

Winter 2022 - CS540 – Assignment 3 (Written) (Group 15)

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1. Constraint Reference:

(a) Given that X, Y, W, Z are attributes in a relation, using Armstrong's axioms, prove that if we have $X \rightarrow Y$ and $Y W \rightarrow Z$, then $XW \rightarrow Z$.

Given $X \rightarrow Y$ and $Y W \rightarrow Z$

✓ $X \rightarrow Y$

According to Armstrong's axiom – Augmentation

We can add 'W' to both the sides of the relation and represent as below

$XW \rightarrow YW$

✓ Now we have $XW \rightarrow YW$ and given relation as $YW \rightarrow Z$

According to Armstrong's axiom – Transitivity

We can conclude $XW \rightarrow YW$ and $YW \rightarrow Z$ as below

$XW \rightarrow Z$

Hence, we proved that if we have $X \rightarrow Y$ and $YW \rightarrow Z$, then $XW \rightarrow Z$

(b) Given that X, Y, Z are attributes in a relation, using Armstrong's axioms, prove that if we have $X \rightarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Z$, then $X \rightarrow YZ$.

Given $X \rightarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Z$

✓ $X \rightarrow Y$

According to Armstrong's axiom – Augmentation

We can add 'X' to both the sides of the relation and represent as below

$XX \rightarrow XY$ which is equal to $X \rightarrow XY$

✓ $X \rightarrow Z$

According to Armstrong's axiom – Augmentation

We can add 'Y' to both the sides of the relation and represent as below

$YX \rightarrow YZ$ which is equal to $XY \rightarrow YZ$

✓ Now we have $X \rightarrow XY$ and $XY \rightarrow YZ$

According to Armstrong's axiom – Transitivity

We can conclude $X \rightarrow XY$ and $XY \rightarrow YZ$ as below

$X \rightarrow YZ$

Hence, we proved that if we have $X \rightarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Z$, then $X \rightarrow YZ$

2. Schema Decomposition:

Consider the relation schema **R** with attributes **A, B, C, and D** and the following functional dependencies: **$AB \rightarrow C$, $AC \rightarrow B$, $B \rightarrow D$, $BC \rightarrow A$** .

(a) List all keys for **R**.

Given FD's are $AB \rightarrow C$, $AC \rightarrow B$, $B \rightarrow D$, $BC \rightarrow A$

First, we will find closure.

$AB^+ = ABCD$ $BC^+ = BDCA$ $AC^+ = ACBD$

So, from the above-mentioned closures we can say that **AB, BC, AC** are the keys for relation schema **R**.

(b) Is **R** in BCNF? If it is not, decompose it into a collection of BCNF relations.

According to definition, Definition 11.2.1 (Alice Book), Relation **R** is in Boyce-Codd normal form (BCNF) if and only if, for each non-trivial Functional Dependency $X \rightarrow Y$ in **R**, **X** is a super key of **R**. Every attribute depends only on super keys.

Given FD's are $AB \rightarrow C$, $AC \rightarrow B$, $B \rightarrow D$, $BC \rightarrow A$

Here $B \rightarrow D$ we can say that **B** is not a super key, so relation **R** is not in BCNF.

Decomposition of BCNF: Since we found out the keys, we will decompose it into BCNF as below. We decompose into two, one with the attributes of FD which violates the BCNF ($B \rightarrow D$)

ABC BD

AB \rightarrow C B \rightarrow D

AC \rightarrow B

BC \rightarrow A

From this decomposition, we can say that **R1(ABC)** and **R2(BD)** are in BCNF.

(c) Is **R** in 3NF? If it is not, convert it into a collection of 3NF relations.

According to definition, Definition 11.2.11 (Alice Book), Relation **R** is in 3rd Normal Form (3NF) if for each non-trivial Functional Dependency (FD), $X \rightarrow Y$ in **R**, **X** is a super key or **Y** is a prime attribute (each element of **Y** is part of candidate key)

Relation schema **R** is not in 3NF. Given Functional Dependencies are already on a minimal basis. Relation can be converted into a collection of 3NF as below.

R1(ABC) and R2(BD)

(d) Prove that, if relation R has only one simple key, it is in BCNF if and only if it is in 3NF.

Given relation R has only one simple key. To prove it is in BCNF if and only if it is in 3NF condition, let's take R is in 3NF.

Consider a relation $X \rightarrow B$. For this relation to be in 3NF form either X is a super key or B is part of the key. Since R has only one simple key, B has just one attribute and it could be the key which in turn says that X is a super key.

Hence $X \rightarrow B$ is in BCNF in any of these cases. So, relation R with one simple key is in BCNF.

3. Information Preservation:

(a) Suppose you are given a relation R (A, B, C, D) with functional dependencies $B \rightarrow C$ and $D \rightarrow A$. State whether the decomposition of R to S1(B, C) and S2(A, D) is lossless, or dependency preserving and briefly explain why or why not.

Given relation R (A, B, C, D) with functional dependencies $B \rightarrow C$ and $D \rightarrow A$

Decomposition of R is S1(B, C) and S2(A, D)

For a relation to be in lossless decomposition, union of decomposition relations ($S1 \cup S2$) should be equal to relation R (A, B, C, D). This is true for the given relation, but the intersection of decomposition relations ($S1 \cap S2$) should be equal to null which is not true in this case. Hence for this relation, the decomposition of R is not lossless decomposition.

The functional dependency $B \rightarrow C$ can be ensured in S1(B, C) and $D \rightarrow A$ can be ensured in S2(A, D). So, it is dependency preserving decomposition.

(b) Prove that the 3NF synthesis algorithm produces a lossless-join decomposition of the relation containing all the original attributes.

Consider a set of relations R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n and the Functional Dependencies sets are equivalent. For the relation, key is K, minimal basis is M and set of FD's is U. We can prove that schema is in 3NF if the FD in one set has only one attribute in their right hand side. Let's consider each FD, $X \rightarrow Y$ in M, we get a relation S if XY is not covered by any relation. So, we have tuples which are generated by S, attributes contained in key K and a join on such tuples will generate a lossless decomposition.