



# Conceptual and Logical Database Design

**Abdu Alawini**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

CS411: Database Systems

# Overview of Database Design

- **Conceptual design:** (ER & UML Models are used for this.)
  - What are the **entities** and **relationships** we need?
- **Logical design:**
  - Transform ER design to Relational Schema
- **Schema Refinement:** (Normalization) <-next lecture
  - Check relational schema for redundancies and related anomalies.
- **Physical Database Design and Tuning:**
  - Consider typical workloads; (sometimes) modify the database design; select file types and indexes.



# Conceptual Database Design

From user/application requirements to Entity-Relationship Diagrams OR  
Unified Modeling Language design

# Entity-Relationship Model is a different model than the Relational Model

- Relational model has:
  - tables (relations) with attributes, keys, foreign keys, domain definitions for attributes
- Entity-Relationship model has:
  - Entities and entity sets with attributes, keys, and domain definitions for attributes
  - Relationships among entities and relationship sets with uniqueness or cardinality constraints

# Entity Relationship Model

## Unified Modeling Language

### ER Model

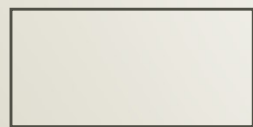
- Proposed by Peter Chen in 1976
- Gives us a language to specify
  - What information the database must hold
  - How the bits of information relate to one another

### UML Model

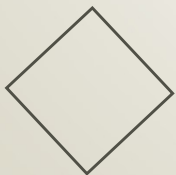
- UML is a standard language for designing software systems
  - also used for DB design
- created by the Object Management Group (OMG)
- UML 1.0 specification draft was proposed to the OMG in early 1997.

# Entity-Relationship Diagram (original syntax)

## Legend:



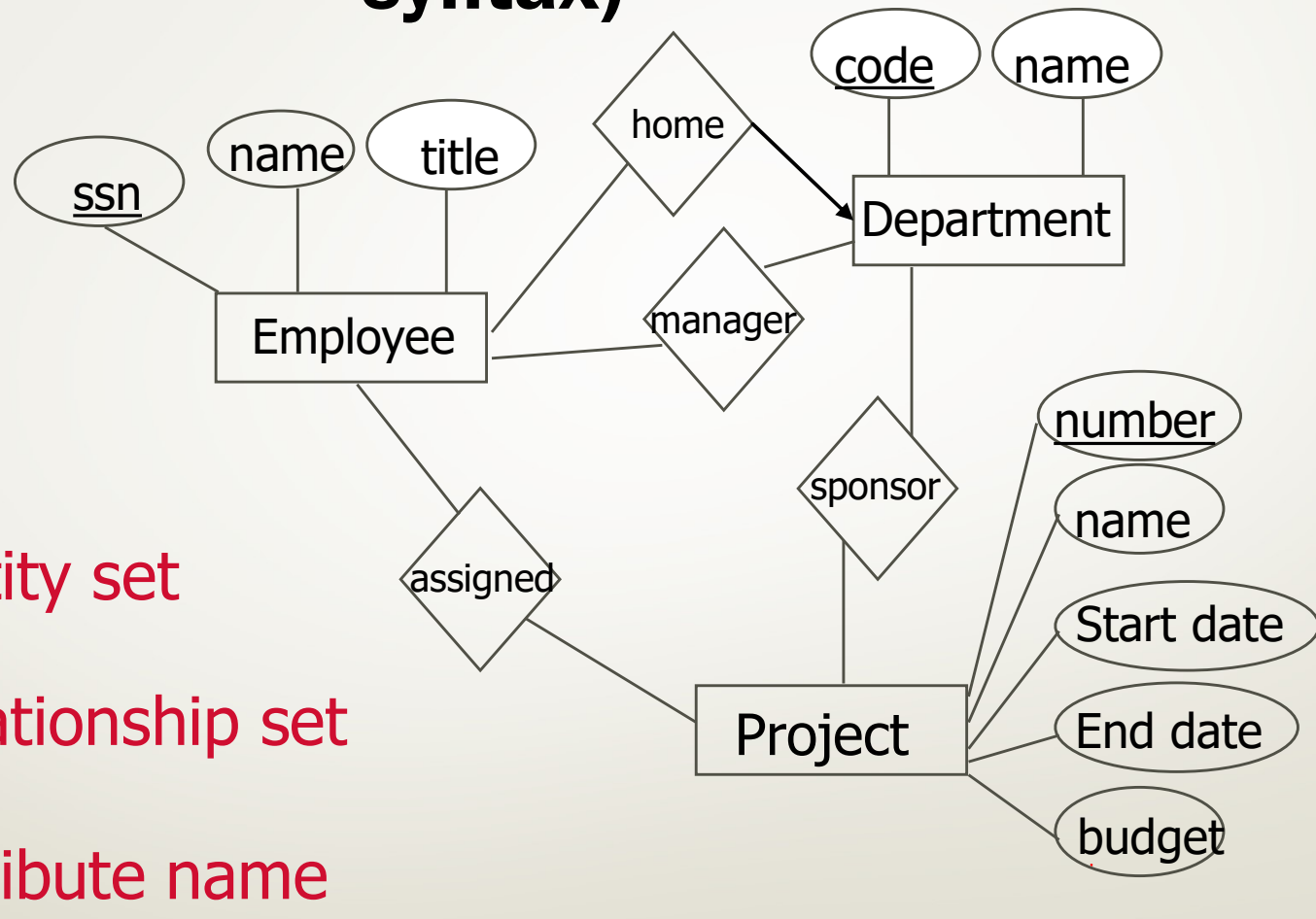
Entity set



Relationship set



Attribute name

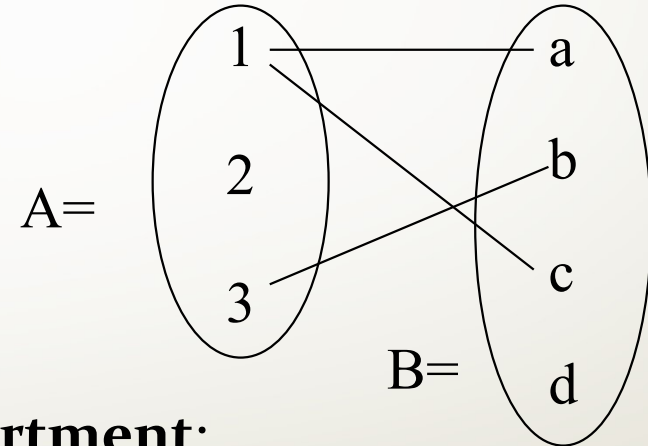


# Definitions

- Entity: Real-world object distinguishable from other objects.  
An entity is described using a set of *attributes*.
- Entity Set: A collection of similar entities. E.g., all employees.  
(often referred to as just entity, which blurs the distinction between type and collection)
- Relationship: Association among 2 or more entities. E.g., Kristin's *home department* is Research & Development.
- Relationship Set: Collection of similar relationships. E.g., Home  
(often referred to as just relationship)

# Relationships

- Formal definition:
  - if A, B are sets, then a relation R is a subset of  $A \times B$
- $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $B = \{a, b, c, d\}$ ,  
 $R = \{(1, a), (1, c), (3, b)\}$



Same story w/ entity sets

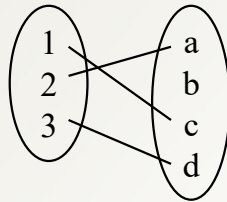
**sponsor** is a subset of **Project** x **Department**:



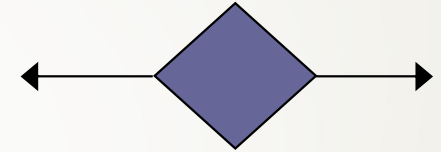


# Multiplicity of ER Relationships

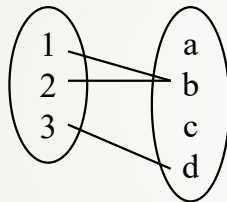
- one-one:



One on LHS/RHS  
connected to at most  
one on RHS/LHS



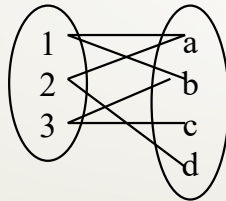
- many-one:



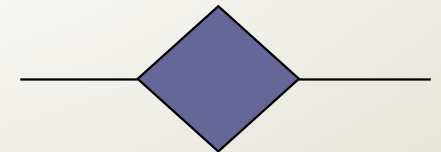
One on LHS  
connected to at most  
one on RHS



- many-many:

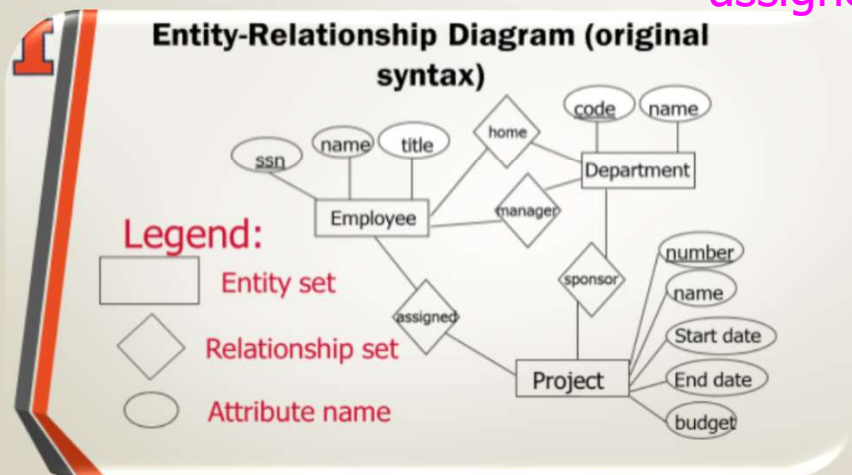
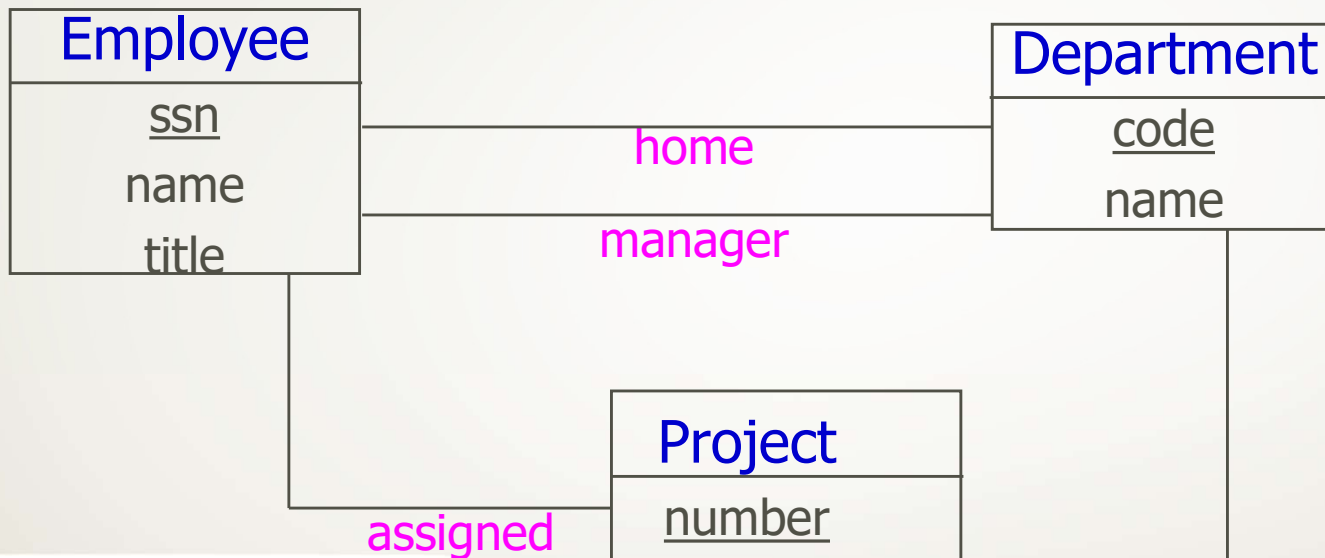


No constraints

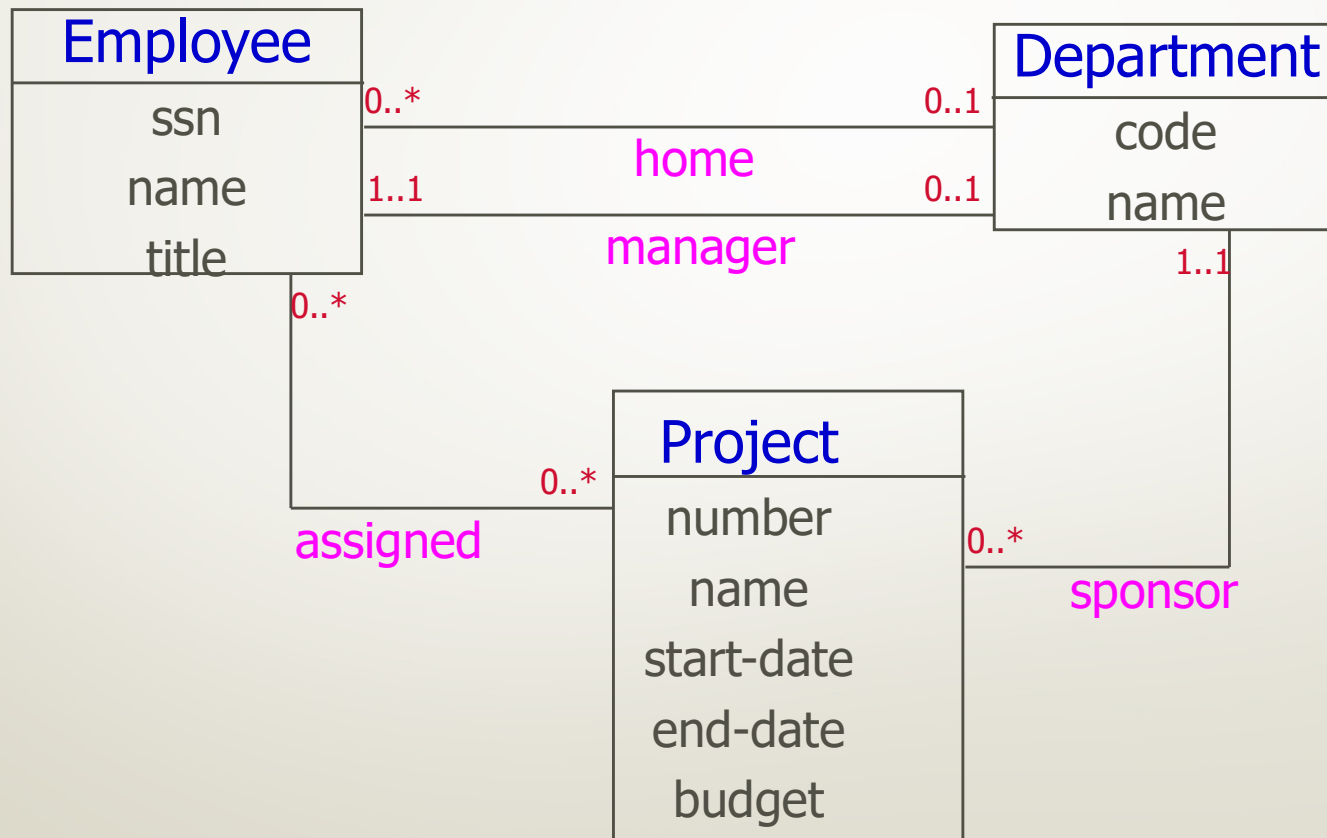


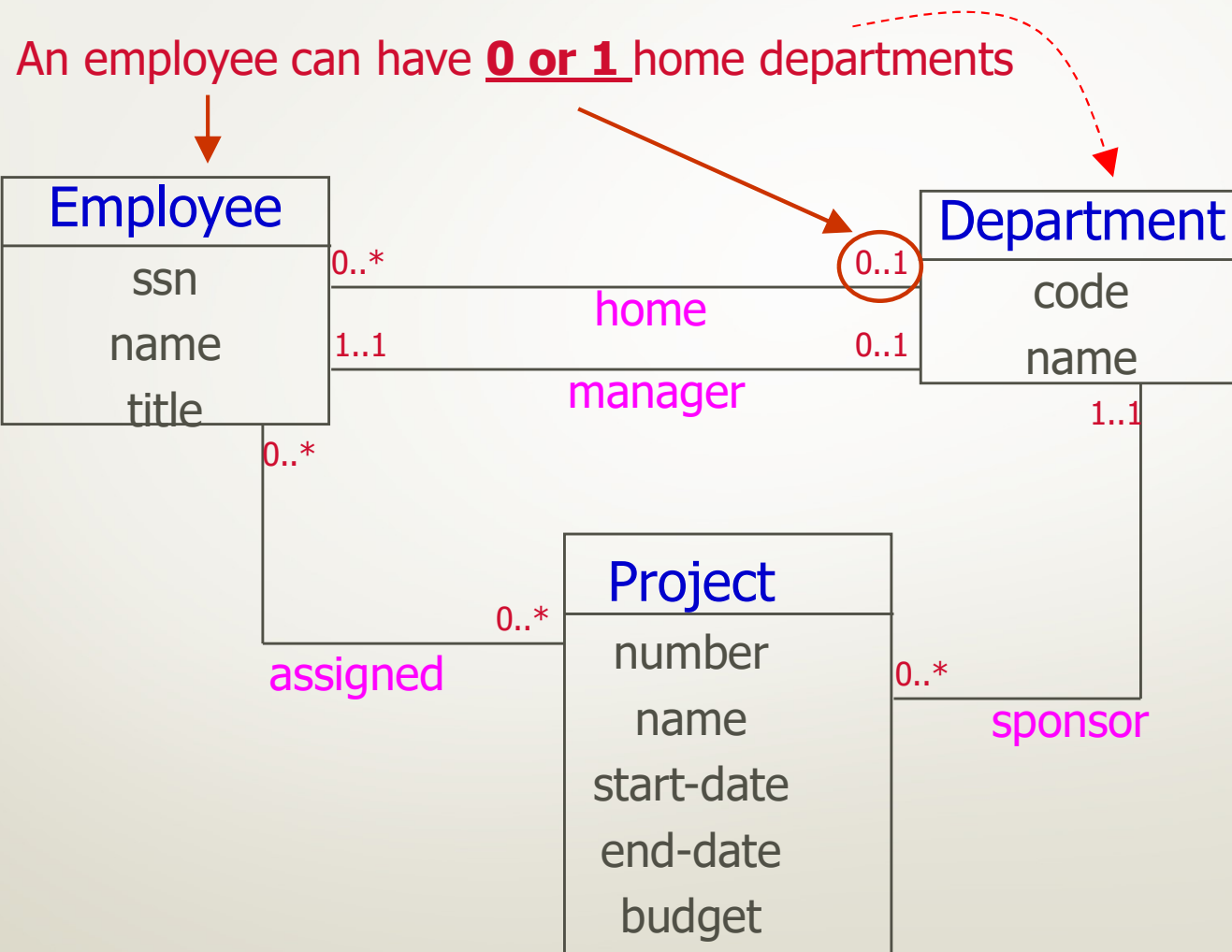
- ❑ Multiplicity can be shown with arrows
- ❑ Arrow = at most 1

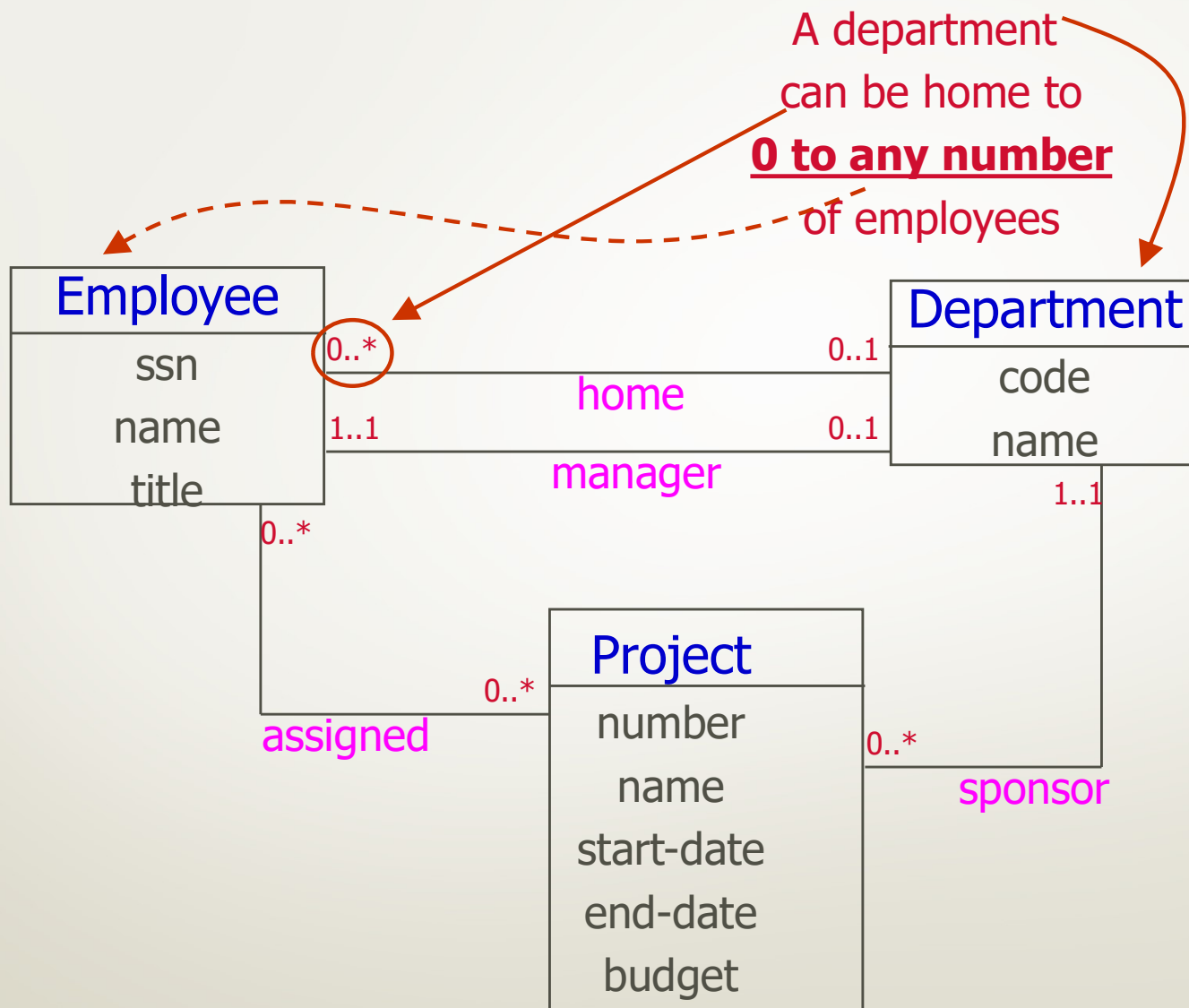
# UML version of the same E-R Diagram



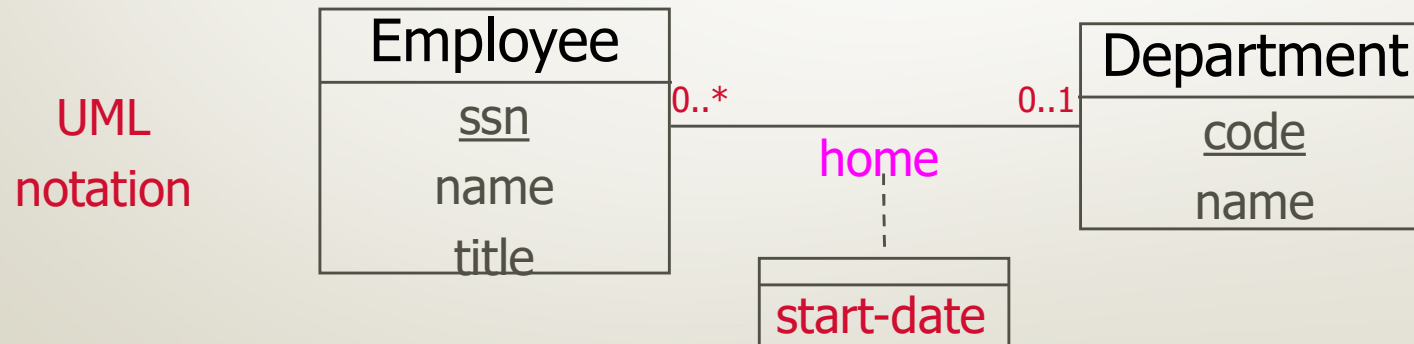
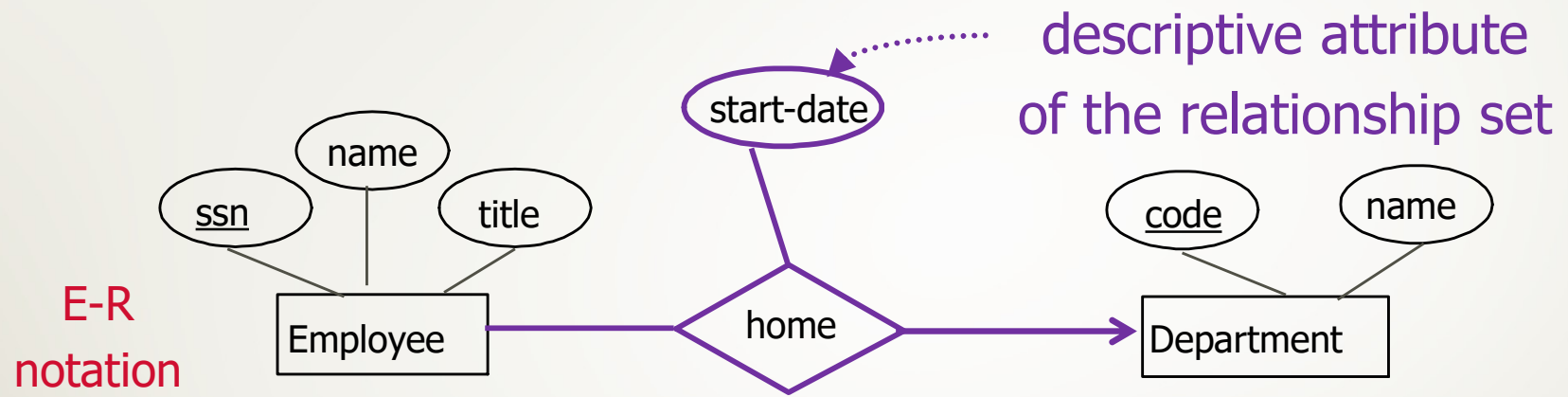
# Cardinality Constraints on Relationship sets: How many entities can participate?





