Database connections

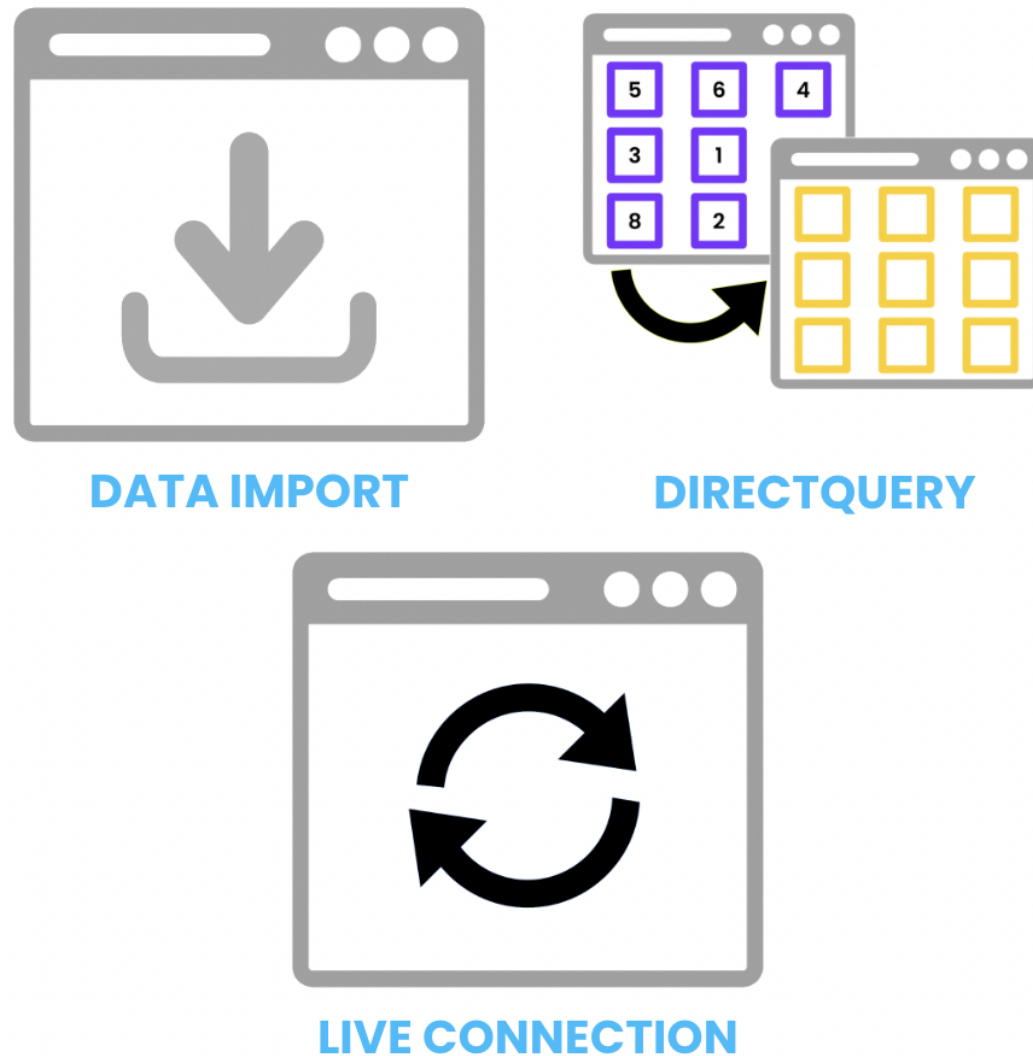## DATA CONNECTIONS IN POWER BI

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Databases in Power BI

- More than 35 different databases supported

- Power BI connects to local and cloud-based databases

- Databases are a type of data source

- Datasets are a collection of the data source and data itself

Storage modes

DATA IMPORT

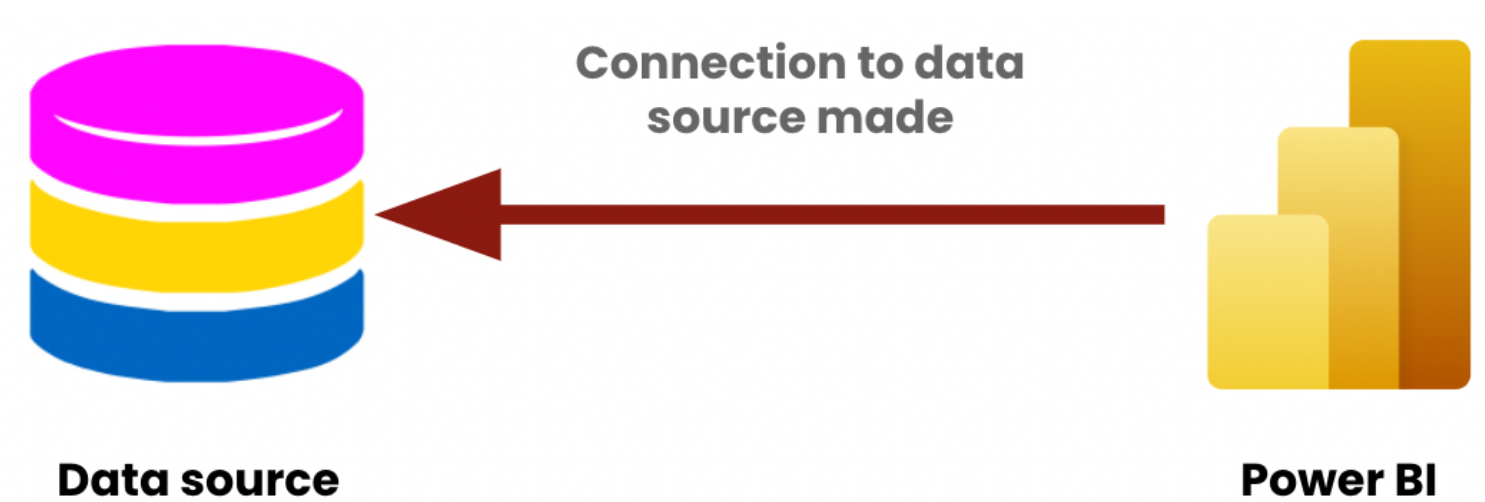**DIRECTQUERY**

LIVE CONNECTION

- Data sources, such as databases, can have multiple connection types - also referred to as storage modes

