# FUNCTIONAL DEPENDENCY THEORY II

CS121: Introduction to Relational Database Systems Fall 2014 – Lecture 20

## Last Time: Canonical Cover

- □ Last time, introduced concept of canonical cover
- $\square$  A canonical cover  $F_c$  for F is a set of functional dependencies such that:
  - $\Box$  F logically implies all dependencies in  $F_c$
  - $\Box F_c$  logically implies all dependencies in F
  - $\blacksquare$  Can't infer any functional dependency in  $F_c$  from other dependencies in  $F_c$
  - $\blacksquare$  No functional dependency in  $F_c$  contains an extraneous attribute
  - $\blacksquare$  Left side of all functional dependencies in  $F_c$  are unique
    - There are no two dependencies  $\alpha_1 \to \beta_1$  and  $\alpha_2 \to \beta_2$  in  $F_c$  such that  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$

#### Extraneous Attributes

- □ Given a set F of functional dependencies
  - $\blacksquare$  An attribute in a functional dependency is <u>extraneous</u> if it can be removed from F without affecting closure of F
- $\square$  Formally: given F, and  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ 
  - □ If  $A \subseteq \alpha$ , and F logically implies  $(F \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{(\alpha A) \rightarrow \beta\}$ , then A is extraneous
  - □ If  $A \subseteq \beta$ , and  $(F \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow (\beta A)\}$  logically implies F, then A is extraneous
    - i.e. generate a new set of functional dependencies F' by replacing  $\alpha \to \beta$  with  $\alpha \to (\beta A)$
    - See if F' logically implies F

## Testing Extraneous Attributes

- Given relation schema R, and a set F of functional dependencies that hold on R
- $\square$  Attribute A in  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$
- □ If  $A \subseteq \alpha$  (i.e. A is on left side of the dependency), then let  $\gamma = \alpha \{A\}$ 
  - $\blacksquare$  See if  $\gamma \rightarrow \beta$  can be inferred from F
  - $\square$  Compute  $\gamma^+$  under F
  - lacksquare If  $eta\subseteq\gamma^+$  then A is extraneous in lpha

## Testing Extraneous Attributes (2)

- Given relation schema R, and a set F of functional dependencies that hold on R
- $\square$  Attribute A in  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$
- □ If  $A \subseteq \beta$  (on right side of the dependency), then try the <u>altered</u> set F'
  - $\blacksquare F' = (F \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow (\beta A)\}$
  - $\square$  See if  $\alpha \rightarrow A$  can be inferred from F'
  - $lue{}$  Compute  $lpha^+$  under F'
  - lacksquare If  $lpha^+$  includes A then A is extraneous in eta

## Computing Canonical Cover

 $\square$  A simple way to compute the canonical cover of F

```
repeat apply union rule to replace dependencies in F_c of form \alpha_1 \to \beta_1 and \alpha_1 \to \beta_2 with \alpha_1 \to \beta_1\beta_2 find a functional dependency \alpha \to \beta in F_c with an extraneous attribute /* Use F_c for the extraneous attribute test, not F !!! */ if an extraneous attribute is found, delete it from \alpha \to \beta until F_c stops changing
```

# Canonical Cover Example

- $\square$  Functional dependencies F on schema (A, B, C)
  - $\blacksquare F = \{ A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow B, AB \rightarrow C \}$
  - $\blacksquare$  Find  $F_c$
- $\square$  Apply union rule to  $A \rightarrow BC$  and  $A \rightarrow B$ 
  - □ Left with:  $\{A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow C\}$
- $\square$  A is extraneous in AB  $\rightarrow$  C
  - $\square$  B  $\rightarrow$  C is logically implied by F (obvious)
  - □ Left with:  $\{A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow C\}$
- $\Box$  C is extraneous in  $A \rightarrow BC$ 
  - □ Logically implied by  $A \rightarrow B$ ,  $B \rightarrow C$
- $\square F_c = \{ A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \}$

