

# Lecture 12: Design Theory II

# Today's Lecture

1. Boyce-Codd Normal Form
  - ACTIVITY
2. Decompositions & 3NF
  - ACTIVITY
3. MVDs
  - ACTIVITY

# 1. Boyce-Codd Normal Form

# What you will learn about in this section

1. Conceptual Design
2. Boyce-Codd Normal Form
3. The BCNF Decomposition Algorithm
4. ACTIVITY

# Conceptual Design

طراحی مفهومی

# Back to Conceptual Design

Now that we know how to find FDs, it's a straight-forward process:

حالا که میدونیم چطوری وابستگی‌های تابعی رو پیدا کنیم، بقیه‌اش آسونه:

1. Search for “bad” FDs – دنبال وابستگی‌های بد میگردیم
2. If there are any, then *keep decomposing the table into sub-tables* until no more bad FDs – اگر پیدا کردیم، جدول رو تجزیه می‌کنیم تا آن وابستگی‌های بد حذف شوند
3. When done, the database schema is *normalized* – شمای پایگاه‌داده‌ی شما نرمال‌سازی میشه

Recall: there are several normal forms...

## Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF)

- Main idea is that we define “good” and “bad” FDs as follows:
  - ایده‌ی اصلی این است که وابستگی تابعی‌های خوب و بد رو اینطوری تعریف کنیم:
  - $X \rightarrow A$  is a “good FD” if  $X$  is a (super)key
    - In other words, if  $A$  is the set of all attributes
  - $X \rightarrow A$  is a “bad FD” otherwise
- We will try to eliminate the “bad” FDs!
  - سعی می‌کنیم که وابستگی تابعی‌های بد را حذف کنیم.

## Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF)

- Why does this definition of “good” and “bad” FDs make sense?
- If X is *not* a (super)key, it functionally determines *some* of the attributes; therefore, those other attributes can be duplicated
  - Recall: this means there is redundancy
  - And redundancy like this can lead to data anomalies!

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



## Boyce-Codd Normal Form

BCNF is a simple condition for removing anomalies from relations:

A relation  $R$  is in BCNF if:

if  $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\} \rightarrow B$  is a *non-trivial* FD in  $R$   
then  $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\}$  is a **superkey** for  $R$

*Equivalently:*  $\forall$  sets of attributes  $X$ , either  $(X^+ = X)$  or  $(X^+ = \text{all attributes})$

In other words: there are no “bad” FDs

# Example

Name	SSN	PhoneNumber	City
Fred	123-45-6789	206-555-1234	Seattle
Fred	123-45-6789	206-555-6543	Seattle
Joe	987-65-4321	908-555-2121	Westfield
Joe	987-65-4321	908-555-1234	Westfield

$$\{SSN\} \rightarrow \{Name, City\}$$

This FD is *bad*  
because it is not a  
superkey

⇒ Not in BCNF

What is the key?  
 $\{SSN, PhoneNumber\}$

## Example

Name	<u>SSN</u>	City
Fred	123-45-6789	Seattle
Joe	987-65-4321	Madison

<u>SSN</u>	<u>PhoneNumber</u>
123-45-6789	206-555-1234
123-45-6789	206-555-6543
987-65-4321	908-555-2121
987-65-4321	908-555-1234

$$\{SSN\} \rightarrow \{Name, City\}$$

This FD is now  
*good* because it is  
the key

Let's check anomalies:

- Redundancy ?
- Update ?
- Delete ?

Now in BCNF!

# BCNF Decomposition Algorithm

BCNFDecomp(R):

## BCNF Decomposition Algorithm

BCNFDecomp(R):

Find *a set of attributes*  $X$  s.t.:  $X^+ \neq X$  and  $X^+ \neq$   
[all attributes]

Find a set of attributes  $X$   
which has non-trivial  
“bad” FDs, i.e. is not a  
superkey, using closures

## BCNF Decomposition Algorithm

BCNFDecomp(R):

Find a *set of attributes*  $X$  s.t.:  $X^+ \neq X$  and  $X^+ \neq$   
[all attributes]

if (not found) then Return R

If no “bad” FDs found, in  
BCNF!

