

## 8. More SQL features: Views, PL/SQL, Functions, Triggers

- 8.1 Views and view updates
- 8.2 Application architectures
- 8.3 PL/SQL – PL/pgSQL
- 8.4 Functions and Procedures
- 8.5 Triggers
- 8.6 Abstract Data Types

see Kemper/Eickler chap. 14, Elmasri chap. 6.8, O'Neill: Chap. 4,  
Melton: SQL99, Postgres and Oracle Manuals (PL/PGSQL, PL/SQL)

## 8.1 Views

**Def.:** A **view** is a **named SQL**-query, which becomes part of the schema as a virtual table

### Intention

- Casting the database schema for different applications
- Access protection
- Privacy
- Structuring of SQL programs

⇒ The RDM concept for external schemas ("3-schema-architecture")

**Def.:** A **materialized view** is a **temporary Table** , which contains the result set of an SQL query

- Not in all DBMS
- Often used in **replication** scenarios
- No way to insert / delete data
- But refreshing of the view makes sense
- Sometimes called **snapshot**
  
- Different from **temporary tables**  
`CREATE TEMPORARY TABLE Temp AS (<Query>)`
- Insertion / Deletion allowed
- Dropped at the end of a session

# SQL Views

May be defined on **base tables** (ordinary tables)  
or on **views** (or both)

```
CREATE VIEW LargeCities
(name, population, country, code, fraction)
AS
(SELECT ci.name, ci.population, co.name, co.code,
ci.population/co.population
FROM City ci JOIN Country co ON ci.country = co.code
WHERE ci.population > 1000000)
```

```
CREATE VIEW VeryLargeCities AS
(SELECT name, population, country
FROM LargeCities l
WHERE l.population >= 3000000)
```

← implicate  
column  
names

# Views and privacy

Very large American cities:

JOIN with `encompasses(continent, country...)`

```
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW VLAMericiCities AS
(SELECT c.name, c.population, c.country
 FROM LargeCities c JOIN Encompasses e
 ON c.code =e.country
 WHERE e.continent = 'America'
 AND c.population >= 3000000)
```

**Views** may be used **like ordinary table in queries.**

**Privacy:** column access may be granted even if access to base table is not allowed !

# Views and code readability

.. simplify SQL queries

Countries having more inhabitants than all american big cities

```
SELECT c.name, c.population
FROM country c
WHERE c.population < ALL(SELECT population
                        FROM VLAmericities)
```

Operator tree of query more complicated...

# Query plan

OPERATION	OBJECT_NAME	COST	LAST_CR_BUFFER_GETS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ ● SELECT STATEMENT</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ ● FILTER</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ 🌿 Filterprädikate</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ IS NULL</li> </ul> </li> <li>⊖ 📄 TABLE ACCESS FULL</li> <li>⊖ ✕ NESTED LOOPS</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ ✕ NESTED LOOPS</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ 📄 TABLE ACCESS FULL</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ 🌿 Filterprädikate</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ ^ AND</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ CI.POPULATION&gt;=3000000</li> <li>⊖ LNNVL(CI.POPULATION&gt;:B1)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>⊖ 📄 INDEX UNIQUE SCAN</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ 🌿 Zugriffsprädikate</li> <li>⊖ CI.COUNTRY=CO.CODE</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>⊖ 📄 INDEX UNIQUE SCAN</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ 🌿 Zugriffsprädikate</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ ^ AND</li> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊖ CO.CODE=E.COUNTRY</li> <li>⊖ E.CONTINENT='America'</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li></ul>	COUNTRY	3	4
		2	2014
		2	1937
	CITY	2	1860
	COUNTRYKEY	0	77
	ENCOMPASSESKEY	0	77

← Joint optimization of views and query

# Evaluation of views

Steps:

- [1. Transform query on view using its definition]
2. Construct operator tree including view definitions and query
3. Optimize plan
4. Execute query on base tables



# Views in Postgres

More general substitution concept in Postgres

**Rules** are "first class objects": **CREATE RULE...**

```
CREATE VIEW myview AS SELECT * FROM mytab;
```

equivalent to

```
CREATE TABLE myview (<same column list as mytab>);
```

```
CREATE RULE "_RETURN" AS ON SELECT TO myview DO  
    INSTEAD SELECT * FROM mytab;
```

Kind of dynamic view evaluation compared to  
static rewrite of query or query tree

## 8.2 Updatable views

### View updates

Many views are **not updatable**. Obviously:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE VIEW PopulInCities (country,  
cityPop)  
AS  
(SELECT co.name, sum(ci.population)  
FROM City ci JOIN Country co ON  
ci.country=co.code  
GROUP BY co.name)
```

**View not updatable** if defined using:

- Aggregation
- Arithmetic in Projection
- DISTINCT

**Def:** A **view V** is **updatable** if for every update  $u$  (\*) there exist one or more updates  $c_u$  which applied to the base relations and the subsequent application of the view definition result in the same result:

$$u (V(D)) = V (c_u (D) )$$

- Semantic characterization,
- Wanted: **syntactic criteria** for updatability

(\*) as if it were materialized

# Syntactic criteria

**Read only views** may be arbitrarily defined,  
Update is rejected, if view not updatable.

## Syntactic criteria

Not updatable (**SQL 92**)

- if grouped (GROUP BY), HAVING or aggregated
- DISTINCT in SELECT clause
- set operators (INTERSECT, EXCEPT, UNION)
- more than one table in FROM clause
- **No updates on join views** (restrictive!)

# Views and joins

