



# Entity-Relationship Model and ER Model

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2/7/2020

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# Agenda

- Entity Relational Model
- Purpose of E/R Model
- Advantage and Disadvantage
- Entity
- Entity Sets
- Attribute
- Component of ER Diagram

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#### Entity Relationship Model

- Peter Chen's Landmark Paper in 1976
  - "The Relationship Model: Toward a Unified View of Data"
  - Graphical representation of entities and their relationships
  - Entity Relationship (ER) Model
  - Based on Entity, Attributes & Relationships
    - Entity is a thing about which data are to be collected and stored
      - e.g. EMPLOYEE
    - Attributes are characteristics of the entity
      - e.g. SSN, last name, first name
    - Relationships describe an associations between entities
      - i.e. 1:M, M:N, 1:1
  - Complements the relational data model concepts
    - Helps to visualize structure and content of data groups
      entity is mapped to a relational table
    - Tool for conceptual data modeling (higher level representation)
  - Represented in an Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD)
- Entity relational model is a model for identify entities to be represented in the database and representation of how those entities are related

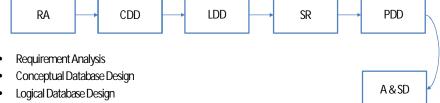
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# Database Design Process

• The ER-model is most relevant to first three step



- Schema Refinement
- Physical Database Design
- Application and Security Design

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# E-R Model: Pros & Cons

- Advantages
  - Exceptional conceptual simplicity
    - easily viewed and understood representation of database
    - facilitates database design and management
  - Integration with the relational database model
    - enables better database design via conceptual modeling
- Disadvantages
  - Incomplete model on its own
    - Limited representational power
      - cannot model data constraints not tied to entity relationships
      - \* e.g. attribute constraints
         cannot represent relationships between attributes within entities
    - No data manipulation language (e.g. SQL)
  - Loss of information content
    - Hardtoinclude attributes in ERD

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#### **ER Model**

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# Purpose of E/R Model

- The E/R model allows us to sketch database schema designs.
  - $\ \, Includes some constraints, but not operations.$
- Designs are pictures called entity-relationship diagrams.
- Later: convert E/R designs to relational DB designs.

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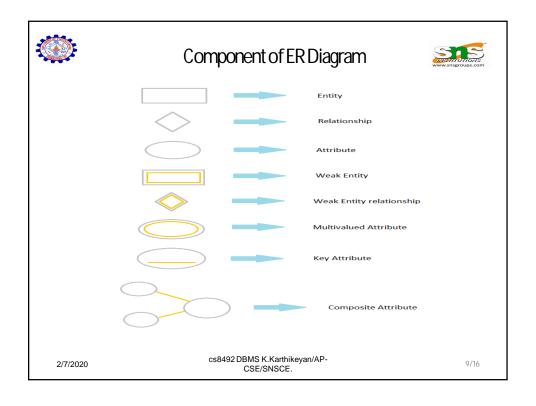
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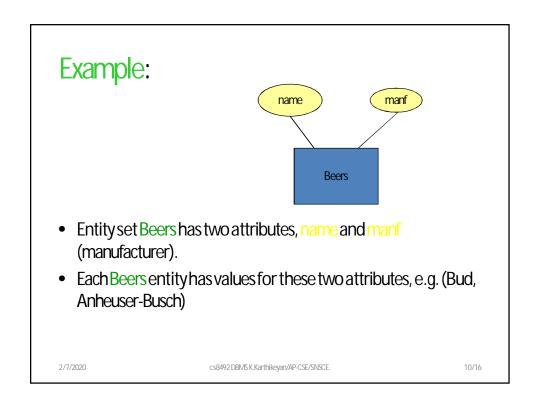
# **Entity Sets**

- Entity= "thing" or object.
- Entity set = collection of similar entities.
  - Similar to a class in object-oriented languages.
- Attribute = property of (the entities of) an entity set.
  - Attributes are simple values, e.g. integers or character strings, not structs, sets, etc.

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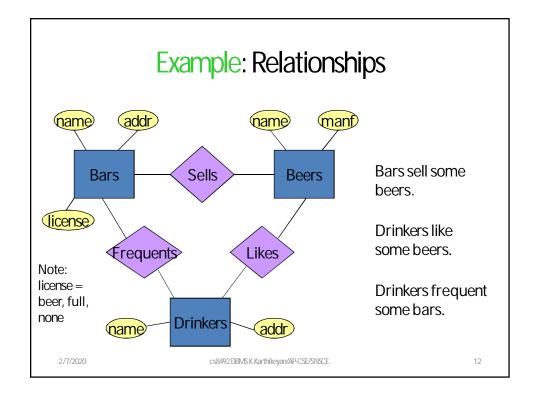


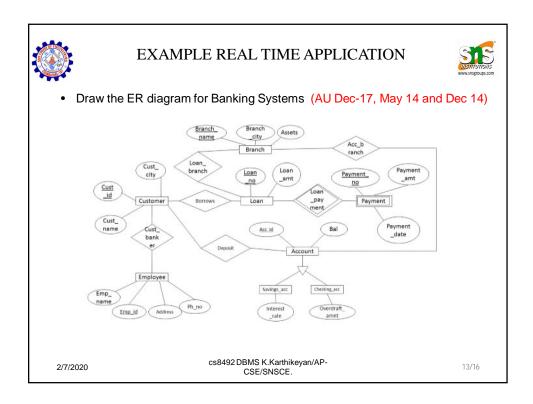
# Relationships

- A relationship connects two or more entity sets.
- It is represented by a diamond, with lines to each of the entity sets involved.

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### **ACTIVITY**

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