Chapter 3:
Modeling Data in the Organization

Modern Database Management
8th Edition
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Objectives

- **Definition** of terms
- **Importance** of data modeling
- Write **good names** and definitions for entities, relationships, and attributes
- **Distinguish** unary, binary, and ternary **relationships**
- **Model** different **types** of attributes, entities, relationships, and cardinalities
- **Draw E-R** diagrams for common business situations
- **Convert** many-to-many relationships to associative entities
- Model **time-dependent** data using **time stamps**

Business Rules

- Statements that define or constrain some aspect of the business
- Assert business structure
- Control/influence business behavior
- Expressed in terms familiar to end users
- Automated through DBMS software

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A Good Business Rule is:

- Declarative –what, not how
- Precise – clear, agreed-upon meaning
- Atomic – one statement
- Consistent – internally and externally
- Expressible – structured, natural language
- Distinct – non-redundant
- Business-oriented – understood by business people

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A Good Data Name is:

- Related to business, not technical, characteristics
- Meaningful and self-documenting
- Unique
- Readable
- Composed of words from an approved list
- Repeatable

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Data Definitions

- Explanation of a term or fact
  - Term – word or phrase with specific meaning
  - Fact – association between two or more terms
- Guidelines for good data definition
  - Gathered in conjunction with systems requirements
  - Accompanied by diagrams
  - Iteratively created and refined
  - Achieved by team agreement

ask

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E-R Model Constructs

- **Entities**:
  - Entity instance – person, place, object, event, concept (often corresponds to a row in a table)
  - Entity Type – collection of similar entity instances (often corresponds to a table)
- **Relationships**:
  - Relationship instance – link between entities (corresponds to primary key-foreign key equivalencies in related tables)
  - Relationship type – category of relationship …link between entity types
- **Attribute** – property or characteristic of an entity or relationship type (often corresponds to a field in a table)

Sample E-R Diagram (Figure 3-1)

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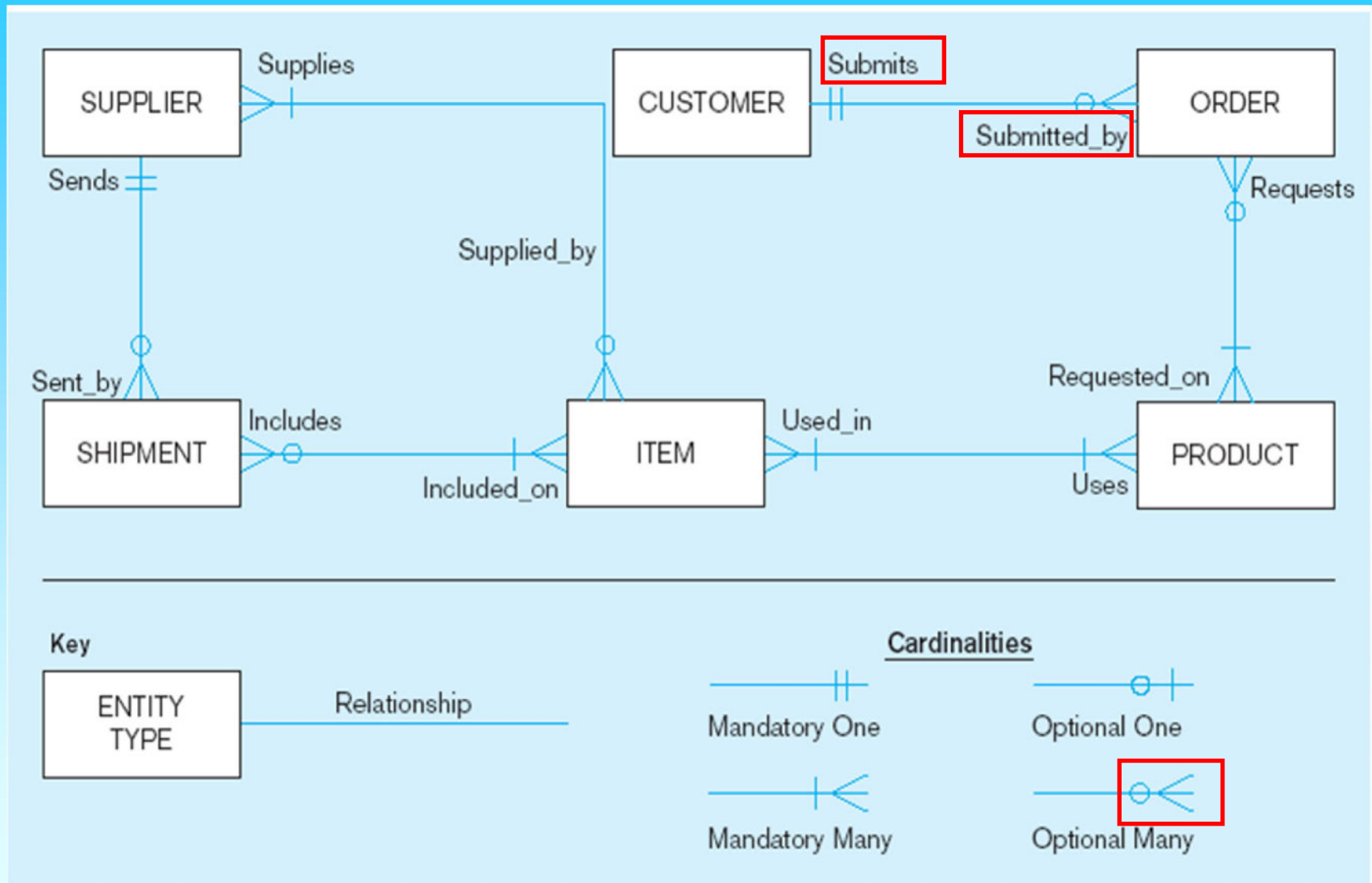
Basic E-R notation (Figure 3-2)

ternary entity should be replaced by assoiative entity

Entity symbols

Attribute symbols

A special entity that is also a relationship

Relationship symbols

number of entity in the relationship

Relationship degrees specify number of entity types involved

Relationship cardinalities specify how many of each entity type is allowed

Entity types
- Strong
- Weak
- Associative

Attributes
ENTITY NAME
Identifier
Partial identifier
Optional
[Derived]
{Multivalued}
Composite(, ,)

Relationship degrees
- Unary
- Binary
- Ternary

Relationship cardinality
- Mandatory one
- Mandatory many
- Optional one
- Optional many

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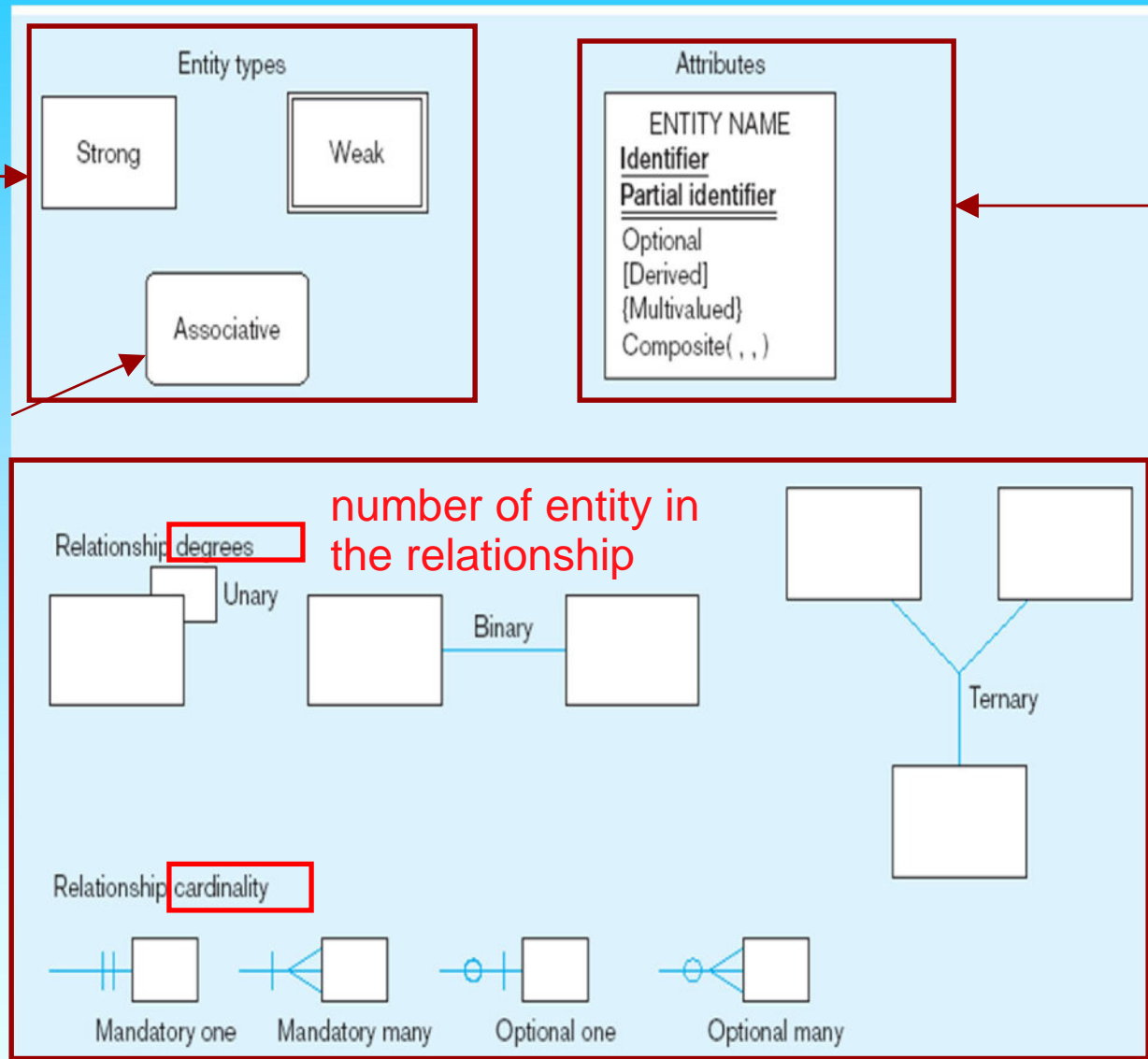
What Should an Entity Be?

