Data Modeling Using the Entity-Relationship (ER) Model

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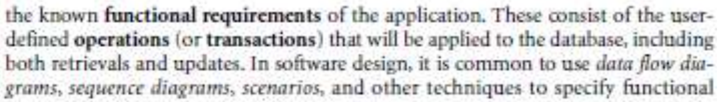
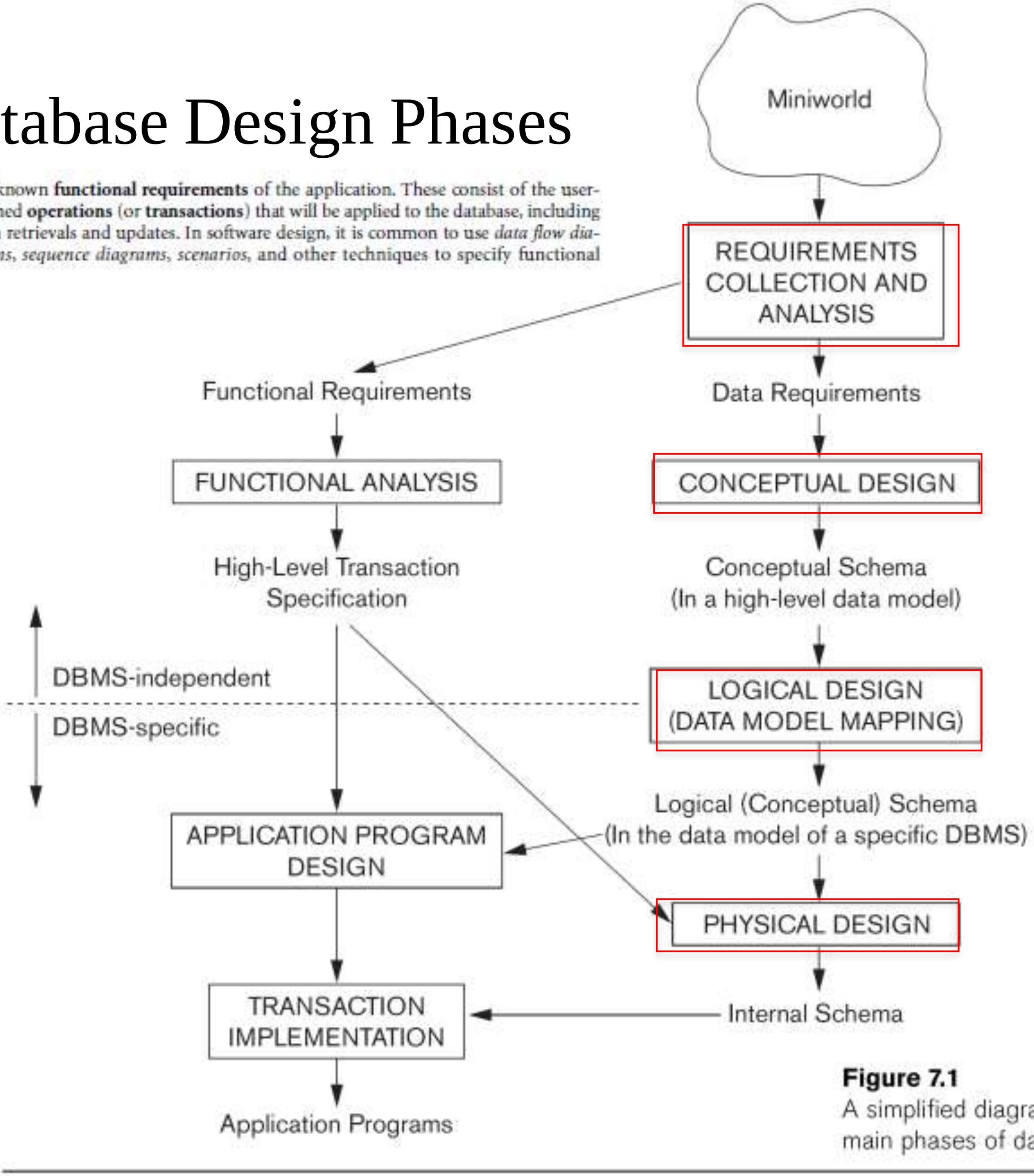
Overview of Database Design Process

- Two main activities:
  - Database design
  - Applications design
- Focus in this chapter on database design
  - To design the conceptual schema for a database application
- Applications design focuses on the programs and interfaces that access the database
  - Generally considered part of software engineering

Database Design Phases



the known **functional requirements** of the application. These consist of the user-defined **operations** (or **transactions**) that will be applied to the database, including both retrievals and updates. In software design, it is common to use *data flow diagrams, sequence diagrams, scenarios,* and other techniques to specify functional



Miniworld
REQUIREMENTS COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS
Functional Requirements
Data Requirements
FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
High-Level Transaction Specification
Conceptual Schema (In a high-level data model)
DBMS-independent
DBMS-specific
LOGICAL DESIGN (DATA MODEL MAPPING)
Logical (Conceptual) Schema (In the data model of a specific DBMS)
APPLICATION PROGRAM DESIGN
PHYSICAL DESIGN
TRANSACTION IMPLEMENTATION
Internal Schema
Application Programs

Figure 7.1
A simplified diagram to illustrate the main phases of database design.

Chapter Outline

- Example Database Application (COMPANY)
- ER Model Concepts
  - Entities and Attributes
  - Entity Types, Value Sets, and Key Attributes
  - Relationships and Relationship Types
  - Weak Entity Types
  - Roles and Attributes in Relationship Types
- ER Diagrams - Notation
- ER Diagram for COMPANY Schema

Example COMPANY Database

- Requirements of the Company (oversimplified for illustrative purposes)
  - The company is organized into DEPARTMENTs. Each department has a name, number and an employee who *manages* the department. We keep track of the start date of the department manager.
  - Each department *controls* a number of PROJECTs. Each project has a name, number and is located at a single location.

Example COMPANY Database (Cont.)

- We store each EMPLOYEE’s social security number, address, salary, sex, and birthdate. Each employee *works for* one department but may *work on* several projects. We keep track of the number of hours per week that an employee currently works on each project. We also keep track of the *direct supervisor* of each employee.
- Each employee may *have* a number of DEPENDENTs. For each dependent, we keep track of their name, sex, birthdate, and relationship to employee.