- There are 3 main connection types:
  - Import
  - DirectQuery
  - Live

- Import storage mode is the default option

- DirectQuery storage mode not as widely available as Import

- Live storage mode not as commonly used

Storage modes: Pros and cons

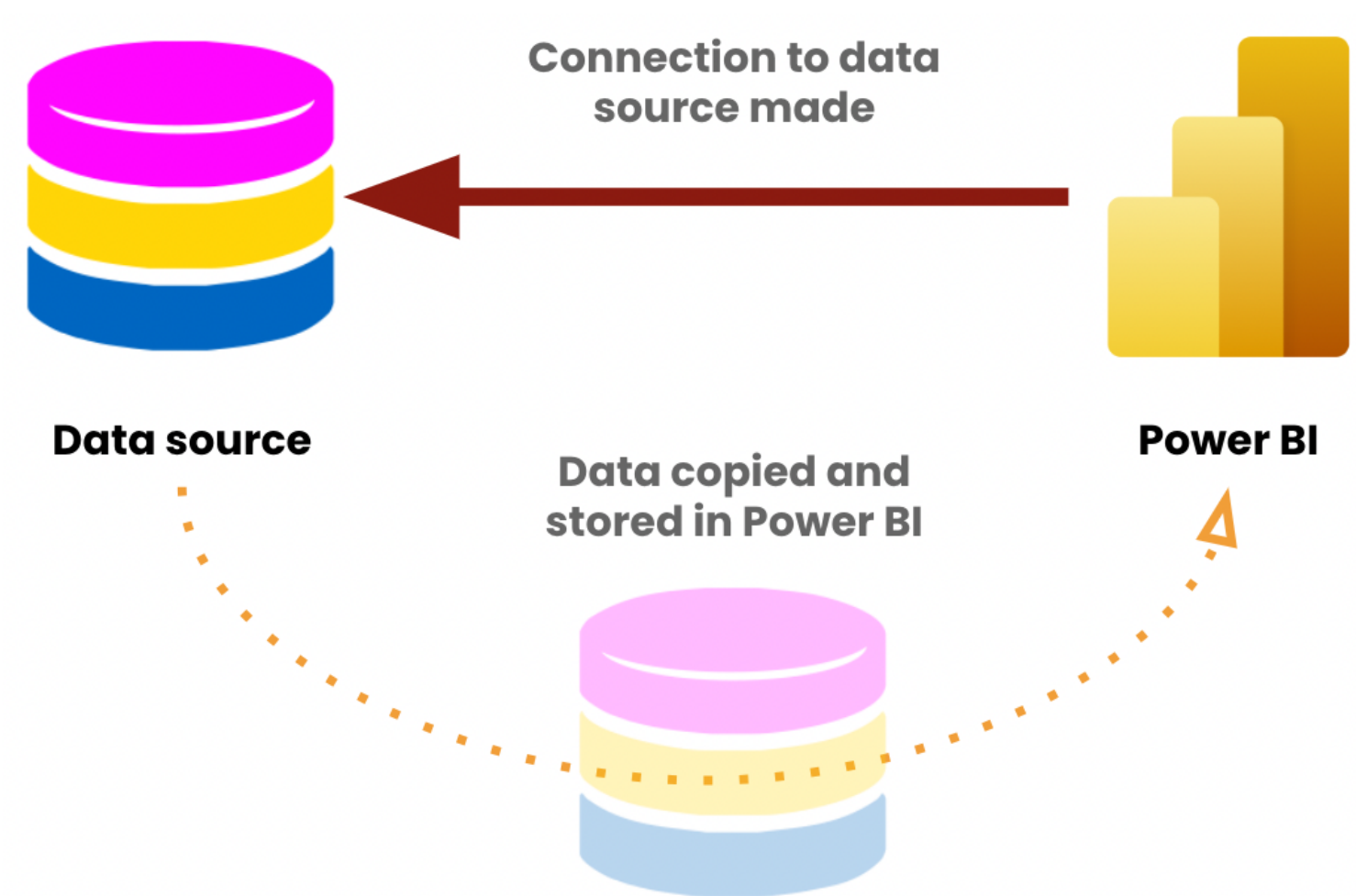| Storage Mode	Pros	Cons
Import	• Fastest possible connection • Full Power Query transformations • Full set of DAX functions available	• Power BI file size limitations • Regular refreshes required • Time consuming refreshes
DirectQuery	• Supports use of large scale datasets • Reports and dashboard "near real-time"	• Any Power BI features have to be in native queries understood by data source • Quick Insights not supported
Live	• Supports use of large scale datasets • Refresh frequency unlimited	• No Power Query • Slower connection type

