



# RELATIONAL DATA MODEL

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# Objectives

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- Terminology +
- Characteristics of Relations +
- Relational Data Model Notations +
- Key constraints +
- Other Constraints +
- Relational Database Schema and State +
- Relational Data Model Operations +



## - Terminology

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- A **relation** is a table (logical) with columns and rows.
- An **attribute** is a named column of a relation.
- A **domain** is a set of allowable values for one or more attributes.
- A **tuple** is a row of a relation.
- **Degree** is a number of attributes in a relation.
- **Cardinality** is a number of tuples in a relation.
- **Relational Database** is a collection of relations.

# - Terminology

Relation name

**STUDENT**

Attributes

ID	NAME	NAT_ID	DOB	DEPTCODE
201111	KHALED	1111111111	16-05-1984	ICS
202222	ADEL	2222222222	23-09-1984	COE
203333	AHMED	3333333333	11-08-1984	COE
211111	HASSAN	4444444444	23-10-1985	SWE
204444	MUSTAFA	5555555555	16-11-1984	ICS

Cardinality

Tuples

Degree



## - Characteristics of Relations

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- Each relation in the same relational database schema has a distinct name
- Each value in a tuple is atomic
- Each attribute in a relation has a distinct name.
- Values of an attribute are all from the same domain.
- Each tuple is distinct.
- Order of attributes has no significance.
- Order of tuples has no significance, theoretically.



## - Relational Data Model Notations

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- The letters  $Q, R, S$  denote the abstract relation names.
- $R(A_1, A_2, A_3, \dots, A_n)$  denotes a relation schema  $R$  of degree  $n$ .
  - Example:  $STUDENT(\text{Name}, \text{Id}, \text{Phone}, \text{Address}, \text{Mobile}, \text{DOB})$
- Both  $t[A_i]$  and  $t.A_i$  refers to the value  $v_i$  in  $t$  for attribute  $A_i$ 
  - Example: in second tuple, both  $t[\text{name}]$  and  $t.\text{name}$  refers to "Adel"



## - Key Constraints

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- Superkey +
- Candidate Key +
- Primary Key +
- Alternate Key +
- Foreign Key +



## -- Superkey

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- An Attribute or a set of attributes that uniquely identify a tuple within a relation.
  - Example:
    - STU\_ID, NAME, NAT\_ID, DOB, DEPTCODE
    - STU\_ID, NAME, NAT\_ID
    - STU\_ID
    - NAT\_ID

### **STUDENT**

STU_ID	NAME	NAT_ID	DOB	DEPTCODE
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## -- Candidate Key

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- A superkey (K) such that no proper subset is a superkey within the relation.
  - In each tuple of R, the values of K uniquely identify that tuple (uniqueness).
  - No proper subset of K has the uniqueness property (irreducibility).
- Example:
  - STU\_ID
  - NAT\_ID

### **STUDENT**

STU_ID	NAME	NAT_ID	DOB	DEPTCODE
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## -- Primary Key

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- Is a candidate key selected to identify tuples uniquely within a relation.
- Example:
  - STU\_ID

### **STUDENT**

<b>STU_ID</b>	NAME	NAT_ID	DOB	DEPTCODE
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## -- Alternate Key

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- candidate keys that are not selected to be the primary key.
- Example:
  - NAT\_ID

### **STUDENT**

STU_ID	NAME	NAT_ID	DOB	DEPTCODE
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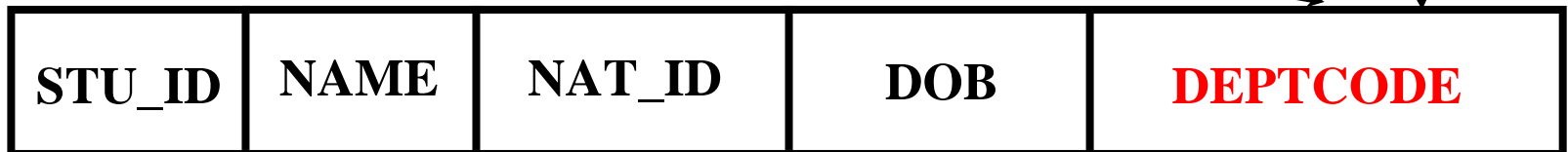
## -- Foreign Key

- An attribute or a set of attributes within one relation that matches the candidate key of some (possibly the same) relation.

### DEPARTMENT



### STUDENT



Foreign key



## - Other Constraints

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- **Null**: Represents a value of an attribute that is currently unknown or is not applicable for this tuple.
- **Entity integrity Constraint**: In a base relation, no attribute of a primary key can be *null*.
- **Referential Integrity Constraint**: If a foreign key exists in a relation, either the foreign key value *must match a candidate key* value of some tuple in its home relation or the foreign key value must be *wholly null*.
- **Domain Constraint**: Specifies that the value of attribute A must be an atomic value from the domain *DOM(A)*



## - Relational Database Schema & State

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- **A relational Database Schema** is a non-empty set of relations schemas  $\{R_1, R_2, R_3, \dots, R_n\}$  and a set of integrity constraints that include domain, null, keys, entity, and referential.
- **A relational database state**  $S$  is a set of relation states  $\{r_1, r_2, r_3, \dots, r_n\}$  such that  $r_i$  is a relation state of  $R_i$  and it satisfies the constraints specified for  $R_i$



