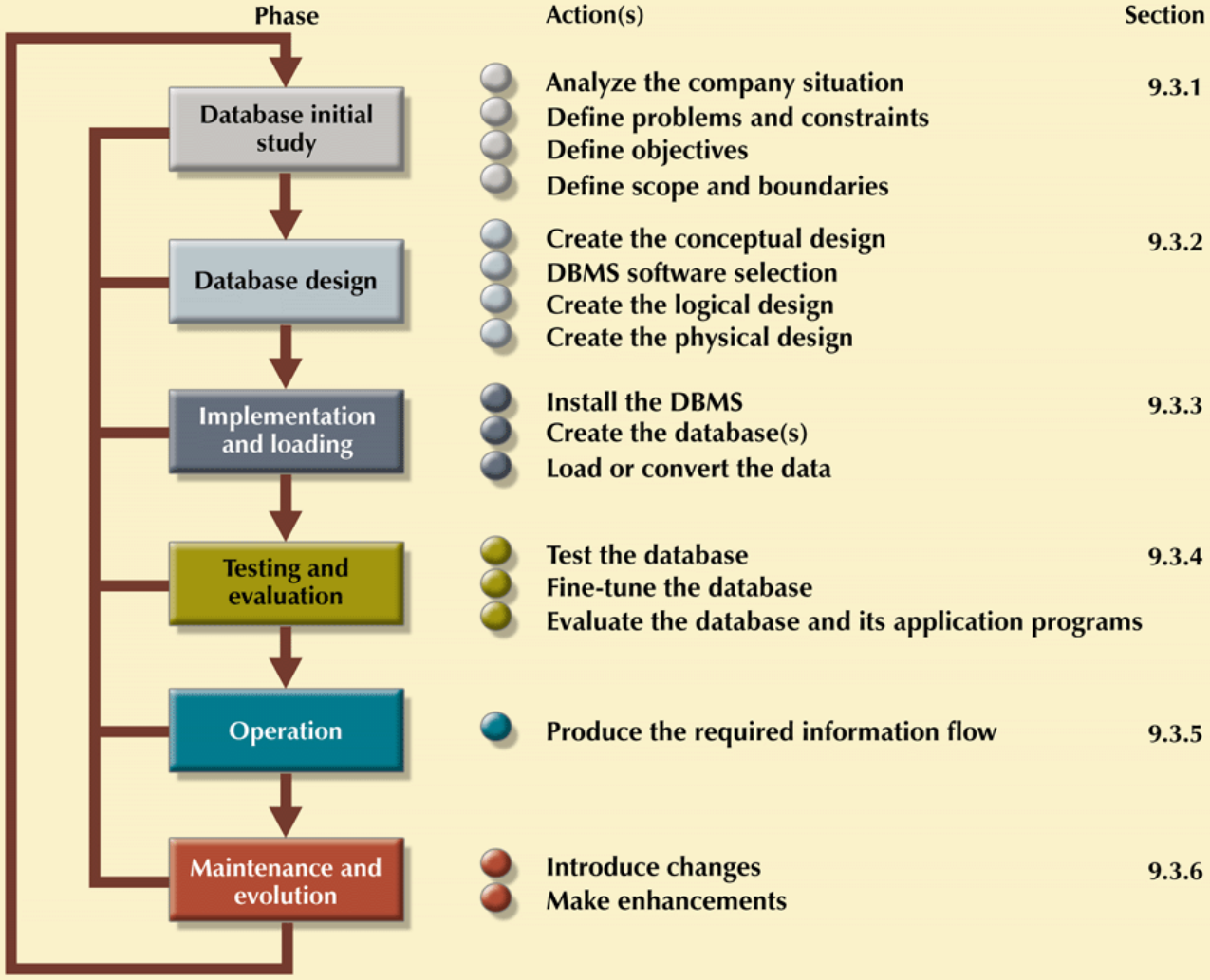
Database Systems: Design, Implementation, and Management

Lesson 9

The Database Life Cycle (DBLC)

- Six phases:
  - Database initial study
  - Database design
  - Implementation and loading
  - Testing and evaluation
  - Operation
  - Maintenance and evolution

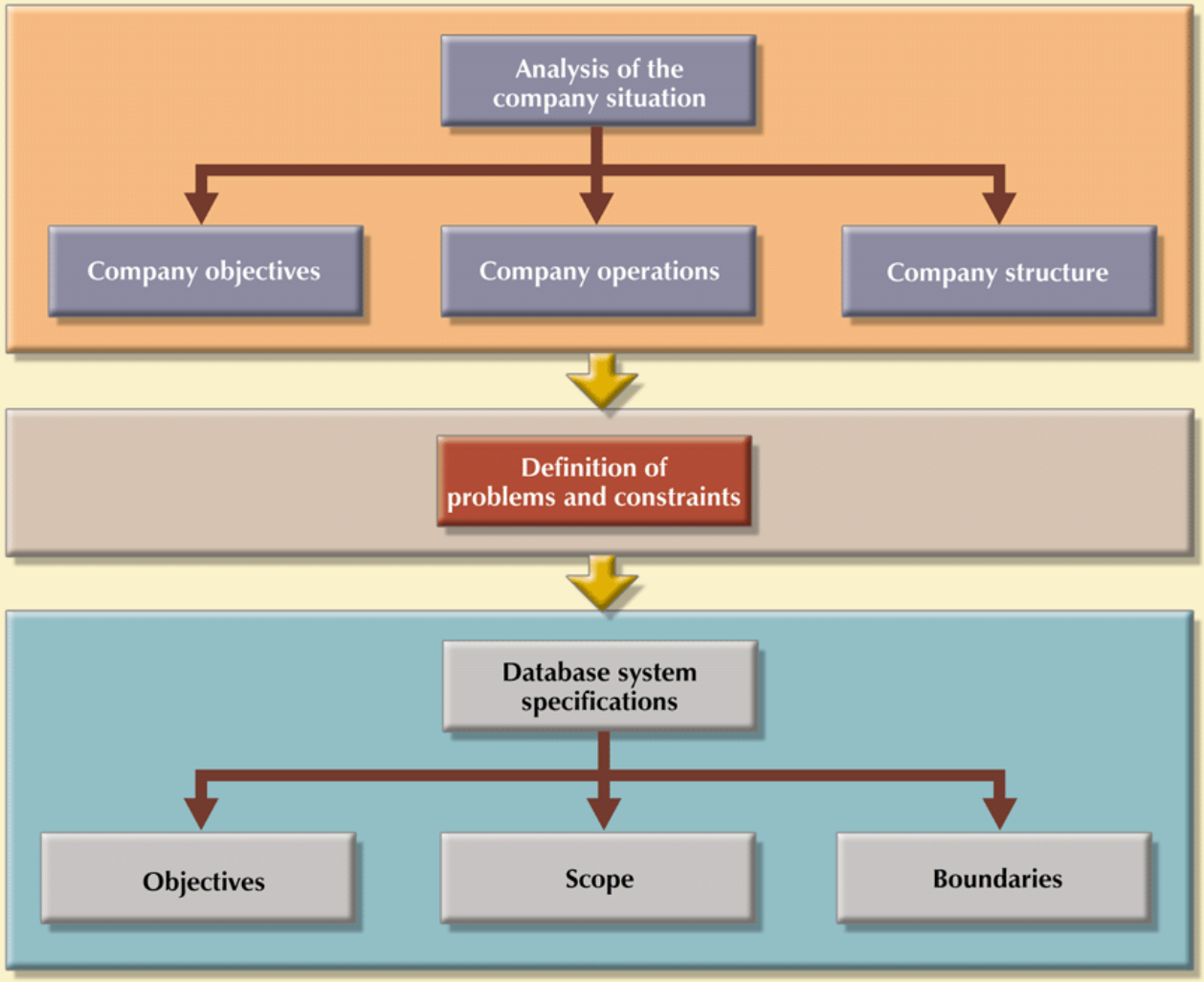
FIGURE 9.3 The Database Life Cycle (DBLC)



The Database Initial Study

- Overall purpose:
  - Analyze company situation
  - Define problems and constraints
  - Define objectives
  - Define scope and boundaries
- Interactive and iterative processes required to complete first phase of DBLC successfully

FIGURE 9.4 A summary of activities in the database initial study



The Database Initial Study (cont'd.)

- Analyze the company situation
  - General conditions in which company operates, its organizational structure, and its mission
  - Discover what company's operational components are, how they function, and how they interact

The Database Initial Study (cont'd.)

- Define problems and constraints
  - Formal and informal information sources
  - Finding precise answers is important
  - Accurate problem definition does not always yield a solution

The Database Initial Study (cont'd.)

- Database system objectives must correspond to those envisioned by end users
  - What is proposed system's initial objective?
  - Will system interface with other systems in the company?
  - Will system share data with other systems or users?
- **Scope**: extent of design according to operational requirements
- **Boundaries**: limits external to system

Database Design

- Necessary to concentrate on data characteristics required to build database model
- Two views of data within system:
  - Business view
    - Data as information source
  - Designer's view
    - Data structure, access, and activities required to transform data into information

FIGURE 9.5 Two views of data: business manager and database designer

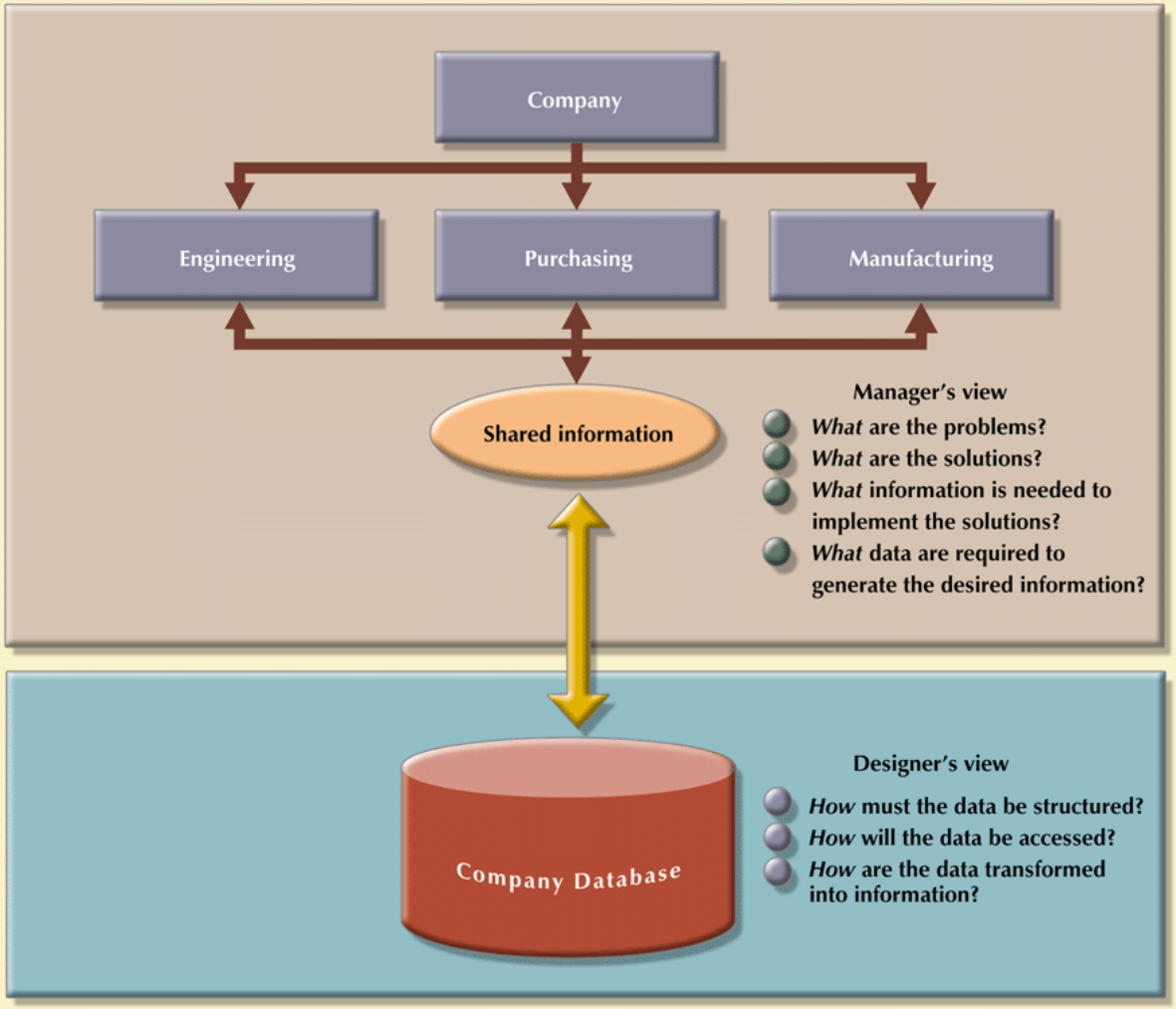
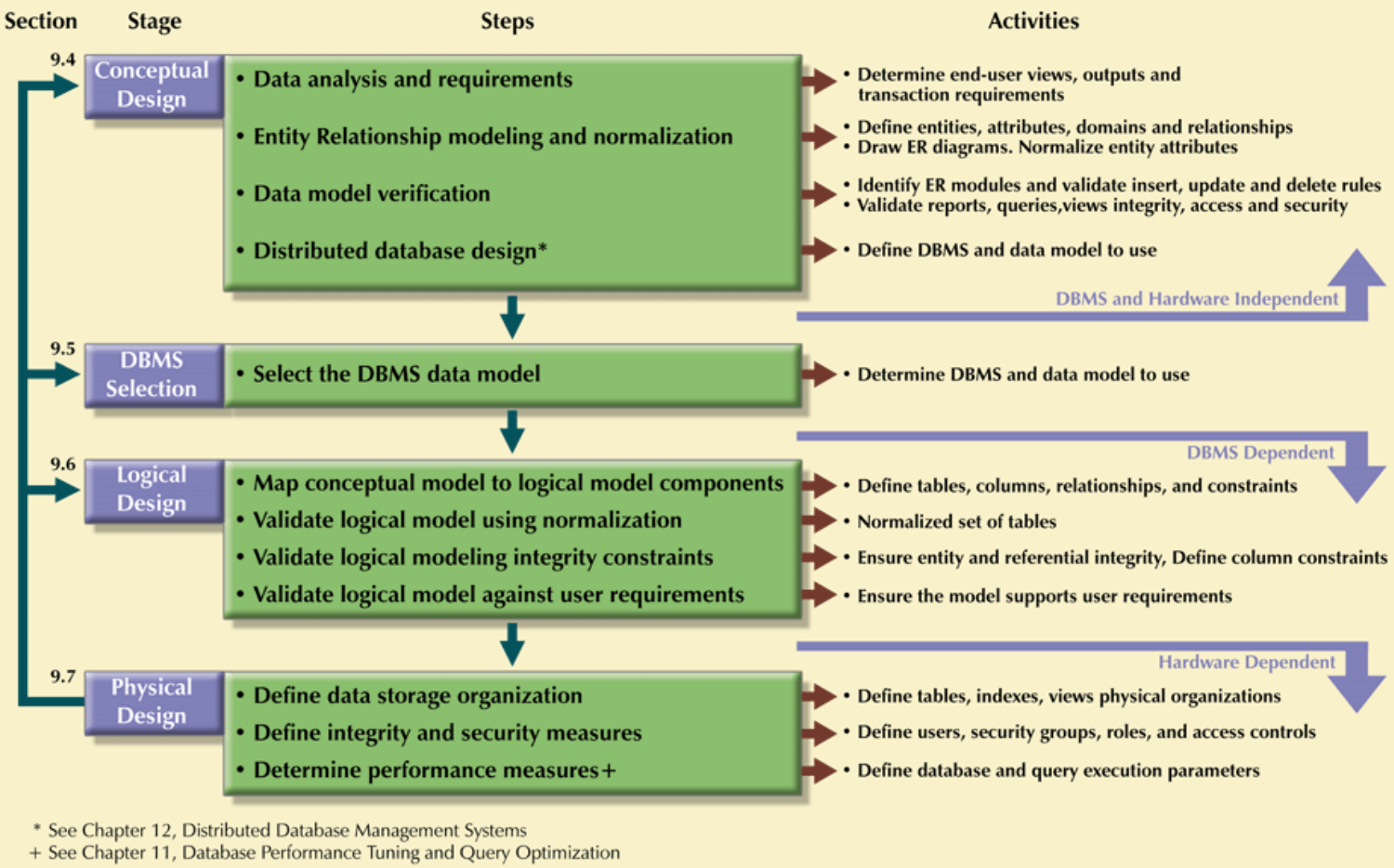


FIGURE 9.6 Database design process



* See Chapter 12, Distributed Database Management Systems
\+ See Chapter 11, Database Performance Tuning and Query Optimization

Implementation and Loading

- Actually implement all design specifications from previous phase:
  - Install the DBMS
    - Virtualization: creates logical representations of computing resources independent of physical resources
  - Create the Database
  - Load or Convert the Data

Testing and Evaluation

- Occurs in parallel with applications programming
- Database tools used to prototype applications
- If implementation fails to meet some of system's evaluation criteria:
  - Fine-tune specific system and DBMS configuration parameters
  - Modify physical or logical design
  - Upgrade software and/or hardware platform

Testing and Evaluation (cont'd.)

- Integrity
  - Enforced via proper use of primary, foreign key rules
- Backup and Recovery
  - **Full backup**
  - **Differential backup**
  - **Transaction log backup**

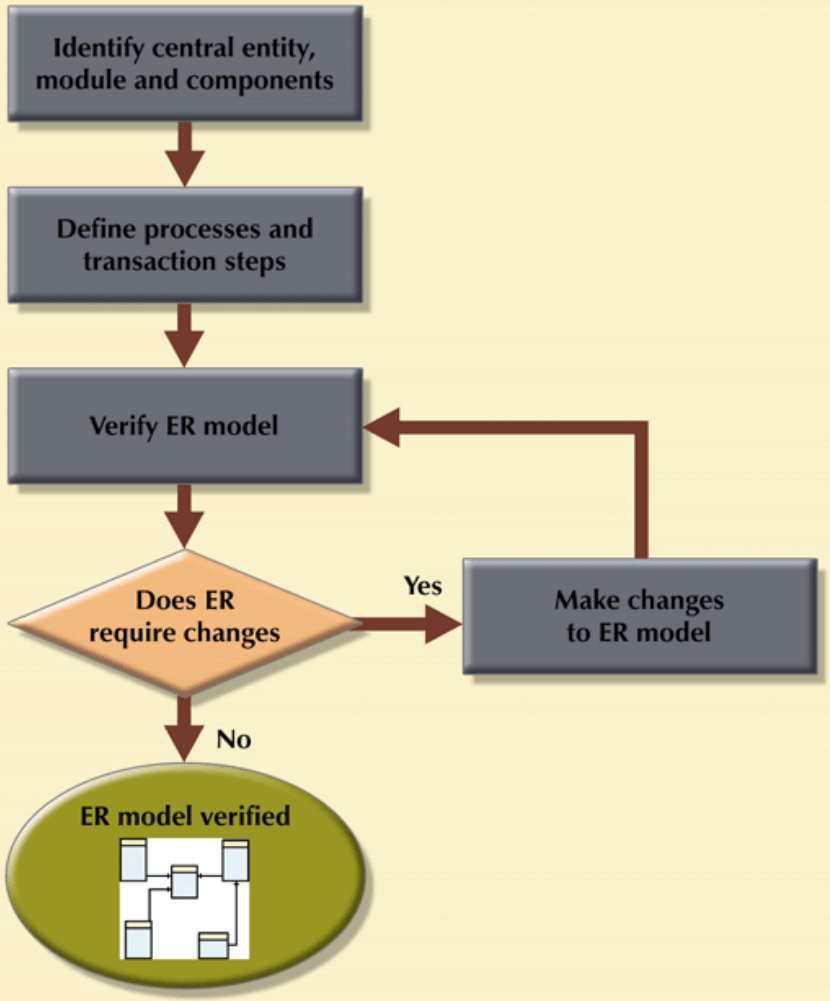
Operation

- Once database has passed evaluation stage, it is considered operational
- Beginning of operational phase starts process of system evolution
- Problems not foreseen during testing surface
- Solutions may include:
  - Load-balancing software to distribute transactions among multiple computers
  - Increasing available cache