Import mode

- Default setting that brings in data from data source

Connection to data source made

Data source

Power BI

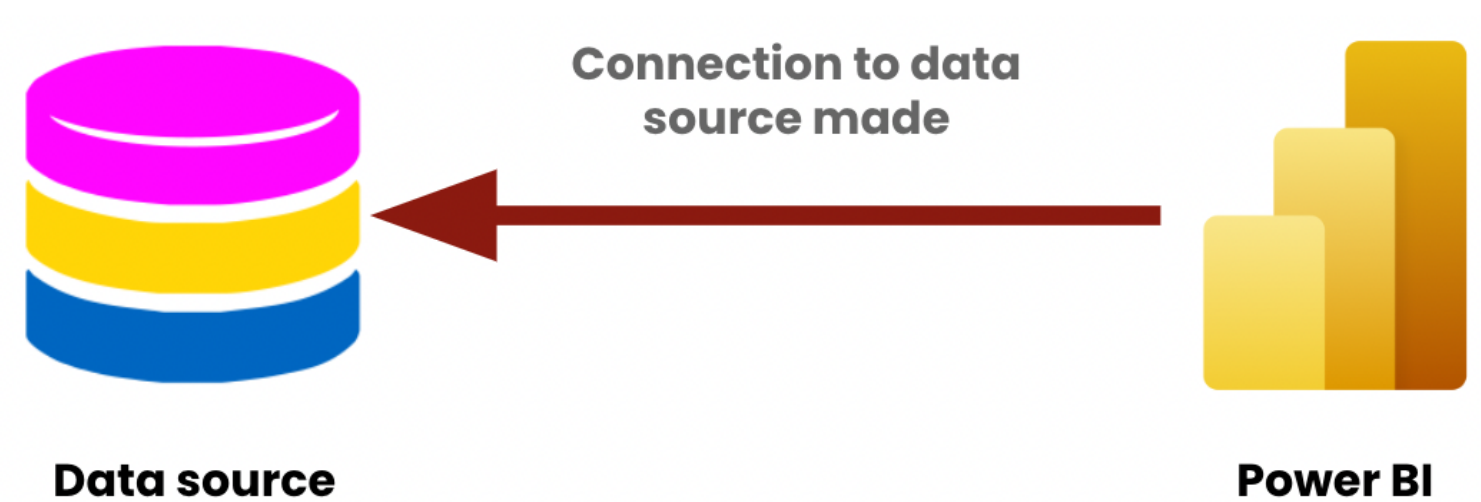# Import mode

