Lecture 5: The E/R Model
Announcements!

1. PS1 due at midnight! Please go over Piazza for hints. We will post solutions tomorrow. Grades coming soon!

2. Project part 1 out today!

3. Piazza competition! Thanks everyone for the amazing discussions!
   • By the end of class we will have fun goodies *(NOT T-shirts or cheesy clothing)* for the top-3 Piazza contributors!
     • This means most valuable questions/answers!
     • You have to vote for good questions and good answers!!!
Lecture 5: The E/R Model
Today’s Lecture

1. E/R Basics: Entities & Relations
   • ACTIVITY: Crayon time!

2. E/R Design considerations
   • ACTIVITY: Crayon time pt. II

3. Advanced E/R Concepts
   • ACTIVITY: E/R Translation
1. E/R Basics: Entities & Relations
What you will learn about in this section

1. High-level motivation for the E/R model
2. Entities
3. Relations
4. ACTIVITY: Crayon Time! Drawing E/R diagrams
Database Design

• **Database design: Why do we need it?**
  • Agree on structure of the database before deciding on a particular implementation

• **Consider issues such as:**
  • What entities to model
  • How entities are related
  • What constraints exist in the domain
  • How to achieve good designs

• **Several formalisms exist**
  • We discuss one flavor of E/R diagrams
Database Design Process

1. Requirements analysis
   • What is going to be stored?
   • How is it going to be used?
   • What are we going to do with the data?
   • Who should access the data?

Technical and non-technical people are involved
Database Design Process

2. Conceptual Design

• A high-level description of the database

• Sufficiently precise that technical people can understand it

• But, not so precise that non-technical people can’t participate

This is where E/R fits in.
Database Design Process

3. More:

- Logical Database Design
- Physical Database Design
- Security Design
Database Design Process

1. Requirements Analysis
2. Conceptual Design
3. Logical, Physical, Security, etc.

E/R Model & Diagrams used

This process is iterated many times

E/R is a visual syntax for DB design which is precise enough for technical points, but abstracted enough for non-technical people.
Interlude: Impact of the ER model

• The E/R model is one of the most cited articles in Computer Science
  • “The Entity-Relationship model – toward a unified view of data” Peter Chen, 1976

• Used by companies big and small
  • You’ll know it soon enough
Entities and Entity Sets

- **Entities & entity sets** are the primitive unit of the E/R model
  - Entities are the individual objects, which are members of entity sets
    - Ex: A specific person or product
  - Entity sets are the *classes* or *types* of objects in our model
    - Ex: Person, Product
    - *These are what is shown in E/R diagrams - as rectangles*
    - *Entity sets represent the sets of all possible entities*
Entities and Entity Sets

• An entity set has **attributes**
  • Represented by ovals attached to an entity set

Shapes **are** important. Colors **are not.**
Entities vs. Entity Sets

Example:

- **Entity Set**
  - **Product**
    - **Name:** Xbox
      - **Category:** Total Multimedia System
      - **Price:** $250
    - **Name:** My Little Pony Doll
      - **Category:** Toy
      - **Price:** $25

Entities are **not** explicitly represented in E/R diagrams!
Keys

• A *key* is a **minimal** set of attributes that uniquely identifies an entity.

Denote elements of the primary key by underlining.

Here, \{name, category\} is *not* a key (it is not *minimal*).

*If it were, what would it mean?*

The E/R model forces us to designate a single **primary** key, though there may be multiple candidate keys.
The R in E/R: Relationships

• A relationship is between two entities
Lecture 5 > Section 1 > Relationships

- Product
  - name
  - category
  - price
  - buys

- Company
  - name
  - stockprice
  - employs

- Person
  - address
  - name
  - ssn
What is a Relationship?

• **A mathematical definition:**
  
  • Let $A, B$ be sets
    • $A=\{1,2,3\}$, $B=\{a,b,c,d\}$
What is a Relationship?

- **A mathematical definition:**
  
  - Let $A$, $B$ be sets
    - $A=\{1,2,3\}, \ B=\{a,b,c,d\}$
  
  - $A \times B$ (the *cross-product*) is the set of all pairs $(a,b)$
    - $A \times B = \{(1,a), (1,b), (1,c), (1,d), (2,a), (2,b), (2,c), (2,d), (3,a), (3,b), (3,c), (3,d)\}$
What is a Relationship?

• A mathematical definition:
  
  • Let A, B be sets
    • \( A=\{1,2,3\}, \quad B=\{a,b,c,d\}, \)
  
  • \( A \times B \) (the cross-product) is the set of all pairs \((a,b)\)
    • \( A \times B = \{(1,a), (1,b), (1,c), (1,d), (2,a), (2,b), (2,c), (2,d), (3,a), (3,b), (3,c), (3,d)\} \)
  
  • We define a relationship to be a subset of \( A \times B \)
    • \( R = \{(1,a), (2,c), (2,d), (3,b)\} \)
What is a Relationship?

• **A mathematical definition:**
  • Let A, B be sets
  • $A \times B$ (the *cross-product*) is the set of all pairs
  • A relationship is a subset of $A \times B$

• **Makes** is a relationship - it is a *subset* of Product $\times$ Company:
What is a Relationship?

