

Guest Speaker Session  
**Spot the BI in Retail**

Session Debrief

# Retail Mix



# Retail Strategy

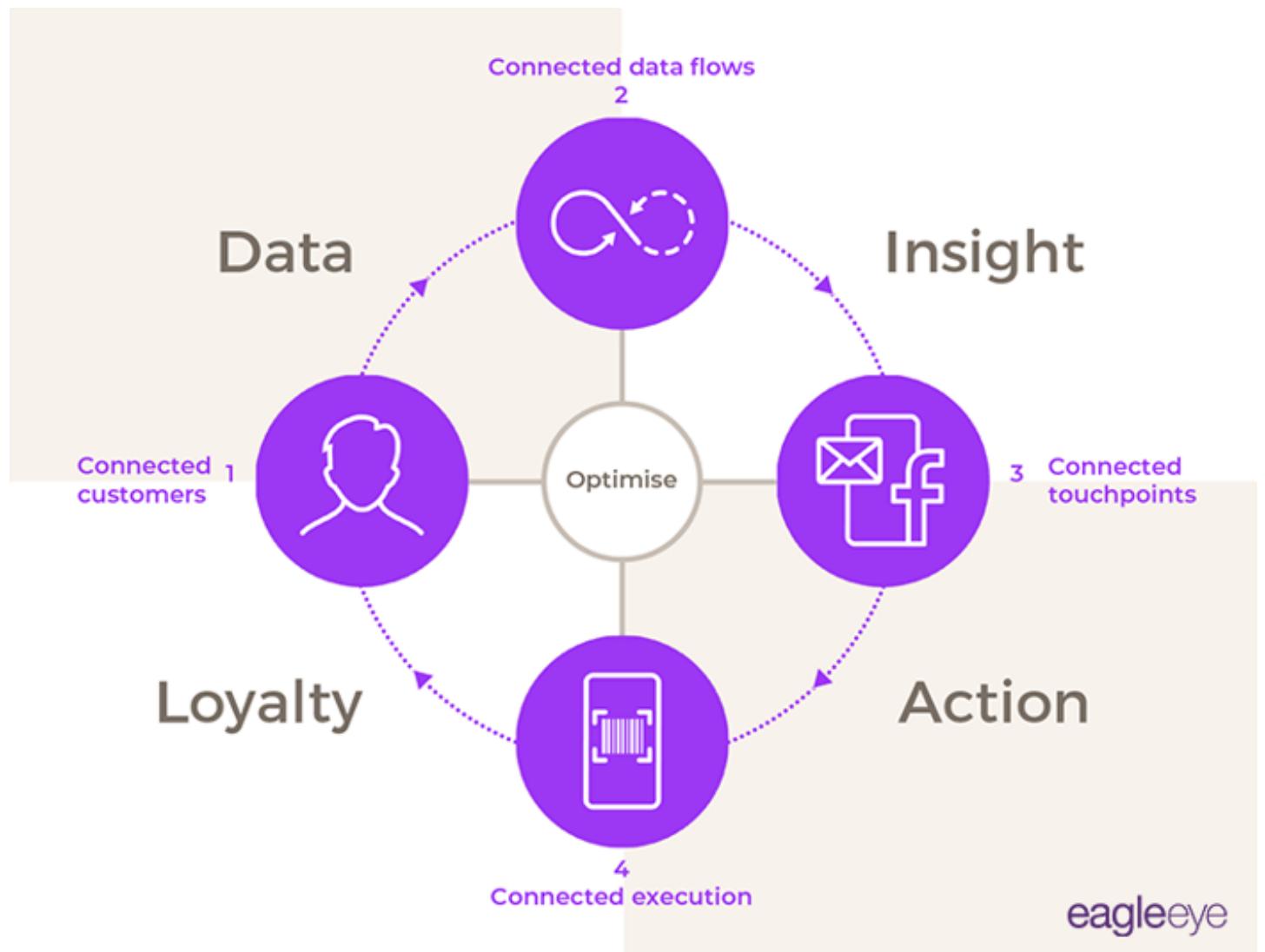
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# Walmart Retail Strategy Mix

- Location: Free standing stores
- Assortment: Large # of Categories, few items in each
- Pricing: Low, EDLP (Every day low pricing)
- Communication: TV, Newspaper, social media, etc.
- Store Design&Display: Basic, Special display for products
- Customer Service: Limited

