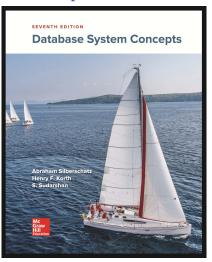
# Database System Concepts, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition Chapter 6: Database Design Using the E-R Model

Silberschatz, Korth and Sudarshan

April 5, 2025

#### Database System Concepts



Content has been extracted from Database System Concepts, Seventh Edition, by Silberschatz, Korth and Sudarshan. Mc Graw Hill Education. 2019.

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#### Plan

Overview of the Design Process

The Entity-Relationship Model

Complex Attributes

Mapping Cardinalities

Primary Key

Removing Redundant Attributes in Entity Sets

Reducing E-R Diagrams to Relational Schemas

Extended E-R Features

Entity-Relationship Design Issues

## Design Phases

- ► Initial phase –characterize fully the data needs of the prospective database users.
- ► Second phase –choosing a data model:
  - ▶ Applying the concepts of the chosen data model.
  - ▶ Translating these requirements into a conceptual schema of the database.
  - ▶ A fully developed conceptual schema indicates the functional requirements of the enterprise.
    - Describe the kinds of operations (or transactions) that will be performed on the data.

## Design Phases (Cont.)

- ► Final phase –Moving from an abstract data model to the implementation of the database.
  - ▶ Logical Design –Deciding on the database schema.
    - ▶ Database design: requires that we find a "good" collection of relation schemas.
    - Business decisions: What attributes should we record in the database?
    - Computer Science decision: What relation schemas should we have and how should the attributes be distributed among the various relation schemas?
  - Physical Design –Deciding on the physical layout of the database

## Design Alternatives

- ▶ In designing a database schema, we must ensure that we avoid two major pitfalls:
  - Redundancy: a bad design may result in repeat information.
    - Redundant representation of information may lead to data inconsistency among the various copies of information
  - ▶ Incompleteness: a bad design may make certain aspects of the enterprise difficult or impossible to model.
- Avoiding bad designs is not enough. There may be a large number of good designs from which we must choose.

## Design Approaches

- ► Entity Relationship Model (covered in this chapter).
  - ▶ Models an enterprise as a collection of entities and relationships.
    - Entity: a "thing" or "object" in the enterprise that is distinguishable from other objects described by a set of attributes.
    - ▶ Relationship: an association among several entities.
  - ▶ Represented diagrammatically by an entity-relationship diagram.
- Normalization Theory (Chapter 7).

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#### Entity Sets

- ► An entity is an object that exists and is distinguishable from other objects.
  - Example: specific person, company, event, plant...
- ► An entity set is a set of entities of the same type that share the same properties.
  - Example: set of all persons, companies, trees, holidays...
- ▶ An entity is represented by a set of attributes; i.e., descriptive properties possessed by all members of an entity set.
  - Example:
    instructor = (ID, name, salary)
    course = (course\_id, title, credits)
- ▶ A subset of the attributes form a primary key of the entity set; i.e., uniquely identifying each member of the set.

## Representing Entity sets in ER Diagram

- ► Entity sets can be represented graphically as follows:
  - ► Rectangles represent entity sets.
  - ► Attributes listed inside entity rectangle.
  - ▶ Underline indicates primary key attributes.

instructor

ID
name
salary

student

ID name tot\_cred

#### Relationship Sets

- ► A **relationship** is an association among several entities. For example:
  - 44553 (Peltier) advisor 22222 (Einstein) student entity relationship set instructor entity
- A relationship set is a mathematical relation among  $n \ge 2$  entities, each taken from entity sets.

$$\{(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) | e_1 \in E_1, e_2 \in E_2, \dots, e_n \in E_n\}$$

where  $(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n)$  is a relationship.

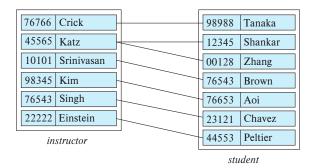
Example:  $(44553,22222) \in advisor$ 

## Relationship Sets (Cont.)

#### Example

We define the relationship set advisor to denote the associations between students and the instructors who act as their advisors.

▶ Pictorially, we draw a line between related entities.



