

Entity Relationship Model

Entity Relationship (ER) Model

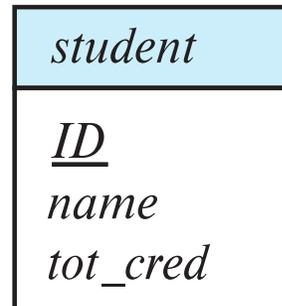
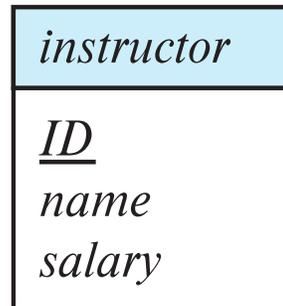
- The ER data model employs three basic concepts:
 - entity sets,
 - relationship sets,
 - attributes.
- The ER model also has an associated diagrammatic representation, the ER diagram, which can express the overall logical structure of a database graphically.

Entity Set

- An **entity** is an object that exists and is distinguishable from other objects.
 - Example: specific person, company, event, plant
- An **entity set** is a set of entities of the same type that share the same properties.
 - Example: set of all persons, companies, trees, holidays
- An entity is represented by a set of attributes; i.e., descriptive properties possessed by all members of an entity set.
 - Example:
 - instructor = (ID, name, salary)*
 - course = (course_id, title, credits)*
- A subset of the attributes form a **primary key** of the entity set; i.e., uniquely identifying each member of the set.

Representing Entity sets in ER Diagram

- Entity sets can be represented graphically as follows:
 - Rectangles represent entity sets.
 - Attributes listed inside entity rectangle
 - Underline indicates primary key attributes



Relationship Sets

- A **relationship** is an association among several entities

Example:

44553 (Peltier)	<u>advisor</u>	22222 (Einstein)
<i>student</i> entity	relationship set	<i>instructor</i> entity

- A **relationship set** is a mathematical relation among $n \geq 2$ entities, each taken from entity sets

$$\{(e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) \mid e_1 \in E_1, e_2 \in E_2, \dots, e_n \in E_n\}$$

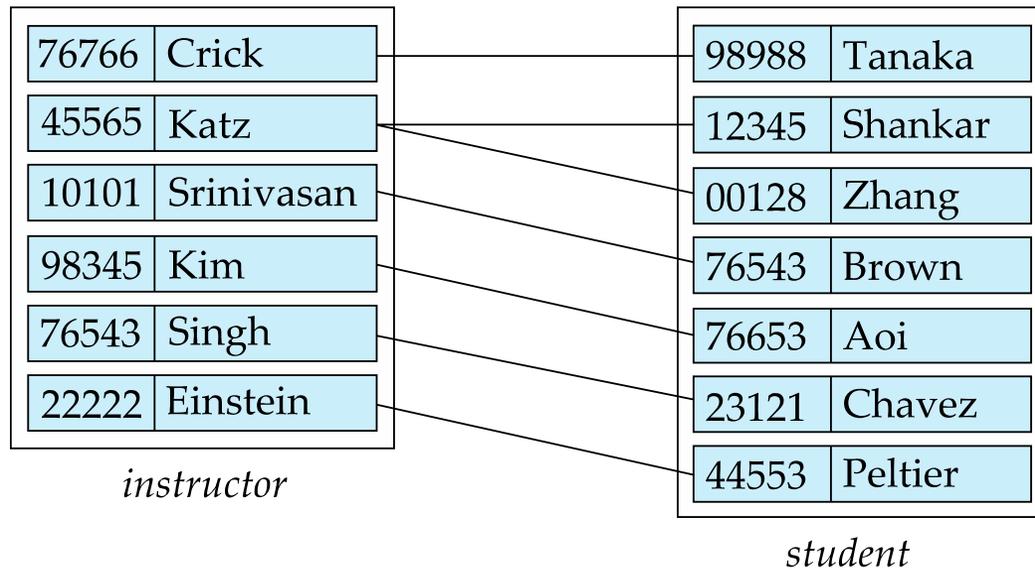
where (e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n) is a relationship

- Example:

$(44553, 22222) \in \text{advisor}$

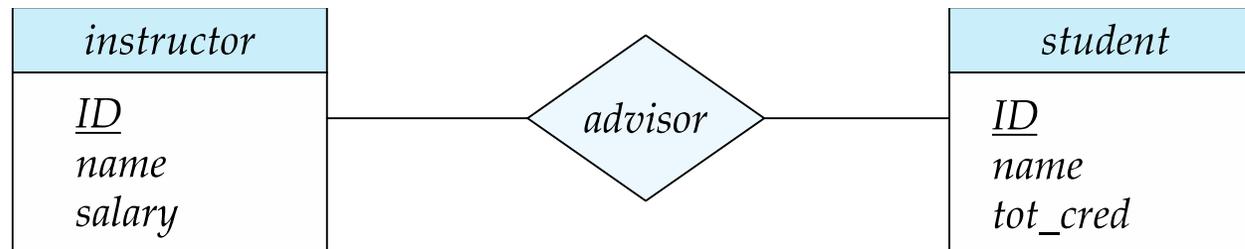
Relationship Sets (Cont.)

