Chapter 7: Entity-Relationship Model

Database System Concepts, 6th Ed.

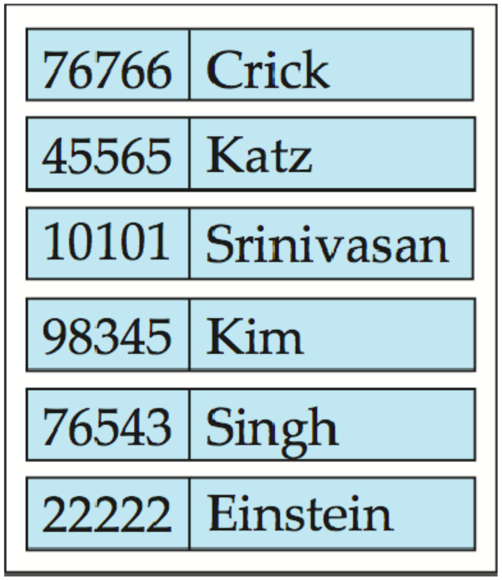
Chapter 7: Entity-Relationship Model

- Design Process
- Modeling
- Constraints
- E-R Diagram
- Design Issues
- Weak Entity Sets
- Extended E-R Features
- Design of the Bank Database
- Reduction to Relation Schemas
- Database Design
- UML

Modeling

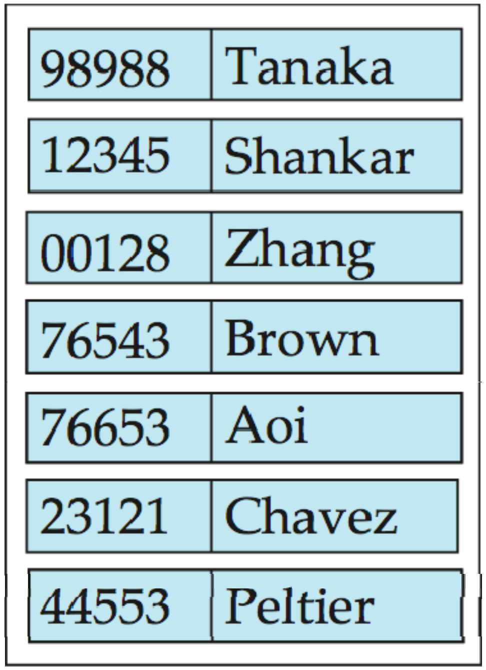
- A *database* can be modeled as:
  - a collection of entities,
  - relationship among entities.
- An **entity** is an object that exists and is distinguishable from other objects.
  - Example: specific person, company, event, plant
- Entities have **attributes**
  - Example: people have *names* and *addresses*
- An **entity set** is a set of entities of the same type that share the same properties.
  - Example: set of all persons, companies, trees, holidays

Entity Sets *instructor* and *student*



instructor_ID	instructor_name
76766	Crick
45565	Katz
10101	Srinivasan
98345	Kim
76543	Singh
22222	Einstein

instructor



student-ID	student_name
98988	Tanaka
12345	Shankar
00128	Zhang
76543	Brown
76653	Aoi
23121	Chavez
44553	Peltier

student

Relationship Sets

- A **relationship** is an association among several entities

  Example:

44553 (Peltier)	*advisor*	22222 (Einstein)
student entity	relationship set	*instructor* entity

- A **relationship set** is a mathematical relation among $n \geq 2$ entities, each taken from entity sets

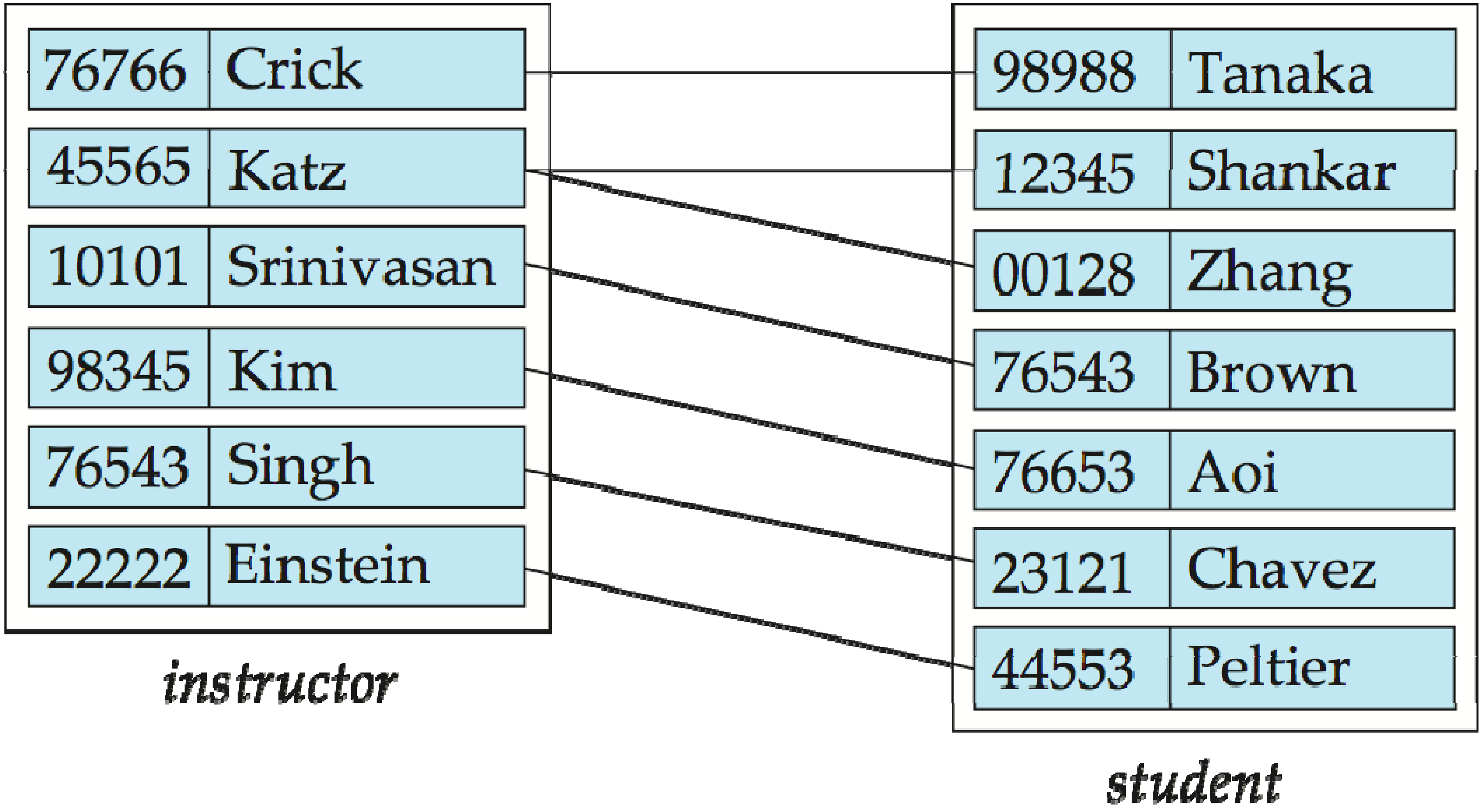
  $$\{(e_1, e_2, \ldots e_n) \mid e_1 \in E_1, e_2 \in E_2, \ldots, e_n \in E_n\}$$

  where $(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n)$ is a relationship

  - Example:

    $(44553,22222) \in \textit{advisor}$

Relationship Set *advisor*



76766	Crick
45565	Katz
10101	Srinivasan
98345	Kim
76543	Singh
22222	Einstein

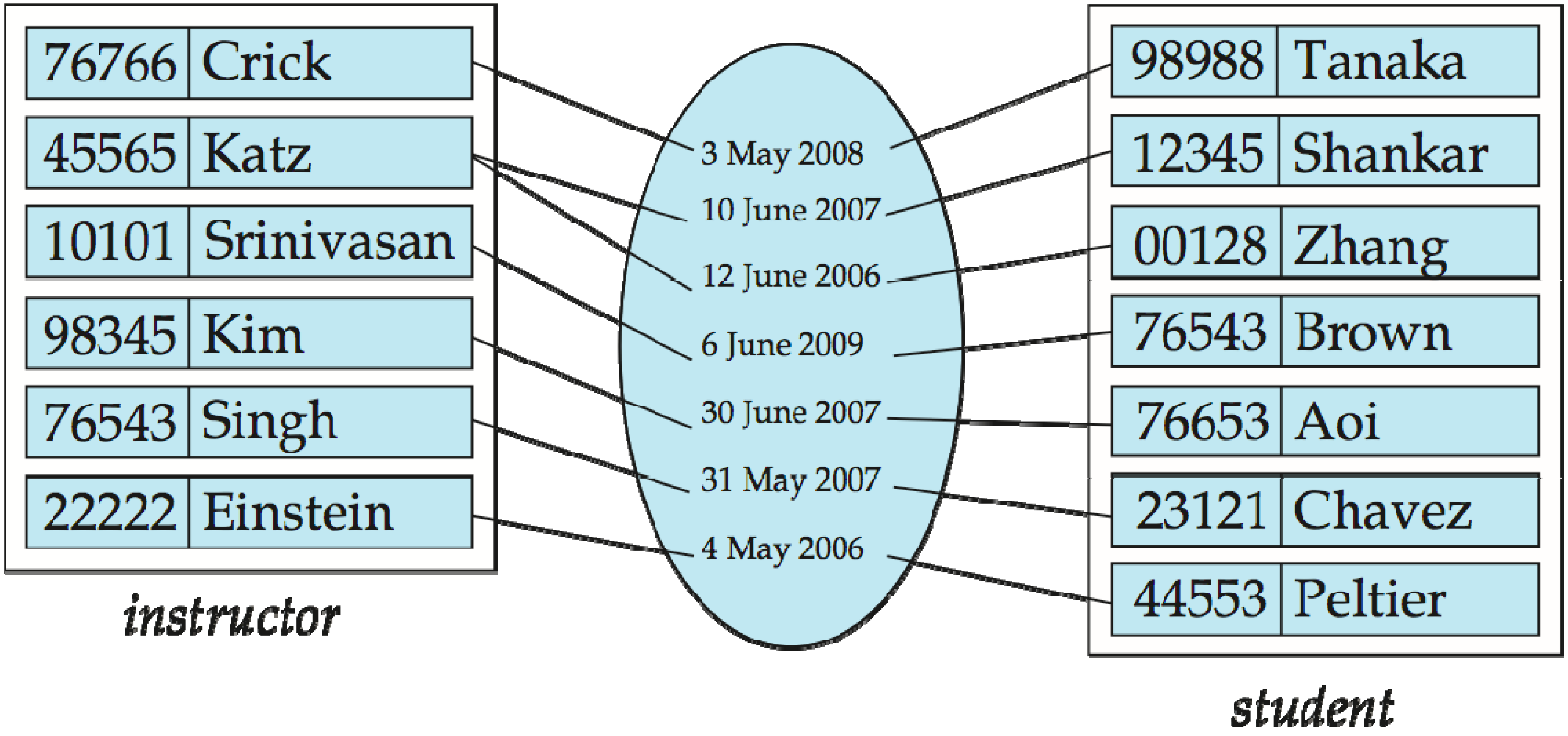
instructor

98988	Tanaka
12345	Shankar
00128	Zhang
76543	Brown
76653	Aoi
23121	Chavez
44553	Peltier

student

Relationship Sets (Cont.)

