

# Principles of Computer Systems Design

## Assignment 2

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### Question 1: Recovery Concepts

**1. In a system implementing force and no-steal, is it necessary to implement a scheme for redo? What about a scheme for undo? Explain why.**

In a system like this we do not have to implement a scheme for redo because the force approach is used, which according to the theory means that we do not have to redo the changes of a committed transaction if there is a subsequent crash. As a result because all these changes are guaranteed to have been written to disk at commit time.

If a no-steal approach is used, we also do not have to undo the changes of an aborted transaction (because these changes have not been written to disk),

**2. What is the difference between nonvolatile and stable storage? What types of failures are survived by each type of storage?**

**3. In a system that implements Write-Ahead Logging, which are the two situations in which the log tail must be forced to stable storage? Explain why log forces are necessary in these situations and argue why they are sufficient for durability.**

### Question 2: ARIES

#### Scenario 1

Because  $T_1$  finishes before  $T_3$  starts, the 1<sup>st</sup> condition holds. We have to check that the 2<sup>nd</sup> condition holds for  $T_2$  and  $T_3$ , but because  $T_2$  writes the object that  $T_3$  reads from, this condition does not hold. Therefore  $T_3$  has to *rollback*.

## Scenario 2

The 2<sup>nd</sup> validation condition does not hold for  $T_1$  and  $T_3$  because  $T_1$  writes to object 3 and  $T_3$  reads from it. Therefore  $T_3$  has to rollback. We can observe that the 3<sup>rd</sup> holds for  $T_2$ , because  $T_3$  does not access object 8.

## Scenario 3

The only object that  $T_1$  writes to is object 4 and because  $T_3$  does not read or write to that object, the 2<sup>nd</sup> validation condition holds. Then we check if the 2<sup>nd</sup> condition holds for  $T_2$  and  $T_3$ .  $T_2$  only writes to object 6 and  $T_3$  does not access that object in any way, therefore  $T_3$  can commit.

## Programming Task

For the implementation of the locking protocol used in the `ConcurrentCertainBookStore` we used the `ReentrantReadWriteLock` class available in the `java.util.concurrent.locks` package.

A `ReentrantLock` is owned by the thread last successfully locking, but not yet unlocking it. A thread invoking lock will return, successfully acquiring the lock, when the lock is not owned by another thread. The method will return immediately if the current thread already owns the lock.

The `ReentrantReadWriteLock` allows both readers and writers to reacquire read or write locks in the style of a `ReentrantLock`. Non-reentrant readers are not allowed until all write locks held by the writing thread have been released. Additionally, a writer can acquire the read lock, but not vice-versa. Among other applications, reentrancy can be useful when write locks are held during calls or callbacks to methods that perform reads under read locks. If a reader tries to acquire the write lock it will never succeed.

We implemented the strict two-phase locking (S2PL) by requiring a write lock when modifying the data at the start of the method. Some methods only require read locks such as `getBooks` and `getBooksInDemand`.

Lock type	read-lock	write-lock
read-lock		X
write-lock	X	X

Table 1: Lock compatibility table

## Testing

The testing has been performed locally. Every client has been emulated as a `Thread` that uses the helper classes that have implemented the `Runnable` interface. By creating different threads

we manage to satisfy the requests concurrently.

We have implemented the 2 required tests that were presented in the assignment text and added 2 of our own that handled the posting of *ratings* and getting the *top rated books*.

Our two tests test the behavior of adding two or more ratings concurrently and checking a hardcoded value. The assertion returns true in both tests.

## Discussion on the Concurrent Implementation of Bookstore

**Is your locking protocol correct? Why? Argue for the correctness of your protocol by equivalence to a variant of 2PL.**

Our protocol is implemented by using the conservative S2PL by acquiring a lock at the beginning of each method and releasing it before the method returns.

**Can your locking protocol lead to deadlocks? Explain why or why not.**

The deadlock cannot occur because we acquire the locks right at the start of the methods, transforming every call into an *atomic* one. This approach impacts the performance by lowering concurrency, but ultimately assures proper synchronization.

**Is/are there any scalability bottleneck/s with respect to the number of clients in the bookstore after your implementation? If so, where is/are the bottleneck/s and why? If not, why can we infinitely scale the number of clients accessing this service?**

Scalability is a problem because *we lock the entire datastore* when we are modifying the database. We have taken into account the difference between readers and writers and we allow for multiple reads but not for multiple writes. A solution to this problem would be the fact that we acquire writing locks on the table entry level. For example, if a client modifies the stock of a book in the book store, we should not wait for the stock update when adding a rating.

**Discuss the overhead being paid in the locking protocol in the implementation vs. the degree of concurrency you expect your protocol to achieve.**

It is safe to assume that the overhead is not that big. Because we are dealing with a bookstore, the customers that *get and read* more information about the books are more frequent, compared to the buyers that *modify and change* the bookstore's stock and ratings. Our locking protocol is suitable enough for providing adequate isolation and performance.