

Fact Tables

by Sudheer Sharma - Tuesday, November 30, 2010

<http://dwhnotes.com/archives/1541>

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Fact Tables

Fact tables store the measurements of the processes/activities/work flows/events of the system we are trying to model. There is one row in the fact table for each measurement. The fields of the fact table that hold the result of the measurements are called facts (or measures). Dimensions (and their attributes) describe these measurements and contain the context surrounding them. This is known as the grain of the fact table (e.g. a test to determine the temperature of a patient on certain day at a certain location). A fact table contains foreign keys that point to the dimension tables, have one or more numerical fields (the facts) and may contain one or more degenerate dimensions. The primary key of these tables is defined by a subset of the foreign keys.

Delivering Fact Tables Steps

- Structure
- Referential Integrity
- Surrogate Key Pipeline
- Preparing the fact tables for loading
- Incremental Loading
- Aggregations
- OLAP Cubes

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