- An **attribute** can also be property of a relationship set.
- For instance, the *advisor* relationship set between entity sets *instructor* and *student* may have the attribute *date* which tracks when the student started being associated with the advisor



76766	Crick
45565	Katz
10101	Srinivasan
98345	Kim
76543	Singh
22222	Einstein

instructor

98988	Tanaka
12345	Shankar
00128	Zhang
76543	Brown
76653	Aoi
23121	Chavez
44553	Peltier

student

Degree of a Relationship Set

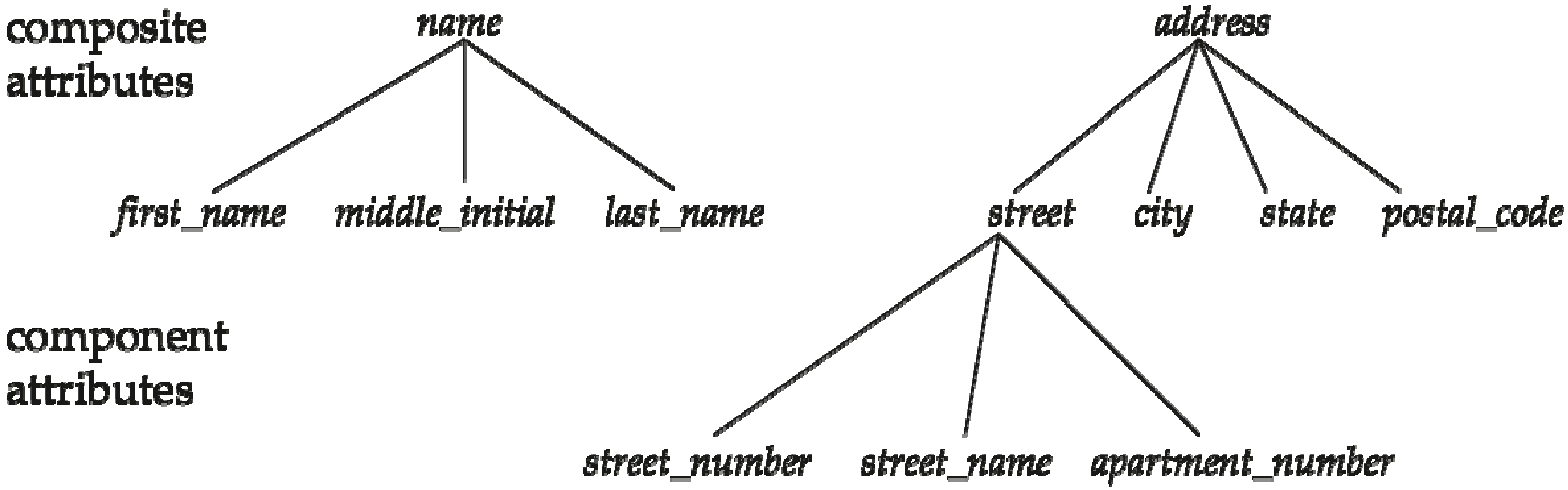
- **binary relationship**
  - involve two entity sets (or degree two).
  - most relationship sets in a database system are binary.
- Relationships between more than two entity sets are rare. Most relationships are binary.
  - Example: *students* work on research *projects* under the guidance of an *instructor*.
  - relationship *proj_guide* is a ternary relationship between *instructor, student,* and *project*

Attributes

- An entity is represented by a set of attributes, that is descriptive properties possessed by all members of an entity set.
  - Example:

    instructor = (*ID, name, street, city, salary*)
    course= (*course_id, title, credits*)
- **Domain** – the set of permitted values for each attribute
- Attribute types:
  - **Simple** and **composite** attributes.
  - **Single-valued** and **multivalued** attributes
    - Example: multivalued attribute: *phone_numbers*
  - **Derived** attributes
    - Can be computed from other attributes
    - Example: age, given date_of_birth

Composite Attributes



composite attributes

name

first_name

middle_initial

last_name

address

street

city

state

postal_code

component attributes

street_number

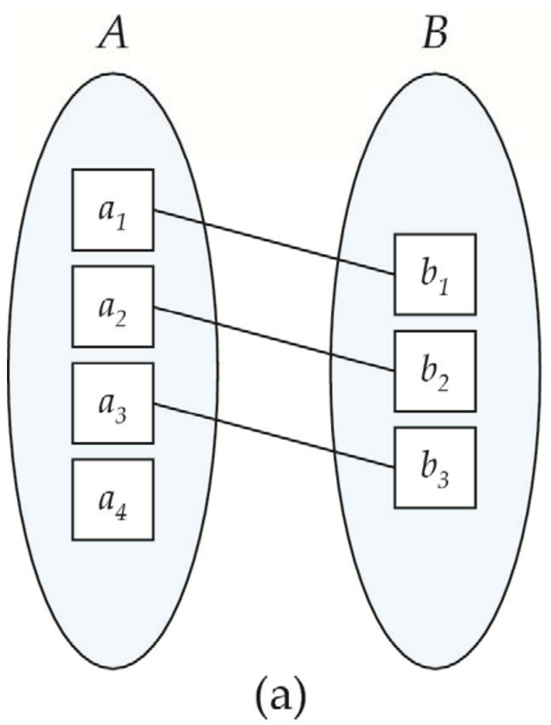
street_name

apartment_number

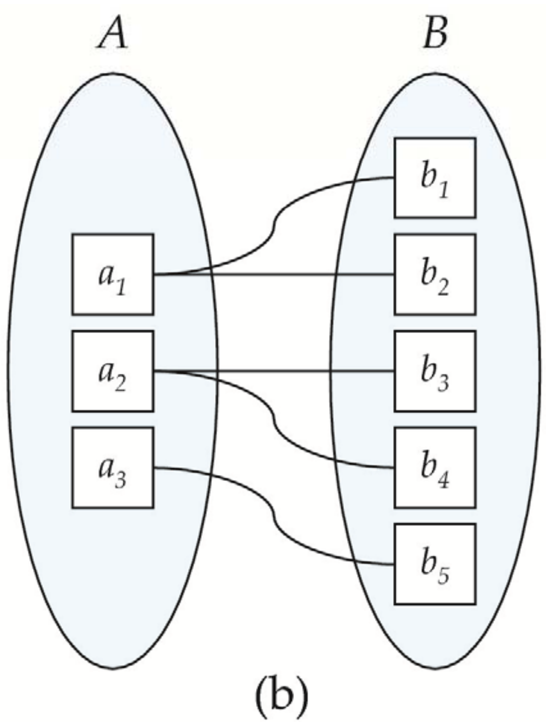
Mapping Cardinality Constraints

- Express the number of entities to which another entity can be associated via a relationship set.
- Most useful in describing binary relationship sets.
- For a binary relationship set the mapping cardinality must be one of the following types:
  - One to one
  - One to many
  - Many to one
  - Many to many

Mapping Cardinalities



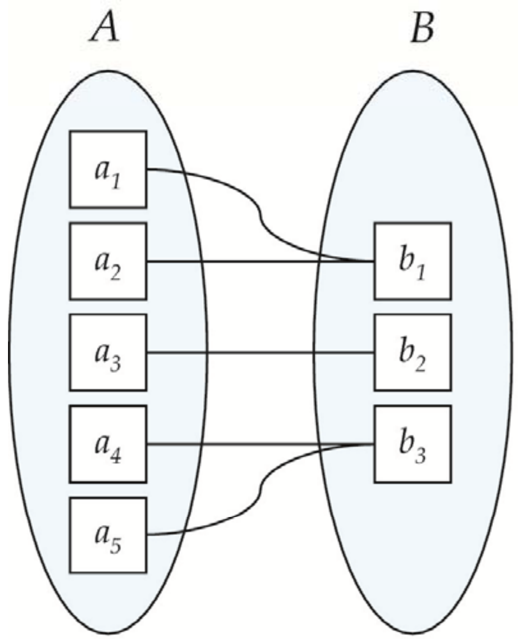
One to one



One to many

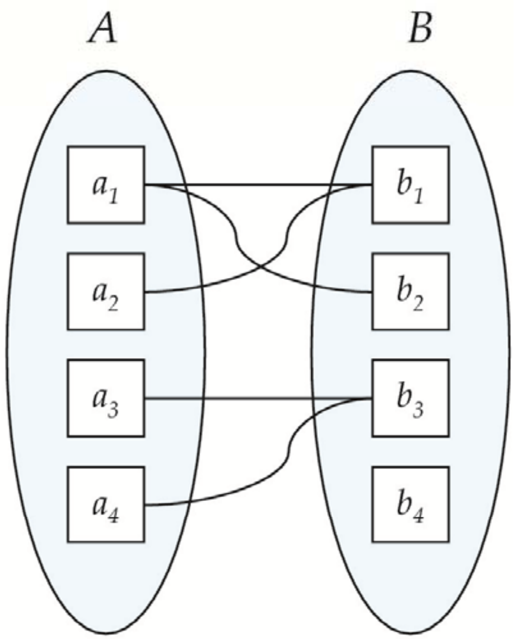
Note: Some elements in *A* and *B* may not be mapped to any elements in the other set

Mapping Cardinalities



(a)

Many to one



(b)

Many to many

Note: Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set

Keys

- A **super key** of an entity set is a set of one or more attributes whose values uniquely determine each entity.
- A **candidate key** of an entity set is a minimal super key
  - *ID* is candidate key of *instructor*
  - *course_id* is candidate key of *course*
- Although several candidate keys may exist, one of the candidate keys is selected to be the **primary key**.

Keys for Relationship Sets

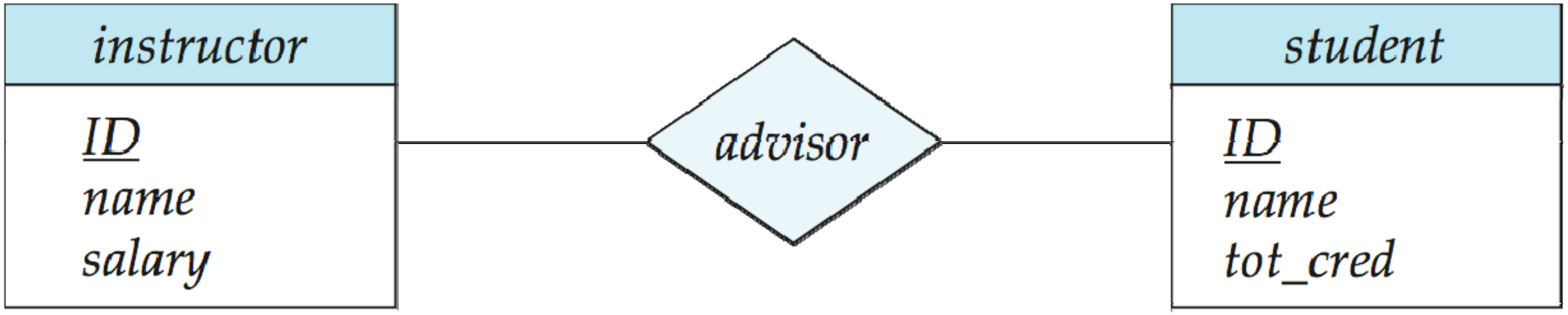
- The combination of primary keys of the participating entity sets forms a super key of a relationship set.
  - (*s_id, i_id*) is the super key of *advisor*
  - *NOTE: this means* ***a pair of entity sets can have at most one relationship in a particular relationship set.***
    - Example: if we wish to track multiple meeting dates between a student and her advisor, we cannot assume a relationship for each meeting. We can use a multivalued attribute though
- Must consider the mapping cardinality of the relationship set when deciding what are the candidate keys
- Need to consider semantics of relationship set in selecting the *primary key* in case of more than one candidate key

Redundant Attributes

- Suppose we have entity sets
  - *instructor*, with attributes including *dept_name*
  - *department*

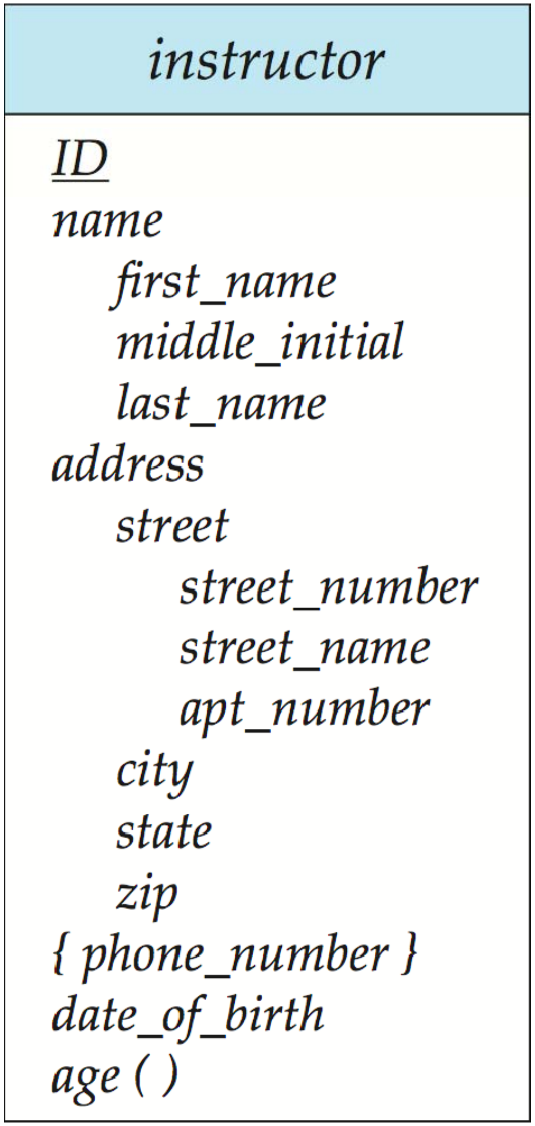
  and a relationship
  - *inst_dept* relating *instructor* and *department*
- Attribute *dept_name* in entity *instructor* is redundant since there is an explicit relationship *inst_dept* which relates instructors to departments
  - The attribute replicates information present in the relationship, and should be removed from *instructor*
  - BUT: when converting back to tables, in some cases the attribute gets reintroduced, as we will see.

