

Database System Concepts, 7th Edition

Chapter 7: Relational Database Design

Silberschatz, Korth and Sudarshan

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Database System Concepts



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Plan

Features of Good Relational Design

Functional Dependencies

Decomposition Using Functional Dependencies

Normal Forms

Functional Dependency Theory

Features of Good Relational Designs

classroom(building, room_number, capacity)
department(dept_name, building, budget)
course(course_id, title, dept_name, credits)
instructor(ID, name, dept_name, salary)
section(course_id, sec_id, semester, year, building, room_number, time_slot_id)
teaches(ID, course_id, sec_id, semester, year)
student(ID, name, dept_name, tot_cred)
takes(ID, course_id, sec_id, semester, year, grade)
advisor(s_ID, i_ID)
time_slot(time_slot_id, day, start_time, end_time)
prereq(course_id, prereq_id)

Figure 7.1 Database schema for the university example.

Features of Good Relational Designs

- ▶ Suppose we combine *instructor* and *department* into *in_dep*, which represents the natural join on the relations *instructor* and *department*.

| <i>ID</i> | <i>name</i> | <i>salary</i> | <i>dept_name</i> | <i>building</i> | <i>budget</i> |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 22222 | Einstein | 95000 | Physics | Watson | 70000 |
| 12121 | Wu | 90000 | Finance | Painter | 120000 |
| 32343 | El Said | 60000 | History | Painter | 50000 |
| 45565 | Katz | 75000 | Comp. Sci. | Taylor | 100000 |
| 98345 | Kim | 80000 | Elec. Eng. | Taylor | 85000 |
| 76766 | Crick | 72000 | Biology | Watson | 90000 |
| 10101 | Srinivasan | 65000 | Comp. Sci. | Taylor | 100000 |
| 58583 | Califieri | 62000 | History | Painter | 50000 |
| 83821 | Brandt | 92000 | Comp. Sci. | Taylor | 100000 |
| 15151 | Mozart | 40000 | Music | Packard | 80000 |
| 33456 | Gold | 87000 | Physics | Watson | 70000 |
| 76543 | Singh | 80000 | Finance | Painter | 120000 |

Figure 7.2 The *in_dep* relation.

- ▶ There is repetition of information
- ▶ Need to use **null** values (if we add a new department with no instructors)

Decomposition

- ▶ The only way to avoid the repetition-of-information problem in the *in_dep* schema is to decompose it into two schemas –*instructor* and *department* schemas.
- ▶ Not all decompositions are good. Suppose we decompose:
 `employee(ID, name, street, city, salary)`
into
 `employee1 (ID, name)`
 `employee2 (name, street, city, salary)`
The problem arises when we have two employees with the same name.
- ▶ The next slide shows how we lose information –we cannot reconstruct the original employee relation– and so, this is a **lossy decomposition**.

A Lossy Decomposition

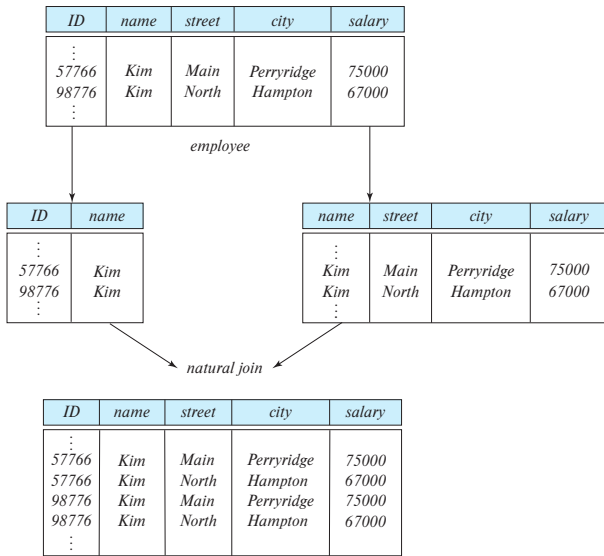


Figure 7.3 Loss of information via a bad decomposition.

