
Chapter 3

Relational Data Model

Content

- Introduction
- Concepts
- Constraints
- From E/R diagram to relational design

Introduction

- Was first introduced by E. F. Codd
 - “A Relation Model for Large Shared Data Banks”, Communications of ACM, 1970

- Commercial implementation
 - By IBM
 - System R (1974), SQL/DS (1981), DB2 (1983)
 - Oracle (1979)
 - By Sybase
 - SQL Server (1987), Adaptive Server Enterprise (1996)
 - By Microsoft
 - SQL Server (1989)
 - Access (1992)

Introduction

- Open source implementation
 - MySQL
 - By MySQL AB, 1995
 - PostgreSQL
 - Ingres project at the University of California, Berkeley, 1980s
 - By many developers, released in 1996
 - SQLite
 - By D. Richard Hipp working for General Dynamics, 2000

Introduction

- Provide a simple way to represent data
 - The relation: a two-dimensional table
- The theoretical background
 - Set theory of mathematical logic

Content

- Introduction
- **Concepts**
 - Relation
 - Attribute
 - Schema
 - Tuple
 - Domain
 - Characteristics of relation
 - Notations
- Constraints
- From E/R diagram to relational design

Relation

- Relational model presents the DB as a collection of *relations*
 - A relation = a two-dimensional table

Each column is one of the attributes of the entity set

FNAME	LNAME	BIRTHDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	DNO
Tung	Nguyen	12/08/1955	638 NVC Q5	Nam	40000	5
Hang	Bui	07/19/1968	332 NTH Q1	Nu	25000	4
Nhu	Le	06/20/1951	291 HVH QPN	Nu	43000	4
Hung	Nguyen	09/15/1962	Ba Ria VT	Nam	38000	5

Each row is one employee entity

Relation name is EMPLOYEE

Relation

- Includes
 - Name
 - Set of columns
 - Fixed
 - Named
 - Has data types
 - Set of rows
 - Changed by time

- A row ~ A real-world entity or relationship
- A relation ~ An entity set or relationship

Attribute

- The names for columns of the relation
- Describes the meaning of entries in the column below

Attributes

FNAME	LNAME	BIRTHDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	DNO
Tung	Nguyen	12/08/1955	638 NVC Q5	Nam	40000	5
Hang	Bui	07/19/1968	332 NTH Q1	Nu	25000	4
Nhu	Le	06/20/1951	291 HVH QPN	Nu	43000	4
Hung	Nguyen	09/15/1962	Ba Ria VT	Nam	38000	5

- All values in a column are of the same data type

Schema

- Schema of a relation
 - Name
 - Set of attributes

Relation schema

EMPLOYEE(SSN, FNAME, LNAME, BIRTHDATE, ADDRESS, SEX, SALARY, DNO)

a set, not a list

Schema

- Database schema
 - A design consist of one or more relational schemas

Database schema



```
EMPLOYEE(SSN, FNAME, LNAME, BIRTHDATE, ADDRESS, SEX, SALARY, DNO)
DEPARTMENT(DNUMBER, DNAME, MGRSSN, MGRSTARTDATE)
DEPT_LOCATION(DNUMBER, DLOCATION)
DEPENDENT(SSN, DEPENDENT_NAME, Sex, BDate, Relationship)
PROJECT(PNAME, PNUMBER, PLOCATION, DNUM)
```

Tuple

- Row of a relation
 - Except the header row containing the attribute names
- Contains many components
 - One component for each attributes of the relation

<Tung, Nguyen, 12/08/1955, 638 NVC Q5, Nam, 40000, 5>

a component



Domain

- Each attribute of a relation associates with a **domain**
 - A particular elementary type
- A component of each tuple
 - Is **atomic**
 - Has a **value** that belongs to the domain of the corresponding attribute
- Example
 - FName: string, $\text{DOM}(\text{FName})$: the set of strings
 - Salary: integer, $\text{DOM}(\text{Salary})$: the set of integers

