

# Entity Relationship Model

Part-2





How to  
design ER  
diagram??



Steps to  
design ER  
model?

## Steps to design ER model?

To identify the entities

To find the relationships among these entities

To identify key attributes

To identify other relevant attributes

To draw the complete ER diagram

# Case study of Bennett university management system?

- Bennett university contains many departments. Each department can offer any number of courses. Many teachers can work in a department. A teacher can work only in one department. For each department there is a Head. A teacher can be head of only one department. Each teacher can take any number of courses. A course can be taken by only one instructor. A student can enroll for any number of courses. Each course can have any number of students

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# To identify the entities?

- University, Department, Courses, Teacher, Student





# To identify the entities?

- University, Department, Courses, Teacher, Student
- Here database is of only one university . If an entity has a single instance, then that entity is ignored. Thus, the final entities are:
  - Department, Courses, Teacher, Student





# To find the relationships among these entities?

Bennett university contains many departments.

Each department can offer any number of courses.

Many teachers can work in a department. A teacher can work only in one department.

For each department there is a Head. A teacher can be head of only one department.

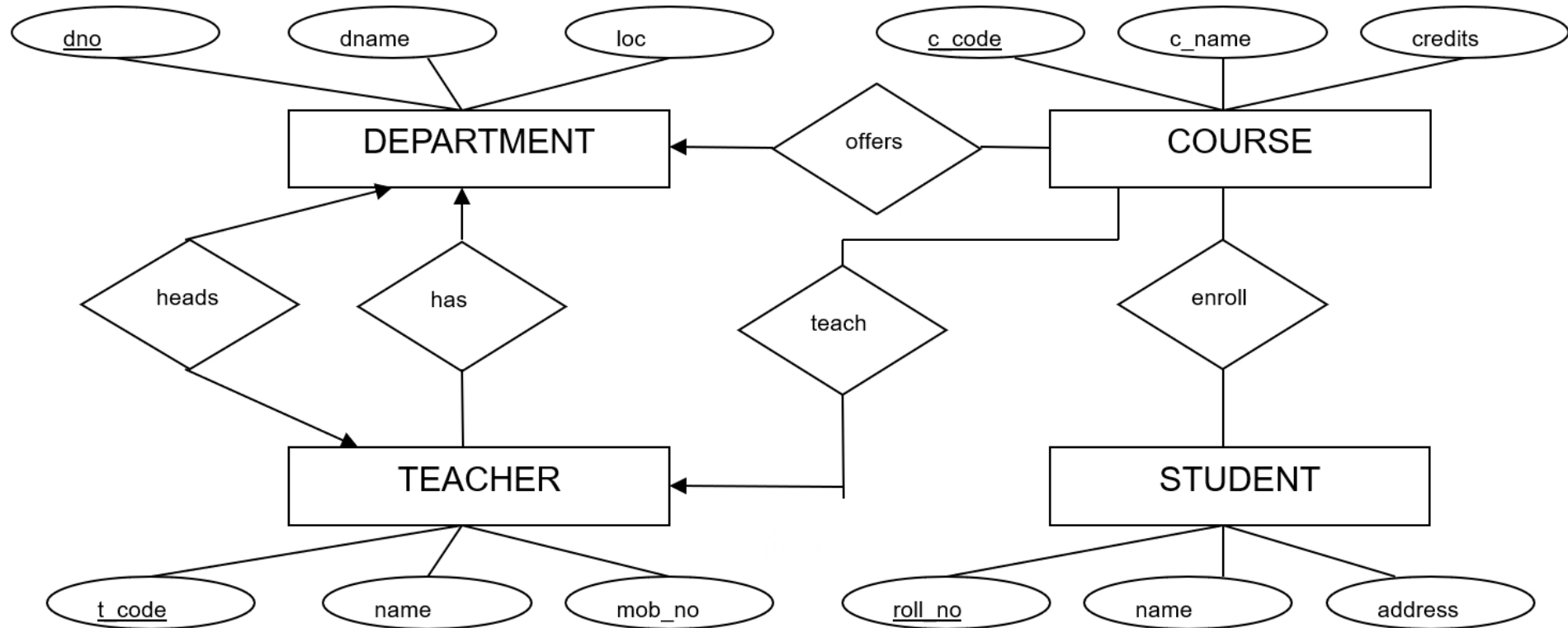
Each teacher can take any number of courses. A course can be taken by only one instructor.

A student can enroll for any number of courses. Each course can have any number of students

To identify key  
attributes  
To identify other  
relevant attributes

- Department (dno, dname, loc)
- Teacher (t\_code, name, mob\_no)
- Course (c\_code, c\_name, credits)
- Student (roll\_no, name, address)

# ER diagram



# Weak Entity Set

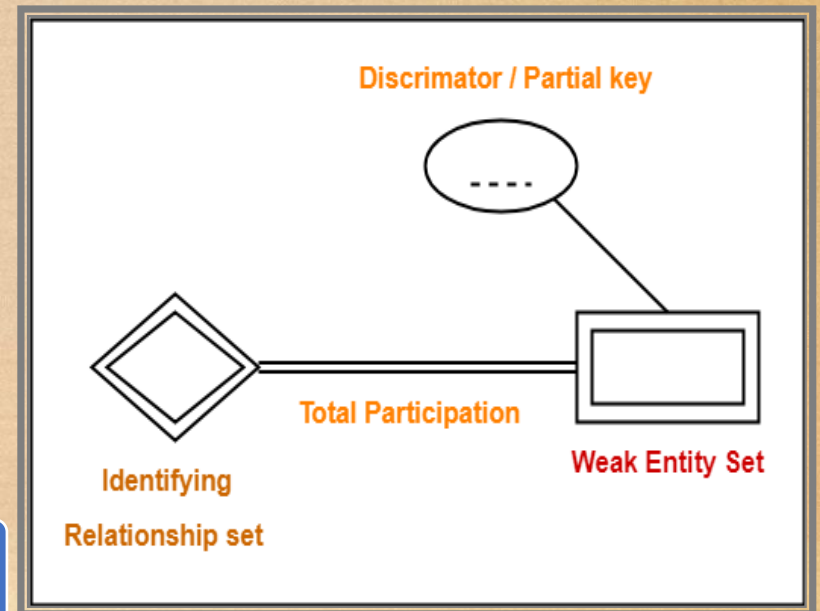
Weak entity set: An entity set that does not have a primary key.

Its existence depends on the existence of a strong entity set.

The discriminator of a weak entity set is the set of attributes that distinguishes between all the entities of a weak entity set.

