# CSDS341 Project - Airline Querying System - Final Report

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## Background & Introduction

In recent decades, the growing demand for leisure and business travel has led to the prosperity of the airline market. An increasing number of people have been choosing to take flights to travel domestically or internationally. Therefore, an organized and comprehensive database that stores the airline system is critical for both travelers and crew to obtain plenty of simultaneous information.

Although there do exist several flight databases or applications for commercial airlines, it is rare to find comprehensive information - including weather at the departure airport and destination, aircraft type, the total flight hours of pilots, and the number of luggage allowed - in just one database. This information offers travelers a chance to be better prepared for traveling.

Since our airline querying system contains a relatively extensive data sets, the crew members who choose to use our database are able to access the basic information about the travelers who will be on their flight and provides updates about the airline information.

## Database High-Level Design

### Assumptions

In order to simulate the real-world situation of a complex flight system, we need to design our database based on the following assumptions. These assumptions can also be used as references for all data constraints.

- 1. Assume that there have and only have two types of users of the airline querying system: travelers and crew.
- 2. Assume that plane ticket information is stored in the database system and each ticket is only valid for one traveler. However, a traveler may own zero or more plane tickets.
- 3. Assume that each ticket contains a specific seat location for exactly one flight. However, a flight may have multiple tickets being sold to travelers.
- 4. Assume that a crew member can be either an air attendant or a pilot. Therefore, a crew member can serve zero or more flights. Additionally, a flight must be served by at least one crew member. It does have a slight chance that a small propeller airplane only needs one crew member (i.e. the pilot).
- 5. Assume that a flight is operated by exactly one aeroplane. For example, the aircraft with registration number B-6075 is operating a specific flight (flight number: CA862) from Beijing(PEK) to Geneva(GVA). However, it is likely that one aeroplane can fly multiple flights. Notice that the registration number is unique for each aeroplane.

- 6. Assume that an aeroplane can only belong to one company. Additionally, a airline company can have multiple planes.
- 7. Assume that each airline company must have at least one airport as its hub, a place where the head-quarter of the company locates and where the aeroplanes get maintenance and repaired. However, some large airports can provide services for multiple airline companies. For example, Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is a hub for both United and Delta Airlines, and Delta Airlines has another hub: Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW).
- 8. Assume that each flight can have multiple schedules, and a schedule can be mapped to multiple flights. It is common for most domestic flights to have the same flight flying the same route on two successive days. There is also a slight chance that two flights have the exact same schedule.
- 9. Assume that each flight only departures from exactly one airport and only arrives at exactly one airport. However, an airport can have many flights.

## **Entity-Relationship Model**

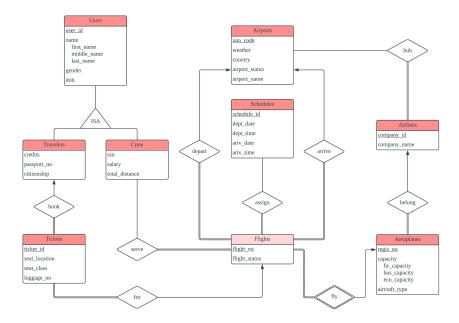


Figure 1: CSDS341 Airline Database ER-Diagram

#### **Data Description**

Our database consists of seven entities, eight relationships, and one identifying relationship. Notice that some tables and relationships are merged together to reduce redundancy.

Travelers and Crew are considered as users of our airline user system. Travelers contains each travelers' information such as credits, citizenship, etc. Crew, sharing part of the attributes with Travelers, also has its unique attributes such as ssn and salary. Note that each user should be either a Traveler or a Crew. A user cannot be both or none, which means that if a user\_id has already been stored in Travelers table, it will not be present in the Crew Table.

For Travelers, they are connected to their booking information (i.e. Table Tickets) by the book relationship, while travelers connect to flight information by the serve relationship. Note that flight cannot

exist by itself, which means that a flight must be operated by an aeroplane. Additionally, an aeroplane must belong to exactly one airline company by the belong relationship. Moreover, a flight is connected to two airports by the arrive and depart relationships. An airline company can also connect to airports by the hub relationship.

