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Carnegie Mellon Univ.
Dept. of Computer Science
15-415 - Database Applications

C. Faloutsos

Lecture#2: E-R diagrams

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Database Design

- Requirements Analysis
- Conceptual Design
- Logical Design
- Schema Refinement
- Physical Design
- Security Design

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Database Design

• Requirements Analysis	user's needs
• **Conceptual Design**	high level (ER)
• Logical Design	Tables
• Schema Refinement	Normalization
• Physical Design	Indices etc
• Security Design	Access controls

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Overview

- concepts
  - Entities
  - Relationships
  - Attributes
  - Specialization/Generalization
  - Aggregation
  - ER modeling questions

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Tools

Entities ('entity sets')

Relationships ('rel. sets')

and mapping constraints

attributes

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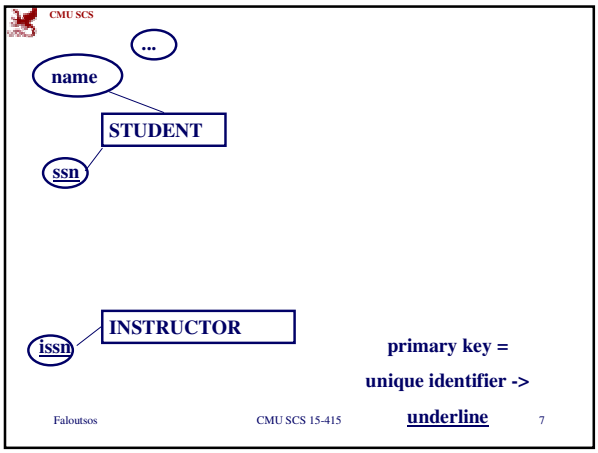
Example

Students, taking courses, offered by instructors; a course may have multiple sections; one instructor per section

