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Transaction

A transaction is a collection of actions that make consistent transformations of system states while preserving system consistency.

concurrency transparency

failure transparency



Transaction Example – A Simple SQL Query

Transaction BUDGET_UPDATE

begin EXEC SQL UPDATE PROJ SET BUDGET = BUDGET*1.1 WHERE PNAME = "CAD/CAM"

end.

Example Database

Consider an airline reservation example with the relations:

FLIGHT(FNO, DATE, SRC, DEST, STSOLD, CAP) CUST(CNAME, ADDR, BAL) FC(FNO, DATE, CNAME, SPECIAL)

Example Transaction – SQL Version

Begin_transaction Reservation
begin
input(flight_no, date, customer_name);
EXEC SQL UPDATE FLIGHT
 SET STSOLD = STSOLD + 1
 WHERE FNO = flight_no AND DATE = date;
EXEC SQL INSERT
 INTO FC(FNO, DATE, CNAME, SPECIAL);
 VALUES(flight_no, date, customer_name, null);
output("reservation completed")
end . {Reservation}

Termination of Transactions

```
Begin transaction Reservation
begin
input(flight no, date, customer name);
EXEC SQL SELECT STSOLD, CAP
    INTO temp1,temp2
    FROM FLIGHT
    WHERE FNO = flight no AND DATE = date;
if temp1 = temp2 then
output("no free seats");
Abort
else
EXEC SQL UPDATE FLIGHT
       SET STSOLD = STSOLD + 1
       WHERE FNO = flight no AND DATE = date;
EXEC SQL INSERT
       INTO FC(FNO, DATE, CNAME, SPECIAL);
       VALUES (flight no, date, customer name, null);
  Commit
  output("reservation completed")
  endif
end. {Reservation}
```

Example Transaction – Reads & Writes

Begin transaction Reservation begin **input**(flight no, date, customer name); if temp = flight(date).cap then begin output("no free seats"); Abort end else begin Write(flight(date).stsold, temp + 1); Write(flight(date).cname, customer name); Write(flight(date).special, null); Commit; **output**("reservation completed") end

end. {Reservation}

Characterization

• Read set (RS)

The set of data items that are read by a transaction

• Write set (WS)

The set of data items whose values are changed by this transaction

Base set (BS)

 $\mathsf{RS} \cup \mathsf{WS}$

RS[Reservation] = {FLIGHT.STSOLD, FLIGHT.CAP} WS[Reservation] = {FLIGHT.STSOLD, FC.FNO, FC.DATE, FC.CNAME, FC.SPECIAL} BS[Reservation] = {FLIGHT.STSOLD, FLIGHT.CAP, FC.FNO, FC.DATE, FC.CNAME, FC.SPECIAL}

Formalization

Let

 $O_{ij}(x)$ be some operation O_j of transaction T_i operating on entity x, where $O_j \in \{\text{read}, \text{write}\}$ and O_j is atomic

$$OS_i = \bigcup_j O_{ij}$$

 $N_i \in \{abort, commit\}$

Transaction T_i is a partial order $T_i = \{\Sigma_i, \prec_i\}$ where

$$\Sigma_i = OS_i \cup \{N_i\}$$

- Por any two operations O_{ij} , $O_{ik} \in OS_i$, if $O_{ij} = R(x)|W(x)$ and $O_{ik} = W(x)$ for any data item x, then either $O_{ij} <_i O_{ik}$ or $O_{ik} <_i O_{ij}$
- $O_{ij} \in OS_i, O_{ij} \prec_i N_i$

Example

Consider a transaction T:

Read(x) Read(y) $x \leftarrow x + y$ Write(x) Commit

Then $\Sigma = \{R(x), R(y), W(x), C\}$ $\prec = \{(R(x), W(x)), (R(y), W(x)), (W(x), C), (R(x), C), (R(y), C)\}$

DAG Representation

Assume

 $< = \{ (R(x), W(x)), (R(y), W(x)), (W(x), C), (R(x), C), (R(y), C) \}$



Principles of Transactions



all or nothing



no violation of integrity constraints

SOLATION

concurrent changes invisible \Rightarrow serializable

URABILITY

committed updates persist

Atomicity

- Either all or none of the transaction's operations are performed.
- Atomicity requires that if a transaction is interrupted by a failure, its partial results must be undone.
- The activity of preserving the transaction's atomicity in presence of transaction aborts due to input errors, system overloads, or deadlocks is called transaction recovery.
- The activity of ensuring atomicity in the presence of system crashes is called crash recovery.

Consistency

Internal consistency

A transaction which executes alone against a consistent database leaves it in a consistent state.

Transactions do not violate database integrity constraints.

Transactions are correct programs

Consistency Degrees

• Degree 0

Transaction T does not overwrite dirty data of other transactions

Dirty data refers to data values that have been updated by a transaction prior to its commitment

Degree 1

T does not overwrite dirty data of other transactions

T does not commit any writes before EOT

Consistency Degrees (cont'd)

• Degree 2

- T does not overwrite dirty data of other transactions
- T does not commit any writes before EOT
- T does not read dirty data from other transactions

• Degree 3

- T does not overwrite dirty data of other transactions
- T does not commit any writes before EOT
- T does not read dirty data from other transactions
- Other transactions do not dirty any data read by T before T completes.

Isolation

Serializability

If several transactions are executed concurrently, the results must be the same as if they were executed serially in some order.

Incomplete results

An incomplete transaction cannot reveal its results to other transactions before its commitment.

Necessary to avoid cascading aborts.

