Entity Relationship Diagram Concepts

Entity Relationship Modeling

Entity-Relationship Diagram (ERD)

identifies information required by the business by displaying the relevant entities and the relationships between them.

The ER Model

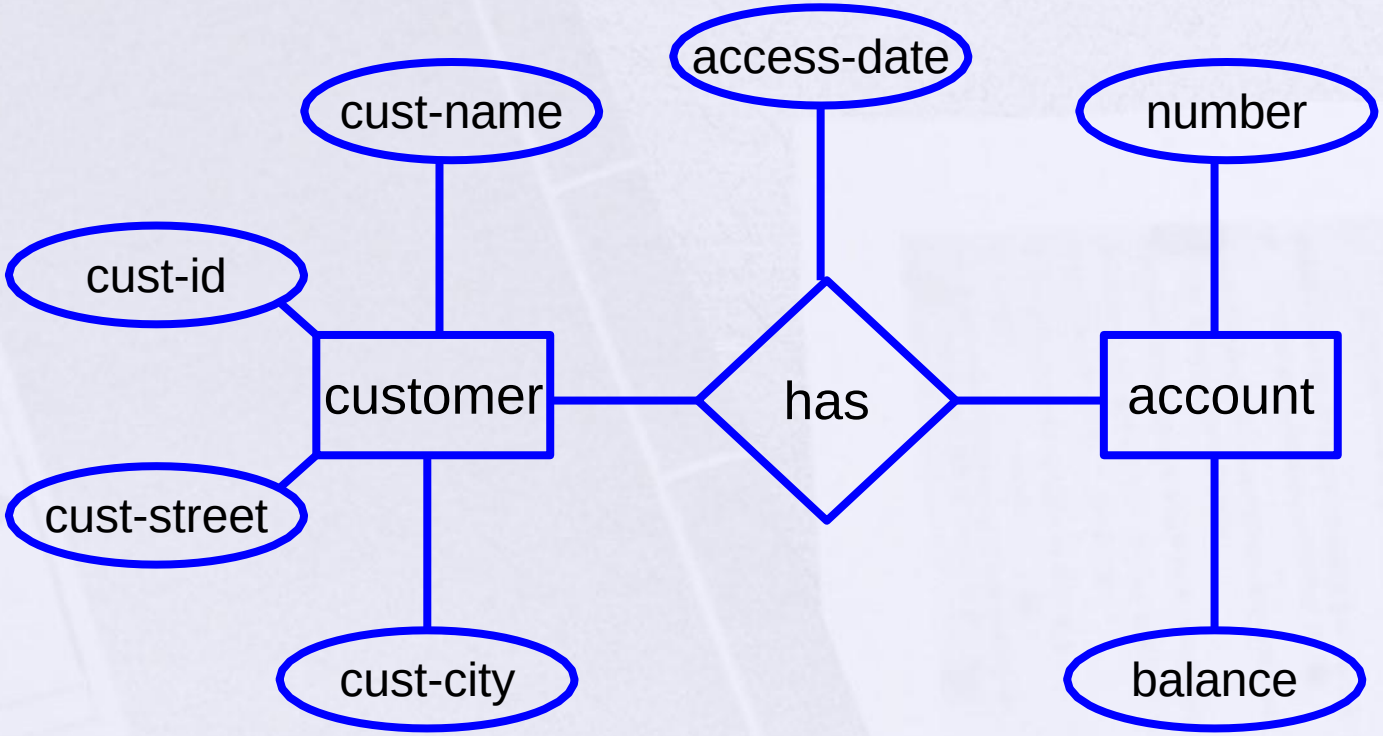
Basic constructs of the E-R model:

1. **Entities** - person, place, object, event, concept (often corresponds to a real time object that is distinguishable from any other object)

2. **Attributes** - property or characteristic of an entity type (often corresponds to a field in a table)

3. **Relationships** – link between entities (corresponds to primary key-foreign key equivalencies in related tables)

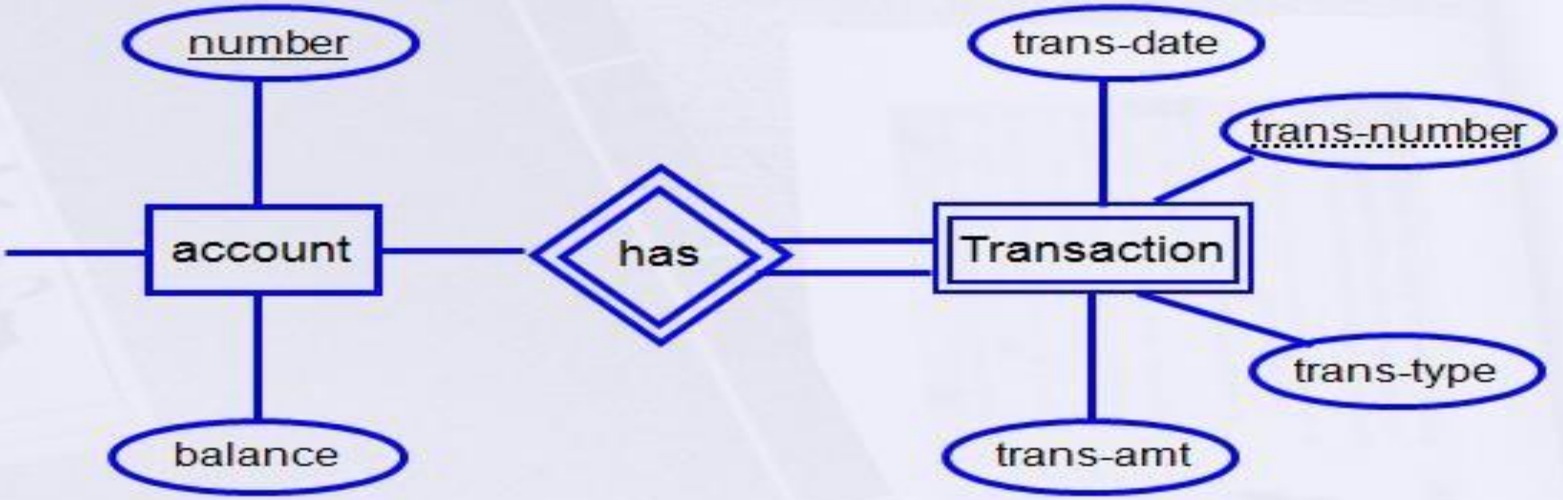
ER Diagram: Starting Example



- Rectangles: entity sets
- Diamonds: relationship sets
- Ellipses: attributes

Strong Entity Vs Weak Entity

- A **Strong Entity-** An Entity set that has a primary key.
- A **Weak Entity-** An entity set that do not have sufficient attributes to form a primary key.