- Example: we define the relationship set *advisor* to denote the associations between students and the instructors who act as their advisors.
- Pictorially, we draw a line between related entities.



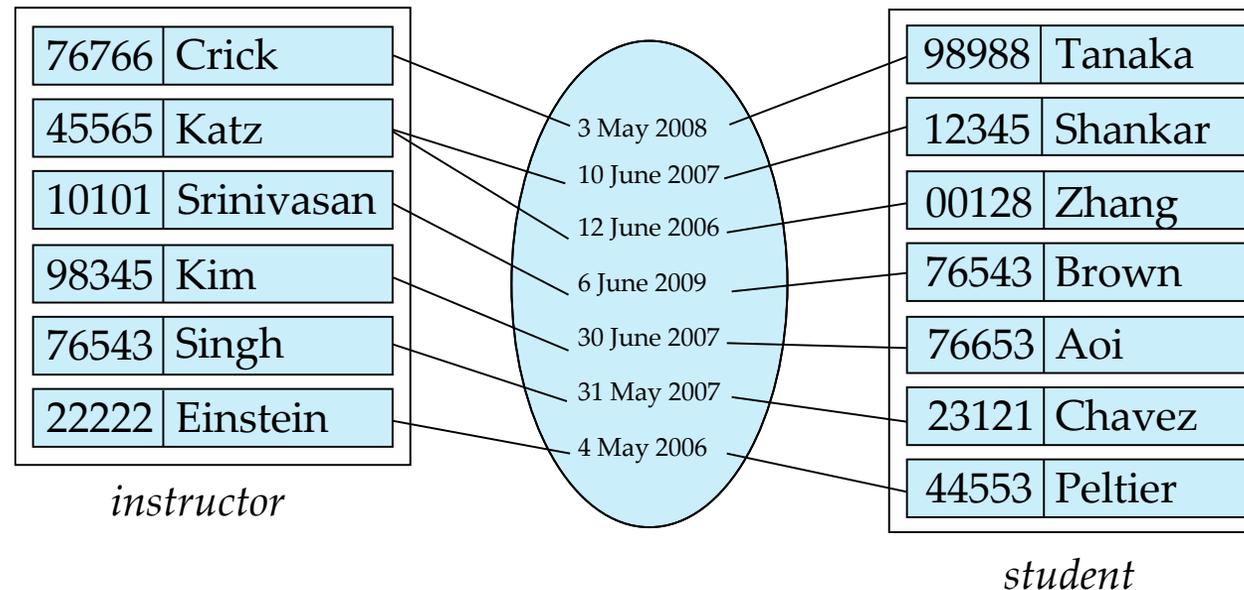
Representing Relationship Sets via ER Diagrams

- Diamonds represent relationship sets.

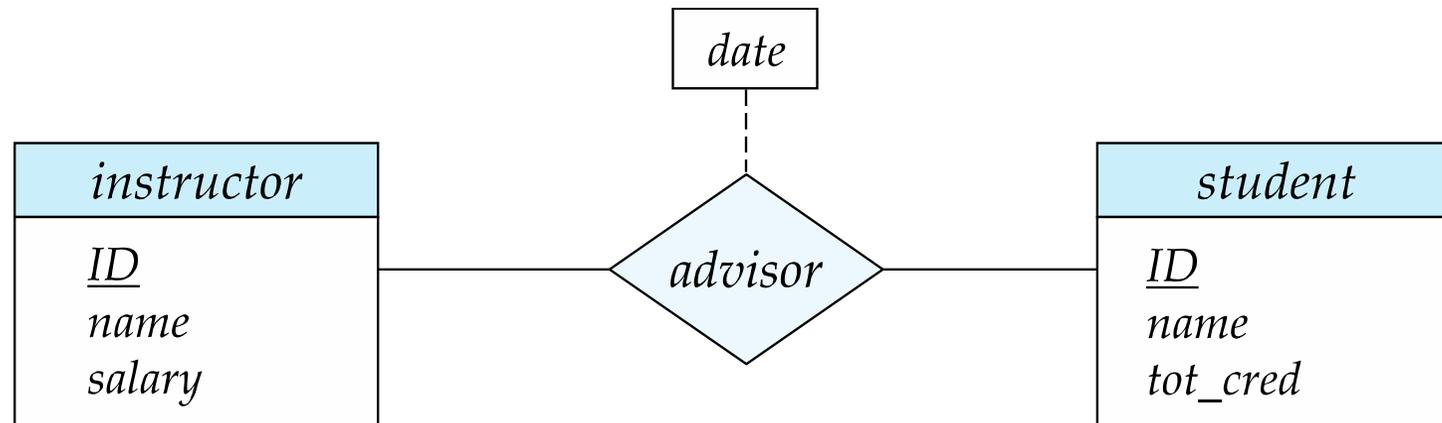


Relationship Sets (Cont.)

- An attribute can also be associated with a relationship set.
- For instance, the *advisor* relationship set between entity sets *instructor* and *student* may have the attribute *date* which tracks when the student started being associated with the advisor

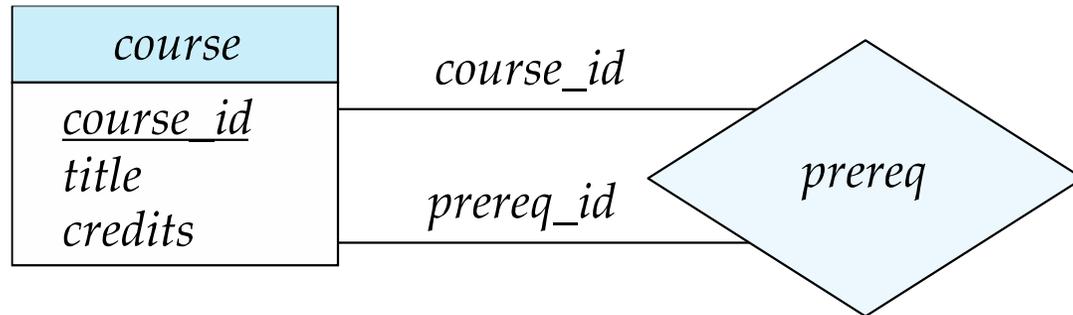


Relationship Sets with Attributes



Roles

- Entity sets of a relationship need not be distinct
 - Each occurrence of an entity set plays a “role” in the relationship
- The labels “*course_id*” and “*prereq_id*” are called **roles**.

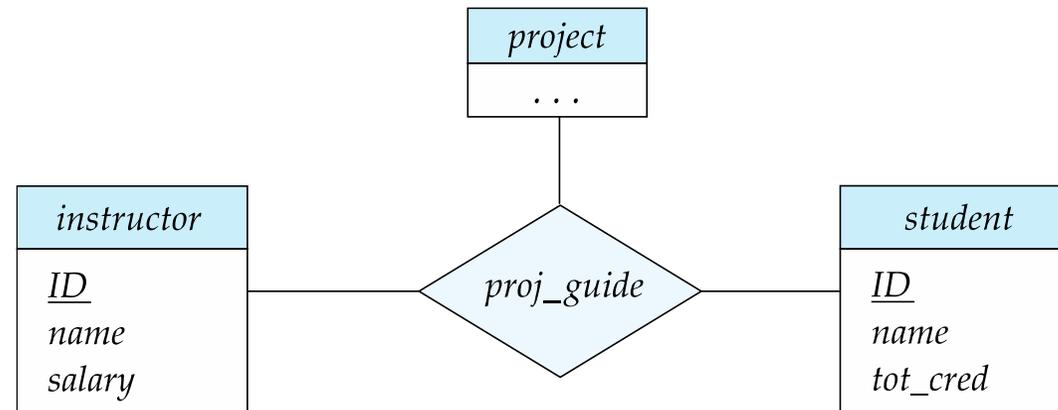


Degree of a Relationship Set

- Binary relationship
 - involve two entity sets (or degree two).
 - most relationship sets in a database system are binary.
- Relationships between more than two entity sets are rare. Most relationships are binary. (More on this later.)
 - Example: *students* work on research *projects* under the guidance of an *instructor*.
 - relationship *proj_guide* is a ternary relationship between *instructor*, *student*, and *project*

Non-binary Relationship Sets

- Most relationship sets are binary
- There are occasions when it is more convenient to represent relationships as non-binary.
- E-R Diagram with a Ternary Relationship

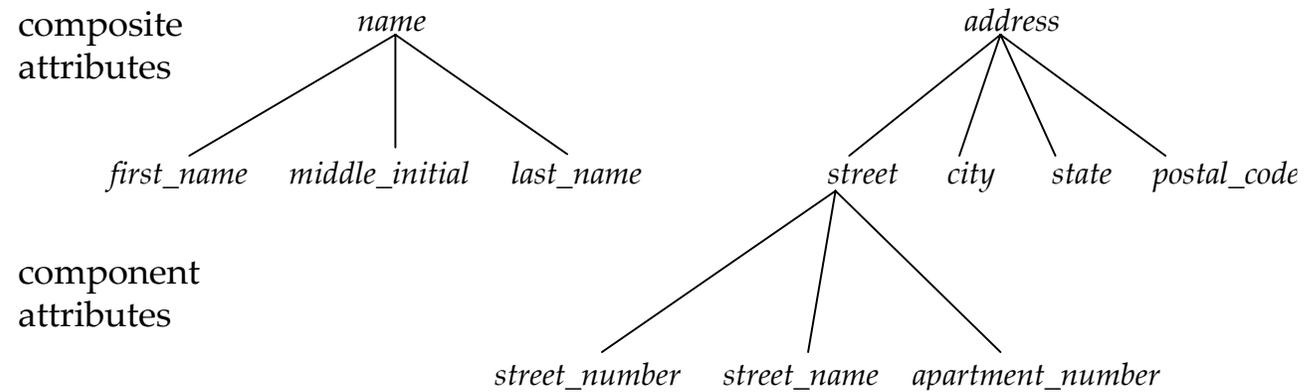


Complex Attributes

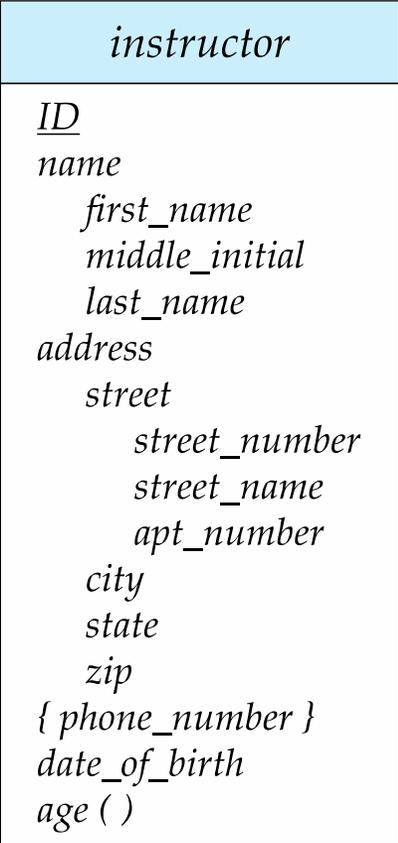
- Attribute types:
 - **Simple** and **composite** attributes.
 - **Single-valued** and **multivalued** attributes
 - Example: multivalued attribute: *phone_numbers*
 - **Derived** attributes
 - Can be computed from other attributes
 - Example: age, given date_of_birth
- **Domain** – the set of permitted values for each attribute

Composite Attributes

- Composite attributes allow us to divided attributes into subparts (other attributes).



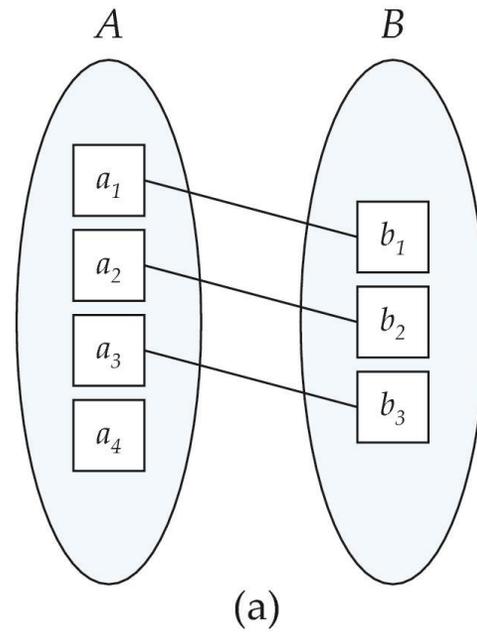
Representing Complex Attributes in ER Diagram



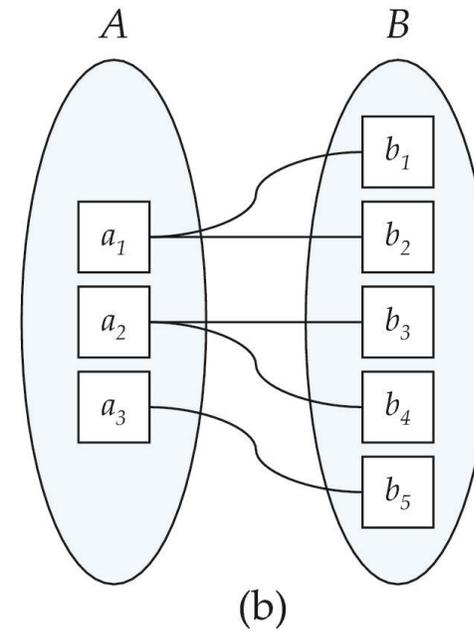
Mapping Cardinality Constraints

- Express the number of entities to which another entity can be associated via a relationship set.
- Most useful in describing binary relationship sets.
- For a binary relationship set the mapping cardinality must be one of the following types:
 - One to one
 - One to many
 - Many to one
 - Many to many

Mapping Cardinalities



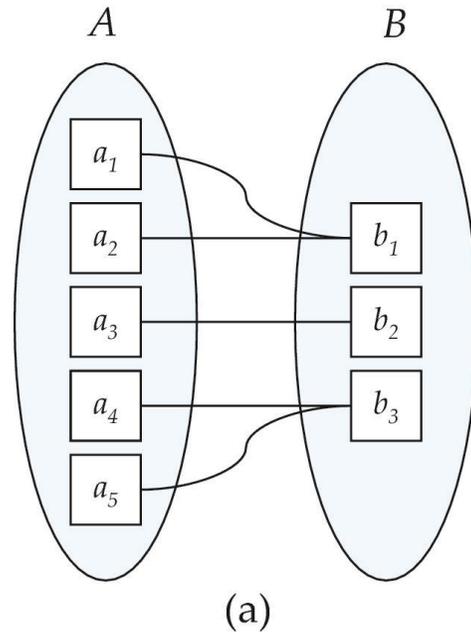
One to one



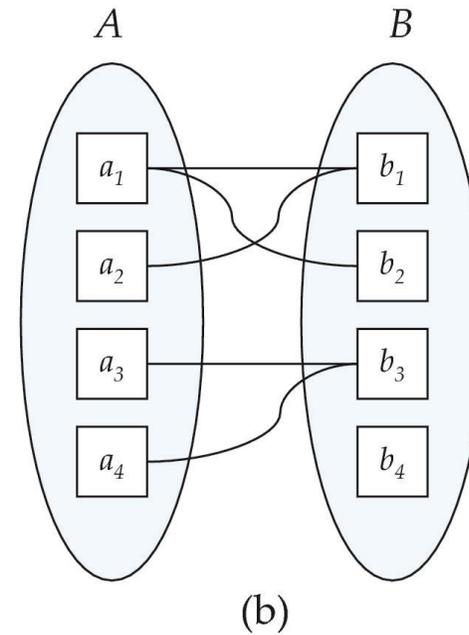
One to many

Note: Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set

Mapping Cardinalities



Many to one

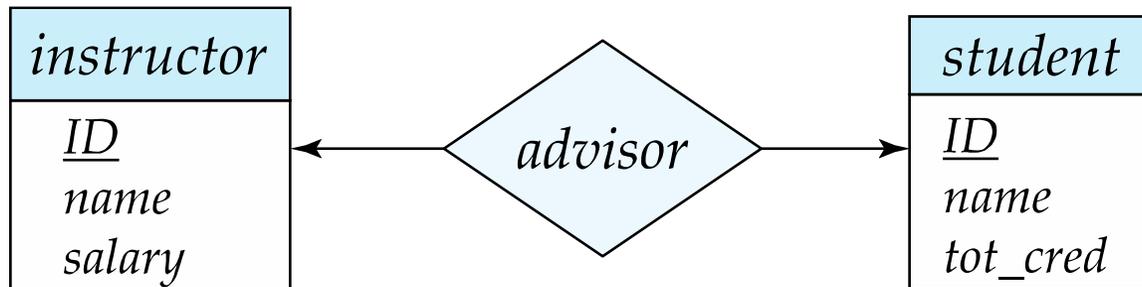


Many to many

Note: Some elements in A and B may not be mapped to any elements in the other set

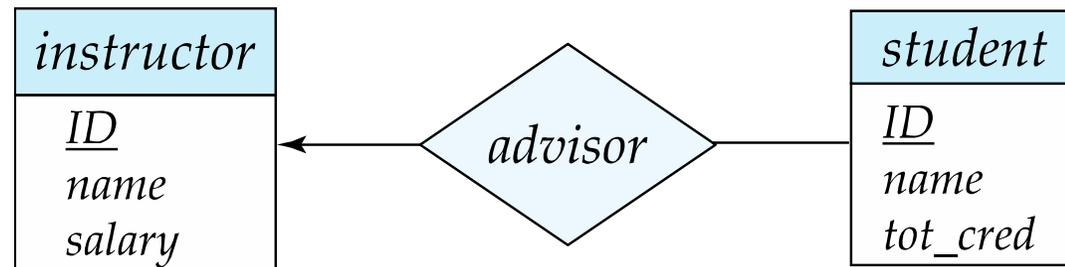
Representing Cardinality Constraints in ER Diagram

- We express cardinality constraints by drawing either a directed line (\rightarrow), signifying “one,” or an undirected line ($-$), signifying “many,” between the relationship set and the entity set.
- One-to-one relationship between an *instructor* and a *student* :
 - A student is associated with at most one *instructor* via the relationship *advisor*
 - A *student* is associated with at most one *department* via *stud_dept*



