Introduction to Database Systems
CSE 414

Lecture 24:
Implementation of Transactions

Conflict Serializability

- A schedule is *conflict serializable* if it can be transformed into a serial schedule by a series of swappings of adjacent non-conflicting actions

- Every conflict-serializable schedule is serializable
- The converse is not true (why?)

Testing for Conflict-Serializability

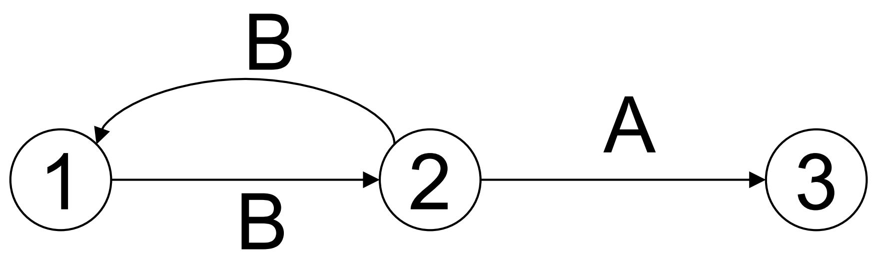
Precedence graph:

- A node for each transaction T_i,
- An edge from T_i to T_j whenever an action in T_i conflicts with, and comes before an action in T_j

- The schedule is conflict-serializable iff the precedence graph is acyclic

Example 2

$r_2(A);\ r_1(B);\ w_2(A);\ r_2(B);\ r_3(A);\ w_1(B);\ w_3(A);\ w_2(B)$



This schedule is NOT conflict-serializable

More Notations

$L_i(A)$ = transaction T_i acquires lock for element A

$U_i(A)$ = transaction T_i releases lock for element A

A Non-Serializable Schedule

T1	T2
READ(A)	
A := A+100	
WRITE(A)	
	READ(A)
	A := A*2
	WRITE(A)
	READ(B)
	B := B*2
	WRITE(B)
READ(B)	
B := B+100	
WRITE(B)	

Example

T1	T2
$L_1(A)$; READ(A)	
A := A+100	
WRITE(A); $U_1(A)$; $L_1(B)$	
	$L_2(A)$; READ(A)
	A := A*2
	WRITE(A); $U_2(A)$;
	$L_2(B)$; BLOCKED…
READ(B)	
B := B+100	
WRITE(B); $U_1(B)$;	
	…GRANTED; READ(B)
	B := B*2
	WRITE(B); $U_2(B)$;

time

Scheduler has ensured a conflict-serializable schedule

But…

T1	T2
$L_1(A)$; READ(A)	
A := A+100	
WRITE(A); $U_1(A)$;	
	$L_2(A)$; READ(A)
	A := A*2
	WRITE(A); $U_2(A)$;
	$L_2(B)$; READ(B)
	B := B*2
	WRITE(B); $U_2(B)$;
$L_1(B)$; READ(B)	
B := B+100	
WRITE(B); $U_1(B)$;	

Locks did not enforce conflict-serializability !!! What's wrong ?

Two Phase Locking (2PL)

The 2PL rule:

In every transaction, all lock requests must precede all unlock requests

Example: 2PL transactions

T1	T2
$L_1(A)$; $L_1(B)$; READ(A)	
A := A+100	
WRITE(A); $U_1(A)$	
	$L_2(A)$; READ(A)
	A := A*2
	WRITE(A);
	$L_2(B)$; BLOCKED…
READ(B)	
B := B+100	
WRITE(B); $U_1(B)$;	
	…GRANTED; READ(B)
	B := B*2
	WRITE(B); $U_2(A)$; $U_2(B)$;

Now it is conflict-serializable

Two Phase Locking (2PL)

Theorem: 2PL ensures conflict serializability

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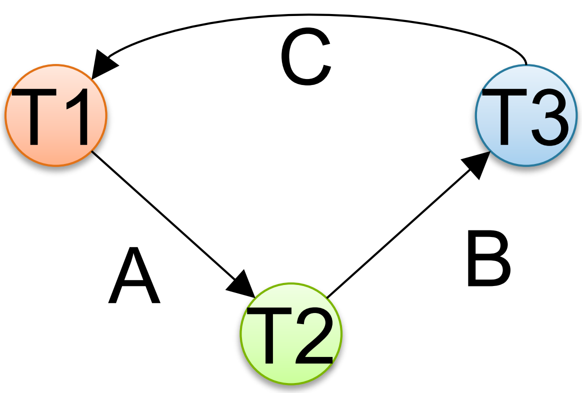
Theorem: 2PL ensures conflict serializability

Proof. Suppose not: then there exists a cycle in the precedence graph.