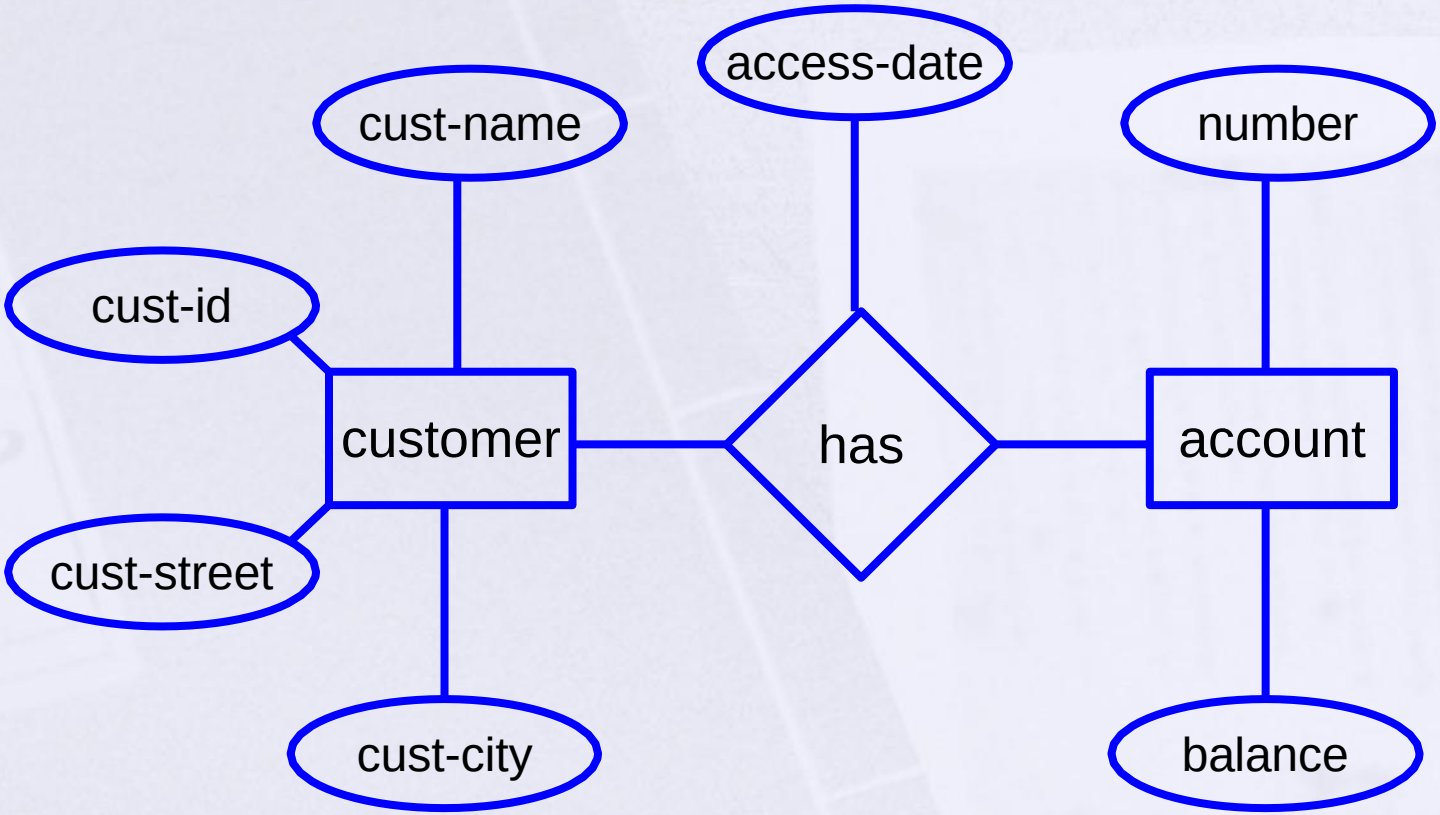


Partial key: A set of attributes that can be associated with P.K of an owner entity set to distinguish a weak entity.

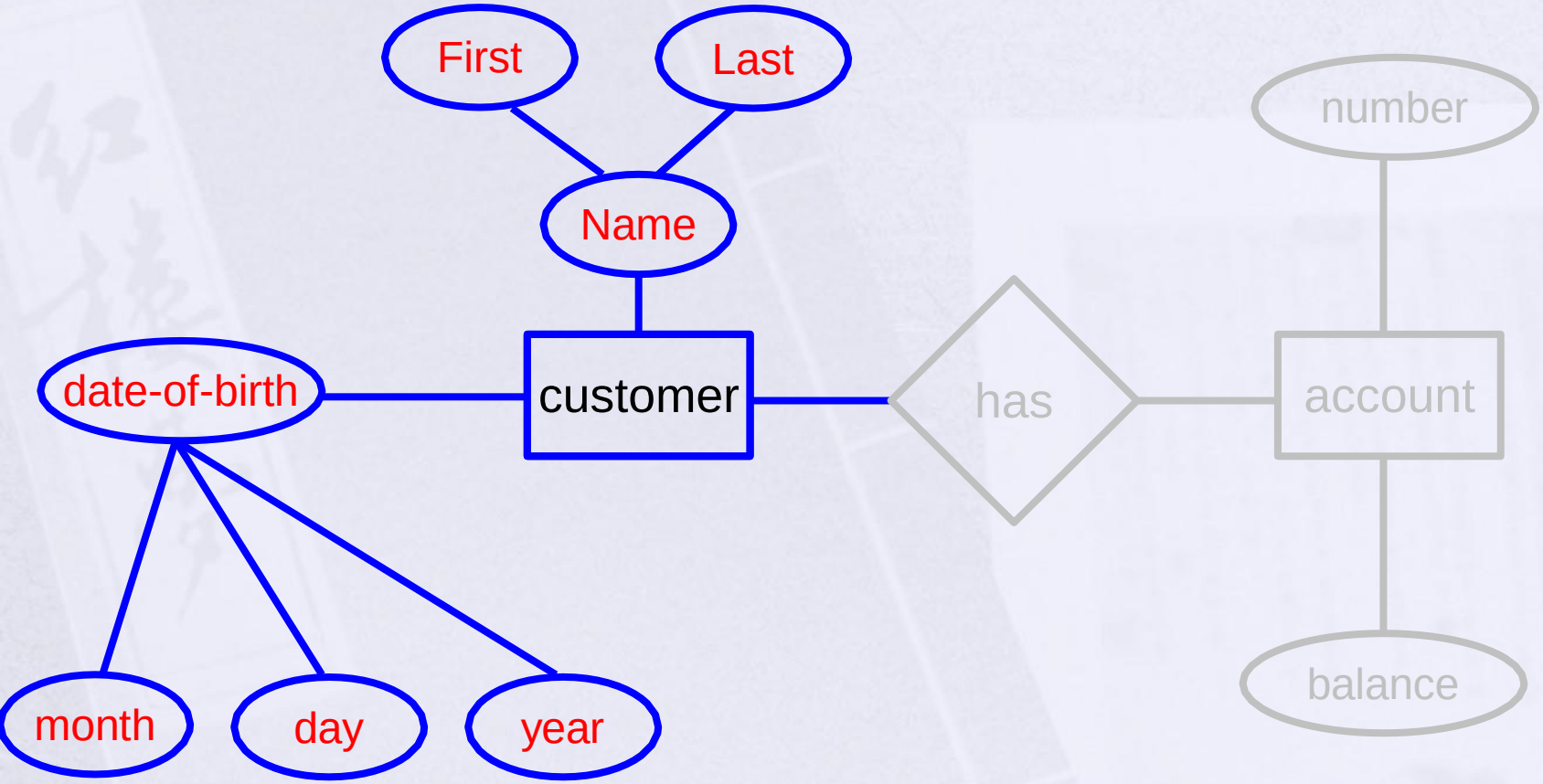
Next: Types of Attributes

1. **Composite Attribute**
2. **Multi-valued Attribute**
3. **Derived Attribute**
4. **Complex Attribute**
5. **Simple Attribute**