nouns -> entity sets

verbs -> relationship sets


CMU SCS
...
name
STUDENT
ssn
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issn
primary key =
unique identifier ->
underline
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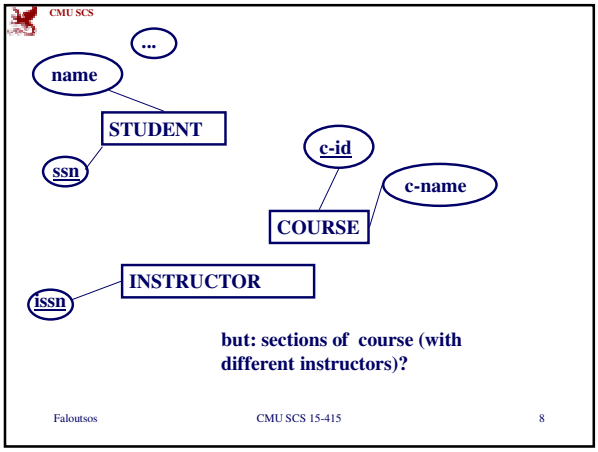
CMU SCS
...
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but: sections of course (with different instructors)?
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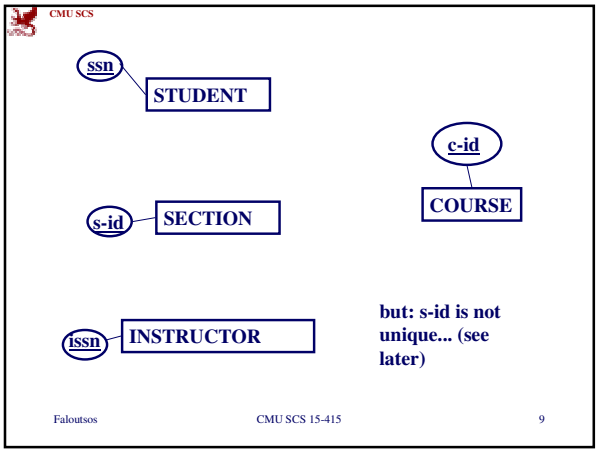
CMU SCS
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STUDENT
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but: s-id is not unique... (see later)
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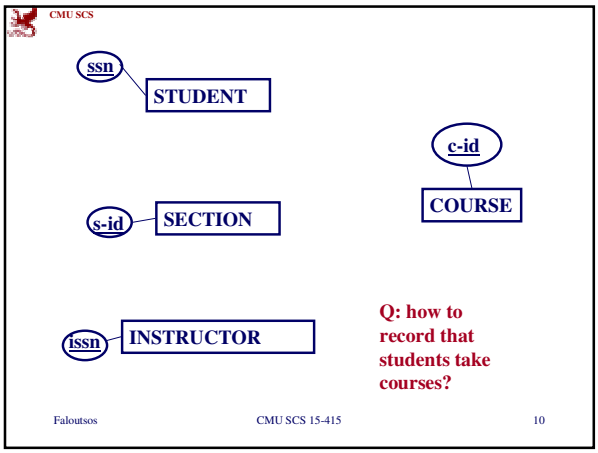
CMU SCS
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Q: how to record that students take courses?
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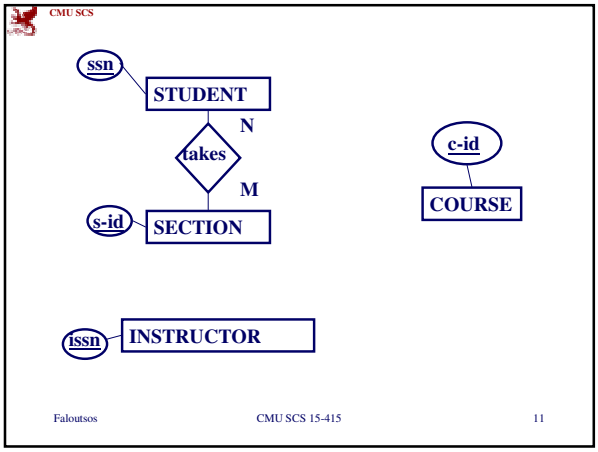
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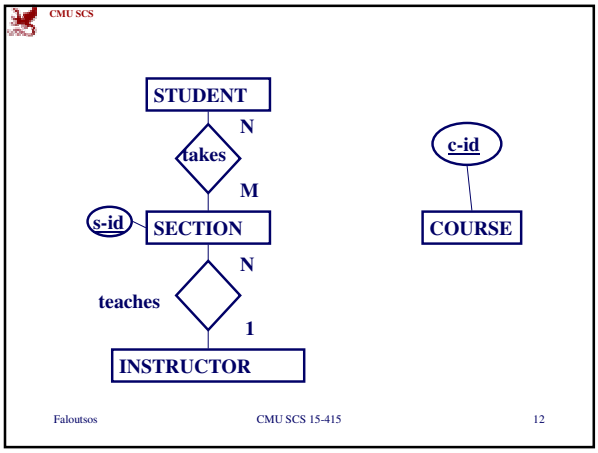
CMU SCS
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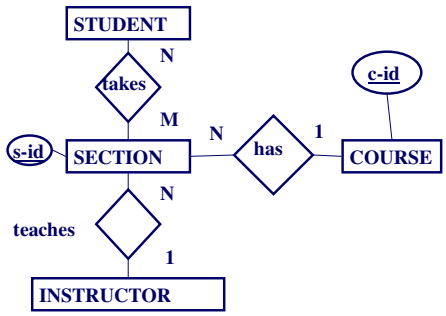

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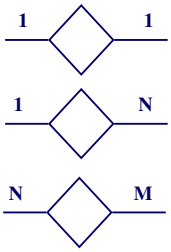
Cardinalities

- 1 to 1 (example?)
- 1 to N
- N to M



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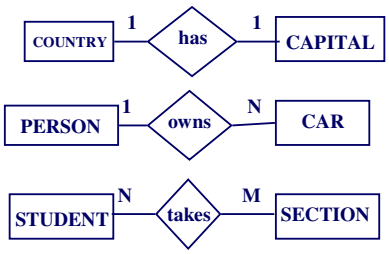
Cardinalities



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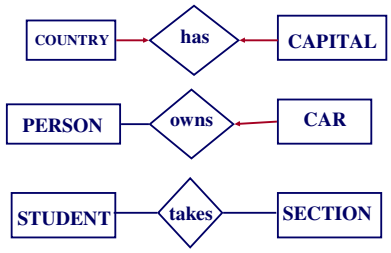
Cardinalities

Book's notation:



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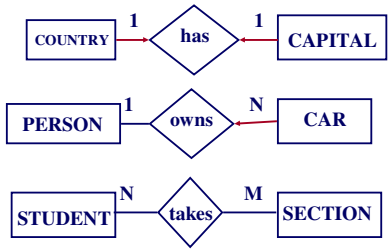
Cardinalities

Book's notation

vs

1 to N notation



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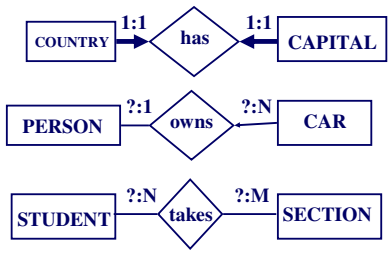
'Total/partial' participation

total, total

??

??



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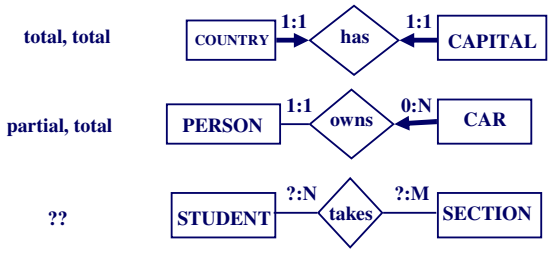
'Total/partial' participation



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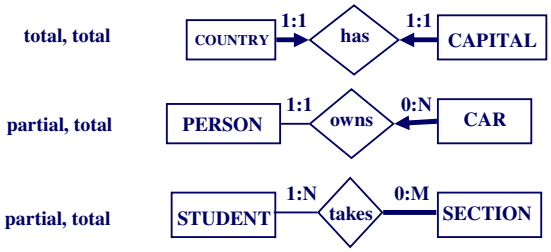
'Total/partial' participation



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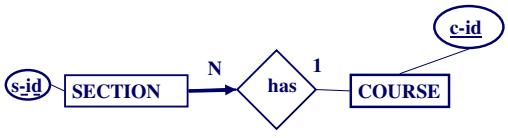
Weak entities

- 'section' has no unique-id of its own!(?)



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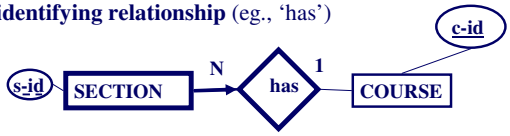
Weak entities

- **'weak'** entities: if they need to borrow a unique id from a 'strong entity - **thick** box.
- 'c-id' + 's-id': unique id for SECTION
- **partial key** (eg., 's-id') - dashed-underline
- **identifying relationship** (eg., 'has')



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More details

- self-relationships - example?

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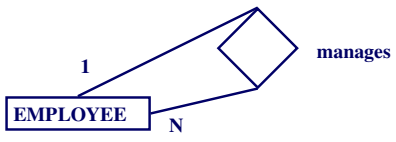
More details

- self-relationships - example?



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More details

- 3-way and k-way relationships?

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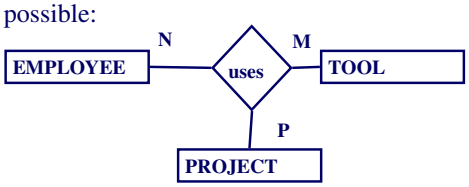
More details

- 3-way and k-way relationships? Rare, but possible:



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Overview

- concepts
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  - ER modeling questions

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More details - attributes

- **key** (or **primary key**): unique identifier
- underlined, in the ER diagram
- [not in textbook - FYI:
  - **multivalued** or set-valued attributes (eg., 'dependents' for EMPLOYEE)
  - **derived** attributes (eg., 15% tip)
  ]

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Overview

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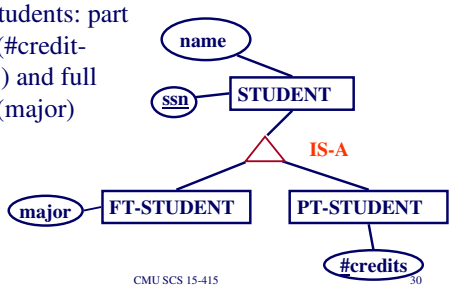
Specialization

- eg., students: part time (#credit-hours) and full time (major)



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Observations

- Generalization: exact reverse of 'specialization'
- attribute inheritance
- could have **many** levels of an IS-A hierarchy

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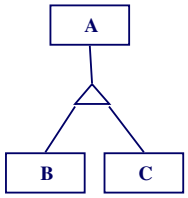
More details

- Overlap constraints
- Covering constraints



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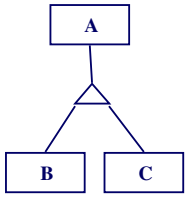
More details

- Overlap constraints
  - can an entity belong to both 'B' and 'C'?
- Covering constraints
  - can an 'A' entity belong to neither 'B' nor 'C'?



