

EXAMINATION GUIDE: FUNCTIONAL DEPENDENCY PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

You are given the below functional dependencies for the relation $R = (A, B, C, D, E, F)$

FDs = $\{ A \rightarrow BC, C \rightarrow DA, D \rightarrow E, AD \rightarrow F \}$

a) What are the keys for the relation R?

To find the keys, we need to compute for the closure of the determinants (A, C, D, AD) in the given set of FDs.

Therefore, closure of A, written as $(A)^+$ is:

$(A)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{A\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer = $\{ABC\}$ from $A \rightarrow BC$

3rd iteration answer = $\{ABCD\}$ from $C \rightarrow DA$

4th iteration answer = $\{ABCDE\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$

5th iteration answer = $\{ABCDEF\}$ from $AD \rightarrow F$

6th iteration answer = no change to the 5th iteration answer, therefore

$(A)^+ = \{ABCDEF\} = R = \{ABCDEF\}$ i.e., all the attributes in $(A)^+$ are included in R. Hence, we conclude that A is a key (super key)

Computing C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{C\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer = $\{CDA\}$ from $C \rightarrow DA$

3rd iteration answer = $\{CDAE\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$

4th iteration answer = $\{CDAEF\}$ from $AD \rightarrow F$

5th iteration answer = $\{CDAEFB\}$ from $A \rightarrow BC$

6th iteration answer = no change to the 5th iteration answer, therefore

$(C)^+ = \{CDAEFB\}$ OR rewritten as $\{ABCDEF\}$, which is same as $R = \{ABCDEF\}$ i.e., all the attributes in $(C)^+$ are included in R. Hence, we conclude that C is a key (super key)

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer = $\{DE\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$

3rd iteration answer = no change to the 2nd iteration answer, therefore

$(D)^+ = \{DE\}$ which is not equal to $R = \{ABCDEF\}$ i.e., $(D)^+$ does not include all the attributes found in R. Hence, we conclude that D is NOT a key (super key)

Computing AD closure $(AD)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{AD\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{ADBC\}$ from $A \rightarrow BC$

3rd iteration answer = $\{ADBC\}$ from $C \rightarrow DA$

4th iteration answer = $\{ADBCE\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$

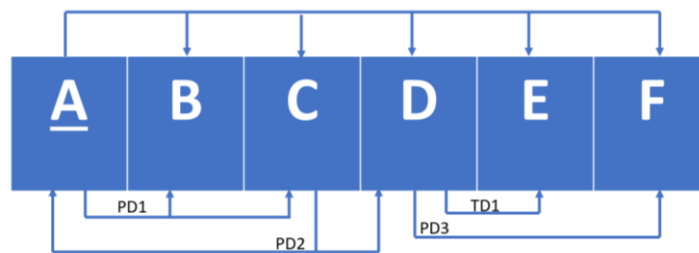
5th iteration answer = $\{ADBCEF\}$ from $AD \rightarrow F$

6th iteration answer = no change to the 5th iteration answer, therefore

$(AD)^+ = \{ ADBCEF \}$ OR rewritten as $\{ ABCDEF \}$, which is same as $R = \{ ABCDEF \}$ i.e., all the attributes in $(AD)^+$ are included in R . Hence, we conclude that AD is a key (super key)

Therefore, A , C and AC are super keys as shown above. However, A and C can be candidate keys. AD cannot be a candidate key because candidate keys are subset of super keys, comparing A and AD , A is subset of AD , so we exclude AD from being a candidate. This means ONLY A and C can be Candidate keys. It is from these keys that a designer chooses one key as Primary key.

- b) Is the relation $R(ABCDEF)$ in 1NF/2NF/3NF/BCNF? Given FDs = $\{ A \rightarrow BC, C \rightarrow DA, D \rightarrow E, AD \rightarrow F \}$
Draw the dependency diagram and indicate all the FDs



From the computation in (a), we choose between A and C to be a Primary key

In 1st normal form (1NF)

- PK must be identified.
- All dependencies are identified i.e., 3 Partial dependencies (PD) and 1 transitive dependencies (TD)
- This means that partial keys and transitive dependencies exist in the relation R , given in the question.

These conditions confirm a relation in 1NF.

FYI – the relation cannot be in 2NF because of all the partial dependencies. Also, cannot be in 3NF because of the transitive dependency. Further, not in Boyce Codd Normal Form (BCNF) because of $C \rightarrow A$, i.e., a non-prime attribute determines a prime/key attribute.