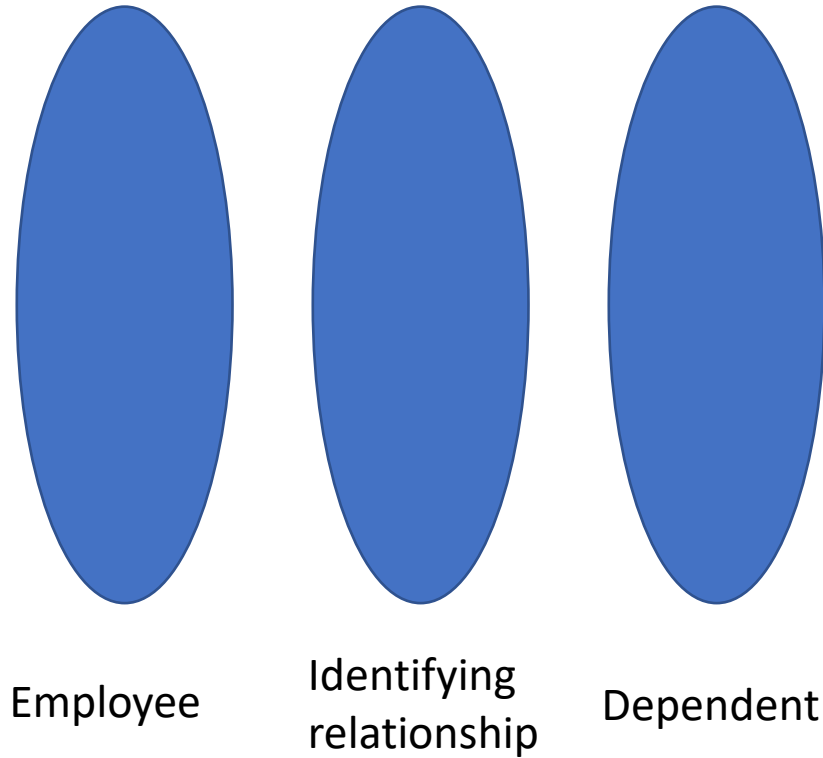
Its primary key is created by combining the primary key of the strong entity set on which the weak entity set is existence dependent and the weak entity set's discriminator.

We underline the discriminator attribute with a dashed line.

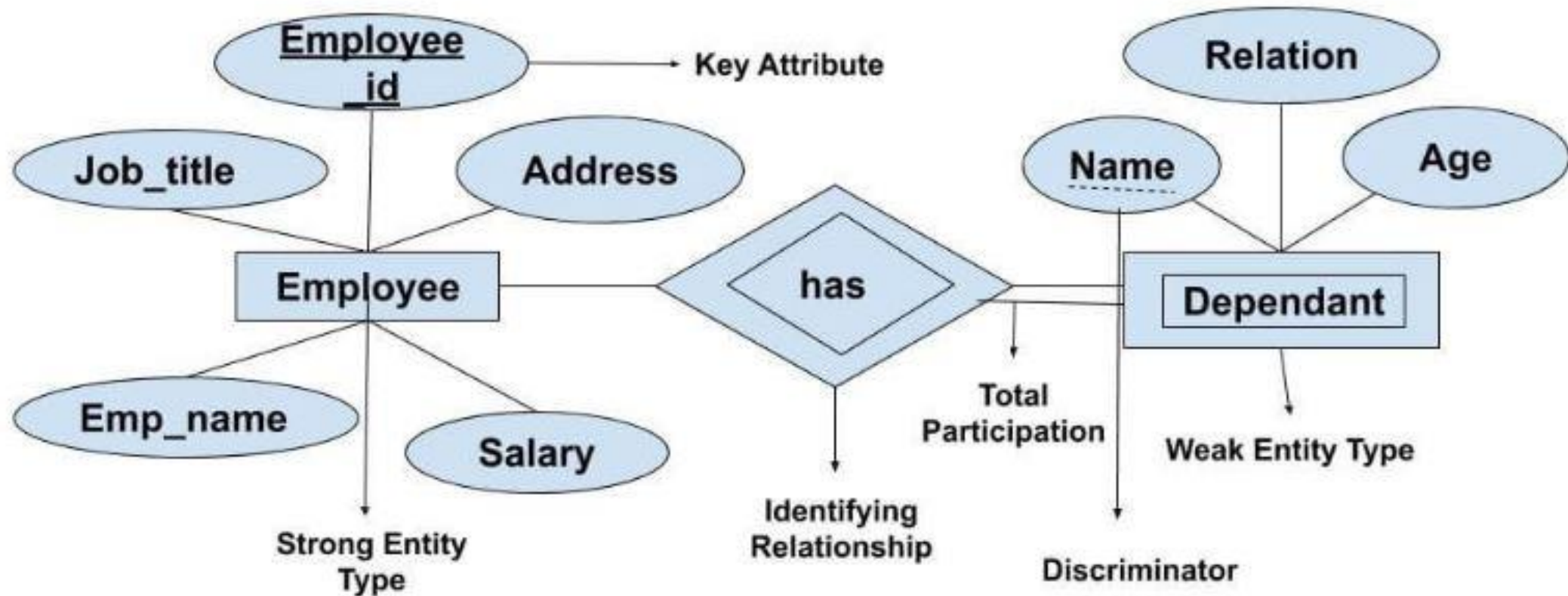


# Example

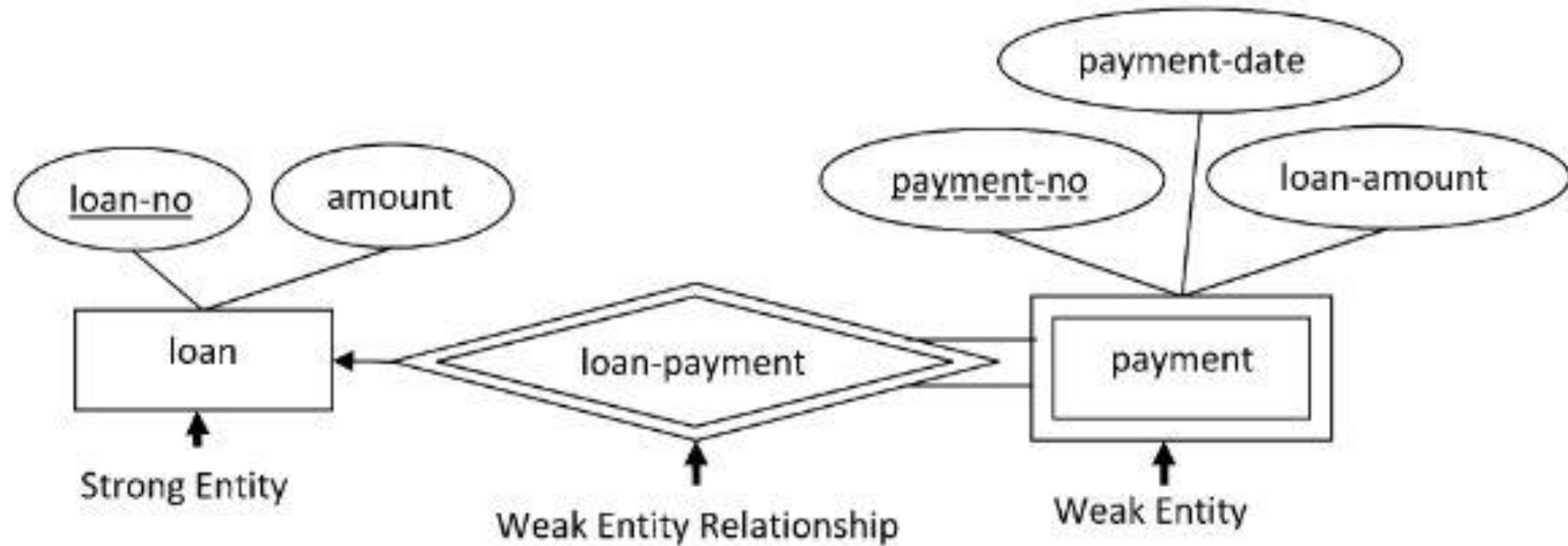
- Employee={eid,name, age,department}
- Dependent={name,age,relation}



