*Fundamentals of*

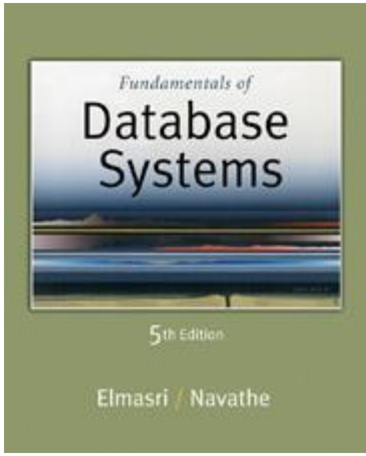
# Database Systems

5th Edition

Elmasri / Navathe

# Chapter 10

## Functional Dependencies and Normalization for Relational Databases



# Informal Design Guidelines for Relational Databases (2)

- We first discuss informal guidelines for good relational design
- Then we discuss formal concepts of functional dependencies and normal forms
  - - 1NF (First Normal Form)
  - - 2NF (Second Normal Form)
  - - 3NF (Third Normal Form)
  - - BCNF (Boyce-Codd Normal Form)

# 1.1 Semantics of the Relation Attributes

- GUIDELINE 1: Informally, each tuple in a relation should represent one entity or relationship instance. (Applies to individual relations and their attributes).
  - Attributes of different entities (EMPLOYEEs, DEPARTMENTs, PROJECTs) should not be mixed in the same relation
  - Only foreign keys should be used to refer to other entities
  - Entity and relationship attributes should be kept apart as much as possible.
- Bottom Line: *Design a schema that can be explained easily relation by relation. The semantics of attributes should be easy to interpret.*