ER Model Concepts

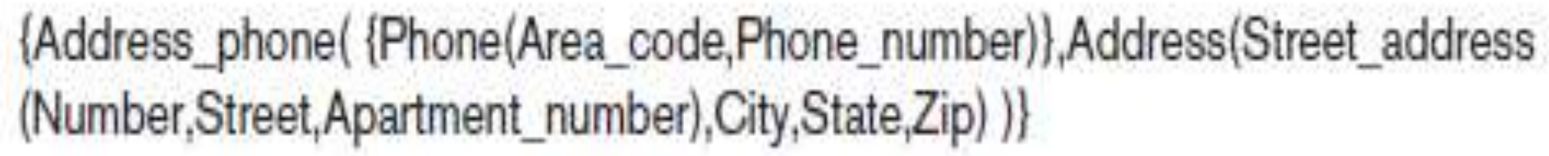
- Entities and Attributes
  - Entities are specific objects or things in the mini-world that are represented in the database. For example the EMPLOYEE John Smith, the Research DEPARTMENT, the ProductX PROJECT
  - Attributes are properties used to describe an entity. For example an EMPLOYEE entity may have a Name, SSN, Address, Sex, BirthDate
  - A specific entity will have a value for each of its attributes. For example a specific employee entity may have Name='John Smith', SSN='123456789', Address ='731, Fondren, Houston, TX', Sex='M', BirthDate='09-JAN-55‘
  - Each attribute has a *value set* (or data type) associated with it – e.g. integer, string, subrange, enumerated type, …

Types of Attributes (1)

- Simple
  - Each entity has a single atomic value for the attribute. For example, SSN or Sex.
- Composite
  - The attribute may be composed of several components. For example, Address (Apt#, House#, Street, City, State, ZipCode, Country) or Name (FirstName, MiddleName, LastName). Composition may form a hierarchy where some components are themselves composite.
- Multi-valued
  - An entity may have multiple values for that attribute. For example, Color of a CAR or PreviousDegrees of a STUDENT. Denoted as {Color} or {PreviousDegrees}.

Types of Attributes (2)

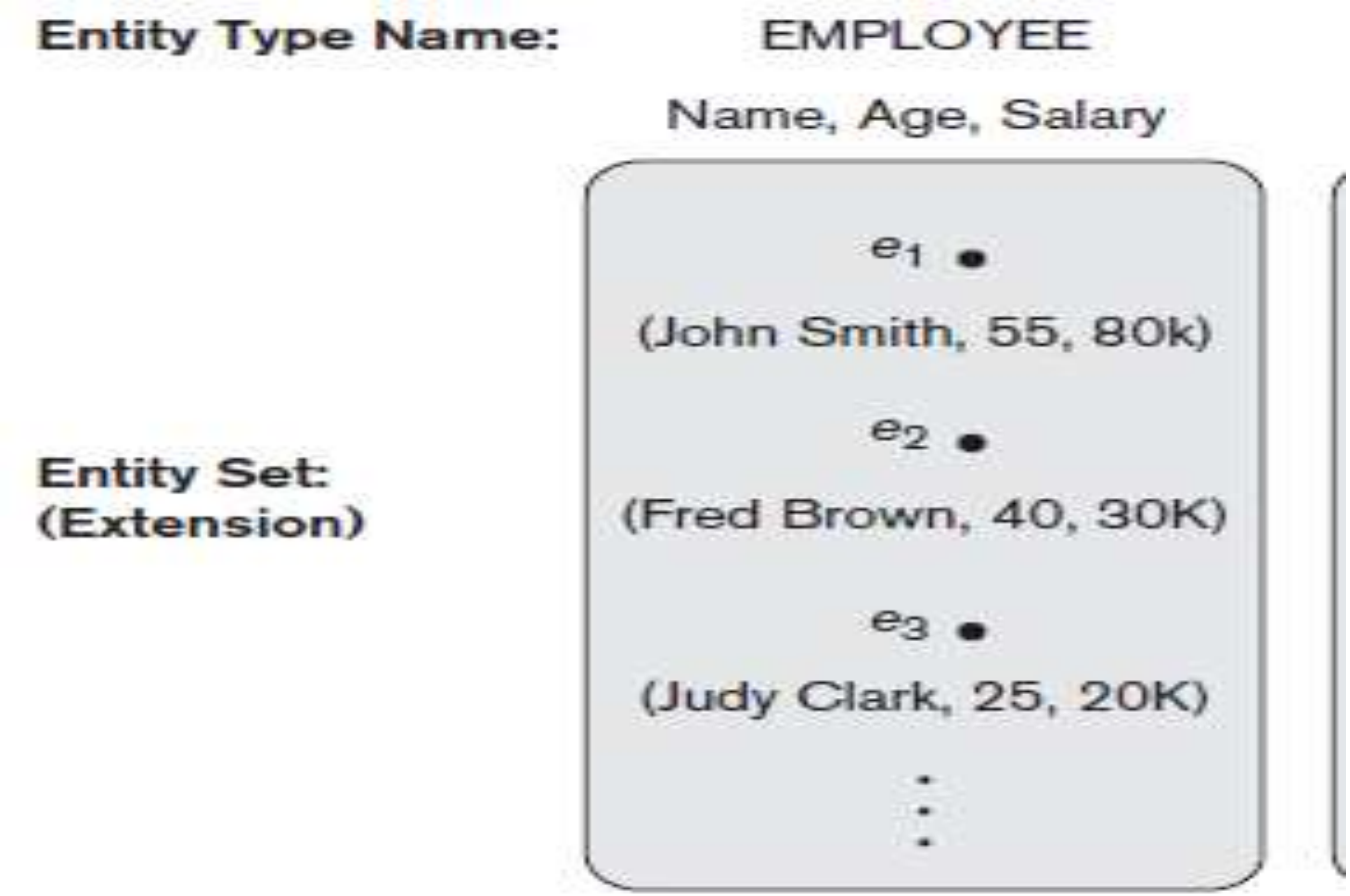
- In general, composite and multi-valued attributes may be nested arbitrarily to any number of levels although this is rare. For example, PreviousDegrees of a STUDENT is a composite multi-valued attribute denoted by {PreviousDegrees (College, Year, Degree, Field)}.
- Single-Valued versus Multivalued Attributes
- Stored versus Derived Attributes.
- NULL Values.
- Complex Attributes



{Address_phone({Phone(Area_code,Phone_number)},Address(Street_address
(Number,Street,Apartment_number),City,State,Zip))}

Entity Types and Key Attributes

- Entities with the same basic attributes are grouped or typed into an entity type. For example, the EMPLOYEE entity type or the PROJECT entity type.
- An attribute of an entity type for which each entity must have a unique value is called a key attribute of the entity type. For example, SSN of EMPLOYEE.
- A key attribute may be composite. For example, VehicleTagNumber is a key of the CAR entity type with components (Number, State).
- An entity type may have more than one key. For example, the CAR entity type may have two keys:
  - VehicleIdentificationNumber (popularly called VIN) and
  - VehicleTagNumber (Number, State), also known as license_plate number.



