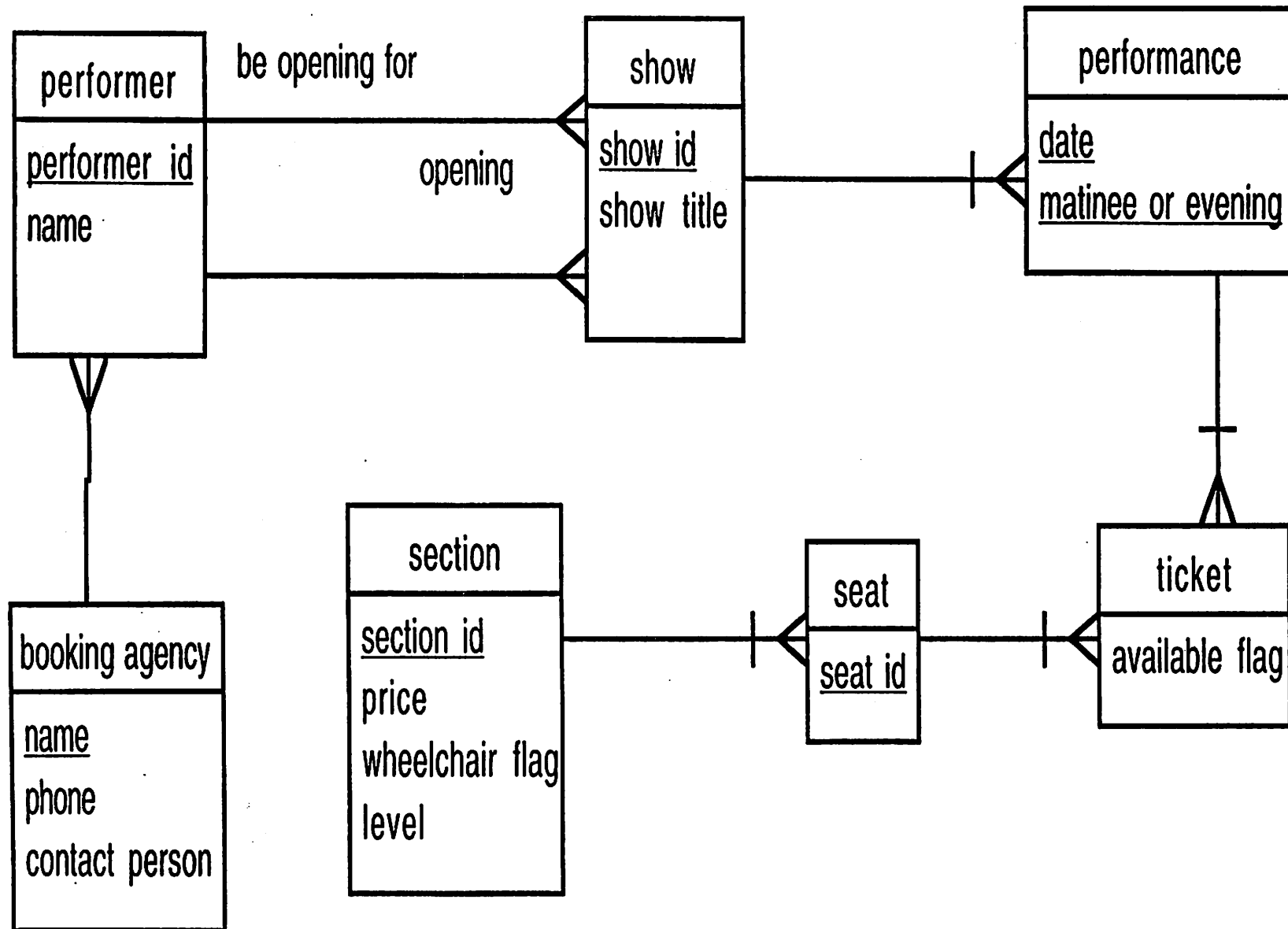
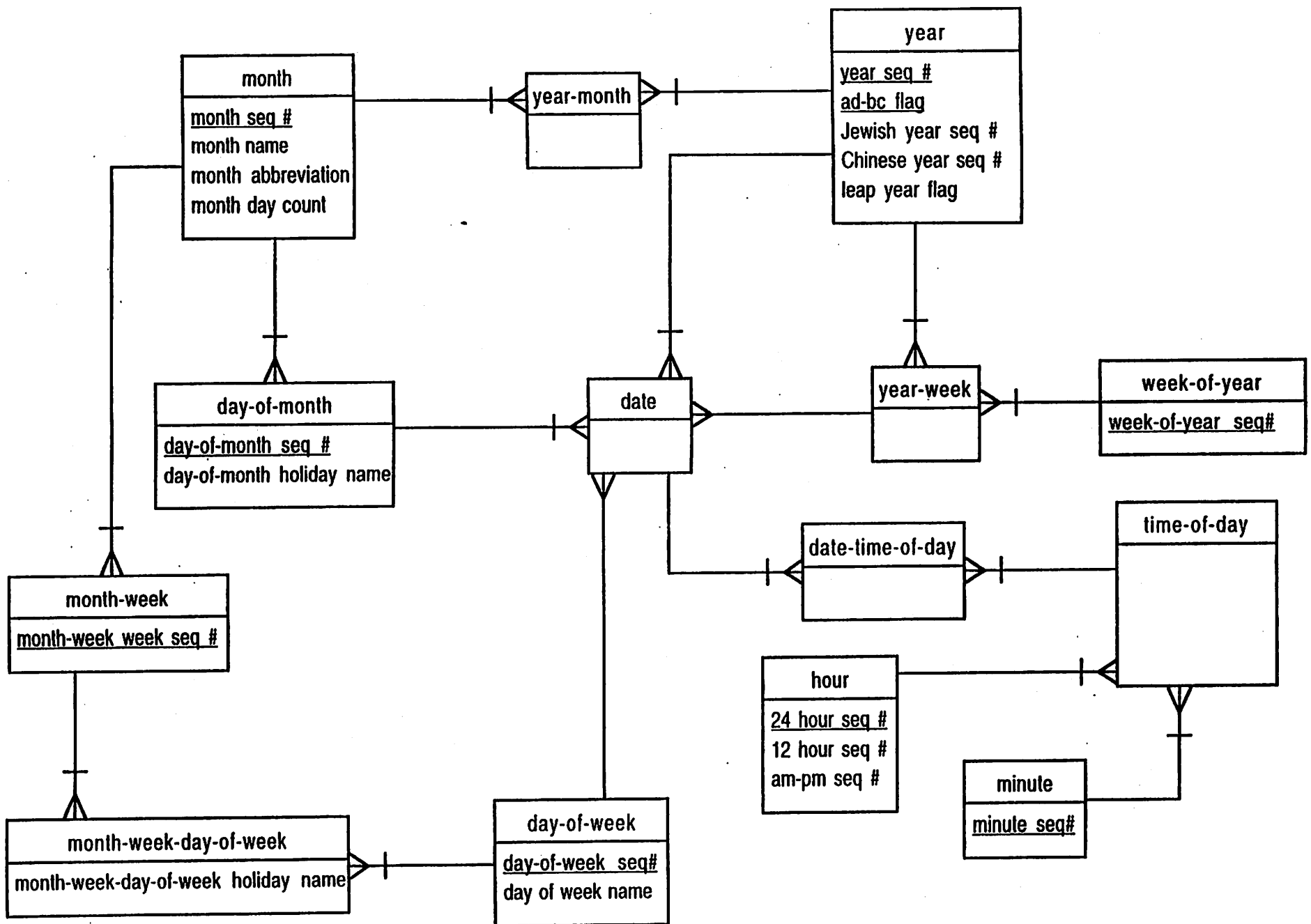


