

Concurrency Control and Recovery in Databases

Outline

- Abstract model that databases try to provide
- Typical data structures used in the database
- Concurrency control and recovery process

Programming Model

- Transaction: unit of program execution that accesses/updates various data items
- It consists all operations between:
 - BEGIN TRANSACTION
 - COMMIT or ABORT (end of the transaction)
- System R provides a few additional actions:
 - SAVE: intermediate results inside a transaction
 - UNDO: rollback to the previous SAVE point
 - READ_SAVE: read the contents of the last SAVE point

Implementing Transactions

- System could fail during a transaction
 - What are the different kinds of failures and which are easy/hard?
- Inconsistent executions due to concurrency:
 - Lost Update: two tasks both modify the same data
 - Inconsistent Read: one task sees some but not all of the changes made by another task
 - Dirty Read: a task reads data updated by another task which will eventually abort

Formalizing Correctness

- **Atomic:** state shows either all the effects of a transaction or none of them
- **Consistent:** transaction moves only between states where integrity holds
- **Isolated:** effects of transactions is the same as transactions running one after another
- **Durable:** once a transaction has committed its effects remain in the database

ACID: Notes

- Consistency: database satisfied integrity constraints
 - Account numbers are unique
 - Sum of debits and credits is zero
- Introduced as a requirement, but today we understand it as a consequence of:
 - correct programs
 - atomicity and isolation guarantees

Serializability

- Conflicting operations:
 - two updates to the same location
 - an update and an access to the same location
- Serializability check:
 - Order conflicting operations from different transactions
 - All ordering constraints between two transactions should go in the same direction (i.e., T1's operations happened before T2's operations or the other way around)
 - When do databases use the serializability check?

Consistency

- Many related concepts in dealing with consistency: serializability, sequential consistency, linearizability, etc.
- Classify them using two factors:
 - Single operation vs. multiple operations in an unit
 - Single shot processing vs. sequencing multiple units of operations

Data Structures

- Two kinds of storage: volatile (memory) and non-volatile (disk)
- Buffer pool: accessed or modified pages in memory
- Pages on disk
 - current version and possibly a shadow version
- Log of operations on disk (typically a write-ahead log)

Stable Storage

- STEAL: buffer manager allows the disk version to be updated even before the transaction is completed
- NO-STEAL: all updates made after the transaction is completed
- FORCE: all updates are reflected on disk before the transaction is allowed to commit
- NO-FORCE: transaction commits before updates are on disk

- Why do we want STEAL? Why do we want NO-FORCE?

Logging

- UNDO: rollback updates on disk for uncommitted transactions
- REDO: make updates to disk for committed transactions
- Log is used to keep track of what to UNDO and REDO
- Log records contain a Log Sequence Number (LSN); data values (on disk) keep track of the LSN of update
- Checkpoint records:
 - currently active transactions
 - dirty pages corresponding to these ongoing transactions

Write Ahead Logging

- All log records pertaining to an updated page are written to disk before the page itself is modified on disk
- Transaction is not considered committed until all of its log records are on disk

Logging

- Two types of logging:
 - Physical: For every log entry, maintain the “before image” and “after image” of the updated data value
 - Logical: Keep track of what operation was performed (say increment of a value, insertion of a new tuple in a list, etc.)
- What are the tradeoffs between the two types of logging?

Locking

- Two approaches to concurrency control:
 - Use locking to ensure mutual access
 - Optimistic concurrency control: don't use lock and check for inconsistencies when the operation commits
- What are the tradeoffs between the two forms of concurrency control?

Locking Concepts

- Well-formed transactions:
 - Transaction holds lock (read or write lock) on the object when it performs the corresponding operation
 - Not sufficient for serializability
- Two-phase locking: transactions have two phases
 - Growing phase: in which transaction is acquiring locks
 - Shrinking phase: in which locks are released
- Need to deal with deadlocks using traditional schemes

Recovery

- Three stages:
 - Analysis
 - REDO phase
 - UNDO phase

Data Structures

- Transaction Table: contains status information of active transactions
- Dirty pages table:
 - entries contain “recoveryLSN”: LSN of log record that made the page dirty
- Log records of a transaction:
 - contain prevLSN linking previous operations of the transaction

Analysis

- Determines the point to start the REDO pass
- Determines which pages could have been dirty at the time of the crash to avoid unnecessary I/O
- Determines which transactions had not committed

REDO

- Minimize disk I/Os
 - If affected page is not on the Dirty Page Table, then don't REDO
 - If affected page is in the Dirty Page Table, then if the recoveryLSN in the page table is greater than the LSN of the record being checked, then don't REDO
 - Check LSN on the page on the disk. If pageLSN is greater than or equal to the LSN, then don't REDO

UNDO

- Go back and unroll all uncommitted transactions
- Handle failures during recovery:
 - Maintain “Compensation Log Record” to keep track of what has been undone
 - Store this also in the log