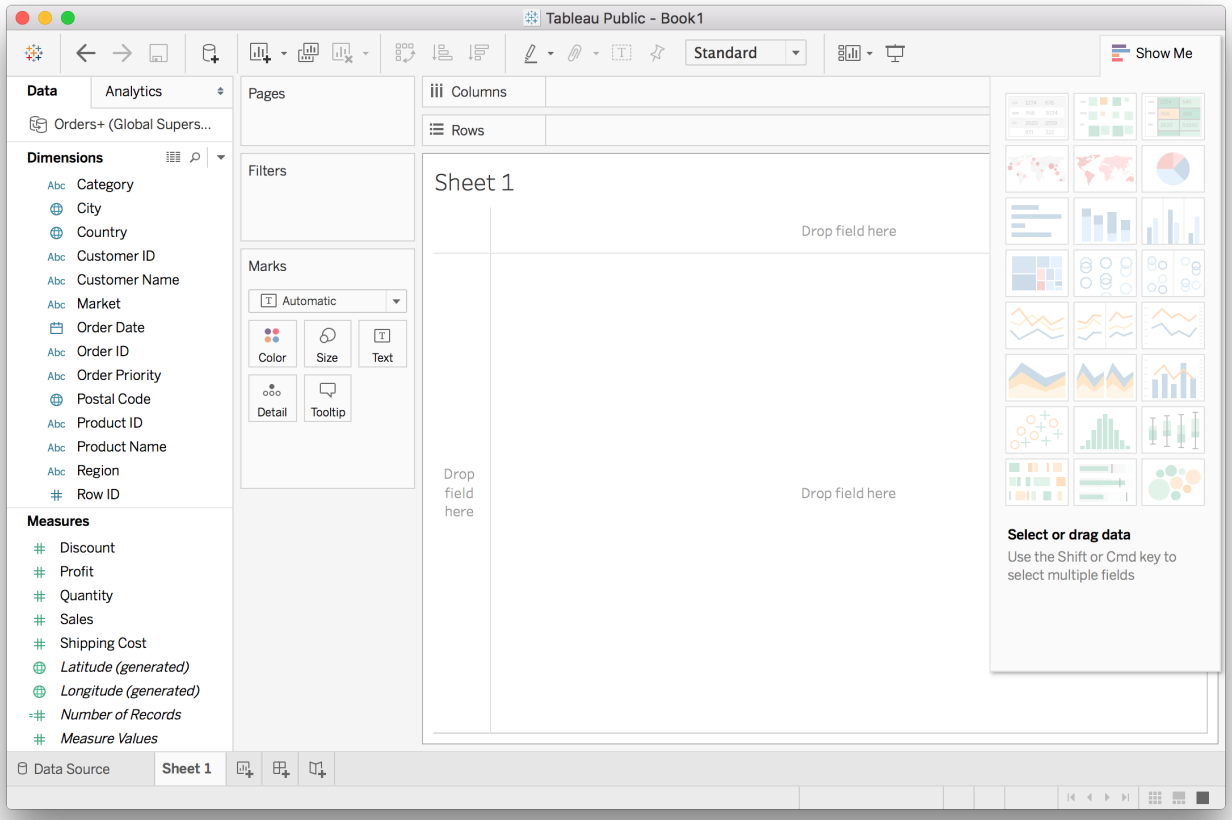
Text: Worksheets

Text Recap of the Previous Video

Sheet interface

Alright! Now that you have your data loaded, time to make a graph. Click on “Sheet1” in the bottom bar. First I'll introduce you to the sheet interface.



On the left you’ll see your data columns (also called "fields"), split between dimensions and measures. Categorical, qualitative, and time data are listed as dimensions. Quantitative numerical data is listed as measure. Tableau automatically detects the data type in each column and splits them up accordingly.

You'll notice the dimensions are colored blue and the measures are green. This is the same color coding you've seen before, blue for discrete data and green for continuous

Dimensions aren't required to be discrete and measures aren't required to be continuous. You can convert discrete data to continuous in some cases, such as with time. Right click the field, or click the little triangle to bring up the menu. You can't do this with categorical data because it can't be continuous. You can also convert continuous data to discrete.