## Weak Entity set examples contd.

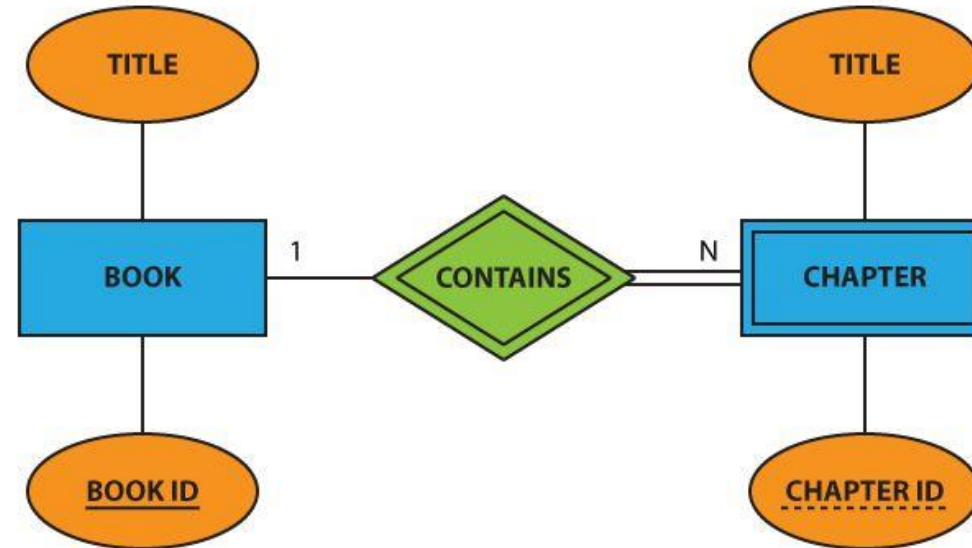


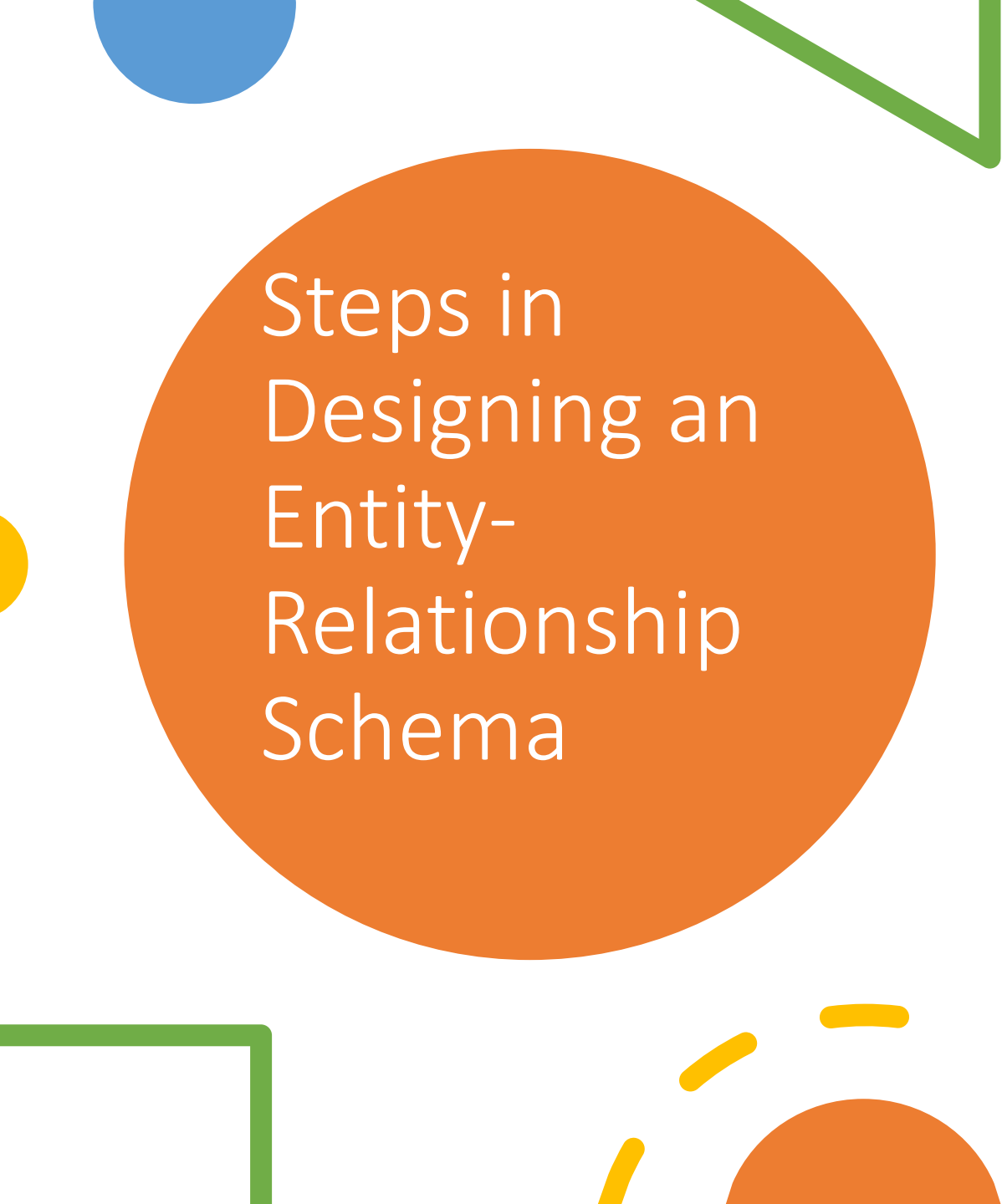
# Weak Entity set examples





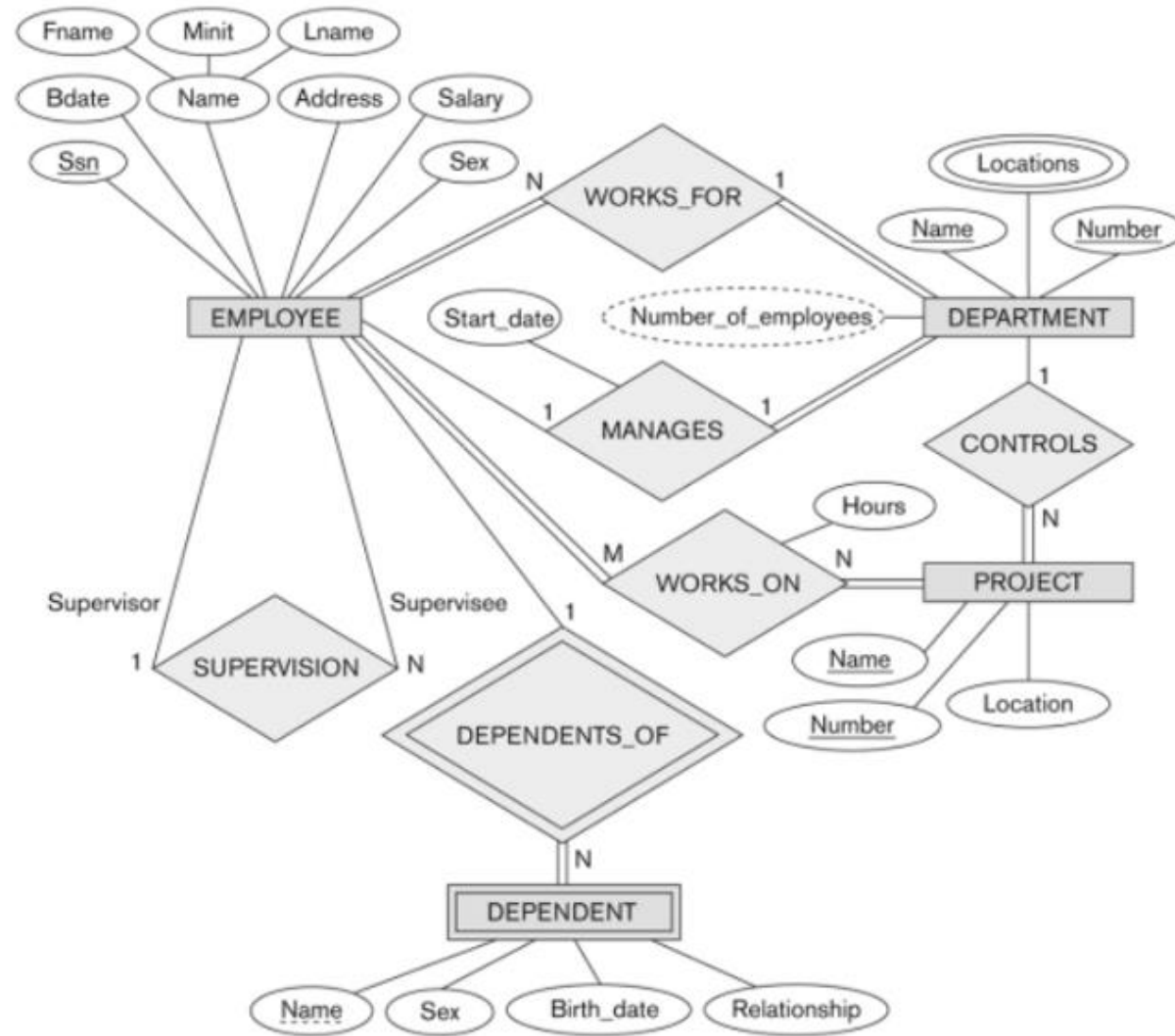
## Weak Entity set examples contd.





# Steps in Designing an Entity- Relationship Schema

1. Identify entity types (entity type vs. attribute)
2. Identify relationship types
3. Identify and associate attributes with entity and relationship types
4. Determine attribute domains.
5. Determine primary key attributes for entity types
6. Associate (refined) cardinality ratio(s) with relationship types
7. **Design generalization/specialization hierarchies including constraints (includes natural language statements as well)**



# EER Model



EER stands for Extended/Enhance ER model



Enhanced entity-relationship diagrams are advanced database diagrams very similar to regular ER diagrams which represents requirements and complexities of complex databases.



Why to go for EER model?

The additional EER concepts are used to model applications more accurately and more completely.

EER includes some object oriented concepts such as inheritance.

# Extended Features of ER Model

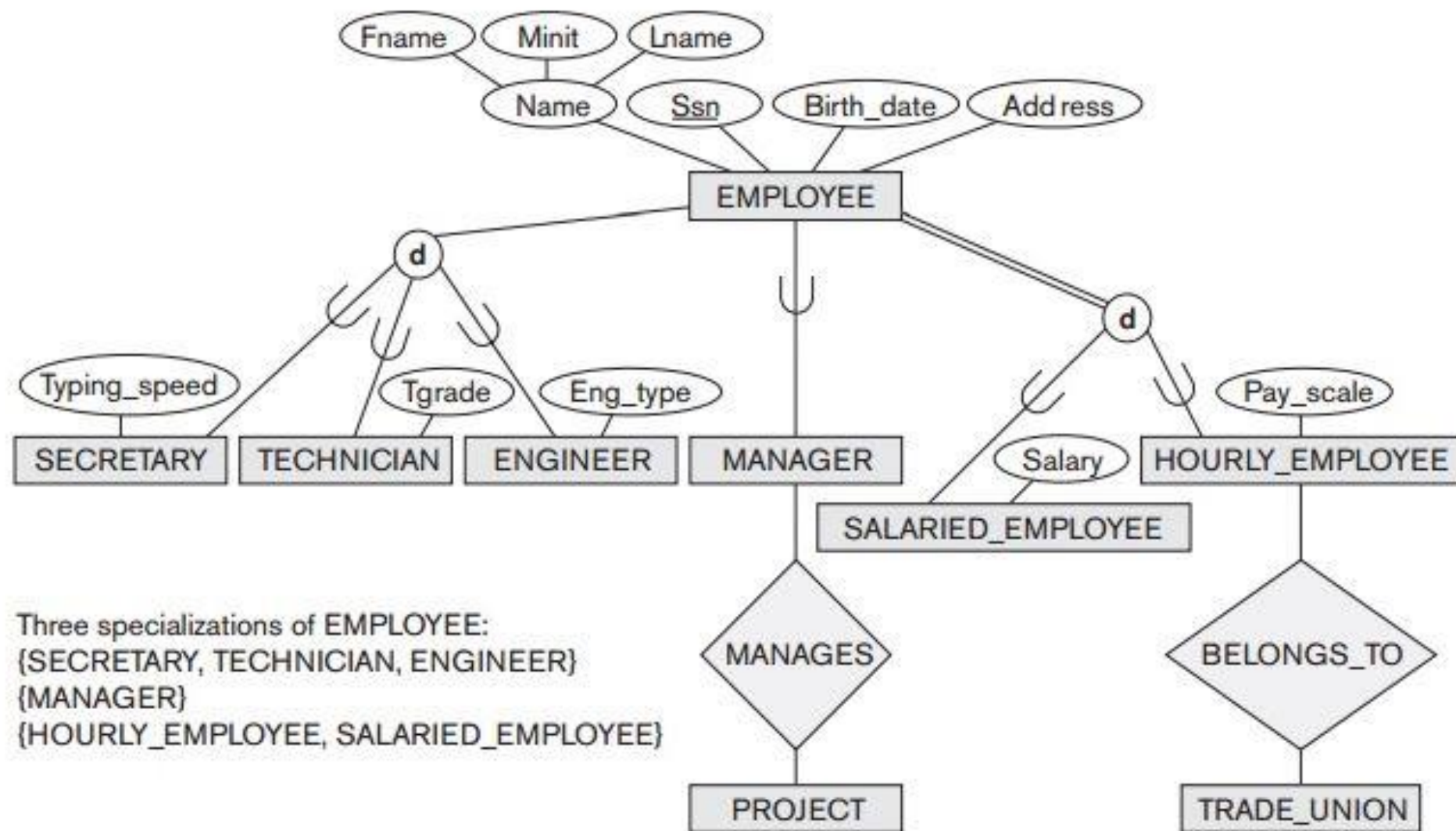
Specialization

Generalization

Inheritance

# Subclasses and Superclasses (1)

- An entity type may have additional meaningful subgroupings of its entities
  - Example: EMPLOYEE may be further grouped into:
    - SECRETARY, ENGINEER, TECHNICIAN, ...
      - Based on the EMPLOYEE's Job
    - MANAGER
      - EMPLOYEES who are managers