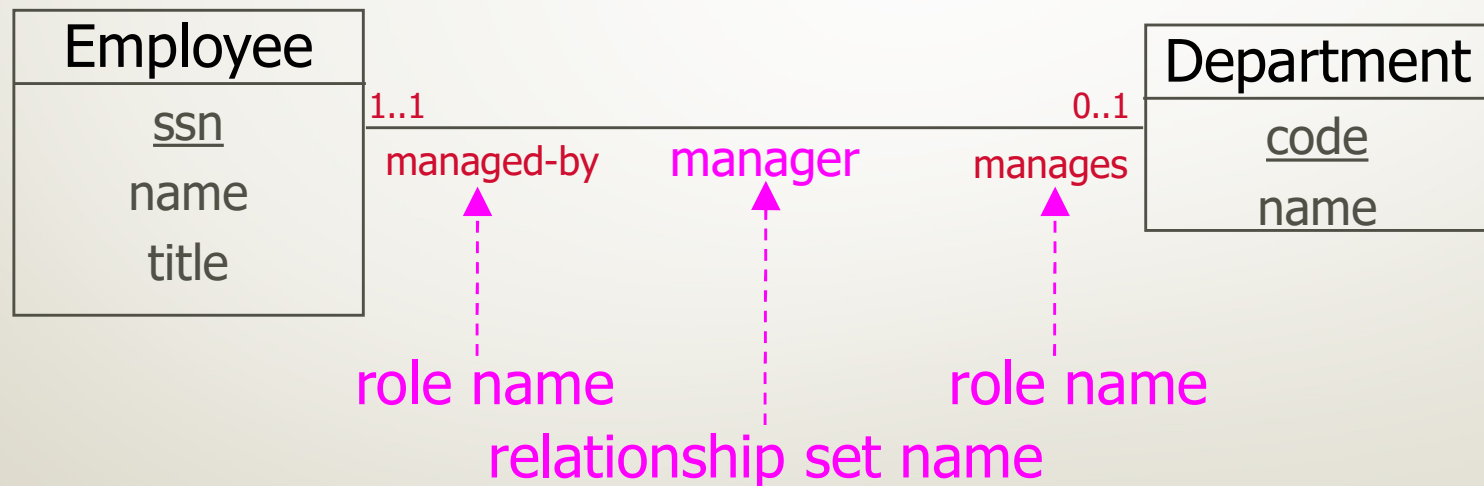


# Relationship sets can have attributes

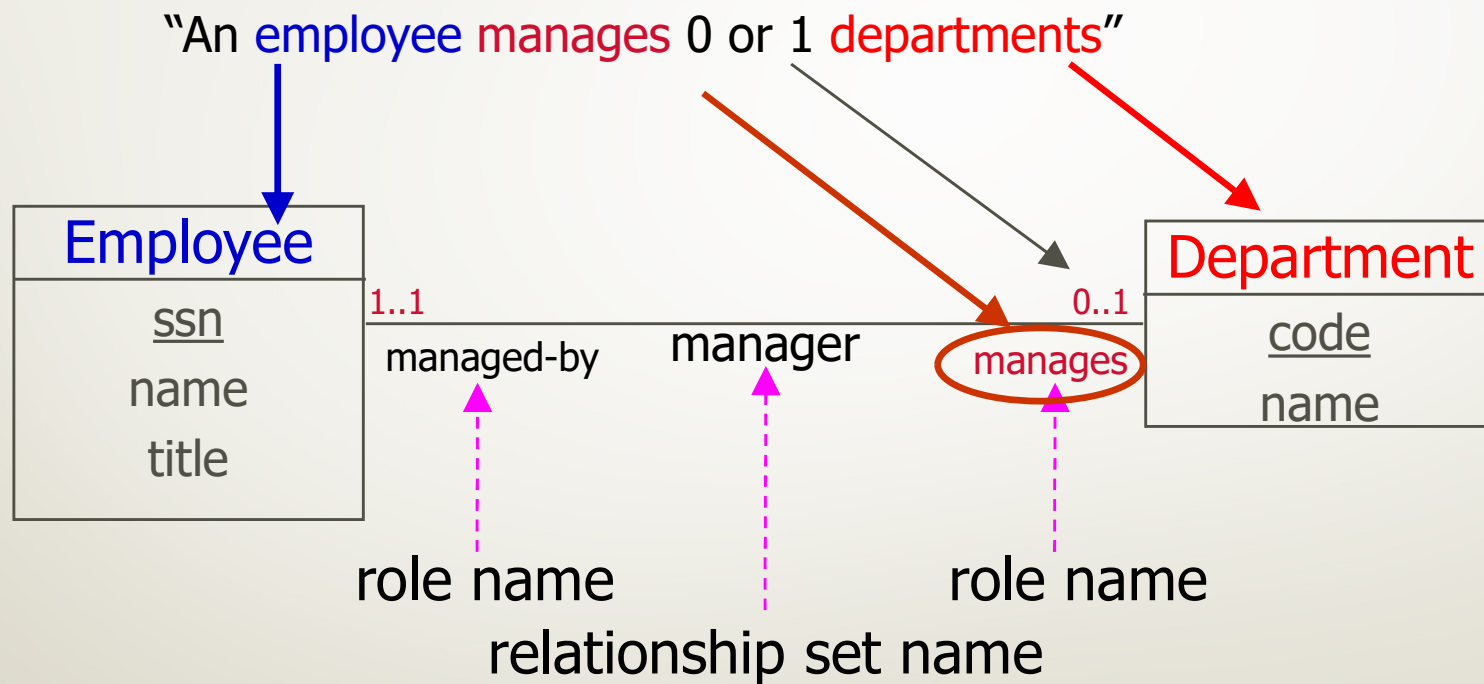


# Relationship sets can have **role** names

(in addition to the name of the relationship set)



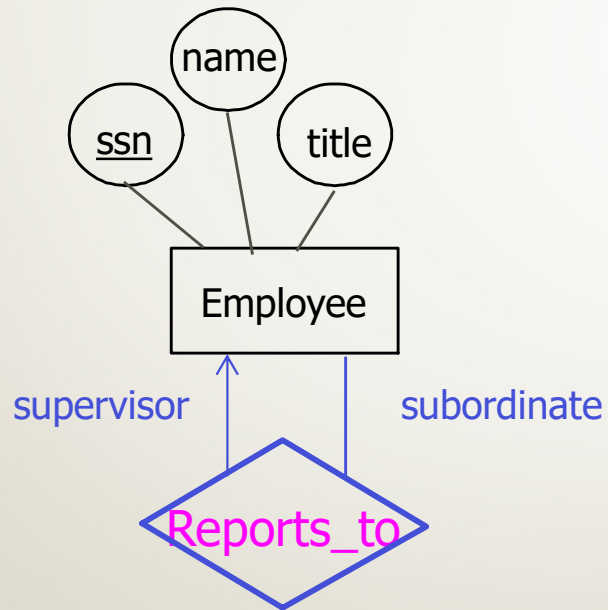
# Example: reading **role** names



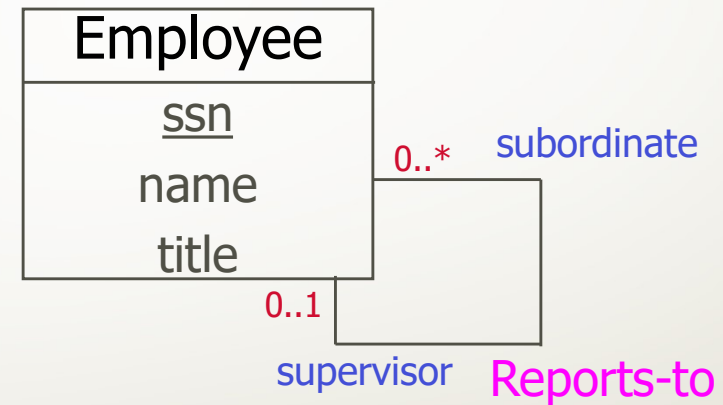


# Same entity sets can participate in different “roles” for the same relationship set

E-R  
notation



UML  
notation



# Constraints in ER diagram

- Recall that a constraint is an assertion about the database that must be true at all times
- Part of the database schema = structure  
(so it must be part of the ER diagram)
- Very important in database design

