

Part 2: Functional Dependencies, Decompositions, Normal Forms

1. Consider a relation schema R with attributes ABCDEFGH with functional dependencies S:

$$S = \{A \rightarrow CF, BCG \rightarrow D, CF \rightarrow AH, D \rightarrow B, H \rightarrow DEG\}$$

- a. Which of these functional dependencies violate BCNF?

Answer: $D \rightarrow B$ violates BCNF

- b. Employ the BCNF decomposition algorithm to obtain a lossless decomposition of R into a collection of relations that are in BCNF.

step1: check which FDs violate BCNF

$A^+ = ABCDEFGH$ (its a key, follows BCNF)

$BCG^+ = BCDG *$

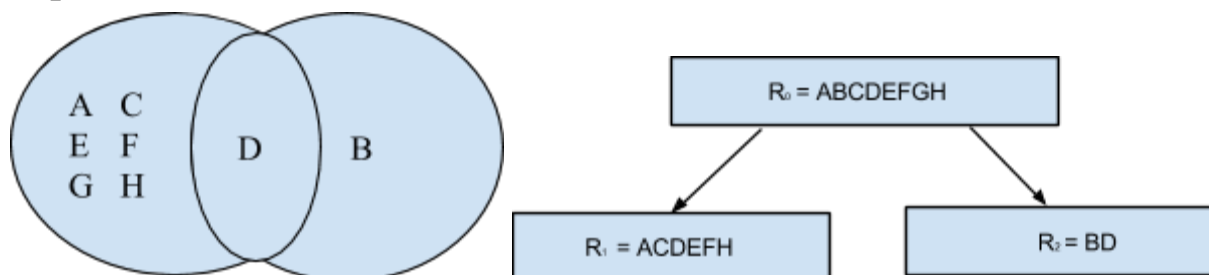
$CF^+ = ABCDEFGH$ (its a key, follows BCNF)

$D^+ = DB *$

$H^+ = BDEGH *$

* represents the FDs that violate BCNF, therefore we can choose any of these to branch off.

step2: in this case we chose $D^+ = DB *$ to branch off.



step3: R_2 is final, it's in BCNF form. Therefore we move on with R_1 projections

$A^+ = ABCDEFGH$ (its a key)

$C^+ = C$ (none)

$D^+ = DB$ (none, B its not in our set)

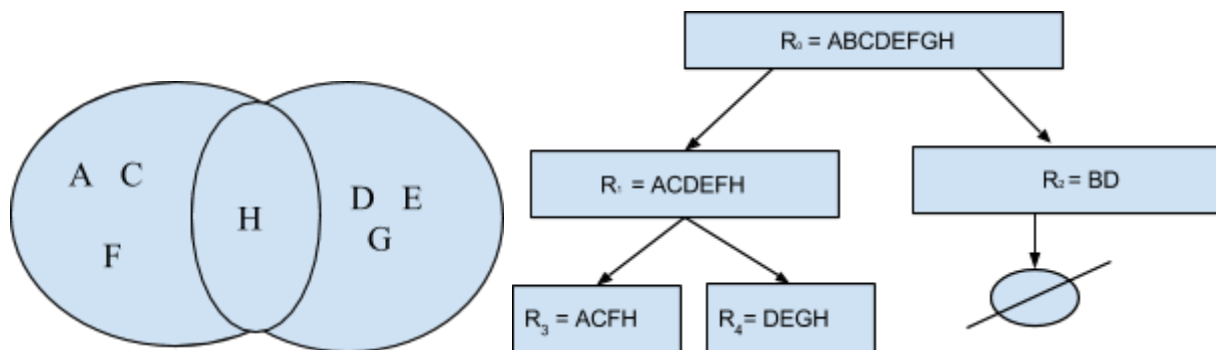
$E^+ = E$ (none)

$F^+ = F$ (none)

$G^+ = G$ (none)

$H^+ = DEGH$ (This works to branch off)

step4: here we chose $H \rightarrow DEGH$ to branch off



step5: R_3 projections

and

R_4 projections

*since A and CF are keys,
there is no need to compute
their projections, as they do not
violate BCNF and anything
with them will not either.

$C^+ = C$

$F^+ = F$

$H^+ = GDEG$ (none are in ACFH)

*we have to consider all combinations
with the above FDs, to make sure they
do not violate BCNF.

$CF^+ = CFAH$

$D^+ = D$

$E^+ = E$

$G^+ = G$

$H^+ = DEGH$ (not a new relation)

*Therefore, H does not have to be
considered, as it was used to get to the
current state.