Two Phase Locking (2PL)

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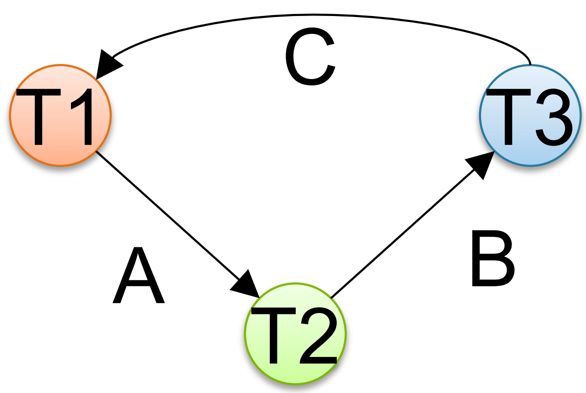

Then there is the following **temporal** cycle in the schedule:

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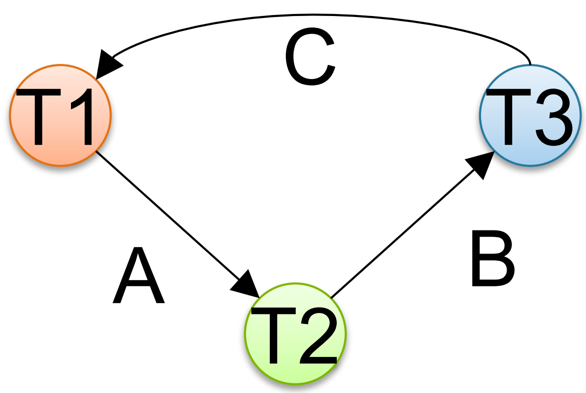


Then there is the following **temporal** cycle in the schedule:

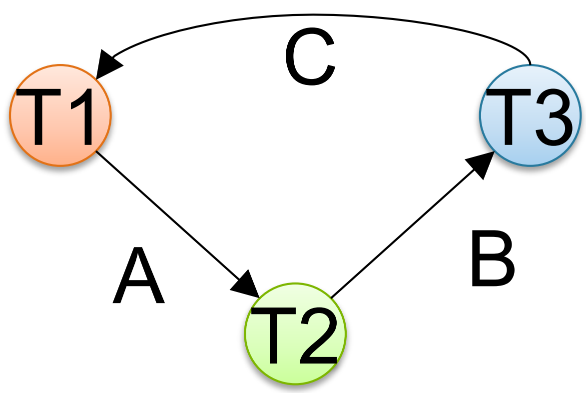
$U_1(A) \rightarrow L_2(A)$ why?

$U_1(A)$ happened strictly *before* $L_2(A)$

Two Phase Locking (2PL)

Theorem: 2PL ensures conflict serializability

Proof. Suppose not: then there exists a cycle in the precedence graph.



Then there is the following **temporal** cycle in the schedule:

$U_1(A) \rightarrow L_2(A)$

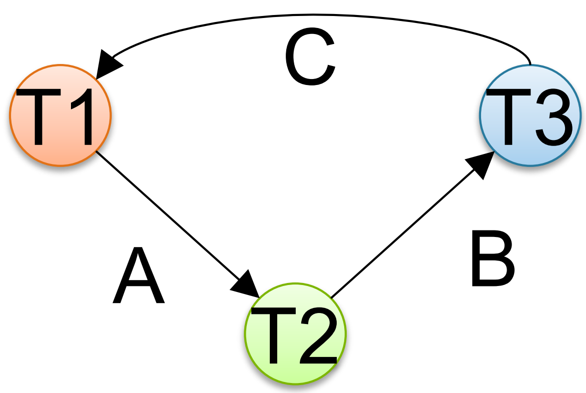
$L_2(A) \rightarrow U_2(B)$ why?

