LECTURE 11

DATA WAREHOUSE AND OLAP

WHAT IS A DATA WAREHOUSE?

- Defined in many different ways, but not rigorously.
  - 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.
- 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, attribute measures, 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"

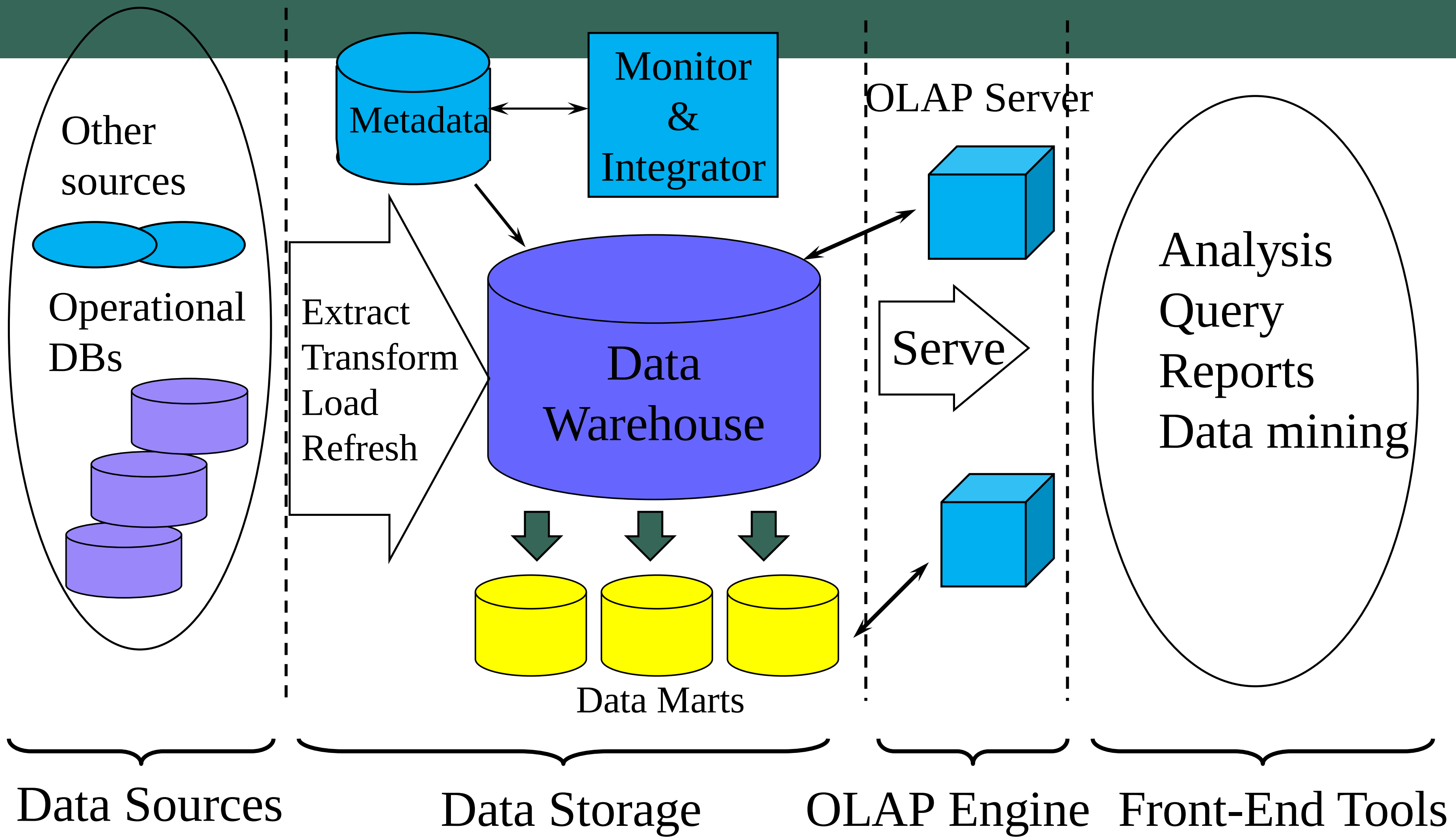
DATA WAREHOUSE—NONVOLATILE

- 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*

WHY A 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
- Note: There are more and more systems which perform OLAP analysis directly on relational databases

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

EXTRACTION, TRANSFORMATION, AND LOADING (ETL)

- **Data extraction**
  - get data from multiple, heterogeneous, and external sources
- **Data cleaning**
  - detect errors in the data and rectify them when possible
- **Data transformation**
  - convert data from legacy or host format to warehouse format
- **Load**
  - sort, summarize, consolidate, compute views, check integrity, and build indicies and partitions
- **Refresh**
  - propagate the updates from the data sources to the warehouse

