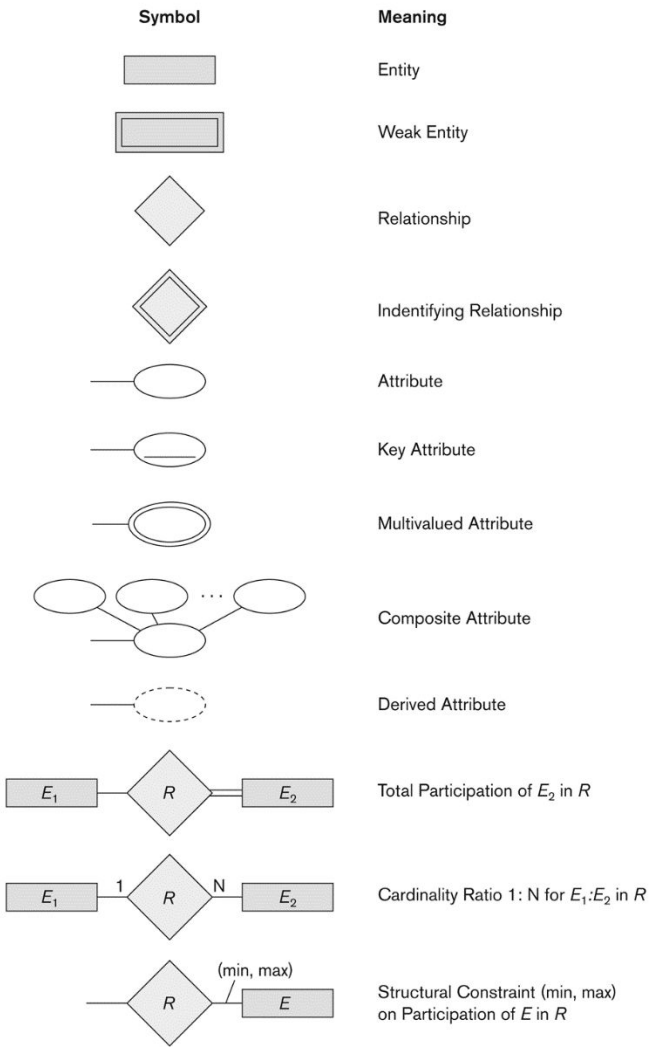
NOTATION for ER diagrams

Figure 3.14
Summary of the notation for ER diagrams.



Entity Type CAR with two keys and a corresponding Entity Set

(a)

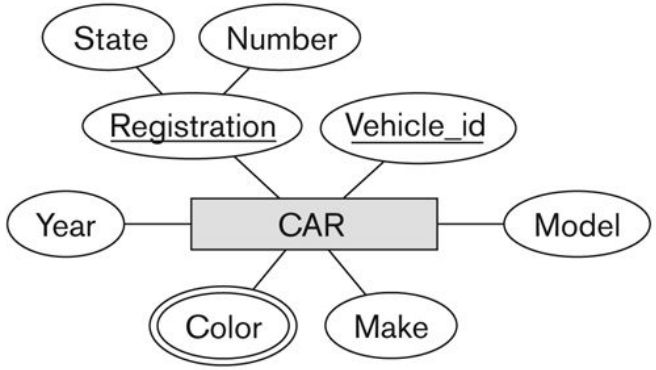


Figure 3.7
The CAR entity type with two key attributes, Registration and Vehicle_id. (a) ER diagram notation. (b) Entity set with three entities.

(b)

CAR
Registration (Number, State), Vehicle_id, Make, Model, Year, {Color}

CAR_1
((ABC 123, TEXAS), TK629, Ford Mustang, convertible, 2004 {red, black})

CAR_2
((ABC 123, NEW YORK), WP9872, Nissan Maxima, 4-door, 2005, {blue})

CAR_3
((VSY 720, TEXAS), TD729, Chrysler LeBaron, 4-door, 2002, {white, blue})

Initial Conceptual Design of Entity Types for the COMPANY Database Schema

- Based on the requirements, we can identify four initial entity types in the COMPANY database:
  - DEPARTMENT
  - PROJECT
  - EMPLOYEE
  - DEPENDENT
- Their initial conceptual design is shown on the following slide
- The initial attributes shown are derived from the requirements description

Initial Design of Entity Types:
EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT, PROJECT, DEPENDENT

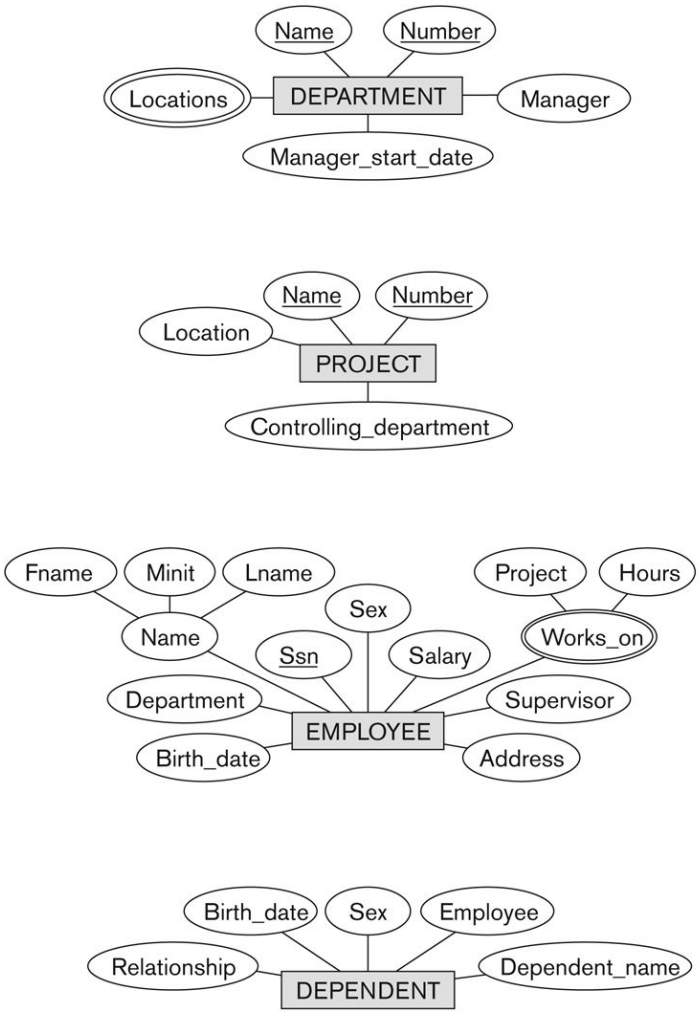


Figure 3.8
Preliminary design of entity types for the COMPANY database. Some of the shown attributes will be refined into relationships.