Our database implement NOT NULL constraints for primary keys and part of other attributes. We also use FOREIGN KEY constraints when referencing information from other tables. PRIMARY KEY constraints are adopted in all tables to ensure that each tuple is unique. PRIMARY KEY constraints also prevent the NULL values being assigned into the table by default. For more information, please see the constraints section where our group listed all primary key constraints, overlap Constraints, Foreign Key Constraints, Mapping Cardinalities, Participation Constraints.

For Functional Dependencies and Normalization, all of our tables are in BCNF. For each table, the functional dependencies are non-trivial and for each FD  $X \to Y$ , X is one of the super key of the table. Since there are no violation of BCNF, no tables should be decomposed from our current design. We will discussed our functional dependencies in more detail later in the Functional Dependencies Section.

#### Relational Schema

## **Strong Entities**

The Travelers Table records the information of each traveler such as citizenship and passport numbers.

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Travelers (
   user_id INT NOT NULL,
   first_name VARCHAR(50),
   middle_name VARCHAR(50),
   last_name VARCHAR(50),
   gender CHAR(1),
   dob DATE,
   credits INT DEFAULT 0,
   passport_no VARCHAR(20),
   citizenship VARCHAR(30),
   PRIMARY KEY (user_id),
   CHECK (gender IN ('M', 'F', 'U')));
```

The Crew Table is built for crew members including pilots. Their information such as social-security number and total distance traveled will be recorded.

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Crew (
   user_id INT NOT NULL,
   first_name VARCHAR(50),
   middle_name VARCHAR(50),
   last_name VARCHAR(50),
   gender CHAR(1),
   dob DATE,
   ssn INT NOT NULL,
   salary DOUBLE,
   total_distance INT,
   PRIMARY KEY (user_id),
   CHECK (gender IN ('M', 'F', 'U')));
```

The Airports Table contains information of airports such as the IATA code and name of the airport.

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Airports (
    iata code CHAR(3) NOT NULL,
    airport name VARCHAR(100),
    country CHAR(2),
    weather VARCHAR(30),
    airport status VARCHAR(30),
    PRIMARY KEY (iata code),
    CHECK (weather IN ('Sunny', 'Mostly Sunny', 'Partly Cloudy',
        'Cloudy', 'Rainy', 'Heavy Rainy', 'Foggy',
        'Snowy', 'Heavy Snowy', 'Frost')),
    CHECK (airport_status IN ('Free', 'Normal',
        'Busy', 'Small-Scale Delay', 'Large-Scale Delay')));
The Airlines Table contains information of airline companies.
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Airlines (
    company_id INT NOT NULL,
    company name VARCHAR(50),
    PRIMARY KEY (company_id));
The Schedules Table contains information of flight schedules including departure time and arrival time.
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Schedules (
    schedule id INT NOT NULL,
    dept date DATE,
    dept time TIME,
    ariv_date DATE,
    ariv_time TIME,
    PRIMARY KEY (schedule_id));
```

## Merged Tables

The Aeroplanes\_belong Table merges one entity (Aeroplanes) and one relationship (belong). It contains information about connection between aeroplanes and airline companies.

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Aeroplanes_belong (
    regis_no VARCHAR(10) NOT NULL,
    fir_capacity INT,
    bus_capacity INT,
    eco_capacity INT,
    aircraft_type VARCHAR(50),
    company_id INT NOT NULL,
    PRIMARY KEY (regis_no),
    FOREIGN KEY (company_id)
        REFERENCES Airlines(company_id));
```

The Tickets\_book\_for Table merges one entity (Tickets) and two relationships (book and for). It contains traveler booking information.

