Chapter 20: Data Analysis

Database System Concepts, 6th Ed.

Decision-Support Systems: Overview

- **Data analysis** tasks are simplified by specialized tools and SQL extensions
  - Example tasks
    - For each product category and each region, what were the total sales in the last quarter and how do they compare with the same quarter last year
    - As above, for each product category and each customer category
- **Statistical analysis** packages (e.g., : S++) can be interfaced with databases
  - Statistical analysis is a large field, but not covered here
- **Data mining** seeks to discover knowledge automatically in the form of statistical rules and patterns from large databases.
- A **data warehouse** archives information gathered from multiple sources, and stores it under a unified schema, at a single site.
  - Important for large businesses that generate data from multiple divisions, possibly at multiple sites
  - Data may also be purchased externally

Data Warehousing

- Data sources often store only current data, not historical data
- Corporate decision making requires a unified view of all organizational data, including historical data
- A **data warehouse** is a repository (archive) of information gathered from multiple sources, stored under a unified schema, at a single site
  - Greatly simplifies querying, permits study of historical trends
  - Shifts decision support query load away from transaction processing systems

Data Warehouse vs. Operational DBMS

- OLTP (on-line transaction processing)
  - Major task of traditional relational DBMS
  - Day-to-day operations: purchasing, inventory, banking, manufacturing, payroll, registration, accounting, etc.
- OLAP (on-line analytical processing)
  - Major task of data warehouse system
  - Data analysis and decision making
- Distinct features (OLTP vs. OLAP):
  - Data contents: current, detailed vs. historical, consolidated
  - Database design: ER, Normalized design + application vs. star + subject
  - View: current, local vs. evolutionary, integrated
  - Access patterns: update vs. read-only but complex queries

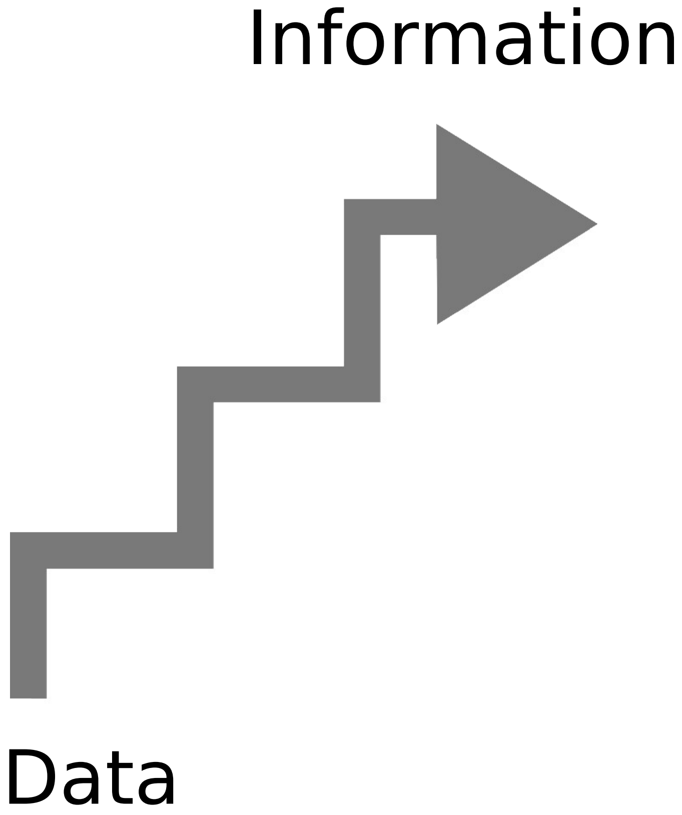
OLTP vs. OLAP

	OLTP	OLAP
users	clerk, IT professional	knowledge worker
function	day to day operations	decision support
DB design	application-oriented	subject-oriented
data	current, up-to-date detailed, flat relational isolated	historical, summarized, multidimensional integrated, consolidated
usage	repetitive	ad-hoc
access	read/write index/hash on prim. key	lots of scans
unit of work	short, simple transaction	complex query
# records accessed	tens	millions
#users	thousands	hundreds
DB size	100MB-GB	100GB-TB
metric	transaction throughput	query throughput, response

Why Separate Data Warehouse?

- High performance for both systems
  - DBMS— tuned for OLTP: access methods, indexing, concurrency control, recovery
  - Warehouse—tuned for OLAP: complex OLAP queries, multidimensional view, consolidation
- Different functions and different data:
  - missing data: Decision support requires historical data which operational DBs do not typically maintain
  - data consolidation: DS requires consolidation (aggregation, summarization) of data from heterogeneous sources
  - data quality: different sources typically use inconsistent data representations, codes and formats which have to be reconciled
- Note: There are more and more systems which perform OLAP analysis directly on relational databases

What is Data Warehousing?



A process of transforming data into information and making it available to users in a timely enough manner to make a difference

[Forrester Research, April 1996]

Data Warehouse?

- Different definitions -
  - 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 subject-oriented, integrated, time-variant, and nonvolatile collection of data in support of management's decision-making process."—W. H. Inmon
- Data warehousing:
  - The process of constructing and using data warehouses

Data Warehouse—Subject-Oriented

- Organized around major subjects.

  [For example - customer, product, sales]

- Focusing on the modeling and analysis of data for decision makers, not on daily operations or transaction processing.

- Provide a simple and concise view around particular subject issues by excluding data that are not useful in the decision support process.

Data Warehouse—Integrated

- Constructed by integrating multiple, heterogeneous data sources
  - relational databases, flat files, on-line transaction records
- Data cleaning and data integration techniques are applied.
  - Ensure consistency in naming conventions, encoding structures, attribute measures, etc. among different data sources
    - “Interoperability”
  - When data is moved to the warehouse, it is converted.

Data Warehouse—Time Variant

- The time horizon for the data warehouse is significantly longer than that of operational systems.
  - Operational database: current value data.
  - Data warehouse data: provide information from a historical perspective (e.g., past 5-10 years)
- Every key structure in the data warehouse
  - Contains an element of time, explicitly or implicitly
  - But the key of operational data may or may not contain “time element”.

Data Warehouse—Non-Volatile

- A physically separate store of data transformed from the operational environment.
- Operational update of data does not occur in the data warehouse environment.
  - Does not require transaction processing, recovery, and concurrency control mechanisms
  - Requires only two operations in data accessing:
    - *initial loading of data* and *access of data*.

Data Warehouse vs. Heterogeneous DBMS

- Traditional heterogeneous DB integration:
  - Build wrappers/mediators on top of heterogeneous databases
  - Query driven approach
    - When a query is posed to a client site, a meta-dictionary is used to translate the query into queries appropriate for individual heterogeneous sites involved, and the results are integrated into a global answer set
    - Complex information filtering, compete for resources
- Data warehouse: update-driven, high performance
  - Information from heterogeneous sources is integrated in advance and stored in warehouses for direct query and analysis

