TOPIC- Fourth normal form (4NF)

A relation will be in 4NF if it is in Boyce Codd normal form and has no multi-valued dependency.

For a dependency A → B, if for a single value of A, multiple values of B exists, then the relation will be a multi-valued dependency.

Example

STUDENT

STU_ID	COURSE	HOBBY
21	Computer	Dancing
21	Math	Singing
34	Chemistry	Dancing
74	Biology	Cricket
59	Physics	Hockey

The given STUDENT table is in 3NF, but the COURSE and HOBBY are two independent entity. Hence, there is no relationship between COURSE and HOBBY.

In the STUDENT relation, a student with STU_ID, 21 contains two courses, Computer and Math and two hobbies, Dancing and Singing. So there is a Multi-valued dependency on STU_ID, which leads to unnecessary repetition of data.

So to make the above table into 4NF, we can decompose it into two tables:

STUDENT_COURSE

STU_ID	COURSE
21	Computer
21	Math
34	Chemistry
74	Biology
59	Physics

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STUDENT_HOBBY

STU_ID	HOBBY
21	Dancing
21	Singing
34	Dancing
74	Cricket
59	Hockey

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