The Potential Application of Blind Write Protocol

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Abstract: The current approach to handle interleaved write operation and preserve consistency in relational database system relies on locking protocol. The application system does not have other option to deal with interleaved write operation. In other hand, allowing more write operations to be interleaved will increase the throughput of database but it can result to an inconsistent database state. Since the application system has their own consistency and availability requirement then this paper proposes blind write protocol as a complement to the current concurrency control.

Since blind write protocol will not lock any entity, then it should use read committed isolation level, auto commit, and request one read operation only to be used in consistency validation. Because, in between two read operations there could be another transaction perform blind write operation to the same entity. These two read operations which access the same entity may return different value

Keywords: Concurrency control, interleaved transaction, locking, consistency, availability, blind write.

I. Introduction

Current implementation of concurrency control in Database Management System [1] handles the interleaved operations and temporary inconsistent at the database system level. Eswaran et al. described in [2], when someone is transferring money from one to another bank account, there will be a window that one bank account has been deducted but the other account not yet added because they are performed in one transaction that execute all the operations one by one. If this happens, then there should no other transaction access those 2 bank accounts to preserve the consistency. Therefore, Eswaran et al. proposed Locking Protocol. When any transaction is trying to lock an entity, which is already lock by other transaction, then it should wait or preempt. All the locking and waiting operations are handled in the database system level.

Stearns et al. propose another approach that utilizing a version of entity and certification process [3]. Each version of entity is unique and it is used to identified the temporary inconsistent entity. In this approach, any transaction can access any entity including the one in the temporary inconsistent state (uncertified version) with the consequence that the transaction may be restarted by the concurrency control. Once the transaction can get the terminate request granted, the they become certified version otherwise it must be restarted. Kung et al. in [6] proposed an optimistic approach which utilizing local copies to handle temporary inconsistent. In this approach, all reads and writes will be performed in the local copies during the read phase. To make them available to other transaction (globally) then it requires the integrity validation before going to write phase. If the transaction is fail while performing the integrity validation, then it must be restarted. These 3 concurrency controls above are handling the temporary inconsistent state at the system level. Thus, application system has no option to deal with temporary inconsistent state. In other hand, each application has different consistency and availability requirement. It is developed to fulfill the business requirement which is transformed into read and write operation. Therefore, the application system has the knowledge on how to deal with the consistency.

Moreover, the main objective of the concurrency control is to increase the throughput of database by allowing more operations to be interleaved as many as possible and at the same time deliver the consistency required by the application. Hence, this paper proposes blind write protocol as a complement of current concurrency control to be applied in the database system. Our motivation is to give the application system a new option to deal with interleaved write operation. Terry Doug explained in [16], high availability is not sufficient for most application system, but strong consistency is not needed either. Vogels argued in [13], there is a range of applications that can handle slightly stale data, and they are served well under this model. In other hand, Bernstein argued in [17] that the high availability increases the application complexity to handle inconsistent data. Therefore, let the application system decide. If application system wants to preserve strong consistency, then they can use normal write otherwise use the blind write protocol.

We found several discussions about blind write. On 1981, Stearns et al. explained in [7] “We make the assumption, called the no blind writes assumption, that a process does not issue a write request on a particular entity without first issuing a read request on that entity.” On 1994, Mendonca et al explained in [9] “In this paper we present a new replica control protocol that logically imposes a hierarchy onto the
set of copies and introduces the blind write as another operation. During a blind write operation, copies are modified regardless of their previous values; such situation occurs, for instance, in initializations.” On 1997, Burger et al explained in [11] “One of the significant differences between our work and the works reviewed above is that we have simulated a write as a blind write (a read is not performed before the data item is written).”

There are also some discussions which aims to allow more operation to be interleaved such as in [10] and [15]. They discussed about Read Committed and Snapshot Isolation. Kemme et al explained in [12] that snapshot isolation with First Committer Wins (FCW) feature can prevent dirty read, lost update, nonrepeatable read, and read skew but it still allows write skew concurrency anomalies. It means, the database management system which use the snapshot isolation still relies on the locking protocol to preserve consistency or to make interleaved transactions are serializable [12].

The latest discussion on the concurrency control is trying to make the snapshot isolation able to prevent write skew concurrency anomaly. In other word, it is trying to make the interleaved transactions become serializable [14] [15] [20]. The discussion on making the interleaved transactions in the Read Committed Isolation become serializable is started in [18]. Their approaches are to abort one of the interleaved transaction to make the Read Committed and Snapshot Isolation becomes serializable if conflict pattern called dangerous structure appears [19].

