Database Technology
Entity Relationship Models

Heiko Paulheim
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)
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:

  \((44553,22222) \in \text{advisor}\)
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
  – faculty_has_member
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
  - member of faculty

- 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
  - name
    - first_name
    - middle_initial
    - last_name

- Component attributes
  - address
    - street
    - city
    - state
    - postal_code
    - street_number
    - street_name
    - apartment_number
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_belongs_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: room(number, capacity)
    • 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

![ER Diagram]

- Instructor:
  - ID
  - name
  - salary

- Student:
  - ID
  - name
  - tot_cred

- Advisor relationship
ER Diagrams

- Diamonds represent relationship sets
  - Attributes can be attached to relationship sets

```
instructor
  ID
  name
  salary

advisor

student
  ID
  name
  tot_cred

date
```
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

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>course_id</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

```
| course_id |
|不錯 |
| | |
```

```
| prereq |
```

```
| course_id |
|不错 |
| | |
```

```
| prereq_id |
|不错 |
| | |
```
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
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 \textit{exactly one} advisor (i.e., \(\text{min}=\text{max}=1\))
  – Each instructor can be the advisor of multiple students, but needs not be (i.e., \(\text{min}=0,\text{max}=\infty\))

• Notation:
  – \(\text{min}..\text{max}\)
  – * indicates no limit
Notation of Attribute Types

- **complex attribute**
- **multivalued attribute**
- **derived attribute**

**Example:**

```
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()
```
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
  - Identifier for room: (number, building.name)
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

```
project
...                   proj_guide

instructor
ID
name
salary

student
ID
name
tot_cred
```
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)

![Entity-Relationship Diagram]

- Why?
Cardinality Constraints for Ternary Relations

- Multiple single arrows (i.e., cardinality restrictions) would lead to different possible interpretations
  - Each student works on at most one project under at most one instructor
  - For each project a student works on, there is at most one instructor
  - For each instructor supervising a student, there is at most one project
- Hence, we do not allow for them
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
  
  \[\text{building}(\text{name}, \text{address})\]

- A weak entity set becomes a relation that includes
  
  - the column(s) of the primary key of the identifying strong entity set:
    
    \[\text{room}(\text{name}, \text{number}, \text{capacity})\]

- 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 advisor

  \[\text{advisor} = (\text{student\_ID}, \text{instructor\_ID})\]
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 `advisor`
  ```
  advisor = (student_ID, instructor_ID, 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
    
    \[
    \text{student} = (\text{ID}, \text{name}, \text{tot_cred}, \text{instructor\_ID})
    \]

- 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
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 and derived 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)
  ```
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 $\text{phone\_number}$ of $\text{instructor}$ 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 $\text{instructor}$ 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

```sql
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 overlapping specialization
    • i.e., for persons that are both employees and students
Design Decisions in ER Modeling

• Entity sets vs. attributes

  ![Entity set example](image)

• 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

Diagram:

- `section_reg` connected to `registration` and `student_reg`
- `section` with attributes `sec_id`, `semester`, `year`
- `registration` with attributes `...`
- `student` with attributes `ID`, `name`, `tot_cred`
Placement of Attributes for 1:1 Relationships

• The primary key on one side can be included on the other side
  
  \[
  \text{student} = (ID, \text{name}, \text{tot\_cred}, \text{instructor\_ID}) \quad \text{or} \quad \\
  \text{instructor} = (ID, \text{name}, \text{salary}, \text{student\_id})
  \]

• 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

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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:
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)
- **R** (relationship set)
- **identifying relationship set for weak entity set**
- **total participation of entity set in relationship**

**E**

- **A1**
- **A2**
  - **A2.1**
  - **A2.2**
  - \{A3\}
- **A40**

**R**

**E**

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

**primary key**

**discriminating attribute of weak entity set**
Summary of ER Notation (ctd.)

- many-to-many relationship
- one-to-one relationship
- role-name
- role indicator
- total (disjoint) generalization
- ISA: generalization or specialization
- disjoint generalization
- cardinality limits


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Heiko Paulheim
entity set $E$ with simple attribute $A_1$, composite attribute $A_2$, multivalued attribute $A_3$, derived attribute $A_4$, and primary key $A_1$
Alternative ER Notations (ctd.)

- Many-to-many relationship
- One-to-one relationship
- Many-to-one relationship
- Participation in R: total (E1) and partial (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**

- **E** entity with attributes (simple, composite, multivalued, derived)
- **A1**
- **M10**

**Equivalent in UML**

- **E** class with simple attributes and methods (attribute prefixes: + = public, -= private, # = protected)
- **-A1**
- **+M10**

**ER Diagrams**

- Binary relationship:
  - **E1** role1 **R** role2 **E2**

- Relationship attributes:
  - **E1** role1 **R** role2 **E2**
  - **A1**

- Cardinality constraints:
  - **E1** 0..* **R** 0..1 **E2**

- **E1** role1 **R** role2 **E2**
  - **A1**

**UML Diagrams**

- **E**
  - **-A1**
  - **+M10**
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?