Entity-Relationship Diagram

Purpose of ER Model

- To express the logical properties of the database in an enterprise schema
- ER diagram are used to express logical structure of the model
- ER model is used mainly as a design tool and documentation for the system
- It describes the environment in terms of entities

Relational Database ER

Entities:

To interpret the relational database, perceive the real world as a set of objects and relationships between these objects as entities

Entity Relationship

Entity Set

 An entity set is a set of entities of the same type that share the same properties or attributes

Attributes

 Attributes are descriptive properties possessed by each member of an entity set

Entity Relationship ...(contd.)

- Attribute types:
 - Simple & Composite
 - > Eg Simple: Empno Composite: Ename fname, mname, lname
 - Single-valued & Multi-valued
 - > E.g Single: Studno Multi-Valued: Phone no
 - Derived
 - > E.g Age: Age could be derived from date of Birth

Entity Relationship ...(contd.)

Relationship

A relationship is an association among several entities

Relationship Sets

 A relationship set is a set of relationships of a given type

Mapping Cardinalities

- Mapping Cardinalities express the number of entities to which another entity can be associated via a relationship set
- Following are the possible mapping cardinalities:
 - One-to-One
 - > Student-Pen
 - One-to-Many
 - Class-Student
 - Many-to-One
 - > Emp-Dept
 - Many-to-Many
 - > Emp-Project

Existence Dependencies

 If the existence of entity x depends on the existence of entity y, x is said to be existence dependent on y.

 Entity y is said to be a Dominant entity and x is said to be a subordinate entity

Participation of an entity set in a relation

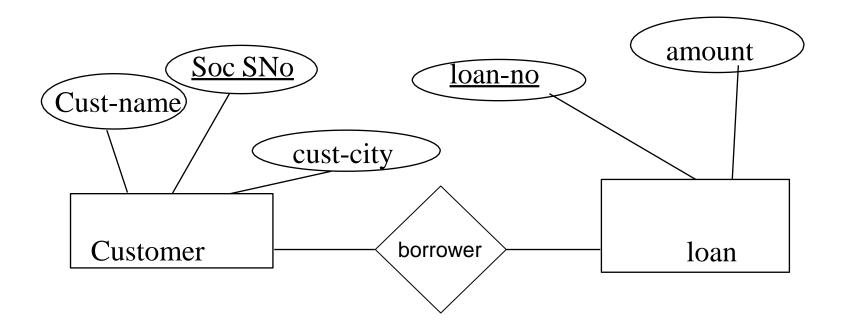
 Total: The participation of an entity set E in a relationship set R is said to be total if every entity in E participates in at least one relationship R

 Partial: Part of the set of entities participate in some relationship

ER Diagram

- Overall logical structure of a database can be expressed graphically by an ER diagram
 - Rectangles: entity sets
 - Ellipses: attributes
 - Diamonds: relationship sets
 - Double Lines: total participation
 - Dashed Ellipse: derived attribute
 - Double Ellipse: multivalued attributes
 - Lines: link attribute to entity sets and entity sets to relationship set
 - Double Rectangle: weak entity
 - Attribute with an underline: primary key

ER Diagram ...(contd.)



Relational Database ER

- Identifying Entities
 - Given a system description you can identify entities by:
 - > Select all nouns
 - > Eliminate one's not necessary

Relational Database ER...(contd.)

- Entities are classified as:
 - DOMINANT ENTITIES: An entity that does not depend on another entity for its existence is a dominant or strong entity
 - WEAK ENTITIES: An entity that depends on some other entity for its existence

Relational Database ER...(contd.)

- If the weak entity does not have a primary key of its own then you can use a combination of the primary key of the dominant entity & an attribute of the weak entity as the primary key of the weak entity
 - WEAK ENTITY:

For example: KEY_PERSON_NAME cannot uniquely identify a key person. Hence SUPP_CODE & KEY_PERSON_NAME can be used as a key.

Relational Database ER ...(contd.)

• Entities are linked to each other through relationships. Hence a relationship is an association between 2 entities.

