Chapter 4:

The Enhanced E-R Model and Business Rules

Objectives

- Definition of terms
- Use of supertype/subtype relationships
- Use of generalization and specialization techniques
- Specification of completeness and disjointness constraints
- Develop supertype/subtype hierarchies for realistic business situations
- Develop entity clusters
- Explain universal data model
- Name categories of business rules

Supertypes and Subtypes

- **Subtype:** A subgrouping of the entities in an entity type that has attributes distinct from those in other subgroupings
- **Supertype:** A generic entity type that has a relationship with one or more subtypes
- **Attribute Inheritance:**
  - Subtype entities inherit values of all attributes of the supertype
  - An instance of a subtype is also an instance of the supertype

Figure 4-1 Basic notation for supertype/subtype notation

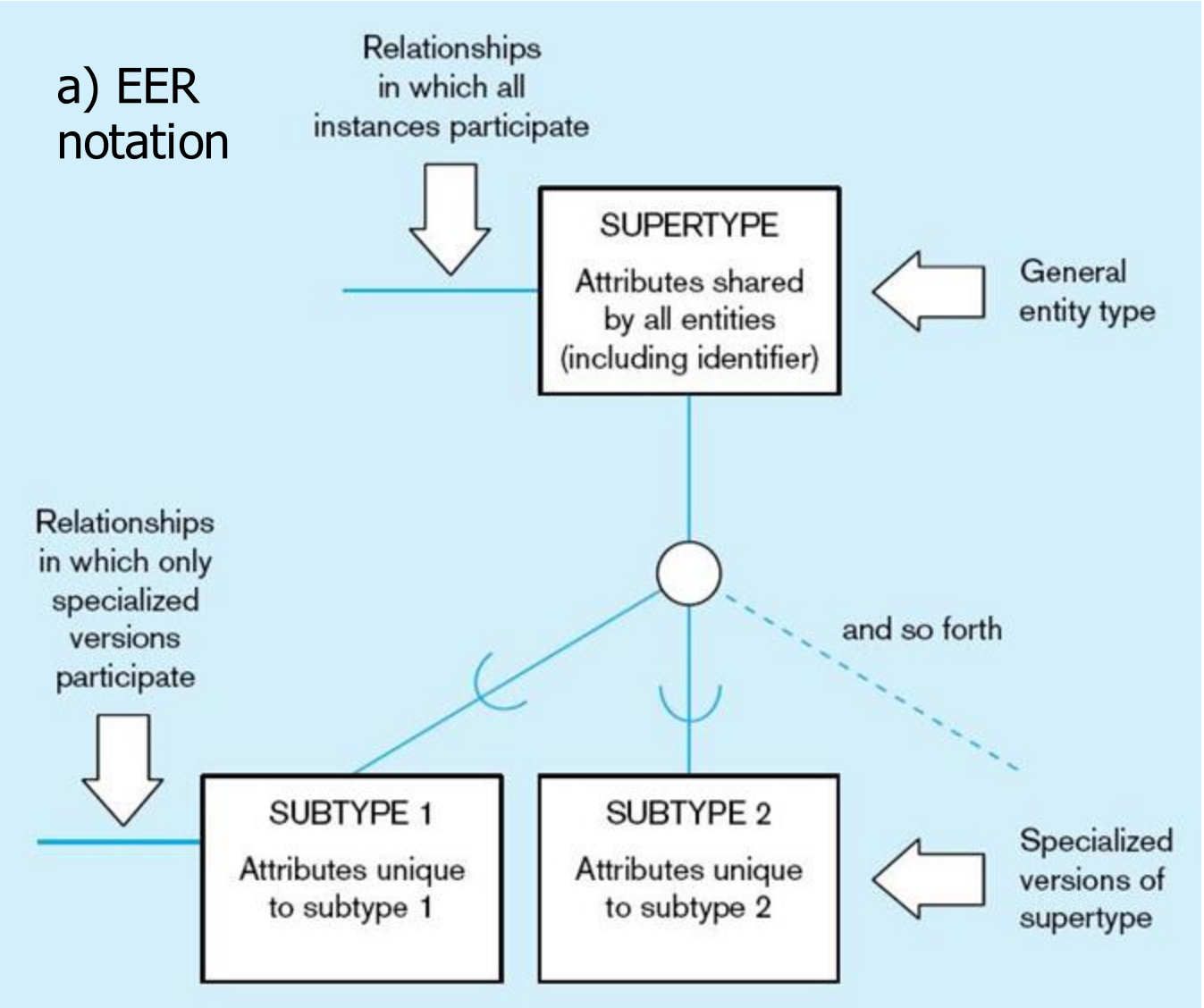
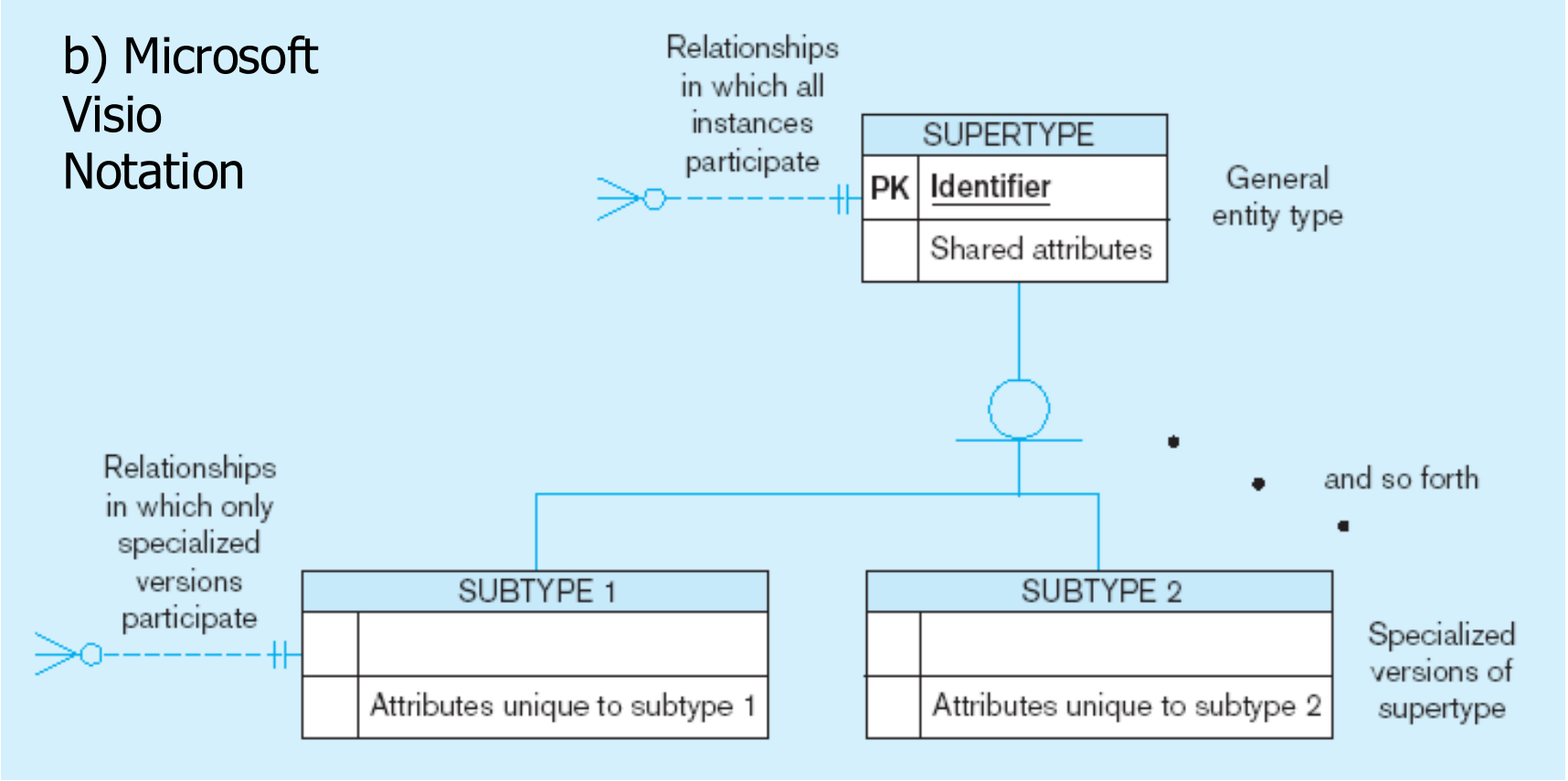
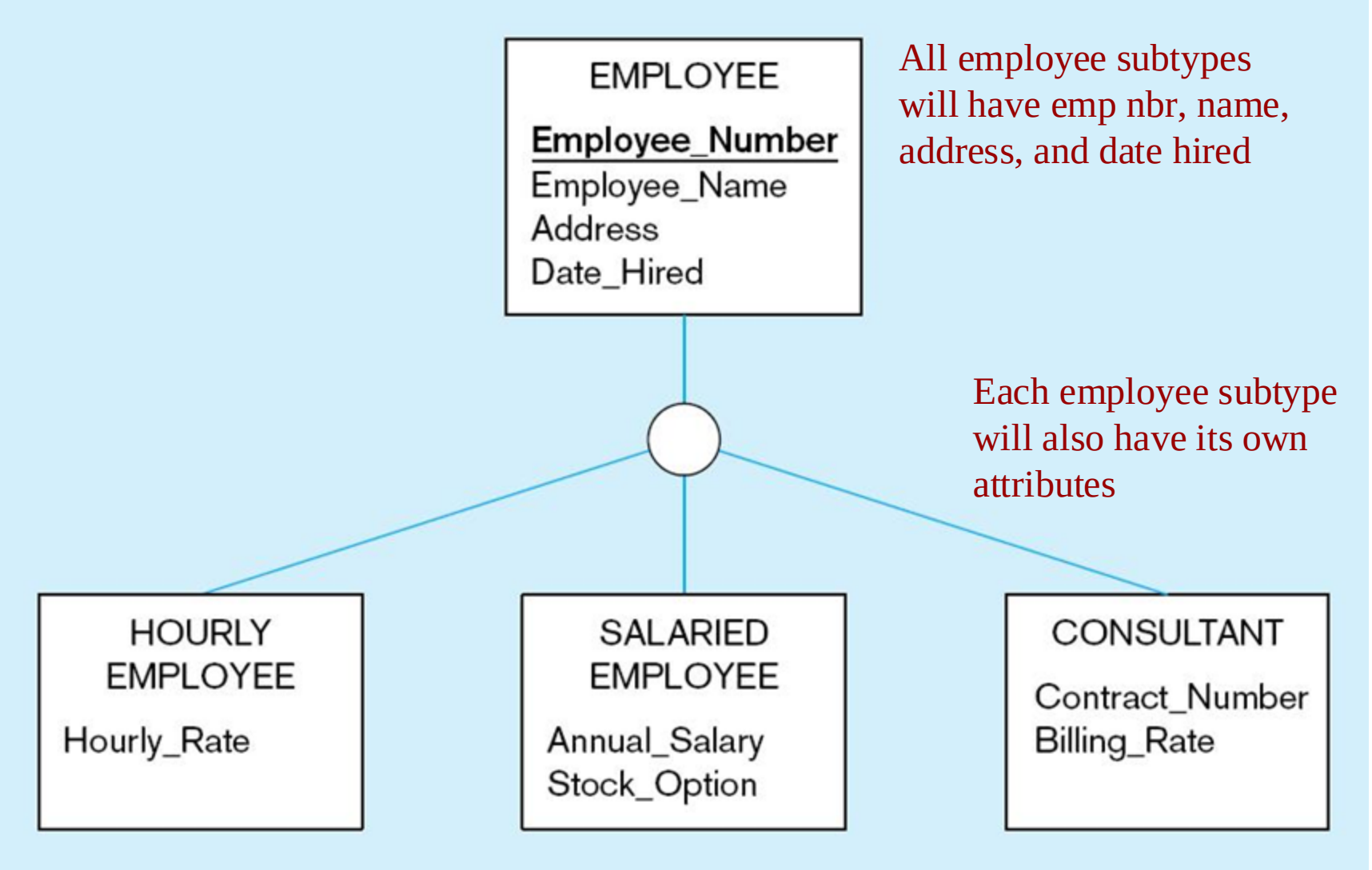


