Section: Calculated Columns vs Measures in Power BI

Objective:

Understand the key differences between **calculated columns** and **measures**, how and when to use each, and practice creating them using DAX (Data Analysis Expressions).

☐ Key Concepts:

★ What is a Calculated Column?

- A **calculated column** is a **new physical column** added to a table using a formula (DAX).
- It is computed **row-by-row** and **stored in memory**.
- Useful when you need **row-level data**, such as custom identifiers or derived fields.

★ What is a Measure?

- A measure is a dynamic calculation created using DAX.
- It is **not stored in the table** but is calculated **only when needed**, i.e., during visualizations.
- Ideal for aggregated values, like totals, averages, or KPIs.
- Better performance over calculated columns in large datasets.

☆□ Practice Steps: Creating Calculated Columns

Solution Goal 1: Pull Product Price into Sales Table

- 1. Navigate to **Data View** in Power BI.
- 2. Right-click on the sales table \rightarrow select New column.
- 3. In the formula bar, type:

DAX

Price = RELATED(Products[Price])

- 4. Format the column to **2 decimal places** from the **Modeling tab**.
- This uses the relationship via Product ID to fetch product price.

⊘ Goal 2: Calculate Revenue (Quantity × Price)

1. In the same way, create another column in the sales table:

DAX

Revenue = Sales[Quantity] * Sales[Price]

- 2. Format as **Currency**.
- This creates a revenue value for each row in the table.

☆□ Practice Steps: Creating Measures

⊘ Goal 3: Create a Simple Total Measure

- 1. Switch to **Report View**.
- 2. Right-click on the sales table \rightarrow choose New measure.
- 3. In the formula bar, type:

DAX

Total Quantity = SUM(Sales[Quantity])

4. Add it to a visual (e.g., Card or Table) to see it in action.

⊘ Goal 4: Create Revenue as a Measure Using SUMX

1. Again, create a new measure in the sales table:

DAX

Revenue Measure = SUMX(Sales, Sales[Price] * Sales[Quantity])

- 2. Add to a visual, optionally along with LocationID or other grouping fields.
- gumx evaluates the expression row by row and sums the results.

☐ Summary:

Feature	Calculated Column	Measure
Storage	Stored physically in table	Virtual (calculated at runtime)
Evaluation Context	Row-by-row	Depends on visual context
Best For	Row-level computations	Aggregated values (KPIs, totals, averages)

Feature	Calculated Column	Measure
Performance Impact	Higher memory usage	Better performance
Examples	Revenue = Quantity * Price	SUMX(Sales, Quantity * Price)

☐ Practice Challenge:

Try recreating both **revenue** as a calculated column and as a measure. Compare their behavior:

- Can both be used in visuals?
- Are both visible in Data view?
- What happens when you slice by LocationID?

♦ Section 2: Creating a Date Table Using CALENDARAUTO in Power BI

© Objective:

Learn how to quickly create a **comprehensive date table** using the CALENDARAUTO() DAX function and understand how fiscal years affect the generated date range.

☐ Key Concepts:

★ Why a Date Table?

- A date table is essential for time-based analysis (e.g., YoY growth, trends).
- Helps in creating time intelligence measures like YTD, QTD, MTD, etc.
- Should include a **continuous date range** with **no missing dates**.

☆□ Method 1: Auto-Generating a Date Table with calendarauto()

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1. Go to **Modeling** tab in Power BI.
- 2. Click on New Table.
- 3. In the formula bar, write:

4. Press **Enter**. A new table named DateTable will be created.

★ What Does CALENDARAUTO() Do?

- Automatically scans all date columns in the model.
- Identifies the earliest and latest dates across all tables.
- Returns a continuous range of dates from the **start of the fiscal year** containing the earliest date to the **end of the fiscal year** containing the latest date.

☐ Example:

- Earliest date in model: May 1, 2017
- Fiscal year default: Starts in January
- Output: Dates from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2020

☐ Fiscal Year Customization

By default, fiscal year ends in **December (12)**. But you can specify another end month.

★□ Practice:

Create another version of the date table with fiscal year ending in **March** (3):

DAX

```
DateTable_FY_March = CALENDARAUTO(3)
```

Q This will return:

- Start: April 1 of the earliest year
- End: March 31 of the latest year

66 Visualization Tip:

- Add the new DateTable to a Table Visual.
- Power BI auto-applies **Date Hierarchy** (Year \rightarrow Quarter \rightarrow Month \rightarrow Day).
- To view raw dates:
 - o Click on the field in the visual
 - o Select "Date" instead of "Date Hierarchy"

\square Summary:

Feature CALENDARAUTO()

Output Table with a single Date column

Date Source All date fields in your model

Default Fiscal Year End December (12)

Custom Fiscal Year End Pass parameter (e.g., CALENDARAUTO (3))

Useful For Creating base for time intelligence functions

\square Practice Challenge:

Try the following:

- 1. Create a DateTable using CALENDARAUTO().
- 2. Change the fiscal year end to March (CALENDARAUTO (3)).
- 3. Compare the output ranges.
- 4. Visualize both tables side-by-side and observe the differences in start and end dates.

◆ Section 3: Creating a Date Table Using CALENDAR() in Power BI

Objective:

Learn how to **manually define a date table** using the CALENDAR() function and gain more control over the start and end of your date range — with static or dynamic inputs.

☐ Key Concepts:

★ What is the CALENDAR () Function?

- Creates a table with a single column (Date) of **continuous dates** between a **start date** and an **end date**.
- You can:
 - Provide fixed/static dates.
 - Or dynamically determine start and end based on data (e.g., from a Sales table).

☆ Method 1: Create a Date Table with Fixed Dates

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1. Go to **Modeling** \rightarrow click on **New Table**.
- 2. Use the DATE () function to specify your date range:

DAX

```
ManualDateTable = CALENDAR(DATE(2018, 5, 1), DATE(2020, 5, 1))
```

This creates a continuous list of dates from May 1, 2018 to May 1, 2020.

