

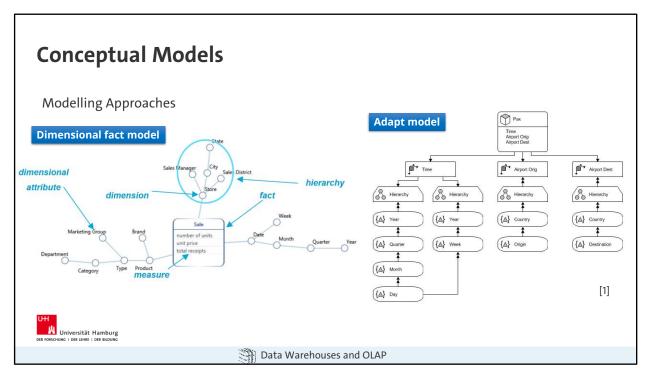
Multidimensional database design

	Classical relational database design	Multidimensional database design	
Conceptual schema (semi-formal)	Variants of entity- relationship modelling	Different modelling languages, e.g. mE/R, mUML, ADAPT,	
Logical schema (formal)	Relations with attributes	Data cube: facts and measures	
		Dimensional hierarchy with categorical attributes: classifying and describing attributes	
Internal/physical schema	Memory organisation (primary/secondary indexes, partitioning,)	Relational storage (ROLAP): Star/Snowflake schema patterns	Multidimensional storage (MOLAP): native implementation



Data Warehouses and OLAP

ROLAP = Relational OLAP MOLAP = Multidimensional OLAP HOLAP → Hybrid solution



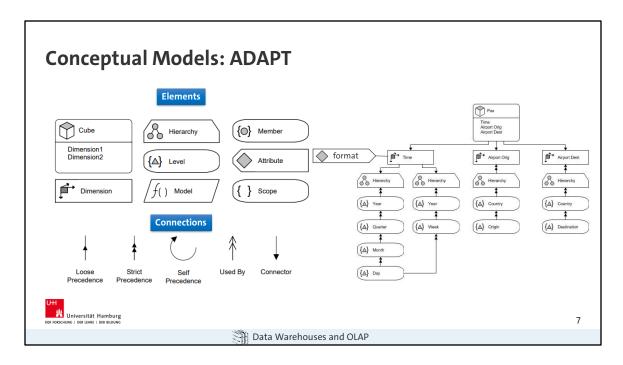
[1] source: https://www.datenbanken-verstehen.de/data-warehouse/data-warehouse-design/anforderungsanalyse/adapt-notation/

Software for ADAPT: Midrosoft visio with ADAPT Add-On

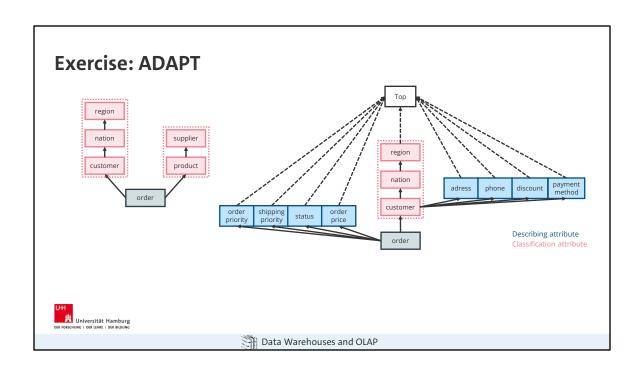
Further reading

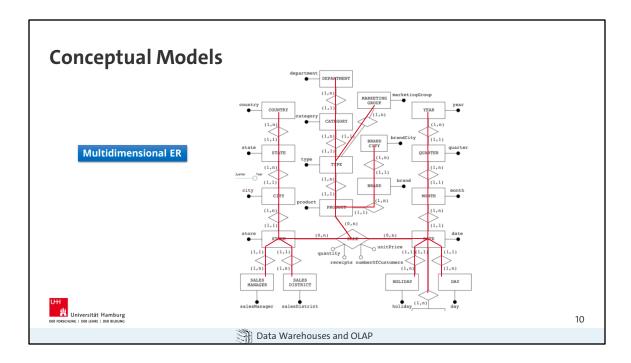
Getting Started with ADAPT:

http://www.symcorp.com/downloads/ADAPT_white_paper.pdf



- There are also different dimension types and scopes which we will not cover here
- Used by is used with Models