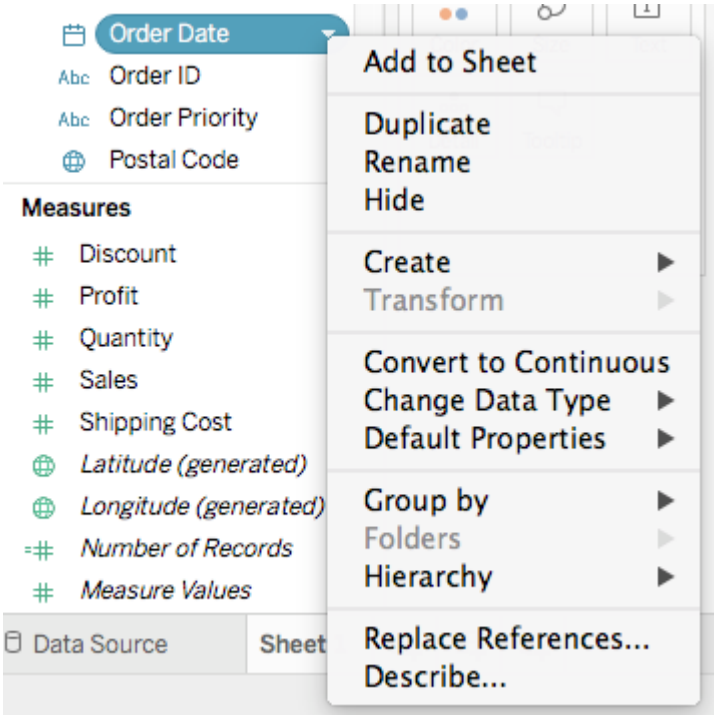


Tableau automatically aggregates measures, but not dimensions. That is, it does calculations like sums and means. Dimensions are used to group the data and set the level of granularity. You'll learn about aggregation and granularity next, so don't worry if you don't know what these mean yet.

Making your first plot

You can select the data you want to plot by dragging the fields to the columns or rows shelves (see below). When you drag a discrete field to Columns, it creates a discrete axis. When you use a continuous field, it creates a continuous axis. You can also drag the fields directly onto the sheet.

To start with, you can look at the number of records for each market. Drag the **Market** field to the Columns shelf.