A relationship between entity sets $P$ and $C$ is a subset of all possible pairs of entities in $P$ and $C$, with tuples uniquely identified by $P$ and $C$'s keys.
What is a Relationship?

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What is a Relationship?

A relationship between entity sets P and C is a subset of all possible pairs of entities in P and C, with tuples uniquely identified by P and C’s keys.

![Diagram showing the relationship between Company and Product sets.](image-url)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GizmoWorks</td>
<td>Gizmo</td>
<td>$9.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GizmoLite</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gadget</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GizmoWorks</td>
<td>Gizmo</td>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>$9.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GizmoWorks</td>
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<td>$7.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>GizmoWorks</td>
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<td>Toys</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GadgetCorp</td>
<td>Gizmo</td>
<td>Electronics</td>
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<tr>
<td>GadgetCorp</td>
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<td>$7.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>GadgetCorp</td>
<td>Gadget</td>
<td>Toys</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diagram shows the relationship between Company (C) and Product (P) sets, with arrows indicating the Makes relationship.
What is a Relationship?

• There can only be one relationship for every unique combination of entities

• This also means that the relationship is uniquely determined by the keys of its entities

• Example: the “key” for Makes (to right) is \{Product.name, Company.name\}

This follows from our mathematical definition of a relationship - it’s a SET!
Relationships and Attributes

• Relationships may have attributes as well.

For example: “since” records when company started making a product

Note: “since” is implicitly unique per pair here! Why?

Note #2: Why not “how long”?
Decision: Relationship vs. Entity?

• **Q:** What does this say?

• **A:** A person can only buy a specific product once (on one date)

Modeling something as a relationship makes it unique; what if not appropriate?
Decision: Relationship vs. Entity?

• What about this way?

• Now we can have multiple purchases per product, person pair!

We can always use a new entity instead of a relationship. For example, to permit multiple instances of each entity combination!
ACTIVITY: E/R Diagrams Pt. I
Draw an E/R diagram for football

Use the following simplified model of a football season (concepts to include are underlined):

Teams play each other in Games. Each pair of teams can play each other multiple times

Players belong to Teams (assume no trades / changes).

A Game is made up of Plays that result in a yardage gain/loss, and potentially a touchdown.

A Play will contain either a Pass from one player to another, or a Run by one player.

https://youtu.be/rJrMZKGkkn0
2. E/R Design Considerations
What you will learn about in this section

1. Relationships cont’d: multiplicity, multi-way

2. Design considerations

3. Conversion to SQL

4. ACTIVITY: Crayon Time! Drawing E/R diagrams Pt. II
Multiplicity of E/R Relationships

One-to-one:

One-to-many:

Many-to-one:

Many-to-many:

Indicated using arrows

X \to Y means there exists a function mapping from X to Y (recall the definition of a function)
What does this say?
Multi-way Relationships

How do we model a purchase relationship between buyers, products and stores?

NB: Can still model as a mathematical set (how?)
Arrows in Multiway Relationships

Q: What does the arrow mean?

- Product
- Purchase
- Person
- Store
Arrows in Multiway Relationships

Q: What does the arrow mean?
Q: How do we say that every person shops in at most one store?

A: Cannot. This is the best approximation. (Why only approximation?)
Converting Multi-way Relationships to New Entity + Binary Relationships

From what we had on previous slide to this - what did we do?
From what we had on previous slide to this - what did we do?

**Side note:** What arrows should be added here to preserve the meaning?
Converting Multi-way Relationships to New Entity + Binary Relationships

Side note: What arrows should be added here to preserve the meaning?
Decision: Multi-way or New Entity + Binary?

Should we use a single **multi-way relationship** or a **new entity with binary relations**?
Decision: Multi-way or New Entity + Binary?

(A) Multi-way Relationship

(B) Entity + Binary

Multiple purchases per (product, store, person) combo possible here!

• **Covered earlier:** (B) is useful if we want to have multiple instances of the “relationship” per entity combination
Decision: Multi-way or New Entity + Binary?

(A) Multi-way Relationship

(B) Entity + Binary

- (B) is also useful when we want to add details (constraints or attributes) to the relationship
  - “A person who shops in only one store”
  - “How long a person has been shopping at a store”
Decision: Multi-way or New Entity + Binary?

(A) Multi-way Relationship

(B) Entity + Binary

• (A) is useful when a relationship really is between multiple entities
  - Ex: A three-party legal contract
3. Design Principles

What’s wrong with these examples?

- Product ▷ Purchase ▷ Person
- Country ▷ President ▷ Person
Design Principles: What’s Wrong?
Design Principles: Better?
Examples: Entity vs. Attribute

Should address (A) be an attribute?

Or (B) be an entity?
Examples: Entity vs. Attribute

Should address (A) be an attribute?

How do we handle employees with multiple addresses here?

How do we handle addresses where internal structure of the address (e.g. zip code, state) is useful?
Examples: Entity vs. Attribute

Should address (A) be an attribute?

Or (B) be an entity?