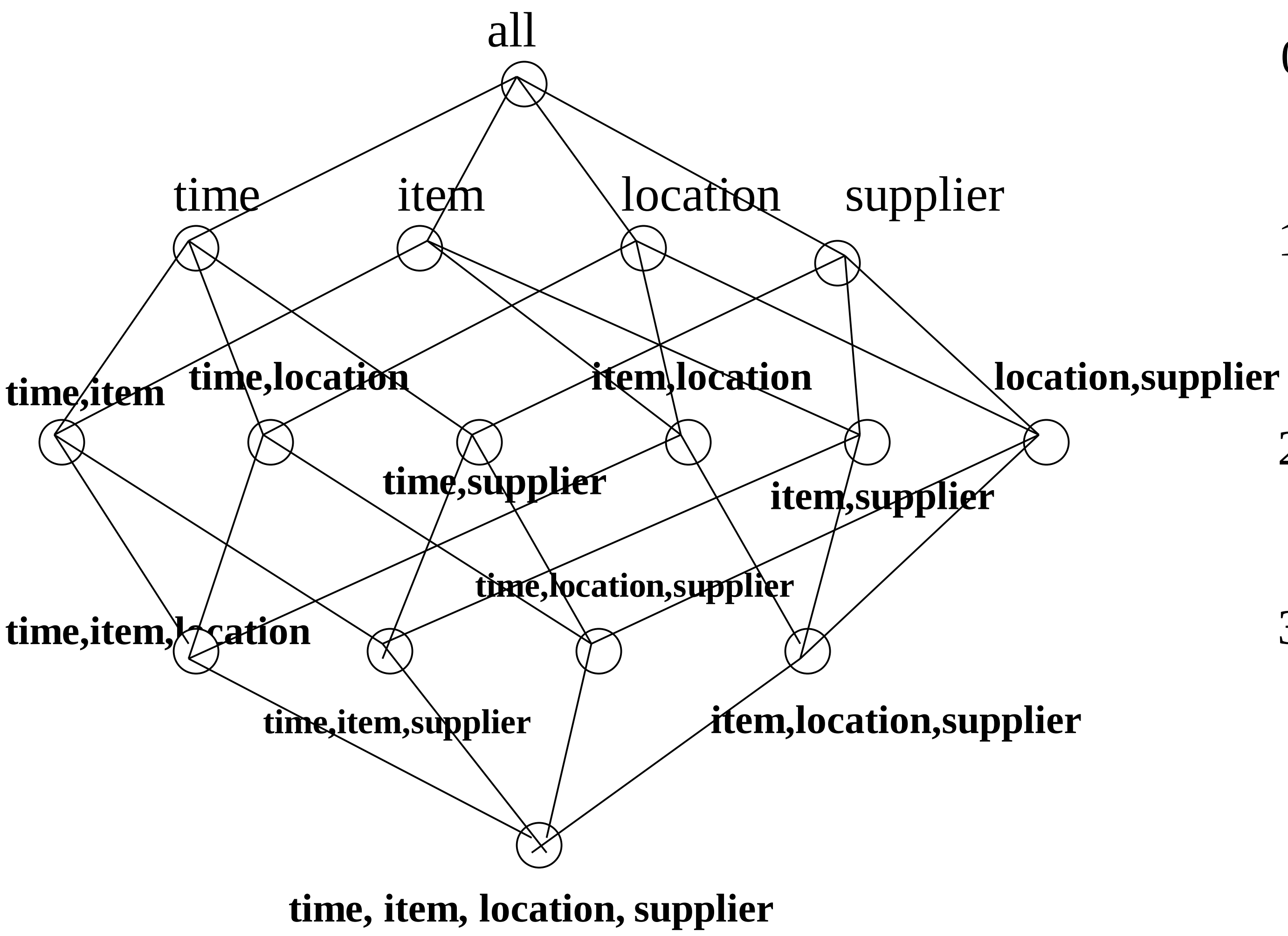
METADATA REPOSITORY

- **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

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.

