Chapter 7: Normalization

Database System Concepts, 7th Ed.

Outline

- Features of Good Relational Design
- Functional Dependencies
- Decomposition Using Functional Dependencies
- Normal Forms
- Functional Dependency Theory
- Algorithms for Decomposition using Functional Dependencies
- Decomposition Using Multivalued Dependencies
- More Normal Form
- Atomic Domains and First Normal Form
- Database-Design Process
- Modeling Temporal Data

Overview of Normalization

Overview

- **Normalization** is the process of removing **redundant** data from your tables to improve storage efficiency, data integrity, and scalability.
- Normalization generally involves **splitting** existing tables into multiple ones, which must be re-joined or linked each time a query is issued.
  - This is called “decomposition”
- Why is relevant?
  - Unnormalized data may hide ambiguities, redundancies, and inconsistencies
  - The problem usually happens when an existing system uses unstructured file, e.g. in MS Excel.
  - The relation derived from the user view or data store will most likely be **denormalized**.

Features of Good Relational Designs

- Suppose we combine *instructor* and *department* into *in_dep,* which represents the natural join on the relations *instructor* and *department*

ID	*name*	*salary*	*dept_name*	*building*	*budget*
22222	Einstein	95000	Physics	Watson	70000
12121	Wu	90000	Finance	Painter	120000
32343	El Said	60000	History	Painter	50000
45565	Katz	75000	Comp. Sci.	Taylor	100000
98345	Kim	80000	Elec. Eng.	Taylor	85000
76766	Crick	72000	Biology	Watson	90000
10101	Srinivasan	65000	Comp. Sci.	Taylor	100000
58583	Califieri	62000	History	Painter	50000
83821	Brandt	92000	Comp. Sci.	Taylor	100000
15151	Mozart	40000	Music	Packard	80000
33456	Gold	87000	Physics	Watson	70000
76543	Singh	80000	Finance	Painter	120000

- There is repetition of information
- Need to use null values (if we add a new department with no instructors)

A Combined Schema Without Repetition

Not all combined schemas result in repetition of information

- Consider combining relations
  - *sec_class(sec_id, building, room_number)* and
  - *section(course_id, sec_id, semester, year)*

  into one relation
  - *section(course_id, sec_id, semester, year, building, room_number)*
- No repetition in this case

Decomposition

- The only way to avoid the repetition-of-information problem in the i*n_dep* schema is to decompose it into two schemas – instructor and *department* schemas.
- Not all decompositions are good. Suppose we decompose

  employee(ID, name, street, city, salary)

  into

  employee1 (*ID*, *name*)