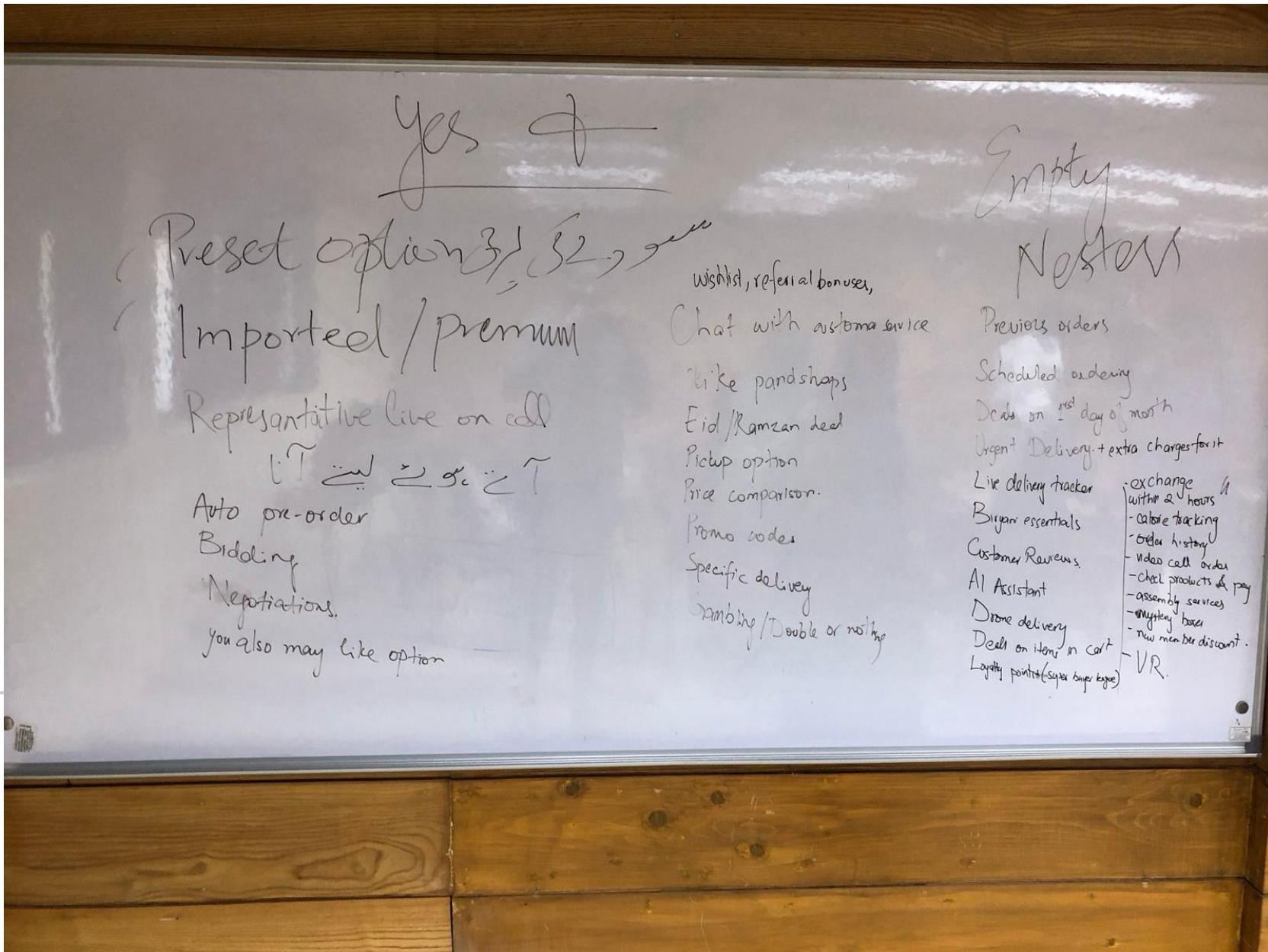
# DIAL



# Empathy for Consumers

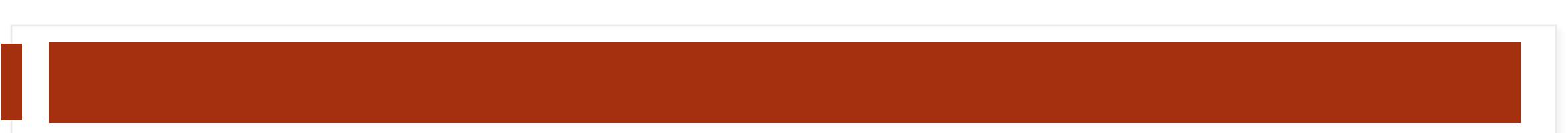
## Brainstorming the ideal Imtiaz App

### (YES AND... BI\_02)



# What other things you learned that were new for you?

## Guest speaker session or Assignment



# DSS Concepts in Action Today

- **Key Features of DSS:**

- Data Integration: Consolidating structured and unstructured data.
- Analytical Models: Using AI/ML for predictions.
- User Interaction: Dashboards and decision-friendly interfaces.

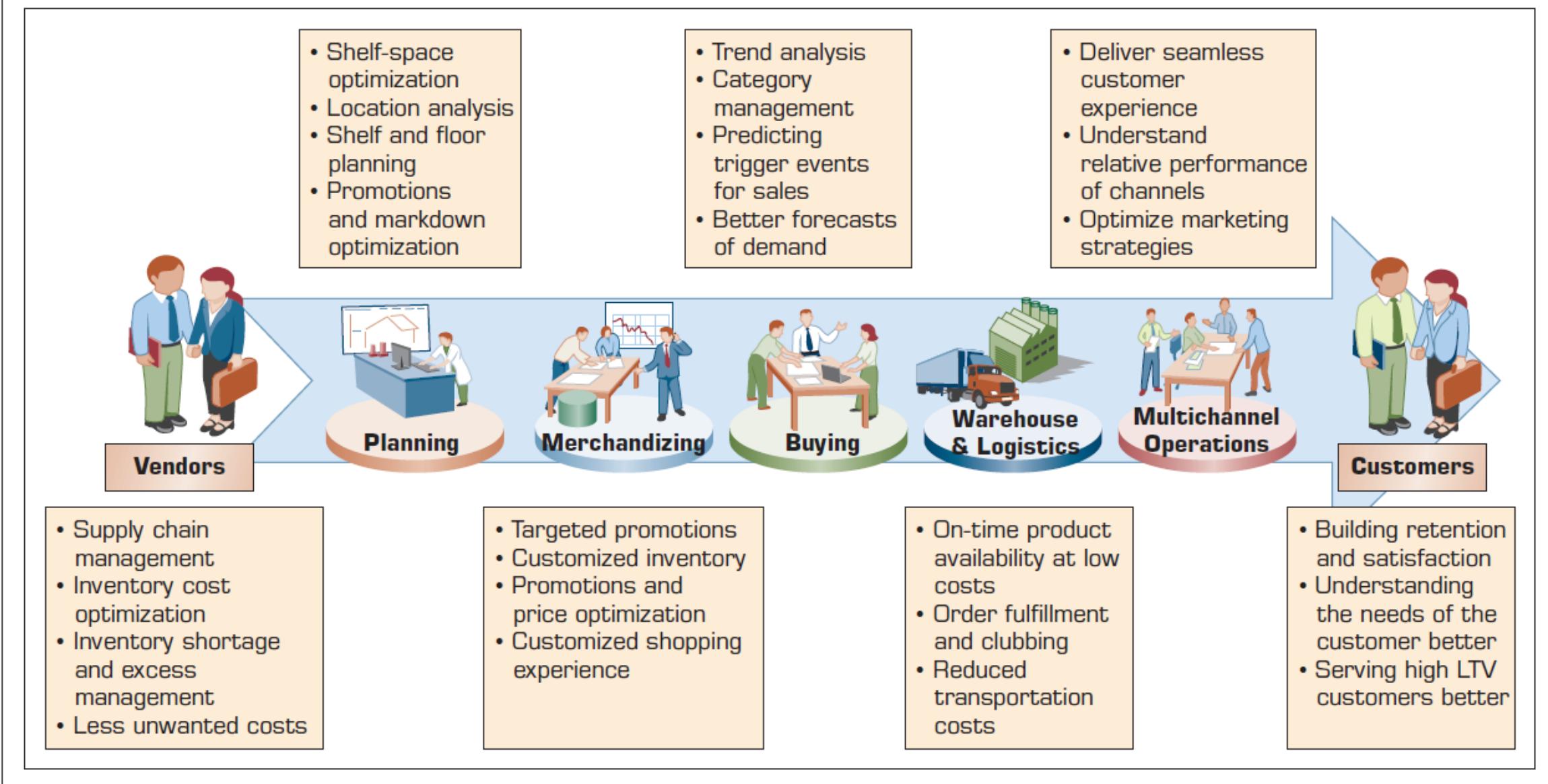
- *"An online store recommends products based on your past behavior. What drives this capability?"*

# Connecting BI Features to DSS Concepts

- Which BI features did you spot?
- How do these features support users' and businesses' decisions?

# Trace these BI features back to DSS principles

- Data Integration:
  - Which BI features rely on gathering data from multiple sources?
- Analytical Models:
  - How do features like product recommendations showcase predictions?
- User Interface:
  - Which features simplify data visualization for decision-making?



**FIGURE I.12** Example of Analytics Applications in a Retail Value Chain. Contributed by Abhishek Rathi, CEO, vCreaTek.com

# Why DSS Still Matters in BI Today

- DSS provides the conceptual backbone for BI systems.
- Modern BI combines DSS principles with advanced analytics (AI, ML) and real-time data.
- BI is about empowering decisions at all levels—individual, organizational, and strategic.