## - Relational Data Model Operations

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- There are two categories of relational data model operations:
  - **Retrieval operations** extract information from the relational database.
  - **Update operations** causes the relation (and the relational database) state changes. They Include:
    - Insert
    - Delete
    - Update



## -- Update Operations

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- **Insert Operation +**
  - Possible violations Caused by Insert Operation +
  - Handling Violations Caused by Insert Operation +
- **Delete Operation +**
  - Possible Violations Caused by Delete Operation +
  - Handling Violations Caused by Delete Operation +
- **Update Operation +**
  - Possible Violations Caused by Update Operation +
  - Handling Violations Caused by Update Operation +





## --- Insert Operation

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- Insert operation inserts a list of attribute values for a new tuple  $t$  into relation  $R$ .
- It is denoted by:

`INSERT <'list of attribute values'> INTO R;`

- Example:
  - `INSERT <'SWE', 'Software Engineering'> INTO DEPARTMENT;`

---- INSERT <'SWE', 'Software Eng.'> INTO DEPRATMENT

- Before INSERT operation

DEPTCODE	DEPTNAME
COE	Comp. Eng
ICS	Info. Comp. Sci.

DEPARTMENT

- After INSERT operation

DEPTCODE	DEPTNAME
COE	Comp. Eng.
ICS	Info. Comp. Sci.
SWE	Software Eng.

DEPARTMENT



## ---- Possible INSERT Operation Violations

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- **Domain constraint violation** can occur when a given value of an attribute does not belong to the specified domain of that attribute
  - Example: `INSERT <1234, 'Software Eng.'> INTO DEPARTMENT`
- **Key constraint violation** can occur when a key value in the tuple to be inserted already exists in the relation
  - Example: `INSERT <'COE', 'Software Eng.'> INTO DEPARTMENT`
- **Entity Integrity constraint violation** can occur if the primary key value of the new tuple is null.
  - Example: `INSERT <null, 'Software Eng.'> INTO DEPARTMENT`
- **Referential Integrity constraint violation** if the foreign key value of the new tuple *t* reference to a value that doesn't exist as a valid value in the corresponding attribute in the referenced relation.



## ---- Handling INSERT Operation Violations

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- If an INSERT operation violates one or more constraints, there are **two** options to handle that:
  - Reject the operation (default)
  - Prompt the user to correct the values that cause the violation.



## --- Delete Operation

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- Deletes one or many tuples in a relation.
  - It is denoted as: `DELETE FROM R WHERE <where clause>`
- Example
  - `DELETE FROM detpatment WHERE deptcode = 'SWE';`

---- DELETE FROM department WHERE deptcode = 'SWE'

- Before DELETE operation

DEPTCODE	DEPTNAME
COE	Comp. Eng
ICS	Info. Comp. Sci.
SWE	Software Eng.

DEPARTMENT

- After DELETE operation

DEPTCODE	DEPTNAME
COE	Comp. Eng.
ICS	Info. Comp. Sci.

DEPARTMENT

## --- Possible Delete Operation Violations

- Referential integrity constraint violation can occur if the tuple being deleted by the foreign keys from other tuples in the database.

Example: **DELETE FROM lecturer WHERE LID = 111;**

**LECTURER**

LID	Lname
111	Salah
222	Ejaz
333	Yahya

**SUBJECT**

SCODE	SNAME	LID
ICS334	Databases	333
ICS431	Operating Systems	111
ICS490	Data warehouse	222
ICS202	Data Structures	



## --- Handling Delete Operation Violations

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- There are three options to handle violations of a DELETE operation:
  - Reject the DELETE operation.
  - Cascade the DELETE operation by deleting tuples that refers to the deleted tuple.
  - Replace the referencing attribute value by null, provided it is not a primary key or other valid exist-tuple value.



## --- Update Operation

- Changes the value of one or more attributes in one or more tuples of some relation R.
- Its is denoted by: UPDATE R SET <expression> WHERE <where cluase>;  
Example: **UPDATE lecturer set lname = 'Adam' WHERE LID = 111;**

**LECTURER**

LID	Lname
111	Salah
222	Ejaz
333	Yahya

Before UPDATE

**LECTURER**

LID	Lname
111	Adam
222	Ejaz
333	Yahya

After UPDATE



## --- Possible Update Operation Violations

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- In UPDATE operation two possible conditions that cause violations.
  - **Modifying non-key attribute** can cause:
    - Domain constraint violations
    - Example: Updating **sex** to 'B' instead to 'M' or 'F'.  
`UPDATE employee SET sex = 'B' WHERE EMP_ID = 11111`
  - **Modifying key attribute** can cause:
    - Key constraint violation
    - Entity Integrity Constraint violation
    - Referential Integrity Constraint violation

---- UPDATE lecturer SET lid = 111 WHERE LID = 222

- Violates primary key constraint because the new value 111 already exists in the lecturer table . It also violates referential integrity constraint because there are foreign keys which refer to 111.

**LECTURER**

LID	Lname
111	Salah
222	Ejaz
333	Yahya

primary key constraint

**SUBJECT**

SCODE	SNAME	LID
ICS334	Databases	333
ICS431	Operating Systems	111
ICS490	Data warehouse	222
ICS202	Data Structures	

Foreign key constraint



## --- Handling Update Operation Violations

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- There are three options to handle violations of a UPDATE operation:
  - Reject the UPDATE operation.
  - Prompt the user to correct the values that cause the violation.
  - Replace the referencing attribute value by null, provided it is not a primary key or other valid exist-tuple value.