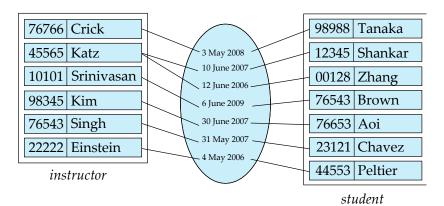
## Representing Relationship Sets via ER Diagrams

▶ Diamonds represent relationship sets.

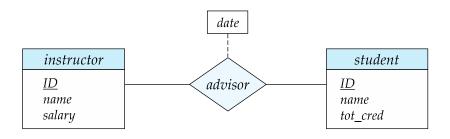


#### Relationship Sets (Cont.)

- ▶ An attribute can also be associated with a relationship set.
- ► For instance, the advisor relationship set between entity sets instructor and student may have the attribute date which tracks when the student started being associated with the advisor

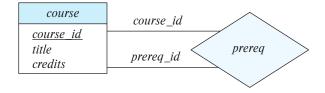


#### Relationship Sets with Attributes



#### Roles

- ► Entity sets of a relationship need not be distinct.
  - ► Each occurrence of an entity set plays a "role" in the relationship.
- ▶ The labels "course\_id" and "prereq\_id" are called **roles**.

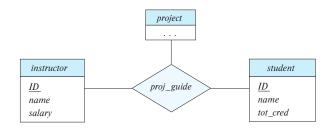


## Degree of a Relationship Set

- ▶ Binary relationship.
  - ▶ involve two entity sets (or degree two).
  - ▶ most relationship sets in a database system are binary.
- ► Relationships between more than two entity sets are rare. Most relationships are binary. (More on this later.)
  - Example: students work on research projects under the guidance of an instructor.
  - ▶ relationship *proj\_guide* is a ternary relationship between instructor, student, and project.

#### Non-binary Relationship Sets

- ► Most relationship sets are binary.
- ► There are occasions when it is more convenient to represent relationships as non-binary.
- ► E-R Diagram with a Ternary Relationship:



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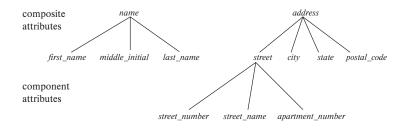
Entity-Relationship Design Issues

## Complex Attributes

- ► Attribute types:
  - ▶ Simple and composite attributes.
  - ▶ Single-valued and multivalued attributes.
    - Example: multivalued attribute: phone\_numbers.
  - ▶ **Derived** attributes.
    - ▶ Can be computed from other attributes.
    - Example: age, given date\_of\_birth.
- ▶ **Domain** –the set of permitted values for each attribute.

## Composite Attributes

► Composite attributes allow us to divided attributes into subparts (other attributes).



## Representing Complex Attributes in ER Diagram

#### instructor IDname first\_name middle initial last name address street street number street\_name apt number citv state zip { phone number } date\_of\_birth

age()

## Mapping Cardinality Constraints

- Express the number of entities to which another entity can be associated via a relationship set.
- ▶ Most useful in describing binary relationship sets.
- ► For a binary relationship set the mapping cardinality must be one of the following types:
  - ▶ One to one
  - ► One to many
  - ► Many to one
  - Many to many

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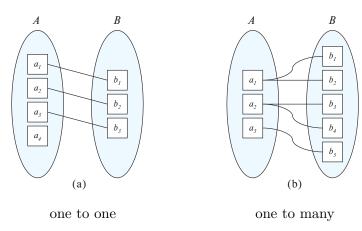
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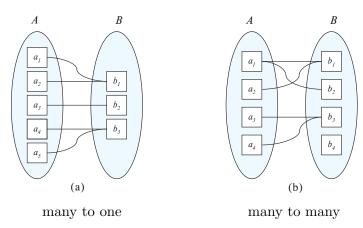
## Mapping Cardinalities



#### Note:

Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set.

## Mapping Cardinalities



#### Note:

Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set.

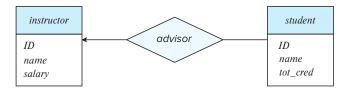
## Representing Cardinality Constraints in ER Diagram

- ▶ We express cardinality constraints by drawing either a directed line (→), signifying "one," or an undirected line (—), signifying "many," between the relationship set and the entity set.
- One-to-one relationship between an instructor and a student:
  - A student is associated with at most one instructor via the relationship advisor.
  - ► An instructor is associated with at most one student via the relationship advisor.



## One-to-Many Relationship

- ▶ In a one-to-many relationship between an instructor and a student:
  - an instructor is associated with several (including 0) students via advisor.
  - a student is associated with at most one instructor via advisor.



