

**Homework 1**  
**(Due: Friday 19-Feb-2021 at 23:59 pm)**

**You must upload your solution as a PDF or MS Word file on Canvas.**

**Question A. (50 marks)**

- 1) Design a database that can be used to keep track of various aspects of a TV show streaming service:
  - Each TV show has a unique name, a rating (1-10), and a set of producers.
  - A TV show may have multiple (i.e. zero or more) seasons, and for each season we keep track of the season number and the release date.
  - A season consists of multiple (i.e. zero or more) episodes. For each episode, we store its number within the season, and the length.
  - An actor has a unique name and we keep track of the date of birth. Each actor may play a character in an episode, and, in that case, we store the name of the character played by the actor.
  - For each user of the streaming service, we store a unique user ID and a credit card number.
  - A user can add TV shows to the user's wish list.
  - We associate each TV show with one genre, which has a unique name (e.g., drama, thriller, etc) and a description.
  - The service provides the option for each user to subscribe to any number of genres.

Design an ER diagram that models the above aspects of the streaming service. Make sure to identify weak entities and annotate the cardinality of the relationships between entities. You must state any additional assumptions that you make. [30 marks]

2. Convert your ER diagram into a relational schema using the mapping guidelines discussed in the lecture. For each relation (i.e. table) obtained, specify the name and its attributes, as well as the primary key and foreign keys (if any). [20 marks]

**Question B. [50 marks]**

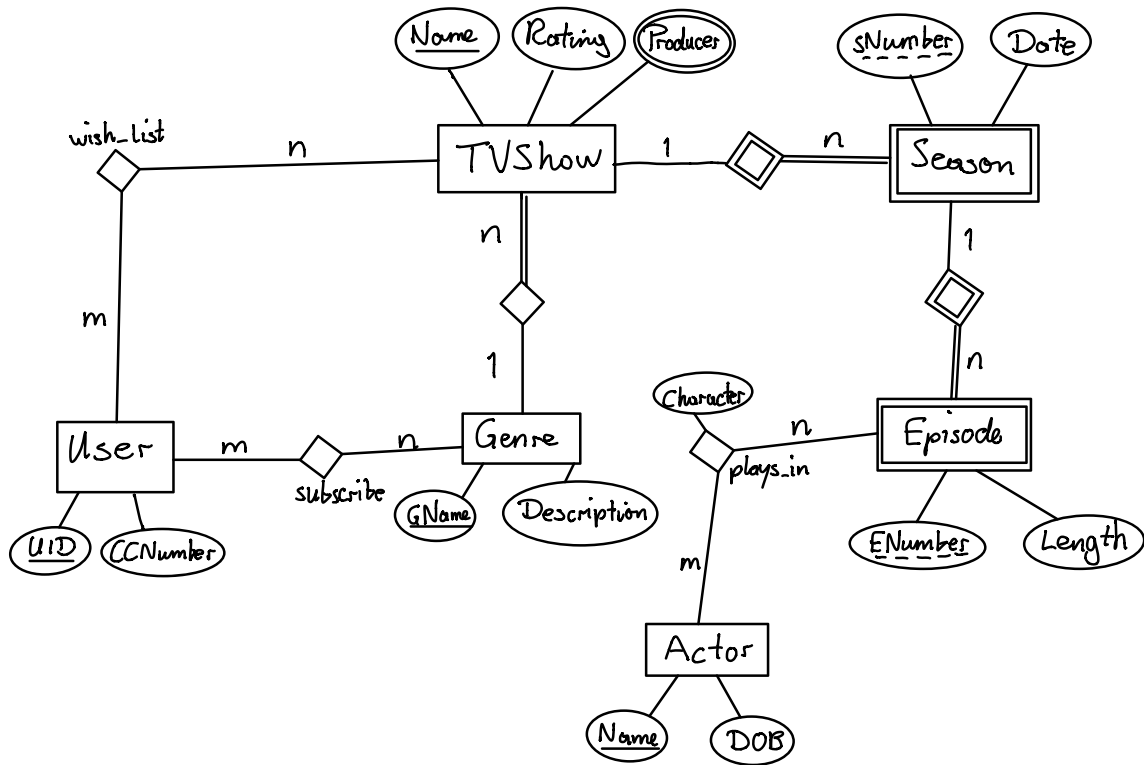
Consider the relation  $R=\{A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J\}$  and the set of functional dependencies  $F=\{\{A,B\}\rightarrow\{C\},\{A\}\rightarrow\{D,E\},\{B\}\rightarrow\{F\},\{F\}\rightarrow\{H\},\{D\}\rightarrow\{G,I,J\}\}$ .

- a. Prove that  $\{A\}\rightarrow\{E,G\}$  holds by using the FD inference rules. (10 marks)
- b. Determine whether  $\{A,B,C\}$  is a super key or a candidate key. Justify your answer. (10 marks)
- c. Determine whether  $\{A,F\}$  is a super key or a candidate key. Justify your answer. (10 marks)
- d. Decompose  $R$  into 2NF. (10 marks)
- e. Decompose  $R$  into BCNF. (10 marks)

## Solutions

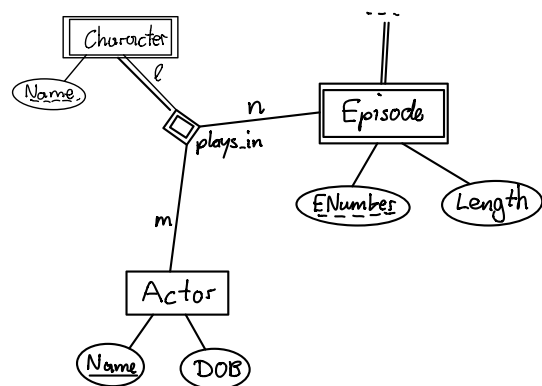
Question A1)

**Note: This is just \*one\* possible solution.**



Alternative (for lower-right part of ER diagram):

Alternative Solution:



Question A2)

TVShow( Name, Rating, GName )  
Foreign keys: GName

Genre( GName, Description )

User( UID, CCNumber )

Actor( Name, DOB )

Season( SNumber, Date, ShowName )

Foreign keys: ShowName refers to TVShow(Name)

Episode( ENumber, Length, SNumber, ShowName )

Foreign keys: ShowName refers to TVShow(Name), SNumber

Subscribe( UID, GName )

Foreign keys: UID, GName

Plays\_In( ActorName, ENumber, SNumber, ShowName, Character )

Foreign keys: ActorName, ENumber, SNumber, ShowName

Wish\_List( UID, ShowName )

Foreign keys: UID, ShowName

Producer( ShowName, ProducerName )

Foreign keys: ShowName

#### Question B)

a. One possible approach (there are many ways):

- 1) Given  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{D, E\}$
- 2) Applying decomposition rule to 1):  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{E\}$
- 3) Given  $\{D\} \rightarrow \{I, J, G\}$
- 4) Applying decomposition rule to 3):  $\{D\} \rightarrow \{G\}$
- 5) Applying decomposition rule to 1):  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{D\}$
- 6) Applying transitive rule to 5) and 4):  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{G\}$
- 7) Applying union rule to 2) and 6):  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{E, G\}$

b. Compute the closure  $\{A, B, C\}^+ = \{A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J\}$ . This closure contains all attributes of R and therefore  $\{A, B, C\}$  is a superkey. To check whether it is a candidate key, we need to show that it is a minimal superkey:  $\{A, B\}^+ = \{A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J\}$ , which also contains all attributes. Therefore  $\{A, B, C\}$  was not a minimal key and hence it is not a candidate key.

- c. We proceed analogously to (b):  $\{A,F\}^+=\{D,E,G,I,J\}$ . This doesn't contain all attributes and hence it is neither a superkey nor a candidate key.
- d. We only have one candidate key of R, namely  $\{A,B\}$ . The nonprime attributes  $\{D,E,F,G,H,I,J\}$  have a partial dependency on the key  $\{A,B\}$ . We decompose R as follows:
- $R_1(\underline{A},\underline{B},C)$
  - $R_2(\underline{A},D,E,G,I,J)$
  - $R_4(\underline{B},F,H)$
- e. We need to break up the transitive dependencies in R2 and R4. We keep relations R1 and R3 as is. We decompose R2 into:

- $R_{2,1}(\underline{A},D,E)$
- $R_{2,2}(\underline{D},G,I,J)$

We decompose R4 into:

- $R_{4,1}(\underline{B},F)$
- $R_{4,2}(\underline{E},H)$