

BT5110: Tutorial 9

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Question

Your company, Apasaja Private Limited, is commissioned by an online company offering several services to design the relational schema the management of their users' profiles. A service is fully described and identified by its name. Each user can register to one or more services. A user is uniquely identified by her email as well as by her mobile number. Each user has both a postal address and a country of residence. The postal address, however, unambiguously identifies the country in which it is located. There can be several users with the same address.

However, we are only given an abstract schema for this application. Consider the relations $R = \{A, B, C, D, E\}$ with the set of functional dependencies $\Sigma = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A, D\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}, \{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$.

Question

1. Normal Forms

- (a) Is R with Σ in 3NF?
- (b) Is R with Σ in BCNF?

2. Normalisation

- (a) Synthesise R with Σ into a 3NF decomposition using the algorithm from the lecture.
- (b) Is the result lossless?
- (c) Is the result dependency preserving?
- (d) Is the result in BCNF?
- (e) Decompose R with Σ into a BCNF decomposition using the algorithm from the lecture.
- (f) Is the result lossless?
- (g) Is the result dependency preserving?

Question 1.a. Is R with Σ in 3NF?

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Criteria for 3NF

If $X \rightarrow \{A\} \in \Sigma$:

- $X \rightarrow \{A\}$ is trivial or
- X is a superkey or
- A is a prime attribute

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Compact minimal cover: $\{\{A\} \rightarrow \{B, C\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$

Candidate keys: $\{A, E\}$ and $\{B, E\}$

Prime attributes: A, B, E

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We notice that $\{A\} \rightarrow \{C\}$ is non-trivial, A is not a superkey and C is not a prime attribute $\implies R$ with Σ is **not in** 3NF.

Question 1.b. Is R with Σ in BCNF?

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⇒ The criteria of being in BCNF are stricter than those of being in 3NF.

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Criteria for BCNF

If $X \rightarrow \{A\} \in \Sigma$:

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- X is a superkey

⇒ The criteria of being in BCNF are stricter than those of being in 3NF.

As R with Σ is not in 3NF, it **cannot be** in BCNF.

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Fragments: $R_1 = \{A, B, C\}, R_2 = \{A, B\}, R_3 = \{C, D\}$

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R_2 is subsumed by R_1 . Thus we remove R_2 .

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Now we have: $R_1 = \{A, B, C\}, R_3 = \{C, D\}$

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R_2 is subsumed by R_1 . Thus we remove R_2 .

Now we have: $R_1 = \{A, B, C\}, R_3 = \{C, D\}$

None of the fragments contain a candidate key. Thus we choose $\{A, E\}$ (we could choose $\{B, E\}$ as well) to add as another fragment $R_4 = \{A, E\}$.

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None of the fragments contain a candidate key. Thus we choose $\{A, E\}$ (we could choose $\{B, E\}$ as well) to add as another fragment $R_4 = \{A, E\}$.

Finally we have: $R_1 = \{\underline{A}, \underline{B}, C\}, R_3 = \{\underline{C}, D\}, R_4 = \{\underline{A}, E\}$

Question 2.b. Is the result lossless?

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Yes. It is guaranteed to be lossless by the algorithm.

Question 2.c. Is the result dependency preserving?

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Yes. It is guaranteed to be dependency preserving by the algorithm.

Question 2.d. Is the result in BCNF?

¹Dependency projection algorithm: Algorithm 1

Question 2.d. Is the result in BCNF?

$$R_1 = \{A, B, C\}$$

$$\Sigma_1 = \{\{A\} \rightarrow$$

$$\{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow$$

$$\{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B\} \rightarrow$$

$$\{A, B\}\}$$

Candidate keys: $\{A\}, \{B\}$

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Candidate keys: $\{A\}, \{B\}$

$$R_3 = \{C, D\}$$

$$\Sigma_3 = \{\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$$

Candidate keys: $\{C\}$

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$$\{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \\ \{A, B\}\}$$

Candidate keys: $\{A\}, \{B\}$

$$R_3 = \{C, D\}$$

$$\Sigma_3 = \{\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$$

Candidate keys: $\{C\}$

$$R_4 = \{A, E\}$$

$$\Sigma_4 = \emptyset$$

Candidate keys: $\{A, E\}$

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Candidate keys: $\{A\}, \{B\}$

$$R_3 = \{C, D\}$$

$$\Sigma_3 = \{\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$$

Candidate keys: $\{C\}$

$$R_4 = \{A, E\}$$

$$\Sigma_4 = \emptyset$$

Candidate keys: $\{A, E\}$

Σ_1, Σ_3 and Σ_4 are projected dependencies. We obtain these by projecting Σ on R_1, R_3 and R_4 respectively.¹

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$$R_3 = \{C, D\}$$

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$$R_4 = \{A, E\}$$

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Candidate keys: $\{A, E\}$

Σ_1, Σ_3 and Σ_4 are projected dependencies. We obtain these by projecting Σ on R_1, R_3 and R_4 respectively.¹

R_1 with Σ_1 , R_3 with Σ_3 and R_4 with Σ_4 satisfy the BCNF criteria individually.

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$$\{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow$$

$$\{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B\} \rightarrow$$

$$\{A, B\}\}$$

Candidate keys: $\{A\}, \{B\}$

$$R_3 = \{C, D\}$$

$$\Sigma_3 = \{\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$$

Candidate keys: $\{C\}$

$$R_4 = \{A, E\}$$

$$\Sigma_4 = \emptyset$$

Candidate keys: $\{A, E\}$

Σ_1, Σ_3 and Σ_4 are projected dependencies. We obtain these by projecting Σ on R_1, R_3 and R_4 respectively.¹

R_1 with Σ_1 , R_3 with Σ_3 and R_4 with Σ_4 satisfy the BCNF criteria individually.

Thus the result is in BCNF. (This is not a general case though.

There is no guarantee that synthesising a 3NF will yield a BCNF too.)

¹Dependency projection algorithm: Algorithm 1

Question 2.e. Decompose R with Σ into a BCNF decomposition using the algorithm from the lecture.

We found that $\{A\} \rightarrow \{C\}$ violates the BCNF condition. (A is not a superkey)

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So, we decompose R with Σ as below:

$R_1 = \{A\}^+ = \{A, B, C, D\}$ with $\Sigma_1 = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{C\}, \{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$

$R_2 = \{A, E\}$ with $\Sigma_2 = \emptyset$

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R_2 with Σ_2 is in BCNF.

R_1 with Σ_1 is not in BCNF because $\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$ violates the BCNF condition.

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$R_2 = \{A, E\}$ with $\Sigma_2 = \emptyset$

R_2 with Σ_2 is in BCNF.

R_1 with Σ_1 is not in BCNF because $\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$ violates the BCNF condition.

We decompose it into two fragments:

$R_{1.1} = \{C\}^+ = \{C, D\}$ with $\Sigma_{1.1} = \{\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$

$R_{1.2} = \{A, B, C\}$ with $\Sigma_{1.2} = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}, \{A\} \rightarrow \{C\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$

$R_{1.1}$ with $\Sigma_{1.1}$ is in BCNF.

$R_{1.2}$ with $\Sigma_{1.2}$ is in BCNF.

Question 2.e. Decompose R with Σ into a BCNF decomposition using the algorithm from the lecture.

We found that $\{A\} \rightarrow \{C\}$ violates the BCNF condition. (A is not a superkey)

So, we decompose R with Σ as below:

$R_1 = \{A\}^+ = \{A, B, C, D\}$ with $\Sigma_1 = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{C\}, \{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$

$R_2 = \{A, E\}$ with $\Sigma_2 = \emptyset$

R_2 with Σ_2 is in BCNF.

R_1 with Σ_1 is not in BCNF because $\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$ violates the BCNF condition.

We decompose it into two fragments:

$R_{1.1} = \{C\}^+ = \{C, D\}$ with $\Sigma_{1.1} = \{\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$

$R_{1.2} = \{A, B, C\}$ with $\Sigma_{1.2} = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{B\}, \{A\} \rightarrow \{C\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$

$R_{1.1}$ with $\Sigma_{1.1}$ is in BCNF.

$R_{1.2}$ with $\Sigma_{1.2}$ is in BCNF.

The final BCNF decomposition is: R_2 , $R_{1.1}$, and $R_{1.2}$.

Question 2.f. Is the result lossless?

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Yes. The result is guaranteed to be lossless by the algorithm.

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Yes. This result is dependency preserving. (We have reached same result as the 3NF synthesis. Thus we can guarantee without checking.)

This is not guaranteed for BCNF decomposition. It may not always be dependency preserving.

Dependency Projection Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Dependency Projection Algorithm²

Require: Σ : Set of functional dependencies

Require: R' : Set of attributes to project on

Ensure: Σ' : Projected set of functional dependencies

```
1: Initialize  $\Sigma' \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
2: for each ( $lhs \rightarrow rhs$ ) in  $\Sigma$  do
3:   if  $lhs$  is a subset of  $R'$  then
4:      $y \leftarrow rhs \cap R'$ 
5:     if  $y$  is not empty then
6:        $\Sigma' \leftarrow \Sigma' \cup \{\{lhs \rightarrow y\}\}$ 
7:     end if
8:   end if
9: end for
10: return  $\Sigma'$ 
```

²[Link to code→ Cell 1: project_dependency](#)

Dependency Projection Example

$R =$

$\{A, B, C, D, E\}$

$\Sigma =$

$\{\{A\}\}$

$\rightarrow \{A, B, C\},$

$\{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\},$

$\{B, C\}$

$\rightarrow \{A, D\},$

$\{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\},$

$\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$

$R' = \{A, B, C\}$

Dependency Projection Example

$$\Sigma' = \emptyset$$

$$R =$$

$$\{A, B, C, D, E\}$$

$$\Sigma =$$

$$\{ \{ A \} \}$$

$$\rightarrow \{A, B, C\},$$

$$\{ A, B \} \rightarrow \{A\},$$

$$\{ B, C \}$$

$$\rightarrow \{A, D\},$$

$$\{ B \} \rightarrow \{A, B\},$$

$$\{ C \} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$$

$$R' = \{A, B, C\}$$

Dependency Projection Example

$$\Sigma' = \emptyset$$

$$\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}$$

lhs = {A} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, B, C}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, B, C\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A, B, C\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}\}$$

$$R =$$

$$\{A, B, C, D, E\}$$

$$\Sigma =$$

$$\{\{A\}$$

$$\rightarrow \{A, B, C\},$$

$$\{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\},$$

$$\{B, C\}$$

$$\rightarrow \{A, D\},$$

$$\{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\},$$

$$\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$$

$$R' = \{A, B, C\}$$

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$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}\}$$

$$\{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}$$

lhs = {A, B} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$$

$R =$

{A, B, C, D, E}

$\Sigma =$

{ { A } }

$\rightarrow \{A, B, C\},$

{ A, B } $\rightarrow \{A\},$

{ B, C }

$\rightarrow \{A, D\},$

{ B } $\rightarrow \{A, B\},$

{ C } $\rightarrow \{D\}\}$

$R' = \{A, B, C\}$

Dependency Projection Example

$$\Sigma' = \emptyset$$

$$\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}$$

lhs = {A} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, B, C}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, B, C\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A, B, C\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}\}$$

$$\{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}$$

lhs = {A, B} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$$

$$\{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A, D\}$$

lhs = {B, C} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, D}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, D\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$$

$$R = \\ \{A, B, C, D, E\}$$

$$\Sigma = \\ \{\{A\} \\ \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \\ \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \\ \{B, C\} \\ \rightarrow \{A, D\}, \\ \{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}, \\ \{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$$

$$R' = \{A, B, C\}$$

Dependency Projection Example

$$\Sigma' = \emptyset$$

$$\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}$$

lhs = {A} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, B, C}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, B, C\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A, B, C\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}\}$$

$$\{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}$$

lhs = {A, B} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$$

$$\{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A, D\}$$

lhs = {B, C} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, D}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, D\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$$

$$\{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}$$

lhs = {B} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, B}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, B\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A, B\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}\}$$

R =

{A, B, C, D, E}

$\Sigma =$

{ { A } }

$\rightarrow \{A, B, C\},$

$\{ A, B \} \rightarrow \{A\},$

$\{ B, C \}$

$\rightarrow \{A, D\},$

$\{ B \} \rightarrow \{A, B\},$

$\{ C \} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$

$R' = \{A, B, C\}$

Dependency Projection Example

$$\Sigma' = \emptyset$$

$$\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}$$

lhs = {A} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, B, C}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, B, C\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A, B, C\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}\}$$

$$\{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}$$

lhs = {A, B} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$$

$$\{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A, D\}$$

lhs = {B, C} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, D}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, D\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$$

$$\{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}$$

lhs = {B} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, B}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, B\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A, B\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}\}$$

$$\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$$

lhs = {C} is a subset of R'

rhs = {D}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{D\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \emptyset$$

$R =$

{A, B, C, D, E}

$\Sigma =$

{ { A } }

$\rightarrow \{A, B, C\},$

{ A, B } $\rightarrow \{A\},$

{ B, C }

$\rightarrow \{A, D\},$

{ B } $\rightarrow \{A, B\},$

{ C } $\rightarrow \{D\}\}$

$R' = \{A, B, C\}$

Dependency Projection Example

$$\Sigma' = \emptyset$$

$$\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}$$

lhs = {A} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, B, C}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, B, C\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A, B, C\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}\}$$

$$\{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}$$

lhs = {A, B} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$$

$$\{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A, D\}$$

lhs = {B, C} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, D}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, D\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}\}$$

$$\{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}$$

lhs = {B} is a subset of R'

rhs = {A, B}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{A, B\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \{A, B\} \neq \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}\}$$

$$\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$$

lhs = {C} is a subset of R'

rhs = {D}

$$y = \text{rhs} \cap R' = \{D\} \cap \{A, B, C\} = \emptyset$$

$$\Sigma' = \{\{A\} \rightarrow \{A, B, C\}, \{A, B\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B, C\} \rightarrow \{A\}, \{B\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}\}$$

$R =$

$\{A, B, C, D, E\}$

$\Sigma =$

$\{\{A\}$

$\rightarrow \{A, B, C\}$,

$\{\{A, B\}\} \rightarrow \{A\}$,

$\{\{B, C\}\}$

$\rightarrow \{A, D\}$,

$\{\{B\}\} \rightarrow \{A, B\}$,

$\{\{C\}\} \rightarrow \{D\}\}$

$R' = \{A, B, C\}$