

MODIFY LOCATIONS WITHIN TABLEAU

There may be certain instances when Tableau may not recognize few locations in our data. Those values show up as **unknown** in the lower right corner of the map view.

There may be different reasons for this issue:

1. The location or abbreviation may not be recognized by Tableau
2. If there is an ambiguity in location and could be present in multiple places e.g:
Auburn is the name of a city in multiple states Alabama, New York and Washington

One city name may be present in multiple states. The issue is that Tableau will not know which State to plot to this City into. Hence, we get the **Ambiguous** red error.

MODIFY LOCATIONS WITHIN TABLEAU

For the **unknown** entries w.r.t geo fields we can carry out the below mentioned actions:

1. **Edit Locations** (Correct the unknown locations)
2. **Filter data** (Exclude the special values from the view and calculations)
3. **Show data at default position** (Show the special values at a default position on the axis.
For example, Null values are shown at 0)

In this example we will look at the **Edit Locations** options

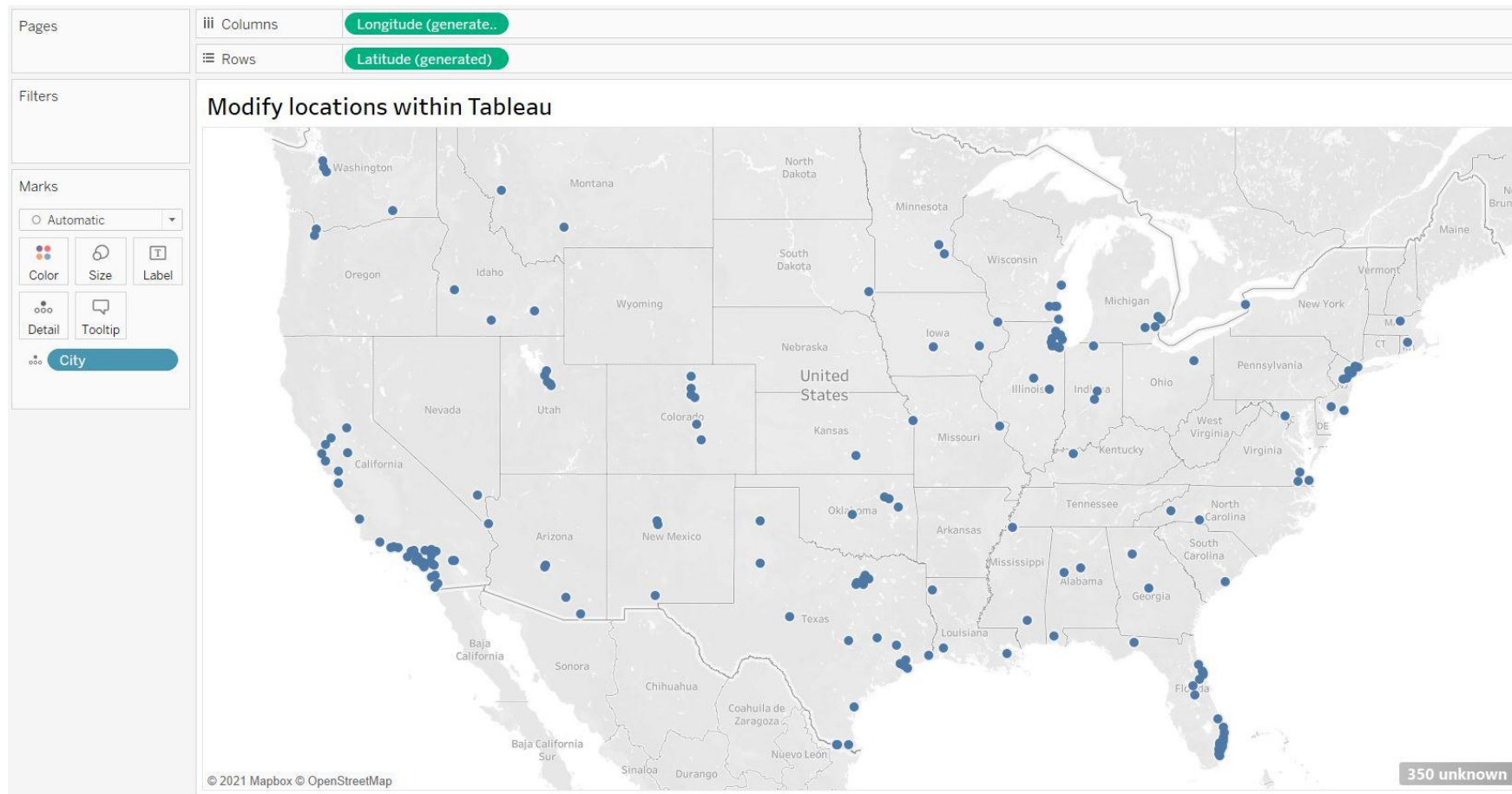
We will make use of the standard Sample Super Store data set for this example

MODIFY LOCATIONS WITHIN TABLEAU

STEP 1: Drag and drop City into the view

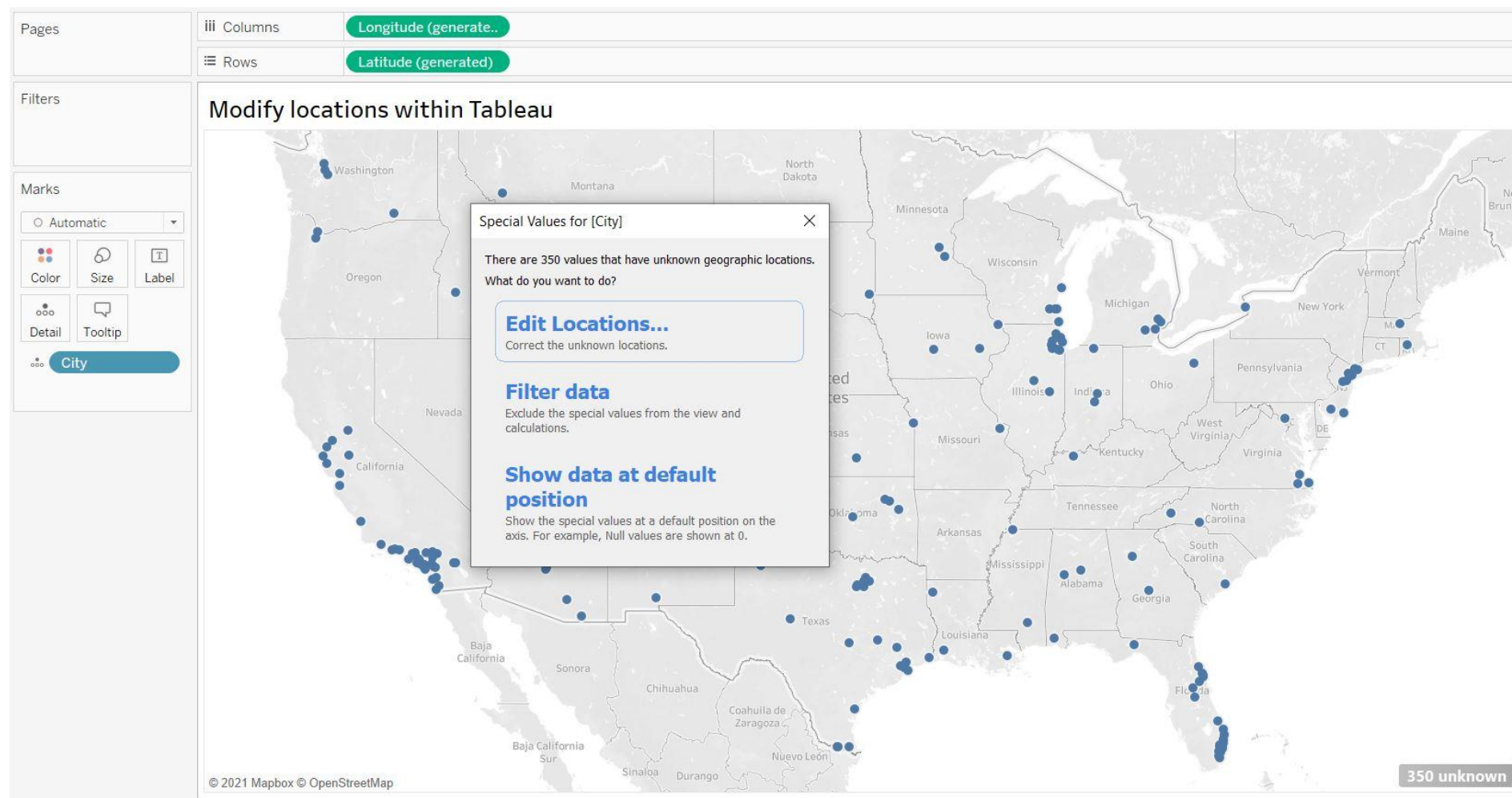
There will be an error like **"350 unknown"** in the lower right corner of the map view

Click on **350 unknown**



MODIFY LOCATIONS WITHIN TABLEAU

STEP 2: A Special Values for [City] box will appear
Click on Edit Locations



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STEP 3: There will be many cities having **Ambiguous** as the entry in the **Matching Location** column e.g: **Auburn**

The screenshot shows the Tableau interface with a map of the United States. A dialog box titled "Modify locations within Tableau" is open, displaying a table of location matching results. The table has two columns: "Your Data" and "Matching Location". The "Matching Location" column shows "Ambiguous" for several cities, including Auburn. The dialog box also includes fields for "Geographic roles" (Country/Region: United States, State/Province: None, City: City) and a "Match values to locations" section. A "350 issues" warning is visible next to the City field. The background map shows blue location markers across the United States, with a "350 unknown" label in the bottom right corner.

Pages: Columns: Longitude (generate..) Rows: Latitude (generated)

Filters:

Marks: Automatic Color Size Label Detail Tooltip City

Modify locations within Tableau

Edit Locations

Geographic roles

Country/Region: United States

State/Province: None

City: City 350 issues

Match values to locations

City

Your Data	Matching Location
Arlington Heights	Ambiguous
Arvada	Ambiguous
Athens	Ambiguous
Atlanta	Ambiguous
Auburn	Ambiguous
Aurora	Ambiguous

☐ Show only unmatched locations in drop down list

Reset Matches OK Cancel

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MODIFY LOCATIONS WITHIN TABLEAU

STEP 4: However, there will be many cities that have been mapped correctly as per Tableau's internal geodatabase e.g: **Chicago**

The screenshot shows the Tableau interface with a map of the United States. A dialog box titled "Modify locations within Tableau" is open, displaying a table comparing "Your Data" with "Matching Location". The table lists several cities: Camarillo, Carol Stream, Champaign, Chicago, Chula Vista, and Citrus Heights. The "City" field in the "Your Data" column is highlighted with a warning icon and the text "350 issues". The "Matching Location" column shows the corresponding city names. The dialog box also includes a checkbox for "Show only unmatched locations in drop down list" and buttons for "Reset Matches", "OK", and "Cancel".

Your Data	Matching Location
Camarillo	Camarillo
Carol Stream	Carol Stream
Champaign	Champaign
Chicago	Chicago
Chula Vista	Chula Vista
Citrus Heights	Citrus Heights

350 unknown

MODIFY LOCATIONS WITHIN TABLEAU

STEP 5: If required enter the latitude and longitude by making use of **Enter a Latitude and Longitude** options

Pages

Columns: Longitude (generate..)

Rows: Latitude (generated)

Filters

Marks

Automatic

Color Size Label

Detail Tooltip

City

Modify locations within Tableau

Edit Locations

Geographic roles

Country/Region: United States

State/Province: None

City: City ⚠ 350 issues

Match values to locations

City

Your Data	Matching Location
Aberdeen	Enter a Latitude and Longitude...
Abilene	Ambiguous
Akron	Ambiguous
Alexandria	Ambiguous
Allen	Ambiguous
Allentown	Ambiguous

☐ Show only unmatched locations in drop down list

Reset Matches OK Cancel

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350 unknown

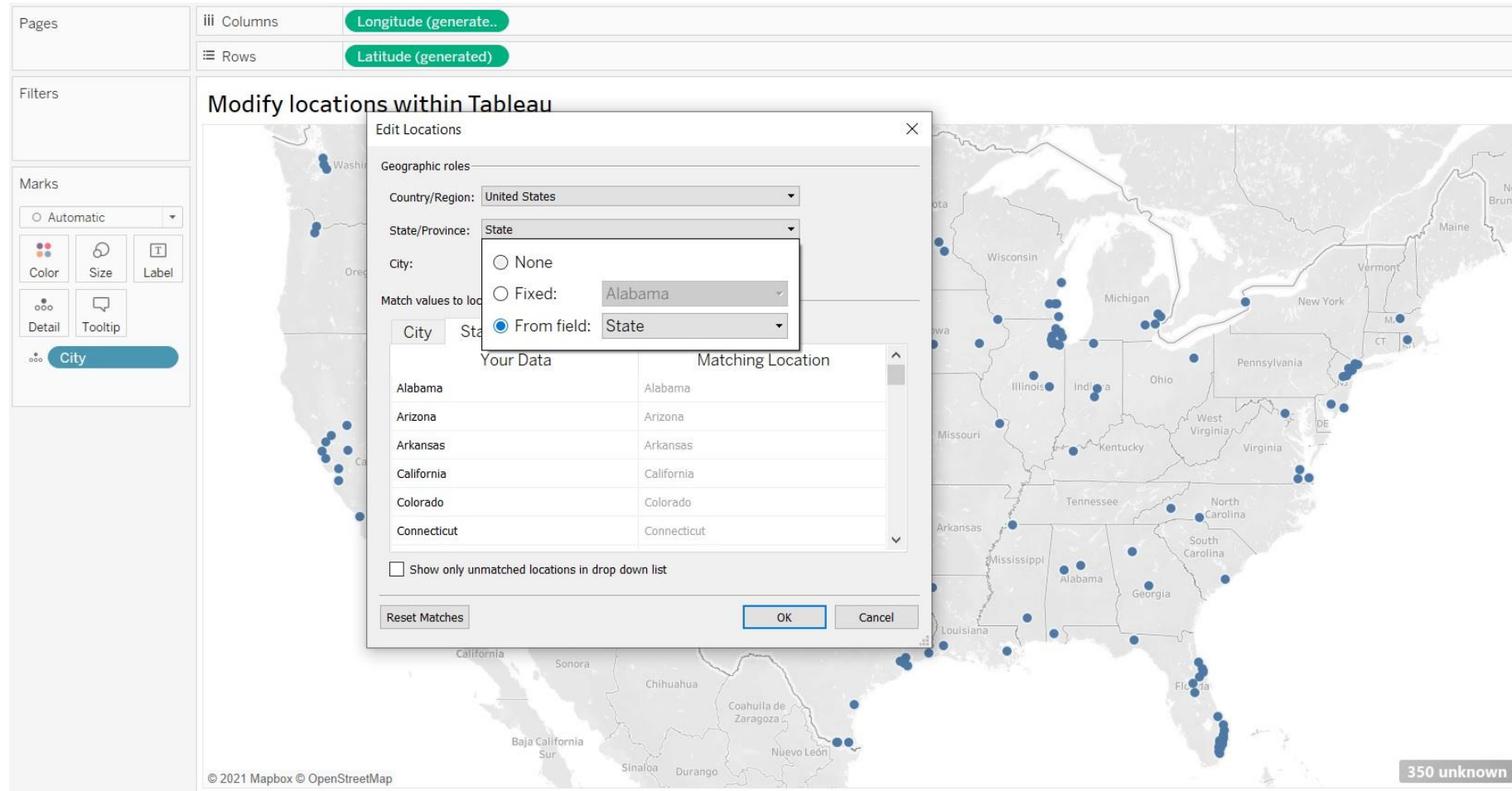
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STEP 6: The easier option is to include the State in the Edit Locations definition