    - SALARIED\_EMPLOYEE, HOURLY\_EMPLOYEE
      - Based on the EMPLOYEE's method of pay
- EER diagrams extend ER diagrams to represent these additional subgroupings, called subclasses or subtypes





# How Can you categorize employees of BU

- Professors, Data Entry operators, clerks, gardeners, drivers (job type)
- Deans( only deans manages schools)
- Permanent and contract employees (job agreement)



# Subclasses and Superclasses (2)

- These are also called **IS-A** relationships
  - SECRETARY **IS-A** EMPLOYEE, TECHNICIAN **IS-A** EMPLOYEE, ....
- **Note:** An entity that is member of a subclass represents the same real-world entity as some member of the superclass:
  - The subclass member is the same entity in a distinct specific role
  - An entity cannot exist in the database merely by being a member of a subclass; it must also be a member of the superclass

# Subclasses and Superclasses (2)

- A member of the superclass can be optionally included as a member of any number of its subclasses
- Examples:
  - A salaried employee who is also an engineer belongs to the two subclasses:
    - ENGINEER, and
    - SALARIED\_EMPLOYEE
  - A salaried employee who is also an engineering manager belongs to the three subclasses:
    - MANAGER,
    - ENGINEER, and
    - SALARIED\_EMPLOYEE
- It is not necessary that every entity in a superclass be a member of some subclass

# Specialization

**Top-down design process:** We designate sub grouping within an entity set that are distinctive from other entities in the set.

