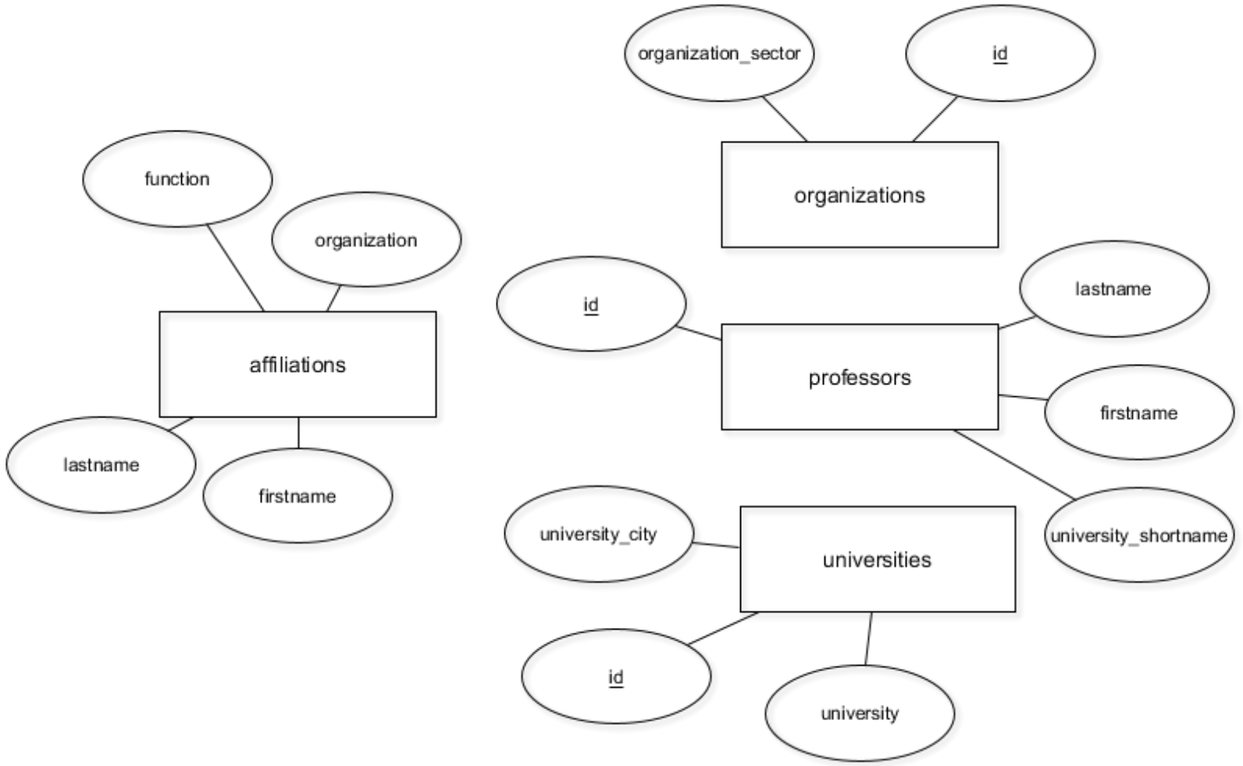
INTRODUCTION TO RELATIONAL DATABASES IN SQL