Lossless Decomposition

- ▶ Let R be a relation schema and let R_1 and R_2 form a decomposition of R . That is $R = R_1 \cup R_2$.
- ▶ We say that the decomposition is a **lossless decomposition** if there is no loss of information by replacing R with the two relation schemas $R_1 \cup R_2$.
- ▶ Formally,

$$\Pi_{R_1}(r) \bowtie \Pi_{R_2}(r) = r$$

- ▶ And, conversely a decomposition is lossy if

$$r \subset \Pi_{R_1}(r) \bowtie \Pi_{R_2}(r)$$

Example of Lossless Decomposition

- Decomposition of $R = (A, B, C)$:

$$R_1 = (A, B); R_2 = (B, C)$$

| A | B | C |
|----------|---|---|
| α | 1 | A |
| β | 2 | B |

r

| A | B |
|----------|---|
| α | 1 |
| β | 2 |

$\Pi_{A,B}(r)$

| B | C |
|---|---|
| 1 | A |
| 2 | B |

$\Pi_{B,C}(r)$

$\Pi_A(r) \bowtie \Pi_B(r)$

| A | B | C |
|----------|---|---|
| α | 1 | A |
| β | 2 | B |

Normalization Theory

- ▶ Decide whether a particular relation R is in “good” form.
- ▶ In the case that a relation R is not in “good” form, decompose it into set of relations $\{R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n\}$ such that,
 - ▶ Each relation is in good form.
 - ▶ The decomposition is a lossless decomposition.
- ▶ Our theory is based on:
 1. functional dependencies.
 2. multivalued dependencies.

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Functional Dependencies

- ▶ There are usually a variety of constraints (rules) on the data in the real world.
- ▶ For example, some of the constraints that are expected to hold in a university database are:
 - ▶ Students and instructors are uniquely identified by their ID.
 - ▶ Each student and instructor has only one name.
 - ▶ Each instructor and student is (primarily) associated with only one department.
 - ▶ Each department has only one value for its budget, and only one associated building.

Functional Dependencies (Cont.)

- ▶ An instance of a relation that satisfies all such real-world constraints is called a **legal instance** of the relation.
- ▶ A legal instance of a database is one where all the relation instances are legal instances.
- ▶ Require that the value for a certain set of attributes determines uniquely the value for another set of attributes.
- ▶ A functional dependency is a generalization of the notion of a key.

Functional Dependencies Definition

- ▶ Let R be a relation schema

$$\alpha \subseteq R \text{ and } \beta \subseteq R$$

- ▶ The **functional dependency**

$$\alpha \rightarrow \beta$$

holds on R if and only if for any legal relations $r(R)$, whenever any two tuples t_1 and t_2 of r agree on the attributes α , they also agree on the attributes β . That is,

$$t_1[\alpha] = t_2[\alpha] \Rightarrow t_1[\beta] = t_2[\beta]$$

- ▶ Example: Consider $r(A, B)$ with the following instance of r :

| A | B |
|---|---|
| 1 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 |
| 3 | 7 |

- ▶ On this instance, $B \rightarrow A$ hold; $A \rightarrow B$ does **NOT** hold,

Closure of a Set of Functional Dependencies

- ▶ Given a set F set of functional dependencies, there are certain other functional dependencies that are logically implied by F .
 - ▶ If $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow C$, then we can infer that $A \rightarrow C$.
- ▶ The set of **all** functional dependencies logically implied by F is the **closure** of F .
- ▶ We denote the closure of F by F^+ .