# BCNF Decomposition Algorithm

BCNFDecomp(R):

Find a *set of attributes*  $X$  s.t.:  $X^+ \neq X$  and  $X^+ \neq$  [all attributes]

if (not found) then Return R

let  $Y = X^+ - X$ ,  $Z = (X^+)^c$

Let  $Y$  be the attributes that  *$X$  functionally determines* (+ that are not in  $X$ )

And let  $Z$  be the *complement*, the other attributes that it *doesn't*

# BCNF Decomposition Algorithm

BCNFDecomp(R):

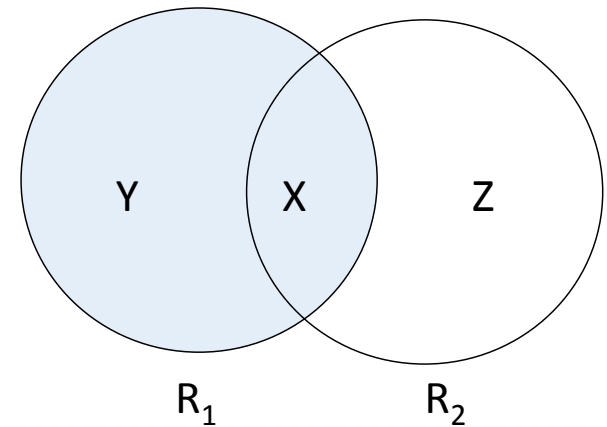
Find a *set of attributes*  $X$  s.t.:  $X^+ \neq X$  and  $X^+ \neq$  [all attributes]

if (not found) then Return R

let  $Y = X^+ - X$ ,  $Z = (X^+)^c$

**decompose** R into  $R_1(X \cup Y)$  and  $R_2(X \cup Z)$

Split into one relation (table) with X plus the attributes that X determines (Y)...





## BCNF Decomposition Algorithm

BCNFDecomp(R):

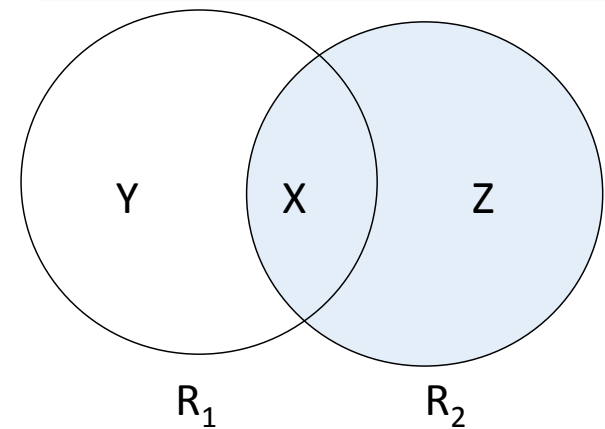
Find a *set of attributes*  $X$  s.t.:  $X^+ \neq X$  and  $X^+ \neq$  [all attributes]

if (not found) then Return R

let  $Y = X^+ - X$ ,  $Z = (X^+)^c$

**decompose** R into  $R_1(X \cup Y)$  and  $R_2(X \cup Z)$

And one relation with  $X$  plus the attributes it *does not* determine ( $Z$ )



## BCNF Decomposition Algorithm

BCNFDecomp(R):

Find a *set of attributes*  $X$  s.t.:  $X^+ \neq X$  and  $X^+ \neq$   
[all attributes]

if (not found) then Return R

let  $Y = X^+ - X$ ,  $Z = (X^+)^c$

decompose R into  $R_1(X \cup Y)$  and  $R_2(X \cup Z)$

Return BCNFDecomp( $R_1$ ), BCNFDecomp( $R_2$ )

Proceed recursively until no  
more “bad” FDs!