The subgrouping become lower level entity sets that have attributes or participate in relationships that do not apply to the higher level entity set

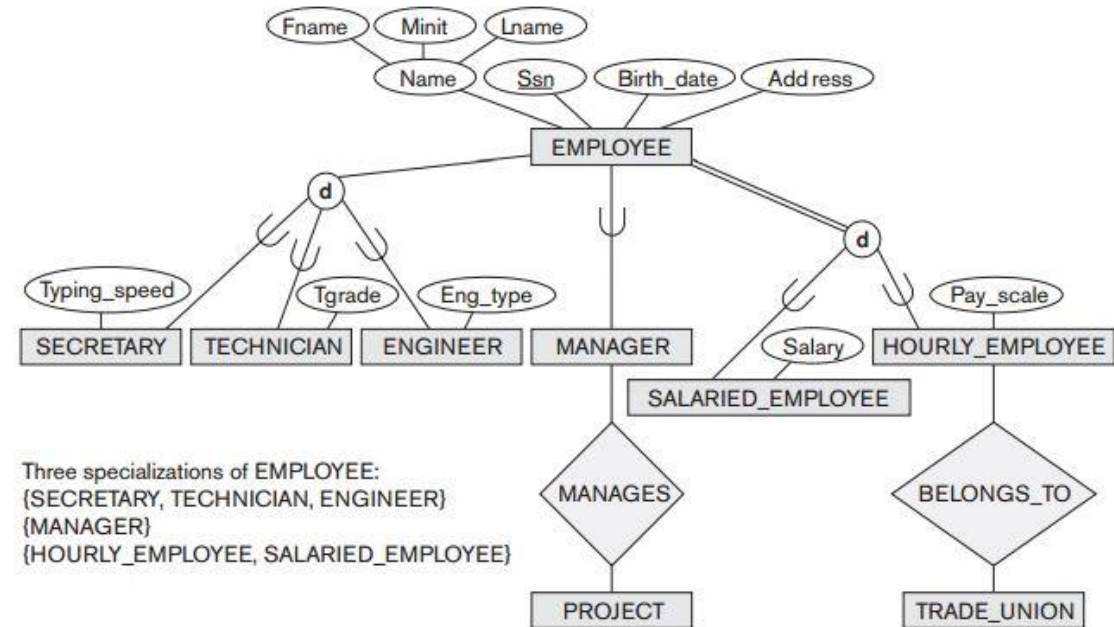
Depicted by a **triangle component labelled ISA.**

**Attribute inheritance:** A lower level entity set inherits all the attributes and relationship participation of the linked higher entity set.

# Specialization Example

The distinguished feature for specialization are:

- The job the employee performs.
- the person is a temporary (limited-term) employee or a permanent employee



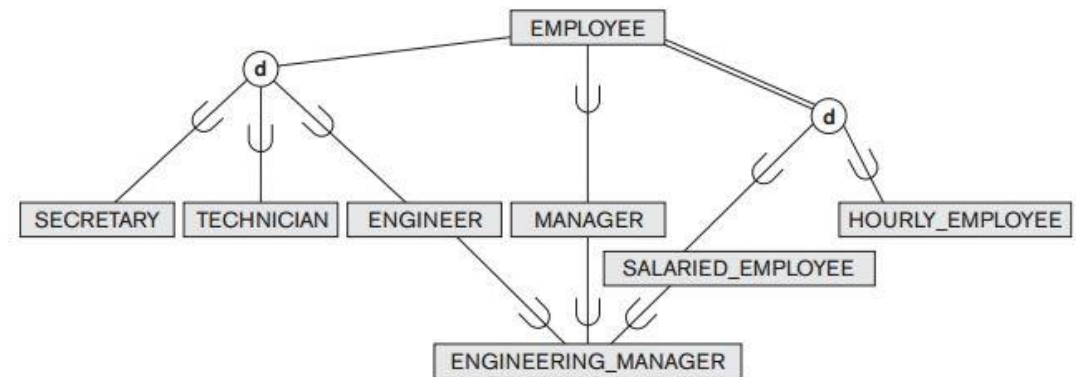
# Specialization Lattice



A **specialization hierarchy** has the constraint that every subclass participates *as a subclass* in *only one* class/subclass relationship

