is less than the logical time of  $r2(X)$ , that is  $rts(X) = ts(T2)$

We conclude that  $w1(X)$  and  $r2(X)$  are incompatible.

Action  $w1(X)$  is not executed,  $T1$  is aborted, and is executed again with a new timestamp.





# Timestamp-based method: the scheduler

Action  $ri(X)$ :

```
if          ts(Ti) >= wts(X)
then        if cb(X)=true or ts(Ti) = wts(X)           // (case 1.a)
              then set rts(X) = max(ts(Ti), rts(X)) and execute ri(X) // (case 1.a.1)
              else put Ti in “waiting” for the commit or the
                  rollback of the last transaction that wrote X           // (case 1.a.2)
else        rollback(Ti)                               // (case 1.b)
```

Action  $wi(X)$ :

```
if          ts(Ti) >= rts(X) and ts(Ti) >= wts(X)
then        if cb(X) = true
              then set wts(X) = ts(Ti), cb(X) = false, and execute wi(X) // (case 2.a.1)
              else put Ti in “waiting” for the commit or the
                  rollback of the last transaction that wrote X           // (case 2.a.2)
else        if ts(Ti) >= rts(X) and ts(Ti) < wts(X) // (case 2.b)
              then if cb(X)=true
                  then ignore wi(X) // (case 2.b.1)
                  else put Ti in “waiting” for the commit or the
                      rollback of the last transaction that wrote X // (case 2.b.2)
              else rollback(Ti) // (case 2.c)
```



# Timestamp-based method: the scheduler

When  $T_i$  executes  $ci$ :

for each element  $X$  written by  $T_i$ ,  
    set  $cb(X) = \text{true}$   
    for each transaction  $T_j$  waiting for  $cb(X)=\text{true}$  or for the  
        rollback of the transaction that was the last to  
        write  $X$ , allow  $T_j$  to proceed  
choose the transaction that proceeds

When  $T_i$  executes the rollback  $bi$ :

for each element  $X$  written by  $T_i$ , set  $wts(X)$  to be  $wts-c(X)$ , i.e., the  
    timestamp of the transaction  $T_j$  that wrote  $X$  before  $T_i$ , and set  
     $cb(X)$  to true (indeed,  $T_j$  has surely committed)  
    for each transaction  $T_j$  waiting for  $cb(X)=\text{true}$  or for the  
        rollback of the transaction that was the last to  
        write  $X$  allow  $T_j$  to proceed  
choose the transaction that proceeds



# Deadlock with the timestamps

Unfortunately, the method based on timestamps does not avoid the risk of deadlock (although the probability is lower than in the case of locks).

The deadlock is related to the use of the commit-bit. Consider the following example:

$w1(B), w2(A), w1(A), r2(B)$

When executing  $w1(A)$ , T1 is put in waiting for the commit or the rollback of T2. When executing  $r2(B)$ , T2 is put in waiting for the commit or the rollback of T1.

The deadlock problem in the method based on timestamps is handled with the same techniques used in the 2PL method.



# The method based on timestamp: example

Action	Effect	New values
r6(A)	ok	rts(A) = 6
r8(A)	ok	rts(A) = 8
r9(A)	ok	rts(A) = 9
w8(A)	no	T8 aborted
w11(A)	ok	wts(A) = 11
r10(A)	no	T10 aborted
c11	ok	cb(A) = true



# Timestamps and conflict-serializability

- There are conflict-serializable schedules that are not accepted by the timestamp-based scheduler, such as:

$r1(Y) \ r2(X) \ w1(X)$

- If the schedule  $S$  is accepted by the timestamp-based scheduler and does not use the Thomas rule, then the schedule obtained from  $S$  by removing all actions of rolledback transactions is conflict-serializable
- If the schedule  $S$  is accepted by the timestamp-based scheduler and does use the Thomas rule, then  $S$  may be non conflict-serializable, like for example:

$r1(A) \ w2(A) \ c2 \ w1(A) \ c1$

However, if the schedule  $S$  is accepted by the timestamp-based scheduler and does use the Thomas rule, then the schedule obtained from  $S$  by removing all actions ignored by the Thomas rules and all actions of rolledback transactions is conflict-serializable



## Comparison between timestamps and 2PL

- There are schedules that are accepted by timestamp-based schedulers that are not 2PL, such as  
r1(A) w2(A) r3(A) r1(B) w2(B) r1(C) w3(C) r4(C) w4(B) w5(B)  
(that is not 2PL because T2 must release the lock on A before asking for the lock on B)
- Obviously, there are schedules that are accepted by the timestamp-based schedulers and are also strict 2PL schedules, such as the serial schedule:  
r1(A) w1(A) r2(A) w2(A)
- There are strong strict 2PL schedules that are not accepted by the timestamp-based scheduler, such as:  
r1(B) r2(A) w2(A) r1(A) w1(A)



