

Database Management Systems

Database Normalization

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Redundancy in databases

Redundancy in a database denotes the repetition of stored data

Redundancy might cause various anomalies and problems pertaining to storage requirements:

- Insertion anomalies: It may be impossible to store certain information without storing some other, unrelated information.
 - Deletion anomalies: It may be impossible to delete certain information without losing some other, unrelated information.
 - Update anomalies: If one copy of such repeated data is updated, all copies need to be updated to prevent inconsistency.
 - Increasing storage requirements: The storage requirements may increase over time.

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 - Increasing storage requirements: The storage requirements may increase over time.

These issues can be addressed by decomposing the database – normalization forces this!!!

Insertion anomaly – An example

Consider the following table (the attributes are not null) detailing some of the cars available in the Kolkata market.

| Company | Country | Make | Distributor |
|---------|---------|--------|-------------|
| Maruti | India | WagonR | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | Bhalla |
| Toyota | Japan | RAV4 | CarTrade |
| BMW | Germany | X1 | CarTrade |

Suppose Tesla, a company from US, is now collaborating with Toyota to bring the make RAV4 in the Kolkata market with no distributor announced yet.

This insertion is not possible in the above table as the Distributor cannot be null.

Deletion anomaly – An example

Consider the following table (the attributes are not null) detailing some of the cars available in the Kolkata market.

| Company | Country | Make | Distributor |
|---------|---------|--------|-------------|
| Maruti | India | WagonR | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | Bhalla |
| Toyota | Japan | RAV4 | CarTrade |
| BMW | Germany | X1 | CarTrade |

Suppose CarTrade is no more a distributor for the make X1 of BMW, a company from Germany.

This deletion from the above table would result in the car record being deleted.

Update anomaly – An example

Consider the following table (the attributes are not null) detailing some of the cars available in the Kolkata market.

| Company | Country | Make | Distributor |
|---------|---------|--------|-------------|
| Maruti | India | WagonR | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | Bhalla |
| Toyota | Japan | RAV4 | CarTrade |
| BMW | Germany | X1 | CarTrade |

Suppose Maruti is no more an Indian company due to its 100% procurement by Suzuki Motor Corporation, a company from Japan.

This update is to be made in multiple records in the above table resulting into atomicity challenges.

An overview of different normal forms in the literature

| Normal Form | Details | Reference |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1NF (Codd (1970), Date (2006)) | Domains should be atomic/At least one candidate key | [1, 9] |
| 2NF (Codd (1971)) | No non-prime attribute is functionally dependent on a proper subset of any candidate key | [2] |
| 3NF (Codd (1971), Zaniolo (1982)) | Every non-prime attribute is non-transitively dependent on every candidate key | [2, 7] |
| BCNF (Codd (1974)) | Every non-trivial functional dependency is a dependency on a superkey | [3] |
| EKNF (Zaniolo (1982)) | Every non-trivial functional dependency is either the dependency of an elementary key attribute or a dependency on a superkey | [7] |
| 4NF (Fagin (1977)) | Every non-trivial multi-valued dependency is a dependency on a superkey | [4] |
| 5NF (Fagin (1979)) | Every non-trivial join dependency is implied by the superkeys | [5] |
| DKNF (Fagin (1981)) | Every constraint on the table is a logical consequence of the domain and key constraints | [6] |
| 6NF (Date et al. (2002)) | No non-trivial join dependencies at all (w.r.t generalized join) | [8] |

Motivations behind normalization

| Normal Form | Basic Motivation |
|--------------------|---|
| 1NF | Removing non-atomicity |
| 2NF | Removing partial dependency (Part of key attribute → Non-key attribute) |
| 3NF | Removing transitive dependency (Non-key attribute → Non-key attribute) |
| BCNF | Removing any kind of redundancy |

Problems with normalization



Denormalization

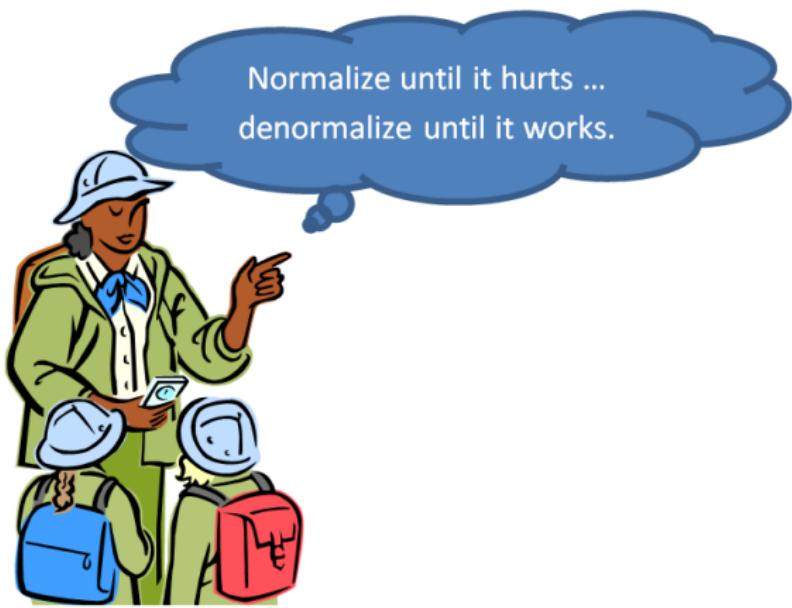
Denormalization is the process of converting a normalized schema to a non-normalized one

Denormalization

Denormalization is the process of converting a normalized schema to a non-normalized one

Note: Designers use denormalization to tune performance of systems to support time-critical operations. They assess the cost, benefit, and risk to identify the right normalization level with respect to the data, its use and its quality requirements.

