COMP 5143
Advanced Database Management System

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Computer Science Department

Prairie View A&M University

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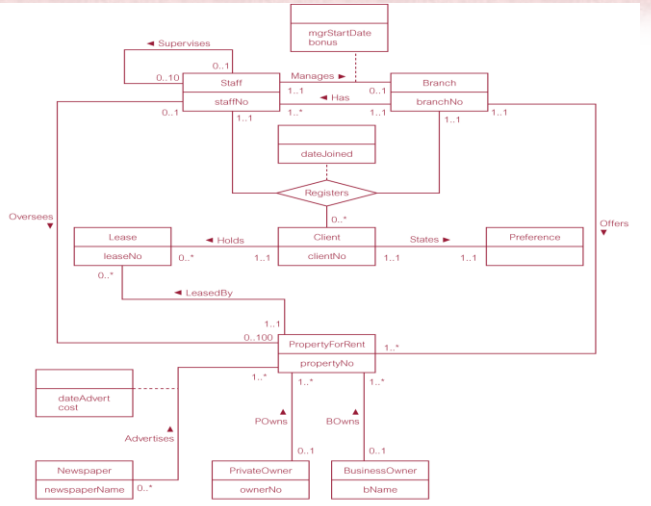
Chapter 12

Entity-Relationship Modeling

ER diagram of Branch user views of *DreamHome*



Concepts of the ER Model

- **Entity types**
- **Relationship types**
- **Attributes**

Entity Type

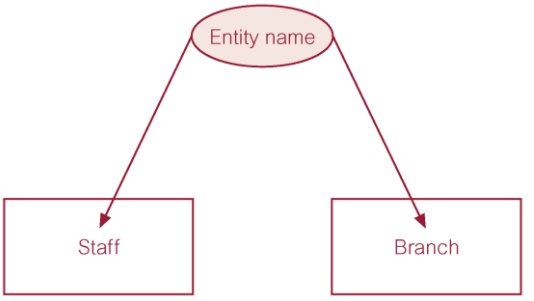
- **Entity type**
  –Group of objects with same properties, identified by enterprise as having an independent existence.

- **Entity occurrence**
  –Uniquely identifiable object of an entity type.

Examples of Entity Types

Physical existence	
Staff	Part
Property	Supplier
Customer	Product
Conceptual existence	
Viewing	Sale
Inspection	Work experience

ER diagram of Staff and Branch entity types

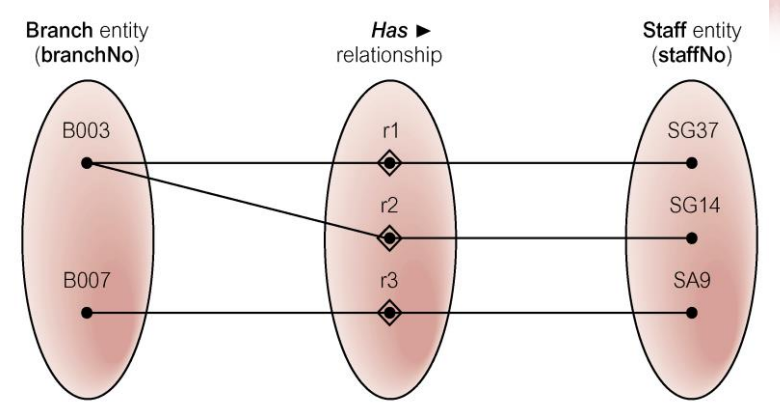


Relationship Types

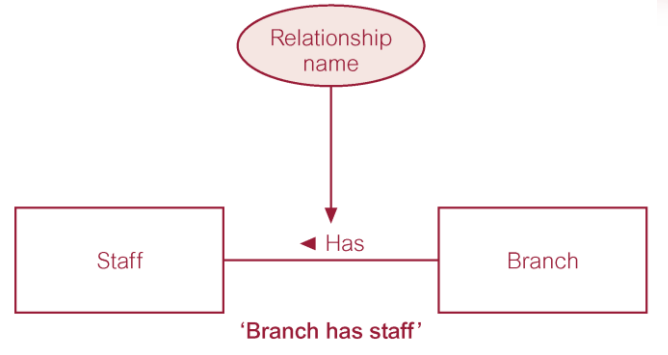
- **Relationship type**
  –Set of meaningful associations among entity types.

- **Relationship occurrence**
  –Uniquely identifiable association, which includes one occurrence from each participating entity type.

Semantic net of *Has* relationship type



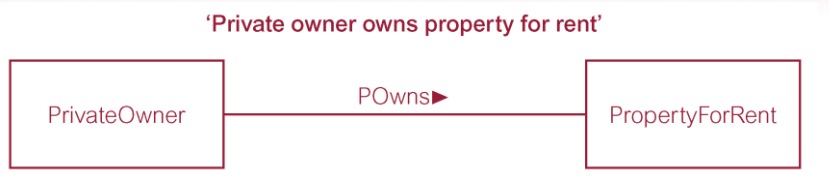
ER diagram of Branch *Has* Staff relationship



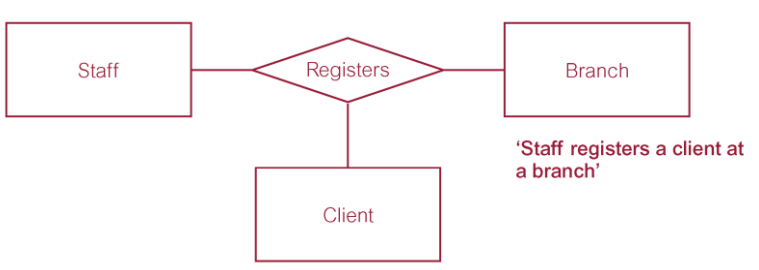
Relationship Types

- **Degree of a Relationship**
  –Number of participating entities in relationship.
- **Relationship of degree :**
  –two is binary
  –three is ternary
  –four is quaternary.

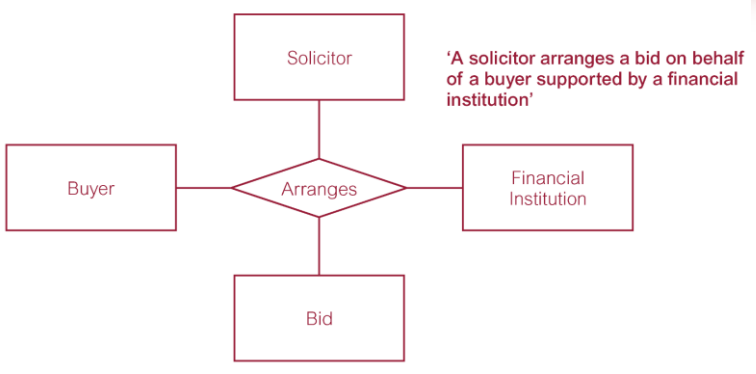
Binary relationship called *POwns*



Ternary relationship called *Registers*



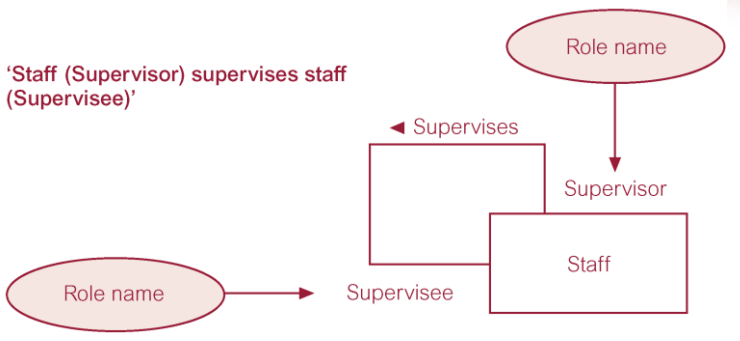
Quaternary relationship called *Arranges*



