

Chapter 6: Entity-Relationship Model

Outline

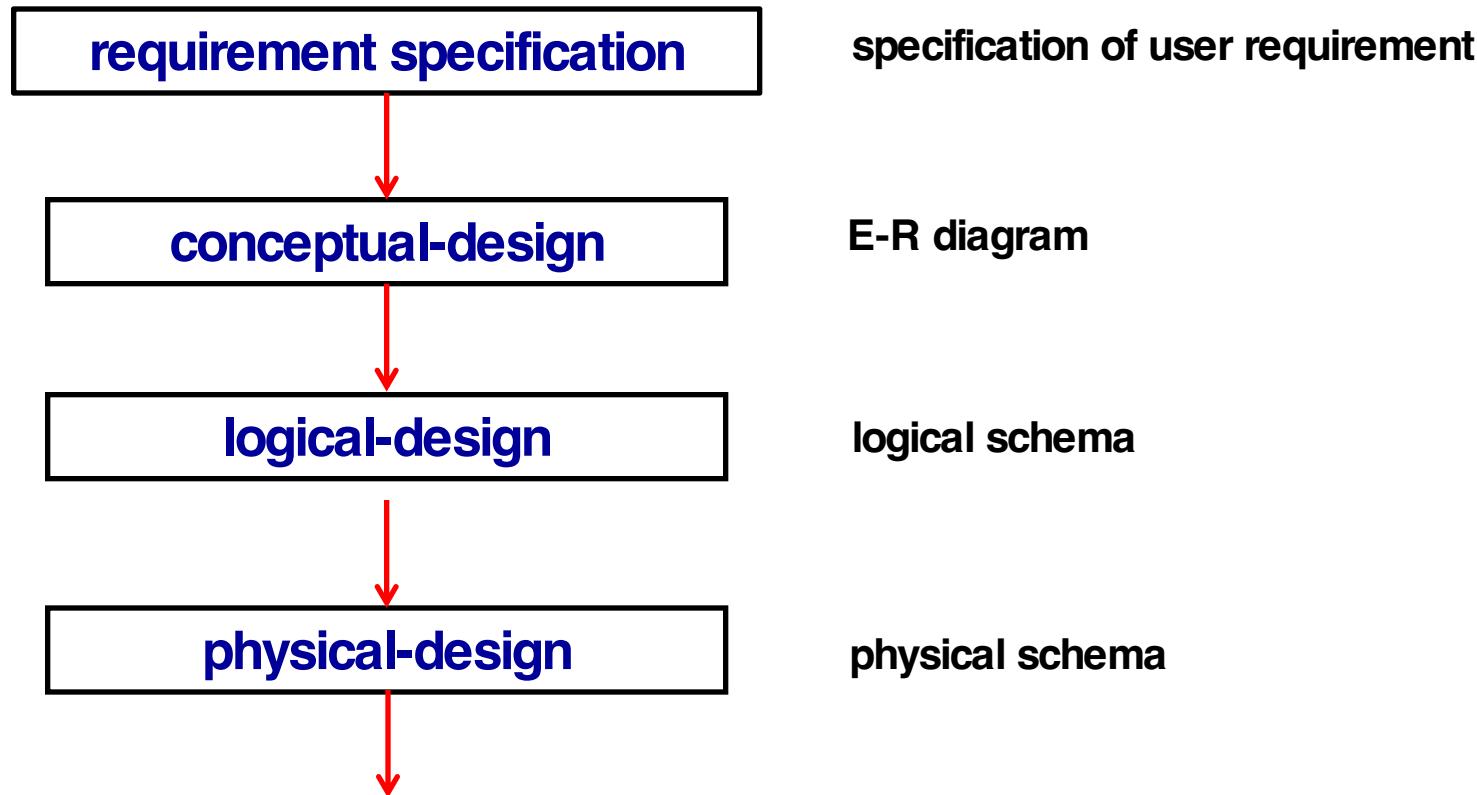
- n Database Design Process
- n Modeling
- n Constraints
- n Weak Entity Sets
- n Reduction to Relation Schemas
- n Design Issues
- n Extended E-R Features
- n UML

University Schemas

n Relational Schemas of a University Enterprise

classroom(building, room_number, capacity)
department(dept_name, building, budget)
course(course_id, title, dept_name, credits)
instructor(ID, name, dept_name, salary)
section(course_id, sec_id, semester, year, building, room_number, time_slot_id)
teaches(ID, course_id, sec_id, semester, year)
student(ID, name, dept_name, tot_cred)
takes(ID, course_id, sec_id, semester, year, grade)
advisor(s_ID, i_ID)
time_slot(time_slot_id, day, start_time, end_time)
prereq(course_id, prereq_id)

Database Design Process



Design Phases

- n Initial phase(**Requirement Specification**) -- characterize fully the data needs of the prospective database users.
- n Second phase(**Conceptual Design**) -- choosing a data model
 - | Applying the concepts of the chosen data model
 - | Translating these requirements into a **conceptual schema** of the database.
 - | A fully developed conceptual schema indicates the **functional requirements** of the enterprise.
 - ▶ Describe the kinds of operations (or transactions) that will be performed on the data.

Design Phases (Cont.)

- Final Phase (**Database Design**)-- Moving from an abstract data model to the implementation of the database
 - | **Logical Design** – Deciding on the **database schema**.
 - ▶ Database design requires that we find a “good” collection of relation schemas.
 - Business decision – What attributes should we record in the database?
 - Computer Science decision – What relation schemas should we have and how should the attributes be distributed among the various relation schemas?
 - | **Physical Design** – Deciding on the physical layout of the database

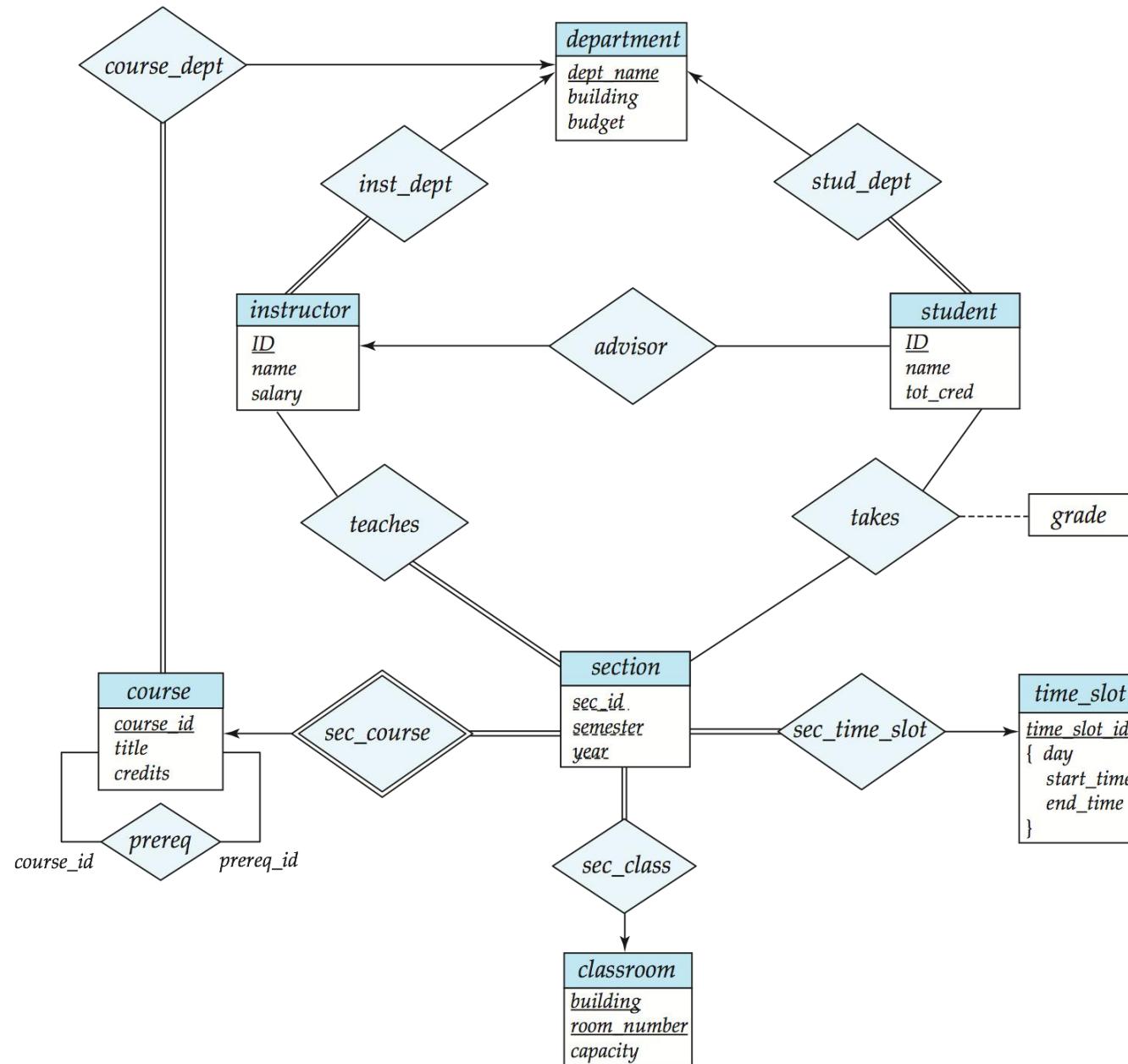
Design Alternatives

- In designing a database schema, we must ensure that we avoid two major pitfalls:
 - **Redundancy**: a bad design may result in repeat information.
 - Redundant representation of information may lead to data inconsistency among the various copies of information
 - **Incompleteness**: a bad design may make certain aspects of the enterprise difficult or impossible to model.
- Avoiding bad designs is not enough. There may be a large number of good designs from which we must choose.
- database design can be a challenging problem
 - **huge design space**

Design Approaches

- Entity Relationship Model (covered in this chapter)
 - Models an enterprise as a collection of *entities* and *relationships*
 - Entity: a “thing” or “object” in the enterprise that is distinguishable from other objects
 - Described by a set of *attributes*
 - Relationship: an association among several entities
 - Represented diagrammatically by an *entity-relationship diagram*:
- Normalization Theory (Chapter 7)
 - Formalize what designs are bad, and test for them

E-R Diagram for a University Enterprise



Outline of the ER Model

Database Modeling

- n A *database* can be modeled as:
 - | a collection of **entities**,
 - | **relationship** among entities.
- n An **entity** is an object that exists and is **distinguishable** from other objects.
 - | Example: specific person, company, event, plant
- n Entities have **attributes**
 - | Example: people have *names* and *addresses*
- n 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

Representing Entity sets in ER Diagram

- Entity sets can be represented graphically as follows:
 - Rectangles represent entity sets.
 - Attributes listed inside entity rectangle
 - Underline indicates primary key attributes

Relationship Sets

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

Example:

44553 (Peltier)	<i>advisor</i>	22222 (Einstein)
<i>student</i> entity	relationship set	<i>instructor</i> entity