CUBE: A LATTICE OF CUBOIDS



0-D (*apex*) cuboid

1-D cuboids

2-D cuboids

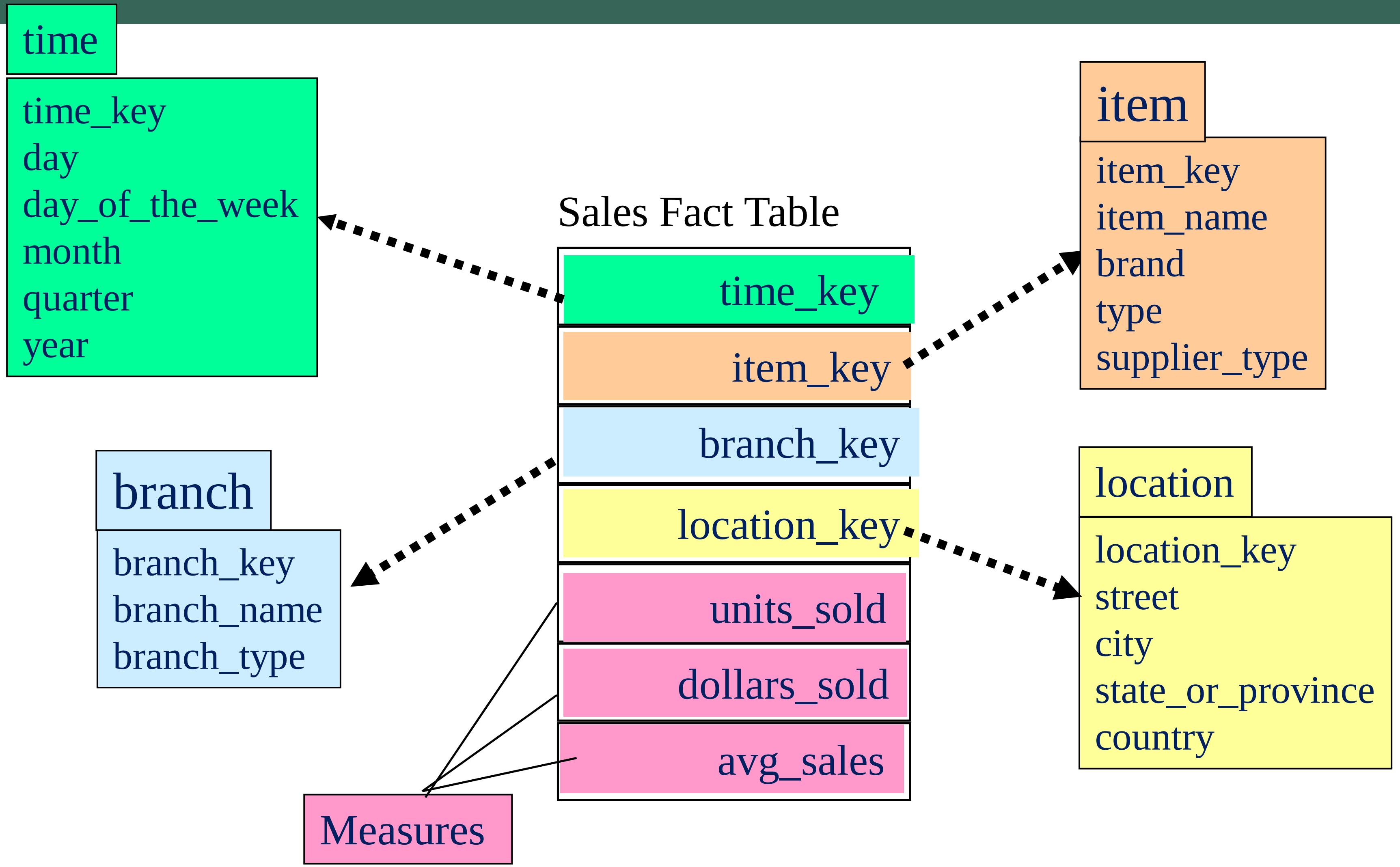
3-D cuboids

4-D (*base*) cuboid

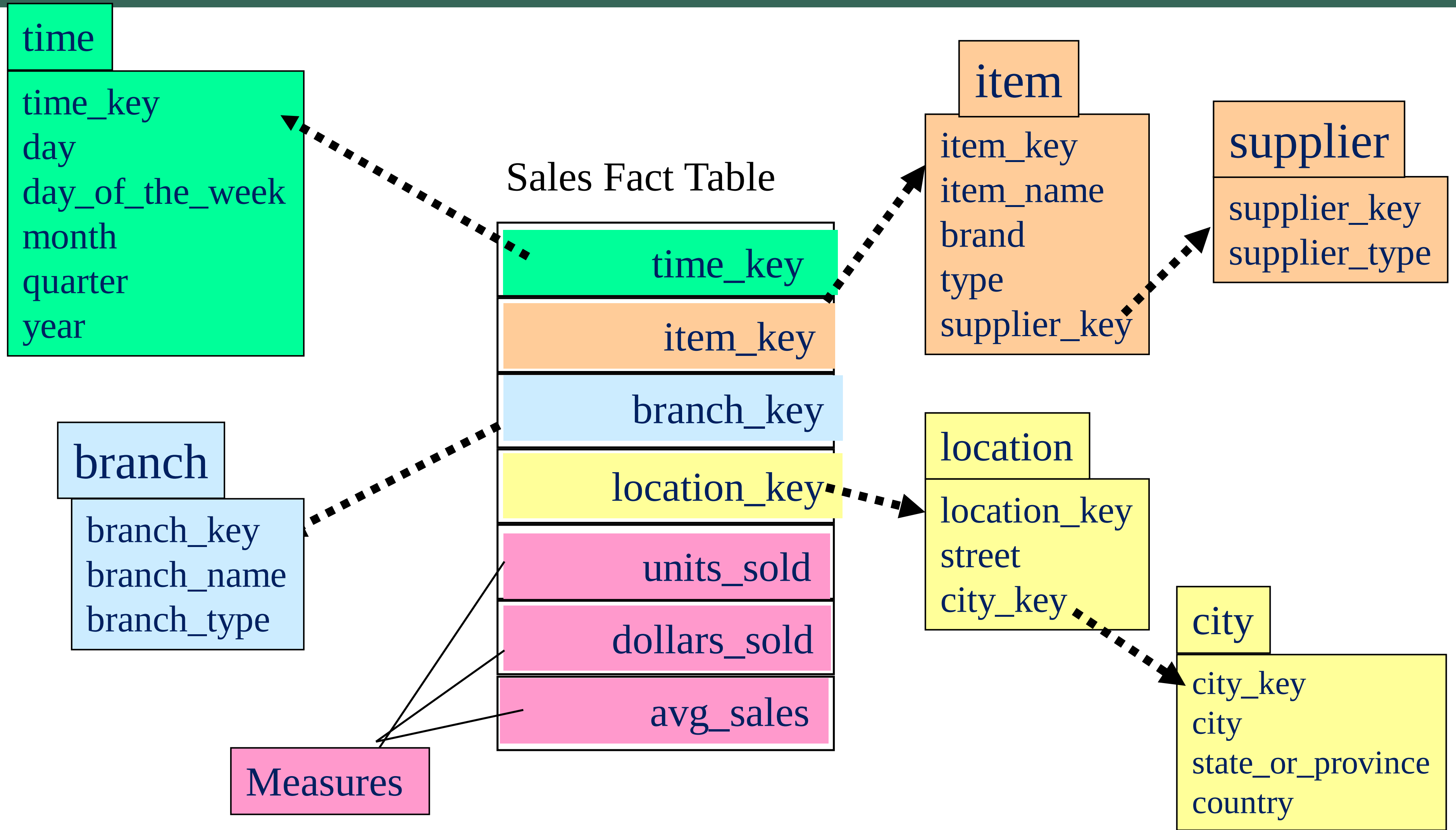
CONCEPTUAL MODELING OF DATA WAREHOUSES

