

The Relational Model

Ramakrishnan & Gehrke, Chapter 3

**A SQL query walks up to two
tables in a restaurant and asks:
“Mind if I join you?”**

Relational Database: Definitions

- Technically: **Relation** made up of 2 parts:

- Schema**: specifies name of relation, plus name and type of each column
 - Ex: Students(sid: string, name: string, login: string, gpa: real)
- Instance**: a **table**, with rows and columns
 - # rows = **cardinality**, # fields = **degree** / **arity**

does not
change often

changes all
the time

- Mathematically:

- Let $A_1, \dots, A_n$ ($n > 0$) be value sets, called **attribute domains**
- relation $R \subseteq A_1 \times \dots \times A_n = \{ (a_1, \dots, a_n) \mid a_1 \in A_1, \dots, a_n \in A_n \}$

- Can think of a relation as a **set** of rows or **tuples**

- NO!!! Duplicates allowed $\rightarrow$ multi-set
- atomic attribute types** only – no fancies like sets, trees, ...

- Relational database**: a set of relations

Students	sid	name	login	gpa

tuple

attribute

Example Instance of Students Relation

Sid	Name	Login	Gpa
53666	Jones	jones@cs	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@eecs	3.2
53650	Smith	smith@math	3.8

- Cardinality = 3, degree = 4, all rows distinct
- Do all *columns* in a relation instance have to be distinct?

Querying Relational Databases

- A major strength of the relational model: **simple, powerful *querying*** of data
 - Data organised in tables, query results are tables as well
 - Small set of generic operations, work on any table structure
- Query describes **structure of result** ("what"),
not algorithm how this result is achieved ("how")
 - data independence, optimizability
- Queries can be written intuitively,
and the **DBMS is responsible for efficient evaluation**
 - The key: **precise (mathematical) semantics** for relational queries
 - Allows the optimizer to extensively re-order operations,
and still ensure that the answer does not change

SQL, Structured English Query Language

- “all students with GPA less than 3.6”

```
SELECT *
FROM Students S
WHERE S.gpa < 3.6
```

- “...names and logins...”:

```
SELECT S.name, S.login
...
```

sid	name	login	gpa

53666	Jones	jones@cs	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@eecs	3.2
53650	Smith	smith@math	3.8

sid	name	login	gpa

53666	Jones	jones@cs	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@eecs	3.2

name	login

Jones	jones@cs
Smith	smith@eecs

Adding and Deleting Tuples

- DML = Data Manipulation Language = SELECT + ...

- **insert** a single tuple:

```
INSERT INTO Students( sid, name, login, gpa )
VALUES ( 53688, 'Smith', 'smith@ee', 3.2 )
```

- **delete** all tuples satisfying some condition:

```
DELETE FROM Students S
WHERE S.name = 'Smith'
```

- **change** all tuples satisfying some condition:

```
UPDATE Students S
SET gpa = 3.0
WHERE S.name = 'Smith'
```

Primary Key Constraints

- A set of fields is a **key** for a relation if :
 - 1. No two distinct tuples can have same values in all key fields, and
 - 2. This is not true for any subset of the key.
- Part 2 false → **superkey**
 - If >1 key for relation,
one of the keys is chosen (by DBA) to be **primary key**
- Example:
 - sid key for Students (what about name?)
 - The set {sid, gpa} is a superkey

Foreign Keys, Referential Integrity

- *Foreign key* = set of fields in one relation that is used to `refer' to a tuple in another relation
 - Must correspond to primary key of the second relation, like a `logical pointer'
- Example: sid is a foreign key referring to Students:
 - Enrolled(sid: string, cid: string, grade: string)
 - If all foreign key constraints are enforced, *referential integrity* is achieved, i.e., no dangling references.
- data model w/o referential integrity?

Foreign Keys in SQL

- Only students listed in the Students relation should be allowed to enroll for courses

