

#### The National Higher School of Artificial Intelligence



#### **DATABASES**

#### **Chapter 3 - Entity Relationship Modeling**

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Slides From the Textbook: Carlos Coronel and Steven Morris, Database Systems: Design, Implementation, and Management Tenth Edition

# **Objectives**



- · In this chapter, students will learn:
  - The main characteristics of entity relationship components
  - How relationships between entities are defined, refined,
     and incorporated into the database design process
  - How ERD components affect database design and implementation
  - That real-world database design often requires the reconciliation of conflicting goals

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## The Entity Relationship Model (ERM)

- · ER model forms the basis of an ER diagram
- · ERD represents conceptual database as viewed by end user
- ERDs depict database's main components:
  - Entities
  - Attributes
  - Relationships

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## **Entities**

- · Refers to entity set and not to single entity occurrence
- Corresponds to table and not to row in relational environment
- In Chen and Crow's Foot models, entity is represented by rectangle with entity's name
- The entity name, a noun, is written in capital letters

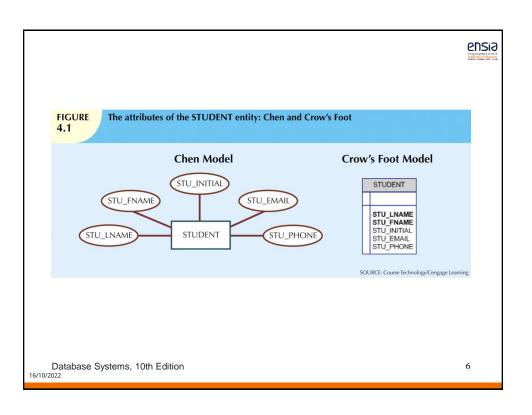
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#### **Attributes**

- · Characteristics of entities
- Chen notation: attributes represented by ovals connected to entity rectangle with a line
  - Each oval contains the name of attribute it represents
- Crow's Foot notation: attributes written in attribute box below entity rectangle

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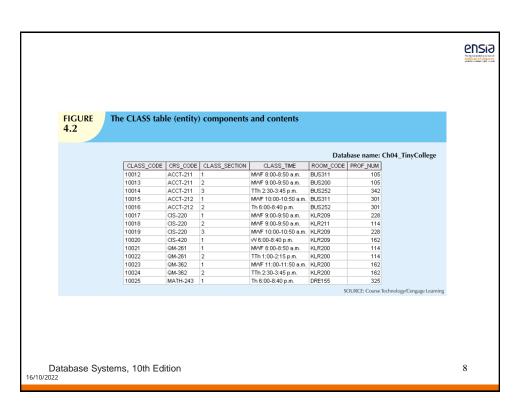




# Attributes (cont'd.)

- · Required attribute: must have a value
- · Optional attribute: may be left empty
- · Domain: set of possible values for an attribute
  - Attributes may share a domain
- Identifiers: one or more attributes that uniquely identify each entity instance
- Composite identifier: primary key composed of more than one attribute

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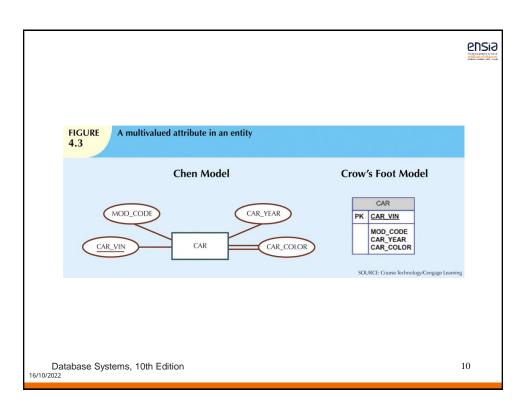




# Attributes (cont'd.)

- · Composite attribute can be subdivided
- · Simple attribute cannot be subdivided
- Single-value attribute can have only a single value
- Multivalued attributes can have many values

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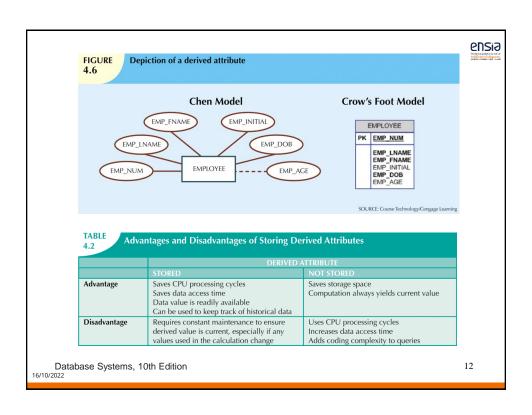




