4CCS1DBS – Database Systems

The Relational Data Model and Relational Database Constraints

Introductions – Vasa Curcin

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- Based in School of Population Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine
- Working on software to support clinical research
- Interest in data provenance and reproducibility of research
- Office hours on Mondays 1pm-3pm, BH(N) 7.05

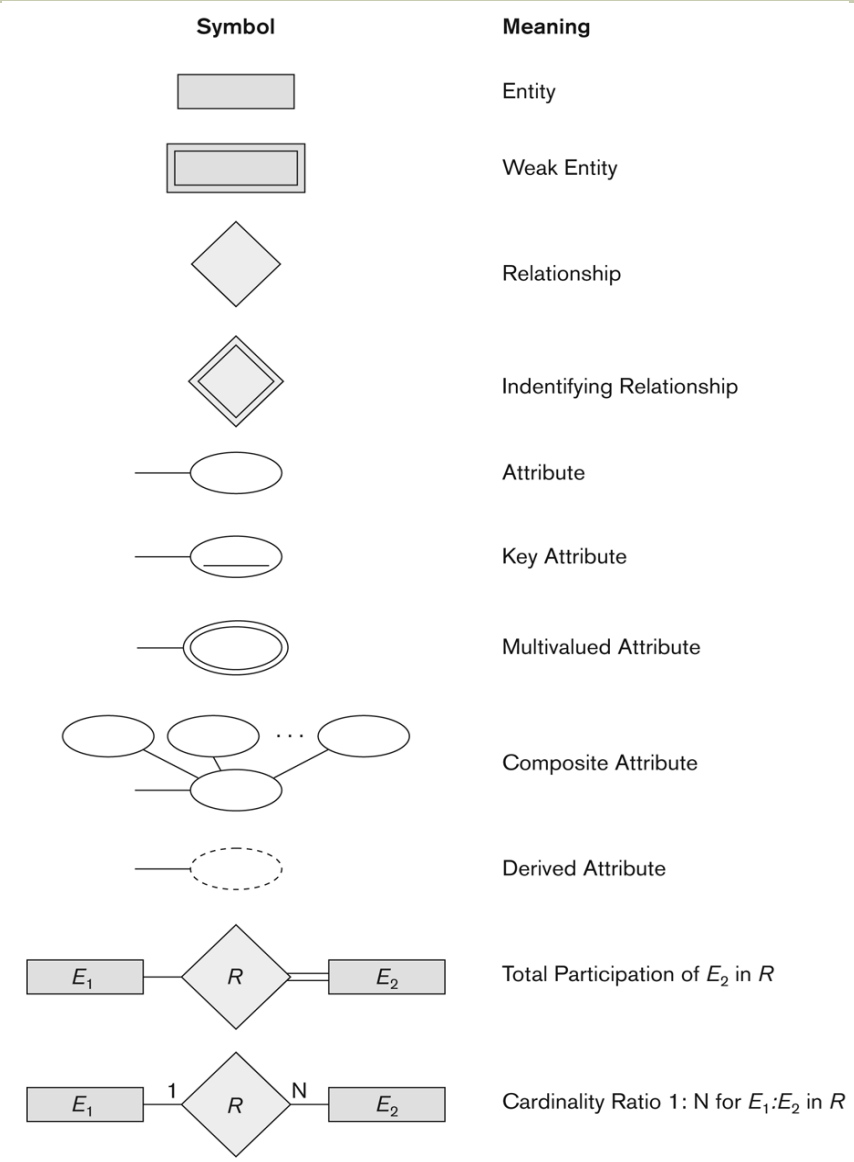
Recap: ER Model Concepts

- ER model has three main concepts:
  - **Entities** (and their entity types and entity sets)
  - **Attributes** (simple, composite, multivalued)
  - **Relationships** (and their relationship types and relationship sets)
- Entities and Attributes
  - **Entities** are specific objects or things in the mini-world that are represented in the database.
  - **Attributes** are properties used to describe an entity.
- Entities with the same basic attributes are grouped or typed into an *entity type*.
- Each entity type will have a collection of entities stored in the database: the ***entity set***

Recap: ER Model Concepts

- A **relationship** relates two or more distinct entities with a specific meaning.
- Relationships of the same type are grouped or typed into a ***relationship type***.
- Each relationship type will have a set of associations: the ***relationship set***.