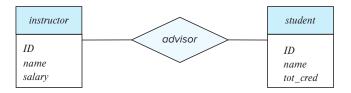
## Many-to-One Relationship

- In a many-to-one relationship between an instructor and a student:
  - an instructor is associated with at most one student via advisor.
  - a student is associated with several (including 0) instructors via advisor.



#### Many-to-Many Relationship

- ▶ In a many-to-many relationship between an instructor and a student:
  - an instructor is associated with several (possibly 0) students via advisor.
  - ▶ a student is associated with several (possibly 0) instructors via advisor.



#### Total and Partial Participation

▶ Total participation (indicated by double line): every entity in the entity set participates in at least one relationship in the relationship set.



participation of student in advisor relation is total.

- every student must have an associated instructor.
- ▶ Partial participation: some entities may not participate in any relationship in the relationship set.
  - Example: participation of instructor in advisor is partial.

## Notation for Expressing More Complex Constraints

- A line may have an associated minimum and maximum cardinality, shown in the form l..h, where l is the minimum and h the maximum cardinality.
  - ▶ A minimum value of 1 indicates total participation.
  - A maximum value of 1 indicates that the entity participates in at most one relationship.
  - ► A maximum value of \* indicates no limit.
- ► Example: Instructor can advise 0 or more students. A student must have 1 advisor; cannot have multiple advisors.



#### Cardinality Constraints on Ternary Relationship

- ▶ We allow at most one arrow out of a ternary (or greater degree) relationship to indicate a cardinality constraint.
- ► For example, an arrow from proj\_guide to instructor indicates each student has at most one guide for a project.
- ▶ If there is more than one arrow, there are two ways of defining the meaning.
  - ► For example, a ternary relationship R between A, B and C with arrows to B and C could mean:
    - 1. Each A entity is associated with a unique entity from B and C or
    - 2. Each pair of entities from (A, B) is associated with a unique C entity, and each pair (A, C) is associated with a unique B.
  - ► Each alternative has been used in different formalisms.
  - ▶ To avoid confusion we outlaw more than one arrow.

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## Primary Key

- ▶ Primary keys provide a way to specify how entities and relations are distinguished. We will consider:
  - ► Entity sets.
  - ► Relationship sets.
  - ▶ Weak entity sets.

#### Primary key for Entity Sets

- ▶ By definition, individual entities are distinct.
- ► From database perspective, the differences among them must be expressed in terms of their attributes.
- ► The values of the attribute values of an entity must be such that they can uniquely identify the entity.
  - ▶ No two entities in an entity set are allowed to have exactly the same value for all attributes.
- ▶ A key for an entity is a set of attributes that suffice to distinguish entities from each other.

# Primary Key for Relationship Sets

- ➤ To distinguish among the various relationships of a relationship set we use the individual primary keys of the entities in the relationship set.
  - Let R be a relationship set involving entity sets  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n$ .
  - The primary key for R is consists of the union of the primary keys of entity sets  $E_1, E_2, \ldots, E_n$
  - ▶ If the relationship set R has attributes  $a_1, a_2, ..., a_m$  associated with it, then the primary key of R also includes the attributes  $a_1, a_2, ..., a_m$ .
- Example: relationship set "advisor".
  - ▶ The primary key consists of instructor.ID and student.ID.
- ► The choice of the primary key for a relationship set depends on the mapping cardinality of the relationship set.

# Choice of Primary key for Binary Relationship

- ▶ Many-to-Many relationships. The preceding union of the primary keys is a minimal superkey and is chosen as the primary key.
- ▶ One-to-Many relationships. The primary key of the "Many" side is a minimal superkey and is used as the primary key.
- ▶ Many-to-one relationships. The primary key of the "Many" side is a minimal superkey and is used as the primary key.
- ▶ One-to-one relationships. The primary key of either one of the participating entity sets forms a minimal superkey, and either one can be chosen as the primary key.

### Weak Entity Sets

- Consider a section entity, which is uniquely identified by a course\_id, semester, year, and sec\_id.
- ➤ Clearly, section entities are related to course entities. Suppose we create a relationship set sec\_course between entity sets section and course.
- ▶ Note that the information in sec\_course is redundant, since section already has an attribute course\_id, which identifies the course with which the section is related.
- ▶ One option to deal with this redundancy is to get rid of the relationship sec\_course; however, by doing so the relationship between section and course becomes implicit in an attribute, which is not desirable.

