Normalization

* Normalization is the process of organizing the data in the database.
* Normalization is used to minimize the redundancy from a relation or set of relations. It is also used to eliminate the undesirable characteristics like Insertion, Update and Deletion Anomalies.
* Normalization divides the larger table into the smaller table and links them using relationship.
* The normal form is used to reduce redundancy from the database table.

## **Types of Normal Forms**

There are the four types of normal forms:



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Normal Form** | **Description** |
| [1NF](https://www.javatpoint.com/dbms-first-normal-form) | A relation is in 1NF if it contains an atomic value. |
| [2NF](https://www.javatpoint.com/dbms-second-normal-form) | A relation will be in 2NF if it is in 1NF and all non-key attributes are fully functional dependent on the primary key. |
| [3NF](https://www.javatpoint.com/dbms-third-normal-form) | A relation will be in 3NF if it is in 2NF and no transition dependency exists. |
| [4NF](https://www.javatpoint.com/dbms-forth-normal-form) | A relation will be in 4NF if it is in Boyce Codd normal form and has no multi-valued dependency. |
| [5NF](https://www.javatpoint.com/dbms-fifth-normal-form) | A relation is in 5NF if it is in 4NF and not contains any join dependency and joining should be lossless. |

# First Normal Form (1NF)

* A relation will be 1NF if it contains an atomic value.
* It states that an attribute of a table cannot hold multiple values. It must hold only single-valued attribute.
* First normal form disallows the multi-valued attribute, composite attribute, and their combinations.

**Example:** Relation EMPLOYEE is not in 1NF because of multi-valued attribute EMP\_PHONE.

**EMPLOYEE table:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EMP\_ID** | **EMP\_NAME** | **EMP\_PHONE** | **EMP\_STATE** |
| 14 | John | 7272826385, 9064738238 | UP |
| 20 | Harry | 8574783832 | Bihar |
| 12 | Sam | 7390372389, 8589830302 | Punjab |

The decomposition of the EMPLOYEE table into 1NF has been shown below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EMP\_ID** | **EMP\_NAME** | **EMP\_PHONE** | **EMP\_STATE** |
| 14 | John | 7272826385 | UP |
| 14 | John | 9064738238 | UP |
| 20 | Harry | 8574783832 | Bihar |
| 12 | Sam | 7390372389 | Punjab |
| 12 | Sam | 8589830302 | Punjab |

# Second Normal Form (2NF)

* In the 2NF, relational must be in 1NF.
* In the second normal form, all non-key attributes are fully functional dependent on the primary key

**Example:** Let's assume, a school can store the data of teachers and the subjects they teach. In a school, a teacher can teach more than one subject.

**TEACHER table**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **TEACHER\_ID** | **SUBJECT** | **TEACHER\_AGE** |
| 25 | Chemistry | 30 |
| 25 | Biology | 30 |
| 47 | English | 35 |
| 83 | Math | 38 |
| 83 | Computer | 38 |

In the given table, non-prime attribute TEACHER\_AGE is dependent on TEACHER\_ID which is a proper subset of a candidate key. That's why it violates the rule for 2NF.

To convert the given table into 2NF, we decompose it into two tables:

**TEACHER\_DETAIL table:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TEACHER\_ID** | **TEACHER\_AGE** |
| 25 | 30 |
| 47 | 35 |
| 83 | 38 |

**TEACHER\_SUBJECT table:**

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TEACHER\_ID** | **SUBJECT** |
| 25 | Chemistry |
| 25 | Biology |
| 47 | English |
| 83 | Math |
| 83 | Computer |

# Third Normal Form (3NF)

* A relation will be in 3NF if it is in 2NF and not contain any transitive partial dependency.
* 3NF is used to reduce the data duplication. It is also used to achieve the data integrity.
* If there is no transitive dependency for non-prime attributes, then the relation must be in third normal form.

A relation is in third normal form if it holds atleast one of the following conditions for every non-trivial function dependency X → Y.

1. X is a super key.
2. Y is a prime attribute, i.e., each element of Y is part of some candidate key.

**Example:**

**EMPLOYEE\_DETAIL table:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EMP\_ID** | **EMP\_NAME** | **EMP\_ZIP** | **EMP\_STATE** | **EMP\_CITY** |
| 222 | Harry | 201010 | UP | Noida |
| 333 | Stephan | 02228 | US | Boston |
| 444 | Lan | 60007 | US | Chicago |
| 555 | Katharine | 06389 | UK | Norwich |
| 666 | John | 462007 | MP | Bhopal |

**Super key in the table above:**

* 1. {EMP\_ID}, {EMP\_ID, EMP\_NAME}, {EMP\_ID, EMP\_NAME, EMP\_ZIP}....so on

**Candidate key:** {EMP\_ID}

**Non-prime attributes:** In the given table, all attributes except EMP\_ID are non-prime.

Here, EMP\_STATE & EMP\_CITY dependent on EMP\_ZIP and EMP\_ZIP dependent on EMP\_ID. The non-prime attributes (EMP\_STATE, EMP\_CITY) transitively dependent on super key(EMP\_ID). It violates the rule of third normal form.

That's why we need to move the EMP\_CITY and EMP\_STATE to the new <EMPLOYEE\_ZIP> table, with EMP\_ZIP as a Primary key.

**EMPLOYEE table:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **EMP\_ID** | **EMP\_NAME** | **EMP\_ZIP** |
| 222 | Harry | 201010 |
| 333 | Stephan | 02228 |
| 444 | Lan | 60007 |
| 555 | Katharine | 06389 |
| 666 | John | 462007 |

**EMPLOYEE\_ZIP table:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **EMP\_ZIP** | **EMP\_STATE** | **EMP\_CITY** |
| 201010 | UP | Noida |
| 02228 | US | Boston |
| 60007 | US | Chicago |
| 06389 | UK | Norwich |
| 462007 | MP | Bhopal |

Boyce Codd normal form (BCNF)

* BCNF is the advance version of 3NF. It is stricter than 3NF.
* A table is in BCNF if every functional dependency X → Y, X is the super key of the table.
* For BCNF, the table should be in 3NF, and for every FD, LHS is super key.

**Example:** Let's assume there is a company where employees work in more than one department.

**EMPLOYEE table:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EMP\_ID** | **EMP\_COUNTRY** | **EMP\_DEPT** | **DEPT\_TYPE** | **EMP\_DEPT\_NO** |
| 264 | India | Designing | D394 | 283 |
| 264 | India | Testing | D394 | 300 |
| 364 | UK | Stores | D283 | 232 |
| 364 | UK | Developing | D283 | 549 |

**In the above table Functional dependencies are as follows:**

1. EMP\_ID  →  EMP\_COUNTRY
2. EMP\_DEPT  →   {DEPT\_TYPE, EMP\_DEPT\_NO}

**Candidate key: {EMP-ID, EMP-DEPT}**

The table is not in BCNF because neither EMP\_DEPT nor EMP\_ID alone are keys.

To convert the given table into BCNF, we decompose it into three tables:

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**EMP\_COUNTRY table:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EMP\_ID** | **EMP\_COUNTRY** |
| 264 | India |
| 364 | UK |

**EMP\_DEPT table:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **EMP\_DEPT** | **DEPT\_TYPE** | **EMP\_DEPT\_NO** |
| Designing | D394 | 283 |
| Testing | D394 | 300 |
| Stores | D283 | 232 |
| Developing | D283 | 549 |

**EMP\_DEPT\_MAPPING table:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EMP\_ID** | **EMP\_DEPT** |
| D394 | 283 |
| D394 | 300 |
| D283 | 232 |
| D283 | 549 |

**Functional dependencies:**

1. EMP\_ID   →    EMP\_COUNTRY
2. EMP\_DEPT   →   {DEPT\_TYPE, EMP\_DEPT\_NO}

**Candidate keys:**

**For the first table:** EMP\_ID  
**For the second table:** EMP\_DEPT  
**For the third table:** {EMP\_ID, EMP\_DEPT}

Now, this is in BCNF because left side part of both the functional dependencies is a key.

## **Rules for 4th Normal Form**

For a table to satisfy the Fourth Normal Form, it should satisfy the following two conditions:

1. It should be in the **Boyce-Codd Normal Form**.
2. And, the table should not have any **Multi-valued Dependency**.

## **What is Multi-valued Dependency?**

A table is said to have multi-valued dependency, if the following conditions are true,

1. For a dependency A → B, if for a single value of A, multiple value of B exists, then the table may have multi-valued dependency.
2. Also, a table should have at-least 3 columns for it to have a multi-valued dependency.
3. And, for a relation R(A,B,C), if there is a multi-valued dependency between, A and B, then B and C should be independent of each other.

If all these conditions are true for any relation(table), it is said to have multi-valued dependency.

## **Time for an Example**

Below we have a college enrolment table with columns s\_id, course and hobby.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **s\_id** | **course** | **hobby** |
| 1 | Science | Cricket |
| 1 | Maths | Hockey |
| 2 | C# | Cricket |
| 2 | Php | Hockey |

As you can see in the table above, student with s\_id **1** has opted for two courses, **Science** and **Maths**, and has two hobbies, **Cricket** and **Hockey**.

You must be thinking what problem this can lead to, right?

Well the two records for student with s\_id **1**, will give rise to two more records, as shown below, because for one student, two hobbies exists, hence along with both the courses, these hobbies should be specified.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **s\_id** | **course** | **hobby** |
| 1 | Science | Cricket |
| 1 | Maths | Hockey |
| 1 | Science | Hockey |
| 1 | Maths | Cricket |

And, in the table above, there is no relationship between the columns course and hobby. They are independent of each other.

So there is multi-value dependency, which leads to un-necessary repetition of data and other anomalies as well.

### **How to satisfy 4th Normal Form?**

To make the above relation satify the 4th normal form, we can decompose the table into 2 tables.

**CourseOpted Table**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **s\_id** | **course** |
| 1 | Science |
| 1 | Maths |
| 2 | C# |
| 2 | Php |

And, **Hobbies Table**,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **s\_id** | **hobby** |
| 1 | Cricket |
| 1 | Hockey |
| 2 | Cricket |
| 2 | Hockey |

Now this relation satisfies the fourth normal form.

A table can also have functional dependency along with multi-valued dependency. In that case, the functionally dependent columns are moved in a separate table and the multi-valued dependent columns are moved to separate tables.