In the locking protocol, the serializable is achieved by making one transaction wait until the required locked entity is released. The concurrency control will not abort any transaction until the deadlock or timeout occurs. In other hand, serializable snapshot isolation will abort one of the conflict transactions even it is not required by the application system requirement. Both approaches above have same objective that is preserving consistency at any cost and trade off which applied at the database management system level. Hence, application system does not have other option to deal with interleaved write operation. While, this blind write protocol, which will not lock any entity when performing write operation, is proposed to allow more write operations to be interleaved. With the blind write protocol, the application system has another option other than waiting, preempting, or abortion when dealing with interleaved write operations.

The key point here is that the application systems must have more than one option to deal with interleaved write operation. This gives a freedom to the application systems in order to deal with interleaved write operations. As a result, preserving consistency becomes application system responsibility.

To understand more on blind write protocol, we start the discussion by reviewing the concurrency anomaly in Section 2. Then, we describe about blind write protocol and its implementation in next section. The last section concludes the topic.

## II. Concurrency Control and Anomaly

The discussion on the concurrency control aims to preserve the consistency by solving the concurrency control anomaly. The more transactions are being processed will increase the throughput of accesses to the database [6], but it can result an inconsistent database state [5]. Therefore, database system requires a concurrency control to handle two or more transactions that access same entity. In the absence of concurrency control, any two or more transactions will have concurrency anomalies. Bernstein et al. in [8] described about two concurrency anomalies, i.e. Lost Update Anomaly and Inconsistent Retrieval.

### A. Lost Update Anomaly

This anomaly happens when two transactions perform write operation to the same entity at same time. To describe it, let say there are two transactions, T1 and T2, are executed at the same time as shown at Figure 1. Both transactions are based on the initial state of e₁=10.

![Figure 1. Lost Update Anomaly](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seq.</th>
<th>Initial State e₁ = 10;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>e₁ ← e₁ + 10;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Temporary Inconsistent</strong> State e₁= 20;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>commit;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>end;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final State can either e₁ = 20 or e₁ = 40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B. Inconsistent Retrieval Anomaly

To illustrate this anomaly, let say there are two interleaved transactions T1 and T2 are executed at the same time as shown in Figure 2. At the time T2 displays/ prints the value of x then it still shows the initial value of e₁, i.e. 10, which is different with T1.

![Figure 2. Inconsistent Retrieval Anomaly](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seq.</th>
<th>Initial State e₁ = 10;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>begin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>e₁ ← e₁+10;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Temporary Inconsistent</strong> State e₁= 20;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>commit;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>end;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final State is e₁ = 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### C. Write Skew Anomaly

To illustrate this anomaly, let say there are two interleaved
transactions $T_1$ and $T_2$ are executed at the same time as shown on Figure 3. The initial balance of $e_1$ is 100 and $e_2$ is 50. The application has requirement or constraint that the $e_1+e_2$ should always be greater or equal to 0. If $T_1$ is withdrawing money from $e_1$ with amount 100 and $T_2$ is withdrawing money from $e_2$ with amount 60, then total amount is greater then $e_1+e_2$. Since both transaction will pass the validation in the Seq. no 3 as shown in Figure 3, then final state $e_1+e_2$ will be less than 0. This condition against the requirement or constraint.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seq.</th>
<th>Initial State $e_1 = 100$; $e_2 = 50$; $e_1+e_2=150$; Constraint: $e_1+e_2 &gt;= 0$.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>begin $x_{\text{withdraw}} \leftarrow 100$;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>if $(e_1+e_2) = x_{\text{withdraw}}$ then</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$e_1 \leftarrow e_1 - x_{\text{withdraw}}$;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Temporary Inconsistent  $e_1 &lt;= 0$;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$e_2 \leftarrow e_2 - x_{\text{withdraw}}$;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>commit;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>end;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final State $e_1 + e_2 = -10$, it is contradictory with the above constraint.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. Write Skew Anomaly

Gray et al. in [4], Berenson et al. in [10] and Kemme et al. in [12] discussed about the concurrency anomalies and different isolation level. The read uncommitted, read committed, and snapshot isolation were proposed to improve the concurrency. But the concurrency control still relies on locking to make interleaved write operations become serializable. These concurrency anomalies and different read protocols with their weakness and limitation give us the base knowledge. It becomes an important information to establish and develop an algorithm that can preserve consistency in blind write protocol.