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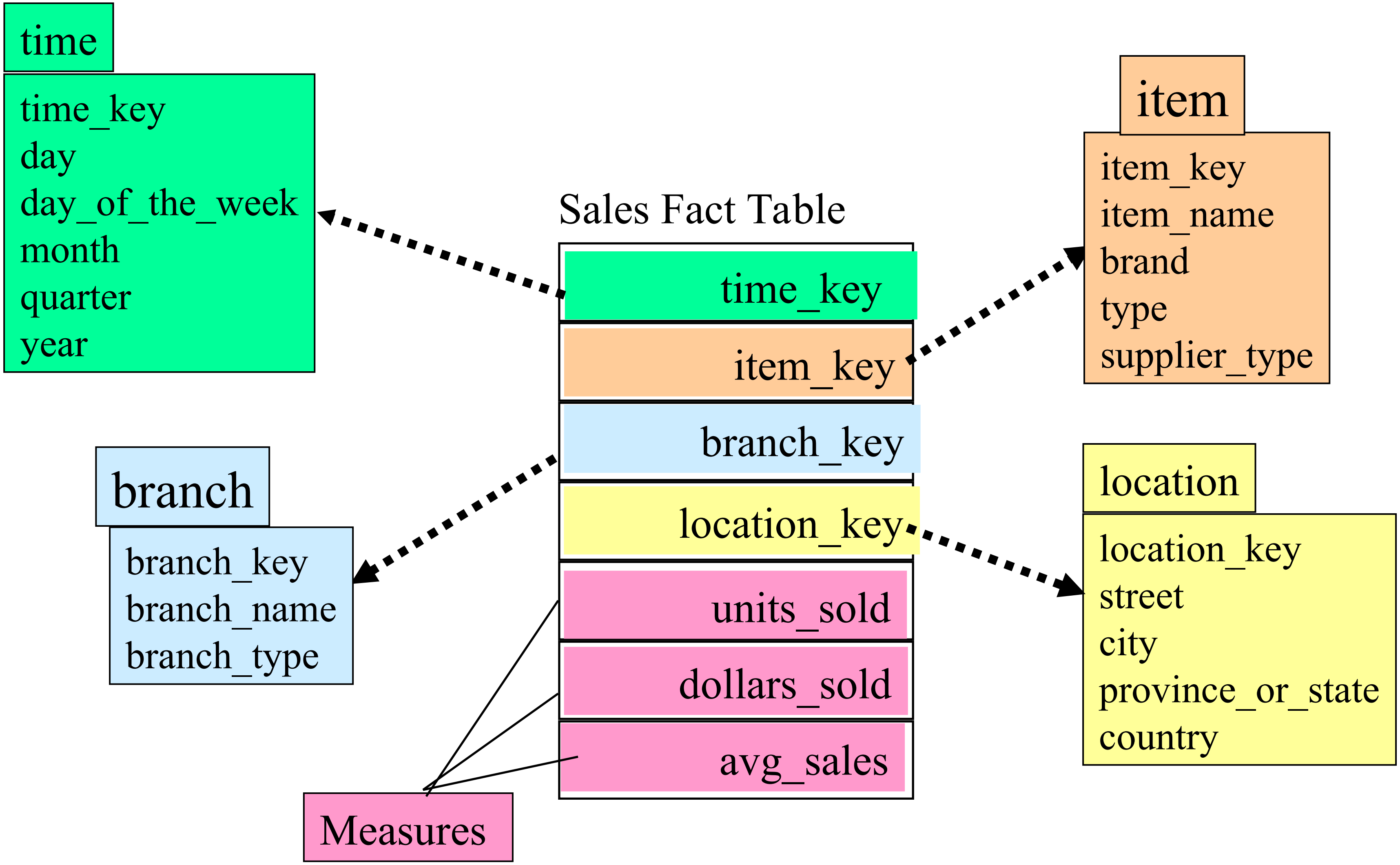
Multi-dimensional Data Model – From Tables and Spreadsheets to Data Cubes

- 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
- 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.

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
  - Fact constellations: Multiple fact tables share dimension tables, viewed as a collection of stars, therefore called galaxy schema or fact constellation

