



Module 24

Partha Pratim  
Das

Objectives &  
Outline

Algorithms for  
FDs

Attribute Set Closure

Extraneous  
Attributes

Equivalence of FD  
Sets

Canonical Cover of  
FDs

Practice Problems

Module Summary

# Database Management Systems

## Module 24: Relational Database Design/4

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## Module 24

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### Objectives & Outline

#### Algorithms for FDs

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#### Module Summary

- Introduced the theory of functional dependencies
- Discussed issues in "good" design in the context of functional dependencies



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#### Module Summary

- To Learn Algorithms for Properties of Functional Dependencies



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#### Module Summary

- Algorithms for Functional Dependencies



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# Algorithms for Functional Dependencies



# Attribute Set Closure

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- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$
- $F = \{A \rightarrow B, A \rightarrow C, CG \rightarrow H, CG \rightarrow I, B \rightarrow H\}$
- $(AG)^+$ 
  - a)  $result = AG$
  - b)  $result = ABCG \quad (A \rightarrow C \text{ and } A \rightarrow B)$
  - c)  $result = ABCGH \quad (CG \rightarrow H \text{ and } CG \subseteq AGBC)$
  - d)  $result = ABCGHI \quad (CG \rightarrow I \text{ and } CG \subseteq AGBCH)$
- Is  $AG$  a candidate key?
  - a) Is  $AG$  a super key?
    - i) Does  $AG \rightarrow R? == \text{Is } (AG)^+ \supseteq R$
  - b) Is any subset of  $AG$  a superkey?
    - i) Does  $A \rightarrow R? == \text{Is } (A)^+ \supseteq R$
    - ii) Does  $G \rightarrow R? == \text{Is } (G)^+ \supseteq R$



# Attribute Set Closure: Uses

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There are several uses of the attribute closure algorithm:

- Testing for superkey:
  - To test if  $\alpha$  is a superkey, we compute  $\alpha^+$ , and check if  $\alpha^+$  contains all attributes of  $R$ .
- Testing functional dependencies
  - To check if a functional dependency  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  holds (or, in other words, is in  $F^+$ ), just check if  $\beta \subseteq \alpha^+$ .
  - That is, we compute  $\alpha^+$  by using attribute closure, and then check if it contains  $\beta$ .
  - Is a simple and cheap test, and very useful
- Computing closure of  $F$ 
  - For each  $\gamma \subseteq R$ , we find the closure  $\gamma^+$ , and for each  $S \subseteq \gamma^+$ , we output a functional dependency  $\gamma \rightarrow S$ .



# Extraneous Attributes

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- Consider a set  $F$  of FDs and the FD  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  in  $F$ .
  - Attribute  $A$  is **extraneous** in  $\alpha$  if  $A \in \alpha$  and  $F$  logically implies  $(F - \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{(\alpha - A) \rightarrow \beta\}$ .
  - Attribute  $A$  is **extraneous** in  $\beta$  if  $A \in \beta$  and the set of FDs  $(F - \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow (\beta - A)\}$  logically implies  $F$ .
- *Note:* Implication in the opposite direction is trivial in each of the cases above, since a “stronger” functional dependency always implies a weaker one
- Example: Given  $F = \{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow C\}$ 
  - $B$  is extraneous in  $AB \rightarrow C$  because  $\{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow C\}$  logically implies  $A \rightarrow C$  (that is, the result of dropping  $B$  from  $AB \rightarrow C$ ).
  - $A^+ = AC$  in  $\{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow C\}$
- Example: Given  $F = \{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow CD\}$ 
  - $C$  is extraneous in  $AB \rightarrow CD$  since  $AB \rightarrow C$  can be inferred even after deleting  $C$
  - $AB^+ = ABCD$  in  $\{A \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow D\}$





# Extraneous Attributes (2): Tests

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Module Summary

- Consider a set  $F$  of functional dependencies and the functional dependency  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  in  $F$ .
- To test if attribute  $A \in \alpha$  is extraneous in  $\alpha$ 
  - a) Compute  $(\{\alpha\} - A)^+$  using the dependencies in  $F$
  - b) Check that  $(\{\alpha\} - A)^+$  contains  $\beta$ ; if it does,  $A$  is extraneous in  $\alpha$
- To test if attribute  $A \in \beta$  is extraneous in  $\beta$ 
  - a) Compute  $\alpha^+$  using only the dependencies in  $F' = (F - \{\alpha \rightarrow \beta\}) \cup \{\alpha \rightarrow (\beta - A)\}$ ,
  - b) Check that  $\alpha^+$  contains  $A$ ; if it does,  $A$  is extraneous in  $\beta$



# Equivalence of Sets of Functional Dependencies

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- Let  $F$  &  $G$  are two functional dependency sets.
  - These two sets  $F$  &  $G$  are equivalent if  $F^+ = G^+$ . That is:  
 $(F^+ = G^+) \Leftrightarrow (F^+ \Rightarrow G \text{ and } G^+ \Rightarrow F)$
  - Equivalence means that every functional dependency in  $F$  can be inferred from  $G$ , and every functional dependency in  $G$  can be inferred from  $F$
- $F$  and  $G$  are equal only if
  - $F$  covers  $G$ : Means that all functional dependency of  $G$  are logically members of functional dependency set  $F \Rightarrow F^+ \supseteq G$ .
  - $G$  covers  $F$ : Means that all functional dependency of  $F$  are logically members of functional dependency set  $G \Rightarrow G^+ \supseteq F$ .

Condition	CASES			
<b>F Covers G</b>	True	True	False	False
<b>G Covers F</b>	True	False	True	False
<b>Result</b>	$F=G$	$F \supset G$	$G \supset F$	No Comparison



# Canonical Cover

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Module Summary

- Sets of FDs may have redundant dependencies that can be inferred from the others
- Can we have some kind of "optimal" or "minimal" set of FDs wto work with?
- A **Canonical Cover** for  $F$  is a set of dependencies  $F_c$  such that ALL the following properties are satisfied:
  - $F^+ = F_c^+$ . Or,
    - ▷  $F$  logically implies all dependencies in  $F_c$
    - ▷  $F_c$  logically implies all dependencies in  $F$
  - No functional dependency in  $F_c$  contains an extraneous attribute
  - Each left side of functional dependency in  $F_c$  is unique. That is, there are no two dependencies  $\alpha_1 \rightarrow \beta_1$  and  $\alpha_2 \rightarrow \beta_2$  in such that  $\alpha_1 \rightarrow \alpha_2$
- Intuitively, a **Canonical cover** of  $F$  is a **minimal** set of FDs
  - Equivalent to  $F$
  - Having no redundant FDs
  - No redundant parts of FDs
- **Minimal / Irreducible Set of Functional Dependencies**



# Canonical Cover (2): Example

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- For example:  $A \rightarrow C$  is redundant in:  $\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow C\}$
- Parts of a functional dependency may be redundant
  - For example: on RHS:  $\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow CD\}$  can be simplified to  $\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow D\}$ 
    - In the forward: (1)  $A \rightarrow CD \Rightarrow A \rightarrow C$  and  $A \rightarrow D$   
(2)  $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \Rightarrow A \rightarrow C$
    - In the reverse: (1)  $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \Rightarrow A \rightarrow C$   
(2)  $A \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow D \Rightarrow A \rightarrow CD$
  - For example: on LHS:  $\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, AC \rightarrow D\}$  can be simplified to  $\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow D\}$ 
    - In the forward: (1)  $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \Rightarrow A \rightarrow C \Rightarrow A \rightarrow AC$   
(2)  $A \rightarrow AC, AC \rightarrow D \Rightarrow A \rightarrow D$
    - In the reverse:  $A \rightarrow D \Rightarrow AC \rightarrow D$



# Canonical Cover (3): RHS

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- $\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow CD\} \Rightarrow \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow D\}$ 
  - (1)  $A \rightarrow CD \Rightarrow A \rightarrow C$  and  $A \rightarrow D$
  - (2)  $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \Rightarrow A \rightarrow C$
  - $A^+ = ABCD$
- $\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow D\} \Rightarrow \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow CD\}$ 
  - $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \Rightarrow A \rightarrow C$
  - $A \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow D \Rightarrow A \rightarrow CD$
  - $A^+ = ABCD$

# Canonical Cover (4): LHS

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Module Summary

- $\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, AC \rightarrow D\} \Rightarrow \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow D\}$ 
  - $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \Rightarrow A \rightarrow C \Rightarrow A \rightarrow AC$
  - $A \rightarrow AC, AC \rightarrow D \Rightarrow A \rightarrow D$
  - $A^+ = ABCD$
- $\{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow D\} \Rightarrow \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, AC \rightarrow D\}$ 
  - $A \rightarrow D \Rightarrow AC \rightarrow D$
  - $AC^+ = ABCD$



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Module Summary

- To compute a canonical cover for  $F$ :

**repeat**

Use the union rule to replace any dependencies in  $F$

$\alpha_1 \rightarrow \beta_1$  and  $\alpha_1 \rightarrow \beta_2$  with  $\alpha_1 \rightarrow \beta_1\beta_2$

Find a functional dependency  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  with an

extraneous attribute either in  $\alpha$  or in  $\beta$

/\* Note: test for extraneous attributes done using  $F_c$ , not  $F$  \*/

If an extraneous attribute is found, delete it from  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$

**until**  $F$  does not change

- Note: Union rule may become applicable after some extraneous attributes have been deleted, so it has to be re-applied



# Canonical Cover (6): Example

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- $R = (A, B, C)$   
 $F = \{A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow B, AB \rightarrow C\}$
- Combine  $A \rightarrow BC$  and  $A \rightarrow B$  into  $A \rightarrow BC$ 
  - Set is now  $\{A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow C, AB \rightarrow C\}$
- $A$  is extraneous in  $AB \rightarrow C$ 
  - Check if the result of deleting  $A$  from  $AB \rightarrow C$  is implied by the other dependencies
    - ▷ Yes: in fact,  $B \rightarrow C$  is already present!
  - Set is now  $\{A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow C\}$
- $C$  is extraneous in  $A \rightarrow BC$ 
  - Check if  $A \rightarrow C$  is logically implied by  $A \rightarrow B$  and the other dependencies
    - ▷ Yes: using transitivity on  $A \rightarrow B$  and  $B \rightarrow C$ .
      - Can use attribute closure of  $A$  in more complex cases
- The canonical cover is:  $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C$





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Module Summary

- **Find if a given functional dependency is implied from a set of Functional Dependencies:**

a) For:  $A \rightarrow BC, CD \rightarrow E, E \rightarrow C, D \rightarrow AEH, ABH \rightarrow BD, DH \rightarrow BC$

i) Check:  $BCD \rightarrow H$

ii) Check:  $AED \rightarrow C$

b) For:  $AB \rightarrow CD, AF \rightarrow D, DE \rightarrow F, C \rightarrow G, F \rightarrow E, G \rightarrow A$

i) Check:  $CF \rightarrow DF$

ii) Check:  $BG \rightarrow E$

iii) Check:  $AF \rightarrow G$

iv) Check:  $AB \rightarrow EF$

c) For:  $A \rightarrow BC, B \rightarrow E, CD \rightarrow EF$

i) Check:  $AD \rightarrow F$



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Module Summary

- **Find Super Key using Functional Dependencies:**

a) Relational Schema  $R(ABCDE)$ . Functional dependencies:

$AB \rightarrow C, DE \rightarrow B, CD \rightarrow E$

b) Relational Schema  $R(ABCDE)$ . Functional dependencies:

$AB \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow D, B \rightarrow EA$



# Practice Problems on Functional Dependencies (3)

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Module Summary

- **Find Candidate Key using Functional Dependencies:**

a) Relational Schema  $R(ABCDE)$ . Functional dependencies:

$AB \rightarrow C, DE \rightarrow B, CD \rightarrow E$

b) Relational Schema  $R(ABCDE)$ . Functional dependencies:

$AB \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow D, B \rightarrow EA$

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Module Summary

- **Find Prime and Non Prime Attributes using Functional Dependencies:**

- a)  $R(ABCDEF)$  having FDs  $\{AB \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow D, D \rightarrow E, F \rightarrow B, E \rightarrow F\}$
- b)  $R(ABCDEF)$  having FDs  $\{AB \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow DE, E \rightarrow F, C \rightarrow B\}$
- c)  $R(ABCDEFGH IJ)$  having FDs  $\{AB \rightarrow C, A \rightarrow DE, B \rightarrow F, F \rightarrow GH, D \rightarrow IJ\}$
- d)  $R(ABDLPT)$  having FDs  $\{B \rightarrow PT, A \rightarrow D, T \rightarrow L\}$
- e)  $R(ABCDEFGH)$  having FDs  
 $\{E \rightarrow G, AB \rightarrow C, AC \rightarrow B, AD \rightarrow E, B \rightarrow D, BC \rightarrow A\}$
- f)  $R(ABCDE)$  having FDs  $\{A \rightarrow BC, CD \rightarrow E, B \rightarrow D, E \rightarrow A\}$
- g)  $R(ABCDEH)$  having FDs  $\{A \rightarrow B, BC \rightarrow D, E \rightarrow C, D \rightarrow A\}$

- **Prime Attributes:** Attribute set that belongs to any candidate key are called Prime Attributes
  - It is union of all the candidate key attribute:  $\{CK_1 \cup CK_2 \cup CK_3 \cup \dots\}$
  - If Prime attribute determined by other attribute set, then more than one candidate key is possible.
  - For example, If A is Candidate Key, and  $X \rightarrow A$ , then, X is also Candidate Key.
- **Non Prime Attribute:** Attribute set does not belong to any candidate key are called Non Prime Attributes



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Module Summary

- **Check the Equivalence of a Pair of Sets of Functional Dependencies:**

a) Consider the two sets  $F$  and  $G$  with their FDs as below :

i)  $F : A \rightarrow C, AC \rightarrow D, E \rightarrow AD, E \rightarrow H$

ii)  $G : A \rightarrow CD, E \rightarrow AH$

b) Consider the two sets  $P$  and  $Q$  with their FDs as below :

i)  $P : A \rightarrow B, AB \rightarrow C, D \rightarrow ACE$

ii)  $Q : A \rightarrow BC, D \rightarrow AE$



# Practice Problems on Functional Dependencies (6)

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Module Summary

- **Find the Minimal Cover or Irreducible Sets or Canonical Cover of a Set of Functional Dependencies:**

a)  $AB \rightarrow CD, BC \rightarrow D$

b)  $ABCD \rightarrow E, E \rightarrow D, AC \rightarrow D, A \rightarrow B$



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Module Summary

- Studied Algorithms for Properties of Functional Dependencies

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