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Tickets_book_for (
    ticket_id INT NOT NULL,
```

```
seat_location CHAR(4),
seat_class CHAR(1),
luggage_no INT,
regis_no VARCHAR(10) NOT NULL,
flight_no VARCHAR(7) NOT NULL,
traveler_id INT NOT NULL,
PRIMARY KEY (ticket_id),
FOREIGN KEY (traveler_id)
    REFERENCES Travelers(user_id),
FOREIGN KEY (regis_no, flight_no)
    REFERENCES Flights_ariv_dept(regis_no, flight_no),
CHECK (seat_class IN ('F', 'B', 'E')));
```

## Weak Entity

The Flights\_ariv\_dept Table merges one weak entity (Flights), one identifying relationship (Fly), and two relationships (arrive, depart). It contains the information of flights as well as its departure and arrival information.

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS Flights_ariv_dept (
    regis_no VARCHAR(10) NOT NULL,
    flight_no VARCHAR(7) NOT NULL,
    flight_status VARCHAR(10),
    dept_iata_code CHAR(3) NOT NULL,
    ariv_iata_code CHAR(3) NOT NULL,
    PRIMARY KEY (regis_no, flight_no),
    FOREIGN KEY (regis_no)
        REFERENCES Aeroplanes_belong(regis_no),
    FOREIGN KEY (dept_iata_code)
        REFERENCES Airports(iata_code),
    FOREIGN KEY (dept_iata_code)
        REFERENCES Airports(iata_code),
    CHECK (flight_status IN ('On-Time' , 'Delay', 'Cancel')));
```

### Relationships

The serve Table contains information of connection between Crew members and the flights they serve.

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS serve (
    crew_id INT NOT NULL,
    regis_no VARCHAR(10) NOT NULL,
    flight_no VARCHAR(7) NOT NULL,
    PRIMARY KEY (crew_id , regis_no , flight_no),
    FOREIGN KEY (crew_id)
        REFERENCES Crew(user_id),
    FOREIGN KEY (regis_no, flight_no)
        REFERENCES Flights_ariv_dept(regis_no, flight_no));
```

The assign Table contains information of connection between flights and flying schedules.

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS assign (
```

The hub Table contains information of connection between airline companies and their hub airports.

```
CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS hub (
company_id INT NOT NULL,
iata_code CHAR(3) NOT NULL,
PRIMARY KEY (company_id , iata_code),
FOREIGN KEY (company_id)

REFERENCES Airlines(company_id),
FOREIGN KEY (iata_code)

REFERENCES Airports(iata_code));
```

#### Constraints

## **Primary Key Constraints**

The Primary Key of each table can either be one or several attributes. Assume that a primary key is NOT NULL and unique.

- 1. For Table Travelers and Airports, the primary key is user\_id. Since a traveler or a crew isa user, a user\_id cannot be used for a traveler or a crew simultaneously, which will also be discussed in the Overlap Constraints Section.
- 2. For Table Airports, the primary key is iata\_code. It stands for the unique three-character International Air Transport Association Code for each airport.
- 3. For Table Airlines, the primary key is company\_id.
- 4. For Table Schedules, the primary key is schedule\_id.
- 5. For Table Aeroplanes\_belong, the primary key is regis\_no.
- 6. For Table Flights\_ariv\_dept, the primary keys are regis\_no and flight\_no.
- 7. For Table Tickets\_book\_for, the primary key is ticket\_id.
- 8. For Table serve, the primary keys are crew id, regin no and flight no.
- 9. For Table assign, the primary keys are regis\_no, flight\_no and schedule\_id.
- 10. For Table hub, The primary keys are company\_id and iata\_code.

#### Overlap Constraints

A User can be either Travelers or Crew, but they share the same primary key attribute user\_id, so a user\_id cannot be used for a traveler or a crew simultaneously.

