



# Schema Refinement & Normalization Theory

## Functional Dependencies

Week 13

# What's the Problem

- Consider relation obtained (call it SNLRHW)  
Hourly\_Emps(ssn, name, lot, rating, hrly\_wage, hrs\_worked)
- What if we *know* rating determines hrly\_wage?

S	N	L	R	W	H
123-22-3666	Attishoo	48	8	10	40
231-31-5368	Smiley	22	8	10	30
131-24-3650	Smethurst	35	5	7	30
434-26-3751	Guldu	35	5	7	32
612-67-4134	Madayan	35	8	10	40

# Redundancy

- When part of data can be derived from other parts, we say *redundancy* exists.
  - Example: the `hrly_wage` of Smiley can be derived from the `hrly_wage` of Attishoo because they have the same rating and we know rating determines `hrly_wage`.
- Redundancy exists because of the existence of *integrity constraints* (e.g., **FD:  $R \rightarrow W$** ).

# What's the problem, again

- Update anomaly: Can we change W in just the 1st tuple of SNLRWH?
- Insertion anomaly: What if we want to insert an employee and don't know the hourly wage for his rating?
- Deletion anomaly: If we delete all employees with rating 5, we lose the information about the wage for rating 5!

# What do we do?

- Since constraints, in particular *functional dependencies*, cause problems, we need to study them, and understand when and how they cause redundancy.
- When redundancy exists, refinement is needed.
  - Main refinement technique: decomposition (replacing ABCD with, say, AB and BCD, or ACD and ABD).
- Decomposition should be used judiciously:
  - Is there reason to decompose a relation?
  - What problems (if any) does the decomposition cause?

# What do we do? Decomposition

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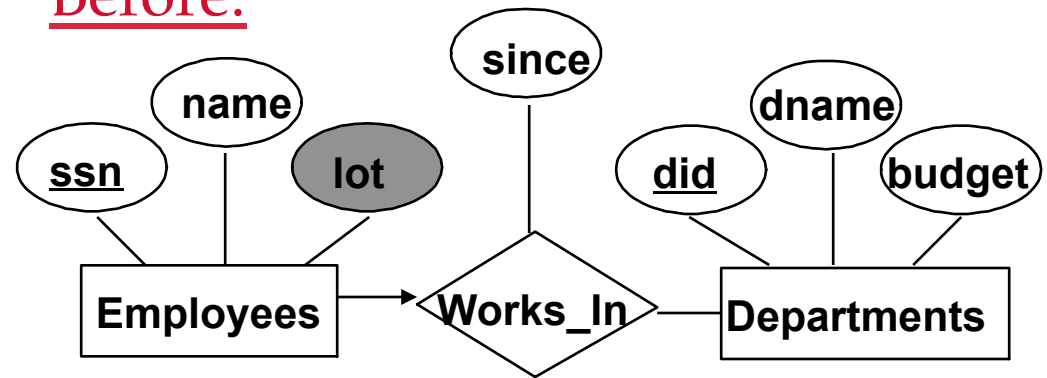
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R	W
8	10
5	7

# Refining an ER Diagram

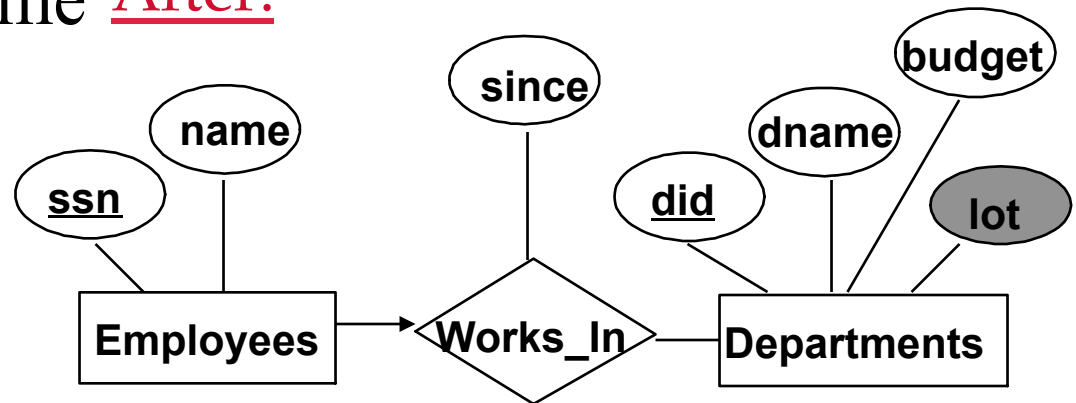
- 1st diagram translated:  
**Employees(S,N,L,D,S2)**  
**Departments(D,M,B)**
  - Lots associated with employees.

Before:



- Suppose all employees in a dept are assigned the same After:  
lot:  $D \rightarrow L$

- Can fine-tune this way:  
**Employees2(S,N,D,S2)**  
**Departments(D,M,B,L)**



# Functional Dependencies (FDs)

- A functional dependency (FD) has the form:  $X \rightarrow Y$ , where  $X$  and  $Y$  are two *sets* of attributes.
  - Examples:  $\text{rating} \rightarrow \text{hrly\_wage}$ ,  $AB \rightarrow C$
- The FD  $X \rightarrow Y$  *is satisfied by a relation instance  $r$  if:*
  - for each pair of tuples  $t1$  and  $t2$  in  $r$ :  
 $t1.X = t2.X$  implies  $t1.Y = t2.Y$
  - i.e., given any two tuples in  $r$ , if the  $X$  values agree, then the  $Y$  values must also agree. ( $X$  and  $Y$  are *sets* of attributes.)
- Convention:  $X, Y, Z$  etc denote sets of attributes, and  $A, B, C$ , etc denote attributes.