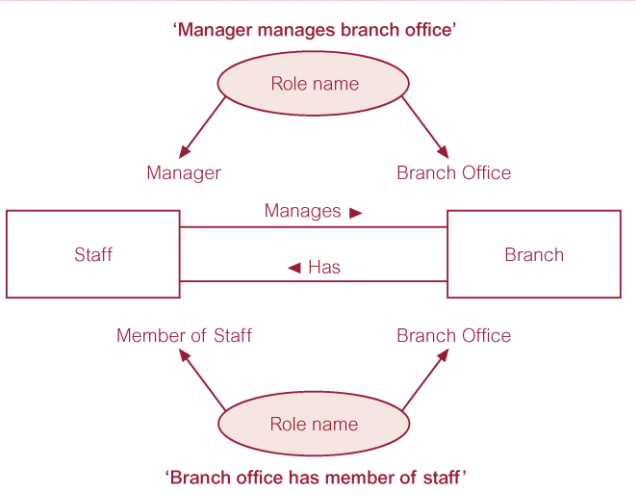
Relationship Types

- **Recursive Relationship**
  –Relationship type where *same* entity type participates more than once in *different roles*.
- **Relationships may be given role names to indicate purpose that each participating entity type plays in a relationship.**

Recursive relationship called *Supervises* with role names



Entities associated through two distinct relationships with role names



Attributes

- **Attribute**
  –Property of an entity or a relationship type.
- **Attribute Domain**
  –Set of allowable values for one or more attributes.

Attributes

- **Simple Attribute**
  - **–Attribute composed of a single component with an independent existence.**
- **Composite Attribute**
  - **–Attribute composed of multiple components, each with an independent existence.**

Attributes

- **Single-valued Attribute**
  - **–Attribute that holds a single value for each occurrence of an entity type.**
- **Multi-valued Attribute**
  - **–Attribute that holds multiple values for each occurrence of an entity type.**

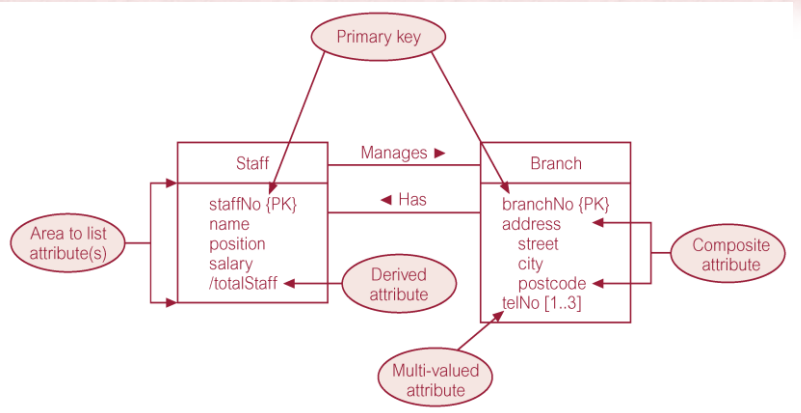
Attributes

- **Derived Attribute**
  - **–Attribute that represents a value that is derivable from value of a related attribute, or set of attributes, not necessarily in the same entity type.**

Keys

- **Candidate Key**
  - **–Minimal set of attributes that uniquely identifies each occurrence of an entity type.**
- **Primary Key**
  - **–Candidate key selected to uniquely identify each occurrence of an entity type.**
- **Composite Key**
  - **–A candidate key that consists of two or more attributes.**

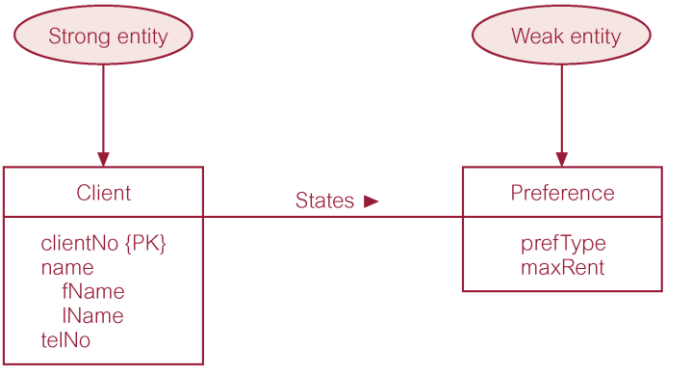
ER diagram of Staff and Branch entities and their attributes



