Analytical Data Modeling
(With On-Chain Data)

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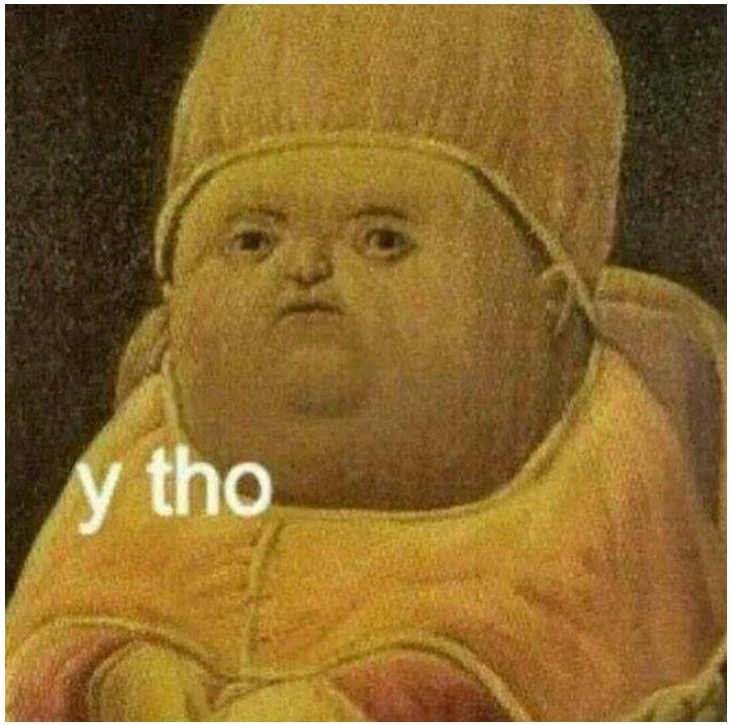
Analytics Engineering



What: transform raw data into clean, reliable data models

Analogy: raw tables are ingredients; models are recipes

Why: speed of analysis, consistency, & reusability

How: applying software engineering principals and technologies to data modeling & analysis

Data Engineers: build data ingestion pipelines & infrastructure

Data Analysts: create queries, reports, & dashboards

Analytics Engineers: build data transformation pipelines with software engineering best practices, but primarily to enable analysts

Data Modeling Concepts

Data Granularity: level of detail of a data model

- *week/day/hour*
- *block/address/transaction*
- *pool/subaccount/worker*

Natural vs Surrogate Key: a unique identifier from the data source vs one generated within the data warehouse

Change Data Capture (CDC): systematically record how & when categorical data changes over time (e.g. name change)

Related: Slowly Changing Dimensions (SCDs)

Normalization vs Denormalization: separating categorical and numerical data vs combining them into flat dataset models

Star Schema Models

Star Schema: a central fact table which joins to one or more dimension tables (**normalized**)

Dimension (Dim): categorical data that is used to aggregate, filter, and sort by (one row per dim entity)

- *date, pool, customer, miner model*

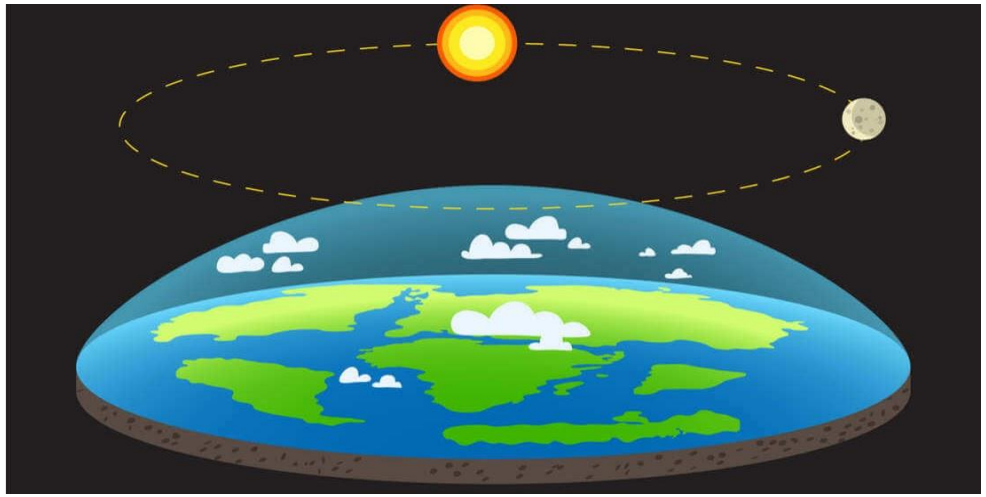
Fact: numerical measurements or events to be aggregated (one row per level of detail)

- *revenue, hashrate, price, worker count*

Pros: reduced storage, reduced code duplication, central sources of truth

Cons: joins required, less intuitive for business users

OBT Models



OBT: Operational BI Table (aka One Big Table)

Flat standalone models (**denormalized**), containing all attributes that would otherwise be broken into dims & facts

Pros: fewer joins required, more intuitive for business users

Cons: increased storage, code duplication, can introduce many categorical flags or partitions needed for filters

Best of Both: build star schemas for primary dims & facts, and application-specific OBTs which read from those dims & facts

Data Warehouse Tools & Tips

Data Build Tool (dbt): data modeling framework that brings automation, testing, & jinja templating to data transformation (core product is open source)

Analogy: like a frontend application framework, but for analytics engineering

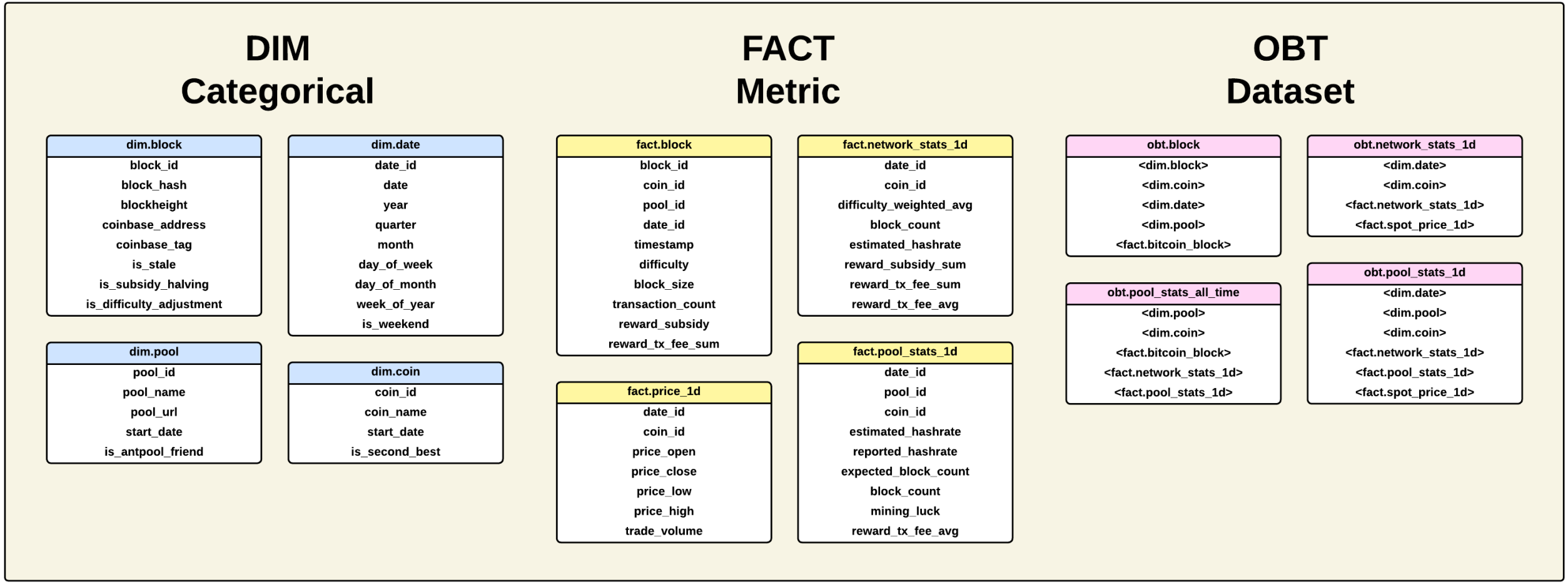
Columnar Databases: column-oriented databases are optimized for aggregating large volumes of data (vs traditional RDS systems which are transactional)

- **SaaS**: Snowflake, BigQuery, Databricks
- **Open Source**: DuckDB, ClickHouse, TimescaleDB

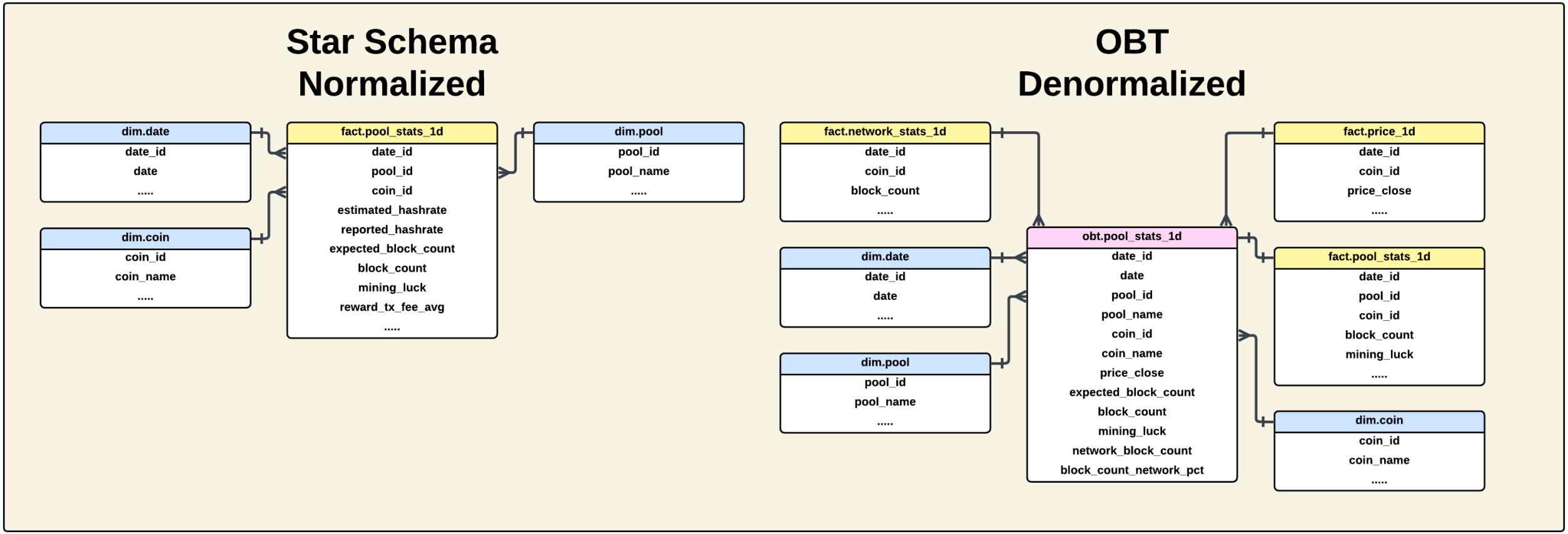
Extract, Load, Transform (ELT): ingest raw data to a central storage layer first, then perform all transformations (vs traditional ETL approach)