# Functional Dependencies (FDs)

- *The FD holds* over relation name R if, for every *allowable* instance  $r$  of R,  $r$  satisfies the FD.
- An FD, as an integrity constraint, is a statement about *all* allowable relation instances.
  - Must be identified based on semantics of application.
  - Given some instance  $r1$  of R, we can check if it *violates* some FD  $f$  or not
  - But we cannot tell if  $f$  *holds* over R by looking at an instance!
    - Cannot prove non-existence (of violation) out of ignorance
  - This is the same for all integrity constraints!

# Example: Constraints on Entity Set

- Consider relation obtained from Hourly\_Emps:
  - Hourly\_Emps (ssn, name, lot, rating, hrly\_wage, hrs\_worked)
- Notation: We will denote this relation schema by listing the attributes: SNLRWH
  - This is really the *set* of attributes {S,N,L,R,W,H}.
  - Sometimes, we will refer to all attributes of a relation by using the relation name. (e.g., Hourly\_Emps for SNLRWH)
- Some FDs on Hourly\_Emps:
  - *ssn* is the key:  $S \rightarrow \text{SNLRWH}$
  - *rating* determines *hrly\_wage*:  $R \rightarrow W$

# One more example

A	B	C
1	1	2
1	1	3
2	1	3
2	1	2

How many *possible* FDs totally on this relation instance?

FDs with A as the left side:	Satisfied by the relation instance?
$A \rightarrow A$	yes
$A \rightarrow B$	yes
$A \rightarrow C$	No
$A \rightarrow AB$	yes
$A \rightarrow AC$	No
$A \rightarrow BC$	No
$A \rightarrow ABC$	No

# Violation of FD by a relation

- The FD  $X \rightarrow Y$  is *NOT satisfied by a relation instance  $r$  if:*
  - There exists a pair of tuples  $t1$  and  $t2$  in  $r$  such that
$$t1.X = t2.X \text{ but } t1.Y \neq t2.Y$$
  - i.e., we can find two tuples in  $r$ , such that  $X$  values agree, but  $Y$  values don't.

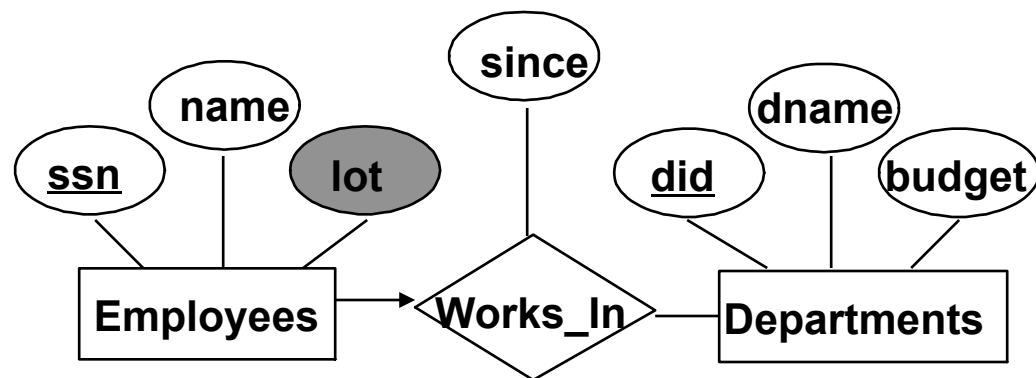
# Some other FDs

A	B	C
1	1	2
1	1	3
2	1	3
2	1	2

FD	Satisfied by the relation instance?
$C \rightarrow B$	yes
$C \rightarrow AB$	No
$B \rightarrow C$	No
$B \rightarrow B$	Yes
$AC \rightarrow B$	Yes [note!]
...	...

# Relationship between FDs and Keys

- Given  $R(A, B, C)$ .
  - $A \rightarrow ABC$  means that  $A$  is a key.
- In general,
  - $X \rightarrow R$  means  $X$  is a (super)key.
- How about key constraint?
  - $ssn \rightarrow did$



# Reasoning About FDs

- Given some FDs, we can usually infer additional FDs:
  - $ssn \rightarrow did, did \rightarrow lot$  implies  $ssn \rightarrow lot$
  - $A \rightarrow BC$  implies  $A \rightarrow B$
- An FD  $f$  is logically implied by a set of FDs  $F$  if  $f$  holds whenever all FDs in  $F$  hold.
  - $F^+ =$  closure of  $F$  is the set of all FDs that are implied by  $F$ .

# Armstrong's axioms

- Armstrong's axioms are *sound* and *complete* inference rules for FDs!
  - Sound: all the derived FDs (by using the axioms) are those logically implied by the given set
  - Complete: all the logically implied (by the given set) FDs can be derived by using the axioms.