☆ Method 2: Create a Date Table with Dynamic Dates from Data

You can dynamically use MINX() and MAXX() to extract earliest and latest dates from your dataset.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

```
DAX

DynamicDateTable = CALENDAR(
    MINX(Sales, Sales[Date]),
    MAXX(Sales, Sales[Date])
)
```

Q This will:

- Look inside the Sales table.
- Find the earliest and latest dates.
- Automatically update if new data is added later.

☐ Summary:

Feature CALENDAR ()

Output Table with one Date column

Start & End Input Required (manual or dynamic)

Fiscal Year Support X No direct fiscal year handling

Customization

High (choose source columns/tables)

Auto-Updates on Data Refresh

✓ Yes (if using MINX()/MAXX() logic)

☐ Practice Challenge:

- 1. Create a Manual Date Table using fixed DATE () values.
- 2. Create a DynamicDateTable using MINX() and MAXX() on your Sales table.
- 3. Compare both tables visually in a **Table visual**.
- 4. Add new records to your Sales data (with different dates) and observe the update behavior of the dynamic date table.

◆ Section 4: Creating an Advanced Date Table with Time Intelligence Features

Objective:

Automatically create a **rich date table** with extended features like Year, Month Name, Quarter, Day of Week, etc., using a reusable DAX script. This date table will help power **time-based analysis** and **slicers** in reports.

☐ Key Concepts:

★ Why an Enriched Date Table?

- Simplifies **time intelligence** calculations.
- Enables dynamic grouping (e.g., by Month Name, Year-Month, Quarter).
- Supports hierarchical drill-downs in visuals.
- Allows for **custom sorting** (e.g., month names sorted correctly).

☆□ Step-by-Step: Create a Smart Date Table Using Script

Step 1: Create New Table

- 1. In Power BI, go to **Modeling** \rightarrow click **New Table**.
- 2. Paste the following reusable DAX script into the formula bar:

DAX

```
DateTable =
ADDCOLUMNS(
    CALENDAR(MINX(Sales, Sales[Date]), MAXX(Sales, Sales[Date])),
    "Year", YEAR([Date]),
    "Month Number", MONTH([Date]),
    "Month Name", FORMAT([Date], "MMMM"),
    "Short Month", FORMAT([Date], "MMM"),
    "Year-Month", FORMAT([Date], "YYYY-MM"),
    "Quarter", "Q" & FORMAT([Date], "Q"),
    "Day", DAY([Date]),
    "Day of Week", WEEKDAY([Date], 2),
    "Weekday Name", FORMAT([Date], "dddd"),
    "IsWeekend", IF(WEEKDAY([Date], 2) >= 6, TRUE, FALSE),
```

```
"Week Number", WEEKNUM([Date], 2)
```

Mhat This Script Adds:

Column Name Description

The actual date
Year Calendar year

Month Number Numeric month (1-12)

Month Name Full month name (e.g., January)
Short Month Short month name (e.g., Jan)

Year-Month Combined year and month (e.g., 2024-07)

Quarter of the year (e.g., Q1)

Day of the month

Day of Week Numeric day of week (Mon=1, Sun=7)
Weekday Name Name of the weekday (e.g., Monday)
IsWeekend TRUE if Sat/Sun, FALSE otherwise

Week Number ISO-like week number (week starts on Monday)

☐ Practice Activity:

- 1. Add a **Table visual** to your report.
- 2. Select fields from the new DateTable (e.g., Year-Month, Quarter, IsWeekend).
- 3. Sort Month names by Month Number for correct chronological order.
- 4. Test filtering your Sales data using this DateTable.

•• Step 2: Create Relationship in Model View

- 1. Go to Model View.
- 2. Drag DateTable[Date] \rightarrow drop on Sales[Date].
- 3. This creates a **1-to-many relationship**, enabling cross-filtering.

✓ Now your custom date table is connected and usable for all visuals and time intelligence operations.

\square Summary:

Task Tool/Function

Create date range CALENDAR() + MINX()/MAXX()

Task Tool/Function

Add features ADDCOLUMNS () with DAX functions

Connect to fact tables Drag Date to Sales[Date]

Reuse Replace Sales [Date] as needed

☐ Practice Challenge:

- Modify the script to use a different date column (e.g., Orders [OrderDate]).
- Add a custom column called "IsCurrentYear" using:

DAX

"IsCurrentYear", YEAR([Date]) = YEAR(TODAY())

• Use it to filter visuals for current year analysis.

Section 5: Creating a Key Measures Table and Basic Aggregation Functions in DAX

∀ Why Organize Measures?

- Measures might get created in different tables by default, making them hard to manage.
- Keeping all measures in a single **Key Measures Table** helps maintain cleanliness and structure in the model.
- Especially helpful when you're dealing with 10–50+ measures in a project.

☐ Steps to Create a Key Measures Table

- 1. Go to the Home Ribbon \rightarrow Click "Enter Data".
- 2. Create a blank table:
 - o No data input needed.
 - o Name the table: Key Measures Table.
- 3. Click "Load" \rightarrow A new table is created.

™ Move Existing Measures into the Key Measures Table

- 1. Select the measure you want to move.
- 2. In the properties pane:
 - o Look for "Home Table" option.
 - o Change it to Key Measures Table.
- 3. Repeat for all other measures you've created.

☐ Clean Up Unused Columns

- Delete the automatically generated "Column1" from the new table:
 - o Right-click the column \rightarrow Select "Delete".

⊘ Result

- You now have a **dedicated table** that holds all your DAX measures.
- Cleaner model, better organization, easier navigation.

Section 6: Count Functions in DAX

So now that we've covered the basic aggregation functions like AVERAGE, MAX, and SUM, let's dive into another category of essential DAX functions: the **count functions**.

Count functions are used to **count rows or specific values** in a column, and they're extremely useful when you want to measure activity, quantity of transactions, or even track unique entries in your dataset.

Common Count Functions in DAX

There are a few types of count functions you should be aware of:

1. COUNT

- o This function counts the number of **non-blank values** in a column.
- Example: If you have a sales table and you want to count how many times a product was sold (i.e., number of transactions), you can use:

```
DAX
Total Transactions = COUNT(Sales[Quantity])
```

2. COUNTA

- This function counts the number of non-blank values in a column of any data type.
- o Typically used on text or mixed-type columns.

3. COUNTROWS

- This function counts the total number of rows in a table. It's often used when you want to count how many rows meet a certain condition or just count total entries.
- o Example:

```
DAX
Row Count = COUNTROWS(Sales)
```

4. **DISTINCT COUNT**

o This function returns the **number of unique values** in a column.

- Very useful when you want to know, for example, how many unique customers placed an order.
- o Example:

```
DAX
Unique Customers = DISTINCTCOUNT(Sales[CustomerID])
```

Let's Create Some Count Measures

To get practical, let's create a couple of these count measures.

- 1. Total Transactions (Count of Quantity column):
 - Navigate to your Key Measures Table
 - o Click on New Measure
 - o Write:

```
DAX
Total Transactions = COUNT(Sales[Quantity])
```

2. Unique Customers:

o Create another new measure in the Key Measures Table:

```
DAX
Unique Customers = DISTINCTCOUNT(Sales[CustomerID])
```

3. Total Sales Records (Using COUNTROWS):

And another measure:

```
DAX
Total Sales Records = COUNTROWS(Sales)
```

Now, go ahead and add these measures to a table visual. You can combine them with dimension attributes like Customer Name or Location to analyze the counts in more detail.

Summary

Count functions are straightforward but very powerful in helping you:

- Understand data volume
- Identify unique entries
- Monitor non-blank activity

Section 7: Understanding Iterative Aggregation Functions (x Functions)

Now that we've covered the basic and extended versions of aggregation functions—like COUNT, COUNTROWS, COUNTA, and COUNTBLANK—it's time to go one level deeper and explore an incredibly powerful concept in DAX: the **x functions**.

These include:

- SUMX
- AVERAGEX
- COUNTX
- And other similar iterative functions like MINX, MAXX, PRODUCTX, etc.

So, what does the x in these functions stand for?

It stands for "**iterator**." These functions **iterate row by row over a table** and evaluate an expression for each row—then perform the aggregation.

Let's break that down step by step.

♦ Why Use x Functions?

The standard aggregation functions like SUM, AVERAGE, COUNT, etc., work directly on a column. But what if:

- You need to calculate a value that's **not in a single column**, but is the result of a **formula involving multiple columns**?
- You need to evaluate a **custom expression for each row**, then aggregate the results?

That's where x functions shine.

☐ Understanding SUMX with an Example

Let's say you have:

- A Sales table
- Each row contains:
 - o Quantity
 - o PricePerUnit

You want to calculate the total revenue, which is Quantity * PricePerUnit for each row.

If you just try SUM(Sales[Quantity] * Sales[PricePerUnit]), DAX will throw an error—it doesn't know how to multiply two columns in that context.

Instead, use SUMX like this:

DAX

```
Total Revenue = SUMX(
          Sales,
          Sales[Quantity] * Sales[PricePerUnit])
```

Here's what's happening:

- SUMX iterates over the Sales table row by row
- For each row, it evaluates Quantity * PricePerUnit
- Then it sums up all those results into the final total revenue

☐ Try It Yourself

Let's create this measure in your **Key Measures Table**:

- 1. Select the **Key Measures Table**
- 2. Click New Measure
- 3. Enter this:

```
DAX
Total Revenue = SUMX(
    Sales,
    Sales[Quantity] * Sales[PricePerUnit])
```

Now visualize it with a card or table visual, and you'll see the correct revenue calculated based on the row-level formula.

III Using averagex − Row-Based Averages

Similarly, you can calculate an average of a calculated expression using AVERAGEX.

Example:

This gives the average revenue per row in your Sales table, which is different from simply averaging the Quantity or Price.

⊘ Summary – When to Use x Functions

Use x functions when:

- You need to evaluate a custom expression row-by-row
- You are multiplying or combining multiple columns before aggregating
- You want full control over how values are aggregated

Function Use Case

```
SUMX Sum of row-based expressions

AVERAGEX Average of calculated expressions

COUNTX Count of values after expression

MINX Minimum of row-based results

MAXX Maximum of row-based results
```

Advanced Aggregation Functions in Power BI – The "X" Variants

After understanding the basic aggregation functions (like SUM, AVERAGE, etc.), it's crucial to dive into their more advanced and powerful variants, which end with an X, such as SUMX or AVERAGEX.

X The Common Mistake

Many beginners attempt to write a measure like this:

```
DAX

Revenue = SUM(Sales[Quantity]) * SUM(Sales[Price])
```

This calculates the **total quantity** multiplied by the **total price**, leading to incorrect results. For example, instead of the actual revenue (~140,000), it might show something like **10** million.

This happens because SUM() cannot take expressions—it only works on a single column.

∜ The Correct Way: sumx

The right approach uses SUMX, which allows row-by-row evaluation:

```
DAX
Revenue = SUMX(Sales, Sales[Quantity] * Sales[Price])
```

How it works:

- SUMX takes two parameters:
 - 1. A table (Sales)
 - 2. An expression to evaluate row-by-row (Quantity * Price)
- First, it calculates Quantity * Price for each row
- Then, it **sums up** all those individual row results

This replicates how a calculated column works (Quantity * Price), but inside a measure—more dynamic and memory-efficient.

***** Calculated Column vs Measure

Feature	Calculated Column	Measure
Location	Stored in table	Stored in the model (not tied to a table)
Context Sensitivity	Row-level, static	Fully context-aware, dynamic
Use Case	Needed when value is reused in multiple rows	Preferred for aggregations and visuals

Exercise:

SUMX vs. SUM and AVERAGEX vs AVERAGE

The AVERAGEX function works just like the SUMX function. Sometimes you have to use the RELATED function as well.