- 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

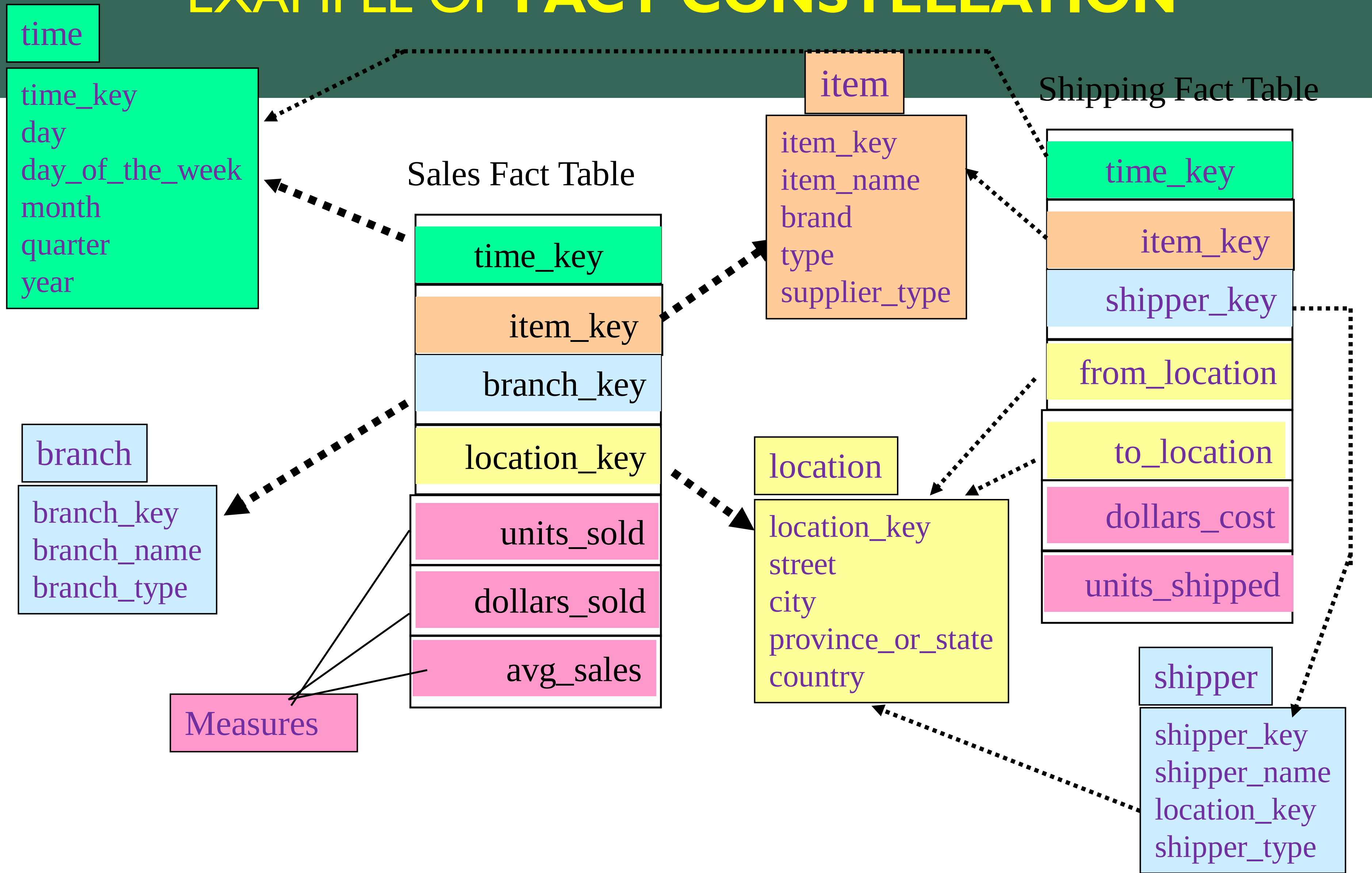
EXAMPLE OF **STAR SCHEMA**



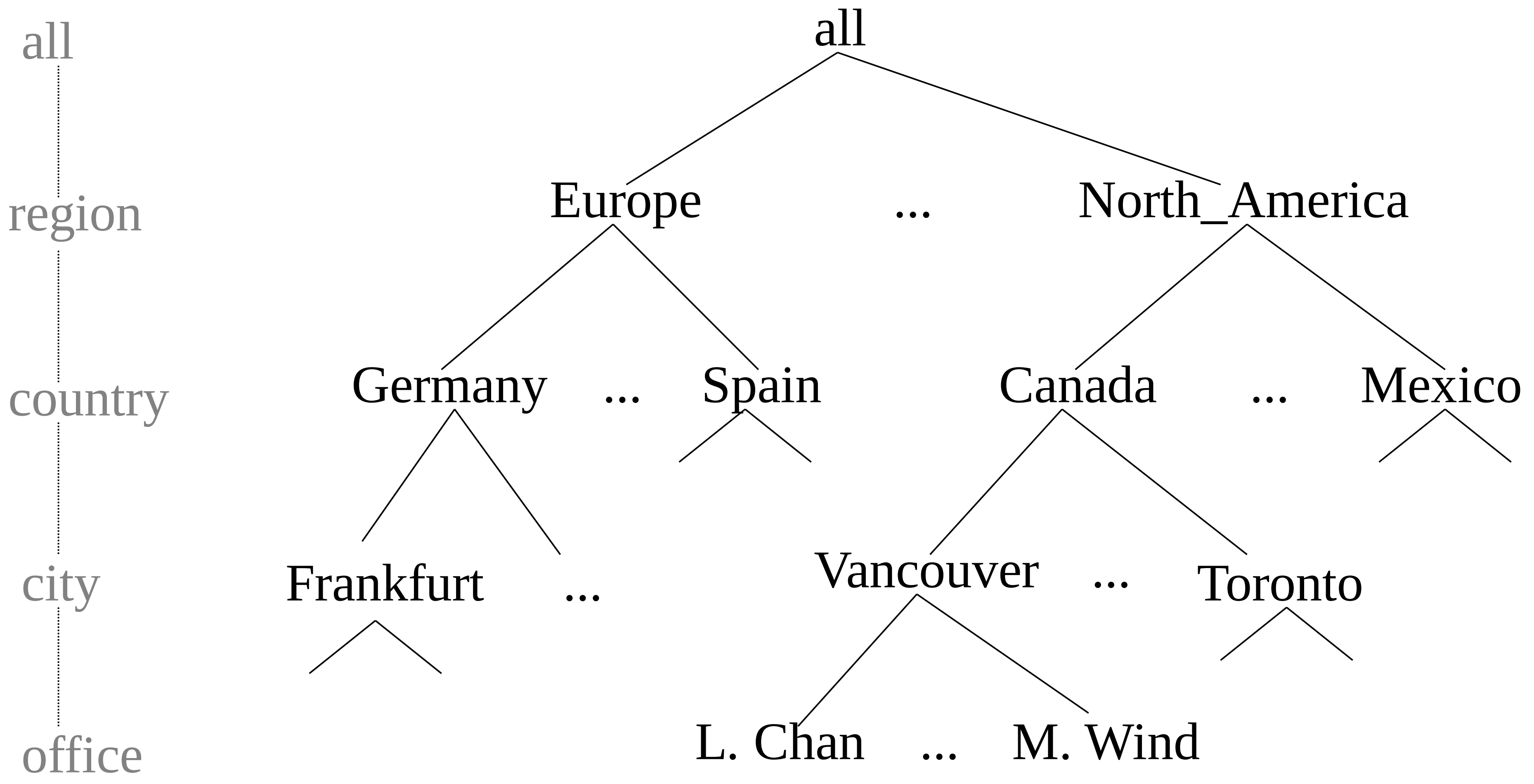
EXAMPLE OF **SNOWFLAKE SCHEMA**



EXAMPLE OF **FACT CONSTELLATION**



A CONCEPT HIERARCHY: **DIMENSION** (LOCATION)

