COMP 421: Files & Databases

L19: **M**ulti-**V**ersion **C**oncurrency **C**ontrol

UNC DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Multi-Version Concurrency Control

The DBMS maintains multiple **physical** versions of a single **logical** object in the database:

→ When a txn writes to an object, the DBMS creates a new version of that object.

→ When a txn reads an object, it reads the newest version that existed when the txn started.

MVCC History

Protocol was first proposed in 1978 MIT PhD dissertation.

First implementations was Rdb/VMS and InterBase at DEC in early 1980s.

→ Both were by Jim Starkey, co-founder of NuoDB.

→ DEC Rdb/VMS is now "Oracle Rdb".

→ InterBase was open-sourced as Firebird.

Multi-Version Concurrency Control

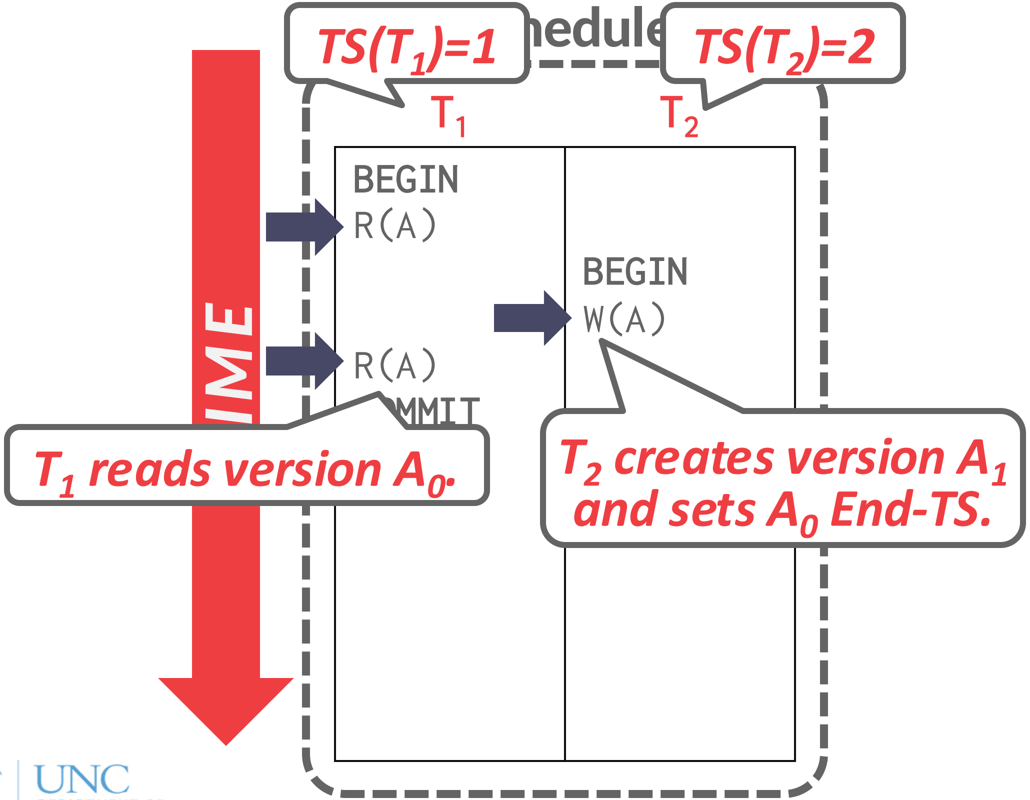
Writers do not block readers.
Readers do not block writers.

Read-only txns can read a consistent snapshot without acquiring locks.

→ Use timestamps to determine visibility.
→ MVCC naturally supports Snapshot Isolation (SI).

Easily support time-travel queries.

MVCC – Example #1



Database

Version	Value	Begin	End
A_0	123	0	2
A_1	456	2	-

MVCC – Example #2

TIME

TS(T_1)=1

TS(T_2)=2

Schedule

T_1	T_2
BEGIN	
R(A)	
W(A)	
	BEGIN
	R(A)
	W(A)
	⋮
R(A)	
COMMIT	
	COMMIT

T_1 reads version A_1 that it wrote earlier.

T_2 must stall until T_1 commits, then restart.

committed yet.