- a) Compute the canonical (minimal) cover of FDs = $\{ A \rightarrow BC, C \rightarrow DA, D \rightarrow E, AD \rightarrow F \}$
Step I: decompose FDs to appear as singleton attributes on RHS(dependents), i.e.,
FDs = {
 $A \rightarrow B$
 $A \rightarrow C$
 $C \rightarrow D$
 $C \rightarrow A$
 $D \rightarrow E$
 $AD \rightarrow F$
 }

Step II: identify extraneous/redundant attributes on the LHS (determinants).

For $AD \rightarrow F$, check if either A or D is extraneous in our set of FDs, excluding $AD \rightarrow F$

To check if A is extraneous, compute $(D)^+$

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {D} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {DE} from $D \rightarrow E$

3rd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 2nd iteration. Since A is not included in $(D)^+ = \{DE\}$ we conclude that A is not extraneous.

To check if D is extraneous, compute $(A)^+$

Computing A closure $(A)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {A} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {ABC} from $A \rightarrow B$ and $A \rightarrow C$

3rd iteration answer = {ABCD} from $C \rightarrow D$

Note that D is included in $(A)^+ = \{ABCD\}$, thus we conclude that D is extraneous and must be excluded.

Hence $AD \rightarrow F$ becomes $A \rightarrow F$.

New set of FDs is now, $F_c = \{$

$A \rightarrow B$

$A \rightarrow C$

$C \rightarrow D$

$C \rightarrow A$

$D \rightarrow E$

$A \rightarrow F$

$\}$

Step III: identify extraneous/redundant functional dependencies in our new set of FDs, F_c .

To check if a FD in F_c is extraneous, compute the closure of its determinant while excluding the FD in question.

For $A \rightarrow B$ in question,

Its closure, $(A)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {A} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {ACF} from $A \rightarrow C$ and $A \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = {ACFD} from $C \rightarrow D$ and $C \rightarrow A$

4th iteration answer = {ACFDE} from $D \rightarrow E$

5th iteration answer = no change. Since B is not included in $(A)^+ = \{ACFDE\}$, we conclude that $A \rightarrow B$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $A \rightarrow C$ in question,

Its closure, $(A)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {A} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {ABF} from $A \rightarrow B$ and $A \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = no change. Since C is not included in $(A)^+ = \{ABF\}$, so we conclude that $A \rightarrow C$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $C \rightarrow D$ in question,

Its closure, $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{C\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{CA\}$ from $C \rightarrow A$

3rd iteration answer = $\{CABF\}$ from $A \rightarrow B$, $A \rightarrow C$, and $A \rightarrow F$

4th iteration answer = no change. Since D is not included in $(C)^+ = \{CABF\}$, so we conclude that $C \rightarrow D$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $C \rightarrow A$ in question,

Its closure, $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{C\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{CD\}$ from $C \rightarrow D$

3rd iteration answer = $\{CDE\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$

4th iteration answer = no change. Since A is not included in $(C)^+ = \{CDE\}$, so we conclude that $C \rightarrow A$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $D \rightarrow E$ in question,

Its closure, $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change. Since E is not included in $(D)^+ = \{D\}$, so we conclude that $D \rightarrow E$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $A \rightarrow F$ in question,

Its closure, $(A)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{A\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{ABC\}$ from $A \rightarrow B$ and $A \rightarrow C$

3rd iteration answer = $\{ABCD\}$ from $C \rightarrow D$ and $C \rightarrow A$

4th iteration answer = $\{ABCDE\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$

5th iteration answer = no change. Since F is not included in $(A)^+ = \{ABCDE\}$, so we conclude that $A \rightarrow F$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

Our new set of FDs, also minimal cover comprises:

New set of FDs is now, $F_c = \{$

$A \rightarrow B$

$A \rightarrow C$

$C \rightarrow D$

$C \rightarrow A$

$D \rightarrow E$

$A \rightarrow F$

$\}$

Lastly, perform a union rule on RHS to give:

Canonical cover of FDs, $F_c = \{$

$A \rightarrow BCF$
 $C \rightarrow DA$
 $D \rightarrow E$
 $\}$

More examples on computing functional dependencies.

Given the relation $R = (A, B, C, D, E)$ with functional dependencies $FDs = \{CE \rightarrow D, D \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow A\}$

a) Find all the candidate keys?

To get the candidate keys, we compute the closures of all determinants, i.e., CE, D and C as given in a set of FDs.

Computing CE closure $(CE)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{CE\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer = $\{CED\}$ from $CE \rightarrow D$

3rd iteration answer = $\{CEDA\}$ from $C \rightarrow A$

4th iteration answer = $\{CEDAB\}$ from $D \rightarrow B$

5th iteration answer = no change to the 4th iteration answer, therefore

$(CE)^+ = \{CEDAB\}$ OR $\{ABCDE\}$, which is equal to $R = \{ABCDE\}$ i.e., all the attributes in $(CE)^+$ are included in R. Hence, we conclude that CE is a key (super key) of relation R.