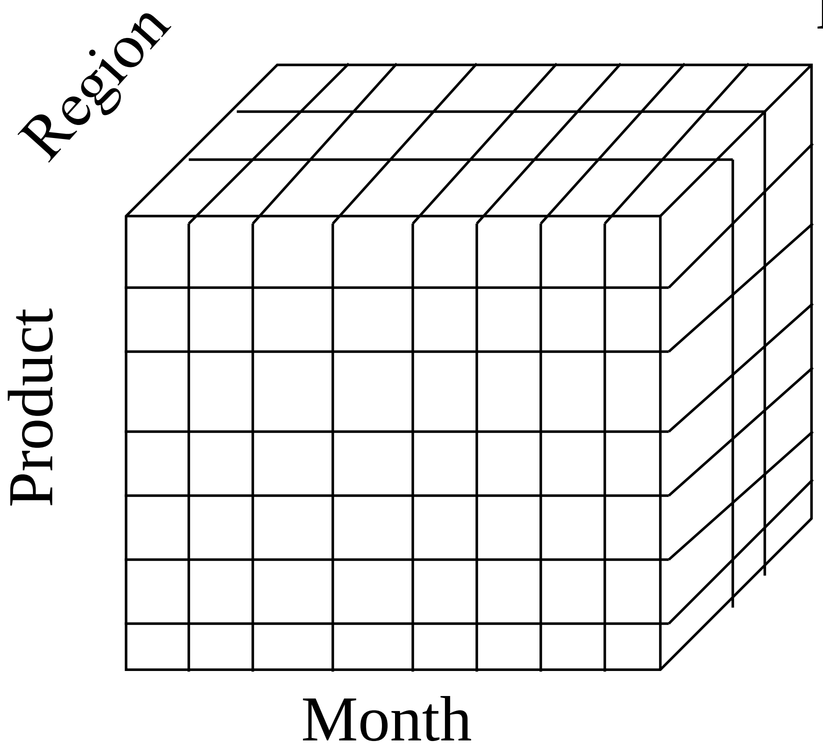


DATA CUBE MEASURES: THREE CATEGORIES

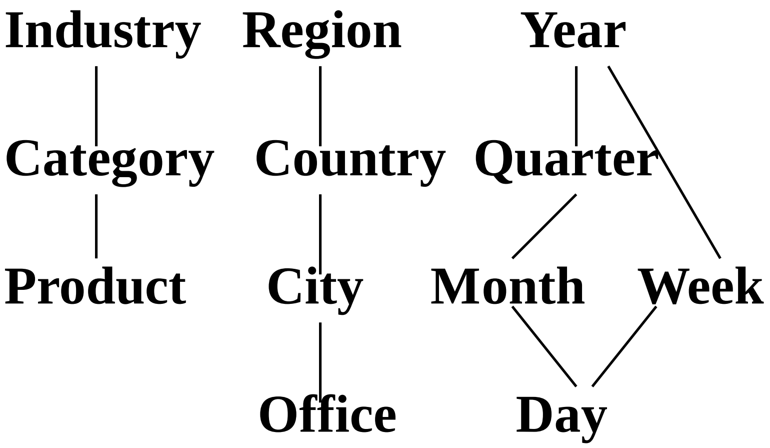
- Distributive: if the result derived by applying the function to *n* aggregate values is the same as that derived by applying the function on all the data without partitioning
  - E.g., count(), sum(), min(), max()
- Algebraic: if it can be computed by an algebraic function with *M* arguments (where *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 subaggregate.
  - E.g., median(), mode(), rank()