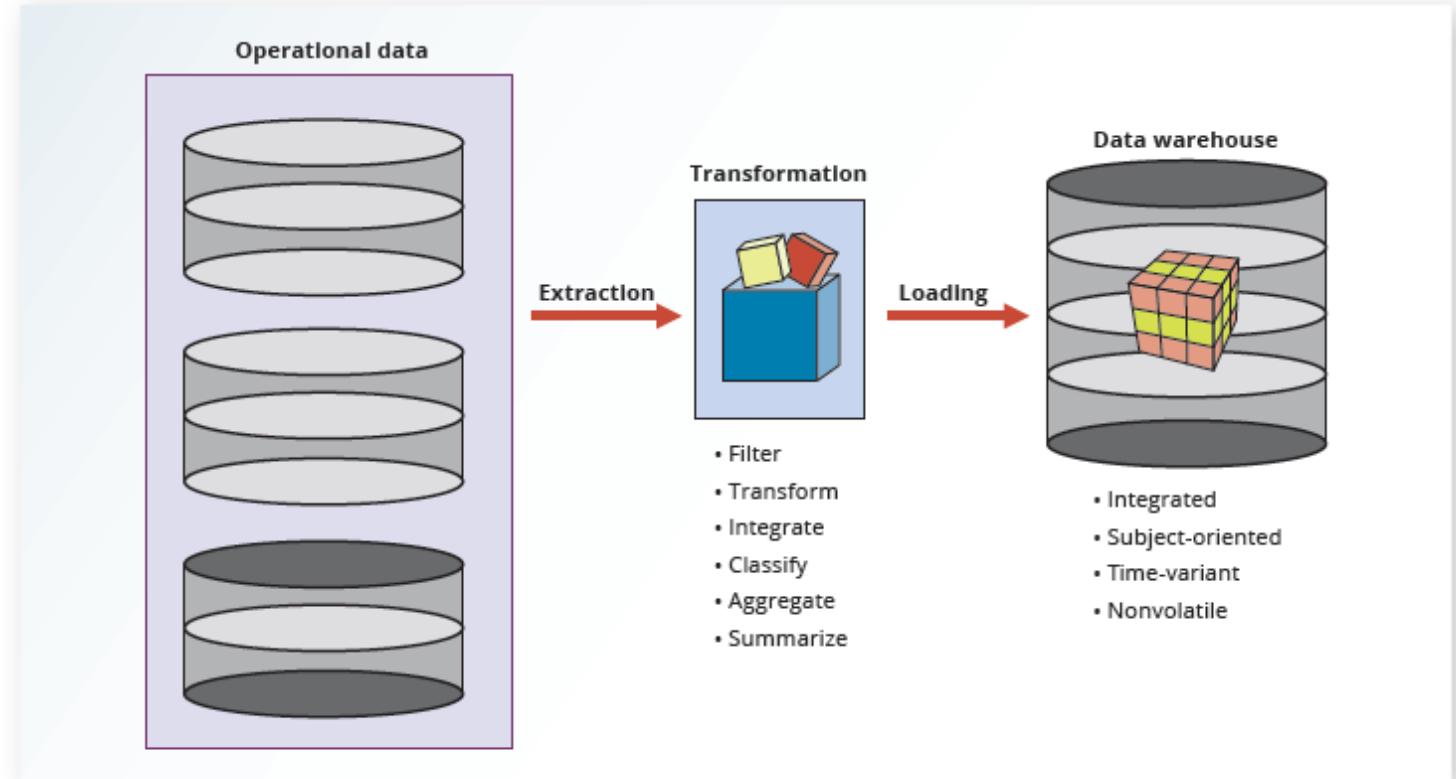
# DWH Theory

CS 459 Business Intelligence

# Data Warehouse - Expert Definition

- **Ralph Kimball:** “a copy of transaction data specifically structured for query and analysis”
- **Bill Inmon:** “A data warehouse is a:
  - Subject oriented
  - Integrated
  - Non-volatile
  - Time variantcollection of data in support of management’s decisions.

Figure 13.4 The ETL Process



# Inmon's DWH

## Subject-Oriented

Data collected relates to a particular subject (e.g sales, customer, etc.)

## Integrated

Data has been standardized regardless of how it is stored in the source systems.

## Data Warehouse

### Non-Volatile

Data in the DW is hardly ever over-written or deleted - once committed, the data is static, read-only, and retained for future reporting

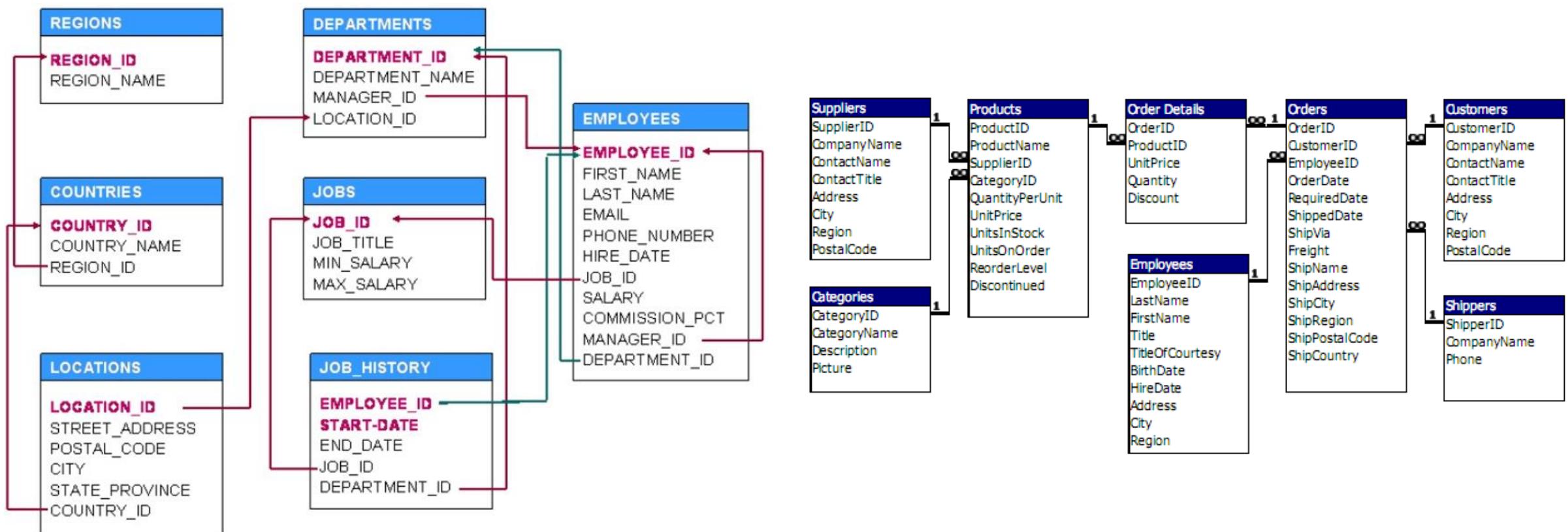
### Time Variant

The data collected changes with time. Newer snapshots record the updates.

