



Carnegie Mellon Univ.
Dept. of Computer Science
15-415 - Database Applications

Lecture #16: Schema Refinement &
Normalization - Functional Dependencies
(R&G, ch. 19)



Functional dependencies

- motivation: ‘good’ tables

takes1 (ssn, c-id, grade, name, address)

‘good’ or ‘bad’?

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

2



Functional dependencies

takes1 (ssn, c-id, grade, name, address)

Ssn	c-id	Grade	Name	Address
123	413	A	smith	Main
123	415	B	smith	Main
123	211	A	smith	Main

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

3



Functional dependencies

‘Bad’ – Q: why?

Ssn	c-id	Grade	Name	Address
123	413	A	smith	Main
123	415	B	smith	Main
123	211	A	smith	Main

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

4



Functional Dependencies

- A: Redundancy
 - space
 - inconsistencies
 - insertion/deletion anomalies (later...)
- Q: What caused the problem?

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

5



Functional dependencies

- A: ‘name’ depends on the ‘ssn’
- define ‘depends’

Ssn	c-id	Grade	Name	Address
123	413	A	smith	Main
123	415	B	smith	Main
123	211	A	smith	Main

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

6



Overview

- Functional dependencies
 - why
 - definition
 - Armstrong's “axioms”
 - closure and cover

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

7



Functional dependencies

Definition: $a \rightarrow b$

‘a’ functionally determines ‘b’

Ssn	c-id	Grade	Name	Address
123	413	A	smith	Main
123	415	B	smith	Main
123	211	A	smith	Main

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

8



Functional dependencies

Informally: ‘if you know ‘a’, there is only one ‘b’ to match’

Ssn	c-id	Grade	Name	Address
123	413	A	smith	Main
123	415	B	smith	Main
123	211	A	smith	Main

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

9



Functional dependencies

formally:

$$X \rightarrow Y \quad \Rightarrow \quad (t1[x] = t2[x] \Rightarrow t1[y] = t2[y])$$

if two tuples agree on the 'X' attribute,
the ***must*** agree on the 'Y' attribute, too
(eg., if ssn is the same, so should address)

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

10



Functional dependencies

- 'X', 'Y' can be **sets** of attributes
- Q: other examples??

Ssn	c-id	Grade	Name	Address
123	413	A	smith	Main
123	415	B	smith	Main
123	211	A	smith	Main

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

11



Functional dependencies

- ssn \rightarrow name, address
- ssn, c-id \rightarrow grade

Ssn	c-id	Grade	Name	Address
123	413	A	smith	Main
123	415	B	smith	Main
123	211	A	smith	Main

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

12



Overview

- Functional dependencies
 - why
 - definition
 - – Armstrong's “axioms”
 - closure and cover

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

13



Functional dependencies

Closure of a set of FD: all implied FDs - eg.:

ssn \rightarrow name, address

ssn, c-id \rightarrow grade

imply

ssn, c-id \rightarrow grade, name, address

ssn, c-id \rightarrow ssn

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

14



FDs - Armstrong's axioms

Closure of a set of FD: all implied FDs - eg.:

ssn \rightarrow name, address

ssn, c-id \rightarrow grade

how to find all the implied ones, systematically?

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

15



FDs - Armstrong's axioms

“Armstrong’s axioms” guarantee soundness and completeness:

- Reflexivity: $Y \subseteq X \Rightarrow X \rightarrow Y$
eg., ssn, name \rightarrow ssn
- Augmentation $X \rightarrow Y \Rightarrow XW \rightarrow YW$
eg., ssn \rightarrow name then ssn,grade \rightarrow name,grade

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

16



FDs - Armstrong's axioms

- Transitivity
$$\begin{array}{c} X \rightarrow Y \\ Y \rightarrow Z \end{array} \Rightarrow X \rightarrow Z$$

ssn \rightarrow address
address \rightarrow county-tax-rate
THEN:
ssn \rightarrow county-tax-rate

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

17



FDs - Armstrong's axioms

- Reflexivity: $Y \subseteq X \Rightarrow X \rightarrow Y$

Augmentation: $X \rightarrow Y \Rightarrow XW \rightarrow YW$

Transitivity:
$$\begin{array}{c} X \rightarrow Y \\ Y \rightarrow Z \end{array} \Rightarrow X \rightarrow Z$$

‘sound’ and ‘complete’

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

18



FDs - Armstrong's axioms

Additional rules:

- Union

$$\begin{array}{l} X \rightarrow Y \\ X \rightarrow Z \end{array} \Rightarrow X \rightarrow YZ$$