# Figure 10.1 A simplified COMPANY relational database schema

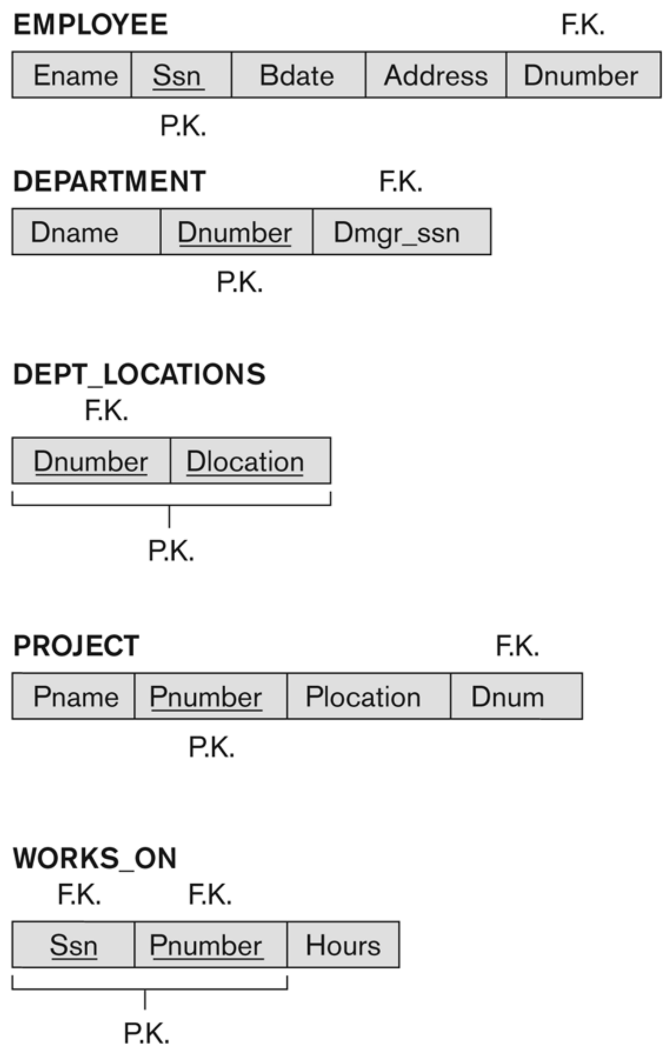


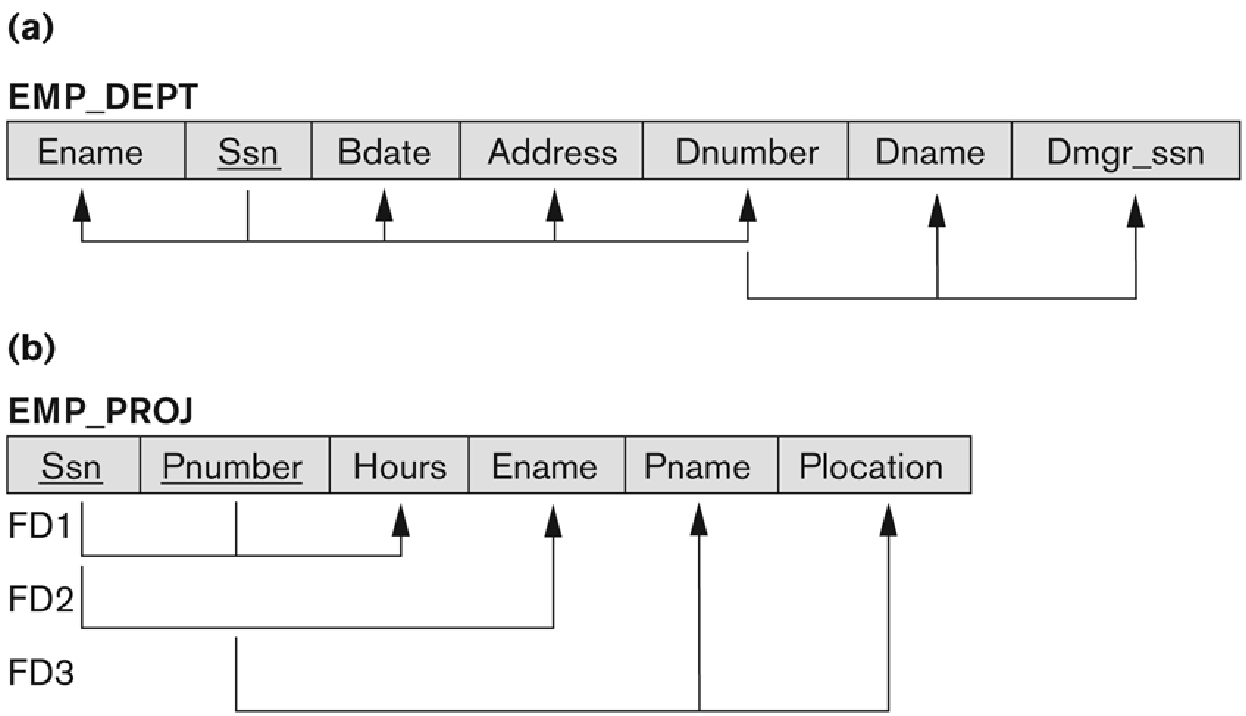

**Figure 10.1**
A simplified COMPANY relational database schema.

# 1.2 Redundant Information in Tuples and Update Anomalies

- Information is stored redundantly
  - Wastes storage
  - Causes problems with update anomalies
    - Insertion anomalies
    - Deletion anomalies
    - Modification anomalies

# Figure 10.3 Two relation schemas suffering from update anomalies

**Figure 10.3**
Two relation schemas suffering from update anomalies.
(a) EMP_DEPT and
(b) EMP_PROJ.



Redundancy

**EMP_DEPT**

| Ename | Ssn | Bdate | Address | Dnumber | Dname | Dmgr_ssn |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smith, John B. | 123456789 | 1965-01-09 | 731 Fondren, Houston, TX | 5 | Research | 333445555 |
| Wong, Franklin T. | 333445555 | 1955-12-08 | 638 Voss, Houston, TX | 5 | Research | 333445555 |
| Zelaya, Alicia J. | 999887777 | 1968-07-19 | 3321 Castle, Spring, TX | 4 | Administration | 987654321 |
| Wallace, Jennifer S. | 987654321 | 1941-06-20 | 291 Berry, Bellaire, TX | 4 | Administration | 987654321 |
| Narayan, Ramesh K. | 666884444 | 1962-09-15 | 975 FireOak, Humble, TX | 5 | Research | 333445555 |
| English, Joyce A. | 453453453 | 1972-07-31 | 5631 Rice, Houston, TX | 5 | Research | 333445555 |
| Jabbar, Ahmad V. | 987987987 | 1969-03-29 | 980 Dallas, Houston, TX | 4 | Administration | 987654321 |
| Borg, James E. | 888665555 | 1937-11-10 | 450 Stone, Houston, TX | 1 | Headquarters | 888665555 |

Redundancy Redundancy

**EMP_PROJ**

| Ssn | Pnumber | Hours | Ename | Pname | Plocation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 123456789 | 1 | 32.5 | Smith, John B. | ProductX | Bellaire |
| 123456789 | 2 | 7.5 | Smith, John B. | ProductY | Sugarland |
| 666884444 | 3 | 40.0 | Narayan, Ramesh K. | ProductZ | Houston |
| 453453453 | 1 | 20.0 | English, Joyce A. | ProductX | Bellaire |
| 453453453 | 2 | 20.0 | English, Joyce A. | ProductY | Sugarland |
| 333445555 | 2 | 10.0 | Wong, Franklin T. | ProductY | Sugarland |
| 333445555 | 3 | 10.0 | Wong, Franklin T. | ProductZ | Houston |
| 333445555 | 10 | 10.0 | Wong, Franklin T. | Computerization | Stafford |
| 333445555 | 20 | 10.0 | Wong, Franklin T. | Reorganization | Houston |
| 999887777 | 30 | 30.0 | Zelaya, Alicia J. | Newbenefits | Stafford |
| 999887777 | 10 | 10.0 | Zelaya, Alicia J. | Computerization | Stafford |
| 987987987 | 10 | 35.0 | Jabbar, Ahmad V. | Computerization | Stafford |
| 987987987 | 30 | 5.0 | Jabbar, Ahmad V. | Newbenefits | Stafford |
| 987654321 | 30 | 20.0 | Wallace, Jennifer S. | Newbenefits | Stafford |
| 987654321 | 20 | 15.0 | Wallace, Jennifer S. | Reorganization | Houston |
| 888665555 | 20 | Null | Borg, James E. | Reorganization | Houston |

# Guideline to Redundant Information in Tuples and Update Anomalies

- GUIDELINE 2:
  - Design a schema that does not suffer from the insertion, deletion and update anomalies.
  - If there are any anomalies present, then note them so that applications can be made to take them into account.

# EXAMPLE OF AN UPDATE ANOMALY

- Consider the relation:
  - EMP_PROJ(Emp#, Proj#, Ename, Pname, No_hours)
- Update Anomaly:
  - Changing the name of project number P1 from "Billing" to "Customer-Accounting" may cause this update to be made for all 100 employees working on project P1.

# EXAMPLE OF AN INSERT ANOMALY

- Consider the relation:
  - EMP_PROJ(Emp#, Proj#, Ename, Pname, No_hours)
- Insert  Anomaly:
  - Cannot insert a project unless an employee is assigned to it.
- Conversely
  - Cannot insert an employee unless an he/she is assigned to a project.

# EXAMPLE OF AN DELETE ANOMALY

- Consider the relation:
  - EMP_PROJ(Emp#, Proj#, Ename, Pname, No_hours)
- Delete Anomaly:
  - When a project is deleted, it will result in deleting all the employees who work on that project.
  - Alternately, if an employee is the sole employee on a project, deleting that employee would result in deleting the corresponding project.

