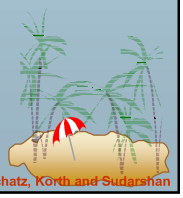
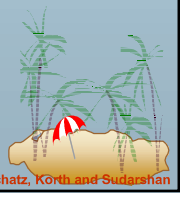
Chapter 16: Concurrency Control

- Lock-Based Protocols
- Timestamp-Based Protocols
- Validation-Based Protocols
- Multiple Granularity
- Multiversion Schemes
- Deadlock Handling
- Insert and Delete Operations
- Concurrency in Index Structures



Lock-Based Protocols

- A lock is a mechanism to control concurrent access to a data item
- Data items can be locked in two modes :
  1. *exclusive (X) mode*. Data item can be both read as well as written. X-lock is requested using **lock-X** instruction.
  2. *shared (S) mode*. Data item can only be read. S-lock is requested using **lock-S** instruction.
- Lock requests are made to concurrency-control manager. Transaction can proceed only after request is granted.



Lock-Based Protocols (Cont.)

- Lock-compatibility matrix

	S	X
S	true	false
X	false	false

- A transaction may be granted a lock on an item if the requested lock is compatible with locks already held on the item by other transactions
- Any number of transactions can hold shared locks on an item, but if any transaction holds an exclusive on the item no other transaction may hold any lock on the item.
- If a lock cannot be granted, the requesting transaction is made to wait till all incompatible locks held by other transactions have been released. The lock is then granted.

Lock-Based Protocols (Cont.)

- Example of a transaction performing locking:

T_2: **lock-S**(*A*);
read (*A*);
unlock(*A*);
lock-S(*B*);
read (*B*);
unlock(*B*);
display(*A*+*B*)

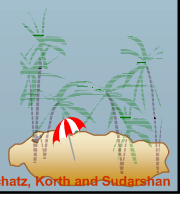
- Locking as above is not sufficient to guarantee serializability — if *A* and *B* get updated in-between the read of *A* and *B*, the displayed sum would be wrong.
- A **locking protocol** is a set of rules followed by all transactions while requesting and releasing locks. Locking protocols restrict the set of possible schedules.

Pitfalls of Lock-Based Protocols

- Consider the partial schedule

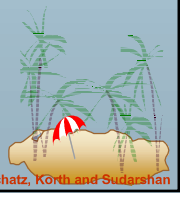
T_3	T_4
lock-X(B)	
read(B)	
$B := B - 50$	
write(B)	
	lock-S(A)
	read(A)
	lock-S(B)
lock-X(A)	

- Neither T_3 nor T_4 can make progress — executing **lock-S**(*B*) causes T_4 to wait for T_3 to release its lock on *B*, while executing **lock-X**(*A*) causes T_3 to wait for T_4 to release its lock on *A*.
- Such a situation is called a **deadlock**.
  - ★ To handle a deadlock one of T_3 or T_4 must be rolled back and its locks released.



Pitfalls of Lock-Based Protocols (Cont.)

- The potential for deadlock exists in most locking protocols. Deadlocks are a necessary evil.
- **Starvation** is also possible if concurrency control manager is badly designed. For example:
  - ★ A transaction may be waiting for an X-lock on an item, while a sequence of other transactions request and are granted an S-lock on the same item.
  - ★ The same transaction is repeatedly rolled back due to deadlocks.
- Concurrency control manager can be designed to prevent starvation.

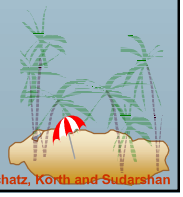


The Two-Phase Locking Protocol

- This is a protocol which ensures conflict-serializable schedules.
- Phase 1: Growing Phase
  - ★ transaction may obtain locks
  - ★ transaction may not release locks
- Phase 2: Shrinking Phase
  - ★ transaction may release locks
  - ★ transaction may not obtain locks
- The protocol assures serializability. It can be proved that the transactions can be serialized in the order of their **lock points** (i.e. the point where a transaction acquired its final lock).

The Two-Phase Locking Protocol (Cont.)

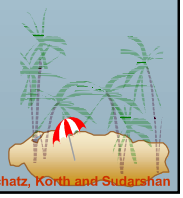
- Two-phase locking *does not* ensure freedom from deadlocks
- Cascading roll-back is possible under two-phase locking. To avoid this, follow a modified protocol called **strict two-phase locking**. Here a transaction must hold all its exclusive locks till it commits/aborts.
- **Rigorous two-phase locking** is even stricter: here *all* locks are held till commit/abort. In this protocol transactions can be serialized in the order in which they commit.