# Reasoning about FDs

- How do we get all the FDs that are logically implied by a given set of FDs?
- Armstrong's Axioms ( $X, Y, Z$  are sets of attributes):

- Reflexivity:

- If  $X \supseteq Y$ , then  $X \rightarrow Y$

- Augmentation:

- If  $X \rightarrow Y$ , then  $XZ \rightarrow YZ$  for any  $Z$

- Transitivity:

- If  $X \rightarrow Y$  and  $Y \rightarrow Z$ , then  $X \rightarrow Z$

A	B	C
1	1	2
2	1	3
2	1	3
1	1	2

# Example of using Armstrong's Axioms

- Couple of additional rules (that follow from AA):
  - *Union*: If  $X \rightarrow Y$  and  $X \rightarrow Z$ , then  $X \rightarrow YZ$
  - *Decomposition*: If  $X \rightarrow YZ$ , then  $X \rightarrow Y$  and  $X \rightarrow Z$
- Derive the above two by using Armstrong's axioms!

# Derive Union

- Show that

If  $X \rightarrow Y$  and  $X \rightarrow Z$ , then  $X \rightarrow YZ$

# Derive Decomposition

- Show that

If  $X \rightarrow YZ$ , then  $X \rightarrow Y$  and  $X \rightarrow Z$

## Another Useful Rule: Accumulation Rule

- If  $X \rightarrow YZ$  and  $Z \rightarrow W$ , then  $X \rightarrow YZW$

Proof:

# Derivation Example

- $R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$   
 $F = \{A \rightarrow B; A \rightarrow C; CG \rightarrow H; CG \rightarrow I; B \rightarrow H\}$
- some members of  $F^+$  (how to derive them?)
  - $A \rightarrow H$
  - $AG \rightarrow I$
  - $CG \rightarrow HI$

# Procedure for Computing $F^+$

- To compute the closure of a set of functional dependencies  $F$ :

$F^+ = F$

**repeat**

**for each** functional dependency  $f$  in  $F^+$

        apply reflexivity and augmentation rules on  $f$

        add the resulting functional dependencies to  $F^+$

**for each** pair of functional dependencies  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  in  $F^+$

**if**  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  can be combined using transitivity

**then** add the resulting functional dependency to  $F^+$

**until**  $F^+$  does not change any further

**NOTE:** We shall see an alternative procedure for this task later

# Example on Computing F+

- $F = \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, C D \rightarrow E\}$
- Step 1: For each  $f$  in  $F$ , apply reflexivity rule
  - We get:  $CD \rightarrow C; CD \rightarrow D$
  - Add them to  $F$ :
    - $F = \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, C D \rightarrow E; CD \rightarrow C; CD \rightarrow D\}$
- Step 2: For each  $f$  in  $F$ , apply augmentation rule
  - From  $A \rightarrow B$  we get:  $A \rightarrow AB; AB \rightarrow B; AC \rightarrow BC; AD \rightarrow BD; ABC \rightarrow BC; ABD \rightarrow BD; ACD \rightarrow BCD$
  - From  $B \rightarrow C$  we get:  $AB \rightarrow AC; BC \rightarrow C; BD \rightarrow CD; ABC \rightarrow AC; ABD \rightarrow ACD$ , etc etc.
- Step 3: Apply transitivity on pairs of  $f$ 's
- Keep repeating... You get the idea



# Reasoning About FDs (Contd.)

- Computing the closure of a set of FDs can be expensive. (Size of closure is exponential in # of attrs!)
- Typically, we just want to check if a given FD  $X \rightarrow Y$  is in the closure of a set of FDs  $F$ . An efficient check:
  - Compute attribute closure of  $X$  (denoted  $X^+$ ) wrt  $F$ :
    - Set of all attributes  $Z$  such that  $X \rightarrow Z$  is in  $F^+$
    - There is a linear time algorithm to compute this.
  - Check if  $Y$  is in  $X^+$
- Does  $F = \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, C D \rightarrow E\}$  imply  $A \rightarrow E$ ?
  - i.e, is  $A \rightarrow E$  in the closure  $F^+$ ? Equivalently, is  $E$  in  $A^+$ ?

# Computing $X^+$

- Input  $F$  (a set of FDs), and  $X$  (a set of attributes)
- Output:  $\text{Result} = X^+$  (under  $F$ )
- Method:
  - Step 1:  $\text{Result} := X$ ;
  - Step 2: Take  $Y \rightarrow Z$  in  $F$ , **and**  $Y$  is in  $\text{Result}$ , do:  
 $\text{Result} := \text{Result} \cup Z$
  - Repeat step 2 until  $\text{Result}$  cannot be changed and then output  $\text{Result}$ .

# Example of Attribute Closure $X^+$

- Does  $F = \{A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, CD \rightarrow E\}$  imply  $A \rightarrow E$ ?
  - i.e., is  $A \rightarrow E$  in the closure  $F^+$ ? Equivalently, is  $E$  in  $A^+$ ?