E-R Diagrams



- Rectangles represent entity sets.
- Diamonds represent relationship sets.
- Attributes listed inside entity rectangle
- Underline indicates primary key attributes

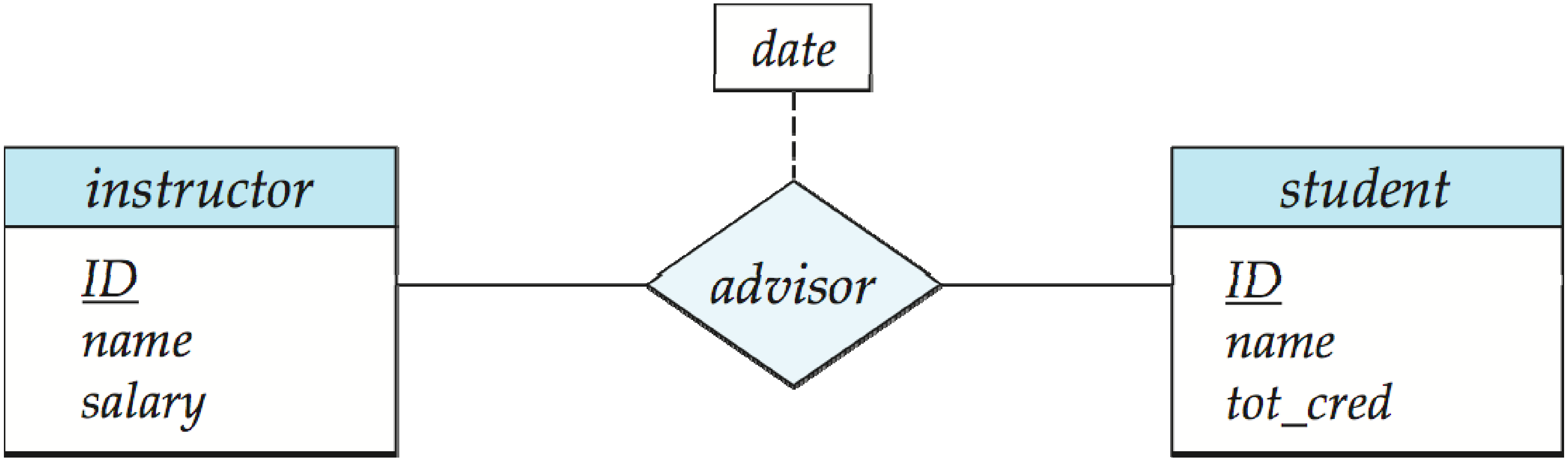
Entity With Composite, Multivalued, and Derived Attributes



instructor

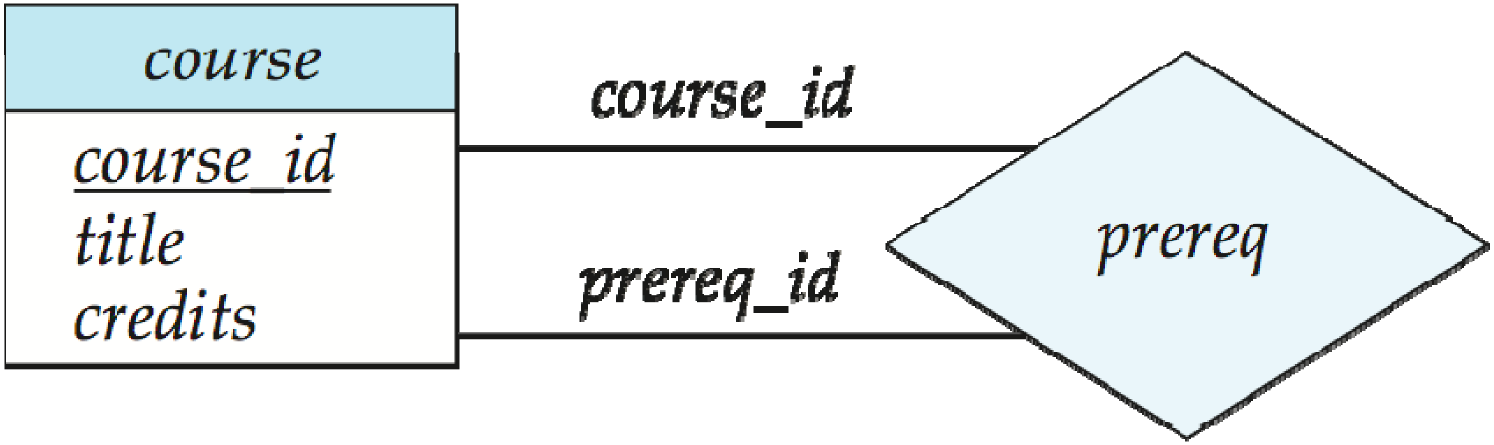
- *ID*
- *name*
  - *first_name*
  - *middle_initial*
  - *last_name*
- *address*
  - *street*
    - *street_number*
    - *street_name*
    - *apt_number*
  - *city*
  - *state*
  - *zip*
- *{ phone_number }*
- *date_of_birth*
- *age ( )*

Relationship Sets with Attributes



Roles

- Entity sets of a relationship need not be distinct
  - Each occurrence of an entity set plays a “role” in the relationship
- The labels “*course_id*” and “*prereq_id*” are called **roles**.

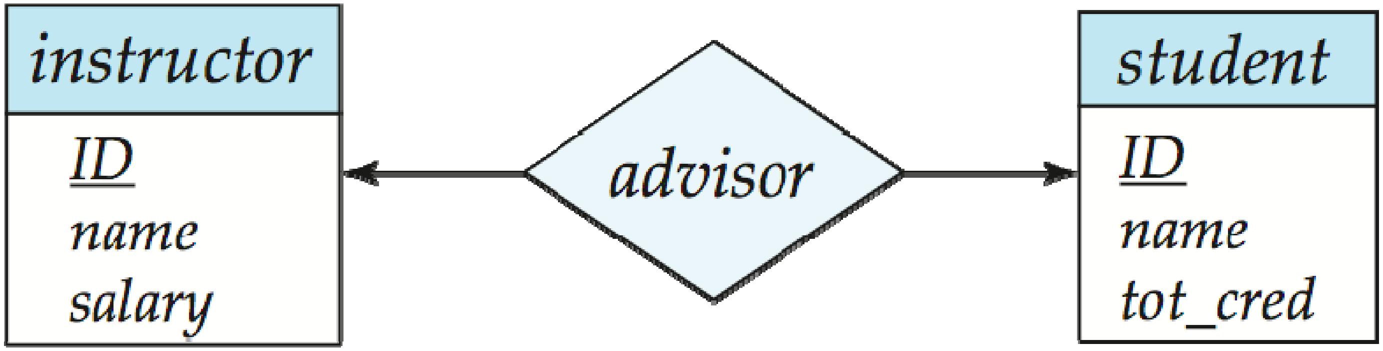


Cardinality Constraints

- We express cardinality constraints by drawing either a directed line (→), signifying "one," or an undirected line (—), signifying "many," between the relationship set and the entity set.
- One-to-one relationship:
  - A student is associated with at most one *instructor* via the relationship *advisor*
  - A *student* is associated with at most one *department* via *stud_dept*

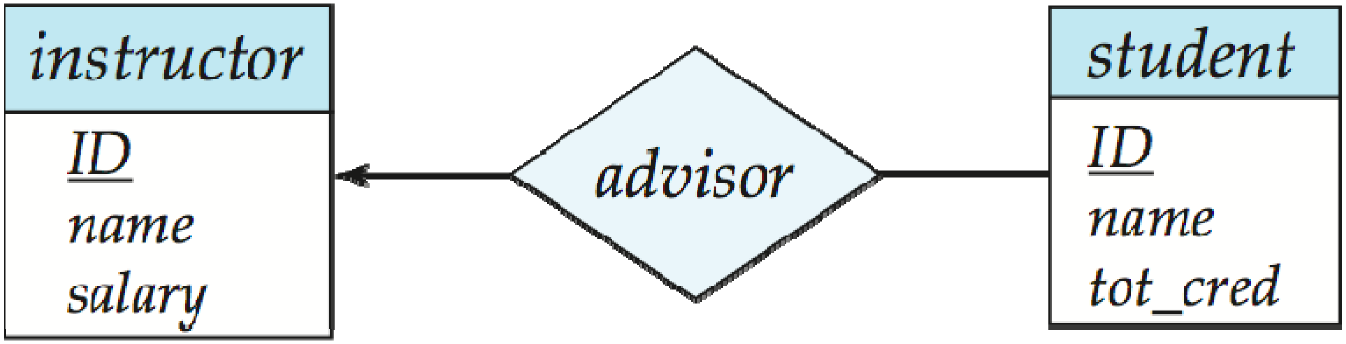
One-to-One Relationship

- one-to-one relationship between an *instructor* and a *student*
  - an instructor is associated with at most one student via *advisor*
  - and a student is associated with at most one instructor via *advisor*



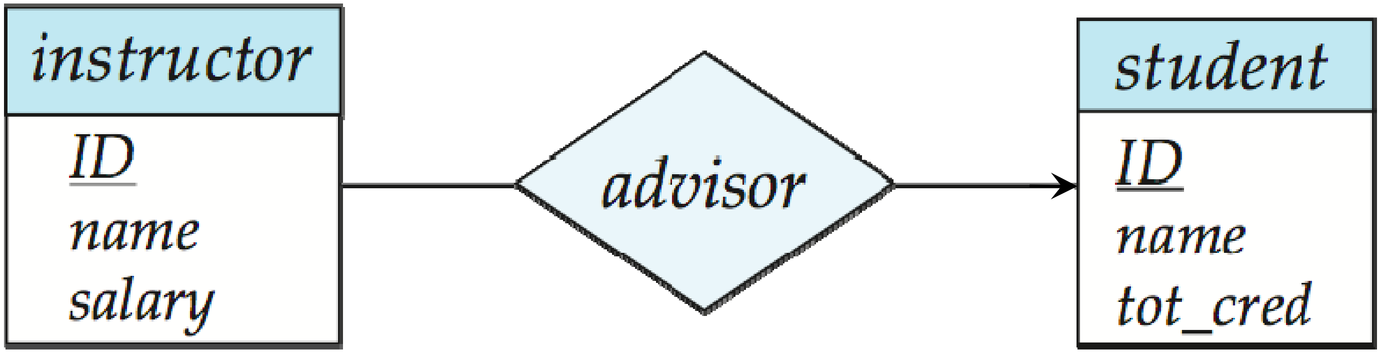
One-to-Many Relationship

- one-to-many relationship between an *instructor* and a *student*
  - an instructor is associated with several (including 0) students via *advisor*
  - a student is associated with at most one instructor via advisor,



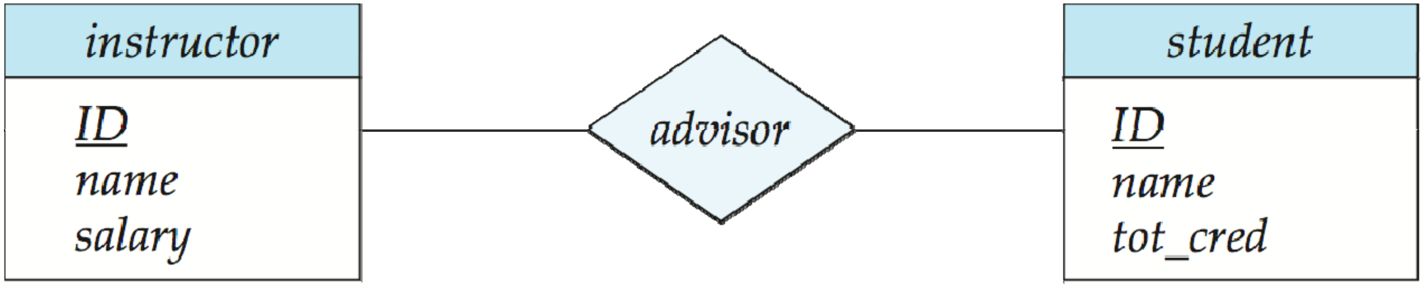
Many-to-One Relationships

- In a many-to-one relationship between an *instructor* and a *student,*
  - an instructor is associated with at most one student via *advisor*,
  - and a student is associated with several (including 0) instructors via *advisor*



