Chapter 2: Intro to Relational Model

Database System Concepts, 7th Ed.

Outline

- Structure of Relational Databases
- Database Schema
- Keys
- Schema Diagrams
- Relational Query Languages
- The Relational Algebra

Example of a *Instructor* Relation

attributes
(or columns)

ID	*name*	*dept_name*	*salary*
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
15151	Mozart	Music	40000
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
32343	El Said	History	60000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
58583	Califieri	History	62000
76543	Singh	Finance	80000
76766	Crick	Biology	72000
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000

tuples
(or rows)

Attribute

- The set of allowed values for each attribute is called the **domain** of the attribute
- Attribute values are (normally) required to be **atomic**; that is, indivisible
- The special value ***null*** is a member of every domain. Indicated that the value is “unknown”
- The null value causes complications in the definition of many operations

Relations are Unordered

- Order of tuples is irrelevant (tuples may be stored in an arbitrary order)
- Example: *instructor* relation with unordered tuples

ID	*name*	*dept_name*	*salary*
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
32343	El Said	History	60000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000
76766	Crick	Biology	72000
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
58583	Califieri	History	62000
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000
15151	Mozart	Music	40000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000
76543	Singh	Finance	80000

Database Schema

- Database schema -- is the logical structure of the database.
- Database instance -- is a snapshot of the data in the database at a given instant in time.
- Example:
  - schema: i*nstructor* (*ID, name, dept_name, salary*)
  - Instance:

ID	*name*	*dept_name*	*salary*
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
12121	Wu	Finance	90000
32343	El Said	History	60000
45565	Katz	Comp. Sci.	75000
98345	Kim	Elec. Eng.	80000
76766	Crick	Biology	72000
10101	Srinivasan	Comp. Sci.	65000
58583	Califieri	History	62000
83821	Brandt	Comp. Sci.	92000
15151	Mozart	Music	40000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000
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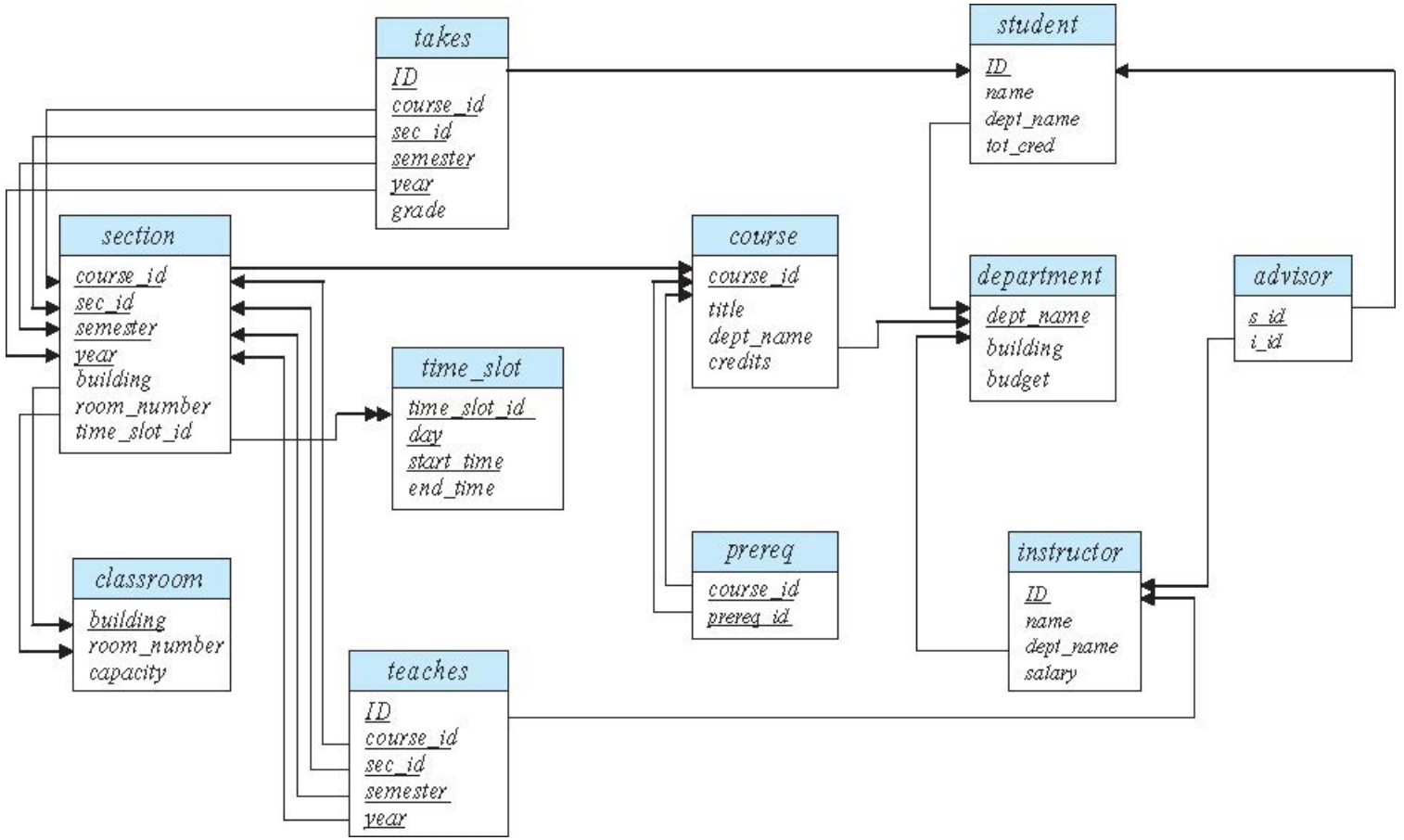
Keys