# 1.3 Null Values in Tuples

- GUIDELINE 3:
  - Relations should be designed such that their tuples will have as few NULL values as possible
  - Attributes that are NULL frequently could be placed in separate relations (with the primary key)
- Reasons for nulls:
  - Attribute not applicable or invalid
  - Attribute value unknown (may exist)
  - Value known to exist, but unavailable

# 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

# 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

# 3.2 First Normal Form

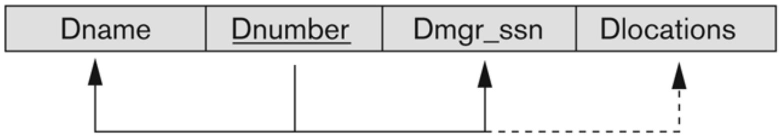
- Disallows
  - composite attributes
  - multivalued attributes

- Considered to be part of the definition of relation

# Figure 10.8 Normalization into 1NF

**(a)**

**DEPARTMENT**




**(b)**

**DEPARTMENT**

| Dname | Dnumber | Dmgr_ssn | Dlocations |
|---|---|---|---|
| Research | 5 | 333445555 | {Bellaire, Sugarland, Houston} |
| Administration | 4 | 987654321 | {Stafford} |
| Headquarters | 1 | 888665555 | {Houston} |

# 3.3 Second Normal Form (1)

- Uses the concepts of **FDs, primary key**
- Definitions
  - **Prime attribute:** An 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
- Examples:
  - {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

# 2.1 Functional Dependencies (1)

- Functional dependencies (FDs)
  - Are used to specify *formal measures* of the "goodness" of relational designs
  - And keys are used to define **normal forms** for relations
  - Are **constraints** that are derived from the *meaning* and *interrelationships* of the data attributes
- A set of attributes X *functionally determines* a set of attributes Y if the value of X determines a unique value for Y

# Functional Dependencies (2)

- X -> Y holds if whenever two tuples have the same value for X, they *must have* the same value for Y
  - For any two tuples t1 and t2 in any relation instance r(R): If t1[X]=t2[X], *then* t1[Y]=t2[Y]
- X -> Y in R specifies a *constraint* on all relation instances r(R)
- Written as X -> Y; can be displayed graphically on a relation schema as in Figures. ( denoted by the arrow: ).
- FDs are derived from the real-world constraints on the attributes

# Examples of FD constraints (1)

- Social security number determines employee name
  - SSN -> ENAME
- Project number determines project name and location
  - PNUMBER -> {PNAME, PLOCATION}
- Employee ssn and project number determines the hours per week that the employee works on the project
  - {SSN, PNUMBER} -> HOURS

# Examples of FD constraints (2)

- An FD is a property of the attributes in the schema R
- The constraint must hold on *every* relation instance r(R)
- If K is a key of R, then K functionally determines all attributes in R
  - (since we never have two distinct tuples with t1[K]=t2[K])

# 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

(a)

EMP_PROJ

| Ssn | Pnumber | Hours | Ename | Pname | Plocation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

# 3.4 Third Normal Form (1)

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

# Figure 10.10 Normalizing into 3NF

(b)

EMP_DEPT

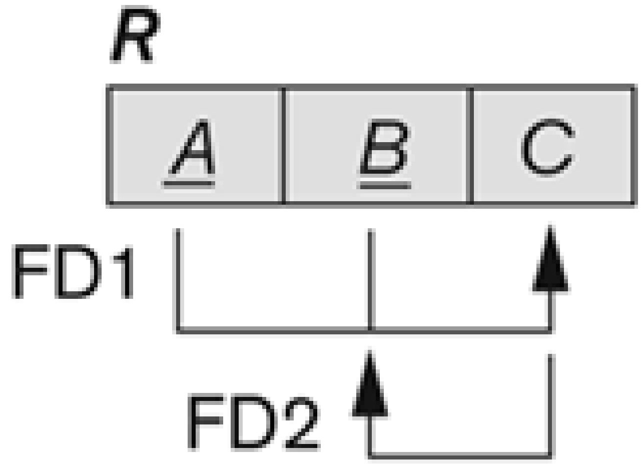
| Ename | Ssn | Bdate | Address | Dnumber | Dname | Dmgr_ssn |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

