Exercises for Chapter 14: Mutating Tables and Compound Triggers

The Labs below provide you with exercises and suggested answers with discussion related to how those answers resulted. The most important thing to realize is whether your answer works. You should figure out the implications of the answers here and what the effects are from any different answers you may come up with.

Lab 14.1 Mutating Tables

Answer the following questions:

Mutating Table

a) What is a mutating table?

Answer: A table having A DML statement issues against it is called mutating table. For a trigger, it is the table on which this trigger is defined.

b) What causes a mutating table error?

Answer: If a trigger tries to read or modify a table on which it is defined, it causes a mutating table error. For example, if trigger is defined on the STUDENT table and it tries to read from it as well, it will cause a mutating table error. Note that the trigger in this case must be a row level trigger.

c) Is it possible to detect a mutating table error at the time of trigger compilation?

Answer: No, as a mutating table error is a runtime error. The trigger will compile successfully and will cause a mutating table error at the time when it fires.

Resolving Mutating Table Issues

In this exercise, you modify a trigger that causes a mutating table error when an INSERT statement is issued against the ENROLLMENT table. Create the following trigger:

For Example ch14_5a.sql

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER enrollment biu
BEFORE INSERT OR UPDATE ON enrollment
FOR EACH ROW
DECLARE
  v total NUMBER;
  v name VARCHAR2(30);
   SELECT COUNT(*)
    INTO v_total
    FROM enrollment
   WHERE student id = :NEW.student id;
   -- check if the current student is enrolled into too
   -- many courses
   IF v total >= 3
   THEN
      SELECT first name | | ' ' | | last name
       INTO v name
       FROM student
      WHERE student_id = :NEW.STUDENT_ID;
      RAISE APPLICATION ERROR
         (-20000, 'Student, '||v name||', is registered for 3 courses already');
   END IF:
EXCEPTION
   WHEN NO DATA FOUND
      RAISE APPLICATION ERROR (-20001, 'This is not a valid student');
END;
```

Issue the following INSERT and UPDATE statements:

```
INSERT INTO enrollment
   (student_id, section_id, enroll_date, created_by, created_date, modified_by
   ,modified_date)
VALUES (184, 98, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE);

INSERT INTO enrollment
   (student_id, section_id, enroll_date, created_by, created_date, modified_by
   ,modified_date)
VALUES (399, 98, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE);

UPDATE enrollment
   SET student_id = 399
WHERE student id = 283;
```

Answer the following questions:

a) What output is produced after the INSERT and UPDATE statements are issued?

Answer: Once the trigger is created, the INSERT and UPDATE statements issued against the ENROLLMENT table produce the following output:

```
INSERT INTO ENROLLMENT
(student id, section id, enroll date, created by, created date, modified by
```

```
, modified date)
VALUES (184, 98, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE);
ORA-20000: Student, Salewa Zuckerberg, is registered for 3 courses already
ORA-06512: at "STUDENT.ENROLLMENT BIU", line 19
ORA-04088: error during execution of trigger 'STUDENT.ENROLLMENT BIU'
INSERT INTO ENROLLMENT
   (student_id, section_id, enroll_date, created_by, created_date, modified_by
   , modified date)
VALUES (399, 98, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE);
1 rows inserted.
UPDATE enrollment
  SET student id = 399
WHERE student_id = 283;
ORA-04091: table STUDENT.ENROLLMENT is mutating, trigger/function may not see it
ORA-06512: at "STUDENT.ENROLLMENT BIU", line 5
ORA-04088: error during execution of trigger 'STUDENT.ENROLLMENT BIU'
```

b) Explain why two of the statements did not succeed.

Answer: The INSERT statement does not succeed because it tries to create a record in the ENROLLMENT table for a student that is already registered for three courses.

The IF statement

```
IF v_total >= 3
THEN

SELECT first_name||' '||last_name
    INTO v_name
    FROM student
    WHERE student_id = :NEW.STUDENT_ID;

RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR
    (-20000, 'Student, '||v_name||', is registered for 3 courses already');
END IF;
```

in the body of the trigger evaluates to TRUE, and as a result the RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR statement raises a user-defined exception.

The UPDATE statement does not succeed, because a trigger tries to read data from the mutating table. The SELECT INTO statement

```
SELECT COUNT(*)
   INTO v_total
   FROM enrollment
WHERE student id = :NEW.STUDENT ID;
```

is issued against the ENROLLMENT table that is being modified and therefore is mutating.

c) Modify the trigger so that it does not cause a mutating table error when an UPDATE statement is issued against the ENROLLMENT table.

Answer: First, create a package to hold the student's ID and name as follows:

Next, modify the existing trigger, ENROLLMENT BIU as follows:

For Example ch14 5b.sql

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER enrollment biu
BEFORE INSERT OR UPDATE ON enrollment
FOR EACH ROW
BEGIN
  IF : NEW. student id IS NOT NULL
  THEN
      BEGIN
    student_pkg.g_student_id := :NEW.student_id;
         SELECT first_name||' '||last_name
           INTO student_pkg.g_student_name
          FROM student
          WHERE student_id = student_pkg.g_student_id;
      EXCEPTION
         WHEN NO DATA FOUND
        THEN
            RAISE APPLICATION ERROR (-20001, 'This is not a valid student');
      END;
  END IF;
END;
```

Finally, create a new statement-level trigger on the ENROLLMENT table as follows:

For Example ch14 6a.sql

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER enrollment aiu
AFTER INSERT OR UPDATE ON enrollment
DECLARE
   v_total INTEGER;
BEGIN
   SELECT COUNT (*)
    INTO v total
    FROM enrollment
   WHERE student id = student pkg.g student id;
   -- check if the current student is enrolled into too
   -- many courses
   IF v_total >= 3
   THEN
      RAISE APPLICATION ERROR
         (-20000, 'Student, '||student_pkg.g_student_name||
          ', is registered for 3 courses already ');
   END IF;
```

Once the package and two triggers are created, the UPDATE statement does not cause a mutating table error. However, the UPDATE statement

```
UPDATE enrollment
   SET student_id = 399
WHERE student id = 283;
```

causes different kind of error:

```
ORA-02292: integrity constraint (STUDENT.GR ENR FK) violated - child record found
```

Note that this error does not relate to the trigger implementation, rather it is based on the foreign key constraint defined between the GRADE and ENROLLMENT tables.

Lab 14.2 Compound Triggers

Answer the following questions:

Compound Trigger

a) What is a compound trigger?

Answer: A compound trigger allows you to combine different types of triggers into one trigger.

b) What types of triggers may be combined into a compound trigger?

Answer: You may combine the following triggers into a compound trigger:

- Statement trigger that fires before the firing statement
- Row Trigger that fires before each row that the firing statement affects
- Row Trigger that fires after each row that the firing statement affects
- Statement trigger that fires after the firing statement
- c) What are some of the restrictions on the compound triggers?

Answer: Some of the restrictions on the compound triggers are:

- A compound trigger may be defined on a table or a view only.
- A triggering event of a compound trigger is limited to the DML statements.
- A compound trigger may not contain an autonomous transaction. In other words, its declaration portion cannot include PRAGMA
- AUTOTONOMOUS_TRANSACTION.
- An exception that occurs in one executable section must be handled within that section. For example, if an exception occurs in the AFTER EACH ROW section it cannot propagate to the AFTER STATEMENT section. It must be handled in the AFTER EACH ROW section.

Resolving Mutating Table Issues with Compound Triggers

In this exercise, you modify trigger created in exercise section of Lab 14.1 that causes a mutating table error when an UPDATE statement is issued against the ENROLLMENT table.

Before starting this exercise it is suggested that you drop triggers and package created in the exercise section of Lab 14.1 and deleted records added and/or updated in the ENROLLMENT table as follows:

```
DROP TRIGGER enrollment_biu;
DROP TRIGGER enrollment_aiu;
DROP PACKAGE student_pkg;

DELETE FROM enrollment
WHERE student_id = 399;
COMMIT;
```

Recall ENROLLMENT BIU trigger created in the previous Lab:

For Example ch14 5a.sql

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER enrollment biu
BEFORE INSERT OR UPDATE ON enrollment
FOR EACH ROW
DECLARE
  v_total NUMBER;
  v name VARCHAR2(30);
BEGIN
  SELECT COUNT(*)
    INTO v total
    FROM enrollment
   WHERE student id = :NEW.student id;
   -- check if the current student is enrolled into too
   -- many courses
  IF v total >= 3
   THEN
      SELECT first name | | ' ' | | last name
       INTO v name
       FROM student
      WHERE student id = :NEW.STUDENT_ID;
      RAISE APPLICATION ERROR
         (-20000, 'Student, '||v_name||', is registered for 3 courses already');
  END IF;
EXCEPTION
  WHEN NO DATA FOUND
      RAISE APPLICATION ERROR (-20001, 'This is not a valid student');
END;
```

Recall the following INSERT and UPDATE statements and the errors they produced:

```
INSERT INTO ENROLLMENT
   (student_id, section_id, enroll_date, created_by, created_date, modified_by
   ,modified_date)
VALUES (184, 98, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE);

ORA-20000: Student, Salewa Zuckerberg, is registered for 3 courses already
ORA-06512: at "STUDENT.ENROLLMENT_BIU", line 19
```

```
ORA-04088: error during execution of trigger 'STUDENT.ENROLLMENT_BIU'

INSERT INTO ENROLLMENT
  (student_id, section_id, enroll_date, created_by, created_date, modified_by ,modified_date)

VALUES (399, 98, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE, USER, SYSDATE);

1 rows inserted.

UPDATE enrollment
  SET student_id = 399

WHERE student_id = 283;

ORA-04091: table STUDENT.ENROLLMENT is mutating, trigger/function may not see it ORA-06512: at "STUDENT.ENROLLMENT_BIU", line 5

ORA-04088: error during execution of trigger 'STUDENT.ENROLLMENT_BIU'
```

Answer the following questions:

a) Create a new compound trigger so that it does not cause a mutating table error when an UPDATE statement is issued against the ENROLLMENT table.

Answer: The newly created compound trigger should look similar to the following:

For Example ch14_7a.sql

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER enrollment compound
FOR INSERT OR UPDATE ON enrollment
COMPOUND TRIGGER
  v_student_id STUDENT.STUDENT_ID%TYPE;
  v student name VARCHAR2(50);
  v_total INTEGER;
BEFORE EACH ROW IS
   IF : NEW. student id IS NOT NULL
     BEGIN
        v_student id := :NEW.student id;
         SELECT first_name||' '||last_name
          INTO v student name
          FROM student
          WHERE student id = v student id;
      EXCEPTION
         WHEN NO DATA FOUND
         THEN
           RAISE APPLICATION ERROR (-20001, 'This is not a valid student');
      END;
   END IF;
END BEFORE EACH ROW;
AFTER STATEMENT IS
BEGIN
  SELECT COUNT(*)
```

In the trigger created above, you declare variables to record student ID and name that were previously declared in the package STUDENT_PKG. You also declared variable v_total which was previously declared in the ENROLLMENT_AIU trigger. Next, you create BEFORE EACH ROW and AFTER STATEMENT sections in the body of the trigger. Note that the statements in those sections are copies from executable sections of the ENROLLMENT_BIU and ENROLLMENT AIU triggers respectively.

b) Run the UPDATE statement listed in the exercise text again. Explain the output produced.

Answer: The output should look as follows:

```
UPDATE enrollment
   SET student_id = 399
WHERE student_id = 283;