III. Blind Write Protocol

The blind write protocol is proposed as a complement to allow more write operation to be interleaved and transaction should not lock any entity and no transaction should be restarted. Since the blind write protocol is a complement then the application system has another option to perform write operation. If application system does not want to create their own specific approach to achieve consistency, then it can use normal write protocol to achieve the consistency. Moreover, since two write operations, i.e. normal and blind, can be used together, then the blind write protocol should be able to make them work together.

There will be three combinations if two interleaved write operations are writing to same entity and they are executed at the same time, i.e.:
1. both are using normal write protocols
2. one transaction is using normal and another one is using blind write protocols
3. both are using blind write protocol

Point no. 1 above is clear. Normal write protocol is using locking protocol to preserve consistency. Since both are using locking protocol, then one transaction should wait for or preempt from other transaction. Before we discuss point no. 2, let discuss point no. 3 first. Because, we should know whether the application system can create and develop their own approach to prevent the lost update and write skew anomaly when two blind operations executed at the same time.

A. Two Interleaved Operations are Using Blind Write Protocol

To begin with, let start with making proper definition and its principal of blind write operation. This definition is related to database system discussed in [2], [3], and [6] which refers to [1]. Interaction between client and database system is known as transaction. The content of interaction consists of one or more operations. The operation can be read or write. Write operation is an action to create new entity, modify or delete existing entity value. Read operation is an action to get entity value, it can be uncommitted or committed value as discussed in Section 2.

1) Blind Write Definition

Before we discuss more detail on how to handle 2 or more interleaved transactions that use blind write protocol, we need to give proper definition on database system. We define database system as $D$ which consists of $n$ number of entity.

$$D = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, ..., e_n\} \quad (1)$$

These entities can be either tables, rows, or columns. This paper is focusing on the Data Manipulation Language (DML) protocol, which create, modify or delete a row into, in, or from a table. The Data Definition Language (DDL) is not part of our paper scope. We also consider that modifying a current value of one column as modifying a row. Therefore, the write operation is action to assign a value to the entity. We use $\leftarrow$ notation as assigning a value on the right to entity on the left as discussed on Section 2.

Create operation is considered as assigning any value, $v$, to new entity, $e_{n+1}$,

$$e_{n+1} \leftarrow v \text{; where } v \text{ is not NULL. (2)}$$

Delete operation is considered as assigning NULL to existing entity, $e_i$,

$$e_i \leftarrow \text{NULL; where } 1 < i < n. \quad (3)$$

Modify/update operation is considered as assigning a value, $v$, to existing entity, $e_i$,

$$e_i \leftarrow v \text{; where } v \text{ is not NULL and } 1 < i < n. \quad (4)$$

The value of $v$ above can be defined as:

1. function of any entity, $e_i$. It is known as normal write operation. Therefore,

$$e_{n+i} \leftarrow f(e_i); \text{ where } 1 < j < n. \quad (5)$$

$$e_i \leftarrow f(e_i); \text{ where } 1 <= i <= n, \text{ and } 1 <= j <= n. \quad (6)$$

If $i=j$ then it means the new value depends on the initial value of entity
2. Constant or Fixed value, e.g., ‘APPROVED’, ‘536980 MALAYSIA’, ‘+6012345678’, 20, etc. It is known as blind write operation. The Constant or Fixed value should not be NULL. Therefore,

\( e_{n+1} \leftarrow c, \) where \( c \) is fixed value and \( c \) is not NULL. (7)

\( e_i \leftarrow c, \) where \( 1 < i < n \) and \( c \) is fixed value and \( c \) is not NULL. (8)

Since delete operation is considered as assigning NULL to the entity, then there is no different between normal and blind write protocol. The main different between them is that blind write protocol will not apply any locking to any entity. Based on Bernstein argument in [20] that the high availability increases the application complexity to handle inconsistent data. One concrete example is handling lost update and write skew anomaly.