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
( sid CHAR(20), cid CHAR(20), grade CHAR(2),
  PRIMARY KEY (sid,cid),
  FOREIGN KEY (sid) REFERENCES Students )
```

Problem?

Enrolled			
sid	cid	grade	

53831	Carnatic101	C	
53831	Reggae203	B	
53666	Topology112	A	
53688	History105	B	

Students			
sid	name	login	gpa

53666	Jones	jones@cs	3.4
53688	Smith	smith@eecs	3.2
53650	Smith	smith@math	3.8

Problem?

Enforcing Referential Integrity

- *Students* and *Enrolled*:
Enrolled.sid = foreign key referencing *Students*
- What if *Enrolled* tuple with non-existent student id is inserted?
 - Reject it
- What should be done if a *Students* tuple is deleted?
 - Also delete all *Enrolled* tuples that refer to it
 - Disallow deletion of a *Students* tuple that is referred to
 - Set *Enrolled.sid* tuples that refer to it to a *default sid*
 - Set *Enrolled.sid* tuples that refer to it to a *special value NULL*, aka '*unknown*' or '*inapplicable*'
- Similar if primary key of *Students* tuple is updated
 - Never ever do that, anyway!

Referential Integrity in SQL

- SQL/92 and SQL:1999 support all 4 options on deletes and updates:
 - Default is **NO ACTION**
(delete/update is rejected)
 - **CASCADE**
(also delete all tuples that refer to deleted tuple)
 - **SET NULL**
SET DEFAULT
(sets foreign key value of referencing tuple)

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled
(sid CHAR(20),
cid CHAR(20),
grade CHAR(2),
PRIMARY KEY (sid,cid),
FOREIGN KEY (sid)
REFERENCES Students
ON DELETE CASCADE
ON UPDATE SET DEFAULT )
```

treat corresponding Enrolled tuple
when Students (!) tuple is deleted

Where do ICs Come From?

- based upon the semantics of the real-world enterprise that is being described in the database relations
- can check a database instance to see if an IC is violated, but can **NEVER** infer that an IC is true by looking at an instance
 - An IC is a statement about all possible instances!
 - From example, we know name is not a key, but the assertion that sid is a key is given to us
- Key and foreign key ICs are the most common; more general ICs supported too

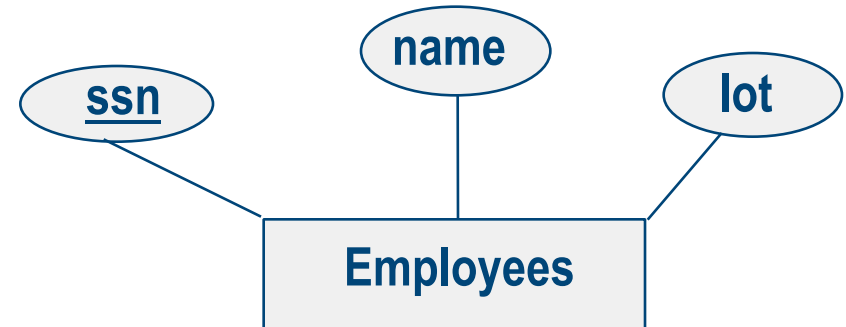
Logical DB Design: ER to Relational

- Entity sets to tables:

- ER attribute → table attribute
(can do that because ER constrained to simple types, same as in relational model)
- Declare key attribute “Primary key”

- Best practice (not followed by some books):
Add “abstract” identifying key attribute

- No further semantics
- System generated, no change, no reuse
- use **only this** as primary key & for referencing



```
CREATE TABLE Employees  
( ssn CHAR(11),  
  name CHAR(20),  
  lot INTEGER,  
  PRIMARY KEY (ssn) )
```

```
CREATE TABLE Employees  
( sid INTEGER,  
  ssn CHAR(11) UNIQUE,  
  ...,  
  PRIMARY KEY (sid) )
```

Relationship Sets to Tables

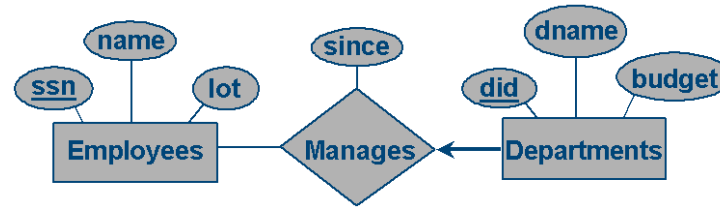
- In translating a relationship set to a relation, attributes of the relation must include:
 - Keys for each participating entity set (as **foreign keys**)
 - *a superkey for the relation*
 - All descriptive attributes

```
CREATE TABLE Works_In  
( ssn CHAR(11),  
  did INTEGER,  
  since DATE,  
  PRIMARY KEY (ssn, did),  
  FOREIGN KEY (ssn)  
    REFERENCES Employees,  
  FOREIGN KEY (did)  
    REFERENCES Departments )
```

ER Diagrams with Key Constraints

- Map relationship to table:

- *did* key now
- **Separate** tables for Employees and Departments

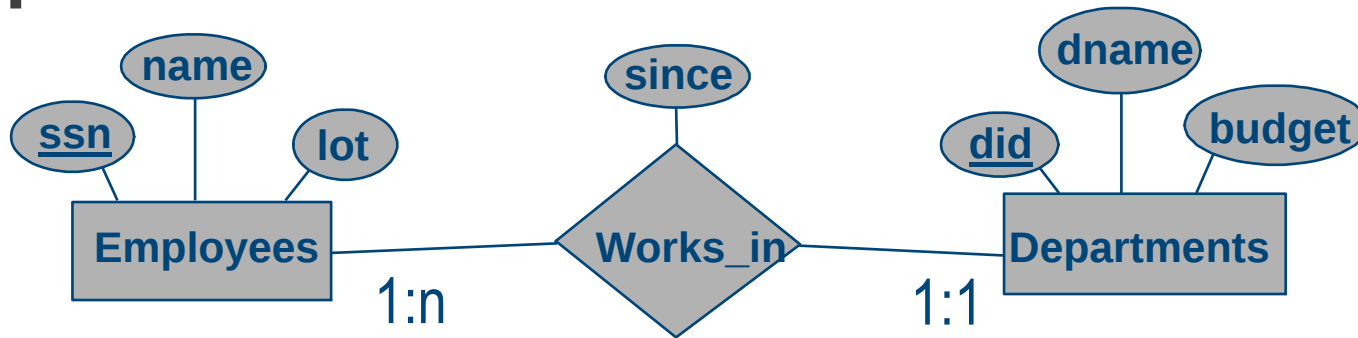


```
CREATE TABLE Manages
( ssn CHAR(11),
  did INTEGER,
  since DATE,
  PRIMARY KEY (did),
  FOREIGN KEY (ssn) REFERENCES Employees,
  FOREIGN KEY (did) REFERENCES Departments )
```

- We know each department has unique manager
→ can **combine**
Manages and *Departments*

```
CREATE TABLE Dept_Mgr
( did INTEGER,
  dname CHAR(20),
  budget REAL,
  ssn CHAR(11),
  since DATE,
  PRIMARY KEY (did),
  FOREIGN KEY (ssn) REFERENCES Employees )
```

Example

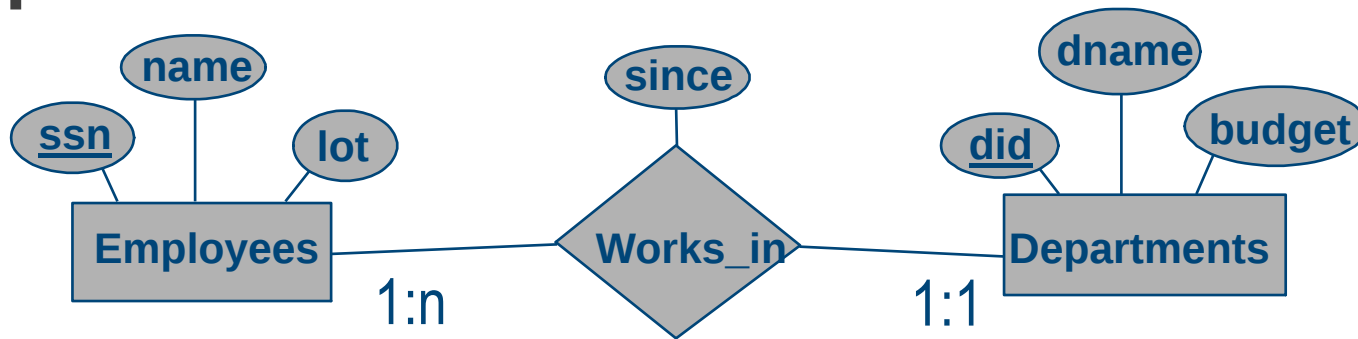


```
Create table Employees(
  eid: int,
  ssn: int unique,
  name: char(100),
  lot: int
  primary key (eid)
)
```

```
Create table Works_in(
  eid: int unique,
  did_ int,
  since: date
  primary key(eid,did_)
  foreign key (eid) references Employees
  foreign key (did_) references Departments
)
```

```
Create table Departments(
  did_: int,
  did: int unique,
  dname: char(100),
  budget: money
  primary key (did_)
)
```

Example



```

Create table Employees(
  eid: int,
  ssn: int unique,
  name: char(100),
  lot: int
  primary key (eid)
)
  
```

```

Create table Works_in(
  eid: int unique,
  did_ int,
  since: date
  primary key(eid,did_)
  foreign key (eid) references Employees
  foreign key (did_) references Departments
)
  