- Let K $\subseteq$ R
- *K* is a **superkey** of *R* if values for *K* are sufficient to identify a unique tuple of each possible relation *r(R)*
  - Example: {*ID*} and {ID,name} are both superkeys of *instructor.*
- Superkey *K* is a **candidate key** if *K* is minimal
  Example: {*ID*} is a candidate key for *Instructor*
- One of the candidate keys is selected to be the **primary key**.
  - which one?
- **Foreign key** constraint: Value in one relation must appear in another
  - **Referencing** relation
  - **Referenced** relation
  - Example: *dept_name* in i*nstructor* is a foreign key from *instructor* referencing *department*

Schema Diagram for University Database



Relational Query Languages

- Procedural versus non-procedural, or declarative
- "Pure" languages:
  - Relational algebra
  - Tuple relational calculus
  - Domain relational calculus
- The above 3 pure languages are equivalent in computing power
- We will concentrate in this chapter on relational algebra
  - Not turning-machine equivalent
  - Consists of 6 basic operations

Relational Algebra

- A procedural language consisting of a set of operations that take one or two relations as input and produce a new relation as their result.
- Six basic operators
  - select: σ
  - project: Π
  - union: $\cup$
  - set difference: –
  - Cartesian product: x
  - rename: ρ

Select Operation

- The **select** operation selects tuples that satisfy a given predicate.
- Notation: $\sigma_p(r)$
- p is called the **selection predicate**
- Example: select those tuples of the *instructor* relation where the instructor is in the "Physics" department.
  - Query

$$\sigma_{dept\_name="Physics"}(instructor)$$

  - Result

ID	*name*	*dept_name*	*salary*
22222	Einstein	Physics	95000
33456	Gold	Physics	87000

Select Operation (Cont.)

- We allow comparisons using

  $=, \neq, >, \geq. <. \leq$

  in the selection predicate.
- We can combine several predicates into a larger predicate by using the connectives:

  $\wedge$ (**and**), $\vee$ (**or**), $\neg$ (**not**)
- Example: Find the instructors in Physics with a salary greater $90,000, we write:

  $$\sigma_{dept\_name=\text{“}Physics\text{”} \wedge salary > 90,000}(instructor)$$

- Then select predicate may include comparisons between two attributes.
  - Example, find all departments whose name is the same as their building name:
  - $\sigma_{dept\_name=building}(department)$

Project Operation

- A unary operation that returns its argument relation, with certain attributes left out.
- Notation:

$$\Pi_{A_1, A_2, A_3 \ldots A_k} (r)$$

  where A_1, A_2 are attribute names and r is a relation name.
- The result is defined as the relation of k columns obtained by erasing the columns that are not listed
- Duplicate rows removed from result, since relations are sets

Project Operation (Cont.)

- Example: eliminate the *dept_name* attribute of *instructor*
- Query*:*

$$\Pi_{ID,\ name,\ salary}\ (instructor)$$

- Result:

ID	*name*	*salary*
10101	Srinivasan	65000
12121	Wu	90000
15151	Mozart	40000
22222	Einstein	95000
32343	El Said	60000
33456	Gold	87000
45565	Katz	75000
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76543	Singh	80000
76766	Crick	72000
83821	Brandt	92000
98345	Kim	80000

Composition of Relational Operations

- The result of a relational-algebra operation is relation and therefore of relational-algebra operations can be composed together into a **relational-algebra expression**.
- Consider the query -- Find the names of all instructors in the Physics department.

$$\Pi_{name}(\sigma_{dept\_name = \text{“Physics”}} (instructor))$$

- Instead of giving the name of a relation as the argument of the projection operation, we give an expression that evaluates to a relation.