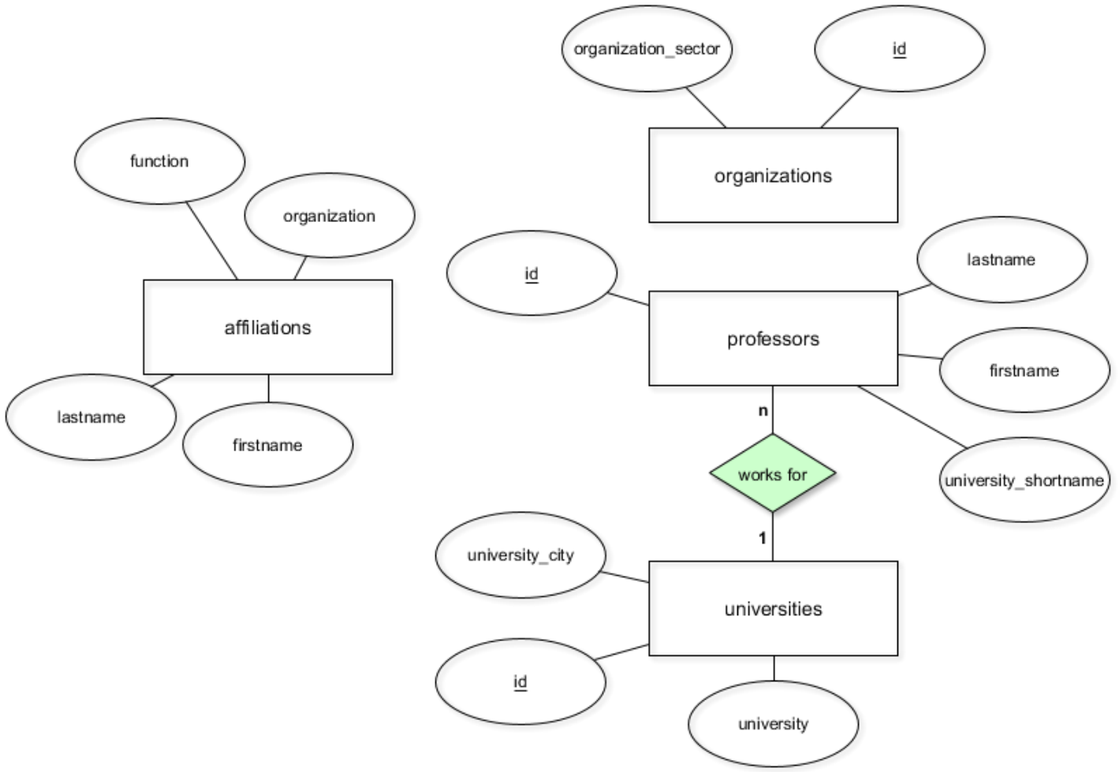
Model 1:N relationships with foreign keys

Timo Grossenbacher
Data Journalist

The current database model



The next database model



Implementing relationships with foreign keys

- A foreign key (FK) points to the primary key (PK) of another table
- Domain of FK must be equal to domain of PK
- Each value of FK must exist in PK of the other table (FK constraint or "referential integrity")
- FKs are not actual *keys*

```
SELECT * FROM professors LIMIT 8;
 id |    firstname     |  lastname    | university_shortname
----+------------------+--------------+----------------------
  1 | Karl             | Aberer       | EPF
  2 | Reza Shokrollah  | Abhari       | ETH
  3 | Georges          | Abou Jaoudé  | EPF
  4 | Hugues           | Abriel       | UBE
  5 | Daniel           | Aebersold    | UBE
  6 | Marcelo          | Aebi         | ULA
  7 | Christoph        | Aebi         | UBE
  8 | Patrick          | Aebischer    | EPF

SELECT * FROM universities;
 id  |   university    | university_city
-----+-----------------+-----------------
 EPF | ETH Lausanne    | Lausanne
 ETH | ETH Zürich      | Zurich
 UBA | Uni Basel       | Basel
 UBE | Uni Bern        | Bern
 UFR | Uni Freiburg    | Fribourg
 UGE | Uni Genf        | Geneva
 ULA | Uni Lausanne    | Lausanne
 UNE | Uni Neuenburg   | Neuchâtel
 USG | Uni St. Gallen  | Saint Gallen
 USI | USI Lugano      | Lugano
 UZH | Uni Zürich      | Zurich
```

Specifying foreign keys

```
CREATE TABLE manufacturers (
 name varchar(255) PRIMARY KEY
);

INSERT INTO manufacturers
VALUES ('Ford'), ('VW'), ('GM');

CREATE TABLE cars (
 model varchar(255) PRIMARY KEY,
 manufacturer_name integer REFERENCES manufacturers (name)
);

INSERT INTO cars
VALUES ('Ranger', 'Ford'), ('Beetle', 'VW');
```

```
-- Throws an error!
INSERT INTO cars
VALUES ('Tundra', 'Toyota');
```

Specifying foreign keys to existing tables

```
ALTER TABLE a
ADD CONSTRAINT a_fkey FOREIGN KEY (b_id) REFERENCES b (id);
```

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Let's implement this!