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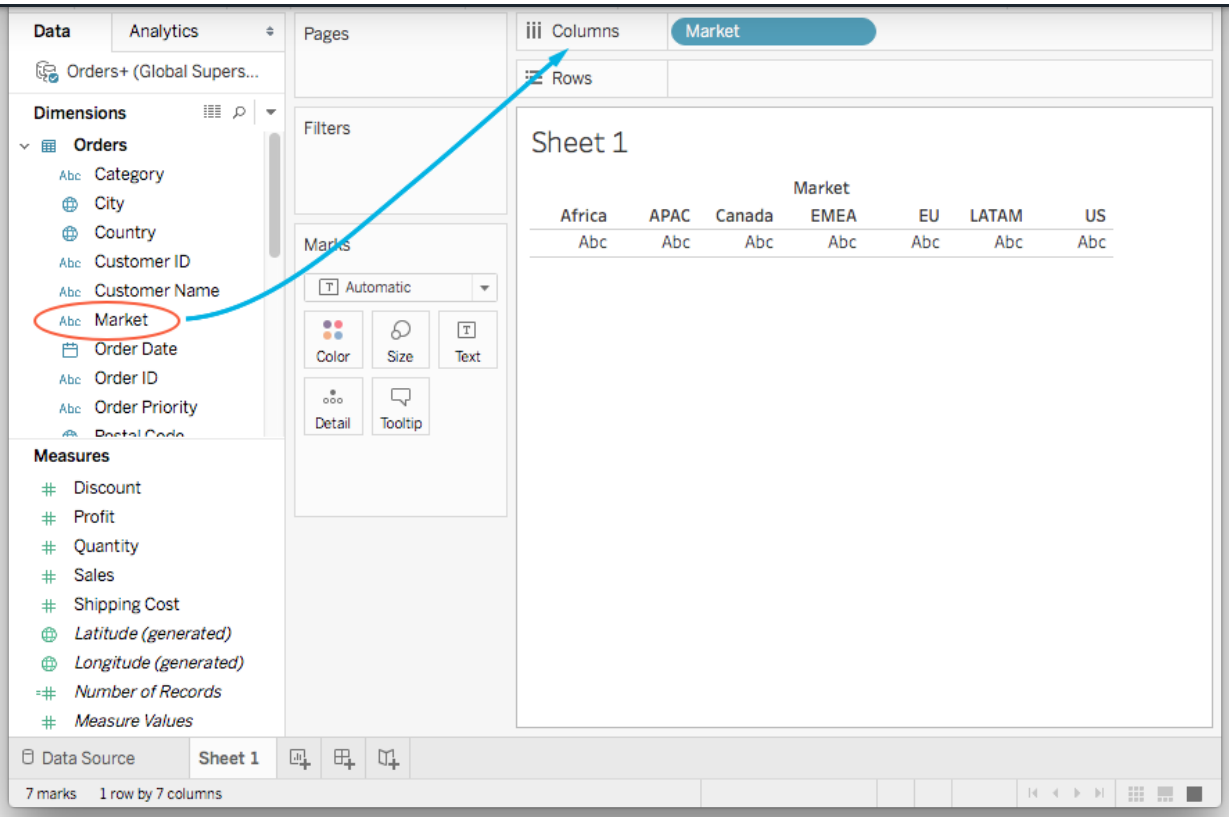

You can see the axis in the sheet panel showing labels for each market. Now drag **Number of Records** from the measures to the rows shelf.

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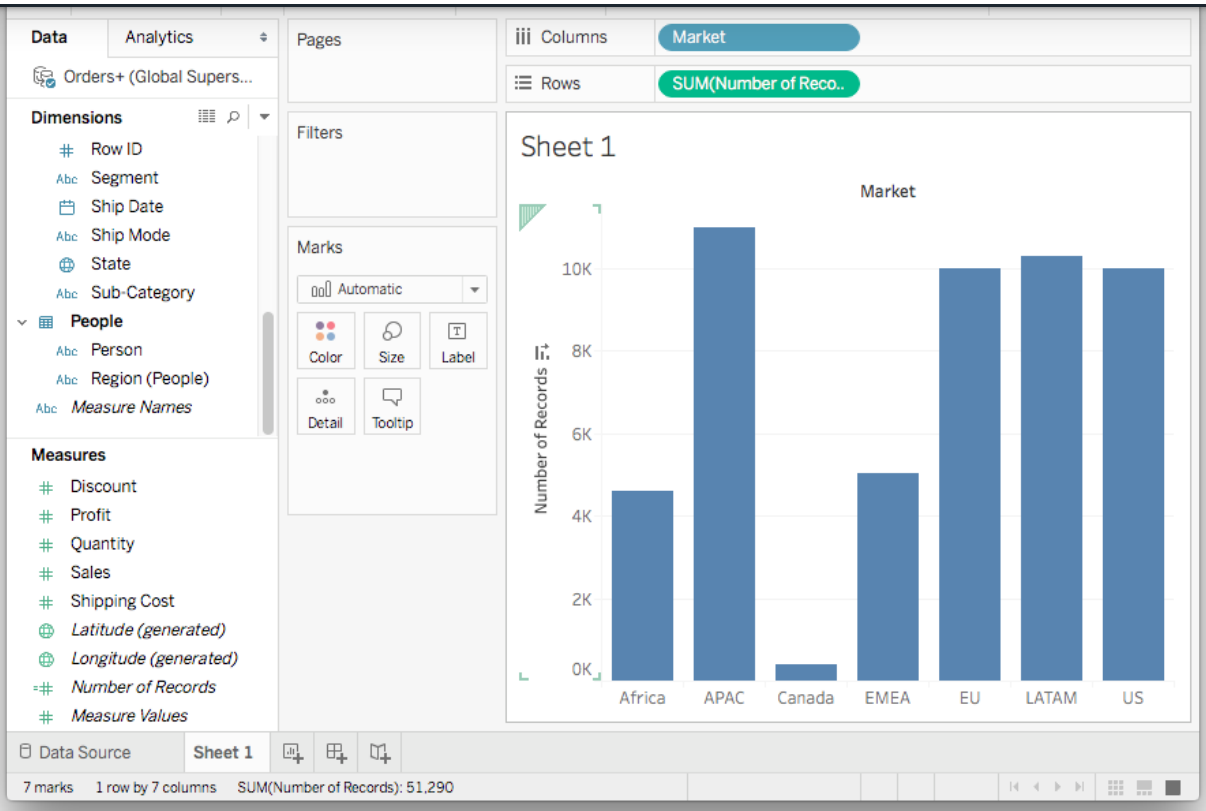