$L_2(A)$ happened strictly *before* $U_1(A)$

Two Phase Locking (2PL)

Theorem: 2PL ensures conflict serializability

Proof. Suppose not: then there exists a cycle in the precedence graph.



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$L_2(A) \rightarrow U_2(B)$ why?

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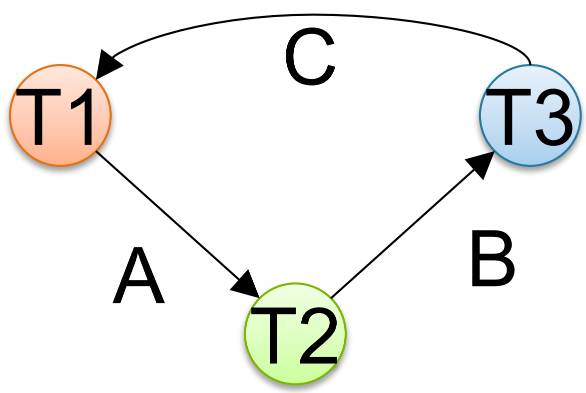

Then there is the following **temporal** cycle in the schedule:

$U_1(A) \rightarrow L_2(A)$
$L_2(A) \rightarrow U_2(B)$
$U_2(B) \rightarrow L_3(B)$ why?

Two Phase Locking (2PL)

Theorem: 2PL ensures conflict serializability

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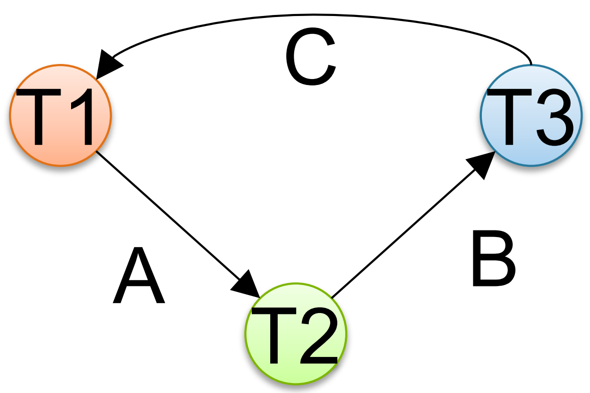


Then there is the following **temporal** cycle in the schedule:

$U_1(A) \rightarrow L_2(A)$

$L_2(A) \rightarrow U_2(B)$

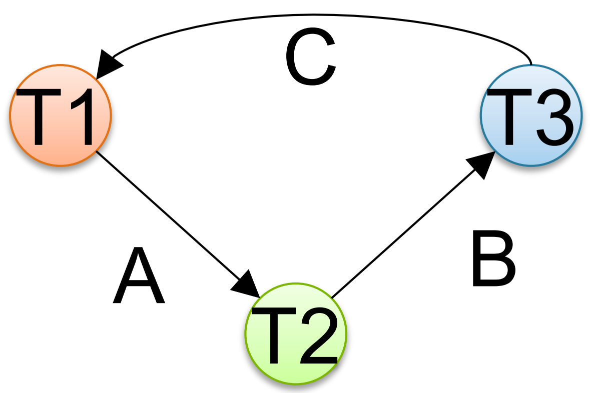
$U_2(B) \rightarrow L_3(B)$

......etc.....

Two Phase Locking (2PL)

Theorem: 2PL ensures conflict serializability

Proof. Suppose not: then there exists a cycle in the precedence graph.



