

# CS27020 Assignment: Moma madness

Lukasz Wrzolek

Department of Computer Science, Aberystwyth University, Aberystwyth, SY23 3DB, UK

*This paper presents a novel approach to Modelling Databases. In this assignment I have been given a subset of this dataset in un-normalised form. My task was to understand the structure in this data and bring it up to 3NF, implement these 3NF relations in PostgreSQL, deliver an entity-relationship model, and execute some queries on this data. These activities I will described in this report which summarises and justifies the design and decisions I have made.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

ONE of the cool datasets that has been made freely available is from the New York based gallery MOMA. This Museum of Modern Art's collection dataset <https://github.com/MuseumofModernArt/collection> contains 126,101 records detailing some of the artwork held at New York's most famous art gallery. However, because we are dealing with artists rather than databasists, the dataset is in un-normalised form. Madness! <sup>1</sup>

## II. DATABASE DESIGN

This section describe design the database where I had to do normalisation, identify primary keys and bring database to third normal form. Although, I had to find functional dependencies for each attribute are identified to proceed the next stages of first, second and third normal form.

### A. Primary keys and functional dependencies

I have been given a sql file from university with data which contain a complete table moma in un-normalized form.

I have listed the attributes of the moma table here: **moma** (title, artist, artist\_bio, year, medium, dimensions, credit\_line, moma\_number, classification, department, date\_acquired, curator\_approved, object\_id, url)

#### description of the attributes:

- title - The title of the work of art
- artist - the name and surname of the artist
- artist\_bio - The artist information about date of birth, place and date of death
- year - The production year of the art
- medium - the medium of the art
- dimensions - dimension of the art
- credit\_line - the company which gave that art for the museum
- moma\_number - it is the number of moma in database
- classification - it shows where the art has been located and in which department
- department - departments in moma
- date\_acquired - the date when museum got that art
- curator\_approved - Y or N if the art is approved by curator or no
- object\_id - an unique id for the art
- URL - url address of that art ended by object\_id

The functional dependencies are described below

#### 1) Functional dependencies

In the above un-normalized form of the database I have found a few dependencies of the following attributes:

$artist \rightarrow artist\_bio$

$artist\_bio \rightarrow artist$

Artist and artist\_bio is 1..1 dependency so that dependency goes in both ways.

$object\_id \rightarrow moma\_number$

$moma\_number \rightarrow object\_id$

This dependency is the same as artist and artist\_bio. Their relation is 1..1 so it will work in both ways

$object\_id \rightarrow url$

If URL exist at the end of the address we have an object\_id which separate different works of art

$object\_id \rightarrow (title, artist, artist\_bio, year, medium, dimensions, credit\_line, moma\_number, classification, department, date\_acquired, curator\_approved, url)$

Object\_id determines pretty much everything, because as a primary key it has a unique value, so even if values are the same it doesn't matter because that value has relation (1..\*)

$moma\_number \rightarrow (title, artist, artist\_bio, year, medium, dimensions, credit\_line, classification, department, date\_acquired, curator\_approved, object\_id, url)$  With moma\_number we have the same situation like in object\_id. The specific values which determines multiple values i.e. title and artist are alright in functional dependencies

<sup>1</sup>Introduction is modified version on Introduction from Assignment Description

$(object\_id, moma\_number) \rightarrow (title, artist, artist\_bio, year, medium, dimensions, credit\_line, classification, department, date\_acquired, curator\_approved, url)$

## 2) Primary Keys

Working through the functional dependencies I spotted that `object_id` and `moma_number` are enough to find information about the work of art so I chose one of them to be a primary key of `moma` for an unnormalised form.

## III. FROM UNF TO 3NF: AN ACCOUNT OF THE NORMALISATION PROCESS

Once the primary keys are identified and functional dependencies are described I was able to start normalisation of the structure.