Example of Star Schema



time

time_key
day
day_of_the_week
month
quarter
year

Sales Fact Table

time_key
item_key
branch_key
location_key
units_sold
dollars_sold
avg_sales

item

item_key
item_name
brand
type
supplier_type

branch

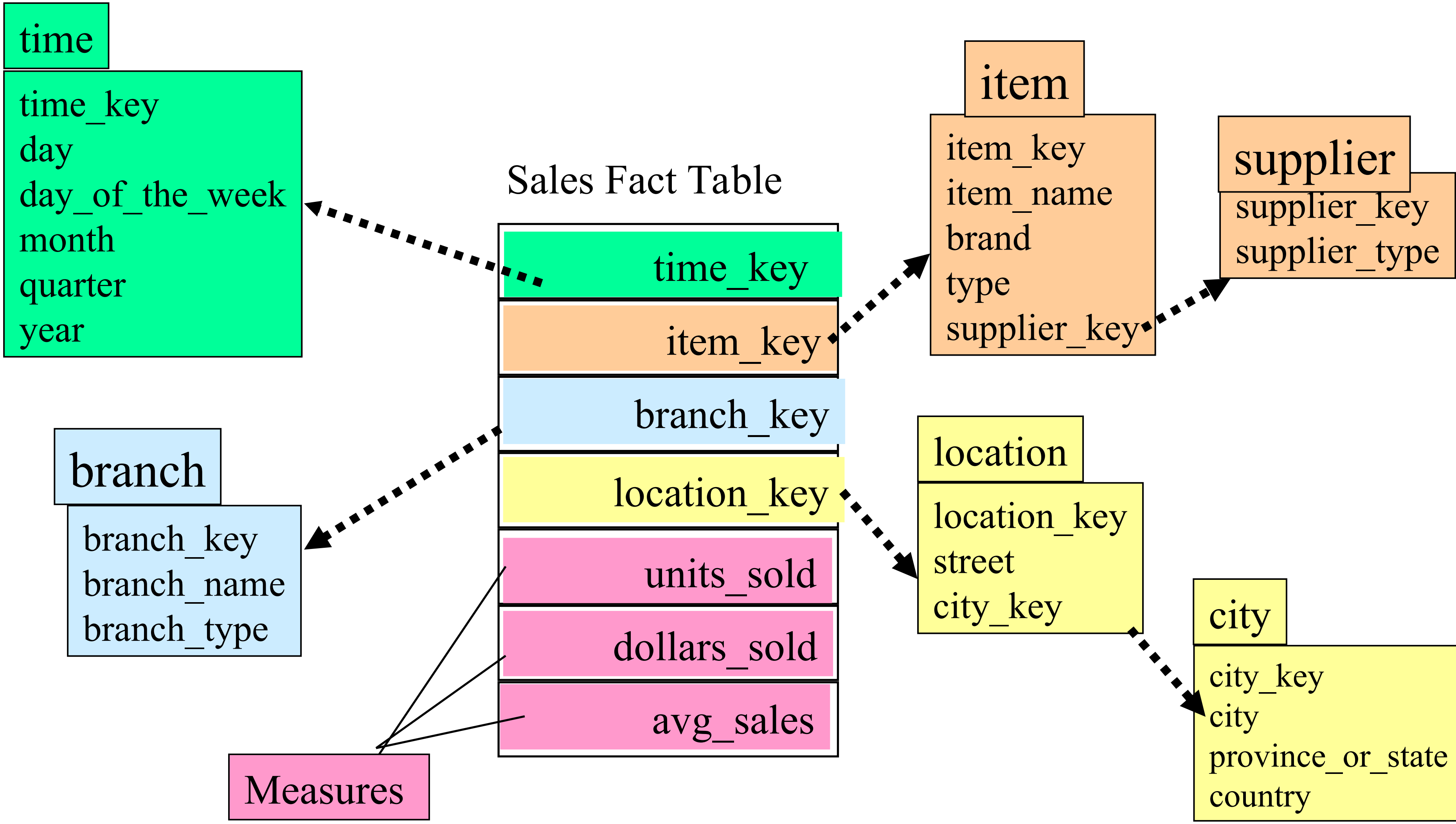
branch_key
branch_name
branch_type

location

location_key
street
city
province_or_state
country

Measures

Example of Snowflake Schema



time

time_key
day
day_of_the_week
month
quarter
year

Sales Fact Table

time_key
item_key
branch_key
location_key
units_sold
dollars_sold
avg_sales

Measures

item

item_key
item_name
brand
type
supplier_key

supplier

supplier_key
supplier_type

branch

branch_key
branch_name
branch_type

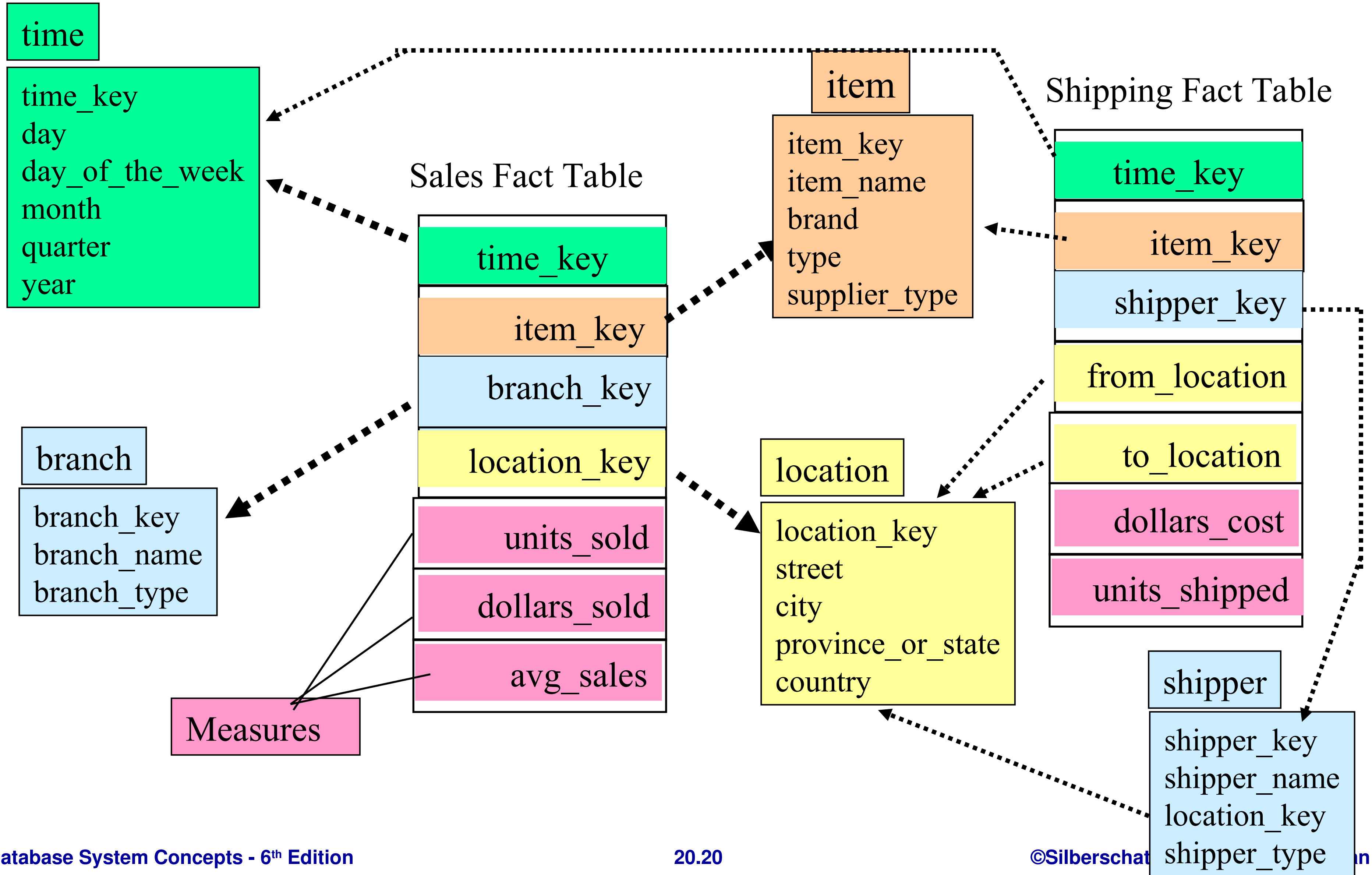
location

location_key
street
city_key

city

city_key
city
province_or_state
country

Example of Fact Constellation



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Measures

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item_key
item_name
brand
type
supplier_type

branch

branch_key
branch_name
branch_type

location

location_key
street
city
province_or_state
country

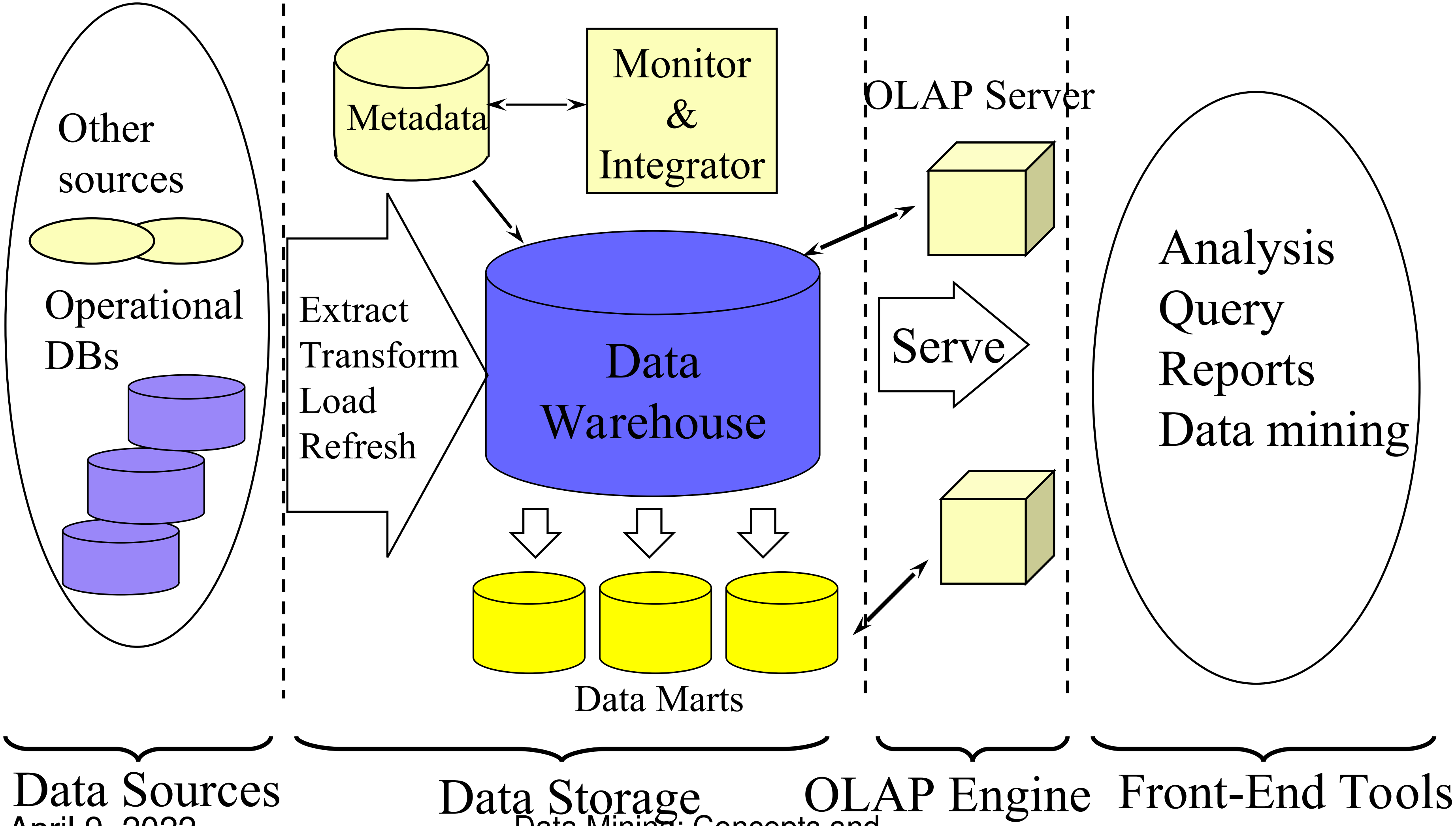
Shipping Fact Table

time_key
item_key
shipper_key
from_location
to_location
dollars_cost
units_shipped

