Database Design Process

2-fold Process

- Model some part of the Real World (Miniworld) as DATA
- Determine the OPERATIONS to be used on this model.
- Both have DBMS independent and DBMS specific aspects.

REQUIREMENTS COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

- Discover DATA and OPERATIONS requirements
 - Interaction with the customer
- We will discuss DATA now, OPERATIONS later
- Questions
 - what data must be available?
 - How are data elements to be related?
- RESULT: DATABASE REQUIREMENTS

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROCESS

Organize Data Requirements Group data elements together

Specify Relationships between Groups

RESULT: High Level CONCEPTUAL SCHEMA

- ex: Entity Relationship Diagram
- Level of DESIGN, not CONCEPTUAL LEVEL of DBMS Architecture

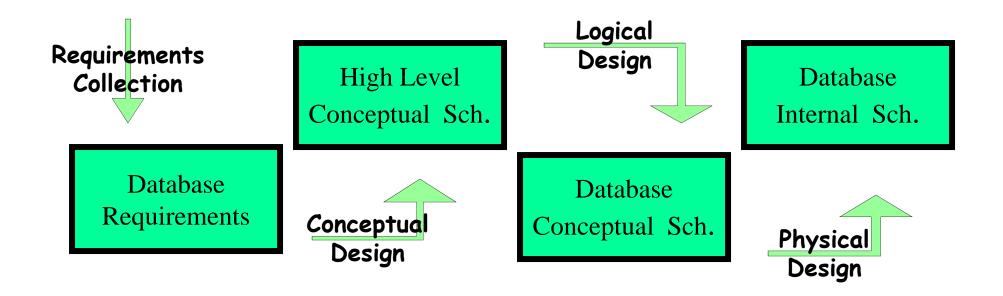
LOGICAL DESIGN for DATA MODEL

- Implement High Level CONCEPTUAL SCHEMA in some Database
- Use DATA MODEL of that DB: Relational, Network, OO...
- RESULT: Database CONCEPTUAL SCHEMA
 - In RDB, Table Schemas and Constraints

PHYSICAL DESIGN

- Incorporates knowledge of how the data will be used:
 - from the operations analysis
- RESULT: INTERNAL SCHEMA
 - Layout
 - Clustering (what tables near other tables for faster disk access)
 - Access methods: B-Tree, Hash Table, Indexes

Database Design Process



OPERATIONS DESIGN PROCESS

Parallels DATA Design Process

REQUIREMENTS COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

- Discover OPERATIONS requirements
 - Interaction with the customer
- Questions
 - How will data be used?
 - Estimated Frequency of Operations
- RESULT: FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS

- Requirements are broken down into operations and sequences
- List of the transactions known to be required
- RESULT: High Level TRANSACTION SPECS
 - Info needed for PHYSICAL DESIGN of DB

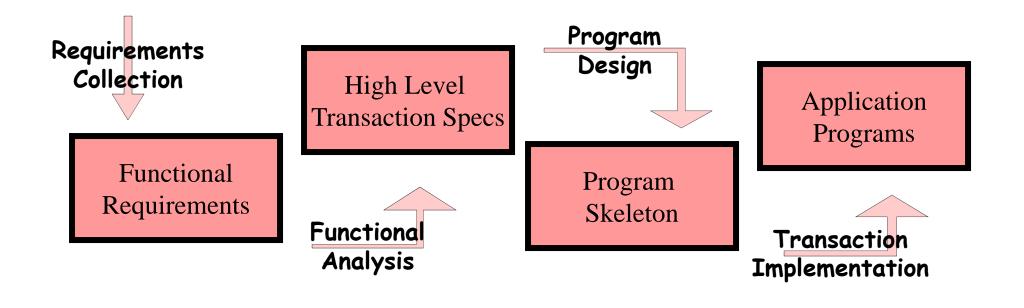
APPLICATION PROGRAM DESIGN

- Can plan LOGIC of programs without full knowledge of final DB design
- RESULT: Program Skeleton

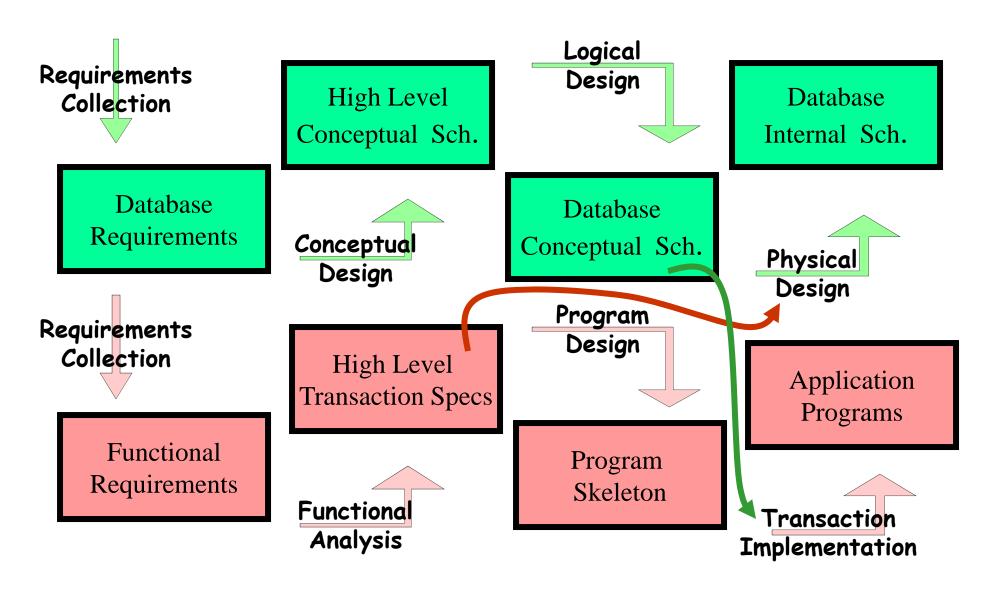
TRANSACTION IMPLEMENTATION

- Requires at least CONCEPTUAL DB DESIGN
- RESULT: APPLICATION PROGRAMS

Operations Design Process



Combined Design Process



Oracle Designer

CASE Tool

- Computer Assisted S/W Engineering
- Builds Database from ERDs
- Builds Beginnings of Applications for DB
- Same look & feel
- Finish with Oracle Developer

High Level Diagrams \Rightarrow DB & Apps.

- Build ERD (in Oracle Dialect)
- Build Model of business operations using one of several tools
 - Business Process Modeller
 - Data Flow Diagrammer
 - Hierarchical Input Output (HIPO) chart
- Cross check
 - Is all data mentioned in model found in ERD?
 - Is all data collected in ERD needed in model?

ERD to DB Diagram

- "Click" → Database diagram
- Fill-out-forms for DB fields
 - All caps
 - Limited set of values
 - Always show as Dropdown List
- "Click" → DDL for DB
 - Create Table statements
 - Package of triggers enforcing constraints for each table

Model to Applications

"Click": Model + DB Diag → Raw Apps

Overall styling, look & feel with Designer

Final perfection with Oracle Developer, a tool like Visual Basic.

This Course

Entity Relationship Diagram

Database Diagram

DDL

Go to Biz School for modeling.