Functional Dependencies and Types

Presented by
Dr. Md. Abir Hossain

DEFINATION

- Functional dependency is a relationship that exists when one attribute uniquely determines another attribute. If R is a relation with attributes X and Y, a functional dependency between the attributes is represented as X->Y, which specifies Y is functionally dependent on X.

- The attributes of a table is said to be dependent on each other when an attribute of a table uniquely identifies another attribute of the same table.

- For example:
- Suppose we have a student table with attributes: **Stu_Id, Stu_Name, Stu_Age**.

- Here **Stu_Id** attribute uniquely identifies the **Stu_Name** attribute of student table because if we know the student id we can tell the student name associated with it.

Functional dependency and can be written as :

Stu_Id->Stu_Name.

we can say **Stu_Name** is functionally dependent on **Stu_Id.**

Formally:

If column A of a table uniquely identifies the column B of same table then it can represented as A->B (Attribute B is functionally dependent on attribute A)

Types of Functional Dependencies

- Trivial functional dependency
- Non-trivial functional dependency
- Multivalued dependency
- Transitive dependency

Trivial functional dependency

- The dependency of an attribute on a set of attributes is known as trivial functional dependency if the set of attributes includes that attribute.

Symbolically:

- A ->B is trivial functional dependency if B is a subset of A.

- The following dependencies are also trivial: A->A & B->B

- **For example**:

Consider a table with two columns **Student_id** and **Student_Name**.

{**Student_Id, Student_Name**} -> **Student_Id** is a trivial functional dependency as **Student_Id** is a subset of {**Student_Id, Student_Name**}.

- Also, **Student_Id -> Student_Id & Student_Name -> Student_Name** are trivial dependencies too.

Non-trivial functional dependency

- If a functional dependency X->Y holds true where Y is not a subset of X then this dependency is called non trivial Functional dependency.

Example :

An employee table with three attributes: **emp_id, emp_name, emp_address**.

The following functional dependencies are non-trivial:

emp_id -> emp_name (**emp_name** is not a subset of **emp_id**)
emp_id -> emp_address (**emp_address** is not a subset of **emp_id**)

- On the other hand, the following dependencies are trivial:

{**emp_id, emp_name**} -> **emp_name [emp_name is a subset of {emp_id, emp_name}]**

Completely non trivial FD:

If a Functional dependency **X->Y** holds true where **X** intersection **Y** is **Null** then this dependency is said to be completely **non trivial function dependency**.

Multivalued dependency

- Multivalued dependency occurs when there are more than one independent multivalued attributes in a table.

- a **multivalued dependency** is a full constraint between two sets of attributes in a relation. In contrast to the functional **dependency**, the **multivalued dependency** requires that certain tuples be present in a relation.

- Consider a bike manufacture company, which produces two colors (Black and white) in each model every year.

bike_model	manuf_year	color
M1001	2007	Black
M1001	2007	Red
M2012	2008	Black
M2012	2008	Red
M2222	2009	Black
M2222	2009	Red

- Here columns **manuf_year** and **color** are **independent** of each other and **dependent** on **bike_model**. In this case these two columns are said to be **multivalued dependent** on **bike_model**.

These dependencies can be represented like this:

- bike_model ->> manuf_year
- bike_model ->> color

Transitive dependency

A functional dependency is said to be transitive if it is indirectly formed by two functional dependencies.

X -> Z is a transitive dependency if the following three functional dependencies hold true:

X->Y

Y does not ->X

Y->Z

A transitive dependency can only occur in a relation of three of more attributes. This dependency helps us normalizing the database in 3NF (3rd Normal Form).

- Example :-

Book	Author	Author_age
Game of Thrones	George R. R. Martin	66
Harry Potter	J. K. Rowling	49
Dying of the Light	George R. R. Martin	66

- **{Book} ->{Author}** (if we know the book, we knows the author name)
- **{Author} does not ->{Book}**
- **{Author} -> {Author_age}**

- Therefore as per the rule of **transitive dependency**:

- {**Book} -> {Author_age**} should hold, that makes sense because if we know the book name we can know the author's age.

THANK YOU