



Module 6

Notation for Entity Relationship Diagrams

Part 3: Relationship Variations I



Lesson Objectives

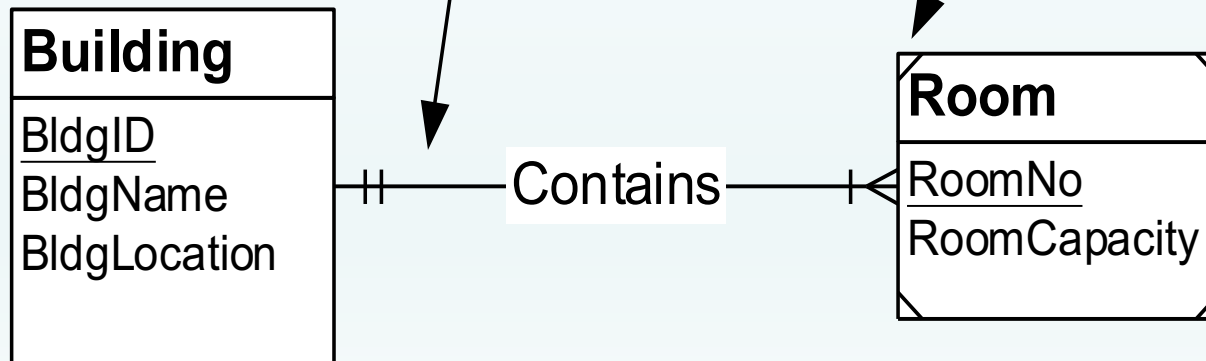
- Explain an example involving identification dependency
- Apply relationship equivalency between M-N relationship and associative entity type
- Appreciate specialized relationships but resist temptation to overuse them



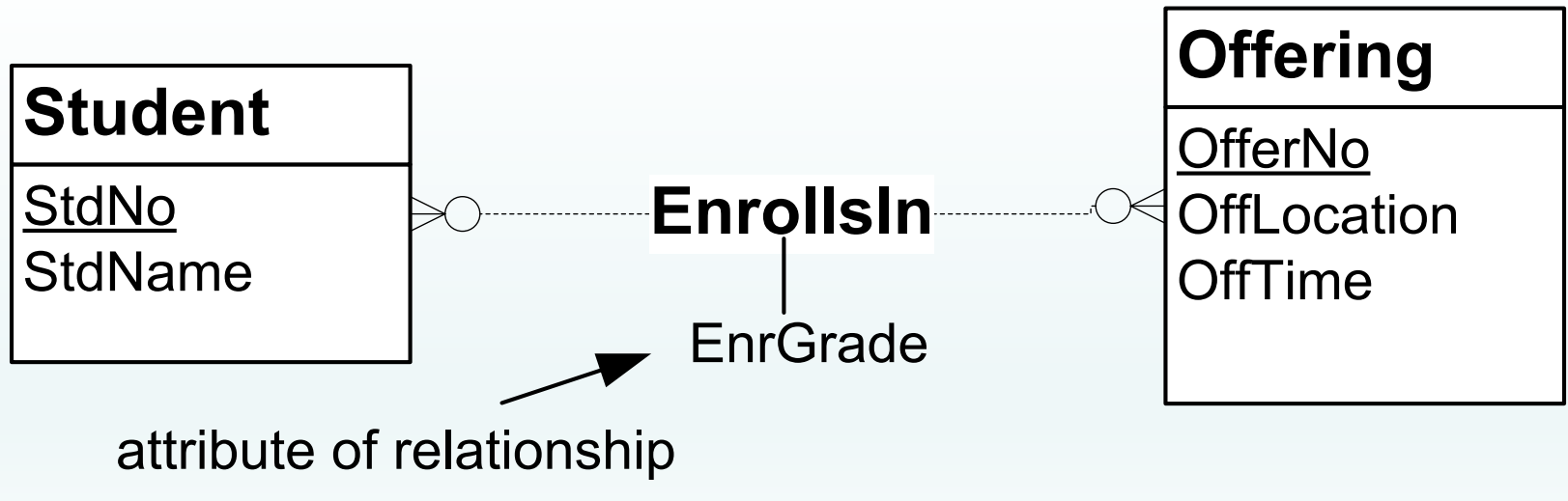
Identification Dependency

Identification Dependency Symbols:

- Solid relationship line for identifying relationships
- Diagonal lines in the corners denote weak entities.