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

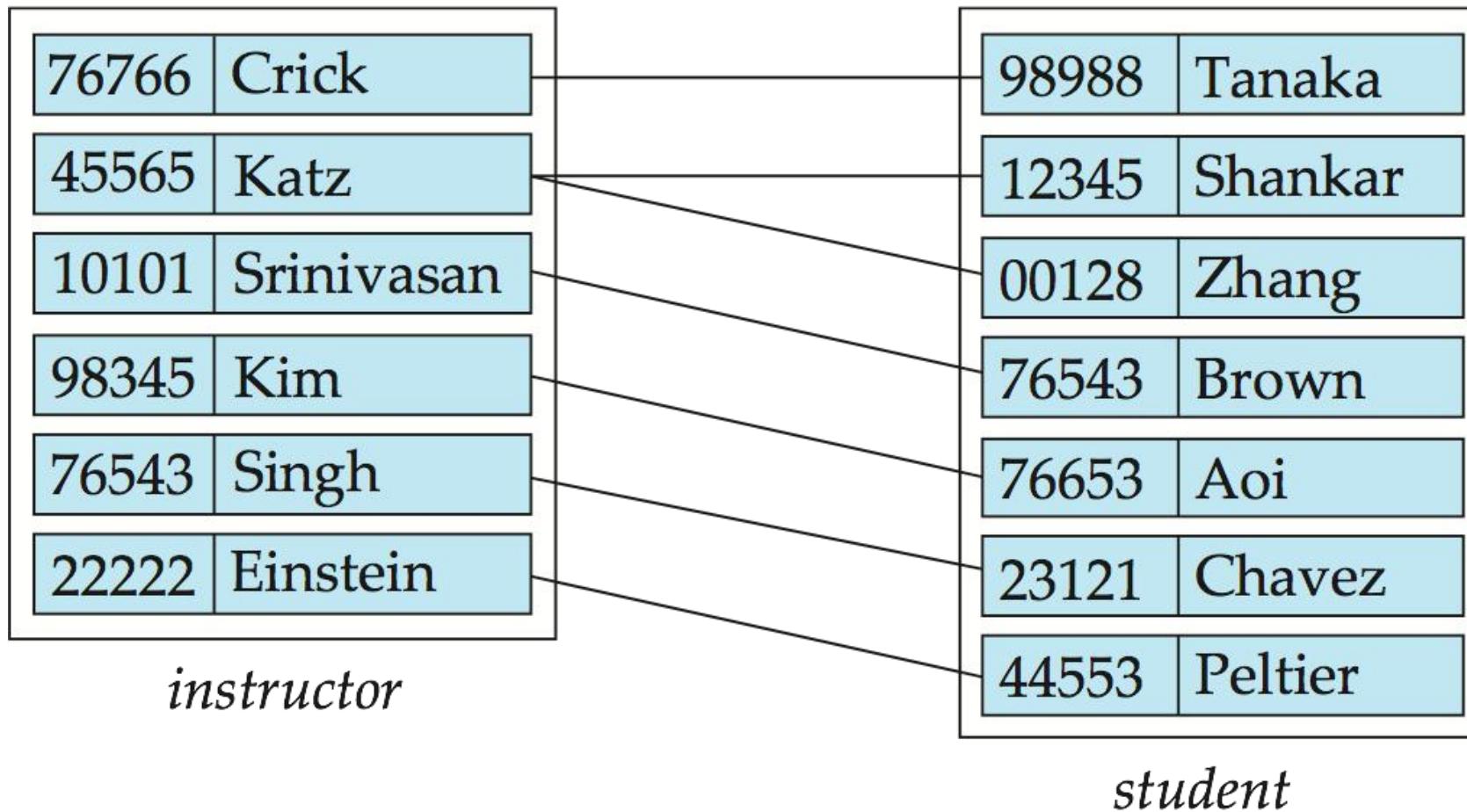
$$\{(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) \mid e_1 \in E_1, e_2 \in E_2, \dots, e_n \in E_n\}$$

where (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) is a relationship

| Example:

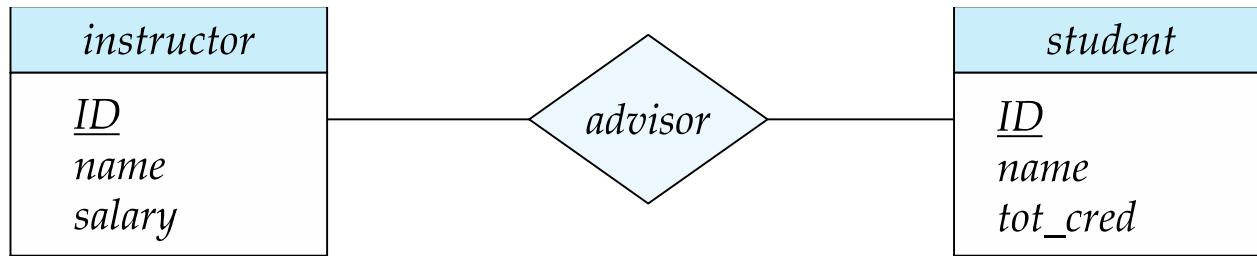
$$(44553, 22222) \in \text{advisor}$$

Relationship Set *advisor*



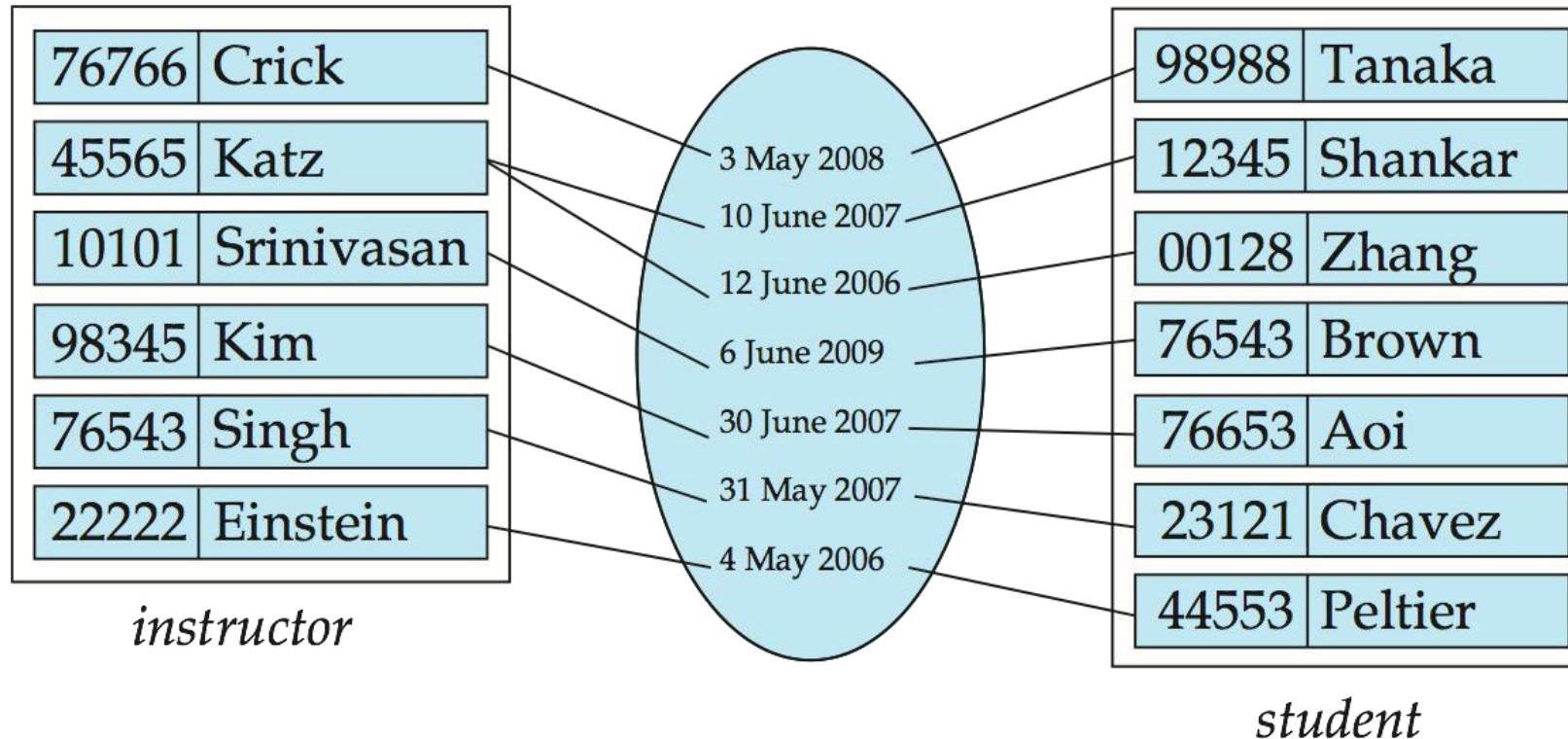
Representing Relationship Sets in ER Diagrams

- Diamonds represent relationship sets.

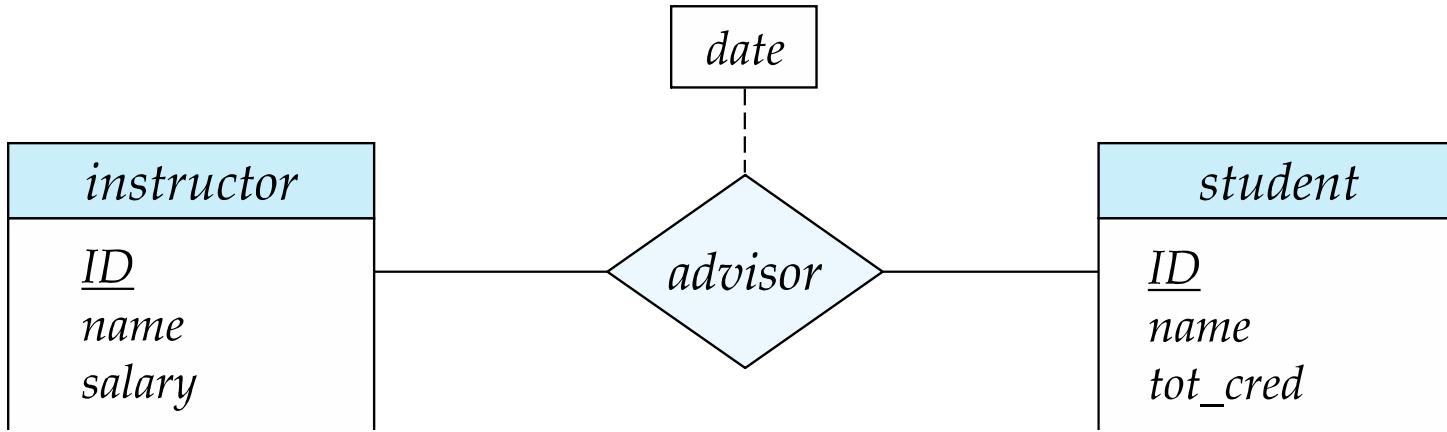


Relationship Sets with Attributes

- n An **attribute** can also be property of a relationship set.
- n 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

