# Lecture 2 Entity-Relationship Model

Eugene Wu Fall 2015

### HW0: Why the different results?

#### Result: 69

```
import csv
file = open('iowa-liquor-sample.csv')
file_reader = csv.reader(file)
n = 0
for row in file_reader:
   for el in row:
   if "single malt scotch" in el.lower():
        n += 1
print n
```

#### Result: 5 I

```
file = open('iowa-liquor-sample.csv','r')
n = 0
for line in file:
   temp = line.lower()
   if 'single malt scotch' in temp:
      n += 1
print n
```

# Steps for a New Application

#### Requirements

what are you going to build?

#### Conceptual Database Design

pen-and-pencil description

#### Logical Design

formal database schema

#### Schema Refinement:

fix potential problems, normalization

#### Physical Database Design

use sample of queries to optimize for speed/storage

#### App/Security Design

prevent security problems

# Steps for a New Application

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**ER Modeling** 

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## Database Apps Are Complicated

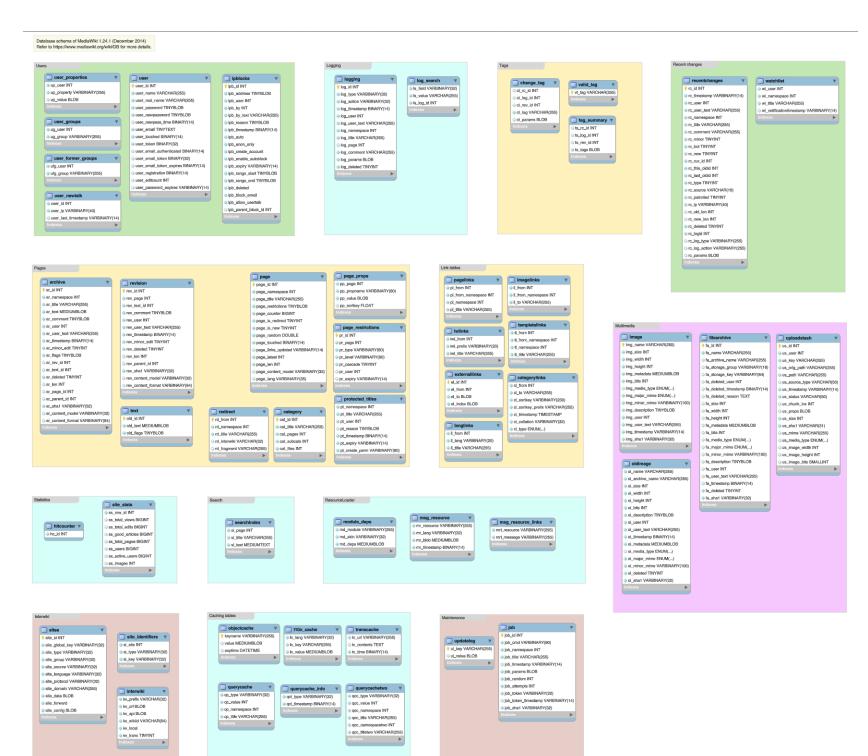
### Typical Fortune 100 Company

~10k different information (data) systems

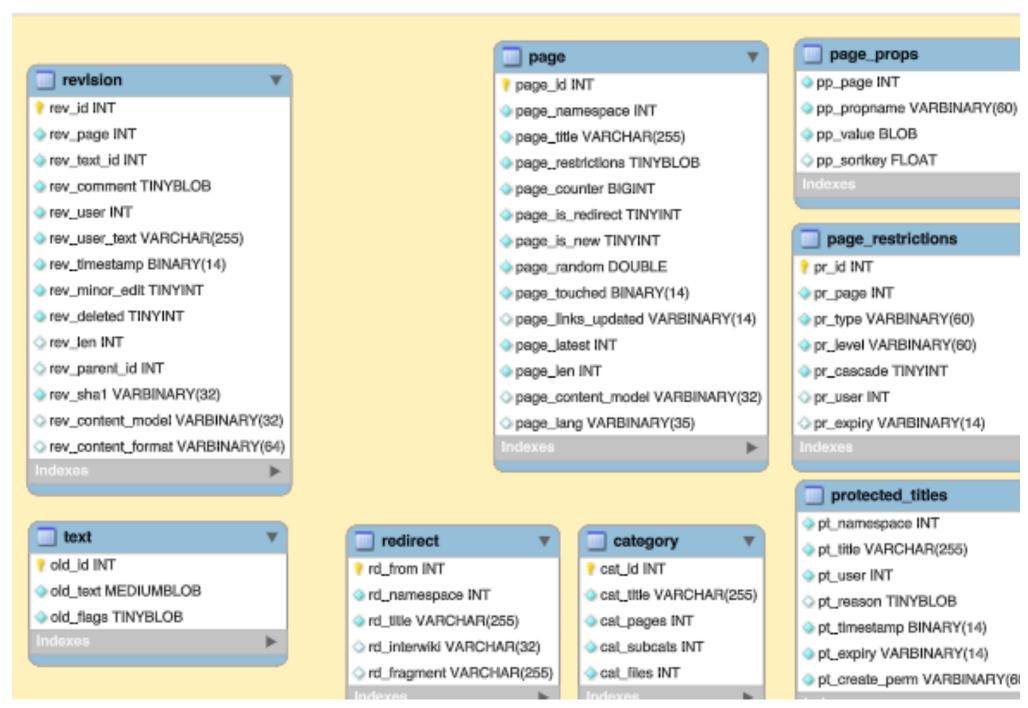
90% relational databases (DBMSes)

Typical database has >100 tables

Typical table has 50 - 200 attributes



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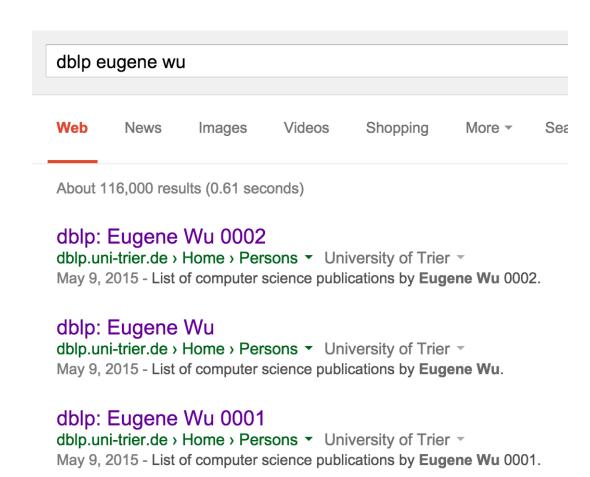


https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f7/MediaWiki\_I.24.I\_database\_schema.svg

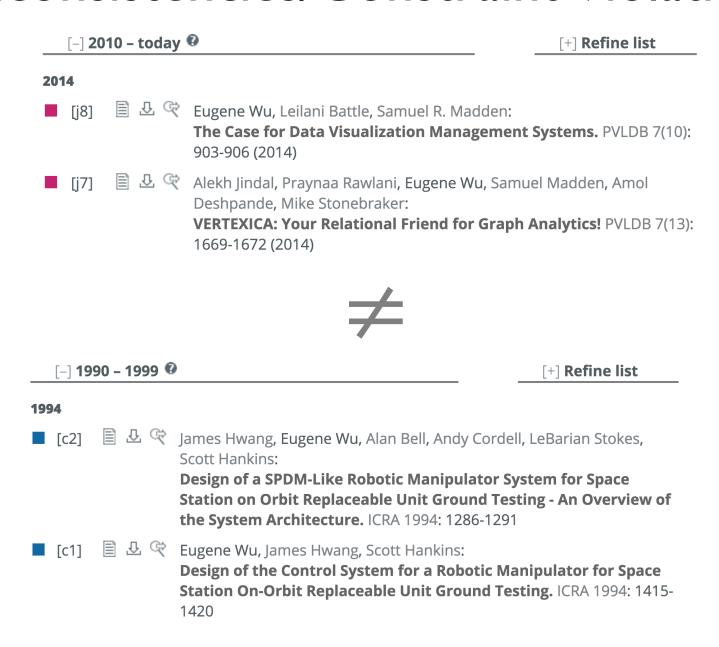
### Inconsistencies/Constraint Violations

