Granting Privileges

- The owner has all priv. on the objects he/she creates.
- Owner can pass privileges to others

GRANT <list privileges> ON <object>
TO <userlist> [WITH GRANT OPTION];

Grant option

A user has grant option on a given priv. if he/she is the owner of the object or has received grant option on the given privilege.

Subprivileges

A user can pass more restricted priv. to other users (including with grant option)

Ex: User A has SELECT on R(a,b) with grant option.

User A can pass SELECT on R(a) to user B

A executes: GRANT SELECT(a) ON R TO B;

Example 2:

User A created table R(a,b)

A executes:

GRANT SELECT, UPDATE(a) ON R
TO B WITH GRANT OPTION;

B executes

GRANT SELECT(a), UPDATE(a) ON R
TO PUBLIC;

↑ Special authentication ID
⇒ it means every user

Revoking privileges

REVOKE <list privileges> ON <object>
FROM <userlist> { CASCADE
RESTRICT

When a user revokes privileges from a user the DBMS must verify if other users depend on that grant.

Ex: See example 2 above.

A granted to B SELECT
B granted to PUBLIC SELECT(a)
if A revokes SELECT from B,
should PUBLIC lose it?

CASCADE: Removes privilege from user and any other users that depend on it

RESTRICT: If other users depend on the grant being removed, the revoke fails.

User A runs:

REVOKE SELECT ON R FROM B CASCADE;

Both B & PUBLIC lose privilege.

REVOKE SELECT ON R FROM B RESTRICT;

Revoke fails because PUBLIC priv. on R depends on B.

But what if PUBLIC also got the privilege from another user?

- it becomes complicated.

Grant Diagrams

Formalism to model grants and revokes and to determine, at runtime if a user has a given privilege.

Each node is a tuple:

⟨user, priv, grant option?, is owner?⟩

Edges (directed)

⟨X, Y⟩

⇒ implies that grant described in Y was granted by X

If successful a GRANT statement creates an edge (if it does not already exist).

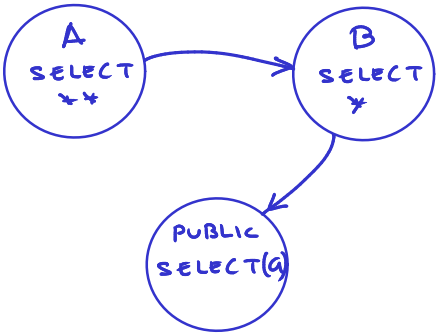
If successful a REVOKE removes one or more edges.

For the sake of simplicity we only draw nodes involved in a sequence of grants.

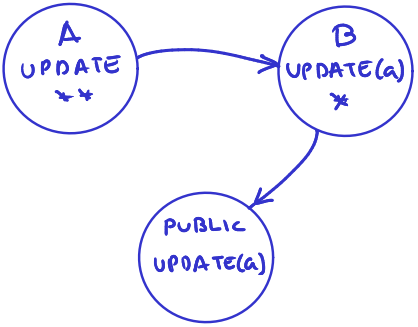
- A node with ** means is owner (implies GRANT option)
- A node with * means GRANT option.

SELECT

- One graph per super-privilege
- includes its subprivileges e.g. SELECT(a)



UPDATE



Fundamental Rule:

User C has privilege Q as long as there exists a path from XP** to either CQ, CQ*, or CQ** and P is a super-privilege of Q.

Example:

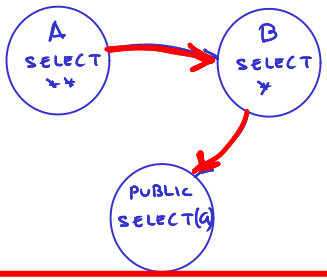
Does PUBLIC have SELECT on R?

Node (PUBLIC SELECT) (not shown) above is unreachable from (A SELECT **)

⇒ No, PUBLIC does not have SELECT.

Does PUBLIC have SELECT(a) R?

Yes, there is a path from A/select/** to PUBLIC/select.