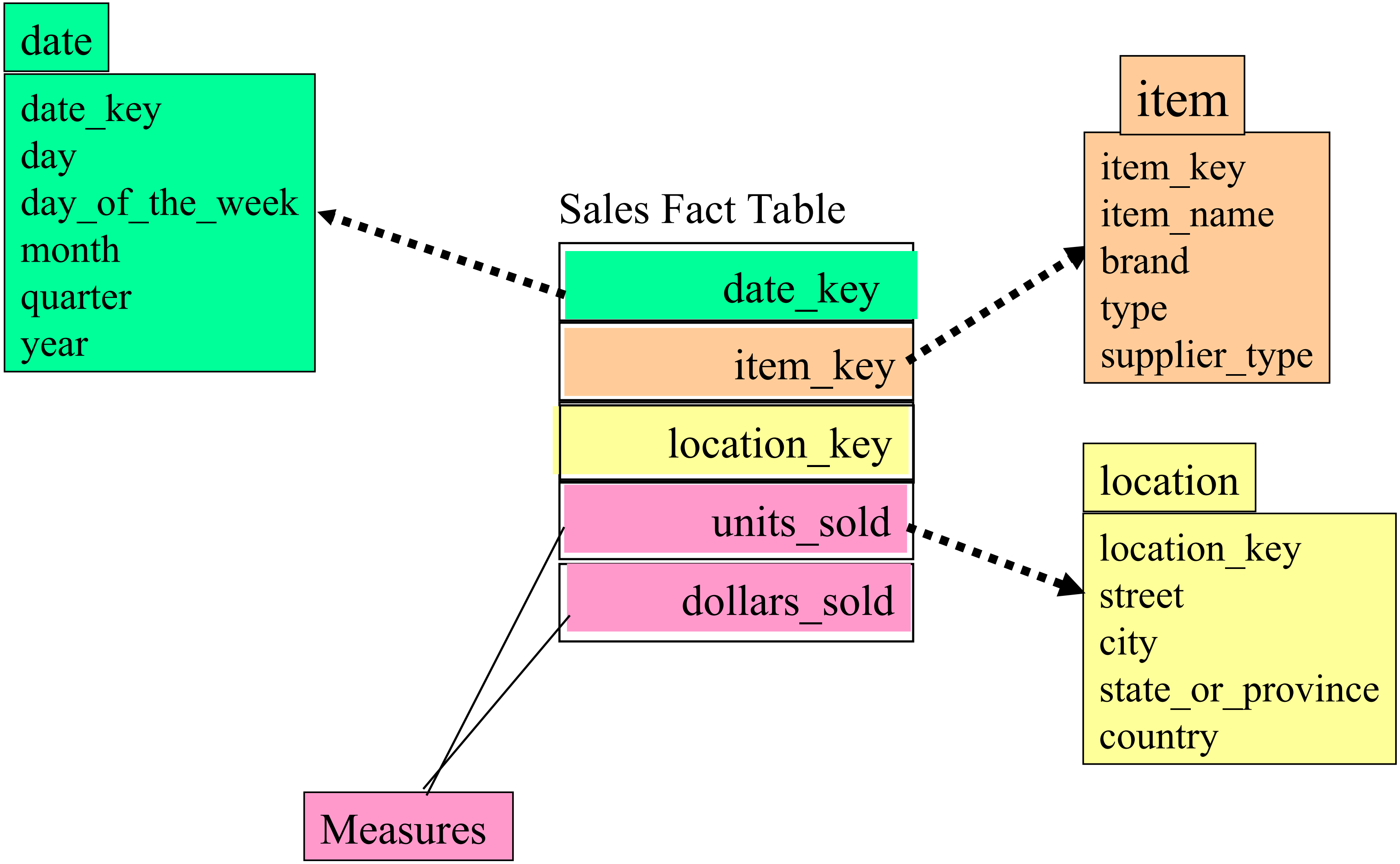
shipper

shipper_key
shipper_name
location_key
shipper_type

Data Warehouse: A Multi-Tiered Architecture



Example of Star Schema



date

date_key
day
day_of_the_week
month
quarter
year

Sales Fact Table

date_key
item_key
location_key
units_sold
dollars_sold

item

item_key
item_name
brand
type
supplier_type

location

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street
city
state_or_province
country