# Modeling Constraints

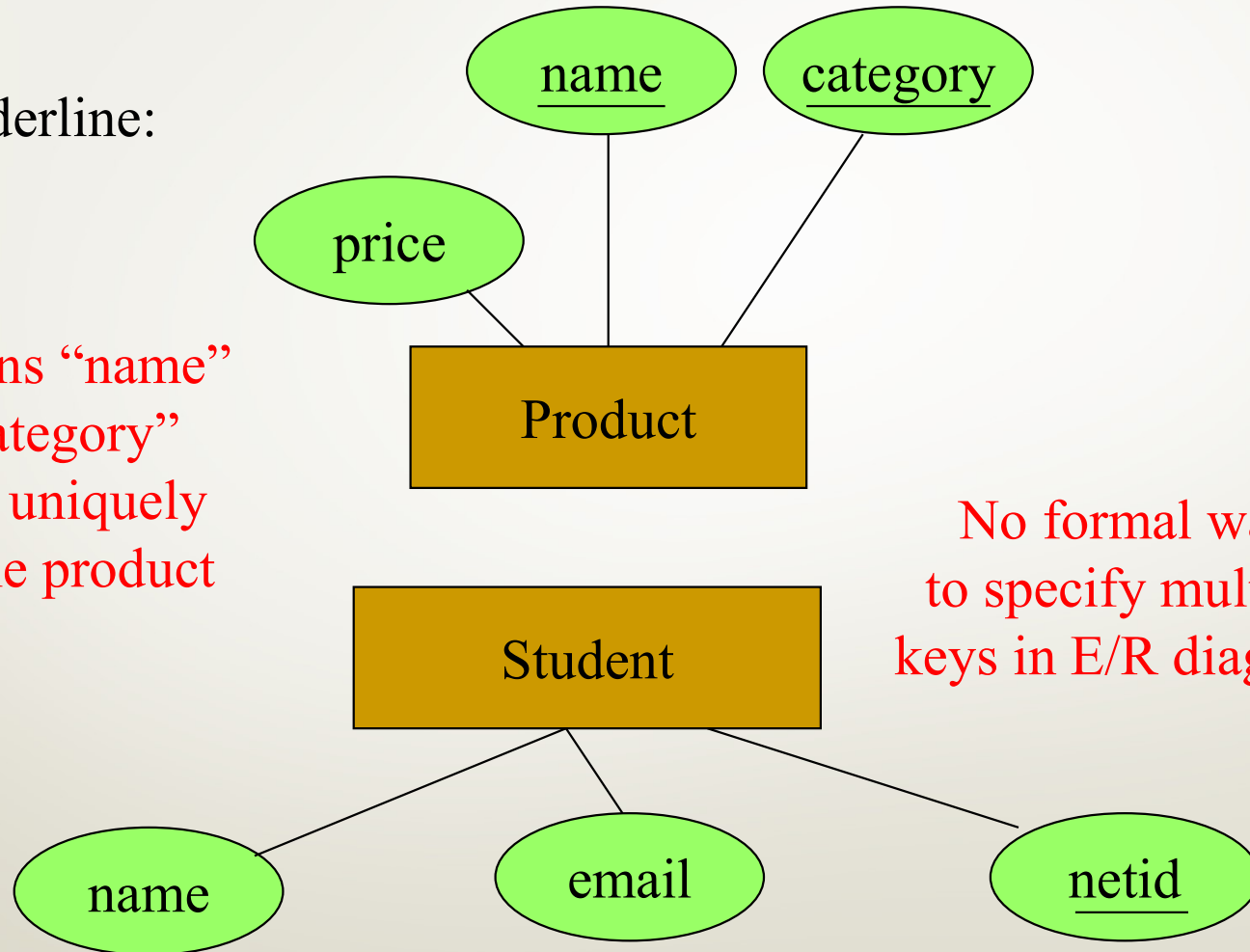
Finding constraints is part of the modeling process.  
Commonly used constraints:

- ❑ **Keys:** attributes that identify entities in an entity set  
*e.g., social security number uniquely identifies a person.*
- ❑ **Referential integrity constraints:** relationship-based constraints  
*e.g., if you work for a company, it must exist in the database.*
- ❑ **Domain constraints:** peoples' ages are between 0 and 150.
- ❑ **General constraints:** all others (at most 50 students enroll in a class)

# Keys in E/R Diagrams

Underline:

This means “name”  
and “category”  
together uniquely  
determine product

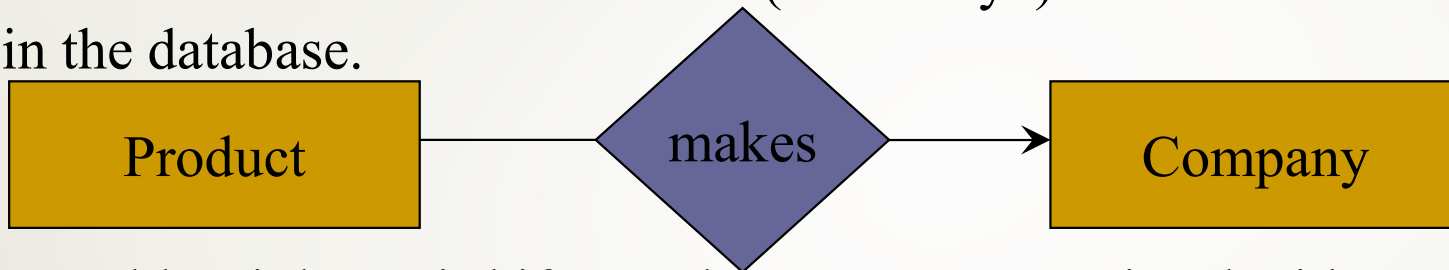


No formal way  
to specify multiple  
keys in E/R diagrams

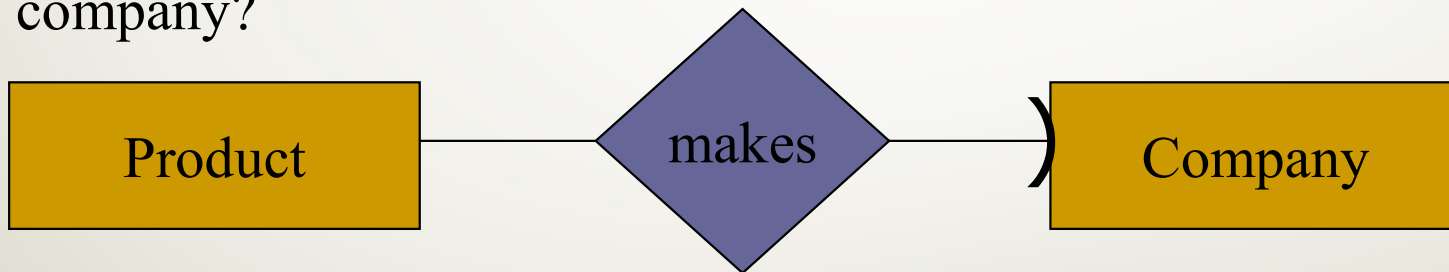
# Referential Integrity Constraints

Recall: the arrow meant “at most one”.

Each Product must be related to (“made by”) at most one Company in the database.



Wouldn't it be weird if a product was not associated with any company?



This says “exactly one”.

Each Product must be related to (“made by”) exactly one Company in the database.

