## Data Warehousing and OLAP Technology: An Overview

- What is a data warehouse?
- A multi-dimensional data model
- Data warehouse architecture
- Data warehouse implementation
- From data warehousing to data mining
- Summary



## What is Data Warehouse?

- Defined in many different ways, but not clearly
  - A decision support database that is maintained separately from the organization's operational database
  - Support information processing by providing a solid platform of consolidated, historical data for analysis
- A data warehouse is a subject-oriented, integrated, time-variant, and nonvolatile collection of data in support of management's decision-making process
- Data warehousing:
  - The process of constructing and using data warehouses



## Data Warehouse—Subject-Oriented

- Organized around major subjects, such as customer, product, sales
- Focusing on the modeling and analysis of data for decision makers, not on daily operations or transaction processing
- Provide a simple and concise view around particular subject issues by excluding data that are not useful in the decision support process



## Data Warehouse—Integrated

- Constructed by integrating multiple, heterogeneous data sources
  - relational databases, flat files, on-line transaction records
- Data cleaning and data integration techniques are applied
  - Ensure consistency in naming conventions, encoding structures, etc. among different data sources
    - E.g., Hotel price: currency, tax, breakfast covered, etc.
  - When data is moved to the warehouse, it is converted

## Data Warehouse—Time Variant

- The time horizon for the data warehouse is significantly longer than that of operational systems
  - Operational database: current value data
  - Data warehouse data: provide information from a historical perspective (e.g., past 5-10 years)
- Every key structure in the data warehouse
  - Contains an element of time, explicitly or implicitly
  - But the key of operational data may or may not contain "time element"



## Data Warehouse—Nonvolatile

- A physically separate store of data transformed from the operational environment
- Operational update of data does not occur in the data warehouse environment
  - Does not require transaction processing, recovery, and concurrency control mechanisms
  - Requires only two operations in data accessing:
    - *initial loading of data* and *access of data*



## Data Warehouse vs. Heterogeneous DBMS

- Traditional heterogeneous DB integration: A query driven approach
  - Build wrappers/mediators on top of heterogeneous databases
  - When a query is posed to a client site, a meta-dictionary is used to translate the query into queries appropriate for individual heterogeneous sites involved, and the results are integrated into a global answer set
  - Complex information filtering, compete for resources
- Data warehouse: update-driven, high performance
  - Information from heterogeneous sources is integrated in advance and stored in warehouses for direct query and analysis



## Data Warehouse vs. Operational DBMS

- OLTP (on-line transaction processing)
  - Major task of traditional relational DBMS
  - Day-to-day operations: purchasing, inventory, banking, manufacturing, payroll, registration, accounting, etc.
- OLAP (on-line analytical processing)
  - Major task of data warehouse system
  - Data analysis and decision making
- Distinct features (OLTP vs. OLAP):
  - User and system orientation: customer vs. market
  - Data contents: current, detailed vs. historical, consolidated
  - Database design: ER + application vs. star + subject
  - View: current, local vs. evolutionary, integrated
  - Access patterns: update vs. read-only but complex queries

## OLTP vs. OLAP

| | OLTP | OLAP |
|---|---|---|
| **users** | clerk, IT professional | knowledge worker |
| **function** | day to day operations | decision support |
| **DB design** | application-oriented | subject-oriented |
| **data** | current, up-to-date<br>detailed, flat relational<br>isolated | historical,<br>summarized, multidimensional<br>integrated, consolidated |
| **usage** | repetitive | ad-hoc |
| **access** | read/write<br>index/hash on prim. key | lots of scans |
| **unit of work** | short, simple transaction | complex query |
| **# records accessed** | tens | millions |
| **#users** | thousands | hundreds |
| **DB size** | 100MB-GB | 100GB-TB |
| **metric** | transaction throughput | query throughput, response |



