



# Database System Concept (CSE 3103)

Lecture 02-Day 01

Nazmus Sakib, Assistant Professor, Dept. of CSE, AUST

# Attribute Types

- The set of allowed values for each attribute is called the **domain** of the attribute
- Attribute values are (normally) required to be **atomic**; that is, indivisible
- The special value ***null*** is a member of every domain. Indicated that the value is “unknown”
- The null value causes complications in the definition of many operations

# Relation Schema and Instance

- $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are *attributes*
- $R = (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$  is a *relation schema*

Example:

*instructor* = (*ID*, *name*, *dept\_name*, *salary*)

- Formally, given sets  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n$  a **relation**  $r$  is a subset of  
 $D_1 \times D_2 \times \dots \times D_n$

Thus, a relation is a set of  $n$ -tuples  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$  where each  $a_i \in D_i$

- The current values (**relation instance**) of a relation are specified by a table
- An element  $t$  of  $r$  is a *tuple*, represented by a *row* in a table

# Relations are Unordered

- Order of tuples is irrelevant (tuples may be stored in an arbitrary order)
- Example: *instructor* relation with unordered tuples

<i>ID</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>dept_name</i>	<i>salary</i>
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
32343	El Said	History	60000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000
76766	Crick	Biology	72000
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
58583	Califieri	History	62000
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000
15151	Mozart	Music	40000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000
76543	Singh	Finance	80000

# Keys

- Let  $K \subseteq R$
- $K$  is a **superkey** of  $R$  if values for  $K$  are sufficient to identify a unique tuple of each possible relation  $r(R)$ 
  - Example:  $\{ID\}$  and  $\{ID, name\}$  are both superkeys of *instructor*.
- Superkey  $K$  is a **candidate key** if  $K$  is minimal  
Example:  $\{ID\}$  is a candidate key for *Instructor*
- One of the candidate keys is selected to be the **primary key**.
  - which one?
- **Foreign key** constraint: Value in one relation must appear in another
  - **Referencing** relation
  - **Referenced** relation
  - Example – *dept\_name* in *instructor* is a foreign key from *instructor* referencing *department*

# Relational Query Languages

- Procedural vs .non-procedural, or declarative
- “Pure” languages:
  - Relational algebra
  - Tuple relational calculus
  - Domain relational calculus
- The above 3 pure languages are equivalent in computing power
- We will concentrate in this chapter on relational algebra
  - Not turning-machine equivalent
  - consists of 6 basic operations