- SHOULD BE: important - multi value - multi attribute

  - An object that will have many instances in the database

  - An object that will be composed of multiple attributes

  - An object that we are trying to model

- SHOULD NOT BE:

  - A user of the database system

  - An output of the database system (e.g., a report)

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Figure 3-4 Example of inappropriate entities

System user
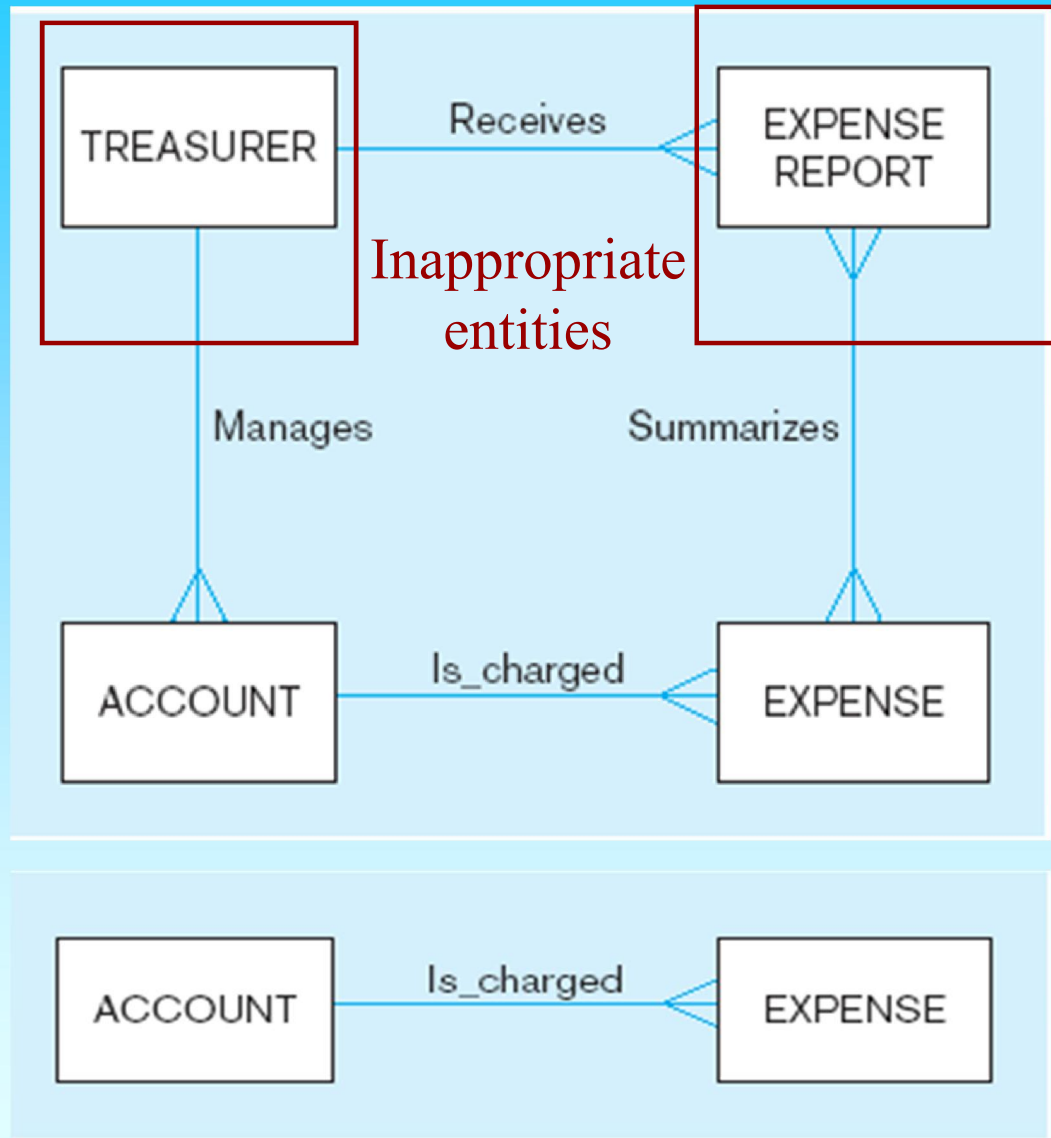
Inappropriate entities

System output

Appropriate entities

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Attributes

- Attribute – property or characteristic of an entity or relationship type
- Classifications of attributes:
  - Required versus Optional Attributes
  - Simple versus Composite Attribute
  - Single-Valued versus Multivalued Attribute
  - Stored versus Derived Attributes
  - Identifier Attributes

age is data entry and should be calculated each time it's used

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Identifiers (Keys)

- Identifier (Key)–An attribute (or combination of attributes) that uniquely identifies individual instances of an entity type

- Simple versus Composite Identifier

- Candidate Identifier – an attribute that could be a key … satisfies the requirements for being an identifier
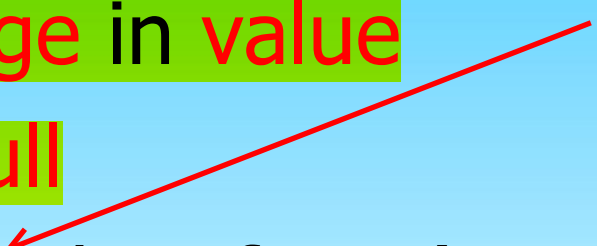
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Characteristics of Identifiers

- Will not change in value

- Will not be null

- No intelligent identifiers (e.g., containing locations or people that might change)

- Substitute new, simple keys for long, composite keys

not derived

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Figure 3-7 A **composite** attribute

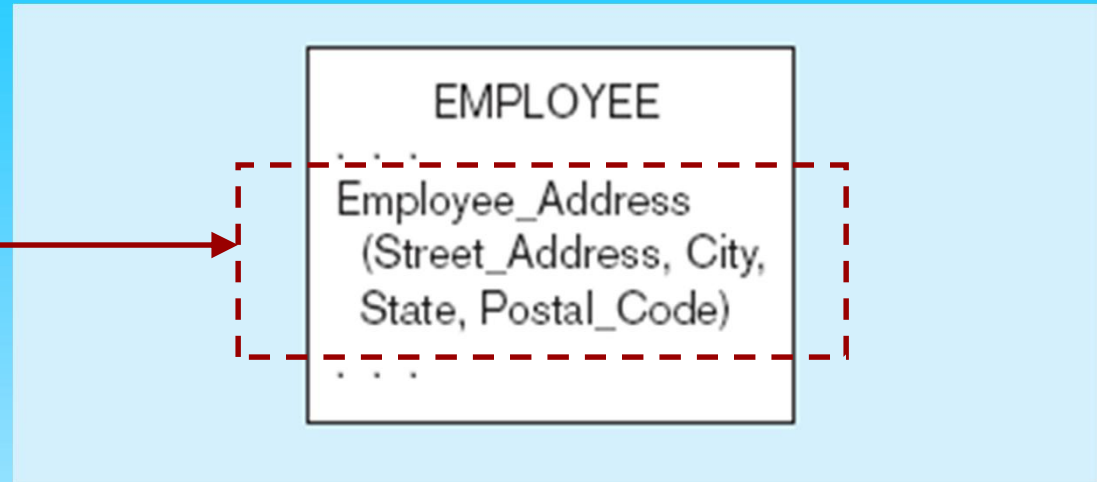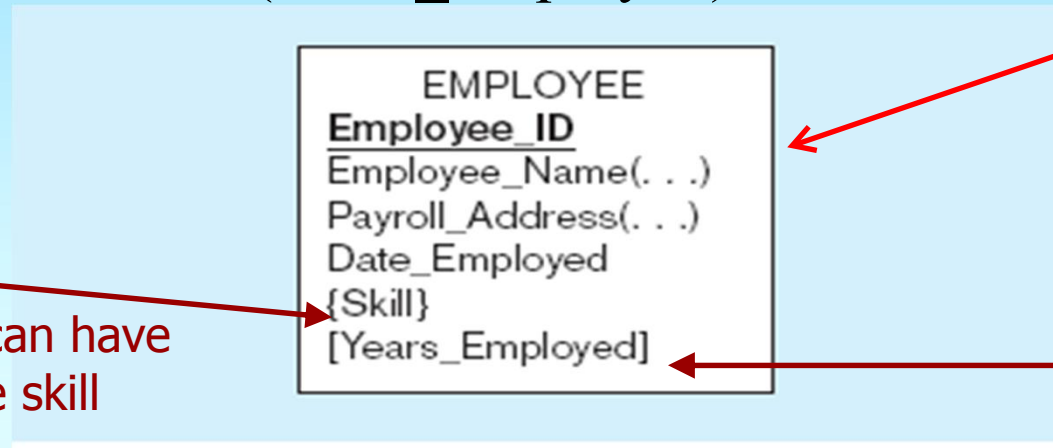**An attribute broken into component parts**

EMPLOYEE

Employee_Address
(Street_Address, City,
State, Postal_Code)

Figure 3-8 Entity with **multivalued** attribute (Skill)
and **derived** attribute (Years_Employed)

a very good
example

EMPLOYEE
Employee_ID
Employee_Name(. . .)
Payroll_Address(. . .)
Date_Employed
{Skill}
[Years_Employed]

Multivalued
an employee can have
more than one skill

Derived
from date
employed and
current date

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Figure 3-9 Simple and composite identifier attributes

The identifier is boldfaced and underlined

STUDENT

Student_ID
Student_Name(. . .)

. . .

