



EXERCISE 03: Creating a Comparison Chart Using The Automated Show Me Button Method

The aim of this exercise is to create a chart to determine which **Ship Mode** is better in terms of **Sales** by **Region** using the automated method via the **Show Me** button. Just like the previous exercise, you will create one stacked bar chart using the **Ship Mode**, **Region**, and **Sales** field from the **Orders** data of **Sample-Superstore.xlsx** and another using the **Show Me** button. You will then compare the resulting charts to determine which mode helps generate the highest sales.

In a new worksheet, perform the following steps to complete the exercise:

- 1) Press and hold the **CTRL** key on your keyboard and select the **Region** and **Ship Mode** fields from the **Dimensions** section and the **Sales** field from the **Measures** pane.

NOTE

You will need to keep the **CRTL** key pressed while doing *multiple selections*. Furthermore, if you are on an Apple device, use the **Command** key instead. Refer to the following link to find the list of equivalent macOS commands and keyboard shortcuts for both Windows and macOS:
<https://help.tableau.com/current/pro/desktop/en-us/shortcut.htm>.

- 2) Once you have selected the necessary fields, click on the **Show Me** button, which can be seen in the *extreme top-right corner* of your Tableau workbook. Refer to the following screenshot:

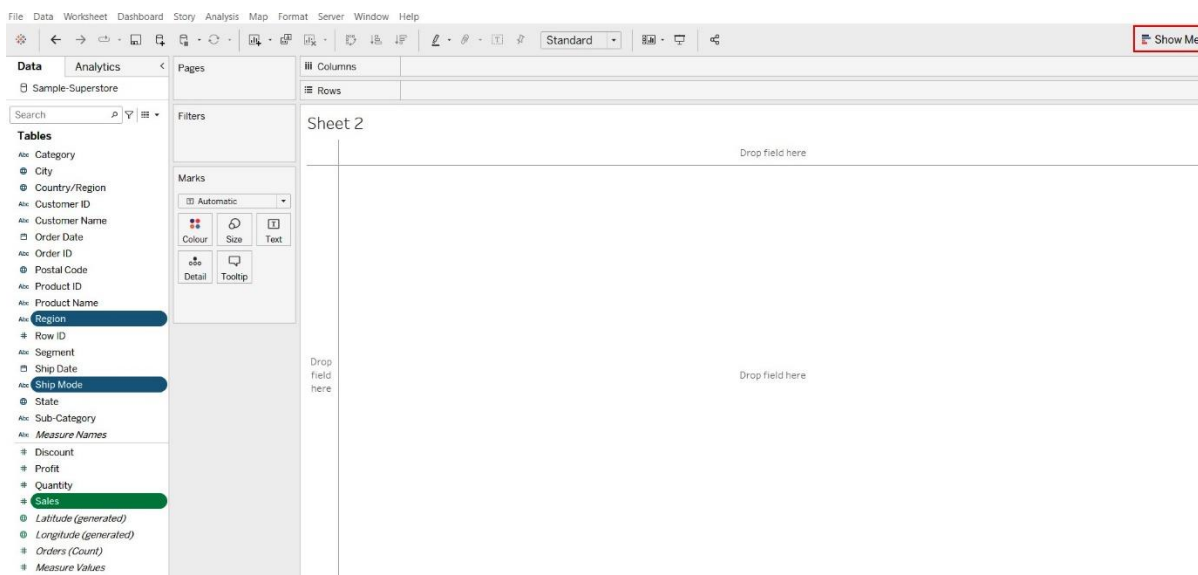


Figure 1: A screenshot showing the Show Me button

Once you have clicked on the **Show Me** button, you will see the list of visualizations that are possible with your current selection of fields, that is, *two dimensions* (**Region** and **Ship Mode**) and *one measure* (**Sales**). Further, you will also see that the horizontal bar chart is highlighted. The highlighted chart with an orangish-brown rectangular border in the following screenshot) is the result of the in-built recommendation engine that is based on the best practices of data visualization.



Figure 2: A screenshot showing the possible charts and the Show Me button

You now have two options: you can either go ahead with the chart recommended by Tableau, which will create a horizontal bar chart (which is not the aim here), or select some other chart that is available and enabled in the **Show Me** button (ideally a stacked bar chart like the one that you created in the previous exercise). So, select the chart right next to the recommended one (the one that is highlighted using a black dotted circular border in the preceding screenshot). This is the stacked bar chart option, which is exactly what you wanted.