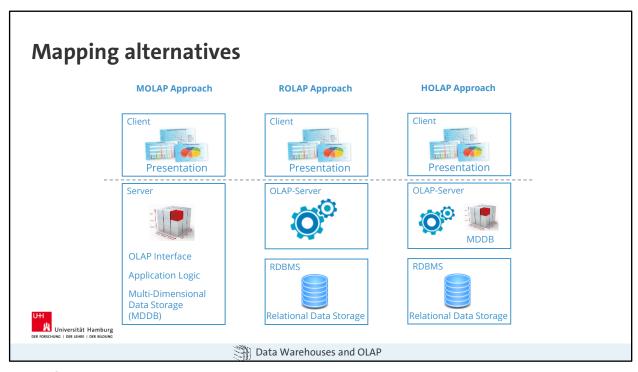


Relational Data model

- Avoiding redundancies
- OLTP queries
- Preferably efficient querying of individual entries

In Data Warehouses

- OLAP queries usually affect multiple entries
- Value ranges and/or aggregates
- · Redundancy can shorten query response time
- → Different relational data models



MOLAP

Properties

- Raw data & aggregates stored in OLAP server
- Direct storage as cubes

Pros

- No transfer of modeling concepts
- Separation of descriptive und quantified attributes fixed in the model
- Multiple integrated statistical operators (esp. OLAP functions)
- Fast response times through pre-calculation
- Very efficient due to optimized storage structures **Cons**
- Proprietary systems
- Often compression is missing (sparsity), scalability (MB to GB)
- High storage requirements (factor 10 to 100) due to aggregation/pre calculation
- Often limited number of dimensions (10 to 64)

Products

Oracle Express, Hyperion Essbase, Cognos Powerplay, Seagate Holos

ROLAP

Properties

- Data is stored in RDBMS
- · Information is created via SQL
- Additional tables for aggregates

Pros

- Proven database technology
- Scalability for big volume data / high number of dimensions Cons
- Installation overhead (interaction of different components)
- Overhead for mapping the Data Cube and complex queries to SQL
- Extensive Meta data management for parameters
- Slower

Products

Almost all RDBMS vendors (Oracle, DB2, Microsoft, etc.), SAP BW / SIMCE

HOLAP

Properties

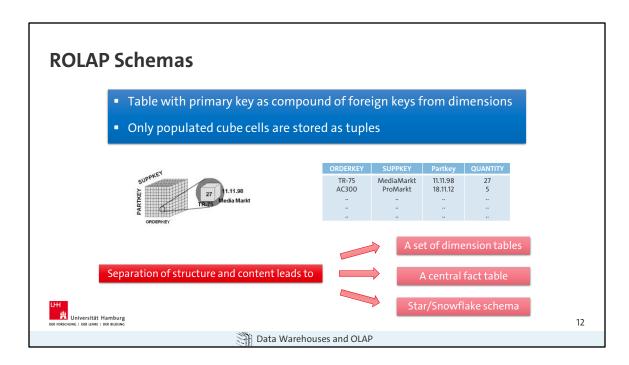
- "best of both worlds"
- Data partially stored in MOLAP Cubes and RDBMS

Pros

- Proven database technology
- Improved scalability / response times

Cons

- Installation overhead (interaction of different components)
- Complexity / Handling, Which data should be stored where?
 Products
- MicroStrategy, Essbase, Mondrian, Microsoft Analysis Services