FLIGHT

Flight_ID
(Flight_Number, Date)
Number_of_Passengers

. . .

composite ID

(a) Simple identifier attribute

(b) Composite identifier attribute
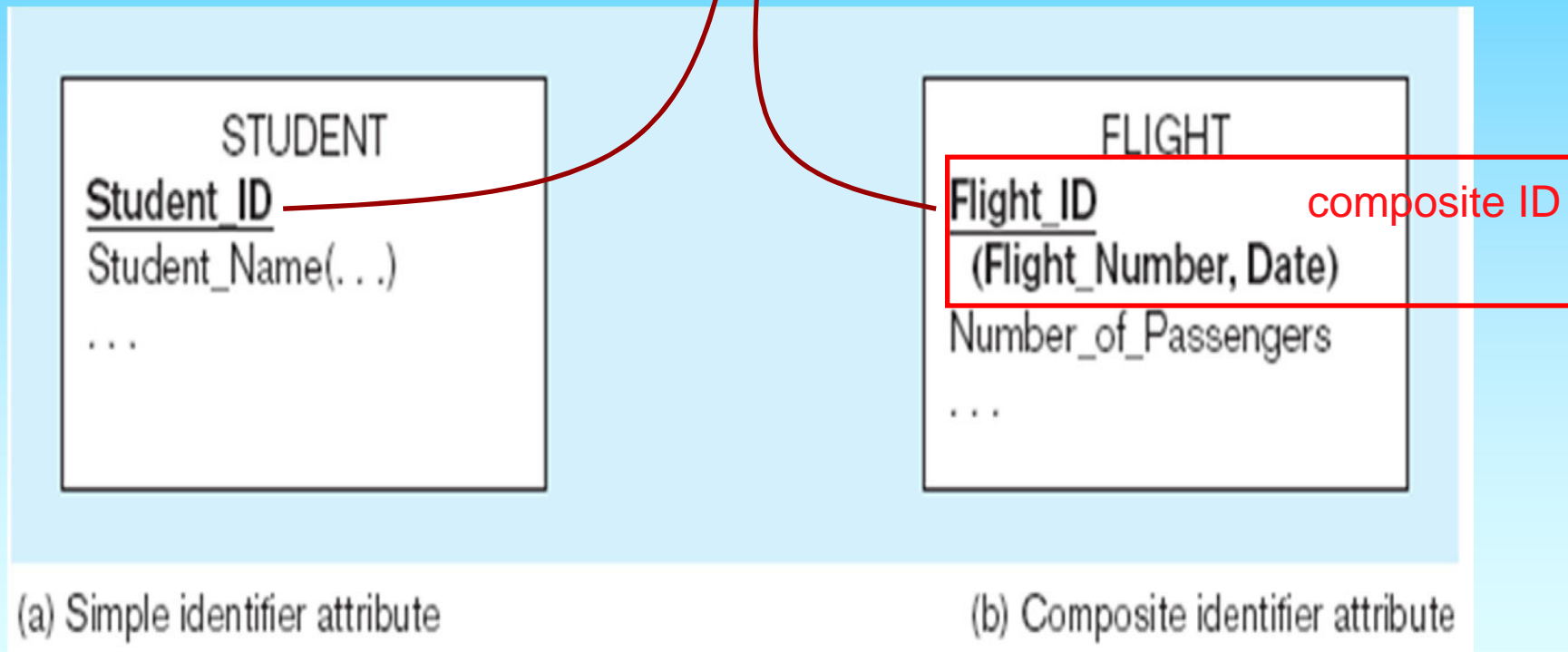
because the travel number is duplicated we use its data in addition to its number as a composite identifier

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Figure 3-19 Simple example of time-stamping

PRODUCT
Product_ID
{Price_History
    (Effective_Date, Price)}

This attribute that is both multivalued *and* composite

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More on Relationships

- Relationship Types vs. Relationship Instances
    - The relationship type is modeled as lines between entity types...the instance is between specific entity instances
- Relationships can have attributes
    - These describe features pertaining to the association between the entities in the relationship
- Two entities can have more than one type of relationship between them (multiple relationships)
- Associative Entity – combination of relationship and entity

associative entity can have ID of one of its strong IDs

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Figure 3-10 Relationship types and instances

a) Relationship type

good

b) Relationship instances

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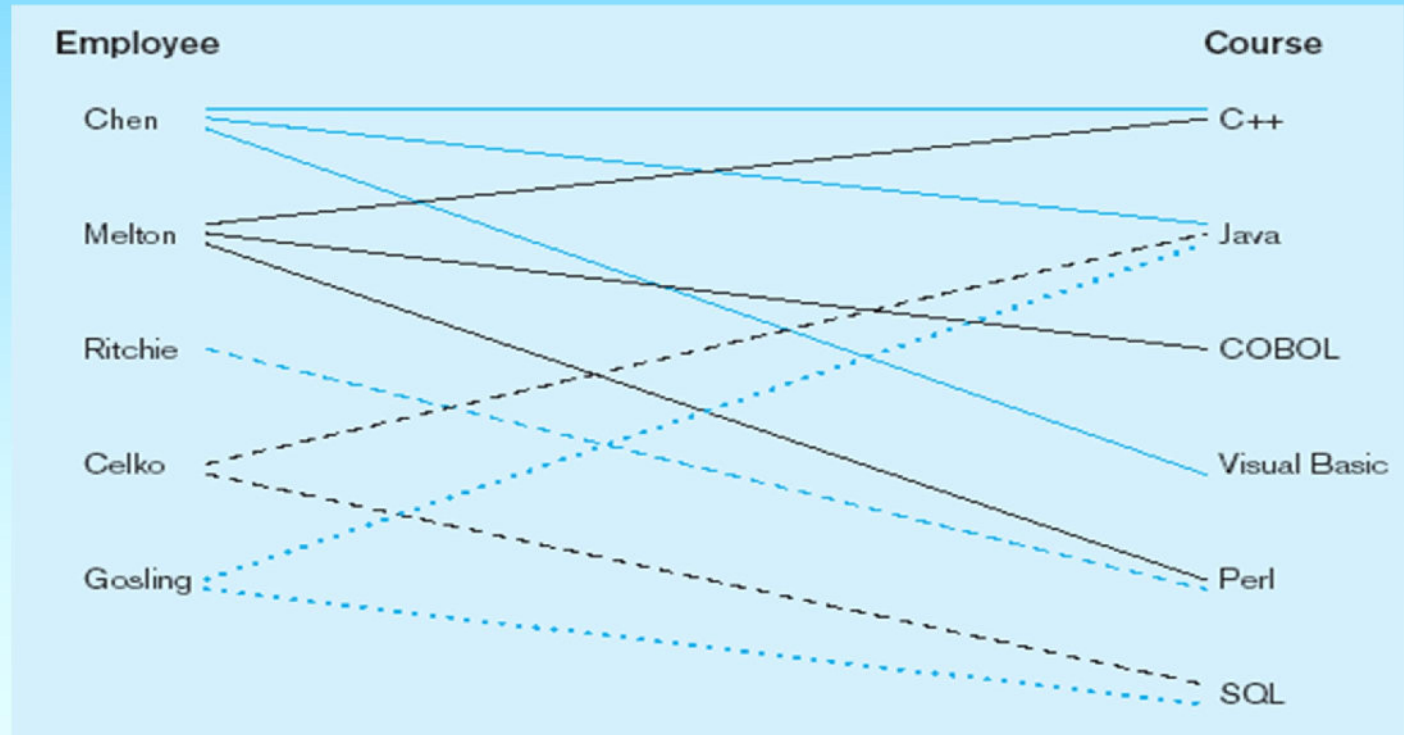
Degree of Relationships

- Degree of a relationship is the number of entity types that participate in it
  - Unary Relationship
  - Binary Relationship
  - Ternary Relationship

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Degree of relationships – from Figure 3-2
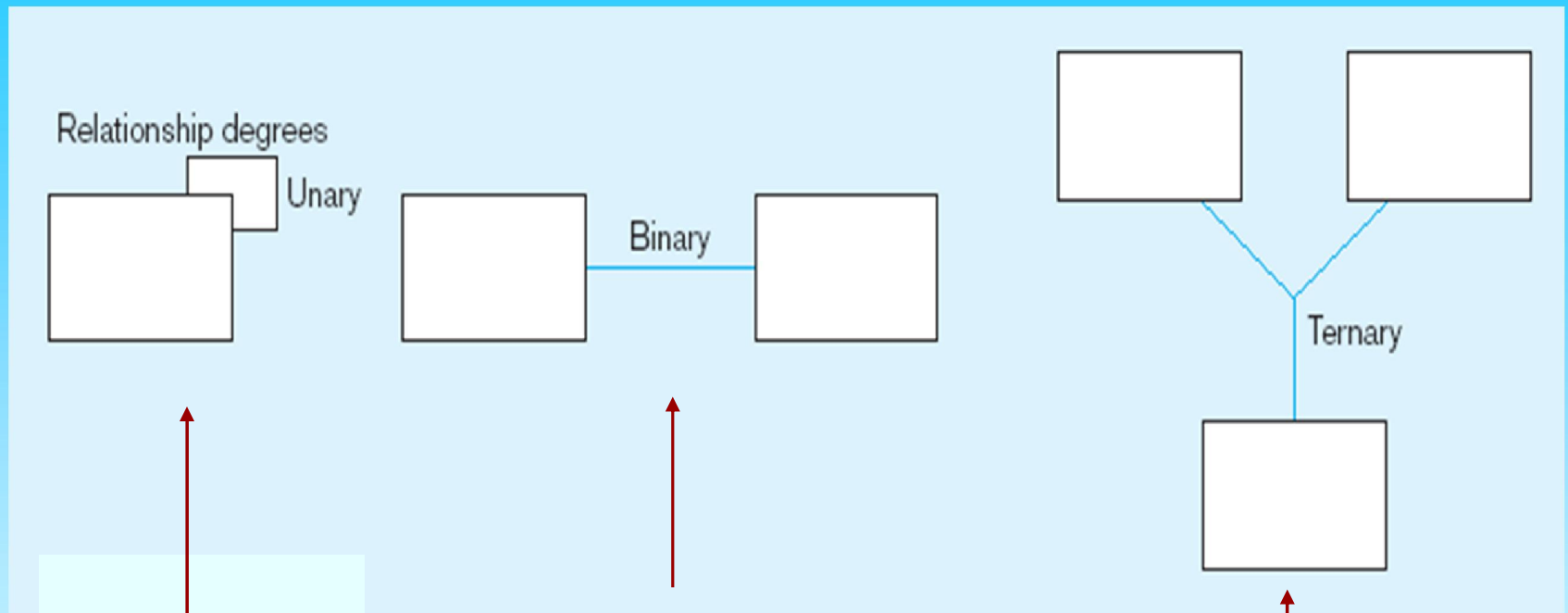
One entity related to another of the same entity type

