

Schema Refinement: Dependencies and Normal Forms

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CS 348
Introduction to Database Management
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① Introduction

- Design Principles
- Problems due to Poor Designs

② Functional Dependencies

- Logical Implication of FDs
- Attribute Closure

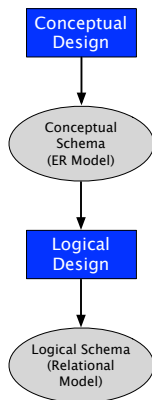
③ Schema Decomposition

- Lossless-Join Decompositions
- Dependency Preservation

④ Normal Forms based on FDs

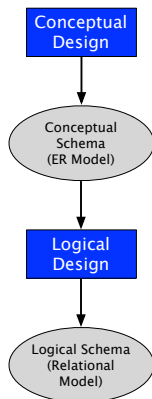
- Boyce-Codd Normal Form
- Third Normal Form

Design Process – Where are we?



Step 1 – ER-to-relational mapping: obtaining an initial design

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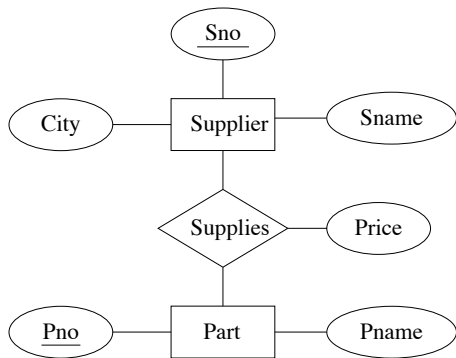
Step 2 – Normalization: diagnosing and improving a design

Relational Design Principles

- Relations should have semantic unity
- Information repetition should be avoided
 - Anomalies: insertion, deletion, modification
- Avoid null values as much as possible
 - Certainly avoid **excessive** null values
- Avoid spurious joins

A Parts/Suppliers Database Example

- Description of a parts/suppliers database:
 - Each type of part has a name and an identifying number, and may be supplied by zero or more suppliers. Each supplier may offer the part at a different price.
 - Each supplier has an identifying number, a name, and a contact location for ordering parts.



Parts/Suppliers Example (cont.)

Suppliers

<u>Sno</u>	Sname	City
S1	Magna	Ajax
S2	Budd	Hull

Parts

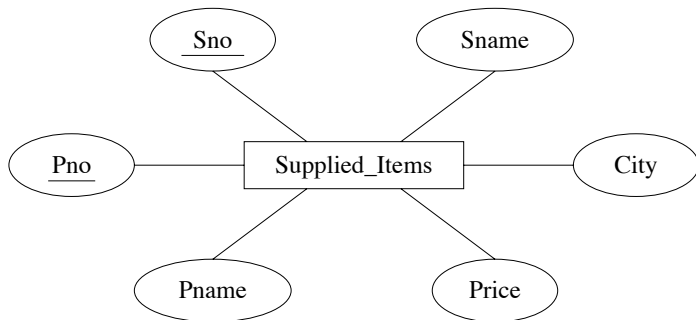
<u>Pno</u>	Pname
P1	Bolt
P2	Nut
P3	Screw

Supplies

<u>Sno</u>	<u>Pno</u>	Price
S1	P1	0.50
S1	P2	0.25
S1	P3	0.30
S2	P3	0.40

An instance of the parts/suppliers database.

Alternative Parts/Suppliers Database



An alternative E-R model for the parts/suppliers database.

Alternative Example (cont.)

Supplied_Items

<u>Sno</u>	Sname	City	<u>Pno</u>	Pname	Price
S1	Magna	Ajax	P1	Bolt	0.50
S1	Magna	Ajax	P2	Nut	0.25
S1	Magna	Ajax	P3	Screw	0.30
S2	Budd	Hull	P3	Screw	0.40

A database instance corresponding to the alternative E-R model.

Consider

- Is one schema better than the other?
- What does it mean for a schema to be good?

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- The single-table schema suffers from several kinds of problems:
 - Update problems (e.g. changing name of supplier)
 - Insert problems (e.g. add a new item)
 - Delete problems (e.g. Budd no longer supplies screws)
 - Likely increase in space requirements
 - The multi-table schema does not have these problems.

Another Alternative Parts/Supplier Database

Is more tables always better?

