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# 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 applicaiton. 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, T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub>, are executed at the same time as shown at Figure 1. Both transactions are based on the initial state of e<sub>1</sub>=10.

Seq.	Initial State e <sub>1</sub> = 10;	
	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>
1	begin	begin
2	e <sub>1</sub> ← e <sub>1</sub> + 10; <b>Temporary Inconsistent</b> State e <sub>1</sub> = 20;	e <sub>1</sub> ← e <sub>1</sub> + 30; <b>Temporary Inconsistent</b> State e <sub>1</sub> = 40;
3	commit;	commit;
4	end;	end;
Final State can either e <sub>1</sub> = 20 or e <sub>1</sub> = 40		

Figure 1. Lost Update Anomaly

On Figure 1, the operations are performed from the top to the bottom indicated by sequence number. We use ← notation as assigning a value from the right to item on the left. In the absence of concurrency control, the final state can either e<sub>1</sub>=20 or e<sub>1</sub>=40. This result is known as lost update anomaly. Therefore, in order to preserve consistency then the DBMS requires a concurrency control to handle these 2 interleaved write operations coming from different transaction. The locking protocol will make either T<sub>2</sub> wait until T<sub>1</sub> is completed or vice versa. Thus, the final state will be consistent i.e. e<sub>1</sub> is equal to 50.

### B. Inconsistent Retrieval Anomaly

To illustrate this anomaly, let say there are two interleaved transactions T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> are executed at the same time as shown on Figure 2. At the time T<sub>2</sub> displays/ prints the value of x then it still shows the initial value of e<sub>1</sub>, i.e. 10, which is different with T<sub>1</sub>.

Seq.	Initial State e <sub>1</sub> = 10;	
	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>
1	begin	Begin
2	e <sub>1</sub> ← e <sub>1</sub> +10; <b>Temporary Inconsistent</b> State e <sub>1</sub> = 20;	x ← e <sub>1</sub> ;
3	commit;	print x: 10
4	end;	end;
Final State is e <sub>1</sub> = 20		

Figure 2. Inconsistent Retrieval Anomaly

At the end of these two transactions, the final state is still correct, i.e. e<sub>1</sub>=20. But, if T<sub>2</sub> or any others transaction use the value of x, then application system may experience the lost update anomaly.

### 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 is 100 and  $T_2$  is withdrawing money from  $e_2$  with amount 60, then total amount is greater than  $e_1+e_2$ . 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.

Seq.	Initial State $e_1 = 100; e_2 = 50; e_1+e_2=150$ ; Constraint: $e_1+e_2 \geq 0$ .	
	$T_1$	$T_2$
1	begin	begin
2	$x\_withdraw \leftarrow 100;$	$x\_withdraw \leftarrow 60;$
3	if $(e_1+e_2) \geq x\_withdraw$ then	if $(e_1+e_2) \geq x\_withdraw$ then
4	$e_1 \leftarrow e_1 - x\_withdraw;$ <b>Temporary Inconsistent State <math>e_1 = 0</math>;</b>	$e_2 \leftarrow e_2 - x\_withdraw;$ <b>Temporary Inconsistent State <math>e_2 = -10</math>;</b>
5	commit;	commit;
6	end if;	end if;
7	end;	end;
	Final State $e_1 + e_2 = -10$ , it is contradictory with the above constraint.	

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.

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

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,  $e_{n+1}$ ,

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

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

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

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,  $e_j$ . It is known as normal write operation. Therefore,

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

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

If  $i=j$  then it means the new value depends on the initial value of entity

- 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,

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

$$e_i \leftarrow c; \text{ where } 1 < i < n \text{ and } c \text{ is fixed value and } c \text{ is not NULL. (8)}$$

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 1. Balance Table.

Account_id	Account_number	Balance_amount	Last_updated_date
1	1234-567-89	1000	10-Jan-1980
	0		00:00:01

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 2. History Table.

History_id	Account_id	Transaction_amount	Transaction_date	Status
0	1	1000	10-Jan-1980	approved
1	1	100	20-Jan-1980	approved
2	1	300	20-Jan-1980	approved

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.:

- both operations are deposit
- both operations are withdrawal
- 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 eb1 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, T1 and T2, 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 T1 first or T2.

Seq.	Initial State e <sub>b1</sub> = 1000;	T <sub>2</sub>
	T <sub>1</sub>	
1	begin	begin
2	seq_id ← history_seq.nextval;	seq_id ← history_seq.nextval;
3	e <sub>i</sub> [1] <sub>n+1</sub> ← (seq_id,1,100,sysdate,'approved');	e <sub>i</sub> [1] <sub>n+1</sub> ← (seq_id,1,300,sysdate,'approved');
4	eb1 ← ((Σ <sub>i=1</sub> <sup>n</sup> e <sub>i</sub> [1])(transaction_amount); where status='approved', sysdate);	eb1 ← ((Σ <sub>i=1</sub> <sup>n</sup> e <sub>i</sub> [1])(transaction_amount); where status='approved', sysdate);
5	end;	end;
	Final State eb1 = 1400;	

Figure 4. The Aggregation

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

- the read operation should use read committed isolation level
- 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:

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

Since the T1[seq. no. 4] has not been committed then the T2[seq. no. 4] and the second T2[commit] will be overwritten by the second T1[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\_ammount of eb1 is calculated by summing up all transaction\_amount of et[1], then it always gives the latest result, regardless T<sub>1</sub> is executed first or T<sub>2</sub>.