The Two-Phase Locking Protocol (Cont.)

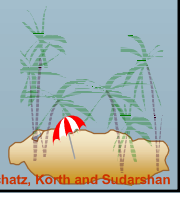
- There can be conflict serializable schedules that cannot be obtained if two-phase locking is used.
- However, in the absence of extra information (e.g., ordering of access to data), two-phase locking is needed for conflict serializability in the following sense:

  Given a transaction T_i that does not follow two-phase locking, we can find a transaction T_j that uses two-phase locking, and a schedule for T_i and T_j that is not conflict serializable.



Lock Conversions

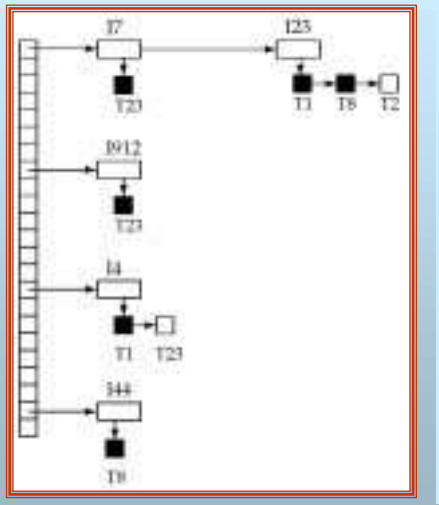
- Two-phase locking with lock conversions:
  - First Phase:
    - ★ can acquire a **lock-S** on item
    - ★ can acquire a **lock-X** on item
    - ★ can convert a **lock-S** to a **lock-X** (**upgrade**)
  - Second Phase:
    - ★ can release a **lock-S**
    - ★ can release a **lock-X**
    - ★ can convert a **lock-X** to a **lock-S** (**downgrade**)
- This protocol assures serializability. But still relies on the programmer to insert the various locking instructions.



Implementation of Locking

- A **Lock manager** can be implemented as a separate process to which transactions send lock and unlock requests
- The lock manager replies to a lock request by sending a lock grant messages (or a message asking the transaction to roll back, in case of a deadlock)
- The requesting transaction waits until its request is answered
- The lock manager maintains a datastructure called a **lock table** to record granted locks and pending requests
- The lock table is usually implemented as an in-memory hash table indexed on the name of the data item being locked

Lock Table



- Black rectangles indicate granted locks, white ones indicate waiting requests
- Lock table also records the type of lock granted or requested
- New request is added to the end of the queue of requests for the data item, and granted if it is compatible with all earlier locks
- Unlock requests result in the request being deleted, and later requests are checked to see if they can now be granted
- If transaction aborts, all waiting or granted requests of the transaction are deleted
  - ★ lock manager may keep a list of locks held by each transaction, to implement this efficiently

Graph-Based Protocols (Cont.)

- The tree protocol ensures conflict serializability as well as freedom from deadlock.
- Unlocking may occur earlier in the tree-locking protocol than in the two-phase locking protocol.
  - shorter waiting times, and increase in concurrency
  - protocol is deadlock-free, no rollbacks are required
  - the abort of a transaction can still lead to cascading rollbacks.

    (this correction has to be made in the book also.)
- However, in the tree-locking protocol, a transaction may have to lock data items that it does not access.
  - increased locking overhead, and additional waiting time
  - potential decrease in concurrency
- Schedules not possible under two-phase locking are possible under tree protocol, and vice versa.

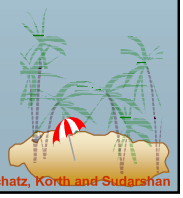
Timestamp-Based Protocols

- Each transaction is issued a timestamp when it enters the system. If an old transaction T_i has time-stamp TS(T_i), a new transaction T_j is assigned time-stamp TS(T_j) such that TS(T_i) <TS(T_j).
- The protocol manages concurrent execution such that the time-stamps determine the serializability order.
- In order to assure such behavior, the protocol maintains for each data Q two timestamp values:
  - **W-timestamp**(Q) is the largest time-stamp of any transaction that executed **write**(Q) successfully.
  - **R-timestamp**(Q) is the largest time-stamp of any transaction that executed **read**(Q) successfully.