Then there is the following **temporal** cycle in the schedule:

$U_1(A) \rightarrow L_2(A)$
$L_2(A) \rightarrow U_2(B)$
$U_2(B) \rightarrow L_3(B)$
$L_3(B) \rightarrow U_3(C)$
$U_3(C) \rightarrow L_1(C)$
$L_1(C) \rightarrow U_1(A)$

Cycle in time: Contradiction

A New Problem: Non-recoverable Schedule

T1	T2
L_1(A); L_1(B); READ(A)	
A :=A+100	
WRITE(A); U_1(A)	
	L_2(A); READ(A)
	A := A*2
	WRITE(A);
	L_2(B); BLOCKED…
READ(B)	
B :=B+100	
WRITE(B); U_1(B);	
	…GRANTED; READ(B)
	B := B*2
	WRITE(B); U_2(A); U_2(B);
	Commit
Rollback	

A New Problem: Non-recoverable Schedule

T1	T2
$L_1(A)$; $L_1(B)$; READ(A)	
A :=A+100	
WRITE(A); $U_1(A)$	
	$L_2(A)$; READ(A)
	A := A*2
	WRITE(A);
	$L_2(B)$; BLOCKED…
READ(B)	
B :=B+100	
WRITE(B); $U_1(B)$;	
	…GRANTED; READ(B)
	B := B*2
	WRITE(B); $U_2(A)$; $U_2(B)$;
	Commit
Rollback	

Elements A, B written by T1 are restored to their original value.

A New Problem: Non-recoverable Schedule

T1	T2
$L_1(A)$; $L_1(B)$; READ(A)	
A :=A+100	
WRITE(A); $U_1(A)$	
	$L_2(A)$; READ(A)
	A := A*2
	WRITE(A);
	$L_2(B)$; BLOCKED…
READ(B)	
B :=B+100	
WRITE(B); $U_1(B)$;	
	…GRANTED; READ(B)
	B := B*2
	WRITE(B); $U_2(A)$; $U_2(B)$;
	Commit
Rollback	

Dirty reads of A, B lead to incorrect writes.

Elements A, B written by T1 are restored to their original value.

A New Problem: Non-recoverable Schedule

T1	T2
$L_1(A)$; $L_1(B)$; READ(A)	
A :=A+100	
WRITE(A); $U_1(A)$	
	$L_2(A)$; READ(A)
	A := A*2
	WRITE(A);
	$L_2(B)$; BLOCKED…
READ(B)	
B :=B+100	
WRITE(B); $U_1(B)$;	
	…GRANTED; READ(B)
	B := B*2
	WRITE(B); $U_2(A)$; $U_2(B)$;
	Commit
Rollback	

Dirty reads of A, B lead to incorrect writes.

Elements A, B written by T1 are restored to their original value.

Can no longer undo!

Strict 2PL

T1	T2
$L_1(A)$; READ(A)	
A :=A+100	
WRITE(A);	
	$L_2(A)$; BLOCKED…
$L_1(B)$; READ(B)	
B :=B+100	
WRITE(B);	
Rollback & $U_1(A)$;$U_1(B)$;	
	…GRANTED; READ(A)
	A := A*2
	WRITE(A);
	$L_2(B)$; READ(B)
	B := B*2
	WRITE(B);
	Commit & $U_2(A)$; $U_2(B)$;

Strict 2PL

The Strict 2PL rule:

All locks are held until commit/abort:
All unlocks are done together with commit/abort.

With strict 2PL, we will get schedules that are both conflict-serializable and recoverable

Another problem: Deadlocks

- T_1: R(A), W(B)
- T_2: R(B), W(A)

- T_1 holds the lock on A, waits for B
- T_2 holds the lock on B, waits for A

This is a deadlock!

Another problem: Deadlocks

To detect a deadlocks, search for a cycle in the *waits-for graph*:

- T_1 waits for a lock held by T_2;
- T_2 waits for a lock held by T_3;
- . . .
- T_n waits for a lock held by T_1

Relatively expensive: check periodically, if deadlock is found, then abort one transaction.
need to continuously re-check for deadlocks

A “Solution”: Lock Modes

- S = shared lock (for READ)
- X = exclusive lock (for WRITE)

Lock compatibility matrix:

	None	S	X
None			
S			
X			

A "Solution": Lock Modes

- S = shared lock (for READ)
- X = exclusive lock (for WRITE)