### A. 1st Normal Form

First step of the normalisation process is identifying the unique values. The candidate keys are `moma_number` and `object_id`. Although, `moma_number` is a candidate key it has records like 2605.2008.1-13, so that record can be split into 13 different records and every of those records will be unique. The beginning of it will be 2605.2008. followed by number from 1 to 13. I have done the same for `moma_number` by splitting its tuples as I introduced before. After that `moma_number` wasn't unique. It has two the same records:

- 1) "ETCHINGS FROM ECCLESIASTES" with moma number 30.1966.1-18
- 2) "ECCLESIASTES III:1 (plate, folio 10) from ETCHINGS FROM ECCLESIASTES" with moma number 30.1966.4

To avoid duplication in `moma_number` I have created a query which finds duplicated values and adds the next number after "-" mark. In that process I created a new relation called `dimensions` (`dimension_id`, `moma_number`, `dimensions`, `object_id`). I left tuple `object_id` in that relation because I want to know which dimension belongs to the object.

The next part of bringing structure to first normal form is removing the repeating units found in the un-normalized form along with any attributes that are functionally dependent on them. Doing so I split `moma_number`, `artist_bio` into different, atomic values. I have created new attributes called (`artist`, `nationality`, `birth_date`, `death_date`), and split `artist_bio` as a new four attributes.

Next non atomic attribute is `medium`. I had multiple values so I had to create a new relation `media`. After that I moved split `media` to a new relation with `object_id` and `media_id` has been created which is a primary key of `media` relation. Next thing was creating the relation called "materials" and copying `object_id` from "moma" relation. I set it up for a primary key in that table. Some of `media` values in "moma" relation have null values so not every value of `object_id` will be in "media" relation. That's why I chose to fill `object_id` in "materials" relation from "moma" relation, to collect every value of that record. When I finished it I added tuple `media_id` to "materials" and filled it up from "media" relation, leaving <null> where `object_id` didn't exist in "media" relation. When the separate IDs from "media" table were collected with their `object_id`'s I dropped that tuple from "media" relation.

```
relation media (media_id, medium)
relation materials(object_id, media_id*, dimension_id*)
relation dimensions(dimension_id, moma_number, dimensions, object_id)
```

### B. 2nd Normal Form

When I brought my database to the first normal form, so my tuples have atomic values I created a table `artists` (`artist`, `nationality`, `birth_date`, `death_date`). In relation "moma" `artist` value is not unique so, when I was transferring artists to their table I had to do it by using distinct keyword and `artist` tuple became a primary key itself.

Next relation created was `classification` (`moma_number`, `classification`, `department`, `date_acquired`, `curator_approved`, `credit_line`).

### C. 3rd Normal Form

Next step was to create a new relation `classifications` (`classification`, `department`) to store classifications and their departments. There was a transitive dependency  $title \rightarrow department$ , because if I know the title I have a `moma_number` for it, following so I have `classification` and then I have `department`.

## IV. IMPLEMENTATION IN POSTGRES

In this section I will describe step by step my proces of designing the database and my queries which I used to get form of the database.

## A. Artist process design

First thing than needs to be done is set up the primary key for moma teble at un-normalised form. It will be object\_id as I wrote before.

- set up primary key for moma

```
ALTER TABLE moma ADD PRIMARY KEY (object_id);
```

Next thing is creating new tuples in "moma" relation which gonna hold our splitted values.

- create columns for new values

```
ALTER TABLE luw19.moma
ADD COLUMN nationality TEXT,
ADD COLUMN birth_place TEXT,
ADD COLUMN birth_date INTEGER,
ADD COLUMN death_date INTEGER;
```

Now I was ready to write a query to split values and update moma relation

- perform update moma table

```
WITH splitted_data AS (
SELECT title,
detail[1] AS nationality,
detail[4] AS birth_place,
detail[5] AS birth_date,
detail[6] AS death_date,
object_id
FROM (SELECT luw19.moma.*,
regexp_matches(luw19.moma.artist_bio,'((\^),[+]),?s?(born)?((\^\.]+)\.?)?(\d{4})?(\d{4})?\)') AS detail
FROM luw19.moma
) t
)
UPDATE luw19.moma
SET
nationality = val.nationality,
birth_place = val.birth_place,
birth_date = val.birth_date :: INTEGER,
death_date = val.death_date :: INTEGER
FROM (
SELECT
nationality,
birth_place,
birth_date,
death_date,
object_id
FROM splitted_data
) AS val
WHERE luw19.moma.object_id = val.object_id;
```

```
ALTER TABLE moma DROP artist_bio;
```

2

<sup>2</sup>I am writing using latex so symbol ^ is really weird displayed and it can generate problems if somebody copy that code and use it in future. Make sure that you check it before!

TABLE I  
LUW19.MOMA

column	type	modifiers
title	character varying(800)	not null
artist	character varying(100)	
year	integer	
medium	character varying(1500)	
dimensions	character varying(2500)	
credit_line	character varying(700)	
moma_number	character varying(20)	
classification	character varying(100)	
department	character varying(100)	
date_acquired	date	
curator_approved	character varying(1)	
object_id	integer	
url	character varying(200)	
nationality	text	
birth_place	text	
birth_date	integer	
dearth_date	integer	

Then moma relation look like this:

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d moma I <sup>3</sup>

### B. Media

Then I created media relation, and splitted medium by using delimiters and set first letter to capital to avoid duplicating records.

```
--creating table which will hold a media
CREATE TABLE materials (object_id INTEGER, PRIMARY KEY (object_id));
INSERT INTO materials(object_id)
SELECT object_id FROM moma;
ALTER TABLE materials ADD COLUMN media_id INTEGER;
--creating and splitting media table
CREATE TABLE media (object_id INTEGER,medium VARCHAR(1500));
--inserting values
INSERT INTO media(object_id,medium)
SELECT object_id,
regexp_split_to_table("medium", '([,;] (?!\printed))|[,;]? and )') "medium"
FROM luw19.moma;
--adding a primary key for that table
ALTER TABLE media ADD COLUMN media_id SERIAL PRIMARY KEY;
--update materials from media
UPDATE materials
SET media_id=media.media_id
FROM media WHERE materials.object_id=media.object_id;
--dropping object_id
ALTER TABLE media DROP object_id;
```

That query creates two relations: Materials II and media III

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d materials II

Indexes: "materials\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (object\_id) Foreign-key constraints: "materials\_dimensions\_dimension\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (dimension\_id) REFERENCES dimensions(dimension\_id) "materials\_media\_media\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (media\_id) REFERENCES media(media\_id) Referenced by: TABLE "moma" CONSTRAINT "moma\_materials\_object\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (object\_id) REFERENCES materials(object\_id)

<sup>3</sup>I had to create the table from the output because, output wasn't clear. copied versions can be found here: VIII

TABLE II  
LUW19.MATERIALS

Column	Type	Modifiers
object_id	integer	not null
media_id	integer	
dimension_id	text	

TABLE III  
LUW19.MEDIA

Column	Type	Modifiers
medium	character varying(1500)	
media_id	integer	not null default nextval('media_media_id_seq'::regclass)

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d media III

Indexes: "media\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (media\_id) Referenced by: TABLE "materials" CONSTRAINT "materials\_media\_media\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (media\_id) REFERENCES media(media\_id)

### C. Dimensions

As I mentioned before dimensions which had "-" are splitted and putted to different relation.

-- dimensions table with splitted dimensions as dimension\_id

CREATE TABLE dimensions

AS - -splitting dimensions

WITH splitted\_dimension AS (

SELECT luw19.moma.moma\_number

, regexp\_replace(moma.moma\_number, '([0-9]\. + \.)([0-9]+) - ([0-9]+)', e'\1', e'g') AS dimension\_id

, regexp\_replace(moma.moma\_number, '([0-9]\. + \.)([0-9]+) - ([0-9]+)', e'\2', e'g') AS dimension

, regexp\_replace(moma.moma\_number, '([0-9]\. + \.)([0-9]+) - ([0-9]+)', e'\3', e'g') AS object

, moma.dimensions

, moma.object\_id

FROM luw19.moma

)

SELECT a1.moma\_number

, a1.dimension\_id || generate\_series(a1.dimension::integer, a1.object::integer)::TEXT AS dimension\_id

, a1.dimensions, a1.object\_id

FROM splitted\_dimension a1

WHERE a1.dimension <> a1.dimension\_id

UNION ALL

SELECT a0.moma\_number

, a0.dimension\_id AS dimension\_id

, a0.dimensions, a0.object\_id

FROM splitted\_dimension a0

WHERE a0.dimension = a0.dimension\_id;

--selecting non-unique values and giving them a selected index

with stats as (

SELECT "dimension\_id",

"object\_id",

row\_number() over (partition by "dimension\_id" order by object\_id) as rn

FROM dimensions

)

UPDATE dimensions

SET "dimension\_id" = CASE WHEN s.rn > 1 THEN s."dimension\_id" || '-' || s.rn

ELSE s."dimension\_id"