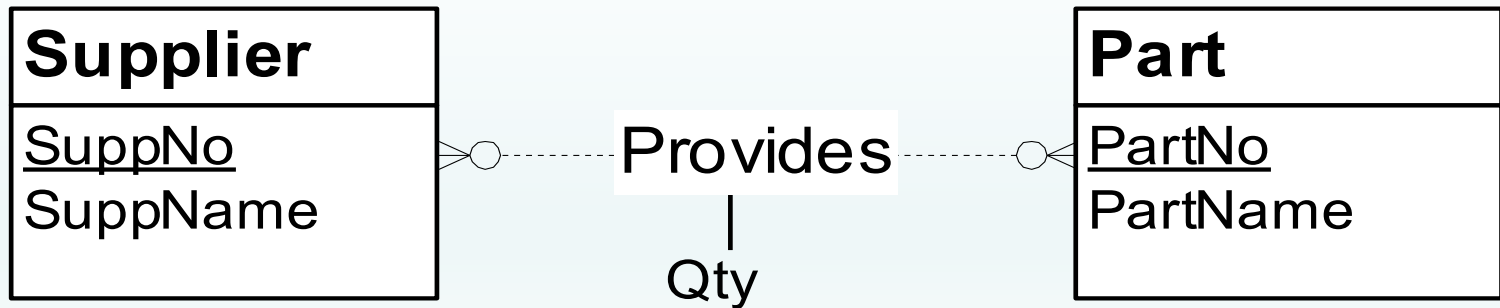


M-N Relationships with Attributes

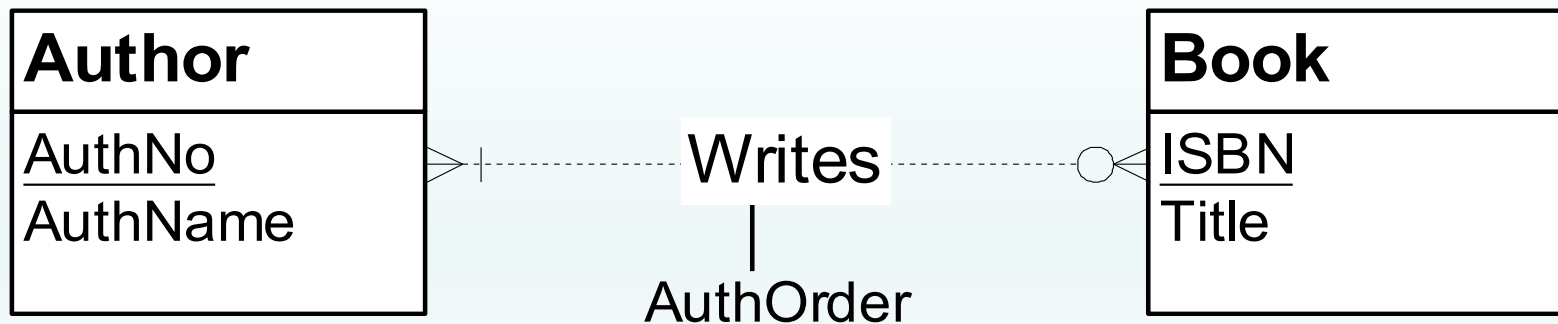


M-N Relationships with Attributes (II)

a) *Provides* relationship



b) *Writes* relationship

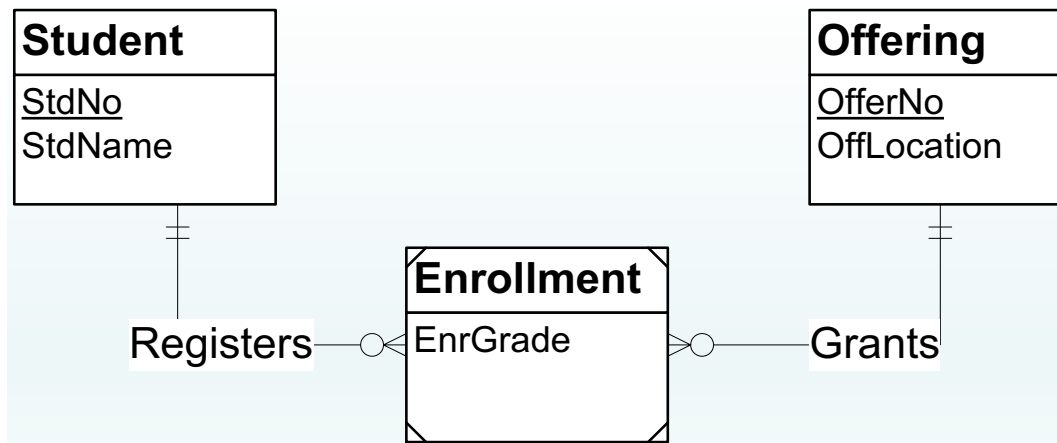
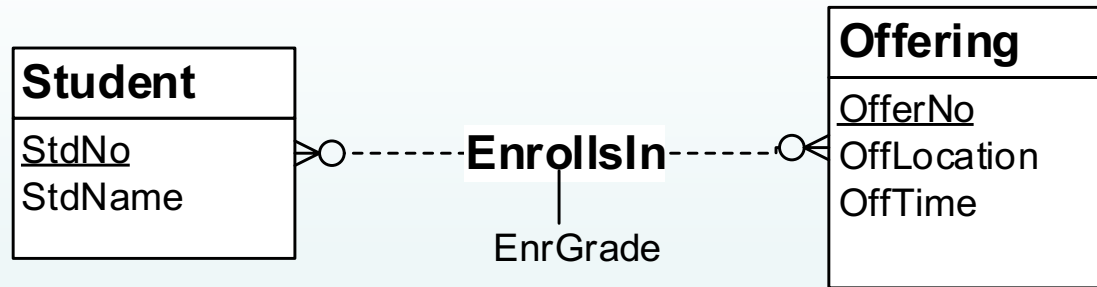


M-N Relationship Equivalency Rule

- Replace M-N relationship
 - Associative entity type
 - Two identifying 1-M relationships
- M-N relationship versus associative entity type
 - Largely preference
 - Associative entity type is more flexible in some situations



Relationship Equivalency Example



Summary

- Specialized relationships are not common but important when necessary
- Do not overuse specialized relationships
- Avoid notation errors with specialized relationships

