

# Data Base Systems

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Data Integrity

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# Acknowledgements

The slides are based on the slides (in German) of [Sebastian Skritek](#).

The content is based on [Chapter 5](#) of  
(Kemper, Eickler: Datenbanksysteme – Eine Einführung)

and on Chapter 42.9. of the PostgreSQL online documentation  
[https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/  
plpgsql-trigger.html](https://www.postgresql.org/docs/current/static/plpgsql-trigger.html)

# Data Integrity

1. Overview
2. Integrity Conditions
3. Referential Integrity
4. Trigger
5. Learning Objectives

# Overview

## 1. Overview

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# Overview

## 1. Overview

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### 2.1 Static Integrity Conditions

### 2.2 Static Integrity Conditions in SQL

## 3. Referential Integrity

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# Integrity Conditions

DMS are responsible for data consistency

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**consistency maintenance** after system error (recovery) resp.  
concurrency control

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the features in the modelled mini-world



# Integrity Conditions

DMS are responsible for **data consistency**  
**consistency maintenance** after system error (recovery) resp.  
concurrency control  
here (chapter 5, 6): **semantical integrity conditions**, derived from  
the features in the modelled mini-world

## Example

- matrNr has to be unique; - in AT: 8-ary,
- persNr is a 4-ary digit

# Classification of Integrity Conditions

**static integrity conditions:** constraints on the **state** of the data base, that have to be satisfied in any state of the data base

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## Example

- professors have rank C2, C3, C4,
- matrNr of students is unique
- registration for the course only with valid enrolment

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**dynamic integrity conditions:** constraints on **state changes** in the data base

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## Example

- professors have rank C2, C3, C4,
- matrNr of students is unique
- registration for the course only with valid enrolment

**dynamic integrity conditions:** constraints on **state changes** in the data base

## Example

- professors may only be promoted

# Overview

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# Integrity Conditions

known implicit data integrity requirements

**keys:** unique within a relation

**relationship cardinalities:** cardinalities defined in the ER model are translated into the relational model such that only data obeying the cardinalities can be inserted

**attribute domain:** by fixing domains constraints to the data can be set

**inclusion at generalization:** entities of sub-types have to be contained in super-types as well

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# Static Integrity Conditions in SQL

- key candidates: `unique(attribute list)`
- primary key: `primary key(attribute list)`
- foreign key: `foreign key(attribute list)`
- null values not allowed: `not null`
- default value: `default`

# Static Integrity Conditions in SQL

- key candidates: `unique`(attribute list)
- primary key: `primary key`(attribute list)
- foreign key: `foreign key`(attribute list)
- null values not allowed: `not null`
- default value: `default`

## Example

```
create table student(  
    matrNr    integer primary key,  
    name      varchar(30) not null,  
    semester  integer default 1);
```

# check

**check** general static integrity conditions via **check**-clause, followed by a condition

**evaluation** of **check**-clause at modification/insertion in the table

**modifications** on a table are only permitted, if **check** does not evaluate to **false**

**conditions** might be complex; sub queries contained – attention: sometimes implemented only rudimentary!

# SQL: Check (Example)

## Example

```
create table student
(matrNr      integer primary key,
 name        varchar(30) not null,
 semester    integer default 1
  check (semester between 1 and 13));
```

# SQL: Check (Example)

## Example

students can be examined in lectures that they have attended

```
create table examine
(matrNr integer,
 lecNr integer,
 persNr integer,
 grade numeric(2,1)
        check(grade between 0.7 and 5.0),
primary key (matrNr, lecNr),
constraint attended check
    (exists (select * from attend h
            where h.lecNr = examine.lecNr and
                  h.matrNr = examine.matrNr)));
```

# Static Integrity Conditions in SQL

- column or table constraints
- can be **part of the table definition** (`CREATE TABLE`) or **later added** (`ALTER TABLE ADD ...`)
- can be **named** (else: name given by system)
- can be **removed** (`ALTER TABLE DROP ...`)