### Attributes (cont'd.)

- M:N relationships and multivalued attributes should not be implemented
  - Create several new attributes for each of the original multivalued attributes' components
  - Create new entity composed of original multivalued attributes' components
- Derived attribute: value may be calculated from other attributes
  - Need not be physically stored within database

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### Relationships

- Association between entities
- Participants are entities that participate in a relationship
- Relationships between entities always operate in both directions
- Relationship can be classified as 1:M
- Relationship classification is difficult to establish if only one side of the relationship is known

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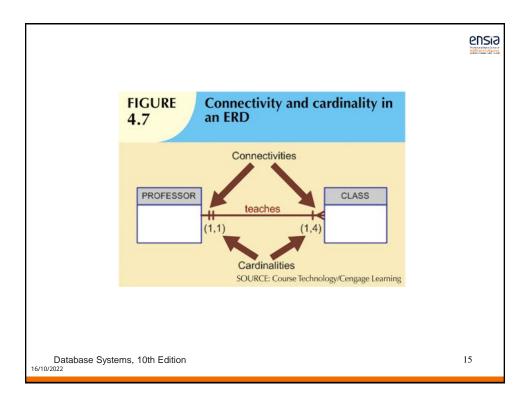
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## **Connectivity and Cardinality**

- Connectivity
  - Describes the relationship classification
- Cardinality
  - Expresses minimum and maximum number of entity occurrences associated with one occurrence of related entity
- Established by very concise statements known as business rules

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## **Existence Dependence**

- Existence dependence
  - Entity exists in database only when it is associated with another related entity occurrence
- Existence independence
  - Entity can exist apart from one or more related entities
  - Sometimes such an entity is referred to as a strong or regular entity

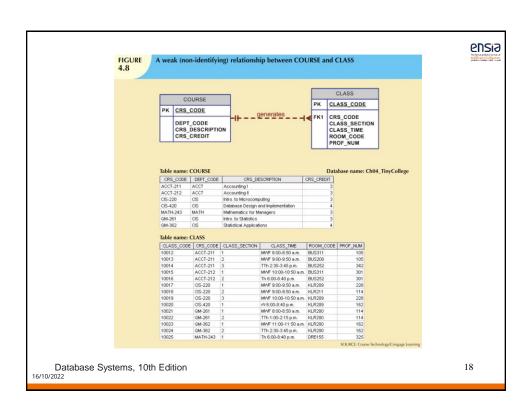
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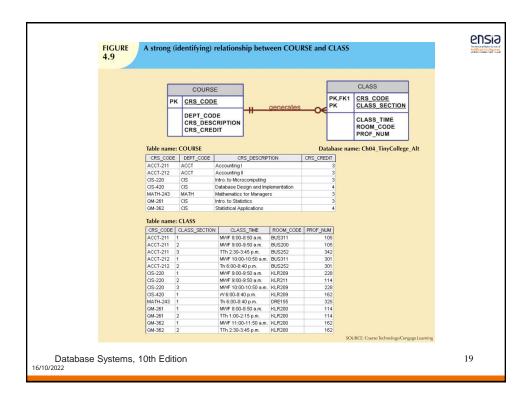


### **Relationship Strength**

- · Weak (non-identifying) relationships
  - Exists if PK of related entity does not contain PK component of parent entity
- Strong (identifying) relationships
  - Exists when PK of related entity contains PK component of parent entity

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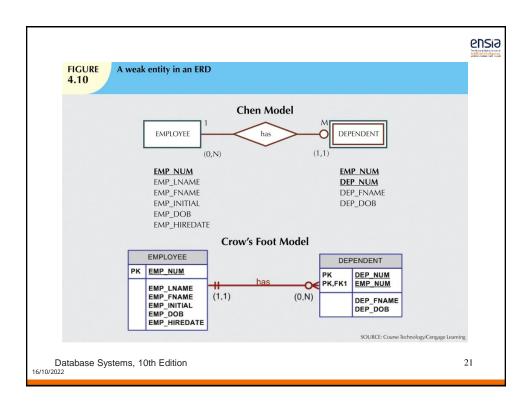