# Comparison between timestamps and 2PL

- Waiting stage
  - 2PL: transactions are put in waiting stage
  - TS: transactions are killed and re-started
- Serialization order
  - 2PL: determined by conflicts
  - TS: determined by timestamps
- Need to wait for commit by other transactions
  - 2PL: solved by the strong strict 2PL protocol
  - TS: buffering of write actions (waiting for  $cb(X) = \text{true}$ )
- Deadlock
  - 2PL: risk of deadlock
  - TS: deadlock is less probable



## Comparison between timestamps and 2PL

- Timestamp-based method is superior when transactions are “read-only”, or when concurrent transactions rarely write the same elements
- 2PL is superior when the number of conflicts is high because:
  - although locking may delay transactions and may cause deadlock (and therefore rollback),
  - the probability of rollback is higher in the case of the timestamp-based method, and this causes a greater global delay of the system
- In the following picture (page 101), the set indicated by “timestamp” denotes the set of schedules generated by the timestamp-based scheduler, where all actions ignored by the Thomas rule and all actions of rolled back transactions are removed





# Multiversion timestamp

Idea: do not block the read actions! This is done by introducing different versions  $X_1 \dots X_n$  of element  $X$ , so that every read can be always executed, provided that the “right” version (according to the logical time determined by the timestamp) is chosen

- Every “legal” write  $w_i(X)$  generates a new version  $X_i$  (in our notation, the subscript corresponds to the timestamp of the transaction that generated  $X$ )
- To each version  $X_h$  of  $X$ , the timestamp  $wts(X_h)=ts(Th)$  is associated, denoting the  $ts$  of the transaction that wrote that version
- To each version  $X_h$  of  $X$ , the timestamp  $rts(X_h)=ts(Ti)$  is associated, denoting the highest  $ts$  among those of the transactions that read  $X_h$

The properties of the multiversion timestamp are similar to those of the timestamp method.



# New rules for the use of timestamps

The scheduler uses timestamps as follows:

- when executing  $w_i(X)$ : if a read  $r_j(X_k)$  such that  $wts(X_k) < ts(T_i) < ts(T_j)$  already occurred, then the write is refused (it is a “write too late” case, because transaction  $T_j$ , that is older than  $T_i$ , has already read a version of  $X$  that precedes version  $X_i$ ), otherwise the write is executed on a new version  $X_i$  of  $X$ , and we set  $wts(X_i) = ts(T_i)$ .
- $r_i(X)$ : the read is executed on the version  $X_j$  such that  $wts(X_j)$  is the highest write timestamp among the versions of  $X$  having a write timestamp less than or equal to  $ts(T_i)$ , i.e.:  $X_j$  is such that  $wts(X_j) \leq ts(T_i)$ , and there is no version  $X_h$  such that  $wts(X_j) < wts(X_h) \leq ts(T_i)$ . Note that such a version always exists, because it is impossible that all versions of  $X$  are greater than  $ts(T_i)$ . Obviously,  $rts(X_j)$  is updated in the usual way.
- For  $X_j$  with  $wts(X_j)$  such that no active transaction has timestamp less than  $j$ , the versions of  $X$  that precede  $X_j$  are deleted, from the oldest to the newest.
- To ensure recoverability, the commit of  $T_i$  is delayed until all commit of the transactions  $T_j$  that wrote versions read by  $T_i$  are executed.



# New rules for the use of timestamps

The scheduler uses suitable data structures:

- For each version  $X_i$  the scheduler maintains a range  $\text{range}(X_i) = [\text{wts}, \text{rts}]$ , where  $\text{wts}$  is the timestamp of the transaction that wrote  $X_i$ , and  $\text{rts}$  is the highest timestamp among those of the transactions that read  $X_i$  (if no one read  $X_i$ , then  $\text{rts} = \text{wts}$ ).
- We denote with  $\text{ranges}(X)$  the set:
$$\{ \text{range}(X_i) \mid X_i \text{ is a version of } X \}$$
- When  $\text{ri}(X)$  is processed, the scheduler uses  $\text{ranges}(X)$  to find the version  $X_j$  such that  $\text{range}(X_j) = [\text{wts}, \text{rts}]$  has the highest  $\text{wts}$  that is less than or equal to the timestamp  $\text{ts}(T_i)$  of  $T_i$ . Moreover, if  $\text{ts}(T_i) > \text{rts}$ , then the  $\text{rts}$  of  $\text{range}(X_j)$  is set to  $\text{ts}(T_i)$ .
- When  $\text{wi}(x)$  is processed, the scheduler uses  $\text{ranges}(X)$  to find the version  $X_j$  such that  $\text{range}(X_j) = [\text{wts}, \text{rts}]$  has the highest  $\text{wts}$  that is less than or equal to the timestamp  $\text{ts}(T_i)$  of  $T_i$ . Moreover, if  $\text{rts} > \text{ts}(T_i)$ , then  $\text{wi}(X)$  is rejected, else  $\text{wi}(X_i)$  is accepted, and the version  $X_i$  with  $\text{range}(X_i) = [\text{wts}, \text{rts}]$ , with  $\text{wts} = \text{rts} = \text{ts}(T_i)$  is created.



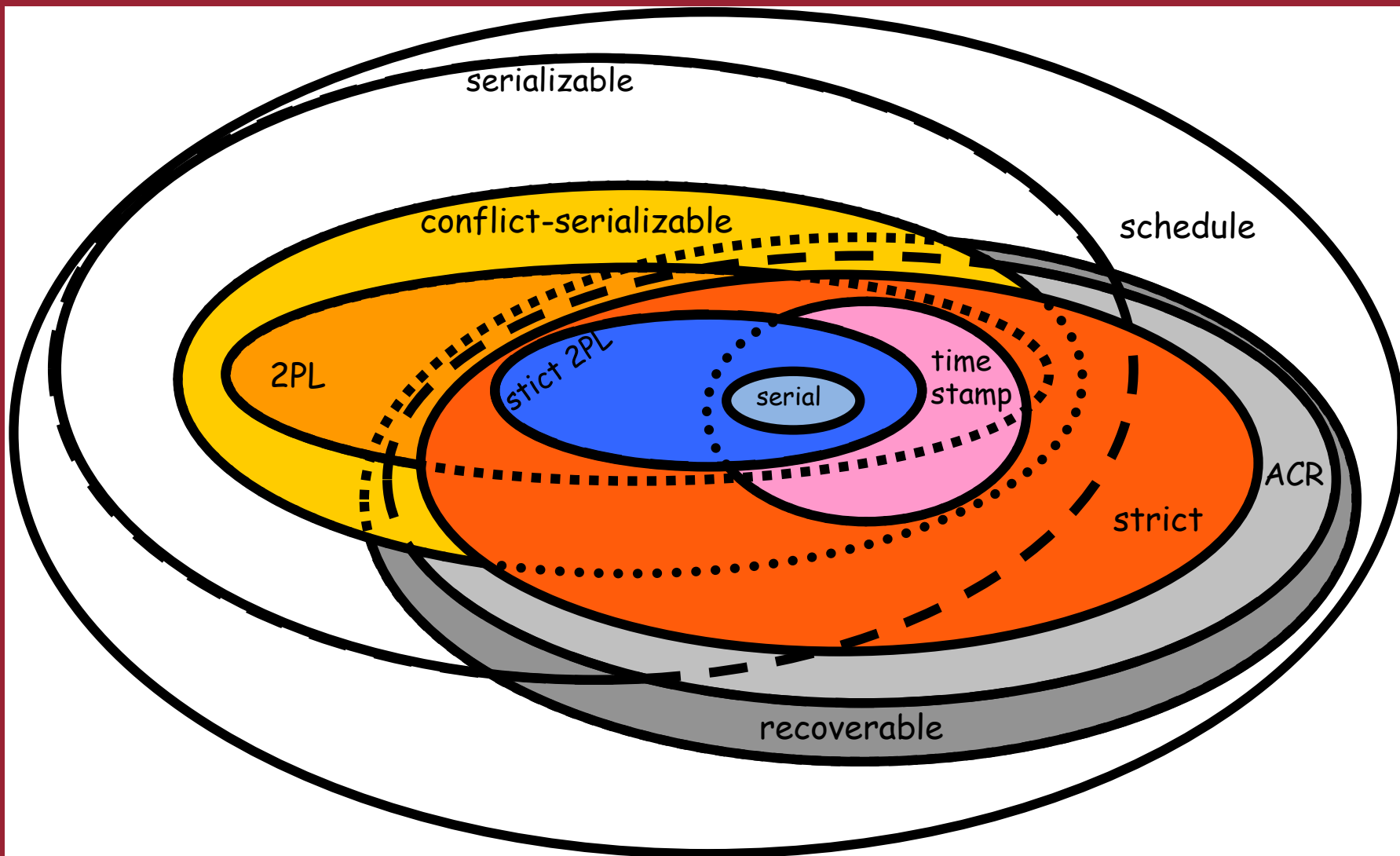
# Multiversion timestamp: example

Suppose that the current version of A is A0, with  $rts(A0)=0$ .