Entity Type Name: EMPLOYEE

Name, Age, Salary

Entity Set:
(Extension)

e_1 ●

(John Smith, 55, 80k)

e_2 ●

(Fred Brown, 40, 30K)

e_3 ●

(Judy Clark, 25, 20K)

⋮

ENTITY SET corresponding to the ENTITY TYPE CAR

CAR

Registration(RegistrationNumber, State), VehicleID, Make, Model, Year, (Color)

car$_{\mathit{1}}$

((ABC 123, TEXAS), TK629, Ford Mustang, convertible, 1999, (red, black))

car$_2$

((ABC 123, NEW YORK), WP9872, Nissan 300ZX, 2-door, 2002, (blue))

car$_3$

((VSY 720, TEXAS), TD729, Buick LeSabre, 4-door, 2003, (white, blue))

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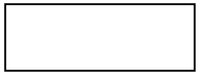
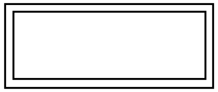
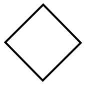
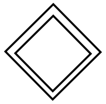
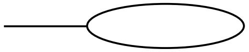
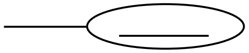
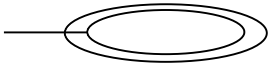
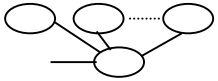
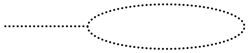
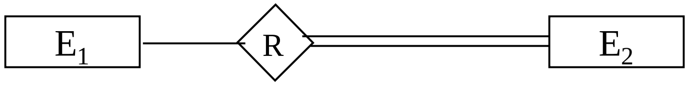
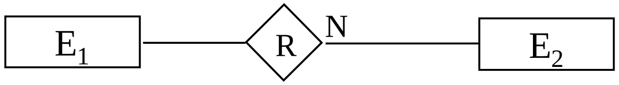
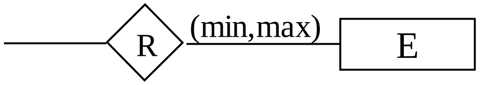
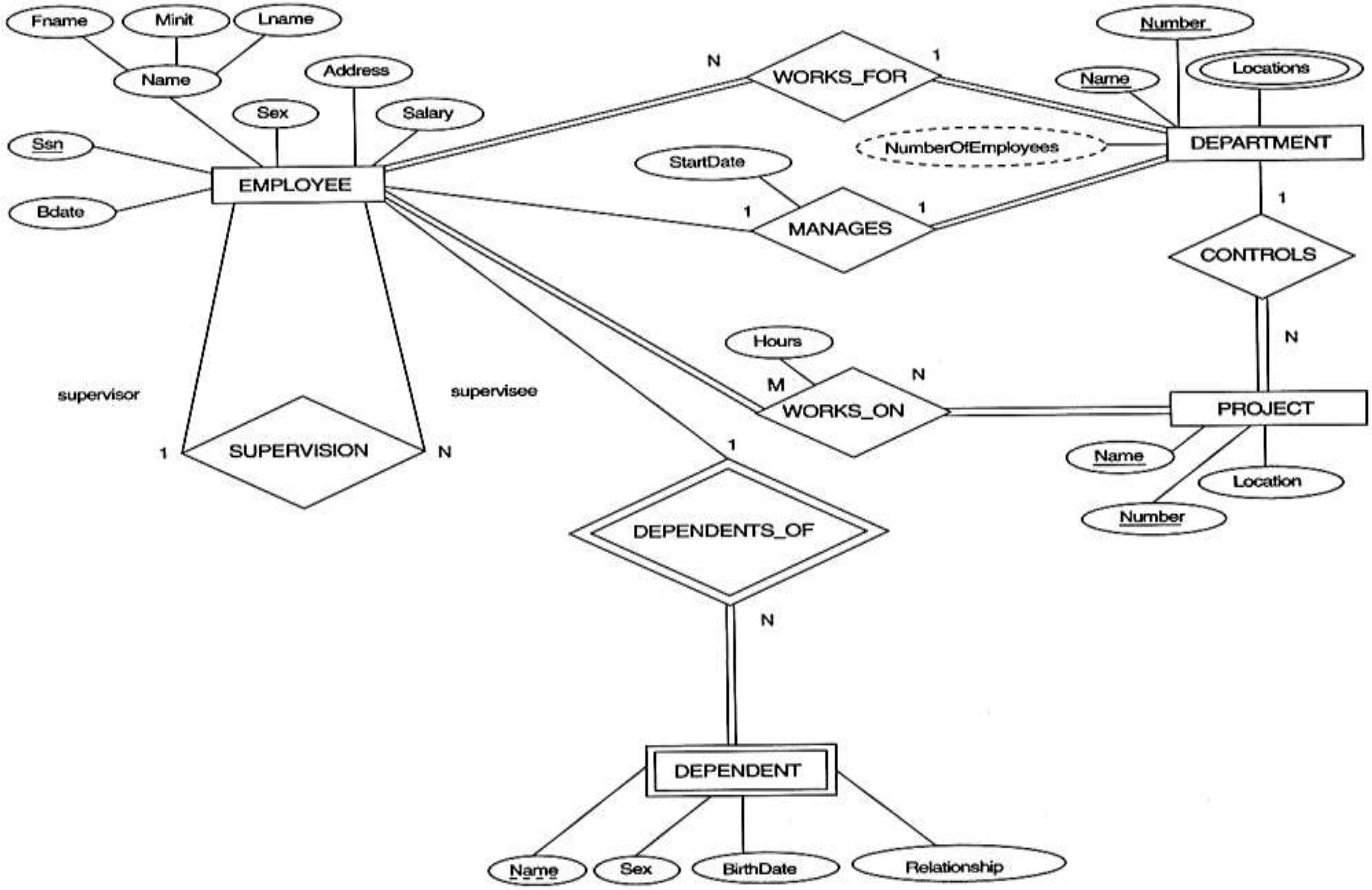
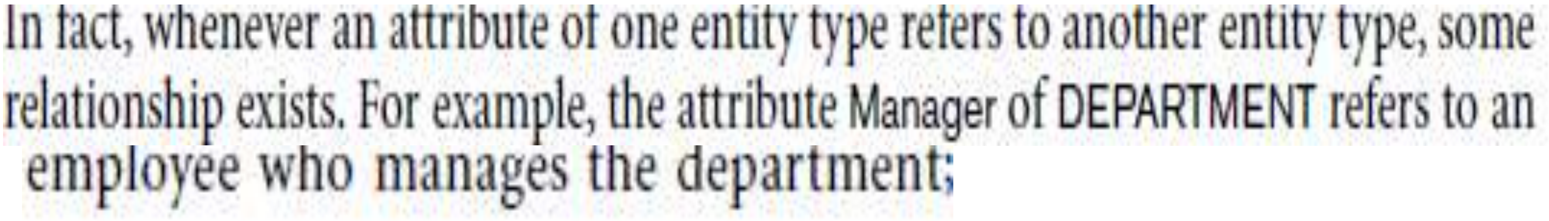
SUMMARY OF ER-DIAGRAM NOTATION FOR ER SCHEMAS