Characteristics of relation

- The order of tuples in a relation is not important

LNAME	FNAME	BIRTHDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	DNO
Nguyen	Tung	12/08/1955	638 NVC Q5	Nam	40000	5
Bui	Hang	07/19/1968	332 NTH Q1	Nu	25000	4
Le	Nhu	06/20/1951	291 HVH QPN	Nu	43000	4
Nguyen	Hung	09/15/1962	null	Nam	38000	5

- The order of values in a tuple is important

<Nguyen, Tung, 12/08/1955, 638 NVC Q5, **Nam, 40000**, 5>

Differs from

<Nguyen, Tung, 12/08/1955, 638 NVC Q5, **40000, Nam**, 5>

Characteristics of relation

- Each value of components in a tuple
 - Atomic or
 - NULL
- Relations are sets of tuples, not lists of tuples
 - There are no identical tuples

Relational model notation

■ Relation schema

- Given A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n are attributes
- Has domains D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n respectively
- Is denoted by $R(A_1:D_1, A_2:D_2, \dots, A_n:D_n)$

- Example
 - `EMPLOYEE(SSN:DOM(integer), FNAME:DOM(String), LNAME:DOM(String), BIRTHDAY:DOM(Date), ADDRESS:DOM(String), SEX:DOM(String), SALARY:DOM(Integer), DNO:DOM(Integer))`

■ The degree of a relation is the number of attributes of its relation schema

- `EMPLOYEE` is a relation schema of degree 8

Relational model notation

■ Relation instances

- A relation r of relation schema $R(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$, denoted by $r(R)$, is a set of tuples $r = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_k\}$
- Where each t_i is an ordered list of n values $t_i = \langle v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n \rangle$
 - Each v_j is a member of $\text{DOM}(A_j)$ or NULL value

	FNAME	LNAME	BIRTHDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	DNO
t_1	Tung	Nguyen	12/08/1955	638 NVC Q5	Nam	40000	5
t_2	Hang	Bui	07/19/1968	332 NTH Q1	Nu	25000	4
t_3	Nhu	Le	06/20/1951	291 HVH QPN	Nu	43000	4
t_4	Hung	Nguyen	09/15/1962	null	Nam	38000	5

v_i

Summary of denotations

- The relation schema R of the degree n
 - $R(A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n)$
- The attribute set of R
 - R^+
- Relations
 - R, S, P, Q
- Tuples
 - t, u, v
- The domain of the attribute A
 - $DOM(A)$
- The value at the attribute A of the t^{th} tuple
 - $t.A$ or $t[A]$

Content

- Introduction
- Concepts
- **Constraints**
 - Superkey
 - Key
 - Primary key
 - Reference
 - Foreign key
- From E/R diagram to relational design

Constraint

- Integrity constraint
 - Rules, conditions need to satisfy for all of instances of relational database

- Constraints
 - Defined when the relation schema is modeled
 - Checked when the data in relations are modified

Superkey

■ Definition

- Assume SK is a subset of attributes of R, $SK \neq \emptyset$
- SK is the super key if

$$\forall r, \forall t_1, t_2 \in r, t_1 \neq t_2 \Rightarrow t_1[SK] \neq t_2[SK]$$

Any two distinct tuples have the different values at the superkey

■ Remark

- No two tuples in any state r of R can have the same value for superkey
- Every relation has at least one default superkey

Example

- Find all superkeys of R

R	A	B	C	D
	x	1	10	a
	x	2	20	a
	y	1	40	b
	y	1	40	c
	z	1	50	d

Key

■ Definition

- Assume K is a subset of attributes of R , $K \neq \emptyset$
- K is a key if
 - K is a superkey of R and
 - $\forall K' \subset K, K' \neq K, K'$ is not the superkey of R