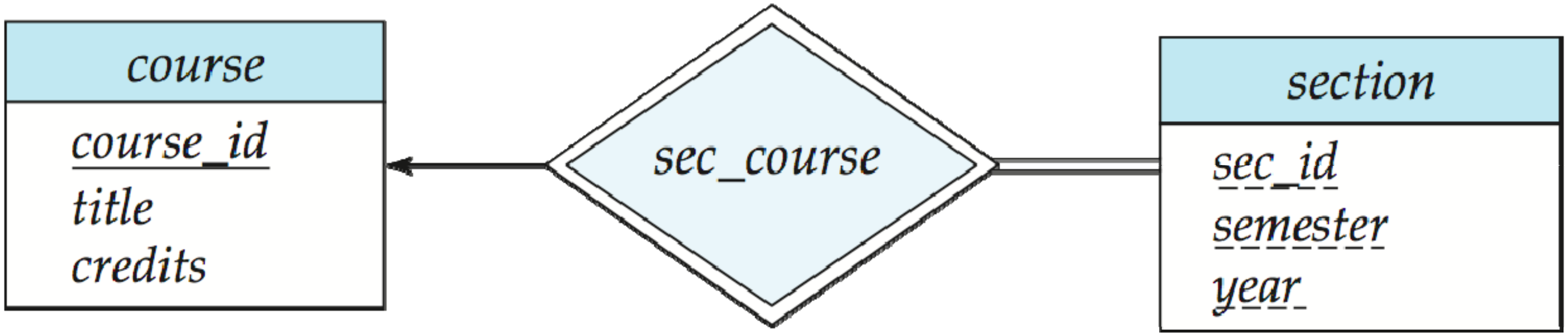
Many-to-Many Relationship

- An instructor is associated with several (possibly 0) students via *advisor*
- A student is associated with several (possibly 0) instructors via *advisor*



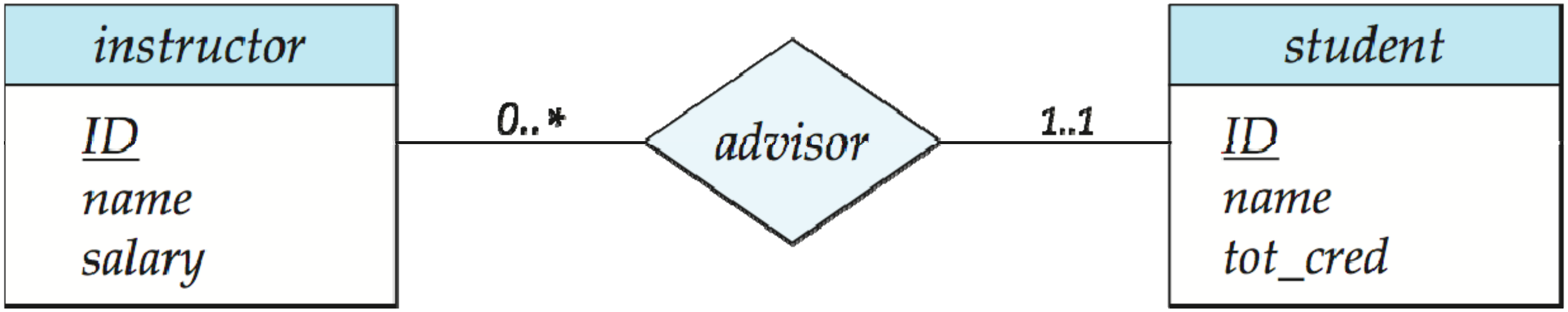
Participation of an Entity Set in a Relationship Set

- Total participation (indicated by double line): every entity in the entity set participates in at least one relationship in the relationship set
  - E.g., participation of *section* in *sec_course* is total
    - every *section* must have an associated course
- Partial participation: some entities may not participate in any relationship in the relationship set
  - Example: participation of *instructor* in *advisor* is partial



Alternative Notation for Cardinality Limits

- Cardinality limits can also express participation constraints

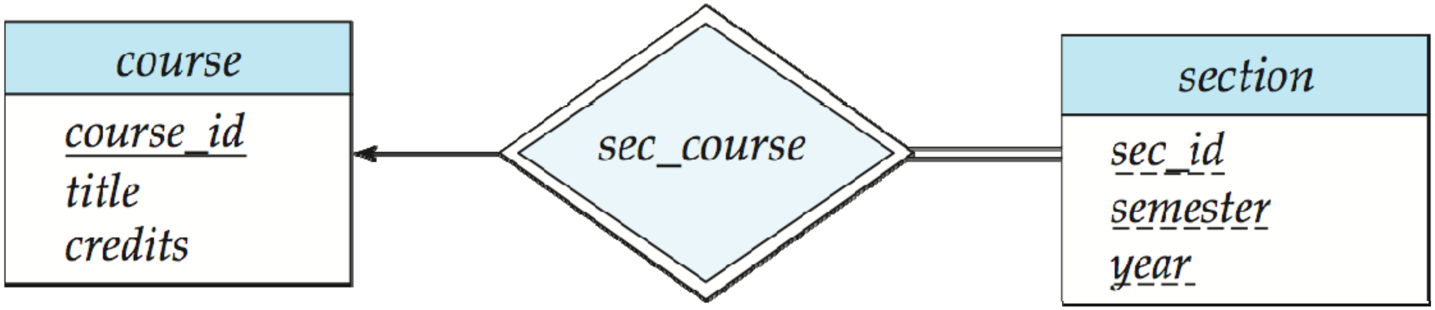


Weak Entity Sets

- An entity set that does not have a primary key is referred to as a **weak entity set**.
- The existence of a weak entity set depends on the existence of a **identifying entity set**
  - It must relate to the identifying entity set via a total, one-to-many relationship set from the identifying to the weak entity set
  - **Identifying relationship** depicted using a double diamond
- The **discriminator** (*or partial key)* of a weak entity set is the set of attributes that distinguishes among all the entities of a weak entity set.
- The primary key of a weak entity set is formed by the primary key of the strong entity set on which the weak entity set is existence dependent, plus the weak entity set's discriminator.

Weak Entity Sets (Cont.)

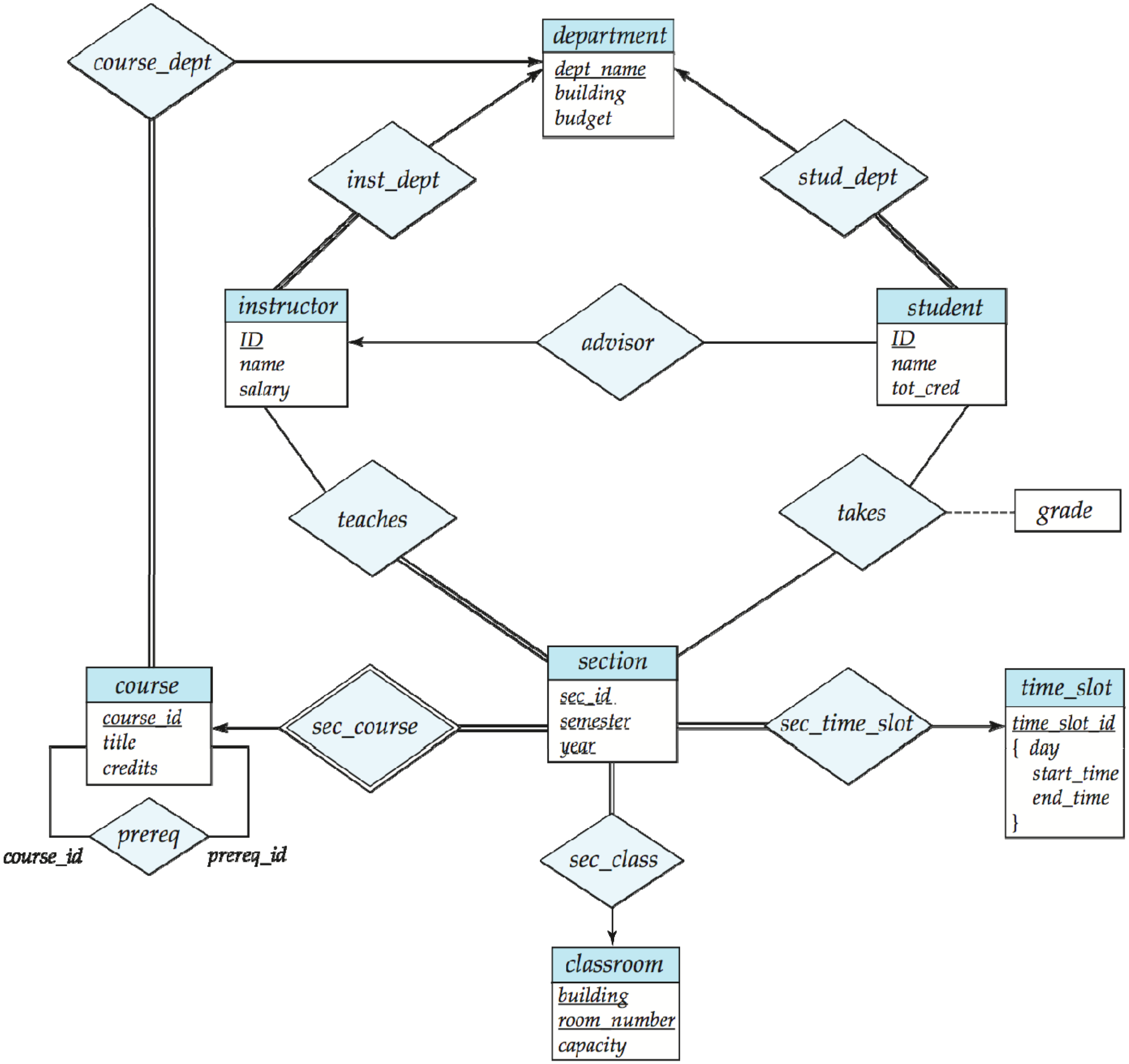
- We underline the discriminator of a weak entity set with a dashed line.
- We put the identifying relationship of a weak entity in a double diamond.
- Primary key for *section* – (*course_id, sec_id, semester, year*)



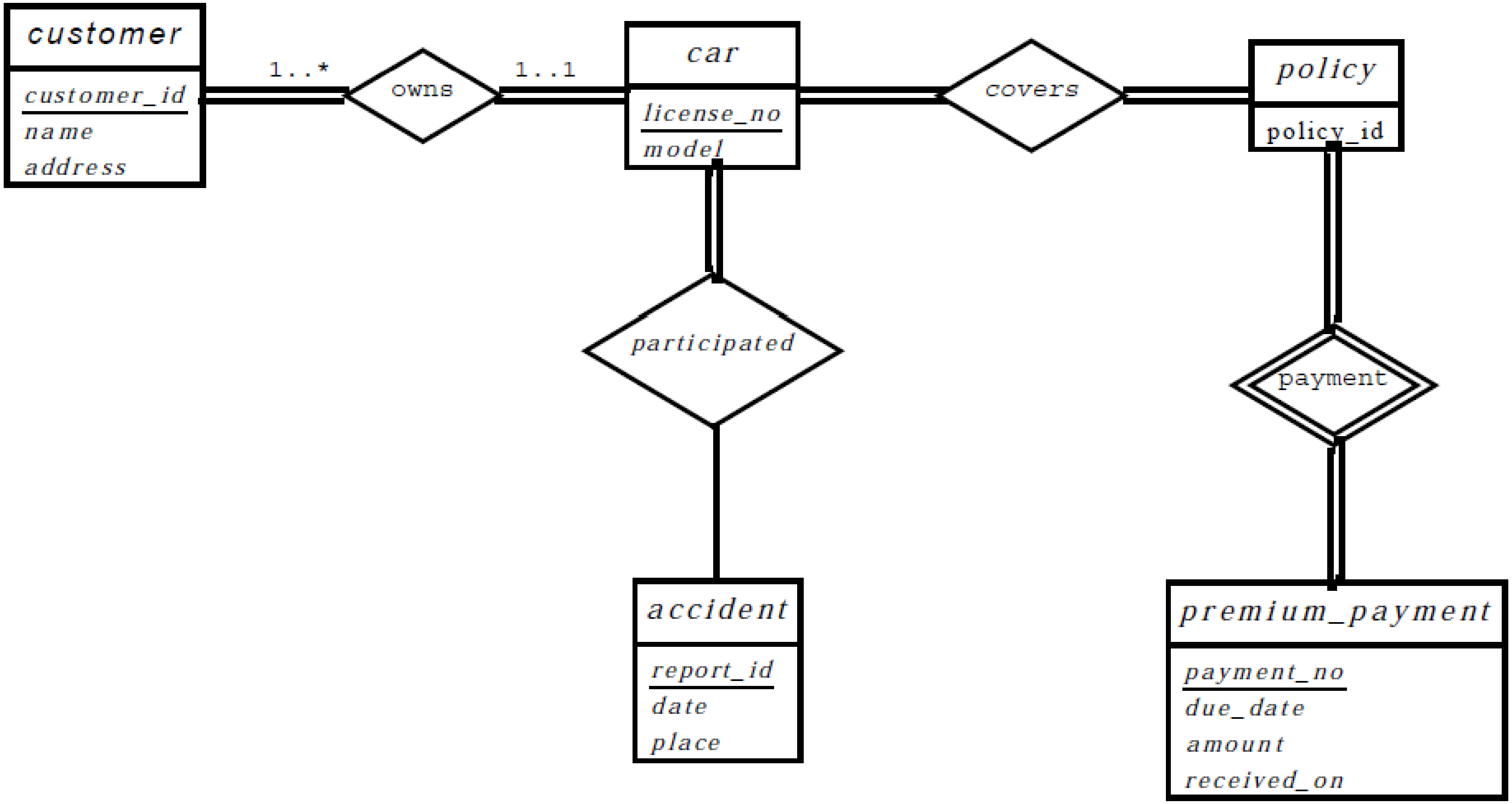
Weak Entity Sets (Cont.)