Figure 4-1 Basic notation for supertype/subtype notation (cont.)



Different modeling tools may have different notation for the same modeling constructs

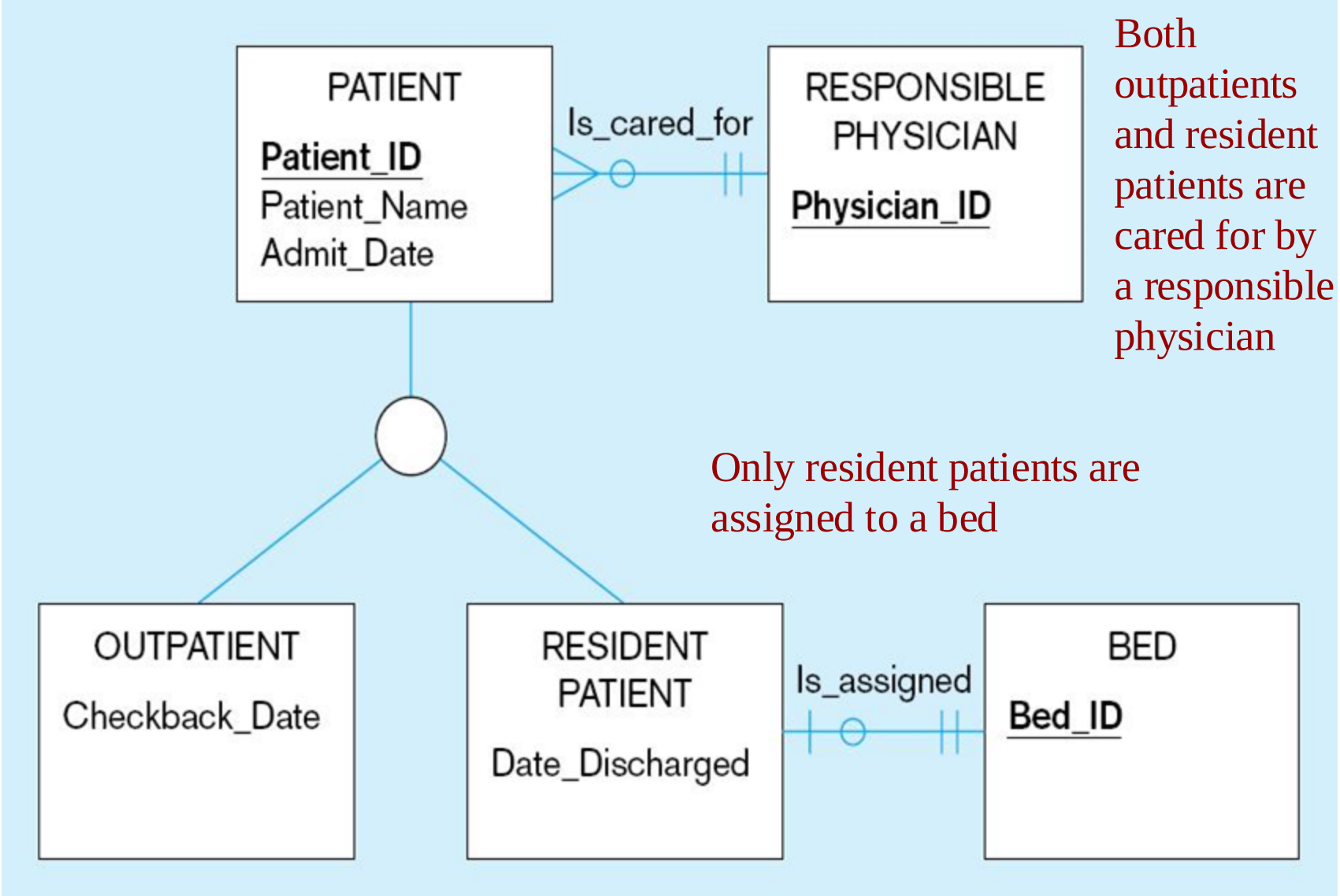
Figure 4-2 Employee supertype with three subtypes



Relationships and Subtypes

- Relationships at the ***supertype*** level indicate that all subtypes will participate in the relationship
- The instances of a ***subtype*** may participate in a relationship unique to that subtype. In this situation, the relationship is shown at the subtype level