```
CREATE VIEW CCP AS
(SELECT c.name, c.capital, ci.population
 FROM Country c JOIN City ci
  ON c.capital=ci.name and c.code=ci.country
 WHERE ci.population > 1000000
 ORDER BY c.name)
```

Base tables: Country, City,

**Join on key: row insertion** in one table (**Country**) may generate one new row in in the other (**City**), if not already present.

## Syntactic criteria (2)

SQL 1999

**Columns** (of views) are **potentially updatable** if ...

no DISTINCT operator

no GROUP BY, HAVING clause

no derived columns (e.g. arithmetic expressions)

(1) Column is updatable if potentially updatable  
and one table in FROM clause (!)

# Key preserved tables

... SQL 1999: more than one table in FROM clause

(2) Column *c* is **updatable** if potentially updatable  
and

- *c* belongs to exactly one table
- the **key** of the table is **preserved**, i.e. the update of *c* may be traced back to exactly one row.

Table is **key preserved** if every key of the table can also be a key of the join result table.

**A key-preserved table has its keys preserved through a join.**

# Find updatable columns

Find updatable columns by querying the catalogue

```
SELECT column_name, updatable
FROM user_updatable_columns ← This is a (system) view
WHERE table_name = 'LARGECITIES'
-- Oracle ← must be upper case
```

COLUMN_NAME	UPDATABLE
NAME	YES
POPULATION	YES
COUNTRY	NO
CODE	NO
FRACTION	NO



# Views WITH CHECK OPTION

Issue: **side effects** on base table rows, no effect on view

```
CREATE VIEW CCLarge(ctryName, capital, population) AS
  (SELECT c.name as ctryName, c.capital, ci.population
   FROM Country c JOIN City ci
   ON c.capital=ci.name and c.code=ci.country
   and c.province = ci.province
   WHERE ci.population > 1000000)
WITH CHECK OPTION
```

```
UPDATE TABLE CC_Large
SET population = population - 20000
WHERE capital = 'Amsterdam' --has 1011000 inhabitants
```

What happens?

# CHECK OPTION

**Update may result in insertion and deletion (!) of rows**

**CHECK OPTION:** update and insert must result in rows the **view can select** , otherwise exception raised

Example above: update has to be performed on base table

# View update by triggers

**Triggers:** Event – Condition – Action rules

Event: **Update, insert, delete** (basically)

Condition: **WHEN** < some condition on table >

Action: some operation ( expressed as DML, DB-Script language expression, even Java)

**INSTEAD OF** Triggers (Postgres: rules)

- defined on views
- specify what to do in case of an update of the view

*details on triggers: see below*

# Summary views

- Views: important mechanism for access protection / privacy  
simplify SQL application programming
- **The** mechanism for defining external schemas in the RDM
- Useful for modeling **generalization hierarchies**
- Disadvantage: **updates** (inserts, deletes) not always possible
- Criteria for updatable views complex
- **INSTEAD OF triggers** are a convenient work around

## 8.2 Application Architectures

- SQL is an **interactive language**, but...
- Main usage: access database from application program

Means basically: SQL-statements statically known, but parameterized:

```
SELECT name INTO :ctryName  
FROM Country JOIN Economy ON...  
WHERE gdp < :threshold
```

"Impedance mismatch": tuple sets vs records or objects

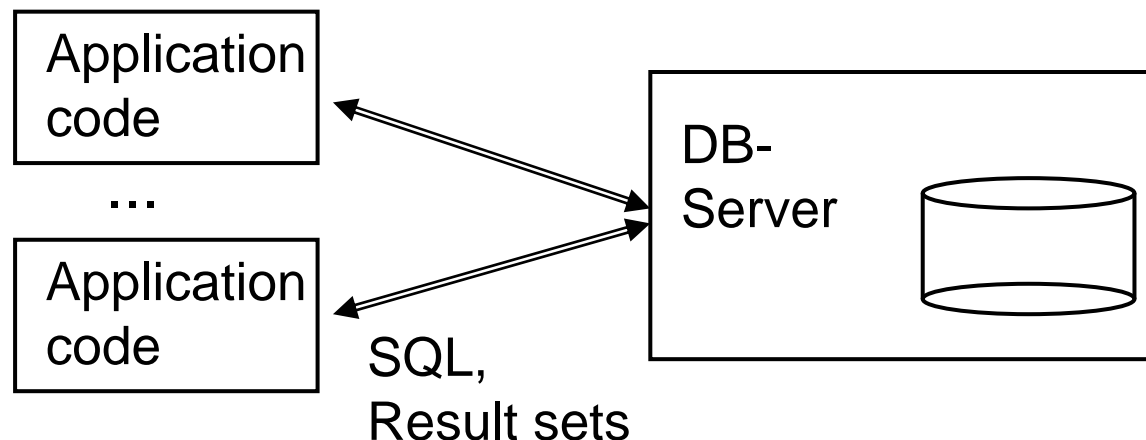
- Typical database usage:  
independent applications concurrently access DB
- Web based user interface is standard today  
⇒ **Big differences of (application) system architectures**

Big question: where sits the "**business logic**" ?

- **Business logic:** the steps which have to be made in order to process a user query.  
e.g. "go to check out" in an Internet shop is implemented by several steps, most of them access the DB:  
*User logged in? if not..., perform stock keeping operations, prepare invoice, charge client, .....*
- **Two tier or Three tier:** ~ business logic separated from user interaction as well as data access?

## Client server model

- **Business logic** sits in **application program**
- Runs on a machine different from database server
- Interaction by means of SQL queries, inserts, updates



User interaction: web browser or integrated (e.g. Swing)

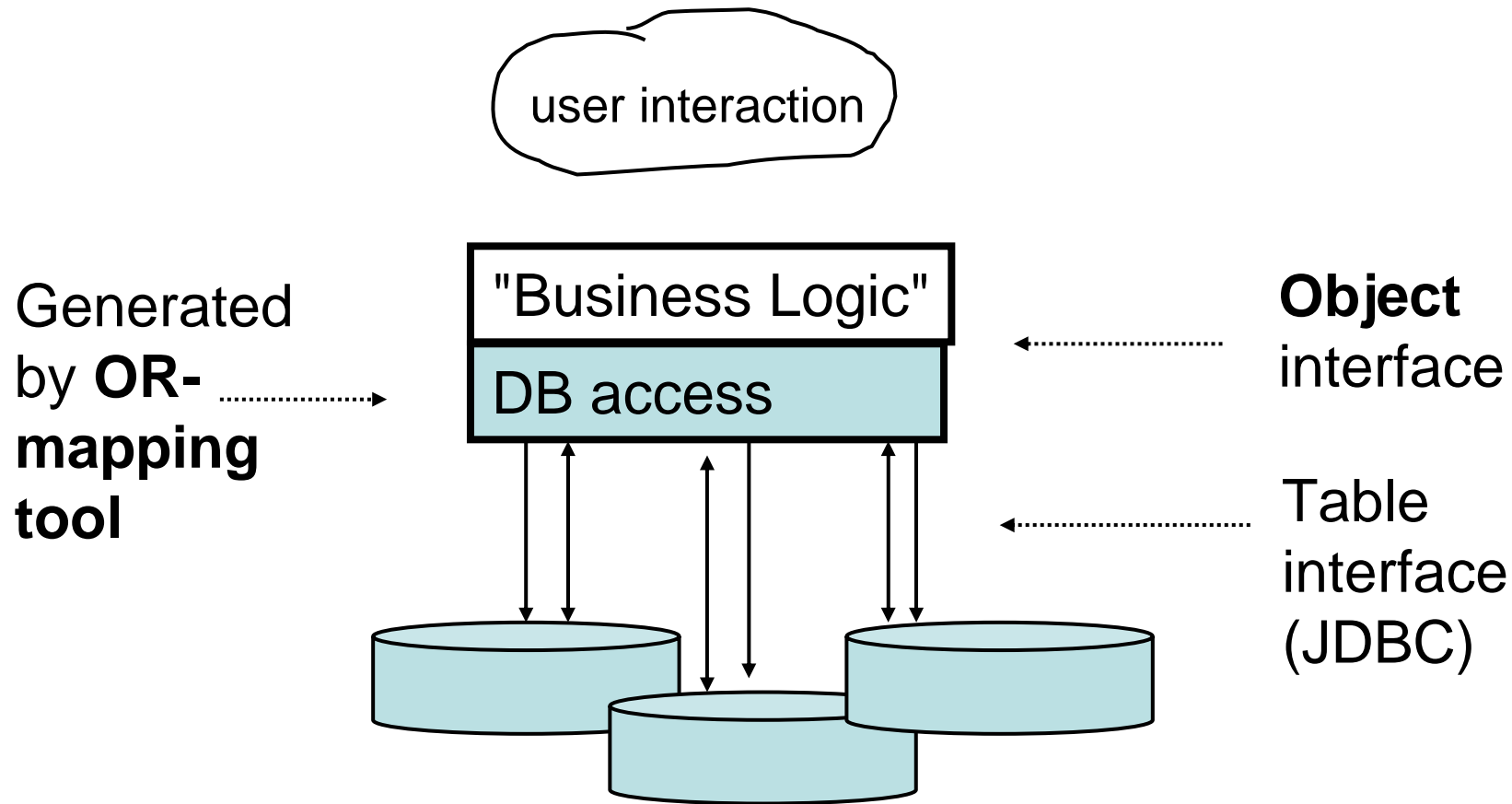
# Client server example