A key is the minimal superkey

■ Remark

- The value of a key identifies uniquely each tuple in the relation
- A key is a *property* of the relation schema
 - Time-invariant: a constraint should hold on every valid state
- A key is determined from the meaning of attributes
- A relation has more than one key

Primary key

- Designate one of the key as the primary key (PK)
 - The value for PK is constrained to be not null
 - Underline the attributes of PK when displaying its relation schema

- The choice of PK
 - Influence some implementation issues
 - Usually with a single attribute or a small number of attributes

Reference

- R refers to S when
 - An attribute A of a tuple in relation R receives a value from an attribute B of relation S
 - Must refer to an existing tuple

		DNAME	DNUMBER				
S		Nghien cuu	5				
		Dieu hanh	4				
		Quan ly	1				

		FNAME	LNAME	BIRTHDATE	ADDRESS	SEX	SALARY	DNO
R		Tung	Nguyen	12/08/1955	638 NVC Q5	Nam	40000	5
		Hang	Bui	07/19/1968	332 NTH Q1	Nu	25000	4
		Nhu	Le	06/20/1951	291 HVH QPN	Nu	43000	4
		Hung	Nguyen	09/15/1962	Ba Ria VT	Nam	38000	5

Foreign key

- Examine two relation schemas R and S
 - Assume FK is a set of attributes of R, $FK \neq \emptyset$
 - FK is a foreign key of R if
 - Attributes in FK have the same domains as the primary key attributes PK of S
 - A value of FK in a tuple $t_1 \in R$
 - * Either is a value of PK for some tuple $t_2 \in S$
 - * Or is null

■ Example

EMPLOYEE(SSN, FNAME, LNAME, BIRTHDATE, ADDRESS, SEX, SALARY, DNO)

DEPARTMENT(DNAME, DNUMBER)