### Huge amount of effort to avoid inconsistencies

DBLP is the site for computer science publications

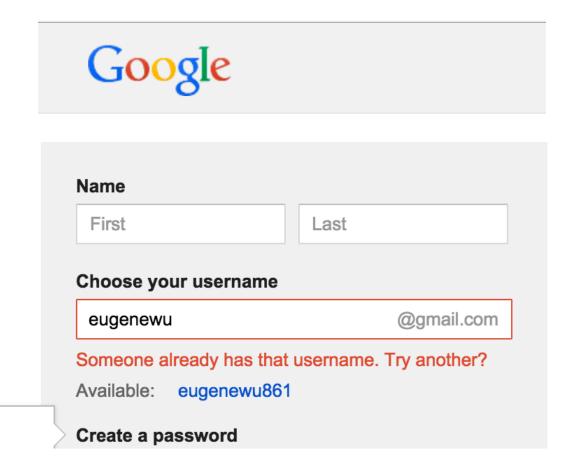


### Inconsistencies/Constraint Violations



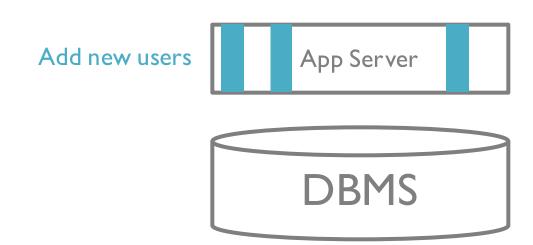
### Inconsistencies/Constraint Violations

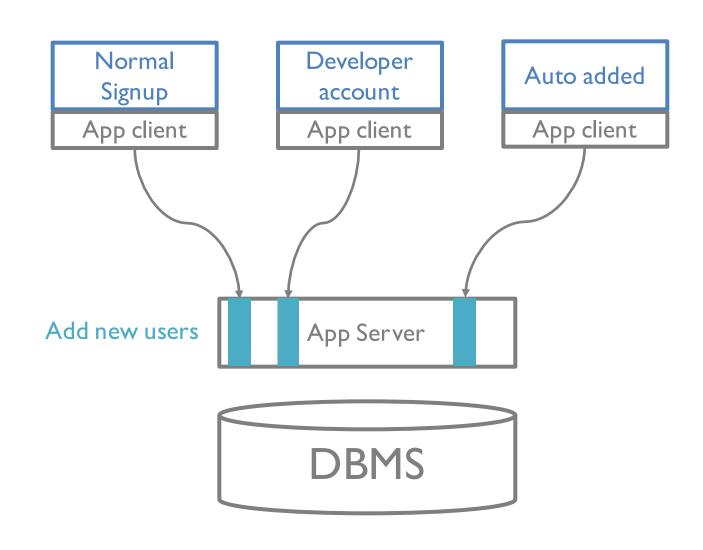
# Giving me eugenewu@gmail would violate constraints

