

We previously introduced the role of the server: to provide persistence, a means for communicating between users and a secure environment (controlled by you) for operations that could/should not be performed by the untrusted client. Today we will focus of the first of those roles – persistence, that is saving data for future use. Although in doing so we will also touch on data integrity and related issues.

Why a database?

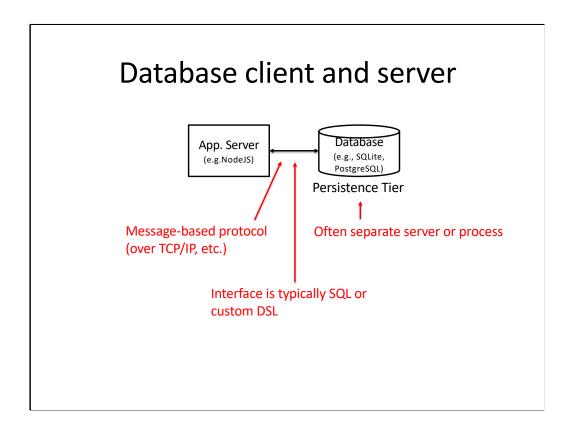
What are the limitations of the memory-backed server (or what missing features do we want)?

```
// pages/api/articles/[id].js
nc.get((request, response) => {
  response.status(200).json((articles.get(req.query.id));
});
```

- Efficient random access when total dataset is too large to fit in memory
- Fast and complex queries (not fast or complex)
- Model relationships within the data
- Transactions and other forms of fault tolerance
- Security (and management tools)

Our memory backed server worked (and was nice and simple) but had a major limitation, all modifications were lost when we reloaded the server. That is obviously not something we can tolerate in a real application. But the in-memory approach also has many other limitations that make it a poor choice for any real application.

What are those limitations, or perhaps from a more optimistic perspective, what are benefits of using a real database system as the persistence tier for our application (other than that when restart out server/the database the data is still there!) [clickl]



In the typical setup the database is its own process, and often running on a separate machine(s), and our application server (i.e., running on Node) communicates with the database server via TCP/IP or some other message-based protocol. That interaction occurs via SQL (a standardized language for querying relation databases) or a custom domain-specific language.

Although I should note that one of the databases we will use, SQLite, is not a server. It is a library that runs inside the "client" process, accessing a database stored entirely within a single file. As an aside, SQLite is one of the most widely-used pieces of SW ever written. It is embedded in basically everything, e.g., web browsers, iOS, etc.,.

SQL vs. NoSQL Really: Relational vs. Non-Relational

	Relational (RDBMS)	Non-Relational	
Data	Table-oriented	Document-oriented, key- value, graph-based, column- oriented,	
Schema	Fixed schema	Dynamic schema	
Joins	Used extensively	Used infrequently	
Interface	SQL	Custom query language	
Transactions	ACID	CAP	
	SELECT * FROM people WHERE age > 25;	<pre>db.people.find({ age: { \$gt: 25 } })</pre>	

I just mentioned the term "relational database". That is a term for a particular class of database management tools, it also sometimes referred to via "SQL", which is really the name of the query language used by relational DBs. The alternative is often called "NoSQL", or more appropriately "non-relational" databases. An example of the latter would be Google's Firebase.

One of the decisions we will need to make in our project is what kind of database to use. Like many decisions we encounter in class there is no right answer – although the entire Internet will have an opinion – just tradeoffs. From my perspective, NoSQL is more flexible, and perhaps easier to get started, but the flexibility begets challenges in managing your data. In contrast, relational databases have a slightly steeper learning curve but force us to organize our data in helpful ways. A relevant analogy might be a statically-typed languages like Java (relational) vs. dynamic languages like Python (non-relational). The latter is quick to get going but is susceptible to type errors that are not possible in Java...

Before we can pick a database, however, we need to figure out how the data in our application is structured (i.e., determine the data model as discussed previously) and only then can we pick a database that make sense for our application. Again, from my perspective, a well-designed data model is more important than the choice of database system.

Glossary:

SQL: Structured Query Language

ACID: ACID (Atomicity, Consistency, Isolation, Durability) is a set of properties of database transactions intended to guarantee validity even in the event of errors, power failures, etc.

CAP: Two of consistency (most recent data), availability, and partition tolerance.

Recall:	riim Exp	olorer CRC o	cards
User		Film	
Responsibility	Collaborator	Responsibility	Collaborator
Knows user's name		Knows its title	
		Knows its plot overview	
Knows movies I rated	Rating		
		Know which genres it is	Genre
Rating		"many-to-many"	"one-to-mar
Responsibility	Collaborator		
Knows rating		Genre	
Knows its owner	User	Responsibility	Collaborator
Knows its film	Film	Knows its descriptor	

Recall CRC cards are like user stories, but for classes. Each index card contains:

- On top of the card, the class name
- On the left, the responsibilities of the class, i.e., what this class "knows" and "does". For example, a "car" class may know how many seats and doors it has and could "do" things like stop and go.
- On the right, the collaborators (other classes) with which this class interacts to fulfill its responsibilities

The CRC cards help guide the design of our models and database schema. The "knows" are going to become the fields that we store in our database for each model and the knows/collaborators define the relationships or associations between those models. Recall that:

- A film has a one-to-many relationship with genres (i.e., film "has many" genres)
- There is a many-to-many relationship between Users and Films via the ratings, i.e.,, a film has been rated by many users, and a user has rated many films. This type of relationship is often called a "has many-through" association.

These terms are semi-formal (note different tools use slightly different names, but the concepts are the same), that is they map directly to the design of the database schema. We are effectively designing database tables as we work out these relations. That said, I encourage you to approach the data modeling from this "direction", that is

start by modeling the nouns in your application (and their relationships) then choose and design your database instead of starting with the database design then developing the data model.

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Thinking in relations/associations

- "HasOne" / "BelongsToOne"
 One-to-one relationship, e.g., Supplier and Account
- "HasMany" / "BelongsToOne"
 One-to-many relationship, e.g., Film and Genre
- "ManyToMany"
 Many-to-many relationship (often called "has many through"), e.g., User and Film through Rating

The relations/associations you will typically encounter are listed here (again a quick reminder that different tools will use slightly different terminology, but the concepts are the same). We can think of these associations as design patterns that will enable us to utilized libraries/frameworks for the "parts that are the same every time", i.e., automatic validations, optimized queries and more.

A note: the "through" modifier can be applied to one-to-many relationships as well and typically implies that the you might want to work with the "through" noun independently of the two sides of the relationship. We still would want to identify the relationship as one-to-many to take advantage of built-in validations.

You are developing an application for a veterinarian's office. How would you model the relation between Customer and Animal?

- A. One-to-one, e.g., "HasOne"
- B. One-to-many, e.g., "HasMany"
- C. Many-to-many, e.g., "HasManyThrough"

Answer: B

A customer can have many animals (pets), but each animal is presumably owned by a single customer. Although we could imagine situations though where C might be needed... What would such an example be? Multiple customers were the owners/responsible parties for a pet.

We could imagine there is data associated with the specific Customer-Animal relation (e.g., insurance), however that each association may be its own entity doesn't itself change that it is a one-to-many relation.

True or False? Two models can only have one relation.

- A. True
- B. False

Answer: False

Consider an application where a user can make and like comments. A user has many comments via posting (a "has-many" relation), and user also has many comments via liking (a "many-to-many" or "has-many-through" relation).

Interlude: RESTful URLs for associations

What association is implied by this URL (from Canvas)?

/courses/11868/assignments/203689

A Course "has many" Assignments

Route		Controller Action
GET	/courses/:course_id/assignments	Retrieve all assignments in associated course
POST	/courses/:course_id/assignments	Create new assignment in associated course

[click] The associations can be directly translated to URLs. That is a "has many" relationship is typically expressed through nested URLs, and thus we infer "has many" relationship. In this context we might describe assignments as a subordinate resource of a course. For viewing a single assignment this may not seem very compelling, as we could also retrieve the assignment (presumably) with just that id, e.g., //assignments/203689. Where it might be more relevant is for POST, etc.

[click] Here the URL embeds the associated resource, i.e., we are creating a new assignment in the course indicated by the URL.

In theory we can go infinitely deep with this nesting, in practice we shouldn't go more than one or two levels, otherwise it gets unwieldy.

RDBMS mental model

Schema (name and type) Film table

ſ	id	title	overview	release_date	poster_path	vote_average	rating
1	int	string	text	string	string	float	int
Ì	1	Star	Princes	1977-05-25	/tvSLB	7.7	3
	2	2001: A	Huma	1968-04-05	/90T7	7.5	4

Primary key: Unique identifier for record (can be 1+ columns)

With our CRC cards we focused on modeling our data independent of how it is stored. We will now implement those models using a relational database. Our mental model is a table (e.g., a spreadsheet table). The attributes/columns are typically the "knows" in your CRC cards, that is the schema is a nearly direct translation of the CRC card. And the rows are specific entries, e.g., specific films.

The Primary Key is a unique identifier for a record (that should be not be reused). Often it is an arbitrary (auto-incrementing) integer, e.g., the "id" in Simplepedia, but does not need to be (and it can even be a composite of multiple columns) so long as it is unique. The schema includes type (storage size) and can further include indexes (think hash tables or trees) to speed up queries and other constraints, like not null.

RDBMS vocabulary

Each table has a schema

key, optional constraints

with types, optional primary

DB instance (e.g., PostgreSQL)

Has 0+

Databases

Has 0+

Tables

Contains 0+

Rows

With 1+

Attributes/Columns

Index

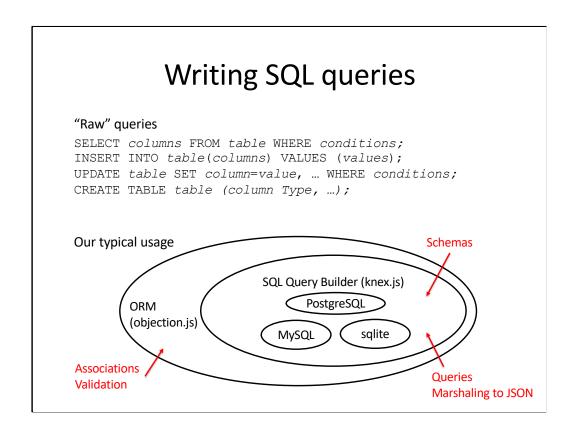
Optimized lookup tables (e.g., tree) for specific

columns

Cursor

Iterator into the result set that can obtain a few documents at a time

[click] Index, Cursor [click] Each table has its own schema



We generally won't write "raw" queries, instead we will use the knex.js query builder to abstract DB-specific differences, handle "safe" parameters substitution, etc.. We will further wrap knex with an ORM library (Object Relational Mapping) that provides a more object-oriented interface to our database (stay tuned).

Managing Schema: Migrations

Customer data is critical! How do you evolve your application without destroying any data?

- Maintain multiple databases (e.g., test, development, production, ...)
- Change schema/data with scripted migrations

Migrations create/delete tables, add/remove/modify columns, modify data, etc.

Advantage of migrations:

- + Track all changes made to DB
- + Manage with VCS
- + Repeatable



Migrations are the answer to how we smartly evolve our database schema at at all stages in our application lifecycle, from creating the initial database schema to safely evolving the database to add features to our production application (which presumably has customer data in it). While we could modify our database manually. We won't. Instead, we define a series of migrations scripts that evolve the schema from an empty database to the desired state.

Each migration has two parts, an "up" function that makes the desired changes, e.g., creating a table, adding column, etc. and the a "down" function that reverts those changes. Performing the up function and then the down function should return the database to its prior state. Each migration is incremental, that is it makes the "next" set of changes to the prior database/schema data. For example, if you add a feature that needs a new column in an existing table, we create a migration that adds that column (and sets an appropriate value for existing entries).

Migrations are a key part of our "overall" DevOps approach.

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Frequent error: Migrations are tracked by date-time

migrations/20190424165216_users_and_articles.js

Date and time for this migration

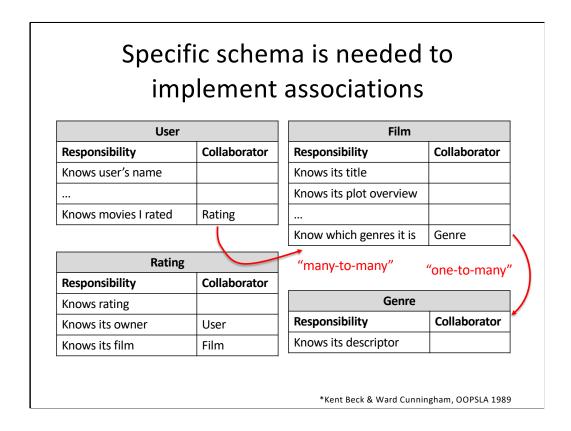
Knex et al. apply migrations in date-time order and track the last migration applied

- Applying migrations multiple times won't have any effect
- Modifying and re-applying a migration won't have any effect

If you modify a migration, rollback then reapply

Why does it work this way? The goal for migrations is to enable to you to evolve a database that is in use and has customer data that you don't want to lose. Thus, we don't want to "double apply" the changes in a migration. And there isn't the expectation that we would go back and modify already implied migrations because that would invalidate the data.

Modifying a migration is common during development, however. If you do so, either delete the database and rebuild from scratch (easy with SQLite – just delete the file - less so with other RDBMSs) or more robustly, rollback the relevant migrations (invoking the "down" operations) then reapply the migrations after the making the edit.



Start here day 2:

These associations have specific schema associated with them. That is the association will determine what columns we need in our database. Specifically ...

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The first approach is what we would implement in a memory backed server (and most NoSQL DBs). All the data for film, including its one or more genres are packed together in a single, albeit variable sized, object. No additional data is required. In contrast, a normalized approach breaks the film into two fixed size parts, the film itself and separate genre entries, which are linked together via foreign keys. We need to include additional columns/attributes - the filmId column - to create the connection between the two tables. The second, normalized, approach is typically used with RDBMS (these are the relations in the name).

We could describe normalization as eliminating repeated information in a table by decomposing repeating entries into separate linked tables. The data is reconstructed via join operations (to come...)

More specifically, "first normal form" enforces these criteria: 1) Eliminate repeating groups in individual tables, 2) Create a separate table for each set of related data, 3) Identify each set of related data with a primary key

Foreign keys enforce the connection between two tables. A foreign key is a constraint not a type. To insert an entry into Genre, there must be a corresponding entry in the Film (it will fail if there is no Film). Ensuring that all foreign key references are valid is termed maintaining "referential integrity" and is one of the benefits of RDBMs.

Associations: "One-to-many" example

```
GET /api/films/11

Desired response

{

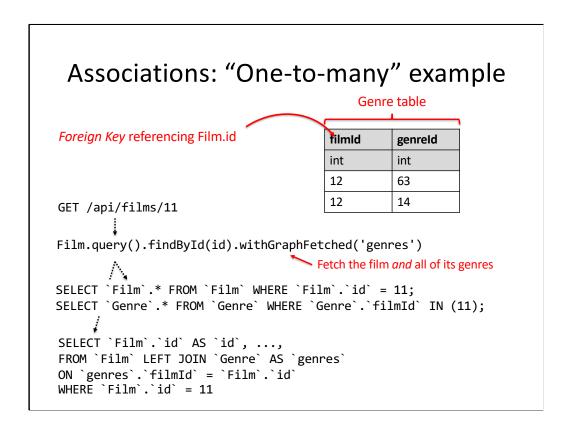
"id":11,

"title":"Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope",

"genres":[{ "filmId": 11, "genreId": 12 } ...]
}

From Genre table
```

When we implement this route to on the film explorer server, we want to obtain all the data for this film, including its genres. But now that data is separate. How do we combine the data from the two tables?



Here we see two approaches to construct the entire object returned by this route:

- 1. The multiple queries approach first gets gets the film, then the associated genres.
- 2. The join approach conceptually builds a table with a row for each combination of movie and genre (with both sets of columns and duplicated movie entries) and then filters that table according to the join conditions and where clause, etc.

The former requires more queries (more latency), but it is simpler to parse into tree of Objects. The latter is one (complex) query but parsing results into objects will be a little more involved.

In practice we will not implement these queries directly. Instead, we will use the (Objection.js) ORM to create the queries for us. Here we are telling Objection to eagerly, as opposed to lazily, fetch and populate the genres. The ORM uses the associations defined in the model class to generate the appropriate query and construct the final object.

```
Implementing "one-to-many" with
                       Objection.js
                           class Film extends Model {
Film
                             static get tableName() { return 'Film'; }
 .query()
 .findById(id)
.withGraphFetched(
                             static get relationMappings() {
  'genres'
                              return {
                               genres: {
                                  relation: Model.HasManyRelation,
                                   modelClass: Genre.
SELECT `Film`.* FROM `Film`
                                                       Relevant
                                    from: 'Film.id',
 WHERE `Film`.`id` = 11;
                                                      columns in DB
                                    to: 'Genre.filmId',
SELECT `Genre`.* FROM `Genre`
 WHERE `Genre`.`filmId` IN (11);
                                  },
                              };
```

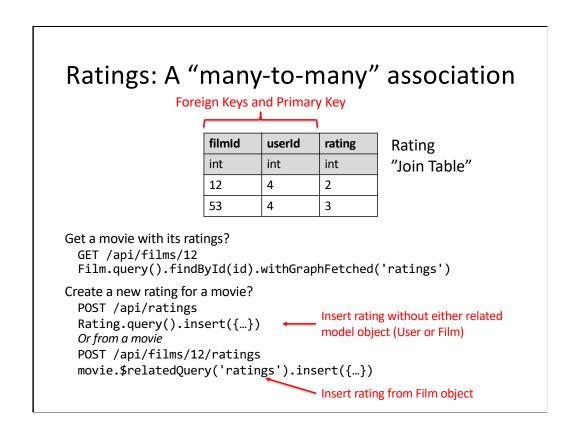
How did Objection.js know to generate that queries from that terse set of calls? We specified the relation in the Model. Here is the relevant portion of Film Model. We specify a one-to-many relation named "genres" (the key in the object return by relationMappings) and the relevant columns in the DB that implement that relation. It is that name (and relation) that we are referencing in withGraphFetched. Using that name, and the corresponding association information in the model, Objection can generate the relevant query.

oins as filtered cartesian prod			duc	
Fi	lm × Genre	cartesian prod	duct	
Film.id		Genre.filmId	Genre.genreId	
1		1	63	
2		1	63	
3		1	63	
1		1	14	
2		1	14	
3		1	14	
1		2	14	
2		2	14	
3		2	14	
Film.id ==	Genre.filmId			

Joins are such a key feature of an RDBMS I want to briefly expand on what is going on behind the scenes. Our mental model for joins is a filtered cartesian product. That is the database system is creating all combinations of entries from the Film table and the Genres table and then only keeping those where the join criteria, in this case that Film.id == Genre.filmId, is true. The actual implementation is more efficient than that though!

Interlude: Refining server responses

Our previous response was the direct output produced by Objection.js as it joined the Film and its genres. In many cases that is exactly what we want. But we notice it contains lots of extraneous data (i.e., repeats of the filmId). We could imagine want to strip that out or otherwise modify the response. One place to do is in the API handler. Keep in mind that is just JavaScript code and so we can execute other operations, like transforming the genres. If we wanted to do this every time with your model, we are best off integrating that transformation into the model itself.



The last assumes we have obtained the movie and the user already in the handler, e.g. via fetchByld.

Where do the foreign keys go?

- One-to-One or "HasOne"/"BelongsToOne"
 Foreign key typically in the "BelongsToOne" side (although could be reversed)
- One-to-Many or "HasMany"/"BelongsToOne"
 Foreign key in "BelongsToOne" side (the "many" side of relation)
- Many-to-Many
 Foreign keys in join model, e.g., Rating in "User and Film through Rating"

These are established designs for these relations, that is once you define the relation we know where the keys need to go. We don't need to figure that out every time. [end]

Why does the foreign key need to go in the "many" side of the relation? Recall we want the records to be fixed size. If went it in the "one" side, we would potentially have multiple entries, i.e., a variable length array of keys.

Which of the following is the best migration (schema) for the Genre table in the Film Explorer? Note that `onDelete('CASCADE')` specifies that rows are deleted from the table if that corresponding row is deleted from the referenced table.

```
table.increments('id');
                               table.integer('filmId');
table.integer('filmId');
                               table.integer('genreId');
table.integer('genreId');
                               table.primary(
                                 ['filmId', 'genreId']);
C.
                               table.integer('filmId')
table.increments('id');
table.integer('filmId')
                                 .references('id')
  .references('id')
                                 .inTable('Film')
                                 .onDelete('CASCADE');
  .inTable('Film');
  .onDelete('CASCADE');
                               table.integer('genreId');
table.integer('genreId');
                               table.primary(
                                 ['filmId', 'genreId']);
```

Answer: D

Answers A & B are missing foreign key constraints and thus will not enforce that a genre entry must be associated with a valid film. When a Film is a deleted, we want to delete all of its genre entries, onDelete('CASCADE') does that. Answer C/3 could work but would require an additional attribute, i.e., require more space than D.

Film model (M in MVC)

Film "resource" starts as a simple object (POJO), later transitions to ORM model

- Express associations between models
- Validate user rating is 0-5
- Provide "virtual" attributes that transform data

```
class Film extends Model {
    static get tableName() }
    return 'Film';
}
...
static get relationMappings() {
    ...
}
ORM is a design pattern for mapping
    database schema to object
```

In the Film Explorer application, the model is a Film. At many points in the application there is no explicit model class, just a plain old JavaScript object (POJO) representing the records in the table. Depending on the application we might not need much more. For example, Simplepedia PA4 just uses POJOs. But often our applications could and do benefits from established design patterns and built-in functionality offered by an ORM library (Object Relational Mapping). ORMs are a design pattern for mapping database schema to an object whose methods/properties correspond to attributes in DB, DB queries, etc.

We already saw use of the ORM model to express and implement associations between models (the eager withGraphFetched), some other features are: Validations: Exactly what they sound like, example of Aspect-oriented programming (i.e., these validations are relevant everywhere the model is created/used. Instead reimplementing that code, we do it once).

Virtual attributes: Convenience "attributes" derived from actual attributes/columns in DB.

Just how different of a database can a given ORM support? Some... Across different RDMSs, e.g., sqlite, MySQL and PostgreSQL. Yes. Relational vs. Non-relational? Typically, no.

Validation (recall aspects & AOP)

Mechanisms for validating model data?

- Schema itself (unique, not null, etc.)
- · Requirements specified in ORM model

```
Film.query().patchAndFetchById(..., { rating: 10 })

Film.fromJson properties: { Model Schema

...
rating: {
    type: ['integer', 'null'],
    minimum: 0,
    maximum: 5
},
}
```

The schema alone, i.e., type, is insufficient to enforce the range. So here we leverage the ORMs additional validation tools. This is an example of where AOP can be useful, as these validations should be and are enforced everywhere a model is created/modified, i.e., we want to implement that cross-cutting concern once, not repeatedly...

Note that any constraint could be implemented in this way (not just range).

"When invalid movie data is sent in a request, then the requester should receive a '400 Bad Request' response". Which of the below, if any, is **NOT** required to implement this scenario in a DRY manner?

- A. Model validations
- B. NextJS/next-connect middleware 🗸
- C. Code in one or more NextJS API handlers
- D. All the above elements are required

Answer: C

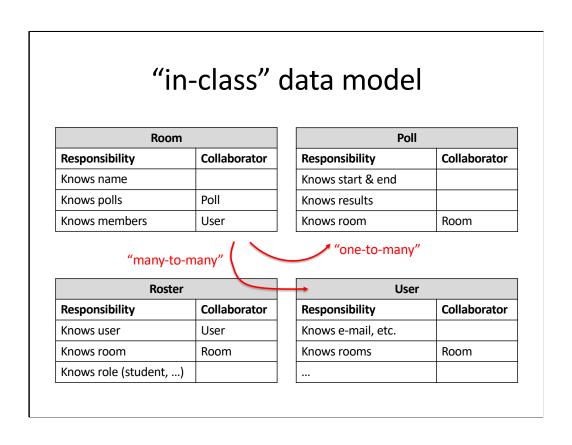
No specific code should be required in the route handlers. A validation error should result in a rejected Promise, that rejected promise could be detected by the NextJS invoke the error handling middleware.

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	n-class" (data mode	
Roo	m	Poll	
Responsibility	Collaborator	Responsibility	Collaborator
Knows name		Knows start & end	
Knows polls	Poll	Knows results	
Knows members	User	Knows room	Room
Roster		oye to many	
E03 (*)	MARIAN TO	Responsibility	Collaborator
many to		Knows e-mail, etc.	
J] ,]	Knows rooms	Room
•	~ <i>J</i>		

When you were looking through the in-class backlog, you likely saw these CRC cards. Let's turn this high-level representation into a design for a relational database. We will start by translating the knows/collaborators into the formal associations.

- What are the relationships between Room and Poll? One-to-many, i.e., a room has many polls, but a poll belongs to a single room.
- What about relationship between Room and User? This is a many-to-relationship,
 as each room has many users and a user could be a member (student or
 instructor) of many rooms (i.e., of many classes). That implies the need for a join
 table that connects these two. Further in this case we will likely want to encode
 additional information about this relationship, e.g., is the user a student or an
 instructor. Let's call that join Model, Roster, Thus we would express this as a manyto-many through Roster.



Example schema

```
knex.schema
  .createTable("Room", (table) => {
   table.increments("id").primary();
   table.uuid("visibleId").unique().notNullable();
   table.string("name").notNullable();
  .createTable("Poll", (table) => {
   table.increments("id").primary();
      .integer("roomId")
      .references("id")
      .inTable("Room")
      .notNullable()
      .onDelete("cascade");
   // or table.foreign("roomId").references("Room.id")...
   table.jsonb("values");
   table.timestamp("created_at").defaultTo(knex.fn.now());
   table.timestamp("ended_at");
 });
```

What are some things that you now notice (especially as it relates to the associations we just defined)?

- Recall that in a one-to-many relationship the foreign key goes in the "many" side (so our records are of a fixed size). We see that here, the `roomId` is an integer that references the id in Room (recall foreign keys are a constraint, not a type). Further, we specify that polls should be deleted if the room is...
- The other attributes you see, e.g., values, created_at, and ended_at, correspond to the knows in the CRC card (the values and the start/end times).
- They have specific types (doing so helps with performance, validation, etc. "ouf-of-the-box"). We want to look first to specialized types that might be relevant to our attributes before defaulting to something like string, text etc.

https://github.com/csci312-common-v2/class-interactor/blob/main/src/knex/migrations/20230116140145_rooms.ts

How would we design the User/Roster tables? User Name Contact Name Contact Roster New Jd Roster Norm Jd Roster Rost

We would need to create the User table. Does the model schema have any references to Room, etc.? No. That is all contained within the Roster join table...

What does the Roster table need? roomId and userId columns that foreign keys (linked the to the ids in those respective tables), and an additional column that stores the role for this individual (here is an enumerated value, i.e., it can only take on certain values, e.g., someone who can administer the room and someone or is a participant (e.g., maybe they can only view, not control/administer a room).

If we assume a user and room can only have one relationship, then the combination of userId and roomId will be unique and could be used as a composite primary key

```
return knex.schema.createTable("User", (table) => {
  table.increments("id").primary();
  table.string("googleId");
  table.string("name");
  table.text("email");
})
.createTable("Roster", (table) => {
  table.foreign("userId").references("User.id").notNullable
  ().onDelete("CASCADE");
  table.foreign("roomId").references("Room.id").notNullable
  ().onDelete("CASCADE");
```

```
table.enu("role", ["administrator", "student"], {
  useNative: true, enumName: "roster_role_type"
}).notNullable();
table.primary(['userId', 'roomId']);
});
```

How would we design the User/Roster tables?

id	name	email	googleId
int	string	text	string
1	Michael	mlinderman	12345678
2	Christopher	candrews	87654321
3	Laura	lbiester	21436587

Room table

userId	roomld	role
int	int	enum
1	1	"administrator"
2	2	"administrator"
3	3	"administrator"

Foreign Keys and Primary Key

How would we use this association?

```
// relation mapping in objection.js Room model
users: {
                                               Model relation enables
  relation: Model.ManyToManyRelation,
                                               concise query...
  modelClass: User,
  join: {
                                        .query()
    from: "Room.id",
                                         .where(...)
    through: {
                                         .withGraphFetched("users");
      from: "Roster.roomId",
      to: "Roster.userId",
                                     [ Room {
                                                 Which produces...
      // Ensure role is included
                                          id: 1,
      // from the join table
                                          visibleId: ...,
      extra: ["role"]
                                          name: 'TestClass',
                                          users: [ User {
    to: "User.id",
                                            id: 1,
                                            name: ...,
}
                                            role: "administrator",
                                          }]
                                     }]
```

// When fetching users make sure to include "role" from the
join table