Primary key

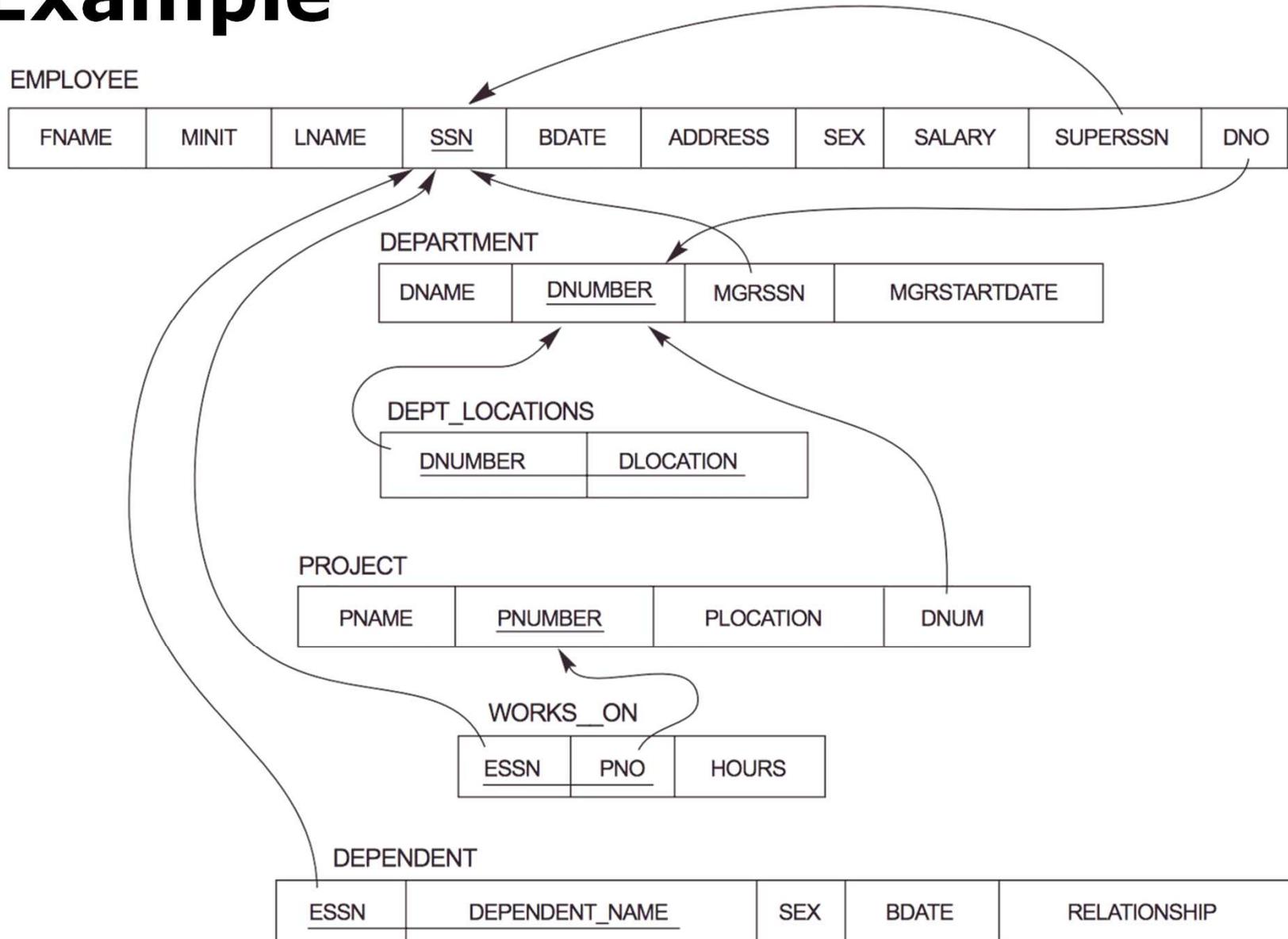
Foreign key

Foreign key

- Remark

- An attribute can both participate in PK and participate in FK
- A FK can refer to its own relation
- Many FKs might refer to the same primary key
- Referential constraint = Foreign key constraint