## Why Separate Data Warehouse?

- High performance for both systems
  - DBMS— tuned for OLTP: access methods, indexing, concurrency control, recovery
  - Warehouse—tuned for OLAP: complex OLAP queries, multidimensional view, consolidation
- Different functions and different data:
  - missing data: Decision support requires historical data which operational DBs do not typically maintain
  - data consolidation: DS requires consolidation (aggregation, summarization) of data from heterogeneous sources
  - data quality: different sources typically use inconsistent data representations, codes and formats which have to be reconciled



## From Tables and Spreadsheets to Data Cubes

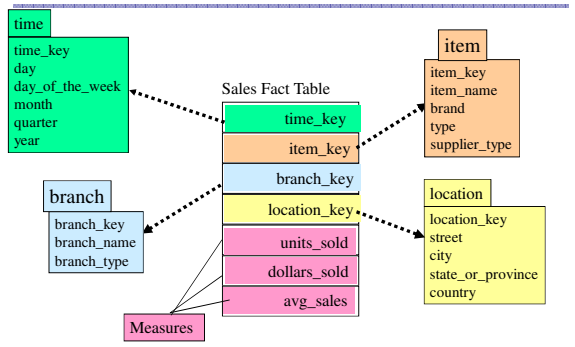
- A data warehouse is based on a multidimensional data model which views data in the form of a data cube
- A data cube, such as sales, allows data to be modeled and viewed in multiple dimensions
  - Dimension tables, such as item (item_name, brand, type), or time(day, week, month, quarter, year)
  - Fact table contains measures (such as dollars_sold) and keys to each of the related dimension tables
- In data warehousing literature, an n-D base cube is called a base cuboid. The top most 0-D cuboid, which holds the highest-level of summarization, is called the apex cuboid. The lattice of cuboids forms a data cube



## Conceptual Modeling of Data Warehouses

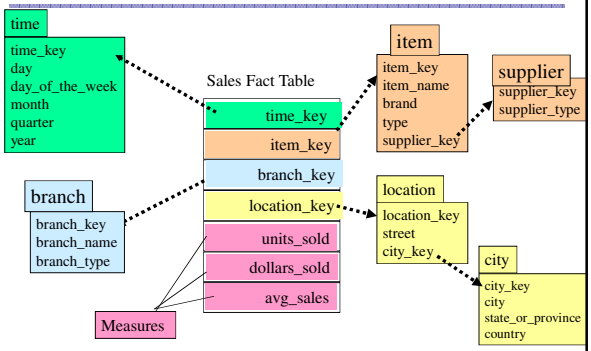
- Modeling data warehouses: dimensions & measures
  - Star schema: A fact table in the middle connected to a set of dimension tables
  - Snowflake schema: A refinement of star schema where some dimensional hierarchy is normalized into a set of smaller dimension tables, forming a shape similar to snowflake
  - Fact constellations: Multiple fact tables share dimension tables, viewed as a collection of stars, therefore called galaxy schema or fact constellation