$DE^+ = DE$

$$CH^+ = BCEFGH$$

$$FH^+ = BDEFGH$$

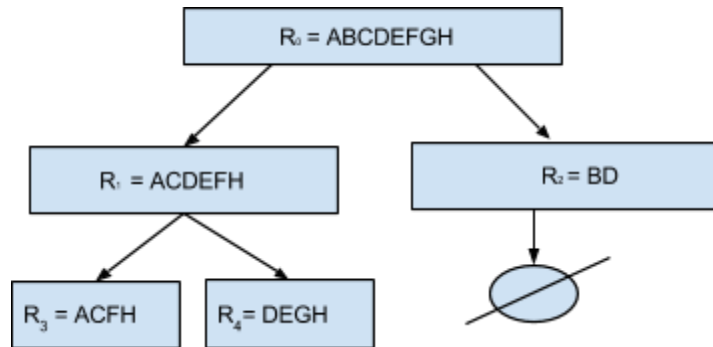
*the rest contain A or CF, so they are not computed.

$$DG^+ = DG$$

$$EG^+ = EG$$

$$DEG^+ = DEG$$

step6: final decomposition.



From this graph we can see that the final decomposition yields relations:

ACFH

DEGH

BD

where they can not be further decomposed and they hold BCNF form

step7: project the dependencies onto each relation in that final decomposition.

$$ACFH^+ = ABCDEFGH$$

$$DEGH^+ = BDEGH$$

$$BD^+ = BD$$

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g3phamty, 999643382, Tyler Pham
g3aristi, 999845707, Gilberto Aristizabal

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2. a) By inspection $B^+ = ABCDEF$ which means A is a key and no superset of B can be a key. Since B never appears on the right hand side there is no way to obtain B through FD's, this implies that B is a superkey
b) Simplified to singleton FD's

SET1

- 1 $AB \rightarrow E$
- 2 $AB \rightarrow F$
- 3 $B \rightarrow C$
- 4 $B \rightarrow E$
- 5 $B \rightarrow F$
- 6 $BCD \rightarrow A$
- 7 $BCD \rightarrow F$
- 8 $BCDE \rightarrow A$
- 9 $BCE \rightarrow D$
- 10 $DF \rightarrow C$

| FD | To be excluded when computer closure | Closure | Decision |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1 | 1 | $AB^+ = ABCDEF$ | Discard |
| 2 | 1,2 | $AB^+ = ABCDEF$ | Discard |
| 3 | 1,2,3 | $B^+ = BEF...$ | Keep |
| 4 | 1,2,4 | $B^+ = BCF...$ | Keep |
| 5 | 1,2,5 | $B^+ = ABCDEF$ | Discard |
| 6 | 1,2,5,6 | $BCD^+ = ABCDEF$ | Discard |
| 7 | 1,2,5,6,7 | $BCD^+ = BCDE...$ | Keep |
| 8 | 1,2,5,6,8 | $BCDE^+ = BCDE...$ | Keep |
| 9 | 1,2,5,6,9 | $BCE^+ = BCE...$ | Keep |
| 10 | 1,2,5,6,10 | $DF^+ = DF...$ | Keep |

SET2 (Kept 3,4,7,8,9,10)

3 $B \rightarrow C$
 4 $B \rightarrow E$
 7 $BCD \rightarrow F$
 8 $BCDE \rightarrow A$
 9 $BCE \rightarrow D$
 10 $DF \rightarrow C$

Reduce LHS

$7' = BCD \rightarrow F$
 $B^+ = ABCDEF$
 $B \rightarrow F$
 $8' = BCDE \rightarrow A$
 $B^+ = ABCDEF \quad B \rightarrow A$
 $9' = BCE \rightarrow D$
 $B^+ = ABCDEF$
 $B \rightarrow D$

SET3

3 $B \rightarrow C$
 4 $B \rightarrow E$
 7 $B \rightarrow F$
 8 $B \rightarrow A$
 9 $B \rightarrow D$
 10 $DF \rightarrow C$

| FD | To be excluded when computer closure | Closure | Decision |
|----|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 3 | 3 | $B^+ = ABCDEF$ | Discard |
| 4 | 3,4 | $B^+ = ABCDF..$ | Keep |
| 7 | 3,7 | $B^+ = ABDE..$ | Keep |
| 8 | 3,8 | $B^+ = BCDEF...$ | Keep |
| 9 | 3,9 | $B^+ = ABEF...$ | Keep |
| 10 | 3,10 | $B^+ = ABDFE...$ | Keep |

The following set is a minimal basis

SET4 (Kept 4,7,8,9,10)

4 $B \rightarrow E$
 7 $B \rightarrow F$
 8 $B \rightarrow A$
 9 $B \rightarrow D$
 10 $DF \rightarrow C$

c) These minimal basis can be combined

R1 (BE)
 R2 (BF)
 R3 (BA)

R4 (BD)

R5 (DFC)

Since B is a key, there are no need for duplicate tables with it,
after combining tables we end up with

R1 (ABDEF)

R2 (CDF)

d) Because DF is not a superkey, this schema allows redundancy