Important: Cycles are not allowed in SQL grants.
e.g. A grants to B, B grants to A

Revoking Privileges

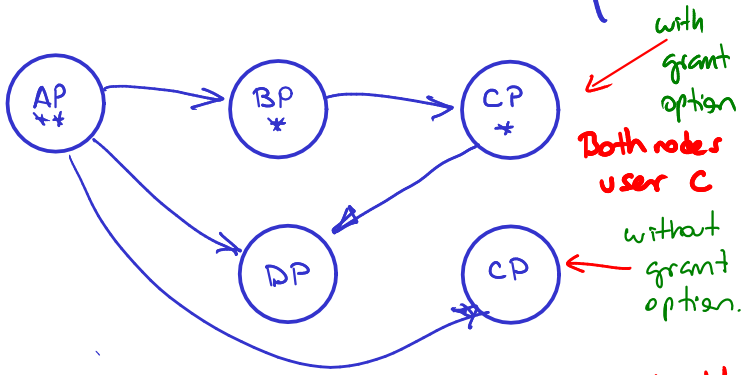
if A revokes P from B

RESTRICT : delete edge from AP to BP only if there are no edges from BP.
otherwise fail.

CASCADE :

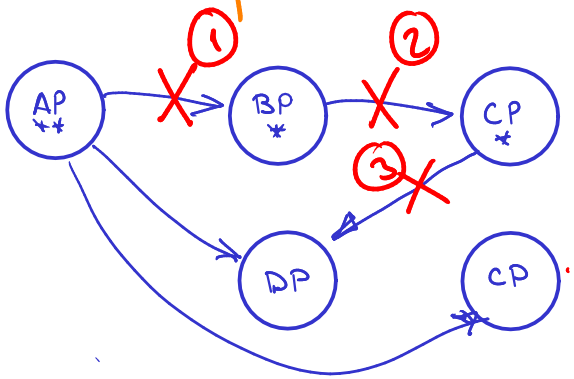
- delete edge from AP to BP
- check, for every node X that has an incoming edge that there exists a path from OP** (the owner of the relation) to X. If no path exists,
- delete the incoming edges to X.
- delete any outgoing edges from X.

Ex :

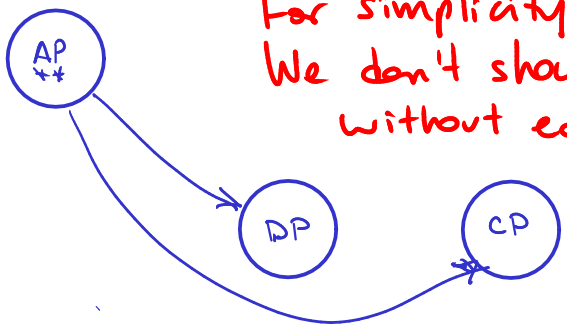


Order of grants does not matter!!

Now A revokes P from B with CASCADE.



Resulting graph:



For simplicity
We don't show nodes
without edges

Users D and C keep P without grant.

Revoking only grant option

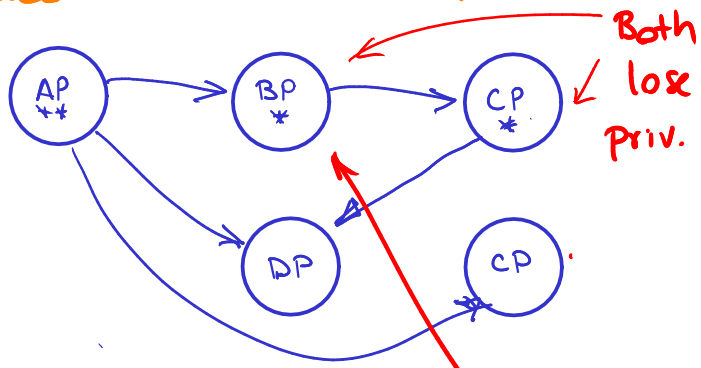
REVOKE GRANT OPTION FOR <priv>
FROM <user> { CASCADE
RESTRICT

If user has privilege with grant option it is equivalent to:

REVOKE privilege
GRANT privilege without grant.

Now A revokes grant option from B with cascade:

Before:



After: