OLAP - Online Analytical Processing

Is a database analysis technology that allows users to query, extract, and study summarized data from multiple database systems at the same time. OR

is software for performing multidimensional analysis at high speeds on large volumes of data from a data warehouse, data mart, or some other unified, centralized data store.

There are multiple categories into which data are broken down for presentation, tackings or analysis e.g sales figures might have several dimensions related to location(region, country, state, store) time(year, month, week, day) etc

OLAP extracts data from multiple relational data sets and reorganizes it into a multidimensional format that enables very fast processing and very insightful analysis. A relational database table is structured like a spreadsheet, storing individual records in a two-dimensional, row-by-column format