# Weak Entity Sets (Cont.)

- ▶ An alternative way to deal with this redundancy is to not store the attribute course\_id in the section entity and to only store the remaining attributes section\_id, year, and semester.
  - ▶ However, the entity set section then does not have enough attributes to identify a particular section entity uniquely.
- ➤ To deal with this problem, we treat the relationship sec\_course as a special relationship that provides extra information, in this case, the course\_id, required to identify section entities uniquely.
- ▶ A weak entity set is one whose existence is dependent on another entity, called its identifying entity.
- ▶ Instead of associating a primary key with a weak entity, we use the identifying entity, along with extra attributes called discriminator to uniquely identify a weak entity.

# Weak Entity Sets (Cont.)

- An entity set that is not a weak entity set is termed a strong entity set.
- ► Every weak entity must be associated with an identifying entity; that is, the weak entity set is said to be **existence dependent** on the identifying entity set.
- ► The identifying entity set is said to **own** the weak entity set that it identifies.
- ► The relationship associating the weak entity set with the identifying entity set is called the **identifying** relationship.
- ▶ Note that the relational schema we eventually create from the entity set section does have the attribute course\_id, for reasons that will become clear later, even though we have dropped the attribute course\_id from the entity set section.

#### Expressing Weak Entity Sets

- ▶ In E-R diagrams, a weak entity set is depicted via a double rectangle.
- ▶ We underline the discriminator of a weak entity set with a dashed line.
- ► The relationship set connecting the weak entity set to the identifying strong entity set is depicted by a double diamond.
- ▶ Primary key for section –(course\_id, sec\_id, semester, year).



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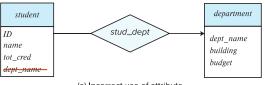
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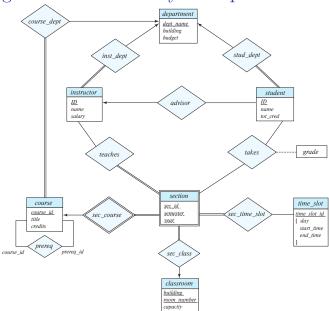
Entity-Relationship Design Issues

#### Redundant Attributes

- ► Suppose we have entity sets:
  - ▶ student, with attributes: ID, name, tot\_cred, dept\_name.
  - ▶ department, with attributes: dept\_name, building, budget.
- ▶ We model the fact that each student has an associated department using a relationship set stud\_dept.
- ▶ The attribute dept\_name in student below replicates information present in the relationship and is therefore redundant...
  - ▶ and needs to be removed.
- ▶ BUT: when converting back to tables, in some cases the attribute gets reintroduced, as we will see later.



#### E-R Diagram for a University Enterprise



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#### Reduction to Relation Schemas

- ► Entity sets and relationship sets can be expressed uniformly as relation schemas that represent the contents of the database.
- ▶ A database which conforms to an E-R diagram can be represented by a collection of schemas.
- ► For each entity set and relationship set there is a unique schema that is assigned the name of the corresponding entity set or relationship set.
- ► Each schema has a number of columns (generally corresponding to attributes), which have unique names.

### Representing Entity Sets

- ▶ A strong entity set reduces to a schema with the same attributes:
  - student(<u>ID</u>, name, tot\_cred)
- ► A weak entity set becomes a table that includes a column for the primary key of the identifying strong entity set: section(course\_id, sec\_id, sem, year)
- ► Example:



# Representation of Entity Sets with Composite Attributes

#### instructor

<u>ID</u>

name first\_name

middle\_initial last\_name address

street

street\_number street\_name apt\_number

city state zip

[ phone\_number ]
date\_of\_birth
age ( )

- Composite attributes are flattened out by creating a separate attribute for each component attribute.
  - Example: given entity set instructor with composite attribute name with component attributes first\_name and last\_name the schema corresponding to the entity set has two attributes name\_first\_name and name\_last\_name.
    - Prefix omitted if there is no ambiguity (name\_first\_name could be first\_name)
- Ignoring multivalued attributes, extended instructor schema is:
  - instructor(ID, first\_name, middle\_initial, last\_name, street\_number, street\_name, apt\_number, city, state, zip\_code, date\_of\_birth)

