CREATING A DATA MODEL

CREATING A DATA MODEL

In this section we'll cover **foundational data modeling topics** like normalization, fact and dimension tables, primary and foreign keys, relationship cardinality and filter flow

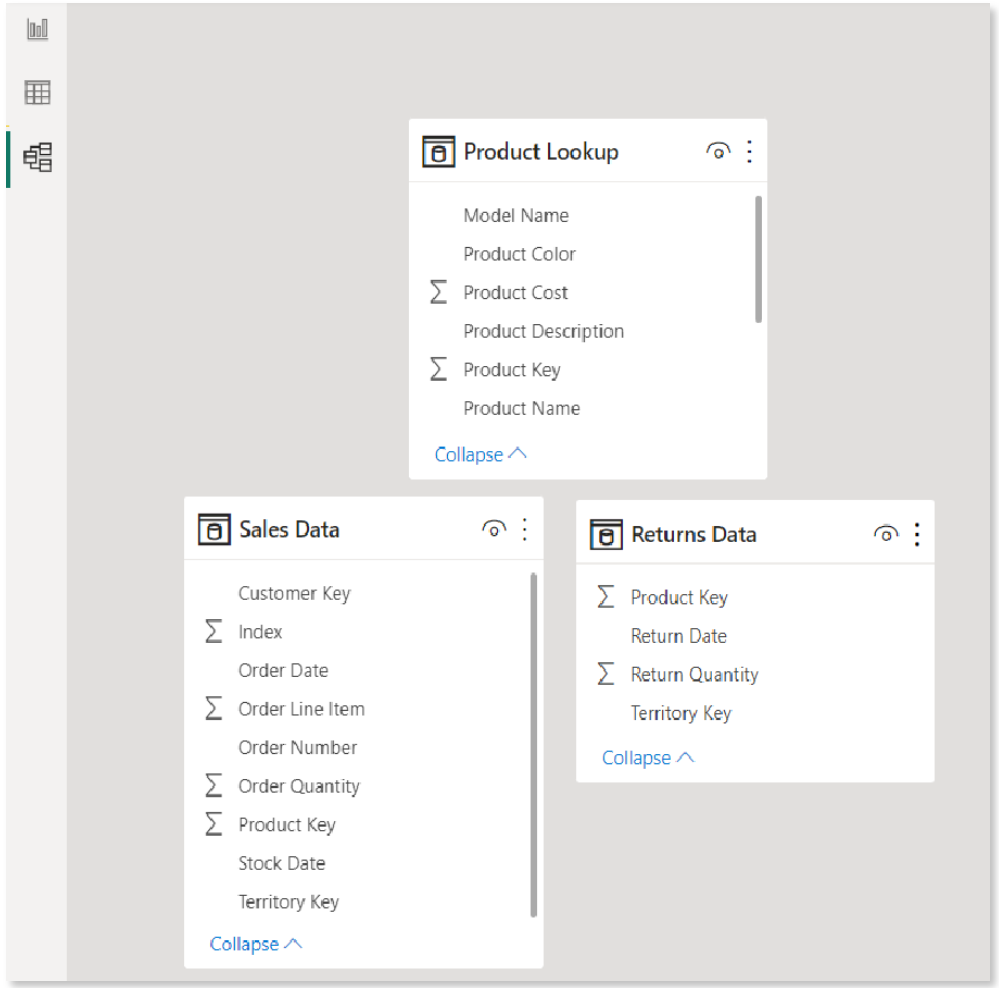
TOPICS WE'LL COVER:

- Data Modeling 101
- Normalization
- Facts & Dimensions
- Primary & Foreign Keys
- Cardinality
- Filter Flow
- Common Schemas
- Hierarchies

GOALS FOR THIS SECTION:

- Understand the basic principles of data modeling, including normalization, fact & dimension tables and common schemas
- Create table relationships using primary and foreign keys, and discuss different types of relationship cardinality
- Configure report filters and trace filter context as it flows between related tables in the model
- Explore data modeling options like hierarchies, data categories and hidden fields

WHAT IS A DATA MODEL?

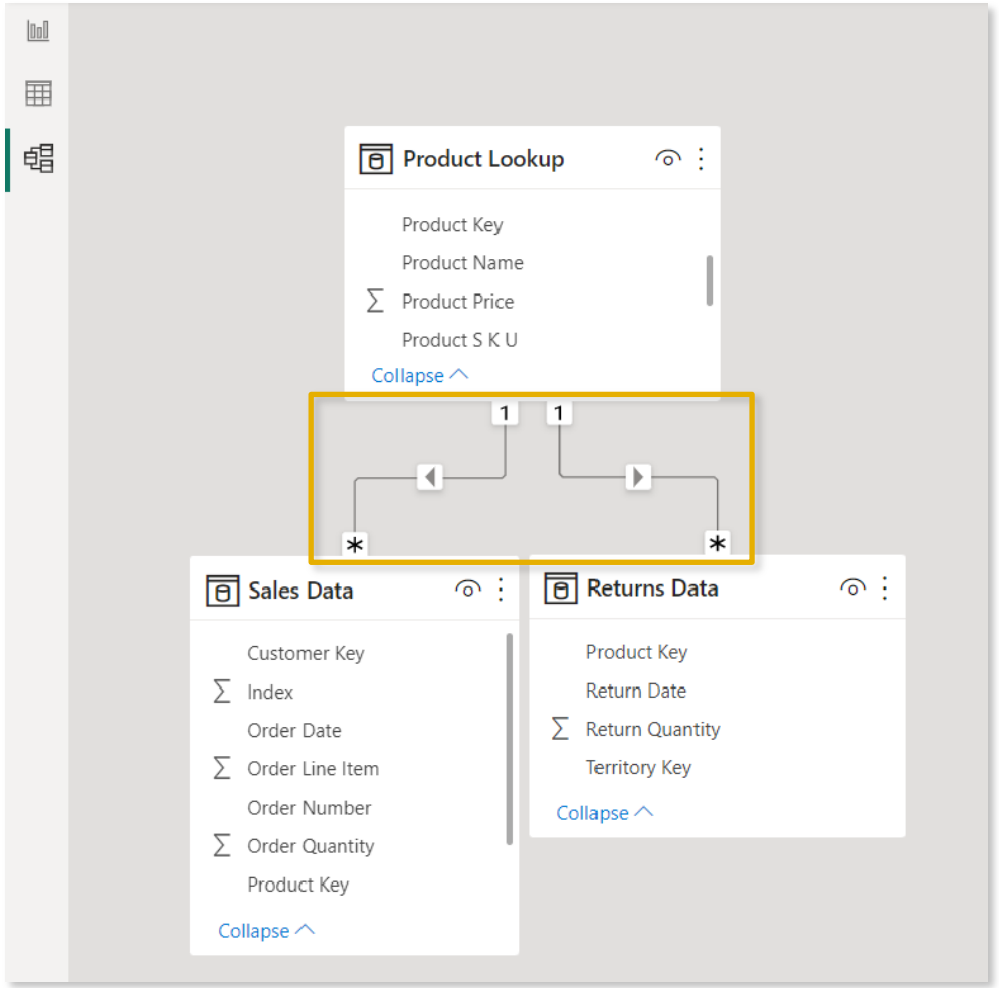


This **IS NOT** a data model

- This is a collection of independent tables, which share no connections or relationships
- If you tried to visualize **Orders** and **Returns** by **Product**, this is what you'd get

ProductName	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
All-Purpose Bike Stand	84,174	1,828
AWC Logo Cap	84,174	1,828
Bike Wash - Dissolver	84,174	1,828
Cable Lock	84,174	1,828
Chain	84,174	1,828
Classic Vest, L	84,174	1,828
Classic Vest, M	84,174	1,828
Classic Vest, S	84,174	1,828
Fender Set - Mountain	84,174	1,828
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

WHAT IS A DATA MODEL?



This **IS** a data model!

- The tables are connected via relationships, based on a common field (Product Key)
- Now **Sales** and **Returns** data can be filtered using fields from the **Product Lookup** table!

ProductName	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
All-Purpose Bike Stand	234	8
AWC Logo Cap	4,151	46
Bike Wash - Dissolver	1,706	25
Classic Vest, L	182	4
Classic Vest, M	182	7
Classic Vest, S	157	8
Fender Set - Mountain	3,960	54
Half-Finger Gloves, L	840	18
Half-Finger Gloves, M	918	16
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

DATABASE NORMALIZATION

Normalization is the process of organizing the tables and columns in a relational database to reduce redundancy and preserve data integrity. It's commonly used to:

- **Eliminate redundant data** to decrease table sizes and improve processing speed & efficiency
- **Minimize errors and anomalies** from data modifications (inserting, updating or deleting records)
- **Simplify queries** and structure the database for meaningful analysis

In a normalized database, each table should serve a **distinct** and **specific** purpose (*i.e. product information, transaction records, customer attributes, store details, etc.*)

date	product_id	quantity	product_brand	product_name	product_sku	product_weight
1/1/1997	869	5	Nationeel	Nationeel Grape Fruit Roll	52382137179	17
1/7/1997	869	2	Nationeel	Nationeel Grape Fruit Roll	52382137179	17
1/3/1997	1	4	Washington	Washington Berry Juice	90748583674	8.39
1/1/1997	1472	3	Fort West	Fort West Fudge Cookies	37276054024	8.28
1/6/1997	1472	2	Fort West	Fort West Fudge Cookies	37276054024	8.28
1/5/1997	2	4	Washington	Washington Mango Drink	96516502499	7.42
1/1/1997	76	4	Red Spade	Red Spade Sliced Chicken	62054644227	18.1
1/1/1997	76	2	Red Spade	Red Spade Sliced Chicken	62054644227	18.1
1/5/1997	3	2	Washington	Washington Strawberry Drink	58427771925	13.1
1/7/1997	3	2	Washington	Washington Strawberry Drink	58427771925	13.1
1/1/1997	320	3	Excellent	Excellent Cranberry Juice	36570182442	16.4

*Models that aren't normalized contain **redundant, duplicate data**. In this case, all of the product-specific fields could be stored in a separate table containing a unique record for each **product id***

This may not seem critical now, but minor inefficiencies can become major problems at scale!

FACT & DIMENSION TABLES

Data models generally contain two types of tables: **fact** ("data") tables, and **dimension** ("lookup") tables:

- **Fact tables** contain **numerical values** or metrics used for summarization *(sales, orders, transactions, pageviews, etc.)*
- **Dimension tables** contain **descriptive attributes** used for filtering or grouping *(products, customers, dates, stores, etc.)*

date	product_id	quantity
1/1/1997	869	5
1/1/1997	1472	3
1/1/1997	76	4
1/1/1997	320	3
1/1/1997	4	4
1/1/1997	952	4
1/1/1997	1222	4
1/1/1997	517	4
1/1/1997	1359	4
1/1/1997	357	4
1/1/1997	1426	5
1/1/1997	190	4
1/1/1997	367	4
1/1/1997	250	5
1/1/1997	600	4
1/1/1997	702	5

*This **Fact** table contains **quantity** values, along with **date** and **product_id** fields*

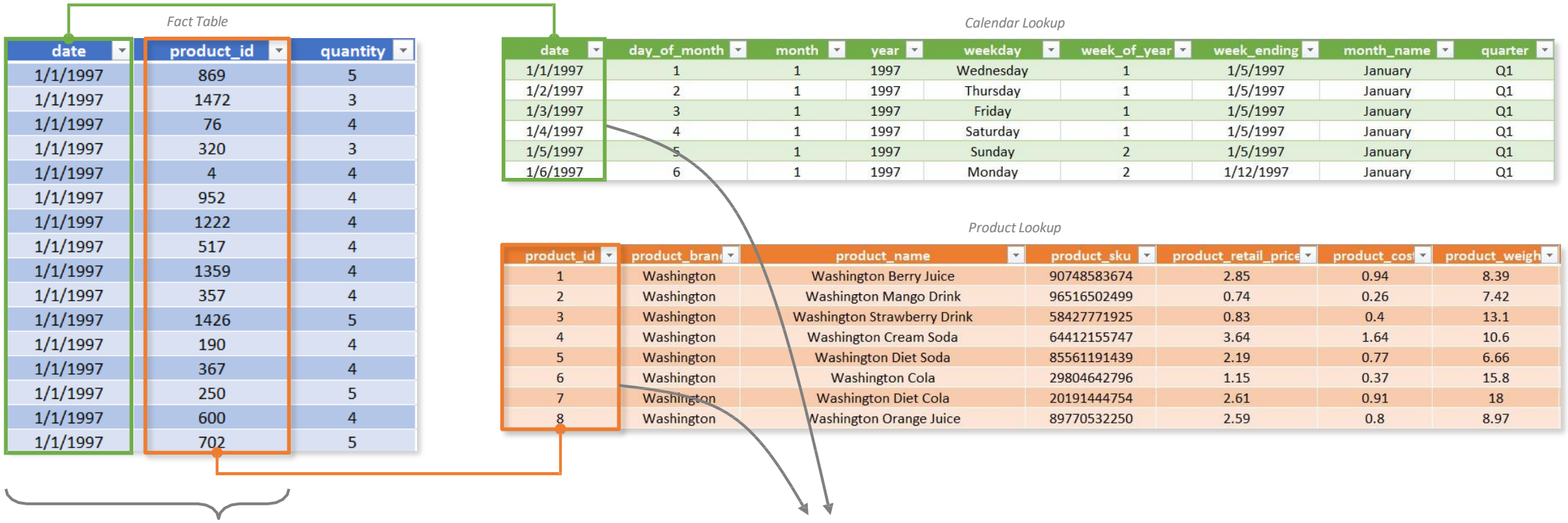
date	day_of_month	month	year	weekday	week_of_year	week_ending	month_name	quarter
1/1/1997	1	1	1997	Wednesday	1	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/2/1997	2	1	1997	Thursday	1	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/3/1997	3	1	1997	Friday	1	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/4/1997	4	1	1997	Saturday	1	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/5/1997	5	1	1997	Sunday	2	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/6/1997	6	1	1997	Monday	2	1/12/1997	January	Q1