Step 1: Result = A

Step 2: Consider  $A \rightarrow B$ , Result = AB

Consider  $B \rightarrow C$ , Result = ABC

Consider  $CD \rightarrow E$ , CD is not in ABC, so stop

Step 3:  $A^+ = \{ABC\}$

E is NOT in  $A^+$ , so  $A \rightarrow E$  is NOT in  $F^+$

# Example of computing $X^+$

$F = \{A \rightarrow B, AC \rightarrow D, AB \rightarrow C\}$ ?

What is  $X^+$  for  $X = A$ ? (i.e. what is the attribute closure for  $A$ ?)

Answer:  $A^+ = ABCD$

# Example of Attribute Closure

$R = (A, B, C, G, H, I)$

$F = \{A \rightarrow B; A \rightarrow C; CG \rightarrow H; CG \rightarrow I; B \rightarrow H\}$

- $(AG)^+ = ?$ 
  - Answer: ABCGHI
- Is  $AG$  a candidate key?
  - This question involves two parts:
    1. Is  $AG$  a super key?
      - Does  $AG \rightarrow R? == \text{Is } (AG)^+ \supseteq R$
    2. Is any subset of  $AG$  a superkey?
      - Does  $A \rightarrow R? == \text{Is } (A)^+ \supseteq R$
      - Does  $G \rightarrow R? == \text{Is } (G)^+ \supseteq R$

# Uses of Attribute Closure

There are several uses of the attribute closure algorithm:

- Testing for superkey:
  - To test if  $X$  is a superkey, we compute  $X^+$ , and check if  $X^+$  contains all attributes of  $R$ .
- Testing functional dependencies
  - To check if a functional dependency  $X \rightarrow Y$  holds (or, in other words, is in  $F^+$ ), just check if  $Y \subseteq X^+$ .
  - That is, we compute  $X^+$  by using attribute closure, and then check if it contains  $Y$ .
  - Is a simple and cheap test, and very useful
- Computing closure of  $F$

# Computing $F^+$

- Given  $F = \{ A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \}$ . Compute  $F^+$  (with attributes A, B, C).

Step 1: Construct an empty matrix, with all possible combinations of attributes in the rows and columns

	A	B	C	AB	AC	BC	ABC
A							
B							
C							
AB							
AC							
BC							
ABC							

Step 2: Compute the attribute closures for all attribute/combination of attributes

Attribute closure
$A^+ = ?$
$B^+ = ?$
$C^+ = ?$
$AB^+ = ?$
$AC^+ = ?$
$BC^+ = ?$
$ABC^+ = ?$

Step 3: Fill in the matrix using the results from Step 2

# Computing $F^+$

- Given  $F = \{ A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \}$ . Compute  $F^+$  (with attributes  $A, B, C$ ).

We'll do an example on  $A^+$ .

Step 1: Result =  $A$

Step 2: Consider  $A \rightarrow B$ , Result =  $A \cup B = AB$

Consider  $B \rightarrow C$ , Result =  $AB \cup C = ABC$

Step 3:  $A^+ = \{ABC\}$



# Computing $F^+$

- Given  $F = \{ A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \}$ . Compute  $F^+$  (with attributes A, B, C).

Step 1: Construct an empty matrix, with all possible combinations of attributes in the rows and columns

	A	B	C	AB	AC	BC	ABC
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B							
C							
:							

Step 2: Compute the attribute closures for all attribute/combination of attributes

Attribute closure
$A^+ = \mathbf{ABC}$
$B^+ = ?$
$C^+ = ?$
$AB^+ = ?$
$AC^+ = ?$
$BC^+ = ?$
$ABC^+ = ?$

Step 3: Fill in the matrix using the results from Step 2. We have  $A^+ = ABC$ . Now fill in the row for A. Consider the first column. Is A part of  $A^+$ ? Yes, so check it. Is B part of  $A^+$ ? Yes, so check it... and so on.

# Computing $F^+$

- Given  $F = \{ A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C \}$ . Compute  $F^+$  (with attributes A, B, C).

	A	B	C	AB	AC	BC	ABC
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B		✓	✓			✓	
C			✓				
AB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
AC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BC		✓	✓			✓	
ABC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Attribute closure
$A^+ = ABC$
$B^+ = BC$
$C^+ = C$
$AB^+ = ABC$
$AC^+ = ABC$
$BC^+ = BC$
$ABC^+ = ABC$

- An entry with ✓ means FD (the row)  $\rightarrow$  (the column) is in  $F^+$ .
- An entry gets ✓ when (the column) is in (the row)<sup>+</sup>

# Computing $F^+$

Step 4: Derive rules.

$A \rightarrow BC$

	A	B	C	AB	AC	BC	ABC
A	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
B		√	√			√	
C			√				
AB	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
AC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
BC		√	√			√	
ABC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

Attribute closure
$A^+ = ABC$
$B^+ = BC$
$C^+ = C$
$AB^+ = ABC$
$AC^+ = ABC$
$BC^+ = BC$
$ABC^+ = ABC$

- An entry with  $\checkmark$  means FD (the row)  $\rightarrow$  (the column) is in  $F^+$ .
- An entry gets  $\checkmark$  when (the column) is in (the row)<sup>+</sup>

