PARSEDATE vs FORMATDATE functions

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The PARSEDATE function:

In some instances, your date may appear in a text format, rather than in a standard date format. This can cause issues, since in order to map a field as a Date in Datorama, it needs to be in a date format.

This can be easily handled using the PARSEDATE function. PARSEDATE processes a date which is constructed in a **string** format (instead of a date format) and reconstructs it in a **date** format.

Example: Sally's Date appears in her data in the following string format: 'd-M-YYYY'. For example - '1-1-2018'.

PARSEDATE to the rescue!

Using PARSEDATE, first enter the original string, '1-1-2018'. Next, enter the format you would like the string to be converted to. By using the expression dd/MM/yyyy along with the text '1/1/2018', this means that the first part of the text is the day, the second is the month and the third is the year:
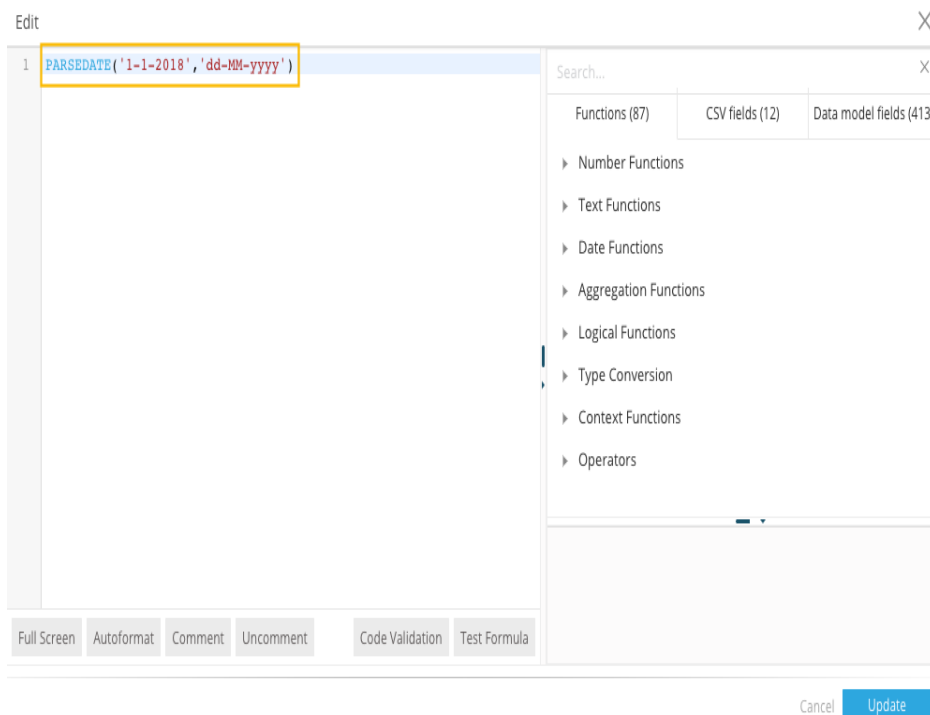
After the string we used above is converted to a DATE, it can be mapped to a DATE type Dimension as shown below:

OO Unmap

Display Name

Day

Data model field

Day

Formula

PARSEDATE('1-1-2018','dd-MM-yyyy')   Edit

Default Formula

Edit

Type
Date

The FORMATDATE Function

So, PARSEDATE transforms text strings into Date objects - but what happens when you need to extract textual information out of a date object?
That's what FORMATDATE is for! FORMATDATE receives a date object and an expression that specifies how the string should look. It then returns the STRING representation of a date object specified by the given pattern.

In the example below, you can see how to use the FORMATDATE function to change the expression MM yyyy along with 26/12/17 and extract the month and year as 12 2017:

Edit   X

```
1   FORMATDATE(PARSEDATE('26/12/2017','dd/MM/yyyy'),'MM yyyy')
```

Search...   X

Functions (87)   CSV fields (12)   Data model fields (413)

▶ Number Functions

▶ Text Functions

▶ Date Functions

▶ Aggregation Functions

▶ Logical Functions

▶ Type Conversion

▶ Context Functions

▶ Operators

Full Screen   Autoformat   Comment   Uncomment   ✓ Code Validation   Test Formula

Cancel   Update

Here you can see that the output is correct when testing the formula:
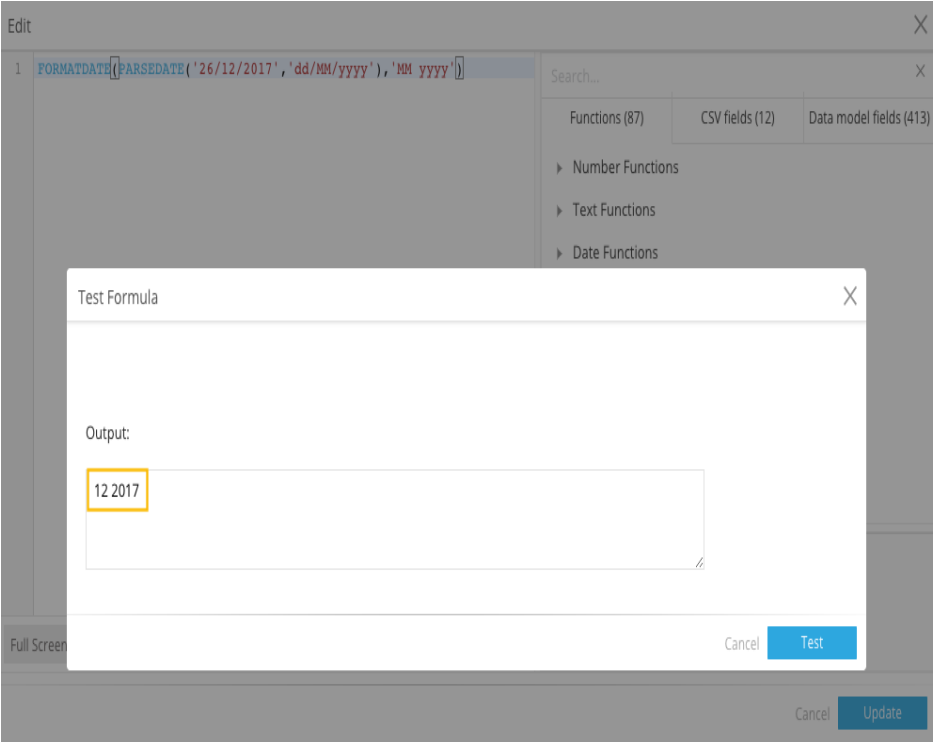
Note: After a DATE is converted into a STRING, it can no longer be mapped to a DATE type Dimension.

Preview