CHAPTER 9

Relational Database Design by ER-to-Relational Mapping

Steps

- **ER-to-Relational Mapping Algorithm**
  - Step 1: Mapping of Regular Entity Types
  - Step 2: Mapping of Weak Entity Types
  - Step 3: Mapping of Binary 1:1 Relation Types
  - Step 4: Mapping of Binary 1:N Relationship Types.
  - Step 5: Mapping of Binary M:N Relationship Types.
 - Step 6: Mapping of Multivalued attributes

GOALS during Mapping

- Preserve all information (that includes all attributes)

- Maintain the constraints to the extent possible (Relational Model cannot preserve all constraints- e.g., max cardinality ratio such as 1:10 in ER.

ER-to-Relational Mapping Algorithm

- Step 1: Mapping of Regular Entity Types.
    - For each regular (strong) entity type E in the ER schema, create a relation R that includes all the simple attributes of E.
    - Choose one of the key attributes of E as the primary key for R.
    - If the chosen key of E is composite, the set of simple attributes that form it will together form the primary key of R.
- Example: We create the relations EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT, and PROJECT in the relational schema corresponding to the regular entities in the ER diagram.
    - SSN, DNUMBER, and PNUMBER are the primary keys for the relations EMPLOYEE, DEPARTMENT, and PROJECT as shown.

Figure 9.1 The ER conceptual schema diagram for the COMPANY database.
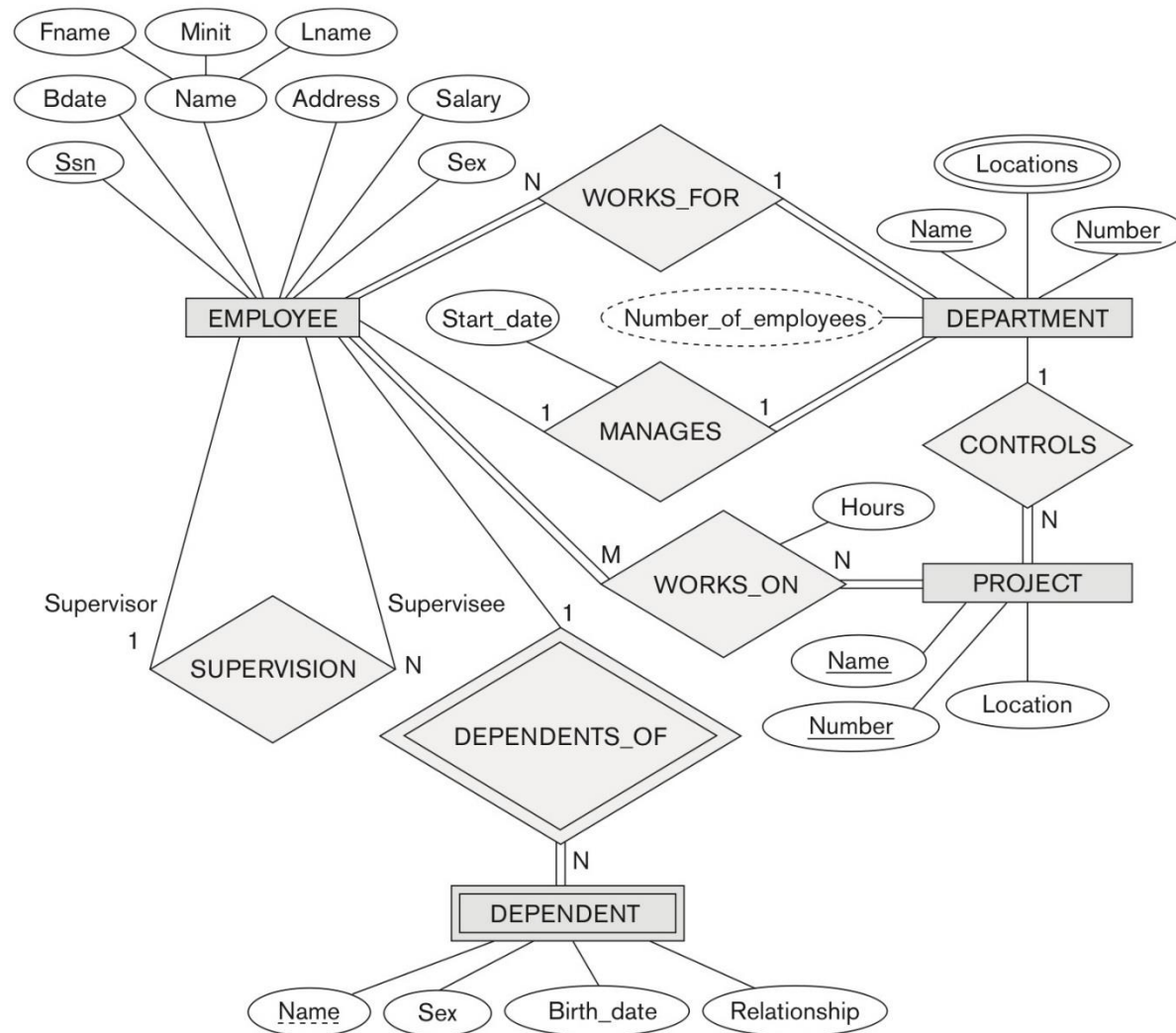
ER-to-Relational Mapping Algorithm (contd.)

- **Step 2: Mapping of Weak Entity Types**
  - For each weak entity type W in the ER schema with owner entity type E, create a relation R & include all simple attributes (or simple components of composite attributes) of W as attributes of R.
  - Also, include as foreign key attributes of R the primary key attribute(s) of the relation(s) that correspond to the owner entity type(s).
  - The primary key of R is the *combination of* the primary key(s) of the owner(s) and the partial key of the weak entity type W, if any.
- **Example:** Create the relation DEPENDENT in this step to correspond to the weak entity type DEPENDENT.
  - Include the primary key SSN of the EMPLOYEE relation as a foreign key attribute of DEPENDENT (renamed to ESSN).
  - The primary key of the DEPENDENT relation is the combination {ESSN, DEPENDENT_NAME} because DEPENDENT_NAME is the partial key of DEPENDENT.

ER-to-Relational Mapping Algorithm (contd.)

- **Step 3: Mapping of Binary 1:1 Relation Types**
  - For each binary 1:1 relationship type R in the ER schema, identify the relations S and T that correspond to the entity types participating in R.

  Foreign Key (2 relations) approach: Choose one of the relations-say S- and include a foreign key in S the primary key of T. It is better to choose an entity type with total participation in R in the role of S.
    - Example: 1:1 relation MANAGES is mapped by choosing the participating entity type DEPARTMENT to serve in the role of S, because its participation in the MANAGES relationship type is total.

ER-to-Relational Mapping Algorithm (contd.)

- Step 4: Mapping of Binary 1:N Relationship Types.
  - For each regular binary 1:N relationship type R, identify the relation S that represent the participating entity type at the N-side of the relationship type.
  - Include as foreign key in S the primary key of the relation T that represents the other entity type participating in R.
  - Include any simple attributes of the 1:N relation type as attributes of S.
- Example: 1:N relationship types WORKS_FOR, CONTROLS, and SUPERVISION in the figure.
  - For WORKS_FOR we include the primary key DNUMBER of the DEPARTMENT relation as foreign key in the EMPLOYEE relation and call it DNO.

ER-to-Relational Mapping Algorithm (contd.)

- **Step 5: Mapping of Binary M:N Relationship Types.**
  - For each regular binary M:N relationship type R, *create a new relation* S to represent R. This is a *relationship relation.*
  - Include as foreign key attributes in S the primary keys of the relations that represent the participating entity types; *their combination will form the primary key* of S.
  - Also include any simple attributes of the M:N relationship type (or simple components of composite attributes) as attributes of S.
- Example: The M:N relationship type WORKS_ON from the ER diagram is mapped by creating a relation WORKS_ON in the relational database schema.
  - The primary keys of the PROJECT and EMPLOYEE relations are included as foreign keys in WORKS_ON and renamed PNO and ESSN, respectively.
  - Attribute HOURS in WORKS_ON represents the HOURS attribute of the relation type. The primary key of the WORKS_ON relation is the combination of the foreign key attributes {ESSN, PNO}.

ER-to-Relational Mapping Algorithm (contd.)

- **Step 6: Mapping of Multivalued attributes.**
  - For each multivalued attribute A, create a new relation R.
  - This relation R will include an attribute corresponding to A, plus the primary key attribute K-as a foreign key in R-of the relation that represents the entity type of relationship type that has A as an attribute.
  - The primary key of R is the combination of A and K. If the multivalued attribute is composite, we include its simple components.

- **Example:** The relation DEPT_LOCATIONS is created.
  - The attribute DLOCATION represents the multivalued attribute LOCATIONS of DEPARTMENT, while DNUMBER-as foreign key-represents the primary key of the DEPARTMENT relation.
  - The primary key of R is the combination of {DNUMBER, DLOCATION}.

Figure 9.2 Result of mapping the COMPANY ER schema into a relational database schema.
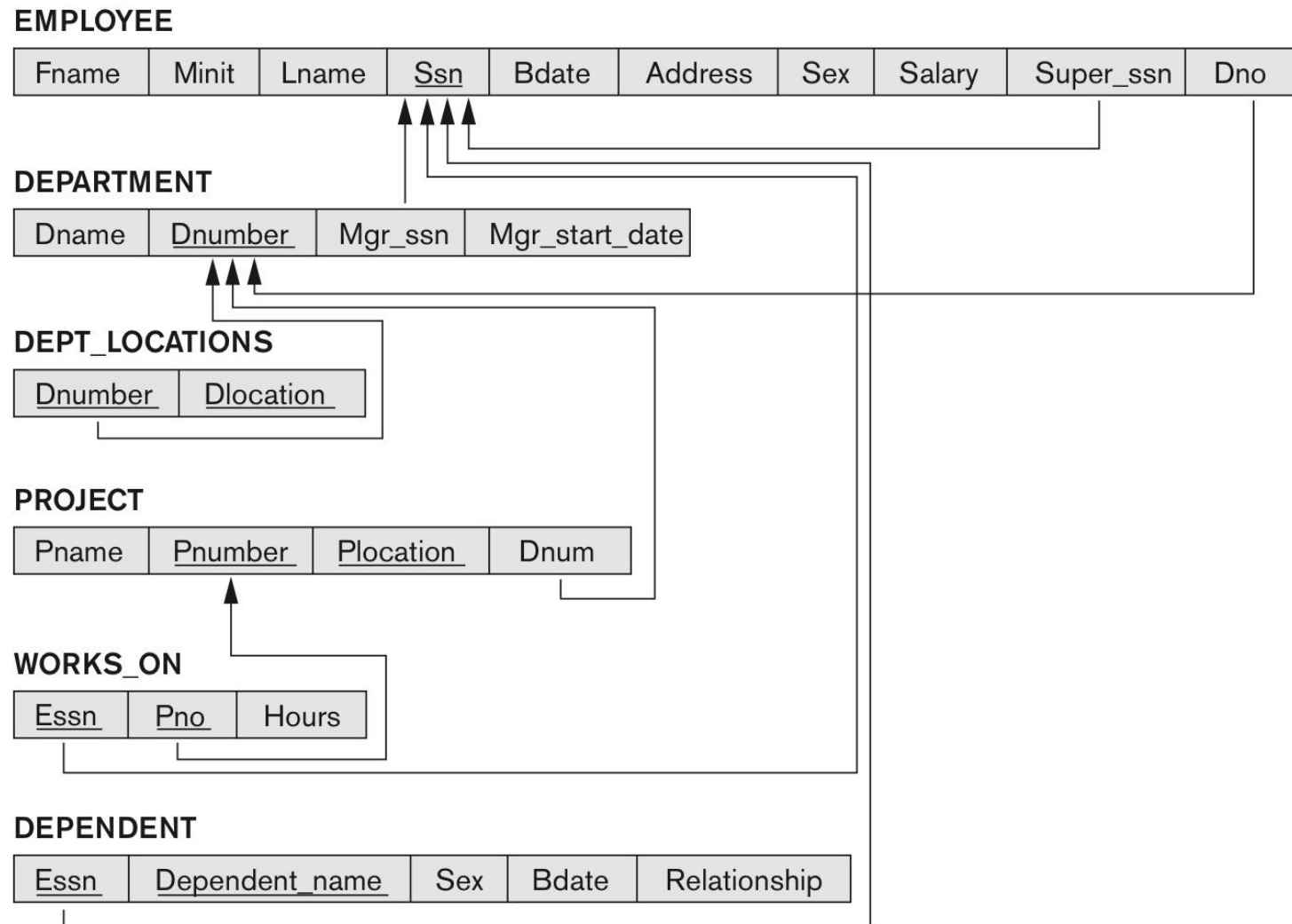
Summary of Mapping constructs and constraints

Table 9.1 Correspondence between ER and Relational Models

ER MODEL	RELATIONAL MODEL
Entity type	*Entity* relation
1:1 or 1:N relationship type	Foreign key (or *relationship* relation)
M:N relationship type	*Relationship* relation and *two* foreign keys
n-ary relationship type	*Relationship* relation and *n* foreign keys
Simple attribute	Attribute
Composite attribute	Set of simple component attributes
Multivalued attribute	Relation and foreign key
Value set	Domain
Key attribute	Primary (or secondary) key

Mapping Exercise-1

Exercise 9.4 : Map this schema into a set of relations.
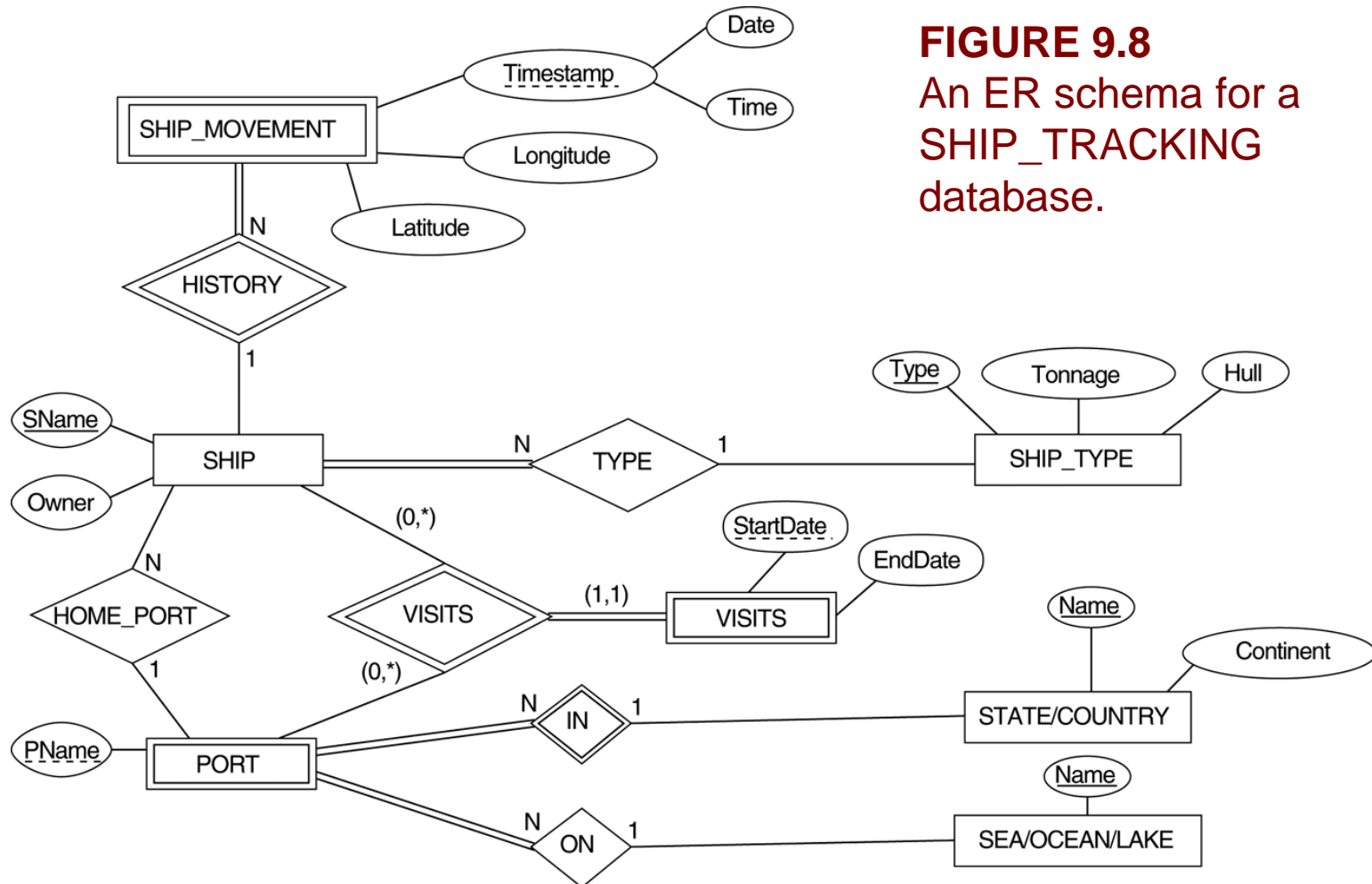
FIGURE 9.8
An ER schema for a
SHIP_TRACKING
database.