## Foreign Key Constraints

- 1. The Tickets\_book\_for relation has three foreign-key constraints:
  - traveler\_id references the primary key of the Travelers relation (Travelers.user\_id).
  - regis\_no references the primary key of the Flights\_ariv\_dept relation (Flights\_ariv\_dept.regis\_no).
  - flight\_no reference the primary key of the Flights\_ariv\_dept relation (Flights\_ariv\_dept.flight\_no).
- 2. The Aeroplanes\_belong relation has one foreign-key constraint:
  - company\_id references the primary key of the Airlines relation (Airlines.company\_id).
- 3. The Flights\_ariv\_dept relation has three foreign-key constraints:
  - regis\_no references the primary key of the Aeroplanes\_belong relation (Aeroplanes\_belong.regis\_no).
  - dept\_iata\_code references the primary key of the Airports relation (Airports.iata\_code).
  - ariv\_iata\_code references the primary key of the Airports relation (Airports.iata\_code).
- 4. The serve relation has three foreign-key constraints:
  - crew\_id references the primary key of the Crew relation (Crew.user\_id).
  - regis\_no references the primary key of the Flights\_ariv\_dept relation (Flights\_ariv\_dept.regis\_no).
  - flight\_no reference the primary key of the Flights\_ariv\_dept relation (Flights\_ariv\_dept.flight\_no).
- 5. The assign relation has three foreign-key constraints:
  - schedule\_id references the primary key of the Schedules relation (Schedules.schedule\_id).
  - regis\_no references the primary key of the Flights\_ariv\_dept relation (Flights\_ariv\_dept.regis\_no).
  - flight\_no reference the primary key of the Flights\_ariv\_dept relation (Flights\_ariv\_dept.flight\_no).
- 6. The hub relation has three foreign-key constraints:
  - company\_id references the primary key of the Airlines relation (Airlines.company\_id).
  - iata\_code references the primary key of the Airports relation (Airports.iata\_code).

## Mapping Cardinalities

- 1. book (merged in relation Tickets\_book\_for) is a many-to-one relationship set from Tickets to Travelers, meaning that a travelers can book multiple tickets for flights and a ticket can only be used for one traveler.
- 2. for (merged in relation Tickets\_book\_for) is a many-to-one relationship set from Tickets to Flights, meaning that a flight can have many tickets being sold and one ticket can only be used for boarding one flight.
- 3. serve is a many-to-many relationship set from Crew to Flights, meaning that several crews can work on the same flight, and one crew can work on multiple flights.
- 4. depart and arrive (merged in relation Flights\_ariv\_dept) are many-to-one relationships from Flights to Airports, meaning that one airport can have many departing or arriving aeroplanes and one flight can only depart (or arrive) at one airport.
- 5. assign is a many-to-many relationship, meaning that a flight can have several schedules. For instance, a flight can be operated on two successive days. Additionally, for one schedule, there might be two or more flights being operated.
- 6. belong is a many-to-one relationship set from Aeroplanes to Airlines, meaning that one airline company can own multiple planes, while a plane can only belong to one airline company.
- 7. hub is a many-to-many relationship set from Airlines to Airports, meaning that airline companies can have several hub airports, and one airport can be the hub airport of multiple airlines companies.

## **Participation Constraints**

- 1. Tickets total participates in book and for. A ticket must be assigned to one traveler and and must be mapped to a flight. However, a traveler can have no tickets and a flight can have no tickets being sold.
- 2. Flights total participates in the depart, arrive and assign. This means that a ticket must be assigned to a certain schedule as well as a departure airport and an arrival airport. However, an airport can have no departing or arriving airports, and a schedule can have no flights in that schedule.
- 3. Flights total participates in serve. This means that a flight must be served by at least one crew member, while a crew member can serve zero flights.
- 4. Aeroplanes total participates in belong. This means that an aeroplane must be owned by one airline company and one airline company can own zero aeroplanes.
- 5. Airlines total participates in hub. This means that an airline must have at least one airport as its hub and one airport can have zero or many airlines.

## Functional Dependencies

#### Travelers Table

```
F_{\text{travelers}} = \{\text{user\_id} \rightarrow \{\text{all other attributes}\}, \{\text{passport\_no, citizenship}\} \rightarrow \{\text{all other attributes}\}\}
```

There are two functional dependencies for travelers. user\_id and {passport\_no, citizenship} are two super keys of the travelers relation, which means that the functional dependencies do not violate the BCNF. Note that there is only one candidate key which is user\_id because {passport\_no, citizenship} is not minimal.