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Keys and Functional Dependencies

- ▶ K is a superkey for relation schema R if and only if $K \rightarrow R$.
- ▶ K is a primary key for R if and only if:
 - ▶ $K \rightarrow R$, and
 - ▶ for no $\alpha \subset K, \alpha \rightarrow R$
- ▶ Functional dependencies allow us to express constraints that cannot be expressed using superkeys. Consider the schema:

`in_dep(ID, name, salary, dept_name, building, budget).`

We expect these functional dependencies to hold:

$dept_name \rightarrow building$

$ID \rightarrow building$

but would not expect the following to hold:

$dept_name \rightarrow salary$

Use of Functional Dependencies

- ▶ We use functional dependencies to:
 - ▶ To test relations to see if they are legal under a given set of functional dependencies.
 - ▶ If a relation r is legal under a set F of functional dependencies, we say that r **satisfies** F .
 - ▶ To specify constraints on the set of legal relations.
 - ▶ We say that F **holds on** R if all legal relations on R satisfy the set of functional dependencies F .
- ▶ Note: A specific instance of a relation schema may satisfy a functional dependency even if the functional dependency does not hold on all legal instances.
 - ▶ For example, a specific instance of *instructor* may, by chance, satisfy

$$name \rightarrow ID.$$

Trivial Functional Dependencies

- ▶ A functional dependency is **trivial** if it is satisfied by all instances of a relation.
 - ▶ Example:
 - ▶ $ID, name \rightarrow ID$
 - ▶ $name \rightarrow name$
 - ▶ In general, $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is trivial if $\beta \subseteq \alpha$.

Lossless Decomposition

- ▶ We can use functional dependencies to show when certain decomposition are lossless.
- ▶ For the case of $R = (R_1, R_2)$, we require that for all possible relations r on schema R

$$r = \Pi_{R_1}(r) \bowtie \Pi_{R_2}(r)$$

- ▶ A decomposition of R into R_1 and R_2 is lossless decomposition if at least one of the following dependencies is in F^+ :

$$R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_1$$

$$R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

- ▶ The above functional dependencies are a sufficient condition for lossless join decomposition; the dependencies are a necessary condition only if all constraints are functional dependencies.

Example¹

- ▶ $R = (A, B, C)$

$$F = \{A \rightarrow B \\ B \rightarrow C\}$$

- ▶ $R_1 = (A, B); R_2 = (B, C)$

Lossless decomposition:

$$R_1 \cap R_2 = \{B\} \text{ and } B \rightarrow BC \text{ holds.}$$

- ▶ $R_1 = (A, B); R_2 = (A, C)$

Lossless decomposition:

$$R_1 \cap R_2 = \{A\} \text{ and } A \rightarrow AC \text{ holds.}$$

¹Note: $B \rightarrow BC$ is a shorthand notation for $B \rightarrow \{B, C\}$.

Dependency Preservation

- ▶ Testing functional dependency constraints each time the database is updated can be costly,
- ▶ It is useful to design the database in a way that constraints can be tested efficiently.
- ▶ If testing a functional dependency can be done by considering just one relation, then the cost of testing this constraint is low.
- ▶ When decomposing a relation it is possible that it is no longer possible to do the testing without having to perform a Cartesian Product.
- ▶ A decomposition that makes it computationally hard to enforce functional dependency is said to be **NOT dependency preserving**.

Dependency Preservation Example

- ▶ Consider a schema:

`dept_advisor(s_ID, i_ID, department_name)`

- ▶ With function dependencies:

$$\begin{aligned}i_ID &\rightarrow dept_name \\s_ID, dept_name &\rightarrow i_ID\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ In the above design we are forced to repeat the department name once for each time an instructor participates in a *dept_advisor* relationship.
- ▶ To fix this, we need to decompose *dept_advisor*.
- ▶ Any decomposition will not include all the attributes in:

$$s_ID, dept_name \rightarrow i_ID$$

- ▶ Thus, the composition NOT be dependency preserving.

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Boyce-Codd Normal Form

- ▶ A relation schema R is in BCNF with respect to a set F of functional dependencies if for all functional dependencies in F^+ of the form:

$$\alpha \rightarrow \beta$$

where $\alpha \subseteq R$ and $\beta \subseteq R$, at least one of the following holds:

- ▶ $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is trivial (i.e., $\beta \subseteq \alpha$)
- ▶ α is a superkey for R .