# Check if two sets of FDs are equivalent

- Two sets of FDs are equivalent if they logically imply the same set of FDs.
  - i.e., if  $F_1^+ = F_2^+$ , then they are equivalent.
- For example,  $F_1 = \{A \rightarrow B, A \rightarrow C\}$  is equivalent to  $F_2 = \{A \rightarrow BC\}$
- How to test? Two steps:
  - *Every* FD in  $F_1$  is in  $F_2^+$
  - *Every* FD in  $F_2$  is in  $F_1^+$
- These two steps can use the algorithm (many times) for  $X^+$

# Summary

- Constraints give rise to redundancy
  - Three anomalies
- FD is a “popular” type of constraint
  - Satisfaction & violation
  - Logical implication
  - Reasoning
- Armstrong’s Axioms
  - FD inference/derivation
- Computing the closure of FD’s ( $F^+$ )
- Check for existence of an FD
  - By computing the Attribute closure

# Normal Forms

- The first question: Is any refinement needed?
- Normal forms:
  - If a relation is in a certain *normal form* (BCNF, 3NF etc.), it is known that certain kinds of problems are avoided/minimized. This can be used to help us decide whether decomposing the relation will help.
- Role of FDs in detecting redundancy:
  - Consider a relation R with 3 attributes, ABC.
    - No FDs hold: There is no redundancy here.
    - Given  $A \rightarrow B$ : Several tuples could have the same A value, and if so, they'll all have the same B value!

# Normal Forms

- First normal form (1NF)
  - Every field must contain atomic values, i.e. no sets or lists.
  - Essentially all relations are in this normal form
- Second normal form (2NF)
  - Any relation in 2NF is also in 1NF
  - All the non-key attributes must depend upon the WHOLE of the candidate key rather than just a part of it.
    - It is only relevant when the key is composite, i.e., consists of several fields.
  - e.g. Consider a relation:
    - Inventory(part, warehouse, quantity, warehouse\_address).
    - Suppose {part, warehouse} is a candidate key.
    - warehouse\_address depends upon warehouse alone - 2NF violation
    - Solution: decompose

# Normal Forms

- Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF)
  - Any relation in BCNF is also in 2NF
- Third normal form (3NF)
  - Any relation in BCNF is also in 3NF



# Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF)

- Reln R with FDs  $F$  is in **BCNF** if for each non-trivial FD  $X \rightarrow A$  in  $F$ , **X is a super key for R** (i.e.,  $X \rightarrow R$  in  $F^+$ ).
  - An FD  $X \rightarrow A$  is said to be “trivial” if  $A \in X$ .
  - However if not all  $XA$  are in R, then we don’t care.
- In other words, R is in BCNF if the only non-trivial FDs that hold over R are key constraints.
- If BCNF:
  - No “data” in R can be predicted using FDs alone. Why:
  - Because X is a (super)key, we can’t have two different tuples that agree on the X value

Suppose we know that this instance satisfies  $X \rightarrow A$ . This situation cannot arise if the relation is in BCNF.

X	Y	A
x	y1	a
x	y2	?

# BCNF

- Consider relation  $R$  with FDs  $F$ . If  $X \rightarrow A$  in  $F$  over  $R$  violates BCNF, it means
  - $XA$  are all in  $R$ , and
  - $A$  is not in  $X$ , and  $\rightarrow$  non-trivial FD
  - $X \rightarrow R$  is not in  $F^+$   $\rightarrow$   $X$  is not a superkey
- In other words, for  $X \rightarrow A$  in  $F$  over  $R$  to satisfy BCNF requirement, one of the followings must be true:
  - $XA$  are not all in  $R$ , or
  - $X \rightarrow A$  is trivial, i.e.  $A$  is in  $X$ , or
  - $X$  is a superkey, i.e.  $X \rightarrow R$  is in  $F^+$

# Decomposition of a Relation Schema

- When a relation schema is not in BCNF: **decompose**.
- Suppose that relation R contains attributes  $A_1 \dots A_n$ . A decomposition of R consists of replacing R by two or more relations such that:
  - Each new relation scheme contains a subset of the attributes of R (and no attributes that do not appear in R), and
  - Every attribute of R appears as an attribute of at least one of the new relations.
- Intuitively, decomposing R means we will store instances of the relation schemes produced by the decomposition, instead of instances of R.

# Decomposition example

S	N	L	R	W	H
123-22-3666	Attishoo	48	8	10	40
231-31-5368	Smiley	22	8	10	30
131-24-3650	Smethurst	35	5	7	30
434-26-3751	Guldu	35	5	7	32
612-67-4134	Madayan	35	8	10	40

Original relation  
(not stored in DB!)



Decomposition  
(in the DB)



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S	N	L	R	H
123-22-3666	Attishoo	48	8	40
231-31-5368	Smiley	22	8	30
131-24-3650	Smethurst	35	5	30
434-26-3751	Guldu	35	5	32
612-67-4134	Madayan	35	8	40



R	W
8	10
5	7

# Problems with Decompositions

- There are three potential problems to consider:
  - ① Some queries become more expensive.
    - e.g., How much did sailor Attishoo earn? (earn =  $W * H$ )
  - ② Given instances of the decomposed relations, we may not be able to reconstruct the corresponding instance of the original relation!
    - Fortunately, not in the SNLRWH example.
  - ③ Checking some dependencies may require joining the instances of the decomposed relations.
    - Fortunately, not in the SNLRWH example.
- Tradeoff: Must consider these issues vs. redundancy.

