

Discovering of Data Dependencies in Relational Data Base: A Recent Overview

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Abstract - Data Dependencies plays an important role in the design of relational databases. The discovery of Data dependency from databases has recently become a significant research problem. Data dependencies represent domain knowledge and can be used to verify database design and assess data quality. Data normalization is a common mechanism employed to support database designers to ensure the correctness of their design. Functional dependencies are relationships between attribute of a database relation, a functional dependency state that the value of an attribute is uniquely determined by the values of some other attributes. Functional dependency plays a key role in database normalization. Discovering FDs can also help a database designer to decompose a relational schema into several relations through the normalization process to get rid or eliminate some of the problems of unsatisfactory database design. In This paper we proposed an overview of various methods developed recently for Discovering Data Dependencies.

Keywords - Normalization, Functional Dependency, Database, Schema, Attribute.

1. Introduction

A functional dependency is a statement $X \rightarrow Y$ requiring that X functionally determines Y where $X; Y \subseteq R$. The dependency is satisfied by a database instance r if for any two tuples $t_1; t_2 \in r$, if $t_1[X] = t_2[X]$ then $t_1[Y] = t_2[Y]$. X is called the left-hand side (lhs) or the determinant and Y is called the right-hand side (rhs) or the dependent. Types Data Dependency discovery has attracted a lot of research interests from the communities of database design; machine learning and knowledge discovery. Three typical types of dependencies are often involved in the discovery, functional dependencies (FDs), conditional functional dependence and inclusion dependencies (INDs).

The aim of dependency discovery is to find important dependencies holding on the data of the database. These discovered dependencies represent domain knowledge and can be used to verify database design and assess data quality. In recent years, the demand for improved data quality in databases has been increasing and a lot of research effort in this area has been given to dependency discovery.

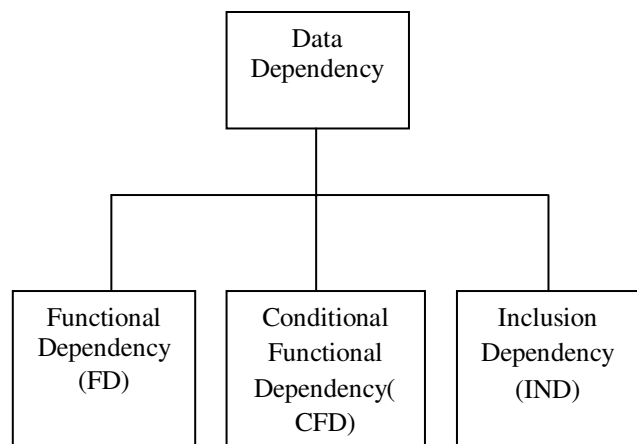


Figure 1 Types of data dependency

2. Methods for Discovery Data Dependencies

There are two basic approach are used for discovery data dependencies.

1. **Top-Down**
2. **Bottom-Up.**

The top-own methods start with generating candidate FDs level-by-level, from short lhs to long lhs, and then check

the satisfaction of the candidate FDs for satisfaction against the relation or its partitions.

The bottom-up methods, on the other hand, start with comparing tuples to get agree-sets or difference-sets, then generate candidate FDs and check them against the agree-sets or difference-sets for satisfaction.

