

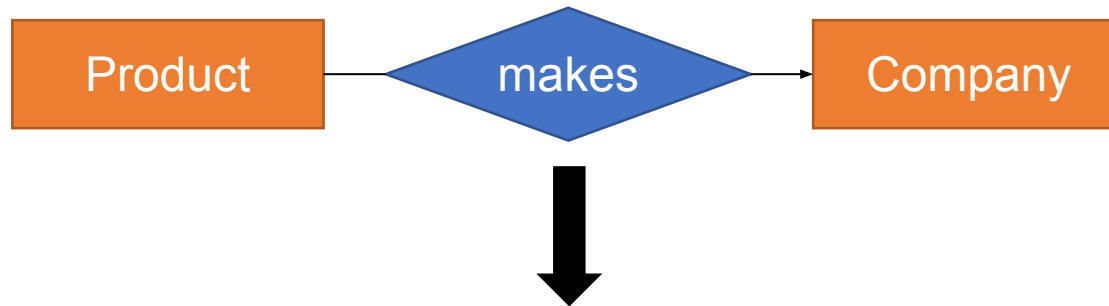
# Introduction to Data Management Design Theory

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University of Washington, Seattle

# Recap

- ER Diagrams

- Conceptual modeling
- Rules of thumb for converting diagram into schema



```
CREATE TABLE Company (  
    name VARCHAR(100) PRIMARY  
KEY,  
    ...);  
CREATE TABLE Product (  
    name VARCHAR(100) PRIMARY  
KEY,  
    cname VARCHAR(100)  
REFERENCES Company  
    ...);
```

# Goals for Today

- Figure out the fundamentals of what makes a good schema

# Outline

- Background
  - Anomalies, i.e. things we want to avoid
  - Functional Dependencies (FDs)
  - Closures and formal definitions of keys
- Normalization: BCNF Decomposition

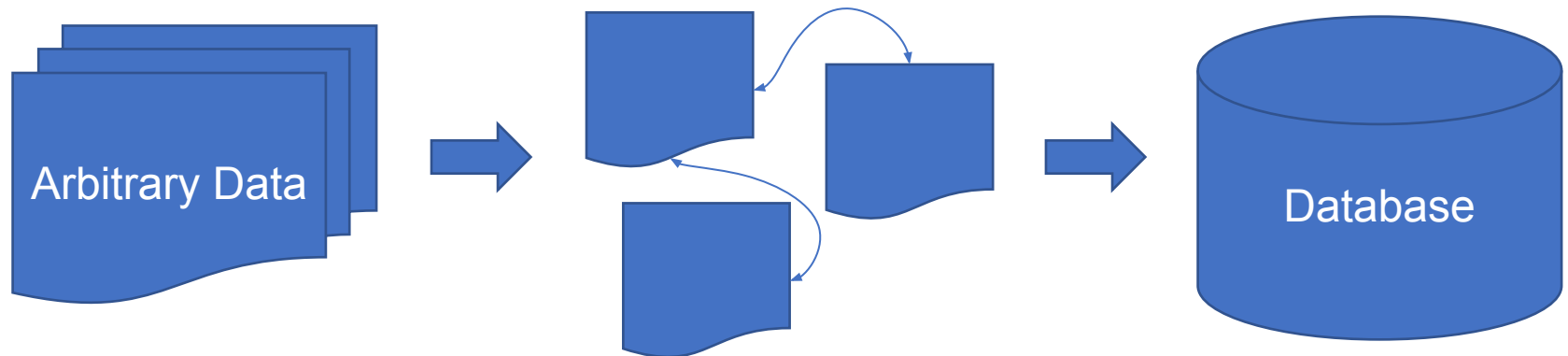
# Informal Design Guidelines

- Semantics of attributes should be self-evident
- Avoid redundant information in tuples
- Avoid NULL values in tuples
- Disallow the generation of “spurious” tuples
  - If certain tuples shouldn’t exist, don’t allow them

# Database Design

## Database Design

**Database Design** or **Logical Design** or **Relational Schema Design** is the process of organizing data into a database model. This is done by considering **what data needs to be stored** and the **interrelationship of the data**.



# Database Design

Database Design is about  
(1) characterizing data and (2) organizing data

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How to talk about properties  
we know or see in the data



# Data Interrelationships

How do we start talking about data interrelationships?

- What rules govern our data?
  - Domain knowledge
    - Dimension vs measure
  - Pattern analysis

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- What rules govern our data?
  - Domain knowledge
    - Dimension vs measure
  - Pattern analysis

The rules that are known to us since we **made them up** or they correlate to **things in the real world**



[ex] An engineer knows that a plane model determines the plane's wingspan

# Think About This



Make a simple directory that can:

- Hold information about name, SSN, phone, and city
- Associate **people** with the **city** they live in
- Associate **people** with any **phone numbers** they have

Name	SSN	Phone	City
Fred	123-45-6789	206-555-9999	Seattle
Fred	123-45-6789	206-555-8888	Seattle
Joe	987-65-4321	415-555-7777	San Francisco

The above instance does the job, but are there issues?

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Anomalies:

- **Redundancy ➡ Slow Update**
  - Change Fred's city to Bellevue (two rows!)
- **Deletion Anomalies**
  - How to delete Joe's phone without deleting Joe?

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# Think About This



We can solve the anomalies by converting this

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into this

Name	SSN	City
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Joe	987-65-4321	San Francisco

SSN	Phone
123-45-6789	206-555-9999
123-45-6789	206-555-8888
987-65-4321	415-555-7777

**How can we systematically avoid anomalies?**

# Functional Dependencies (FDs)

## Definition

If two tuples agree on the attributes

$$A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$$

then they must also agree on the attributes

$$B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m$$

Formally:

$A_1 \dots A_n$  **determines**  $B_1 \dots B_m$

$$A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n \sqsupset B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m$$



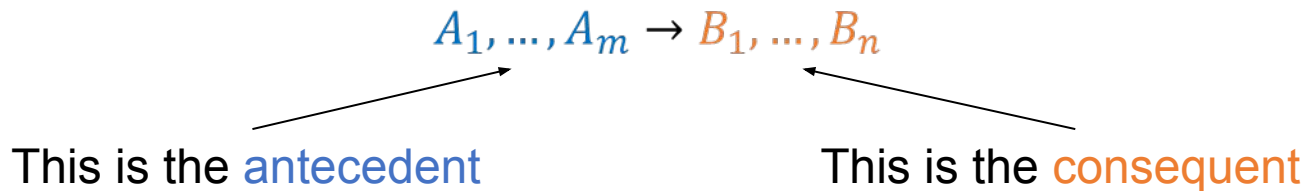
# Data Interrelationships

## Functional Dependency

A **Functional Dependency**  $A_1, \dots, A_m \rightarrow B_1, \dots, B_n$  holds in the relation  $R$  if:

$$\forall t, t' \in R, (t.A_1 = t'.A_1 \wedge \dots \wedge t.A_m = t'.A_m \rightarrow t.B_1 = t'.B_1 \wedge \dots \wedge t.B_n = t'.B_n)$$

Informally, **some attributes determine other attributes**.



**Warning! Dependency does not imply causation!**



# Think About This



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$A_1 \dots A_n$  **determines**  $B_1 \dots B_m$

# Example

An FD holds, or does not hold on an instance:



<b>EmpID</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Position</b>
E0045	Smith	1234	Clerk
E3542	Mike	9876	Salesrep
E1111	Smith	9876	Salesrep
E9999	Mary	1234	Lawyer

**EmpID** ➡ **Name, Phone, Position**

**Position** ➡ **Phone**

**but not Phone ➡ Position**

# Example

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Position ➡ Phone

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# Checking with Queries

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**EmpID**  $\Rightarrow$  **Name, Phone, Position**

**Position**  $\Rightarrow$  **Phone**

but not

**Phone**  $\Rightarrow$  **Position**

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SELECT *
  FROM R1, R2
 WHERE (R1.position = R2.position)
       AND (R1.Phone != R2.Phone)
```

```
SELECT *
  FROM R1, R2
 WHERE (R1.phone = R2.phone)
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If no results, then  
the FD holds!

# Example

name  $\rightarrow$  color  
category  $\rightarrow$  department  
color, category  $\rightarrow$  price

name	category	color	department	price
Gizmo	Gadget	Green	Toys	49
Tweaker	Gadget	Green	Toys	99

Do all the FDs hold on this instance?

# Example

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Do all the FDs hold on this instance?

No!

# Example

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Do all the FDs hold on this instance?

Now they do!

# Example

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name	category	color	department	price
Gizmo	Gadget	Green	Toys	49
Tweaker	Gadget	Green	Toys	49
Gizmo	Stationary	Green	Office-suppl.	59

What about this one ?

# Buzzwords

- FD **holds** or **does not hold** on an instance
- If we can be sure that *every instance of  $R$*  will be one in which a given FD is true, then we say that  **$R$  satisfies the FD**
- If we say that  $R$  satisfies an FD, we are **stating a constraint on  $R$**

# An Interesting Observation

If all these FDs are true:

name  $\Rightarrow$  color  
category  $\Rightarrow$  department  
color, category  $\Rightarrow$  price

Then this FD also holds:

name, category  $\Rightarrow$  price

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If we find out from application domain that a relation satisfies some FDs, it doesn't mean that we found all the FDs that it satisfies!  
There could be more FDs implied by the ones we have.

# Fundamentals of FDs

## Armstrong's Axioms

- Axiom of **Reflexivity** (**Trivial FD**)

If  $B \subseteq A$  then  $A \rightarrow B$

[ex]  $\{name\} \subseteq \{name, job\}$  so  $\{name, job\} \rightarrow \{name\}$

- Axiom of **Augmentation**

If  $A \rightarrow B$  then  $\forall C, AC \rightarrow BC$

[ex]  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name\}$  so  $\{ID, job\} \rightarrow \{name, job\}$

- Axiom of **Transitivity**

If  $A \rightarrow B$  and  $B \rightarrow C$  then  $A \rightarrow C$

[ex]  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name\}$  and  $\{name\} \rightarrow \{initials\}$   
so  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{initials\}$

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[ex]  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name\}$  so  $\{ID, job\} \rightarrow \{name, job\}$

We'll use transitivity all the time

### ▪ Axiom of **Transitivity**

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so  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{initials\}$

# Fundamentals of FDs

## Interesting Secondary Rules

- **Pseudo Transitivity**

If  $A \rightarrow BC$  and  $C \rightarrow D$  then  $A \rightarrow BD$

- **Extensivity**

If  $A \rightarrow B$  then  $A \rightarrow AB$

(Useful when connecting an  $AB \rightarrow CD$  type FD to A via transitivity)

# Fundamentals of FDs

Can I do this to FDs?

I only know  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name\}$

So  $\{ID, \textit{hair color}\} \rightarrow \{name\}$

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Yes! If tuples already agree on ID and name, partitioning the left side by hair color changes nothing.

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Can I do this to FDs?

I only know  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name\}$

So  $\{ID, \textit{hair color}\} \rightarrow \{name\}$

Yes! If tuples already agree on ID and name, partitioning the left side by hair color changes nothing.

Adding more attributes to the left side can never remove attributes in the right side.

# Fundamentals of FDs

What about this?

I only know  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name\}$

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# Fundamentals of FDs

What about this?

I only know  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name\}$

So  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name, \textit{hair color}\}$

No!     E.g.

ID	Name	Hair color
001	Ryan	Brown
001	Ryan	Grey

# Fundamentals of FDs

What about this?

I only know  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name\}$

So  $\{ID\} \rightarrow \{name, \textit{hair color}\}$

No! E.g.

ID	Name	Hair color
001	Ryan	Brown
001	Ryan	Grey

No way to use the axioms to introduce hair color to the right side without also introducing it to the left side.

# Finding Keys

All this talk about FDs sounds awfully similar to keys...

# Closure

## Closure

The **Closure** of the set  $\{A_1, \dots, A_m\}$ , written as  $\{A_1, \dots, A_m\}^+$ , is the set of attributes  $B$  is such that  $A_1, \dots, A_m \rightarrow B$ .

A closure finds **everything a set of attributes determines**.