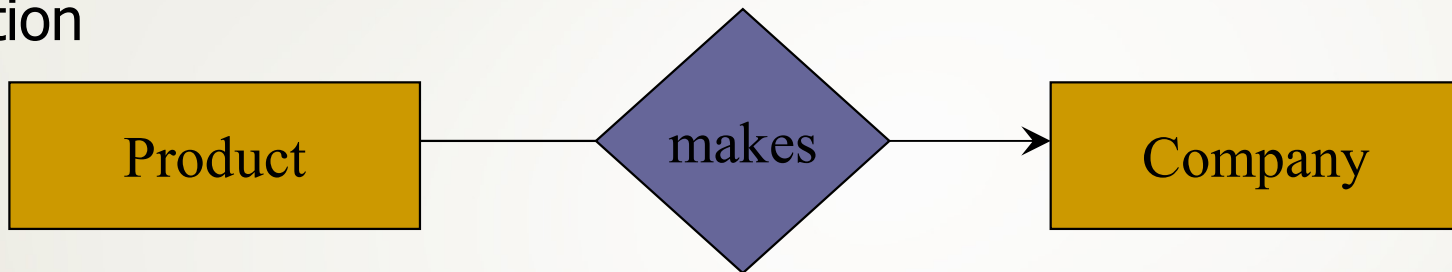
Arrow = at most 1

Semicircle = exactly 1

# Referential Integrity Constraints

## UML: Aggregation

ER  
Notation



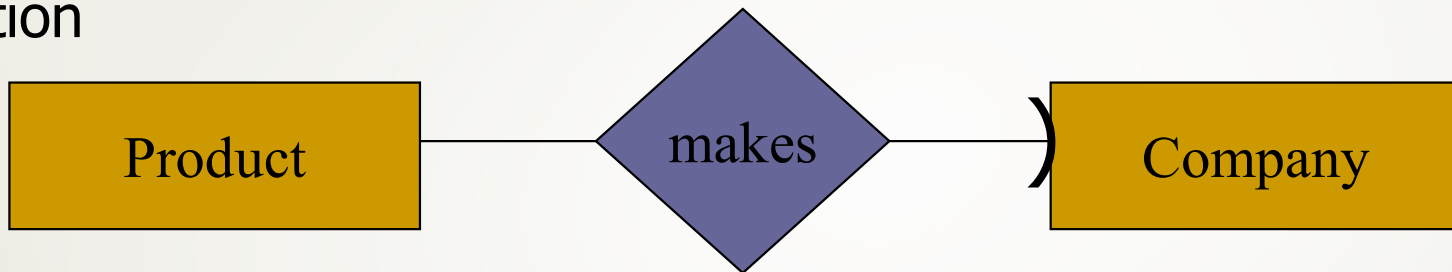
UML  
Notation



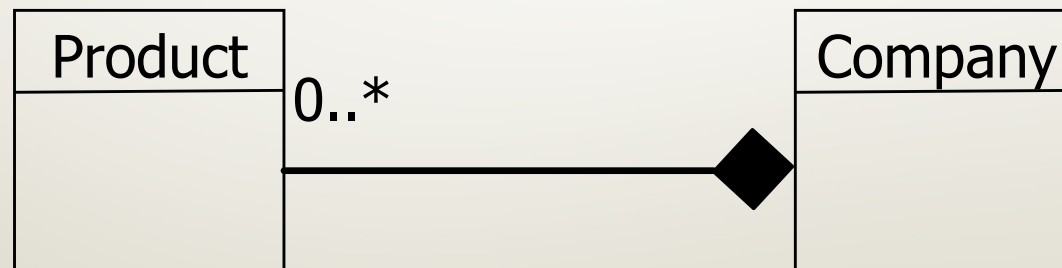
# Referential Integrity Constraints

## UML: Composition

ER  
Notation



UML  
Notation

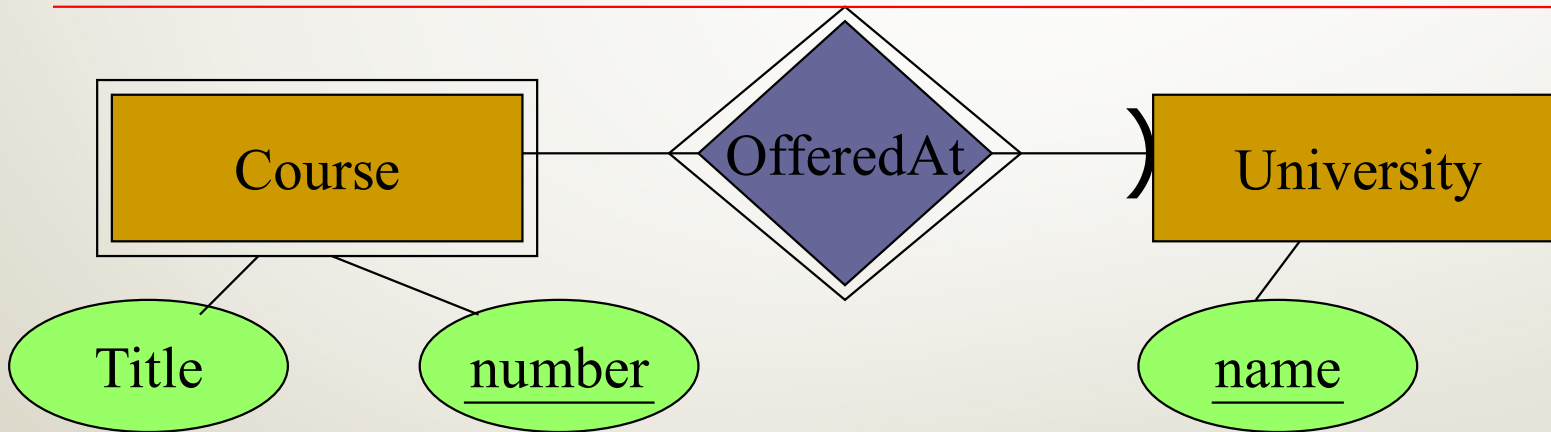
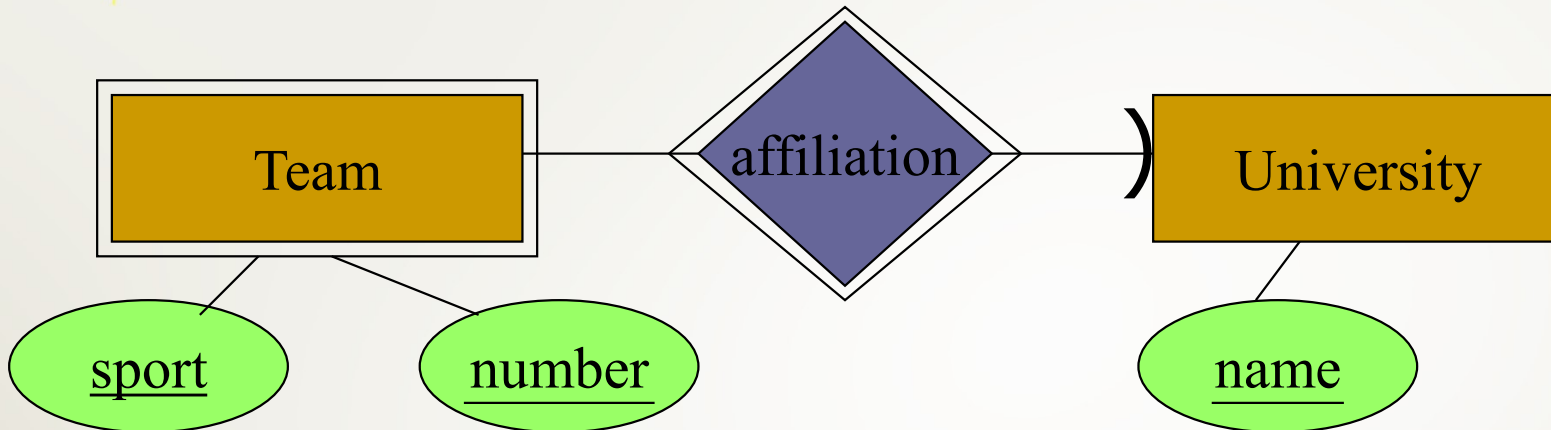


# Weak Entity Sets

- Occasionally, entities of an entity set need “help” to identify them uniquely.
- Entity set  $E$  is *weak* if in order to identify entities of  $E$  uniquely, we need to follow one or more many-one relationships from  $E$  and include the key of the related entity sets.
- Note: not an is-a relationship because  $E$  is not a “subclass” of  $F$ :  
Univ and Team

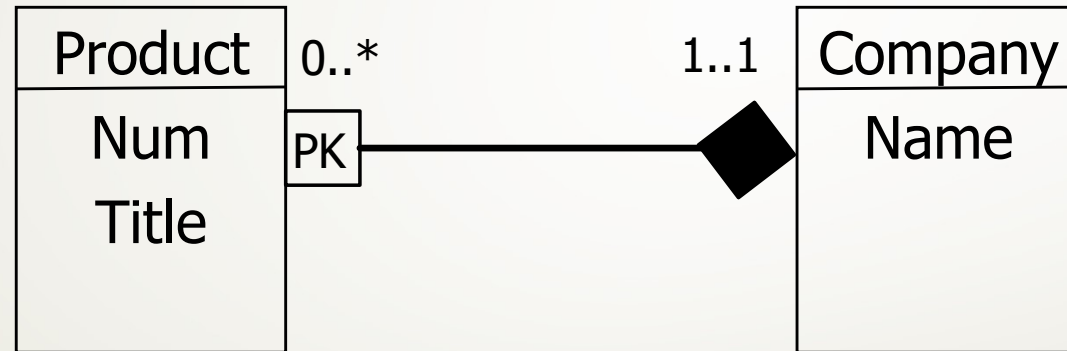


## Notations for weak entity set



- “University” is a “supporting entity set” for “Team”.
- “Affiliation” is a “supporting relationship”.