AKZNH





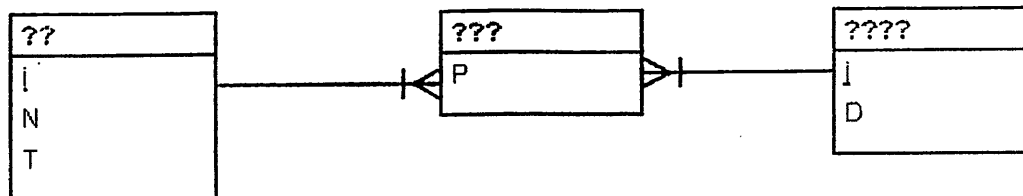
## Notes about scientific notation

Suppose you are reading a document which includes this terse scientific notation:

$$N_i, T_i, D_j, P_{ij}$$

To understand it better you can reverse engineer a data model where:

- Each subscript becomes an identifying descriptor, as appropriate, attribute or link.
  - A subscript such as “i”, which is by itself with “N” maps to an identifying attribute, identifying an independent entity. Likewise for “j”.
  - The “i” in  $P_{ij}$  maps to an identifying link, partially identifying an intersection or dependent entity. [In this case it’s an intersection entity]
- Each variable becomes a non-identifying attribute of an entity with the variable’s subscript(s) serving as the entity’s identifier.