Refining the initial design by introducing **relationships**

- The initial design is typically not complete
- Some aspects in the requirements will be represented as **relationships**
- ER model has three main concepts:
  - Entities (and their entity types and entity sets)
  - Attributes (simple, composite, multivalued)
  - Relationships (and their relationship types and relationship sets)
- We introduce relationship concepts next

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.

Relationship instances of the WORKS_FOR N:1 relationship between EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT

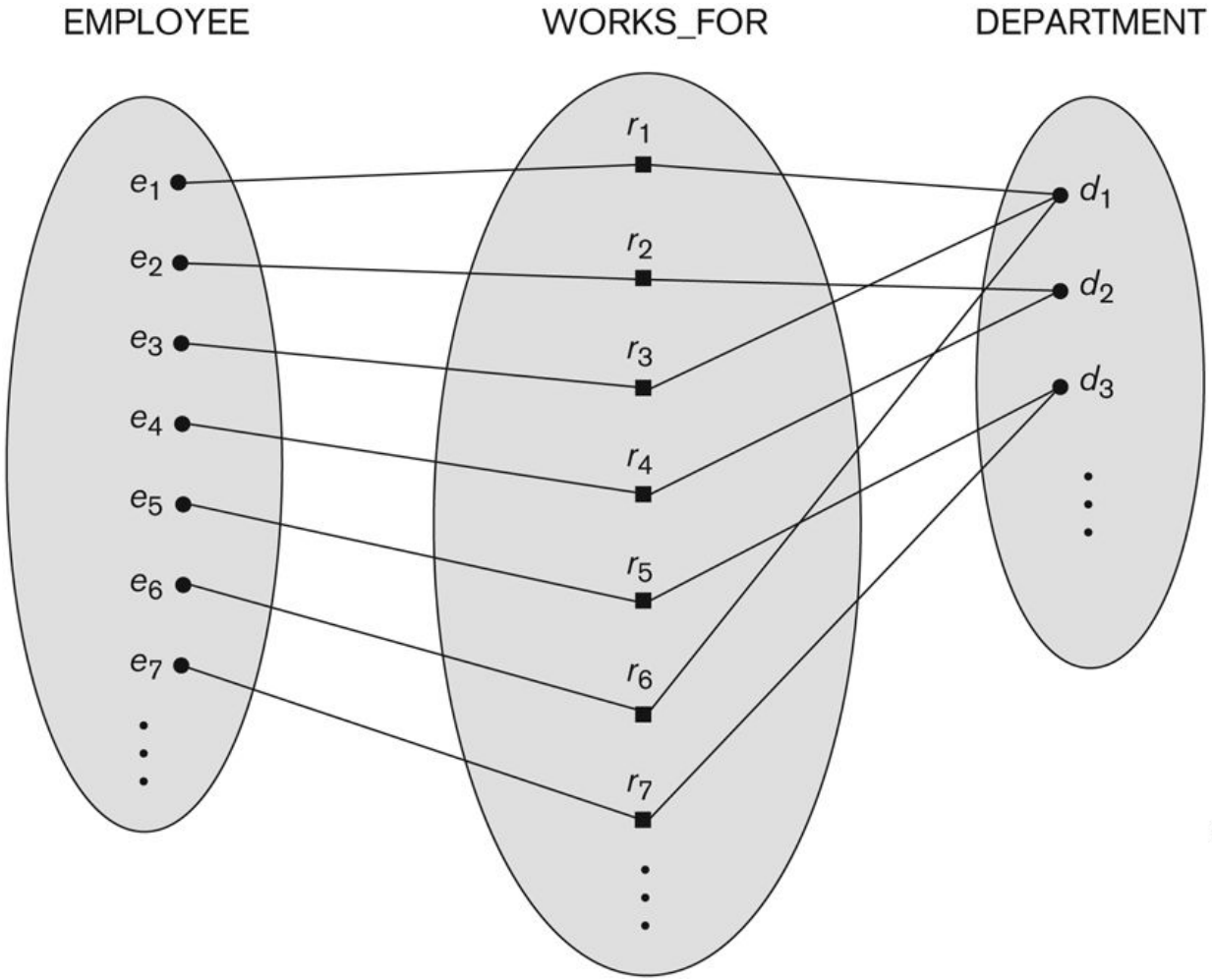


Figure 3.9
Some instances in the WORKS_FOR relationship set, which represents a relationship type WORKS_FOR between EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT.

Relationship instances of the M:N WORKS_ON relationship between EMPLOYEE and PROJECT