#### Crew Table

```
F_{\text{crew}} = \{ \text{user\_id} \rightarrow \{ \text{all other attributes} \}, \text{ssn} \rightarrow \{ \text{all other attributes} \} \}
```

There are two functional dependencies for travelers. user\_id and ssn are two super keys of the travelers relation, which means that the functional dependencies do not violate the BCNF. Note that both user\_id and ssn are candidate keys.

#### Airports Table

```
F_{\text{airports}} = \{\text{iata\_code} \rightarrow \{\text{all other attributes}\}, \{\text{airport\_name, country}\} \rightarrow \{\text{all other attributes}\}\}
```

There are two functional dependencies for airports. iata\_id and {airport\_name, country} are two super keys of the travelers relation, which means that the functional dependencies do not violate the BCNF.

#### Airlines Table

$$F_{\text{airlines}} = \{\text{compnay\_id} \rightarrow \{\text{company\_name}\}\}$$

There is just one functional dependency for airports. iata\_id is the super key of the travelers relation, which means that the functional dependency does not violate the BCNF.

#### Schedules Table

$$F_{\text{schedules}} = \{\text{schedule\_id} \rightarrow \{\text{all other attributes}\}\}$$

There is just one functional dependency for Schedules. schedule\_id is the super key of the Schedules relation, which means that the functional dependency does not violate the BCNF.

#### Aeroplanes\_belong Table

$$F_{\text{Aeroplanes belong}} = \{ \text{regio\_no} \rightarrow \{ \text{all other attributes} \} \}$$

There is just one functional dependency for Aeroplanes\_belong. regis\_no is the super key of the Aeroplanes\_belong relation, which means that the functional dependency does not violate the BCNF.

#### Tickets book for Table

$$F_{\texttt{Tickets\_book\_for}} = \{\texttt{ticket\_id} \rightarrow \{\texttt{all other attributes}\}\}$$

There is just one functional dependency for Tickets\_book\_for. ticket\_id is the super key of the Tickets\_book\_for relation, which means that the functional dependency does not violate the BCNF.

#### Flights\_ariv\_dept Table

$$F_{\text{Flights ariv dept}} = \{\{\text{regis\_no, flight\_no}\} \rightarrow \{\text{all other attributes}\}\}$$

There is just one functional dependency for Flights\_ariv\_dept. ticket\_id is the super key of the Flights\_ariv\_dept relation, which means that the functional dependency does not violate the BCNF.

#### serve Table

$$F_{\text{serve}} = \{\{\text{regis\_no, flight\_no, crew\_id}\} \rightarrow \{\text{all attributes}\}\}$$

There is just one functional dependency for serve. {regis\_no, flight\_no, crew\_id} is the super key of the serve relation, which means that the functional dependency does not violate the BCNF.

#### assign Table

$$F_{\text{assign}} = \{\{\text{regis\_no, flight\_no, schedule\_id}\} \rightarrow \{\text{all attributes}\}\}$$

There is just one functional dependency for assign. {regis\_no, flight\_no, crew\_id} is the super key of the assign relation, which means that the functional dependency does not violate the BCNF.

#### hub Table

$$F_{\text{hub}} = \{\{\text{iata\_code, company\_id}\} \rightarrow \{\text{all attributes}\}\}$$

There is just one functional dependency for hub. {iata\_code, company\_id} is the super key of the hub relation, which means that the functional dependency does not violate the BCNF.

## **Example Queries**

#### **Preliminaries**

Database connection and data querying will require the following packages.

```
library(RMySQL)
library(RODBC)
library(knitr)
library(tidyverse)
```

## Set-Up Connection to Database

The following code set-up a connection to our airline database built by MySQL. The function dbListTables function lists the name of all tables we have in the database alphabetically.

## Easy-Level Query

Query 01: Find the first name(first\_name), last name(last\_name), date of birth(dob), and the credits(credits) of all male travelers who are U.S. citizen.