*This **Calendar Lookup** table contains attributes about each **date** (month, year, quarter, etc.)*

product_id	product_bran	product_name	product_sku	product_retail_price	product_cos	product_weigh
1	Washington	Washington Berry Juice	90748583674	2.85	0.94	8.39
2	Washington	Washington Mango Drink	96516502499	0.74	0.26	7.42
3	Washington	Washington Strawberry Drink	58427771925	0.83	0.4	13.1
4	Washington	Washington Cream Soda	64412155747	3.64	1.64	10.6
5	Washington	Washington Diet Soda	85561191439	2.19	0.77	6.66
6	Washington	Washington Cola	29804642796	1.15	0.37	15.8
7	Washington	Washington Diet Cola	20191444754	2.61	0.91	18
8	Washington	Washington Orange Juice	89770532250	2.59	0.8	8.97

*This **Product Lookup** table contains attributes about each **product_id** (brand, SKU, price, etc.)*

PRIMARY & FOREIGN KEYS



Fact Table

date	product_id	quantity
1/1/1997	869	5
1/1/1997	1472	3
1/1/1997	76	4
1/1/1997	320	3
1/1/1997	4	4
1/1/1997	952	4
1/1/1997	1222	4
1/1/1997	517	4
1/1/1997	1359	4
1/1/1997	357	4
1/1/1997	1426	5
1/1/1997	190	4
1/1/1997	367	4
1/1/1997	250	5
1/1/1997	600	4
1/1/1997	702	5

Calendar Lookup

date	day_of_month	month	year	weekday	week_of_year	week_ending	month_name	quarter
1/1/1997	1	1	1997	Wednesday	1	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/2/1997	2	1	1997	Thursday	1	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/3/1997	3	1	1997	Friday	1	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/4/1997	4	1	1997	Saturday	1	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/5/1997	5	1	1997	Sunday	2	1/5/1997	January	Q1
1/6/1997	6	1	1997	Monday	2	1/12/1997	January	Q1

Product Lookup

product_id	product_brand	product_name	product_sku	product_retail_price	product_cost	product_weight
1	Washington	Washington Berry Juice	90748583674	2.85	0.94	8.39
2	Washington	Washington Mango Drink	96516502499	0.74	0.26	7.42
3	Washington	Washington Strawberry Drink	58427771925	0.83	0.4	13.1
4	Washington	Washington Cream Soda	64412155747	3.64	1.64	10.6
5	Washington	Washington Diet Soda	85561191439	2.19	0.77	6.66
6	Washington	Washington Cola	29804642796	1.15	0.37	15.8
7	Washington	Washington Diet Cola	20191444754	2.61	0.91	18
8	Washington	Washington Orange Juice	89770532250	2.59	0.8	8.97

These are **foreign keys** (FK)

*They contain multiple instances of each value, and relate to **primary keys** in dimension tables*

These are **primary keys** (PK)

*They uniquely identify each row of the table, and relate to **foreign keys** in fact tables*

RELATIONSHIPS VS. MERGED TABLES

*Can't I just merge queries or use lookup functions to **pull everything into one single table**?*

- Anonymous confused man

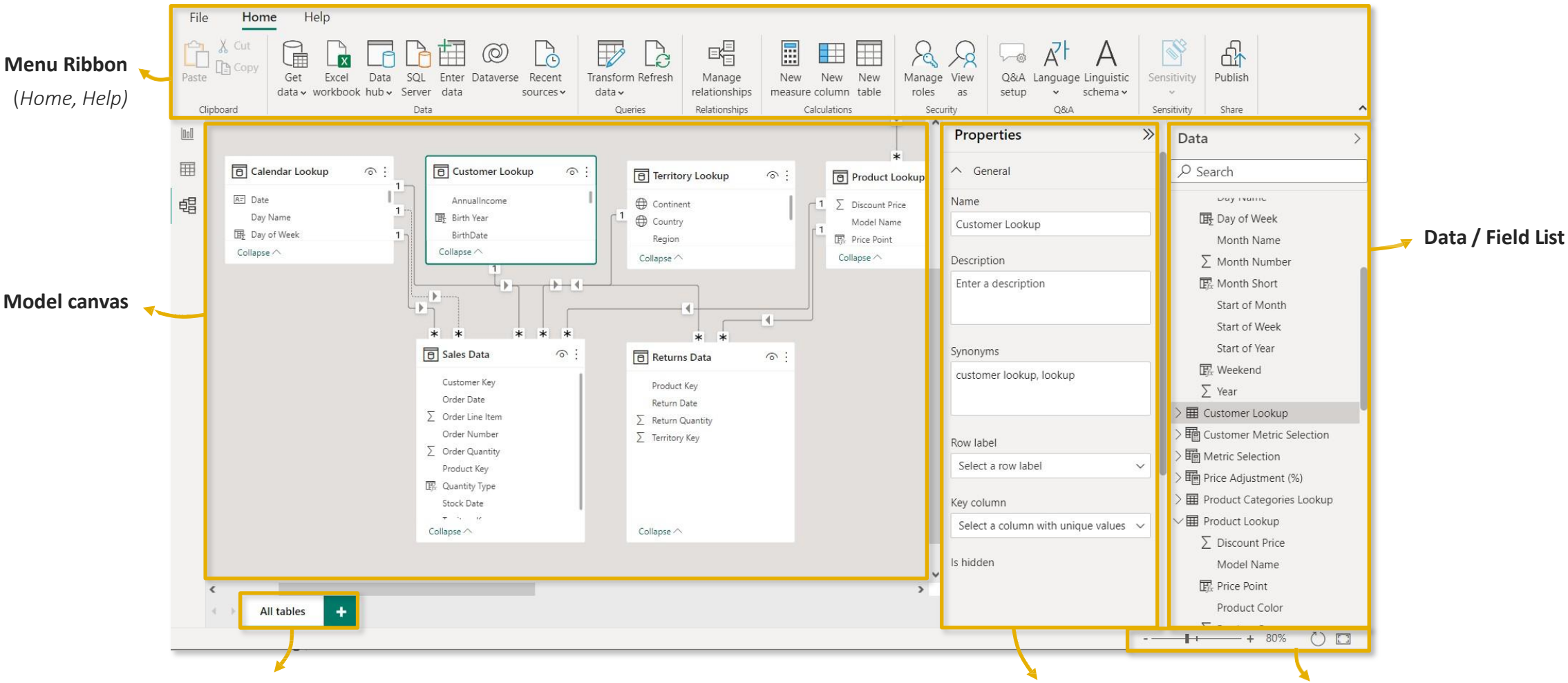
*Original **Fact Table** fields* | *Attributes from **Calendar Lookup** table* | *Attributes from **Product Lookup** table*

date	product_id	quantity	day_of_month	month	year	weekday	month_name	quarter	product_brand	product_name	product_sku	product_weight
1/1/1997	869	5	1	1	1997	Wednesday	January	Q1	Nationeel	Nationeel Grape Fruit Roll	52382137179	17
1/7/1997	869	2	7	1	1997	Tuesday	January	Q1	Nationeel	Nationeel Grape Fruit Roll	52382137179	17
1/3/1997	1	4	3	1	1997	Friday	January	Q1	Washington	Washington Berry Juice	90748583674	8.39
1/1/1997	1472	3	1	1	1997	Wednesday	January	Q1	Fort West	Fort West Fudge Cookies	37276054024	8.28
1/6/1997	1472	2	6	1	1997	Monday	January	Q1	Fort West	Fort West Fudge Cookies	37276054024	8.28
1/5/1997	2	4	5	1	1997	Sunday	January	Q1	Washington	Washington Mango Drink	96516502499	7.42
1/1/1997	76	4	1	1	1997	Wednesday	January	Q1	Red Spade	Red Spade Sliced Chicken	62054644227	18.1
1/1/1997	76	2	1	1	1997	Wednesday	January	Q1	Red Spade	Red Spade Sliced Chicken	62054644227	18.1
1/5/1997	3	2	5	1	1997	Sunday	January	Q1	Washington	Washington Strawberry Drink	58427771925	13.1
1/7/1997	3	2	7	1	1997	Tuesday	January	Q1	Washington	Washington Strawberry Drink	58427771925	13.1
1/1/1997	320	3	1	1	1997	Wednesday	January	Q1	Excellent	Excellent Cranberry Juice	36570182442	16.4

You can, **but it's extremely inefficient!**

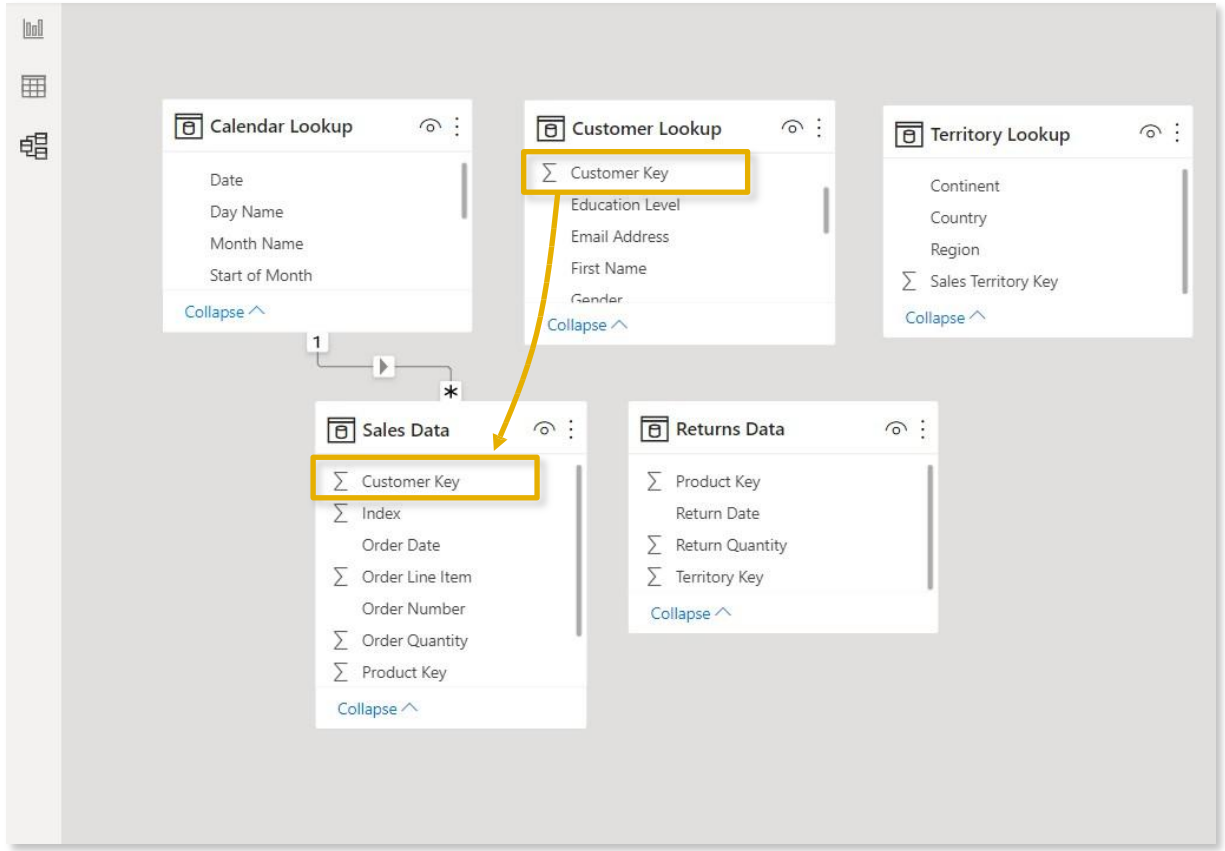
- Merging tables creates **redundancy** and often requires **significantly more memory and processing power** to analyze compared to a relational model with multiple small tables