Recap: Summary of notation for ER diagrams



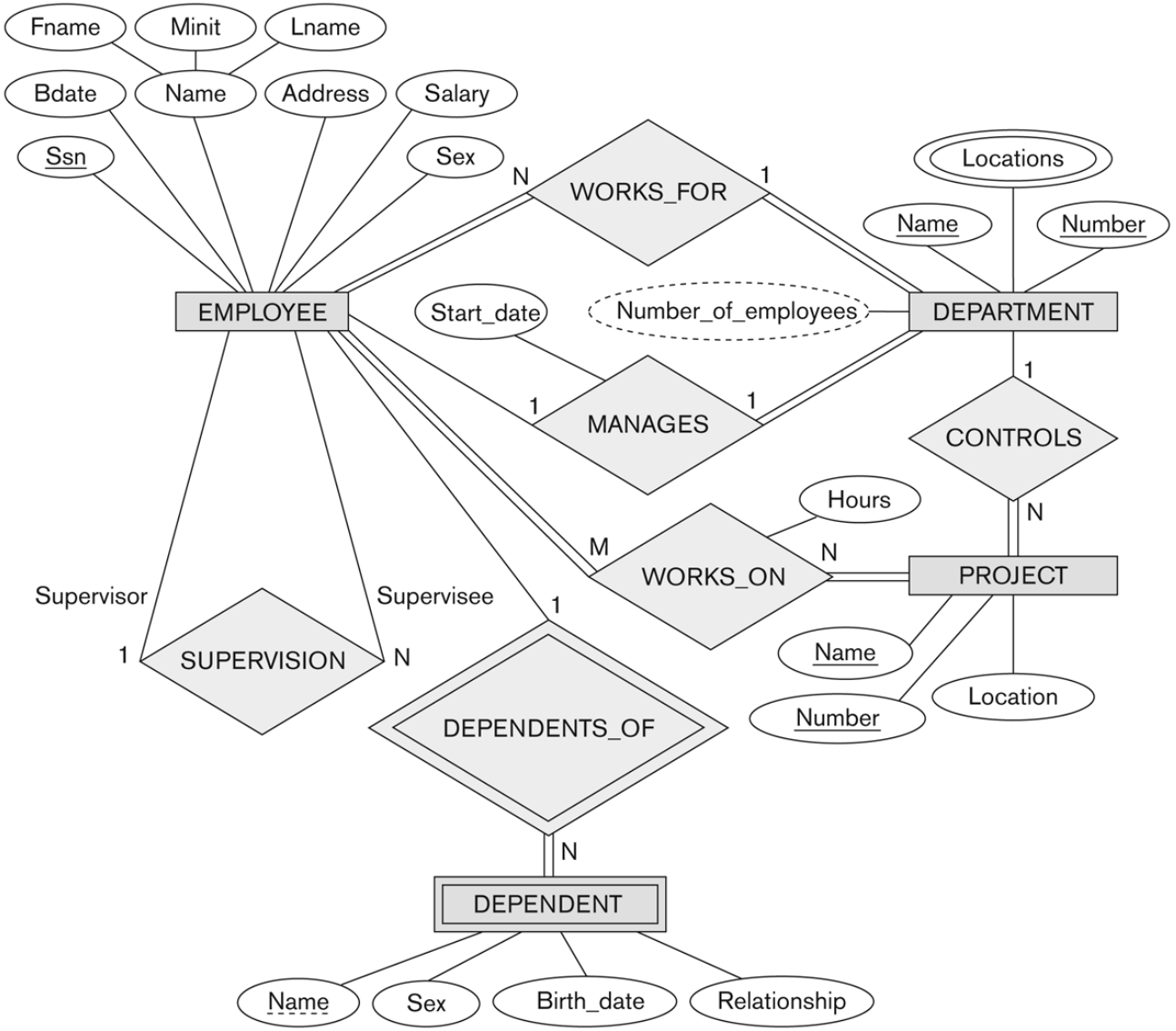
Recap: Relationship type vs. relationship set

- Relationship Type:
  - A set of associations among entities
  - Is the schema description of a relationship
  - Identifies the relationship name and the participating entity types
  - Also identifies certain relationship constraints
- Relationship Set:
  - The current set of relationship instances represented in the database
  - The current *state* of a relationship type

Constraints on Relationships

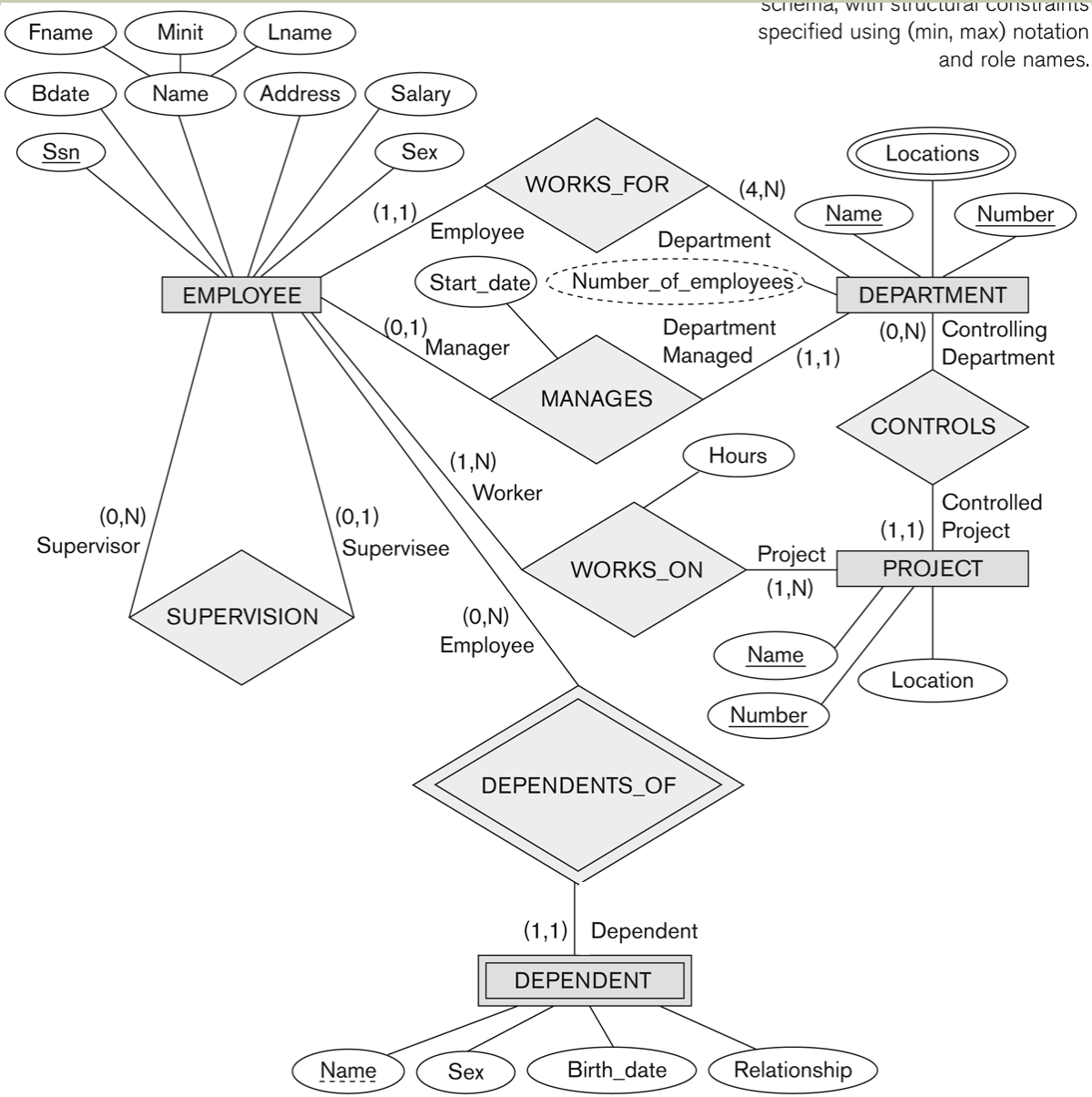
- Structural Constraints on Relationship Types
  - Also known as *ratio constraints.*
  - *Cardinality Ratio*: specifies *maximum* number of relationship instances that an entity can participate in.
    - One-to-one (1:1)
    - One-to-many (1:N) or Many-to-one (N:1)
    - Many-to-many (M:N)
  - *Existence Dependency Constraint*: specifies *minimum* participation, i.e. if existence of an entity depends on its being related to another entity via relationship type (also called *participation constraint*)
    - zero (optional participation, not existence-dependent)
    - one or more (mandatory participation, existence-dependent)

The Schema for COMPANY Database



The Schema for COMPANY Database (2)

schema, with structural constraints specified using (min, max) notation and role names.



Outline for Today

- Relational Model Concepts
- Relational Model Constraints and Relational Database Schemas
- Update Operations and Dealing with Constraint Violations

Relational Model Concepts

- The relational Model of Data is based on the concept of a *Relation*
  - The strength of the relational approach to data management comes from the formal foundation provided by the theory of relations
- We review the essentials of the *formal relational model*
- In *practice*, there is a *standard model* based on SQL – this will be described in later lectures
- Note: There are several important differences between the *formal* model and the *practical* model, as we shall see

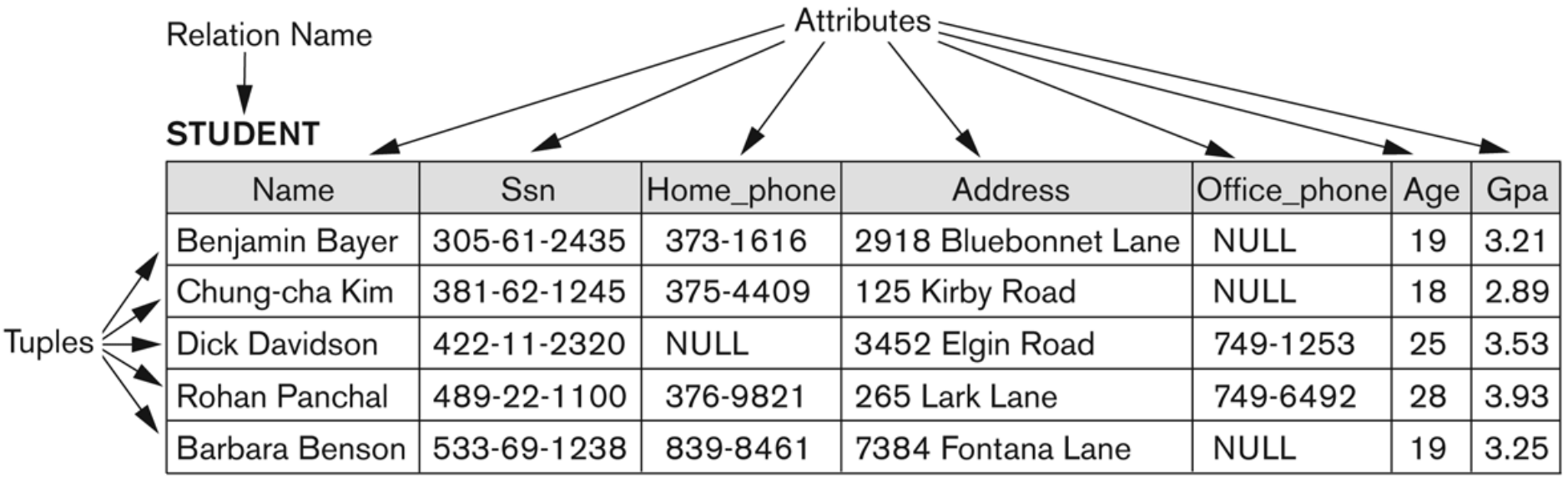
Relational Model Concepts

- A Relation is a mathematical concept based on the ideas of sets
- The model was first proposed by Dr. E.F. Codd of IBM Research in 1970 in the following paper:
  - "A Relational Model for Large Shared Data Banks," Communications of the ACM, June 1970
- The above paper caused a major revolution in the field of database management and earned Dr. Codd the coveted ACM Turing Award

Informal Definitions

- Informally, a **relation** looks like a **table** of values.
- A relation typically contains a **set of rows**.
- The data elements in each **row** represent certain facts that correspond to a real-world **entity** or **relationship**
  - In the formal model, rows are called **tuples**
- Each **column** has a column header that gives an indication of the meaning of the data items in that column
  - In the formal model, the column header is called an **attribute name** (or just **attribute**)