Timestamp-Based Protocols (Cont.)

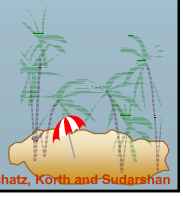
- The timestamp ordering protocol ensures that any conflicting **read** and **write** operations are executed in timestamp order.
- Suppose a transaction T_i issues a **read**(Q)

1. If TS(T_i) ≤ **W**-timestamp(Q), then T_i needs to read a value of Q that was already overwritten. Hence, the **read** operation is rejected, and T_i is rolled back.
2. If TS(T_i)≥ **W**-timestamp(Q), then the **read** operation is executed, and R-timestamp(Q) is set to the maximum of R-timestamp(Q) and TS(T_i).



Timestamp-Based Protocols (Cont.)

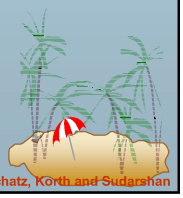
- Suppose that transaction T_i issues **write**(Q).
- If TS(T_i) < R-timestamp(Q), then the value of Q that T_i is producing was needed previously, and the system assumed that that value would never be produced. Hence, the **write** operation is rejected, and T_i is rolled back.
- If TS(T_i) < W-timestamp(Q), then T_i is attempting to write an obsolete value of Q. Hence, this **write** operation is rejected, and T_i is rolled back.
- Otherwise, the **write** operation is executed, and W-timestamp(Q) is set to TS(T_i).



Example Use of the Protocol

A partial schedule for several data items for transactions with timestamps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	T_5
				read(X)
read(Y)	read(Y)			
		write(Y)		
		write(Z)		
				read(Z)
	read(X)			
	abort			
read(X)				
		write(Z)		
		abort		
				write(Y)
				write(Z)

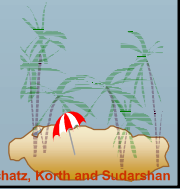


Correctness of Timestamp-Ordering Protocol

- The timestamp-ordering protocol guarantees serializability since all the arcs in the precedence graph are of the form:

Thus, there will be no cycles in the precedence graph

- Timestamp protocol ensures freedom from deadlock as no transaction ever waits.
- But the schedule may not be cascade-free, and may not even be recoverable.



Recoverability and Cascade Freedom

- Problem with timestamp-ordering protocol:
  - Suppose T_i aborts, but T_j has read a data item written by T_i
  - Then T_j must abort; if T_j had been allowed to commit earlier, the schedule is not recoverable.
  - Further, any transaction that has read a data item written by T_j must abort
  - This can lead to cascading rollback --- that is, a chain of rollbacks
- Solution:
  - A transaction is structured such that its writes are all performed at the end of its processing
  - All writes of a transaction form an atomic action; no transaction may execute while a transaction is being written
  - A transaction that aborts is restarted with a new timestamp

Thomas' Write Rule

- Modified version of the timestamp-ordering protocol in which obsolete **write** operations may be ignored under certain circumstances.
- When T_i attempts to write data item Q, if TS(T_i) < W-timestamp(Q), then T_i is attempting to write an obsolete value of {Q}. Hence, rather than rolling back T_i as the timestamp ordering protocol would have done, this {**write**} operation can be ignored.
- Otherwise this protocol is the same as the timestamp ordering protocol.
- Thomas' Write Rule allows greater potential concurrency. Unlike previous protocols, it allows some view-serializable schedules that are not conflict-serializable.

Deadlock Handling

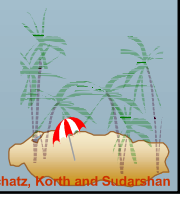
- Consider the following two transactions:

  T_1: write (X) T_2: write(Y)

  write(Y) write(X)

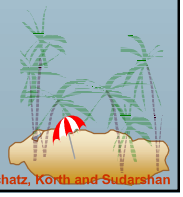
- Schedule with deadlock

T_1	T_2
lock-X on X write (X)	
	lock-X on Y write (X) wait for **lock-X** on X
wait for **lock-X** on Y	



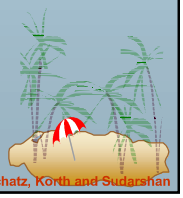
Deadlock Handling

- System is deadlocked if there is a set of transactions such that every transaction in the set is waiting for another transaction in the set.
- ***Deadlock prevention*** protocols ensure that the system will *never* enter into a deadlock state. Some prevention strategies :
  - ★ Require that each transaction locks all its data items before it begins execution (predeclaration).
  - ★ Impose partial ordering of all data items and require that a transaction can lock data items only in the order specified by the partial order (graph-based protocol).



