3 Normal Forms Based on Primary Keys

3.1 Normalization of Relations

3.2 Practical Use of Normal Forms

3.3 Definitions of Keys and Attributes Participating in Keys

3.4 First Normal Form

3.5 Second Normal Form

3.6 Third Normal Form

3.1 Normalization of Relations (1)

- **Normalization**: The process of decomposing unsatisfactory "bad" relations by breaking up their attributes into smaller relations
- **Normal form**: Condition using keys and FDs of a relation to certify whether a relation schema is in a particular normal form

Normalization of Relations (2)

- 2NF, 3NF, BCNF based on keys and FDs of a relation schema
- 4NF based on keys, multi-valued dependencies : MVDs; 5NF based on keys, join dependencies : JDs (Chapter 11)
- Additional properties may be needed to ensure a good relational design (lossless join, dependency preservation; Chapter 11)

3.2 Practical Use of Normal Forms

- **Normalization** is carried out in practice so that the resulting designs are of high quality and meet the desirable properties
- The practical utility of these normal forms becomes questionable when the constraints on which they are based are **hard to understand** or to **detect**
- The database designers ***need not*** normalize to the highest possible normal form. (usually up to 3NF, BCNF or 4NF)
- **Denormalization:** the process of storing the join of higher normal form relations as a base relation—which is in a lower normal form

3.3 Definitions of Keys and Attributes Participating in Keys (1)

- A **superkey** of a relation schema $R = \{A_1, A_2, ..., A_n\}$ is a set of attributes S subset-of R with the property that no two tuples t_1 and t_2 in any legal relation state r of R will have $t_1[S] = t_2[S]$
- A **key** K is a superkey with the *additional property* that removal of any attribute from K will cause K not to be a superkey any more.

Definitions of Keys and Attributes Participating in Keys (2)

- If a relation schema has more than one key, each is called a **candidate key.** One of the candidate keys is *arbitrarily* designated to be the **primary key,** and the others are called *secondary keys*.
- A **Prime attribute** must be a member of *some candidate key*
- A **Nonprime attribute** is not a prime attribute—that is, it is not a member of any candidate key.

3.2 First Normal Form

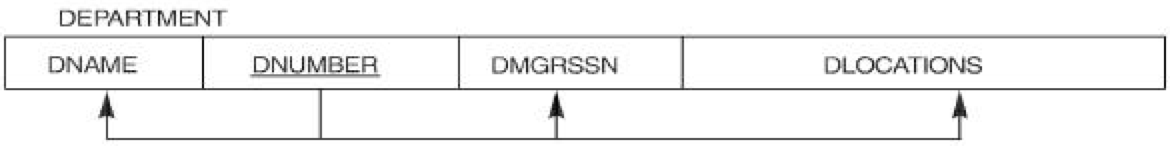
- Disallows composite attributes, multivalued attributes, and **nested relations**; attributes whose values *for an individual tuple* are non-atomic

- Considered to be part of the definition of relation

Figure 10.8 Normalization into 1NF

Figure 14.8 Normalization into 1NF. (a) Relation schema that is not in 1NF. (b) Example relation instance. (c) 1NF relation with redundancy.

(a)



(b) DEPARTMENT

DNAME	DNUMBER	DMGRSSN	DLOCATIONS
Research	5	333445555	{Bellaire, Sugarland, Houston}
Administration	4	987654321	{Stafford}
Headquarters	1	888665555	{Houston}