Example of a Relation



Name	Ssn	Home_phone	Address	Office_phone	Age	Gpa
Benjamin Bayer	305-61-2435	373-1616	2918 Bluebonnet Lane	NULL	19	3.21
Chung-cha Kim	381-62-1245	375-4409	125 Kirby Road	NULL	18	2.89
Dick Davidson	422-11-2320	NULL	3452 Elgin Road	749-1253	25	3.53
Rohan Panchal	489-22-1100	376-9821	265 Lark Lane	749-6492	28	3.93
Barbara Benson	533-69-1238	839-8461	7384 Fontana Lane	NULL	19	3.25

Informal Definitions

- Key of a Relation:
  - Each row has a value of a data item (or set of items) that uniquely identifies that row in the table
    - Called the *key*
  - In the STUDENT table, SSN is the key

  - Sometimes row-ids or sequential numbers are assigned as keys to identify the rows in a table
    - Called ***artificial key*** or ***surrogate key***

one that was created specifically to be the unique identifier of a row
(NOT already exists in the table and chosen as key)

Formal Definitions - Schema

- The **Schema** (or description) of a Relation:
  - Denoted by R(A1, A2, ...An)
  - R is the **name** of the relation
  - The **attributes** of the relation are A1, A2, ..., An
- Example:

  CUSTOMER (Cust-id, Cust-name, Address, Phone#)
  - CUSTOMER is the relation name
  - Defined over the four attributes: Cust-id, Cust-name, Address, Phone#
- Each attribute has a **domain** or a set of valid values.
  - For example, the domain of Cust-id is 6 digit numbers.

Formal Definitions - Tuple

- A **tuple** is an ordered set of values (enclosed in angled brackets '< … >')
- Each value is derived from an appropriate *domain*.
- A row in the CUSTOMER relation is a 4-tuple and would consist of four values, for example:
  - <632895, "John Smith", "101 Main St. Atlanta, GA 30332", "(404) 894-2000">
  - This is called a 4-tuple as it has 4 values
  - A tuple (row) in the CUSTOMER relation.
- A relation is a **set** of such tuples (rows)

4 attributes

Formal Definitions - Domain

- A **domain** (a set of atomic values) has a logical definition:
  - Example: “USA_phone_numbers” are the set of 10 digit phone numbers valid in the U.S.
- A domain also has a data-type or a format defined for it.
  - The USA_phone_numbers may have a format: (ddd)ddd-dddd where each d is a decimal digit.
  - Dates have various formats such as year, month, date formatted as yyyy-mm-dd, or as dd mm,yyyy etc.

지정하다

- The attribute name designates the role played by a domain in a relation:
  - Used to interpret the meaning of the data elements corresponding to that attribute
  - Example: The domain Date may be used to define two attributes named “Invoice-date” and “Payment-date” with different meanings

Formal Definitions - State

- The **relation state** is a subset of the Cartesian product of the domains of its attributes
  - each domain contains the set of all possible values the attribute can take.

- Example: attribute Cust-name is defined over the domain of character strings of maximum length 25
  - dom(Cust-name) is varchar(25)

- The role these strings play in the CUSTOMER relation is that of the *name of a customer*.

Formal Definitions - Summary

- Formally,
  - Given R(A1, A2, ..., An) a subset of the Cartesian product of the domains of its attributes
  - $r(R) \subset dom(A1) \times dom(A2) \times ....\times dom(An)$
  - Cartesian product specifies all possible combinations of values from the underlying domains
- R(A1, A2, …, An) is the **schema** of the relation
- R is the **name** of the relation
- A1, A2, …, An are the **attributes** of the relation
- r(R): a specific **state** (or "value" or “population”) of relation R – this is a *set of tuples* (rows)

relation state

  - r(R) = {t1, t2, …, tn} where each ti is an n-tuple
  - ti = <v1, v2, …, vn> where each vj *element-of* dom(Aj)

Formal Definitions - Example

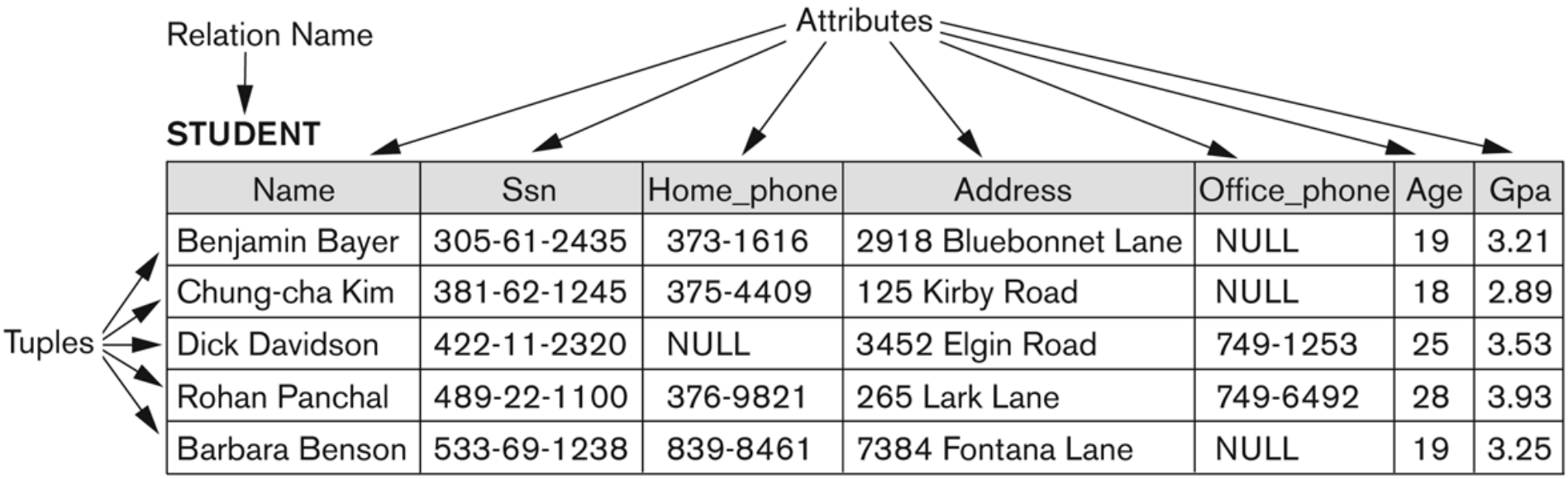
- Let R(A1, A2) be a relation schema:
  - Let dom(A1) = {0,1}
  - Let dom(A2) = {a,b,c}
- Then: dom(A1) X dom(A2) is all possible combinations:
  {<0,a> , <0,b> , <0,c>, <1,a>, <1,b>, <1,c> }

