



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

INFO20003 Database Systems

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Tutorial 9
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- 1. Review of normalization concepts - 15min**
- 2. Normalisation exercises - 35min**

1. Anomalies

What are them?

Something wrong with the existing database

Like redundancy, error occurrence when manipulating data

Why we need to identify and fix them?

Make database more efficient and less error-prone

How: **Normalization!**

Types of Anomalies:

1. **update** anomaly
2. **deletion** anomaly
3. **insertion** anomaly

1. Anomalies Types:

Update anomaly: data inconsistency that results from data redundancy and partial update when one or more instances of duplicated data are updated but not all.

Deletion anomaly: unintentional loss of certain attribute values due to the deletion of other data for other attributes.

Insertion anomaly: the inability to add certain attributes to a database due to absence of other attributes.

1. Anomalies Example:

CourseNumber	Tutor	Room	Seats
INFO20003	Farah	Alice Hoy 109	30
COMP10001	Farah	EDS 6	25
INFO30005	Patrick	Sidney Myer G09	20
COMP20005	Alan	Sidney Myer G09	20

Update anomaly: suppose the room Sidney Myer G09 has been improved, and there are now 30 seats. In this single entity, we will have to update all other rows where room = Sidney Myer G09.

Deletion anomaly: If we remove COMP10001 from the above table, the details of room EDS 6 are also deleted.

Insertion anomaly: a new room “NewAlice109” has been built but has not yet been timetabled for any course or members of staff.

2. Functional dependency:

- Occurs when a subset of R's attributes $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ **determine** attributes $\{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n\}$
- If two records have the same A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n then they have the same B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n .
- A relation R satisfies a functional dependency (FD) if and only if the FD is true for every instance of R.
- Written as:

$$\mathbf{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n \rightarrow B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n}$$

3. Determinants:

- Attributes that **determine** the value of other attributes are called **determinants**
- Example:

Person (ssn, name, birthdate, address, age)

birthdate \rightarrow age

ssn \rightarrow name, birthdate, age, address

birthdate and *ssn* are determinants, as *birthdate* determines *age* and *ssn* determines the rest of the attributes.

4. Key and non-key attributes:

- A *key* is a set of attributes $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ for a relation R
- such that $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ **functionally determines** all other attributes of R and no subset of $\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\}$ functionally determines all other attributes of R. The key must be minimal.

Example:

Person (ssn, name, birthdate, address, age)

ssn is the **minimal key** of the Person relation but $\{ssn, name\}$ is not (it is a “super key”).

5. Partial functional dependency

- Arises when one or more non-key attributes are functionally determined by a *subset* of the primary key.

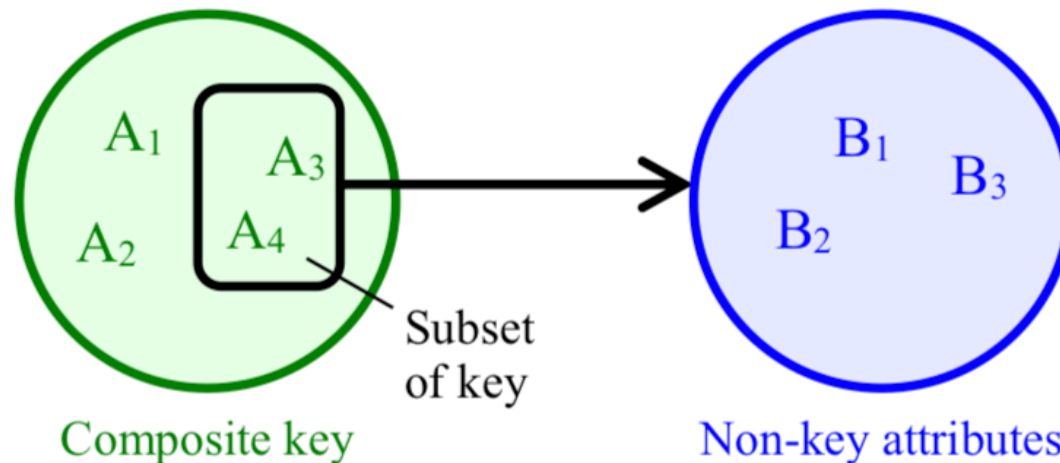


Figure 1: A partial functional dependency (subset of composite key determining some non-key attributes)

5. Partial functional dependency Examples:

- R (A, B, C, D)
- composite primary key: (A, D)
- functional dependencies: $A \rightarrow B$, $D \rightarrow C$.
- AD determines BC ($AD \rightarrow BC$: AD can uniquely identify BC).
- Functional dependencies like $A \rightarrow B$ and $D \rightarrow C$ are called ***partial functional dependencies***.
- Order (Order#, Item#, Desc, Qty)
- Order# and Item# are the keys.
- item description, Desc, can be determined by Item# alone
(***partial functional dependencies***)

6. Transitive functional dependency

- A non-key attribute is determined by **another non-key attribute** (or by a subset of PK and non-key attributes), such a dependency is called a *transitive functional dependency*.

