EECS-317 Data Management and Information Processing

Lecture 7 – Relational Database Design

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Northwestern

Announcements

- HW2 was due yesterday
- HW3 posted and due in one week.
- Midterm exam one week from Thursday (May 2nd)
  - Practice exams and additional practice HW questions are posted.

Last Lecture: Combining SELECTs, Adv. predicates

`UNION`, `INTERSECT`, and `EXCEPT`

- Used to combine two `SELECT` statements.
- Combines results table *vertically* (rather than horizontally for JOINs)
- Necessary when answer requires two different (virtual) tables.

- Discussed more advanced uses of predicates.
  - Summing an indicator variable.
- Introduced `CASE` statement which chooses between two different options depending on some condition in the row.

Next topic: Data Modeling

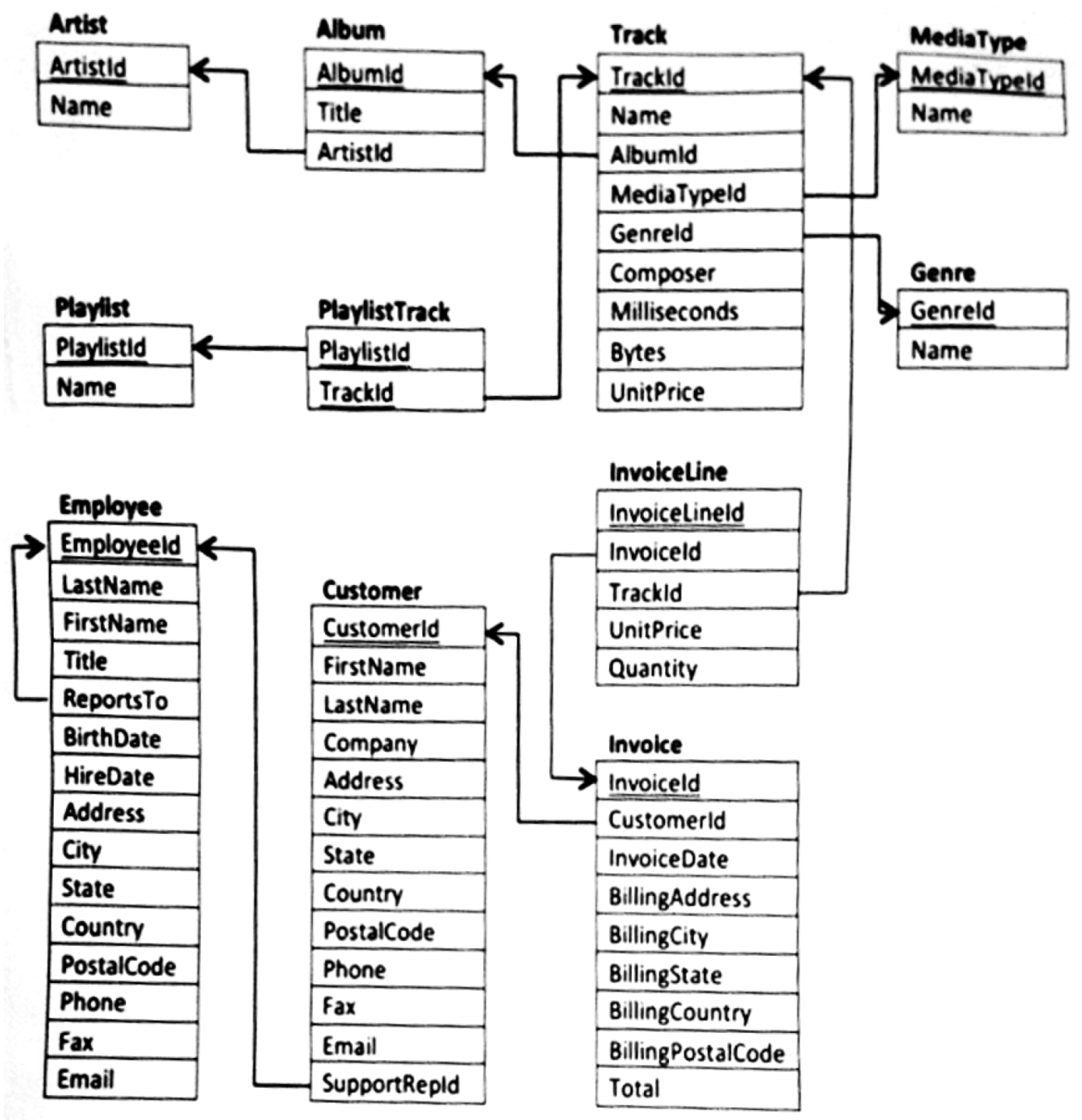
In other words, how to define a relational database schema

Database **Schema** defines the data's structure

- Also called a data model
  - It's *metadata* – data about data
- Defines the tables, including:
  - Columns in each table (both the name and *type*)
  - Primary Key for each table
  - Foreign Keys that link tables
  - Unique Keys, if any
  - Data type for each column (integer, floating point, text, date, time, etc.)
  - Whether columns required (default) or optional.
  - Default values for columns (optional) to be used when no value is supplied.
- Tables represent objects, events, or relationships

"Chinook" online music store

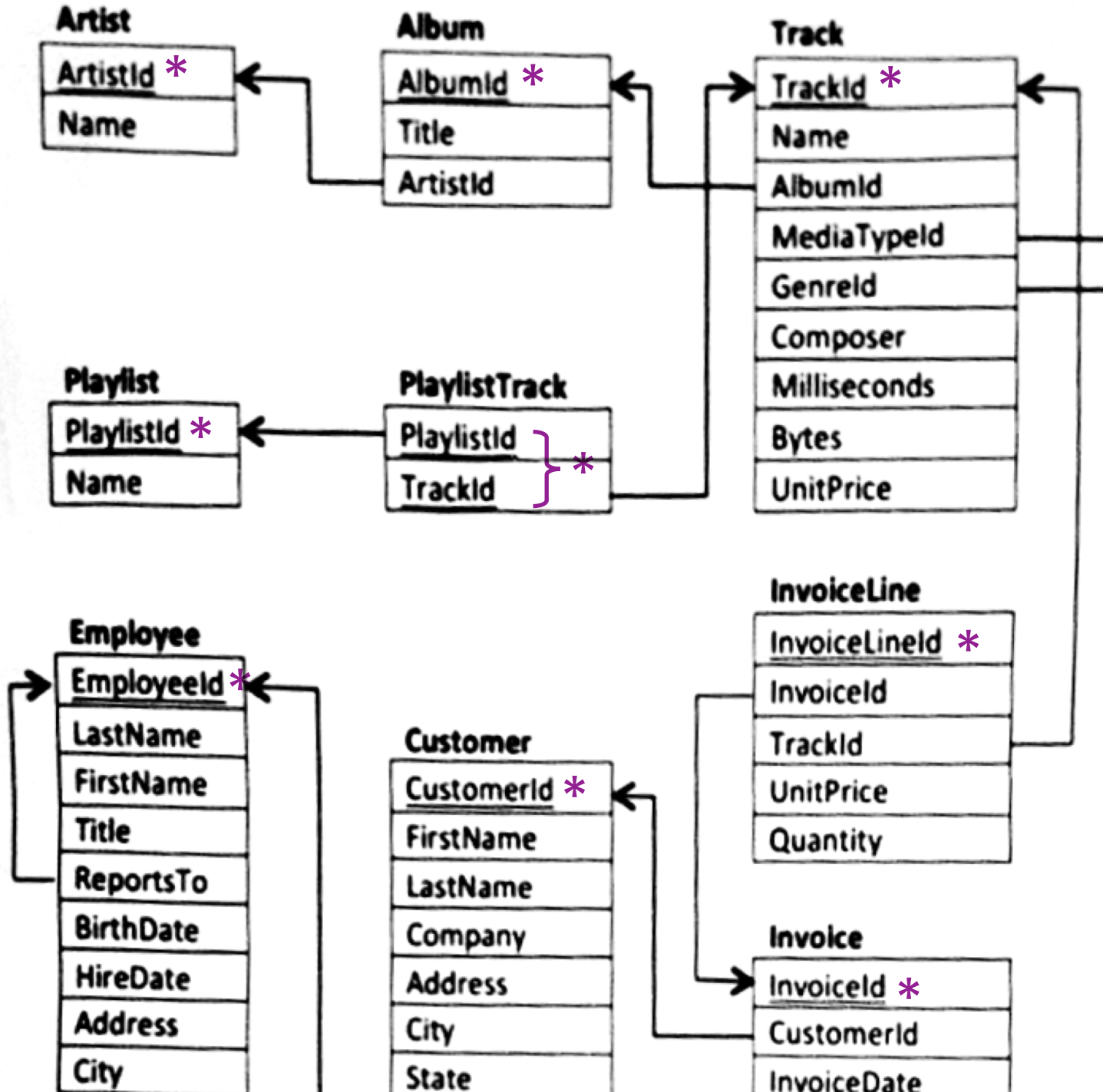
- 11 tables
- Let's explore what this diagram means, and why this design was chosen.



