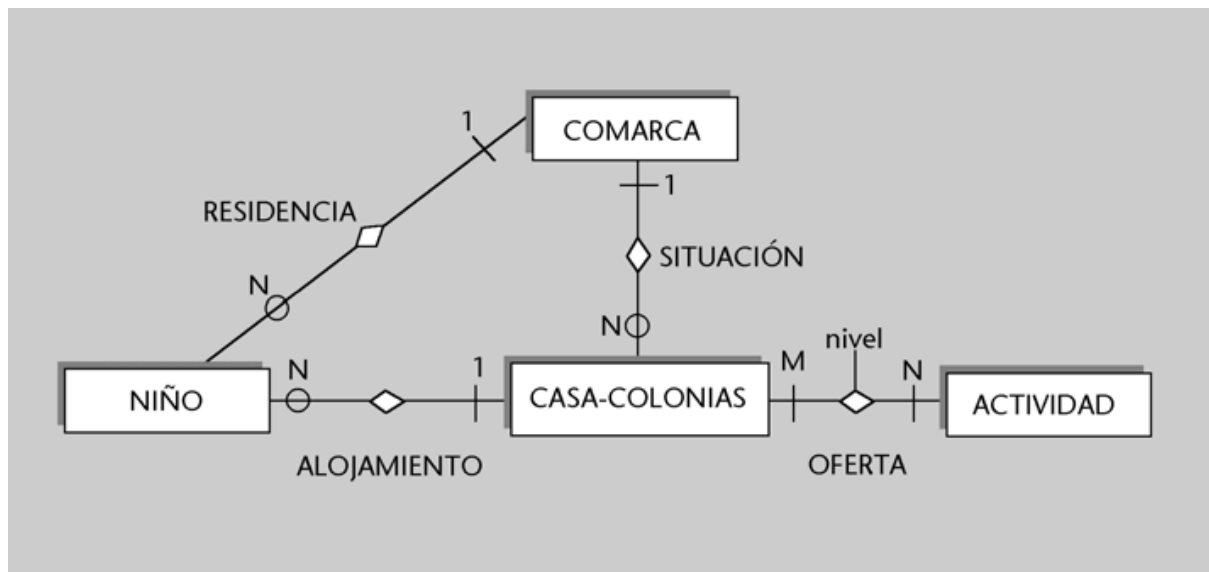


The figure below shows an ER diagram that satisfies the above requirements. The attributes of the entities are not shown in the diagram and are listed separately.



Los atributos de las entidades que figuran en el diagrama son los siguientes (las claves primarias están subrayadas):

- Casa
  - ID
  - Nombre
  - Capacidad
- Actividad
  - ID
  - Actividad
- Niño
  - Código
  - Nombre
  - Apellido
  - Teléfono
- Comarca
  - ID
  - Nombre
  - Superficie
  - Habitantes

The most relevant aspects of this ER model are discussed below:

1) One of the difficulties sometimes encountered during conceptual modelling is deciding whether a given piece of information should be an entity or an attribute. In our example, it may be difficult to decide whether comarca should be modelled as an entity or as an attribute.

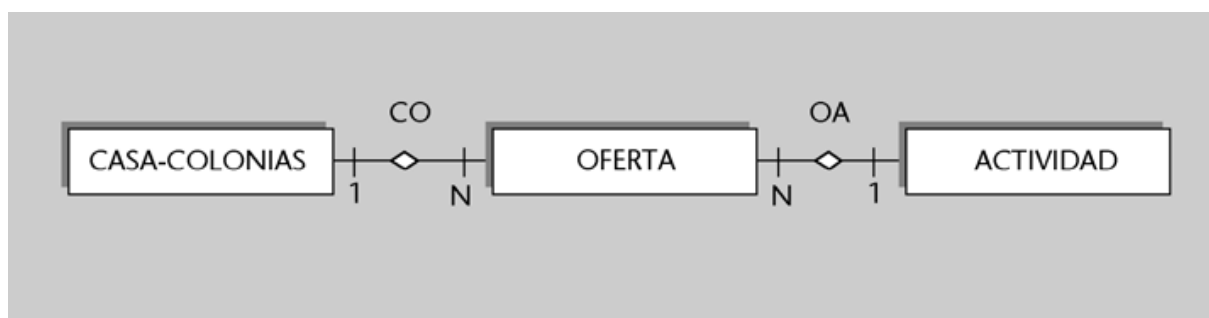
At first glance, it might seem that district should be an attribute of the entity house-colony to indicate where a house-colony is located, and also an attribute of the entity child to indicate the residence of the child. However, this solution would not be adequate, because we want to have additional information associated with the district: the surface area and the number of inhabitants. The county must be an entity in order to be able to reflect these additional information as attributes of the entity.

The county entity will obviously have to be interrelated with the entities child and house-colonies. Note that in this way, moreover, it becomes clear that the counties of residence of the children and the counties of situation of the houses are information of the same type.

2) Another decision to be made is whether the concept activity should be modelled as an entity or as an attribute. Activity has no additional information associated with it; it therefore has no attributes other than those forming the key. Even so, it is necessary for activity to be an entity so that, by means of the interrelation offer, it can be indicated that a holiday camp offers activities.

Note that the activities offered cannot be expressed as an attribute of the holiday camp, because a holiday camp can offer many activities and, in this case, the attribute would not be able to take a unique value.

3) Another difficult choice, which often arises when designing an ER model, is to model a given piece of information as an entity or as an interrelationship. For example, we could have set offer, instead of being an interrelationship, to be an entity; we would have done so:



La entidad oferta representada en la figura anterior tiene los atributos que presentamos a continuación:

