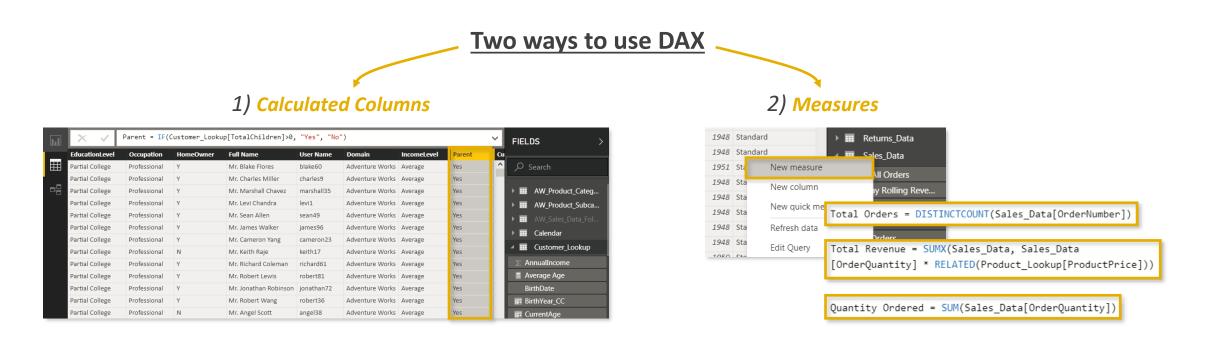


MEET DAX

Data Analysis Expressions, commonly known as **DAX**, is the formula language that drives Power BI. With DAX, you can:

- Add calculated columns and measures to your model, using intuitive syntax
- Go beyond the capabilities of traditional "grid-style" formulas, with powerful and flexible functions built specifically to work with relational data models

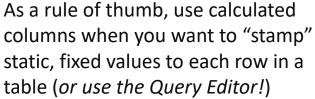


CALCULATED COLUMNS

Calculated columns allow you to add new, formula-based columns to tables

- No "A1-style" references; calculated columns refer to entire tables or columns
- Calculated columns generate values for each row, which are visible within tables in the Data view
- Calculated columns understand row context; they're great for defining properties based on information in each row, but generally useless for aggregation (SUM, COUNT, etc)

HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!



DO NOT use calculated columns for aggregation formulas, or to calculate fields for the "Values" area of a visualization (use **measures** instead)





PRO TIP:

Calculated columns are typically used for **filtering** data, rather than creating numerical values

CALCULATED COLUMNS (EXAMPLES)

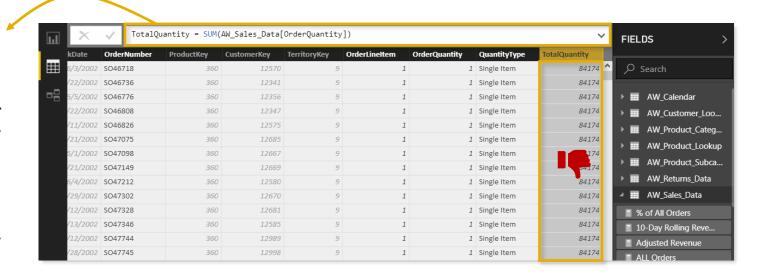


In this case we've added a **calculated column** named **"Parent"**, which equals "**Yes**" if the [TotalChildren] field is greater than 0, and "**No**" otherwise (*just like Excel!*)

- Since calculated columns understand row context, a new value is calculated in each row based on the value in the [TotalChildren] column
- This is a valid use of calculated columns; it creates a new row "property" that we can now use to filter or segment any related data within the model

Here we're using an aggregation function (SUM) to calculate a new column named **TotalQuantity**

- Since calculated columns do not understand filter context, the same grand total is returned in every single row of the table
- This is not a valid use of calculated columns; these values are statically "stamped" onto the table and can't be filtered, sliced, subdivided, etc.



MEASURES

Measures are DAX formulas used to generate new calculated values

- Like calculated columns, measures reference **entire tables** or **columns** (*no A1-style or "grid" references*)
- Unlike calculated columns, **measure** values aren't visible within tables; they can only be "seen" within a visualization like a chart or matrix (similar to a calculated field in an Excel pivot)
- Measures are evaluated based on filter context, which means they recalculate when the fields or filters around them change (like when new row or column labels are pulled into a matrix or when new filters are applied to a report)



HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!

As a rule of thumb, use measures (vs. calculated columns) when a single row can't give you the answer (in other words, when you need to aggregate)



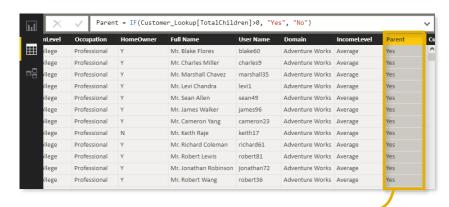
PRO TIP:

Use measures to create **numerical, calculated values** that can be analyzed in the "**values**" field of a report visual

RECAP: CALCULATED COLUMNS VS. MEASURES

CALCULATED COLUMNS

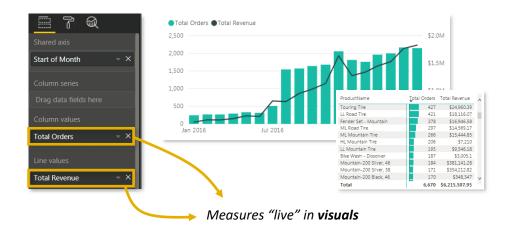
- Values are calculated based on information from each row of a table (has row context)
- Appends static values to each row in a table and stores them in the model (which increases file size)
- Recalculate on data source refresh or when changes are made to component columns
- Primarily used as rows, columns, slicers or filters



Calculated columns "live" in tables

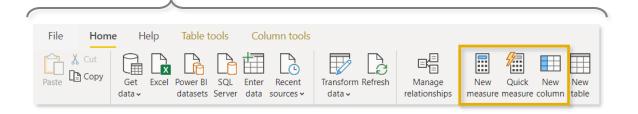
MEASURES

- Values are calculated based on information from any filters in the report (has filter context)
- Does not create new data in the tables themselves (doesn't increase file size)
- Recalculate in response to any change to filters within the report
- Almost always used within the values field of a visual



ADDING COLUMNS & MEASURES

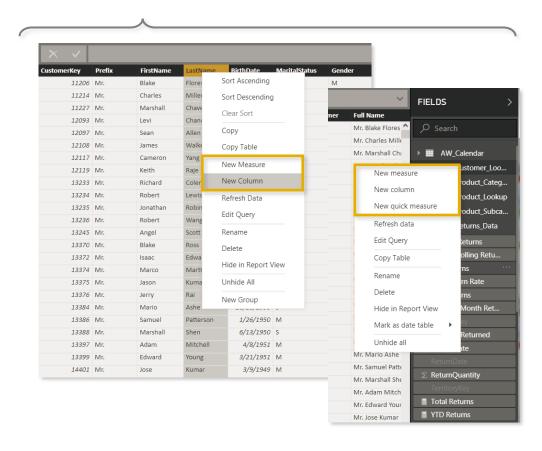
Option 1: Select "New Measure" or "New Column" from the Home tab*



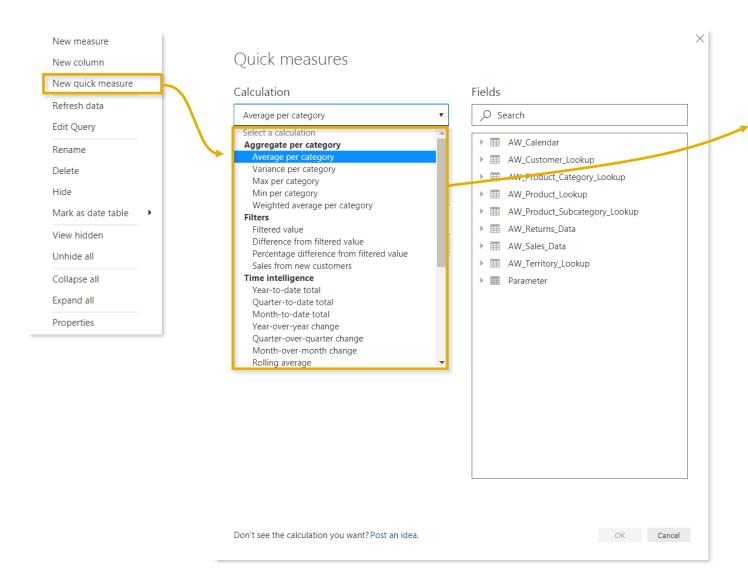
When you insert Columns or Measures using the **Home** tab (Option 1), they are assigned to whichever table is *currently* selected, or the *first table in the field list* by default

- Measures can be reassigned to new "Home" tables (under the "Structure" options in the contextual Measure Tools tab), but Option 2 allows you to be more deliberate about placing them
- NOTE: Assigning measures to specific tables doesn't have ANY impact on functionality – it's just a way to keep them organized

Option 2: Right-click within the **table** (in the **Data** view) or the **Field List** (in either the **Data** or **Report** view)



QUICK MEASURES



Quick Measures are pre-built formula templates that allow you to drag and drop fields, rather than write DAX from scratch

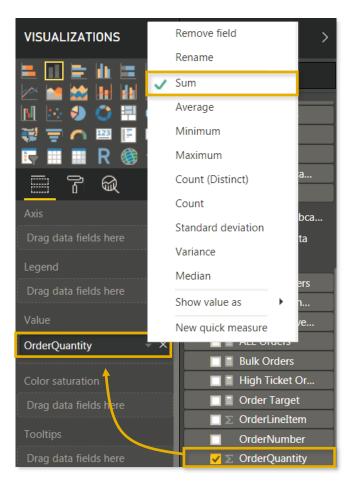
While these tools can be helpful for defining more complex measures (*like weighted averages or time intelligence formulas*), they encourage laziness and don't help you understand the fundamentals of DAX



PRO TIP:

Just say "NO" to quick measures (you're better than that)

IMPLICIT VS. EXPLICIT MEASURES



Example of an implicit measure

Implicit measures are created when you drag raw numerical fields (like "OrderQuantity") into the values pane of a visual and manually select the aggregation mode (Sum, Average, Min/Max, etc)

Explicit measures are created by actually entering DAX functions (or adding "quick measures") to define calculated columns or measures

HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!

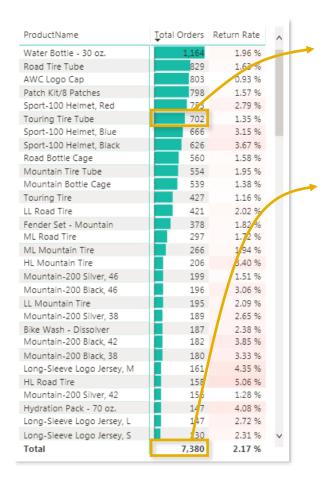


Implicit measures are *only accessible* within the specific visualization in which it was created, and cannot be referenced elsewhere

Explicit measures can be used anywhere in the report, and referenced within other DAX calculations to create "measure trees"

UNDERSTANDING FILTER CONTEXT

Remember that measures are evaluated based on **filter context**, which means that they recalculate whenever the fields or filters around them change



For this particular value in the matrix, the **Total Orders** measure is calculated based on the following filter context: *Products*[*ProductName*] = "Touring Tire Tube"

This allows the measure to return the total order quantity for each product specifically (or whatever the row and column labels dictate – years, countries, product categories, customer names, etc)

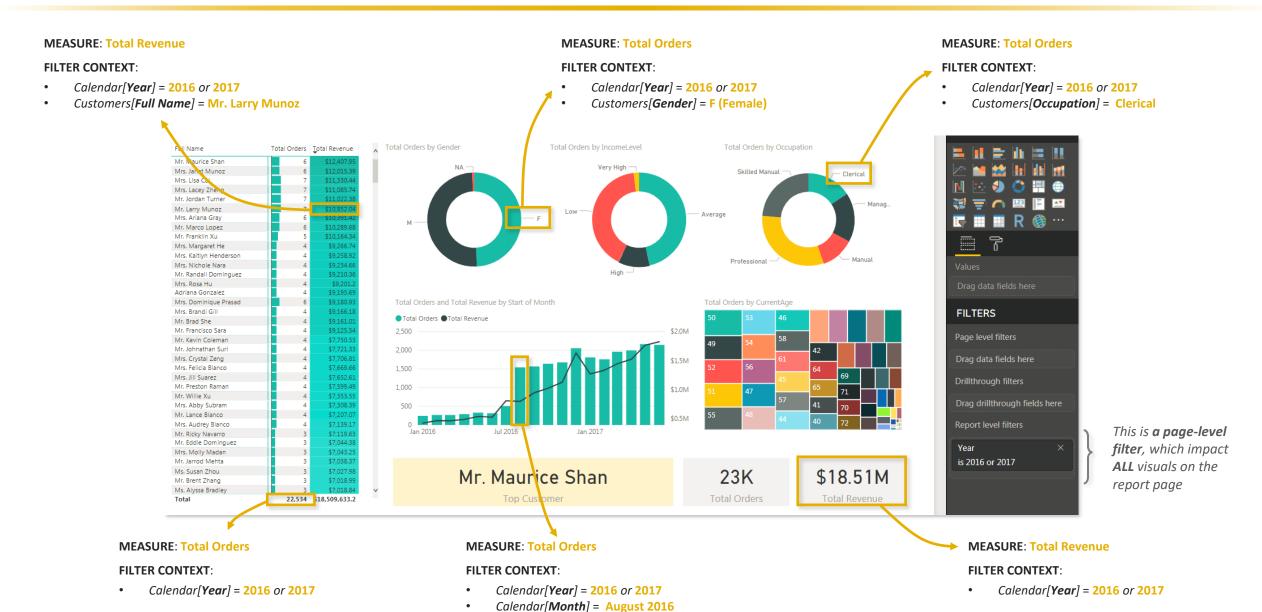
This Total is **not** calculated by summing the values above; it evaluates as its own measure, with **no filter context** (since we aren't calculating orders for a specific product)



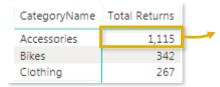
HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Each measure value in a report is *like an island*, and calculates according to it's own filter context (*even Totals* and *Grand Totals*)

FILTER CONTEXT (EXAMPLES)



STEP-BY-STEP MEASURE CALCULATION



How exactly is this measure calculated?

• **REMEMBER:** This all happens *instantly* behind the scenes, every time the filter context changes

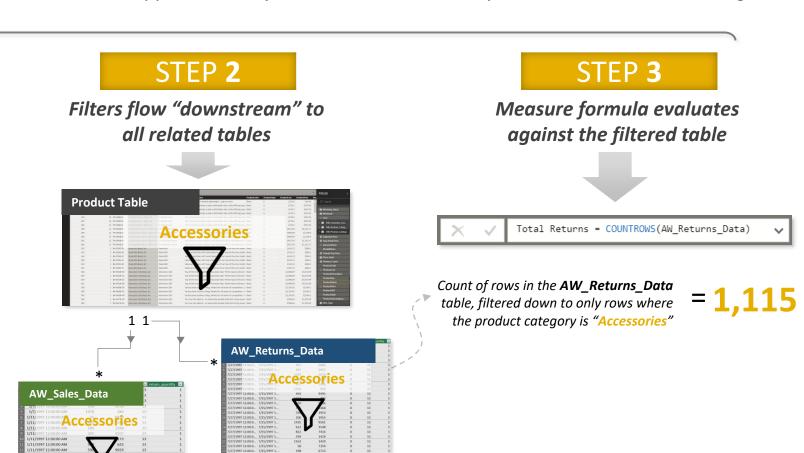
STEP 1

Filter context is detected & applied



Product[CategoryName] = "Accessories"







DAX SYNTAX

MEASURE NAME

 Note: Measures are always surrounded in brackets (i.e. [Total Quantity]) when referenced in formulas, so spaces are OK

Referenced Referenced COLUMN NAME

TABLE NAME COLUMN NAME

Total Quantity: =SUM(Transactions[quantity])

FUNCTION NAME

- Calculated columns don't always use functions, but measures do:
 - In a Calculated Column, =Transactions[quantity]
 returns the value from the quantity column in
 each row (since it evaluates one row at a time)
 - In a Measure, =Transactions[quantity] will return an error since Power BI doesn't know how to translate that as a single value (you need some sort of aggregation)

Note: This is a "fully qualified" column, since it's preceded by the table name -- table names with spaces must be surrounded by single quotes:

- Without a space: **Transactions**[quantity]
- With a space: 'Transactions Table' [quantity]



PRO TIP:

For **column** references, use the fully qualified name (i.e. **Table[Column]**) For **measure** references, just use the measure name (i.e. **[Measure]**)

DAX OPERATORS

Arithmetic Operator	Meaning	Example
+	Addition	2 + 7
-	Subtraction	5 – 3
*	Multiplication	2 * 6
/	Division	4/2
۸	Exponent	2 ^ 5

Comparison Operator	Meaning	Example		
=	Equal to	[City]="Boston"		
>	Greater than	[Quantity]>10		
<	Less than	[Quantity]<10		
>=	Greater than or equal to	[Unit_Price]>=2.5		
<=	Less than or equal to			
<>	Not equal to			

Pay attention to these!

Text/Logical Operator			Meaning	Example
	&		Concatenates two values to produce one text string	[City] & " " & [State]
	&&		Create an AND condition between two logical expressions	([State]="MA") && ([Quantity]>10)
	(double pipe)		Create an OR condition between two logical expressions	([State]="MA") ([State]="CT")
	IN	Creat	tes a logical OR condition based on a given list (using curly brackets)	'Store Lookup'[State] IN { "MA", "CT", "NY" }

^{*}Head to www.msdn.microsoft.com for more information about DAX syntax, operators, troubleshooting, etc

COMMON FUNCTION CATEGORIES

MATH & STATS Functions

Basic **aggregation** functions as well as **"iterators"** evaluated at the row-level

Common Examples:

- SUM
- AVERAGE
- MAX/MIN
- DIVIDE
- COUNT/COUNTA
- COUNTROWS
- DISTINCTCOUNT

Iterator Functions:

- SUMX
- AVERAGEX
- MAXX/MINX
- RANKX
- COUNTX

LOGICAL Functions

Functions for returning information about values in a given conditional expression

Common Examples:

- IF
- IFERROR
- AND
- OR
- NOT
- SWITCH
- TRUE
- FALSE

TEXT Functions

Functions to manipulate text strings or control formats for dates, times or numbers

Common Examples:

- CONCATENATE
- FORMAT
- LEFT/MID/RIGHT
- UPPER/LOWER
- PROPER
- LEN
- SEARCH/FIND
- REPLACE
- REPT
- SUBSTITUTE
- TRIM
- UNICHAR

FILTER Functions

Lookup functions based on related tables and **filtering** functions for dynamic calculations

Common Examples:

- CALCULATE
- FILTER
- ALL
- ALLEXCEPT
- RELATED
- RELATEDTABLE
- DISTINCT
- VALUES
- EARLIER/EARLIEST
- HASONEVALUE
- HASONEFILTER
- ISFILTERED
- USERELATIONSHIP

DATE & TIMEFunctions

Basic date and time functions as well as advanced time intelligence operations

Common Examples:

- DATEDIFF
- YEARFRAC
- YEAR/MONTH/DAY
- HOUR/MINUTE/SECOND
- TODAY/NOW
- WEEKDAY/WEEKNUM

Time Intelligence Functions:

- DATESYTD
- DATESQTD
- DATESMTD
- DATEADD
- DATESINPERIOD

BASIC DATE & TIME FUNCTIONS

DAY/MONTH/	
YEAR()	

Returns the day of the month (1-31), month of the year (1-12), or year of a given date

=DAY/MONTH/YEAR(Date)

HOUR/MINUTE/ SECOND()

Returns the hour (0-23), minute (0-59), or second (0-59) of a given datetime value

=HOUR/MINUTE/SECOND(Datetime)

TODAY/NOW()

Returns the current date or exact time

=TODAY/NOW()

WEEKDAY/ WEEKNUM()

Returns a weekday number from 1 (Sunday) to 7 (Saturday), or the week # of the year

=WEEKDAY/WEEKNUM(Date, [ReturnType])

EOMONTH()

Returns the date of the last day of the month, +/- a specified number of months

=EOMONTH(StartDate, Months)

DATEDIFF()

Returns the difference between two dates, based on a selected interval

=DATEDIFF(Date1, Date2, Interval)

BASIC LOGICAL FUNCTIONS (IF/AND/OR)

IF()

Checks if a given condition is met, and returns one value if the condition is TRUE, and another if the condition is FALSE

=IF(LogicalTest, ResultIfTrue, [ResultIfFalse])

IFERROR()

Evaluates an expression and returns a specified value if the expression returns an error, otherwise returns the expression itself

=IFERROR(Value, ValueIfError)

AND()

Checks whether both arguments are TRUE, and returns TRUE if both arguments are TRUE, otherwise returns FALSE

=AND(Logical1, Logical2)

OR()

Checks whether one of the arguments is TRUE to return TRUE, and returns FALSE if both arguments are FALSE

=OR(Logical1, Logical2)

Note: Use the **&&** and **||** operators if you want to include more than two conditions!

TEXT FUNCTIONS

LEN()

Returns the number of characters in a string

=LEN(Text)

Note: Use the **&** operator as a shortcut, or to combine more than two strings!

CONCATENATE()

Joins two text strings into one

=CONCATENATE(Text1, Text2)

LEFT/MID/ RIGHT()

Returns a number of characters from the start/middle/end of a text string

=LEFT/RIGHT(Text, [NumChars])

=MID(Text, StartPosition, NumChars)

UPPER/LOWER/ PROPER()

Converts letters in a string to upper/lower/proper case

=UPPER/LOWER/PROPER(Text)

SUBSTITUTE()

Replaces an instance of existing text with new text in a string

=SUBSTITUTE(Text, OldText, NewText, [InstanceNumber])

SEARCH()

Returns the position where a specified string or character is found, reading left to right

=**SEARCH**(FindText, WithinText, [StartPosition], [NotFoundValue])

RELATED

RELATED()

Returns related values in each row of a table based on relationships with other tables

=RELATED(ColumnName)

The column that contains the values you want to retrieve

Examples:

- Product_Lookup[ProductName]
- Territory_Lookup[Country]



HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!

RELATED works almost *exactly* like a **VLOOKUP** function – it uses the relationship between tables (*defined by primary and foreign keys*) to pull values from one table into a new column of another Since this function requires row context, it can only be used as a **calculated column** or as part of an **iterator function** that cycles through all rows in a table (*FILTER, SUMX, MAXX, etc*)



PRO TIP:

Avoid using RELATED to create redundant calculated columns unless you absolutely need them, since those extra columns increase file size; instead, use RELATED within a measure like FILTER or SUMX

BASIC MATH & STATS FUNCTIONS

SUM()

Evaluates the sum of a column

=SUM(ColumnName)

AVERAGE()

Returns the average (arithmetic mean) of all the numbers in a column

=AVERAGE(ColumnName)

MAX()

Returns the largest value in a column or between two scalar expressions

=MAX(ColumnName) or =MAX(Scalar1, [Scalar2])

MIN()

Returns the smallest value in a column or between two scalar expressions

=MIN(ColumnName) or =MIN(Scalar1, [Scalar2])

DIVIDE()

Performs division and returns the alternate result (or blank) if div/0

=DIVIDE(Numerator, Denominator, [AlternateResult])

COUNT, COUNTA, DISTINCTCOUNT & COUNTROWS

COUNT()

Counts the number of cells in a column that contain numbers

=COUNT(ColumnName)

COUNTA()

Counts the number of non-empty cells in a column (numerical and non-numerical)

=COUNTA(ColumnName)

DISTINCTCOUNT()

Counts the number of distinct or unique values in a column

=DISTINCTCOUNT(ColumnName)

COUNTROWS()

Counts the number of rows in the specified table, or a table defined by an expression

=COUNTROWS(Table)

CALCULATE

CALCULATE()

Evaluates a given expression or formula under a set of defined filters

=CALCULATE(Expression, [Filter1], [Filter2],...)

Name of an existing measure, or a DAX formula for a valid measure

Examples:

- [Total Orders]
- SUM(Returns_Data[ReturnQuantity])

List of simple Boolean (True/False) filter expressions (note: these require simple, fixed values; you cannot create filters based on measures)

Examples:

- Territory_Lookup[Country] = "USA"
- Calendar[Year] > 1998



PRO TIP:

CALCULATE works just like **SUMIF** or **COUNTIF** in Excel, except it can evaluate measures based on ANY sort of calculation (not just a sum, count, etc); it may help to think of it like **"CALCULATEIF"**

CALCULATE (EXAMPLE)



Bike Returns = CALCULATE([Total Returns], Products[CategoryName] = "Bikes")



CategoryName	Total Returns	Bike	Returns	
Accessories	1,115		342	
Bikes	342		342	
Clothing	267		342	
Components			342	
Total	1,724		342	
	-			

Here we've defined a new measure named "Bike Returns", which evaluates the "Total Returns" measure when the CategoryName in the Products table equals "Bikes"

Wait, why do we see the **same repeating values** when we view a matrix with different categories on rows?

Shouldn't these cells have different filter contexts for **Accessories**, **Clothing**, **Components**, etc?



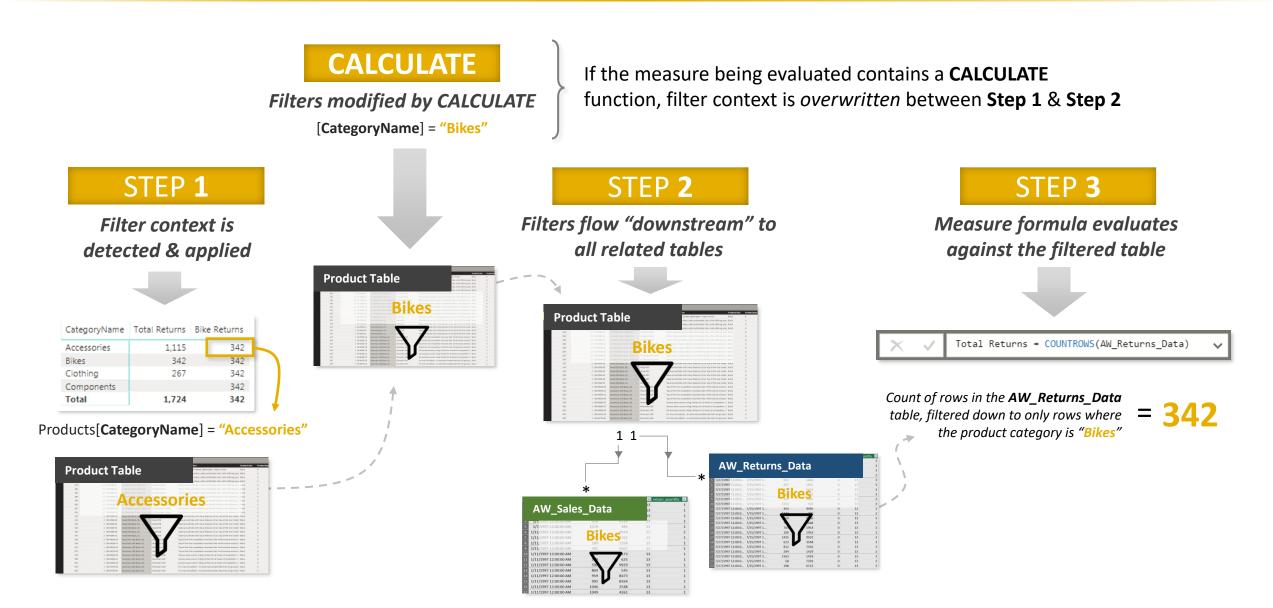
HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!