Normalization versus denormalization



Applications

Normalization:

- 1 Use of normalization to minimize the impact of various anomalies created with database modification.
 - 2 Use of normalization to reduce the data integrity problems.

Denormalization:

- 1 Use of denormalization in case the data is not going to be updated after being created.
 - 2 Use of denormalization results into the performance gain.

Note: There is no “ideal” normal form for a table or the data as a whole.

First normal form

The domain (or value set) of an attribute defines the set of values it might contain.

A domain is *atomic* if elements of the domain are considered to be indivisible units.

| Company | Make |
|---------|----------------|
| Maruti | WagonR, Ertiga |
| Honda | City |
| Tesla | RAV4 |
| Toyota | RAV4 |
| BMW | X1 |

Only Company has atomic domain

| Company | Make |
|---------------|----------------|
| Maruti | WagonR, Ertiga |
| Honda | City |
| Tesla, Toyota | RAV4 |
| BMW | X1 |

None of the attributes have atomic domains

First normal form

Definition (First normal form (1NF))

A relational schema R is in 1NF iff the domains of all attributes in R are *atomic*.

The advantages of 1NF are as follows:

- It eliminates redundancy
- It eliminates repeating groups.

Note: In practice, 1NF includes a few more practical constraints like each attribute must be unique, no tuples are duplicated, and no columns are duplicated.

First normal form

The following relation is not in 1NF because the attribute Model is not atomic.

| Company | Country | Make | Model | Distributor |
|---------|---------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI, VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | Ertiga | VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Bhalla |
| Honda | Japan | City | SV | Bhalla |
| Tesla | USA | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| Toyota | Japan | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| BMW | Germany | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade |

We can convert this relation into 1NF in two ways!!!

First normal form

Approach 1: Break the tuples containing non-atomic values into multiple tuples.

| Company | Country | Make | Model | Distributor |
|---------|---------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | Ertiga | VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Bhalla |
| Honda | Japan | City | SV | Bhalla |
| Tesla | USA | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| Toyota | Japan | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| BMW | Germany | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade |

First normal form

Approach 2: Decompose the relation into multiple relations.

| Company | Country | Make |
|---------|---------|--------|
| Maruti | India | WagonR |
| Maruti | India | Ertiga |
| Honda | Japan | City |
| Tesla | USA | RAV4 |
| Toyota | Japan | RAV4 |
| BMW | Germany | X1 |

| Make | Model | Distributor |
|--------|------------|-------------|
| WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
| WagonR | VXI | Carwala |
| Ertiga | VXI | Carwala |
| WagonR | LXI | Bhalla |
| City | SV | Bhalla |
| RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| X1 | Expedition | CarTrade |

Why data dependencies are so important?

Choose the best keyset for the locks given below.

| Locks | Keyset 1 | Keyset 2 | Keyset 3 |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| • L1 | ¶ | ¶ | ¶ |
| • L2 | K1 | K1 | K3 |
| • L3 | ¶ | ¶ | ¶ |
| • L3 | K1 | K2 | K4 |
| • L3 | ¶ | ¶ | ¶ |
| • L3 | K1 | K3 | K5 |
| • L3 | ¶ | ¶ | ¶ |
| • L3 | K1 | K4 | K5 |

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Choose the best keyset for the locks given below.

| Locks | Keyset 1 | Keyset 2 | Keyset 3 |
|-------|----------|----------|----------|
| • | ¶ | ¶ | ¶ |
| L1 | K1 | K1 | K3 |
| • | ¶ | ¶ | ¶ |
| L2 | K1 | K2 | K4 |
| • | ¶ | ¶ | ¶ |
| L3 | K1 | K3 | K5 |
| • | ¶ | ¶ | ¶ |
| L3 | K1 | K4 | K5 |

- Keyset 1 is not appropriate because a single key can open multiple locks.
 - Keyset 2 is not appropriate because the same lock can be opened with multiple keys.
 - Keyset 3 is the best option!!!

Functional dependency

Consider a relation schema R . A subset $X \subset A(R)$, the attributes in R , is a *superkey* of R if $t_1 \neq t_2$, for all pairs of tuples $t_1, t_2 \in R$, implies $t_1[X] \neq t_2[X]$. This means no two tuples in R may have the same value on attribute set X .

Functional dependency

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The notion of functional dependency generalizes the notion of superkey. Let $X \subseteq A(R)$ and $Y \subseteq A(R)$. The functional dependency $X \rightarrow Y$ holds on schema R if

$$t1[X] = t2[X],$$

in any legal relation $r(R)$, for all pairs of tuples $t1$ and $t2$ in r , then

$$t1[Y] = t2[Y].$$

| A | B | C |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 3 | 1 |

AB is a superkey
 $AB \rightarrow C$ holds

| A | B | C |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 3 | 1 |

AB is not a superkey
 $AB \rightarrow C$ holds

NOT POSSIBLE

AB is a superkey
 $AB \rightarrow C$ does not hold

| A | B | C |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 3 | 1 |

AB is not a superkey
 $AB \rightarrow C$ does not hold

Partial dependency

The partial dependency $X \rightarrow Y$ holds in schema R if there is a $Z \subset X$ such that $Z \rightarrow Y$.