Data Validation: automated data audits & tests on raw and modeled layers help ensure data integrity & reliability

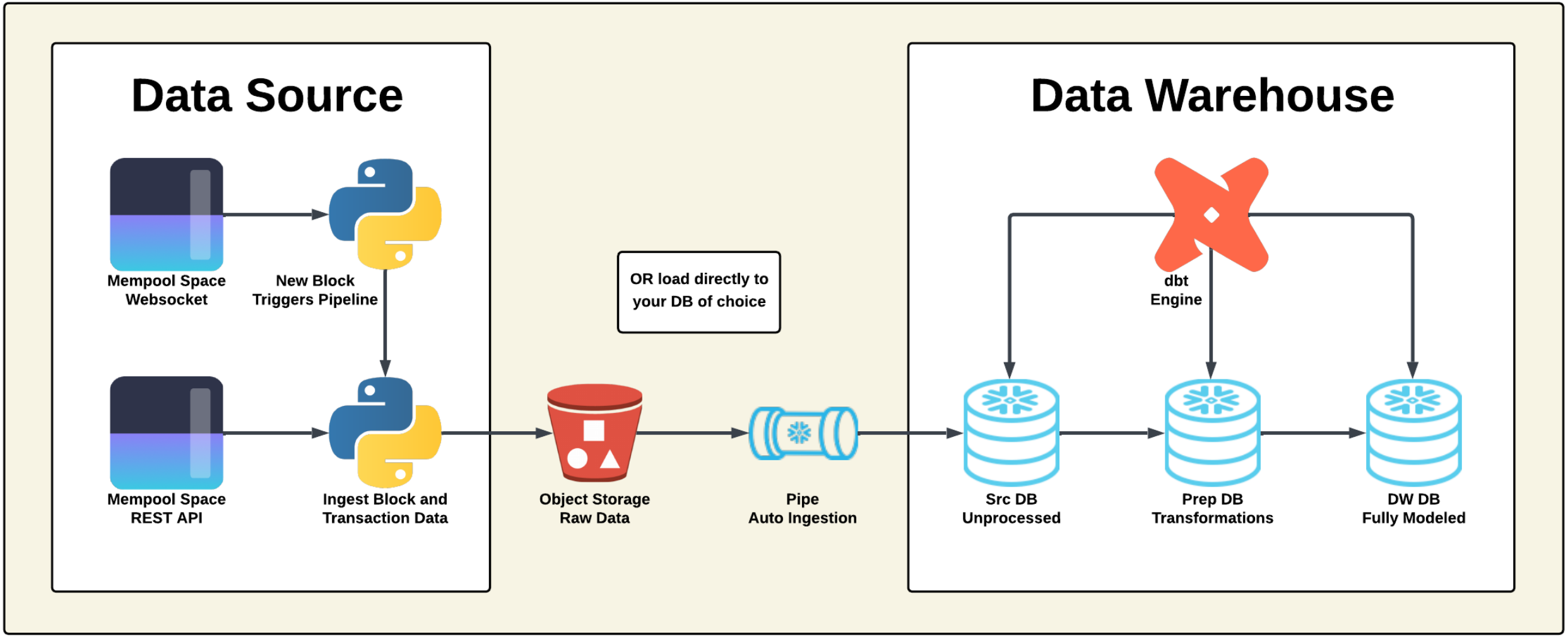
Model Examples



Schema Examples



Pipeline Architecture Example



Workshop

Star Schemas:

- **Dims**: date, block, pool
- **Facts**: block, network stats, pool stats, price

OBTs: block, network stats, pool stats

Metrics: estimated network hashrate, hashprice, pool mining luck

Repo: https://github.com/sha2fiddy/btcpp-demo-2025