You'll see in the rows shelf the **Number of Records** field turned into a little pill that says SUM(Number of Records). This is called an aggregation, it is aggregating the data for each market and summing the values. You can hover over the bars to see the exact sum for each market. (Try this yourself!)

In general, this is how you will make most of your plots, dragging dimension and measure fields to the shelves. You can also remove fields from the plot by dragging the pills off the shelves.

From here you can also sort the bars by clicking on the sort icon on the axis.

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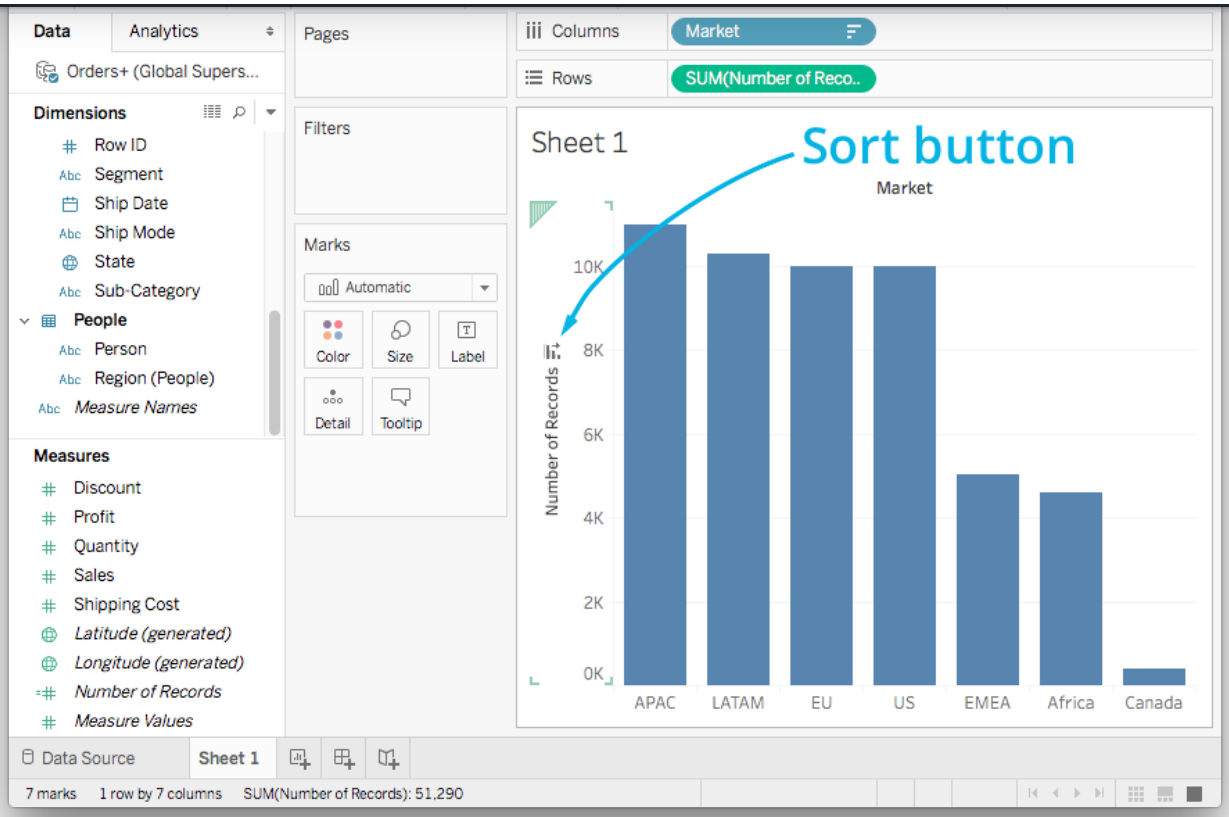

