

TRANSACTIONS ARE BACK-BUT HOW DIFFERENT THEY ARE? Technion Israel Institute of Technology

HAGIT ATTIYA AND SANDEEP HANS



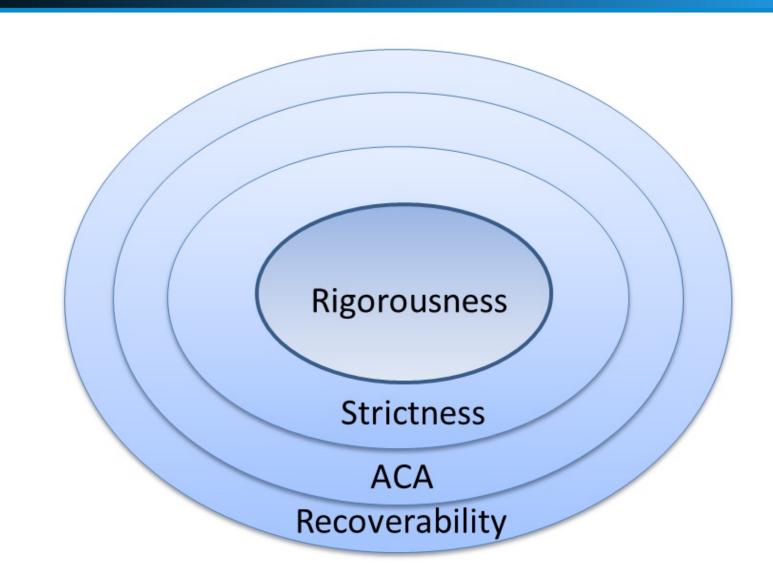
GOAL

Compare STM consistency conditions with related database consistency conditions.

TRANSACTIONAL MEMORY

A simple approach to programming concurrent applications, guaranteeing Atomicity, Consistency and Isolation.

DATABASE CONDITIONS [1]



Recoverability

All the transactions that have written the shared values read by transaction T, should commit before T.

Avoiding Cascading Aborts

If a transaction, T_1 writes a value read by another transaction T_2 , then T_2 can commit only after T_1 is committed.

Strictness

A transaction writing to a data item should complete (commit or abort) before another transaction reads from the data item or overwrites it.

Rigorousness

In addition to strictness, a transaction can write to a data item only if all the transactions reading it have committed or aborted.

STM CONDITIONS



Opacity [2]

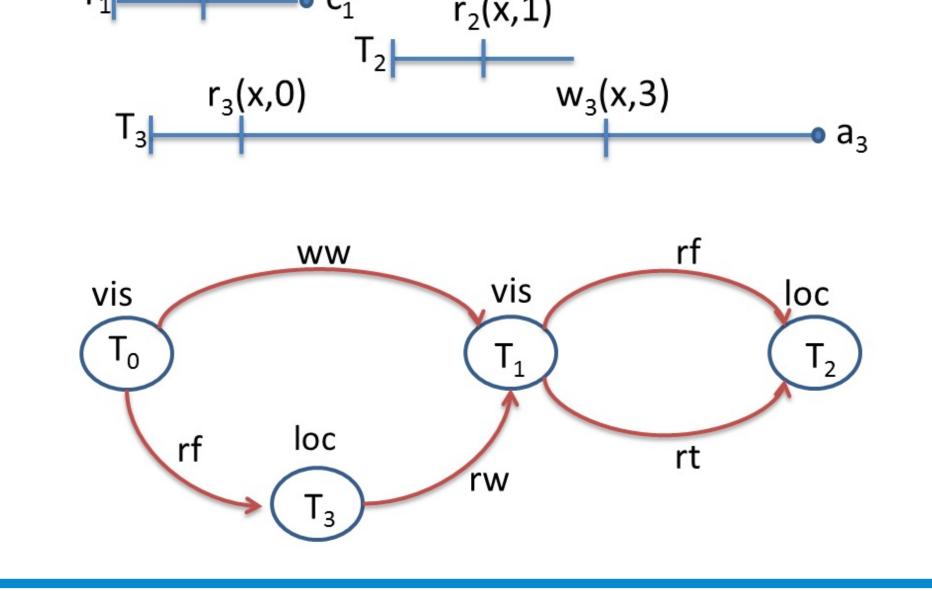
All the committed and aborted transactions appear as if they execute in a sequential order and this order respects real-time occurrences of all transactions.

