

An **object identifier** is one or more object attributes that the users employ to identify object instances. Such identifiers are potential names for a semantic object. A **group identifier** is an identifier that has more than one attribute.

Object identifiers may or may not be unique, depending on how the users view their data. In semantic object diagrams, object identifiers are denoted by the letters *ID* in front of the attribute. If the identifier is unique, these letters will be underlined.

Normally, if an attribute is to be used as an identifier, its value is required. Also, generally there is no more than one value of an identifier attribute for a given object. In most cases, therefore, the cardinality of Alias would be 0.N.

Showing the subscripts of all attributes clutters the semantic object diagram. To simplify, we will assume the cardinalities of simple-value identifier attributes are 1.1 and the cardinalities of other simple-value attributes are 0.1. If the cardinality of the simple-value attribute is other than these assumptions, we will show it on the diagram. Otherwise subscripts on simple-value attributes will be omitted.