

Dependency Theory

COMPSCI 2DB3: Databases

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Winter 2024

Recap

- ▶ The Entity-Relationship Model.
High-level modeling of data.
- ▶ SQL: The Structured Query Language.
Querying relational data in practice.
- ▶ The Relational Data Model and SQL.
Creating relational tables from high-level models.
- ▶ The Relational Algebra.
Abstract easy-to-manipulate querying of relational data.

Outlook

- ▶ Dependency Theory.
- ▶ Decomposition and Normal Forms.
- ▶ Concurrency Control.

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Topics of Interest

Next step: Formalizing constraints

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How can we reason about (typical) constraints?

Warning: Proofs incoming

Remember Discrete Mathematics!

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Remember Discrete Mathematics!

I will try to keep things simple.

If I go too fast—please press the brake.
E.g., weird notation, steps I overlooked, ...

Let us start with an example

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

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Question: Rate my table!

Vote at <https://strawpoll.com/dycss6a57>.

Or: go to <https://strawpoll.live> and use the code **277712**.

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- ▶ Attribute **sid** is the primary key: **sid** determines all attributes.
Students with the same **sid** are the same student.

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- ▶ Attribute **sid** is the primary key: **sid** determines all attributes.
Students with the same **sid** are the same student.
- ▶ Attribute **birthdate** determines **age**.
Students with the same **birthdate** have the same **age**.
- ▶ Each **program** is organized by a **department**.
Students in the same **program** belong to the same **department**.

Functional dependency over relation schema **R**

$X \longrightarrow Y$ (with X and Y attributes of **R**).

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“Attributes X determine Y ”:

If two rows in an instance of **R** have the same values for attributes X ,
Then these rows have the same values for attributes Y .

Functional dependency over relation schema **R**

$$X \longrightarrow Y \quad (\text{with } X \text{ and } Y \text{ attributes of } \mathbf{R}).$$

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If two rows in an instance of **R** have the same values for attributes X ,
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Formal

Let $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$.

For every instance \mathcal{I} of **R** and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$, we have:

$$(r_1[x_1] = r_2[x_1] \wedge \dots \wedge r_1[x_n] = r_2[x_n]) \implies (r_1[y_1] = r_2[y_1] \wedge \dots \wedge r_1[y_m] = r_2[y_m]).$$

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“Attributes X determine Y ”:

If two rows in an instance of \mathbf{R} have the **same values for attributes X** ,
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Let $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$.

For every instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$, we have:

$$\underbrace{(r_1[x_1] = r_2[x_1] \wedge \dots \wedge r_1[x_n] = r_2[x_n])}_{\text{“same values for attributes } X\text{”}} \implies (r_1[y_1] = r_2[y_1] \wedge \dots \wedge r_1[y_m] = r_2[y_m]).$$

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“Attributes X determine Y ”:

If two rows in an instance of \mathbf{R} have the **same values for attributes X** ,
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Formal

Let $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$.

For every instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$, we have:

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Functional dependency over relation schema \mathbf{R}

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If two rows in an instance of \mathbf{R} have the **same values for attributes X** ,
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Formal

Let $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and $Y = \{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$.

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Let us continue with our example

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“**sid** → name, age, birthdate, program, department”.

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“**sid** \longrightarrow name, age, birthdate, program, department”.
- ▶ Attribute **birthdate** determines **age**.
“**birthdate** \longrightarrow **age**”.

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- ▶ Attribute **birthdate** determines **age**.
“**birthdate** \longrightarrow **age**”.
- ▶ Each **program** is organized by a **department**.
“**program** \longrightarrow **department**”.

Let us reason with our example

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program \longrightarrow age, department” hold?

Vote at <https://strawpoll.com/1284xkha3>.

Or: go to <https://strawpoll.live> and use the code **535106**.

Let us reason with our example

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program \longrightarrow age, department” hold?

I will use shorthand notations B (birthdate), P (program), A (age), and D (department).

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student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program \longrightarrow age, department” hold?

I will use shorthand notations B (birthdate), P (program), A (age), and D (department).

By definition: we have $BP \longrightarrow AD$ if we have $r_1[BP] = r_2[BP] \implies r_1[AD] = r_2[AD]$ for every instance \mathcal{I} of **student** and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$.

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Assume we have rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$ of instance \mathcal{I} of **student** such that $r_1[BP] = r_2[BP]$.