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Model more complex relationships

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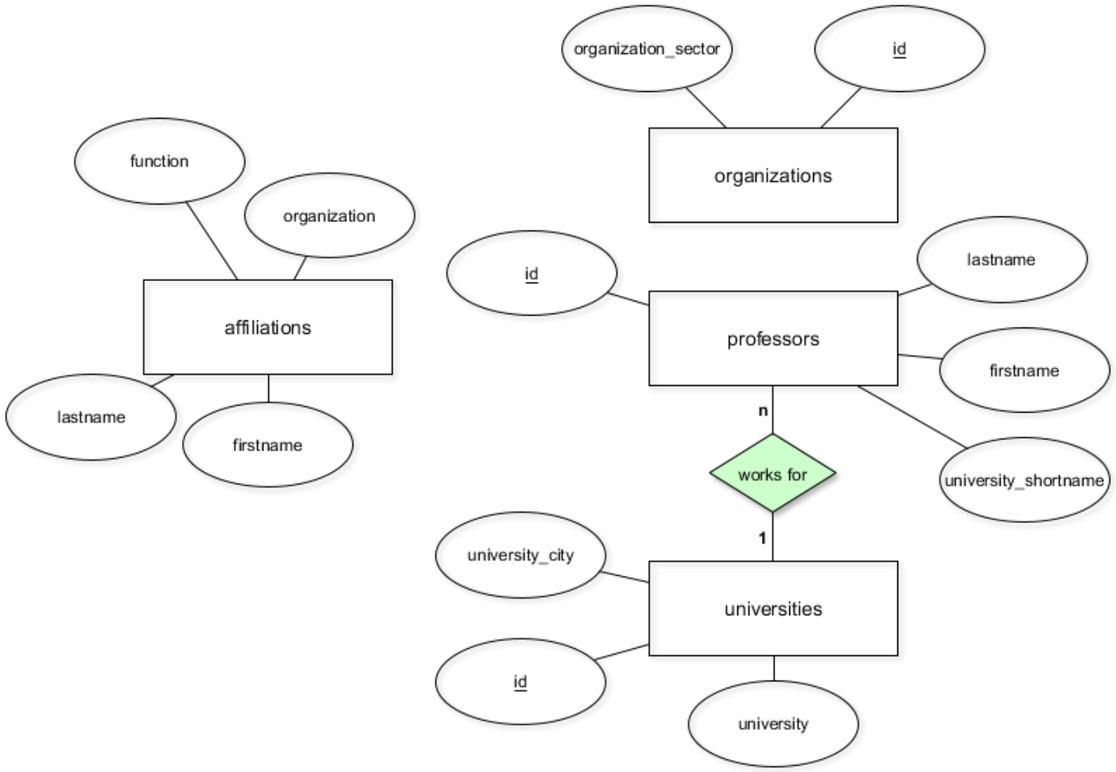
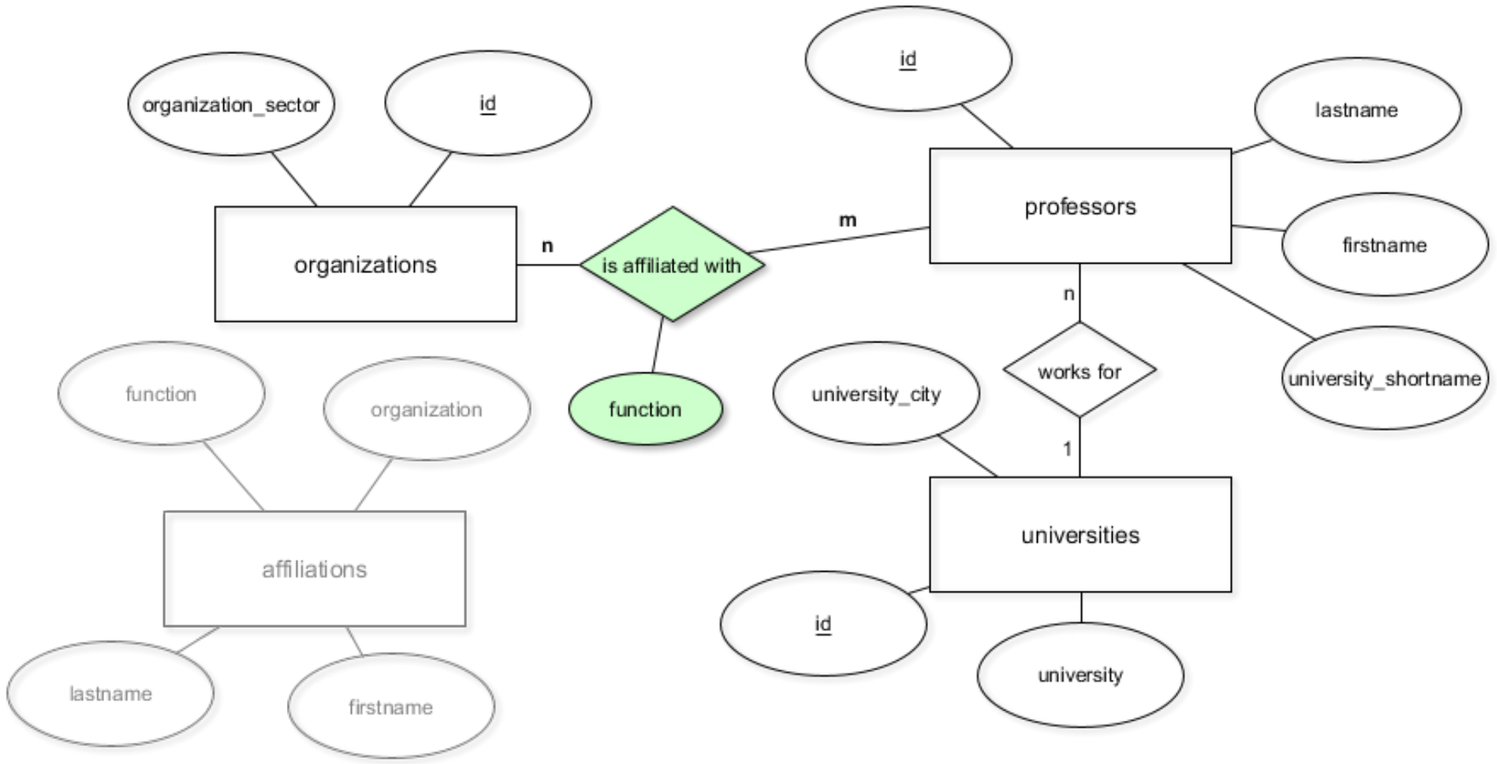
The current database model



