

Data Models

- A way of describing data.
 - Better: a description of how to conceptually structure the data, what operations are possible on the data, and any constraints on the data.
- Structure: how we view the data abstractly
- Operations: what is possible to do with the data?
- Constraints: how can we control what data is legal and what is not?

Relational model

First	Last	Course	Grade
Hermione	Granger	Potions	A
Draco	Malfoy	Potions	B
Harry	Potter	Potions	A
Ronald	Weasley	Potions	C

- Structure: relation (table)
- Operations: relational algebra (select certain rows, certain columns, where properties are true/false)
- Constraints: can enforce restrictions like Grade must be in {A, B, C, D, F}

Other models

- ***Semi-structured*** data that is still “structured” but not in relational format.
 - XML, JSON
- Object databases, or object-relational
- Graph databases
- NoSQL, NewSQL

Semi-structured model

- Structure: Trees or graphs
 - e.g., XML
- Operations: Follow paths in the implied tree from one element to another.
 - e.g., XQuery
- Constraints: can constrain data types, possible values, etc.
 - e.g., DTDs (document type definition), XML Schema

Object-relational

- Similar to relational, but
 - Values in a table can have their own structure, rather than being simple strings or ints.
 - Relations can have associated methods.

Relational model is most common

- Simple: built around a single concept for modeling data: the relation or table.
 - A relational database is a collection of relations.
 - Each relation is a table with rows and columns.
 - An RDBMS can manage many databases at once.
- Supports high-level programming language (SQL)
 - Limited but useful set of operations.
- Has elegant mathematical theory behind it.

Relation Terminology

- Relation == 2D table
 - **Attribute** == column name
 - **Tuple** == row (not the header row)
- Database == collection of relations

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Relation Terminology

- A relation includes two parts:
 - The relation **schema** defines the column headings of the table (attribute names)
 - The relation **instance** defines the data rows (tuples, rows, or records) of the table.

First	Last	Course	Grade
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Harry	Potter	Potions	A
Ronald	Weasley	Potions	C

Schema

- A schema is written by the name of the relation followed by a parenthesized list of attributes.
 - Grades(First, Last, Course, Grade)
- A **relational database schema** is the set of schemas for all the relations in a DB.

First	Last	Course	Grade
Hermione	Granger	Potions	A
Draco	Malfoy	Potions	B
Harry	Potter	Potions	A
Ronald	Weasley	Potions	C

Tuples

- A tuple is a row of a relation.
- Notation:
(Draco, Malfoy, Potions, B)

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Hermione	Granger	Potions	A
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Harry	Potter	Potions	A
Ronald	Weasley	Potions	C

Domains

- A relational DB requires that every component of a row (tuple) have a specific elementary data type, or **domain**.
 - string, int, float, date, time (no complicated objects!)

```
Grades(First:string, Last:string,  
Course:string, Grade:char)
```

Equivalent representations of a relation

First	Last	Course	Grade
Hermione	Granger	Potions	A
Draco	Malfoy	Potions	B
Harry	Potter	Potions	A
Ronald	Weasley	Potions	C

Grades(First, Last, Course, Grade)

- Relation is a **set** of tuples, not a list.
- Attributes in a schema are a **set** as well.
 - However, the schema specifies a "standard" order for the attributes.
- How many equivalent representations are there for a relation with m attributes and n tuples?

Degree and cardinality

First	Last	Course	Grade
Hermione	Granger	Potions	A
Draco	Malfoy	Potions	B
Harry	Potter	Potions	A
Ronald	Weasley	Potions	C

- **Degree/arity** of a relation is the number of attributes in a relation.
- **Cardinality** is the number of tuples in a relation.

Keys to a good relation(ship)



Keys of a relation

- Keys are a kind of **integrity constraint**.
- A set of attributes K forms a key for a relation R if
 - no pair of tuples in an instance of R may have the same values for *all* attributes of K.

First	Last	Course	Grade
Hermione	Granger	Potions	A
Draco	Malfoy	Potions	B
Harry	Potter	Potions	A
Ronald	Weasley	Potions	C

Grades(First, Last, Course, Grade)

Keys of a relation

- Keys help associate tuples in different relations.

SID	First	Last
123	Hermione	Granger
111	Draco	Malfoy
234	Harry	Potter
345	Ronald	Weasley

CRN	Name	Semester	Year
777	Potions	Fall	1997
888	Potions	Spring	1997
999	Transfiguration	Fall	1996
789	Transfiguration	Spring	1996

SID	CRN	Grade
123	777	A
111	777	B
234	777	A
345	777	C

Example

- Let's expand these relations to handle the kinds of things you'd like to see in BannerWeb.
- Keep track of students, professors, courses, who teaches what, enrollments, pre-requisites, grades, departments & their chairs.
 - Only one chair per department.
 - Student cannot enroll in multiple copies of the same course in one semester.
 - Other constraints that are logical.