We say Y is partially dependent on X if and only if there is a proper subset of X that satisfies the dependency.

Partial dependency

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We say Y is partially dependent on X if and only if there is a proper subset of X that satisfies the dependency.

| E | F | G |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 10 | 10 | 20 |
| 10 | 20 | 20 |
| 20 | 30 | 10 |
| 30 | 30 | 10 |

$EF \rightarrow G$ is a partial dependency (as $E \rightarrow G$, $F \rightarrow G$)

Note: The dependency $A \rightarrow B$ implies if the A values are same, then the B values are also same.

Second normal form

Definition (Second normal form (2NF))

A relational schema R is in 2NF if each attribute A in R satisfies one of the following criteria:

- 1 A is part of a candidate key.
- 2 A is not partially dependent on a candidate key.

In other words, no non-prime attribute (not a part of any candidate key) is dependent on a proper subset of any candidate key.

Note: A *candidate key* is a *superkey* for which no proper subset is a superkey, i.e. a minimal *superkey*.

Second normal form

The following relation is in 1NF but not in 2NF because Country is a non-prime attribute that partially depends on Company, which is a proper subset of the candidate key {Company, Make, Model, Distributor}.

| Company | Country | Make | Model | Distributor |
|---------|---------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | Ertiga | VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Bhalla |
| Honda | Japan | City | SV | Bhalla |
| Tesla | USA | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| Toyota | Japan | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| BMW | Germany | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade |

We can convert this relation into 2NF!!!

Second normal form

| Company | Country | Make | Model | Distributor |
|---------|---------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | Ertiga | VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Bhalla |
| Honda | Japan | City | SV | Bhalla |
| Tesla | USA | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| Toyota | Japan | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| BMW | Germany | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade |

- $\{Company, Make, Model, Distributor\} \rightarrow Country$
 - $Company \rightarrow Country$ (Violating 2NF)

Note: Country is partially dependent on {Company, Make, Model, Distributor}.

Second normal form

Approach: Decompose the relation into multiple relations.

| Company | Country |
|---------|---------|
| Maruti | India |
| Honda | Japan |
| Tesla | USA |
| Toyota | Japan |
| BMW | Germany |

| Company | Make | Model | Distributor |
|---------|--------|------------|-------------|
| Maruti | WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | WagonR | VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | Ertiga | VXI | Carwala |
| Maruti | WagonR | LXI | Bhalla |
| Honda | City | SV | Bhalla |
| Tesla | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| Toyota | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| BMW | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade |

Note: Each attribute in the left relation is either a part of the candidate key {Company} or having full functional dependency on it, and in the right relation is a part of the candidate key {Company, Make, Model, Distributor}.

Functional dependency

Armstrong's axioms:

- **Reflexivity property:** If X is a set of attributes and $Y \subseteq X$, then $X \rightarrow Y$ holds. (known as trivial functional dependency)
 - **Augmentation property:** If $X \rightarrow Y$ holds and γ is a set of attributes, then $\gamma X \rightarrow \gamma Y$ holds.
 - **Transitivity property:** If both $X \rightarrow Y$ and $Y \rightarrow Z$ holds, then $X \rightarrow Z$ holds.

Functional dependency

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- **Reflexivity property:** If X is a set of attributes and $Y \subseteq X$, then $X \rightarrow Y$ holds. (known as trivial functional dependency)
 - **Augmentation property:** If $X \rightarrow Y$ holds and γ is a set of attributes, then $\gamma X \rightarrow \gamma Y$ holds.
 - **Transitivity property:** If both $X \rightarrow Y$ and $Y \rightarrow Z$ holds, then $X \rightarrow Z$ holds.

Other properties:

- **Union property:** If $X \rightarrow Y$ holds and $X \rightarrow Z$ holds, then $X \rightarrow YZ$ holds.
 - **Decomposition property:** If $X \rightarrow YZ$ holds, then both $X \rightarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Z$ holds.
 - **Pseudotransitivity property:** If $X \rightarrow Y$ and $\gamma Y \rightarrow Z$ holds, then $X\gamma \rightarrow Z$ holds.

Closure of functional dependencies (FDs)

We can find F^+ , the closure of a set of FDs F , as follows:

Initialize F^+ with F

repeat

for each functional dependency $f = X \rightarrow Y \in F^+$ **do**

Apply reflexivity and augmentation properties on f and include the resulting functional dependencies in F^+

end for

for each pair of functional dependencies $f_1, f_2 \in F^+$ **do**

if f_1 and f_2 can be combined together using the transitivity property **then**

Include the resulting functional dependency in F^+

end if

end for

until F^+ does not further change

Closure of functional dependencies (FDs) – An example

Consider a relation $R = \langle UVWXYZ \rangle$ and the set of FDs $= \{U \rightarrow V, U \rightarrow W, WX \rightarrow Y, WX \rightarrow Z, V \rightarrow Y\}$. Let us compute some non-trivial FDs that can be obtained from this.

