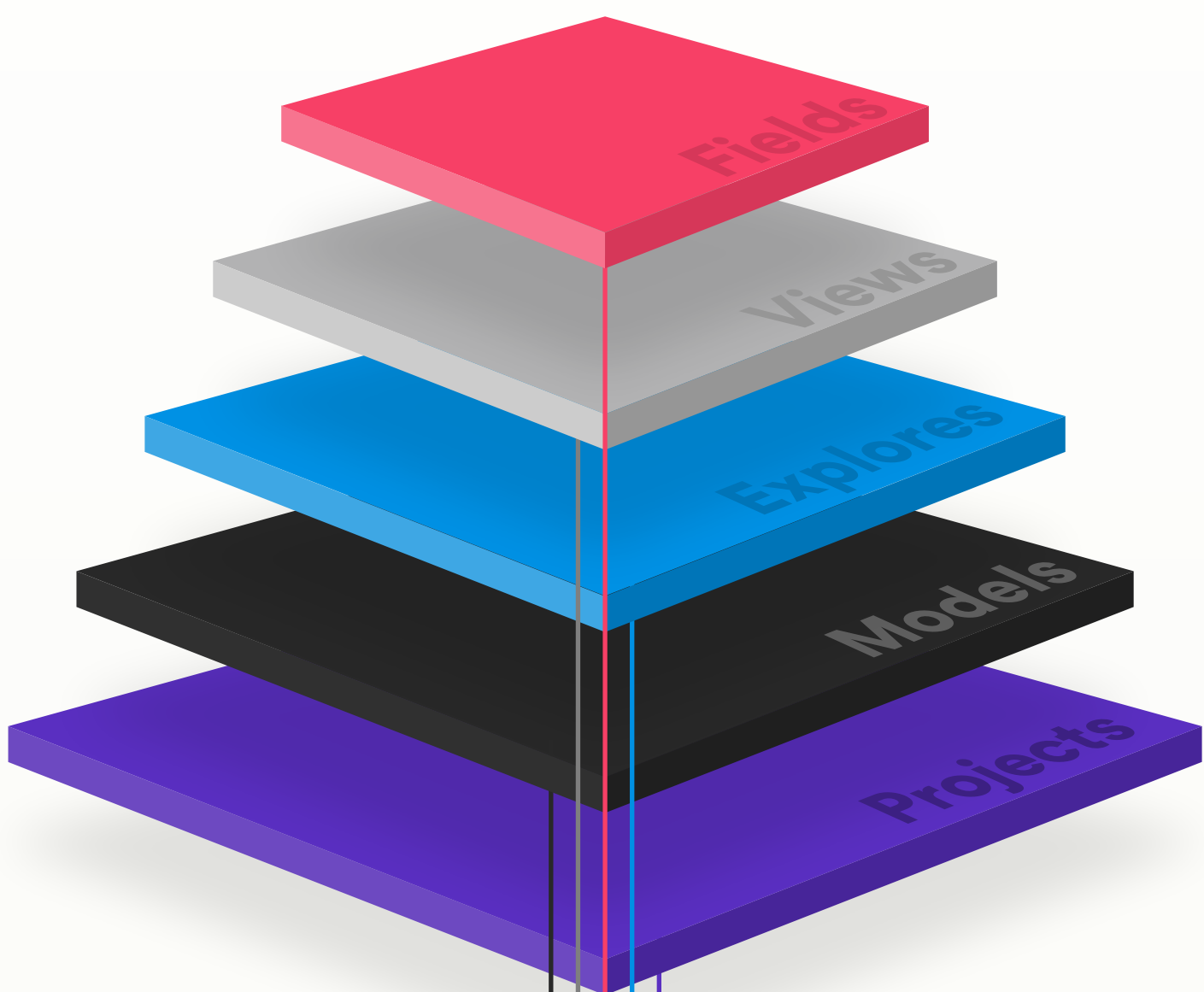# looker

Terms & Concepts

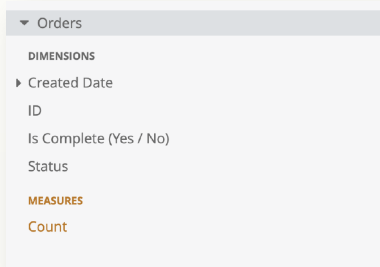The Looker data platform is changing the way analysts and developers explore data.