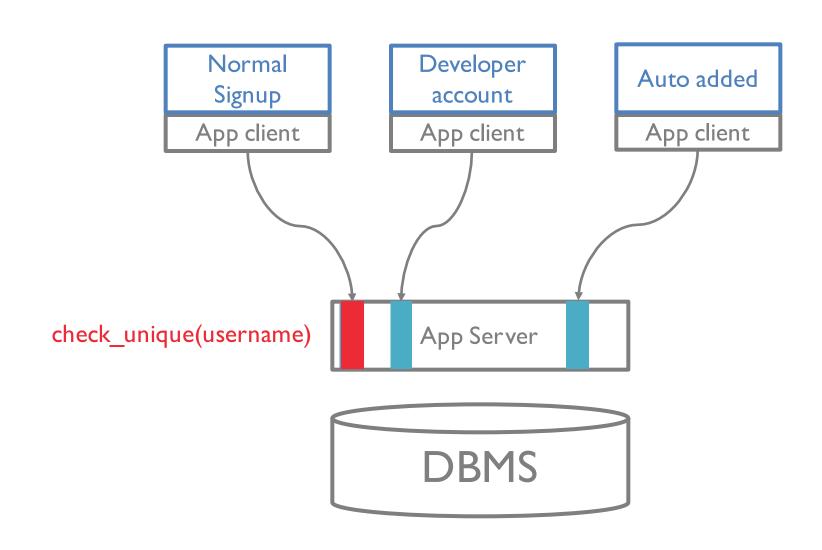


App Server



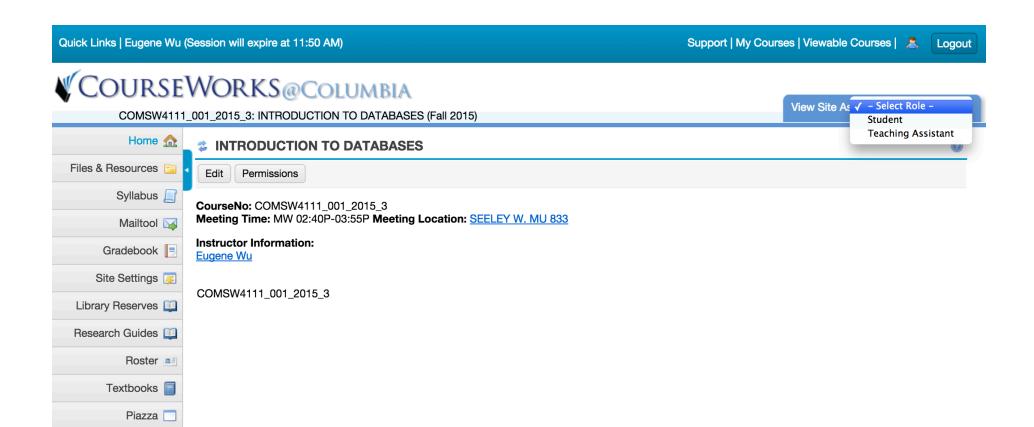






## Let's make a webapp \$\$\$

live exercise time



Help (

# Entity-Relationship Modeling

Entities (objects) to store and their attributes Relationships between entities and their attrs. Integrity constraints & business rules Visually modeled, easy to turn into DB schema

■ NEXT SEMESTER COURSES		
Fall 2015 - Spring 2016 Courses		
Course Number	Course Title	
COMSE6910_024_2015_3	FIELDWORK	
COMSW4111_001_2015_3	INTRODUCTION TO DATABASES	

Courses

Course Number

Course Title

Year

Semester

Reflects Registrar changes through Mar-06-2015 2:02:13AM



#### **Contact Information**

Email	ew2493@columbia.edu	
Home page		
Work phone		
Home phone		
Mobile phone		
Facsimile		
	Save changes Cancel	

#### Users

Nickname Name Birthday Summary Email

. . .

### **Basics: Entities**

```
Entity e.g., intro to databases
real-world object distinguishable from other objects
described as set of attribute & the values
(think one record)
```

Entity Set e.g., all courses

collection of similar entities

all entities have same attributes (unless Is-A)

must have one or more keys

attributes have domains

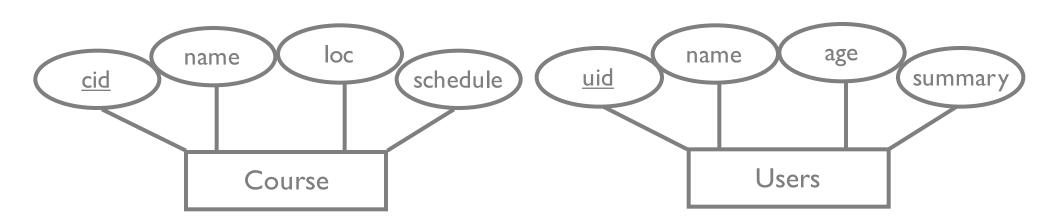
≈ table

## **Example: Entity**

Keys (cid, uid) are underlined

Values must be unique

(think: can use as hashtable key to lookup table)



### Basics: Relationships

Relationship: association between 2 or more entities

e.g., alice is taking Introduction to DBs

Relationship Set: collection of similar relationships

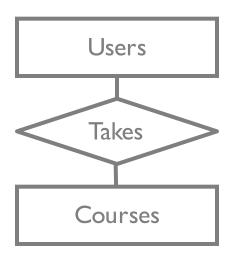
N-ary relationship set R relates N entity sets  $E_1 \dots E_n$ 

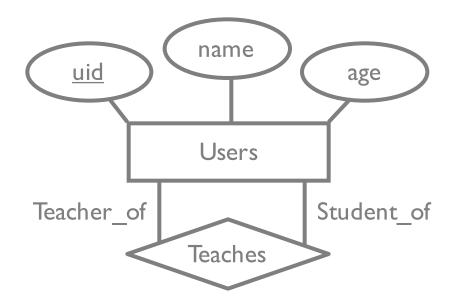
Each  $r \in R$  involves entities  $e_1 \dots e_n$ 