- Default setting that brings in data from data source

- Can transform and manipulate data
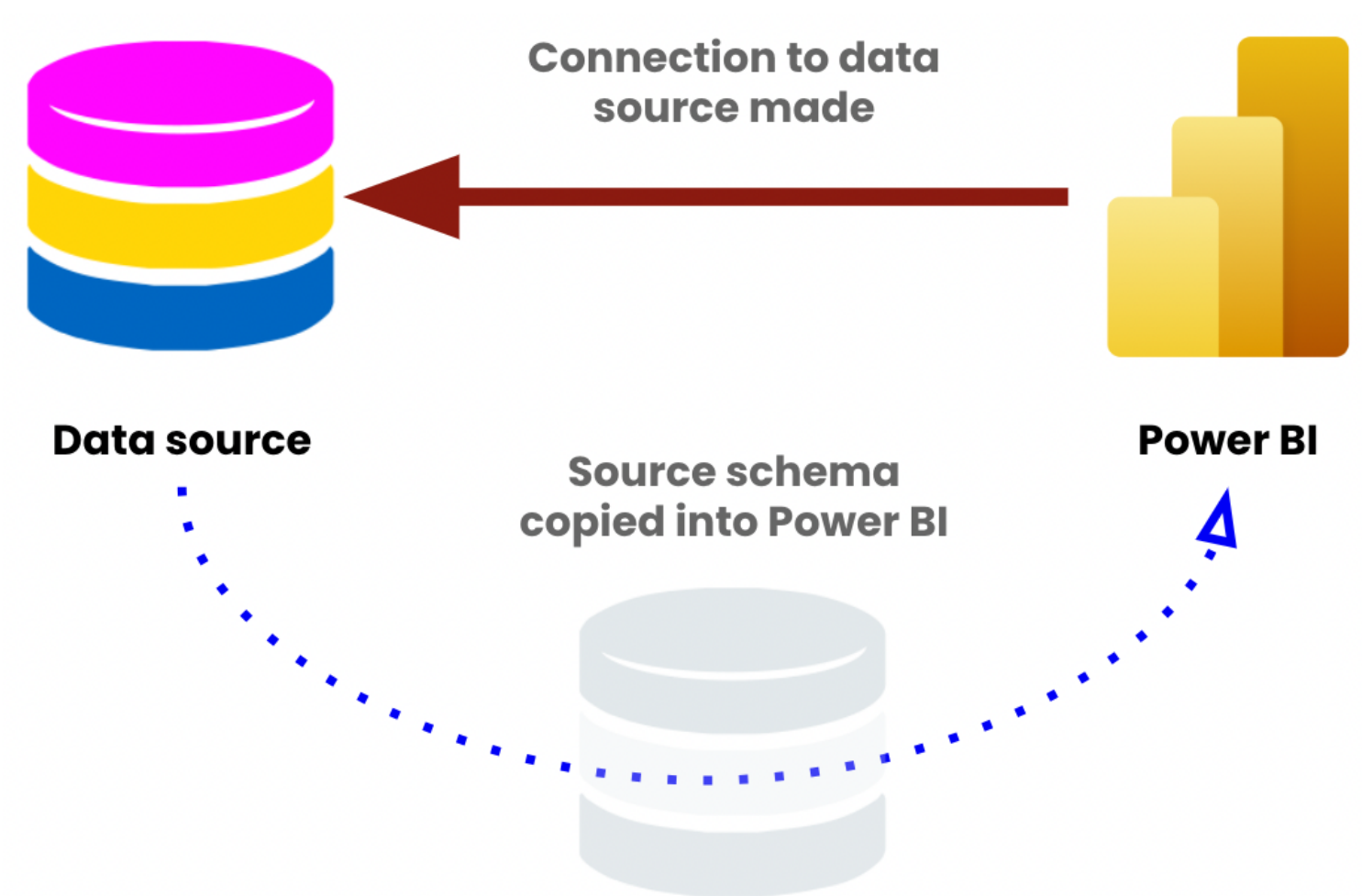
- Access to full capabilities of Power BI