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Assume we have rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$ of instance \mathcal{I} of **student** such that $r_1[BP] = r_2[BP]$.

⋮
(proof details)

Hence, $r_1[AD] = r_2[AD]$ holds.

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By $r_1[BP] = r_2[BP]$, we have $r_1[B] = r_2[B]$ and $r_1[P] = r_2[P]$.

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By $r_1[BP] = r_2[BP]$, we have $r_1[B] = r_2[B]$ and $r_1[P] = r_2[P]$.

Using $B \longrightarrow A$ and $r_1[B] = r_2[B]$, we conclude $r_1[A] = r_2[A]$.

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Using $P \longrightarrow D$ and $r_1[P] = r_2[P]$, we conclude $r_1[D] = r_2[D]$.

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Using $B \longrightarrow A$ and $r_1[B] = r_2[B]$, we conclude $r_1[A] = r_2[A]$.

Using $P \longrightarrow D$ and $r_1[P] = r_2[P]$, we conclude $r_1[D] = r_2[D]$.

By $r_1[A] = r_2[A]$ and $r_1[D] = r_2[D]$, we have $r_1[AD] = r_2[AD]$.

Hence, $r_1[AD] = r_2[AD]$ holds.

Implication of dependencies

Definition

Let \mathfrak{S} be a set of dependencies and D be a dependency over relation schema \mathbf{R} .

We say that \mathfrak{S} *implies* D if, for every instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} we have,
if \mathcal{I} satisfies \mathfrak{S} , then it also satisfies D .

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Example

- ▶ $\mathfrak{S} = \{ \text{“birthdate} \longrightarrow \text{age”}, \text{“program} \longrightarrow \text{department”} \}$.
- ▶ $D = \text{“birthdate, program} \longrightarrow \text{age, department”}$.

We have $\mathfrak{S} \models D$ (proven on previous slide).

Simplifying proofs: Using inference rules

Idea: Make rules that cover common prove steps.

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Example: The Union rule

Let X, Y, Z be sets of attributes of relation schema \mathbf{R} . We have

if $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $X \longrightarrow Z$, then $X \longrightarrow YZ$.

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By definition: we have $X \longrightarrow YZ$ if we have $r_1[X] = r_2[X] \implies r_1[YZ] = r_2[YZ]$ for every instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$.

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Assume we have rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$ of instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} such that $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$.

⋮
(proof details)

Hence, $r_1[YZ] = r_2[YZ]$ holds.

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Using $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$, we conclude $r_1[Y] = r_2[Y]$.

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Using $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$, we conclude $r_1[Y] = r_2[Y]$.

Using $X \longrightarrow Z$ and $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$, we conclude $r_1[Z] = r_2[Z]$.

Hence, $r_1[YZ] = r_2[YZ]$ holds.

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Using $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$, we conclude $r_1[Y] = r_2[Y]$.

Using $X \longrightarrow Z$ and $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$, we conclude $r_1[Z] = r_2[Z]$.

By $r_1[Y] = r_2[Y]$ and $r_1[Z] = r_2[Z]$, we have $r_1[YZ] = r_2[YZ]$.

Hence, $r_1[YZ] = r_2[YZ]$ holds.

Using an inference rules: the Union rule

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Prove $\{\text{"sid} \longrightarrow \text{name"}, \text{"sid} \longrightarrow \text{age"}\} \models \text{"sid} \longrightarrow \text{name, age"}$.

Using an inference rules: the Union rule

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Prove $\{\text{"sid} \longrightarrow \text{name"}, \text{"sid} \longrightarrow \text{age"}\} \models \text{"sid} \longrightarrow \text{name, age"}$.

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Using an inference rules: the Union rule

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Prove $\{\text{"sid} \longrightarrow \text{name"}, \text{"sid} \longrightarrow \text{age"}\} \models \text{"sid} \longrightarrow \text{name, age"}$.

The Union rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $X \longrightarrow Z$, then $X \longrightarrow YZ$.

Apply the Union rule with $X = \{\text{sid}\}$, $Y = \{\text{name}\}$, and $Z = \{\text{age}\}$.

Which interference rules do we need?

We can make as many as we want.

