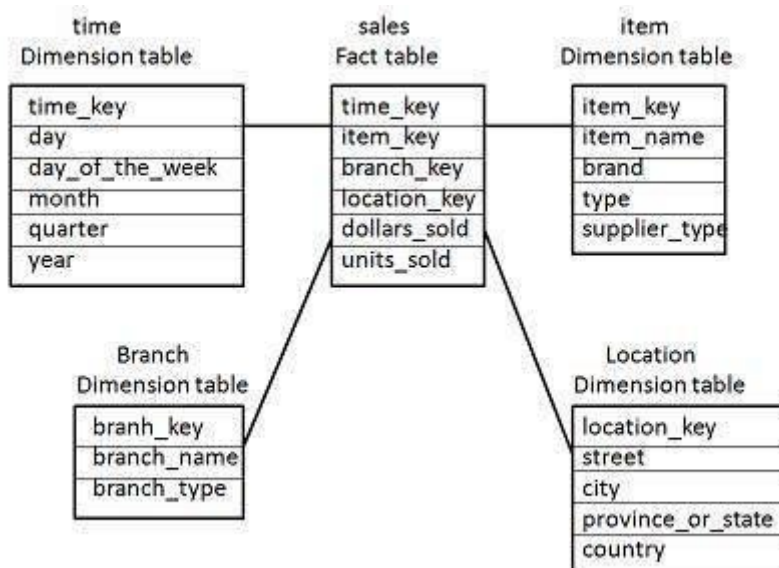


# Data warehouse schemas

Schema is a logical description of the entire database. It includes the name and description of records of all record types including all associated data-items and aggregates. Much like a database, a data warehouse also requires to maintain a schema. A database uses relational model, while a data warehouse uses Star, Snowflake, and Fact Constellation schema. In this chapter, we will discuss the schemas used in a data warehouse.

## Star Schema

- Each dimension in a star schema is represented with only one-dimension table.
- This dimension table contains the set of attributes.
- The following diagram shows the sales data of a company with respect to the four dimensions, namely time, item, branch, and location.

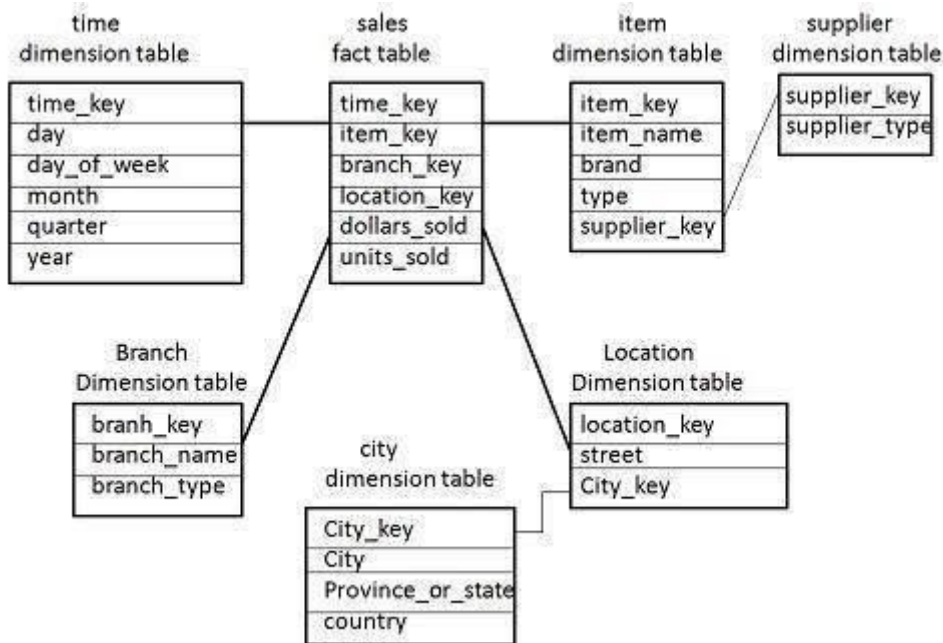


- There is a fact table at the center. It contains the keys to each of four dimensions.
- The fact table also contains the attributes, namely dollars sold and units sold.

**Note** – Each dimension has only one dimension table and each table holds a set of attributes. For example, the location dimension table contains the attribute set {location\_key, street, city, province\_or\_state, country}. This constraint may cause data redundancy. For example, "Vancouver" and "Victoria" both the cities are in the Canadian province of British Columbia. The entries for such cities may cause data redundancy along the attributes province\_or\_state and country.

## Snowflake Schema

- Some dimension tables in the Snowflake schema are normalized.
- The normalization splits up the data into additional tables.
- Unlike Star schema, the dimensions table in a snowflake schema are normalized. For example, the item dimension table in star schema is normalized and split into two dimension tables, namely item and supplier table.