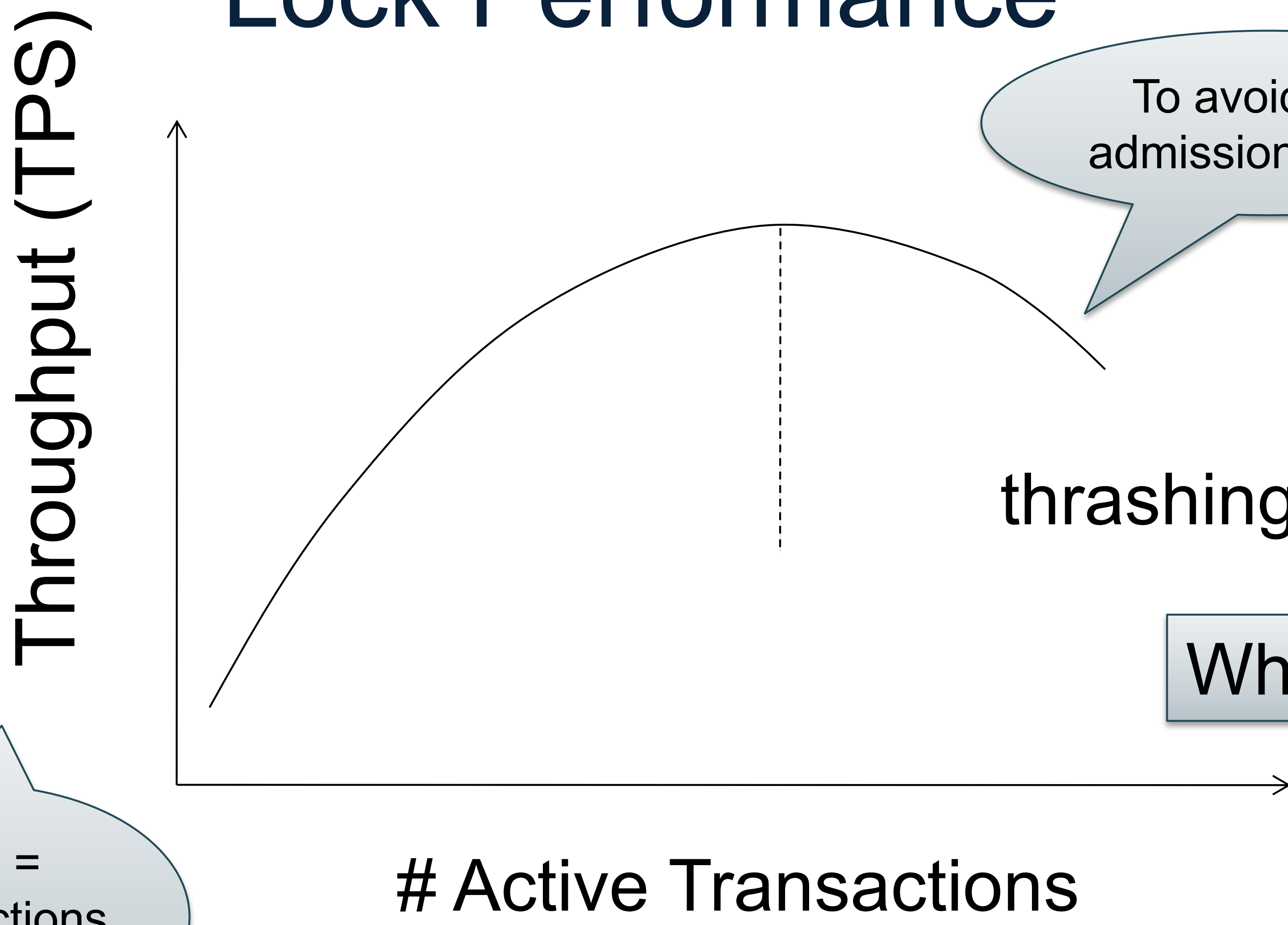
Lock compatibility matrix:

	None	S	X
None	✔	✔	✔
S	✔	✔	✖
X	✔	✖	✖

Lock Granularity

- Fine granularity locking (e.g., tuples)
  - High concurrency
  - High overhead in managing locks
  - E.g., SQL Server
- Coarse grain locking (e.g., tables, entire database)
  - Many false conflicts
  - Less overhead in managing locks
  - E.g., SQL Lite
- Solution: lock escalation changes granularity as needed

Lock Performance



To avoid, use admission control

Why ?

