

1 Database management systems

Databases are developed in a way to grant data independence, integrity and security, efficient and concurrent access and reduced application development time.

1.1 Data models

A data model are the concepts used to describe data. A schema is the description of a particular collection of data.

The most used model today is the relational model. It bases its self on the concept of relations, and every relation has a schema

1.1.1 Abstraction

Data is defined in different schemas. The physical schema represents how the data is stored on the disk, the conceptual schema defines the logical structure, and a view is how users see the data.

Schemas are defined using DDL (Data Definition Language) and the data is modified using DML (Data Manipulation Language)

1.2 ACID

ACID is the list of properties that a database must ensure. To explaine them we use the example of a bank transaction

1.2.1 Atomicity

Atomicity is a property caracterized by the all-or-nothing policy. It is applied through a log who keeps

1.2.2 Consistency

The databse must be consistent before and after the transaction

1.2.3 Isolation

multiple transactions occur independently without interference

1.2.4 Durability

The changes of a successful transaction occurs even if the system failure occurs

2 E/R Model

2.1 Entity

an entity is a real world object which is described using a set of attributes. A collection of similar entities is an entity set

weak entities

These are entities that depend on another entity. The weak entity doesn't make sense to exist by itself. These entities are represented through a thick line around the entity and they use a thick arrow towards the entity they depend on

2.2 Relations

It is a connection between two or more entity sets.

The relation can use different multiplicity, which are many to many, many to one and one to one.

We use the Wisconsin representation system, which is structured like this:

we use an arrow to point to "one", a thick arrow to represent "exactly one", a line to represent "many to many" and a thick line for "at least one"

2.2.1 Aggregation

is used when we have to model a relationship involving entity sets and a relationship set

2.3 Subclasses

it's a special case of subentity, it's represented with a triangle

E/R Subclasses

Subclasses form a tree of one-one inheritance that use *isa* relationships.

2.4 Keys

These are unique identifiers of an entity and are represented through an underlined attribute. They can be super keys (keys in general), candidate key (minimal super key) and primary key (the chosen key)

2.5 Schemas

3 Relational model

it's the most used model thanks to the characteristic to be easier and faster than other models.

Definitions

a relational database is a set of relations, which are made of instances, or tables, and schemas, which specifies name of the relation, and name plus type of each column. In the tables, rows equals to the cardinality and are called tuples, the fields are called degrees

3.1 Integrity constraints

A condition must be true for any instance of the database.

Keys can be constraints because no distinct tuples can have the same values