## Canonical Covers

- A set of functional dependencies can have multiple canonical covers
- Example:
  - $\square F = \{ A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow AC, C \rightarrow AB \}$
  - Has several canonical covers:
    - $\blacksquare F_c = \{ A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow A \}$
    - $\blacksquare F_c = \{ A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow AC, C \rightarrow B \}$
    - $\blacksquare F_c = \{ A \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow A \}$
    - $\blacksquare F_c = \{ A \rightarrow C, B \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow AB \}$
    - $F_c = \{ A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow A, C \rightarrow A \}$

## **Another Example**

- $\square$  Functional dependencies F on schema (A, B, C, D)
  - $\blacksquare F = \{ A \rightarrow B, BC \rightarrow D, AC \rightarrow D \}$
  - $\blacksquare$  Find  $F_c$
- $\square$  In this case, it may look like  $F_c = F...$
- □ However, can infer  $AC \rightarrow D$  from  $A \rightarrow B$ ,  $BC \rightarrow D$  (pseudotransitivity), so  $AC \rightarrow D$  is extraneous in F
  - Therefore,  $F_c = \{ A \rightarrow B, BC \rightarrow D \}$
- $\square$  Alternately, can argue that D is extraneous in  $AC \rightarrow D$ 
  - With  $F' = \{ A \rightarrow B, BC \rightarrow D \}$ , we see that  $\{AC\}^+ = ACD$ , so D is extraneous in  $AC \rightarrow D$
  - (If you eliminate the entire RHS of a functional dependency, it goes away)

## Lossy Decompositions

- Some schema decompositions lose information
- Example:

```
employee(emp_id, emp_name, phone, title, salary, start_date)
```

Decomposed into:

```
emp_ids(emp_id, emp_name)
emp_details(emp_name, phone, title, salary, start_date)
```

- □ Problem:
  - emp\_name doesn't uniquely identify employees
  - This is a lossy decomposition

# Lossless Decompositions

- □ Given:
  - $\square$  Relation schema R, relation r(R)
  - Set of functional dependencies F
- $\square$  Let  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  be a decomposition of R
  - $\square R_1 \cup R_2 = R$
- □ The decomposition is lossless if, for <u>all</u> legal instances of r:

$$\Pi_{R_1}(r) \bowtie \Pi_{R_2}(r) = r$$

□ A simple definition...

# Lossless Decompositions (2)

- Can define with functional dependencies:
  - $\square$   $R_1$  and  $R_2$  form a lossless decomposition of R if at least one of these dependencies is in  $F^+$ :

$$R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_1$$
  
 $R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_2$ 

- $\square$   $R_1 \cap R_2$  forms a superkey of  $R_1$  and/or  $R_2$ 
  - Test for superkeys using attribute-set closure

## Decomposition Examples (1)

- The employee example:
   employee(emp\_id, emp\_name, phone, title, salary, start\_date)
- Decomposed into:emp\_ids(emp\_id, emp\_name)
  - emp\_details(emp\_name, phone, title, salary, start\_date)
  - emp\_name is not a superkey of emp\_ids or emp\_details, so the decomposition is lossy

# Decomposition Examples (2)

- The bor\_loan example:bor\_loan(<u>cust\_id</u>, <u>loan\_id</u>, amount)
- Decomposed into:

```
borrower(cust_id, loan_id)
loan(<u>loan_id</u>, amount) (loan_id → loan_id, amount)
```

loan\_id is a superkey of loan, so the decomposition is lossless

# **BCNF** Decompositions

- □ If R is a schema not in BCNF:
  - There is at least one nontrivial functional dependency  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  such that  $\alpha$  is not a superkey for R
  - $lue{}$  For simplicity, also require that  $\alpha \cap \beta = \emptyset$ 
    - $\blacksquare$  (if  $\alpha \cap \beta \neq \emptyset$  then  $(\alpha \cap \beta)$  is extraneous in  $\beta$ )
- Replace R with two schemas:

$$R_1 = (\alpha \cup \beta)$$

$$R_2 = (R - \beta)$$

- (was  $R (\beta \alpha)$ , but  $\beta \alpha = \beta$ , since  $\alpha \cap \beta = \emptyset$ )
- BCNF decomposition is lossless
  - $\square R_1 \cap R_2 = \alpha$
  - $\square$   $\alpha$  is a superkey of  $R_1$
  - $lue{}$  lpha also appears in  $R_2$

## Dependency Preservation

- Some schema decompositions are not dependencypreserving
  - Functional dependencies that span multiple relation schemas are hard to enforce
  - e.g. BCNF may require decomposition of a schema for one dependency, and make it hard to enforce another dependency
- Can test for dependency preservation using functional dependency theory

# Dependency Preservation (2)

- □ Given:
  - $\square$  A set F of functional dependencies on a schema R
  - $\square$   $R_1, R_2, ..., R_n$  are a decomposition of R
- □ The <u>restriction</u> of F to  $R_i$  is the set  $F_i$  of functional dependencies in  $F^+$  that only has attributes in  $R_i$ 
  - $\blacksquare$  Each  $F_i$  contains functional dependencies that can be checked efficiently, using only  $R_i$
- Find all functional dependencies that can be checked efficiently

  - □ If  $F'^+ = F^+$  then the decomposition is dependency-preserving

### Third Normal Form Schemas

- Can generate a 3NF schema from a set of functional dependencies F
- Called the <u>3NF synthesis algorithm</u>
  - Instead of decomposing an initial schema, generates
     schemas from a set of dependencies
- □ Given a set F of functional dependencies
  - $\square$  Uses the canonical cover  $F_c$
  - Ensures that resulting schemas are dependency-preserving

# 3NF Synthesis Algorithm

Inputs: set of functional dependences F, on a schema R let  $F_c$  be a canonical cover for F; i := 0;**for each** functional dependency  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  in  $F_c$  **do** if none of the schemas  $R_i$ , i = 1, 2, ..., i contains ( $\alpha \cup \beta$ ) then i := i + 1; $R_i := (\alpha \cup \beta)$ end if done if no schema  $R_i$ , i = 1, 2, ..., i contains a candidate key for R then i := i + 1; $R_i :=$  any candidate key for R end if return  $(R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_i)$ 

## BCNF vs. 3NF

- Boyce-Codd Normal Form:
  - Eliminates more redundant information than 3NF
  - Some functional dependencies become expensive to enforce
    - The conditions to enforce involve multiple relations
  - Overall, a very desirable normal form!
- Third Normal Form:
  - All [more] dependencies are [probably] easy to enforce...
  - Allows more redundant information, which must be kept synchronized by the database application!
  - Personal banker example:

```
works_in(emp_id, branch_name)
cust_banker_branch(cust_id, branch_name, emp_id, type)
```

Branch names must be kept synchronized between these relations!

## BCNF and 3NF vs. SQL

- SQL constraints:
  - Only <u>key</u> constraints are fast and easy to enforce!
  - □ Only easy to enforce functional dependencies  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  if  $\alpha$  is a key on some table!
  - Other functional dependencies (even "easy" ones in 3NF) may require more expensive constraints, e.g. CHECK
- For SQL databases with materialized views:
  - Can decompose a schema into BCNF
  - □ For dependencies  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  not preserved in decomposition, create materialized view joining all relations in dependency
  - $\blacksquare$  Enforce **unique**( $\alpha$ ) constraint on materialized view
- Impacts both space and performance, but it works...

#### Multivalued Attributes

- E-R schemas can have multivalued attributes
- 1NF requires only atomic attributes
  - Not a problem; translating to relational model leaves everything atomic
- Employee example:
   employee(emp\_id, emp\_name)
   emp\_deps(emp\_id, dependent)
   emp\_nums(emp\_id, phone\_num)

```
employee

emp_id
emp_name
{ phone_num }
{ dependent }
```

What are the requirements on these schemas for what tuples must appear?

# Multivalued Attributes (2)

#### Example data:

emp_id	emp_name
125623	Rick
=	employee

emp_id	dependent
125623	Jeff
125623	Alice
_	emp deps

emp_id	phone_num
125623	555-8888
125623	555-2222
	emn nums

emp\_nums

- Every distinct value of multivalued attribute requires a separate tuple, including associated value of emp\_id
- □ A consequence of 1NF, in fact!
  - If attributes could be nonatomic, could just store list of values in the appropriate column!
  - 1NF <u>requires</u> extra tuples to represent multivalues

## Independent Multivalued Attributes

- Question is trickier when a schema stores several independent multivalued attributes
- Proposed combined schema:
   employee(emp\_id, emp\_name)
   emp\_info(emp\_id, dependent, phone\_num)
- What tuples must appear in emp\_info?
  - emp\_info is a relation
  - If an employee has M dependents and N phone numbers, emp\_info must contain M × N tuples
    - Exactly what we get if we natural-join emp\_deps and emp\_nums
  - Every combination of the employee's dependents and their phone numbers

## Independent Multivalued Attributes

Example data:

emp_id	emp_name
125623	Rick
	employee

emp_id	dependent	phone_num
125623	Jeff	555-8888
125623	Jeff	555-2222
125623	Alice	555-8888
125623	Alice	555-2222

emp\_info

- Clearly has unnecessary redundancy
- Can't formulate functional dependencies to represent multivalued attributes
- Can't use BCNF or 3NF decompositions to eliminate redundancy in these cases

## Multivalued Attributes Example

- □ Two employees: Rick and Bob
  - Both share a phone number at work
  - Both have two kids
  - Both have a kid named Alice
- Can't use functional dependencies to reason about this situation!
  - emp\_id → phone\_num doesn't hold since an employee can have several phone numbers
  - □ phone\_num → emp\_id doesn't hold either, since several employees can have the same phone number
  - Same with emp\_id and dependent...

emp_id	emp_name
125623	Rick
127341	Bob

employee

emp_id	phone_num
125623	555-8888
125623	555-2222
127341	555-2222

emp\_nums

emp_id	dependent
125623	Jeff
125623	Alice
127341	Alice
127341	Clara

## Dependencies

- Functional dependencies rule out what tuples can appear in a relation
  - □ If  $A \rightarrow B$  holds, then tuples cannot have same value for A but different values for B
  - Also called <u>equality-generating dependencies</u>
- Multivalued dependencies specify what tuples must be present
  - To represent a multivalued attribute's values properly, a certain set of tuples must be present
  - Also called tuple-generating dependencies

## Multivalued Dependencies

- □ Given a relation schema R
  - $\blacksquare$  Attribute-sets  $\alpha \in R$ ,  $\beta \in R$
  - $\square \alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  is a multivalued dependency
  - $\blacksquare$  " $\alpha$  multidetermines  $\beta$ "
- □ A multivalued dependency  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  holds on R if, in any legal relation r(R):

For all pairs of tuples  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  in r such that  $t_1[\alpha] = t_2[\alpha]$ , There also exists tuples  $t_3$  and  $t_4$  in r such that:

- $t_1[R \beta] = t_4[R \beta]$  and  $t_2[R \beta] = t_3[R \beta]$

# Multivalued Dependencies (2)

□ Multivalued dependency  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  holds on R if, in any legal relation r(R):

For all pairs of tuples  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  in r such that  $t_1[\alpha] = t_2[\alpha]$ , There also exists tuples  $t_3$  and  $t_4$  in r such that:

Pictorially:

	α	β	$R - (\alpha \cup \beta)$
$t_1$	a <sub>1</sub> a <sub>i</sub>	a <sub>i+1</sub> a <sub>j</sub>	a <sub>j+1</sub> a <sub>n</sub>
$t_2$	$a_1a_i$	$b_{i+1}b_j$	$b_{j+1}b_n$
		<i>a<sub>i+1</sub>…a<sub>j</sub></i>	$b_{j+1}b_n$
$t_4$	$a_1a_i$	$b_{i+1}b_j$	$a_{j+1}a_n$

# Multivalued Dependencies (3)

Multivalued dependency:

	α	β	$R - (\alpha \cup \beta)$
$t_1$	a <sub>1</sub> a <sub>i</sub>	a <sub>i+1</sub> a <sub>j</sub>	a <sub>j+1</sub> a <sub>n</sub>
$t_2$	a <sub>1</sub> a <sub>i</sub>	$b_{i+1}b_j$	$b_{j+1}b_n$
$\overline{t_3}$	a <sub>1</sub> a <sub>i</sub>	a <sub>i+1</sub> a <sub>j</sub>	$b_{j+1}b_n$
$t_4$	<i>a</i> <sub>1</sub> <i>a</i> <sub>i</sub>	$b_{i+1}b_j$	a <sub>j+1</sub> …a <sub>n</sub>

- $\square$  If  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  then  $R (\alpha \cup \beta)$  is independent of this fact
  - Every distinct value of  $\beta$  must be associated once with every distinct value of  $R (\alpha \cup \beta)$
- $\square$  Let  $\gamma = R (\alpha \cup \beta)$ 
  - If  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  then also  $\alpha \longrightarrow \gamma$
  - $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  implies  $\alpha \longrightarrow \gamma$
  - □ Sometimes written  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta \mid \gamma$

## Trivial Multivalued Dependencies

- $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  is a trivial multivalued dependency on R if <u>all</u> relations r(R) satisfy the dependency
- □ Specifically,  $\alpha \Longrightarrow \beta$  is trivial if  $\beta \subseteq \alpha$ , or if  $\alpha \cup \beta = R$
- Employee examples:
  - For schema emp\_deps(emp\_id, dependent),
     emp\_id ->> dependent is trivial
  - For emp\_info(emp\_id, dependent, phone\_num),
     emp\_id ->> dependent is not trivial

## Inference Rules

- Can reason about multivalued dependencies, just like functional dependencies
  - □ There is a set of complete, sound inference rules for MVDs
- Example inference rules:
  - Complementation rule:
    - If  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  holds on R, then  $\alpha \longrightarrow R (\alpha \cup \beta)$  holds
  - Multivalued augmentation rule:
    - If  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  holds, and  $\gamma \subseteq R$ , and  $\delta \subseteq \gamma$ , then  $\gamma \alpha \longrightarrow \delta \beta$  holds
  - Multivalued transitivity rule:
    - If  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  and  $\beta \longrightarrow \gamma$  holds, then  $\alpha \longrightarrow \gamma \beta$  holds
  - Coalescence rule:
    - If  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  holds, and  $\gamma \subseteq \beta$ , and there is a  $\delta$  such that  $\delta \subseteq R$ , and  $\delta \cap \beta = \emptyset$ , and  $\delta \to \gamma$ , then  $\alpha \to \gamma$  holds

## Functional Dependencies

- Functional dependencies are also multivalued dependencies
- Replication rule:
  - $\blacksquare$  If  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ , then  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  too
  - Note there is an <u>additional</u> constraint from  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ : each value of  $\alpha$  has at most one associated value for  $\beta$
- Usually, functional dependencies are not stated as multivalued dependencies
  - The extra caveat is important, but not obvious in notation
  - Also, functional dependencies are easier to reason about!

#### Closures and Restrictions

- For a set D of functional and multivalued dependencies, can compute closure D<sup>+</sup>
  - Use inference rules for both functional and multivalued dependencies to compute closure
- $\square$  Sometimes need the restriction of  $D^+$  to a relation schema R, too
- $\square$  The restriction of D to a schema  $R_i$  includes:
  - $lue{}$  All functional dependencies in  $D^+$  that include only attributes in  $R_i$
  - □ All multivalued dependencies of the form  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta \cap R_i$ , where  $\alpha \subseteq R_i$ , and  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  is in  $D^+$

### Fourth Normal Form

- □ Given:
  - Relation schema R
  - Set of functional and multivalued dependencies D
- $\square$  R is in 4NF with respect to D if:
  - For all multivalued dependencies  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  in  $D^+$ , where  $\alpha \subseteq R$  and  $\beta \subseteq R$ , at least one of the following holds:
    - $\blacksquare \alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  is a trivial multivalued dependency
    - lacksquare lpha is a superkey for  $\it R$
  - Note: If  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  then  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$
- A database design is in 4NF if all schemas in the design are in 4NF

## 4NF and BCNF

- Main difference between 4NF and BCNF is use of multivalued dependencies instead of functional dependencies
- Every schema in 4NF is also in BCNF
  - If a schema is not in BCNF then there is a nontrivial functional dependency  $\alpha \to \beta$  such that  $\alpha$  is not a superkey for R
  - □ If  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  then  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$

# 4NF Decompositions

- Decomposition rule very similar to BCNF
- □ If schema R is not in 4NF with respect to a set of multivalued dependencies D:
  - There is some nontrivial dependency  $\alpha \longrightarrow \beta$  in  $D^+$  where  $\alpha \subseteq R$  and  $\beta \subseteq R$ , and  $\alpha$  is not a superkey of R
    - Also constrain that  $\alpha \cap \beta = \emptyset$
  - Replace R with two new schemas:
    - $\mathbf{R}_1 = (\alpha \cup \beta)$
    - $R_2 = (R \beta)$

# **Employee Information Example**

Combined schema:

```
employee(emp_id, emp_name)
emp_info(emp_id, dependent, phone_num)
```

- Also have these dependencies:
  - $\blacksquare$  emp\_id  $\rightarrow$  emp\_name
  - emp\_id → dependent
  - emp\_id ->> phone\_num
- emp\_info is not in 4NF
- □ Following the rules for 4NF decomposition produces:

```
(emp_id, dependent)
(emp_id, phone_num)
```

Note: Each relation's candidate key is the entire relation. The multivalued dependencies are trivial.

## Lossless Decompositions

- Can also define lossless decomposition with multivalued dependencies
  - $\blacksquare$   $R_1$  and  $R_2$  form a lossless decomposition of R if at least one of these dependencies is in  $D^+$ :

$$R_1 \cap R_2 \longrightarrow R_1$$

$$R_1 \cap R_2 \longrightarrow R_2$$

# Beyond Fourth Normal Form?

- Additional normal forms with various constraints
- □ Example: join dependencies
- □ Given R, and a decomposition  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  where  $R_1 \cup R_2 = R$ :
  - The decomposition is lossless if, for all legal instances of r(R),  $\Pi_{R_2}(r) \bowtie \Pi_{R_2}(r) = r$
- □ Can state this as a join dependency:  $*(R_1, R_2)$ 
  - This is actually identical to a multivalued dependency!
  - $\blacksquare *(R_1, R_2)$  is equivalent to  $R_1 \cap R_2 \longrightarrow R_1 \mid R_2$

## Join Dependencies and 5NF

- Join dependencies (JD) are a generalization of multivalued dependencies (MVD)
  - $\square$  Can specify JDs involving N relation schemas, N  $\ge 2$
  - $\square$  JDs are equivalent to MVDs when N = 2
  - $lue{}$  Can easily construct JDs where N > 2, with no equivalent set of MVDs
- Project-Join Normal Form (a.k.a. PJNF or 5NF):
  - □ A relation schema R is in PJNF with respect to a set of join dependencies D if, for all JDs in  $D^+$  of the form  $*(R_1, R_2, ..., R_n)$  where  $R_1 \cup R_2 \cup ... \cup R_n = R$ , at least one of the following holds:
    - $\blacksquare$  \* $(R_1, R_2, ..., R_n)$  is a trivial join dependency
    - $\blacksquare$  Every  $R_i$  is a superkey for R

# Join Dependencies and 5NF (2)

- If a schema is in Project-Join Normal Form then it is also in 4NF (and thus, in BCNF)
  - Every multivalued dependency is also a join dependency
  - (Every functional dependency is also a multivalued dependency)
- One small problem:
  - □ There isn't a complete, sound set of inference rules for join dependencies!
  - Can't reason about our set of join dependencies D...
  - This limits PJNF's real-world usefulness

## Domain-Key Normal Form

- Domain-key normal form (DKNF) is an even more general normal form, based on:
  - **Domain constraints:** what values may be assigned to attribute A
    - Usually inexpensive to test, even with CHECK constraints
  - **Key constraints:** all attribute-sets K that are a superkey for a schema R (i.e.  $K \rightarrow R$ )
    - Almost always inexpensive to test
  - General constraints: other predicates on valid relations in a schema
    - Could be very expensive to test!
- A schema R is in DKNF if the domain constraints and key constraints logically imply the general constraints
  - An "ideal" normal form difficult to achieve in practice...