Keys and its types in RDBMS

Keys in RDBMS

- In a Relational Database Management System (RDBMS), a key is a column or a combination of columns that uniquely identifies a row in a table.

Types of Keys in RDBMS

- There are several types of keys in RDBMS, including:

1. **Primary key:** A primary key is a unique identifier for a row in a table. It must be unique for each row and cannot be NULL. A table can have only one primary key.

2. **Foreign key:** A foreign key is a column or set of columns in one table that refers to the primary key of another table. It is used to establish a relationship between two tables.

3. **Candidate key:** A candidate key is a column or set of columns that can be used as a primary key. A table may have multiple candidate keys.

4. **Composite key:** A composite key is a primary key that consists of two or more columns. It is used when no single column can uniquely identify a row.

5. **Alternate key:** An alternate key is a candidate key that is not chosen as the primary key.

6. **Super key:** A super key is a set of one or more columns that can uniquely identify a row in a table. It may contain extra columns that are not necessary to identify the row uniquely.

- Each of these keys plays a different role in the structure of a database and helps in maintaining data integrity and establishing relationships between tables.