LookML is the tool used in Looker to describe your dimensions, aggregates, calculations and data relationships from a SQL database. Basically abstracted SQL, LookML makes it incredibly easy for anyone to dive into data and find the answers needed to make better decisions.

We hope this infographic provides a better understanding of how LookML terms relate to one another, and to your data.
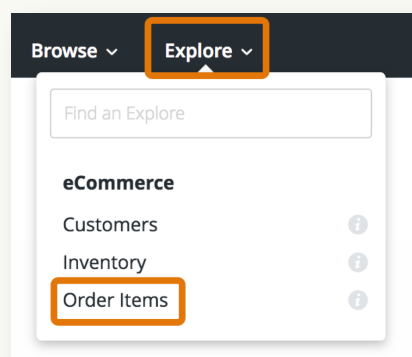
Fields
Views
Explores
Models
Projects

Fields

Dimensions & measures that relate to columns in your database table.

The simplest dimension fields will often correspond to the columns that are present in your database table. You can also use Looker to build your own dimensions on top of those that are available within the underlying table. Measures apply aggregations to underlying table columns or other dimensions that you've defined.

Views

Contain dimensions, measures, & relationships to database table.

View files typically correspond to tables that exist within your database. Within a view file, you'll define all of your dimensions and measures, or field that you want users to be able to include in their queries.
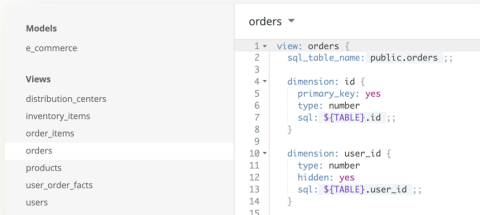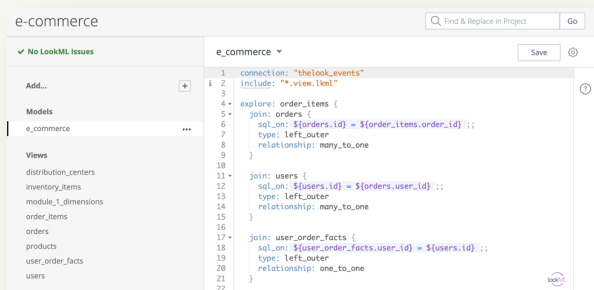
Explores

Define the join logic between views.

An Explore is a starting point for user queries. Explores can be built using a single view or by joining several views together. For Explores built using many views, you are able to define the specific join logic that should be applied so that the generated SQL uses the proper join criteria.
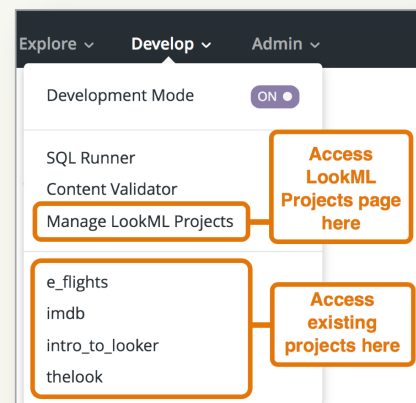
Models

Sets the database connection, contains Explores.

Model files typically contain connection information along with one or more Explore definitions. A project can contain multiple models.

Projects

Collection of Model and View files.

LookML projects contain a collection of Looker files, such as View and Model. Projects are the highest level of Looker object organization and are like independent Looker instances.

Files typically are not shared between projects, so the use of multiple projects is usually best when you have completely separate data sources.

Explore more.

You can find additional documentation on our LookML Terms & Concepts page.

Learn More