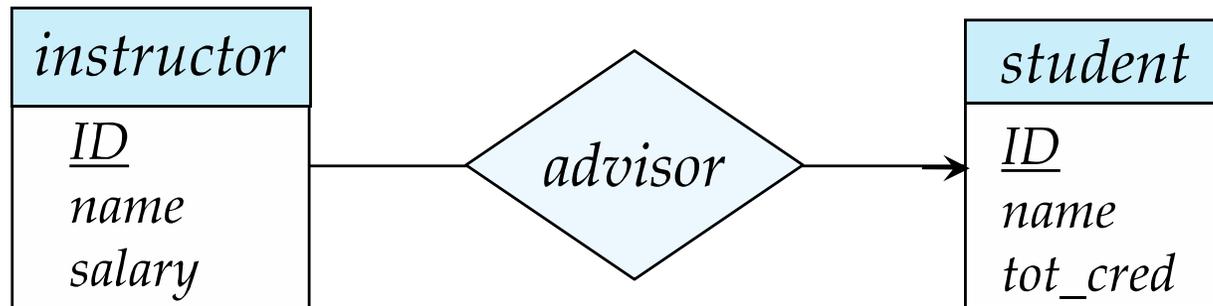
One-to-Many Relationship

- one-to-many relationship between an *instructor* and a *student*
 - an instructor is associated with several (including 0) students via *advisor*
 - a student is associated with at most one instructor via *advisor*,



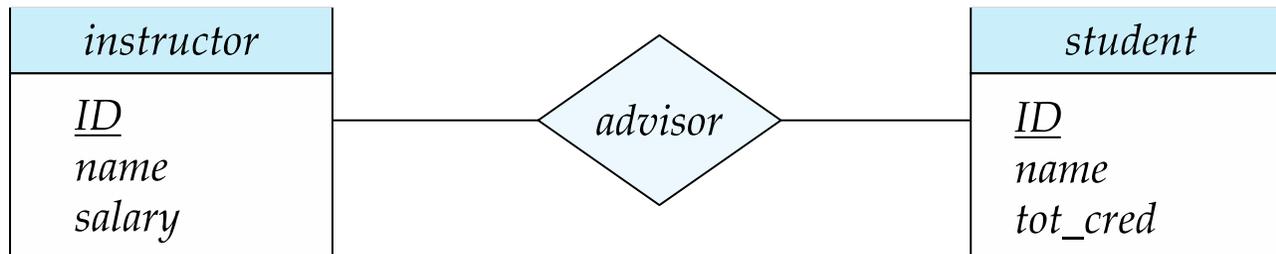
Many-to-One Relationships

- In a many-to-one relationship between an *instructor* and a *student*,
 - an *instructor* is associated with at most one *student* via *advisor*,
 - and a *student* is associated with several (including 0) *instructors* via *advisor*



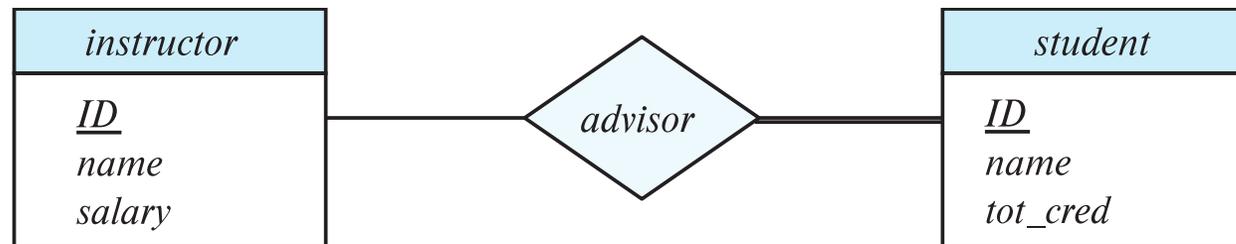
Many-to-Many Relationship

- An instructor is associated with several (possibly 0) students via *advisor*
- A student is associated with several (possibly 0) instructors via *advisor*



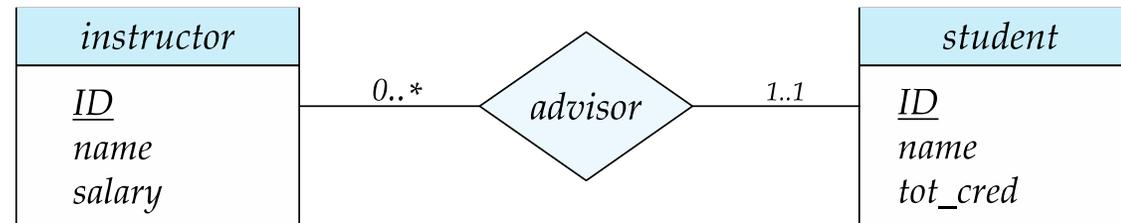
Total and Partial Participation

- **Total participation** (indicated by double line): every entity in the entity set participates in at least one relationship in the relationship set
 - participation of *student* in *advisor* relation is total
 - every *student* must have an associated instructor
- **Partial participation**: some entities may not participate in any relationship in the relationship set
 - Example: participation of *instructor* in *advisor* is partial