## Example

BCNFDecomp(R):

Find a *set of attributes*  $X$  s.t.:  $X^+ \neq X$  and  $X^+ \neq$   
[all attributes]

if (not found) then Return R

let  $Y = X^+ - X$ ,  $Z = (X^+)^c$

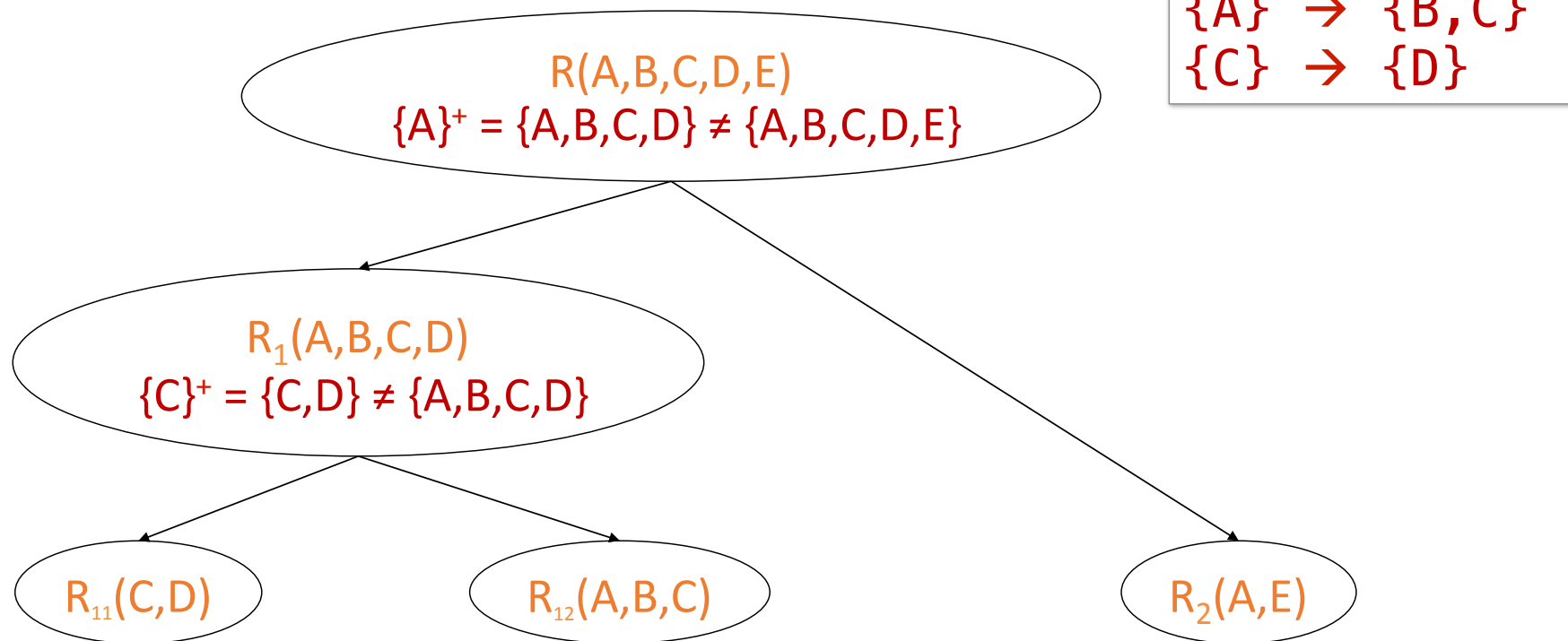
decompose R into  $R_1(X \cup Y)$  and  $R_2(X \cup Z)$

Return BCNFDecomp( $R_1$ ), BCNFDecomp( $R_2$ )