2) Achieving the Consistency using Blind Write Protocol

The example of lost update and write skew anomaly can be seen in Section 2. In that example, it is utilizing one entity only to handle and maintain the operation. The entity in that example is considered as a table. To give more explanation please see Table 1 below. It is a balance table consist of one entity, in this case the entity is a row, with 4 columns i.e. account_id, account_number, balance_amount and last_updated_date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account_id</th>
<th>Account_number</th>
<th>Balance_amount</th>
<th>Last_updated_date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1234-567-89</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>10-Jan-1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>00:00:01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As explained above, the value of blind write operation should be a fixed value, \( c \). Therefore, one table is not enough to preserve the consistency using blind write protocol. To achieve that, then it required at least one table to handle and maintain historical write operation as can be seen on Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History_id</th>
<th>Account_id</th>
<th>Transaction_amount</th>
<th>Transaction_date</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>10-Jan-1980</td>
<td>approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20-Jan-1980</td>
<td>approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>20-Jan-1980</td>
<td>approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The history table has foreign key of balance table, i.e. account_id. For deposit operation then the transaction_amount should be greater than 0. For withdraw operation, the transaction_amount should be less than 0. The transaction_date is used to record the time stamp when the operation is committed. The status is used to differentiate whether the operation is approved or rejected. The status will be set to rejected if the operation for particular account_id do not meet with specific constrain. The history_id is primary key of the history table, it is a running number generated from sequence object. Two or more entity (row) may have same transaction_date but they should have unique history_id value. Using history table, there will be no aborted transaction. All the operation from all transactions will be recorded in this table as one entity (record). The balance_amount of particular account_number in the balance table is aggregation of transaction_amount in history table which has same account_id and the status should be approved. To achieve the consistency using blind write operation, then we need to discuss the possibility of interleaved write operation combinations, i.e.:

1. both operations are deposit
2. both operations are withdrawal
3. one operation is deposit and another one is withdrawal

a) Both Operations are Deposit

Let say the entity of balance and history table is \( eb \) and \( et \) respectively. It may consist of many account_id. To indicate account_id=1, we use \( eb_1 \) and \( et[1] \). The update operation value of \( eb \) is (balance_amount, last_updated_date) and for insert operation of \( et[1] \) is (history_id, account_id, transaction_amount, transaction_date, status). If two transactions, \( T_1 \) and \( T_2 \), are using blind write protocol and executed at the same time follow the same step, as can be seen on Figure 4, then the result can be same if they are executed one by one, either \( T_1 \) first or \( T_2 \).

![Figure 4. The Aggregation](image)

To achieve this then there are some conditions need to be applied as follows:

1. the read operation should use read committed isolation level
2. it should apply auto commit on each write operation to prevent the lost update anomaly

The first condition is clear. It was explained on the previous section. To show that condition no. 2 is required then let say there are two commit operations. The first commit is between seq. no. 3 and 4 and the second one is between seq. no 4 and 5. The sequence of operation is as follow:

\( T_1[\text{seq. no. 1}] \rightarrow T_1[\text{seq. no. 2}] \rightarrow T_1[\text{seq. no. 3}] \rightarrow T_1[\text{commit}] \rightarrow T_2[\text{seq. no. 4}] \rightarrow T_2[\text{seq. no. 1}] \rightarrow T_2[\text{seq. no. 2}] \rightarrow T_2[\text{seq. no. 3}] \rightarrow T_2[\text{commit}] \rightarrow T_2[\text{seq. no. 4}] \rightarrow T_2[\text{commit}] \rightarrow T_1[\text{commit}] \)

Since the \( T_1[\text{seq. no. 4}] \) has not been committed then the \( T_2[\text{seq. no. 4}] \) and the second \( T_2[\text{commit}] \) will be overwritten by the second \( T_1[\text{commit}] \) which will eventually experience the lost update anomaly. Therefore, to prevent the lost update anomaly the blind write protocol should apply auto commit.
Since it is using auto commit and balance_amount of eb1 is calculated by summing up all transaction_amount of et[1], then it always gives the latest result, regardless T1 is executed first or T2.

