
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

# DEVELOPMENT OF AN ASSERTION MODEL OF INTEGRITY CONSTRAINTS IN OBJECT-ORIENTED DATABASES

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# DEVELOPMENT OF AN ASSERTION MODEL OF INTEGRITY CONSTRAINTS IN OBJECT–ORIENTED DATABASES

By

BELAL MOHAMMAD ZAQAIBEH

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

June 2006

## DEDICATION

*To the memory of my Grandfather,*

*To my Parents: Mohammad and Ne'mat,*

*To my Wife: Maisa and my Son: Mohammad,*

*To my Brothers and Sisters.*

*Belal*

Abstract of thesis presented to Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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**Chairman: Associate Professor Hamidah Ibrahim, PhD**

**Faculty: Computer Science and Information Technology**

Object-Oriented Databases (OODBs) have been designed to support large and complex programming projects. The data accuracy, consistency, and integrity in OODBs are extremely important for developers and users. Checking the integrity constraints in OODBs is a fundamental problem in database design. Existing OODB Management Systems (OODBMSs) lack to a capability of an ad-hoc declarative specification of enforcing and maintaining integrity constraints that are appeared among attributes in association, composition, and inheritance hierarchies' relationships.

A critical problem in the existing OODBs is that they cannot support User-Defined Constraints (UDCs) that can be defined in classes with composition (logical or physical composition) and inherence (single or multiple inheritance) hierarchies. Integrity constraints in the current

OODBMSs are maintained either by disallowing and rolling back transaction or modifying operations that may produce a violation. The constraints must be maintained in the backward direction along the class composition hierarchy as well as in the forward direction.

In this work an Assertion Model of Integrity Constraints (AMIC) is proposed. The AMIC keeps the derivation path along with the attributes' relationships that are derived from association, composition, and inheritance hierarchies. The AMIC techniques are designed to implement the needed functions that are collecting the attributes' relationships and checking the integrity constraints. Moreover, AMIC keeps UDCs with their relationships in both single classes and multilevel classes (intra-class and inter-class). Furthermore, the AMIC can maintain constraints in a single object and a set of distributed objects (intra-object and inter-object). Therefore, this makes the new model extendable and can be integrated with any existing constraints' service.

A new technique called Detection Method (DM) is designed to check the Object Meta Data (OMD) to detect the constraints violation before it occurs. The AMIC is designed for both Centralized Integrity Maintenance (CIM) and Application-Oriented Integrity Maintenance (AOIM). The AMIC can also enforce and maintain structural and logical integrity constraints, in addition to enforce and maintain redundant, inconsistent, and duplicate constraints.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

# PEMBANGUNAN MODEL PENERAPAN KEKANGAN INTEGRITI DALAM PANGKALAN DATA BERORIENTASI OBJEK

Oleh

**BELAL MOHAMMAD ZAQAIBEH**

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Sistem pengkalan data berorientasikan objek (OODB) direka untuk menyokong projek pemprograman yang kompleks dan berskalar besar. Ciri-ciri seperti keetepatan data, konsistansi pangkalan data serta kewibawaan data dalam OODB amat penting bagi pengguna dan pembangun perisian. Penyemakan kewibawaan dalam OODB merupakan dilema asas yang dihadapi oleh pereka pangkalan data. Ini disebabkan sifat terwujud OODB yang tidak berupaya untuk memproses spesifikasi deklaratif yang bertujuan mengekalkan kewibawaan konstren-konstren yang ada kaitan dengan hierarki persekutuan, komposisi dan pewarisan. Sifat sedia ada OODB inilah yang menyebabkan ialah ia tidak berupaya untuk meyokong kekangan atau konstren yang tertakrif dalam komposisi sesebuah

kelas (komposisi secara logik mahupun fizikal) ataupun pewarisan (tunggal mahupun berganda) dengan sebaiknya.

Buat masa ini, konstren kewibawaan dalam OODB disokong melalui penggulungan balik sesuatu transaksi, tidak membenarkan transaksi tersebut ataupun melaui pengubahsuaian operasi tersebut. Cara-cara sedemikian besar kemungkinan boleh menyebabkan keadaan pangkalan data menjadi tidak konsisten kerana pemeliharaan konstren dilakukan dalam dua arah bertentangan (hadapan dan belakang) di dalam hierarki komposisi kelas.

Dalam tesis ini, Model Penerapan Kewibawaan Konstren (AMIC) dicadangkan untuk meyokong konstren takrifan pengguna. AMIC mengekalkan laluan penerbitan serta sifat perhubungan yang diperoleh dari hierarki persekutuan, komposisi dan pewarisan. AMIC digunakan untuk melaksana fungsi-fungsi yang mengumpul sifat perhubungan serta memeriksa kewibawaan konstren. AMIC juga mengekalkan konstren serta hubungan mereka dalam kelas tunggal dan berganda (antara dan intra kelas). Selebihnya, AMIC juga dapat mengekalkan hubungan sedia ada di dalam sesebuah objek dan juga antara objek-objek tertabur. Justeru itu, prestasi akan bertambah baik dan membolehkan model ini diluaskan dan disepadukan dengan sebarang perkhidmatan konstren yang sedia ada.