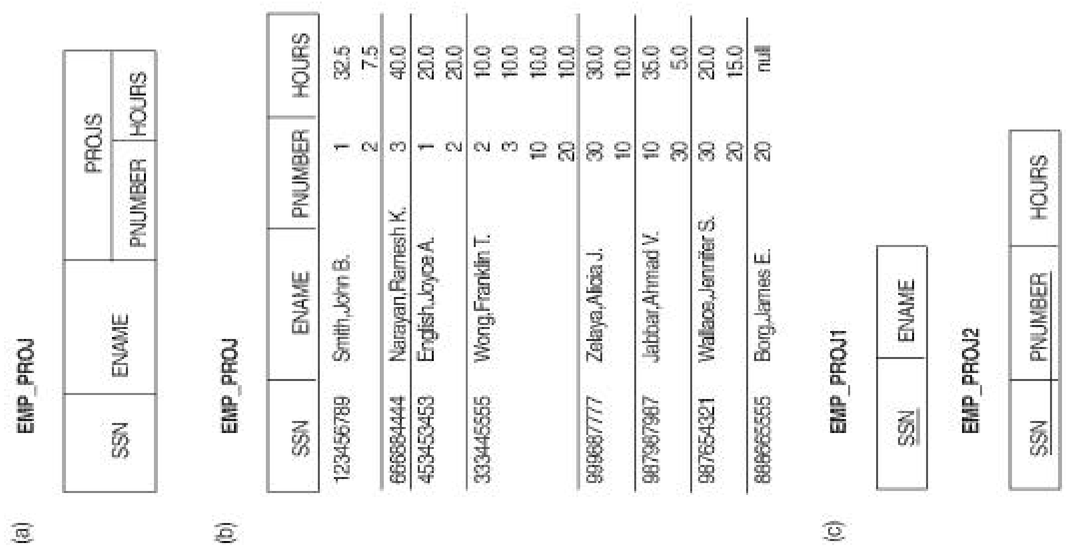
(c) DEPARTMENT

DNAME	DNUMBER	DMGRSSN	DLOCATION
Research	5	333445555	Bellaire
Research	5	333445555	Sugarland
Research	5	333445555	Houston
Administration	4	987654321	Stafford
Headquarters	1	888665555	Houston

Note: The above figure is now called Figure 10.8 in Edition 4

Figure 10.9 Normalization nested relations into 1NF

Figure 14.9 Normalizing nested relations into 1NF. (a) Schema of the EMP_PROJ relation with a "nested relation" PROJS. (b) Example extension of the EMP_PROJ relation showing nested relations within each tuple. (c) Decomposing EMP_PROJ into 1NF relations EMP_PROJ1 and EMP_PROJ2 by propagating the primary key.


(a) EMP_PROJ

SSN	ENAME	PROJS	
		PNUMBER	HOURS

(b) EMP_PROJ

SSN	ENAME	PNUMBER	HOURS
123456789	Smith,John B.	1	32.5
		2	7.5
666884444	Narayan,Ramesh K.	3	40.0
453453453	English,Joyce A.	1	20.0
		2	20.0
333445555	Wong,Franklin T.	2	10.0
		3	10.0
		10	10.0
		20	10.0
999887777	Zelaya,Alicia J.	30	30.0
		10	10.0
987987987	Jabbar,Ahmad V.	10	35.0
		30	5.0
987654321	Wallace,Jennifer S.	30	20.0
		20	15.0
888665555	Borg,James E.	20	null

(c) EMP_PROJ1

SSN	ENAME

EMP_PROJ2

SSN	PNUMBER	HOURS

Note: The above figure is now called Figure 10.9 in Edition 4

3.3 Second Normal Form (1)

- Uses the concepts of **FDs**, **primary key**

<u>Definitions:</u>

- **Prime attribute** - attribute that is member of the primary key K
- **Full functional dependency** - a FD Y -> Z where removal of any attribute from Y means the FD does not hold any more

<u>Examples:</u> - {SSN, PNUMBER} -> HOURS is a full FD since neither SSN -> HOURS nor PNUMBER -> HOURS hold

- {SSN, PNUMBER} -> ENAME is *not* a full FD (it is called a *partial dependency*) since SSN -> ENAME also holds

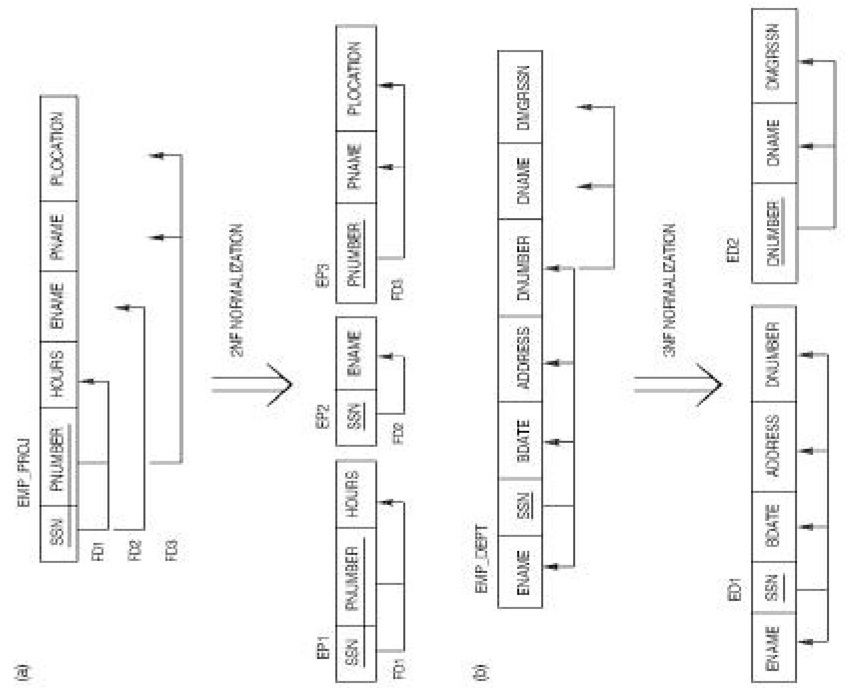
Second Normal Form (2)