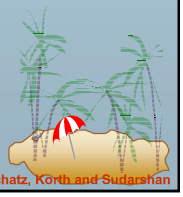
More Deadlock Prevention Strategies

- Following schemes use transaction timestamps for the sake of deadlock prevention alone.
- **wait-die** scheme — non-preemptive
  - ★ older transaction may wait for younger one to release data item. Younger transactions never wait for older ones; they are rolled back instead.
  - ★ a transaction may die several times before acquiring needed data item
- **wound-wait** scheme — preemptive
  - ★ older transaction *wounds* (forces rollback) of younger transaction instead of waiting for it. Younger transactions may wait for older ones.
  - ★ may be fewer rollbacks than *wait-die* scheme.



Deadlock prevention (Cont.)

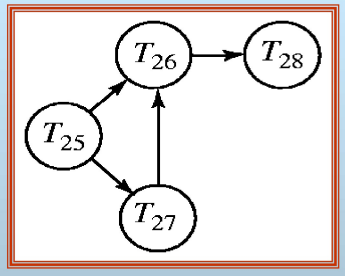
- Both in *wait-die* and in *wound-wait* schemes, a rolled back transactions is restarted with its original timestamp. Older transactions thus have precedence over newer ones, and starvation is hence avoided.
- Timeout-Based Schemes :
  - ★ a transaction waits for a lock only for a specified amount of time. After that, the wait times out and the transaction is rolled back.
  - ★ thus deadlocks are not possible
  - ★ simple to implement; but starvation is possible. Also difficult to determine good value of the timeout interval.



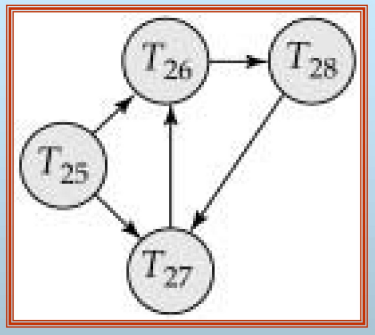
Deadlock Detection

- Deadlocks can be described as a *wait-for graph*, which consists of a pair $G = (V,E)$,
  - V is a set of vertices (all the transactions in the system)
  - E is a set of edges; each element is an ordered pair $T_i \rightarrow T_j$.
- If $T_i \rightarrow T_j$ is in E, then there is a directed edge from T_i to T_j, implying that T_i is waiting for T_j to release a data item.
- When T_i requests a data item currently being held by T_j, then the edge T_i T_j is inserted in the wait-for graph. This edge is removed only when T_j is no longer holding a data item needed by T_i.
- The system is in a deadlock state if and only if the wait-for graph has a cycle. Must invoke a deadlock-detection algorithm periodically to look for cycles.

Deadlock Detection (Cont.)



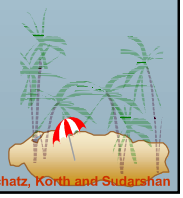
Wait-for graph without a cycle



Wait-for graph with a cycle

Deadlock Recovery

- When deadlock is detected :
  - Some transaction will have to rolled back (made a victim) to break deadlock. Select that transaction as victim that will incur minimum cost.
  - Rollback -- determine how far to roll back transaction
    - Total rollback: Abort the transaction and then restart it.
    - More effective to roll back transaction only as far as necessary to break deadlock.
  - Starvation happens if same transaction is always chosen as victim. Include the number of rollbacks in the cost factor to avoid starvation



Insert and Delete Operations

- If two-phase locking is used :
  - A **delete** operation may be performed only if the transaction deleting the tuple has an exclusive lock on the tuple to be deleted.
  - A transaction that inserts a new tuple into the database is given an X-mode lock on the tuple
- Insertions and deletions can lead to the **phantom phenomenon**.
  - A transaction that scans a relation (e.g., find all accounts in Perryridge) and a transaction that inserts a tuple in the relation (e.g., insert a new account at Perryridge) may conflict in spite of not accessing any tuple in common.
  - If only tuple locks are used, non-serializable schedules can result: the scan transaction may not see the new account, yet may be serialized before the insert transaction.