

### 4.1.1 Relational Model Theory

Given these two relations:

**CUSTOMER** (cust\_id, cust\_name, cust\_address) **ORDER** (order\_id, order\_date, cust\_id)

Assuming that a customer may have any number of orders and each order is placed by a single customer, discuss the following terms based on the above relations:

1. **Relation** – a set of attributes – CUSTOMER, ORDER

2. **Attribute** – characteristics of a relation - cust\_id, cust\_name, cust\_address; order\_id, order\_date, cust\_id

3. **Domain** – attribute must relate to a domain – a list of possible values + data type and format {e.g.: 11/01/2023 and mm/dd/yyyy} - need to have a domain name

4. **Tuple** – a set of values that describe a particular instance of a relation

5. **Degree and cardinality of a relation** –

**Degree:** number of attributes of a relation [eg: CUSTOMER – degree is 3; ORDER – degree is 3]

**Cardinality:** Number of tuples

6. **Primary key and foreign key:**

**Primary Key:** Unique Identifier

**Foreign Key:** Primary key in the other relation/ also exists in its own relation (eg: cust\_id)

## 4.1.2 Choosing the Primary key

1.) In any relation, tuples must be unique. However, in many cases, the set of all the attributes in a relation is not considered a candidate key. Why not?

On the other hand, suppose we do have a relation where the set of all attributes is a candidate key. In this case, show that this set must, therefore, be the only candidate key and hence the primary key. Employee (emp\_no, emp\_name, emp\_dob, emp\_tfn)

Super Key: a set of attributes to unique identify (emp\_no, emp\_tfn)/ (emp\_no, emp\_name, emp\_dob)

Candidate key: minimal super key- superkey that cannot be reduced any further

Example2 – SUPERVISION(student\_id, teacher\_id)

Superkey- student\_id, teacher\_id

Candidatekey - student\_id, teacher\_id

Primarykey- student\_id, teacher\_id

2.) Identify the primary key and foreign key for these three relations:

**ORDER (order\_id, order\_date, cust\_id)**

Primary key- order\_id

Foreign Key – ~~cust\_id~~ – we don't know, hence cant assume

**ORDERLINE (order\_id, prod\_no, ol\_qtyordered, ol\_lineprice)**

Primary key – order\_id, prod\_no (1 primary key with 2 attributes)

Foreign Key – order\_id, prod\_no

**PRODUCT (prod\_no, prod\_desc, prod\_unitprice)**

Primary key- prod\_no.

3.) Consider a relation that depicts a dental surgery appointment system.

**APPOINTMENT (dentist\_id, dentist\_name, patient\_id, patient\_name, appointment\_datetime, surgery\_roomno)**

Identify the superkey(s), candidate key(s) and the primary key for the relation if the following business rules are applicable:

- A dentist can only see a single patient at a particular date and time

Super Key: dentist\_id, dentist\_name, patient\_id, patient\_name, appointment\_datetime, surgery\_roomno

Candidate Key: dentist\_id, appointment\_datetime

patient\_id, appointment\_datetime

surgery\_room, appointment\_datetime

Primary Key: dentist\_id, appointment\_datetime  
patient\_id, appointment\_datetime  
surgery\_room, appointment\_datetime

- A dentist treats a patient in a particular surgery room, and  
Super Key: dentist\_id, dentist\_name, patient\_id, patient\_name,  
appointment\_datetime, surgery\_roomno

Candidate Key:

Primary Key:

- A patient can see the same dentist multiple times