An E<sub>i</sub> can be part of diff. relationship sets or diff. roles in same set

# Basics: Relationships

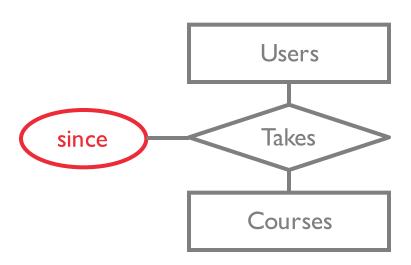
Users takes diff roles in same relationships set





### Basics: Relationships

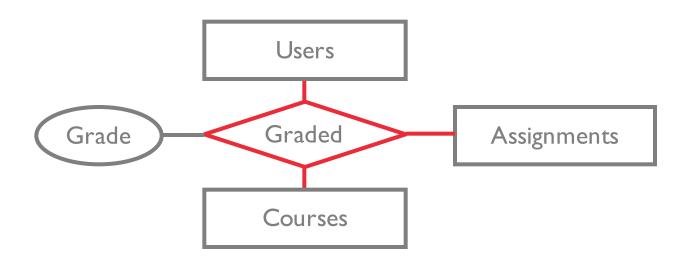
Relationships sets can have descriptive attributes e.g., the *since* attribute of Instructs



### Basics: Ternary Relationships

Connects three entities

N-ary relationships possible too.



### Constraints

Help avoid corruption, inconsistencies

Key constraints

Participation constraints

Weak entities

Overlap and covering constraints

### Key Constraints

#### Defines cardinality requirements on relationships

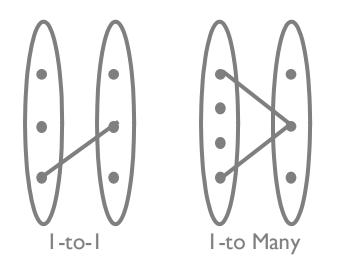
Many to many e.g., consider Takes

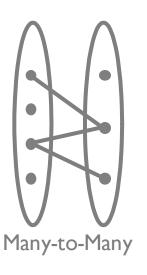
a user can take many courses

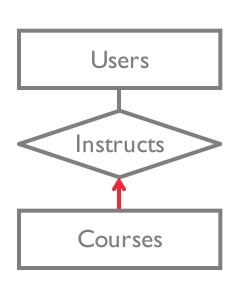
a course can have many users that take the course

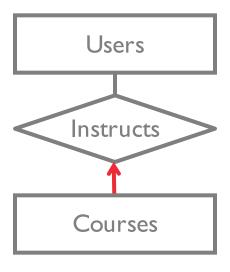
One to Many e.g., consider *Instructs* 

a course has at most one instructor

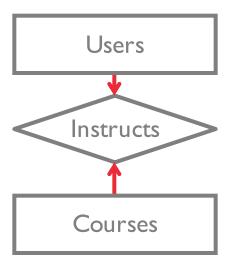








A course has at most one instructor





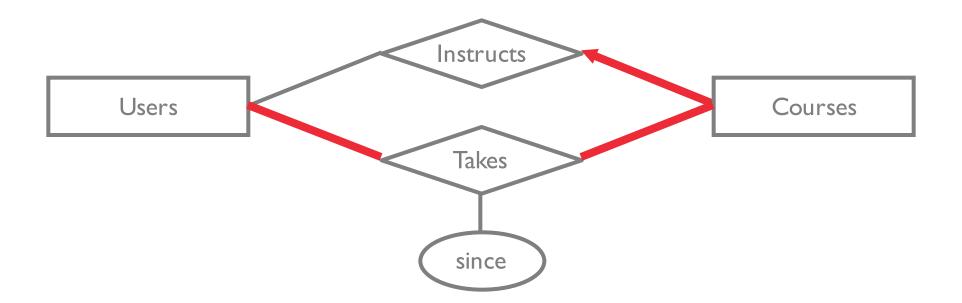
### Participation Constraints

Does every course need an instructor?