Notation for Expressing More Complex Constraints

- A line may have an associated minimum and maximum cardinality, shown in the form $l..h$, where l is the minimum and h the maximum cardinality
 - A minimum value of 1 indicates total participation.
 - A maximum value of 1 indicates that the entity participates in at most one relationship
 - A maximum value of * indicates no limit.
- Example



- Instructor can advise 0 or more students. A student must have 1 advisor; cannot have multiple advisors

Primary Key

- Primary keys provide a way to specify how entities and relations are distinguished. We will consider:
 - Entity sets
 - Relationship sets.
 - Weak entity sets

Primary key for Entity Sets

- By definition, individual entities are distinct.
- From database perspective, the differences among them must be expressed in terms of their attributes.
- The values of the attribute values of an entity must be such that they can uniquely identify the entity.
 - No two entities in an entity set are allowed to have exactly the same value for all attributes.
- A key for an entity is a set of attributes that suffice to distinguish entities from each other

Primary Key for Relationship Sets

- To distinguish among the various relationships of a relationship set we use the individual primary keys of the entities in the relationship set.
 - Let R be a relationship set involving entity sets E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n
 - The primary key for R consists of the union of the primary keys of entity sets E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n
 - If the relationship set R has attributes a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m associated with it, then the primary key of R also includes the attributes a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m
- Example: relationship set “advisor”.
 - The primary key consists of *instructor.ID* and *student.ID*
- The choice of the primary key for a relationship set depends on the mapping cardinality of the relationship set.

Choice of Primary key for Binary Relationship

- Many-to-Many relationships. The preceding union of the primary keys is a minimal superkey and is chosen as the primary key.
- One-to-Many relationships . The primary key of the “Many” side is a minimal superkey and is used as the primary key.
- Many-to-one relationships. The primary key of the “Many” side is a minimal superkey and is used as the primary key.
- One-to-one relationships. The primary key of either one of the participating entity sets forms a minimal superkey, and either one can be chosen as the primary key.

Weak Entity Sets

- Consider a *section* entity, which is uniquely identified by a *course_id*, *semester*, *year*, and *sec_id*.
- Clearly, section entities are related to course entities. Suppose we create a relationship set *sec_course* between entity sets *section* and *course*.
- Note that the information in *sec_course* is redundant, since *section* already has an attribute *course_id*, which identifies the course with which the section is related.
- One option to deal with this redundancy is to get rid of the relationship *sec_course*; however, by doing so the relationship between *section* and *course* becomes implicit in an attribute, which is not desirable.

Weak Entity Sets (Cont.)

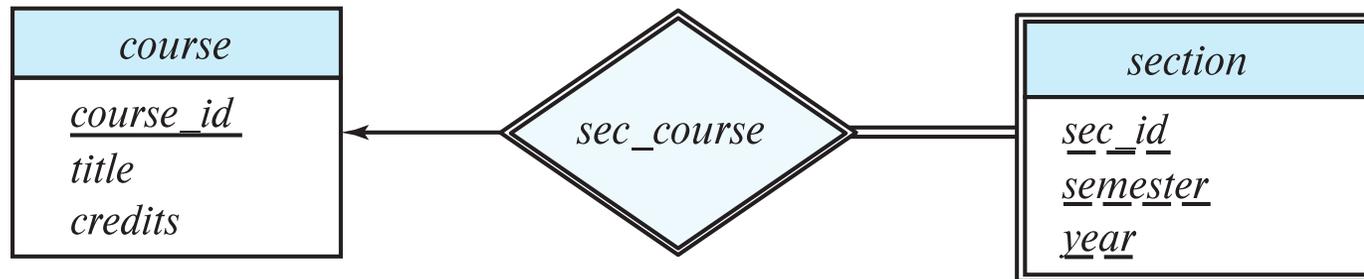
- An alternative way to deal with this redundancy is to not store the attribute *course_id* in the *section* entity and to only store the remaining attributes *section_id*, *year*, and *semester*.
 - However, the entity set *section* then does not have enough attributes to identify a particular *section* entity uniquely
- To deal with this problem, we treat the relationship *sec_course* as a special relationship that provides extra information, in this case, the *course_id*, required to identify *section* entities uniquely.
- A **weak entity set** is one whose existence is dependent on another entity, called its **identifying entity**
- Instead of associating a primary key with a weak entity, we use the identifying entity, along with extra attributes called **discriminator** to uniquely identify a weak entity.

Weak Entity Sets (Cont.)