MULTIDIMENSIONAL DATA

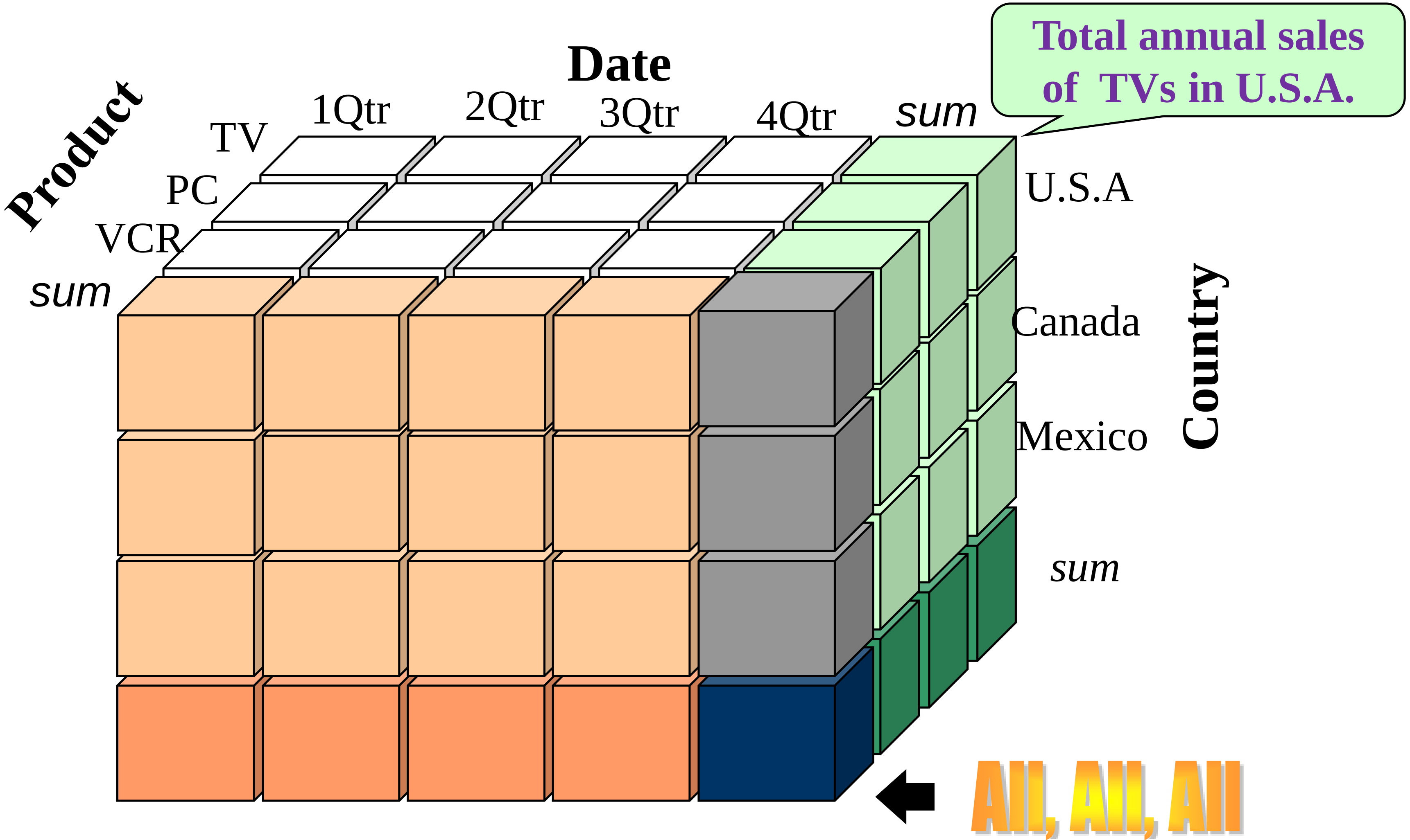
- Sales volume as a function of product, month, and region



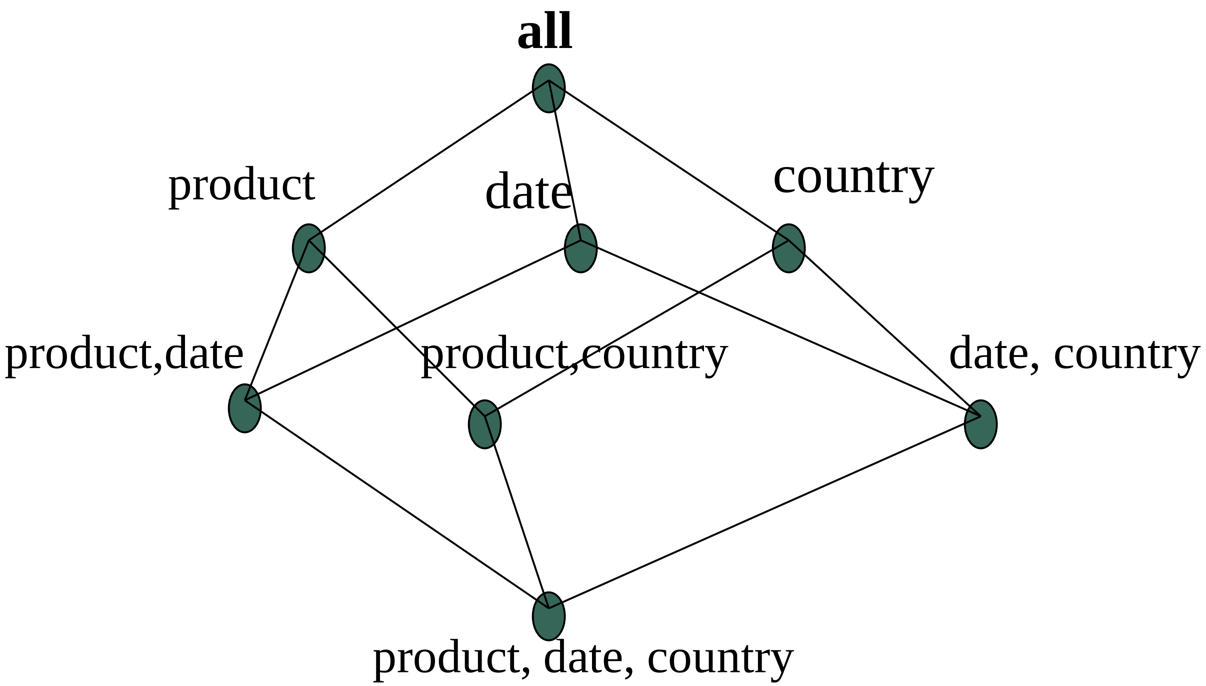
Dimensions: *Product, Location, Time*
Hierarchical summarization paths



