

IT 775

Database Technology

ER Modeling

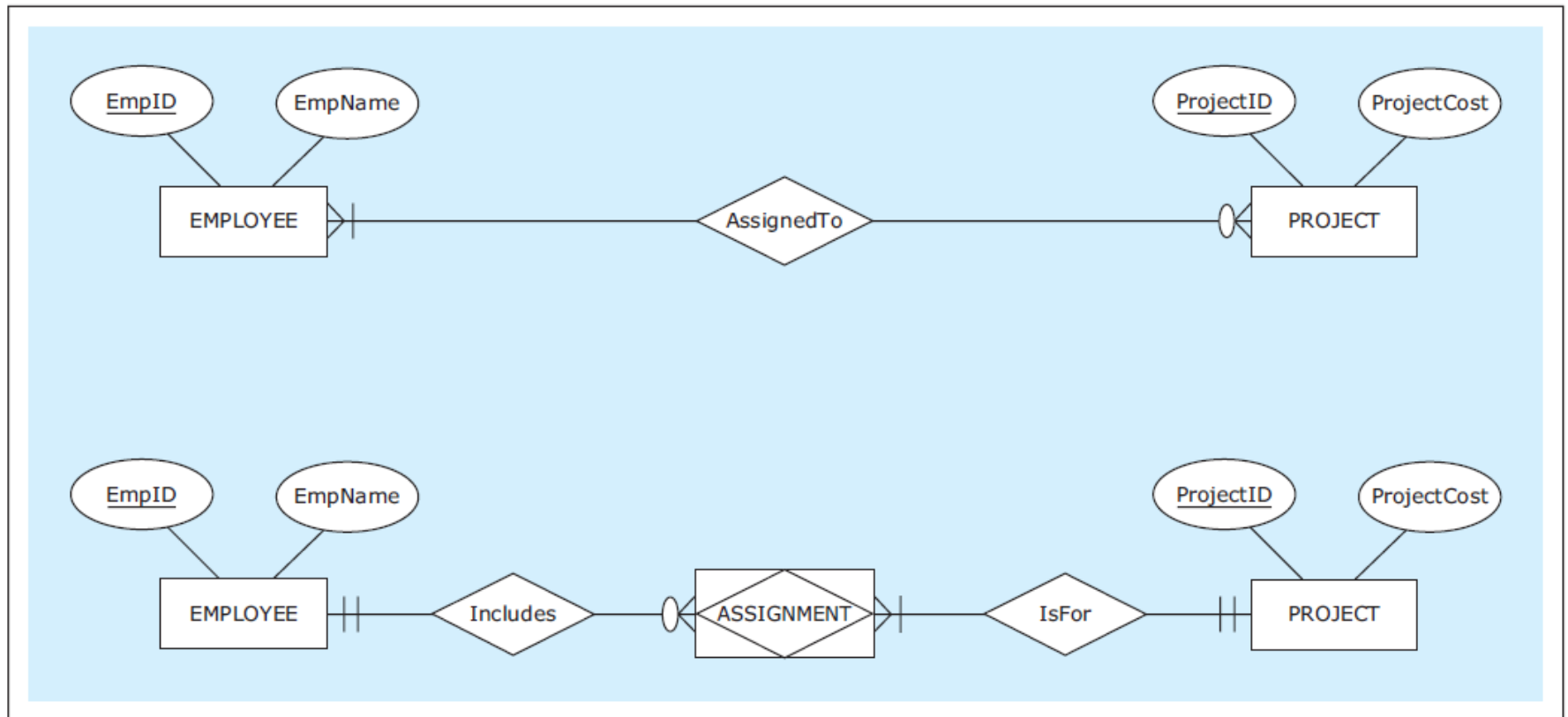
Associative Entity

ASSOCIATIVE ENTITY

- **Associative entity** - construct used as an alternative way of depicting M:N relationships
 - Associative entities do not have unique or partially unique attributes, and often do not have any attributes at all