- 1:N-relationships are implemented with one foreign key

The final database model



How to implement N:M-relationships

- Create a table
- Add foreign keys for every connected table
- Add additional attributes

```
CREATE TABLE affiliations (
 professor_id integer REFERENCES professors (id),
 organization_id varchar(256) REFERENCES organization (id),
 function varchar(256)
);
```

- No primary key!
- Possible PK = {professor_id, organization_id, function}

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Time to implement this!

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Referential integrity

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Referential integrity

- *A record referencing another table must refer to an existing record in that table*
- Specified between two tables
- Enforced through foreign keys

Referential integrity violations

Referential integrity from table A to table B is violated...

- ...if a record in table B that is referenced from a record in table A is deleted.
- ...if a record in table A referencing a non-existing record from table B is inserted.
- Foreign keys prevent violations!

Dealing with violations

```
CREATE TABLE a (
 id integer PRIMARY KEY,
 column_a varchar(64),
 ...,
 b_id integer REFERENCES b (id) ON DELETE NO ACTION
);
```

```
CREATE TABLE a (
 id integer PRIMARY KEY,
 column_a varchar(64),
 ...,
 b_id integer REFERENCES b (id) ON DELETE CASCADE
);
```

Dealing with violations, contd.

ON DELETE...

- ...NO ACTION: Throw an error
- ...CASCADE: Delete all referencing records
- ...RESTRICT: Throw an error
- ...SET NULL: Set the referencing column to NULL
- ...SET DEFAULT: Set the referencing column to its default value

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Let's look at some examples!

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Roundup

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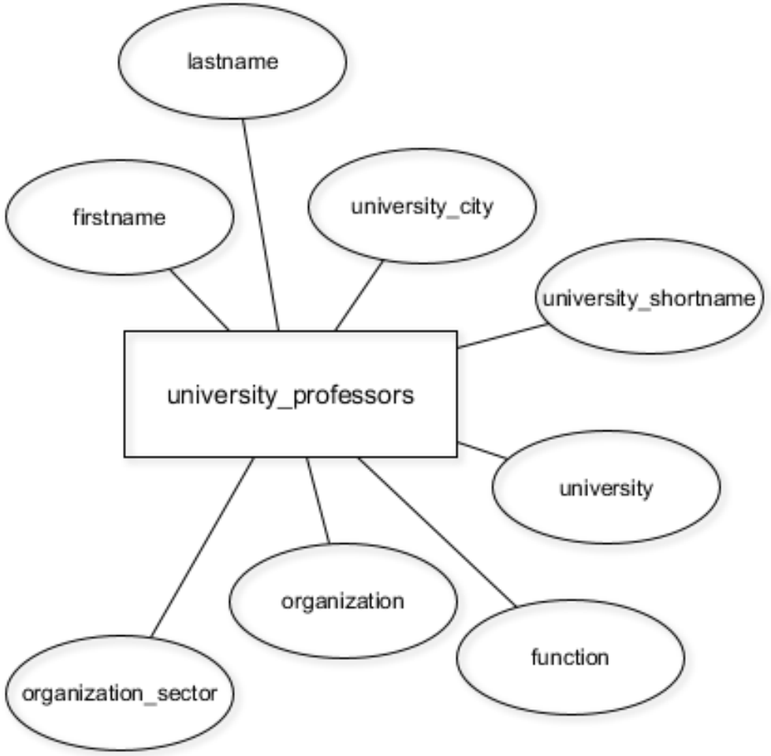
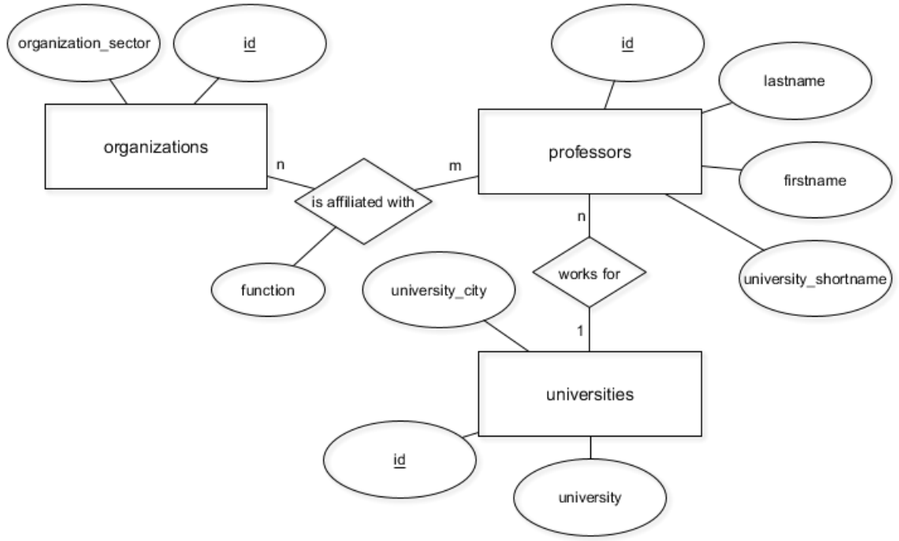
Data Journalist