Now T_2 can create the new version.

Database

Version	Value	Begin	End
A_0	123	0	1
A_1	456	1	2
A_2	789	2	-

Txn Status Table

Timestamp	Status
1	Committed
2	Active

Snapshot Isolation (SI)

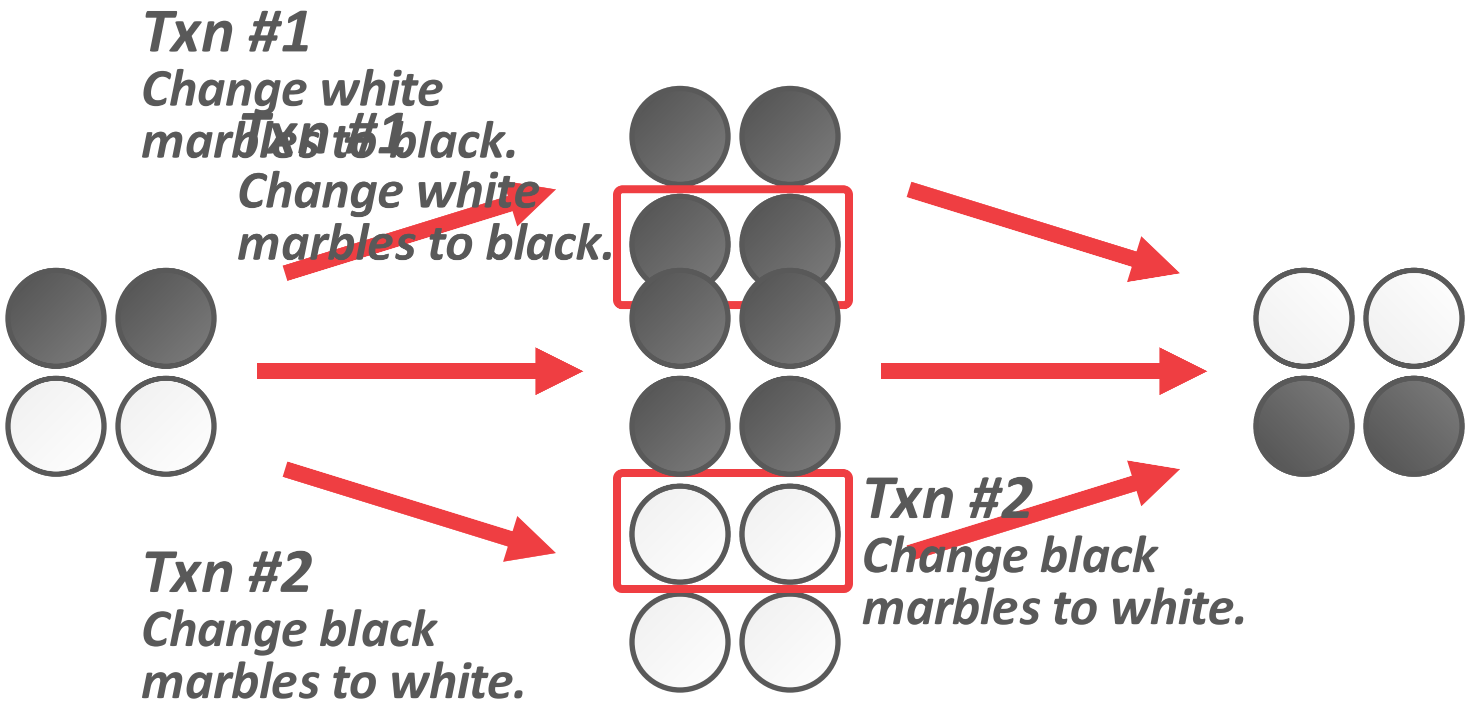
When a txn starts, it sees a consistent snapshot of the database that existed when that the txn started.

→ No torn writes from active txns.

→ If two txns update the same object, then first writer wins.

SI is susceptible to the **Write Skew Anomaly**.

Write Skew Anomaly



Multi-Version Concurrency Control

MVCC is more than just a concurrency control protocol. It completely affects how the DBMS manages transactions and the database.

