Relational Database Design Part I

CPS 196.3

Introduction to Database Systems

Relational model: review

- A database is a collection of relations (or tables)
- Each relation has a list of attributes (or columns)
- Each attribute has a domain (or type)
- Each relation contains a set of tuples (or rows)

Keys

- A set of attributes *K* is a key for a relation *R* if
  - In no instance of *R* will two different tuples agree on all attributes of *K*
    - That is, *K* is a "tuple identifier"
  - No proper subset of *K* satisfies the above condition
    - That is, *K* is minimal
- Example: *Student* (*SID*, *name*, *age*, *GPA*)
  - *SID* is a key of *Student*
  - {*SID*, *name*} is not a key (not minimal)

Schema vs. data

Student

SID	*name*	*age*	*GPA*
142	Bart	10	2.3
123	Milhouse	10	3.1
857	Lisa	8	4.3
456	Ralph	8	2.3
...	...	...	...

- Is *name* a key of *Student*?
  - Yes? Seems reasonable for this instance
  - No! Student names are not unique in general
- Key declarations are part of the schema

More examples of keys

- *Enroll* (*SID*, *CID*)
  - {*SID*, *CID*}
- *Address* (*street_address*, *city*, *state*, *zip*)
  - {*street_address*, *city*, *state*}
  - {*street_address*, *zip*}

Usage of keys

- More constraints on data, fewer mistakes
- Look up a row by its key value
  - Many selection conditions are "key = value"
- "Pointers"
  - Example: *Enroll* (*SID*, *CID*)
    - *SID* is a key of *Student*
    - *CID* is a key of *Course*
    - An *Enroll* tuple "links" a *Student* tuple with a *Course* tuple
  - Many join conditions are "key = key value stored in another table"

Database design

- Understand the real-world domain being modeled
- Specify it using a database design model
  - Design models are especially convenient for schema design, but are not necessarily implemented by DBMS
  - Popular ones include
    - Entity/Relationship (E/R) model
    - Object Definition Language (ODL)
- Translate specification to the data model of DBMS
  - Relational, XML, object-oriented, etc.
- Create DBMS schema

Entity-relationship (E/R) model

- Historically very popular
- Can think of as a "watered-down" object-oriented design model
- E/R diagrams represent designs
- Primarily a design model—not implemented by any major DBMS

E/R basics

- Entity: a "thing," like a record or an object
- Entity set: a collection of things of the same type, like a relation of tuples or a class of objects
  - Represented as a rectangle
- Relationship: an association among two or more entities
- Relationship set: a set of relationships of the same type; an association among two or more entity sets
  - Represented as a diamond
- Attributes: properties of entities or relationships, like attributes of tuples or objects
  - Represented as ovals

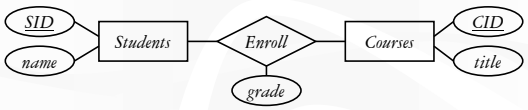
An example E/R diagram

- Students enroll in courses

- A key of an entity set is represented by underlining all attributes in the key
  - A key is a set of attributes whose values can belong to at most one entity in an entity set—like a key of a relation

Attributes of relationships

- Example: students take courses and receive grades



- Where do the grades go?
  - With *Students*?
    - But a student can have different grades for multiple courses
  - With *Courses*?
    - But a course can assign different grades for multiple students
  - With *Enroll*!

More on relationships

- There could be multiple relationship sets between the same entity sets
  - Example: *Students Enroll Courses*; *Students TA Courses*
- In a relationship set, each relationship is uniquely identified by the entities it connects
  - Example: Between Bart and CPS196, there can be at most one *Enroll* relationship and at most one *TA* relationship

☞ What if Bart took CPS196 twice and got two different grades?

Multiplicity of relationships

- E and F: entity sets
- Many-many: Each entity in E is related to 0 or more entities in F and vice versa
  - Example: 

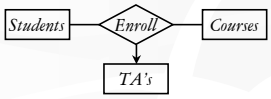
- Many-one: Each entity in E is related to 0 or 1 entity in F, but each entity in F is related to 0 or more in E
  - Example: 

- One-one: Each entity in E is related to 0 or 1 entity in F and vice versa
  - Example: 

- Notation: "One" (0 or 1) is represented by an arrow

N-ary relationships

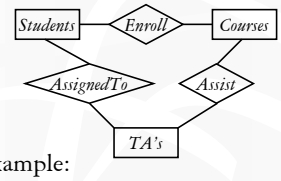
- Example: Each course has multiple TA's; each student is assigned to one TA



- Meaning of an arrow into E: Pick one entity from each other entity set; together they must be related to 0 or 1 entity in E

N-ary versus binary relationships

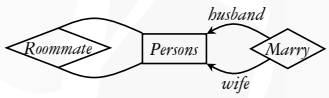
- Can we model n-ary relationships using just binary relationships?