However, when you go ahead with this option, you see two things that are different from the output that you created in the previous exercise. Firstly, it is a vertically stacked bar chart and not a horizontal one, and, secondly, you have **Region** in the **Color** shelf instead of **Ship Mode**. Refer to the following screenshot:

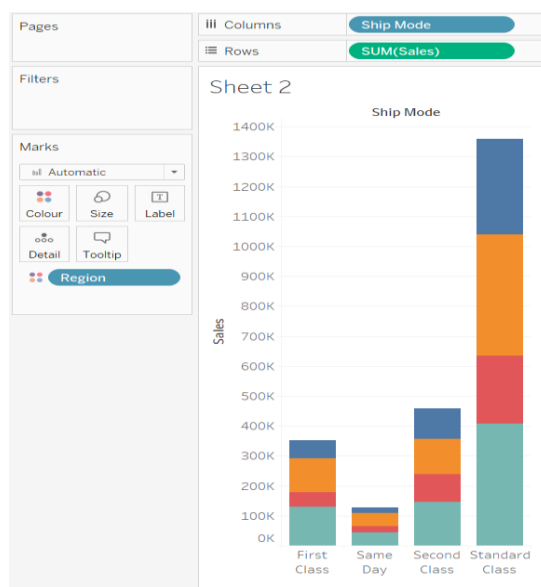


Figure 3: A screenshot showing the output of the stacked bar chart option from the Show Me button

Now, neither of these things are technically wrong, but they are not what you wanted in this case, and so you will need to change them.



- 3) Firstly, change the orientation of your stacked bar chart from vertical to horizontal by clicking on the swap button in the toolbar, as shown in the following screenshot:

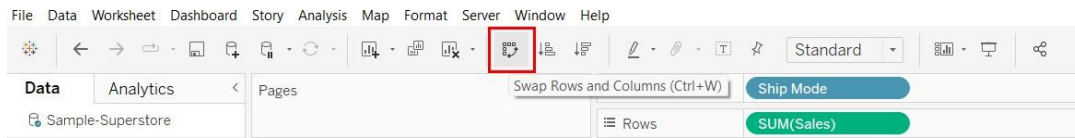


Figure 4: A screenshot showing the Swap Rows and Columns button

- 4) Next, interchange/swap your **Region** and **Ship Mode** fields so that you have **Ship Mode** in the **Color** shelf instead of **Region**

To do this, press **CTRL** and select **Region** from the **Color** shelf as well as **Ship Mode** from the **Rows** shelf. Make sure the pills for these selected fields are now darker in color as the dark color indicates that the selection of these fields is retained.

- 5) Now, click on the dropdown of either the **Region** field or the **Ship Mode** field and choose the **Swap** option, as shown in the following screenshot

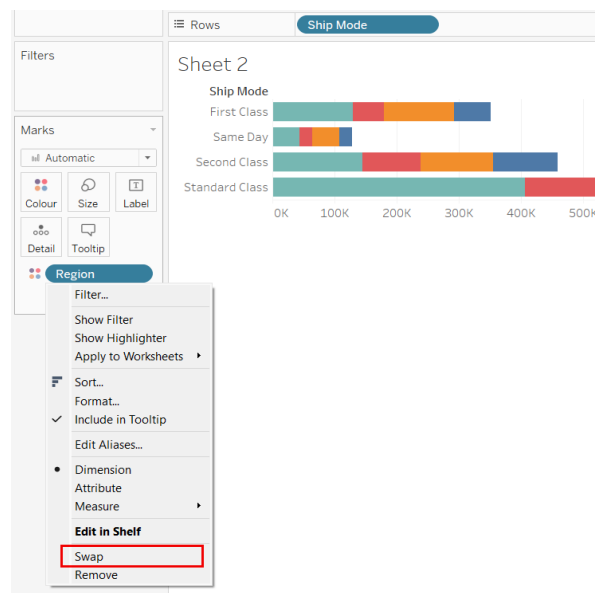


Figure 5: A screenshot showing the Swap option of the CTRL multiselect and drop-down method

This produces the following output:

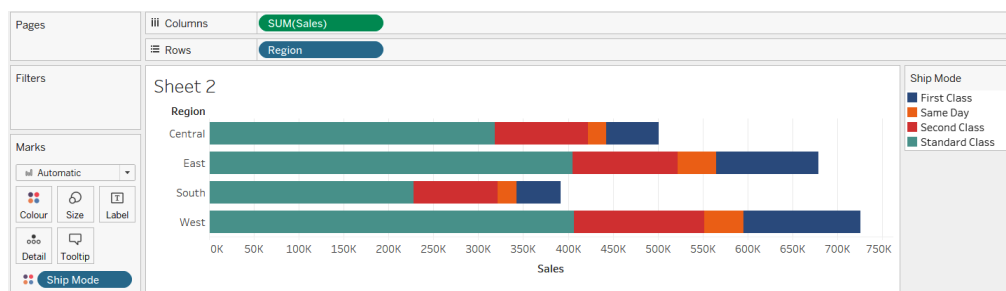


Figure 6: A screenshot showing the stacked bar chart created using the Swap options