- The relation state r(R) $\subset$ dom(A1) X dom(A2)
- For example: r(R) could be {<0,a> , <0,b> , <1,c> }
  - this is one possible state (or "population" or "extension") r of the relation R, defined over A1 and A2.
  - It has three 2-tuples: <0,a> , <0,b> , <1,c>

Definition Summary

Informal Terms		Formal Terms
Table		Relation
Column Header		Attribute
All possible Column Values		Domain
Row		Tuple
Table Definition		Schema of a Relation
Populated Table		State of the Relation

Example – A relation STUDENT



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Characteristics of Relations

- Relation is a *set* of tuples
- Ordering of *tuples* in a relation r(R):
  - The tuples are *not considered to be ordered*, even though they appear to be in the tabular form.
- Ordering of *attributes* in a relation schema R (and of values within each tuple):
  - We will consider the attributes in R(A1, A2, ..., An) and the values in t=<v1, v2, ..., vn> to be *ordered* .
    - (However, a more general alternative definition of relation does not require this ordering)

Same state as previous Figure (but with different order of tuples)

STUDENT

Name	Ssn	Home_phone	Address	Office_phone	Age	Gpa
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Barbara Benson	533-69-1238	839-8461	7384 Fontana Lane	NULL	19	3.25
Rohan Panchal	489-22-1100	376-9821	265 Lark Lane	749-6492	28	3.93
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Characteristics of Relations

- Values in a tuple:
  - All values are considered atomic (indivisible).
  - Each value in a tuple must be from the domain of the attribute for that column
    - If tuple t = <v1, v2, …, vn> is a tuple (row) in the relation state r of R(A1, A2, …, An)
    - Then each *vi* must be a value from *dom(Ai)*
  - A special **null** value is used to represent values that are unknown or inapplicable to certain tuples.

not multivalued, single valued

Characteristics of Relations

- Notation:
  - We refer to **component values** of a tuple t by:
    - t[Ai] or t.Ai **vi = t[Ai] or t.Ai**
    - This is the value vi of attribute Ai for tuple t
  - Similarly, t[Au, Av, ..., Aw] refers to the subtuple of t containing the values of attributes Au, Av, ..., Aw, respectively in t

given t[Aa, Ab, Ac … Az] then subtuple is t[Au, Av]

Relational Integrity Constraints

- Constraints are **conditions** that must hold on **all** valid relation states.
- There are three *main types* of constraints in the relational model:
  - **Key** constraints
  - **Entity integrity** constraints
  - **Referential integrity** constraints
- Another implicit constraint is the **domain** constraint
  - Every value in a tuple must be from the *domain of its attribute* (or it could be **null**, if allowed for that attribute)

Key Constraints

- **Superkey** of R: A superkey is a group of single or multiple keys which identifies rows in a table. A Super key may have additional attributes that are not needed for unique identification
  - Is a set of attributes SK of R with the following condition:
    - No two tuples in any valid relation state r(R) will have the same value for SK
    - That is, for any distinct tuples t1 and t2 in r(R), $t1[SK] \neq t2[SK]$
    - This condition must hold in *any valid state* r(R)
- **Key** of R:
  - A "minimal" superkey (we can't take out an attribute; commonly refer as key)
  - That is, a key is a superkey K such that removal of any attribute from K results in a set of attributes that is not a superkey (does not possess the superkey uniqueness property)

Key Constraints (continued)

- Example: Consider the CAR relation schema:
  - CAR(State, Reg#, SerialNo, Make, Model, Year)
  - Define superkeys of relation CAR
  - Define keys of relation CAR

Key Constraints (continued)

- Example: Consider the CAR relation schema:
  - CAR(State, Reg#, SerialNo, Make, Model, Year)
  - CAR has two keys:
    - Key1 = {State, Reg#}
    - Key2 = {SerialNo}
  - Both are also superkeys of CAR
  - {SerialNo, Make} is a superkey but *not* a key.

includes a key SerialNo so superkey

Not all superkeys are key

- In general:
  - Any *key* is a *superkey* (but not vice versa)
  - Any set of attributes that *includes a key* is a *superkey*
  - A *minimal* superkey is also a key

A super key with no repeated attribute is called candidate key.
The Primary key should be selected from the candidate keys.
Every table must have at least a single candidate key.

Key Constraints (continued)

- If a relation has several **candidate keys**, one is chosen arbitrarily to be the **primary key**.
  - The primary key attributes are underlined.
- Example: Consider the CAR relation schema:
  - CAR(State, Reg#, SerialNo, Make, Model, Year)
  - We chose SerialNo as the primary key
- The primary key value is used to *uniquely identify* each tuple in a relation
  - Provides the tuple identity
- Also used to *reference* the tuple from another tuple
  - General rule: Choose as primary key the smallest of the candidate keys (in terms of size)
    - Not always applicable – choice is sometimes subjective

The primary key field cannot be null.