# Representation of Entity Sets with Multivalued Attributes

- ightharpoonup A multivalued attribute M of an entity E is represented by a separate schema EM.
- ightharpoonup Schema EM has attributes corresponding to the primary key of E and an attribute corresponding to multivalued attribute M.
- Example: Multivalued attribute phone\_number of instructor is represented by a schema: inst\_phone = (<u>ID</u>, phone\_number).
- $\triangleright$  Each value of the multivalued attribute maps to a separate tuple of the relation on schema EM:
  - ► For example, an instructor entity with primary key 22222 and phone numbers 456-7890 and 123-4567 maps to two tuples: (22222, 456-7890) and (22222, 123-4567)

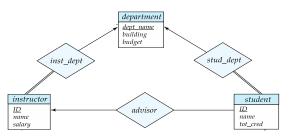
### Representing Relationship Sets

- ▶ A many-to-many relationship set is represented as a schema with attributes for the primary keys of the two participating entity sets, and any descriptive attributes of the relationship set.
- Example: schema for relationship set advisor. advisor = (s\_id, i\_id)



#### Redundancy of Schemas

- ▶ Many-to-one and one-to-many relationship sets that are total on the many-side can be represented by adding an extra attribute to the "many" side, containing the primary key of the "one" side.
- ➤ Example: Instead of creating a schema for relationship set inst\_dept, add an attribute dept\_name to the schema arising from entity set instructor.



# Redundancy of Schemas (Cont.)

- ► For one-to-one relationship sets, either side can be chosen to act as the "many" side:
  - ► That is, an extra attribute can be added to either of the tables corresponding to the two entity sets.
- ▶ If participation is partial on the "many" side, replacing a schema by an extra attribute in the schema corresponding to the "many" side could result in null values.

# Redundancy of Schemas (Cont.)

- ► The schema corresponding to a relationship set linking a weak entity set to its identifying strong entity set is redundant.
- ► Example: The section schema already contains the attributes that would appear in the sec\_course schema.



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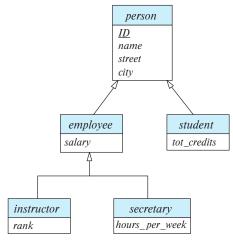
Entity-Relationship Design Issues

### Specialization

- ➤ Top-down design process; we designate sub-groupings within an entity set that are distinctive from other entities in the set.
- ▶ These sub-groupings become lower-level entity sets that have attributes or participate in relationships that do not apply to the higher-level entity set.
- ▶ Depicted by a triangle component labeled ISA (e.g., instructor "is a" person).
- ▶ Attribute inheritance a lower-level entity set inherits all the attributes and relationship participation of the higher-level entity set to which it is linked.

#### Specialization Example

- ▶ Overlapping employee and student.
- ▶ Disjoint instructor and secretary.
- ► Total and partial.



# Representing Specialization via Schemas

#### ► Method 1:

- ► Form a schema for the higher-level entity.
- ► Form a schema for each lower-level entity set, include primary key of higher-level entity set and local attributes.

Schema	Attributes
person	ID, name, stree, city
$\operatorname{student}$	$ID, tot\_cred$
employee	ID, salary

▶ Drawback: getting information about, an employee requires accessing two relations, the one corresponding to the low-level schema and the one corresponding to the high-level schema.

# Representing Specialization via Schemas

#### ► Method 2:

► Form a schema for each entity set with all local and inherited attributes.

Schema	Attributes
person	ID, name, stree, city
$\operatorname{student}$	ID, name, stree, city, tot_cred
employee	ID, name, stree, city, salary

▶ Drawback: *name*, *street* and *city* may be stored redundantly for people who are both students and employees.

#### Generalization

- ▶ A bottom-up design process combine a number of entity sets that share the same features into a higher-level entity set.
- ▶ Specialization and generalization are simple inversions of each other; they are represented in an E-R diagram in the same way.
- ► The terms specialization and generalization are used interchangeably.

### Completeness constraint

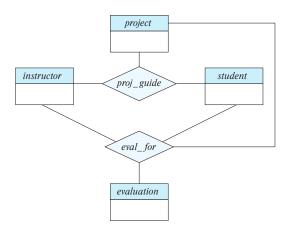
- ➤ Completeness constraint specifies whether or not an entity in the higher-level entity set must belong to at least one of the lower-level entity sets within a generalization.
  - ▶ total: an entity must belong to one of the lower-level entity sets.
  - ▶ partial: an entity need not belong to one of the lower-level entity sets.