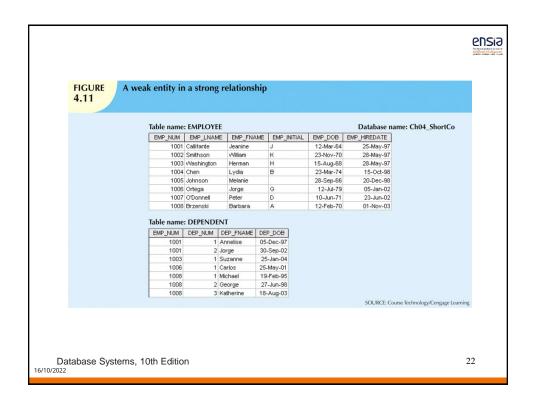


#### **Weak Entities**

- · Weak entity meets two conditions
  - Existence-dependent
  - Primary key partially or totally derived from parent entity in relationship
- Database designer determines whether an entity is weak based on business rules

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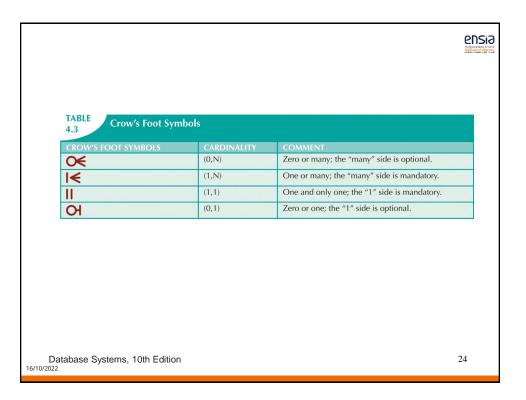


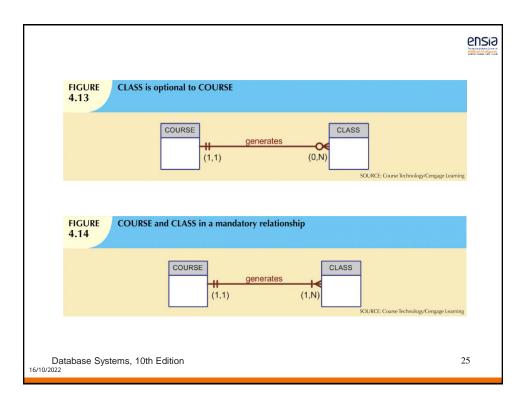


### **Relationship Participation**

- · Optional participation
  - One entity occurrence does not require corresponding entity occurrence in particular relationship
- Mandatory participation
  - One entity occurrence requires corresponding entity occurrence in particular relationship

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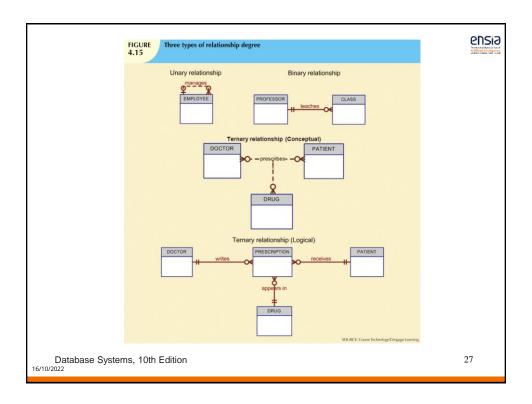