TPS = Transactions per second

Phantom Problem

- So far we have assumed the database to be a *static* collection of elements (=tuples)

- If tuples are inserted/deleted then the *phantom problem* appears

Suppose there are two blue products, A1, A2:

Phantom Problem

T1	T2
SELECT * FROM Product WHERE color=‘blue’	
	INSERT INTO Product(name, color) VALUES (‘A3’,’blue’)
SELECT * FROM Product WHERE color=‘blue’	

Is this schedule serializable ?

Suppose there are two blue products, A1, A2:

Phantom Problem

T1	T2
SELECT * FROM Product WHERE color='blue'	
	INSERT INTO Product(name, color) VALUES ('A3','blue')
SELECT * FROM Product WHERE color='blue'	

$$R_1(A1);R_1(A2);W_2(A3);R_1(A1);R_1(A2);R_1(A3)$$

Suppose there are two blue products, A1, A2:

Phantom Problem

T1	T2
SELECT * FROM Product WHERE color=‘blue’	
	INSERT INTO Product(name, color) VALUES (‘A3’,’blue’)
SELECT * FROM Product WHERE color=‘blue’	

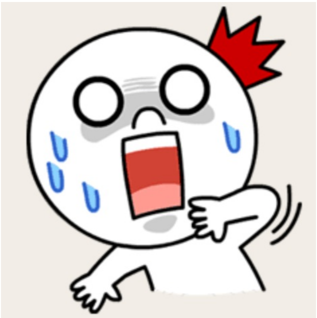
$R_1(A1);R_1(A2);W_2(A3);R_1(A1);R_1(A2);R_1(A3)$

$W_2(A3);R_1(A1);R_1(A2);R_1(A1);R_1(A2);R_1(A3)$

Phantom Problem

- A "phantom" is a tuple that is invisible during part of a transaction execution but not invisible during the entire execution

- In our example:
  - T1: reads list of products
  - T2: inserts a new product
  - T1: re-reads: a new product appears !



Dealing With Phantoms

- Lock the entire table
- Lock the index entry for ‘blue’
  - If index is available
- Or use predicate locks
  - A lock on an arbitrary predicate

Dealing with phantoms is expensive !

Summary of Serializability

- Serializable schedule = equivalent to a serial schedule
- (strict) 2PL guarantees *conflict serializability*
  - What is the difference?
- **Static database**:
  - *Conflict serializability* implies serializability
- **Dynamic database**:
  - This no longer holds

Isolation Levels in SQL

1. "Dirty reads"
   SET TRANSACTION ISOLATION LEVEL READ UNCOMMITTED

2. "Committed reads"
   SET TRANSACTION ISOLATION LEVEL READ COMMITTED

3. "Repeatable reads"
   SET TRANSACTION ISOLATION LEVEL REPEATABLE READ

4. Serializable transactions
   SET TRANSACTION ISOLATION LEVEL SERIALIZABLE

ACID

1. Isolation Level: Dirty Reads

- "Long duration" WRITE locks
  - Strict 2PL
- No READ locks
  - Read-only transactions are never delayed

Possible problems: dirty and inconsistent reads

2. Isolation Level: Read Committed

- "Long duration" WRITE locks
  - Strict 2PL
- "Short duration" READ locks
  - Only acquire lock while reading (not 2PL)

Unrepeatable reads:
When reading same element twice, may get two different values

3. Isolation Level: Repeatable Read

- “Long duration” WRITE locks
  – Strict 2PL
- “Long duration” READ locks
  – Strict 2PL

Why ?

This is not serializable yet !!!

4. Isolation Level Serializable

- "Long duration" WRITE locks
  - Strict 2PL
- "Long duration" READ locks
  - Strict 2PL
- Predicate locking
  - To deal with phantoms

Beware!

In commercial DBMSs:

- Default level is often NOT serializable
- Default level differs between DBMSs
- Some engines support subset of levels!
- Serializable may not be exactly ACID
  - Locking ensures isolation, not atomicity
- Also, some DBMSs do NOT use locking and different isolation levels can lead to different pbs
- Bottom line: RTFM for your DBMS!