MVCC Design Decisions

Concurrency Control Protocol

Version Storage

Garbage Collection

Index Management

Deletes

Concurrency Control Protocol

Approach #1: Timestamp Ordering

→ Assign txns timestamps that determine serial order.

→ Gives Snapshot Isolation

Approach #2: Optimistic Concurrency Control

→ Three-phase protocol from last class.

→ Use private workspace for new versions.

Approach #3: Two-Phase Locking

→ Txns acquire appropriate lock on physical version before they can read/write a logical tuple.

Version Storage

The DBMS uses the tuples' pointer field to create a **version chain** per logical tuple.

→ This allows the DBMS to find the version that is visible to a particular txn at runtime.

→ Indexes always point to the "head" of the chain.

Different storage schemes determine where/what to store for each version.

Version Storage

Approach #1: Append-Only Storage

→ New versions are appended to the same table space.

Approach #2: Time-Travel Storage

→ Old versions are copied to separate table space.

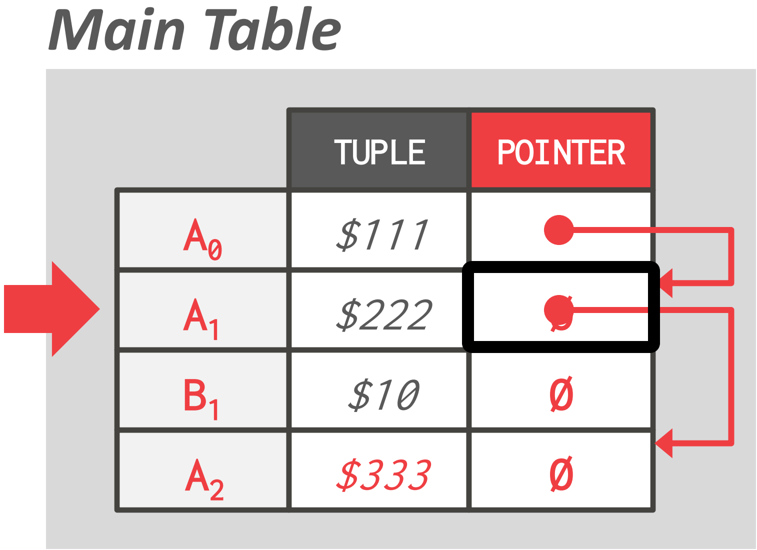
Approach #3: Delta Storage

→ The original values of the modified attributes are copied into a separate delta record space.

Append-Only Storage

All the physical versions of a logical tuple are stored in the same table space. The versions are inter-mixed.

On every update, append a new version of the tuple into an empty space in the table.



Version Chain Ordering

Approach #1: Oldest-to-Newest (O2N)
→ Append new version to end of the chain.
→ Must traverse chain on look-ups.

Approach #2: Newest-to-Oldest (N2O)
→ Must update index pointers for every new version.
→ Do not have to traverse chain on look-ups.

Time-Travel Storage

Main Table

	TUPLE	POINTER
A_3	*\$333*	•
B_1	*\$10*	

Overwrite primary version in the main table and update pointers.

Time-Travel Table

	TUPLE	POINTER
A_1	*\$111*	Ø
A_2	*\$222*	•

On every update, copy the current version to the time-travel table. Update pointers.

Delta Storage

Main Table

	VALUE	ID	POINTER
A_3	*$333*		•
B_1	*$10*		

Delta Storage Segment

	DELTA	POINTER
A_1	(VALUE→$111)	Ø
A_2	(VALUE→$222)	•

On every update, copy only the column values that were modified to the delta storage and overwrite the primary version.

Txns can recreate old versions by applying the delta in reverse order.

Garbage Collection

The DBMS needs to remove **reclaimable** physical versions from the database over time.

→ No active txn in the DBMS can "see" that version (SI).

→ The version was created by an aborted txn.

Two additional design decisions:

→ How to look for expired versions?

→ How to decide when it is safe to reclaim memory?