```

```

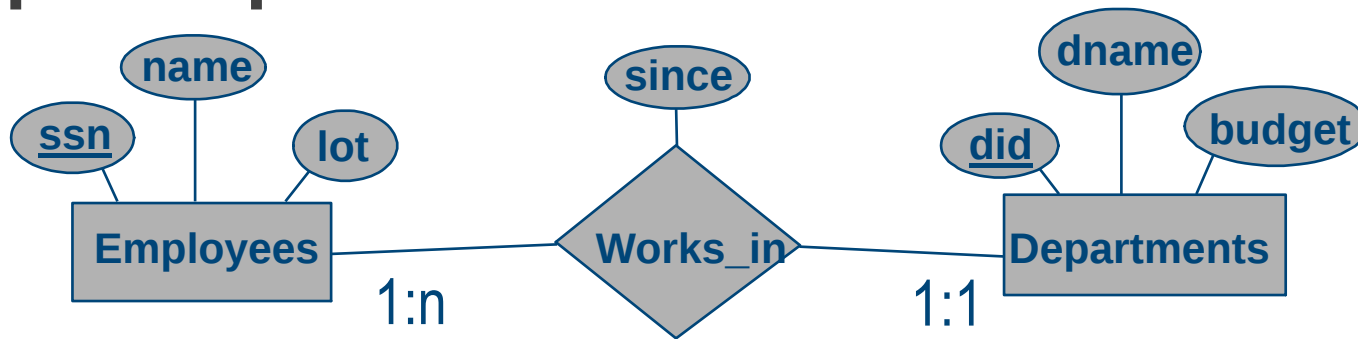
Create table Departments(
  did_: int,
  did: int unique,
  dname: char(100),
  budget: money
  primary key (did_)
)
  