Entities of two different types related to each other

Entities of three different types related to each other

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Cardinality of Relationships

- ## One-to-One
  - Each entity in the relationship will have exactly **one** related entity

- ## One-to-Many
  - An entity on one side of the relationship can have many related entities, but an entity on the other side will have a maximum of one related entity

- ## Many-to-Many
  - Entities on both sides of the relationship can have many related entities on the other side

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Cardinality Constraints

- Cardinality Constraints - the number of instances of one entity that can or must be associated with each instance of another entity

- Minimum Cardinality
  - If zero, then **optional**
  - If one or more, then **mandatory**
- Maximum Cardinality
  - The maximum number

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Figure 3-12 Examples of relationships of different degrees
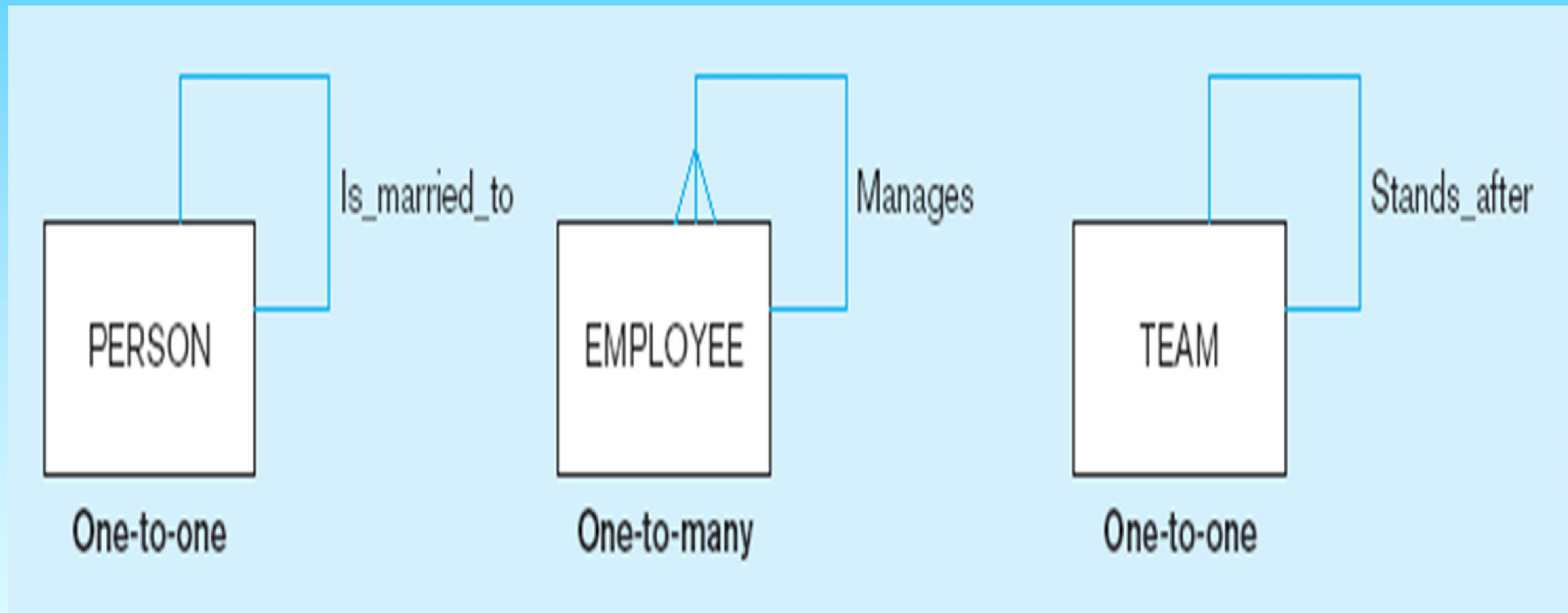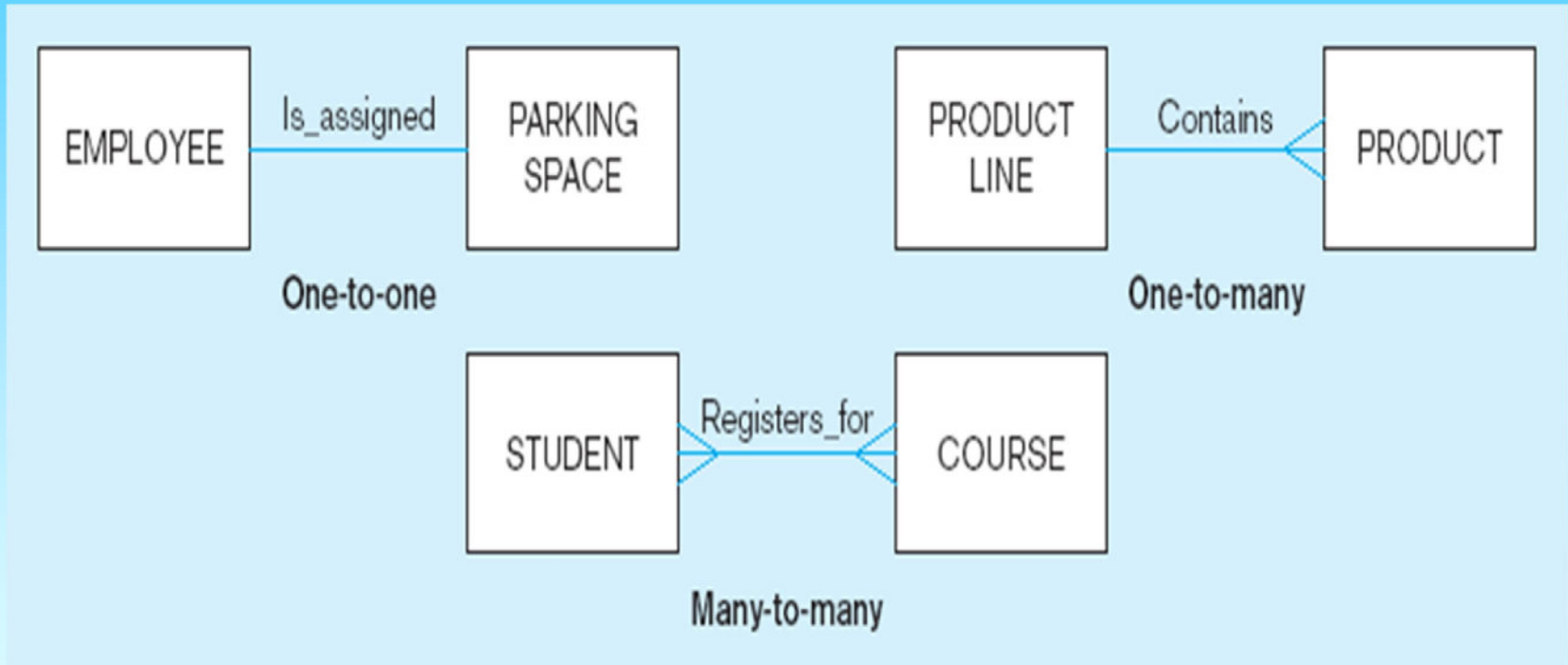
a) **Unary** relationships rarely found in reality

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Figure 3-12 Examples of relationships of different degrees (cont.)

b) Binary relationships

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Figure 3-12 Examples of relationships of different degrees (cont.)

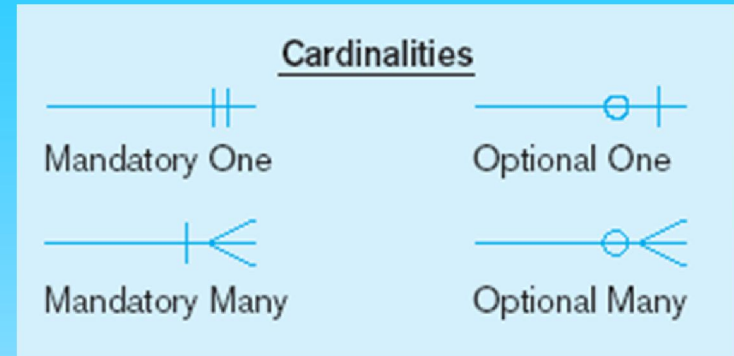c) Ternary relationship
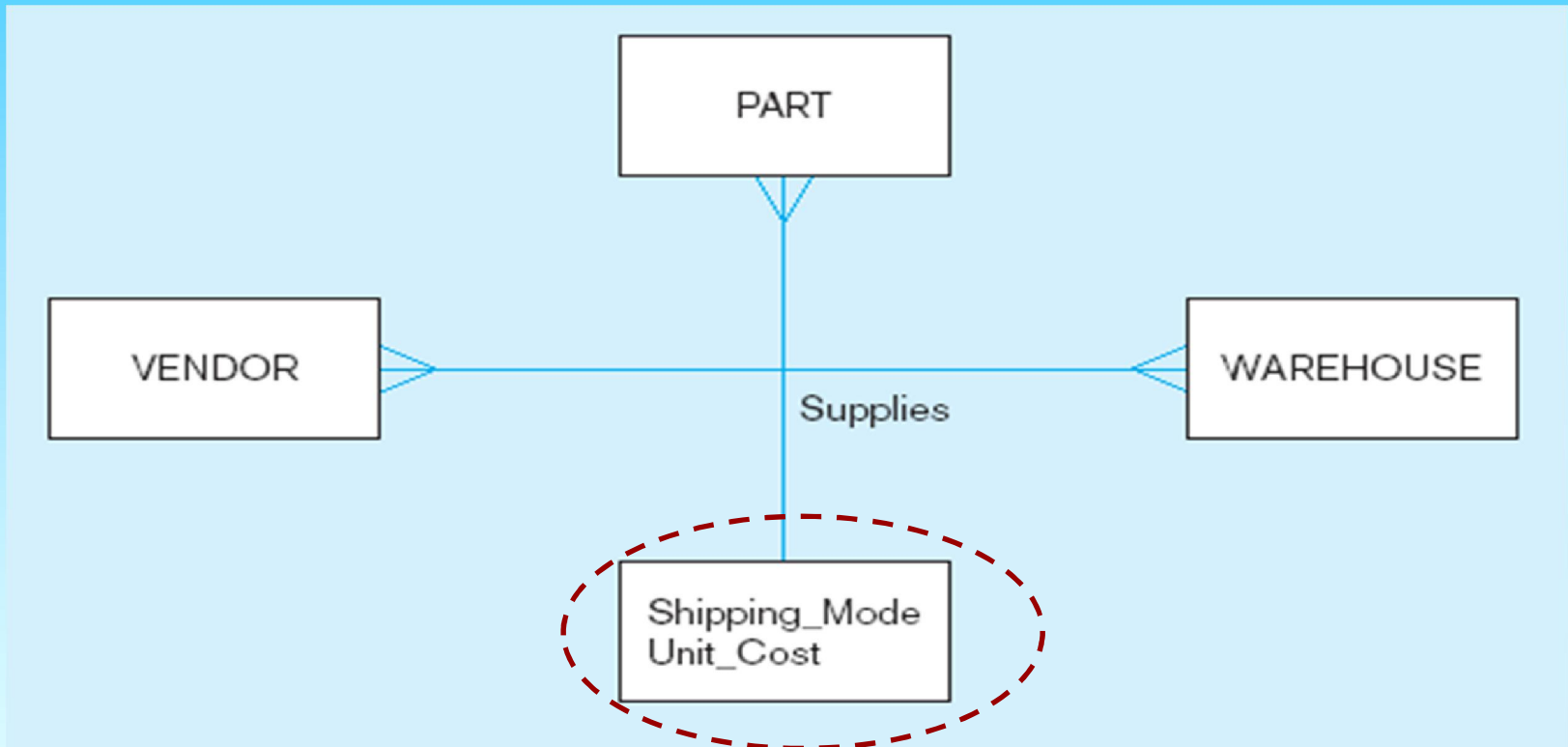
Note: a relationship can have attributes of its own