- No; for example:
  - Bart takes CPS196 and CPS114
  - Lisa TA's CPS196 and CPS114
  - Bart is assigned to Lisa in CPS196, but not in CPS114

Roles in relationships

- An entity set may participate more than once in a relationship set
- ☞ May need to label edges to distinguish roles
- Examples
  - People are married as husband and wife; label needed
  - People are roommates of each other; label not needed

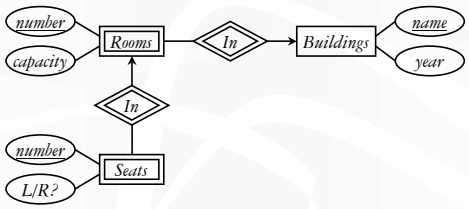


Weak entity sets

- Sometimes the key of an entity set E comes not completely from its own attributes, but from the keys of other (one or more) entity sets to which E is linked by many-one (or one-one) relationship sets
  - E is called a weak entity set
    - Represented by double rectangle
  - Many-one (or one-one) relationship sets required
    - Represented by double diamonds
    - With many-many, we would not know which entity provides the key value

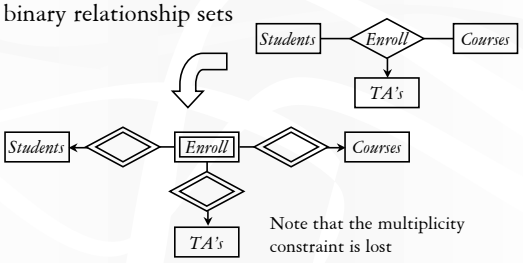
Weak entity set examples

- Seats in rooms in buildings



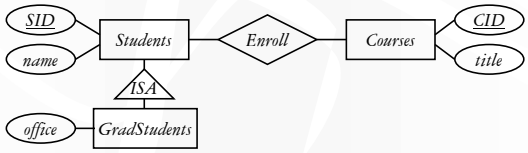
Modeling *n*-ary relationships

- An *n*-ary relationship set can be replaced by a weak entity set (called a connecting entity set) and *n* binary relationship sets



ISA relationships

- Similar to the idea of subclasses in object-oriented programming: subclass = special case, more properties, and fewer entities
  - Represented as a triangle (direction is important)
- Example: Graduate students are students, but they also have offices



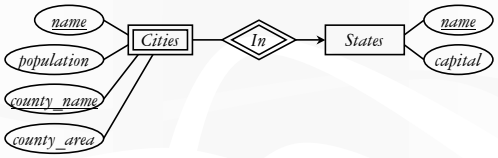
Summary of E/R concepts

- Entity sets
  - Keys
  - Weak entity sets
- Relationship sets
  - Attributes of relationships
  - Multiplicity
  - Roles
  - Binary versus *N*-ary relationships
    - Modeling *N*-ary relationships with weak entity sets and binary relationships
  - ISA relationships

Case study 1

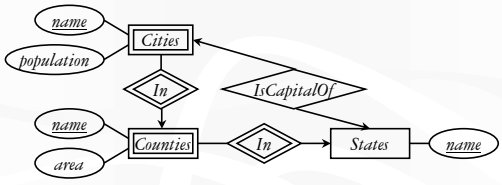
- Design a database representing cities, counties, and states
  - For states, record name and capital (city)
  - For counties, record name, area, and location (state)
  - For cities, record name, population, and location (county and state)
- Assume the following:
  - Names of states are unique
  - Names of counties are only unique within a state
  - Names of cities are only unique within a county
  - A city is always located in a single county
  - A county is always located in a single state

Case study 1: first design



- County area information is repeated for every city in the county
  - ☞Redundancy is bad (why?)
- State capital should really be a city
  - ☞"Reference" entities through explicit relationships

Case study 1: second design

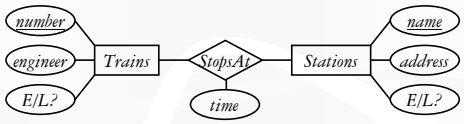


- Technically, nothing in this design could prevent a city in state *X* from being the capital of another state *Y*, but oh well…

Case study 2

- Design a database consistent with the following:
  - A station has a unique name and an address, and is either an express station or a local station
  - A train has a unique number and an engineer, and is either an express train or a local train
  - A local train can stop at any station
  - An express train only stops at express stations
  - A train can stop at a station for any number of times during a day
  - Train schedules are the same everyday

Case study 2: first design



- Nothing in this design prevents express trains from stopping at local stations
  - ☞Capture all constraints if possible
- A train can stop at a station only once during a day
  - ☞Do not introduce constraints

Case study 2: second design