- Note: the primary key of the strong entity set is not explicitly stored with the weak entity set, since it is implicit in the identifying relationship.
- If *course_id* were explicitly stored, *section* could be made a strong entity, but then the relationship between *section* and *course* would be duplicated by an implicit relationship defined by the attribute *course_id* common to *course* and *section*

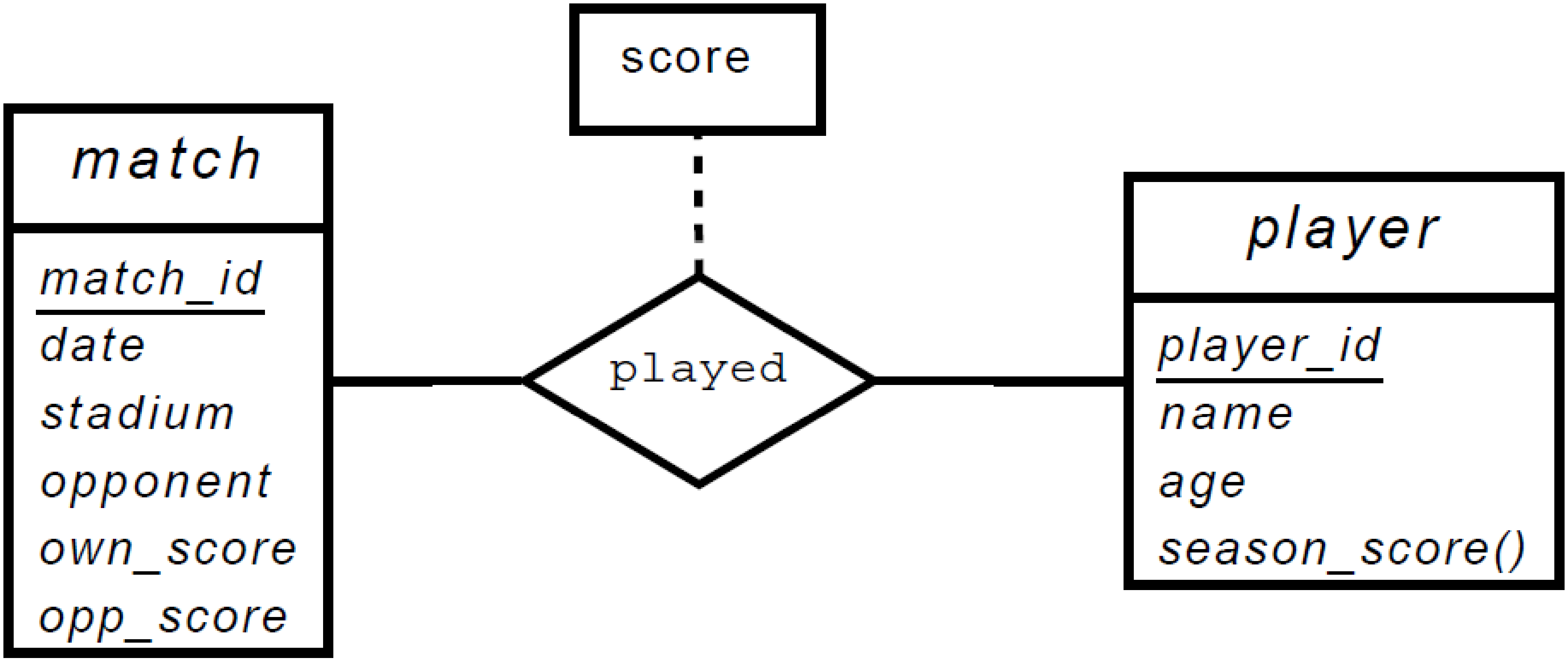
E-R Diagram for a University Enterprise



Ex1: Construct and ER diagram for a car Insurance company whose customers own one or more cars each. Each car has associated with it zero to any number of recorded accidents. Each insurance policy covers one or more cars, and has one or more premium payment associated with it. Each payment is for a particular period of time and has an associated due date, and the date when the payment was received.


customer
customer_id
name
address
1..*
owns
1..1
car
license_no
model
covers
policy
policy_id
participated
payment
accident
report_id
date
place
premium_payment
payment_no
due_date
amount
received_on

EX2 Design an ER diagram for keeping track of the exploits of your favorite SLPL team. You should store the matches played, the scores in each match, the players in each match, individual player statistics (batting only) for each match. Summary statistics should be modeled as derived attributes.


score
match
match_id
date
stadium
opponent
own_score
opp_score
played
player
player_id
name
age
season_score()

- Ex3: Start ER Diagram for the Group project !

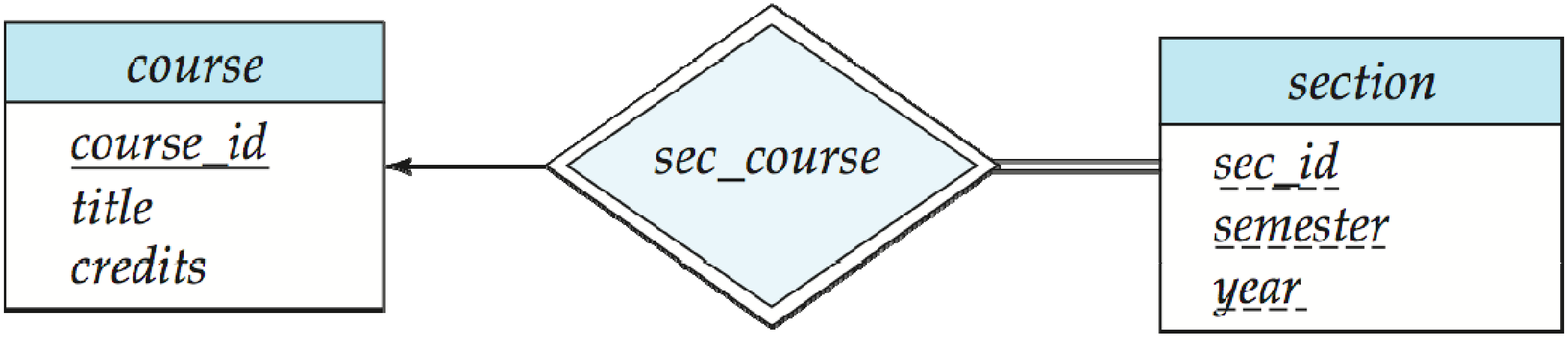
Reduction to Relational Schemas

Reduction to Relation Schemas

- Entity sets and relationship sets can be expressed uniformly as *relation schemas* that represent the contents of the database.
- A database which conforms to an E-R diagram can be represented by a collection of schemas.
- For each entity set and relationship set there is a unique schema that is assigned the name of the corresponding entity set or relationship set.
- Each schema has a number of columns (generally corresponding to attributes), which have unique names.

Representing Entity Sets With Simple Attributes

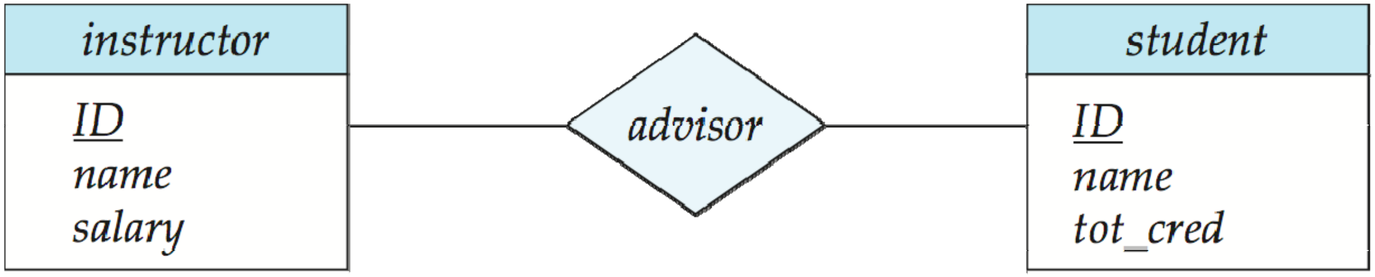
- A strong entity set reduces to a schema with the same attributes
  student(<u>ID</u>, name, tot_cred)
- A weak entity set becomes a table that includes a column for the primary key of the identifying strong entity set
  section (<u>course_id, sec_id, sem, year</u>)



Representing Relationship Sets

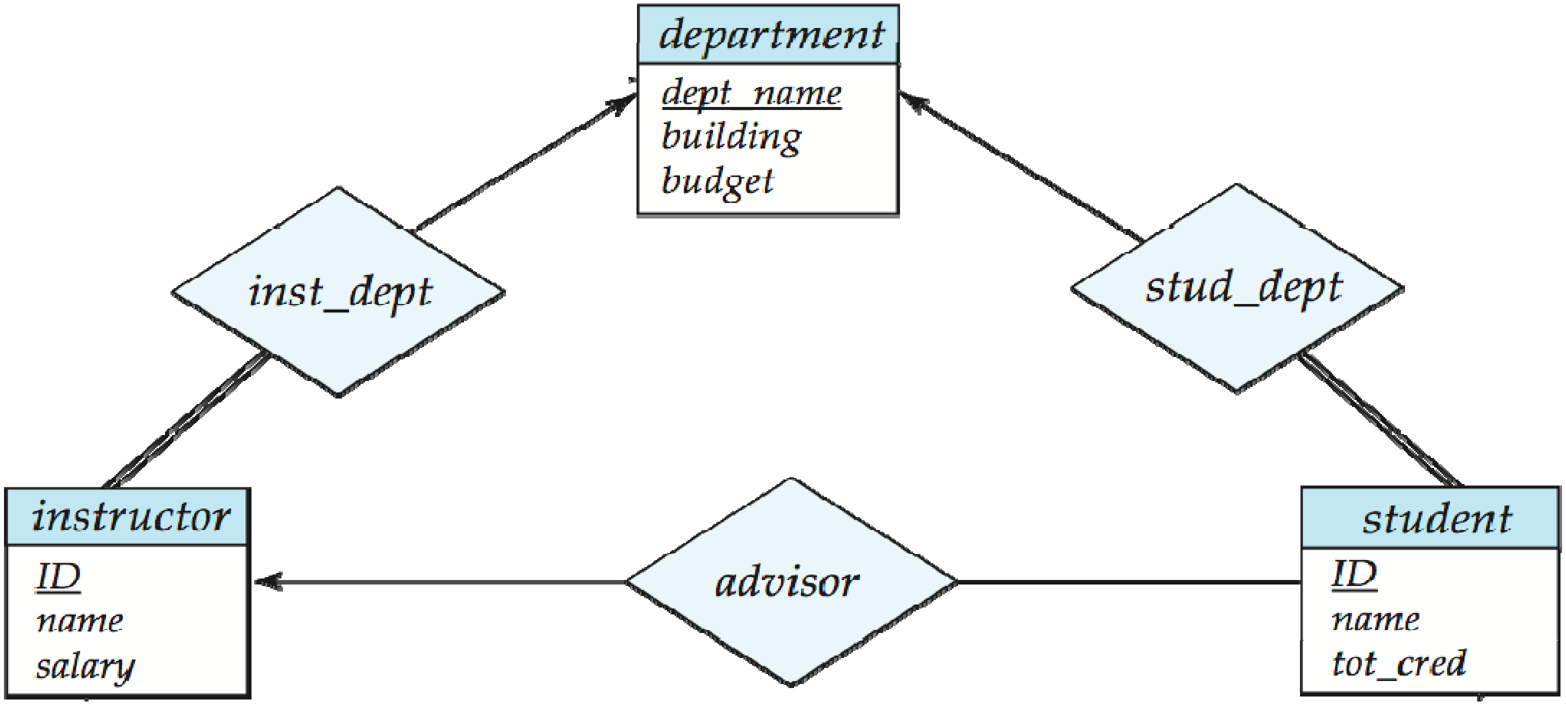
- A many-to-many relationship set is represented as a schema with attributes for the primary keys of the two participating entity sets, and any descriptive attributes of the relationship set.
- Example: schema for relationship set *advisor*

  advisor = (*s_id, i_id*)