Example



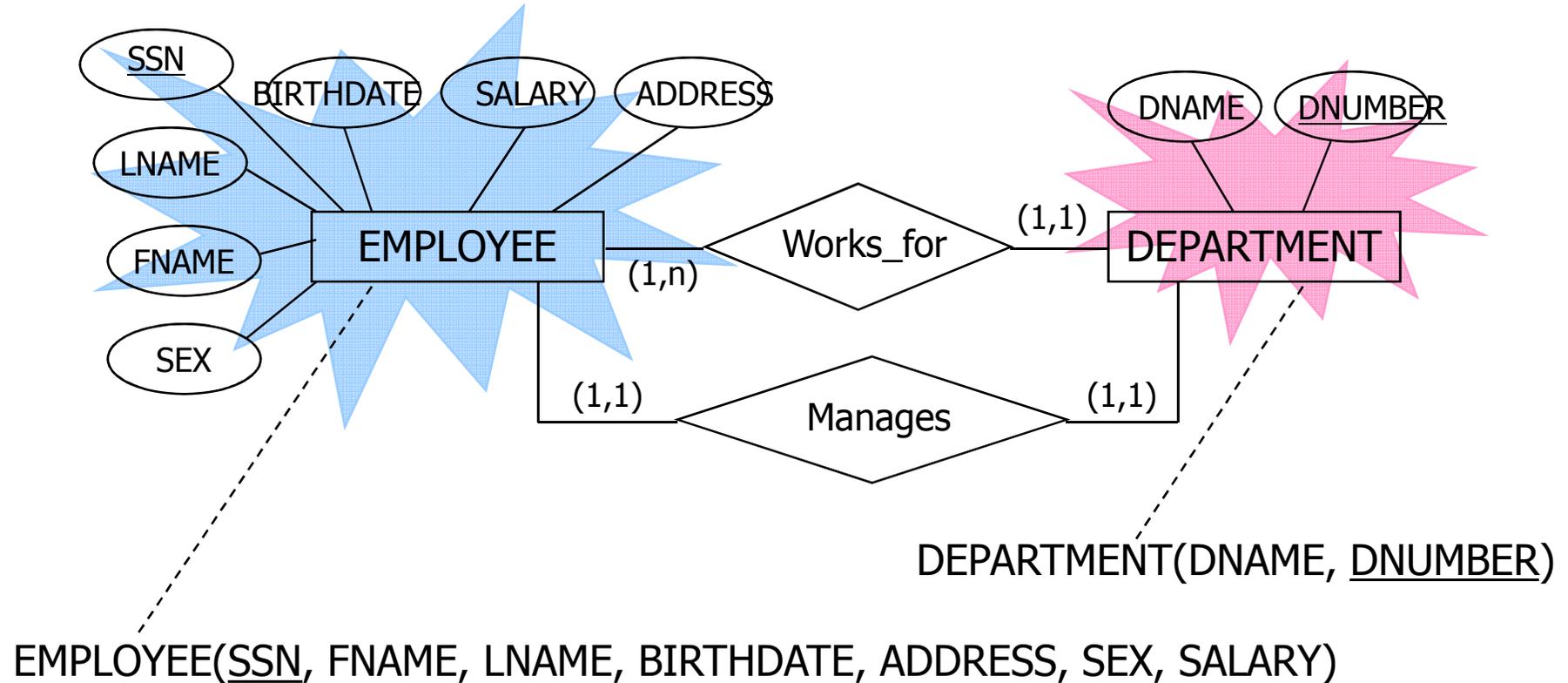
Content

- Introduction
- Concepts
- Constraints
- **From E/R diagrams to relational design**
 - Rules

Rules

- (1) Entity set

- Turn each entity set (except weak entity set) into a relation with the same set of attributes