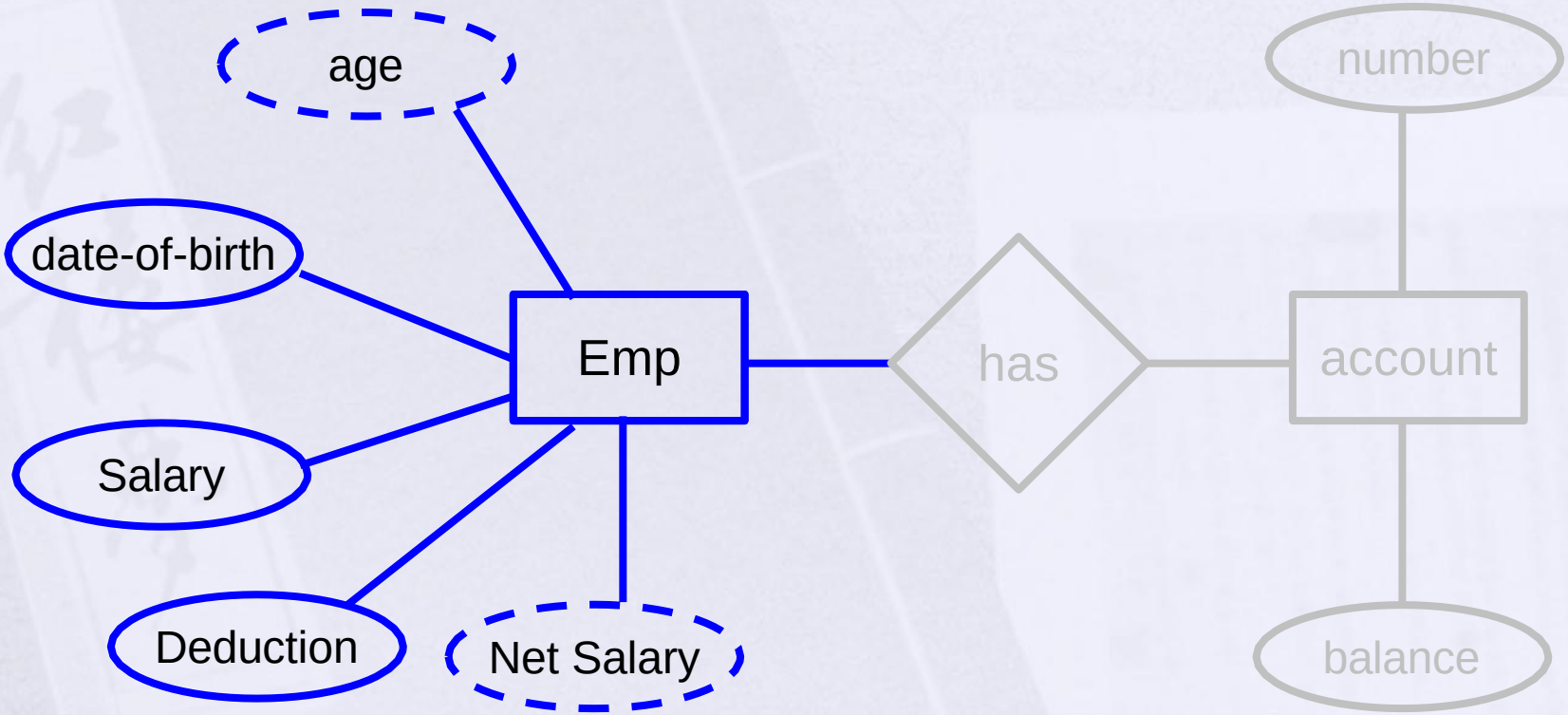
Simple Attribute



Composite Attribute

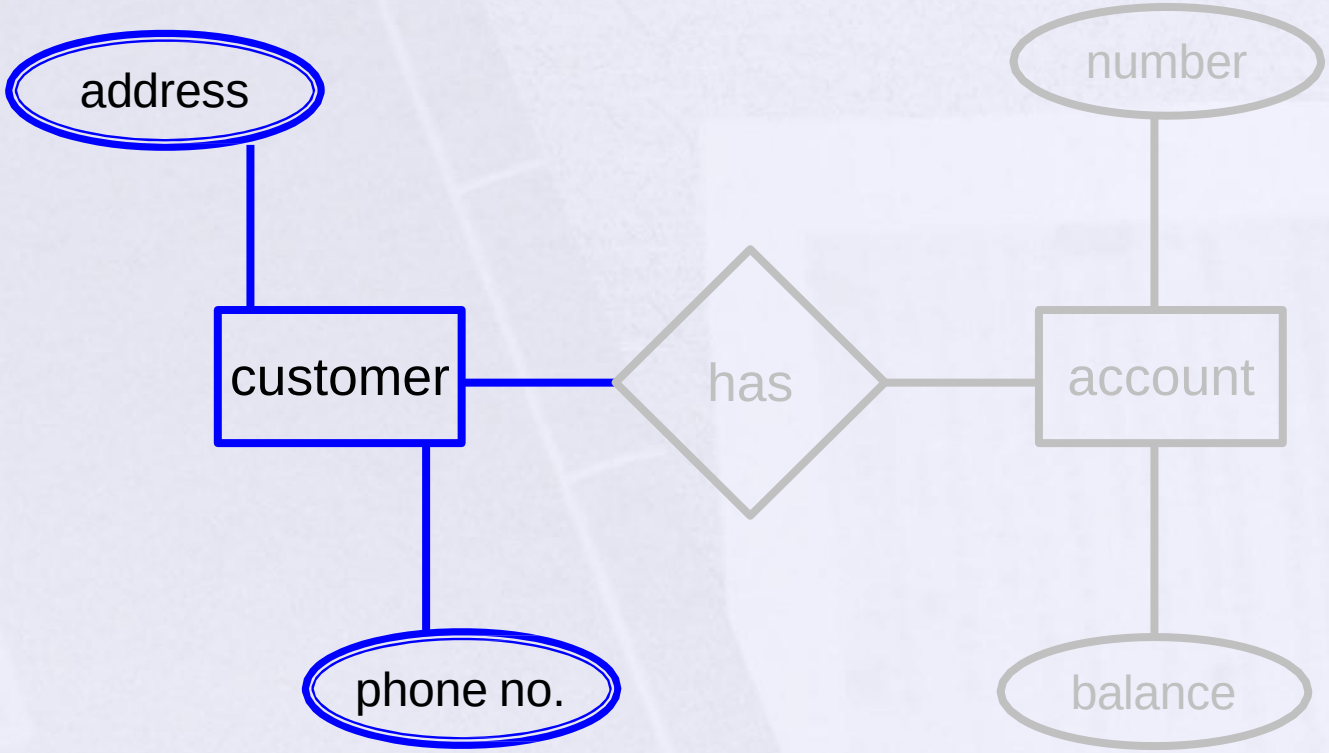


Derived Attribute



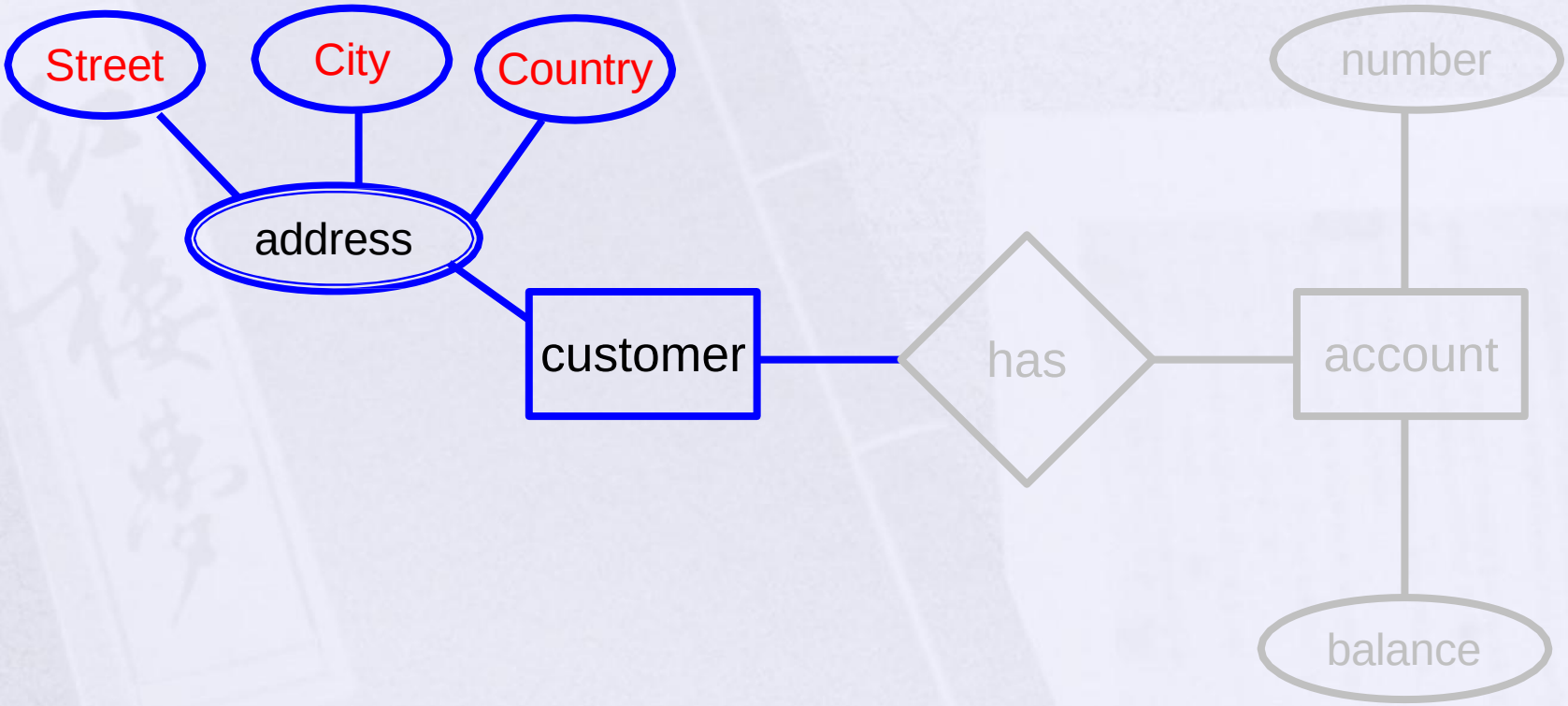
- **derived (dashed ellipse)**

Multi-valued



- **multi-valued (double ellipse)**

Complex Attribute



- **multi-valued + Composite**

Relationship

- A Relationship is an association among several entities.