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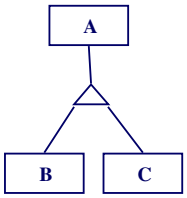
More details

- Overlap constraints - examples?



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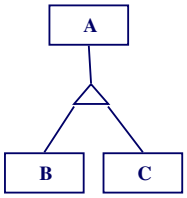
More details

- Covering constraints - examples?



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Overview

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  - Attributes
  - Specialization/Generalization
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  - ER modeling questions

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Aggregation

- computer model (w/ CPU and HD)
- and Maker (eg., Dell, HP)

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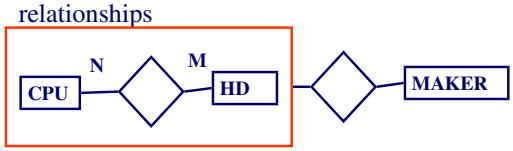
Aggregation

- treat a relationship as an entity
- used to express a relationship among relationships



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Overview

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  - Entities
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  - Attributes
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  - Aggregation
  - ER modeling questions

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Conceptual design

- Entity vs attribute
- Entity vs relationship
- Binary or ternary relationships?
- Aggregation?

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Entity vs. attribute

- Entity EMPLOYEE (w/ emp#, name, job_code, ...)
- Q: How about 'spouse' - entity or attribute?
- Q: How about 'dependents'?

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Entity vs. attribute

- Entity EMPLOYEE (w/ emp#, name, job_code, ...)
- Q: How about 'spouse' - entity or attribute?
- A: probably, 'attribute' is enough
- Q: How about 'dependents'?
- A: Entity - we may have many dependents

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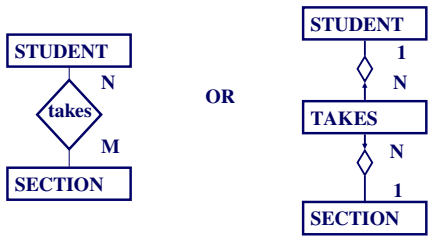
Entity vs. Relationship



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Binary vs Ternary Relationships

- usually, binary relationships are 'cleaner':

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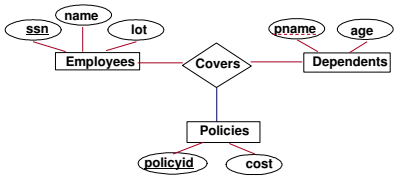
Binary vs. Ternary Relationships

If each policy is owned by just 1 employee:



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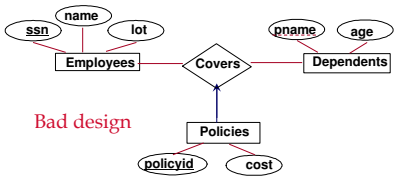
Binary vs. Ternary Relationships

If each policy is owned by just 1 employee:



Bad design

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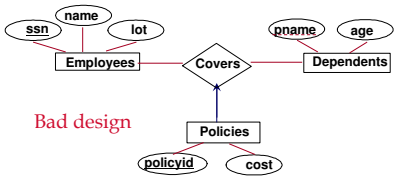
Binary vs. Ternary Relationships

If each policy is owned by just 1 employee:



Bad design

Key constraint on Policies would mean policy can only cover 1 dependent!

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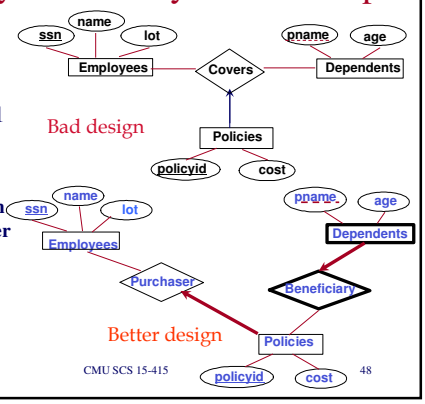
Binary vs. Ternary Relationships

If each policy is owned by just 1 employee:



Bad design

Key constraint on Policies would mean policy can only cover 1 dependent!