• eg:

Entity Relationship Entity
Supplier supplies Items

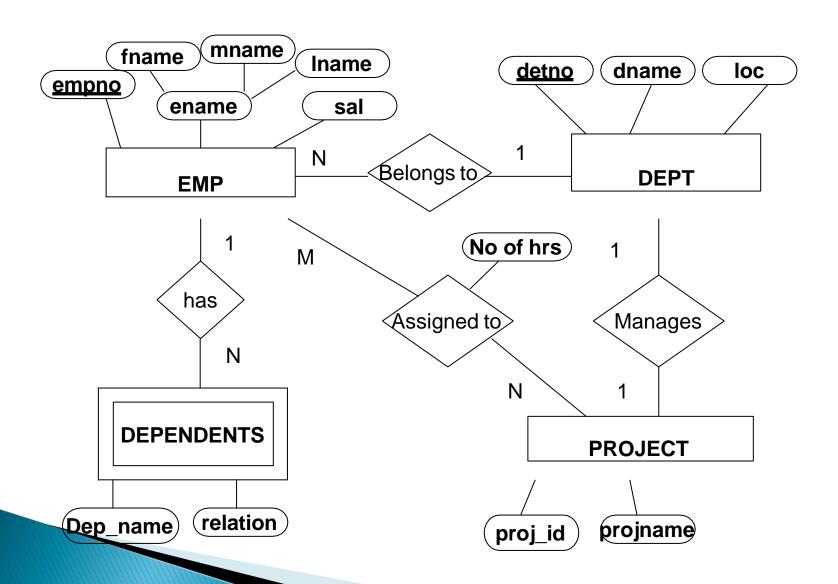
Relational Database ER

- 1-1 Supplier-----Key Person
- 1-M
 Dept----Emp
- M-1 Emp----Dept
- M:MStudent----Subjects

Relational Database ER...(contd.)

 Once the entities & relationship between the entities is identified you can represent them in a ER diagram

ER Example



Relational Database ...(contd.) ER

- This schema has 3 entity types
 - EMPLOYEE
 - DEPT
 - PROJECT

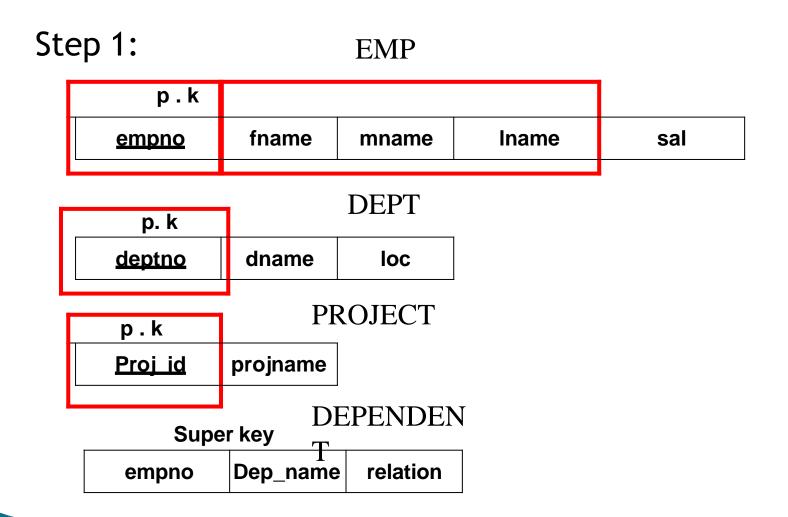
& one weak entity type DEPENDENT

- There is M:N relationship between PROJECT and EMP entity sets
- There is a 1:1 relationship between DEPT and PROJECT
- There is a 1:M relationship between DEPT and EMP entity sets
- No of hrs is an attribute on the relation "assigned to" between EMP and PROJECT

ER to Relational Mapping

Step 1:

- For regular entity E, create relation R including simple attributes and simple component of a composite attribute
- Choose one of the key attribute as a primary key for all strong entities