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Figure 3-17 Examples of cardinality constraints

a) Mandatory cardinalities
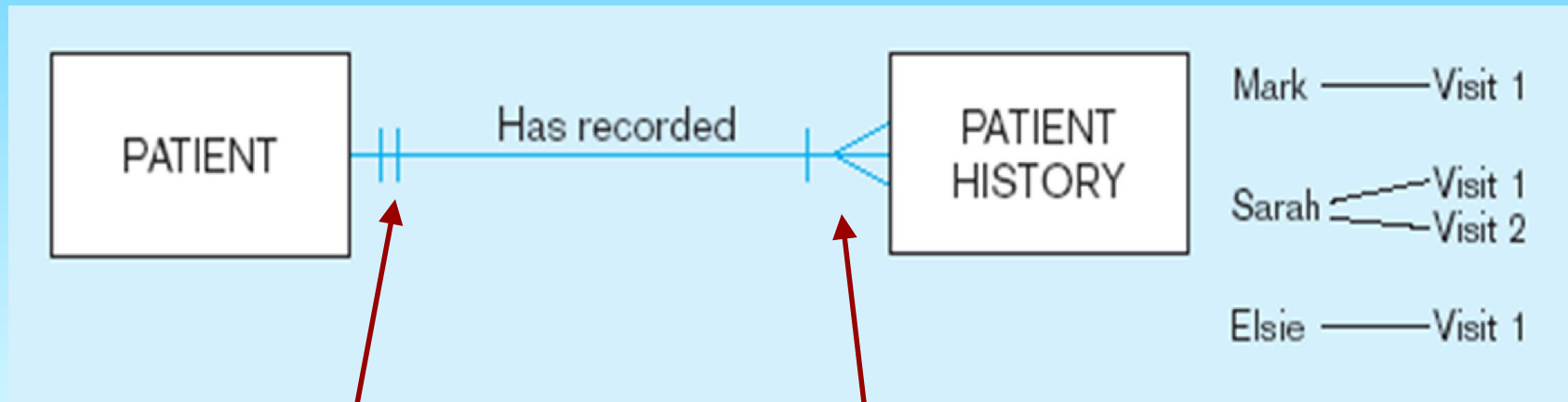
A patient history is recorded for one and only one patient

A patient must have recorded at least one history, and can have many

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Figure 3-17 Examples of cardinality constraints (cont.)

b) One optional, One mandatory

A project must be assigned to at least one employee, and may be assigned to many

An employee can be assigned to any number of projects, or may not be assigned to any at all
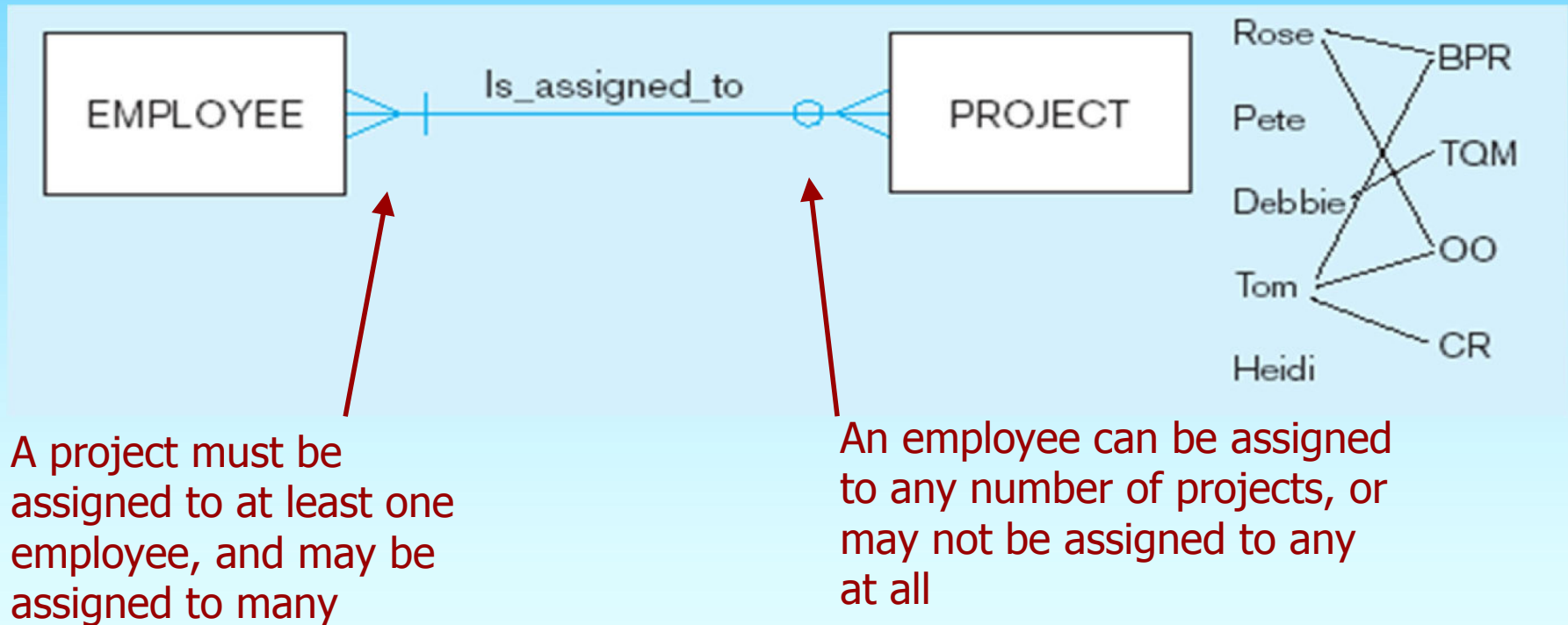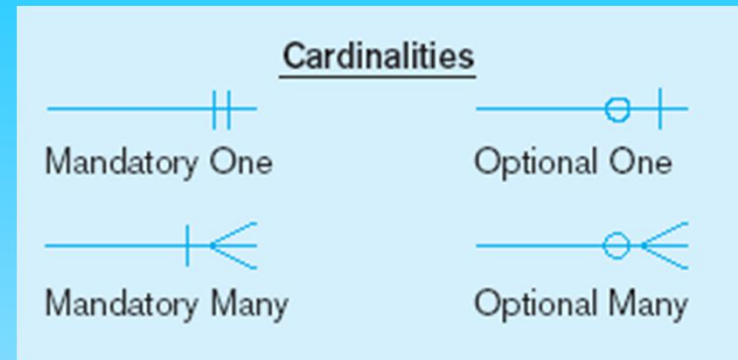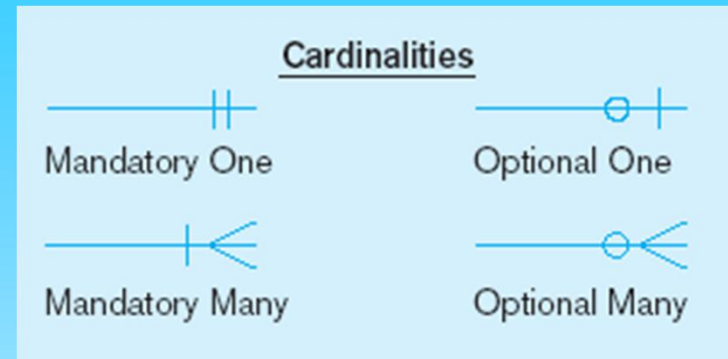
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Figure 3-17 Examples of cardinality constraints (cont.)