### Completeness constraint (Cont.)

- ▶ Partial generalization is the default.
- ▶ We can specify total generalization in an E-R diagram by adding the keyword total in the diagram and drawing a dashed line from the keyword to the corresponding hollow arrow-head to which it applies (for a total generalization), or to the set of hollow arrow-heads to which it applies (for an overlapping generalization).
- ▶ The student generalization is total: All student entities must be either graduate or undergraduate. Because the higher-level entity set arrived at through generalization is generally composed of only those entities in the lower-level entity sets, the completeness constraint for a generalized higher-level entity set is usually total.

#### Aggregation

- ► Consider the ternary relationship *proj\_guide*, which we saw earlier.
- ➤ Suppose we want to record evaluations of a student by a guide on a project.

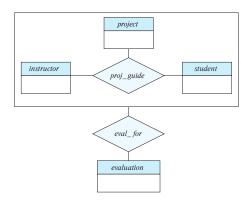


# Aggregation (Cont.)

- ► Relationship sets *eval\_for* and *proj\_guide* represent overlapping information:
  - ► Every *eval\_for* relationship corresponds to a *proj\_guide* relationship.
  - ▶ However, some *proj\_guide* relationships may not correspond to any *eval\_for* relationships.
    - ▶ So we can't discard the *proj\_guide* relationship.
- ▶ Eliminate this redundancy via aggregation:
  - ► Treat relationship as an abstract entity.
  - ▶ Allows relationships between relationships.
  - ▶ Abstraction of relationship into new entity.

### Aggregation (Cont.)

- Eliminate this redundancy via **aggregation** without introducing redundancy, the following diagram represents:
  - ► A student is guided by a particular instructor on a particular project.
  - A student, instructor, project combination may have an associated evaluation.



#### Reduction to Relational Schemas

- ▶ To represent aggregation, create a schema containing:
  - ▶ Primary key of the aggregated relationship,
  - ► The primary key of the associated entity set,
  - ► Any descriptive attributes.
- ► In our example:
  - ► The schema eval\_for is: eval\_for(s\_ID, project\_id, i\_ID, evaluation\_id)
  - ► The schema proj\_guide is redundant.

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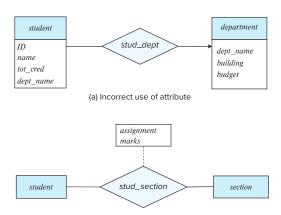
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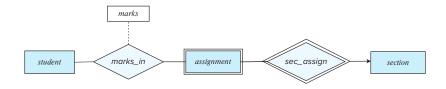
#### Common Mistakes in E-R Diagrams

► Example of erroneous E-R diagrams:

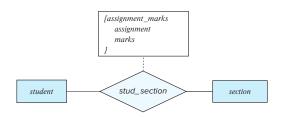


(b) Erroneous use of relationship attributes

# Common Mistakes in E-R Diagrams (Cont.)



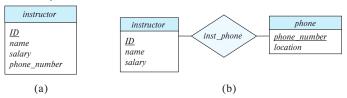
(c) Correct alternative to erroneous E-R diagram (b)



(d) Correct alternative to erroneous E-R diagram (b)

#### Entities vs. Attributes

▶ Use of entity sets vs. attributes:

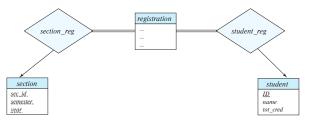


▶ Use of phone as an entity allows extra information about phone numbers (plus multiple phone numbers).

#### Entities vs. Relationship sets

▶ Use of entity sets vs. relationship sets:

Possible guideline is to designate a relationship set to describe an action that occurs between entities.



▶ Placement of relationship attributes: For example, attribute date as attribute of advisor or as attribute of student.

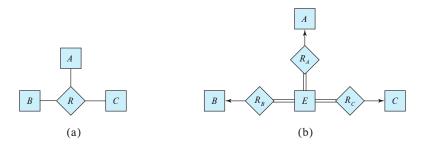
# Binary Vs. Non-Binary Relationships

- ▶ Although it is possible to replace any non-binary (n-ary, for n > 2) relationship set by a number of distinct binary relationship sets, a n-aryrelationship set shows more clearly that several entities participate in a single relationship.
- ➤ Some relationships that appear to be non-binary may be better represented using binary relationships:
  - ► For example, a ternary relationship parents, relating a child to his/her father and mother, is best replaced by two binary relationships, father and mother:
    - Using two binary relationships allows partial information (e.g., only mother being known).
  - ▶ But there are some relationships that are naturally non-binary. Example: proj\_guide.