CAR table with two candidate keys – LicenseNumber chosen as Primary Key

CAR

License_number	Engine_serial_number	Make	Model	Year
Texas ABC-739	A69352	Ford	Mustang	02
Florida TVP-347	B43696	Oldsmobile	Cutlass	05
New York MPO-22	X83554	Oldsmobile	Delta	01
California 432-TFY	C43742	Mercedes	190-D	99
California RSK-629	Y82935	Toyota	Camry	04
Texas RSK-629	U028365	Jaguar	XJS	04

Relational Database Schema

- **Relational Database Schema:**
  - A set S of relation schemas that belong to the same database.
  - S is the name of the whole **database schema**
  - S = {R1, R2, ..., Rn}
  - R1, R2, …, Rn are the names of the individual **relation schemas** within the database S
- Following slide shows a COMPANY database schema with 6 relation schemata

COMPANY Database Schema

EMPLOYEE

Fname	Minit	Lname	Ssn	Bdate	Address	Sex	Salary	Super_ssn	Dno

DEPARTMENT

Dname	Dnumber	Mgr_ssn	Mgr_start_date

DEPT_LOCATIONS

Dnumber	Dlocation

PROJECT

Pname	Pnumber	Plocation	Dnum

WORKS_ON

Essn	Pno	Hours

DEPENDENT

Essn	Dependent_name	Sex	Bdate	Relationship

S = {R1, R2, ..., Rn}

S = Company
R1 = Employee
R2 = Department
R3 = Dept_Locations
R4 = Project
R5 = Works_On
R6 = Dependent

Entity Integrity

- **Entity Integrity:**
  - The *primary key attributes* PK of each relation schema R in S cannot have null values in any tuple of r(R).
    - This is because primary key values are used to *identify* the individual tuples.
    - t[PK] $\neq$ null for any tuple t in r(R)
    - If PK has several attributes, null is not allowed in any of these attributes
  - Note: Other attributes of R may be constrained to disallow null values, even though they may not be members of the primary key.

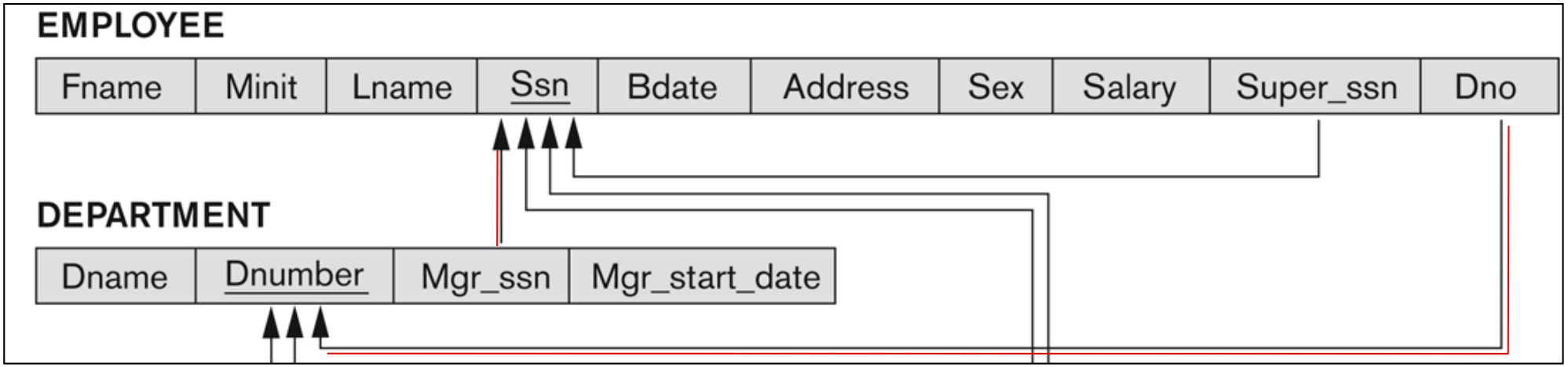
Referential Integrity

- A constraint involving **two** relations
  - The previous constraints involve a single relation.
- Used to specify a **relationship** among tuples in two relations:
  - The **referencing relation** and the **referenced relation**.

Foreign Key

- A set of attributes FK in relation schema R_1 is a ***foreign key*** of R_1 that references relation R_2 if it satisfies the following two rules:
  - The attributes in FK have the same domain(s) as the primary key attributes PK or R_2
    - the attributes FK are said to *reference* or *refer* to the relation R_2
  - A value of FK in tuple t_1 of $r_1(R_1)$ either occurs as a value of PK for some tuple t_2 in the relation state $r_2(R_2)$ or it is null.
    - $t_1[FK]=t_2[PK]$, i.e tuple t_1 *references* or *refers* to tuple t_2

Foreign Key - example



Referential Integrity

- Tuples in the **referencing relation** R1 have attributes FK (called **foreign key** attributes) that reference the primary key attributes PK of the **referenced relation** R2.
  - A tuple t1 in R1 is said to **reference** a tuple t2 in R2 if t1[FK] = t2[PK].
- A referential integrity constraint can be displayed in a relational database schema as a directed arc from R1.FK to R2.PK

