Introduction to Conceptual Data Modeling

(Chapter 1 & 2)

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Watch this lecture and download the slides

Course Page: http://www.jarrar.info/courses/ORM/Jarrar.LectureNotes.IntroductionToConceptualModeling.pdf

Online Courses : http://www.jarrar.info/courses/

Some diagrams in this lecture are based on [1]

Introduction to Conceptual Data Modeling

- **Part 1: what is Information Modeling/Engineering**
- Part 2: Information Modeling Approaches
- Part 3: Introduction to Object Role Modeling (ORM)
- Part 4: Information Levels

Information Modeling –The need for good design

Do you like the design of this table?

Movie	*Year*	*Director*	*Stars*
Awakenings	1991	Penny Marshall	Robert De Niro Robin Williams
Backdraft	1991	Ron Howard	William Baldwin Robert De Niro Kurt Russell
Cosmology	1994	Terry Harding	
Dances with wolves	1990	Kevin Kostner	Kevin Kostner Mary McDonnell

- This table is an output report. It provides one way to view the data.
- Different movies may have the same title.
- Movie numbers are used to provide a simple identifier.
- Each cell (row--column slot) may contain many values.

➢**How can we design tables to store such facts?**

Information Modeling –The need for good design

A badly-designed table, why?

Movie

MovieName	Release Year	Director	Star
Awakenings	1991	Penny Marshall	Robert De Niro
Awakenings	1991	Penny Marshall	Robin Williams
Backdraft	1991	Ron Howard	William Baldwin
Backdraft	1991	Ron Howard	Robert De Niro
Backdraft	1991	Ron Howard	Kurt Russell
Cosmology	1994	Terry Harding	
Dances with wolves	1990	Kevin Kostner	Kevin Kostner
Dances with wolves	1990	Kevin Kostner	Mary McDonnell

Information Modeling –The need for good design

Do you like the design of this table?

Movie

MovieName	Release Year	Director
Awakenings	1991	Penny Marshall
Backdraft	1991	Ron Howard
Cosmology	1994	Terry Harding
Dances with wolves	1990	Kevin Kostner

Movie Stars

MovieName	Star
Awakenings	Robert De Niro
Awakenings	Robin Williams
Backdraft	William Baldwin
Backdraft	Robert De Niro
Backdraft	Kurt Russell
Cosmology	
Dances with wolves	Kevin Kostner
Dances with wolves	Mary McDonnell

Information Modeling –The need for good design

Do you like the design of this table?

Movie

MovieName	Release Year	Director
Awakenings	1991	Penny Marshall
Backdraf		
Cosmolo		
Dances w		

Movie Stars

MovieN	
Awakeni	
Awakeni	
Backdra	
Backdra	
Backdraft	Kurt Russell
Cosmology	
Dances with wolves	Kevin Kostner
Dances with wolves	Mary McDonnell

A relational database representation

Movie (movieName, releaseYr, director)

Starred (movieName, star)

Information Modeling –The need for good design

Do you design of this table?

Movie

Mo
Aw
Ba
Co
Da

- Information Modeling is both a science and an art.
- When supported by a good modeling approach, this design process is a stimulating and intellectually satisfying activity, with tangible benefits gained from the quality of the database applications produced.

Movie Stars

M	
Awakenings	Robin Williams
Backdraft	William Baldwin
Backdraft	Robert De Niro
Backdraft	Kurt Russell
Cosmology	
Dances with wolves	Kevin Kostner
Dances with wolves	Mary McDonnell

Information Modeling –The need for good design

Why a good design is important?

- Consistency
- Efficiency

What makes a good design good?

- Correct
- Complete
- Efficient

- What skills you should have to be a good data engineer?
- What approaches exist to help you reach good models?

Information Modeling/Engineering

- The application area being modeled is called the universe of discourse (UoD).
- Building a good model requires a good understanding of the world we are modeling.
- The main challenge is to describe the UoD clearly and precisely.
- A person responsible for modeling the UoD is called a *modeler.*
- we should consult with others who, at least collectively, understand the application domain —these people are called *domain experts, subject* matter experts, or UoD experts.
- For implementation, it is important to represent information at the conceptual level -in concepts that people (molders and domain experts) find easy to work with.
- This added flexibility also makes it easier to implement the same conceptual model in different ways, DB schema, XML schema, etc.

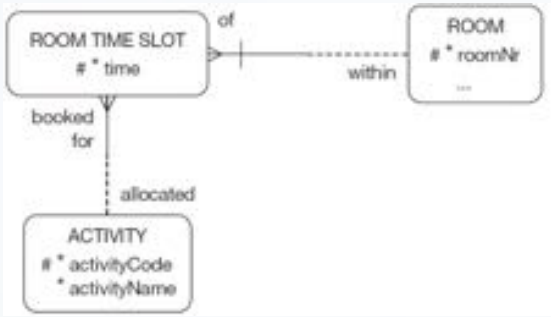
Introduction to Conceptual Data Modeling

- Part 1: what is Information Modeling
- **Part 2: Information Modeling Approaches**
- Part 3: Introduction to Object Role Modeling (ORM)
- Part 4: Information Levels

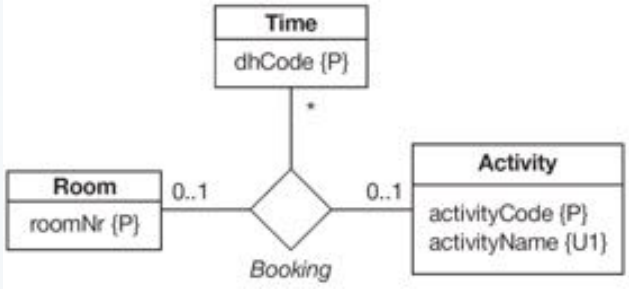
Modeling Approaches

The main information modeling approaches are:

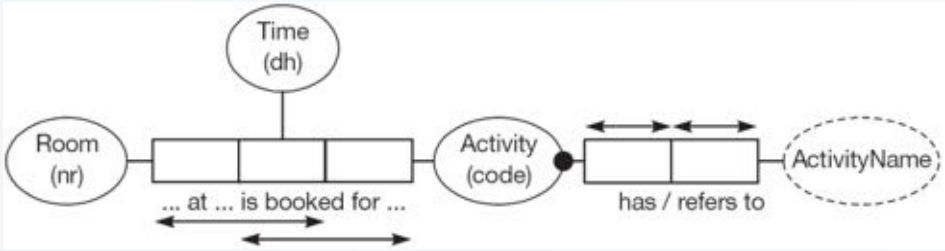
Entity-Relationship modeling (ER)



Object-oriented modeling (UML)



Fact-oriented modeling (ORM)

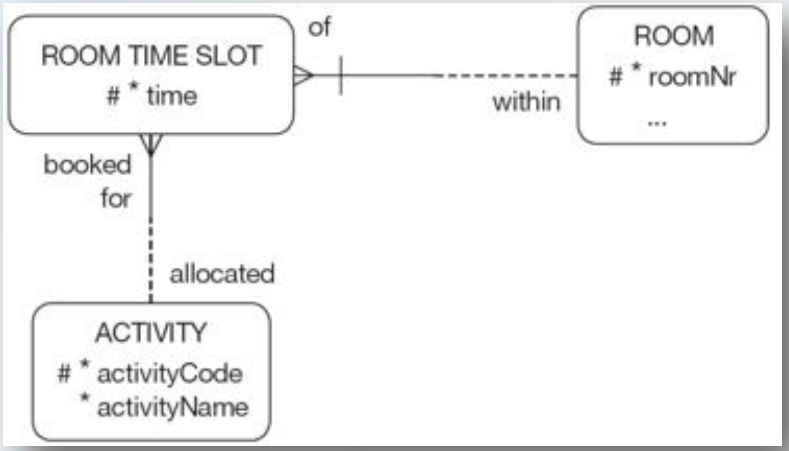


Modeling Approaches

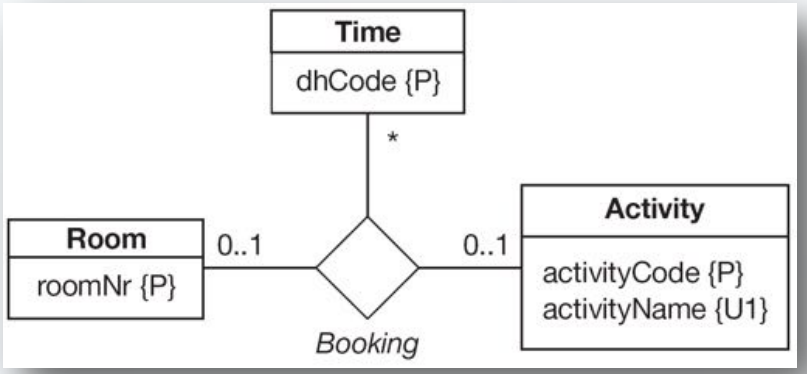
Given simple data for room scheduling:

Room	*Time*	*ActivityCode*	*ActivityName*
20	Mon 9 a.m.	VMC	VisioModeler class
20	Tue 2 p.m.	VMC	VisioModeler class
33	Mon 9 a.m.	AQD	ActiveQuery demo
33	Fri 5 p.m.	SP	Staff party
...	...	...	...

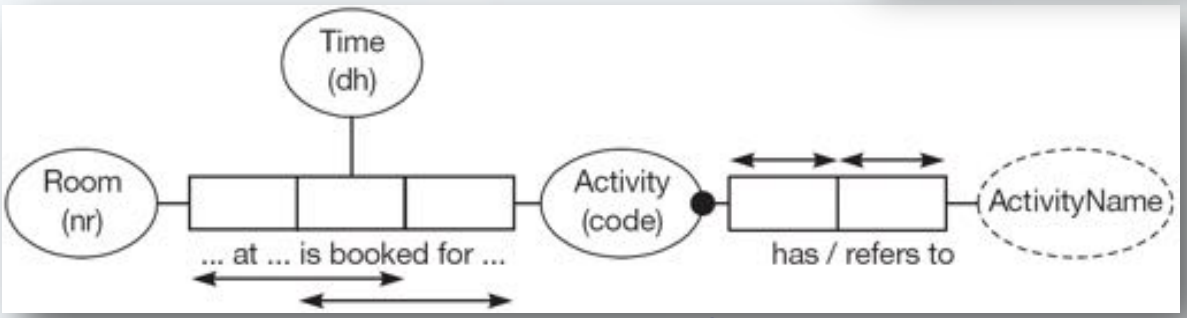
ER-model



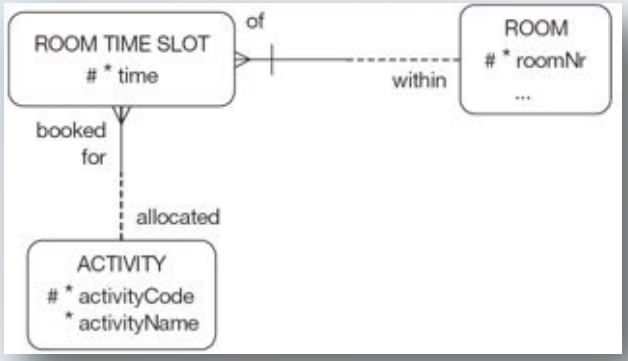
UML-model



ORM-model



Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER)



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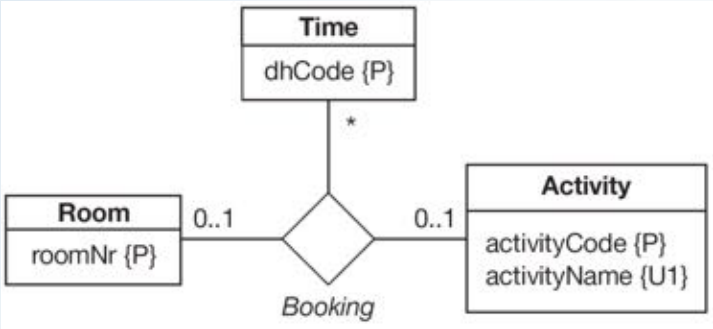
...	...	...	...

- Introduced by Peter Chen in **1976**, widely used approach for DB modeling.
- Pictures the world in terms of entities that have attributes and participate in relationships.
- Many different versions of ER (no standard ER notation). Different versions of ER may support different concepts and may use different symbols for the same concept.
- Relationships are depicted as named lines connecting entity types. Only binary relationships are allowed, and each half of the relationship is shown either as a solid line (mandatory) or broken line (optional). A fork or "crow's foot" at one end of a relationship indicates that many instances of the entity type at that end may be associated (via that relationship) with the same entity instance at the other end of the relationship. The lack of a crow's foot indicates that at most one entity instance at that end is associated with any given entity instance at the other end.

Object-oriented Modeling (UML)



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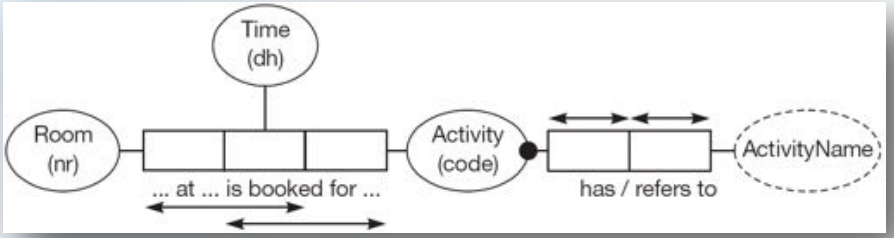
...	...	...	...

- UML class diagram are used to specify static data structures (**OMG Standard**).
- Encapsulates both data and behavior within objects.
- Pictures the world in terms of classes that have attributes and participate in associations. Ternary associations are allowed, see the diagram.
- UML allows constraints in braces or notes in whatever language you wish.
- Form example, {P} can be added to denote primary uniqueness and {U1} for an alternate uniqueness—these symbols are not standard and hence not portable. The uniqueness constraints on the ternary are captured by the two 0..1 (at most one) multiplicity constraints. The "*" means "0 or more". Attributes are mandatory by default.

Fact-oriented Modeling (ORM)



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...	...	...	...

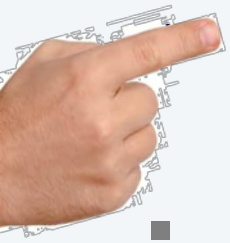
- Introduced by Sjir Nijssen early **1970s**, was called **NIAM**.
- Revised by Terry Halpin (late **1980s**), and called:

Object-Role Modeling (ORM)

- It views the world as object-types playing roles.
- Object-types are ellipses (no attributes), and relations consists of roles.
- Not only n-ary relations are supported, but ORM supports also more than 15 types of constrains graphically.
- ORM allows verbalization of diagrams.
- More conceptual than UML and ER.
- ORM is a modeling approach, not only a modeling language.

Introduction to Conceptual Data Modeling

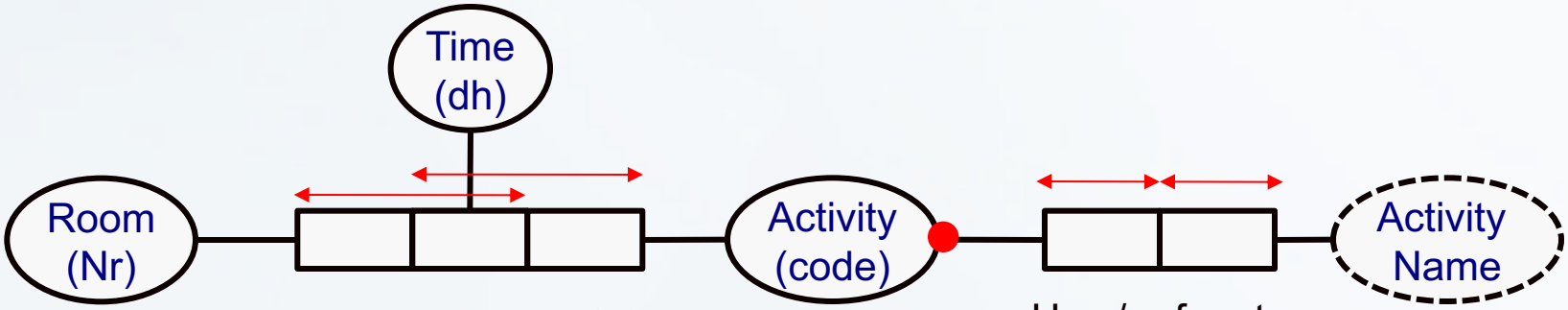
- Part 1: what is Information Modeling
- Part 2: Information Modeling Approaches



- **Part 3: Introduction to Object Role Modeling (ORM)**
- Part 4: Information Levels

Object-Role Modeling (ORM)

Room	Time	Activity Code	Activity Name
20	Mon 9am	VMC	VisioModeler Class
20	Tue 2pm	VMC	VisioModeler Calss
33	Mon 9am	AQD	ActiveQuery Demo
33	Fri 5 pm	SP	Staff party
…	…	…	…



…at … is booked for…

20	Mon 9am	VMC
20	Tue 2pm	VMC
33	Mon 9am	AQD
33	Fri 5pm	SP
…	…	…

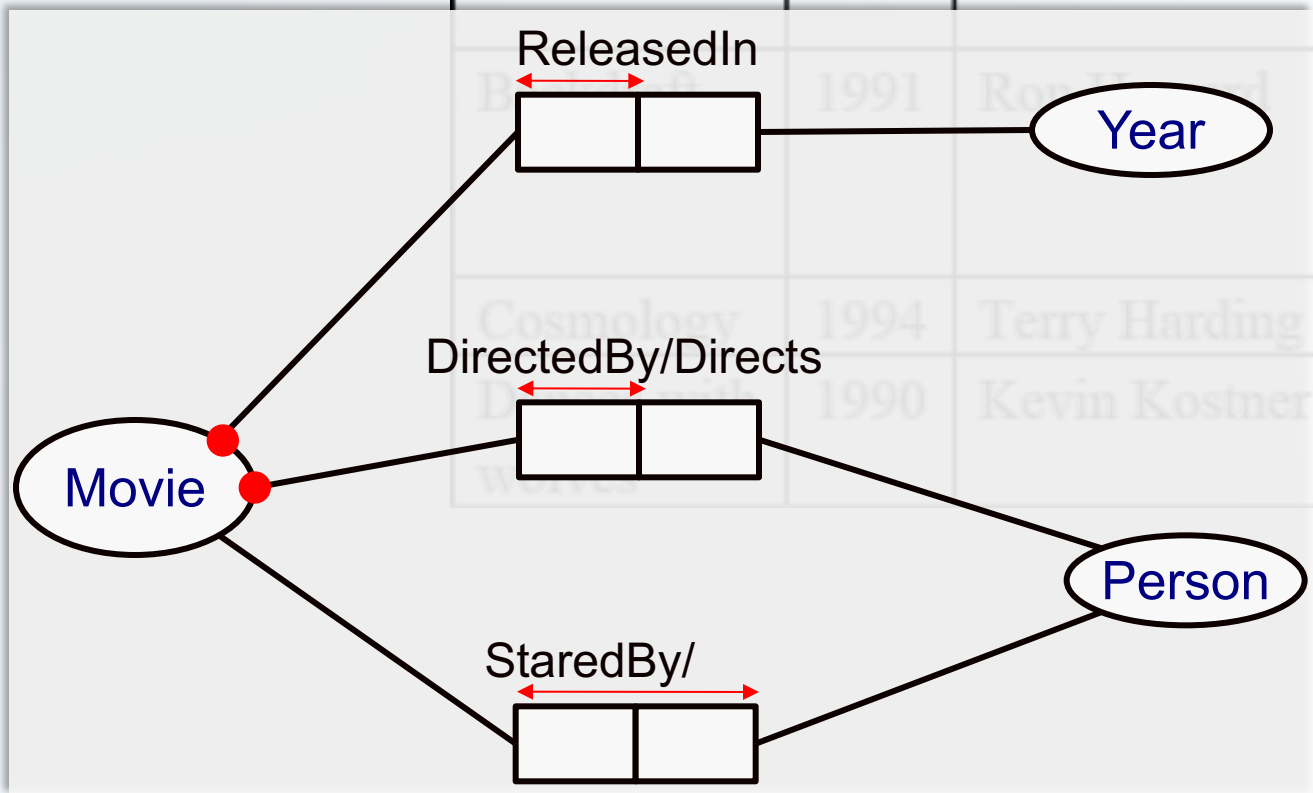
Has / refers to

AQD	ActiveQuery Demo
SP	Staff party
VMC	VisioModeler Calss
VMC	VisioModeler Class
Y2K	Year 200 seminar
…	…

Object-Role Modeling (ORM)

Representing information graphically

Movie	*Year*	*Director*	*Stars*
Awakenings	1991	Penny Marshall	Robert De Niro Robin Williams
			William Baldwin Robert De Niro Kurt Russell
			Kevin Kostner Mary McDonnell



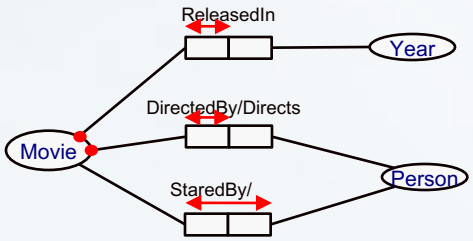
Object-Role Modeling (ORM)

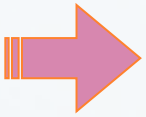
ORM is conceptual modeling language.

ORM has an expressive graphical notation.

ORM is designed for modeling DB schemes at the conceptual level.

You build an ORM schema and then click a bottom to automatically generate a database.





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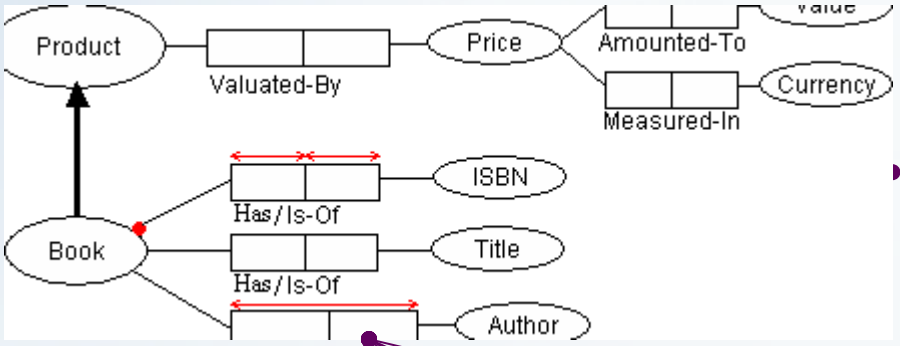
Conceptual Level

Logical Level

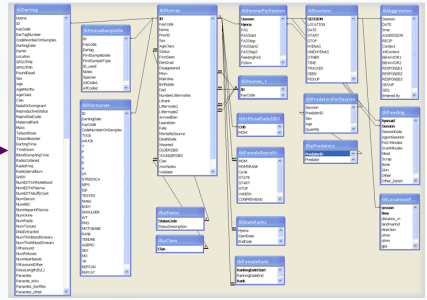
➔Our goal in this course is to use ORM as general Conceptual Modeling language, rather than as database modeling language.

➔ ORM can be used for modeling business rules, ontology, XML schemes, and others.

