



- ➤ Active Database Systems
- ➤ Oracle Triggers
- ➤ Differences between Oracle and DB2 Triggers
- ➤ Guidelides in writing triggers in Oracle
- ➤ Trigger Design



Active Database Systems



Active Database Systems

- Traditional DBMS systems are passive
 - Queries and updates are explicitly requested by users
 - The knowledge of processes operating on data is typically embedded into applications
- Active database systems
 - Reactivity is a service provided by a normal DBMS
 - Specific database events are monitored and trigger actions in response



Active Database Systems

- Reactivity is ensured by automatically executing active or ECA rules, that are rules expressed in the form:
 - Event
 - Database modification operation
 - Condition
 - Predicate on the database state
 - If the condition is true, the action is executed
 - Action
 - Sequence of SQL instructions or application procedure



Rule engine

- Component of the DBMS, in charge of
 - tracking events
 - executing rules when appropriate, based on the execution strategy of the DBMS
- Rule execution is interleaved with traditional transaction execution



Example: automatic product reorder

- The active rule manages reorder in an inventory stock
 - when the quantity on stock of a product goes below a given threshold
 - a new order for the product should be issued
- Event
 - Update of the quantity on stock for product x
 - Insertion of a new product x
- Condition
 - The quantity on stock of product x is below a given threshold and there are no pending orders for product x
- Action
 - Issue a new order of a pre-determined quantity for product x



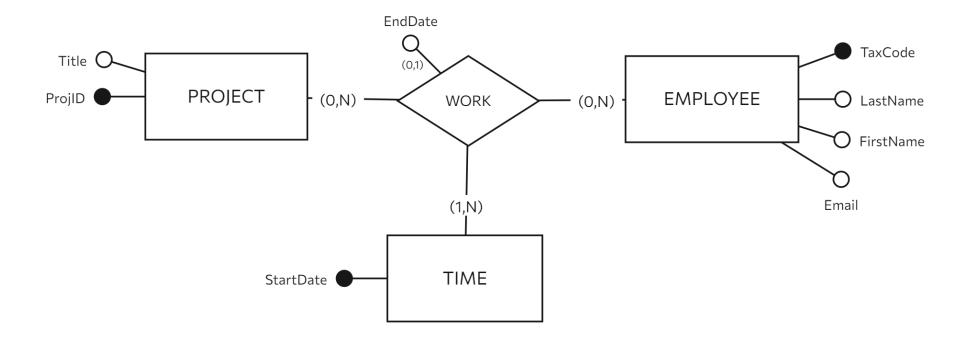
Applications of active rules

- Internal applications
 - maintenance of complex integrity constraints
 - replication management
 - materialized view maintenance
- Business Rules
 - Incorporate into the DBMS application knowledge
 - E.g., reorder rule
- Alerts
 - widely used to issue notifications



Integrity constraints – example

- Example: A company that provides IT consulting wants to store the work done by its employees for each project.
 - Triggers could be used to enforce that two periods (StartDate, EndDate) by the same employee, on the same project, do not overlap





- Commercial products implement active rules by means of triggers
- SQL provides instructions for defining triggers
 - Triggers are defined by means of the DDL instruction CREATE TRIGGER
- Trigger syntax and semantics are covered in the SQL3 standard
 - some commercial products implement different features with respect to the standard



Trigger structure

- Event
 - Insert, delete, update of a table
 - Each trigger can only monitor events on a *single* table
- Condition
 - SQL predicate (it is optional)
- Action
 - Sequence of SQL instructions
 - Proprietary programming language
 - e.g. Oracle PL/SQL
 - Java code



Execution process

When the events take place [triggering]

If the condition is true [evaluation]

Then the action is executed [execution]

- Seems very simple but...
 - Execution modes
 - Execution granularity



Execution mode

- Immediate
 - The trigger is executed *immediately before* or *after* the triggering statement
- Deferred
 - The trigger is executed immediately before commit
- Only the immediate option is available in commercial systems



Execution granularity

- Tuple (or row level)
 - One separate execution of the trigger for each tuple affected by the triggering statement
- Statement
 - One single trigger execution for all tuples affected by the triggering statement



Granularity: example

Table T

Α	В	
1	5	١
2	9	
8	20	

Update event on table T

UPDATE T
SET A=A+1
WHERE B<10;

- A trigger defined on table T is executed once or more times depending on the granularity
 - A row level trigger executes twice
 - A statement level trigger executes once