Snos	Snames	Cities
<u>Sno</u>	<u>Sname</u>	<u>City</u>
S1	Magna	Ajax
S2	Budd	Hull
Inums	Inames	Prices
<u>Inum</u>	<u>Iname</u>	<u>Price</u>
I1	Bolt	0.50
I2	Nut	0.25
I3	Screw	0.30
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Information about relationships is lost!

Goals

- A methodology for evaluating schemas (detecting anomalies).
- A methodology for transforming bad schemas into good schemas (repairing anomalies).

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 - A methodology for transforming bad schemas into good schemas (repairing anomalies).
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- How do we know an anomaly exists?
 - Certain types of *integrity constraints* reveal regularities in database instances that lead to anomalies.
 - What should we do if an anomaly exists?
 - Certain *schema decompositions* can avoid anomalies while retaining all information in the instances

Functional Dependencies (FDs)

Idea: Express the fact that in a relation **schema** (values of) a set of attributes uniquely **determine** (values of) another set of attributes.

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Definition (Functional Dependency)

Let R be a relation schema, and $X, Y \subseteq R$ sets of attributes. The **functional dependency**

$$X \rightarrow Y$$

holds on R if whenever an instance of R contains two tuples t and u such that $t[X] = u[X]$ then it is also true that $t[Y] = u[Y]$.

We say that X *functionally determines* Y (in R).

Notation: $t[A_1, \dots, A_k]$ means projection of tuple t onto the attributes A_1, \dots, A_k . In other words, $(t.A_1, \dots, t.A_k)$.

Examples of Functional Dependencies

Consider the following relation schema:

EmpProj

<u>SIN</u>	<u>PNum</u>	Hours	EName	PName	PLoc	Allowance
------------	-------------	-------	-------	-------	------	-----------

- SIN determines employee name

$SIN \rightarrow EName$

- project number determines project name and location

$PNum \rightarrow PName, PLoc$

- allowances are always the same for the same number of hours at the same location

$PLoc, Hours \rightarrow Allowance$

Functional Dependencies and Keys

- Keys (as defined previously):
 - A **superkey** is a set of attributes such that no two tuples (in an instance) agree on their values for those attributes.
 - A **candidate key** is a *minimal* superkey.
 - A **primary key** is a candidate key chosen by the DBA

Functional Dependencies and Keys

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 - A **superkey** is a set of attributes such that no two tuples (in an instance) agree on their values for those attributes.
 - A **candidate key** is a *minimal* superkey.
 - A **primary key** is a candidate key chosen by the DBA
- Relating keys and FDs:
 - If $K \subseteq R$ is a **superkey** for relation schema R , then dependency $K \rightarrow R$ holds on R .
 - If dependency $K \rightarrow R$ holds on R and we assume that R does not contain duplicate tuples (i.e. relational model) then $K \subseteq R$ is a **superkey** for relation schema R

How do we know what additional FDs hold in a schema?

- The **closure** of the set of functional dependencies F (denoted F^+) is the set of all functional dependencies that are satisfied by every relational instance that satisfies F .
- Informally, F^+ includes all of the dependencies in F , plus any dependencies they imply.

Reasoning About FDs

Logical implications can be derived by using inference rules called **Armstrong's axioms**

- (reflexivity) $Y \subseteq X \Rightarrow X \rightarrow Y$
- (augmentation) $X \rightarrow Y \Rightarrow XZ \rightarrow YZ$
- (transitivity) $X \rightarrow Y, Y \rightarrow Z \Rightarrow X \rightarrow Z$

The axioms are

- sound (anything derived from F is in F^+)
- complete (anything in F^+ can be derived)

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The axioms are

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Additional rules can be derived

- (union) $X \rightarrow Y, X \rightarrow Z \Rightarrow X \rightarrow YZ$
- (decomposition) $X \rightarrow YZ \Rightarrow X \rightarrow Y$

Reasoning About FDs (example)

Example: $F = \{$
 $SIN, PNum \rightarrow Hours$
 $SIN \rightarrow EName$
 $PNum \rightarrow PName, PLoc$
 $PLoc, Hours \rightarrow Allowance \}$

A derivation of $SIN, PNum \rightarrow Allowance$:

- 1 $SIN, PNum \rightarrow Hours (\in F)$
- 2 $PNum \rightarrow PName, PLoc (\in F)$
- 3 $PLoc, Hours \rightarrow Allowance (\in F)$
- 4 $SIN, PNum \rightarrow PNum$ (reflexivity)
- 5 $SIN, PNum \rightarrow PName, PLoc$ (transitivity, 4 and 2)
- 6 $SIN, PNum \rightarrow PLoc$ (decomposition, 5)
- 7 $SIN, PNum \rightarrow PLoc, Hours$ (union, 6, 1)
- 8 $SIN, PNum \rightarrow Allowance$ (transitivity, 7 and 3)

Computing Attribute Closures

- There is a more efficient way of using Armstrong's axioms, if we only want to derive the maximal set of attributes functionally determined by some X (called the **attribute closure of X**).

```
function ComputeX+( $X, F$ )
begin
   $X^+ := X$ ;
  while true do
    if there exists  $(Y \rightarrow Z) \in F$  such that
      (1)  $Y \subseteq X^+$ , and
      (2)  $Z \not\subseteq X^+$ 
    then  $X^+ := X^+ \cup Z$ 
    else exit;
  return  $X^+$ ;
end
```

Computing Attribute Closures (cont'd)

Let R be a relational schema and F a set of functional dependencies on R . Then

Theorem: X is a superkey of R if and only if

$$\text{Compute}X^+(X, F) = R$$

Theorem: $X \rightarrow Y \in F^+$ if and only if

$$Y \subseteq \text{Compute}X^+(X, F)$$

Attribute Closure Example

Example: $F = \{$
 $SIN \rightarrow EName$
 $PNum \rightarrow PName, PLoc$
 $PLoc, Hours \rightarrow Allowance \}$

Compute $X^+ (\{Pnum, Hours\}, F)$:

FD	X^+
initial	Pnum,Hours
$Pnum \rightarrow Pname, Ploc$	Pnum,Hours,Pname,Ploc
$PLoc, Hours \rightarrow Allowance$	Pnum,Hours,Pname,Ploc,Allowance

Definition (Schema Decomposition)

Let R be a relation schema (= set of attributes). The collection $\{R_1, \dots, R_n\}$ of relation schemas is a **decomposition** of R if

$$R = R_1 \cup R_2 \cup \dots \cup R_n$$

A good decomposition does not

- lose information
- complicate checking of constraints
- contain anomalies (or at least contains fewer anomalies)

Lossless-Join Decompositions

We should be able to construct the instance of the original table from the instances of the tables in the decomposition

Example: Consider replacing

Marks

<u>Student</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	Group	Mark
Ann	A1	G1	80
Ann	A2	G3	60
Bob	A1	G2	60

by decomposing (i.e. projecting) into two tables

SGM

<u>Student</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Mark</u>
Ann	G1	80
Ann	G3	60
Bob	G2	60

AM

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Mark</u>
A1	80
A2	60
A1	60

Lossless-Join Decompositions (cont.)

But computing the natural join of SGM and AM produces

Student	Assignment	Group	Mark
Ann	A1	G1	80
Ann	A2	G3	60
Ann	A1	G3	60
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... and we get extra data (**spurious tuples**). We would therefore lose information if we were to replace Marks by SGM and AM.

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... and we get extra data (**spurious tuples**). We would therefore lose information if we were to replace Marks by SGM and AM.

If re-joining SGM and AM would **always** produce exactly the tuples in Marks, then we call SGM and AM a **lossless-join decomposition**.

Lossless-Join Decompositions (cont.)

A decomposition $\{R_1, R_2\}$ of R is lossless if and only if the common attributes of R_1 and R_2 form a superkey for either schema, that is

$$R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_1 \quad \text{or} \quad R_1 \cap R_2 \rightarrow R_2$$

Lossless-Join Decompositions (cont.)

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Example: In the previous example we had

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \{Student, Assignment, Group, Mark\} , \\ F &= \{(Student, Assignment \rightarrow Group, Mark)\} , \\ R_1 &= \{Student, Group, Mark\} , \\ R_2 &= \{Assignment, Mark\} \end{aligned}$$

Decomposition $\{R_1, R_2\}$ is lossy because $R_1 \cap R_2 (= \{Mark\})$ is not a superkey of either $\{Student, Group, Mark\}$ or $\{Assignment, Mark\}$

Dependency Preservation

How do we test/enforce constraints on the decomposed schema?