ORM Usage Scenarios



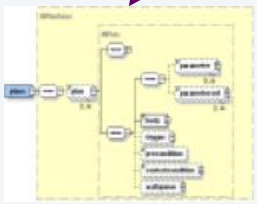
Originally



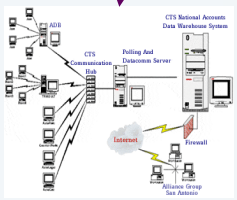
Database

Later

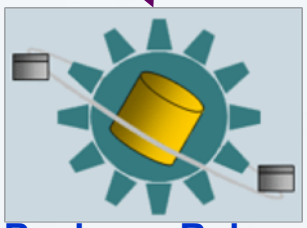
Ontology



XML Schema



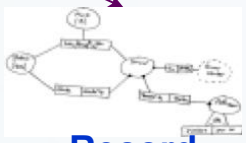
Warehouse



Business Rules

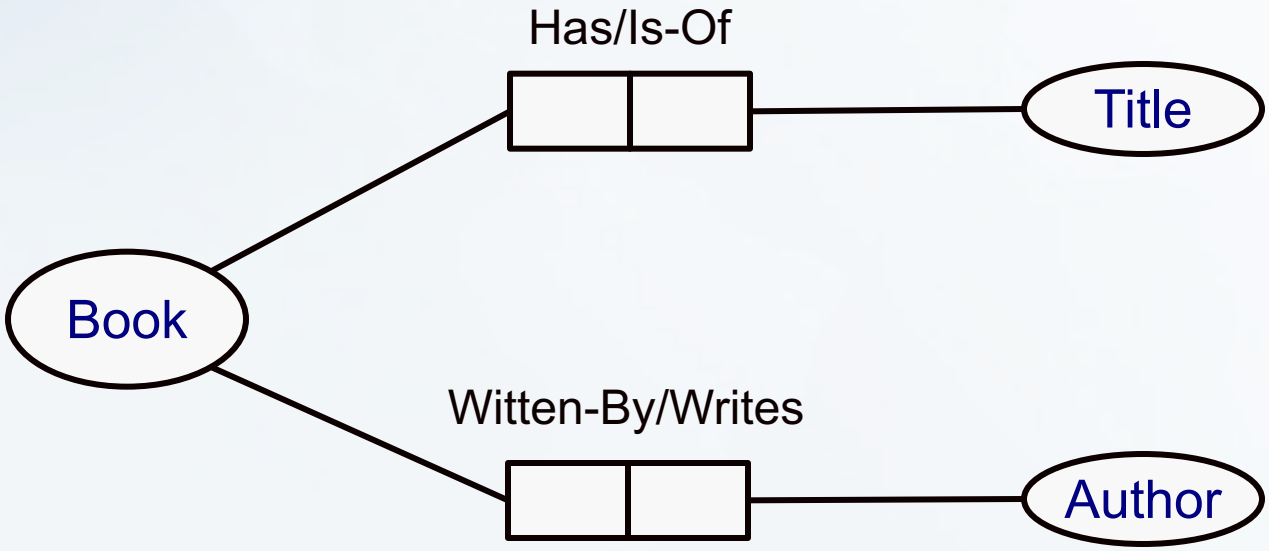
Web (x)Forms

Requirements Engineering

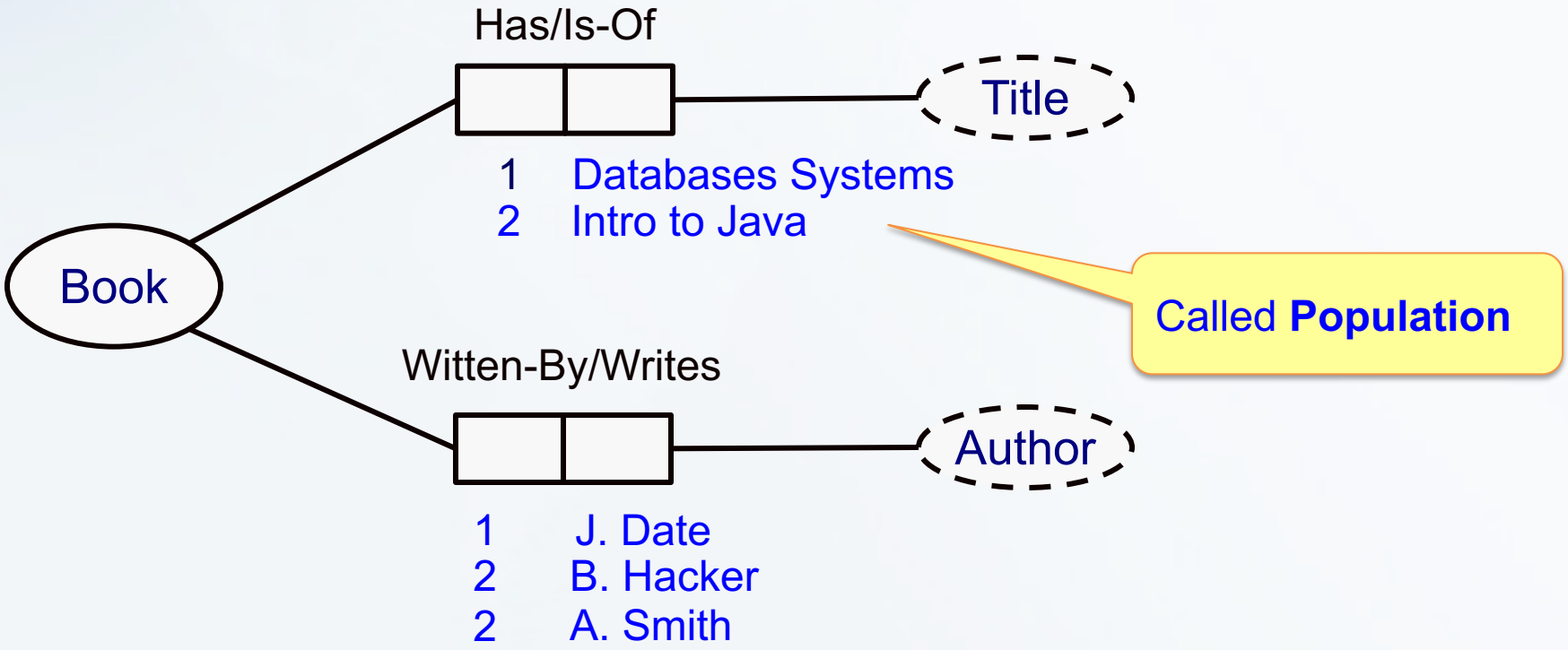


Record my recipes !

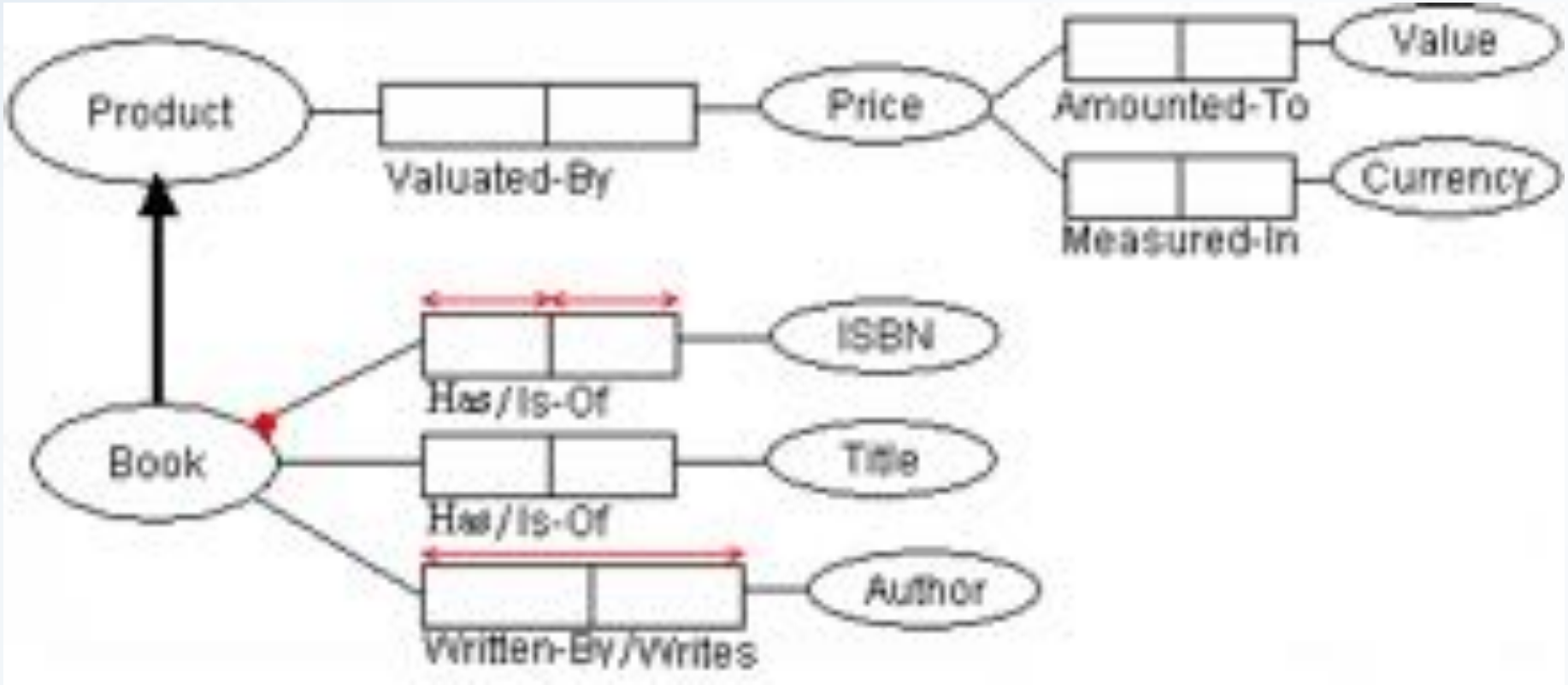
Object-Role Modeling (ORM): Other Examples