- By applying the augmentation property, we obtain
 - 1 $UX \rightarrow WX$ (from $U \rightarrow W$)
 - 2 $WX \rightarrow WXZ$ (from $WX \rightarrow Z$)
 - 3 $WXZ \rightarrow YZ$ (from $WX \rightarrow Y$)
- By applying the transitivity property, we obtain
 - 1 $U \rightarrow Y$ (from $U \rightarrow V$ and $V \rightarrow Y$)
 - 2 $UX \rightarrow Z$ (from $UX \rightarrow WX$ and $WX \rightarrow Z$)
 - 3 $WX \rightarrow YZ$ (from $WX \rightarrow WXZ$ and $WXZ \rightarrow YZ$)

Closure of attribute sets

We can find A^+ , the closure of a set of attributes A , as follows:

Initialize A^+ with A

repeat

for each functional dependency $f = X \rightarrow Y \in F^+$ **do**

if $X \subseteq A^+$ **then**

$$A^+ \leftarrow A^+ \cup Y$$

end if

end for

until A^+ does not further change

Note: The closure is defined as the set of attributes that are functionally determined by A under a set of FDs F .

Closure of attribute sets

The usefulness of finding attribute closure is as follows:

- Testing for superkey
 - Compute A^+ and check whether $\mathcal{A}(R) \subseteq A^+$ and all the tuples are distinct.
 - Testing functional dependencies
 - To check if an FD $X \rightarrow Y$ holds, just check if $Y \subseteq X^+$
 - Same for checking if $X \rightarrow Y$ is in F^+ for a given F
 - Computing closure of F
 - For each $A \subseteq \mathcal{A}(R)$, we find the closure A^+ , and for each $S \subseteq A^+$, we output a functional dependency $A \rightarrow S$

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- Testing for superkey
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 - Testing functional dependencies
 - To check if an FD $X \rightarrow Y$ holds, just check if $Y \subseteq X^+$
 - Same for checking if $X \rightarrow Y$ is in F^+ for a given F
 - Computing closure of F
 - For each $A \subseteq \mathcal{A}(R)$, we find the closure A^+ , and for each $S \subseteq A^+$, we output a functional dependency $A \rightarrow S$

Note: Even though a subset of attributes X functionally defines the other attributes, it cannot be a superkey until and unless all the tuples are distinct.

Closure of attribute sets – An example

Consider a relation $R = \langle UVWXYZ \rangle$ and the set of FDs = $\{U \rightarrow V, U \rightarrow W, WX \rightarrow Y, WX \rightarrow Z, V \rightarrow Y\}$. Let us compute UX^+ , i.e., the closure of UX .

- Initially $UX^+ = UX$
 - Then we have $UX^+ = UVX$ (as $U \rightarrow V$ and $U \subseteq UX$)
 - Then we have $UX^+ = UVWX$ (as $U \rightarrow W$ and $U \subseteq UVX$)
 - Then we have $UX^+ = UVWXY$ (as $WX \rightarrow Y$ and $WX \subseteq UVWX$)
 - Finally, we have $UX^+ = UVWXYZ$ (as $WX \rightarrow Z$ and $WX \subseteq UVWXY$)

Note: The closure of UX covers all the attributes in R .

Decomposition of a relation

If a relation is not in a desired normal form, it can be decomposed into multiple relations such that each decomposed relation satisfies the required normal form.

Suppose a relation R consists of a set of attributes

$\mathcal{A}(R) = \{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$. A *decomposition* of R replaces R by a set of (two or more) relations $\{R_1, \dots, R_m\}$ such that both the following conditions hold:

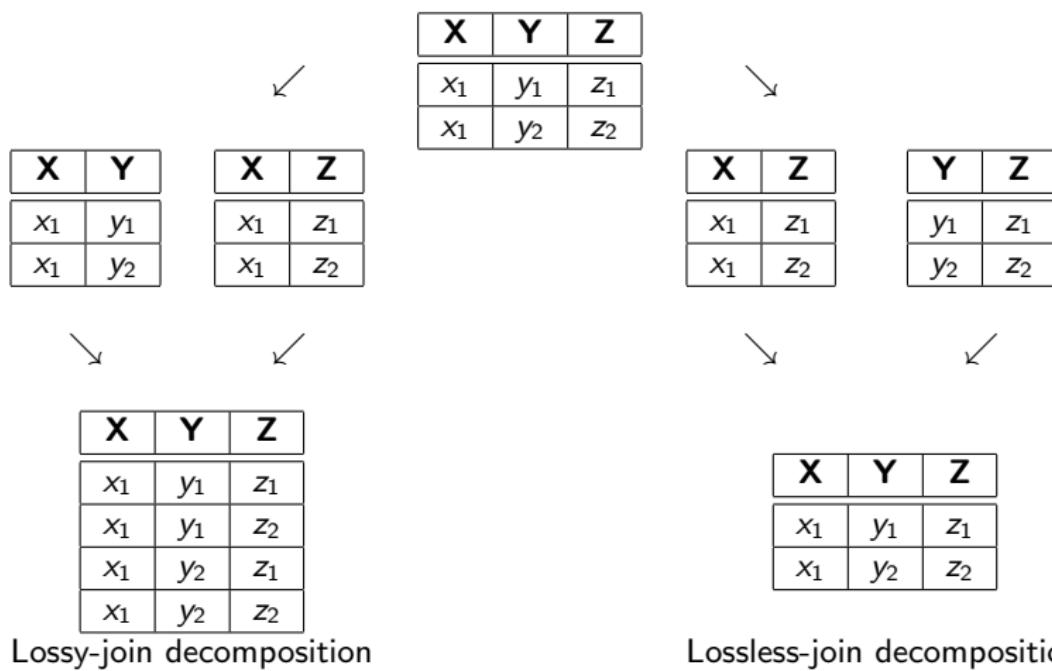
- $\forall i : \mathcal{A}(R_i) \subset \mathcal{A}(R)$
- $\mathcal{A}(R_1) \cup \dots \cup \mathcal{A}(R_m) = \mathcal{A}(R)$