If yes, it's a participation constraint

e.g., participation of Courses in instructs is Total

Otherwise, partial participation constraint

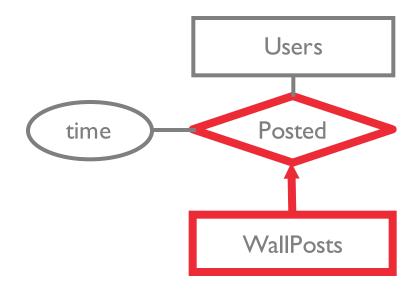


### Weak Entities

A weak entity can only be uniquely identified by using the primary key of its owner entity

Owner and weak entity sets must be in one to many relationship set

Weak entity set must have total participation in this identifying relationships set





At most one

At least one

Exactly one

Weak Entity

## ISA (is a) Hierarchies

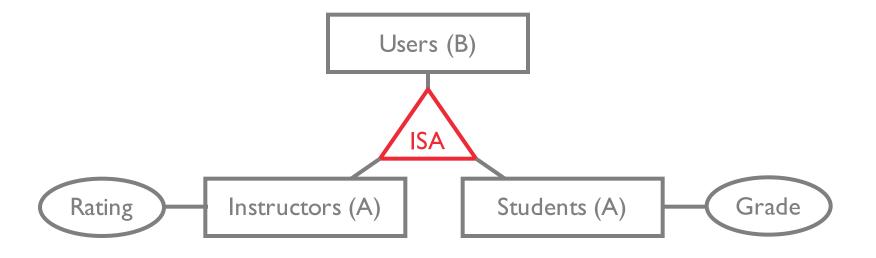
Inheritance rules similar to programming languages

A ISA B  $\rightarrow$  every A also considered a B

When querying for Bs, must consider As (unlike e.g., C++)

#### Why use ISA?

add descriptive attributes specific to a subclass e.g., grade identify entities that participate in a relationship



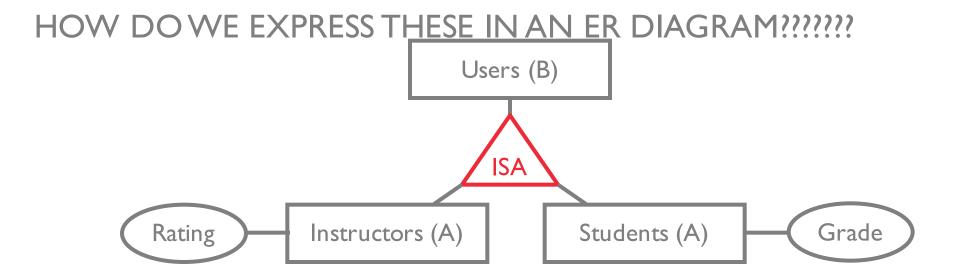
# ISA (is a) Hierarchies

#### Overlap Constraint

can eugene be an instructor and a student? (allow/disallow)

#### Covering Constraint

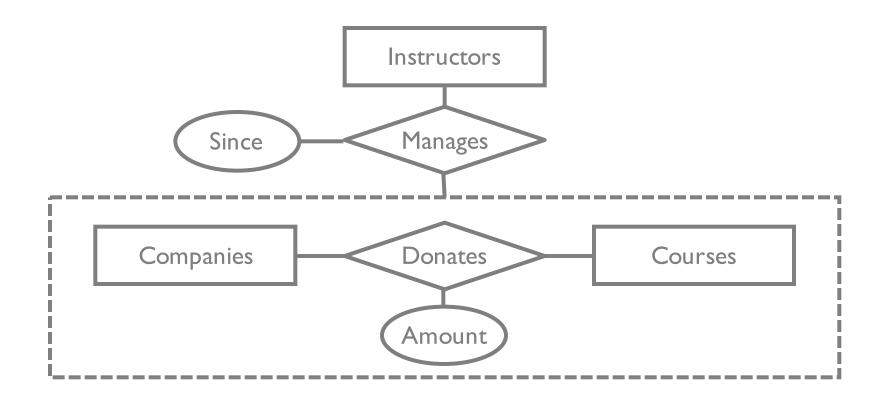
must every user be an instructor or student? (yes/no)



# Aggregation

Relationships between (entities – relationships)

Lets us treat a Relationship Set like an Entity Set so it can participate in other relationships