Primary Keys

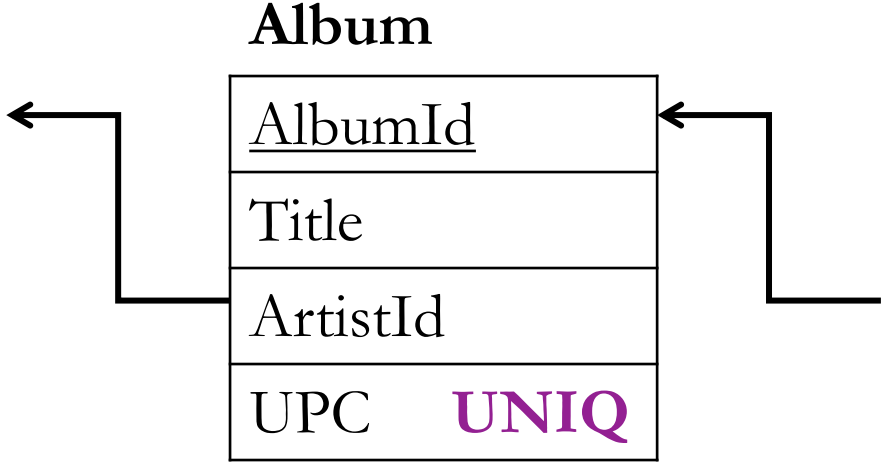
- Every table has a unique ***primary key*** – the column(s) that uniquely identify each row.
- No two rows can have the same primary key value.
- The primary key defines the principal feature of each row.
- Often it's an integer identifier
- **PlaylistTrack** table is different. It uses a *composite* primary key (made of two columns) and it lacks an integer identifier.

- In this class, we will **underline** primary keys in the diagrams.



Unique keys

- Unique keys are like additional (secondary) primary keys.
- No two rows can have the same value for a unique key.
- For example, we may wish to require that all Albums have both a unique AlbumId and a unique UPC (bar code):



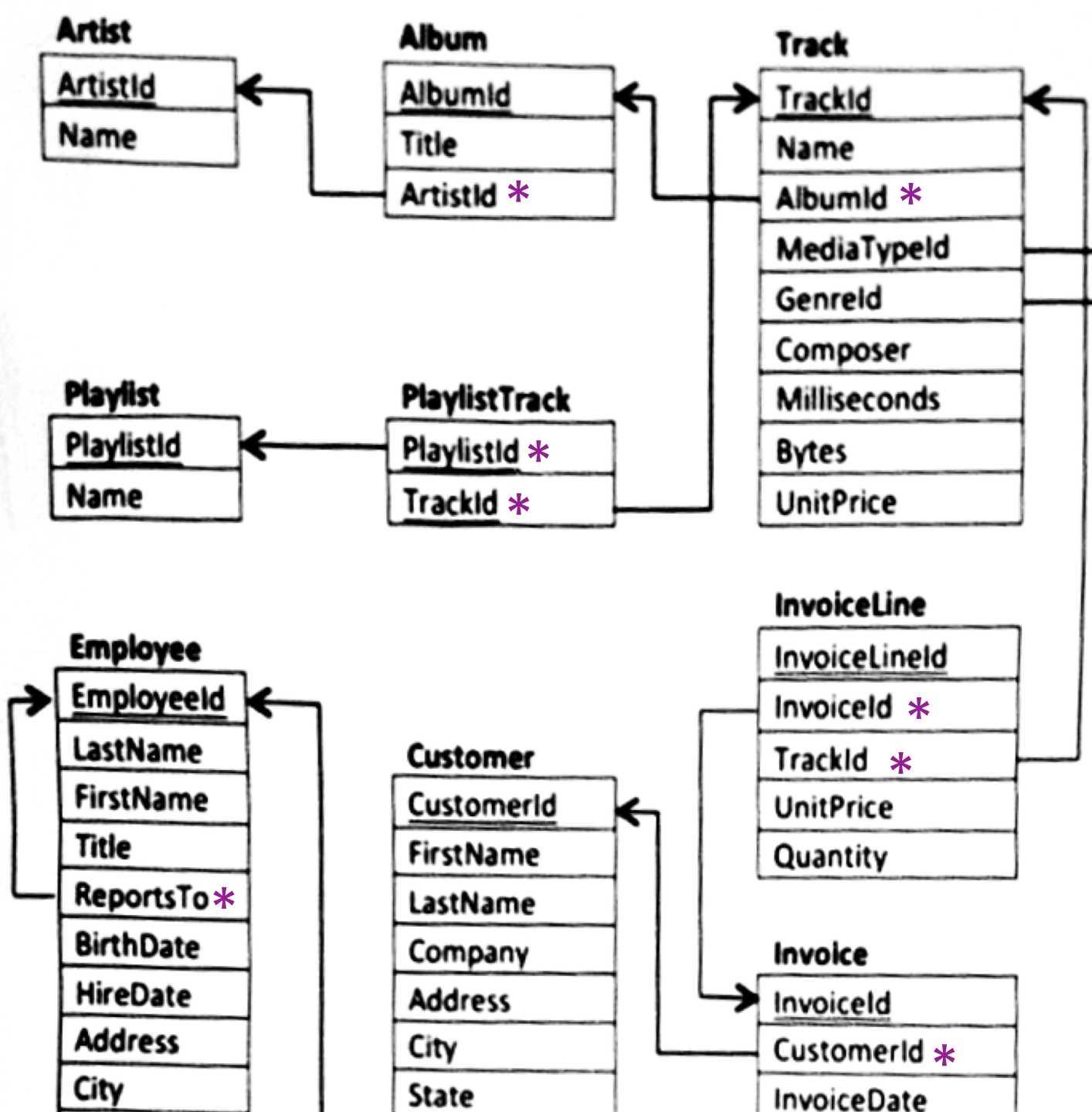
- When inserting data into this table, the new row must have both a unique AlbumId and a unique UPC.

- We write **UNIQ** next to columns with unique keys in the diagrams

Foreign Keys

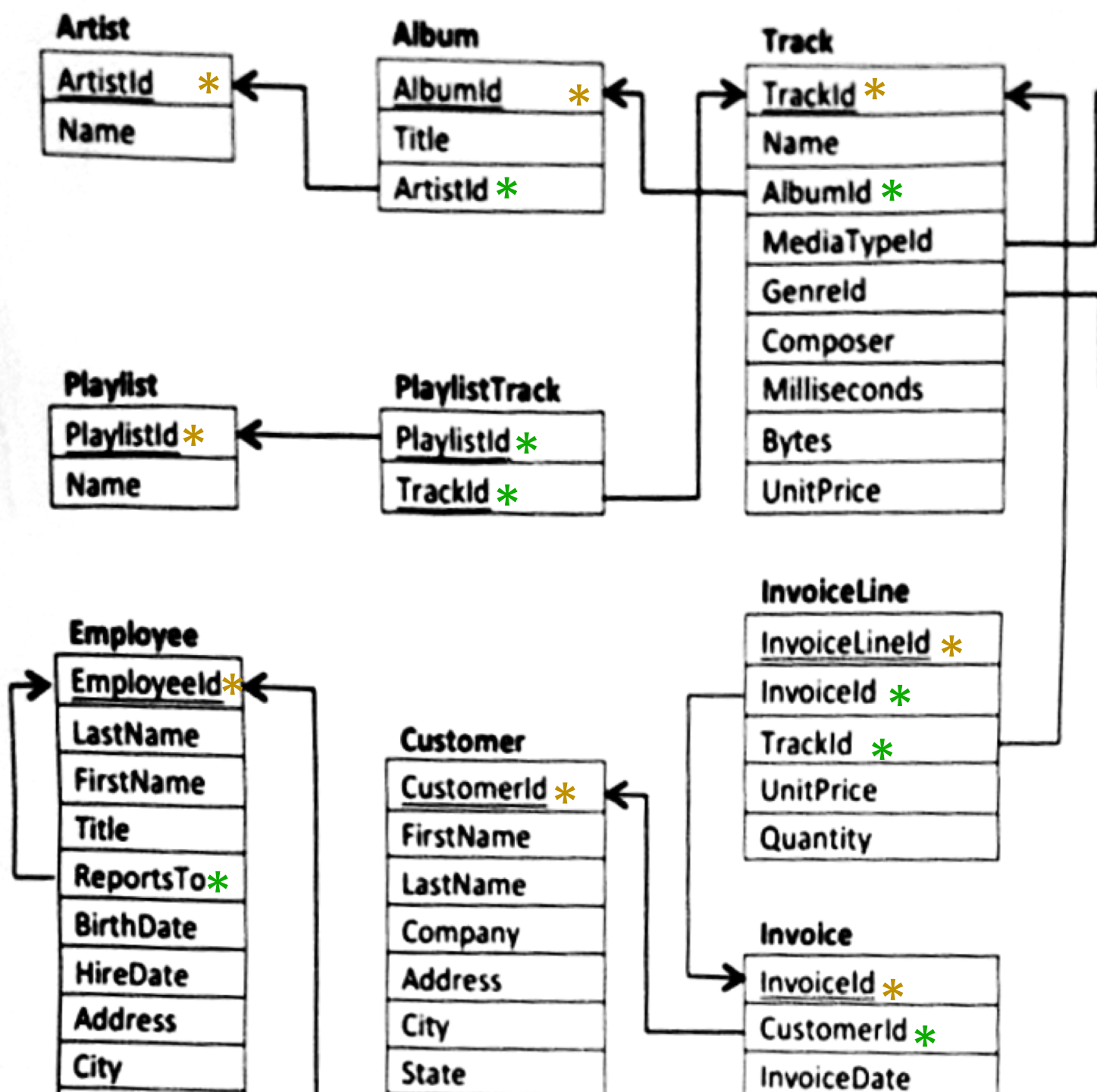
- Tables may be linked by *foreign keys* – columns that refer to keys in other tables.
- Usually these are integers ids, and should refer to a primary/unique key
- **PlaylistTrack** table is made entirely of foreign keys, so we call it a *linking table*.

- **Arrows** in these diagrams go from a foreign key to the column(s) they reference.



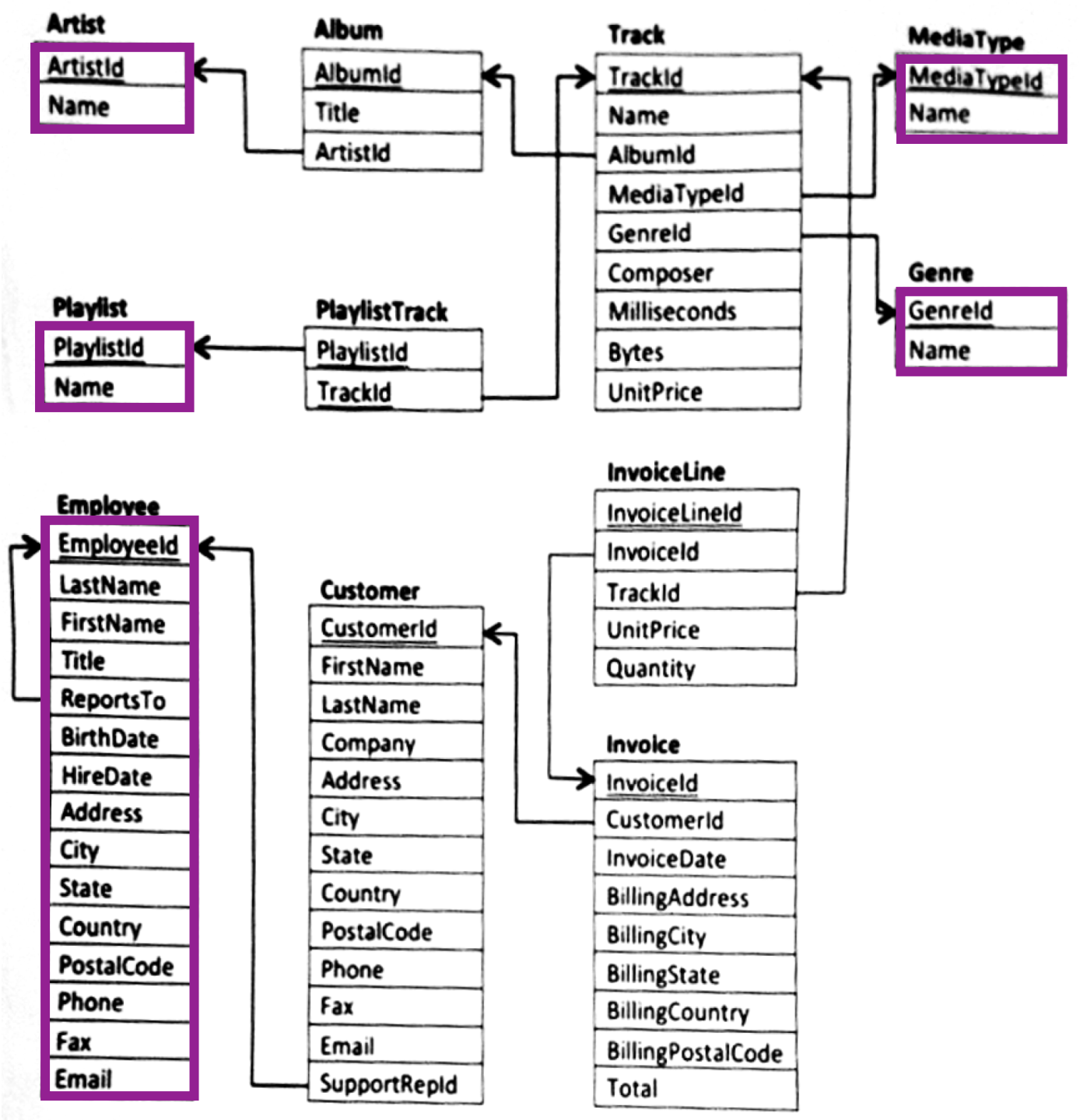
Parent and Child tables

- Foreign keys define a parent and child table.
  - Child points back to parent
  - Parent row must be created before child row
- A table can simultaneously be both a parent and child.
  - Album is a child to Artist, but a parent to Track.



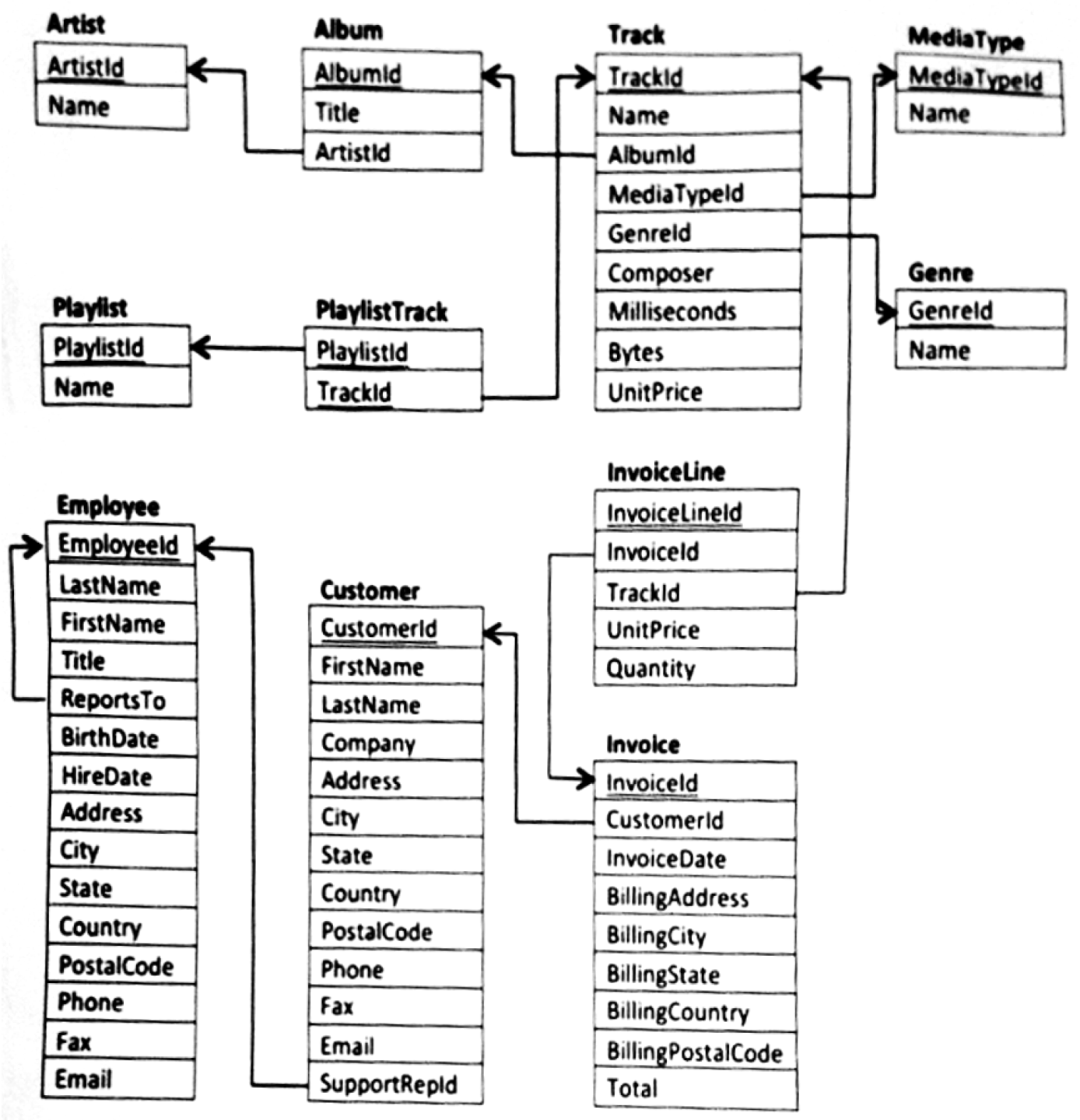
Highest-level parent tables

- In this example, you must create rows in these five tables before creating rows in the other tables.
- Just follow the arrows outward to determine all the rows that are necessary to fill a table.
- A Track requires MediaType, Genre, Album, and Artist.



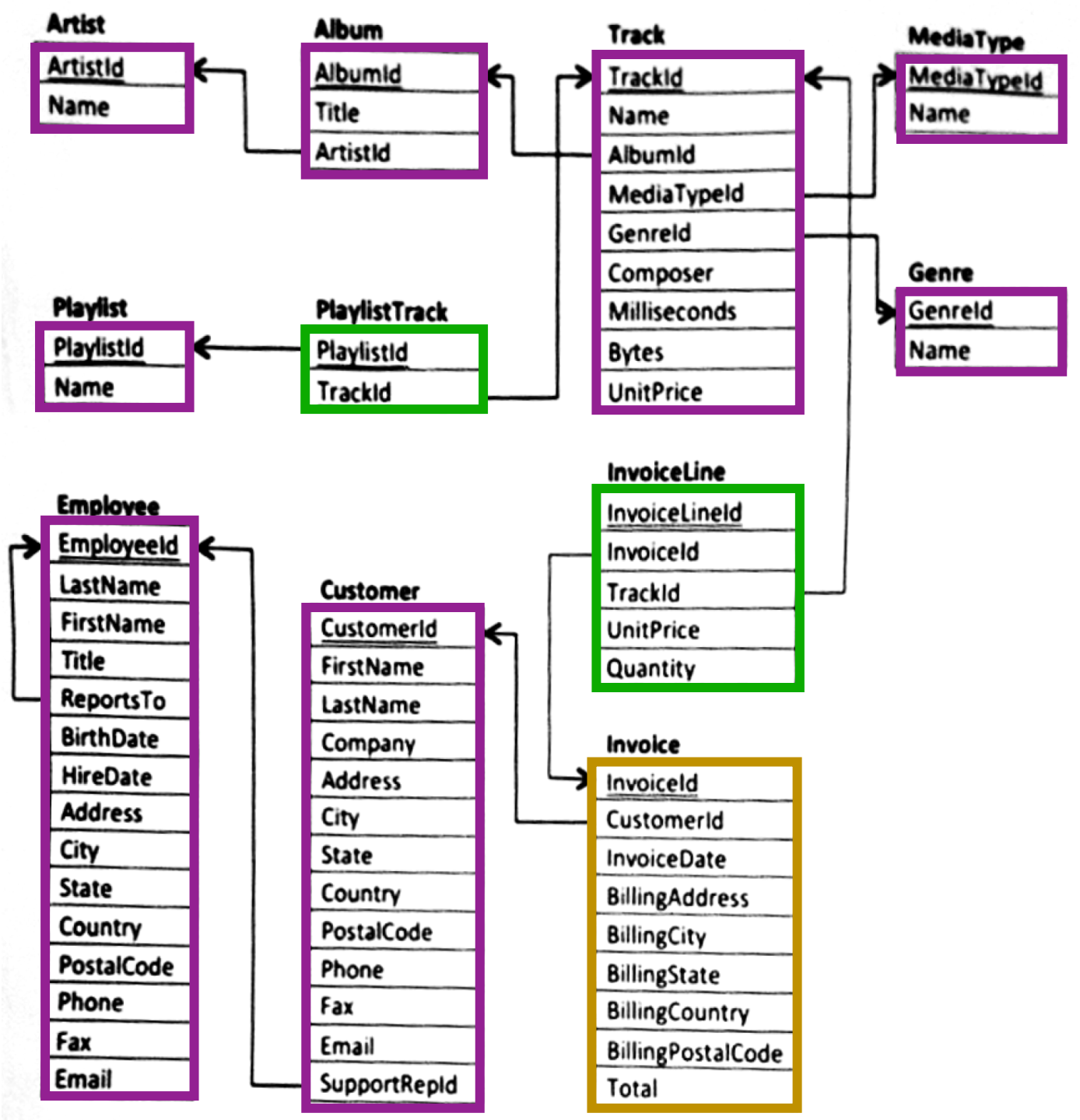
Policies for deleting Foreign Keys

- Theoretically, you cannot delete a row from a parent table if a child table refers to it.
- For example, we cannot delete an artist if we still have one of her albums defined.
  - If the artist were deleted, the album row would have an invalid ArtistId.
- However, in practice, DB software is flexible.
- Three foreign key options for "ON DELETE":
  - **Restrict** (don't allow delete)
  - **Cascade** (delete children)
  - **Set NULL** (make orphan)



Objects, Events, and Relationships

- These are not firm concepts and there are no strict definitions, but:
  - *Relationships* always have at least two foreign keys
  - *Events* always have a time and can repeat with a different id and time.