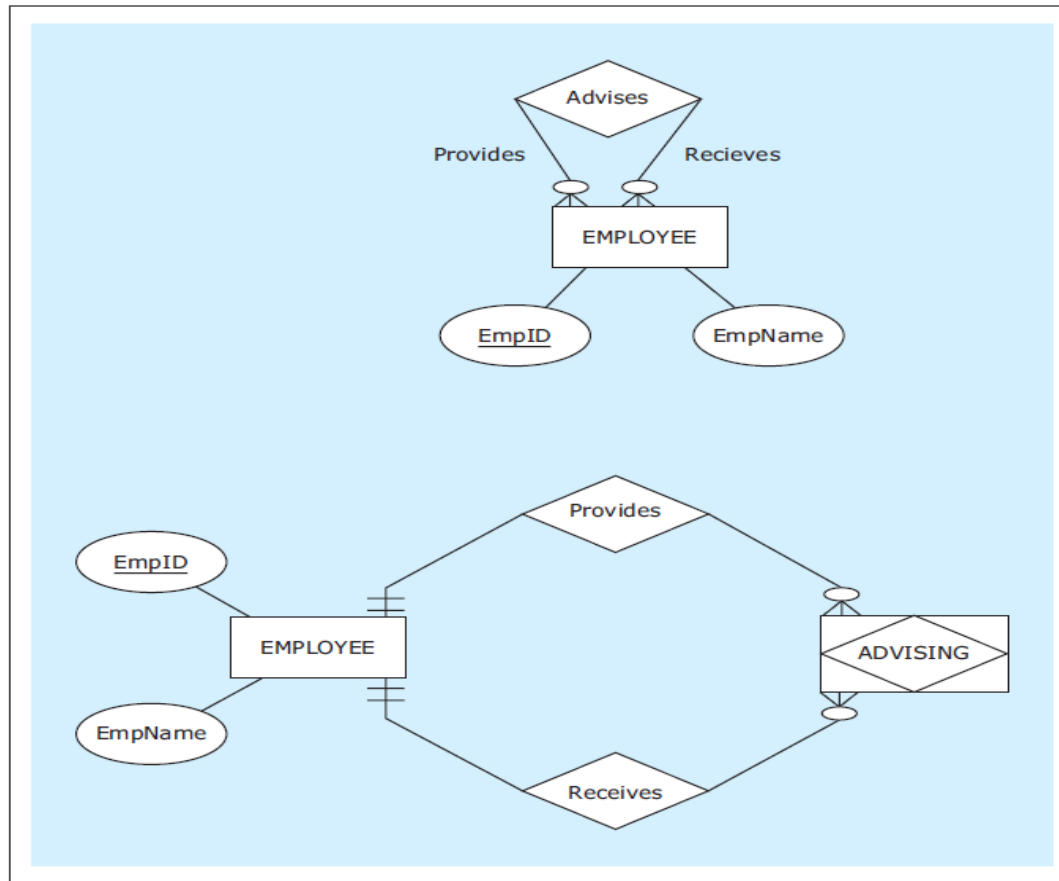
ASSOCIATIVE ENTITY

An identical relationship represented as a M:N relationship and as an associative entity



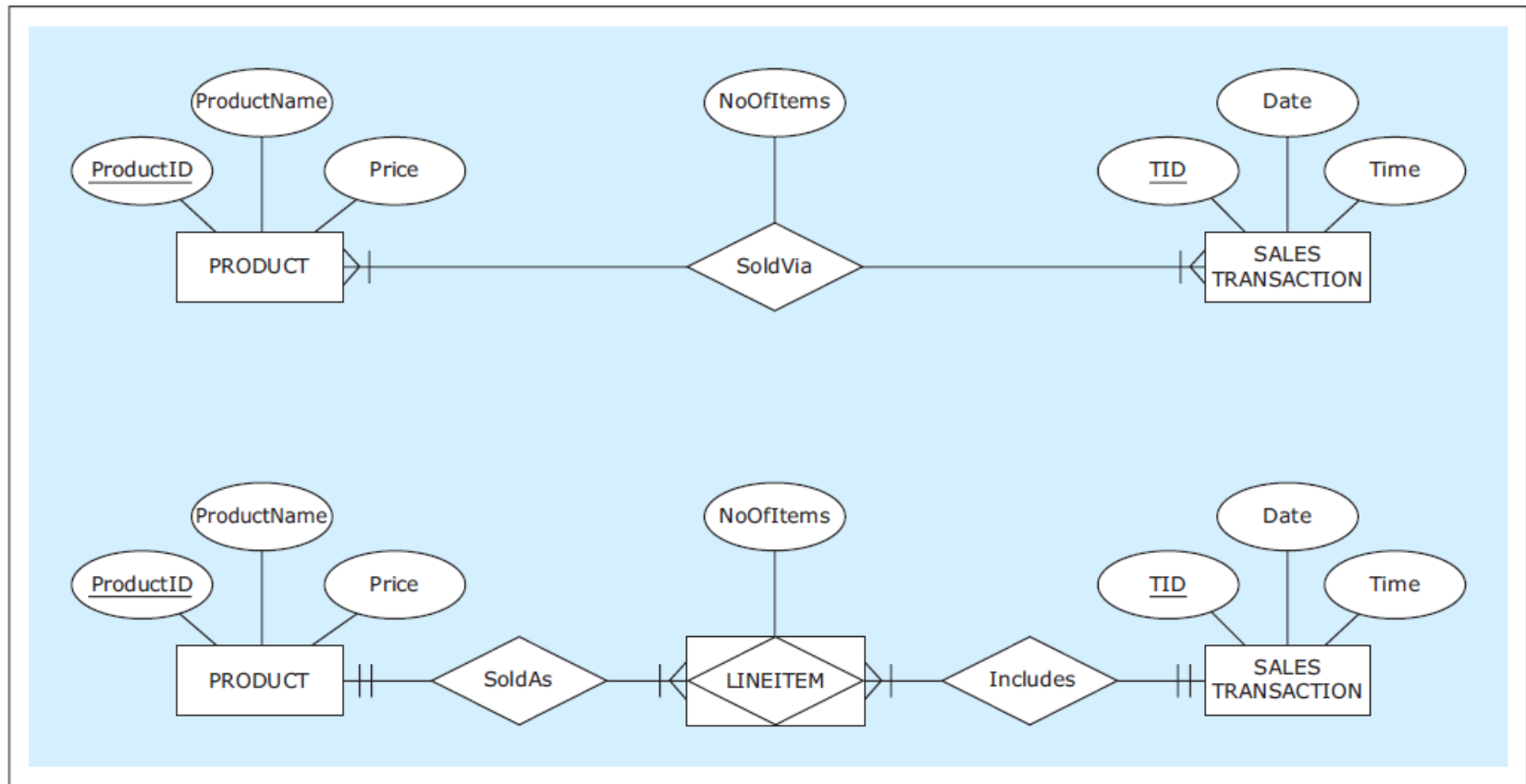
ASSOCIATIVE ENTITY

An identical relationship represented as a unary M:N relationship and as an associative entity



ASSOCIATIVE ENTITY

An identical relationship represented as an M:N relationship with an attribute and as an associative entity with an attribute



ASSOCIATIVE ENTITY

- For relationships with a degree higher than 2, such as ternary relationships, associative entities provide a way to eliminate potential ambiguities in the ER diagrams