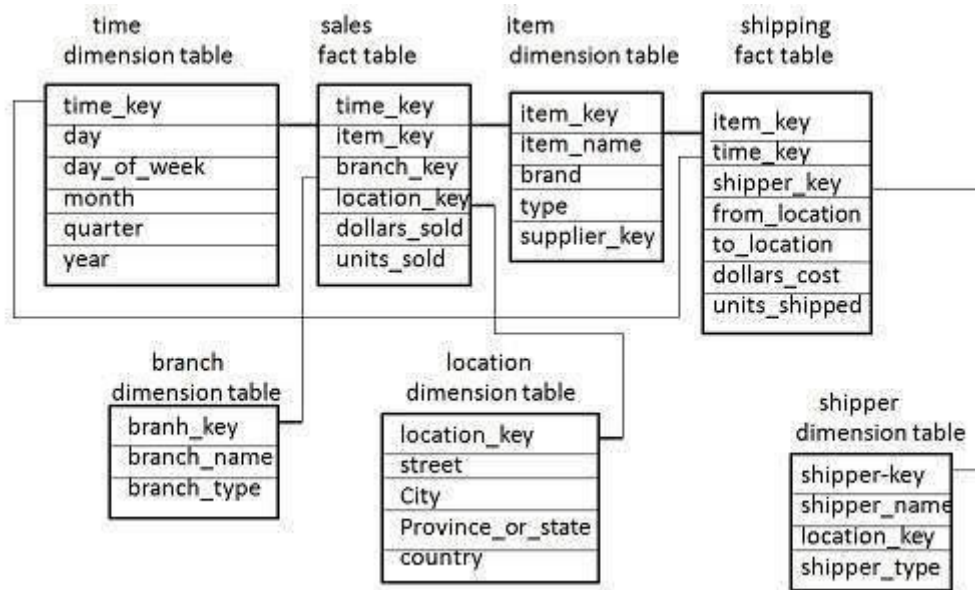


- Now the item dimension table contains the attributes item\_key, item\_name, type, brand, and supplier-key.
- The supplier key is linked to the supplier dimension table. The supplier dimension table contains the attributes supplier\_key and supplier\_type.

**Note** – Due to normalization in the Snowflake schema, the redundancy is reduced and therefore, it becomes easy to maintain and the save storage space.

## Fact Constellation Schema

- A fact constellation has multiple fact tables. It is also known as galaxy schema.
- The following diagram shows two fact tables, namely sales and shipping.



- The sales fact table is same as that in the star schema.
- The shipping fact table has the five dimensions, namely item\_key, time\_key, shipper\_key, from\_location, to\_location.
- The shipping fact table also contains two measures, namely dollars sold and units sold.
- It is also possible to share dimension tables between fact tables. For example, time, item, and location dimension tables are shared between the sales and shipping fact table.

## Schema Definition

Multidimensional schema is defined using Data Mining Query Language (DMQL). The two primitives, cube definition and dimension definition, can be used for defining the data warehouses and data marts.

### Syntax for Cube Definition

```
define cube < cube_name > [ < dimension-list > ]: < measure_list >
```

### Syntax for Dimension Definition

```
define dimension < dimension_name > as ( < attribute_or_dimension_list > )
```

### Star Schema Definition

The star schema that we have discussed can be defined using Data Mining Query Language (DMQL) as follows –

```
define cube sales star [time, item, branch, location]:
dollars sold = sum(sales in dollars), units sold = count(*)

define dimension time as (time key, day, day of week, month, quarter, year)
```

```

define dimension item as (item key, item name, brand, type, supplier type)

define dimension branch as (branch key, branch name, branch type)

define dimension location as (location key, street, city, province or
state, country)

```

## Snowflake Schema Definition

Snowflake schema can be defined using DMQL as follows –

```

define cube sales snowflake [time, item, branch, location]:

dollars sold = sum(sales in dollars), units sold = count(*)

define dimension time as (time key, day, day of week, month, quarter, year)
define dimension item as (item key, item name, brand, type, supplier
(supplier key, supplier type))
define dimension branch as (branch key, branch name, branch type)
define dimension location as (location key, street, city (city key, city,
province or state, country))

```

## Fact Constellation Schema Definition

Fact constellation schema can be defined using DMQL as follows –

```

define cube sales [time, item, branch, location]:

dollars sold = sum(sales in dollars), units sold = count(*)

define dimension time as (time key, day, day of week, month, quarter, year)
define dimension item as (item key, item name, brand, type, supplier type)
define dimension branch as (branch key, branch name, branch type)
define dimension location as (location key, street, city, province or
state,country)
define cube shipping [time, item, shipper, from location, to location]:

dollars cost = sum(cost in dollars), units shipped = count(*)

define dimension time as time in cube sales
define dimension item as item in cube sales
define dimension shipper as (shipper key, shipper name, location as
location in cube sales, shipper type)
define dimension from location as location in cube sales
define dimension to location as location in cube sales

```