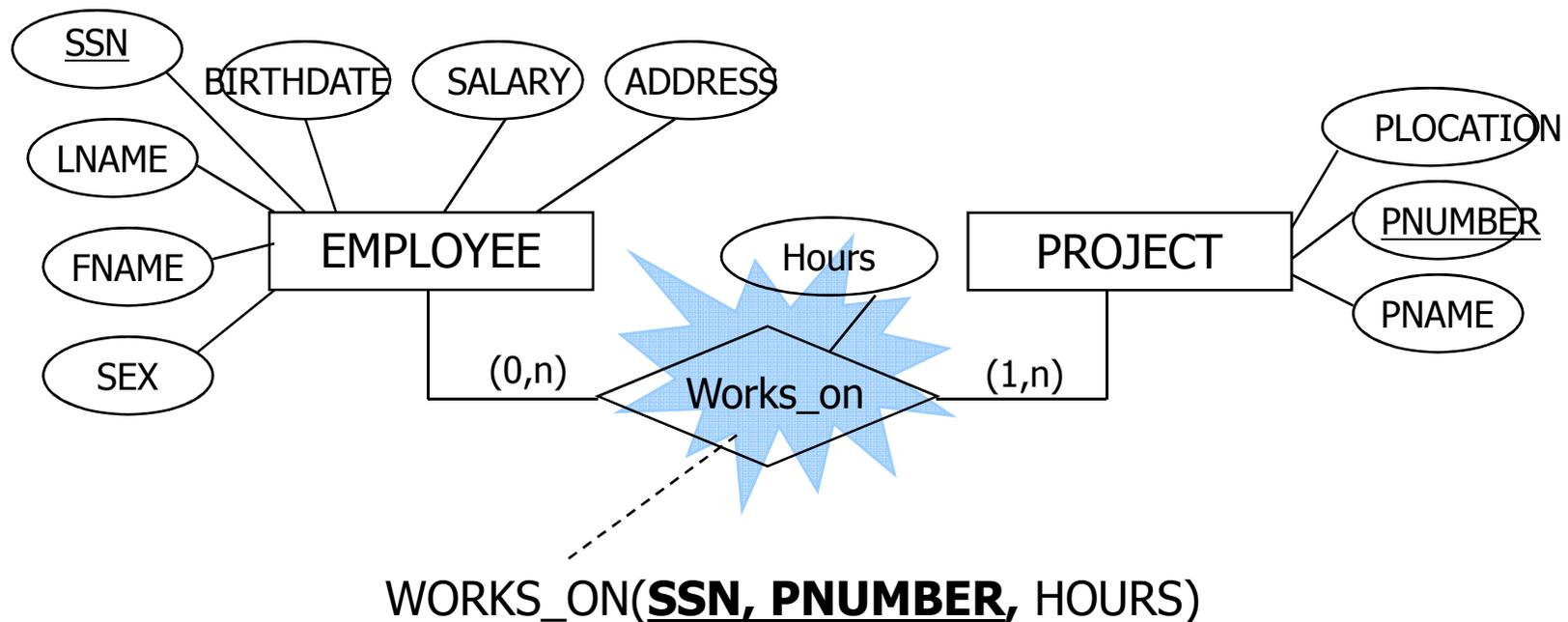


Rules

■ (2) Relationship

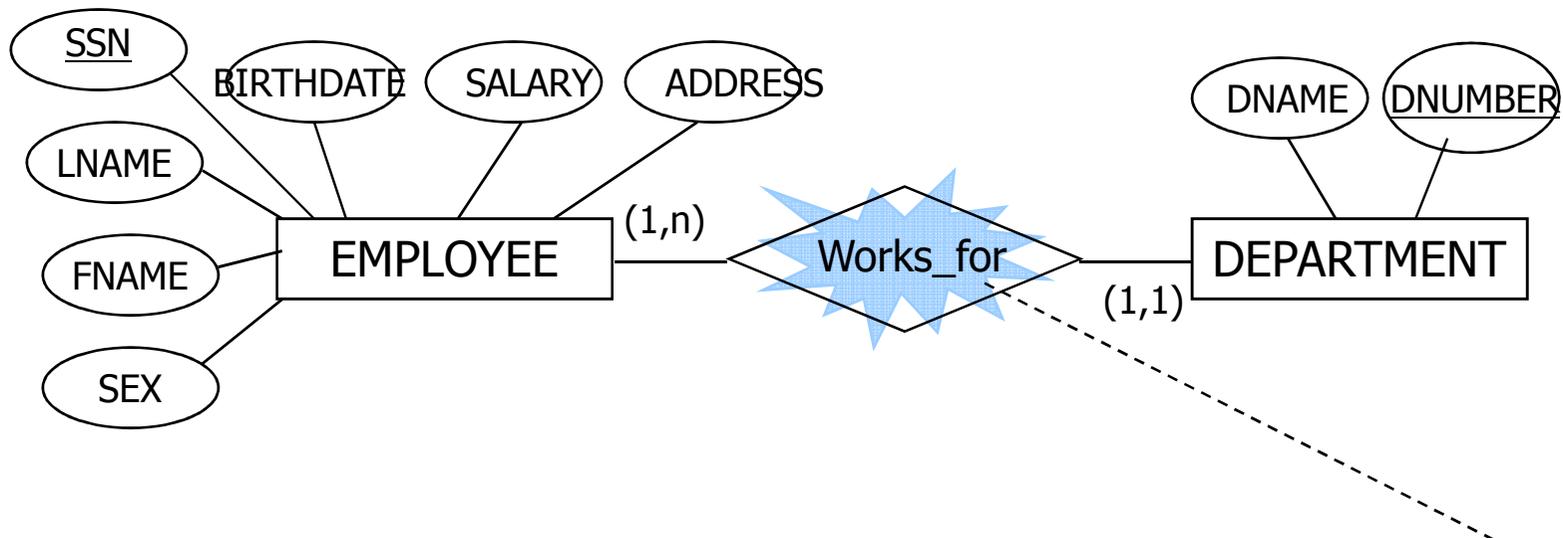
- (2a) Many-Many

- Create a new relation
 - * Relation name is the name of the relationship
 - * Attributes are the key attributes of connected entity sets



