Database Laboratory Lesson 3

Extended E/R Model

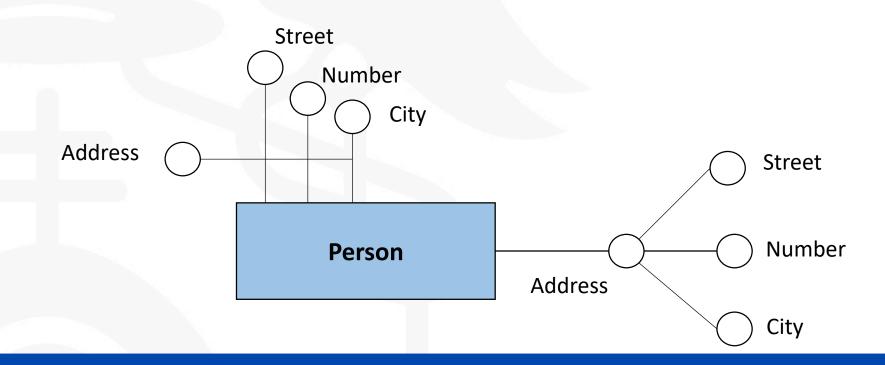


Attributes



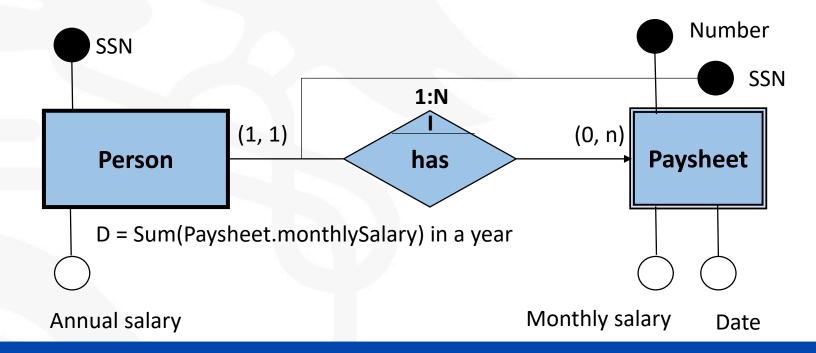
Composite attributes

- Group of related attributes
- They allow to make clearer designs



Derived attributes

- Their value can be obtained using the value of other attributes
 - They are only calculated when necessary
- They are not stored in the database

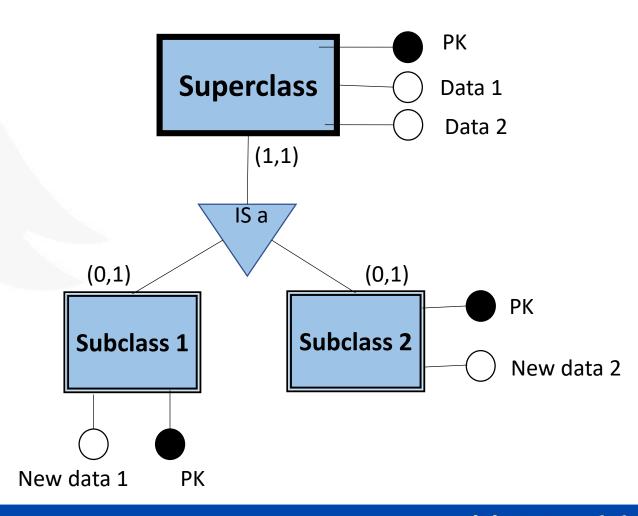


Relationships



Hierarchy

- Specialization: Top-down design process
- Generalization: Bottom-up design process
- An inheritance relationship is established between the entities
 - The lower-level entities inherit attributes
 - And participate in relationships of the superclass



Design Constraints

 Constraint on whether or not entities may belong to more than one lower-level entity set.

Disjoint

 an entity can belong to only one lower-level entity set (a person is a man or a woman)

Overlapping

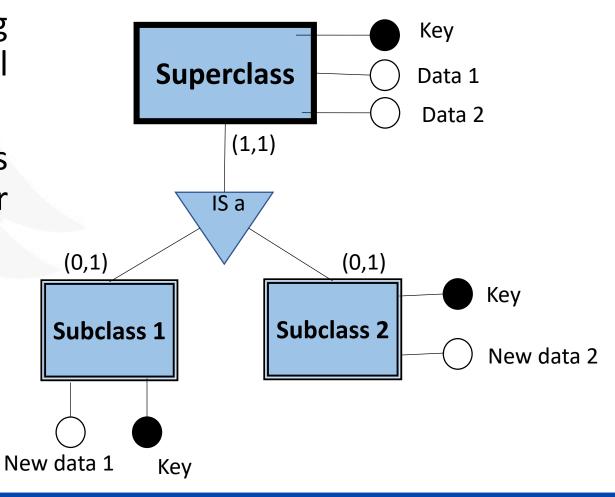
 an entity can belong to more than one lower-level entity set (a student can be a football player and a baseball player)