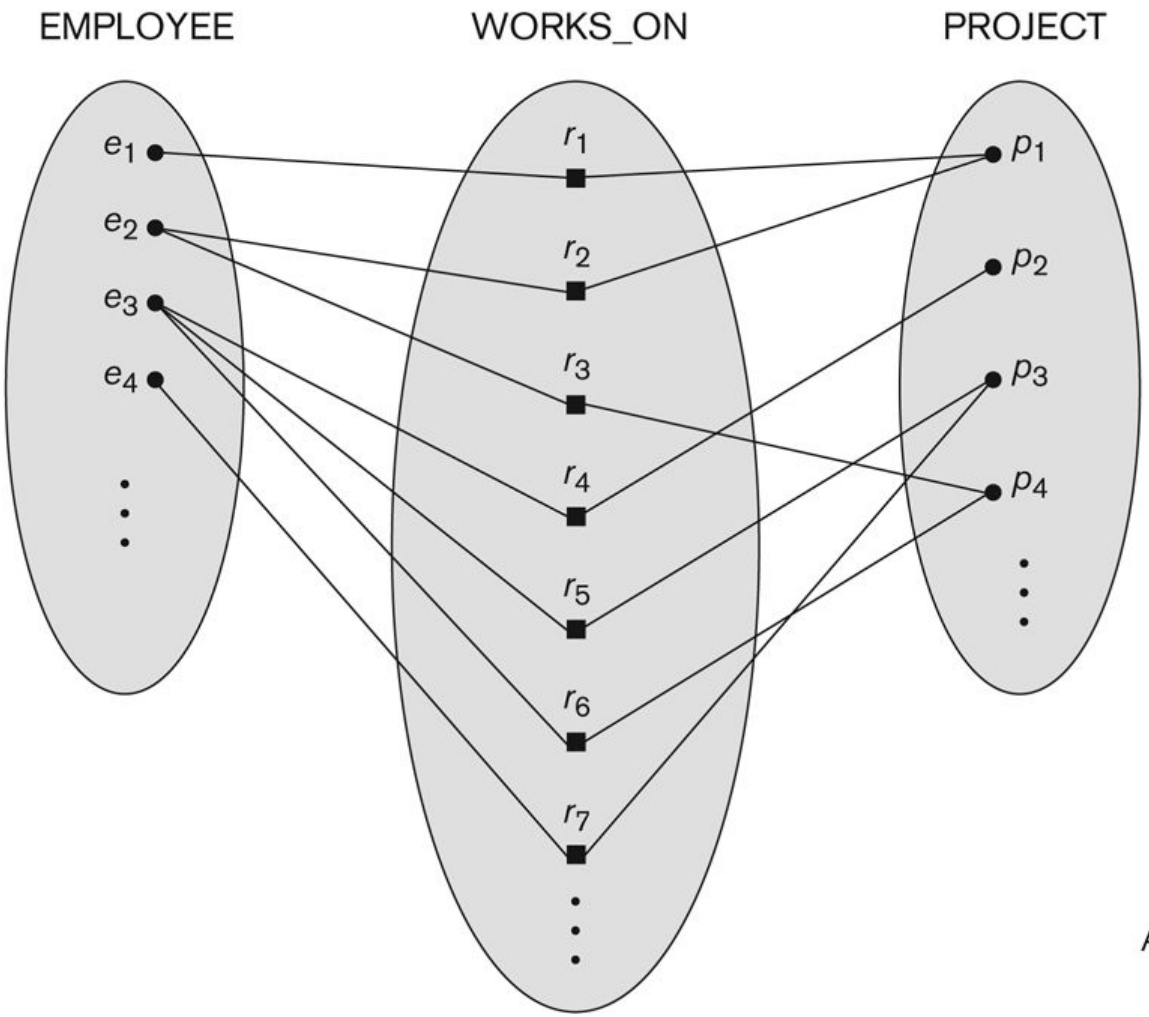


Figure 3.13
An M:N relationship, WORKS_ON.

Relationship type vs. relationship set (1)

- Relationship Type:
  - Is the schema description of a relationship
  - Identifies the relationship name and the participating entity types
  - Also identifies certain relationship constraints
- Relationship Set:
  - The current set of relationship instances represented in the database
  - The current *state* of a relationship type

Relationship type vs. relationship set (2)

- Previous figures displayed the relationship sets
- Each instance in the set relates individual participating entities – one from each participating entity type
- In ER diagrams, we represent the *relationship type* as follows:
  - Diamond-shaped box is used to display a relationship type
  - Connected to the participating entity types via straight lines
  - Note that the relationship type is not shown with an arrow. The name should be typically be readable from left to right and top to bottom.

Refining the COMPANY database schema by introducing relationships

- By examining the requirements, six relationship types are identified
- All are *binary* relationships(degree 2)
- Listed below with their participating entity types:
  - WORKS_FOR (between EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT)
  - MANAGES (also between EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT)
  - CONTROLS (between DEPARTMENT, PROJECT)
  - WORKS_ON (between EMPLOYEE, PROJECT)
  - SUPERVISION (between EMPLOYEE (as subordinate), EMPLOYEE (as supervisor))
  - DEPENDENTS_OF (between EMPLOYEE, DEPENDENT)

ER DIAGRAM – Relationship Types are:

WORKS_FOR, MANAGES, WORKS_ON, CONTROLS, SUPERVISION, DEPENDENTS_OF

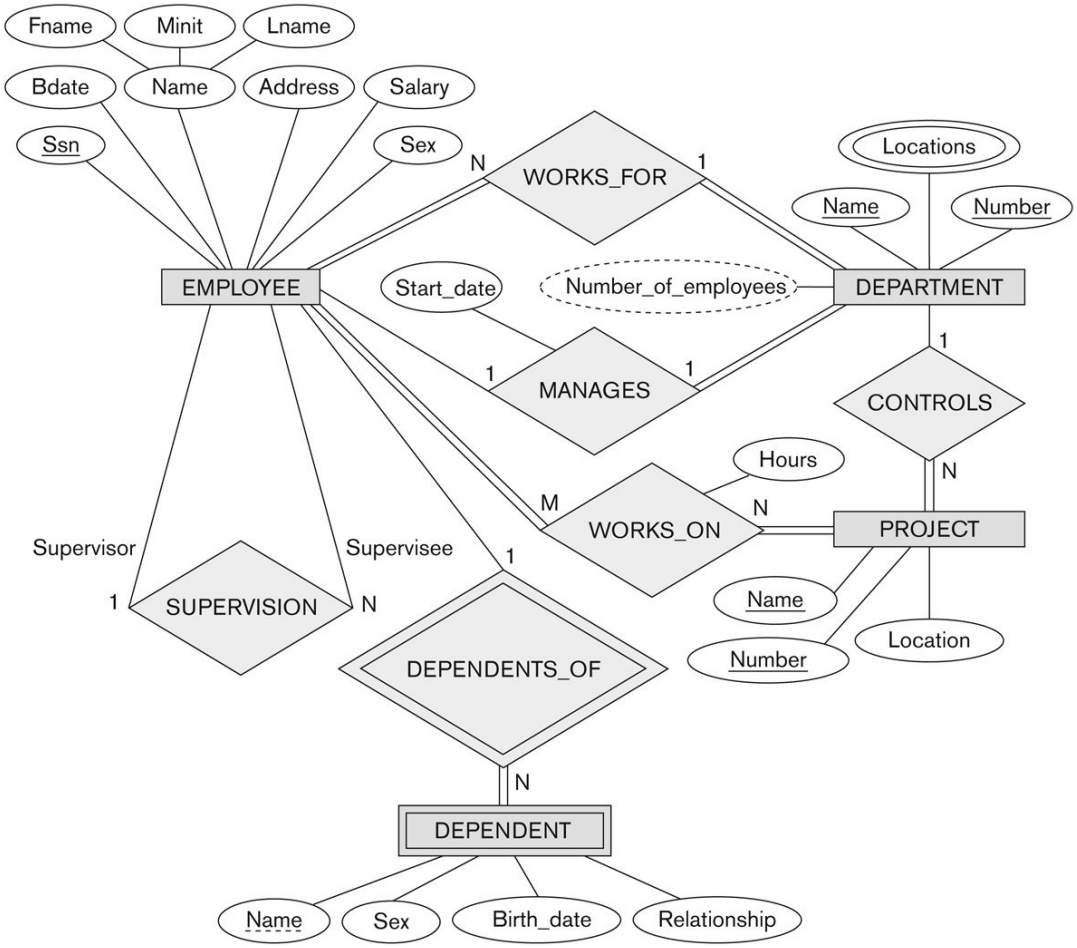


Figure 3.2
An ER schema diagram for the COMPANY database. The diagrammatic notation is introduced gradually throughout this chapter.

Discussion on Relationship Types

- In the refined design, some attributes from the initial entity types are refined into relationships:
  - Manager of DEPARTMENT -> MANAGES
  - Works_on of EMPLOYEE -> WORKS_ON
  - Department of EMPLOYEE -> WORKS_FOR
  - etc
- In general, more than one relationship type can exist between the same participating entity types
  - MANAGES and WORKS_FOR are distinct relationship types between EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT
  - Different meanings and different relationship instances.

Constraints on Relationships

- Constraints on Relationship Types
  - (Also known as ratio constraints)
  - Cardinality Ratio (specifies *maximum* participation)
    - One-to-one (1:1)
    - One-to-many (1:N) or Many-to-one (N:1)
    - Many-to-many (M:N)
  - Existence Dependency Constraint (specifies *minimum* participation) (also called participation constraint)
    - zero (optional participation, not existence-dependent)
    - one or more (mandatory participation, existence-dependent)

Many-to-one (N:1) Relationship

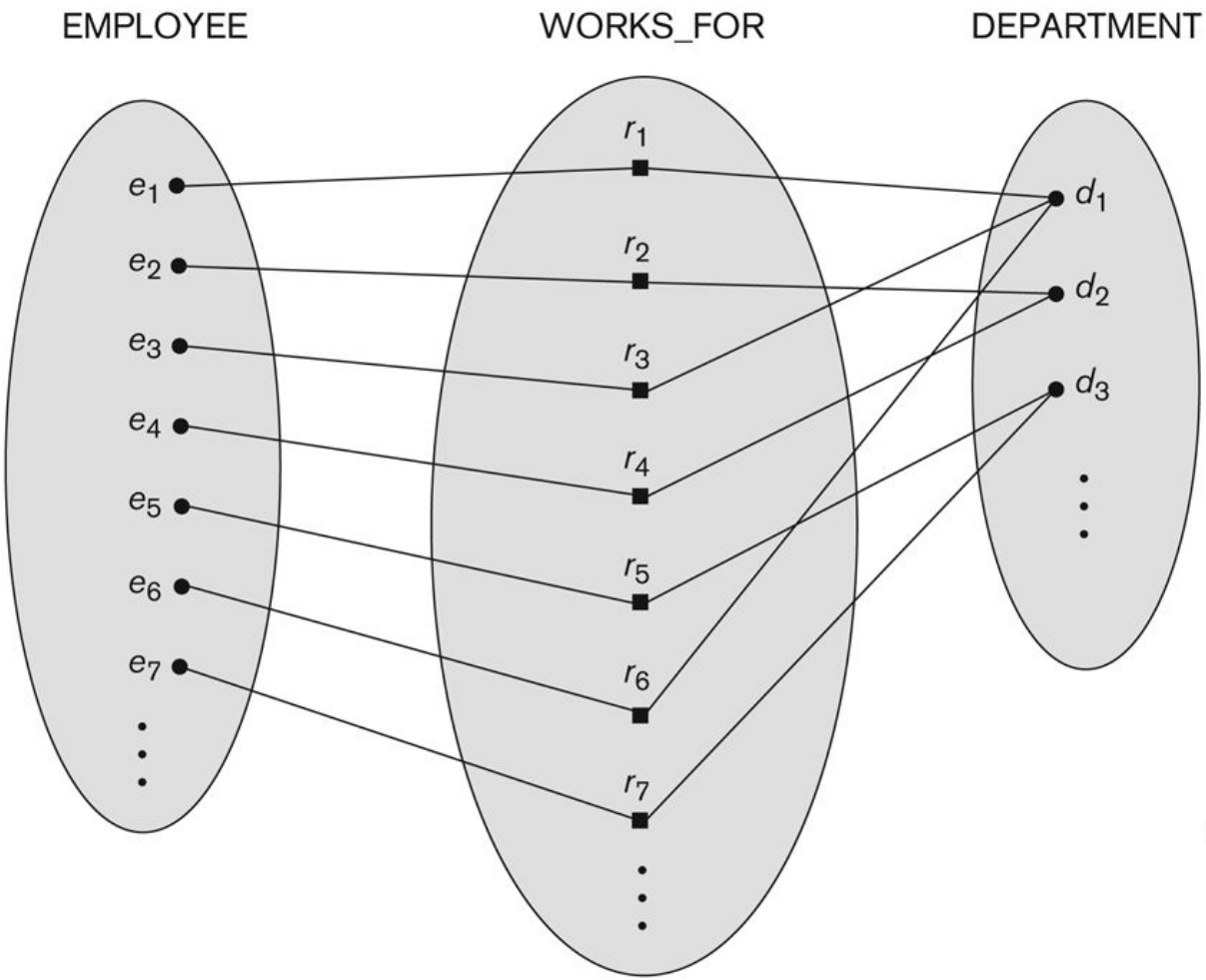


Figure 3.9
Some instances in the WORKS_FOR relationship set, which represents a relationship type WORKS_FOR between EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT.

