

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 $\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$, $\{D\} \rightarrow \{E\}$,