Boyce-Codd Normal Form (Cont.)

- ▶ Example schema that is not in BCNF:

`in_dep (ID, name, salary, dept_name, building, budget)`

because :

- ▶ $dept_name \rightarrow building, budget$
 - ▶ holds on `in_dep`
 - ▶ but...
- ▶ $dept_name$ is not a superkey.
- ▶ When decompose `in_dept` into `instructor` and `department`:
 - ▶ `instructor` is in BCNF.
 - ▶ `department` is in BCNF.

Decomposing a Schema into BCNF

- ▶ Let R be a schema that is not in BCNF. Let $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ be the Functional Dependency that causes a violation of BCNF.
- ▶ We decompose R into:
 - ▶ $(\alpha \cup \beta)$
 - ▶ $(R - (\beta - \alpha))$
- ▶ In our example of `in_dep`,
 - ▶ $\alpha = dept_name$
 - ▶ $\beta = building, budget$and `in_dep` is replaced by
 - ▶ $(\alpha \cup \beta) = (dept_name, building, budget)$
 - ▶ $(R - (\beta - \alpha)) = (ID, name, salary, dept_name)$

BCNF and Dependency Preservation

- ▶ It is not always possible to achieve both BCNF and dependency preservation.
- ▶ Consider a schema:

`dept_advisor(s_ID, i_ID, department_name)`

- ▶ With function dependencies:

$i_ID \rightarrow dept_name$

$s_ID, dept_name \rightarrow i_ID$

- ▶ `dept_advisor` is not in BCNF:

- ▶ i_ID is not a superkey.

- ▶ Any decomposition of `dept_advisor` will not include all the attributes in:

$s_ID, dept_name \rightarrow i_ID$

- ▶ Thus, the composition is NOT be dependency preserving.

Third Normal Form

- ▶ A relation schema R is in **third normal form (3NF)** if for all:

$$\alpha \rightarrow \beta \text{ in } F^+$$

at least one of the following holds:

- ▶ $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ is trivial (i.e., $\beta \in \alpha$).
 - ▶ α is a superkey for R .
 - ▶ Each attribute A in $\beta - \alpha$ is contained in a candidate key² for R .
- ▶ If a relation is in BCNF it is in 3NF (since in BCNF one of the first two conditions above must hold).
 - ▶ Third condition is a minimal relaxation of BCNF to ensure dependency preservation (will see why later).

²NOTE: each attribute may be in a different candidate key.

3NF Example

- ▶ Consider a schema:

`dept_advisor(s_ID, i_ID, dept_name)`

- ▶ With function dependencies:

$i_ID \rightarrow dept_name$

$s_ID, dept_name \rightarrow i_ID$

- ▶ Two candidate keys = $\{s_ID, dept_name\}, \{s_ID, i_ID\}$
- ▶ We have seen before that `dept_advisor` is not in BCNF.
- ▶ R, however, is in 3NF:
 - ▶ $s_ID, dept_name$ is a superkey,
 - ▶ $i_ID \rightarrow dept_name$ and i_ID is NOT a superkey, but:
 - ▶ $dept_name - i_ID = dept_name$ and
 - ▶ $dept_name$ is contained in a candidate key.

Redundancy in 3NF

- ▶ Consider the schema R below, which is in 3NF:
 - ▶ $R = (J, K, L)$,
 - ▶ $F = \{JK \rightarrow L, L \rightarrow K\}$,
 - ▶ And an instance table:

| J | L | K |
|-------|-------|-------|
| j_1 | l_1 | k_1 |
| j_2 | l_1 | k_1 |
| j_3 | l_1 | k_1 |
| null | l_2 | k_2 |

- ▶ What is wrong with the table?