Triggers in Oracle



CREATE TRIGGER TriggerName

Mode Event {OR Event }

ON TargetTable

[[REFERENCING ReferenceName]

FOR EACH ROW

[WHEN Predicate]]



CREATE TRIGGER TriggerName

Mode Event { OR Event }

ON TargetTable

[[REFERENCING ReferenceName]

FOR EACH ROW

[WHEN Predicate]]

- Mode is BEFORE or AFTER
 - Also INSTEAD OF but it should be avoided



CREATE TRIGGER TriggerName

Mode Event { OR Event }

ON TargetTable

[[REFERENCING ReferenceName]

FOR EACH ROW

[WHEN Predicate]]

- Event ON TargetTable is
 - INSERT
 - DELETE
 - UPDATE [OF ColumnName]



```
CREATE TRIGGER TriggerName

Mode Event {OR Event }

ON TargetTable

[[REFERENCING ReferenceName]

FOR EACH ROW

[WHEN Predicate]]

PL/SQL Block
```

- FOR EACH ROW specifies row level execution semantics
 - If omitted, the execution semantics is statement level



CREATE TRIGGER TriggerName

Mode Event { OR Event }

ON TargetTable

[[REFERENCING ReferenceName]

FOR EACH ROW

[WHEN Predicate]]

- To rename the state variables
 - REFERENCING OLD AS OldVariableName
 - similarly for NEW



```
CREATE TRIGGER TriggerName

Mode Event {OR Event }

ON TargetTable

[[REFERENCING ReferenceName]

FOR EACH ROW

[WHEN Predicate]]

PL/SQL Block
```

- Only for row level execution semantics (i.e., FOR EACH ROW)
 - A condition may be optionally specified
 - The old and new state variables may be accessed



```
CREATE TRIGGER TriggerName

Mode Event {OR Event }

ON TargetTable

[[REFERENCING ReferenceName]

FOR EACH ROW

[WHEN Predicate]]

PL/SQL Block
```

- The action is
 - a sequence of SQL instructions
 - a PL/SQL block
- No transactional and DDL instructions



Trigger semantics

- Execution modes
 - immediate before
 - immediate after
- Granularity is
 - row (tuple)
 - statement
- Execution is triggered by insert, delete, or update statements in a transaction



Execution algorithm

- 1. Before statement triggers are executed
- 2. For each tuple in *TargetTable* affected by the triggering statement
 - a) Before row triggers are executed
 - b) The triggering statement is executed
 - + integrity constraints are checked on tuples
 - c) After row triggers are executed
- 3. Integrity constraints on tables are checked
- 4. After statement triggers are executed



<u>SId</u>	SName	#Employees	City
S1	Smith	20	London
S2	Jones	10	Paris
S3	Blake	30	Paris
S4	Clark	20	London
S5	Adams	30	Athens

Triggering statement
UPDATE S SET City = 'Rome' WHERE
SId IN ('S1', 'S2', 'S3')



Before statement triggers are executed



<u>SId</u>	SName	#Employees	City
S1	Smith	20	London
S2	Jones	10	Paris
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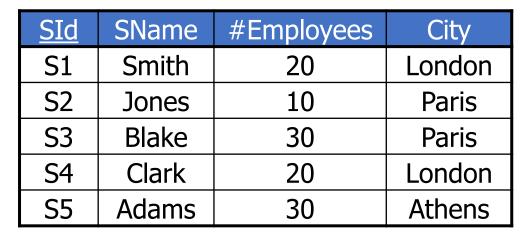


Before statement triggers are executed



For each row

Execute before row trigger





SId	SName	#Employees	City
S1	Smith	20	London
S2	Jones	10	Paris
S3	Blake	30	Paris
S4	Clark	20	London
S5	Adams	30	Athens

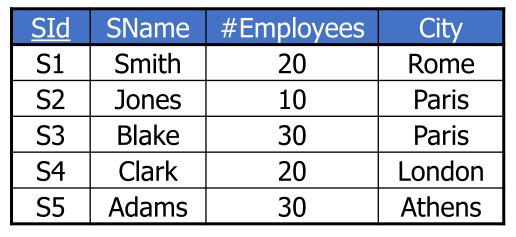
Triggering statement
UPDATE S SET City = 'Rome' WHERE
SId IN ('S1', 'S2', 'S3')



Before statement triggers are executed



- Execute before row trigger
- Update row





<u>SId</u>	SName	#Employees	City
S1	Smith	20	London
S2	Jones	10	Paris
S3	Blake	30	Paris
S4	Clark	20	London
S5	Adams	30	Athens