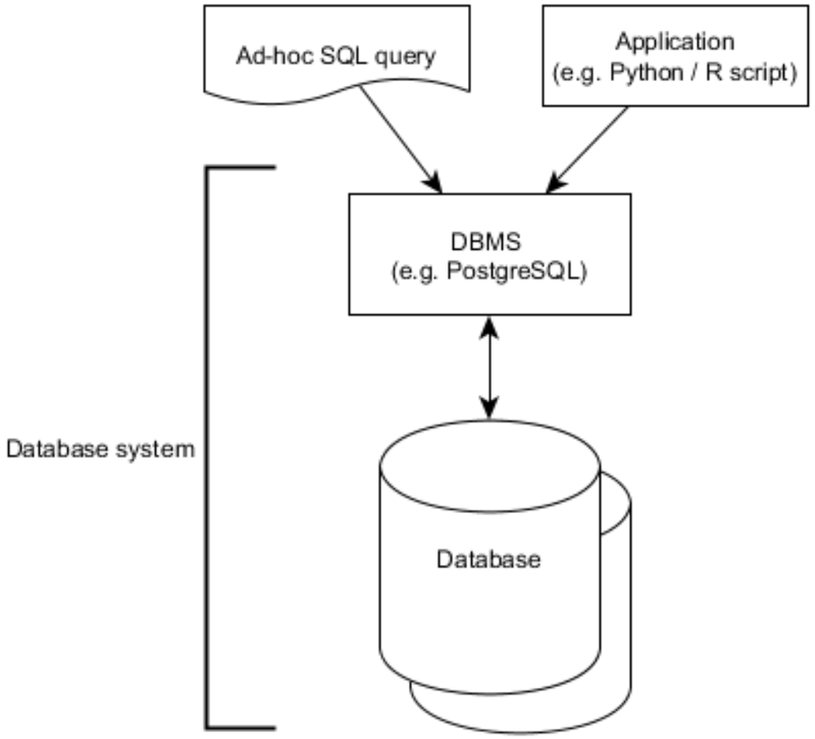
How you've transformed the database



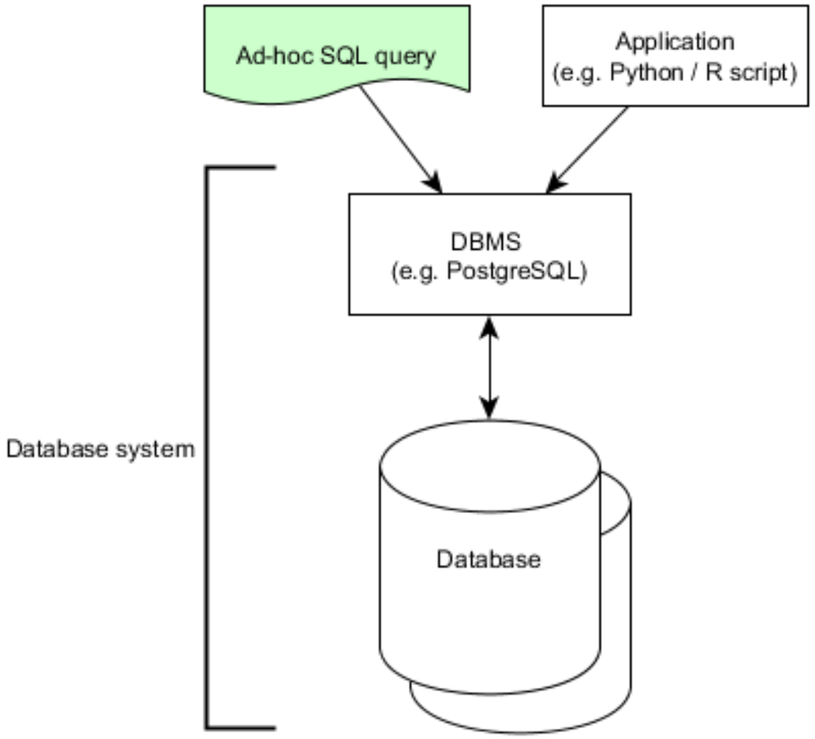


- Column data types
- Key constraints
- Relationships between tables

The database ecosystem



The database ecosystem



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Thank you!