Measures

From Tables to Data Cubes

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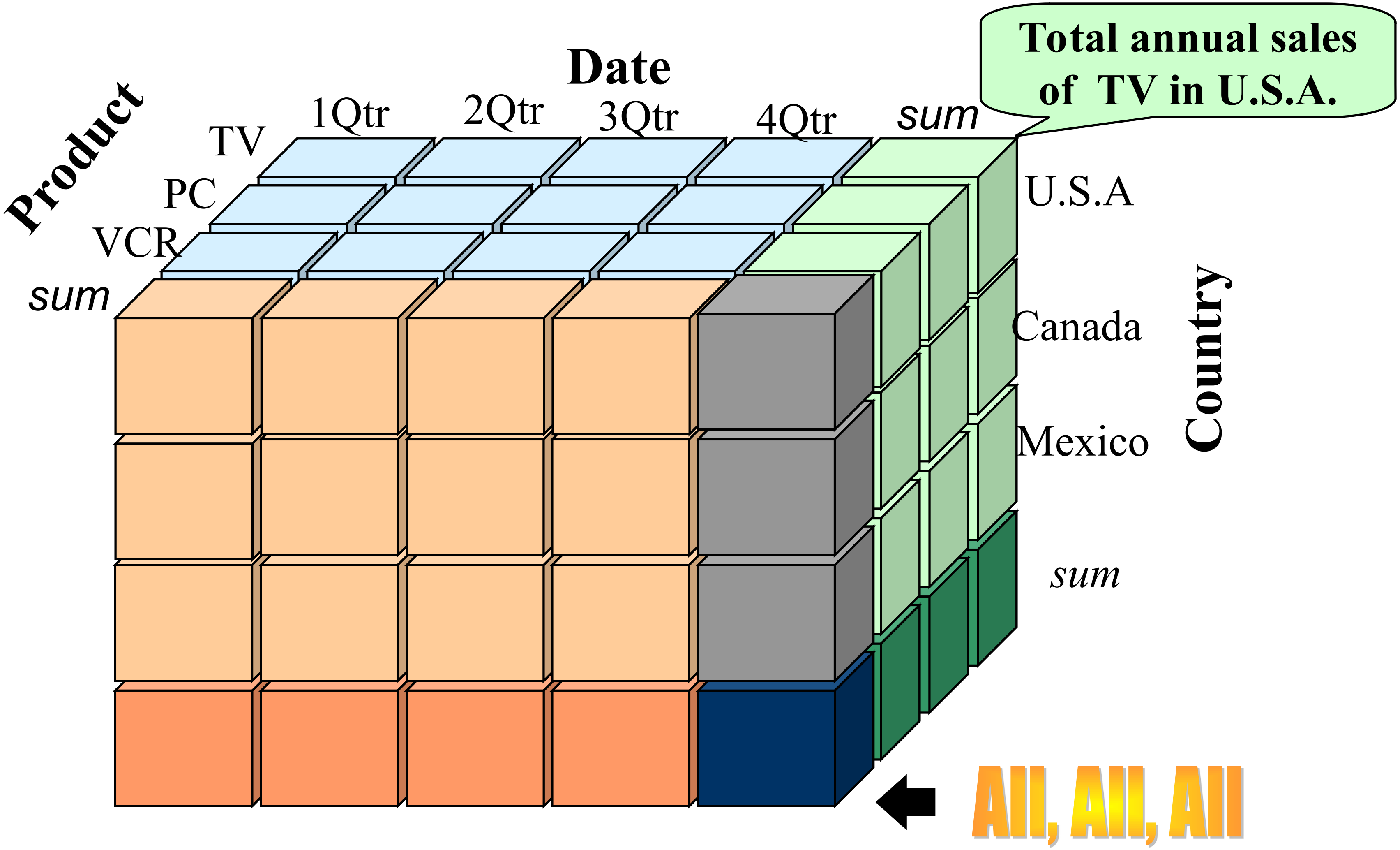
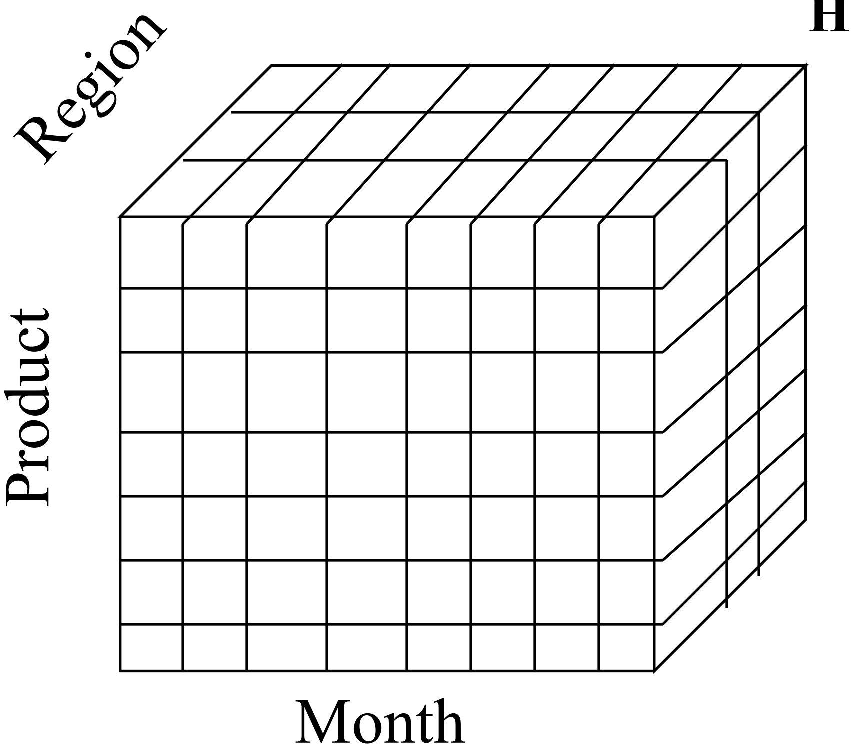
A Sample Data Cube

