- Functional Dependency
- Partial Dependency
- Transitive Dependency
- Multivalued Dependency
- Denormalization

Each with definition, example, and detailed explanation.

# 1. Functional Dependency (FD)

#### Definition:

A **functional dependency** occurs when the value of one attribute (or a group of attributes) **uniquely determines** the value of another attribute in a relation.

 $\uparrow$  If A  $\rightarrow$  B, then **B** is functionally dependent on **A** (i.e., knowing A, you can uniquely determine B)

### • Example:

#### **StudentID Name Course**

101 Alice Java

102 Bob Python

#### Here:

- StudentID → Name
  (If you know StudentID, you can get the Name)
- StudentID → Course

#### So:

StudentID functionally determines Name and Course

# Summary:

- A → B: means B depends on A
- A should be a **determinant**
- FD is the **foundation** of normalization and keys

# 2. Partial Dependency

#### Definition:

A partial dependency exists when a non-prime attribute is functionally dependent on part of a composite primary key and not the whole key.

- Appears only when:
  - The table has a composite primary key
  - A column depends on only a **subset** of that key

### • Example:

### StudentID Course StudentName

101 Java Alice

101 DBMS Alice

#### Assume:

Primary Key = (StudentID, Course)

#### Check:

- StudentName depends on StudentID only
- Not on full composite key → Partial Dependency

### 🧪 Problem:

- StudentName is repeated unnecessarily
- This breaks 2NF rules

## ✓ Fix:

#### Split the table:

- Student(StudentID, StudentName)
- Enrollment(StudentID, Course)

# 3. Transitive Dependency

#### Definition:

A transitive dependency occurs when a non-key column depends on another non-key column, which itself depends on the primary key.

### $\bigstar$ A $\rightarrow$ B and B $\rightarrow$ C $\Rightarrow$ A $\rightarrow$ C

### → This is indirect dependency

### • Example:

## **EmpID EmpName DeptID DeptName**

E101 Alice D1 HR

E102 Bob D2 Sales

#### Assume:

- Primary Key = EmplD
- EmpID → DeptID
- DeptID → DeptName
  - → So, **EmplD** → **DeptName** = transitive dependency

## Problem:

- If you change DeptName for D1, it affects multiple rows
- Redundant storage of DeptName

# **Fix (in 3NF):**

- Employee(EmpID, EmpName, DeptID)
- Department(DeptID, DeptName)

# 4. Multivalued Dependency (4NF topic)

## Definition:

A multivalued dependency occurs when one attribute in a table determines multiple values of another attribute independently of other columns.

 $A \rightarrow B$  (multivalued dependency notation)

## • Example:

## **StudentID Language Hobby**

S1 English Cricket

## **StudentID Language Hobby**

S1 English Music

S1 French Cricket

S1 French Music

#### **Explanation:**

- StudentID →→ Language
- StudentID →→ Hobby
- Language and Hobby are independent of each other
  - → This is a multivalued dependency

# **Fix (4NF):**

Split into two tables:

- Student\_Language(StudentID, Language)
- Student\_Hobby(StudentID, Hobby)

# **5.** Denormalization

#### Definition:

**Denormalization** is the process of **intentionally adding redundancy** into a database **to improve read performance**, especially when joins become expensive.

## When to Denormalize?

- When the SELECT queries are too slow
- When joins across multiple tables cause overhead
- For reporting, analytics, dashboards

## • Example:

Instead of:

#### **Order Table:**

O1	C101	
Customer Table:		
CustomerID Name		
C101	Alice	
We create a denormalized table:		
OrderID CustomerName		
O1	C101 A	ice
This avoids JOIN at runtime.		
1 Trade-off:		
Pros		Cons
Faster read performance Data redundancy		
Fewerjo	oins	Higher risk of inconsistency
Great fo	r reporting	Needs syncing if data updates

**OrderID CustomerID**