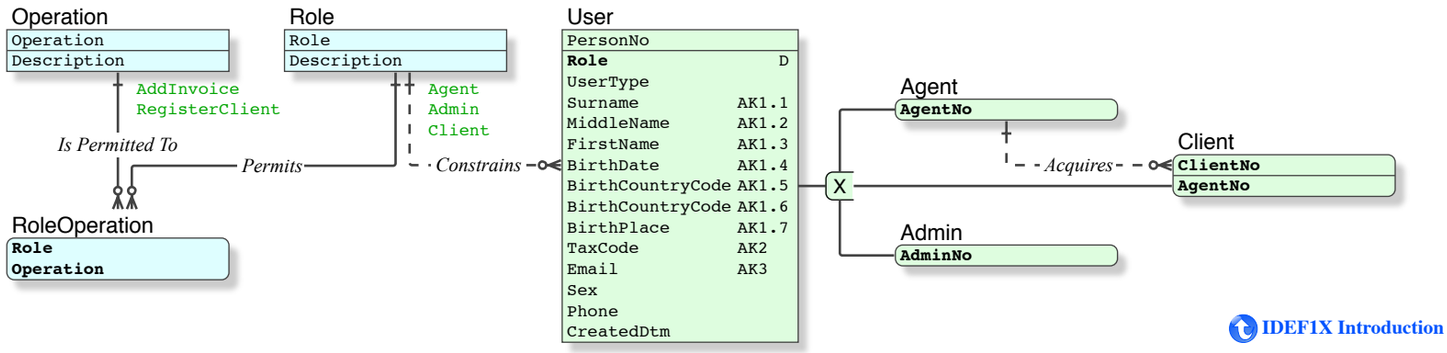
Relation Between Roles

For a full understanding of the context, and an explanation of the solution, refer to **Relational schema for a book graph**, and be sure to follow the links: the methods and SQL code are included.

> *Basically an agent is who bring new client on the platform. And now I have the following requirement: I have to keep track of all the "Client" user get registered by "Agent" users.*

The solution is a simple Exclusive Subtype cluster, the Discriminator is `Role`. I have improved the table names

Relational Data Model



Questions

> *It should works fine but in this way this table is allowed to contains any relationship between any user type. It is not taking into account the user type of these 2 users (for example in this way I could add a record containing two client users). Doing in this specific way my application have to ensure that*

Yes. That is wrong. All constraints; all business rules; etc that relate to the data should be in the database. The database is a single recovery unit, it should be completely independent of the apps that use it.

> *Doing in this way my application backend have to ensure that this table is correctly populated. I think that it is not a big deal but I don't know if there are better and smarter way to set a constraint in order to allow that the **agent_id** field contains the ID of an agent user type and of the **client_id** contains only the IF of a client user type.*

The `RecordID` fields force the logical rows into physical records, and severely complicate the SQL code. Further, it does not prevent duplicate data. It is always an additional field and an additional index. Detailed explanation in the link above. Get rid of them.

> *I know that a possible solution could be to split my **portal_user** table in different table (for admin, agent and client users) but if so I prefear handle the situation at application level.*

Definitely not. Splitting tables is never a valid option. And again, that sort of code should be deployed in the database, not the app.

Please make sure you read the IDEF1X Introduction.

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