

Triggers and Active Databases

CSE 532, Theory of Database Systems

Stony Brook University

<http://www.cs.stonybrook.edu/~cse532>

Trigger Overview

- Element of the database schema

- General form:

ON *<event>* IF *<condition>* THEN *<action>*

- *Event*- request to execute database operation
- *Condition* - predicate evaluated on database state
- *Action* – execution of procedure that might involve database updates

- Example:

ON updating maximum course enrollment
IF number registered > new max enrollment limit
THEN deregister students using LIFO policy

Trigger Details

- **Activation** - Occurrence of the *event*
- **Consideration** - The point, after activation, when *condition* is evaluated
 - Immediate or deferred (when the transaction requests to commit)
 - *Condition* might refer to both the state before and the state after *event* occurs

Trigger Details

- **Execution** – point at which *action* occurs
 - With deferred consideration, execution is also deferred
 - With immediate consideration, execution can occur immediately after consideration or it can be deferred
 - If execution is immediate, execution can occur before, after, or instead of triggering event.
 - Before triggers adapt naturally to maintaining integrity constraints: violation results in rejection of event.

Trigger Details

- **Granularity**

- *Row-level granularity*: change of a single row is an event (a single UPDATE statement might result in multiple events)
- *Statement-level granularity*: events are statements (a single UPDATE statement that changes multiple rows is a single event).

Trigger Details

- **Multiple Triggers**

- How should multiple triggers activated by a single event be handled?
 - Evaluate one condition at a time and if true immediately execute action
or
 - Evaluate all conditions, then execute actions
- The execution of an action can affect the truth of a subsequently evaluated condition so the choice is significant.

Triggers in SQL:1999

- **Events:** INSERT, DELETE, or UPDATE statements or changes to individual rows caused by these statements
- **Condition:** Anything that is allowed in a WHERE clause
- **Action:** An individual SQL statement or a program written in the language of Procedural Stored Modules (PSM) (which can contain embedded SQL statements)

Triggers in SQL:1999

- **Consideration:** *Immediate*
 - Condition can refer to both the state of the affected row or table before *and* after the event occurs
- **Execution:** *Immediate* – can be before or after the execution of the triggering event
 - Action of before trigger cannot modify the database
- **Granularity:** Both *row-level* and *statement-level*

Before Trigger Example

(row granularity)

*Check that
enrollment \leq limit*

```
CREATE TRIGGER Max_EnrollCheck
  BEFORE INSERT ON Transcript
    REFERENCING NEW AS N  --row to be added
  FOR EACH ROW
  WHEN
    ((SELECT COUNT (T.StudId) FROM Transcript T
      WHERE T.CrsCode = N.CrsCode
        AND T.Semester = N.Semester)
    >=
    (SELECT C.MaxEnroll FROM Course C
      WHERE C.CrsCode = N.CrsCode ))
  ABORT TRANSACTION
```

After Trigger Example

(row granularity)

*No salary raises
greater than 5%*

```
CREATE TRIGGER LimitSalaryRaise
AFTER UPDATE OF Salary ON Employee
REFERENCING OLD AS O
              NEW AS N
FOR EACH ROW
WHEN (N.Salary - O.Salary > 0.05 * O.Salary)
  UPDATE Employee      -- action
  SET Salary = 1.05 * O.Salary
  WHERE Id = O.Id
```

Note: The action itself is a triggering event (but in this case a chain reaction is not possible)

After Trigger Example (statement granularity)

*Keep track of salary
averages in the log*

```
CREATE TRIGGER RecordNewAverage
AFTER UPDATE OF Salary ON Employee
FOR EACH STATEMENT
INSERT INTO Log
VALUES (CURRENT_DATE,
        SELECT AVG (Salary)
        FROM Employee)
```