a) Optional cardinalities

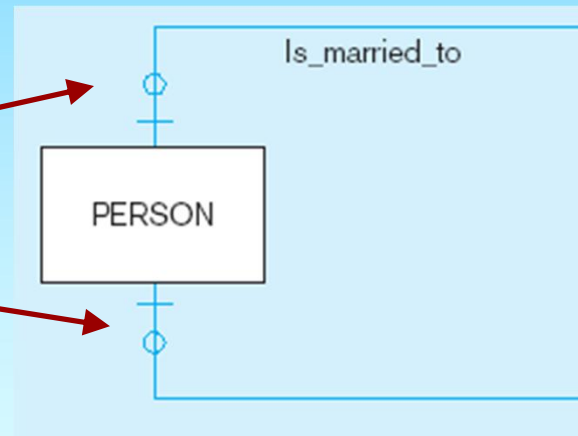A person is married to at most one other person, or may not be married at all
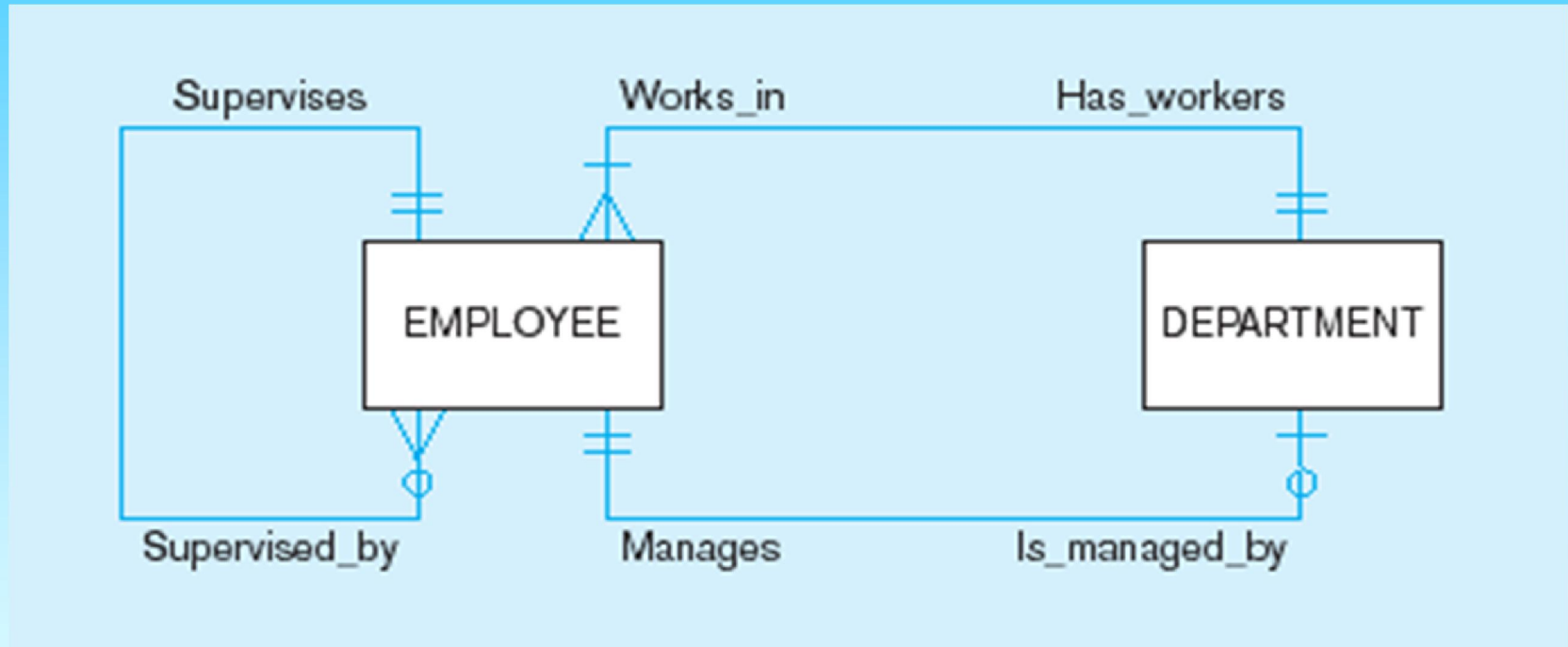
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Figure 3-21 Examples of multiple relationships

a) Employees and departments

Entities can be related to one another in more than one way

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Figure 3-21 Examples of multiple relationships (cont.)

b) Professors and courses (fixed lower limit constraint)

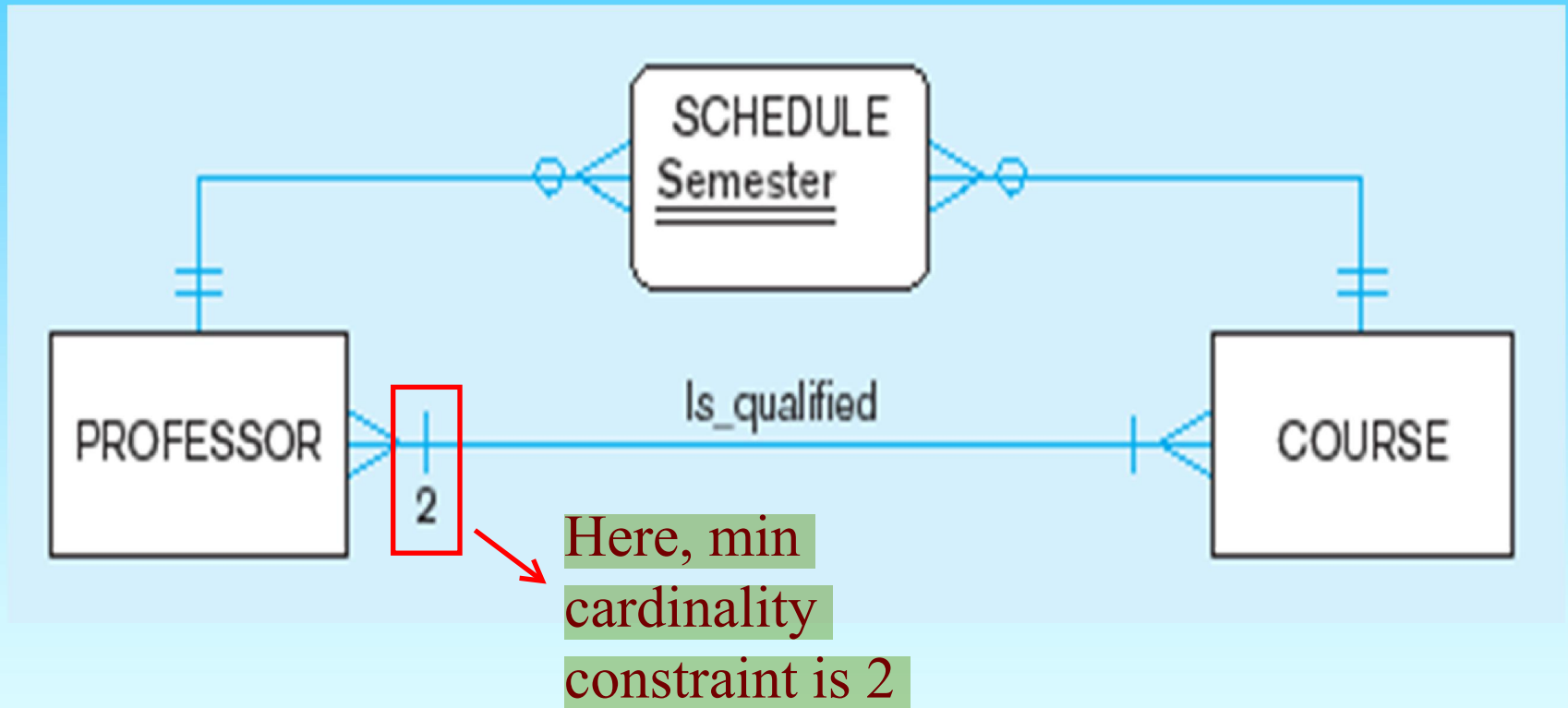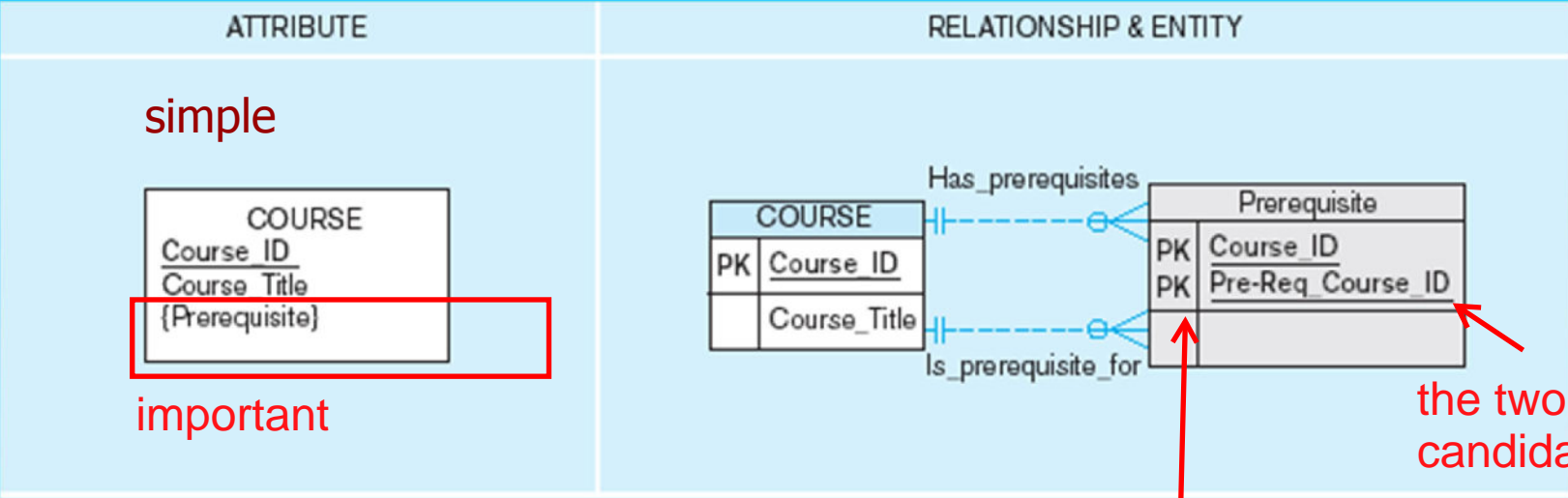Here, min cardinality constraint is 2