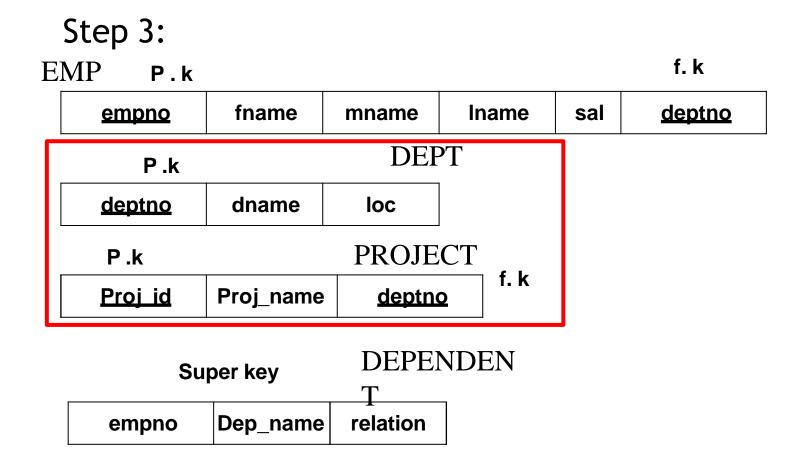
Step 2:

- For each weak entity type W in the ER schema with owner entity type E,we create a relation R and include all simple attributes of W as attributes of R
- In addition, we include as foreign key attributes of R, the primary key attributes of the relation that corresponds to the owner entity type E.
- The primary key of R is the combination of the primary key of the owner & the partial key of the weak entity type W

Step 2: **EMP** f. k P.k fname **Iname** sal deptno <u>empno</u> mname f. k **DEPT** P.k deptno dname loc **PROJECT** P.k Proi id Proj_name deptno **DEPENDENT** Super key relation Dep_name empno

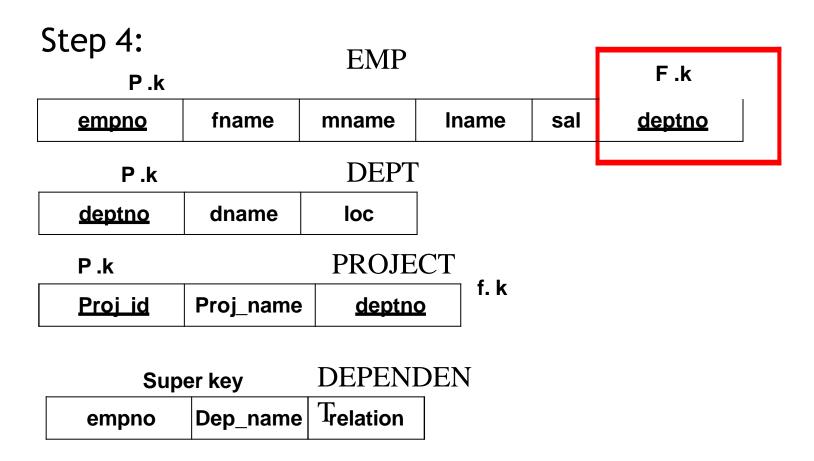
Step 3:

- For each binary 1:1 relationship type R, we identify the relations S and T that correspond to the entity types participating in R
- We choose one of the relations S, say & include as a foreign key in S the primary key of T. Choose an entity type with total participation in R in the role of S.
- We include all the simple attributes of the 1:1 relationship R as attributes of S



Step 4:

• For each regular (nonweak) binary 1:N relationship type R, we identify the relation S that represents the participating entity type at the N-side of the relationship type. We include as foreign key in S the primary key of relation T that represents the other entity type participating in R; this is because each entity instance on the N-side is related to at most one entity instance on 1 side of relationship type.



Step 5:

- For each binary M:N relationship type R, we create a new relation S to represent R.
- We include as foreign key attributes in S the primary keys of the relations that represent the participating entity types.
- The combination will form the primary key of S. We also include any simple attributes of the M:N relationship type as attributes of S.