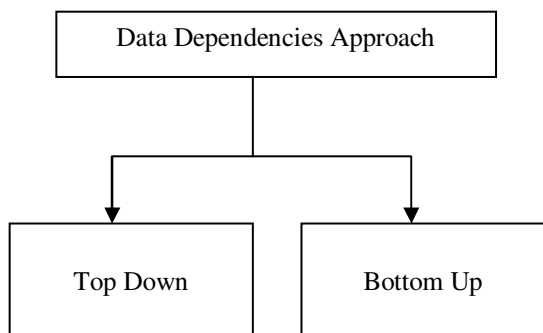


Figure 2 Basic Approach for data dependency

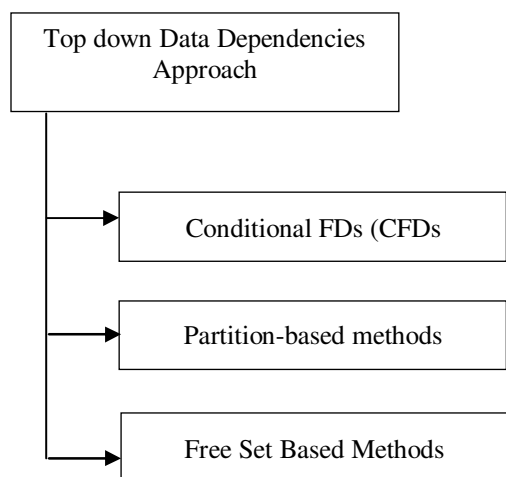


Figure 3 Top down approach based methods

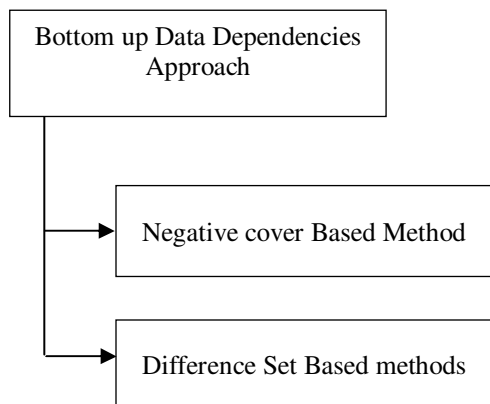


Figure 4 Bottom Up approach based methods

3. Literature Review

In 2008 KatalinTundeJanosiRancz&VioricaVarga proposed “A Method for Mining Functional Dependencies in Relational Database Design Using Formal Concept Analysis”. They presented a new method to optimize and extend a previous research on FCA and databases, by analyzing the functional dependencies in order to correctly build database schemata. They intended to mine functional dependencies in a relational database table. The novelty of proposed method is that it builds inverted index files in order to optimize the construction of the formal context of functional dependencies. Proposed method provides FCA visualization which makes easier to manage database schema and normal forms[1].

In 2008 Jalal Atoum, Dojanah Bader and Arafat Awajan proposed “Mining Functional Dependency from Relational Databases Using Equivalent Classes and Minimal Cover”. They proposed a new algorithm called FD_Discover for discovering Functional Dependencies (FDs) from databases. Proposed algorithm employs some concepts from relational databases design theory specifically the concepts of equivalences and the minimal cover. The suggested new algorithm (FD_Discover) to discover FDs utilizes the concepts of equivalent properties and minimal (Canonical) cover of FDs[2].

In 2009 Fabien De Marchi proposed “CLIM: CLosed Inclusion dependency mining in databases”. They proposed INclusion Dependency (IND) mining which is a classical data mining problem, with many applications in databases and data analysis. They optimize a closure operator, as it is done for support-based pattern mining. They show that IND mining problem can be solved by closed set mining, which is a new concept and has benefits over existing methods[3].

In 2010 Jixue Liu, Jiuyong Li, Chengfei & Liu Yongfeng Chen proposed “Discover Dependencies from Data - A Review”. They proposed a study over functional and inclusion dependency and show that functional dependency discovery is important to knowledge discovery, database semantics analysis, database design, and data quality assessment. They give details about functional dependency, conditional functional dependency, approximate functional dependency and inclusion dependency discovery and XML functional dependencies[4].

In 2011 Wenfei Fan, Floris Geerts, Jianzhong Li, Ming Xiong “Discovering Conditional Functional Dependencies” They investigate the discovery of conditional functional dependencies (CFDs) and show that CFDs are a recent extension of functional dependencies

(FDs) by supporting patterns of semantically related constants, and can be used as rules for cleaning relational data. They provide three methods for CFD discovery, CFD Miner, CTANE, and Fast CFD[5].

In 2012 Thierno Diallo & Jean Marc Petit proposed "Discovering Editing Rules For Data Cleaning". They proposed a pattern mining techniques for discovering eRs from existing source relations (possibly dirty) with respect to master relations (supposed to be clean and accurate). They proposed a new semantics of eRs taking advantage of both source and master data. The proposed techniques address the discovery problem of eRs and heuristics to clean data [6]. In 2013 Sujoy Dutta proposed "Mining Full Functional Dependency to Answer Null Queries and Reduce Imprecise Information Based on Fuzzy Object Oriented Databases". They proposed new concepts of fuzzy functional dependency and extended to full functional dependency on similarity based fuzzy object oriented data model. In addition they also proposed a data mining algorithm discover all functional dependencies among attributes [7].

In 2014 P. Andrew, J. Anishkumar & S. Balamurugan, proposed "Investigations on Methods Developed for Effective Discovery of Functional Dependencies". They give details about various methods to discover functional dependencies from data and effective pruning for the discovery of conditional functional dependencies. They also showed that Functional dependencies and Fast FDs a heuristic-driven, Depth-first algorithm for mining FD from relation instances are elaborated [8]. In 2015 Thorsten Papenbrock and Jens Ehrlich proposed "Functional Dependency Discovery: An Experimental Evaluation of Seven Algorithms". They describe, evaluate, and compare these seven most cited and most important algorithms on this same problem. They classify the algorithms into three different categories, explaining their commonalities. They also describe all algorithms with their main ideas. The descriptions provide additional details [9].

4. Comparative Study

We proposed a comparative study based on technique used in the algorithm.

Table 1 Comparison based on techniques

Algorithm Name	Techniques used
TANE	Used data Based partition concepts and cardinality
FD_Mine	Used data Based partition and Equivalent class

Dep-Miner	Used Difference Set based concepts
FD_Discover	Used concepts of Equivalent Classes and Minimal Cover

5. Conclusion

Normalization plays an important role in Database design and provides several advantages to remove redundancy in the database. Data dependency helps in normalization. We present a study over recently proposed data dependency discovery algorithms. Each and every algorithm uses a different concept for efficiently discovering data dependency. Without identifying correct data dependency we cannot design a good database and improve anomalies. Some new data dependency is discovered like conditional functional dependency, Inclusion Dependency for XML data.

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