

Data Modeling

Elements of Data Integration (CS 333E)

Feb 27, 2026

What is an entity?

In a DB, every table is called an entity.

Most entities represent real-world things. Examples:



Places



Movies



Products

They represent distinct, identifiable concepts in the world.

Each entity is represented with a schema.

Each entity has a unique identifier called a Primary Key (abbreviated to PK).

Entities do not contain other entities.

Entities link to other entities. These links are called relationships.

There are three relationship types: one-to-one, one-many, and many-to-many.

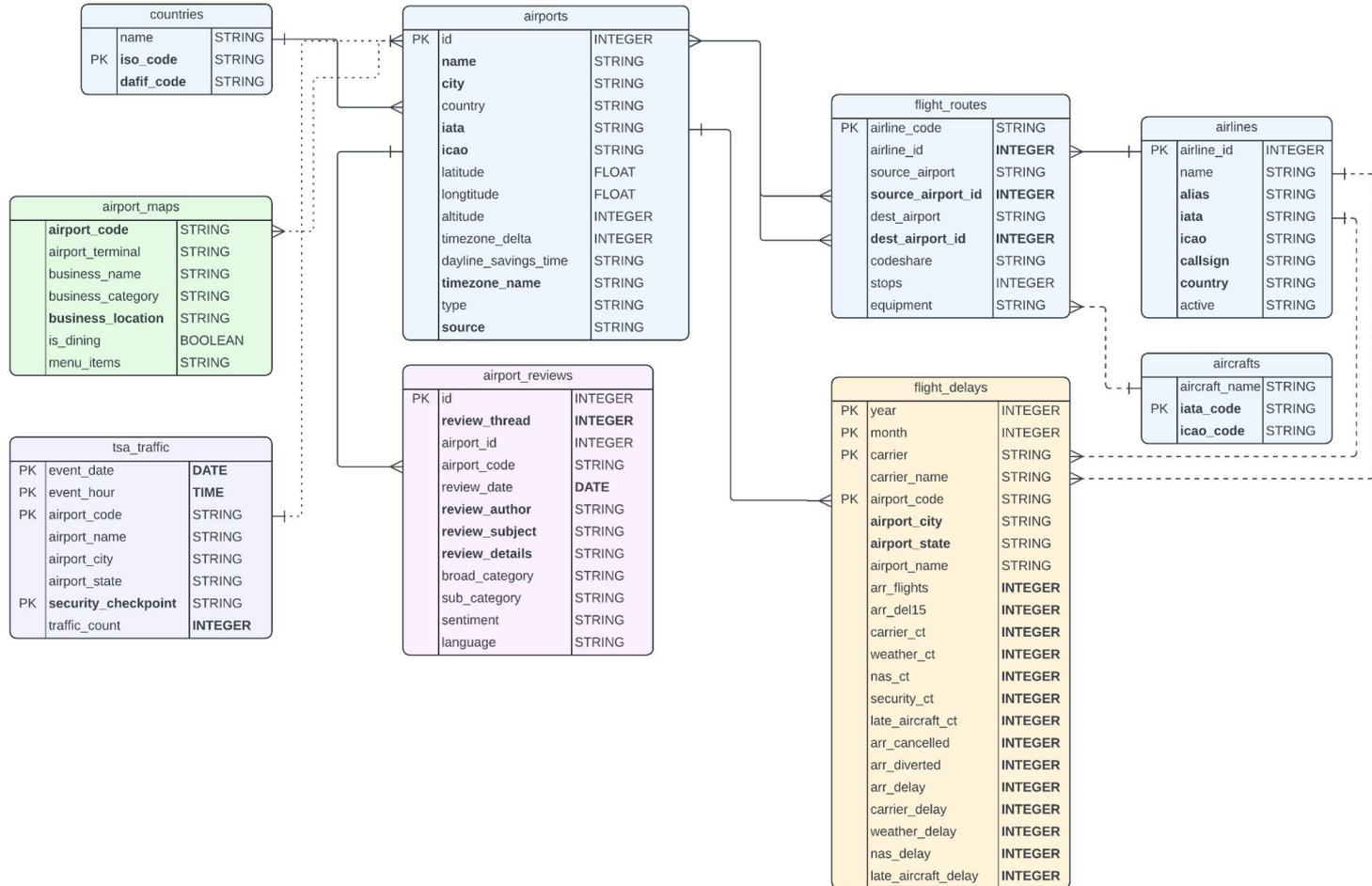
One-to-one and one-to-many relationships are represented with Foreign Keys (abbreviated to FK).

Many-to-many relationships are represented as their own tables called Junction Tables.

What is a core entity?

- Important entities in the database
- They have valuable features
- They are referenced by other entities in the databases
- They may be represented as a table, multiple tables, or even a set of columns within one or more tables in the staging layer
- To identify the core entities in your database, you need some domain knowledge and a sense of how users will want to query your database.

Air Travel Data Model - Staging Layer as of Project 5



Transformation process: Start with current entities

Original Entities (Staging)

- Country
- Airport
- Flight Route
- Airline
- Aircraft
- Airport Maps
- TSA Traffic
- Airport Reviews
- Flight Delays

Transformation process: Promote core entities

Original entities (staging)	Core entities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Country● Airport● Flight Route● Airline● Aircraft● Airport Maps● TSA Traffic● Airport Reviews● Flight Delays	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Country● Airport● Airline● Aircraft	

Transformation process: Identify new entities

<p>Original entities (staging)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Country● Airport● Flight Route● Airline● Aircraft● Airport Maps● TSA Traffic● Airport Reviews● Flight Delays	<p>Core entities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Country● Airport● Airline● Aircraft <p>New entities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Airport Business● Airport Terminal ?	
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Transformation process: Add remaining entities

Original entities (staging)	Core entities	Final entity list
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Country● Airport● Flight Route● Airline● Aircraft● Airport Maps● TSA Traffic● Airport Reviews● Flight Delays	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Country● Airport● Airline● Aircraft <p data-bbox="718 663 927 698">New entities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Airport Business● Airport Terminal ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Country● Airport● Flight Route● Airline● Aircraft● Airport Maps● Airport Business● TSA Traffic● Airport Reviews● Flight Delays

Air Travel Data Model - Normalized Layer as of Project 6

