

Fundamentals of Database Systems | (5th Edition)

Chapter 5, Problem 6RQ

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Step-by-step solution

Step 1 of 2

The tables, relations, and files are the key concepts of the relational data model. A relation resembles a table, but it has some added constraints to it to use the link between two tables in an efficient way.

A file is basically a collection of records or a table stored on a physical device.

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Step 2 of 2

Even though both the relation and a table are used to store/represent data, there are differences between them as shown below:

Relation	Table/File
A relation is a set of tuples where each tuple is an ordered set of values corresponding to each attribute.	A file/table contains a physically stored information of records (on a disk or memory) that are related to each other.
The ordering or rows/tuples does not affect the performance of the operations that are performed on a relation.	The records are physically stored in a file and therefore the ordering affects the performance of the file.
The ordering of the values inside the tuple are not affected by the ordering since the value of each attribute can be specified/mapped explicitly.	The values inside the record are physically stored in the file. The first value in a record is considered as the value of the first attribute and so on.
Composite and multi-values are not allowed in a tuple. All the values are atomic or NULL if the value is unknown.	The tables can be created without the not null constraint and saved as a file.

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Chapter 5, Solution 16E

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