Garbage Collection

Approach #1: Tuple-level

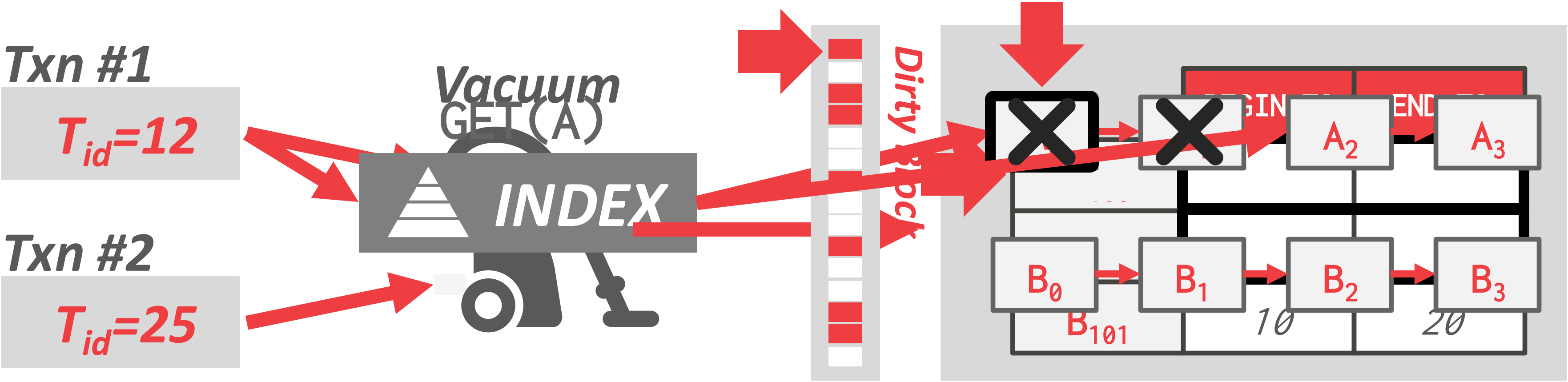
→ Find old versions by examining tuples directly.

→ Background Vacuuming vs. Cooperative Cleaning

Approach #2: Transaction-level

→ Txns keep track of their old versions so the DBMS does not have to scan tuples to determine visibility.

Tuple-Level GC



Background Vacuuming:
Separate thread(s) periodically scan the table and look for reclaimable versions. Works with any storage.

Cooperative Cleaning:
Worker threads identify reclaimable versions as they traverse version chain. Only works with O2N.

Transaction-Level GC

Each txn keeps track of its read/write set.

On commit/abort, the txn provides this information to a centralized vacuum worker.

The DBMS periodically determines when all versions created by a finished txn are no longer visible.

Transaction-Level GC

Txn #1

BEGIN @ 10
COMMIT @ 15

Old Versions

A_2

B_6

UPDATE(A)

UPDATE(B)

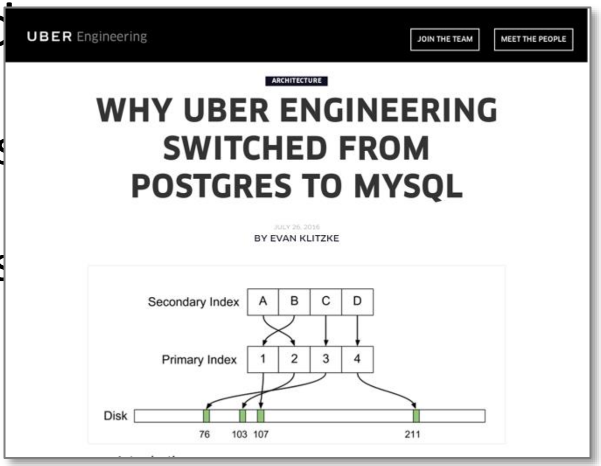
	BEGIN-TS	END-TS	DATA
A_2	1	10	-
B_6	8	10	-
A_3	10	∞	-
B_7	10	∞	-

Vacuum

TS<10

Index Management

Primary key indexes point to version chain head.
→ How often the DBMS must update the pkey index depends on whether the system creates new versions when a tuple is updated.
→ If a txn updates a tuple's pkey attribute(s), then this is treated as a DELETE followed by an INSERT.