T1(ts=1)	T2(ts=2)	T3(ts=3)	T4(ts=4)	T5(ts=5)	
r1(A)					reads A0, and set $rts(A0)=1$
w1(A)					writes the new version A1
	r2(A)				reads A1, and set $rts(A1)=2$
	w2(A)				writes the new version A2
			r4(A)		reads A2, and set $rts(A2)=4$
				r5(A)	reads A2, and set $rts(A2)=5$
		w3(A)			rollback T3



# The final picture





# Transaction management

1. Transactions, concurrency, serializability
2. Recoverability
3. Concurrency control through locks
4. Concurrency control through timestamps
5. Transaction management in SQL



# Transaction management in SQL

- SQL-92 has constructs for defining transactions and concurrency levels
- A single SELECT statement is considered as an atomic execution unit
- SQL does not have an explicit BEGIN TRANSACTION statement
- In SQL, every transaction must have an explicit termination statement (COMMIT or ROLLBACK)



## Example

```
EXEC SQL WHENEVER sqlerror GO TO ESCI;
EXEC SQL SET TRANSACTION
    READ WRITE , DIAGNOSTICS SIZE 8,
    ISOLATION LEVEL SERIALIZABLE;
EXEC SQL INSERT INTO
    EMPLOYEE (Name, ID, Address)
    VALUES ('John Doe',1234,'xyz');
EXEC SQL UPDATE EMPLOYEE
    SET Address = 'abc'
    WHERE ID = 1000;
EXEC SQL COMMIT;
GOTO FINE;
ESCI: EXEC SQL ROLLBACK;
FINE: ...
```





## Ghost read

- Since SQL considers a whole query as an atomic execution unit, we must consider a further anomaly, the so-called ghost read
- Example:
  - T1 executes query `SELECT * FROM R`
  - T2 adds a record `r` to relation `R`
  - T1 executes the previous query again: the result of the second query contains record `r`, which was not in the first result
- The ghost read anomaly is a generalized version of the unrepeatable read anomaly, in which the read operation retrieves a set of records instead of a single one



# SET TRANSACTION

- The SET TRANSACTION statement allows for defining the following aspects:
- Access mode: READ ONLY or READ WRITE
- Isolation level of the transaction: can assume one of the following values:
  - READ UNCOMMITTED
  - READ COMMITTED
  - REPEATABLE READ
  - SERIALIZABLE (default value)
- Configuration of the number of error conditions that can be handled (DIAGNOSTIC SIZE n)



# Isolation levels

(We assume that the SET TRANSACTION statement is relative to transaction  $T_i$ )

- **SERIALIZABLE:**
  - Transaction  $T_i$  only reads from committed transactions
  - No value read or written by transaction  $T_i$  can be modified until  $T_i$  commits
  - The set of records read by  $T_i$  through a query cannot be modified by other transactions until  $T_i$  commits (this condition avoids the ghost read anomaly)



# Isolation levels

- REPEATABLE READ:
  - Transaction  $T_i$  only reads from committed transactions
  - No value read or written by transaction  $T_i$  can be modified until  $T_i$  commits
  - The set of records read by  $T_i$  through a query **can** be modified by other transactions until  $T_i$  commits (the ghost read anomaly is thus possible)



# Isolation levels

- READ COMMITTED:
  - Transaction  $T_i$  only reads from committed transactions
  - No value written by transaction  $T_i$  can be modified until  $T_i$  commits, while values read by  $T_i$  can be modified by other transactions (thus, both the ghost read anomaly and the unrepeatable read anomaly are possible)



# Isolation levels

- READ UNCOMMITTED:
  - Transaction  $T_i$  can read from any (even uncommitted) transaction (cascading rollback is thus possible)
  - Values both read and written by  $T_i$  can be modified by other transactions (thus, besides ghost read and unrepeatable read, also the dirty read anomaly is possible)



# Transaction management in commercial systems

- The transaction managers of the main commercial systems (Oracle, DB2, SQL Server, PostgreSQL) use schedulers based on lock and/or (multiversion) timestamp methods
- In such systems, the scheduler usually distinguishes between two classes of transactions:
  - The transactions with read and write are executed under the 2PL protocol
  - The transactions that are “read only” are executed under the method of multiversion timestamp