

FD Rules

1) Splitting Rule for FDs:

$$A_1 A_2 \dots A_n \longrightarrow B_1 B_2 \dots B_m$$

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$$A_1 A_2 \dots A_n \longrightarrow B_1$$

$$A_1 A_2 \dots A_n \longrightarrow B_2 \quad \text{valid}$$

⋮

$$A_1 A_2 \dots A_n \longrightarrow B_m$$

$$A_i \longrightarrow B_1 B_2 \dots B_n \quad \text{not necessarily valid}$$

$$A_i \longrightarrow B_j$$

Example:

$$\text{Frame, Lname} \longrightarrow \text{SSN, Address}$$

$$\text{Frame, Lname} \longrightarrow \text{SSN}$$

$$\text{Frame, Lname} \longrightarrow \text{Address}$$

$$\text{Frame} \longrightarrow \text{SSN} \quad \times$$

2) Combining Rule of FDs

$$\text{Frame, Lname} \longrightarrow \text{SSN} \quad R_1 (\text{Frame, Lname, SSN})$$

$$\text{Frame, Lname} \longrightarrow \text{Address} \quad R_2 (\text{Frame, Lname, Addr})$$

Combine into a single table $R (\text{Frame, Lname, SSN, Addr})$

3) Key, Superkey Rule of FDs.

$A_1 A_2 \dots A_n$ is a key for a relation

$R (A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n, B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m)$ if

$$(I) \quad A_1 A_2 \dots A_n \longrightarrow B_1 B_2 \dots B_m$$

(II) no proper subset of $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ is a FD of R

↓
minimal

If more than 1 key, pick one key as primary key; others are candidate keys.

R (SSN, Fname, Lname, Addr, Phone, Dno)

SSN \longrightarrow Fname, Lname, Addr, Phone, Dno

Fname, Lname \longrightarrow SSN, Addr, Phone, Dno

(SSN) (Fname, Lname) are keys

Superkey: not minimal

e.g., SSN, Addr \longrightarrow Fname, Lname, Phone, Dno

Fname, Lname, Phone \longrightarrow SSN, Dno, Addr

Defn: A set of attributes that contains a key is a superkey.

$$A_1 A_2 A_3 \dots A_n \longrightarrow B_1 B_2 \dots B_m$$

$A_1 A_2 A_3 \dots A_n$ $B_1 B_2 \dots B_m$: Superkey



prime attributes

A_i



non-prime attributes

B_i

Example: $R(\underline{a}, b, c, d)$

$a \rightarrow bcd$
 \downarrow prime \downarrow nonprime

Superkey: $ab, abc, abcd, ad, \dots$

4) Transitive Rule of FDs

$a \rightarrow b \quad b \rightarrow c \Rightarrow a \rightarrow c$

A B C

$a_1 b_1 \rightarrow c_1$

$a_2 b_2 \rightarrow c_2$

$a_3 b_1 c_1$

$a_4 b_2 c_2$

Example: $R(a, b, c, d)$

A	B	C	D
a_1	b_1	c_1	d_1
a_1	b_2	c_1	d_1
a_2	b_3	c_2	d_1
a_2	b_4	c_3	d_1

Find FDs

Find key: B

$B \rightarrow A, C, D$

$C \rightarrow D$

$C \rightarrow A$

$C \rightarrow A, D$

$A \rightarrow D$

Question: How to find key given a relation R with all attributes and the FDs.

FD1: $SSN \rightarrow name, mgr, dno$

FD2: $dno \rightarrow dname, mgr$

FD3: $pno \rightarrow pname, Plocation, dno$

FD4: $ssn, pno \rightarrow hrs$

R: (ssn, name, mgr, dno, dname, pno, pname, Plocation, hrs)

Closure of attributes

$(ssn)^+ = \{ ssn, name, mgr, dno, dname \}$
FD1 FD2

$(pno)^+ = \{ pno, pname, Plocation, dno, dname, mgr \}$
FD3 FD2

$(ssn, pno)^+ = \{ ssn, pno, hrs, pname, Plocation, dno, name, mgr, dname \}$
FD4 FD3

Key of R is (ssn, pno)

Example: R(a, b, c, d, E) Find key

$d \rightarrow b$

$ab \rightarrow c$

$aE \rightarrow d$

$(d)^+ = \{ d, b \}$

$(ab)^+ = \{ a, b, c \}$

$(ae)^+ = \{ a, E, d, b, c \}$

Example: $R(a, b, c, d, e, f)$

$ab \rightarrow c$

$bc \rightarrow ad$

$d \rightarrow e$

$cf \rightarrow b$

Find keys.

$$(ab)^+ = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$$

$$(bc)^+ = \{b, c, a, d, e\}$$

$$(cf)^+ = \{c, f, b, a, d, e\}$$

cf is key

$$(abf)^+ = \{a, b, f, c, d, e\}$$

candidate keys (cf) (abf)

$$(bcf)^+ = \{a, b, c, d, e, f\}$$

\hookrightarrow superkey