Unit 3 Schema Refinement and Normalization

Outline

- Database Design Steps
- Redundancy
- Schema Refinement
- Minimizing Redundancy
- Functional Dependencies (FDs)
- Normalization using FDs
    - First Normal Form
    - Second Normal Form (2NF)
    - Third Normal Form (3NF)
    - Boyce Codd Normal Form (BCNF)

Database Design Steps

Step 1 Requirement Analysis
Step 2 Conceptual Design(ER Diagram)
Step 3 Logical Design (Relational Model)
Step 4 Schema Refinement (Normalization)

Schema Refinement

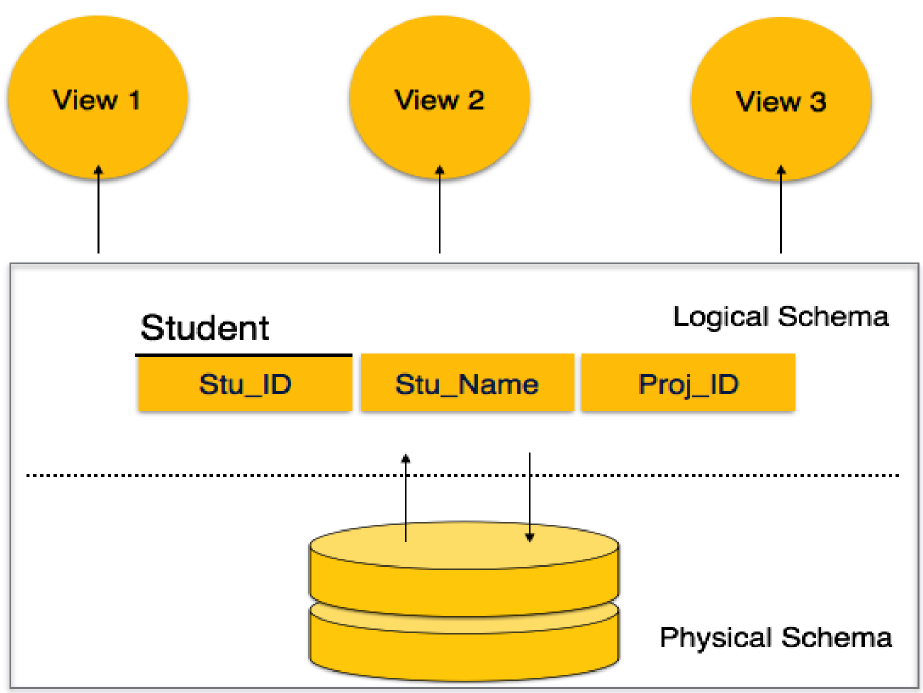
Database schema:

A database schema is the skeleton structure that represents the logical view of the entire database. It defines how the data is organized and how the relations among them are associated. It formulates all the constraints that are to be applied on the data.

A database schema defines its entities and the relationship among them. It contains a descriptive detail of the database, which can be depicted by means of schema diagrams. It's the database designers who design the schema to help programmers understand the database and make it useful.

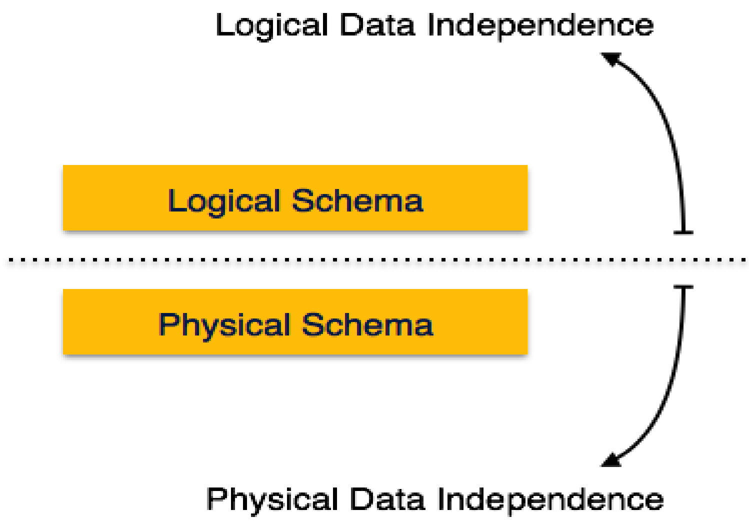
A database schema can be divided broadly into two categories −

- **Physical Database Schema** − This schema pertains to the actual storage of data and its form of storage like files, indices, etc. It defines how the data will be stored in a secondary storage.
- **Logical Database Schema** − This schema defines all the logical constraints that need to be applied on the data stored. It defines tables, views, and integrity constraints.