Finally, as you can see above, there are tabs at the bottom to create new sheets, dashboards, and stories.

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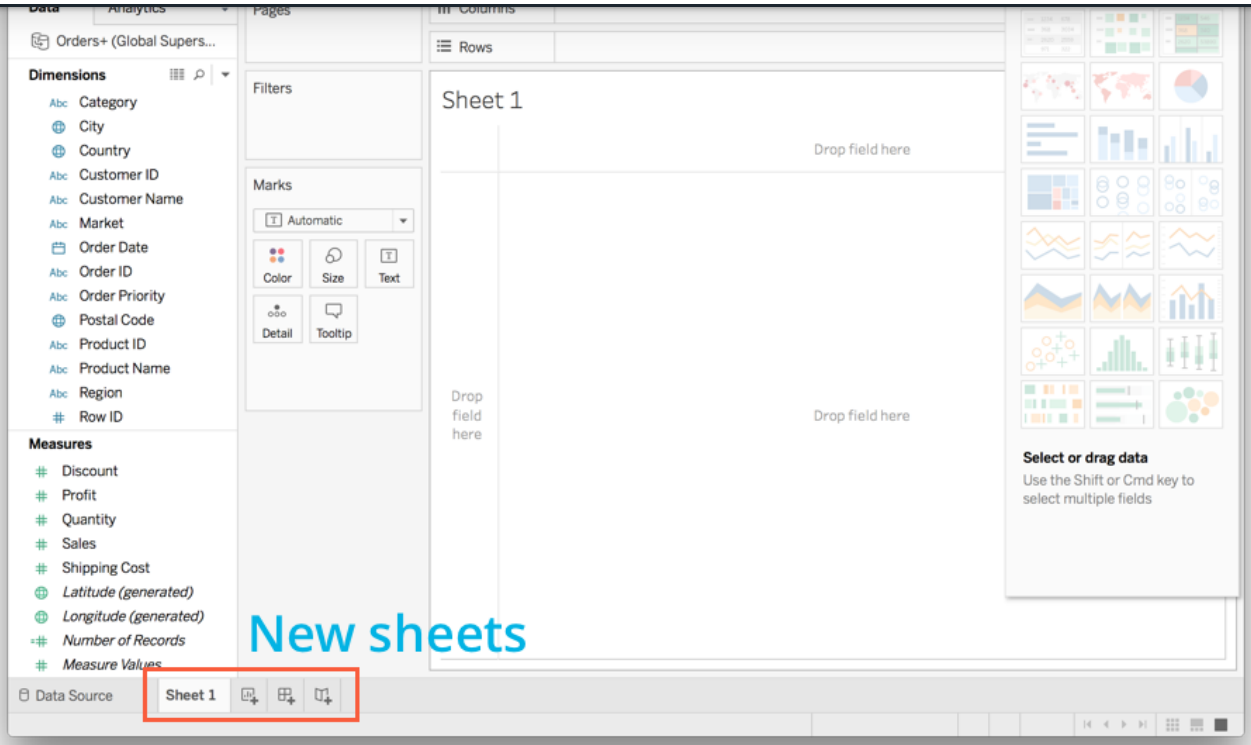

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