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- ▶ The Union-3 rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1$ and $X \longrightarrow Y_2$ and $X \longrightarrow Y_3$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3$.
- ▶ The Union-4 rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \longrightarrow Y_4$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 Y_4$.
- ▶ The Union-5 rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \longrightarrow Y_5$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 Y_4 Y_5$.
- ▶ The Union-6 rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \longrightarrow Y_6$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 Y_4 Y_5 Y_6$.
- ▶ \vdots
- ▶ The Union- i rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \longrightarrow Y_i$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_i$.

Which interference rules do we need?

We can make as many as we want.

- ▶ The Union-3 rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1$ and $X \longrightarrow Y_2$ and $X \longrightarrow Y_3$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3$.
- ▶ The Union-4 rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \longrightarrow Y_4$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 Y_4$.
- ▶ The Union-5 rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \longrightarrow Y_5$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 Y_4 Y_5$.
- ▶ The Union-6 rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \longrightarrow Y_6$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 Y_3 Y_4 Y_5 Y_6$.
- ▶ \vdots
- ▶ The Union- i rule: if $X \longrightarrow Y_1, \dots, X \longrightarrow Y_i$, then $X \longrightarrow Y_1 Y_2 \dots Y_i$.

These rules are *pointless*: We can do the same with the Union rule!

Criteria for a good set of inference rules

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Can we prove the correctness of the rule?

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Can we derive D from \mathfrak{S} using the rules whenever $\mathfrak{S} \models D$ holds?

Criteria for a good set of inference rules

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Criteria for a good set of inference rules

Sound Every rule must be correct.

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Complete We must be able to derive everything that holds.

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Independent We need every rule for some derivations.

Are there any facts that hold we cannot derive after removing a rule?

Armstrong's Axioms

A set of three good inference rules for functional dependencies.

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Reflexivity If $Y \subseteq X$, then $X \longrightarrow Y$.

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Reflexivity If $Y \subseteq X$, then $X \longrightarrow Y$.

Augmentation If $X \longrightarrow Y$ then $XZ \longrightarrow YZ$ for any Z .

Transitivity If $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $Y \longrightarrow Z$, then $X \longrightarrow Z$.

Armstrong's Axioms

A set of three good inference rules for functional dependencies.

Reflexivity If $Y \subseteq X$, then $X \longrightarrow Y$.

Augmentation If $X \longrightarrow Y$ then $XZ \longrightarrow YZ$ for any Z .

Transitivity If $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $Y \longrightarrow Z$, then $X \longrightarrow Z$.

These inference rules are sound, complete, and independent.

Let us use Armstrong's Axioms with our example

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program \longrightarrow age, department” hold?

I will use shorthand notations A (age), P (program), B (birthdate), and D (department).

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Prove $\{B \longrightarrow A, P \longrightarrow D\} \models BP \longrightarrow AD$.

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Prove $\{B \longrightarrow A, P \longrightarrow D\} \models BP \longrightarrow AD$.

Assume $B \longrightarrow A$ and $P \longrightarrow D$.

⋮
(proof details)

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Hence, $BP \longrightarrow AD$.

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Assume $B \longrightarrow A$ and $P \longrightarrow D$.

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Apply *Augmentation* on $B \longrightarrow A$ with P to derive $BP \longrightarrow AP$.

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Assume $B \longrightarrow A$ and $P \longrightarrow D$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $B \longrightarrow A$ with P to derive $BP \longrightarrow AP$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $P \longrightarrow D$ with A to derive $AP \longrightarrow AD$.

Hence, $BP \longrightarrow AD$.

Let us use Armstrong's Axioms with our example

student(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

Question: Does “birthdate, program \longrightarrow age, department” hold?

I will use shorthand notations A (age), P (program), B (birthdate), and D (department).

Prove $\{B \longrightarrow A, P \longrightarrow D\} \models BP \longrightarrow AD$.

Assume $B \longrightarrow A$ and $P \longrightarrow D$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $B \longrightarrow A$ with P to derive $BP \longrightarrow AP$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $P \longrightarrow D$ with A to derive $AP \longrightarrow AD$.

Apply *Transitivity* on $BP \longrightarrow AP$ and $AP \longrightarrow AD$ to derive $BP \longrightarrow AD$.

Hence, $BP \longrightarrow AD$.

Adding Union to Armstrong's Axioms

We will show that the Union rule is sound, but *not* independent.

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To prove: $\{X \longrightarrow Y, X \longrightarrow Z\} \models X \longrightarrow YZ$.

Assume $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $X \longrightarrow Z$.

⋮
(proof details)

⋮
Hence, $X \longrightarrow YZ$.

Adding Union to Armstrong's Axioms

We will show that the Union rule is sound, but *not* independent.

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To prove: $\{X \longrightarrow Y, X \longrightarrow Z\} \models X \longrightarrow YZ$.

Assume $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $X \longrightarrow Z$.

.....
Apply *Augmentation* on $X \longrightarrow Y$ with X to derive $X \longrightarrow XY$.

.....
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Apply *Augmentation* on $X \longrightarrow Y$ with X to derive $X \longrightarrow XY$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $X \longrightarrow Z$ with Y to derive $XY \longrightarrow YZ$.

Hence, $X \longrightarrow YZ$.

Adding Union to Armstrong's Axioms

We will show that the Union rule is sound, but *not* independent.

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To prove: $\{X \longrightarrow Y, X \longrightarrow Z\} \models X \longrightarrow YZ$.

Assume $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $X \longrightarrow Z$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $X \longrightarrow Y$ with X to derive $X \longrightarrow XY$.

Apply *Augmentation* on $X \longrightarrow Z$ with Y to derive $XY \longrightarrow YZ$.

Apply *Transitivity* on $X \longrightarrow XY$ and $XY \longrightarrow YZ$ to derive $X \longrightarrow YZ$.

Hence, $X \longrightarrow YZ$.

The Decomposition rule

if $X \longrightarrow YZ$, then $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $X \longrightarrow Z$.

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To prove: $\{X \longrightarrow YZ\} \models X \longrightarrow Y$ and $\{X \longrightarrow YZ\} \models X \longrightarrow Z$.

Assume $X \longrightarrow YZ$.

⋮
Apply *Reflexivity* on $Y \subseteq YZ$ to derive $YZ \longrightarrow Y$.

⋮
Hence, $X \longrightarrow Y$

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To prove: $\{X \longrightarrow YZ\} \models X \longrightarrow Y$ and $\{X \longrightarrow YZ\} \models X \longrightarrow Z$.

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To prove: $\{X \longrightarrow YZ\} \models X \longrightarrow Y$ and $\{X \longrightarrow YZ\} \models X \longrightarrow Z$.

Assume $X \longrightarrow YZ$.

Apply *Reflexivity* on $Y \subseteq YZ$ to derive $YZ \longrightarrow Y$.

Apply *Transitivity* on $X \longrightarrow YZ$ and $YZ \longrightarrow Y$ to derive $X \longrightarrow Y$.

Hence, $X \longrightarrow Y$ ($X \longrightarrow Z$ is analogous).

The Decomposition rule

if $X \longrightarrow YZ$, then $X \longrightarrow Y$ and $X \longrightarrow Z$.

We will show that the Decomposition rule is sound, but *not* independent.

How: Prove the Decomposition rule via Armstrong's Axioms

To prove: $\{X \longrightarrow YZ\} \models X \longrightarrow Y$ and $\{X \longrightarrow YZ\} \models X \longrightarrow Z$.

Assume $X \longrightarrow YZ$.

Apply *Reflexivity* on $Z \subseteq YZ$ to derive $YZ \longrightarrow Z$.

Apply *Transitivity* on $X \longrightarrow YZ$ and $YZ \longrightarrow Z$ to derive $X \longrightarrow Z$.

Hence, $X \longrightarrow Y$ ($X \longrightarrow Z$ is analogous).

Functional dependencies and the attribute closure

Consider a set of functional dependencies \mathfrak{S} and a functional dependency $X \longrightarrow Y$.

- ▶ Can we automatically verify $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow Y$?
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CLOSURE(\mathfrak{S}, X)

Compute the set of all attributes y for which $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$ holds.

- 1: $closure := X$.
- 2: **while** there exists $(A \longrightarrow B) \in \mathfrak{S}$ with
 - (I) $A \subseteq closure$; and
 - (II) $B \notin closure$
- do**
- 3: $closure := closure \cup B$.
- 4: **return** $closure$.

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} Correctness proof!

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Correctness proofs

- ▶ Does CLOSURE terminate?
- ▶ Does CLOSURE do what we want it to do?

If attribute $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$ then $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$.

If y is an attribute and $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$, then $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

Correctness proof for CLOSURE

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- ▶ Does CLOSURE terminate?
- ▶ Does CLOSURE do what we want it to do?

Soundness If attribute $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$ then $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$.

Completeness If y is an attribute and $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$, then $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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do

3: $closure := closure \cup B$.

\longleftarrow Upper-bounded in size.

4: **return** $closure$.

Proof: CLOSURE is sound

“If attribute $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$ then $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$.”

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Proof: CLOSURE is complete

“If y is an attribute and $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$, then $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.”

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Proof by Contradiction

Assume $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$ and $y \notin \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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(proof details)

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A contradiction. Hence, our original assumption was wrong,
and we must have $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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Idea: construct an instance \mathcal{I} that satisfies all of \mathfrak{S} , but not $X \longrightarrow y$.

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Make \mathcal{I} with rows r_1, r_2 such that $r_1[z] = r_2[z]$ if and only if $z \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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$\in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$				$\notin \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$			
c_1	c_2	...	c_n	o_1	o_2	...	o_m
1	1	...	1	0	0	...	0
1	1	...	1	1	1	...	1

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Make \mathcal{I} with rows r_1, r_2 such that $r_1[z] = r_2[z]$ if and only if $z \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

Let $A \longrightarrow B \in \mathfrak{S}$. Two cases: $A \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$ and $A \not\subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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Make \mathcal{I} with rows r_1, r_2 such that $r_1[z] = r_2[z]$ if and only if $z \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

Let $A \longrightarrow B \in \mathfrak{S}$. Two cases: $A \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$ and $A \not\subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

$A \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$: Line 3 of CLOSURE ($\text{closure} := \text{closure} \cup B$).

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$A \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$: Line 3 of CLOSURE ($\text{closure} := \text{closure} \cup B$).

$A \not\subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$: Automatically holds.

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Make \mathcal{I} with rows r_1, r_2 such that $r_1[z] = r_2[z]$ if and only if $z \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

Let $A \longrightarrow B \in \mathfrak{S}$. Two cases: $A \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$ and $A \not\subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

$A \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$: Line 3 of CLOSURE ($\text{closure} := \text{closure} \cup B$).

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$X \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$, $y \notin \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$. Hence, \mathcal{I} does not satisfy $X \longrightarrow y$.

A contradiction. Hence, our original assumption was wrong, and we must have $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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“If y is an attribute and $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$, then $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.”

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Assume $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$ and $y \notin \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

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c_1	c_2	...	c_n	o_1	o_2	...	o_m
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$X \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$, $y \notin \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$. Hence, \mathcal{I} does not satisfy $X \longrightarrow y$.

We conclude that $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow y$ *cannot* hold.

A contradiction. Hence, our original assumption was wrong, and we must have $y \in \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$.

Functional dependencies and the attribute closure—results

Consider a set of functional dependencies \mathfrak{S} and a functional dependency $X \longrightarrow Y$.

- ▶ Can we automatically verify $\mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow Y$?
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Functional dependencies and the attribute closure—results

Consider a set of functional dependencies \mathfrak{F} and a functional dependency $X \longrightarrow Y$.

- ▶ Can we automatically verify $\mathfrak{F} \models X \longrightarrow Y$?
Yes. Verify whether $Y \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{F}, X)$.
- ▶ Can we automatically compute $\mathfrak{F} \models X \longrightarrow Y$?

Functional dependencies and the attribute closure—results

Consider a set of functional dependencies \mathfrak{F} and a functional dependency $X \longrightarrow Y$.

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Yes. Verify whether $Y \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{F}, X)$.
- ▶ Can we automatically compute $\mathfrak{F} \models X \longrightarrow Y$?
Yes. For every X , compute $\text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{F}, X)$.

Functional dependencies and the attribute closure—results

Consider a set of functional dependencies \mathfrak{F} and a functional dependency $X \longrightarrow Y$.

- Can we automatically verify $\mathfrak{F} \models X \longrightarrow Y$?

Yes. Verify whether $Y \subseteq \text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{F}, X)$.

- Can we automatically compute $\mathfrak{F} \models X \longrightarrow Y$?

Yes. For every X , compute $\text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{F}, X)$.

We typically write X^+ to denote $\text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{F}, X)$ if \mathfrak{F} is clear from the context.

Closure of functional dependencies

Definition

Let \mathfrak{S} be a set of functional dependencies. The *closure* of \mathfrak{S} is

$$\mathfrak{S}^+ = \{X \longrightarrow Y \mid \mathfrak{S} \models X \longrightarrow Y\}.$$

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Example: **student**(sid, name, age, birthdate, program, department)

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Compute \mathfrak{S}^+ with $\mathfrak{S} = \{S \longrightarrow NABPD, B \longrightarrow A, P \longrightarrow D\}$.

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Compute \mathfrak{S}^+ with $\mathfrak{S} = \{S \longrightarrow NABPD, B \longrightarrow A, P \longrightarrow D\}$.

How: Compute $\text{CLOSURE}(\mathfrak{S}, X)$ for every $X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.

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Compute \mathfrak{S}^+ with $\mathfrak{S} = \{S \longrightarrow NABPD, B \longrightarrow A, P \longrightarrow D\}$.

- ▶ We have $X \longrightarrow Y$ for all $Y \subseteq X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.
- ▶ We have $SX \longrightarrow Y$ for all $X, Y \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.
- ▶ We have $BX \longrightarrow AY$ for all $Y \subseteq X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.
- ▶ We have $PX \longrightarrow DY$ for all $Y \subseteq X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.
- ▶ We have $BPX \longrightarrow ADY$ for all $Y \subseteq X \subseteq \{S, N, A, B, P, D\}$.

Minimal Cover for functional dependencies

Definition

Let \mathfrak{F} be a set of functional dependencies.

A *minimal cover* of \mathfrak{F} is a set S of functional dependencies such that:

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(\mathfrak{S} and S describe the *same* functional dependencies).
2. All functional dependencies $X \longrightarrow Y \in S$ must have $|Y| = 1$.
(Functional dependencies in S are *minimalistic*).
3. For every $R \subset S$, we have $R^+ \neq S^+$.
(All of S is necessary to describe the *same* functional dependencies as \mathfrak{S}).

Beyond functional dependencies

- ▶ Multivalued dependencies.
- ▶ Join dependencies.
- ▶ Inclusion dependencies.
- ▶

Multivalued dependency over relation schema **R**

$X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ (with X and Y attributes of **R**; Z the remaining attributes of **R**).

Informal

“Given a value for the X attributes, the values for attributes Y and Z are independent.”

Multivalued dependency over relation schema \mathbf{R}

$X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ (with X and Y attributes of \mathbf{R} ; Z the remaining attributes of \mathbf{R}).

Informal

“Given a value for the X attributes, the values for attributes Y and Z are independent.”

If two rows in an instance of \mathbf{R} have the same values for attributes X ,

Then there must be a third row with the same values for attributes X , and

- ▶ the values for attributes Y from the first row, and
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Formal

For every instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} and every pair of rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$ with $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$, there exists a row $r_3 \in \mathcal{I}$ with $r_1[XY] = r_3[XY]$ and $r_2[XZ] = r_3[XZ]$.

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x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2	z_1	z_2
1	2	A	B	α	β
1	2	C	D	γ	δ

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	x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2	z_1	z_2
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$r_2 \longrightarrow$	1	2	C	D	γ	δ
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	x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2	z_1	z_2
$r_2 \longrightarrow$	1	2	A	B	α	β
$r_1 \longrightarrow$	1	2	C	D	γ	δ
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	1	2	C	D	α	β

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=

x_1	x_2	y_1	y_2
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1	2	C	D

\bowtie

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An example of multivalued dependencies

course	student	TA
Programming	Celeste	Alicia
Programming	Frieda	Alicia
Programming	Celeste	Dafni
Programming	Frieda	Dafni
Databases	Bo	Eva
Databases	Dafni	Eva
Databases	Bo	Alicia
Databases	Dafni	Alicia

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The enrolled students of a course are *independent* of the TAs.

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The enrolled students of a course are *independent* of the TAs.

“course \twoheadrightarrow student” and “course \twoheadrightarrow TA”.

Reasoning with functional and multivalued dependencies

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Armstrong's Axioms.

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Complementation If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$, then $X \twoheadrightarrow Z$ (with Z all attributes of \mathbf{R} not in X and Y).

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Augmentation If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ and $V \subseteq W$, then $XW \twoheadrightarrow YV$.

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Coalescence If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ and $V \rightarrow W$ such that $Y \cap V = \emptyset$ and $W \subseteq Y$, then $X \rightarrow W$.

Soundness of the Coalescence rule

If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ and $V \rightarrow W$ such that $Y \cap V = \emptyset$ and $W \subseteq Y$, then $X \rightarrow W$.

Proof

Let \mathbf{R} be a relational schema that satisfies the premise of the Coalescence rule.

By definition: we have $X \rightarrow W$ if we have $r_1[X] = r_2[X] \implies r_1[W] = r_2[W]$ for every pair of rows r_1, r_2 in every instance \mathcal{I} of \mathbf{R} .

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Proof

Assume we have rows $r_1, r_2 \in \mathcal{I}$ of an instance \mathcal{I} of a relational schema that satisfies the premise of the Coalescence rule such that $r_1[X] = r_2[X]$.

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⋮
(proof details)

Hence, $r_1[W] = r_2[W]$ holds.

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As $W \subseteq Y$ and $r_3[XY] = r_1[XY]$, we have $r_3[W] = r_1[W]$.

Hence, $r_1[W] = r_2[W]$ holds.

Join dependencies over relational schema \mathbf{R}

$$\bowtie\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\} \quad (\text{with } X_i, 1 \leq i \leq n, \text{ attributes of } \mathbf{R})$$

Informal

“The projections $\pi_{X_i}(\mathbf{R})$, $1 \leq i \leq n$, are independent of each other.”

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For any instance of \mathbf{R} , we obtain exactly that instance if we:

- ▶ first break-up the instance into its projections on X_i , $1 \leq i \leq n$, and
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$X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ is equivalent to $\bowtie\{XY, XZ\}$ (with Z all attributes of \mathbf{R} not in X and Y).

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Formal

We must have

$$\pi_{X_1}(\mathbf{R}) \bowtie \pi_{X_2}(\mathbf{R}) \bowtie \dots \bowtie \pi_{X_n}(\mathbf{R}) = \mathbf{R}.$$

An example of join dependencies

course (C)	student (S)	TA (T)	Instructor (I)
Databases	Bo	Eva	Celeste
Databases	Dafni	Eva	Celeste
Databases	Bo	Alicia	Celeste
Databases	Dafni	Alicia	Celeste
Databases	Bo	Eva	Frieda
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The enrolled students, the TAs, and the Instructors are *independent*.

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The enrolled students, the TAs, and the Instructors are *independent*.

$$\bowtie\{CS, CT, CI\}.$$

Inclusion dependencies over relational schemas \mathbf{R}_1 and \mathbf{R}_2

$$\mathbf{R}_1[X] \subseteq \mathbf{R}_2[Y] \text{ (with } X \text{ attributes of } \mathbf{R}_1, Y \text{ attributes of } \mathbf{R}_2\text{)}$$

Informal

“Values for attributes X in \mathbf{R}_1 must also occur as values for attributes Y in \mathbf{R}_2 ”.

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$$\mathbf{R}_1[X] \subseteq \mathbf{R}_2[Y] \text{ (with } X \text{ attributes of } \mathbf{R}_1, Y \text{ attributes of } \mathbf{R}_2\text{)}$$

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“Values for attributes X in \mathbf{R}_1 must also occur as values for attributes Y in \mathbf{R}_2 ”.

We must have

$$\pi_X(\mathbf{R}_1) \subseteq \pi_Y(\mathbf{R}_2).$$

Inclusion dependencies over relational schemas \mathbf{R}_1 and \mathbf{R}_2

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Generalization of foreign key constraints.

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Generalization of foreign key constraints.

Formal

For every instance \mathcal{I}_1 of \mathbf{R}_1 and every row $r_1 \in \mathcal{I}_1$,
there exists a row in instance \mathcal{I}_2 of \mathbf{R}_2 with $r_1[X] = r_2[Y]$.

An example of inclusion dependencies

courses		
<u>cid</u>	title	lecturer
2	Discrete Mathematics	3
3	Databases	2

faculty		
<u>fid</u>	name	rank
2	Bo	Assistant
3	Celeste	Associate

An example of inclusion dependencies

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<u>cid</u>	title	lecturer
2	Discrete Mathematics	3
3	Databases	2

faculty		
<u>fid</u>	name	rank
2	Bo	Assistant
3	Celeste	Associate

courses[lecturer] \subseteq **faculty**[fid].

Next: Decomposition and normal forms

How can we use dependency theory to:

- ▶ validate the quality of relational schemas,
- ▶ improve the quality of relational schemas.