- Decomposition

$$X \rightarrow YZ \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} X \rightarrow Y \\ X \rightarrow Z \end{array}$$

- Pseudo-transitivity

$$\begin{array}{l} X \rightarrow Y \\ YW \rightarrow Z \end{array} \Rightarrow XW \rightarrow Z$$

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

19



FDs - Armstrong's axioms

Prove ‘Union’ from three axioms:

$$\begin{array}{l} X \rightarrow Y \\ X \rightarrow Z \end{array} \stackrel{?}{\Rightarrow} X \rightarrow YZ$$

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

20



FDs - Armstrong's axioms

Prove ‘Union’ from three axioms:

$$\begin{array}{l} X \rightarrow Y \quad (1) \\ X \rightarrow Z \quad (2) \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} (1) + \text{augm. w/ } Z \Rightarrow XZ \rightarrow YZ \quad (3) \\ (2) + \text{augm. w/ } X \Rightarrow XX \rightarrow XZ \quad (4) \\ \text{but } XX \text{ is } X; \text{ thus} \\ (3) + (4) \text{ and transitivity} \Rightarrow X \rightarrow YZ \end{array}$$

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

21

 CMUSCS

FDs - Armstrong's axioms

Prove Pseudo-transitivity:

$$\begin{array}{l} Y \subseteq X \Rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \\ X \rightarrow Y \Rightarrow XW \rightarrow YW \\ X \rightarrow Y \\ Y \rightarrow Z \end{array} \quad \left| \quad \begin{array}{l} X \rightarrow Y \\ YW \rightarrow Z \end{array} \right\} \stackrel{?}{\Rightarrow} XW \rightarrow Z$$

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 22

 CMUSCS

FDs - Armstrong's axioms

Prove Decomposition

$$\begin{array}{l} Y \subseteq X \Rightarrow X \rightarrow Y \\ X \rightarrow Y \Rightarrow XW \rightarrow YW \\ X \rightarrow Y \\ Y \rightarrow Z \end{array} \quad \left| \quad X \rightarrow YZ \stackrel{?}{\Rightarrow} \begin{array}{l} X \rightarrow Y \\ X \rightarrow Z \end{array} \right\}$$

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 23

 CMUSCS

Overview

- Functional dependencies
 - why
 - definition
 - Armstrong's “axioms”
 - closure and cover

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 24



CMUSCS

FDs - Closure F+

Given a set F of FD (on a schema)
 F^+ is the set of all implied FD. Eg.,
 takes(ssn, c-id, grade, name, address)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ssn, c-id} &\rightarrow \text{grade} \\ \text{ssn} &\rightarrow \text{name, address} \end{aligned} \quad \left\{ \begin{matrix} \\ F \end{matrix} \right.$$

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

25



CMUSCS

FDs - Closure F+

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ssn, c-id} &\rightarrow \text{grade} \\ \text{ssn} &\rightarrow \text{name, address} \\ \text{ssn} &\rightarrow \text{ssn} \\ \text{ssn, c-id} &\rightarrow \text{address} \\ \text{c-id, address} &\rightarrow \text{c-id} \\ \dots \end{aligned} \quad \left\{ \begin{matrix} \\ F^+ \end{matrix} \right.$$

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

26



CMUSCS

FDs - Closure A⁺

Given a set F of FD (on a schema)
 A^+ is the set of all attributes determined by A:
 takes(ssn, c-id, grade, name, address)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ssn, c-id} &\rightarrow \text{grade} \\ \text{ssn} &\rightarrow \text{name, address} \end{aligned} \quad \left\{ \begin{matrix} \\ F \end{matrix} \right.$$

$$\{\text{ssn}\}^+ = ??$$

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

27



CMUSCS

FDs - Closure A+

takes(ssn, c-id, grade, name, address)

ssn, c-id \rightarrow grade
ssn \rightarrow name, address } F

{ssn}+ = {ssn,
name, address }

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

28



CMUSCS

FDs - Closure A+

takes(ssn, c-id, grade, name, address)

ssn, c-id \rightarrow grade
ssn \rightarrow name, address } F

{c-id}+ = ??

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

29



CMUSCS

FDs - Closure A+

takes(ssn, c-id, grade, name, address)

ssn, c-id \rightarrow grade
ssn \rightarrow name, address } F

{c-id, ssn}+ = ??