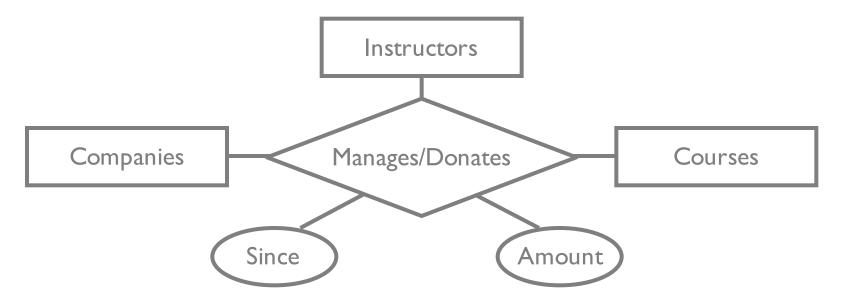


### Aggregation vs Ternary Relationships

#### Why use aggregation?

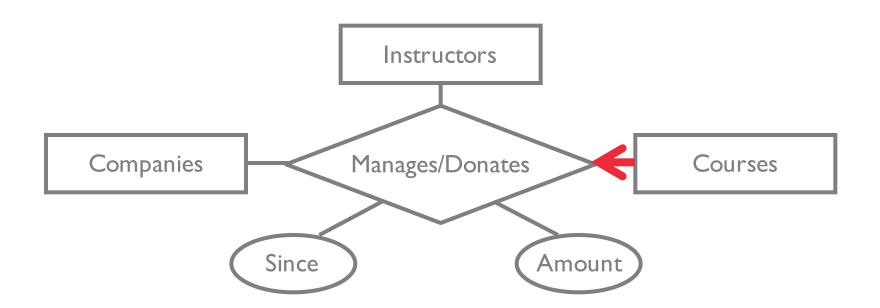
Manages and Donates are distinct relationships with own attrs Can define constraints on relationship sets

e.g., a donation can be managed by at most one instructor



### Aggregation vs Ternary Relationships

Constraints apply to all connected entity sets



### Using the ER Model

#### Design Choices for a concept

Entity or Attribute?

Entity or Relationship?

Binary or Ternary relationship?

Aggregation or Ternary relationship?

#### Entity or Attribute?

Is users.address an attribute of Users or an entity connected to Users by a relationship?

Depends (and may change over time!)

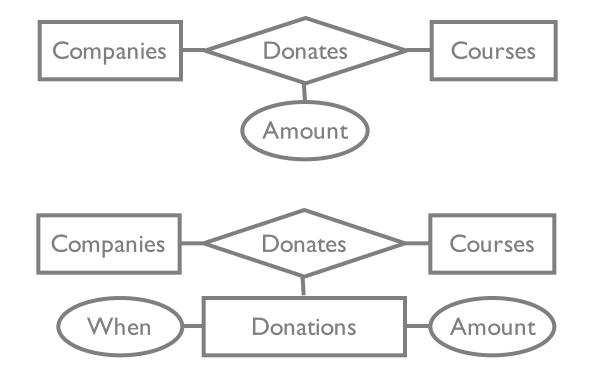
If a user has >1 addresses, must be an entity

If an address has attrs (structure), must be entity

e.g., want to search for users by city, state, or zip

#### Entity or Attribute?

A company can't donate multiple amounts (top fig) Use ternary relationship (bottom fig)



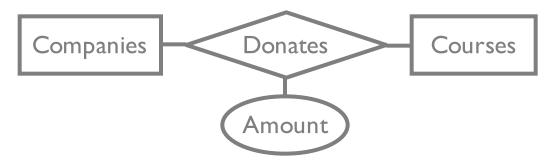
#### Entity or Relationship?

OK if company donates to courses individually

What if company donates to school for all data-related courses?

Redundancy of amount, need to remember to update every one

Misleading implies amount tied to each donation individually



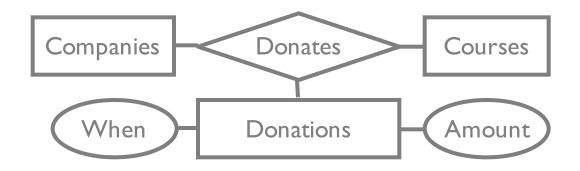
Company	Course	Amount
Amazon	4111	2000
Amazon	4112	2000
Amazon	5111	2000

These amounts are logically the same (redundant)!

#### Entity or Relationship?

If company donates once to school for data related courses.

