ICS 321 Spring 2012
High Level Database Models

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Database Design & Deployment

Requirements Analysis

Conceptual Database Design

Logical Database Design

Physical Database Design (DDL/DML)

Business Processes

SQL Operations & program code

Testing

Production

iterate
Overview Database Design

• Conceptual Design
  – Use entity-relationship (aka ER) model represented pictorially as ER diagrams
  – Map ER model to relational schema

• Questions to ask yourself
  – What are the entities and relationships in the application?
  – What information about these entities and relationships should we store in the database?
  – What are the integrity constraints or business rules that hold?
ER Model Basics: Entities

- **Entity**: Real-world object distinguishable from other objects. An entity is described (in DB) using a set of **attributes**.

- **Entity Set**: A collection of similar entities. E.g., all employees.
  - All entities in an entity set have the same set of attributes. (Until we consider ISA hierarchies, anyway!)
  - Each entity set has a **key**.
  - Each attribute has a **domain**.
ER Model Basics: Relationships

- **Relationship**: Association among two or more entities.
- **Relationship Set**: Collection of similar relationships.
  - An n-ary relationship set \( R \) relates \( n \) entity sets \( E_1 \ldots E_n \); each relationship in \( R \) involves entities \( e_1 \in E_1, \ldots, e_n \in E_n \).
  - Same entity set could participate in different relationship sets, or in different “roles” in same set.
Cardinality Ratios of Relationships

- Consider binary relationships, i.e., between two entity sets
- Alternate notation: 1:1, 1:M, M:1, M:N
Key Constraints

- Consider Works_In: An employee can work in many depts; a dept can have many employees: m-to-m
- Consider Manages: each dept has at most one manager
- Dept has a **key constraint** on Manages: each instance of dept appears in at most one instance of manages
- Denoted by an arrow: given a dept entity we can uniquely identify the manages relationship in which it appears
Participation constraints

- Does every dept have a manager?
- If so, this is a participation constraint: the participation of dept in Manages is said to be total (vs. partial). Denoted by thick/double line
- Meaning that every Dept entity must appear in an instance of the Manages relationship
• **Partial Participation**: Not all members of the Employees entity set take part in the manages relations

• **Total Partiticipation**: All members of the Dept entity set take part in the manages relationship

• Dept has a **key constraint** on Manages: each member of the dept entity set takes part in at most one member of the manages relationship set
Weak Entities

- A *weak entity* can be identified uniquely only by considering the primary key of another (*owner*) entity.
- Owner entity set and weak entity set must participate in a one-to-many relationship set (one owner, many weak entities).
- Weak entity set must have total participation in this *identifying* relationship set.
- Denoted by a box with double or thick lines
Design Choices

- Should a concept be modeled as an entity or an attribute?
- Should a concept be modeled as an entity or a relationship?
- Identifying relationships: Binary or ternary? Aggregation?
- How much semantics to capture in the form of constraints?
Entity vs. Attribute

- Depends upon how we want to use the address information, and the semantics of the data:
  - If we have several addresses per employee, *address* must be an entity (since attributes cannot be set-valued).
  - If the structure (city, street, etc.) is important, e.g., we want to retrieve employees in a given city, *address* must be modeled as an entity (since attribute values are atomic).
Logical DB Design: ER to Relational

- Entity sets to tables:

CREATE TABLE Employees
(ssn CHAR(11),
name CHAR(20),
lot INTEGER,
PRIMARY KEY (ssn))
Relationship Sets to Tables

- Attributes of the relation must include:
  - Keys for each participating entity set (as foreign keys).
    - This set of attributes forms a **superkey** for the relation.
  - All descriptive attributes.

```sql
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
)
```
Translating ER Diagrams with Key Constraints

Map relationship to a table:
- Note that did is the key now!

Since each department has a unique manager, we could instead combine Manages 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)
```

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

• We can capture participation constraints involving one entity set in a binary relationship, but little else (without resorting to CHECK constraints).

```
CREATE TABLE Dept_Mgr(
    did INTEGER,
    dname CHAR(20),
    budget REAL,
    ssn CHAR(11) NOT NULL,
    since DATE,
    PRIMARY KEY (did),
    FOREIGN KEY (ssn) REFERENCES Employees,
    ON DELETE NO ACTION)
```
Translating Weak Entity Sets

• Weak entity set and identifying relationship set are translated into a single table.
  – When the owner entity is deleted, all owned weak entities must also be deleted.

```sql
CREATE TABLE Dep_Policy (  
pname CHAR(20),  
age INTEGER,  
cost REAL,  
ssn CHAR(11) NOT NULL,  
PRIMARY KEY (pname, ssn),  
FOREIGN KEY (ssn) REFERENCES Employees,  
ON DELETE CASCADE)
```
ISA Hierarchies

• As in C++, or other PLs, attributes are inherited.
• If we declare A **ISA** B, every A entity is also considered to be a B entity.

• **Overlap constraints**: Can Joe be an Hourly_Emps as well as a Contract_Emps entity? *(Allowed/disallowed)*
• **Covering constraints**: Does every Employees entity also have to be an Hourly_Emps or a Contract_Emps entity? *(Yes/no)*
Translating ISA Hierarchies to Relations

• **General approach:**
  – 3 relations: Employees, Hourly_Emps and Contract_Emps.

    • *Hourly_Emps:* Every employee is recorded in Employees. For hourly emps, extra info recorded in Hourly_Emps (*hourly_wages, hours_worked, ssn*); must delete Hourly_Emps tuple if referenced Employees tuple is deleted).

    • Queries involving all employees easy, those involving just Hourly_Emps require a join to get some attributes.

• **Alternative: Just Hourly_Emps and Contract_Emps.**
  – *Hourly_Emps:* *ssn, name, lot, hourly_wages, hours_worked.*

  – Each employee must be in one of these two subclasses.
Unified Modeling Language

- Standardized general-purpose modeling language for software design
- Based on object-oriented model
- Class diagrams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UML</th>
<th>E/R Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Entity set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association</td>
<td>Binary relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Class</td>
<td>Attributes on a relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subclass</td>
<td>Isa hierarchy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregation</td>
<td>Many-one relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composition</td>
<td>Many-one relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with referential integrity</td>
</tr>
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</table>
UML Classes

ER Entity Set

Movies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>year</th>
<th>length</th>
<th>genre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

UML Class

Movies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>title</th>
<th>PK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>year</td>
<td>PK</td>
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<tr>
<td>length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>genre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<place for methods>

Class name

Methods section typically not used in data modeling
Associations

Cardinality constraints: one instance of Stars can be connected to at least 0 instance of movies and at most infinite instances of movies.
Referential Integrity

Aggregation: Must be 0..1 (includes 1..1)
Composition: Must be 1..1
Every president runs exactly one studio

Aggregation never named
Association Classes

[Diagram showing association classes with attributes and relationships]

Stars
- name
- address

Stars-in
- Compensation
  - salary
  - residuals

Movies
- title
- year
- length
- genre

PK
Sub-Class Hierarchies

Movies
  title PK
  year PK
  length
  genre

Murder-Mysteries
  weapon

Cartoons

Cartoon-MurderMysteries
  weapon

to Voices
Modeling Tips

• Faithful to the semantics of the application
• Model only what is needed in the application
• Minimize redundancy (why?)
• Simple is good
• If the model is getting too complicated, take a step back and ask
  – Am i conceptualizing the right entities ?
  – Am i thinking of the right relationships ?
  – Should some relationships become entities ? Vice versa ?
  – Should some attributes become entities ? Vice versa ?