Triggering statement
UPDATE S SET City = 'Rome' WHERE
SId IN ('S1', 'S2', 'S3')



Before statement triggers are executed



- Execute before row trigger
- Update row
- Execure after row trigger





<u>SId</u>	SName	#Employees	City
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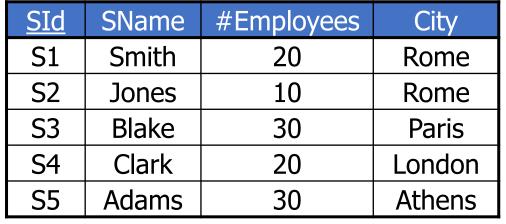
Triggering statement
UPDATE S SET City = 'Rome' WHERE
SId IN ('S1', 'S2', 'S3')



Before statement triggers are executed



- Execute before row trigger
- Update row
- Execure after row trigger





<u>SId</u>	SName	#Employees	City
S1	Smith	20	London
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Triggering statement UPDATE S SET City = 'Rome' WHERE SId IN ('S1', 'S2', 'S3')

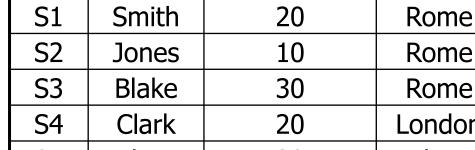


Before statement triggers are executed



- Execute before row trigger
- Update row
- Execute after row trigger







<u>SId</u>	SName	#Employees	City
S1	Smith	20	London
S2	Jones	10	Paris
S3	Blake	30	Paris
S4	Clark	20	London
S5	Adams	30	Athens

Triggering statement
UPDATE S SET City = 'Rome' WHERE
SId IN ('S1', 'S2', 'S3')



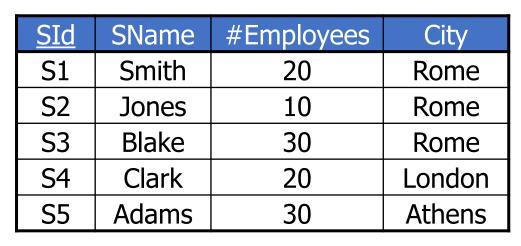
Before statement triggers are executed



For each row,



After statement triggers are executed





Trigger semantics

- The execution order for triggers with the same event, mode and granularity is not specified
 - it is a source of nondeterminism
- When an error occurs
 - rollback of all operations performed by the triggers
 - rollback of the triggering statement in the triggering transaction



Non termination

- Trigger execution may activate other triggers
 - Cascaded trigger activation may lead to non termination of trigger execution
- A maximum length for the cascading trigger execution may be set
 - default = 32 triggers
- If the maximum is exceeded
 - an execution error is returned



Mutating tables

- A *mutating table* is the *target table* modified by the statement (that is, the event) triggering the trigger
- The mutating table
 - cannot be accessed in row level triggers
 - may only be accessed in statement triggers
- Limited access on mutating tables only characterizes Oracle applications
 - accessing mutating tables is always allowed in SQL3



Accessing mutating values

- A trigger executing at row level can access the data in the row that it is processing by using variables NEW and OLD
 - can be renamed if using the REFERENCING CLAUSE
 - not available when executing at statement level

Triggering Statement	OLD.field Value	NEW.field Value
INSERT	NULL	Post-insert value
UPDATE	Pre-update value	Post-update value
DELETE	Pre-delete value	NULL



Accessing current values: example (I)

- INSERT INTO S VALUES ('S6', 'Abbott', 30, 'London')
 - NEW.SId: 'S6', NEW.SName: 'Abbott', ...
 - OLD: NULL
- DELETE FROM S WHERE SId = 'S2'
 - NEW: NULL
 - OLD.SId = 'S2', OLD.SName: 'Jones', ...
- UPDATE S SET City = "Rome" WHERE SId = 'S3'
 - NEW.SId: 'S3', NEW.City: 'Rome'
 - OLD.SId: 'S3', OLD.City: 'Paris'

<u>SId</u>	SName	#Employees	City
S1	Smith	20	London
S2	Jones	10	Paris
S3	Blake	30	Paris
S4	Clark	20	London
S5	Adams	30	Athens



Accessing current values: example (II)