Question 1:

What is the average price of our products?

Would you use the AVERAGE or AVERAGEX function?

Hint: The "amount" of sales is NOT considered, so each product is considered equally.

Answer: 3,88.

Question 2 (more difficult):

What is the average profit of our sold products?

(not considering how many of these are sold, so that in average every product is just counted once)

Would you use the Average or AverageX Function?

Hint 1: Amount of sales should not be considered.

Hint 2: Work on the products table

Hint 3: profit = price * profit margin

Answer: 0,78\$.

Question 3:

What is the total quantity of our sales?

Answer: 35377.

Question 4 (a bit more difficult):

What is the total profit of our sold products?

Hint 1: SUM or SUMX?

Hint 2: Use the RELATED function.

Answer: 27.612,70\$.

Question 5 (also a bit more difficult):

What is the average tax amount we pay in our sales?

Hint: Use the RELATED function for the tax rate and the AVERAGEX function in the sales table.

Answer: 1,42\$.

Section 8: Understanding Filter Context in DAX

To understand how **measures** are calculated in Power BI, you must grasp the concept of **filter context**.

\square What is Filter Context?

Filter context defines **which subset of the data** is being used in a calculation.

Q Two Types of Filtering Affect Filter Context

1. External Filters (from the report visuals)

- Example: You click on a **specific employee** or **product** in a slicer or filter pane.
- This restricts the data used in a visual and directly impacts measure results.

***** Example:

• Selecting *Employee A* will update your **Revenue** measure to reflect only sales made by Employee A.

2. Visual-Level Filters (Internal Filters)

- These are applied by the **structure of the visual itself**.
- Example: If you're showing Revenue by Customer ID, then:
 - For each row (each Customer ID), Power BI filters the data to just that customer before calculating the measure.

How Power BI Evaluates a Measure

Step-by-Step:

1. Step 1: Determine the filter context

 Based on selected slicers and visual structure (e.g., Customer ID, Product, Date). o Example: Visual is grouped by Customer ID = 1.

2. Step 2: Apply the measure

- o Power BI now runs the DAX formula on only that filtered data.
- o Example: Customer ID 1 has 8 rows \rightarrow Revenue = 90 (calculated from those 8 rows only).

Key Takeaways

- Always remember: **Filter context comes first**, then the measure is applied.
- Measures are **dynamic** and change based on the filters applied—either by the user or by the visual layout.
- This is why DAX measures are so powerful—they **react automatically** to the context.

Pro Tip

Don't get overwhelmed by context. Instead:

- Be **aware** of it while designing measures.
- **Test** your DAX using small datasets or matrix visuals to observe how filters affect results.

Section 9: Understanding Row Context in DAX

\square What is Row Context?

- Row context applies when you calculate **expressions row-by-row**.
- Commonly used in **X functions** like SUMX, AVERAGEX, MAXX, etc.
- Each row is evaluated individually, and the expression result is temporarily stored in memory.

Q How Row Context Works: Step-by-Step

- 1. Power BI evaluates the **expression** (e.g., Quantity * Price) for **each row** of the specified table.
- 2. Each result is stored **temporarily in memory**.
- 3. Once all rows are evaluated, Power BI **aggregates** them using:
 - \circ SUMX \rightarrow Adds the row-level results.
 - \circ AVERAGEX \rightarrow Calculates the average of those results.

M Example: Revenue Calculation

DAX

```
Revenue = SUMX(Sales, Sales[Quantity] * Sales[Price])
```

- Here, for each row in the Sales table:
 - o Quantity * Price is computed first.
 - o Then all values are summed by SUMX.

¶ Important Insight

- SUMX (Sales, Sales[Price]) will return the same result as SUM (Sales[Price]).
- But sum is more efficient than sumx when no row-wise calculation is needed.
- Therefore:

```
♥ Use basic aggregation like SUM, AVERAGE, etc. when you don't need perrow logic.
```

 $\triangle \Box$ Use **X functions** only when you're applying **row-level expressions**.

≪ Key Takeaway

- Row context = row-by-row evaluation.
- Use it **only when needed**, as it's more **memory-intensive** and slower than regular aggregations.
- Be deliberate about choosing SUMX vs SUM based on your calculation need.

Section 10: Understanding the Data Model and Its Impact on Measures

☐ Why the Data Model Matters

- The **data model** defines how tables relate to each other in Power BI.
- It's essential for combining data across multiple tables in your visuals and measures.
- **Filter context** and **row context** both rely on the underlying model to propagate correctly.

• Using Related Tables Together

- Example: Combine Customer Name (from Customer table) with Revenue (from Sales table) in one visual.
- This is possible **only because of relationships** defined in the model.

Types of Tables in a Model

- Fact Table: Main table with transactional data (e.g., Sales).
- **Dimension Table**: Lookup or descriptive data (e.g., Customers, Products).
- These are typically joined using a key (like Customer ID).

\\$ How Relationships Work

- Sales table contains Customer ID.
- This ID is matched with Customer ID in the Customers table.
- Power BI **uses the relationship** to pull customer details based on the ID.

! Common Issue: No Relationship

- Many problems in DAX or visuals are due to missing relationships.
- Always **check your data model** if your measure or visual isn't working as expected.
- Example: If Customer Name doesn't filter Sales, check if the relationship exists and is active.

♥ Takeaway

- A well-designed data model is key to writing correct DAX and building accurate reports.
- Always validate your relationships and test them when something seems off.

Section 11: The CALCULATE Function in Power BI

♦ Introduction to CALCULATE

- **CALCULATE** is the most important function in DAX.
- It allows you to evaluate an expression in a modified filter context.
- Most advanced DAX functions are built on top of CALCULATE.

♦ Why Use CALCULATE?

- It changes the **context** in which a measure or expression is calculated.
- Enables complex calculations like time intelligence, conditional filtering, etc.

♦ Basic Syntax

Example 1: Revenue Last Year

♥ Step-by-Step Setup

- 1. Prepare Table:
 - o Use the **Date** column in normal format (not hierarchy).
 - Display as a table and format it to remove time.
- 2. Use Revenue Measure:
 - o Drag existing **Revenue** measure into the table.
 - o Format as Currency with 2 decimal places.
- 3. Create New Measure:

```
DAX

Revenue LY = CALCULATE(
    [Revenue],
    SAMEPERIODLASTYEAR('Date'[Date]))
```

- o SAMEPERIODLASTYEAR expects a date column.
- o This measure shifts the context **one year back**.
- 4. Visualize and Format:
 - o Add Revenue LY to the table.
 - o Format it similarly.
- 5. Test Behavior:
 - o Compare values for April 30, 2020 vs. April 30, 2019.
 - o Works also for **month-level** or **year-month** (e.g., May $2018 \rightarrow May 2017$).

Example 2: Revenue Filtered by State

♦ Setup

1. Create New Measure:

```
DAX

Revenue Utah = CALCULATE(
     [Revenue],
     'Location'[State] = "Utah"
)
```

2. **Behavior:**

- o The context of this measure **always filters to Utah**, regardless of the row in the table.
- o Used in a state-wise table, it **still shows the Utah revenue for all rows**.

• Key Learning:

- CALCULATE **overrides** outer context when an internal filter is applied.
- Even if the table is grouped by different states, the measure sticks to "Utah".

♥ Takeaways

- CALCULATE is used to change filter context.
- You can pass:
 - o Time-intelligence functions like SAMEPERIODLASTYEAR()
 - o Conditional filters (like 'Location'[State] = "Utah")

Section 12: The FILTER Function in CALCULATE – Best Practices and Usage

Now let's look at one of the most commonly used filter functions inside the CALCULATE function — the ETLITER function.

Recap: Previous Filtering Example

Previously, we had a measure that filtered revenue by state using a simple expression like this:

```
dax
CALCULATE([Total Revenue], 'Location'[State] = "Utah")
```

This expression works, and it calculates revenue only for the state of Utah. But this kind of direct filter is not always ideal.

Why Use the filter Function Instead?

It's best practice to use the FILTER function instead of directly filtering inside CALCULATE. Here's how the rewritten measure would look:

```
dax

CALCULATE(
    [Total Revenue],
    FILTER(
         'Location',
         'Location'[State] = "Utah"
    )
)
```

Using the FILTER function like this makes your DAX code more robust and accurate — especially when working with more complex models.

Understanding the filter Function

The FILTER function is a **table function**, which means it returns a **filtered version of a table**, not just a single value. Its syntax:

```
dax
FILTER(, <filter_expression>)
```

- : the table you want to filter (e.g., Location or Products)
- <filter_expression>: a condition that returns TRUE or FALSE (e.g., Price > 5)

Let's visualize how this works with a real table.

Creating a Sample Filter Table

You can create a new table using the FILTER function to see the result.

```
dax
Sample Filter Table =
FILTER(
        Products,
        Products[Price] > 5
)
```

This new table will:

- Include all the same columns as the Products table
- Contain only the rows where Price > 5

If you change the condition, for example:

dax

```
Products[Price] > 6
```

...the filtered result will change accordingly.

This example helps you see what the FILTER function does — it returns a **new table**, filtered according to the condition you specify.

FILTER Inside CALCULATE

Now that we understand FILTER is a table function, it becomes clear why we use it inside CALCULATE:

This tells Power BI:

"Calculate total revenue, but only considering products that have a price above 6."

This is one of the most **common and powerful ways** to apply filters in DAX.

Section 13 Summary: Context Modification Using the ALL() Function in DAX

In this section, we explore another way to **modify the filter context** within DAX calculations—using the ALL() function. Here's the breakdown:

What is ALL () in DAX?

- ALL (<table_or_column>) removes any filters that have been applied to the specified table or column.
- Commonly used to calculate **totals or percentages** that are **not affected by filters** in visuals.

□ Example Demonstration:

• Assume a table visual that displays **Revenue by State**.

- Normally, each row shows revenue filtered by state.
- But if we use ALL (State) inside CALCULATE, we remove the state filter, and all rows show the total revenue across all states.

DAX

```
Total Revenue All States := CALCULATE(SUM(Sales[Revenue]),
ALL(Location[State]))
```

• Result: Each row now shows the **same total** (e.g., ₹139,000), **ignoring state filters**.

M Use Case: Calculate % Revenue by State

You can compare filtered revenue to the total revenue:

```
PAX

Revenue by State :=
DIVIDE(
    SUM(Sales[Revenue]),
    CALCULATE(SUM(Sales[Revenue]), ALL(Location[State]))
)
```

- Format this measure as a **percentage**.
- Each state now shows its **proportional revenue contribution** to the total.

△ What If You Change the Visual Context?

- If you visualize **products** instead of states, your ALL(State) doesn't help because **product filters still apply**.
- Result: You get 100% everywhere, because you're dividing a filtered revenue by itself.
- \checkmark Fix: Use ALL (Products) instead to clear the product filters.

☐ External Filters (e.g., Slicers)

- Suppose a slicer filters by product **price**.
- Even if you used ALL (Products), this slicer can still filter the result.
- Result: Your percentages won't add up to 100% anymore.

• Goal: Keep Percentages Relative to Current Filter Selections

To maintain 100% totals based on current selections (e.g., slicers), use:

DAX

ALLSELECTED()

 $\rightarrow \Box$ This is covered in the **next section**.

≪ Key Takeaways:

- ALL() removes filters on specified tables/columns.
- Use it to calculate totals or normalize measures.
- Be mindful of external filters and visuals—they still impact results unless handled with care.
- For dynamic % calculations that adapt to slicers, ALLSELECTED() is the next step.

Section 14: Understanding the allselected() Function

♦ Why Use allselected () Instead of all ()?

