Quick Revision Notes

1. Keys in DBMS

Primary Key

- Uniquely identifies each record in a table.
- Cannot be NULL or duplicated.

Foreign Key

- Points to the primary key in another table.
- Enforces Referential Integrity.
- Can be NULL.

Unique Key

- Ensures uniqueness of values.
- Can have multiple NULLs (MySQL behavior).

Candidate Key

• All possible keys that could be used as a primary key.

Super Key

• Candidate Key + Extra Attributes.

2. Entity-Relationship (ER) Model

Entity

• Any real-world object (e.g., Student, Employee).

Weak Entity

- Cannot exist without being related to a strong entity.
- Doesn't require strong entity's ID in its own primary key.

Specialization

- "IS-A" relationship. (e.g., Car is a Vehicle).
- Denoted by a **triangle labeled IS A** in ERD.

Relationship Cardinality

- Max Cardinality: Maximum # of entity instances.
- Types:
 - o One-to-One
 - One-to-Many ✓ (Dept Employees)
 - Many-to-Many

• 3. Normalization

Purpose

- Reduce redundancy.
- Remove anomalies (insert, update, delete).
- Improve schema structure.

Normal Forms

Form	Condition	Removes
1NF	Atomic values only	Repeating groups
2NF	No partial dependency (on part of key)	Partial Dependencies
3NF	No transitive dependency (non-key → non-key)	Transitive Dependencies
BCNF	Every determinant is a candidate key	Remaining anomalies
4NF	No multivalued dependencies (MVDs)	MVDs
DKNF	Domain + Key constraints only	All anomalies

4. Transactions & Concurrency

ACID Properties

- **A**tomicity → All-or-none
- Consistency → DB remains valid
- Isolation → Concurrent transactions don't affect each other

- **D**urability → Once committed, changes persist
- Transaction States
 - Active → Partially Committed → Committed ✓ (success)
 - Active → Failed → Aborted X (rollback)

• 5. Isolation Levels & Anomalies

Isolation Level Dirty Read Non-Repeatable Read Phantom Read

Read Uncommitted ✓ Allowed ✓ Allowed

Read Committed X No Allowed Allowed

Repeatable Read X No X No V Allowed

Serializable X No X No

- Repeatable Read prevents non-repeatable reads
- Serializable prevents phantom reads
- 6. SQL Syntax and Clauses
- SELECT Queries

sql

CopyEdit

SELECT * FROM table WHERE condition;

SELECT * FROM student WHERE name LIKE 'r%';

- Subqueries
 - Written inside parentheses
 - Can use IN, EXISTS, NOT IN, etc.
- USE Command
 - Switches database in MySQL

sql

CopyEdit

USE databasename;

Comparison and Pattern Matching

sql

CopyEdit

WHERE age > 50 AND age < 80;

WHERE name LIKE 'r%'; -- starts with r

• DELETE Statement

sql

CopyEdit

DELETE FROM studentinfo WHERE name = 'Hari Prasad';

EXISTS

• Returns TRUE if subquery returns any row

• 7. SQL Constraints

PRIMARY KEY

• Uniquely identifies records

sql

CopyEdit

ALTER TABLE employee ADD CONSTRAINT pk_empid PRIMARY KEY (empid);

FOREIGN KEY

• Links to another table's primary key

NOT NULL

• Column must contain a value

CHECK

• Enforces domain constraints (e.g., salary > 0)

8. Set Operators in SQL

Operator Supported in MySQL Description

UNION Yes Combines results, removes duplicates

INTERSECT X No Not supported in MySQL natively

MINUS X No Use JOIN/NOT IN alternatives

9. Metadata and Data Dictionary

Metadata

- Data **about** data.
- Example: Column names, datatypes, table structure.

Data Dictionary

- Stores **schema information**, constraints, ownership.
- X Does not store physical info like disk size.

10. General Concepts

- **Tuple** → Row
- **Domain** → Set of possible values
- **Relation** → Table
- **Schedule** → Sequence of operations from multiple transactions
- Modification anomalies:
 - Insert anomaly
 - o Update anomaly
 - Delete anomaly
 - → Resolved by Normalization

Must-Know Mnemonics

Normal Forms Summary

pgsql

CopyEdit

1NF - Atomic columns

2NF – No partial dependencies

3NF - No transitive dependencies

BCNF - Determinants are candidate keys

4NF – No multivalued dependencies

Transaction States

mathematica

CopyEdit

Active → Committed (Success)

Active → Failed → Aborted (Rollback)

Quick Tips Before Exam

- **1NF** = Remove repeating groups, keep atomic values
- **2NF** = Only if composite key → check partial dependency
- **3NF** = Remove transitive dependencies
- **BCNF** = Even stricter than 3NF
- **4NF** = Rare, used to remove MVDs
- Use **Foreign Keys** for referential integrity
- Repeatable Read ≠ Phantom Safe
- LIKE 'r%' = starts with r
- SQL must have correct syntax → AND, WHERE, etc.