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# Referential Integrity

**key** identifies a tuple in a relation

**foreign key** points to tuple in a relation in relationship with

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## Example

`persNr` is key of professors, `givenBy` in lectures links to tuples in professors and is foreign key; it has to be ensured that there are no values in `givenBy` that do not occur in `persNr`

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`persNr` is key of professors, `givenBy` in lectures links to tuples in professors and is foreign key; it has to be ensured that there are no values in `givenBy` that do not occur in `persNr`

## Definition (referential integrity)

**foreign key** either have to point to **existing tuples** in another relation or contain a **null value**

# Referential Integrity

## Definition (dangling references)

dangling references are **references** by foreign keys to **not existing** data sets

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## Definition (dangling references)

dangling references are **references** by foreign keys to **not existing** data sets

## Example (dangling references)

insertion of the following data set into the table lectures:

```
insert into lectures  
      values(5100, 'Nihilismus', 40, 0007);
```

⇒ what does '0007' reference?

deletion of the following data set in the table professors:

```
delete from professors where persNr=2125;
```

⇒ what does '2125' reference in the lecture table?

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# Guarantee of the Referential Integrity

## Theorem (referential integrity)

Let  $R$  be a relation with *primary key*  $\kappa$  and  $S$  a relation with *foreign key*  $\alpha$  to  $R$ . The referential integrity is guaranteed, if

$$\pi_{\alpha}(S) \subseteq \pi_{\kappa}(R)$$

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- modifying of  $r.\kappa$  in  $R$ , if  $\sigma_{\alpha=r.\kappa}(S) = \emptyset$ , i.e. there is no reference of  $S$  to  $r$

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- modifying tuples of  $s$  to  $s'$  in  $S$ , if  $s'.\alpha \in \pi_{\kappa}(R)$
- modifying of  $r.\kappa$  in  $R$ , if  $\sigma_{\alpha=r.\kappa}(S) = \emptyset$ , i.e. there is no reference of  $S$  to  $r$
- deletion of  $r$  in  $R$ , if  $\sigma_{\alpha=r.\kappa}(S) = \emptyset$

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# Referential Integrity in SQL

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adherence of referential integrity at updates, deletions:

- `on update`  
`{no action | cascade | set null | set default}`
- `on delete`  
`{no action | cascade | set null | set default}`



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- `on update`  
`{no action | cascade | set null | set default}`
- `on delete`  
`{no action | cascade | set null | set default}`

attention at cyclic dependencies

# Referential Integrity in SQL

## Example

```
create table professor
(persNr      integer primary key,
 Name        varchar(30) not null,
 ...        );
```

# Referential Integrity in SQL

## Example

```
create table professor
(persNr      integer primary key,
 Name        varchar(30) not null,
 ...
);

create table lectures
(lecNr       integer primary key,
 title        varchar(30),
 SWS          integer,
 givenBy     integer [foreign key]
              references professors
              on update cascade
              on delete set null);
```

# Referential Integrity in SQL

## Example (continuation)

lecture			professors	
...	givenBy		persNr	...
...	2137	—————	2137	...
...	2125	—————	2125	...
...	2126		2136	...
⋮	⋮		⋮	⋮

# Referential Integrity in SQL

## Example (continuation)

lecture			professors	
...	givenBy		persNr	...
...	2137	—————	2137	...
...	2125	—————	2125	...
...	2126		2136	...
⋮	⋮		⋮	⋮

desired modification:

```
update professors set    persNr=1111
                    where persNr=2137;
delete from professors where persNr=2125;
```

# Referential Integrity in SQL

## Example (Continuation)

```
update professors set    persNr=1111  
                  where persNr=2137;
```

adherence of referential integrity through **cascading**  
(**on update cascade**)

# Referential Integrity in SQL

## Example (Continuation)

```
update professors set    persNr=1111  
                    where persNr=2137;
```

adherence of referential integrity through **cascading**  
(**on update cascade**)

lecture			professors	
...	givenBy		persNr	...
...	1111	—————	1111	...
...	2125	—————	2125	...
...	2126		2136	...
⋮	⋮		⋮	⋮

