Databases (TGG)

(a) Consider the following Entity-Relationship (ER) diagram.

Suppose we wish to implement this diagram in a relational database using three tables, \( S(sid, A) \), \( T(tid, C) \), and \( R(\cdot \cdot \cdot) \). Describe the schema you would use for \( R \) depending on the cardinality of the relationship.

(i) When \( R \) is a many-to-many relationship between \( S \) and \( T \). [2 marks]

(ii) When \( R \) is a one-to-many relationship between \( S \) and \( T \). [2 marks]

(iii) When \( R \) is a many-to-one relationship between \( S \) and \( T \). [2 marks]

(iv) When \( R \) is a one-to-one relationship between \( S \) and \( T \). [2 marks]

(b) Suppose \( R \) is a many-to-one relationship. Rather than implementing a new table for \( R \), can we modify one of the tables representing \( S \) or \( T \) to implement this relationship? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of such a representation. [4 marks]

(c) Suppose that we add the following diagram to our ER model.

Note that this implicitly defines a relationship between \( S \) and \( U \) resulting from the composition of relationships \( R \) and \( Q \). Discuss the difficulties that you might encounter in attempting to implement this derived relationship directly in a table \( W \). For example, would the results of evaluating this SQL

\[
\text{select sid, tid, B, D}
\text{from R}
\text{join Q on R.tid = Q.tid}
\]

always be equivalent to the contents of such a \( W \)? [8 marks]