# Weak entity set in UML

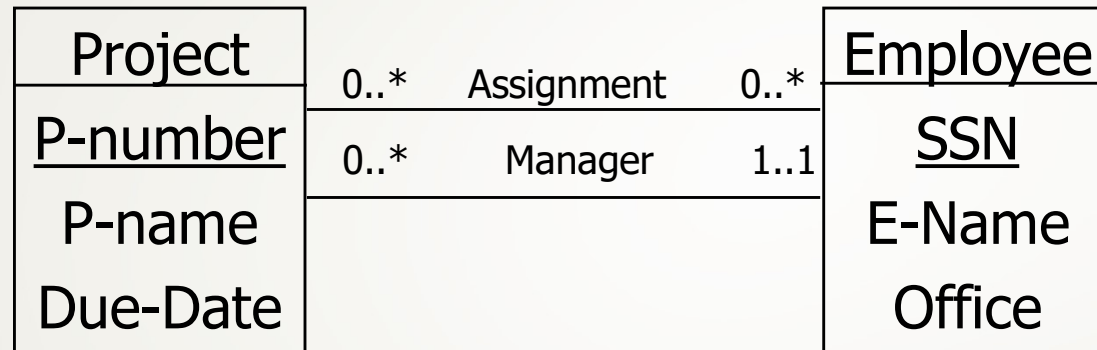




# Logical Database Design

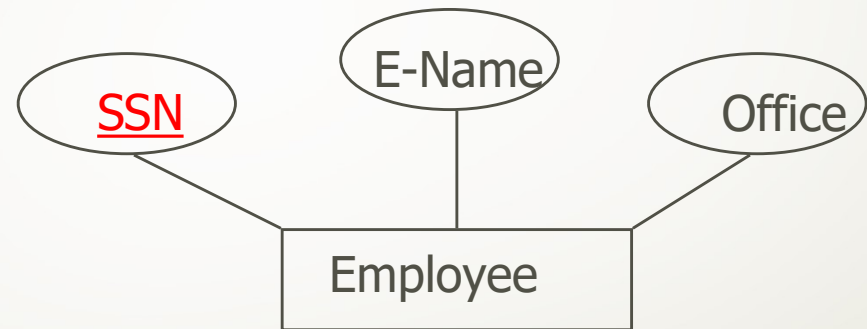
From Entity-Relationship Diagrams OR Unified Modeling Language design  
to Relational Database Schema

# Converting ER to Relational Schema



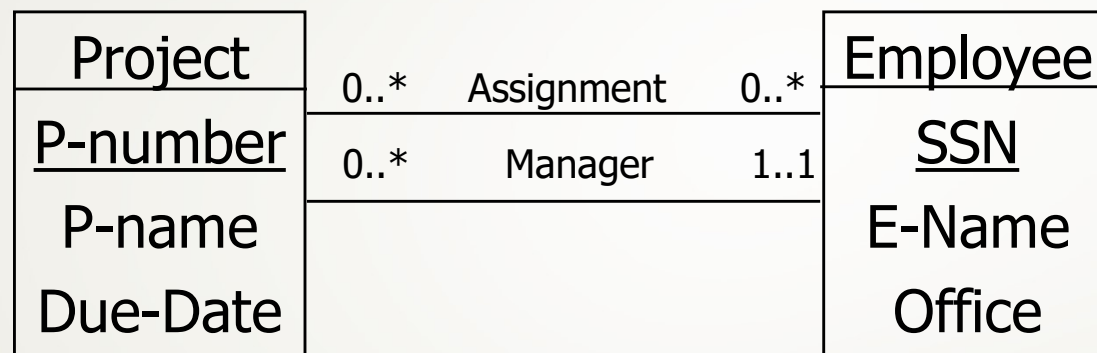
## Translate each entity set into a table, with keys.

- **Entity set:**
  - can be represented as a table in the relational model
  - has a **key** ... which becomes a key for the table



```
CREATE TABLE Employee
(SSN CHAR(11) NOT NULL,
E-Name CHAR(20),
Office INTEGER,
PRIMARY KEY (SSN))
```

## Translate each **many-to-many** relationship set into a table



What are the attributes and what is the key for Assignment?

Project(P-number, P-name, Due-Date)  
 Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office)

## Translate each **many-to-many** relationship set into a table

Project	0..*	Assignment	0..*	Employee
<u>P-number</u>	0..*	Manager	1..1	<u>SSN</u>
P-name				E-Name
Due-Date				Office

Answer: Assignment(P-Number, **SSN**)

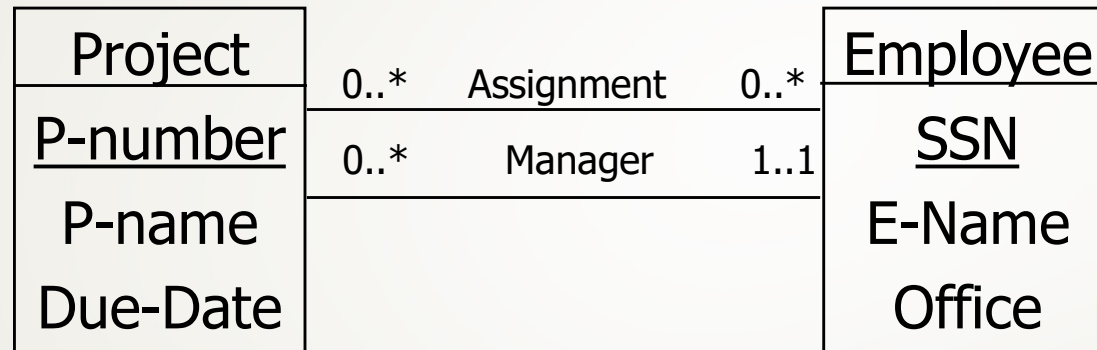
**P-Number** is a foreign key for Project

**SSN** is a foreign key for Employee

Project(P-Number, P-Due-Date)

Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office)

# What should we do with each **one-to-many** relationship set?



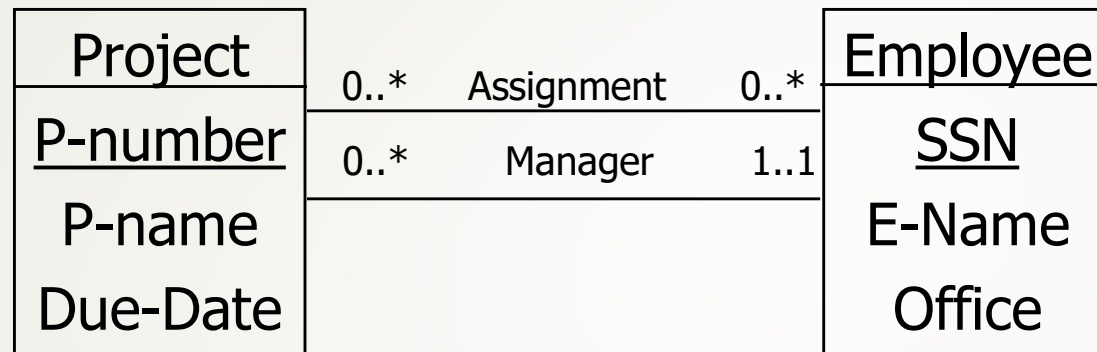
Manager (?)