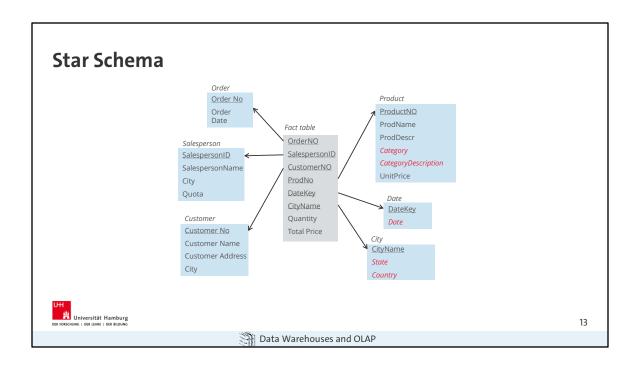


Fact table (content)

- · Central table
- Compound primary key from foreign keys of dimension tables (explicit assignment of facts)
- Few columns, many tuples (millions, billions)
- Typically, only numeric data types

Dimension tables (structure)

- · Classifying and descriptive attributes
- Many columns, but few tuples (< 10% of fact table)
- Used for selection (by utilizing bitmap-indices)
- Used for aggregation (group-by-clause)
- Foreign key links dimension table and fact table

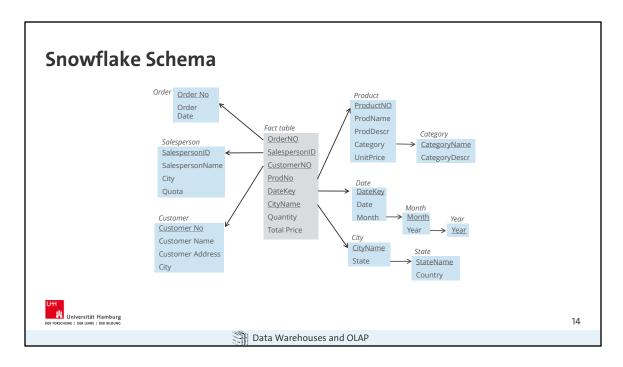


Pros

- Intuitive for users
- Low response time because of read-optimization
- · Adaptability to changing structure
- · Partitioning and optimization possible
- Less redundancy

Cons

- Not that update friendly
- Multi-hierarchies can be only modeled indirectly
- No distinction between classifying and descriptive attributes (only implicit hierarchies)

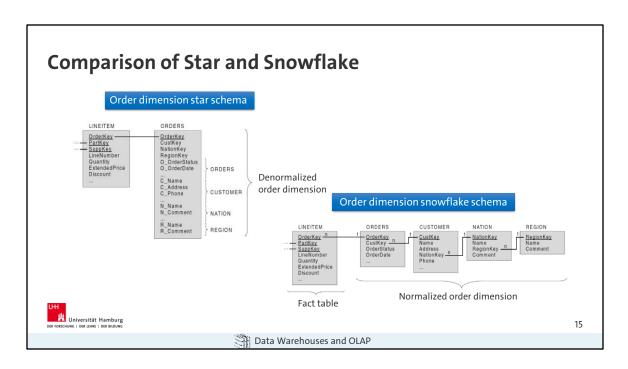


Main property: normalized dimension tables

- +No redundancy
- +Update-friendly
- +Inherent mapping of structural information of dimension hierarchies
- -Less performance due to additional joins

Redundancy: "Resist the urge to normalize"

- Fact table size of hundreds of GBs/TBs
- Plus, index on fact table of similar size
- Dimension tables size of several hundred MBs
- Little storage savings from normalization
- Only favorable for large dimensions or many updates



Benefits Star over Snowflake

- · Higher query performance
 - Analytic queries typically address higher aggregation levels
 - Less joins because of denormalization
- Data volume
 - Dimension tables small in comparison to fact tables
 - Additional storage required for denormalized dimension tables rather small
- Changes of classification structure (meta/instance level)
 - Occur rarely
 - Drawback: higher change costs due to duplicate identification for denormalized dimension tables
- · Simplicity of structure
 - Fewer dimension tables than snowflake schema
 - Simpler creation of SQL queries by the OLAP-server

