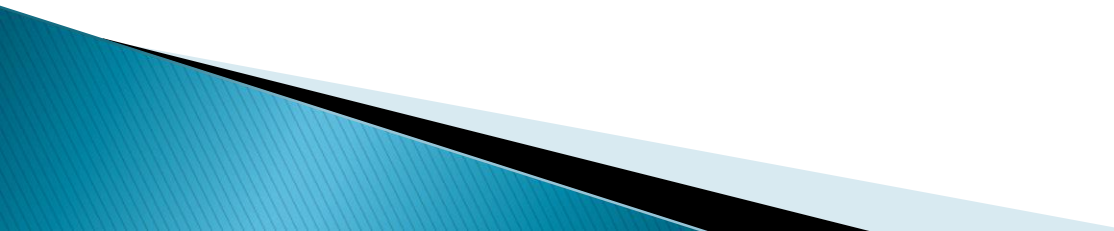


ERD diagrams: pitfalls

ERD pitfalls / issues

- ▶ The 'main topic', e.g. the company, is an entity set with one entity
- ▶ This would make sense when your design would be more general and would cover several companies
- ▶ But it could make sense when extensibility of the system is a long term design goal

ERD pitfalls

- ▶ Confusing ER-model and relational representation
 - ▶ Example: foreign keys are a way to represent associations in a relational setting
 - ▶ Mapping your ER-model to an OODB model or an XML schema may represent associations in a different way
- 

ERD pitfalls

- ▶ Inheritance: attributes of the supertype are repeated in the subtypes

ERD pitfalls

- ▶ Redundancy by cyclic associations
- ▶ ER-graph is not connected
- ▶ Refer to exercise 6

ERD pitfalls

- ▶ Confusing ISA (triangle) and HASA (diamond)
- ▶ A student ISA person
- ▶ A client HASA bike

ERD pitfalls

- ▶ Graphical syntax unclear (e.g. lines between entity types without diamond or triangle)
- ▶ Graphical syntax does not conform to the slides