END

FROM stats s

WHERE S."dimension\_id" = dimensions."dimension\_id"

AND S."object\_id" = dimensions."object\_id";

TABLE IV  
LUW19.DIMENSIONS

Column	Type	Modifiers
moma_number	character varying(20)	not null
dimension_id	text	
dimensions	character varying(2500)	
object_id	integer	

TABLE V  
LUW19.ARTISTS

Column	Type	Modifiers
artist	character varying(100)	not null
nationality	character varying(100)	
birth_place	character varying(100)	
birth_date	integer	
death_date	integer	

- -adding dimension\_id column to materials

ALTER TABLE materials ADD COLUMN dimension\_id TEXT; - -update column to hold dimension\_id

UPDATE materials

SET dimension\_id=dimensions.dimension\_id

FROM dimensions WHERE dimensions.object\_id=materials.object\_id;

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d dimensions IV

Indexes: "dimensions\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (dimension\_id) Referenced by: TABLE "materials" CONSTRAINT "materials\_dimensions\_dimension\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (dimension\_id) REFERENCES dimensions(dimension\_id)

#### D. Artist Table

Simple code to move artists and their details to the relation "artists"

- -creating artist table

CREATE TABLE artists (artist VARCHAR(100) PRIMARY KEY , nationality VARCHAR(100), birth\_place VARCHAR(100), birth\_date INTEGER, death\_date INTEGER);

INSERT INTO artists (artist, nationality, birth\_place, birth\_date, death\_date)

SELECT DISTINCT artist,

nationality,

birth\_place,

birth\_date,

death\_date

FROM luw19.moma;

- -dropping old values

ALTER TABLE luw19.moma

DROP artist,

DROP nationality,

DROP birth\_date,

DROP birth\_place,

DROP death\_date;

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d artists V

Indexes: "artists\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (artist) Referenced by: TABLE "moma" CONSTRAINT "moma\_artists\_artist\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (artist) REFERENCES artists(artist)

TABLE VI  
LUW19.CLASSIFICATIONS

Column	Type	Modifiers
classification	character varying(100)	not null
department	character varying(100)	

TABLE VII  
LUW19.MOMA

Column	Type	Modifiers
title	character varying(800)	not null
artist	character varying(100)	
year	integer	
medium	character varying(1500)	
credit_line	character varying(700)	
classification	character varying(100)	
date_acquired	date	
curator_approved	character varying(1)	
object_id	integer	
url	character varying(200)	

### E. Classifications

And The last relation classifications to hold distinct classification separately.

-- creating table classifications for the distinct classification

```
CREATE TABLE classifications (classification VARCHAR(100) PRIMARY KEY, department VARCHAR(100));
INSERT INTO classifications (classification, department)
SELECT DISTINCT classification, department
FROM classification;
```

cs27020\_15\_16=> \d classifications VI

Indexes: "classifications\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (classification) Referenced by: TABLE "classification"  
CONSTRAINT "classification\_classifications\_classification\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (classification) REFERENCES classifications(classification)

### F. Moma in 3rd NF

Moma relation after all operations

cs27020\_15\_16=> \d moma VII

Indexes: "moma\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (object\_id) Foreign-key constraints: "moma\_artists\_artist\_fk"  
FOREIGN KEY (artist) REFERENCES artists(artist) "moma\_classifications\_classification\_fk" FOREIGN KEY  
(classification) REFERENCES classifications(classification) "moma\_materials\_object\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (ob-  
ject\_id) REFERENCES materials(object\_id)

## V. SQL QUERIES

### A. Yoko Ono

-- query to find a title and department for Yoko Ono.

```
WITH yoko AS (
SELECT title, object_id
FROM moma
WHERE artist = 'Yoko Ono'
)
SELECT
moma.title, classifications.department
FROM
yoko
INNER JOIN moma on moma.object_id=yoko.object_id
INNER JOIN classifications ON moma.classification = classifications.classification;
```

and produced output is 10 rows table VIII :