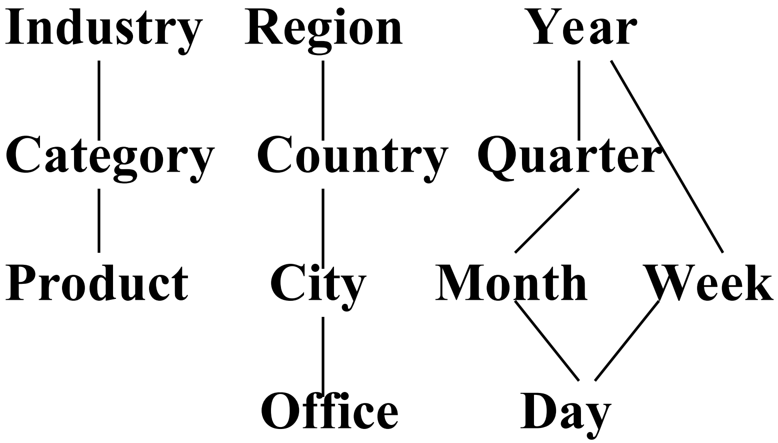


Multidimensional Data

- Sales volume as a function of product, month, and region



Dimensions: Product, Location, Time
Hierarchical summarization paths



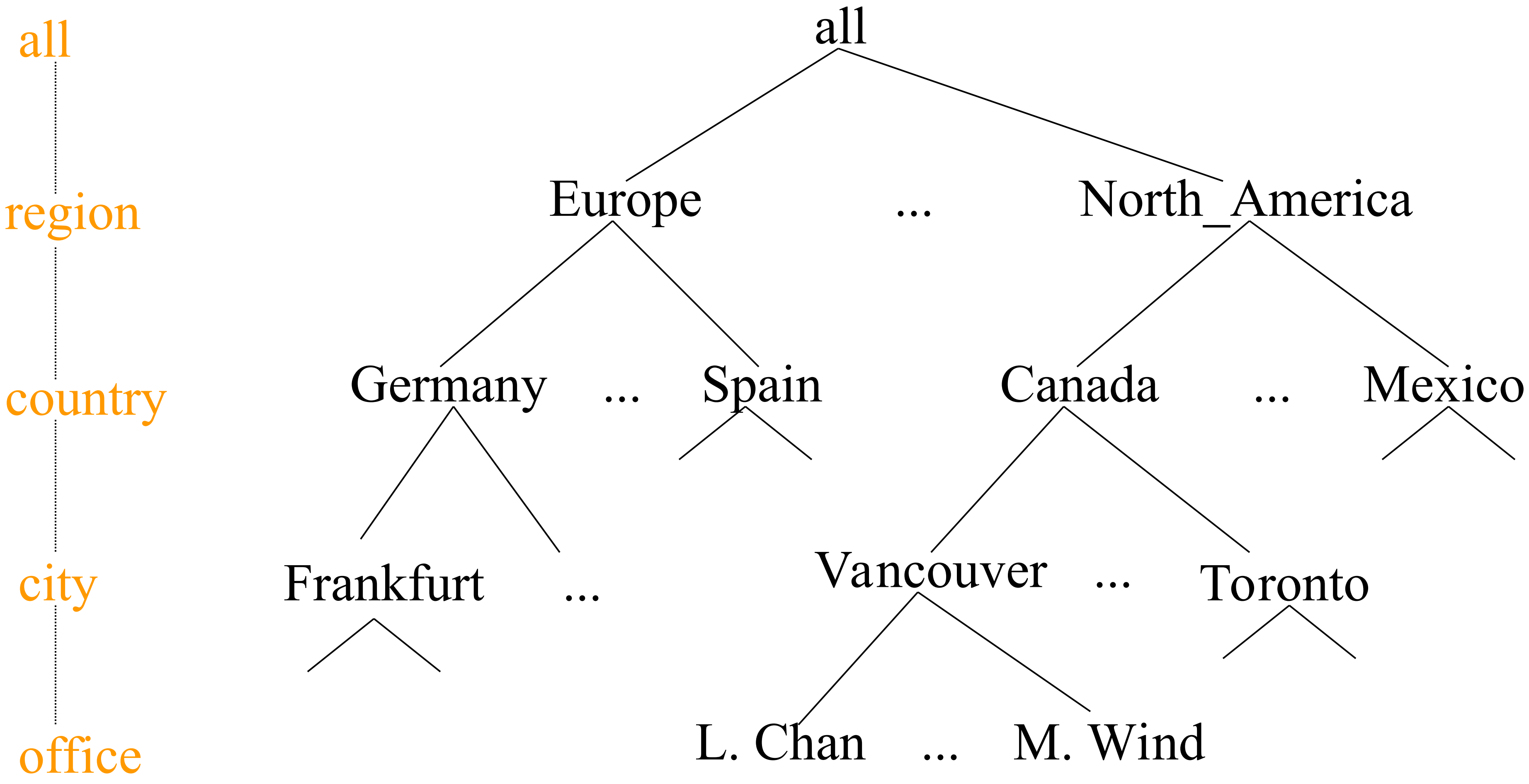
Industry – Category – Product

Region – Country – City – Office

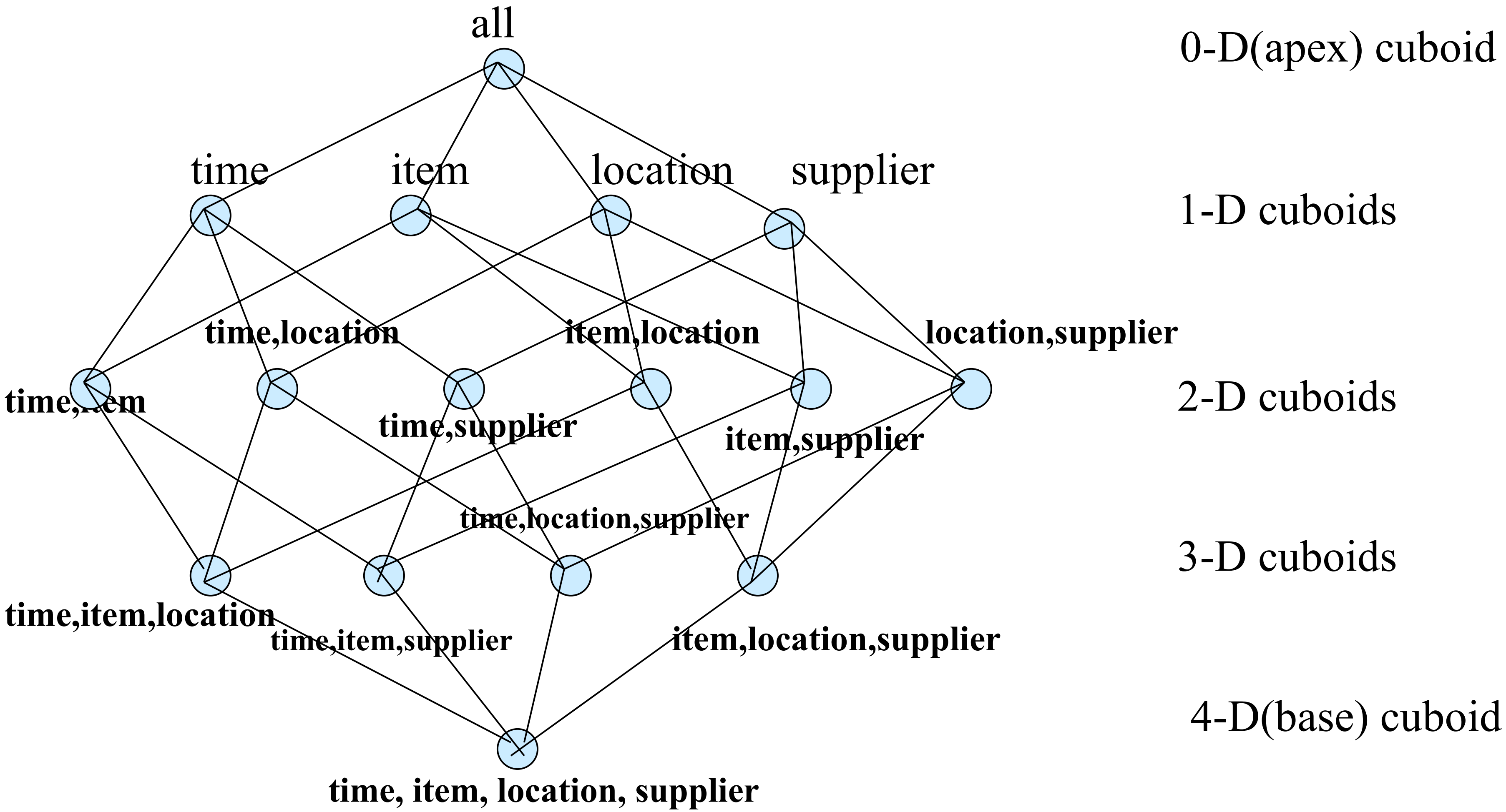
Year – Quarter – Month – Day

Year – Week – Day

A Concept Hierarchy: Dimension (location)