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Example: A table for a company database could be

R		
Proj	Dept	Div

FD1: Proj \rightarrow Dept,

FD2: Dept \rightarrow Div, and

FD3: Proj \rightarrow Div

and two decompositions

$D_1 = \{R1[Proj, Dept], R2[Dept, Div]\}$

$D_2 = \{R1[Proj, Dept], R3[Proj, Div]\}$

Both are lossless. (Why?)

Dependency Preservation (cont.)

Which decomposition is *better*?

- Decomposition D_1 lets us test FD1 on table R1 and FD2 on table R2; if they are both satisfied, FD3 is automatically satisfied.
- In decomposition D_2 we can test FD1 on table R1 and FD3 on table R3. Dependency FD2 is an **interrelational constraint**: testing it requires joining tables R1 and R3.

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$\Rightarrow D_1$ is better!

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$\Rightarrow D_1$ is better!

Given a schema R and a set of functional dependencies F , decomposition $D = \{R_1, \dots, R_n\}$ of R is **dependency preserving** if there is an equivalent set of functional dependencies F' , none of which is interrelational in D .

Normal Forms

What is a “good” relational database schema?

Rule of thumb: Independent facts in separate tables:

“Each relation schema should consist of a **primary key**
and a **set of mutually independent attributes**”

This is achieved by transforming a schema into a **normal form**.

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Normal Forms based on Functional Dependencies:

- Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF)
- Third Normal Form (3NF)

Boyce-Codd Normal Form (BCNF) - Informal

- BCNF formalizes the goal that in a good database schema, **independent relationships** are stored in **separate tables**.
- Given a database schema and a set of functional dependencies for the attributes in the schema, we can determine whether the schema is in BCNF. A database schema is in BCNF if each of its relation schemas is in BCNF.
- Informally, a relation schema is in BCNF if and only if any group of its attributes that functionally determines *any* others of its attributes functionally determines *all* others, i.e., that group of attributes is a superkey of the relation.

Formal Definition of BCNF

Let R be a relation schema and F a set of functional dependencies.

Schema R is in **BCNF** (w.r.t. F) if and only if whenever $(X \rightarrow Y) \in F^+$ and $XY \subseteq R$, then either

- $(X \rightarrow Y)$ is trivial (i.e., $Y \subseteq X$), or
- X is a superkey of R

A database schema $\{R_1, \dots, R_n\}$ is in BCNF if each relation schema R_i is in BCNF.

BCNF and Redundancy

- Why does BCNF avoid redundancy? Consider:

Supplied_Items

<u>Sno</u>	Sname	City	<u>Pno</u>	Pname	Price
------------	-------	------	------------	-------	-------

- The following functional dependency holds:

$Sno \rightarrow Sname, City$

- Therefore, supplier name “Magna” and city “Ajax” must be repeated for each item supplied by supplier S1.

BCNF and Redundancy

- Why does BCNF avoid redundancy? Consider:

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<u>Sno</u>	Sname	City	<u>Pno</u>	Pname	Price
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- The following functional dependency holds:

$$\text{Sno} \rightarrow \text{Sname, City}$$

- Therefore, supplier name “Magna” and city “Ajax” must be repeated for each item supplied by supplier S1.
- Assume the above FD holds over a schema R that is in BCNF. This implies that:
 - Sno is a superkey for R
 - each Sno value appears on one row only
 - no need to repeat Sname and City values

Lossless-Join BCNF Decomposition

```
function DecomposeBCNF( $R, F$ )
begin
     $Result := \{R\}$ ;
    while some  $R_i \in Result$  and  $(X \rightarrow Y) \in F^+$ 
        violate the BCNF condition do begin
        Replace  $R_i$  by  $R_i - (Y - X)$ ;
        Add  $\{X, Y\}$  to  $Result$ ;
    end;
    return  $Result$ ;
end
```

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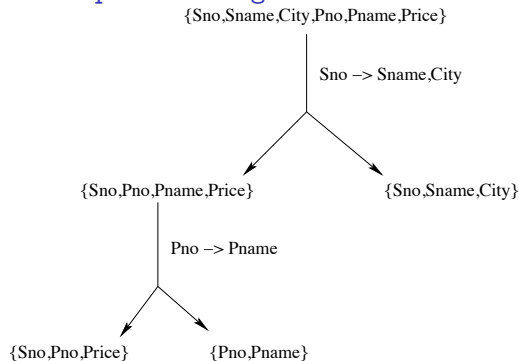
- No *efficient* procedure to do this exists.
- Results depend on sequence of FDs used to decompose the relations.
- It is possible that no lossless join dependency preserving BCNF decomposition exists
 - Consider $R = \{A, B, C\}$ and $F = \{AB \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow B\}$.

