

# Introduction to Data Access and Storage

Thomas Rosenthal - DSI @ UofT

Session 01

# Introduction:

Welcome

What is SQL?

Data Modelling

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Data Modelling

# Welcome

## About Us

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## Quick Technical Check

# Welcome

## About Us

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## Quick Technical Check

# About Us (Thomas)

- Fell into SQL in my first job out of undergraduate
- Worked as a Data Analyst in US healthcare until moving to Canada in 2018
  - Challenging data
  - Easy to see impact of good queries
  - I was pretty naive about data, probably lucky I didn't break anything 🤪
- Worked as a Data Engineer at Plan Canada managing a CRM Data Warehouse backend
- Went back to UofT to do my Master of Information
  - Wanted to do less SQL, more R and python
  - SQL seemed like it was on its way out...NOPE, I was just wrong
- Reluctant Data Scientist (*do we even need this model?*)
  - Currently doing AI Governance and Ethics implementation at Dataiku
- Have a 3 year old Samoyed named Alto who takes up a lot of my free time 👉



# About Us (Ernani)

- UofT (DSI) & Master of Engineering in S&T at McMaster University
- Electrical & Telecom Engineer
- DSI cohort 3
- Cloud AWS Architecture, Unix / Linux & Data Science
- Facial Action Coding System Instructor (Paul Ekman / F-M Group International)
- Hobbies: Photography, Math challenges, Reading, Neuroscience



# About Us (James)

- UofT Engineering undergrad and master 🐾
- Licensed engineer in an oil & gas company sending robots into pipelines 🤙
- DSI cohort 3
- Self-taught woodworking hobbyist 🪚
- Real hobbies: motorcycle 💪, leisure skating 🎩, camping 🔥



# About Us (Niyaz)

- Master's in Artificial Intelligence with a deep understanding of machine learning algorithms, data science, and advanced computational techniques
- 15 years of experience in software development, database design, and query optimization
- DSI cohort 2
- Co-founder of a company offering web design, SEO, and Google Ads services in Canada
- Experienced mentor and facilitator in product development, focusing on code reviews and Agile practices to ensure quality and continuous improvement
- I always enjoy helping others learn while continuously learning myself



# Welcome

## About Me

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# Course Content

- Data Modelling, Data Structures, Schemas, Basic Data Management, Normal Forms
- Basic SQL Syntax
- Essential SQL Syntax
- Advanced Techniques
- Importing and Exporting Data to and from SQL
- SQL's relationship to the Machine Learning Pipeline
- Data Stewardship, Ethics, and SQL in the Wild

# Course Tools

- DB Browser for SQLite: *Where we will write code*
- GitHub: *Module Overview*
- Etherpad: *Where we will keep track of session progress*
  - Visit and complete the sign in prompt at the start every session
- SQLite documentation: *For SQL specific questions*
- DrawIO or Lucid: *For Assignments*
- Code Share: *To share code during our live coding sessions*
  - This is for convenience only during live coding sessions, use the repo after the session instead
- Mentimeter (links vary): *Small in-class quizzes, ungraded*

# Course Content

## Github Repo

<https://github.com/UofT-DSI/sql>

- Schedule
- These slides (HTML & PDF)
- Our database for live coding
- All in-class code
- Assignment details and rubrics
- Policies, due dates, etc

**It is crucial you visit the repo throughout the course, as I may make minor changes and push new content.**

# Course Content

- This course is an *Introduction* to SQL
- At the end of the course, I hope you will:
  - Feel comfortable with SQL
  - Know how to search for the right thing on Stack Overflow
  - Read documentation
- We won't cover advanced topics like:
  - Stored Procedures, Triggers, Jobs
  - DBA work (monitoring, server setup, etc)
  - Complex ETL or tooling



The screenshot shows the SQLite Database Browser interface with a list of employees. The code at the top defines a table named 'Employees' with columns: EmployeeID, LastName, FirstName, Title, BirthDate, HireDate, Address, City, State, Zip, and Notes.

```
1  select *  
2  from Employees  
3  where city = 'Redmond'  
4  and state = 'WA'  
5  and type = 'Customer'  
6  -40100128  account Security Software stores that stores were it witnesses.  
7  -The first witness time at the last time in 'Northwestern Dr'.  
8  -The second witness, named Account, three witnesses in 'Picado Ave' - Redmond  
9  
10 select * from persons  
11 where address_number <= 1000  
12 select address_number from persons  
13 where address_street_name like '%Northwestern Dr%'  
14 order by address_number desc  
limit 10  
-40071 Acme Moller 4000779 1000 Picado Ave 02977148  
-14887 Murph Schaper 1100008 4000 Northwestern Dr 02988940  
  
15 select * from customers  
16 where person_id like '40071...'  
17 -I want a plural and the plural of the singular is 'customers' so I have to use 'customer' here.  
18 -The customer number can be the associated with 'sales'. Only good customers have sales.  
19 -The plural of 'customer' is 'customers' and the singular is 'customer'.  
20  
21 select * from persons  
22 where id like '40071...'  
23 and constituency_address = 'grid'  
24 -40071A 00000000 00000000 00000000 grid  
-400000000000 00000000 00000000 00000000 grid  
  
25 select * from persons  
26 where location_id IS NULL  
27 select id from locations  
28 where place_number like '400427PN'  
  
29 -400798 Tuker Chandra 00047801 010 Pkwy 06 1079888875  
-400518 Jenkins Browne 40000007 0000 Washington St Apt 0A 0210000075  
-400000000000 00000000 00000000 00000000  
  
30 select * from customers  
31 where person_id = '40071...'  
32 -40071 I was tested by a witness with a lot of money
```

**Software:**  
**DB Browser for SQLite**

# Course Content

## Assignments

- Two assignments, released on Monday of each week.
- Broken into three sections:
  - Section 1 focuses on database design
  - Sections 2 and 3 on sql writing
- Each sections states about when you can start working on the answers
- Review questions/answers in Office Hours course support
- Database design sections are more time consuming
  - Especially Assignment 2. **Do not put this off too much.**
- SQL sections are designed to be relatively easy (with a couple of hard questions)
  - Reaffirms what we wrote together
  - Doing work on your own helps reinforce the learning
- ChatGPT probably won't help you much

# Course Content

## Grading

- Pass/Fail. Do the work, pass the course :)
- Assignment 1: 30% of mark
- Assignment 2: 70% of mark
- Review rubrics for full details
- Class Attendance: *not graded this cohort, come anyways!*
  - Let myself or course support know if you are unable to attend a lesson
  - Code along!! Best way to learn.



# Welcome

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## Quick Technical Check

# Quick Technical Check

Let's make sure everyone has DB Browser for SQLite installed.

If not, please download it here: <https://sqlitebrowser.org/dl/>

For live coding:

- Please download/fork the FarmersMarket.db from our GH repo:
  - [https://github.com/UofT-DSI/sql/blob/main/05\\_src/sql/farmersmarket.db](https://github.com/UofT-DSI/sql/blob/main/05_src/sql/farmersmarket.db)
- Open it in SQLite with the "Open Database" button and navigate to wherever you have saved it

Good to go?

If not, please message your course support

# Getting Started:

Welcome

What is SQL?

Data Modelling

# What is SQL?

SQL

Flavours

Environments for SQL

# What is SQL?

SQL

Flavours

Environments for SQL

# SQL

## SQL Fundamentals

- SQL: Structured Query Language
  - Pronounced as either S.Q.L. (ess-cue-ell) or “sequel”
- SQL is a *query* language rather than a programming language
  - Querying is closer to telling a computer *what you want*, rather than *what it has to do*
  - SQL code is often less reproducible than other programming languages because it's domain specific
    - Some SQL code, especially more advanced procedural code, is reproducible within the same flavour
  - SQL's domain is databases and is based on set theory
- Designed to manage data within Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMs), e.g.
  - MSSQL
  - Oracle DB
  - MySQL/MariaDB
  - PostgreSQL

# SQL

## SQL Formatting

- Like other programming/query languages, SQL has reserved keywords/commands to perform instructional operations
  - Generally, these keywords are written in all caps: `SELECT`
  - Most modern interpreters no longer require this, but it is the expected standard
- All statements/queries should end with a semicolon
  - A few SQL constructs (like common table expressions, we'll get to these later) require them, otherwise they are optional
    - I'll almost certainly forget to use them
    - There's some debate over whether or not it's best practice

# SQL

## SQL Formatting

- In SQL, white space and/or line breaks do not matter
  - Readability is important
  - Try to keep SQL statements to a reasonable screen width
  - Use sensible line breaks
  - Offset subqueries with indents
- Code is commented in/out with `--` rather than `#`
- Code blocks can be commented out with `/* */`

```
/*
somecode spanning
multiple lines
*/
```

# What is SQL?

SQL

Flavours

Environments for SQL

# Flavours

- RDBMs differ from one to the next:
  - different keywords
    - e.g. return only 10 rows: `SELECT TOP 10...` vs `SELECT ... LIMIT 10`
  - different syntax
    - e.g. not equal: `!=` or `<>` (or both)
  - other, more nuanced/complex differences
    - e.g. architecture, data types, etc
- We are using SQLite:
  - Super easy to get setup
  - Requires almost no overhead
  - Open source, *free*
  - Similar enough in syntax to learn on
  - Used all over the world and in many applications
    - e.g. Firefox uses a SQLite backend to write a user's history locally

# Flavours

- Broad observations about Open Source systems:
  - Excellent at what they are designed for
  - Varying data types (SQLite has some unique ones!)
  - Not every command exists, but workarounds are usually possible
  - Some utilize RDBMs that feel extremely outdated
- Broad observations about enterprise systems:
  - Powerful and designed to handle edge cases
  - Feel a bit more refined
    - Can be version dependent
  - Tend to "lock in" businesses/organizations
    - Migration is costly, sometimes outrageously so
  - Newer players (Snowflake, Databricks, etc) and cloud providers (Azure, AWS, GCP, etc) offer a lot more functionality than just database querying
    - Sometimes use different terminology to describe SQL tasks

# What is SQL?

SQL

Flavours

Environments for SQL

# Environments for SQL

## Databases

- Relational databases are a collection of tables, views, procedural code, and other SQL-assisting artefacts
  - Generally the data stored in a database will be related to a real-world concept
  - Backends to data-collecting systems are often databases
    - e.g. CRMs, EMR software, ERPs, web-based applications
  - Usually not connected to other databases unless deemed necessary
  - Often transactional, meaning data is actively being written to by frontend systems
  - Tables are normalized
- There are also non-relational databases, often referred to as NoSQL
  - We won't cover these
  - Common tools include: Amazon DynamoDB, Azure CosmosDB, MongoDB, Google Cloud Datastore

# Environments for SQL

## Data Warehouses and Data Marts

- Data Warehouses are highly structured collections of (usually tabular) data
  - Data has been processed for a specific purpose, e.g. analytics
  - Data has been centralized
    - Often with the assistance of ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) tools
  - Have a lot of overhead, require governance, and strict rigidity
  - Tables are denormalized
  - Very common for enterprises, but losing traction in many industries
- Data Marts are created from Data Warehouses to focus on a single subject
  - Designed to make Data Warehouses easier to use
  - Data is structured, but flexibility is driven by the purpose of the Data Mart
  - Some denormalized tables may be normalized or undergo even greater normalization
    - *The subject/purpose of the Data Mart might drive these types of decisions*
  - Common for enterprises that have Data Warehouses

# Environments for SQL

## Data Lakes and Data Swamps

- Data Lakes allow on-demand access to raw, semi-structured, structured, and unstructured data
  - Not defined by a specific purpose
  - Highly scalable
  - Can be transactional, if systems are designed to produce outputs into Data Lakes
  - Often data sources for machine learning pipelines live in Data Lakes
  - Inexpensive compared to Data Warehouses
  - Increasingly common for enterprises to shift towards Data Lakes, especially with support from newer tools like Snowflake, Databricks, etc, which can maximize the analytical value of a Data Lake
- Data Swamps...are poorly governed Data Lakes
  - Lack of documentation, lack of governance, poorly designed Data Lakes become Swamps
  - Avoid building these



# Getting Started:

Welcome

What is SQL?

Data Modelling

# Data Modelling

Relational Database Management Systems

Data Models

Structure of Data

Constraints

(...)

# Data Modelling (continued)

Entity Relationship Diagrams

Attributes of an ERD: Entities & Relationships

Relationship Examples

Conceptual, Logical, Physical Models

Assignment 1 and 2 Data Modelling

# Data Modelling

Relational Database Management Systems

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(...)

# Data Modelling

## Relational Database Management Systems

- Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMs) are software designed to:
  - Store large amounts of data
  - Utilize a query language to allow easy retrieval of the data
  - Allow multiple users to access the data simultaneously
  - Manage permissions for data access
  - Mitigate data corruption and unauthorized access
- Generally, data is stored in a *database*
  - A database is a collection of information
  - Within a database, a collection of objects (e.g. tabular data "tables") is stored
- RDBMs allow users to define interactions between these objects, such as:
  - Establish the relationship between objects
  - Define procedural scripts to query specific data or trigger an action
  - Schedule routine work (e.g. procedures to run, maintenance, etc)

# Data Modelling

Relational Database Management Systems

Data Models

Structure of Data

Constraints

(...)

# Data Modelling

## Data Models

- A data model is a notation for describing data or information
- Data models consist of:
  - Structure of the data
  - Operations
  - Constraints on the data
  - Relationships

# Data Modelling

Relational Database Management Systems

Data Models

Structure of Data

Constraints

(...)

# Data Modelling

## Structure of Data

- SQL is comprised of tables

Breed	Affectionate w/ Family	Good w/ Other Dogs	Shedding	Coat Type	Coat Length	Playfulness	Energy
Pugs	5	4	4	Smooth	Short	5	3
Akitas	3	1	3	Double	Medium	3	4
Samoyeds	5	3	3	Double	Long	5	4

- Tables have Attributes and Observations
  - In SQL we call Attributes "Columns"
    - e.g. Breed, Coat Type, Coat Length
  - and Observations "Rows"
    - e.g. Samoyed, Double, Long
- SQL databases require tables to be named
  - e.g. We can call this table "breed\_traits"

# Data Modelling

## Structure of Data

- Columns are defined (and restricted, i.e. constrained) by data types
- Common ones include:
  - **INT** (integers: 1,2,3,-1,-2,-3)
    - most systems conserve storage space specifying their range
  - **FLOAT, DECIMAL, REAL** (decimal: 5.5, 3.333333)
  - **VARCHAR, NVARCHAR, TEXT** (text strings, with a maximum length associated: 'abc')
  - **DATE, DATETIME, TIME** (dates and times: '2023-01-09', '11:11:11.000')
- These may vary slightly by flavour (in SQLite they are simpler and less restricted)
- Data types are important:
  - They affect operation speed, storage size, data validity
    - Speed: it's computationally less expensive to compute smaller values
    - Storage: small is usually better, but the wrong size will affect systems; e.g. Psy's Gangnam Style exceeded 2,147,483,647 (32-bit signed,  $2^{32}/2-1$ ) views, causing YouTube to expand the view counter to 64-bit (~9.2b if signed)
    - Validity: ensures columns contain the right type of data for operations, e.g. avoiding  $5 + \text{'ten'} = ??$



# Data Modelling

Relational Database Management Systems

Data Models

Structure of Data

Constraints

(...)

# Data Modelling

## Constraints

- Data Models also specify constraints
- Constraints are rules that must be followed:
  - Referential-Integrity constraints
    - Ensure that values in one table have corresponding values in another table
  - Attribute Constraints
    - Ensure that certain types of values are always consistent within columns
    - May also ensure whether values are unique, not missing, etc

# Data Modelling

## Constraints

- **NULL** and **NOT NULL**
  - If a value can be missing or not
- **UNIQUE**
  - All values are different
- **PRIMARY KEY (PK)**
  - Ensures each value in a column is unique within the table (e.g. an ID field)
  - One PK per table
  - Cannot be NULL
  - Ensures database integrity by restricting record deletion
- **FOREIGN KEY (FK)**
  - Creates a linkage between a column in one table and a column in another table
    - Generally, foreign keys are linked to primary keys
    - Sometimes share the same name as the linked column, but this isn't required
    - Linkage requires data types to be the same
  - As many FKS as needed per table
  - May be NULL
  - Record can be deleted

# Data Modelling (continued)

## Entity Relationship Diagrams

Attributes of an ERD: Entities & Relationships

Relationship Examples

Conceptual, Logical, Physical Models

Assignment 1 and 2 Data Modelling

# Data Modelling

## Entity Relationship Diagrams

- Entity Relationship Diagrams (ERDs) are diagrams depicting the structure of tables within a database
  - This both *identifies the tables* and *describes their relationships*
- ERDs are useful for:
  - Database design
  - Debugging
  - Writing logical, consistent, and efficient queries
- There are three levels of detail for ERD depictions:
  - Conceptual model
  - Logical model
  - Physical model

# Data Modelling (continued)

Entity Relationship Diagrams

Attributes of an ERD: Entities & Relationships

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# Data Modelling

## Attributes of an ERD Entity

- For a given table:
  - Name
  - Relationship to another table
  - Column Names
  - Column Types
  - Primary Keys (if present)
  - Foreign Keys (if present)

## Attributes of an ERD Relationship

- Defines which columns are related
- Defines what type of relationship exists:
  - One-to-One
  - One-to-Many
  - Many-to-Many

# Data Modelling (continued)

Entity Relationship Diagrams (ERDs)

Attributes of an ERD: Entities & Relationships

**Relationship Examples**

Conceptual, Logical, Physical Models

Assignment 1 and 2 Data Modelling

# Data Modelling

## Relationship Examples

**One-to-One:** where a given row within a table is associated with only a single row in another table

Table 1: Country – Table 2: Capital City

Table 1:Country	Table 2:Capital
Canada	1:1 Ottawa
USA	1:1 Washington DC
Mexico	1:1 Mexico City

# Data Modelling

## Relationship Examples

**One-to-Many:** where a given row within a table can be referenced by multiple rows in another table

Table 1: Country – Table 2: States

Table 1:Country	Table 2:States
Canada	1: $\infty$ Alberta
Canada	1: $\infty$ British Columbia
Canada	1: $\infty$ ... (11 more rows)
USA	1: $\infty$ Alabama
USA	1: $\infty$ Alaska
USA	1: $\infty$ ... (48 more rows)
Mexico	1: $\infty$ Aguascalientes
Mexico	1: $\infty$ Baja California
Mexico	1: $\infty$ ... (30 more rows)

# Data Modelling

## Relationship Examples

**Many-to-Many:** where multiple rows within a table can be referenced by multiple rows in another table

Table 1: Country – Table 2: Membership

For this example, consider different ways to define "European" membership, such as whether or not a country: 1) is a member of the EU, 2) uses the Euro, or 3) has abolished border controls (Schengen Agreement)

Country	Country ID
Slovenia	001
Sweden	002
Switzerland	003
...(more countries)	...

Membership	Member ID
EU	10
Eurozone	11
Schengen	12

Country ID		Member ID
001	$\infty:\infty$	10
001	$\infty:\infty$	11
001	$\infty:\infty$	12
002	$\infty:\infty$	10
002	$\infty:\infty$	12
003	$\infty:\infty$	12

We can create additional Many-to-Many relationships if we created a table including NATO/UN membership, because many non-European countries are NATO/UN members.



# Data Modelling (continued)

Entity Relationship Diagrams

Attributes of an ERD: Entities & Relationships

Relationship Examples

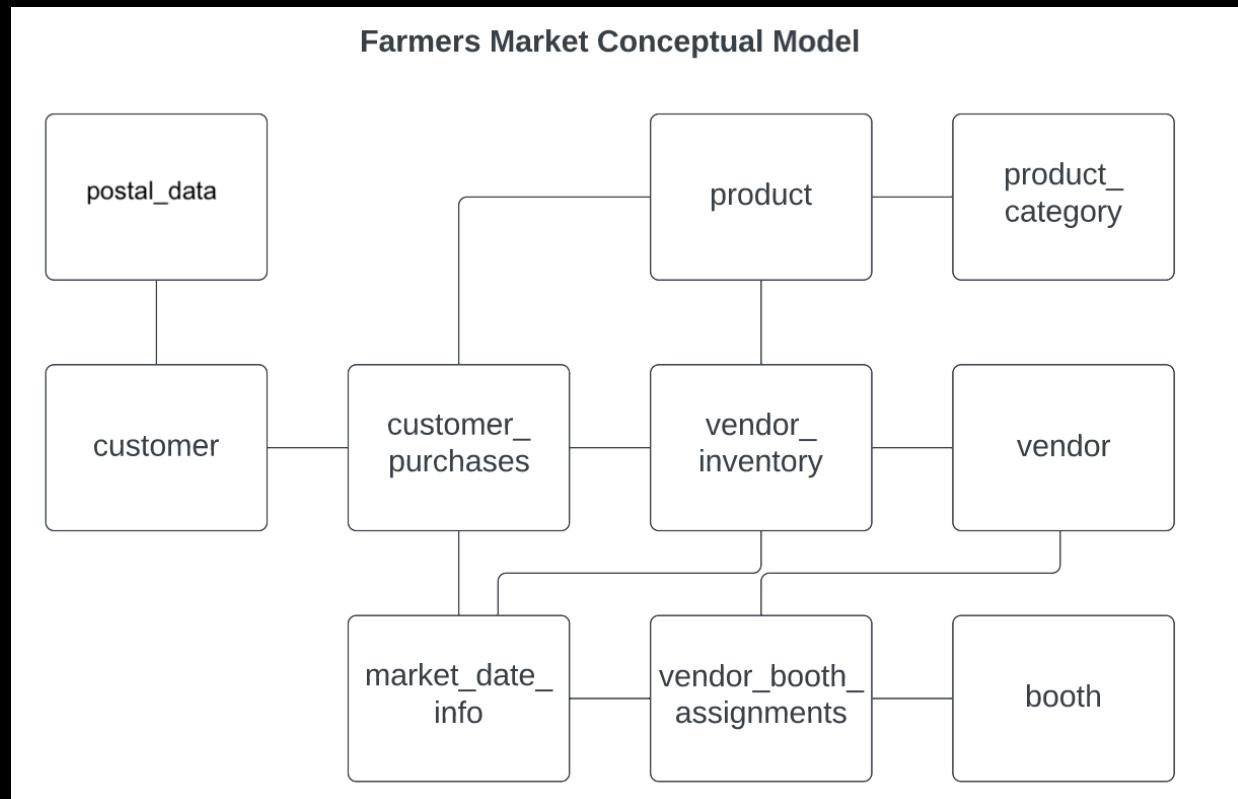
Conceptual, Logical, Physical Models

Assignment 1 and 2 Data Modelling

# Data Modelling

## Conceptual Models

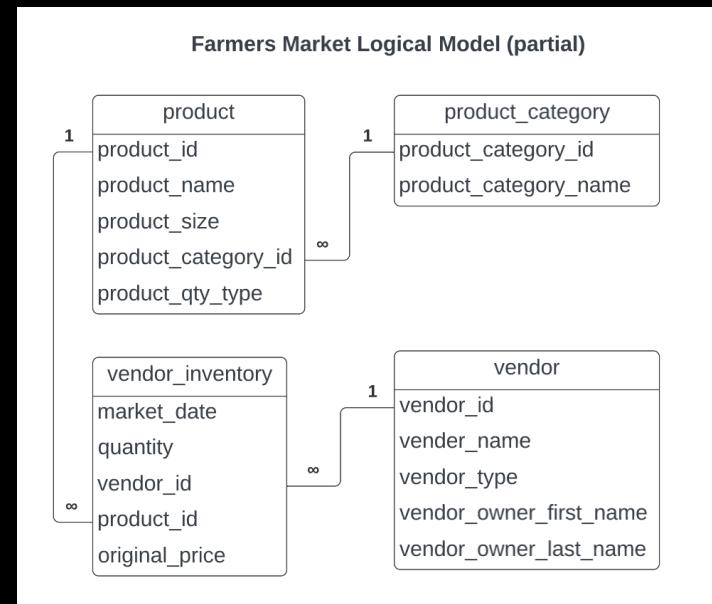
- Define the tables (objects/entities) and their relationships
- Our Farmers Market database:
  - 10 tables
  - Relationships between these tables
    - e.g. product and product\_category: *what type of thing a product is*
    - product and customer\_purchases: *what products a customer has bought*
    - product and vendor\_inventory: *what products each vendor has available*
  - Not all tables share a relationship to one another, but all tables have at least one relationship



# Data Modelling

## Logical Models

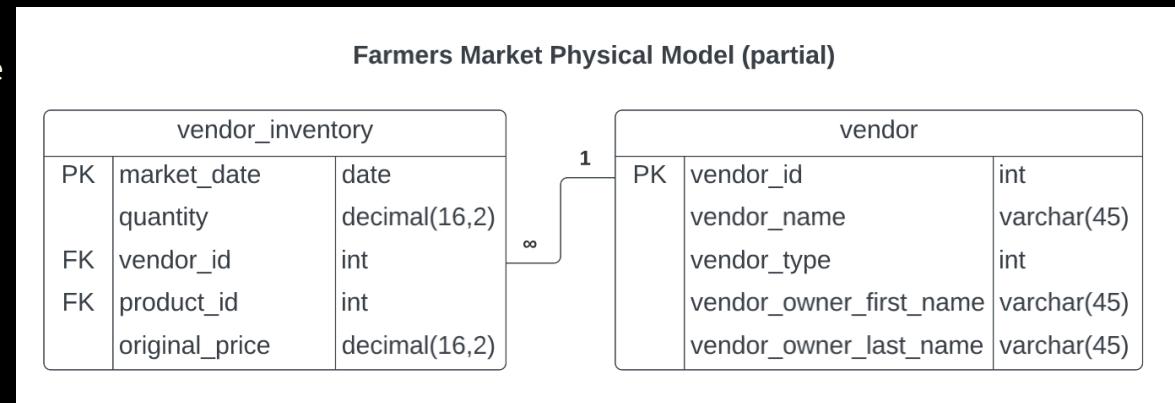
- Add additional detail to the conceptual model by adding column names for each table
- Often indicate the type of relationship
  - One-to-One
  - One-to-Many
  - Many-to-Many
- Our (partial) Farmers Market database:
  - product (5 columns) shares a One-to-Many relationship with vendor\_inventory (5 columns) on product\_id
  - product\_category (2 columns) shares a One-to-Many relationship with product (5 columns) on product\_category\_id
  - \_\_\_\_\_ shares a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ on vendor\_id



# Data Modelling

## Physical Models

- Add additional detail to the logical model by adding key type and column data type
- Our (partial) Farmers Market database:
  - vendor\_id (int) is the PK for vendor, which shares a One-to-Many relationship with vendor\_inventory on vendor\_id (FK)
  - product\_id (int) is a FK for vendor\_inventory (*so elsewhere in this diagram, we'd connect this to a PK of another table*)
  - market\_date (date) is the PK for vendor\_inventory
    - why? 🌸💬 Think, Pair, Share





# Data Modelling (continued)

Entity Relationship Diagrams

Attributes of an ERD: Entities & Relationships

Relationship Examples

Conceptual, Logical, Physical Models

Assignment 1 and 2 Data Modelling

# Data Modelling

## Assignment 1, Section 1: Meet the farmersmarket.db

**Prompt 1)** Choose two tables and create a logical data model. There are lots of tools you can do this (including drawing this by hand), but I'd recommend [Draw.io](#) or [LucidChart](#).

A logical data model must contain:

- table name
- column names
- relationship type

Please do not pick the exact same tables that I have already diagrammed. For example, you shouldn't diagram the relationship between `product` and `product_category`, but you could diagram `product` and `customer_purchases`.

*HINTS:*

- You will need to use the Browse Data tab in the main window to figure out the relationship types.
- You can't diagram tables that don't share a common column (see )
- The column names can be found in a few spots (DB Schema window in the bottom right, the Database Structure tab in the main window by expanding each table entry, at the top of the Browse Data tab in the main window)

# Data Modelling

## Assignment 2, Section 1: Design a Logical Model

**Prompt 1)** Create a logical model for a small bookstore. 

At the minimum it should have employee, order, sales, customer, and book entities (tables). Determine sensible column and table design based on what you know about these concepts. Keep it simple, but work out sensible relationships to keep tables reasonably sized.

Additionally, include a date table.

There are several tools online you can use, I'd recommend [Draw.io](#) or [LucidChart](#).

*HINT:* You do not need to create any data for this prompt. This is a conceptual model only.

**Prompt 2)** We want to create employee shifts, splitting up the day into morning and evening. Add this to the ERD.

**Prompt 3)** The store wants to keep customer addresses. Propose two architectures for the CUSTOMER\_ADDRESS table, one that will retain changes, and another that will overwrite. Which is type 1, which is type 2?

*HINT:* search type 1 vs type 2 slowly changing dimensions.

