

Fundamentals of

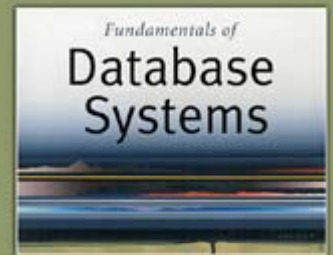
Database Systems

5th Edition

Elmasri / Navathe

Chapter 3

Data Modeling Using the Entity-Relationship (ER) Model



Chapter Outline

- Overview of Database Design Process
- Example Database Application (COMPANY)
- ER Model Concepts
 - Entities and Attributes
 - Entity Types, Value Sets, and Key Attributes
 - Relationships and Relationship Types
 - Weak Entity Types
 - Roles and Attributes in Relationship Types
- ER Diagrams - Notation
- ER Diagram for COMPANY Schema
- Alternative Notations – UML class diagrams, others

Overview of Database Design Process

- Two main activities:
 - Database design
 - Applications design
- Focus in this chapter on database design
 - To design the conceptual schema for a database application
- Applications design focuses on the programs and interfaces that access the database
 - Generally considered part of software engineering

Overview of Database Design Process

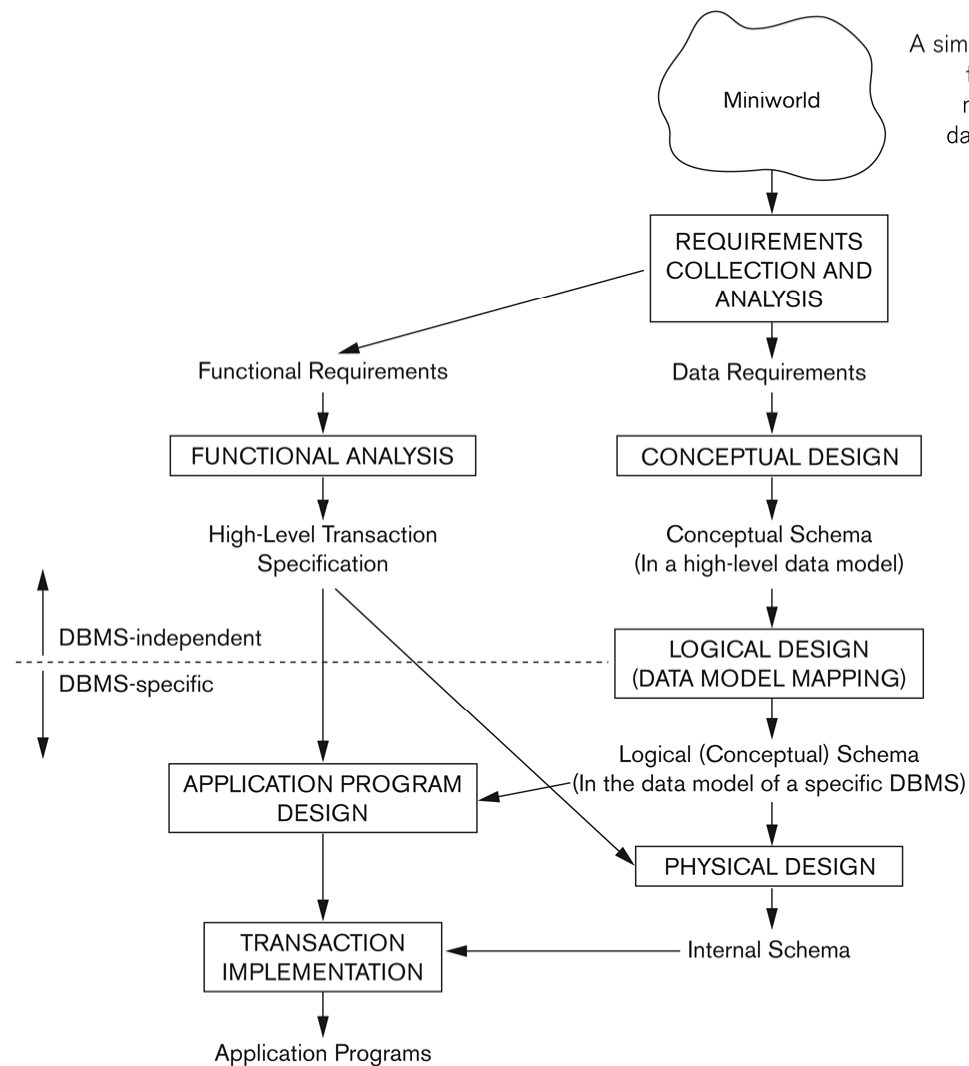


Figure 3.1

A simplified diagram to illustrate the main phases of database design.

