

201300180 Data & Information – Test 2
Extra question 3b (0.5 hours)
19 June 2015, 15:15 – 15:45

Please note:

- **Give your solution on a separate sheet, not as part of Test 4**
- The solution with the highest score (this extra question or the original test question) counts for 20 % of the grade of Test 2 on 22 May.
- There is a resit for the whole of Test 2 on 25 June.

3b) (Normal forms) (20 points)

Consider the relational schema $R(A,B,C,D,E)$ with functional dependencies \mathcal{F} , defined by

$$\mathcal{F} = \{ A \rightarrow E, BD \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow AD \}.$$

- 1) Which functional dependencies violate the BCNF condition? Why?
- 2) Apply the algorithm in the appendix to decompose R into a set of relational schemas that are all in BCNF. For each decomposition step, please give the resulting schemas with their sets of functional dependencies and their candidate keys.
- 3) Which of the functional dependencies in \mathcal{F} were lost in the decomposition?

Appendix: BCNF decomposition algorithm

Definition of BCNF:

A relational schema is in BCNF if for every nontrivial functional dependency the left-hand side is a superkey.

Decomposition algorithm:

Let R be a relational schema with a set of functional dependencies \mathcal{F} .

Let $X \rightarrow Y$ be a functional dependency in \mathcal{F} which violates the BCNF constraint.

- Decompose R into
 - $R_1(X^+)$
 - $R_2(Z)$ with $Z = \{X\} \cup \{\text{attributes of } R \text{ not in } X^+\}$.
- For $i = 1, 2$:
 - determine \mathcal{F}_i for R_i by restricting \mathcal{F}^+ to functional dependencies within R_i
 - if R_i is not in BCNF, recursively apply the algorithm