Object-Role Modeling (ORM): Other Examples



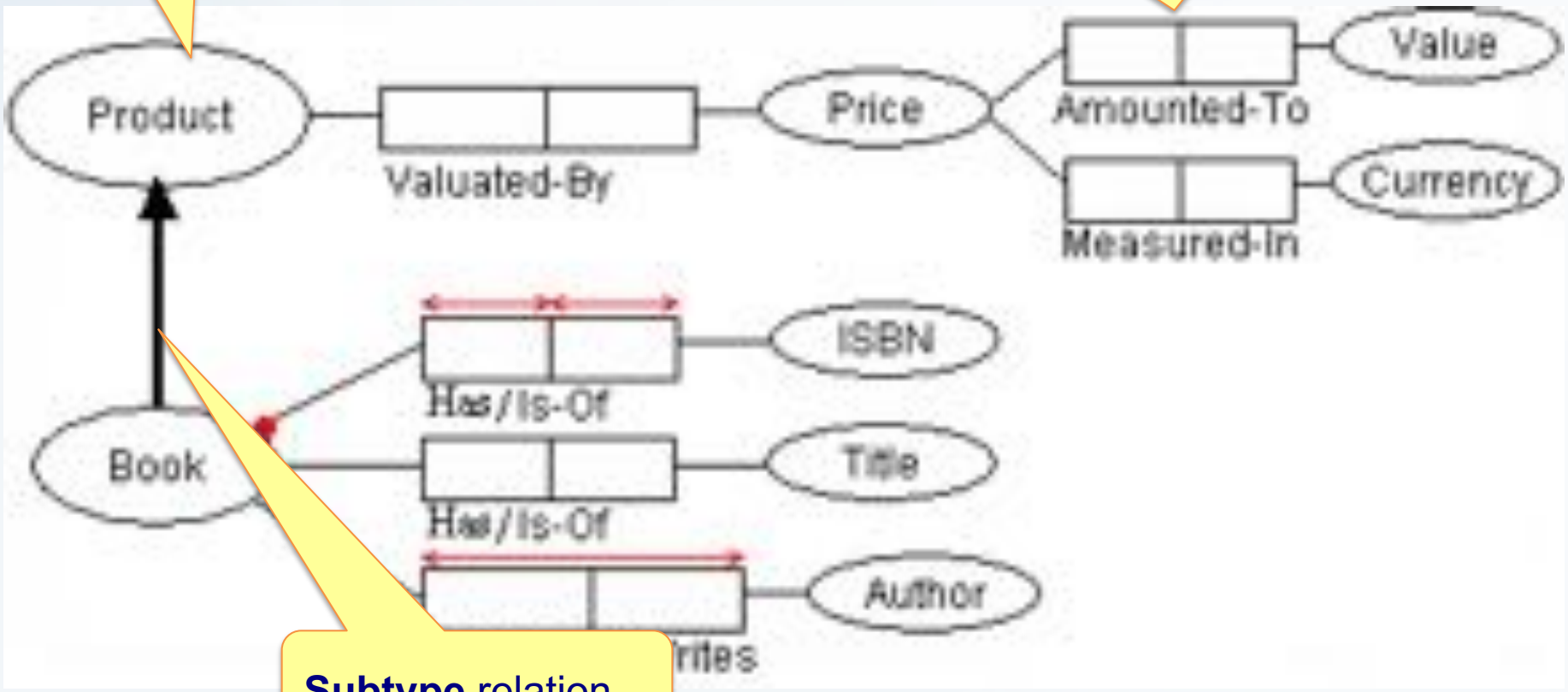
Object-Role Modeling (ORM): Other Examples



Object-Role Modeling (ORM) constructs

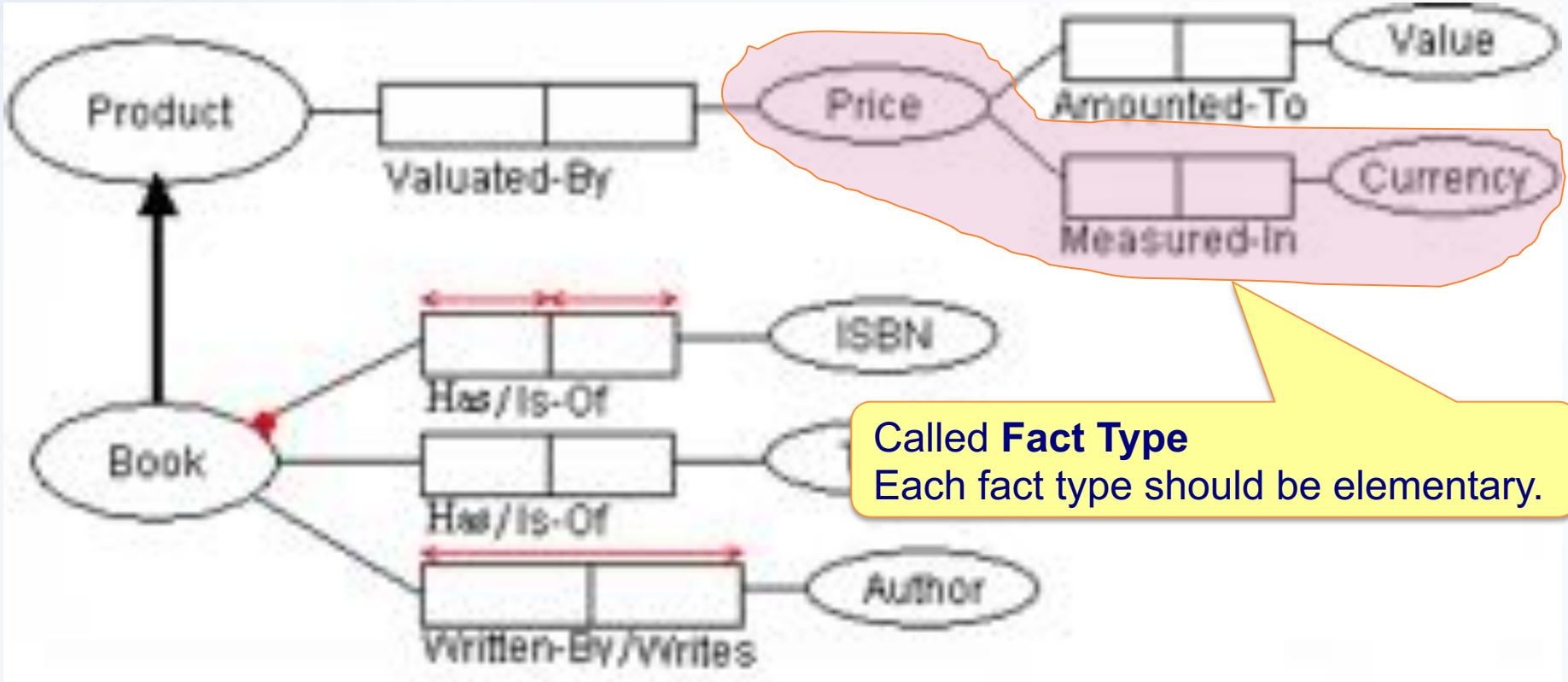
Called **Object Type**
(or Concept, or Class)