# Converting Non-Binary Relationships to Binary Form

In general, any non-binary relationship can be represented using binary relationships by creating an artificial entity set:

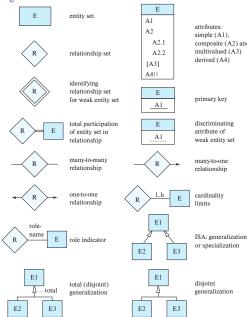
- ▶ Replace R between entity sets A, B and C by an entity set E, and three relationship sets:
  - 1.  $R_A$ , a many-to-one relationship set from E to A.
  - 2.  $R_B$ , a many-to-one relationship set from E to B.
  - 3.  $R_C$ , a many-to-one relationship set from E to C.



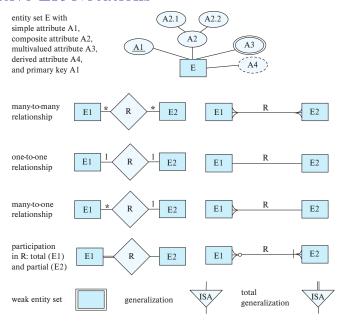
# E-R Design Decisions

- ▶ The use of an attribute or entity set to represent an object.
- ▶ Whether a real-world concept is best expressed by an entity set or a relationship set.
- ► The use of a ternary relationship versus a pair of binary relationships.
- ► The use of a strong or weak entity set.
- ► The use of specialization/generalization contributes to modularity in the design.
- ▶ The use of aggregation can treat the aggregate entity set as a single unit without concern for the details of its internal structure.

#### Summary of Symbols Used in E-R Notation



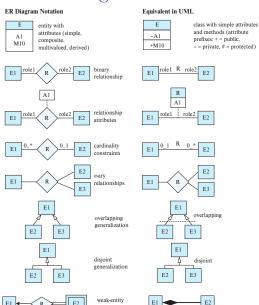
#### Alternative ER Notations



#### UML

- ▶ UML: Unified Modeling Language.
- ▶ UML has many components to graphically model different aspects of an entire software system.
- ▶ UML Class Diagrams correspond to E-R Diagram, but some differences.

### ER vs. UML Class Diagrams



# UML Class Diagrams (Cont.)

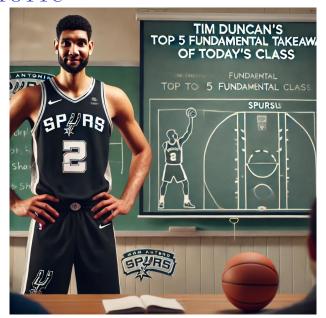
- ▶ Note reversal of position in cardinality constraint depiction.
- ► Generalization can use merged or separate arrows independent of disjoint/overlapping.
- ▶ Binary relationship sets are represented in UML by just drawing a line connecting the entity sets. The relationship set name is written adjacent to the line.
- ➤ The role played by an entity set in a relationship set may also be specified by writing the role name on the line, adjacent to the entity set.
- ▶ The relationship set name may alternatively be written in a box, along with attributes of the relationship set, and the box is connected, using a dotted line, to the line depicting the relationship set.

# Other Aspects of Database Design

- ► Functional Requirements.
- ▶ Data Flow, Workflow.
- ► Schema Evolution.

# End of Chapter 6.

#### TDT5FTOTTC



5 **Design Phases:** Database design progresses from understanding user requirements to creating a conceptual schema and finally defining logical and physical structures.

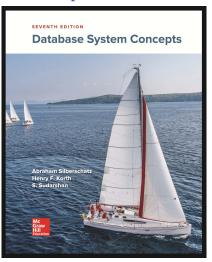
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- 2 Mapping to Schemas: E-R diagrams are systematically converted into relational schemas by translating entities, attributes, and relationships into tables and foreign keys.
- 1 **Design Choices and Errors:** Good database design requires thoughtful decisions about how to represent real-world concepts and avoiding redundancy or incomplete modeling.

## Database System Concepts



Content has been extracted from Database System Concepts, Seventh Edition, by Silberschatz, Korth and Sudarshan. Mc Graw Hill Education. 2019.

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