Database Technology
Entity Relationship Models

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Previously on Database Technology

• Introduction to Relational Databases
  – A standard model for storing data
  – Using relations/tables

• Introduction to SQL
  – Creating and changing tables
  – Reading and writing data into tables
Today

• Designing databases
  – i.e., how to get from your customer’s requirements…
  – ...to a set of tables and attributes
Outline

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

• Initial phase: requirements engineering
  – characterize fully the data needs of the prospective database users
  – which data needs to be stored?
    • ...and in which volumes?
  – which queries should be answered?

• Conceptual schema
  – which types of entities and relations exist?
  – what attributes do they have?
Database Design

• Final phase: from a conceptual to physical data model
  – Logical Design: 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
Database Design Approaches

- Entity Relationship Model (today)
  - 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 (next lecture)
  - Formalize what designs are bad, and test for them
Entity Relationship Model

• Dates back to the 1970s
  - developed to facilitate database design by allowing the specification of an enterprise schema that represents the overall logical structure of a database

• Toolkit for mapping the meanings and interactions of real-world enterprises onto a conceptual schema

• The ER data model employs three basic concepts:
  - entity sets,
  - relationship sets,
  - attributes

• Associated diagrammatic representation (ER diagram)
  - graphic expression of the overall logical structure of a database
Entity Sets

• An entity is an object that exists and is distinguishable from other objects
  – Example: Peter Chen, Mannheim, Star Wars

• An entity set is a set of entities of the same type that share the same properties
  – Example: set of all persons, cities, movies

• Each entity is represented by a set of attributes
  – Example:
    
    instructor = (ID, name, street, city, salary )
    course= (course_id, title, credits)

• A subset of the attributes form a primary key of the entity set
  i.e., uniquely identifying each member of the set
### Entity Sets – Example

- **instructor** (instructor_id, instructor_name)
- **student** (student_id, student_name)

#### Instructor Table
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76766</td>
<td>Crick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45565</td>
<td>Katz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10101</td>
<td>Srinivasan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98345</td>
<td>Kim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76543</td>
<td>Singh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22222</td>
<td>Einstein</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Student Table
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98988</td>
<td>Tanaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12345</td>
<td>Shankar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00128</td>
<td>Zhang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76543</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76653</td>
<td>Aoi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23121</td>
<td>Chavez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44553</td>
<td>Peltier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

  $$(44553,22222) \in advisor$$
Relationship Sets

- **instructor**: Crick, Katz, Srinivasan, Kim, Singh, Einstein
- **student**: Tanaka, Shankar, Zhang, Brown, Aoi, Chavez, Peltier

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Relationship Sets

• An attribute can also be associated with a relationship set
• E.g., advisor relationship set:
  – date which captures the start of the supervision
Degree of a Relationship

• Definition: degree of a relationship
  i.e., number of entity sets that are involved in relation set

• binary relationship (degree two)
  – involve two entity sets
  – the by far most frequent case

• Relationships between more than two entity sets (degree >2)
  – e.g.: students work on projects under the guidance of an instructor
  – relationship proj_guide is a ternary relationship
    between instructor, student, and project
  – those are rather rare
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:
  – 1:1 (one to one)
  – 1:n (one to many)
  – n:1 (many to one)
  – n:m (many to many)
Mapping Cardinalities – One to One

• One to one (1:1)
  – Note: Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set

• Examples
  – student_works_on_thesis
  – department_has_dean
Mapping Cardinalities – One to Many

• One to many (1:n)
  – Note: Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set

• Examples
  – building_has_room
  – course_taught_by_lecturer
Mapping Cardinalities – Many to One

• Many to one (n:1)
  – Note: Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set

• Examples
  – room_located_in_building
  – lecturer_teaches_course

• Note:
  – the inverse of a 1:n relation is a n:1 relation
  – and vice versa
Mapping Cardinalities – Many to Many

- Many to many (n:m)
  - Note: Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set

- Examples
  - student_takes_course
  - student_has_advisor
Distinguishing 1:n/n:1 and n:m Cardinalities

• Rule of thumb
  – Always ask for the cardinality the other way around

• “A building may have multiple rooms...”
  – “…but can a room be in multiple buildings?”
  – No → building_has_room is 1:n

• “A department can be located in multiple buildings...”
  – “…but can a building host multiple departments?”
  – Yes → department_located_in_building is n:m
Relation Sets from the Same Entity Set

• The two entity sets in a relation set may be the same
• This holds independently from the cardinality!

• `person_married_to_person`
  – 1:1

• `person_is_father_of_person`
  – 1:n

• `person_has_father`
  – n:1

• `person_is_parent_of_person`
  – n:m
Attribute Types & Domains

• Attribute types:
  – Simple and composite attributes
  – Single-valued and multi-valued attributes
    • Example: multi-valued attribute: phone_numbers

• Derived attributes
  – Can be computed from other attributes
  – Example: age (given date_of_birth)

• Domain – the set of permitted values for each attribute
Composite Attributes

**Composite attributes**

- first name
- middle initial
- last name

**Component attributes**

- street number
- street name
- apartment number

- address
  - street
  - city
  - state
  - postal code
Redundant Attributes

• Suppose we have entity sets:
  – instructor, with attributes: ID, name, dept_name, salary
  – department, with attributes: dept_name, building, budget

• In ERM, instructors and departments are connected by a relation set
  – e.g., instructor_belong_to_department (ID,dept_name)

• Now, dept_name is no longer needed in the instructor entity set
  – It is redundant there
  – Hence, we will remove it

• Note: sometimes, removed redundant attributes are reintroduced when converting the conceptual model into a logical model
Weak Entity Sets

• Consider the set of buildings and rooms
  – Entity set building(building_name,address)
  – Entity set room(number,capacity)
  – Relation set room_in_building (number,building_name)

• Note:
  – As in the previous example, we have removed the redundant attribute building_name from the entity set room

• Question:
  – What is the primary key of the entity set room?
Weak Entity Sets

• Weak entity sets are entity sets that
  – do not have a set of attributes sufficient to identify each entity uniquely
  – require an additional relation set to identify each entity uniquely
• Those relation sets are called identifying relation set

• Weak entities do not have primary keys
  – A weak entity set has an identifying entity and a discriminator
  – Example:
    • building is the identifying entity
    • number is the discriminator

• A weak entity cannot exist without the identifying entity
  – e.g., a room cannot exist without the building
ER Diagrams

- Entity Relationship Diagrams (ER diagrams)
  - are the graphical notation of entity relationship models
- Notation of entity sets:
  - Rectangles represent entity sets
  - Attributes listed inside entity rectangle
  - Underlining indicates primary key attributes
ER Diagrams

- Diamonds represent relationship sets

![Diagram showing instructor and student entities connected by an advisor relationship](image)
ER Diagrams

• Diamonds represent relationship sets
  – Attributes can be attached to relationship sets
Roles

- Entity sets of a relationship need not be distinct
  - i.e., there may be a relationship set involving the same entity set twice
- Each occurrence of an entity set plays a “role” in the relationship
  - The labels “course_id” and “prereq_id” are called roles
Cardinalities in ER Diagrams

• 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 between an instructor and a student:
  – A student is associated with at most one instructor via the relationship *advisor*
  – An instructor is associated with at most one student via the relationship *advisor*
Cardinalities in ER Diagrams

- 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
Cardinalities in ER Diagrams

- Many to many relationships
  - An instructor is associated with several (possibly 0) students via advisor
  - A student is associated with several (possibly 0) instructors via advisor

```
Cardinalities in ER Diagrams

- Many to many relationships
  - An instructor is associated with several (possibly 0) students via advisor
  - A student is associated with several (possibly 0) instructors via advisor

```

Total and Partial Participation

• Total participation (double line)
  – every entity in the entity set participates in at least one relationship in the relationship set
  – i.e., every student must have an advisor
    • recap: think of not null constraints

• Partial participation (single line)
  – some entities may not participate in the relationship
  – e.g., not every instructor has to supervise a student
Complex Cardinality Constraints

- Notation for minimum/maximum cardinality of a relation
  - Each student has *exactly one* advisor (i.e., min=max=1)
  - Each instructor can be the advisor of multiple students, but needs not be (i.e., min=0, max=∞)

- Notation:
  - min..max
  - * indicates no limit

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>instructor</th>
<th>student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>name</td>
<td>name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salary</td>
<td>tot_cred</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Diagram:
```
instructor -- advisor --> student
```

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Notation of Attribute Types

- **complex attribute**: first_name, middle_initial, last_name, street, street_number, street_name, apt_number, city, state, zip, {phone_number}
- **multivalued attribute**: date_of_birth
- **derived attribute**: age()
Expressing Weak Entity Sets

- A weak entity set is depicted via a double rectangle
  - The identifying relationship set is depicted by a double diamond
- The *discriminator* is underlined with a dashed line
  - Primary key for section – (course_id, sec_id, semester, year)

```
building
name
address

located_in

room
number
capacity

why total participation?
```
Higher Arity Relationship Sets

• Most relationship sets are binary
• Sometimes, ternary (or higher arity) relations occur
  – ER models support that
• Example:
  – Students work on projects under supervision of an instructor
Cardinality Constraints for Ternary Relations

- Only one single arrow (i.e., cardinality restriction) is allowed for a ternary relation
  - Example: each student can work in at most one project under the supervision of some instructor(s)
Specialization