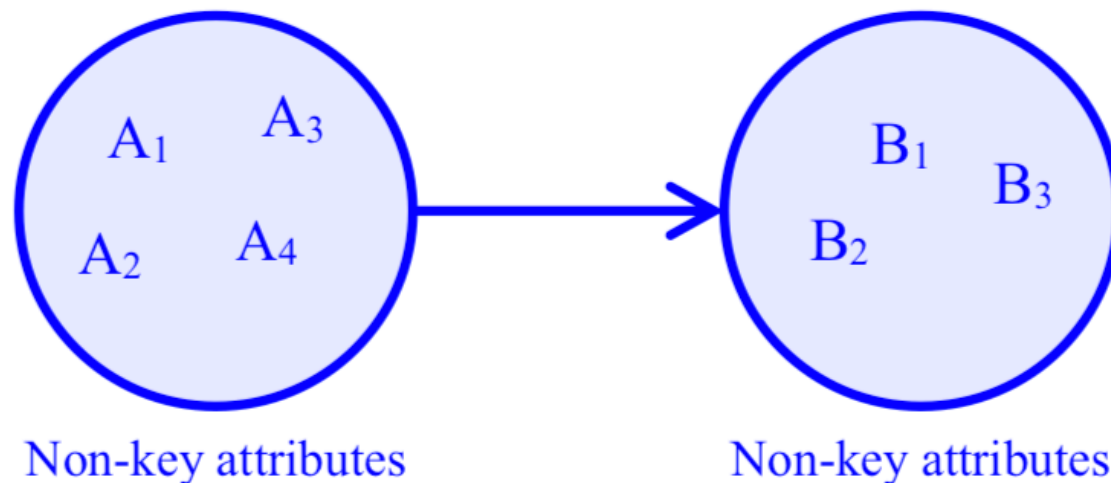


Figure 2: A transitive functional dependency (non-key attributes determining other non-key attributes)



7. Armstrong's Axioms

- **What is it used for?**
 - Given a relation and a set of **functional dependencies** (FDs), we can discover **new functional dependencies** using some rules generally known as **Armstrong's Axioms**.
- **Types:**
 - Reflexivity (also known as "trivial FDs")
 - Augmentation
 - Transitivity



7. Armstrong's Axioms

- **Reflexivity**

- $R (\{A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n\} \text{ and } \{B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n\})$, B is a subset of A

$$B \subseteq A \Rightarrow A \rightarrow B$$

- Example: Person (ssn, name, birthdate, address, age)

$$\text{ssn, name} \rightarrow \text{name}$$

- **Augmentation**

- Consider another subset of attributes $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$

$$A \rightarrow B \Rightarrow AC \rightarrow BC$$

- Example: Person (ssn, name, birthdate, address, age)

$$\text{ssn, name, age} \rightarrow \text{name, age}$$

7. Armstrong's Axioms

- **Transitivity**

$$A \rightarrow B \text{ and } B \rightarrow C \implies A \rightarrow C$$

- Example: Person (ssn, name, birthdate, address, age)

$$\text{ssn} \rightarrow \text{birthdate}, \text{birthdate} \rightarrow \text{age} \implies \text{ssn} \rightarrow \text{age}$$

8. Normalization and normal forms

- Normalization: a technique used to iteratively improve relations to **remove undesired redundancy** by decomposing relations and eliminating anomalies.
- Process is iterative
- Process can be performed in stages generally referred to as Normal Forms.

8. Normalization and normal forms

- **First Normal Form (1NF)**, the relation is analysed and all **repeating groups** are identified to be decomposed into new relations.
- **Second Normal Form (2NF)**, all the **partial dependencies** are resolved/removed.
- **Third Normal Form (3NF)**: all the **transitive dependencies** are removed.

Any questions?

1. Consider the relation Diagnosis with the schema **Diagnosis (DoctorID, DocName, PatientID, DiagnosisClass)** and the following functional dependencies:

$\text{DoctorID} \rightarrow \text{DocName}$

$\text{DoctorID, PatientID} \rightarrow \text{DiagnosisClass}$

Consider the following instance of Diagnosis:

DoctorID	DocName	PatientID	DiagnosisClass
D001	Alicia	P888	Flu
D002	John	P999	Lactose intolerance
D003	Jennifer	P000	Flu
D002	John	P111	Fever

Identify **different anomalies** that can arise from this schema using the above instance.



Q1: What is the key for Diagnosis

DoctorID	DocName	PatientID	DiagnosisClass
D001	Alicia	P888	Flu
D002	John	P999	Lactose intolerance
D003	Jennifer	P000	Flu
D002	John	P111	Fever

(DoctorID, PatientID)

since together they are sufficient to uniquely identify each record

Q2: Does Insertion anomaly exist? What is it?

DoctorID	DocName	PatientID	DiagnosisClass
D001	Alicia	P888	Flu
D002	John	P999	Lactose intolerance
D003	Jennifer	P000	Flu
D002	John	P111	Fever

Yes.

Example:

Inserting data for a new doctor like DoctorID and DocName, we must insert data of at least one patient associated with the doctor.

Inability to insert records of particular fields is insertion anomaly.

Q3: Does Deletion anomaly exist? What is it?

DoctorID	DocName	PatientID	DiagnosisClass
D001	Alicia	P888	Flu
D002	John	P999	Lactose intolerance
D003	Jennifer	P000	Flu
D002	John	P111	Fever

Yes.

Example:

Deleting patient's data can result in the loss of doctor's data as well resulting in deletion anomaly.

If delete P888 data -> lose record for the doctor named Alicia

Q4: Does Update anomaly exist? What is it?

DoctorID	DocName	PatientID	DiagnosisClass
D001	Alicia	P888	Flu
D002	John	P999	Lactose intolerance
D003	Jennifer	P000	Flu
D002	John	P111	Fever

Yes.

Example:

One doctor may be associated with more than one patient.

An update anomaly may result if a doctor's name is changed for only one patient.

If fail to change the doctor's name from "John" to "John Miller" for both two records -> update anomaly.

2. Consider a relation $R(A, B, C, D)$ with the following FDs:

$$AB \rightarrow C, AC \rightarrow B, BC \rightarrow A, B \rightarrow D$$

The possible candidate keys of R are AB , AC , and BC , since each of those combinations is sufficient to uniquely identify each record.

Let's consider AB for instance. From $AB \rightarrow C$ we see that AB uniquely identifies C , and since B alone uniquely identifies D , AB together have covered CD , i.e. the entire set of attributes.

List all the **functional dependencies** that violate 3NF. If any, decompose R accordingly. After decomposition, check if the resulting relations are in 3NF, if not decompose further.

2. Consider a relation $R(A, B, C, D)$ with the following FDs:

$$AB \rightarrow C, AC \rightarrow B, BC \rightarrow A, B \rightarrow D$$

Notice: To be in 3NF, a relation should be in 2NF and all the transitive functional dependencies should be removed

Q1: Is This relation in 2NF?

No.

partial functional dependency $B \rightarrow D$

Q2: How to decompose it?

Another relation

$R_1(A, B, C)$ and $R_2(B, D)$

3. Consider the following relation StaffPropertyInspection:

StaffPropertyInspection (propertyNo, pAddress, iDate, iTime, comments, staffNo, sName)

The FDs stated below hold for this relation:

propertyNo, iDate \rightarrow iTime, comments, staffNo, sName

propertyNo \rightarrow pAddress

staffNo \rightarrow sName

From these FDs, it is safe to assume that propertyNo and iDate can serve as a **primary key**.

Your task is to normalise this relation to **3NF**. Remember in order to achieve 3NF, you first need to achieve 1NF and 2NF.

3. Consider the following relation StaffPropertyInspection:

StaffPropertyInspection (propertyNo, pAddress, iDate, iTime, comments, staffNo, sName)

propertyNo, iDate \rightarrow iTime, comments, staffNo, sName

propertyNo \rightarrow pAddress

staffNo \rightarrow sName

Q1: Is this relation in 1NF (repeating groups)?

Yes

Q2: Is this relation in 2NF (partial dependencies)?

No

propertyNo \rightarrow pAddress

Decompose it!

3. Consider the following relation StaffPropertyInspection:

StaffPropertyInspection (propertyNo, pAddress, iDate, iTime, comments, staffNo, sName)

propertyNo, iDate \rightarrow iTime, comments, staffNo, sName

propertyNo \rightarrow pAddress

staffNo \rightarrow sName

A2: Decompose into 2 relations:

Property (propertyNo, pAddress)

^{FK}
PropertyInspection (propertyNo, iDate, iTime, comments, staffNo, sName)

Q3: Is this relation in 3NF (transitive dependencies)?

No

staffNo \rightarrow sName

3. Consider the following relation StaffPropertyInspection:

StaffPropertyInspection (propertyNo, pAddress, iDate, iTime, comments, staffNo, sName)

propertyNo, iDate \rightarrow iTime, comments, staffNo, sName

propertyNo \rightarrow pAddress

staffNo \rightarrow sName

A3: Decompose into 3 relations:

Property (propertyNo, pAddress)

Staff (staffNo, sName)

PropertyInspection (propertyNo, iDate, iTime, comments, staffNo)

FK FK

Any questions?