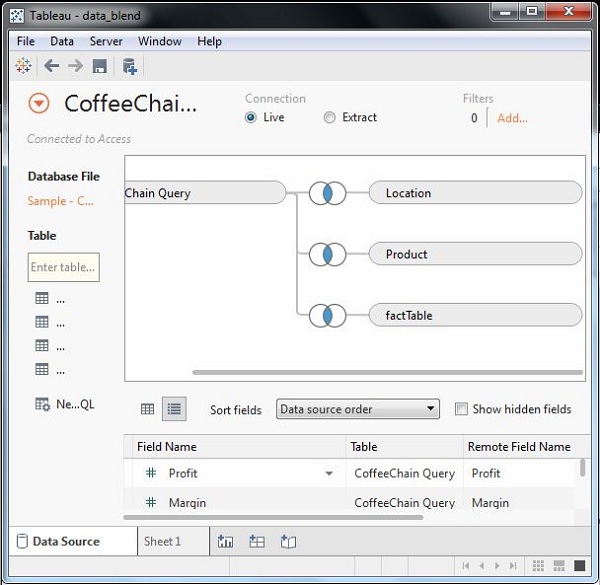
**Tableau - Data Blending**

Data Blending is a very powerful feature in Tableau. It is used when there is related data in multiple data sources which you want to analyze together in a single view. As an example, the Sales data is present in a relational database and Sales Target data in an Excel spreadsheet. Then to compare actual sales to target sales, we can blend the data based on common dimensions to get access to the Sales Target measure. The two sources involved in data blending are referred as Primary and secondary data sources. A left join is created between the primary data source and the secondary data source with all the data rows from primary and matching data rows from secondary data source.

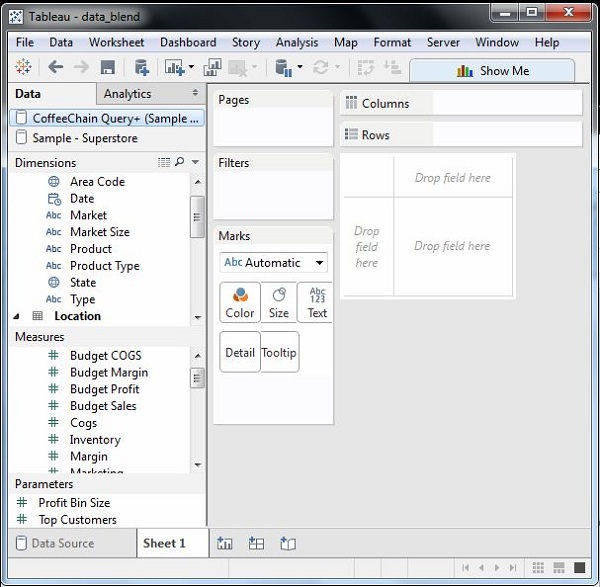
## Preparing Data for Blending

Tableau has two inbuilt data sources named Sample-superstore and Sample coffee chain.mdb which we will use to illustrate data blending. Let’s first load the sample coffee chain to tableau and look at its metadata. Go to the menu Data -> New Data Source and browse for the sample coffee chain file which is a MS access database file. The below diagram shows the different tables and joins available in the file.



## Adding Secondary Data Source

Next we add the secondary data source named Sample-superstore by again following the steps Data -> New Data Source and choosing this data source. Both the data sources now appear on the Data window as shown below.



## Blending the Data

Now we can integrate the data from both the above sources based on a common dimension. Note that a small chain image appears next to the dimension named State. This indicates the common dimension between the two data sources. We drag the State field from the primary data source to the rows shelf and the field Profit Ratio from the secondary data source to the Columns shelf. We select the bullet chart option from Show me to get the bullet chart below. It shown how the profit ratio varies for each state in both the superstore and coffee chain shops.