```

eid	ssn	name	lot
1	123	John Doe	5
2	456	Jane Fox	17
3	789	Charlie Brown	42

eid	did_	since
1	2	2018-12-01
3	1	2017-01-01
2	2	2015-06-01

did_	did	name	budget
1	5	Sales	500
2	17	Accounting	170
3	99	Production	420

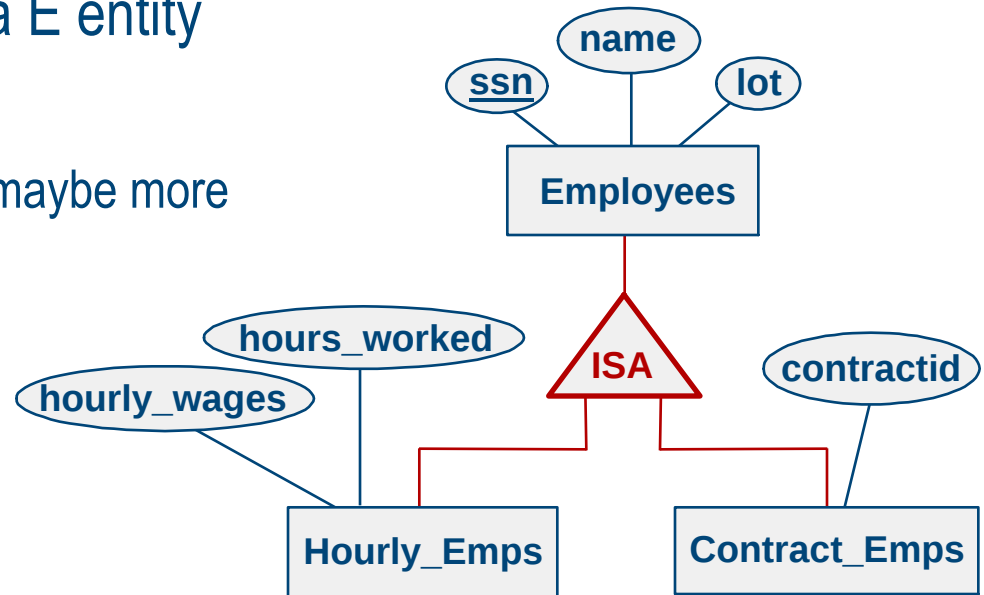
Example / Optimized



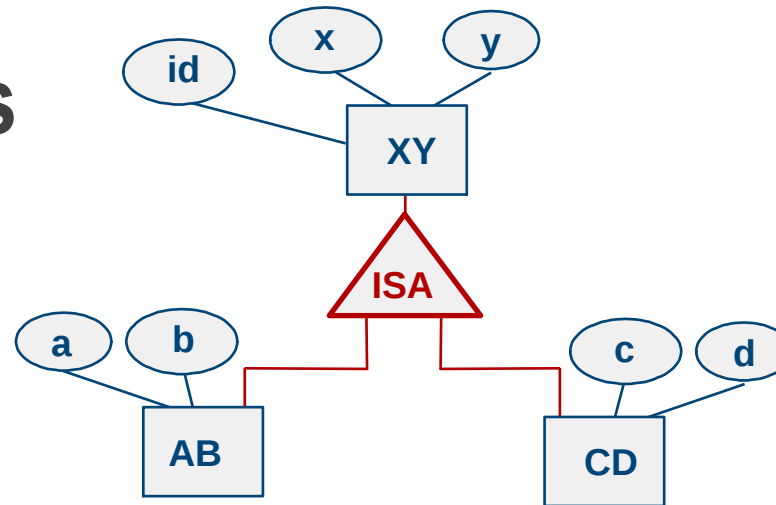
- Create table Employees(
eid: int,
ssn: int unique,
name: char(100),
lot: int,
since: date
did_: int
primary key (eid)
foreign key (did_)
references Departments
)
- Create table Departments(
did_: int,
did: int unique,
dname: char(100),
budget: money
primary key (did_)
)

ISA Hierarchies

- **H ISA E**: every H entity is also a E entity
("H inherits from E")
 - H attributes = E attributes + plus maybe more
 - H **subclass**, E **superclass**
- Mapping to Relations
 - Several choices
 - Constraints determine



ISA → Tables



- Alt 1:

AB	id	a	b
	1	.	.
	3	.	.

XY	id	x	y
	1	.	.
	2	.	.
	3		
	4		

CD	id	c	d
	2	.	.
	4	.	.

- Alt 2:

ABXY	id	a	b	x	y
	1	.	.	.	.
	3	.	.	.	.

CDXY	id	c	d	x	y
	2	.	.	.	.
	4	.	.	.	.

- Alt 3:

ABCDXY	id	a	b	c	d	x	y
	1	5	7	n	n	3	4
	2	n	n	9	8	6	7

Insert?
Select AB?
Select XY?

ISA → Relations: Discussion

- Alt 1: **separate relation per entity set**
 - 3 relations: Employees, Hourly_Emps, Contract_Emps
 - Every employee recorded in Employees
 - **must delete** Hourly_Emps tuple if referenced Employees tuple is deleted
 - Queries on all Employees easy, on Hourly_Emps require **join**
- Alt 2: **relations only for subclass entity sets**
 - 2 relations: Hourly_Emps, Contract_Emps
 - Hourly_Emps: ssn, name, lot, hourly_wages, hours_worked
 - Each employee must be in one of these two subclasses
- Alt 3: **one big relation** → 1 relation: Emps
- Alt 4: PostgreSQL **inheritance**:

```
CREATE TABLE Contract_Emps ( contractid: int ) INHERITS (Employees)
```

Not a solution in exam!

Overlap?
Covering?

ISA → Relations: Schemas

- Alt 1: separate relation per entity set

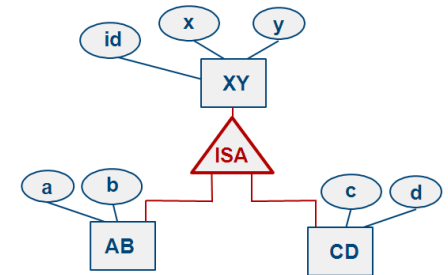
```
XY ( id, x, y )
AB ( id, a, b, FOREIGN KEY (id) REFERENCES XY(id) )
CD ( id, c, d, FOREIGN KEY (id) REFERENCES XY(id) )
```

- Alt 2: relations only for subclass entity sets

```
XYAB (id, x, y, a, b )
XYCD (id, x, y, c, d )
```

- Alt 3: one big relation

```
XYABCD ( id, x, y, a, b c, d )
```



Views

- like a table, but stores **query** rather than data
- Definition:


```
CREATE VIEW YoungActiveStudents (name, grade)
AS SELECT S.name, E.grade
   FROM Students S, Enrolled E
   WHERE S.sid = E.sid and S.age < 21
```
- Use like any table:


```
SELECT name
FROM YoungActiveStudents
WHERE grade < 3.00
```
- Security: **hiding details** of underlying relation(s)
 - Given YoungActiveStudents, but not Students or Enrolled, can find students enrolled
 - ...but not courses they are enrolled in

Relational Model: Summary

- **Tabular** representation of data
 - Simple & intuitive, **most widely used**
- **Rules** ER → relational model
 - Sometimes direct mapping: attributes, keys & foreign keys, ...
 - Sometimes no direct support: inheritance, multiplicities, ...
- **Integrity constraints** based on application semantics; **DBMS enforces**
 - **primary** + **foreign** keys; domain constraints; ...
 - Sometimes inherent from modelling approach, ex: multiplicities
- **SQL query language** for generic set-oriented table handling (see next)