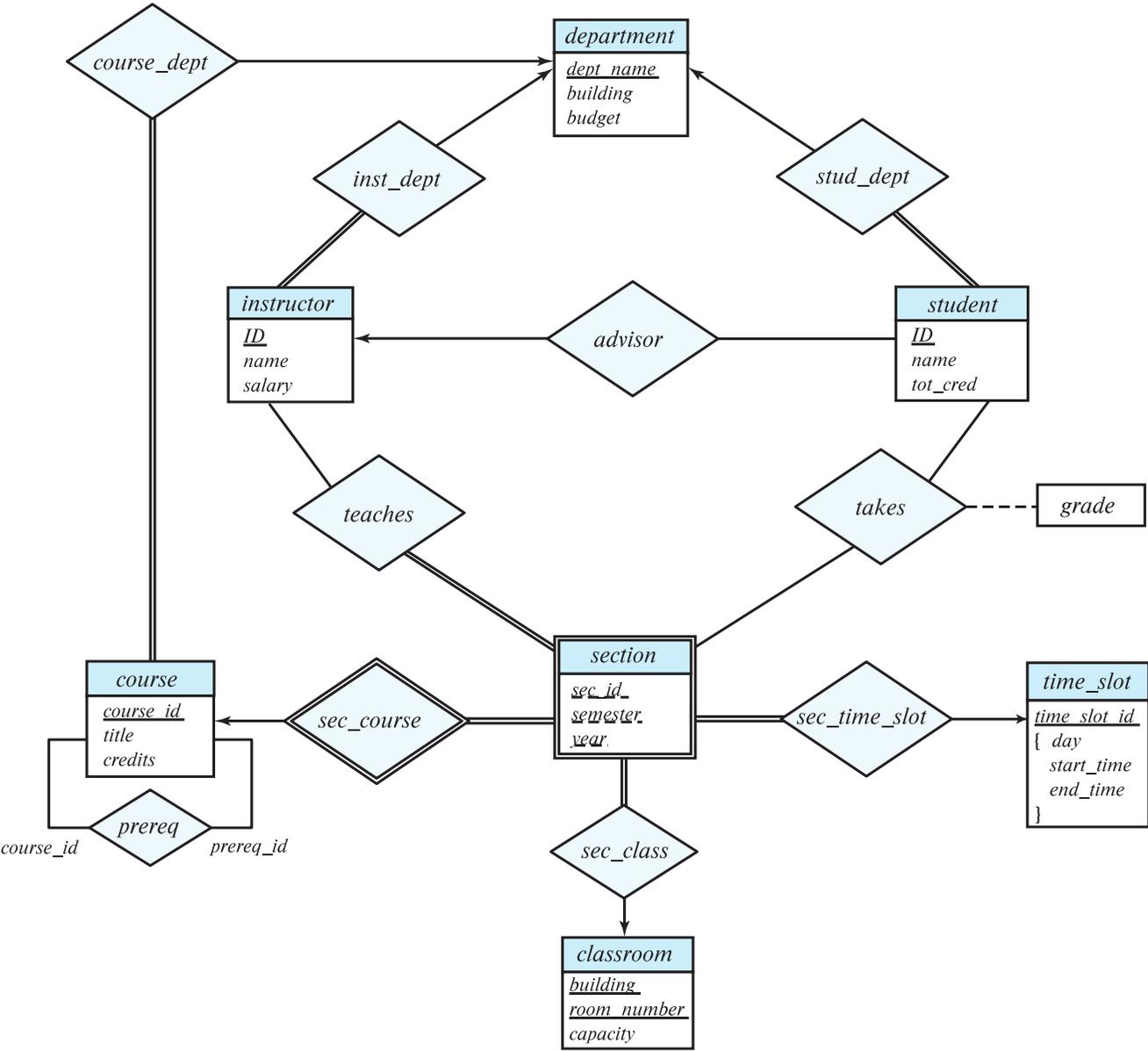
- An entity set that is not a weak entity set is termed a **strong entity set**.
- Every weak entity must be associated with an identifying entity; that is, the weak entity set is said to be **existence dependent** on the identifying entity set.
- The identifying entity set is said to **own** the weak entity set that it identifies.
- The relationship associating the weak entity set with the identifying entity set is called the **identifying relationship**.
- Note that the relational schema we eventually create from the entity set *section* does have the attribute *course_id*, for reasons that will become clear later, even though we have dropped the attribute *course_id* from the entity set *section*.

Expressing Weak Entity Sets

- In E-R diagrams, a weak entity set is depicted via a double rectangle.
- We underline the discriminator of a weak entity set with a dashed line.
- The relationship set connecting the weak entity set to the identifying strong entity set is depicted by a double diamond.
- Primary key for *section* – (*course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*)



E-R Diagram for a University Enterprise



Questions?