## Example of Star Schema



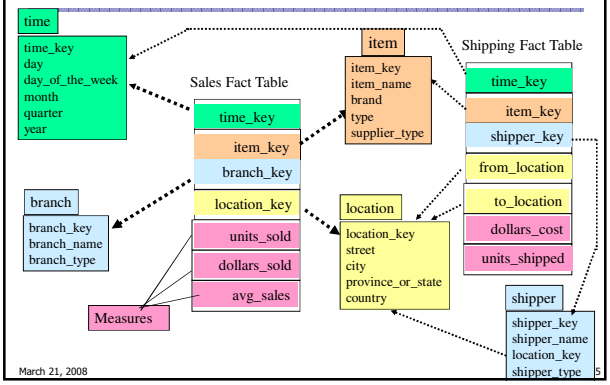



## Example of Snowflake Schema






## Example of Fact Constellation

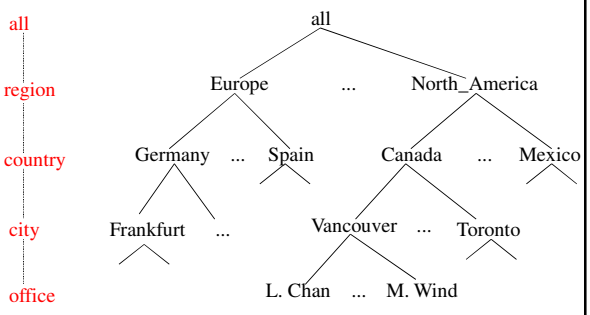





## Measures of Data Cube: Three Categories

- Distributive: if the result derived by applying the function to *n* aggregate values is the same as that derived by applying the function on all the data without partitioning
  - E.g., count(), sum(), min(), max()
- Algebraic: if it can be computed by an algebraic function with *M* arguments (where *M* is a bounded integer), each of which is obtained by applying a distributive aggregate function
  - E.g., avg(), min_N(), standard_deviation()
- Holistic: if there is no constant bound on the storage size needed to describe a sub-aggregate.
  - E.g., median(), mode(), rank()

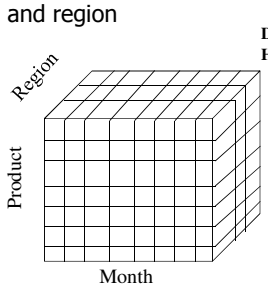
## A Concept Hierarchy: Dimension (location)



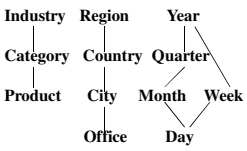



## Multidimensional Data

- Sales volume as a function of product, month, and region

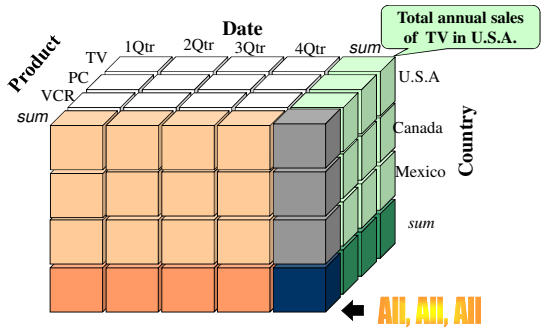



**Dimensions: Product, Location, Time**
**Hierarchical summarization paths**



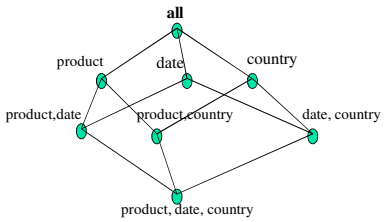



## A Sample Data Cube






## Cuboids Corresponding to the Cube




0-D(apex) cuboid

1-D cuboids

2-D cuboids

3-D(base) cuboid

## Typical OLAP Operations

- Roll up (drill-up): summarize data
  - *by climbing up hierarchy or by dimension reduction*
- Drill down (roll down): reverse of roll-up
  - *from higher level summary to lower level summary or detailed data, or introducing new dimensions*
- Slice and dice: *project and select*
- Pivot (rotate):
  - *reorient the cube, visualization, 3D to series of 2D planes*