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer = $\{DB\}$ from $D \rightarrow B$

3rd iteration answer = no change to the 2nd iteration answer, therefore

$(D)^+ = \{DB\}$ which is not equal to $R = \{ABCDE\}$ i.e., $(D)^+$ does not include all the attributes found in R. Hence, we conclude that D is NOT a key (super key) of relation R.

Computing C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{C\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer = $\{CA\}$ from $C \rightarrow A$

3rd iteration answer = no change to the 2nd iteration answer, therefore

$(C)^+ = \{CA\}$ which is not equal to $R = \{ABCDE\}$ i.e., $(C)^+$ does not include all the attributes found in R. Hence, we conclude that C is NOT a key (super key) of relation R.

Computing CD closure $(CD)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{CD\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer = $\{CDB\}$ from $D \rightarrow B$

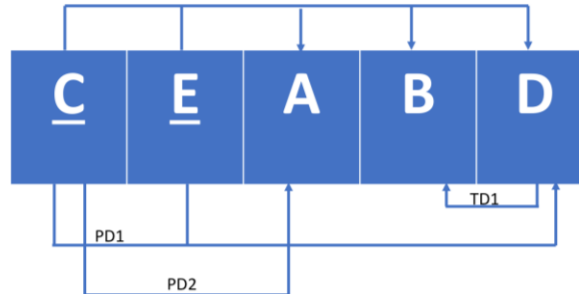
3rd iteration answer = $\{CDBA\}$ from $C \rightarrow A$

4th iteration answer = no change to the 3rd iteration answer, therefore

$(CD)^+ = \{CDBA\}$ which is not equal to $R = \{ABCDE\}$ i.e., $(CD)^+$ does not include all the attributes found in R. Hence, we conclude that CD is NOT a key (super key) of relation R.

Therefore, CE is the only super key, as well as the candidate key of the relation $R (A,B,C,D,E)$ with the given FDs in the question above.

- b) Is the relation $R = (A, B, C, D, E)$ with the given FDs = $\{CE \rightarrow D, D \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow A\}$ in 1NF/2NF/3NF/BCNF? If not in 3NF, show the process to take it to 3NF. Use the dependency diagram to identify the normal forms.



The relation R cannot be in 3NF, because of transitive dependence, TD1 shown in the diagram below. From $CE \rightarrow D$ and $D \rightarrow B$, then it means $CE \rightarrow B$ is true transitively.

Similarly, relation R cannot be in 2NF, simply because of the existing partial dependencies (TD1 and TD2) shown in the diagram.

The relation R is in 1NF because of the following:

- Primary key is identified i.e., CE (underlined)
- All dependencies are identified i.e., 2 PDs and 1 TD.

We need to take the relation R to a 3 NF.

First, we need to take relation R to the second normal form (2NF).

2NF

We need to remove all PDs from the relation R , and each PD will form a new table/relation, therefore.

PD1: $CE \rightarrow D$

New relation R_1 will have CED as attributes with CE as PK i.e., $R_1 = \{CED\}$

PD2: $C \rightarrow A$

New relation R_2 will have CA as attributes with C as PK i.e., $R_2 = \{CA\}$

TD1: $D \rightarrow B$

In 2NF, TD does not form its own table, but must exist in R_1 . This mean R_1 becomes $R_1 = \{CEDB\}$, which shows $D \rightarrow B$ exists.

3NF

We need to remove all transitive dependencies(TDs) from our existing relations.

In this case TD1 ($D \rightarrow B$), still exists in $R_1 = \{CEDB\}$

Therefore $D \rightarrow B$, forms a new relation R3 with attributes DB with D as the PK, i.e., $R3 = (DB)$

Whereas R1 now remains as $R1 = \{CED\}$, with D as foreign key between R1 and R3

Finally, the tables/relation in 3NF are as follows:

$R1 = \{CED\}$, CE as PK

$R2 = \{CA\}$, C as PK

$R3 = \{DB\}$, D as PK.

- c) Compute the canonical (minimal) cover of FDs $= \{CE \rightarrow D, D \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow A\}$.

Step I: decompose the RHS to singleton attributes.

FDs $= \{$

$CE \rightarrow D,$

$D \rightarrow B,$

$C \rightarrow A$

$\}.$

Step II: identify extraneous attributes on the LHS.