Relation
Each part is called a **Role**



Subtype relation

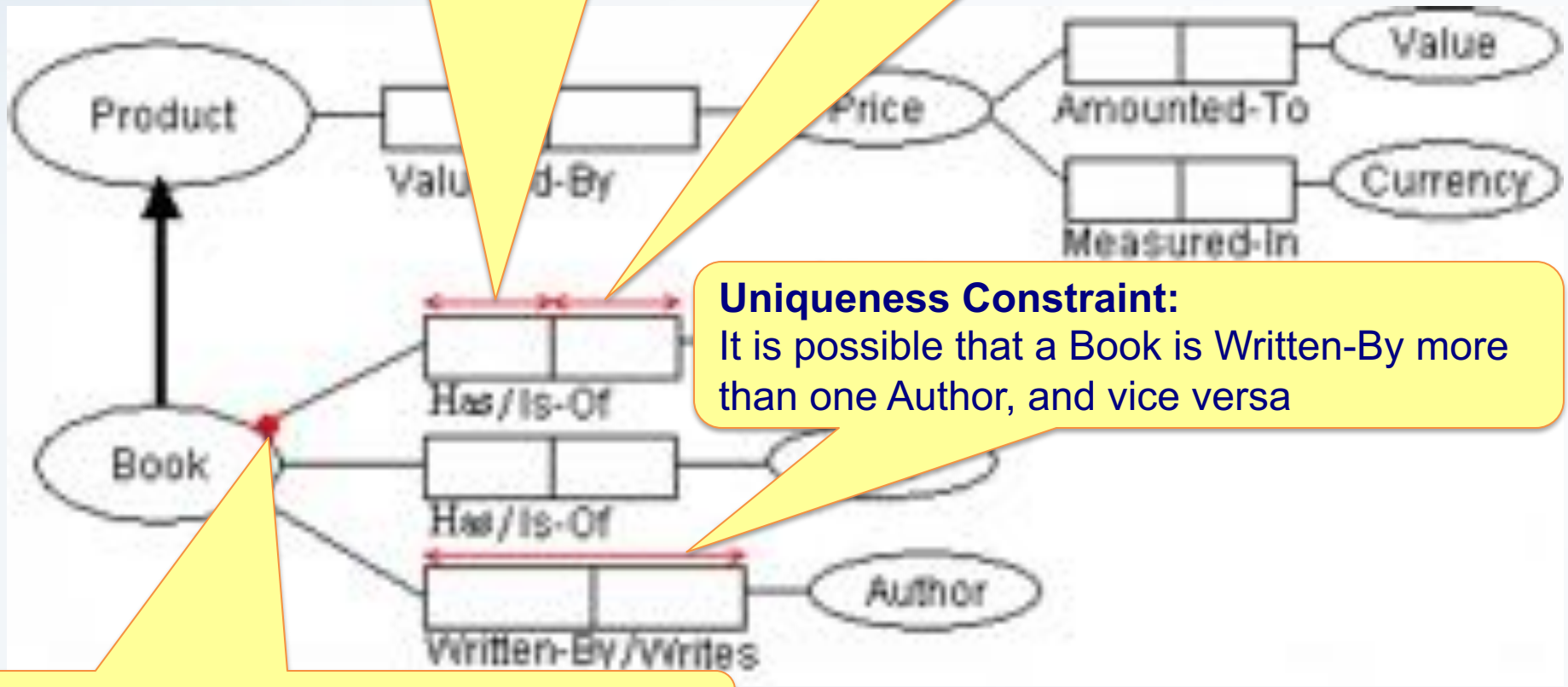
Object-Role Modeling (ORM) constructs



Object-Role Modeling (ORM) constraints

Uniqueness Constraint:
Each Book must has at most one ISBN

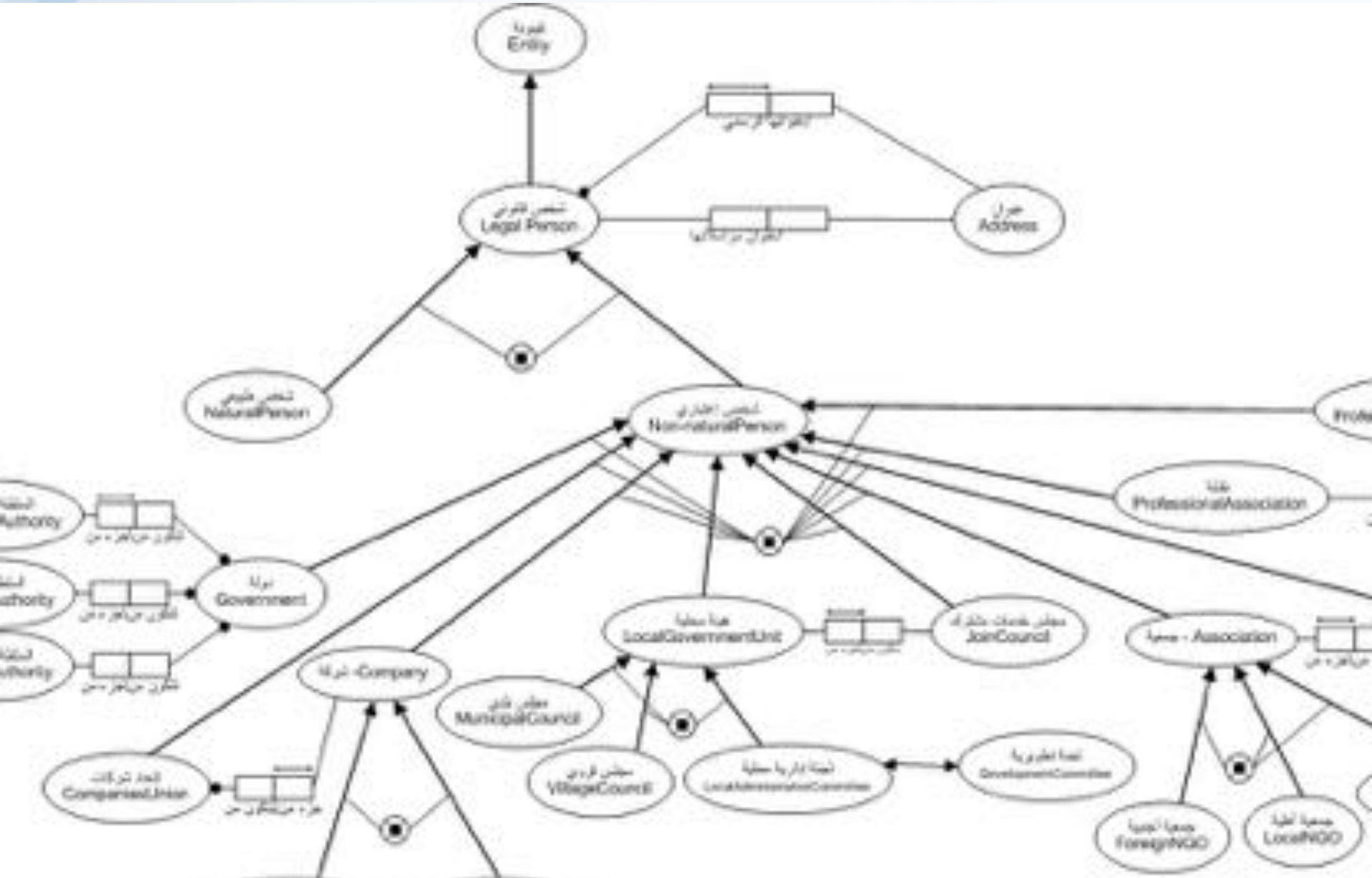
Uniqueness Constraint:
Each ISBN must Is-Of at most one Book



Uniqueness Constraint:
It is possible that a Book is Written-By more than one Author, and vice versa

Mandatory Constraint:
Each Book must has at Least one ISBN

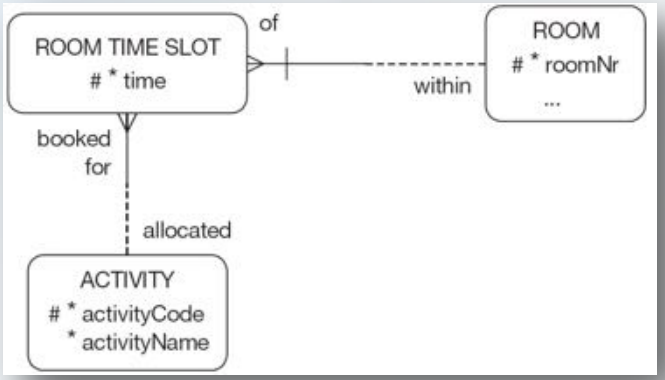
E-Government Ontology (in ORM)