*b) Both Operations are Withdrawal*

From pevious 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\_ammount should not be minus
2. the operation should not be rejected if the balance\_ammount is greater or equal than absolute(transaction\_ammount). 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, T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub>, 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 1000-900>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 1000-1100<0 and 1000-900>0 then T1 should be rejected and T2 should be approved
4. -1100 and -1200. Since 1000-1100-900<0 and 1000-1100<0 and 1000-1200<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.

Seq.	Initial State eb1 = 1000; account_no = '1234-567-890';
	T <sub>1</sub>
1	begin
2	v_acct_id ← getAccountId(account_no)
3	if (transact(v_acct_id, -100)) then
4	eb1 ← (( $\sum_{j=1}^n e_r[1]$ )(transaction_ammount); where status='approved', sysdate);
5	end if;
6	end;
	T <sub>2</sub>
	begin
	v_acct_id ← getAccountId(account_no)
	if (transact(v_acct_id, -300)) then
	eb1 ← (( $\sum_{j=1}^n e_r[1]$ )(transaction_ammount); where status='approved', sysdate);
	end if;
	end;
	Final State eb1 = 600;

**Figure 5.** The Aggregation with Transac 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\_ammount 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:

*insert into history values (history\_seq.nextval, a\_account\_id, a\_transaction\_ammount, sysdate, decode((a\_transaction\_ammount/abs(a\_transaction\_ammount)), 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.

*decode((a\_transaction\_ammount/abs(a\_transaction\_ammount)), 1, 'approve', 'not approve')* is used for seq. no. 4 and 5.

Seq.	Transact Function
1	Function <i>transact</i> (a_account_id number, a_transaction_ammount number) return boolean
2	begin
3	seq_history_id ← history_seq.nextval;
4	v_status ← 'approved';
5	if (a_transaction_ammount < 0) v_status ← 'not approved';
6	et[1] <sub>n+1</sub> ← (seq_history_id, a_account_id, a_transaction_ammount, sysdate, v_status);
7	v_sysdate ← get transaction_date from history table where history_id = seq_history_id;
8	if (a_transaction_ammount >= 0) then return true;
9	else
10	v_array ← get ( $\sum_{j=1}^n e_r[1]$ )(transaction_ammount); where status='approved') union [e <sub>i</sub> [1] <sub>k</sub> ; where 1 ≤ k ≤ n and e <sub>i</sub> [1] <sub>k</sub> (status)='not approved' and sysdate <= v_sysdate] order by transaction_date and history_id;
11	v_balance ← v_array[0](ammount);
12	v_success ← false;
13	for (i:=1; i<length(v_array); i++) then
14	v_ammount ← v_array[i] (ammount);
15	v_history_id ← v_array[i] (history_id);
16	if (v_history_id = seq_history_id) then
17	if (v_balance + v_ammount >= 0) then
18	v_balance ← v_balance + v_ammount;
19	v_success ← true;
20	et[1] <sub>seq_history_id</sub> (status) ← 'approved';
21	else
22	et[1] <sub>seq_history_id</sub> (status) ← 'rejected';
23	end if;
24	else
25	if (v_balance + v_ammount >= 0) then
26	v_balance ← v_balance + v_ammount;
27	end if;
28	end for;
29	end for;
30	return v_success;
31	end if;
32	end;

**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:

*select transaction\_date into v\_sysdate from history where history\_id=seq\_history\_id;*

- Seq. no. 8 determines whether the operation is deposit or withdrawal. If a\_transaction\_ammount > 0 then end the function and return true. Otherwise, then 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 3. History Table with Withdrawal Operation.

History_id	Account_id	Transaction_amount	Transaction_date	Status
0	1	1000	10-Jan-19 00:00:01	approved
1	1	-900	20-Jan-19 00:00:01	not approved
2	1	-500	20-Jan-19 00:00:01	not approved

To prove this, let execute T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> at the same time. T<sub>1</sub> is a transaction with history\_id=1 and T<sub>2</sub> is a transaction with history\_id=2 as shown on Table 3. T<sub>1</sub> has executed DML statement 1 and it returns 1000. Then T<sub>2</sub> is executing seq.

no. 11 and 20 (it updates and auto commits T<sub>2</sub> status become ‘approved’ see Figure 3). If T<sub>1</sub> continue to execute DML statement 2 then it will return one record only since T<sub>2</sub> status has become ‘approved’. Thus, T<sub>1</sub> 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 T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> 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)
```



- 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.

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