TABLE VIII  
YOKO ONO

title	department
Mend Piece for John from S.M.S. No. 5	Prints & Illustrated Books
No. 4 (Bottoms)	Film
Instructions for Paintings	Prints & Illustrated Books
Piece for Nam June Paik no. 1	Prints & Illustrated Books
Grapefruit	Prints & Illustrated Books
Typescript for Do It Yourself Fluxfest Presents Yoko Ono & Dance Co.	Prints & Illustrated Books
Catalogue for Yoko Ono's exhibition This is Not Here at the Everson Museum, Syracuse, New York	Prints & Illustrated Books
Grapefruit	Prints & Illustrated Books
Part Painting/Series 5/to Tony Cox	Prints & Illustrated Books
Do It Yourself Fluxfest Presents Yoko Ono & Dance Co.	Prints & Illustrated Books

*B. List of the artists*

I have tried to do b. part of 4th point but, I don't why the query is not working correctly.

```
SELECT artist, count(*) AS works, array_agg(distinct year order by year asc)
FROM (SELECT
media_id,
department
FROM (SELECT media_id, classification FROM materials
LEFT JOIN moma ON materials.object_id = moma.object_id)
AS media_with_classifications
LEFT JOIN classifications ON media_with_classifications.classification = classifications.classification)t
JOIN artists ON moma.artist = artists.artist
JOIN moma ON moma.object_id=materials.object_id
GROUP BY artist ORDER BY works DESC LIMIT 10;
```

## VI. ENTITY RELATIONSHIP DIAGRAM

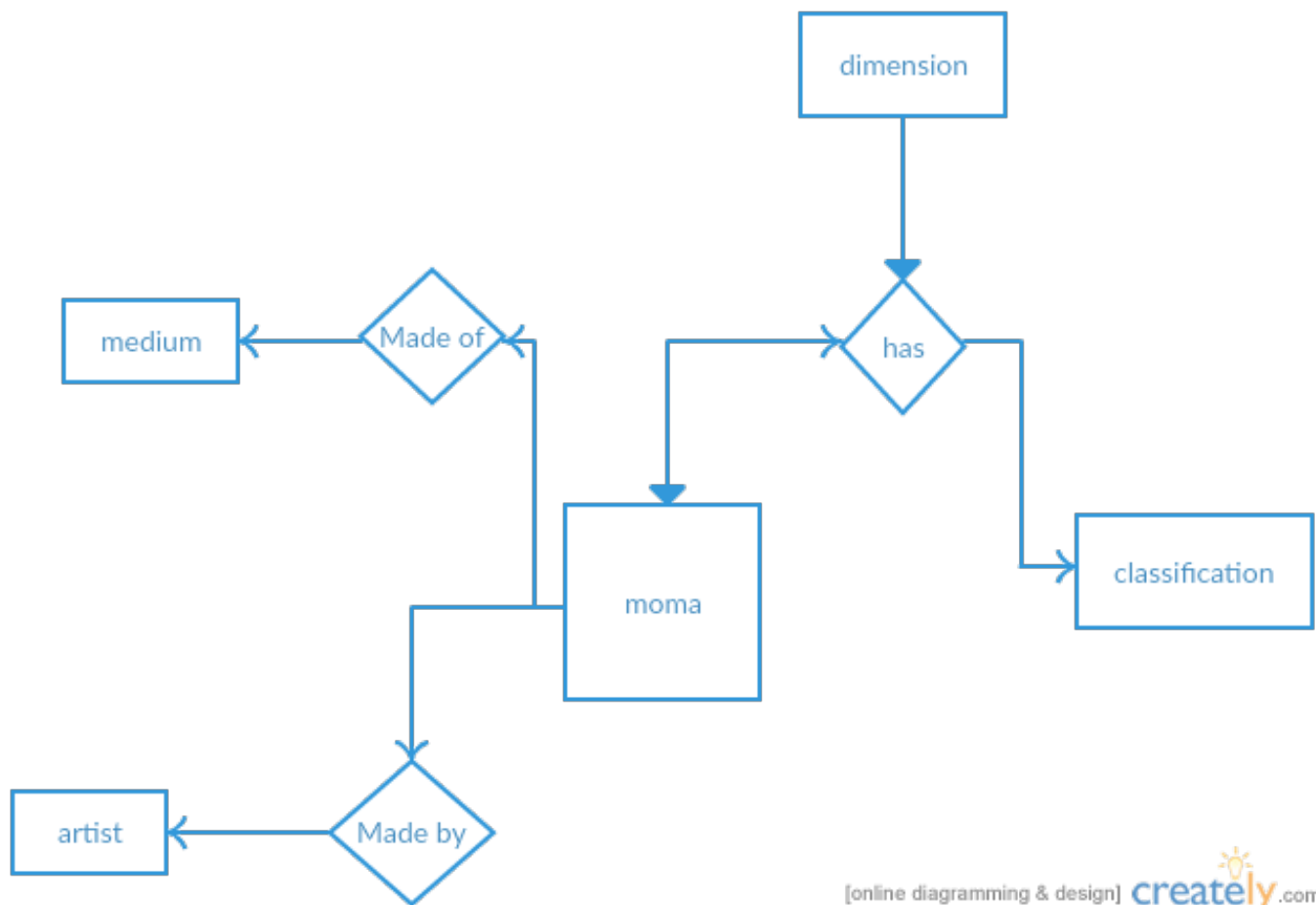
In this section I will show a diagrams of relationship. One of them is produced by DataGrip IDE 1(a), second is created by me using an online diagram creator VI.