Design Constraints

- Constraint on whether or not an entity in the higher-level entity set must belong to at least one of the lower-level entity sets.
 - total: an entity must belong to one of the lower-level entity sets (every person is a man or a woman)
 - partial: an entity need not belong to one of the lower-level entity sets (a student is a football player or a baseball player. Not all students play sports)

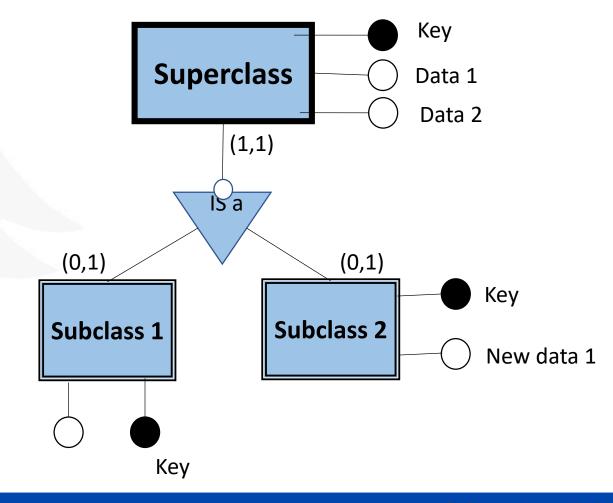
Hierarchy. Overlapping and partial

- Overlapping: An entity can belong to more than one set of lower level entities.
- Partial: some higher level entities may not belong to any set of lower level entities.



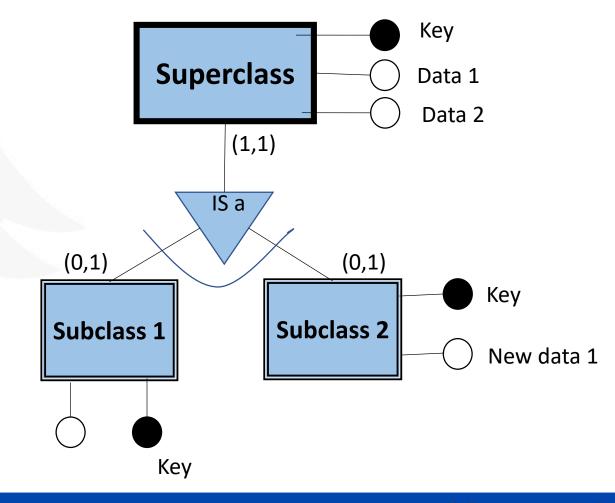
Hierarchy. Overlapping and total

- Overlapping: An entity can belong to more than one set of lower level entities.
- Total: all higher level entities must belong to a set of lower level entities.



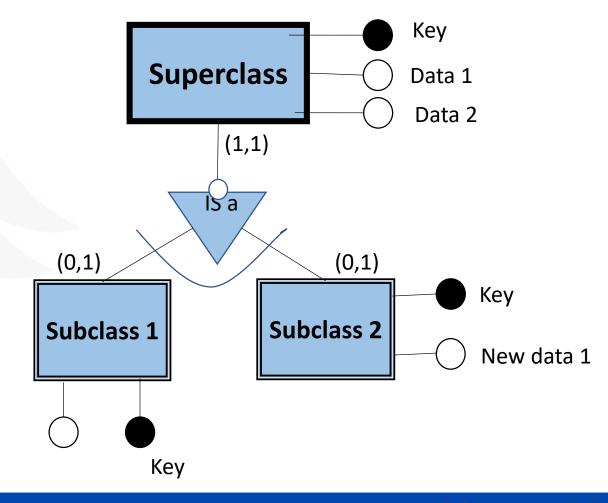
Hierarchy. Disjoint and partial

- Disjoint: An entity cannot belong to more than one set of lower level entities.
- Partial: some higher level entities may not belong to any set of lower level entities.



Hierarchy. Disjoint and total

- Disjoint: An entity cannot belong to more than one set of lower level entities.
- Total: all higher level entities must belong to a set of lower level entities.



Aggregation



Aggregation

- The ER model limits us, since we cannot express relationships among relationships
- A new entity is built as a composition of other elements (entities and relationships)
- It provides a higher level of abstraction



Aggregation - Example

A company interviews a candidate because it has a vacant to cover.



Some interviews result in a job offer while other do not. How can we model this?

Aggregation - Example