Redundancy in 3NF

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 - ▶ $R = (J, K, L)$,
 - ▶ $F = \{JK \rightarrow L, L \rightarrow K\}$,
 - ▶ And an instance table:

| J | L | K |
|-------|-------|-------|
| j_1 | l_1 | k_1 |
| j_2 | l_1 | k_1 |
| j_3 | l_1 | k_1 |
| null | l_2 | k_2 |

- ▶ What is wrong with the table?
 - ▶ Repetition of information,
 - ▶ Need to use **null** values (e.g., to represent the relationship l_2, k_2 where there is no corresponding value for J)

Comparison of BCNF and 3NF

- ▶ Advantages to 3NF over BCNF. It is always possible to obtain a 3NF design without sacrificing losslessness or dependency preservation.
- ▶ Disadvantages to 3NF.
 - ▶ We may have to use **null** values to represent some of the possible meaningful relationships among data items.
 - ▶ There is the problem of repetition of information.

Goals of Normalization

- ▶ Let R be a relation scheme with a set F of functional dependencies.
- ▶ Decide whether a relation scheme R is in “good” form.
- ▶ In the case that a relation scheme R is not in “good” form, decompose it into a set of relation scheme $\{R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n\}$ such that:
 - ▶ Each relation scheme is in good form,
 - ▶ The decomposition is a lossless decomposition,
 - ▶ Preferably, the decomposition should be dependency preserving.

How good is BCNF?

- ▶ There are database schemas in BCNF that do not seem to be sufficiently normalized...
- ▶ Consider a relation:

`inst_info(ID, child_name, phone)`

where an instructor may have more than one phone and can have multiple children.

- ▶ Instance of `inst_info`

| ID | child_name | phone |
|-------|------------|--------------|
| 99999 | David | 512-555-1234 |
| 99999 | David | 512-555-4321 |
| 99999 | William | 512-555-1234 |
| 99999 | William | 512-555-4321 |

How good is BCNF? (Cont.)

- ▶ There are no non-trivial functional dependencies and therefore the relation is in BCNF.
- ▶ Insertion anomalies – i.e., if we add a phone 981-992-3443 to 99999, we need to add two tuples:
(99999, David, 981-992-3443)
(99999, William, 981-992-3443)

Higher Normal Forms

- ▶ It is better to decompose `inst_info` into:

- ▶ `inst_child`

| ID | child_name |
|-------|------------|
| 99999 | David |
| 99999 | William |

- ▶ `inst_phone`

| ID | phone |
|-------|--------------|
| 99999 | 512-555-1234 |
| 99999 | 512-555-4321 |

- ▶ This suggests the need for higher normal forms, such as Fourth Normal Form (4NF), which we shall see later

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Functional-Dependency Theory Roadmap

- ▶ We now consider the formal theory that tells us which functional dependencies are implied logically by a given set of functional dependencies.
- ▶ We then develop algorithms to generate lossless decompositions into BCNF and 3NF.
- ▶ We then develop algorithms to test if a decomposition is dependency-preserving.

Closure of a Set of Functional Dependencies

- ▶ Given a set F set of functional dependencies, there are certain other functional dependencies that are logically implied by F .
 - ▶ If $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow C$, then we can infer that $A \rightarrow C$
 - ▶ etc.
- ▶ The set of all functional dependencies logically implied by F is the closure of F .
- ▶ We denote the closure of F by F^+ .

Closure of a Set of Functional Dependencies

- ▶ We can compute F^+ , the closure of F , by repeatedly applying **Armstrong's Axioms**:
 - ▶ **Reflexive rule**: if $\beta \subseteq \alpha$, then $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$,
 - ▶ **Augmentation rule**: if $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$, then $\gamma\alpha \rightarrow \gamma\beta$,
 - ▶ **Transitivity rule**: if $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$, and $\beta \rightarrow \gamma$, then $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma$.
- ▶ These rules are:
 - ▶ **sound** – generate only functional dependencies that actually hold, and
 - ▶ **complete** – generate all functional dependencies that hold.