- UPDATE S SET City = 'Rome' WHERE SId IN ('S1', 'S2', 'S3')
- Trigger executed three times (FOR EACH ROW)
 - First execution
 - NEW.SId: 'S1', NEW.City: 'Rome'
 - OLD.SId: 'S1', OLD.City: 'London'
 - First execution
 - NEW.SId: 'S2', NEW.City: 'Rome'
 - OLD.SId: 'S2', OLD.City: 'Paris'
 - First execution
 - NEW.SId: 'S3', NEW.City: 'Rome'
 - OLD.SId: 'S3', OLD.City: 'Paris'

SId	SName	#Employees	City
S1	Smith	20	London
S2	Jones	10	Paris
S3	Blake	30	Paris
S4	Clark	20	London
S5	Adams	30	Athens



Example

- Trigger to manage reorder in an inventory stock
 - when the quantity on stock of a product goes below a given threshold
 - a new order for the product should be issued
- The following database schema is given
 Inventory (Part#, QtyOnStock, ThresholdQty, ReorderQty)
 PendingOrders(Part#, OrderDate, OrderedQty)



Example

- Trigger to manage reorder in an inventory stock
 - when the quantity in stock of a product goes below a given threshold
 - a new order for the product should be issued
- Event
 - Update of the quantity in stock for product x
 - Insert of a new product x
- Trigger semantics
 - After the modification event
 - Separate execution for each row of the Inventory table



Trigger example

FOR EACH ROW

CREATE TRIGGER Reorder

AFTER UPDATE OF QtyOnStock OR INSERT ON Inventory



Example

- Event
 - Update of the quantity in stock for product x
 - Insert of a new product x
- Condition
 - The quantity on stock of product x is below a given threshold
 - There are no pending orders for product x
- Action
 - Issue a new order of a pre-determined quantity for product x



Trigger example

CREATE TRIGGER Reorder

AFTER UPDATE OF QtyOnStock OR INSERT ON Inventory

FOR EACH ROW

WHEN (NEW.QtyOnStock < NEW.ThresholdQty)

The quantity on stock of product x is below a given threshold



Example

- Trigger to manage reorder in an inventory stock
 - when the stocked quantity of a product goes below a given threshold
 - a new order for the product should be issued
- Condition
 - The quantity on stock of product x is below a given threshold
 - There are no pending orders for product x
 - This part cannot be introduced into the WHEN clause
- Action
 - Issue an order with given reorder quantity for product x



Example: Trigger body

```
DECLARE
N number;
BEGIN
select count(*) into N
from PendingOrders
where Part# = :NEW.Part#;
If (N=0) then
  insert into PendingOrders(Part#,OrderedQty,OrderDate)
 values (:NEW.Part#, :NEW.ReorderQty, SYSDATE);
end if;
END;
```

Complete trigger example

```
CREATE TRIGGER Reorder
AFTER UPDATE OF QtyOnStock OR INSERT ON Inventory
FOR EACH ROW
WHEN (NEW. QtyOnStock < NEW. ThresholdQty)
DECLARE
N number;
BEGIN
select count(*) into N
from PendingOrders
where Part# = :NEW.Part#;
If (N==0) then
  insert into PendingOrders(Part#,OrderedQty,OrderDate)
  values (:NEW.Part#, :NEW.ReorderQty, SYSDATE);
end if;
```

Guidelines in writing triggers in Oracle



Guidelines in writing triggers in Oracle

- Execution Mode INSTEAD OF is allowed in Oracle but it should be avoided
- Usage of before triggers in Oracle to be compliant with the standard
 - Modifications of the NEW variable in tuples affected by the triggering statement are allowed in before triggers
 - Other databases modifications, apart those reported in the previous point, are not allowed in before triggers
 - Before triggers cannot trigger other triggers



Concise comparison between Oracle and DB2 Triggers



Differences between Oracle and DB2

	Oracle	DB2
Reference to Old_Table and New_Table in statement triggers	No	Yes
When clause in statement triggers	No	Yes
Execution order between row and statement triggers with same mode	Specified	Arbitrary
Execution order between triggers with same event, mode and granularity	Unspecified	Creation Order
More than one triggering event allowed	Yes	No
Forbidden access to the mutating table	Yes for row triggers	No
Availability of the instead semantics	Yes	No
Database modifications allowed in before triggers	Yes	Only NEW variables



Trigger Design



Trigger design

- The design of a single trigger is usually simple
 - Identify
 - execution semantics
 - event
 - condition (optional)
 - action



Trigger design

- Understanding mutual interactions among triggers is more complex
 - The action of one trigger may be the event of a different trigger
 - Cascaded execution
- If mutual triggering occurs
 - Infinite execution is possible