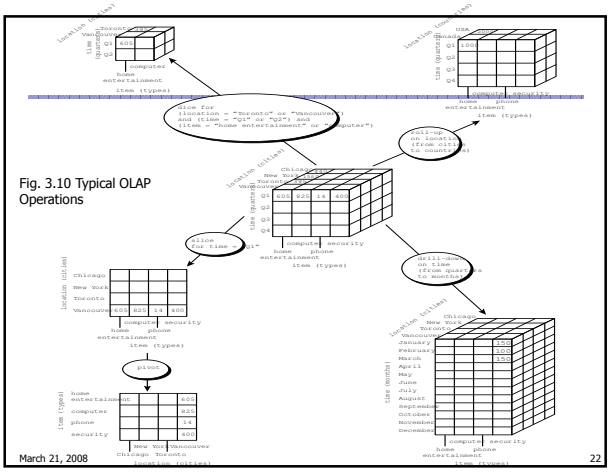



Fig. 3.10 Typical OLAP Operations



## Design of Data Warehouse: A Business Analysis Framework

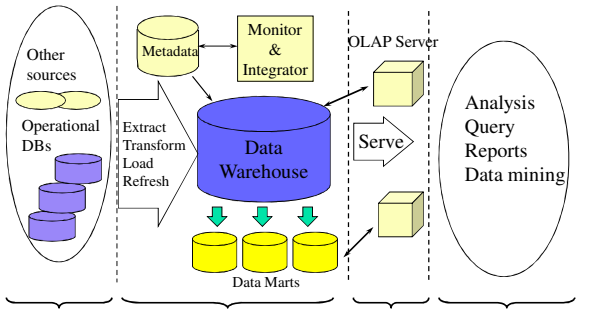
- Four views regarding the design of a data warehouse
  - Top-down view
    - allows selection of the relevant information necessary for the data warehouse
  - Data source view
    - exposes the information being captured, stored, and managed by operational systems
  - Data warehouse view
    - consists of fact tables and dimension tables
  - Business query view
    - sees the perspectives of data in the warehouse from the view of end-user



## Data Warehouse Design Process

- Top-down, bottom-up approaches or a combination of both
  - Top-down: Starts with overall design and planning (mature)
  - Bottom-up: Starts with experiments and prototypes (rapid)
- From software engineering point of view
  - Waterfall: structured and systematic analysis at each step before proceeding to the next
  - Spiral: rapid generation of increasingly functional systems, short turn around time, quick turn around
- Typical data warehouse design process
  - Choose a business process to model, e.g., orders, invoices, etc.
  - Choose the *grain* (*atomic level of data*) of the business process
  - Choose the dimensions that will apply to each fact table record
  - Choose the measure that will populate each fact table record

## Data Warehouse: A Multi-Tiered Architecture



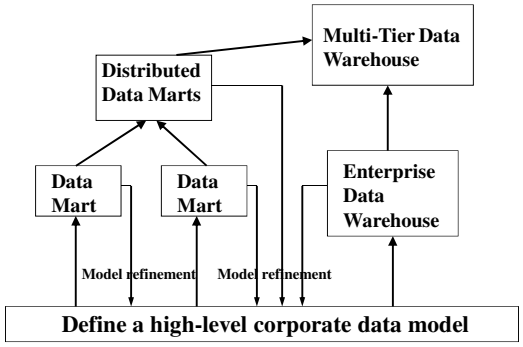



## Three Data Warehouse Models

- Enterprise warehouse
  - collects all of the information about subjects spanning the entire organization
- Data Mart
  - a subset of corporate-wide data that is of value to a specific groups of users. Its scope is confined to specific, selected groups, such as marketing data mart
    - Independent vs. dependent (directly from warehouse) data mart
- Virtual warehouse
  - A set of views over operational databases
  - Only some of the possible summary views may be materialized



## Data Warehouse Development: A Recommended Approach






## Metadata Repository

- Meta data is the data defining warehouse objects. It stores:
- Description of the structure of the data warehouse
  - schema, view, dimensions, hierarchies, derived data defn, data mart locations and contents
- Operational meta-data
  - data lineage (history of migrated data and transformation path), currency of data (active, archived, or purged), monitoring information (warehouse usage statistics, error reports, audit trails)
- The algorithms used for summarization
- The mapping from operational environment to the data warehouse
- Data related to system performance
  - warehouse schema, view and derived data definitions
- Business data
  - business terms and definitions, ownership of data, charging policies

## Data Warehouse Usage

- Three kinds of data warehouse applications
  - Information processing
    - supports querying, basic statistical analysis, and reporting using crosstabs, tables, charts and graphs
  - Analytical processing
    - multidimensional analysis of data warehouse data
    - supports basic OLAP operations, slice-dice, drilling, pivoting
  - Data mining
    - knowledge discovery from hidden patterns
    - supports associations, constructing analytical models, performing classification and prediction, and presenting the mining results using visualization tools



## Summary: Data Warehouse and OLAP Technology

- Why data warehousing?
- A multi-dimensional model of a data warehouse
  - Star schema, snowflake schema, fact constellations
  - A data cube consists of dimensions & measures
- OLAP operations: drilling, rolling, slicing, dicing and pivoting
- Data warehouse architecture