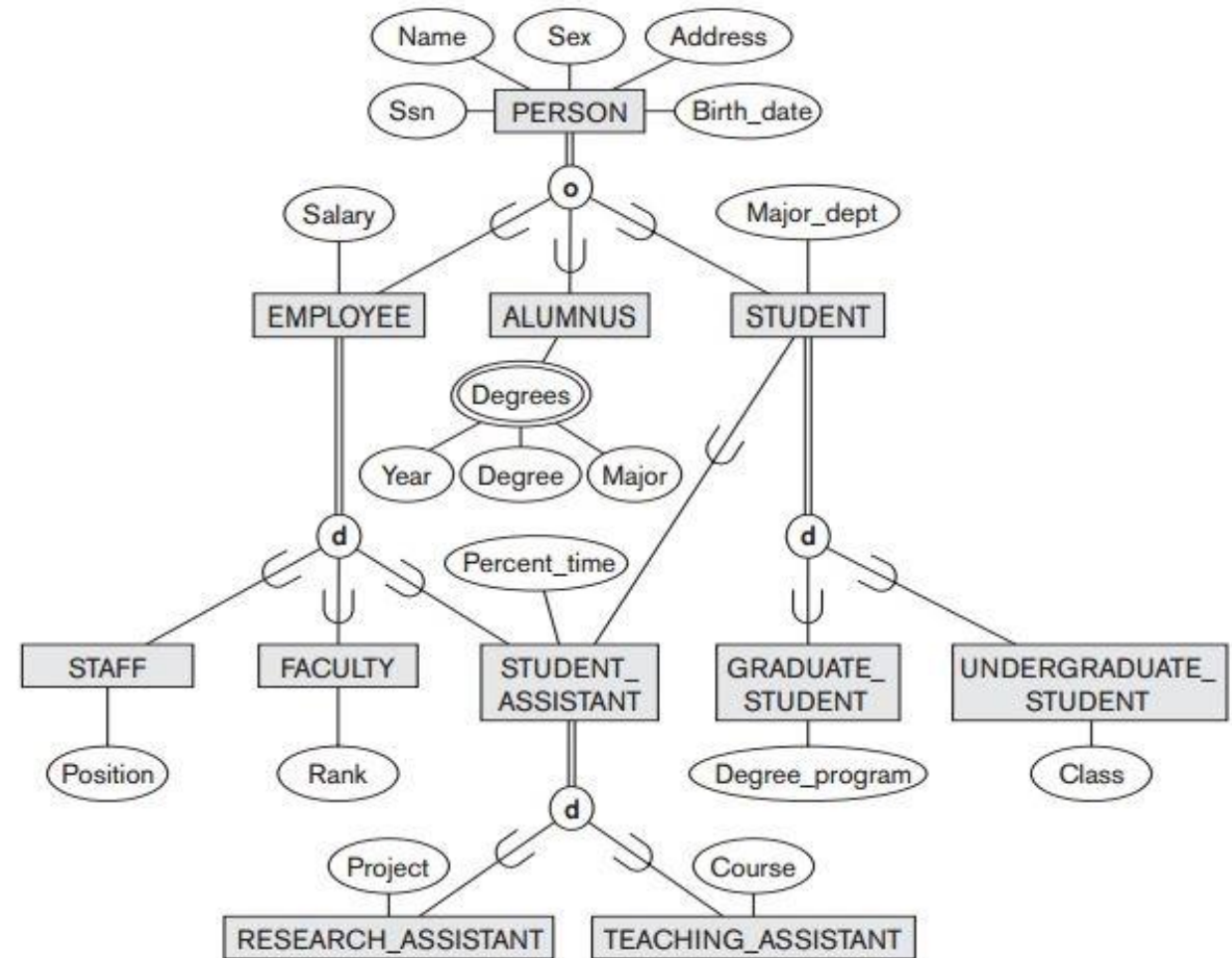


For a **specialization lattice**, a subclass can be a subclass in *more than one* class/subclass relationship.



A specialization lattice with shared subclass ENGINEERING\_MANAGER

## A Specialization Lattice with multiple Inheritance for a university database





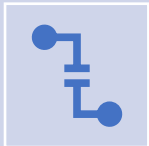
# Generalization



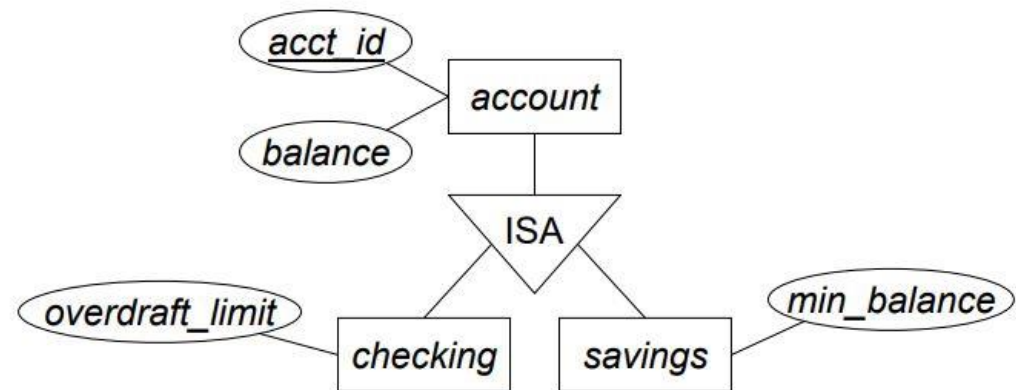
A bottom up design process: Combine a number of entity sets that share the same features into a higher level entity set.



The term generalization and specialization are used interchangeably.



The ISA relationship can also be referred to as “superclass-subclass” relationship.



# Inheritance

Attributes of higher-level entity-sets are inherited by lower-level entity-sets

Relationships involving at higher level is also inherited by lower level elements

When entity-sets inherit from one super class

- Entity sets form a hierarchy

When entity-sets inherit from multiple super classes

- Entity-sets form a lattice

## Constraints on Specialization/Generalization: Membership Constraints

- **Predicate defined subclasses:** The subclass is defined through a predicate on the attributes of the superclass
- **Attribute defined subclasses**
  - The subclasses in the specialization are all defined by the same attribute of the superclass. E.g.- Based on account type, it can be divided into saving and checking account.
- **User defined subclasses**
  - Membership in the subclasses is determined at the insertion operation level. E.g.- Team formed to create specific task

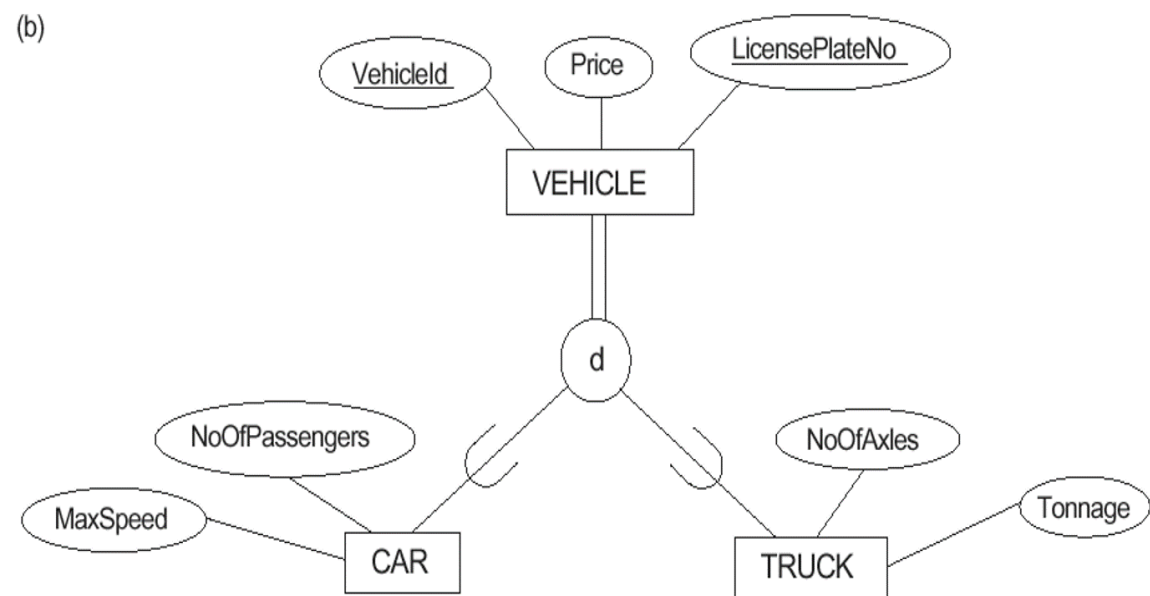
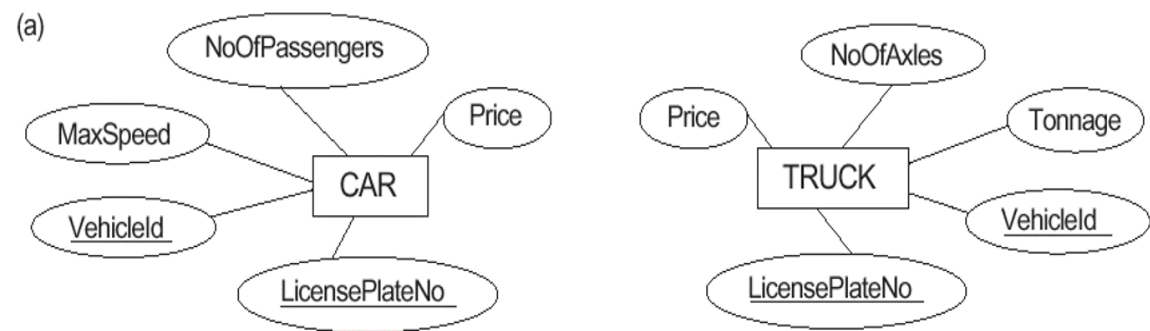
Constraints on  
Specialization/Generalization:  
Disjointness Constraints