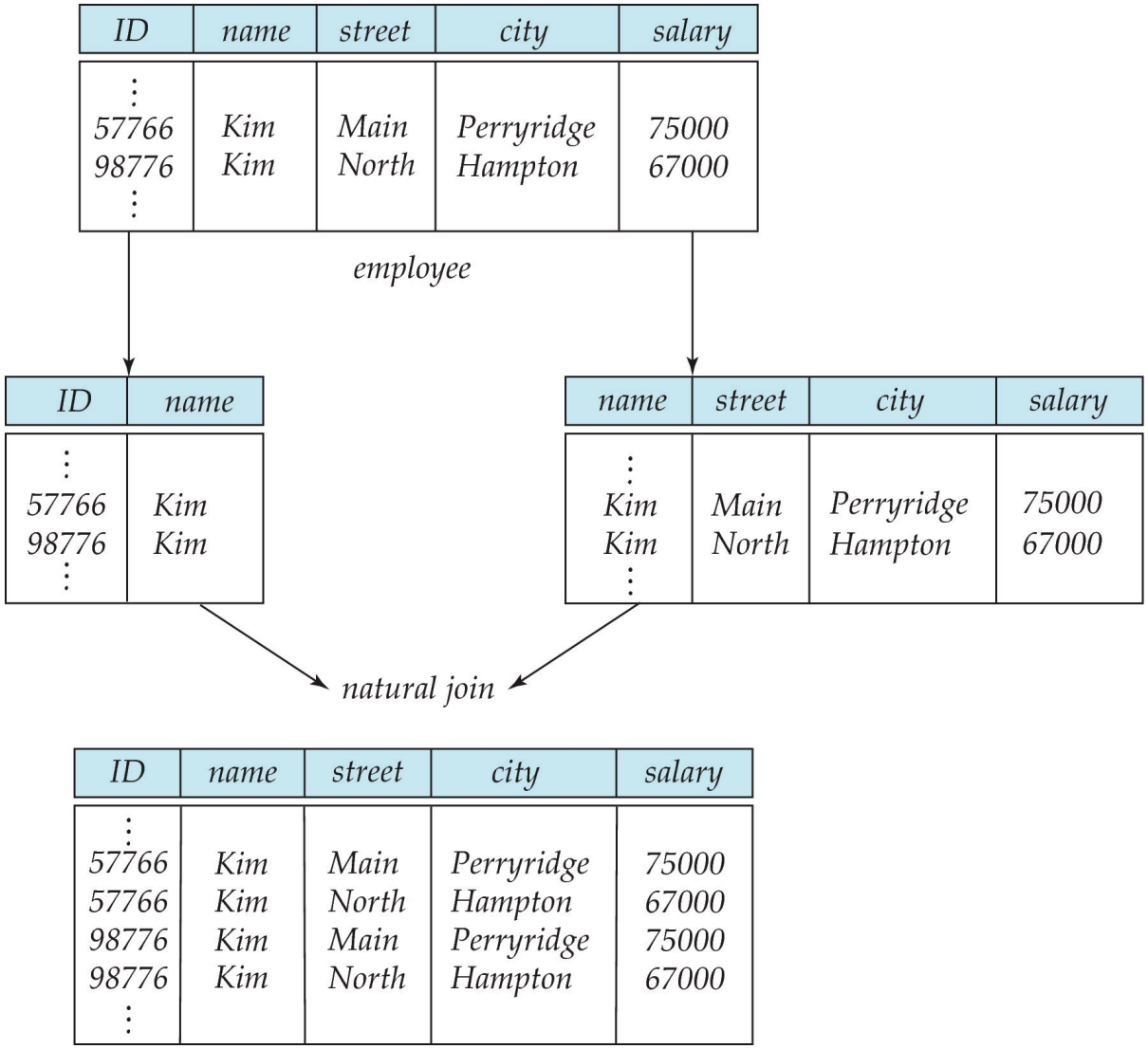
  employee2 (*name*, *street, city, salary*)

  The problem arises when we have two employees with the same name
- The next slide shows how we lose information -- we cannot reconstruct the original *employee* relation -- and so, this is a **lossy decomposition**.

Normalization Theory

- Decide whether a particular relation R is in "good" form.
- In the case that a relation R is not in "good" form, decompose it into set of relations $\{R_1, R_2, ..., R_n\}$ such that
  - Each relation is in good form
  - **The decomposition is good (what does it mean?)**

A Lossy Decomposition



Lossless Decomposition

- Let *R* be a relation schema and let R_1 and R_2 form a decomposition of R . That is R = R_1 U R_2
- We say that the decomposition is a **lossless decomposition** if there is no loss of information by replacing R with the two relation schemas R_1 U R_2
- Formally,

$$\prod_{R_1}(r) \bowtie \prod_{R_2}(r) = r$$

- And, conversely a decomposition is lossy if

$$r \subset \prod_{R_1}(r) \bowtie \prod_{R_2}(r) = r$$

Example of Lossless Decomposition

- Decomposition of $R = (A, B, C)$

  $R_1 = (A, B)$ $\quad$ $R_2 = (B, C)$

A	B	C
α	1	A
β	2	B

r

A	B
α	1
β	2

$\Pi_{A,B}(r)$

B	C
1	A
2	B

$\Pi_{B,C}(r)$

$\Pi_A (r) \bowtie \Pi_B (r)$

A	B	C
α	1	A
β	2	B

Normalization Theory

- Decide whether a particular relation R is in "good" form.
- In the case that a relation R is not in "good" form, decompose it into set of relations $\{R_1, R_2, ..., R_n\}$ such that
  - Each relation is in good form
  - The decomposition is a **lossless decomposition**
- Our theory is based on:
  - Functional dependencies
  - Multivalued dependencies (**we won't discuss them**)

Functional Dependencies

- There are usually a variety of constraints (rules) on the data in the real world.
- For example, some of the constraints that are expected to hold in a university database are:
  - Students and instructors are uniquely identified by their ID.
  - Each student and instructor has only one name.
  - Each instructor and student is (primarily) associated with only one department.
  - Each department has only one value for its budget, and only one associated building.

Functional Dependencies (Cont.)

- An instance of a relation that satisfies all such real-world constraints is called a **legal instance** of the relation;
- A legal instance of a database is one where all the relation instances are legal instances
- Constraints on the set of legal relations.
- Require that the value for a certain set of attributes determines uniquely the value for another set of attributes.
- A functional dependency is a generalization of the notion of a *key.*

Functional Dependencies Definition

- Let R be a relation schema

$$\alpha \subseteq R \text{ and } \beta \subseteq R$$

- The **functional dependency**

$$\alpha \rightarrow \beta$$

holds on R if and only if for any legal relations r(R), whenever any two tuples t_1 and t_2 of r agree on the attributes α, they also agree on the attributes β. That is,

$$t_1[\alpha] = t_2[\alpha] \Rightarrow t_1[\beta] = t_2[\beta]$$

- Example: Consider r(A,B) with the following instance of r.

1	4
1	5
3	7

- On this instance, $B \rightarrow A$ hold; $A \rightarrow B$ does **NOT** hold,

Closure of a Set of Functional Dependencies

- Given a set F set of functional dependencies, there are certain other functional dependencies that are logically implied by F.
  - If $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow C$, then we can infer that $A \rightarrow C$
  - etc.
- The set of **all** functional dependencies logically implied by F is the **closure** of F.
- We denote the *closure* of F by $\boldsymbol{F^+}$.

Keys and Functional Dependencies

- K is a superkey for relation schema R if and only if $K \rightarrow R$
- K is a candidate key for R if and only if
  - $K \rightarrow R$, and
  - for no $\alpha \subset K$, $\alpha \rightarrow R$
- Functional dependencies allow us to express constraints that cannot be expressed using superkeys. Consider the schema:

  in_dep (*ID, name, salary, dept_name, building, budget*).

  We expect these functional dependencies to hold:

  dept_name → *building*

  ID → *building*

  but would not expect the following to hold:

  dept_name → *salary*

Use of Functional Dependencies

- Functional Dependencies are a form of constraint.
- We use functional dependencies to:
  - To test relations to see if they are legal
    - If a relation r is legal under a set F of functional dependencies, we say that r **satisfies** F.
  - To specify constraints on the set of legal relations
    - We say that F **holds on** R if all legal relations on R satisfy the set of functional dependencies F.
- Note: A specific instance of a relation schema may satisfy a functional dependency even if the functional dependency does not hold on all legal instances.
  - For example, a specific instance of *instructor* may, by chance, satisfy
    $name \rightarrow ID$.

Trivial Functional Dependencies

- *A* functional dependency is **trivial** if it is satisfied by all instances of a relation
- Example*:*
  - *ID, name* $\rightarrow$ *ID*
  - *name* $\rightarrow$ *name*
- In general, $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is trivial if $\beta \subseteq \alpha$

Lossless Decomposition

- We can use functional dependencies to show when certain decomposition are lossless.
- For the case of $R = (R_1, R_2)$, we require that for all possible relations r on schema R

$$r = \Pi_{R1}(r) \bowtie \Pi_{R2}(r)$$

- A decomposition of R into R_1 and R_2 is lossless decomposition if at least one of the following dependencies is in F^+:
  - $R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_1$
  - $R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_2$
- The above functional dependencies are a sufficient condition for lossless join decomposition; the dependencies are a necessary condition only if all constraints are functional dependencies

Example

- $R = (A, B, C)$
  $F = \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C)$
- $R_1 = (A, B)$, $R_2 = (B, C)$
  - Lossless decomposition:

    $R_1 \cap R_2 = \{B\}$ and $B \rightarrow BC$
- $R_1 = (A, B)$, $R_2 = (A, C)$
  - Lossless decomposition:

    $R_1 \cap R_2 = \{A\}$ and $A \rightarrow AB$
- *Note:*
  - $B \rightarrow BC$

    is a shorthand notation for
  - $B \rightarrow \{B, C\}$

Dependency Preservation

- Testing functional dependency constraints each time the database is updated can be costly
- It is useful to design the database in a way that constraints can be tested efficiently.
- If testing a functional dependency can be done by considering just one relation, then the cost of testing this constraint is low
- When decomposing a relation it is possible that it is no longer possible to do the testing without having to perform a Cartesian Produced.
- A decomposition that makes it computationally hard to enforce functional dependency is said to be NOT **dependency preserving**.

Dependency Preservation Example

- Consider a schema:

  dept_advisor(s_ID, i_ID, department_name)

- With function dependencies:

  $i\_ID \rightarrow dept\_name$

  $s\_ID, dept\_name \rightarrow i\_ID$

- In the above design we are forced to repeat the department name once for each time an instructor participates in a *dept_advisor* relationship.
- To fix this, we need to decompose *dept_advisor*
- Any decomposition will not include all the attributes in

  $s\_ID, dept\_name \rightarrow i\_ID$

- Thus, the composition NOT be dependency preserving

Steps of Normalization

Normal Forms

- First Normal Form (1NF)
- Second Normal Form (2NF)
- Third Normal Form (3NF)
- Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF)
- Fourth Normal Form (4NF)
- Fifth Normal Form (5NF)
- Domain Key Normal Form (DKNF)

In practice, 1NF, 2NF, 3NF, and BCNF are enough for database.

So we will focus on them!

Normal Forms

- First Normal Form (1NF) – all tables are flat
- Second Normal Form (2NF)
- Third Normal Form (3NF)
- Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF)
- Fourth Normal Form (4NF)
- Fifth Normal Form (5NF)
- Domain Key Normal Form (DKNF)

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Normal Forms

- First Normal Form (1NF)
- **Second Normal Form (2NF)**
- **Third Normal Form (3NF)**
- **Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF)**
- Fourth Normal Form (4NF)
- Fifth Normal Form (5NF)

} DB designs based on functional dependencies, intended to prevent data **anomalies**

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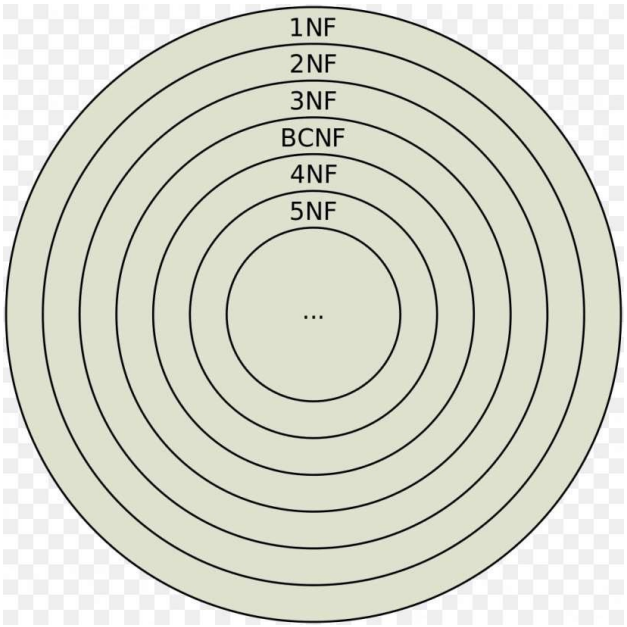
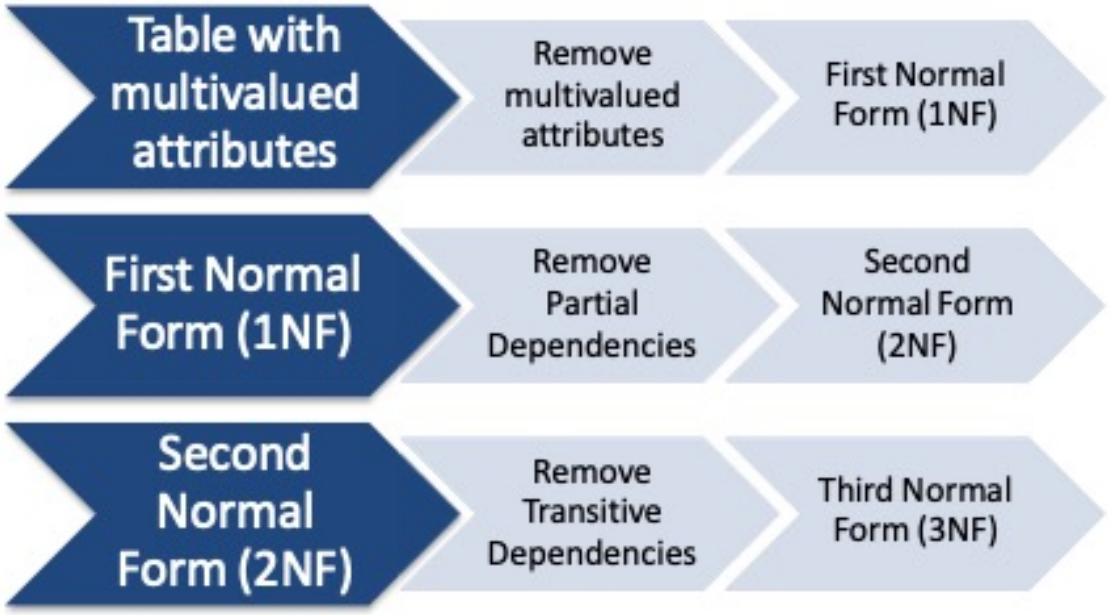
Normal Forms





Goals of Normalization

- Let R be a relation scheme with a set F of functional dependencies.
- Decide whether a relation scheme R is in "good" form.
- In the case that a relation scheme R is not in "good" form, need to decompose it into a set of relation scheme $\{R_1, R_2, ..., R_n\}$ such that:
  - Each relation scheme is in good form
  - The decomposition is a lossless decomposition
  - Preferably, the decomposition should be dependency preserving.

First Normal Form (1NF)

The official qualifications for 1NF are:

1. Each attribute name must be unique.
2. Each attribute value must be single.
3. Each row must be unique.
4. There is no repeating groups.

Additional:

- Choose a primary key.
-

Reminder:

- A primary key is unique, not null, unchanged.
- A primary key can be either an attribute or combined attributes.

First Normal Form (formally)

- Domain is **atomic** if its elements are considered to be indivisible units
  - Examples of non-atomic domains:
    - Set of names, composite attributes
    - Identification numbers like CS101 that can be broken up into parts
- A relational schema R is in **first normal form** if the domains of all attributes of R are atomic
- Non-atomic values complicate storage and encourage redundant (repeated) storage of data
  - Example: Set of accounts stored with each customer, and set of owners stored with each account
  - We assume all relations are in first normal form (and revisit this in Chapter 22: Object Based Databases)

First Normal Form (1NF)

Student	Courses
Mary	{CS145, CS229}
Joe	{CS145, CS106}
...	...

Violates 1NF.

Student	Courses
Mary	CS145
Mary	CS229
Joe	CS145
Joe	CS106

In 1st NF

Second Normal Form (2NF)

The official qualifications for 2NF are:

1. A table is already in 1NF.
2. All non-key attributes are fully dependent on the primary key.

All partial dependencies (PD) are removed to place in another table.

A PD is a functional dependency whose determinant is part of the primary key (but not all of it)

Second Normal Form (2NF)

CourseID	SemesterID	Num Student	Course Name
IT101	201301	25	Database
IT101	201302	25	Database
IT102	201301	30	Web Prog
IT102	201302	35	Web Prog
IT103	201401	20	Networking

Primary Key

The Course Name depends on only CourseID, a part of the primary key not the whole primary {CourseID, SemesterID}. It's called partial dependency.

Solution:

Remove CourseID and Course Name together to create a new table.

Second Normal Form (2NF)

CourseID	SemesterID	Num Student	Course Name
IT101	201301	25	Database
IT101	201302	25	Database
IT102	201301	30	Web Prog
IT102	201302	35	Web Prog
IT103	201401	20	Networking

Primary Key

The Course Name depends on only CourseID, a part of the primary key not the whole primary {CourseID, SemesterID}. It's called partial dependency.

Solution:

Remove CourseID and Course Name together to create a new table.

Third Normal Form (3NF)

The official qualifications for 3NF are:

1. A table is already in 2NF
2. Non-primary key attributes do not depend on other non-primary key attributes (i.e. no **transitive dependencies**)

All transitive dependencies are removed to place in another table.

A Transitive dependency is a functional dependency whose determinant is not the primary key, part of the primary key, or a candidate key.

Transitive functionality is a functional dependency in which a non-key attribute is determined by another non-key attribute.

Third Normal Form

- A relation schema R is in **third normal form (3NF)** if for all:

$$\alpha \rightarrow \beta \text{ in } F^+$$

at least one of the following holds:

- $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is trivial (i.e., $\beta \in \alpha$)
- α is a superkey for R
- Each attribute A in $\beta - \alpha$ is contained in a candidate key for R.

(**NOTE**: each attribute may be in a different candidate key)

Third Normal Form (3NF)

StudyID	CourseName	TeacherName	TeacherTel
1	Database	Sok Piseth	012 123 456
2	Database	Sao Kanha	0977 322 111
3	Web Prog	Chan Veasna	012 412 333
4	Web Prog	Chan Veasna	012 412 333
5	Networking	Pou Sambath	077 545 221

Primary Key

The *TeacherTel* is a nonkey attribute, and the *TeacherName* is also a nonkey attribute. But *TeacherTel* depends on *TeacherName*.
It is called **transitive dependency**.

Second Normal Form (2NF)

Teacher Name	Teacher Tel
Sok Piseth	012 123 456
Sao Kanha	0977 322 111
Chan Veasna	012 412 333
Chan Veasna	012 412 333
Pou Sambath	077 545 221

Done?
Oh no, it is still not in 1NF yet.
Remove Repeating row.

StudyID	Course Name	T.ID
1	Database	T1
2	Database	T2
3	Web Prog	T3
4	Web Prog	T3
5	Networking	T4

Teacher Name	Teacher Tel
Sok Piseth	012 123 456
Sao Kanha	0977 322 111
Chan Veasna	012 412 333
Pou Sambath	077 545 221

Note about primary key:
-In theory, you can choose *TeacherName* to be a primary key.
-But in practice, you should add *TeacherID* as the primary key.

ID	Teacher Name	Teacher Tel
T1	Sok Piseth	012 123 456
T2	Sao Kanha	0977 322 111
T3	Chan Veasna	012 412 333
T4	Pou Sambath	077 545 221

3NF Example

- Consider a schema:

  dept_advisor(s_ID, i_ID, dept_name)
- With function dependencies:

  $i\_ID \rightarrow dept\_name$

  $s\_ID, dept\_name \rightarrow i\_ID$
- Two candidate keys = {*s_ID, dept_name*}, {*s_ID, i_ID* }
- We have seen before that *dept_advisor* is not in BCNF
- *R,* however, is in 3NF
  - *s_ID, dept_name* is a superkey
  - $i\_ID \rightarrow dept\_name$ *and* *i_ID* is NOT a superkey, but:
    - { *dept_name*} – {*i_ID* } = {*dept_name* } and
    - *dept_name* is contained in a candidate key

Redundancy in 3NF

- Consider the schema R below, which is in 3NF
  - $R = (J, K, L)$
  - $F = \{JK \rightarrow L, L \rightarrow K\}$
  - And an instance table:

J	L	K
j_1	l_1	k_1
j_2	l_1	k_1
j_3	l_1	k_1
null	l_2	k_2

- What is wrong with the table?
  - Repetition of information
  - Need to use null values (e.g., to represent the relationship l_2, k_2 where there is no corresponding value for J)

Boyce-Codd Normal Form

- The official qualifications for BCNF are:
  1. A table is already in 3NF.
  2. All determinants must be superkeys.
  3. All determinants that are not superkeys are removed to place in another table.

- K is a superkey for relation R if K functionally determines all of R.

- K is a (candidate)key for R if K is a superkey, but no proper subset of K is a superkey.

Boyce-Codd Normal Form

- A relation schema R is in BCNF with respect to a set F of functional dependencies if for all functional dependencies in F^+ of the form

  $$\alpha \rightarrow \beta$$

  where $\alpha \subseteq R$ and $\beta \subseteq R$, at least one of the following holds:

  - $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is trivial (i.e., $\beta \subseteq \alpha$)
  - α is a superkey for R

Boyce-Codd Normal Form (Cont.)

- Example schema that is ***not*** in BCNF:

  in_dep (*ID, name, salary, dept_name, building, budget*)

  because :

  - *dept_name*→ *building, budget*
    - holds on *in_dep*
    - but
  - *dept_name* is not a superkey
- When decompose *in_dept* into *instructor* and *department*
  - *instructor* is in BCNF
  - *department* is in BCNF

Decomposing a Schema into BCNF

- Let R be a schema R that is not in BCNF. Let $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ be the FD that causes a violation of BCNF.
- We decompose R into:
  - $(\alpha \cup \beta)$
  - $(R - (\beta - \alpha))$
- In our example of *in_dep*,
  - α = *dept_name*
  - β = *building, budget*

  and *in_dep* is replaced by
  - $(\alpha \cup \beta)$ = (*dept_name, building, budget*)
  - $(R - (\beta - \alpha))$ = (*ID, name, dept_name, salary*)

Example

- $R = (A, B, C)$
  $F = \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C)$
- $R_1 = (A, B)$, $R_2 = (B, C)$
  - Lossless-join decomposition:
    $$R_1 \cap R_2 = \{B\} \quad \text{and } B \rightarrow BC$$
  - Dependency preserving
- $R_1 = (A, B)$, $R_2 = (A, C)$
  - Lossless-join decomposition:
    $$R_1 \cap R_2 = \{A\} \text{ and } A \rightarrow AB$$
  - Not depend ency preserving
    (cannot check $B \rightarrow C$ without computing $R_1 \bowtie R_2$)

Example

Student	Course	Teacher
Sok	DB	John
Sao	DB	William
Chan	E-Commerce	Todd
Sok	E-Commerce	Todd
Chan	DB	William

- *Key: {Student, Course}*
- *Functional Dependency:*
  - *{Student, Course} ->Teacher*
  - *Teacher -> Course*
- *Problem: **Teacher** is not a superkey but determines **Course**.*

Example

Student	Course
Sok	DB
Sao	DB
Chan	E-Commerce
Sok	E-Commerce
Chan	DB

Solution: Decouple a table contains **Teacher** and **Course** from original table (**Student, Course**). Finally, connect the new and old table to third table contains ***Course***.

Course
DB
E-Commerce

Course	Teacher
DB	John
DB	William
E-Commerce	Todd

BCNF and Dependency Preservation

- It is not always possible to achieve both BCNF and dependency preservation
- Consider a schema:

  dept_advisor(s_ID, i_ID, department_name)
- With function dependencies:

  $i\_ID \rightarrow dept\_name$

  $s\_ID, dept\_name \rightarrow i\_ID$
- *dept_advisor* is not in BCNF
  - *i_ID* is not a superkey.
- Any decomposition of *dept_advisor* will not include all the attributes in

  $s\_ID, dept\_name \rightarrow i\_ID$
- Thus, the composition is NOT be dependency preserving

Comparison of BCNF and 3NF

- If a relation is in BCNF it is in 3NF (since in BCNF one of the first two conditions above must hold).
- Third condition is a minimal relaxation of BCNF to ensure dependency preservation (will see why later).
- Advantages to 3NF over BCNF. It is always possible to obtain a 3NF design without sacrificing losslessness or dependency preservation.
- Disadvantages to 3NF.
  - We may have to use null values to represent some of the possible meaningful relationships among data items.
  - There is the problem of repetition of information.

How good is BCNF?

- There are database schemas in BCNF that do not seem to be sufficiently normalized
- Consider a relation

  inst_info (ID, child_name, phone)

  - where an instructor may have more than one phone and can have multiple children
  - Instance of *inst_info*

ID	*child_name*	*phone*
99999	David	512-555-1234
99999	David	512-555-4321
99999	William	512-555-1234
99999	William	512-555-4321

How good is BCNF? (Cont.)

- There are no non-trivial functional dependencies and therefore the relation is in BCNF
- Insertion anomalies – i.e., if we add a phone 981-992-3443 to 99999, we need to add two tuples

(99999, David, 981-992-3443)
(99999, William, 981-992-3443)

Higher Normal Forms

- It is better to decompose *inst_info* into:
  - *inst_child*:

ID	*child_name*
99999	David
99999	William

  - *inst_phone:*

ID	*phone*
99999	512-555-1234
99999	512-555-4321

- This suggests the need for higher normal forms, such as Fourth Normal Form (4NF), which we shall see later

Design Goals

- Goal for a relational database design is:
  - BCNF.
  - Lossless join.
  - Dependency preservation.
- If we cannot achieve this, we accept one of
  - Lack of dependency preservation
  - Redundancy due to use of 3NF
- Interestingly, SQL does not provide a direct way of specifying functional dependencies other than superkeys.

  Can specify FDs using assertions, but they are expensive to test, (and currently not supported by any of the widely used databases!)
- Even if we had a dependency preserving decomposition, using SQL we would not be able to efficiently test a functional dependency whose left hand side is not a key.

Testing for BCNF

- To check if a non-trivial dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ causes a violation of BCNF
  1. compute α^+ (the attribute closure of α), and
  2. verify that it includes all attributes of R, that is, it is a superkey of R.
- **Simplified test**: To check if a relation schema R is in BCNF, it suffices to check only the dependencies in the given set F for violation of BCNF, rather than checking all dependencies in F^+.
  - If none of the dependencies in F causes a violation of BCNF, then none of the dependencies in F^+ will cause a violation of BCNF either.
- However, **simplified test** using only F is incorrect when testing a relation in a decomposition of R
  - Consider $R = (A, B, C, D, E)$, with $F = \{ A \rightarrow B, BC \rightarrow D\}$
    - Decompose R into $R_1 = (A,B)$ and $R_2 = (A,C,D, E)$
    - Neither of the dependencies in F contain only attributes from (A,C,D,E) so we might be mislead into thinking R_2 satisfies BCNF.
    - In fact, dependency $AC \rightarrow D$ in F^+ shows R_2 is not in BCNF.

Testing Decomposition for BCNF

To check if a relation R_i in a decomposition of R is in BCNF

- Either test R_i for BCNF with respect to the **restriction** of F^+ to R_i (that is, all FDs in F^+ that contain only attributes from R_i)
- Or use the original set of dependencies F that hold on R, but with the following test:
  - for every set of attributes $\alpha \subseteq R_i$, check that α^+ (the attribute closure of α) either includes no attribute of R_i - α, or includes all attributes of R_i.
  - If the condition is violated by some $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ in F^+, the dependency
    $\alpha \rightarrow (\alpha^+ - \alpha) \cap R_i$
    can be shown to hold on R_i, and R_i violates BCNF.
  - We use above dependency to decompose R_i

BCNF Decomposition Algorithm

result := {*R* };
done := false;
compute F^+;
while (not *done)* **do**
  if (there is a schema R_i in *result* that is not in BCNF)
    then begin
      let $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ be a nontrivial functional dependency that
        holds on R_i such that $\alpha \rightarrow R_i$ is not in F^+,
          and $\alpha \cap \beta = \varnothing$;
        result := (*result* – R_i) $\cup$ (R_i – β) $\cup$ (α, β);
      end
    else *done* := **true;**

Note: each R_i is in BCNF, and decomposition is lossless-join.

Example of BCNF Decomposition

- *class* (*course_id*, *title*, *dept_name*, *credits*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*, *building*, *room_number*, *capacity*, *time_slot_id*)
- Functional dependencies:
  - *course_id*→ *title*, *dept_name*, *credits*
  - *building*, *room_number*→*capacity*
  - *course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*→*building*, *room_number*, *time_slot_id*
- A candidate key {*course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*}.
- BCNF Decomposition:
  - *course_id*→ *title*, *dept_name*, *credits* holds
    - but *course_id* is not a superkey.
  - We replace *class* by:
    - *course*(*course_id*, *title*, *dept_name*, *credits*)
    - *class-1* (*course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*, *building*, *room_number, capacity*, *time_slot_id*)

BCNF Decomposition (Cont.)

- *course* is in BCNF
  - How do we know this?
- *building*, *room_number*→*capacity* holds on *class-1*
  - but {*building*, *room_number*} is not a superkey for *class-1*.
  - We replace *class-1* by:
    - *classroom* (*building*, *room_number*, *capacity*)
    - *section* (*course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*, *building*, *room_number*, *time_slot_id*)
- *classroom* and *section* are in BCNF.

Overall Database Design Process

We have assumed schema *R* is given

- *R* could have been generated when converting E-R diagram to a set of tables.
- *R* could have been a single relation containing *all* attributes that are of interest (called **universal relation**).
- Normalization breaks *R* into smaller relations.
- *R* could have been the result of some ad hoc design of relations, which we then test/convert to normal form.

ER Model and Normalization

- When an E-R diagram is carefully designed, identifying all entities correctly, the tables generated from the E-R diagram should not need further normalization.
- However, in a real (imperfect) design, there can be functional dependencies from non-key attributes of an entity to other attributes of the entity
  - Example: an *employee* entity with
    - attributes
      department_name and *building*,
    - functional dependency
      department_name $\rightarrow$ *building*
    - Good design would have made department an entity
- Functional dependencies from non-key attributes of a relationship set possible, but rare --- most relationships are binary

Denormalization for Performance

- May want to use non-normalized schema for performance
- For example, displaying *prereqs* along with *course_id,* and *title* requires join of *course* with *prereq*
- Alternative 1: Use denormalized relation containing attributes of *course* as well as *prereq* with all above attributes
  - faster lookup
  - extra space and extra execution time for updates
  - extra coding work for programmer and possibility of error in extra code
- Alternative 2: use a materialized view defined a *course* $\bowtie$ *prereq*
  - Benefits and drawbacks same as above, except no extra coding work for programmer and avoids possible errors

Other Design Issues

- Some aspects of database design are not caught by normalization
- Examples of bad database design, to be avoided:

  Instead of *earnings* (*company_id, year, amount*), use
  - *earnings_2004, earnings_2005, earnings_2006*, etc., all on the schema (*company_id, earnings*).
    - Above are in BCNF, but make querying across years difficult and needs new table each year
  - *company_year* (*company_id, earnings_2004, earnings_2005, earnings_2006*)
    - Also in BCNF, but also makes querying across years difficult and requires new attribute each year.
    - Is an example of a **crosstab**, where values for one attribute become column names
    - Used in spreadsheets, and in data analysis tools

End of Chapter 7