**options for modeling accessories**

**background**

the relationship between accessories and product\_types is m:n — possibly because some of the accessories apply to the whole product-line, not an individiual product-type. But adding additional classes ( PRODUCT-LINE ) seems to be opening a can of worms unnecessarily.

the relationship between simple-products and accessories is 1:n

given that, options:

1. pull all accessories out into accessories table

2. push all accessories into products table

**if do 1**,

1-1 simple: at this point just add the two simple-products that have accessories to the table, and add a column to keep track of the subtype of the product that has the accessory

1-2 a bit odd; (i) means splitting item (aka products) table downloaded from Netsuite into two separate tables: products and accessories. (ii) doesn't capture the subtype relationship that obtains between products and accessories — have to repeat almost all of the fields for accessories.

**if do 2,**

2-1 could we flatten the m:n relationship by repeating the accessory for every product-type that it could apply to? Would that create funny results for searches?

2-2 add a column for the type of product that an accessory applies to : product-type, product-set, base-product, simple-product

2-3 model the 1:n relationships between simple-proudcts and their accessories by putting a link to the product that the accesory applies to into the accessory\_for slot

2-4 what about the m:n relationships? continue to have an outside join table, but have both links go back to the product table — one to an accessory, one to the accessorized class. Build a test case for this: STI implementaiton of inheritance ( accessory is a subtype of product, etc. ) plus a join table modeling the m:n relationships between product-types and accessories.