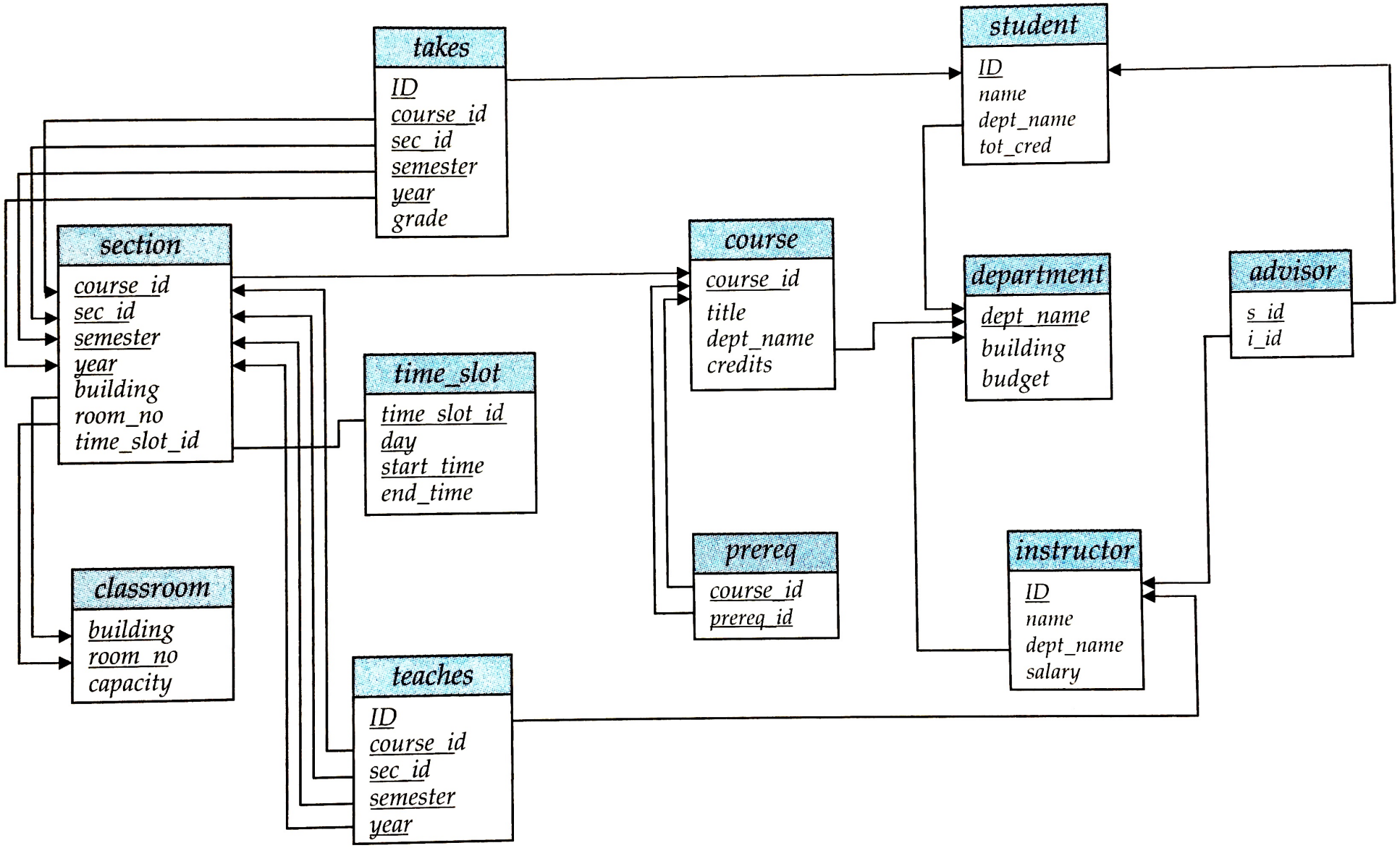


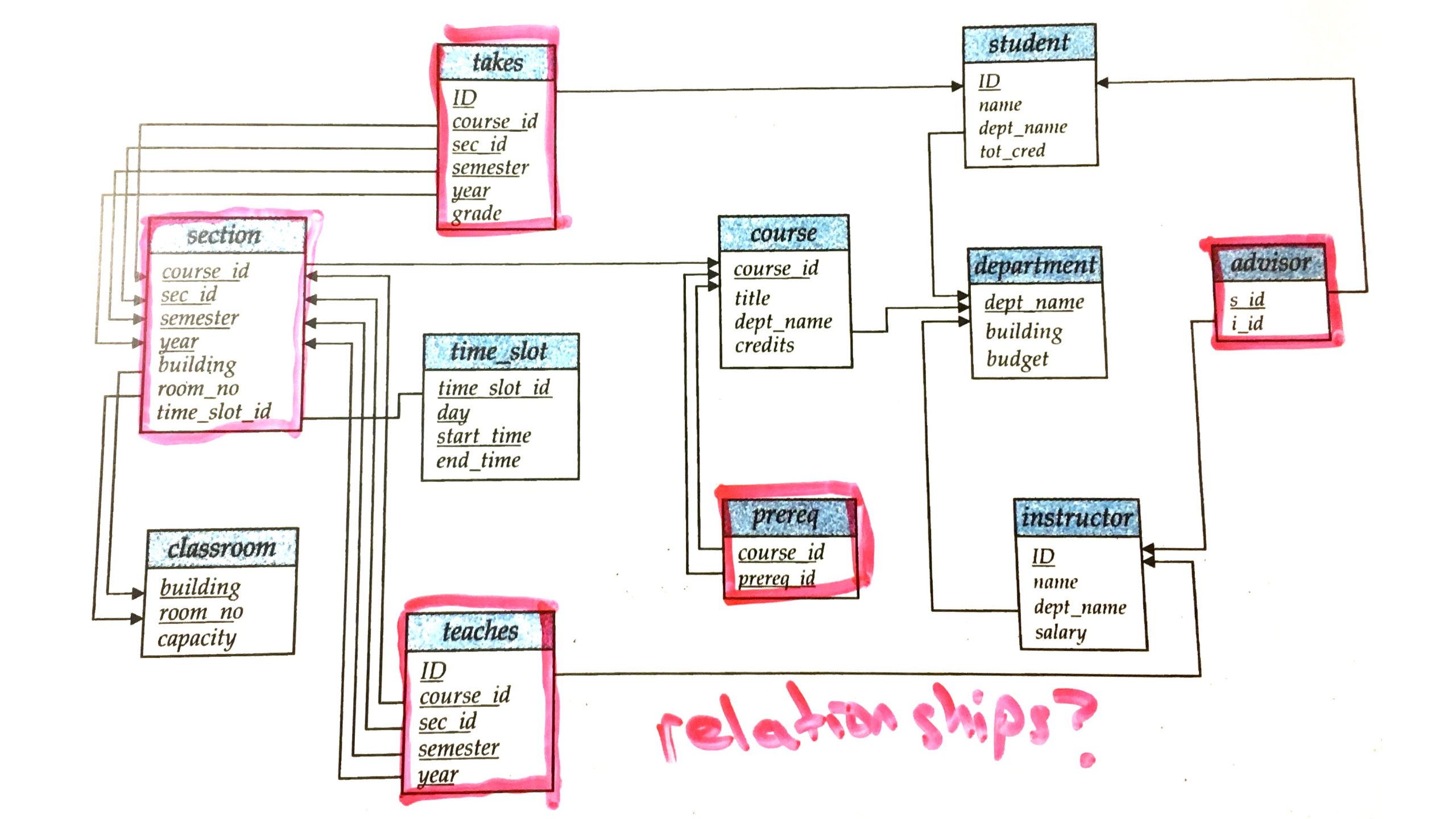
Another university database

Find:

- Relationships
- Composite Primary Keys

- Change the design to allow multiple majors per student.

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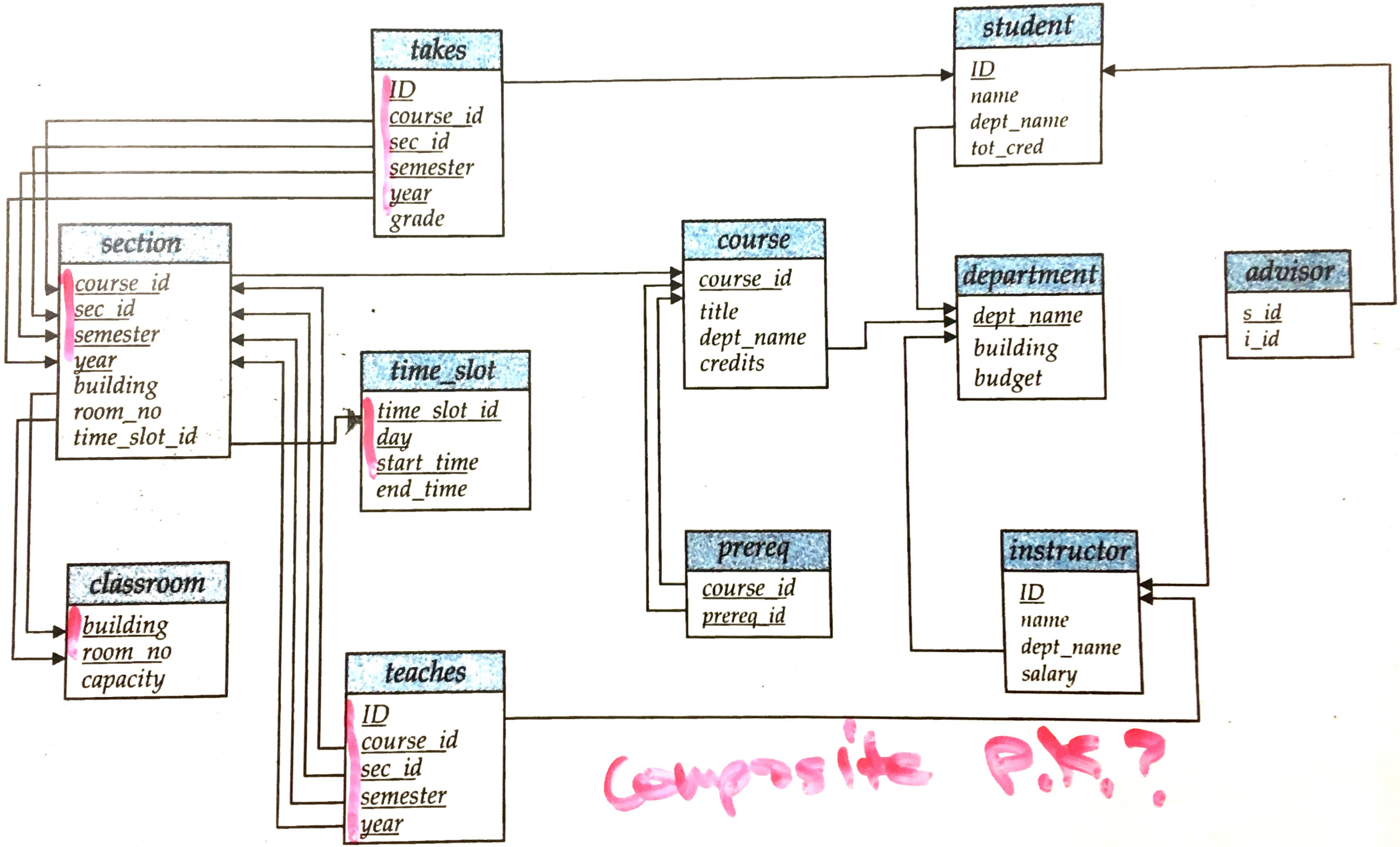
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Composite P.K.?