Modeling Approaches (short discussion)

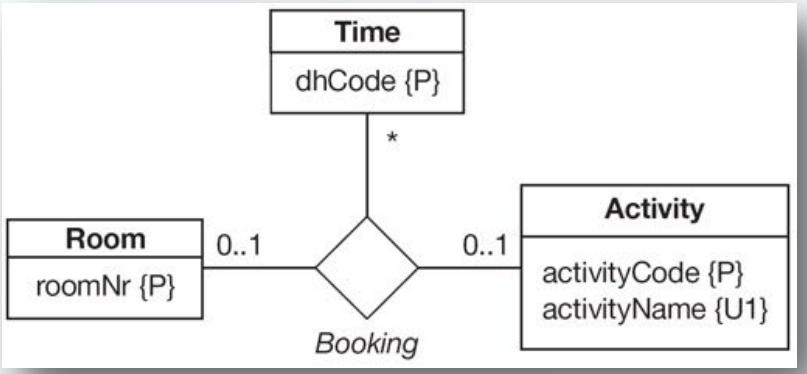
Which is more intuitive for modelers? For domain experts?

ER-model



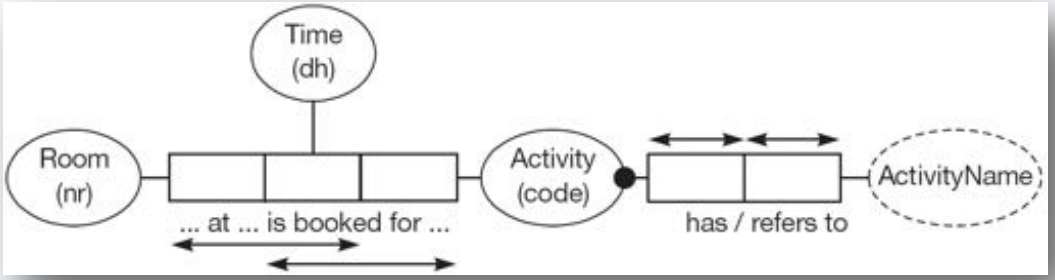
Nice for picturing to DB-schemes

UML-model



Close to the way programmers think

ORM-model



Suitable for general conceptual modeling, not only DB schemes

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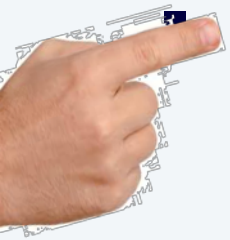
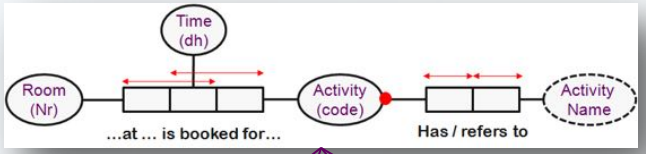


Information Levels (Data Modeling Viewpoint)

Conceptual Level



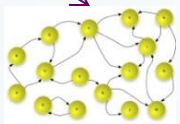
- What kind of facts/**concepts we need**, and how they are **related**.
- Conceptual models are designed for clear **communication,** especially between modelers and domain experts.

Logical Level

Relational
DB

Object Oriented
OO-DB

Tree model
XML



Graph Model
RDF

- Abstract **data structures**
- Same conceptual schema can be mapped into several logical structures

Physical Level

- The physical storage and access structures used in a system (indexes, file clustering, etc.).
- Same Logical schema can be stored in different ways

Information Levels (Data Modeling Viewpoint)

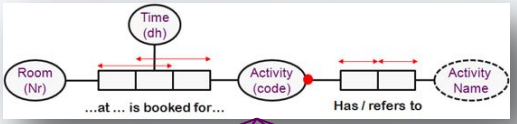
Linguistic Level

- Concerned with the **terms** used to lexicalize the meaning.
- Same meaning can be lexicalized in deferent languages.

Ontological Level

- Concerned with the **meaning**, in the real world.
- Same meaning (/intentions) can be conceptualized in different ways.

Conceptual Level



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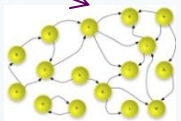
DB

Object Oriented
OO-DB

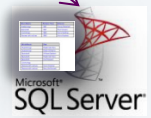
Tree model
XML



Graph Model
RDF

- Abstract data structures
- Same conceptual schema can be mapped into several logical structures

Physical Level



- The physical storage and access structures used in a system (indexes, file clustering, etc.).
- Same Logical schema can be stored in different ways

Knowledge Levels (from philosophy viewpoint)

[Guarino]

Level	*Primitives*	*Interpretation*	*Main feature*
Linguistic	Linguistic terms	Subjective	Language dependence
Conceptual	Conceptual relations	Subjective	Conceptualization
Ontological	**Ontological relations**	**Constrained**	**Meaning**
Epistemological	Structuring relations	Arbitrary	Structure
Logical	Predicates, functions	Arbitrary	Formalization

➢Will be discussed later

Information Levels (Data Modeling Viewpoint)

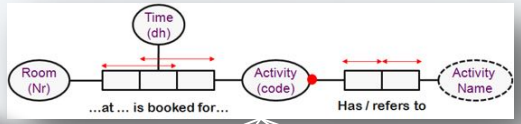
Linguistic Level

- Concerned with the terms used to lexicalize the meaning.
- Same meaning can be lexicalized in deferent languages.

Ontological Level

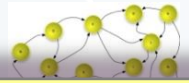
- Concerned with the meaning, in the real world.
- Same meaning (/intentions) can be conceptualized in different ways.

Conceptual Level



- What kind of facts/concepts we need, and how they are related.
- Conceptual models are designed for clear communication, especially between modelers and domain experts.

Logical Level



- Abstract data structures
- Same conceptual schema

Physical Level

- ORM is the most suitable language for conceptual modeling (not only conceptual data modeling). That is, it allows modelers to think more conceptually and be more independent from the logical level.
- ORM is also being used as ontology modeling language, business rules and requirements specification, XML-schema modeling, etc. (not only DB modeling)

ORM Tools (feel free to use any tool in the course)

➔Microsoft Visio

➔Other Tools:

Microsoft Visio Modeler (Free but not supported anymore)

- downloadable from http://www.cnet.com.au/downloads/soa/Visio-2000-Tool-VisioModeler-Unsupported-Product-Edition/0,239030384,10626416s,00.htm
- you need replace a DLL to run it in Win7.

NORMA

- downloadable from SourceForge or http://www.ormfoundation.org/files/folders/norma_the_software/default.aspx.
- Free and open source (but you need Visual Studio 2005 or 2008 to run it).
- Supports ORM2

DogmaModeler

- downloadable from http://www.jarrar.info/Dogmamodeler/
- Free and open source (prototype status)
- Designed as Ontology modeling tool (Norma and VisioModeler are database tools)
- Will be required later in the course.

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