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

30



CMUSCS

FDs - Closure A+

if $A^+ = \{\text{all attributes of table}\}$
 then 'A' is a **superkey**

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

31

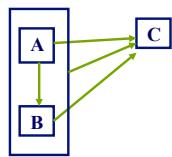


CMUSCS

FDs - A+ closure - not in book

Diagrams

AB->C (1)
 A->BC (2)
 B->C (3)
 A->B (4)



Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

32



CMUSCS

FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc

Given a set F of FD (on a schema)
 Fc is a minimal set of equivalent FD. Eg.,
 takes(ssn, c-id, grade, name, address)

ssn, c-id -> grade
 ssn-> name, address
 ssn, name-> name, address
 ssn, c-id-> grade, name



Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

33

CMUSCS

FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc

Fc

ssn, c-id \rightarrow grade
ssn \rightarrow name, address
ssn, name \rightarrow name, address
ssn, c-id \rightarrow grade, name

} F

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 34

CMUSCS

FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc

- why do we need it?
- define it properly
- compute it efficiently

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 35

CMUSCS

FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc

- why do we need it?
 - easier to compute candidate keys
- define it properly
- compute it efficiently

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 36



FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc

- define it properly - three properties
 - 1) the RHS of every FD is a single attribute
 - 2) the closure of Fc is identical to the closure of F (ie., Fc and F are equivalent)
 - 3) Fc is minimal (ie., if we eliminate any attribute from the LHS or RHS of a FD, property #2 is violated)

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

37



FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc

- #3: we need to eliminate 'extraneous' attributes. An attribute is 'extraneous' if
- the closure is the same, before and after its elimination
 - or if F-before implies F-after and vice-versa

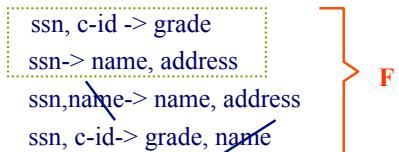
Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

38



FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc



Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

39



FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc

Algorithm:

- examine each FD; drop extraneous LHS or RHS attributes; or redundant FDs
- make sure that FDs have a single attribute in their RHS
- repeat until no change

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

40



FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc

Trace algo for

- $AB \rightarrow C$ (1)
 $A \rightarrow BC$ (2)
 $B \rightarrow C$ (3)
 $A \rightarrow B$ (4)

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

41



FDs - 'canonical cover' Fc

Trace algo for

- $AB \rightarrow C$ (1) $AB \rightarrow C$ (1)
 $A \rightarrow BC$ (2) $A \rightarrow B$ (2')
 $A \rightarrow C$ (2'')
 $B \rightarrow C$ (3)
 $A \rightarrow B$ (4) $B \rightarrow C$ (3)
 $A \rightarrow B$ (4)
split (2): $A \rightarrow B$ (4)

Faloutsos

SCS 15-415

42

 CMUSCS

FDs - ‘canonical cover’ Fc

$\cancel{AB \rightarrow C \ (1)}$ $\cancel{A \rightarrow B \ (2')}$ $A \rightarrow C \ (2'')$ $B \rightarrow C \ (3)$ $A \rightarrow B \ (4)$	$AB \rightarrow C \ (1)$ $A \rightarrow C \ (2'')$ $B \rightarrow C \ (3)$ $A \rightarrow B \ (4)$
---	---

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 43

 CMUSCS

FDs - ‘canonical cover’ Fc

$AB \rightarrow C \ (1)$ $A \rightarrow C \ (2'')$ $B \rightarrow C \ (3)$ $A \rightarrow B \ (4)$	$AB \rightarrow C \ (1)$ $B \rightarrow C \ (3)$ $A \rightarrow B \ (4)$
---	--

(2''): redundant (implied by (4), (3) and transitivity)

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 44

 CMUSCS

FDs - ‘canonical cover’ Fc

$AB \rightarrow C \ (1)$ $B \rightarrow C \ (3)$ $A \rightarrow B \ (4)$	$B \rightarrow C \ (1')$ $B \rightarrow C \ (3)$ $A \rightarrow B \ (4)$
--	--

in (1), ‘A’ is extraneous:
(1),(3),(4) imply
(1'),(3),(4), and vice versa

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 45

 CMUSCS

FDs - ‘canonical cover’ Fc

~~B->C (1)~~

B->C (3)
A->B (4)

- nothing is extraneous
- all RHS are single attributes
- final and original set of FDs are equivalent (same closure)

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 46

 CMUSCS

FDs - ‘canonical cover’ Fc

BEFORE

B->C (1)
A->BC (2)
B->C (3)
A->B (4)

AFTER

B->C (3)
A->B (4)

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 47

 CMUSCS

Overview - conclusions

- Functional dependencies
 - why
 - definition
 - Armstrong’s “axioms”
 - closure and cover

Faloutsos SCS 15-415 48