To make the data model well-formed and understandable, you need to:

- Determine each entity name, which may be explicit in the document or be implicit, requiring you to pick the name
- Substitute a human-understandable name for each terse attribute.

In this case, pick entity names and make these substitutions:

- $i \rightarrow C\_id$ ;  $j \rightarrow S\_code$ ;  
 $N \rightarrow C\_name$ ;  $T \rightarrow C\_type$ ;  
 $D \rightarrow S\_description$ ;  $P \rightarrow Proficiency$ .

Then, voila, the Creature-Achievement-Skill fragment appears.

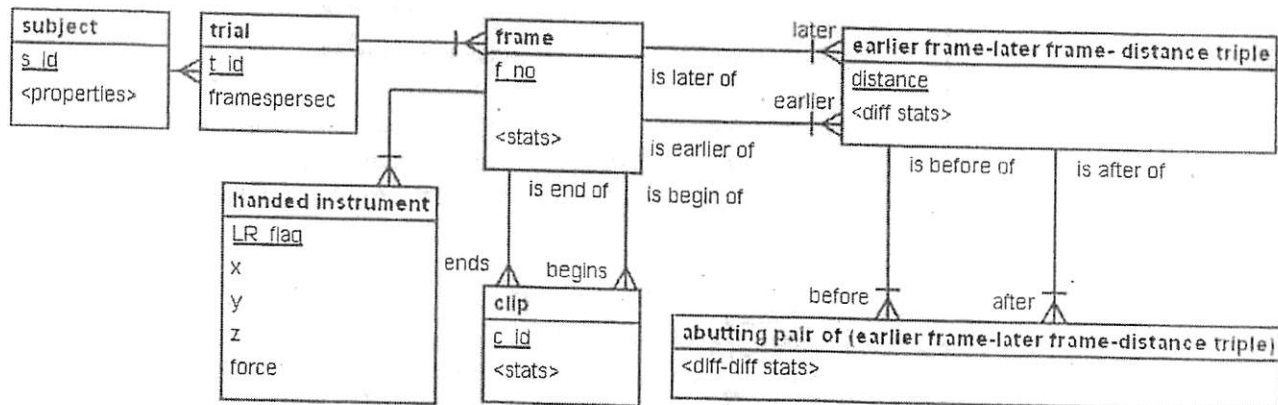
This is a quite empowering aspect of mastering data modeling. You can understand really hard material by applying your content-neutral skills. You can do this with something you are generating or material written by others that you are reading. For example, you can find holes in notation, which can manifest as descriptor misplacement. You can ask if the subscripts, which generally have integer values, are nominal, ordinal or numeric scale, that is, is it a set or a sequence, and can one do sensible arithmetic on the values or not. You can practice the mantras “what do we mean by one of these”, “one or many”, and “anchor understanding with instances.

Cool, ch.

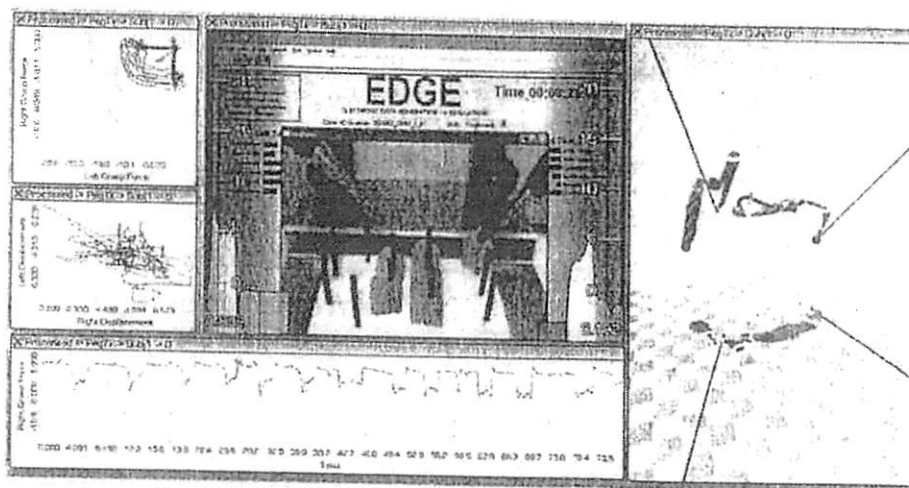
# Visualizing Surgical Training Databases: Exploratory Visualization, Data Modeling, and Formative Feedback for Improving Skill Acquisition