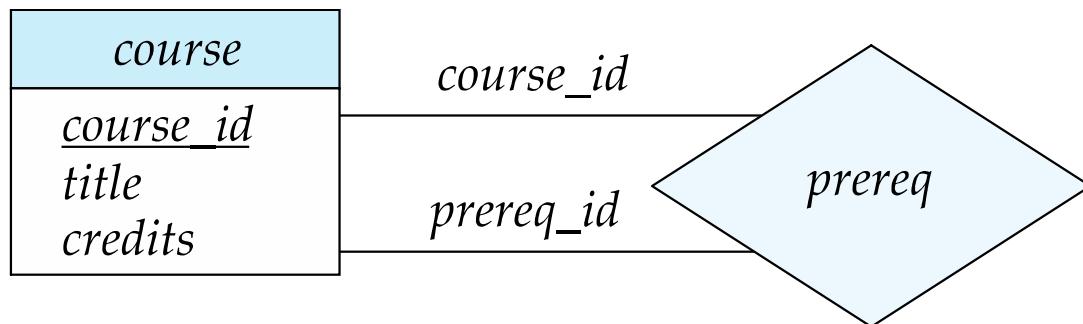


Relationship Sets with Attributes



Roles

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



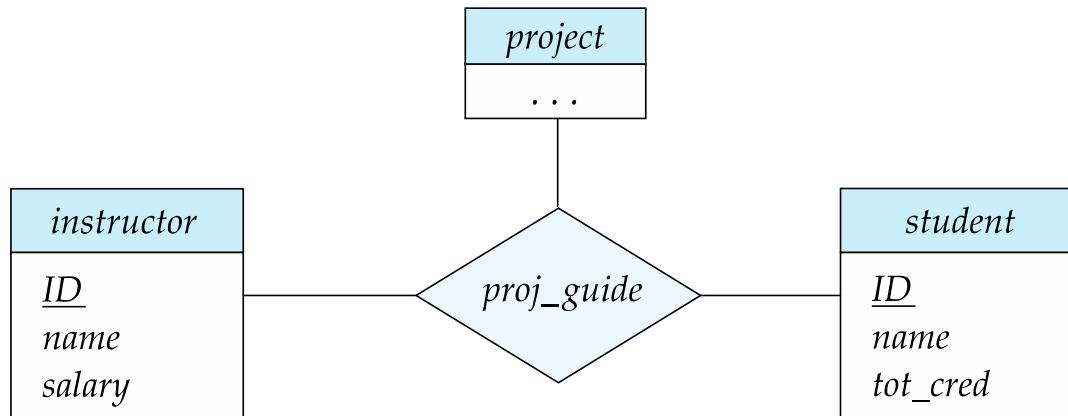
Degree(度) of a Relationship Set

n binary relationship(二元联系)

- | involve two entity sets (or degree two).
- | most relationship sets in a database system are binary.

n There are occasions when it is more convenient to represent relationships as non-binary.

n E-R Diagram with a Ternary Relationship



Attributes

- n 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)

- n **Domain** – the set of permitted values for each attribute

- n Attribute types:

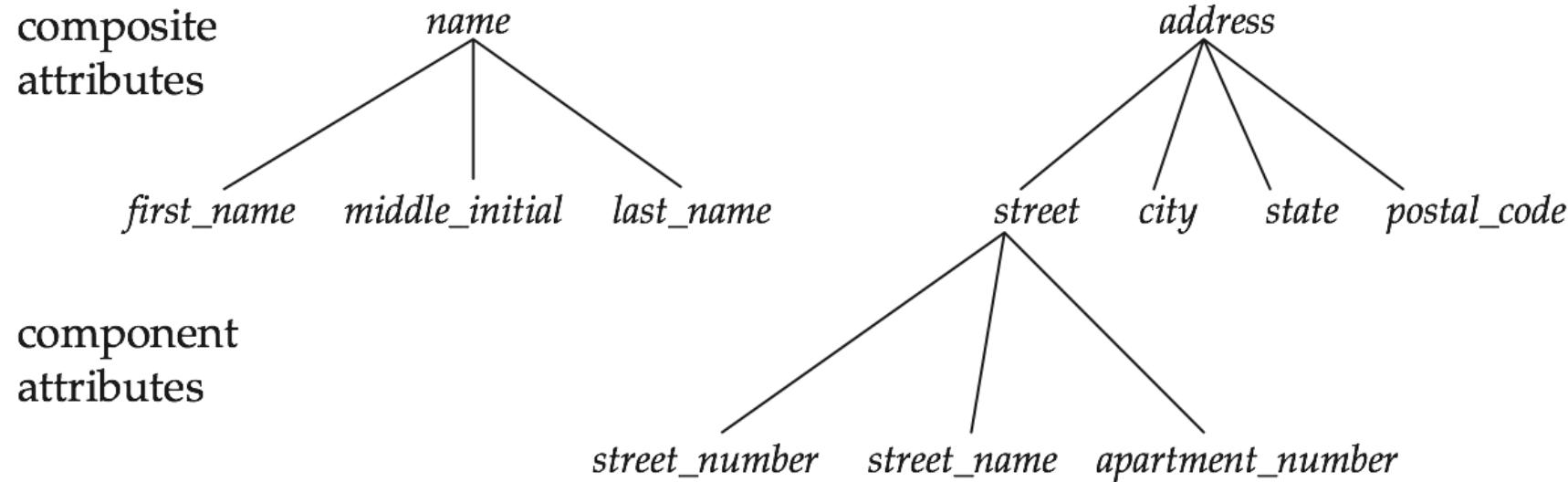
- | **Simple** (简单)and **composite** (复合) attributes.
 - | **Single-valued**(单值) and **multivalued**(多值) attributes

- › Example: multivalued attribute: *phone_numbers*

- | **Derived**(派生) attributes

- › Can be computed from other attributes
 - › Example: age, given date_of_birth

Composite Attributes



Representing Complex Attributes in ER Diagram

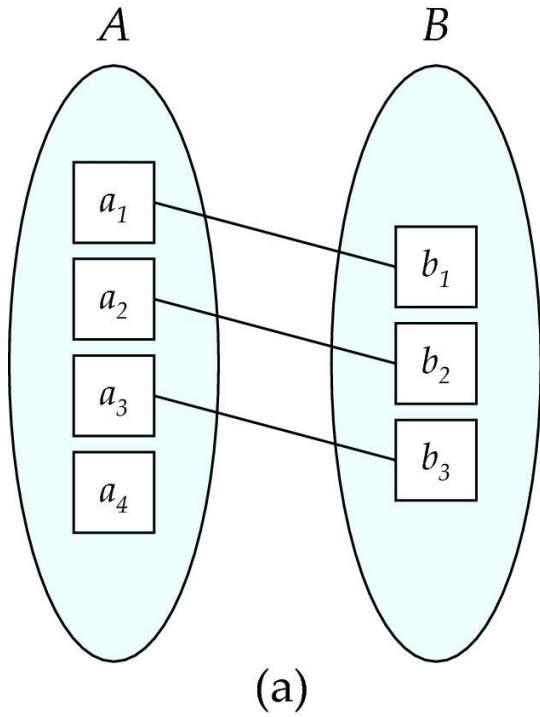
<i>instructor</i>
<u>ID</u>
<i>name</i>
<i>first_name</i>
<i>middle_initial</i>
<i>last_name</i>
<i>address</i>
<i>street</i>
<i>street_number</i>
<i>street_name</i>
<i>apt_number</i>
<i>city</i>
<i>state</i>
<i>zip</i>
{ <i>phone_number</i> }
<i>date_of_birth</i>
<i>age ()</i>

Mapping Cardinality Constraints

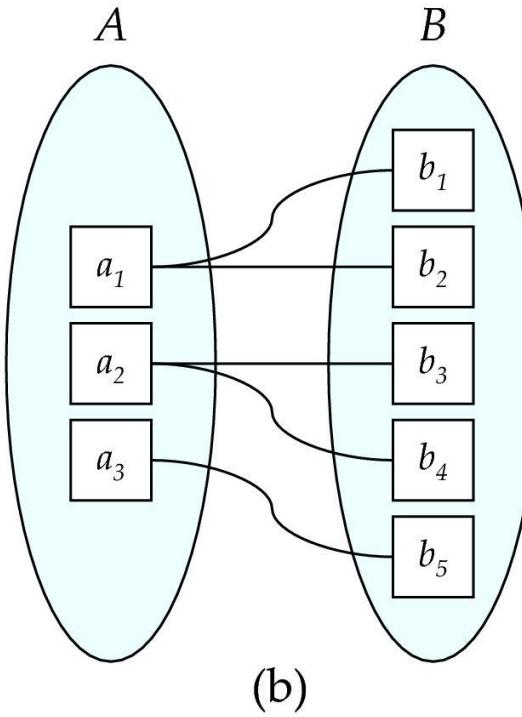
(映射基数约束)

- n Express the number of entities to which another entity can be associated via a relationship set.
- n Most useful in describing binary relationship sets.
- n 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



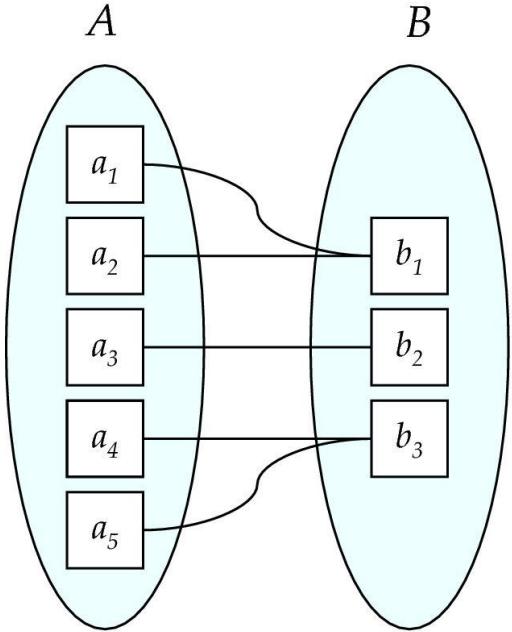
One to one



One to many

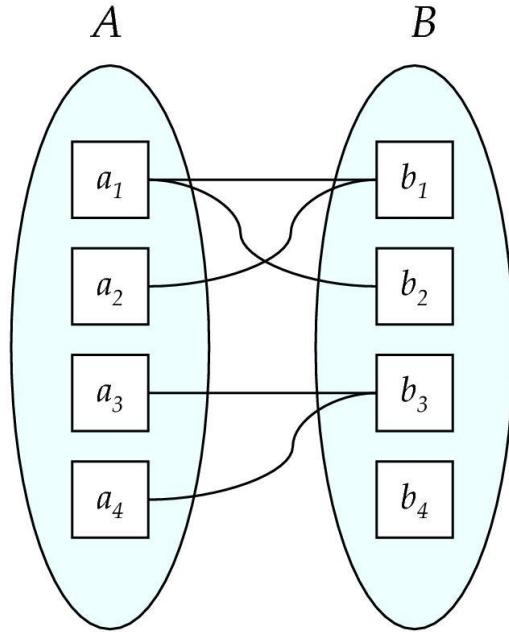
Note: Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set

Mapping Cardinalities



(a)

Many to one



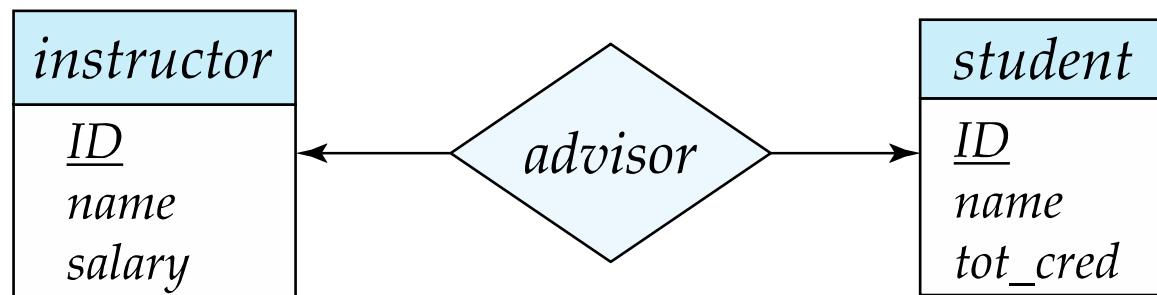
(b)