Rules

- (2) Relation
 - (2b) One-Many
 - Adding the key of the many-relation to the one-relation



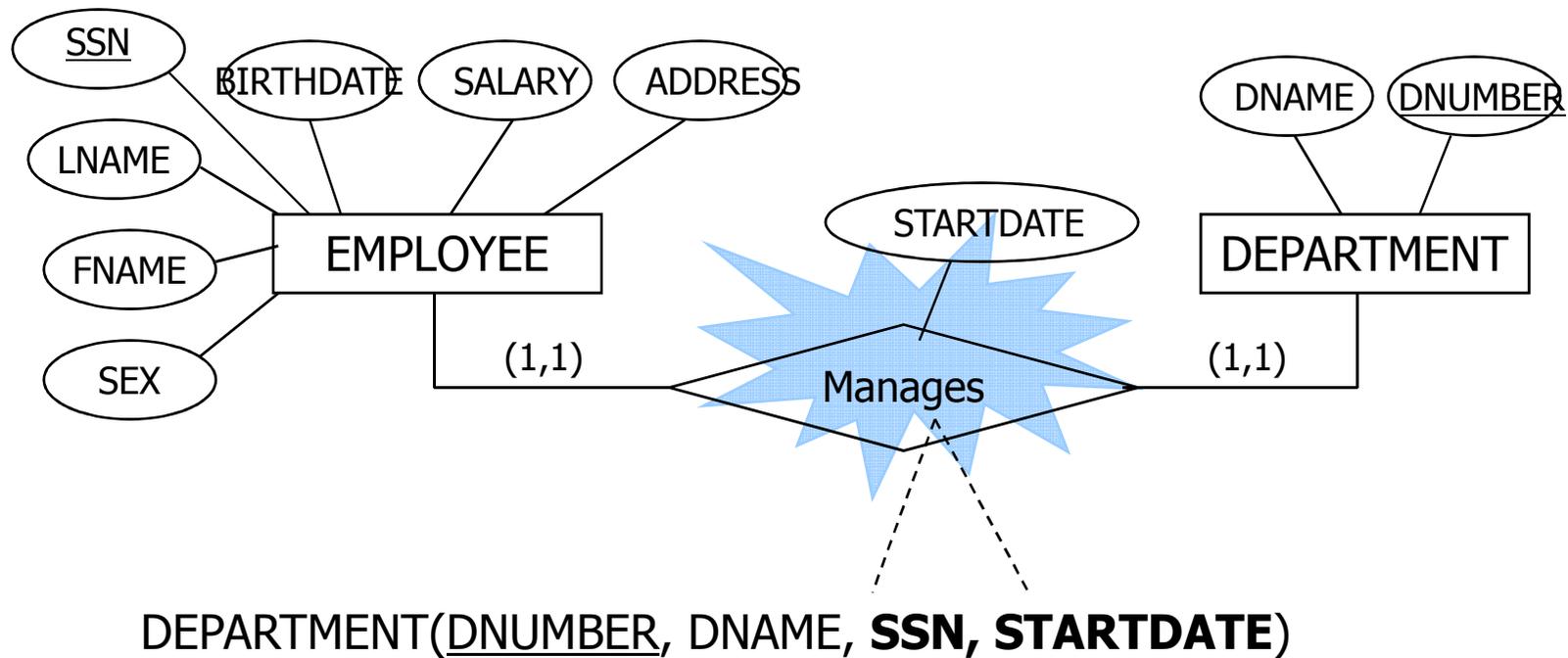
EMPLOYEE(SSN, FNAME, LNAME, BIRTHDATE, ADDRESS, SEX, SALARY, **DNUMBER**)

