# Advanced Management of Data

Concepts of Distributed Databases (3)
Semistructured Data

# Multidatabase Systems

**Multidatabase System (MDBS)**

- distributed DBMS in which each site maintains complete autonomy
- distribution is realized by an additional software layer on top of the local systems
- users can access and share data without requiring full database schema integration
- users can manage their own / local databases without centralized control

**Export Schema**

The administrator of a local DBMS can authorize access to particular parts of a database by specifying a distinct schema.

This „exported“ schema defines the parts of the database that may be accessed by nonlocal users.

# Multidatabase Systems

**Unfederated MDBS**

- no local users

**Federated MDBS (FDBS)**

- Applications share a global view (schema) of the federation of databases.
- A federated database (FDB) system is a hybrid of a distributed DBMS and a centralized DBMS:
  - a distributed system for global users
  - a centralized system for local users

# Federated DB Systems

**Sources of Heterogeneity**

- Differences in data models — Databases in an organization may come from a variety of data models, e.g. legacy models(hierarchical, network), relational, object data models, and even files
- Differences in constraints — Constraint facilities may vary from system to system.
- Differences in query languages — Even with the same data model, the versions of query languages and their capabilities may vary, which can result in conflicts regarding data, naming, domains, precision, schema, … .
- Differences in semantics — Differences in the meaning, interpretation, and intended use of the data.

# Federated DB Systems

The complexity of the FDBS will be directly influenced by the degree of autonomy of component DBSs.

**Design autonomy**

- universe of discourse from which the data is drawn
- representation and naming
- understanding, meaning, and subjective interpretation of data
- transaction and policy constraints
- derivation of summaries

# Federated DB Systems

The following types of autonomy should be provided to component DBS:

**Communication autonomy**

- ability to decide whether to communicate with another component DBS

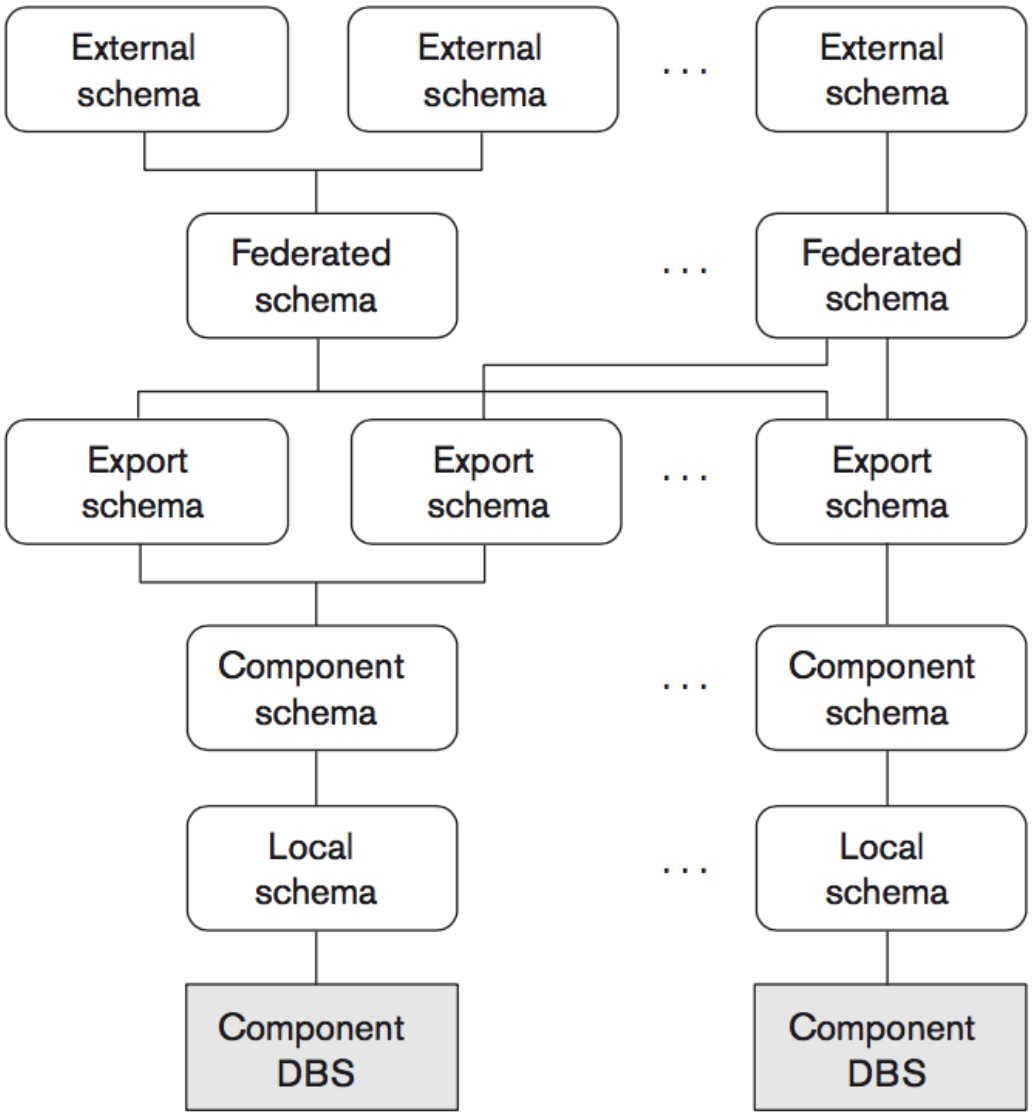
**Execution autonomy**

- ability to perform local operations without interference from external operations by other component DBSs
- ability to decide the execution order of local operations

**Association autonomy**

- ability to decide whether and how much to share its functionality and data with other component DBSs

# FDB Schema Architecture




schema for a user group or an application, as in the three-level schema architecture

global schema or view, which is the result of integrating all shareable export schemas

subset of a component schema that is available to the FDBS

result of translating the local schema into a common data model. Mappings transform commands into commands on the corresponding local schema

conceptual schema of a component database

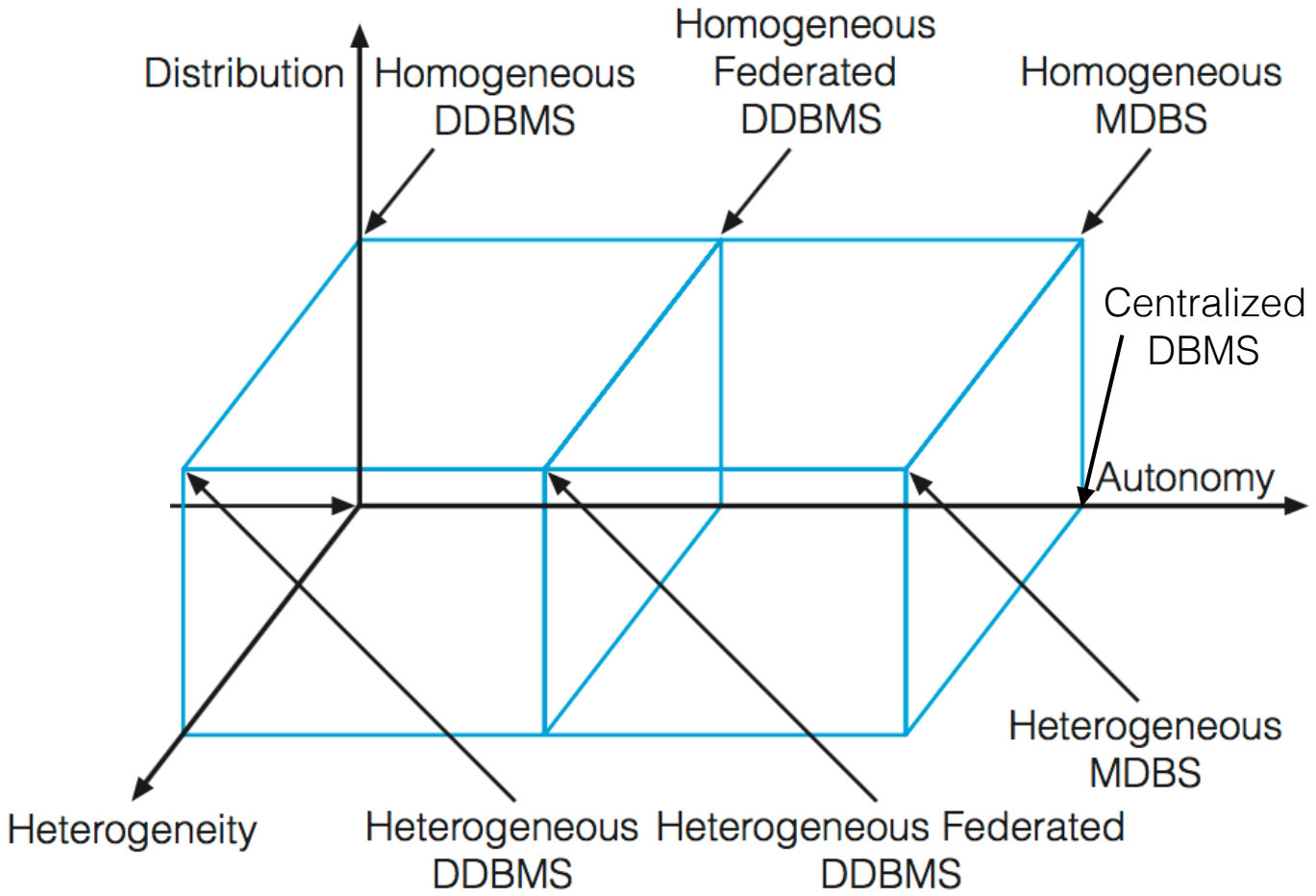
# Types of Distributed DB Systems

We already mentioned that the term distributed database management system can describe various systems that differ from one another in many respects.

To classify DDBS we consider

- degree of homogeneity — If all DBMS servers and clients use identical software, the DDBMS is called homogeneous, otherwise, it is called heterogeneous.
- degree of local autonomy — If there is no provision for the local site to function as a standalone DBMS, then the system has no local autonomy.
  If direct access by local transactions to a server is permitted, the system has some degree of local autonomy.
- degree of distribution

# Types of Distributed DB Systems




[Connolly & Begg]

# Distributed Catalog Management

**Option 1 - Centralized Catalogs**

The entire catalog is stored in one site. For read operations from non-central sites, the requested catalog data is locked at the central site and is then sent to the requesting site. On completion of the read operation, an acknowledgment is sent to the central site, and the locked data is unlocked.

Advantage:

easy to implement

Disadvantages:

Since all update operations must be processed through only one site, performance for write-intensive applications becomes negatively impacted.

Also, reliability, availability, autonomy, and distribution of processing load will be impacted adversely.

# Distributed Catalog Management

**Option 2 - Fully Replicated Catalogs**

Identical copies of the complete catalog are available at each site.

Advantage:

Read operations are very fast since they can be answered locally.

Disadvantages:

All updates must be broadcast to all sites.

Catalog consistency must be ensured.

Write-intensive applications cause increased network traffic due to the broadcast associated with the writes.

# Distributed Catalog Management

**Option 3 - Partially Replicated Catalogs**

Each site maintains complete catalog information on data stored locally at that site.

Each site is also permitted to cache entries retrieved from remote sites. There are no guarantees that these cached copies contain the most recent data.

The system tracks catalog entries for sites where the object was created and for sites that contain copies of this object.

Any changes to copies are propagated immediately to the original site.

Retrieving updated copies to replace data that is not up to date may be delayed until an access to this data occurs.

# Concurrency Control

**Potential problems**

- dealing with multiple copies of data items
- failure of individual sites
- failure of communication links
    - between nodes
    - when network partitioning occurs
- distributed commit
- distributed deadlock

**Approach**

- We extend centralized locking mechanisms to deal with distribution

# Concurrency Control

**Primary Site Technique**

A single primary site is designated to be the coordinator site for all database items.

➔ All requests for locking or unlocking are sent at the primary site.

Advantage

- simple extension of the centralized lock mechanism

Disadvantages

- potential system bottleneck
- system reliability and availability is limited, since a failure of the primary site stops the entire system

# Concurrency Control

**Primary Site with Backup Site**

The primary site technique is extended by designating a second site to be a backup site.

➔ All locking information is maintained at both the primary and the backup site.

Advantage

The risk of paralyzing the whole system is alleviated, since the backup site takes over in case of a failure of the primary site.

Disadvantages

The process of acquiring locks is slowed down, because all lock requests and granting of locks must be recorded at both the primary and the backup sites.

The problem of the primary and backup sites becoming overloaded with requests and slowing down the system remains undiminished.

# Concurrency Control

**Primary Copy Technique**

- a particular copy of each data item is designated as a distinguished copy
- the distinguished copies of different data items are stored at different sites to distribute the load of lock coordination among various sites
- a failure of one site affects any transactions that are accessing locks on items whose primary copies reside at that site, but other transactions are not affected
- reliability and availability can be further enhanced by using backup sites

**Further Techniques**

There are other approaches available (e.g. election, voting), which may show increased network traffic and can become very complex.

Also, a distributed recovery process is quite involved.

# Advantages of DDB

- better representation of organizational structures
- improved shareability and local autonomy
- increased availability and reliability (due to replication)
- improved performance
- economics - it may cost less to create a network of smaller computers with the power of a single large computer
- modular expansion via scalability
- integration (of existing systems)

# Disadvantages of DDB

- increased complexity
- increased cost
- security (e.g. access to replicated data and networks)
- more difficult integrity control
- lack of standards
- lack of experience
- more complex database design

# Semistructured Data

**Structured Data** (in relational / object-relational DBMSs)

- each record follows the same format as other records

**Motivation**

- sometimes similar data objects must be described differently
- often data is (differently) collected before it is known how it will be stored and managed
- different web sources as data sources (database) cannot be constrained with a schema
- it may be desirable to have a flexible format for data exchange between disparate databases

**Semistructured Data** (schema-less / self-describing data)

- data may have a certain structure, but not necessarily an identical structure
- some attributes may be shared, but some other attributes may be used by only a few entities
- there is no predefined schema, instead the schema information is mixed in with the data values

# Semistructured Data

**Displaying semistructured data**

- directed graph
- labels of edges represent schema names (attribute names, object / entity types, classes, relationships)
- internal nodes represent individual objects or composite attributes
- leaf nodes represent actual data values of atomic attributes

**PROJECT**

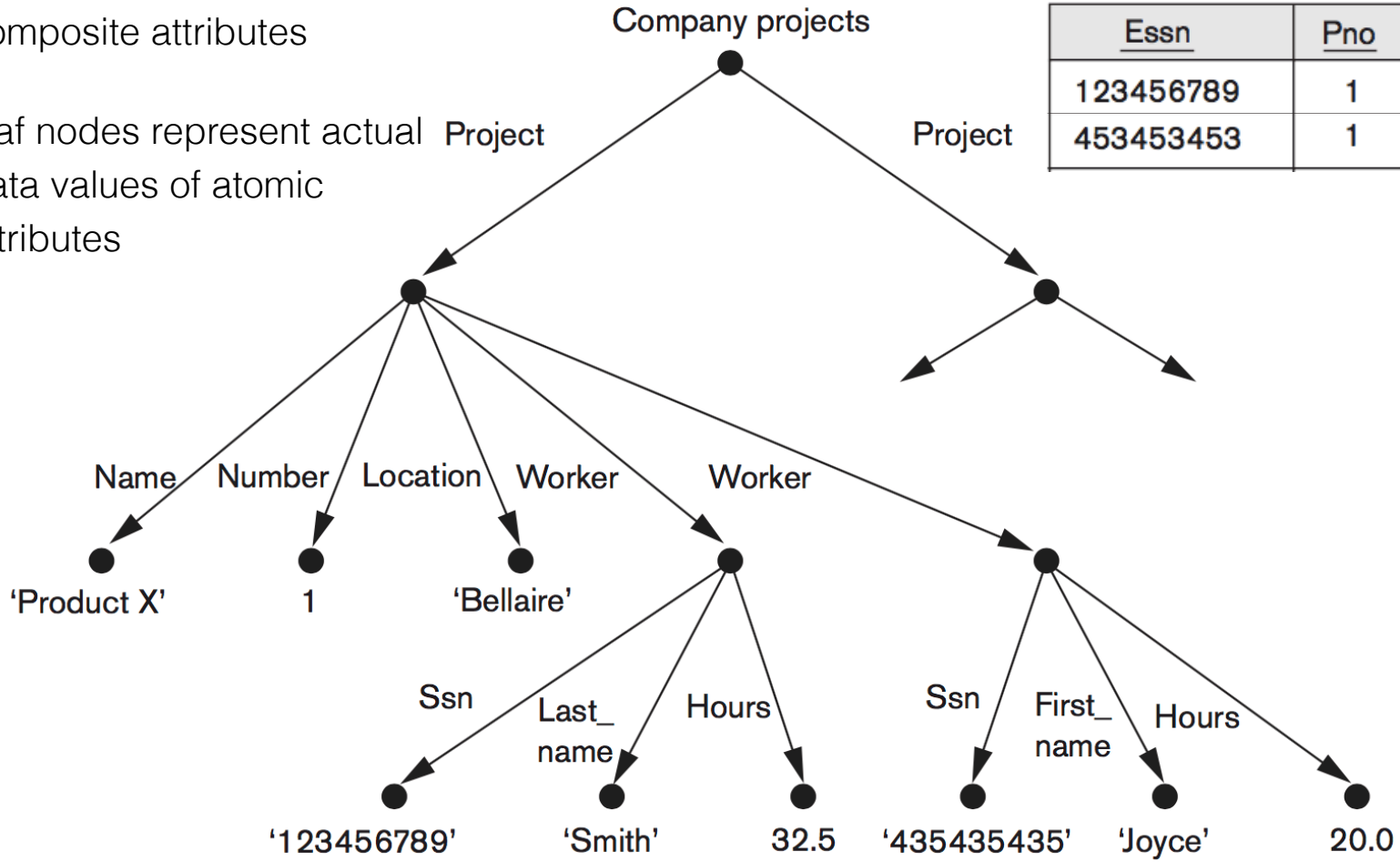
| Pname | Pnumber | Plocation | Dnum |
|---|---|---|---|
| ProductX | 1 | Bellaire | 5 |

**EMPD_5**

| Fname | Minit | Lname | Ssn |
|---|---|---|---|
| John | B | Smith | 123456789 |
| Joyce | A | English | 453453453 |

**WORKS_ON**

| Essn | Pno | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| 123456789 | 1 | 32.5 |
| 453453453 | 1 | 20.0 |






[Elmasri & Navathe]

# Semistructured Data

**Some languages to describe semistructured data**

XML (Extended Markup Language)

JSON (Javascript Object Notation)

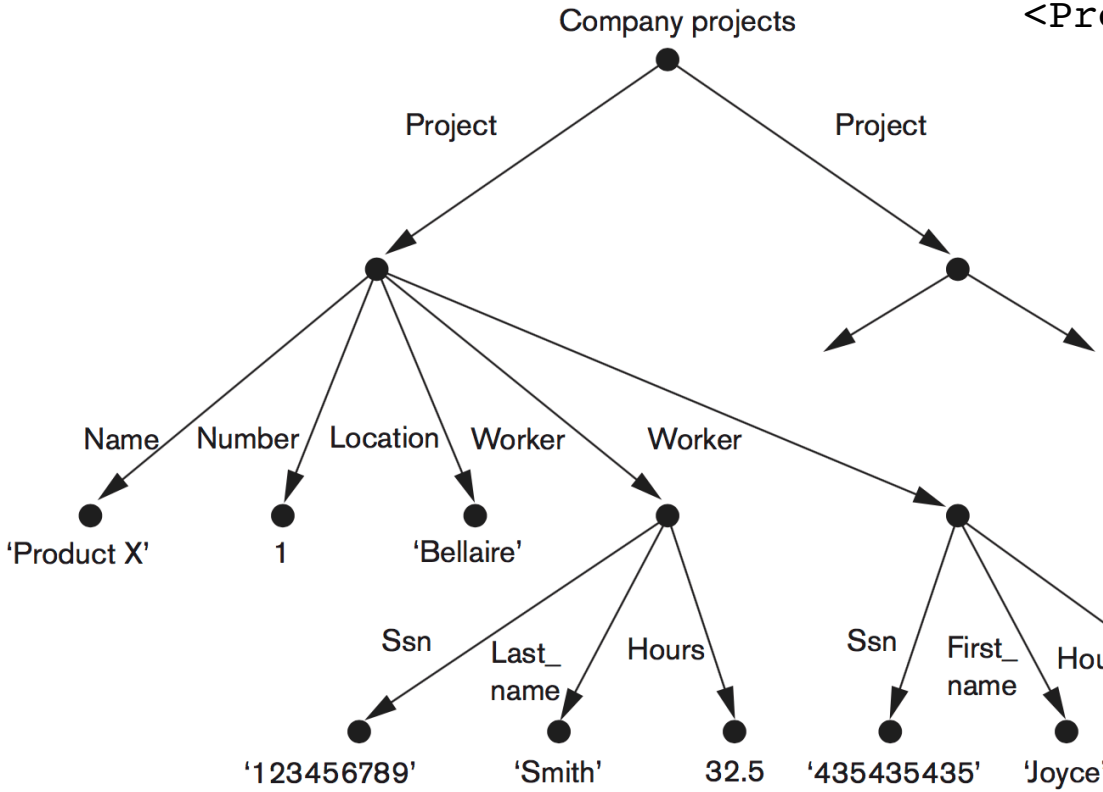
**Querying semistructured data**

Most of the approaches to semistructured data management are based on query languages that traverse a tree-labeled representation, e.g. XPath and XQuery for XML

Without a schema, data can be identified only by specifying its position within the collection.

➔ Data items are now accessed navigational rather than by declarative descriptions, which are based on structural properties.

# Semistructured Data - XML




```
<?xml version="1.0" standalone="yes"?>
<Projects>
    <Project>
        <Name>ProductX</Name>
        <Number>1</Number>
        <Location>Bellaire</Location>
        <Dept_no>5</Dept_no>
        <Worker>
            <Ssn>123456789</Ssn>
            <Last_name>Smith</Last_name>
            <Hours>32.5</Hours>
        </Worker>
        <Worker>
            <Ssn>453453453</Ssn>
            <First_name>Joyce</First_name>
            <Hours>20.0</Hours>
        </Worker>
    </Project>
    <Project>
    …
    </Project>
</Projects>
```



[Elmasri & Navathe]