ORA-02292: integrity constraint (STUDENT.GR ENR FK) violated - child record found
```

Note that the error generated by the UPDATE statement is not a mutating table error. This error refers to the integrity constraint violation because there is a child record in the GRADE table with student ID of 283.

c) Modify compound trigger so that values for the CREATED_BY, CREATED_DATE, MODIFIED_BY, MODIFIED_DATE columns are populated by the trigger.

Answer: The new version of the trigger should look similar to the following. Changes are highlighted in bold.

For Example ch14 7b.sql

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER enrollment_compound
FOR INSERT OR UPDATE ON enrollment
COMPOUND TRIGGER

v_student_id STUDENT.STUDENT_ID%TYPE;

v_student_name VARCHAR2(50);

v_total INTEGER;

v date DATE;
```

```
v user
                  STUDENT.CREATED BY%TYPE;
BEFORE STATEMENT IS
BEGIN
   v_date := SYSDATE;
   v user := USER;
END BEFORE STATEMENT;
BEFORE EACH ROW IS
BEGIN
   IF INSERTING
   THEN
      :NEW.created_date := v_date;
      :NEW.created by := v user;
   ELSIF UPDATING
   THEN
      :NEW.created date := :OLD.created date;
      :NEW.created by := :OLD.created by;
   END IF;
   :NEW.MODIFIED_DATE := v_date;
   :NEW.MODIFIED BY := v user;
   IF : NEW.STUDENT ID IS NOT NULL
   THEN
      BEGIN
         v_student_id := :NEW.STUDENT_ID;
         SELECT first name | | ' ' | | last name
          INTO v student name
          FROM student
          WHERE student_id = v_student_id;
      EXCEPTION
        WHEN NO_DATA_FOUND
         THEN
            RAISE APPLICATION ERROR (-20001, 'This is not a valid student');
      END;
   END IF;
END BEFORE EACH ROW;
AFTER STATEMENT IS
BEGIN
  SELECT COUNT(*)
   INTO v total
    FROM enrollment
   WHERE student id = v student id;
   -- check if the current student is enrolled into too
   -- many courses
   IF v_total >= 3 THEN
      RAISE APPLICATION ERROR
         (-20000, 'Student, '||v_student_name||
         ', is registered for 3 courses already ');
   END IF:
```

END AFTER STATEMENT;

In this version of the trigger, you defined two new variables <code>v_date</code> and <code>v_user</code> in the declaration section of the trigger. You added a <code>BEFORE STATEMENT</code> section to initialize these variables. You also modified <code>BEFORE EACH ROW</code> section where you now initialize <code>CREATED_BY</code>, <code>CREATED_DATE</code>, <code>MODIFIED_BY</code>, and <code>MODIFIED_DATE</code> columns. Note that the <code>ELSIF</code> statement

```
IF INSERTING THEN
   :NEW.CREATED_DATE := v_date;
   :NEW.CREATED_BY := v_user;

ESLIF UPDATING THEN
   :NEW.created_date := :OLD.created_date;
   :NEW.created_by := :OLD.created_by;

END IF;
```

checks whether the current operation is an INSERT or UPDATE in order to determine how to populate the CREATED_DATE and CREATED_BY columns. For the INSERT operation, these columns are assigned values based on the v_date and v_user variables. For the UPDATE operation CREATED_BY and CREATED_DATE columns do not change their values, and as a result, the values are copied from the OLD pseudorecord. Since MODIFIED_BY and MODIFIED_DATE columns are always populated with the new values, there is no need to evaluate whether current record is being inserted or updated.

