







2) Explain the distinctions among the terms primary key, candidate key, and superkey

Primary key is a super key that you choose to be primary. It is the main reference key in a table. In a student database, a student id would serve well as a primary key because it is minimal (only one value) and can uniquely identify each student.

Candidate key – minimal super key with the fewest possible number of columns that still uniquely identify them. It is a subset of a super key. For example, in a registrar database, a student Social Security number can be a candidate key as well as a student id number. However, student id would, probably,

serve as a primary key since international students might not have a Social security number, in which case the key will no longer uniquely identify the student in the database.

Super key is any field (column) or a set of fields (columns) that uniquely identify any row in a table. For example, students' first and last names together can uniquely identify students in a database, however, separately, neither first name nor last name uniquely identify students. Only the combination can be used for identification purposes. Super key does not have to satisfy the minimality condition that candidate and primary keys have to.

3)

There are two types of data: generic and numerator. Generic data types include different type of data, such as strings, text, integers, characters, etc. Numeric data types only take the values that you specify yourself, such as gender, day of a week, month. We can create a database for the chemical elements of the periodic table. Even though the periodic table already very well classifies the elements, a database can hold more information about each element and provide an easier access to all the extra information. Table called "Chemical Elements" would have columns for the Name, Symbol, Atomic, number, Atomic weight, boiling point, number of isotopes, and year discovered.

Name column would have text data type, which is generic data, this is not nullable. Symbol would be also generic, a string, not nullable. Atomic number would be generic, but an integer, whereas, atomic weight should include floating numbers, neither of these is nullable. Boiling point should specify the scale in the title and should include floating numbers as well. This element can be nullable sometimes when boiling point in unknown. For example, Bohrium, a synthetic element that is not found in nature, is a radioactive element whose boiling point is unknown. Number of isotopes should be an integer and can be nullable for the elements that don't have any isotopes. Year discovered is generic data type, an integer.

For an example of a numerator data type, we can include some other columns, such as "Found in nature", data type for this would be a Boolean (True or False only). Another example for this topic would be to include "Radioactive" column that would contain Yes/No data type, which is a numerator type of data.

4)

a. First Normal Rule says that columns with multivalued intervals are not allowed. This means that for each column there has to be only one piece of data, columns cannot contain an entire record. The data has to be atomic, the lowest possible unit. For example, in the chemical elements database, the table cannot have a column "Discoverers" and contain all the people who discovered an element. There has to be only one name, if such column exists. If there were more than one person for the column, then it would be impossible to guery the data.

b. Accessing rows by content only means that when querying, we have to specify which row we are interested in by giving exact data or description of it, not its order number. Since tables are sets, there are no orders, therefore, we cannot expect to receive data from a query that specifies a number order of the row. From the elements table, we cannot query by specifying that we need information on the

first or second row. We have to specify which element we are interested in by clarifying its content, such as its name, symbol, or atomic weight.

c. The last rule declares that all rows must be unique, duplicate rows are not allowed. We cannot have the exact same row for the same elements. For example, if we had to include isotopes themselves as separate elements in the above database, we would have most of the other data the same (since isotopes are basically the same element, except they differ in atomic weight). Since this is not allowed, we will need to add a column for "Number of neutrons", which will differ for all the elements including their isotopes. Duplicate rows will not yield correct results for queries and it is just abundant and irrational to duplicate data.