**b) Both Operations are Withdrawal**

From previous section, we find that the blind write protocol can handle lost update anomaly without lock any entity. The example above is involving deposit operation only. But how if both operations are withdrawal and it must be in accordance with certain rules as follow:

1. the balance_amount should not be minus
2. the operation should not be rejected if the balance_amount is greater or equal than absolute(transaction_amount). The withdrawal amount is always less than 0

To discuss this, let say the current balance amount eb1=1000 as shown in Table 1 above. We set two interleaved transactions, T1 and T2, and execute at the same time. These transactions are performing withdrawal operation respectively with different scenarios as follows:

1. -100 and -300. Since 1000-100-300>0 then both should not be rejected
2. -900 and -500. Since 1000-900-500<0 and 1000-500>0 then one of them should be rejected and the other one should be approved
3. -1100 and -900. Since 1000-1100-900<0 and 1000-900>0 then T1 should be rejected and T2 should be approved
4. -1100 and -1200. Since 1000-1100-1200<0 then both transactions should be rejected

To handle all the scenarios above, we introduce 2 functions. The first function is simple function used to get account_id for specific account number from the balance table. The second function has 2 input arguments, i.e. account id and transaction amount. It has one output either true or false. This discussion is focusing more on the second function, we do not explain the first function in detail.

Let name the second function as transact. We modify the steps in Figure 4 above to implement both functions as shown in Figure 5 below. The transact function is shown in Figure 6.

---

**Figure 5. The Aggregation with Transact Function**

The explanation of transact function is as follows:

- Seq. no. 1 defines function name, its input argument and output
- Seq. no. 2 begins the function
- Seq. no. 3 gets history id from sequence object and put into seq_history_id. It is running number
- Seq. no. 4 sets default value of v_status to ‘approved’. If both operations are Deposit, there is no any validation required since it will not make the balance amount become negative. Hence, the status should always be approved
- Seq. no. 5 assigns v_status value to ‘not approved’ if a_transaction_amount is minus (withdrawal operation)
- Seq. no. 6 inserts new record to History table with history_id value is seq_history_id. The operations from seq. no. 3 until 6 can be executed as one statement by utilizing output in insert statement and decode clause. So, it can be treated as one operation. The example of DML statement for these operations is:

```sql
insert into history values (history_seq.nextval, a_account_id, a_transaction_amount, sysdate, decode((a_transaction_amount/abs(a_transaction_amount)), 1, ‘approve’, ‘not approve’)) returning history_id into seq_history_id;
```

The returning history_id into seq_history_id is used for seq. no. 3.

```sql
decode((a_transaction_amount/abs(a_transaction_amount)), 1, ‘approve’, ‘not approve’) is used for seq. no. 4 and 5.
```

---

**Figure 6. Transact Function**

- Seq. no. 7 gets transaction_date from the history table where history_id is equal to seq_history_id. The example of DML statement for this operation is:

```sql
select transaction_date into v_transaction_date from history where history_id = seq_history_id;
```

- Seq. no. 8 determines whether the operation is deposit or withdrawal. If a_transaction_amount > 0 then end the function and return true. Otherwise, it continues to Seq no. 9. It means for deposit operation, it does not need any further validation.
Seq. no. 9 is else condition
Seq. no. 10 gets collection of history records for specific account_id. The example of DML statement for this operation is:

```
select min (transaction_date), -1 history_id, sum(transaction_amount) transaction_amount from history where account_id= a_account_id and status='approved'
union
select transaction_date, history_id, transaction_amount from history where account_id= a_account_id and status='not approved' and transaction_date <=v_sysdate
order by transaction_date, history_id;
```

This DML statement is utilizing ‘union’ that will be executed as one operation. If it does not use ‘union’ in the statement above, then the DML will become two statements (operations) as follows:

DML statement 1:
```
select min (transaction_date), -1 history_id, sum(transaction_amount) transaction_amount from history where account_id= a_account_id and status='approved';
```

DML statement 2:
```
select transaction_date, history_id, transaction_amount from history where account_id= a_account_id and status='not approved' and history_id <=seq_history_id;
```

Moreover, if there is blind write operation, which update the status from ‘not approved’ to either ‘approved’ or ‘rejected’, between these two DML statements then it will affect sum(transaction_amount) in DML statement 1 and the collection of records for DML statement 2. This will end with lost update anomaly. Therefore, the third condition required by blind write protocol is:

Since blind write protocol will not lock any entity, then the transaction should request one read operation to be used in validation to prevent write skew anomaly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History_id</th>
<th>Account_id</th>
<th>Transaction_amount</th>
<th>Transaction_date</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>10-Jan-19 00:00:01</td>
<td>approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-900</td>
<td>20-Jan-19 00:00:01</td>
<td>not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-500</td>
<td>20-Jan-19 00:00:01</td>
<td>approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To prove this, let execute T₁ and T₂ at the same time. T₁ is a transaction with history_id=1 and T₂ is a transaction with history_id=2 as shown on Table 3. T₁ has executed DML statement 1 and it returns 1000. Then T₂ is executing seq. no. 11 and 20 (it updates and auto commits T₂ status become ‘approved’ see Figure 3). If T₁ continue to execute DML statement 2 then it will return one record only since T₂ status has become ‘approved’. Thus, T₁ status will be updated and auto committed to ‘approved’ also because the validation 1000-900>0. Now, update Balance table as shown in Figure 5 seq. no. 4. It shows that the balance amount will become 1000-900-500=400 since T₁ and T₂ was updated as ‘approved’.