Many to many

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

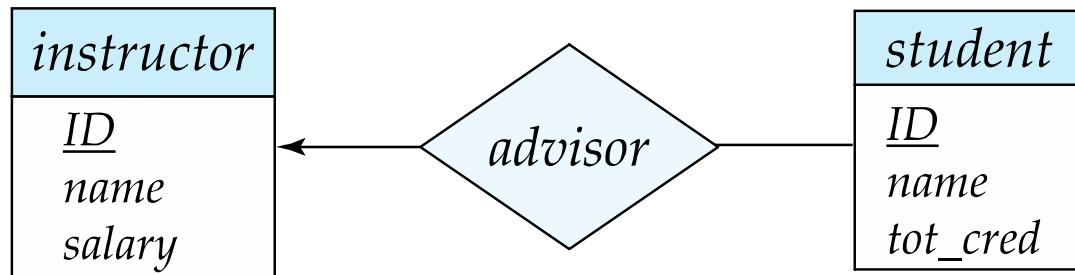
Representing Cardinality Constraints in ER Diagram

- n We express cardinality constraints by drawing either a directed line (\rightarrow), signifying “one,” or an undirected line ($-$), signifying “many,” between the relationship set and the entity set.
- n One-to-one relationship between an *instructor* and a *student* :
 - | A *student* is associated with at most one *instructor* via the relationship *advisor*
 - | A *instructor* is associated with at most one *student* via the relationship *advisor*



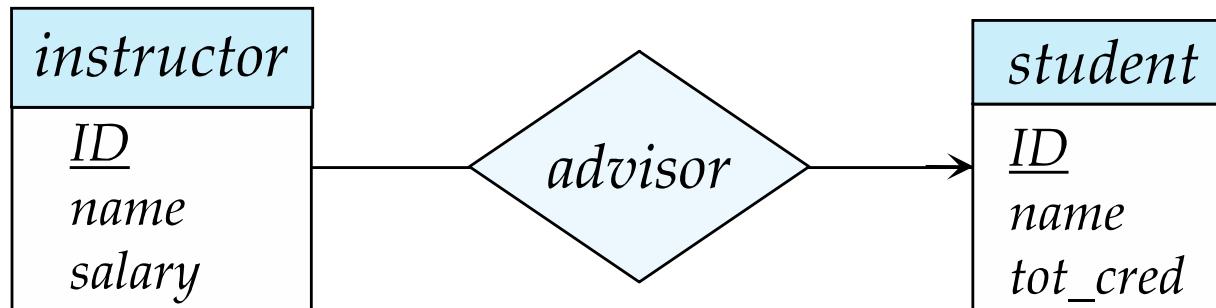
One-to-Many Relationship

- n 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,



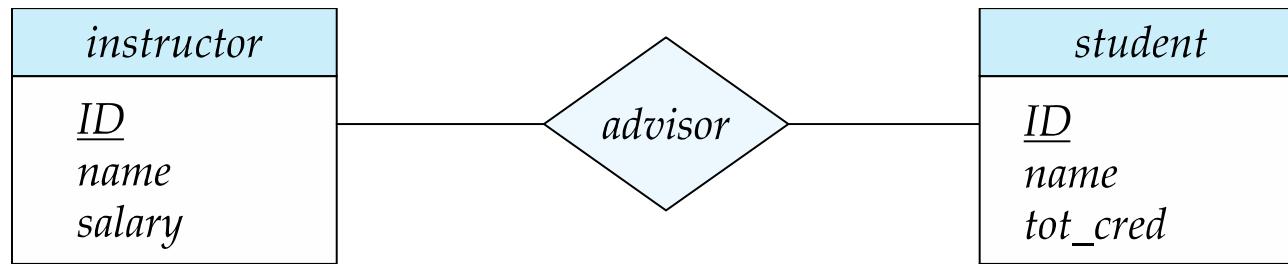
Many-to-One Relationships

- n 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

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



Total and Partial Participation

- **Total participation** (indicated by double line): every entity in the entity set participates in at least one relationship in the relationship set

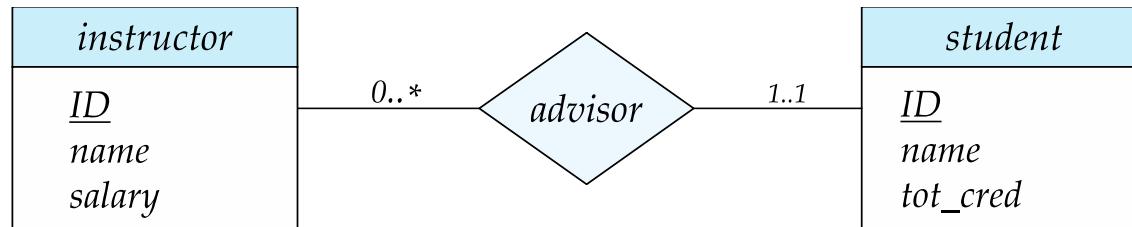


participation of *student* in *advisor* relation is total

- every *student* must have an associated instructor
- **Partial participation:** some entities may not participate in any relationship in the relationship set
 - Example: participation of *instructor* in *advisor* is partial

Notation for Expressing More Complex Constraints

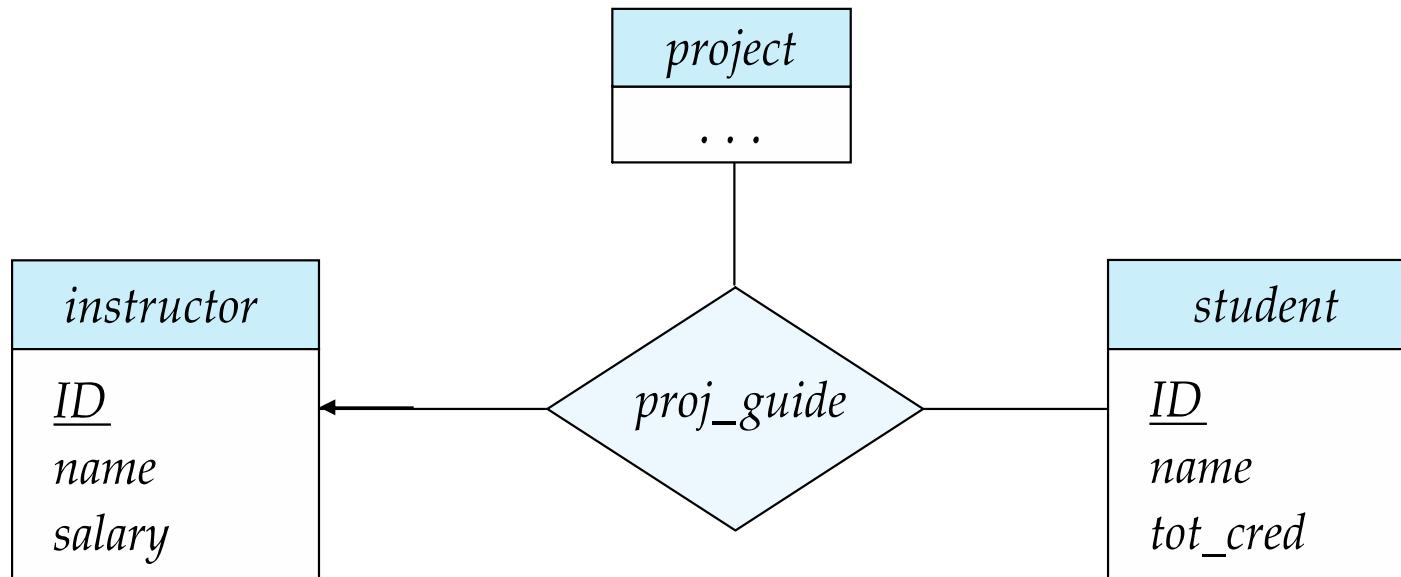
- A line may have an associated minimum and maximum cardinality, shown in the form $l..h$, where l is the minimum and h the maximum cardinality
 - A minimum value of 1 indicates total participation.
 - A maximum value of 1 indicates that the entity participates in at most one relationship
 - A maximum value of * indicates no limit.
- Example



- *Instructor* can advise 0 or more *students*. A *student* must have 1 *advisor (instructor)*; cannot have multiple *advisors (instructors)*.

Cardinality Constraints on Ternary Relationship

- We allow at most one arrow out of a ternary (or greater degree) relationship to indicate a cardinality constraint
- For example, an arrow from *proj_guide* to *instructor* indicates each student has at most one guide for a project
- To avoid confusion we outlaw(禁止) more than one arrow.



Primary Key

- n Primary keys provide a way to specify how entities and relations are distinguished. We will consider:
 - | Entity sets
 - | Relationship sets
 - | Weak entity sets

Primary key for Entity Sets

- n By definition, individual entities are distinct.
- n From database perspective, the differences among them must be expressed in terms of their attributes.
- n The values of the attribute values of an entity must be such that they can uniquely identify the entity.
 - | No two entities in an entity set are allowed to have exactly the same value for all attributes.
- n A key for an entity is a set of attributes that suffice to distinguish entities from each other

Primary Key for Relationship Sets

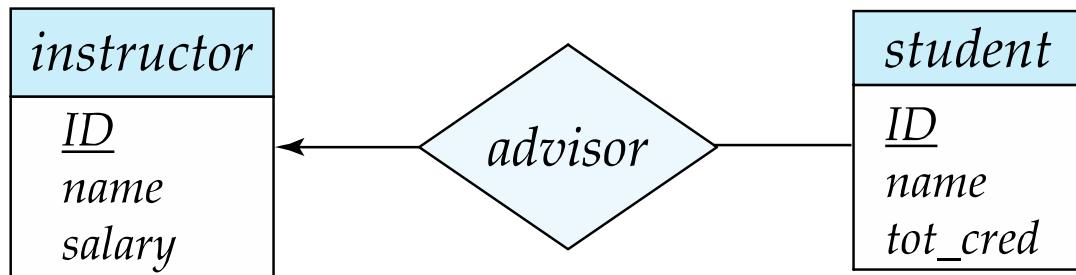
- n To distinguish among the various relationships of a relationship set we use the individual primary keys of the entities in the relationship set.
 - | Let R be a relationship set involving entity sets $E1, E2, \dots, En$
 - | The primary key for R consists of the **union** of the primary keys of entity sets $E1, E2, \dots, En$
 - | If the relationship set R has attributes $a1, a2, \dots, am$ associated with it, then the primary key of R also includes the attributes $a1, a2, \dots, am$
- n Example: relationship set “advisor”.
 - | The primary key consists of *instructor.ID* and *student.ID*



- n The choice of the primary key for a relationship set depends on the mapping cardinality of the relationship set.

Primary key for Binary Relationship

- n **Many-to-Many** relationships. The preceding union of the primary keys is a minimal superkey and is chosen as the primary key.
- n **One-to-Many** relationships . The primary key of the “Many” side is a minimal superkey and is used as the primary key.
- n **Many-to-one** relationships. The primary key of the “Many” side is a minimal superkey and is used as the primary key.
- n **One-to-one** relationships. The primary key of either one of the participating entity sets forms a minimal superkey, and either one can be chosen as the primary key.