# Example of problem 2

Student_ID	Name	Dcode	Cno	Grade
123-22-3666	Attishoo	INFS	501	A
231-31-5368	Guldu	CS	102	B
131-24-3650	Smethurst	INFS	614	B
434-26-3751	Guldu	INFS	614	A
434-26-3751	Guldu	INFS	612	C

≠

Name	Dcode	Cno	Grade
Attishoo	INFS	501	A
Guldu	CS	102	B
Smethurst	INFS	614	B
Guldu	INFS	614	A
Guldu	INFS	612	C

⊗

Student_ID	Name
123-22-3666	Attishoo
231-31-5368	Guldu
131-24-3650	Smethurst
434-26-3751	Guldu

# Lossless Join Decompositions

- Decomposition of  $R$  into  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is lossless-join w.r.t. a set of FDs  $F$  if, for every instance  $r$  that satisfies  $F$ , we have:

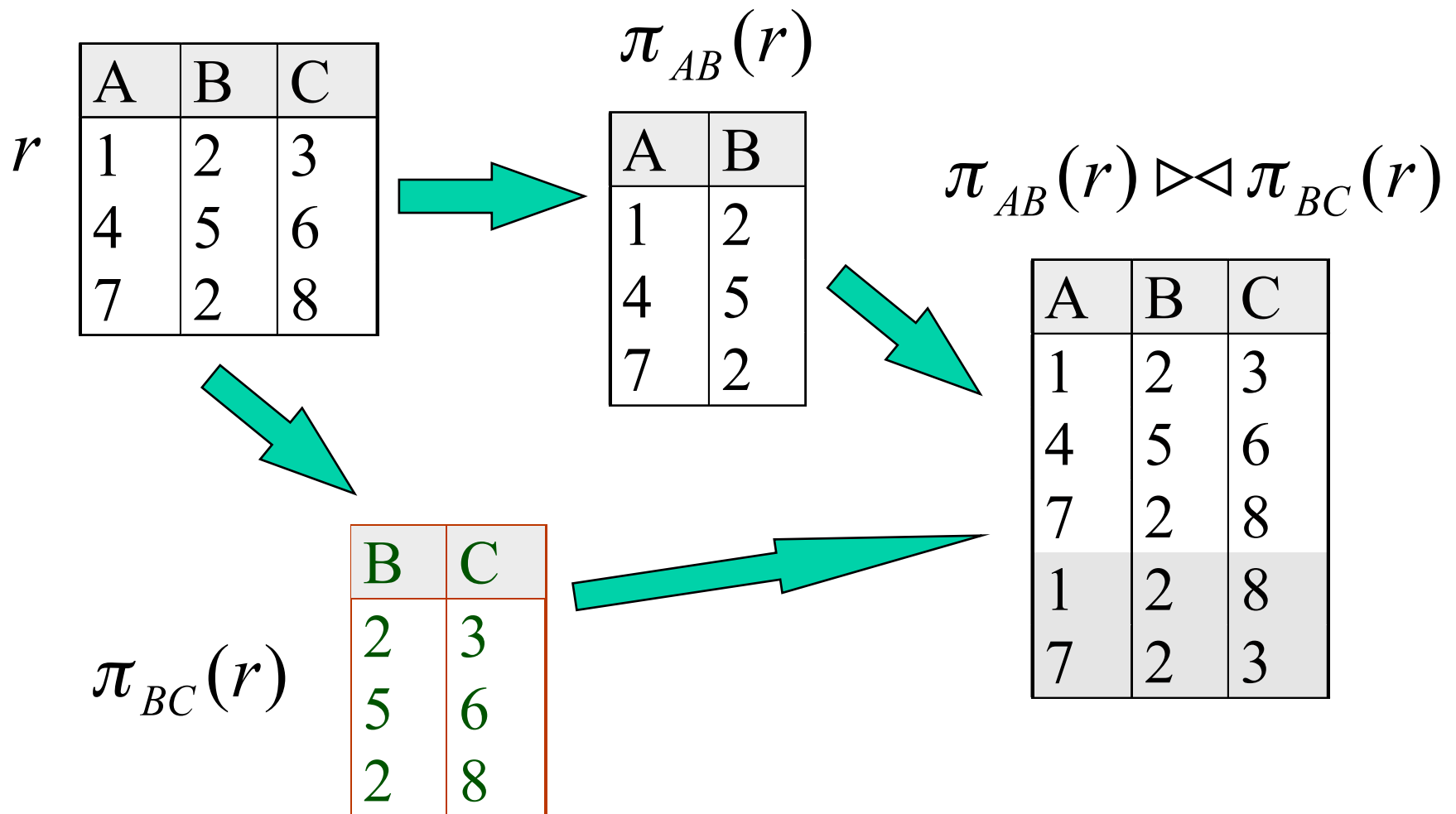
$$\pi_{R_1}(r) \bowtie \pi_{R_2}(r) = r$$

- It is always true that

$$r \subseteq \pi_{R_1}(r) \bowtie \pi_{R_2}(r)$$

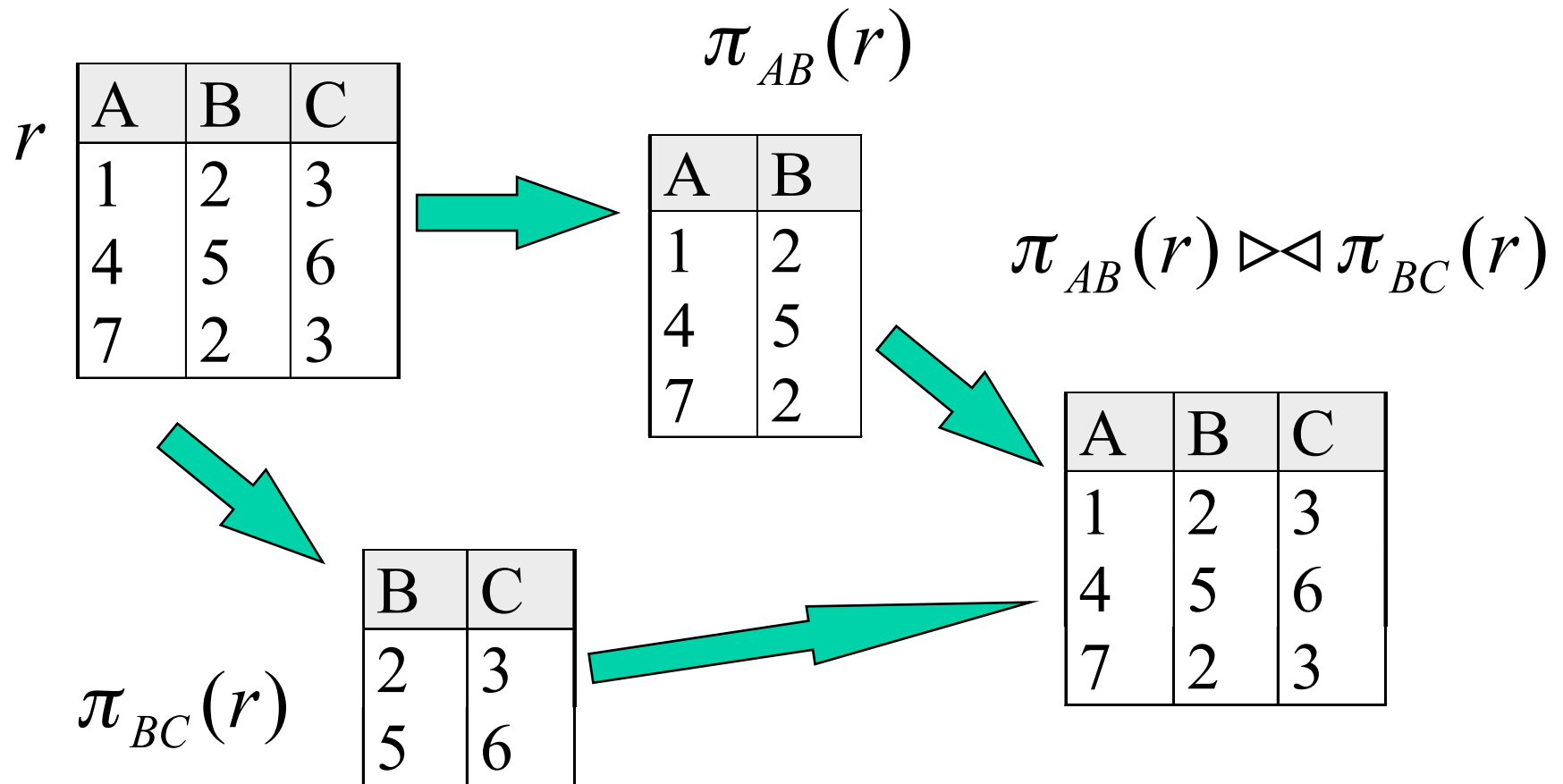
- In general, the other direction does not hold!  
If it does, the decomposition is *lossless-join*.

# Example (lossy decomposition)





# Example (lossless join decomposition)



*Suppose  $(AB \cap BC) \rightarrow BC$*

# Lossless Join Decomposition

- The decomposition of  $R$  into  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is **lossless-join wrt  $F$  if and only if  $F^+$  contains:**
  - $R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_1$ , or
  - $R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_2$
- In particular, the decomposition of  $R$  into  $(UV)$  and  $(R-V)$  is lossless-join if  $U \rightarrow V$  holds on  $R$ 
  - assume  $U$  and  $V$  do not share attributes.
  - WHY?