Trigger execution properties

- Termination
 - For an arbitrary database state and user transaction, trigger execution *terminates* in a final state (also after an abort)
- Confluence
 - For an arbitrary database state and user transaction, trigger execution terminates
 in a unique final state, independently of the execution order of triggers
- Termination is the most important property
- Confluence is enforced by deterministic trigger execution



Guaranteeing termination

- Termination is guaranteed at run time by aborting trigger execution after a given cascading length
- Termination may be verified at design time by means of the triggering graph
 - a node for each trigger
 - a directed edge T_i T_j if trigger T_i is performing an action triggering trigger T_j
- A cycle in the graph shows potential non terminating executions





Example

- Trigger managing salary amounts
 - When a given average salary value is exceeded, a salary reduction is automatically enforced
- The following table is given
 Employee (Emp#, Ename, ..., Salary)
- Execution semantics
 - After the modification events
 - Separate execution for each update instruction
- No condition for execution



Example

```
CREATE TRIGGER SalaryMonitor
```

AFTER UPDATE OF Salary ON Employee

FOR EACH STATEMENT

BEGIN

```
update Employee
```

```
set Salary = Salary * K
```

where 2500 < (select AVG (Salary) from Employee);

END;

The value of K may be:

K = 0.9 execution terminates

K = 1.1 infinite execution





Trigger applications

- Internal applications
 - maintenance of complex integrity constraints
 - replication management
 - materialized view maintenance
- Business Rules
 - Incorporate into the DBMS application knowledge
 - E.g., reorder rule
- Alerts
 - widely used for notification



Triggers for constraint management

- Triggers are exploited to enforce complex integrity constraints
- Design procedure
 - 1. Write the constraint as a SQL predicate
 - It provides a condition for the trigger execution
 - 2. Identify the events which may violate the constraint
 - i.e., the condition
 - 3. Define the constraint management technique in the action



- The following tables are given
 - Supplier S (<u>S#</u>, SName, ...)
 - Part P (<u>P#</u>, PName, ...)
 - Supply SP (<u>S#</u>, <u>P#</u>, Qty)
- Constraint to be enforced
 - A part may be supplied by at most 10 different suppliers



Constraint predicate

```
select P#
from SP
group by P#
having count(*) > 10
```

- set of parts violating the constraint
- Events
 - insert on SP
 - update of P# on SP
- Action
 - reject the violating transaction



- Execution semantics
 - *after* the modification
 - statement level
 - to capture the effect of the entire modification
 - (Oracle) to allow access to the mutating table
- (Oracle) No condition
 - The condition cannot be specified in the WHEN clause
 - It is checked in the trigger body
- Design for Oracle trigger semantics



```
CREATE TRIGGER TooManySuppliers
AFTER UPDATE OF P# OR INSERT ON SP
DECLARE
N number;
BEGIN
select count(*) into N
from SP
where P# IN (select P# from SP
           group by P#
           having count(*) > 10);
if (N <> 0) then
  raise application error (xxx, 'constraint violated');
end if;
END;
```

- The following tables are given
 - Supplier S (<u>S#</u>, SName, ...)
 - Part P (<u>P#</u>, PName, ...)
 - Supply SP (<u>S#</u>, <u>P#</u>, Qty)
- Constraint to be enforced
 - The quantity of a product supply cannot be larger than 1000. If it is larger, trim it to 1000.
- Check constraints do not allow compensating actions
 - Implement with a trigger



- Constraint predicate
 - Qty > 1000
 - It is also the trigger condition
- Events
 - insert on SP
 - update of Qty on SP
- Action
 - Qty = 1000



- Execution semantics
 - *before* the modification takes place
 - its effect can be changed before the constraint is checked
 - row level
 - each tuple is modified separately



```
CREATE TRIGGER ExcessiveQty
BEFORE UPDATE OF Qty OR INSERT ON SP
FOR EACH ROW
WHEN (NEW.Qty > 1000)
BEGIN
:NEW.Qty := 1000;
END;
```



Triggers for materialized view maintenance

- Materialized views are queries persistently stored in the database
 - provide increased performance
 - contain redundant information
 - e.g., aggregate computations
- Triggers are exploited to maintain redundant data
 - Propagate data modifications on tables to materialized view



- Tables
 - Student S (SId, SName, DCId)
 - Degree course DC (DCId, DCName)
- Materialized view
 - Enrolled students ES (<u>DCId</u>, TotalStudents)
 - For each degree course, TotalStudents counts the total number of enrolled students
 - Defined by query

```
SELECT DCId, COUNT(*)
FROM S
GROUP BY DCId;
```



