

CS 412 Intro. to Data Mining

Chapter 4. Data Warehousing and On-line Analytical Processing



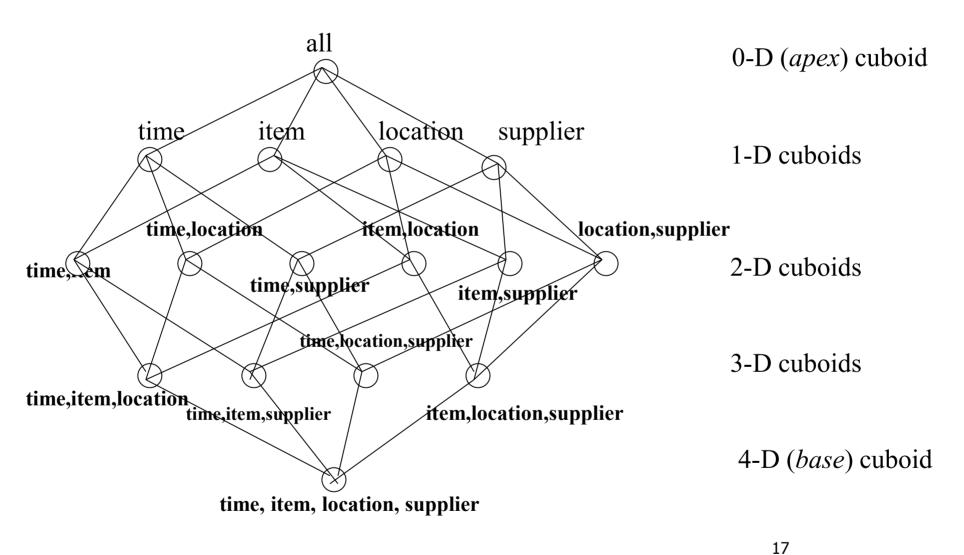
What is a Data Warehouse?

- Defined in many different ways, but not rigorously
 - A decision support database that is maintained separately from the organization's operational database
 - Support information processing by providing a solid platform of consolidated, historical data for analysis
- "A data warehouse is a <u>subject-oriented</u>, <u>integrated</u>, <u>time-variant</u>, and <u>nonvolatile</u> collection of data in support of management's decision-making process."—W. H. Inmon
- Data warehousing:
 - ☐ The process of constructing and using data warehouses

From Tables and Spreadsheets to Data Cubes

- A data warehouse is based on a multidimensional data model which views data in the form of a data cube
- A data cube, such as sales, allows data to be modeled and viewed in multiple dimensions
 - Dimension tables, such as item (item_name, brand, type), or time(day, week, month, quarter, year)
 - Fact table contains measures (such as dollars_sold) and keys to each of the related dimension tables
- **Data cube**: A lattice of cuboids
 - In data warehousing literature, an n-D base cube is called a base cuboid
 - ☐ The top most 0-D cuboid, which holds the highest-level of summarization, is called the apex cuboid
 - ☐ The lattice of cuboids forms a **data cube**.

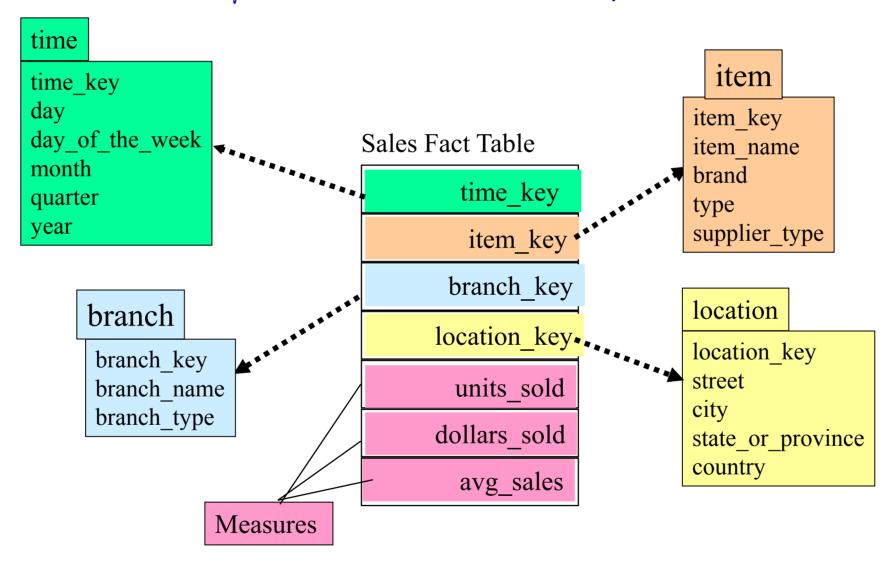
Data Cube: A Lattice of Cuboids



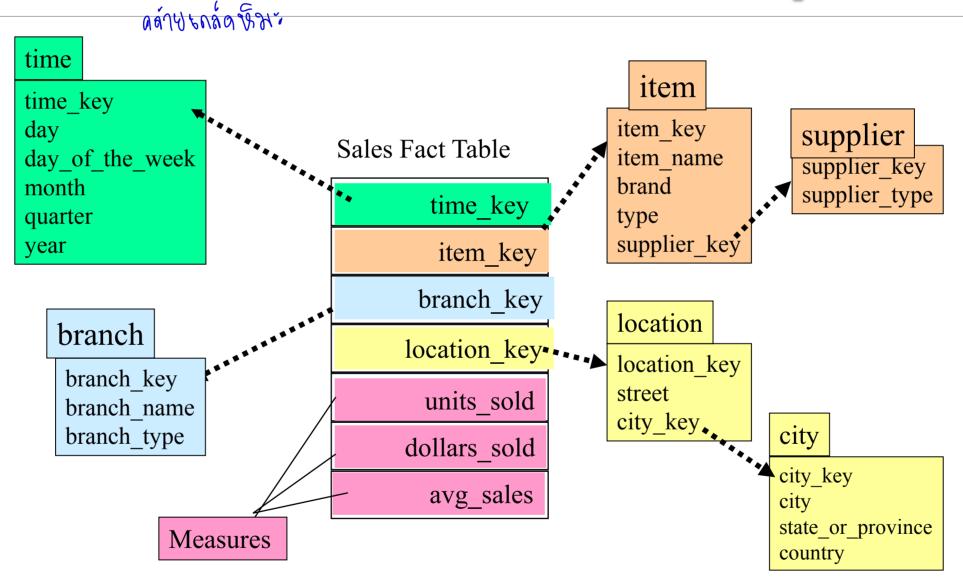
Conceptual Modeling of Data Warehouses

- Modeling data warehouses: dimensions & measures
 - □ Star schema: A fact table in the middle connected to a set of dimension tables
 - Snowflake schema: A refinement of star schema where some dimensional hierarchy is normalized into a set of smaller dimension tables, forming a shape similar to snowflake
 - <u>Fact constellations</u>: Multiple fact tables share dimension tables, viewed as a collection of stars, therefore called galaxy schema or fact constellation

Star Schema: An Example



Snowflake Schema: An Example



Fact Constellation: An Example