BCNF Decomposition - An Example

- $R = \{Sno, Sname, City, Pno, Pname, Price\}$
- functional dependencies:
 - $Sno \rightarrow Sname, City$
 - $Pno \rightarrow Pname$
 - $Sno, Pno \rightarrow Price$
- This schema is not in BCNF because, for example, Sno determines Sname and City, but is not a superkey of R .

BCNF Decomposition - An Example (cont.)

Decomposition Diagram:



- The complete schema is now
$$R_1 = \{Sno, Sname, City\}$$
$$R_2 = \{Sno, Pno, Price\}$$
$$R_3 = \{Pno, Pname\}$$
- This schema is a lossless-join, BCNF decomposition of the original schema R .

Third Normal Form (3NF)

Schema R is in **3NF** (w.r.t. F) if and only if whenever $(X \rightarrow Y) \in F^+$ and $XY \subseteq R$, then either

- $(X \rightarrow Y)$ is trivial, or
- X is a superkey of R , or
- each attribute in $Y - X$ is contained in a candidate key of R

A database schema $\{R_1, \dots, R_n\}$ is in 3NF if each relation schema R_i is in 3NF.

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- 3NF is looser than BCNF
 - allows more redundancy
 - e.g. $R = \{A, B, C\}$ and $F = \{AB \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow B\}$.
- lossless-join, dependency-preserving decomposition into 3NF relation schemas always exists.

Minimal Cover

Definition: Two sets of dependencies F and G are **equivalent** iff $F^+ = G^+$.

There are different sets of functional dependencies that have the same logical implications. Simple sets are desirable.

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Definition: A set of dependencies G is **minimal** if

- 1 every right-hand side of an dependency in F is a single attribute.
- 2 for no $X \rightarrow A$ is the set $F - \{X \rightarrow A\}$ equivalent to F .
- 3 for no $X \rightarrow A$ and Z a proper subset of X is the set $F - \{X \rightarrow A\} \cup \{Z \rightarrow A\}$ equivalent to F .

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Theorem: For every set of dependencies F there is an equivalent minimal set of dependencies (**minimal cover**).

Finding Minimal Covers

A minimal cover for F can be computed in three steps. Note that each step must be repeated until it no longer succeeds in updating F .

Step 1.

Replace $X \rightarrow YZ$ with the pair $X \rightarrow Y$ and $X \rightarrow Z$.

Step 2.

Remove A from the left-hand-side of $X \rightarrow B$ in F if

B is in $ComputeX^+(X - \{A\}, F)$.

Step 3.

Remove $X \rightarrow A$ from F if $A \in ComputeX^+(X, F - \{X \rightarrow A\})$.

Dependency-Preserving 3NF Decomposition

Idea: Decompose into 3NF relations and then “repair”

```
function Decompose3NF( $R, F$ )
begin
   $Result := \{R\}$ ;
  while some  $R_i \in Result$  and  $(X \rightarrow Y) \in F^+$ 
    violate the 3NF condition do begin
    Replace  $R_i$  by  $R_i - (Y - X)$ ;
    Add  $\{X, Y\}$  to  $Result$ ;
  end;
   $N := (a \text{ minimal cover for } F) - (\bigcup_i F_i)^+$ 
  for each  $(X \rightarrow Y) \in N$  do
    Add  $\{X, Y\}$  to  $Result$ ;
  end;
  return  $Result$ ;
end
```

Dep-Preserving 3NF Decomposition - An Example

- $R = \{Sno, Sname, City, Pno, Pname, Price\}$
- Functional dependencies:
 - $Sno \rightarrow Sname, City$ $Pno \rightarrow Pname$
 - $Sno, Pno \rightarrow Price$ $Sno, Pname \rightarrow Price$