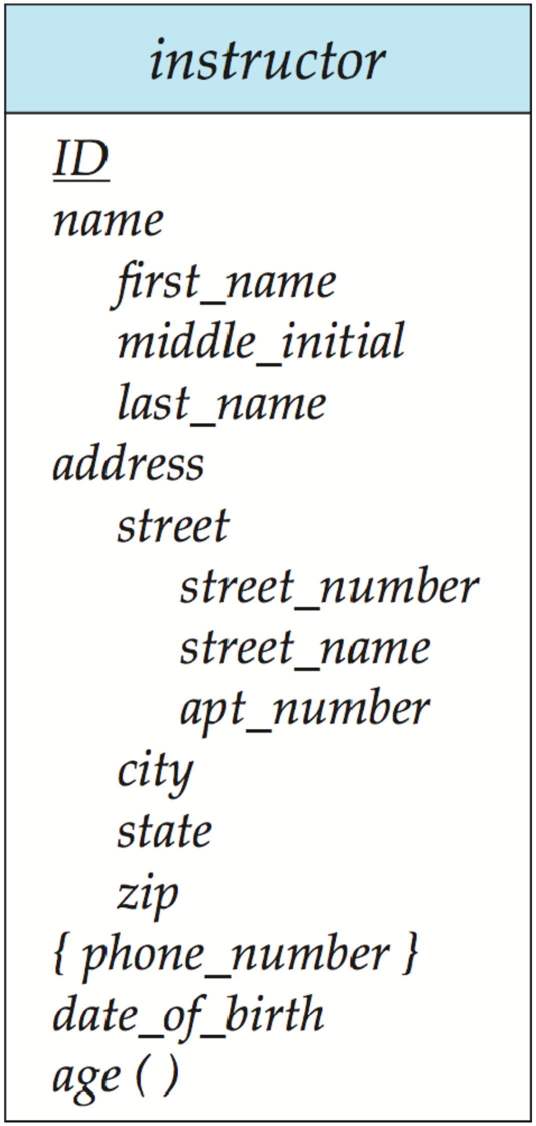


Redundancy of Schemas

- Many-to-one and one-to-many relationship sets that are total on the many-side can be represented by adding an extra attribute to the "many" side, containing the primary key of the "one" side
- Example: Instead of creating a schema for relationship set *inst_dept*, add an attribute *dept_name* to the schema arising from entity set *instructor*



Composite and Multivalued Attributes



instructor

ID
name
  first_name
  middle_initial
  last_name
address
  street
    street_number
    street_name
    apt_number
  city
  state
  zip
{ phone_number }
date_of_birth
age ( )

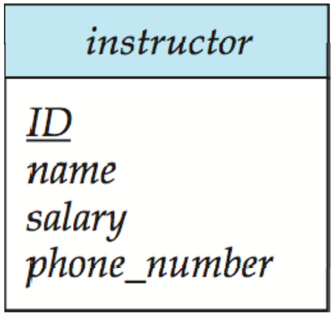
- Composite attributes are flattened out by creating a separate attribute for each component attribute
  - Example: given entity set *instructor* with composite attribute *name* with component attributes *first_name* and *last_name* the schema corresponding to the entity set has two attributes *name_first_name* and *name_last_name*
    - *Prefix omitted if there is no ambiguity*
- Ignoring multivalued attributes, extended instructor schema is
  - *instructor(ID,*
    first_name, middle_initial, last_name,
    street_number, street_name,
    apt_number, city, state, zip_code,
    date_of_birth)

Composite and Multivalued Attributes

- A multivalued attribute *M* of an entity *E* is represented by a separate schema *EM*
  - Schema *EM* has attributes corresponding to the primary key of *E* and an attribute corresponding to multivalued attribute *M*
  - Example: Multivalued attribute *phone_number* of *instructor* is represented by a schema:
    inst_phone= (*ID*, *phone_number*)
  - Each value of the multivalued attribute maps to a separate tuple of the relation on schema *EM*
    - For example, an *instructor* entity with primary key 22222 and phone numbers 456-7890 and 123-4567 maps to two tuples:
      (22222, 456-7890) and (22222, 123-4567)

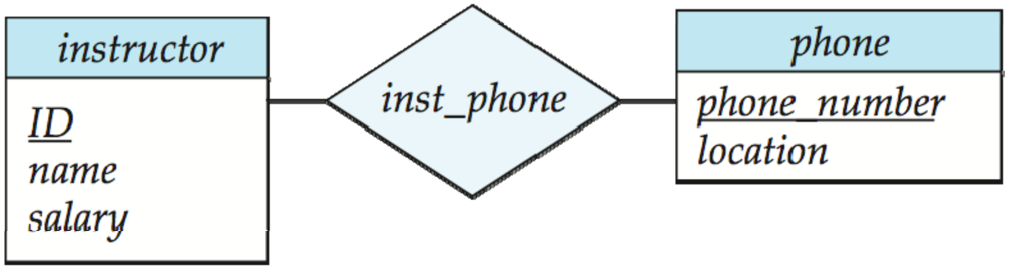
Design Issues

- **Use of entity sets vs. attributes**



instructor

ID
name
salary
phone_number



instructor

ID
name
salary

inst_phone

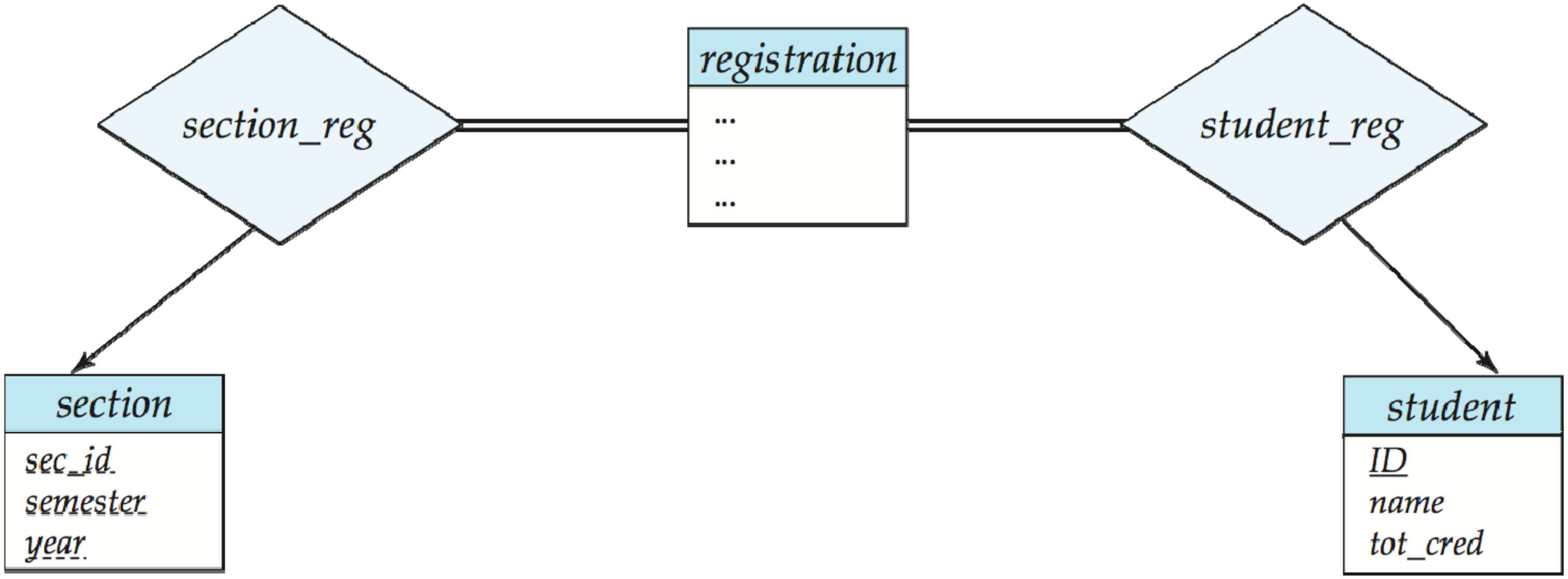
phone

phone_number
location

- Use of phone as an entity allows extra information about phone numbers (plus multiple phone numbers)

Design Issues

- **Use of entity sets vs. relationship sets**
  Possible guideline is to designate a relationship set to describe an action that occurs between entities

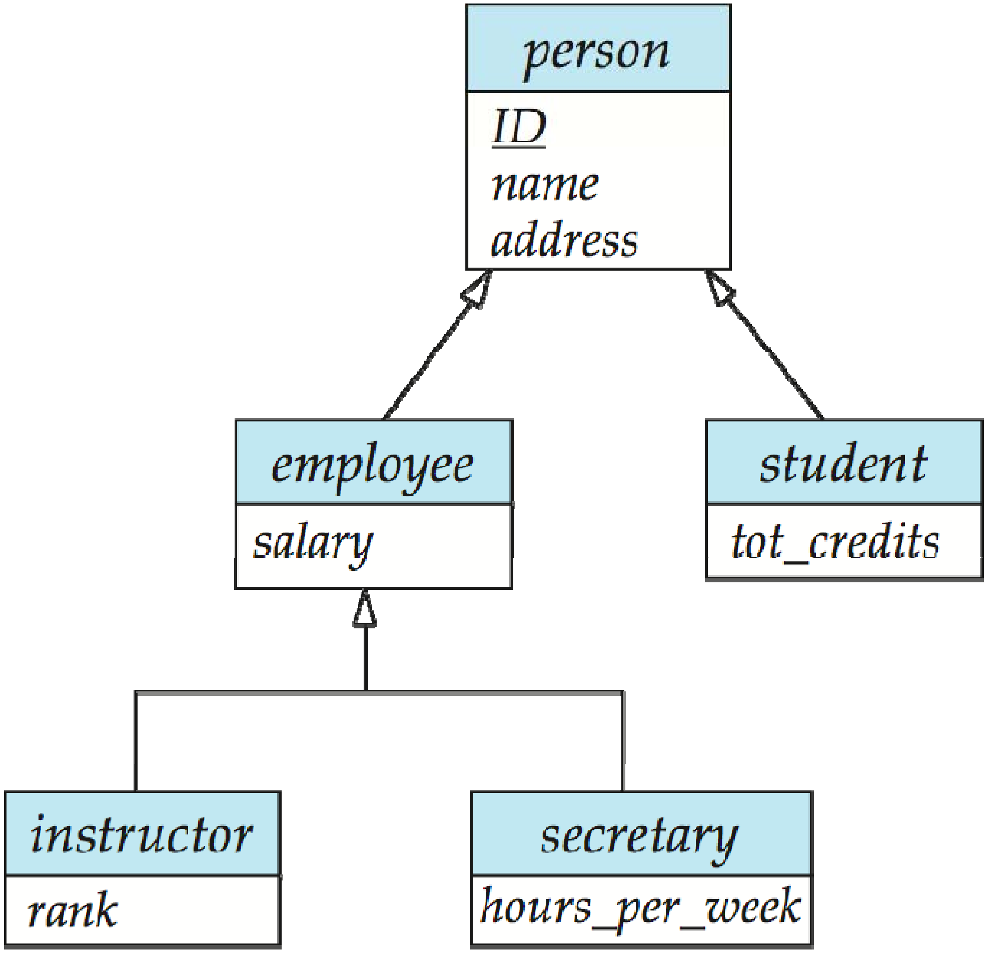


Extended ER Features

Extended E-R Features: Specialization

- Top-down design process; we designate subgroupings within an entity set that are distinctive from other entities in the set.
- These subgroupings become lower-level entity sets that have attributes or participate in relationships that do not apply to the higher-level entity set.
- Depicted by a *triangle* component labeled ISA (E.g., *instructor* “is a” *person*).
- **Attribute inheritance** – a lower-level entity set inherits all the attributes and relationship participation of the higher-level entity set to which it is linked.

Specialization Example



Extended ER Features: Generalization

- **A bottom-up design process** – combine a number of entity sets that share the same features into a higher-level entity set.
- Specialization and generalization are simple inversions of each other; they are represented in an E-R diagram in the same way.
- The terms specialization and generalization are used interchangeably.

Specialization and Generalization (Cont.)