- ALL() removes all filters from the specified column/table—including slicers or external filters.
- ALLSELECTED() removes only the filters within the visual, but preserves slicer or page-level filters (external context).
- This helps calculate **relative percentages** that always **sum to 100% based on current external selections**.

☐ Scenario: Revenue % by Product (with Filters)

• If you use:

```
DAX
% Revenue =
DIVIDE(
    SUM(Sales[Revenue]),
    CALCULATE(SUM(Sales[Revenue]), ALL(Products))
)
```

o You'll get 100% only when no slicers are applied.

 Applying a price filter via slicer keeps the revenue in numerator filtered, but denominator remains full, leading to percentages that don't total 100%.

\checkmark Instead, use:

```
DAX
% Revenue =
DIVIDE(
    SUM(Sales[Revenue]),
    CALCULATE(SUM(Sales[Revenue]), ALLSELECTED(Products))
)
```

 \rightarrow Now, the measure **adapts** to slicers or page filters, and **percentages always total 100%** across the visual.

M Key Differences: all() vs allselected()

Feature ALL() ALLSELECTED () Removes Visual Filters & Yes ✓ Yes Removes Slicer Filters & Yes X No (keeps them) % Adds to 100% ✓ Always within current external X Not when slicers applied Always filters Total independent of any Use Case % of total under current selection filter

♦ When to Use allselected()

- You want to calculate **percentages** that:
 - o Respect user selections from slicers or filters.
 - o Still ignore the breakdown filters from inside the visual.
- Example: % Revenue by Product Category that totals 100% after applying price or region slicers.

Summary

- Use ALL() to get absolute totals.
- Use Allselected() for **dynamic, relative totals** that respect user selections.
- It ensures **visual integrity** (like % = 100%) when filters are active.

♥ Section 15: Using all and allexcept Functions to Control Filter Context in Power BI

★ Use Case Overview

You want to analyze **revenue percentages** and **profit margins** with respect to **tax rates**, and control how percentages are calculated — either **by row** or **by column** — depending on the visual layout.

☐ The Problem

When you show percentages in a matrix visual that includes both **tax rate** and **profit margin**, the values **do not sum to 100%** across either rows or columns. You want to control this behavior:

- Sum to 100% across rows (per tax rate)
- Sum to 100% across columns (per profit margin)

▼ Solution: ALLEXCEPT ()

ALLEXCEPT() removes all filters **except** the one(s) you specify.

```
Formula Structure
DAX

CALCULATE(
     [Revenue],
     ALLEXCEPT(Products, Products[TaxRate]))
```

→ This keeps filtering by Tax Rate while ignoring other filters like Product or Profit Margin.

M Visual Setup

- 1. Add **Products**, **Revenue**, and **Tax Rate** into a matrix.
- 2. Switch **Revenue** to show as percentage.
- 3. Add **Profit Margin**, ensure it's formatted as decimal and **"Don't summarize"**.
- 4. Use matrix visual for readability (to analyze multi-dimensional context).
- 5. Use Allexcept() in your measure to control which dimension (row or column) your 100% total relates to.

Selection Based on Filter Context

• If you write:

```
DAX

CALCULATE([Revenue], ALLEXCEPT(Products, Products[TaxRate]))

→ 100% sum across rows (tax rates remain, other filters cleared).
```

• If you write:

```
DAX
CALCULATE([Revenue], ALLEXCEPT(Products, Products[ProfitMargin]))
```

 \rightarrow 100% sum across **columns** (profit margins remain, other filters cleared).

≪ Key Takeaways

- Use ALL() to remove all filters.
- Use Allselected() to keep user-selected filters in slicers.
- Use Allexcept() to remove all filters except specified ones perfect for row/column percentage analysis in matrix visuals.

Excersies

FILTER and ALL

Question 1:

What is the average quantity we have sold for products that are more expensive than 3 dollars?

Answer: 2,96.

Question 2:

What is the percentage of products sold (measured by quantity) that are more expensive than 3 dollars?

Answer: Products that are more expensive than 3 dollars make up 66% (rounded) of all products sold (measured by quantity).

Question 3:

How can you create a measure that calculates the percentage of total revenue that was made in a certain year?

For example 2017: x % of our all-time revenue, 2018: y % of our all-time revenue. What is the percentage of revenue that was made in 2019?

Hint: This measure you want to use in a table or bar chart together with the year's column.

Answer: 57% (rounded).

Section 16: Complex Filtering with Logical Operators in DAX

In this section, we extend basic DAX filtering to more **complex logical conditions** using operators such as AND(&&), OR(|||), and NOT(NOT()).

♦ Example 1: Basic Filtering

We begin by filtering the Products table:

```
dax
FILTER(Products, Products[Price] < 6)</pre>
```

This simple filter gives us all products priced below \$6.

◆ Example 2: Adding AND (&&) Condition

To make it more restrictive:

```
dax

FILTER(Products, Products[Price] < 6 && Products[Price] > 4)
```

This filter includes only products priced **between \$4 and \$6**. If no products match (e.g., in the state of Missouri), the result will be blank.

♦ Example 3: Filter by Text using LEFT ()

We add a condition based on the **first letter** of product names:

```
dax
FILTER(
    Products,
    Products[Price] < 6 &&</pre>
```

```
Products[Price] > 4 &&
  LEFT(Products[ProductName], 1) = "D"
)
```

This returns products priced between \$4-\$6 and starting with "D".

If no products match all three, the table will return no results.

♦ Example 4: Using OR (11) Operator

Now let's loosen the criteria:

```
dax

FILTER(
     Products,
     (Products[Price] < 6 && Products[Price] > 4) ||
     LEFT(Products[ProductName], 1) = "C"
)
```

This condition includes:

- Products with prices between \$4 and \$6 **OR**
- Products starting with "C"

Precedence Note: In DAX, AND (&&) takes precedence over OR (||).

♦ Example 5: Exclude Certain Products

Suppose we want **all products EXCEPT those that start with "C"**, and optionally filter by price too.