- A relationship may also have attributes

For example, consider the entity sets customer and loan and the relationship set borrower. We could associate the attribute date-issued to that relationship to specify the date when the loan was issued.

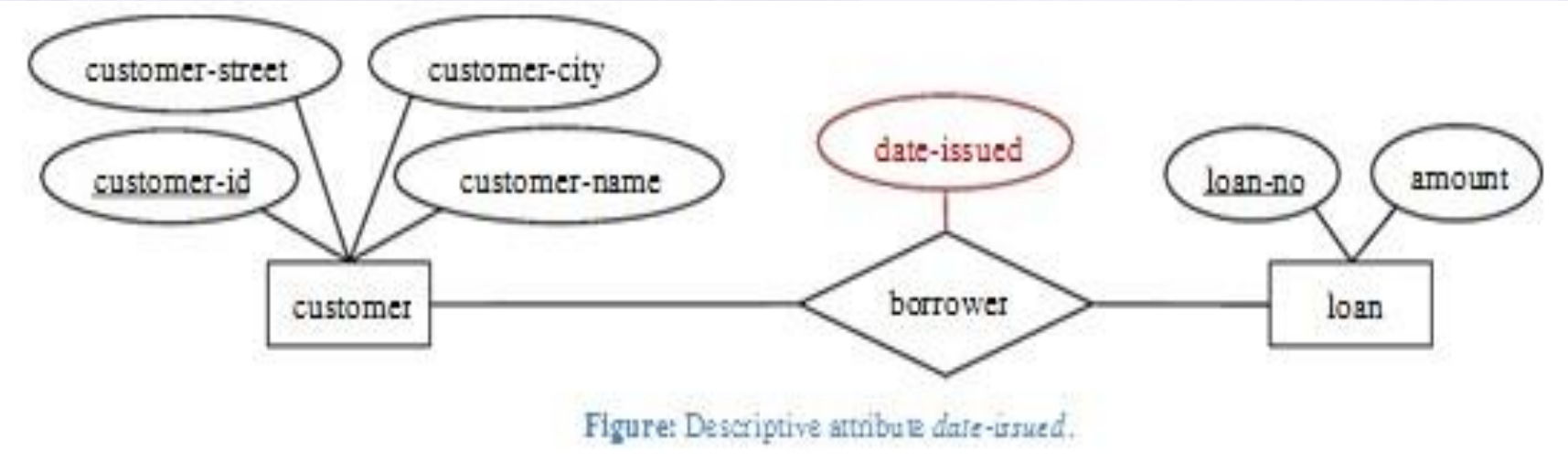


Figure: Descriptive attribute *date-issued*.

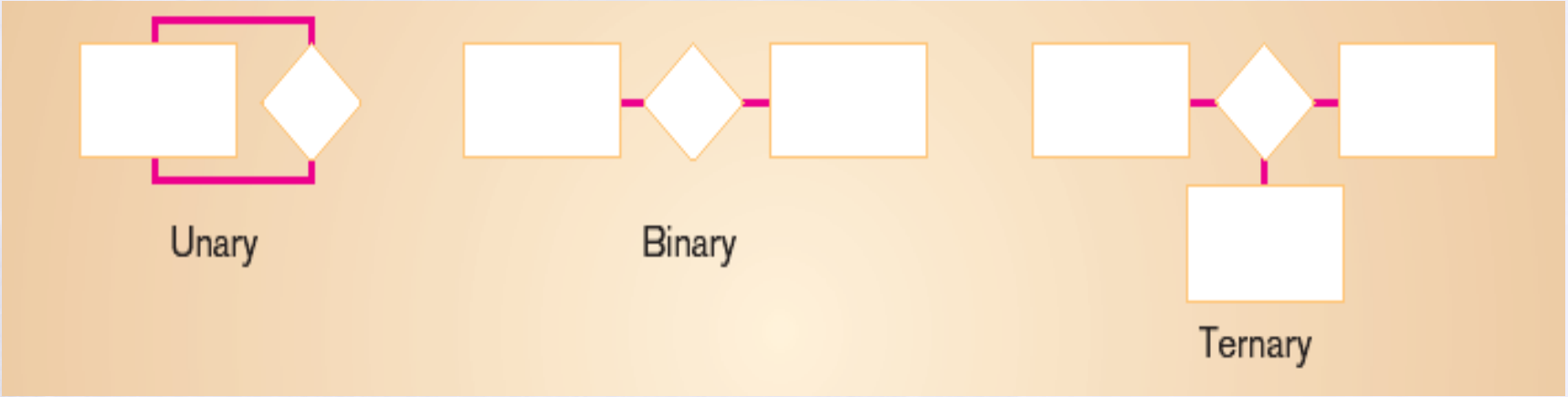
Relation

Relation has three Properties:

- Degree of Relationships
- Cardinality Constraint
- Participation Constraint

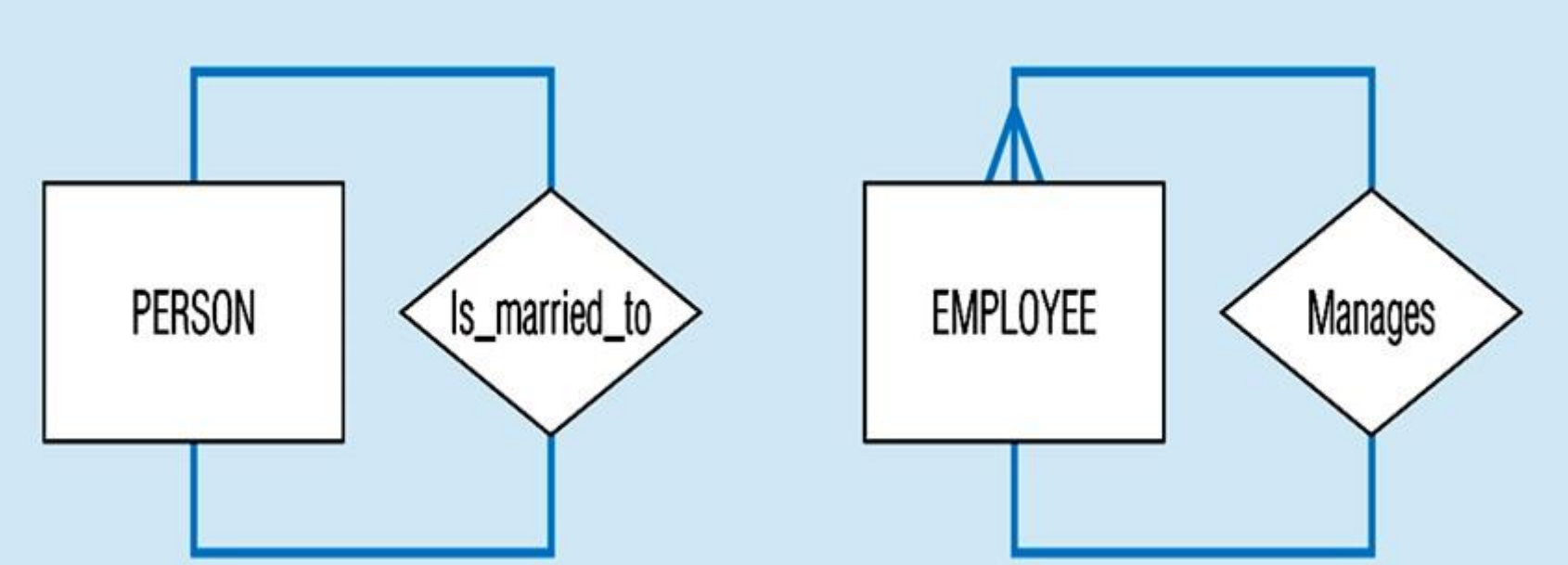
Degree of Relationships

- Degree: number of entity types that participate in a relationship
- Three cases
  - **Unary:** between two instances of one entity type
  - **Binary:** between the instances of two entity types
  - **Ternary:** among the instances of three entity types



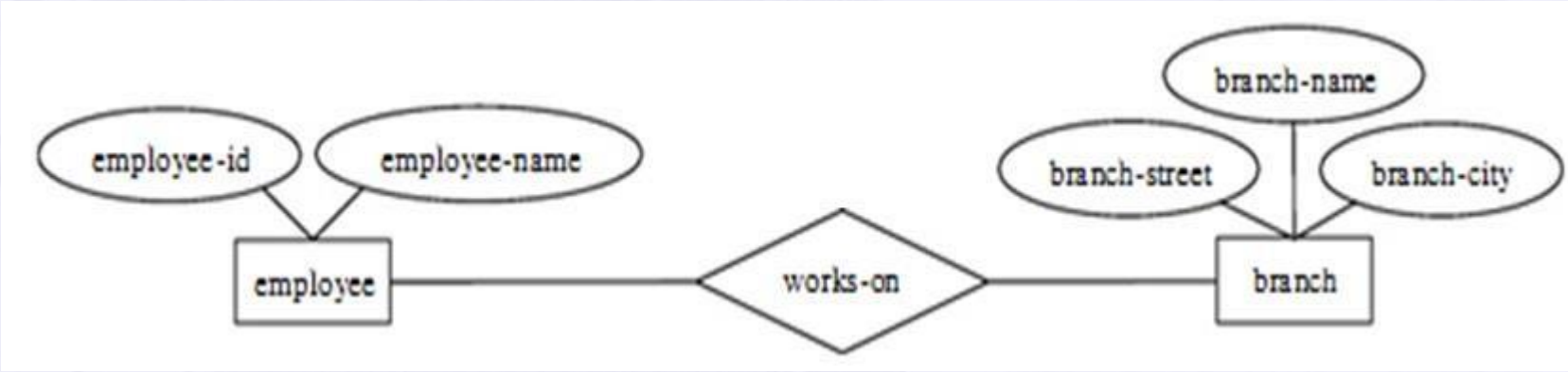
Recursive Relationship (Unary)

- **Recursive Relationships -** A relationship in which the same entity participates more than once.