Figure 4-3 Supertype/subtype relationships in a hospital

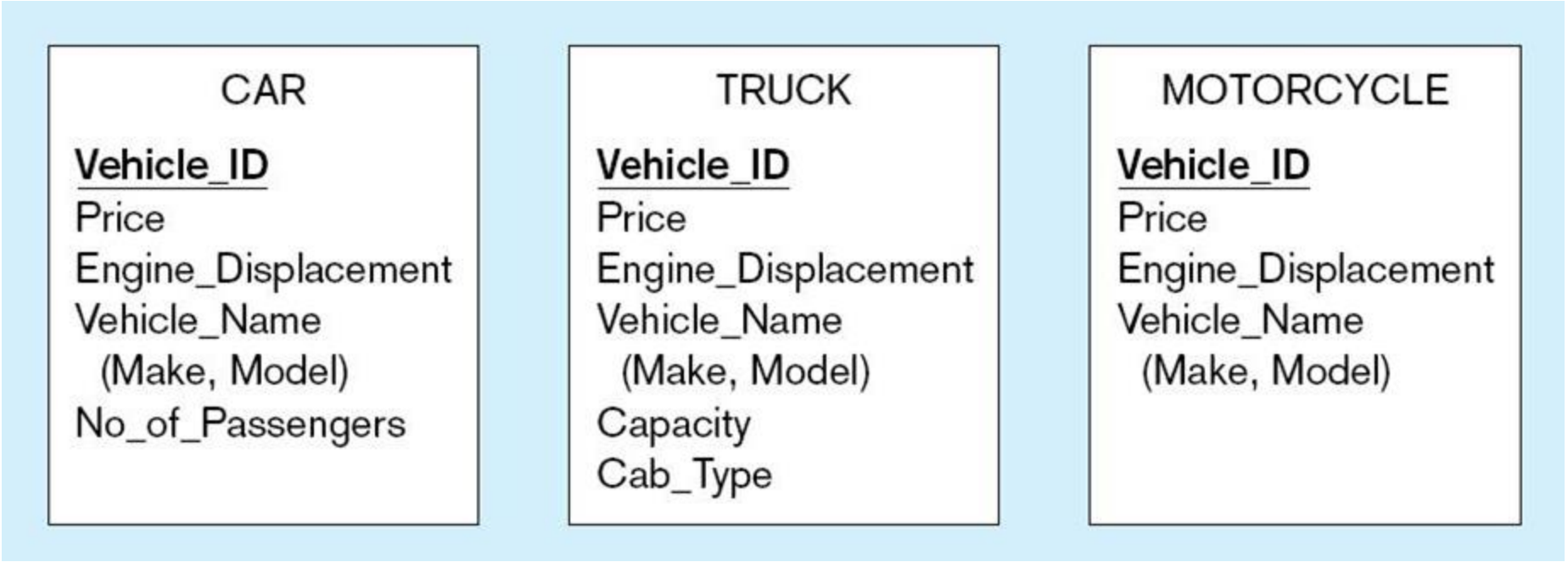


Generalization and Specialization

- ***Generalization:*** The process of defining a more general entity type from a set of more specialized entity types. BOTTOM-UP
- ***Specialization:*** The process of defining one or more subtypes of the supertype and forming supertype/subtype relationships. TOP-DOWN

Figure 4-4 Example of generalization

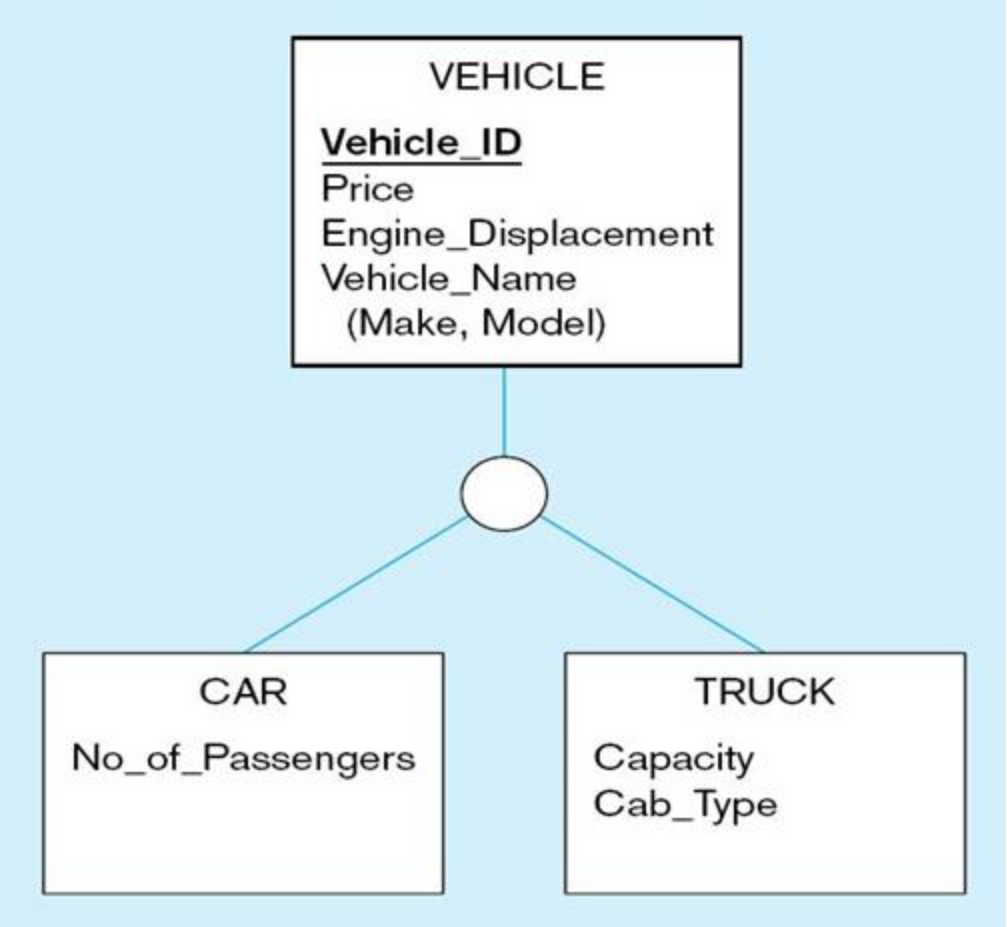
a) Three entity types: CAR, TRUCK, and MOTORCYCLE



All these types of vehicles have common attributes

Figure 4-4 Example of generalization (cont.)