```
class JdbcTest {
public static void main (String args []) throws SQLException {
// Load driver
DriverManager.registerDriver (new oracle.jdbc.OracleDriver());
// Connect to the local database
Connection conn =
    DriverManager.getConnection ("jdbc:oracle:thin:@myhost:1521:orcl",
"hr", "hr");
// Query the employee names
Statement stmt = conn.createStatement ();
ResultSet rset = stmt.executeQuery ("SELECT last_name FROM
    employees");
// Print the name out
while (rset.next ())
    System.out.println (rset.getString (1));
// Close the result set, statement, and the connection
rset.close();
stmt.close();
conn.close();
}
}
```



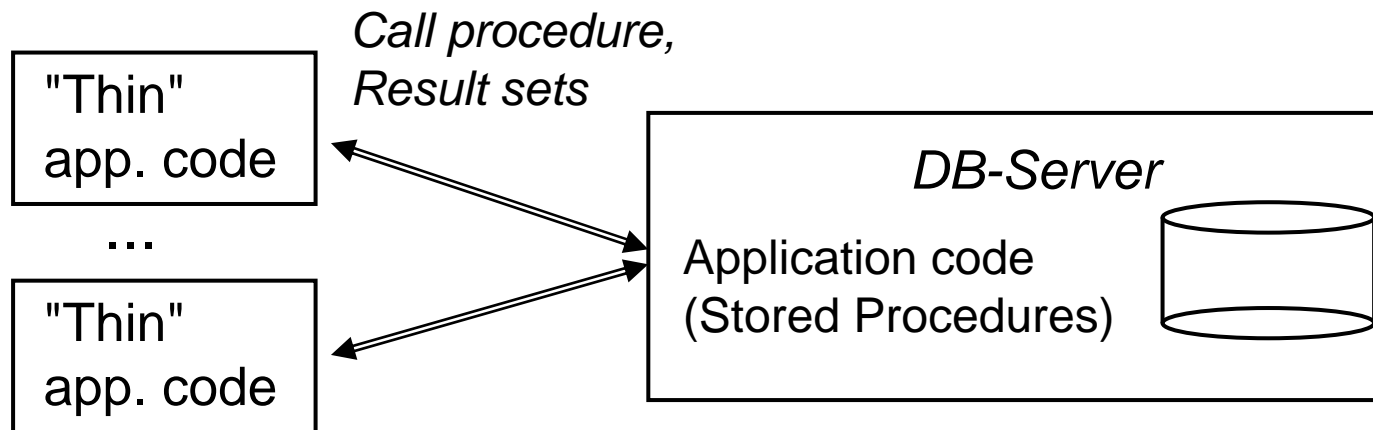
# Persistence abstraction mechanisms

*Object oriented programming model with persistence abstraction hides SQL database access*



# Server side application logic

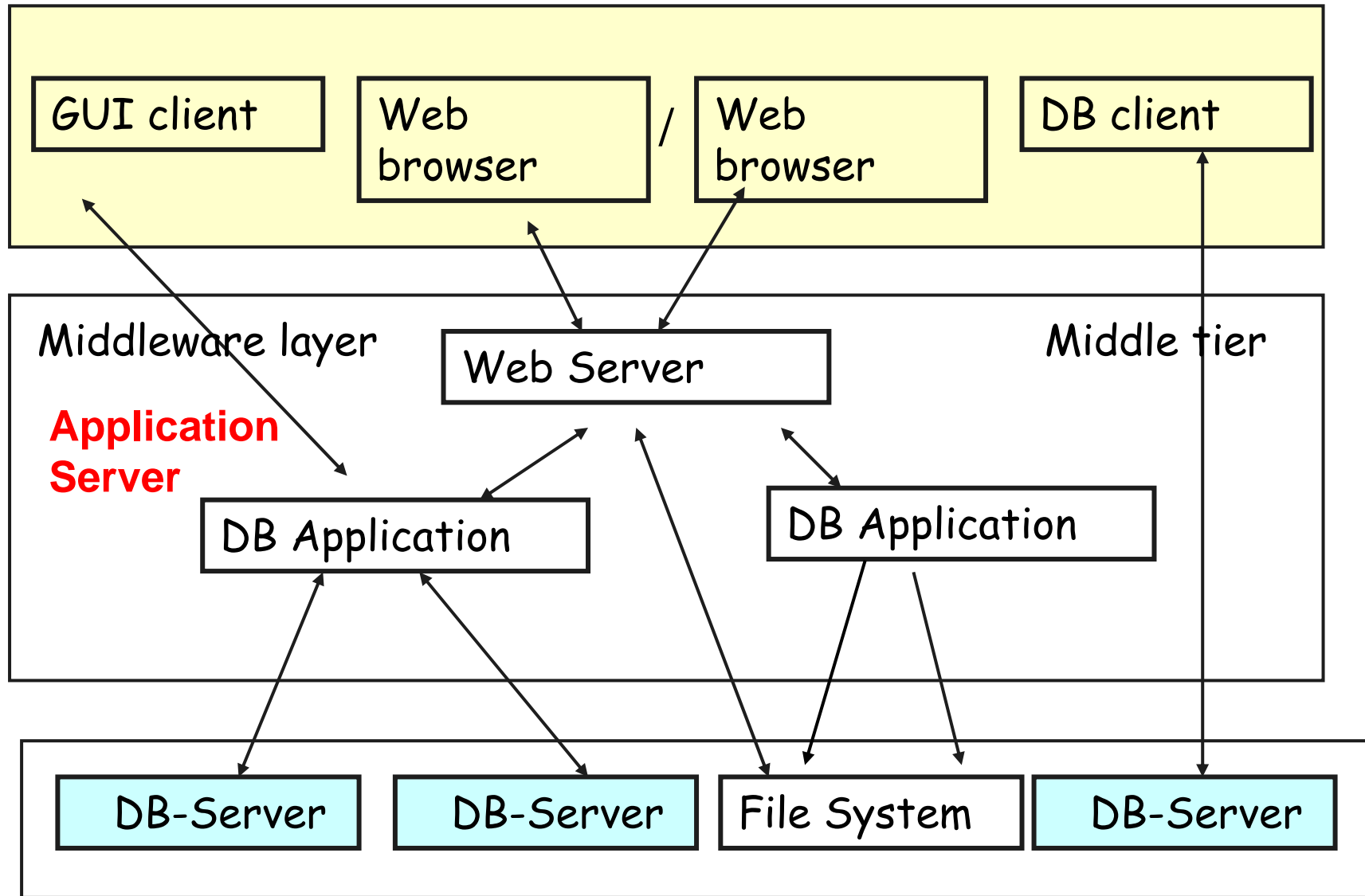
- Business logic in **stored procedures**



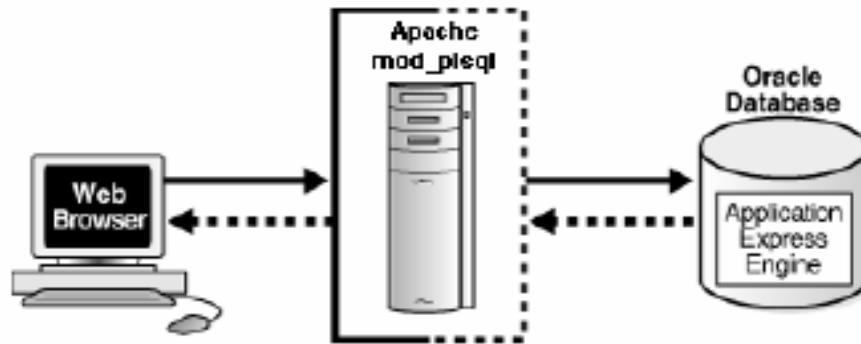
## Thin clients

- Stored procedures written in **DB specific host language**  
e.g. PL/SQL, PL/pgSQL based on SQL/PSM standard
- **Programming language** like C, C++, Java,

# Multi tier architecture

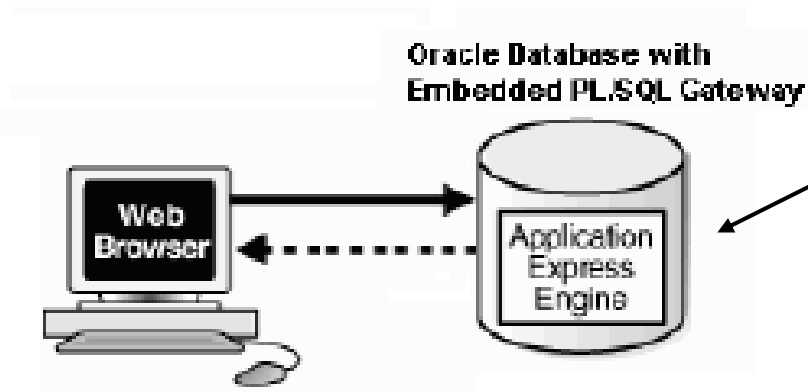


# Server side architectures



**request handling  
in web server**

Basically  
stored  
procedures



**request handling  
in DB server**

# Pros and Cons

Server based code:

- + **performance**
- + communication efficiency
- + Database servers provide (most of) the functionality

Multi tier architecture

- + **scalability**
- + interoperability of autonomous systems
- + secure and reliable transport of request / reply messages
- + Better workflow support

*But base technologies are basically the same  
in both architectures...*

# Base technologies

... to come:

- **Database script languages (like PL/pgSQL)**  
also used for trigger programming
- **Stored procedures using Java, C or alike**
- **Embedding SQL** into programming languages  
call level interface e.g. JDBC  
integration in PL e.g. Embedded SQL ESQL/C,  
java integration: SQLJ
- **Object relational mapping:** hiding data access and persistence from application code.

## 8.3 Stored procedures

### Server extension by user defined functions

#### **SQL based: PL/SQL (Oracle), PL/pgSQL**

- adds control structures to SQL
- easy way to define complex functions on the DB

#### **Programming language based**

C, Java, ..., Perl, Python, Tcl for Postgres

Any Programming language suitable in principle

## DB-Script languages

Based on **SQL/PSM** ("persistent stored modules") standard

Only proprietary implementations: PL/SQL (Oracle),  
PL/pgSQL (Postgres), Transact-SQL (Microsoft), SQL procedure  
language (IBM)

But conceptually similar

## Programming language based

SQL/OLB (object language binding)

SQL/JRT (SQL routines and types using the Java language)

SQL/CLI (SQL call level interface): How to call SQL from  
Programming language.





## Syntax

[ **DECLARE**

/\* Declarative section: variables, types, and local subprograms. \*/ ]

**BEGIN**

/\* Executable section: procedural and SQL statements go here. \*/

/\* This is the only section of the block that is required. \*/

[ **EXCEPTION**

/\* Exception handling section: error handling statements go here. \*/ ]

**END;**

Block: **Scope** as in programming languages,  
**nesting** allowed.

# Usage

- Blocks used for **direct execution** (e.g. SQL +)  
(only for testing and some administrative tasks)

- Used within programs. e.g. C  
**EXEC SQL EXECUTE**  
**< Block >**

- Definition of independent functions / functions

**CREATE PROCEDURE ... (... ) IS**

- For definition of **triggers**

- Inside object / type declarations  
**CREATE TYPE BODY**

Type definitions: see below

# Declarations

## Standard declarations