**Disjoint (d)**

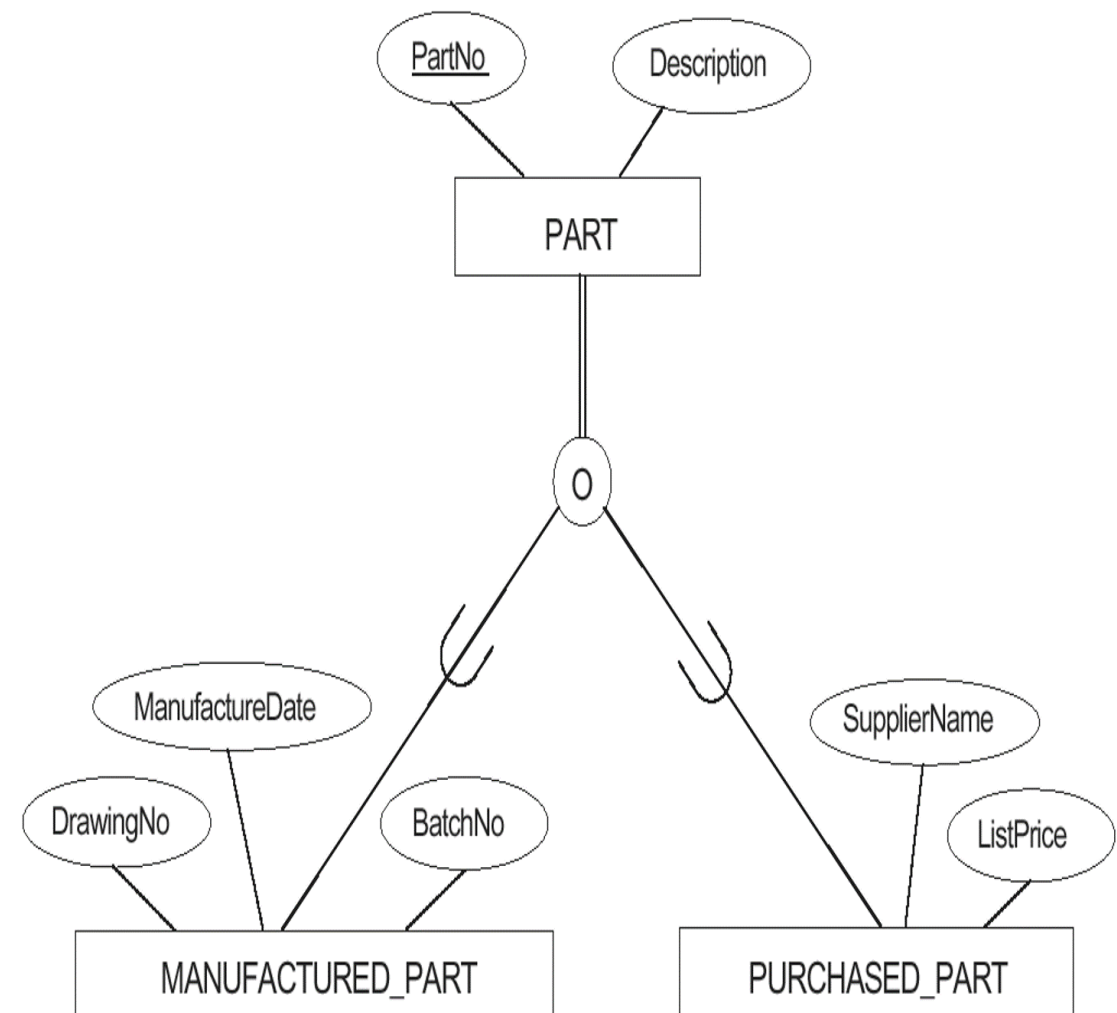
- The subclasses must have disjoint sets of entities

**Overlap (o)**

- The subclasses may have overlapping sets of entities



Disjoint Example



Overlapping Example

Constraints on  
Specialization/Generalization:  
Completeness Constraints

## Partial

- An entity may not belong to any of the subclasses (single-line)

## Total

- Every entity in the superclass must be a member of some subclass (double-edge)

Constraints on  
Specialization/Generalization:

**Hence we have four types of  
Specialization/Generalization:**

Disjoint, total

Disjoint partial

Overlapping , total

Overlapping, partial

**Note: Generalization usually is total because  
the superclass is derived from the subclass.**



Student

mobilenumber



Part-time  
student

Full-time  
student

prepaid

Post paid

artist

player

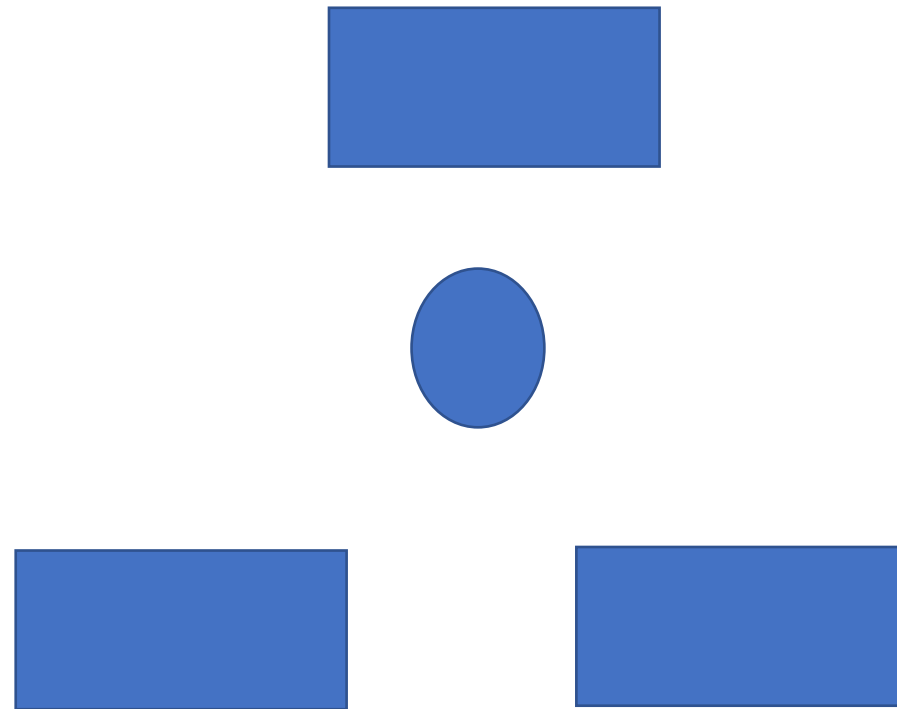
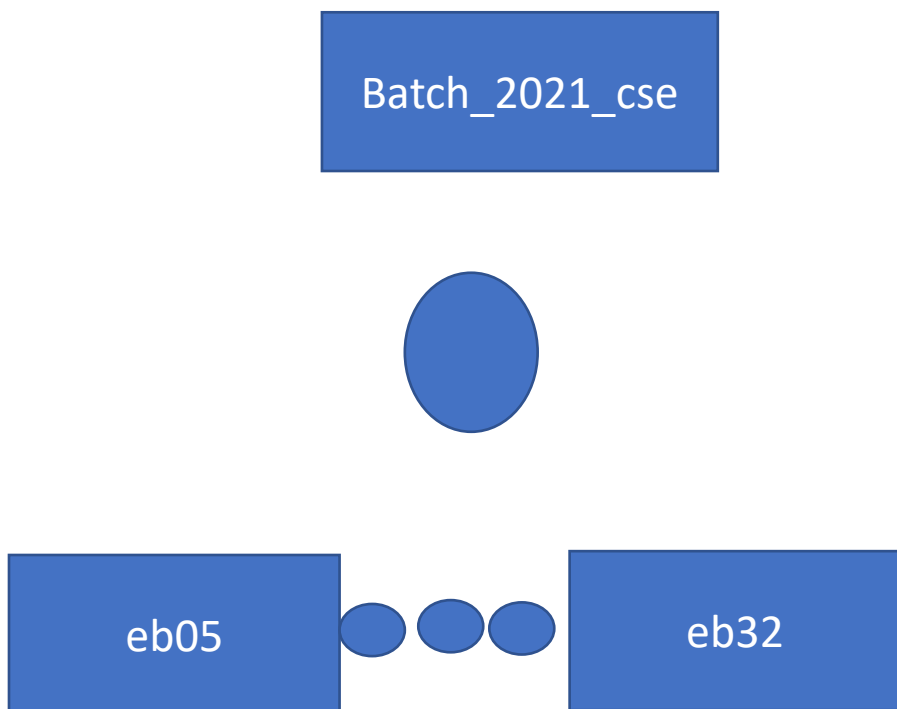