b) Generalization to VEHICLE supertype



So we put the shared attributes in a supertype

Note: no subtype for motorcycle, since it has no unique attributes

Figure 4-5 Example of specialization

a) Entity type PART

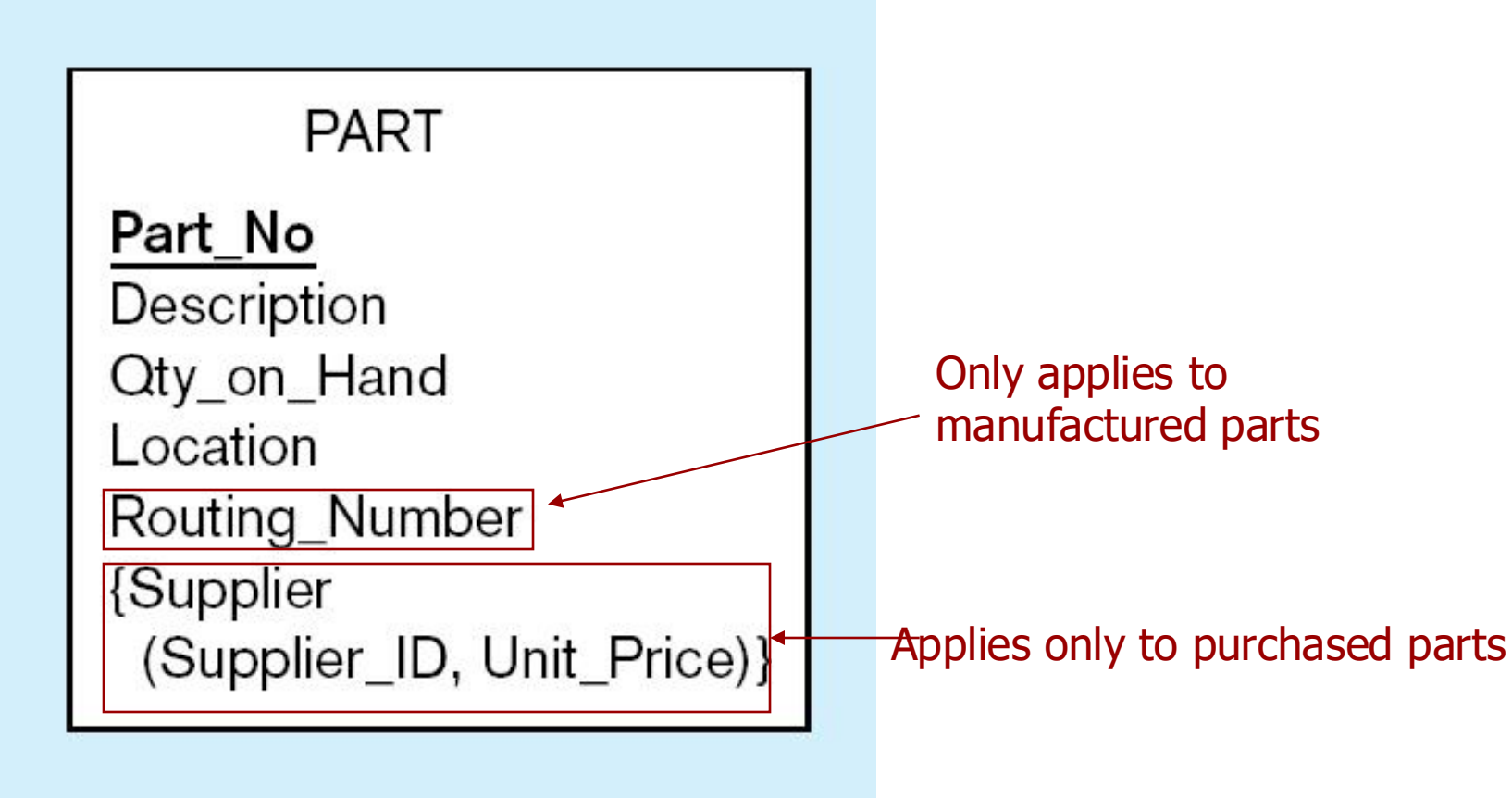
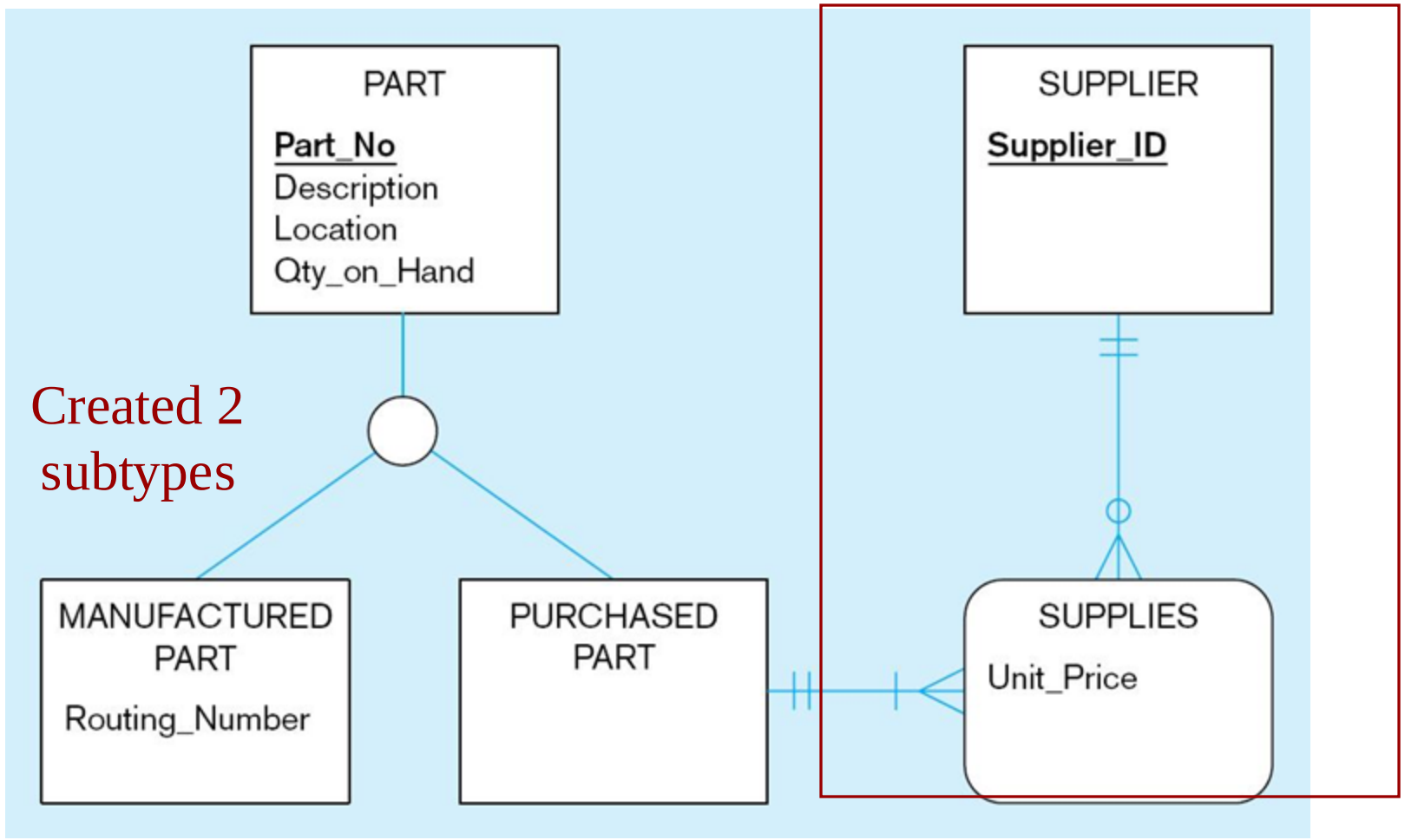


Figure 4-5 Example of specialization (cont.)

b) Specialization to MANUFACTURED PART and PURCHASED PART



Note: multivalued attribute was replaced by an associative entity relationship to another entity

Constraints in Supertype/ Completeness Constraint

- ***Completeness Constraints***: Whether an instance of a supertype ***must*** also be a member of at least one subtype
  - Total Specialization Rule: Yes (double line)
  - Partial Specialization Rule: No (single line)

Figure 4-6 Examples of completeness constraints

a) Total specialization rule

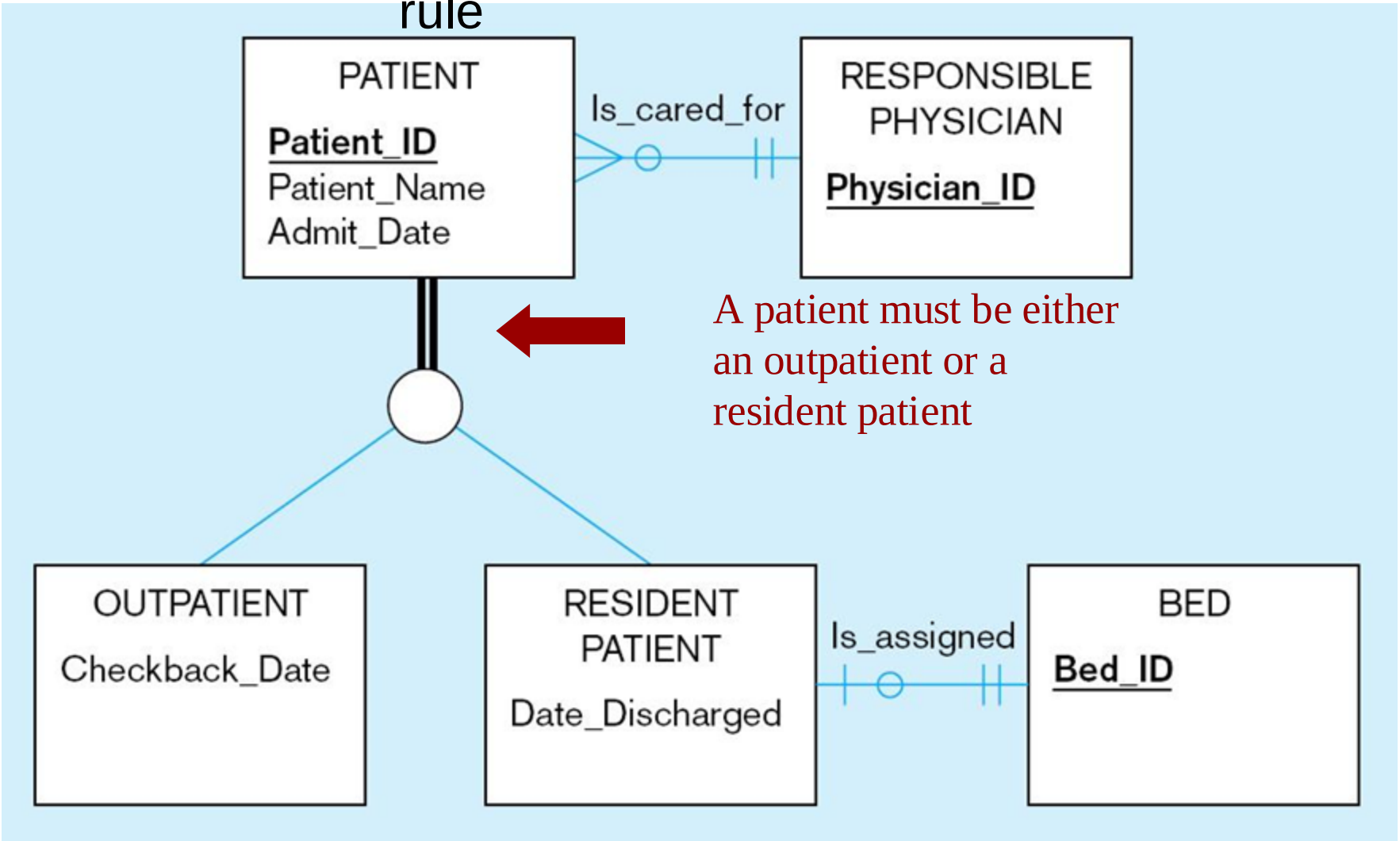
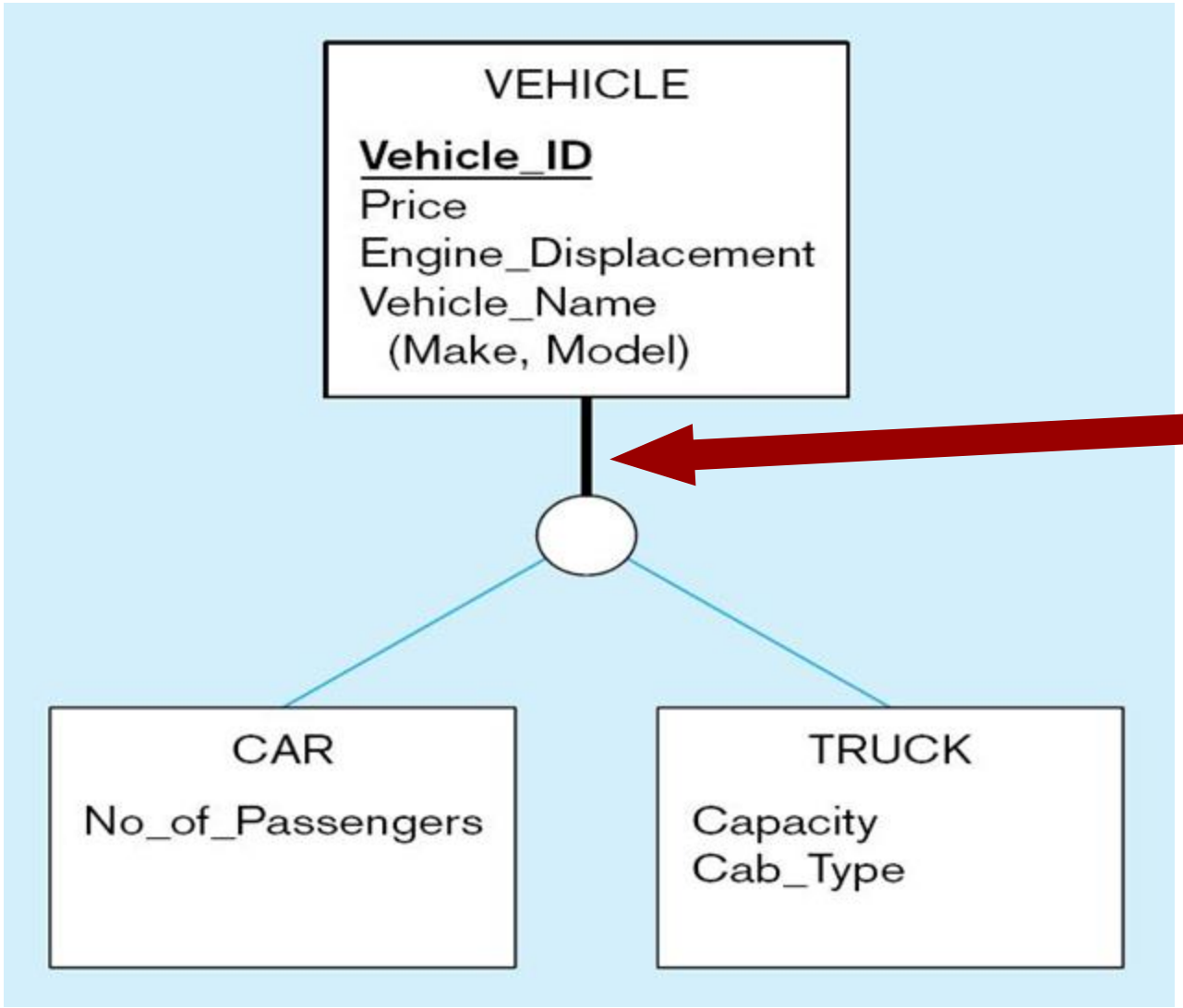