Decomposition criteria

The decomposition of a relation might aim to satisfy different criteria as listed below:

- Preservation of the same relation through join (lossless-join)
- Dependency preservation
- Repetition of information

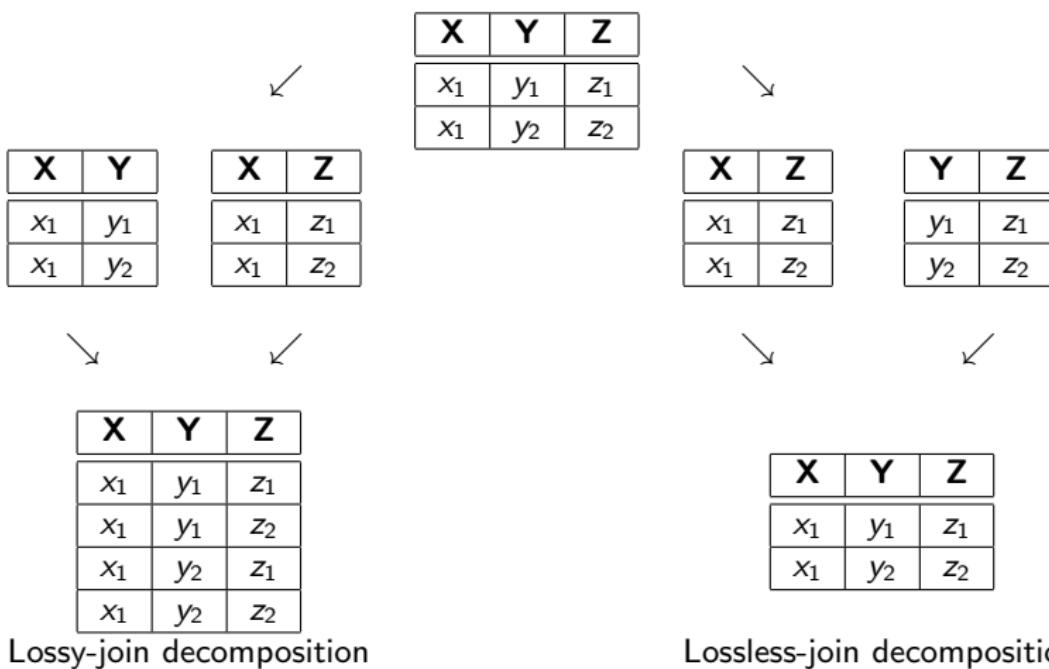
Preservation of the same relation through join



Lossy-join decomposition

Lossless-join decomposition

Preservation of the same relation through join



Is the decomposition into $\langle XY \rangle$ and $\langle YZ \rangle$ lossy or lossless?

Testing for lossless-join decomposition

A decomposition of R into $\{R_1, R_2\}$ is *lossless-join*, iff
 $\mathcal{A}(R_1) \cap \mathcal{A}(R_2) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(R_1)$ or $\mathcal{A}(R_1) \cap \mathcal{A}(R_2) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(R_2)$ in F^+ .

Consider the example of a relation $R = \langle UVWXY \rangle$ and the set of FDs $\{U \rightarrow VW, WX \rightarrow Y, V \rightarrow X, Y \rightarrow U\}$.

Note that, the decomposition $R_1 = \langle UVW \rangle$ and $R_2 = \langle WXY \rangle$ is not lossless-join because $R_1 \cap R_2 = W$, and W is neither a key for R_1 nor for R_2 .

However, the decomposition $R_1 = \langle UVW \rangle$ and $R_2 = \langle UXY \rangle$ is lossless-join because $R_1 \cap R_2 = U$, and U is a key for R_1 .

Dependency preservation

The decomposition of a relation R with respect to a set of FDs F replaces R with a set of (two or more) relations $\{R_1, \dots, R_m\}$ with FDs $\{F_1, \dots, F_m\}$ such that F_i is the subset of dependencies in F^+ (the closure of F) that include only the attributes in R_i .

The decomposition is *dependency preserving* iff $(\cup_i F_i)^+ = F^+$.

Note: Through dependency preserving decomposition, we want to minimize the cost of global integrity constraints based on FDs' (i.e., avoid big joins in assertions).

Testing for dependency preserving decomposition

Consider the example of a relation $R = \langle XYZ \rangle$, having the key X , and the set of FDs $\{X \rightarrow Y, Y \rightarrow Z, X \rightarrow Z\}$.

Note that, the decomposition $R_1 = \langle XY \rangle$ and $R_2 = \langle XZ \rangle$ is lossless-join but not dependency preserving because $F_1 = \{X \rightarrow Y\}$ and $F_2 = \{X \rightarrow Z\}$ incur the loss of the FD $\{Y \rightarrow Z\}$, resulting into $(F_1 \cup F_2)^+ \neq F^+$.

However, the decomposition $R_1 = \langle XY \rangle$ and $R_2 = \langle YZ \rangle$ is lossless-join and also dependency preserving because $F_1 = \{X \rightarrow Y\}$ and $F_2 = \{Y \rightarrow Z\}$, satisfying $(F_1 \cup F_2)^+ = F^+$.

Third normal form

Definition (Third normal form (3NF))

A relational schema R is in 3NF if for every non-trivial functional dependency $X \rightarrow A$, where $X \cap A = \emptyset$, one of the following statements is true:

- 1 X is a superkey of R .
 - 2 A is a part of any candidate key of R .

Note: A *superkey* is a set of one or more attributes that can uniquely identify an entity in the entity set.

Third normal form

The following relation is in 2NF but not in 3NF because Country is a non-prime attribute that depends on Company, which is again a non-prime attribute. Notably, the candidate key in this relation is {PID}.

| PID | Company | Country | Make | Model | Distributor |
|-----|---------|---------|--------|------------|-------------|
| P01 | Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
| P02 | Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
| P03 | Maruti | India | Ertiga | VXI | Carwala |
| P04 | Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Bhalla |
| P05 | Honda | Japan | City | SV | Bhalla |
| P06 | Tesla | USA | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| P07 | Toyota | Japan | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| P08 | BMW | Germany | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade |

We can convert this relation into 3NF!!!

Third normal form

| PID | Company | Country | Make | Model | Distributor |
|-----|---------|---------|--------|------------|-------------|
| P01 | Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
| P02 | Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
| P03 | Maruti | India | Ertiga | VXI | Carwala |
| P04 | Maruti | India | WagonR | LXI | Bhalla |
| P05 | Honda | Japan | City | SV | Bhalla |
| P06 | Tesla | USA | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| P07 | Toyota | Japan | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| P08 | BMW | Germany | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade |

- PID → {Company, Country, Make, Model, Distributor}
- Company → Country (Violating 3NF)

Third normal form

Approach: Decompose the relation into multiple relations.

| Company | Country |
|---------|---------|
| Maruti | India |
| Honda | Japan |
| Tesla | USA |
| Toyota | Japan |
| BMW | Germany |

| PID | Company | Make | Model | Distributor |
|-----|---------|--------|------------|-------------|
| P01 | Maruti | WagonR | LXI | Carwala |
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| P07 | Toyota | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade |
| P08 | BMW | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade |

Note: Each non-trivial functional dependency in the left relation is on the superkey {Company}, and in the right relation is on the superkey {PID}.

Boyce-Codd normal form

Definition (Boyce-Codd normal form (BCNF))

A relational schema R is in BCNF if for every non-trivial functional dependency $X \rightarrow A$, where $X \cap A = \emptyset$, X is a superkey of R .

Note: A *superkey* is a set of one or more attributes that can uniquely identify an entity in the entity set.

Boyce-Codd normal form

The following relation is in 3NF but not in BCNF because the attribute Distributor, which depends on the non-key attribute ShopID, is a part of the key. Notably, the candidate key in this relation is {Company, Make, Model, Distributor}.

| Company | Make | Model | Distributor | ShopID |
|---------|--------|------------|-------------|--------|
| Maruti | WagonR | LXI | Carwala | S1 |
| Maruti | WagonR | VXI | Carwala | S1 |
| Maruti | Ertiga | VXI | Carwala | S2 |
| Maruti | WagonR | LXI | Bhalla | S3 |
| Honda | City | SV | Bhalla | S4 |
| Tesla | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade | S5 |
| Toyota | RAV4 | EV | CarTrade | S5 |
| BMW | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade | S6 |
| BMW | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade | S6 |

We can convert this relation into BCNF!!!!

Boyce-Codd normal form

| Company | Make | Model | Distributor | ShopID |
|---------|--------|------------|-------------|--------|
| Maruti | WagonR | LXI | Carwala | S1 |
| Maruti | WagonR | VXI | Carwala | S1 |
| Maruti | Ertiga | VXI | Carwala | S2 |
| Maruti | WagonR | LXI | Bhalla | S3 |
| Honda | City | SV | Bhalla | S4 |
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| BMW | X1 | Expedition | CarTrade | S6 |

- $\{Company, Make, Model, Distributor\} \rightarrow ShopID$
 - $ShopID \rightarrow Distributor$ (Violating BCNF)

Boyce-Codd normal form

Approach: Decompose the relation into multiple relations.

| Distributor | ShopID |
|-------------|--------|
| Carwala | S1 |
| Carwala | S2 |
| Bhalla | S3 |
| Bhalla | S4 |
| CarTrade | S5 |
| CarTrade | S6 |

| Company | Make | Model | ShopID |
|---------|--------|------------|--------|
| Maruti | WagonR | LXI | S1 |
| Maruti | WagonR | VXI | S1 |
| Maruti | Ertiga | VXI | S2 |
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| Tesla | RAV4 | EV | S5 |
| Toyota | RAV4 | EV | S5 |
| BMW | X1 | Expedition | S6 |

Note: Each non-trivial functional dependency in the left relation is on the superkey {ShopID}. What about the relation in the right?

Decomposition into BCNF – An algorithm

Result := {*R*} and *flag* := FALSE

Compute F^+

while NOT *flag* **do**

if There is a schema $R_i \in Result$ that is not in BCNF **then**

Let $X \rightarrow Y$ be a non-trivial functional dependency that holds on R_i such that $(X \rightarrow R_i) \notin F^+$ and $X \cap Y = \emptyset$.