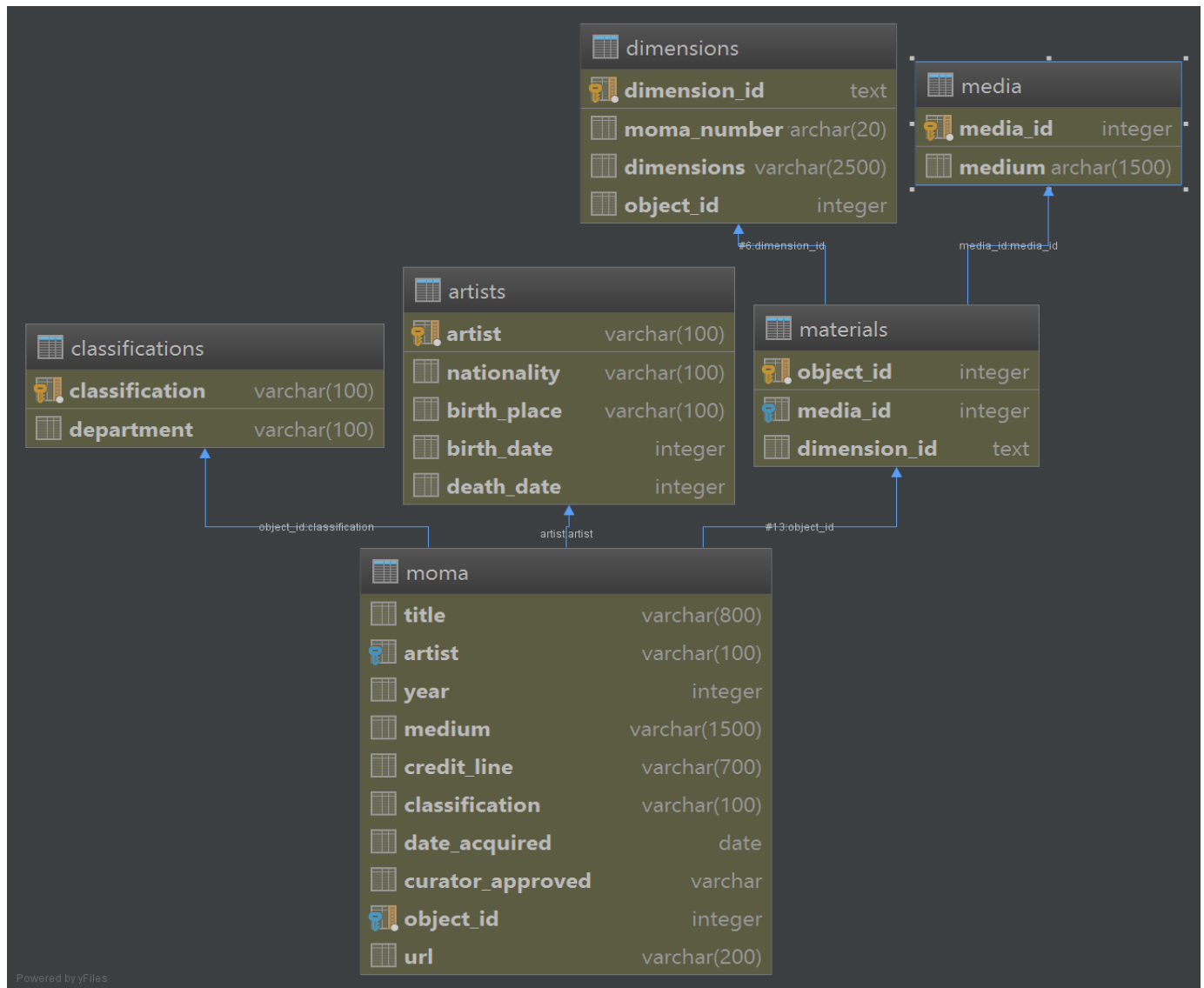
## VII. EXPLORING MOMA FURTHER

I have downloaded "extra.sql" from the page and run my script on it. The queries works good and created bigger database set than before.

I have observed one interesting thing, namely is that I can work on the part of dataset from database, create a queries to design and sort out smaller database and after implement the same queries for the "parent" database with larger amount of information held. Although, on bigger dataset it takes much more time, so now I understand why is important do work on smaller sets of data

[Entity Relationship Diagram]





(a) Diagram produced by DataGrip

## VIII. COPIED VERSIONS FROM CMD

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d moma

Table "luw19.moma"

Column	Type	Modifiers	title	character varying(800)	artist
character varying(100)	year	integer	medium	character varying(1500)	dimensions
credit_line	character varying(700)	moma_number	character varying(20)	classification	character varying(100)
department	character varying(100)	date_acquired	date	curator_approved	character varying(1)
integer	not null url	character varying(200)	nationality	text	birth_place
integer			text	birth_date	integer
integer				death_date	integer

Indexes: "moma\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (object\_id)

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d materials

Table "luw19.materials"

Column	Type	Modifiers	object_id	integer	not null media_id	integer
dimension_id	text					

Indexes: "materials\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (object\_id) Foreign-key constraints: "materials\_dimensions\_dimension\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (dimension\_id) REFERENCES dimensions(dimension\_id) "materials\_media\_media\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (media\_id) REFERENCES media(media\_id) Referenced by: TABLE "moma" CONSTRAINT "moma\_materials\_object\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (object\_id) REFERENCES materials(object\_id)

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d media

Column	Type	Modifiers	media_id	integer	not null default
media_media_id_seq::regclass	medium	character varying(1500)	media_id	integer	not null default

Indexes: "media\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (media\_id) Referenced by: TABLE "materials" CONSTRAINT "materials\_media\_media\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (media\_id) REFERENCES media(media\_id)