Many-to-many (M:N) Relationship

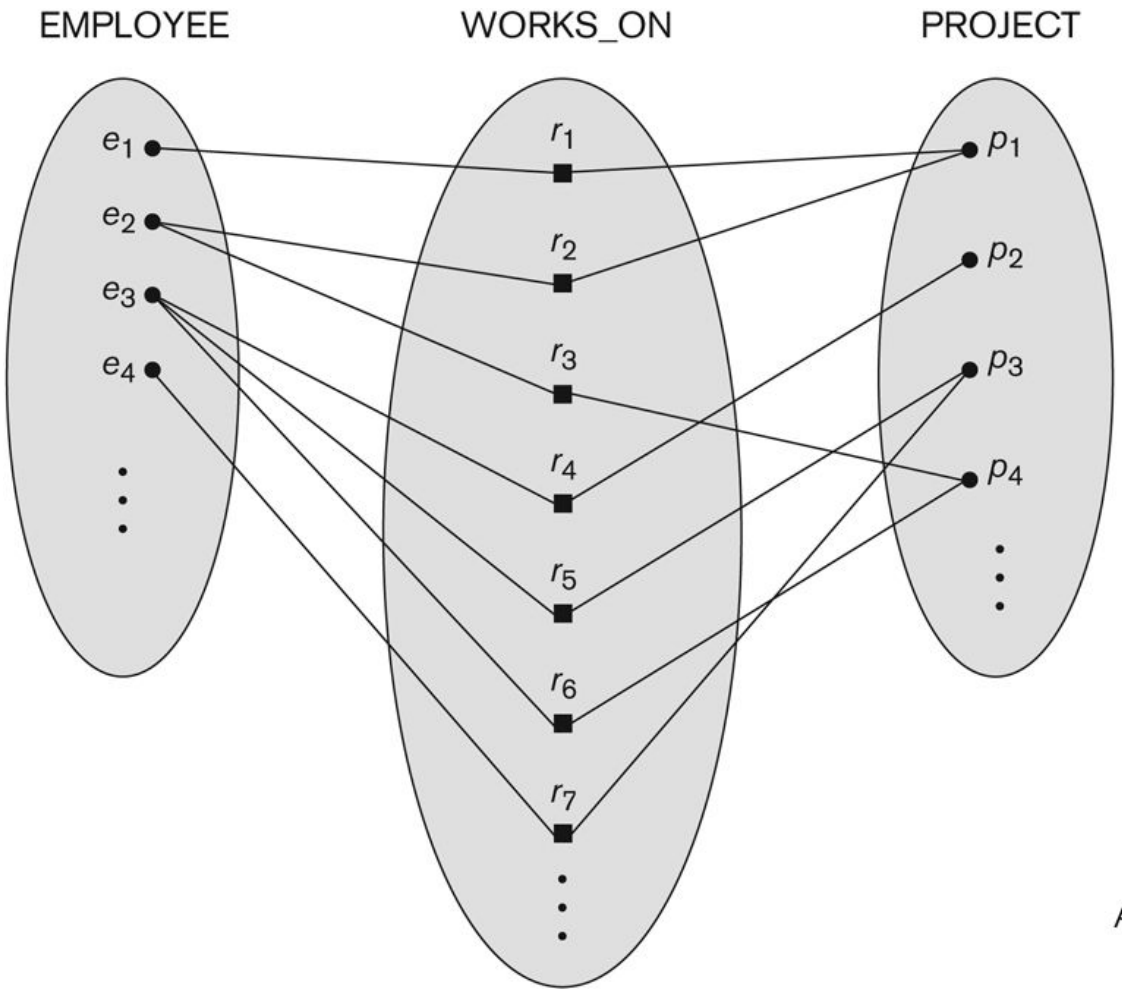


Figure 3.13
An M:N relationship, WORKS_ON.

Recursive Relationship Type

- A relationship type between the same participating entity type in **distinct roles**
- Also called a **self-referencing** relationship type.
- Example: the SUPERVISION relationship
- EMPLOYEE participates twice in two distinct roles:
  - supervisor (or boss) role
  - supervisee (or subordinate) role
- Each relationship instance relates two distinct EMPLOYEE entities:
  - One employee in *supervisor* role
  - One employee in *supervisee* role

Displaying a recursive relationship

- In a recursive relationship type.
  - Both participations are same entity type in different roles.
  - For example, SUPERVISION relationships between EMPLOYEE (in role of supervisor or boss) and (another) EMPLOYEE (in role of subordinate or worker).
- In following figure, first role participation labeled with 1 and second role participation labeled with 2.
- In ER diagram, need to display role names to distinguish participations.