Option A – Using <> (Not Equal)

```
dax

FILTER(
     Products,
     LEFT(Products[ProductName], 1) <> "C" ||
     (Products[Price] < 6 && Products[Price] > 4)
)
```

Option B – Using NOT()

```
dax

FILTER(
     Products,
     NOT(LEFT(Products[ProductName], 1) = "C") ||
```

```
(Products[Price] < 6 && Products[Price] > 4)
)
```

Both expressions exclude products starting with "C" unless they fall into the specified price range.

▲ Readability and Maintainability Tip

As complexity grows:

- Use formatting and indentation
- Use comments (// This filters out products that start with "C")
- Consider breaking logic into intermediate variables using VAR

This enhances collaboration and makes measures understandable for others and for your future self.

Section 17: Power BI: Making Complex Measures Readable

☐ Challenge:

Long and complex DAX measures are hard to read, understand, and maintain—especially weeks later.

Best Practices for Readability

1 Line Breaks with Shift + Enter

- Move to a new line **without executing** the formula.
- Helps organize expressions and functions clearly.

2 Indenting with Tab

• Use indentation inside functions like FILTER() or CALCULATE() to separate logical blocks.

☐ Example:

```
dax
Revenue Filtered :=
CALCULATE (
```

```
[Total Revenue],
FILTER (
         Products,
         Products[Category] = "A"
),
FILTER (
         Locations,
         Locations[State] = "Arizona"
)
```

Q□ Use Comments (//)

- Add context or explanation inline.
- Ignored during calculation.
- Helps others (and your future self) understand logic.

Tips:

- No fixed way to format just keep it **clear and logical**.
- Use comments for:
 - o Purpose of the measure
 - Special logic applied
 - Unusual business rules

Section 18 Concept Focus: Using VALUES () with AVERAGEX () to calculate Monthly Average Revenue

Q What is the **VALUES**() Function?

- VALUES (column name) is a table function in DAX.
- It returns a **distinct list of values** from the given column.

• Used often to create custom filters or iteration contexts in X-functions (SUMX, AVERAGEX, etc.).

☐ Example 1 – Create a Table of Unique Weekdays:

dax
Values Example = VALUES('Date'[Weekday])

• Returns a one-column table with **distinct weekdays**: Monday to Sunday.

Real-world Use Case: Monthly Average Revenue per Customer

We aim to calculate **average revenue per month** across customers. We **don't have this directly in the data**, so we build it using DAX logic.

X Steps to Build the Measure:

1. Create a New Measure:

- VALUES ('Date' [YearMonth]) provides a distinct list of months.
- AVERAGEX() iterates over each month, calculates [Revenue], and averages it.
- 2. Why use values () here?
 - o AVERAGEX () requires a table input.
 - o VALUES () provides a unique set of rows (e.g., months).
 - o That creates the **row context** to compute revenue **month-by-month**.

☐ How it Works Internally:

• VALUES('Date'[YearMonth]) → Table like:

YearMonth

2023-Jan

2023-Feb

• • •

- For each row:
 - o AVERAGEX evaluates [Revenue] in that month's context.
- Then averages all monthly revenue totals.

Easy Modification – Quarterly Average Revenue:

Just replace YearMonth with YearQuarter:

```
dax
Quarterly Average Revenue =
AVERAGEX(
     VALUES('Date'[YearQuarter]),
          [Revenue]
)
```

Summary

Function

Purpose

VALUES () Returns distinct values from a column (as table)

AVERAGEX () Averages an expression over a table

Use Together Create custom contexts to calculate per-month/quarter metrics

Section 19: VALUES Function with AVERAGEX – Monthly Average Revenue

☐ Core Concept

- Learn to use the VALUES () table function.
- Apply VALUES () in combination with AVERAGEX () to calculate Monthly Average Revenue per Customer.

$\ \square$ Understanding the VALUES() Function

- VALUES(<column>) returns a distinct list of values from the given column.
- Useful when you want to **iterate** over unique values like weekdays, months, quarters, etc.
- Example:

DAX

```
VALUES('Date'[Weekday])
```

Returns a one-column table with 7 rows (Monday to Sunday).

☆□ Use Case: Monthly Average Revenue per Customer

• Goal: Calculate average revenue per month for each customer.

Steps to Implement

1. Go to "New Measure"

Define the following:

```
DAX

Monthly Avg Revenue :=
AVERAGEX(
    VALUES('Date'[YearMonth]), -- a distinct table of months
    [Revenue] -- pre-calculated measure
)
```

2. Explanation:

- o VALUES('Date'[YearMonth]): Creates a table with distinct Year-Month combinations.
- o AVERAGEX: Iterates over that table.
- o For each month:
 - Evaluates [Revenue] (assumed to be sum of revenue per month).
 - Then averages the result across all months.

✓ Visualization

- Place Monthly Avg Revenue in a visual (like table/matrix).
- Format it as a currency.
- Compare it to total revenue to gain insights on monthly trends.

Flexibility: Switch Granularity

- You can swap YearMonth with:
 - o QuarterYear → To get Quarterly Average
 - o Weekday → To get Average by Day of the Week

Example:

```
Quarterly Avg Revenue :=
AVERAGEX(
     VALUES('Date'[YearQuarter]),
          [Revenue]
)
```

? Takeaway

- VALUES () is a **dynamic table constructor** for distinct values.
- Combine with AVERAGEX () or SUMX () to perform granular aggregations.

▼ Section 20: Ranking with RANKX() and Context Control

Objective

Use the RANKX() function to rank customers by their Quarterly Average Revenue, and learn how to control filter context with ALL() and ALLSELECTED() for different ranking behaviors.

32 Step-by-Step: Basic Customer Ranking

♥ Goal: Rank customers based on their quarterly average revenue

1. Create a new measure:

- 2. Why use ALL ('Customer')?
 - o RANKX () ranks within the current context.
 - o If you're in a table with a single customer per row, the default context = 1 customer \rightarrow all get rank 1.
 - Wrapping the table in ALL() **removes that filter**, enabling correct global ranking.