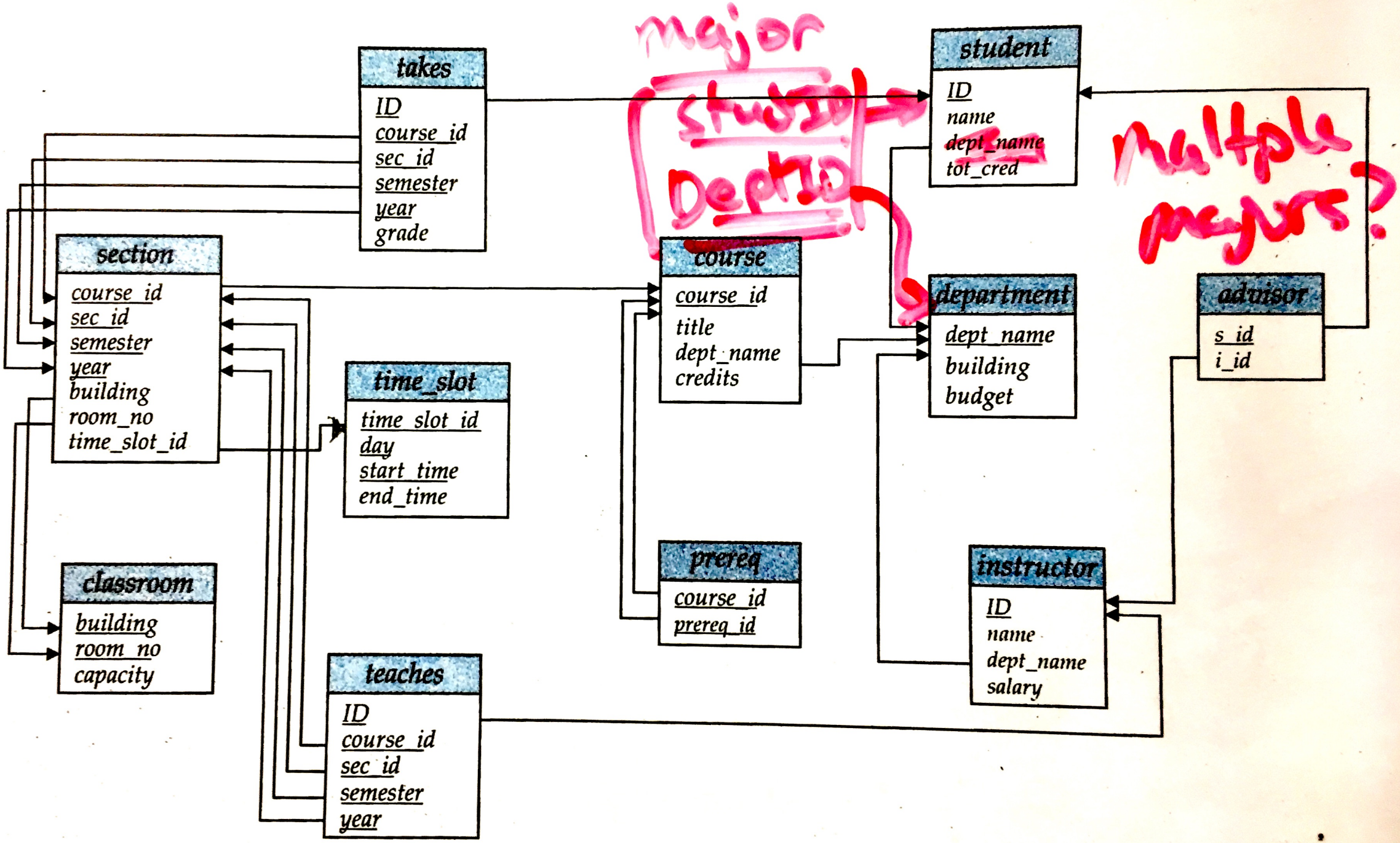
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Table relationships in depth

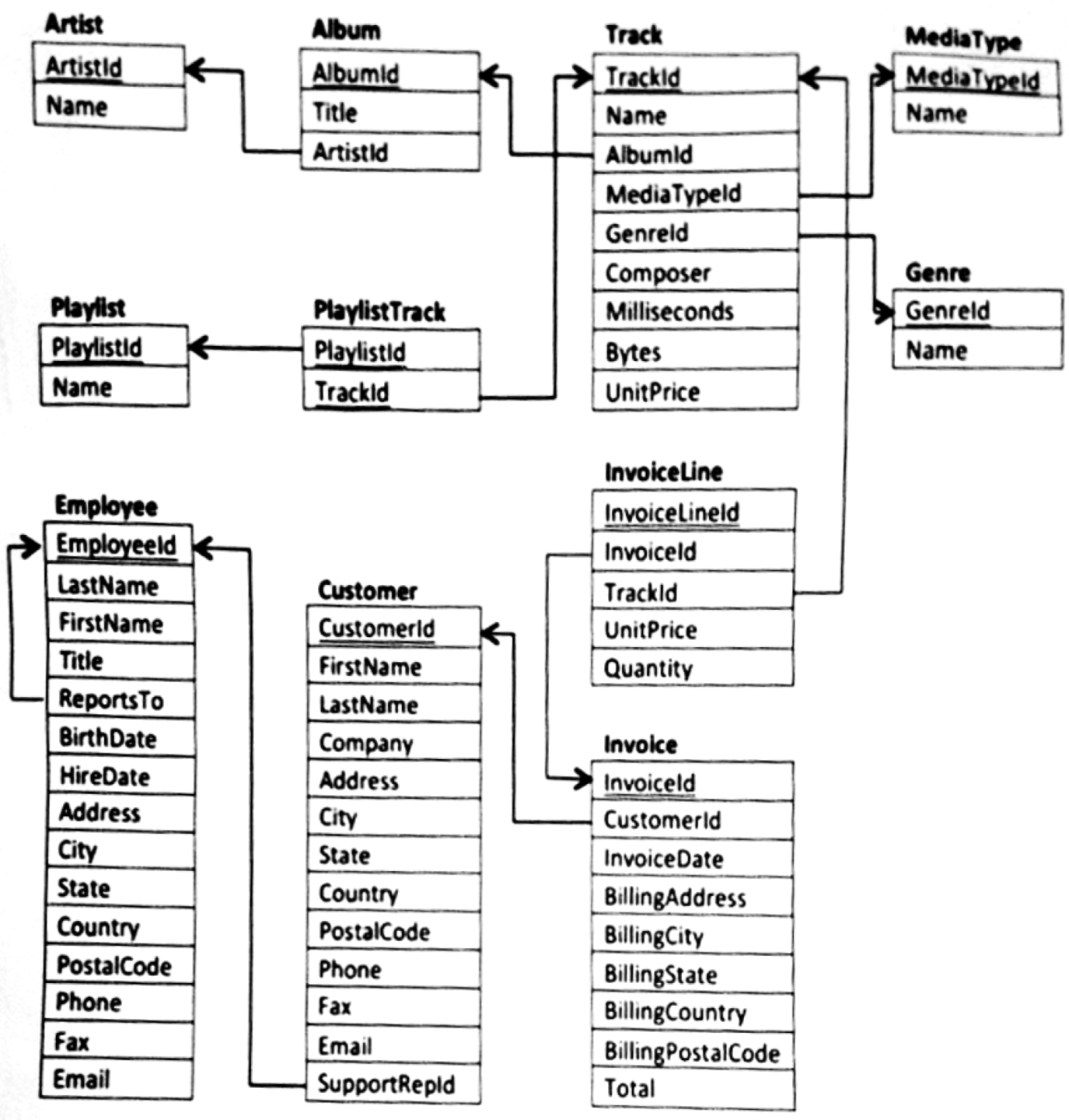
Foreign keys can relate table rows in three ways:

- One to One
- One to Many
- Many to Many

One to Many

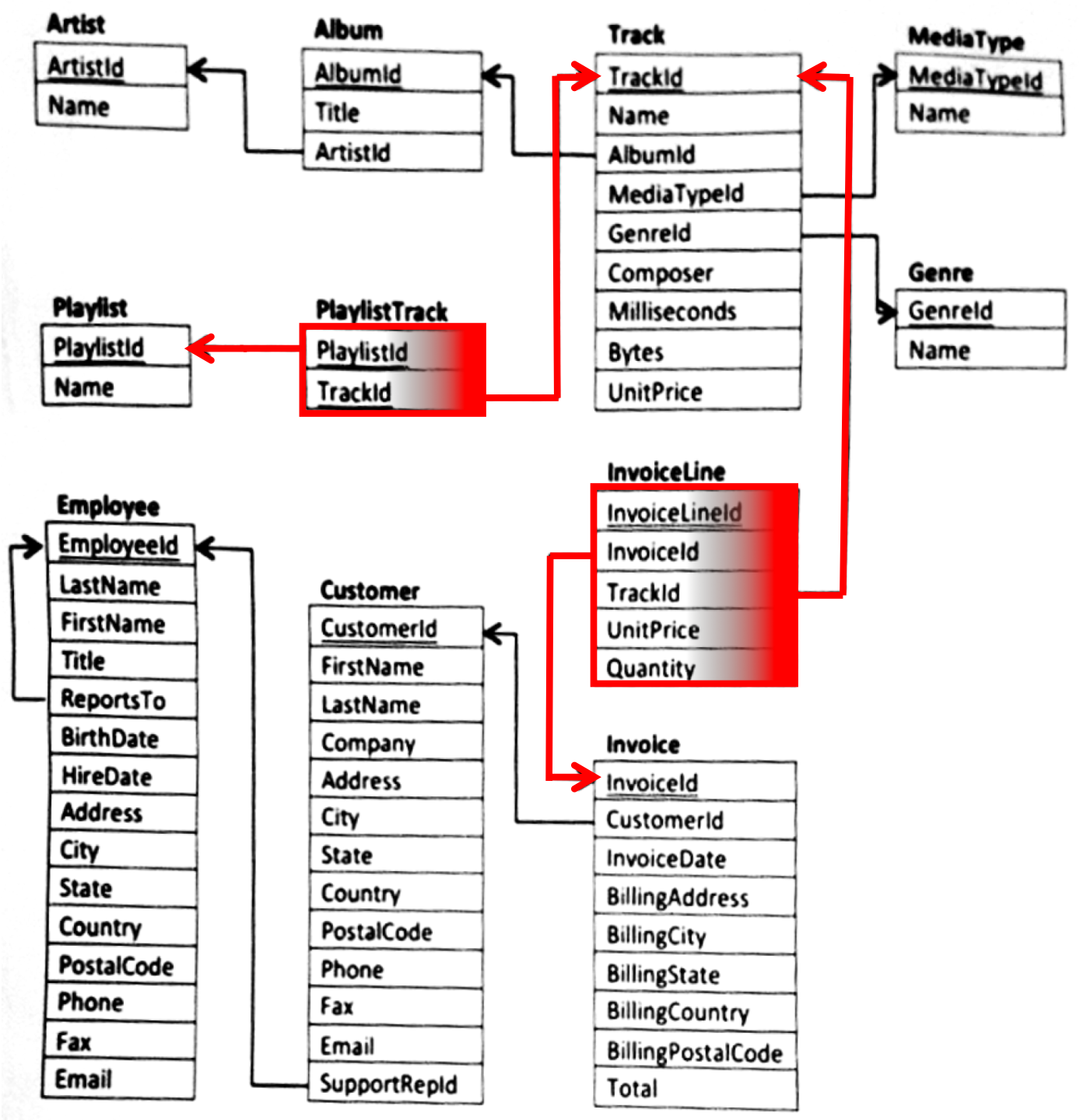
(or equivalently "many to one")

- Most foreign keys create one-to-many relationships
- Created when a column that is **not a primary key** has a foreign key.
- All of the arrows in this diagram represent one-to-many relationships.
  - Many of the rows in the child table can be related one row in the parent table.



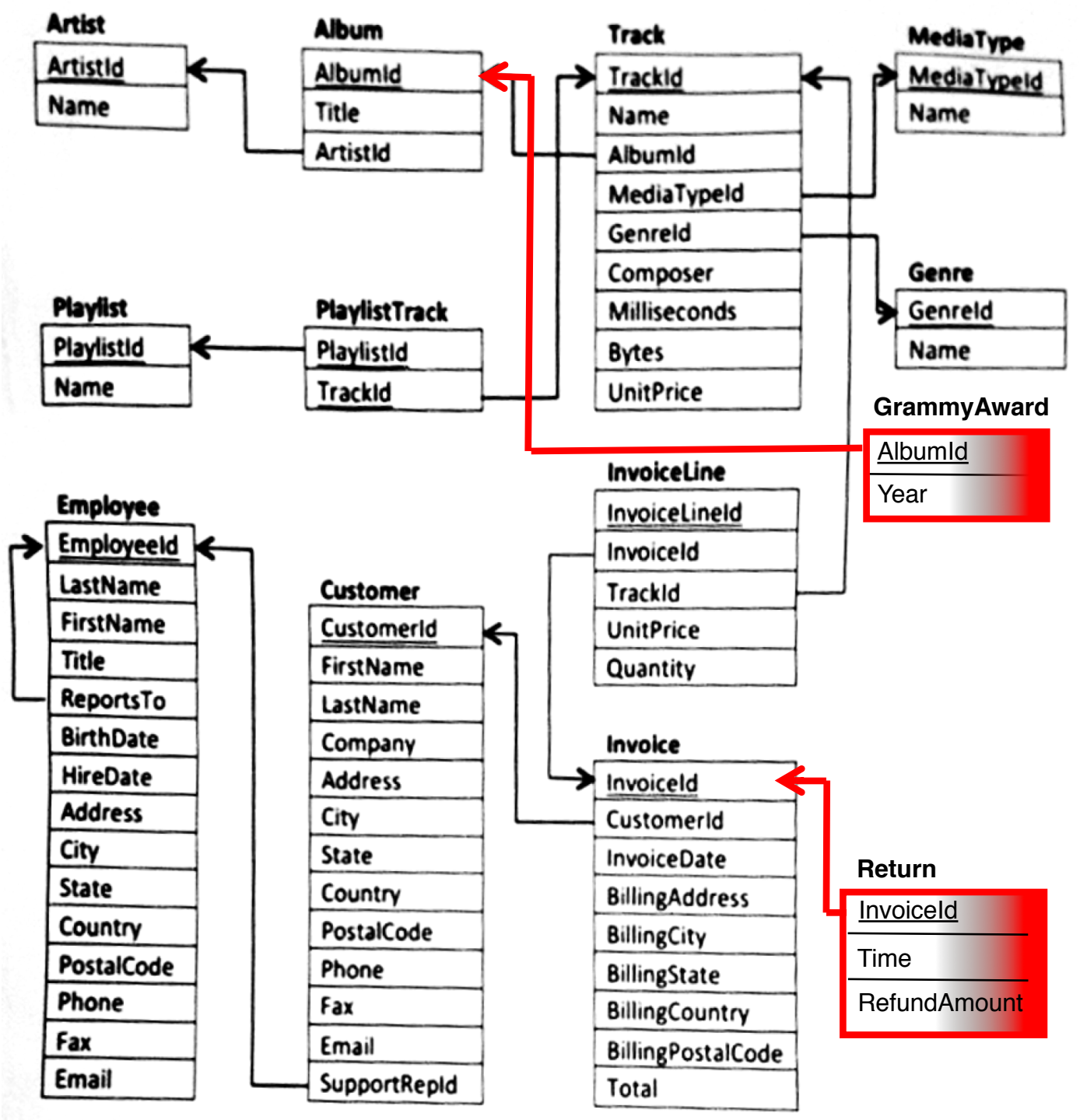
Many to Many

- Two one-to-many relationships starting at the same table can create a many-to-many relationship
- These are represented with ***linking tables.***
- But, some tables can be classified in multiple ways:
  - We think of **Track** as either an *object* or as a *many-to-many* relationship between albums and genres.



One to One

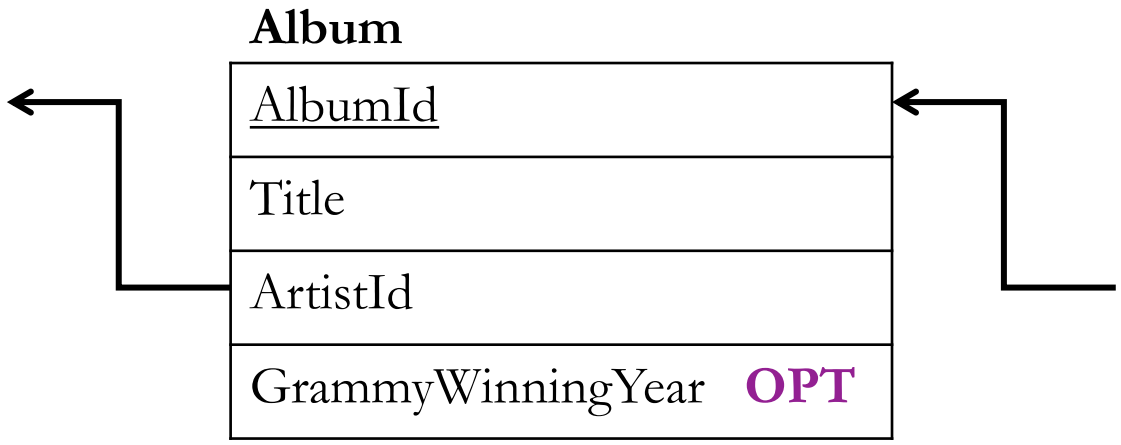
- One-to-one relationships exists when a primary (or unique) key is also a foreign key.
- In other words, there is an arrow pointing from one primary/unique key to another.
  - The fact that it's a unique key prevents it appearing multiple times (thus, not one-to-many).
- The child is a ***subset table***.
- Subset tables are an alternative to having optional columns in the parent table.



Optional columns

- Strictly speaking, optional columns are not necessary
  - Just move the column to a new *subset table*
- But in practice, optional columns are common
  - Absent values have **NULL** value.
  - When defining the database tables you specify whether NULL is allowed.

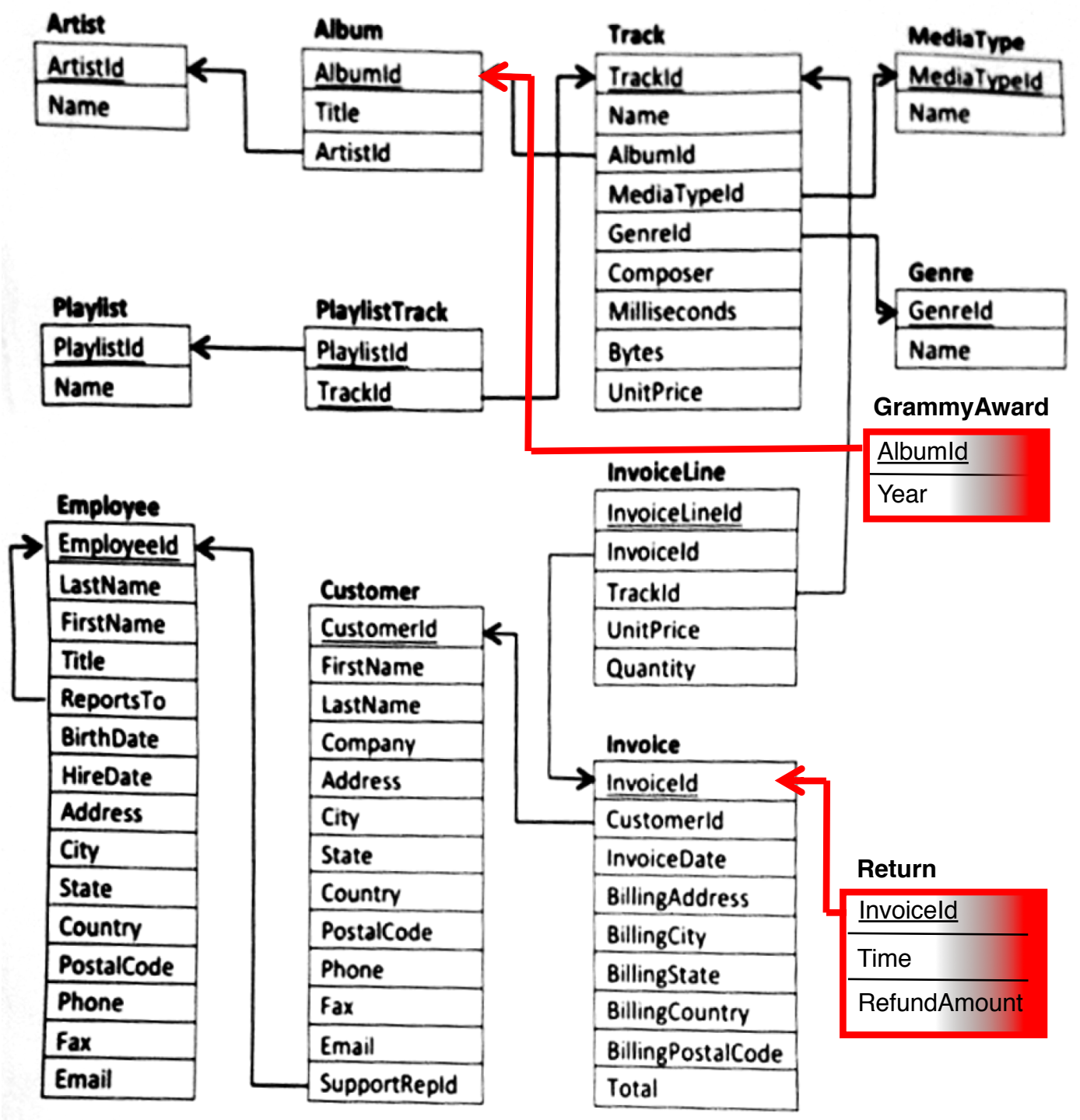
- We write **OPT** next to optional columns in the diagrams



- This is a good alternative design to the Grammy Award table on the previous slide.

Subset tables vs optional columns

- *Grammy Award* subset table supplies just one optional value, so it can be replaced by an optional column in Album.
- However, the *Return* table provides several related columns of optional information that must be provided "all or none."
  - If there is a return *Time*, then we must have a *RefundAmount*
- Thus, returns cannot be well modeled with optional columns in the Invoice table.



Data Modeling summary

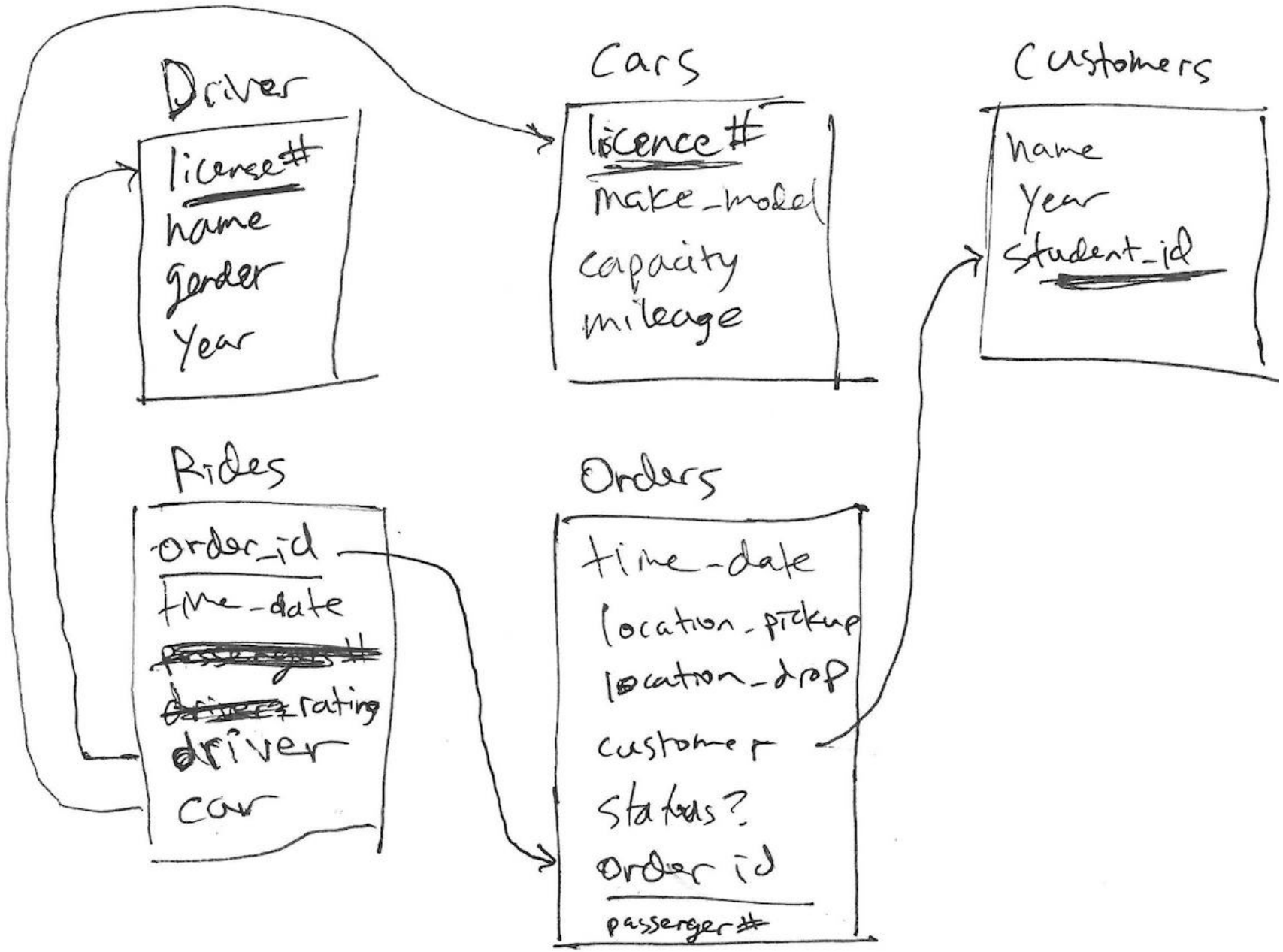
- ***Primary*** and ***unique keys*** prevent rows from repeating certain columns.
- ***Foreign keys*** link tables and point to primary/unique keys.
  - Create ***parent/child*** table relationships. Must fill in parent before child.
  - Parent rows cannot be deleted unless default foreign key behavior is changed.
    - Must kill children first!
- Tables can represent ***Objects***, ***Events*** (have time), and ***Relationships***:
  - ***One to many*** relationships allow multiple child rows referencing one parent row
    - Implemented with a single foreign key.
  - ***Many to many*** relationships link two or more rows
    - Implemented with a linking table
  - ***One to one*** relationships create subset tables
    - Implemented with a single foreign key that is also a unique key.

Database Schema Design steps

1. **List tables**
   - (Objects, events, relationships)
2. Choose **primary key** for each table
3. Choose **foreign keys** to link tables
4. Add uniq keys and/or optional columns
5. Refine the design, revisiting decisions made above

Data modeling examples

Safe Ride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Movie theater Chain