Example of F^+

- ▶ $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$

$$\begin{aligned} F = \{ & A \rightarrow B \\ & A \rightarrow C \\ & CG \rightarrow H \\ & CG \rightarrow I \\ & B \rightarrow H \} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Some members of F^+
 - ▶ $A \rightarrow H$ by transitivity from $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow H$.
 - ▶ $AG \rightarrow I$ by augmenting $A \rightarrow C$ with G , to get $AG \rightarrow CG$ and then transitivity with $CG \rightarrow I$.
 - ▶ $CG \rightarrow HI$ by augmenting $CG \rightarrow I$ to infer $CG \rightarrow CGI$, and augmenting of $CG \rightarrow H$ to infer $CGI \rightarrow HI$, and then transitivity.

Closure of a Set of Functional Dependencies (Cont.)

- ▶ Additional rules:
 - ▶ **Union rule:** If $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ holds and $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma$ holds, then $\alpha \rightarrow \beta\gamma$ holds.
 - ▶ **Decomposition rule:** If $\alpha \rightarrow \beta\gamma$ holds, then $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ holds and $\alpha \rightarrow \gamma$ holds.
 - ▶ **Pseudotransitivity rule:** If $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ holds and $\gamma\beta \rightarrow \delta$ holds, then $\alpha\gamma \rightarrow \delta$ holds.
- ▶ The above rules can be inferred from Armstrong's axioms.

Procedure for Computing F^+

- To compute³ the closure of a set of functional dependencies F :

```
 $F^+ = F$ 
apply the reflexivity rule /* Generates all trivial dependencies */
repeat
    for each functional dependency  $f$  in  $F^+$ 
        apply the augmentation rule on  $f$ 
        add the resulting functional dependencies to  $F^+$ 
    for each pair of functional dependencies  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  in  $F^+$ 
        if  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  can be combined using transitivity
            add the resulting functional dependency to  $F^+$ 
until  $F^+$  does not change any further
```

Figure 7.7 A procedure to compute F^+ .

³NOTE: We shall see an alternative procedure for this task later.

Closure of Attribute Sets

- ▶ Given a set of attributes α , define the closure of α under F (denoted by α^+) as the set of attributes that are functionally determined by α under F .
 - ▶ Algorithm to compute α^+ , the closure of α under F :
-

```
result :=  $\alpha$ ;  
repeat  
    for each functional dependency  $\beta \rightarrow \gamma$  in  $F$  do  
        begin  
            if  $\beta \subseteq \textit{result}$  then  $\textit{result} := \textit{result} \cup \gamma$ ;  
        end  
until (result does not change)
```

Figure 7.8 An algorithm to compute α^+ , the closure of α under F .

Example of Attribute Set Closure

► $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$

$$F = \{A \rightarrow B$$

$$A \rightarrow C$$

$$CG \rightarrow H$$

$$CG \rightarrow I$$

$$B \rightarrow H\}$$

► $(AG)^+$

1. result = AG .

2. result = $ABCG(A \rightarrow C \text{ and } A \rightarrow B)$.

3. result = $ABCGH(CG \rightarrow H \text{ and } CG \subseteq AGBC)$.

4. result = $ABCGHI(CG \rightarrow I \text{ and } CG \subseteq AGBCH)$.

► Is AG a candidate key?

1. Is AG a super key?

1.1 Does $AG \rightarrow R?$ == Is $R \supseteq (AG)^+$.

2. Is any subset of AG a superkey?

2.1 Does $A \rightarrow R?$ == Is $R \supseteq (A)^+$.

2.2 Does $G \rightarrow R?$ == Is $R \supseteq (G)^+$.

2.3 In general: check for each subset of size $n - 1$.

Uses of Attribute Closure

There are several uses of the attribute closure algorithm:

- ▶ Testing for superkey
 - ▶ To test if α is a superkey, we compute α^+ , and check if it contains all attributes of R .
- ▶ Testing functional dependencies
 - ▶ To check if a functional dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ holds (or, in other words, is in F^+), just check if $\beta \subseteq \alpha^+$.
 - ▶ That is, we compute α^+ by using attribute closure, and then check if it contains β .
- ▶ Computing closure of F
 - ▶ For each $\gamma \subseteq R$, we find the closure γ^+ , and for each $S \subseteq \gamma^+$, we output a functional dependency $\gamma \rightarrow S$.