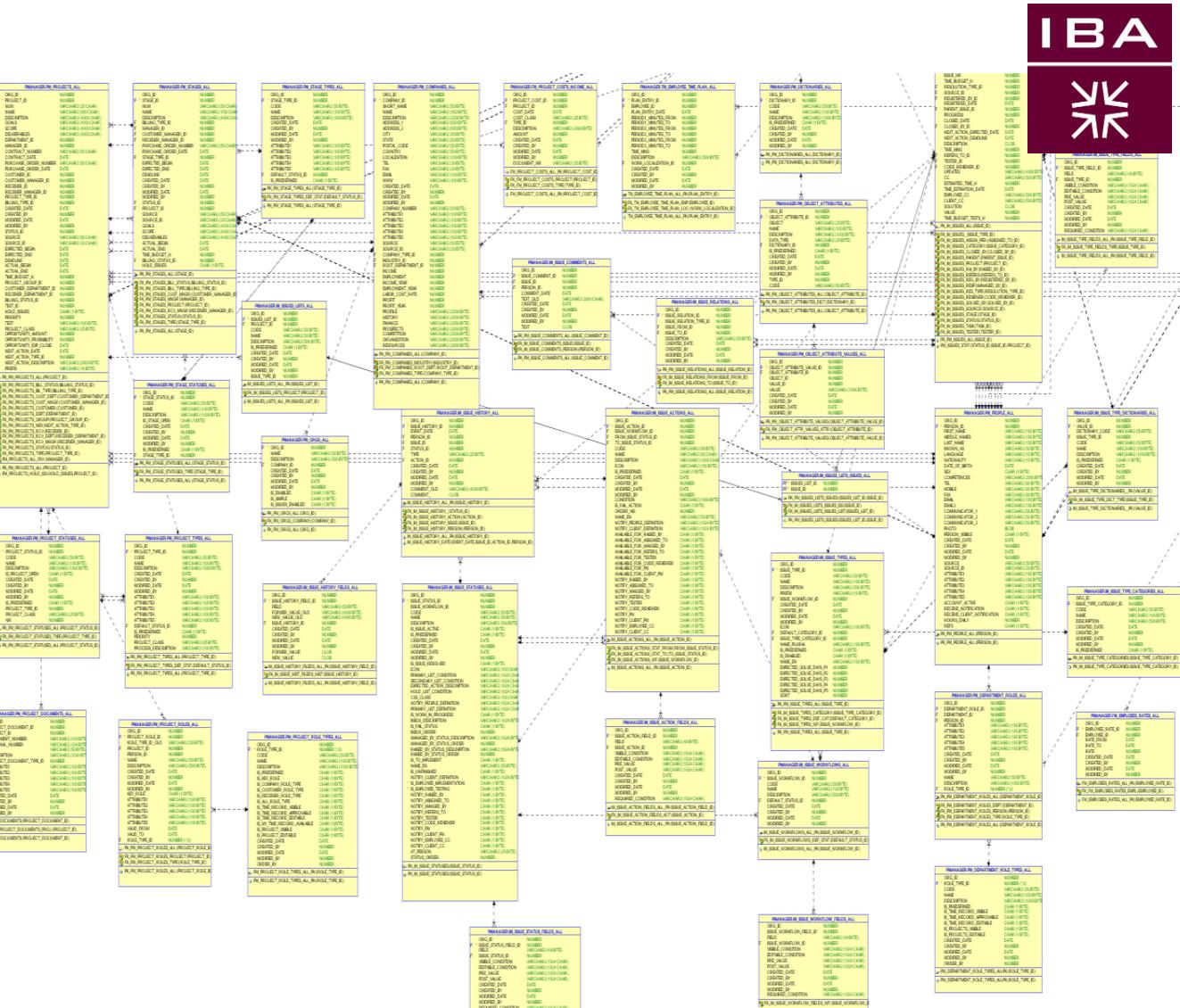
## Defining Data Warehouse



# Naïve Databases



# Database Spaghetti



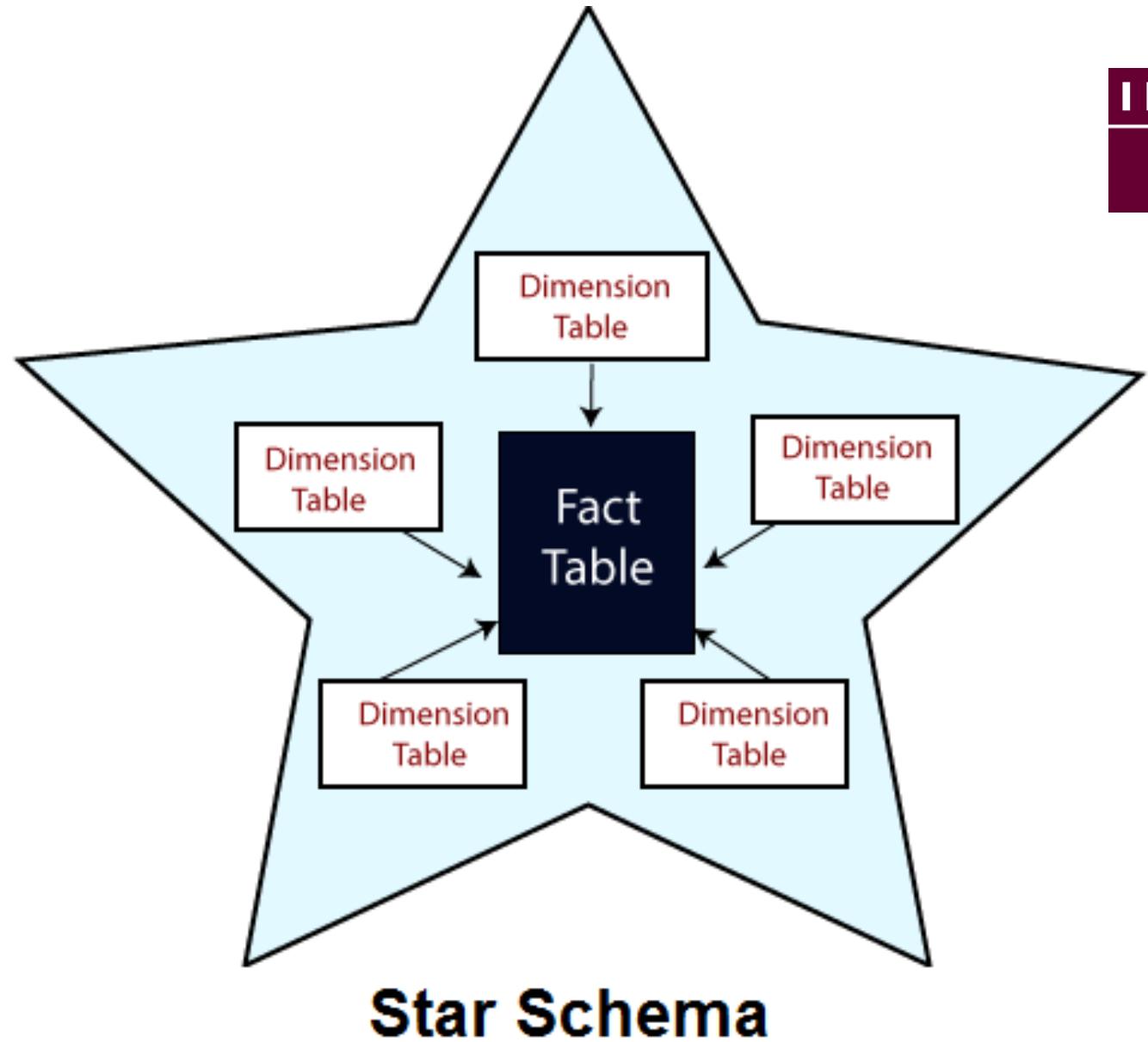
# Database Spaghetti

- Normalization decomposes the structure into greater tables.
- Random changes in database leads to further problems.
- Growing business leads to exponential growth of tables.

## Problems:

- Multi-table joins → long, time-consuming, complex
- In the olden days, hardware availability was an issue: small size yet too expensive to acquire.

# Introducing Star Schema



# Star Schema *Analyzing Facts across Dimensions*

- The **fact table** stores two types of information: numeric values and dimension attribute values. Using a sales database as an example:
- **Numeric Value cells (facts)**
  - Are unique to each row or data point and do not correlate or relate to data stored in other rows.
  - These might be facts about a transaction, such as an orderID, total amount, net profit, order quantity or a **business measure**.
- **The Dimension Attribute Values**
  - Store the **foreign key value** for a row in a related dimensional table.
  - Many rows in the fact table will reference this type of information. So, for example, it might store the sales employee ID, a date value, a product ID or a branch office ID.

# Star Schema → *Analyzing Facts across Dimensions*

- **Dimension tables** store supporting information to the fact table.
- The dimension tables contain the textual context associated with a business process measurement event.
- They describe the “who, what, where, when, how, and why” associated with the event.
- Each star schema database has at least one dimension table, but will often have many. Each dimension table will relate to a column in the fact table with a dimension value, and will store additional information about that value.

# Examples

- The employee dimension table may use the employee ID as a key value and can contain information such as the employee's name, gender, address or phone number.
- A product dimension table may store information such as the product name, manufacture cost, color or first date on market.