- A relation schema R is in **second normal form (2NF)** if every non-prime attribute A in R is fully functionally dependent on the primary key

- R can be decomposed into 2NF relations via the process of 2NF normalization

Figure 10.10 Normalizing into 2NF and 3NF

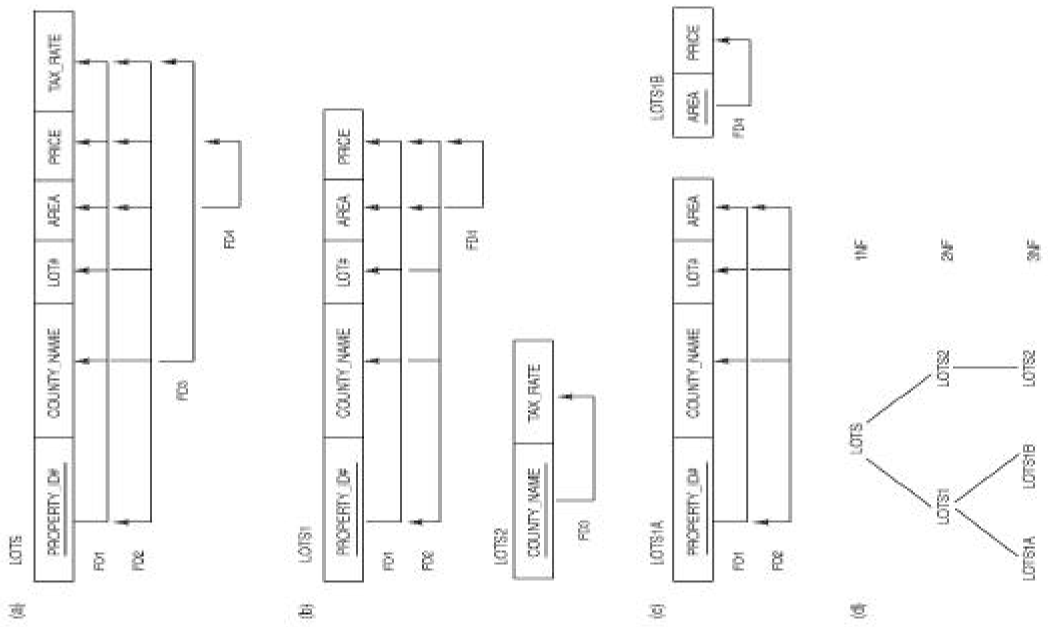
Figure 14.10 The normalization process. (a) Normalizing EMP_PROJ into 2NF relations. (b) Normalizing EMP_DEPT into 3NF relations.



Note: The above figure is now called Figure 10.10 in Edition 4

Figure 10.11 Normalization into 2NF and 3NF

Figure 14.11 Normalization to 2NF and 3NF. (a) The lots relation schema and its functional dependencies fd1 through FD4. (b) Decomposing lots into the 2NF relations LOTS1 and LOTS2. (c) Decomposing LOTS1 into the 3NF relations LOTS1A and LOTS1B. (d) Summary of normalization of lots.



Note: The above figure is now called Figure 10.11 in Edition 4

3.4 Third Normal Form (1)

<u>Definition:</u>

- **Transitive functional dependency -** a FD X -> Z that can be derived from two FDs X -> Y and Y -> Z

  <u>Examples:</u>

  - SSN -> DMGRSSN is a *transitive* FD since SSN -> DNUMBER and DNUMBER -> DMGRSSN hold

  - SSN -> ENAME is *non-transitive* since there is no set of attributes X where SSN -> X and X -> ENAME

Third Normal Form (2)

- A relation schema R is in **third normal form (3NF)** if it is in 2NF *and* no non-prime attribute A in R is transitively dependent on the primary key
- R can be decomposed into 3NF relations via the process of 3NF normalization

NOTE:

In X -> Y and Y -> Z, with X as the primary key, we consider this a problem only if Y is not a candidate key. When Y is a candidate key, there is no problem with the transitive dependency .

E.g., Consider EMP (SSN, Emp#, Salary).

Here, SSN -> Emp# -> Salary and Emp# is a candidate key.

4 General Normal Form Definitions (For Multiple Keys) (1)

- The above definitions consider the primary key only
- The following more general definitions take into account relations with multiple candidate keys
- A relation schema R is in **second normal form (2NF)** if every non-prime attribute A in R is fully functionally dependent on *every key* of R

General Normal Form Definitions (2)

Definition:

- **Superkey** of relation schema R - a set of attributes S of R that contains a key of R
- A relation schema R is in **third normal form** (**3NF**) if whenever a FD X -> A holds in R, then either:

  (a) X is a superkey of R, or

  (b) A is a prime attribute of R

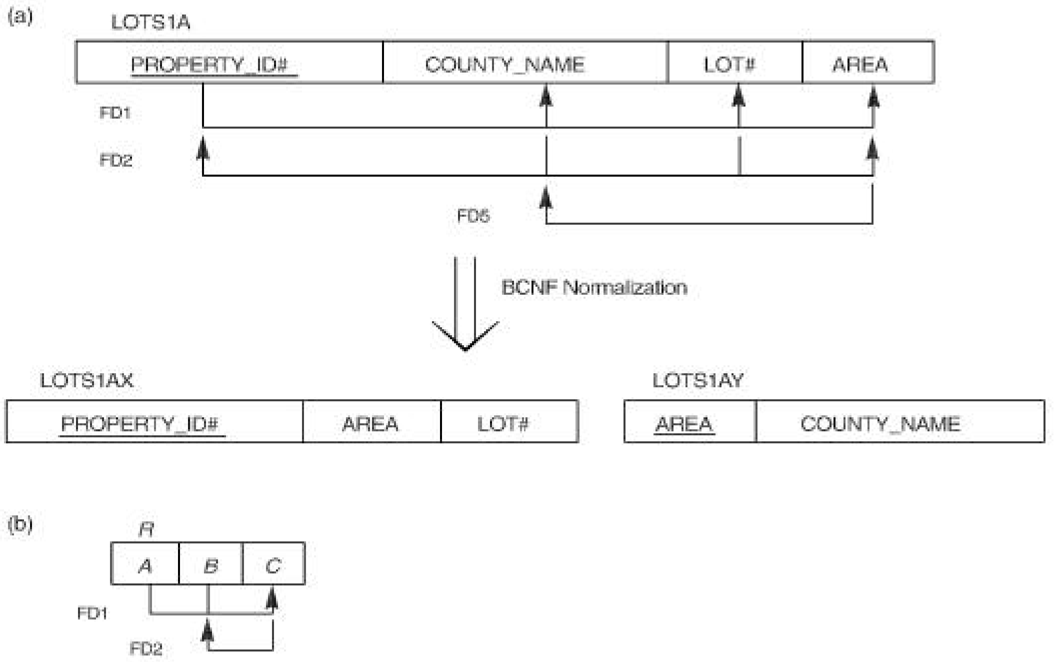
NOTE: Boyce-Codd normal form disallows condition (b) above

5 BCNF (Boyce-Codd Normal Form)

- A relation schema R is in **Boyce-Codd Normal Form** (**BCNF**) if whenever an FD X **->** A holds in R, then X is a superkey of R
- Each normal form is strictly stronger than the previous one
  - Every 2NF relation is in 1NF
  - Every 3NF relation is in 2NF
  - Every BCNF relation is in 3NF
- There exist relations that are in 3NF but not in BCNF
- The goal is to have each relation in BCNF (or 3NF)

Figure 10.12 Boyce-Codd normal form

Figure 14.12 Boyce-Codd normal form. (a) BCNF normalization with the dependency of FD2 being "lost" in the decomposition. (b) A relation *R* in 3NF but not in BCNF.



Note: The above figure is now called Figure 10.12 in Edition 4

Figure 10.13 a relation TEACH that is in 3NF but not in BCNF

Figure 14.13 A relation TEACH that is in 3NF but not in BCNF.

TEACH

STUDENT	COURSE	INSTRUCTOR
Narayan	Database	Mark
Smith	Database	Navathe
Smith	Operating Systems	Ammar
Smith	Theory	Schulman
Wallace	Database	Mark
Wallace	Operating Systems	Ahamad
Wong	Database	Omiecinski
Zelaya	Database	Navathe

Note: The above figure is now called Figure 10.13 in Edition 4

Achieving the BCNF by Decomposition (1)

- Two FDs exist in the relation TEACH:

  fd1: { student, course} -> instructor

  fd2: instructor -> course
- {student, course} is a candidate key for this relation and that the dependencies shown follow the pattern in Figure 10.12 (b). So this relation is in 3NF <u>but not in</u> BCNF
- A relation **NOT** in BCNF should be decomposed so as to meet this property, while possibly forgoing the preservation of all functional dependencies in the decomposed relations. (See Algorithm 11.3)

Achieving the BCNF by Decomposition (2)

- Three possible decompositions for relation TEACH
  1. {student, instructor} and {student, course}
  2. {course, instructor } and {course, student}
  3. {instructor, course } and {instructor, student}
- All three decompositions will lose fd1. We have to settle for sacrificing the functional dependency preservation. But we cannot sacrifice the non-additivity property after decomposition.
- Out of the above three, only the 3rd decomposition will not generate spurious tuples after join.(and hence has the non-additivity property).
- A test to determine whether a binary decomposition (decomposition into two relations) is nonadditive (lossless) is discussed in section 11.1.4 under Property LJ1. Verify that the third decomposition above meets the property.