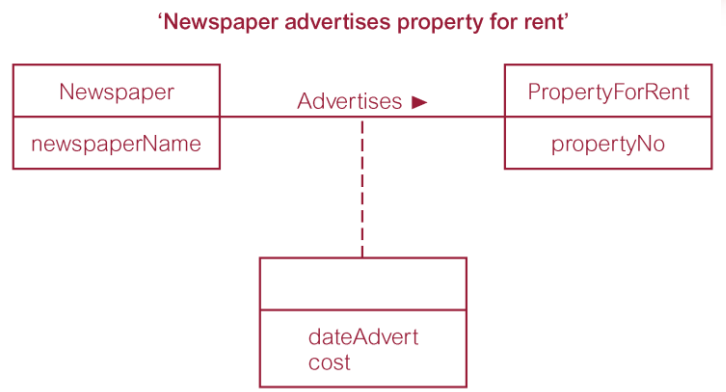
Entity Type

- **Strong Entity Type**
  –Entity type that is *not* existence-dependent on some other entity type.
- **Weak Entity Type**
  –Entity type that is existence-dependent on some other entity type.

Strong entity type called Client and weak entity type called Preference



Relationship called *Advertises* with attributes



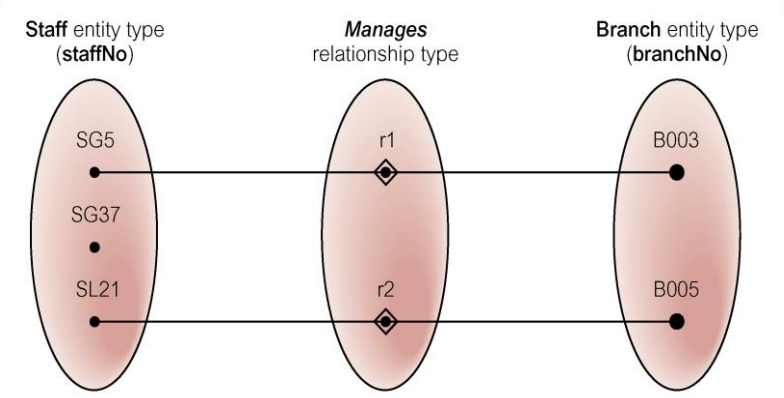
Structural Constraints

- **Main type of constraint on relationships is called *multiplicity*.**
- **Multiplicity - number (or range) of possible occurrences of an entity type that may relate to a single occurrence of an associated entity type through a particular relationship.**
- **Represents policies (called *business rules*) established by user or company.**

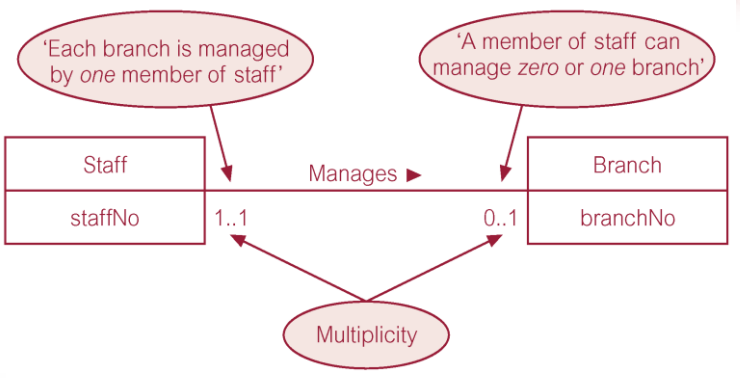
Structural Constraints

- **The most common degree for relationships is binary.**
- **Binary relationships are generally referred to as being:**
  - **one-to-one (1:1)**
  - **one-to-many (1:*)**
  - **many-to-many (*:*)**

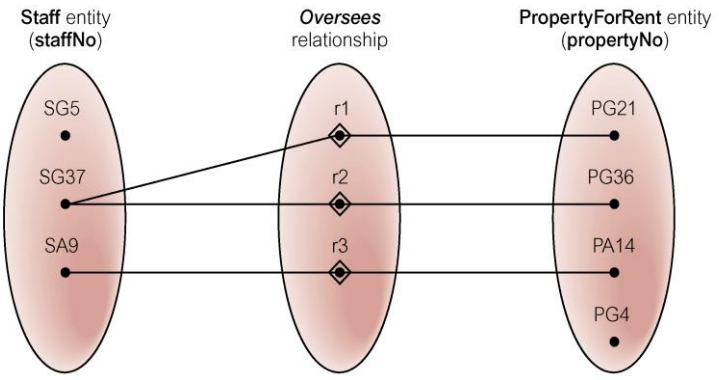
Semantic net of Staff *Manages* Branch relationship type



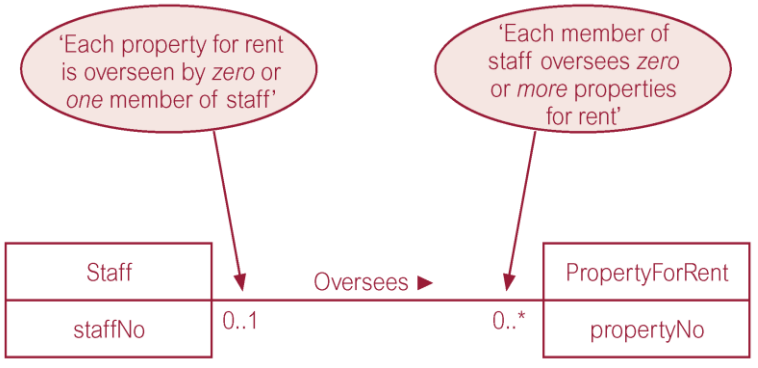
Multiplicity of Staff *Manages* Branch (1:1) relationship



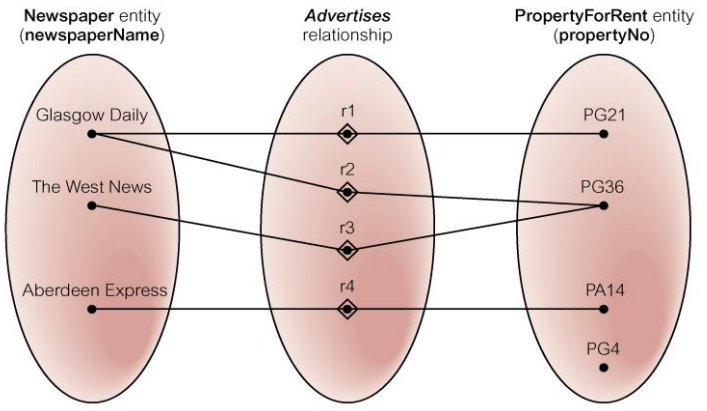
Semantic net of Staff *Oversees* PropertyForRent relationship type



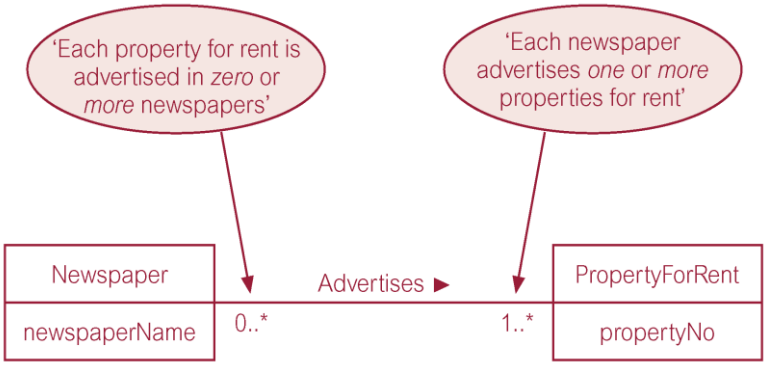
Multiplicity of Staff *Oversees* PropertyForRent (1:*) relationship type



Semantic net of Newspaper *Advertises* PropertyForRent relationship type



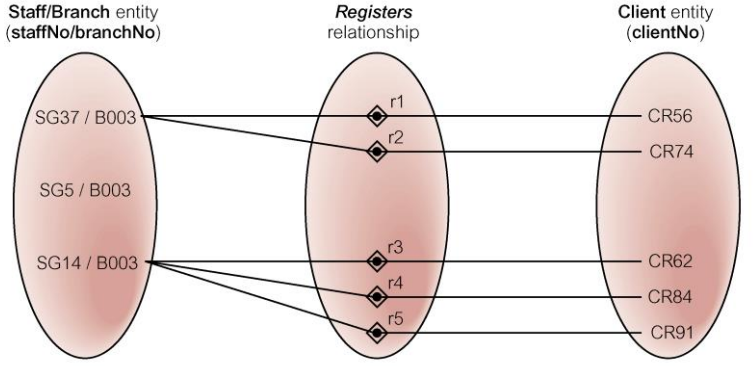
Multiplicity of Newspaper *Advertises* PropertyForRent (*:*) relationship



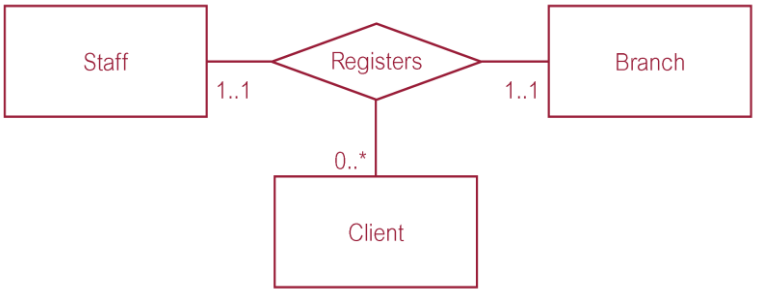
Structural Constraints

- **Multiplicity for Complex Relationships**
  –Number (or range) of possible occurrences of an entity type in an *n*-ary relationship when other (*n*-1) values are fixed.

Semantic net of ternary *Registers* relationship with values for Staff and Branch entities fixed



Multiplicity of ternary *Registers* relationship



Summary of multiplicity constraints

Alternative ways to represent multiplicity constraints	Meaning
0..1	Zero or one entity occurrence
1..1 (or just 1)	Exactly one entity occurrence
0..* (or just *)	Zero or many entity occurrences
1..*	One or many entity occurrences
5..10	Minimum of 5 up to a maximum of 10 entity occurrences
0, 3, 6–8	Zero or three or six, seven, or eight entity occurrences

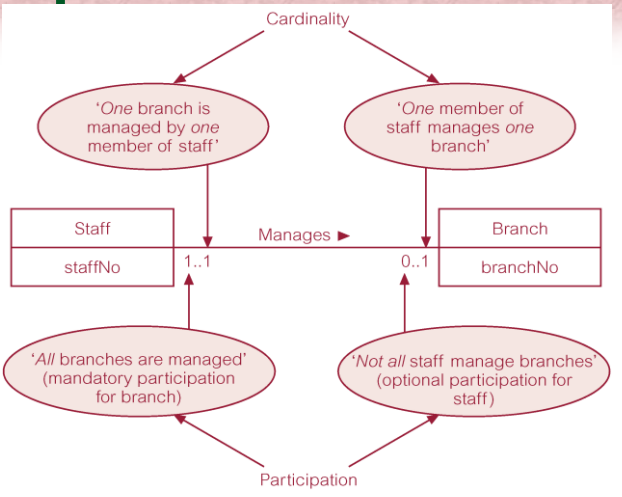
Structural Constraints

- **Multiplicity is made up of two types of restrictions on relationships: *cardinality* and *participation*.**

Structural Constraints

- **Cardinality**
  –Describes maximum number of possible relationship occurrences for an entity participating in a given relationship type.
- **Participation**
  –Determines whether all or only some entity occurrences participate in a relationship.

Multiplicity as cardinality and participation constraints



Problems with ER Models

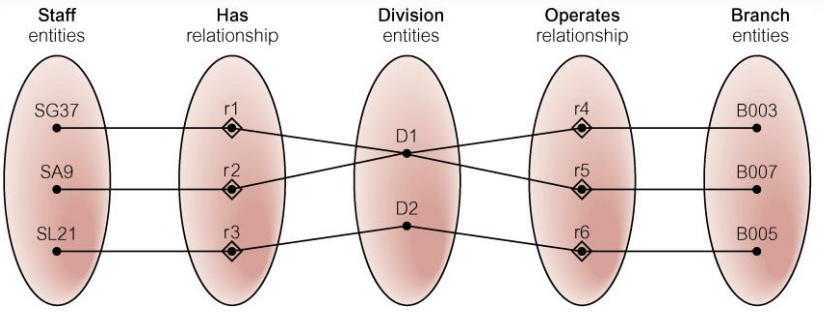
- **Problems may arise when designing a conceptual data model called *connection traps*.**
- **Often due to a misinterpretation of the meaning of certain relationships.**
- **Two main types of connection traps are called *fan traps* and *chasm traps*.**