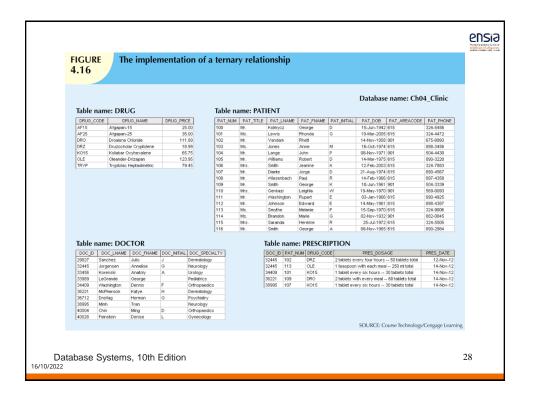


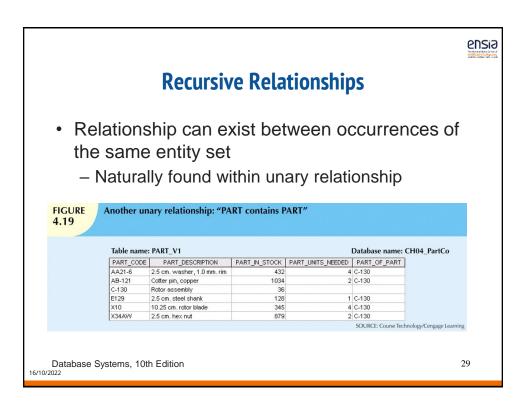
## **Relationship Degree**

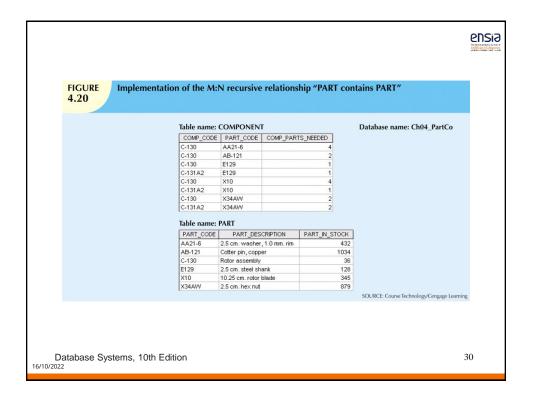
- Indicates number of entities or participants associated with a relationship
- Unary relationship
  - Association is maintained within single entity
- Binary relationship
  - Two entities are associated
- Ternary relationship
  - Three entities are associated

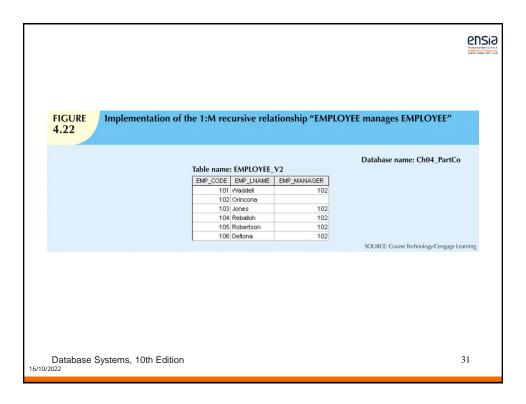
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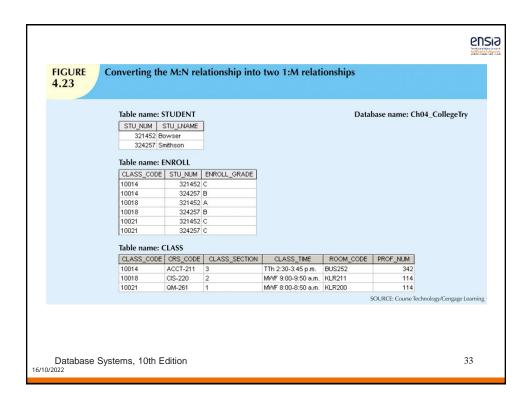


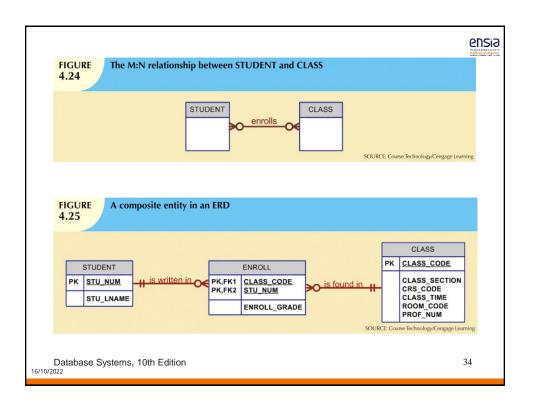


## **Associative (Composite) Entities**

- · Also known as bridge entities
- Used to implement M:N relationships
- Composed of primary keys of each of the entities to be connected
- May also contain additional attributes that play no role in connective process

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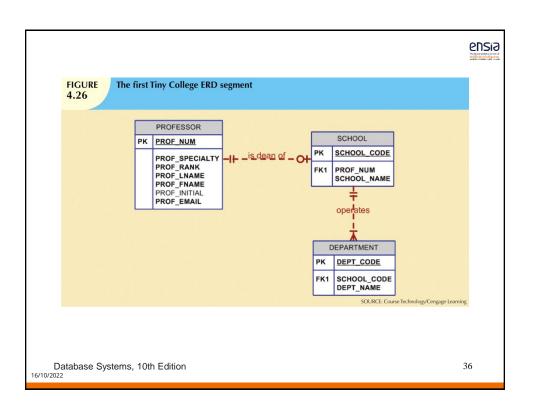