A SAMPLE DATA CUBE



CUBOIDS CORRESPONDING TO THE CUBE



0-D (*apex*) cuboid

1-D cuboids

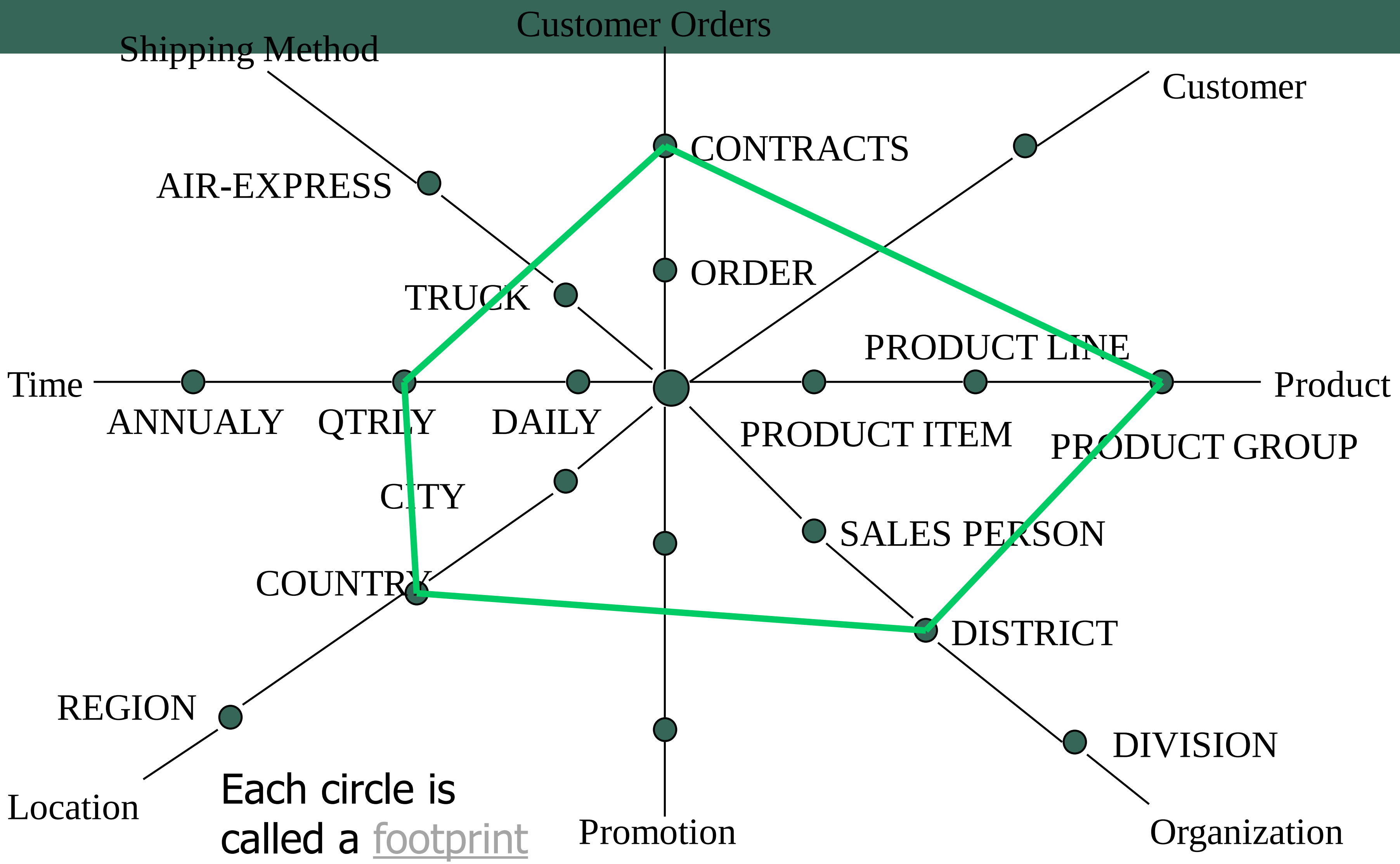
2-D cuboids

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*
- Other operations
  - *drill across: involving (across) more than one fact table*
  - *drill through: through the bottom level of the cube to its back-end relational tables (using SQL)*

A STAR-NET QUERY MODEL



Each circle is called a footprint

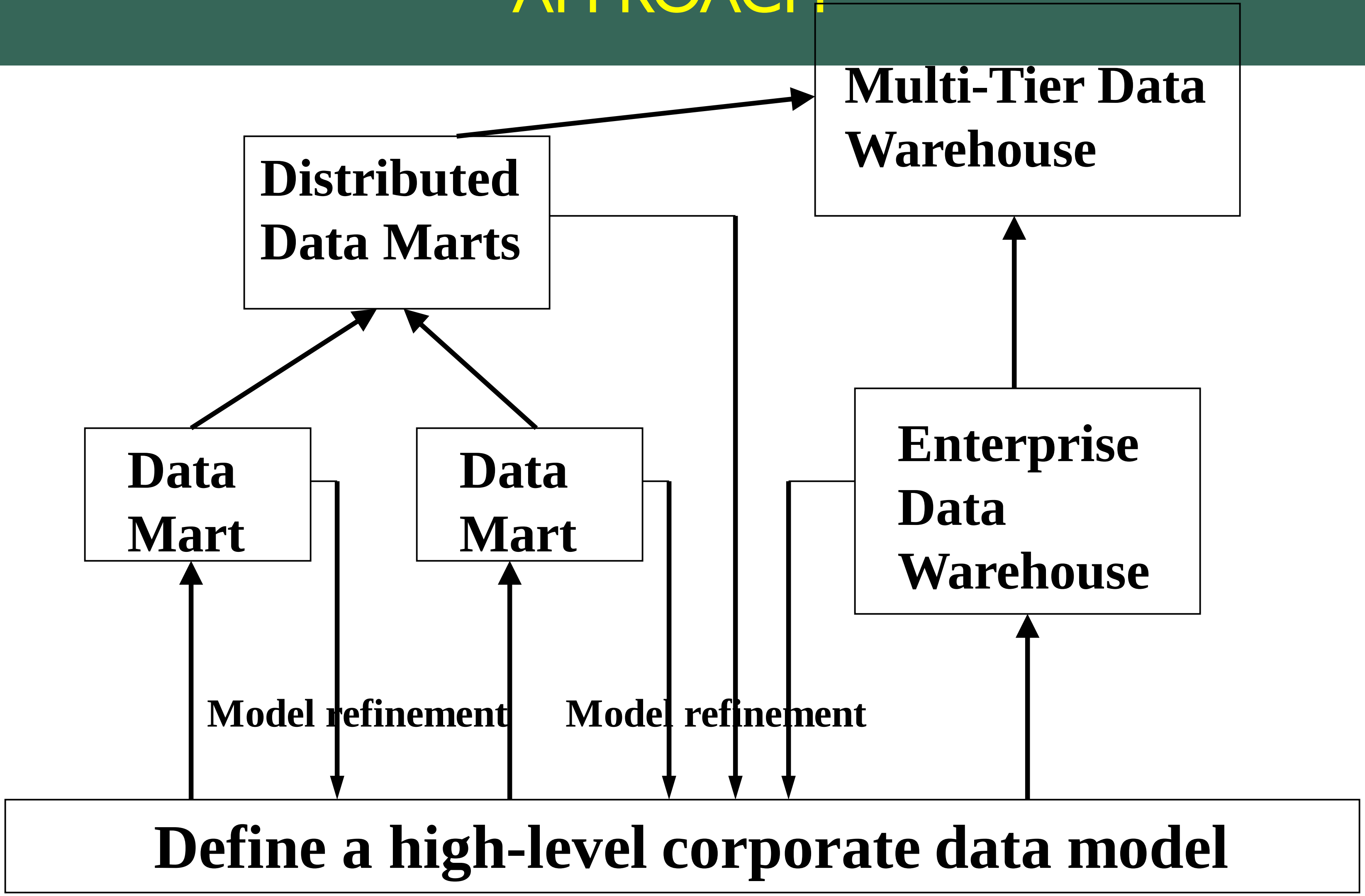
DESIGN OF DATA WAREHOUSE: A BUSINESS ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