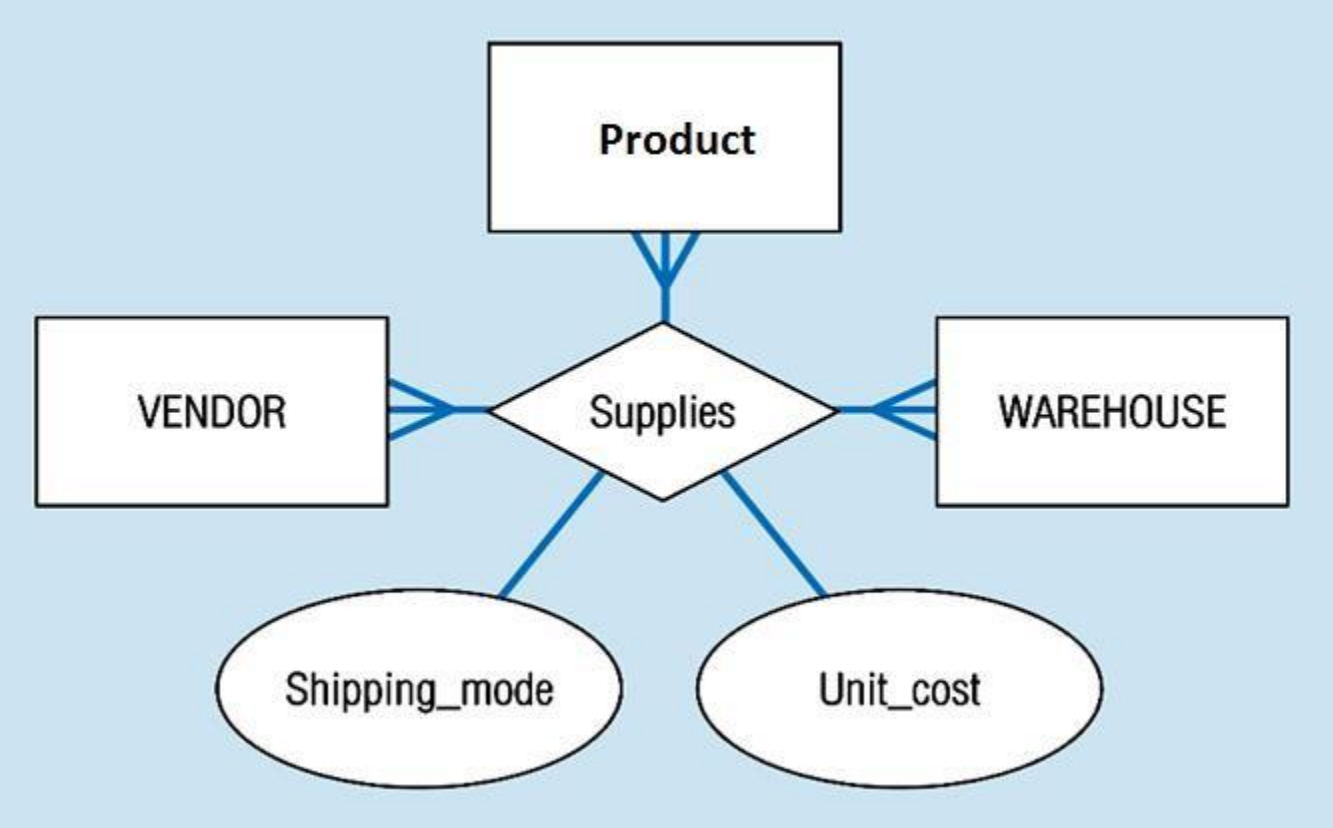
Binary Relationship

- A binary relationship set is of degree 2.



Ternary Relationship

- ternary relationship set is of degree 3.

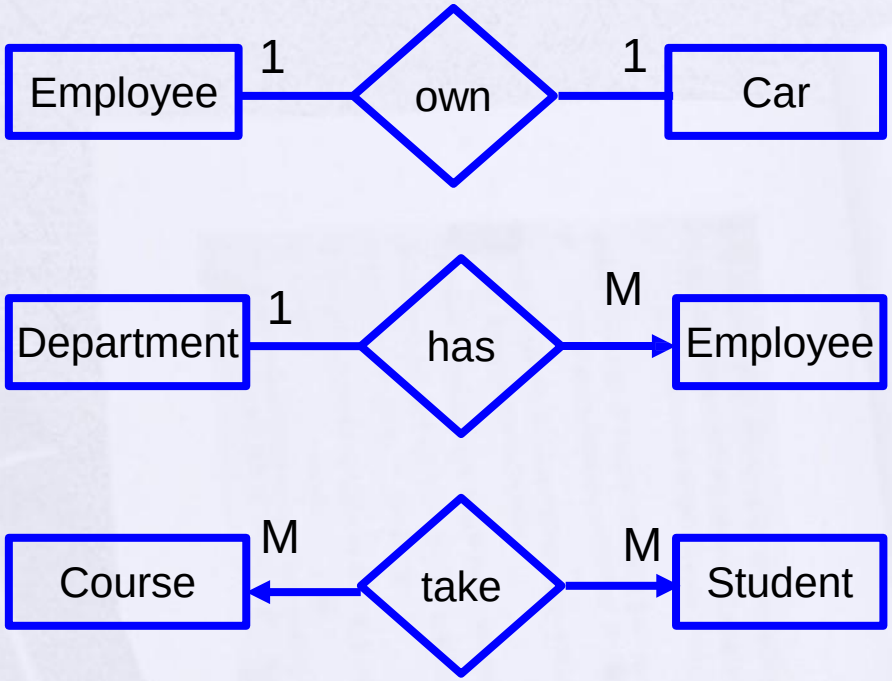


Cardinality

- How many instances of one entity will or must be connected to a single instance from the other entities.
  - **One-One Relationship**
  - **One-Many Relationship**
  - **Many- Many Relationship**

Mapping Cardinalities

- One-to-One
- One-to-Many
- Many-to-Many

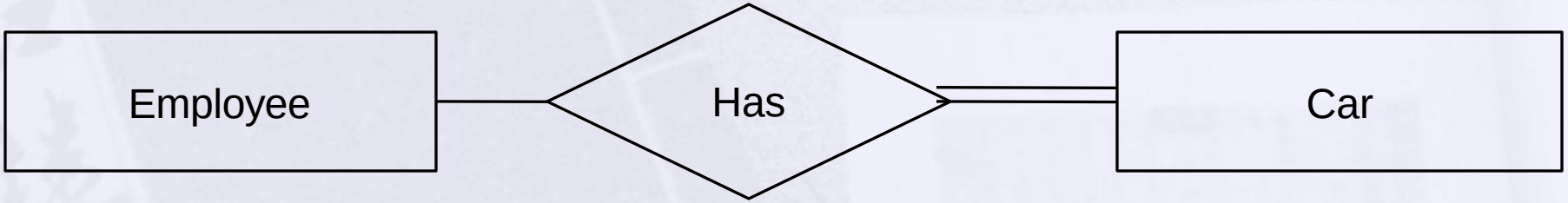


PARTICIPATION CONSTRAINT

- An employee MUST work for a department
  An employee entity can exist only if it participates in a WORKS_FOR relationship instance
  So this participation is TOTAL

  Only some employees manage departments
  The participation is PARTIAL

PARTICIPATION CONSTRAINT



-An Employee may have a car.
-A Car must be assigned to particular employee

PARTICIPATION CONSTRAINT

- A department may hire many employees (Zero or more)
- An employee must be employed by a department

(Department membership is Optional, Employee membership is Mandatory)

Keys

- Different Types of Keys:
  1. Candidate Key
  2. Primary Key
  3. Foreign Key
  4. Composite Key

Candidate Key

Candidate key: is a set of one or more attributes whose value can uniquely identify an entity in the entity set

- Any attribute in the candidate key cannot be omitted without destroying the uniqueness property of the candidate key.

Example:

- (*SSN, Name*) is NOT a candidate key .
- *"SSN"* is a candidate key of ***customer***.
- Candidate key could have more than one attributes.

