

# Relational Database Model

## Basic Structure

Relation/Table

Named

No repeating fields

Columns

named attributes

must be atomic values

values valid within a domain

Rows

also called tuples

similar to record

must have primary key

Keys

Super key: attribute(s) that identify a tuple. always at least one. relation can have more than one

Candidate key: min set of attributes that uniquely identify a tuple. minimal superkey. may be more than one.

Primary key: one per relation only. chosen candidate key

## Examples

Employee (Emp-ID, Emp-Name, Emp-Birthdate, Emp-Address, Emp-Salary)

■ - Super key

■ - Candidate key

■ - Primary key

Employee-Project (Emp-ID, Project-ID, Emp-Title-Proj, Hours-Worked)

## Foreign Key

used to reference another relation

## Terminology

Domain - set of atomic valid values of one or more attribute.  
may be specified as a data type

Atomic Values - indivisible data values

Null Value - designates a missing value

Degree - number of attributes (columns) in a relation

Cardinality - number of rows in a relation

Intension - Schema of a relation

Extension - data (tuples) in a relation

## Characteristics of a Relation

1) ordering of rows w/in a relation

no particular order. ~~no~~ unordered set

2) ordering of attributes w/in a relation

no particular order as long as attribute and value is maintained

## Relational Constraints

### Domain/Integrity Constraints

specify the valid values of each attribute

### Entity Integrity Constraints

states that no attribute of a primary key can contain a null value

### Referential Integrity Constraint

a foreign key can contain a valid value of the primary key in the home relation OR contain a null value

## Relational Operators

Update operators - insert, delete, modify

Retrieval operators - relational algebra, relational calculus, SQL

## SQL (structured query language)

Comprehensive database language

← DDL, DML, view definition,

data  
definition  
language

→ data manipulation language  
→ SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE  
→ CREATE, DROP, ALTER

## Normalization to 3NF

### Redundancy

when attribute values are repeated unnecessarily

### Anomalies

caused by redundant info. must find all copies of info in order to prevent inconsistencies when updating

#### Deletion Anomaly

occurs when data is lost during a deletion that we still want

#### Insertion Anomaly

occurs when we cannot insert some info into a row because of a violation

### Functional Dependency

constraints in the data that depend upon whether or not two tuples agree on certain components

Person (SSN, Age, Gender)

FD = {  $SSN \rightarrow Age$   
 $SSN \rightarrow Gender$   
 $Age \rightarrow Gender$  }

Since two people of the same age can be of different genders

### Normal values

1NF (First Normal Form)

all values are atomic

2NF (Second Normal Form)

in 2NF if it's in 1NF and each ~~non~~ non-prime attributes are fully dependent on PK

3NF (Third Normal Form)

in 3NF if it's in 2NF and none of its non-prime attributes are "transitively dependent" on its key

↳ np attribute is "—" upon the pk of a relation

if there is also a np attribute that functionally determines the attribute

prime attribute - attribute that appears in a key of a relation

non-prime attribute - attribute that doesn't appear in a key of a relation

# SQL

## Create Table Syntax

CREATE TABLE <table-name> (

<attribute> <type>

[not null] [unique] [pk]

{, <attribute> <type>

[not null] [unique] [pk]}

[, <pk constraint>]

{, <foreign key constraint>});

name of attribute in table to be identified

can be integer, float/real, decimal(i, j),  
char(n), varchar(n).

## Examples

CREATE TABLE person (

ssn char(9) primary key,

fname char(10) not null,

lname char(10) not null,

phone# char(10));

CREATE TABLE student (

ssn char(9),

classification char(6),

gpa decimal(4,3),

total\_hours integer,

primary key (ssn),

foreign key (ssn) references person (ssn));

## ALTER TABLE Syntax

ALTER TABLE <table-name> add (

<attribute> <type>

{, <attribute> <type>});

ALTER TABLE <table-name> modify (

<attribute> ~~<type>~~ <new-length>

{, <attribute> <new-length>});

Example)

```
alter table person add (  
    birthdate char(8));  
alter table section modify (  
    title char(25),  
    description char(50));
```

DROP TABLE Syntax

```
DROP TABLE <table-name>  
[cascade constraints];
```

Example

```
DROP TABLE person;  
cascade constraints;
```

INSERT Syntax

```
insert into <table-name>  
values (<value-list>);
```

```
insert into <table-name>  
(<attribute-list>)  
values (<value-list>);
```

```
insert into <table-name>  
select * from <another-table-name>;
```

Examples

```
insert into student  
values ('298344', 'senior', 3.294, 110);
```

Delete syntax

```
delete from <table-name>  
[where <condition>;]
```

UPDATE Syntax Example

```
update student  
set classification = 'senior'  
where total_hours > 90;
```