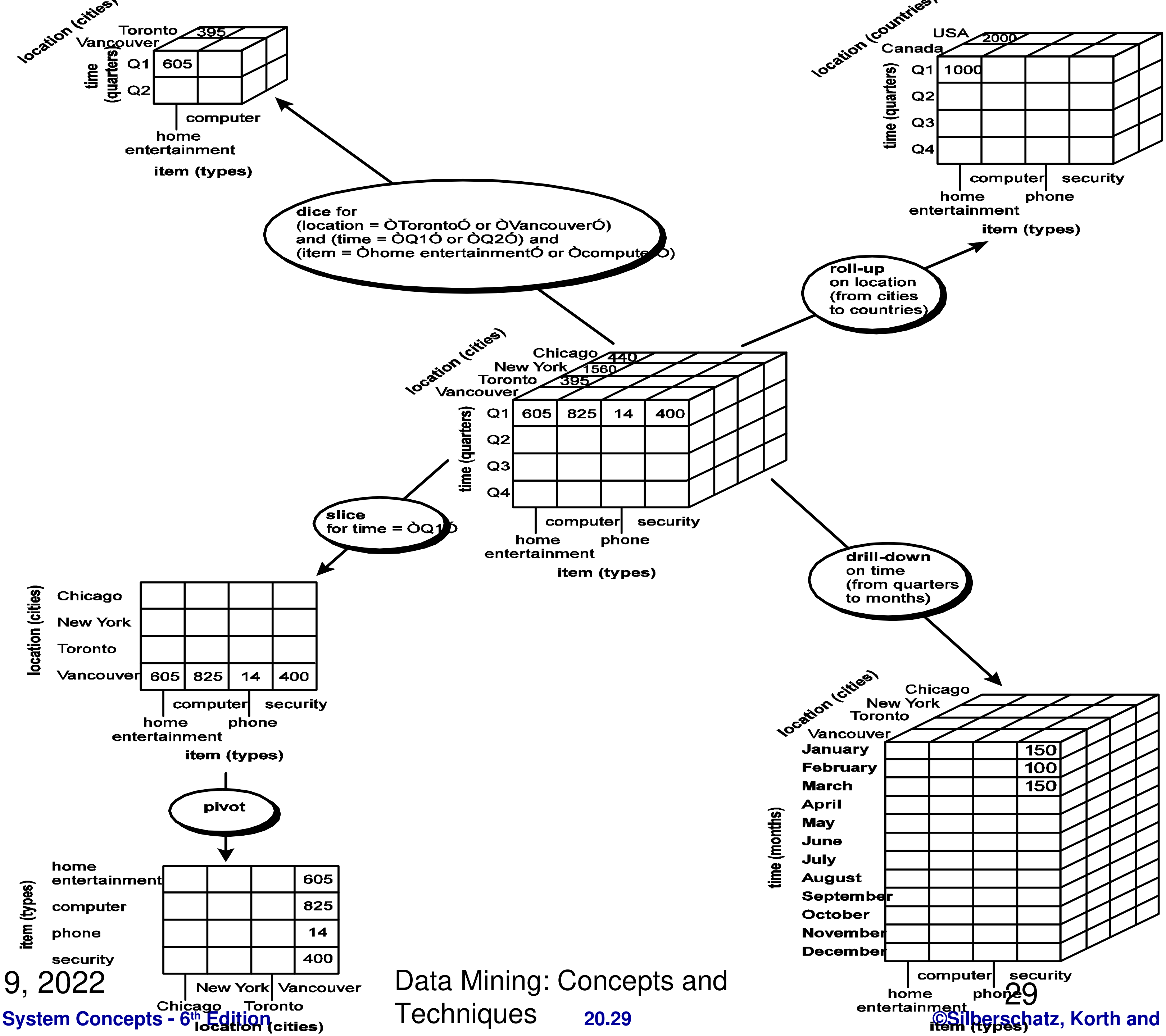


Cube: A Lattice of Cuboids



Typical OLAP Operations

- Roll up (drill-up): summarize data
  - *by climbing up hierarchy or by dimension reduction*
- Drill down (roll down): reverse of roll-up
  - *from higher level summary to lower level summary or detailed data, or introducing new dimensions*
- Slice and dice: *project and select*
- Pivot (rotate):
  - *reorient the cube, visualization, 3D to series of 2D planes*
- Other operations
  - *drill across: involving (across) more than one fact table*
  - *drill through: through the bottom level of the cube to its back-end relational tables (using SQL)*



location (cities)	home entertainment	computer	phone	security
Chicago				
New York				
Toronto				
Vancouver	605	825	14	400

item (types)	Chicago	New York	Toronto	Vancouver
home entertainment				605
computer				825
phone				14
security				400

Important Instructions

- Read these slides and also the paper on Association Rule Mining

End of Chapter

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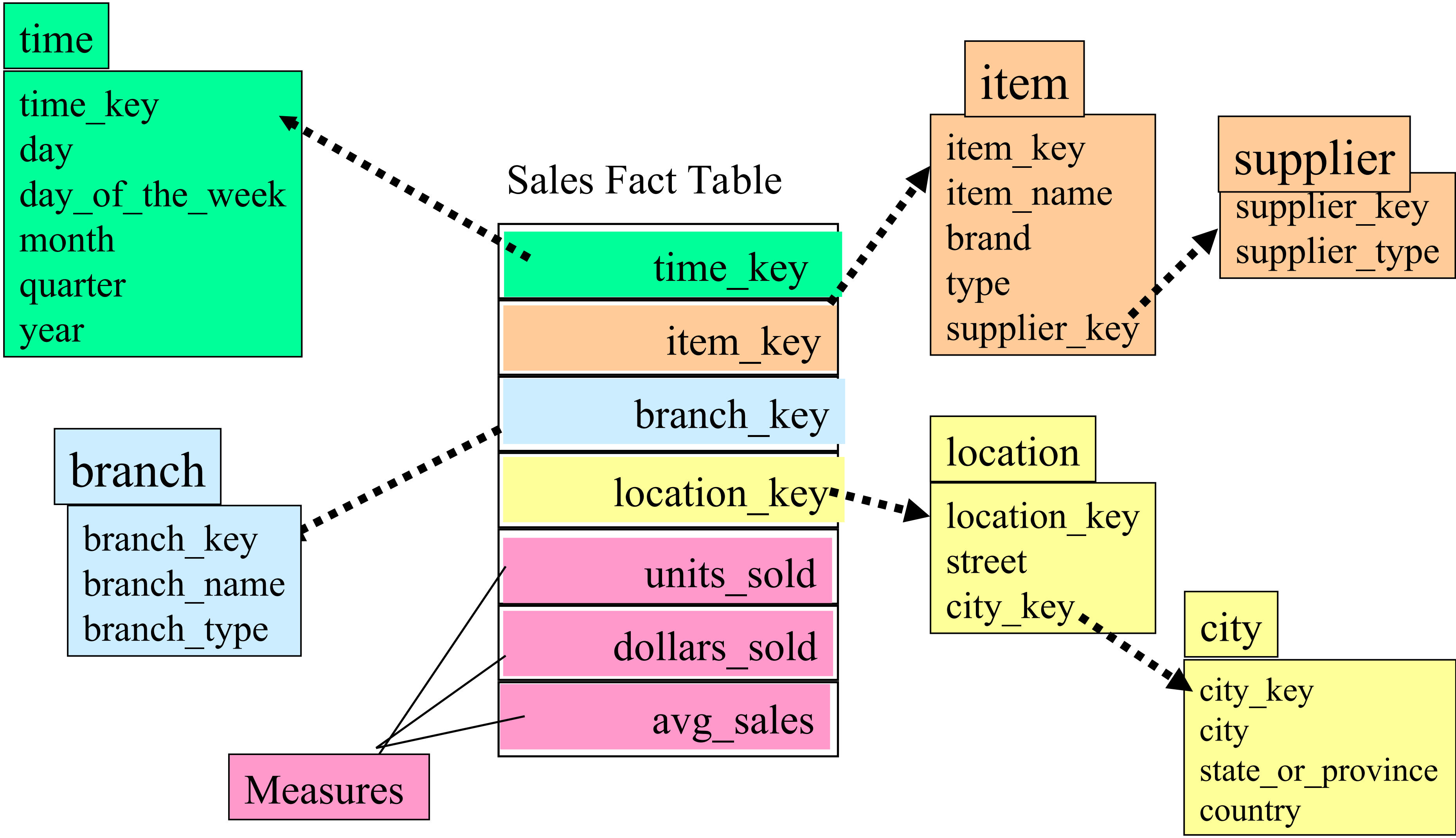
Example of Snowflake Schema



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time_key
day
day_of_the_week
month
quarter
year