Maintenance and Evolution

- Required periodic maintenance:
  - Preventive maintenance (backup)
  - Corrective maintenance (recovery)
  - Adaptive maintenance
  - Assignment of access permissions and their maintenance for new and old users
  - Generation of database access statistics
  - Periodic security audits
  - Periodic system-usage summaries

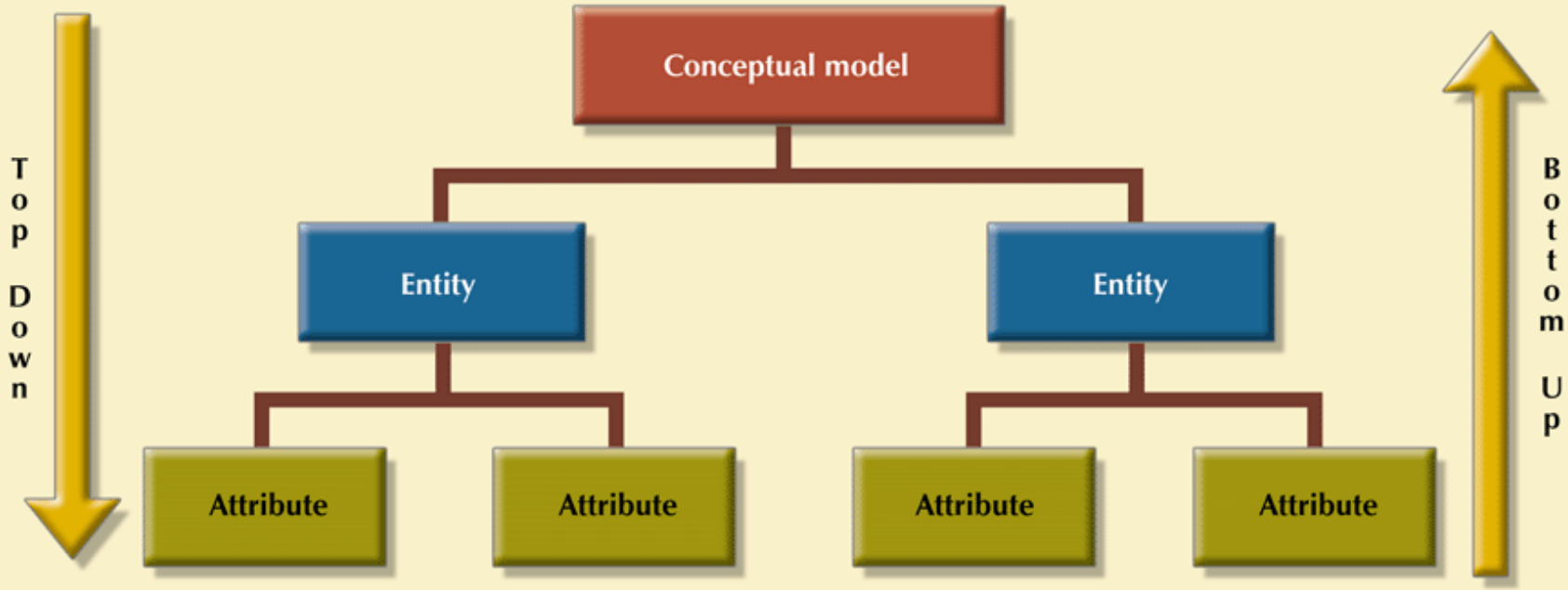
FIGURE 9.12 Iterative ER model verification process



Database Design Strategies

- **Top-down design**
  - Identifies data sets
  - Defines data elements for each of those sets
    - Definition of different entity types
    - Definition of each entity's attributes
- **Bottom-up design**
  - Identifies data elements (items)
  - Groups them together in data sets