Connection to data source made

Data source

Data copied and stored in Power BI

Power BI

DirectQuery mode

- Available for certain data sources

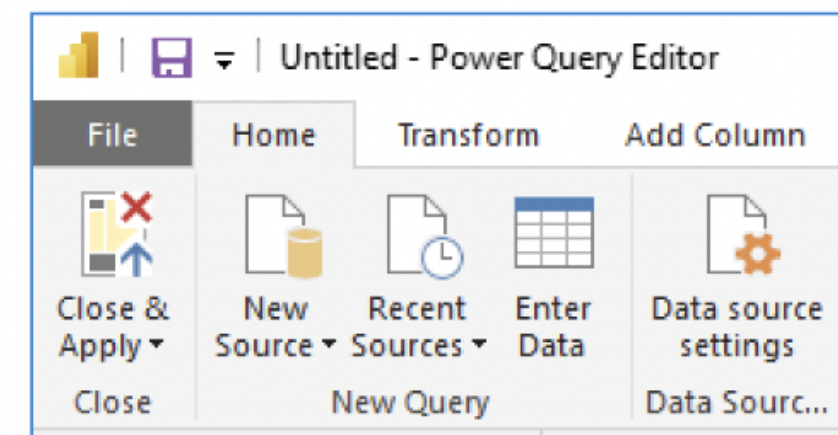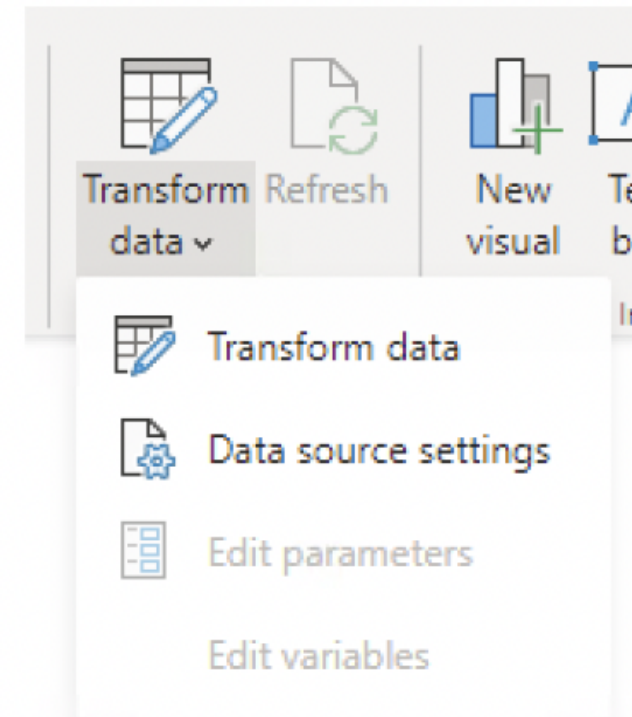Connection to data source made

Data source

Power BI

DirectQuery mode

- Available for certain data sources

- Power BI queries data source when required

- Allows for reduced size of data connections

Connection to data source made

Data source

Power BI

Source schema copied into Power BI

Changing data connections

- Data sources are fluid and can change regularly

- Data connections can be amended after being made

- Users can alter a data connection using a number of options in Power BI Desktop

- A refresh button is available for quick updates

Let's practice!

DATA CONNECTIONS IN POWER BI

Exploring connections

DATA CONNECTIONS IN POWER BI

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Let's practice!

DATA CONNECTIONS IN POWER BI