S11-Degrees of Data abstraction
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Levels of Abstraction

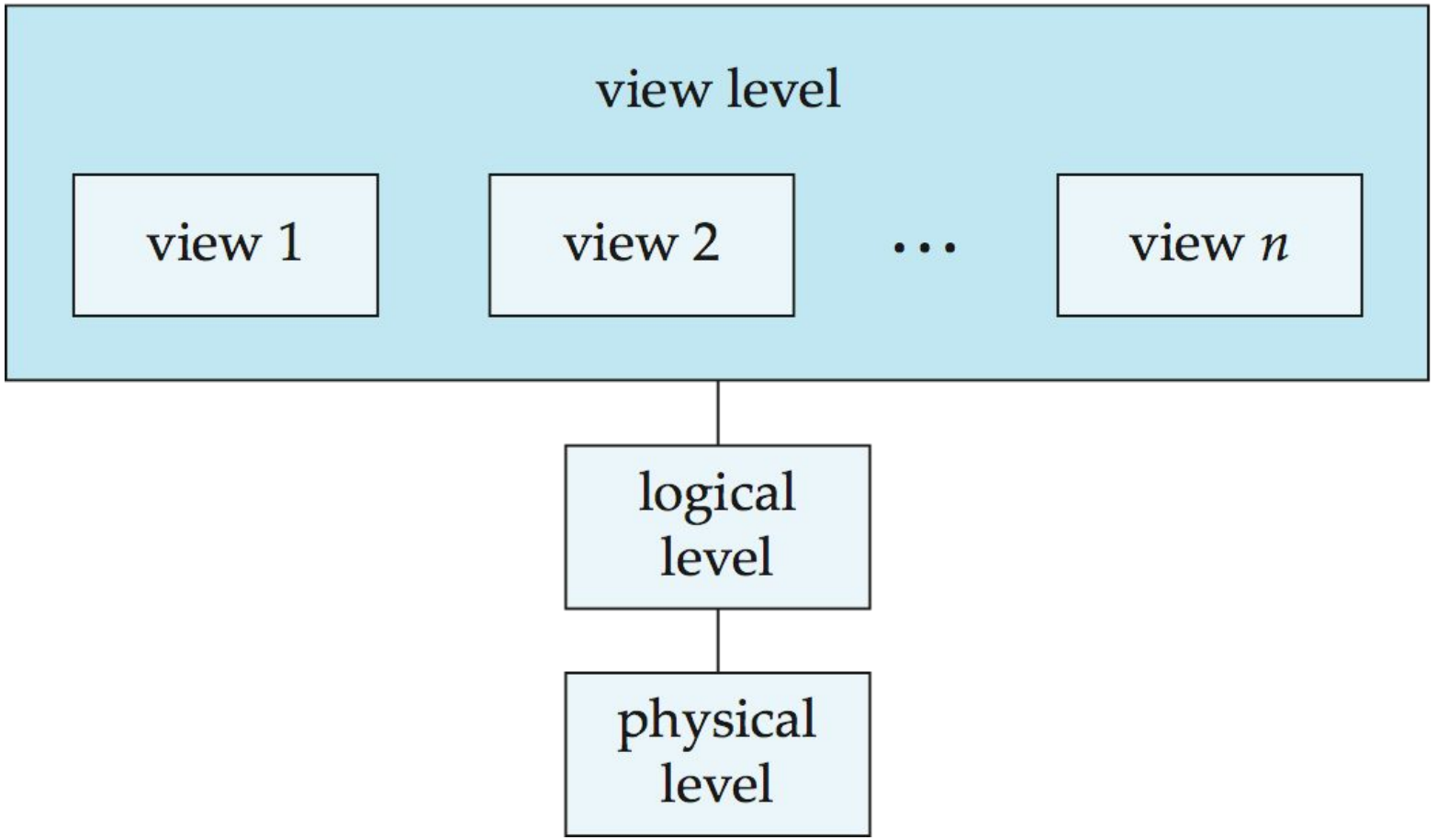
- **Physical level:** describes how a record (e.g., instructor) is stored.
- **Logical level:** describes data stored in database, and the relationships among the data.

```
type instructor = record
    ID : string;
    name : string;
    dept_name : string;
    salary : integer;
        end;
```

- **View level:** application programs hide details of data types. Views can also hide information (such as an employee's salary) for security purposes.

View of Data

An architecture for a database system



Instances and Schemas

- Similar to types and variables in programming languages
- **Logical Schema** – the overall logical structure of the database
  - Example: The database consists of information about a set of customers and accounts in a bank and the relationship between them
    - Analogous to type information of a variable in a program
- **Physical schema**– the overall physical structure of the database
- **Instance** – the actual content of the database at a particular point in time
  - Analogous to the value of a variable
- **Physical Data Independence** – the ability to modify the physical schema without changing the logical schema
  - Applications depend on the logical schema
  - In general, the interfaces between the various levels and components should be well defined so that changes in some parts do not seriously influence others.