- 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 DEVELOPMENT: A RECOMMENDED APPROACH



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

EFFICIENT DATA CUBE COMPUTATION

- Data cube can be viewed as a lattice of cuboids
  - The bottom-most cuboid is the base cuboid
  - The top-most cuboid (apex) contains only one cell
  - How many cuboids in an n-dimensional cube with L levels?

$$T = \prod_{i=1}^{n} (L_i + 1)$$

- Materialization of data cube
  - Materialize every (cuboid) (**full materialization**), none (**no materialization**), or some (**partial materialization**)
  - Selection of which cuboids to materialize
    - Based on size, sharing, access frequency, etc.

THE "COMPUTE CUBE" OPERATOR

- Cube definition and computation in DMQL

  define cube sales [item, city, year]: sum (sales_in_dollars)

  compute cube sales

- Transform it into a SQL-like language (with a new operator cube by, introduced by Gray et al.'96)

  SELECT item, city, year, SUM (amount)

  FROM SALES

  CUBE BY item, city, year

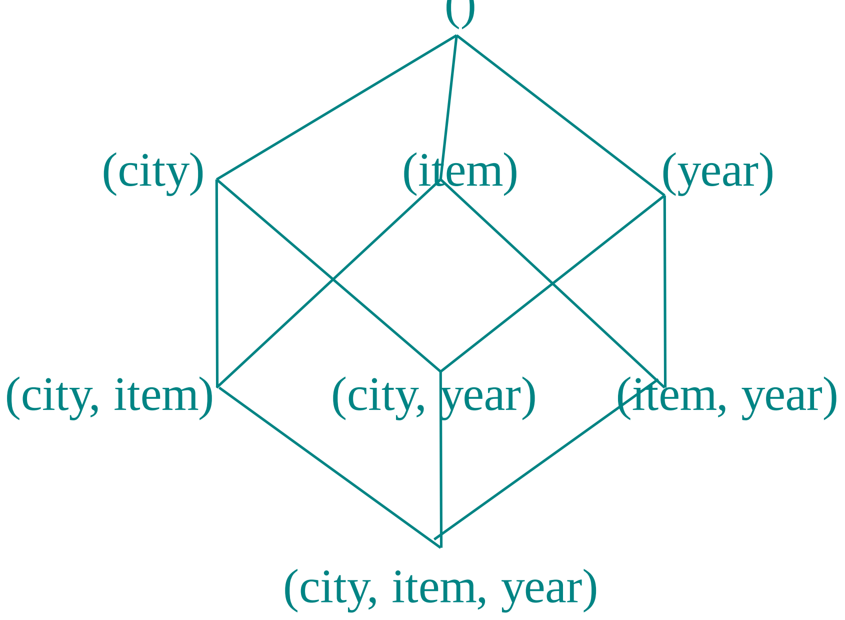
- Need compute the following Group-Bys

  (date, product, customer),

  (date,product),(date, customer), (product, customer),

  (date), (product), (customer)

  ()



INDEXING OLAP DATA: **BITMAP INDEX**

- Index on a particular column
- Each value in the column has a bit vector: bit-op is fast
- The length of the bit vector: # of records in the base table
- The *i*-th bit is set if the *i*-th row of the base table has the value for the indexed column
- not suitable for high cardinality domains
- A recent bit compression technique, Word-Aligned Hybrid (WAH), makes it work for high cardinality domain as well [Wu, et al. TODS'06]

Base table

Cust	Region	Type
C1	Asia	Retail
C2	Europe	Dealer
C3	Asia	Dealer
C4	America	Retail
C5	Europe	Dealer

Index on Region

RecID	Asia	Europe	America
1	1	0	0
2	0	1	0
3	1	0	0
4	0	0	1
5	0	1	0

Index on Type

RecID	Retail	Dealer
1	1	0
2	0	1
3	0	1
4	1	0
5	0	1

OLAP SERVER ARCHITECTURES

- Relational OLAP (ROLAP)
  - Use relational or extended-relational DBMS to store and manage warehouse data and OLAP middle ware
  - Include optimization of DBMS backend, implementation of aggregation navigation logic, and additional tools and services
  - Greater scalability
- Multidimensional OLAP (MOLAP)
  - Sparse array-based multidimensional storage engine
  - Fast indexing to pre-computed summarized data
- Hybrid OLAP (HOLAP) (e.g., Microsoft SQLServer)
  - Flexibility, e.g., low level: relational, high-level: array
- Specialized SQL servers (e.g., Redbricks)
  - Specialized support for SQL queries over star/snowflake schemas