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Database Systems CMPT 308

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Lab 1

- 1. After comparing the screenshots (at the bottom of this document) to the data in the CAP snapshot, both results are the same.
- 2. A primary key is an attribute that uniquely identifies a row or record in a relation is known as primary key. There can be only one primary key per row. A Super Key is short for "superset of a key." It is a set of one or more attributes that are taken collectively and can identify all other attributes uniquely. Attributes within super keys can be repeated because super keys do not need to be minimal. A candidate key is a minimal super key which cannot have any redundant attributes. They are simplified down to the smallest attributes to define the data. A unique and distinct candidate key would become a primary key.
- 3. A data type is a data storage format that can contain a specific type or range of values. Some examples of data types include integers, Booleans, characters, strings, or date. Data types can be classified as enumerated domains which is data with set incremented numbers or values. These values are typically data such as states, months, days, grades, or ratings. This data is incremented but may not necessarily hold a specific number value. There are also generic domains that cannot be numerated. For example, text, integers, and dates are essentially infinite and do not have a set number of values.

One example of a table would be one for a Marist student. The table would named Students and have several wields. The following are the wields of the table and their respective data types: student ID number as an integer, first name as a string, last name as a string, date of

birth as a date, major as a string, and minor as a string. The only nullable wield would be minor because every student must have data in all of the previous wields. Even if a student has no major, it would still be undecided as opposed to null.

4. The "Wirst normal form" rule means that all fields must be atomic. Each intersection of a row and column must be expressed in the smallest possible unit. There can be no internal structures within each intersection. This rule is important because it decreases ambiguity and simplifies the data to avoid redundancies. When each field is simplified to the smallest unit, the data becomes more concise. Even if null fields need to be used, it is better to have atomic fields than inconsistent or repetitive data.

The "access rows by content only" rule means you cannot access data according to where it is in the data table. All data must be specified or referenced based upon the column or row names rather than just the location of the column or row. This will ensure the data has context. Accessing data by "what" rather than "where" will ensure the data is consistent. If the data were to be referenced by location, it is possible that the data could have been moved. In this case, it would be difficult to relocate the data by solely its location because it would have no context.

The "all rows must be unique" rule is a consequence of set theory. It is not a rule commonly enforced by databases. Each row must have at least one field that distinguishes it from another row. This is important because if rows could be identical there would be many cases of duplicate data which increases redundancy and allows for a higher chance of error. If there are two identical rows, one of them is likely to have an error or inconsistency in the data.