Figure 4-6 Examples of completeness constraints (cont.)

b) Partial specialization rule



A vehicle could be a car, a truck, or neither

Constraints in Supertype/ Disjointness constraint

- ***Disjointness Constraints***: Whether an instance of a supertype may *simultaneously* be a member of two (or more) subtypes
  - Disjoint Rule: An instance of the supertype can be only ONE of the subtypes
  - Overlap Rule: An instance of the supertype could be more than one of the subtypes

Figure 4-7 Examples of disjointness constraints

a) Disjoint rule

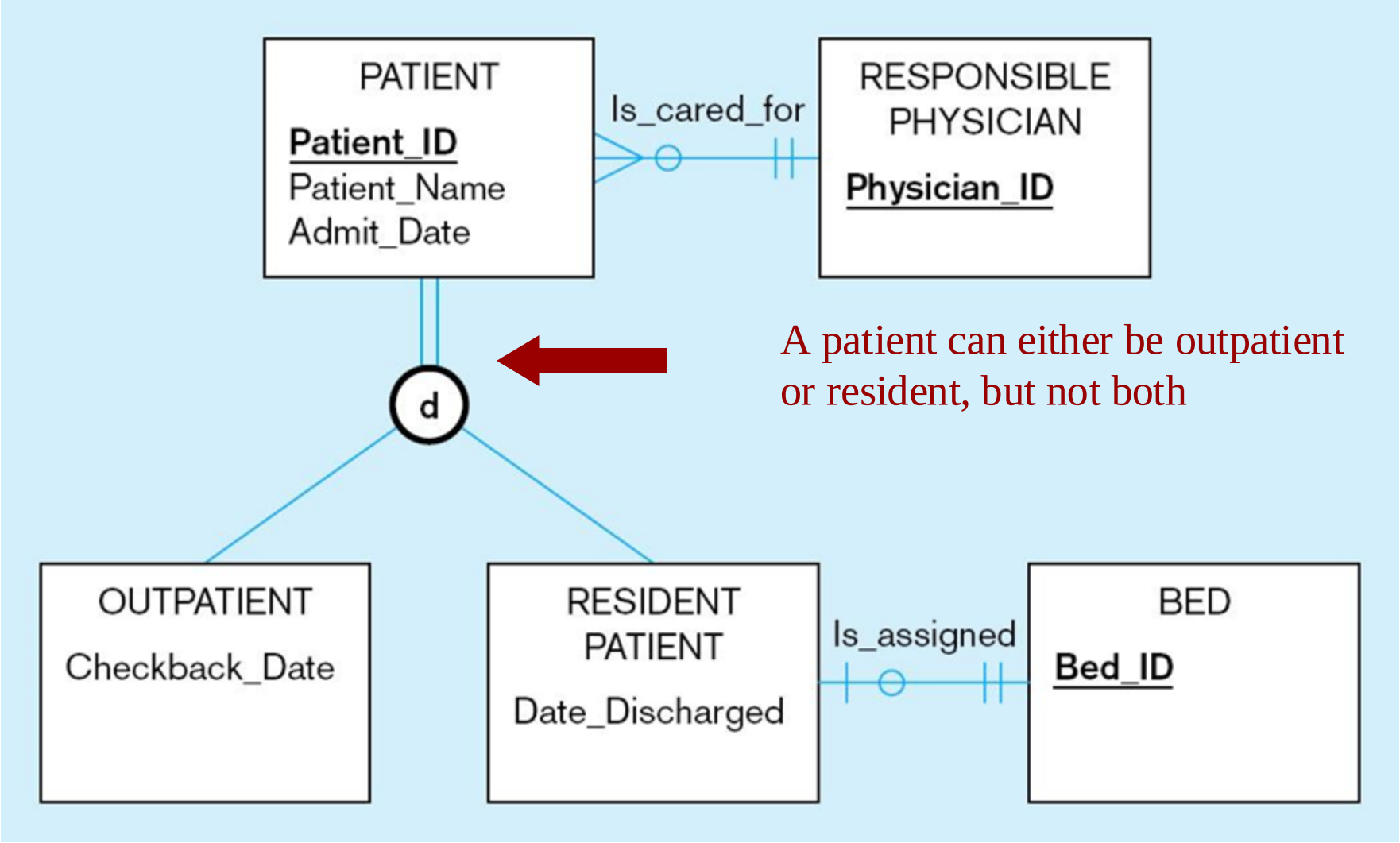
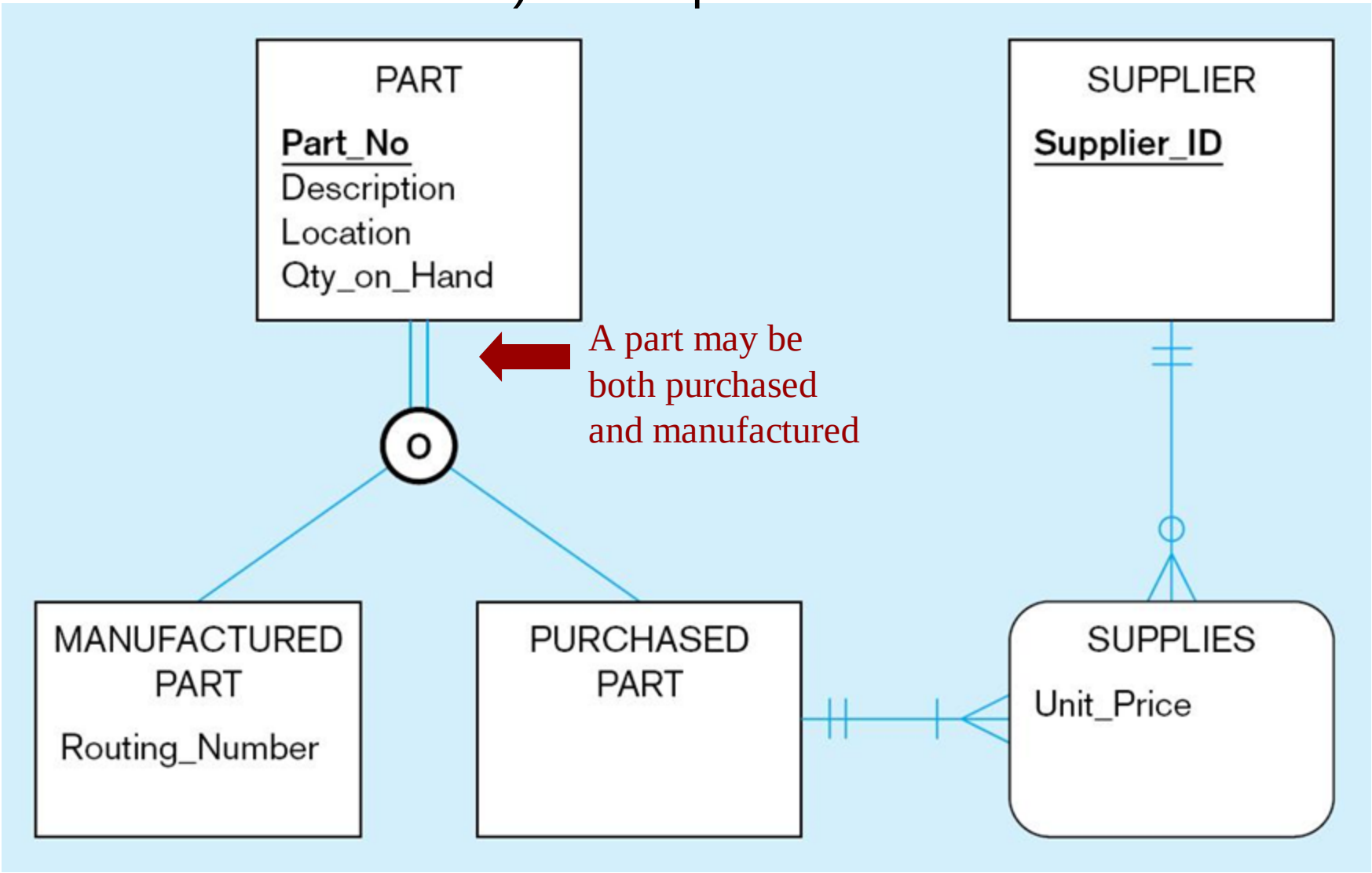