THE MODEL VIEW

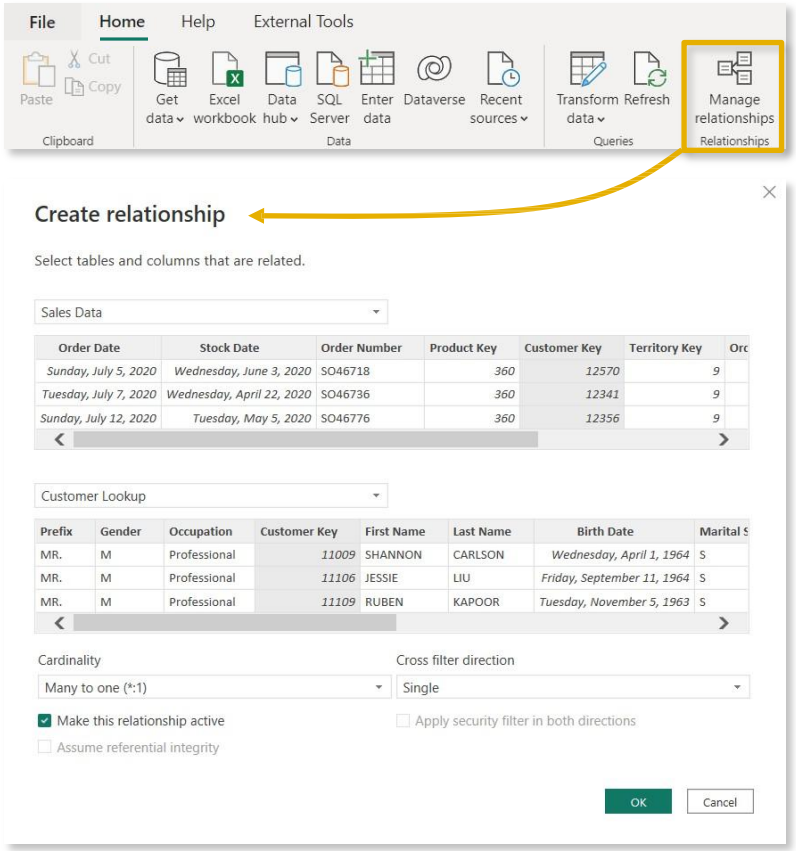


CREATING TABLE RELATIONSHIPS

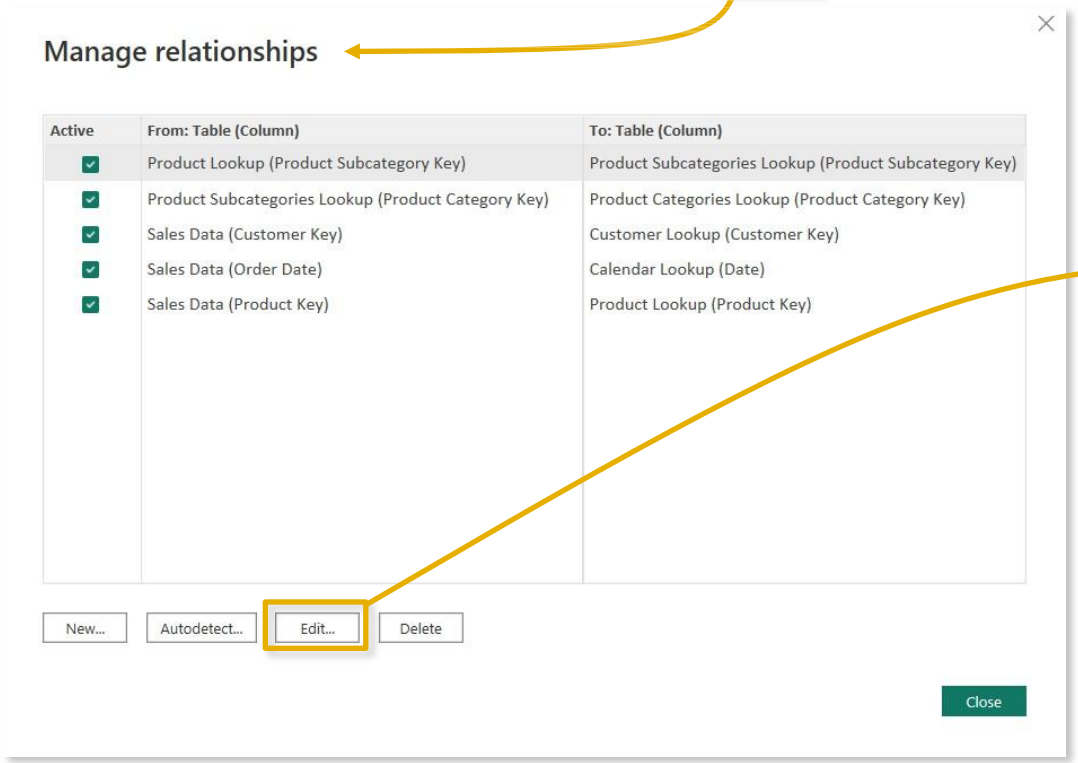
OPTION 1: Click and drag to connect primary and foreign keys within the **Model** view

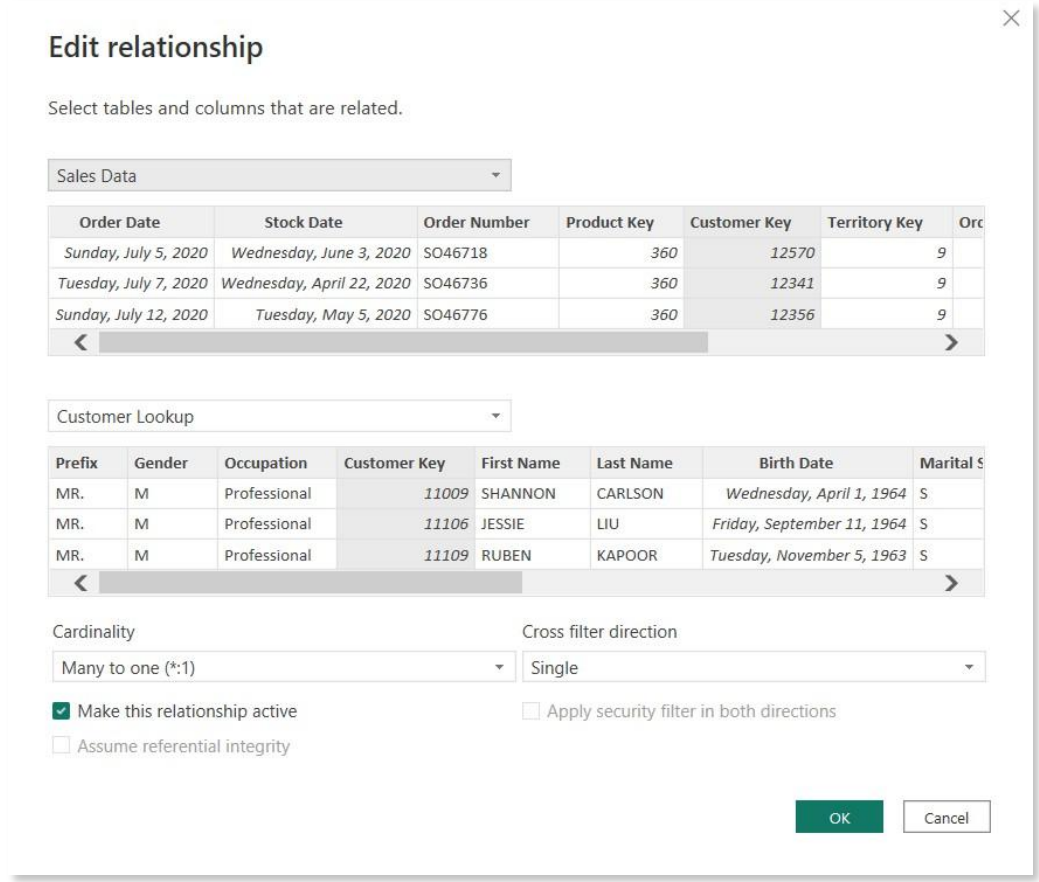


OPTION 2: Add or detect relationships using the **Manage Relationships** dialog box



MANAGING & EDITING RELATIONSHIPS

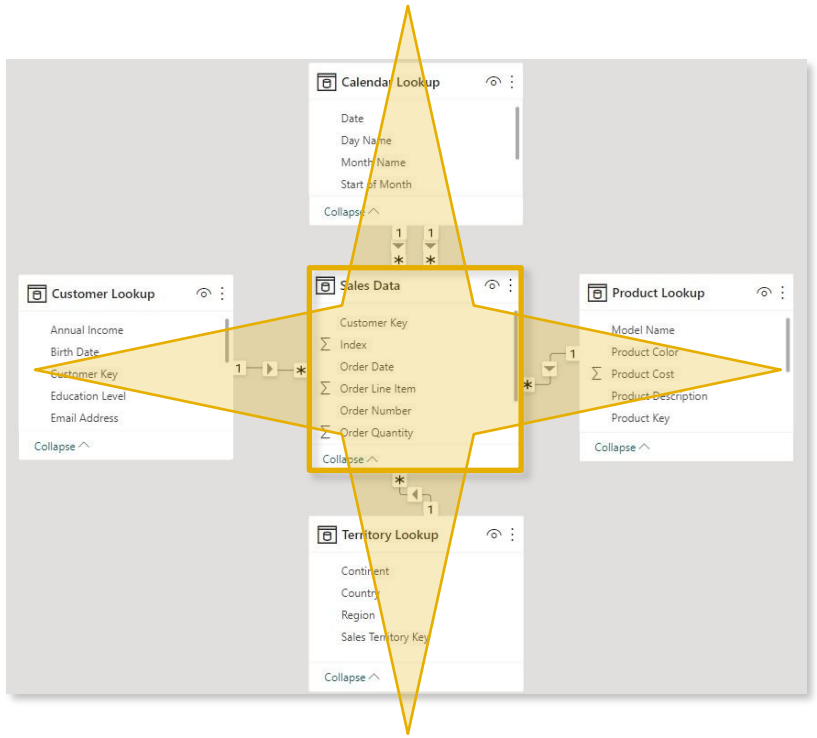




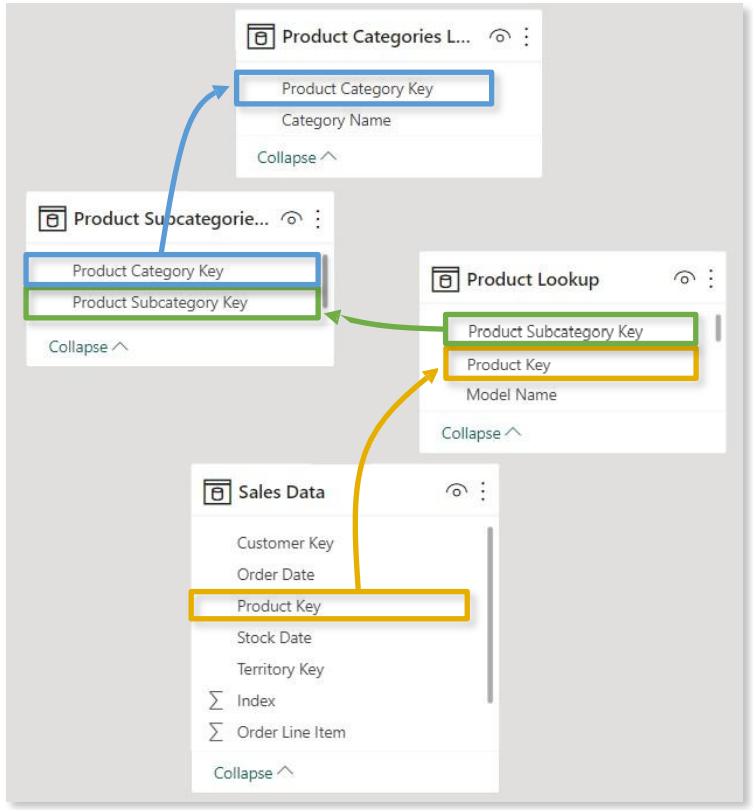
Launch the **Manage Relationships** dialog box or double-click a relationship to modify it

Editing tools allow you to **activate or deactivate** relationships and manage **cardinality** and **filter direction** – more on that soon!

STAR & SNOWFLAKE SCHEMAS



A **star schema** is the simplest and most common type of data model, characterized by a single fact table surrounded by related dimension tables



A **snowflake schema** is an extension of a star, and includes relationships between dimension tables and related sub-dimension tables

ASSIGNMENT: TABLE RELATIONSHIPS

NEW MESSAGE

From: **Dana Modelle** *(Analyst)*

Subject: **Need a favor…**

Hey there,

Ethan shared the data model you've been working on, and we might have an issue…

Last night I left my laptop open, and my cat Dennis somehow got his paws on our model. Now all the relationships are gone!

Could you please rebuild the model, including all three product tables? I owe you one!

-Dana

Reply Forward

Key Objectives

1. Delete all existing table relationships
2. Create a star schema by creating relationships between the Sales, Calendar, Customer, Product and Territories tables
3. Connect all three product tables (Product, Subcategory, Category) in a snowflake schema
4. Use the matrix visual to confirm that you can filter Order Quantity values using fields from each dimension table

SOLUTION: TABLE RELATIONSHIPS

NEW MESSAGE

From: **Dana Modelle** *(Analyst)*

Subject: **Need a favor…**

Hey there,

Ethan shared the data model you've been working on, and we might have an issue…

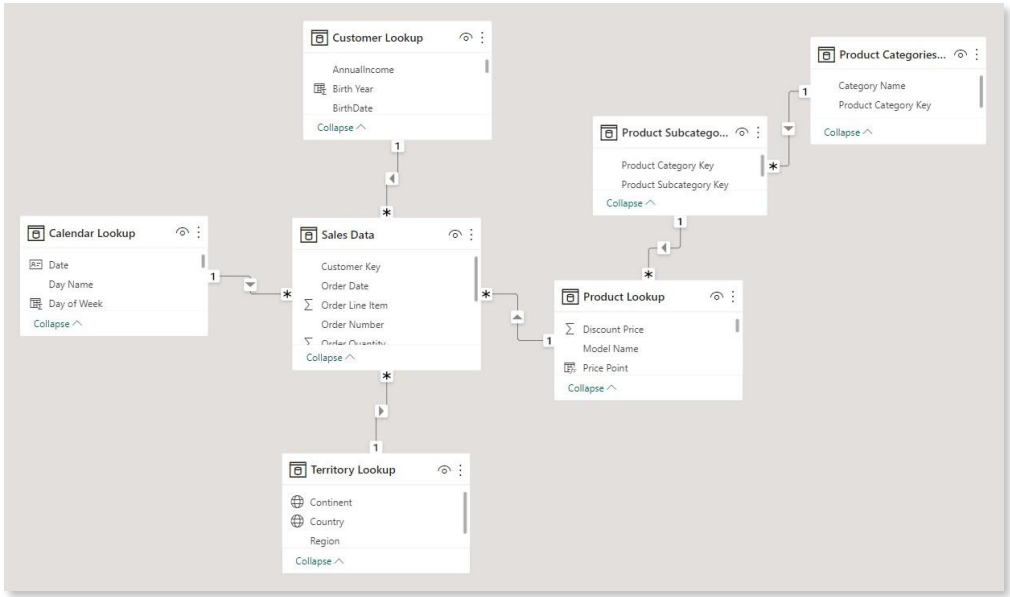
Last night I left my laptop open, and my cat Dennis somehow got his paws on our model. Now all the relationships are gone!

Could you please rebuild the model, including all three product tables? I owe you one!

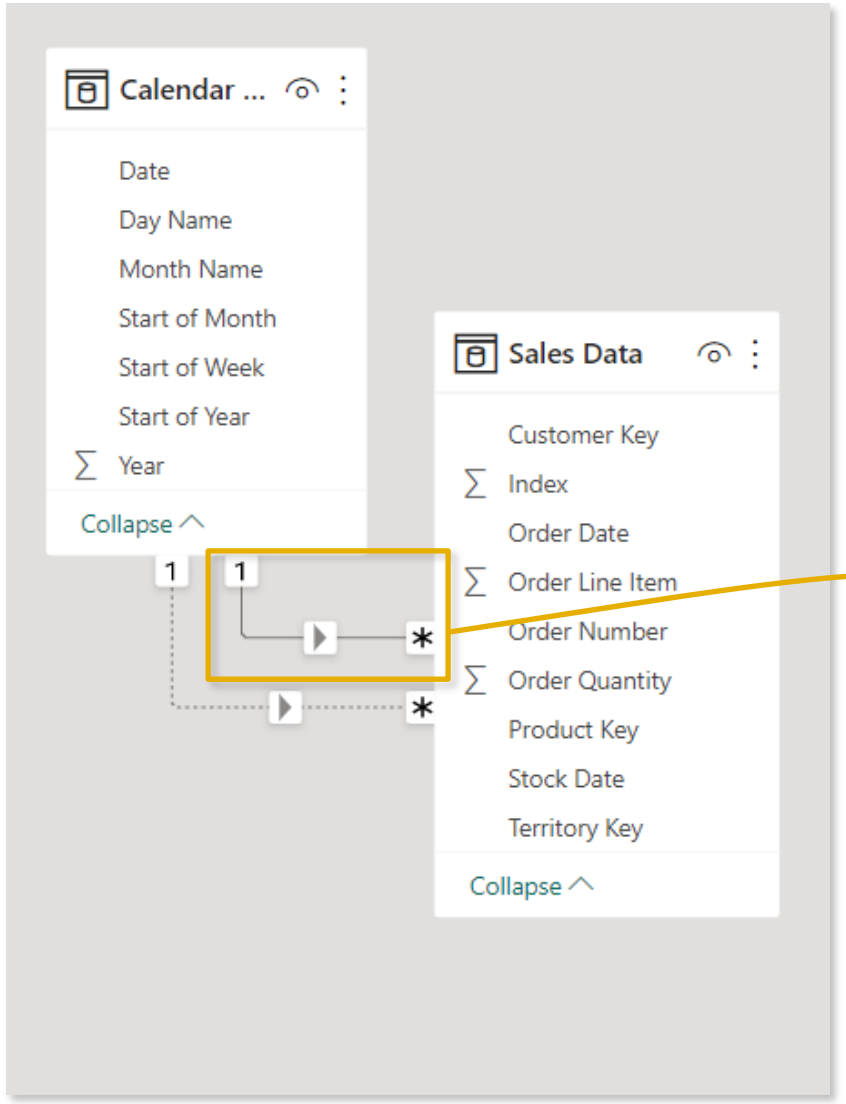
-Dana

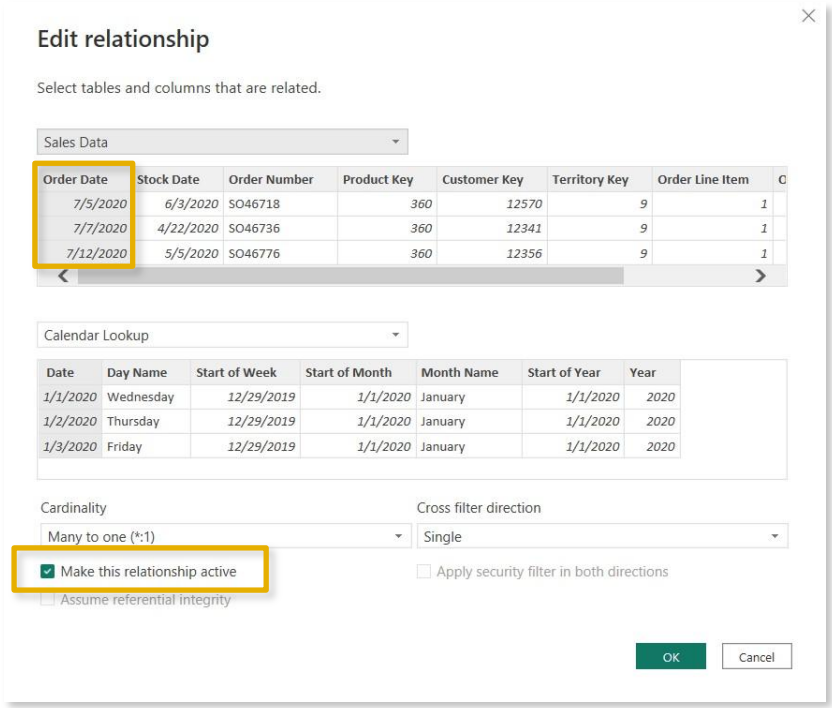
Reply Forward

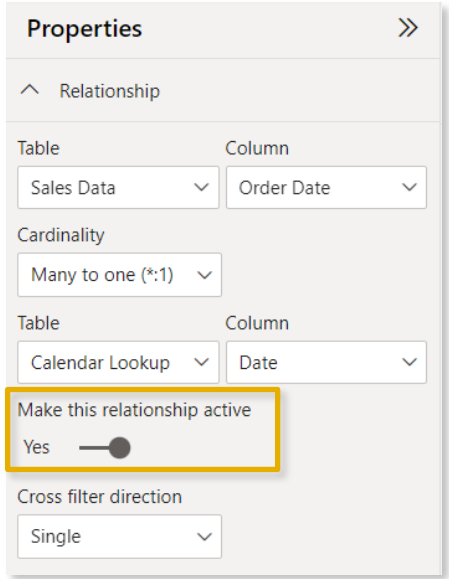
Solution Preview



PRO TIP: ACTIVE & INACTIVE RELATIONSHIPS



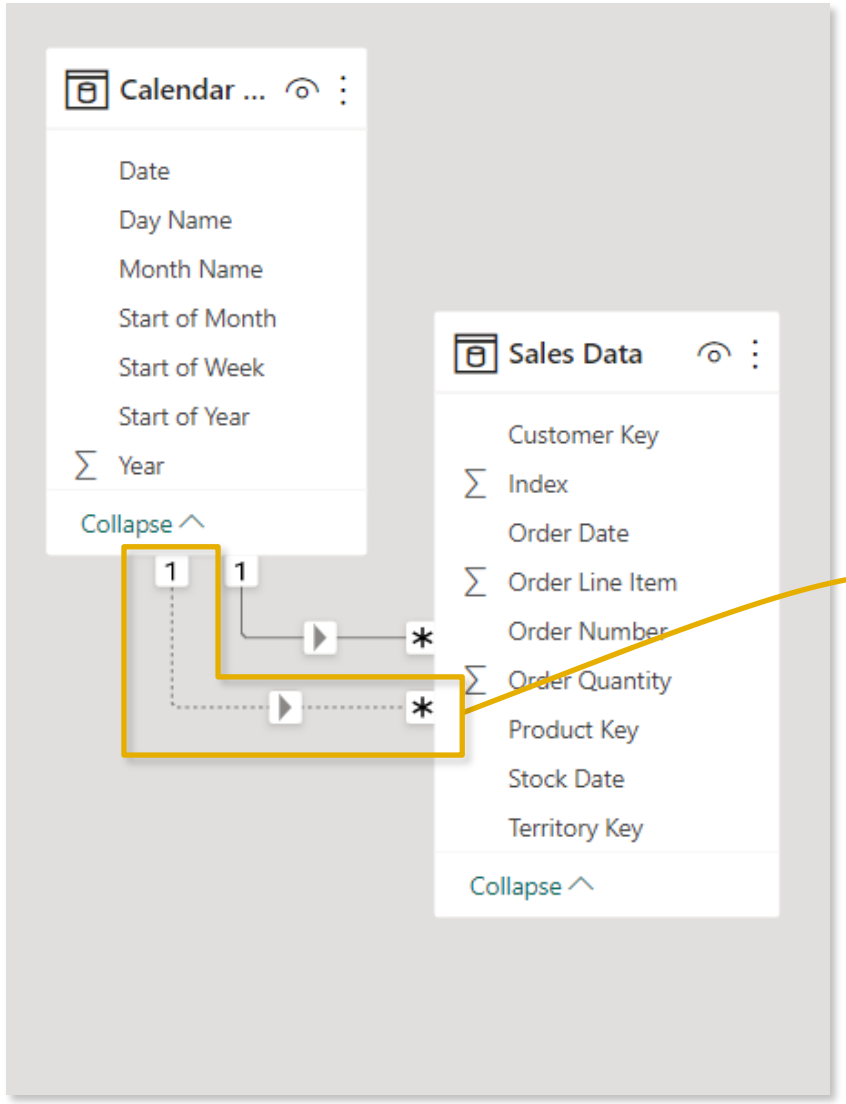


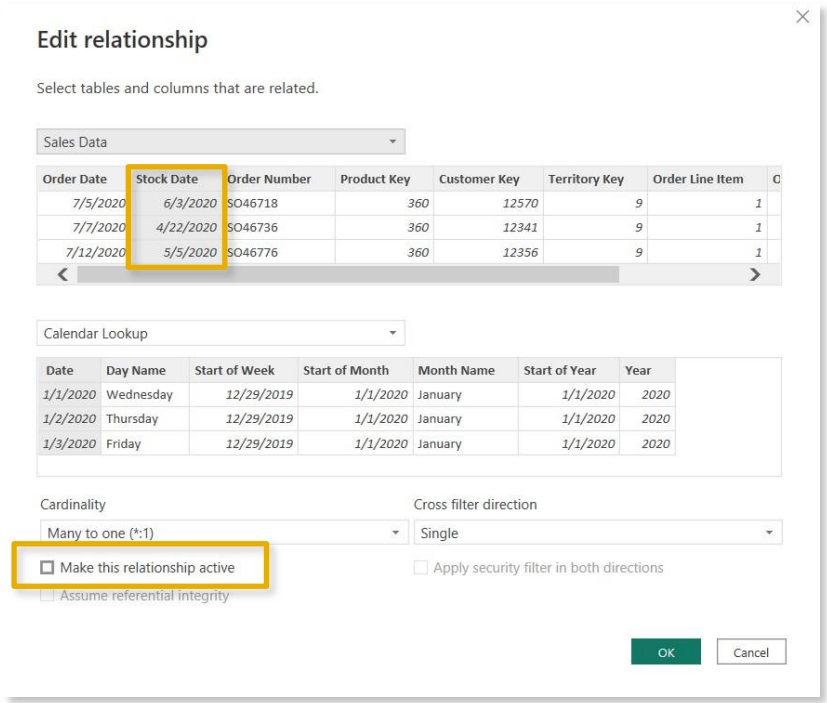


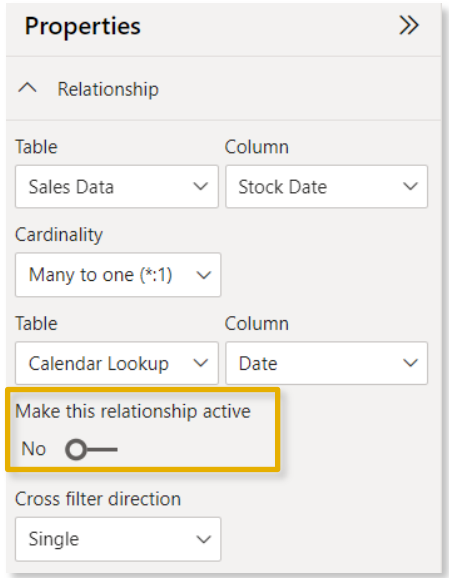
The **Sales Data** table contains two date fields (**Order Date** & **Stock Date**), but there can only be ***one active relationship*** to the Date key in the Calendar table

You can set relationships to active or inactive from either the **Edit Relationships** dialog box or the **Properties** (you must deactivate one before activating another)

PRO TIP: ACTIVE & INACTIVE RELATIONSHIPS



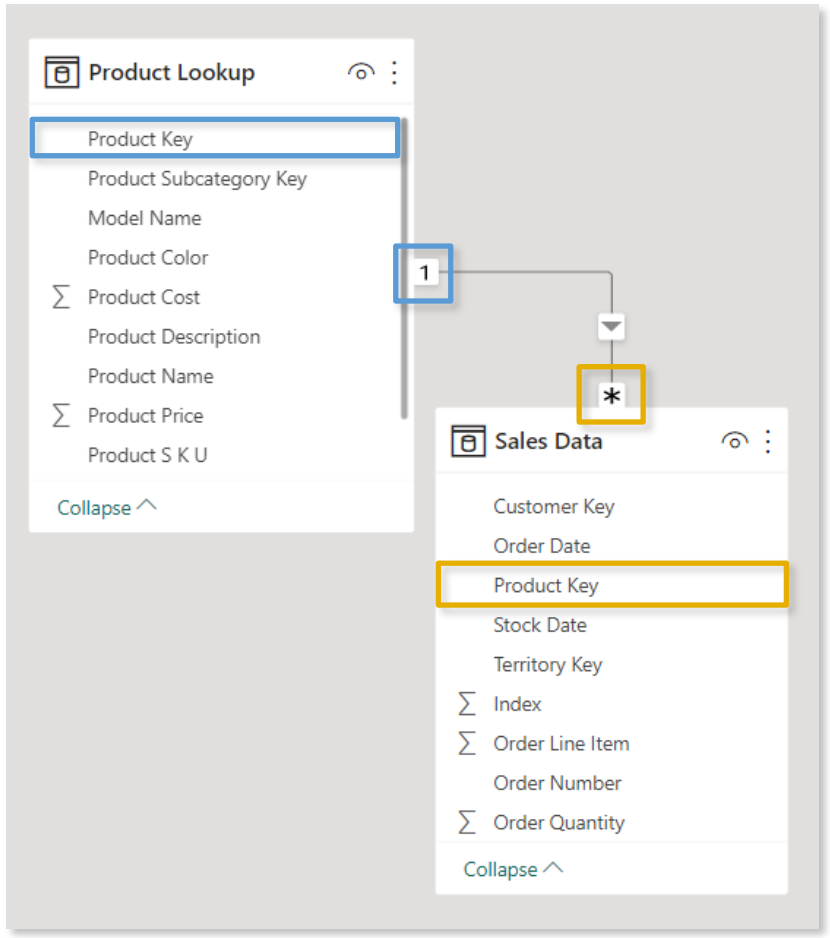




The **Sales Data** table contains two date fields (**Order Date** & **Stock Date**), but there can only be ***one active relationship*** to the Date key in the Calendar table

You can set relationships to active or inactive from either the **Edit Relationships** dialog box or the **Properties** (you must deactivate one before activating another)

RELATIONSHIP CARDINALITY



Cardinality refers to the uniqueness of values in a column

- Ideally, all relationships in the data model should follow a **one-to-many** cardinality: **one** instance of each primary key, and **many** instances of each foreign key

*In this example there is only **ONE instance of each Product Key** in the Product table (noted by a "**1**"), since each row contains **attributes of a single product** (name, SKU, description, price, etc.)*

*There are **MANY instances of each Product Key** in the Sales table (noted by an asterisk *****), since there are **multiple sales for each product***

EXAMPLE: ONE-TO-ONE CARDINALITY

Product Lookup

product_id	product_name	product_sku
4	Washington Cream Soda	64412155747
5	Washington Diet Soda	85561191439
7	Washington Diet Cola	20191444754
8	Washington Orange Juice	89770532250

Price Lookup

product_id	product_price
4	$3.64
5	$2.19
7	$2.61
8	$2.59

- Connecting the two tables above using **product_id** creates a **one-to-one relationship**, since each product ID only appears once in each table
- This isn't necessarily a "bad" relationship, but you can simplify the model by merging the tables into a single, valid dimension table

product_id	product_name	product_sku	product_price
4	Washington Cream Soda	64412155747	$3.64
5	Washington Diet Soda	85561191439	$2.19
7	Washington Diet Cola	20191444754	$2.61
8	Washington Orange Juice	89770532250	$2.59

NOTE: *this still respects the rules of normalization, since all rows are unique and capture product-specific attributes*

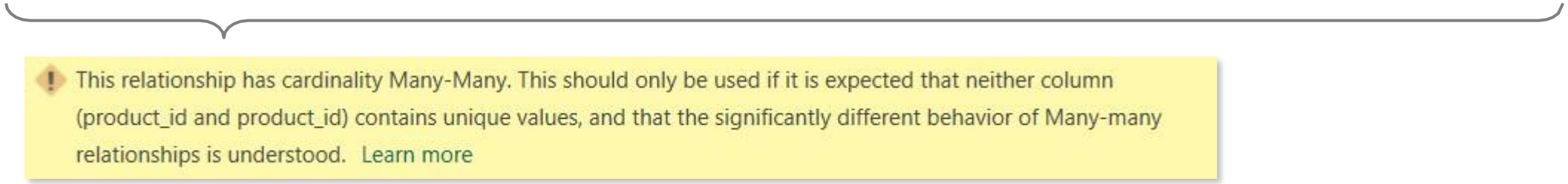
EXAMPLE: MANY-TO-MANY CARDINALITY

Product Lookup

product_id	product_name	product_sku
4	Washington Cream Soda	64412155747
4	Washington Diet Cream Soda	81727382373
5	Washington Diet Soda	85561191439
7	Washington Diet Cola	20191444754
8	Washington Orange Juice	89770532250

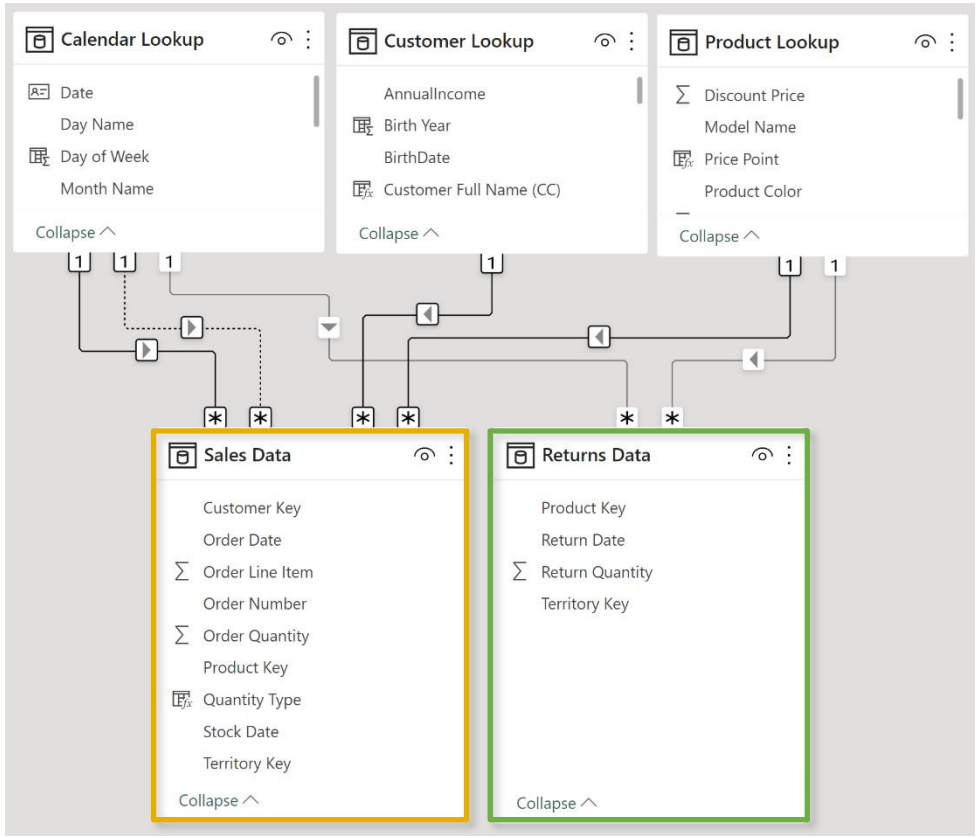
Sales

date	product_id	transactions
1/1/2017	4	12
1/2/2017	4	9
1/3/2017	4	11
1/1/2017	5	16
1/2/2017	5	19
1/1/2017	7	11



- If we try to connect the tables above using **product_id**, we'll get a **many-to-many relationship** warning since there are multiple instances of product_id in both tables
- Even if we force this relationship, how would we know which product was actually sold on each date – **Cream Soda** or **Diet Cream Soda**?

CONNECTING MULTIPLE FACT TABLES



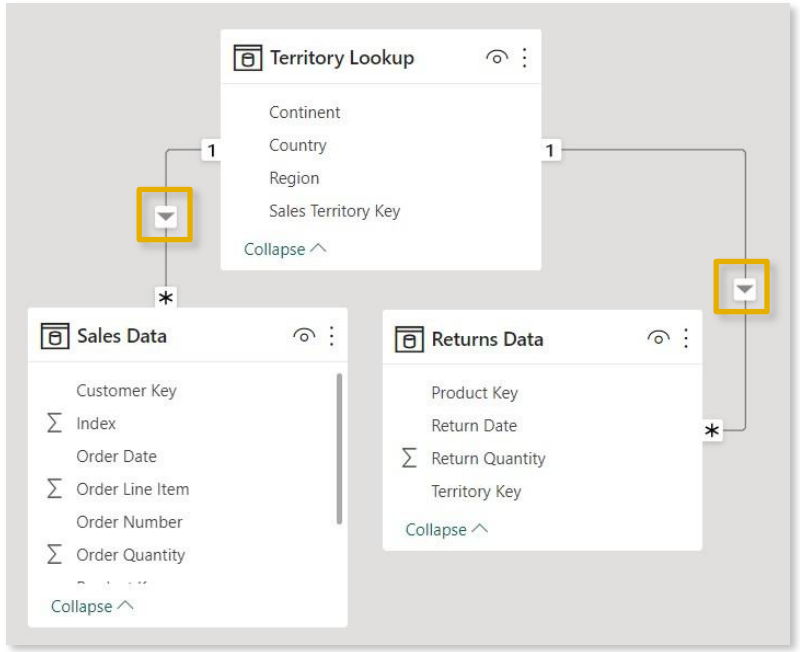
This model contains two fact tables: **Sales Data** and **Returns Data**

- Since there is no primary/foreign key relationship, we can't connect them directly to each other
- But we *can* connect each fact table to related lookups, which allows us to filter both sales and returns data **using fields from any shared lookup tables**
- We can view orders and returns by product since both tables relate to Product Lookup, but we can't view returns by customer since no relationship exists

HEY THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Generally speaking, fact tables should **connect through shared dimension tables, not directly to each other**

FILTER CONTEXT & FLOW



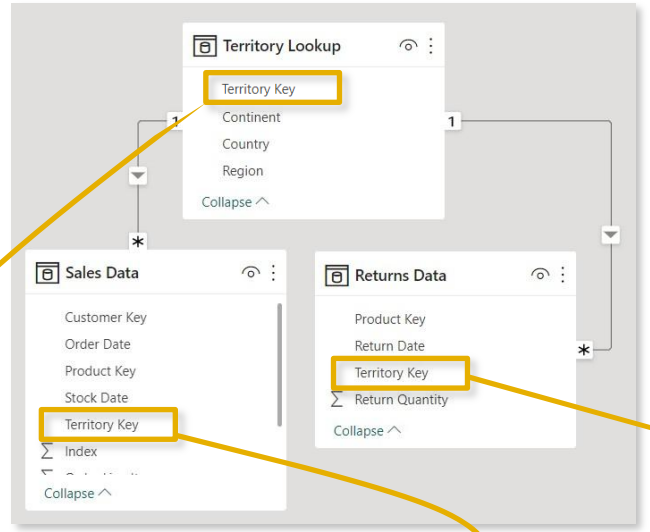
Here we have two data tables (**Sales Data** and **Returns Data**), connected to **Territory Lookup**

The arrows show the **filter direction**, and point from the one (**1**) side of the relationship to the many (*****) side

- When you filter a table, that **filter context** is passed to any related "downstream" tables, following the arrow's direction
- Filter context CANNOT flow "upstream"

PRO TIP: Arrange lookup tables above fact tables in your model as a visual reminder that **filters always flow downstream**

EXAMPLE: FILTER FLOW



In this model, the only way to filter both **Sales** and **Returns** data by **Territory** is to use the **Territory Key** from the lookup table, which is upstream and related to both fact tables

- Filtering using Territory Key from the **Sales** table yields **incorrect Returns values**, since the filter context can't flow to any other table
- Filtering using Territory Key from the **Returns** table yields **incorrect Sales values**, and is limited to territories that exist in the returns table

TerritoryKey	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
1	12,513	270
2	40	
3	30	
4	17,191	362
5	49	1
6	9,694	238
7	7,862	186
8	7,950	163
9	17,951	404
10	9,694	204
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

*Filtering by **Territory Lookup**[Territory Key]*

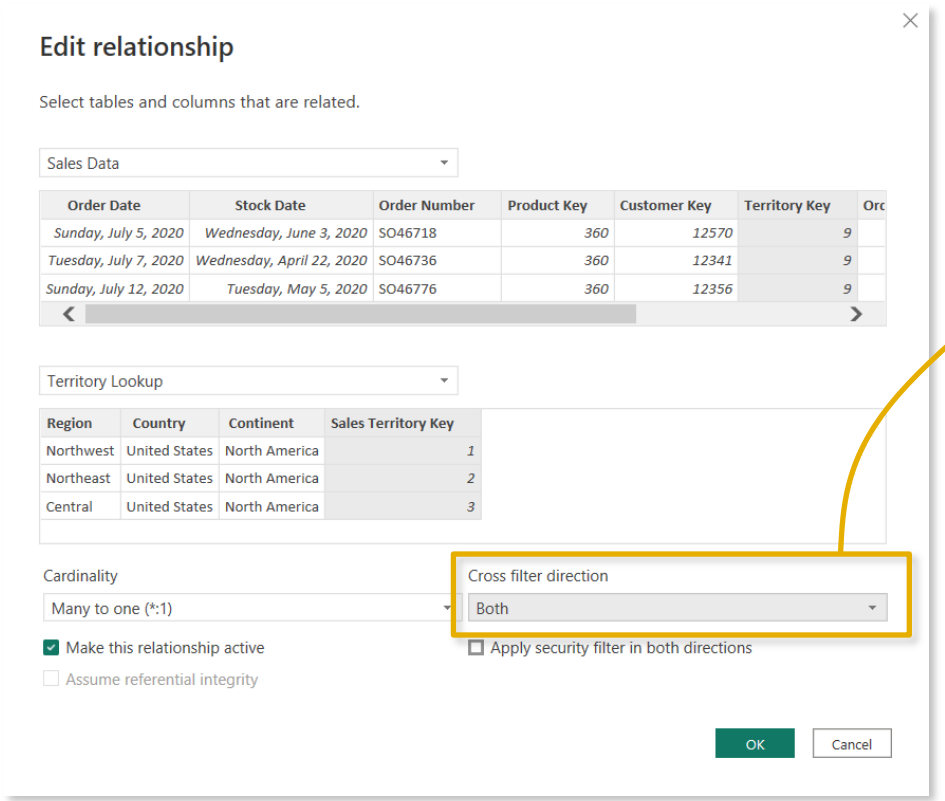
TerritoryKey	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
1	12,513	1,828
2	40	1,828
3	30	1,828
4	17,191	1,828
5	49	1,828
6	9,694	1,828
7	7,862	1,828
8	7,950	1,828
9	17,951	1,828
10	9,694	1,828
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

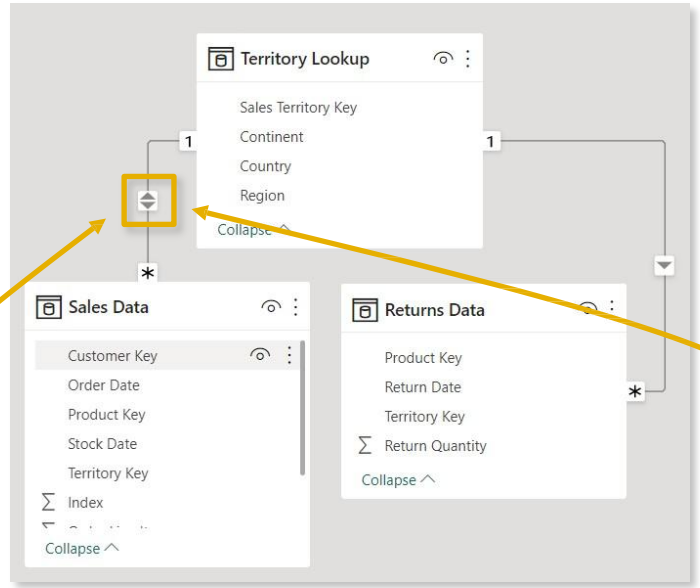
*Filtering by **Sales Data**[Territory Key]*

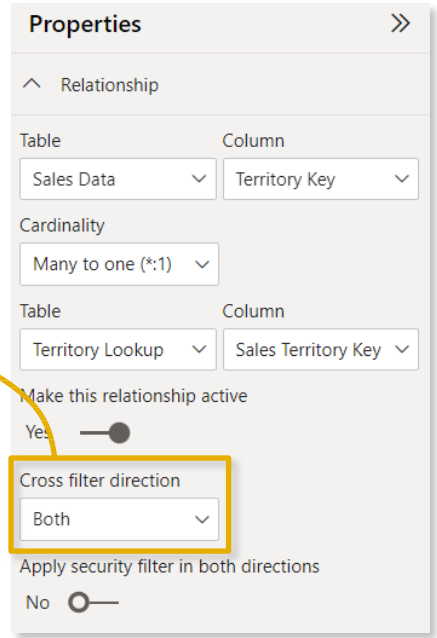
TerritoryKey	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
1	84,174	270
4	84,174	362
5	84,174	1
6	84,174	238
7	84,174	186
8	84,174	163
9	84,174	404
10	84,174	204
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

*Filtering by **Returns Data**[Territory Key]*

BI-DIRECTIONAL FILTERS





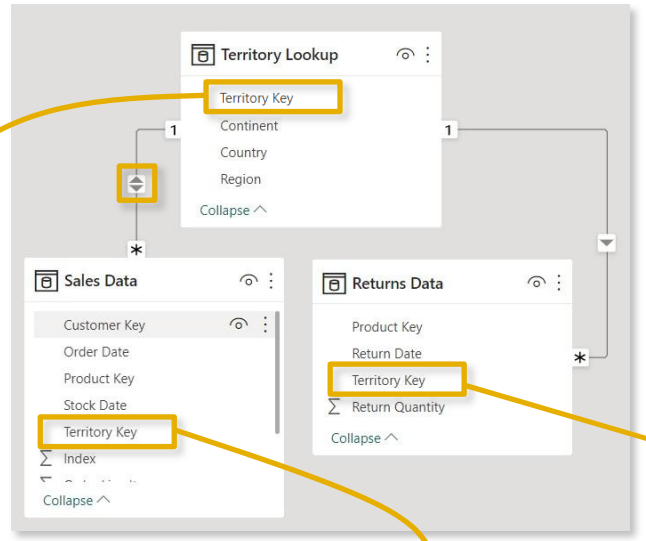


Updating the **cross-filter direction** from **Single** to **Both** allows filter context to flow in either direction

- In this example, filters applied to the **Sales** table can pass up to the **Territory Lookup** table, then down to **Returns**

**The "Apply security filter in both directions" option relates to row-level security (RLS) settings, which are out of scope for this course*

EXAMPLE: BI-DIRECTIONAL FILTERS



With two-way cross-filtering enabled between **Sales** and **Territory**, we now see correct values using **Territory Key** from *either* table

- Filter context can now pass up to the **Territory Lookup** table, then downstream to **Returns**
- However, we still see incorrect values when filtering using Territory Key from the **Returns** table, since the filter context is isolated to that single table

TerritoryKey	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
1	12,513	270
2	40	
3	30	
4	17,191	362
5	49	1
6	894	238
7	7,862	186
8	7,950	163
9	17,951	404
10	9,694	204
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

*Filtering by **Territory Lookup**[Territory Key]*

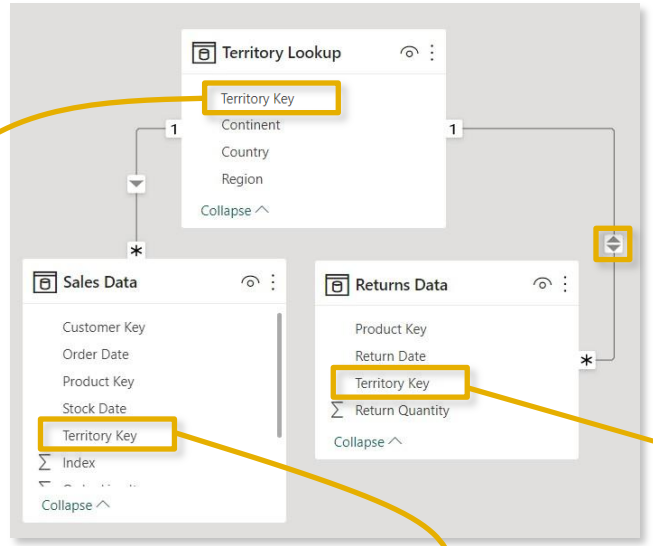
TerritoryKey	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
1	12,513	270
2	40	
3	30	
4	17,191	362
5	49	1
6	894	238
7	7,862	186
8	7,950	163
9	17,951	404
10	9,694	204
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

*Filtering by **Sales Data**[Territory Key]*

TerritoryKey	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
1	84,174	270
4	84,174	362
5	84,174	1
6	84,174	238
7	84,174	186
8	84,174	163
9	84,174	404
10	84,174	204
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

*Filtering by **Returns Data**[Territory Key]*

EXAMPLE: BI-DIRECTIONAL FILTERS



In this case, we've enabled two-way cross-filtering between the **Returns** and **Territory** tables

- As expected, we now see incorrect values when filtering using Territory Key from the **Sales** table, since the filter context is isolated to that single table
- While the values *appear* to be correct when filtering using Territory Key from the **Returns** table, we're **missing sales data** from any territories that didn't appear in the returns table (specifically Territories **2** & **3**)

TerritoryKey	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
1	12,513	270
2	40	
3	30	
4	17,191	362
5	49	1
6	10,894	238
7	7,862	186
8	7,950	163
9	17,951	404
10	9,694	204
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

*Filtering by **Territory Lookup**[Territory Key]*

TerritoryKey	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
1	12,513	1,828
2	40	1,828
3	30	1,828
4	17,191	1,828
5	49	1,828
6	10,894	1,828
7	7,862	1,828
8	7,950	1,828
9	17,951	1,828
10	9,694	1,828
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

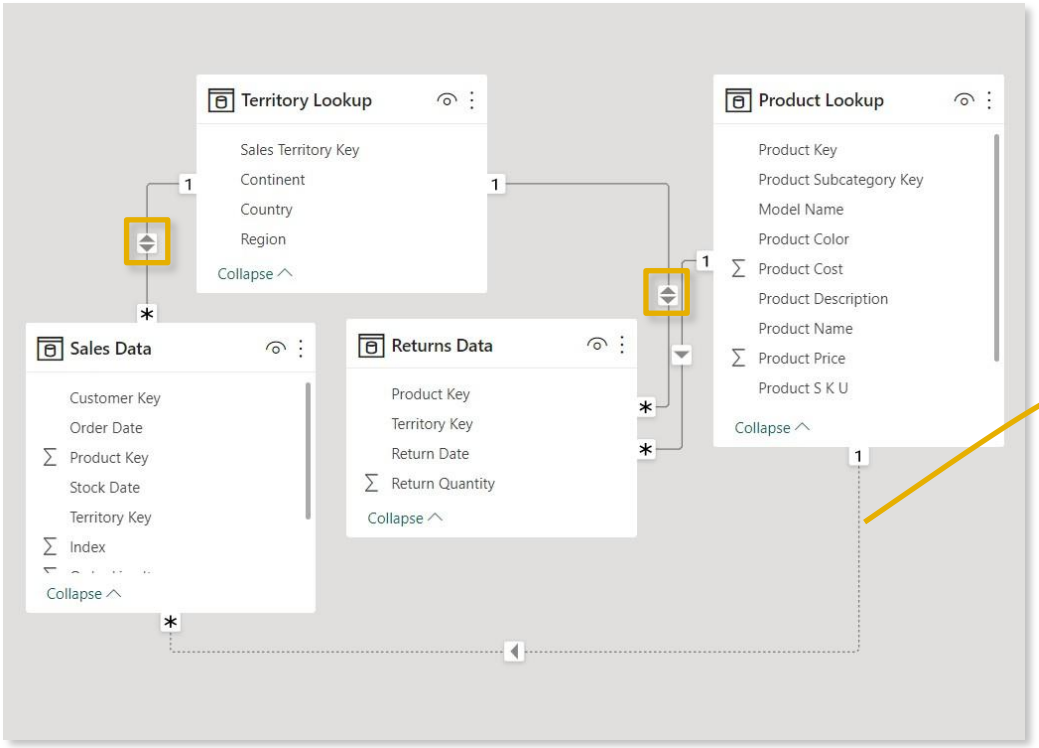
*Filtering by **Sales Data**[Territory Key]*

TerritoryKey	OrderQuantity	ReturnQuantity
1	12,513	270
4	17,191	362
5	49	1
6	10,894	238
7	7,862	186
8	7,950	163
9	17,951	404
10	9,694	204
Total	**84,174**	**1,828**

*Filtering by **Returns Data**[Territory Key]*

*Territories 2 & 3 don't exist in the **Returns** table, so they aren't included in the filter context that passes to **Territory Lookup** and **Sales***

AMBIGUITY



Use two-way filters carefully, and **only when necessary**

- Using multiple two-way filters can cause **ambiguity** by introducing multiple filter paths between tables

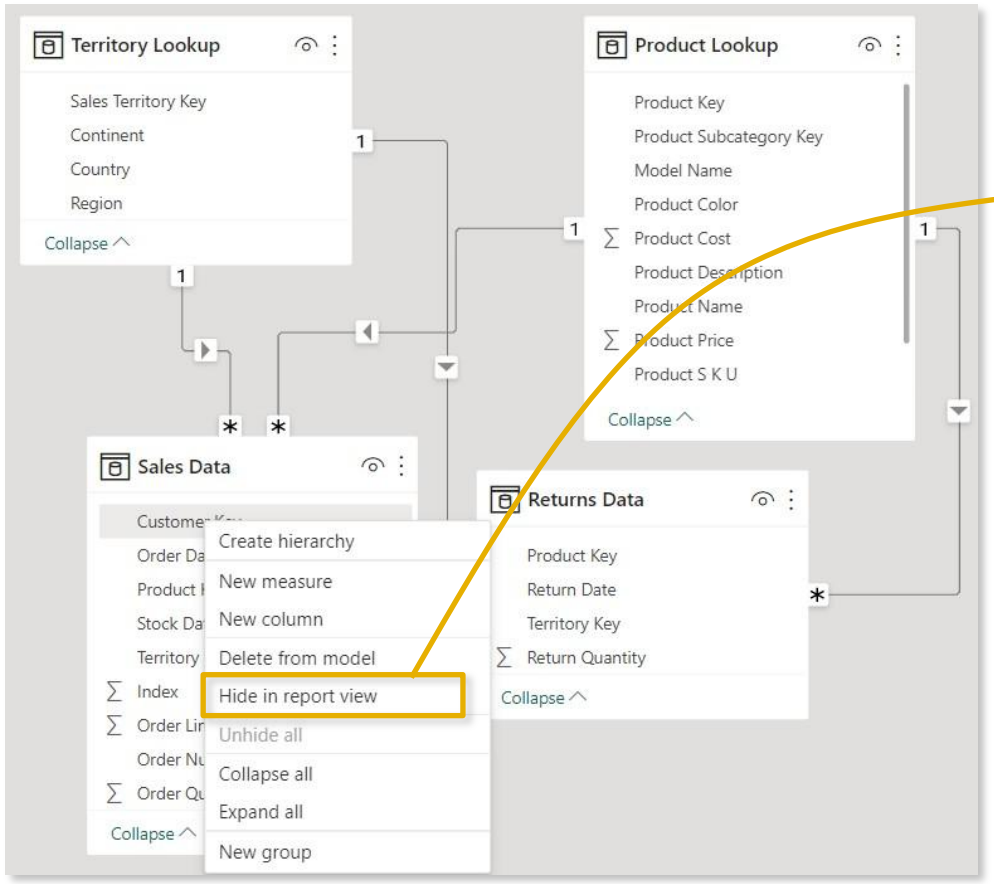
> You can't create a direct active relationship between Sales_Data and Product_Lookup because that would introduce ambiguity between tables Product_Lookup and Territory_Lookup. To make this relationship active, deactivate or delete one of the relationships between Product_Lookup and Territory_Lookup first.

*In this example, filter context from the **Product** table can pass down to **Returns** and up to **Territory Lookup**, which would be filtered based on the Territory Keys passed from the Returns table*

*With an active relationship between **Product** and **Sales** as well, filter context could pass through **either the Sales or Returns table to reach the Territory Lookup table**, which could yield conflicting filter context*

PRO TIP: Design your models with **one-way filters** and **1:many cardinality** unless more complex relationships are absolutely necessary

HIDING FIELDS



Hide in Report View makes fields inaccessible from the Report tab, but still available in **Data** and **Model** views

- This can be controlled by right-clicking a field in the Data or Model view, or by selecting "**Is hidden**" in the Properties pane
- This is commonly used to prevent users from filtering using invalid fields, reduce clutter, or to hide irrelevant metrics from view

PRO TIP: Hide the **foreign keys** in fact tables to force users to filter using **primary keys** in dimension tables

ASSIGNMENT: FILTER FLOW

NEW MESSAGE

From: **Dana Modelle** *(Analyst)*

Subject: **Larry's gone rogue!**

Hey there, we've got another problem.

Larry from Sales just sent me this screenshot. I think he must have downloaded our Power BI model and messed with some relationships, because I KNOW we had sales for product 338.

Can you help diagnose what's going on, and prevent him from doing this again?

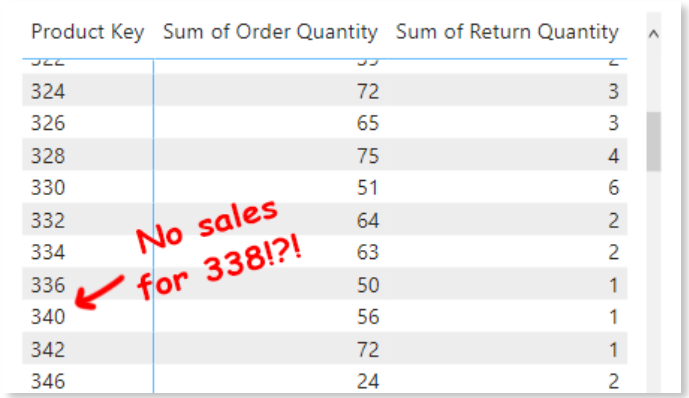
-Dana

P.S. Kevin says hi

Reply Forward

Key Objectives

1. Replicate Larry's matrix below to diagnose what he must have done to the model*



Product Key	Sum of Order Quantity	Sum of Return Quantity
324	72	3
326	65	3
328	75	4
330	51	6
332	64	2
334	63	2
336	50	1
340	56	1
342	72	1
346	24	2

   - Which product is #338?
   - Why didn't Larry's matrix show any orders?

2. Hide any remaining foreign keys to prevent other users from making the same mistake

***Hint**: you may need to temporarily change a relationship to bi-directional*

SOLUTION: FILTER FLOW

NEW MESSAGE

From: **Dana Modelle** *(Analyst)*

Subject: **Larry's gone rogue!**

Hey there, we've got another problem.

Larry from Sales just sent me this screenshot. I think he must have downloaded our Power BI model and messed with some relationships, because I KNOW we had sales for product 338.

Can you help diagnose what's going on, and prevent him from doing this again?

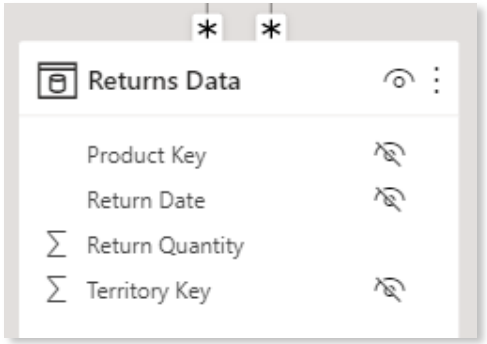
-Dana

P.S. Kevin says hi

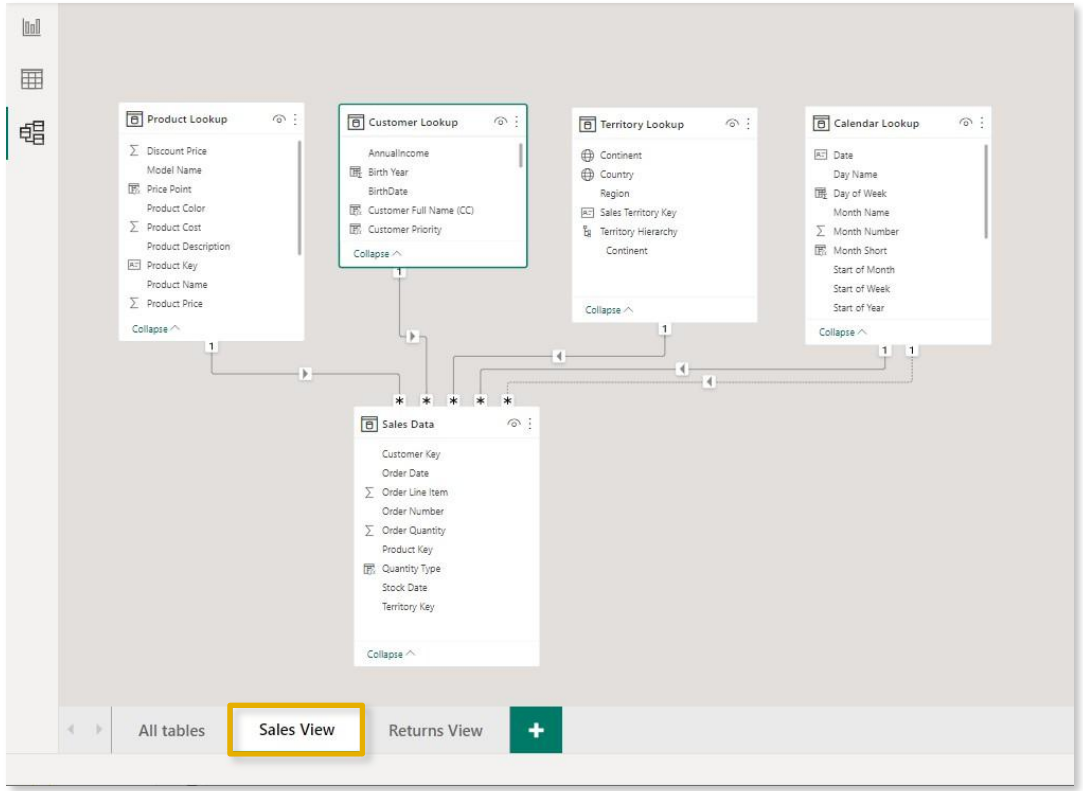
Reply Forward

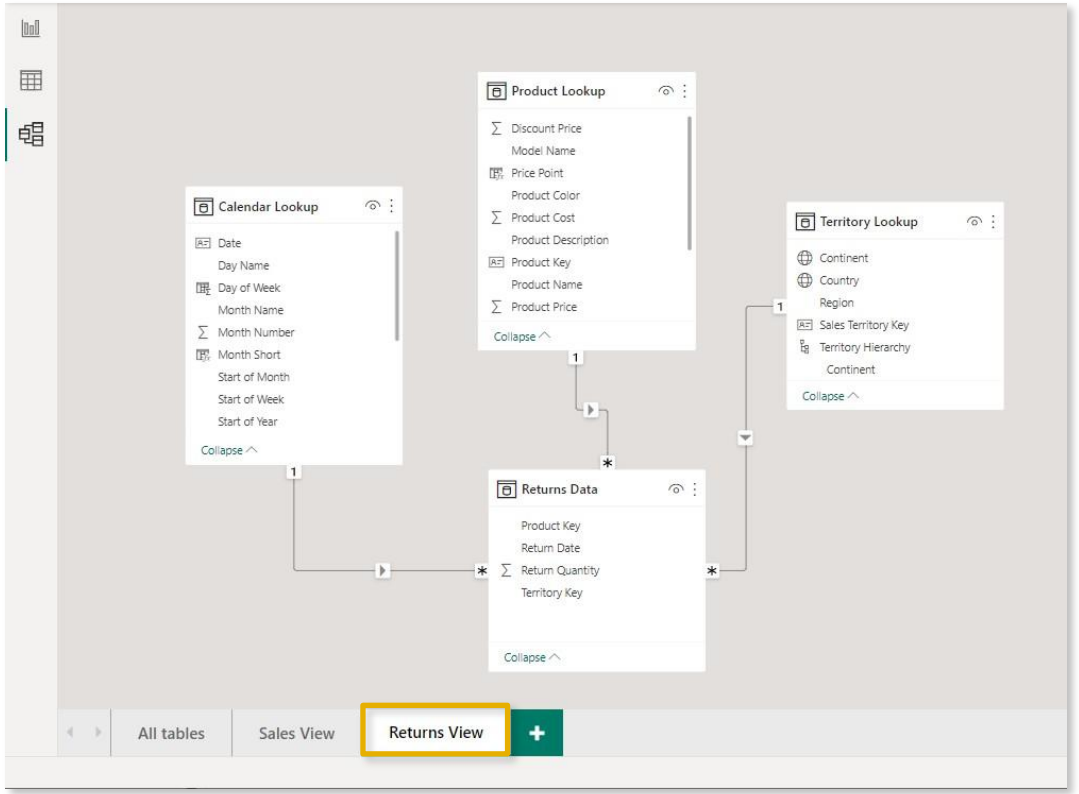
Solution Preview

1. Larry must have changed the relationship between **Returns Data** and **Product Lookup** to **bi-directional**, and filtered his matrix using product_id from the Returns table
   - Road bike (Road-650 Black, 44)
   - Product 338 doesn't exist in the Returns table, so it was excluded when that filter context passed to the Sales table

2. 