Secondary indexes are more complicated…

Secondary Indexes

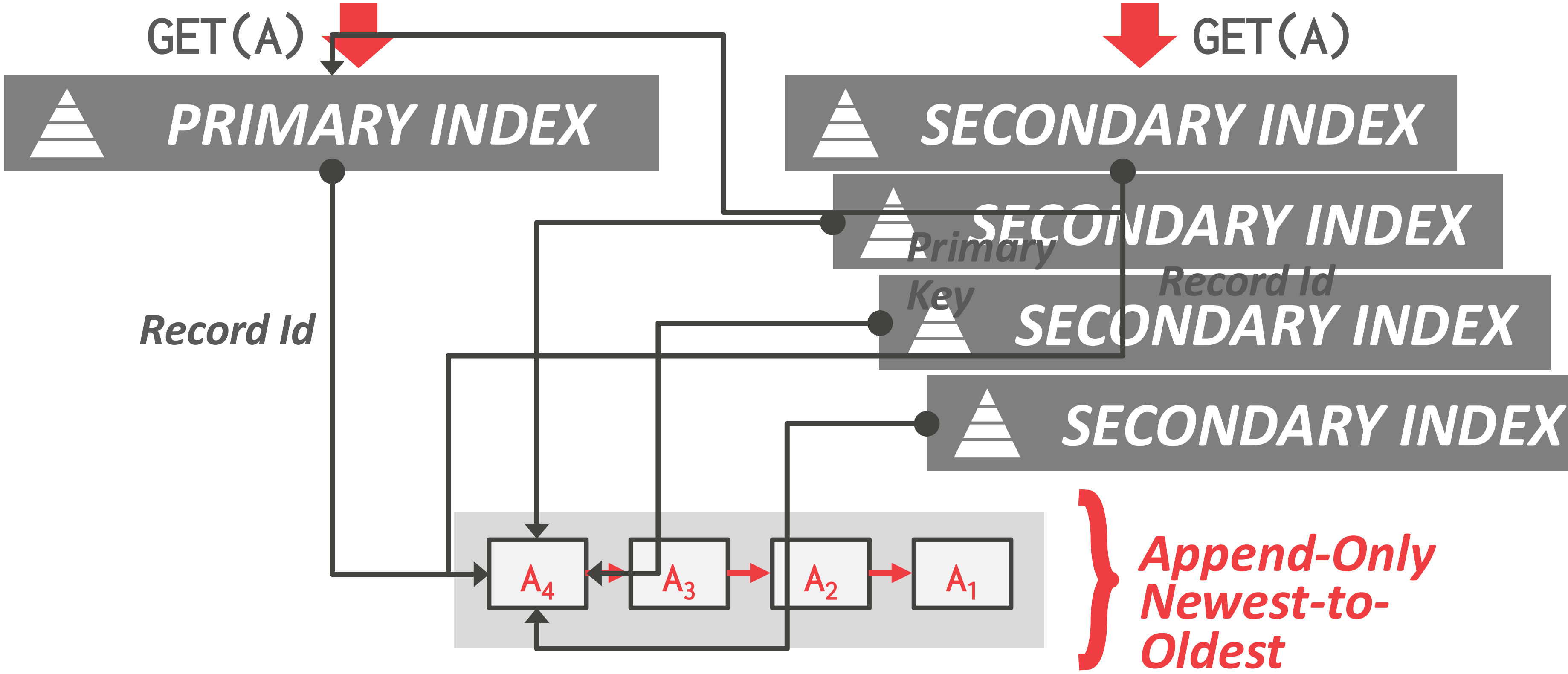
Approach #1: Logical Pointers

→ Use a fixed identifier per tuple that does not change.
→ Requires an extra indirection layer.
→ Primary Key vs. Tuple Id

Approach #2: Physical Pointers

→ Use the physical address to the version chain head.

Index Pointers



MVCC Indexes

MVCC DBMS indexes (usually) do not store version information about tuples with their keys.

→ Exception: Index-organized tables (e.g., MySQL)

Every index must support duplicate keys from different snapshots:

→ The same key may point to different logical tuples in different snapshots.

MVCC Duplicate Key Problem

Txn #1

BEGIN @ 10

READ(A)

READ(A)

Txn #2

BEGIN @ 20

COMMIT @ 25

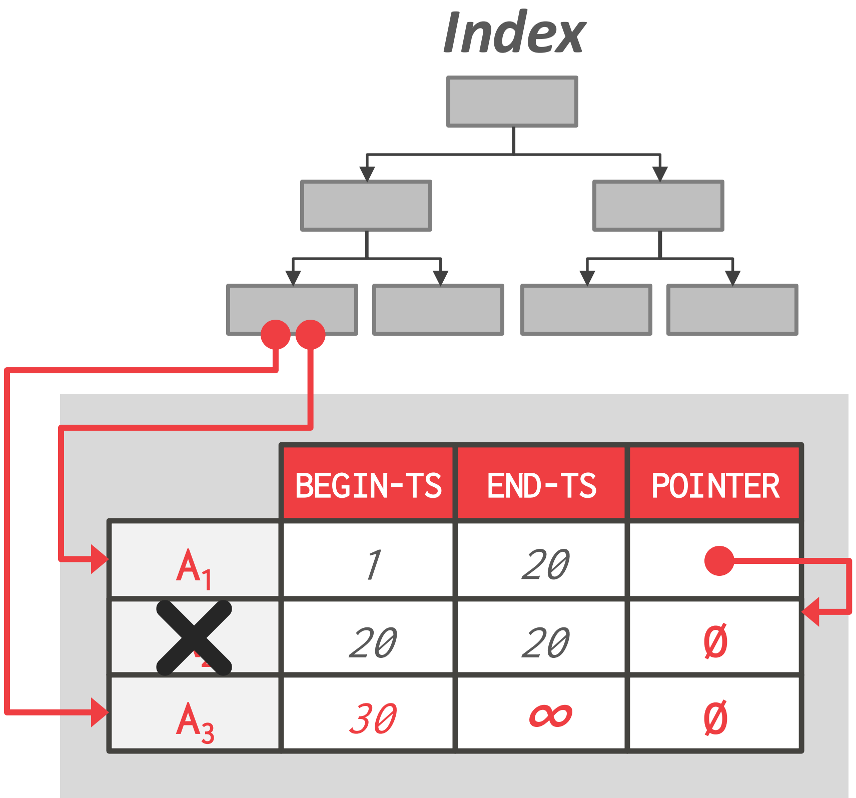
UPDATE(A)

DELETE(A)

Txn #3

BEGIN @ 30

INSERT(A)



MVCC Indexes

Each index's underlying data structure must support the storage of non-unique keys.

Use additional execution logic to perform conditional inserts for pkey / unique indexes.

→ Atomically check whether the key exists and then insert.

Workers may get back multiple entries for a single fetch. They then must follow the pointers to find the proper physical version.

MVCC Deletes

The DBMS <u>physically</u> deletes a tuple from the database only when all versions of a <u>logically</u> deleted tuple are not visible.

→ If a tuple is deleted, then there cannot be a new version of that tuple after the newest version.
→ No write-write conflicts / first-writer wins

We need a way to denote that tuple has been logically delete at some point in time.

MVCC Deletes

Approach #1: Deleted Flag

→ Maintain a flag to indicate that the logical tuple has been deleted after the newest physical version.

→ Can either be in tuple header or a separate column.

Approach #2: Tombstone Tuple

→ Create an empty physical version to indicate that a logical tuple is deleted.

→ Use a separate pool for tombstone tuples with only a special bit pattern in version chain pointer to reduce the storage overhead.

MVCC Implementations

	Protocol	*Version Storage*	*Garbage Collection*	*Indexes*
Oracle	MV2PL	Delta	Vacuum	Logical
Postgres	MV-2PL/MV-TO	Append-Only	Vacuum	Physical
MySQL-InnoDB	MV-2PL	Delta	Vacuum	Logical
HYRISE	MV-OCC	Append-Only	–	Physical
Hekaton	MV-OCC	Append-Only	Cooperative	Physical
MemSQL (2015)	MV-OCC	Append-Only	Vacuum	Physical
SAP HANA	MV-2PL	Time-travel	Hybrid	Logical
NuoDB	MV-2PL	Append-Only	Vacuum	Logical
HyPer	MV-OCC	Delta	Txn-level	Logical
CockroachDB	MV-2PL	Delta (LSM)	Compaction	Logical

CONCLUSION

MVCC is the widely used scheme in DBMSs.
Even systems that do not support multi-statement txns (e.g., NoSQL) use it.

NEXT CLASS

Logging and recovery!