# Normal Forms Defined Informally

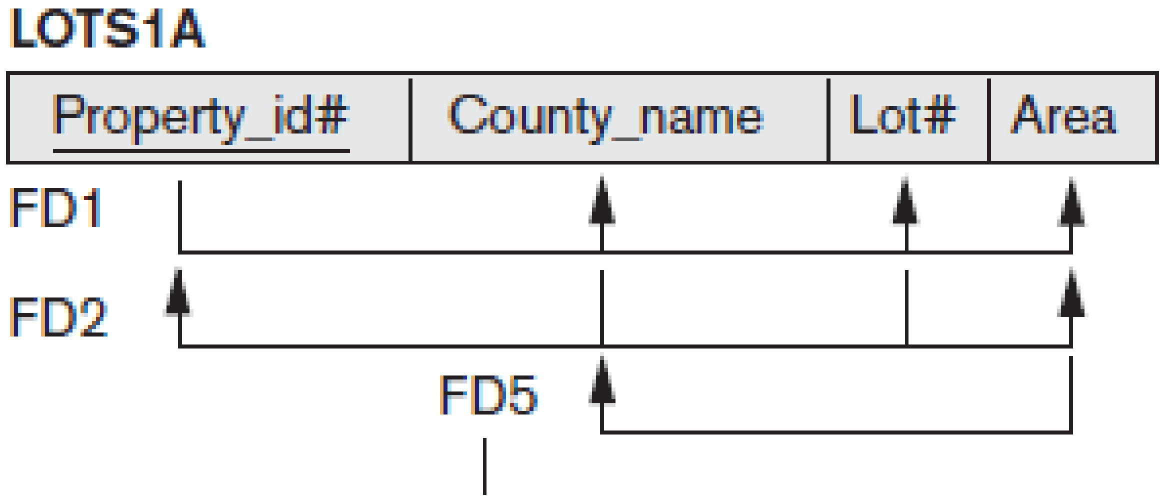
- 1st normal form
  - All attributes depend on **the key**
- 2nd normal form
  - All attributes depend on **the whole key**
- 3rd normal form
  - All attributes depend on **nothing but the key**