A Recursive Relationship Supervision`

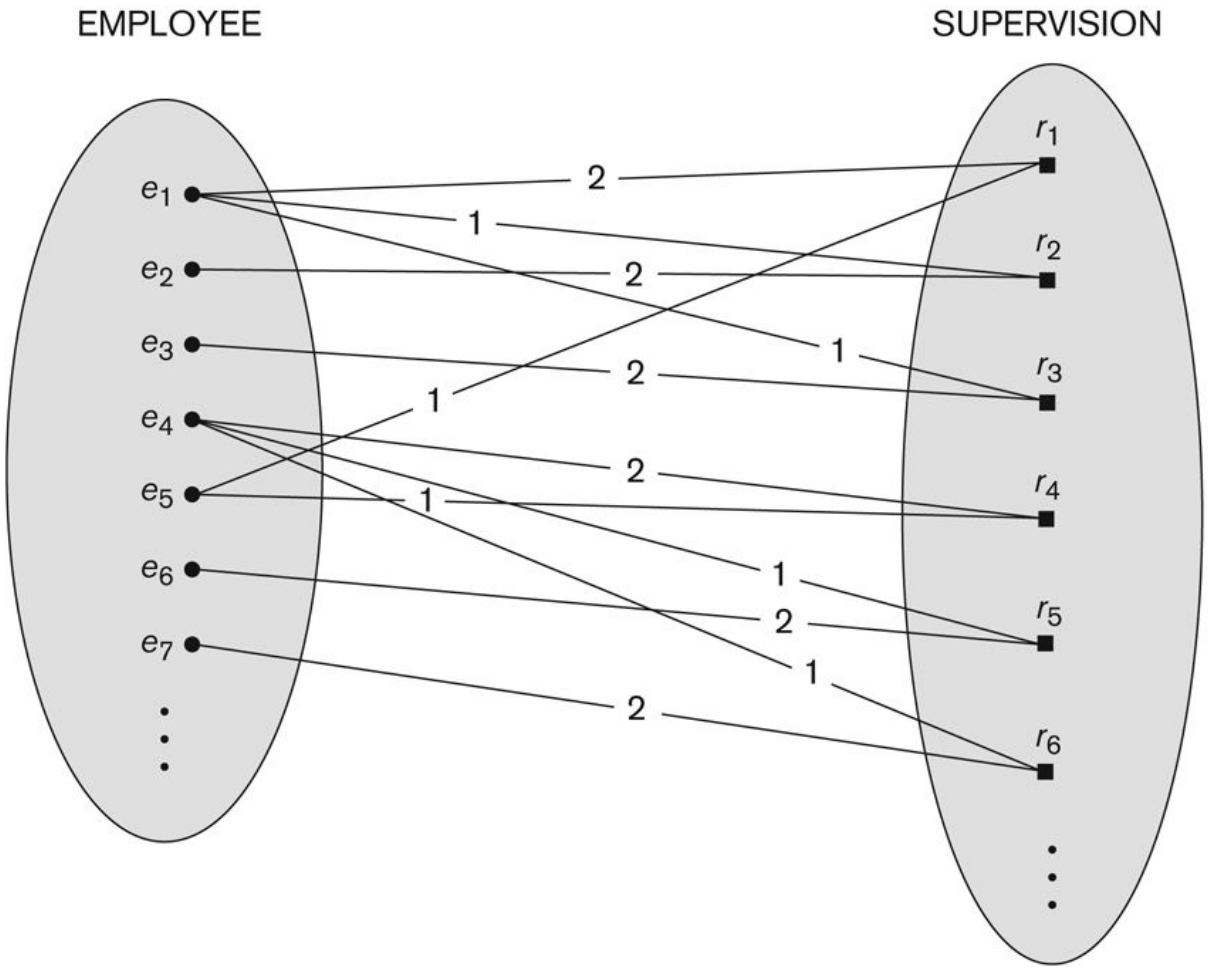


Figure 3.11
A recursive relationship SUPERVISION between EMPLOYEE in the *supervisor* role (1) and EMPLOYEE in the *subordinate* role (2).

Recursive Relationship Type is: SUPERVISION (participation role names are shown)

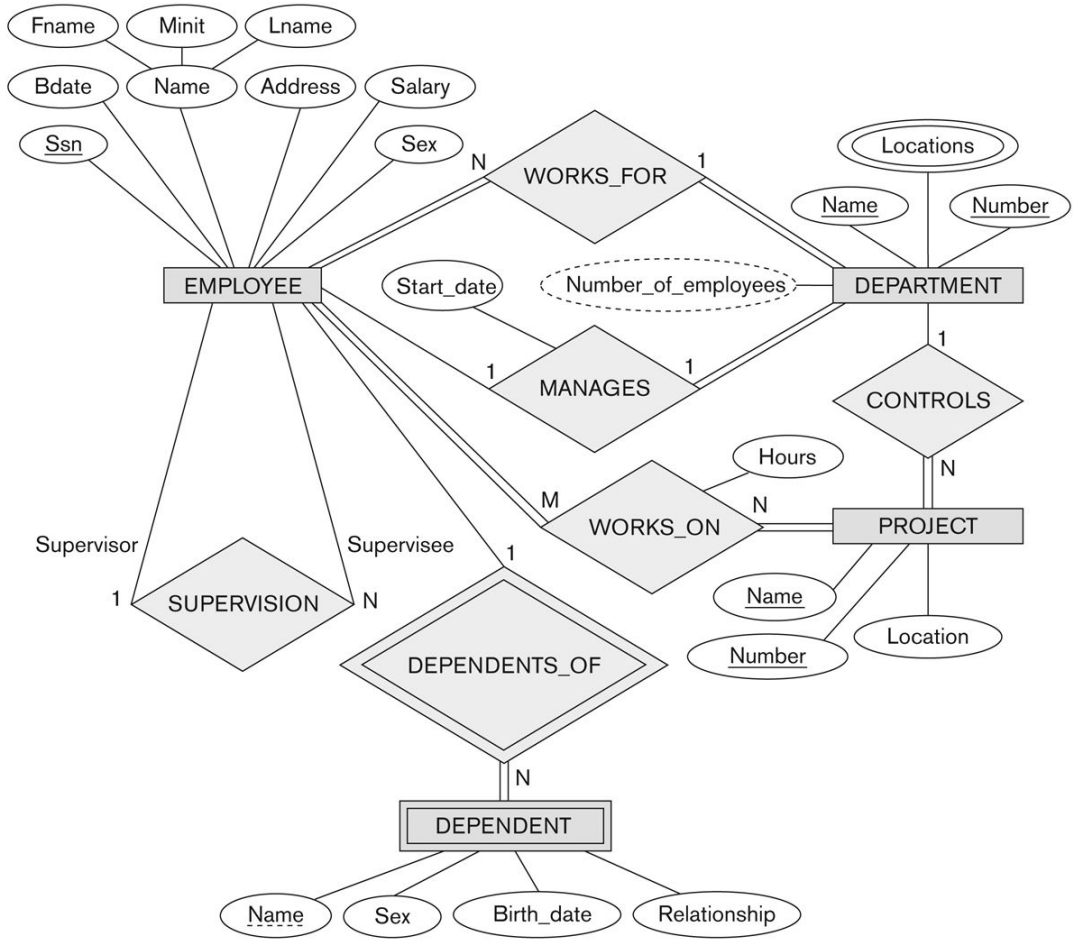


Figure 3.2
An ER schema diagram for the COMPANY database. The diagrammatic notation is introduced gradually throughout this chapter.