Figure 4-7 Examples of disjointness constraints (cont.)

b) Overlap rule



Constraints in Supertype/ Subtype Discriminators

- ***Subtype Discriminator***: An attribute of the supertype whose values determine the target subtype(s)
  - **Disjoint** – a *simple* attribute with alternative values to indicate the possible subtypes
  - **Overlapping** – a *composite* attribute whose subparts pertain to different subtypes. Each subpart contains a boolean value to indicate whether or not the instance belongs to the associated subtype

Figure 4-8 Introducing a subtype discriminator (***disjoint*** rule)

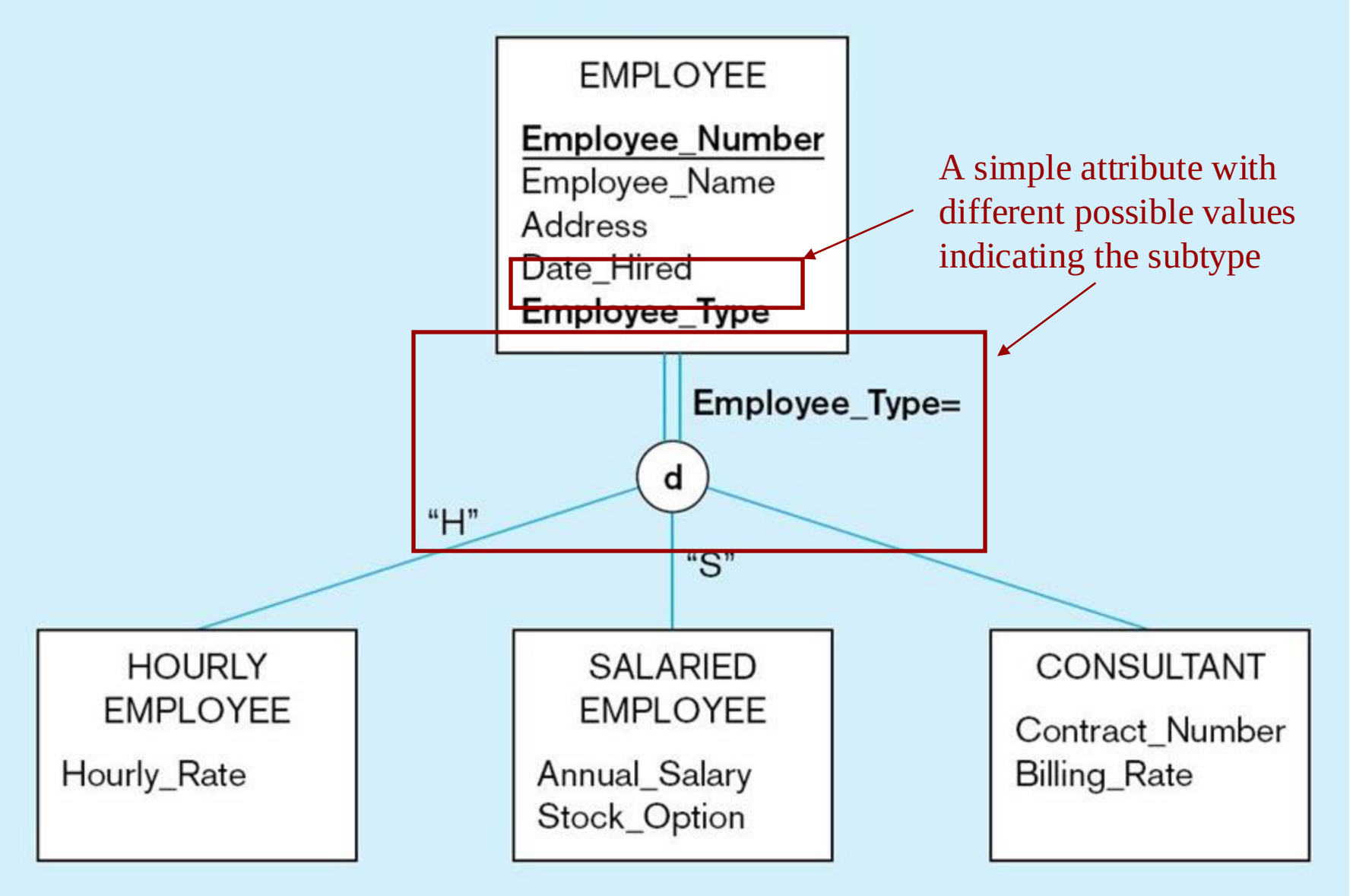


Figure 4-9 Subtype discriminator (***overlap*** rule)