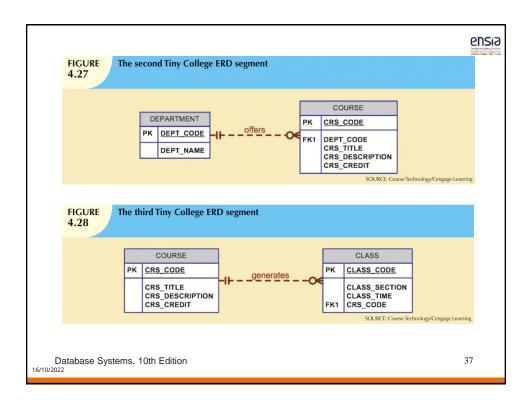


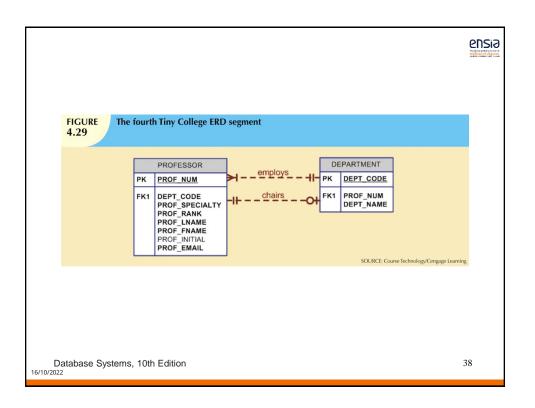
### **Developing an ER Diagram**

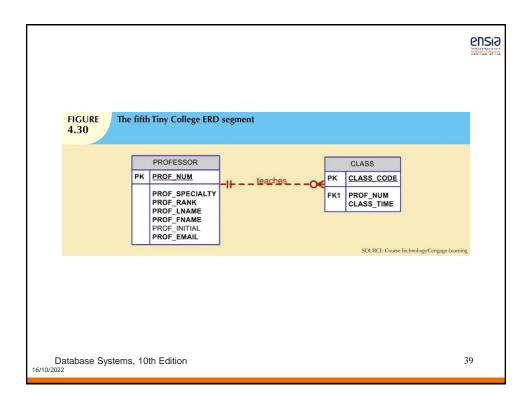
- Database design is an iterative process
  - Create detailed narrative of organization's description of operations
  - Identify business rules based on description of operations
  - Identify main entities and relationships from business rules
  - Develop initial ERD
  - Identify attributes and primary keys that adequately describe entities
  - Revise and review ERD

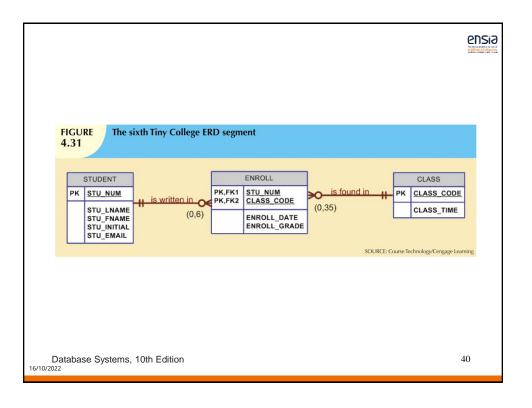
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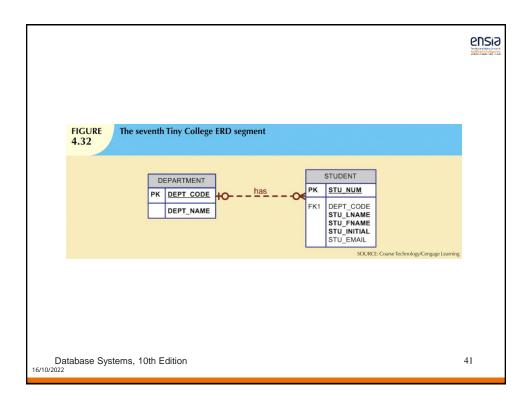


