

Normalization

- Normalization is a database design technique that reduces data redundancy and eliminates undesirable characteristics like Insertion, Update and Deletion Anomalies.
- Normalization rules divides larger tables into smaller tables and links them using relationships.
- The purpose of Normalization in SQL is to eliminate redundant (repetitive) data and ensure data is stored logically.

Normal forms are used to eliminate or reduce redundancy in database tables.

First Normal Form (1NF)

- A relation will be in 1NF if it contains an atomic value
- It states that an attribute of a table cannot hold multiple values. It must hold only single valued attribute.
- First normal form disallows the multi valued attribute, composite attribute, and their combinations.

Example

Relation EMPLOYEE is not in 1NF because of multi-valued attribute EMP_PHONE.

| EMP_ID | EMP_NAME | EMP_PHONE | STATE |
|--------|----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 2925 | RAJESH | 9500407832,9088170884 | TAMILNADU |
| 6796 | KISHORE | 9510508668 | KARNATAKA |
| 4592 | ALOK | 8455661732 | PUNJAB |
| 3565 | HEMANT | 9759105522,9414525254 | GUJRAT |

The decomposition of the EMPLOYEE table into 1NF has been shown below

| EMP_ID | EMP_NAME | EMP_PHONE | STATE |
|--------|----------|------------|-----------|
| 2925 | RAJESH | 9500407832 | TAMILNADU |
| 2925 | RAJESH | 9088170884 | TAMILNADU |
| 6796 | KISHORE | 9510508668 | KARNATAKA |
| 4592 | ALOK | 8455661732 | PUNJAB |
| 3565 | HEMANT | 9759105522 | GUJRAT |
| 3565 | HEMANT | 9414525254 | GUJRAT |

Second Normal Form (2NF)

- In the 2NF, relational must be in 1 NF

- In the second normal form, all non-key attributes are fully functionally dependent on the primary key.

Example

In a college, a teacher can teach more than one subject.

TEACHER Table:

| TEACHER_ID | SUBJECT | TEACHER_AGE |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2529 | Information Technology | 30 |
| 2529 | Soft Computing | 30 |
| 6535 | Data Communication | 45 |
| 3578 | Soft Computing | 35 |
| 3578 | Digital Image Processing | 35 |

In the given table, non-prime attribute TEACHER_AGE is dependent on TEACHER_ID. That's why it violates the rule for 2NF. To convert the given table into 2NF, we decompose it into two tables.

TEACHER_DETAIL

| TEACHER_ID | TEACHER_AGE |
|------------|-------------|
| 2529 | 30 |
| 6535 | 45 |
| 3578 | 35 |

TEACHER_SUBJECT

| TEACHER_ID | SUBJECT |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 2529 | Information Technology |
| 2529 | Soft Computing |
| 6535 | Data Communication |
| 3578 | Soft Computing |
| 3578 | Digital Image Processing |

Third Normal Form (3NF)

- A relation will be in 3NF if it is in 2NF and not contain any transitive partial dependency.
- 3NF is used to reduce the data duplication It is also used to achieve the data integrity.
- If there is no transitive dependency for non-prime attributes, then the relation must be in third normal form.

A relation is in third normal form if it holds at least one of the following conditions for every non-trivial function dependency $X \rightarrow Y$

1. X is a super key.

2. Y is a prime attribute, i.e., each element of Y is part of some candidate key.

EMPLOYEE_DETAIL table

| EMP_ID | EMP_NAME | EMP_ZIP | EMP_STATE | EMP_CITY |
|--------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|
| 222 | Harry | 201010 | UP | Noida |
| 333 | Stephan | 02228 | US | Boston |
| 444 | Lan | 60007 | US | Chicago |
| 555 | Katharine | 06389 | UK | Norwich |
| 666 | John | 462007 | MP | Bhopal |

Super key: {EMP_ID}, {EMP_ID, EMP_NAME}, {EMP_ID, EMP_NAME, EMP_ZIP} so on.

Candidate key: {EMP_ID}

Non-prime attributes: All attributes except EMP_ID

Here EMP_STATE and EMP_CITY dependent on EMP_ZIP and EMP_ZIP dependent on EMP_ID. The non-prime attributes (EMP_STATE, EMP_CITY) transitively dependent on super key (EMP_ID). It violates the rule of third normal form.

We need to move the EMP_CITY and EMP_STATE to the new EMPLOYEE_ZIP table, with EMP_ZIP as a Primary key.

EMPLOYEE Table:

| EMP_ID | EMP_NAME | EMP_ZIP |
|--------|-----------|---------|
| 222 | Harry | 201010 |
| 333 | Stephan | 02228 |
| 444 | Lan | 60007 |
| 555 | Katharine | 06389 |
| 666 | John | 462007 |

EMPLOYEE_ZIP Table:

| EMP_ZIP | EMP_STATE | EMP_CITY |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| 201010 | UP | Noida |
| 02228 | US | Boston |
| 60007 | US | Chicago |
| 06389 | UK | Norwich |
| 462007 | MP | Bhopal |

Boyce Codd Normal Form (BCNF)

BCNF is the advance version of 3NF. It is stricter than 3NF. A table is in BCNF if for every functional dependency $X \rightarrow Y$, X is the super key of the table. For BCNF, the table should be in 3NF, and for every FD, LHS is super key.

EMPLOYEE table:

| EMP_ID | EMP_COUNTRY | EMP_DEPT | DEPT_TYPE | EMP_DEPT_NO |
|--------|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 264 | India | Designing | D394 | 283 |
| 264 | India | Testing | D394 | 300 |
| 364 | UK | Stores | D283 | 232 |
| 364 | UK | Developing | D283 | 549 |

In the above table Functional dependencies are as follows:

$EMP_ID \rightarrow EMP_COUNTRY$

$EMP_DEPT \rightarrow \{DEPT_TYPE, EMP_DEPT_NO\}$

| EMP_ID | EMP_COUNTRY |
|--------|-------------|
| 264 | India |
| 364 | UK |

EMP_DEPT table:

| EMP_DEPT | DEPT_TYPE | EMP_DEPT_NO |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Designing | D394 | 283 |
| Testing | D394 | 300 |
| Stores | D283 | 232 |
| Developing | D283 | 549 |

EMP_DEPT_MAPPING table:

| EMP_ID | EMP_DEPT |
|--------|----------|
| D394 | 283 |
| D394 | 300 |
| D283 | 232 |
| D283 | 549 |