Isolation Example

Consider the following two transactions:

1:	Read(x)7	r_2 : Read(x)
	$x \leftarrow x+1$	$x \leftarrow x+1$
	Write(x)	Write(x)
	Commit	Commit

Possible execution sequences:

T_1 :	Read(x)	T_1 :	Read(x)
T_1 :	$x \leftarrow x+1$	T_1 :	$x \leftarrow x+1$
T_1 :	Write(x)	<i>T</i> ₂ :	Read(x)
T_1 :	Commit	T_1 :	Write(x)
T_2 :	Read(x)	T_2 :	$x \leftarrow x+1$
<i>T</i> ₂ :	$x \leftarrow x+1$	T_2 :	Write(x)
T_2 :	Write(x)	T_1 :	Commit
T ₂ :	Commit	T_2 :	Commit

SQL-92 Isolation Levels

Phenomena:

Dirty read

 T_1 modifies x which is then read by T_2 before T_1 terminates; T_1 aborts $\Rightarrow T_2$ has read value which never exists in the database.

...,
$$W_1(x), \ldots, R_2(x), \ldots, C_1(\text{or } A_1), \ldots, C_2(\text{or } A_2)$$

or

$$\dots, W_1(x), \dots, R_2(x), \dots, C_2(\text{or } A_2), \dots, C_1(\text{or } A_1)$$

SQL-92 Isolation Levels

Phenomena:

Non-repeatable (fuzzy) read

 T_1 reads x; T_2 then modifies or deletes x and commits. T_1 tries to read x again but reads a different value or can't find it.

...,
$$R_1(x)$$
, ..., $W_2(x)$, ..., $C_1(\text{or } A_1)$, ..., $C_2(\text{or } A_2)$

or

 $\dots, R_1(x), \dots, W_2(x), \dots, C_2(\text{or } A_2), \dots, C_1(\text{or } A_1)$

SQL-92 Isolation Levels

Phenomena:

Phantom

 T_1 searches the database according to a predicate while T_2 inserts new tuples that satisfy the predicate.

$$\dots, R_1(P), \dots, W_2(y \text{ in } P), \dots, C_1(or A_1), \dots, C_2(or A_2)$$

or

...,
$$R_1(P)$$
,..., $W_2(y \text{ in } P)$,..., $C_2(\text{ or } A_2)$,..., $C_1(\text{ or } A_1)$

SQL-92 Isolation Levels (cont'd)

Read Uncommitted

For transactions operating at this level, all three phenomena are possible.

- Read Committed
 - Fuzzy reads and phantoms are possible, but dirty reads are not.

Repeatable Read

Only phantoms possible.

Anomaly Serializable

None of the phenomena are possible.

Durability

- Once a transaction commits, the system must guarantee that the results of its operations will never be lost, in spite of subsequent failures.
- Database recovery

Characterization of Transactions

Based on

Application areas

- Non-distributed vs. distributed
- Compensating transactions
- Heterogeneous transactions

Timing

- On-line (short-life) vs batch (long-life)
- Organization of read and write actions
- Two-step
- Restricted
- Action model

Structure

- Flat (or simple) transactions
- Nested transactions
- Workflows

General:

 $T_1: \{R(x), R(y), W(y), R(z), W(x), W(z), W(w), C\}$

Two-step:

 $T_2: \{R(x), R(y), R(z), W(x), W(z), W(y), W(w), C\}$

Restricted:

 $T_3: \{R(x), R(y), W(y), R(z), W(x), W(z), R(w), W(w), C\}$

 $T_4: \{R(x), R(y), R(z), R(w), W(x), W(z), W(y), W(w), C\}$

Action:

 $T_5: \{ [R(x), W(x)], [R(y), W(y)], [R(z), W(z)], [R(w), W(w)], C \}$

Transaction Structure

Flat transaction

Consists of a sequence of primitive operations embraced between a **begin** and **end** markers. Begin_transaction Reservation

end.

Nested transaction

The operations of a transaction may themselves be transactions. Begin_transaction Reservation

Begin_transaction Airline

end. {Airline}
Begin_transaction Hotel

```
end. {Hotel}
end. {Reservation}
```

Nested Transactions

- Have the same properties as their parents have other nested transactions.
- Introduces concurrency control and recovery concepts to within the transaction.
- Types
 - **Closed** nesting
 - Subtransactions begin after their parents and finish before them.
 - Commitment of a subtransaction is conditional upon the commitment of the parent (commitment through the root).
 - Open nesting
 - Subtransactions can execute and commit independently.
 - Compensation may be necessary.

Workflows

• "A collection of tasks organized to accomplish some business process."

Types

- Human-oriented workflows
- Involve humans in performing the tasks.
- System support for collaboration and coordination; but no system-wide consistency definition

System-oriented workflows

- Computation-intensive & specialized tasks that can be executed by a computer
- System support for concurrency control and recovery, automatic task execution, notification, etc.

Transactional workflows

 In between the previous two; may involve humans, require access to heterogeneous, autonomous and/or distributed systems, and support selective use of ACID properties

Workflow Example



 T_1 : Customer request obtained T_2 : Airline reservation performed T_3 : Hotel reservation performed T_4 : Auto reservation performed T_5 : Bill generated

Transactions Provide...

- Atomic and reliable execution in the presence of failures
- Correct execution in the presence of multiple user accesses
- Correct management of replicas (if they support it)

Transaction Processing Issues

- Transaction structure (usually called transaction model)
 Flat (simple), nested
- Internal database consistency
 - Semantic data control (integrity enforcement) algorithms
- Reliability protocols
 - Atomicity & Durability
 - Local recovery protocols
 - Global commit protocols

Transaction Processing Issues

Concurrency control algorithms

How to synchronize concurrent transaction executions (correctness criterion)

Intra-transaction consistency, Isolation

Replica control protocols

How to control the mutual consistency of replicated data

One copy equivalence and ROWA

Architecture Revisited



Centralized Transaction Execution



Distributed Transaction Execution