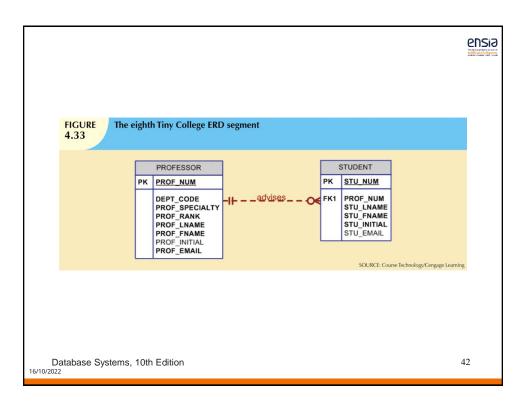


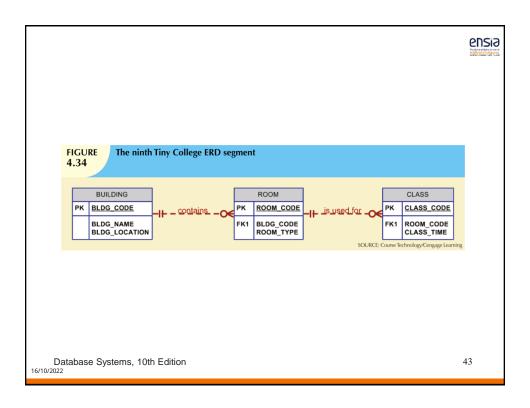


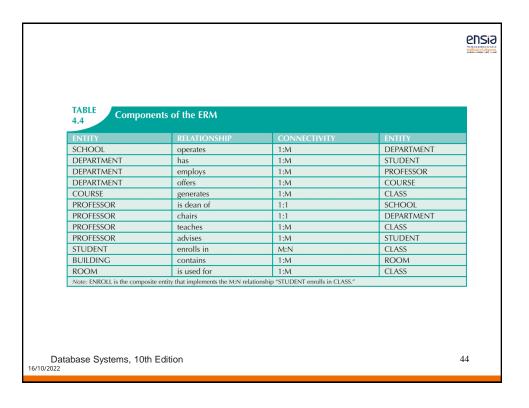


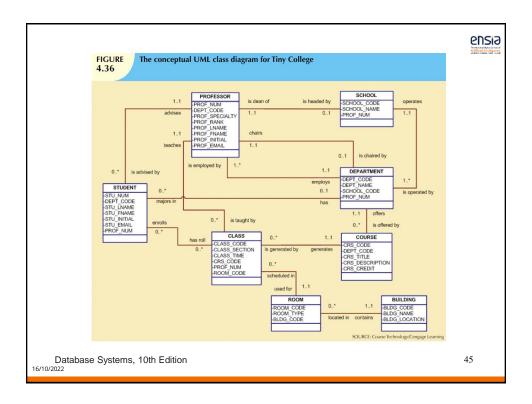


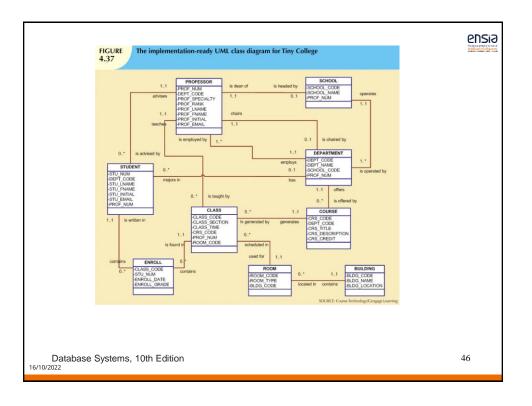












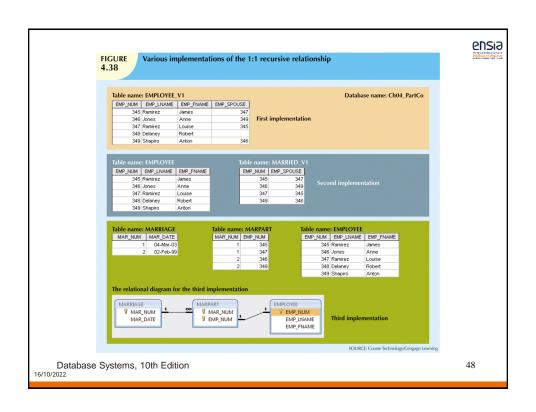


# **Database Design Challenges: Conflicting Goals**

- Database designers must make design compromises
  - Conflicting goals: design standards, processing speed, information requirements
- Important to meet logical requirements and design conventions
- · Design is of little value unless it delivers all specified query and reporting requirements
- Some design and implementation problems do not yield "clean" solutions

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#### **Summary**

- Entity relationship (ER) model
  - Uses ERD to represent conceptual database as viewed by end user
  - ERM's main components:
    - Entities
    - Relationships
    - Attributes
  - Includes connectivity and cardinality notations

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## Summary (cont'd.)

- Connectivities and cardinalities are based on business rules
- M:N relationship is valid at conceptual level
  - Must be mapped to a set of 1:M relationships
- ERDs may be based on many different ERMs
- UML class diagrams are used to represent the static data structures in a data model
- Database designers are often forced to make design compromises

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