Canonical Cover

- ▶ When a user updates a relation, the database system must ensure that all functional dependencies in the set F are still satisfied.
- ▶ If any FD is violated, the update is rolled back.
- ▶ To minimize the effort of checking for violations, the system can test a simplified set of F with the same closure as the given set.
- ▶ This simplified set is termed the **canonical cover**.
- ▶ To define canonical cover we must first define **extraneous attributes**:
 - ▶ An attribute of a functional dependency in F is extraneous if we can remove it without changing F^+ .

Extraneous Attributes

- ▶ Removing an attribute from the left side of a functional dependency could make it a stronger constraint.
 - ▶ For example, if we have $AB \rightarrow C$ and remove B , we get the possibly stronger result $A \rightarrow C$. It may be stronger because $A \rightarrow C$ logically implies $AB \rightarrow C$, but $AB \rightarrow C$ does not, on its own, logically imply $A \rightarrow C$.
- ▶ But, depending on what our set F of functional dependencies happens to be, we may be able to remove B from $AB \rightarrow C$ safely.
 - ▶ For example, suppose that:
 $F = \{AB \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow D, D \rightarrow C\}$
 - ▶ Then we can show that F logically implies $A \rightarrow C$, making extraneous in $AB \rightarrow C$.

Extraneous Attributes (Cont.)

- ▶ Removing an attribute from the right side of a functional dependency could make it a weaker constraint.
 - ▶ For example, if we have $AB \rightarrow CD$ and remove C , we get the possibly weaker result $AB \rightarrow D$. It may be weaker because using just $AB \rightarrow D$, we can no longer infer $AB \rightarrow C$.
- ▶ But, depending on what our set F of functional dependencies happens to be, we may be able to remove C from $AB \rightarrow CD$ safely.
 - ▶ For example, suppose that: $F = \{AB \rightarrow CD, A \rightarrow C\}$.
 - ▶ Then we can show that even after replacing $AB \rightarrow CD$ by $AB \rightarrow D$, we can still infer $AB \rightarrow C$ and thus $AB \rightarrow CD$.

Extraneous Attributes

- ▶ An attribute of a functional dependency in F is extraneous if we can remove it without changing F^+ .
- ▶ Consider a set F of functional dependencies and the functional dependency $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ in F .
 - ▶ **Remove from the left side:** Attribute A is extraneous in α if:
 - ▶ $A \in \alpha$ and
 - ▶ F logically implies $(F - \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{(\alpha - A) \rightarrow \beta\}$.
 - ▶ **Remove from the right side:** Attribute A is extraneous in β if:
 - ▶ $A \in \beta$ and
 - ▶ The set of functional dependencies $(F - \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow (\beta - A)\}$ logically implies F .

Note: implication in the opposite direction is trivial in each of the cases above, since a “stronger” functional dependency always implies a weaker one

End of Chapter 7.

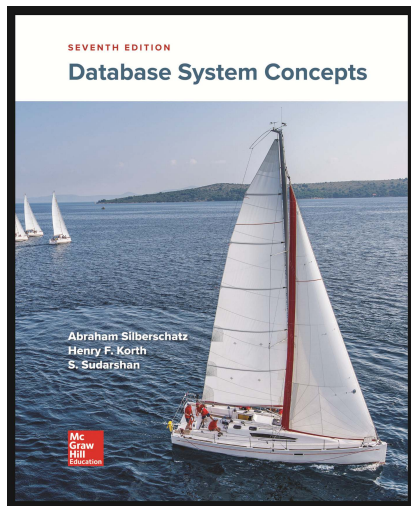


Top 5 Fundamental Takeaways

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5

Database System Concepts



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