

DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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Entity-Relationship Model



- Entity-Relationship (ER) Model is based on the notion of real-world entities and relationships among them.
- ER Model is based on
 - **Entities** and their *attributes*.
 - Relationships among entities.

These concepts are explained below.



Entity-Relationship Model



 Example, in a school database, a student is considered as an entity. Student has various attributes like name, age, class, address, etc.





 Entities are represented by means of rectangles. Rectangles are named with the entity set they represent.





Attributes

 Attributes are represented by means of ellipses.
Every ellipse represents one attribute and is directly connected to its entity (rectangle).





Types of Attributes

Simple attribute – Simple attributes are atomic values, which cannot be divided further. For example, a student's phone number is an atomic value of 10 digits.

Composite attribute – Composite attributes are made of more than one simple attribute. For example, a student's complete name may have first_name second_name and last_name.



Primary key

 The primary key of a relational table uniquely identifies each record in the table.

Customer	Forename	Surname
1	Simon	Jones
2	Emma	Price
3	Laura	Jones
4	Jonathan	Hale
5	Emma	Smith



Simple primary key



 Cardinality defines the number of entities in one entity set, which can be associated with the number of entities of other set via relationship set.



 One-to-one – One entity from entity set A can be associated with at most one entity of entity set B and vice versa.





One-to-one – When only one instance of an entity is associated with the relationship, it is marked as '1:1'.





One-to-many – One entity from entity set A can be associated with more than one entities of entity set B however an entity from entity set B, can be associated with at most one entity.





 One-to-many – When more than one instance of an entity is associated with a relationship, it is marked as '1:N'.





Many-to-one – More than one entities from entity set A can be associated with at most one entity of entity set B, however an entity from entity set B can be associated with more than one entity from entity set A.





 Many-to-one – When more than one instance of entity is associated with the relationship, it is marked as 'N:1'.





 Many-to-many – One entity from A can be associated with more than one entity from B and vice versa.





Many-to-many – The following image reflects this concept, it is marked as 'N:N'.





Participation Constraints

Total Participation – Each entity is involved in the relationship. Total participation is represented by double lines.

Partial participation – Not all entities are involved in the relationship. Partial participation is represented by single lines.

Participation Constraints







Participation Constraints





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