PRO TIP: MODEL LAYOUTS



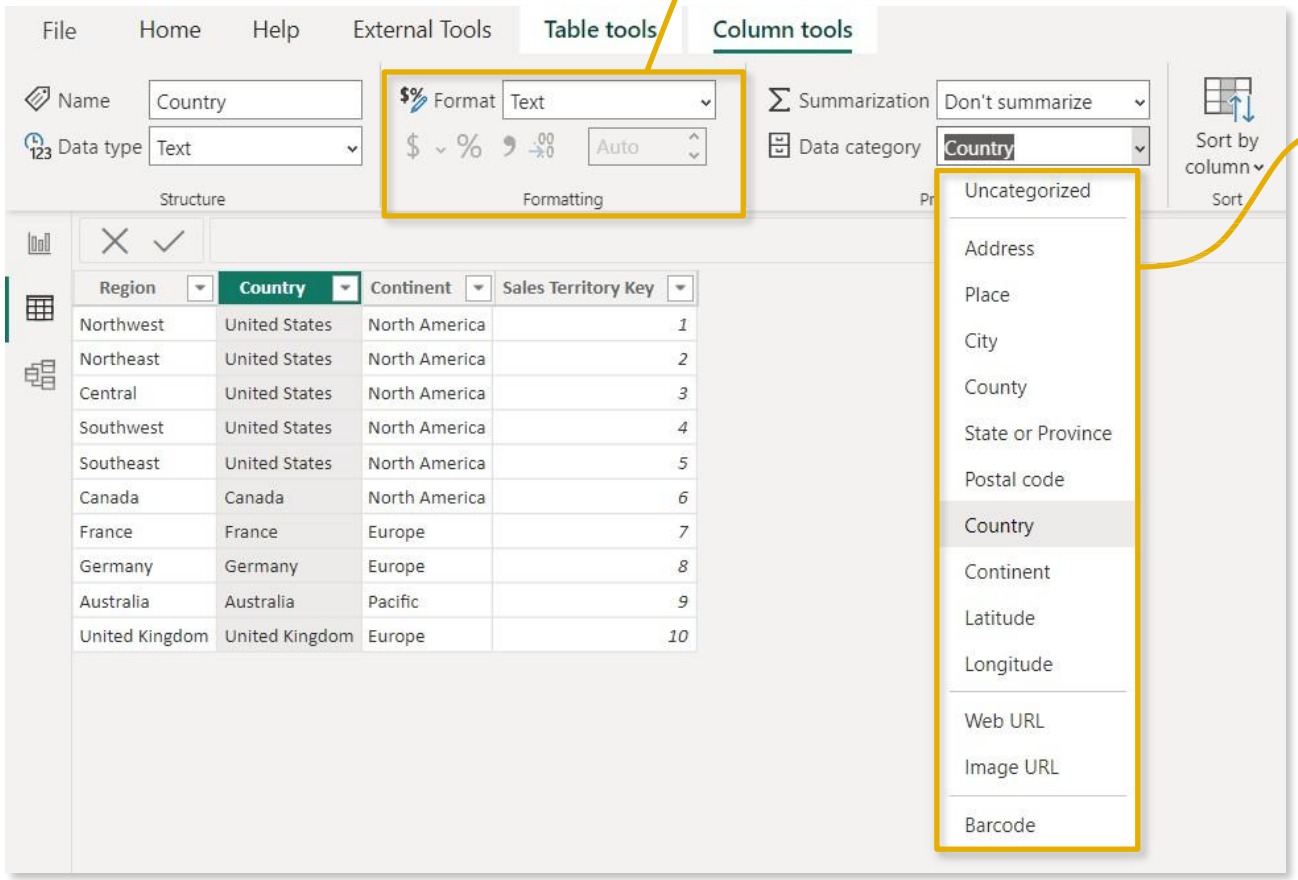


Model layouts allow you to create custom views to show specific portions of large, complex models

- Here we've created a **Sales View** displaying only tables related to sales, and a **Returns View** displaying only tables related to returns *(**Note**: this doesn't actually create duplicate tables)*

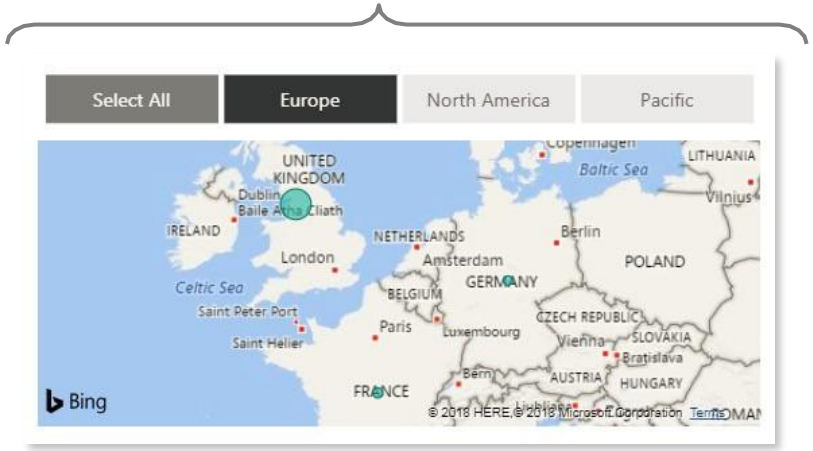
DATA FORMATS & CATEGORIES

Customize **data formats** from the Column tools menu in the **Data** view or the Properties pane in the **Model** view



Assign **data categories** for geospatial fields, URLs or barcodes

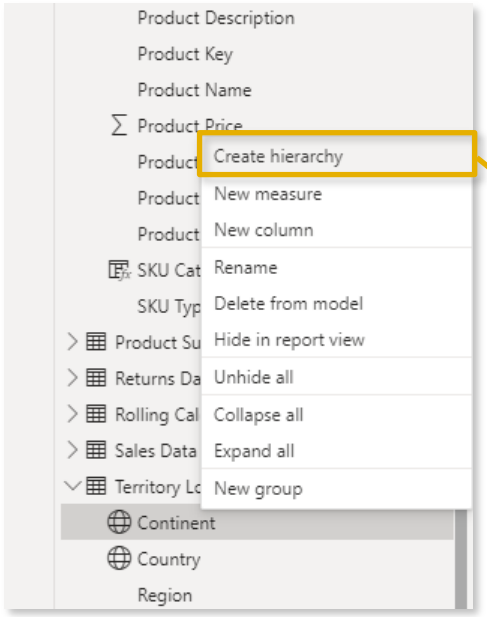
- This is commonly used to help Power BI map location-based fields like addresses, countries, cities, coordinates, zip codes, etc.



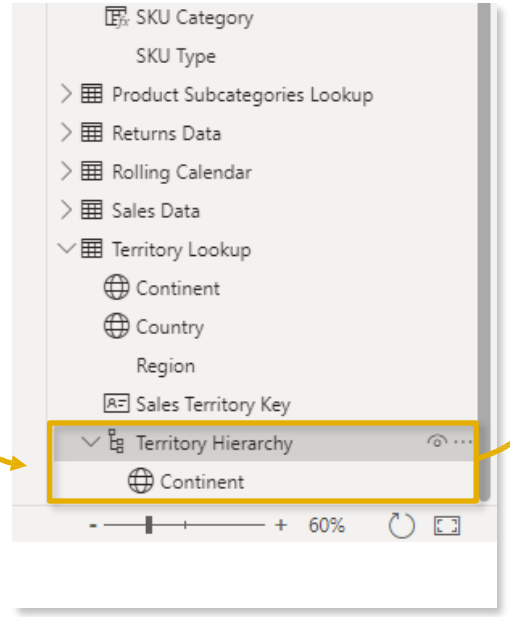
HIERARCHIES

Hierarchies are groups of columns that reflect multiple levels of granularity

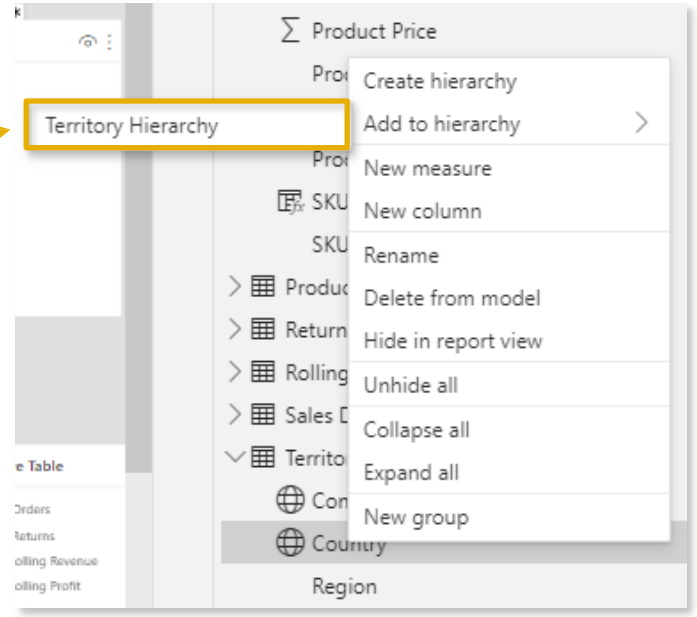
- For example, a **Geography hierarchy** might include **Country**, **State** and **City** fields
- Hierarchies are treated as a **single item** in tables and reports, allowing users to "drill up" and "drill down" through each level



*In the **Data** pane, right-click a field and select **Create hierarchy***



*This hierarchy contains "Continent", and is named "**Territory Hierarchy**"*



*Right-click another field (like "Country") and select **Add to Hierarchy** (or drag it in!)*

ASSIGNMENT: HIERARCHIES

1

NEW MESSAGE

From: **Dana Modelle** *(Analyst)*

Subject: **Adding a date hierarchy**

Good morning!

Hoping you can help with a quick request.

Since we'll be doing a lot of time-series analysis, Ethan asked us to add a date hierarchy to the model so that users can quickly view trends at any level of granularity (year, month, day, etc.)

Please get that added before our afternoon call. Thanks!

-Dana

Reply Forward

Key Objectives

1. Create a new hierarchy based on the **Start of Year** field, and name it "**Date Hierarchy"**

2. Right-click or drag to add fields until your hierarchy contains the following (in this order):
    - **Start of Year**
    - **Start of Month**
    - **Start of Week**
    - **Date**

3. Add your new hierarchy to the matrix visual (on rows) and practice drilling up and down between each level of granularity

SOLUTION: HIERARCHIES

NEW MESSAGE

From: **Dana Modelle** *(Analyst)*

Subject: **Adding a date hierarchy**

Good morning!

Hoping you can help with a quick request.

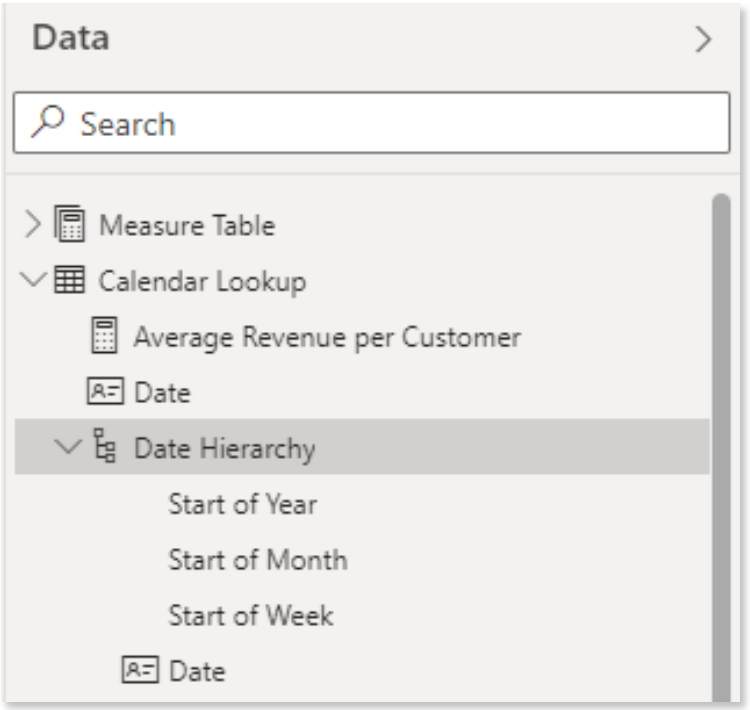
Since we'll be doing a lot of time-series analysis, Ethan asked us to add a date hierarchy to the model so that users can quickly view trends at any level of granularity (year, month, day, etc.)

Please get that added before our afternoon call. Thanks!

-Dana

Reply Forward

Solution Preview



DATA MODEL BEST PRACTICES

Focus on building a normalized model from the start

- *Leverage relationships and make sure that each table serves a clear, distinct purpose*

Organize dimension tables above data tables in your model

- *This serves as a visual reminder that filters always flow "downstream"*

Avoid complex relationships unless absolutely necessary

- *Aim to use 1-to-many table relationships and one-way filters whenever possible*

Hide fields from report view to prevent invalid filter context

- *This forces report users to filter using primary keys from dimension tables*