# Construct an Orders ERD

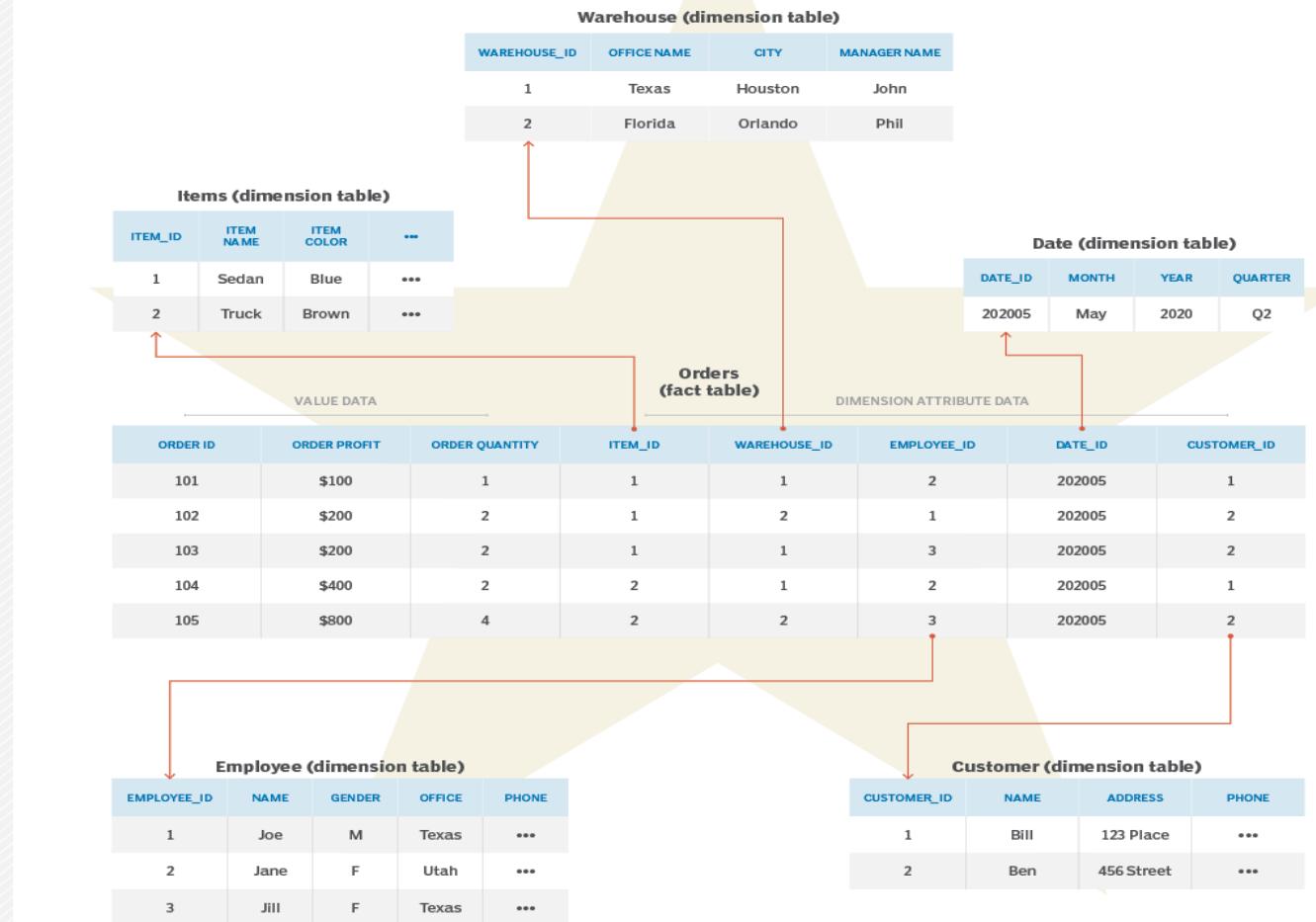
- **Required tables**
  - Orders
  - Employees
  - Customer
  - Item
  - Warehouse

- **Relations:**

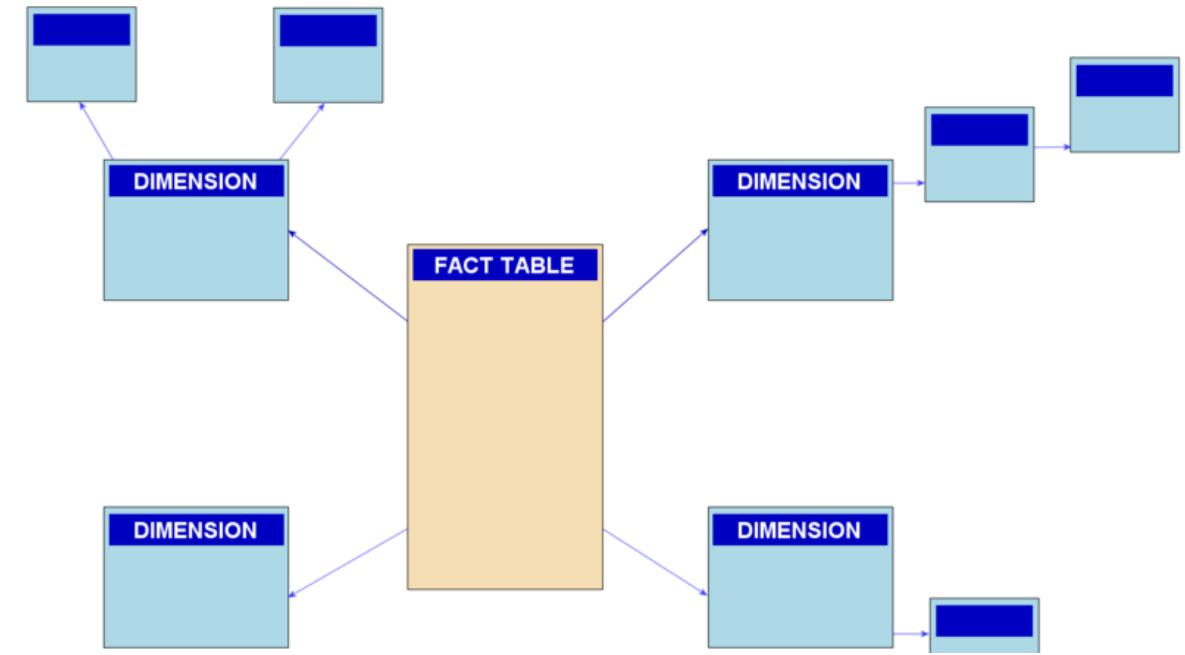
- One order is placed by a single customer and completed by a single employee.
- Employees can be assigned many orders.
- Customers can place multiple orders.
- A single order may have multiple items and items can be ordered in multiple orders.
- The order is fulfilled by a single warehouse

# ERD to Star Schema

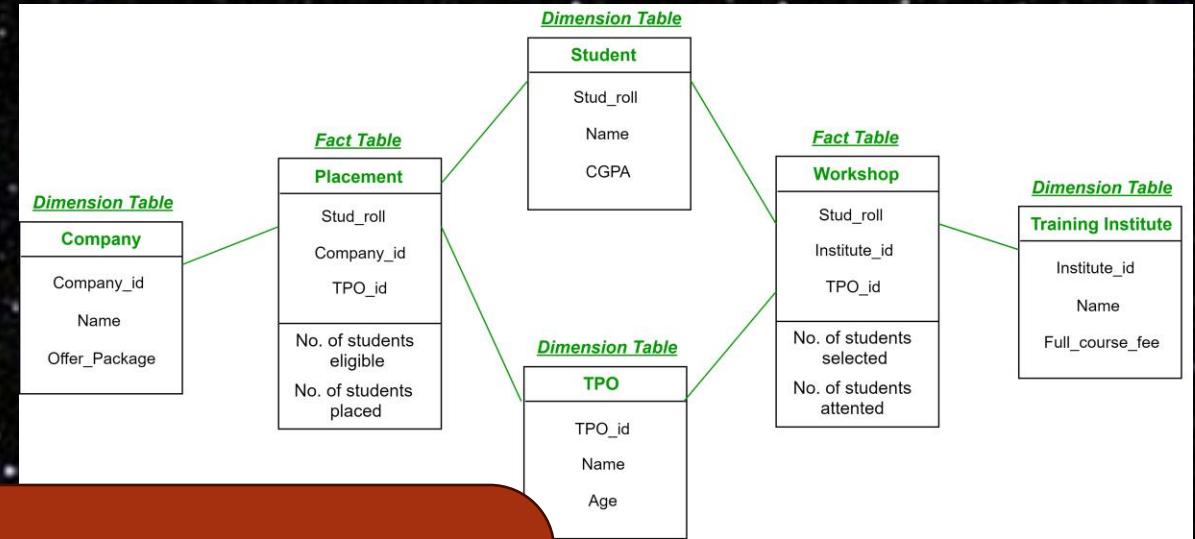
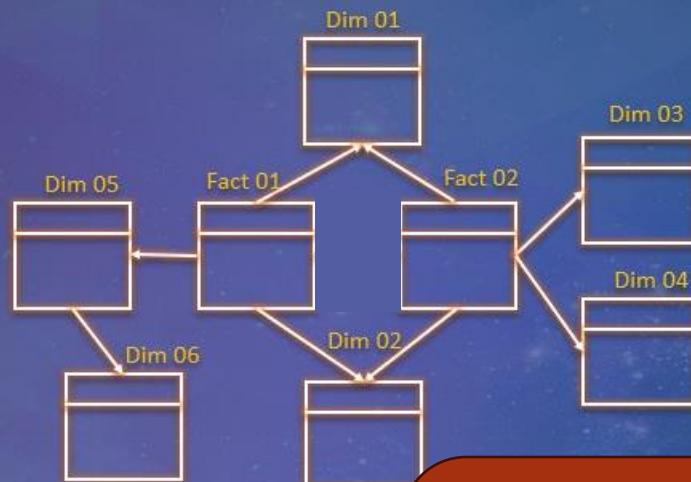
# Star schema



