

NORMALIZATION

- Normalization is the process of organizing the data in the database.
- Normalization is used to minimize the redundancy from a relation or set of relations. It is also used to eliminate the undesirable characteristics like Insertion, Update and Deletion Anomalies.
- Normalization divides the larger table into the smaller table and links them using relationship.
- The normal form is used to reduce redundancy from the database table.

Types of Normal Forms**1. First Normal Form (1NF)**

- A relation will be 1NF if it contains an atomic value.
- It states that an attribute of a table cannot hold multiple values. It must hold only single-valued attribute.
- First normal form disallows the multi-valued attribute, composite attribute, and their combinations.

Example: Relation EMPLOYEE is not in 1NF because of multi-valued attribute EMP_PHONE.

EMPLOYEE table:

EMP_ID	EMP_NAME	EMP_PHONE	EMP_STATE
14	John	7272826385, 9064738238	UP
20	Harry	8574783832	Bihar
12	Sam	7390372389, 8589830302	Punjab

The decomposition of the EMPLOYEE table into 1NF has been shown below:

EMP_ID	EMP_NAME	EMP_PHONE	EMP_STATE
14	John	7272826385	UP

14	John	9064738238	UP
20	Harry	8574783832	Bihar
12	Sam	7390372389	Punjab
12	Sam	8589830302	Punjab

2. Second Normal Form (2NF)

- In the 2NF, relational must be in 1NF.
- In the second normal form, all non-key attributes are fully functional dependent on the primary key

Example: Let us create the table for subject, which will have subject_id and subject_name fields

subject_id	subject_name
1	Java
2	C++
3	Php

and subject_id will be the primary key.

Let's create another table Score, to store the marks obtained by students in the respective subjects. We will also be saving name of the teacher who teaches that subject along with marks.

score_id	student_id	subject_id	marks	teacher
1	10	1	70	Java Teacher
2	10	2	75	C++ Teacher
3	11	1	80	Java Teacher

In the score table we are saving the student_id to know which student's marks are these and subject_id to know for which subject the marks are for.

Together, student_id + subject_id forms a Candidate Key which can be the Primary key.

To get me marks of student with student_id 10, can you get it from this table? No, because you don't know for which subject. And if I give you subject_id, you would not know for which student. Hence we need student_id + subject_id to uniquely identify any row.

Candidate Key: {student_id, subject_id} --- (Primary Key)

But where is Partial Dependency?

Now if you look at the Score table, we have a column names teacher which is only dependent on the subject, for Java it's Java Teacher and for C++ it's C++ Teacher & so on.

Now as we just discussed that the primary key for this table is a composition of two columns which is student_id & subject_id but the teacher's name only depends on subject, hence the subject_id, and has nothing to do with student_id.

This is Partial Dependency, where an attribute in a table depends on only a part of the primary key and not on the whole key.

How to remove Partial Dependency?

There can be many different solutions for this, but our objective is to remove teacher's name from Score table. The simplest solution is to remove columns teacher from Score table and add it to the Subject table. Hence, the Subject table will become:

subject_id	subject_name	teacher
1	Java	Java Teacher
2	C++	C++ Teacher
3	Php	Php Teacher

And our Score table is now in the second normal form, with no partial dependency.

score_id	student_id	subject_id	marks
1	10	1	70
2	10	2	75
3	11		

3. Third Normal Form (3NF)

- A relation will be in 3NF if it is in 2NF and not contain any transitive partial dependency.
- 3NF is used to reduce the data duplication. It is also used to achieve the data integrity.

A relation is in third normal form if it holds at least one of the following conditions for every non-trivial function dependency $X \rightarrow Y$.

1. X is a super key.
2. Y is a prime attribute, i.e., each element of Y is part of some candidate key.

Example:

EMPLOYEE_DETAIL table:

EMP_ID	EMP_NAME	EMP_ZIP	EMP_STATE	EMP_CITY
222	Harry	201010	UP	Noida
333	Stephan	02228	US	Boston
444	Lan	60007	US	Chicago
555	Katharine	06389	UK	Norwich
666	John	462007	MP	Bhopal

Super key in the table above:

{EMP_ID}, {EMP_ID, EMP_NAME}, {EMP_ID, EMP_NAME, EMP_ZIP}.so on

Candidate key: {EMP_ID}

Non-prime attributes: In the given table, all attributes except EMP_ID are non-prime.

Here, EMP_STATE & EMP_CITY dependent on EMP_ZIP and EMP_ZIP dependent on EMP_ID.

The non-prime attributes (EMP_STATE, EMP_CITY) transitively dependent on super key(EMP_ID). It violates the rule of third normal form.

That's why we need to move the EMP_CITY and EMP_STATE to the new <EMPLOYEE_ZIP> table, with EMP_ZIP as a Primary key.

EMPLOYEE table:

EMP_ID	EMP_NAME	EMP_ZIP
222	Harry	201010
333	Stephan	02228
444	Lan	60007
555	Katharine	06389
666	John	462007

EMPLOYEE_ZIP table:

EMP_ZIP	EMP_STATE	EMP_CITY
201010	UP	Noida
02228	US	Boston
60007	US	Chicago
06389	UK	Norwich
462007	MP	Bhopal

Dependency Preserving

- It is an important constraint of the database.
- In the dependency preservation, at least one decomposed table must satisfy every dependency.
- If a relation R is decomposed into relation R1 and R2, then the dependencies of R either must be a part of R1 or R2 or must be derivable from the combination of functional dependencies of R1 and R2.
- For example, suppose there is a relation R (A, B, C, D) with functional dependency set (A->BC). The relational R is decomposed into R1(ABC) and R2(AD) which is dependency preserving because FD A->BC is a part of relation R1(ABC).