Result := (*Result* – R_i) \cup (R_i – Y) \cup (X, Y) // This is simply decomposing R into $R - Y$ and XY provided

$X \rightarrow Y$ in R violates BCNF

else

flag := TRUE

end if

end while

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end while

Note: This decomposition process ensures lossless property.

Decomposition into BCNF – Example I

Consider a relation $R = \langle ABCDE \rangle$ having the functional dependencies $\{A \rightarrow BC, C \rightarrow DE\}$.

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Note that, the functional dependency $A \rightarrow BC$ does not violate BCNF but $C \rightarrow DE$ does violate. By applying $C \rightarrow DE$, we decompose R and obtain $\langle ABC \rangle$ and $\langle CDE \rangle$.

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Now both $\langle ABC \rangle$ (A is the key) and $\langle CDE \rangle$ are in BCNF (C is the key).

Decomposition into BCNF – Example II

Suppose a relation $R = \langle ABCD \rangle$ is given with the functional dependencies $\{AB \rightarrow C, B \rightarrow D, C \rightarrow A\}$.

Decomposition into BCNF – Example II

Suppose a relation $R = \langle ABCD \rangle$ is given with the functional dependencies $\{AB \rightarrow C, B \rightarrow D, C \rightarrow A\}$.

Solution: The attribute closures provide $A^+ = A$, $B^+ = BD$, $C^+ = AC$, $D^+ = D$, $AB^+ = ABCD$, and $BC^+ = ABCD$. Hence, AB and BC are the keys of R . Note that, the functional dependency $AB \rightarrow C$ does not violate BCNF but $B \rightarrow D$ and $C \rightarrow A$ do violate. By applying $B \rightarrow D$, we decompose R and obtain $\langle ABC \rangle$ and $\langle BD \rangle$.

Decomposition into BCNF – Example II

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Solution: The attribute closures provide $A^+ = A$, $B^+ = BD$, $C^+ = AC$, $D^+ = D$, $AB^+ = ABCD$, and $BC^+ = ABCD$. Hence, AB and BC are the keys of R . Note that, the functional dependency $AB \rightarrow C$ does not violate BCNF but $B \rightarrow D$ and $C \rightarrow A$ do violate. By applying $B \rightarrow D$, we decompose R and obtain $\langle ABC \rangle$ and $\langle BD \rangle$.

Now $\langle BD \rangle$ is in BCNF (B is the key) but not $\langle ABC \rangle$. The functional dependency $C \rightarrow A$ violates BCNF. By applying $C \rightarrow A$, we further decompose $\langle ABC \rangle$ and obtain $\langle BC \rangle$ and $\langle CA \rangle$. Now $\langle BD \rangle$, $\langle BC \rangle$ and $\langle CA \rangle$ are all in BCNF.

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Now $\langle BD \rangle$ is in BCNF (B is the key) but not $\langle ABC \rangle$. The functional dependency $C \rightarrow A$ violates BCNF. By applying $C \rightarrow A$, we further decompose $\langle ABC \rangle$ and obtain $\langle BC \rangle$ and $\langle CA \rangle$. Now $\langle BD \rangle$, $\langle BC \rangle$ and $\langle CA \rangle$ are all in BCNF.

Note: This BCNF decomposition does not preserve dependencies.

Comments

Note that

- BCNF is stronger than 3NF – if a schema R is in BCNF then it is also in 3NF.
- 3NF is stronger than 2NF – if a schema R is in 3NF then it is also in 2NF.
- 2NF is stronger than 1NF – if a schema R is in 2NF then it is also in 1NF.

Comparison

| Decomposition | Preservation of the same relation through join | Functional dependency preservation |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 1NF | lossless | kept |
| 2NF | lossless | kept |
| 3NF | lossless | kept |
| BCNF | lossless | lost |

Elementary key normal form

Definition (Elementary key normal form (EKNF))

A relational schema R is in EKNF if for every non-trivial functional dependency $X \rightarrow A$, one of the following statements is true:

- 1 X is a superkey of R .
- 2 X is an elementary key attribute

Note: A non-trivial functional dependency $X \rightarrow Y$ is an elementary dependency if there exist no partial dependency. A key K is elementary key if $K \rightarrow Y$ is an elementary dependency.

Multi-valued dependency

Consider a relation schema R , and let $X \subseteq R$ and $Y \subseteq R$. The functional dependency $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ holds on schema R if

$$t1[X] = t2[X],$$

in any legal relation $r(R)$, for all pairs of tuples $t1$ and $t2$ in r , implies

- $t1[X] = t2[X] = t3[X] = t4[X]$
 - $t1[Y] = t3[Y]$ and $t2[Y] = t4[Y]$
 - $t1[Z] = t4[Z]$ and $t2[Z] = t3[Z]$

where the two tuples $t3$ and $t4$ are also in r and Z denotes $R - (X \cup Y)$.

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 - $t1[Y] = t3[Y]$ and $t2[Y] = t4[Y]$
 - $t1[Z] = t4[Z]$ and $t2[Z] = t3[Z]$

where the two tuples $t3$ and $t4$ are also in r and Z denotes $R - (X \cup Y)$.