- Can have multiple specializations of an entity set based on different features.
- E.g., *permanent_employee* vs. *temporary_employee*, in addition to *instructor* vs. *secretary*
- Each particular employee would be
  - a member of one of *permanent_employee* or *temporary_employee*,
  - and also a member of one of *instructor*, *secretary*
- The ISA relationship also referred to as **superclass - subclass** relationship

Design Constraints on a Specialization/Generalization

- Constraint on which entities can be members of a given lower-level entity set.
  - condition-defined
    - Example: all customers over 65 years are members of *senior-citizen* entity set; *senior-citizen* ISA *person*.
  - user-defined – DB user assigns members
- Constraint on whether or not entities may belong to more than one lower-level entity set within a single generalization.
  - **Disjoint**
    - an entity can belong to only one lower-level entity set
    - Noted in E-R diagram by having multiple lower-level entity sets link to the same triangle. Eg. Student grad Vs undergrad
  - **Overlapping**
    - an entity can belong to more than one lower-level entity set

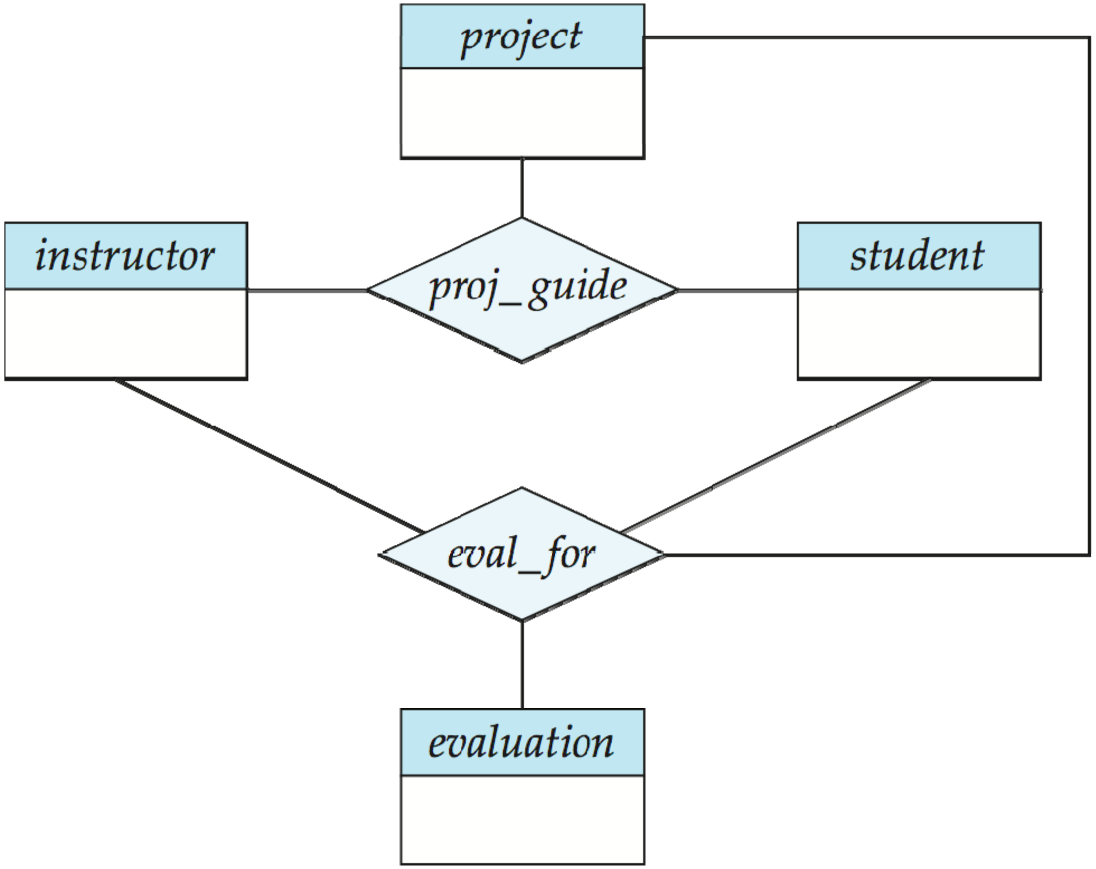
      Eg. Same Employee in multiple teams

Design Constraints on a Specialization/Generalization (Cont.)

- **Completeness constraint** -- specifies whether or not an entity in the higher-level entity set must belong to at least one of the lower-level entity sets within a generalization.
  - **total**: an entity must belong to one of the lower-level entity sets
    - Eg. Student – grad / undergrad
  - **partial**: an entity need not belong to one of the lower-level entity sets.
    - Eg. Employee - Employee teams if assigned after 3 months

Aggregation

- Consider the ternary relationship *proj_guide*, which we saw earlier
- Suppose we want to record evaluations of a student by a guide on a project

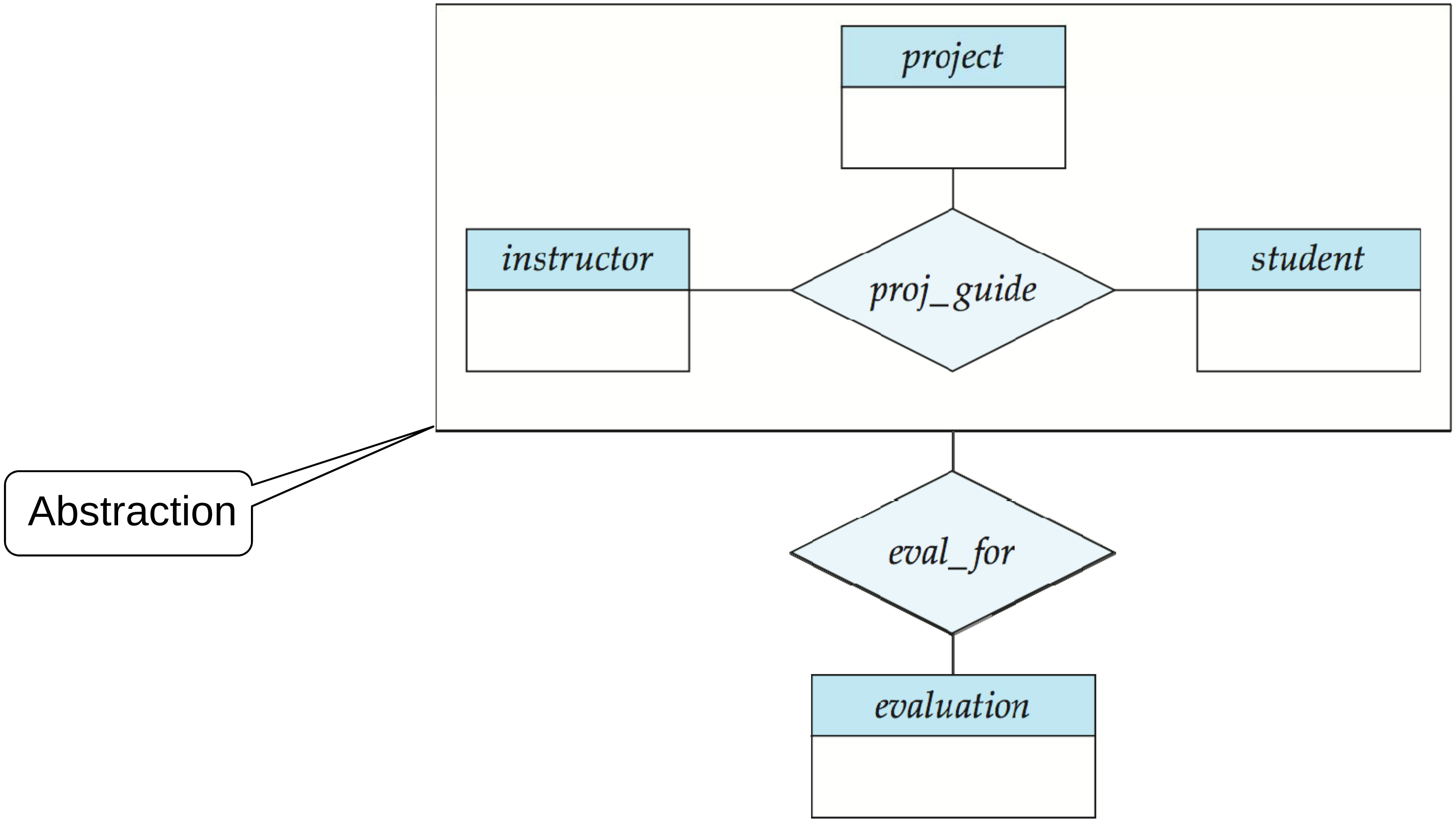


Aggregation (Cont.)

- Relationship sets *eval_for* and *proj_guide* represent overlapping information
  - Every *eval_for* relationship corresponds to a *proj_guide* relationship
  - However, some *proj_guide* relationships may not correspond to any *eval_for* relationships
    - So we can't discard the *proj_guide* relationship
- Eliminate this redundancy via *aggregation*
  - Treat relationship as an abstract entity
  - Allows relationships between relationships
  - Abstraction of relationship into new entity

Aggregation (Cont.)

- Without introducing redundancy, the following diagram represents:
  - A student is guided by a particular instructor on a particular project
  - A student, instructor, project combination may have an associated evaluation



Representing Specialization via Schemas

- Method 1:
  - Form a schema for the higher-level entity
  - Form a schema for each lower-level entity set, include primary key of higher-level entity set and local attributes

schema	attributes
person	*ID, name, street, city*
student	*ID, tot_cred*
employee	*ID, salary*

  - Drawback: getting information about, an *employee* requires accessing two relations, the one corresponding to the low-level schema and the one corresponding to the high-level schema

Representing Specialization as Schemas (Cont.)

- Method 2:
  - Form a schema for each entity set with all local and inherited attributes

schema	attributes
person	*ID, name, street, city*
student	*ID, name, street, city, tot_cred*
employee	*ID, name, street, city, salary*

  - If specialization is total, the schema for the generalized entity set (*person*) not required to store information
    - Can be defined as a "view" relation containing union of specialization relations
    - But explicit schema may still be needed for foreign key constraints
  - Drawback: *name, street* and *city* may be stored redundantly for people who are both students and employees

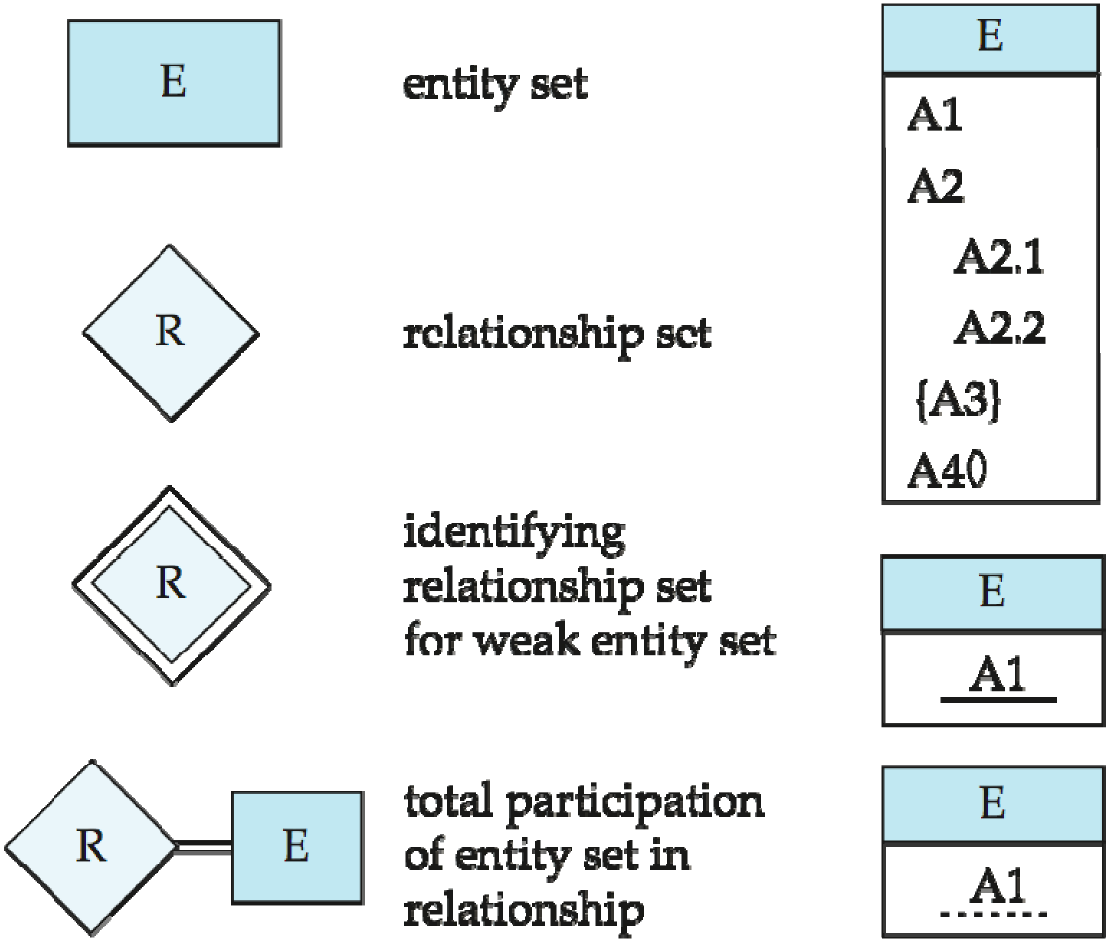
Schemas Corresponding to Aggregation

- To represent aggregation, create a schema containing
  - primary key of the aggregated relationship,
  - the primary key of the associated entity set
  - any descriptive attributes

E-R Design Decisions

- The use of an attribute or entity set to represent an object.
- Whether a real-world concept is best expressed by an entity set or a relationship set.
- The use of a ternary relationship versus a pair of binary relationships.
- The use of a strong or weak entity set.
- The use of specialization/generalization – contributes to modularity in the design.
- The use of aggregation – can treat the aggregate entity set as a single unit without concern for the details of its internal structure.