## SQL & Output Table:

We convert the Query to SQL and Stored in the variable sql\_01 and generate the following table as the output.

first_name	last_name	dob	credits
Adrian	Rosales	1982-05-05	6269
Zachary	Shipley	1982-09-17	1776
Sean	Kim	1981-12-07	4915
Jose	Villatoro	1981-11-13	1645
Daniel	Ramirez	1968-10-14	6937
Turki	al-Ahsan	1965-01-01	8458
Andrew	Macy	1968-09-20	9060
Muhaajir	el-Noorani	1949-04-04	5074
Sterling	Kirkland	1961-03-06	4279
Darius	Stukes	1952-03-30	9913
Deven	Granderson	1951-04-25	5676

### Relational Algebra:

**Tuple Relational Calculus:** 

## Medium-Level Query

Query 02: Find the flight number(flight\_no), departure airport(dept\_iata\_code), arrival airport(ariv\_iata\_code) of all flights that operated by China Eastern Airlines and has a capacity of 30 seats in first class cabin.

#### SQL & Output Table:

flight_no	$dept\_iata\_code$	ariv_iata_code
MU1332	ORF	SJC
MU3212	VBG	KEF
MU3762	GSP	CEB
MU470	GSP	ISE
MU5879	NNG	BDL
MU6141	DAY	RND
MU7451	FOC	AFW
MU8560	KWL	CAE
MU8990	PHL	SDQ
MU9025	HSV	OTP
MU9871	CAE	ITM
MU2680	ORF	$\mathrm{DJJ}$

flight_no	dept_iata_code	ariv_iata_code
MU4422	SHE	AYT
MU4868	VBG	ADA
MU4936	DAY	SJC
MU636	LIT	CRK
MU7946	TYN	ERI
MU8048	RDU	TSE
MU8188	GSP	BLA
MU8497	LIT	MCI
MU8723	MBS	DCA
MU9773	PHL	TPA

## Relational Algebra:

**Tuple Relational Calculus:** 

## Hard-Level Query

Query 03: Find the passport number(passport\_no) and first name(first\_name) of all Chinese Traveler who has already booked at least one Plane Ticket. The result table should also include citizenship as a check.

## $\mathbf{SQL}\ \&\ \mathbf{Output}\ \mathbf{Table}:$

passport_no	$first\_name$	citizenship
UU836955458	Jesus	CN
IB430482154	Brandon	CN
OQ380375182	Haseena	CN
LM812170185	John	CN
EB949426590	Paul	CN
TL625875287	Jordan	CN
NJ572174743	Natelle Rae	CN
TT276365122	Brandon	CN
GA510923640	Fatima	CN
RX309492405	Sidney	CN
KE075171969	Kristina	CN
BH026711943	Keisha	CN

Relational Algebra:

**Tuple Relational Calculus:** 

## **Implementation**

Our database system was implemented as a simple command-line interface that can give an expected output table of queries. We use MySQL Benchwork 8.0 CE to create our database. There are eleven tables in our database. The SQL language that we used to create them are documented previously in the schema section.

For the data used in our database system, one of our largest table Tickets\_book\_for contains over 10,000 tuples, while one of our smallest table Airlines contains only approx. 50 tuples. Some data are obtained directly from internet. For instance, the airport names and airport IATA codes are obtained from internet, but filtered using R programming language to ensure the data quality. However, other part of data are not accessable from internet since they are protected by law or are part of the commercial secrets of airline companies. We use R to randomly simulate this type of data which includes the departure time of flights, flight numbers, travelers' passport number, and airport weather data.

For connecting the database from outside, we decide to use R programming language. We use mainly RMySQL and RODBC packages to push our query to MySQL server, and to generate the output table as dataframe in R environment.

## **GUI** Interface

## Roles of members

#### Luke Zhang

ER Diagram, Constraints, Relational Schema, Functional Dependencies, Example Query (SQL), Implementing R-MySQL Connection

#### Jiamu Zhang

Constraints, Example Query (TRC, RA), Implementing Java GUI

## Quynh Nguyen

Background, Prepare Data for Database, Relational Schema

# What we learned from this project