For $CE \rightarrow D$, check if either C or E is extraneous in our set of FDs, excluding $CE \rightarrow D$

To check if C is extraneous, compute $(E)^+$

Computing E closure $(E)^+ =$

1st iteration answer $= \{E\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer $=$ no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since C is not included in $(E)^+ = \{E\}$ we conclude that C is not extraneous.

To check if E is extraneous, compute $(C)^+$

Computing C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer $= \{C\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer $= \{CA\}$ from $C \rightarrow A$

3rd iteration answer $=$ no change in the answer in 2nd iteration. Since E is not included in $(C)^+ = \{CA\}$ we conclude that E is not extraneous.

Note, neither C nor E is extraneous, so attributes CE remains on the RHS.

Step III: identify functional dependencies that might be extraneous in our current set of FDs, which comprises:

FDs $= \{$

$CE \rightarrow D,$

$D \rightarrow B,$

$C \rightarrow A$

$\}.$

To check if FD is extraneous, compute the closure of the determinant against the set of FDs, without considering the FD in question.

For $CE \rightarrow D$ in question,

Its closure, $(CE)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{CE\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{CEA\}$ from $C \rightarrow A$

3rd iteration answer = no change. Since D is not included in $(CE)^+ = \{CEA\}$, so we conclude that $CE \rightarrow D$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $D \rightarrow B$ in question,

Its closure, $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change. Since B is not included in $(D)^+ = \{D\}$, so we conclude that $D \rightarrow B$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $C \rightarrow A$ in question,

Its closure, $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{C\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change. Since A is not included in $(C)^+ = \{C\}$, so we conclude that $C \rightarrow A$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

New set of FDs is now, $F_c = \{$

$CE \rightarrow D$

$D \rightarrow B$

$C \rightarrow A$

$\}$

Finally, Canonical cover of FDs, $F_c = \{$

$CE \rightarrow D$

$D \rightarrow B$

$C \rightarrow A$

$\}$

More examples on computing functional dependencies.

Suppose relation $R = (A, B, C, D, E, F, G,)$ with functional dependencies $FDs = \{AD \rightarrow BF, CD \rightarrow EGC, BD \rightarrow F, E \rightarrow D, F \rightarrow C, D \rightarrow F\}$.

- a) Compute the canonical (minimal) cover of FDs.

Step I: decompose the RHS to appear as singleton attributes.

$FDs = \{$
 $AD \rightarrow B$
 $AD \rightarrow F$
 $CD \rightarrow E$
 $CD \rightarrow G$
 $CD \rightarrow C$
 $BD \rightarrow F$
 $E \rightarrow D$
 $F \rightarrow C$
 $D \rightarrow F$
 $\}$.

Step II: identify extraneous attributes on the LHS of our FDs.

For $AD \rightarrow B$, check if either A or D is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $AD \rightarrow B$

To check if A is extraneous, compute $(D)^+$

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{DF\}$ from $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = $\{DFC\}$ from $F \rightarrow C$

4th iteration answer = $\{DFCEG\}$ from $CD \rightarrow E$, $CD \rightarrow G$, and $CD \rightarrow C$

5th iteration answer = no change in the answer in 4th iteration. Since A is not included in $(D)^+ = \{DFCEG\}$ we conclude that A is not extraneous.

To check if D is extraneous, compute $(A)^+$

Computing A closure $(A)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{A\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since D is not included in $(A)^+ = \{A\}$ we conclude that D is not extraneous.

Therefore, neither A nor D is extraneous, thus must remain on the LHS of $AD \rightarrow B$.

For $AD \rightarrow F$, check if either A or D is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $AD \rightarrow F$.

To check if A is extraneous, compute $(D)^+$

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{DF\}$ from $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = $\{DFC\}$ from $F \rightarrow C$

4th iteration answer = $\{DFCEG\}$ from $CD \rightarrow E$, $CD \rightarrow G$, and $CD \rightarrow C$

5th iteration answer = no change in the answer in 4th iteration. Since A is not included in $(D)^+ = \{DFCEG\}$ we conclude that A is not extraneous.

To check if D is extraneous, compute $(A)^+$

Computing A closure $(A)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{A\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since D is not included in $(A)^+ = \{A\}$ we conclude that D is not extraneous.

Therefore, neither A nor D is extraneous, thus must remain on the LHS of $AD \rightarrow F$.

For $CD \rightarrow E$, check if either C or D is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $CD \rightarrow E$.