Teknik baru yang dinamakan Kaedah Pengesanan (DM) digunakan untuk mengenalpasti Objek Meta Data (OMD) bagi tujuan mengesan

pencabulan terhadap pangkalan data sebelum ia berlaku. AMIC di cipta untuk menyokong kewibawaan terpusat dan juga kewibawaan berorientasikan aplikasi. AMIC juga dapat mengekalkan kewibawaan struktur dan logik untuk model-model yang berasaskan OODB. AMIC juga dapat mengekalkan konstren yang lewah, tak konsisten dan salinan.

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**BELAL ZAQAIBEH**

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| | |
|---|---|
| ADT | Abstract Data Type |
| AC | Antecedent Constraint |
| AID | Attribute ID |
| ALICE | Assertion Language for Integrity Constraint Expression |
| AMIC | Assertion Model of Integrity Constraints |
| AOIM | Application-Oriented Integrity Maintenance |
| ARIEL | ARray-orIEnted Language |
| ARL | A constraint Rule Language |
| BLOBS | Binary Large Objects |
| BPP | Backward Propagation Problem |
| CA | Constraint Analyzer |
| CAD | Computer-Aided Design |
| CAM | Computer-Aided Manufacturing |
| CASE | Computer-Aided Software Engineering |
| CC | Constraint Checker |
| CCG | Constraint Code Generator |
| CID | Class ID |
| CIM | Centralized Integrity Maintenance |
| CM | Constraint Maintenance |
| CTM | Compile-Time Model |
| CO | Constraint Optimizer |
| CP | Constraint Parser |
| DAG | Directed Acyclic Graph |
| DBMS | Database Management System |
| DE | Dependency Evaluation |

| | |
|---|---|
| DID | Domain ID |
| DM | Detection Method |
| EBNF | Extended Backus-Naur Form |
| EC | Engineering Changes |
| ECA | Event Condition Action |
| EH | Error Handler |
| ER | Entity Relational |
| GCS | Greatest Consistent Specialization |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| HiPAC | High Performance ACtive |
| IMPR | Integrity Maintenance Production Rule |
| IRules | Integration Rules |
| LAR | Limited Ambiguity Rule |
| LIC | Logical Integrity Constraint |
| OALIC | Object Assertion Language for Integrity Constraints |
| OCL | Object Constraint Language |
| ODE | Object Data and Environment |
| ODMG | Object Data Management Group |
| OID | Object Identifier |
| OIS | Office Information System |
| OM | Optimization Method |
| OMD | Object Meta Data |
| $OMD^{CK}$ | OMD Constraint Knowledge |
| $OMD^{CO}$ | OMD Constraints Optimization |
| $OMD^{KB}$ | OMD Knowledge Base |
| OMG | Object Management Group |

| | |
|---|---|
| OODB | Object-Oriented Database |
| OODBMS | Object-Oriented Database Management System |
| OODM | Object-Oriented Data Model |
| RAID | Related Attribute ID |
| RCID | Related Class ID |
| RDB | Relational Database |
| RDBMS | Relational Database Management System |
| RDM | Relational Data Model |
| RMS | Rule Management System |
| RTM | Run-Time Model |
| SC | Supplement Constraint |
| SIC | Structural Integrity Constraint |
| SIS | Semantic Integrity Subsystem |
| SQL | Structured Query Language |
| TQL | Terminology Query Language |
| UA | Update analyzer |
| UC | Update Checker |
| UDC | User-Defined Constraint |
| UDT | User-defined Data Types |
| UE | Update Enforcer |
| UI | User Interface |
| UM | Update Maintenance |
| UML | Unified Modeling Language |

# CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Integrity constraints refer to the expression of integrity validity and do not include the enforcement or the maintenance part. The term integrity covers consistency (data is well organized in accordance with the requirements of a data model) and validity (all invalid data is excluded from the database).

The proper handling of integrity constraints is essential to any data storage and management. Handling integrity constraints is an essential premise to managing semantically rich data (Formica, 2002; Rao, 1994). In Object-Oriented Databases (OODBs), checking the integrity constraints is a fundamental problem in the database design (Formica, 2002). The automated verification of constraints and their enforcement provided by current OODB Management Systems (OODBMSs) is limited (Formica, 2002; Eick and Werstein, 1993) due to the user participation is required.

Maintaining constraints that are scattered in applications is called Application-Oriented Integrity Maintenance (AOIM) (Do *et al*, 1997; Eick and Werstein, 1993). Centralizing the management of integrity constraints by extending database systems to have a dedicated

component for constraint enforcement is called Centralized Integrity Maintenance (CIM) (Do *et al*, 1997; Eick and Werstein, 1993; Urban and Desiderio, 1992).

OODBMSs do not have adequate support for certain types of constraints especially the ones defined in a class composition and inherence hierarchies (Bagui, 2003; Formica, 2002; Do *et al*, 2002, 1997; Choi *et al*, 1997; Junmang, 1997; Do and Choi, 1994). The integrity constraints must be maintained in the backward direction along the class composition and inheritance hierarchies as well as in the forward direction.

The class composition hierarchy is represented by IS-PART-OF relationship, and class inheritance hierarchy is represented by IS-A relationship (Graham, 2001; Brown, 2001; David and Embley, 1998). The Object-Oriented Data Model (OODM) can support three types of relationships between classes, which are:

- Composition hierarchy (logical or physical composition) is a relationship between two classes where the instances of one class are in someway attributes, methods, and constraints of the other.
- Inheritance hierarchy (single or multiple inheritance) is a relationship between superclasses and subclasses. A superclass may have any number of subclasses, which subclasses inherit attributes and methods of superclass. This means all global attributes, methods, and constraints