Example COMPANY Database

- We need to create a database schema design based on the following (simplified) **requirements** of the COMPANY Database:
 - The company is organized into DEPARTMENTS. Each department has a name, number and an employee who *manages* the department. We keep track of the start date of the department manager. A department may have several locations.
 - Each department *controls* a number of PROJECTs. Each project has a unique name, unique number and is located at a single location.

Example COMPANY Database (Contd.)

- We store each EMPLOYEE's social security number, address, salary, sex, and birthdate.
 - Each employee *works for* one department but may *work on* several projects.
 - We keep track of the number of hours per week that an employee currently works on each project.
 - We also keep track of the *direct supervisor* of each employee.
- Each employee may *have* a number of DEPENDENTS.
 - For each dependent, we keep track of their name, sex, birthdate, and relationship to the employee.

ER Model Concepts

■ Entities and Attributes

- Entities are specific objects or things in the mini-world that are represented in the database.
 - For example the EMPLOYEE John Smith, the Research DEPARTMENT, the ProductX PROJECT
- Attributes are properties used to describe an entity.
 - For example an EMPLOYEE entity may have the attributes Name, SSN, Address, Sex, BirthDate
- A specific entity will have a value for each of its attributes.
 - For example a specific employee entity may have Name='John Smith', SSN='123456789', Address ='731, Fondren, Houston, TX', Sex='M', BirthDate='09-JAN-55'
- Each attribute has a *value set* (or data type) associated with it – e.g. integer, string, subrange, enumerated type, ...

Types of Attributes (1)

- Simple
 - Each entity has a single atomic value for the attribute. For example, SSN or Sex.
- Composite
 - The attribute may be composed of several components. For example:
 - Address(Apt#, House#, Street, City, State, ZipCode, Country), or
 - Name(FirstName, MiddleName, LastName).
 - Composition may form a hierarchy where some components are themselves composite.
- Multi-valued
 - An entity may have multiple values for that attribute. For example, Color of a CAR or PreviousDegrees of a STUDENT.
 - Denoted as {Color} or {PreviousDegrees}.

Types of Attributes (2)

- In general, composite and multi-valued attributes may be nested arbitrarily to any number of levels, although this is rare.
 - For example, PreviousDegrees of a STUDENT is a composite multi-valued attribute denoted by {PreviousDegrees (College, Year, Degree, Field)}
 - Multiple PreviousDegrees values can exist
 - Each has four subcomponent attributes:
 - College, Year, Degree, Field