Click on drop-down arrow next to **State/Province** field

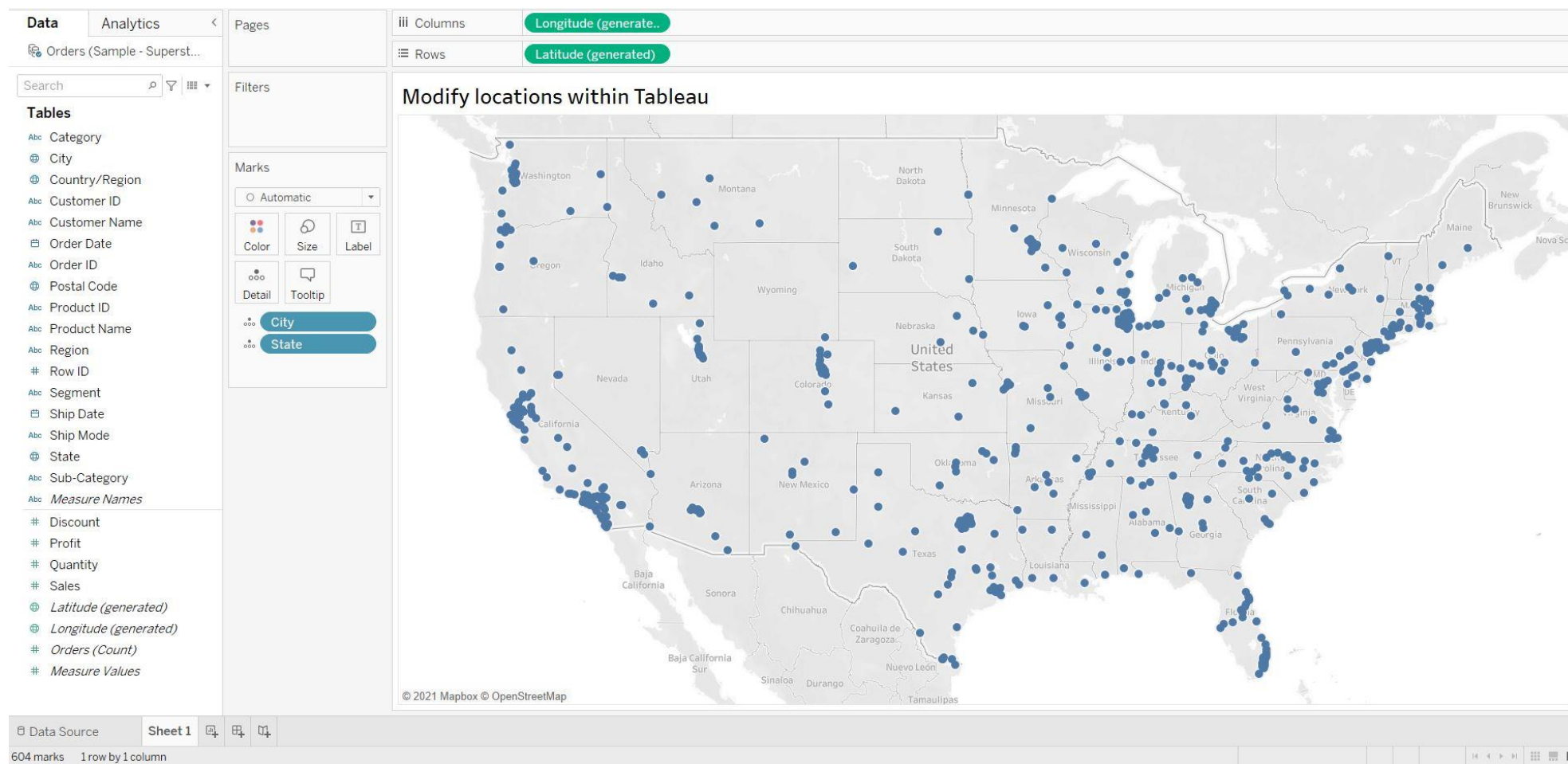
Select **From field:** State (Automatically State will be selected)

Click **OK**



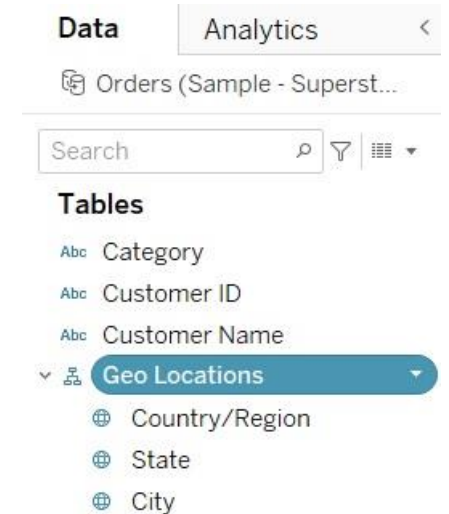
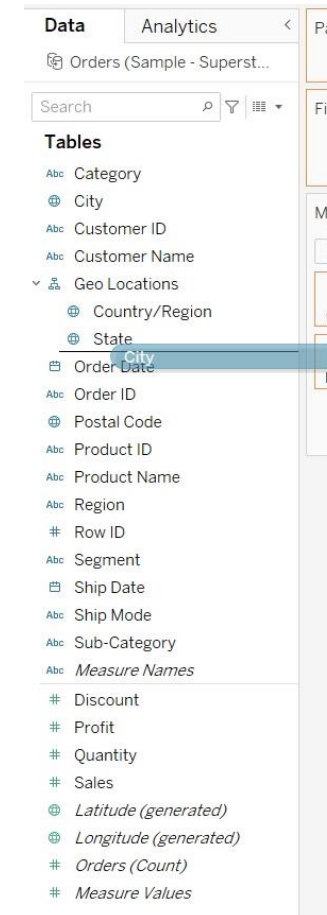
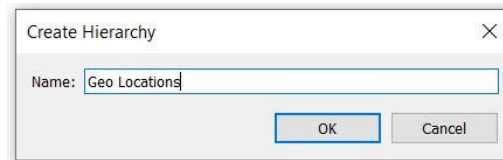
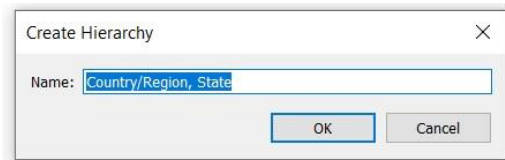
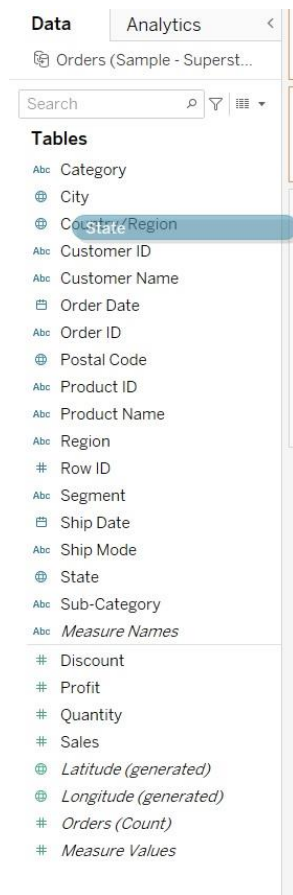
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STEP 7: Now the unknown error will not be present, and all Cities will be mapped correctly as per State detail
The number of marks have also increased