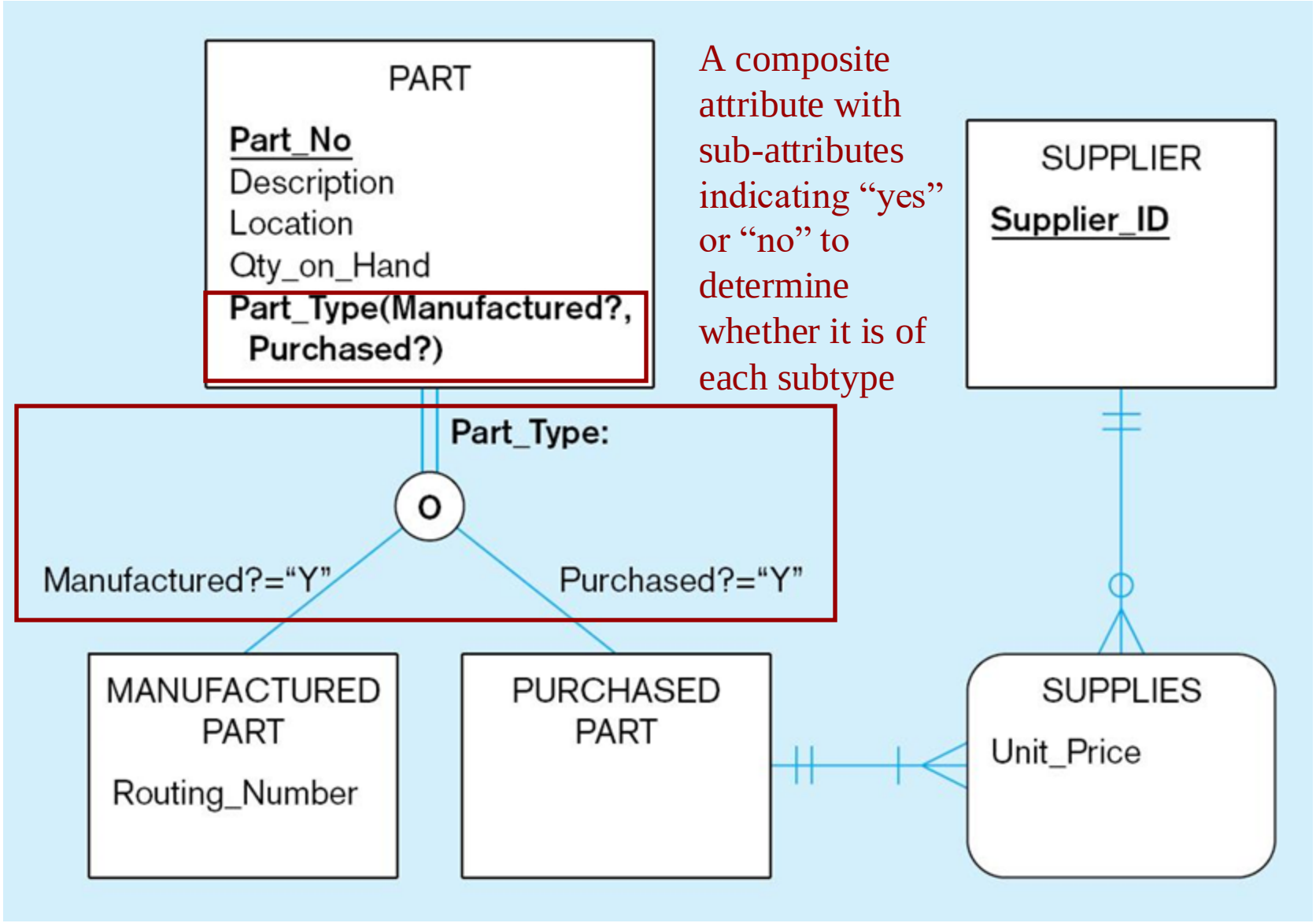
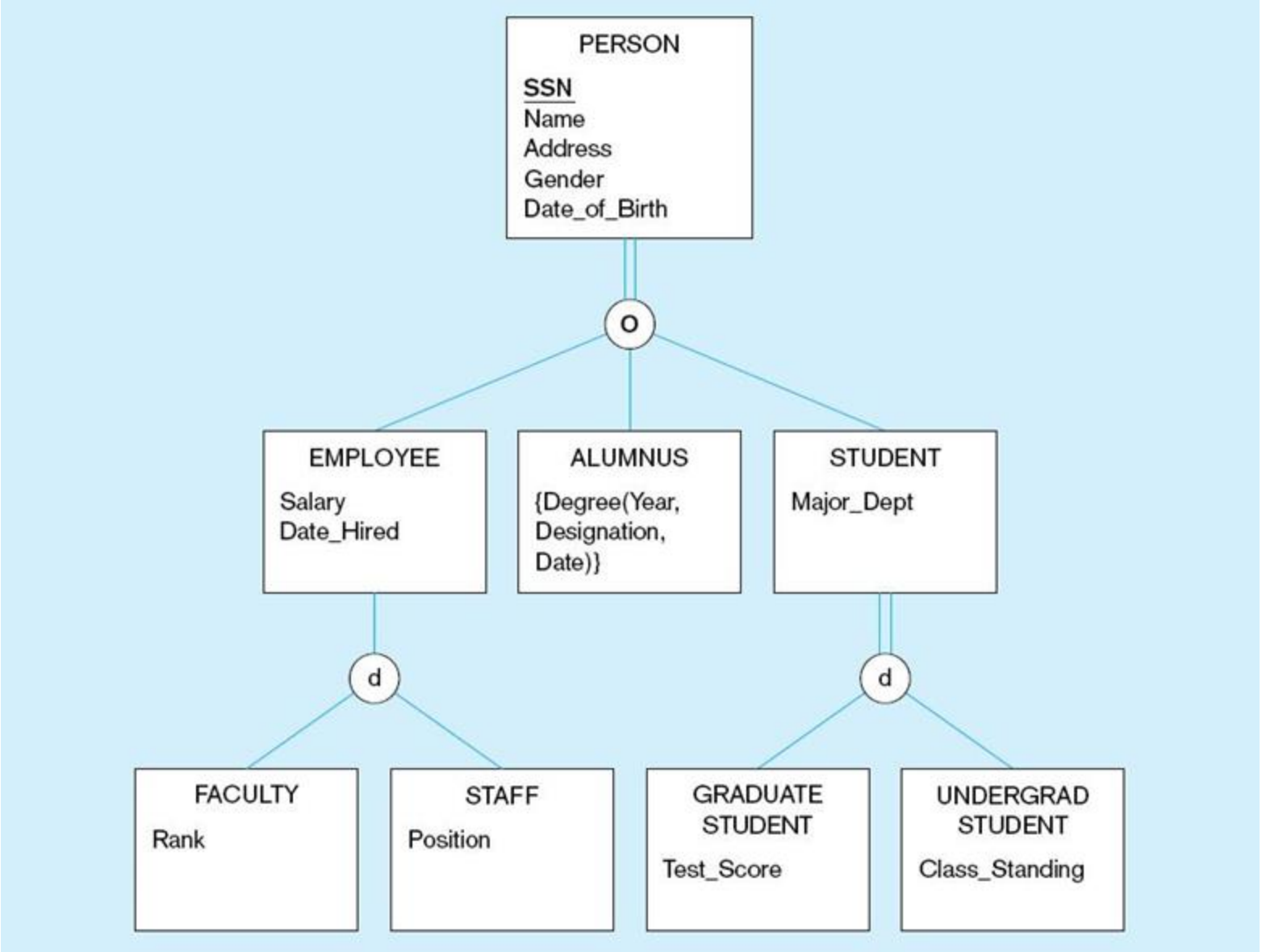


Figure 4-10 Example of supertype/subtype hierarchy



Entity Clusters

- EER diagrams are difficult to read when there are too many entities and relationships
- Solution: Group entities and relationships into ***entity clusters***
- **Entity cluster**: Set of one or more entity types and associated relationships grouped into a single abstract entity type

Figure 4-13a
Possible entity clusters for Pine Valley Furniture in Microsoft Visio