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DRAFT



**ASK:** From this data model (WHAT) form a relational schema (HOW)



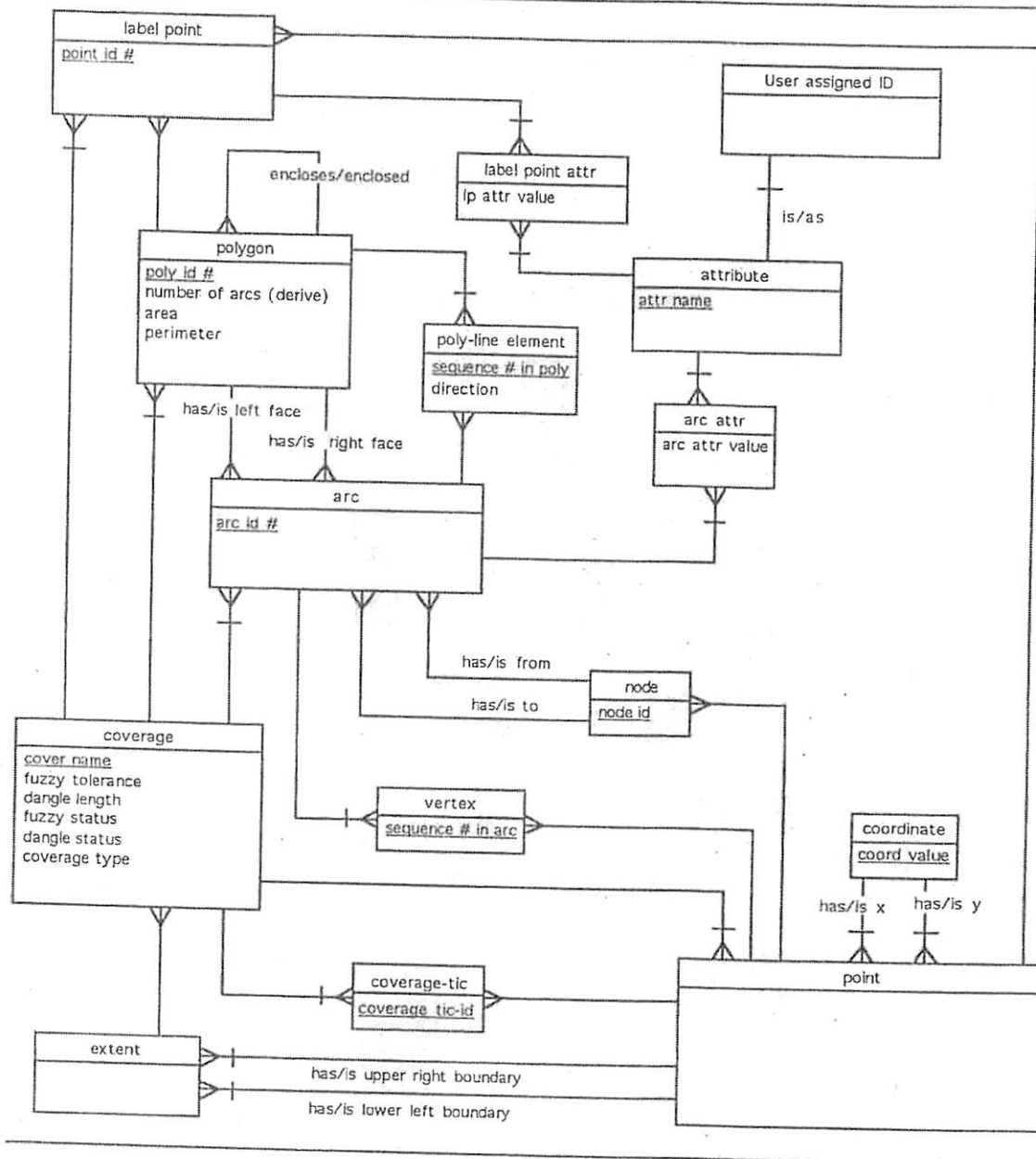




7



Figure 4.2. ARC/INFO LDS



a sequence of points wherein each element of the sequence is called a *vertex*. A *vertex* is like the SDTS *point* which has a "point-type" value of "entity point." An ARC/INFO *point* roughly corresponds to an SDTS "point." An ARC/INFO *polygon* has a sequence of arcs, and one element of the sequence is called a *poly-line element* in Figure 4.2. A *polygon* may have one or more interior