$R(A, B, C, D, E)$

$\{A\} \rightarrow \{B, C\}$   
 $\{C\} \rightarrow \{D\}$

## Example



# Activity-12-1.ipynb

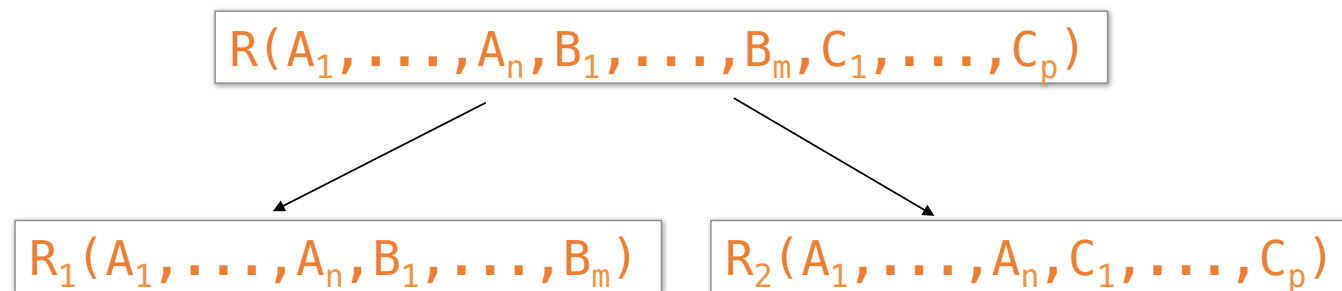
## 2. Decompositions

## Recap: Decompose to remove redundancies

1. We saw that **redundancies** in the data (“bad FDs”) can lead to data anomalies
2. We developed mechanisms to **detect and remove redundancies by decomposing tables into BCNF**
  1. BCNF decomposition is *standard practice*- very powerful & widely used!
3. However, sometimes decompositions can lead to **more subtle unwanted effects...**

When does this happen?

## Decompositions in General



$R_1$  = the *projection* of  $R$  on  $A_1, \dots, A_n, B_1, \dots, B_m$

$R_2$  = the *projection* of  $R$  on  $A_1, \dots, A_n, C_1, \dots, C_p$




# Theory of Decomposition


Name	Price	Category
Gizmo	19.99	Gadget
OneClick	24.99	Camera
Gizmo	19.99	Camera

Sometimes a decomposition is “correct”

I.e. it is a Lossless decomposition



Name	Price
Gizmo	19.99
OneClick	24.99
<del>Gizmo</del>	<del>19.99</del>




Name	Category
Gizmo	Gadget
OneClick	Camera
Gizmo	Camera

# Lossy Decomposition

Name	Price	Category
Gizmo	19.99	Gadget
OneClick	24.99	Camera
Gizmo	19.99	Camera

*However  
sometimes it isn't*

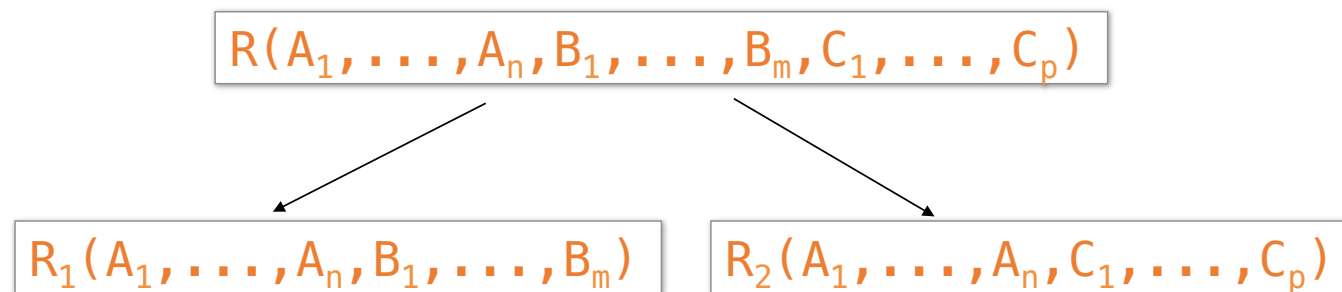
What's wrong  
here?



Name	Category
Gizmo	Gadget
OneClick	Camera
Gizmo	Camera

Price	Category
19.99	Gadget
24.99	Camera
19.99	Camera

# Lossless Decompositions



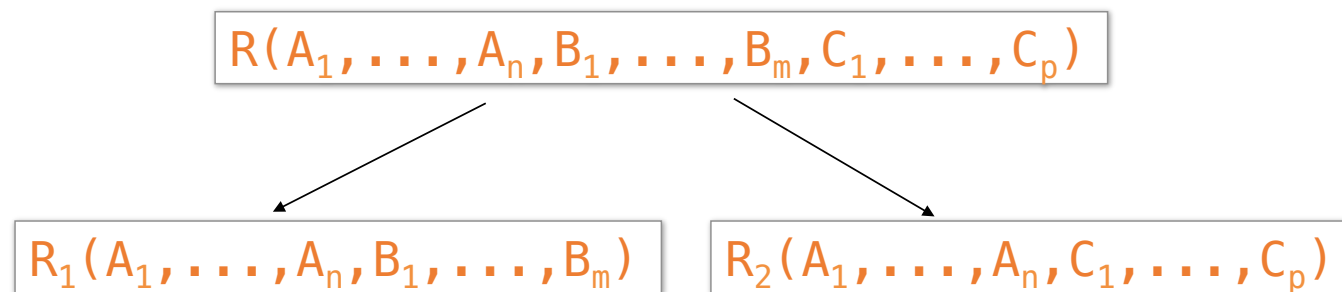
What (set) relationship holds between  $R_1$   
Join  $R_2$  and  $R$  if lossless?

*Hint: Which tuples of  $R$  will be present?*



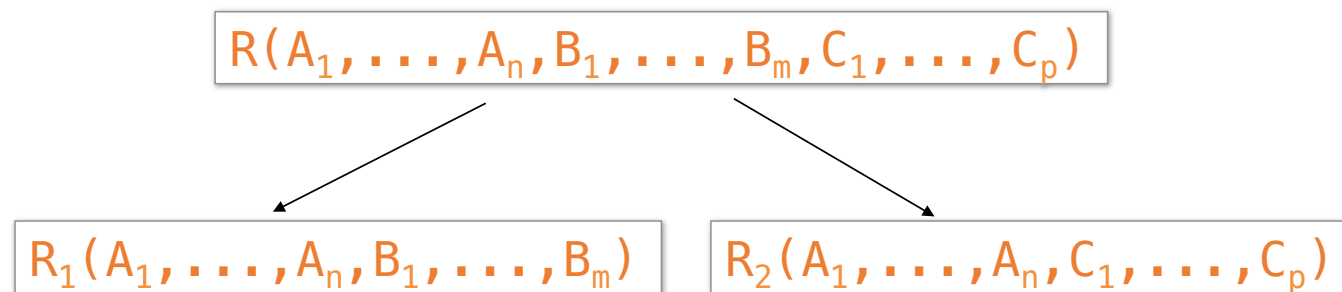
It's lossless  
if we have  
equality!

# Lossless Decompositions



A decomposition  $R$  to  $(R_1, R_2)$  is lossless if  $R = R_1 \text{ Join } R_2$

# Lossless Decompositions



If  $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\} \rightarrow \{B_1, \dots, B_m\}$   
Then the decomposition is lossless

Note: don't need  
 $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\} \rightarrow \{C_1, \dots, C_p\}$

BCNF decomposition is always lossless. Why?

## A problem with BCNF

Problem: To enforce a FD, must reconstruct original relation—*on each insert!*

## A Problem with BCNF

Unit	Company	Product
...	...	...

<u>Unit</u>	Company
...	...

Unit	Product
...	...

$\{\text{Unit}\} \rightarrow \{\text{Company}\}$

$\{\text{Unit}\} \rightarrow \{\text{Company}\}$   
 $\{\text{Company}, \text{Product}\} \rightarrow \{\text{Unit}\}$

We do a BCNF decomposition  
 on a “bad” FD:

$\{\text{Unit}\}^+ = \{\text{Unit}, \text{Company}\}$

We lose the FD  $\{\text{Company}, \text{Product}\} \rightarrow \{\text{Unit}\}!!$

## So Why is that a Problem?

<u>Unit</u>	Company
Galaga99	UW
Bingo	UW

Unit	Product
Galaga99	Databases
Bingo	Databases

$\{\text{Unit}\} \rightarrow \{\text{Company}\}$

Unit	Company	Product
Galaga99	UW	Databases
Bingo	UW	Databases

No problem so far.  
All *local* FD's are satisfied.

Let's put all the data back into a single table again:

Violates the FD  $\{\text{Company}, \text{Product}\} \rightarrow \{\text{Unit}\}!!$



# The Problem

- We started with a table  $R$  and FDs  $F$
- We decomposed  $R$  into BCNF tables  $R_1, R_2, \dots$  with their own FDs  $F_1, F_2, \dots$
- We insert some tuples into each of the relations—which satisfy their local FDs but when reconstruct it violates some FD **across** tables!

Practical Problem: To enforce FD, must reconstruct  $R$ —*on each insert!*

## Possible Solutions

- Various ways to handle so that decompositions are all lossless / no FDs lost
  - For example 3NF- stop short of full BCNF decompositions. See Bonus Activity!
- Usually a tradeoff between redundancy / data anomalies and FD preservation...

BCNF still most common- with additional steps to keep track of lost FDs...

## 3NF

- R is in *Third Normal Form (3NF)* if for every nontrivial FD  $X \rightarrow A$ , either:
  - X is a superkey of R, or
  - A is a member of at least one key of R
- Tradeoff:
  - We can check all FD's in the decomposed relation
  - But now we might have redundancy due to FD's
- Example: (Unit, Company, Product) is in 3NF, but not in BCNF

### وابستگی‌های چند مقداری - MVDs. 3.

# What you will learn about in this section

1. MVDs

2. ACTIVITY

## Multi-Value Dependencies (MVDs)

- A multi-value dependency (MVD) is another type of dependency that could hold in our data, ***which is not captured by FDs***
- Formal definition:
  - Given a relation **R** having attribute set **A**, and two sets of attributes **X, Y**  $\subseteq A$
  - The ***multi-value dependency (MVD)***  $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$  holds on R if
  - ***for any tuples  $t_1, t_2 \in R$  s.t.  $t_1[X] = t_2[X]$ , there exists a tuple  $t_3$  s.t.:***
    - $t_1[X] = t_2[X] = t_3[X]$
    - $t_1[Y] = t_3[Y]$
    - $t_2[A \setminus Y] = t_3[A \setminus Y]$ 
      - Where  $A \setminus B$  means “elements of set A not in set B”

# Multi-Value Dependencies (MVDs)

- One less formal, literal way to phrase the definition of an MVD:
- **The MVD  $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$**  holds on R if for any pair of tuples with the same X values, the “swapped” pair of tuples with the same X values, but the other permutations of Y and A\Y values, is also in R

Ex:  $X = \{x\}$ ,  $Y = \{y\}$ :

x	y	z
1	0	1
1	1	0



For  $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$  to hold  
must have...

x	y	z
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

Note the  
connection to a  
local *cross-product*...

# Multi-Value Dependencies (MVDs)

- Another way to understand MVDs, in terms of *conditional independence*:
- **The MVD  $X \twoheadrightarrow Y$**  holds on R if given X, Y is conditionally independent of  $A \setminus Y$  and vice versa...

Here, given  $x = 1$ , we know for ex. that:

$y = 0 \rightarrow z = 1$

I.e. z is conditionally *dependent* on y given x

x	y	z
1	0	1
1	1	0

Here, this is not the case!

I.e. z is conditionally *independent* of y given x

x	y	z
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1



# Multiple Value Dependencies (MVDs)

A “real life” example...



*Grad student CA thinks:  
“Hmm... what is real life??  
Watching a movie over the  
weekend?”*

## MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

Movie_theater	film_name	snack
Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Ramen
Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Plain Pasta

Are there any functional dependencies that might hold here?

No...

And yet it seems like there is some pattern / dependency...

## MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

Movie_theater	film_name	snack
Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Ramen
Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Plain Pasta

For a given movie theatre...

## MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

Movie_theater	film_name	snack
Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Ramen
Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Plain Pasta

For a given movie theatre...

Given a set of movies and snacks...

# MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

Movie_theater	film_name	snack
Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Ramen
Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Plain Pasta

For a given movie theatre...

Given a set of movies and snacks...

Any movie / snack combination is possible!

# MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

	Movie_theater (A)	film_name (B)	Snack (C)
$t_1$	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
$t_2$	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
	Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Ramen
	Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Plain Pasta

More formally, we write  $\{A\} \twoheadrightarrow \{B\}$  if for any tuples  $t_1, t_2$  s.t.  $t_1[A] = t_2[A]$

# MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

	Movie_theater (A)	film_name (B)	Snack (C)
$t_1$	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
$t_3$	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
$t_2$	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
	Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Ramen
	Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Plain Pasta

More formally, we write  $\{A\} \twoheadrightarrow \{B\}$  if for any tuples  $t_1, t_2$  s.t.  $t_1[A] = t_2[A]$  there is a tuple  $t_3$  s.t.

- $t_3[A] = t_1[A]$

# MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

	Movie_theater (A)	film_name (B)	Snack (C)
$t_1$	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
$t_3$	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
$t_2$	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
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- $t_3[A] = t_1[A]$
- $t_3[B] = t_1[B]$



# MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

	Movie_theater (A)	film_name (B)	Snack (C)
$t_1$	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
$t_3$	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
$t_2$	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
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More formally, we write  $\{A\} \twoheadrightarrow \{B\}$  if for any tuples  $t_1, t_2$  s.t.  $t_1[A] = t_2[A]$  there is a tuple  $t_3$  s.t.

- $t_3[A] = t_1[A]$
- $t_3[B] = t_1[B]$
- and  $t_3[R \setminus B] = t_2[R \setminus B]$

Where  $R \setminus B$  is “R minus B” i.e. the attributes of R not in B

# MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

	Movie_theater (A)	film_name (B)	Snack (C)
t <sub>2</sub>	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
t <sub>3</sub>	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
t <sub>1</sub>	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
	Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Ramen
	Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Plain Pasta

Note this also works!

Remember, an MVD holds over *a relation or an instance*, so defn. must hold for every applicable pair...

# MVDs: Movie Theatre Example

	Movie_theater (A)	film_name (B)	Snack (C)
t <sub>2</sub>	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Kale Chips
	Rains 216	Star Trek: The Wrath of Kahn	Burrito
t <sub>3</sub>	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Kale Chips
t <sub>1</sub>	Rains 216	Lord of the Rings: Concatenated & Extended Edition	Burrito
	Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Ramen
	Rains 218	Star Wars: The Boba Fett Prequel	Plain Pasta

This expresses a sort of dependency (= data redundancy) that we *can't* express with FDs

*\* Actually, it expresses conditional independence (between film and snack given movie theatre)!*

# Activity-12-2.ipynb

# Summary

- Constraints allow one to reason about **redundancy** in the data
- Normal forms describe how to **remove** this redundancy by **decomposing** relations
  - Elegant—by representing data appropriately certain errors are essentially impossible
  - For FDs, BCNF is the normal form.
- A tradeoff for insert performance: 3NF