Transactions & Concurrency Control

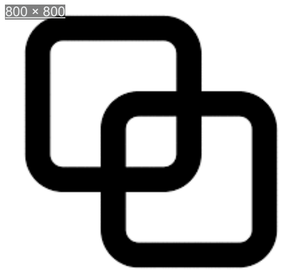
CSC443H1 Database System Technology

Niv Dayan

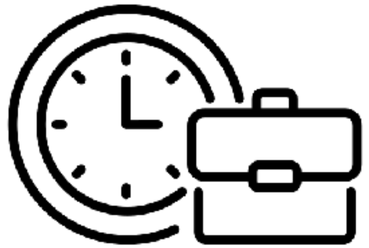
Logistics

TA doing both tutorial sections this Thursday

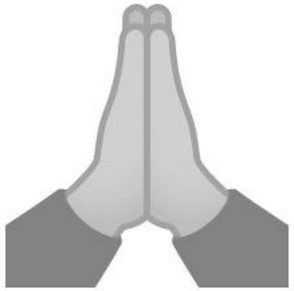
Lecture + tutorial are both on Tuesday next week.



On Thursday next week, we'll have project office hours

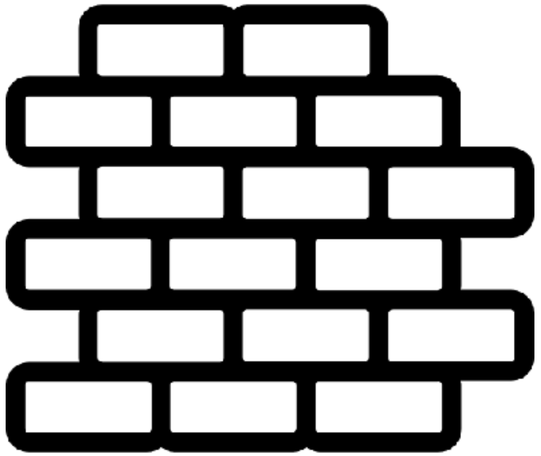


Please do the course evaluation!

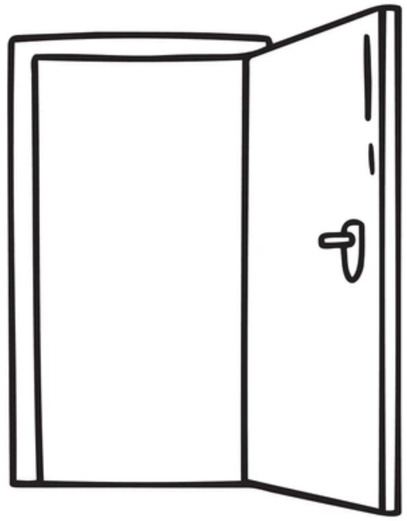


CSC2525

Some were blocked from applying due to 20% cap on undergrads in grad courses



Policy now updated: if you're interested, please enroll through the grad office



Grad School

And now to our main topic…

A DB has a notion of consistency, defined by the user

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Sum of money in a system should stay constant

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An account balance cannot drop below zero

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A user must have a valid SIN

A DB has a notion of consistency, defined by the user

Sum of money in a system should stay constant

sum(balance) = X

An account balance cannot drop below zero

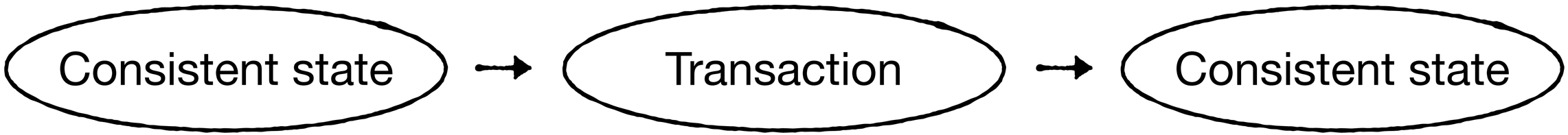
balance ≥ 0

A user must have a valid SIN

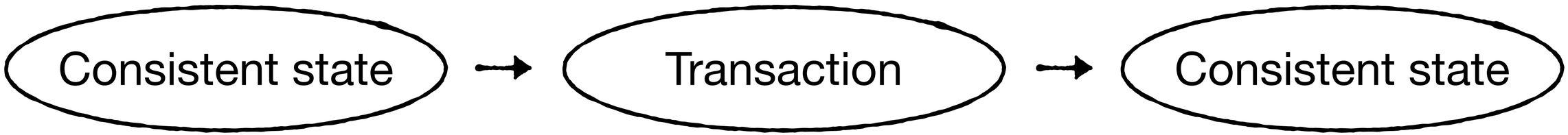
SIN ≠ null

These can be set as integrity constraints

To maintain consistency, database APIs expose the concept of a transaction



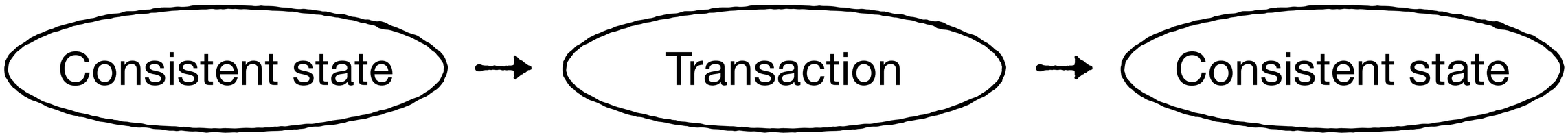
Series of
operations on DB



Example: Bank transfer

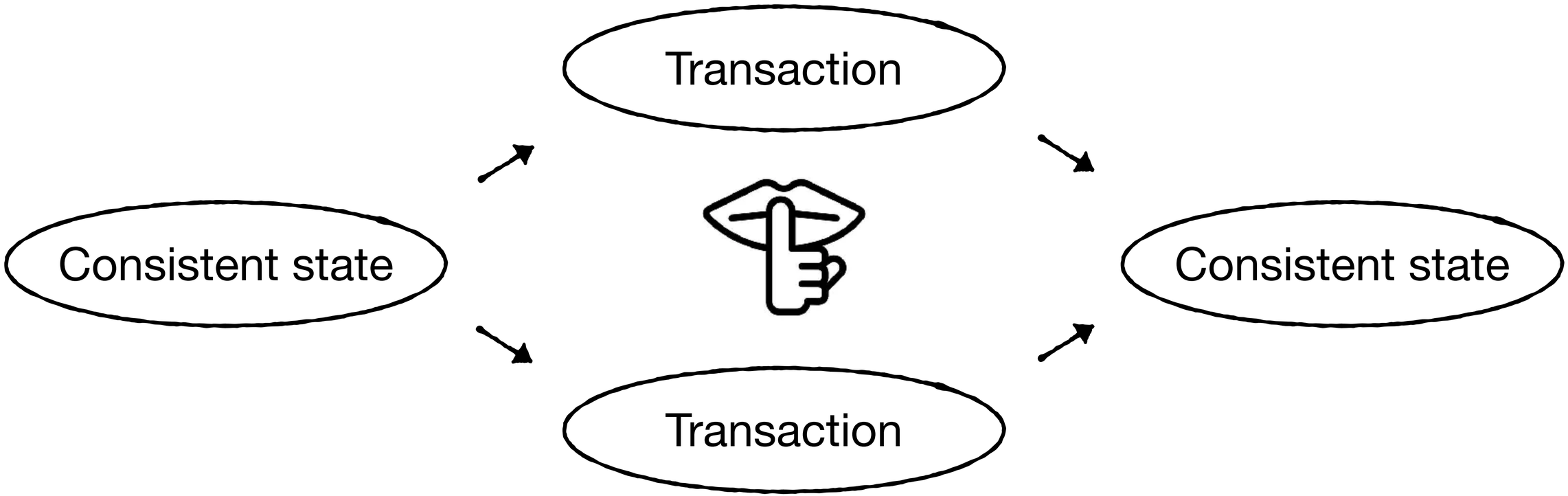
A = A - 100

B = B + 100



Example: Bank transfer

A = A - 100 ← **Both operations must succeed**
B = B + 100 ← **or fail for the system to remain in a consistent state**



Transactions do not interact with each other (i.e., by exchanging messages). A transaction is oblivious to all other ongoing transactions.

Transaction API

Begin Transaction

Some commands (e.g., in SQL)

Commit or Abort

Example: Money withdrawal

Begin Transaction

b = Select balance from accounts where id = x

If b ≤ 100

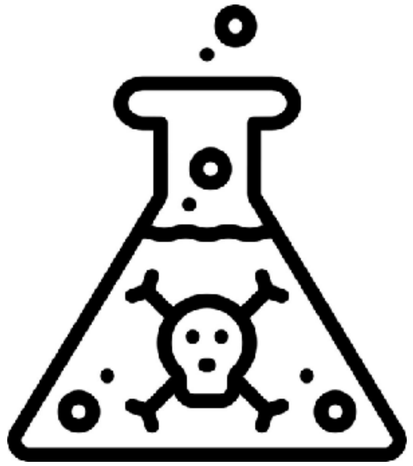
    Abort

Else

    Update accounts set balance = b - 100 where id = x

    Commit

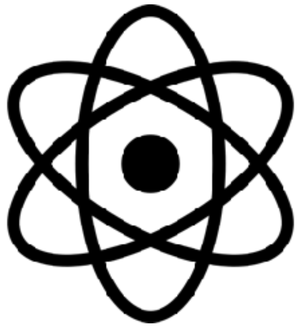
Semantics for Transactions



ACID

ACID

Atomicity



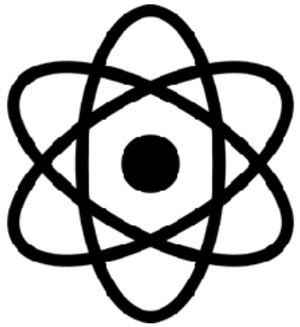
Consistency

Isolation

Durability

ACID

Atomicity



All or nothing

Consistency

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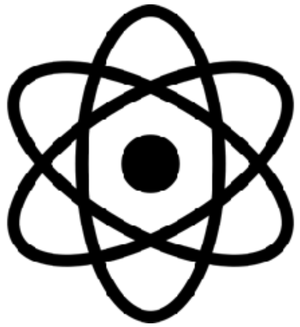

All or nothing

Consistency

Transition across consistent states

Isolation

Durability

ACID

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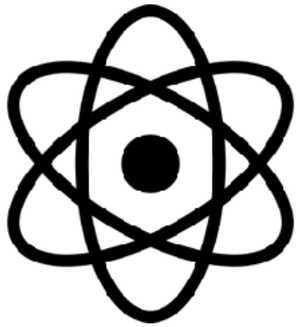

All or nothing

Consistency

Transition across consistent states

Isolation

Not corrupted by concurrency

Durability

ACID

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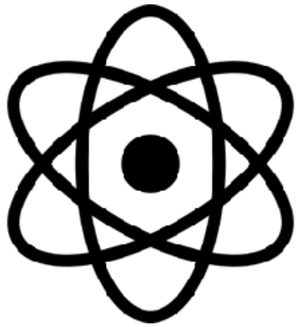


All or nothing

Consistency

Transition across consistent states

Isolation

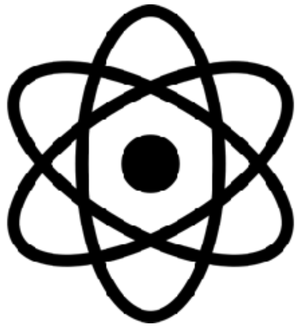
Not corrupted by concurrency

Durability

Recover from failure

Who is responsible for what?

Atomicity



DB

Consistency

User

Isolation

DB

Durability

DB

What Endangers Consistency?

System Failure

Concurrency

System Failure

Power failure

Hardware failure

Data center failure

System Failure

Power failure

Example: Bank transfer

A = A - 100
Power fails
B = B + 100

System Failure

Power failure

Example: Bank transfer

A = A - 100
Power fails
B = B + 100

Power fails before transaction finishes, leaving the system in an inconsistent state

System Failure

Concurrency

Concurrency

Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

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Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

Can you think of examples?

Concurrency

Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

Example 1

Interest & Payments

Example 2

Updates & statistics

Example 1

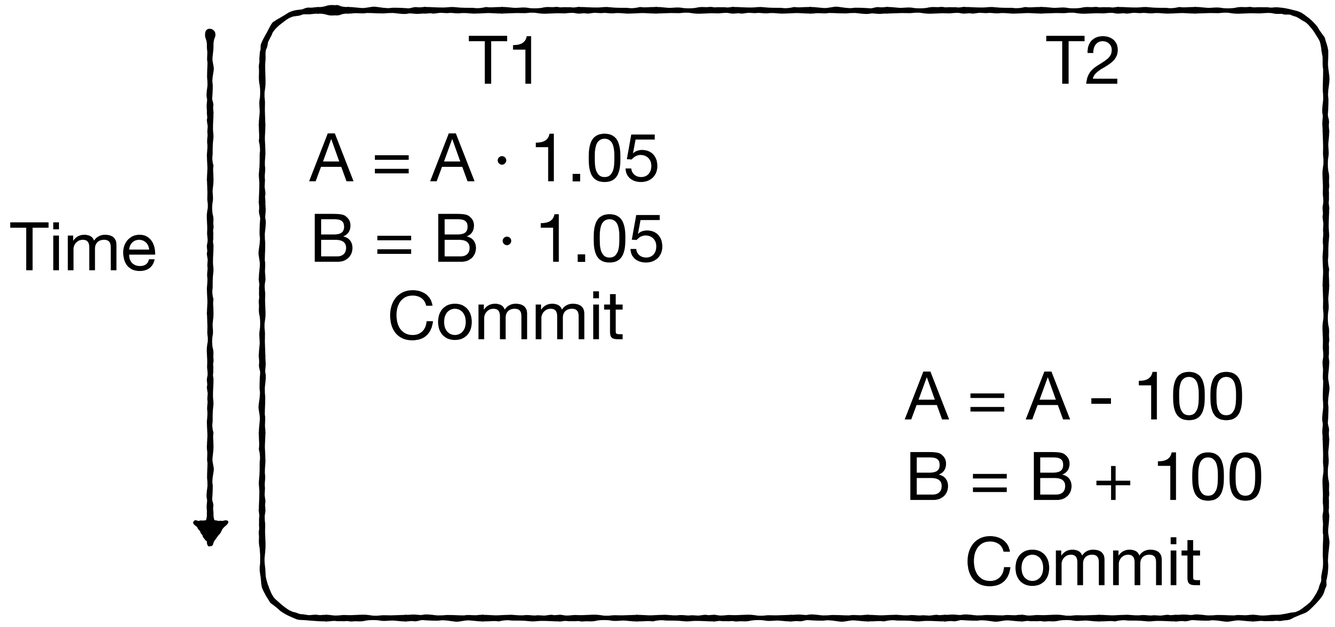
T1: Interest payment

$$A = A \cdot 1.05$$
$$B = B \cdot 1.05$$

T2: Payments

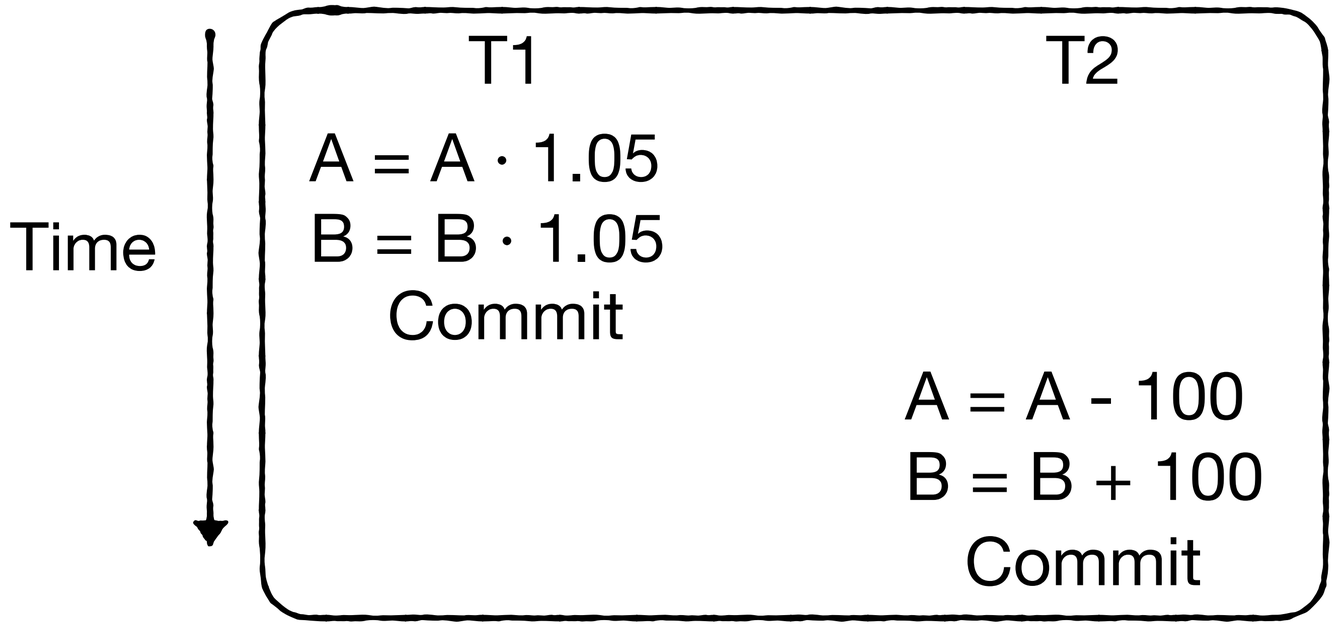
$$A = A - 100$$
$$B = B + 100$$

Example 1



Example 1

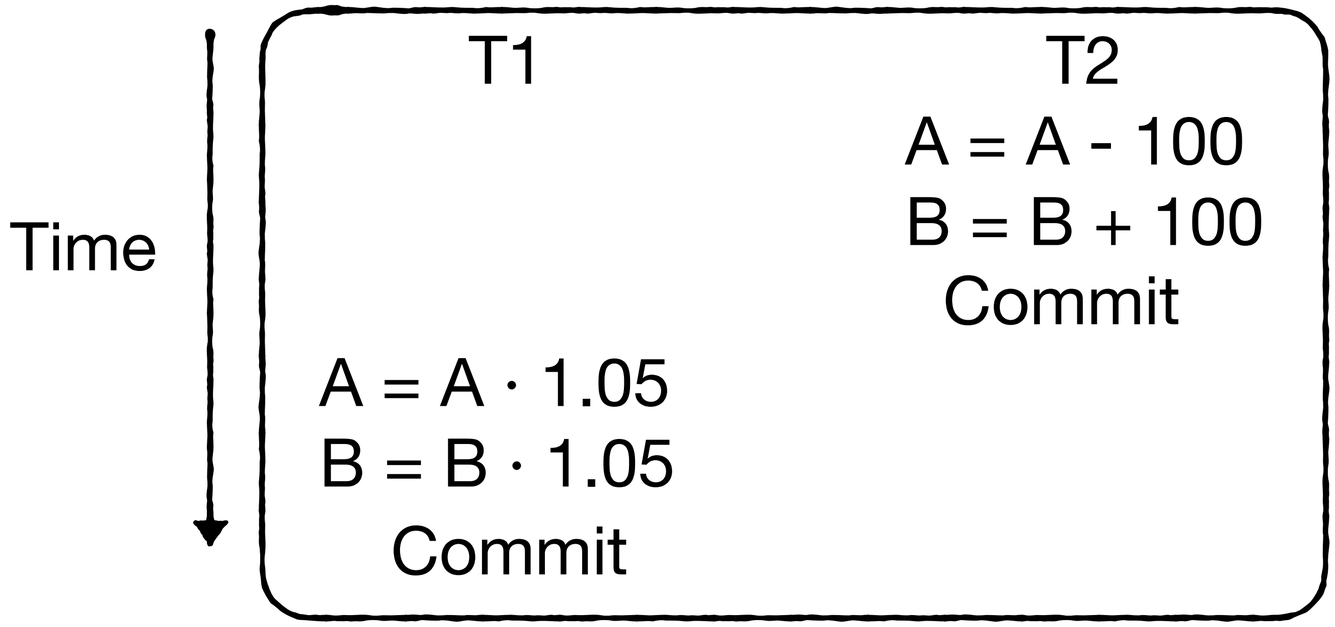
Initialization: **A=1000, B=1000**



Valid Outcome 1: A = 950, B = 1150

Example 1

Initialization: A=1000, B=1000

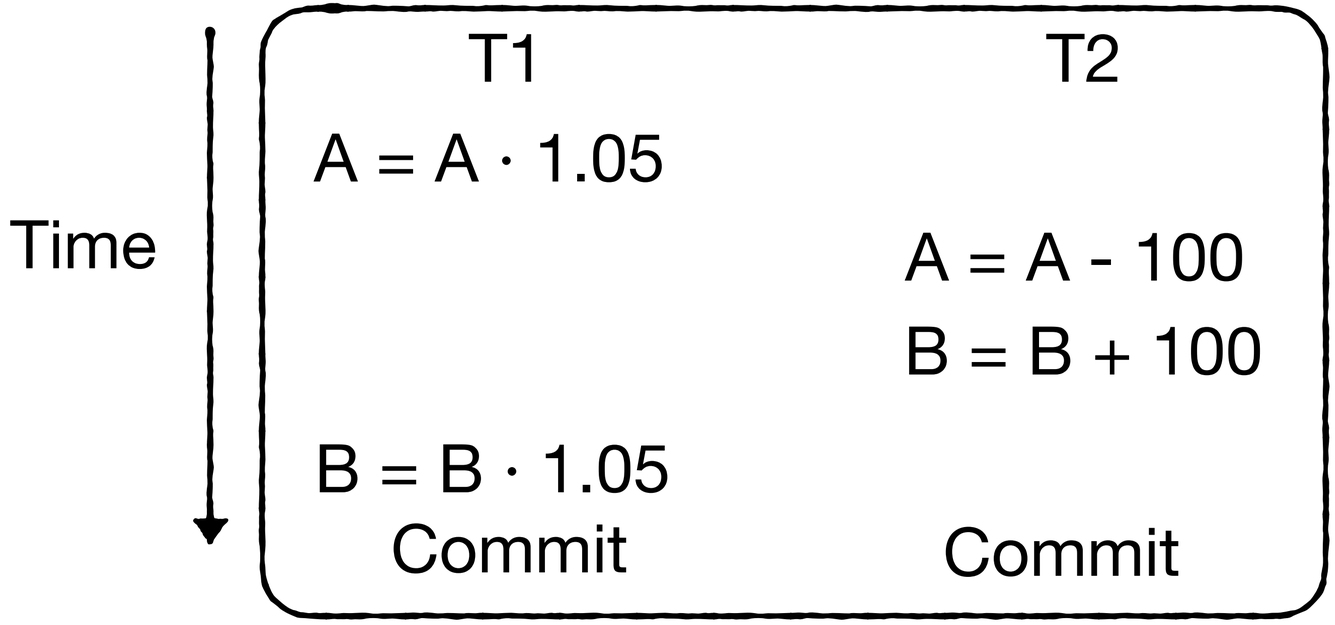


Valid Outcome 2: A = 945, B = 1155

Valid Outcome 1: A = 950, B = 1150

Example 1

Initialization: A=1000, B=1000



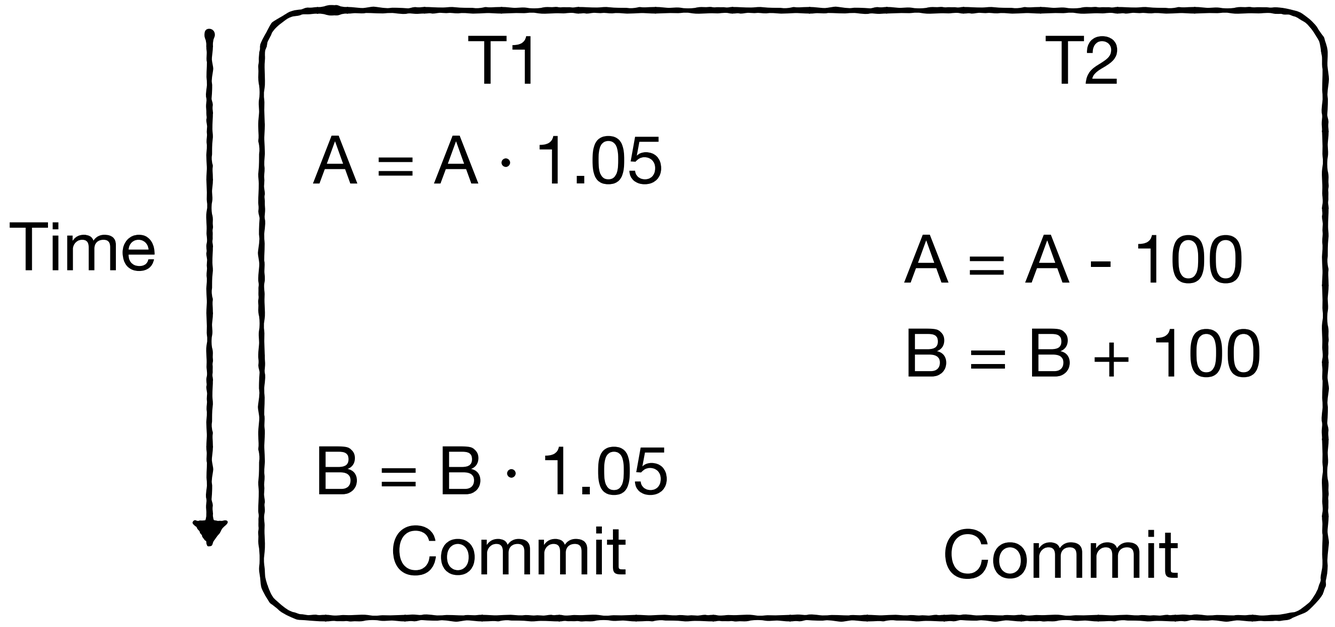
Invalid Outcome: A = 950, B = 1155

Valid Outcome 2: A = 945, B = 1155

Valid Outcome 1: A = 950, B = 1150

Example 1

Initialization: A=1000, B=1000



Dirty read: T2 reads a modified but uncommitted data item from T1

Invalid Outcome: A = 950, B = 1155

Valid Outcome 2: A = 945, B = 1155

Valid Outcome 1: A = 950, B = 1150

Concurrency

Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

Example 1

Payments & Interest

Example 2

Updates & Statistics

Example 2

T1: Account Updates

Balance += X

T2: Statistics Reporting

count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
avg(account balances)

Example 2

T1: Account Updates

bob_checking += X

T2: Statistics Reporting

count(# accounts) where user = “bob”
sum(account balances) where user = “bob”
avg(account balances) where user = “bob”

Example 2

T1: Account Updates

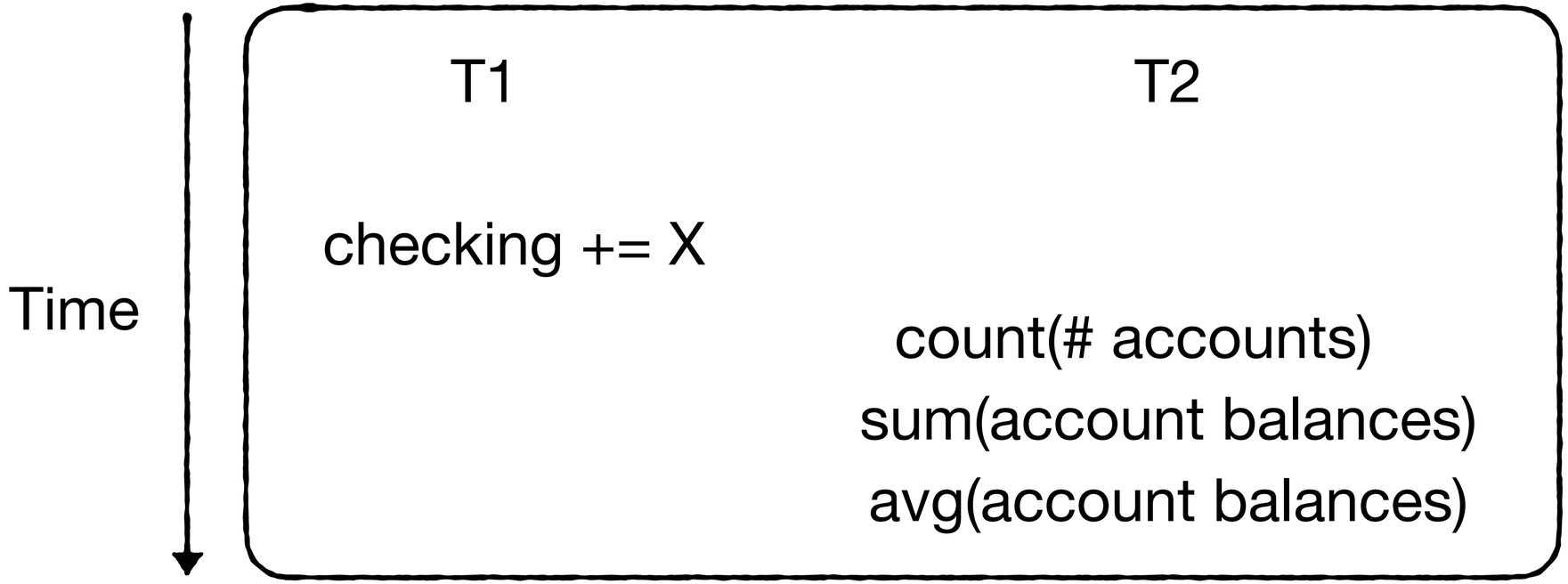
bob_checking += X

T2: Statistics Reporting

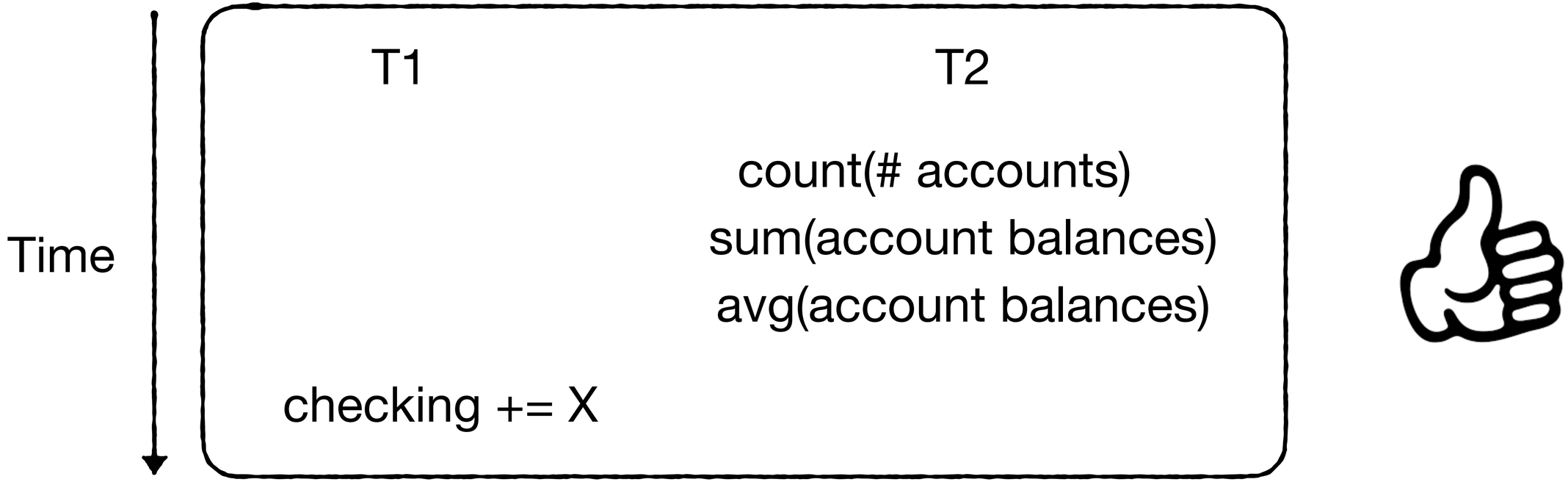
count(# accounts) where user = “bob”
sum(account balances) where user = “bob”
avg(account balances) where user = “bob”

What can go wrong?