FIGURE 9.14 Top-down vs. bottom-up design sequencing



Centralized vs. Decentralized Design

- **Centralized design**
  - When data component is composed of small number of objects and procedures
  - Typical of small systems
- **Decentralized design**
  - Data component has large number of entities
  - Complex relations on which complex operations are performed
  - Problem is spread across several operational sites

FIGURE 9.15 Centralized design

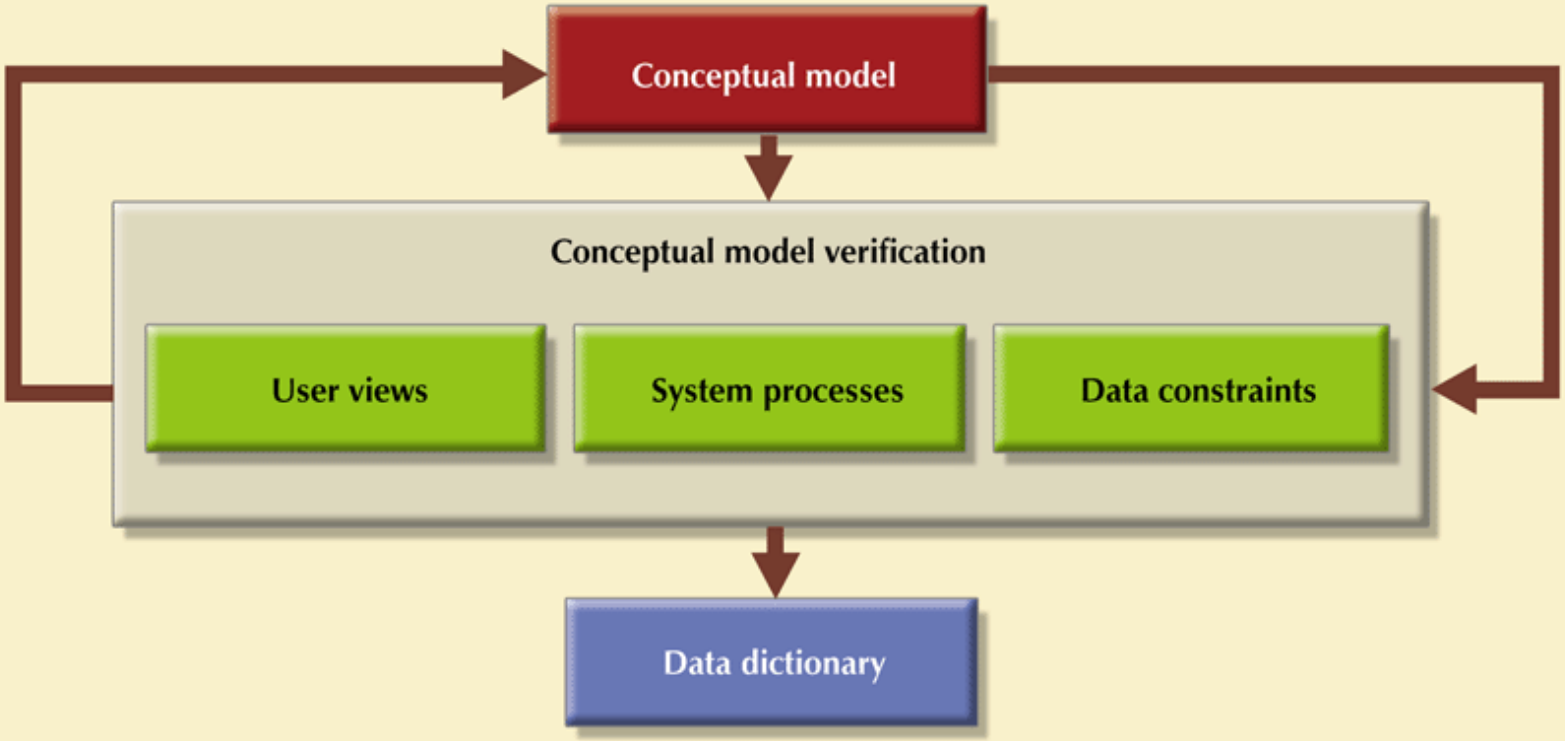


FIGURE 9.16 Decentralized design