To check if C is extraneous, compute $(D)^+$

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{DF\}$ from $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = $\{DFC\}$ from $F \rightarrow C$

4th iteration answer = $\{DFCG\}$ from $CD \rightarrow G$ and $CD \rightarrow C$

5th iteration answer = no change in the answer in 4th iteration. Since C is included in $(D)^+ = \{DFCG\}$.

We conclude that C is extraneous. So, we remove it from $CD \rightarrow E$ to become $D \rightarrow E$.

Similarly, for $CD \rightarrow G$, check if either C or D is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $CD \rightarrow G$.

To check if C is extraneous, compute $(D)^+$

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{DF\}$ from $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = $\{DFC\}$ from $F \rightarrow C$

4th iteration answer = $\{DFCE\}$

Since C is included in $(D)^+ = \{DFCE\}$.

We conclude that C is extraneous. So, we remove it from $CD \rightarrow G$ to become $D \rightarrow G$.

Similarly, for $CD \rightarrow C$, check if either C or D is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $CD \rightarrow C$.

To check if C is extraneous, compute $(D)^+$

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{DF\}$ from $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = $\{DFC\}$ from $F \rightarrow C$

Since C is included in $(D)^+ = \{DFCEG\}$.

We conclude that C is extraneous. So, we remove it from $CD \rightarrow C$ to become $D \rightarrow C$.

For $BD \rightarrow F$, check if either B or D is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $BD \rightarrow F$.

To check if B is extraneous, compute $(D)^+$

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {D} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {DF} from $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = {DFC} from $F \rightarrow C$

4th iteration answer = {DFCEG} from $D \rightarrow E$, $D \rightarrow G$ and $D \rightarrow C$

5th iteration answer = no change in the answer in 4th iteration. Since B is not included in $(D)^+ = \{DFCEG\}$ we conclude that B is not extraneous and should remain on the LHS.

To check if D is extraneous in $BD \rightarrow F$, compute $(B)^+$

Computing B closure $(B)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {B} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since D is not included in $(B)^+ = \{B\}$ we conclude that D is not extraneous in $BD \rightarrow F$ and should remain on the LHS.

Therefore, neither B nor D is extraneous, so BD remains on the LHS as non-extraneous attributes.

Therefore, our new set of FDs = {

$AD \rightarrow B$

$AD \rightarrow F$

$D \rightarrow E$

$D \rightarrow G$

$D \rightarrow C$

$BD \rightarrow F$

$E \rightarrow D$

$F \rightarrow C$

$D \rightarrow F$

}

Step III: identify extraneous functional dependencies (FD) in our new set of FDs found in step II:

To check if FD is extraneous, compute the closure of the determinant against the set of FDs, without considering the FD in question.

For $AD \rightarrow B$ in question,

Its closure, $(AD)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {AD} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {ADF} from $AD \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = {ADFC} from $F \rightarrow C$

4th iteration answer = {ADFCEF} from $A \rightarrow E$, $D \rightarrow G$ and $D \rightarrow C$

5th iteration answer = {ADFCEF} from $E \rightarrow D$

6th iteration answer = no change. Since B is not included in $(AD)^+ = \{ADFCEF\}$.

So, we conclude that $AD \rightarrow B$ is not an extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $AD \rightarrow F$ in question,

Its closure, $(AD)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{AD\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{ADB\}$ from $AD \rightarrow B$

3rd iteration answer = $\{ADBEGC\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$, $D \rightarrow G$, and $D \rightarrow C$

4th iteration answer = $\{ADBEGCF\}$ from $D \rightarrow F$

5th iteration answer = $\{ADBEGCF\}$ from $F \rightarrow C$

6th iteration answer = no change. Since F is included in $(AD)^+ = \{ADBEGCF\}$.

So, we conclude that $AD \rightarrow F$ is an extraneous FD and must be excluded from our minimal cover of FDs.

For $D \rightarrow E$ in question,

Its closure, $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{DGCF\}$ from $D \rightarrow G$, $D \rightarrow C$, and $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = $\{DGCF\}$ from $F \rightarrow C$

4th iteration answer = no change. Since E is NOT included in $(D)^+ = \{DGCF\}$.

So, we conclude that $D \rightarrow E$ is an NOT extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $D \rightarrow G$ in question,

Its closure, $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{DECF\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$, $D \rightarrow C$, and $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = $\{DECF\}$ from $E \rightarrow D$

4th iteration answer = $\{DECF\}$ from $F \rightarrow C$

5th iteration answer = no change. Since G is NOT included in $(D)^+ = \{DECF\}$.

So, we conclude that $D \rightarrow G$ is an NOT extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $D \rightarrow C$ in question,

Its closure, $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{DEGF\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$, $D \rightarrow G$, and $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = $\{DEGFC\}$ from $F \rightarrow C$

5th iteration answer = no change. Since C is included in $(D)^+ = \{DEGFC\}$.

So, we conclude that $D \rightarrow C$ is an extraneous FD and must be eliminated in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $BD \rightarrow F$ in question,

Its closure, $(BD)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{BD\}$ by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = $\{BDEGF\}$ from $D \rightarrow E$, $D \rightarrow G$, and $D \rightarrow F$

3rd iteration answer = { BDEGF } from $E \rightarrow D$

4th iteration answer = { BDEGFC } from $F \rightarrow C$

5th iteration answer = no change. Since F is included in $(BD)^+ = \{ BDEGFC \}$.

So, we conclude that $BD \rightarrow F$ is an extraneous FD and must be eliminated in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $E \rightarrow D$ in question,

Its closure, $(E)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {E} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change. Since D is NOT included in $(E)^+ = \{ E \}$.

So, we conclude that $E \rightarrow D$ is an NOT extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $F \rightarrow C$ in question,

Its closure, $(F)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {F} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change. Since C is NOT included in $(F)^+ = \{ F \}$.

So, we conclude that $F \rightarrow C$ is an NOT extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $D \rightarrow F$ in question,

Its closure, $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {D} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {DEG} from $D \rightarrow E$ and $D \rightarrow G$

3rd iteration answer = {DEG} from $E \rightarrow D$

4th iteration answer = no change. Since F is NOT included in $(D)^+ = \{ DEG \}$.

So, we conclude that $D \rightarrow F$ is an NOT extraneous FD and must be included in our minimal cover of FDs.

Therefore, the minimal cover of FDs comprises of :

**Fc = {
AD \rightarrow B
D \rightarrow E
D \rightarrow G
E \rightarrow D
F \rightarrow C
D \rightarrow F
}**

Lastly, apply a union rule to combine attributes on the RHS to give, minimal cover as:

**Fc = {
AD \rightarrow B
D \rightarrow EGF
E \rightarrow D
F \rightarrow C
}**

}

More examples on computing functional dependencies.

Suppose relation $R = (A, B, C, D, E)$ with functional dependencies $FDs = \{BC \rightarrow ADE, D \rightarrow B\}$.

- a) Find all candidate keys.

To get candidate keys, compute closures for BC and D.

Computing BC closure $(BC)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{BC\}$ by reflexivity rule

2nd iteration answer = $\{BCADE\}$ from $BC \rightarrow ADE$

3rd iteration answer = $\{BCADE\}$ from $D \rightarrow B$

4th iteration answer = no change to the 3rd iteration answer, therefore

$(BC)^+ = \{BCADE\}$ OR $\{ABCDE\}$, which is equal to $R = \{ABCDE\}$ i.e., all the attributes in $(BC)^+$ are included in R. Hence, we conclude that BC is a key (super key) of relation R.

Computing D closure $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = $\{D\}$ by reflexivity rule

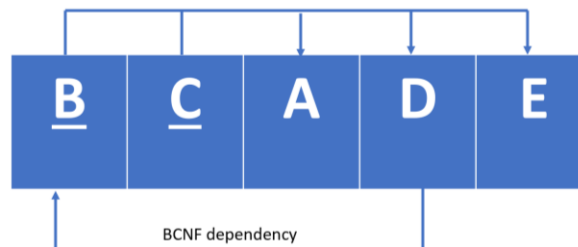
2nd iteration answer = $\{DB\}$ from $D \rightarrow B$

3rd iteration answer = no change to the 2nd iteration answer, therefore

$(D)^+ = \{DB\}$, which is NOT equal to $R = \{ABCDE\}$ i.e., $(D)^+$ does not include all the attributes found in R. Hence, we conclude that D is NOT a key (super key) of relation R.

Therefore, BC is a super key and a candidate key for relation R given in question.

- b) Which normal form does relation $R = (A, B, C, D, E)$ satisfy? Given $FDs = \{BC \rightarrow ADE, D \rightarrow B\}$



Relation R is in 3NF, but not in Boyce Codd normal Codd (BCNF), because of the BCNF dependency. In 3NF we observe that all non-prime/key attributes are dependent on the key attributes (BC). Not in BCNF, because a non-prime attribute determines a key attribute. So we conclude that the relation R given above is in 3NF but not in BCNF.

More examples on computing functional dependencies.

Suppose you are given relation $R = (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)$ with functional dependencies $FDs = \{AC \rightarrow G, D \rightarrow EG, BC \rightarrow D, CG \rightarrow BD, ACD \rightarrow B, CE \rightarrow AG\}$. Compute the canonical (minimal) cover of FDs.

Step I: decompose the RHS to singleton attributes.

FDs = {
AC \rightarrow G
D \rightarrow E
D \rightarrow G
BC \rightarrow D
CG \rightarrow B
CG \rightarrow D
ACD \rightarrow B
CE \rightarrow A
CE \rightarrow G
}

Step II: identify extraneous attributes on the LHS.

For $AC \rightarrow G$, check if either A or C is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $AC \rightarrow G$

To check if A is extraneous, compute $(C)^+$

Computing C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {C} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since A is not included in $(C)^+ = \{C\}$ we conclude that A is not extraneous.

Computing A closure $(A)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {A} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since C is not included in $(A)^+ = \{A\}$ we conclude that C is not extraneous.

Therefore, neither A nor C is extraneous, so attributes AC remains on the LHS in $AC \rightarrow G$.

For $BC \rightarrow D$, check if either B or C is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $BC \rightarrow D$

To check if B is extraneous, compute $(C)^+$

Computing C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {C} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since B is not included in $(C)^+ = \{C\}$ we conclude that B is not extraneous.

Computing B closure $(B)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {B} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since D is not included in $(B)^+ = \{B\}$ we conclude that D is not extraneous.

Therefore, neither B nor C is extraneous, so attributes BC remains on the LHS in $BC \rightarrow D$.

For $CG \rightarrow B$, check if either C or G is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $CG \rightarrow B$

To check if C is extraneous, compute $(G)^+$

Computing G closure $(G)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {G} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since C is not included in $(G)^+ = \{ G \}$ we conclude that C is not extraneous.

Computing C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {C} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since G is not included in $(C)^+ = \{ C \}$ we conclude that G is not extraneous.

Therefore, neither C nor G is extraneous, so attributes CG remains on the LHS in $CG \rightarrow B$.

For $CG \rightarrow D$, check if either C or G is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $CG \rightarrow D$

To check if C is extraneous, compute $(G)^+$

Computing G closure $(G)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {G} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since C is not included in $(G)^+ = \{ G \}$ we conclude that C is not extraneous.

Computing C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {C} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since G is not included in $(C)^+ = \{ C \}$ we conclude that G is not extraneous.

Therefore, neither C nor G is extraneous, so attributes CG remains on the LHS in $CG \rightarrow D$.

For $ACD \rightarrow B$, check if either AC or D is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $ACD \rightarrow B$

To check if D is extraneous, compute $(AC)^+$

Computing AC closure $(AC)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {AC} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {ACG} from $AG \rightarrow G$

3rd iteration answer = {ACGBD} from $CG \rightarrow B$ and $CG \rightarrow D$

4th iteration answer = {ACGBDE} from $D \rightarrow E$ and $D \rightarrow G$

5th iteration answer = no change in the answer in 4th iteration. Since D is included in $(AC)^+ = \{ ACGBDE \}$ we conclude that D is not extraneous, and we must exclude it from $ACD \rightarrow B$ to become $AC \rightarrow B$.

Check if either A or C is extraneous in $AC \rightarrow B$.

To check for A, compute C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {C} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since A is not included in $(C)^+ = \{ C \}$ we conclude that A is not extraneous.

To check for C compute A closure $(A)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {A} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since C is not included in $(A)^+ = \{A\}$ we conclude that C is not extraneous.

Therefore, neither A nor C is extraneous, so attributes AC remains on the LHS in $AC \rightarrow B$.

For $CE \rightarrow A$, check if either C or E is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $CE \rightarrow A$

To check if C is extraneous, compute $(E)^+ =$

Computing E closure $(E)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {E} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since C is not included in $(E)^+ = \{E\}$ we conclude that C is not extraneous.

Computing C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {C} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since E is not included in $(C)^+ = \{C\}$ we conclude that E is not extraneous.

Therefore, neither C nor E is extraneous, so attributes CE remains on the LHS in $CE \rightarrow A$.

Similarly, For $CE \rightarrow G$, check if either C or E is extraneous against our set of FDs but excluding $CE \rightarrow G$

To check if C is extraneous, compute $(E)^+ =$

Computing E closure $(E)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {E} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since C is not included in $(E)^+ = \{E\}$ we conclude that C is not extraneous.

Computing C closure $(C)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {C} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since E is not included in $(C)^+ = \{C\}$ we conclude that E is not extraneous.

Therefore, neither C nor E is extraneous, so attributes CE remains on the LHS in $CE \rightarrow G$.

Our new set of FDs =

$AC \rightarrow G$

$D \rightarrow E$

$D \rightarrow G$

$BC \rightarrow D$

$CG \rightarrow B$

$CG \rightarrow D$

$AC \rightarrow B$

$CE \rightarrow A$

$CE \rightarrow G$

}

Step III: identify extraneous FDs found in our new set of FDs.

To check if FD is extraneous, compute the closure of the determinant against the set of FDs, without considering the FD in question.

For $AC \rightarrow G$ in question,

Its closure, $(AC)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {AC} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {ACB} from $AD \rightarrow B$

3rd iteration answer = {ACBD} from $BC \rightarrow D$

4th iteration answer = {ACBDEG} from $D \rightarrow E$ and $D \rightarrow G$

5th iteration answer = {ACBDEG} from $AC \rightarrow B$

Since G is included in $(AC)^+ = \{ACBDEG\}$.

So, we conclude that $AC \rightarrow G$ is an extraneous FD and must be excluded in our minimal cover of FDs.

For $D \rightarrow E$ in question,

Its closure, $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {D} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {DG} from $D \rightarrow G$

3rd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 2nd iteration. Since E is not included in $(D)^+ = \{DG\}$ we conclude that $D \rightarrow E$ is not extraneous in our FDs and must be included in the minimal set of FDs.

For $D \rightarrow G$ in question,

Its closure, $(D)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {D} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {DE} from $D \rightarrow E$

3rd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 2nd iteration. Since G is not included in $(D)^+ = \{DE\}$ we conclude that $D \rightarrow G$ is not extraneous in our FDs and must be included in the minimal set of FDs.

For $BC \rightarrow D$ in question,

Its closure, $(BC)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {BC} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since D is not included in $(BC)^+ = \{BC\}$ we conclude that $BC \rightarrow D$ is not extraneous in our FDs and must be included in the minimal set of FDs.

For $CG \rightarrow B$ in question,

Its closure, $(CG)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {CG} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {CGD} from $CG \rightarrow D$

3rd iteration answer = {CGDE} from $D \rightarrow E$ and $D \rightarrow G$

4th iteration answer = {CGDEA} from $CE \rightarrow A$ and $CE \rightarrow G$

5th iteration answer = { CGDEAB} from $AC \rightarrow B$

Since B is included in $(CG)^+ = \{ CGDEAB \}$ we conclude that $CG \rightarrow B$ is extraneous and must be excluded from the minimal set of FDs.

For $CG \rightarrow D$ in question,

Its closure, $(CG)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {CG} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since D is not included in $(CG)^+ = \{ CG \}$ we conclude that $CG \rightarrow D$ is not extraneous in our FDs and must be included in the minimal set of FDs.

For $AC \rightarrow B$ in question,

Its closure, $(AC)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {AC} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = no change in the answer in 1st iteration. Since B is not included in $(AC)^+ = \{ AC \}$ we conclude that $AC \rightarrow B$ is not extraneous in our FDs and must be included in the minimal set of FDs.

For $CE \rightarrow A$ in question,

Its closure, $(CE)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {CE} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {CEG} from $CE \rightarrow G$

3rd iteration answer = {CEGD} from $CG \rightarrow D$

4th iteration answer = {CEGD} from $D \rightarrow E$ and $D \rightarrow G$

5th iteration answer = no change in the answer in 4th iteration. Since A is not included in $(CE)^+ = \{ CEGD \}$ we conclude that $CE \rightarrow A$ is not extraneous in our FDs and must be included in the minimal set of FDs.

For $CE \rightarrow G$ in question,

Its closure, $(CE)^+ =$

1st iteration answer = {CE} by reflexivity

2nd iteration answer = {CEA} from $CE \rightarrow A$

3rd iteration answer = {CEAB} from $AC \rightarrow B$

4th iteration answer = {CEABD} from $BC \rightarrow D$

5th iteration answer = {CEABDG} from $D \rightarrow G$ and $D \rightarrow E$

6th iteration answer = no change in the answer in 5th iteration. Since G is included in $(CE)^+ = \{ CEABDG \}$ we conclude that $CE \rightarrow G$ is extraneous in our FDs and must be eliminated in the minimal set of FDs.

Therefore,

New set of FDs is now, $F_c = \{$

$D \rightarrow E$

$D \rightarrow G$

$BC \rightarrow D$

$CG \rightarrow D$

$AC \rightarrow B$

$CE \rightarrow A$

}

Lastly, perform a union rule on RHS to give:

Canonical cover of FDs, $F_c = \{$

$D \rightarrow EG$

$BC \rightarrow D$

$CG \rightarrow D$

$AC \rightarrow B$

$CE \rightarrow A$

}