Referential Integrity (or Foreign Key) Constraint

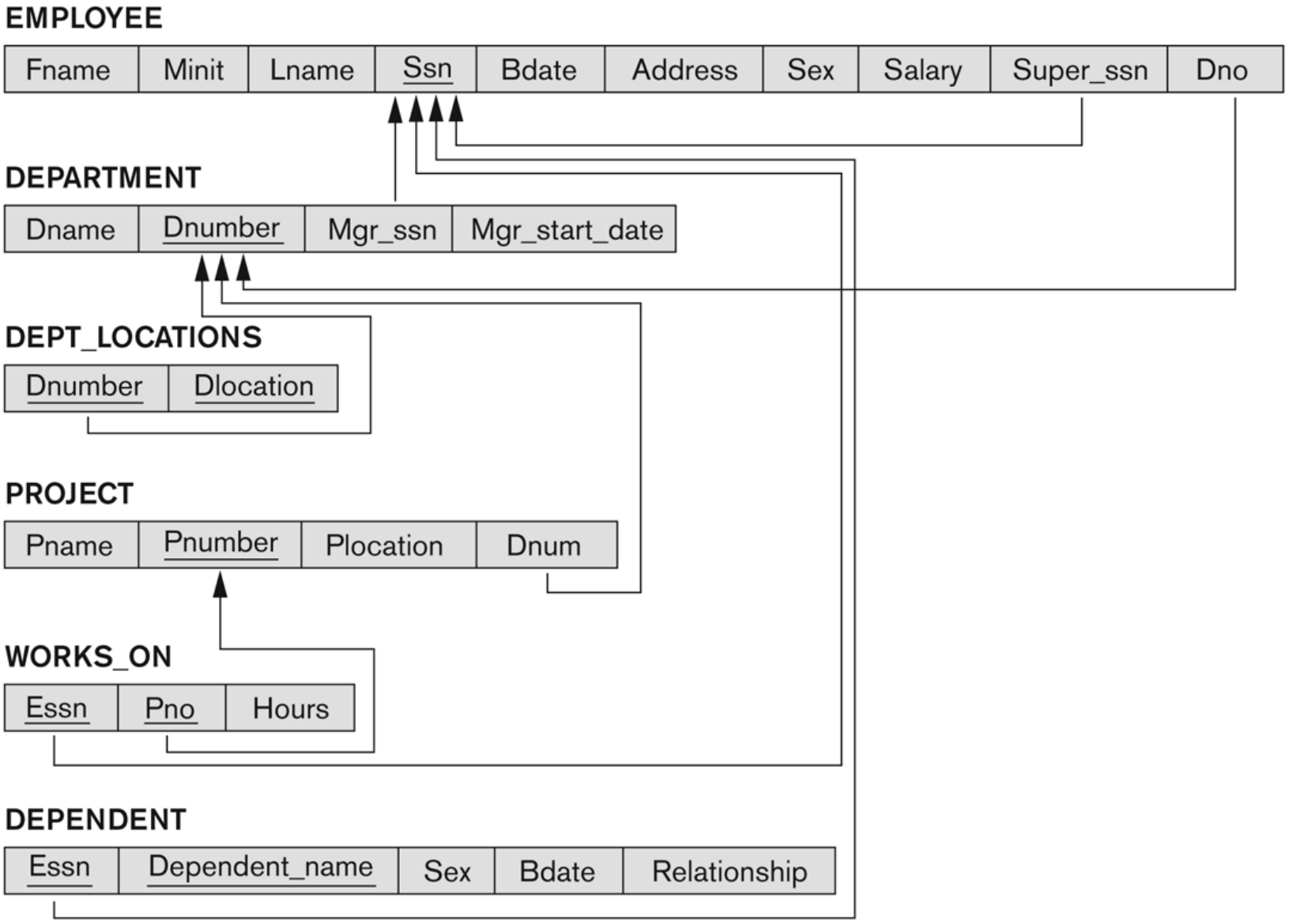
- Statement of the constraint
  - The value in the foreign key column (or columns) FK of the the **referencing relation** R1 can be **either**:
    - (1) a value of an existing primary key value of a corresponding primary key PK in the **referenced relation** R2, or
    - (2) a **null**.
- In case (2), the FK in R1 should **not** be a part of its own primary key.

Displaying a Relational Database Schema and its Constraints

- Each relation schema can be displayed as a row of attribute names
- The name of the relation is written above the attribute names
- The primary key attribute (or attributes) will be underlined
- A foreign key (referential integrity) constraints is displayed as a directed arc (arrow) from the foreign key attributes to the referenced table
  - Can also point to the primary key of the referenced relation for clarity

- COMPANY **relational schema diagram** next

Referential Integrity Constraints for COMPANY database



Other Types of Constraints

- Semantic Integrity Constraints:
  - based on application semantics and cannot be expressed by the model per se
  - Example: “the max. no. of hours per employee for all projects he/she works on is 56 hrs per week”
    - A **constraint specification** language may have to be used to express these
      - SQL-99 allows triggers and **ASSERTIONS** to express some of these constraints

Populated Database State

- Each *relation* will have many tuples in its current relation state
- The *relational database state* is a union of all the individual relation states
- Whenever the database is changed, a new state arises
- Basic operations for changing the database:
  - INSERT a new tuple in a relation
  - DELETE an existing tuple from a relation
  - MODIFY an attribute of an existing tuple
- Next slide shows an example state for the COMPANY database