# Referential Integrity in SQL

## Example (continuation)

```
delete from professors where persNr=2125;
```



# Referential Integrity in SQL

## Example (continuation)

```
delete from professors where persNr=2125;
```

adherence of referential integrity through “set to NULL”  
(on delete set NULL)

lecture	
...	givenBy
...	1111
...	NULL
...	2126
⋮	⋮

professors	
persNr	...
1111	...
2136	...
⋮	⋮

# Cascading Delete

attention when using `on delete cascade` because cascading delete might occur

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```
create table lectures
(...
  givenBy integer references professors
           on delete cascade);

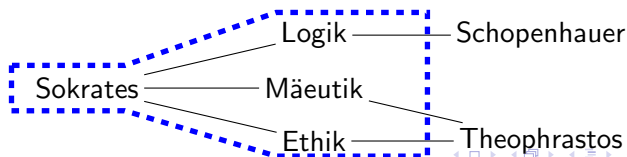
create table attend
(...
  lecNr integer references lectures
        on delete cascade);
```

# Cascading Delete

attention when using `on delete cascade` because cascading delete might occur

```
create table lectures
(...
  givenBy integer references professors
          on delete cascade);

create table attend
(...
  lecNr integer references lectures
        on delete cascade);
```



# University Schema with Integrity Conditions (1/4)

```
create table student
(matrNr      integer primary key,
 Name        varchar(30) not null,
 Semester    integer
             check (Semester between 1 and 13));
```

# University Schema with Integrity Conditions (1/4)

```
create table student
(matrNr      integer primary key,
 Name        varchar(30) not null,
 Semester    integer
              check (Semester between 1 and 13));

create table professors
(persNr      integer primary key,
 Name        varchar(30) not null,
 Rang        char(2) check(
                      Rang in ('C2', 'C3', 'C4')),
 room        integer unique);
```

## University Schema with Integrity Conditions (2/4)

```
create table assistant
(persNr      integer primary key,
 Name        varchar(30) not null,
 field       varchar(30),
 Boss        integer references professors
              on delete set null);
```

## University Schema with Integrity Conditions (2/4)

```
create table assistant
(persNr      integer primary key,
 Name        varchar(30) not null,
 field       varchar(30),
 Boss        integer references professors
              on delete set null);

create table lectures
(lecNr integer primary key,
 title  varchar(30),
 SWS    integer,
 givenBy integer references professors
        on delete set null);
```



## University Schema with Integrity Conditions (3/4)

```
create table attend
(matrNr integer references student
      on delete cascade,
 lecNr integer references lectures
      on delete cascade,
 primary key(matrNr, lecNr));
```

## University Schema with Integrity Conditions (3/4)

```
create table attend
(matrNr integer references student
      on delete cascade,
 lecNr integer references lectures
      on delete cascade,
 primary key(matrNr, lecNr));

create table presuppose
(predecessor integer references lectures
      on delete cascade,
 successor integer references lectures
      on delete cascade,
 primary key(predecessor, successor));
```

## University Schema with Integrity Conditions (4/4)

```
create table examine
(matrNr integer references student
    on delete cascade,
 lecNr  integer references lectures,
 persNr integer references professors
    on delete set null,
 Note   numeric(2,1)
        check(Note between 0.7 and 5.0),
primary key(matrNr, lecNr));
```

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# Cyclic Dependencies – Create

## Example (chicken/egg)

create the table chicken and egg, where for every chicken it is noted from which egg it hatched and vice versa:

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create table chicken
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 eID      integer references egg);
```

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ERROR: relation ‘‘egg’’ does not exist

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## Example (chicken/egg)

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create table chicken
(cID      integer primary key,
 eID      integer references egg);
```

ERROR: relation ‘‘egg’’ does not exist

```
create table egg
(eID      integer primary key,
 cID      integer references chicken);
```



# Cyclic Dependencies – Insert

## Example (chicken/egg)

assuming we have created the table:

```
insert into chicken values (1,11);
```

# Cyclic Dependencies – Insert

## Example (chicken/egg)

assuming we have created the table:

```
insert into chicken values (1,11);
```

```
ERROR: insert or update on table 'chicken' violates  
foreign key constraint 'chickenrefegg'  
DETAIL: Key (eid)=(11) is not present in table  
'egg'.
```

# Cyclic Dependencies – Delete Table

## Example (chicken/egg)

assume we want to delete the table:

```
DROP TABLE egg;
```

# Cyclic Dependencies – Delete Table

## Example (chicken/egg)

assume we want to delete the table:

```
DROP TABLE egg;
```

ERROR: cannot drop table egg because other objects  
depend on it

DETAIL: constraint chickenrefegg on table chicken  
depends on table egg.

# Cyclic Dependencies – Three Problems

**CREATE TABLE** How can the foreign key of the first table be defined?

**INSERT** How can new tuples be inserted?

**DROP TABLE** How can tables be deleted?

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**DROP TABLE** How can tables be deleted?

**solution:** **DROP CONSTRAINT** or **CASCADE**



# Cyclic Dependencies – Create

**solution:** use `alter table` command:

## Cyclic Dependencies – Create

**solution:** use `alter table` command:

### Example (chicken/egg)

```
create table chicken(cID integer primary key,  
                    eID integer);  
  
create table egg(  
    eID integer primary key,  
    cID integer references chicken);
```

# Cyclic Dependencies – Create

**solution:** use `alter table` command:

## Example (chicken/egg)

```
create table chicken(cID integer primary key,  
                    eID integer);  
  
create table egg(  
    eID integer primary key,  
    cID integer references chicken);  
  
alter table chicken  
    add constraint chickenrefegg  
    foreign key (eID) references egg;
```

# Cyclic Dependencies – Insert

**solution: transactions;** delay checking the conditions until the end of the transaction

# Cyclic Dependencies – Insert

**solution: transactions;** delay checking the conditions until the end of the transaction

## Example (chicken/egg)

```
alter table chicken
  add constraint chickenrefegg
    foreign key (eID) references egg
    initially deferred deferrable;
```

# Cyclic Dependencies – Insert

**solution: transactions;** delay checking the conditions until the end of the transaction

## Example (chicken/egg)

```
alter table chicken
  add constraint chickenrefegg
    foreign key (eID) references egg
    initially deferred deferrable;

begin;
insert into chicken values (1,11);
insert into egg values (11,1);
commit;
```

## Cyclic Dependencies – DEFERRABLE

- determines whether constraints are checked immediately or at the end of transactions

```
[ DEFERRABLE | NOT DEFERRABLE ]  
[ INITIALLY DEFERRED | INITIALLY IMMEDIATE ]
```

DEFERRABLE constraint can be checked only at transaction end

NOT DEFERRABLE constraints is checked immediately

INITIALLY DEFERRED, INITIALLY IMMEDIATE default for transactions, can be changed in transactions

# Cyclic Dependencies – Delete Tables

- either constraint is deleted “manually”

```
ALTER TABLE tablename DROP CONSTRAINT ...
```



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ALTER TABLE tablename DROP CONSTRAINT ...
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- “automatically” via CASCADE

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DROP TABLE tablename CASCADE;
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```
ALTER TABLE tablename DROP CONSTRAINT ...
```

- “automatically” via CASCADE

```
DROP TABLE tablename CASCADE;
```

## Example

```
ALTER TABLE chicken DROP  
                        CONSTRAINT chickenrefegg;  
DROP TABLE egg CASCADE;
```

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# Trigger

**standardized** in the SQL-99 standard, but already contained in commercial DBMS before; therefore implementation is different in most DBMS

**use** to ensure data integrity

**work** on the event - condition - action model:

- upon arrival of a certain event
- under certain conditions
- are executed automatically by DBMS actions

**attention:** cyclic trigger or infinite loops!

# Trigger: Applications

trigger are used in:

- calculation of stored derived attributes

## Example

calculation the gross price with net price and sales tax rate given

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trigger are used in:

- calculation of stored derived attributes

## Example

calculation the gross price with net price and sales tax rate given

- general conditions

## Example

for every given lecture with more than 6SWS there is a bonus  
professors cannot be degraded

- logging of data base modifications

# Syntax (Definition of Triggers)

- definition of a trigger: `create trigger`
- triggering events: `insert`, `update`, `delete`
- “fires” before or after execution: `before/after insert`
- tuple or query level: `for each row/statement`
- restricted conditions via `when`
- access to values before and after the event:  
`referencing old/new` (only at `for each row`)
- use of procedures in respective DBMS syntax

# Trigger (Example)

## Example

for every given lecture with more than 6SWS there is a bonus .

```
CREATE TRIGGER lect
AFTER INSERT ON lectures
FOR EACH ROW
WHEN NEW.sws > 6
update professors
set professors.salary=professors.salary+100
where professors.persNr=NEW.lecturedBy;
```



# Trigger (Example)

## Example

for every given lecture with more than 6SWS there is a bonus .

```
CREATE TRIGGER lect
AFTER INSERT ON lectures
FOR EACH ROW
WHEN NEW.sws > 6
update professors
set professors.salary=professors.salary+100
where professors.persNr=NEW.lecturedBy;
```

**attention:** in PostgreSQL not available **like this**

# CREATE TRIGGER (PostgreSQL)

```
CREATE TRIGGER name { BEFORE | AFTER }  
  { INSERT | UPDATE | DELETE }  
  ON table_name  
  [ REFERENCING { { OLD | NEW } TABLE  
                  [ AS ] trans_name } ]  
  [ FOR [ EACH ] { ROW | STATEMENT } ]  
  [ WHEN ( condition ) ]  
  EXECUTE PROCEDURE function_n ( arguments )
```

# PL/pgSQL Functions as Triggers

## function ...

- ...is not allowed to have arguments
- ...has to have the return value trigger

```
CREATE FUNCTION name() RETURNS trigger
AS $$ ... $$ LANGUAGE plpgsql;
```

# PL/pgSQL Functions as Triggers

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```
CREATE FUNCTION name() RETURNS trigger
AS $$ ... $$ LANGUAGE plpgsql;
```

- ...special variables (for instance NEW/OLD) available
- ...has to return NULL or a value that corresponds to the structure of the table

# Per-Row Before Trigger

**INSERT** OLD undefinable, NEW contains the new row

**UPDATE** OLD and NEW are defined

**DELETE** OLD contains the row to be removed, NEW undefined

# Per-Row Before Trigger

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## return values

- with **NULL** processing of line is aborted  
(no further trigger, no INSERT/UPDATE/DELETE)
- **else:** processing is continued with returned value  $\Rightarrow$  return of last trigger inserted  
(no effect for DELETE)

# Trigger (Example)

## Example

professors cannot be degraded (PostgreSQL syntax)

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION ouf()  
    RETURNS TRIGGER AS $$  
BEGIN  
    IF (OLD.Rang = 'C3' AND NEW.Rang='C2') THEN  
        RETURN OLD;  
    END IF;  
    RETURN NEW;  
END; $$ LANGUAGE plpgsql;  
  
CREATE TRIGGER noDegrading  
BEFORE UPDATE ON professor  
FOR EACH ROW WHEN (OLD.Rang is not NULL)  
EXECUTE PROCEDURE ouf();
```

# Overview

1. Overview
2. Integrity Conditions
3. Referential Integrity
4. Trigger
5. Learning Objectives



# Learning Objectives

- Which kinds of integrity conditions are there?
- static integrity conditions in SQL
- in particular: foreign key:
  - referential integrity in SQL
- handling of cyclic dependencies
- What are triggers?
- Which information has to be given when defining triggers?
- How does this information influence the behaviour of the trigger?
- What has to be considered with the return value of the trigger?