## Closure (example)

Given the functional dependencies:

- $SSN \rightarrow Name$
- $Name \rightarrow Initials$

We can derive some closures:

- $Name^+ = \{Name, Initials\}$
- $SSN^+ = \{SSN, Name, Initials\}$
- $Initials^+ = \{Initials\}$
- $\{SSN, Initials\}^+ = \{SSN, Name, Initials\}$

Preview: A key is the minimal set of attributes such that its closure contains all the attributes in the table!

# Closure

## Closure Algorithm

Find the closure of  
 $\{A_1, \dots, A_m\}$

$X = \{A_1, \dots, A_m\}$

**Repeat until  $X$  does not change:**

**if**  $B_1, \dots, B_n \rightarrow C$  is a FD **and**  $B_1, \dots, B_n \in X$

**then**  $X \leftarrow X \cup C$

In practice:

Repeated use of transitivity

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In practice:

Repeated use of transitivity

1. Find some attribute(s)  $C$  to add to right side
2. Add them
3. Look back at the FDs to find more  $C$

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1. **name**  $\Rightarrow$  **color**
2. **category**  $\Rightarrow$  **department**
3. **color, category**  $\Rightarrow$  **price**

$\{\text{name, category}\}^+ \supseteq ?$



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$\{\text{name, category}\}^+ \supseteq \{\text{name, category}\}$  [reflexivity]

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We can think of this as X  
in our closure algorithm

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X iteratively grows

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Now X is equal to  
our closure

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$\{\text{name, category}\}^+ = \{\text{name, category, color, department, price}\}$

**Note: If these are all the attributes, (name, category) is a key**



# Finding Keys

What do FDs and Closures do for us?

- Characterize the interrelationships of data
- Able to find keys

# Finding Keys

## Superkey

A **Superkey** is a set of attributes  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  s.t. for any single attribute  $B$ :

$$A_1, \dots, A_n \rightarrow B$$

In other words, for the set of all attributes  $C$  in the relation  $R$ , the set  $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\}$  is a superkey iff  $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\}^+ = C$

## Key

A **Key** is a minimal superkey, i.e. no subset of a key is a superkey.

Superkeys

Keys

# Finding Keys

## Candidate Key

When a relation has multiple keys, each key is a **Candidate Key**.

# Usefulness of Keys in Design

What intuitions do we get from data interrelationships?

- FDs that are not superkeys hint at redundancy
  - If a FD antecedent is **not** a superkey, we can remove redundant information, i.e. the FD consequent

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Fred	123-45-6789	206-555-8888	Seattle
Joe	987-65-4321	415-555-7777	San Francisco

SSN is not a superkey!

# Think About This



We can solve the anomalies by converting this

Name	SSN	Phone	City
Fred	123-45-6789	206-555-9999	Seattle
Fred	123-45-6789	206-555-8888	Seattle
Joe	987-65-4321	415-555-7777	San Francisco

into this

Name	SSN	City
Fred	123-45-6789	Seattle
Joe	987-65-4321	San Francisco

SSN	Phone
123-45-6789	206-555-9999
123-45-6789	206-555-8888
987-65-4321	415-555-7777

**How can we systematically avoid anomalies?**


# Usefulness of Keys in Design

Restaurants(rid, name, rating, popularity)

rid  $\Rightarrow$  name

rid  $\Rightarrow$  rating

rating  $\Rightarrow$  popularity




rid	name	rating	popularity
1	Mee Sum Pastry	3	Respectable
2	Café on the Ave	4	Poppin
3	Guanaco's Tacos	4	Poppin
4	Aladdin Gyro-Cery	5	Poppin



# Usefulness of Keys in Design

Restaurants(rid, name, rating, popularity)

rid  $\Rightarrow$  name  
rid  $\Rightarrow$  rating } Fine because rid is a superkey  
rating  $\Rightarrow$  popularity



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rid  $\Rightarrow$  rating

} Fine because rid is a superkey

rating  $\Rightarrow$  popularity



The diagram shows a horizontal line with two vertical lines extending downwards from it. The left vertical line has an arrow pointing to the 'rid' column of the table. The right vertical line has an arrow pointing to the 'rating' and 'popularity' columns of the table, indicating a functional dependency from 'rid' to these two attributes.

rid	name	rating	popularity
1	Mee Sum Pastry	3	Respectable
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Redundancy!