# Snowflake Schema



# FACT Constellation A.k.a GALAXY schema



- Multiple fact tables share dimension tables
- Can be viewed as a collection of star schemas therefore called the fact constellation or galaxy schema.
- Uses more joins to connect the tables

# Key differences

	<b>Star Schema</b>	<b>Snowflake Schema</b>	<b>Galaxy Schema</b>
<b>Elements</b>	Single Fact Table connected to multiple dimension tables with no sub-dimension tables	Single Fact Table connects to multiple dimension tables that connects to multiple sub-dimension tables	Multiple Fact Tables connects to multiple dimension tables.
<b>Normalization</b>	Denormalized	Normalized	Normalized
<b>Number of Dimensions</b>	Multiple dimension tables map to a single Fact Table	Multiple dimension tables map to multiple dimension tables	Multiple dimension tables map to multiple Fact Tables
<b>Data Redundancy</b>	High	Low	Low

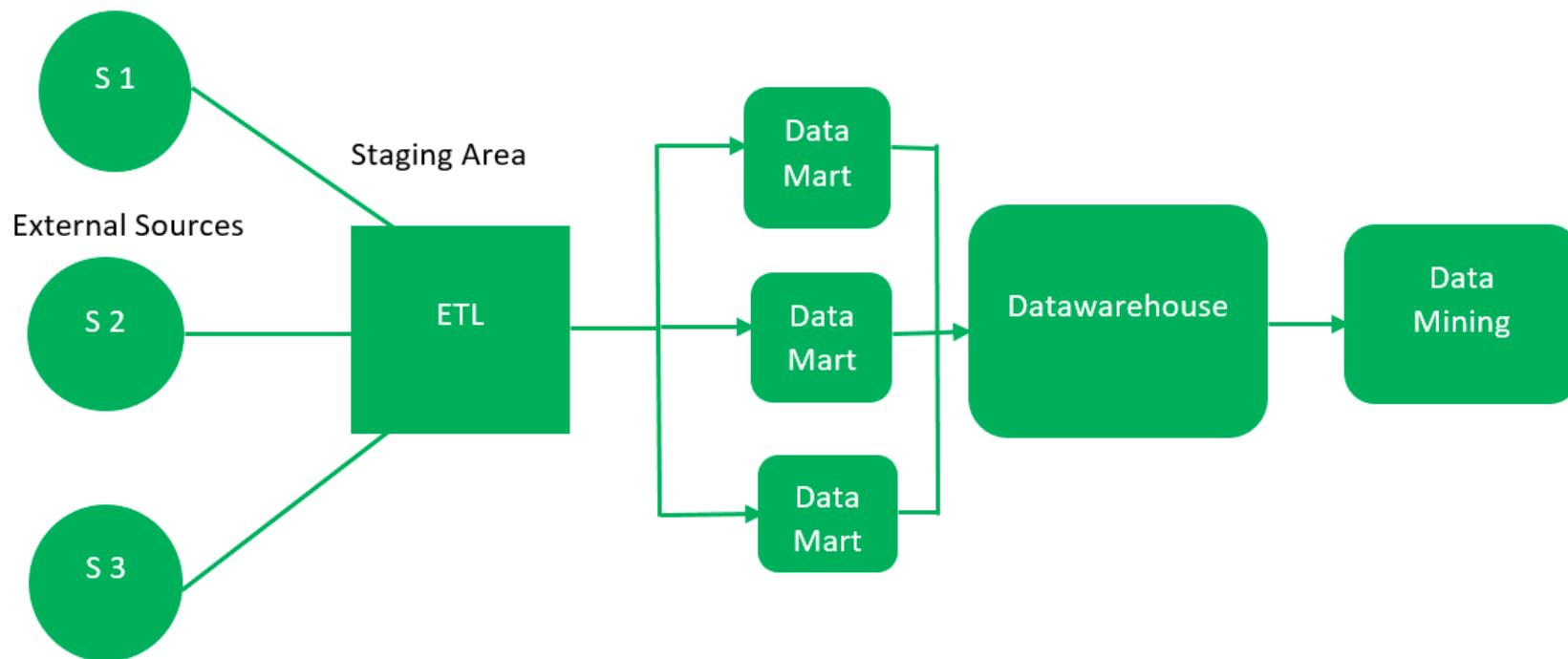
# Key differences

	<b>Star Schema</b>	<b>Snowflake Schema</b>	<b>Galaxy Schema</b>
<b>Performance</b>	Fewer foreign keys resulting in increased performance	Decreased performance compared to Star Schema from higher number of foreign keys	Decreased performance compared to Star and Snowflake. Used for complex data aggregation.
<b>Complexity</b>	Simple, designed to be easy to understand	More complicated compared to Star Schema - can be more challenging to understand	Most complicated to understand. Reserved for highly complex data structures
<b>Storage Usage</b>	Higher disk space due to data redundancy	Lower disk space due to limited data redundancy	Low disk space usage compared to the level of sophistication due to the limited data redundancy
<b>Design Limitations</b>	One Fact Table only, no sub-dimensions	One Fact Table only, multiple sub-dimensions are permitted	Multiple Fact Tables permitted, only first level dimensions are permitted

# Kimball's approach

# Bottom - Up Kimbball Approach

- Extract - Transform and Load into Data Marts accessing a single business area.
- Data Marts are integrated into the DW.



# 4-step Dimensional Design Process

- Step 1: Select the Business Process
- Step 2: Declare the Grain
- Step 3: Identify the Dimensions
- Step 4: Identify the Facts

# Step 1: Select the Business Process

- A business process is a low-level activity performed by an organization, such as taking orders, invoicing, receiving payments, handling service calls, registering students, performing a medical procedure, or processing claims.

# Step 2: Declare the Grain

- Declaring the grain means specifying exactly what an individual fact table row represents.
- The grain conveys the level of detail associated with the fact table measurements.
- It provides the answer to the question, **"How do you describe a single row in the fact table?"**
- The grain is determined by the physical realities of the operational system that captures the business process's events.