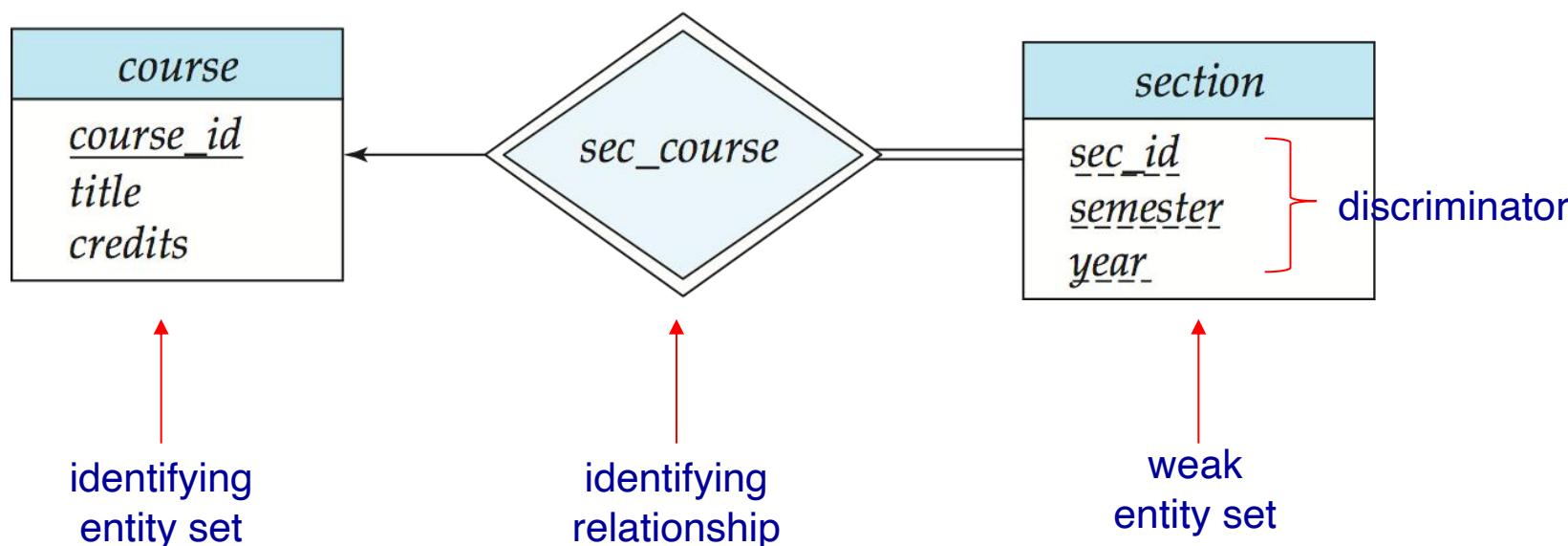


Weak Entity Sets (弱实体集)

- n An entity set that does not have a primary key is referred to as a **weak entity set**.
- n The existence of a weak entity set depends on the existence of a **identifying entity set**(标识性实体集)
 - | 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**(标识性联系) depicted using a double diamond
- n The **discriminator** (分辨符, or *partial key*) of a weak entity set is the set of attributes that distinguishes among all the entities of a weak entity set **when the identifying entity they depend is known.**
- n 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.

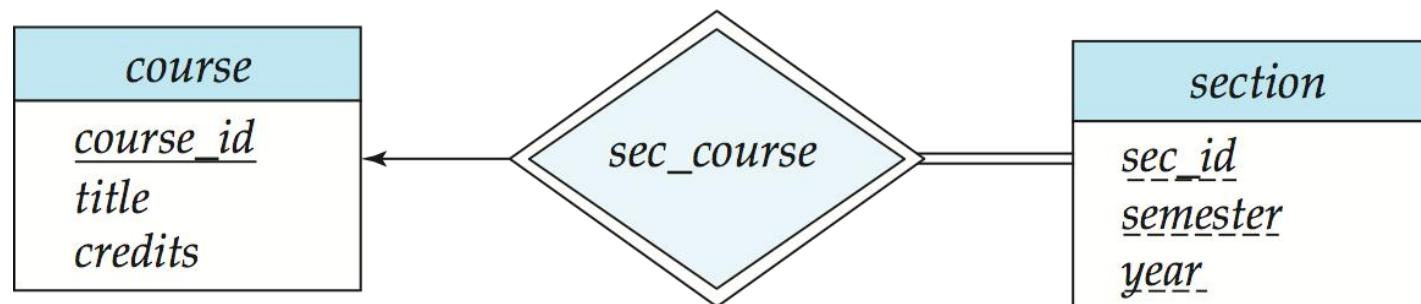
Weak Entity Sets (Cont.)

- 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.)

- n 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.
- n 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*

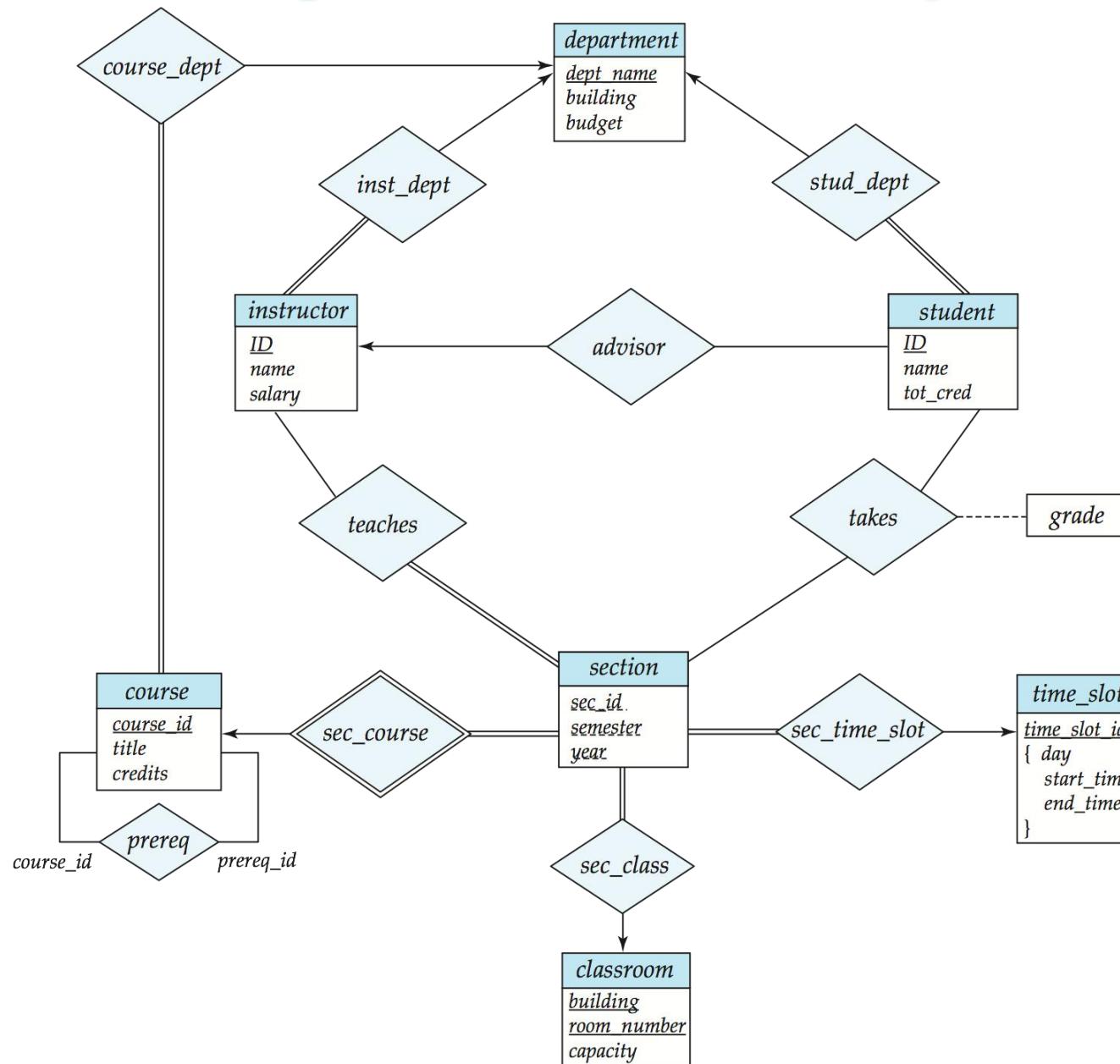


Redundant Attributes

- n Suppose we have entity sets:
 - | *student*, with attributes: *ID*, *name*, *tot_cred*, *dept_name*
 - | *department*, with attributes: *dept_name*, *building*, *budget*
- n We model the fact that each student has an associated department using a relationship set *stud_dept*
- n The attribute *dept_name* in *student* below replicates information present in the relationship and is therefore redundant
 - | and needs to be removed.
- n BUT: when converting back to tables, in some cases the attribute gets reintroduced, as we will see later.



E-R Diagram for a University Enterprise



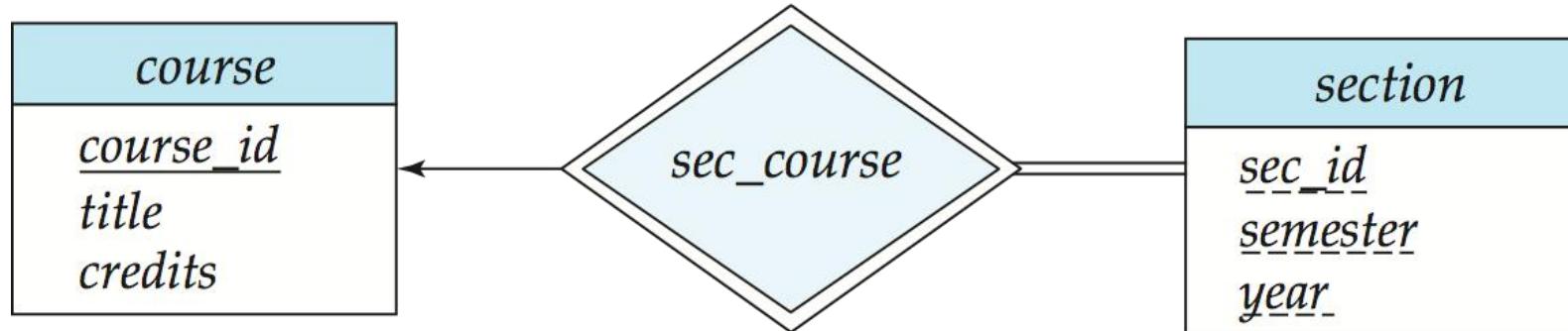
Reduction to Relational Schemas

Reduction to Relation Schemas

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

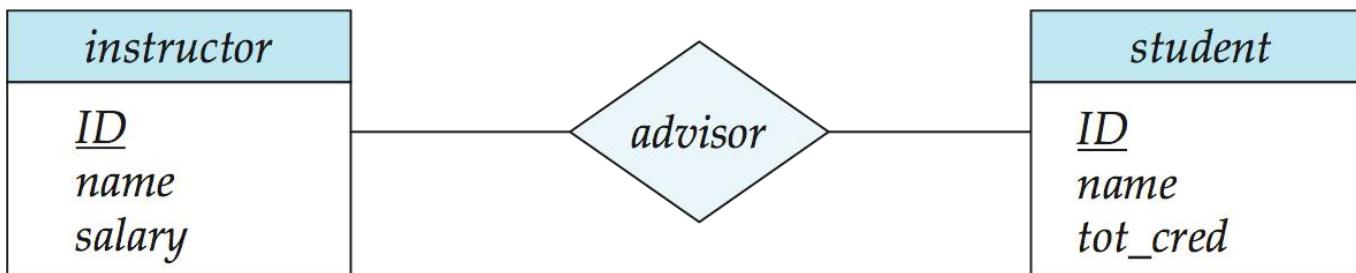
Representing Entity Sets With Simple Attributes