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Figure 3-15a and 3-15b Multivalued attributes can be represented as relationships

simple

important

composite ID

the two are candidate ID

good example

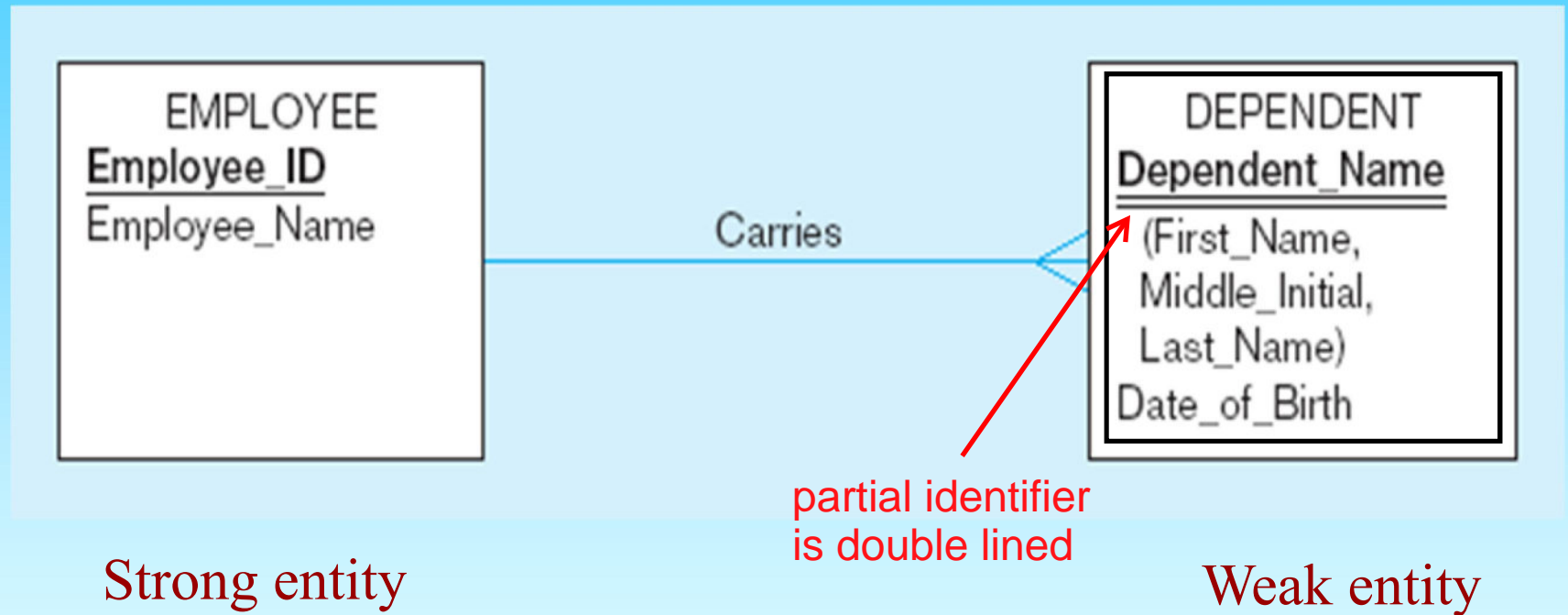composite

should add number of year

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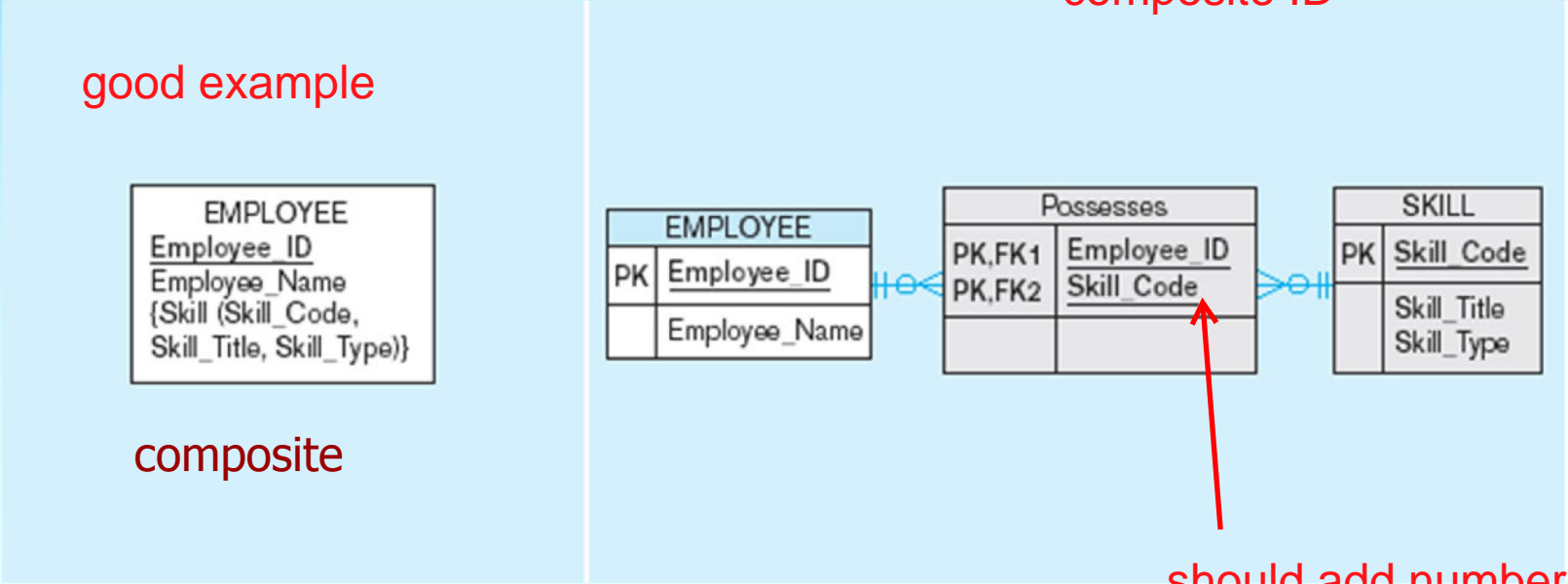
Strong vs. Weak Entities, and Identifying Relationships

- **Strong** entities
    - exist independently of other types of entities
    - has its own unique identifier
    - identifier underlined with single-line
- **Weak** entity
    - dependent on a strong entity (identifying owner)
    - cannot exist on its own
    - does not have a unique identifier (only a partial identifier)
    - Partial identifier underlined with double-line
    - Entity box has double line
- **Identifying** relationship
    - links strong entities to weak entities

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Identifying relationship

Strong entity

EMPLOYEE
Employee_ID
Employee_Name

Carries

DEPENDENT
Dependent_Name
(First_Name,
Middle_Initial,
Last_Name)
Date_of_Birth

partial identifier
is double lined

Weak entity

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Associative Entities

- An **entity** – has attributes
- A **relationship** – links entities together
- When should a *relationship with attributes* instead be an *associative entity*?
  - All relationships for the associative entity should be **many**
  - The associative entity could have **meaning** independent of the other entities
  - The associative entity preferably has a **unique identifier**, and should also have other attributes
  - The associative entity may participate in **other relationships** other than the entities of the associated relationship
  - **Ternary** relationships should be converted to **associative entities**

