

Purpose

This is a case study of a database that is:

- a faithful implementation of the **Relational Model** (Dr E F Codd, not the pretenders)
- produced using the **IDEF1X** Methodology & Standard, plus our **Extensions**
- correctly **Normalised to Fifth Normal Form**: devoid of Update Anomalies & Nulls; all Functional, Multi-Valued & Join Dependencies have been resolved
- almost all Business Rules implemented as **Declarative Constraints** (no code dependencies)
- demonstrates the correct use of **Relational Keys**
- in a PDF document that is complete with cross-references (select an item for further detail)
- contains the minimum level of complexity for education re **Relational Database Design** in general, and the highlight subjects in particular.

Domain

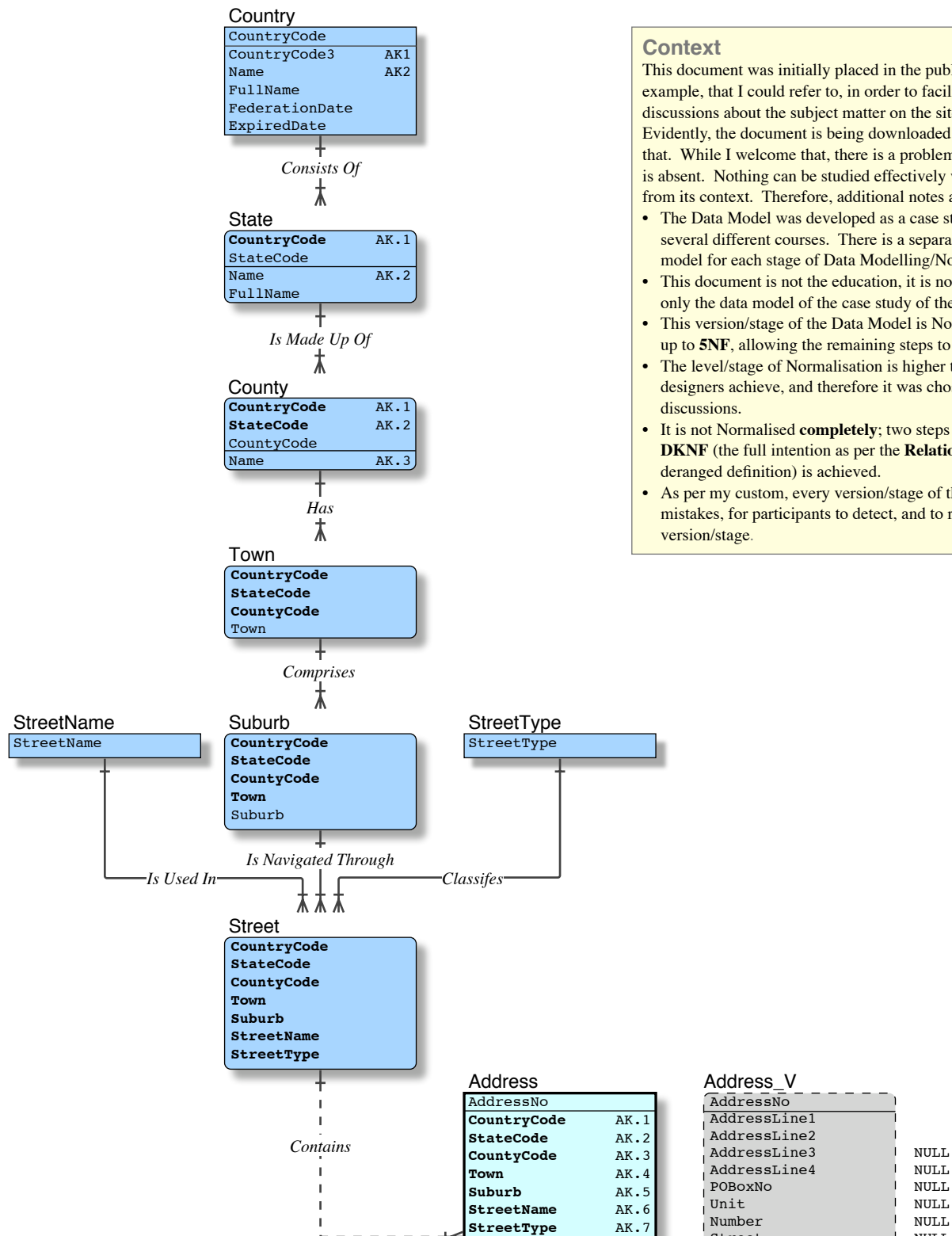
- Is shown to the extent possible in IDEF1X
- Coloured relationship lines further identify the Domains, the Relational Sets, within the limits of IDEF1X. Black is used for the unimportant sets.
- The **Hierarchical Layout** Extension is employed here

Entity Type

- Reference
- Identifying/Major
- Identifying
- Transaction
- TransactionDetail
- History, Audit

IDEF1X Notation

Select any table to open it



Context

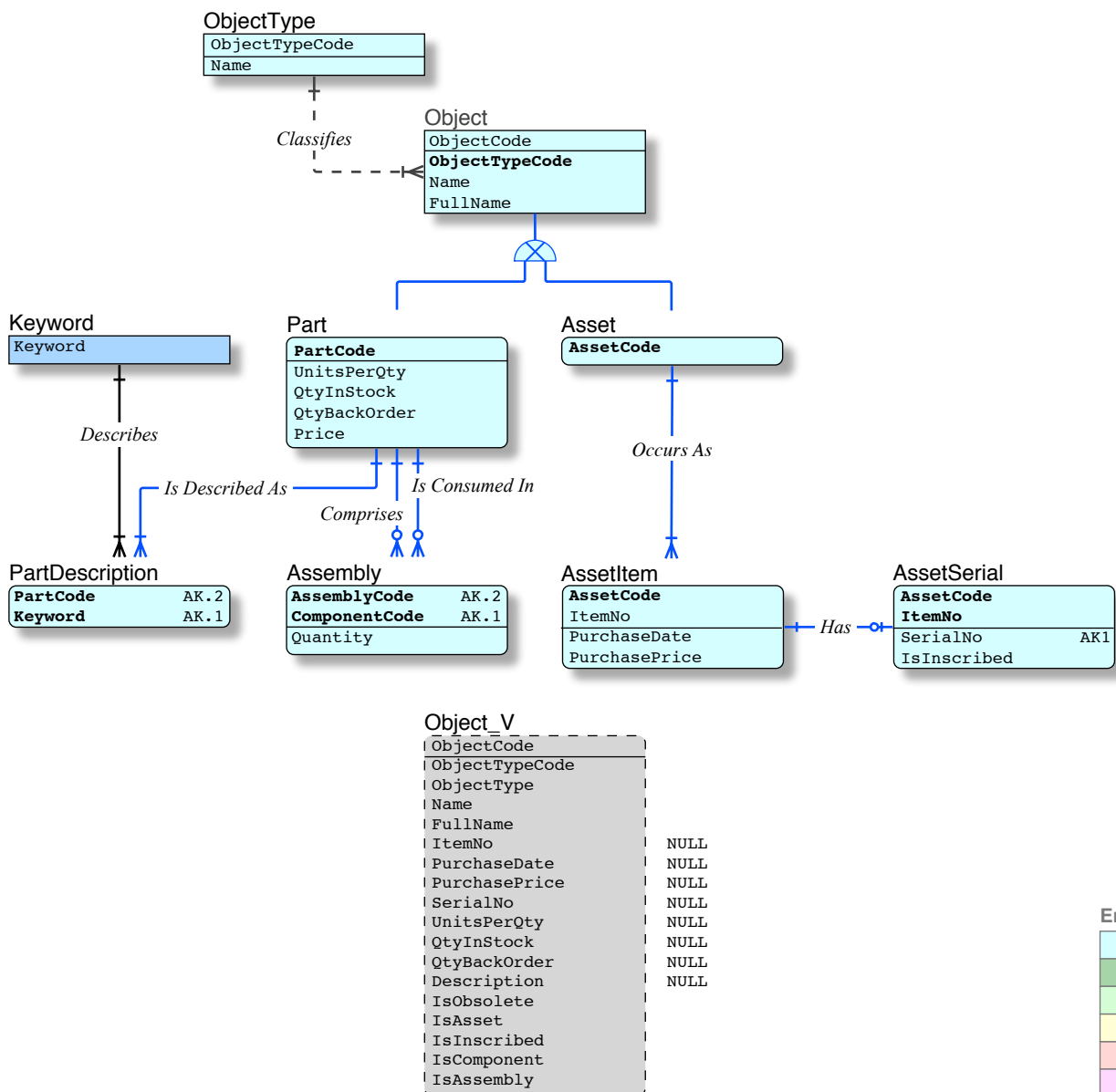
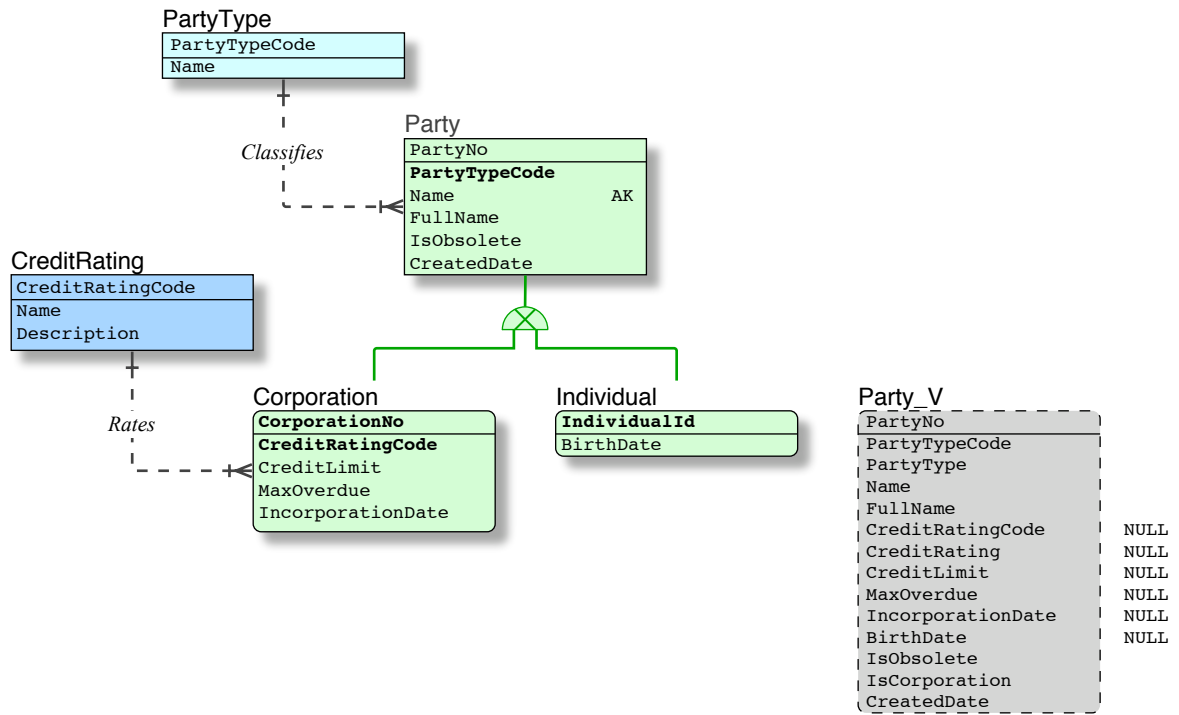
This document was initially placed in the public domain, as a real example, that I could refer to, in order to facilitate robust discussions about the subject matter on the sites that I attend. Evidently, the document is being downloaded and used beyond that. While I welcome that, there is a problem with it: the context is absent. Nothing can be studied effectively when it is removed from its context. Therefore, additional notes are warranted.

- The Data Model was developed as a case study which is used in several different courses. There is a separate version of this model for each stage of Data Modelling/Normalisation
- This document is not the education, it is not the case study, it is only the data model of the case study of the course.
- This version/stage of the Data Model is Normalised **correctly**, up to **5NF**, allowing the remaining steps to proceed unhindered
- The level/stage of Normalisation is higher than that which most designers achieve, and therefore it was chosen for the said discussions.
- It is not Normalised **completely**; two steps remain, before full **DKNF** (the full intention as per the **Relational Model**, not the deranged definition) is achieved.
- As per my custom, every version/stage of the model retains two mistakes, for participants to detect, and to resolve, in the next version/stage.

Relational Key

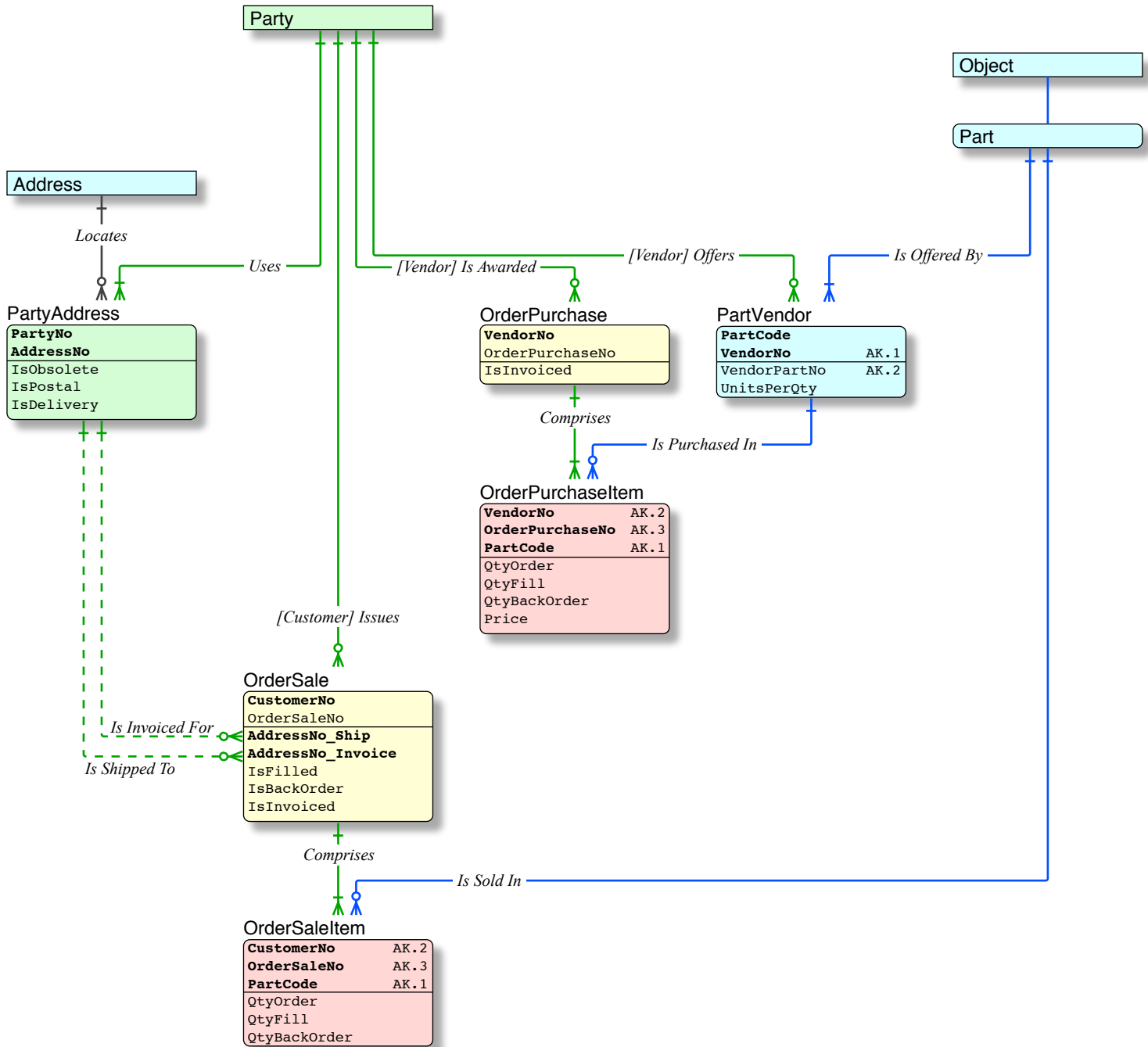
- Natural Keys, Relational Integrity and power is retained
- Surrogates always constitute:
 - an additional column & index (the natural Key provides row uniqueness)
 - a breach of the *Relational Model*: **Keys must be made up from the data**
- Further, except when assigned at the top of a Data Hierarchy (eg, PartyNo), they (eg. AddressNo) constitute:
 - a breach of the *Relational Model*: **Access Path Independence**, and Relational Integrity and power is lost at that location.
- Only two surrogates are used: AddressNo (on this page) and PartyNo.
- County and suburb are optional (standard Null Substitute)
- These Reference tables are fully loaded from Post Office data; both data entry and spelling errors are eliminated
 - Street provides an existence check, eliminating false addresses
 - Only Address needs to be added for new addresses, requiring a valid Street row
- Null values are not stored. Two techniques are given for optional columns:
 - Columnar Normalisation such that Nulls are eliminated (AssetSerial)
 - County and suburb (this page) using Null Substitutes
- Views are, by definition (a) derived from tables, thus (b) they are the flattened (or "denormalised") form:
 - as such, they contain Nullable columns.
 - Developers and "theoreticians" typically implement views as "tables"
- SG extensions: Hierarchical Layout; etc.
- Physical-only columns (eg. TimeStamp, UserStamp) not shown

- Entity Type**
- Reference
 - Identifying/Major
 - Identifying
 - Transaction
 - TransactionDetail
 - History, Audit



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Relational Key

- Natural Keys, Relational Integrity and power is retained
- This provides Data Distribution & high Concurrency
- OrderSaleNo is sequential within CustomerNo
- OrderPurchaseNo is sequential within VendorNo
- In Transaction tables such Keys serve multiple purposes
- Keys are migrated and used as **Roles** as per the *Relational Model and IDEF1X*:

AddressNo AddressNo_Ship
 AddressNo_Invoice
 PartyNo CustomerNo
 VendorNo

Domain

- Is shown to the extent possible in IDEF1X (ie. no Domain Extension)
- Coloured relationship lines further identify the Domains, the Relational Sets, within the limits of IDEF1X. Black is used for the unimportant sets.
- The **Hierarchical Layout & Collapsed Entity Extensions** are employed here

Entity Type

- Reference
- Identifying/Major
- Identifying
- Transaction
- TransactionDetail
- History, Audit

Select any collapsed table to open it