- n A strong entity set reduces to a schema with the same attributes
course(course_id, title, credits)
- n A weak entity set becomes a table that includes a column for the primary key of the identifying strong entity set
 - | Primary key of the table is the union of the discriminator of the weak entity set and the primary key of the identifying strong entity set
section (course_id, sec_id, semester, year)



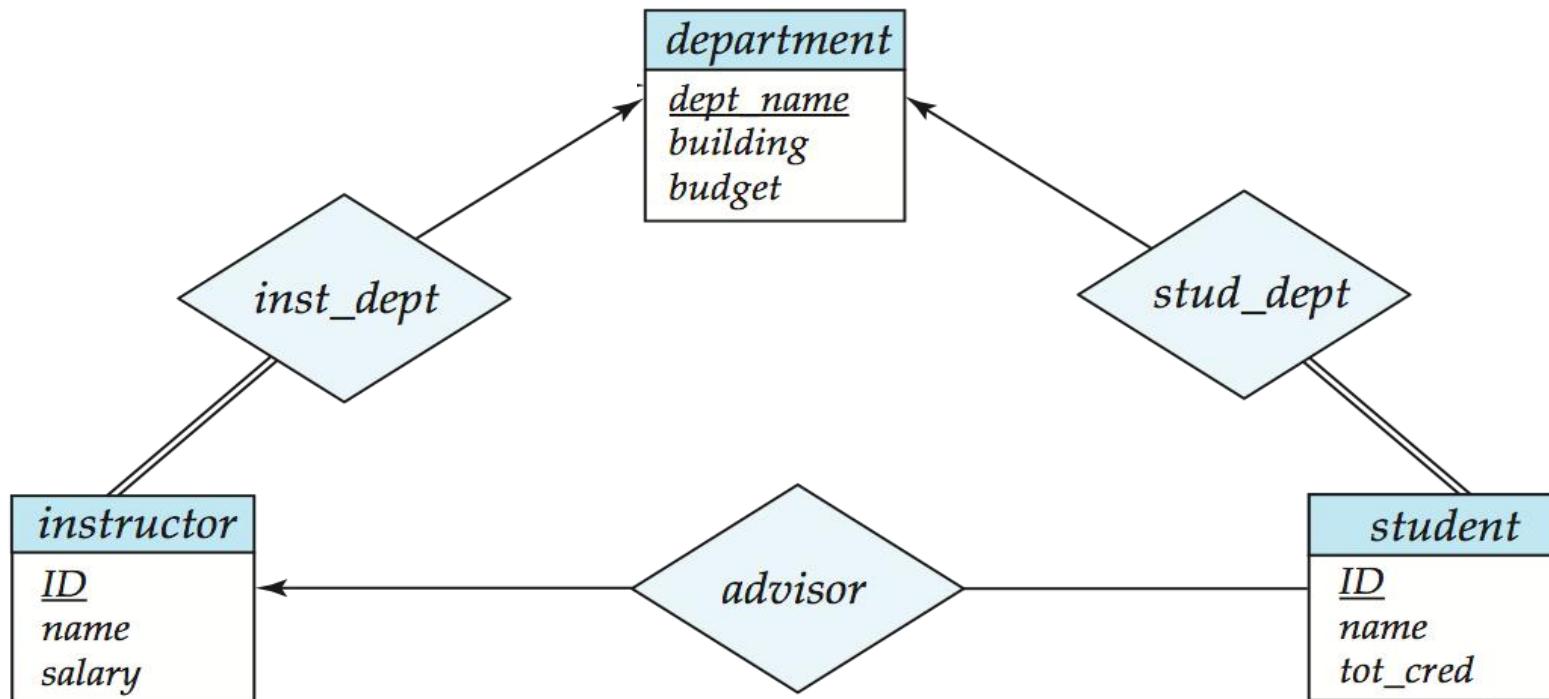
Representing Relationship Sets

- n 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.
- n Example: schema for relationship set *advisor*
advisor = (s_id, i_id)

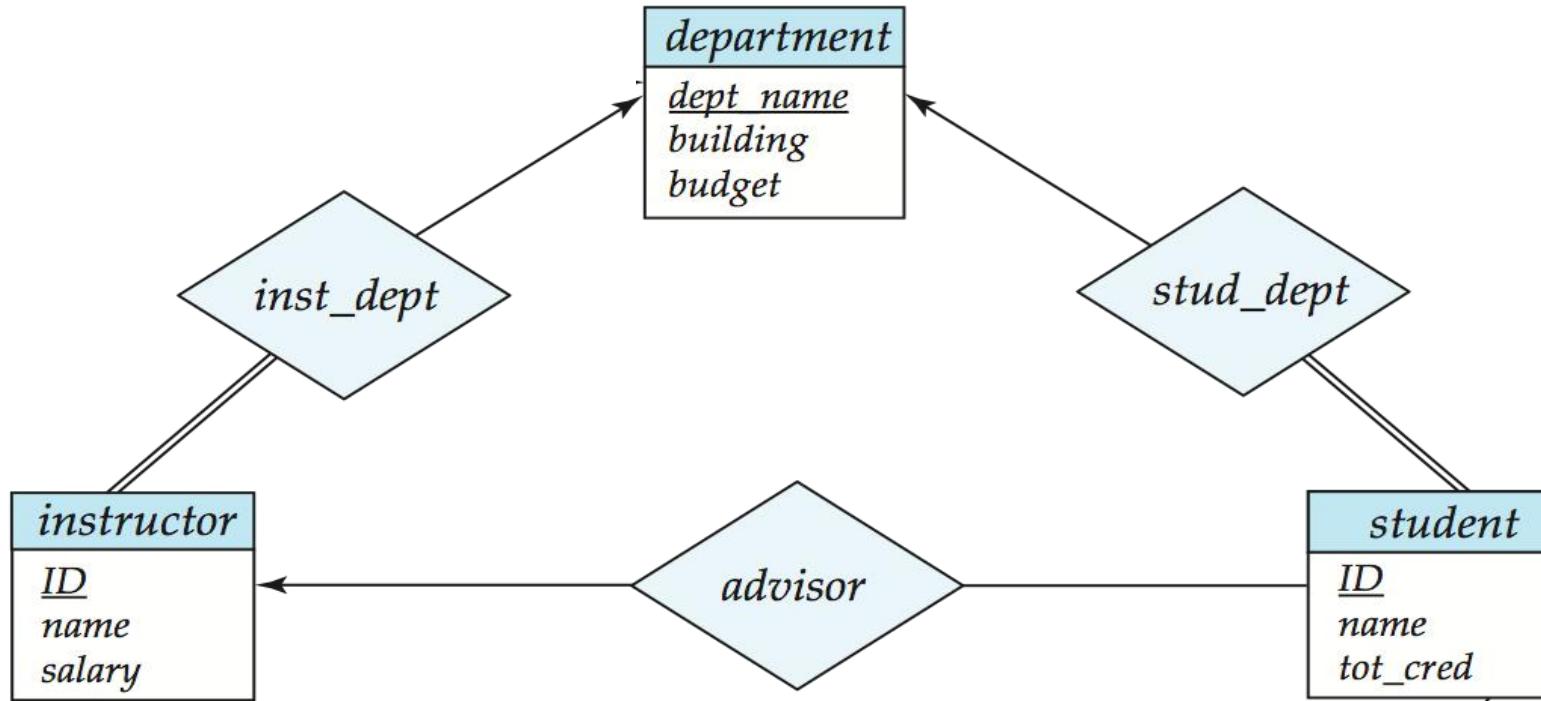


Redundancy of Schemas

- n 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
- n Example: Instead of creating a schema for relationship set *inst_dept*, add an attribute *dept_name* to the schema arising from entity set *instructor*



Redundancy of Schemas



- n department(dept_name, building, budget)
instructor(ID, name, salary)
inst_dept(ID, dept_name)

→

- n department(dept_name, building, budget)
instructor(ID, name, salary, **dept_name**)

Redundancy of Schemas (Cont.)

- n For **one-to-one relationship sets**, either side can be chosen to act as the “many” side
 - | That is, extra attribute can be added to either of the tables corresponding to the two entity sets
- n If participation is *partial* on the “many” side, replacing a schema by an extra attribute in the schema corresponding to the “many” side could result in **null values**
- n The schema corresponding to a relationship set linking a **weak entity set** to its identifying strong entity set is redundant.
 - | Example: The *section* schema already contains the attributes that would appear in the *sec_course* schema

Composite and Multivalued Attributes

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

- n 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
- n 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, age)

Composite and Multivalued Attributes

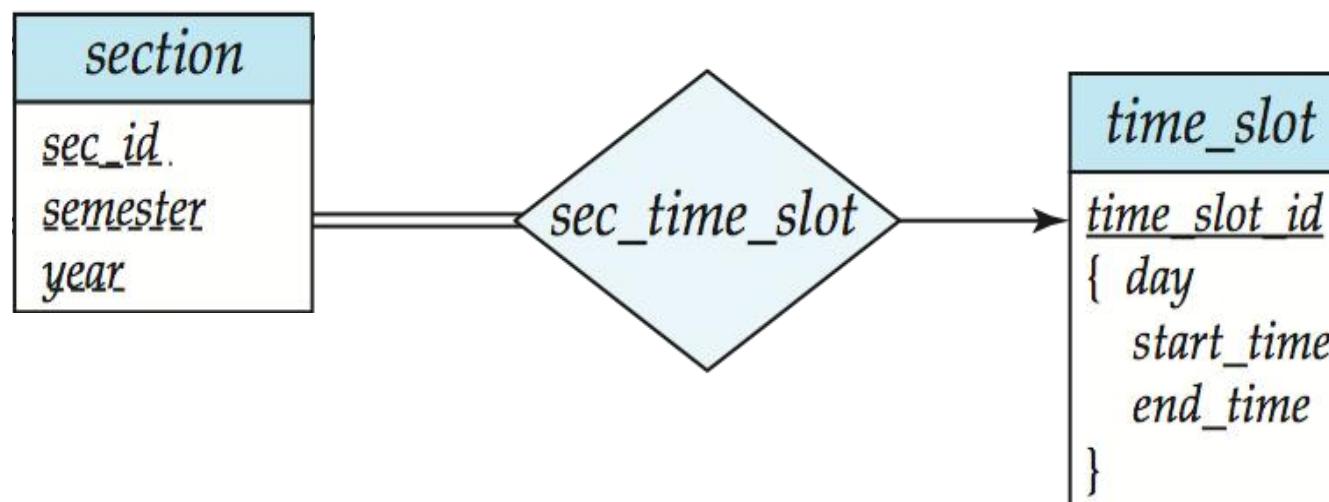
- n A multivalued attribute M of an entity E is represented by a separate schema EM
 - | Schema EM has attributes corresponding to the primary key of E and an attribute corresponding to multivalued attribute M
 - | Example: Multivalued attribute $phone_number$ of $instructor$ is represented by a schema:

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)
(22222, 123-4567)

Multivalued Attributes (Cont.)