Symbol	Meaning
	ENTITY TYPE
	WEAK ENTITY TYPE
	RELATIONSHIP TYPE
	IDENTIFYING RELATIONSHIP TYPE
	ATTRIBUTE
	KEY ATTRIBUTE
	MULTIVALUED ATTRIBUTE
	COMPOSITE ATTRIBUTE
	DERIVED ATTRIBUTE
	TOTAL PARTICIPATION OF E_2 IN R
	CARDINALITY RATIO 1:N FOR E_1:E_2 IN R
	STRUCTURAL CONSTRAINT (min, max) ON PARTICIPATION OF E IN R

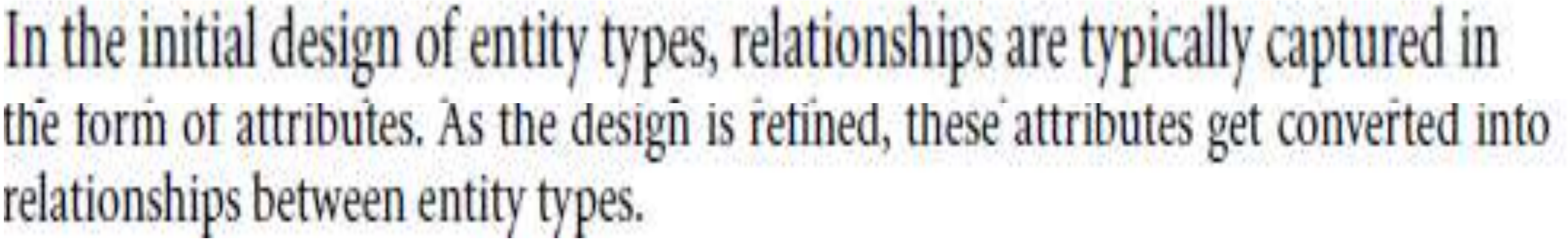
ER DIAGRAM – Entity Types are:
EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT, PROJECT, DEPENDENT



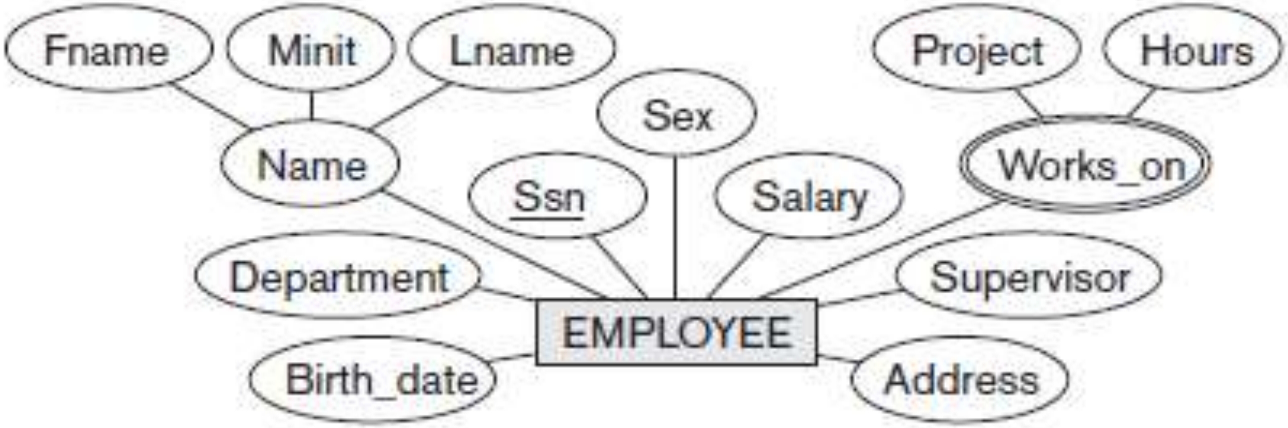
Relationships

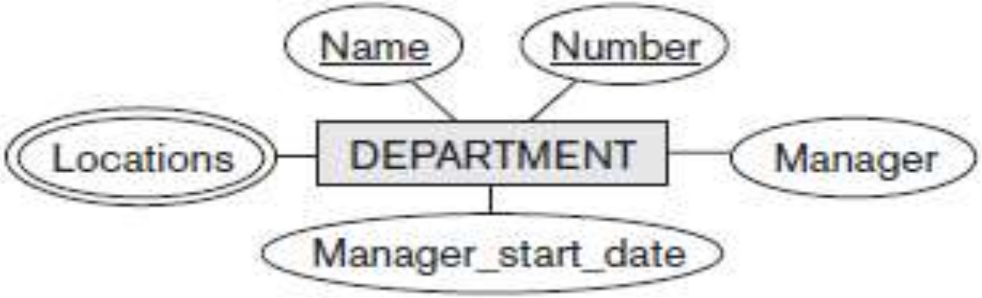


In fact, whenever an attribute of one entity type refers to another entity type, some relationship exists. For example, the attribute Manager of DEPARTMENT refers to an employee who manages the department;



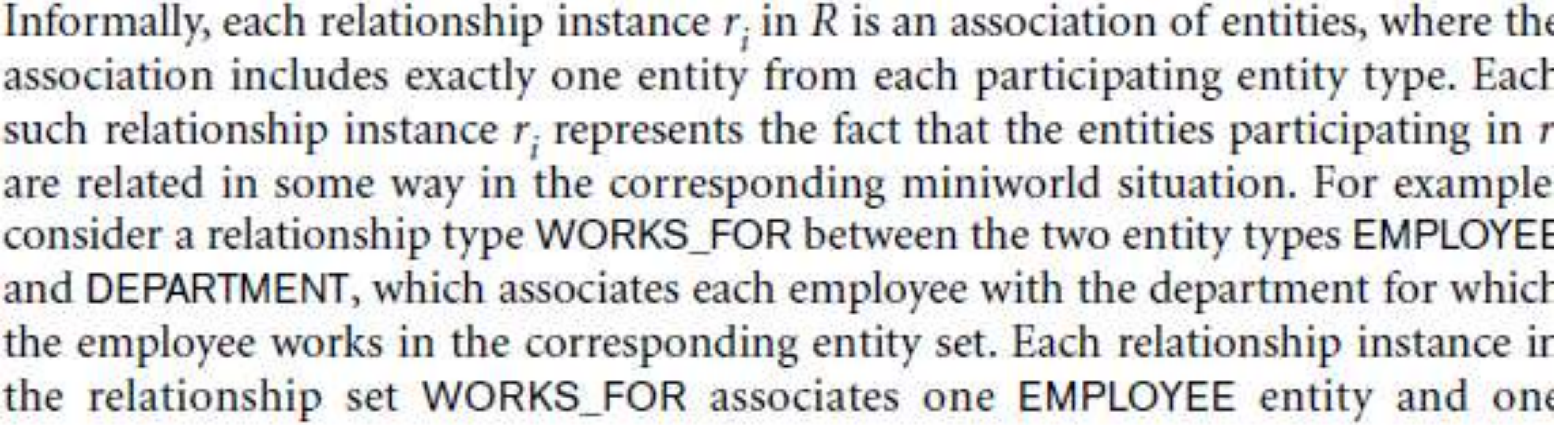
In the initial design of entity types, relationships are typically captured in the form of attributes. As the design is refined, these attributes get converted into relationships between entity types.


Fname
Minit
Lname
Project
Hours
Sex
Name
Works_on
Ssn
Salary
Department
Supervisor
EMPLOYEE
Birth_date
Address


Name
Number
Locations
DEPARTMENT
Manager
Manager_start_date

Relationships and Relationship Types (1)

- A relationship relates two or more distinct entities with a specific meaning. For example, EMPLOYEE John Smith works on the ProductX PROJECT or EMPLOYEE Franklin Wong manages the Research DEPARTMENT.
- Relationships of the same type are grouped or typed into a relationship type. For example, the WORKS_ON relationship type in which EMPLOYEEs and PROJECTs participate, or the MANAGES relationship type in which EMPLOYEEs and DEPARTMENTs participate.
- The degree of a relationship type is the number of participating entity types. Both MANAGES and WORKS_ON are binary relationships.



Informally, each relationship instance r_i in R is an association of entities, where th association includes exactly one entity from each participating entity type. Eac such relationship instance r_i represents the fact that the entities participating in r are related in some way in the corresponding miniworld situation. For example consider a relationship type WORKS_FOR between the two entity types EMPLOYE and DEPARTMENT, which associates each employee with the department for whic the employee works in the corresponding entity set. Each relationship instance in the relationship set WORKS_FOR associates one EMPLOYEE entity and on

ER DIAGRAM – Entity Types are:
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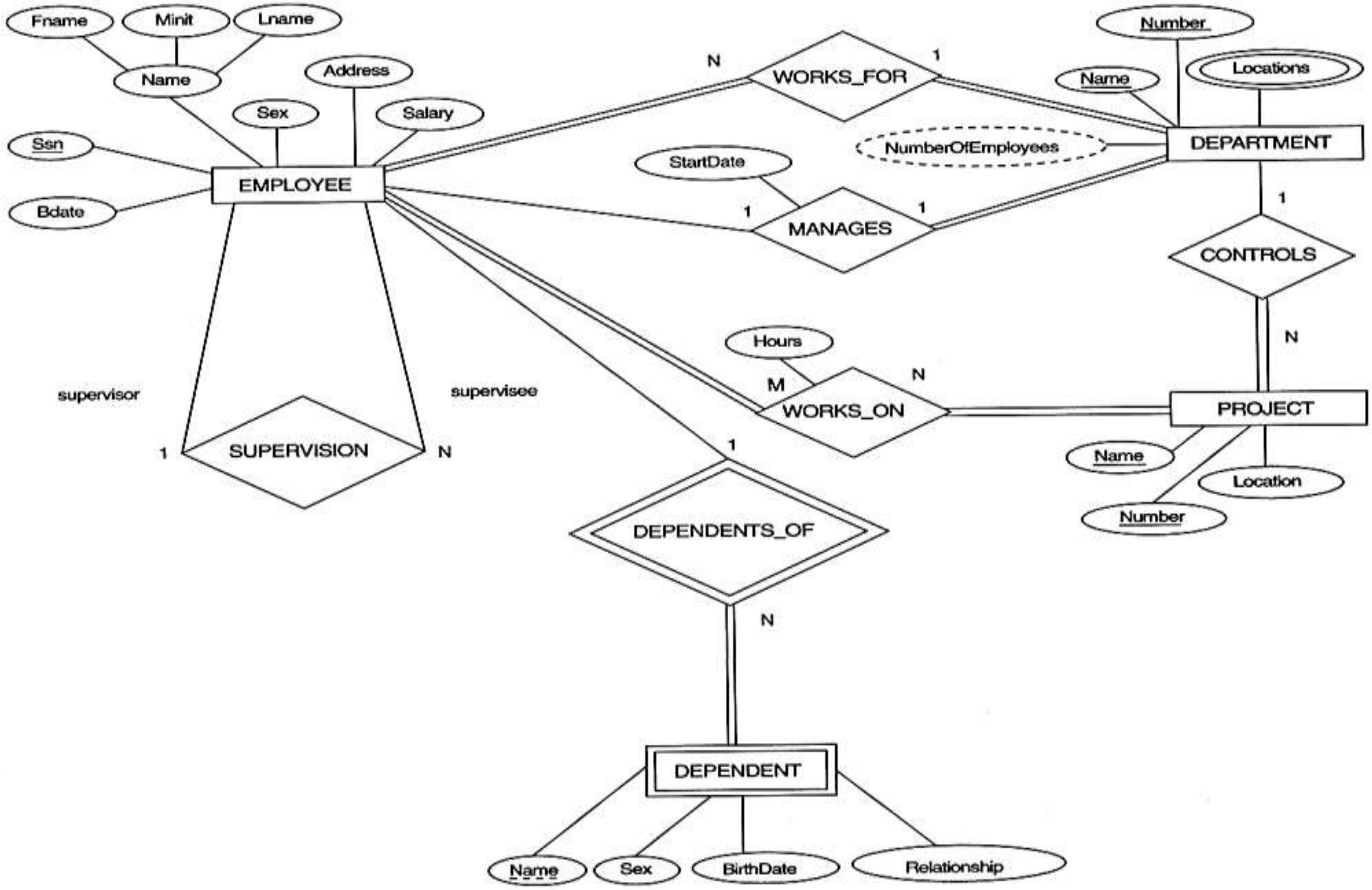
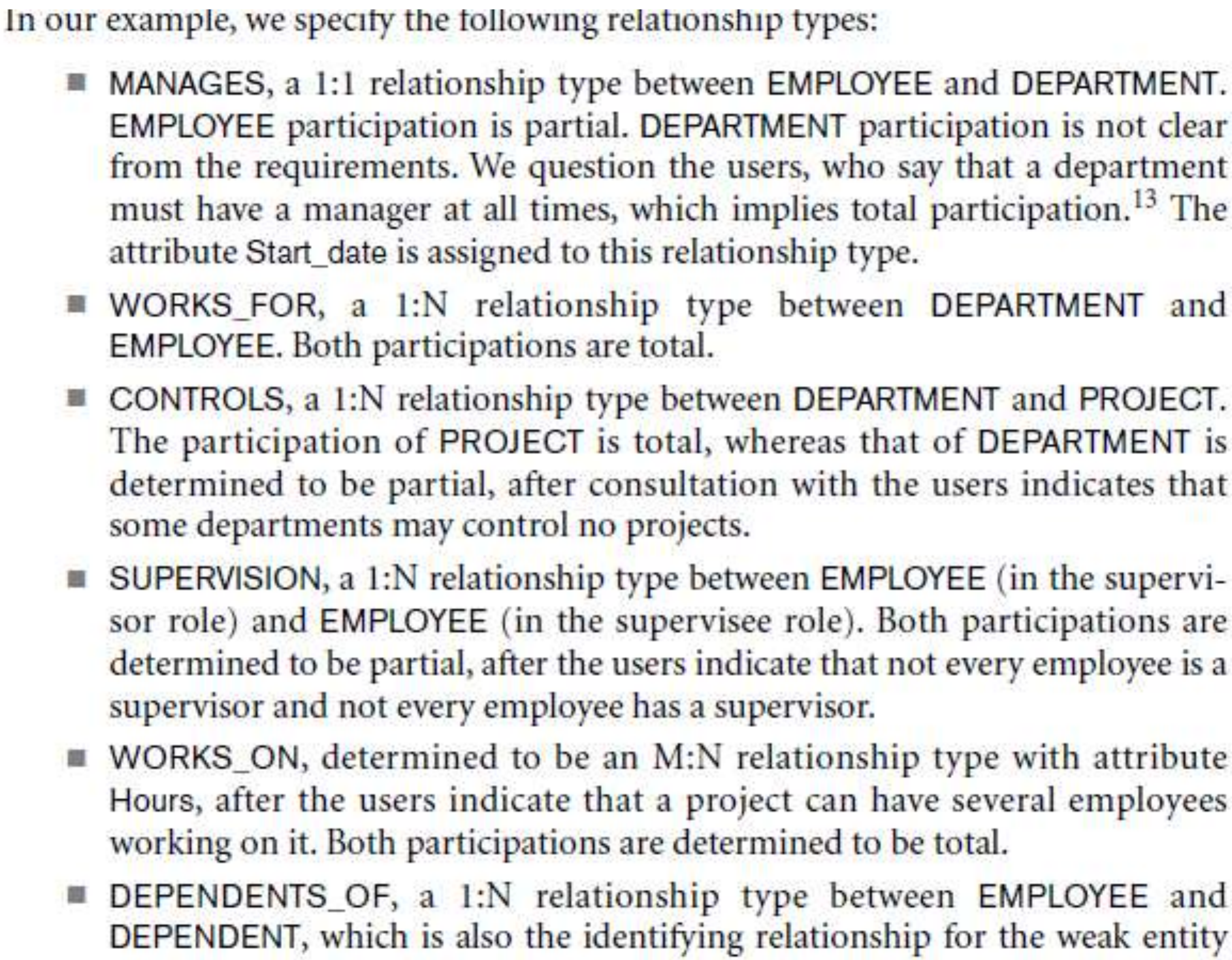
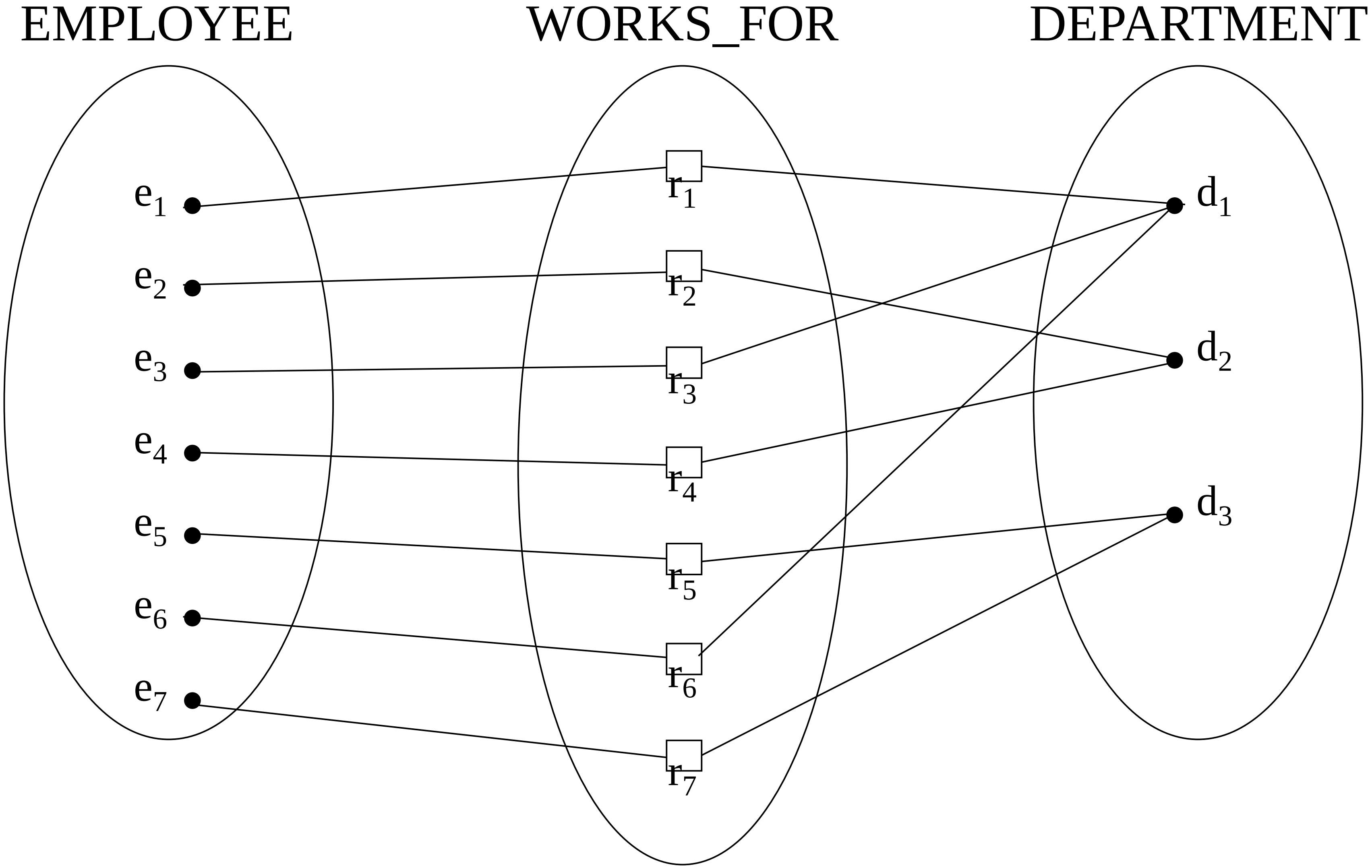




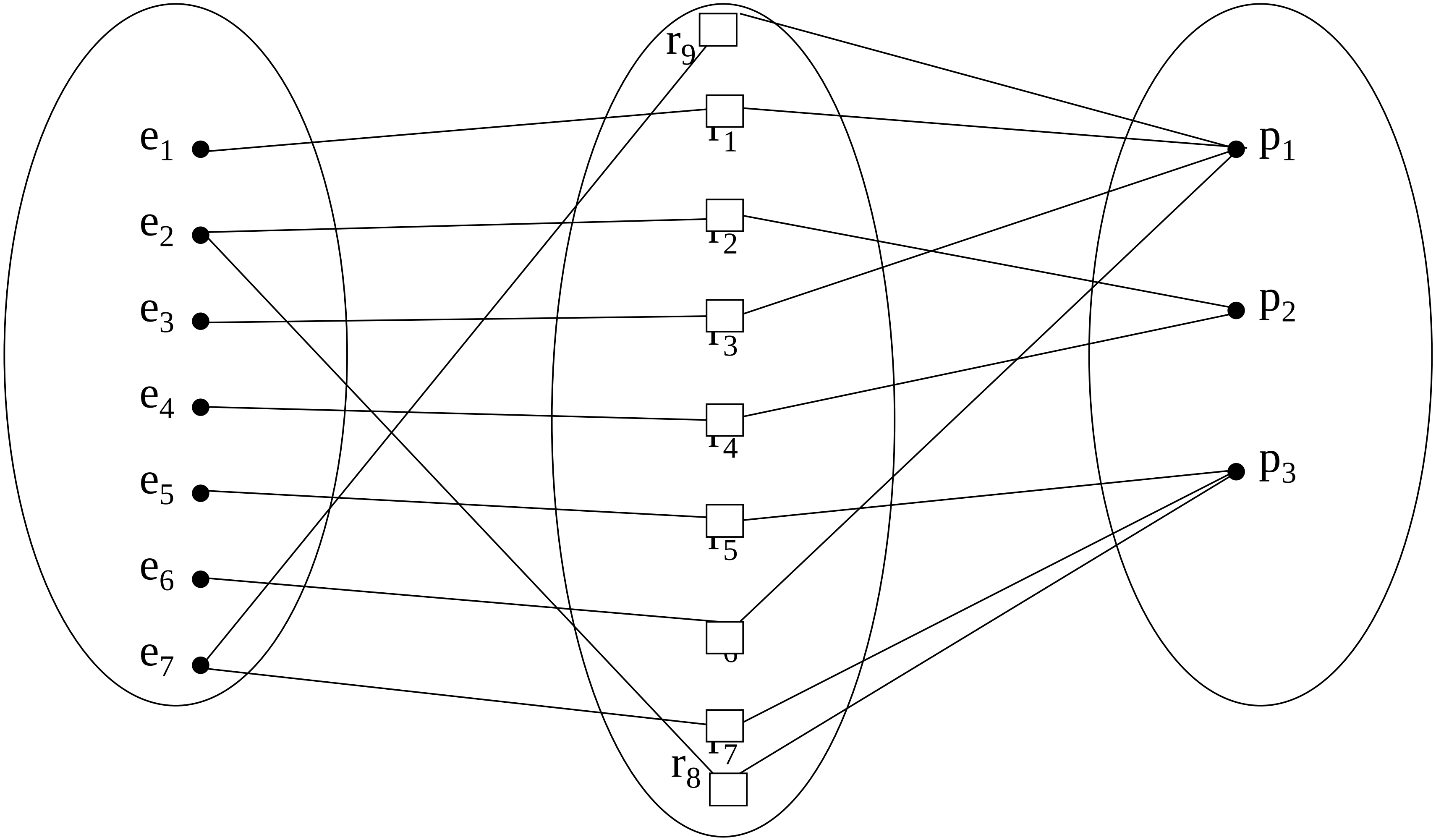
In our example, we specify the following relationship types:

- MANAGES, a 1:1 relationship type between EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT. EMPLOYEE participation is partial. DEPARTMENT participation is not clear from the requirements. We question the users, who say that a department must have a manager at all times, which implies total participation.[13] The attribute Start_date is assigned to this relationship type.
- WORKS_FOR, a 1:N relationship type between DEPARTMENT and EMPLOYEE. Both participations are total.
- CONTROLS, a 1:N relationship type between DEPARTMENT and PROJECT. The participation of PROJECT is total, whereas that of DEPARTMENT is determined to be partial, after consultation with the users indicates that some departments may control no projects.
- SUPERVISION, a 1:N relationship type between EMPLOYEE (in the supervisor role) and EMPLOYEE (in the supervisee role). Both participations are determined to be partial, after the users indicate that not every employee is a supervisor and not every employee has a supervisor.
- WORKS_ON, determined to be an M:N relationship type with attribute Hours, after the users indicate that a project can have several employees working on it. Both participations are determined to be total.
- DEPENDENTS_OF, a 1:N relationship type between EMPLOYEE and DEPENDENT, which is also the identifying relationship for the weak entity

Example relationship instances of the WORKS_FOR relationship between EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT



Example relationship instances of the WORKS_ON relationship between EMPLOYEE and PROJECT



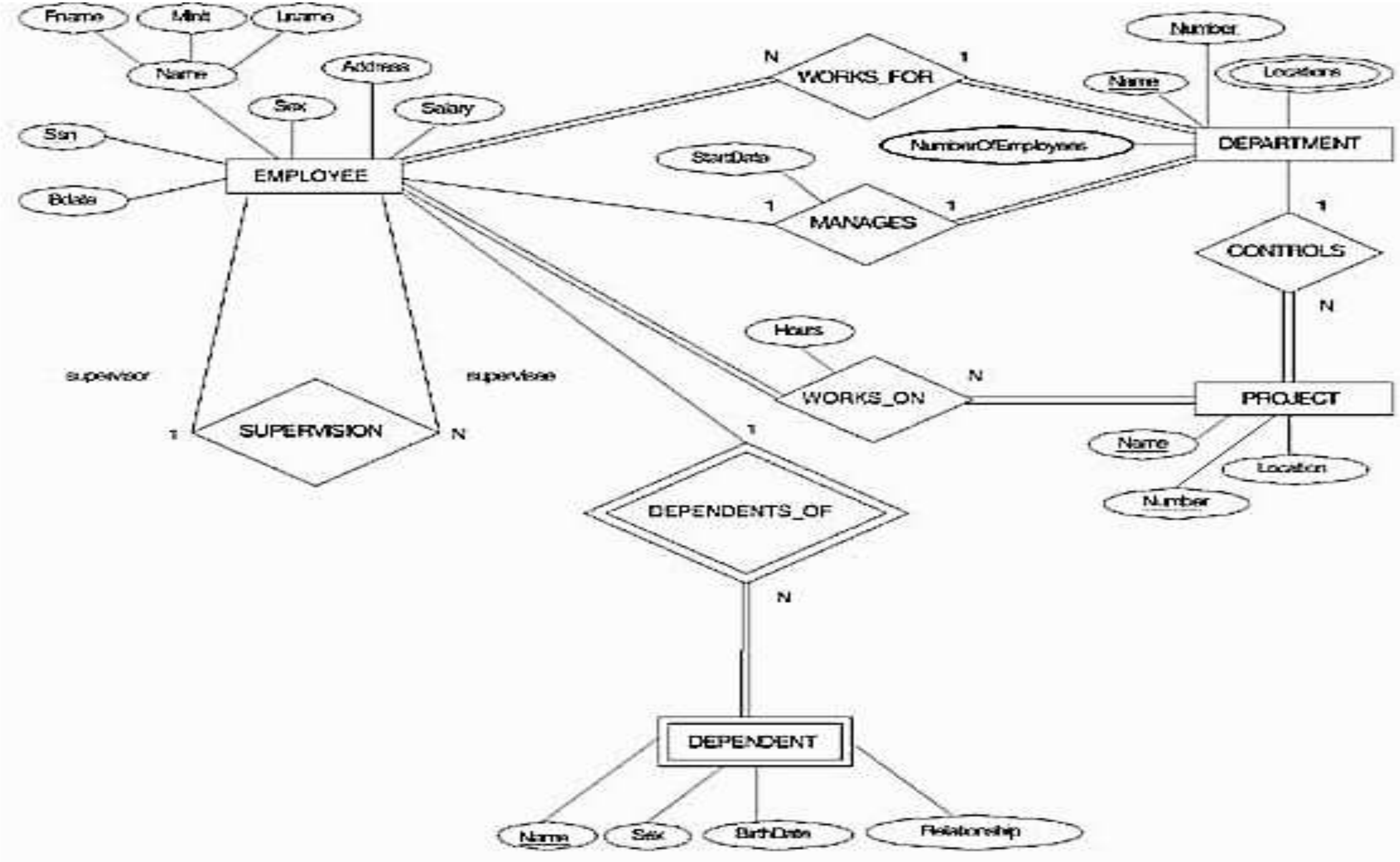
Weak Entity Types

- An entity that does not have a key attribute
- A weak entity must participate in an identifying relationship type with an owner or identifying entity type
- Entities are identified by the combination of:
  - A partial key of the weak entity type
  - The particular entity they are related to in the identifying entity type

Example:

Suppose that a DEPENDENT entity is identified by the dependent's first name and birhtdate, *and* the specific EMPLOYEE that the dependent is related to. DEPENDENT is a weak entity type with EMPLOYEE as its identifying entity type via the identifying relationship type DEPENDENT_OF

Weak Entity Type is: DEPENDENT
Identifying Relationship is: DEPENDENTS_OF



ER Diagrams, Naming Conventions, and Design Issues

Entity type, relationship type –caps
Attribute name- initial caps
Entity –singular names nouns
Attribute- noun
Relationship- verbs- left to right- top to bottom
DEPENDENTS_OF -> HAS _DEPENDENTS

Do refinement.

Acadia Teaching Database

Design an E-R schema for a database to store info about professors, courses and course sections indicating the following:

- The name and employee ID number of each professor
- The salary and email address(es) for each professor
- How long each professor has been at the university
- The course sections each professor teaches
- The name, number and topic for each course offered
- The section and room number for each course section
- Each course section must have only one professor
- Each course can have multiple sections