```
DECLARE  
  price      NUMBER;  
  prodName   VARCHAR(20);
```

All variables have to be declared, all SQL types allowed.

## Use table types

```
DECLARE  
  prodName Product.name%TYPE;
```

table



column



## Use row type

```
DECLARE  productTuple Product%ROWTYPE;
```

This is a **record** type

# Record types

## Example

PL/SQL syntax

```
DECLARE countryRec Country%ROWTYPE;  
BEGIN  
    SELECT * INTO countryRec FROM Country WHERE CODE='D';  
    dbms_output.PUT_LINE('Name: ' || countryRec.name);  
END;
```

Library function (Oracle)

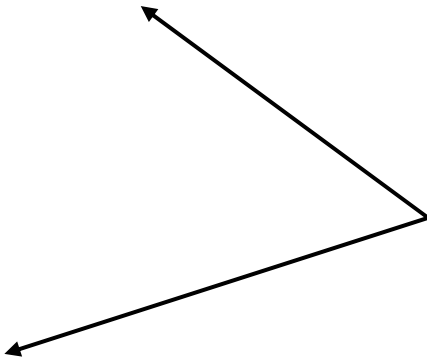


- May be executed from the command line
- Works only with exactly one result row
- How to iterate over result sets?

# PL/SQL Control flow