- n Special case: entity *time_slot* has only one attribute other than the primary-key attribute, and that attribute is multivalued
 - | **time_slot(time_slot_id)**
 - | **time_slot_detail(time_slot_id, day, start_time, end_time)**
 - | Optimization: Don't create the relation corresponding to the entity, just create the one corresponding to the multivalued attribute
 - | **time_slot(time_slot_id, day, start_time, end_time)** primary Key: time_slot_id,day,start_time
 - | Hard to Reference..
 - | **Caveat(警告):** *time_slot* attribute of *section* (from *sec_time_slot*) cannot be a foreign key due to this optimization



Design Issues

Common Mistakes in E-R Diagrams

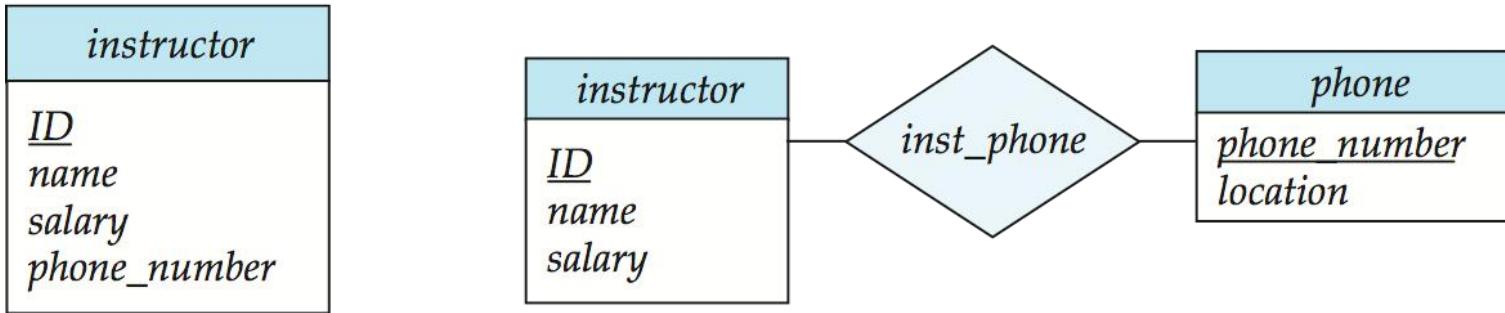
- Example of erroneous E-R diagrams



Common Mistakes in E-R Diagrams

Design Issues

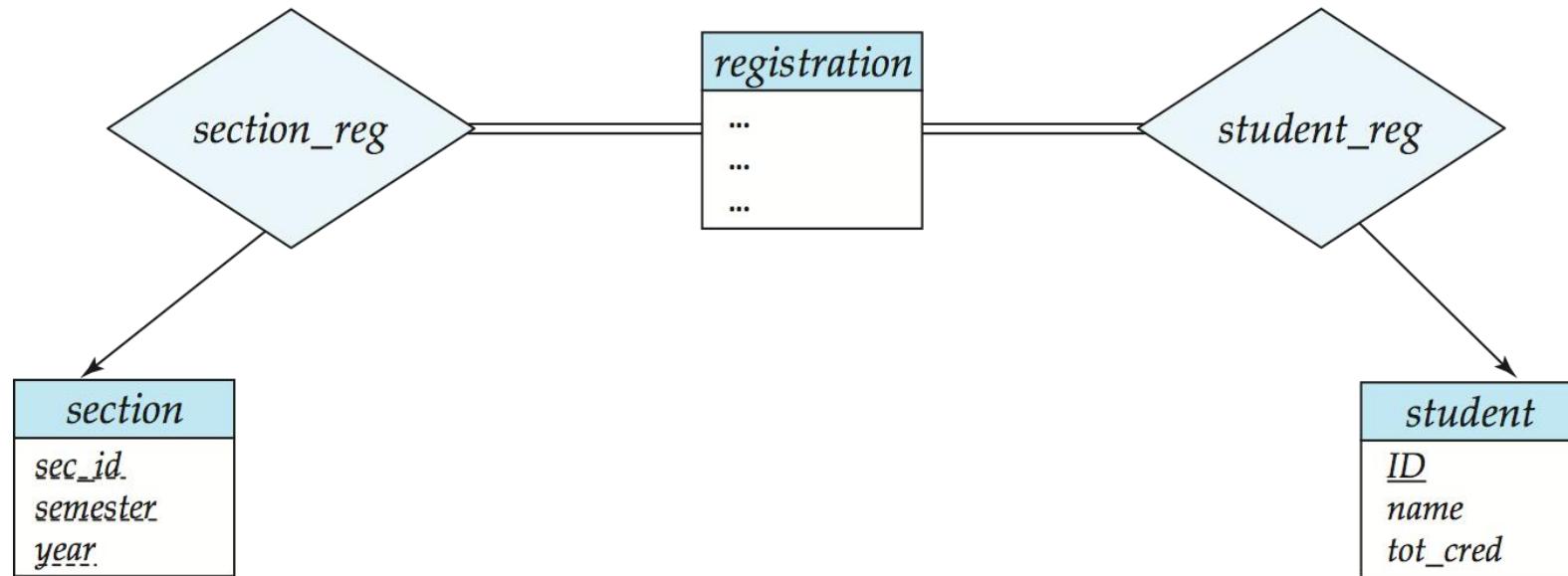
- n **Use of entity sets vs. attributes**



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

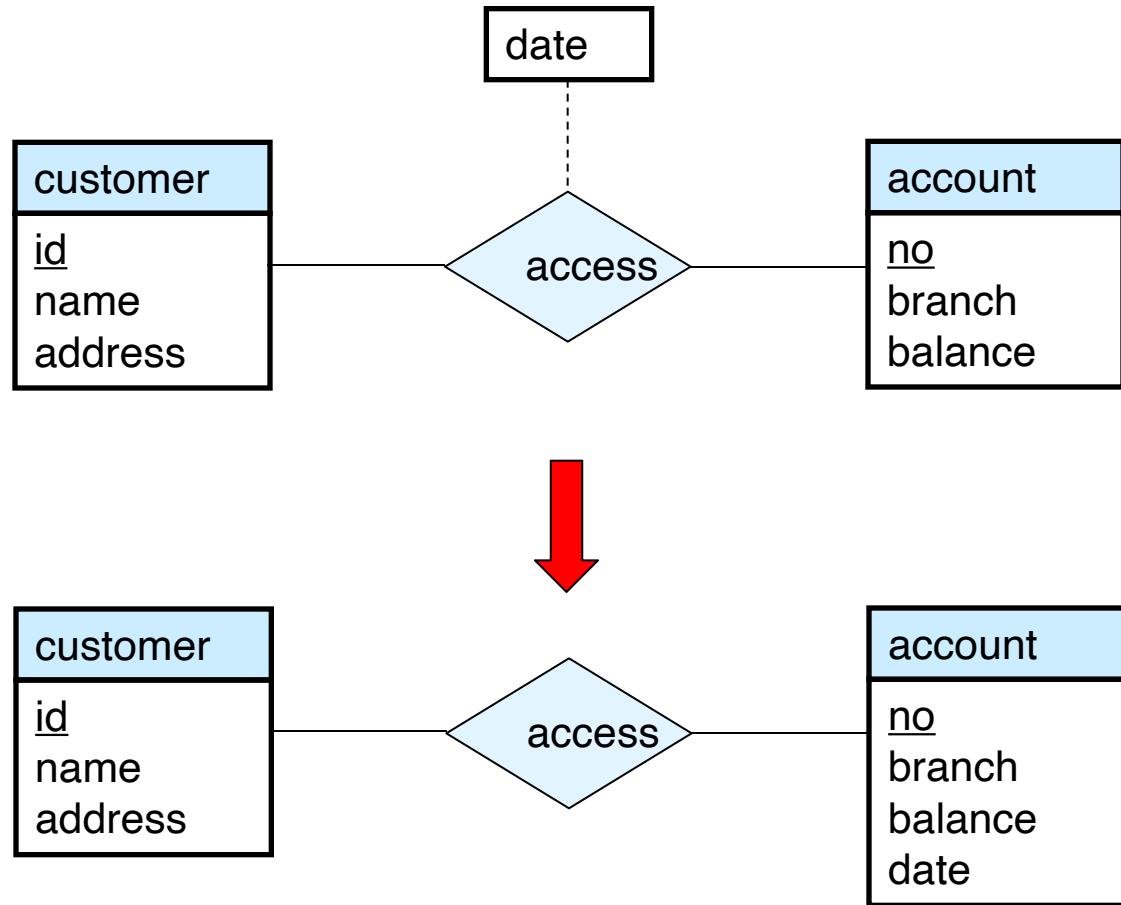
Design Issues

be an action



Design Issues

account



Binary Vs. Non-Binary Relationships

- n **Binary versus n-ary relationship sets**

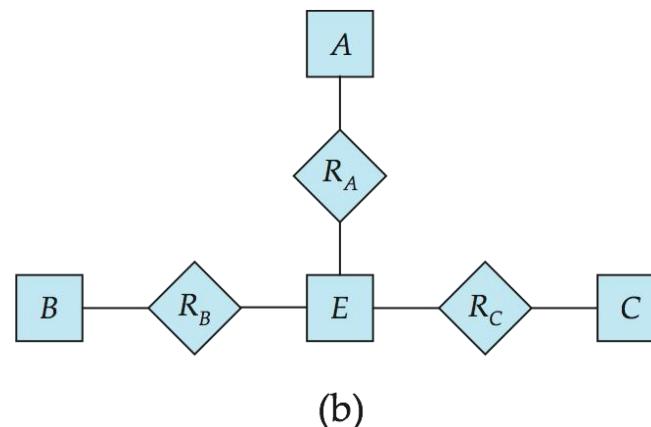
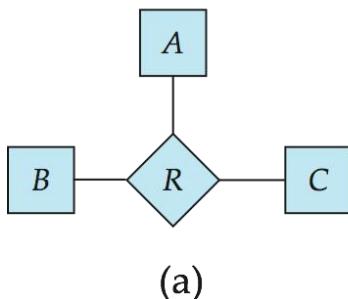
Although it is possible to replace any nonbinary (n -ary, for $n > 2$) relationship set by a number of distinct binary relationship sets, a n -ary relationship set shows more clearly that several entities participate in a single relationship.

- n Some relationships that appear to be non-binary may be better represented using binary relationships

- | E.g., A ternary relationship *parents*, relating a child to his/her father and mother, is best replaced by two binary relationships, *father* and *mother*
 - ▶ Using two binary relationships allows partial information (e.g., only mother being known)
- | But there are some relationships that are naturally non-binary
 - ▶ Example: *proj_guide*

Converting Non-Binary Relationships to Binary Form

- n In general, any non-binary relationship can be represented using binary relationships by creating an artificial entity set.
 - | Replace R between entity sets A, B and C by an entity set E , and three relationship sets:
 1. R_A , relating E and A
 2. R_B , relating E and B
 3. R_C , relating E and C
 - | Create a special identifying attribute for E
 - | Add any attributes of R to E
 - | For each relationship (a_i, b_i, c_i) in R , create
 1. a new entity e_i in the entity set E
 2. add (e_i, a_i) to R_A
 3. add (e_i, b_i) to R_B
 4. add (e_i, c_i) to R_C



Converting Non-Binary Relationships (Cont.)