singer

actor

batsman

bowler



# Aggregation

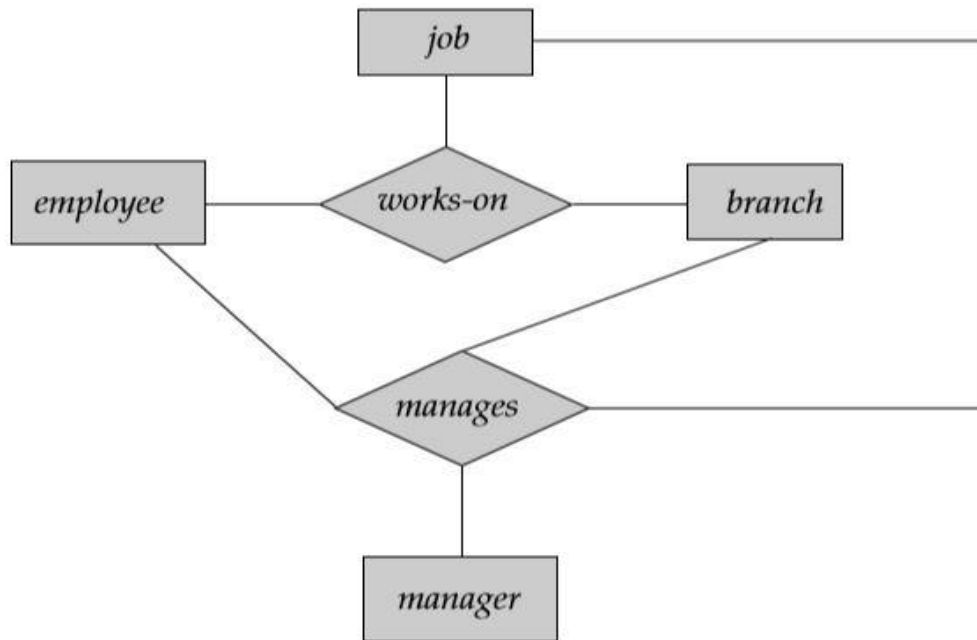
An ER diagram is not capable of representing relationship between an entity and a relationship which may be required in some scenarios.

In those cases, a relationship with its corresponding entities is aggregated into a higher level entity.

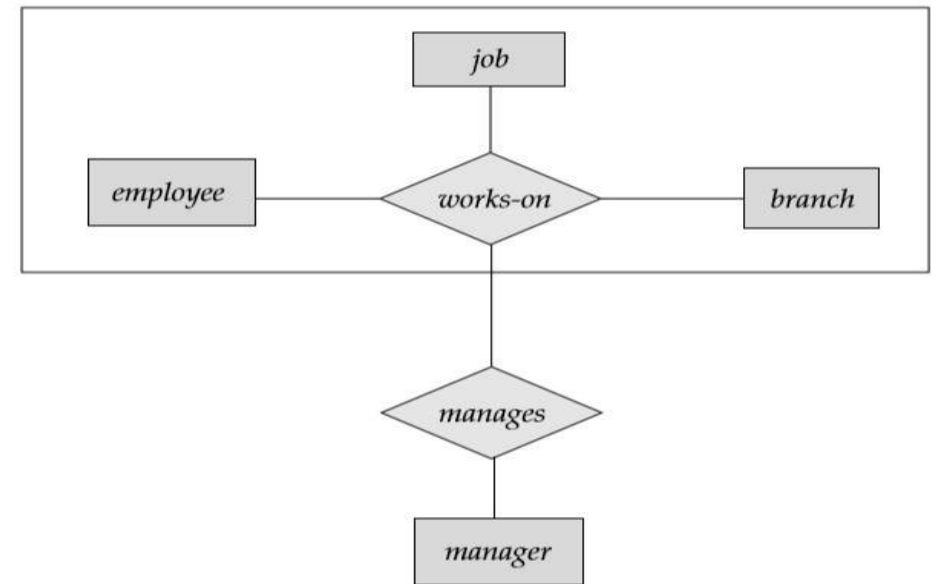
Aggregation is an abstraction through which relationships are treated as higher level entities.

It is used to express relationships among relationships.

# Aggregation Contd.



Without Aggregation



With Aggregation

# MCQ

- The entity set person is classified as student and employee. This process is called \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Generalization
  - b) Specialization
  - c) Inheritance
  - d) Constraint generalization

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- Which relationship is used to represent a specialization entity?
  - a) ISA
  - b) AIS
  - c) ONIS
  - d) WHOIS



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- Which relationship is used to represent a specialization entity?
  - a) **ISA**
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# MCQ

- There are similarities between the instructor entity set and the secretary entity set in the sense that they have several attributes that are conceptually the same across the two entity sets: namely, the identifier, name, and salary attributes. This process is called
  - a) Commonality
  - b) Specialization
  - c) Generalization
  - d) Similarity

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- The completeness constraint may be one of the following: Total generalization or specialization, Partial generalization or specialization. Which is the default?
  - a) Total
  - b) Partial
  - c) Should be specified
  - d) Cannot be determined

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# MCQ

- Consider the employee work-team example, and assume that certain employees participate in more than one work team. A given employee may therefore appear in more than one of the team entity sets that are lower level entity sets of employee. Thus, the generalization is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Overlapping
  - b) Disjointness
  - c) Uniqueness
  - d) Relational

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# References

- <http://www.engineering-bachelors-degree.com/database-software/uncategorized/extended-e-r-features/>
- [https://generalizationcollection.blogspot.com/2019/07/the-right-instance-of-generalization\\_17.html](https://generalizationcollection.blogspot.com/2019/07/the-right-instance-of-generalization_17.html)
- <http://users.cms.caltech.edu/~donnie/dbcourse/intro0607/lectures/Lecture18.pdf>