Transactional Information Systems:

Theory, Algorithms, and the Practice of Concurrency Control and Recovery

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"Teamwork is essential. It allows you to blame someone else." (Anonymous)



Part I: Background and Motivation

- 1 What Is It All About?
- 2 Computational Models

Chapter 1: What Is It All About?

• 1.2 Application Examples

- 1.3 System Paradigms
- 1.4 Virtues of Transactions
- 1.5 Architecture of Database Servers
- 1.6 Lessons Learned

"If I had had more time, I could written you a shorter letter" (Blaise Pascal)

Application Examples

- OLTP, e.g., funds transfer
- E-commerce, e.g., Internet book store
- Workflow, e.g., travel planning & booking

OLTP Example: Debit/Credit

```
void main () {
 EXEC SOL BEGIN DECLARE SECTION
   int b /*balance*/, a /*accountid*/, amount;
 EXEC SOL END DECLARE SECTION:
 /* read user input */
 scanf ("%d %d", &a, &amount);
 /* read account balance */
 EXEC SQL Select Balance into :b From Account
   Where Account Id = :a;
/* add amount (positive for debit, negative for credit) */
 b = b + amount;
/* write account balance back into database */
 EXEC SQL Update Account
   Set Balance = :b Where Account Id = :a;
 EXEC SQL Commit Work;
```

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OLTP Example 1.1: Concurrent Executions

P1	Time	P2
Select Balance I From Account Where Account	$\mathbf{Id} = \mathbf{ia}$	
	/* b ₁ =0, a.Balance=100, b ₂ =0 */ 2	Select Balance Into :b ₂ From Account Where Account_Id = :a
b1 = b1-50	/* $b_1=100$, a.Balance=100, $b_2=100$ /* $b_1=50$, a.Balance=100, $b_2=100$ * /* $b_1=50$, a.Balance=100, $b_2=200$ *	
Update Account Set Balance = :b Where Account	5 ¹ Id = :a	<i>```</i>
	/* b ₁ =50, a.Balance=50, b ₂ =200 */ 6 /* b ₁ =50, a.Balance=200, b ₂ =200 *	Update Account Set Balance = :b, Where Account_Id = :a

OLTP Example 1.1: Concurrent Executions



Observation: concurrency or parallelism may cause inconsistencies, requires concurrency control for "isolation"

OLTP Example 1.2: Funds Transfer



OLTP Example 1.2: Funds Transfer



Observation: failures may cause inconsistencies, require recovery for "atomicity" and "durability"

E-Commerce Example

Shopping at Internet book store:

- client connects to the book store's server and starts browsing and querying the store's catalog
- client fills electronic shopping cart
- upon check-out client makes decision on items to purchase
- client provides information for definitive order (including credit card or cyber cash info)
- merchant's server forwards payment info to customer's bank credit or card company or cyber cash clearinghouse
- when payment is accepted, shipping of ordered items is initiated by the merchant's server and client is notified

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Observations: distributed, heterogeneous system with general information/document/mail servers and transactional effects on persistent data and messages

Workflow Example

Workflows are (the computerized part of) **business processes**, consisting of a set of (automated or intellectual) **activities** with specified control and data flow between them (e.g., specified as a state chart or Petri net)

Conference travel planning:

- Select a conference, based on subject, program, time, and place. If no suitable conference is found, then the process is terminated.
- Check out the cost of the trip to this conference.
- Check out the registration fee for the conference.
- Compare total cost of attending the conference to allowed budget, and decide to attend only if the cost is within the budget.

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Observations: activities spawn transactions on information servers, workflow state must be failure-resilient, long-lived workflows are not isolated

















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3-Tier System Architectures

• Clients:

presentation (GUI, Internet browser)

- Application server:
 - application programs (business objects, servlets)
 - request brokering (TP monitor, ORB, Web server) based on **middleware** (CORBA, DCOM, EJB, SOAP, etc.)

• Data server:

database / (ADT) object / document / mail / etc. servers

Specialization to 2-Tier Client-Server Architecture:

- Client-server with "fat" clients (app on client + ODBC)
- Client-server with "thin" clients (app on server, e.g., stored proc)

3-Tier Reference Architecture



System Federations



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ACID Properties of Transactions

• Atomicity:

all-or-nothing effect,

simple (but not completely transparent) failure handling

• Consistency-preservation:

transaction abort upon consistency violation

• Isolation:

only consistent data visible as if single-user mode, concurrency is masked to app developers

• Durability (persistence):

committed effects are failure-resilient

Transaction programming interface ("ACID contract")

- begin transaction
- commit transaction ("commit work" in SQL)
- rollback transaction ("rollback work" in SQL)

Requirements on Transactional Servers

Server components:

- Concurrency Control guarantees isolation
- Recovery:

guarantees atomicity and durability

• Performance:

high throughput (committed transactions per second) short response time

• Reliability:

(almost) never lose data despite failures

• Availability:

very short downtime almost continuous, 24x7, service

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Database System Layers



Storage Structures



Access Structures



Search tree interface:

- lookup <index> where <indexed field> = <search key>
- lookup <index> where <indexed field> between <lower bound> and <higher bound>

Query Execution Plans



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Lessons Learned

• Benefits of ACID contract:

- For users: federation-wide data consistency
- For application developers: ease of programming
- Server obligations:
 - Concurrency control
 - Recovery