```
CREATE TABLE TNumb  
  (x NUMBER, y NUMBER);
```

```
DECLARE  
  i NUMBER := 1;  
BEGIN  
LOOP  
  INSERT INTO T1 VALUES(i,i+1);  
  i := i+1;  
EXIT WHEN i>100;  
END LOOP;  
END;
```



Only SQL/DML  
within block

Similar : WHILE (<condition>) LOOP ... END LOOP  
FOR <var> IN <start>..<finish> LOOP...END LOOP  
see Manual

# PL/SQL Insertion in FOR loop

```
CREATE TABLE TestNormal (empno number(10), ename  
    varchar2(30), sal number(10));
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
FOR i in 1..1000000
```

```
LOOP
```

```
    INSERT INTO Test_normal
```

```
        VALUES (i, dbms_random.string('U',80),  
                dbms_random.value(1000,7000));
```

```
    IF mod(i, 10000) = 0 THEN
```

```
        COMMIT;
```

```
    END IF;
```

```
END LOOP;
```

```
END;
```

Library function



Transaction commit: inserted  
data stored in DB now.



All or nothing semantics.

# Result sets

Problem: how to process result set of unknown cardinality?

```
DECLARE countryRec Country%ROWTYPE;  
BEGIN  
  SELECT * INTO countryRec FROM Country WHERE CODE='D%';  
  dbms_output.PUT_LINE('Name: ' || countryRec.name);  
END;
```

...does not work – more than one result record expected.

Needed: a kind of **pointer to result set records**, which allows to **iterate through the result set**.

# Result set: example

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR ctry IS
    SELECT * FROM Country WHERE CODE LIKE 'D%';
  countryRec Country%ROWTYPE;
BEGIN
  OPEN ctry;
  LOOP
    FETCH ctry INTO countryRec;
    EXIT WHEN ctry%NOTFOUND;
    dbms_output.PUT_LINE
      ('Name: ' || countryRec.name || ', Popul: ' ||
       countryRec.population);
  END LOOP;
  CLOSE ctry;
END;
```

Cursor, internal object,  
not a variable

has few operations:  
OPEN, CLOSE, FETCH

and attributes:  
%NOTFOUND,  
%OPEN,  
%ROWCOUNT et al



# Cursor (\*)

**Def:** A **cursor** is an abstraction of a result set for a *particular SQL statement* with operations: OPEN, FETCH, CLOSE and attributes %ROWCOUNT, %FOUND, %NOTFOUND

- **Explicit** cursors have to be defined for SQL statements with more than one result record
- **Implicit cursors** are defined for every SQL statement

```
BEGIN  
DELETE FROM TNUMB WHERE x > 50;  
DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Deleted rows: ' || SQL%ROWCOUNT);  
END;
```

(\*) Important concept for embedding SQL in host (programming) languages, typically more operations, see JDBC below

# Cursors and FOR loops

```
DECLARE
  CURSOR ctry IS
    SELECT * FROM Country WHERE CODE LIKE 'C%';
  row# int;
BEGIN
  FOR resRecord IN ctry LOOP
    row# :=ctry%ROWCOUNT;
    dbms_output.PUT_LINE
      ('Name: ' || resRecord.name ||
       ', Popul: ' || resRecord.population);
  END LOOP;
  dbms_output.PUT_LINE('Number of countries: ' || row#);
END;
```

LOOP is part of  
FOR loop on  
result set of implicit  
cursor.

- Implicit: open, close, record variable of result record.
- Cursor closed at END LOOP, *no attributes defined after that point.*

# Collection variables

DECLARE

```
TYPE largeCtry IS RECORD (  
    name country.name%TYPE,  
    capital country.capital%TYPE);  
TYPE largeCtryTab IS TABLE OF largeCtry;  
lTab largeCtryTab;  
i int;
```

TABLE variables allow for manipulation of sets within a block

BEGIN

```
SELECT name, capital BULK COLLECT INTO lTab  
FROM country WHERE population >= 100000000;
```

Bulk load from DB or individual assignement

```
FOR i IN 1..lTab.LAST LOOP
```

```
    dbms_output.PUT_LINE  
        ('Name: ' || lTab(i).name || ', capital: ' ||  
        lTab(i).capital);
```

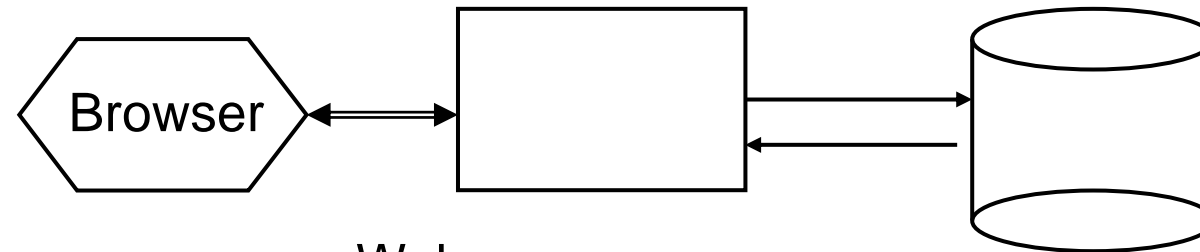
Set operations in DB usually preferable

```
END LOOP;
```

```
END;
```

## 8.4 Functions and procedures

Recall...