Dep-Preserving 3NF Decomposition - An Example

- $R = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Sname}, \text{City}, \text{Pno}, \text{Pname}, \text{Price}\}$
- Functional dependencies:
 $\text{Sno} \rightarrow \text{Sname}, \text{City}$ $\text{Pno} \rightarrow \text{Pname}$
 $\text{Sno}, \text{Pno} \rightarrow \text{Price}$ $\text{Sno}, \text{Pname} \rightarrow \text{Price}$
- Following same decomposition tree as BCNF example:

$$R_1 = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Sname}, \text{City}\}$$

$$R_2 = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Pno}, \text{Price}\}$$

$$R_3 = \{\text{Pno}, \text{Pname}\}$$

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- Functional dependencies:
 $Sno \rightarrow Sname, City$ $Pno \rightarrow Pname$
 $Sno, Pno \rightarrow Price$ $Sno, Pname \rightarrow Price$
- Following same decomposition tree as BCNF example:

$$R_1 = \{Sno, Sname, City\}$$

$$R_2 = \{Sno, Pno, Price\}$$

$$R_3 = \{Pno, Pname\}$$

- Minimal cover:
 $Sno \rightarrow Sname$ $Pno \rightarrow Pname$
 $Sno \rightarrow City$ $Sno, Pname \rightarrow Price$

Dep-Preserving 3NF Decomposition - An Example

- $R = \{Sno, Sname, City, Pno, Pname, Price\}$
- Functional dependencies:
 $Sno \rightarrow Sname, City$ $Pno \rightarrow Pname$
 $Sno, Pno \rightarrow Price$ $Sno, Pname \rightarrow Price$
- Following same decomposition tree as BCNF example:

$$R_1 = \{Sno, Sname, City\}$$

$$R_2 = \{Sno, Pno, Price\}$$

$$R_3 = \{Pno, Pname\}$$

- Minimal cover:
 $Sno \rightarrow Sname$ $Pno \rightarrow Pname$
 $Sno \rightarrow City$ $Sno, Pname \rightarrow Price$
- Add relation to preserve missing dependency

$$R_4 = \{Sno, Pname, Price\}$$

3NF Synthesis

A lossless-join 3NF decomposition that is dependency preserving can be efficiently computed

```
function Synthesize3NF(R, F)  
begin  
    Result :=  $\emptyset$ ;  
    F' := a minimal cover for F;  
    for each  $(X \rightarrow Y) \in F'$  do  
        Result := Result  $\cup$  {XY};  
    if there is no  $R_i \in \text{Result}$  such that  
        Ri contains a candidate key for R then begin  
            compute a candidate key K for R;  
            Result := Result  $\cup$  {K};  
        end;  
    return Result;  
end
```

3NF Synthesis - An Example

- $R = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Sname}, \text{City}, \text{Pno}, \text{Pname}, \text{Price}\}$
- Functional dependencies:
 - $\text{Sno} \rightarrow \text{Sname}, \text{City}$ $\text{Pno} \rightarrow \text{Pname}$
 - $\text{Sno}, \text{Pno} \rightarrow \text{Price}$ $\text{Sno}, \text{Pname} \rightarrow \text{Price}$

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- Minimal cover:
 - $\text{Sno} \rightarrow \text{Sname}$ $R_1 = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Sname}\}$
 - $\text{Sno} \rightarrow \text{City}$ $R_2 = \{\text{Sno}, \text{City}\}$
 - $\text{Pno} \rightarrow \text{Pname}$ $R_3 = \{\text{Pno}, \text{Pname}\}$
 - $\text{Sno}, \text{Pname} \rightarrow \text{Price}$ $R_4 = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Pname}, \text{Price}\}$

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- Add relation for candidate key $R_5 = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Pno}\}$

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- $R = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Sname}, \text{City}, \text{Pno}, \text{Pname}, \text{Price}\}$
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- Minimal cover:
 - $\text{Sno} \rightarrow \text{Sname}$ $R_1 = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Sname}\}$
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 - $\text{Sno}, \text{Pname} \rightarrow \text{Price}$ $R_4 = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Pname}, \text{Price}\}$
- Add relation for candidate key $R_5 = \{\text{Sno}, \text{Pno}\}$
- Optimization: combine relations R_1 and R_2 (same key)

- Functional dependencies provide clues towards elimination of (some) *redundancies* in a relational schema.
- Goals: to decompose relational schemas in such a way that the decomposition is
 - (1) lossless-join
 - (2) dependency preserving
 - (3) BCNF (and if we fail here, at least 3NF)