Example of a composite attribute

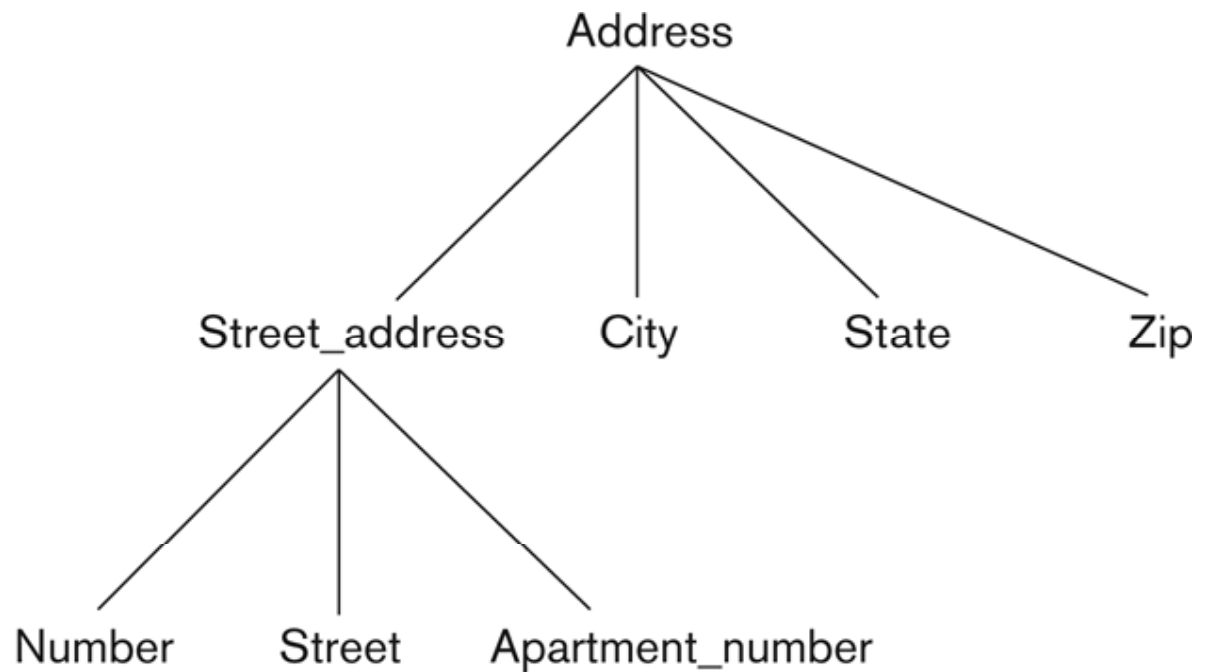


Figure 3.4

A hierarchy of composite attributes.

Entity Types and Key Attributes (1)

- Entities with the same basic attributes are grouped or typed into an entity type.
 - For example, the entity type EMPLOYEE and PROJECT.
- An attribute of an entity type for which each entity must have a unique value is called a key attribute of the entity type.
 - For example, SSN of EMPLOYEE.

Entity Types and Key Attributes (2)

- A key attribute may be composite.
 - VehicleTagNumber is a key of the CAR entity type with components (Number, State).
- An entity type may have more than one key.
 - The CAR entity type may have two keys:
 - VehicleIdentificationNumber (popularly called VIN)
 - VehicleTagNumber (Number, State), aka license plate number.
- Each key is underlined

Displaying an Entity type

- In ER diagrams, an entity type is displayed in a rectangular box
- Attributes are displayed in ovals
 - Each attribute is connected to its entity type
 - Components of a composite attribute are connected to the oval representing the composite attribute
 - Each key attribute is underlined
 - Multivalued attributes displayed in double ovals
- See CAR example on next slide

Entity Type CAR with two keys and a corresponding Entity Set

(a)

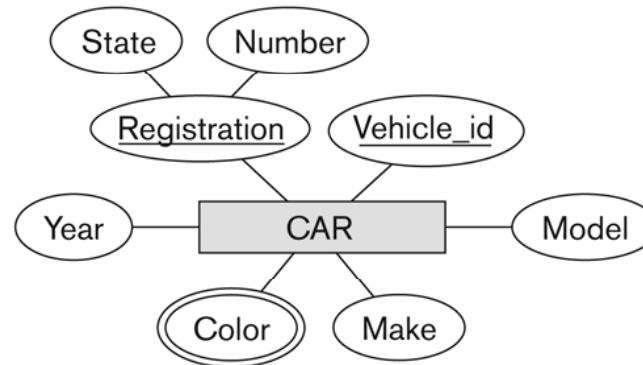


Figure 3.7

The CAR entity type with two key attributes, Registration and Vehicle_id. (a) ER diagram notation. (b) Entity set with three entities.

(b)

CAR
Registration (Number, State), Vehicle_id, Make, Model, Year, {Color}

CAR₁
((ABC 123, TEXAS), TK629, Ford Mustang, convertible, 2004 {red, black})

CAR₂
((ABC 123, NEW YORK), WP9872, Nissan Maxima, 4-door, 2005, {blue})

CAR₃
((VSY 720, TEXAS), TD729, Chrysler LeBaron, 4-door, 2002, {white, blue})

⋮

Entity Set

- Each entity type will have a collection of entities stored in the database
 - Called the **entity set**
- Previous slide shows three CAR entity instances in the entity set for CAR
- Same name (CAR) used to refer to both the entity type and the entity set
- Entity set is the current *state* of the entities of that type that are stored in the database

Initial Design of Entity Types for the COMPANY Database Schema

- Based on the requirements, we can identify four initial entity types in the COMPANY database:
 - DEPARTMENT
 - PROJECT
 - EMPLOYEE
 - DEPENDENT
- Their initial design is shown on the following slide
- The initial attributes shown are derived from the requirements description

Initial Design of Entity Types:

EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT, PROJECT, DEPENDENT

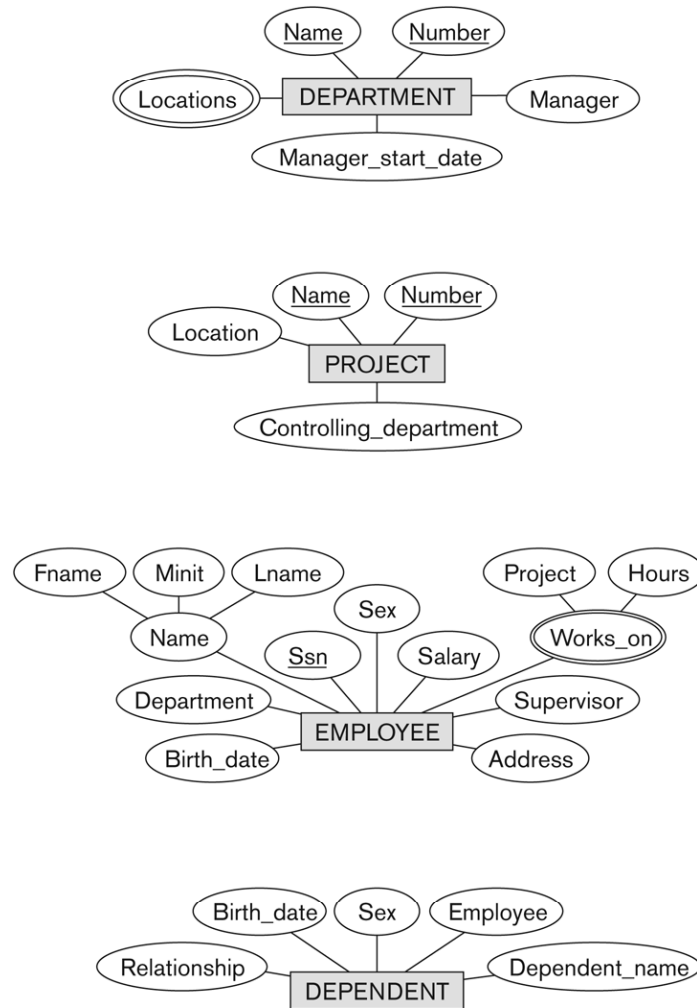


Figure 3.8

Preliminary design of entity types for the COMPANY database. Some of the shown attributes will be refined into relationships.

Refining the initial design by introducing **relationships**

- The initial design is typically not complete
- Some aspects in the requirements will be represented as **relationships**
- ER model has three main concepts:
 - Entities (and their entity types and entity sets)
 - Attributes (simple, composite, multivalued)
 - Relationships (and their relationship types and relationship sets)
- We introduce relationship concepts next

Relationships and Relationship Types (1)

- A **relationship** relates two or more distinct entities with a specific meaning.
 - For example, EMPLOYEE John Smith *works on* the ProductX PROJECT, or EMPLOYEE Franklin Wong *manages* the Research DEPARTMENT.
- Relationships of the same type are grouped or typed into a **relationship type**.
 - For example, the WORKS_ON relationship type in which EMPLOYEES and PROJECTs participate, or the MANAGES relationship type in which EMPLOYEES and DEPARTMENTs participate.
- The degree of a relationship type is the number of participating entity types.
 - Both MANAGES and WORKS_ON are *binary* relationships.

Relationship instances of the WORKS_FOR N:1 relationship between EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT

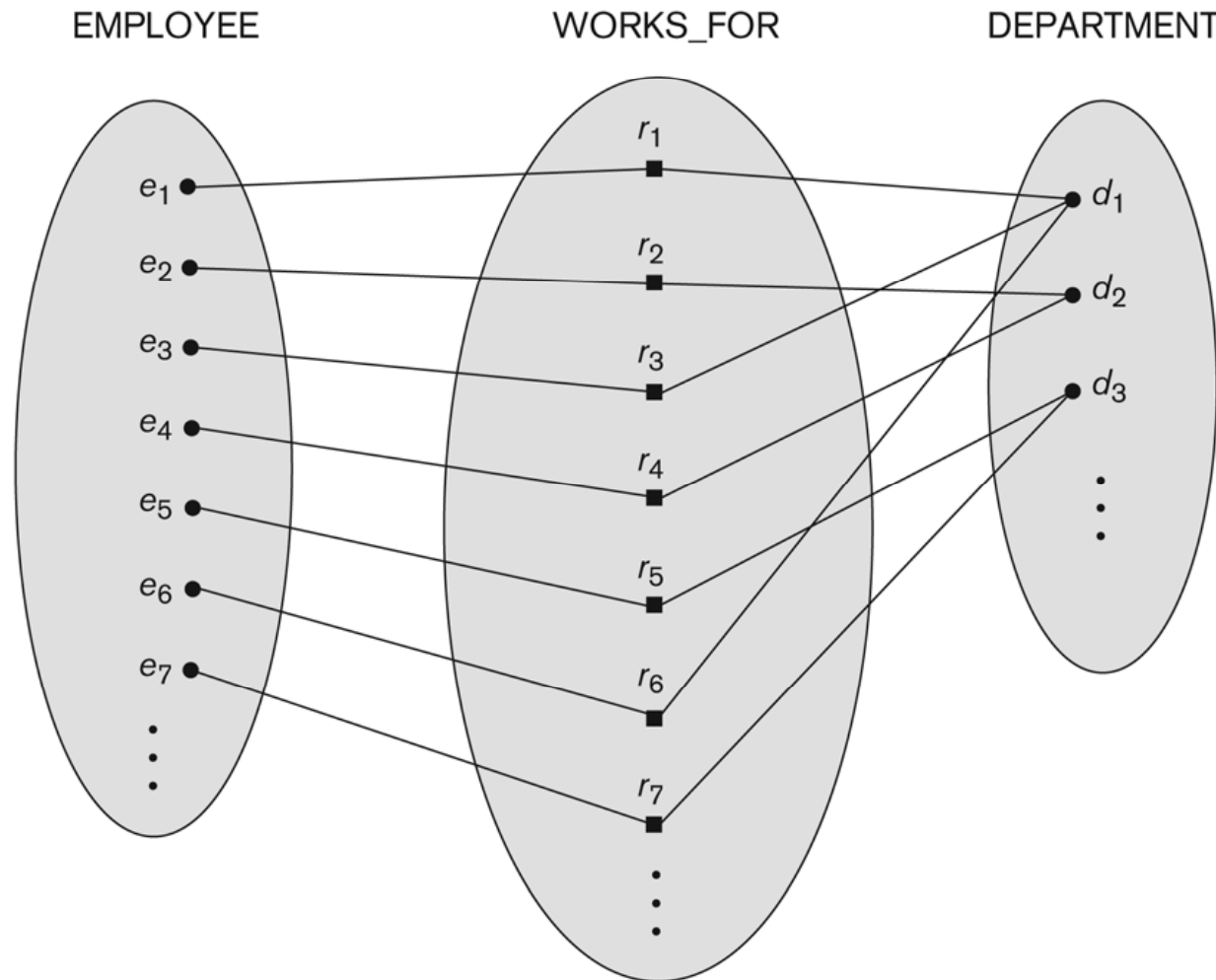


Figure 3.9

Some instances in the WORKS_FOR relationship set, which represents a relationship type WORKS_FOR between EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT.

Relationship instances of the M:N WORKS_ON relationship between EMPLOYEE and PROJECT