# Examples of Grain

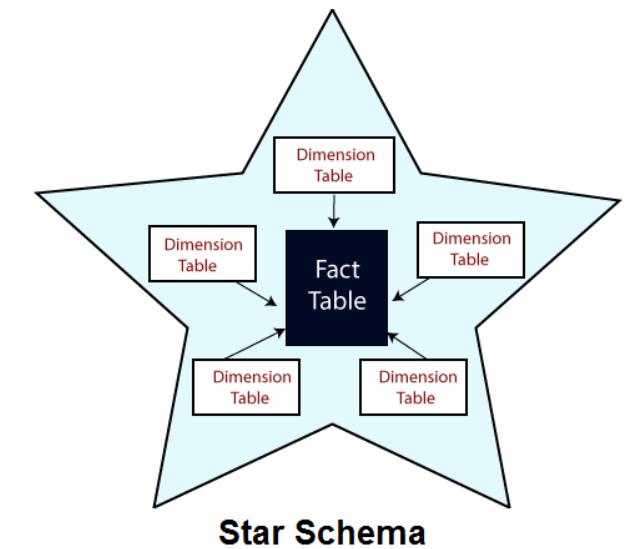
Example grain declarations include:

- One row per scan of an individual product on a customer's sales transaction
- One row per line item on a bill from a doctor
- One row per individual boarding pass scanned at an airport gate
- One row per daily snapshot of the inventory levels for each item in a warehouse
- One row per bank account each month



# Step 3: Identify the Dimensions

- Dimensions fall out of the question, "*How do business people describe the data resulting from the business process measurement events?*"
- You need to decorate fact tables with a robust set of dimensions representing all possible descriptions that take on single values in the context of each measurement.
- If you are clear about the grain, the dimensions typically can easily be identified as they represent the "*who, what, where, when, why, and how*" associated with the event.
- Examples of common dimensions include **date\***, **product**, **customer**, **employee**, and **facility**.



# Step 4: Identify the Facts

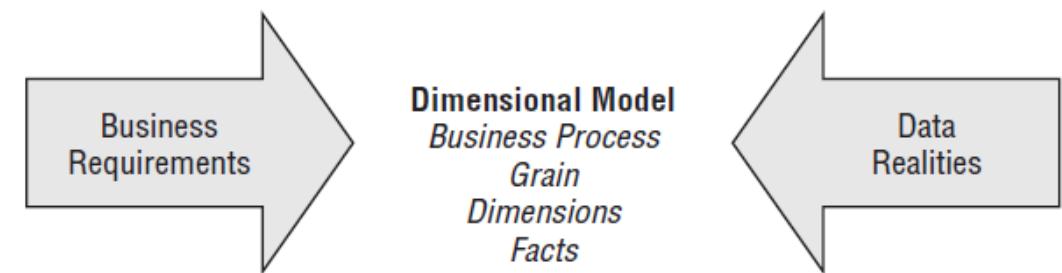
- Facts are determined by answering the question,  
*"What is the process measuring?"*
- Business users are keenly interested in analyzing these performance metrics.
- All candidate facts in a design must be true to the grain defined in step 2.
- Facts that clearly belong to a different grain must be in a separate fact table.
- Typical facts are numeric **additive** figures, such as quantity ordered or dollar cost amount.



# 4-step Dimensional Design Process

- Step 1: Select the Business Process
- Step 2: Declare the Grain
- Step 3: Identify the Dimensions
- Step 4: Identify the Facts

*Need to consider both the business users' requirements and the realities of the source data*



**Figure 3-1:** Key input to the four-step dimensional design process.

# Case Study: Retail

# Business Process

- Management wants to better understand customer purchases as captured by the POS system.
- The business process you're modeling is POS retail sales transactions.



**Figure 3-2:** Sample cash register receipt.

# Grain

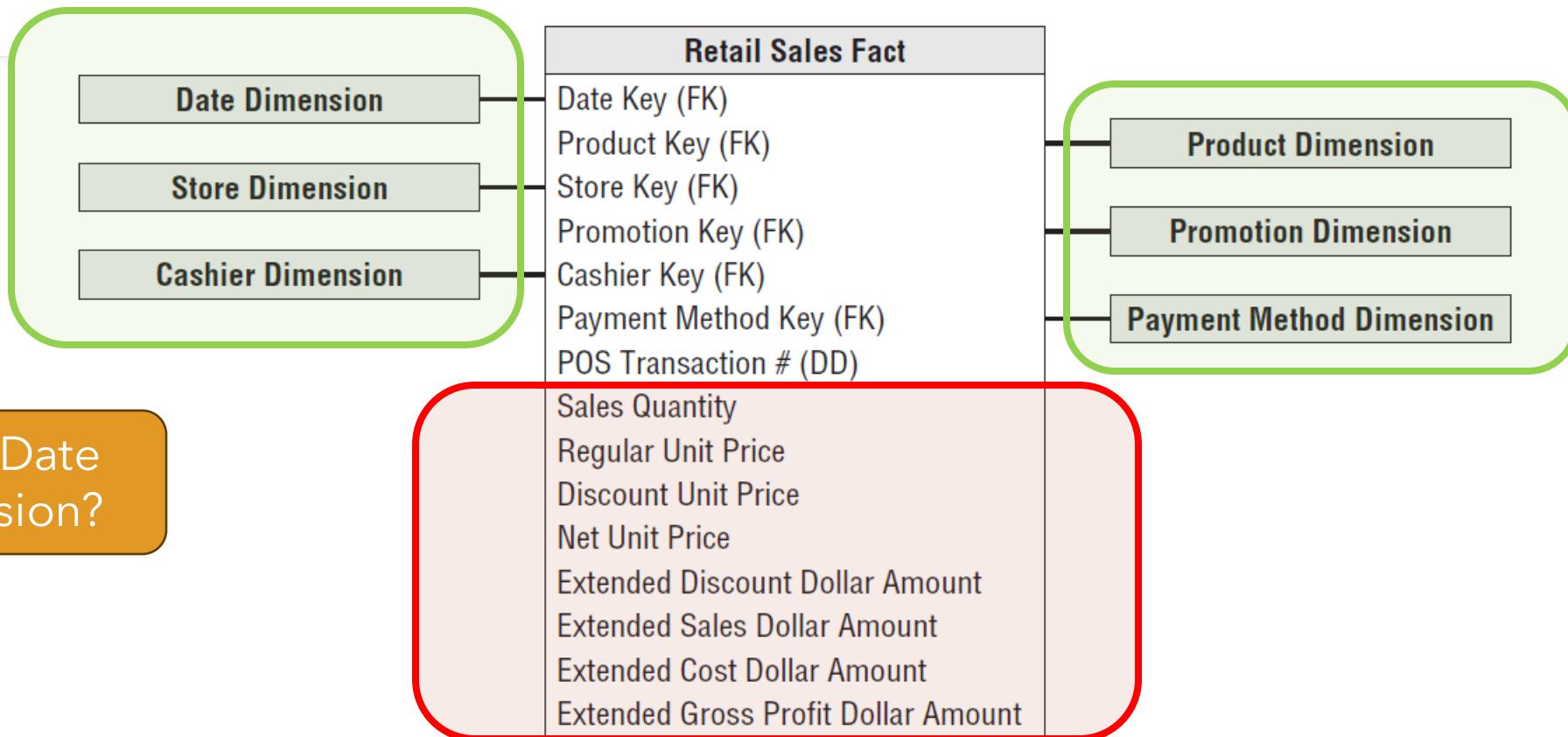
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- Tackling data at its *lowest atomic grain*:
  - Highly dimensional.
  - Provides maximum analytic flexibility → it can be constrained and rolled up in every way possible.

# Grain - Retail Case Study

- Most granular data is an individual product on a POS transaction, assuming the POS system rolls up all sales for a given product within a shopping cart into a **single line item**.