Populated Database State for COMPANY

EMPLOYEE

Fname	Minit	Lname	Ssn	Bdate	Address	Sex	Salary	Super_ssn	Dno
John	B	Smith	123456789	1965-01-09	731 Fondren, Houston, TX	M	30000	333445555	5
Franklin	T	Wong	333445555	1955-12-08	638 Voss, Houston, TX	M	40000	888665555	5
Alicia	J	Zelaya	999887777	1968-01-19	3321 Castle, Spring, TX	F	25000	987654321	4
Jennifer	S	Wallace	987654321	1941-06-20	291 Berry, Bellaire, TX	F	43000	888665555	4
Ramesh	K	Narayan	666884444	1962-09-15	975 Fire Oak, Humble, TX	M	38000	333445555	5
Joyce	A	English	453453453	1972-07-31	5631 Rice, Houston, TX	F	25000	333445555	5
Ahmad	V	Jabbar	987987987	1969-03-29	980 Dallas, Houston, TX	M	25000	987654321	4
James	E	Borg	888665555	1937-11-10	450 Stone, Houston, TX	M	55000	NULL	1

DEPARTMENT

Dname	Dnumber	Mgr_ssn	Mgr_start_date
Research	5	333445555	1988-05-22
Administration	4	987654321	1995-01-01
Headquarters	1	888665555	1981-06-19

DEPT_LOCATIONS

Dnumber	Dlocation
1	Houston
4	Stafford
5	Bellaire
5	Sugarland
5	Houston

WORKS_ON

Essn	Pno	Hours
123456789	1	32.5
123456789	2	7.5
666884444	3	40.0
453453453	1	20.0
453453453	2	20.0
333445555	2	10.0
333445555	3	10.0
333445555	10	10.0
333445555	20	10.0
999887777	30	30.0
999887777	10	10.0
987987987	10	35.0
987987987	30	5.0
987654321	30	20.0
987654321	20	15.0

PROJECT

Pname	Pnumber	Plocation	Dnum
ProductX	1	Bellaire	5
ProductY	2	Sugarland	5
ProductZ	3	Houston	5
Computerization	10	Stafford	4
Reorganization	20	Houston	1
Newbenefits	30	Stafford	4

DEPENDENT

Essn	Dependent_name	Sex	Bdate	Relationship
333445555	Alice	F	1986-04-05	Daughter
333445555	Theodore	M	1983-10-25	Son
333445555	Joy	F	1958-05-03	Spouse
987654321	Abner	M	1942-02-28	Spouse
123456789	Michael	M	1988-01-04	Son
123456789	Alice	F	1988-12-30	Daughter
[illegible]	Elizabeth	F	1967-05-05	Spouse

Update Operations on Relations

- INSERT a tuple.
- DELETE a tuple.
- MODIFY a tuple.
- Integrity constraints should not be violated by the update operations.
- Several update operations may have to be grouped together.
- Updates may **propagate** to cause other updates automatically. This may be necessary to maintain integrity constraints.

Update Operations on Relations

- In case of integrity violation, several actions can be taken:
  - Cancel the operation that causes the violation (RESTRICT or REJECT option)
  - Perform the operation but inform the user of the violation
  - Trigger additional updates so the violation is corrected (CASCADE option, SET NULL option)
  - Execute a user-specified error-correction routine

Possible Violations for Each Operation

- INSERT may violate any of the constraints:
  - Domain constraint:
    - if one of the attribute values provided for the new tuple is not of the specified attribute domain
  - Key constraint:
    - if the value of a key attribute in the new tuple already exists in another tuple in the relation
  - Referential integrity:
    - if a foreign key value in the new tuple references a primary key value that does not exist in the referenced relation
  - Entity integrity:
    - if the primary key value is null in the new tuple

Possible Violations for Each Operation

- DELETE may violate only referential integrity:
  - If the primary key value of the tuple being deleted is referenced from other tuples in the database
    - Can be remedied by several actions: RESTRICT, CASCADE, SET NULL (will be discussed in one of following lectures)
      - RESTRICT option: reject the deletion
      - CASCADE option: delete referencing tuples
      - SET NULL option: set the foreign keys of the referencing tuples to NULL

if a record in the parent table is deleted, then the corresponding records in the child table will automatically be deleted

  - One of the above options must be specified during database design for each foreign key constraint

EMPLOYEE

Fname	Minit	Lname	Ssn	Bdate	Address	Sex	Salary	Super_ssn	Dno
John	B	Smith	123456789	1965-01-09	731 Fondren, Houston, TX	M	30000	333445555	5
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Ramesh	K	Narayan	666884444	1962-09-15	975 Fire Oak, Humble, TX	M	38000	333445555	5
Joyce	A	English	453453453	1972-07-31	5631 Rice, Houston, TX	F	25000	333445555	5
Ahmad	V	Jabbar	987987987	1969-03-29	980 Dallas, Houston, TX	M	25000	987654321	4
James	E	Borg	888665555	1937-11-10	450 Stone, Houston, TX	M	55000	NULL	1

DEPARTMENT

Dname	Dnumber	Mgr_ssn	Mgr_start_date
Research	5	333445555	1988-05-22
Administration	4	987654321	1995-01-01
Headquarters	1	888665555	1981-06-19

DEPT_LOCATIONS

Dnumber	Dlocation
1	Houston
4	Stafford
5	Bellaire
5	Sugarland
5	Houston

WORKS_ON **PROJECT**

Possible Violations for Each Operation

- UPDATE may violate domain constraint and NOT NULL constraint on an attribute being modified
- Any of the other constraints may also be violated, depending on the attribute being updated:
  - Updating the primary key (PK):
    - Similar to a DELETE followed by an INSERT
    - Need to specify similar options to DELETE
  - Updating a foreign key (FK):
    - May violate referential integrity
  - Updating an ordinary attribute (neither PK nor FK):
    - Can only violate domain constraints

Summary

- Presented Relational Model Concepts
  - Definitions
  - Characteristics of relations
- Discussed Relational Model Constraints and Relational Database Schemas
  - Domain constraints
  - Key constraints
  - Entity integrity
  - Referential integrity
- Described the Relational Update Operations and Dealing with Constraint Violations