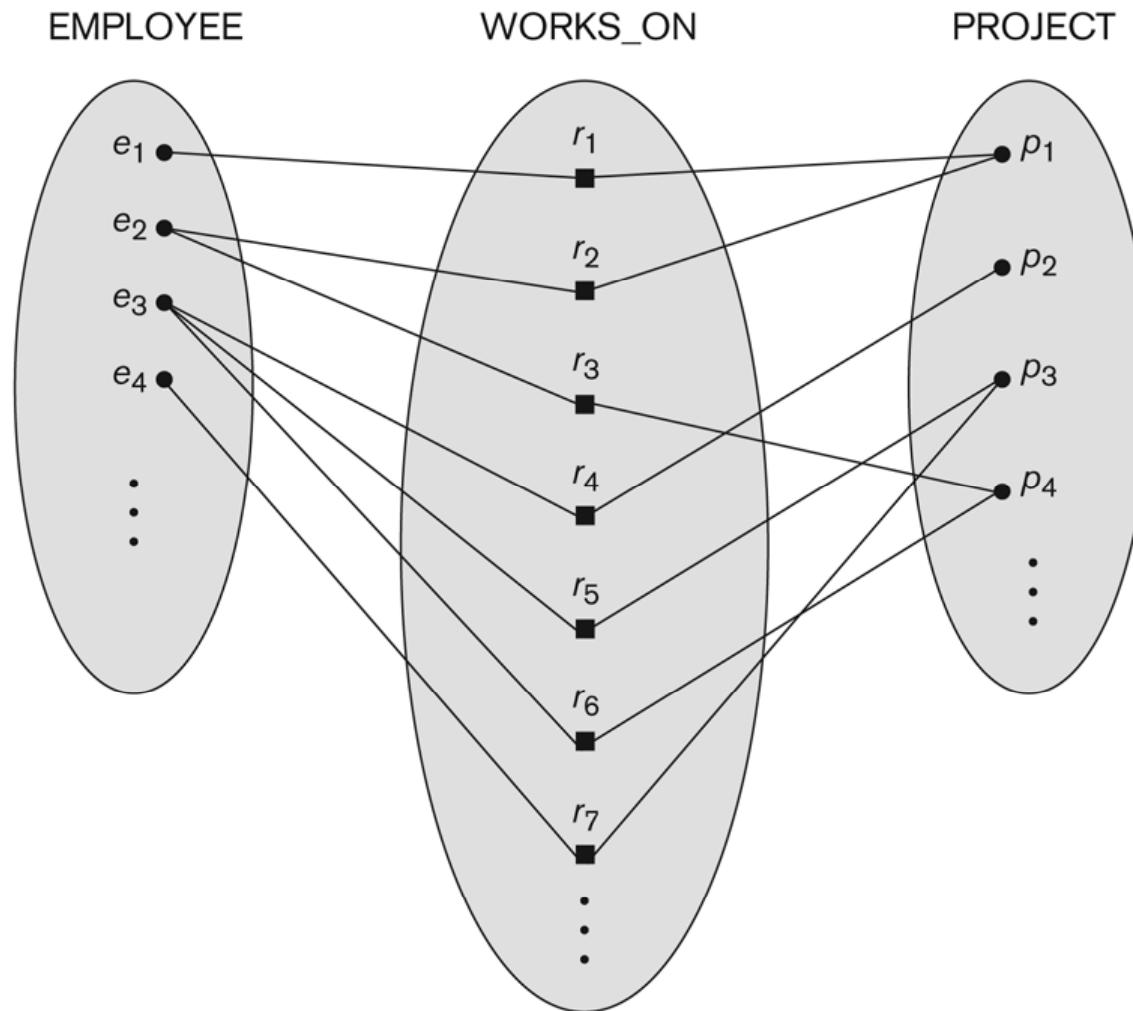


Figure 3.13
An M:N relationship,
WORKS_ON.

Relationship type vs. relationship set (1)

- Relationship Type:
 - Is the schema description of a relationship
 - Identifies the relationship name and the participating entity types
 - Also identifies certain relationship constraints
- Relationship Set:
 - The current set of relationship instances represented in the database
 - The current *state* of a relationship type

Relationship type vs. relationship set (2)

- Previous figures displayed the relationship sets
- Each instance in the set relates individual participating entities – one from each participating entity type
- In ER diagrams, we represent the *relationship type* as follows:
 - Diamond-shaped box is used to display a relationship type
 - Connected to the participating entity types via straight lines

Refining the COMPANY database schema by introducing relationships

- By examining the requirements, six relationship types are identified
- All are *binary* relationships(degree 2)
- Listed below with their participating entity types:
 - WORKS_FOR (between EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT)
 - MANAGES (also between EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT)
 - CONTROLS (between DEPARTMENT, PROJECT)
 - WORKS_ON (between EMPLOYEE, PROJECT)
 - SUPERVISION (between EMPLOYEE (as subordinate), EMPLOYEE (as supervisor))
 - DEPENDENTS_OF (between EMPLOYEE, DEPENDENT)

ER DIAGRAM – Relationship Types are:

WORKS_FOR, MANAGES, WORKS_ON, CONTROLS, SUPERVISION, DEPENDENTS_OF

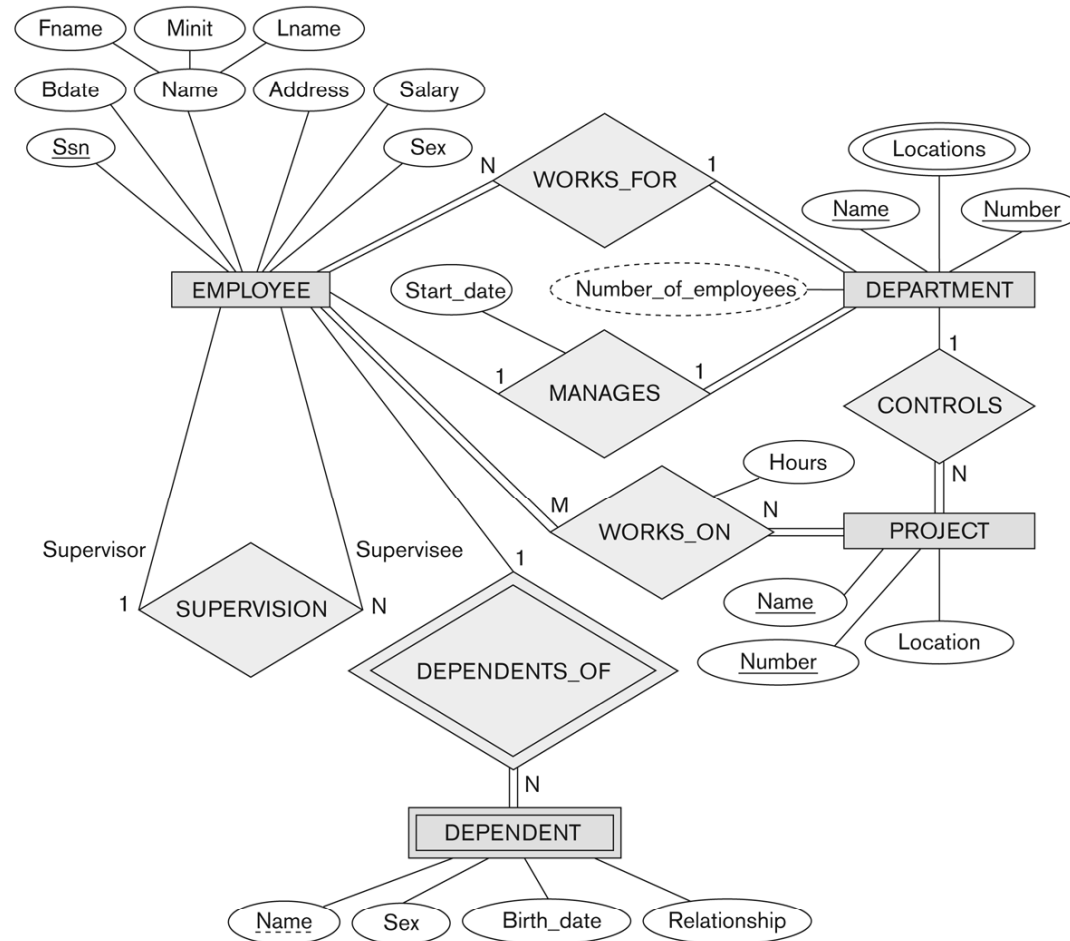


Figure 3.2

An ER schema diagram for the COMPANY database. The diagrammatic notation is introduced gradually throughout this chapter.

Discussion on Relationship Types

- In the refined design, some attributes from the initial entity types are refined into relationships:
 - Manager of DEPARTMENT -> MANAGES
 - Works_on of EMPLOYEE -> WORKS_ON
 - Department of EMPLOYEE -> WORKS_FOR
 - etc
- In general, more than one relationship type can exist between the same participating entity types
 - MANAGES and WORKS_FOR are distinct relationship types between EMPLOYEE and DEPARTMENT
 - Different meanings and different relationship instances.

Recursive Relationship Type

- A relationship type with the same participating entity type in **distinct roles**
- Example: the SUPERVISION relationship
- EMPLOYEE participates twice in two distinct roles:
 - supervisor (or boss) role
 - supervisee (or subordinate) role
- Each relationship instance relates two distinct EMPLOYEE entities:
 - One employee in *supervisor* role
 - One employee in *supervisee* role

Displaying a recursive relationship

- In a recursive relationship type.
 - Both participations are same entity type in different roles.
 - For example, SUPERVISION relationships between EMPLOYEE (in role of supervisor or boss) and (another) EMPLOYEE (in role of subordinate or worker).
- In following figure, first role participation labeled with 1 and second role participation labeled with 2.
- In ER diagram, need to display role names to distinguish participations.