CALCULATE *modifies* and *overrules* any competing filter context!

In this example, the "Clothing" row has filter context of CategoryName = "Clothing" (defined by the row label) and CategoryName= "Bikes" (defined by the CALCULATE function)

Both cannot be true at the same time, so the "Clothing" filter is overwritten and the "Bikes" filter (from CALCULATE) takes priority

CALCULATE CHANGES THE FILTER CONTEXT



ALL

ALL()

Returns all rows in a table, or all values in a column, ignoring any filters that have been applied

=ALL(Table or ColumnName, [ColumnName1], [ColumnName2],...)

The table or column that you want to clear filters on

Examples:

- Transactions
- Products[ProductCategory]

List of columns that you want to clear filters on (optional)

Notes:

- If your first parameter is a table, you can't specify additional columns
- All columns must include the table name, and come from the same table

Examples:

- Customer_Lookup[CustomerCity], Customer_Lookup[CustomerCountry]
- Products[ProductName]



PRO TIP:

Instead of adding filter context, ALL **removes it**. This is often used when you need unfiltered values that won't react to changes in filter context (i.e. **% of Total**, where the denominator needs to remain fixed)

FILTER

FILTER()

Returns a table that represents a subset of another table or expression

=FILTER(Table, FilterExpression)

Table to be filtered

Examples:

- Territory Lookup
- Customer Lookup

A Boolean (True/False) filter expression to be evaluated for each row of the table

Examples:

- Territory_Lookup[Country] = "USA"
- Calendar[Year] = 1998
- Products[Price] > [Overall Avg Price]

HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!



FILTER is used to add new filter context, and can handle *more complex filter expressions* than CALCULATE (*by referencing measures, for example*)

Since FILTER returns an entire table, it's almost always used as an *input* to other functions, like CALCULATE or SUMX



PRO TIP:

Since FILTER iterates through each row in a table, it can be slow and processor-intensive; don't use FILTER if a CALCULATE function will accomplish the same thing

ITERATOR ("X") FUNCTIONS

Iterator (or "X") **functions** allow you to loop through the same calculation or expression on each row of a table, and then apply some sort of aggregation to the results (SUM, MAX, etc)

=SUMX(Table, Expression)

Aggregation to apply to calculated rows*

Examples:

- SUMX
- COUNTX
- AVERAGEX
- RANKX
- MAXX/MINX

Table in which the expression will be evaluated

Examples:

- Sales
- FILTER(Sales, RELATED(Products[Category])="Clothing")

Expression to be evaluated for each row of the given table

Examples:

- [Total Orders]
- Sales[RetailPrice] * Sales[Quantity]



PRO TIP:

Imagine the function **adding a temporary new column** to the table, calculating the value in each row (based on the expression) and then applying the aggregation to that new column (like SUMPRODUCT)

TIME INTELLIGENCE FORMULAS

Time Intelligence functions allow you to easily calculate common time comparisons:

To-Date

Performance = CALCULATE(Measure, DATESYTD(Calendar[Date]))

Use **DATESQTD** for Quarters or **DATESMTD** for Months

Previous Period

=CALCULATE(Measure, DATEADD(Calendar[Date], -1, MONTH))

Running Total

Select an interval (DAY, MONTH, QUARTER, or YEAR) and the # of intervals to compare (i.e. previous month, rolling 10-day)

=CALCULATE(Measure,

DATESINPERIOD(Calendar[Date], MAX(Calendar[Date]), -10, DAY))



PRO TIP:

To calculate a **moving average**, use the running total calculation above and divide by the number of intervals