Data Independence

A database system normally contains a lot of data in addition to users' data. For example, it stores data about data, known as metadata, to locate and retrieve data easily. It is rather difficult to modify or update a set of metadata once it is stored in the database. But as a DBMS expands, it needs to change over time to satisfy the requirements of the users. If the entire data is dependent, it would become a tedious and highly complex job.



Metadata itself follows a layered architecture, so that when we change data at one layer, it does not affect the data at another level. This data is independent but mapped to each other.

Logical Data Independence

Logical data is data about database, that is, it stores information about how data is managed inside. For example, a table (relation) stored in the database and all its constraints, applied on that relation.

Logical data independence is a kind of mechanism, which liberalizes itself from actual data stored on the disk. If we do some changes on table format, it should not change the data residing on the disk.

Physical Data Independence

All the schemas are logical, and the actual data is stored in bit format on the disk. Physical data independence is the power to change the physical data without impacting the schema or logical data.

For example, in case we want to change or upgrade the storage system itself − suppose we want to replace hard-disks with SSD − it should not have any impact on the logical data or schemas.

Problem with schema(Need of schema Refinement)

- We are given a set of tables specifying the database
- They come from some ER diagram
- We will need to examine whether the specific choice of tables is good for
  - – Storing the information needed
  - – Enforcing constraints – Avoiding anomalies, such as redundancies

If there are issues to address, we may want to restructure the database, of course not losing any information

Schema Refinement

We use the concept of Normalization and functional Dependencies.

Functional Dependency

Functional dependency (FD) is a set of constraints between two attributes in a relation. Functional dependency says that if two tuples have same values for attributes A1, A2,An, then those two tuples must have to have same values for attributes B1, B2, ..., Bn.

Functional dependency is represented by an arrow sign (→) that is, X→Y, where X functionally determines Y. The left-hand side attributes determine the values of attributes on the right-hand side.

- **Reflexive rule** − If alpha is a set of attributes and beta is_subset_of alpha, then alpha holds beta.
- **Augmentation rule** − If a → b holds and y is attribute set, then ay → by also holds. That is adding attributes in dependencies, does not change the basic dependencies.
- **Transitivity rule** − Same as transitive rule in algebra, if a → b holds and b → c holds, then a → c also holds. a → b is called as a functionally that determines b.

Trivial Functional Dependency

- **Trivial** − If a functional dependency (FD) X → Y holds, where Y is a subset of X, then it is called a trivial FD. Trivial FDs always hold.
- **Non-trivial** − If an FD X → Y holds, where Y is not a subset of X, then it is called a non-trivial FD.
- **Completely non-trivial** − If an FD X → Y holds, where x intersect Y = Φ, it is said to be a completely non-trivial FD.

Normalization

If a database design is not perfect, it may contain anomalies, which are like a bad dream for any database administrator. Managing a database with anomalies is next to impossible.

- **Update anomalies** − If data items are scattered and are not linked to each other properly, then it could lead to strange situations. For example, when we try to update one data item having its copies scattered over several places, a few instances get updated properly while a few others are left with old values. Such instances leave the database in an inconsistent state.
- **Deletion anomalies** − We tried to delete a record, but parts of it was left undeleted because of unawareness, the data is also saved somewhere else.
- **Insert anomalies** − We tried to insert data in a record that does not exist at all.

Normalization is a method to remove all these anomalies and bring the database to a consistent state.

Normalization **is a process of organizing the data in database to avoid data redundancy, insertion anomaly, update anomaly & deletion anomaly.**

- Normalization divides the larger table into the smaller table and links them using relationship.(Decomposition)
- The normal form is used to reduce redundancy from the database table.

First Normal Form

First Normal Form is defined in the definition of relations (tables) itself. This rule defines that all the attributes in a relation must have atomic domains. The values in an atomic domain are indivisible units.

Course	Content
Programming	Java, c++
Web	HTML, PHP, ASP

We re-arrange the relation (table) as below, to convert it to First Normal Form.

Course	Content
Programming	Java
Programming	c++
Web	HTML
Web	PHP
Web	ASP

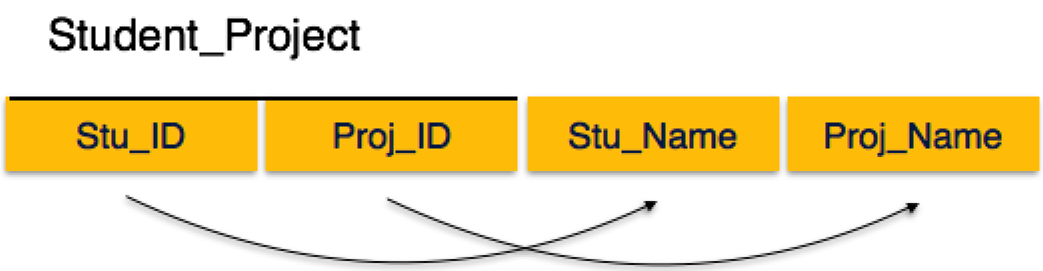
Each attribute must contain only a single value from its pre-defined domain.

Second Normal Form

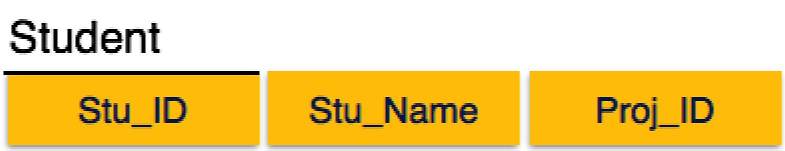
Before we learn about the second normal form, we need to understand the following −

- **Prime attribute** − An attribute, which is a part of the candidate-key, is known as a prime attribute.
- **Non-prime attribute** − An attribute, which is not a part of the prime-key, is said to be a non-prime attribute.

If we follow second normal form, then every non-prime attribute should be fully functionally dependent on prime key attribute. That is, if X → A holds, then there should not be any proper subset Y of X, for which Y → A also holds true.



We see here in Student_Project relation that the prime key attributes are Stu_ID and Proj_ID. According to the rule, non-key attributes, i.e. Stu_Name and Proj_Name must be dependent upon both and not on any of the prime key attribute individually. But we find that Stu_Name can be identified by Stu_ID and Proj_Name can be identified by Proj_ID independently. This is called **partial dependency**, which is not allowed in Second Normal Form.



We broke the relation in two as depicted in the above picture. So there exists no partial dependency.

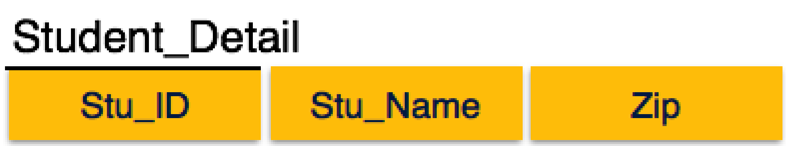
Third Normal Form

For a relation to be in Third Normal Form, it must be in Second Normal form and the following must satisfy −

- No non-prime attribute is transitively dependent on prime key attribute.
- For any non-trivial functional dependency, X → A, then either −
    - X is a superkey or,
    - A is prime attribute.

We find that in the above Student_detail relation, Stu_ID is the key and only prime key attribute. We find that City can be identified by Stu_ID as well as Zip itself. Neither Zip is a superkey nor is City a prime attribute. Additionally, Stu_ID → Zip → City, so there exists **transitive dependency**.

To bring this relation into third normal form, we break the relation into two relations as follows −



Boyce Codd normal form (BCNF)

It is an advance version of 3NF that’s why it is also referred as 3.5NF. BCNF is stricter than 3NF. A table complies with BCNF if it is in 3NF and for every functional dependency X->Y, X should be the super key of the table.

Example: Suppose there is a company wherein employees work in **more than one department**. They store the data like this:

emp_id	emp_nationality	emp_dept	dept_type	dept_no_of_emp
1001	Austrian	Production and planning	D001	200
1001	Austrian	stores	D001	250
1002	American	design and technical support	D134	100
1002	American	Purchasing department	D134	600

Functional dependencies in the table above:
emp_id -> emp_nationality
emp_dept -> {dept_type, dept_no_of_emp}

Candidate key: {emp_id, emp_dept}
The table is not in BCNF as neither emp_id nor emp_dept alone are keys.
To make the table comply with BCNF we can break the table in three tables like this:
emp_nationality table:

emp_id	emp_nationality
1001	Austrian
1002	American

emp_dept table:

emp_dept	dept_type	dept_no_of_emp
Production and planning	D001	200
stores	D001	250
design and technical support	D134	100
Purchasing department	D134	600

emp_dept_mapping table:

emp_id	emp_dept
1001	Production and planning
1001	stores
1002	design and technical support
1002	Purchasing department

Functional dependencies:
emp_id -> emp_nationality
emp_dept -> {dept_type, dept_no_of_emp}

Candidate keys:
For first table: emp_id
For second table: emp_dept
For third table: {emp_id, emp_dept}