

Star Schema

In this project, **Sales_Fact** is used as the central fact table and is directly connected to **Customer_Dim**, **Product_Dim**, **Region_Dim**, and **Date_Dim**.

- Simple structure shaped like a star
- One-to-Many relationships
- Easy to understand and better performance
Used as the **primary data model** for sales analysis.

Snowflake Schema

In a snowflake schema, dimension tables are further **normalized into multiple related tables**.

- More complex structure with additional joins
- Improves data organization but reduces simplicity
- In this project, **Returns_Fact linked with Sales_Fact** demonstrates a **snowflake-like structure** and helps handle inactive relationships.

Used to demonstrate **advanced modeling and relationship handling**.

In short:

- *Star Schema* → Simple, fast, and user-friendly
- *Snowflake Schema* → Normalized, structured, and complex

❓ Relationship ambiguity:

Multiple date relationships between *Sales_Fact* and *Returns_Fact* caused ambiguity.

Resolved by creating an **inactive relationship** for ReturnDateKey and managing it carefully.

❓ Incorrect cardinality risk:

There was a possibility of incorrect many-to-many relationships between fact and dimension tables.

Resolved by properly defining **Primary Keys and Foreign Keys** and enforcing **1-to-Many** cardinality.

❓ Filter direction issues:

Bi-directional filters initially produced unexpected results.

Resolved by using **single-direction filters** and enabling bi-directional filters only where justified.

❓ Data quality issues:

Some columns contained blank values or incorrect data types.

Resolved by cleaning and transforming data in **Power Query** (removing blanks and correcting data types).