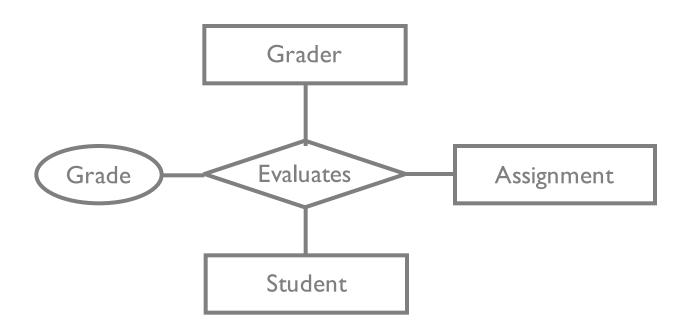
Refactor amount into an entity



Company	Course	Donation
Amazon	4111	1
Amazon	4112	1
Amazon	5111	1

Donation	When	Amount
1	Today	2000

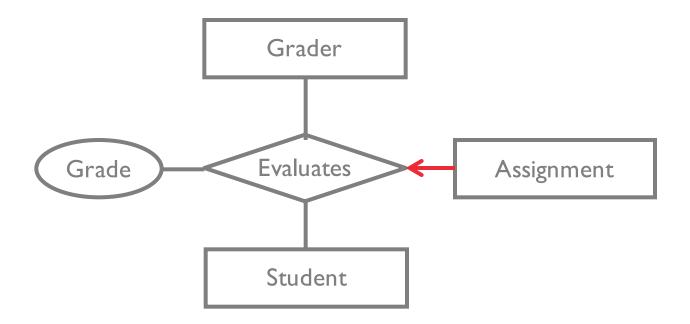
What if assignments have at most one grader?



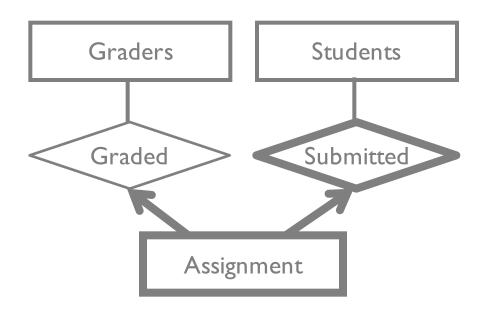
What if assignments have at most one grader?

Only one student can complete HW0!

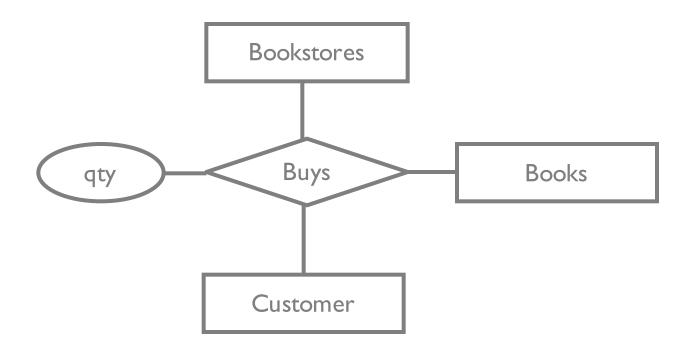
Actually two separate relationships



Binary relationships allows additional constraints



Sometimes have true ternary relationship that is defined by all three entities.



### Using ER Modeling

#### Constraints in ER Modeling

Many types of data semantics can be captured using ER Some constraints not captured (discuss limitations later)

#### Need further schema refinement

ER Model is still subjective, need further refinement after translated into relational schema

### Summary

#### Requirements

what are you going to build?

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pen-and-pencil description

(Today) ER Modeling

Logical Design

formal database schema

Schema Refinement:

fix potential problems, normalization

Physical Database Design

use sample of queries to optimize for speed/storage

App/Security Design

prevent security problems

#### Summary

Conceptual design follows requirements analysis

ER model helpful for conceptual design constraints are expressive matches how we often think about applications

Core constructs
entity, relationship, attribute
weak entities, ISA, aggregation

Many variations beyond today's discussion

#### Summary

ER design is subjective based on usage+needs

Today we saw multiple ways to model same idea

ER design is not complete/perfect

Developed in an enterprise-oriented world (ER First)

Doesn't capture semantics (what does "instructor" mean?)

Doesn't capture e.g., processes/state machines

How to combine multiple ER models automatically?

Limitation of imagination when designing webapp

Open problems!

ER design is a useful way of thought

#### **Next Time**

Relational Model: de-facto DBMS standard

Set up for ER diagrams  $\rightarrow$  Relational models