- A concept very common in (object oriented) programming
  - Entity sets are sub-/super sets of others
  - They inherit all the attributes from their super sets
- Overlapping
  - A person can be both an employee and a student
- Disjoint
  - An employee can be either an instructor or a secretary
Partial vs. Total Specialization

• Partial specialization
  – An employee may be an instructor or a secretary, or an employee not further specified
  – the default case

• Total specialization
  – There are no other persons than employees and students (in the DB)
  – Needs to be specified in the diagram
  – Analogy in OOP: abstract classes
A Full Example
Reduction to Relation Schemas

• How to get to from an ER model to a relational database model?
  – Recap: relational database models consists of relations

• We have
  – Entity sets and relationship sets

• Goal
  – Translate entity and relationship sets uniformly to relation schemas

• Mechanism:
  – For each entity set and relationship set there is a unique relation that is assigned the name of the corresponding entity set or relationship set
  – Each relation has a number of columns (generally corresponding to attributes), which have unique names
Representing Entity Sets

- A strong entity set becomes a relation with the same attributes
  building(name, address)
- A weak entity set becomes a relation that includes
  - the column(s) of the primary key of the identifying strong entity set:
    room (name, number, capacity)
- At the same time, name is a foreign key
  - which integrity constraints should we use?
Representing Relationship Sets

• Many-to-many relationship sets
  – represented as a relation with attributes for the primary keys of the two participating entity sets
• Example: schema for relationship set \textit{advisor}

\[
\text{advisor} = (\text{student\_ID, instructor\_ID})
\]
Representing Relationship Sets

- Many-to-many relationship sets
  - additional attributes of the relationship set become attributes of the representing relation

- Example: schema for relationship set \textit{advisor}

\[
\text{advisor} = (\textit{student\_ID}, \textit{instructor\_ID}, \textit{date})
\]
Representing Relationship Sets

• Special case for one-to-many relationship sets
  – The primary key of the “many” side can become a foreign key attribute on the “one” side
    
    student = (ID, name, tot_cred, instructor_ID)
  
• In case of partial participation, this may cause null values
Representing Relationship Sets

- Special case for one-to-one relationship sets
  - The primary key on one side can be included on the other side
    
    ```
    student = (ID, name, tot_cred, instructor_ID) or
    instructor = (ID, name, salary, student_id)
    ```

- In case of partial participation, this may cause `null` values

---

In case of partial participation, this may cause `null` values.
Representing Attributes

- Composite attributes are flattened out by creating a separate attribute for each component attribute.
- Add prefix of super attribute in case ambiguous names occur.
  - e.g., street_number, phone_number
- Ignoring multivalued attributes, extended instructor schema is

```plaintext
instructor(ID,
  first_name, middle_initial, last_name,
  street_number, street_name,
  apt_number, city, state, zip_code,
  date_of_birth)
```
Representing Multi-valued 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: 
    \[ \text{inst_phone} = (ID, \text{phone_number}) \]
- Each value of the multivalued attribute maps to a separate tuple of the relation on schema $EM$
  - Example: an instructor entity with primary key 22222 and phone numbers 456-7890 and 123-4567 maps to two tuples: 
    \[(22222, 456-7890) \text{ and } (22222, 123-4567)\]
Representing Derived Attributes

- Technically, we can create a view

```
create view instructor_age as
select ID,NOW()-date_of_birth as age
from instructor
```
Representing Higher Arity Relations

- Higher arity relationship sets are represented just like binary ones
  - i.e., as one relation with the primary keys of the related entity sets
  - `proj_guide(instructor_ID, student_ID, project_ID)`
Representing Specialization

- Method 1
  - All three relations become relations
    - primary key is shared
  - Shared attributes are only represented in the higher level entity
    person(ID, name, street, city)
    employee(ID, salary)
    student(ID, tot_credits)

- Drawback:
  - Accessing person information for employees and students requires access to two relations
Representing Specialization

- **Method 2**
  - All three relations become relations
    - primary key is shared
  - Shared attributes are only represented in each entity
    - `person(ID, name, street, city)`
    - `employee(ID, name, street, city, salary)`
    - `student(ID, name, street, city, tot_credits)`
  - Super relation can be omitted for total specialization

- **Drawback:**
  - Redundant storage for partial specialization
    - i.e., for persons that are both employees and students
Design Decisions in ER Modeling

• Entity sets vs. attributes

  - Entity set
    - Allows for additional information
    - Supports multi-valued attributes
      • in that case, the attribute would end as a relation in the DB anyways
Entity Sets vs. Relationship Sets

• Students register for course sections
  – This could be a simple relationship set as well
• Entity set can store additional information, e.g.
  – Date of registration
Placement of Attributes for 1:1 Relationships