Note: The tuples t_1 , t_2 , t_3 and t_4 are not necessarily distinct.

Visualizing multi-valued dependency

| | X | Y | $R - (X \cup Y)$ |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| $t1$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $m_{i+1} \dots m_j$ | $m_{j+1} \dots m_k$ |
| $t2$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $n_{i+1} \dots n_j$ | $n_{j+1} \dots n_k$ |

Visualizing multi-valued dependency

| | X | Y | $R - (X \cup Y)$ |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| $t1$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $m_{i+1} \dots m_j$ | $m_{j+1} \dots m_k$ |
| $t2$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $n_{i+1} \dots n_l$ | $n_{l+1} \dots n_k$ |
| $t3$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $m_{i+1} \dots m_j$ | $n_{j+1} \dots n_k$ |
| $t4$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $n_{i+1} \dots n_l$ | $m_{j+1} \dots m_k$ |

Visualizing multi-valued dependency

| | X | Y | $R - (X \cup Y)$ |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| $t1$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $m_{i+1} \dots m_j$ | $m_{j+1} \dots m_k$ |
| $t2$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $n_{i+1} \dots n_j$ | $n_{j+1} \dots n_k$ |
| $t3$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $m_{i+1} \dots m_j$ | $n_{j+1} \dots n_k$ |
| $t4$ | $m_1 \dots m_i$ | $n_{i+1} \dots n_j$ | $m_{j+1} \dots m_k$ |

An example of $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$

Inference rules for multi-valued dependency

- If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ holds, then $X \twoheadrightarrow (R - (X \cup Y))$ holds.
- If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ holds and $W \supseteq Z$, then $WX \twoheadrightarrow YZ$ holds.
- If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ and $Y \twoheadrightarrow Z$ both holds, then $X \twoheadrightarrow (Z - Y)$ holds.
- If $X \rightarrow Y$ holds, then $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ holds.
- If $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ holds and there exists W such that (a)
 $W \cap Y = \emptyset$, (b) $W \rightarrow Z$ and (c) $Y \supseteq Z$, then $X \rightarrow Z$ holds.

Fourth normal form

Definition (Fourth normal form (4NF))

A relational schema R is in 4NF if for every non-trivial multi-valued dependency $X \twoheadrightarrow A$, X is a superkey of R .

Note: A *superkey* is a set of one or more attributes that can uniquely identify an entity in the entity set.

Fourth normal form

The following relation is not in 4NF because it satisfies the multi-valued dependency $\text{Name} \twoheadrightarrow \text{Age}$ in which Name is not a superkey.

| Name | Age | Codeword | Media |
|-------|-----|----------|-------|
| Irfan | 28 | abc | News |
| Irfan | 40 | xyz | Radio |
| Irfan | 40 | abc | News |
| Irfan | 28 | xyz | Radio |
| Imran | 42 | abc | News |

We can convert this relation into 4NF!!!

Fourth normal form

Approach: Decompose the relation into multiple relations.

| Name | Age |
|-------|-----|
| Irfan | 28 |
| Irfan | 40 |
| Imran | 42 |

| Name | Codeword | Media |
|-------|----------|-------|
| Irfan | abc | News |
| Irfan | xyz | Radio |
| Imran | abc | News |

Note: No multi-valued dependency exists in the decomposed relations.

Decomposition into 4NF – An algorithm

Result := {*R*} and *flag* := FALSE

Compute D^+ // Given schema R_i , let D_i denote the restriction of D^+ to R_i

while NOT *flag* **do**

if There is a schema $R_i \in Result$ that is not in 4NF w.r.t. D_i
then

Let $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ be a non-trivial functional dependency that holds on R_i such that $(X \rightarrow R_i) \notin D_i$ and $X \cap Y = \emptyset$.

$Result := (Result - R_i) \cup (R_i - Y) \cup (X, Y)$ // Decompose R into $R - Y$ and XY provided $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ in R violates 4NF

else

flag := TRUE

end if

end while

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Result := (*Result* – R_i) \cup (R_i – Y) \cup (X, Y) // Decompose R into $R - Y$ and XY provided $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$ in R violates 4NF

else

flag := TRUE

end if

end while

Note: The decomposition process ensures lossless property

Join dependency

Given a relation schema R , a join dependency $JD(R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n)$ is defined by the constraint that every legal relation $r(R)$ should have a non-additive join decomposition into R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n , i.e. for every such r we have

$$(\pi_{R_1}(r), \pi_{R_2}(r), \dots, \pi_{R_n}(r)) = r.$$

Note: Multi-valued dependency is a special case of join dependency where $n = 2$.

Fifth normal form

Definition (Fifth normal form (5NF))

A relational schema R is in 5NF if for every non-trivial join dependency $JD(R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n)$ in F^+ , every R_i is a superkey of R .

Fifth normal form

Definition (Fifth normal form (5NF))

A relational schema R is in 5NF if for every non-trivial join dependency $JD(R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n)$ in F^+ , every R_i is a superkey of R .

Note: 5NF is also known as project-join normal form.

Domain key normal form

Definition (Domain key normal form (DKNF))

A relational schema R is in DKNF if all the constraints and dependencies that should hold on the valid relation states is a logical consequence of the domain and key constraints on the relation.

Sixth normal form

Definition (Sixth normal form (6NF))

A relational schema R is in 6NF if there exists no non-trivial join dependencies at all (with reference to generalized join operator).

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