Combining Star & Snowflake Schema

Properties

Some dimensions normalized

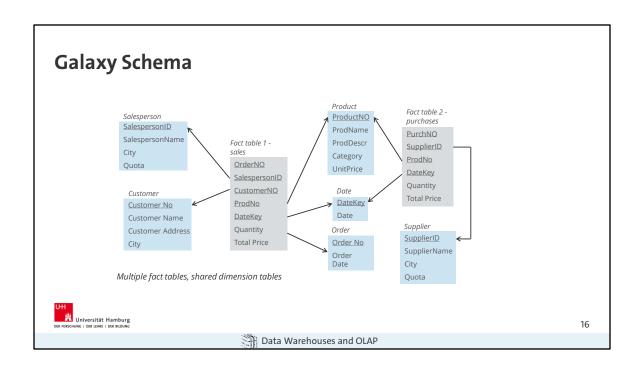
· Some dimensions denormalized

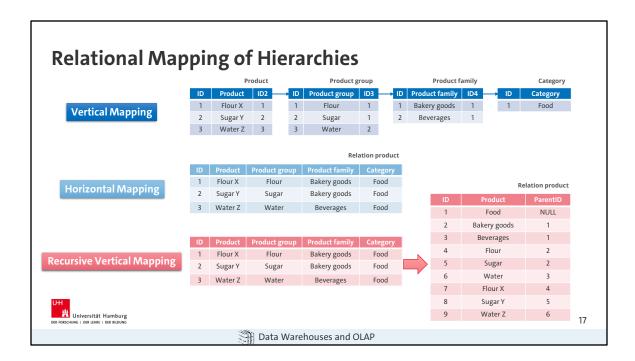
Frequency of updates

• If update frequency of a dimension is high, it makes sense to normalize this dimension to drastically reduce update costs

Number of dimension elements

- High number of finest-grain dimension elements leads to high savings through normalization
- High number of aggregation levels leads to high savings through normalization
- · Multiplicative relationship





Vertical mapping

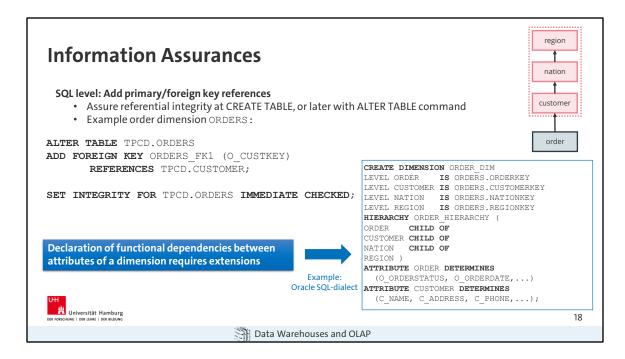
- · Explicit mapping using separate relations
- Normalized
- Ref. snowflake schema

Horizontal mapping

- · Implicit mapping of equally ranked attributes
- Denormalized
- Ref. star schema

Recursive vertical mapping

- · Explicit mapping of arbitrary deep hierarchies
- Combination with horizontal mapping possible
- Extension for irregular hierarchies possible
- Recursive resolution of hierarchy via a set of self-joins



Primary/foreign key relation between dimension- & fact table

- Referential integrity: assure that every quantified part can be evaluated against the descriptive part of a multidimensional schema
- Every part of the composite primary key of the fact table has to be a foreign key to the primary key of the corresponding dimension table

Problem

- PK/FK relations can be declared using classical DB means, BUT declaration of functional dependencies between attributes of a dimension → requires extensions, e.g. CREATE DIMENSION (Oracle)
- Knowledge about functional dependencies is necessary to check disjointness
- Information assurances describe functional dependencies, but inside a relation (e.g. denormalized dimension tables in star schemas)