# Facts and Dimensions

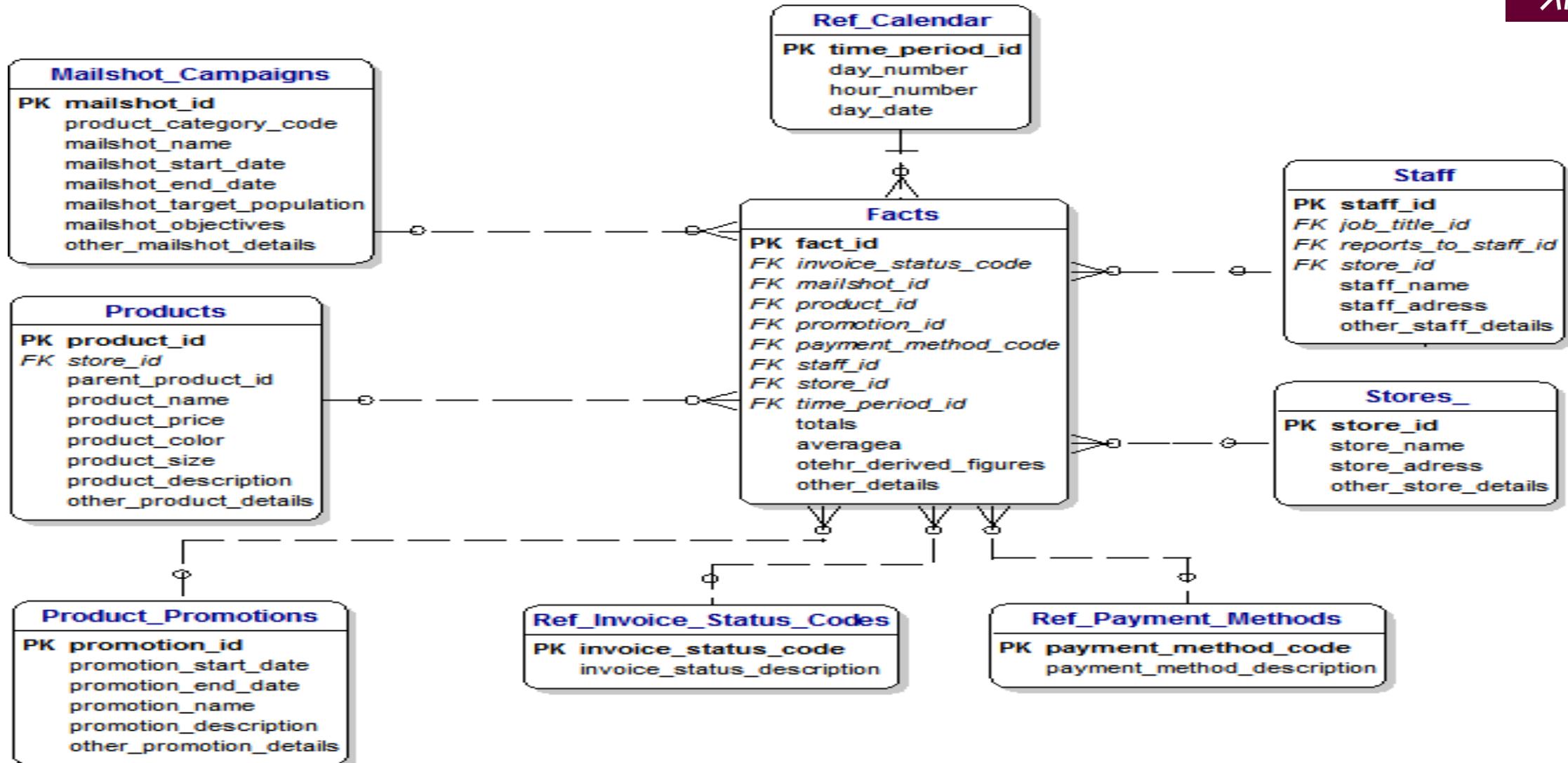


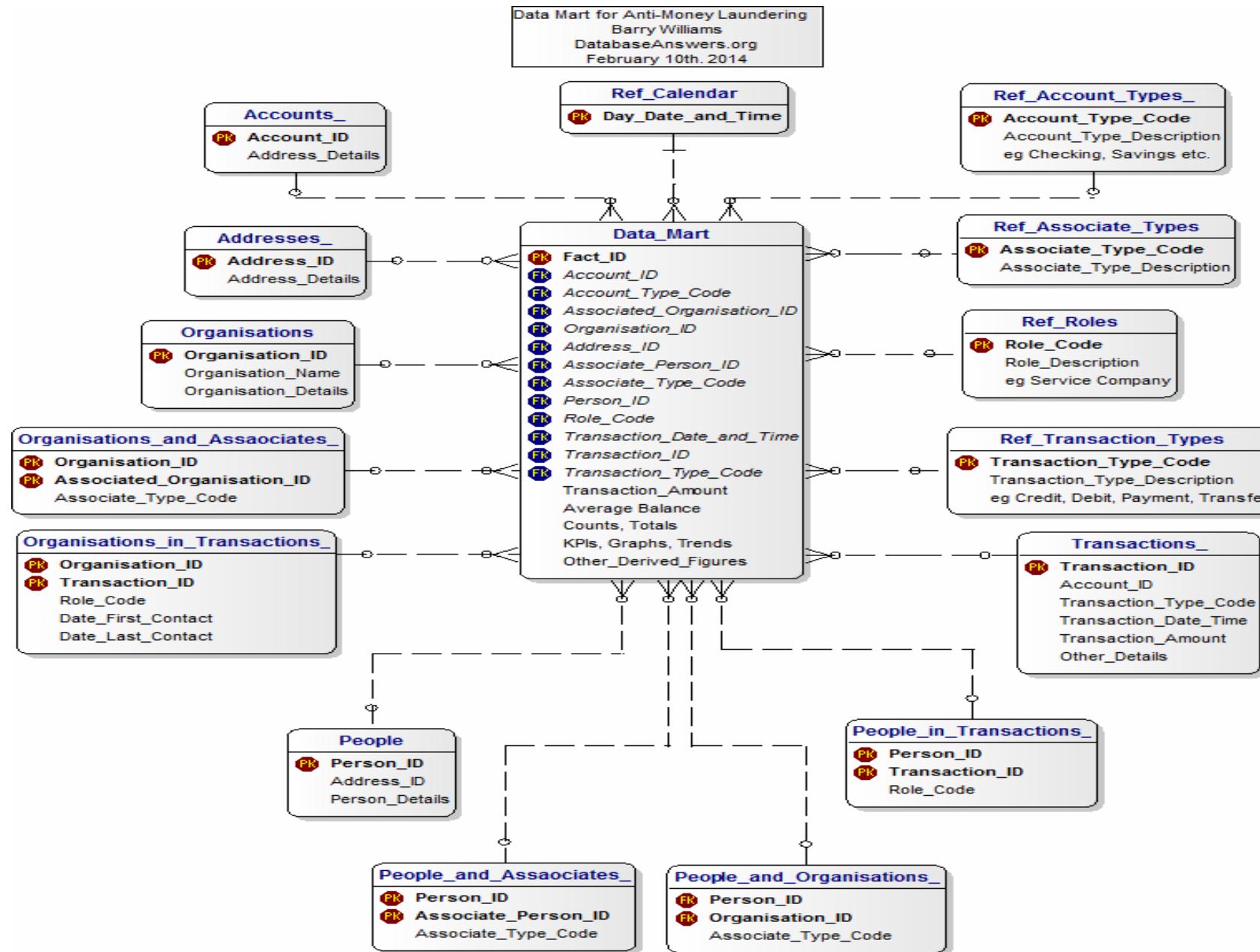
Why a Date Dimension?

**Figure 3-3:** Measured facts in retail sales schema.

# DB to DWH Activity

- Look over your Database Projects from last semester
- Identify a business process
- Specify the grain
- List the potential facts and dimensions
- Sketch a basic star schema (neatly hand drawn or using a tool)
- Maximum teams of 3 - Connect with your DB project team members if they are taking the course (either section)





**Business Analyses are required ACROSS the Non-Central Tables (dimensions)**

**The Central Table contains the information for all dimensions collectively, along with required KPIs**