Virtual World Consistency (VWC) [3]

 $w_1(x,1)$

For an aborted transaction, the values it reads are consistent only with respect to its causal past.

Opacity Graph Equivalent characterization of opacity, based on acyclicity of the graph representation of a history.

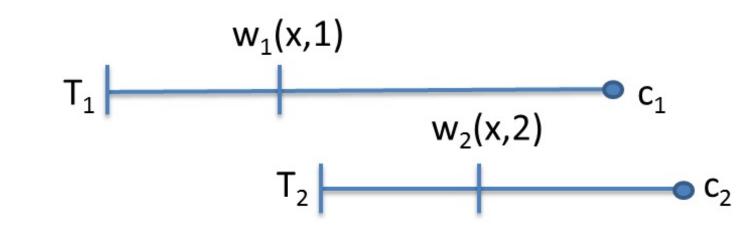


RESULTS

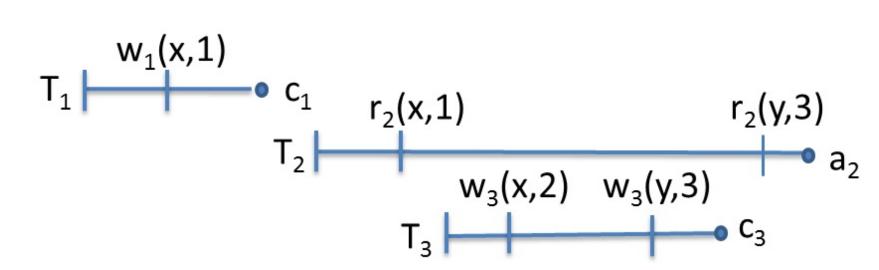
Rigorousness is Contained in Opacity

The opacity graph of a rigorous STM history is acyclic.

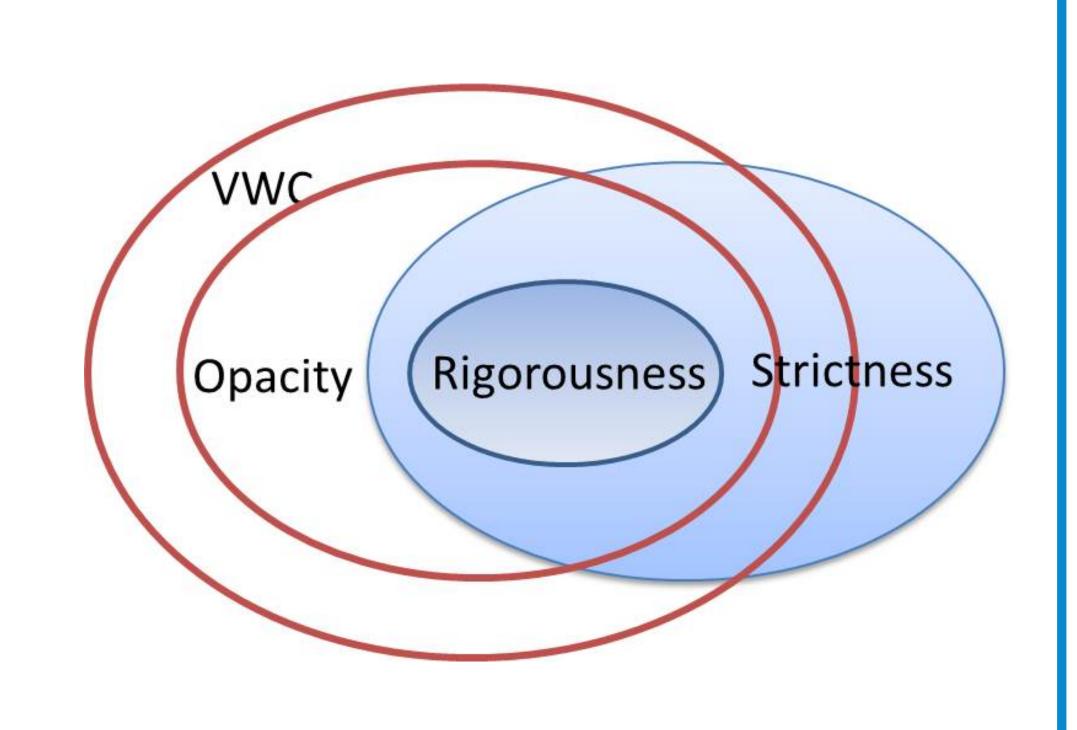
Theorem 1 $Rigorousness \subseteq Opacity.$



