

Database Keys

Keys are very important part of Relational database. They are used to establish and identify relation between tables. They also ensure that each record within a table can be uniquely identified by combination of one or more fields within a table.

Super Key

Super Key is defined as a set of attributes within a table that uniquely identifies each record within a table. Super Key is a superset of Candidate key.


Candidate Key

Candidate keys are defined as the set of fields from which primary key can be selected. It is an attribute or set of attribute that can act as a primary key for a table to uniquely identify each record in that table.

Primary Key

Primary key is a candidate key that is most appropriate to become main key of the table. It is a key that uniquely identify each record in a table.

Primary Key



| s_id | S_name | age | course | address |
|------|--------|-----|--------|---------|
| | | | | |

Composite Key

Key that consist of two or more attributes that uniquely identify an entity occurrence is called **Composite key**. But any attribute that makes up the **Composite key** is not a simple key in its own.

Composite Key



Secondary or Alternative key

The candidate key which are not selected for primary key are known as secondary keys or alternative keys

Non-key Attribute

Non-key attributes are attributes other than **candidate key** attributes in a table.

Non-prime Attribute

Non-prime Attributes are attributes other than **Primary attribute**.