Project(P-number, P-name, Due-Date)

Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office)



## Create a foreign key for a **1-to-many** relationship set.



Project(P-number, P-name, Due-Date, **MgrSSN**)  
 Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office)

**MgrSSN** is a foreign key (referencing the Employee relation)

value of Manager must match an SSN

## Create a foreign key for a **1-to-many** relationship set.

Project	0..*	Assignment	0..*	Employee
<u>P-number</u>	0..*	Manager	1..1	<u>SSN</u>
P-name				E-Name
Due-Date				Office

Project(P-number, P-name, Due-Date, MgrSSN)  
 Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office)

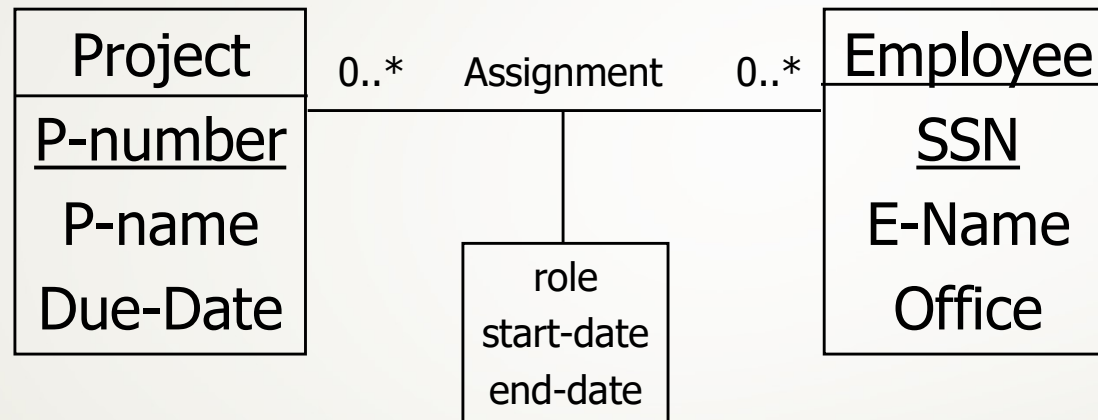
**VS.**

Project(P-number, P-name, Due-Date)  
 Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office)  
 Manager(P-number, SSN)

What are the tradeoffs between these two?

Note:  
 P-number  
 is the key  
 for Manager

## What do we do when a **many-to-many** relationship set has an attribute?

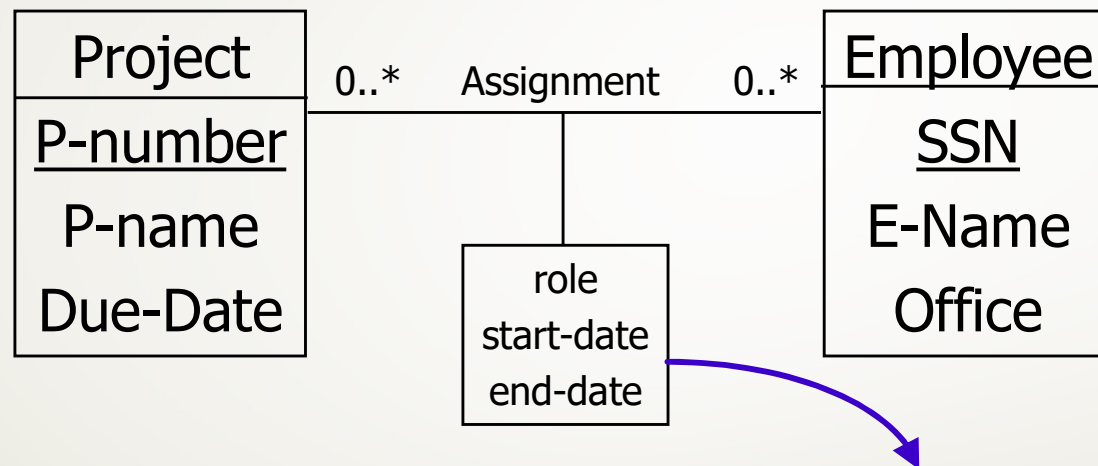


Assignment(P-number, SSN)

Project(P-number, P-name, Due-Date)

Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office)

## What do we do when a **many-to-many** relationship set has an attribute?

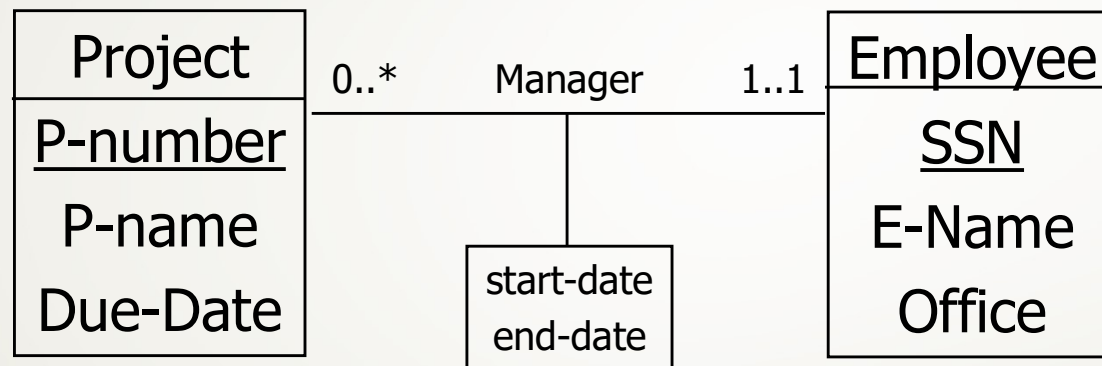


Assignment(P-number, SSN, role, start-date, end-date)

Project(P-number, P-name, Due-Date)

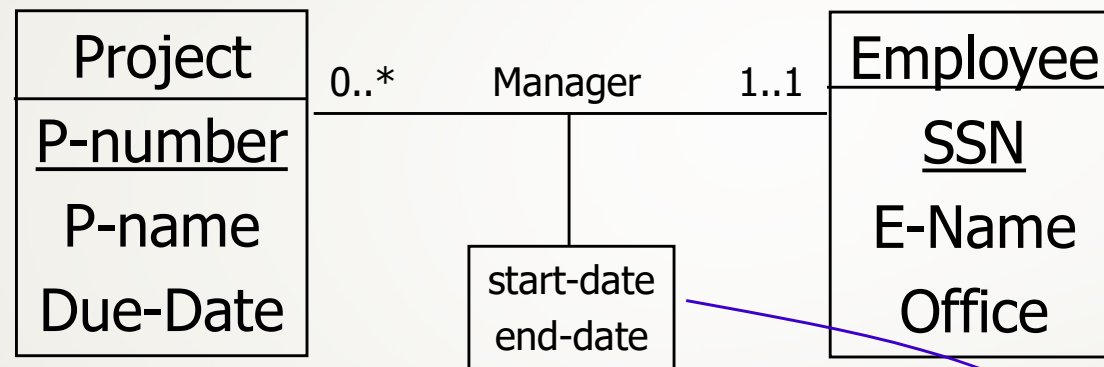
Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office)

# What do we do when a **1-to-many** relationship set has an attribute?



Project(P-number, P-name, Due-Date, MgrSSN)  
Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office)

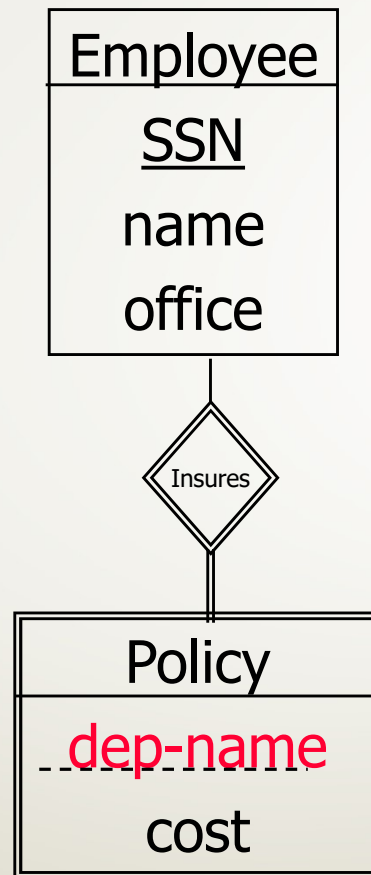
# What do we do when a **1-to-many** relationship set has an attribute?



Project(P-number, P-name, Due-Date, MgrSSN, start-date, end-date)

Employee(SSN, E-Name, Office )

# Weak Entity Sets



supporting  
entity set

supporting  
relationship  
set

weak  
Entity set

# Translating Weak Entity Sets

- Weak entity sets and supporting relationship sets are translated into a single table. Must include **key of supporting entity set**, as a foreign key.
- When the owner entity is deleted, all owned weak entities must also be deleted.

```
CREATE TABLE Insurance_Policy (  
  dep-name      CHAR(20),  
  cost          REAL,  
  ssn          CHAR(11) NOT NULL,  
  PRIMARY KEY  (dep-name, ssn),  
  
  FOREIGN KEY (ssn) REFERENCES Employee,  
  ON DELETE CASCADE)
```