

CS143: Database Integrity

Book Chapters

- (5th) Chapter 4.2
- (6th) Chapter 4.4
- (7th) Chapter 4.4

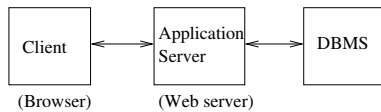
Things to Learn

- Key constraints
- Referential integrity (Foreign key constraints)
- CHECK constraints

What are integrity constraints?

- An example database with invalid entries (Show the example)
- A statement about what a valid database should look like
 - As a human being, we understand what is a “valid” database
 - The system needs an explicit specification of the semantics/rules
- Arbitrary predicate pertaining to the database (in principle)
 - In practice, only the ones that are easy to enforce
- If a SQL statement violates IC, the statement is aborted and generates an error
- **Q:** What rules/constraints can you find from the example?

- Database constraints checks the rules in the DB (Three tier diagram)



- **Q:** Why do we check these rules in DB, not in application?
Checking them at application/Web browser can be cheaper

Data validity enforcement in RDBMS

- 3 ways to enforce data validity in RDBMS
 - Domain: GPA is real
 - Constraints: Gives error. Abort statement
 - * Key
 - * Referential Integrity
 - * CHECK constraint

Key Constraints

- A set of attributes should be unique in a table
- Course(dept, cnum, sec, unit, instructor, title)
Course(dept, cnum, sec, unit, instructor, title)
Course(dept, cnum, sec, unit, instructor, title)
 - CREATE TABLE Course (
 - dept CHAR(2) NOT NULL,
 - cnum INTEGER NOT NULL,
 - sec INTEGER NOT NULL,
 - unit INTEGER,
 - instructor VARCHAR(30),
 - title VARCHAR(30),
 - PRIMARY KEY(dept, cnum, sec),
 - UNIQUE(dept, cnum, instructor),
 - UNIQUE(dept, sec, title)
 - One primary key per table
 - Unique for other keys
 - Primary key, unique are enforced through index (more discussion later)

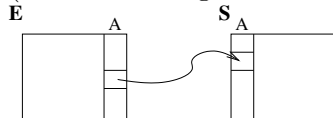
Referential Integrity Constraints

- **Example:**

- If an sid appears in Enroll, it should also appear in Student
- If an (dept, cnum, sec) appears in Enroll, it should also appear in Class
 - * **Q:** Is the reverse true?

- **Terminology**

- (Two table diagram: E.A references S.A)



- E.A **references** S.A
- E.A: referencing attribute or **foreign key**
- S.A: referenced attribute
- **Referential integrity** means that referenced value always exists
 - * **foreign key can be NULL. When a foreign key is NULL, no constraint checking**

- **Referential Integrity in SQL**

- **Example:**

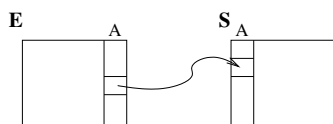
```
CREATE TABLE Enroll (  
    sid INTEGER REFERENCES Student(sid),  
    dept CHAR(2),  
    cnum INTEGER,  
    sec INTEGER,  
    FOREIGN KEY (dept, cnum, sec) REFERENCES Class(dept, cnum, sec) )
```

- **Notes:**

- * Referenced attributes must be PRIMARY KEY or UNIQUE
- * Referenced attributes may be omitted if they are the same name with referencing attributes
 - e.g., sid INT REFERENCES Student
- * One attribute foreign key may be defined directly

- **Referential Integrity Violation**

- **Q:** When is the RI violated (two table diagram)?



e.g., do we have to worry if a tuple is deleted from E?

- RI violation from E (insert to E or update to E.A) is not allowed
 - * System rejects the statement
 - * Always insert/update S first.
- RI violation from S is not allowed by default
 - * But we can instruct DBMS to allow it and “fix the violation” automatically.
- **Q:** If a tuple in S is updated/deleted, what can we do to fix RI violation?

ON DELETE/UPDATE SET NULL/SET DEFAULT/CASCADE in SQL

1. Default: disallow the statement and generate error
2. SET NULL/SET DEFAULT: Change E.A value to NULL or default value
3. CASCADE:
 - * On deletion of S: delete the referencing tuples in E
 - * On update of S.A: change E.A to the new S.A

- **Example:**

```
CREATE TABLE Enroll (
    sid INTEGER REFERENCES Student(sid)
        ON DELETE CASCADE
    dept CHAR(2),
    cnum INTEGER,
    sec INTEGER,
    FOREIGN KEY (dept, cnum, sec) REFERENCES
        Class(dept, cnum, sec)
        ON DELETE CASCADE
        ON UPDATE SET NULL )
```

Comments:

- * By default, Student.sid update is not allowed if RI is violated
- * Many RDBMS does not support all actions
- **Comments:** Referential integrity is the only SQL constraint that can “fix itself”
 - * Other constraints simply abort and report error
- **Q:** Why should the referenced attributes be unique?

- Self referencing table

– **Example:**

A	B
1	NULL
2	1
3	2
4	3
5	4

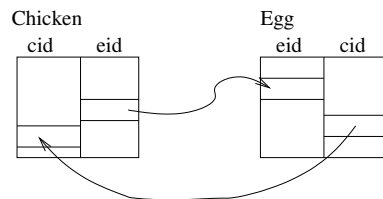
```
CREATE TABLE R (
  A INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,
  B INTEGER REFERENCES R(A)
  ON DELETE CASCADE )
```

– **Comments:**

- * A table references itself: self-referencing table
- * **Q:** What will happen if we delete (1, NULL)?

- Circular constraints

- **Example:** ChickenFrom(cid, eid): eid became cid,
 EggFrom(eid, cid): eid is born of cid
 (Chicken.eid \subset Egg.eid, Egg.cid \subset Chicken.cid) (diagram)



- **Q:** Can we insert any tuple to Chicken? or to Egg? How can we fix it?

CHECK constraint

- Add `CHECK(condition)` as part of table definition
 - Rejects any modification statement that will make the condition `FALSE`.
 - In SQL92, conditions can be complex, e.g., with subqueries

- **Example:** $0 \leq GPA \leq 4.0$

```
CREATE TABLE Student(  
    ...  
    GPA real,  
    ...  
    CHECK(0 <= GPA and GPA <= 4.0),  
    ...)
```

- **Example:** `cnum < 600 AND unit < 10`

```
CREATE TABLE Enroll(  
    dept CHAR(2),  
    cnum INT,  
    unit INT,  
    title VARCHAR(50),  
    CHECK (cnum < 600 AND unit < 10) )
```

- **Q:** The units of all CS classes are above 3 for `Class(dept, cnum, unit, title)`?

- **Q:** Students whose GPA is below 2.0 cannot take CS classes?

- For performance reasons, most systems do not allow subqueries in condition.
 - This restriction makes `CHECK` constraint very easy to enforce.
 - Examine the condition only on the tuple that is currently being updated/inserted.

What is supported in MySQL

- Key constraint
- Under InnoDB, most referential integrity except “ON DELETE/UPDATE SET DEFAULT”
- No CHECK constraints
 - MariaDB 10.2.1 added (limited) CHECK constraint support

Things to Remember

Constraints and Trigger

- Key constraint: PRIMARY KEY, UNIQUE
- Referential Integrity
 - Referencing attribute (foreign key), referenced attribute
 - * Referenced attribute should be PRIMARY KEY or UNIQUE
 - Violation at referencing attribute not allowed
 - Violation at referenced attribute can be fixed automatically
 - * ON DELETE/UPDATE SET NULL/SET DEFAULT/CASCADE
- Tuple-based CHECK constraint