This version of the trigger may be tested as follows. Note that in this case the values of student and section IDs have been changed to allow trigger to execute successfully:

```
INSERT INTO enrollment
   (student id, section id, enroll date, final grade)
VALUES (102, 155, sysdate, null);
ORA-20000: Student, Fred Crocitto, is registered for 3 courses already
ORA-06512: at "STUDENT.ENROLLMENT COMPOUND", line 55
ORA-04088: error during execution of trigger 'STUDENT.ENROLLMENT COMPOUND'
INSERT INTO enrollment
   (student id, section id, enroll date, final grade)
VALUES (103, 155, sysdate, null);
1 rows inserted.
UPDATE enrollment
  SET final grade = 85
WHERE student id = 105
  AND section id = 155;
1 rows updated.
ROLLBACK:
rollback complete.
```

It is important to note that when the CREATED_DATE and CREATED_BY columns are not initialized to any values in the body of the trigger for the UPDATE operation, the trigger causes

NOT NULL constraint violation. In other words, the CREATED_DATE and CREATED_BY columns should be reinitialized to their original values explicitly in the BEFORE EACH ROW section of the trigger. Consider modified version of the BEFORE EACH ROW section that causes NOT NULL constraint violation error for the UPDATE operation. In this code fragment, the ELSIF portion of the IF statement has been omitted (modified portion is highlighted in bold):

```
BEFORE EACH ROW IS
BEGIN
   IF INSERTING THEN
     :NEW.created_date := v_date;
      :NEW.created_by := v_user;
   END IF:
   :NEW.modified date := v date;
   :NEW.modified by := v user;
    IF : NEW. STUDENT ID IS NOT NULL THEN
          v student id := :NEW.student id;
          SELECT first name | | ' ' | | last name
           INTO v student name
           FROM student
           WHERE student id = v student id;
       EXCEPTION
          WHEN NO_DATA_FOUND THEN
             RAISE APPLICATION ERROR
              (-20001, 'This is not a valid student');
       END;
    END IF:
END BEFORE EACH ROW;
```

This version of the trigger causes the following error when an UPDATE is issued against the ENROLLMENT table:

```
ORA-01407: cannot update ("STUDENT"."ENROLLMENT"."CREATED_DATE") to NULL
```

Try It Yourself

The projects in this section are meant to have you use all of the skills that you have acquired throughout this chapter. Here are some exercises that will help you test the depth of your understanding.

1) Create a compound trigger on the INSTRUCTOR table that fires on the INSERT and UPDATE statements. The trigger should not allow insert on the INSTRUCTOR table during off hours where off hours are times of day outside the 9:00 am-5:00 pm window and weekends. The trigger should also populate INSTRUCTOR_ID, CREATED_BY, CREATED_DATE, MODIFIED_BY, MODIFIED_DATE columns with their default values.

Answer: The trigger should look similar to the following:

For Example ch14 8a.sql

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER instructor_compound
FOR INSERT OR UPDATE ON instructor
COMPOUND TRIGGER
```

```
v date DATE;
  v user VARCHAR2(30);
BEFORE STATEMENT IS
BEGIN
  IF RTRIM(TO CHAR(SYSDATE, 'DAY')) NOT LIKE 'S%' AND
     RTRIM(TO CHAR(SYSDATE, 'HH24:MI')) BETWEEN '09:00' AND '17:00'
  THEN
     v date := SYSDATE;
     v user := USER;
     RAISE APPLICATION ERROR
        (-20000, 'A table cannot be modified during off hours');
  END IF:
END BEFORE STATEMENT;
BEFORE EACH ROW IS
BEGIN
  IF INSERTING
  THEN
      :NEW.instructor id := INSTRUCTOR ID SEQ.NEXTVAL;
     :NEW.created by := v user;
     :NEW.created date := v date;
  ELSIF UPDATING
  THEN
     :NEW.created by := :OLD.created by;
     :NEW.created_date := :OLD.created date;
  END IF;
   :NEW.modified by := v user;
   :NEW.modified date := v date;
END BEFORE EACH ROW;
END instructor compound;
```

The compound trigger created above has two executable sections, BEFORE STATEMENT and BEFORE EACH ROW. The BEFORE STATEMENT portion prevents any updates to the INSTRUCTOR table during off hours. In addition, it populates v_date and v_user variables that are used to populate the CREATED_BY, CREATED_DATE, MODIFIED_BY, MODIFIED_BY columns. The BEFORE EACH ROW section populates the above specified columns. In addition, it assigns value to the INSTRUCTOR_ID column from the INSTRUCTOR_ID_SEQ.

Note the use of the INSERTING and UPDATING functions in the BEFORE EACH ROW section. The INSERTING function is used because INSTRUCTOR_ID, CREATED_BY, and CREATED_DATE columns are populated with new values only if record is being inserted in the INSTRUCTOR table. This is not so when a record is being updated. In this case, the CREATE_BY and CREATED_DATE columns are populated with the values copied from the

OLD pseudorecord. However, MODIFIED_BY and MODIFIED_DATE columns need to be populated with the new values regardless of the INSERT or UPDATE operation.

The newly created trigger may be tested as follows:

```
v date VARCHAR2(20);
BEGIN
  v date := TO CHAR(SYSDATE, 'DD/MM/YYYY HH24:MI');
  DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('Date: '||v date);
  INSERT INTO instructor
     (salutation, first name, last name, street address, zip, phone)
      ('Mr.', 'Test', 'Instructor', '123 Main Street', '07112',
      '2125555555');
  ROLLBACK;
END;
Date: 17/11/2014 11:10
DECLARE
  v date VARCHAR2(20);
BEGIN
  v date := TO CHAR(SYSDATE, 'DD/MM/YYYY HH24:MI');
  DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('Date: '||v date);
  UPDATE instructor
     SET phone = '2125555555'
   WHERE instructor id = 101;
  ROLLBACK;
END;
Date: 16/11/2014 11:50
ORA-20000: A table cannot be modified during off hours
ORA-06512: at "STUDENT.INSTRUCTOR COMPOUND", line 17
ORA-04088: error during execution of trigger 'STUDENT.INSTRUCTOR COMPOUND'
ORA-06512: at line 7
```

2) Create a compound trigger on the <code>ZIPCODE</code> table that fires on the <code>INSERT</code> and <code>UPDATE</code> statements. The trigger should populate <code>MODIFIED_BY</code>, <code>MODIFIED_DATE</code> columns with their default values. In addition it should record in the <code>STATISTICS</code> table type of the transaction, name of the user who issued the transaction, date of the transaction, and number of records affected by the transaction. Assume the <code>STATISTICS</code> table has the following structure:

Name	Null?	Туре
TABLE_NAME		VARCHAR2(30)
TRANSACTION_NAME		VARCHAR2(10)
TRANSACTION_USER		VARCHAR2(30)
TRANSACTION DATE		DATE

Answer: The trigger should look similar to the following:

For Example ch14_9a.sql

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER zipcode compound
FOR INSERT OR UPDATE ON zipcode
COMPOUND TRIGGER
  v date DATE;
  v user VARCHAR2(30);
  v_type VARCHAR2(10);
BEFORE STATEMENT IS
BEGIN
  v date := SYSDATE;
  v user := USER;
END BEFORE STATEMENT;
BEFORE EACH ROW IS
  IF INSERTING
  THEN
     :NEW.created by := v user;
     :NEW.created_date := v_date;
  ELSIF UPDATING
     :NEW.created_by := :OLD.created_by;
     :NEW.created_date := :OLD.created_date;
  END IF;
   :NEW.modified by := v user;
   :NEW.modified_date := v_date;
END BEFORE EACH ROW;
AFTER STATEMENT IS
  IF INSERTING
     v_type := 'INSERT';
  ELSIF UPDATING
  THEN
     v type := 'UPDATE';
  END IF;
  INSERT INTO statistics
     (table name, transaction name, transaction user, transaction date)
  VALUES ('ZIPCODE', v_type, v_user, v_date);
END AFTER STATEMENT;
```

This trigger may be tested as follows: