Database Systems

Lecture 8:
Relational Database Design

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Based on the slides of the course book

Outline

- **Features of Good Relational Design**
- Atomic Domains and First Normal Form
- Decomposition Using Functional Dependencies
  - Functional Dependency Theory
  - Boyce-Codd Normal Form
  - Third Normal Form
  - Normalization's Goal
- Decomposition Using Multivalued Dependencies
- More Normal Form
- Database-Design Process
- Modeling Temporal Data

Good Relational Design

- In general, the goal of relational database design is to generate a set of relation schemas that allows us to store information without unnecessary redundancy, yet also allows us to retrieve information easily.

- This is accomplished by designing schemas that are in an appropriate *normal form*.

Overview of the University Schema

classroom(*building*, *room_number*, *capacity*)
department(*dept_name*, *building*, *budget*)
course(*course_id*, *title*, *dept_name*, *credits*)
instructor(*ID*, *name*, *dept_name*, *salary*)
section(*course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*, *building*, *room_number*, *time_slot_id*)
teaches(*ID*, *course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*)
student(*ID*, *name*, *dept_name*, *tot_cred*)
takes(*ID*, *course_id*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*, *grade*)
advisor(*s_ID*, *i_ID*)
time_slot(*time_slot_id*, *day*, *start_time*, *end_time*)
prereq(*course_id*, *prereq_id*)

Combine Schemas?

- Suppose we combine *instructor* and *department* into *inst_dept*
  - *(No connection to relationship set inst_dept)*
- Result is possible repetition of information

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

Combine Schemas?

- Suppose we combine *instructor* and *department* into *inst_dept*
  - *(No connection to relationship set inst_dept)*

- Result has the following problems
  - Redundancy => risk of inconsistency
  - Incompleteness => problem of inserting new departments without any instructur

What About Smaller Schemas?

- Suppose we had started with *inst_dept.* How would we know to split up (**decompose**) it into *instructor* and *department*?

- Write a rule, such as "each specific value for *dept_name* corresponds to at most one *building* and *budget*". On other words, "if there were a schema (*dept_name, building, budget*), then *dept_name* would be a candidate key"

- This rule is specified as a a **functional dependency**:

  $$dept_name \rightarrow building, budget$$

- In *inst_dept*, the building and budget of a department may have to be repeated.
  - This indicates the need to decompose *inst_dept*

What About Smaller Schemas?

- Finding the right decomposition is hard for schemas with a large number of attributes and several functional dependencies.

- Not all decompositions are good.

- Suppose we decompose
  employee(ID, name, street, city, salary) into

  employee1 (*ID*, *name*)

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

- Such decomposition results in losing information -- we cannot reconstruct the original *employee* relation -- and so, this is a **lossy decomposition**.

A Lossy Decomposition

ID	name	street	city	salary
⋮				
57766	Kim	Main	Perryridge	75000
98776	Kim	North	Hampton	67000
⋮				

employee

ID	name
⋮	
57766	Kim
98776	Kim
⋮	

name	street	city	salary
⋮			
Kim	Main	Perryridge	75000
Kim	North	Hampton	67000
⋮			

natural join

ID	name	street	city	salary
⋮				
57766	Kim	Main	Perryridge	75000
57766	Kim	North	Hampton	67000
98776	Kim	Main	Perryridge	75000
98776	Kim	North	Hampton	67000
⋮				

Example of Lossless-Join Decomposition

- **Lossless join 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

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First Normal Form

- Domain is **atomic** if its elements have no substring and 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

First Normal Form

- Atomicity is actually a property of how the elements of the domain are used.
  - Example: Strings would normally be considered indivisible
  - Suppose that students are given roll numbers which are strings of the form *CS0012* or *EE1127*
  - If the first two characters are extracted to find the department, the domain of roll numbers is not atomic.
  - Doing so is a bad idea: leads to encoding of information in application program rather than in the database.

NOTE: However, the database application still treats the domain as atomic, as long as it does not attempt to split the identifier and interpret parts of the identifier as a department abbreviation. The *course* schema stores the department name as a separate attribute, and the database application can use this attribute value to find the department of a course, instead of interpreting particular characters of the course identifier. Thus, our university schema can be considered to be in first normal form.

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Goal — Devise a Theory for the Following

- 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 a set of relations $\{R_1, R_2, ..., R_n\}$ such that
  - each relation is in good form
  - the decomposition is a lossless-join decomposition

- Our theory is based on:
  - functional dependencies
  - multivalued dependencies

Functional Dependencies

- Defining all constraints (rules) on the data (the set of legal relations) in the real world.
- 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

- Example: some of the constraints that are expected to hold in a university database
  - Students and instructors are uniquely identified by their ID.
  - Each studenpt 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

- Let R be a relation schema

$$\alpha \subseteq R \;\; and \;\; \beta \subseteq R$$

- 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, $A \rightarrow B$ does **NOT** hold, but $B \rightarrow A$ does hold.

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.

Functional Dependencies

- Consider the schema:

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

  We expect these functional dependencies to hold:

  $$dept_name \rightarrow building$$

  $$ID \rightarrow building$$

  but would not expect the following to hold:

  $$dept_name \rightarrow salary$$

- We denote the fact that the pair of attributes (*ID*, *dept _name*) forms a superkey for *inst_dept* by writing:

  $$ID, dept_name \rightarrow name, salary, building, budget$$

Use of Functional Dependencies

- We use functional dependencies to:
  - test relations to see if they are legal under a given set of functional dependencies.
    - If a relation *r* is legal under a set *F* of functional dependencies, we say that *r* **satisfies** *F.*
  - 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.*

Use of Functional Dependencies

- 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.

- Example: In the following instance of the *classroom* relation we see the following functional dependency is satisfied.

$$room_number \rightarrow capacity$$

However, we believe that, in the real world, two classrooms in different buildings can have the same room number but with different room capacity.

building	*room_number*	*capacity*
Packard	101	500
Painter	514	10
Taylor	3128	70
Watson	100	30
Watson	120	50

Use of Functional Dependencies

- Let us consider the following instance of relation *r*, to see which functional dependencies are satisfied.
  - Observe that $A \rightarrow C$ is satisfied.
    - There are two tuples that have an *A* value of *a*1. These tuples have the same *C* value—namely, *c*1.
    - Similarly, the two tuples with an *A* value of *a*2 have the same *C* value, *c*2.
    - There are no other pairs of distinct tuples that have the same *A* value.
  - The functional dependency $C \rightarrow A$ is not satisfied, however.
    - Consider the tuples *t4* and *t5*.
    - These two tuples have the same *C* values, *c*2, but they have different *A* values, *a*2 and *a*3, respectively.
    - There is a pair of tuples *t4* and *t5* such that

      $t4[C] = t5[C]$, but $t4[A] \neq t4[A]$.

A	B	C	D
a_1	b_1	c_1	d_1
a_1	b_2	c_1	d_2
a_2	b_2	c_2	d_2
a_2	b_3	c_2	d_3
a_3	b_3	c_2	d_4

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 $\beta \subseteq \alpha$

Closure of a Set of Functional Dependencies

- Given a set F of functional dependencies, there are certain other functional dependencies that are logically implied by F.
  - For example: If $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow C$,

    then we can infer that $A \rightarrow C$

- The set of **all** functional dependencies logically implied by F is the **closure** of F.

- We denote the *closure* of F by $\mathbf{F^+}$.

- F^+ is a superset of F.

Closure of a Set of Functional Dependencies

- We can find F^+, the closure of F, by repeatedly applying **Armstrong's Axioms:**
  - if $\beta \subseteq \alpha$, then $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ **(reflexivity)**
  - if $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$, then $\gamma\ \alpha \rightarrow \gamma\ \beta$ **(augmentation)**
  - if $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$, and $\beta \rightarrow \gamma$, then $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma$ **(transitivity)**

- These rules are
  - **sound** (generate only functional dependencies that actually hold), and
  - **complete** (generate all functional dependencies that hold).

Example

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$
  $F = \{ A \rightarrow B$
  $A \rightarrow C$
  $CG \rightarrow H$
  $CG \rightarrow I$
  $B \rightarrow H\}$

- some members of F^+
  - $A \rightarrow H$
    - by transitivity from $A \rightarrow B$ *and* $B \rightarrow H$
  - $AG \rightarrow I$
    - by augmenting $A \rightarrow C$ with G, to get $AG \rightarrow CG$
      and then transitivity with $CG \rightarrow I$

Procedure for Computing F^+

- To compute the closure of a set of functional dependencies F:

$F^+ = F$
repeat
    for each functional dependency f in F^+
        apply reflexivity and augmentation rules on f
        add the resulting functional dependencies to F^+
    for each pair of functional dependencies f_1 and f_2 in F^+
        if f_1 and f_2 can be combined using transitivity
            then add the resulting functional dependency to F^+
until F^+ does not change any further

NOTE: We shall see an alternative procedure for this task later

Closure of Functional Dependencies

- Additional rules:
  - If $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ holds and $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma$ holds, then $\alpha \rightarrow \beta\gamma$ holds **(union)**
  - If $\alpha \rightarrow \beta\gamma$ holds, then $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ holds and $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma$ holds **(decomposition)**
  - If $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ holds and $\gamma\beta \rightarrow \delta$ holds, then $\alpha\gamma \rightarrow \delta$ holds **(pseudotransitivity)**

  The above rules can be inferred from Armstrong's axioms.

Example

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$
  $F = \{ A \rightarrow B$
  $A \rightarrow C$
  $CG \rightarrow H$
  $CG \rightarrow I$
  $B \rightarrow H\}$

- some members of F^+
  - $AG \rightarrow I$
    - $A \rightarrow C$ => $AG \rightarrow CG$
      $CG \rightarrow I$
  - $CG \rightarrow HI$
    - union with $CG \rightarrow H$ and $CG \rightarrow I$

Closure of Attribute Sets

- Given a set of attributes α, define the ***closure*** of α **under** *F* (denoted by α^+) as the set of attributes that are functionally determined by α under *F*

- Algorithm to compute α^+, the closure of α under *F*

result := α;
while (changes to *result*) **do**
  for each $\beta \rightarrow \gamma$ **in** *F* **do**
    begin
      if $\beta \subseteq$ *result* **then** *result* := *result* $\cup \gamma$
    end

Example of Attribute Set Closure

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$
- $F = \{A \rightarrow B$
  $A \rightarrow C$
  $CG \rightarrow H$
  $CG \rightarrow I$
  $B \rightarrow H\}$

- $(AG)^+$
  1. $result = AG$
  2. $result = ABCG$ $(A \rightarrow C$ and $A \rightarrow B)$
  3. $result = ABCGH$ $(CG \rightarrow H$ and $CG \subseteq AGBC)$
  4. $result = ABCGHI$ $(CG \rightarrow I$ and $CG \subseteq AGBCH)$

Example of Attribute Set Closure

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$
- $(AG)^+ = ABCGHI$
- Is AG a candidate key?
  1. Is AG a super key?
     1. Does $AG \rightarrow R$? == Is $(AG)^+ \supseteq R$
  2. Is any subset of AG a superkey?
     1. Does $A \rightarrow R$? == Is $(A)^+ \supseteq R$
     2. Does $G \rightarrow R$? == Is $(G)^+ \supseteq R$
- Usage of the attribute closure:
  - Testing for superkey:
    - To test if α is a superkey, we compute $\alpha^{+,}$ and check if α^+ contains all attributes of R.

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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

- Example
  - The *instr_dep* schema is *not* in BCNF:

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

  - because *dept_name*→ *building, budget* holds on *instr_dept,* but *dept_name* is not a superkey

  - The *instructor* schema is in BCNF.

instructor (*ID, name, salary, dept_name*)

  - Because all of the nontrivial functional dependencies that hold, such as *ID* → *name*, *dept_name, salary* include *ID* on the left side of the arrow, and *ID* is a superkey for *instructor*.

Decomposing a Schema into BCNF

- Suppose we have a schema *R* and a non-trivial dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ causes a violation of BCNF.

  We decompose *R* into:
  - $(\alpha \cup \beta)$
  - $(R - (\beta - \alpha))$
- In our example,
  - α = *dept_name*
  - β = *building, budget*

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

NOTE: When we decompose a schema that is not in BCNF, it may be that one or more of the resulting schemas are not in BCNF. In such cases, further decomposition is required, the eventual result of which is a set of BCNF schemas.

BCNF Example 1

- Example:
  - Each student can contribute in various running projects in a university
  - Each student has a unique email address for all his/hir correspondences in the project

⇒ *std_project* relation

std_project(*s_ID*, *p_ID*, *s_email)*

key?

BCNF Example 1

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key?

s_ID, p_ID

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functional dependencies?

BCNF Example 1

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  - Each student has a unique email address for all his/hir correspondences in the project

⇒ *std_project* relation

std_project(*s_ID*, *p_ID*, *s_email*)

functional dependencies?

s_ID → *s_email*

BCNF Example 1

- Example:

  std_project(*s_ID*, *p_ID, s_email)*

  s_ID → *s_email*

std_project is not in BCNF because *s_ID* is not a superkey

=> BCNF decomposition

(*s_ID*, s_*email*)

(*s_ID, proj_ID*)

Both the above schemas are BCNF.

BCNF Example 2

- Example:
  - An instructor can be associated with only a single department
  - A student may have more than one advisor, but at most one from a given department.

  (Such an arrangement makes sense for students with a double major.)

  ⇒ *dep_advise* relation:

  many-to-one from the pair {*student*, *instructor*} to *department*

  dep_advisor (*s_ID*, *i_ID*, *dept_name*)

  key?

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key?

s_ID, *dept_name*

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BCNF Example 2

- Example:
  - An instructor can be associated with only a single department
  - A student may have more than one advisor, but at most one from a given department.

  (Such an arrangement makes sense for students with a double major.)

  ⇒ *dep_advise* relation:

  many-to-one from the pair {*student*, *instructor*} to *department*

dep_advisor (*s_ID*, *i_ID*, *dept_name*)

functional dependencies?

i_ID → *dept_name*

s_ID, *dept_name* → *i_ID*

BCNF Example 2

- Example:

  dep_advisor (*s_ID*, *i_ID*, *dept_name*)

  i_ID → *dept_name*

  s_ID, *dept_name* → *i_ID*

dep_advisor is not in BCNF because *i_ID* is not a superkey

=> BCNF decomposition

BCNF Example 2

- Example:

  dep_advisor (*s_ID*, *i_ID*, *dept_name*)

  i_ID → *dept_name*

  s_ID, *dept_name* → *i_ID*

dep_advisor is not in BCNF because *i_ID* is not a superkey

=> BCNF decomposition

(*s_ID*, *i_ID*)

(*i_ID*, *dept_name*)

Both the above schemas are BCNF. However, there is no schema that includes all the attributes appearing in the functional dependency

s_ID, *dept_name* → *i_ID*

BCNF and Dependency Preservation

- Constraints, including functional dependencies, are costly to check in practice unless they pertain to only one relation

- If it is sufficient to test only those dependencies on each individual relation of a decomposition in order to ensure that *all* functional dependencies hold, then that decomposition is *dependency preserving.*

- Because it is not always possible to achieve both BCNF and dependency preservation, we consider a weaker normal form, known as *third normal form.*

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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)

- If a relation is in BCNF it is in 3NF
  - because 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).

Third Normal Form

- Example:

  dep_advisor (*s_ID*, *i_ID*, *dept_name*)

  i_ID → *dept_name*

  s_ID, *dept_name* → *i_ID*

dep_advisor is in 3NF because *dep_name* is contained in a candidate key

=> no decomposition is needed

- **Conclusion:**

We have seen the trade-off that must be made between BCNF and 3NF when there is no dependency-preserving BCNF design.

Example

- $R = (A, B, C, D)$

- $F = \{AB \rightarrow C$
  $D \rightarrow B$
  $AC \rightarrow D\}$

- See the solutions on the board
  - Candidate keys
  - Is AD -> B included in F+
  - *Is R in BCNF?*
  - *Is R in 3NF?*
  - *Decompose R into BCNF*

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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, 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-join decomposition
  - Preferably, the decomposition should be dependency preserving.

Functional-Dependency Theory

- Considering the formal theory that tells us which functional dependencies are implied logically by a given set of functional dependencies.
- Developing algorithms to generate lossless decompositions into BCNF and 3NF
- Developing algorithms to test if a decomposition is dependency-preserving

Canonical Cover

- By any update performs by users on a relation schema, the database system must ensure that the update does not violate any functional dependencies; i.e., all the functional dependencies should be satisfied in the new database state.

- The system must roll back the update if it violates any functional dependencies.

- We can reduce the effort spent in checking for violations by testing a simplified set of functional dependencies that has the same closure as the given set.

- Any database that satisfies the simplified set of functional dependencies also satisfies the original set, and vice versa, since the two sets have the same closure. However, the simplified set is easier to test.

Canonical Cover

- Sets of functional dependencies may have redundant dependencies that can be inferred from the others
  - For example: $A \rightarrow C$ is redundant in: $\{A \rightarrow B, \quad B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow C\}$
  - Parts of a functional dependency may be redundant
    - E.g.: on RHS: $\{A \rightarrow B, \quad B \rightarrow C, \quad A \rightarrow CD\}$ can be simplified to

      $$\{A \rightarrow B, \quad B \rightarrow C, \quad A \rightarrow D\}$$

    - E.g.: on LHS: $\{A \rightarrow B, \quad B \rightarrow C, \quad AC \rightarrow D\}$ can be simplified to

      $$\{A \rightarrow B, \quad B \rightarrow C, \quad A \rightarrow D\}$$

- Intuitively, a canonical cover of F is a "minimal" set of functional dependencies equivalent to F, having no redundant dependencies or redundant parts of dependencies

Extraneous Attributes

- Consider a set F of functional dependencies and the functional dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ in F.
  - Attribute A is **extraneous** in α if $A \in \alpha$ and F logically implies $(F - \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{(\alpha - A) \rightarrow \beta\}$.
  - Attribute A is **extraneous** in β if $A \in \beta$ and the set of functional dependencies $(F - \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow (\beta - A)\}$ logically implies F.

- *Note:* implication in the opposite direction is trivial in each of the cases above, since a "stronger" functional dependency always implies a weaker one

Extraneous Attributes

- Example: Given $F = \{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow C\}$
  - B is extraneous in $AB \rightarrow C$
    - because $\{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow C\}$ logically implies $A \rightarrow C$ (I.e. the result of dropping B from $AB \rightarrow C$).

- Example: Given $F = \{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow CD\}$
  - C is extraneous in $AB \rightarrow CD$
    - because $A\mathrm{B} \rightarrow C$ can be inferred even after deleting C

Testing if an Attribute is Extraneous

- Consider a set *F* of functional dependencies and the functional dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ in *F*.

- To test if attribute $A \in \alpha$ is extraneous in α
  1. compute $(\{\alpha\} - A)^+$ using the dependencies in *F*
  2. check that $(\{\alpha\} - A)^+$ contains β; if it does, *A* is extraneous in α

- To test if attribute $A \in \beta$ is extraneous in β
  1. compute α^+ using only the dependencies in
     $$F' = (F - \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow (\beta - A)\},$$
  2. check that α^+ contains *A;* if it does, *A* is extraneous in β

Extraneous Attributes

- Example:
  - Given $F = \{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow C\}$
  - B is extraneous in $AB \rightarrow C$
    - $(\{\alpha\} - A)^+$ under F contains β
    - $A^+ = AC$

Extraneous Attributes

- Example:
  - Given $F = \{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow CD\}$
  - C is extraneous in $AB \rightarrow CD$
    - α^+ under F' contains C
    - $(AB)^+ = ABCD$

Extraneous Attributes

- Example:
  - Given $F = \{AB \rightarrow CD, A \rightarrow E, E \rightarrow C\}$
  - C is extraneous in $AB \rightarrow CD$
    - α^+ under F' contains C
    - $(AB)^+ = ABCDE$

Canonical Cover

- A **canonical cover** for F is a set of dependencies F_c such that
  - F logically implies all dependencies in F_c, and
  - F_c logically implies all dependencies in F, and
  - No functional dependency in F_c contains an extraneous attribute, and
  - Each left side of functional dependency in F_c is unique.

Canonical Cover

- To compute a canonical cover for *F*:
  repeat
  Use the union rule to replace any dependencies in *F*
  $\alpha_1 \rightarrow \beta_1$ and $\alpha_1 \rightarrow \beta_2$ with $\alpha_1 \rightarrow \beta_1 \beta_2$
  Find a functional dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ with an
  extraneous attribute either in α or in β
  /* Note: test for extraneous attributes done using $F_{c,}$ not F*/
  If an extraneous attribute is found, delete it from $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$
  until *F* does not change

- Note: Union rule may become applicable after some extraneous attributes have been deleted, so it has to be re-applied

- Note: Whenever the right hand side become empty the entire functional dependency should be removed

Computing a Canonical Cover

- $R = (A, B, C)$
  $F = \{A \rightarrow BC$
  $B \rightarrow C$
  $A \rightarrow B$
  $AB \rightarrow C\}$

Computing a Canonical Cover

- $R = (A, B, C)$
  $F = \{A \rightarrow BC$
  $B \rightarrow C$
  $A \rightarrow B$
  $AB \rightarrow C\}$
- Combine $A \rightarrow BC$ and $A \rightarrow B$ into $A \rightarrow BC$
  - Set is now $\{A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow C\}$
- A is extraneous in $AB \rightarrow C$
  - Check if the result of deleting A from $AB \rightarrow C$ is implied by the other dependencies
    - Yes: in fact, $B \rightarrow C$ is already present!
  - Set is now $\{A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow C\}$
- C is extraneous in $A \rightarrow BC$
  - Check if $A \rightarrow C$ is logically implied by $A \rightarrow B$ and the other dependencies
    - Yes: using transitivity on $A \rightarrow B$ *and* $B \rightarrow$ C.
      - Can use attribute closure of A in more complex cases
- The canonical cover is: $A \rightarrow B$
  $B \rightarrow C$

Computing a Canonical Cover

- $R = (A, B, C)$
  $F = \{A \rightarrow BC$
  $B \rightarrow AC$
  $C \rightarrow AB\}$

- Computations on the board

Lossless-join Decomposition

- 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 join 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

- $R = (A, B, C)$
  $F = \{A \rightarrow B$
  $B \rightarrow C\}$

- Key = $\{A\}$

- R is not in BCNF

- Decomposition $R_1 = (A, B)$, $R_2 = (B, C)$
  - R_1 and R_2 in BCNF
  - Lossless-join decomposition

    $$R_1 \cap R_2 = \{B\} \text{ and } B \rightarrow BC$$

  - Dependency preserving

Dependency Preservation

- Let F_i be the set of dependencies F^+ that include only attributes in R_i.
  - A decomposition is **dependency preserving**, if

    $$(F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \ldots \cup F_n)^+ = F^+$$

  - If it is not, then checking updates for violation of functional dependencies may require computing joins, which is expensive.

Testing for Dependency Preservation

- To check if a dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is preserved in a decomposition of R into $R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_n$ we apply the following test (with attribute closure done with respect to F)
  - *result* = α
    while (changes to *result*) do
    for each R_i in the decomposition
    $t = (result \cap R_i)^+ \cap R_i$
    $result = result \cup t$
  - If *result* contains all attributes in β, then the functional dependency
    $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is preserved.
- We apply the test on all dependencies in F to check if a decomposition is dependency preserving
- This procedure takes polynomial time, instead of the exponential time required to compute F^+ and $(F_1 \cup F_2 \cup \ldots \cup F_n)^+$

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.

Testing for BCNF

- **Simplified test using only *F* is incorrect when testing a relation in a decomposition of R**

- Example:
  - $R = (A, B, C, D, E)$,
  - $F = \{ A \rightarrow B, BC \rightarrow D\}$

  Decompose R into
  - $R_1 = (A,B)$
  - $R_2 = (A,C,D, E)$

Testing for BCNF

- **Simplified test using only *F* is incorrect when testing a relation in a decomposition of R**

- Example:
  - $R = (A, B, C, D, E)$,
  - $F = \{ A \rightarrow B, BC \rightarrow D\}$

  Decompose R into
  - $R_1 = (A,B)$
  - $R_2 = (A,C,D, E)$

  - 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 $R_i - \alpha$, 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) $\cup$ ($R_i - \beta$) $\cup$ (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:
  - *?*

- A candidate key:
  - ?

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:
  - ?

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*}.

Example of BCNF Decomposition

- *class* (*course_id*, *title*, *dept_name*, *credits*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*, *building*, *room_number*, *capacity*, *time_slot_id*)

- BCNF Decomposition:
  - *?*

Example of BCNF Decomposition

- *class* (*course_id*, *title*, *dept_name*, *credits*, *sec_id*, *semester*, *year*, *building*, *room_number*, *capacity*, *time_slot_id*)

- BCNF Decomposition:
  - *course_id*→ *title*, *dept_name*, *credits*
    - *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

- *course* is in BCNF
- BCNF Decomposition for class-1:
  - ?

BCNF Decomposition

- *course* is in BCNF
- BCNF Decomposition for class-1:
  - *building*, *room_number*→*capacity*
    - {*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.

Third Normal Form: Motivation

- There are some situations where
  - BCNF is not dependency preserving, and
  - efficient checking for FD violation on updates is important
- Solution: define a weaker normal form, called Third Normal Form (3NF)
  - Allows some redundancy (with resultant problems; we will see examples later)
  - But functional dependencies can be checked on individual relations without computing a join.
  - There is always a lossless-join, dependency-preserving decomposition into 3NF.

3NF Example

- Relation *dept_advisor*:
  - *dept_advisor* (*s_ID, i_ID, dept_name)*
  - $F = \{s_ID, dept_name \rightarrow i_ID,$
    $i_ID \rightarrow dept_name\}$
  - Two candidate keys: *s_ID, dept_name,* and *i_ID, s_ID*
  - *R* is in 3NF
    - $s_ID, dept_name \rightarrow i_ID$
      - *s_ID, dept_name* is a superkey
    - $i_ID \rightarrow dept_name$
      - *dept_name* is contained in a candidate key

Redundancy in 3NF

- There is some redundancy in this schema

s_ID	i_ID	dept_name
A	X	M
B	X	M
C	X	M
Null	Y	N

- repetition of information (e.g., the relationship *X, M*)
  - (*i_ID, dept_name)*

- need to use null values (e.g., to represent the relationship Y, N where there is no corresponding value for s_ID).

Testing for 3NF

- Optimization: Need to check only FDs in *F*, need not check all FDs in F^+.
- Use attribute closure to check for each dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$, if α is a superkey.
- If α is not a superkey, we have to verify if each attribute in β is contained in a candidate key of *R*
  - this test is rather more expensive, since it involve finding candidate keys
  - testing for 3NF has been shown to be NP-hard
  - Interestingly, decomposition into third normal form (described shortly) can be done in polynomial time

3NF Decomposition Algorithm

Let F_c be a canonical cover for F;
i := 0;
for each functional dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ in F_c **do**
  if none of the schemas R_j, $1 \leq j \leq i$ contains $\alpha\ \beta$
    then begin
      $i := i + 1$;
      $R_i := \alpha\ \beta$
    end
if none of the schemas R_j, $1 \leq j \leq i$ contains a candidate key for R
  then begin
    $i := i + 1$;
    R_i := any candidate key for R;
  end
/* Optionally, remove redundant relations */

repeat
if any schema R_j is contained in another schema R_k
  then ***/*** delete R_j ****/***
    $R_j = R$;;
    $i=i-1$;
return $(R_1, R_2, ..., R_i)$

3NF Decomposition Algorithm

- Above algorithm ensures:
  - each relation schema R_i is in 3NF
  - decomposition is dependency preserving and lossless-join

Comparison of BCNF and 3NF

- It is always possible to decompose a relation into a set of relations that are in 3NF such that:
  - the decomposition is lossless
  - the dependencies are preserved
- It is always possible to decompose a relation into a set of relations that are in BCNF such that:
  - the decomposition is lossless
  - it may not be possible to preserve dependencies.

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

Design Goals

- 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.

Outline

- Features of Good Relational Design
- Atomic Domains and First Normal Form
- Decomposition Using Functional Dependencies
  - Functional Dependency Theory
  - Boyce-Codd Normal Form
  - Third Normal Form
  - Normalization's Goal
- **Decomposition Using Multivalued Dependencies**
- More Normal Form
- Database-Design Process
- Modeling Temporal Data

Multivalued Dependencies

- Suppose we record names of children, and phone numbers for instructors:
  - *inst_child*(*ID*, *child_name*)
  - *inst_phone*(*ID*, *phone_number*)
- If we were to combine these schemas to get
  - *inst_info*(*ID*, *child_name*, *phone_number*)
  - Example data:

  (99999, William, 512-555-1234)

  (99999, David, 512-555-4321)
  (99999, David, 512-555-1234)

  (99999, William, 512-555-4321)
- This relation is in BCNF
  - Why?

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

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

inst_info

How good is BCNF?

- 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)

How good is BCNF?

- Therefore, it is better to decompose *inst_info* into:

inst_child

ID	*child_name*
99999	David
99999	David
99999	William
99999	Willian

inst_phone

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

Multivalued Dependencies (MVDs)

- Let R be a relation schema and let $\alpha \subseteq R$ and $\beta \subseteq R$. The **multivalued dependency**

$$\alpha \rightarrow\rightarrow \beta$$

holds on R if in any legal relation $r(R)$, for all pairs for tuples t_1 and t_2 in r such that $t_1[\alpha] = t_2[\alpha]$, there exist tuples t_3 and t_4 in r such that:

$$t_1[\alpha] = t_2[\alpha] = t_3[\alpha] = t_4[\alpha]$$
$$t_3[\beta] = t_1[\beta]$$
$$t_3[R - \beta] = t_2[R - \beta]$$
$$t_4[\beta] = t_2[\beta]$$
$$t_4[R - \beta] = t_1[R - \beta]$$

MVD (Cont.)

- Tabular representation of $\alpha \rightarrow\rightarrow \beta$

	α	β	$R - \alpha - \beta$
t_1	$a_1 \ldots a_i$	$a_{i+1} \ldots a_j$	$a_{j+1} \ldots a_n$
t_2	$a_1 \ldots a_i$	$b_{i+1} \ldots b_j$	$b_{j+1} \ldots b_n$
t_3	$a_1 \ldots a_i$	$a_{i+1} \ldots a_j$	$b_{j+1} \ldots b_n$
t_4	$a_1 \ldots a_i$	$b_{i+1} \ldots b_j$	$a_{j+1} \ldots a_n$

Example

- Let R be a relation schema with a set of attributes that are partitioned into 3 nonempty subsets.

$$Y, Z, W$$

- We say that $Y \rightarrow\rightarrow Z$ (Y **multidetermines** Z) if and only if for all possible relations r (R)

$$< y_1, z_1, w_1 > \in r \text{ and } < y_1, z_2, w_2 > \in r$$

then

$$< y_1, z_1, w_2 > \in r \text{ and } < y_1, z_2, w_1 > \in r$$

- Note that since the behavior of Z and W are identical it follows that

$Y \rightarrow\rightarrow Z$ if $Y \rightarrow\rightarrow W$

Example (Cont.)

- In our example:

$$ID \rightarrow\rightarrow child_name$$
$$ID \rightarrow\rightarrow phone_number$$

- The above formal definition is supposed to formalize the notion that given a particular value of *Y* (*ID*) it has associated with it a set of values of *Z* *(child_name)* and a set of values of *W (phone_number)*, and these two sets are in some sense independent of each other.
- Note:
  - If $Y \rightarrow Z$ then $Y \rightarrow\rightarrow Z$
  - Indeed we have (in above notation) $Z_1 = Z_2$
    The claim follows.

Use of Multivalued Dependencies

- We use multivalued dependencies in two ways:

  1. To test relations to **determine** whether they are legal under a given set of functional and multivalued dependencies

  2. To specify **constraints** on the set of legal relations. We shall thus concern ourselves *only* with relations that satisfy a given set of functional and multivalued dependencies.

- If a relation *r* fails to satisfy a given multivalued dependency, we can construct a relations *r′* that does satisfy the multivalued dependency by adding tuples to *r.*

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Fourth Normal Form

- A relation schema R is in **4NF** with respect to a set D of functional and multivalued dependencies if for all multivalued dependencies in D^+ of the form $\alpha \rightarrow\rightarrow \beta$, where $\alpha \subseteq R$ and $\beta \subseteq R$, at least one of the following hold:
  - $\alpha \rightarrow\rightarrow \beta$ is trivial (i.e., $\beta \subseteq \alpha$ or $\alpha \cup \beta = R$)
  - α is a superkey for schema R

- If a relation is in 4NF it is in BCNF

Restriction of Multivalued Dependencies

- The restriction of D to R_i is the set D_i consisting of
  - All functional dependencies in D^+ that include only attributes of R_i
  - All multivalued dependencies of the form

    $$\alpha \rightarrow\rightarrow (\beta \cap R_i)$$

    where $\alpha \subseteq R_i$ and $\alpha \rightarrow\rightarrow \beta$ is in D^+

4NF Decomposition Algorithm

result: = {*R*};
done := false;
compute D^+;
Let D_i denote the restriction of D^+ to R_i

while (**not** *done*)
  if (there is a schema $\mathbf{R}_i$ in *result* that is not in 4NF) **then**
    begin

      let $\alpha \rightarrow\rightarrow \beta$ be a nontrivial multivalued dependency that holds
        on R_i such that $\alpha \rightarrow R_i$ is not in D_i, and $\alpha \cap \beta = \phi$;
      result := (*result* - R_i) $\cup$ (R_i - β) $\cup$ (α, β);
    end
  else *done*:= true;

Note: each R_i is in 4NF, and decomposition is lossless-join

Example

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$

  $F = \{ A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$

  $B \rightarrow\rightarrow HI$

  $CG \rightarrow\rightarrow H \}$

Example

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$

  $F = \{ A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$

  $B \rightarrow\rightarrow HI$

  $CG \rightarrow\rightarrow H \}$

- R is not in 4NF since $A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$ and A is not a superkey for R

- Decomposition

  a) $R_1 = (A, B)$ (R_1 is in 4NF)

  b) $R_2 = (A, C, G, H, I)$ (R_2 is not in 4NF => decompose it)

Example

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$

  $F = \{ A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$

  $B \rightarrow\rightarrow HI$

  $CG \rightarrow\rightarrow H \}$

- R is not in 4NF since $A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$ and A is not a superkey for R

- Decomposition

  a) $R_1 = (A, B)$ (R_1 is in 4NF)

  b) $R_2 = (A, C, G, H, I)$ (R_2 is not in 4NF => decompose it)

  c) $R_{21} = (C, G, H)$ (R_{21} is in 4NF)

  d) $R_{22} = (A, C, G, I)$ (R_{22} is not in 4NF => decompose it)

Example

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$

  $F = \{ A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$

  $B \rightarrow\rightarrow HI$

  $CG \rightarrow\rightarrow H \}$

- R is not in 4NF since $A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$ and A is not a superkey for R

- Decomposition

  a) $R_1 = (A, B)$ (R_1 is in 4NF)

  b) $R_2 = (A, C, G, H, I)$ (R_2 is not in 4NF => decompose it)

  c) $R_{21} = (C, G, H)$ (R_{21} is in 4NF)

  d) $R_{22} = (A, C, G, I)$ (R_{22} is not in 4NF => decompose it)

  - $A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow\rightarrow HI$ ➔ $A \rightarrow\rightarrow HI$, (MVD transitivity)
  - hence $A \rightarrow\rightarrow I$ *(MVD restriction to R_{22})*

Example

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$

  $F = \{ A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$

  $B \rightarrow\rightarrow HI$

  $CG \rightarrow\rightarrow H \}$

- R is not in 4NF since $A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$ and A is not a superkey for R

- Decomposition

  a) $R_1 = (A, B)$ (R_1 is in 4NF)

  b) $R_2 = (A, C, G, H, I)$ (R_2 is not in 4NF => decompose it)

  c) $R_{21} = (C, G, H)$ (R_{21} is in 4NF)

  d) $R_{22} = (A, C, G, I)$ (R_{22} is not in 4NF => decompose it)

  - $A \rightarrow\rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow\rightarrow HI$ ➔ $A \rightarrow\rightarrow HI$, (MVD transitivity)
  - hence $A \rightarrow\rightarrow I$ *(MVD restriction to R_{22})*

  e) $R_{221} = (A, I)$ (R_{221} is in 4NF)

  f) $R_{222} = (A, C, G)$ (R_{222} is in 4NF)

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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*,
    and a functional dependency
    department_name $\rightarrow$ *building*
  - Good design would have made department an entity

Naming of Attributes

- Each attribute name should have a unique meaning in the database.
- This prevents us from using the same attribute to mean different things in different schemas.
- E.g., attribute *number* for phone number in the instructor schema and for room number in the classroom schema.
- The join of a relation on schema instructor with one on classroom is meaningless.
- While users and application developers can work carefully to ensure use of the right number in each circumstance, having a different attribute name for phone number and for room number serves to reduce user errors.

Naming of Attributes

- While it is a good idea to keep names for incompatible attributes distinct, if attributes of different relations have the same meaning, it may be a good idea to use the same attribute name.

- e.g., using the same attribute name *"name"* for both the instructor and the student entity sets.

- If this was not the case (that is, we used different naming conventions for the instructor and student names), then if we wished to generalize these entity sets by creating a person entity set, we would have to rename the attribute. Thus, even if we did not currently have a generalization of student and instructor, if we foresee such a possibility it is best to use the same name in both entity sets (and relations).

Naming of Attributes

- Although technically, the order of attribute names in a schema does not matter, it is convention to list primary-key attributes first. This makes reading default output (as from select *) easier.

Naming of Relationships

- In large database schemas, relationship sets (and schemas derived therefrom) are often named via a concatenation of the names of related entity sets (with an intervening hyphen or underscore).
  - e.g., inst *stud_dep*
- In some cased, we can use other meaningful names instead of using the longer concatenated names.
  - e.g., *teaches* and *takes*
- We cannot always create relationship-set names by simple concatenation;
  - e.g., for example, *employee_employee* for a manager or works-for relationship between employees
  - Similarly, if there are multiple relationship sets possible between a pair of entity sets, the relationship-set names must include extra parts to identify the relationship set.

Naming of Relationships

- Different organizations have different conventions for naming entity sets.
  - e.g., *student* or *students*
- Using either singular or plural is acceptable, as long as the convention is used consistently across all entity sets.
- As schemas grow larger, with increasing numbers of relationship sets, using consistent naming of attributes, relationships, and entities makes life much easier for the database designer and application programmers.

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 as

  $course \bowtie prereq$

  - 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

Outline

- Features of Good Relational Design
- Atomic Domains and First Normal Form
- Decomposition Using Functional Dependencies
  - Functional Dependency Theory
  - Boyce-Codd Normal Form
  - Third Normal Form
  - Normalization's Goal
- Decomposition Using Multivalued Dependencies
- More Normal Form
- Database-Design Process
- **Modeling Temporal Data**

Modeling Temporal Data

- **Temporal data** have an association time interval during which the data are *valid.*
- A **snapshot** is the value of the data at a particular point in time
- Several proposals to extend ER model by adding valid time to
  - attributes, e.g., address of an instructor at different points in time
  - entities, e.g., time duration when a student entity exists
  - relationships, e.g., time during which an instructor was associated with a student as an advisor.
- But no accepted standard

Modeling Temporal Data

- Adding a temporal component results in functional dependencies like

  $ID \rightarrow street, city$

  not to hold, because the address varies over time

- A **temporal functional dependency** X → Y holds on schema *R* if the functional dependency X → Y holds on all snapshots for all legal instances r (*R*).

t

Modeling Temporal Data

- In practice, database designers may add start and end time attributes to relations
  - E.g., *course*(*course_id, course_title*) is replaced by

    course(*course_id, course_title, start, end*)

    (CS-101, “Introduction to Programming”, 1985-01-01, 2000-12-31)

    (CS-101, “Introduction to C”, 2001-01-01, 2010-12-31)

    (CS-101, “Introduction to Java”, 2011-01-01, 9999-12-31)

    - Constraint: no two tuples can have overlapping valid times
      - Hard to enforce efficiently

Modeling Temporal Data

- The original primary key for a temporal relation would no longer uniquely identify a tuple. To resolve this problem, we could add the start and end time attributes to the primary key.

- To specify a foreign key referencing such a relation, the referencing tuples would have to include the start- and end-time attributes as part of their foreign key, and the values must match that in the referenced tuple.

- If the system supports temporal data in a better fashion, we can allow the referencing tuple to specify a point in time, rather than a range, and rely on the system to ensure that there is a tuple in the referenced relation whose valid time interval contains the point in time.
  - E.g., student transcript should refer to course information at the time the course was taken

Questions?

Based on the slides of the course book