



## Levels of Abstraction



- Physical level: describes how a record (e.g. customer) is stored.
- Logical level: describes data stored in database, and the relationships among the data.

 View level: application programs hide details of data types. Views can also hide information (e.g. salary) for security purposes.

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## Instances and Schemas

- Similar to types and variables in programming languages
- Schema the logical structure of the database (e.g., set of customers and accounts and the relationship between them)
- Instance the actual content of the database at a particular point in time

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