# Decomposition

- Definition extended to decomposition into 3 or more relations in a straightforward way.
- *It is essential that all decompositions used to deal with redundancy be lossless! (Avoids Problem (2))*

# Decomposition into BCNF

- Recall: Consider relation  $R$  with FDs  $F$ . If  $X \rightarrow A$  in  $F$  over  $R$  violates BCNF, it means
  - $XA$  are all in  $R$ , and
  - $A$  is not in  $X$ , and  $\rightarrow$  non-trivial FD
  - $X \rightarrow R$  is not in  $F^+$   $\rightarrow X$  is not a superkey
- Recall that for  $X \rightarrow A$  in  $F$  over  $R$  to satisfy BCNF requirement, one of the followings must be true:
  - $XA$  are not all in  $R$ , or
  - $X \rightarrow A$  is trivial, i.e.  $A$  is in  $X$ , or
  - $X$  is a superkey, i.e.  $X \rightarrow R$  is in  $F^+$

# Decomposition into BCNF

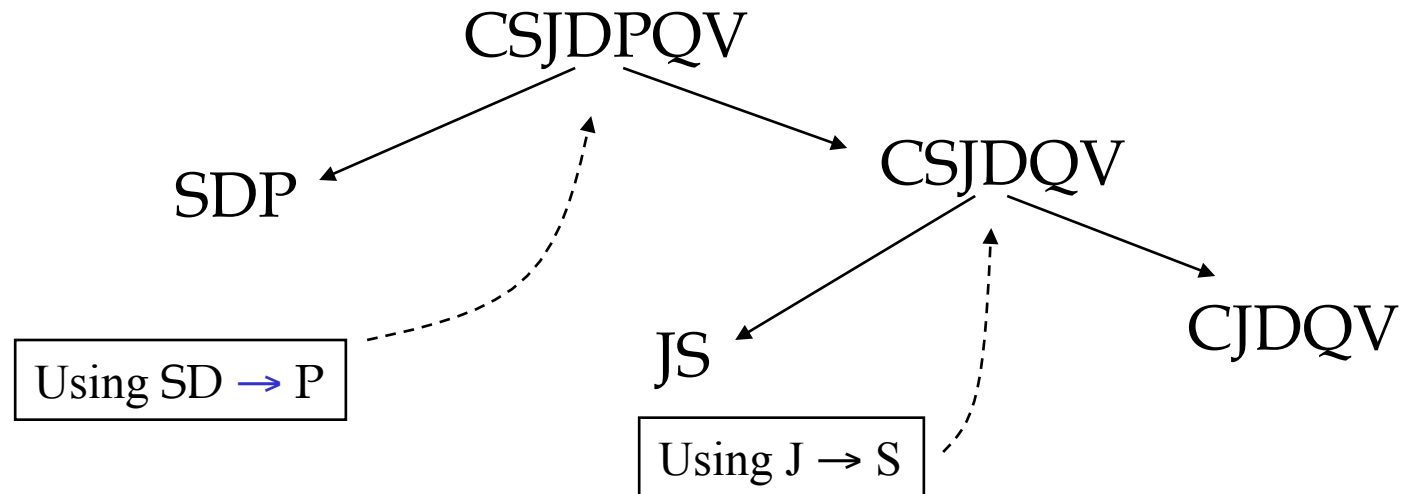
- Consider relation  $R$  with FDs  $F$ . If  $X \rightarrow A$  in  $F$  over  $R$  violates BCNF, i.e.,
  - $XA$  are all in  $R$ , and
  - $A$  is not in  $X$ , and  $\rightarrow$  non-trivial FD
  - $X \rightarrow R$  is not in  $F^+$   $\rightarrow X$  is not a (super)key
- Then: decompose  $R$  into  $R - A$  and  $XA$ .
- Repeated application of this idea will give us a collection of relations that are in BCNF; lossless join decomposition, and guaranteed to terminate.

# BCNF Decomposition Example

- $R = (A, B, C)$   
 $F = \{A \rightarrow B; B \rightarrow C\}$   
Key =  $\{A\}$
- $R$  is not in BCNF ( $B \rightarrow C$  but  $B$  is not a superkey)
- Decomposition
  - $R_1 = (B, C)$
  - $R_2 = (A, B)$

# BCNF Decomposition Example 2

- Assume relation schema CSJDPQV:  
*Contracts(contract\_id, supplier, project, dept, part, qty, value)*
  - key C,  $JP \rightarrow C$ ,  $SD \rightarrow P$ ,  $J \rightarrow S$
- To deal with  $SD \rightarrow P$ , decompose into SDP, CSJDQV.
- To deal with  $J \rightarrow S$ , decompose CSJDQV into JS and CJDQV
- A tree representation of the decomposition:



# BCNF Decomposition

- In general, several dependencies may cause violation of BCNF. The order in which we “deal with” them could lead to very different sets of relations!



# How do we know R is in BCNF?

- If R has only two attributes, then it is in BCNF
- If F only uses attributes in R, then:
  - R is in BCNF *if and only if* for each  $X \rightarrow Y$  in F (**not**  $F^+$ !), X is a superkey of R, i.e.,  $X \rightarrow R$  is in  $F^+$  (not F!).

# Checking for BCNF Violations

- List all non-trivial FDs
- Ensure that left hand side of each FD is a superkey
- We have to first find all the keys!

# Checking for BCNF Violations

- Is Courses(course\_num, dept\_name, course\_name, classroom, enrollment, student\_name, address) in BCNF?
- FDs are:
  - course\_num, dept\_name  $\rightarrow$  course\_name
  - course\_num, dept\_name  $\rightarrow$  classroom
  - course\_num, dept\_name  $\rightarrow$  enrollment
- What is (course\_num, dept\_name)<sup>+</sup>?
  - {course\_num, dept\_name, course\_name, classroom, enrollment}
- Therefore, the key is  
{course\_num, dept\_name, course\_name, classroom, enrollment, student\_name, address}
- The relation is not in BCNF