- n Also need to translate constraints
 - | Translating all constraints may not be possible
 - | There may be instances in the translated schema that cannot correspond to any instance of R
 - ▶ Exercise: *add constraints to the relationships R_A , R_B and R_C to ensure that a newly created entity corresponds to exactly one entity in each of entity sets A , B and C*
 - | We can avoid creating an identifying attribute by making E a weak entity set (described shortly) identified by the three relationship sets

E-R Design Decisions

- n The use of an attribute or entity set to represent an object.
- n Whether a real-world concept is best expressed by an entity set or a relationship set.
- n The use of a ternary relationship or binary relationships.
- n The use of a strong or weak entity set.

Extended ER Features

Extended E-R Features: Specialization/Generalization

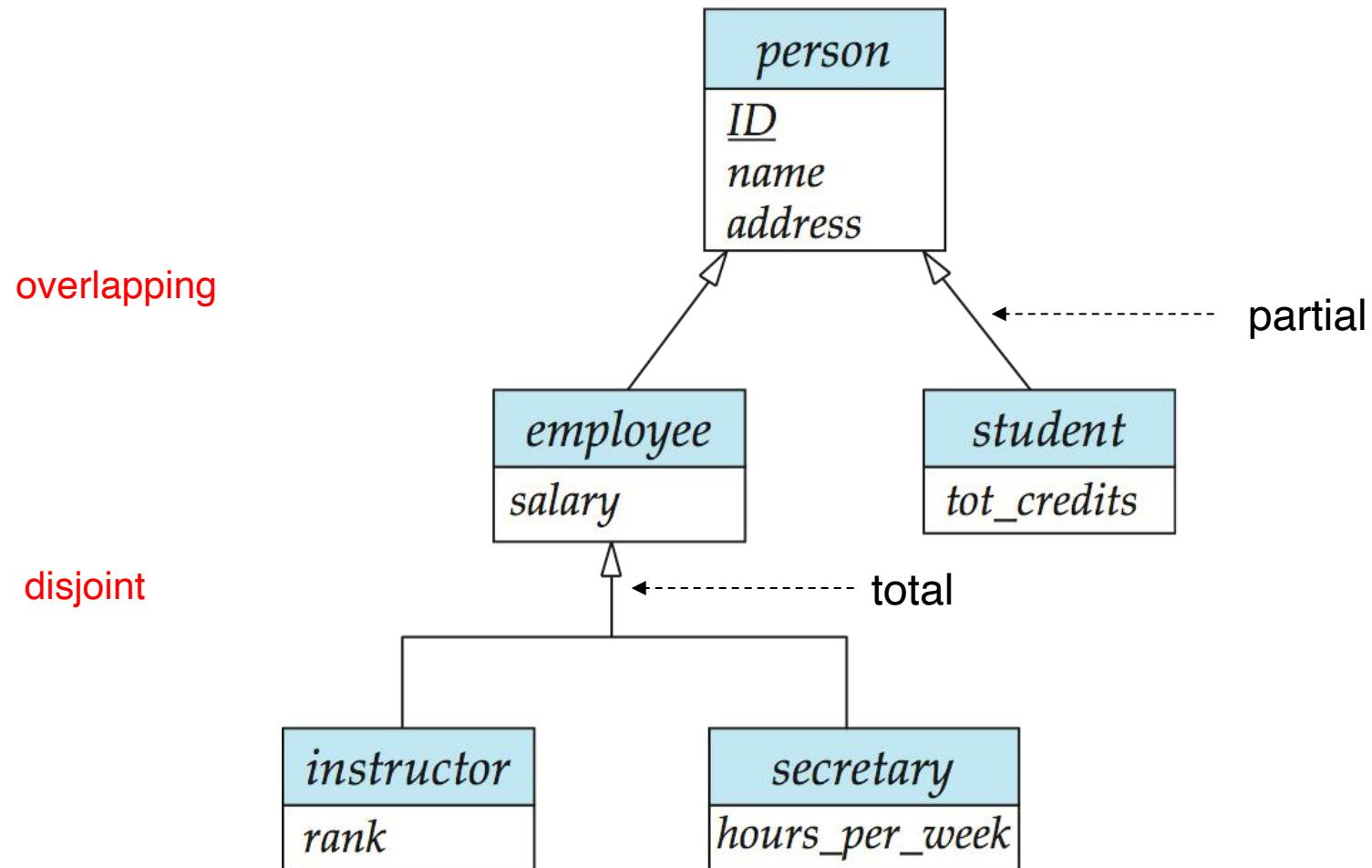
n Specialization(特化)

- | **Top-down design process**; we designate subgroupings within an entity set that are distinctive from other entities in the set.
- | **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.

n Generalization(概化)

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

Specialization Example



Design Constraints on a Specialization/Generalization

- n Constraint on whether or not entities may belong to more than one lower-level entity set within a single generalization.
 - | **Disjoint(不相交)**
 - ▶ 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
 - | **Overlapping(重叠)**
 - ▶ an entity can belong to more than one lower-level entity set

Design Constraints on a Specialization/Generalization (Cont.)

- n **Completeness constraint (完全性约束)**-- 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(全部)**: an entity must belong to one of the lower-level entity sets
 - | **Partial(部分)**: an entity need not belong to one of the lower-level entity sets

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

- 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

- Drawback:** *name*, *street* and *city* may be stored redundantly for people who are both students and employees

Representing Specialization as Schemas

- n Method 3:
 - | Using single schema for all super /suber entity sets , with a type attribute to differentnate entities.

|

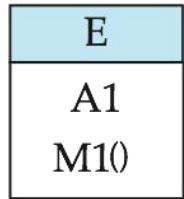
schema	attributes
<i>person</i>	<i>ID, name, street, city, person_type, tot_cred, salary)</i>

UML

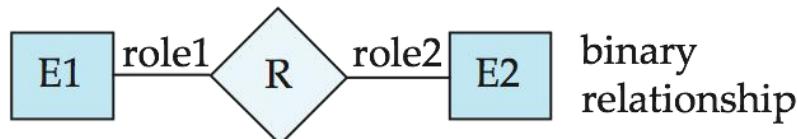
- n **UML**: Unified Modeling Language
- n UML has many components to graphically model different aspects of an entire software system
- n UML Class Diagrams correspond to E-R Diagram, but several differences.

ER vs. UML Class Diagrams

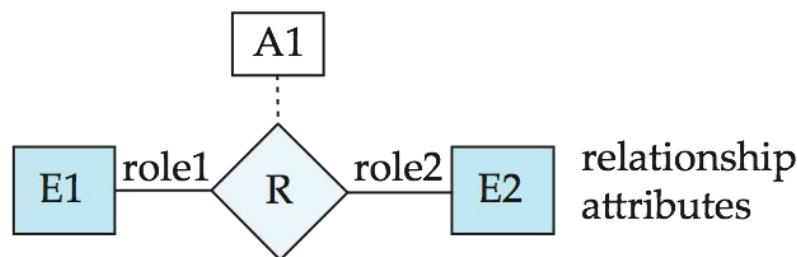
ER Diagram Notation



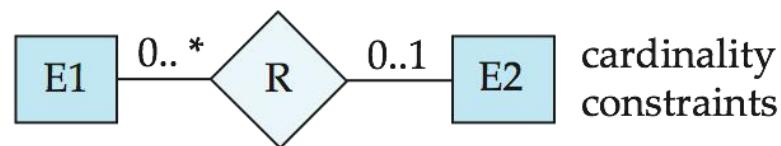
entity with attributes (simple, composite, multivalued, derived)



binary relationship

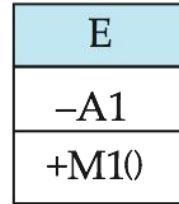


relationship attributes

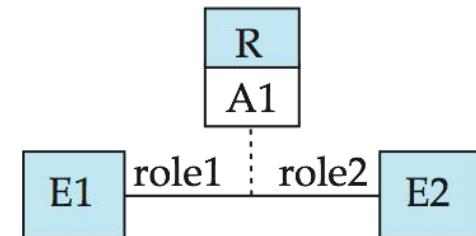


cardinality constraints

Equivalent in UML



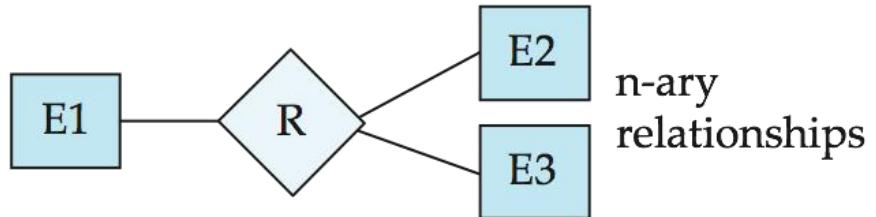
class with simple attributes and methods (attribute prefixes: + = public, - = private, # = protected)



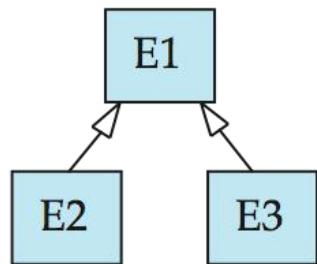
*Note reversal of position in cardinality constraint depiction

ER vs. UML Class Diagrams

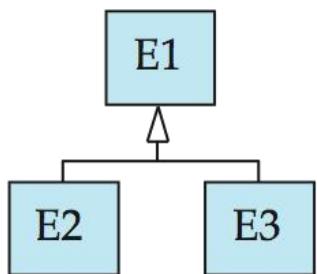
ER Diagram Notation



n-ary
relationships

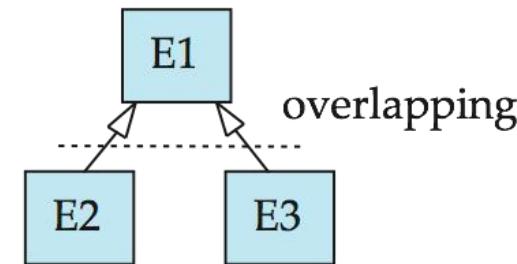
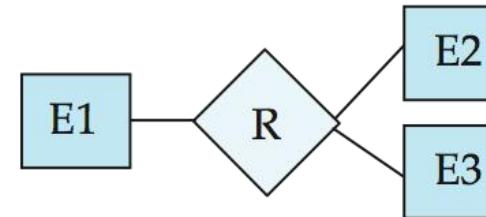


overlapping
generalization

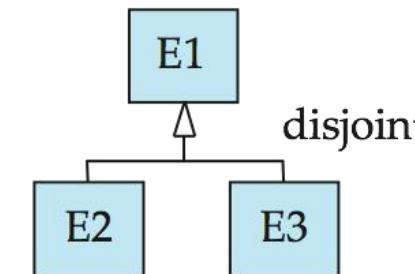


disjoint
generalization

Equivalent in UML



overlapping



disjoint

*Generalization can use merged or separate arrows independent of disjoint/overlapping

UML Class Diagrams (Cont.)

- n Binary relationship sets are represented in UML by just drawing a line connecting the entity sets. The relationship set name is written adjacent to the line.
- n The role played by an entity set in a relationship set may also be specified by writing the role name on the line, adjacent to the entity set.
- n The relationship set name may alternatively be written in a box, along with attributes of the relationship set, and the box is connected, using a dotted line, to the line depicting the relationship set.

End of Chapter 6