Related groups of entities could become clusters

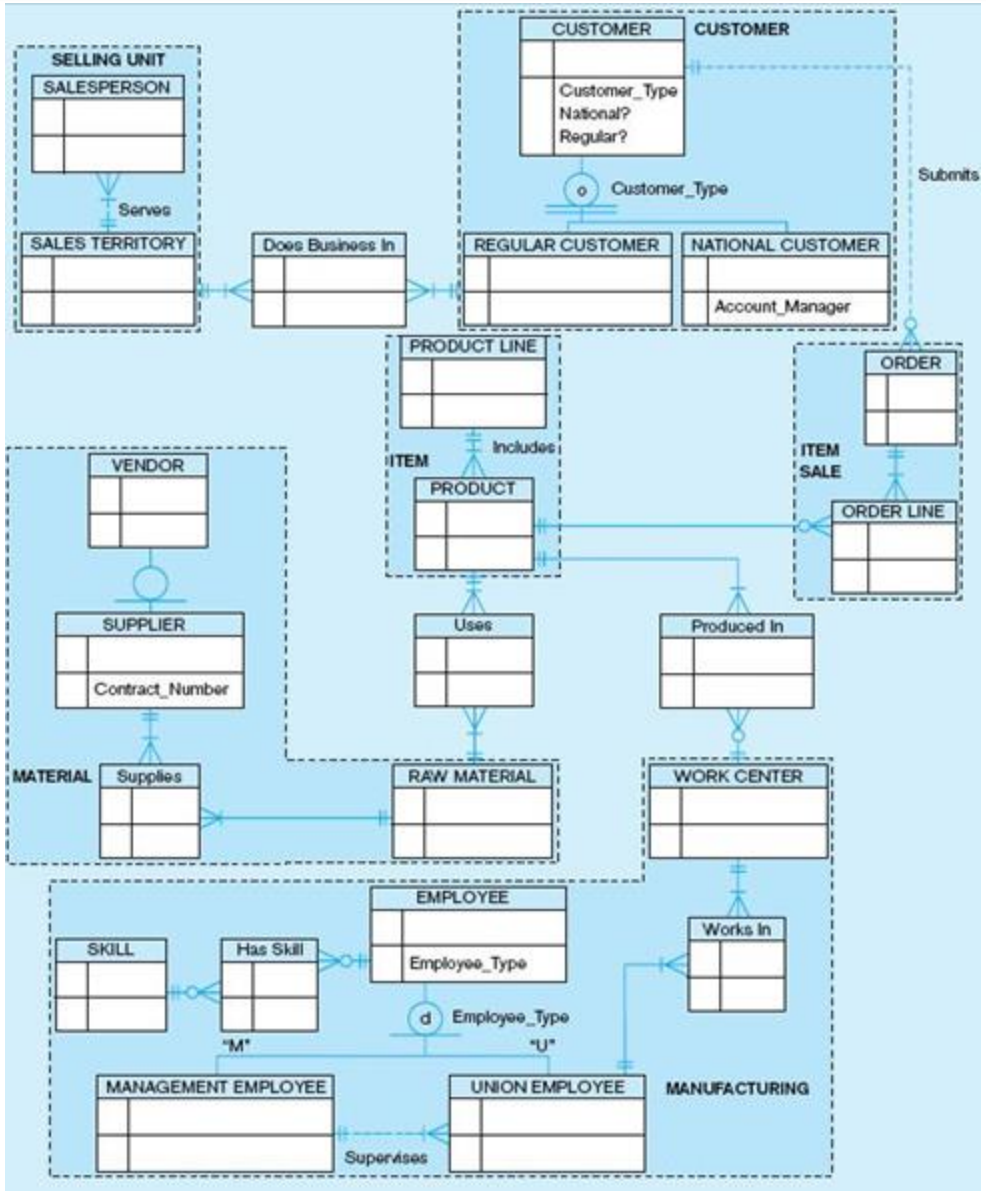


Figure 4-13b EER diagram of PVF entity clusters

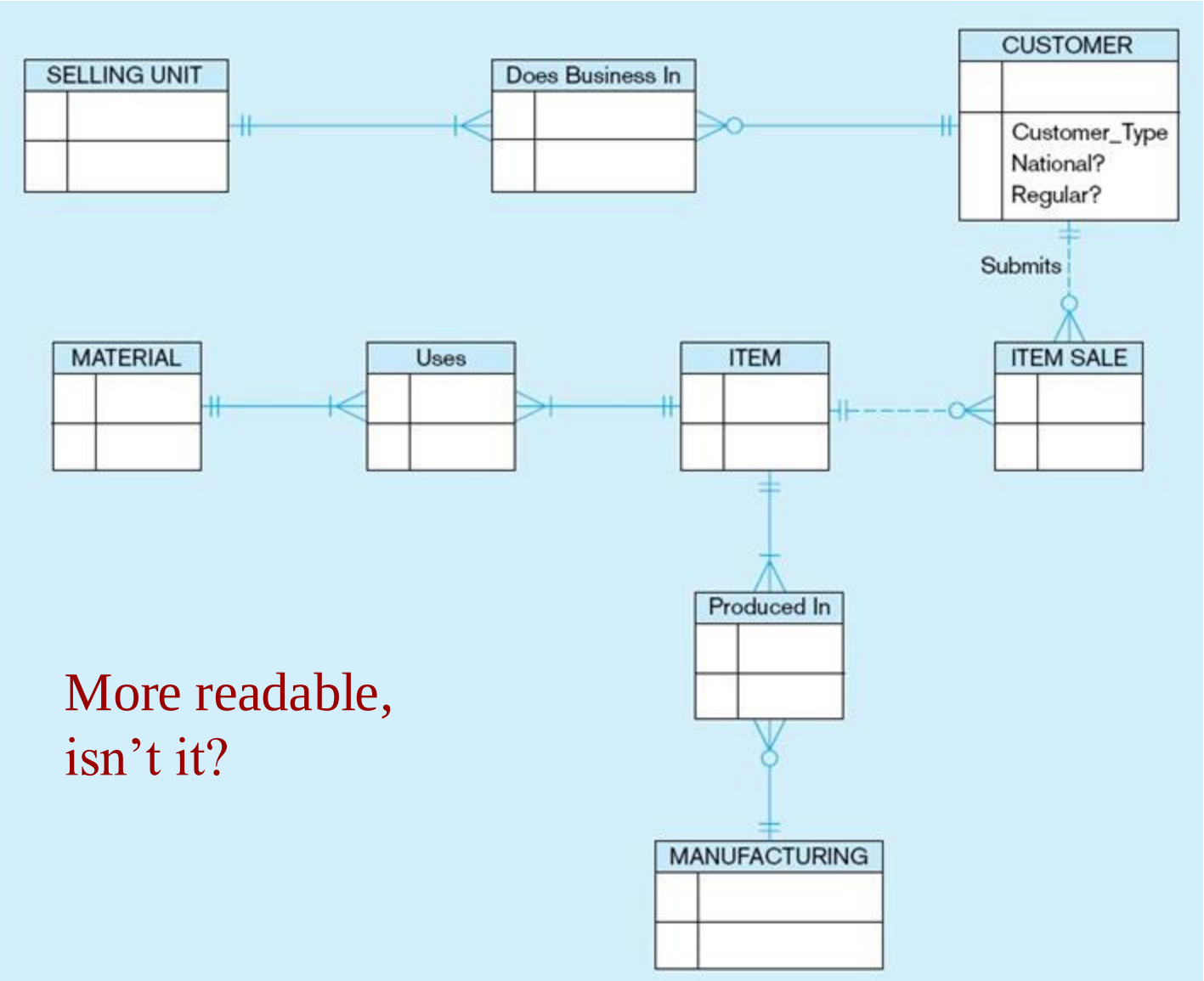
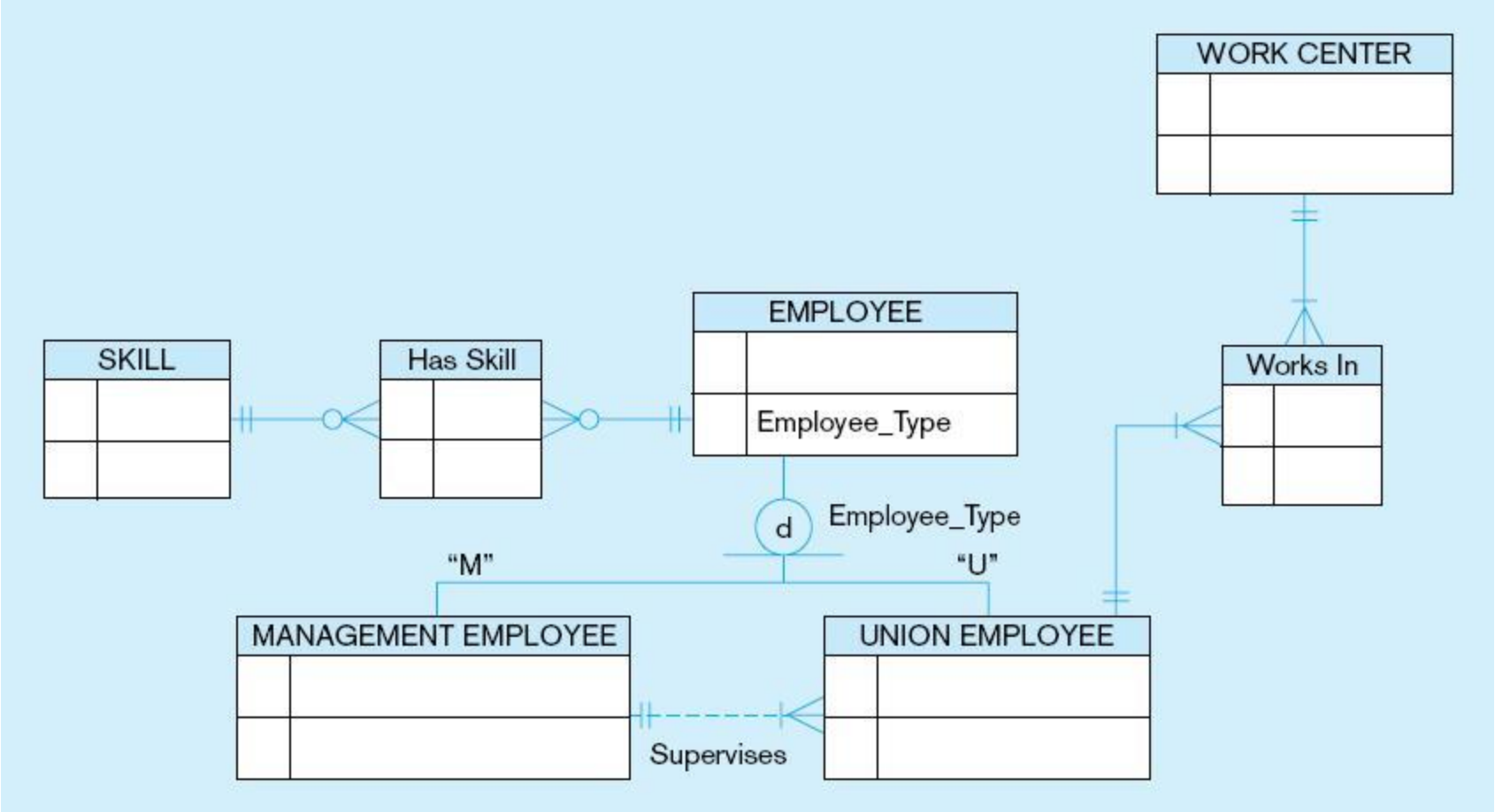


Figure 4-14 Manufacturing entity cluster



Detail for a single cluster