

### Some solutions for problem III

1. Pseudo-transitivity

a. The proof can be done using the definition of an FD or using the Armstrong axioms.

Armstrong:

Assume that  $X \rightarrow Y$  (1),  $Z \rightarrow V$  (2), and  $Z$  (belongs)  $Y$  (3)

Since  $Z$  (belongs)  $Y$  (3) then  $Y \rightarrow Z$  (4), by reflexivity

Since  $X \rightarrow Y$  (1) and  $Y \rightarrow Z$  (4) then  $X \rightarrow Z$  (5), by transitivity

Since  $X \rightarrow Z$  (5) and  $Z \rightarrow V$  (2) then  $X \rightarrow V$  (QED), by transitivity

b. Transitivity can be deduced from pseudo transitivity alone, therefore the Armstrong axioms in which transitivity is replaced by pseudo-transitivity are still complete.

2. The rule is not correct. It can be shown by showing an example instance of a table that verifies  $X \rightarrow Y$  but such that  $Y \rightarrow X$  is false.

The simplest is to use  $X=\{A\}$  and  $Y=\{B\}$  from  $R(A,B)$ .

In the example below  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}$  but, of course  $\{B\}$  is not a subset of  $\{A\}$ .

A B

1 2

2 2

3 3

3.  $F = \{ \{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}, \{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}, \{B,D\} \rightarrow \{E\}, \{D\} \rightarrow \{A,D\}, \{A,C\} \rightarrow \{E,B\} \}$

g.  $C^+ (0) = \{C\}$

$C^+ (1) = \{C, D\}$  by using  $\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$

$C^+ (2) = \{C, D, A\}$  by using  $\{D\} \rightarrow \{A,D\}$

$C^+ (3) = \{C, D, A, B\}$  by using  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}$

$C^+ (4) = \{C, D, A, B, E\}$  by using  $\{B,D\} \rightarrow \{E\}$

$C^+ = \{C, D, A, B, E\}$ , we can stop, we have every attribute.

$\{C\}$  is a superkey

There is no proper subset which is a superkey (only one proper subset  $\rightarrow$  and it is not a superkey), therefore  $\{C\}$  is a candidate key.

It is the only one.

$\{C\}$  is a primary key.

h. Minimal cover

1. Simplify the right-hand side

$F' = \{ \{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}, \{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}, \{B,D\} \rightarrow \{E\}, \{D\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{D\} \rightarrow \{D\}, \{A,C\} \rightarrow \{E\}, \{A,C\} \rightarrow \{B\} \}$

2. Simplify the left-hand side

$F'' = \{ \{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}, \{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}, \{D\} \rightarrow \{E\}, \{D\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{D\} \rightarrow \{D\}, \{C\} \rightarrow \{E\} \}$

$\{A, C\} \rightarrow \{B\}$  can be removed because  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}$  is there (and  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}$ )

$\{B, D\} \rightarrow \{E\}$ , can be replaced by  $\{D\} \rightarrow \{E\}$ , (because  $\{D\} \rightarrow \{A\}$  and  $\{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}$ )

$\{A, C\} \rightarrow \{E\}$  can be replaced by  $\{C\} \rightarrow \{E\}$ , (because  $\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$  and  $\{D\} \rightarrow \{E\}$ )

3. Eliminate redundant rules

$\text{Min}(F) = \{ \{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}, \{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}, \{D\} \rightarrow \{E\}, \{D\} \rightarrow \{A\} \}$

$\{D\} \rightarrow \{D\}$ , can be removed because it is trivial

$\{C\} \rightarrow \{E\}$  can be removed because it can be obtained from  $\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$ ,  $\{D\} \rightarrow \{E\}$ ,