Weak Entity Types

- An entity that does not have a key attribute and that is identification-dependent on another entity type.
- 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 relationship type
- **Example:**
  - A DEPENDENT entity is identified by the dependent's first name, *and* the specific EMPLOYEE with whom the dependent is related
  - Name of DEPENDENT is the *partial key*
  - DEPENDENT is a *weak entity type*
  - EMPLOYEE is its identifying entity type via the identifying relationship type DEPENDENT_OF

Attributes of Relationship types

- A relationship type can have attributes:
  - For example, HoursPerWeek of WORKS_ON
  - Its value for each relationship instance describes the number of hours per week that an EMPLOYEE works on a PROJECT.
    - A value of HoursPerWeek depends on a particular (employee, project) combination
  - Most relationship attributes are used with M:N relationships
    - In 1:N relationships, they can be transferred to the entity type on the N-side of the relationship

Example Attribute of a Relationship Type: Hours of WORKS_ON

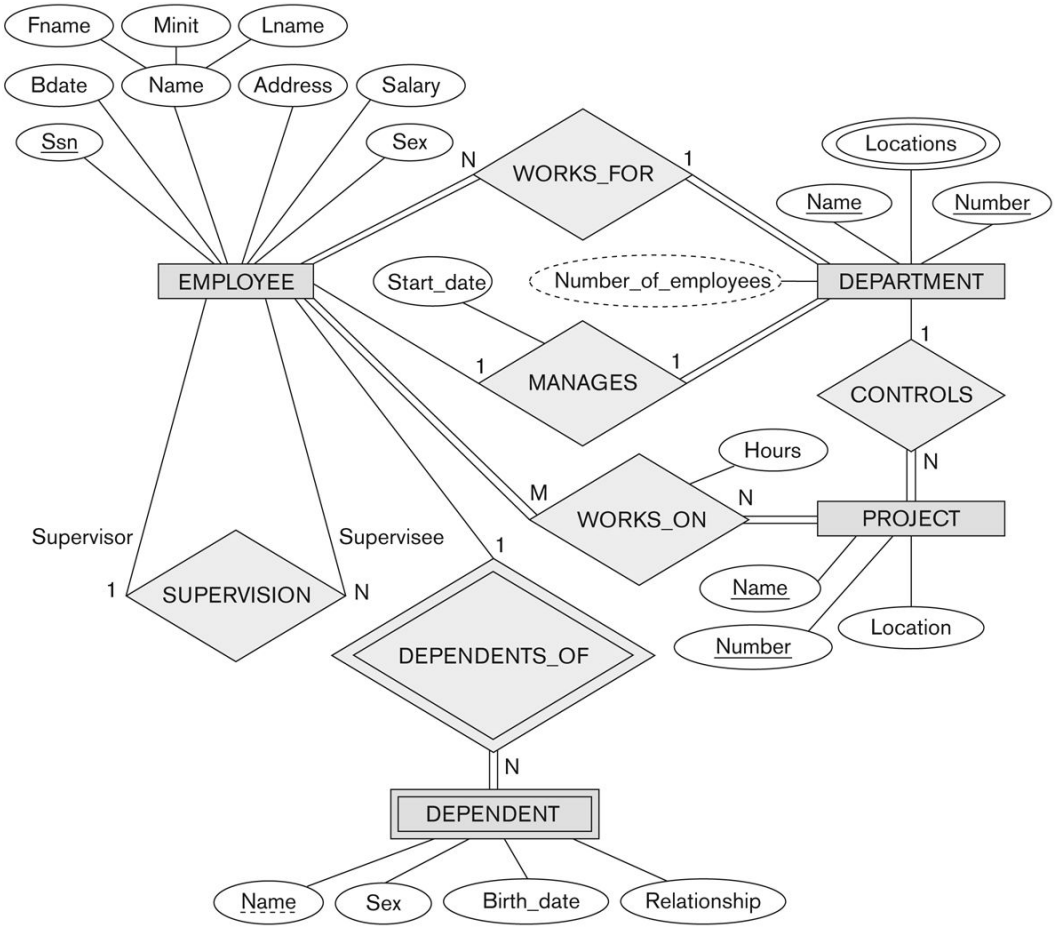


Figure 3.2
An ER schema diagram for the COMPANY database. The diagrammatic notation is introduced gradually throughout this chapter.

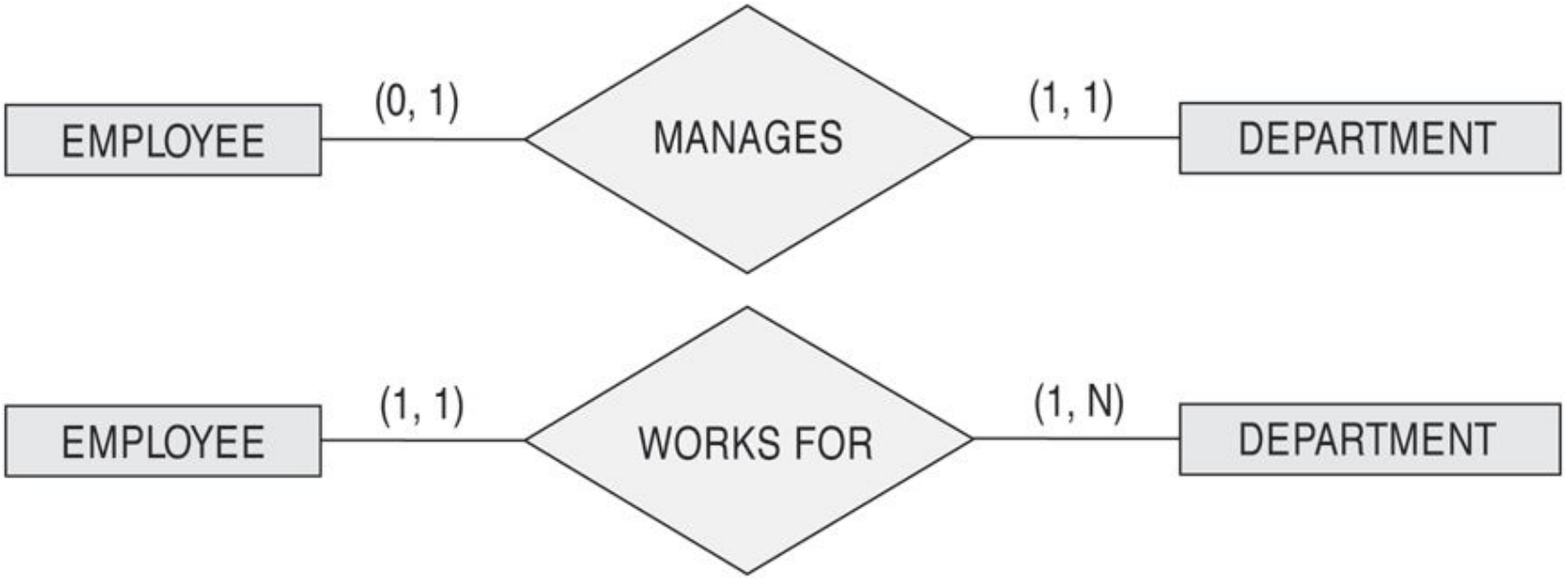
Notation for Constraints on Relationships