History that is opaque, but not rigorous.



History that is opaque, but not strict.



Non-Eagerness

Logical Commit Point

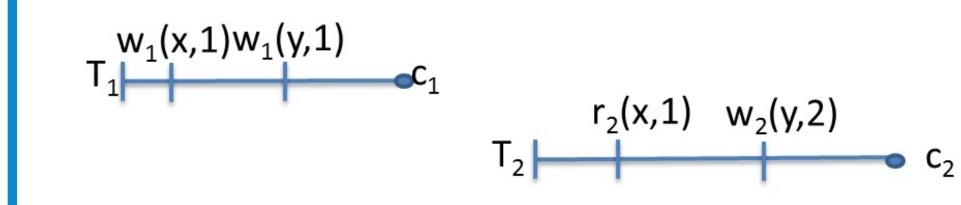
The point at which the transaction is sure to commit successfully.

Non eager STM

STMs that write only after their logical commit-point.

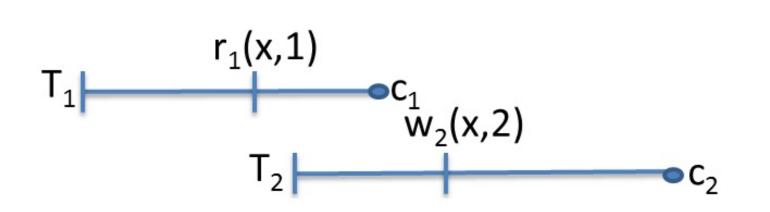
Non-eagerness Implies Strictness

Theorem 2 A non-eager STM is strict.

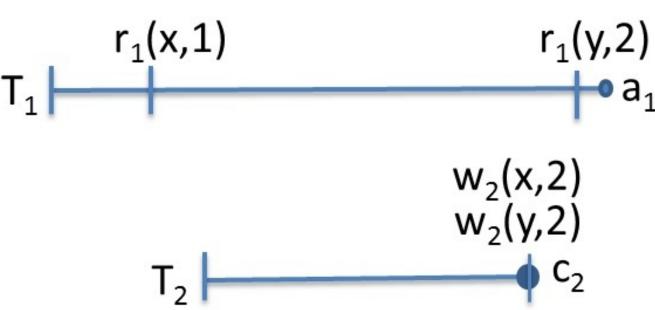


History that is *strict*, but not non-eager.

Incomparable to Rigorousness and Opacity



History that is rigorous (and hence opaque), but *not* non-eager.



History that is non-eager, but not opaque (and hence not rigorous).

REFERENCES

- P.A. Bernstein, V.Hadzilacos, and N. Goodman. Concurrency Control and Recovery in Database Systems. Addison Wesley, 1987.
- [2] R. Guerroui, M. Kapalka. On the correctness of transactional memory. PPOPP '08
- [3] D. Imbs, J.R.G. de Mendivil, and M. Raynal. Virtual World Consistency: a new condition for stm systems. PODC '09
- [4] S. Doherty, L. Groves, V. Luchangco, and M. Moir. Towards formally specifying and verifying transactional memory. Electron. Notes Theor. Comput. Sci., Dec '09.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Relate TMS (Transactional memory specification) [4] to the database conditions.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research is supported by funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement number 238639, ITN project TRANSFORM.