The Relational Model

Chapter 3

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Why Study the Relational Model?

- Most widely used model.
  - Vendors: IBM, Microsoft, Oracle, etc.
  - Open Source: e.g., MySQL, and PostgreSQL
- Former competitors:
  - The Network Model: Now legacy
  - The Hierarchical Model: Now legacy
  - Object-oriented Model
    - ObjectStore, O2, Poet, ..
- Ingested into: *object-relational model*
  - *Supported by all industrial-strength systems*

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Relational Database: Definitions

- *Relational database:* a set of *relations*
- *Relation:* made up of 2 parts:
  - *Instance* : a *table*, with rows and columns. #Rows = *cardinality*, #fields = *degree / arity.*
  - *Schema* : specifies name of relation, plus name and type of each column.
    - E.G. Students(*sid*: string, *name*: string, *login*: string, *age*: integer, *gpa*: real).
- Can think of a relation as a *set* of rows or *tuples* (i.e., all rows are distinct).

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Example Instance of Students Relation

sid	name	login	age	gpa
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@eecs	18	3.2
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8

- Cardinality = 3, degree = 5, all rows distinct
- Do all columns in a relation instance have to be distinct?

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Relational Query Languages

- A major strength of the relational model: supports simple, powerful *querying* of data.
- Queries can be written intuitively, and the DBMS is responsible for efficient evaluation.
  - The key: precise semantics for relational queries.
  - Allows the optimizer to extensively re-order operations, and still ensure that the answer does not change.

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The SQL Query Language

- First developed by IBM (system R) in the 1970s
- Need for a standard since it is used by many vendors
- Standards:
  - SQL-86: By 1986, ANSI and ISO standard groups officially adopted the standard "Database Language SQL" language definition.
  - New versions of the standard were published in 1989, 1992, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2011, and, 2016.

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sql is declarative language and will translated into relational algebra and query evaluation pipes by machine

Relational algebra is a procedural query language

Relational Calculus is a Declarative language (tuple and domain relational calculus)

The SQL Query Language

- To find all 18 year old students, we can write:

```
SELECT *
FROM Students S
WHERE S.age=18
```

Student S is a tuple variable

sid	name	login	age	gpa
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@ee	18	3.2

where clause: select predicate (with one variable); join (two variables)

- To find just names and logins, replace the first line:

```
SELECT S.name, S.login
```


Querying Multiple Relations

- What does the following query compute?

```
SELECT S.name, E.cid
FROM Students S, Enrolled E
WHERE S.sid=E.sid AND E.grade="A"
```

Given the following instances of Enrolled and Students:

sid	name	login	age	gpa
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@eecs	18	3.2
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8

sid	cid	grade
53831	Carnatic101	C
53831	Reggae203	B
53650	Topology112	A
53666	History105	B

we get:

S.name	E.cid
Smith	Topology112

get rid of S. E. will still work because these attributes are unique

self join:

Parent child table (foreign key)
Child | Parent

select Child and Grand Parent

```
Select p2.c, p1.p
from parents p1, p2
where p1.c = p2.p
```

Creating Relations in SQL

- Creates the Students relation. Observe that the type (domain) of each field is specified, and enforced by the DBMS whenever tuples are added or modified.

```
CREATE TABLE Students
    (sid: CHAR(20),
     name: CHAR(20),
     login: CHAR(10),
     age: INTEGER,
     gpa: REAL)
```

- As another example, the Enrolled table holds information about courses that students take.

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
    (sid: CHAR(20),
     cid: CHAR(20),
     grade: CHAR(2))
```

Destroying and Altering Relations

DROP TABLE Students

- Destroys the relation Students. The schema information *and* the tuples are deleted.

ALTER TABLE Students
ADD COLUMN firstYear: integer

- The schema of Students is altered by adding a new field; every tuple in the current instance is extended with a *null* value in the new field.

Adding and Deleting Tuples

- Can insert a single tuple using:

```
INSERT INTO Students (sid, name, login, age, gpa)
VALUES (53688, 'Smith', 'smith@ee', 18, 3.2)
```

- Can delete all tuples satisfying some condition (e.g., name = Smith):