Sales Fact Table

time_key
item_key
branch_key
location_key
units_sold
dollars_sold
avg_sales

Measures

item

item_key
item_name
brand
type
supplier_key

supplier

supplier_key
supplier_type

branch

branch_key
branch_name
branch_type

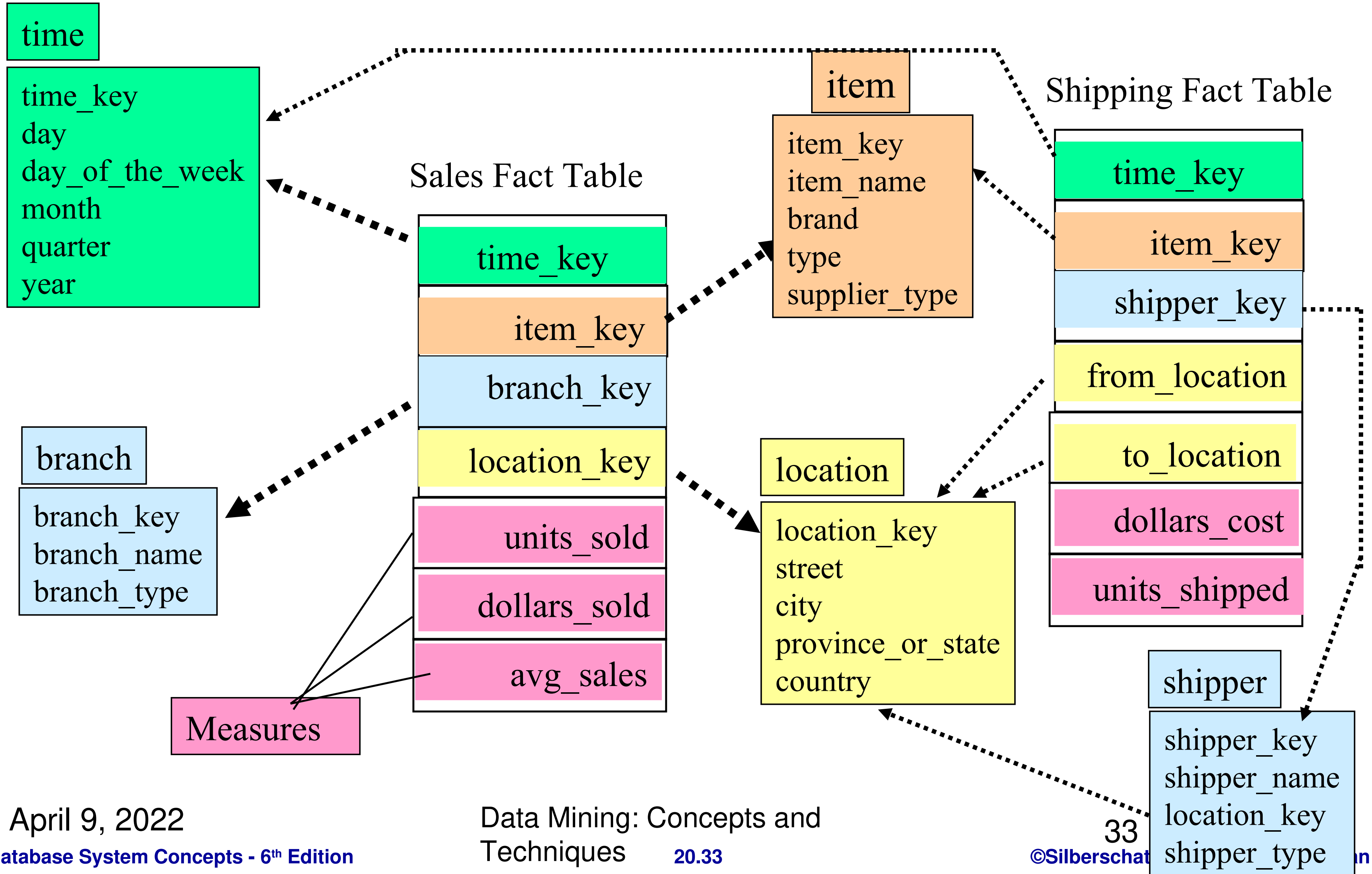
location

location_key
street
city_key

city

city_key
city
state_or_province
country

Example of Fact Constellation



time
- time_key
- day
- day_of_the_week
- month
- quarter
- year

Sales Fact Table
- time_key
- item_key
- branch_key
- location_key
- units_sold
- dollars_sold
- avg_sales

Measures

item
- item_key
- item_name
- brand
- type
- supplier_type

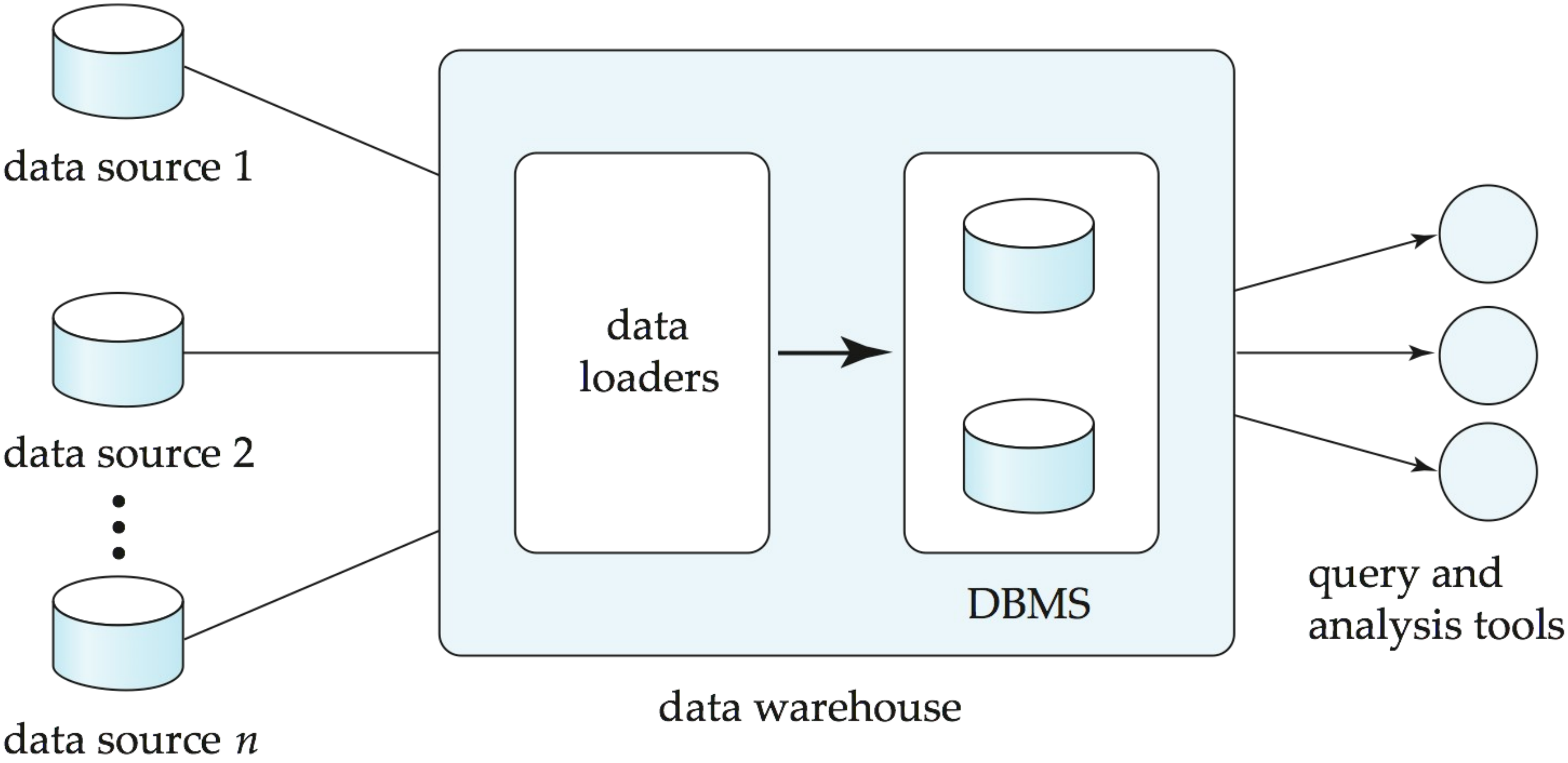
Shipping Fact Table
- time_key
- item_key
- shipper_key
- from_location
- to_location
- dollars_cost
- units_shipped

branch
- branch_key
- branch_name
- branch_type

location
- location_key
- street
- city
- province_or_state
- country

shipper
- shipper_key
- shipper_name
- location_key
- shipper_type

Data Warehousing


data source 1
data source 2
data source *n*
data loaders
DBMS
data warehouse
query and analysis tools