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d dimensions

Column	Type	Modifiers	moma_number
character varying(20)	dimension_id	text	not null dimensions
character varying(2500)	object_id	integer	

Indexes: "dimensions\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (dimension\_id) Referenced by: TABLE "materials" CONSTRAINT "materials\_dimensions\_dimension\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (dimension\_id) REFERENCES dimensions(dimension\_id)

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d artists

Table "luw19.artists"

Column	Type	Modifiers	artist	character varying(100)	not null
nationality	character varying(100)	birth_place	character varying(100)	birth_date	integer
integer				death_date	integer

Indexes: "artists\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (artist) Referenced by: TABLE "moma" CONSTRAINT "moma\_artists\_artist\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (artist) REFERENCES artists(artist)

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d classifications

Table "luw19.classifications"

Column	Type	Modifiers	classification	character varying(100)	not null
department	character varying(100)				

Indexes: "classifications\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (classification) Referenced by: TABLE "classification" CONSTRAINT "classification\_classifications\_classification\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (classification) REFERENCES classifications(classification)

cs27020\_15\_16=> \ d moma

Table "luw19.moma"

Column	Type	Modifiers	title	character varying(800)	artist
character varying(100)	year	integer	medium	character varying(1500)	credit_line
classification	character varying(100)	date_acquired	date	curator_approved	character varying(1)
integer	not null url	character varying(200)			object_id

Indexes: "moma\_pkey" PRIMARY KEY, btree (object\_id) Foreign-key constraints: "moma\_artists\_artist\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (artist) REFERENCES artists(artist) "moma\_classifications\_classification\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (classification) REFERENCES classifications(classification) "moma\_materials\_object\_id\_fk" FOREIGN KEY (object\_id) REFERENCES materials(object\_id)