- The primary key on one side can be included on the other side

\[\text{student} = (ID, \text{name}, \text{tot_cred}, \text{instructor}_ID) \text{ or } \text{instructor} = (ID, \text{name}, \text{salary}, \text{student}_id)\]

- Which one?
Binary vs. Non-Binary Relationships

- Sometimes, non-binary relationships can be replaced by binary ones
Binary vs. Non-Binary Relationships

- Sometimes, non-binary relationships can be replaced by binary ones
  - This is usually the preferred solution
Binary vs. Non-Binary Relationships

• Sometimes, non-binary relationships can be replaced by binary ones
  – but sometimes, they are n-ary by nature
Binary vs. Non-Binary Relationships

- Sometimes, non-binary relationships can be replaced by binary ones
  - but sometimes, they are n-ary by nature

```
student_project

student  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>name</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

instr_project

instructor  |
| ID        |
| name      |
| salary    |

proj  |
| ID    |
| name  |

student_project

student  |
| ID      |
| name    |
| tot_credits |

student

instructor

instructor

student

? 
```
Binary vs. Non-Binary Relationships

- Sometimes, non-binary relationships can be replaced by binary ones
  - but sometimes, they are n-ary by nature
- General decomposition schema:

```plaintext
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Tot_Credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

```plaintext
project
  ID
  name

proj_guide

instr_guide

guide

stud_guide
```

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ER Design Decisions (Summary)

- 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 number of binary relationships
- The use of a strong or weak entity set
- The use of specialization/generalization – contributes to modularity in the design
Summary of ER Notation

- **E**: entity set
  - attributes: simple (A1), composite (A2), multivalued (A3), derived (A4)

- **R**: relationship set
  - identifying relationship set for weak entity set
  - primary key

- **R → E**: total participation of entity set in relationship
  - discriminating attribute of weak entity set
Summary of ER Notation (ctd.)

- **Role Name**: The role name in the ER diagram is indicated by a diamond shape labeled with the role name.

- **Role Indicator**: The role indicator in the ER diagram is indicated by a square shape connected to the role name by a line.

- **Many-to-Many Relationship**: Indicated by two diamonds connected by a line.

- **One-to-One Relationship**: Indicated by a single diamond connected by a line.

- **Many-to-One Relationship**: Indicated by a line connecting a diamond to a square.

- **Cardinality Limits**: Indicated by a line with a range (e.g., 1..h) connecting a diamond to a square.

- **ISA: Generalization or Specialization**: Indicated by a line connecting a diamond to a triangle, indicating a parent-child relationship.

- **Total (Disjoint) Generalization**: Indicated by a line connecting a diamond to a rectangle with a triangular arrow indicating disjoint generalization.

- **Disjoint Generalization**: Indicated by a line connecting a diamond to two or more rectangles indicating disjoint relationships.
Alternative ER Notations

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

weak entity set

generalization

ISA

total generalization

ISA
Alternative ER Notations (ctd.)

- **Many-to-many relationship**
  
  \[
  \text{E1} \xrightarrow{*} \text{R} \xrightarrow{*} \text{E2}
  \]

- **One-to-one relationship**
  
  \[
  \text{E1} \xrightarrow{1} \text{R} \xrightarrow{1} \text{E2}
  \]

- **Many-to-one relationship**
  
  \[
  \text{E1} \xrightarrow{*} \text{R} \xrightarrow{1} \text{E2}
  \]

- **Participation in R: total (E1) and partial (E2)**
  
  \[
  \text{E1} \xrightarrow{R} \text{E2}
  \]
Alternative Modeling Paradigms: UML

• Unified Modeling Language
  – often used in software design
  – similar scope: objects and their relations
  – ISO standard since 2005

• ER models in RDBMS
  – Direct translation to SQL

• UML models in software engineering
  – Direct translation to source code
Alternative Modeling Paradigms: UML

ER Diagram Notation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E</th>
<th>entity with attributes (simple, composite, multivalued, derived)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Equivalent in UML

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>E</th>
<th>class with simple attributes and methods (attribute prefixes: + = public, -= private, # = protected)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-A1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+M10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Binary relationship

- Relationship attributes

- Cardinality constraints

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Alternative Modeling Paradigms: UML

http://pld.cs.luc.edu/database/ER.html
Summary

• Designing databases
  – i.e., how to get from your customer’s requirements…
  – …to a set of tables and attributes

• ER Models are an intermediate step
  – Conceptual view on the database
  – Graphical notation
  – Can be used for discussion with customers

• Translation rules for ER to RDBMS

• Design decisions
  – For ER Models (mostly business decisions)
  – For translation to RDBMS (mostly computer science decisions)
Questions?