- Seq. no. 11 assigns sum(transaction_amount) value of approved status to v_balance
- Seq. no. 12 sets default value of v_success to false
- Seq. no. 13 until 29 validates the transaction amount with balance amount
- Seq. no. 32 returns the validation result. If the history status is updated and committed to ‘rejected’ then it returns false, otherwise it returns true.

c) Combination of deposit and withdrawal operation

There are no significant obstacles with the deposit operation in this combination. Likewise, with the withdrawal operation. The main obstacle with this combination is about the timing. As explained above that the seq. no. 10 operation is fetching collection of history record which ordered by transaction_date and history_id. If two transactions have same transaction_date then it will be ordered by history_id which is unique for each history record.

B. Two Interleaved Operations are Using Normal and Blind Write Protocol

Until this section, we have already shown that blind write protocol can preserve the consistency in different approach with the normal write protocol. For two or more transactions that use different protocol, then they are two options. First option is the blind write protocol should wait until the locked entity is released. The second option is the blind write protocol should not wait other transaction to release the lock on the entity. These options provide more choice to the application to determine which one suits with the business requirements. This wait and no wait option should be applied in the DML statement along with blind write option.

The wait option will work for blind write protocol to wait until the locked entity is released. Since the blind write protocol will not lock any entity then the normal write protocol can start to perform any operation including lock any entity at any time. Once the entity is locked then any write operation that wants to access the locked entity, including blind write with wait option, should wait or preempt.

C. DML Statement of Blind Write Operation

We propose a set of DML statements that can be used to determine whether the blind write protocol should wait or not as well as to distinguish the blind write protocol with the normal write protocol. These DML statements for blind write protocol as follows:

1. DML statement for blind write protocol with wait option.
   a. Insert Statement:
      ```
      BLIND INSERT INTO table_name
      (list_of_columns)
      ```
The Potential Application of Blind Write Protocol

VALUES (list_of_values) WITH WAIT;
b. Update Statement:
BLIND UPDATE table_name
SET column_name = value [, column_name = value]
WHERE condition WITH WAIT;
c. Delete Statement:
BLIND DELETE table_name
WHERE condition WITH WAIT;

This wait option will only work for blind write protocol to wait until the locked entity is released. Since the blind write protocol will not lock any entity then the normal write protocol can start to perform any operation including lock any entity at any time. Once the entity is locked then any write operation that want to access the locked entity, including blind write, should wait or preempt if blind write is using wait option.

2. DML statement for blind write protocol without wait option.
   a. Insert Statement:
      BLIND INSERT INTO table_name
      (list_of_columns)
      VALUES (list_of_values) WITHOUT WAIT;
   b. Update Statement:
      BLIND UPDATE table_name
      SET column_name = value [, column_name = value]
      WHERE condition WITHOUT WAIT;
   c. Delete Statement:
      BLIND DELETE table_name
      WHERE condition WITHOUT WAIT;

IV. Summary

This paper proposes blind write protocol as a complement of current concurrency control to give more option to the application on dealing with the interleaved write operation. The blind protocol provides more option besides wait or preempt. The blind write protocol also can be used together with normal write operation with wait or no wait option. Since, the blind write operation does not use locking protocol, then the database system will experience a lost update and write skew anomaly. Therefore, the blind write protocol should apply their own approach to prevent these anomalies. To achieve this, there are some conditions need to be applied in the transaction as follows:

1. the read operation should use read committed isolation level
2. it should apply auto commit on each write operation to prevent the lost update anomaly
3. the transaction should request one read operation to be used in validation to prevent write skew anomaly.

References

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Author Biographies

Khairul Anshar was born in Garut, West Java, Indonesia on 20 January 1980. He obtained his degree in Physics on from Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia. He obtained his Master of Science (MSc) in Information and Communication Technology by research from Faculty of Information and Communication Technology (FTMK), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Malaysia on 2013.

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