- Tables
 - Student S (SId, SName, DCId)
 - Degree course DC (DCId, DCName)
- Materialized view
 - Enrolled students ES (<u>DCId</u>, TotalStudents)
 - For each degree course, TotalStudents counts the total number of enrolled students
 - A new degree course is inserted in materialized view ES when the first student is enrolled in it
 - A degree course is deleted from ES when the last student quits it



Database schema

```
S (<u>SId</u>, SName, DCId)
DC (<u>DCId</u>, DCName)
ES (DCId, TotalStudents)
```

- Propagate modifications on table S to materialized view (table) ES
 - Inserting new tuples into S
 - Deleting tuples from S
 - Updating the DCId attribute in one or more tuples of S



- Design three triggers to manage separately each data modification
 - Insert trigger, delete trigger, update trigger
 - All triggers share the same execution semantics
- Execution semantics
 - after the modification takes place
 - Table ES is updated after table S has been modified
 - row level
 - Separate execution for each tuple of table S
 - significantly simpler to implement



Insert trigger (3)

- Event
 - insert on S
- No condition
 - It is always executed
- Action
 - if table ES contains the DCId in which the student is enrolled
 - increment TotalStudents
 - otherwise
 - add a new tuple in table ES for the degree course, with TotalStudents set to 1



Insert trigger (3)

CREATE TRIGGER InsertNewStudent

AFTER INSERT ON S

FOR EACH ROW

DECLARE

N number;

BEGIN

- --- check if table ES contains the tuple for the degree
- --- course NEW.DCId in which the student enrolls

select count(*) into N

from ES

where DCId = :NEW. DCId;



Insert trigger (3)

```
if (N <> 0) then
   --- the tuple for the NEW.DCId degree course is
   --- available in ES
   update ES
   set TotalStudents = TotalStudents +1
   where DCId = :NEW.DCId;
else
   --- no tuple for the NEW.DCId degree course is
   --- available in ES
   insert into ES (DCId, TotalStudents)
   values (:NEW.DCId, 1);
end if;
END;
```



Delete trigger (3)

- Event
 - delete from S
- No condition
 - It is always executed
- Action
 - if the student was the only student enrolled in the degree course
 - delete the corresponding tuple from ES
 - otherwise
 - decrement TotalStudents



Delete trigger (3)

CREATE TRIGGER DeleteStudent

AFTER DELETE ON S

FOR EACH ROW

DECLARE

N number;

BEGIN

- --- read the number of students enrolled on
- --- the degree course OLD.DCId

select TotalStudents into N

from ES

where DCld = :OLD.DCld;



Delete trigger (3)

```
if (N > 1) then
   --- there are many enrolled students
   update ES
   set TotalStudents = TotalStudents - 1
   where DCld = :OLD.DCld;
else
   --- there is a single enrolled student
   delete from ES
   where DCld = :OLD.DCld;
end if;
END;
```



- Event
 - Update of DCId on S
- No condition
 - It is always executed
- Action
 - update table ES for the degree course where the student was enrolled
 - decrement TotalStudents, or delete tuple if last student
 - update table ES for the degree course where the student is currently enrolled
 - increment TotalStudents, or insert new tuple if first student



CREATE TRIGGER UpdateDegreeCourse AFTER UPDATE OF DCId ON S

FOR EACH ROW

DECLARE

N number;

BEGIN

- --- read the number of students enrolled in
- --- degree course OLD.DCId

select TotalStudents into N

from ES

where DCId = :OLD.DCId;



```
if (N > 1) then
   --- there are many enrolled students
   update ES
   set TotalStudents = TotalStudents - 1
   where DCld = :OLD.DCld;
else
   --- there is a single enrolled student
   delete from ES
   where DCld = :OLD.DCld;
end if;
```



```
--- check if table ES contains the tuple for the degree
--- course NEW.DCId in which the student is enrolled
select count(*) into N
from ES
where DCId = :NEW. DCId;
```



```
if (N <> 0) then
 --- the tuple for the NEW.DCId degree course is available in ES
    update ES
    set TotalStudents = TotalStudents +1
    where DCId = :NEW.DCId;
else
 --- no tuple for the NEW.DCId degree course is available in ES
     insert into ES (DCId, TotalStudents)
     values (:NEW.DCId, 1);
end if;
END;
```