Example 2


Time
T1
T2
checking += X
count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
avg(account balances)

Example 2


Time
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count(# accounts)
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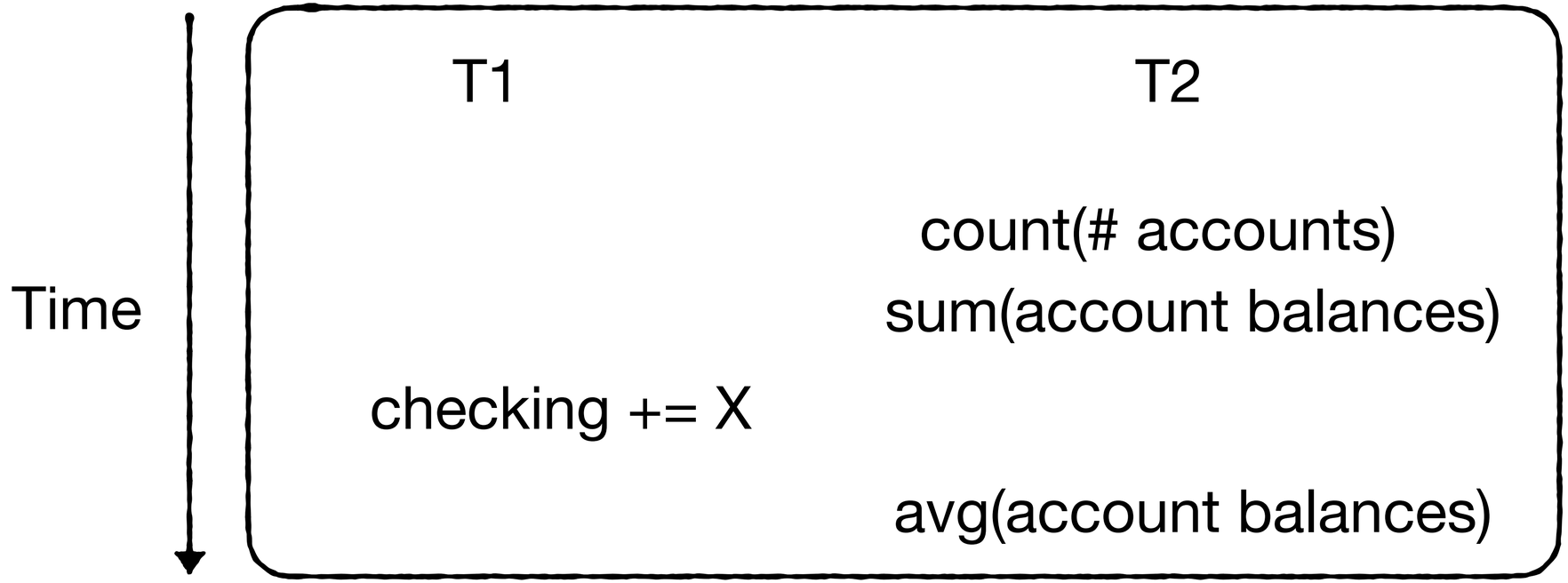
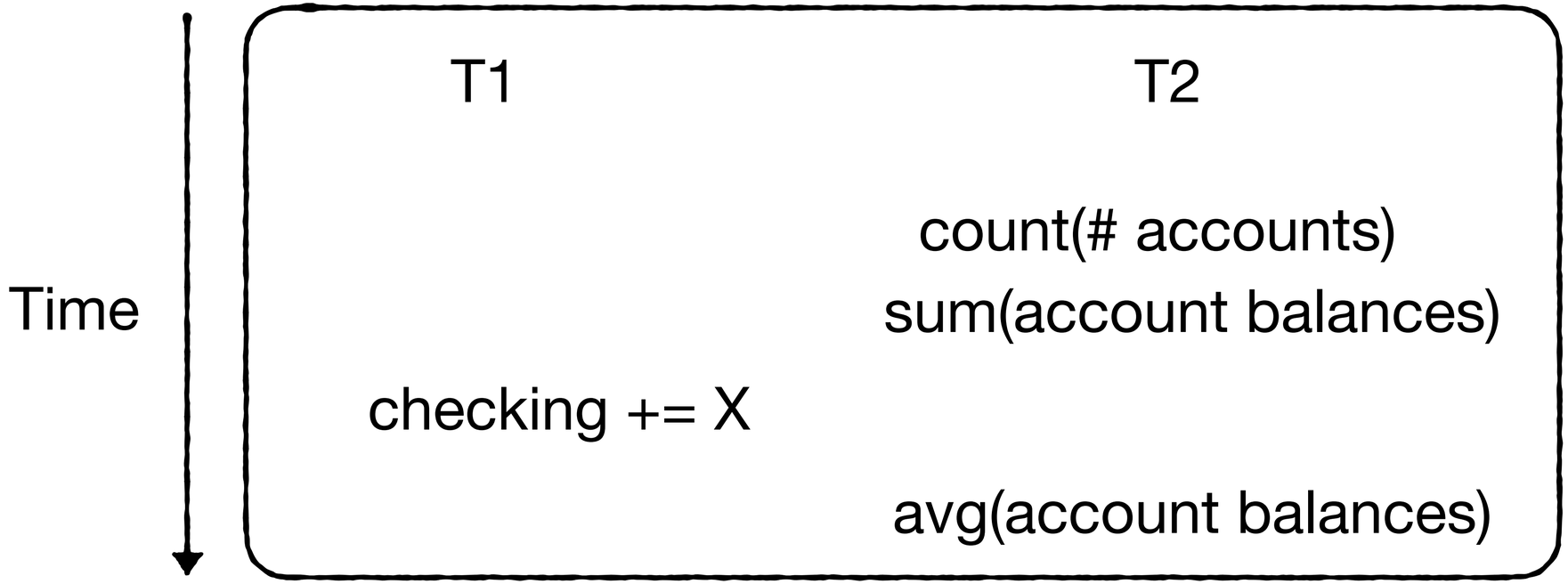
Example 2



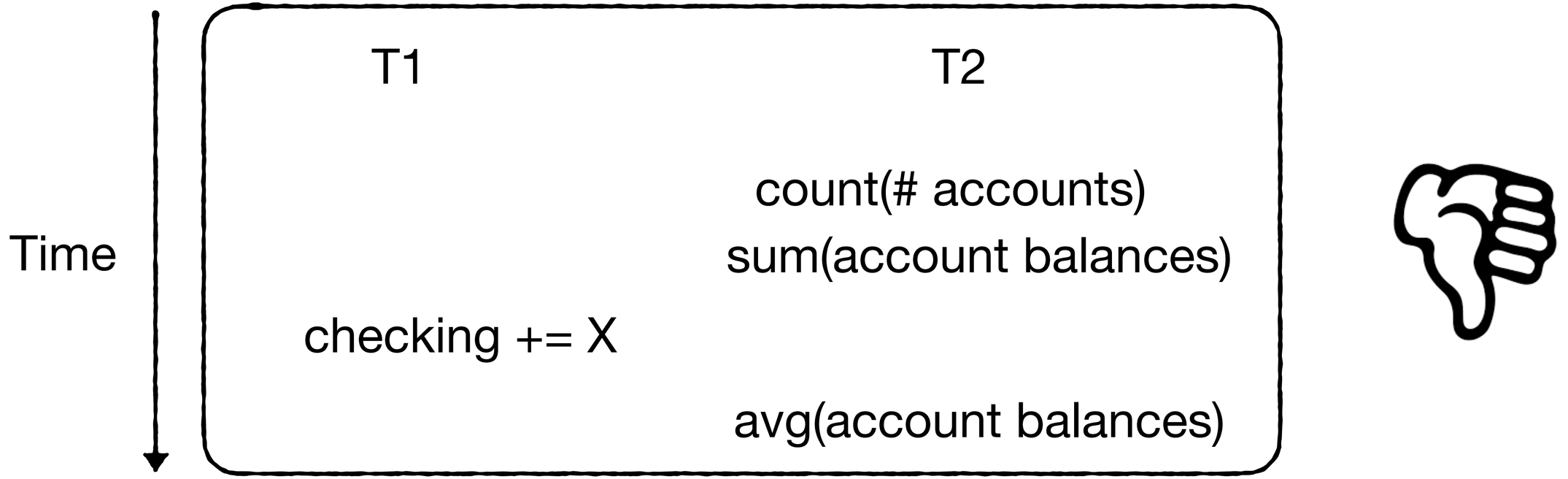
Problem?

Example 2



Problem? **Inconsistent reporting: avg ≠ sum / count**

Example 2



Unrepeatable read anomaly: subsequent reads of the same data are inconsistent as the data was changed in-between

Concurrency

Concurrent transactions can result in an inconsistent state

	Example 1	Example 2
	Payments & Interest	Updates & Statistics
		
Problem:	**Dirty reads**	**Unrepeatable reads**

Simplest solution: lock whole DB for any modification

Problems?

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Problems: terrible for performance

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While one transaction waits for a storage I/O, another should be able to use the CPU

Simplest solution: lock whole DB for any modification

Problems: terrible for performance

While one transaction waits for a storage I/O, another should be able to use the CPU

A short transaction should not have to wait until a long transaction completes

A good compromise: Serializability

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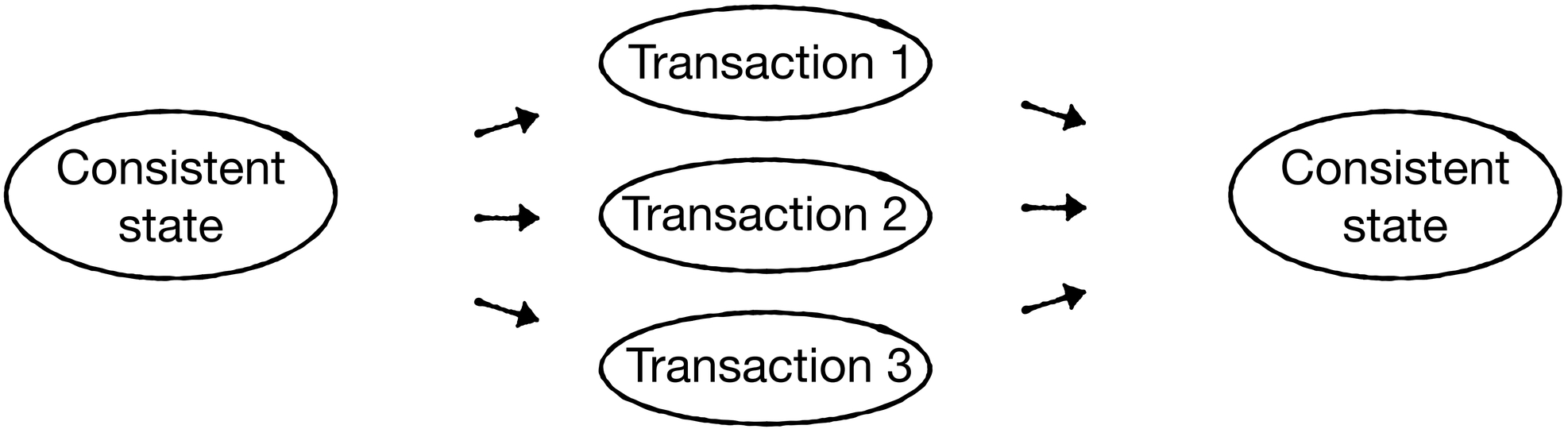
Transactions can be concurrent but must result in a consistent state



A good compromise: Serializability

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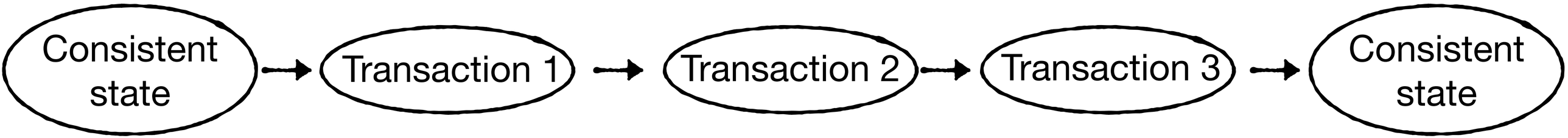
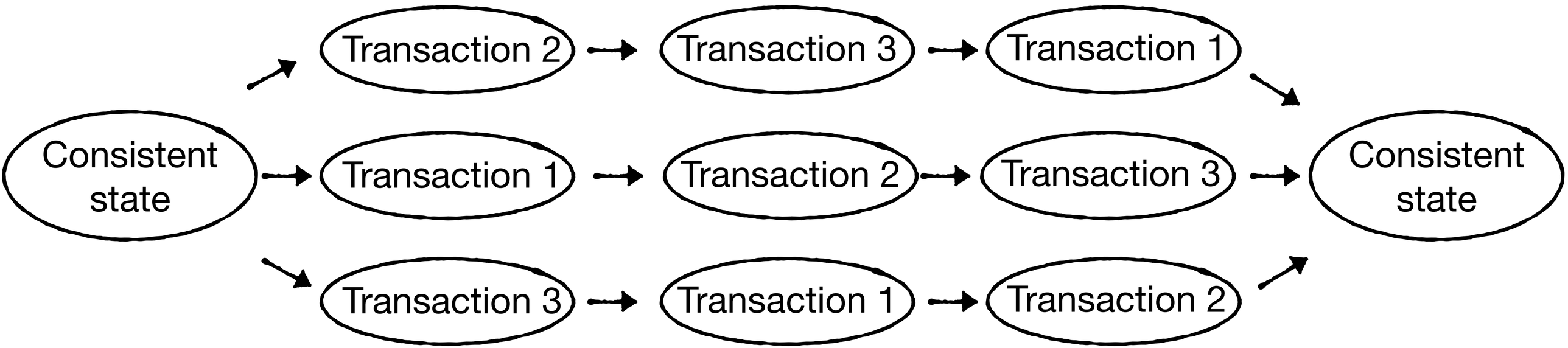


Any given state once a transaction commits should have been achievable through a serial execution of all committed transactions thus far

A good compromise: Serializability

Transactions can be concurrent but must result in a consistent state



Equivalence to any serial execution is considered correct

How to achieve concurrency & serializability?

How to achieve concurrency & serializability? **Strict Two-Phase Locking**

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A transaction is divided into two phases

Phase 1

Phase 2

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Phase 1

Lock a data item (e.g., row) when it is accessed for the first time

Phase 2

How to achieve concurrency & serializability? **Strict Two-Phase Locking**

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Phase 1

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Lock a data item (e.g., row) when it is accessed for the first time

Reads take shared locks

Writes take exclusive locks

How to achieve concurrency & serializability? **Strict Two-Phase Locking**

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Lock a data item (e.g., row) when it is accessed for the first time

Reads take shared locks

Writes take exclusive locks

Phase 2

Release all locks during commit

How to achieve concurrency & serializability? **Strict Two-Phase Locking**

A transaction is divided into two phases

Phase 1

Lock a data item (e.g., row) when it is accessed for the first time

Phase 2

Release all locks during commit

Invariant: a data item that has been accessed by this transaction cannot be modified by another transaction until this transaction commits

Let’s fix our running examples

	Example 1 Interest & Payments	Example 2 Updates & Statistics
		
Problems:	Dirty reads	Unrepeatable reads

Example 1

T1: Interest payment

$$A = A \cdot 1.05$$
$$B = B \cdot 1.05$$

T2: Payments

$$A = A - 100$$
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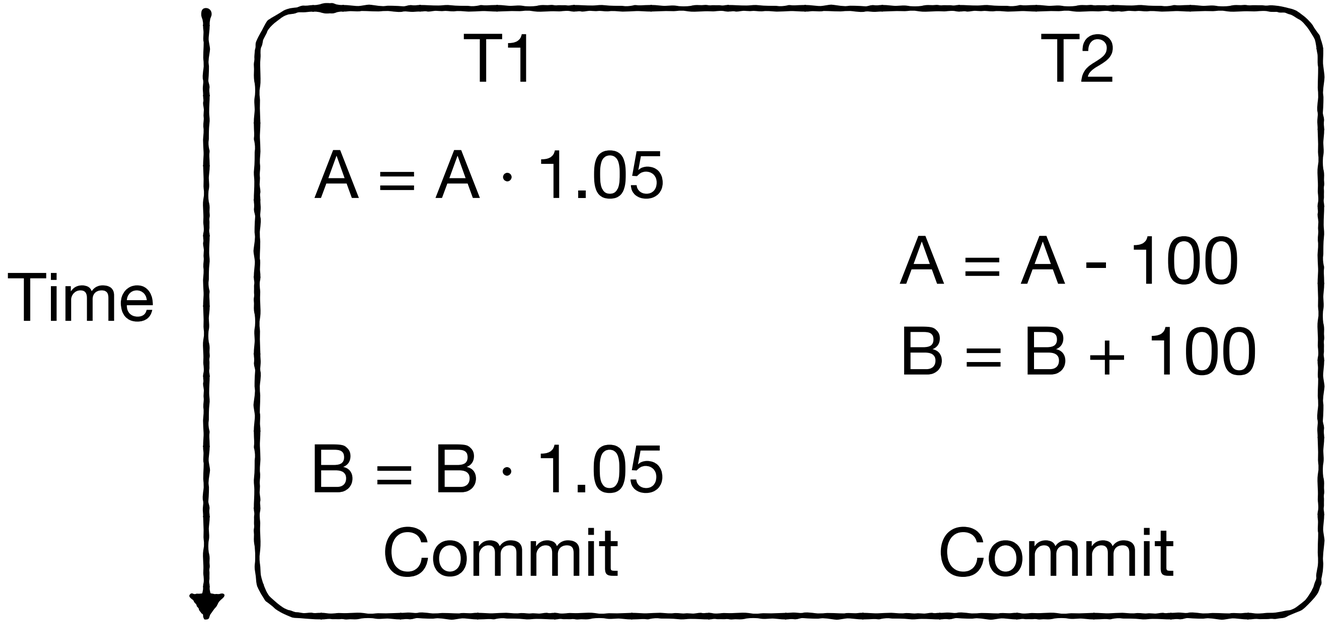
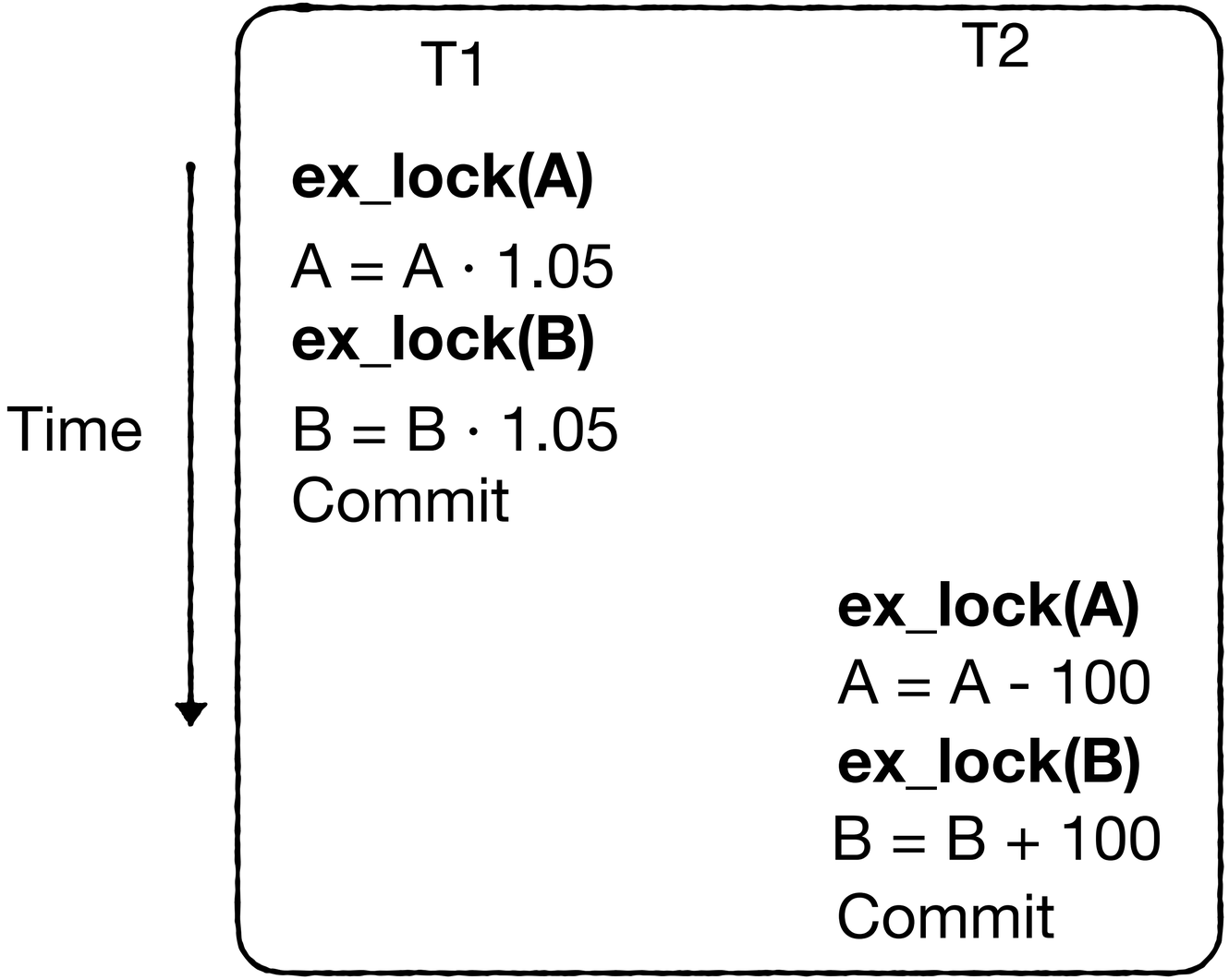
Example 1



Example 1

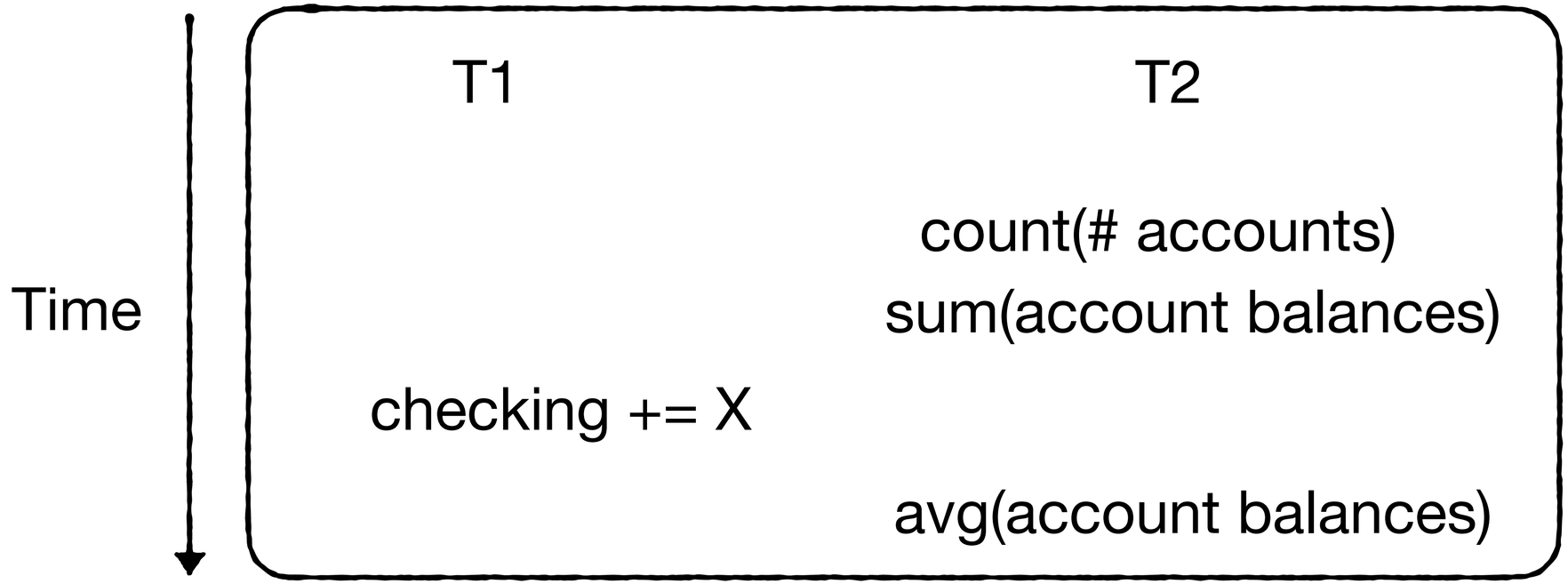


Exclusive locks ensure T2 cannot modify A until T1 commits

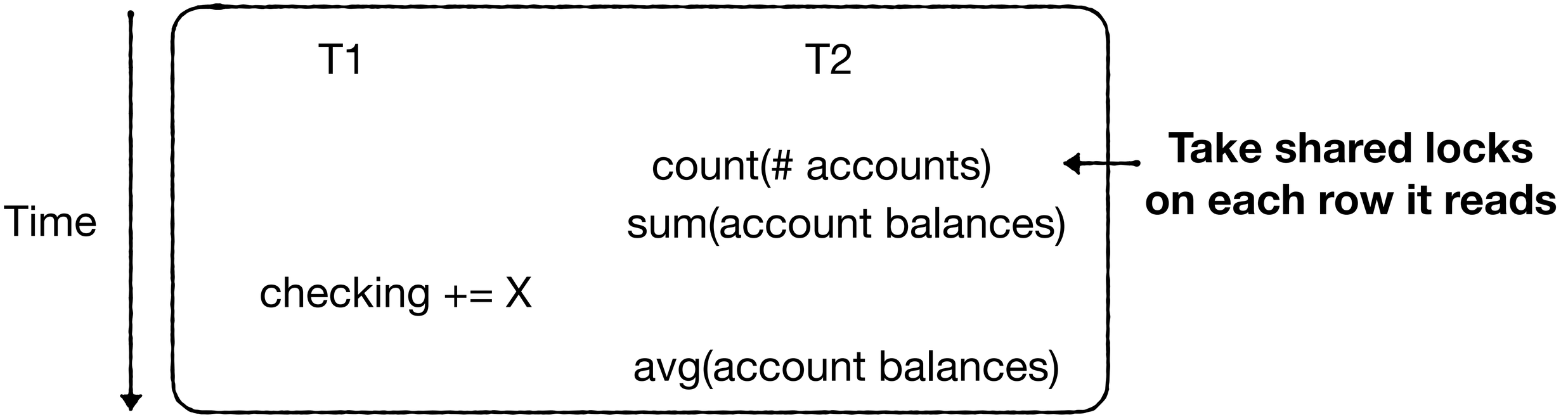
Let’s fix our running examples

	Example 1 Interest & Payments	Example 2 Updates & Statistics
		
Problems:	Dirty reads	Unrepeatable reads

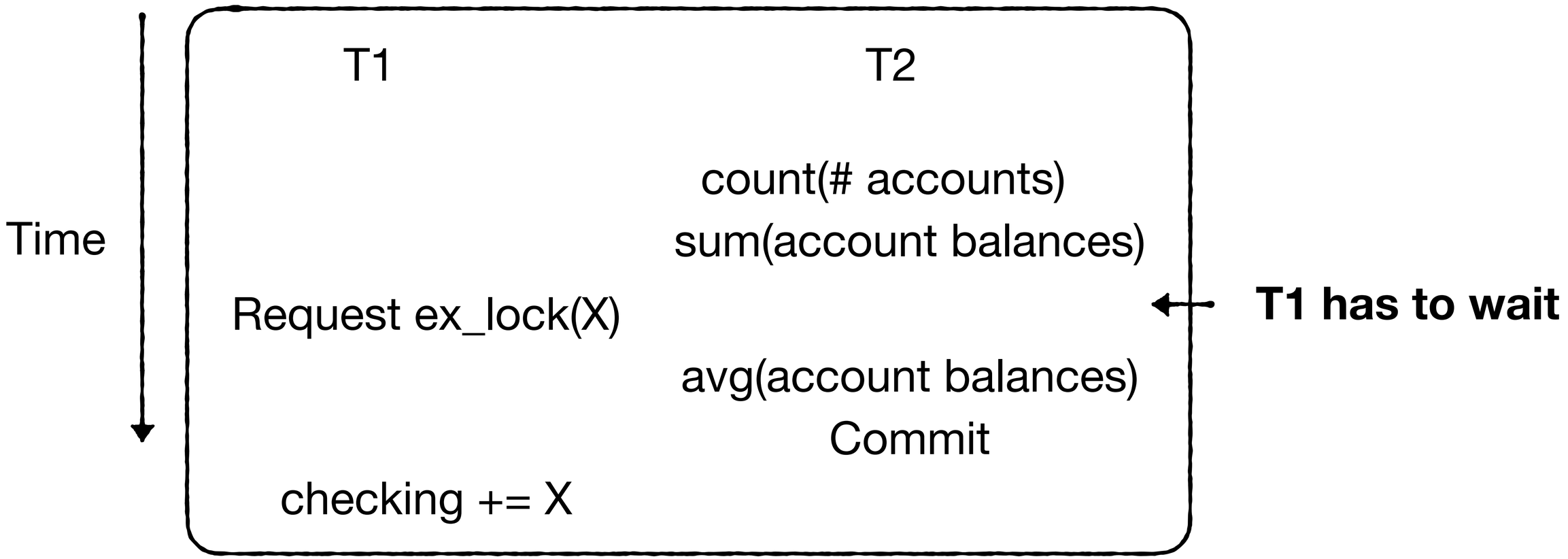
Fixing Example 2



Fixing Example 2



Fixing Example 2



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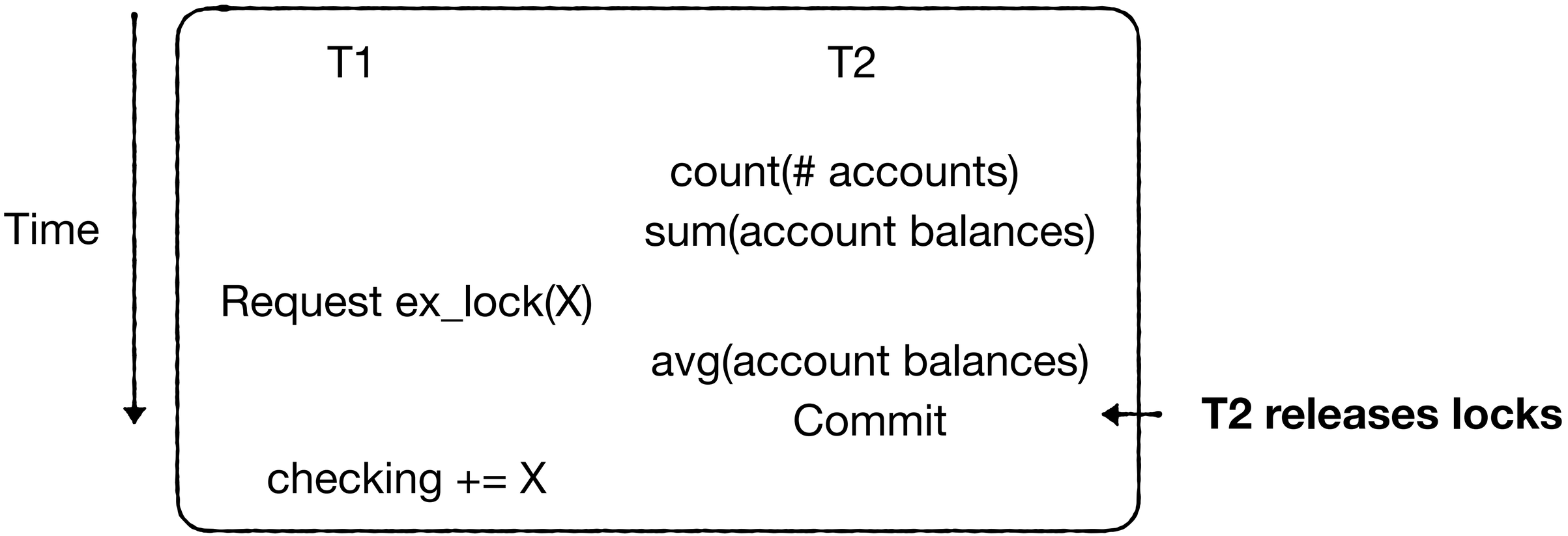

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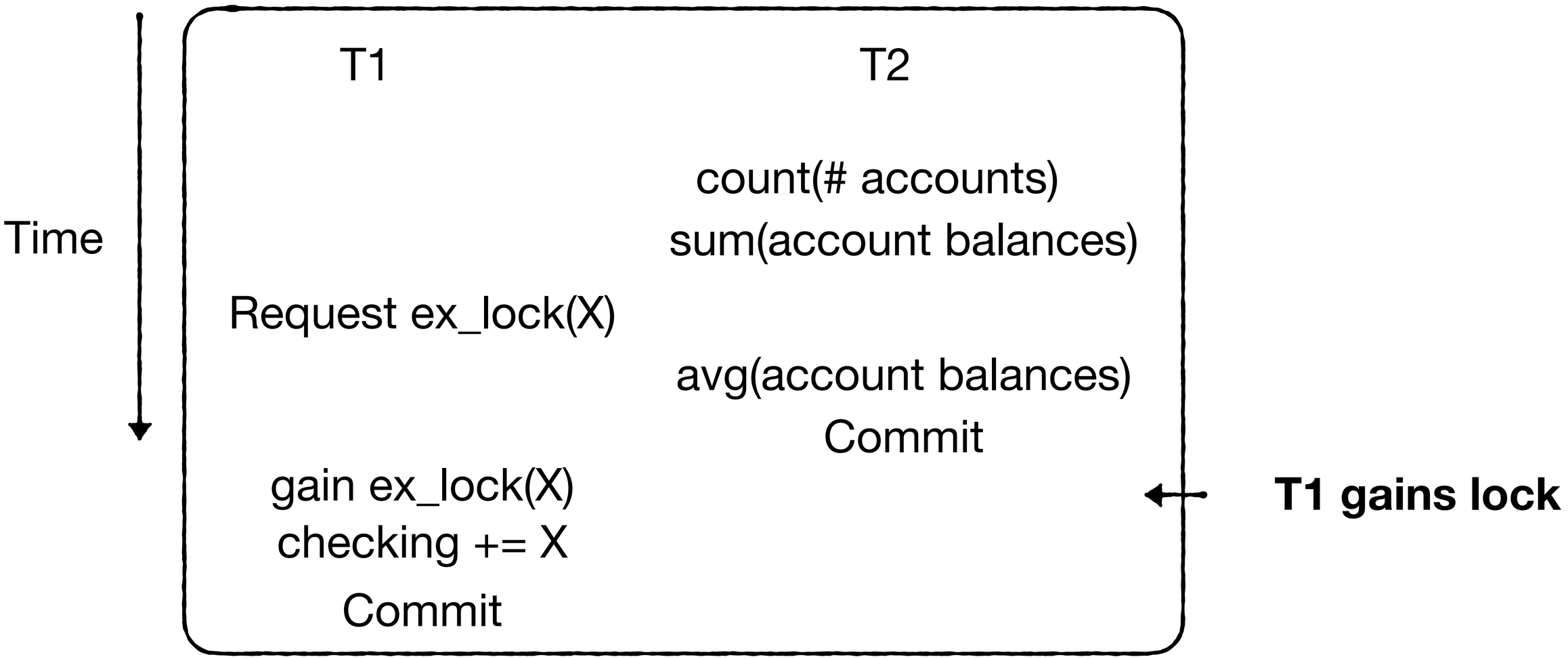

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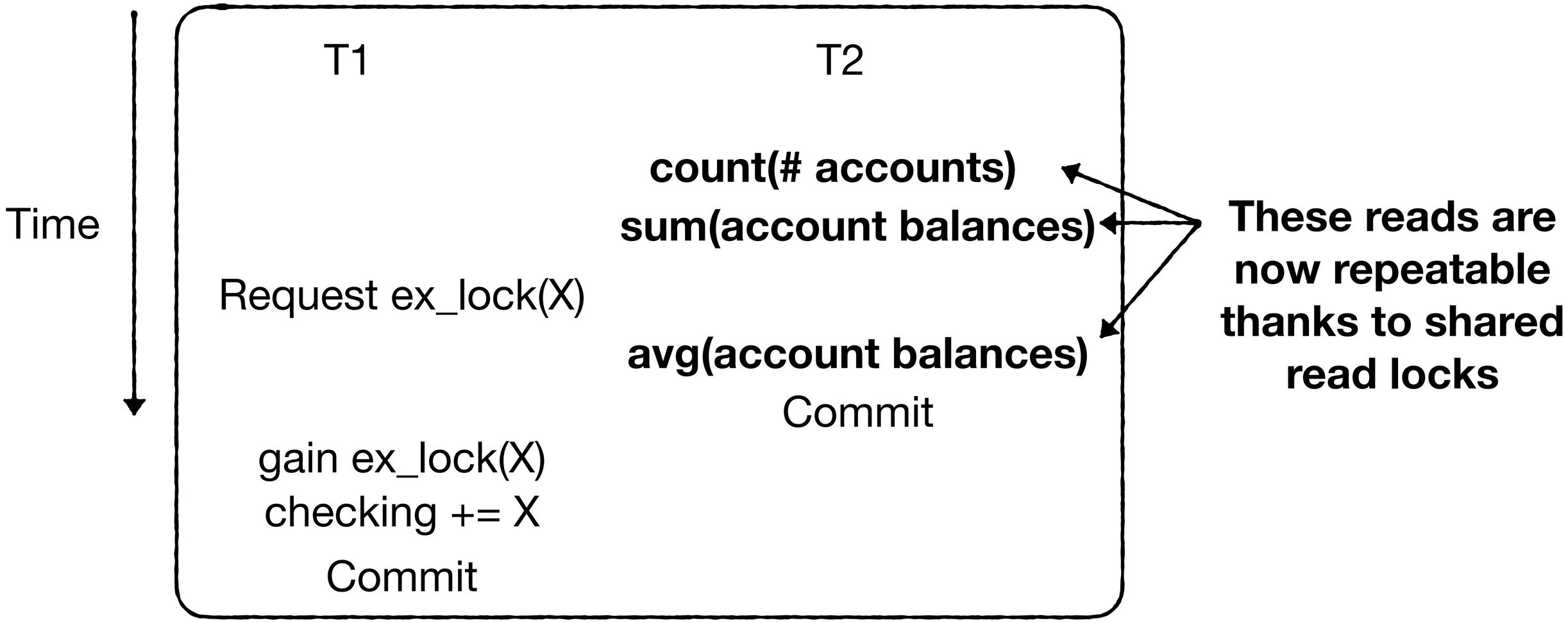
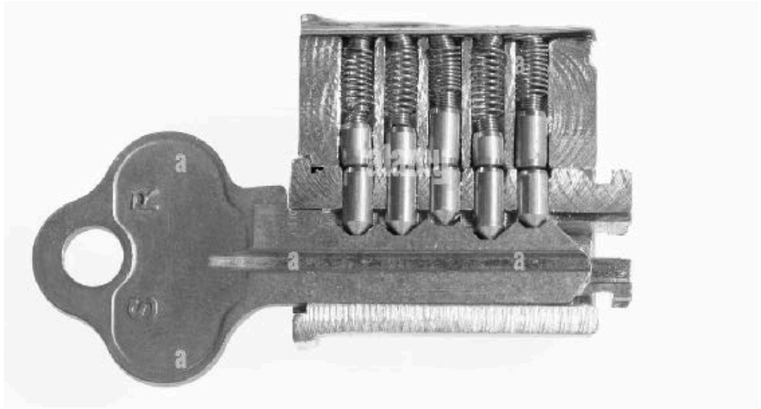


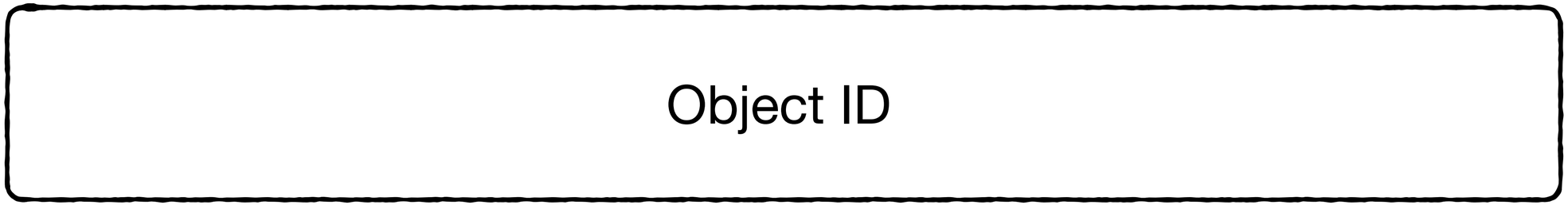
Both examples now work correctly

	Example 1 Interest & Payments	Example 2 Updates & Statistics
		
Problems:	Dirty reads	Unrepeatable reads
Solution:	**Exclusive write locks**	**Shared read locks**

How are locks implemented?



Lock Manager - a hash table



Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID → (**type**, lock **count**, **queue** of waiting requests)

Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID → (**type**, lock count, queue of waiting requests)

Shared/exclusive

Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID → (type, **lock count**, queue of waiting requests)

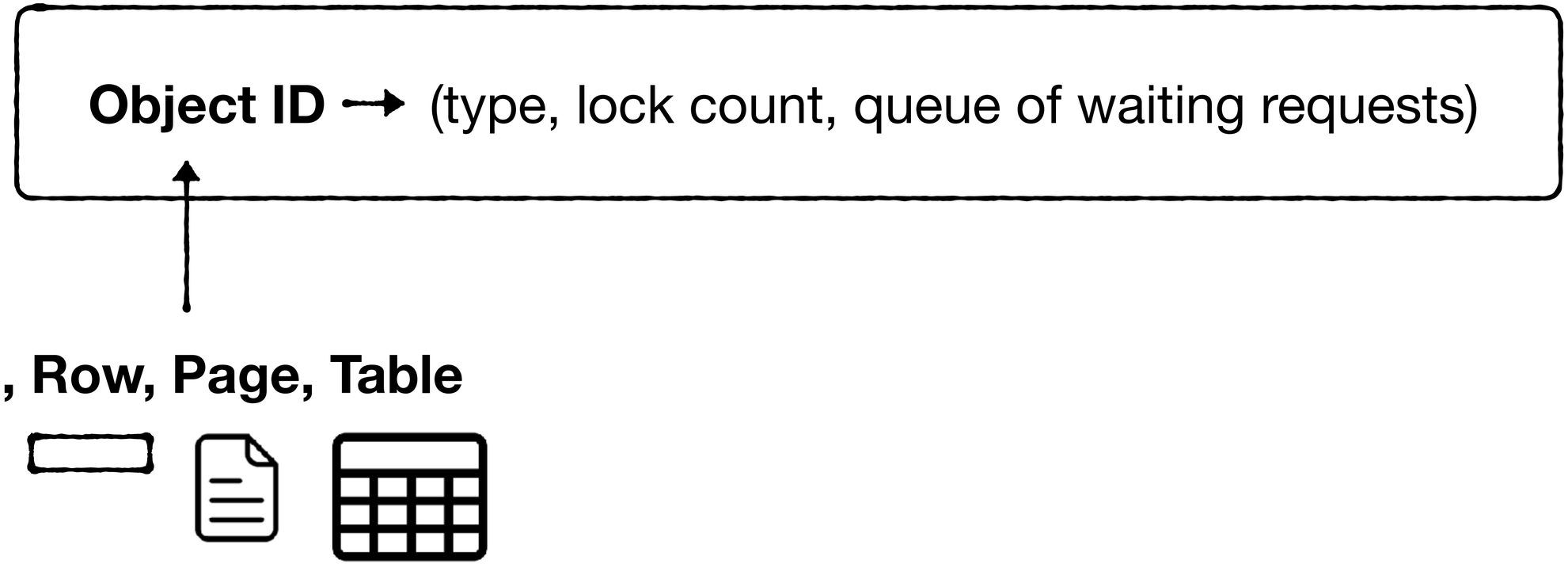
In case of shared lock

Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID → (type, lock count, **queue of waiting requests**)

What to invoke next when this lock is released

Lock Manager - a hash table



Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID → (type, lock count, queue of waiting requests)

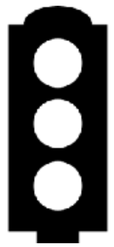
We lock an object the first time it is accessed by a transaction

Lock Manager - a hash table

Object ID → (type, lock count, queue of waiting requests)

We lock an object the first time it is accessed by a transaction

Locking table implemented via OS locking primitives (e.g., mutexes)



An important distinction

Locks

Latches

An important distinction

	Locks	Latches
		
Separate:	**Transactions**	**Threads**

An important distinction

	Locks	Latches
		
Separate:	Transactions	Threads
Protect:	**DB content**	**In-memory structures (LRU queue)**

An important distinction

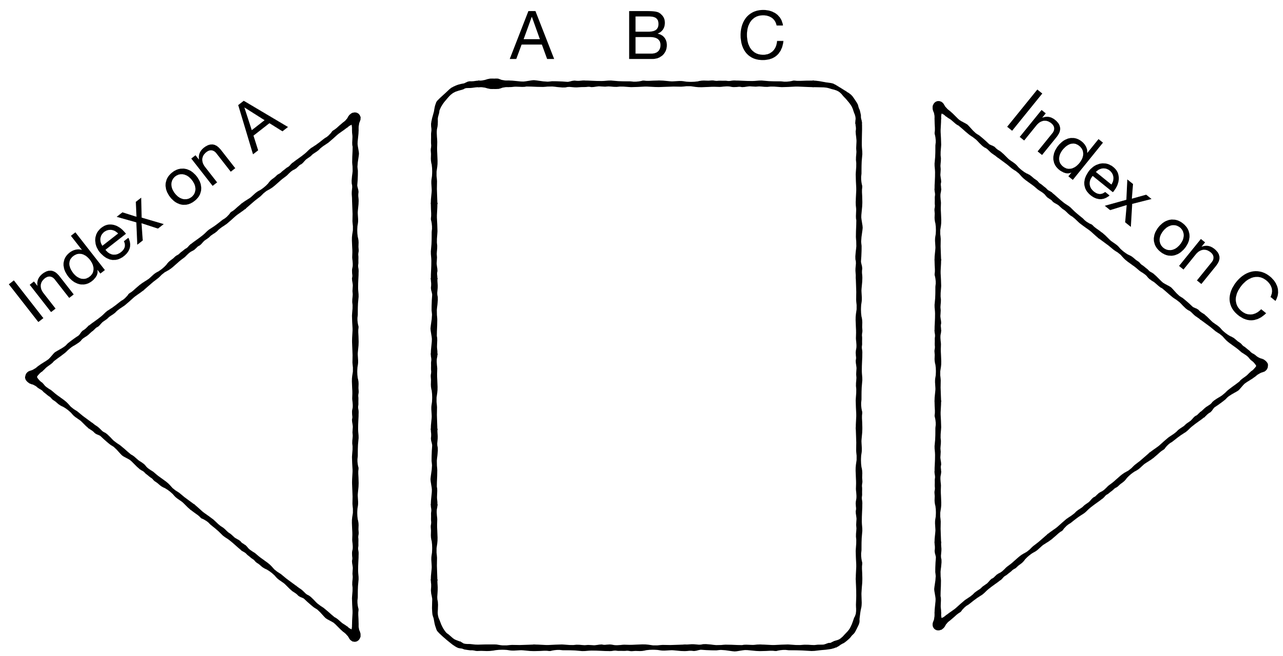
	Locks	Latches
		
Separate:	Transactions	Threads
Protect:	DB content	In-memory structures (LRU queue)
Duration:	**Transaction**	**Critical section**

An important distinction

	Locks	Latches
		
Separate:	Transactions	Threads
Protect:	DB content	In-memory structures (LRU queue)
Duration:	Transaction	Critical section
Implementation:	**Lock manager**	**e.g., Spin-locks**

The DB modifies relevant indexes as a part of a transaction

e.g., update table set C = '…' where A '…'



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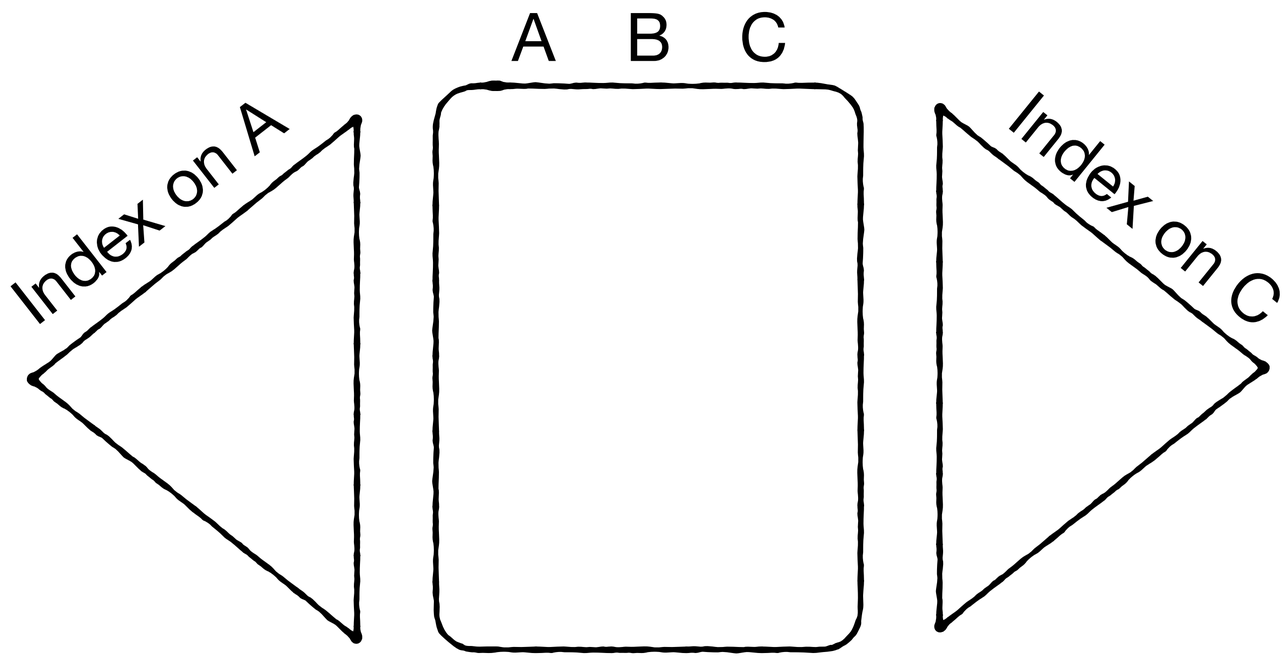


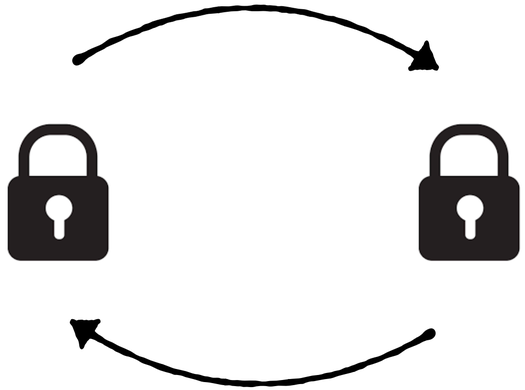
Schedule

(1) Begin transaction
(2) Search index A
(3) Access row and update C
(4) Update entry in C's index
(5) Commit

Anything to make you uneasy about two-phase locking so far?

Anything to make you uneasy about two-phase locking so far?

Deadlocks: transactions waiting on each other's locks forever



Deadlock example: concurrent payments

T1: A to B

A = A - 100

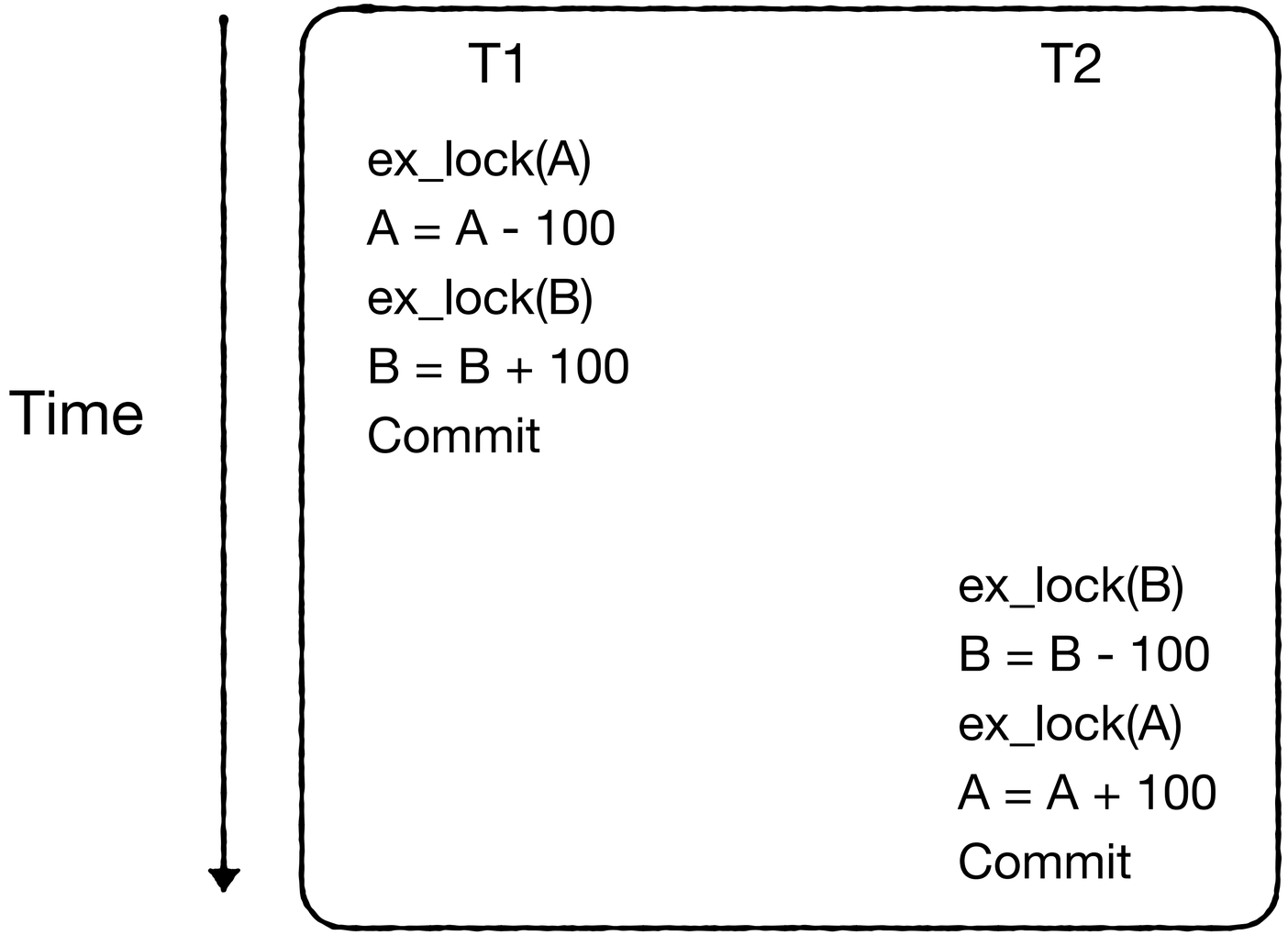
B = B + 100

T2: B to A

B = B - 100

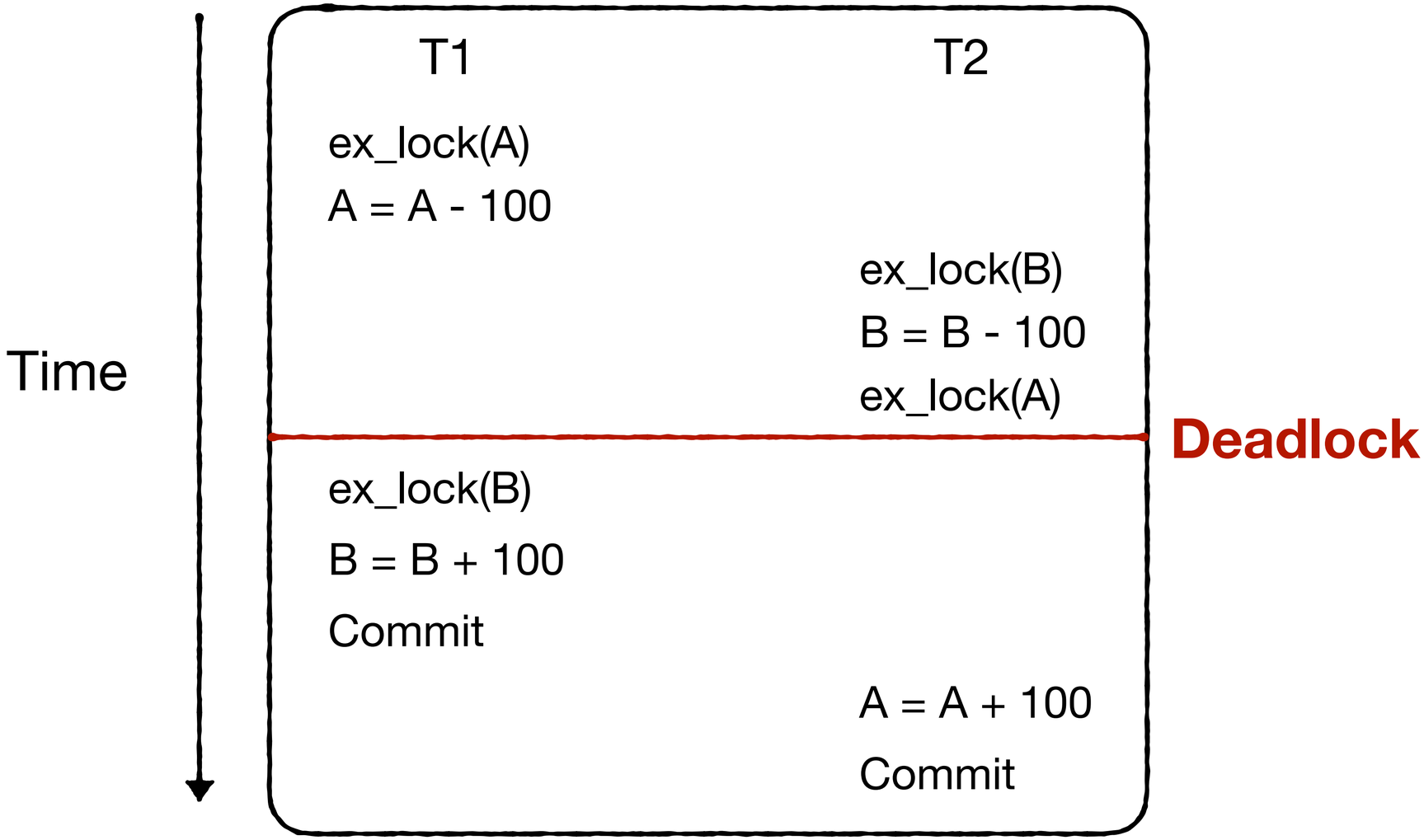
A = A + 100

Deadlock example: concurrent payments

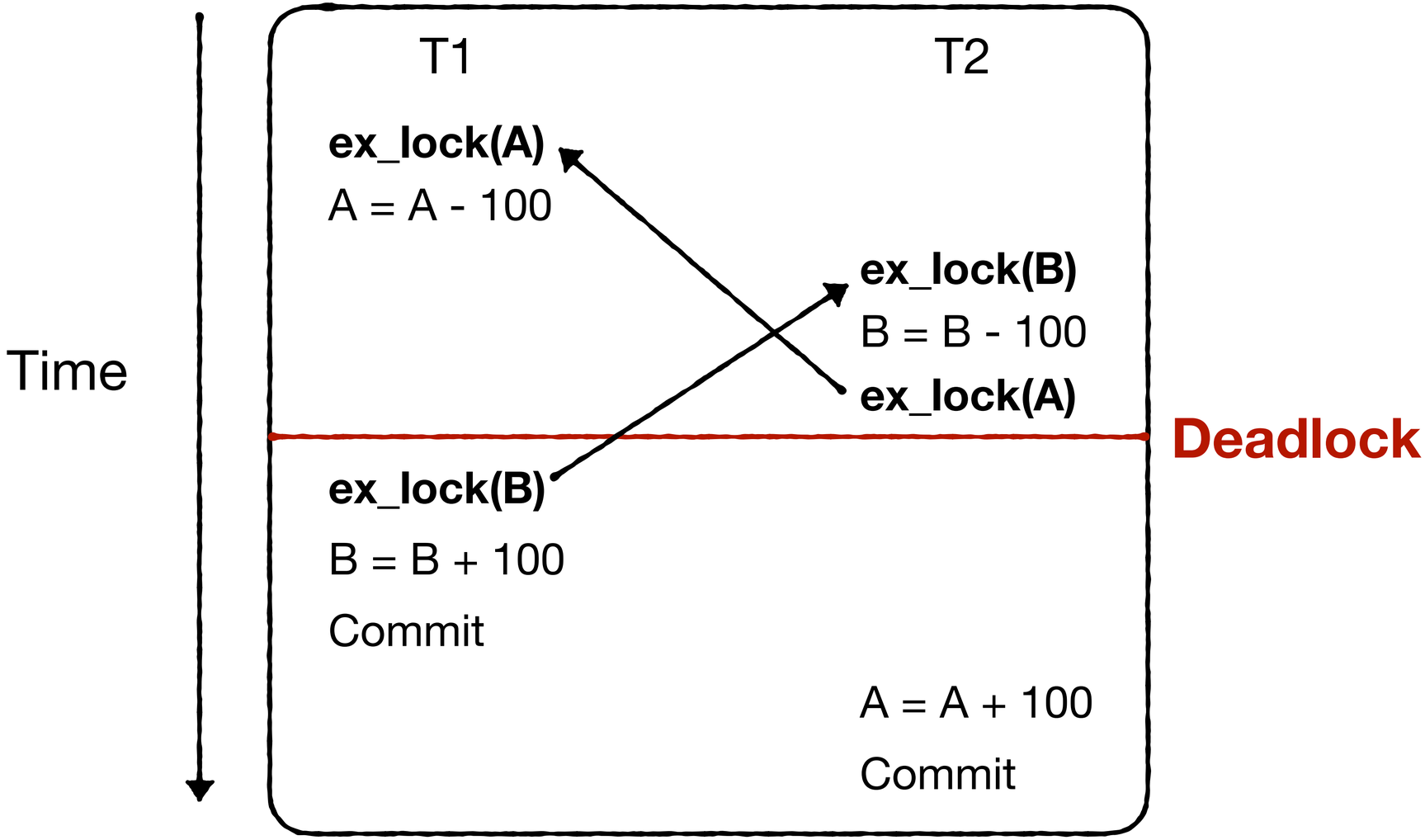


This is ok

Deadlock example: concurrent payments



Deadlock example: concurrent payments

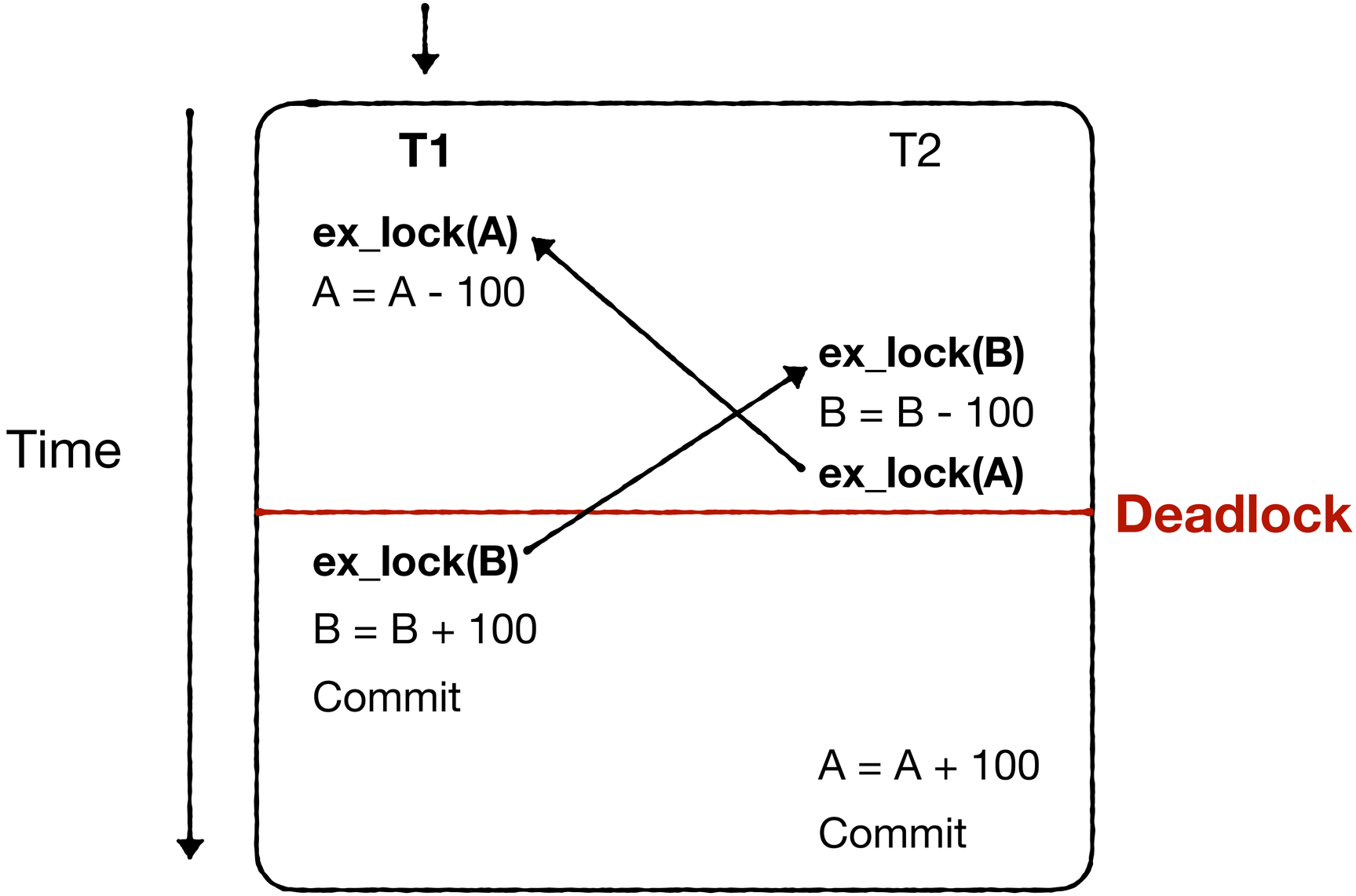


What should to do when we detect a deadlock?

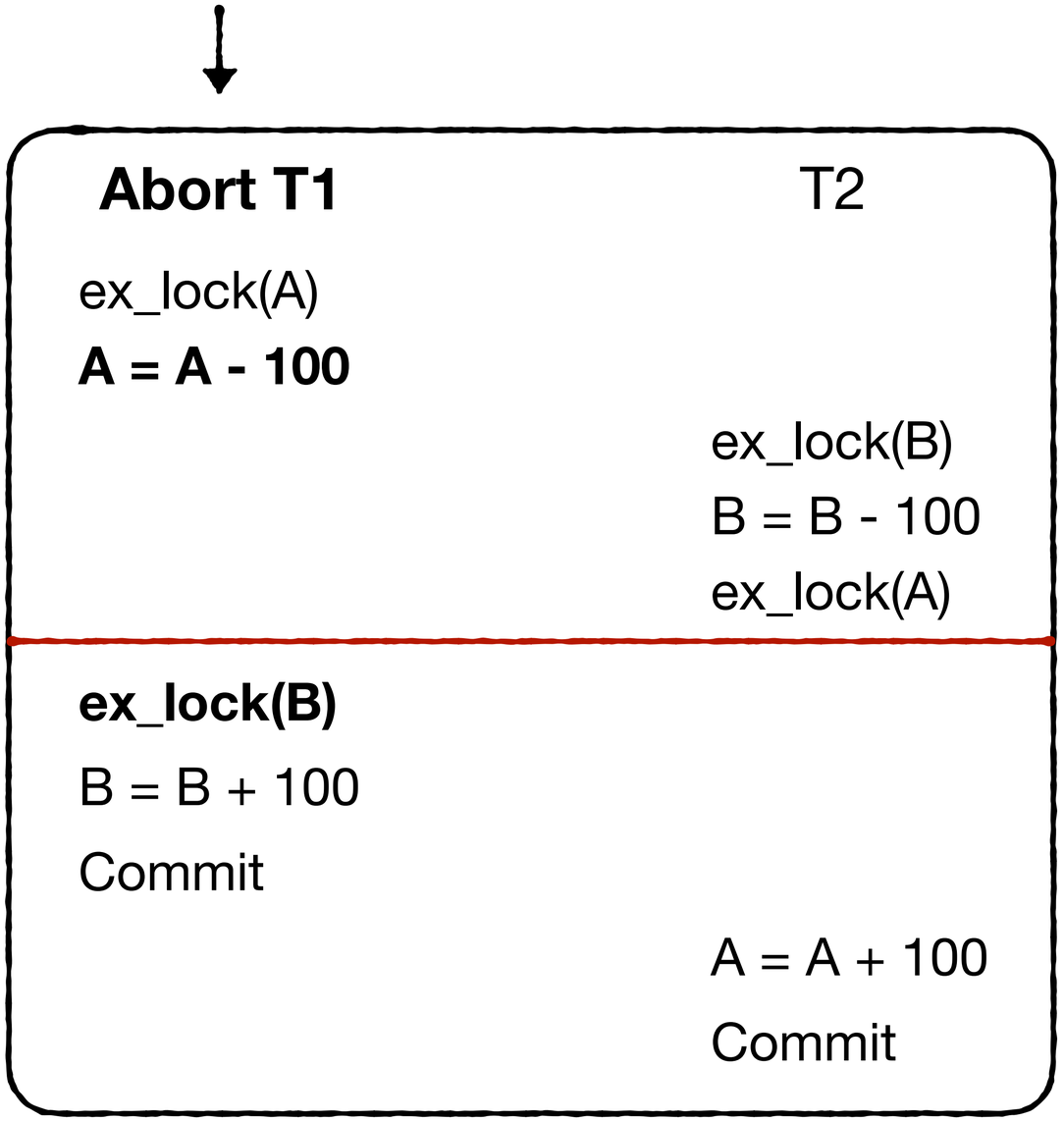
What should to do when we detect a deadlock?

Abort transaction & undo all its changes

Abort transaction & undo all its changes



Abort transaction & undo all its changes



How to undo?

Deadlock

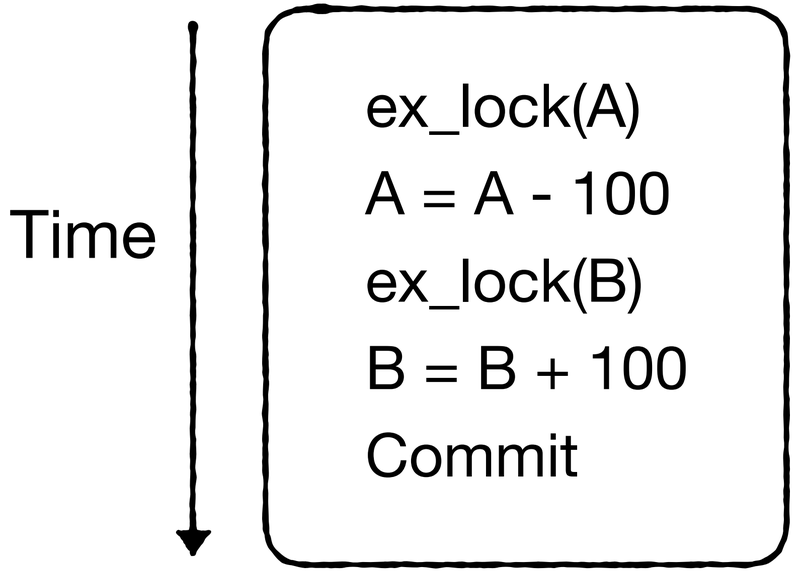
How to undo?

How to undo?

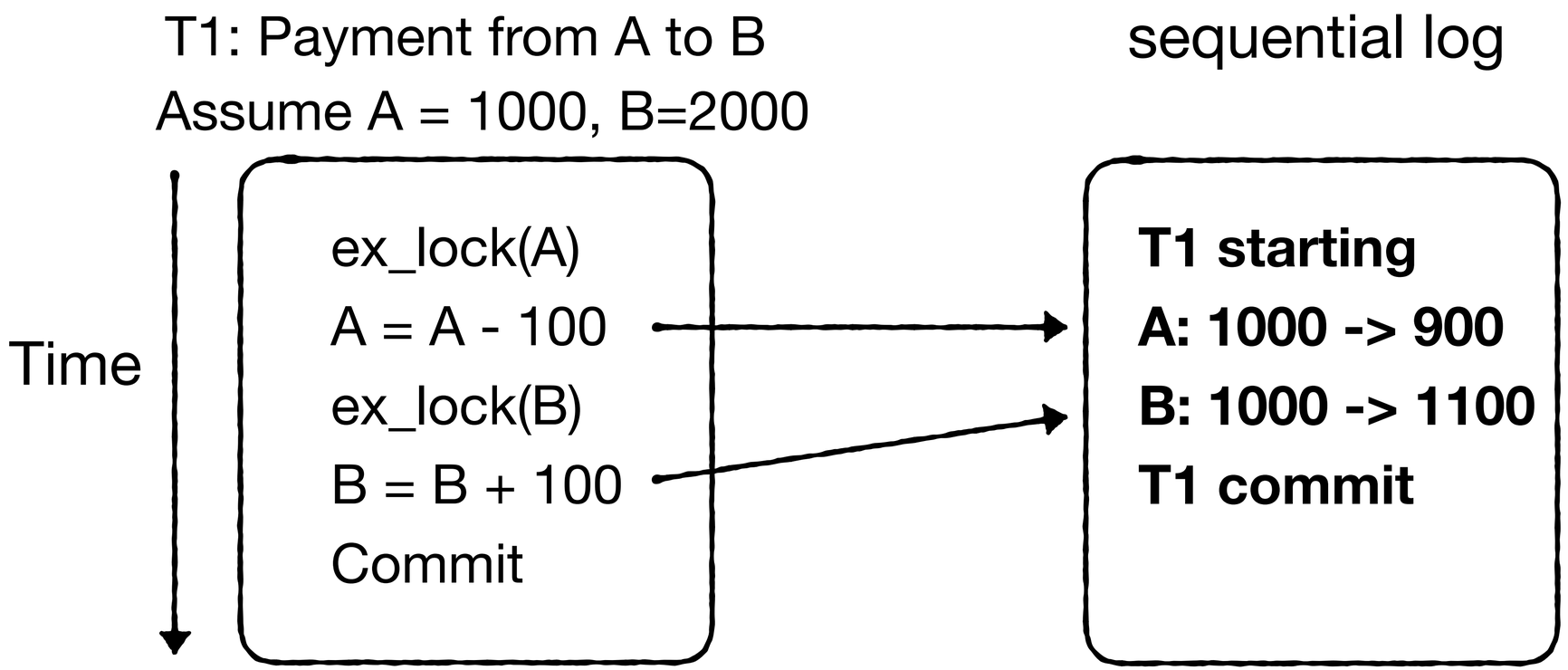
record before-image for all changes to the DB in a sequential log.

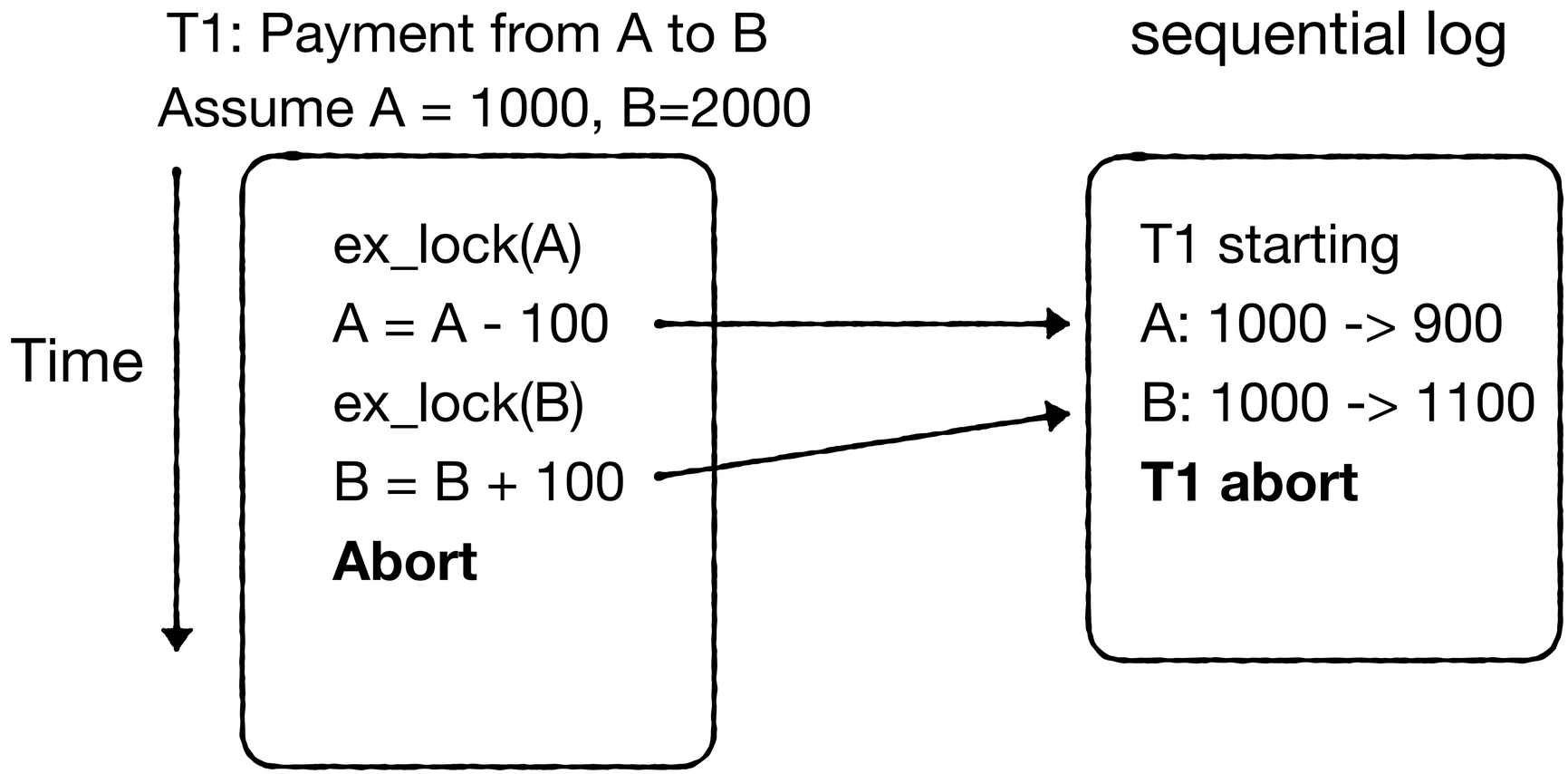
T1: Payment from A to B

Assume A = 1000, B=2000

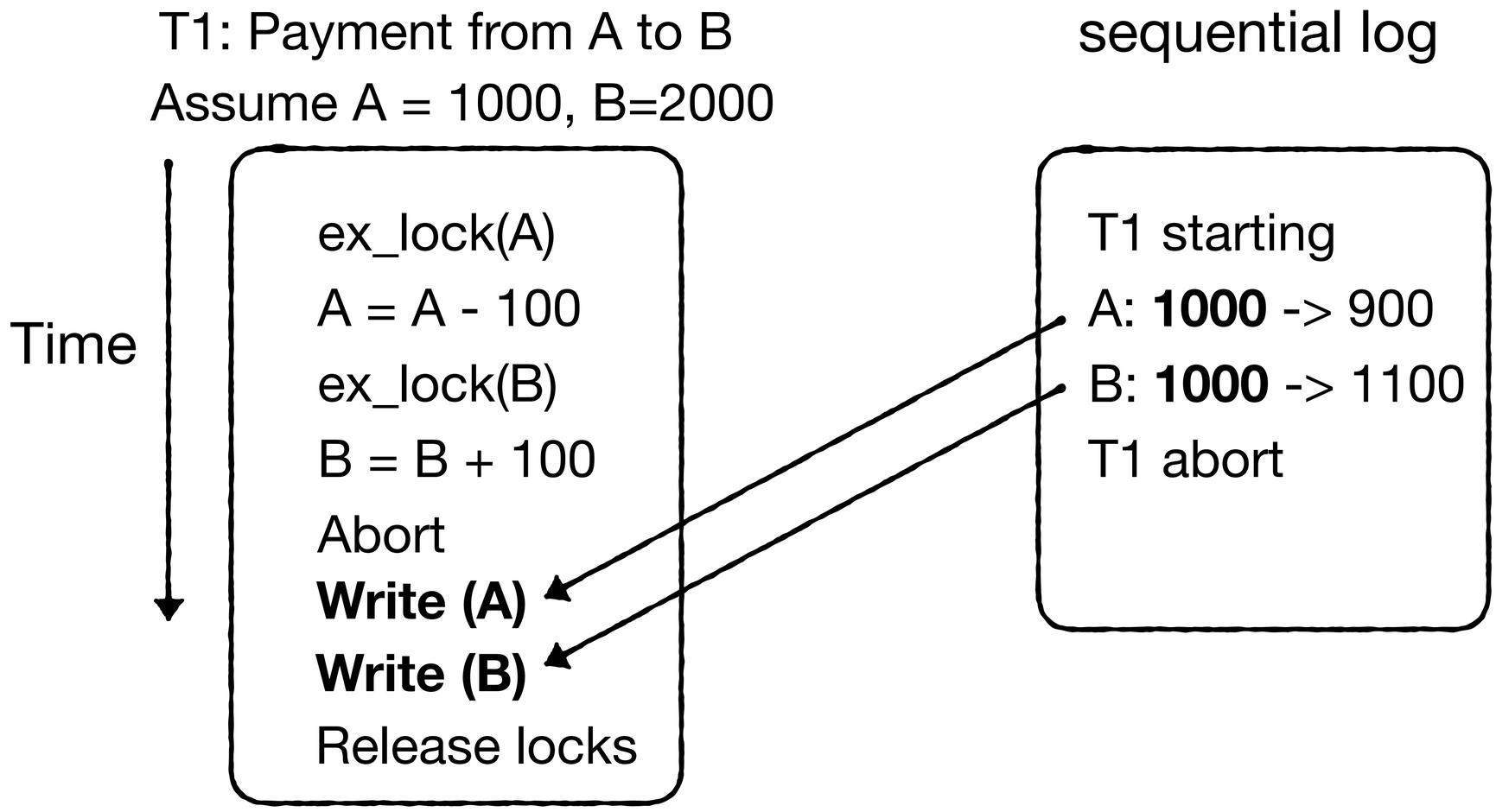


record before-image for all changes to the DB in a sequential log.


T1: Payment from A to B
Assume A = 1000, B=2000
sequential log
Time
ex_lock(A)
A = A - 100
ex_lock(B)
B = B + 100
Commit
T1 starting
A: 1000 -> 900
B: 1000 -> 1100
T1 commit



If transaction aborts before completing, we undo its changes via its before-images in the log



If transaction aborts before completing, we undo its changes via its before-images in the log

How to detect & prevent deadlocks?

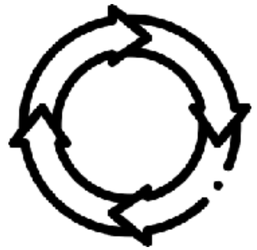
How to detect & prevent deadlocks?

Timeouts

Conservative Two Phase Locking

Abort on wait

Cycle Detection



Timeouts

Abort a transaction after waiting a certain time for a lock

Pros?

Cons?

Timeouts

Abort a transaction after waiting a certain time for a lock

Pros? **Simple**

Cons? **Speculative - wastes work aborting on non-deadlocks**

How can we detect & prevent deadlocks?

Timeouts

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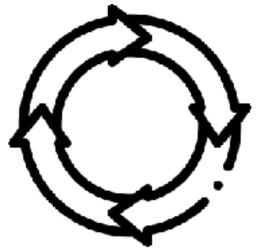
Cycle Detection



Conservative Two Phase Locking

A transaction is divided into two phases

Phase 1

Take all locks the transaction could possibly need

Phase 2

Release all locks during commit

Conservative Two Phase Locking

A transaction is divided into two phases

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Release all locks during commit

Pros: no deadlocks

Con: ?

Conservative Two Phase Locking

A transaction is divided into two phases

Phase 1

Take all locks the transaction could possibly need

Phase 2

Release all locks during commit

Pros: no deadlocks

Con: takes more locks and holds them for longer

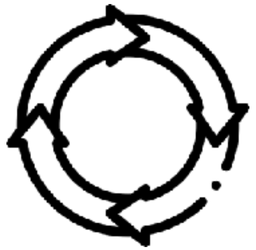
How can we detect & prevent deadlocks?

Timeouts

Conservative Two Phase Locking

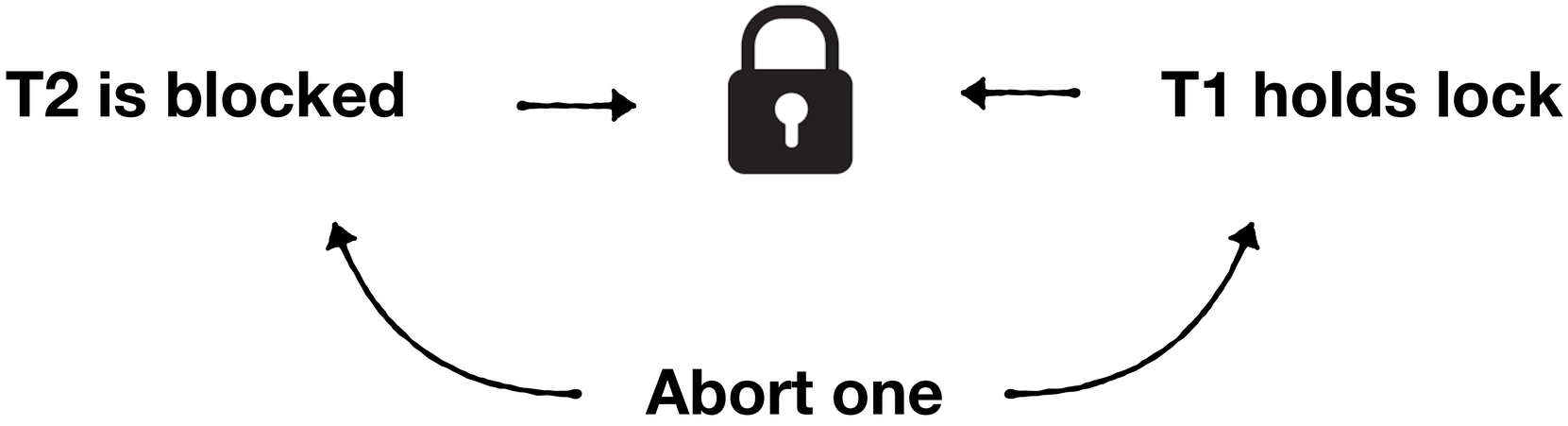
Abort on Wait

Cycle Detection



Abort on Wait

When a transaction is blocked, abort it or the transaction holding the lock.



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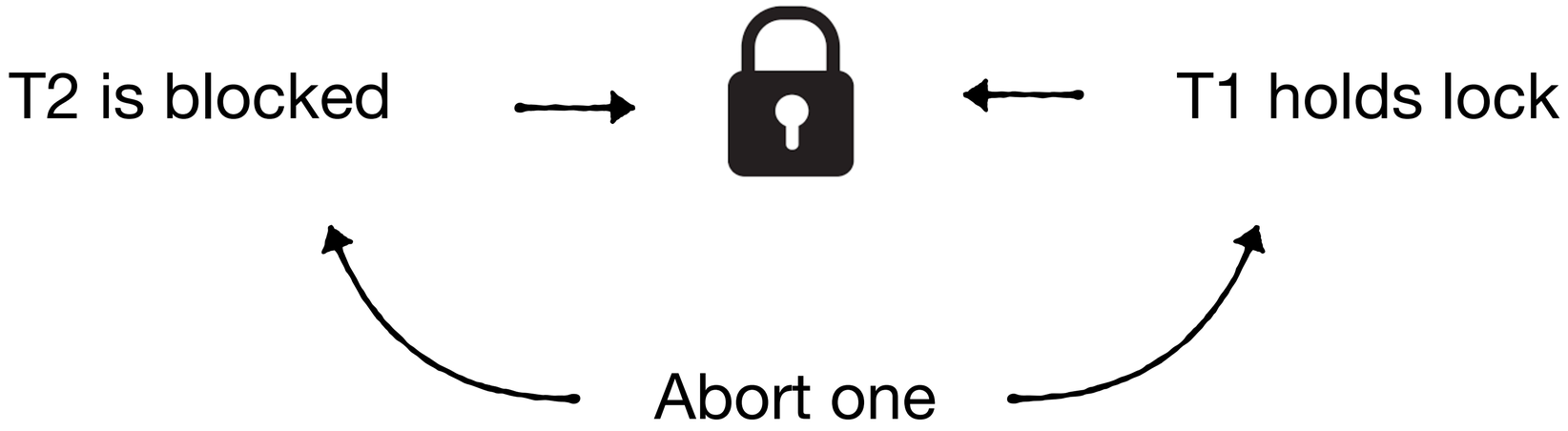


Pros: no deadlocks

Con: defeatist (wastes work, or aborts many transactions)

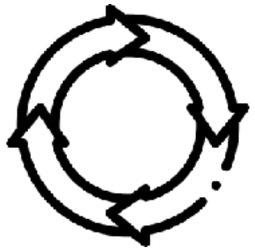
How can we detect & prevent deadlocks?

Timeouts

Conservative Two Phase Locking

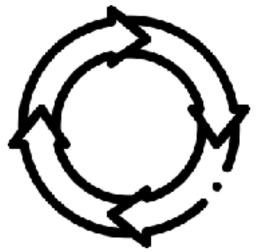
Abort on wait

Cycle Detection



Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.



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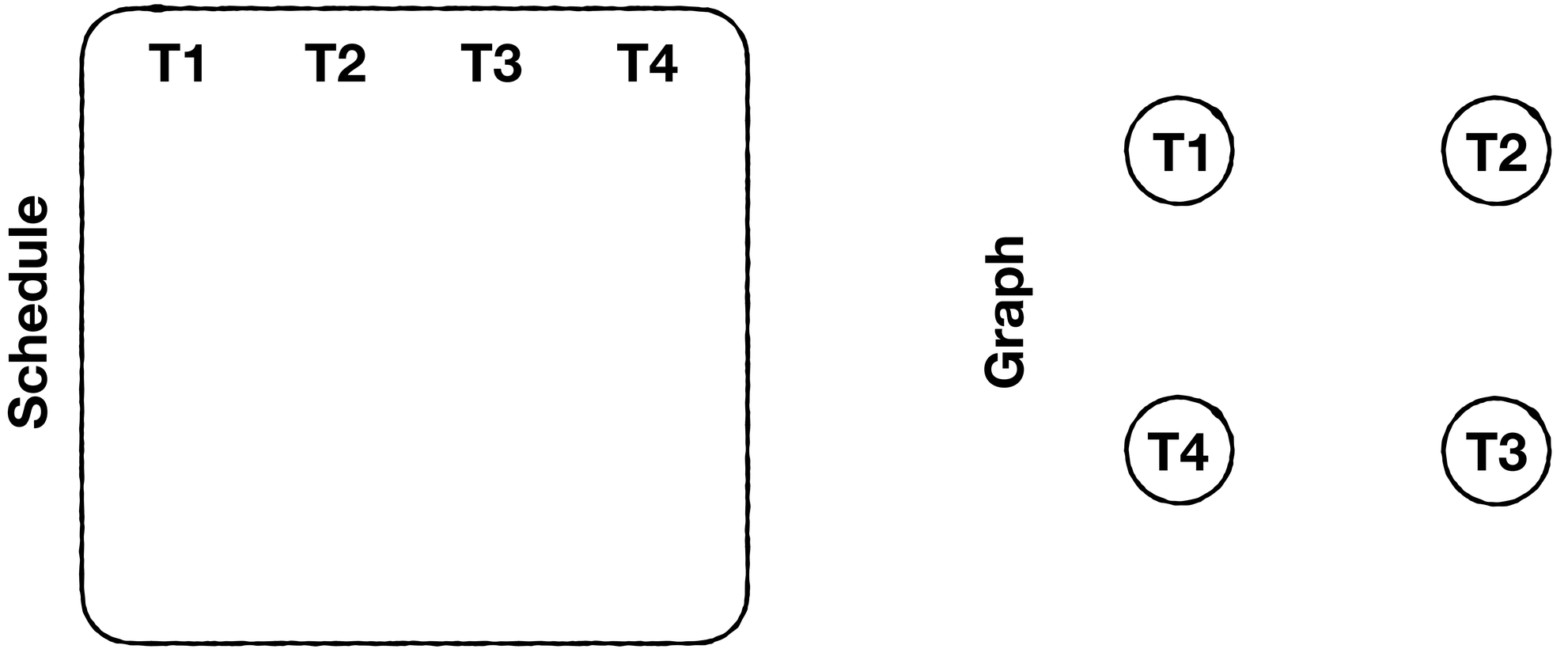


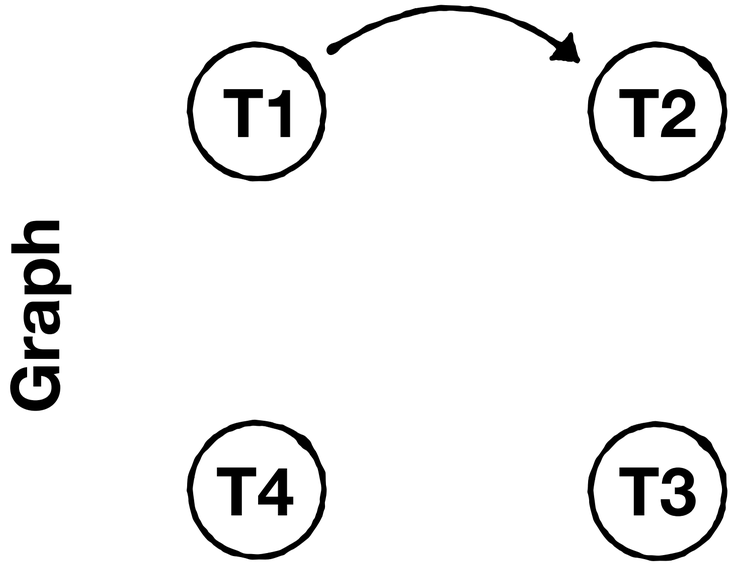
Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Schedule

T1	T2	T3	T4
S(A)			
	X(B)		
S(B)			

Graph



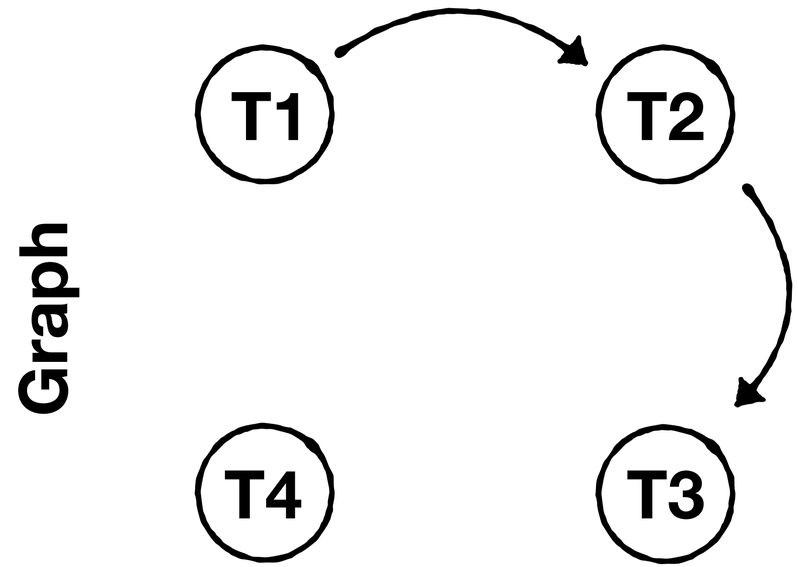
Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Schedule

T1	T2	T3	T4
S(A)			
	X(B)		
S(B)			
		S(C)	
	X(C)		

Graph



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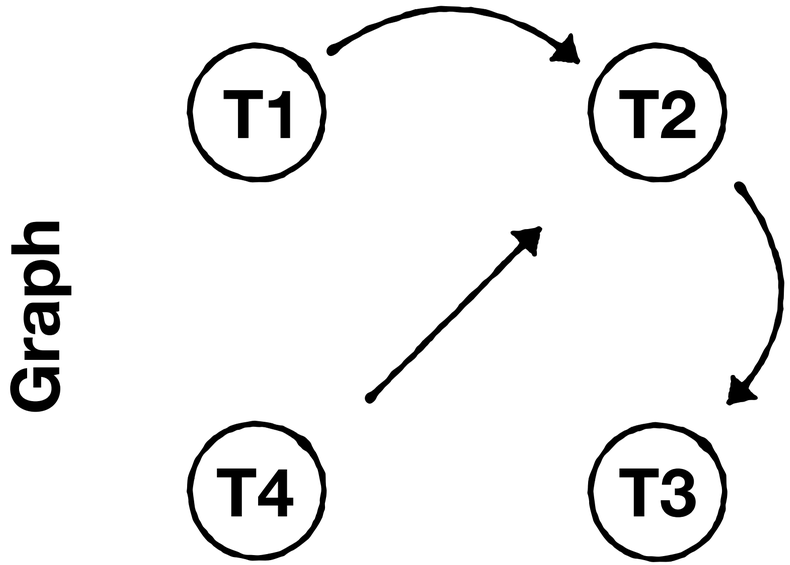
The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Schedule

T1	T2	T3	T4
S(A)			
	X(B)		
S(B)			
		S(C)	
	X(C)		
			X(B)

Graph



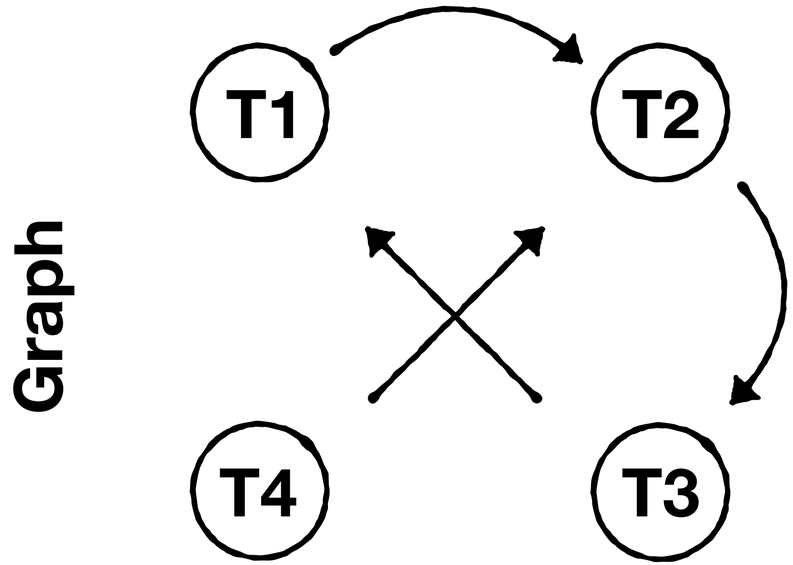
Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Schedule

T1	T2	T3	T4
S(A)			
	X(B)		
S(B)			
		S(C)	
	X(C)		
			X(B)
		X(A)	

Graph

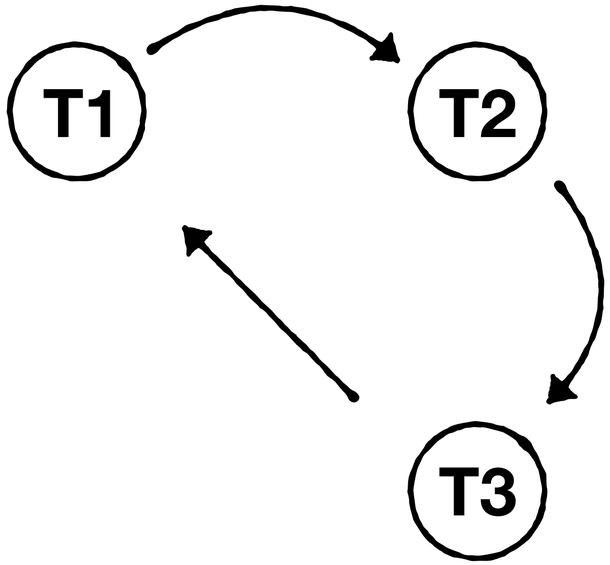


Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Other approaches are speculative

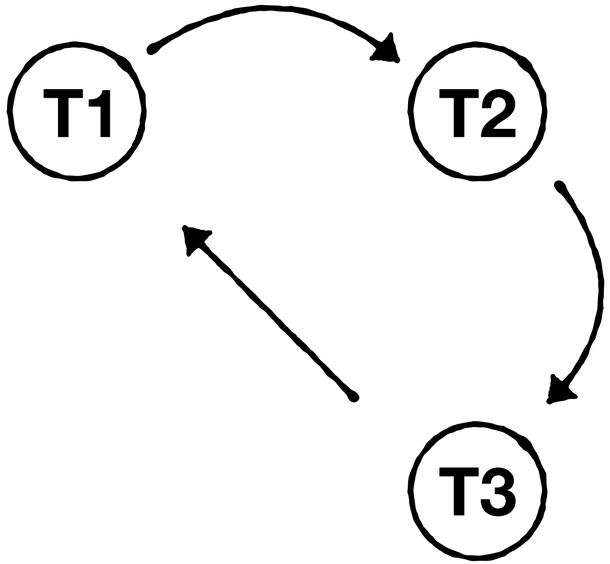
Here we detect a deadlock for sure



Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Should we abort T1, T2 or T3?

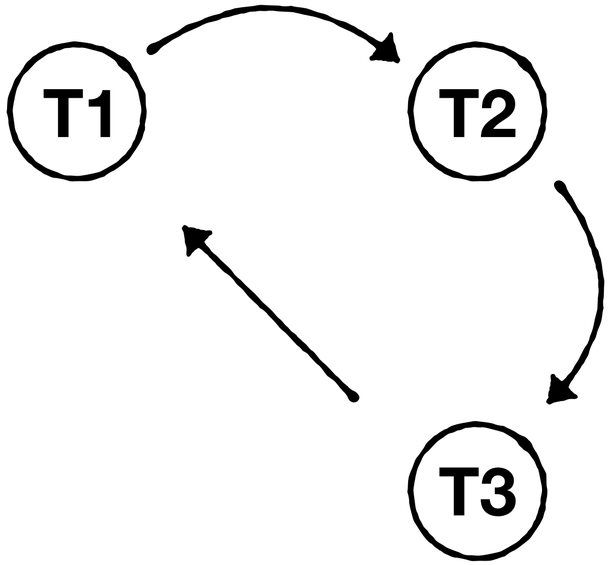


Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Abort the transaction that:

(1) has done the least work



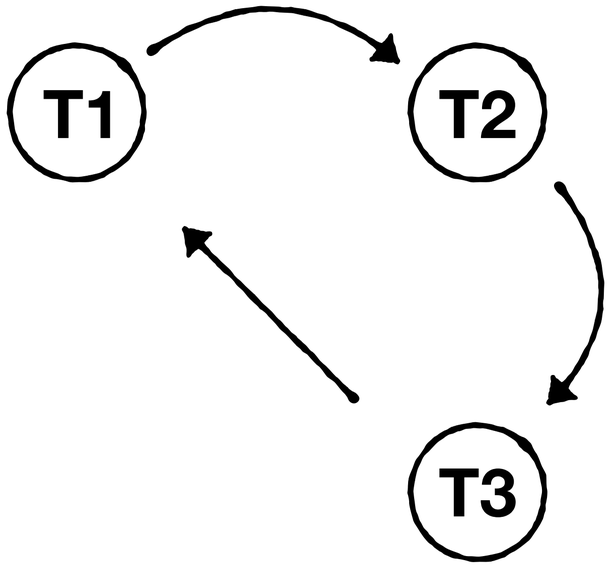
Cycle Detection

The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Abort the transaction that:

(1) has done the least work

(2) Farthest from completion



Cycle Detection

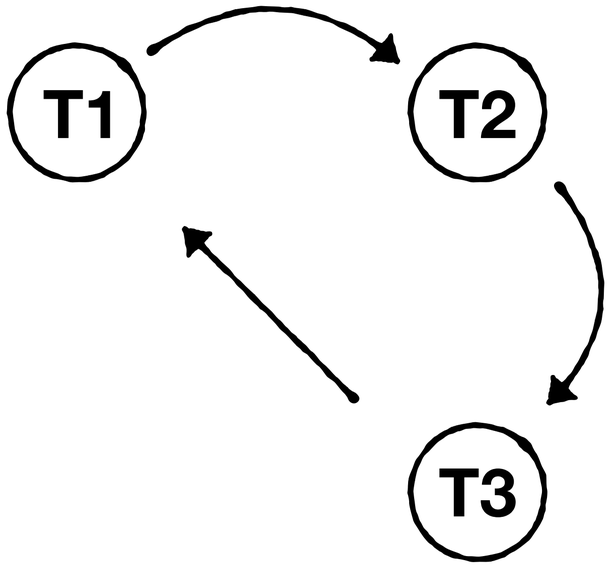
The DB can maintain graph of transactions waiting on each other.

Abort the transaction that:

(1) has done the least work

(2) Farthest from completion

(3) Been aborted the least times



Timeouts

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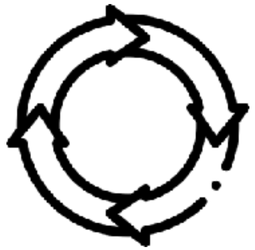


There is still a problem

Let’s return to our running examples

	Example 1 Interest & Payments	Example 2 Updates & Statistics
		
Problems:	Dirty reads	Unrepeatable reads
Solution:	**Exclusive write locks**	**Shared read locks**

Let’s return to our running examples

Example 1

Interest & Payments

Dirty reads

Exclusive write locks

Example 2

Updates & Statistics

Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

Example 3

Inserts & Statistics

?

?

Example 3

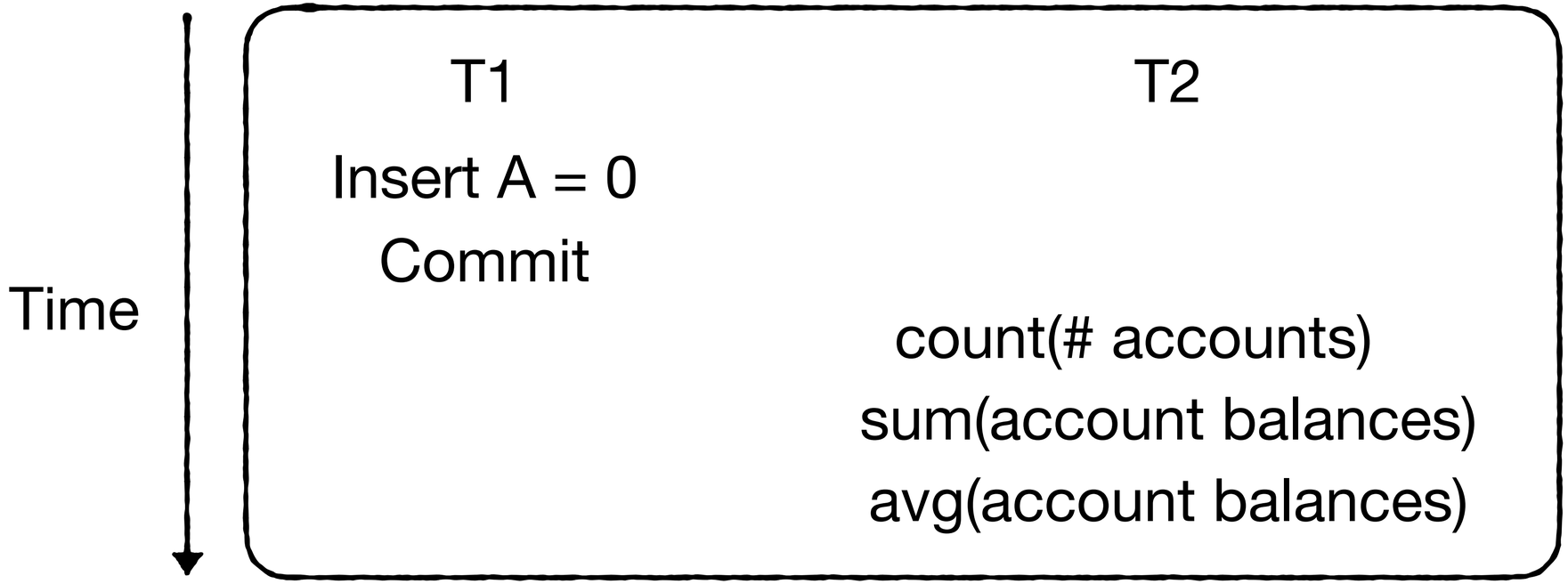
T1: insert account

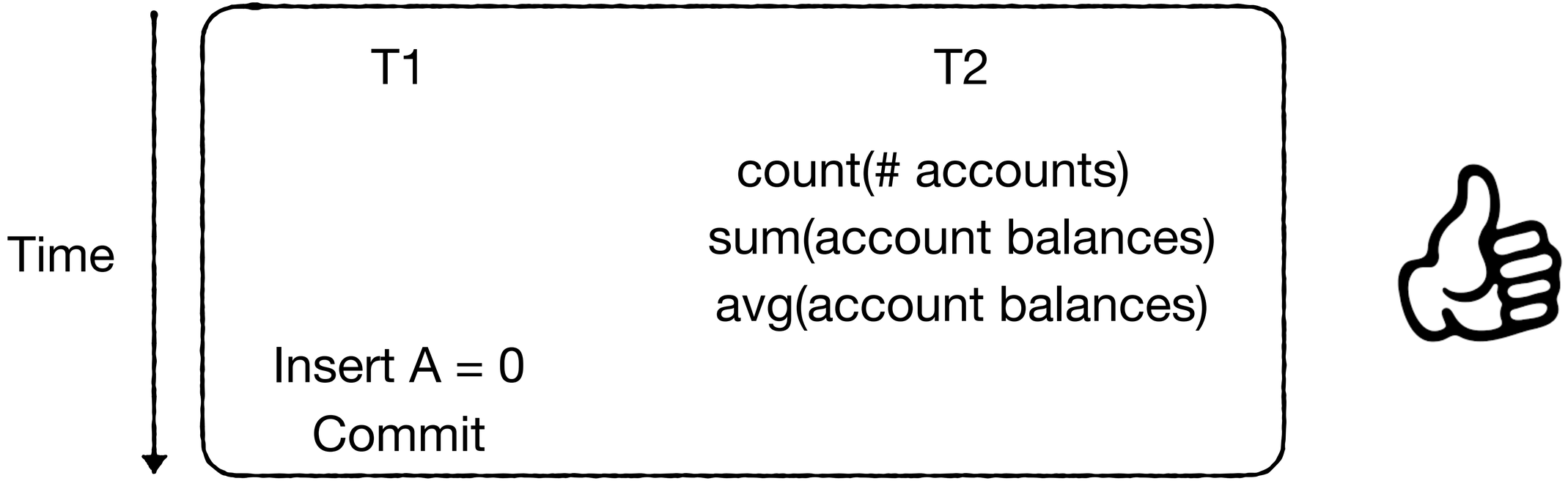
Insert A = 0

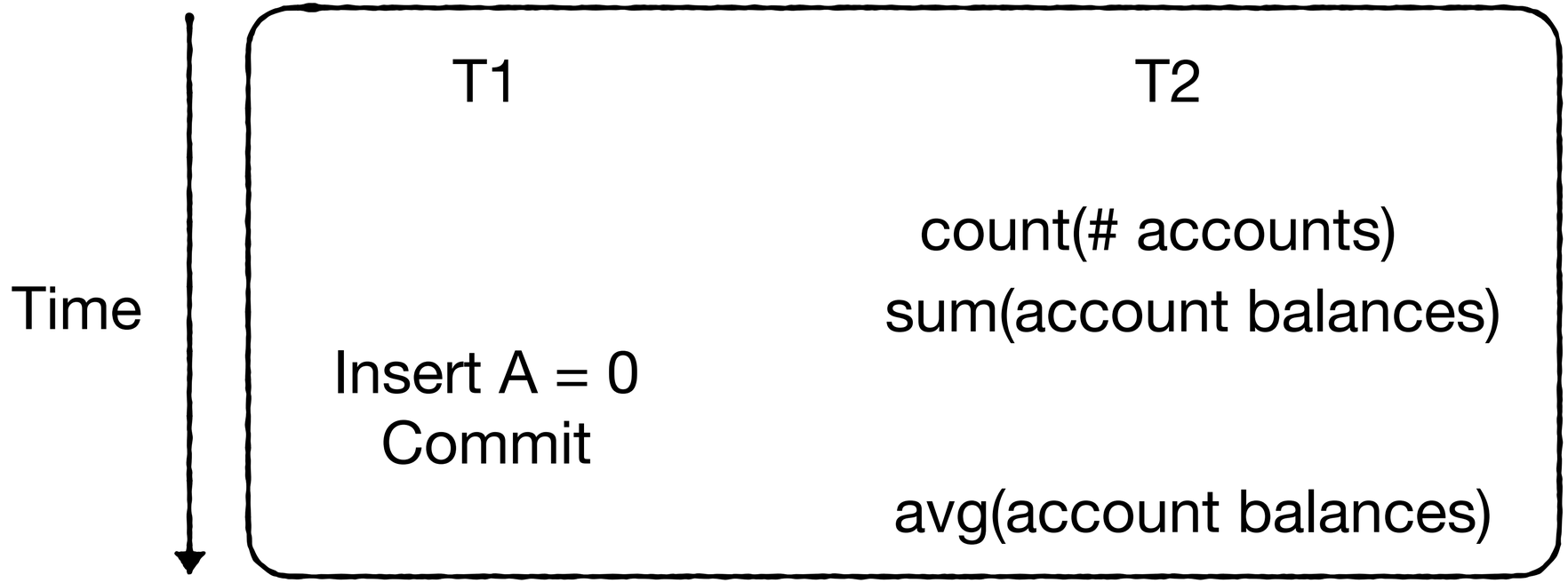
T2: statistics reporting

count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
avg(account balances)

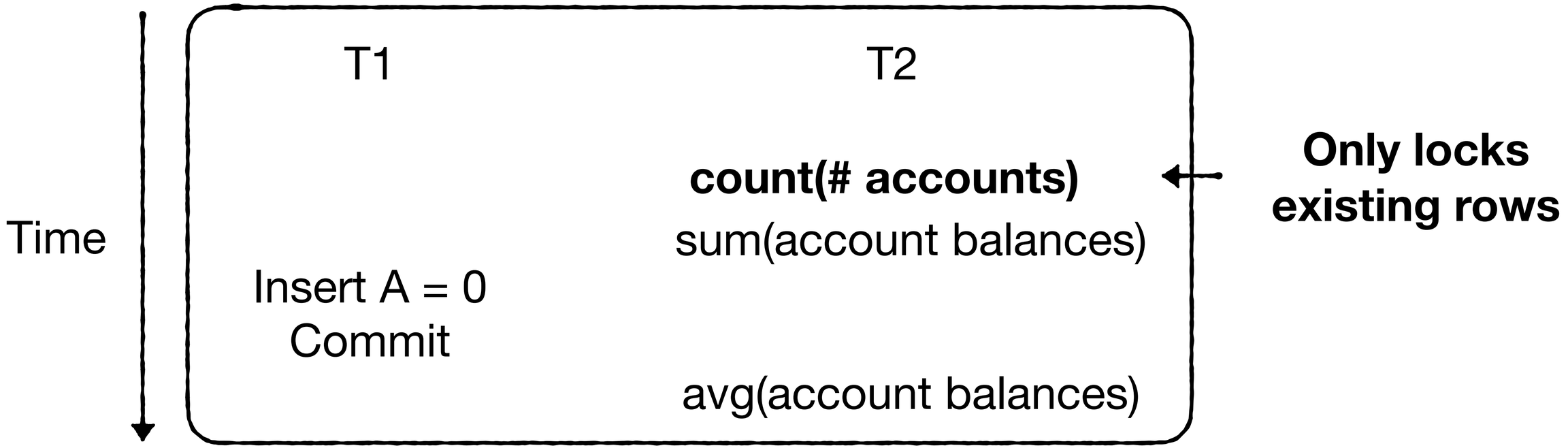
Example 3


Time
T1
Insert A = 0
Commit
T2
count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
avg(account balances)

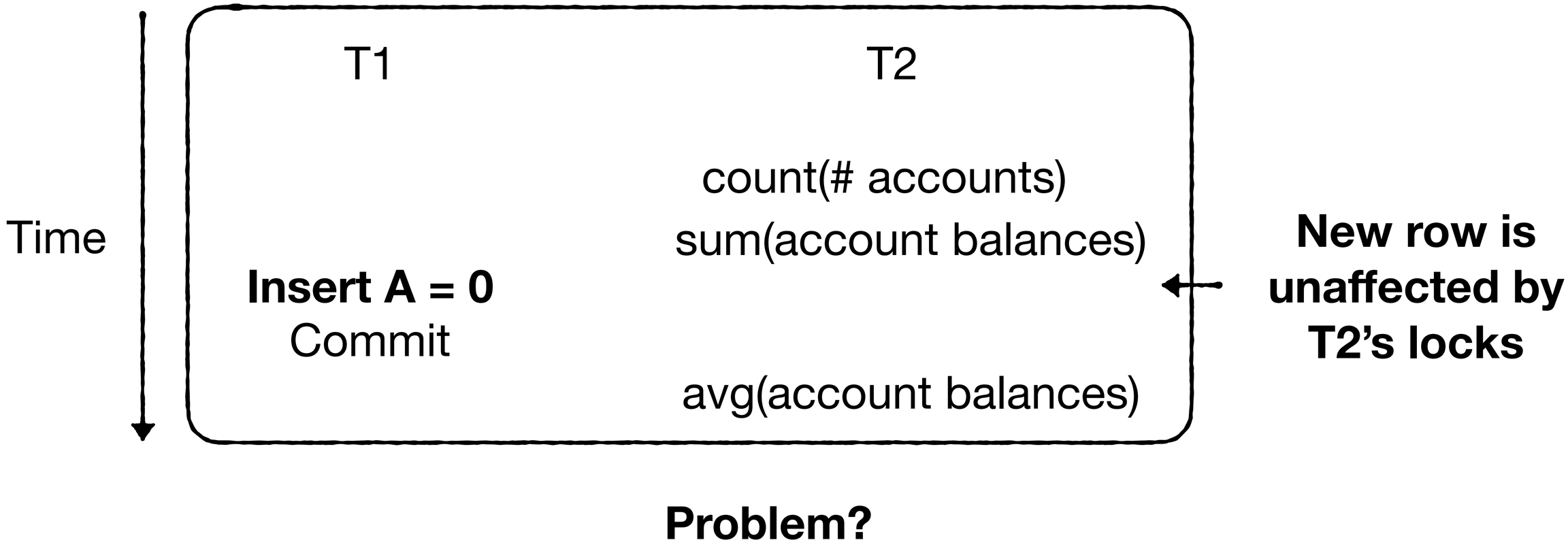

Time
T1
T2
count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
avg(account balances)
Insert A = 0
Commit


Time
T1
T2
count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
Insert A = 0
Commit
avg(account balances)

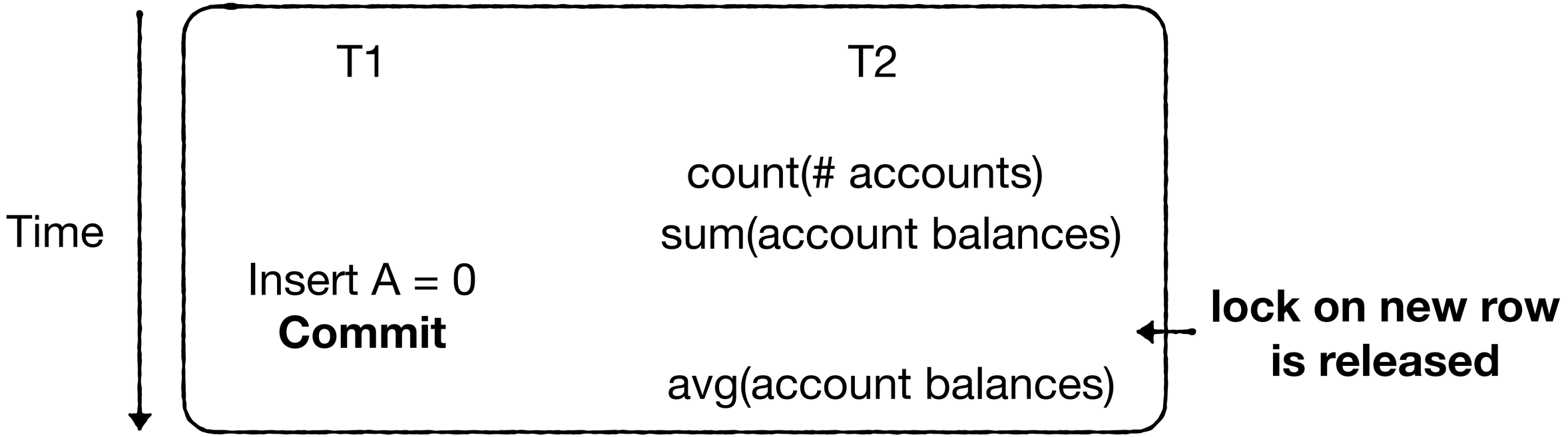
Problem?


T1
T2
count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
Insert A = 0
Commit
avg(account balances)
Time
Only locks existing rows

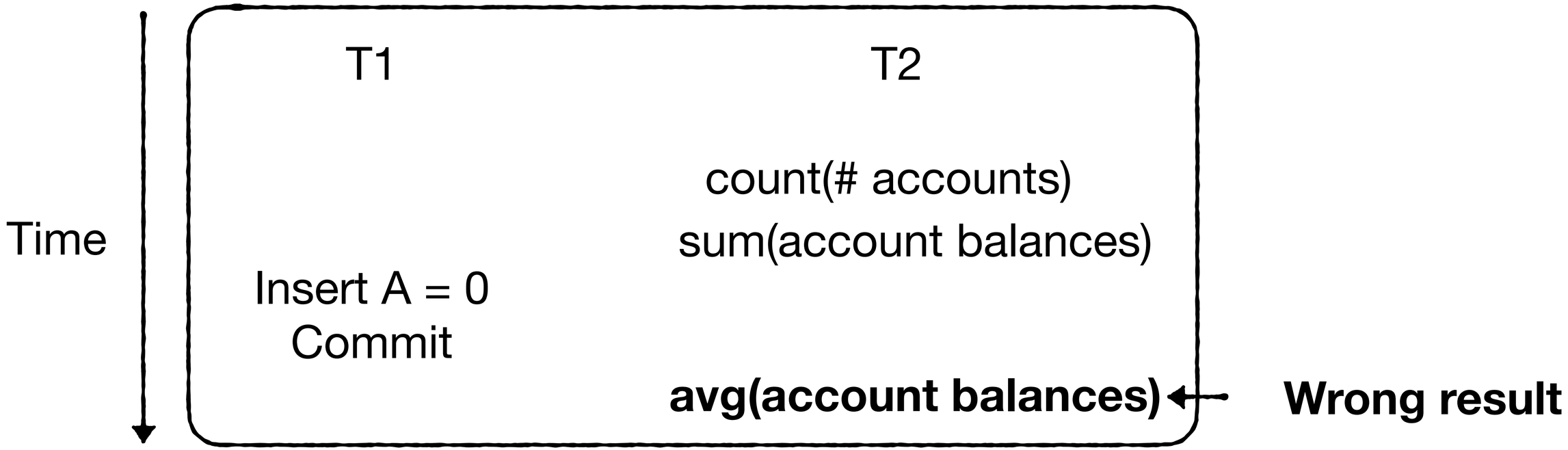
Problem?


T1
T2
count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
Time
Insert A = 0
Commit
avg(account balances)
New row is unaffected by T2's locks

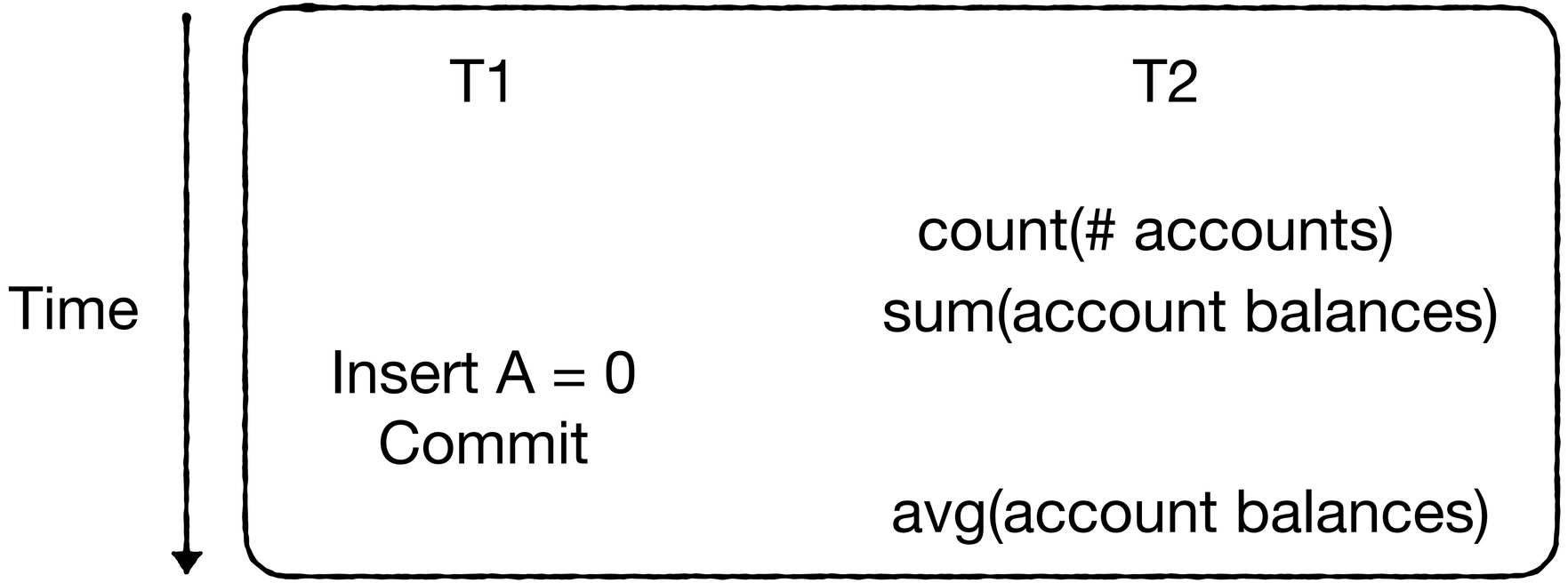
Problem?


T1
T2
count(# accounts)
sum(account balances)
Time
Insert A = 0
Commit
lock on new row
is released
avg(account balances)

Problem?

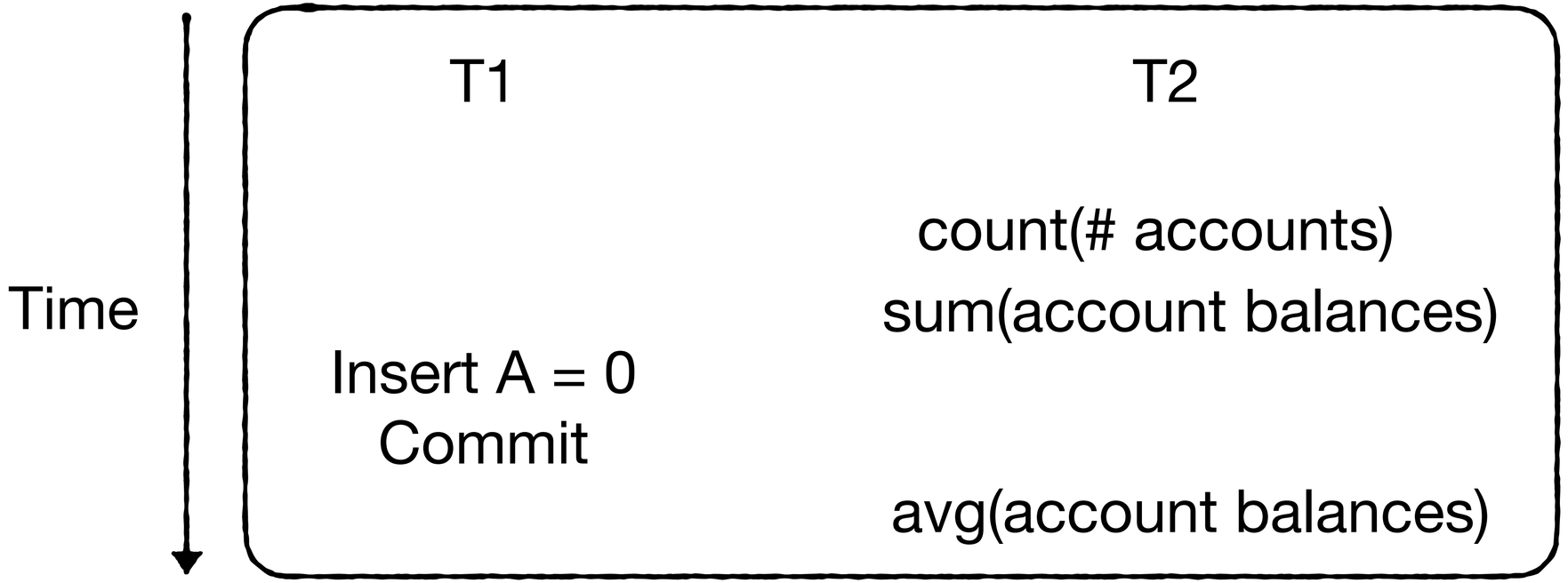


Problem? **Inconsistent reporting: avg ≠ sum / count**



More broadly, this is a **phantom read**: a transaction accesses a set of rows twice, and qualifying rows are added in-between

How can we prevent phantom reads?



More broadly, this is a **phantom read**: a transaction accesses a set of rows twice, and qualifying rows are added in-between

How can we prevent phantom reads?

lock table

Aggressive

How can we prevent phantom reads?

lock table

Aggressive

Predicate locking

Complex & expensive

How can we prevent phantom reads?

lock table

Aggressive

Predicate locking

Complex & expensive

Select * from table where **ID=x**

Lock “id=x”

How can we prevent phantom reads?

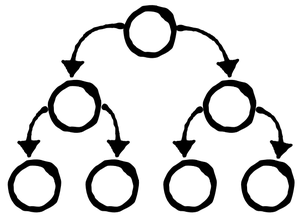
lock table

Aggressive

Predicate locking

Complex & expensive

Index locking

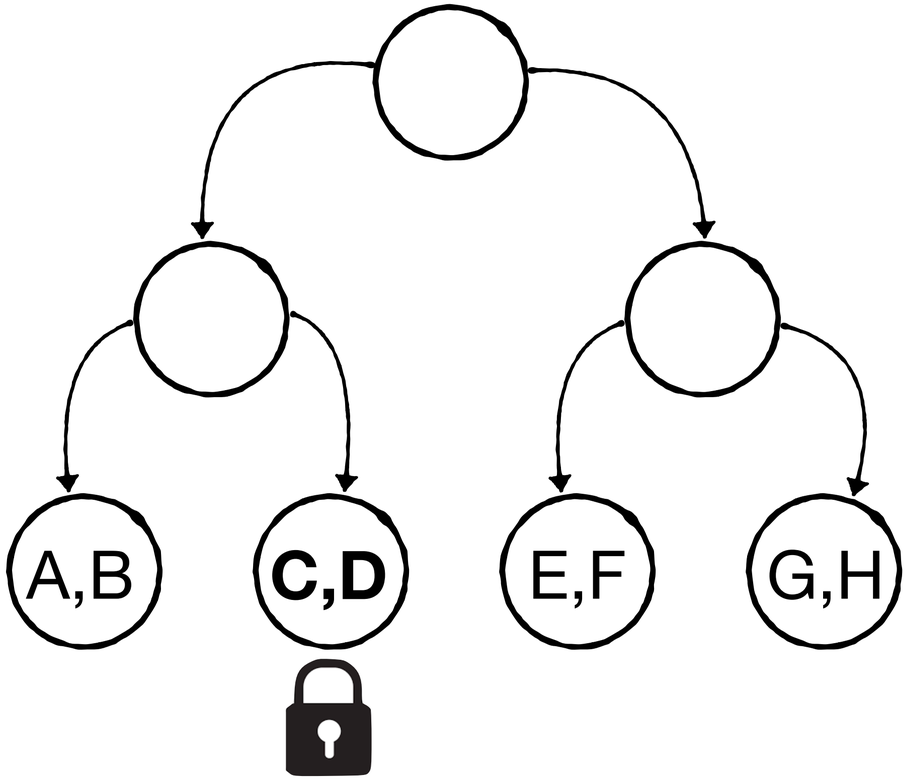


Good but requires an index

Index Locking

Lock B-tree leaf storing relevant range

Example: Select * from accounts
where **ID=“Cindy”**

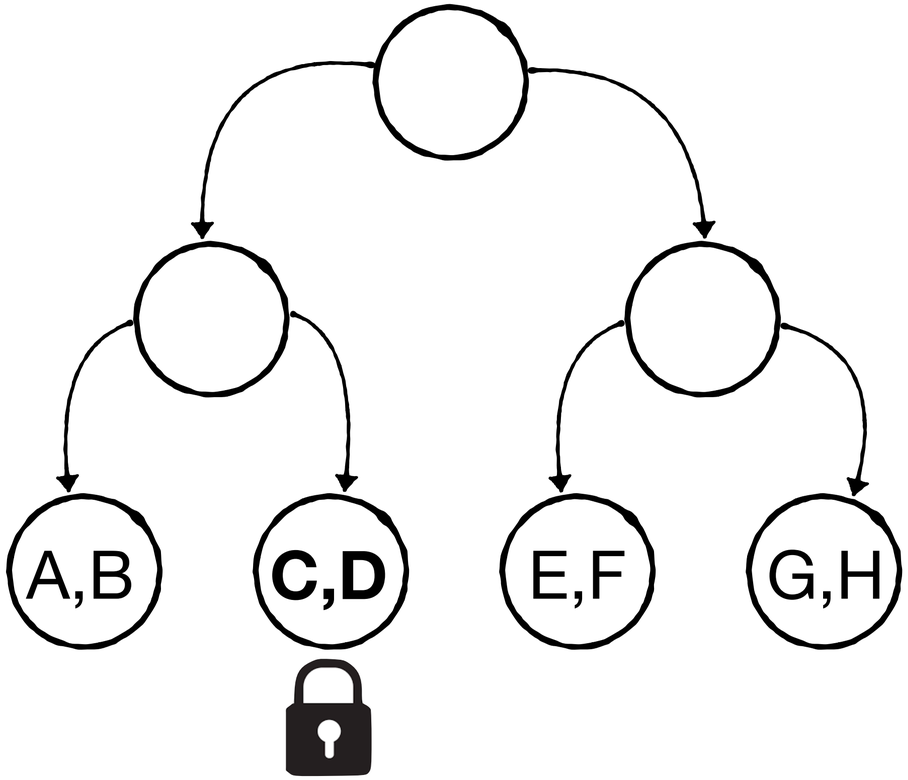


Index Locking

Lock B-tree leaf storing relevant range

Example: Select * from accounts
where **ID=“Cindy”**

So we do not have to lock the whole table as long as we have an index :)



Example 1

Interest & Payments

Dirty reads

Exclusive write locks

Example 2

Updates & Statistics

Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

Example 3

Inserts & Statistics

Phantom Read

Range locks

Example 1

Interest & Payments

Dirty reads

Exclusive write locks

Example 2

Updates & Statistics

Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

Example 3

Inserts & Statistics

Phantom Read

Range locks

More correct but slower

Example 1

Interest & Payments

Dirty reads

Exclusive write locks

Example 2

Updates & Statistics

Unrepeatable reads

Shared read locks

Example 3

Inserts & Statistics

Phantom Read

Range locks

Compromising correctness is fine for some applications

ANSI/ISO **Transaction Isolation Levels** - part of the SQL standard

	Dirty read	**Unrepeatable read**	**Phantom reads**
Read uncommitted			
Read committed			
Repeatable reads			
Serializable			

ANSI/ISO Transaction Isolation Levels - part of the SQL standard

	Dirty read	Unrepeatable read	Phantom reads
Read uncommitted	**Possible**	**Possible**	**Possible**
Read committed			
Repeatable reads			
Serializable			

ANSI/ISO Transaction Isolation Levels - part of the SQL standard

	Dirty read	Unrepeatable read	Phantom reads
Read uncommitted	Possible	Possible	Possible
Read committed	**Not Possible**	**Possible**	**Possible**
Repeatable reads			
Serializable			

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ANSI/ISO Transaction Isolation Levels - part of the SQL standard

Read uncommitted **Exclusive write locks not held until a transaction ends**

Read committed

Repeatable reads

Serializable

ANSI/ISO Transaction Isolation Levels - part of the SQL standard

Read uncommitted	Exclusive write locks not held until a transaction ends
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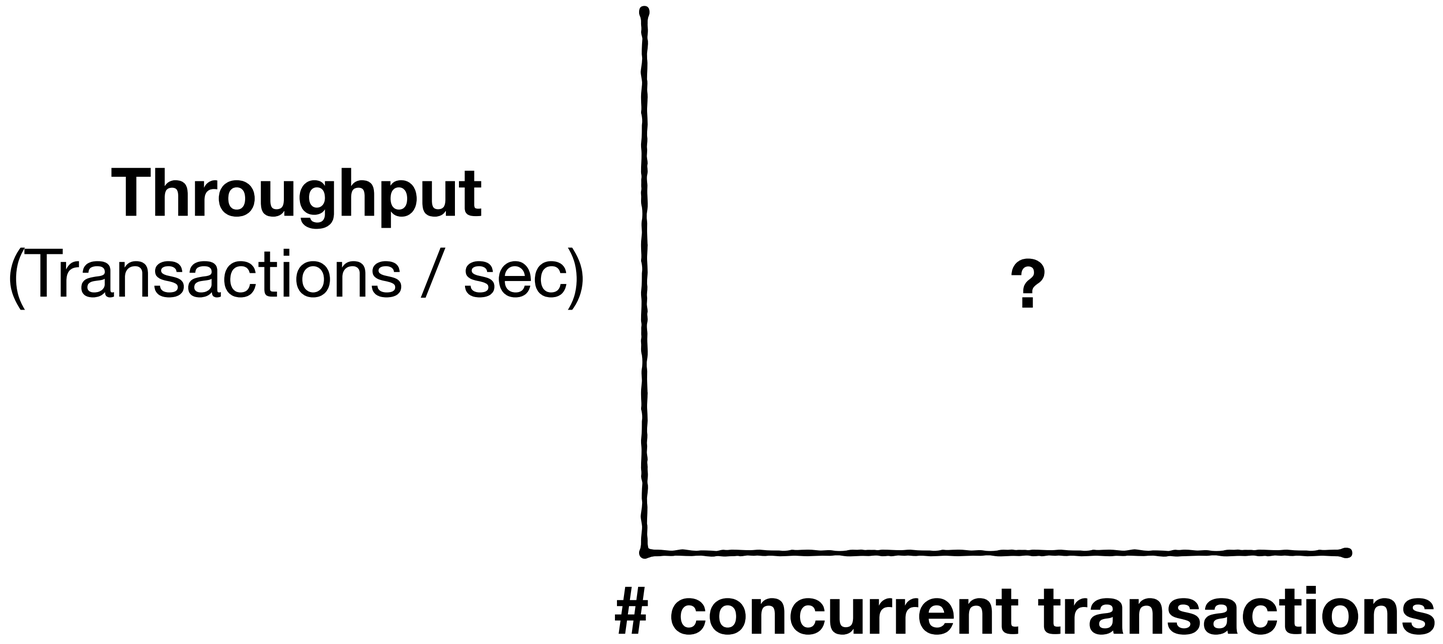
Read uncommitted	Exclusive write locks not held until a transaction ends
Read committed	Shared read locks not held until a transaction ends
Repeatable reads	Range locks not employed (e.g., no tree/table locking)
Serializable	**Everything is fully correct**

The default in many relational DB systems

Repeatable reads Range locks not employed (e.g., no tree/table locking)

What do you think this curve should look like?



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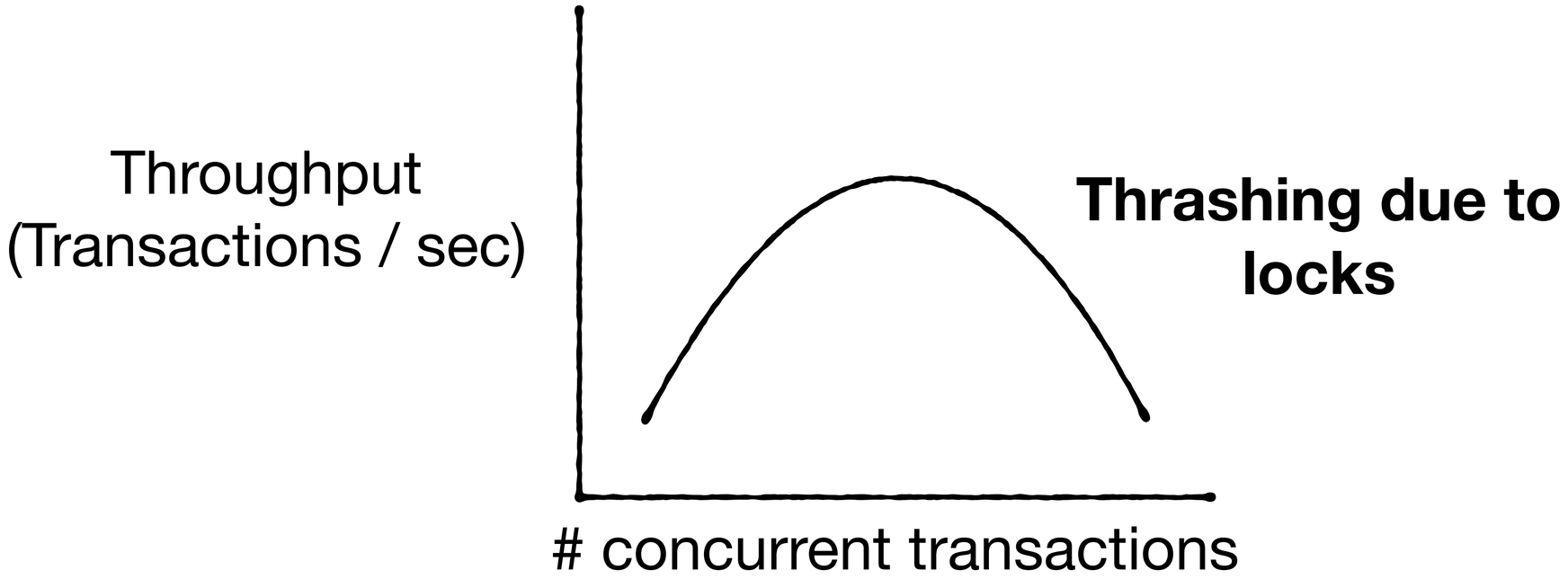

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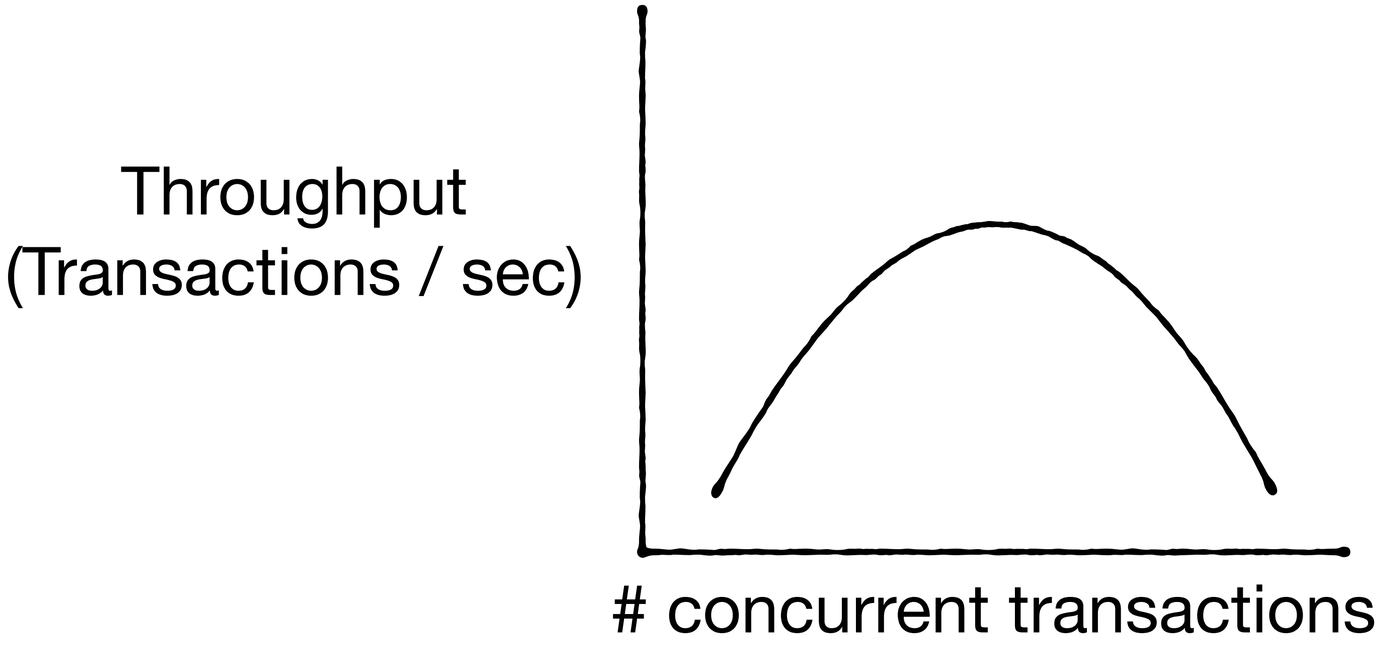

How can we address this?

(1)

(2)

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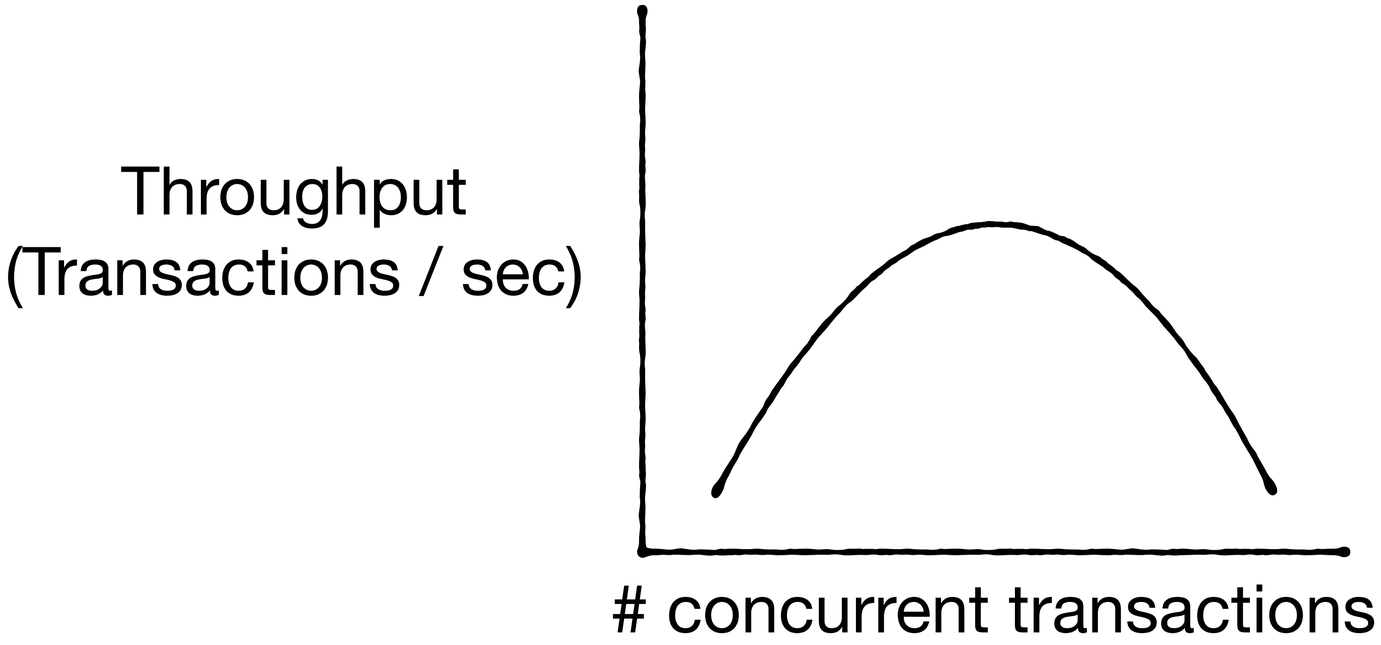

How can we address this?

(1) Design the application such that transactions are short

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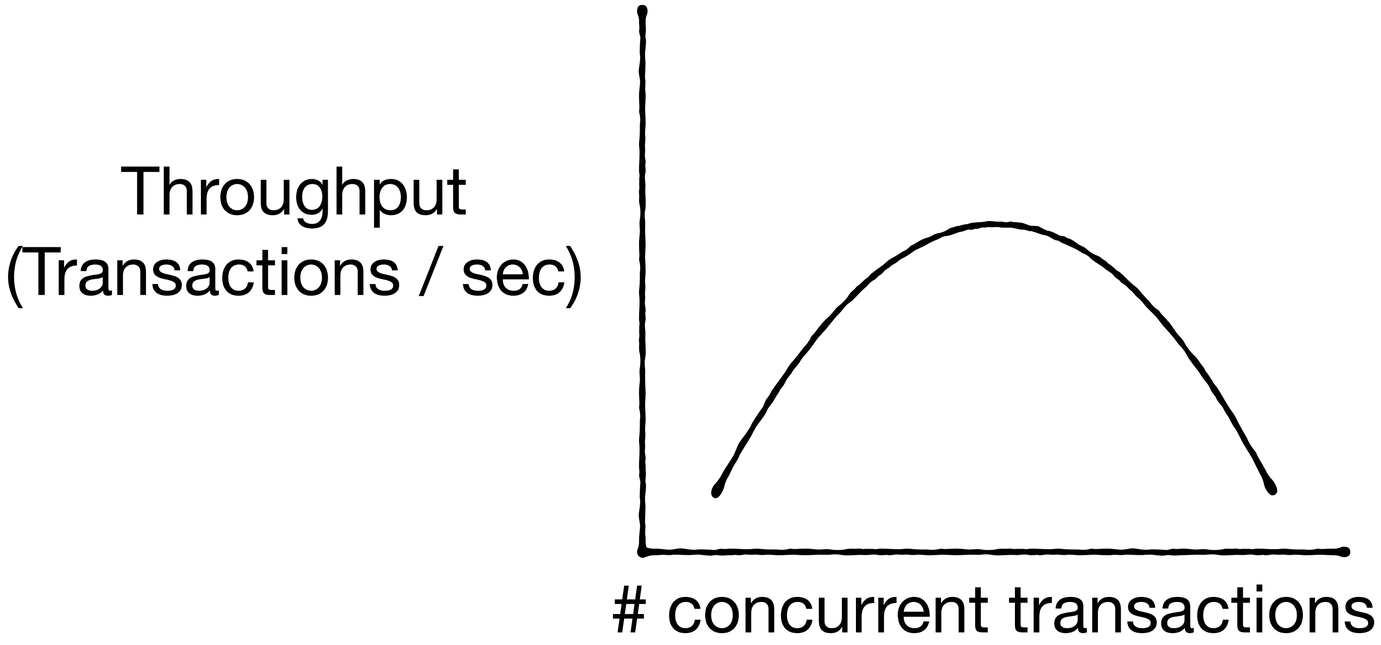


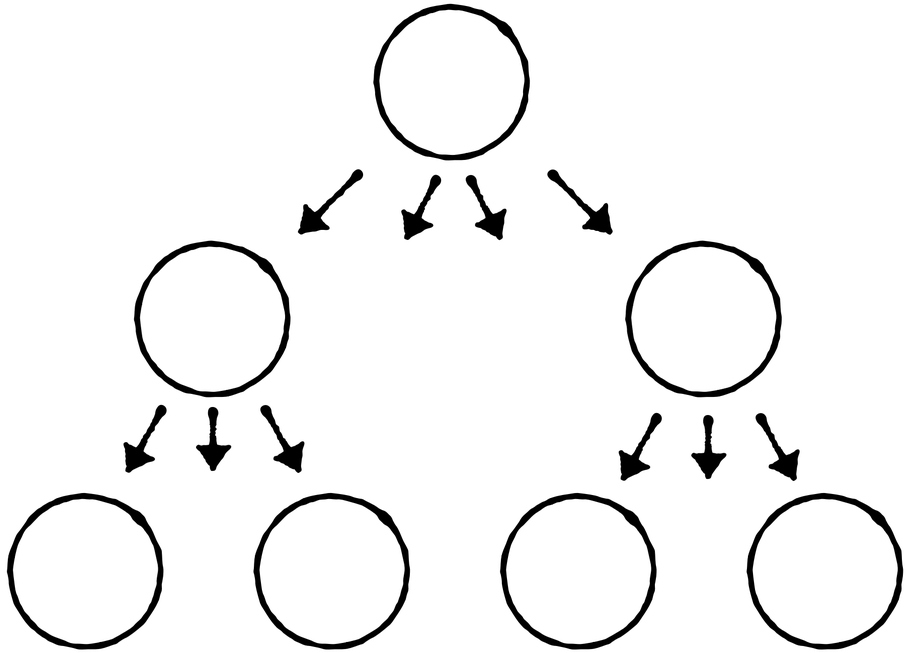
How can we address this?

(1) Design the application such that transactions are short

(2) **Restrict the maximum number of concurrent transactions**

With Strict Two-Phase Locking, a transaction locks all objects on its path until it commits

Why is this a problem for B-tree update?



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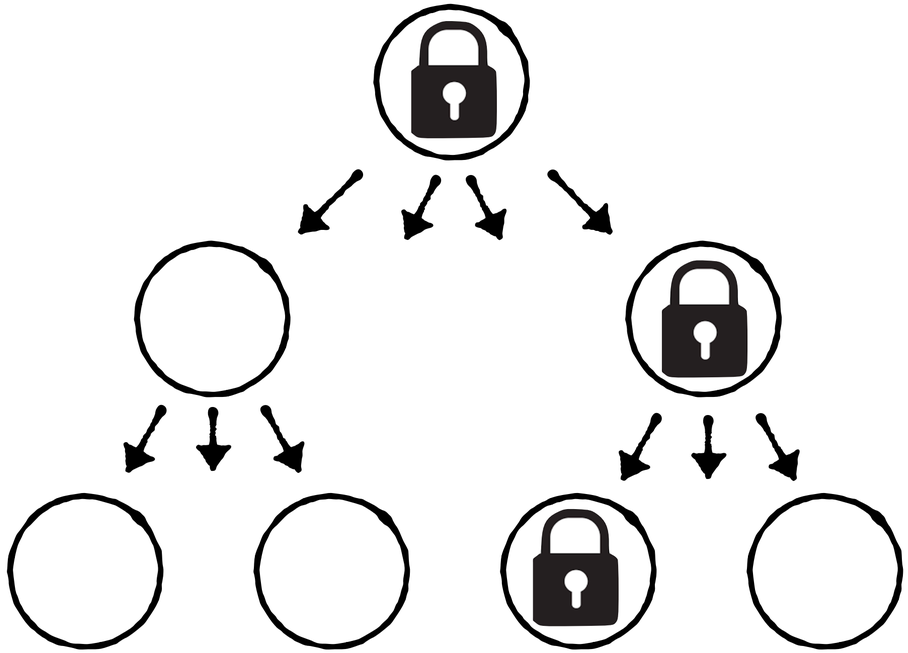
Lots of locking contention at root and upper levels



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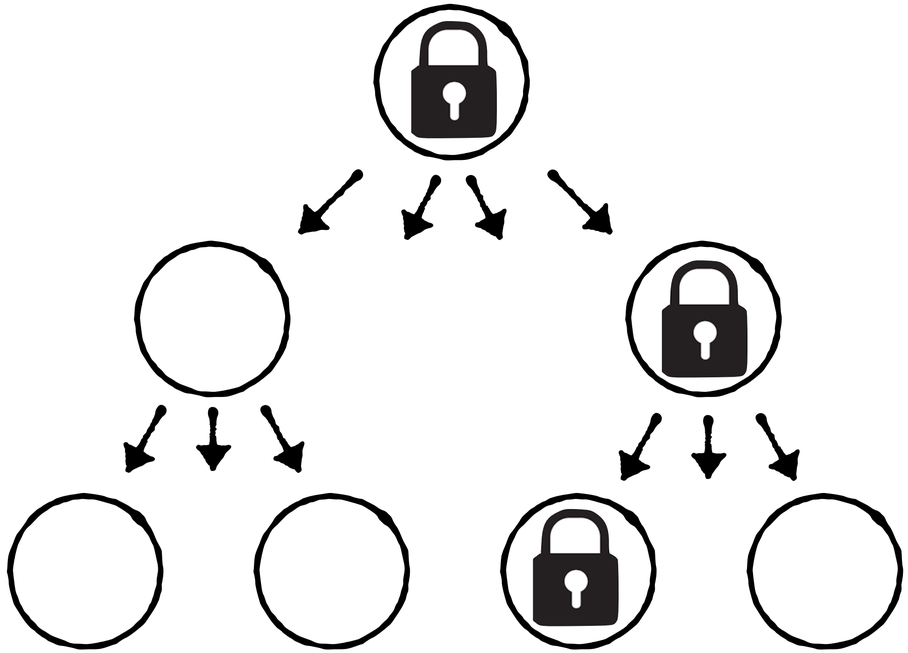
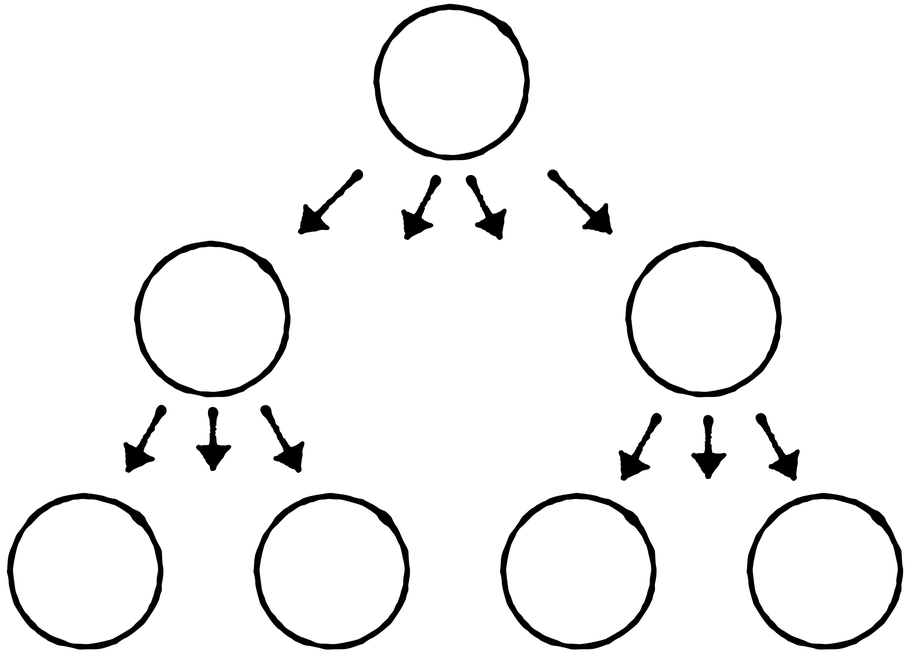
Any solutions?



What must we lock at minimum to ensure correctness?



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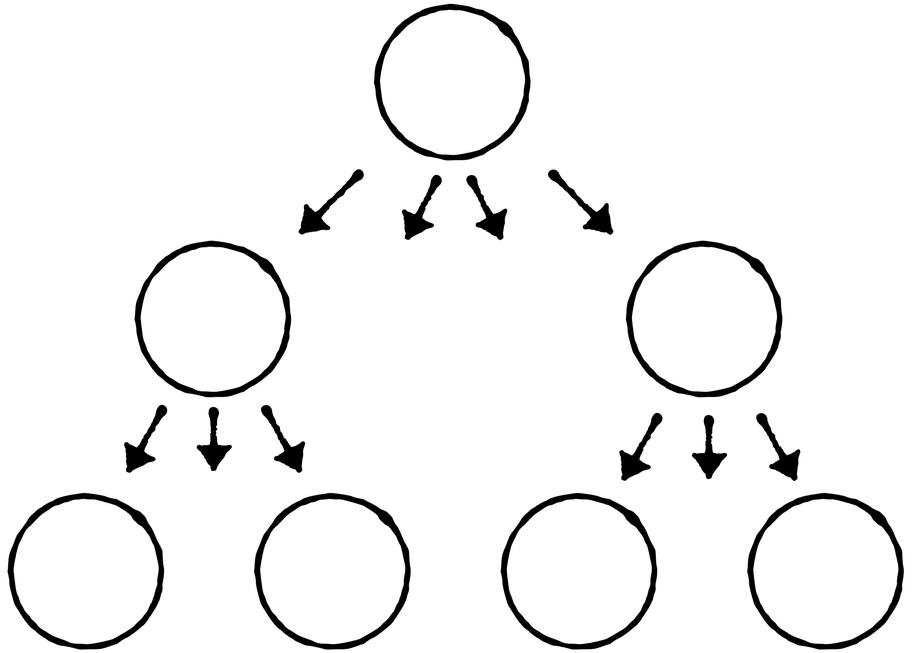
(1) We must maintain lock on parent as we acquire lock on child. Otherwise, another transaction may split child before we get to it



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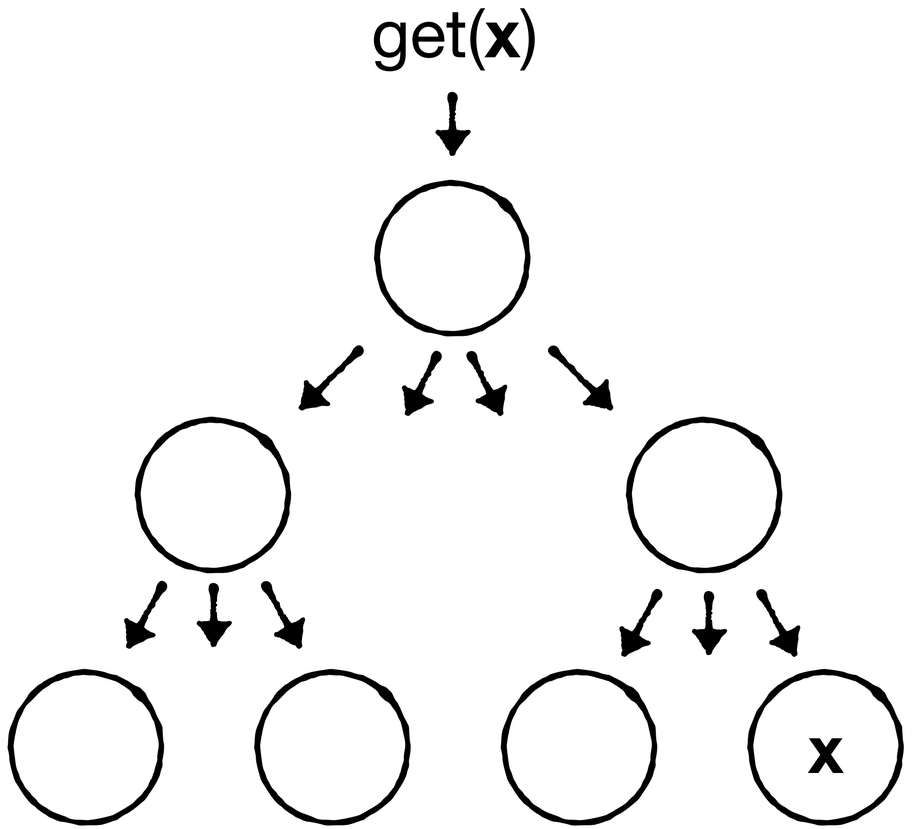

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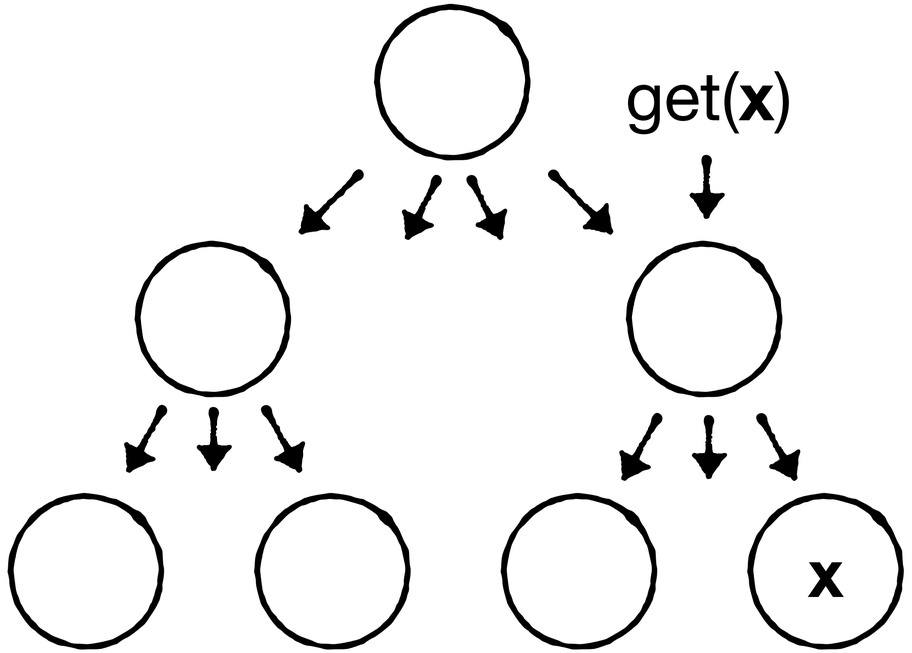

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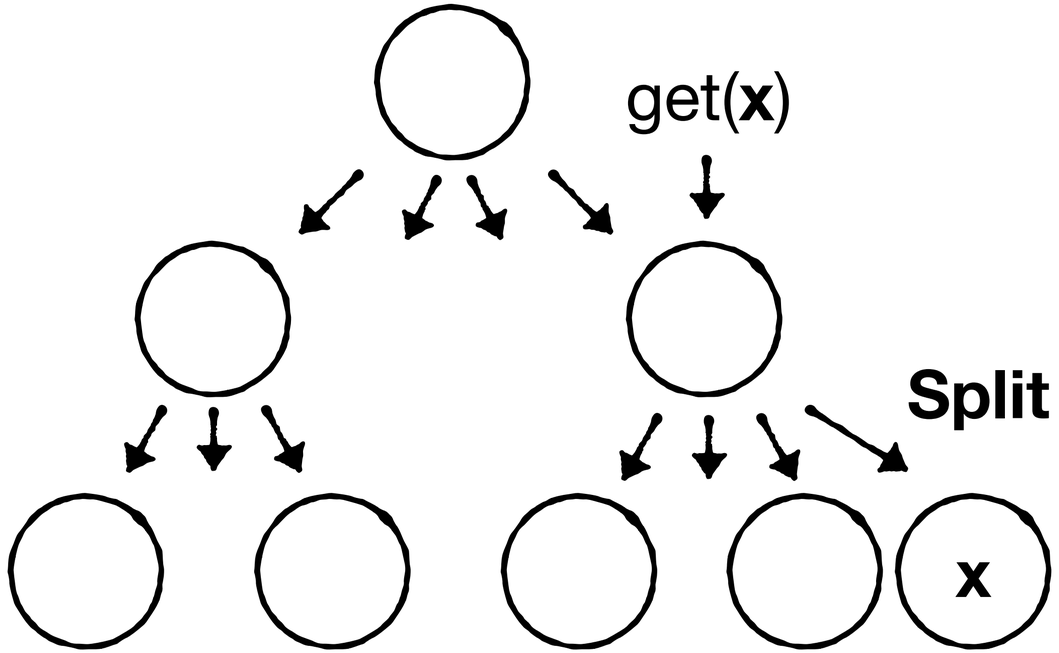

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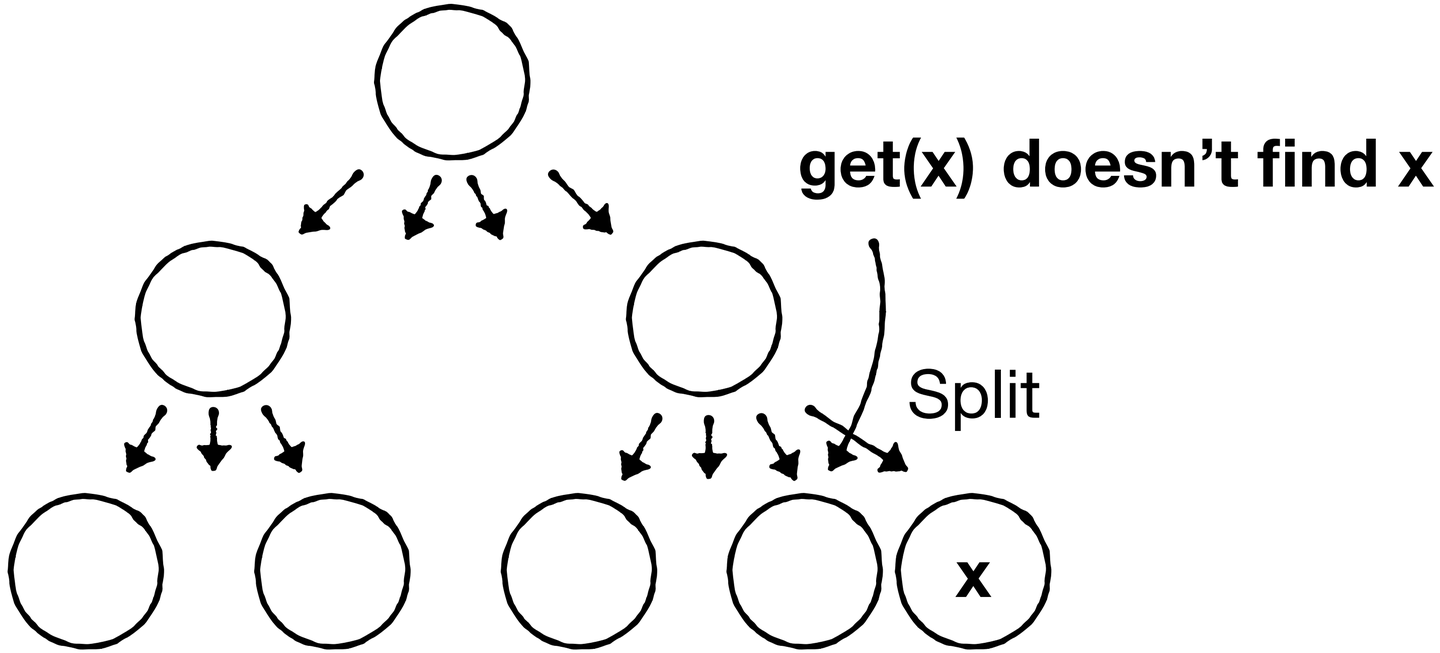

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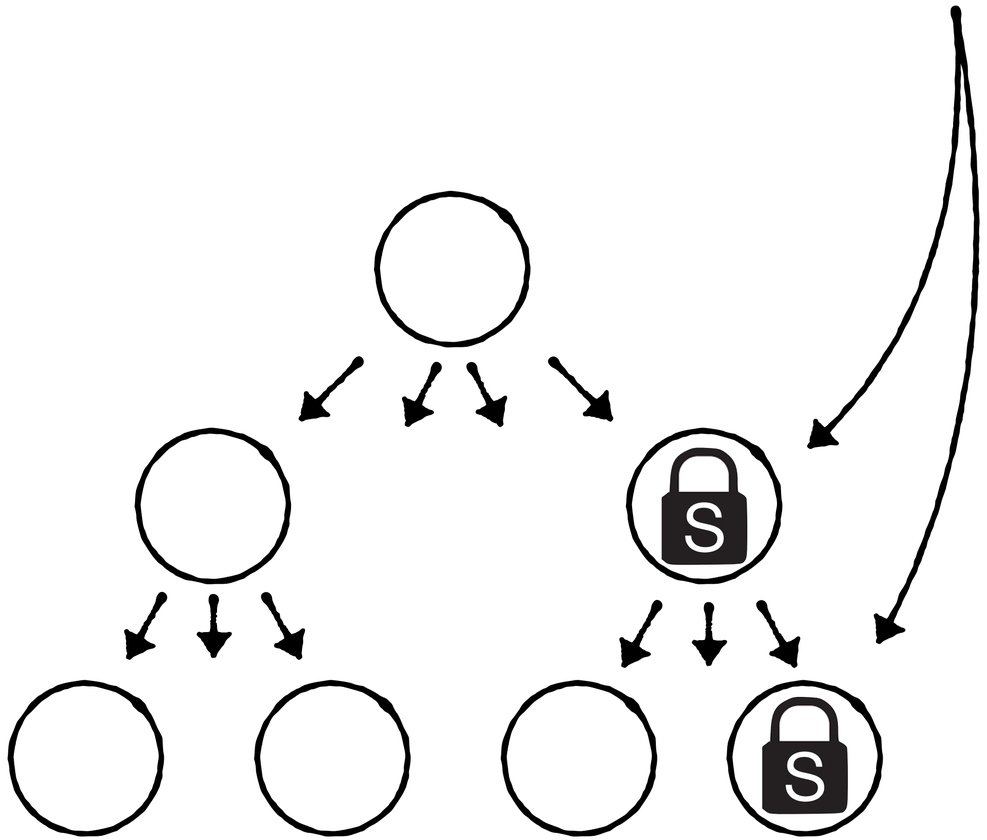

Double shared locks solve the problem

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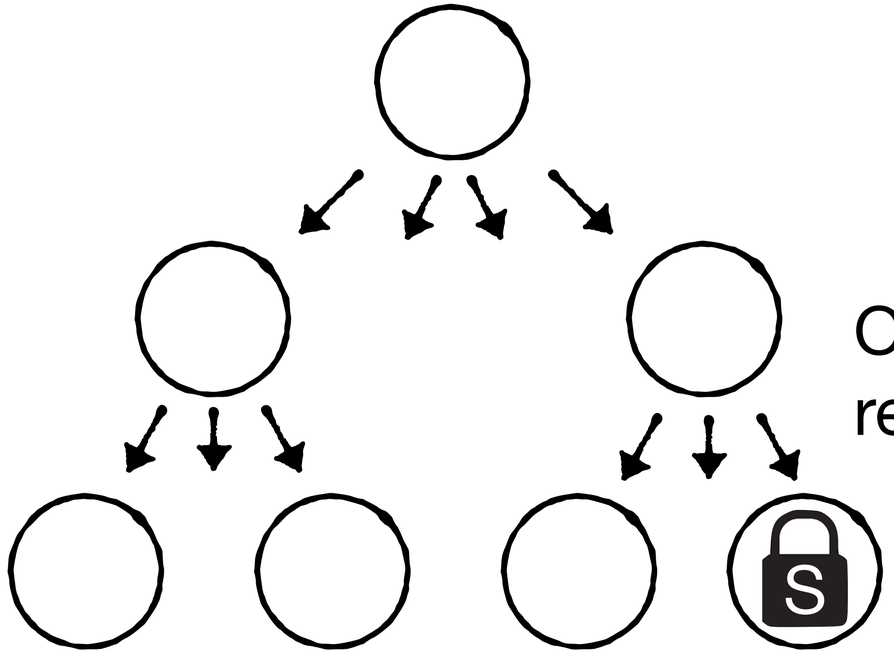
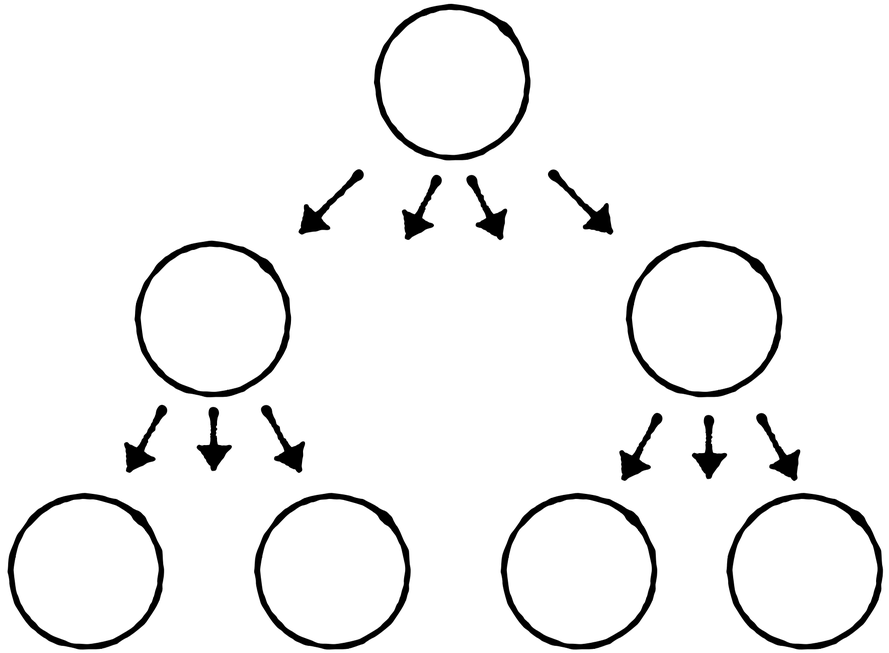


Once we hold lock on child, release lock on parent

What must we lock at minimum to ensure correctness?

(2) Once we reach child, we only need to hold a lock on a parent if the child is full, as a split would propagate upwards



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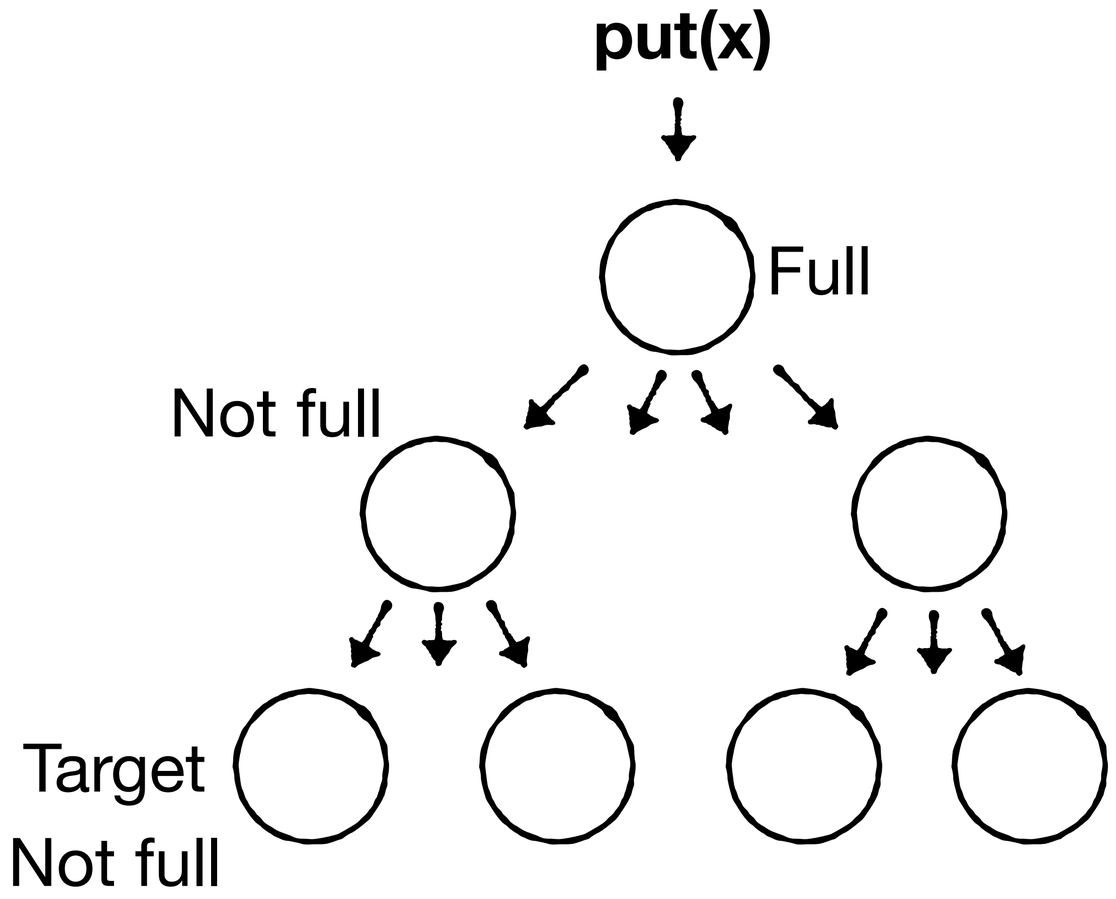

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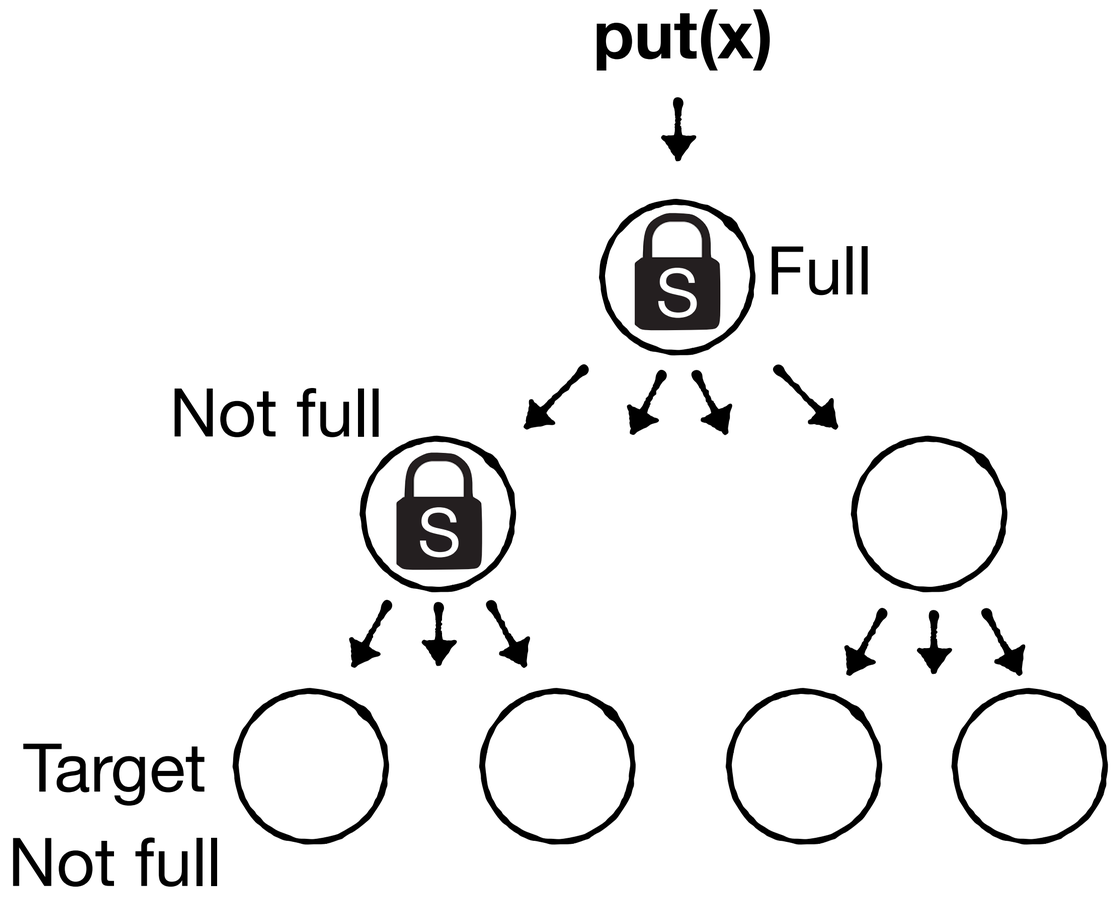

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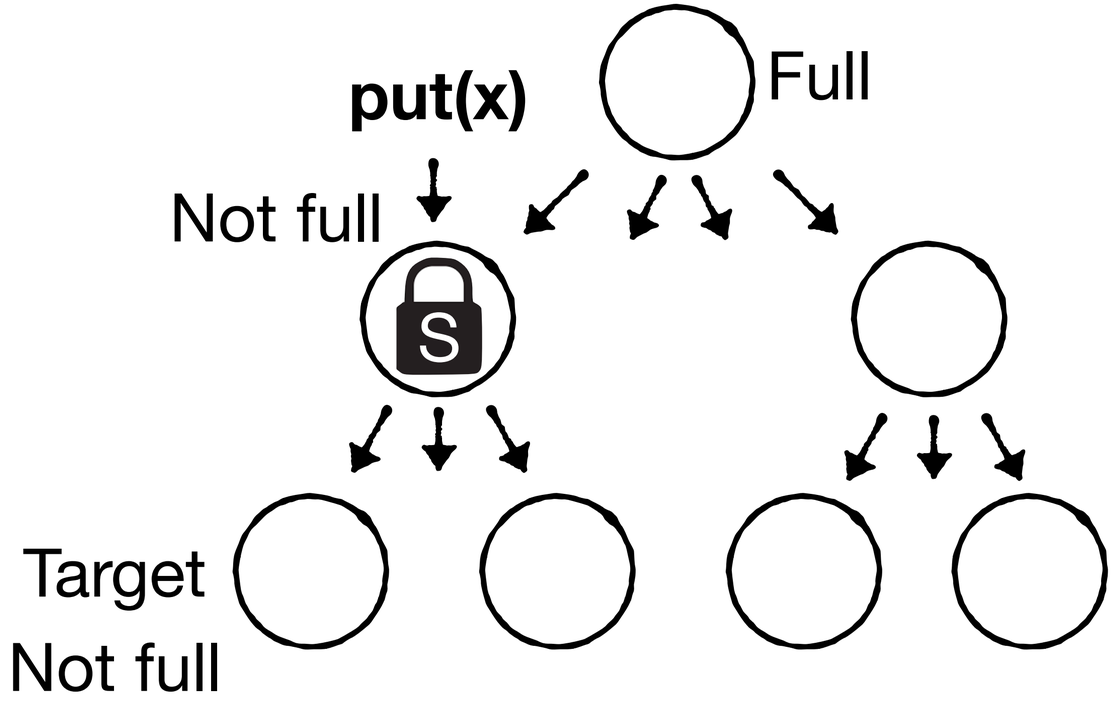

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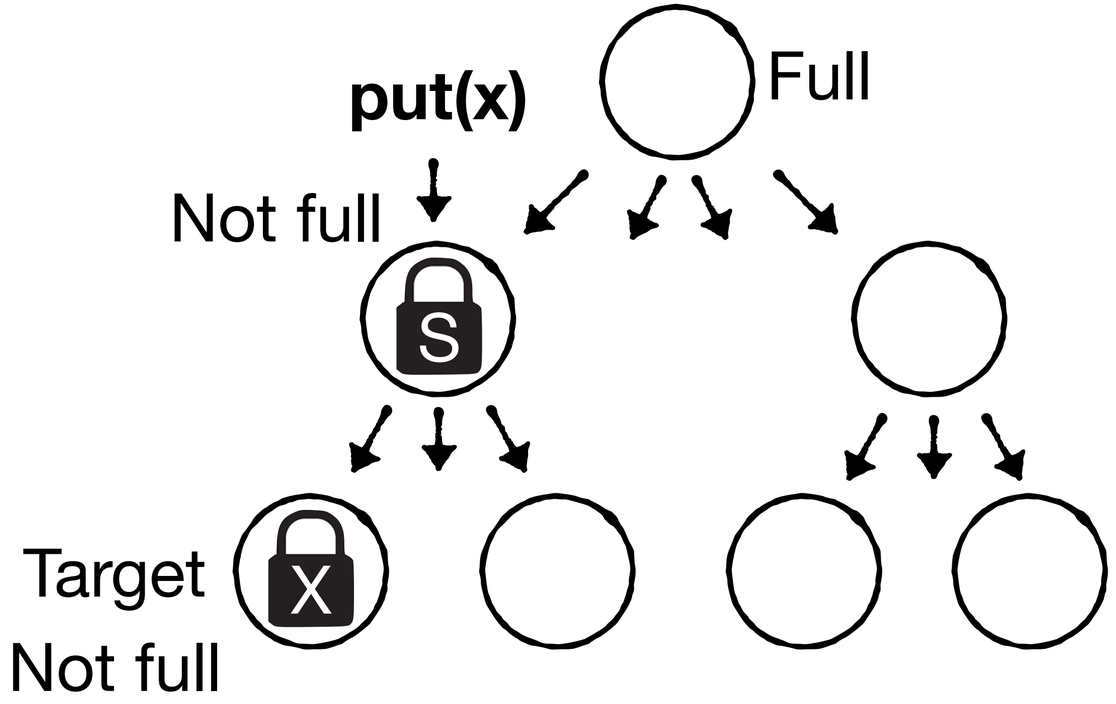

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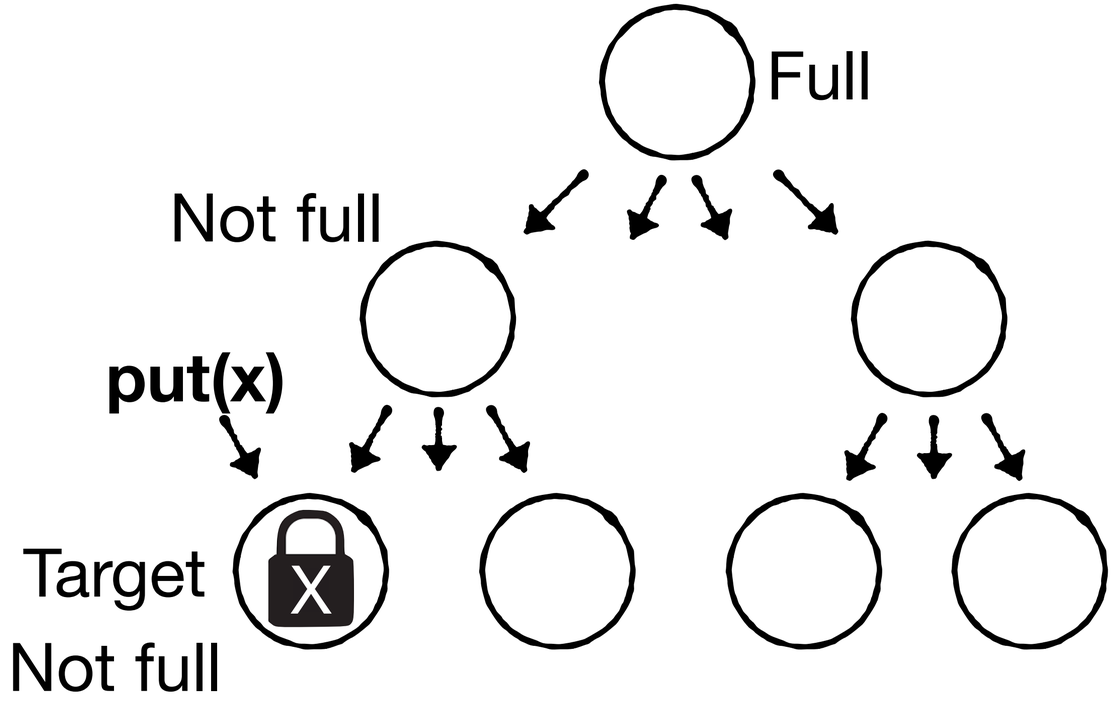

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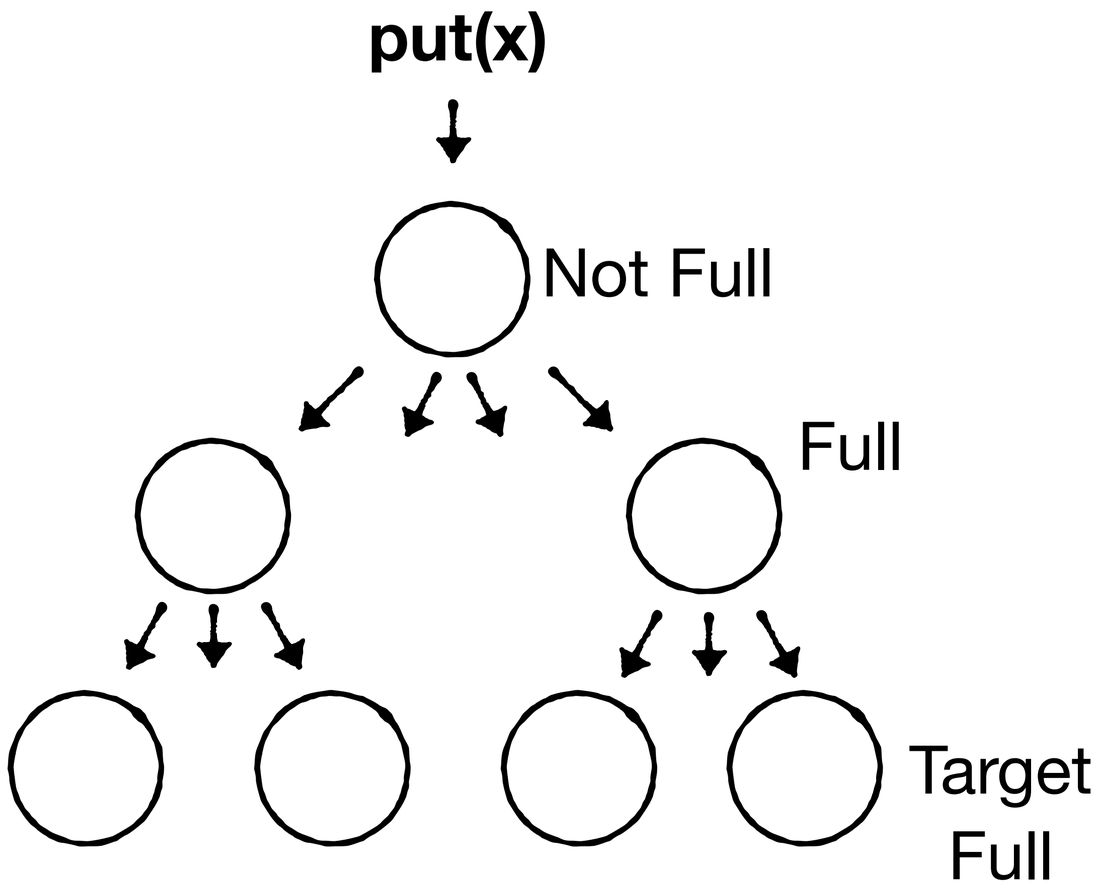

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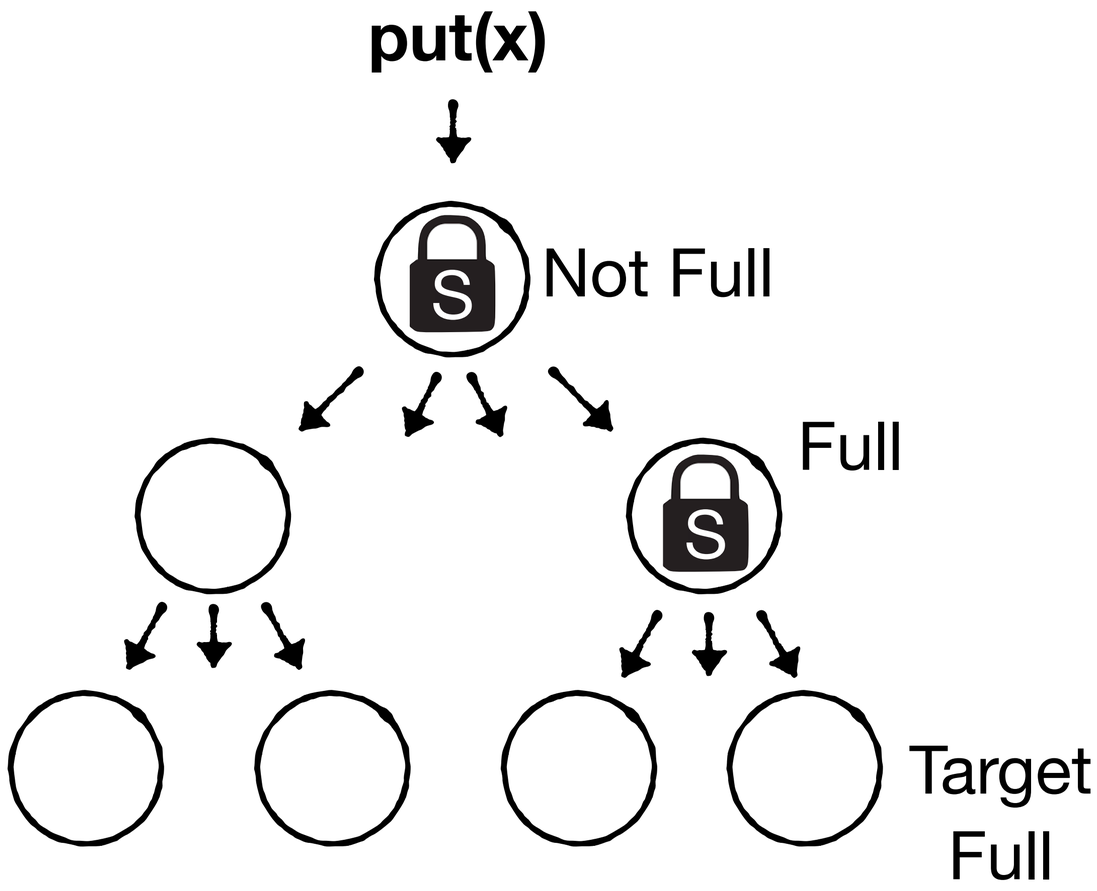

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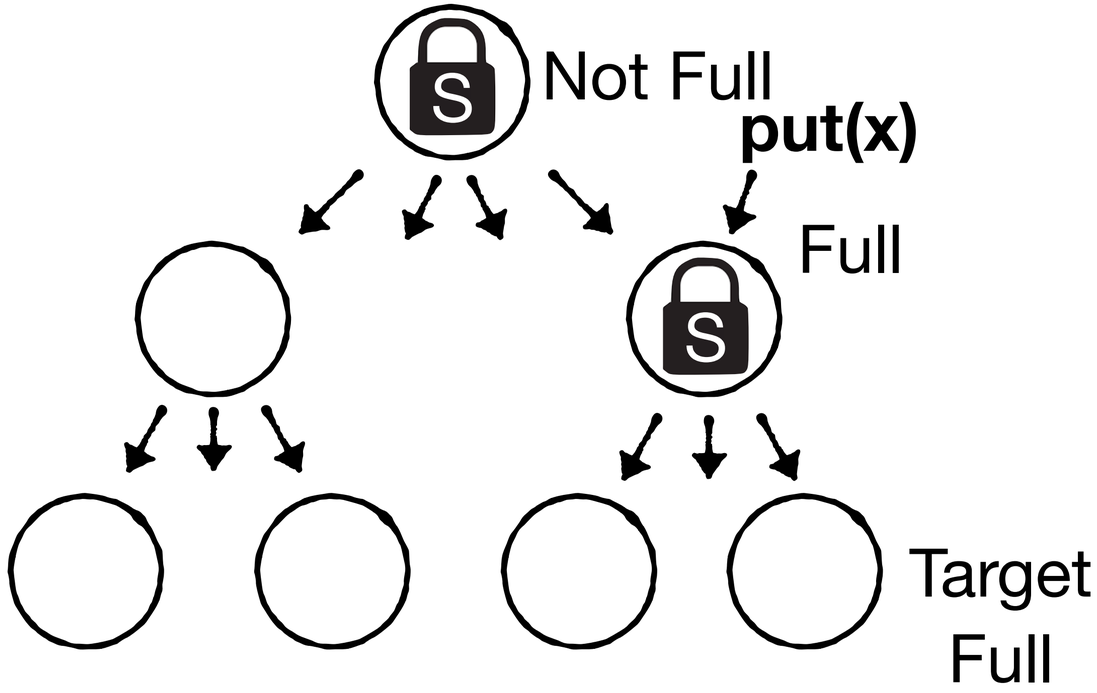

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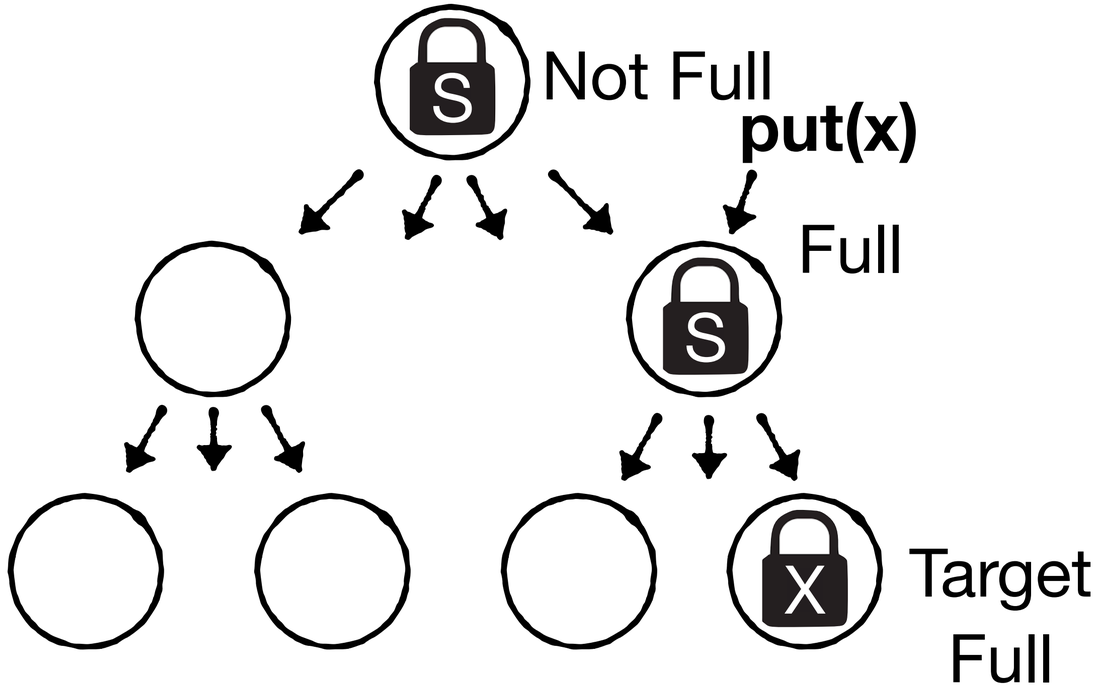

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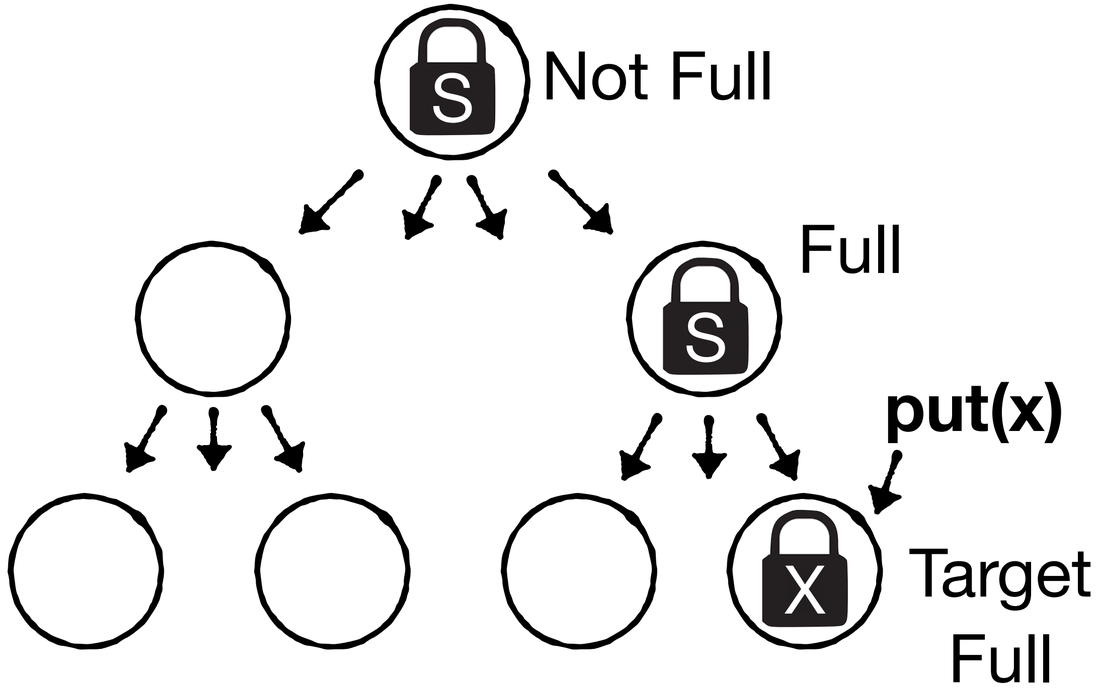

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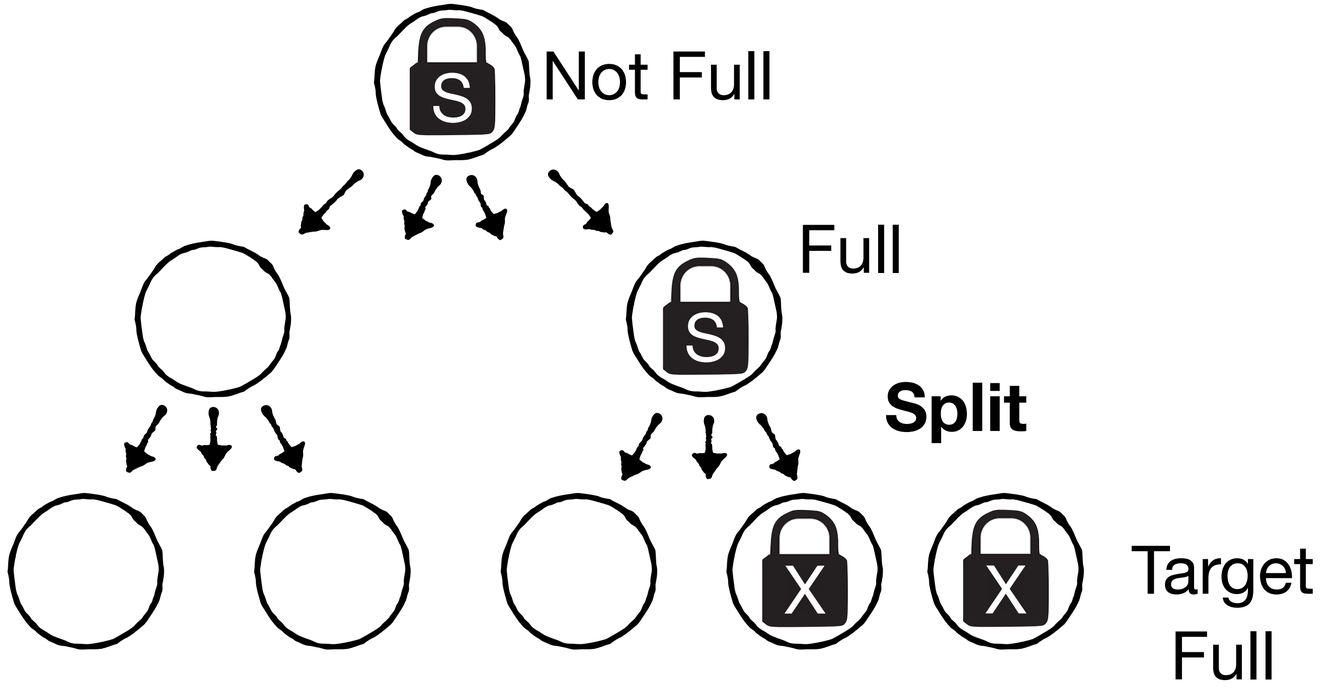

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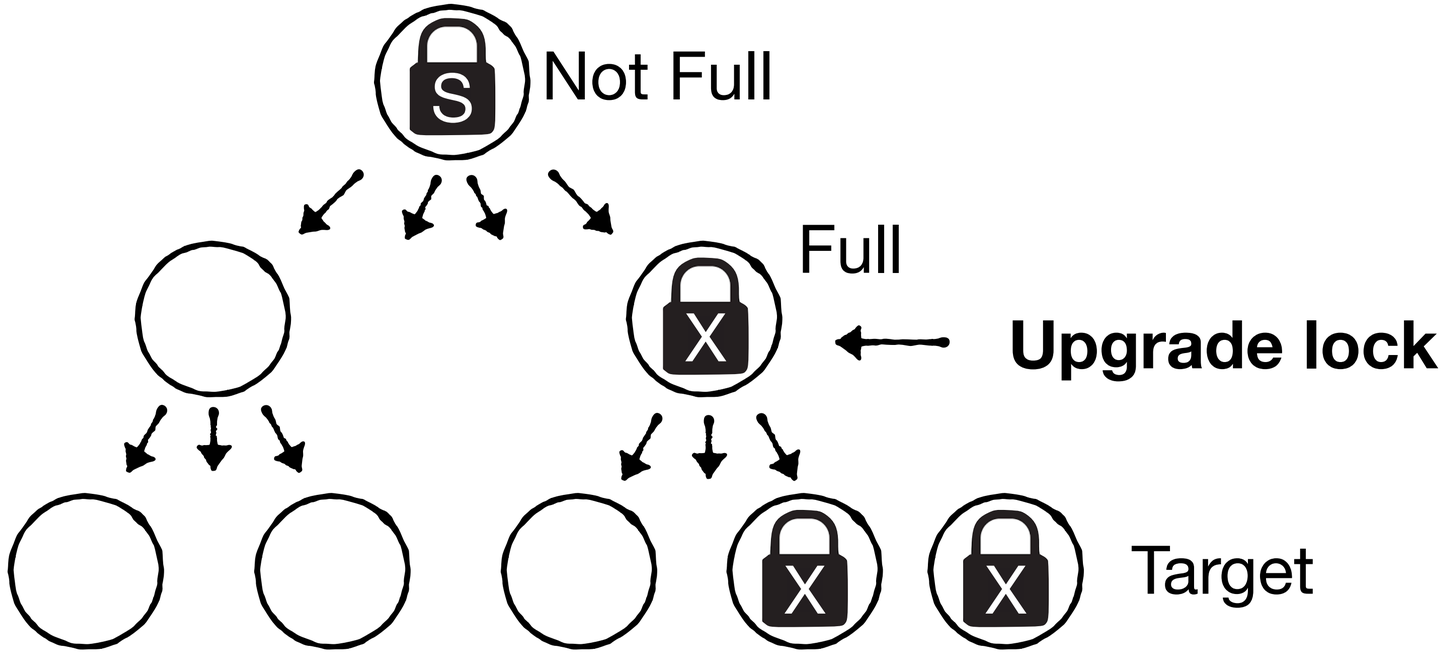

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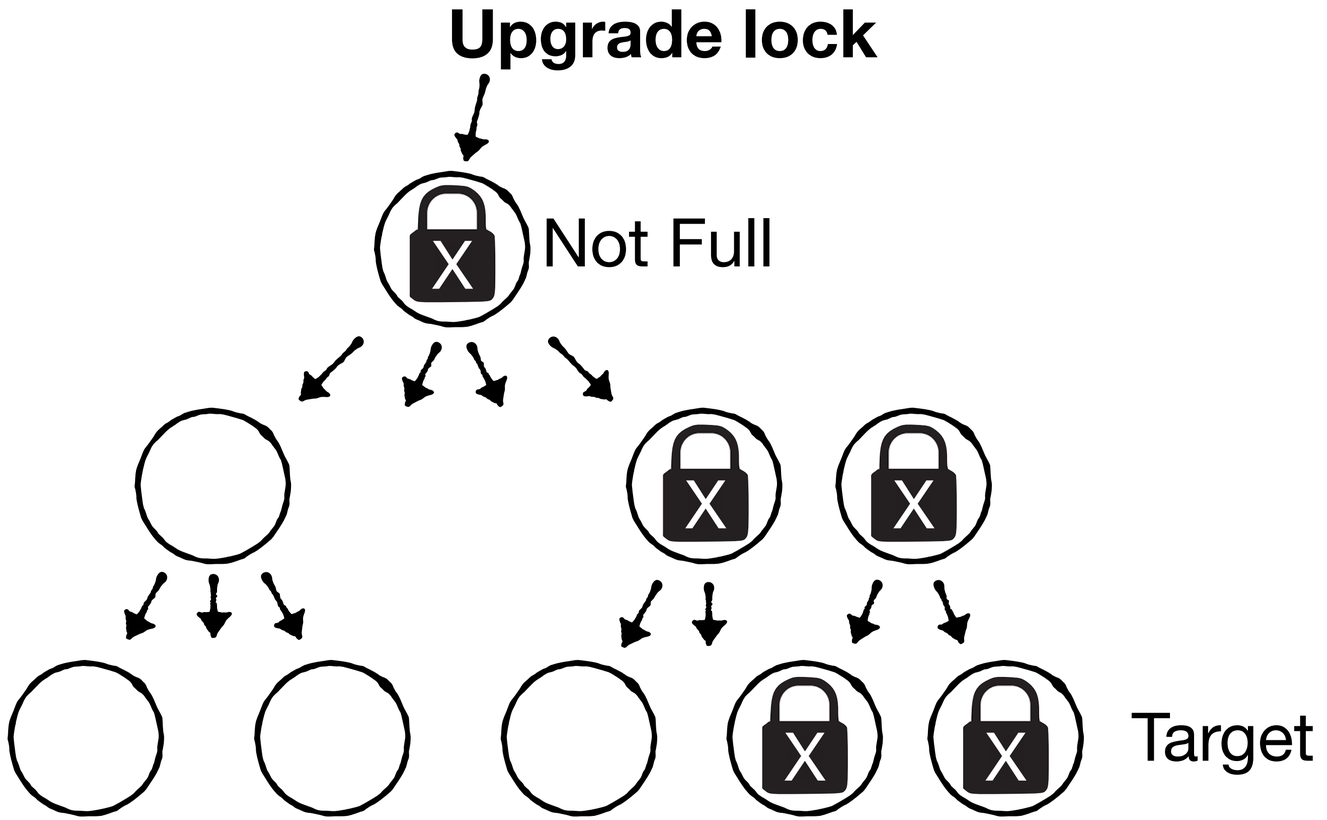

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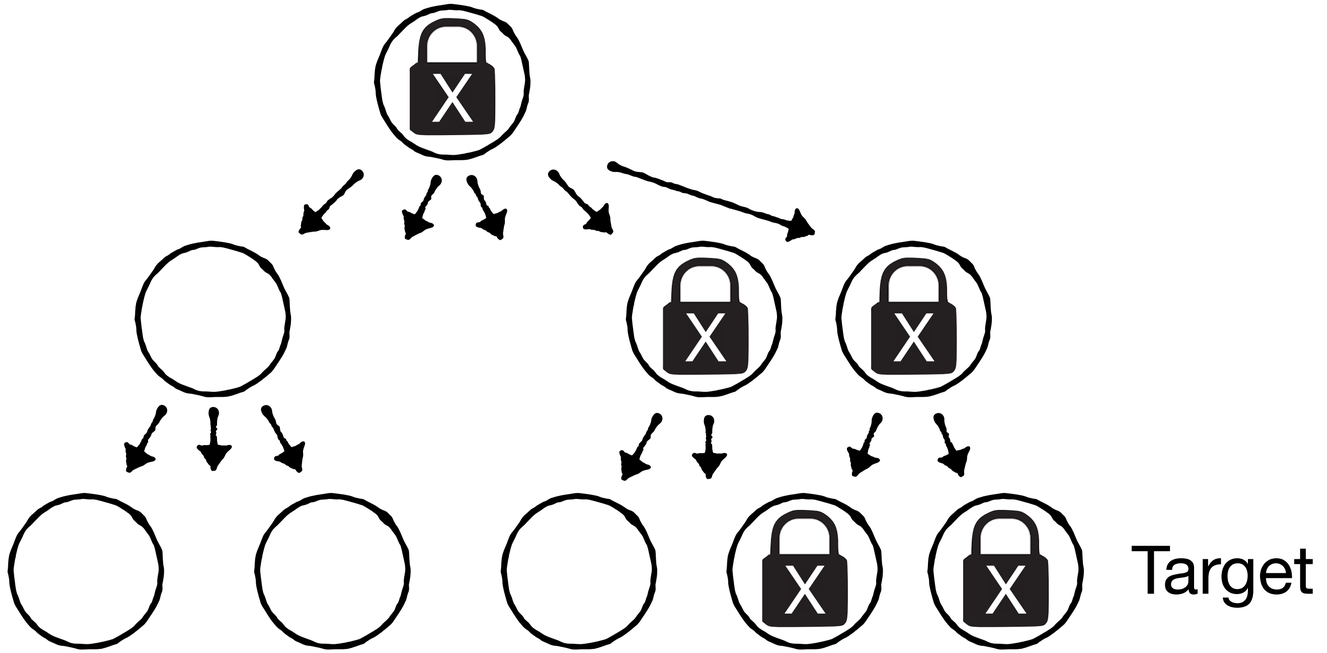
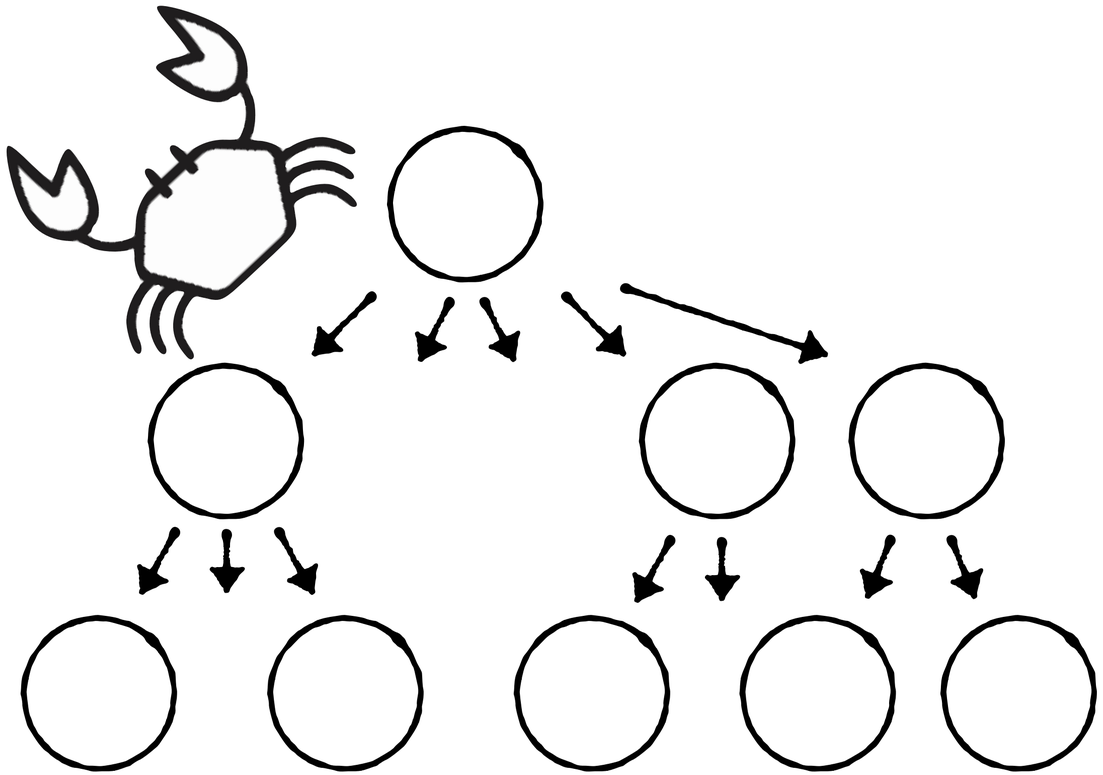


Protocol known as Lock-Coupling, or Crabbing



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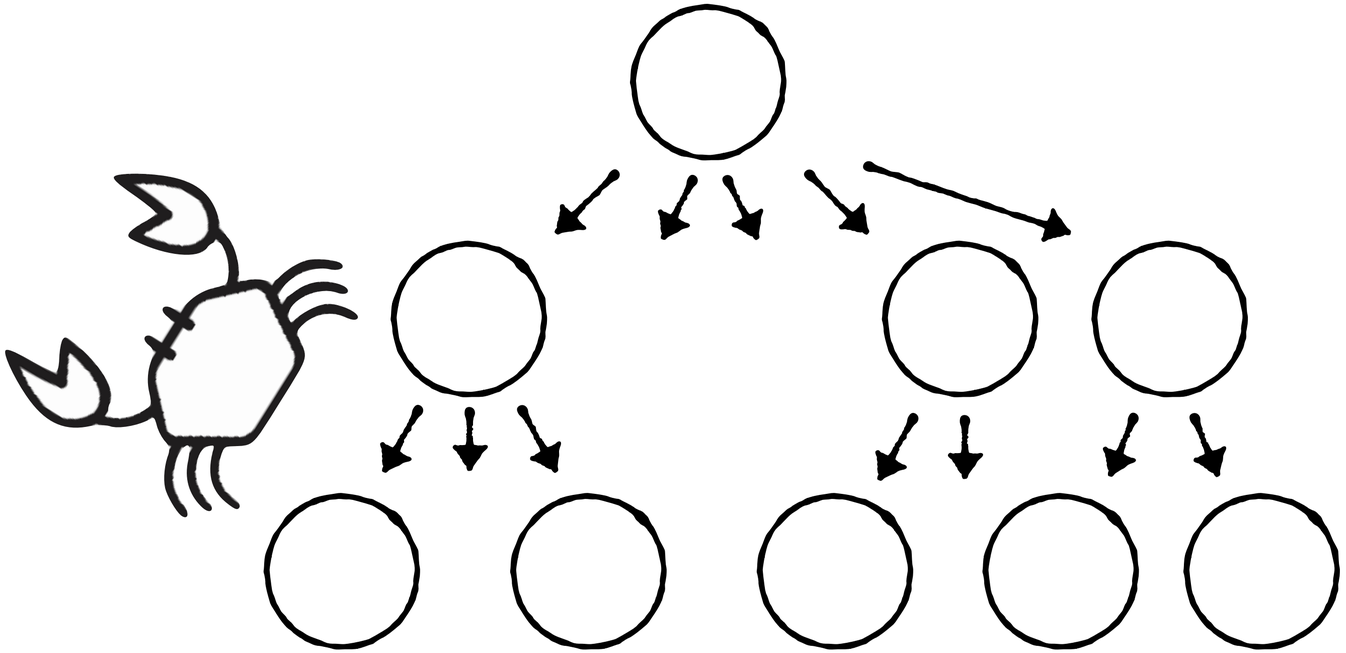
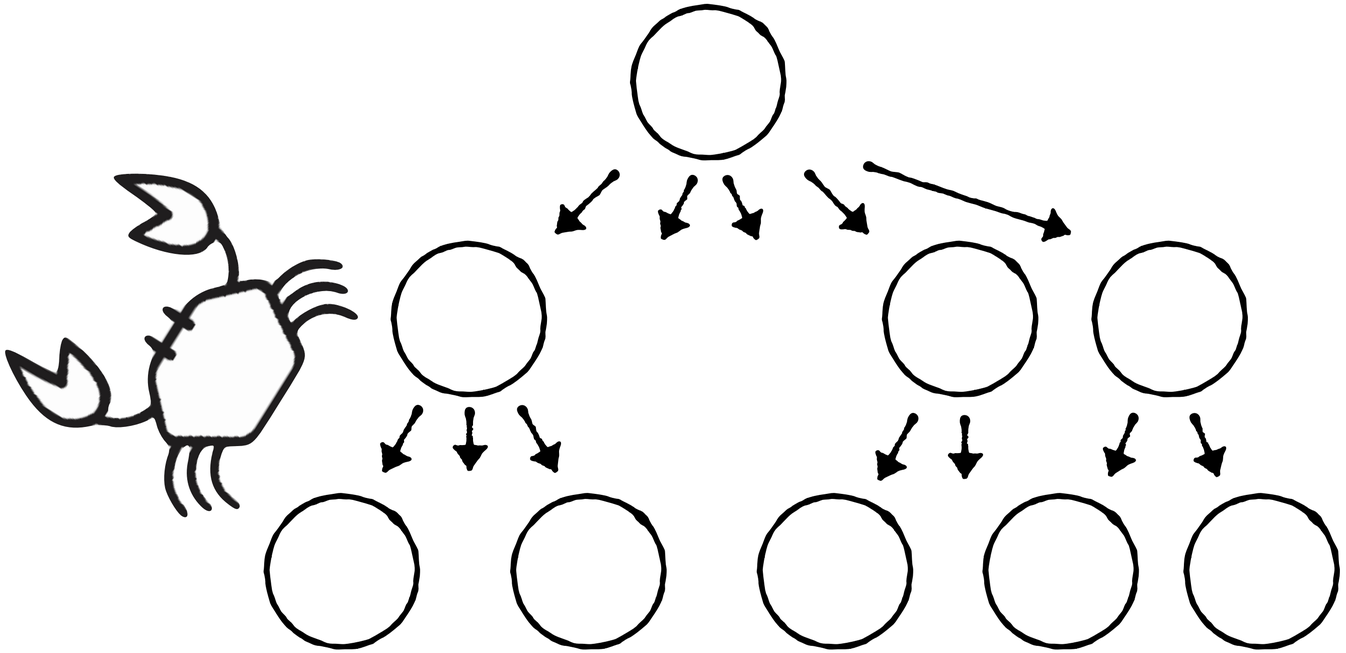


Shows that while strict two-phase locking is correct, it can sometimes be relaxed while maintaining correctness



Thanks!