Webserver:

- interpret request
- call stored **procedure**
- return html

Database  
with business  
logic as  
stored procedures

Needed: **procedures** and **functions** , not just  
**anonymous blocks**

- Major syntactic (and some semantic) differences between PL/SQL and PL/pgSQL
- e.g. no procedure in PL/pgSQL but **FUNCTION RETURNS VOID**

# PL/SQL procedures

```
CREATE PROCEDURE addtuple2 ( x IN T2.a%TYPE,  
                             y IN T2.b%TYPE)
```

```
AS
```

No DECLARE (!)

```
  i NUMBER = dbms_random.value(1000,7000)
```

```
  -- here go declarations
```

```
BEGIN
```

```
    INSERT INTO T2(k NUMBER,a, b)
```

```
      VALUES(i, x, y);
```

```
END addtuple2;
```

**Parameter passing** like in ADA:

- call by value (**IN**),
- call by result (**OUT**),
- call by value-result (**INOUT**)

Why no call by reference??

# Functions in PL/SQL

```
CREATE FUNCTION CountryCity(cname IN VARCHAR)
RETURNS int
IS
    CURSOR ctry IS
        SELECT * FROM Country WHERE CODE LIKE cname || '%';
    row# int;
BEGIN
FOR resRecord IN ctry LOOP
    row# :=ctry%ROWCOUNT;
    dbms_output.PUT_LINE
        ('Name: ' || resRecord.name ||
        ', Capital: ' || resRecord.capital);
END LOOP;
RETURN (row#);
END;
```

# Calling functions / procedures

- Embedded in **host language** like C, Java similar to execution of plain SQL → below
- Big difference: no result set, but usage of INOUT, OUT parameters and function values
- Inside PL/SQL block

```
BEGIN
```

```
    dbms_output.Put_Line('Number of countries: ' ||  
TO_CHAR(CountryCity('G')));  
END;
```

- Postgres: Server Programming interface (SPI)

# Packages

PL/SQL packages:

define **API** and its implementation for related functions and procedures

```
CREATE PACKAGE MyMondial AS
  TYPE myCity City%ROWTYPE;
  Cursor myC RETURNS myCity;
  FUNCTION BigCites(countryName VARCHAR) RETURN NUMBER;
  PROCEDURE NewCityInsert(newC myCity);
END MyMondial;
```

The API for this package

```
CREATE PACKAGE BODY MyMondial AS
  myVar NUMBER; -- local to package!
  CURSOR myC AS SELECT * FROM City WHERE.. --full def.
  FUNCTION BigCities(...)AS ... -- full definition
  PROCEDURE NewCityInsert(newC myCity) AS...; --full def.
BEGIN ... -- initializations
END MyMondial
```

Implementation



## Exception handling

```
EXCEPTION
  WHEN <exceptionname> [OR...]
    THEN <SQL / PL/SQL - statement sequence>;
WHEN OTHERS
  THEN <SQL /PL/SQL - statement sequence>
```

- Flexible concept comparable with Java exceptions.
- Different semantics for special situations.  
(see manual)

# Realistic PL/SQL (Oracle) example

```
-- very simple purchase transaction
CREATE PROCEDURE Purchase() AS
  qty_on_hand  NUMBER(5);
BEGIN
  SELECT quantity INTO qty_on_hand FROM inventory
    WHERE product = 'TENNIS RACKET' --
    FOR UPDATE OF quantity;

  IF qty_on_hand > 0 THEN -- check quantity
    UPDATE inventory SET quantity = quantity - 1
      WHERE product = 'TENNIS RACKET';
    INSERT INTO purchase_record
      VALUES ('Tennis racket purchased', SYSDATE);
  ELSE
    INSERT INTO purchase_record
      VALUES ('Out of tennis rackets', SYSDATE);
  END IF;
  COMMIT;
END;
/
```

## Example

```
CREATE FUNCTION foo (acc integer, amount numeric) RETURNS
numeric AS
$B$ UPDATE bank SET balance = balance - amount
WHERE accountno = acc;
SELECT balance FROM bank WHERE accountno = acc;
$B$ LANGUAGE SQL;
```

← \$ quoting of PG

- Many SQL-statements in one call: performance gain
  - value returned: first row of last query result
  - Compound result type and table valued functions allowed
- ⇒ Table valued function in FROM clause

# SQL based functions

## Table result types

```
CREATE FUNCTION getfoo(integer) RETURNS SETOF movie AS $$  
    SELECT * FROM movie  
    WHERE m_id = $1;  
$$ LANGUAGE SQL;
```

placeholder for parameters



```
SELECT title, director FROM getfoo(93) AS m1;
```

Alias for returned table value



# PL/pgSQL in a nutshell

## Example

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION rand (hi integer, low int4)
  RETURNS integer AS
  $BODY$
  -- no DECLARE
  BEGIN
    RETURN low + ceil((hi-low) * random());
  END;
```

← Here go the variable declarations

↖ \$-quote, useful for string literals

↖ Function may not return the same value for same argument: hint for optimization

↖ Standard functions: random() returns uniformly distributed values  $0 \leq v \leq 1.0$

# PL/pgSQL in a nutshell

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION video.randtab(count integer,
                                         low integer, hi integer)
RETURNS integer AS
$BODY$
    DECLARE c INTEGER :=0;
            r INTEGER;
    BEGIN
        CREATE TABLE randomTable (numb integer, randVal
                                   integer);
        FOR i IN 1..count
        LOOP
            INSERT INTO randomTable VALUES(i, rand(low,hi));
        END LOOP;
        RETURN (SELECT MAX(numb) FROM randomTable);
    END;
$BODY$
LANGUAGE 'plpgsql' VOLATILE;
```

variable declarations

side effects!

# PL/pgSQL in a nutshell

## Evaluation of functions

Within a select statement:

```
SELECT randtab(100,0,9)
```

Without result value

```
PERFORM my_function(args)
```

EXECUTE query plan

```
EXECUTE PROCEDURE emp_stamp();
```

Note: Functions may have side effects!

No (pretty) PRINT facilities

workarounds: `SELECT 'This is my heading'`

- put PLSQL-call into shell script
- use Programming language for I/O

## 8.5 Triggers

**Triggers:** Event – Condition – Action rules

Event: `update, insert, delete` (basically)

Condition: **WHEN** < some condition on table >

Action: some operation ( expressed as DML, DB- Script language expression, C, Java,...)

Triggers make data base systems **pro-active**  
compared to **re-active** (and interactive)



# Triggers: simple example

## Basic Functionality

```
CREATE TRIGGER myTrigger
  BEFORE [AFTER] event
  ON TABLE myTable FOR EACH ROW { / STATEMENT }
  EXECUTE PROCEDURE myFunction(myArgs);
```

*event*: UPDATE, INSERT, DELETE

## Semantics

Execute the function **after each** event  
**once for each row** changed or **once per statement**  
e.g. per statement: write log-record  
per row: write new time-stamp

# Anatomy of a trigger (Oracle)

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER movie_DVD_Trigger
INSTEAD OF INSERT ON T_M
FOR EACH ROW
```

Semantics: trigger for  
each row affected  
(not only once per  
executed statement)

Action  
(here:  
PL/SQL)

```
DECLARE m_row NUMBER;
-- local variable
BEGIN
  SELECT COUNT(*) INTO m_row
  FROM Movie
  WHERE m_id = :NEW.mid;

  IF m_row = 0
  THEN RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR(-20300, 'Movie does not exist');
  ELSE INSERT INTO DVD (DVD_id, m_id) VALUES (:NEW.DVD_id,
    :NEW.mid);
  END IF;
End;
```

```
CREATE view T_M
AS SELECT m.m_Id AS mid, DVD_id, title
...
```

# Using an INSTEAD OF TRIGGER



Without the trigger:

```
Insert into T_M (mid, DVD_id) VALUES(93,14);
```

\*

FEHLER in Zeile 1:

```
ORA-01779: Kann keine Spalte, die einer Basistabelle zugeordnet  
wird, verändern
```

## Using the INSTEAD OF TRIGGER

```
Insert into T_M (mid, DVD_id) VALUES(93,14)
```

```
1 Zeile eingefügt
```

```
Insert into T_M (mid, DVD_id) VALUES(99,14)
```

\*

FEHLER in Zeile 1:

```
ORA-20300: Movie does not exist
```

```
ORA-06512: in "VIDEODB.MOVIE_DVD_TRIGGER", Zeile 8
```

```
ORA-04088: Fehler bei der Ausführung von Trigger  
'VIDEODB.MOVIE_DVD_TRIGGER'
```

# Triggers...

... are a powerful DB programming concept  
Allow complex integrity constraints  
Used in most real-life database applications  
Sometimes dangerous:

```
CREATE TRIGGER myTrigger1
  BEFORE INSERT
  ON TABLE myTable1  EXCECUTE myfct (...)
      -- inserts some record into myTable2

  CREATE TRIGGER myTrigger2
  BEFORE INSERT
  ON TABLE myTable2  EXCECUTE myfct (...)
      -- inserts some record into myTable1
```

Cycle!

## 8.6 SQL3: Abstract data types

"ADT is a data type **defined by the operations** allowed on its values"

```
CREATE TYPE <name> (  
    <list of component attributes>  
    <declaration of EQUAL, LESS>  
    < declaration of more methods> )
```

supported only by a few DBS

ADT equivalent to 'object type' (Oracle)

... or functions may be defined stand-alone (PG)

## Method interface in an object type definition (Oracle flavor)

```
CREATE TYPE LineType AS OBJECT
( end1 PointType,
  end2 PointType,
  MEMBER FUNCTION length(scale IN NUMBER) RETURN
                        NUMBER,
  PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(length, WNDS));
CREATE TABLE Lines ( lineID INT, line LineType );
```

## Predicates defined over functions

```
SELECT lineID, k.length (1.0) FROM Lines k
WHERE k.length(1.0) > 8.0
```

# Defining methods (Oracle)

## Implementation of a method signature\*

```
CREATE TYPE BODY LineType AS
  MEMBER FUNCTION length(scale NUMBER) RETURN NUMBER IS
  BEGIN
    RETURN scale * SQRT((SELF.end1.x-
      SELF.end2.x)*(SELF.end1.x-SELF.end2.x) +
      (SELF.end1.y-SELF.end2.y)*(SELF.end1.y-
      SELF.end2.y) );
  END;
END;
```

**Methods** may be defined in Java or PL/SQL (Oracle)  
**Functions:** independent of types, no SELF attribute

\*compare: java interface vs. class

see: Ullman, J.: Object-Relational Features of Oracle

<http://www-db.stanford.edu/~ullman/fcdb/oracle/or-objects.html>

# Summary

- Extensions of relational model popular
- SQL 3 keeps extensions under control – somehow
- Object-relational extensions more important than object oriented database systems
- Extensions basically are:
  - structured types and set types
  - functions, written in a db script language or some programming language
  - active elements: triggers (SQL 3) , rules (only PGres)