What are the additional constraints in the 2nd diagram?

Better design

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Binary vs Ternary Rel.

- But sometimes ternary rel. can not be replaced by a set of binary rel's:

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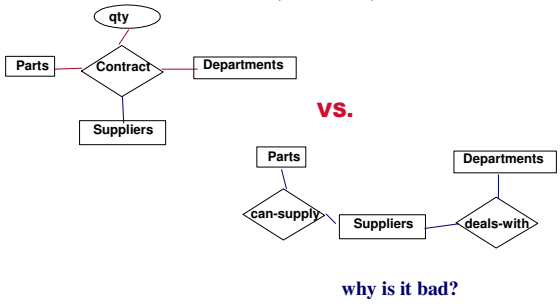
Binary vs. Ternary Relationships (Contd.)



why is it bad?

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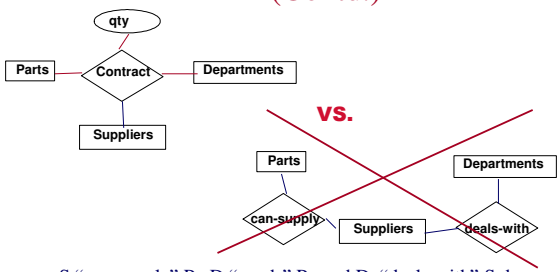
Binary vs. Ternary Relationships (Contd.)



- S "can-supply" P, D "needs" P, and D "deals-with" S does not imply that D has agreed to buy P from S.
- How do we record *qty*?

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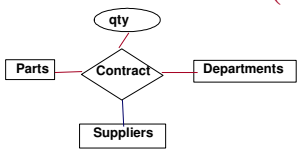
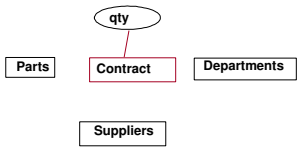
Binary vs. Ternary Relationships (Contd.)



Not in textbook:

in practice, often:



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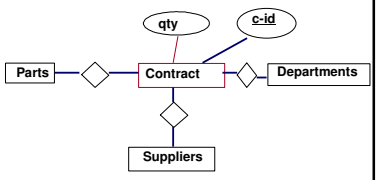
Binary vs. Ternary Relationships (Contd.)

Not in textbook:

in practice, often:



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Ternary vs. aggregation

- use aggregation, if we want to attach a relationship to a relationship
- (see book for example)
- (in practice, again we create a unique-id and resort to binary relationships)

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Summary

- E-R Diagrams: a powerful, user-friendly tool for data modeling:
  - Entities (strong, weak)
  - Attributes (primary keys, discriminators, derived, multivalued)
  - Relationships (1:1, 1:N, N:M; multi-way)
  - Generalization/Specialization; Aggregation

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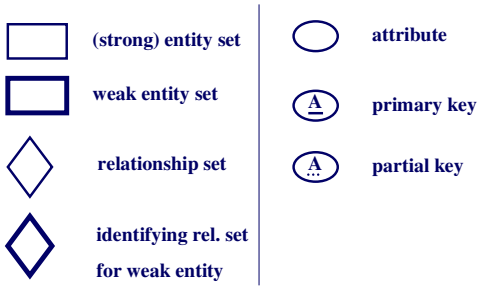
Summary - cont'd



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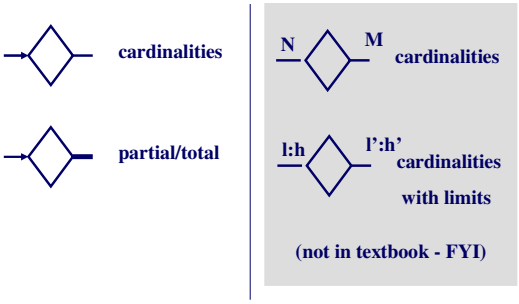
Summary - cont'd



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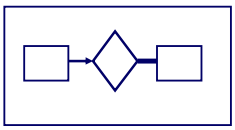
Summary - cont'd

IS-A



aggregation