☐ Dynamic Ranking Affected by Filters

- When applying filters (e.g., Year = 2023), the ranking recalculates **only within that filter**.
- This is **expected** behavior and useful in many analyses.

Freeze the Ranking Context with CALCULATE() + ALL()

- ☐ Goal: Always rank customers based on all years, even when filtered
 - 1. Modify the ranking to freeze the year context:

```
DAX
Static Year Rank :=
CALCULATE(
    RANKX(ALL('Customer'), [Quarterly Avg Revenue]),
    ALL('Date'[Year]) -- Removes filter on year
)
```

2. Effect:

- o Revenue can change based on year filter.
- o **Ranking stays constant**, always reflecting total-year data.

Contiguous Rankings for Selected Customers Only

- ☐ Goal: Rank only visible customers (e.g., selected in slicer)
 - 1. Use allselected() instead of all():

```
DAX

Relative Rank :=
RANKX(
        ALLSELECTED('Customer'),
        [Quarterly Avg Revenue])
```

2. Effect:

- Shows ranking **only among filtered/visible customers**.
- o Useful when showing a **subset** (e.g., top N customers).

Q Summary of Context Functions for Ranking

Context Function

Description

ALL()	Ignores all filter	rs (global ranking)
ATT ()	ignores an inter	s (global fallkilig)

ALLSELECTED() Respects report/page/slicer filters (ranking among visible rows)

CALCULATE () Changes context for any expression inside it

? Key Insights

- RANKX () is sensitive to filter context this can be an advantage or a problem depending on your needs.
- ALL() gives absolute rankings.
- ALLSELECTED() gives relative rankings within selected groups.
- CALCULATE () can override context for targeted control.

☑ Section 21: Top N Filtering Based on Ranking

Objective

Allow users to dynamically filter the **Top N customers** based on their **Quarterly Average Revenue**, using a slicer with configurable values (e.g., Top 3, Top 10, Top 20, etc.).

E Step 1: Create a Helper Table

▼ Table Name: Top N Filter Table

Create a manual table with the following structure:

Top N Value Top N Name

3	Top 3
5	Top 5
10	Top 10
20	Top 20
50	Top 50

This table allows users to choose how many top customers to view.

★ Sort the Top N Name column

• Sort Top N Name by Top N Value to avoid incorrect alphabetical ordering in slicers.

☐ Step 2: Create the Filtering Measure

✓ Measure Name: Top N Filtered Revenue

```
DAX
Top N Filtered Revenue :=
IF (
     [Customer Rank] <= MAX('Top N Filter Table'[Top N Value]),
     [Quarterly Avg Revenue],
     BLANK()
)</pre>
```

- \sqrt{MAX} () ensures proper behavior even if multiple slicer values are selected.
- X Avoid using VALUES() here as it causes errors when multiple slicer values are selected.

Step 3: Use in Report

- Add the **Top N Name** column to a slicer.
- Display the Customer Name and Top N Filtered Revenue in a table.
- Optional: Remove the raw ranking or revenue columns for a cleaner layout.

Why Use MAX () Instead of VALUES ()?

Function Behavior When Multiple Values Are Selected

```
VALUES () Returns a table → causes errors

MAX () Returns the highest selected value → works 

✓
```

☎ Alternative Filtering Option

Instead of a custom helper table, you can also:

- Use a **numeric slicer** with a "Top N Value" directly.
- But the helper table provides **custom labeling** (e.g., "Top 10") and better UX.

P Final Tip: Use Variables for Clarity (Coming Next)

As your DAX logic grows:

- Use VAR statements to store intermediate values.
- Improves readability and debugging.

Outcome

You've now implemented a dynamic and user-friendly **Top N customer filter** based on a flexible ranking measure — ideal for executive dashboards and sales analytics.

Section 22: Using Variables in DAX

Why Use Variables in DAX?

As DAX formulas grow in complexity, using variables improves:

- Readability
- Maintainability
- Reusability
- Performance (in some cases)

Key Benefits

1. Simplifies complex expressions

Long calculations can be replaced with a short, descriptive variable name.

2. Reusability

If an expression is used multiple times, define it once as a variable and reuse it.

3. Easier updates

Modify the expression once and it reflects everywhere it's used via the variable.

Basic Syntax

Example

Let's say we want to calculate the difference between total revenue and a filtered revenue value:

Without Variables

```
DAX
Difference From Filtered Revenue :=
CALCULATE([Total Revenue]) -
CALCULATE([Filtered Revenue])
```

With Variables

```
DAX
Difference From Filtered Revenue :=
VAR FilteredRev = CALCULATE([Filtered Revenue])
RETURN
     [Total Revenue] - FilteredRev
```

With Multiple Variables and Comments

```
DAX

Difference From Filtered Revenue :=

VAR FilteredRev = CALCULATE([Filtered Revenue])

VAR DummyCalc = 1 + 1 // Just an example for a second variable RETURN

// Main calculation using variables

[Total Revenue] - FilteredRev + DummyCalc
```

When to Use Variables

- When a complex expression is used multiple times
- When the logic is too complex to read directly
- When making your DAX formula easier to understand for others or your future self

Tips

- Always define variables at the beginning (right after the =).
- Use RETURN to specify the final calculation that uses those variables.
- You can also use comments (//) to explain sections of your code.

Exercise

IF & RANKX

Let's create your own custom filter in this exercise!

Question 1:

Create a custom filter that enables us to filter our products by their rank in regards to the revenue.

- 1: Top 10 products
- 2: Rank 11-20
- 3: Rank 21-40
- 4: Residual products

How much revenue is made by the products that *rank between 21 and 40?* Hint: You can use the calculated column that we have already created ([Ranking by Revenue] column created with the RANKX function).

Answer:

\$29,697.75

Question 2:

What is the average revenue we have made per day? Hint: Use the VALUES function and also use the "Revenue Measure" we have already created earlier in the course!

Answer:

\$134.21