Primary Key

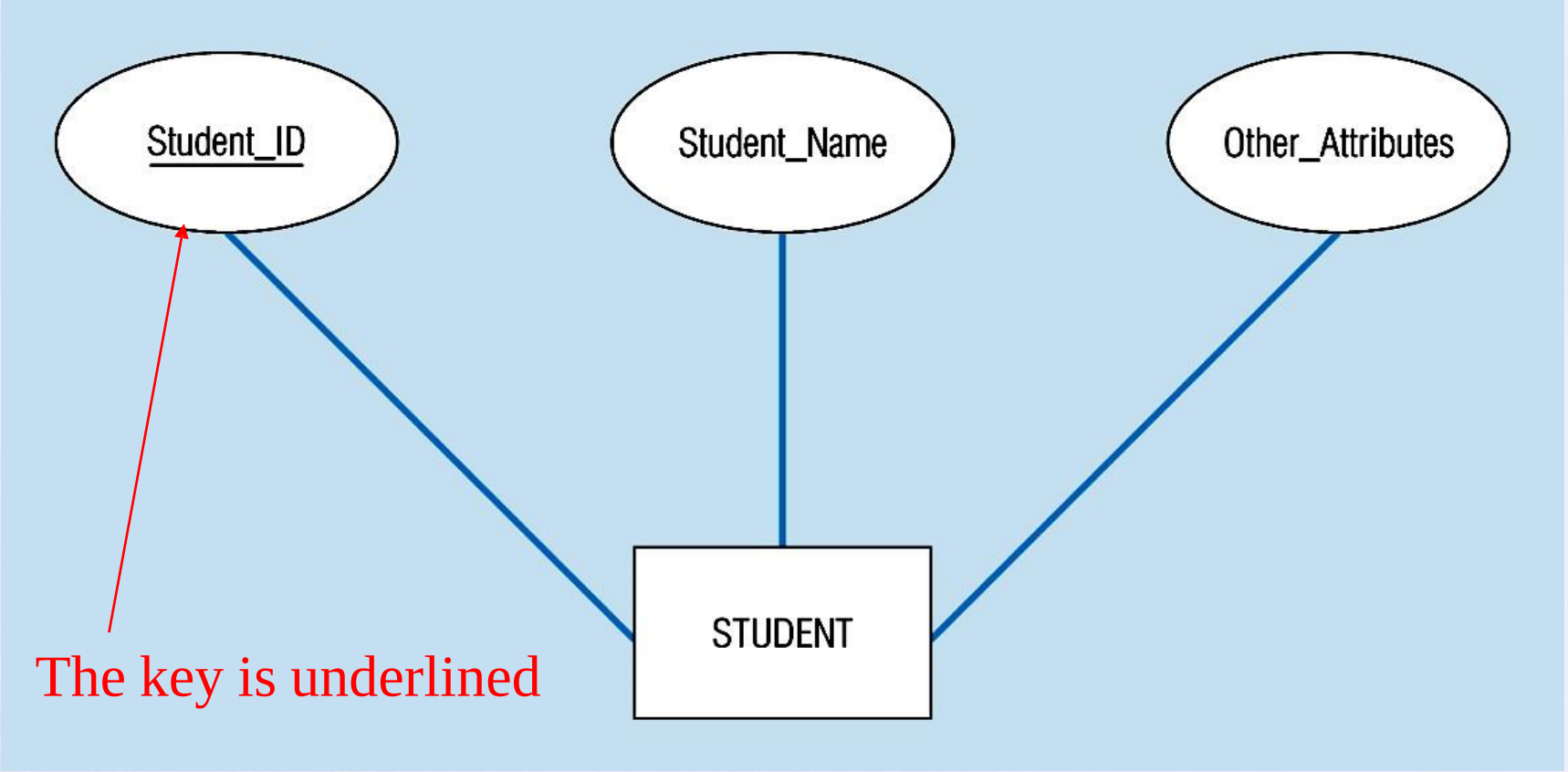
- **Example**: Both "SSN" and "License #" are candidate keys of ***Driver*** entity set.

- **Primary Key**: is the candidate key that is chosen by the database designer as the unique identifier of an entity.

  [Unique & Not Null]