```
DELETE
FROM Students S
WHERE S.name = 'Smith'
```

bulk delete (delete all)

bulk update (update all)

☛ *Powerful variants of these commands are available; more later!*

Integrity Constraints (ICs)

primary key has to be unique, email should have @, e.g

- IC: condition that must be true for *any* instance of the database; e.g., *domain constraints.*
  - ICs are specified when schema is defined.
  - ICs are checked when relations are modified.
- A *legal* instance of a relation is one that satisfies all specified ICs.
  - DBMS should not allow illegal instances.
- If the DBMS checks ICs, stored data is more faithful to real-world meaning.
  - Avoids data entry errors, too!

data type + Constraints (NOT NULL / UNIQUE / PRIMARY KEY / FOREIGN KEY / CHECK / DEFAULT)

Primary Key Constraints

- A set of fields is a *key* for a relation if :
  1. No two distinct tuples can have same values in all key fields, and
  2. This is not true for any subset of the key.
     - Part 2 false? A *superkey*.
     - If there's >1 key for a relation, one of the keys is chosen (by DBA) to be the *primary key*.
- E.g., *sid* is a key for Students. (What about *name*?) The set {*sid, gpa*} is a superkey.

candidate keys: keys that can be chose from

the key that we chose

Primary and Candidate Keys in SQL

- Possibly many *candidate keys* (specified using UNIQUE), one of which is chosen as the *primary key*.
- "For a given student and course, there is a single grade." vs. "Students can take only one course, and receive a single grade for that course; further, no two students in a course receive the same grade."
- Used carelessly, an IC can prevent the storage of database instances that arise in practice!

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
  (sid CHAR(20)
   cid CHAR(20),
   grade CHAR(2),
   PRIMARY KEY (sid,cid) )
```

no student can take the same course twice

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
  (sid CHAR(20)
   cid CHAR(20),
   grade CHAR(2),
   PRIMARY KEY (sid),
   UNIQUE (cid, grade) )
```

no two students can have the same grade in a class

Foreign Keys, Referential Integrity

- *Foreign key* : Set of fields in one relation that is used to `refer' to a tuple in another relation. (Must correspond to primary key of the second relation.) Like a `logical pointer'.
- E.g. *sid* is a foreign key referring to Students:
  - Enrolled(*sid*: string, *cid*: string, *grade*: string)
  - If all foreign key constraints are enforced, *referential integrity* is achieved, i.e., no dangling references.
  - Can you name a data model w/o referential integrity?
    - Links in HTML!

sid has to be existed in student table

Foreign Keys in SQL

- Only students listed in the Students relation should be allowed to enroll for courses.

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
  (sid CHAR(20), cid CHAR(20), grade CHAR(2),
   PRIMARY KEY (sid,cid),
   FOREIGN KEY (sid) REFERENCES Students )
```

Enrolled

sid	cid	grade
53666	Carnatic101	C
53666	Reggae203	B
53650	Topology112	A
53666	History105	B

Students

sid	name	login	age	gpa
53666	Jones	jones@cs	18	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@eecs	18	3.2
53650	Smith	smith@math	19	3.8

Enforcing Referential Integrity

- Consider Students and Enrolled; *sid* in Enrolled is a foreign key that references Students.
- What should be done if an Enrolled tuple with a non-existent student id is inserted? (*Reject it!*)
- What should be done if a Students tuple is deleted?
  - Also delete all Enrolled tuples that refer to it.
  - Disallow deletion of a Students tuple that is referred to.
  - Set sid in Enrolled tuples that refer to it to a *default sid*.
  - (In SQL, also: Set sid in Enrolled tuples that refer to it to a special value *null*, denoting *`unknown'* or *`inapplicable'*.)
- Similar if primary key of Students tuple is updated.

Referential Integrity in SQL

- SQL/92 and SQL:1999 support all 4 options on deletes and updates.
  - Default is NO ACTION (*delete/update is rejected*)
  - CASCADE (also delete all tuples that refer to deleted tuple)
  - SET NULL / SET DEFAULT (sets foreign key value of referencing tuple)

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
  (sid CHAR(20),
   cid CHAR(20),
   grade CHAR(2),
   PRIMARY KEY (sid,cid),
   FOREIGN KEY (sid)
     REFERENCES Students
        ON DELETE CASCADE
        ON UPDATE SET DEFAULT )
```


what if students dropped purdue and what happened to enrolled table

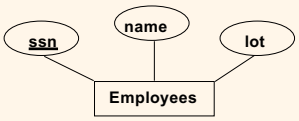
1 on delete cascade (delete tuples from other tables with same foreign keys)
2 on delete set null
3 on delete restrict (reject is it has references)
4 on delete set default (set the value to default value)

Where do ICs Come From?

- ICs are based upon the semantics of the real-world enterprise that is being described in the database relations.
- We can check a database instance to see if an IC is violated, but we can NEVER infer that an IC is true by looking at an instance.
  - An IC is a statement about *all possible* instances!
  - From example, we know *name* is not a key, but the assertion that *sid* is a key is given to us.
- Key and foreign key ICs are the most common; more general ICs supported too.

Logical DB Design: Mapping to the Relational Model

- Map entities to tables:




```
CREATE TABLE Employees
    (ssn CHAR(11),
    name CHAR(20),
    lot INTEGER,
    PRIMARY KEY (ssn))
```


Relationship Sets to Tables

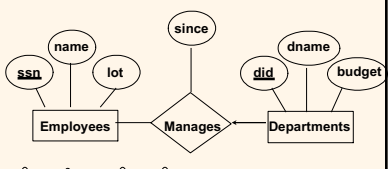
- In translating a relationship set to a relation, attributes of the relation must include:
  - Keys for each participating entity set (as foreign keys).
    - This set of attributes forms a *superkey* for the relation.
  - All descriptive attributes.

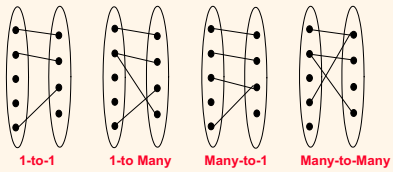
```
CREATE TABLE Works_In(
  ssn CHAR(11),
  did INTEGER,
  since DATE,
  PRIMARY KEY (ssn, did),
  FOREIGN KEY (ssn)
     REFERENCES Employees,
  FOREIGN KEY (did)
     REFERENCES Departments)
```

Key Constraints

binary relation

- Each dept has at most one manager, according to the *key constraint* on Manages.





Translation to relational model?

Translating ER Diagrams with Key Constraints

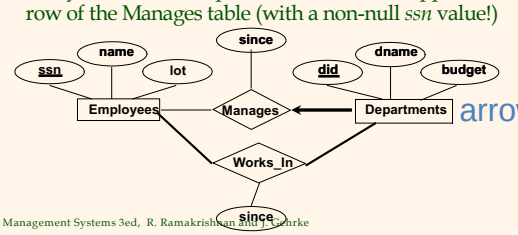
- Map relationship to a table:
  - Note that did is the key now!
  - Separate tables for Employees and Departments.
- Since each department has a unique manager, we could instead combine Manages and Departments.

```
CREATE TABLE Manages(
  ssn CHAR(11),
  did INTEGER,
  since DATE,
  PRIMARY KEY (did),
  FOREIGN KEY (ssn) REFERENCES Employees,
  FOREIGN KEY (did) REFERENCES Departments)
```

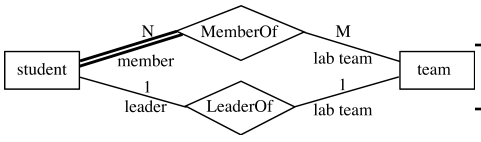
```
CREATE TABLE Dept_Mgr(
  did INTEGER,
  dname CHAR(20),
  budget REAL,
  ssn CHAR(11),
  since DATE,
  PRIMARY KEY (did),
  FOREIGN KEY (ssn) REFERENCES Employees)
```


Participation Constraints

- Does every department have a manager?
  - If so, this is a *participation constraint*: the participation of Departments in Manages is said to be *total* (vs. *partial*).
    - Every *did* value in Departments table must appear in a row of the Manages table (with a non-null *ssn* value!)



arrow: every dept has only one manager



Participation Constraints in SQL

- We can capture participation constraints involving one entity set in a binary relationship, but little else (without resorting to CHECK constraints).

```
CREATE TABLE Dept_Mgr(
  did INTEGER,
  dname CHAR(20),
  budget REAL,
  ssn CHAR(11) NOT NULL,
  since DATE,
  PRIMARY KEY (did),
  FOREIGN KEY (ssn) REFERENCES Employees,
    ON DELETE NO ACTION)
```


Views

- A *view* is just a relation, but we store a *definition*, rather than a set of tuples.

```
CREATE VIEW YoungActiveStudents (name, grade)
    AS SELECT S.name, E.grade
    FROM Students S, Enrolled E
    WHERE S.sid = E.sid and S.age<21
```

- Views can be dropped using the DROP VIEW command.
  - How to handle DROP TABLE if there's a view on the table?
    - DROP TABLE command has options to let the user specify this.

Views and Security

- Views can be used to present necessary information (or a summary), while hiding details in underlying relation(s).
  - Given YoungStudents, but not Students or Enrolled, we can find students s who have are enrolled, but not the *cid's* of the courses they are enrolled in.

Relational Model: Summary

- A tabular representation of data.
- Simple and intuitive, currently the most widely used.
- Integrity constraints can be specified by the DBA, based on application semantics. DBMS checks for violations.
  - Two important ICs: primary and foreign keys
  - In addition, we *always* have domain constraints.
- Powerful and natural query languages exist.
- Rules to translate a real world data application scenario into the relational model