# 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


R
A
B
C
FD1
FD2

# Figure 10.12 Boyce-Codd normal form



# Figure 10.12 Boyce-Codd normal form

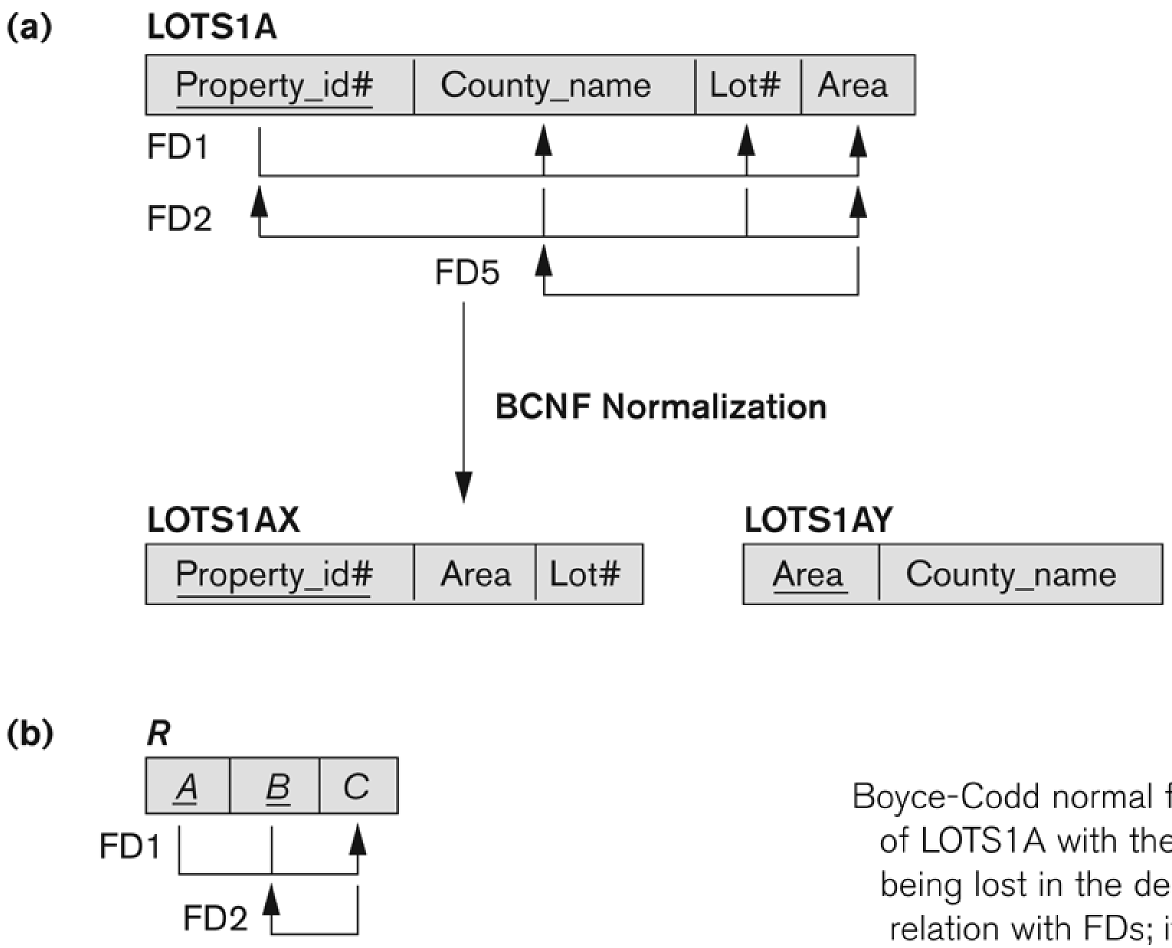
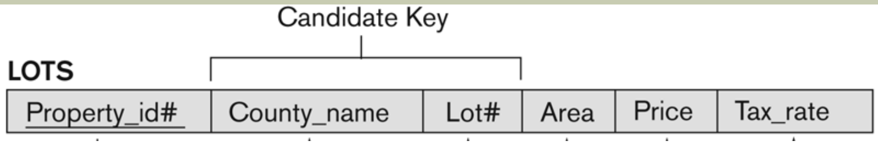



**Figure 10.12**
Boyce-Codd normal form. (a) BCNF normalization of LOTS1A with the functional dependency FD2 being lost in the decomposition. (b) A schematic relation with FDs; it is in 3NF, but not in BCNF.

# Figur... F
# and 3...

(a)



# 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)

# Summary

**Table 10.1**
Summary of Normal Forms Based on Primary Keys and Corresponding Normalization

| Normal Form | Test | Remedy (Normalization) |
|---|---|---|
| First (1NF) | Relation should have no multivalued attributes or nested relations. | Form new relations for each multivalued attribute or nested relation. |
| Second (2NF) | For relations where primary key contains multiple attributes, no nonkey attribute should be functionally dependent on a part of the primary key. | Decompose and set up a new relation for each partial key with its dependent attribute(s). Make sure to keep a relation with the original primary key and any attributes that are fully functionally dependent on it. |
| Third (3NF) | Relation should not have a nonkey attribute functionally determined by another nonkey attribute (or by a set of nonkey attributes). That is, there should be no transitive dependency of a nonkey attribute on the primary key. | Decompose and set up a relation that includes the nonkey attribute(s) that functionally determine(s) other nonkey attribute(s). |