Concurrency Control

Chapter 19

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

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)

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

Dependency Graph

- 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

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.
**View Serializability**

- Schedules S1 and S2 are view equivalent if:
  - If Ti reads initial value of A in S1, then Ti also reads initial value of A in S2
  - If Ti reads value of A written by Tj in S1, then Ti also reads value of A written by Tj in S2
  - If Ti writes final value of A in S1, then Ti also writes final value of A in S2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T1: R(A) W(A)</th>
<th>T2: W(A)</th>
<th>T3: W(A)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**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 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

**Lock Management**

- Lock and unlock requests are handled by the lock manager
- Lock table entry:
  - Number of 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

**Deadlock Prevention**

- Assign priorities based on timestamps. Assume Ti wants a lock that Tj holds. Two policies are possible:
  - Wait-Die: If 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 (Continued)**

Example:

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

T1 T2
T4 T3
T1 T2
T3 T3
Multiple-Granularity Locks

- Hard to decide what granularity to lock (tuples vs. pages vs. tables).
- Shouldn’t have to decide!
- Data “containers” are nested:
  
 contains
  
  Database
  Tables
  Pages
  Tuples

Solution: New Lock Modes, Protocol

- Allow Xacts to lock at each level, but with a special protocol using new “intention” locks:
- Before locking an item, Xact must set “intention locks” on all its ancestors.
- For unlock, go from specific to general (i.e., bottom-up).
- SIX mode: Like S & IX at the same time.

Multiple Granularity Lock Protocol

- Each Xact starts from the root of the hierarchy.
- To get S or IS lock on a node, must hold IS or IX on parent node.
  – What if Xact holds SIX on parent? S on parent?
- To get X or IX or SIX on a node, must hold IX or SIX on parent node.
- Must release locks in bottom-up order.

Examples

- T1 scans R, and updates a few tuples:
  – T1 gets an SIX lock on R, then repeatedly gets an S lock on tuples of R, and occasionally upgrades to X on the tuples.
- T2 uses an index to read only part of R:
  – T2 gets an IS lock on R, and repeatedly gets an S lock on tuples of R.
- T3 reads all of R:
  – T3 gets an S lock on R.
  – OR, T3 could behave like T2; can use lock escalation to decide which.

Dynamic Databases

- If we relax the assumption that the DB is a fixed collection of objects, even Strict 2PL will not assure serializability:
  – T1 locks all pages containing sailor records with rating = 1, and finds oldest sailor (say, age = 71).
  – Next, T2 inserts a new sailor; rating = 1, age = 96.
  – T2 also deletes oldest sailor with rating = 2 (and, say, age = 80), and commits.
  – T1 now locks all pages containing sailor records with rating = 2, and finds oldest (say, age = 63).
- No consistent DB state where T1 is “correct”!

The Problem

- T1 implicitly assumes that it has locked the set of all sailor records with rating = 1.
  – Assumption only holds if no sailor records are added while T1 is executing!
  – Need some mechanism to enforce this assumption. (Index locking and predicate locking.)
- Example shows that conflict serializability guarantees serializability only if the set of objects is fixed!
Index Locking

- If there is a dense index on the rating field using Alternative (2), T1 should lock the index page containing the data entries with rating = 1.
  - If there are no records with rating = 1, T1 must lock the index page where such a data entry would be, if it existed!
- If there is no suitable index, T1 must lock all pages, and lock the file/table to prevent new pages from being added, to ensure that no new records with rating = 1 are added.

Predicate Locking

- Grant lock on all records that satisfy some logical predicate, e.g., age > 2 * salary.
- Index locking is a special case of predicate locking for which an index supports efficient implementation of the predicate lock.
  - What is the predicate in the sailor example?
- In general, predicate locking has a lot of locking overhead.

Locking in B+ Trees

- How can we efficiently lock a particular leaf node?
  - Btw, don’t confuse this with multiple granularity locking!
- One solution: Ignore the tree structure, just lock pages while traversing the tree, following 2PL.
  - This has terrible performance!
  - Root node (and many higher level nodes) become bottlenecks because every tree access begins at the root.

Two Useful Observations

- Higher levels of the tree only direct searches for leaf pages.
- For inserts, a node on a path from root to modified leaf must be locked (in X mode, of course), only if a split can propagate up to it from the modified leaf. (Similar point holds w.r.t. deletes.)
- We can exploit these observations to design efficient locking protocols that guarantee serializability even though they violate 2PL.

A Simple Tree Locking Algorithm

- Search: Start at root and go down; repeatedly, S lock child then unlock parent.
- Insert/Delete: Start at root and go down, obtaining X locks as needed. Once child is locked, check if it is safe:
  - If child is safe, release all locks on ancestors.
- Safe node: Node such that changes will not propagate up beyond this node.
  - Inserts: Node is not full.
  - Deletes: Node is not half-empty.

Example

```
ROOT
  A
  B
  F
  G
  H
  I
  D
  E

20° 22° 23° 28° 35° 36° 38° 41° 44°
```
A Better Tree Locking Algorithm (See Bayer-Schkolnick paper)

- Search: As before.
- Insert/Delete:
  - Set locks as if for search, get to leaf, and set X lock on leaf.
  - If leaf is not safe, release all locks, and restart Xact using previous Insert/Delete protocol.
- Gamble that only leaf node will be modified; if not, S locks set on the first pass to leaf are wasteful. In practice, better than previous alg.

Even Better Algorithm

- Search: As before.
- Insert/Delete:
  - Use original Insert/Delete protocol, but set IX locks instead of X locks at all nodes.
  - Once leaf is locked, convert all IX locks to X locks top-down: i.e., starting from node nearest to root. (Top-down reduces chances of deadlock.)
  - Contrast use of IX locks here with their use in multiple-granularity locking.

