Constraints and Triggers

Topics discussed earlier

• basic constraints
  • entity integrity (not null)
  • referential integrity (foreign key)
  • key constraint (primary key)
  • candidate key constraint (uniqueness)

• Naming constraints
  • to add, modify, drop
  • deferrable constraints can be deferred

See Section 7.1 and 7.3 for details

Checks and Assertions

CHECK constraints
  attribute-level
tuple-level

ASSERTIONS
  can include multiple tables
Attribute Level Checks

create table enrolled |
  StudentID    number(5),
  CourseID number(4),
  Quarter varchar(6),
  Year number(4), ...
  CHECK(quarter in ('Fall','Winter','Spring'))), ...
create table memberof |
  StudentID    number(5),
  GroupName varchar(40),
  Joined number(4),
  CHECK(Joined >= (SELECT Started FROM student WHERE studentID = SID)), ...

• has to be true or unknown (compare WHERE)
• checks get evaluated on a row when row is inserted/updated
  • so: checks may get violated
• subqueries not allowed in Oracle checks

Tuple Level Checks

create table course |
  CID number(4),
  CourseName varchar(40),
  Department varchar(4),
  CourseNr char(3),
  primary key (CID),
  check (department <> 'CSC' OR CourseNr > 100) );

• same as attribute level check, just different placement

Examples

• enforce the following course ranges:
  CSC: 200-600, IT 100-500, GAM: 200-500
• a student must have either a first or last name
• we don’t accept any undergraduate COMP-GPH and IT students after (and including) 2015
• only graduate students can be PhD students
• use to implement sub-classing

EER-modeling problem: Employees can be hourly, in which case we want their ID, name, Address, the day they were hired, and the rate at which they were hired. For salaried employees we want to store their ID, name, address, the day they were hired, and their annual salary and stock options. Consultants also get an ID, and we store their name, address, hiring date, contract number, and billing rate.
Assertions

CREATE ASSERTION joined
CHECK (NOT EXISTS
(SELECT *
FROM student, memberof
WHERE SID = StudentID and Joined < Started));

Example: undergrad/grad students can enroll in at most 2/4 courses a quarter

• not supported by anybody?
• can be mimicked using materialized views
  and/or triggers (procedural vs. declarative)

Triggers

CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER started
BEFORE UPDATE OF Started ON student
FOR EACH ROW
WHEN (new.Started < old.Started)
BEGIN
   new.started := old.started;
   DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Rejected change of Started');
END;
/

SET SERVEROUTPUT ON;
UPDATE student
SET Started = 2001;
SELECT * FROM student;
**Triggering Events**

When do we trigger:

- **before**
- **after**
- **instead of** (only for views)

What is doing the triggering:

- insert, update, delete
- system events

**row/statement trigger**

CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER started BEFORE UPDATE OF started ON student 
FOR EACH ROW 
WHEN (new.started < old.started) 
BEGIN 
  new.started := old.started; 
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Rejected change of started'); 
END; /

CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER started AFTER UPDATE ON student 
BEGIN 
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Student Table updated'); 
END; /

**Restriction (WHEN)**

- **old** (before change)
- **new** (after change)
Trigger Action

- BEGIN
  pl/sql block
END;
/
- :old, :new
  variables
- dbms_output

Example: Logging

CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER studentlog
AFTER INSERT OR UPDATE OR DELETE ON student
BEGIN
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Insert/Delete/Update on Student Table');
END;
/

CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER started
AFTER INSERT OR UPDATE OR DELETE ON student
BEGIN
  IF UPDATING THEN
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Update on Student');
  ELSIF INSERTING THEN
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Insert on Student');
  ELSIF DELETING THEN
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Delete on Student');
  END IF;
END;
/

Example: Unique IDs

ID fields often needed in tables

- Combinations of attributes can be unhandy
- No natural keys in the relation

Database support through sequences

- Each access gives new ID (by increasing the value)
- Microsoft Access: AutoNumber field (counter datatype)
- Oracle: sequence object
Sequences in Oracle

--- create a new sequence for student table
CREATE SEQUENCE SEQ_STUDENT_ID
INCREMENT BY 1
START WITH 1;

--- example application
INSERT INTO student(SID, LastName, FirstName)
VALUES(seq_student_id.nextval, 'Pendleton', 'Gabriela');

--- drop sequence
DROP seq_student_id;

Using sequence with trigger

--- create a new sequence for student table
CREATE SEQUENCE SEQ_STUDENT_ID
INCREMENT BY 1
START WITH 1;

--- create trigger to insert new ID automatically
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER student_id_trigger
BEFORE INSERT ON student
FOR EACH ROW
BEGIN
    SELECT seq_student_id.nextval
    INTO :new.SID
    FROM dual;
END;
/

Example: Logging into table

CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER studentlog
AFTER INSERT ON student
FOR EACH ROW
BEGIN
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Insert on Student Table');
    insert into elog
    values(seq_student_id.nextval, :new.SID, 'I',
    systimestamp);
END;
/

CREATE TABLE elog(
    eid NUMBER,
    esid NUMBER(5),
    etype CHAR,
    etime DATE,
    PRIMARY KEY(eid)
);
Example 7.13

CREATE TRIGGER NetWorthTrigger
AFTER UPDATE OF netWorth ON MovieExec
REFERENCING
OLD AS Oldtuple
NEW AS Newtuple
FOR EACH ROW
WHEN (Oldtuple.networth > NewTuple.networth)
BEGIN
UPDATE MovieExec
SET netWorth = OldTuple.netWorth
WHERE cert# = NewTuple.cert#
END;
/

potentially problematic code, why?

Oracle compiles similar example, but rejects at runtime:

SQL Error: ORA-04091: table MOVIEEXEC.EXTENDED is mutating, trigger/function may not be used
ORA-04088: error during execution of trigger "MOVIEEXEC.EXTENDED"
ORA-04089: 00000 - "table &s is mutating, trigger/function may not see it"
*Cause:* A trigger (or a user defined plugin) function that is referenced in this statement attempted to look at (or modify) a table that was in the middle of being modified by the statement which fired it.
*Action:* Rewrite the trigger (or function) so it does not read that table.

Examples

• Extend the logging-into-table example, so it also logs updates and deletes
• write a trigger that cancels all deletions on the student table and writes a warning message that a deletion was attempted (need RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR)
• if a student’s program is PhD (update or insert), ensure the career is GRD (change if necessary)
• if a student is inserted without SSN, automatically assign a unique SSN starting with 900 (those SSNs are not currently in use)
• if a course is inserted with coursenum 666, allow the insert, but null the coursenum and issue a warning