Purpose of Normalization

Normalization is a technique for producing a set of suitable relations that attempt to:

1. minimize the likelihood of introducing inconsistent data into the database, and
2. minimize the amount of redundancy in the database
Purpose of Normalization

Characteristics of a suitable set of relations include:

– attributes with a close logical relationship are found in the same relation;

– minimal redundancy with each attribute represented only once with the important exception of attributes that form all or part of foreign keys.
Purpose of Normalization

- The benefits of using a database that has a suitable set of relations is that the database will be:
  - easier for the user to access and maintain the data;
  - take up minimal storage space on the computer.
How Normalization Supports Database Design

Data sources

- Users
  - Users’ requirements specification
  - Forms/reports that are used or generated by the enterprise
  - Sources describing the enterprise such as data dictionary and corporate data model

Use top-down approach such as ER modeling

ER model is mapped to a set of relations

Set of well-designed relations

Approach 1

Use normalization as a bottom-up technique to create set of relations. (This approach is described in this chapter and the next)

Approach 2

Use normalization as a validation technique to check structure of relations. (This approach is described in Chapter 16, Step 2.2)
Data Redundancy and Update Anomalies

- Major aim of relational database design is to group attributes into relations to minimize data redundancy.
Data Redundancy and Update Anomalies

- Potential benefits for implemented database include:
  - Updates to the data stored in the database are achieved with a minimal number of operations thus reducing the opportunities for data inconsistencies.
  - Reduction in the file storage space required by the base relations thus minimizing costs.
Data Redundancy and Update Anomalies

Problems associated with data redundancy are illustrated by comparing the Staff and Branch relations with the StaffBranch relation.
# Data Redundancy and Update Anomalies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>staffNo</td>
<td>sName</td>
<td>position</td>
<td>salary</td>
<td>branchNo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL21</td>
<td>John White</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>30000</td>
<td>B005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG37</td>
<td>Ann Beech</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>12000</td>
<td>B003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG14</td>
<td>David Ford</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>18000</td>
<td>B003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA9</td>
<td>Mary Howe</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>9000</td>
<td>B007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG5</td>
<td>Susan Brand</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>24000</td>
<td>B003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL41</td>
<td>Julie Lee</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>9000</td>
<td>B005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Branch | | | |
|---|---|---|
| branchNo | bAddress |
| B005 | 22 Deer Rd, London |
| B007 | 16 Argyll St, Aberdeen |
| B003 | 163 Main St, Glasgow |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>StaffBranch</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>staffNo</td>
<td>sName</td>
<td>position</td>
<td>salary</td>
<td>branchNo</td>
<td>bAddress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL21</td>
<td>John White</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>30000</td>
<td>B005</td>
<td>22 Deer Rd, London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Assistant</td>
<td>12000</td>
<td>B003</td>
<td>163 Main St, Glasgow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG14</td>
<td>David Ford</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>18000</td>
<td>B003</td>
<td>163 Main St, Glasgow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA9</td>
<td>Mary Howe</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>9000</td>
<td>B007</td>
<td>16 Argyll St, Aberdeen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SG5</td>
<td>Susan Brand</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>24000</td>
<td>B003</td>
<td>163 Main St, Glasgow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL41</td>
<td>Julie Lee</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>9000</td>
<td>B005</td>
<td>22 Deer Rd, London</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Redundancy and Update Anomalies

- **StaffBranch relation has redundant data;** the details of a branch are repeated for every member of staff.

- **In contrast, the branch information appears only once for each branch in the Branch relation** and only the branch number (branchNo) is repeated in the Staff relation, to represent where each member of staff is located.
Data Redundancy and Update Anomalies

- Relations that contain redundant information may potentially suffer from update anomalies.

- Types of update anomalies include
  - Insertion
  - Deletion
  - Modification
Two important properties of decomposition.

- *Lossless-join property* enables us to find any instance of the original relation from corresponding instances in the smaller relations.

- *Dependency preservation property* enables us to enforce a constraint on the original relation by enforcing some constraint on each of the smaller relations.
Functional Dependencies

- Important concept associated with normalization.

- Functional dependency describes relationship between attributes.

- For example, if A and B are attributes of relation R, B is functionally dependent on A (denoted A → B), if each value of A in R is associated with exactly one value of B in R.
Characteristics of Functional Dependencies

- Property of the meaning or semantics of the attributes in a relation.

- Diagrammatic representation.

- The determinant of a functional dependency refers to the attribute or group of attributes on the left-hand side of the arrow.
An Example Functional Dependency

(a) Staff number SL21 → Manager

(b) Manager
   - Staff number SL21
   - Staff number SG5
Example Functional Dependency that holds for all Time

- Consider the values shown in staffNo and sName attributes of the Staff relation (see Slide 12).

- Based on sample data, the following functional dependencies appear to hold.

  \[ \text{staffNo} \rightarrow \text{sName} \]
  \[ \text{sName} \rightarrow \text{staffNo} \]
Example Functional Dependency that holds for all Time

- However, the only functional dependency that remains true for all possible values for the staffNo and sName attributes of the Staff relation is:

  \[ \text{staffNo} \rightarrow \text{sName} \]
Characteristics of Functional Dependencies

- Determinants should have the minimal number of attributes necessary to maintain the functional dependency with the attribute(s) on the right hand-side.

- This requirement is called *full functional dependency*. 
Characteristics of Functional Dependencies

- Full functional dependency indicates that if A and B are attributes of a relation, B is fully functionally dependent on A, if B is functionally dependent on A, but not on any proper subset of A.
Example Full Functional Dependency

- Exists in the Staff relation (see Slide 12).

  \[
  \text{staffNo, sName} \rightarrow \text{branchNo}
  \]

- True - each value of \((\text{staffNo, sName})\) is associated with a single value of \(\text{branchNo}\).

- However, \(\text{branchNo}\) is also functionally dependent on a subset of \((\text{staffNo, sName})\), namely \(\text{staffNo}\). Example above is a partial dependency.
Characteristics of Functional Dependencies

- Main characteristics of functional dependencies used in normalization:
  - There is a *one-to-one* relationship between the attribute(s) on the left-hand side (determinant) and those on the right-hand side of a functional dependency.
  - Holds for *all* time.
  - The determinant has the *minimal* number of attributes necessary to maintain the dependency with the attribute(s) on the right hand-side.
Transitive Dependencies

- Important to recognize a transitive dependency because its existence in a relation can potentially cause update anomalies.

- Transitive dependency describes a condition where A, B, and C are attributes of a relation such that if $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow C$, then C is transitively dependent on A via B (provided that A is not functionally dependent on B or C).
Consider functional dependencies in the StaffBranch relation (see Slide 12).

\[
\text{staffNo} \rightarrow \text{sName, position, salary, branchNo, bAddress} \\
\text{branchNo} \rightarrow \text{bAddress}
\]

Transitive dependency, \(\text{branchNo} \rightarrow \text{bAddress}\) exists on \(\text{staffNo}\) via \(\text{branchNo}\).
The Process of Normalization

- Formal technique for analyzing a relation based on its primary key and the functional dependencies between the attributes of that relation.

- Often executed as a series of steps. Each step corresponds to a specific normal form, which has known properties.
Identifying Functional Dependencies

- Identifying all functional dependencies between a set of attributes is relatively simple if the meaning of each attribute and the relationships between the attributes are well understood.

- This information should be provided by the enterprise in the form of discussions with users and/or documentation such as the users’ requirements specification.
Identifying Functional Dependencies

- However, if the users are unavailable for consultation and/or the documentation is incomplete then depending on the database application it may be necessary for the database designer to use their common sense and/or experience to provide the missing information.
Example - Identifying a set of functional dependencies for the StaffBranch relation

- Examine semantics of attributes in StaffBranch relation (see Slide 12). Assume that position held and branch determine a member of staff’s salary.
Example - Identifying a set of functional dependencies for the StaffBranch relation

- With sufficient information available, identify the functional dependencies for the StaffBranch relation as:

  \[
  \begin{align*}
  \text{staffNo} & \rightarrow \text{sName, position, salary, branchNo, bAddress} \\
  \text{branchNo} & \rightarrow \text{bAddress} \\
  \text{bAddress} & \rightarrow \text{branchNo} \\
  \text{branchNo, position} & \rightarrow \text{salary} \\
  \text{bAddress, position} & \rightarrow \text{salary}
  \end{align*}
  \]
Example - Using sample data to identify functional dependencies.

- Consider the data for attributes denoted A, B, C, D, and E in the Sample relation (see Slide 33).

- Important to establish that sample data values shown in relation are representative of all possible values that can be held by attributes A, B, C, D, and E. Assume true despite the relatively small amount of data shown in this relation.
Example - Using sample data to identify functional dependencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example - Using sample data to identify functional dependencies.

- Function dependencies between attributes A to E in the Sample relation.

A → C  (fd1)
C → A  (fd2)
B → D  (fd3)
A, B → E (fd4)
Identifying the Primary Key for a Relation using Functional Dependencies

- Main purpose of identifying a set of functional dependencies for a relation is to specify the set of integrity constraints that must hold on a relation.

- An important integrity constraint to consider first is the identification of candidate keys, one of which is selected to be the primary key for the relation.
Example - Identify Primary Key for StaffBranch Relation

- StaffBranch relation has five functional dependencies (see Slide 31).

- The determinants are staffNo, branchNo, bAddress, (branchNo, position), and (bAddress, position).

- To identify all candidate key(s), identify the attribute (or group of attributes) that uniquely identifies each tuple in this relation.
Example - Identifying Primary Key for StaffBranch Relation

- All attributes that are not part of a candidate key should be functionally dependent on the key.

- The only candidate key and therefore primary key for StaffBranch relation, is staffNo, as all other attributes of the relation are functionally dependent on staffNo.
Example - Identifying Primary Key for Sample Relation

- Sample relation has four functional dependencies (see Slide 31).

- The determinants in the Sample relation are A, B, C, and (A, B). However, the only determinant that functionally determines all the other attributes of the relation is (A, B).

- (A, B) is identified as the primary key for this relation.
The Process of Normalization

- As normalization proceeds, the relations become progressively more restricted (stronger) in format and also less vulnerable to update anomalies.
The Process of Normalization

1NF
2NF
3NF
BCNF
4NF
5NF
Higher normal forms
The Process of Normalization

1. **Users**
2. **Users’ requirements specification**
3. **Forms/reports that are used or generated by the enterprise (as described in this chapter and the next)**
4. **Sources describing the enterprise such as data dictionary and corporate data model**

**Data sources**

- **Transfer attributes into table format** (Described in Section 13.6)
- **Unnormalized Form (UNF)**
- **Remove repeating groups** (Described in Section 13.6)
- **First Normal Form (1NF)**
- **Remove partial dependencies** (Described in Section 13.7)
- **Second Normal Form (2NF)**
- **Remove transitive dependencies** (Described in Section 13.8)
- **Third Normal Form (3NF)**
Unnormalized Form (UNF)

- A table that contains one or more repeating groups.

- To create an unnormalized table
  - Transform the data from the information source (e.g. form) into table format with columns and rows.
First Normal Form (1NF)

- A relation in which the intersection of each row and column contains one and only one value.
UNF to 1NF

- Nominate an attribute or group of attributes to act as the key for the unnormalized table.

- Identify the repeating group(s) in the unnormalized table which repeats for the key attribute(s).
UNF to 1NF

- Remove the repeating group by
  - Creating for each row a number of columns equal to the maximum occurrences of a value in a multi-valued attribute.
    - If there are at most 3 phone #’s, create 3 columns
    - Enter appropriate data into the columns of rows containing the repeating data (‘flattening’ the table).

Or by

- Placing the repeating data along with a copy of the original key attribute(s) into a separate relation.
Second Normal Form (2NF)

- Based on the concept of full functional dependency.

- Full functional dependency indicates that if
  - A and B are attributes of a relation,
  - B is fully dependent on A if B is functionally dependent on A but not on any proper subset of A.
Second Normal Form (2NF)

- A relation that is in 1NF and every non-primary-key attribute is fully functionally dependent on the primary key.
1NF to 2NF

- Identify the primary key for the 1NF relation.

- Identify the functional dependencies in the relation.

- If partial dependencies exist on the primary key remove them by placing them in a new relation along with a copy of their determinant.
Example: A sample clientRental relation with functional dependencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>clientNo</th>
<th>prpertyNo</th>
<th>cName</th>
<th>pAddress</th>
<th>rentStart</th>
<th>rentFinish</th>
<th>rent</th>
<th>ownerNo</th>
<th>oName</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **primary key**: [Diagram showing arrows connecting clientNo and prpertyNo to other attributes]
- **partial dependency**: [Diagram showing arrows from cName and pAddress to other attributes]
- **partial dependency**: [Diagram showing arrows from rentStart and rentFinish to other attributes]
- **transitive dependency**: [Diagram showing arrows from rent to ownerNo and oName]
- **candidate key**: [Diagram showing arrows connecting clientNo and prpertyNo to other attributes]
Example: 1\textsuperscript{st} -> 2\textsuperscript{nd} Normal Form

- The partial dependency of cName on clientNo means that we should place these two attributes in a new relation and remove cName from clientRental.
- The partial dependency propertyNo \rightarrow pAddress, rent, ownerNo, oName means these attributes should be placed in a new relation and remove pAddress, rent, ownerNo, and oName from clientRental.
New Relations

**Client**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>clientNo</th>
<th>cName</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**PropertyOwner**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>propertyNo</th>
<th>pAddress</th>
<th>rent</th>
<th>ownerNo</th>
<th>oName</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Rental**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>clientNo</th>
<th>propertyNo</th>
<th>rentStart</th>
<th>rentFinish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Note that original clientRental relation can be reconstituted via joins
Third Normal Form (3NF)

- Based on the concept of transitive dependency.

- Transitive Dependency is a condition where
  - A, B and C are attributes of a relation such that if $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow C$,
  - then C is transitively dependent on A through B. (Provided that A is not functionally dependent on B or C).
Third Normal Form (3NF)

- A relation that is in 1NF and 2NF and in which no non-primary-key attribute is transitively dependent on the primary key.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>propertyNo</th>
<th>pAddress</th>
<th>rent</th>
<th>ownerNo</th>
<th>oName</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The above relation is not in 3NF because of the transitive dependency ownerNo → oName
2NF to 3NF

- Identify the primary key in the 2NF relation.

- Identify functional dependencies in the relation.

- If transitive dependencies exist on the primary key remove them by placing them in a new relation along with a copy of their dominant.
We convert PropertyOwner to 3NF by creating a new relation with the attributes (ownerNo, oName) and deleting oName from PropertyOwner

PropertyForRent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>propertyNo</th>
<th>pAddress</th>
<th>rent</th>
<th>ownerNo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Owner

| ownerNo | oName |
General Definitions of 2NF and 3NF

- **Second normal form (2NF)**
  - A relation that is in first normal form and every non-primary-key attribute is fully functionally dependent on any candidate key.

- **Third normal form (3NF)**
  - A relation that is in first and second normal form and in which no non-primary-key attribute is transitively dependent on any candidate key.