Canonical Cover

In the case of updating the database, the responsibility of the system is to check whether the existing functional dependencies are getting violated during the process of updating. In case of a violation of functional dependencies in the new database state, the rollback of the system must take place.

A canonical cover or irreducible a set of functional dependencies FD is a simplified set of FD that has a similar closure as the original set FD.

A set of FD FC is called canonical cover of F if each FD in FC is a −

- Simple FD.
- Left reduced FD.
- Non-redundant FD.

Extraneous attributes

An attribute of an FD is said to be extraneous if we can remove it without changing the closure of the set of FD.

Example: Given a relational Schema R(A, B, C, D) and set of Function Dependency FD = { B → A, AD → BC, C → ABD }. Find the canonical cover?

Solution: Given FD = { B → A, AD → BC, C → ABD }, now decompose the FD using decomposition rule(Armstrong Axiom).

1. B → A
2. AD → B (using decomposition inference rule on AD → BC)
3. AD → C (using decomposition inference rule on AD → BC)
4. C → A (using decomposition inference rule on C → ABD)
5. C → B (using decomposition inference rule on C → ABD)
6. C → D (using decomposition inference rule on C → ABD)

Now set of FD = { B → A, AD → B, AD → C, C → A, C → B, C → D }

The next step is to find closure of the left side of each of the given FD by including that FD and excluding that FD, if closure in both cases are same then that FD is redundant and we remove that FD from the given set, otherwise if both the closures are different then we do not exclude that FD.

Calculating closure of all FD { B → A, AD → B, AD → C, C → A, C → B, C → D }

1a. Closure B+ = BA using FD = { **B → A**, AD → B, AD → C, C → A, C → B, C → D }

1b. Closure B+ = B using FD = { AD → B, AD → C, C → A, C → B, C → D }

From 1 a and 1 b, we found that both the Closure(by including **B → A** and excluding **B → A**) are not equivalent, hence FD B → A is important and cannot be removed from the set of FD.

2 a. Closure AD+ = ADBC using FD = { B →A, **AD → B**, AD → C, C → A, C → B, C → D }

2 b. Closure AD+ = ADCB using FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → A, C → B, C → D }

From 2 a and 2 b, we found that both the Closure (by including **AD → B** and excluding **AD → B**) are equivalent, hence FD **AD → B** is not important and can be removed from the set of FD.

Hence resultant FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → A, C → B, C → D }

3 a. Closure AD+ = ADCB using FD = { B →A, **AD → C**, C → A, C → B, C → D }

3 b. Closure AD+ = AD using FD = { B → A, C → A, C → B, C → D }

From 3 a and 3 b, we found that both the Closure (by including **AD → C** and excluding **AD → C**) are not equivalent, hence FD AD → C is important and cannot be removed from the set of FD.

Hence resultant FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → A, C → B, C → D }

4 a. Closure C+ = CABD using FD = { B →A, AD → C, **C → A**, C → B, C → D }

4 b. Closure C+ = CBDA using FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → B, C → D }

From 4 a and 4 b, we found that both the Closure (by including **C → A** and excluding **C → A**) are equivalent, hence FD **C → A** is not important and can be removed from the set of FD.

Hence resultant FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → B, C → D }

5 a. Closure C+ = CBDA using FD = { B →A, AD → C, **C → B**, C → D }

5 b. Closure C+ = CD using FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → D }

From 5 a and 5 b, we found that both the Closure (by including **C → B** and excluding **C → B**) are not equivalent, hence FD **C → B** is important and cannot be removed from the set of FD.

Hence resultant FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → B, C → D }

6 a. Closure C+ = CDBA using FD = { B →A, AD → C, C → B, **C → D** }

6 b. Closure C+ = CBA using FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → B }

From 6 a and 6 b, we found that both the Closure(by including **C → D** and excluding **C → D**) are not equivalent, hence FD **C → D** is important and cannot be removed from the set of FD.

Hence resultant FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → B, C → D }

- Since FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → B, C → D } is resultant FD, now we have checked the redundancy of attribute, since the left side of FD AD → C has two attributes, let's check their importance, i.e. whether they both are important or only one.

Closure AD+ = ADCB using FD = { B →A, **AD** → **C**, C → B, C → D }

Closure A+ = A using FD = { B →A, **AD** → **C**, C → B, C → D }

Closure D+ = D using FD = { B →A, **AD** → **C**, C → B, C → D }

Since the closure of AD+, A+, D+ that we found are not all equivalent, hence in FD AD → C, both A and D are important attributes and cannot be removed.

Hence resultant FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → B, C → D } and we can rewrite as

FD = { B → A, AD → C, C → BD } is Canonical Cover of FD = { B → A, AD → BC, C → ABD }.