Hybrid Algorithm

- The likelihood that we really need an X lock decreases as we move up the tree.
- Hybrid approach:
  - Set S locks
  - Set SIX locks
  - Set X locks

Optimistic CC (Kung-Robinson)

- 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.

Kung-Robinson 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. (Why then?)
- 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.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Ti} & \text{R} & \text{V} & \text{W} \\
\text{Tj} & \text{R} & \text{V} & \text{W}
\end{array}
\]

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.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Ti} & \text{R} & \text{V} & \text{W} \\
\text{Tj} & \text{R} & \text{V} & \text{W}
\end{array}
\]

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.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Ti} & \text{R} & \text{V} & \text{W} \\
\text{Tj} & \text{R} & \text{V} & \text{W}
\end{array}
\]

Applying Tests 1 & 2: Serial Validation

- To validate Xact T:

```
valid = true;
// S = set of Xacts that committed after Begin(T)
< foreach Ts in S do {
  if ReadSet(Ts) does not intersect WriteSet(Ts)
    then valid = false;
  }
  if valid then { install updates; // Write phase
    Commit T } >
  else Restart T >
```

Comments on Serial Validation

- Applies Test 2, with T playing the role of Tj and each Xact in Ts (in turn) being Ti.
- Assignment of Xact id, validation, and the Write phase are inside a critical section!
  - I.e., Nothing else goes on concurrently.
  - If Write phase is long, major drawback.
- Optimization for Read-only Xacts:
  - Don’t need critical section (because there is no Write phase).
Serial Validation (Contd.)

- Multistage serial validation: Validate in stages, at each stage validating T against a subset of the Xacts that committed after Begin(T).
  - Only last stage has to be inside critical section.
- Starvation: Run starving Xact in a critical section (!!!)
- Space for WriteSets: To validate Tj, must have WriteSets for all Ti where Ti < Tj and Ti was active when Tj began. There may be many such Xacts, and we may run out of space.
  - Tj's validation fails if it requires a missing WriteSet.
  - No problem if Xact ids assigned at start of Read phase.

Overheads in Optimistic CC

- Must record read/write activity in ReadSet and WriteSet per Xact.
  - Must create and destroy these sets as needed.
- Must check for conflicts during validation, and must make validated writes “global”.
  - Critical section can reduce concurrency.
  - Scheme for making writes global can reduce clustering of objects.
- Optimistic CC restarts Xacts that fail validation.
  - Work done so far is wasted; requires clean-up.

``Optimistic’’ 2PL

- If desired, we can do the following:
  - Set S locks as usual.
  - Make changes to private copies of objects.
  - Obtain all X locks at end of Xact, make writes local, then release all locks.
- In contrast to Optimistic CC as in Kung-Robinson, this scheme results in Xacts being blocked, waiting for locks.
  - However, no validation phase, no restarts (modulo deadlocks).

Timestamp CC

- Idea: Give each object a read-timestamp (RTS) and a write-timestamp (WTS), give each Xact a timestamp (TS) when it begins:
  - 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! Contrast use of timestamps in 2PL for deadlock prevention.)
- 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.
### Timestamp CC and Recoverability

- Unfortunately, unrecoverable schedules are allowed.
- Timestamp CC can be modified to allow only recoverable schedules:
  - Buffer all writes until writer commits (but update WTS(O) when the write is allowed.)
  - Block readers T (where TS(T) > WTS(O)) until writer of O commits.
- Similar to writers holding X locks until commit, but still not quite 2PL.

### Multiversion Timestamp CC

- **Idea:** Let writers make a “new” copy while readers use an appropriate “old” copy:
  - Main segment (current versions of DB objects)
  - Version pool (older versions that may be useful for some active readers)
  - Readers are always allowed to proceed.
    - But may be blocked until writer commits.

### Multiversion CC (Contd.)

- Each version of an object has its writer’s TS as its WTS, and the TS of the Xact that most recently read this version as its RTS.
- Versions are chained backward; we can discard versions that are “too old to be of interest”.
- Each Xact is classified as Reader or Writer.
  - Writer may write some object; Reader never will.
  - Xact declares whether it is a Reader when it begins.

### Reader Xact

- For each object to be read:
  - Finds newest version V s.t. WTS < TS(T).
  - If RTS(V) < TS(T), T makes a copy CV of V, with a pointer to V, with WTS(CV) = TS(T), RTS(CV) = TS(T). (Write is buffered until T commits; other Xacts can see TS values but can’t read version CV.)
  - Else, reject write.

### Writer Xact

- To read an object, follows reader protocol.
- To write an object:
  - Finds newest version V s.t. WTS < TS(T).
  - If RTS(V) < TS(T), T makes a copy CV of V, with a pointer to V, with WTS(CV) = TS(T), RTS(CV) = TS(T). (Write is buffered until T commits; other Xacts can see TS values but can’t read version CV.)
  - Else, reject write.

### Transaction Support in SQL-92

- Each transaction has an access mode, a diagnostics size, and an isolation level.
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.
❖ Naïve locking strategies may have the phantom problem.

Summary (Contd.)

❖ Index locking is common, and affects performance significantly.
  – Needed when accessing records via index.
  – Needed for locking logical sets of records (index locking/predicate locking).
❖ Tree-structured indexes:
  – Straightforward use of 2PL very inefficient.
  – Bayer-Schkolnick illustrates potential for improvement.
❖ In practice, better techniques now known; do record-level, rather than page-level locking.

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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.