

5.  $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow D$ ; decompose into  $AB, AD$  and  $CD$ .

**Answer 15.9**

1. Candidate key(s):  $BD$ . The decomposition into  $BC$  and  $AD$  is unsatisfactory because it is lossy (the join of  $BC$  and  $AD$  is the cartesian product which could be much bigger than  $ABCD$ )
2. Candidate key(s):  $AB, BC$ . The decomposition into  $ACD$  and  $BC$  is lossless since  $ACD \cap BC$  (which is  $C$ )  $\rightarrow ACD$ . The projection of the FD's on  $ACD$  include  $C \rightarrow D, C \rightarrow A$  (so  $C$  is a key for  $ACD$ ) and the projection of FD on  $BC$  produces no nontrivial dependencies. In particular this is a BCNF decomposition (check that  $R$  is not!). However, it is not dependency preserving since the dependency  $AB \rightarrow C$  is not preserved. So to enforce preservation of this dependency (if we do not want to use a join) we need to add  $ABC$  which introduces redundancy. So implicitly there is some redundancy across relations (although none inside  $ACD$  and  $BC$ ).
3. Candidate key(s):  $A, C$ . Since  $A$  and  $C$  are both candidate keys for  $R$ , it is already in BCNF. So from a normalization standpoint it makes no sense to decompose  $R$  further.
4. Candidate key(s):  $A$ . The projection of the dependencies on  $AB$  are:  $A \rightarrow B$  and those on  $ACD$  are:  $A \rightarrow C$  and  $C \rightarrow D$  (rest follow from these). The scheme  $ACD$  is not even in 3NF, since  $C$  is not a superkey, and  $D$  is not part of a key. This is a lossless-join decomposition (since  $A$  is a key), but not dependency preserving, since  $B \rightarrow C$  is not preserved.
5. Candidate key(s):  $A$  (just as before) This is a lossless BCNF decomposition (easy to check!) This is, however, not dependency preserving ( $B$  consider  $\rightarrow C$ ). So it is not free of (implied) redundancy. This is not the best decomposition ( the decomposition  $AB, BC, CD$  is better.)

**Exercise 15.10** Suppose that we have the following four tuples in a relation  $S$  with three attributes  $ABC$ :  $(1,2,3), (4,2,3), (5,3,3), (5,3,4)$ . Which of the following functional ( $\rightarrow$ ) and multivalued ( $\twoheadrightarrow$ ) dependencies can you infer does *not* hold over relation  $S$ ?

1.  $A \rightarrow B$
2.  $A \twoheadrightarrow B$
3.  $BC \rightarrow A$
4.  $BC \twoheadrightarrow A$
5.  $B \rightarrow C$