A Recursive Relationship Supervision`

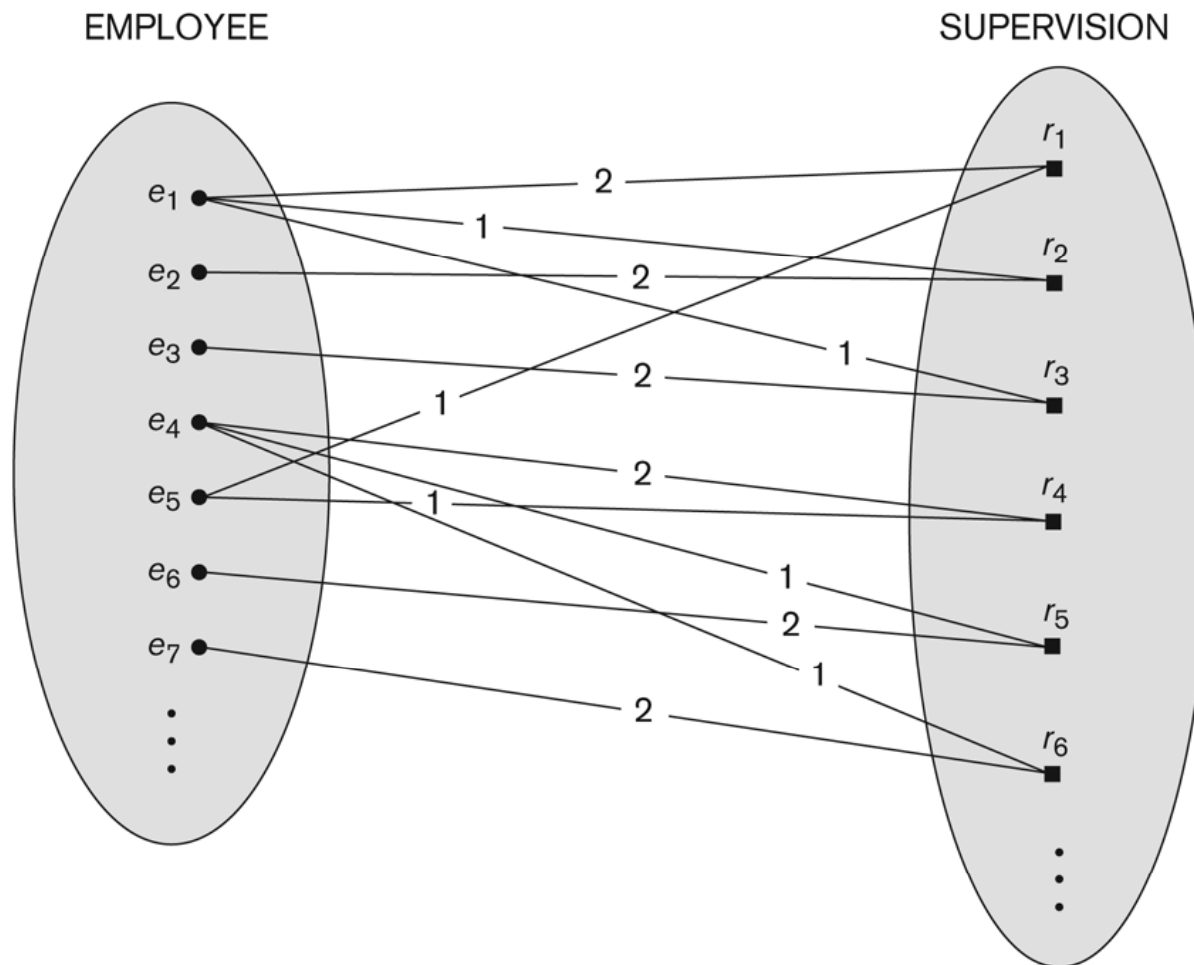


Figure 3.11
A recursive relationship SUPERVISION between EMPLOYEE in the *supervisor* role (1) and EMPLOYEE in the *subordinate* role (2).

Weak Entity Types

- An entity that does not have a key attribute
- A weak entity must participate in an identifying relationship type with an owner or identifying entity type
- Weak entities are identified by the combination of:
 - A partial key of the weak entity type
 - The particular entity they are related to in the identifying entity type
- **Example:**
 - A DEPENDENT entity is identified by the dependent's first name, *and* the specific EMPLOYEE with whom the dependent is related
 - Name of DEPENDENT is the *partial key*
 - DEPENDENT is a *weak entity type*
 - EMPLOYEE is its identifying entity type via the identifying relationship type DEPENDENT_OF

Constraints on Relationships








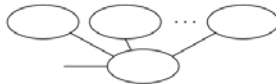




- Constraints on Relationship Types
 - Cardinality Ratio (specifies *maximum* participation)
 - Shown by placing appropriate numbers on the relationship edges.
 - One-to-one (1:1)
 - One-to-many (1:N) or Many-to-one (N:1)
 - Many-to-many (M:N)
 - Existence Dependency Constraint (specifies *minimum* participation) (also called participation constraint)
 - zero (optional participation, not existence-dependent)
 - shown by single line
 - one or more (mandatory participation, existence-dependent)
 - shown by double line

Attributes of Relationship types

- A relationship type can have attributes:
 - For example, HoursPerWeek of WORKS_ON
 - Its value for each relationship instance describes the number of hours per week that an EMPLOYEE works on a PROJECT.
 - A value of HoursPerWeek depends on a particular (employee, project) combination
- Most relationship attributes are used with M:N relationships
 - In 1:N relationships, they can be transferred to the entity type on the N-side of the relationship

Summary of notation for ER diagrams

Figure 3.14
Summary of the
notation for ER
diagrams.

Symbol	Meaning
	Entity
	Weak Entity
	Relationship
	Identifying Relationship
	Attribute
	Key Attribute
	Multivalued Attribute
	Composite Attribute
	Derived Attribute
	Total Participation of E_2 in R
	Cardinality Ratio 1: N for $E_1:E_2$ in R
	Structural Constraint (min, max) on Participation of E in R