Figure 3-11a A binary relationship with an attribute
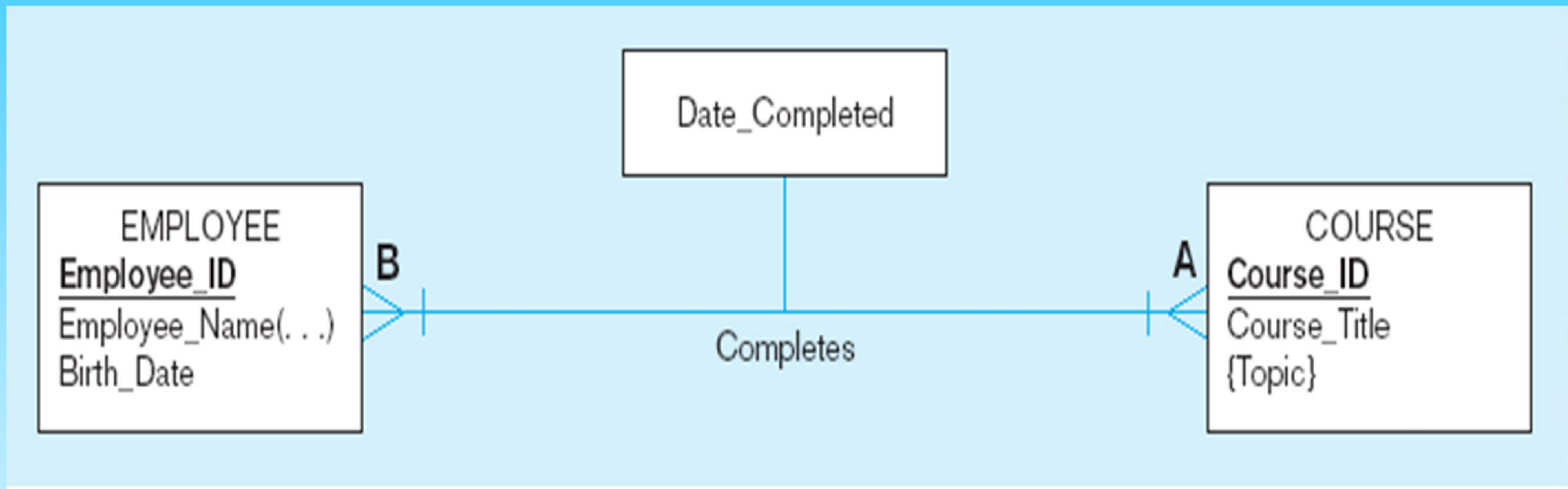
Here, the **date completed** attribute pertains specifically to the employee's completion of a course…it is an attribute of the *relationship*
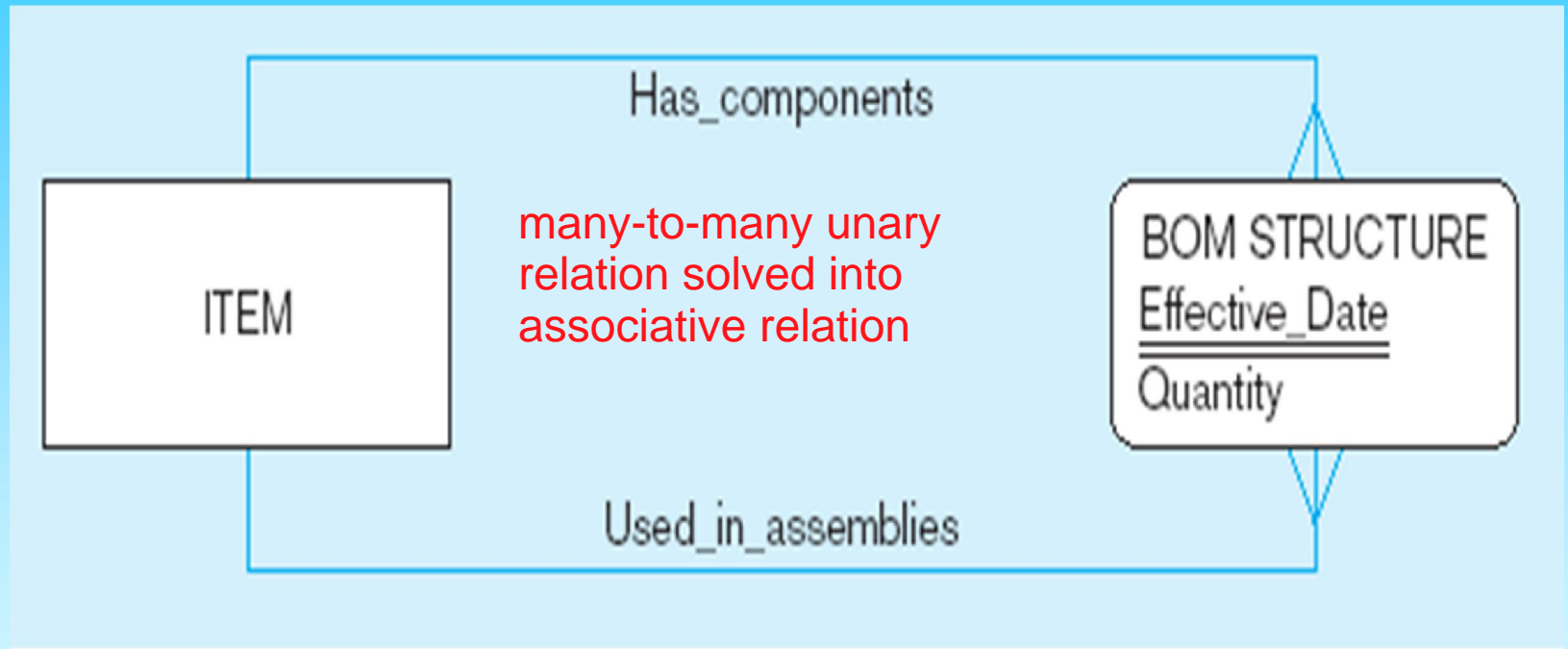
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Figure 3-11b An associative entity (CERTIFICATE)
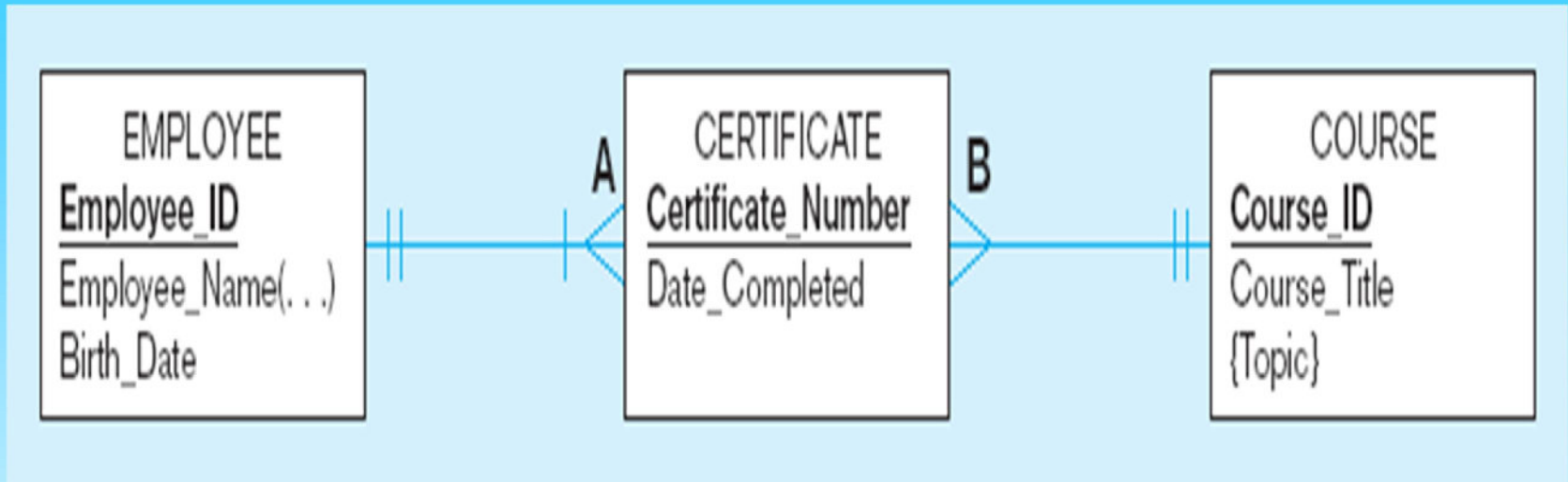
Associative entity is like a relationship with an attribute, but it is also considered to be an *entity in its own right.*
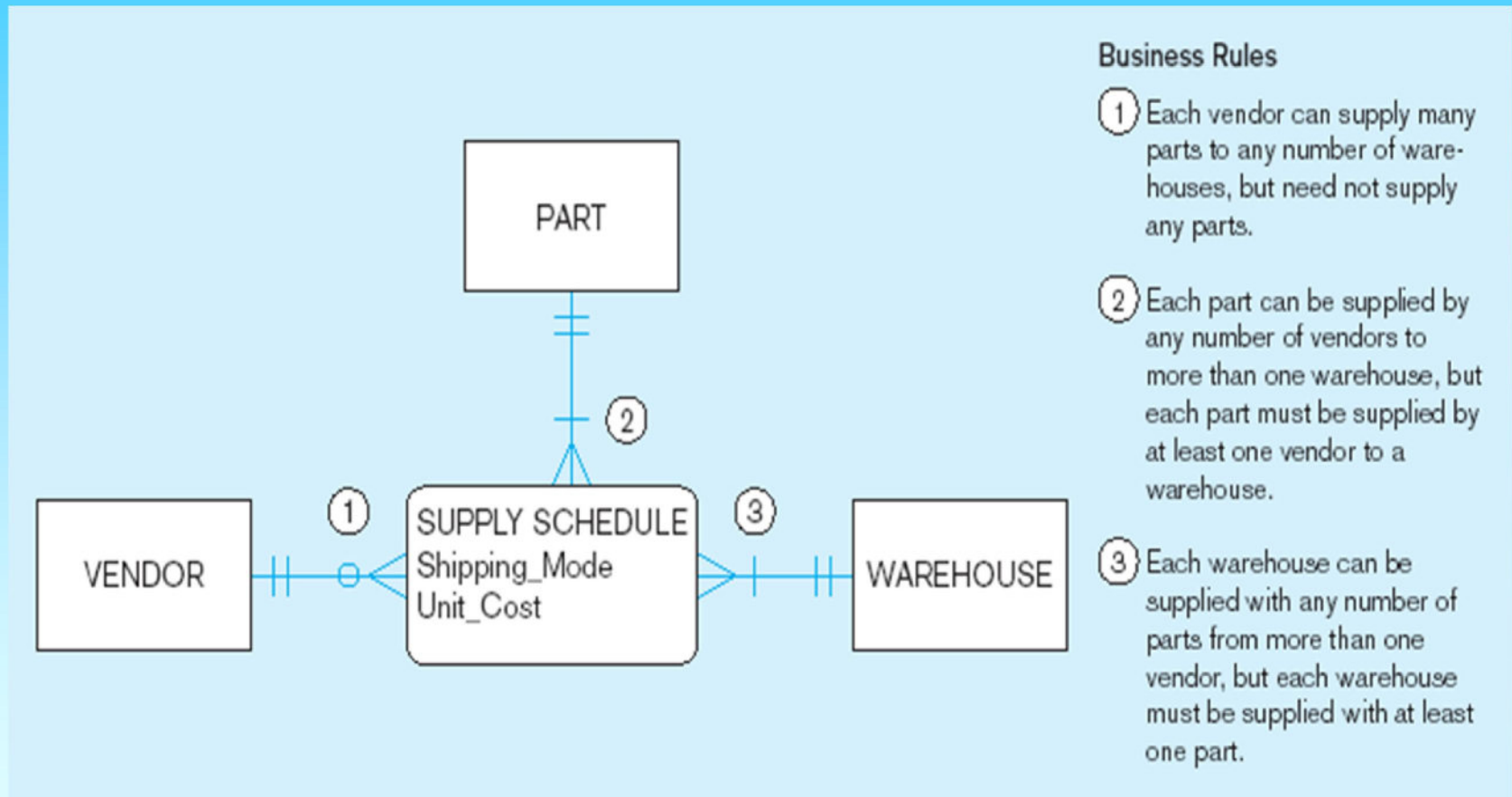
Note that the many-to-many cardinality between entities in Figure 3-11a has been replaced by two one-to-many relationships with the associative entity.

Figure 3-13c An associative entity – **bill of materials structure**

Has_components

ITEM

many-to-many unary relation solved into associative relation

BOM STRUCTURE
Effective_Date

Quantity

Used_in_assemblies

This could just be a relationship with attributes…it's a judgment call

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Figure 3-18 Ternary relationship as an associative entity

Business Rules

1. Each vendor can supply many parts to any number of warehouses, but need not supply any parts.

2. Each part can be supplied by any number of vendors to more than one warehouse, but each part must be supplied by at least one vendor to a warehouse.

3. Each warehouse can be supplied with any number of parts from more than one vendor, but each warehouse must be supplied with at least one part.

Microsoft Visio Notation for Pine Valley Furniture E-R diagram

Different modeling software tools may have different notation for the same constructs

Chapter 3

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