In general, when we want to record several values, we choose new entity
From E/R Diagrams to Relational Schema

• Key concept:

Both *Entity sets* and *Relationships* become relations (tables in RDBMS)
From E/R Diagrams to Relational Schema

• An entity set becomes a relation (multiset of tuples / table)
  – Each tuple is one entity
  – Each tuple is composed of the entity’s attributes, and has the same primary key
CREATE TABLE Product(
    name CHAR(50) PRIMARY KEY,
    price DOUBLE,
    category VARCHAR(30)
)
From E/R Diagrams to Relational Schema

- A relation between entity sets $A_1, \ldots, A_N$ also becomes a multiset of tuples / a table
  - Each row/tuple is one relation, i.e. one unique combination of entities $(a_1, \ldots, a_N)$
  - Each row/tuple is
    - composed of the union of the entity sets’ keys
    - has the entities’ primary keys as foreign keys
    - has the union of the entity sets’ keys as primary key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>name</th>
<th>firstname</th>
<th>lastname</th>
<th>date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gizmo1</td>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>Joe</td>
<td>01/01/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gizmo2</td>
<td>Joe</td>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>01/03/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gizmo1</td>
<td>JoeBob</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>01/05/15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From E/R Diagrams to Relational Schema

CREATE TABLE Purchased(
    name CHAR(50),
    firstname CHAR(50),
    lastname CHAR(50),
    date DATE,
    PRIMARY KEY (name, firstname, lastname),
    FOREIGN KEY (name)
        REFERENCES Product,
    FOREIGN KEY (firstname, lastname)
        REFERENCES Person
)
From E/R Diagrams to Relational Schema

How do we represent this as a relational schema?
ACTIVITY: E/R Diagrams Pt. II
Add arrows to your E/R diagram!

Also make sure to add (new concepts underlined):

A player can only belong to one team, a play can only be in one game, a pass/run..?

Players can achieve a **Personal Record** linked to a specific Game and Play

Players have a **weight** which changes in on vs. off-season
3. Advanced E/R Concepts
What you will learn about in this section

1. Subclasses

2. Constraints

3. Weak entity sets

4. ACTIVITY: Crayon Time! Drawing E/R diagrams Pt. III
Modeling Subclasses

- Some objects in a class may be special, i.e. worthy of their own class
  - Define a new class?
    - *But what if we want to maintain connection to current class?*
  - Better: define a *subclass*
    - *Ex:*

```
Products
  Software products
  Educational products
```

We can define *subclasses* in E/R!
Modeling Subclasses

Child subclasses contain all the attributes of all of their parent classes plus the new attributes shown attached to them in the E/R diagram.
Understanding Subclasses

• Think in terms of records; ex:

  • Product
  • SoftwareProduct
  • EducationalProduct

Child subclasses contain all the attributes of all of their parent classes plus the new attributes shown attached to them in the E/R diagram.
Think like tables...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>name</th>
<th>price</th>
<th>category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gizmo</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>gadget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toy</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>gadget</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>name</th>
<th>platforms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gizmo</td>
<td>toddler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toy</td>
<td>retired</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IsA Review

• If we declare A IsA B then every A is a B

• We use IsA to
  • Add descriptive attributes to a subclass
  • To identify entities that participate in a relationship

• No need for multiple inheritance
Modeling Union Types With Subclasses

Suppose each piece of furniture is owned either by a person, or by a company. How do we represent this?
Modeling Union Types with Subclasses

Say: each piece of furniture is owned either by a person, or by a company

**Solution 1.** Acceptable, but imperfect (What’s wrong?)
Modeling Union Types with Subclasses

Solution 2: better (though more laborious)

What is happening here?
Constraints in E/R Diagrams

• Finding constraints is part of the E/R modeling process. Commonly used constraints are:

  • **Keys:** Implicit constraints on uniqueness of entities
    • *Ex:* An SSN uniquely identifies a person

  • **Single-value constraints:**
    • *Ex:* a person can have only one father

  • **Referential integrity constraints:** Referenced entities must exist
    • *Ex:* if you work for a company, it must exist in the database

  • **Other constraints:**
    • *Ex:* peoples’ ages are between 0 and 150

Recall FOREIGN KEYS!
Participation Constraints: Partial v. Total

Are there products made by no company? Companies that don’t make a product?

Bold line indicates total participation (i.e. here: all products are made by a company)
Keys in E/R Diagrams

Underline keys:
- name
- category
- price
- address
- name
- ssn

Note: no formal way to specify *multiple* keys in E/R diagrams...
Single Value Constraints

See previous section!
Referential Integrity Constraints

Each product made by at most one company. Some products made by no company?

Each product made by exactly one company.
Entity sets are *weak* when their key comes from other classes to which they are related.
Weak Entity Sets

Entity sets are *weak* when their key comes from other classes to which they are related.

- number is a *partial key* (denote with dashed underline).
- University is called the *identifying owner*.
- Participation in affiliation must be total. Why?
E/R Summary

• E/R diagrams are a visual syntax that allows technical and non-technical people to talk
  • For conceptual design

• Basic constructs: entity, relationship, and attributes

• A good design is faithful to the constraints of the application, but not overzealous