Problems with ER Models

- **Fan Trap**
  - **–Where a model represents a relationship between entity types, but pathway between certain entity occurrences is ambiguous.**
- **Chasm Trap**
  - **–Where a model suggests the existence of a relationship between entity types, but pathway does not exist between certain entity occurrences.**

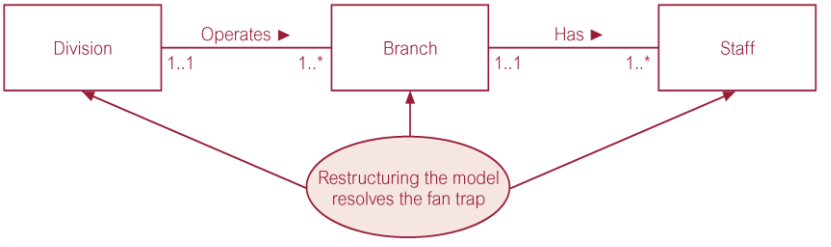
An Example of a Fan Trap

Semantic Net of ER Model with Fan Trap

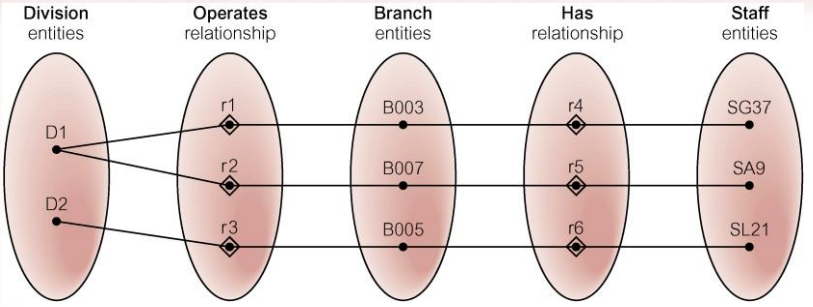


- **At which branch office does staff number SG37 work?**

Restructuring ER model to remove Fan Trap

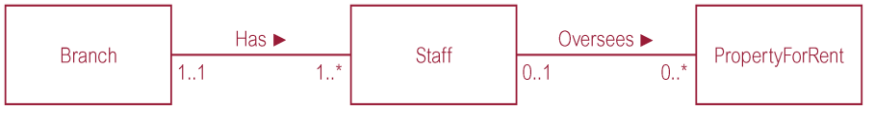


Semantic Net of Restructured ER Model with Fan Trap Removed

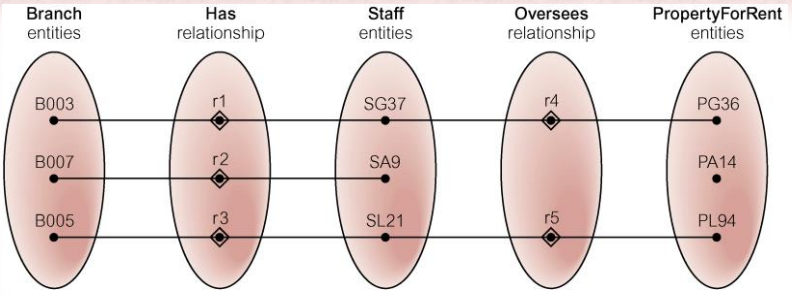


- **SG37 works at branch B003.**

An Example of a Chasm Trap

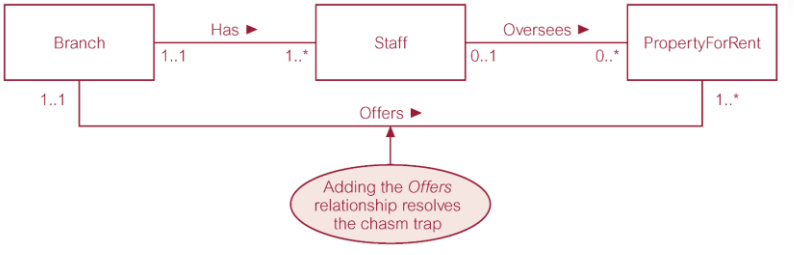


Semantic Net of ER Model with Chasm Trap



- **At which branch office is property PA14 available?**

ER Model restructured to remove Chasm Trap



Semantic Net of Restructured ER Model with Chasm Trap Removed