Summary of Symbols Used in E-R Notation



entity set

rclationship sct

identifying
relationship set
for weak entity set

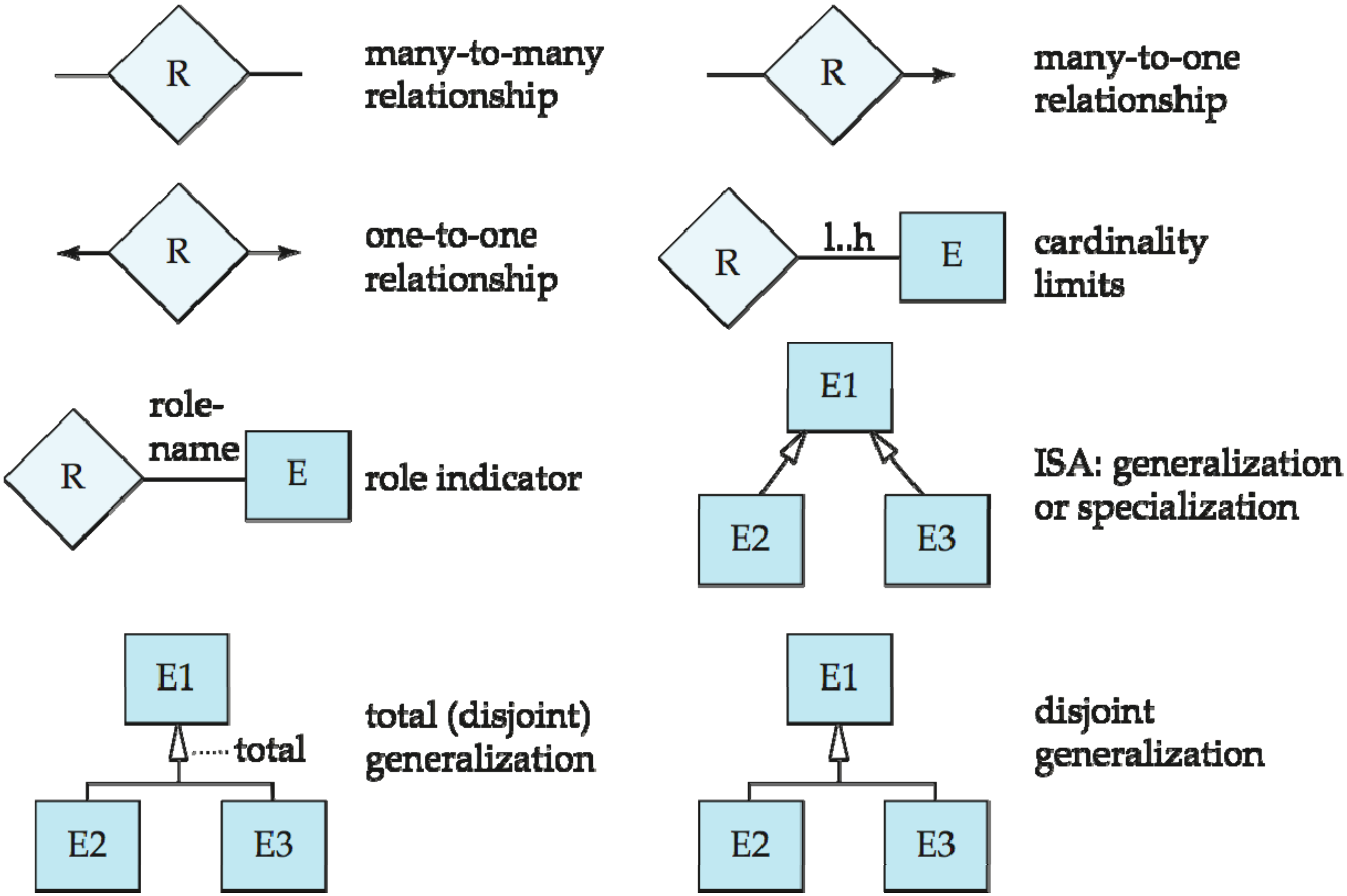
total participation
of entity set in
relationship

attributes:
simple (A1),
composite (A2) and
multivalued (A3)
derived (A4)

primary key

discriminating
attribute of
weak entity set

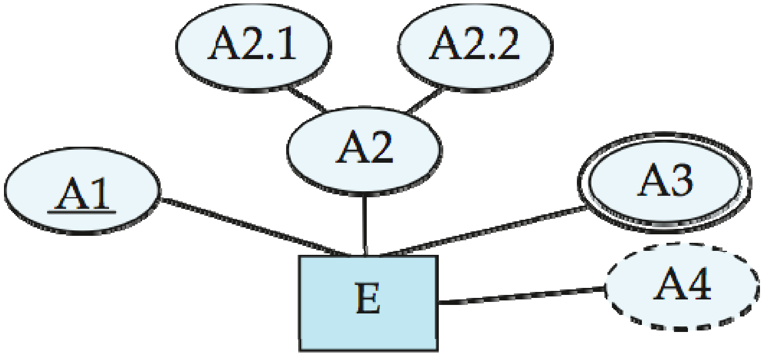
Symbols Used in E-R Notation (Cont.)



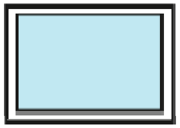
Alternative ER Notations

- Chen, IDE1FX, …

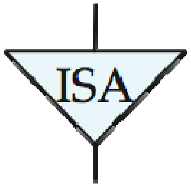
entity set E with
simple attribute A1,
composite attribute A2,
multivalued attribute A3,
derived attribute A4,
and primary key A1



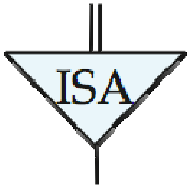
weak entity set



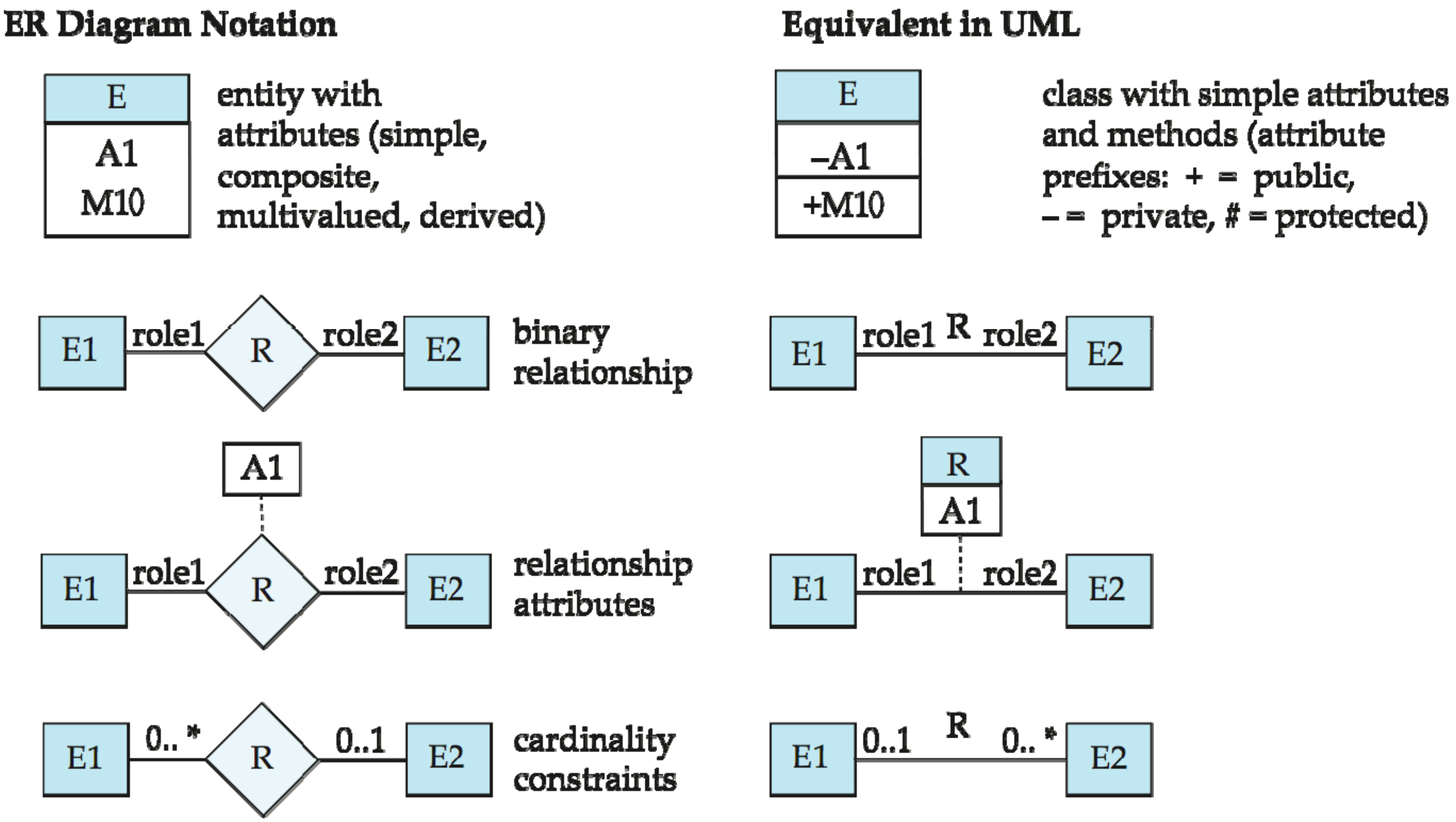
generalization



total generalization



ER vs. UML Class Diagrams

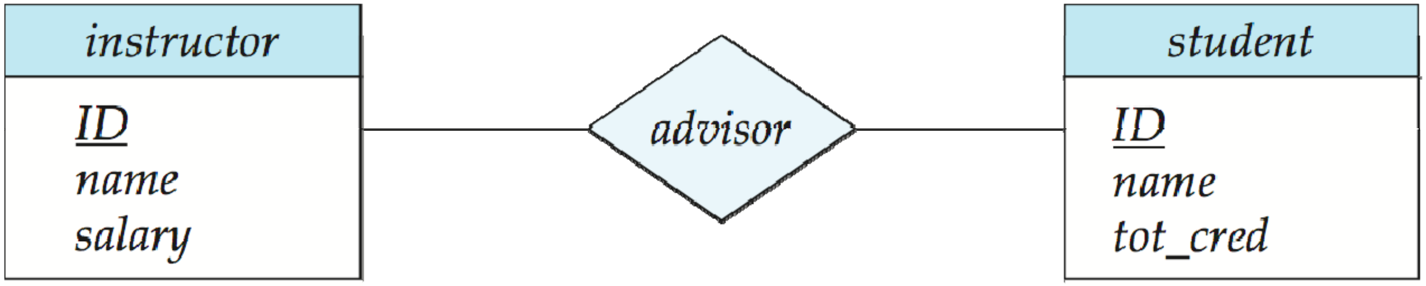


*Note reversal of position in cardinality constraint depiction

Other Aspects of DB Design

- Data Constraints
  - Constraint Enforcement Costs!
- Usage requirements
  - **Max. Throughput** : # queries / updates per second
  - **Min. Response Time** : Time for a single transaction
  - Queries that require joins will reduce optimization may need indexes.
- Authorization Requirements
  - Relation may need to be broken due to security reasons.
- Enterprise workflows and Data Flows
- Other Issues
  - Requirement Changes
  - Interaction with other enterprise applications
  - Human-oriented nature of DB Design – End User = humans

Ex 4



Modify the above ER diagram so as to enable it to keep track of time. The data model should be able to keep track of time periods when a student had two different/same instructors as advisors. It should be able to keep track of time periods when different salary revisions were valid, and changes to total credits.

Convert the above modified ER diagram to a set of relations.