Rules

■ (2) Relationship

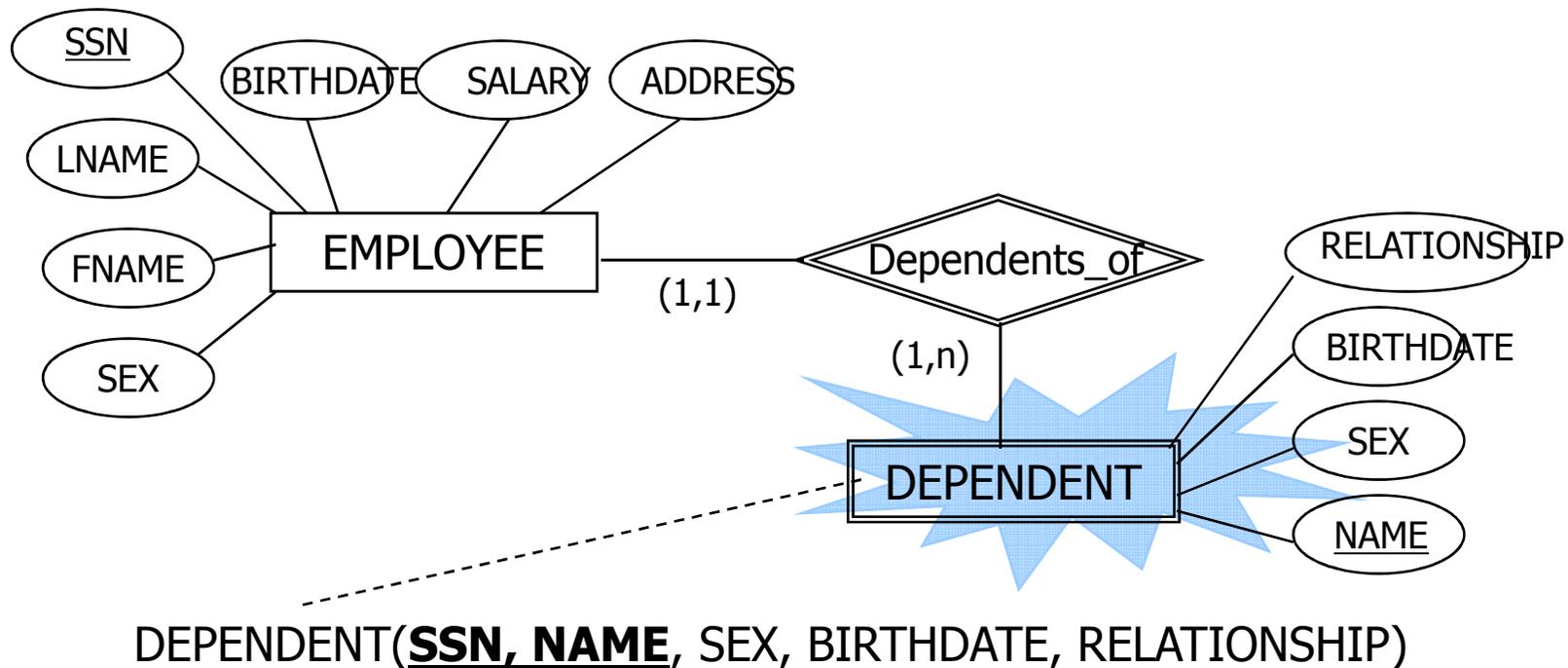
- (2c) One-One

- Either adding the key of a relation to another relation
- Or adding the key to both relations



Rules

- (3) Weak entity set
 - Turn into a relation
 - Has the same name
 - Add the key of related entity sets



Rules

- (4) Subclass
 - Turn into a relation
 - Has the same name
 - Add the key of the superclass