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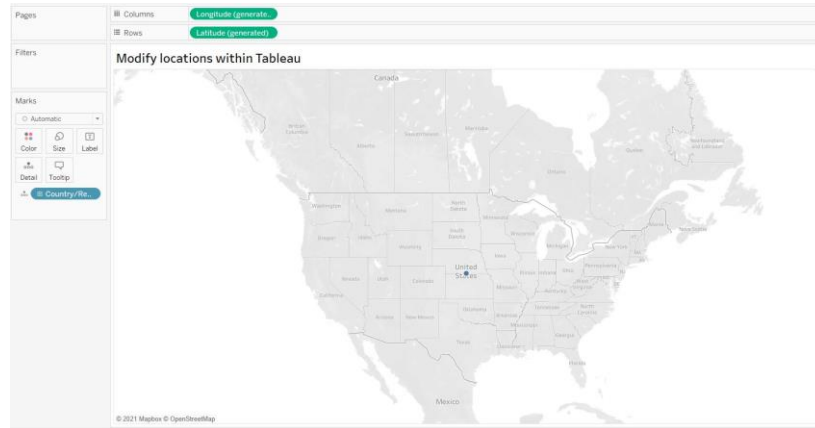
STEP 8: The best practice to avoid these kind of ambiguity w.r.t geo fields is to create a Hierarchy for **Geo Location: Country/Region, State and City**



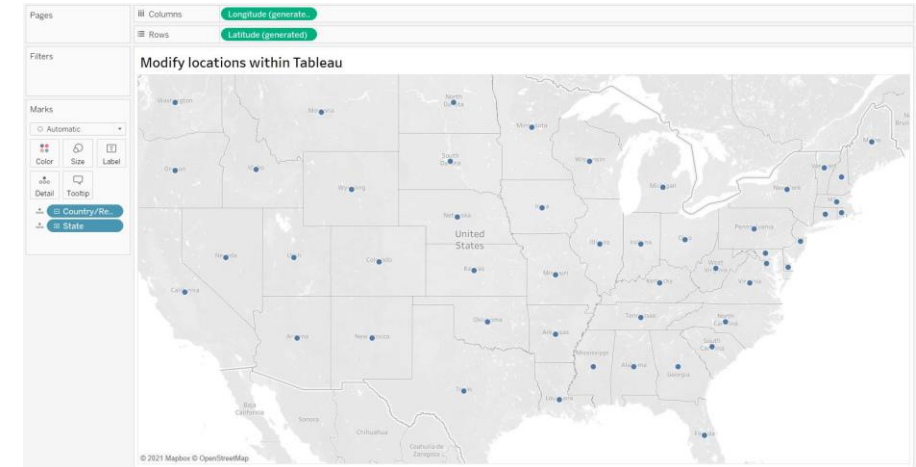
MODIFY LOCATIONS WITHIN TABLEAU

STEP 9: We can drag and drop the Hierarchy **Geo location** and drill-down to City level

Country Level



State Level



City Level