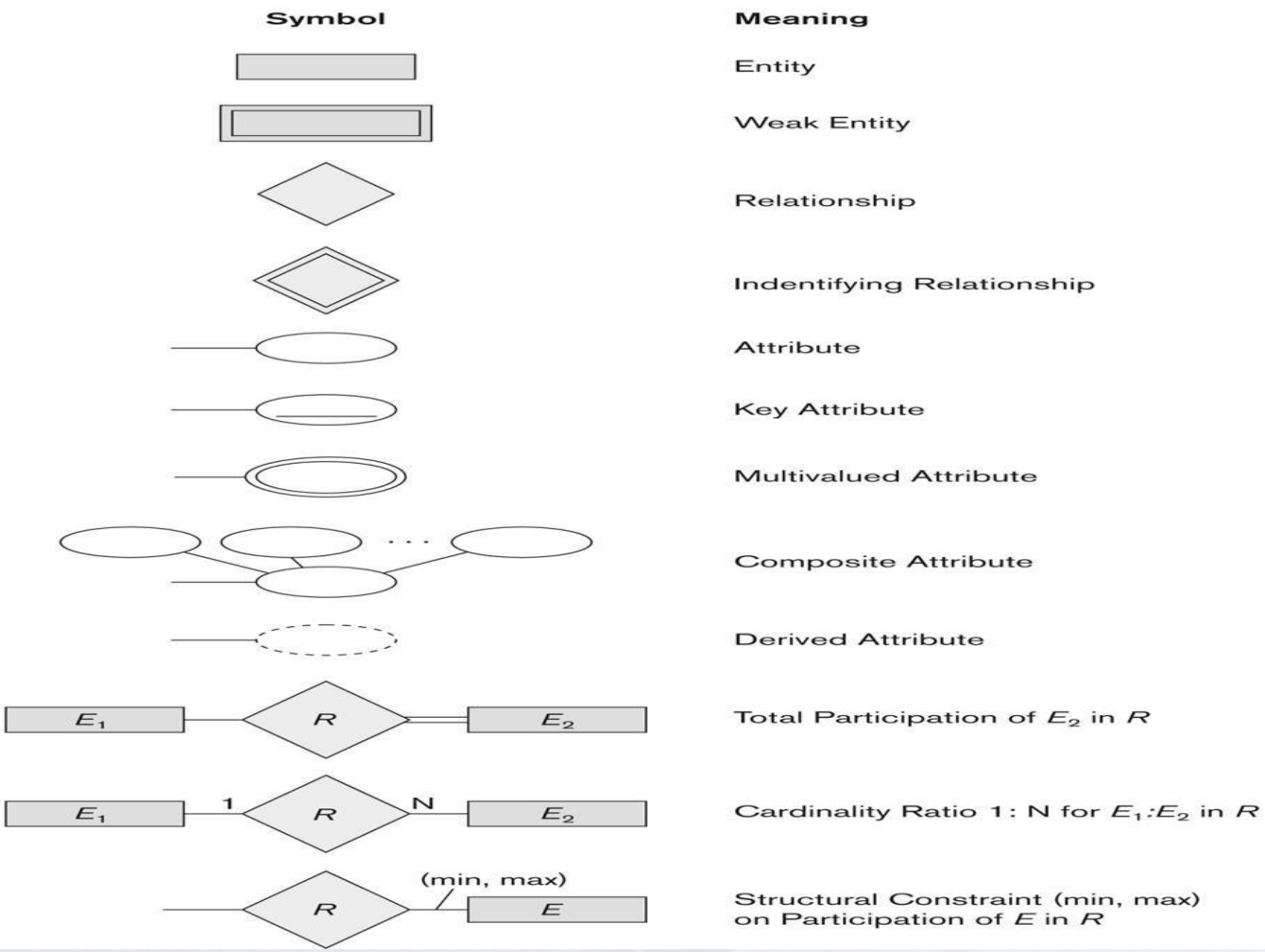
- **Primary key May be Composite**

Primary Key


Student_ID
Student_Name
Other_Attributes
STUDENT
The key is underlined

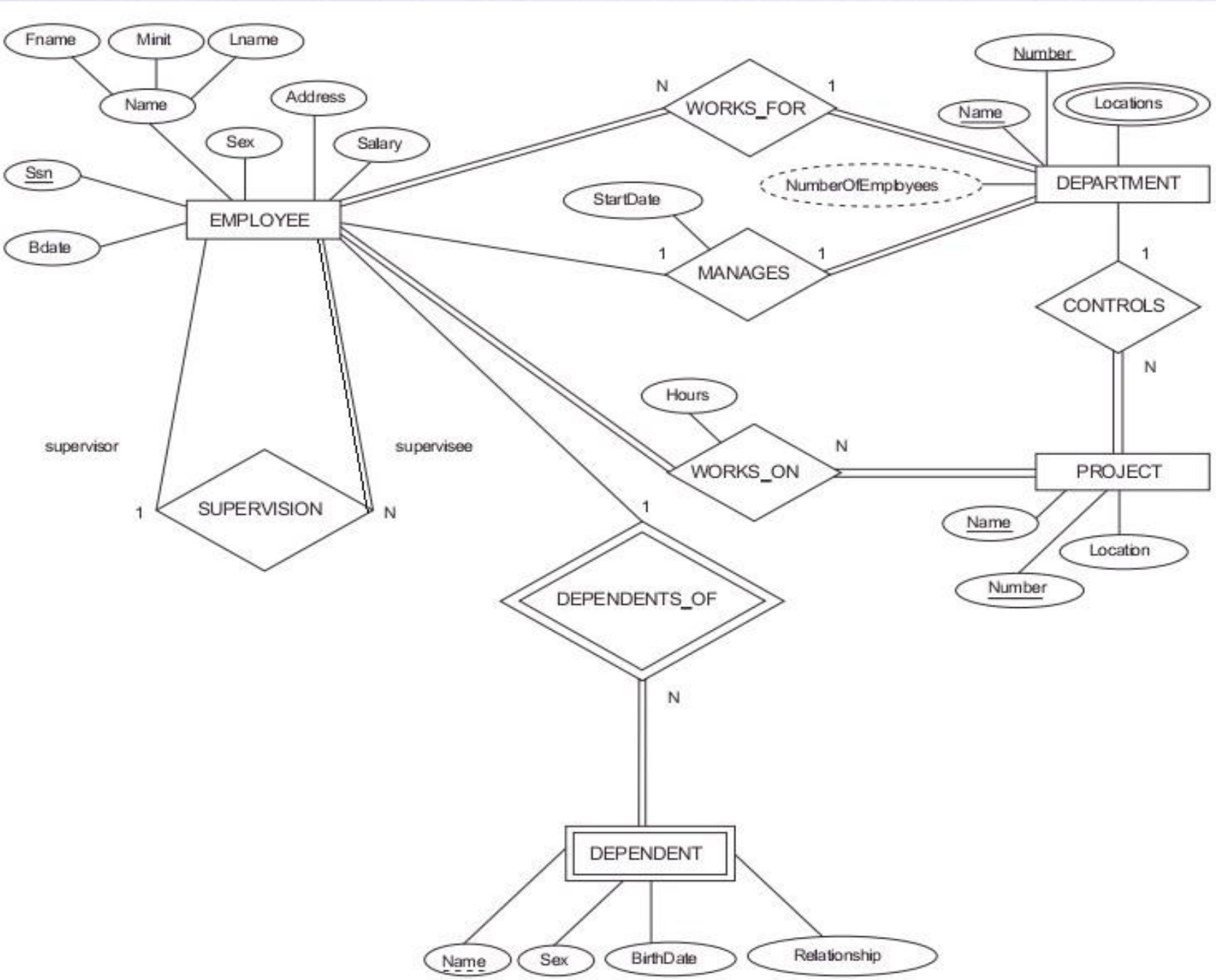
Summary of notation for ER diagrams

Figure 3.14
Summary of the notation for ER diagrams.



Identifying relationship is links strong entities to weak entities and represented with double line diamond

Case Study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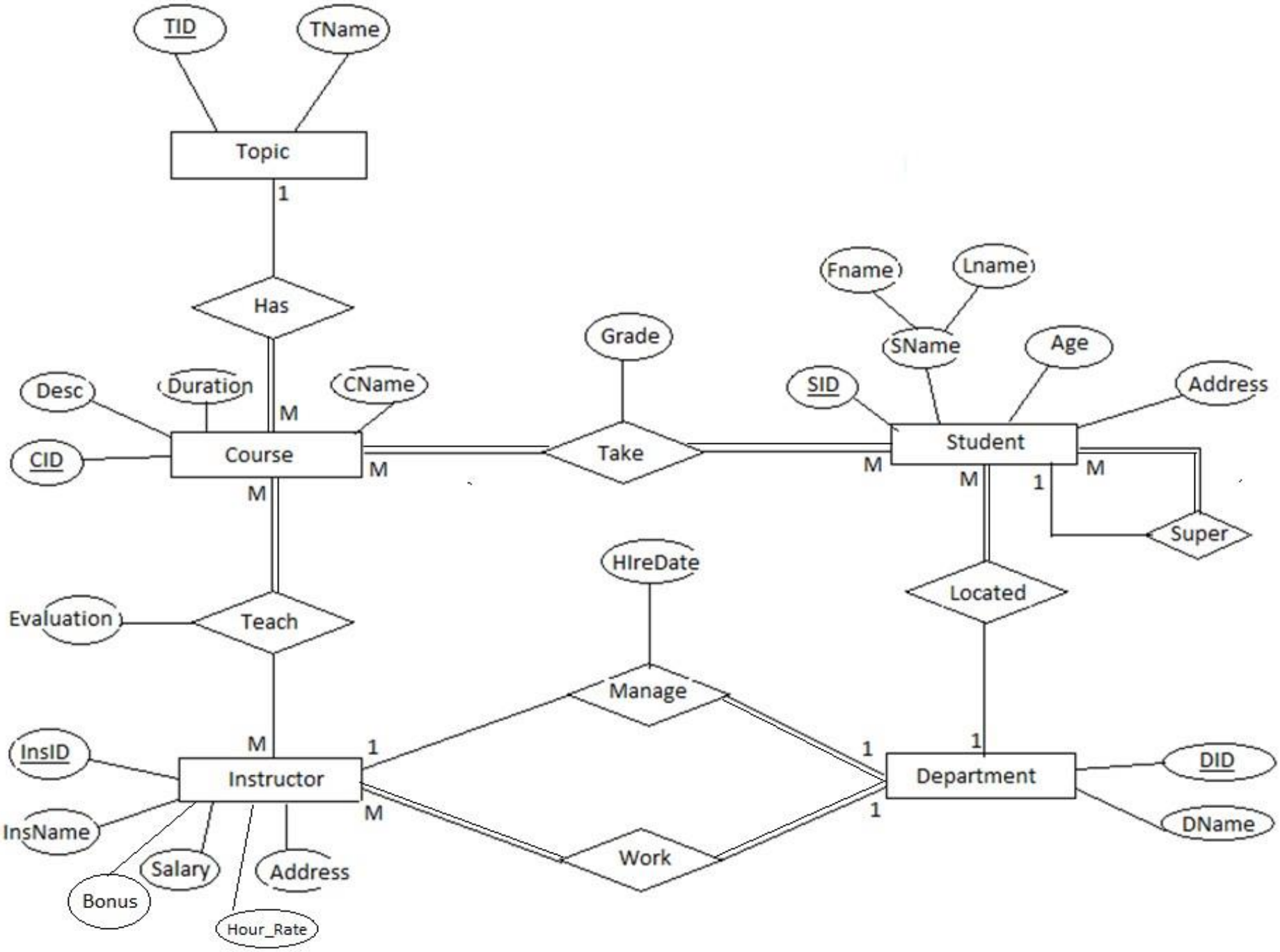
Relationship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