- Cardinality ratio (of a binary relationship): 1:1, 1:N, N:1, or M:N
  - Shown by placing appropriate numbers on the relationship edges.
- Participation constraint (on each participating entity type): total (called existence dependency) or partial.
  - Total shown by double line, partial by single line.
- NOTE: These are easy to specify for Binary Relationship Types.

Alternative (min, max) notation for relationship structural constraints:

- Specified on each participation of an entity type E in a relationship type R
- Specifies that each entity e in E participates in at least *min* and at most *max* relationship instances in R
- Default (no constraint): min=0, max=n (signifying no limit)
- Must have min ≤ max, min≥0, max ≥1
- Derived from the knowledge of mini-world constraints
- Examples:
  - A department has exactly one manager and an employee can manage at most one department.
    - Specify (0,1) for participation of EMPLOYEE in MANAGES
    - Specify (1,1) for participation of DEPARTMENT in MANAGES
  - An employee can work for exactly one department, but a department can have any number of employees.
    - Specify (1,1) for participation of EMPLOYEE in WORKS_FOR
    - Specify (0,n) for participation of DEPARTMENT in WORKS_FOR

The (min,max) notation for relationship constraints



Read the min,max numbers next to the entity type and looking **away from** the entity type

COMPANY ER Schema Diagram using (min, max) notation

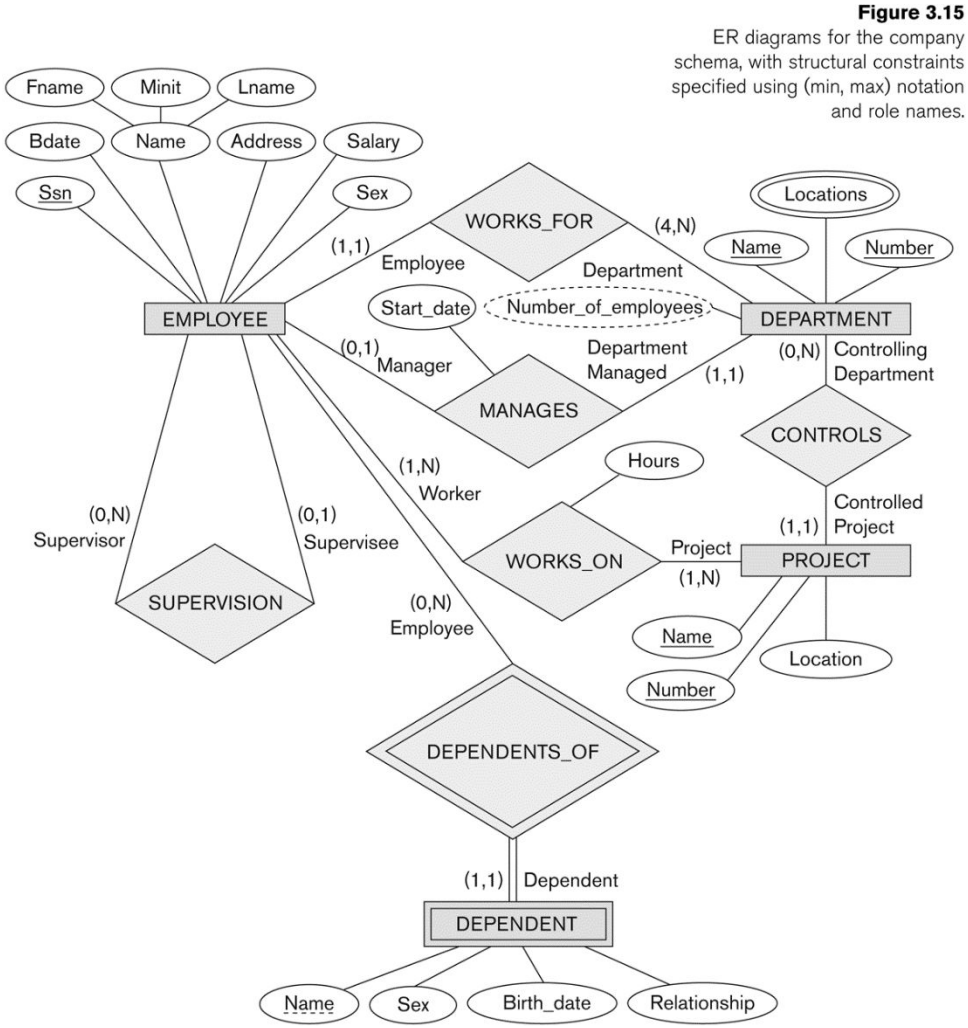


Figure 3.15
ER diagrams for the company schema, with structural constraints specified using (min, max) notation and role names.

Alternative diagrammatic notation

- ER diagrams is one popular example for displaying database schemas
- Many other notations exist in the literature and in various database design and modeling tools
- Appendix A illustrates some of the alternative notations that have been used
- UML class diagrams is representative of another way of displaying ER concepts that is used in several commercial design tools

Summary of notation for ER diagrams

Figure 3.14
Summary of the notation for ER diagrams.